

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION

ARIZONA  
**WILD**



**The Value of Volunteers**

**ORVs and Forest Management**

**Wilderness and Global Warming**

**Business for Wilderness : The Speckled Trout**

**FALL/WINTER 2006-07**

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#### **Mission Statement**

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition's mission is to permanently protect and restore Wilderness and other wild lands and waters in Arizona for the enjoyment of all citizens and to ensure that Arizona's native plants and animals have a lasting home in wild nature. We do this by coordinating and conducting inventories, educating citizens about these lands, enlisting community support, and advocating for their lasting protection.

#### *Cover photo:*

*Volunteers during a wilderness inventory of Cherry Creek in the Grief Hill Inventoried Roadless Area, Prescott National Forest. Photo: AWC*

*Design by Mary Williams/marywilliamsdesign.com*

## **OUT BACK AND BEYOND Bright Days Ahead**

*Kevin Gaither-Banchoff*

**O**n a cool summer evening in Prescott, Arizona this past June, I sat on the lawn in the town square with my family and some Arizona Wilderness Coalition (AWC) staff and board members listening to music, watching the stars, and occasionally getting up to roll down the hill or play duck-duck-goose with my daughters. It was a perfect ending to one of the best days I'd had in years. Earlier that day, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition board of directors asked me to become their Executive Director. Needless to say, I was happy and honored to accept their offer; I started work on August 1, 2006.

For the past several years I've been fortunate to work part time as a fundraising consultant with the Arizona Wilderness Coalition and Don Hoffman, our now outgoing Executive Director and wilderness guru – my task was to help raise money enabling the organization to accomplish its mission and vision for a wild Arizona. It was Don who got me involved with the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. I thank him often for bringing me into the AWC family and guiding my involvement that has led to where we are today. I'm excited and looking forward to leading the wilderness work of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition and getting to better know staff, board members, and many of you, our supporters and volunteers. I hope we have years to do just this.

Meanwhile, I know most of you are wondering about me. What do I see as AWC's future? What is my vision for Arizona's wild places? What is my background? Who am I? Here I'll answer some of these questions.

As I look forward, I see nothing but opportunity and excitement for AWC. Out of necessity, our work has often been limited to too few issues and has not involved enough of Arizona's campers, hikers, hunters, and other wild land advocates who share our mission. Over the next couple of years, I expect our membership to grow to five or 10 thousand, our leadership and presence to swell, and our ability to accomplish new wilderness protections to improve significantly. I expect new offices to open in Tucson and Phoenix, in addition to our Prescott office. We are also hoping to get more people in touch with the land through inventory work, outings, and trips to both existing and potential new wilderness areas. An expanded base of Arizonans will better enable us to protect our inventoried roadless areas in the state rule-making process, our wilderness quality lands in both the forest planning and travel management planning processes, and much more.

I see AWC engaged in current and new legislative campaigns to permanently protect wild places. For example, in September I spent 6 days in Washington, D.C., meeting with partners, financial supporters, and Arizona's congressional delegation. We talked about plans to protect 85,000 acres of the Tumacacori Highlands in southern Arizona as a new wilderness area, while also building support for a bill introduced by Senator McCain and Congressman Renzi that permanently protects a 14-mile stretch of Fossil Creek as a Wild & Scenic River. These campaigns are concrete and exciting and have excellent chances of becoming

reality in the near future. These are the kinds of things I see in our future.

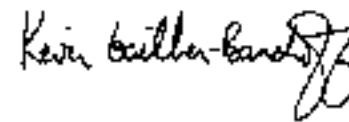
As you well know, Arizona is one of the fastest growing states in the country and has an exploding population. This results in development that is often—but doesn't have to be—at odds with our vision for wilderness in Arizona. Many of Arizona's threatened places are the same ones where you and I love to go hiking, camping, and daydream about on hot afternoons in the office. I think this growth, coupled with the influx of new people that haven't been educated about or experienced wilderness firsthand, is one of our biggest challenges. Education and understanding can go along way to influencing how people use our wilderness quality lands, as well as how and if they support our call for new wilderness protections.

Since I was a little kid, I've spent part of each year camping, hiking, and visiting state parks, national

forests, monuments and other wild places. Many of my best memories include playing under the trees, swimming in lakes and streams, running through open fields, and going in search of whatever wild animals I could find. A wild world, and everything it encompasses, is one of the primary things I continually find central to my life. I've lived in Arizona for 12 years, where I've worked on conservation issues for a variety of local, regional, and national conserva-

tion organizations, including the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection, Native Seeds/SEARCH, and the Wildlands Project. Most of my time has been spent on fundraising and organizational development. School brought my wife and me here; we quickly fell in love with Arizona and settled in for the long haul. We now have two wonderful girls that were born here and share our lives with a great community of friends. I love to garden, play racquetball, and go running or exercise almost daily. My family tries to hike and camp as often as we can, which is never enough!

I took this position with AWC to help protect these places for you and me, my family and yours, and those yet to visit Arizona or even be born. We all deserve a chance to appreciate wilderness and reap the benefits of exercising outdoors, breathing clean air, and relaxing to the sounds of nature. Arizona is filled with many magnificent landscapes and creatures. As I look forward, I know that Arizona's wild places and wildlife face many threats and challenges. I also see a strong and growing Arizona Wilderness Coalition that is up to the task of leading partners and supporters like you in successful efforts to deal with these challenges. I'm excited to help lead this work and believe we have many bright days ahead as we work together towards a wilder Arizona. Thank you.



Kevin's office is based in Tucson. If you ever want to say hello, drop him a line at 520-326-4300, or email him at [Kevin@azwild.org](mailto:Kevin@azwild.org).



# Making Change Without Spending a Dime

Sam Frank

**W**ith the help of countless volunteers, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition (AWC) has proven vastly instrumental in the fight to protect Arizona's last wild places. As a self-appointed sentinel of Arizona's mountains, canyons, forests, deserts and waters, AWC's goals have always loomed large, and volunteers have consistently stepped up to the challenge. Over the years, volunteers have helped AWC successfully designate millions of acres of wilderness, and assisted in the successful push for the designation of Arizona's

contributions of volunteers are still essential in AWC's attempt to fulfill its mission. Volunteers offer a variety of talents ranging from professional skills to beginner's enthusiasm. Some prefer to stay at home and write persuasive letters to elected officials; others choose to drive to public meetings and voice their opinions in person. The more adventurous join our staff for regular inventory trips into the backcountry. No matter the action, each volunteer makes a difference.

So, maybe you're thinking of volunteering with AWC for the first time and you aren't sure what you

*We make a living by what we do,  
but we make a life by what we give.*

—Winston Churchill

would like to do or what is even available? Your best bet is to first familiarize yourself with AWC's current projects by visiting our website, [www.azwild.org](http://www.azwild.org), or reading our newsletter (the very same one you're looking at now!). As you will discover, AWC has its fingers in a LOT of pies – from local issues in and around Arizona, to national issues bolstered by the partnership of numerous conservation groups in other states.

In the past, volunteers have taken part in phone banking, letter writing, field inventories, trail work, fundraisers, tabling at events, invasive plant species removal, attendance at public meetings, and even travel to Washington, D.C. to lobby members of Congress. Sometimes people attend every field inventory and sometimes we see volunteers once a year.

"I wrote my first letter-to-the-editor in a fit of righteous indignation almost 30 years ago and it was published," says Tyler Kokjohn, a dedicated AWC volunteer and professor of microbiology at Midwestern University, "but two things really got me focused on them recently. First, AWC action alerts point out significant articles or editorials that need responses from its members. Second, I made an accidental discovery—while reading about grassroots political organizing—that ALL letters, even those that are never published, exert a significant editorial influence."

Indeed, the more letters a paper receives, the more inclined it may be to cover those wilderness issues regularly, helping to raise awareness in the media.

It would be impossible to determine the total number of hours volunteers have donated over the years, but suffice to say it would be far into the six digits. Just in the summer of 2006 alone, volunteers donated over 150 hours of time, effort and sweat to field inventory, which is a crucial step in the compilation of accurate wilderness proposals. The field inventory data gathered by volunteers is also extremely useful for the land



On National Trails Day, volunteers work to clear a fallen tree from Twin Peaks trail in Castle Creek Wilderness.  
Photo: AWC

only wild and scenic river. Currently, AWC's loyal volunteer base has worked diligently to gather momentum for a second wild-and-scenic river bill: Fossil Creek. As a non-profit organization, AWC has accomplished quite a bit for conservation, but without volunteers there would be no AWC.

AWC was initially formed by an ambitious group of volunteers and activists in response to U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land reviews in the late 1970's.

