

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION

ARIZONA  
**WILD**



**An Immeasurable Legacy**

**Rep. Giffords on the Udalls**

**Tassel Eared Squirrels**

**Backpack or Pack Animal?**

**Discover Cochise County Wild Lands!**

SUMMER 2010

**Arizona Wilderness Coalition Main Office**  
520-326-4300  
P.O. Box 40340, Tucson, AZ 85717

**Phoenix Office**  
602-252-5530  
P.O. Box 13524  
Phoenix, AZ 85002

**Central Arizona Field Office**  
928-717-6076  
P.O. Box 2741  
Prescott, AZ 86302

**AWC Staff**

Matt Skroch, *Executive Director*,  
matt@azwild.org  
Katurah Mackay, *Deputy Director*,  
kmackay@azwild.org  
Sam Frank, *Central Arizona Director*,  
sfrank@azwild.org  
Paula Toffolo, *Membership Coordinator*,  
paula@azwild.org  
Liana MacNeill, *Sonoran Desert Outreach and  
Volunteer Coordinator*,  
liana@azwild.org

**AWC Board of Directors**

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**Vice President:** Michael Quinlan, Tempe  
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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: Backcountry Horsemen of Central Arizona and their crew were indispensable for a fencing project AWC completed in Warm Springs Wilderness. Photo: Sherry Pitrat, BCHCAZ

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# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## With New Leadership, Opportunity Knocks

by Matt Skroch

It is with great excitement and dedication that I step into the executive director position at the Arizona Wilderness Coalition (AWC). My role here, like that of everyone involved with protecting Arizona's wild places under the banner of AWC, is wholly made possible through the outgrowth of support from the community of wilderness advocates to which you belong. Thank you for being an integral part of this great organization.

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition has a bold and ever-important vision that today echoes loud and clear across our state's unmatched canyon country, forests, and deserts we call home. The goal: to cherish and enhance our wilderness legacy that supports almost every aspect of our lives, as well as the spectacular wildlife heritage that also calls Arizona home. From the top of any prominent peak across our state, you may either be standing in a wilderness area or able to see one from where you are. Almost 5 million acres of wild places – that's the legacy we've built together thus far – currently protect the source of much of our drinking water, provide unmatched educational and personal growth experiences, and contribute millions of sustainable dollars to our economy.

In this issue, you'll enjoy a feature story that touches on one man's conservation legacy that has lit the path for generations that have come after him (p. 3). The Arizona Wilderness Coalition owes much to Mo Udall, and we work every day to carry on the consensus-building and grassroots outreach that make new wilderness possible in Arizona.

There is much to do in the near future. With twice the population we had in the 1990s, old and new pressures alike bear upon our wild places. What's important is that we, together, are responding to these challenges with growing momentum for real change. I'm confident that recent highlights such as the Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River designation represent the beginnings of new citizen movements for wild lands and waters across the state. Our success will largely be judged, as well, by the strength and breadth of the alliances we form with those who have a stake in public lands management.

Having the pleasure and opportunity to volunteer for AWC over the last ten years as a board member, field volunteer, event host, and campaign partner, I've experienced the breadth and capacity of this organization. It is my full intention to help expand this breadth and capacity into the future. Across the Sonoran, Verde, Sky Island, Grand Canyon, and Blue regions,

opportunity knocks. Allow me to emphasize that you—our dedicated members—are an integral part of AWC's present and future. Our membership is the lifeblood of our collective actions, giving voice and power to the places and wildlife we pledge to conserve.

We look forward to cultivating and growing our relationship with you in coming months.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge the contributions and hard work of Kevin Gaither-Banchoff over the last several years as our executive director (see p.9). He has made a positive mark on AWC during his tenure here, ushering in a new paradigm of the possible and growing the organization's conservation capacity. I wish him the best in his future endeavors of conservation advocacy elsewhere and look forward to his continued contributions to AWC as a dedicated member and advocate. Thank you Kevin.

In coming months, I hope you'll look forward to seeing new opportunities for engagement and action with AWC as we continue to build upon our wilderness legacy across Arizona. I also look forward to the potential opportunity to meet you at an AWC event in the near future so we can talk more about moving forward with our shared vision for conserving Arizona's last best places. Thank you for being a part of AWC!



