

ARIZONA



Annual Report & Accomplishments 2022

CONSERVING WILDLIFE



In the rearview mirror...

In many respects the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Our Annual Report will give you a snap shot of what we reviewed, discussed, and commented on. It will also give you a perspective of the variety of issues sportsmen and women face that aren't always in the public eye.

AZSFWC fills a niche that our 41 member organizations can't or don't want to fill on their own. We provide a forum for the discussion and the ability to support or not support issues and matters that can and do impact them.

Arizona is blessed with many things, from millions of acres of accessible public land, landscapes and scenery that are magnificent, and a variety of wildlife that is greater than any landlocked state in the country. That brings with it challenges however, such as a continued growing population, more people in the outdoors, greater pressure on the land and wildlife, and the need to manage all of it.

These challenges include endangered species management, land management planning, travel management planning, renewable energy development and the desire by some to add more special designations to the land. Then add in drought, habitat loss, invasive species, and feral horses and burros, and you can get a flavor for the issues facing not only the land management agencies, and our state wildlife agency, but also those who recreate all over the state.

Our "Conserving Wildlife" license plate saw another record breaking year! We added some new member groups that now has us representing over 25,000 people in Arizona. Our diverse membership continues to span the spectrum from wildlife and conservation groups, hunting clubs, angling clubs, shooting groups, outdoor recreation groups and businesses. The new year will have AZSFWC continuing to focus on issues and matters that can or could impact our passions.

Yours in Conservation,

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director



2022 Officers

President - Rich Williams
Vice President - Chip Wittrock
Treasurer - Zack May
Secretary - Eddy Corona

Staff

Executive Director - Jim Unmacht
Administrator - Tracy Unmacht

AZSFWC
PO Box 75731
New River AZ 85087
info@azsfwc.org
azsfwc.org

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
- Memorandum of Understanding with the Commission renewed for 10 years, 5/4/22
- Comment and input on many fronts, including Legislation, Hunt Guidelines, CO River Management, MX Wolves and Education, Mandatory Reporting, Leftover tags, Non-resident Hunter Ed, Fair Chase, Travel Management Plans, and Renewable Energy Projects
- Video distribution on hunter and angler access, with on Cross F Ranch
- AZGFD Habitat Partnership Steering Committee input planning
- Wildlife Waters Redevelopment and Prioritization input
- Conservation Bonus Point concept collaboration
- Initiated Assessment for Tracking Annual Statewide Conservation Spending with AZGFD



Access, Input & Outreach

Arizona State Agencies and Communities:

- AG Office's Director of Community Engagement participation at Board meetings
- State Land Department communications on Oak Wells Energy Project, 3/15/22 and 4/19/22
- Participated in Outdoor Recreation Business Summit, 4/21/22 and 10/13/22
- Common Interest Agreement with Arizona Attorney General and Gila County on Tonto roads
- Requested Proclamation by Gov. Ducey for National Hunting and Fishing Day, 9/24/22
- Support for Commission Appointment Recommendation Board (CARB) and candidates submitted to Governor Ducey
- Ongoing communications with ADOT on License plate management



U.S. Department of Interior:

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) input

- Solar Planning review and discussions, 1/18/22
- Solar Zoom meeting participation, 1/20/22
- Hopper Solar Project review
- Enterprise Ranch LWCF acquisition support with Trust for Public Land, 4/18/22
- Yuma Proving Ground Expansion comment letter, 6/28/22
- Black Canyon Corridor Travel Management Plan (TMP) comments, 8/19/22
- Sonoran Desert NM Recreational Shooting comments submitted 9/23/22
- Middle Gila South TMP Zoom, 10/19/22
- Middle Gila South TMP (Needles Eye) assessment and comments, 11/17/22
- Needles Eye Wilderness Access project follow up with Tucson office, 12/8/22
- Kingman TMP follow up, 12/8/22

Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) comments

- MX Wolf Proposed Recovery Plan and 10(j) Rule Revisions assessed
- Gray wolf opposition to habitat expansion, comments 1/19/22
- MX wolf virtual meeting, assessment, and comments, 1/26/22
- NWR Hunting expansion campaign, support letter to Senators 3/18/22
- MX Wolf Recovery Plan comment letter submitted 5/16/22
- ESA Historical Range changes, opposition comments submitted, 8/7/22
- National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) proposed lead ban assessment
- CO Gray Wolf Recovery Plan comments 8/22/22

