



As it is with just about everything now days, everyone has an opinion and everyone probably has their own adjective describing what happened over the last year.

This is probably even more prevalent in our own "community" as evidenced by some of the issues over the past year. AZSFWC tries to bridge that gap across the conservation and outdoor community; sometimes successful, and sometimes not. We occasionally preach the necessity of coalescing and uniting on issues, but it can be a struggle. Ultimately those fractures will chip away at what we love to do. Maybe not tomorrow, or next year, but time is no longer in our favor.

So what happened over the last year? Here's a look, and if you think any of the comments below are just my opinion, I'll own it.

Alamo Lake - the Army Corps drained the lake and we lost a spawn. We opposed them, the Commission and Department did too, filing an injunction which was lost.

BLM - we weighed in on a number of travel plans, we'll see what happens. The BLM gets a failing grade again on burro management.

CDB - they really should change their name to the Center of Law Suits, CLS for short; sue, obstruct, delay, and then get their legal fees covered by the Equal Access to Justice Act, our tax dollars.

Deadheads - floating logs below the surface of the water that can sink a boat if you're not careful. Ponder that analogy, we have some of those among us.

Endangered Species Act - the original intent was admirable, but over 40 years later, it's become a weapon against reasonableness and

40 years later, it's become a weapon against reasonableness and common sense. We're stuck with it.

Feral horses - the visions of herds of "wild" mustangs running across the land has been observed in too many movies. If they're "wild", how can they be shod and have brands?

Grand Canyon - our former Senators failed to compliment the Bison Bill in the House, and the President did not revoke the Salazar uranium moratorium contrary to the bluster.

House Rock buffalo - they continue to propagate on the Park. The Commission stood their ground and the National Park Service is working with them. Capture and culling may come to pass this spring.

Indifference - our downfall.

Judges - the "environmentalists" answer to scientific wildlife management.

Killing contests - a bell weather of 2020?

Lees Ferry - after 13 years the Department finally gained approval from the Fish & Wildlife Service to stock trout in the Colorado River.

Maricopa County - projected again to be the fastest growing county in the country. How many of those newcomers hunt and fish? How many do you think know who funds wildlife conservation in Arizona?

National Monuments - look for more salvos into Arizona with the incoming Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee. We recently opposed the proposed Great Bend in the Gila, but it and others will likely return.

Opposing Federal Public Land transfers - our position, unless it made sense from a land management, lack of wildlife or sportsmen component, coupled with a designation by Congress. A narrow window.

Panhandlers - not the people holding a sign on the corner, but the enviro-litigants...daily, weekly and ad nauseum over the holidays.

Quit - HSUS quit an initiative for the first time in 25 years. They won't go quietly and they have too much money.

Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation - the 3 R's, Arizona's effort leads the nation in many respects, but we're not keeping up with the

loss of habitat, access and opportunity.

Social media - a tool and harbinger of instant news, some real, some fabricated. Collectively we must use this wisely.

Tonto NF planning - a marathon: travel management, wilderness and boundaries, wildlife management in wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, road closures...

Unfair Chase - a perspective we must be cognizant of in all we do! Will cameras on every waterhole come back to haunt us?

Vote by the Commission - AZSFWC named Conservation Organization of the Year for 2018.

Wildcats - they are still wild and still managed by the Department for now. We still have no resident jaguars and there have been no recent sightings of Canadian lynx in Arizona.

X factor - AZ Game & Fish Commission

Yuma Billboard - working for wildlife with the AZ Game & Fish Department.

Zinke - he came, he made a difference on some fronts, he stirred the pot, and now he's riding into the sunset.

And finally, if you don't have a Conserving Wildlife license plate, please buy one (or more)! Go to <https://servicearizona.com/> and get yours. You do not have to wait for your current plate to renew.

Here's hoping the new year is happy!

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director

**Now Accepting Grant Applications for
1st Quarter 2019**

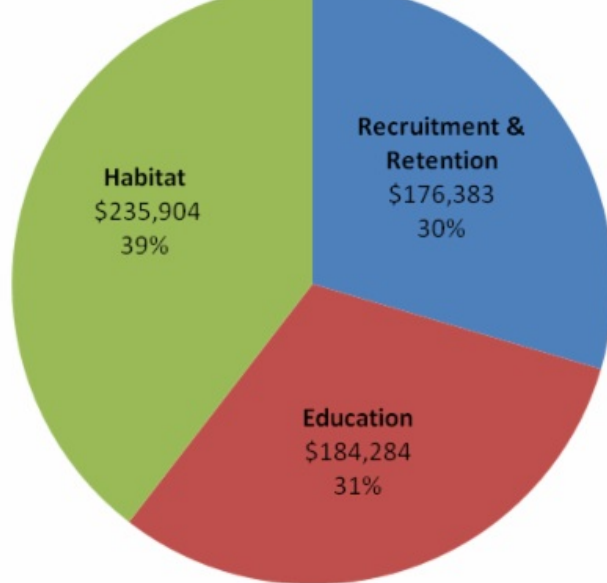




Our grant program provides funding for habitat projects that are deemed beneficial for all species of wildlife in Arizona, including but not limited to, big game, small game, non-game and fish. It is also available to help fund hunting and angling recruitment and/or retention activities or wildlife conservation education events or programs. The three categories are Habitat, Education, Hunter / Angler Recruitment. Grants are awarded on a quarterly basis. First quarter 2019 grant applications will be voted on and funded at the end of February. To apply, visit our website [HERE](#).

In 2018 we approved funding for 16 projects in the amount of \$83,219. Over the last 7 years, we funded well over a half million, with several projects coming in under budget and returning funds back to the program. See the breakdown below.

AZ Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation Grant History 2012-2018
Total Approved - \$605,628
Total Utilized - \$596,571



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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.