"Early on, it was just an ad hoc group," says Joni Bosh, current board member and one of the driving forces behind the formation of the AWC. "People would come to the table and voice their thoughts and opinions. There was immense strength to represent lots and lots of different interests." With no funding, AWC was run on meager monetary donations and loyal volunteer efforts.

Thirty-some years later, AWC is now an established non-profit organization with a full-time staff, but the



A group of AWC volunteers, staff from REI, and the Forest Service tackled trail work on National Trails Day.  
Photo: AWC



*AWC volunteer Kevin Sauer with She-Ra and Buster on Humphrey's Peak  
Photo: AWC*



*A volunteer holds route marker signs during a wilderness inventory.  
Photo: AWC*



*AWC Wildlands Planning Coordinator Sam Frank and Forest Service employees conduct a wilderness education project at Granite Mountain Wilderness with children from the Prescott YMCA.  
Photo: AWC*

management agencies like the BLM or U.S. Forest Service, with whom AWC collaborates: when those groups are better informed, they are better able to manage and protect the unique and sensitive areas under their care.

Volunteering with AWC isn't always about saving the environment either. Sure, we work to protect plants, animals, and the habitats they live in. And, we like the fact that we are preserving pristine natural areas for the sake of solitude and recreation, but AWC's mission also has significant social implications

as well. Healthy ecosystems provide clean air and water, a place to exercise, relax and unwind, and they maintain a part of our heritage past. As individuals working within a larger group, we want to feel good about passing that heritage on to our children and grandchildren. Amidst the stress and demands that life in modern society bring, volunteering offers people a way to build friendships while promoting a feeling of community. And at the end of the day, each volunteer makes an impact that somehow leaves things just a little bit better.

"Letter writing makes me feel like I am doing a little something for the conservation cause on a regular basis," says Kokjohn. "It's a small thing, but there are a lot more of us than there are of them, and if we all make an effort we can make a difference. Every letter counts."

After all, isn't that what volunteering is all about—knowing you are making a difference, and feeling good about the changes you are making? It really doesn't get any better than that. AWC would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of the dedicated volunteers who have supported us over the years in their different ways, and we would also like to take this moment to urge each of you to come forth and join in our progress. Even if you only have a few hours a month or a season, we can assure you that you'll be glad you made the effort. Even if you don't volunteer with us, please get out there and be part of the good things that are happening. You'll be surprised at how fun work can be when you're doing it for all the right reasons.

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*Sam Frank is AWC's Wildlands Planning Coordinator, based in Prescott, and is currently working with the U.S. Forest Service and other conservation groups on forest planning for the Prescott National Forest. You can reach Sam at 928-717-6076, or [sfrank@azwild.org](mailto:sfrank@azwild.org).*



AWC volunteer Scott Koch at the White Canyon Wilderness boundary.  
Photo: AWC



AWC volunteers Mary Bridget Nowicki and Brian Sampson orienteering at Arnold Mesa.  
Photo: AWC

**Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.**

—Margaret Mead



Jason Williams, BLM staff, and AWC volunteers work on desert restoration in Sonoran Desert National Monument.  
Photo: Tyler Kokjohn

### Meet AWC Volunteer Kevin Sauer

**Age:** 43

**Years Volunteering:** Approximately 15

**Organizations/Groups volunteered for:**  
Pinnacle Peak Park, REI, AWC, Junior Achievements, Huntington's Disease Society of America

**Hobbies:**

Hiking (with my dogs She-Ra & Buster when possible), camping, backpacking, hunting, fishing, golfing, weight lifting/exercising, volunteering.

**Why did you start volunteering in the first place?**

My father was diagnosed with Huntington's Disease about 15 years ago and so I started attending volunteer events to help raise money and awareness for the disease.

**What made you decide to volunteer with AWC?**

I met Sam at an REI volunteer event on National Trails Day this year (June 3rd) and decided to participate in a trail inventorying event after learning more about the AWC.

**Do you have a particularly memorable volunteer experience?**

Yes, I spent a day teaching World Economics to a 6th grade class for Junior Achievements at Esperanza Elementary School earlier this year. Since I do not have children I was not sure what to expect. I travel to Asia quite frequently so I brought many items that I had collected in China over the years with me. The kids thoroughly enjoyed the show and tell session and were very interested in the topic that I was teaching. My biggest surprise was their hunger for knowledge on a topic that I thought would not be of

interest to them. I felt very content that I made a difference to each of the kids in the classroom that day.

**What advise would you give to someone who is thinking about volunteering?**

I would suggest doing a little research to find a volunteer group/event that has a mission that you believe in. This way you will stay focused on the outcome and not worry about the golf game or other recreational activity that you missed during the time you plan to be volunteering. For people who have families, I would recommend finding an event that the whole family can participate in so that you can use this as quality family time as well.

# River Protection Spawns Bi-Partisan Agreement

Jason Williams and Katurah Mackay

In late July, American Rivers and the Arizona Wilderness Coalition applauded Senator John McCain (R) and Representative Rick Renzi (R-Dist. 1) for introducing a bill to protect Fossil Creek in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System. Senator John Kyl (R) and Representatives Raul M. Grijalva (D-Dist. 7), J.D. Hayworth (R-Dist. 5), Jim Kolbe (R-Dist. 8) and Ed Pastor (D-Dist. 4) cosponsored the legislation.

"Fossil Creek is a thing of beauty, with its picturesque scenery, lush riparian ecosystem, unique geo-

Fossil Creek is a gem of the Arizona desert, often drawing comparisons to the better-known Havasu Falls. This spring-fed stream contains unusually high levels of calcium, which creates uniquely fascinating formations, such as deep iridescent blue pools and waterfalls. For roughly the past 100 years, this treasure was virtually dried out due to an upstream diversion dam. Last June, Arizona Public Service (APS) decommissioned the dam and life returned to Fossil Creek.

"Even among all the natural wonders of Arizona, Fossil Creek stands out. It's right up there with some of the best desert rivers in the country," said Quinn McKew, Associate Director for Wild Rivers programs at American Rivers.

Now that the water has been restored along the entire length of the stream, Fossil Creek will provide habitat for several very rare desert fish species, as well as a tremendous recreational resource for local residents and visitors. The re-birth of Fossil Creek also helps to restore the Yavapai-Apache Nation's hunting, gathering, and spiritual traditional sites in the watershed. This combination of cultural, scenic, and ecological uniqueness makes Fossil Creek a true national treasure worthy of inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

"Arizona Public Service has done its part by restoring Fossil Creek, now Senator McCain and Rep. Renzi are doing theirs by seeking permanent protection as a Wild and Scenic River," said Andrew Fahlund, Vice President for Protection and Restoration at American Rivers. "This is place where families can come to experience a sense of wonder for America's natural blessings.

We call on the Congress to recognize this leadership and act swiftly to enact permanent protections for this amazing river."

A Wild and Scenic river designation forever protects the free-flowing condition and outstanding values of our country's most precious rivers, primarily by prohibiting the construction of dams on the river. To qualify, a river must be free-flowing and must be deemed to have one or more "outstandingly remarkable" scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values. The protection ensures that current and future generations can continue to enjoy swimming, hunting, fishing, and other primitive recreational activities without the threat of a future dam destroying the river. Only 165 rivers throughout the country have been designated: a

stretch of the Verde River represents the only designated Wild and Scenic River to date in Arizona.

"With the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984, Congressman Mo Udall inspired us to seek further protections for Arizona's rare riparian ecosystems using Wild and Scenic River designation for the Verde River," said Don Hoffman, Outgoing Executive Director of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. "Twenty-two years later, that vision is unfolding at Fossil Creek, where a new generation of Arizonans can now appreciate the protective value that Wild and Scenic River designation provides for this remarkable desert stream."

Since the decommissioning of the Childs-Irving power plant last June, a coalition of business interests, community members, sportsmen, conservationists, educators, and the Yavapai Apache have sought to protect this Arizona treasure for future generations.

"Senator McCain and Congressman Renzi's staff took valuable time to visit Fossil Creek and worked diligently to safeguard this amazing place," said Jason Williams, Central Mountains Regional Director with the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. "Ultimately it's the sheer beauty and intrinsic value of Fossil Creek that inspired them to act on its behalf. That value will continue to inspire many future generations of Arizonans."

## Update On Fossil Creek Legislation

The campaign to protect Fossil Creek as a Wild and Scenic river continues to flow, and strongly at that. In our last newsletter we told the exciting story of Fossil Creek's restoration and the campaign to make it Arizona's second wild and scenic river.

Since the July 28th introduction of the Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River Act of 2006 by Senator McCain and Congressman Renzi, Trent Franks has signed on to co-sponsor as well as Congressman Vic Snyder from Arkansas and Senator John Ensign from Nevada. This list of co-sponsors leaves only John Shadegg and Jeff Flake from the Arizona congressional delegation that has not signed on.