# 15 inches + 30 years = An Immeasurable Legacy

by Katurah Mackay

*Every day, somewhere in the United States, someone is rafting, canoeing, hiking or camping on land that was, in one way or another, touched by Mo Udall.*

—Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.)

*The Arizona Wilderness Coalition, by assembling the inventories, organizing the grassroots, and engaging the politics, is doing the increasingly hard work necessary to honor Mo's powerful legacy. They carry the torch that lit Mo's path and hopefully will light the future. Their success in protecting the wild lands Mo couldn't protect would be his greatest memorial.*

—Mark Trautwein, who served Rep. Morris K. Udall as his lead staffer for the 1984 Arizona Wilderness Act and the 1990 Arizona Desert Wilderness Act.

\* \* \*

**F**ifteen inches. That's a lot of shoe. Morris "Mo" Udall wore a size 15 basketball sneaker when he played for the conference-winning University of Arizona men's team in 1947. He went on to play professionally for the NBA Denver Nuggets. Mo's sneakers now sit in his son's United States Senate office. Mark Udall (D-CO) glances at them periodically, as a visual reminder of the tremendous public service legacy his father left to him.

"My father had many historic achievements, but none meant more to him than striking the compromise leading to the preservation of some of his home state's greatest treasures," says Sen. Mark Udall.

To conservationists working to protect America's wild lands, Mo Udall and his brother Stewart crafted a vast, visionary blueprint for 20th century preservation and beyond. Stewart, the older of the two men, served as an Arizona congressman from 1954 until 1960, when he was appointed by President John F. Kennedy to serve as Secretary of the Interior. In the election to fill Stewart's vacant congressional seat, his brother Mo won easily in 1961, thus beginning more than 30 years of civil service and the birth of a conservation legacy that has yet to be matched.

"They really completed each other," says Mark Trautwein, who served Rep. Mo Udall on the staff of the U.S. House Interior/Natural Resources Committee from 1979 to 1992. "Stewart was instrumental in getting the foundation of conservation laws enacted through the 1960s—the Wilderness Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Clean Water Act—but it took Mo through the 1970s and 80s to fulfill the promise of these laws."

From Maine to California and Alaska to Florida, Mo effectively doubled the size of the National Park System and tripled the size of the National Wilderness Preservation System through a variety of parks and wilderness bills built from the grassroots ground up. For his native Arizona, Mo crafted two major pieces of legislation—the 1984 Arizona Wilderness Act, which dealt primarily with U.S. Forest Service lands, and the 1990 Arizona Desert Wilderness Act—that established the majority of wilderness areas and national wildlife refuges that million of visitors and residents enjoy in Arizona today.

