

# *Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation*

## *Annual Report & Accomplishments*

*2021*



# The sun has set on another year!

Our AZSFWC Annual Report will give you a perspective of what we worked on and accomplished over the past 12 months. The following pages will highlight those efforts.

The past couple of years have proved interesting and challenging. There were some constants: popularity of the outdoors, firearm sales, growing population in Arizona, ammunition shortages, aging volunteers, connection with conservation, and of course the pandemic.

There were opportunities too, including: great support from our Corporate Sponsor Sanderson Ford, a return of face to face meetings with Zoom options and expanded meeting participation, support for access success like the Cross F Ranch, fundraising success with our raffles, and license plate sales to name a few.

For perspective, the first decade of offering our “Conserving Wildlife” license plate generated slightly over \$212K. This past year saw us break records with our monthly average, as well as our annual total; we were one plate short of \$200K for the year!

We lost a long time dedicated volunteer last summer when Gary Stinson passed away. He was a conservationist who had been associated with the Wildlife Conservation Council in the early years, and AZSFWC over the last decade. Gary was involved with our license plate program and grant fund from the beginning. The program’s success wasn’t just because of Gary, but he was a major contributor, so we renamed the license plate program the L. Gary Stinson Grant Fund in his honor.

Our membership remained solid again, ending 2021 with 32 Member groups (representing over 16,000 individuals), 5 Affiliate members, 3 Associate members, 1 Corporate Sponsor and 17 individual members. Our diverse membership continues to span the spectrum from wildlife and conservation groups, hunting clubs, angling clubs, shooting groups, outdoor recreation groups and businesses.

As we move into another new year, AZSFWC will continue to focus on issues and matters that can or could impact our passions.

Yours in Conservation,

Jim Unmacht  
Executive Director



## **2021 Officers**

**President - Rich Williams**  
**Vice President - Chip Wittrock**  
**Treasurer - Charlie Kelly**  
**Secretary - Eddy Corona**

## **Staff**

**Executive Director - Jim Unmacht**  
**Administrator - Tracy Unmacht**

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*AZSFWC would like to thank George Andrejko, AZGFD, for contributing many of the photos in this publication.*





# Wildlife, Habitat & Conservation

- Partnership with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) and Commission
- Comment and input on many fronts, including Legislation, MX wolves, Mandatory Reporting, Leftover tags, Non-resident Hunter Ed, Fair Chase, and Education and “10 in 10” initiative
- Commission Banquet Sponsor, 6/12/21
- Support for revitalizing the monthly Fishing reports and information on eblasts
- Video collaboration on hunter and angler access, ET, and Cross F Ranches
- Support letter on an AZ Water Protection Fund Grant
- Habitat Partnership Steering Committee input
- Input on AZGFD’s Volunteer presentation
- Support for assessing and tracking AZ Conservation Spending annually





# Access, Input & Outreach



## Arizona State Agencies and Communities:

- Participated in Outdoor Recreation Business Summit, 5/13/21
- Collaborated with Gila County on Tonto National Forest legislation
- Recommended Stephen Williams for Livestock Loss Board
- Support for Commission Appointment Recommendation Board (CARB) and Commission candidates submitted to Governor
- Recommended reappointment of Richard Williams to CARB
- AG Office's Director of Community Engagement Michael Pineiro joining meetings
- Requested Proclamation by Gov. Ducey for National Hunting and Fishing Day
- Ongoing communications with ADOT on License plate management
- Input and support of Yavapai Ranch's Planned Area Development (PAD), comments sent 5/31/21 to Yavapai County Board of Supervisors
- Op-ed to Prescott Courier on Yavapai Ranch PAD, submitted 11/11/21
- Attended Yavapai Co Board of Supervisors meeting, 11/17/21

## U.S. Department of Interior:

### **Bureau of Land Management (BLM) comment letters and input**

- Aravaipa Canyon Recreational Access EA, comment submitted 3/31/21
- Shivwits Plateau Landscape Restoration Project comment submitted 4/6/21
- Kingman Office Zoom input meeting, 4/28/21
- Review of lithium exploration project near Wikieup
- Shivwits Restoration Project EA comment letter sent 7/2/21
- Travel Management letter to Director Suazo, 9/28/21 and followup 10/6/21
- Travel Management discussions with staff on 2022 Planning

### **Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) comment**

- Letter of support for Draft EA for AZGFD's Sport Fish Stocking sent 6/9/21
- Refuge comments for Havasu & Bill Williams NWR, sent 6/29/21
- Black-footed Ferret 10(j) - Proposed Rule, comment sent 8/24/21
- Gray wolf habitat expansion into AZ, opting in to oppose, 12/7/21
- MX Wolf Proposed Recovery Plan and 10(j) Rule Revisions assessed





# Access, Input & Outreach

## Department of Agriculture - Forest Service (FS):

### **Apache-Sitgreaves NF Projects & Planning:**

- Black River Restoration project follow up on status from 11/4/20 letter
- Heber Wild Horse Territory (HWHT) Management Plan Review
- HWHT Draft EA and Draft TMP comments submitted 4-21-21
- Black River Feral Horse follow up, status letter sent 9/13/21