Locally, the town councils of Camp Verde, Cottonwood, and Clarkdale have either passed resolutions or written letters in support of the wild and scenic designation. Republicans for Environmental Protection, Arizona Wildlife Federation, and the Nature Conservancy have all come out publicly supporting this important step to protect Fossil Creek.

What still needs to happen and why hasn't Fossil Creek been protected with all of this support? We have been informed that the congressional calendar is extremely full and even with excellent support, there are many bills that are in line before this one. If the Fossil Creek bill does not pass this year, then Senator McCain and Representative Renzi will immediately reintroduce the bill in the 110th congress. You can still write letters to your representatives and thank them for sponsoring the bill, ask them to work to pass the legislation this year, and to support the bill if they haven't already.

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Jason Williams is Central Mountains-Sonoran Regional Director and Katurah Mackay is Communications Director for the Arizona Wilderness Coalition.



Swimmers find relief from the heat in cool, refreshing pools at Fossil Creek.

Photo: Copyright Nick Berezenko, nbphoto@cybertrails.com

logical features, and deep iridescent blue pools and waterfalls," Senator John McCain said. "Fossil Creek is a unique Arizona treasure, and would benefit greatly from the protection and recognition offered through Wild and Scenic designation."

"Having seen Fossil Creek firsthand, I am amazed by its spectacular pools and cascades, its unique plant life, and its deep history, making it a vital treasure not only for Arizonans, but for all Americans," said Congressman Renzi. "This action will ensure that one of Arizona's most precious natural jewels is enjoyed and preserved for generations to come. I am delighted to join Senator McCain in introducing this legislation, and appreciate the bipartisan support of my colleagues from the Arizona delegation in working to protect and revitalize our state's natural environment."

# A Canyon on the Brink

By Jason Williams

**M**artinez Canyon, located within the Gila River watershed in the Mineral Mountains just northeast of Florence and adjacent to White Canyon Wilderness, is a unique area in Arizona and is certainly one of the jewels of the Tucson Bureau of Land Management (BLM) District. The area offers perennial water, native fish, a riparian gallery tree species, historic structures, and diverse vegetation. It also provides habitat for neo-tropical migratory birds and unique recreational opportunities for those seeking a respite from the urban hubbub of Phoenix or Tucson. It is a rare Sonoran Desert oasis important for wildlife and human visitors, and as such, deserves special recognition and protection.

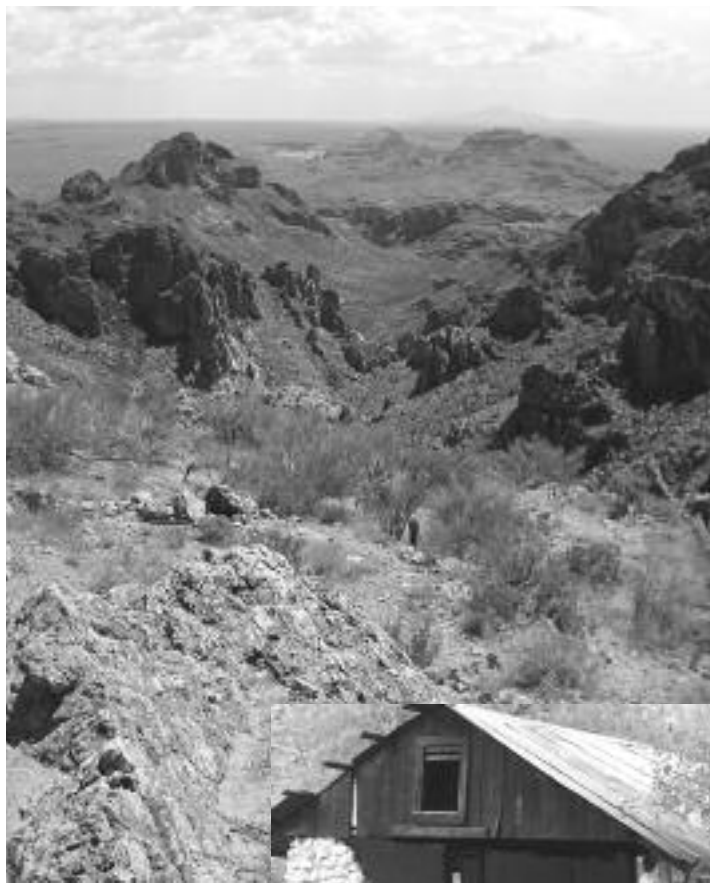
Martinez Canyon is host to numerous “species of concern,” including desert bighorn sheep, zonetailed hawks, numerous migrating songbirds, willow/cottonwood riparian communities, speckled dace, and longfin dace. All of these species are dependent on the riparian resources in the canyon. The native fish species are all considered sensitive by BLM. With a planned habitat enhancement project, Martinez Canyon should finally receive trans-located gila chub, native to the canyon but listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

There have been ongoing issues in the canyon with the use of off-road vehicles (ORVs), specifically the new sport of rock crawling, which destroys fragile riparian soils, harms vegetation, and can cause air, noise, and water pollution. These vehicles scrape rocks, damage trees, create illegal roads and, perhaps most significantly, invariably release toxic fluids (e.g., hydraulic brake fluid, steering fluid, anti-freeze, oil and gasoline) that pose hazards to wildlife and water quality. The use of these vehicles within the precious riparian corridor is unacceptable and unnecessary.

The protection of Martinez Canyon for these species and for watershed health should be BLM’s priority for this area, not providing rock crawling opportunities that conflict with the canyon’s protection and promote its degradation. The BLM’s mandate of multiple use does not mean all uses should occur in all places; it prescribes that BLM should provide for compatible use of lands in as far as they do not cause permanent damage to the land.

Luckily Martinez Canyon has defenders, and as Edward Abbey once said, “wilderness needs no defense, just more defenders.” Tom Taylor and his son, Tomas, have been concerned about Martinez Canyon formally since about 2000, and their family has visited it for over 30 years. In recent years, the increase in off road vehicle use has prevented the canyon from being a place to escape urban Phoenix; the noise and disturbance from ORVs has ruined this once peaceful canyon. They have worked hard to trap exotic crayfish from the riparian area to make the habitat more suitable for native fish; they have helped with conducting bighorn sheep surveys after AZ Game and Fish transplanted bighorn to the area to augment current populations migrated from the Superstitions; and they have attended endless meetings with the Middle Gila Conservation Partnership in hopes of providing some level of protection to this outstanding desert place.

“Just 6 years ago, Martinez Canyon was in a generally pristine condition,” says Tomas Taylor. “The riparian



Top: Martinez Canyon represents the best of the Sonoran Desert ecosystem. Photo: Jason Williams. Above: This historic 19th century cabin was vandalized due to excessive motorized access in the canyon. Photo: Tom Taylor



areas were in a relatively natural state, but I can’t say that is true today. The level of destruction out there now calls for serious restoration and rehabilitation.”

There has also been significant erosion of the natural and cultural character of Martinez Canyon. The Arizona Wilderness Coalition’s goal is to protect Martinez Canyon as one of Arizona’s special places and in doing so, protect the numerous species of wildlife, the watershed quality, and the natural character. We believe this can best be achieved by closing the canyon to motorized use. During BLM route inventory workshops for the area, citizen participants offered an alternative of closing Martinez Canyon to all motorized vehicles except those used by the agency and for private property access by the land owner within the canyon. The Advocates for the Preservation of Martinez Canyon, Arizona Wilderness Coalition, Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club, Sky Island Alliance, and the Natural Trails and Waters Coalition believe BLM is in violation of its responsibilities under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, which states, “In managing the public lands the Secretary shall, by regulation or otherwise, take any action necessary to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands.”

The evidence is clear: rock crawling and excessive recreational motorized access is severely impacting the

resources in Martinez Canyon. Photographs taken at different times show numerous negative impacts to vegetation, oil spills, and severe erosion above the riparian area in the canyon. This erosion is of serious concern because it impacts the water quality of the riparian area. The more sediment that is unnaturally dislodged in the uplands, the more the riparian area is threatened.

Over the last 34 years, Tom and Tomas Taylor have witnessed in excess of 20 toxic automotive fluid spills from vehicles attempting to navigate the canyon bottom, tons of trash left behind by many of these same vehicles, damage to mesquite and cottonwoods from cutting for firewood, and damage to the historic structures of the old Martinez Mine from theft, gunfire, and removing wood for campfires. Most recently in May of 2006, it was reported that the

historic stone cabin was vandalized. Evidence suggests that the cabin walls were pulled down by a motor vehicle using a chain. Furthermore, a large cottonwood recently fell across the route in the canyon bottom causing a new illegal route to be created going around it. This beautiful old tree is still rooted and providing valuable erosion control and habitat, but it was cut from the roadway as this article was written because it was deemed over mature.

