To say the least, 2020 proved to be a year with an array of descriptions. A promising beginning yielded to a problematic pandemic ending. Tossed in were challenges, frustrations, successes, failures, and everything in between.

There were some big conservation success stories this past year, including the ACE Act, GAOA Act, Dingell Act, and others. There were some matters left on the table, like MAPLand, our Tonto NF Sierra Ancha Wilderness Boundary correction, to name a couple.

There were fundraising successes through on-line raffles, and fundraising heartache with banquet cancellations.

The make-up of meetings may have forever changed as we Zoomed for most of the year. While not the same as meeting in person, retaining remote accessibility will enable participation and involvement for folks around the state.

The outdoors became much more popular in the last year, with hunting and angling licenses sales rising considerably. A benefit for recruitment and retention, and of course income to Game & Fish. However, hundreds and even thousands of more people outside will create pressure on the resources and infrastructure.

Firearms sales went through the roof, and as you might imagine, so did ammunition sales. It will take some time for availability to settle down to whatever is going to be the new “normal”. In the meantime, Pittman-Roberston money will be on solid ground for the foreseeable future.

There will be a couple key issues we will need to concentrate on in 2021:
1. Reeducating folks on the importance of “conservation” in the outdoors, and
2. Reinforcing the importance of “ethics” in the outdoors to hunters, anglers, shooters, and all outdoor recreationists, with or without experience.

The continuing changes in Arizona’s population dynamics will elevate the importance of these two matters! Throw in aging advocates, urban environmentalists and a changing political climate and our work is cut out for us.

We ended 2020 with 33 Member groups (representing over 10,000 individuals), 6 Affiliate members, 4 Associate members, 1 Corporate Sponsor and 8 individual members. Our diverse membership crosses the spectrum from wildlife and conservation groups, hunting clubs, angling clubs, shooting groups, outdoor recreation groups and businesses.

AZSFWC continues to respond tactically and strategically on various issues, considering science, but also being cognizant of the politics and social reality of the matters at hand. It is oftentimes a balancing act.

AZSFWC survived 2020 better than many organizations with a solid membership group and good financial standing. We are looking forward to making a difference for wildlife, conservation, and the many other issues we will face in the coming year!

Jim Unmacht, Executive Director
Wildlife, Habitat & Conservation

- Partnership with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) and Commission
- Input on Arizona Wildlife Conservation Strategy survey
- Ongoing Tonto National Forest (NF) Sierra Ancha Wilderness (SAW) Boundary discussions
- Commission Banquet Sponsor, 1/25/20
- Inquiry on R12-4-116. Issuance of Limited-entry Permit-tags
- Non-game support of the Owl Cam on G & F website with plate links on site
- Comment and input on many fronts, including Legislation, MX wolves, Migration corridors, Grand Canyon bison, Game cameras, Fair Chase, and Education
- Support for revitalizing the monthly Fishing reports and information on eblasts
- Video collaboration on hunter and angler access
- Habitat Partnership Steering Committee involvement
Access, Input & Outreach

Arizona State Agencies and Communities:

- Participated in Outdoor Recreation Business Summit, 10/30/20
- Communication with Phoenix City Council District 1 winner Ann O’Brien
- Presentation to Goodyear City staff on AZSFWC and hunting in AZ, 10/28/20
- Collaborated with Gila County on Tonto National Forest legislation
- Support for Commission Appointment Recommendation Board (CARB)
- Correspondence on CARB nominations for Charlie Kelly & Pat Madden
- Recommended Richard Williams be reappointed to CARB
- Letter to the editor supporting Commissioner Geiler
- Discussion with AZ Attorney General Rep Michael Pineiro on future input
- AZ Natural Resources Policy Advisor Chuck Podolak participation November meeting
- Requested Proclamation by Gov. Ducey for National Hunting and Fishing Day
- Extensive communications with ADOT on License plate management

Department of Interior:

BLM comment letters and input

- Access input and comments for Dingell Act Access Project, 2/29/20
- Recreational Shooting Sports Project, 17 groups supported, letter 10/14/20
- La Paz County Solar Energy and Job Creation Act monitored
- Assessed impact and need on Sonoran Desert National Monument grazing
- Black Mountain Burro EA comment letter submitted 4/1/20

Bureau of Reclamation

- Lake Powell Pipeline Project input, 17 groups supporting comment letter sent 9/7/20

Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) comment

- Access input and comments for Dingell Act Access Project, 3/11/20
Access, Input & Outreach

Department of Agriculture - Forest Service (FS):
Access input and comments to FS for Dingell Act Access Project, 3/11/20

