



It's late-March, and we've now been subjected to almost 6 months of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) aka Arizonans for Wildlife's (AfW) internet blather on "wild cats" and signature gathering.

Here's what we know:

HSUS has registered some of their own people as paid signature gatherers. They have also brought in the Mountain Lion Foundation (MLF) from California as paid signature gatherers.

With 3 months remaining in the signature gathering period, that makes it a monumental task to gather required valid signatures with volunteers and a small pool of paid petitioners.

HSUS has lost their outspoken anti-hunting CEO and with it, donors. The Better Business Bureau has also downgraded their rating. <https://www.humanewatch.org/bbb-removes-accreditation-humane-society-united-states/>

That all said, they, HSUS, AfW, or whatever you want to call them, haven't gone away. They have concentrated their volunteer and paid MLF efforts in Tucson, and to selected areas in Phoenix. They are on the streets and at fairs every weekend. They were hanging out at the Phoenix Zoo for quite a while as well.

Kudos to the folks that are on the street educating the public on Decline to Sign! This grass roots group has been successful in making some people realize it is a mistake to sign. They've come

armed with knowledge, something the HSUS volunteers don't have,

and in some cases resulting in the HSUS people closing up shop.

We can't overstate enough how important this type of effort is. Educating the public on the necessity of science-based wildlife management is a monumental task, and these types of efforts certainly help!

As we previously reported, the education factor was the impetus for the formation of Conserve and Protect Arizona. They are working on short and long term goals to shut down this constant attack on our conservation heritage once and for all. Visit their website for more information. <https://conserveandprotectaz.org>

Arizona Veterinarians have come out with a letter opposing the initiative. Click [here](#) to see it, and take it to your Vet if you have one!

The former AZ Game & Fish Department Directors have put out a similar letter to retired Game & Fish employees, click [here](#) to see that one.

And in other news...

The Army Corps of Engineers is draining Alamo Lake for repair work. We opposed that, as did the Commission and Department, and on behalf of the Commission, the State filed suit against the Corps and lost on Friday the 9th. You might want to let your Congressional Representative and Senators know how you feel about that.

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director

Local Contacts Create Regional Impact Linda McAteer, Zane Grey Chapter Diversity Chair, Arizona

As the work to launch the
STREAM Girls program in



Arizona gained momentum, my focus turned to finding the funds to get it off the ground. During our annual planning meeting, one of our board members mentioned he had heard that the Allstate Insurance Company has some sort of grant program. I have Allstate insurance, so I called my agent. The result



was more than I expected. Allstate agents have two funding programs to draw from. One is a large grant, but the agent, or one of her employees, must be an active participant in that charity to qualify. The other program is at the agent's discretion and, although it's a smaller grant, it's the agent's prerogative to grant those funds. Luckily, I've been with the Sheri Shull Agency for over 10 years, and my agent is a former Girl Scout leader herself, so when I called her she agreed immediately to cover the printing costs for our Train the Trainer event, and our first Girl Scout Camp event.

With that covered, I was still looking for the funding to cover all the streamside materials needed for the program. That's when I got an email from John Doss, our chapter's communications person and a member of the Arizona Fly Casters. John had arranged a fund raiser for STREAM Girls during the December AFC monthly meeting. Together with Cinda Howard of Fly Fish Arizona guide service, John put together special raffles for guided trips, a gear raffle, and a Christmas gift raffle. That evening the AFC raised \$400 for the STREAM Girls program. We now have enough funding to cover our first two events, and to begin discussions with other Girl Scout and TU chapters to bring STREAM Girls not only to Arizona, but to Colorado and New Mexico, too. For more information on the STREAM Girl program, visit tu.org/streamgirls

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Member Group Activities



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Sponsored by AZGFD and AZ TU State Council

Topics

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- Trout Unlimited Southwest Native Trout Strategy and Projects
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- Lees Ferry: Glen Canyon Dam (Tailwater) Management Plan
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17TH ANNUAL
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Here is another helpful link when ordering your special license plate. You can have many of your questions answered here:

<https://servicearizona.com/webapp/vehicle/plates/showInfoPage.do>

The AZSFWC Conservation Plate gives all Arizonan's an opportunity to contribute to programs that benefit our wild creatures. **Step up and support "Wild Arizona".**

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation is a 501-c-3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to educate and inform sportsmen, wildlife conservation organizations throughout the state and the public at large on important issues related to wildlife and wildlife habitat and to provide, via grants or other sources, funding to conserve Arizona's wildlife populations through habitat enhancement initiatives. The AZSFWC is responsible for managing the conservation license plate program (Wildlife Conservation Habitat Fund). The fund is derived from the sale of wildlife conservation license plates and member organizations as well as non-member organizations are eligible to apply for those funds.