### **Coronado NF Projects & Planning:**

- Meadow Valley Public Access Project support letter sent 1/13/21
- Coronado NF Santa Rita Quarry-IMERYYS Draft Environmental Assessment review
- Meadow Valley Restoration Project EA comments submitted 7/29/21
- Coronado NF Small Tracts Act Sale - Arizona Minerals, 7/30/21
- Meadow Valley Access Project FONSI

### **Kaibab NF Project input:**

- Mangum Fire Emergency Actions review and assessment
- Mangum Fire Emergency Actions support letter sent 6/28/21



### **Prescott NF Planning Input:**

- Review and assessment of Verde Recreation Acton Plan
- Prescott area recreation, development, and impact on pronghorn
- Mine abatement assessment for comment
- Chino Valley Pronghorn review and dialog with G & F
- Yavapai Ranch Conservation Easement Support, letter sent 3/8/21
- Yavapai Ranch LWCF Project endorsement letter sent 8/19/21

### **Tonto NF Planning Input:**

- Sierra Ancha Wilderness (SAW) U.S Senate staff discussions 41 groups supporting
- Travel Management Plan assessment
- SAW Stakeholders Conference, 9/1/21
- Continued work on resolving Workman Creek and Cherry Creek Road closures

# Legislative, Planning & Advocacy

## AZ State Legislature

- RTS Registration and Advocacy at Capitol
- National Association of Sportsmen's Caucus (NASC) Advisory Council role with AZ Legislators for Wildlife (AZLW) Caucus
- Conference with AZLW Chair Rep. Cobb and CSF Coordinator Tucker-Williams
- Supported Game & Fish position on SB1040, Veterans Bill
- Tracked HB 2702 "Tax Base Protection Act" aka "Federal Government; Land Acquisition; Consent"
- Communication with AZ State Rifle & Pistol President regarding SB1382

## Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF)

- HuntFish 30x30 assessment, correspondence, and discussions
- HuntFish 30x30 signatory to National letter 4/5/21
- Traditional Wildlife Management in the Modern World webinar, 7/15/21
- Dialog with CSF and Dallas Safari Club, 7/30/21
- Webinar on Lead Ammo and Tackle, 8/11/21
- HuntFish 30x30 Recommendations reviewed and signed on, 10/2/21
- Sportsman-Legislator Summit, 12/9/21

## U.S. Congress

- Discussions with Sen. Kelly and Sen. Sinema's Policy Advisors on Tonto NF SAW Boundary Road realignments and legislation planning
- Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) S.2372 support continues
- Modernizing Access to our Public Lands (MAPLand) Act S.904, support and correspondence with Sen. Kelly's staff
- BLM LOCAL Act, H.R. 2081 support to retain HQ in CO, advised staff 4/5/21
- Charitable Conservation Easement Program Integrity Act S.2256 tracking
- La Paz County Solar Energy and Job Creation Act S.528 dialog





# “Conserving Wildlife” License Plate

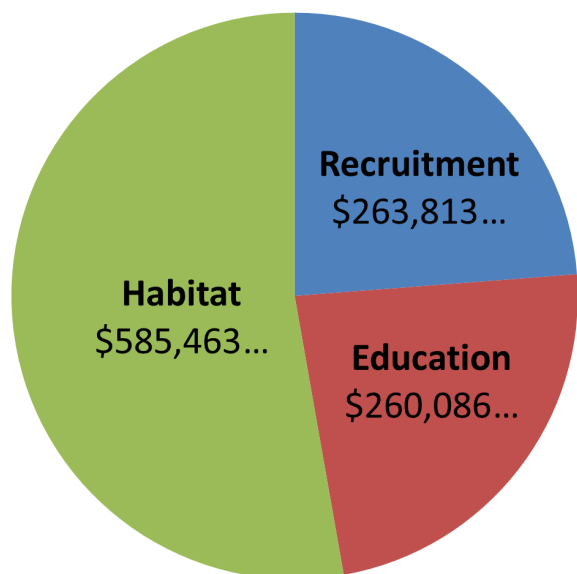


- For the 11th year in a row, our annual license plate revenue increased
- In 2021 we averaged \$16,666 per month in plate revenue for a total of \$199,991 exceeding 2020 by \$14,397
- In 2021, we awarded 22 Stinson Grants totaling \$179,665
- The 2021 grant awards included \$150,315 for habitat, \$10,900 for Education and \$18,450 for Youth Recruitment
- From 2012 - 2020 we have approved 200 grants totaling **\$1,153,596**