“The Mineral Mountains have miles of roads and routes, and a great percentage of them have been user created,” says Tom Taylor. “They don’t trace

back to mining activity or ranching, but are from recent off-road vehicle use. Riparian areas with perennial water are a rarity in the Sonoran Desert and we should all unite to keep these waterways protected from motorized vehicles.”

## Take Action Here!

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition supports the immediate implementation of a vehicle closure and long-term planning to ensure that damaging off-road vehicle use is excluded from Martinez Canyon. Please help protect Martinez Canyon by going to our webpage to learn more and submitting comments to the BLM in a letter to:

Patrick Madigan  
Tucson Field Office- BLM  
12661 East Broadway  
Tucson, AZ 85748  
patrick\_madigan@blm.gov

\* \* \*

Jason Williams is AWC’s Central Mountains-Sonoran Regional Director.

# On a Path to Better Management: Off-Road Vehicles and Our National Forests

Katurah Mackay

Ah, yes: the “off-road vehicle.” Considered one way, it’s an option for non-hikers or disabled individuals to access areas in something other than a car or truck. Considered entirely another way, it’s the scourge of every backcountry trekker, solitude seeker, or species of wildlife that must deal with the noise and fragmented habitat these machines cause. The term, “off-road vehicle” commonly refers to all-terrain vehicles (ATV), four-wheel drive vehicles (jeeps, sport utility vehicles, etc.), dirt bikes, dune buggies, sand buggies, and swamp buggies, with ATVs, jeeps, and sport utility vehicles topping the most common types used in Arizona.

And boy, are they being used. The Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division shows just 994 all-terrain vehicles registered with the state in 1998. That registration number rose to 24,488 as of July 2006. Yet, according to the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the state agency charged with managing off-road vehicle use, ATVs and other off-road vehicles “do not require registration if operated only on dirt roads or routes not maintained by the state, a city, town, or county.” This means the total number of all-terrain vehicles actually in use on public lands could be significantly greater. More than 25,000 ATVs and 8,000 dirtbikes are sold each year in Arizona, 30% are new buyers. Between 1992 and 2002, national sales of off-road vehicles increased 501%. Companies such as Honda™, Polaris™, and Suzuki™ document sales well over \$1 billion for their all-terrain vehicle lines, which often include snowmobiles and jet skis. Their popularity is only growing.

## Use vs. Abuse

The rapid and widespread increase in ORV ownership means that our public lands in Arizona are under more pressure than ever to accommodate motorized and non-motorized users, along with the wildlife that call Arizona home. In a study from Utah State University, researchers found that nearly half of riders prefer to ride “off established trails.” Of the ORV riders surveyed, 49.4% prefer to ride off established trails, while 39% did so on their most recent excursion. Of the dirt bike riders surveyed, 38.1% prefer to ride off established trails, while 50% did so on their most recent excursion.

Many roads in Arizona forests are either carved out by logging companies or are illegally created by off-road vehicle users; this is especially true on forests in the southern part of the state, where timber is not a commodity. National Forest System lands in Arizona are scarred with more than 28,720 miles of roads: 6.53% of all U.S. Forest Service roads in the country and more than enough mileage to reach around the circumference of the Earth. In 2001, the Forest Service estimated that National Forests across the United States were crisscrossed with 60,000 miles of user-created “ghost roads,” many of which were blazed by off-road vehicles.

The results—even from ORV use in a small area of a forest—can be devastating. Scientists have documented the serious damage ORVs can cause to native

plant and animal communities. Road construction can result in significant loss of biological diversity at both local and regional scales due to: 1) restricted movement of species between local populations; 2) increased death; 3) habitat fragmentation; 4) invasion by non-native species; and 5) increased human access to wildlife habitats, all of which are expected to increase local extinction rates or thwart local restoration efforts.

“We support access to our public lands,” says Chris Kassar, wildlife biologist for the Center for Biological Diversity. “What we don’t support is off-road vehicle excess that causes damage to these beautiful places.”

Roads and vehicular recreation in the backcountry negatively affect hunting and fishing activities as well. Many studies have shown that elk and other wildlife avoid habitats within a 0.25 mile of roadways that receive substantial vehicle traffic. While unmaintained roads do not necessarily impact elk and other wildlife, the levels of vehicle use on the

roads during periods of high recreational activity can influence wildlife use of habitat adjacent to open forest roads. Moreover, in a recent survey by Arizona Department of Game and Fish, 54% of respondents indicated that off road vehicle disruption represented a barrier to their participation in hunting; 65% indicated that urbanization of hunting areas was affecting their ability to hunt. For fishermen, roads and illegal trails cause erosion, sedimentation, and disruption of water flows in cold streams where trout and other species like to spawn. In wilderness areas, however, hunting and fishing is allowed, but without being disturbed by the racket of ORVs. Motorized vehicles are

only allowed in wilderness under special exceptions, such as to fight fire.

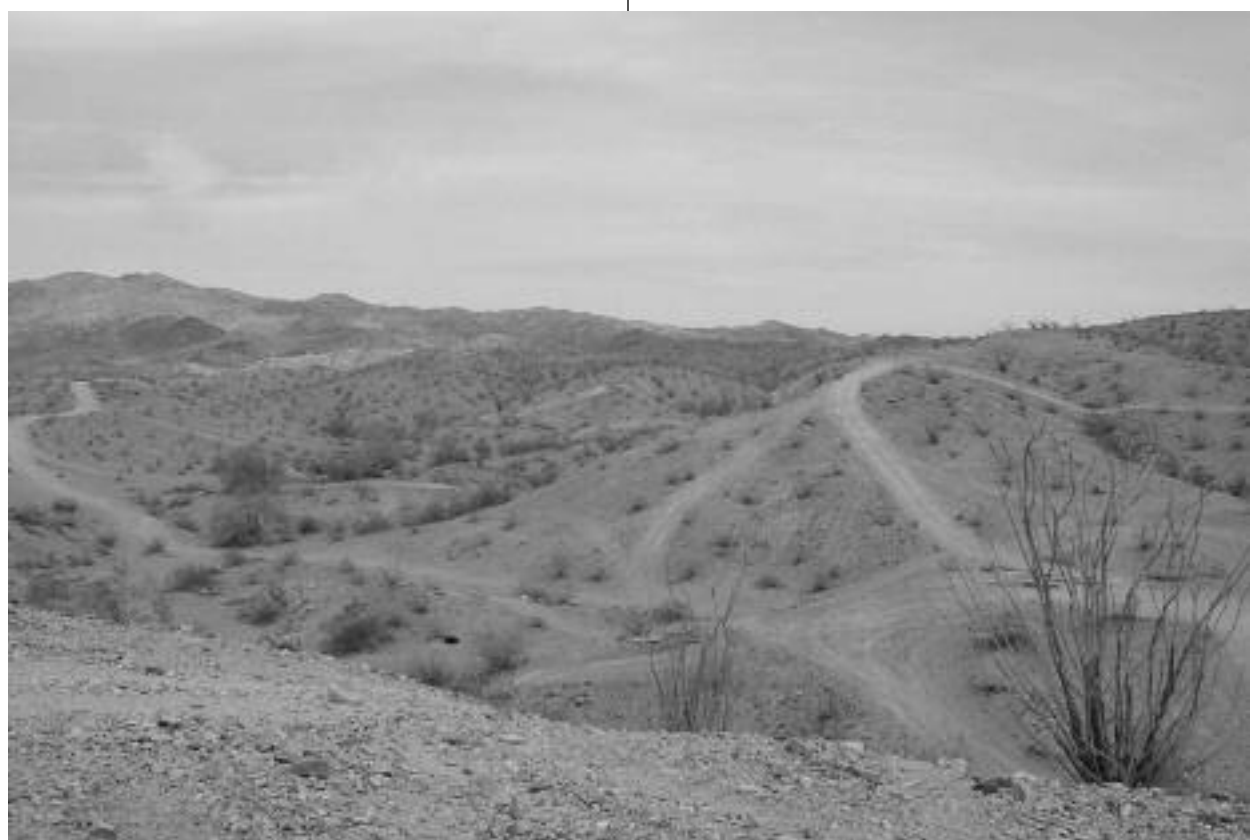
## Time for Change

The good news is that under a new national rule released by the U.S. Forest Service, each forest will now have to designate a system of routes that is open to off-road vehicle use. This rule is intended to halt the proliferation of random, user-created routes and create enforceable and maintainable route networks [see *Forest planning, here we come*, Spring-Summer 2006]. This new plan rightfully shifts the burden of the Forest Service to designate routes that are appropriate for ORV use. The new policy cannot go into effect until each forest completes an intensive transportation planning process that designates all of the routes that are to remain open to off-road vehicles. This will no doubt be an intense and hotly debated process for forest users in Arizona.

