



AZSFWC was inducted into Wildlife for Tomorrow's Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame on August 23rd.

For the past twenty years AZSFWC has advocated for issues of importance for Arizona's sportsmen and women. AZSFWC has provided a monthly forum to discuss issues on an organizational level with over 40 groups. It has managed the "Conserving

Wildlife" license plate revenue through the L. Gary Stinson Grant Program and awarded \$1,889,066.00 for 287 grants since 2012. Two million in grants awarded is in our sights by the end of 2025.

A few months ago, the Arizona Game and Fish Department informed us they were in dire need of some additional water hauling trailers. AZSFWC heeded the call and coordinated a funding effort with nine of our member organizations pledging various amounts to cover the \$61,000 needed to build three 750 gallon water trailers with all the associated equipment and specifications. With the assistance from the AZ Elk Society's Steve Clark, we were able to deliver the completed trailers in late August.



For more than a decade, AZSFWC has advocated for the consolidation of the checkerboard lands of the Prescott National Forest and the Yavapai Ranch. Funding to accomplish this is centered on the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which is being done in phases to bring this to a reality. The first Phases of the effort are complete, Phase 3 is underway, and Phase 4 is in the approval stage, which is ranked number 1 on the Forest Service's priority list. Phase 5 for Fiscal Year 2027 is currently in the planning process. AZSFWC submitted a letter of support for that Phase, and we also met with Rep. Eli Crane's Deputy Chief of Staff to solicit the Congressman's support.

The bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) was signed into law by President Trump in 2020. The GAOA permanently funded the LWCF into the future. There are discussions taking place in Congress to divert some of that funding for deferred maintenance, which was specifically rejected at the time. AZSFWC, along with almost 250 conservation organizations from across the country are supporting the LWCF Coalition's efforts urging Congressional leadership to not undermine the LWCF or GAOA funding.

Our June 29th news recapped what transpired and how AZSFWC was involved in the Federal Public Lands debates. Our June 20th meeting with Legislative staffers concerning the Arizona Legislature's past support for the Utah Federal lands lawsuit, and AZSFWC's position on the matter was recapped in a summary dated July 9th. You can read the letter [HERE](#).

On the feral horse and burro front, several matters are in play.

- AZSFWC is helping fund a documentary on the impact these animals are having on Arizona's landscapes.
- AZSFWC, 23 of our member organizations, and 97 other conservation groups from across the West signed on to a National Resolution "Declaring a State of Emergency Resulting from Non-compliance with the 1971 Free-roaming Wild Horses and Burros Act as Written and Amended". This was submitted to Congressional leaders on June 15th.
- The Arizona Department of Agriculture is reviewing a revised Request for Proposal to manage the Salt River Horses.
- In the meantime, the City of Scottsdale is entertaining the idea of getting into the horse business by taking 50 to 60 of the Salt River horses and moving them to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The Scottsdale City Council is currently reviewing the idea.
- The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest has released their Heber Wild Horse Territory Plan for public comment. See it [HERE](#).

Finally, September 27th is National Hunting and Fishing Day. AZSFWC has once again asked Governor Hobbs to make a Proclamation to that effect here in Arizona. In 2024, 40 states celebrated the contributions to conservation from hunters and anglers across the country.

Have a great fall!

Yours in Conservation,
Jim Unmacht
Executive Director

L. Gary Stinson Grant Program

Third quarter grant applications were presented and voted on at the August 26, 2025 AZSFWC Board meeting. Eleven grants were approved and included the following:

- \$4,750 to to the Arizona Raptor Center for their 2025-2026 Raptor Education Program
- \$10,240 to Arizona Mule Deer Organization for 2025 Youth Hunting & Mentoring Camps
- \$5,200 to Arizona Deer Association for the 2025 Youth Deer & Elk Camp
- \$10,250 to Shoot Right for 3D Archery Equipment and Range
- \$4,500 to Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society for their 2025 Hunter Information Clinic
- \$13,352 to Pheasants Forever for the Date Creek Water Project
- \$2,750 to the Arizona Mule Deer Organization for their Unit 8 Youth Camp
- \$13,915 to Foundation for the Conservation of Arizona's Wildlife for the Mesquite Wildlife Oasis
- \$2,200 to Wildlife Water Works for the Unit 9 Dirt Tank Renovation Project
- \$3,000 to AZ Shooting Sports Education Foundation for the 2025 SCTP Commissioners Cup Championship Vests
- \$12,790 to Mogollon Sporting Association for the Youth Archery School Program Funding

Read more about these grants [HERE](#).

For more information about the grant program, visit our website [HERE](#).



Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) organization in existence for at least 2 years, in good standing with the AZ Corporation Commission and have a physical presence of a chapter or other unit in Arizona. Additional eligibility requirements, instructions and program information can be found [HERE](#).

Applications for project funding will be submitted using our online submission form [HERE](#) and funding decisions will be made by the AZSFWC Board at the end of November.

Please support our Member Group Activities

SAQF Upcoming Events

Sep 6 - Kirby Bristow Retirement Party
Oct 11- Dog Tune Up
Oct TBA - Point the Pint
Oct 17 - Desert Quail Opens
Nov 8 - Fall Road Cleanup

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





FLY FISHING FILM TOUR

THE FLY FISHING FILM TOUR (F3T) IS COMING TO TOWN WITH AN INSPIRING LINEUP OF FILMS SHOWCASING THE SPIRIT OF FLY FISHING.

BENEFITTING
WILDLIFE FOR TOMORROW

FEATURING:

- DAN'S QUEST FOR THE ULTIMATE CATCH WITH MUSKY LEGEND BLANE CHOCKLETT
- ATLANTIC SALMON FISHING AMIDST THE CARIBOU MIGRATION
- A JOURNEY THROUGH THE HIGH DESERT ON THE DESCHUTES RIVER WITH GUIDE MATT MENDES
- CAPTAIN LACEY KELLY'S TARPON ADVENTURES IN FLORIDA
- APRIL VOKEY & SAM LUNGREN EXPLORE GUYANA'S JUNGLES FOR ARAPAIMA & PEACOCK BASS
- AND MUCH MORE!

RAFFLE, FILM FESTIVAL & AWARDS OVER \$10,000 IN PRIZES!

- 4 PM - BEGIN FILM TOUR EVENT
- 5 PM - PLAY PART I OF FILM
- 5:45-6:15 PM - INTERMISSION
- 7 PM - END FILM & ANNOUNCE RAFFLE/ CARP RALLY WINNERS

BUY TICKETS ONLINE!



MOON VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB
151 W MOON VALLEY DRIVE
PHOENIX, AZ 85023

28 SEPTEMBER 2025

Corporate Partner



Members

Alter Valley Conservation Alliance
Anglers United
AZ Adaptive Water Sports
AZ Antelope Foundation
AZ Big Game Super Raffle/Conservation First USA
AZ Chapter Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
AZ Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation
AZ Chapter Safari Club International
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
Ducks Unlimited
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
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Wildlife Water Works

Associate Members

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

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.

[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

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