Access, Input & Outreach

Department of Agriculture - Forest Service:

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (NF):

- Apache NF Unauthorized Livestock, HOWL for Wildlife Action Alert
- A-S NF feral horse communications with Congressional staff, 3/9/22, 3/17/22
- Unauthorized Livestock Fact Sheet, aka Feral Horse [Brochure](#), 4/5/22

Coronado NF:

- Pinalaño FireScope Project EA comment letter submitted 3/25/22
- Peloncillo Mountains Conservation Easement review
- Wedgetail Exploration Drilling Project review
- Charouleau Gap LWCF Access Project support, 8/27/22

Kaibab NF:

- AZ National Scenic Trail Reroute (Mangum Fire) comment letter, 3/11/22
- House Rock Wildlife Area Bison Management Project support sent 3/30/22
- Mangum Fire Emergency Action, Hazard Tree Removal support, 8/11/22

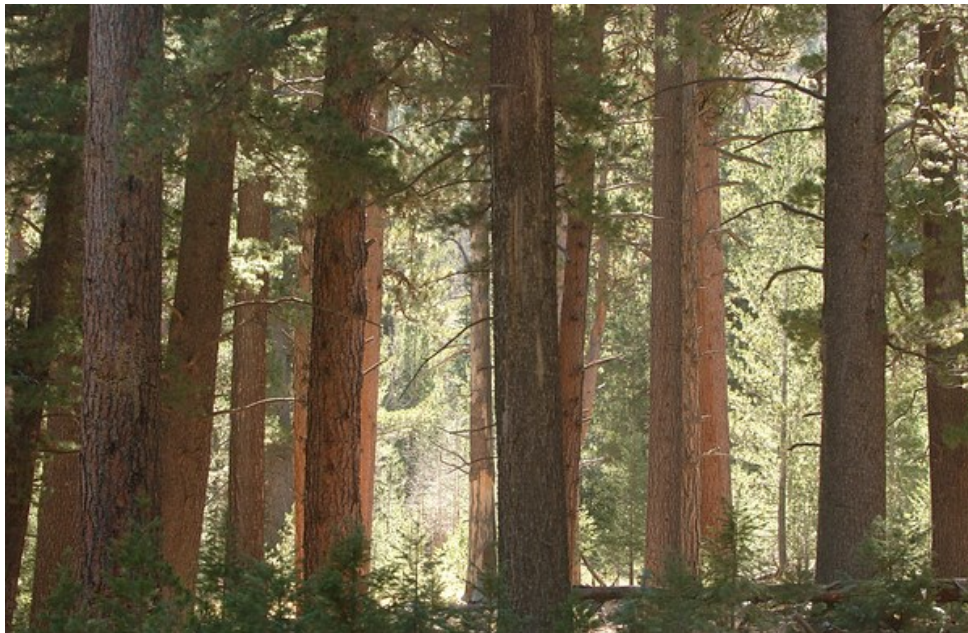


Prescott NF:

- Assessment and Scoping comments submitted on Verde Recreation Acton Plan (VRAP), 1/17/22
- VRAP Draft Environmental Assessment comments submitted 7/28/22
- Yavapai Ranch LWCF application for second phase request, 8/1/22
- Yavapai Ranch LWCF Phase II letter to Senator Sinema's staff, 12/5/22, meeting 12/6/22

Tonto NF:

- Land Management Plan (LMP) Objection letter submitted, 5/23/22
- LMP Objection review, with comments submitted again, 8/17/22
- LMP Objection Process status, preserved as Interested Persons, 9/23/22
- LMP Objection Process acknowledgment letter from USDA, 12/6/22
- Travel Management Plan (TMP) and Sierra Ancha Wilderness (SAW) access efforts with keeping the Workman Creek Road and Cherry Creek Road open
- U.S Senate staff discussions on status with 41 groups supporting the position
- Collaboration with Arizona Attorney General and Gila County
- Access Action Alert for Cherry Creek and Workman Creek Roads
- Correspondence with The Wilderness Society to engage on resolution, 10/24/22, 12/6/22
- Salt River NEPA lawsuit review and assessment



