



Thank goodness the government has told us we're no longer in a drought, but some rain would still be nice!

Saturday started out a slow day. One of those days when the biorhythms are all ebbing on the low end. That changed pretty quickly mid-morning when the Central fire ignited. Human caused they say, but no official word yet on how. Locals are pretty confident some folks were shooting in one of their favorite places near the Tonto National Forest (TNF). You can't fix stupid, and the rest is history.

The balance of the day had us watching the fire from our kitchen window and patio, not a very settling situation. But not for the prevailing southwest winds, great firefighting efforts and a several dozen tanker drops, the swirling winds west of the New River Mountains could've resulted in a great deal of property damage. As is, "we" only lost a few hundred acres of pristine Sonoran desert. A small tragedy in relative terms compared to the devastation of many of the larger fires around our state this summer, but sad nonetheless.

As we wait for the rain, we need to deal with the pour - the incessant onslaught; against hunting, angling, guns, access and the overall multi-use concept of our public lands.

I'll start with California - if you have any inclination to head west and hunt there, I'll simply suggest you better bone up on all the new laws in effect!

AZSFWC commented to the US Fish and Wildlife Service in favor of delisting the Gray wolf from endangered status. Many other individuals and organizations urged delisting, too. On the other side, the Center of Biological Diversity (CBD) is touting they garnered 650,000 comments in favor of keeping the wolf listed as endangered. We hope the Service makes the right decision.

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The CBD has filed a Notice of Intent to sue the Apache Sitegreaves National Forest and others, requesting the removal of feral horses, cattle and "elk", all to protect the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse, an endangered species. The preferred jumping mouse critical habitat is along riparian areas, which the horses are decimating. On their field trip the CBD found stray cattle and saw a few elk. So why the elk? They are American elk transplanted from Yellowstone in 1913. They are not the native Merriam elk that were extirpated from AZ decades ago. So the question is, would the native Merriam elk have acted any differently than the non-native Yellowstone transplants that now occupy our forests? No one can answer that one.

Perhaps more a more pressing question - why does the CBD not like the transplanted Yellowstone elk, but they are all in for the transplanted Canadian wolves in the northern part of the United States? And the latest, they want grizzly bears back in the forests of Arizona.

Back to horses, have you seen the former riparian habitat along the Salt River? The Salt River horses have destroyed the habitat along the river, and while the horse lovers demand more acres from the TNF for these feral animals, they have resorted to supplemental feeding.

Have you ever heard of Resource Advisory Councils (RAC)? The Federal government has one for every forest and the BLM has 37 of these RAC's around the West. Theoretically a good resource for the land management agencies. Interestingly enough, environmentalists have two designated seats on every RAC. Each RAC has 15 members, with 5 people from each of the following three categories:

- Category 1: Commercial/Commodity Interests

- Category 2: Environmental, Dispersed Recreation, Archeological/Historic, Wild Horse and Burro Interests

- Category 3: Elected Officials, Native American, Public-at-Large, Academia, State and Local Government Officials

Sportsmen and women conservationists have little opportunity to serve on any given RAC and we've brought that to the attention of Rep. Gosar.

We have also been made aware of a wind farm in the planning stages on Chevelon Butte in Game Management Unit 4A, and are looking into it for more details.

Finally, recall that Rep. Grijalva failed in his effort to establish the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument a couple years ago. He's

back at it as Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee pushing H.R. 1373, the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act. It won't come to fruition under the current administration, but is an example of what could come if the Congress and the President change in the 2020 election.

Here's hoping you don't need DC-10 tankers flying over your house anytime in the near future!

Jim Unmacht  
Executive Director

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We invite you to join us for the 3rd Annual Sportsmen's Summit and Banquet. The Summit's program will include updates about AZSFWC activities and issues, AZSFWC Member, Associate and Affiliate Organizations, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department and Commission. After the Summit's program, there will be a Social Hour, which will be followed by dinner and a Fundraiser with an Auction, Blitzes, Bucket Raffle and Silent Auction.

**SATURDAY - AUGUST 3, 2019**  
**BEN AVERY CLAY TARGET CENTER**

CHECK IN 3:00 - 4:00 PM  
PROGRAM BEGINS AT 4:00 PM  
INDIVIDUAL RESERVATIONS \$25  
TABLE OF 10 - \$250  
COPPER SPONSOR - \$500  
SILVER SPONSOR - \$1500  
GOLD SPONSOR - \$2500

[BUY HERE](#)

**License Plate Grant Success**

*Halfway Trick Tank*  
**APRON RENOVATION**

# APRON RENOVATION

by Steve Clark



With funding from Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation and partners including AZGFD, USFS and volunteers, Halfway Trick Tank apron was renovated in 2018 back to working condition. This catchment is in Unit 9 and is one of the most-used catchments for elk. **Thank you to all the volunteers and agencies who helped out and got the job done.** 🍷 🍷



Arizona Elk Society 13

## Anglers United's Partners Point 1999 - 2019

Havasu Fisheries Partnership had been installing artificial reef structure in the lake for roughly 5 years out of two temporary locations. A site north of Windsor Beach (Campbell Cove) and another 20+ miles south in the Havasu Springs Resort. Installation trips were getting longer with each cove completion, the appreciation of long term maintenance and monitoring responsibilities grew, and the need for a "stand alone" permanent lakeside facility for these purposes became compelling. A plan was conceived to meet this need on BLM land at a place then called Bluebird Point. BLM, & USBR engineers designed and surveyed a one mile+ road across the desert to the Bluebird shoreline and completed an Environmental Assessment with appropriate permits to build the road across City, Public, and private properties to a central lakeside local.