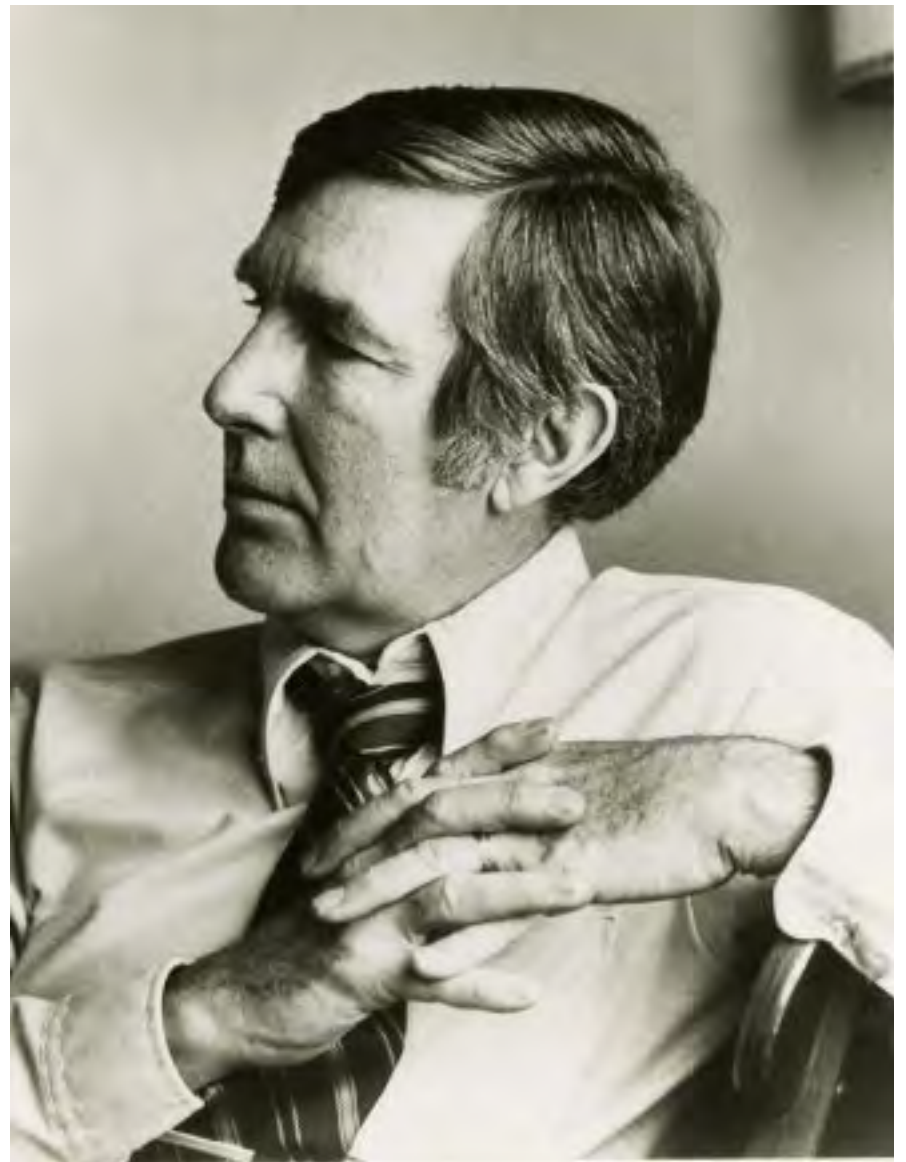
This year marks the 20th anniversary of Mo's 1990 bill, which created 39 new wilderness areas on Bureau

of Land Management lands, and four new wildlife refuges on U.S. Fish and Wildlife lands. Many of these special wild places are just a stone's throw from millions of people in metropolitan Phoenix and Tucson.

"My father's patience, composure, and leadership were even more remarkable because during this extended effort, he was suffering from the debilitating impact of late-term Parkinson's disease," says his son, Senator Mark Udall. "Yet he fought through it to give fellow Arizonans this one final gift."

Mark Trautwein was Udall's lead staffer for the 1984 Arizona Wilderness Act and the 1990 Arizona Desert Wilderness Act. Building on the momentum of the 1984 bill, Trautwein followed a very simple recipe of consensus-building—Mo's signature style—amongst all the stakeholders who had an interest in wilderness protection on BLM lands in Arizona. Helping him piece together the different areas that qualified as wilderness were volunteer "adopters" with the Arizona Wilderness Coalition, newly formed in 1979 to respond to the U.S.

Forest Service's RARE II requirement to inventory and classify wilderness quality lands on national forests in the late 1970s. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) went through a similar process in the mid-1980s, to which AWC rallied its volunteers to begin the process all over again.



A portrait of Mo Udall taken in 1976. MS325/B737/F8, Courtesy University of Arizona Libraries, Special Collections.

Adopters were responsible for a BLM wilderness study area of their choosing and effectively become experts and advocates for those key areas. All of the information was then written up in official reports and submitted to Udall's office and the BLM. There were



Hummingbird Springs Wilderness is one of the gems created by the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990. Courtesy Mark Miller.



A photographer tries to capture the classic Sonoran Desert beauty of Yellow Medicine Butte, one of the many areas AWC is working to protect in western Maricopa County. Courtesy Mark Miller

field inventories, photo and data compiling, phone banking, long meetings in multiple parts of the state, report writing, map generation, letters to newspapers,

person for meetings. We even used a local architect to draw up some of the maps we needed, so it was a real paper-and-magic-markers kind of effort.”



