



Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation

The State of our State in some respects isn't very rosy at the moment.

Unless you've been in isolation, it's not only hot outside, but dry to boot. Water hauling is in full swing trying to keep tanks and catchments full. Unfortunately, that isn't going to help our wildlife's food supplies which are also taking a hit.

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/season_drought.png

Fire season is upon us, with most of the State and Federal lands under fire restrictions. <https://wildlandfire.az.gov/fire-restrictions>

Without any reprieve, new fires are popping up all too frequently. The Mescal and Telegraph fires near Globe and Superior are raging as I write.

At this rate, forest closures are likely not too far off. <https://inciweb.nwccg.gov/>

Water for wildlife isn't Arizona's only problem. Lake levels across the Colorado River Basin continue to fall, with drastic shortages on the horizon.

<https://www.sciencefriday.com/segments/colorado-river-dry/>

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/american-west-may-be-entering-megadrought-worse-any-historical-record-180974688/>

Ground and surface water in our state is at a premium too. Governor Ducey recently signed legislation on that front.

<https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2021/05/governor-ducey-signs-historic-water-protection-legislation>

Here's some more information from the AZ Department of Environmental Quality. <https://azdeq.gov/woaz>

And some thought provoking articles.

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-environment/2021/05/13/arizona-is-depleting-groundwater-in-many-areas-researchers-warn/5059471001/>

<https://www.hcn.org/issues/53.6/south-water-rapid-growth-in-arizonas-suburbs-bets-against-an-uncertain-water-supply>

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Finally, some other news:

The Grand Canyon National Park bison culling effort is moving forward, which is a good thing, notwithstanding it has taken years to get to this point.

The National Park Service has now selected 25 volunteers from almost 47,000 applicants, of which 12 will participate.

USFWS is continuing with National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) hunting and angling expansion on the Havasu and Bill Williams refuges. This follows in the footsteps of the expansion that began in 2020, with Buenos Aries, Cabeza Prieta, Cibola and Leslie Canyon. AZSFWC supported this effort last year and will again with this round. The comment deadline is July 1st.

If you are wondering where the MX wolves are look here,
<https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=dbcc9960867948aea225fc53c50d0ed0&extent=-110.6313,32.9752,-106.5746,34.932>

AZGFD and USFWS have published a Draft Environmental Assessment on Sport Fish Stocking in Arizona. AZSFWC will comment on this EA, and there are still a few days left to do so if you're interested.

https://azgfd-portal-wordpress-pantheon.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/archive/Final-Draft-FWS-EA-2021-SFSP-5_11_2021.pdf

The AZ Game & Fish Commission meets this Friday the 11th in Payson at 8 am. Here's the agenda: <https://azgfd-portal-wordpress-pantheon.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/archive/2021.06.11-Agenda.pdf>

Pray for rain, we need a good monsoon...sooner rather than later!

Yours in Conservation,

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director

AZSFWC Conserving Wildlife License Plate Grant Success



The AZ Elk Society (AES) utilized **\$6,000** in license plate grant funds to complete the build of this **1000** gallon water trailer by Dykstra Machinery. The AZ Deer Association and the AZ Antelope and AES provided additional funding to order and install all necessary components. The trailer was delivered to AZGFD to be used in Region I office. The trailer will be used by AZGFD and trained volunteers from the local areas. Read more [here](#).

"When you shop for Father's Day gifts at smile.amazon.com/ch/20-0867381, AmazonSmile will donate a

**portion of your eligible purchases to Arizona Sportsmen for
Wildlife Conservation at no cost to you!"**

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Please support our Member Group Activities



ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION 29th ANNUAL HUNTERS' CLINIC (Virtual) June 12, 2021 Noon - 4 PM.

We will cover how to field judge your antelope, archery & rifle hunting tactics, how to use optics (A MUST!), spot & stalk tactics, how to identify a buck from a doe (both can have horns!), proper field care and how to photo document your hunt.

[Info Here](#)

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JASON RAY BAKER, UT • PIERCE BLITCH III, GA
LUPE ANTHONY HUERENA, AZ



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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. (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.
<https://servicearizona.com/plateAvailability/plate?execution=e2s3>

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.

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