“We’re talking about public lands here—wild places that are owned by all citizens,” says Sam Frank, wildlands planning coordinator in AWC’s Prescott office. “That being the case, no one user group has the right to degrade the backcountry experience—or the health of the landscape—for other users and for wildlife that lives there. This forest process is meant to curb that abuse.”

## A Call To Action

We urge all of our members and friends who care about the future health of our public lands to participate in these transportation planning processes to help control the extent and severity of off-road vehicle use. It’s clear that ORVs are here to stay. There will be tremendous pressure on the Forest Service to designate every single tire track made by these machines as



Top: This U.S. Forest Service sign indicates that trails are closed to all-terrain vehicles. Above: Off-road vehicle tracks scar desert hills near Crossman Peak. Photo: Jay Krienitz



an “open route.” It’s up to us—wildlife advocates, hunters/anglers, hikers, backpackers, star-gazers, photographers, and others who care about these special places—to come together to ensure that our public lands are not allowed to be even further degraded.

While everyone has a right to enjoy public lands, no one has a right to abuse them and ruin the enjoyment of those lands by visitors seeking solitude, natural quiet, or a glimpse of wildlife.

For more detailed information on the forest planning process in Arizona, or on off-road vehicles and their effects on public lands, visit:

[www.naturaltrails.org](http://www.naturaltrails.org)

[www.endangeredearth.org/orv](http://www.endangeredearth.org/orv)

You can also check individual forest websites for information at the agency level: <http://www.fs.fed.us/> However, we recommend calling each forest office for the most up-to-date travel planning meeting details and how to comment.

Apache-Stigreaves National Forest: 928-333-4301

Coconino National Forest: 928-527-3600

Coronado National Forest: 520-588-8300

Kaibab National Forest: 928-635-8200

Prescott National Forest: 928-443-8000

Tonto National Forest: 602-225-5200

Public meetings for the Prescott and Tonto National Forests will be in early 2007. Apache-Stigreaves public meetings concluded in September. November meetings for the Coconino National Forest can be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/>

\* \* \*

*Katurah Mackay is Communications Director of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. She is based in Phoenix.*

## High-Performance Exploration

Our high-performance, technologically-advanced ATVs are perfect for exploring these twisted backwoods trails or the windswept, wide-open dunes.

*Exciting ads like this one by Honda tout the ability of ATVs to go anywhere, anytime, regardless of their appropriateness or harm to surrounding ecosystems, such as the Sonoran desert.*



*Above: This wide-open area east of Cornville, on the Red Rock Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest, has seen heavy scarring from off-road vehicle use.*



*Left: Off-road enthusiasts have pushed past a Forest Service sign on the Coconino National Forest in the Peaks Ranger District.  
Photos: Chris Kassar*

### The schedules below are for remaining October meetings for the Kaibab and Coconino National Forests.

#### KAIBAB

Williams Ranger District	Forest Plan Revision	10/18/2006	Williams RD Conference Room	5:30 - 8pm
Flagstaff Public Meeting	Forest Plan Revision	10/19/2006	Sinagua HS Commons	5:30 - 8pm
Tusayan Ranger District	Forest Plan Revision	10/23/2006	Grand Canyon Squire Inn	5:30 - 8pm

#### COCONINO

Happy Jack Lodge, Blue Ridge	Travel Management	10/16/2006	Happy Jack	5:30 - 8pm
Days Inn Airport	Travel Management	10/17/2006	Phoenix	5:30 - 8pm
Cliff Castle Casino	Travel Management	10/18/2006	Camp Verde	5:30 - 8pm
Winslow High School	Travel Management	10/19/2006	Winslow	5:30 - 8 pm

# Wilderness: Last Refuge in a Warming World?

Anne Fletcher and Katurah Mackay

**G**lobal warming: who isn't talking about it? Indeed, it is the biggest single environmental issue future generations will face, and one that we are currently dealing with in more visible and forceful ways than ever before. When we think about our lives 30, 10, even 5 years from now, the natural and constructed world we know is going to be radically changing. In fact, it's already begun.

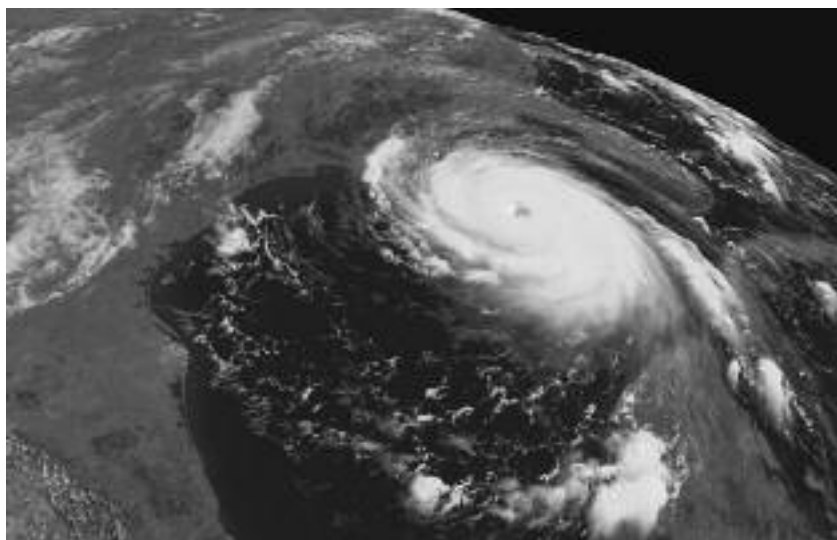
The number of Category 4 and 5 hurricanes has almost doubled in the last 30 years, with Katrina being a prime example. Diseases like malaria are spreading to higher altitudes in places like the Columbian Andes, 7,000 feet above sea level. The flow of ice from glaciers in Greenland has more than doubled in the last decade; here in the U.S., glaciers at Glacier National Park could be completely gone by 2030. At least 279 species of plants and animals, like the Rocky Mountain pika, are already responding to global warming by moving north from their traditional habitat, migrating higher in elevation, or disappearing altogether. For the first time in history, scientists are finding polar bears drowned because the Arctic ice shelf is melting; ice floes are fewer and further apart, forcing many bears to swim up to 60 miles across open ocean before finding a place to rest. And the dismal list goes on.

Carbon dioxide and other gases warm the surface of the planet naturally by trapping solar heat in the atmosphere. This is a good thing because it keeps our planet habitable. However, by burning fossil fuels such as coal, gas, and oil, and by clearing forests, we have dramatically increased the amount of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere. Temperatures are rising. In 2001, a working group in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicted that global average temperature would rise between 1.4°C- 5.8°C during this century. In fact, ten of the last 14 years have been the hottest ever recorded, with 2005 being the hottest year to date.

Although global warming will affect all ecosystems regardless of manmade boundaries created around them, wilderness protection for land and water is one of the best strategies to encourage ecosystem connectivity. It also provides a good base in genetic diversity among wildlife and plants. These are two of the most important factors to help ecosystems mitigate species extinction in a climate-changing world. But what kind of future are we looking at in Arizona?

The University of Arizona's CLIMAS program projects that in the southwest, we could experience a 15-degree (F) temperature increase within 30 years if carbon dioxide levels continue to rise. A warmer climate is expected to cause more extreme fluctuations in precipitation levels across the region, contributing to heavier rainfall and flooding in winter, as well as more severe drought conditions and wildfires in summer. Global warming could also bring less snowpack in the mountains, reducing summer flows in many Arizona rivers and streams, including the Colorado River.

With existing drought and onslaught of pests seeking weakened ecosystems, many natural areas of Arizona are already witnessing this change, such as the massive influx of non-native vegetation like buffelgrass and the pervasive threat of bark beetles in Arizona's dry northern forests. Warming temperatures could also affect static charges in the atmosphere, encouraging



Hurricane Katrina, as seen from a satellite.

Photo: NOAA

increased levels of lightning unaccompanied by rain, and paired with unpredictable drought conditions, could mean more and more forest fires every year.

"The increase in greenhouse gases and the associated climate changes have huge implications for Arizona and our public lands," says Sandy Bahr, Conservation Outreach Director for the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club. "Already we are losing species at an alarming rate. With climate change, there may be an accelerated extinction rates of plants and wildlife as their ability to adapt is challenged with the changing climate."

A major problem with the rapidness of climate change is the threat it poses to fragile ecosystems already unstable from other human impacts. Habitat fragmentation by roads and other development creates barriers to animal movement, making it impossible for threatened wildlife to reestablish in another area. For example, species in the Sky Islands will find it difficult moving from mountaintop to mountaintop when the areas between them are inappropriate for species adaptations. Wintering grounds for migratory birds may move northward but may not be followed by food supply, causing a unique predicament for survival and reproduction.



