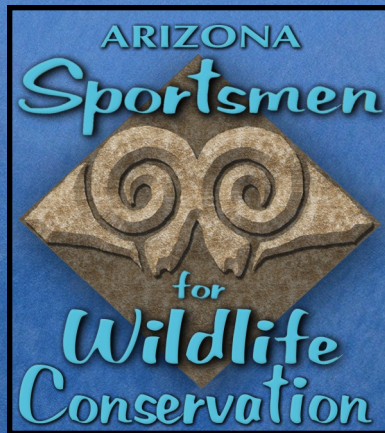


*Arizona Sportsmen for
Wildlife Conservation
2018
Annual Report
&
Accomplishments*



Where did the year go?

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 with that framework, thanks to your organization for helping AZSFWC enhance its role in making a difference for Arizona's fish, wildlife, conservation and sportsmen's issues in 2018!

We did make a difference, as is evidenced by the Arizona Game & Fish Commission selecting us as "**Conservation Organization of the Year**"! That organization consists of 33 Member groups, 8 Affiliates and 2 Associate members. The strength of our collective voice can only get stronger when we join together and make a difference for the issues we care about!

It is also important to note that the Arizona Game & Fish Department's Director Ty Gray has attended almost every one of our Board meetings, in addition to several members of his staff. The discussion and interchange of ideas is beneficial to both us as well as them.

Please take the time to review our Annual Report & Accomplishments for 2018 and share this with your Board and membership. We need your help to spread the word out about what we are doing and the impact we are having on sportsmen's issues and wildlife conservation efforts across Arizona.

Yours in Conservation,
Jim Unmacht, Executive Director

Board of Directors

President - John Koleszar
Vice President - Rich Williams
Treasurer - Tom Mackin
Secretary - Eddy Corona

Staff

Executive Director - Jim Unmacht
Administrator - Tracy Unmacht



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

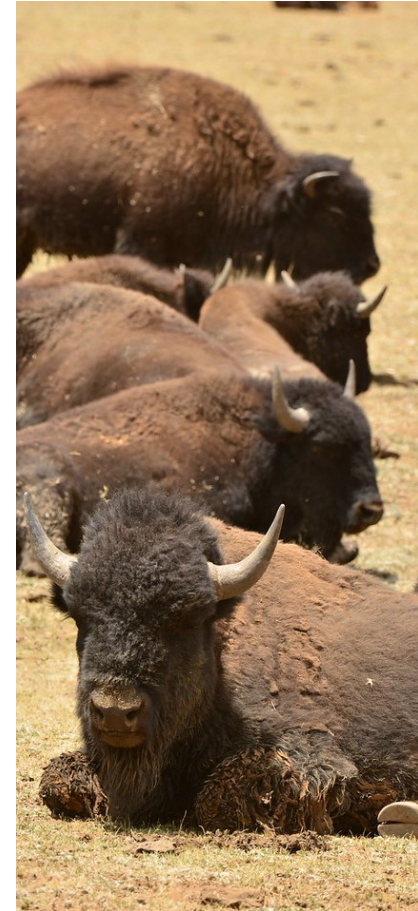
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Wildlife, Habitat & Conservation



- Successfully assisted in stopping the Humane Society of the United States aka Arizonan's for Wildlife ballot initiative to ban "wildcat" hunting (unanimous opposition 35 groups)

- Supported the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) with several fish and wildlife related matters, including; Alamo Lake maintenance, Mexican wolf Recovery Plan, Lees Ferry Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Grand Canyon bison efforts, Cormorant curtailment efforts, feral burros and feral horses.



- Supported Forest Restoration efforts in all six of Arizona's National Forests: Apache- Sitgreaves, Coconino, Coronado, Kaibab, Prescott and Tonto. Some of the projects included; Black River, Long Valley Meadow, Pinaleno Ecosystem and Round Valley.

