



This time of the year is always ripe for reflecting on what happened over the past year, and it is also a time where we look forward to see what might be ahead of us in the new year. Our Annual Report which will be published later this month will recap 2024, so I wanted to highlight some of the issues on the horizon in 2025.

On the Federal level, obviously the biggest story are the changes coming to the White House and Congress. It's going to be interesting and also means we need to buckle up for what's going to happen. Some will celebrate, and some will litigate!

Here are some thoughts from the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation.

<https://www.huntingwire.com/features/dd7eb9c5-0647-4a41-8337-59b81caa82bf>

President Biden has named eight new National Monuments during his term, and modified others. One other proposed monument in Arizona is the Great Bend of the Gila National Monument. The window is closing, whether you are in favor or opposed to this action.

<https://apnews.com/article/national-monuments-biden-antiquities-act-51710af75ccb0f6a44c5da1e8287782c>

Arizona's legislature remained in Republican control after the election, with a one seat gain in the Senate, and a two seat gain in the House. That means our divided state government will likely track as it has in the last couple of sessions. We'll probably see some public land bills introduced in both chambers, and some might even pass, however it's pretty certain they won't see a signature from Governor Hobbs.

In the last session, the legislature took up several off highway vehicle (OHV) issues with minimal success. Governor Hobbs signed three bills into law:

SB1680 which requires minors to wear helmets when operating or riding in an OHV

SB1055 extended the life of the Senate OHV Study Committee until 5/31/25

SB1567 established an OHV education requirement beginning 1/1/25

The larger OHV issues, a proposed weight increase - changing the definition of an all-terrain vehicle, increasing funding for law enforcement, and fee increases and funding allocations, will likely be back on the docket in this new session.

On the Arizona Game and Fish Commission front, the Governor is currently vetting four Commissioner candidates forwarded by the Commission Appointment Recommendation Board. Historically, that appointment is made early in the new year, so probably any day now.

At the December 6, 2024 Commission meeting, Article 2 was opened for review with the intent to eliminate the use of crossbows in archery seasons except for CHAMP permit holders and HAM seasons. Public comments are being accepted until

April 2, 2025. You can read about it here.

<https://azgfd-portal-wordpress-pantheon.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/10110846/Article-2-Notice-of-Proposed-Rulemaking-1.pdf>

Some of the issues driving this include:

1. Over the counter (OTC) archery seasons are being shortened because harvest objectives are being met quicker, due to crossbow hunters
2. There apparently are some ethical abuses in the field by some crossbow users
3. And, it is alleged the crossbow application process is being abused.

Last November, Colorado, voters rejected Proposition 127, which would have curtailed cat hunting across the state. At about the same time, the Center for Biological Diversity petitioned our Arizona G & F Commission to eliminate the ability to use of hounds while hunting in Arizona. We await the Commission's response to the petition and will be monitoring the matter.

Conserve and Protect Arizona (CPAZ) is taking the lead on behalf of Arizona sportsmen and women.

<https://conserveandprotectaz.org/>

[https://www.instagram.com/reel/DEQBcUqKg\\_t/?igsh=MXF6aGNmc3JldnQwbw%3D%3D](https://www.instagram.com/reel/DEQBcUqKg_t/?igsh=MXF6aGNmc3JldnQwbw%3D%3D)

Not long ago, the only guarantees in life seemed to be death and taxes. The proliferation of feral horses across our public land in Arizona and the West has added another guarantee. While the Apache/Sitgreaves National Forests effectively reduced the horse numbers on the Apache side; horse numbers have exploded on the Sitgreaves side and are now expanding into the Coconino and Tonto Forests. Our wildlife is suffering, and the forest habitat is being degraded. More to come on this issue in the new year.

Finally, here's a timely reminder about our historic conservation legacy. The video is a decade old, but the message hasn't changed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WE4L9KicSeU>

Yours in Conservation,  
Jim Unmacht  
Executive Director

## L. Gary Stinson Grant Program



The AZ Trappers Association recently put some grant funds to use for their fall family camp held last November. Over the three day weekend there were 88 attendees with ages ranging from 3 to 80. All attendees were able to participate as much as they were comfortable in field trapping evolutions. There were 18 preregistered AZ Trapper Education participants with another 6 walk in students that were added for a total of 24 AZ Trapper Education students. Read more [HERE](#).

# 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



*Expanding and Improving  
Arizona's Native and Wild  
Trout Fisheries*

**Salt River Saturdays 9:00 AM-12:00  
PM**

January 18  
February 8  
February 22

We will spend time picking up trash and improving habitat.

Following that will be an opportunity to fish with the help of numerous fishing experts for stocked rainbow trout! [More information here](#)

**All the Way to the Border Highway 286  
Clean-up**



## January 25

Meet at 9:30 at the Altar Valley Middle School  
(16350 W Ajo Highway) in Three Points.

[More information here](#)

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## SAQF Banquet

February 1

Sonoita Fairgrounds

Seating is limited. More information:

<https://events.pheasantsforever.org/events/e9b33ded-fe1c-46e4-b44e-ce9b0e794c3f>



## 2025 Conservation Cup



**February 1, 2025 6:30AM-2:30PM** Ben Avery  
Clay Target Center

Join us as we transform the former WFT Arizona Celebrity Wingshoot into a spectacular event that has already raised thousands of dollars for vital wildlife projects, education, conservation, and our outdoor heritage. No extensive shooting experience is necessary to participate—everyone is welcome to participation. [More information here](#)

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# SOUTHERN ARIZONA QUAIL FOREVER

## 2025 Family Day

### Activities Include:

Trap Shooting  
Archery  
BB Gun Range  
Fly-Fishing Intro  
Drone Demo  
Animal Footprint ID  
Live Quail Hunt Demonstration  
Bird Cleaning  
Police Dog Demo  
Falconry  
Free Breakfast & Lunch



**\*\*No Fee/All Ages Welcome\*\***

Location: Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, Empire Ranch/Airfield Site (north of Sonolita, AZ)

Time/Date: Saturday, March 1, 2025 (8:00am – 1:00pm)

Sponsored by: Southern Arizona Quail Forever Chapter

Register at AZ Game & Fish Outdoor Skills (<https://register-ed.com/events/view/213760>)

For additional info contact:

Tony Valentino | 520-465-6569 | [avalen18@aol.com](mailto:avalen18@aol.com)  
Zack May | 520-301-8135 | [zmay@comcast.net](mailto:zmay@comcast.net)

## 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



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## 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	

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## Associate Members

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

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## Affiliate Members

The logo for the Sportsmen's Business Alliance features the text "SPORTSMEN'S BUSINESS ALLIANCE" in a bold, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a silhouette of a mountain range with several evergreen trees in the foreground.

**SPORTSMEN'S**  
BUSINESS ALLIANCE

The logo for "The Western Hunter" features the text "THE WESTERN HUNTER" in a stylized, serif font. The word "THE" is smaller and positioned above "WESTERN". The text is flanked by decorative horizontal lines with arrowheads at the ends.

**THE**  
**WESTERN HUNTER**

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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".**





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