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
- Support for AZGFD position on SB1040, Veterans Hunting and Fishing Bill
- Support for Rep. Griffin's Landowner Liability bill, HB2130
- OHV Committee considerations and recommendations

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF)

- HuntFish 30x30, America the Beautiful, & ATLAS engagement
- ATLAS and 30x30 Listening Session and summary, 1/18/22
- America the Beautiful, ATLAS review and signatory to CSF letter 3/7/22
- America the Beautiful - 30x30, follow up, 7/19/22
- CSF meetings, dialog, and discussions;
- Idaho Sportsmen Conference call, 6/13/22
- Predator Mgt Zoom, 7/7/22
- Managing Invasive Species Zoom, 7/21/22
- Renewable Energy action plan dialog
- California sportsmen correspondence
- Recovering America's Wildlife Act signatory <https://ournatureusa.com/our-partners/>

U.S. Congress

- Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) S.2372 support
- Letter to Senator Kelly on Tonto SAW legislation, 2/9/22 and follow up, 4/4/22
- Discussions with Sen. Kelly and Sen. Sinema's staff on Tonto NF SAW Boundary Roads
- Modernizing Access to our Public Lands (MAPLand) Act S.904, H.R.3113, support
- Upper Verde Watershed and Yavapai Ranch (Phase II) LWCF application for Farm Bill ACEP-ALE funding, support letter, 8/12/22
- Outdoor Recreation Bill letter of support to Rep. Grijalva, 9/12/22
- Land and Water Conservation Fund Advocacy fly in trip to Washington DC, 9/27/22-9/29/22
- Public Land Access Correspondence to Senators Kelly & Sinema, 12/8/22
- Great Bend of the Gila National Conservation Act letters to Senators, 12/11/22

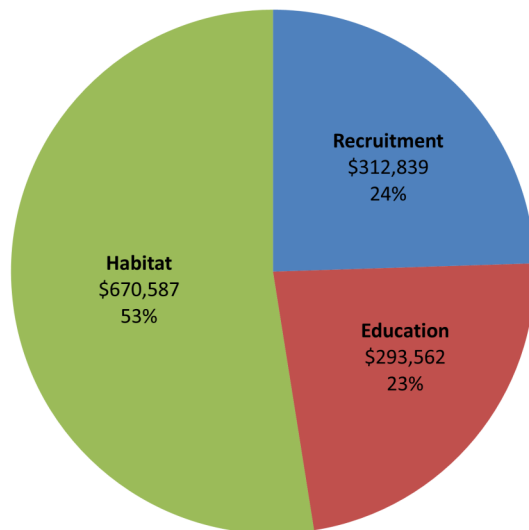


“Conserving Wildlife” License Plate

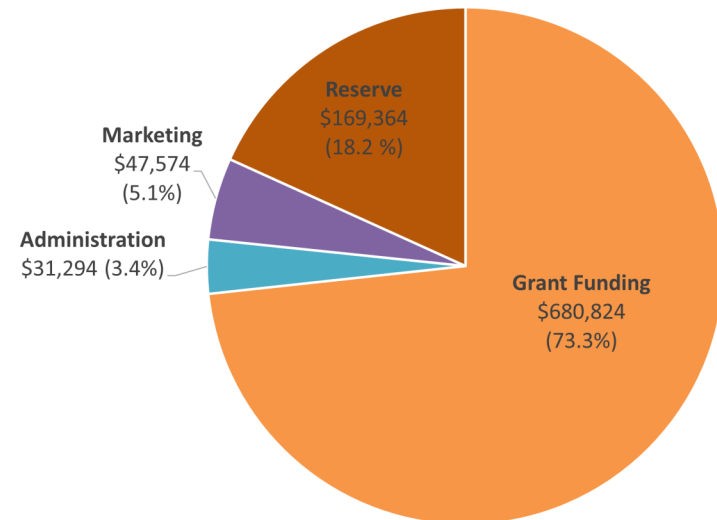


- For the 12th year in a row, our annual license plate revenue increased
- In 2022 we averaged \$18,569 per month in plate revenue for a total of \$222,825 exceeding 2021 by \$22,834
- AZGFD updated plate image and link on the homepage of their website
- Hispanic Outreach and License plate video released and posted <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8v1eJbbCO0>
- In 2022, we awarded 17 Stinson Grants totaling \$168,792
- The 2022 grant awards included \$85,123 for habitat, \$34,059 for Education and \$49,610 for Youth Recruitment
- **From 2012 - 2022 we approved 217 grants totaling \$1,322,388**

