



With the new year in swing, and Congress and our State Legislature now under way, we've got more things to be vigilant about on issues and matters we want to see accomplished. And on the flip side, we must watch for issues and matters we want to see left alone! We'll do our best to keep you informed.

On the Arizonans' for Wildlife (HSUS) front, we continue to push the Decline to Sign effort! Remember that's a marathon, not a sprint, so keep spreading the word. On the Petition front, see the following article on how you can help.

Finally, our Conserving Wildlife license plate grant program hit a milestone in 2017, see the press release below. In the last 5 years, we've funded 100 projects and events with grants exceeding \$520K.

That's a lot of license plates!

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director

Meet AZ Game & Fish Commissioner Ammons January 28 at Cabelas

This Sunday Commission Chair Jim Ammons will be on hand for questions and discussion with the public inside Cabelas from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Here's your chance to visit with the Chair in an informal setting and ask any questions you may have!

Don't forget to be a petition watcher

Back in October, we reported on the importance of being a "Petition Watcher". With Arizonans for Wildlife (aka Humane Society of the United States) attempting to gather the required signatures to get their wild cat hunting ban initiative on the November ballot, we need to be diligent in watching them. New laws in Arizona require strict compliance when it comes to the signature gathering process, and we are hearing about and reporting violations when they are witnessed.

You can read more about compliance [HERE](#).

We know volunteer signature gatherers are not distributing facts when discussing the initiative with potential signers. Many of them know little to nothing about wild cats in Arizona, current laws and practices, conservation, scientific management, etc. The information they are distributing contains no scientific data to support the proposed ban, and in some cases, blatant lies.

When you encounter petitioners and witness either violations or false information being shared, we are asking you to document completely (dates, places, any and all details, take photos/video) and forward to us at info@azsfwc.org. We have a means to report violations to the appropriate people. Please be sure to be cordial and non-confrontational.

If the petitioners are on private property, we would also ask that you not only let us know where you've seen them, but go into the business and ask the manager/owner if they have permission to be there and politely express your displeasure about their presence. We are following up on reported locations, and will publish those business who are supporting this.

Finally, continue to share our Decline to Sign message. We must inform the public that the scientists at the AZ Game & Fish Department should continue to manage all 800+ species of wildlife as they've successfully done for nearly 100 years. Wildlife management does NOT belong at the ballot box.

AZSFWC's "Conserving Wildlife" license plate ended 2017 surpassing the prior year both in license plate sales and more importantly, in grant awards from the proceeds!



Every time someone purchases or renews one of these specialty license plates through the state of Arizona, AZSFWC receives \$17 of the \$25 cost. These funds are placed in a dedicated account and each quarter AZSFWC assesses grant proposals from qualified organizations.

Last year, 16 different grants were awarded totaling \$170,665 in funding. Putting this into perspective, that meant 10,039 Conserving Wildlife license plates were purchased or renewed to fund those projects!

Grant money benefits numerous conservation education efforts, youth recruitment and retention as well as important habitat projects. AZSFWC awarded grant money to the AZ Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), the AZ Elk Society (AES) and the AZ Deer Association (ADA) for three notable habitat projects. Landscape scale habitat projects require a great deal of coordination and effort, spearheaded here by these three AZSFWC member organizations. The project work also requires a lot of collaboration with various contributors, from other NGO's, volunteers, State and Federal agencies and private landowners as well.

The NWTF effort continues with a multi-year landscape restoration project in the Pinaleno Mountains (Mt Graham) in Southeast Arizona. The Pinaleno Ecosystem Restoration Project will reduce dense timber stands in this part of the Coronado National Forest and will directly benefit both Gould's turkeys as well as the endangered Mt Graham red squirrel. This project began in 2013 and is projected to continue through 2020.

The AES project is another long term landscape scale habitat project in the Coconino National Forest near Clints Well, Arizona. The Long Valley Meadow Restoration Project has several partners restoring a forest meadow as well as enhancing the drainage, water table and waterway.

The ADA project is landscape scale habitat project near Payson Arizona in the Tonto National Forest. The Round Valley Grassland Restoration will remove juniper and other woody plants that have taken over former grasslands. The project will begin in 2018.

Since 2012, AZSFWC has awarded 100 grants totaling \$520,909.13!

You can go here to see some of our past grant recipients and funded projects:

<http://azsfwc.org/license-plate-fund-projects/>

If you are an Arizona resident, you can go here and get your own Conserving Wildlife license plate:

<http://servicearizona.com/>

Member Group Activities



3rd Annual

ALL AGES
EVENT



Valley of the Sun Chapter Banquet

WHEN

March 3, 2018

Fun Shoot: 3-5pm

Banquet: 5:30-10 pm

WHERE

**Ben Avery—Clay Target Center
and Credit ONE Pavillion**

5060 W Skeet St, Phoenix, AZ 85086

FEATURING • Prizes* Dinner* Auction* Games and More

pheasantsforeverevents.org/event/3206

EVENT

ADVANCE TICKETS

**PURCHASE BY 2/11/2018
AND YOU WILL BE ENTERED
TO WIN AN ARMSCO
O/U .410 FIELD**

\$55 Membership Ticket

\$20 Spouse Ticket

**\$20 Youth Membership
Ticket**

\$250 Sponsorship

\$800 Table Sponsor

\$1000 Gambel's Sponsor

\$2500 Scaled Sponsor

\$5000 Mearns' Sponsor

**\$10000 QF Grand Slam
Sponsor ***

- **Only 1 Grand slam
Sponsor available for
2018**
- **See Website for**

**Arizona Deer Association
Annual Fundraising Banquet**

Annual Fundraising Banquet

SATURDAY MARCH 3, 2018

Rustlers Rooste –at the Arizona Grand Resort

8383 S. 48th St. • Phoenix, AZ 85044

Waterhole 4:00 PM • Dinner 6:00 PM



- Live & Silent Auctions •
- Raffles •
- Hunts and Outdoor Gear •

*Live Auction of State of Arizona
Special Tags for Whitetail and
Mule Deer*

*Unique Artwork, Vacation Trips,
Optics, Firearms, Jewelry and much
more!*

DON'T MISS THIS EVENT!

**Come on out for a fun evening and
support conservation efforts for deer.
Bring your friends and family!**

Tickets must be purchased in advance and are available online at our website.

If you attended one of our previous banquets, you and your friends know how important the funds we raise are to deer conservation in our state. These funds enable the ADA to invest in many projects and activities to benefit whitetail and mule deer and this event promises to be another fun-filled occasion

Individual tickets—\$65 Tables of 8—\$520

Enhanced Tables of 8—\$620 with \$200 of raffle tickets

If you would like to make a donation of art, jewelry, hunting, fishing and camping gear, silent auction items, trips, gift cards, please contact us at 480-854-8950. All donations are tax deductible.



ARIZONA ELK SOCIETY
17TH ANNUAL
BANQUET



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 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 Predator Callers
AZ Shooting Sports Education Foundation	AZ Taxidermy Association	Back Country Hunters & Anglers
Christian Hunters of America	Coconino Sportsmen	Kahuna's Kids
Mohave Sportsman Club	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

Affiliate Members



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OUTDOORSMANS



THE RANCH AT
SOUTH FORK
Where family memories are made

THE
WESTERN HUNTER



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.

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.



