

*Arizona Sportsmen for
Wildlife Conservation
2019*

*Annual Report
&
Accomplishments*



Where did the year go?

I asked this very question a year ago. Time seems to move much faster than before, or maybe it's simply a perception garnered from the seemingly incessant onslaught of issues and challenges constantly confronting us?

In any event, AZSFWC endeavors to persevere in dealing with issues and concerns of sportsmen and women. Some are easy, some not so much. Last year I said this too:

“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.”

The traditional hunting and angling community will be constantly challenged in the coming years with aging advocates dealing with urban environmentalists who bombard voters with views, approaches and fundraising that is unparalleled. Couple that front with changing demographics, as well as politics, and it doesn't take a lot of imagination to see what is coming.

So our work is cut out for us and we'll strive to make a difference! We ended 2019 with 34 Member groups (representing over 10,000 individuals), 4 Affiliates and 3 Associate organizations. The organization is impressive when you look around the country for something similar in structure and impact, because we are unique in that respect.

AZSFWC must respond tactically and strategically on many fronts to ensure we are able to perpetuate our passions as much as possible. In that context, we also need to be smart about our positions and their impact, not just in our circle, but how they play in the non-hunting and non-angling voting populace. While science is our guide, the social impact is also a reality.

Please share our Annual Report & Accomplishments for 2019. It's important your Board and membership not only sees this, but understands what we're doing and what we're all up against!

Jim Unmacht, Executive Director



2019 Officers

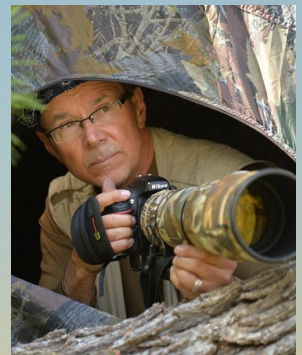
President - Rich Williams
Vice President - Chip Wittrock
Treasurer - Charlie Kelly
Secretary - Eddy Corona

Staff

Executive Director - Jim Unmacht
Administrator - Tracy Unmacht

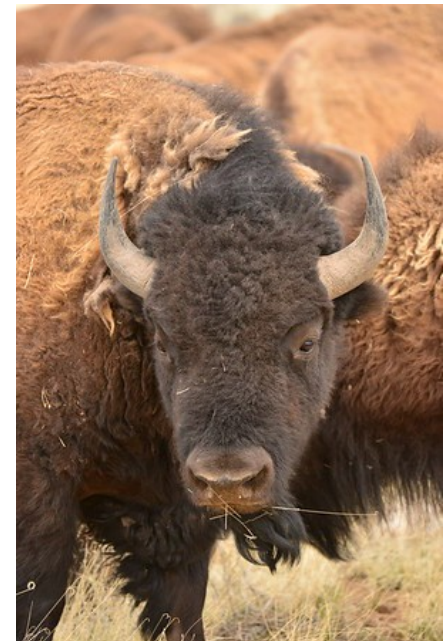
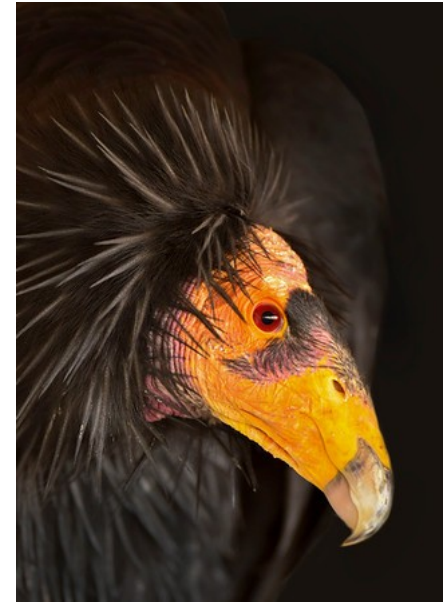
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AZSFWC would like to thank George Andrejko, AZGFD, for contributing many of the photos in this publication.



Wildlife, Habitat and Conservation

- Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD): Continued support and provided input with many fish and wildlife related matters, including; Domestic sheep conflicts, MX wolf Recovery Plan, DOI Secretarial Order 33-62 on Migration Corridors, Feral equids, Lees Ferry Management Plan, Grand Canyon bison, Cormorant curtailment, North American Model marketing and State Trust Land Protocol Agreement.
- Arizona Game and Fish Commission: Continued providing input on several fronts and issues, including Game cameras, Fair Chase, Predator contests, Legislation and Education issues.
- AZGFD Habitat Partnership Committee's Steering Committee member.
- Peregrine Fund Non-lead Partnership signatory and supporter.
- Western Rivers Action Network (WRAN) member.
- Trust for Public Land (TPL) ongoing efforts relative to the Cross F Ranch and Rio Verde Ranch.



Input, Outreach & Access



- Disseminated presentation from AZGFD on “Interactive Workshop on How to Debate and Communicate Effectively About Hunting” 9/26/19.
- Commented and provided input on NEPA proposals to USDA Forest Service 36 CFR Part 220, RIN 0596-AD31, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance 8/26/19.
- DOI and USFWS comment letter supporting delisting of Gray wolf submitted 7/15/19.
- Kofa National Wildlife Refuge engagement and input on proposed road closures 8/31/19.



- BLM comment letters and input supporting shooting ranges 7/1/19 and 8/25/19.
- Participated in AZ Outdoor Recreation Business Summits on 4/18/19 and 10/30/19
- Partnered with AZ Outdoor Adventures on video about AZSFWC and key issues 7/27/19.