*“The individual area champions weren’t professional lobbyists. They were regular folks acting as citizen volunteers. There are wild lands saved today because of one person that made a case for each of them as a special place.”*

**Rob Smith**

letters to Congress, lobbying trips to D.C.—all of which built significant personal investment on the part of adopters in seeing these proposals through to final designation.

In her speech at the dedication ceremony for the 1990 bill on April 6, 1991, Eagletail Mountains Wilderness adopter Bobbie Holaday emphasized the rewards of their collective hard work:

“Sometimes the process seemed mighty slow and frustrating, but we persevered. We lost some areas along the way, but we also had many victories in the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990. I’m proud to say that my area, the Eagletail Mountains is one of the victories. I personally consider the Eagletail Mountains to be the crown jewel in the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act, but I know I’m prejudiced. Every wilderness adopter thinks of his or her wilderness area as a jewel in this crown of wilderness, which will now adorn Arizona forever.” Holaday is still an active member of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition.

For many advocates in Arizona, it was an easy trajectory to come off the 1984 Forest Service wilderness victory and move into the creation of a statewide BLM wilderness bill.

“Mo was a middle-of-the-road kind of guy and always asked ‘where’s the consensus?’ He had the stature and respect to lead the rest of the delegation,” says Sierra Club’s Senior Field Organizing Manager Rob Smith, who, along with his wife Joni Bosh, led the Arizona Wilderness Coalition and its volunteer adopters through a maze of political and grassroots organizing to get Mark Trautwein what he needed to write the bill.

“We didn’t have email back in those days, and Joni was one of the few people with an answering machine,” recalls Smith. “We mailed out alerts and showed up in

Rich Hanson, who was the District Wilderness Coordinator for BLM during the late 1980s and early 90s, remembers the dedication and influence of the volunteer wilderness adopters.

“There was one adopter—Tom Wright—who single-handedly worked through intractable and nearly irresolvable mining and manageability issues at White Canyon, and that unit went from not even qualifying



*“It is very rewarding to be able to stand here today and know that one hundred years from now when we are long gone and most of us are forgotten, a whole new generation of Arizonans, human and wildlife, will be out here enjoying the lands we dedicate today.”*

**Bobbie Holaday**

for wilderness, to becoming part of the national system in the 1990 bill,” says Rich Hanson, who was the District Wilderness Coordinator for BLM in Arizona in the 1990s. “The power and passion of one person really can make a difference.”

Today, Hanson is the manager of the 10 year-old Sonoran Desert National Monument, which contains

three designated wilderness units created by the ‘90 bill—North and South Maricopa Mountains Wilderness areas, and Table Top Wilderness.

Other areas protected in the legislation range from the craggy peaks and bighorn sheep haunts of the Harquahala, Big Horn Mountains, and the Harcuvar wilderness areas, to the lush canyons and shady washes of Hummingbird Springs, Fishhooks, and Hassayampa River Canyon wilderness areas. Striking geologic features await visitors to White Canyon and Eagletail Mountains wilderness, and archaeology fans will find ancient petroglyph panels in nearly all of the units. The bill safeguards a broad array of critical Sonoran Desert and riparian habitat, countless migration routes of prehistoric people, and unique historic elements of 19th century Arizona, such as a portion of the old Butterfield Stage route.

Nobody was ready for a statewide BLM wilderness bill because it had never been done before, and such a legislative feat for wilderness has yet to be accomplished anywhere else in the lower 48 states.

“Many in the Arizona delegation didn’t like the ‘90 bill,” says Trautwein, “but they loved and respected Mo. They didn’t put up much of a fight because they trusted him to be fair on competing interests, and he always was. He created the environment—for everything he did in Congress—that made respect for opposing views work. It was an incredible asset.”

Trautwein also remembers AZ BLM Director Dean Bibles’ above-and-beyond effort to court other members of Congress on the assets of wild Arizona. “I think Dean may have spent the bulk of his time running tours for committee members in the backcountry so they could absorb the incredible magnitude of these lands,” he says.

Bibles says it was simply easier for his land managers to take care of designated wilderness—to know what the concrete management prescriptions were—than to deal with the uncertainty of wilderness study areas, so he made the field tours a priority to see the bill become reality.

