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Sportsmen's Connection February 2016

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One has to wonder if the annual greeting really is sincere? So far some things in 2016 have been "happy", but many others continue to present challenges!

We helped bring to fruition a letter from the AZ Game & Fish Commission and 10 former Commissioners imploring President Obama *not* to designate 1.7 million acres on the Kaibab National Forest and Arizona Strip a national monument. [Click here](#) to read the letter. The Commission also passed a Special Land Use Designation Resolution at their January meeting. You can [click here](#) to read that resolution.

Last April we asked Governor Ducey to veto the various land transfer bills that made it to his desk. [Click here](#) to read that letter. The Governor vetoed all but one, allowing a Committee to study the transfer of Federal lands to the state. While we remain skeptical anything like this would ever pass Congress, the issues haven't gone away so we are keeping an eye on this one.

Arizona Game & Fish manages Heritage Fund properties after they are purchased, and there are currently 16 properties in the inventory. That's all good, but did you know almost 90% of the operating and maintenance costs associated with those properties are being paid for with sportsmen's dollars? Arizona Senate Bill 1361 would change that. You can [click here](#) to see the bill and information that explains it.

Feral burros and feral horses ended last year with continued habitat degradation and destruction. Their destructive expansion continues, as does the misguided "love" some of our fellow citizens have for these animals. Burro warning signs are now in place on I-17 after several burro-vehicle "accidents". Last May we submitted a letter (endorsed by 21 of our member groups) to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) encouraging them to use the tools in place to address the burro population explosion. [Click here](#) to see our letter. Unfortunately not much has changed. The AZ Game & Fish

MEMBER
ORGANIZATIONS

- 1.2.3.Go...
- Anglers United
- AZ Antelope Foundation
- AZ BASS Federation Nation
- AZ Big Game Super Raffle
- AZ Bowhunters Association
- AZ Chapter of NWTf
- AZ Chapter of SCI
- AZ Council of TU
- AZ Deer Association
- AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society
- AZ Elk Society
- AZ Flycasters Club
- AZ Houndsmen's Association
- AZ Outdoor Sports
- Coconino Sportsmen
- Mohave Sportsman Club
- Outdoor Experience 4 All
- South Eastern AZ Sportsmen Club
- SRT Outdoors Inc
- The Bass Federation Arizona
- White Mountain Fly Fishing Club
- White Mountain Lakes Foundation
- Xtreme Predator Callers

Affiliate Members:

- Aircomm

Commission also passed a Burro Resolution at their January meeting. You can [click here](#) to read that resolution.

The Salt River horses remain unchecked damaging "their" habitat too. Supporters are pursuing a "Save the Salt River Horses" license plate, SB 1368. In the meantime, HB 2340 clarifies this "herd" is the property of the state of Arizona, but also says, "The state is not obligated to pay for the management of the herd." You can't make this up.

As much as many of us would like to leave politics out of our passion, it's inextricably intertwined with everything we do, and as a consequence, it's going to be an interesting year.

We'll endeavor to keep you informed, and here's hoping it's a "happy" new year!

Jim Unmacht
President



Alert Glen Canyon Dam (Lees Ferry) Draft Environment Impact Statement (DEIS) Comment Period
January 8 - April 7, 2016

LTEMP DEIS (for a pdf of the following article, [click here](#))

The National Park Service, both Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Grand

Canyon National Park, and the Bureau of Reclamation have released on January 8, 2016 the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (**DEIS**) for the Long Term Experimentation and Management Plan (**LTEMP**) for the Glen Canyon Dam which will have control over the flows and conditions of Arizona's Colorado River **Lees Ferry Blue Ribbon Rainbow Trout Fishery** for effectively the next 20 years.

A PUBLIC Comment Period is now open on that **DEIS**. That comment period will continue now through **April 7, 2016**. There will be **Public Meetings** in both Flagstaff and Tempe in **February** in which the NPS / BOR will present the contents of the DEIS, with charts, Graphs, maps, and the rationale behind the Draft contents. **Comments can be submitted at those February meetings, or in writing, or via the internet.**

Lees Ferry Recreational Trout Fishery Management Recommendations

A number of member organizations of **AZSFWC** such as members the Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited (**AZ-TU**), the Arizona Fly Casters, and several other fly fishing clubs especially the Desert Fly Casters have worked long and hard with the formal sponsorship of the Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited and the International Federation of Fly Fishers and with the strong support of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (**TRCP**), to influence the direction and content of this long expected document. The Arizona Game and Fish Department (**AZGFD**) has provided invaluable assistance. Many other organizations, ranging from many members of the Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation, to the guides and guiding businesses around Lees Ferry, to the Orvis Company, have also endorsed this effort.

That working group, with its many contributors, has developed and distributed a **Lees Ferry Recreational Trout Fishery Management Recommendations** Report (See at www.az-tu.org). That report has been used as a basis for the new and formally issued **AZGFD Fisheries Management Plan for Lees Ferry**, and has been vetted by the USGS Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center in Flagstaff (GCMRC). The working group continues to advocate for and support the use of those Recommendations in the Adaptive Management Plan (GCDAMP) Work Group (AMWG) for the Operation of Glen Canyon Dam, an on-going Department of the Interior effort that is related to but separate from the LTEMP DEIS.

We recognize this is all somewhat confusing to a sportsperson who just wants to enjoy fishing in Lees Ferry, BUT IT'S NOT OVER YET!!!! Many of the concerns and issues addressed in the Recommendations report are subject to restrictions and findings in the Draft EIS, BUT that DEIS is still just a draft, and WE can get it CHANGED, if we **GO TO** those meetings and / or **SEND IN** well thought out comments, based on the **Recommendations Plan**.

