



If you wondered what was going on with our Federal Public Lands in this Reconciliation Bill, this will give you an update. The bottom line – despite several attempts to cram through massive public lands sales in a must-pass bill, the sporting community rose to the occasion and created significant enough outcry to stop this bad idea (at least for this round).

Congressional procedure allows for one “Budget Reconciliation” bill each year that has a certain “fast track” status with only a simple majority required in the Senate making it an attractive vehicle for the majority party to advance as many of their priorities as possible. President Trump has advocated for many of his campaign promises to be wrapped up in what he has termed the “Big Beautiful Bill.”

For the last couple of months Congress and the public en masse have debated this bill on many fronts. The Outdoor Community dropped longstanding barriers and coalesced on the notion that the budget reconciliation process should not be used to sell off our Federal Public Lands to the highest bidder.

The House originally proposed selling roughly half a million acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land parcels in Nevada and Utah under the guise of alleviating housing shortages. A firestorm of opposition enveloped social media and the halls of Congress to stop it, including targeted engagement by AZSFWC.

The Bipartisan Public Lands Caucus was launched on May 7<sup>th</sup> under the leadership of Representatives Zinke (R-MT) and Vasquez (D-NM). Arizona Congressman Juan Ciscomani is a member of the Caucus along with six other Republicans and seven Democrats. Their leadership coupled with the public outcry resulted in the land sales portions coming out of the House version of the bill which passed May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The relief was short-lived however, because when it moved over to the Senate, Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) not only resurrected the land sales idea, but expanded the possibilities to eleven Western States to include both National Forest (NF) as well as BLM lands. Up to 3.1M acres were mandated to be sold by the Interior (BLM) and Agriculture (NF) Secretaries for housing and infrastructure on “isolated” or “underutilized” tracts near existing infrastructure. The public outcry exploded!

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Lee advised the public after a Hunter Nation interview, that he heard the opposition and will come back with an alternative. That alternative included the removal of all NF lands under consideration, reduced the BLM lands to between 600K and 1.2M acres, restricted to within 5 miles of population centers, and exempted grazing, valid rights, and federal protections, among some others. The small changes (which were more likely to appease the Senate parliamentarian than the sporting community) failed to appease anyone and the public outcry continued.

There are legal mechanisms in place for public land sales, trades and transfers that includes appropriate local and public input, the process of which AZSFWC has supported. Our Resolution Opposing the Sale or Transfer of Federal Public Lands to the States notes that and a copy of the Resolution was included in letters to our Arizona Republican Congressmen and our two Senators conveying our position on the bill.

On June 28<sup>th</sup> during the vote to bring the bill to the Senate Floor, Lee announced on X

that he was pulling the land sales provision from the bill. He cited the constraints of the budget reconciliation process as preventing him from providing enough safeguards on who the buyers would be, and therefore he decided not to proceed. He did express his continued desire to “put underutilized federal land to work for American families”.

We fully expect him to continue his efforts to reduce the amount of public lands both in Utah and across the country in future legislation and litigation. AZSFWC will follow the proceedings, monitor the developments, and respond accordingly.

Yours in Conservation,  
Jim Unmacht  
Executive Director

## **AZSFWC to be Inducted Into the AZ Outdoor Hall of Fame**

Wildlife for Tomorrow recently announced the induction of seven outstanding individuals and two exceptional organizations into the Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame.

These honorees represent a diverse array of experts and advocates who have dedicated themselves to preserving Arizona's natural heritage and championing wildlife conservation.

**AZSFWC is joined by a number of other folks who have been affiliated with our organization and a member group receiving this honor. Our congratulations to:**

- **Art Chamberlin**
- **Bill & Mary Keebler**
- **James Murphy**
- **John Bouma**
- **Sine Kerr**
- **Ty Gray**
- **AZ Council of Trout Unlimited**

The 27th Annual Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame banquet will celebrate these remarkable contributions on Saturday, August 23, 2025 at the Hilton Phoenix Resort at the Peak.

## **L. Gary Stinson Grant Program**

# Grant Applications Due July 1st

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!

## AZ Trappers Family Camp

Chauncey Ranch in Mayer was the setting, November 8-10 was the date for this event which the Stinson Grant Program helped fund. Over the three day weekend there were over 88 attendees with ages ranging from 3 to 80. All attendees were able to participate in a number of activities including legal & ethical trapping practices, and general outdoor skills, pelt care and uses. [More here](#)



## AZSFWC Participates in Payson Wildlife Fair



Please support our Member Group Activities

# THE 2025 ARIZONA "BIG 10" BIG GAME SUPER RAFFLE

**ONLY TWO DAYS LEFT!  
TICKET SALES END TOMORROW**

**YOU'RE ABOUT  
TO MISS YOUR  
CHANCE TO  
HUNT 365!**



Photo: Doyle Moss

**EVERY  
TICKET IS JUST  
\$10**

**Purchase tickets online  
at [conservationfirstusa.org](http://conservationfirstusa.org)**



**One ticket buyer today will win a FREE  
onX Elite Membership for one year!**

ON





76-Target Tournament  
(10 stations)  
Scores don't count!  
Each participant receives a  
participant raffle ticket to WIN!  
about 1 drawing for  
every 10 participants

Cost:  
\$40 ASRPA Members  
\$50 Non-ASRPA Members  
Fee includes Targets

Online Pre-Registration:  
[www.asrpacactusclays.com/  
asrpa-shotgun-events](http://www.asrpacactusclays.com/asrpa-shotgun-events)  
Register by Aug. 25th for:  
10 free door prize tickets

Cash only 8/30 Registration  
At Shoot

**Check in: 7 AM**  
**Start Time: 7:30 AM**  
*EARLY shoot avoids the heat!*

No one to shoot with?  
No worries.  
We have new friends for you  
to shoot with.

**Required:**  
Eyes & Ear Protection  
Shooters provide own ammo:  
**Range Allows:**  
Only 7 1/2, 8 or 9 Shot Only



**Questions:**  
[asrpashoots@gmail.com](mailto:asrpashoots@gmail.com)



**7 AM Check In**  
**7:30 AM Start Time**  
**Ben Avery Clay Target Center**  
**5060 W. Skeet St., Phoenix, AZ**  
**[www.asrpacactusclays.com/  
events](http://www.asrpacactusclays.com/events)**  
Join ASRPA &  
receive our \$10  
registration fee discount!

Arizona State Rifle & Pistol Association—Shotgun Division  
[www.asrpacactusclays.com/events](http://www.asrpacactusclays.com/events)

Corporate Partner



## Members

Alter Valley Conservation Alliance  
Anglers United  
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AZ Big Game Super Raffle/Conservation First USA  
AZ Chapter Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
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AZ Council Trout Unlimited  
AZ Deer Association  
AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society  
AZ Elk Society  
AZ Flycasters Club  
AZ Houndsmen Association  
AZ Mule Deer Organization  
AZ Outdoor Adventures  
AZ Outdoor Sports, Inc

AZ Predator Callers  
Conserve and Protect Arizona  
Diablo Trust  
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Friends of the Buenos Aires NWR  
Into the Wild Outdoors  
Mogollon Sporting Association  
Mule Deer Foundation  
No Excuse Hunting & Outdoors  
Outdoor Experience 4 All  
Southern AZ Chapter Quail Forever  
The Trust for Public Land  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Valley of the Sun Chapter Quail Forever  
Wildlife for Tomorrow  
Wildlife Water Works

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## Associate Members

AZ Working Dog Association  
Be Outdoors Arizona  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
Rio Salado Sportsman's Club  
Sun City Sportsmen Club

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## Affiliate Members



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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](#)

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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

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