



Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation

We're living in a time of "firsts", first this, first that, and a lot of firsts for about everything imaginable!

Pretty ironic when you reflect on how the last couple generations were taught being "first" wasn't important. Everyone received a participation trophy, a ribbon, and maybe a certificate for simply being part of whatever it was. Well, that seems to have morphed. Maybe now there's a desire to catch up on not being "first" after all these years?

So, first some updates on a variety of issues.

Trail Cameras...the AZ Game & Fish Commission has opened public comment on the second proposed rulemaking alternative. The comment period opened on March 11th and will run until April 11th. This second option would implement a season where cameras would be legal, however they would be moved back from developed waters a ¼ mile. This gives the Commission alternatives to consider in regulating cameras for take. If you commented last time, you now have the opportunity to comment again. The Commission would like to hear what you think, but understand this isn't a vote. They simply want to hear your thoughts and ideas. https://azgfd-portal-wordpress-pantheon.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/archive/Trail-Camera_March11_2021.pdf

HB2702...Rep. Finchem's "Federal Government; Land Acquisition; Consent" bill remains in Committee and has been there since February 22nd. As introduced, this bill would require any land sale, swap, or transfer to the U.S. Government for any purpose (such as conservation easements) be approved by the Arizona state legislature and Governor. It would give the state a "right of first refusal" over any private real estate transaction with the federal government. Here is the introduced version of the bill. <https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/55leg/1R/bills/HB2702P.pdf>

We continue to monitor the bill's

status. https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/55leg/1R/summary/H.HB2702_021021_LARA.pdf

Update on recent AZSFWC efforts & positions:

- Endorsed the Upper Verde Valley Fact Sheet
- Supported the Yavapai Ranch Conservation Easement NRCS Grant Request
- Supporting the MAPLand (Modernizing Access to our Public Lands) Act in Congress
- Supporting the BLM acquisition of the Cross F Ranch in Arivaipa Canyon (expanding access) through LWCF funding
- Ongoing support for the AZGFD's Santa Theresa Access Video Project with the ET Ranch acquisition
- Continuing drive to resolve the Tonto NF Sierra Ancha Wilderness road boundaries
- And a First for February, record breaking month of Conserving Wildlife License Plate sales!

Finally, the First Anniversary of our Covid Zoom meetings, and hopefully the last!

Yours in Conservation,

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director

**AZSFWC Conserving Wildlife License Plate
Grant Success**

Bringing Lucy's Warblers Home

Lucy's Warbler (LUWA) is a small cavity-nesting bird that is currently listed by the AZ Game & Fish Department as a tier 1C Species of Greatest Conservation Need. In 2019, the AZSFWC awarded a \$5000 grant to Tucson Audubon in support of a project to create more nesting opportunities for LUWA in southeast Arizona. Several of the key accomplishments they were able to achieve included:



1. Baseline Lucy's Warbler distribution in the Tucson area determined.
2. 3,152 Lucy's Warbler nestboxes on the landscape as of 2020.
3. 1,176-1,470 young Lucy's Warblers are estimated to have fledged from the nestbox project in 2019 and 2020 collectively.
4. 785 Volunteer hours spent on Lucy's Warbler Nestbox project, equivalent to a value of \$21,352.
5. 500 native velvet mesquites planted near Santa Cruz River where mesquite bosques historically stood.
6. Thousands of people reached via presentations, outreach events and online to show the importance of the Lucy's Warbler conservation plan.

[Read more about this impressive project here](#)



AZSFWC President Rich Williams Receives National Award

Congratulations are in order to Rich who has received national recognition from the National Wild Turkey Federation as recipient of the Roger M. Latham Sportsman Wild Turkey Service Award for his dedication to the NWTF mission.

Please support our Member Group Activities



South Eastern Arizona Sportsmen Club

March 27 Habitat Project Whitlock Peak Phase 1
Work will include installing a new rain catchment apron, fence repair around the apron, repairing the piping from the apron to the storage tank, and evaluating the storage system in place right now which is not working. We will meet at the Lazy B Ranch turn off on US Hwy 70 in New Mexico east of Safford. This is approximately 5.5 miles from the AZ State line. We will meet Sat March 27th at 7AM then proceed to the project site together.

[Visit the SEAZSC Website](#)

BUY OFTEN! WIN BIG!



YOU COULD WIN ONE OF TEN SETS OF SITKA MOUNTAIN JACKETS AND MATCHING PANTS!

WINNERS WILL GET TO SELECT THEIR SIZE IN MENS OR WOMENS IN EITHER OPTIFADE SUBALPINE OR OPTIFADE OPEN COUNTRY PATTERNNS.



TICKETS PURCHASED ONLINE BETWEEN 3/1/21 AND 3/31/21 WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN. MAIL ORDERS DO NOT COUNT. DRAWING TO BE HELD ON OR BEFORE 4/5/21.

FEBRUARY'S KANSAS TROPHY WHITETAIL HUNT WINNER IS RANDY BROWN FROM IDAHO!



Southern AZ Chapter of Quail Forever Dogs on Point Facebook Photo Contest

- Week 1 -March 19-26
- Week 2 March 26 -April 2
- Week 3 April 2 -April 9
- Week 4 April - April 19 (final)

[Visit the Southern AZ Quail Forever Website](#)



ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION 29th ANNUAL HUNTERS' CLINIC (Virtual) July 12, 2021 Noon - 4 PM.

We will cover how to field judge your antelope, archery & rifle hunting tactics, how to use optics (A MUST!), spot & stalk tactics, how to identify a buck from a doe (both can have horns!), proper field care and how to photo document your hunt.

[Info Here](#)

Corporate Partners



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Alter Valley Conservation Alliance
Anglers United
AZ Antelope Foundation
AZ Bass Nation
AZ Big Game Super Raffle
AZ Bowhunters Association
AZ Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation
AZ Chapter Safari Club International
AZ Deer Association
AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society
AZ Council Trout Unlimited
AZ Elk Society
AZ Flycaster's Club
AZ Houndsmen's Association
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AZ Predator Callers
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Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Christian Hunters of America
Kahuna's Kids
Mohave Sportsman Club
Mule Deer Foundation
Outdoor Experience 4 All
South Eastern Arizona Sportsmen Club
Southern AZ Chapter Quail Forever
SRT Outdoors
Southwest Wildlife Foundation
The Bass Federation
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation
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Valley of the Sun Quail Forever
White Mt Lakes Foundation

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Got Wildlife?
Get Your License Plate
servicearizona.com

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 conservation 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: <http://www.servicearizona.com> Click on "Personalized/Specialty Plates" then if you wish to personalize it, check its availability. Once you have verified the availability of your personalization, or if you only want to order the AZSFWC Conservation Special Plate, click on "Order My Plate". Order your plate as a sequential shelf plate for \$25.00 per year or as a personalized plate for \$50.00 per year.

Here is another helpful link when ordering your special license plate.
<https://servicearizona.com/plateAvailability/plate?execution=e2s3>

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 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. The AZSFWC is responsible for managing the conservation license plate program (Wildlife Conservation Habitat 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.

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