Desert pronghorn populations are already greatly limited by diminished water supplies; continued warming and drought could eradicate this species entirely.

Photo: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Although entire ecosystem dynamics are expected to change, animal communities are expected to experience extreme fluctuations that could result in widespread die-offs or extinctions. In southeastern Arizona, desert pronghorn populations are already greatly limited by water supplies and threatened to the point that a government program provides them with artificial water resources. Increased temperatures causing accelerated evaporation will further threaten the survival of this and other species.

"Global climatic change threatens other species and, ultimately, our own," says Dr. Guy McPherson, professor of natural resources at the University of Arizona. "Wilderness areas offer refugia for countless plants, animals, and other species, and we should be thinking ahead to save these wild sanctuaries before it's too late."

Wilderness designation is the highest form of congressional protection available for public lands, meaning it intends to keep the land as untouched and unaltered as possible. By preserving tracts of land with at least 5,000 acres, wilderness designation encourages ecosystem integrity that will help species survive under the duress of global warming. Moreover, forests are our allies against global warming because they act as lungs for planet Earth. When forests are conserved, they absorb immense amounts of carbon dioxide, helping to mitigate global warming.

Wilderness, where humans cannot intrude with motorized vehicles or roads, also preserves a stronger natural barrier against non-native species and offers wildlife a sanctuary from other biological pressures such as disease, habitat loss, and inbreeding. Roads and other disruption to core wild areas are one of the biggest causes of species loss because they impair

m i g r a t i o n ,  
reduce species  
reproductive  
rates, and  
diminish avail-  
ability of forage,  
prey, and water  
sources.



The Mt. Graham red squirrel is one species in Arizona that is at great risk from global warming.

Photo: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

As Al Gore states in presentations he gives around the world, global warming truly is a moral issue rather than a political one, because it forces us to question whether the choices we make today will leave a better

planet for tomorrow. But we must use science and biology to tell us how to respond to change through our political decisions.

In Arizona, where sunny days are seemingly endless, we should be pressuring our elected officials to make it easier for consumers to purchase solar power for their homes and their businesses. In 2005, Governor Napolitano showed strong climate leadership by initiating a task force to create a climate action plan for the state. Among the 49 recommendations from the

task force were measures to increase energy efficiency, promote renewable energy, and to directly reduce emissions from power plants and automobiles, among others. Subsequent to receiving the recommendations, the Governor issued an executive order that directed state agencies to begin working on implementation of several of the measures, including a clean cars proposal.

Wilderness areas are a healthy reminder of nature's resilience and humanity's limits. Saving what wilderness is left can help us create a more secure future for

the new generations that must live in a climate changed world.

\* \* \*

Anne Fletcher is a B.S. candidate at Antioch College in Ohio and was AWC's summer intern. Katurah Mackay is AWC's Communications Director who formerly worked for Clean Air-Cool Planet, a global warming solutions leader in the Northeast.



Shepard Glacier, Glacier National Park, 1913.

Photo: NOAA



Shepard Glacier, after 95 years of global warming, in 2005.

Photo: NOAA

### Fight Global Warming One Step at a Time

Despite the fact that we are already seeing the effects in many different ecosystems, the catastrophic results of global warming may be an avoidable fate. **1**— Driving less and driving more fuel-efficient and alternative energy vehicles can help reduce the total amount of greenhouse gases we release in the air. But we also need to think about the food we eat, the energy we use to heat and cool our homes, and everything we buy: it all has a carbon dioxide price tag. Plastic products, aluminum, glass, paper—they all take energy to make and transport to us. **2**— Buying locally grown or manufactured goods, buying less altogether, and reusing more can reduce our total amount of energy use per capita. **3**— Insulating our homes, buying energy efficient appliances, and choosing renewable power sources are simple and cost effective ways of reducing our carbon footprint.

It may not seem like much, but tackling global warming means starting small, with simple changes around your own home. Visit [www.fightglobalwarming.com](http://www.fightglobalwarming.com) for ways you can help prevent a dismal future for our children and our special wild places.

**We all strive for safety, prosperity, comfort, long life, and dullness. The deer strives with his supple legs, the cowman with trap and poison, the statesman with pen, the most of us with machines, votes, and dollars, but it all comes to the same thing: peace in our time. A measure of success in this is all well enough, and perhaps is a requisite to objective thinking, but too much safety seems to yield only danger in the long run. Perhaps this is behind Thoreau's dictum: In wildness is the salvation of the world. Perhaps this is the hidden meaning in the howl of the wolf, long known among mountains, but seldom perceived among men.**

—Aldo Leopold, from *A Sand County Almanac*, 1948

The staff of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition, its Board of Directors, its many partner organizations and supporting foundations, and the growing wilderness community of Arizona would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Don Hoffman and his tireless defense of wilderness and forests in Arizona for the past 30 years. We would not be where we are today without Don's commitment, passion, knowledge, and belief in Leopold's words.

**THANK YOU, DON.**



Photo: Katurah Mackay

# Wide Awake in the Wilderness: Hunting in the White Mountains of Arizona

Don Hoffman

I will always identify myself as a career wilderness manager. I was privileged to work for the U.S. Forest Service and oversee our wilderness in the White Mountains of Eastern Arizona: mountaintops like Escudilla and Baldy Wilderness Areas, the lush drainages of Black River, Fish Creek and Bear Wallow, the vast roadless lands descending from the rim into Eagle Creek, and wildest and dearest of all – the Blue Range Primitive Area. Over 25 years and thousands of days in the backcountry, each of those days contributing vivid memories to last a lifetime.

Memories like: waking to a lion killing a deer virtually in our camp; scrambling a slope with a volunteer trail crew to narrowly avoid a flash flood; strange but true – losing a tent to a fierce turf battle between a bull elk and a Hereford bull; swimming my horse and mule across the Blue, swollen with spring runoff, just to get back home; glassing my 12 year-old son scrambling back to a Black River swimming hole to retrieve his new watch – only to see him freeze as three mature rams charged him from above and veered away at the last moment; exhilarating off-trail ascents for spectacular views of our natural world; the sight and exploding sounds of big horn rams cracking their skulls and recoiling violently again and again; the nesting canyon wren whose song could fill the entire canyon – instead sung to me in the tiny tin-walled cabin we temporarily shared; our funeral pyre for Molly, our beloved mule; wildflowers; bees; sunsets to cry for; snakes; bears; horse wrecks; javelina chaos; more flash floods; more bees, and just plain more!

Most of these memories are of wild, spontaneous, and often random events that, remarkably, I was paid to stumble upon and witness. However, my most profound and enriching wilderness experiences have come while hunting in wild country. I only hunt in wild places, and I only hunt alone. As a meat eater, I feel compelled to understand the relationship of predator and prey. The experience is spiritual and exhilarating all at once. I take no joy in the actual kill, but I truly enjoy the transforming experience of the entire hunt.

I always try to be as ready as I can be for opening day. I scout. I sight-in my rifle and my eye. Everything I need is carefully packed and laid out for the pre-dawn start. But the truth is I'm never close to being ready. As I strike out, I see fresh signs, begin to follow a track, and listen carefully to the forest. Ten seconds later, I discover that I'm thinking about tasks left undone at home and recalling recent conversations that I have had. Rocks are rolling underfoot. I'm making too much noise. So I refocus, but again my concentration drifts off, refocus, drift off - I can't seem to break the cycle.



Many Arizona hunters head to the White Mountains in search of big game elk.  
Photo: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

By the end of the first day, my giant lapses in concentration are somewhat shorter in duration, but I still can't control them. I realize that with all the time I spend in the backcountry, I really don't pay very close attention to what is really going on there. Before I fall asleep, I am forced to replay the numerous mistakes that I made that day.

On the second day, I can tell I'm more attentive. I hear my own sounds and I begin to hear, smell, and see the forest through the trees. However, as I occasionally startle things that I hadn't even noticed, it remains clear that the native species, which spend every waking and sleeping moment remaining as aware of their surroundings as is inhumanly possible, are far more attuned to the wild than I.

By day three I am doing much better - hardly remembering my worldly successes and failures, the conversations to be had, or the growing list of tasks left

undone. I can patiently sit and keep watch for long periods. The natural cover is evident to me and as I approach my next viewshed, I easily choose a line that best shields my presence. I'm constantly aware of air movement and how my scent and sounds are traveling. I realize if I startle the flock of band-tailed pigeons that I will have announced my presence to all. I am beginning to sense what is really going on out here.

As darkness descends, I inwardly smile - I'm actually thankful that I did not stumble upon and kill my prey on the first day. I wouldn't have learned these nutty things about myself; I wouldn't have come to terms with my incessant internal dialog; I wouldn't have heard, smelled, or felt the rhythms of this predator/prey relationship I have finally entered; and as a wilderness manager--and apparently at times unaware of what wild really means--I wouldn't have fully understood why I yearn to protect wild places.

