



AZSFWC did not take a position on the Commission's Special Big Game Tag assessment and decision. The primary reason was because we were not involved in the sale and marketing of the Special Tags. We did help facilitate the discussion with the Department and Commission and our members, discussing the matter at five of our Board meetings over the course of fourteen months. The Department also shared their presentations to the Commission with us too.

Well over a year ago the Commission challenged Wildlife Conservation Organizations (WCO) to research and find alternatives to auctioning a Special Tag. Auctioning these tags in Arizona began in the early 1980's. There's no question the revenue generated has been phenomenal for wildlife and brought in millions of dollars for habitat projects!

The Commission has discussed concerns with the auction format since the mid 2000's. Some of that concern gave rise to the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle (Super Raffle) in 2006, adding a third Special Tag per species, enabling anyone with a small investment the opportunity to win one of these tags, as an alternative to offering them just to the highest bidder. The Super Raffle has been a great success, raising over \$11 million for habitat, all of which has gone into the Department's Habitat Partnership Committee (HPC).

At the March 15, 2024 Commission meeting, the Commissioners voted 4-1 to phase out auctions as a means of selling their Special Tags. [Click here](#) to review the Department's presentation made to the Commission.

The Commissioners cited the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation as one of their primary concerns, in that the auction format was inconsistent with the Model. This also tracked with the Commission's past philosophy when the word "trophy" was removed from any reference in the Game and Fish Statutes in 2019.

The word "trophy" was purged for several reasons, which included; it's meaning was different to different hunters, it eliminated an anti-hunting talking point, and it carries negative social connotations, particularly with the non-hunting public. When the Special Tag program began, there was no internet, few people had cell phones, and social media was non-existent.

The Commission is cognizant of the money that has been generated by the auction tags. They have partnered with WCO's in the auction process since the program's inception. That partnership also gave any participating WCO a seat at the HPC table, allowing them to provide input and recommendations on funding habitat projects.

However, in principle and with a mind towards a conservation ethos, the Commission decided to phase out the auction tags. This will eliminate a two-tier tag system in Arizona, and after 2026, auction tags will transform into some other type of market where anyone can potentially win one, and you won't need a large wallet to do so.

Will the Special Tags generate the same amount of money in a format without auctions, only time will tell. In the meantime, the HPC will continue to fund projects, and sportsmen and women in Arizona will have greater opportunity to win one of the Special Tags.

L. Gary Stinson Grant Program



AZ Outdoor Adventures 2023 Youth Camps

Attendees at these camps experienced the positive health benefits and educational lessons of the great outdoors. Youth learned how to set up a tent and shelter; identified various wildlife tracks; were given gun safety lessons and hiking. The youth also saw a large number of wildlife, including wild turkeys, and were able to view them through binoculars and learned more about the different species of animals that they saw. The youth were also given flyfishing lessons and spent time fishing for trout and catching crawdads at the east fork of the Black River and Reservation Lake in the White Mountains. They also learned how to clean and cook the fish they caught.

[Read More Here](#)

Grant Applications Due July 1st

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!

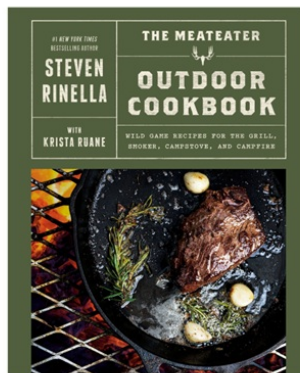


MeatEater Live

APRIL 23, 2024 8:00 PM

MESA ARTS CENTER IKEDA THEATER
TWO WINNERS

Join Steven Rinella and friends for a fun night celebrating the outdoor lifestyle. The MeatEater crew will deliver laughs, trivia, news, and opinion from across the worlds of hunting, fishing, wildlife conservation, and wild foods. Each winner will receive two (2) tickets (\$300 value) to the show and a signed copy of Rinella's new cookbook.



Tickets \$10

[Click here to buy](#)

An unlimited number of tickets will be sold. Raffle closes at 9 pm (AZ) on 4/19/24.

