Sportsmen's Connection

September 2017





Everyone always focuses on "numbers", and most of the time for good reason. AZSFWC and sportsmen/women are no different. We have 34 Member Organizations and 7 Affiliate Members. If you do the math, we have conservatively well over 10,000 individuals that are "members" of AZSFWC through their affiliation with one of our Member groups. That equates to impact and clout, which is extremely important in today's political climate. So, too is reaching sportsmen and women from an education standpoint, as well as an action and input standpoint.

AZSFWC welcomes support from individuals who may or may not be a member of one of our organizations. To that end, we now offer individual memberships. By becoming an individual member you help us expand our network and reach when addressing issues important to sportsmen and women - "Strength in Numbers" as the saying goes. Individual members will will receive emails from us on Action Alerts and newsworthy information. Individual members have no voting rights but are encouraged to attend our events. There are currently two levels of Individual Membership:

- Free Member Provide your contact information* and we will send you an AZSFWC decal (*AZSFWC does not sell or share your contact information)
- Supporting Member \$25 Includes the same benefits as a free membership but we'll also send you one of our AZSFWC hats.





Whichever option you chose, we would count you as one of our Individual members. Click <u>HERE</u> to sign up. We purchased a lot of hats...thanks for helping us deplete our supply!

Here's an update on some other issues.

Grand Canyon Bison and the SHARE Act...the National Park Service (NPS) has made their decision with the Environmental Assessment and plans to seek volunteers to cull bison. This option likely won't happen anytime soon as they work out the details. This decision removes the AZ Game & Fish Department from the lead role in managing Arizona's bison. It also puts sportsmen and women that have desired to "hunt" bison on the sidelines. The other key is anyone that participates in the cull, will not get the head or hide of the animal, and may only share in some meat.

Rep. Gosar has added the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act to the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2017 (SHARE Act) in the U.S. House to move the bison management back to the AZ Game & Fish Department and sportsmen and women. Click HERE for more information on the SHARE Act. We now need Senators McCain and Flake to do the same!

Jaguar...we saw another jaguar picture the other day, this one from the Chiricahua Mountains. Newsflash, not a female! Click <u>HERE</u> to see the press release from AZ Game & Fish.

Mountain lions...AZSFWC supported the AZ Game & Fish Department's Hunt Guidelines heard at the September Commission meeting. Read the letter <u>HERE</u>.

Tonto National Forest...the Tonto folks continue with their planning. The public has been given until October 2nd to comment on their latest wilderness plan. Click <u>HERE</u> for the details.

Rio Verde Ranch...The Trust for Public Land asked for our support so

the Prescott National Forest could purchase the Rio Verde Ranch with Land and Water Conservation Funds, notably allowing an additional access point for sportsmen and women on the Upper Verde River. Click HERE for more information.

Mexican wolves...AZSFWC supported the USFWS Recovery Plan and submitted comment accordingly. Click <u>HERE</u> to read our letter.

National Monuments...AZSFWC submitted comment on the Department of Interior (DOI) National Monument review. Our letter can be found <u>HERE</u>.

Hunter Access...DOI Secretary Zinke announces effort to expand hunter access. http://bit.ly/2wHSXW4

National Hunting and Fishing Day...Click <u>HERE</u> to see the Proclamation signed by Governor Ducey.

Stay safe afield!

Jim Unmacht Executive Director

Grant Project

Back Country Hunters & Anglers - Responsible OHV Campaign



A Few Tickets Are Still Available



Regular Sponsors & Supporters





OPTIK

Members

1.2.3.Go	Anglers United	AZ Antelope Foundation
AZ Bass Federation Nation	AZ Big Game Super Raffle	AZ Bowhunters Association
AZ Catfish Conservation Assoc	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 Shooting Sports Education Foundation
AZ Taxidermy Association	Back Country Hunters & Anglers	Christian Hunters of America
Coconino Sportsmen	Kahuna's Kids	Mohave Sportsman Cub
Outdoor Experience 4 All	Shoot Right	South Eastern AZ Sportsmen Club
SRT Outdoors Inc	Southwest Wildlife Foundation (YVRGC)	The Bass Federation Arizona
TRCP	Valley of the Sun Quail Forever	White Mountain Lakes Foundation
Xtreme Predator Callers		

Affiliate Members



American Precision
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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.