I know this in my bones: plants and animals—including deer, elk, insects, birds, bacteria, and a whole host of other living things--need wild places to evolve in response to natural processes. We need wild places so we as a society can witness and understand this simple truth before it is too late. We need wild places to stimulate our sense of humility and recognize our responsibility to maintain adequate wild habitat for all native species. We have a responsibility to understand, enjoy, and protect our natural world. I feel better about myself and what I do. Sleep will come easy tonight. On day four, the hunt really begins.

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition works to permanently protect and restore Wilderness and other wild lands and waters in Arizona for the enjoyment of all citizens and to ensure that Arizona's native plants and animals have a lasting home in wild nature. We recognize that previous wilderness inventories, conducted by federal agencies and wilderness advocates alike, concentrated on anthropocentric rather than ecological values. It has become increasingly evident that key wildlife species require vast and connected wild core areas and that wilderness provides the most permanent form of protection for such areas. We have a sincere interest in preserving wildlife habitat, as well the high quality hunting and angling opportunities that only wilderness and roadless lands provide.

\* \* \*

Don retired from the USFS in 2001 and has been the Executive Director of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition for the past five years. He lives on the Blue River.

## BUSINESS FOR WILDERNESS

# The Speckled Trout: Coffee and Conversation in Leopold Country

Don Hoffman, AWC Coffee Connoisseur

The town of Springerville is known as the gateway to the White Mountains. Already at 7,000 foot elevation, the White Mountains rise quickly to the south - arguably providing Arizona's best opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking in wild country. Looming on the horizon like a giant loaf of bread is Escudilla Mountain, the landform that inspired many of Aldo Leopold's revered essays. Like other early foresters, in 1909 Leopold stepped off a stagecoach in Springerville to begin his first Forest Service assignment. As he took in the beauty of his new home, his first task may have been to search out a good cup of hot coffee.

Today, The Speckled Trout provides visitors passing through this White Mountain gateway not only with a fine cup of coffee, but many other essential backcountry items as well. The store owners, Sue Chacon and Albert Lassen, used to live in Albuquerque but found themselves drawn to the White Mountains in Arizona every chance they had to camp and fish.

Sue remembers, "We actually sat down and drafted a plan so we could permanently live at our favorite vacation spot." In 1999 they opened their store in downtown Springerville. Sue runs the store while Albert practices law in a nearby office.

The Speckled Trout carries a full line of Orvis™ fly fishing equipment, a variety of gift items including hats, tee shirts, bath and body products, books, and a nice selection of children's gifts, including educational books and animal hand puppets. The coffee bar offers indoor or patio seating and a variety of specialty drinks including hot and frozen coffee drinks, espresso, and fruit tea smoothies.

Sue, an avid supporter of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition, proudly displays a stack of our Arizona WILD newsletters for her customers to enjoy and to



Owner and wilderness supporter Sue Chacon in front of The Speckled Trout.  
Photo: Don Hoffman

introduce them to our work. It is not easy to find businesses in rural Arizona who are willing to distribute conservation related literature. However, Sue and Albert are happy to do it, and their customers truly enjoy reading about our wild lands in Arizona.

Sue has been elected to the Town Council in the neighboring town of Eagar. "Eco-tourism is becoming very important to our mountain community, and support for wilderness will ensure a diverse economic future," Sue says. "Albert and I fell in love with the quiet and beauty of the mountains, canyons and streams, and we now recognize our responsibility to preserve them for future generations."

If you are visiting the White Mountains, stop by The Speckled Trout and say hello to Sue and thank her for supporting Arizona's wilderness. The conversation is always good; the fishing tips are helpful; and the coffee is excellent. You can sit out on the patio to go over your final plans for your hike into the Blue Range, or perhaps ponder about Aldo Leopold's first impressions of the White Mountains.

The Speckled Trout is located at 222 E. Main St. (US Hwy 60) in downtown Springerville. Phone: 928-333-0852. Sue also owns and operates a women's clothing boutique, The Cat's Pajamas, located just across the street.

\* \* \*

Don Hoffman is outgoing executive director of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. He lives a stone's throw from Alpine.

## Wilderness: Next to Godliness

Doug Bland

As pastor to two small congregations near Tempe, Arizona, I am naturally interested in the spiritual lives of our church members. I sometimes ask, "When have you felt closest to God?" They don't say: "During your sermons." For many, the most intense experience of The Holy has been on a mountain top, or by a stream, or next to the ocean.

Why should this surprise us? We're told that Jesus often went to the wilderness to pray and regroup for his ministry. It was outdoors in the wilderness where Moses heard God speak from the burning bush and Abraham and Sarah marveled at the countless stars in the sky. The Psalms are filled with praises for God's creation.

So it's no wonder that many people experience God most intensely outdoors in Creation. The Bible is really a book that is best understood outdoors rather than inside a building. Wilderness is part of our Biblical heritage.

Recently, I had the opportunity to share that message with Arizona's congressional delegation as one of 135 conservation advocates from 19 different states who



Photo: AWC

joined together in Washington, D.C. to lobby congressional leaders. Seven Arizonans visited our senators and representatives to advocate wilderness designation for the Tumacacori Highlands in southern Arizona. Over 80,000 acres of oak-grassland rolling hills, deep canyons, broad vistas, the Tumacacori Highlands southwest of Tucson is Arizona like it used to be and may yet remain: a home for endangered species, a functioning ecosystem, a challenging landscape, and a place for quiet reflection.

Here's my pitch to the congressmen: I'm Doug Bland, Pastor of Community Christian Church in Tempe and Chair of the Earth Care Commission for the Arizona Ecumenical Council (AEC). The AEC is made up of 17 different denominations, Protestant and Catholic, and has more than a million and a half members around the state. We have gone on record in support of wilderness designation for the Tumacacori Highlands for several reasons.

continued on page 15

# Short Takes

## Roadless Petition Update

A sincere thank you goes out to all our friends and supporters who came to roadless public meetings and submitted comments to Governor Napolitano over the summer. In September, Arizona conservation groups, including the Arizona Wilderness Coalition (AWC), celebrated the decision of a federal judge in California that reinstated Clinton-era protections for 58.5 million acres of national forest lands nationwide. The decision helps safeguard more than 1.1 million acres of intact forest lands in Arizona from becoming fragmented by new roads, illegal trails, and other development that destroys prime wildlife habitat, clouds fishing streams, and increases erosion on forest lands.

"This decision reiterates what we've known all along," says Kevin Gaither-Banchoff, executive director of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition, which has been part of a larger, collaborative effort statewide to keep Arizona's roadless lands intact. "What countless Arizonans want is for their children and grand children to be able to experience the wild lands that make Arizona special. This decision honors that wish."

State governors had been forced under the Bush Administration to file a petition asking the U.S. Forest Service to protect roadless lands in each state, but the petitions could have ultimately been rejected by the Department of Agriculture. Conservation groups have long argued that, while the Bush Administration's plan for roadless areas seemed to give authority to states on how roadless lands should be protected, there was no guarantee that petition requests would be accepted.

The Bush Administration can still enact state petitions as a separate rule-making process for roadless lands, even though the 2001 Roadless Rule protections are now back in place nationwide. Governor Janet Napolitano is in the middle of drafting her petition, with help from the Arizona Game and Fish Department, who she called on to conduct twelve public meetings to gather comments on roadless area management from around the state.

U.S. District Court Judge Elizabeth LaPorte's ruling found that in repealing the roadless rule, the Bush Administration failed to comply with basic legal requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act. The 2005 Bush Administration roadless repeal, adopted with no environmental analysis and limited public input, replaced a Clinton era rule adopted in January 2001 after a three-year process that included 600 public hearings and 1.6 million public comments.

National Forest System (NFS) lands in Arizona contain more than 28,720 miles of roads, 6.53% of all NFS roads in the country, and more than enough miles of roads to reach around the circumference of the Earth. Roadless lands on national forests draw millions of hunters, campers, fishermen, hikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts every year, fueling Arizona's multi-million dollar tourism industry. Total annual expenditures for hunting and fishing alone in Arizona exceed \$548 million, according to the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, one of the many groups that have partnered with AWC to raise public awareness about the value of roadless lands.

"To date, every state that has petitioned under the Bush rule has requested 100% protection of their roadless areas, consistent with the 2001 Rule," says Gaither-Banchoff. "Arizona's wild lands deserve no less."

## Get 'Em While They're Hot!!

Now you can tell the world that you value Arizona's wilderness. AWC is offering colorful hats and t-shirts, manufactured by Patagonia™ and featuring our home-grown logo, in several different designs and styles. Check out the selection on AWC's website, <http://www.azwild.org/action/tshirts.php>, and place your order by calling our Prescott office: 928-717-6076.