SPECIALIZED TURBO TERO X 5.0 E-BIKE RAFFLE



BIKE MASTERS NORTH MESA WILL BUILD THE E-BIKE IN THE WINNERS PREFERRED SIZE (S-XL) AND COLOR. TUBELESS SETUP, SUSPENSION TUNE, GENERAL FITTING AND TWO TUNE UPS FOR THIS E-BIKE ARE INCLUDED!

Bike must be collected at Bike Masters North Mesa and will not be shipped.

Bike Masters North Mesa is located at 2031 North Power Road, Suite 101, Mesa, AZ 85251.

With ride anywhere range, this full-suspension electric bike is a go anywhere, over anything, with everything vehicle.

POWERFUL • SMOOTH • VERSATILE

**TICKETS ARE \$20 EACH.
A MAXIMUM OF 500 TICKETS
WILL BE SOLD.**

RAFFLE OPEN TO ARIZONA RESIDENTS AND NON-RESIDENTS BUT
TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED WITHIN THE STATE OF ARIZONA.

CLICK HERE TO ENTER



Please refer to our website at
www.azsfwc.org for complete raffle
rules and procedures.

MONTHLY 50/50 CASH RAFFLE



**Tickets
\$5 Each**

The winner of this monthly raffle splits the pot with AZSFWC! A new raffle and pot will commence at 12:00 am on the 1st of the month. Buyers through 11:59 pm on the last day of the month will have a chance to win before the pot is closed and reset.

There are no limits on the number of tickets sold or the number any one person can purchase. Winner will be drawn at random and announced on or before the 5th of the month.



ALL PURCHASERS MUST BE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD & PHYSICALLY PRESENT IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA AT THE TIME TICKETS ARE PURCHASED.

CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE

Please support our Member Group Activities

NO FOOLING! Each order placed in the

\$3499
VALUE



HUNT
STATE 48
- FOR -
365
DAYS

**month of April
will be eligible
to win a pair of
Swarovski
NL Pure 10x42
Binoculars!**

BUY OFTEN, WIN BIG!



ELK • PRONGHORN • TURKEY • BIGHORN SHEEP • MULE DEER • BISON • COUES WHITETAIL

The 2024 Arizona Big Game Super Raffle

Every ticket is just \$10!

Purchase tickets online at conservationfirstusa.org

**Southern AZ Chapter Quail Forever
Spring Road Clean Up/Earth Day April 22**

Our spring road cleanup is planned 9:00 AM. We clean one mile between Sonoita and Patagonia on Highway 82. This typically takes about 60 minutes. All safety gear and pick up sticks will be provided. Recommend long trousers, long sleeve shirt, sun hat and gloves. Meet at the intersection of Hog Canyon Road and Highway 82. We continue this to promote a positive image in the community and keep Hog Canyon access open.

Contact Kurt Cuneo at kurtmcuneo@hotmail.com or 406.980.1413 if you can help.



2024 Fish Camp - Christopher Creek, AZ

Fish Camp is a high-end angling program offered by the **Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited** and the Grand Canyon Council, BSA, located at the R-C Scout Camp just north of Payson, AZ. In this hands-on, immersive program, participants will learn the strategies necessary to select the proper fly or lure, understand how and where to cast a fly rod, entomology, tie flies, guided lectures, and master the art of provoking fish to attack a fly or lure. Highly qualified volunteers with extensive knowledge of everything fly fishing will work with campers through every aspect of learning the art of fly fishing.

The **Fish Camp** experience is all-inclusive including lodging, meals, equipment, transportation, AZ fishing license, swag gear, and trips to numerous fishing locations on streams and lakes near Payson, AZ.

Camp is available to any youth 13-18 years old. The registration cost for each camper is \$510 (Now thru February 8, 2024) \$525 (between February 9 and May 1, 2024) and \$575 (after May 1st). Maximum of 14 campers per session.

2024 Fish Camp participants can choose between these sessions:

- June 2 – June 7
- June 9 – June 14
- June 16 – June 21

Fish Camp informational website: <https://www.campgeronimo.org/fish-camp/>.

