



October 26, 2023

Arizona Department of Water Resources
Arizona Water Protection Fund
Attn: Reuben Teran
1802 W Jackson St. Box #79
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Sent via email: rteran@azwater.gov

RE: AZTU FY2024 Arizona Water Protection Fund Grant Application

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) appreciates the opportunity to express its continued support of the Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited (AZTU) and landowner Grand Canyon Council BSA's (GCC) application for funding of the Christopher Creek Restoration Project (Project) from the FY2024 Arizona Water Protection Fund (AWPF). This Project is the third and final phase of the restoration work.

AZSFWC is the leading 501c-3 non-profit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation, habitat improvement, youth recruitment and retention, as well as providing educational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts on issues important to their passions. AZSFWC consists of 39 member, affiliate, and associate groups that reach across the spectrum of hunting, angling, shooting, outdoor recreation, and businesses from across Arizona. Our member groups represent well over 28,500 people from Arizona.

AZTU and GCC have partnered to create a model desert fish habitat and refuge populations of native roundtail chub and longfin dace, in an effort to restore youth fishing to the R-C Scout Ranch Pond, and to reestablish a .53-mile reach of Christopher Creek into perennial trout habitat. AZSFWC has supported and provided some funding for this Project since its inception and is excited to see the work completed!

The final phase of the Project is a pipeline extension to create a perennial flow into 240-foot riffle section upstream of the spring, as well as restoration and conservation work to Christopher Creek. The creek is generally very shallow on a solid rock base. Consequently, the creek does not have significant habitat for holdover water. The pipeline extension and habitat restoration proposal will help mitigate the intermittent reach by directing water upstream into a pool ideal for sustaining a year-round trout population.

AZSFWC Support for AZTU-GCC FY2024 Arizona Water Protection Fund Grant – 10-26-23

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation
PO Box 75731 New River, AZ 85087

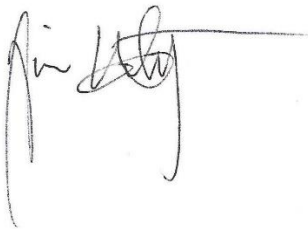
When the work is completed, the pond will be a valuable outreach tool for AZTU, GCC, schools, and youth groups, providing insight and educational opportunities about the importance of native fish conservation in Arizona. Another benefit of the pond will be the creation of a refuge for roundtail chub and longfin dace in the Tonto Creek watershed which is important for these native fish.

In addition, this multi-year project will include:

- restoration of an existing, over-grown fishing pond;
- road grading and pond bank erosion control measures;
- replacement and repair of the aging pipeline and spring box;
- restoration and conservation work on a portion of Christopher Creek which will support a sustainable, year-round trout population; and
- continued collaboration with the Arizona Game and Fish Department to enhance and restore native fish habitat.

AZSFWC endorses the AZTU-GCC plan and requests their AWPf grant be approved for FY2024.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Unmacht", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director

CC: Alan Davis, AZTU Chair