“Many people expect wilderness to be the snow-capped peaks and flowery meadows, but it takes a special eye to see what Arizona is really about,” says Bibles. “The 1990 bill allowed us to demonstrate the immense beauty and importance desert lands have to offer. BLM willingly accepted the responsibility of wilderness with that bill, and the agency should con-

tinue to steward those lands appropriately to protect their unique qualities.”

Mo Udall wasn’t only an inspiration to his wilderness-loving constituents back in Arizona. He made a lasting impression on one of the newest members of Congress in 1982—freshman Representative John McCain.

*“There was one adopter—Tom Wright—who single handedly worked through mining and manageability issues at White Canyon, and that unit went from not even qualifying for wilderness, to becoming part of the national system in the 1990 bill. The power and passion of one person really can make a difference.”*

**Rich Hanson**



“Mo and I enjoyed a unique relationship in Congress,” Senator John McCain wrote in an April 15th statement to the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. “While I was a freshman member in the House, he reached across party lines to work with me as an ally and mentor on a variety of environmental and Native American issues. Mo’s lessons of comity and statesmanship have inspired me throughout my career representing the people of Arizona.”

John McCain was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1986, taking over the seat formerly occupied by Mo’s close friend—and the rock of Republican conservatism—Senator Barry Goldwater, who had been pivotal in helping Mo pass Arizona’s 1984 Forest Service wilderness bill.

“One of my proudest legislative accomplishments was my involvement with the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990, which protected about 2 million acres of pristine wilderness land across Arizona,” says McCain. “The Act is among the most significant pieces of wilderness legislation in the nation and because its passage was a major legacy moment for my late friend and colleague, Chairman Morris Udall, I was honored to play a part in its enactment.”

The stories connected with Mo



Mo with family and friends rafting on the Colorado River in 1967. MS325/B735/F51, Courtesy University of Arizona Libraries, Special Collections.



*“My father had many historic achievements, but none meant more to him than striking the compromise leading to the preservation of some of his home state’s greatest treasures.”*

**Sen. Mark Udall**

Udall, and the legislation he created, make his legacy come alive—and make wilderness dynamic and relevant to Arizonans today. It also proves that wilderness is truly about people—those who live around it, those who enjoy it, and those who take action to see it protected. The Arizona Wilderness Coalition today works across the state to continue fulfilling Mo Udall’s legacy

for another great citizen movement to happen,” says Mark Trautwein.

In writing Mo’s final floor remarks on the 1990 bill, Trautwein tried to capture what motivated Mo to act for these special places.

“I remember I was on the plane back to Washington, and I had just spent a week on the ground, bumping

was trying to do. I scribbled some thoughts down on the back of an envelope and typed them up when I got back. Mo just looked at them, and never said anything to me, but he ended up reading them in his final remarks.”

*Each generation has its important tasks to complete. The generations of Udalls before me met their challenge to tame the wilderness, to settle it and make it a home. ... But the challenge of our generation is different. We must show ourselves capable not only of conquering nature but also of caring for it. ... It is important that those who come after us know that we cherished these living deserts, their waters and all the life that regenerates itself there season after season, generation after generation. In wilderness, we value that which man did not create and by restraining man’s altering hand, we hope to honor this powerful work. Long after our own footsteps have been forgotten these places will remain. Their eloquent stillness will bear testimony that we as a people are grateful for our chance to walk upon this Earth and that we have the strength, the courage, and wisdom to leave at least these places as we found them.*

For the Arizona Wilderness Coalition, these are big shoes to fill indeed.

*Katurah Mackay is deputy director for the Arizona Wilderness Coalition.*

*“We had fun out there. I was the official adopter for the Sierra Estrellas, but Tom Wright and I were de facto adopters all over the place. I was in the Harcuvar Wilderness Study Area when the Senate passed the bill, and it was a happy day when we saw all of our hard work pay off.”*

**Jim Vaaler**



of building consensus to protect our most cherished wild places. From southern Arizona’s Tumacacori Highlands to central Arizona’s lush Verde River watershed and north to the drainages and wildlife corridors of the Grand Canyon eco-region, additional wilderness awaits protection from Congress. Hundreds of citizens are working on the ground as volunteers to help AWC document and advocate for new wilderness, rehabilitate trails and wildlife habitat, and build new relationships with Arizonans who care about the future of our remaining wild places.

