



Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation

Many of you are familiar with the "3 R's" – Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation.

State wildlife agencies, conservation organizations, and hunting and angling groups actively recruit new people to the pastimes most of us enjoy. They also focus on retaining those who already hunt and fish, and work at reactivating those who participated in the past, but for whatever reason(s) have not for some time. These are all important efforts with the 3 R Initiatives!

With that said, arguably we should consider adding a 4th R to the mix, "Re-education".

In September of 2019, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) awarded Pete Cimellaro the John L. Morris Award. In accepting the award, Pete talked about the need to add the "4th R" to our hunting and angling heritage focus. Re-educating sportsmen and women about conservation, the importance of wildlife management, ethics in the outdoors, and the role we all play in funding the collective effort.

So, who do we have to re-educate and why do we need to do this?

Fair questions. The new folks in the field aren't the only ones that need to learn about these issues, but also many veteran hunters and anglers could use a refresher on the subjects. While we're at it, we may as well include the rest of the population that doesn't hunt or fish too.

The importance of explaining and conveying the role hunters and anglers play in the conservation of wildlife can't be understated! Their critical role in the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is foreign to many non-consumptive users, and unfortunately is not well known by the consumptive side either, to our detriment.

The funding side of conservation is lost on many too. Hunters, anglers, and shooters are the primary funders of conservation work in the United States. Between the Pitman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts, excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, and angling equipment drive the effort. It's also how our state wildlife agencies can operate without general tax fund dollars.

We've talked about Arizona's population growth in the past, and the impact the non-hunting and angling voters can have on issues and elections. That's a critical aspect of the why, but just as critical is the importance in making sure all hunters and anglers not only appreciate their role in all of this, but also understand our ability to continue to enjoy what we love to do has no guarantees.

The burden of re-education isn't going to fall on one agency, one group, or a few

individuals. It needs to be a commitment across the board, from a variety of sources, angles, and efforts interspersed with the other 3 Rs over an extended period of time, with no end date.

We need to refocus on the needs of wildlife because it's a finite resource. There is no question wildlife needs to be managed, cultivated, and conserved. Hunters and anglers must understand that while they pay most of the freight, for the greater good; seasons, sometimes limits, and tags have to take a back seat to the health and wellbeing of our wildlife populations.

We need to refocus on habitat conservation, even more so today because the woods, fields, streams, and lakes are under stress, from more people, more machines, more activity, and more destruction. While we're back to the primary funders again; hunters, anglers, and shooters, we also need volunteers helping to enhance habitat!

We need to refocus on ethics. As I mentioned a few months back, what happens on the mountain, no longer stays on the mountain!

We need to reflect on the social impact of what we do. There is no question science is critical to wildlife management, but social perception by consumptive and non-consumptive observers can also rue the day.

We need to become advocates for our passions. If we simply worry about our tag or our backyard, the end of all of what we enjoy isn't too far off. We need to look through a wildlife and conservation lens on how our passions are viewed by those who don't enjoy what we do and in turn we need to help them understand the implications without us.

There are many challenges facing hunters, anglers, shooters, wildlife watchers, or simply folks that enjoy Arizona's outdoors moving forward. We need to look ahead at what might be on the horizon if we want to continue to enjoy and engage in our passions.

Pete concluded his acceptance speech with these thoughts:

"I and many others like me are an Endangered Species. As we age, we cannot afford to believe those who follow will understand Conservation as we do and realize the need for its priority. Education and understanding Conservation's critical importance is the only way to insure our legacy of good stewardship, will survive us."

The 4th R has our work cut out for us!

Yours in Conservation,
Jim Unmacht

AZSFWC Awards \$26,300 in Stinson Grants

Third quarter grant applications were presented and

voted on at the August 24, 2021 AZSFWC Board meeting. Applications are considered on a quarterly basis, and funding for the grants is available through sales of our special Conserving Wildlife license plate. More information about the license plate and how you can obtain one can be found [HERE](#).



Seven grants were approved during this funding cycle in the amount of \$26,300 and included funding for habitat projects, water hauling equipment, and youth events & materials promoting education and hunter retention & recruitment.

Organizations receiving funding this cycle included the AZ Deer Association, AZ Elk Society, Valley of the Sun Quail Forever, AZ Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Boys & Girls Club of Tucson, and the Tucson Audubon Society.

Read more [HERE](#).



Information and application forms can be found on our website here: <https://azsfwc.org/grant-information/>

BIG GAME FISHING ON THE EAST CAPE

CABO SAN LUCAS, MEXICO



**FIVE DAYS, FOUR NIGHTS LODGING,
AND 2 DAYS FISHING FOR **FOUR GUESTS** AT THE
HOTEL PALMAS DE CORTEZ FISHING RESORT**



- Accommodations include a standard Garden Room and two fisherman each on two 28 ft. standard cruisers.
- Winner must provide transportation to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico and transfer to resort.
- Trip must be scheduled between Oct. 10th and Dec. 31st, 2021.
- See rules, exclusions and package details at www.azfwc.org



TICKETS ARE \$20 EACH.
RAFFLE ENDS SEPT. 30, 2021, OR WHEN 300 TICKETS ARE SOLD.

CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE



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A 2021 FORD
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BADLANDS

FROM SANDERSON Ford

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PROCEEDS BENEFIT

ARIZONA Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation

ARIZONA HABITAT
CONSERVING WILDLIFE

HELP US HELP HABITAT
VISIT **SERVICEARIZONA.COM**
AND RESERVE YOUR PLATE TODAY

Please support our Member Group Activities

Southern AZ Quail Forever Chapter Activities

Oct 8-10 Scaled Quail and Box Turtle Count
Nov/Dec TBD Fall Road Cleanup
Dec 5 QuailFest Fairgrounds
Dec 9 Fall Meeting Green Valley

<http://www.saquailforever.com/>



Corporate Partners



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OUTDOOR FUND

Members

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

Associate Members



Weapons 4 Warriors

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. 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.



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 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: <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"**.

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