For further camp information, contact Arthur Greenway- AZTU Fish Camp Director, 602.399.7777 or education@zanegreytu.org.

For camper registration, contact Katie Fisher- Program Business Administrator, Grand Canyon Council, BSA, 602.955.7747, ext. 239 or Katie.Fisher@scouting.org.

SAVE THE HABITAT. SAVE THE HUNT.



Chapter Name Valley Longbeard Chapter

Event Annual Fund Raising Banquet

Date/Time : 6/22/2024 5 pm

Location Hilton Phoenix Airport

Contact Rich Williams

Phone 602-881-7292

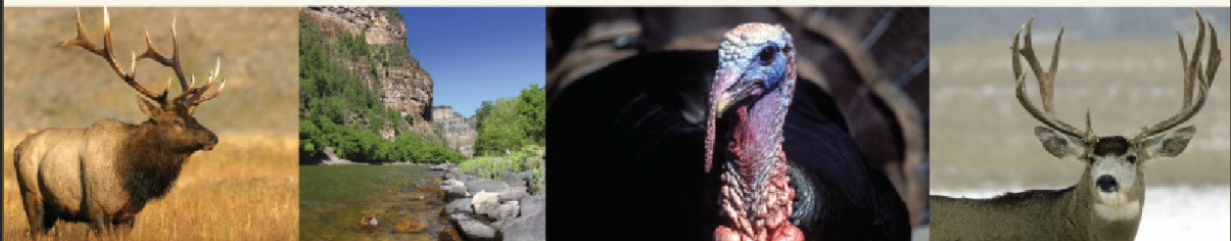
E-mail azgobbler60@gmail.com



NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

P.O. Box 530 • 770 Augusta Road • Edgefield, SC 29824
(803) 637-3106 • (800) THE-NWTF

www.nwtf.org



Sportsmen's Business Directory

Do you really know who you do business with? Do the businesses you patronize support the things you like to do?

Help us build the Sportsmen's Business Alliance online directory to help you find those businesses.

If you are a business owner, here is an opportunity for you to reach out to like-minded sportsmen & women and support organizations that promote causes important to them.

[Read more HERE.](#)

Corporate Partner



Members

Alter Valley Conservation Alliance	AZ Predator Callers
Anglers United	AZ Quail Today
AZ Antelope Foundation	Conserve and Protect Arizona
AZ Big Game Super Raffle/Conservation First USA	Diablo Trust
AZ Bowhunters Association	Ducks Unlimited
AZ Chapter Backcountry Hunters & Anglers	Friends of the Buenos Aires NWR
AZ Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation	Into the Wild Outdoors
AZ Chapter Safari Club International	Mogollon Sporting Association
AZ Council Trout Unlimited	Mule Deer Foundation
AZ Deer Association	No Excuse Hunting & Outdoors
AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society	Outdoor Experience 4 All
AZ Elk Society	Southern AZ Chapter Quail Forever
AZ Flycasters Club	Southwest Wildlife Foundation/YVRGC
AZ Houndsmen Association	The Trust for Public Land
AZ Mule Deer Organization	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
AZ Outdoor Adventures	Valley of the Sun Chapter Quail Forever
AZ Outdoor Sports, Inc	Wildlife for Tomorrow

Associate Members

Be Outdoors Arizona
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Rio Salado Sportsman's Club

Affiliate Members





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.

DONATE

The AZSFWC is responsible for managing the conservation license plate program (L. Gary Stinson Grant 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.



Not Just Another Pretty Plate

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 L. Gary Stinson Grant 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. (More info [HERE](#)).

These plates can be purchased online and can also be personalized. To order an AZSFWC Conservation License Plate go to: <https://azmvdnow.gov/plates>

Scroll through the page, to the "See All" button. Plates will be listed alphabetically with our plate entitled "Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation". Click on the plate and follow the prompts. Order your plate as a sequential shelf plate for \$25.00 per year or as a personalized plate for \$50.00 per year.

The plate is also available for all categories of trailers as well as with the International Symbol of Access for Disabilities.

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 | P.O. Box 75731, New River, AZ 85087

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