

If you go back many years, conservationists used to be men and women who hunted and fished. If you go back a century, you'll find former President Teddy Roosevelt helped lead the charge on this front too.

Sportsmen and women were historically called the true conservationists. Hunters, anglers, and shooters have been paying most of the freight since the enactment of The Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 (Pittman-Robertson aka PR) and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950 (DJ). The PR and DJ tax revenue has funded wildlife and fisheries conservation efforts across the country ever since.

When you couple the PR and DJ money with our state wildlife agencies and those same sportsmen and women who want to make a difference for wildlife and fish, you get a concentrated force for good taking that conservation ethos and getting it on the ground and in the water. Our wildlife and fish are the beneficiaries. This <u>video</u> is a great example of that effort.

If you take a look at our AZSFWC member groups, you'll arguably find the most diverse group of "conservationists" you could gather. They aren't just hunters, anglers, shooters, or recreationists, they collectively care about all of Arizona's wildlife; game, and non-game alike.

There was a simpler time not long ago where you either supported hunting or fishing, or you did not. None of what we do or what we like is clearly defined anymore. The shades of gray and the acceptable limits of what once was considered normal and okay is no longer the case. Technology and social awareness has accelerated across all fronts, some of that good, and some of that not good depending on your perspective.

Conservation was always considered a good thing. Merriam Webster says: "planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect."

Preservation while good in some cases, also brought with it limitations. Merriam Webster says: "the activity or process of keeping something valued alive, intact, or free from damage or decay."

Environmentalism emanating from the 1960's and 1970's began to change the narrative of what's "good or not" in society. Merriam Webster says: "advocacy of the preservation, restoration, or improvement of the natural environment."

What's the point? If you haven't noticed everyone is a conservationist now! The true conservationists continue to put their money into habitat improvement projects. The new conservationists concentrate on funding social advocacy.

Some have complained about how the word conservationist has been hijacked and that may be true. It was done very subtly, right under our noses and is now a given. Even the rabid anti-hunters consider themselves conservationists; not preservationists or environmentalists. They have won the messaging contest and it's now engrained daily by your media of choice.

Even if we've lost the rights to the moniker, it doesn't mean we end our efforts at improving

wildlife habitat, advocating for the conservation of wildlife and fish, working to restore access to our public lands, or the myriad of other things we've historically had a passion for. It simply means we have to collectively do a better job of communicating our mission, objectives and follow through.

We have to resurrect the conservation ethos that got us here. We have to adhere to the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. We need to instill an impeccable degree of ethics amongst our hunting, angling, and shooting circles. We need to educate not only the folks that don't hunt or fish or shoot about what we do, but we also need to reeducate many of our own for some of the same reasons!

We need to quit sweating some of the small stuff and focus on the big picture. Philosophers have been ruminating on "change" for centuries. I'll defer to Benjamin Franklin, who is credited with this, "When you are finished changing, you are finished."

The new conservationists are constantly changing.

The true conservationists need to recognize that and in turn; improvise, adapt, and respond.

Yours in Conservation, Jim Unmacht Executive Director

#### **Enter Our Raffles**





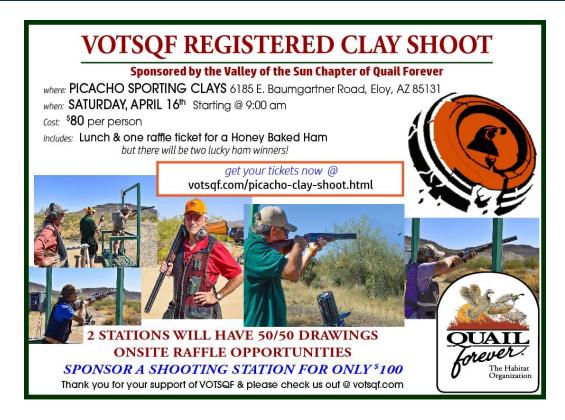


### Please support our Member Group Activities



Help us share our first commercial! We're excited to introduce you to Ace and Ernie who will star in a series of ads over the next few months. Get ready for some fun content. Forward to your friends and share on all your social media channels!





13th Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference - Virtual
April 21, 2022
7:00p.m. - 8:30p.m. (AZ)
Virtual event

Sponsored by AZGFD and AZ State Council of Trout Unlimited





#### **No Excuse Hunting and Outdoors**

"Nothing's Stopping You."

Not everyone with a disability is born with it. Many disabilities are acquired through life from car accidents, illness, or military service. No Excuse Hunting assists and encourages people with a physical or visual disability to try something new or to not abandon a life's passion due to a disability. Please use the link below to visit our Square store and participate in this month's fundraiser for a Ruger Precision





Eureka Timberline SQ Outfitter 6-Person Tent Raffle By donating to Arizona Outdoor Adventures, you are helping us to enrich and positively impact children's lives through fun and educational outdoor activities in the peace and quiet of nature. Purchase tickets online HERE.

## **Sportsmen's Business Directory**

Do you really know who you do business with? Do the businesses you patronize support the things you like to do?

Help us build the Sportsmen's Business Alliance online directory to help you find those businesses.

If you are a business owner, here is an opportunity for you to reach out to likeminded sportsmen & women and support organizations that promote causes important to them.

#### **Corporate Partner**



#### **Members**

Alter Valley Conservation Alliance

**Anglers United** 

AZ Antelope Foundation

AZ Bass Nation

AZ Big Game Super Raffle

AZ Bowhunters Association

AZ Chapter Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

AZ Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation

AZ Chapter Safari Club International

AZ Deer Association

AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society

AZ Council Trout Unlimited

AZ Elk Society

AZ Flycaster's Club

AZ Houndsmen's Association

AZ Outdoor Adventures

AZ Outdoor Sports, Inc

**AZ Predator Callers** 

AZ Taxidermy Association

**Christian Hunters of America** 

Diablo Trust

Mogollon Sporting Association

Mule Deer Foundation

Outdoor Experience 4 All

Southern AZ Chapter Quail Forever

**SRT Outdoors** 

Southwest Wildlife Foundation

The Bass Federation

The Trust for Public Land

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation

Partnership

Valley of the Sun Quail Forever

#### **Associate Members**









## **No Excuse Hunting Outdoors**

#### **Affiliate Members**



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.

# DONATE

The AZSFWC is responsible for managing the conservation license plate program (L. Gary Stinson Grant 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.



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 L. Gary Stinson Grant 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. (More info HERE).

These plates can be purchased online and can also be personalized. To order an AZSFWC Conservation License Plate go to: <a href="http://www.servicearizona.com">http://www.servicearizona.com</a> 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. <a href="https://servicearizona.com/plateAvailability/plate?execution=e2s3">https://servicearizona.com/plateAvailability/plate?execution=e2s3</a>

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".** 

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