Read the complete article [HERE](#).

## Our Partners Spreading the Word - Thanks ADBSS!



## Support Our Partners' Activities

# ARIZONA BIG GAME SUPER RAFFLE



**PUBLIC DRAWING**

**July 25th 6:00 pm**

**AZ Game & Fish Headquarters**

The drawing will be webcast at <https://vimeo.com/344431146>



**ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION  
Garland Prairie/Fence Modification Project  
August 10, 2019**

**Project Location:** We will be working 17 miles west of Flagstaff and 12 miles south of Interstate 40 in the Garland Prairie area.

**Project Begins:** Saturday August 10<sup>th</sup>, please arrive at camp by 8:00 AM. This is a one-day project for all attendees.

**Project Activity:** We will be completely removing and modifying fencing to pronghorn friendly standards in various locations around Garland Prairie.


**Pronghorn Benefits:** This fence project will improve pronghorn movements across their summer range on Garland Prairie. Data from currently collared pronghorn was used to identify key areas for modification.

**HPC Grant Benefits:** All volunteer work hours and mileage will be used as in-kind match for an approved and funded 2019 AAF-AGFD North and South of I-40 Pronghorn Corridor Connectivity Project.

**What to Bring:** Work gloves (the AAF will have a limited supply), snacks, water, and personal gear.

**Meals:** Please provide your own lunches to eat in the field on the Saturday work days. The AAF will be providing dinners on Friday and Saturday nights and continental breakfasts with coffee and juice on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

**RSVP/Contact:** Please register by **Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>** so we can plan to have enough food and tools for everyone. The direct link to register online for this project is <https://azantelope.org/event-3170393>. You may also RSVP to [info@azantelope.org](mailto:info@azantelope.org). The AAF phone number for project info/questions is 480.702.1045.



**Directions to Camp:**

*Directions from Flagstaff*  
Follow I-40 west to exit 178 (Parks Road).

- Turn south (left) on Garland Prairie Rd./ FR 141. Follow Garland Prairie Rd approximately 12 miles.
- Turn left (south) onto Forest Road 56. Camp will be on the right approx. 0.9 miles along FR 56. AAF will put out signs at 56/141 junction.

*Directions from Williams*

- Follow I-40 to exit 167 (Garland Prairie Road / Circle Pines Road),

- Head south on Garland Prairie Road for 3.3 miles where it turns into Forest Road 141,
- Continue straight on FR 141 for 5.8 miles to FR 56,
- Turn right (south) onto FR 56. Camp should be on the left about 0.9 miles southeast of the FR 141-FR 56 junction. AAF will put out signs at 56/141 junction.

*We will be camping near the cinder pit on Forest Road 56 in case anyone shows up early before signs are put up.*



**Mentoring Kids  
Fishing Derby**



# Fishing Derby



**Patagonia Lake, Arizona**  
**Saturday, September 9, 2019**  
**7 am to 1 pm**

*Hosted By:*

*Del Norte Bass Anglers*  
**&**  
**Kahuna's Kids**

a Leo A. Longoria, Jr. Memorial Foundation

This annual event is looking for more volunteers, especially boaters! Help is also needed on shore with getting these young anglers ready for their day on the water, launching boats, and lunch preparation. This is a one-day event that introduces kids to the sport of fishing and it is a truly rewarding experience! If you are an angler in need of fulfilling your community service requirement, this event would be a great way for you to do so.

*Donations are always needed, very much appreciated and tax deductible.*

*Kahuna's Kids is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is 100% volunteer run.*



MENTORING  
TUCSON'S  
**KIDS**



***To encourage youth participation in the sport of fishing  
and appreciation for the great outdoors.***

For more information: 520-241-8527 or visit [www.kahunaskids.org](http://www.kahunaskids.org)

## Regular Sponsors & Supporters



## Members

1.2.3.Go...	Anglers United	AZ Antelope Foundation
AZ Bass Federation Nation	AZ Big Game Super Raffle	AZ Bowhunters Association
AZ Chapter NWTF	AZ Chapter SCI	AZ Council of Trout Unlimited
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 &	Christian Hunters of



	Anglers	America
Kahuna's Kids	Mule Deer Foundation	Mohave Sportsman Cub
Outdoor Experience 4 All	Southeastern AZ Sportsmen Club	SRT Outdoors Inc
Southern Arizona Quail Forever	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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## AFFILIATE MEMBERS

### **OUTDOORSMANS**




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## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

AND PROTECT



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. (More info [HERE](#)).

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/startChoice.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

Arizona Sportsmen's 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.