Apache-Sitgreaves NF Projects & Planning:
- Black River Restoration project supported by 28 groups, comment letter 11/4/20

Coronado NF Projects & Planning:
- Meadow Valley Public Access Project support, 28 supporting groups
- Chiricahua Public Access Project letter reiterating support 11/19/20
- Chiricahua Public Access Project support, 28 supporting groups letter sent 9/3/20
- Pinery Canyon LWCF purchase support, 23 supporting groups
- Cienega Creek FireScape Project info conveyed to SAQF
- Pinaleño FireScape Public Scoping Period, comment letter sent 8/30/20

Kaibab NF Project input: Mangum Fire review and input

Tonto NF Planning Input:
- Travel Management Objection & SAW road issues dialog
- Land Management Plan comment letter, submitted 3/12/20
- SAW Boundary corrections collaborators, 41 groups supporting
- Land Mgt planning at meeting Mesa G & F offices, 2/26/20
- Public Working Day at Tonto NF Phoenix office, 1/16/20

**Legislative, Planning & Advocacy**

**AZ State Legislature**
- RTS Registration and Advocacy at Capitol
- National Association of Sportsmen’s Caucus (NASC) consideration of Advisory Council role with AZ Legislators for Wildlife (AZLW) Caucus
- (NASC) Sportsman – Legislator Summit, 12/8-9/20
- Conference with AZLW Chair Rep. Cobb and Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation Coordinator Tucker-Williams
- Supported Game & Fish HB2219 Trespass bill

**U.S. Congress**
- Meetings and dialog with Sen. McSally’s and Sen. Sinema’s Policy Advisors on Tonto NF SAW Boundary road realignments and legislation planning
- Secured support with 41 groups & businesses advocating for Tonto NF SAW legislation
- Wildlife Crossings S.2302 support letter to AZ delegation, 5/26/20, (27-0-1)
- Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (RAWA), signatory on National letter of support
- Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) S.3422 support
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Permanent Funding support
- La Paz County Solar Energy and Job Creation Act dialog
- America’s Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Act H.R.925 support with 22 groups, letter to Congressional delegation, 2/24/20

**US Senate Candidate interviews**
- Assessed and compiled questions for U.S. Senate candidate interviews
- Interviewed Senator McSally - August, Daniel McCarthy - July and Mark Kelly - May
For the 10th year in a row, our annual license plate revenue increased. In the first 11 months in 2020 we averaged $15,627 per month in plate revenue, and total revenue was $171,893.

Our August proceeds from the state were our highest monthly amount ever, $18,938.

In 2020, we awarded 21 License Plate Grants totaling $141,260.

The 2020 grant awards included $79,524 for habitat, $28,568 for Education and $33,168 for Youth Recruitment.

From 2012-2020 we have approved 160 grants totaling $889,697.

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**AZ Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation Grant History 2012-2020**

Total Approved - $889,697
Total Utilized - $855,142

- **Habitat**
  - $371,117
  - 43%

- **Education**
  - $243,389
  - 29%

- **Recruitment**
  - $240,636
  - 28%
Business Matters & Marketing

- Daily News Routings and Legislative updates
- Monthly enews sent to 16,890 recipients
- Revised Bylaws approved unanimously at January Board meeting
- AZSFWC was a Commission Banquet sponsor in 2020
- Finance Committee recommendation for Investment Policy received Board approval
- License plate ad in the AZGFD 2020 Spring Regulations
- Annual Sportsmen’s Summit replaced with Summit Campfire Event, canceled by Covid
- Sanderson Ford became our Corporate Sponsor
- Raptor Raffle sponsored by Sanderson Ford was a huge success!
- Altar Valley Conservation Alliance joined as a Member
- Letter of support to AVCA regarding pursuit of NRCS grant, 11/20/20
- Weapons 4 Warriors joined as an Associate member
- Western Hunter and Wilderness Athlete joined as Affiliate members
- National Association of Sportsmen’s Caucus Sponsor of Sportsman-Legislator Summit
- BASS Pro Grant Application submitted 12/9/20, awarded 12/18/20
AZ Association of Conservation Districts, Conference on future collaboration.

AZ Cattlegrowers Association, Conference, and correspondence on issues.

Trust for Public Land (TPL), LWCF Projects; Pinery Canyon (Coronado), Upper Verde (Prescott).

Nature Conservancy, Joint op-ed with TPL on LWCF permanent funding.

Western Rivers Action Network, Annual Legislative Preview and Policy Briefing.

Diablo Trust, Communication on Day on the Land.

AZ Big Game Super Raffle, Participated in the ticket bursting and drawing.