AZ Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation Grant History 2012-2022
 Total Approved - \$1,322,388
 Total Utilized - \$1,276,987



AZ Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation License Plate Fund 5 Year Analysis 2018-2022
 Total Revenue - \$929,056



Business Matters & Marketing

- Enews and Action Alerts Distributed to 16,500 individuals per release:
- Who are “The Conservationists”?, When is enough, enough?, The New Normal,
- National Forests or National Feedlots, In the Rearview Mirror, 3Q ‘22, Q4 ‘22 – Afterword
- Social Media Administrator added to staff
- HOWL for Wildlife Board meeting participation and discussions
- Conservation Nation Video Interview 5/12/22 with Gabriella Hoffman
- Arizona Game & Fish Commission Banquet Sponsor, 6/11/22
- Outdoor Wire Press Release for AZSFWC & SBA, published 8/25/22
- 3 New Member Groups; Ducks Unlimited, Diablo Trust, Mogollon Sporting Association
- 4 New Associate Members; No Excuse Hunting & Outdoors, Rio Salado Sportsman’s Club, FlyFishers Arizona, Wildlife Waterworks
- 10 New individual members
- “From the Ridgeline” Daily News Distribution
- Sanderson Ford continues as our Corporate Sponsor
- Sanderson Ford sponsors Ford Raptor Sweepstakes, winner drawn 12/28/22
- Compilation and completion of 2022 Annual Report



WIN A 2022 FORD RAPTOR
FROM SANDERSON FORD

ENTER AT
AZSFWC.ORG
PROCEEDS BENEFIT

HELP US HELP HABITAT
VISIT
SERVICEARIZONA.COM
AND RESERVE YOUR PLATE TODAY

ARIZONA
Sportsmen
for
Wildlife
Conservation

Arizona
HABITAT
PLATE

The poster features a blue Ford Raptor truck parked on a dirt road in a desert landscape. The Sanderson Ford logo is in the top right corner. The text "WIN A 2022 FORD RAPTOR FROM SANDERSON FORD" is prominently displayed at the top. Below the truck, there are instructions on how to enter the sweepstakes, including the website AZSFWC.ORG and SERVICEARIZONA.COM. The poster also promotes the Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation and the Arizona Habitat Plate.

Partnerships and Collaboration



Salt River Project (SRP) Memo of Understanding signed 6/29/22: Habitat Project Opportunities and Collaboration, Press Release on Hardscrabble Project 2/24/22, Board meeting participation

AZ Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Input

AZ Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) Annual Conference Sponsor, 8/4/22

Diablo Trust: Communication and participation in Recreation Summit and Annual Meeting

Greater Chino Valley Collaborative: Field Trip, 10/26/22

Lower Gila River Collaborative & Rio Reimagined Partnership

Land Advisors Organization collaboration, Upper Verde Watershed and Yavapai Ranch matters

Outdoors America: Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) planning and meetings

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

Ranching and Wildlife Work Group: Focus group coordinated with AZGFD, AZSFWC and AZ Cattle Growers Association (ACGA), AZ Farm & Ranch and Gila County Cattlegrowers

AZ Cattle Growers Association, Wolf meeting 1/20/22

Southern AZ Cattlemen's Protective Association (SACPA) meeting 11/18/22

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP): WAFWA Energy Working Group recommendation support letter, 8/16/22

Upper Verde Watershed Collaborative, Upper Verde Fact Sheet Signatory
Upper Verde Scoping Webinar participation, 3/28/22 and Scoping Project
Upper Verde River Wild and Scenic Suitability Draft Environmental Assessment review

Western Rivers Action Network ongoing support