Your purchase dollars will go toward our valuable wilderness protection work around the state.

So show your true colors: order an AWC hat or t-shirt today!



## Spread The Word Around Town

In effort to spread the word about our excellent wilderness endeavors, we're asking our friends and volunteers to help us distribute the AWC newsletters around their local neighborhoods. When you are finished reading your newsletter, instead of recycling it in your city bin, why not walk it into your local library and leave it for other interested readers? Or take it along with you to your next dentist or doctor's appointment and leave it in the waiting room. These efforts will help us tremendously to raise the level of our readership in Arizona and help us bring new wilderness supporters on board.

## Can You Help Us Distribute Newsletters?

Better yet, if you regularly receive our newsletter and would like to help us distribute bundles of them fresh from the printer, we can really use your help! We need volunteers to leave several bundles of newsletters in their neighborhoods—at coffee shops, grocery stores, retail areas, and offices—wherever free literature is distributed. Please call Kate Mackay, 602-571-2603, for details on how to pick up a stash! Thank you!

# Get Out There

As the days grow shorter and the temperatures cool down, AWC is preparing for the fall and winter field season. We're hoping to build on what was accomplished this summer by wrapping up inventories of roadless areas and carrying out restoration projects. Details will be available as each event approaches but for now, here is a preliminary list of dates and locations:

## Saturday, October 21 (2 Events)

**Inventory/Restoration on our National Forest Lands.** Details TBA. Contact Sam Frank at [sfrank@azwild.org](mailto:sfrank@azwild.org) 928-717-6076.

**Fossil Creek Exploration.** Come explore Fossil Creek with the AZ Wilderness Coalition and learn why it needs protection. The hike is moderate about 6 miles round trip. To RSVP contact Tim Craig at: [tim\\_craig90@hotmail.com](mailto:tim_craig90@hotmail.com) or 928-717-6076.

## Saturday, October 28-29

**Meet the Arizona Wilderness Coalition.** Wilderness Hike in the Superstition Mountains Wilderness. 9:00 am Hike, followed by dinner courtesy of AWC and camp out! This event is intended for everyone, but with emphasis on providing FREE instruction on basic outdoor skills associated with hiking and car camping. To RSVP Contact Tim Craig at: [tim\\_craig90@hotmail.com](mailto:tim_craig90@hotmail.com) or 928-717-6076.

## CreeksFest, Saturday, November 4th

Join AZ Wilderness Coalition members and Prescott Creeks Preservation Association for a spectacular **film fest** to learn more about the process that led up to making Fossil Creek Arizona's next Wild and Scenic River. Prescott Creeks is proud to announce its CreeksFest on November 4th at the Elks Opera House in Prescott, with showings at both 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. The CreeksFest will explore and celebrate rivers and flowing waters, including A River Reborn: The Restoration of Fossil Creek. This documentary recounts both the natural and human history of the scenic waterway and the advocates who are working to establish it as a refuge for threatened native fish after the shutdown of the hydroelectric facility along the creek. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$3 for students. They will be available at the door or by calling (928) 445-5669.

## November 5th

**Hike the Sierra Estrella Wilderness** less than 30 minutes from downtown Phoenix. Come learn something about wilderness or just get worked going up and down this amazing desert peak. To RSVP Contact Tim Craig at: [tim\\_craig90@hotmail.com](mailto:tim_craig90@hotmail.com) or 928-717-6076.

## Saturday, November 11 (2 events)

**Inventory/Restoration on our National Forest Lands.** Details TBA. Contact Sam Frank at [sfrank@azwild.org](mailto:sfrank@azwild.org) 928-717-6076.

**Help Protect and Restore the Sonoran Desert National Monument.** This is a great opportunity to get out in the desert less than 2 hours from Phoenix and help give back to the land. We will be working with the BLM on this project to close and restore illegal roads and install wilderness boundary signs. To RSVP Contact Jason Williams [jwilliams@azwild.org](mailto:jwilliams@azwild.org), 928-717-6076.

## Saturday, December 2nd

**Climb Saddle Mountain;** learn about its ecology/history and why it needs protection. 2 hrs from Phoenix. To RSVP Contact Tim Craig at: [tim\\_craig90@hotmail.com](mailto:tim_craig90@hotmail.com) or 928-717-6076.

And Stay Tuned for a Holiday Celebration!

"Godliness" continued from page 14

I share with them the story of so many people of faith who feel the presence of God when they are outdoors enjoying the solitude of natural places. I affirm our desire to ensure that there are always unspoiled places like the Tumacacori Highlands where we and our children and grandchildren can experience God's presence in Creation.

I tell them we are part of a tradition that is called to speak for "the least of these." Sometimes the voiceless ones are people--homeless, hungry, abused people--but other times the "least of these" include the land or a special plants or animal species. The Tumacacori Highlands are endangered by unprecedented growth, rapid urbanization, off-road vehicles, global warming, and pollution--and there are several species of plants and animals found only in this area whose existence is threatened. We speak on their behalf.

On a personal note, I tell them about my brother, Al. He and I stand at opposite ends of the political and religious spectrum. Name most any issue that divides our society--abortion, homosexuality, immigration--and Al and I disagree. But there is one thing that brings us together; every summer we meet to go backpacking in the wilderness. Along with many other liberals and conservatives, Democrats and Republicans, we join together to speak in support of wilderness.

My brother and I, and many members of the congregations I serve, exemplify a truth about our wider society, while there is no shortage of controversial issues with the potential to divide us into opposing camps, there is a growing consensus, in the faith community and elsewhere, that preserving the environment, reversing global warming, working for clean air and water, and protecting wilderness are values that we can agree upon, no matter where we place ourselves on political and religious spectrums. Wilderness is our common ground.

\* \* \*

Doug Bland is Pastor of Community Christian Church in Tempe and Chair of the Earth Care Commission for the Arizona Ecumenical Council.



**Thanks for all your financial and volunteer support!**

**Please consider including the Arizona Wilderness Coalition in your giving plans this fall.**

**Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.  
520-326-4300**



**Yes! I want to help the Arizona Wilderness Coalition.** Together, we can build a lasting legacy of Arizona wild lands for this and future generations. You may make tax-deductible donations payable to "The Arizona Wilderness Coalition." Enclose your check with this card to: The Arizona Wilderness Coalition, P.O. Box 40340, Tucson, AZ 85717. Questions? 520-326-4300

Tell us about yourself!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I wish to receive your e-mail alerts and newsletter. Sign me up! (Your email is necessary for us to send you our electronic alerts and event notices, but we will not share your email address outside of AWC.)

\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my one-time donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_ I wish to make a monthly donation to the AWC, in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Card Type \_\_\_\_\_ Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

By sharing your interests and hobbies with us, we can be more accurate in sending you alerts, event notices in your region, and requests for volunteer help. Please take a few minutes to fill out the information below. Thank you!

**Hobbies or Skills (please check all that apply):**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Volunteer                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Wild Land Inventory    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letter Writing                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography/Art/Design |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing/Publishing/Newsletter Help |   |

**Region of interest (please check all that apply):**

- Central Mountains--Sonoran  
 Grand Canyon  
 Western Deserts Region  
 Sky Islands--Southeastern

**Mailing Preferences (please check all that apply):**

- |   |  |                                       |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Only    | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter and Alerts                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> All Mailings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Action Alerts Only | <input type="checkbox"/> No Mailings: I prefer to visit your website for news. |                                       |



**On behalf of Arizona's Wilderness,  
*thank you.***

**What is Wilderness?**

Wilderness is an area of undeveloped federal land that appears “to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of mans’ work substantially unnoticeable,” as written in the Wilderness Act of 1964. Unlike national parks, wildlife refuges, or monuments, wilderness designation from Congress provides the highest level of natural resource protection available in the world. The Wilderness Act created the National Wilderness Preservation System to preserve the last remaining wild lands in America. Currently, about 4.7 percent of all available land in the United States is protected as wilderness. In Arizona, wilderness designation protects approximately 6.2 percent of our land and wildlife habitat.

**A R I Z O N A  
WILD**

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**WILDERNESS**  
America's Common Ground

Home to the Grand Canyon, the Sonoran Desert, and forested mountains, Arizona's diversity of species and habitat creates a fragile tapestry of lands susceptible to destruction and fragmentation.

Only 6% of Arizona's public land is protected as wilderness by Congress. Those who love wild lands can work with us to ensure our Congressional leaders support wilderness legislation. It's the only way to see these lands into the future.

Arizona Wilderness Coalition  
AZWild.org

SKY ISLAND

CAMPAIGN FOR AMERICAN WILDERNESS  
LeaveItWild.org

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION

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