Input, Outreach & Access

- Apache-Sitgreaves NF comment letters and input:
 1. Supported Stateline Range NEPA proposed alternative 1/6/19.
 2. Called for action to address ongoing feral horse degradation 9/25/19.
 3. Comment on Travel Management and Revised Draft EIS 10/27/19.
- Coconino NF comment letters and input:
 1. Objected to proposed changes on Focal Species 1/23/19.
 2. Supported AZGFD positions on Fossil Creek Draft CRMP and EIS 3/28/19.
 3. Supported FS Road 128A improvement project 5/20/19.



- Kaibab NF comment letters and input:
 1. Supported House Rock WA Bison Management Improvement Project 6/18/19.
 2. Supported Plateau Ecological Restoration Project EA 11/11/19.
- Tonto NF comment letters and input:
 1. Bighorn Sheep Mgt Project for management in wilderness 1/14/19.
 2. Continued support for helicopter sheep management in the wilderness, 5/18/19.
 3. Commented on Draft Supplemental EIS for Travel Management 5/21/19.
 4. Objected to decision on Travel Management DROD and FEIS 11/18/19.

Legislative, Planning & Advocacy

- AZSFWC requested that Governor Ducey designate September 28 as National Hunting and Fishing Day, and he did so with a Proclamation on 9/18/19.
- Supported the Trophy Bill HB2433 sponsored by Rep. Cobb, signed by Governor Ducey.
- Supported AZGFD Residency Requirement Bill HB2272 also signed by Governor Ducey.
- Reaffirmed our opposition to the transfer of Federal Public Lands to the State.
- Opposed Rep. Finchem's Land Management Bills, HB2056, HB2547, and HB2557.
- Opposed Senator Mendez' bill to Eliminate CARB, SB1132.
- Supported AZGFD's Cast & Blast for AZ Legislators for Wildlife 4/9/19.
- We continued our support of the Commission Appointment Recommendation Board (CARB) writing Governor Ducey regarding the candidates selected by CARB 11/27/19.



Legislative, Planning & Advocacy



- AZ Resource Advisory Council dialog with Rep. Gosar's staff, 6/18/19.
- Supported Congressional Lands Package S.47 signed into law by President Trump 3/19/19. (Reauthorization of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) S.302, Black Mountain Range/Bullhead City Land exchange H.R.755 and LaPaz County Land Conveyance Act H.R.2630)
- Supported Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) H.R.3742, letter to Congressional Delegation 11/26/19.
- Supported Pittman Robertson Modernization Acts, S.3051 and H.R.877 with respective letters to AZ Senators and

Congressional Delegation 12/18/19.

- Supporting LWCF Permanent Funding Act S.1081, letter to Senator McSally 11/18/19.
- LWCF joint OpEd with the Nature Conservancy to AZ Republic 11/30/19.
- Supported the nomination of Kate MacGregor to Deputy Secretary Dept of Interior 12/4/19.

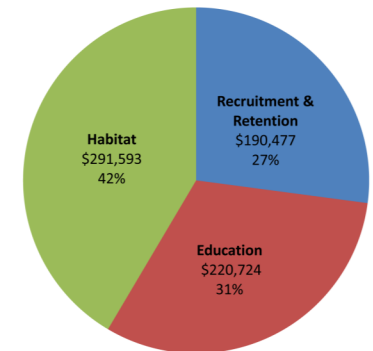


“Conserving Wildlife” License Plate Program

- In 2019, we awarded 25 License Plate Grants totaling \$128,010
- The 2019 grant awards included \$53,289 for habitat, \$32,650 for Education and \$42,070 for Youth Recruitment.
- For the first 11 months in 2019 we averaged \$13,822 per month in plate revenue, and are projecting the year end total will exceed the previous year for the 9th year in a row.
- Our April proceeds from the state were our highest monthly amount ever, \$16,400.
- From 2012-2019 we have approved 141 grants totaling \$719,300.



AZ Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation Grant History 2012-2019
 Total Approved - \$719,300
 Total Utilized - \$702,794



Business Matters & Marketing

- Our 3rd Annual Sportsmen's Summit Fundraising event was another successful venture.
- Organization and license plate marketing in 2019:
 1. Public service non-profit billboards up again around the Phoenix Metro area.
 2. License plate ads in the upcoming AZGFD Regs for Elk/Antelope, Fall, and Spring editions.
 3. Yuma billboard along I-8 "Working for Wildlife" ran all year.
 4. Partner mailing with AZGFD sent to 25,000 license holders advertising our license plate "Working for Wildlife" and highlighting a number of grants for habitat enhancement.
 5. License plate ad in AZ Capitol Times "State of the State" edition in January.



- Raffle fundraising saw a new focus with more frequency on the horizon.
 - Partnered with Huss Brewing Co in another Text to Win campaign in retail grocery stores.
 - AZGF Commission Banquet sponsor in 2019.
 - Revamped our "Working for Wildlife" postcards.
 - New Member groups added: Mule Deer Foundation and Southern Arizona Quail Forever.
- One new Associate organization added, Ben Avery Clay Busters Governing Board.
 - Individual membership category parameters redefined.
 - Bylaws revised with unanimous approval by Board.
 - Marketing Committee selected for 2020 planning and implementation, including the "Drive for Wildlife" campaign.



Not Just Another Pretty Plate

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that sponsors the "Conserving Wildlife" license plate issued through the Arizona Department of Motor Vehicles.

Except for a small administrative fee, all money generated from the wildlife plate allows the AZSFWC to award grants to fund Wildlife Conservation Habitat Projects, Wildlife Education Programs and Youth Recruitment activities in Arizona.

Help us "Conserve Wildlife" by ordering your plate today!

Order your plate here:
www.servicearizona.com