



The comings and goings downtown when our Legislature is in session always seems to provide us with some drama. Twists and turns are inevitable with Republicans in charge of the House and Senate, and a Democrat as our Governor. This year proved to be another interesting session. Here are the Session stats:

Bills Introduced – 1660

Memorials and Resolutions Introduced – 138

Total – 1798

Bills & Resolutions Transmitted to the Governor – 332

Signed by the Governor – 259

Vetoed by the Governor - 73

AZSFWC remains vigilant with bills and resolutions that might impact wildlife, conservation, and our public lands. There were a few controversial bills on those fronts, but as suspected they didn't gain traction, or failed. Some of the bills that failed were subsequent attempts, first introduced with a Republican Governor. They didn't pass under Ducey, so they had no chance passing with Hobbs. Four of those bills included two related to Conservation Easements, HB2021 and HB2022, and two dealing with Federal lands, HB2376 and HB2377.

They may return in 2025, but if the make up of our Legislature remains similar to the past year, chances are good the fate of those bills will likely be the same.

OHV bills were front and center this session too. AZSFWC was represented on the Senate OHV Study Committee chaired by Senator Kerr. There was a meeting in the fall of 2023, and one in early January of this year. Theoretically, this committee was going to evaluate and assess OHV issues and potentially produce proposed solutions to OHV areas of concern.

Governor Hobbs signed SB1055 on 4/2/24, extending the life of the OHV Study Committee for another year. On the surface a good thing, however Senator Kerr is termed out for the next election and the committee hasn't met in six months. Also problematic, representatives of the Federal land management agencies (BLM & FS) where OHV use and abuse is having a significant and detrimental impact were never included in the meetings.

Outside of the committee, several OHV bills took on a life of their own. The OHV Education bill, SB1567 passed and was signed by the Governor on 6/21/24. AZSFWC supported this bill as long as it included OHV renters in the education requirement. The final version did not. The bill will mandate all OHV owners view a safety video as a requirement of their OHV annual renewal. AZGFD is working with ADOT to coordinate the training and data sharing which will begin after 12/31/24.

SB1176 was going to allocate money to the County Sheriffs for OHV law enforcement. AZSFWC supported the concept, however there wasn't a viable funding mechanism. It passed the Senate but didn't get out of the House. Then came SB1052 which was initially offered up to allow for an increase in weight in the definition of an OHV, from the current 2500 pounds to 3500 pounds. AZSFWC opposed that bill, as bigger, heavier, and more powerful OHV's would not do our public lands any favors.

SB1052 ended up morphing into not only a weight increase, but also had some conditional amendments added; a component to mitigate property damage on private land (not public land) from the OHV Recreation Fund, and additional funding for County Sheriffs for enhanced law enforcement. The additional money was going to come from increased OHV user fees through ADOT, however no recommendations on how much was included in the conditions. The bill failed with a vote in the House on 6/4/24.

AZGFD sought passage of one particular bill this session, HB2053, the publications revolving fund, which would have increased their appropriation for publications (like AZ Wildlife Views) from \$80K to \$250K. It passed almost unanimously through the House and Senate Committees, and unfortunately never got a final vote during the budget discussions.

Others on their watch list included;

SB1680, a striker requiring minors to wear helmets on OHV's, signed by the Governor 6/14/24.

SB1147, appropriating \$250K for the Livestock Loss Board to administer the Livestock Compensation Fund in FY24/25, passed the Senate, but was held in House Appropriations Committee.

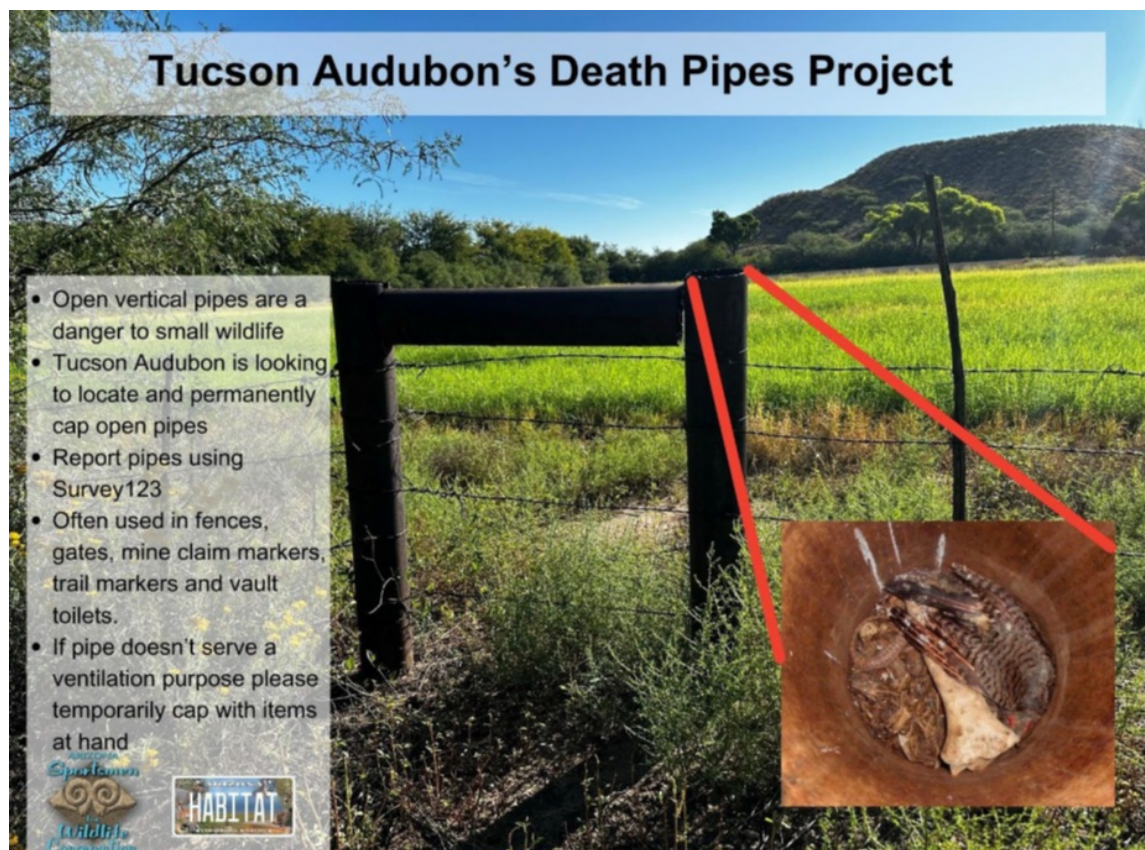
For more detail on any of these bills, here's a link;<https://www.azleg.gov/bills/>.