“Conserving Wildlife” License Plate Program

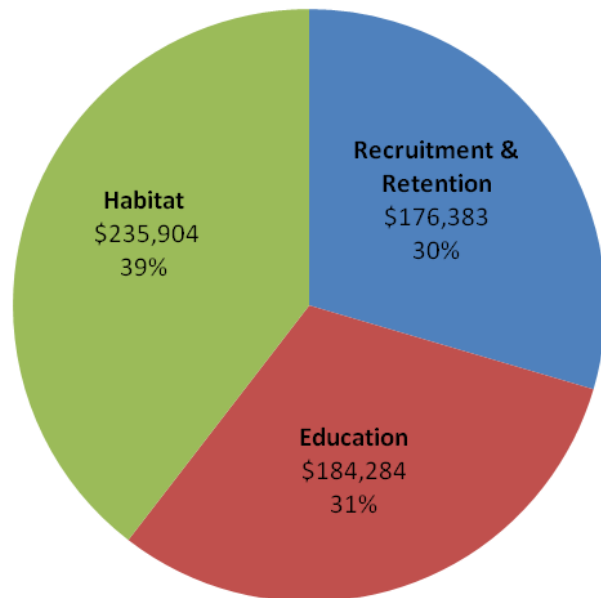


- In 2018, we awarded 16 License Plate Grants totaling \$83,219.
- Grants were awarded for youth hunting, fishing and shooting events/activities, a number of education programs, an adaptive outdoors program for individuals with physical challenges, and several habitat projects.
- For the first 11 months in 2018 we averaged \$13,506 per month in plate revenue, and are projecting the year end total will exceed the previous year.
- From 2012- 2018 we have approved 116 grants totaling \$605,628.

AZ Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation Grant History 2012-2018

Total Approved - \$605,628

Total Utilized - \$596,571



Access, Opportunity & Outreach

- Continued working with the Trust for Public Lands on sportsmen access issues. In 2018 we advocated in support of the Cross F Ranch acquisition with Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) dollars to both the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Acquisition of this property would open thousands of acres near Klondyke Arizona in Aravaipa Canyon and the west end of the Santa Theresa Wilderness Area, complimenting the ET Ranch acquisition in 2017 which opened access to the east end of the Santa Theresa's.
- Executive Director spoke at Western Caucus Roundtable in Tempe on March 9, 2018.
- Executive Director spoke to Arizona Cattle growers at their Annual meeting in Prescott, July 27, 2018.
- Continued to remain active with the Tonto National Forest, commenting on the Preliminary Proposed Plan emphasizing on access, corresponded with the Secretary of Agriculture relative to the Sierra Ancha Wilderness (SAW) boundary issues, and attended a meeting on Draft Alternatives at Mesa G & F.
- Our support for recreational shooting on the Sonoran Desert National Monument was affirmed with a Record of Decision from the BLM to keep target shooting on the Monument open.



Business Matters & Marketing

- Our 2nd Annual Sportsmen's Summit Fundraising event was a success and we are already planning the next one, scheduled for on August 3, 2019 at the Ben Avery Clay Target Center in Phoenix.



- Organization and license plate marketing was stepped up in 2018 to carry over into 2019:
 1. Secured a public service non-profit billboard in the Phoenix Metro area early in 2018.
 2. Publishing ads in the AZGFD 2019 Elk/Antelope and 2019-2020 Fishing Regulations.
 3. Purchased billboard space in Yuma along I-8 “Working for Wildlife”.
 4. A “Working for Wildlife” ad ran in the AZ Capitol Times for their Year in Review.
- Continued fundraising efforts throughout 2018 with raffles and partnerships.
- Participated in a Text to Win campaign with Huss Brewery at several retail locations.
- Commission Banquet sponsor in 2018 and also organized a “Meet the Commissioner” event at Cabelas on January 28, 2018.



Legislative, Planning & Advocacy



- Provided extensive input to the BLM on Travel Management Plans across the state, including: Black Canyon Corridor, Bouse and Cactus Plain, Buckeye Hills and Kingman.
- Submitted comment on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance Revisions being undertaken in February.
- Executive Director traveled to Washington DC to lobby the AZ Congressional delegation for permanent funding of the LWCF.
- Supported the AZGFD License Simplification Reauthorization signed by Governor Ducey.
- Reaffirmed our opposition to the transfer of Federal Public Lands to the State, updating our Resolution with all 33 member groups signing on.
- Supported the Recovering America's Wildlife Act H.R.4647, LaPaz County Land Conveyance Act H.R.2630, Pittman-Robertson Modernization Act H.R.2591, and the Give Our Resources the Opportunity to Work Act S.2557 (specific to Conservation Reserve Program)
- Continued our support of the Commission Appointment Recommendation Board (CARB) with correspondence to Governor Ducey regarding a letter of support for the candidates selected by CARB for the upcoming Commission opening.
- Opposed the effort to include the proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument in a last minute Congressional funding bill.