



Hurricane rain in Arizona, washes flooded, snow on the Peaks, hunting season underway and cooler temperatures to boot...a special time. Good luck if you're afield and stay safe!

First some Congratulations are in order for AZSFWC members and dedicated volunteers as a result of the AZ Game & Fish Commission Award announcements:

Conserve and Protect Arizona...Award of Excellence

Joe Miller...Conservationist of the Year

Tim Denny...Mentor of the Year

And drum roll...AZSFWC...Conservation Organization of the Year!

Congrats to our Associate Member and the two individuals that are active in our Member groups, TU and NWTF. Thanks to all our 43 member, affiliate and associate members for helping AZSFWC have an impact.

We continue to periodically hear some folks say they want the politics out of our passions (hunting, angling, shooting, etc). Wouldn't that be great!

It's hardly realistic however. Politics has a play and say in almost anything we do these days. To suggest "we" need to stay out of that arena is shortsighted at best and ignorant at worst.

Here are just a few examples:

- Modernizing the Pittman Robertson money so there's flexibility in allocating and spending
- Endangered Species Act, important on many fronts, but now used as an environmentalist's sledgehammer (ie; WY grizzlies, Northern Gray wolves, etc) near species recovery percentage

Northern Gray wolves, etc), poor species recovery percentage, costly

- Conservation funding...Land and Water Conservation Fund, Farm Bill, Recovering America's Wildlife Act
- Special land designations...national monuments, wildlife refuges, national parks, recreation areas, wilderness areas
- State level issues...land "reform", water issues, access

Finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention our "friends" from the Humane Society of the United States. A reminder of who they are:

<http://protecttheharvest.com/hsus-exposed/>

On a positive note, their lion treatise from last year was recently debunked! The USGS published a critique on their "facts" which support what we thought all along.

Here is the piece HSUS touted as the "science" supporting their effort to ban wild cat hunting in Arizona:

https://blog.humanesociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Final_Mountain-Lions_-DIGITAL_final.pdf

Here is the peer review report from USGS:

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2018/1128/ofr20181128.pdf>

It doesn't mean HSUS is going to go away - rest assured they haven't dumped their ballot box wildlife management efforts, as is evidenced by the numerous political campaigns they have launched in other states around the country. The 2020 election cycle is looming and we need to remain vigilant.

Yours in Conservation,
Jim Unmacht Executive Director

Wildlife Conservation License Plate Grant Program





AZSFWC awarded grant funding in the amount of \$20,000 toward this habitat project, sponsored by the AZ Deer Association and the Payson Natural Resources Committee. The 1857 acre project area south and east of Payson has become overgrown with invasive juniper trees and other brushy species over the course of many years. Maps indicate restoration of historic grasslands in the project area will benefit elk, mule deer and Coues deer, and will also provide a buffer to the town of Payson from catastrophic fires.



On a recent trip to Mt Trumbell on the Arizona Strip, AZSFWC Executive Director Jim Unmacht spotted this sign, which was also funded in part with a grant from the license plate fund. The sign is part of a project by the Arizona Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers to promote responsible OHV use. Read more about this project on their website [HERE](#).

SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN PUMP MORE THAN \$93 BILLION INTO US ECONOMY

From the National Shooting Sports Foundation:

"New economic reports reveal that more than 53 million Americans consider themselves sportsmen, spending more than \$93.5 billion in 2016

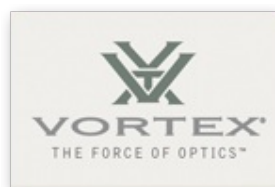
on gear, licenses, travel, clothing, gas and more in connection with their hunting, target shooting and sportfishing activities.

Key highlights of the reports include:

- Nearly 600 million combined days at the range or afield were spent by millions of hunters and target shooters in 2016.
- Each year, 35.8 million people 16 years and older take to America's waters to fish.
- The number of people who participate in sportfishing, hunting and target shooting represents 16.5 percent of the total U.S. population.
- When factoring in multiplier effects, spending by sportsmen created economic activity in excess of \$220 billion.
- Hunting, fishing and target shooting add \$119 billion of overall value to our nation's gross domestic product and generate \$17.6 billion in federal taxes and \$12.2 billion in state and local taxes."

Read more [HERE](#).

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AZ Bass Federation Nation	AZ Big Game Super Raffle	AZ Bowhunters Association
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AZ Deer Association	AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society	AZ Elk Society
AZ Flycasters Club	AZ Houndsmen's Association	AZ Outdoor Adventures
AZ Outdoor Sports	AZ Predator Callers	AZ Shooting Sports Education Foundation
AZ Taxidermy Association	Back Country Hunters & Anglers	Christian Hunters of America
Coconino Sportsmen	Kahuna's Kids	Mohave Sportsman Cub
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Southwest Wildlife Foundation (YVRGC)	The Bass Federation Arizona	TRCP
Valley of the Sun Quail Forever	White Mountain Lakes Foundation	Xtreme Predator Callers

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NOVEMBER 17, 2018



Got Wildlife?

Get Your License Plate

servicearizona.com

By purchasing this plate you will be making a contribution to Arizona's wildlife and wildlife habitat. Seventeen dollars (\$17) of each twenty-five (\$25) special license fee will go to AZSFWC's conservation fund. AZSFWC will review and approve all grants from the special license plate program revenues. These grants will fund important outdoor recreational and educational opportunities and on-the-ground wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement projects.

These plates can be purchased online and can also be personalized. To order an AZSFWC Conservation License Plate go to: <http://www.servicearizona.com> Click on "Personalized/Specialty Plates" then if you wish to personalize it, check its availability. Once you have verified the availability of your personalization, or if you only want to order the AZSFWC Conservation Special Plate, click on "Order My Plate". Order your plate as a sequential shelf plate for \$25.00 per year or as a personalized plate for \$50.00 per year.

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.