With the election in November fast approaching, we'll get an idea in short order how the next legislative session will take shape. The primaries have already mixed the field up with some new faces, and the return of some familiar faces. We'll keep you posted as we know more!

Yours in Conservation,

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director

L. Gary Stinson Grant Program



Tucson Audubon's Death Pipes Project

- Open vertical pipes are a danger to small wildlife
- Tucson Audubon is looking to locate and permanently cap open pipes
- Report pipes using Survey123
- Often used in fences, gates, mine claim markers, trail markers and vault toilets.
- If pipe doesn't serve a ventilation purpose please temporarily cap with items at hand

Arizona Department of Game and Fish
Wildlife Conservation

HABITAT

The image shows a poster for the Tucson Audubon's Death Pipes Project. The poster features a list of bullet points and logos for Arizona Department of Game and Fish, Wildlife Conservation, and HABITAT. The background of the poster is a photograph of a rural landscape with a fence and a hill. A red arrow points from the text 'temporarily cap with items at hand' to an inset photograph of a dead bird, likely a small bird, which is the result of a 'death pipe'.

With the help of AZSFWC grant funding, Tucson Audubon successfully expanded Project Death Pipes efforts by conducting on-the-ground work in raising public awareness and organizing workdays to permanently cap open vertical pipes to prevent future wildlife deaths. Our project goals:

1. Educate the public about the danger of vertical pipes to small wildlife
2. Locate, document and cap open vertical pipes.

[Read More Here](#)



Be sure to read all requirements [HERE](#) and complete the [ONLINE FORM](#) by October 1st. Funding decisions will be made at the November 26th AZSFWC Board Meeting.

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

JAWS & PAWS

FIVE WEEK BLITZ TICKETS ON SALE
July 8th - August 14th

WINNER RECEIVES A TAG FOR ALL THREE SPECIES
BLACK BEAR • MOUNTAIN LION • JAVELINA
AND CAN HUNT 365 DAYS FROM 8/15/24 - 8/14/25



Tickets are \$15 each
with no limit to the
number you can buy.

This hunt package also includes seven days of
guiding with Dieringer Outfitters, including meals
and lodging. Winner picks dates with outfitter.



CONSERVATION FIRST
*** USA ***

Purchase tickets online at
conservationfirstusa.org

You must be 21 years of age and in Arizona when you purchase tickets.
Visit conservationfirstusa.org for complete rules and procedures.

Ticket sales close at 9:00 pm on August 14th.



Valley of the Sun Banquet Dinner

Events in Arizona

Banquet hosted by: Valley of the Sun (AZ)

📅 Sat, Aug 17 at 5:00 PM (MST)

📍 Elks Lodge, Phoenix, Arizona



JOIN OUR TEAM!

WE ARE HIRING!

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Altar Valley Conservation Alliance seeks an enthusiastic and organized individual with a strong collaborative nature to join their team. The AVCA Program Coordinator will help implement and conservation projects, coordinate with partners and landowners (both in the field and in meeting settings), schedule and document meetings and workshops, and manage project logistics, administration, and field support.

To apply, please send your CV, a cover letter, a professional writing sample, and contact information for three professional and/or personal references to Sarah King, AVCA's Executive Director.

✉ sarah@altarvalleyconservation.org

For more information about AVCA:
🌐 www.altarvalleyconservation.org

Application review will begin August 19th and the position will be open until filled.



August 24 Annual AZ Outdoor Hall of Fame

Don't miss your chance to be part of the 26th Annual Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame Induction Banquet, hosted by Wildlife for Tomorrow on August 24th at the beautiful Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park. Ticket sales close August 16th. Register [HERE](#).



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

Associate Members

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

Affiliate Members

SPORTSMEN'S
BUSINESS ALLIANCE 

THE
WESTERN HUNTER

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 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Our Privacy Policy](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!