The Working Group is continuing to work with AZGFD, GCMRC, the NPS, BOR, USFWS, the Western Area Power Authority (WAPA) and the several states' Water Boards and other organizations to hopefully make the final EIS more Rainbow Trout Fishery Friendly. We've made progress, but there's more to do. We will be providing guidelines on key issues and problems we've identified in the DEIS (The DEIS and attachments totals about 2,000 pages). **We'll have those "Talking Points" out shortly, with a "How to Comment" guide, in plenty of time to submit comments BEFORE the April 7th Deadline.**

The DEIS is available for reviewing on the internet at: <http://ltempeis.anl.gov/>.

In the meantime, **Anybody** interested in The Lees Ferry Fishery should go to one of those Public Meetings, and express their desires and concerns with what they see and hear.

Public meetings and webinars to provide information and receive written comments will be

held as follows:

- * Webinar - Tuesday, February 16, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. MST;
- * Public Meeting - Monday, February 22, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. MST, Flagstaff, Arizona;
- * Public Meeting - Thursday, February 25, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. MST, Phoenix, Arizona; and
- * Webinar - Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. MST.

Staff will be available to take written comments and answer questions during this time.

For specific information about the web-based meetings, please refer to the LTEMP EIS website at: <http://ltempeis.anl.gov/>.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by the following methods:

- * Website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/LTEMPEIS>.
- * Mail: Glen Canyon Dam LTEMP Draft EIS, Argonne National Laboratory, 9700 South Cass Avenue - EVS/240, Argonne, Illinois 60439.

Public meetings will be held at the following locations:

- * Flagstaff - USGS Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center, 2255 N. Gemini Road, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001.
- * Phoenix - Embassy Suites Phoenix-Tempe, 4400 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona 85282.

We'll have more information available for the March AZSFWC Newsletter, with suggested comments guidelines and a simplified process to submit comments to help protect and improve this valuable Blue Ribbon Trout Fishery.

For information in the meantime, contact AZ-TU Council Member Joe Miller, jam@prairietriz.com, or 928-978-1315 (m).

Gould's Turkey Hunt Raffle

Gould's Turkey HUNT RAFFLE

WIN A GOULD'S TURKEY HUNT for the 2016 season with Colburn & Scott Outfitters & Gould'sTurkeyHunt.com

- Hunts take place in Mexico
- US Passport required
- 3 day hunt for Gould's Turkey includes lodging, transportation while hunting, food, shotgun and ammo, fully guided hunt will take place during the first week of May 2016 (Exact dates TBD)
- Hunter will be responsible for the shipping expense of their bird and gratuity
- Guide will meet hunter in Douglas, AZ and cross into Mexico at that crossing Gould's turkey are the largest of the 5 sub species

For More Info on Gould's Turkey Hunts go to
www.GouldsTurkeyHunt.com or
www.ColburnandScottOutfitters.com

DRAWING
DATE

FEBRUARY 27, 2016

Raffle Ticket Prices:

- 1 Ticket For \$10.00
- 6 Tickets For \$50.00
- 15 Tickets For \$100.00

All proceeds
benefit AZSFWC



Purchase tickets on the AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Website by clicking [HERE](#)

Your License Plate Dollars At Work!

Team Young Gunz Women's Deer Camp



To see a list of all projects funded by the license plate, click [HERE](#)

Calendar - Our Member Groups Are Very Busy!

AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society presents the following raffles:

Drawing will be held
January 23, 2016

Bighorn Sheep Hunt Raffle

**Hunt the Desert Bighorns on the Fra Cristobal Mountains
within the Armendaris Ranch in New Mexico!**
for hunt season March 4-13, 2016

- Turner Ranch Outfitting conducts this and other hunts company wide and will provide the guide services for this pinnacle big game hunt.
- The raffle winner will join us and two other ram hunters during the hunting season.
- This free ranging wild sheep population has produced trophy rams for all of our guided hunts as well as a translocation capture for other mountain ranges. This range is entirely within the ranch's 350,000 acres. We monitor the sheep population year round and scout prior to the hunts for current activity.



• This is an expansive and rough mountain range as one would expect, and supports several hundred sheep. It has limited road access that allows many starting points for glassing as well as drop off and pick up points for guides and hunters. We have a comfortable bunkhouse near the base of the hunting area. Guide, vehicle, and meals are provided as well.

• A typical day will be spent driving and hiking with the potential for many hours of glassing areas for rams. We have lunch on the mountain and return to camp after dark. You can expect help determining age and trophy quality as well as the physical demand and practicality of the stalks. Please understand this can be a physically demanding hunt that can challenge any of us.

• We enforce a wounding policy on our private land guided hunts to encourage responsibility for careful shot placement, closest possible stalks, and an enjoyable experience with respect for wildlife. If an animal is wounded, every effort from that point on will be for that animal only, until the hunt terminates.



Tickets are \$25 each, 5 for \$100, 30 for \$250 or 70 for \$500

Drawing will be held
January 23, 2016

2016 Polaris RZR XP 4 1000

Raffle Details

2016 Polaris RZR XP 4 1000 Raffle

Drawing to be held January 23, 2016
at the Wild Sheep Foundation Convention

The Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society
PO Drawer 21705 • Mesa, AZ 85277 • 480.854.8950
Winner receives new 2016 Polaris RZR XP 4 1000
Drawing January 23, 2016



adbss.org

Tickets: \$20 each, 6 for \$100, or 35 for \$500



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Don't forget to visit us on Facebook and "Like" our page [HERE](#).

Conservation License Plates - Get yours today!



Look at our beautiful license plate. 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.

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/showInfoPage.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 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.