## AZ Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation Grant History 2012-2021

Total Approved - \$1,153,596

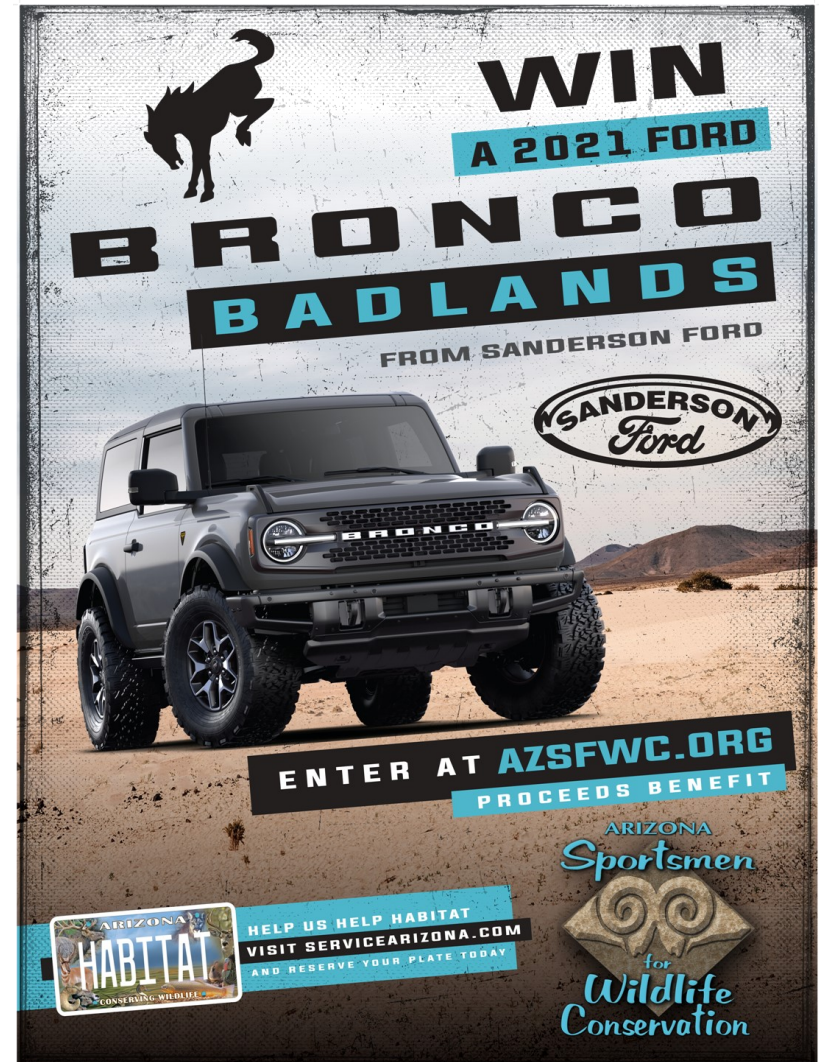
Total Utilized - \$1,109,362





# Business Matters & Marketing

- New Committees established:
  1. Agency Planning - assessment and tracking of Federal and State agency issues
  2. Fundraising - planning, implementation, and monthly raffles
  3. Legal - compliance, raffle rules, developed Member Attorney Consultation Agreement, 4/8/21
  4. Sportsman's Business Alliance (SBA) - planning, introduction, and implementation of concept, introduced with enews rollout 9/12/21 - Something New, Timely, and Exciting!
- Daily News Routings and Legislative updates
- Monthly enews sent to 17,182 recipients
- AZSFWC was a Commission Banquet sponsor in 2021
- Bronco & Plate ad in the AZGFD 2021 Fall Hunt Regulations
- Federal Public Land Transfer Resolution updated and distributed, 12/6/21
- Sanderson Ford continues as our Corporate Sponsor
- Bronco Badlands Sweepstakes sponsored by Sanderson Ford was a huge success
- The Trust for Public Land joins as a Member
- Be Outdoors Arizona, LLC joins as an Associate Member
- Nine new Individual Members joined the organization
- Final Report completed for our Bass Pro & Cabelas Outdoor Fund Grant 12/31/21
- Compilation and completion of 2021 Annual Report to Board





# Partnerships and Collaboration

**AZ Association of Conservation Districts (AACD):** Discussions on collaboration, Sharma Torrens

**AZ Big Game Super Raffle:** Executive Director joins Board, revised Bylaws, participated in drawing

**AZ Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP):** Input conference, 8/19/21

**Diablo Trust:** Communication, and participation in Recreation Summit and Summer Meeting

**Land Advisors Organization:** Communication with Conservation Advisor Heather Redding on Upper Verde Watershed and Yavapai Ranch LWCF application for Farm Bill ACEP-ALE funding

**North American Non-Lead Partnership:** Update and Kaibab Deer Program

**Lower Gila River Collaborative & Rio Reimagined:** Partnership recognition, 4/19/21

**Outdoors Tomorrow Foundation (Dallas, TX):** Meeting presentation, 6/22/21

**Salt River Project (SRP):** Forest Restoration program presentation by Elvy Barton, 10/26/21;  
discussion and follow up on future projects and cooperative efforts in 2022

**Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP):** MAPLand Act press release, 3/2/21

**Upper Verde Watershed Collaborative:** Signatory to Upper Verde Fact Sheet 3/3/21

**Western Rivers Action Network:** Continued support of efforts