“I think if Mo were still around today, he would want to remind people that it was, and still is, possible

around in the backcountry, seeing these places firsthand and up close. And suddenly there I was—above it all, looking down on the orange landscape, floating above Mo’s Arizona. It was literally the Big Picture of what he



*“The Act is among the most significant pieces of wilderness legislation in the nation and because its passage was a major legacy moment for my late friend and colleague, Chairman Morris Udall, I was honored to play a part in its enactment.”*

**Sen. John McCain**

# The Legacy of Morris and Stewart Udall

by U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords

**T**hey are a political dynasty with roots stretching back to Arizona's rough-and-tumble territorial days. Some have referred to them as the Kennedys of the West.

Whatever you call the Udalls, there's no denying the pivotal role this storied family has played in shaping our state and nation. They have been a fixture of the political landscape for more than a century.

This is why I was honored to vote with a majority of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to change the name of Tucson's Morris K. Udall Foundation to the Morris K. and Stewart L. Udall Foundation.

A simple name change might seem insignificant. It isn't.

economic impact in Arizona. Those are dollars badly needed as the state struggles financially.

But much work remains and that is the undertaking of the Morris K. and Stewart L. Udall Foundation, where the ideals of the Udalls are passed on to the next generation of environmental champions.

The Udall Foundation has many valuable programs that – like the Udall brothers – have a direct and positive impact on our lives.

It annually awards about 80 scholarships of up to \$5,000 each to college students committed to careers related to the environment, tribal public policy or Native American health care.

It also funds 12 Native Americans or Alaska Natives

those who fought tirelessly against the industrial fouling of air, water and land, the widespread destruction of beauty and the encroachment on open space.

During his eight years as head of the Department of Interior, Stewart Udall oversaw the creation of four national parks, six national monuments, eight national seashores and lakeshores, nine recreation areas, 20 historic sites and 56 wildlife refuges.

The contributions of the Udall brothers stretch across our nation – literally. The easternmost and westernmost points in the United States are named in their honor. Point Udall at the east end of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands honors Stewart, while Udall Point at the west end of Guam honors Morris.

Morris Udall died in 1998. Stewart passed away on March 20 at the age of 90 in New Mexico. Their sons Mark and Tom continue the Udall legacy today. Each served in the House for a decade – Mark from Colorado and Tom from New Mexico – before they were elected to the Senate last November.

Legislation to change the name of the foundation was introduced by U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva and I am an original co-sponsor. Together, our districts encompass much of the same region that Mo and Stewart represented in the House.

Terry Bracy, chairman of the foundation's board of trustees, has said the Udall legacy is really a shared legacy and that renaming the foundation to also honor Stewart is an appropriate way to honor his vision and leadership. I agree.

The combined contributions of Morris and Stewart Udall are like the rugged and wild lands they dedicated their lives to preserving: They will endure through the ages.

*U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords has represented Arizona's 8th Congressional District since January 2007. Contact her through her Web site at [www.giffords.house.gov](http://www.giffords.house.gov) or through Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GabrielleGiffords](http://www.facebook.com/GabrielleGiffords). Follow her on her YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/user/giffords2](http://www.youtube.com/user/giffords2).*



*The Udall foundation's name has been officially changed to reflect the work of conservation icons Morris and Stewart Udall. MS325/B737/F8, Courtesy University of Arizona Libraries, Special Collections.*

This is a fitting tribute to the lasting legacy of a pair of true environmental pioneers – brothers who worked together over decades to raise awareness of our fragile surroundings and expand our national parks system.

This legacy is especially important now as we mark the 20th anniversary of the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act, which Morris Udall was central to introducing and passing in 1990 – his last full year in Congress.

The act established 39 wilderness areas in Arizona. It is fitting that we now give them renewed recognition – especially in light of increased development in Arizona in the past two decades.

Since passage of the wilderness act, Arizona's population has increased by nearly 80 percent with the addition of almost 3 million new residents.

In the district I represent, the act established the Dos Cabezas Mountains Wilderness, the Redfield Canyon Wilderness and the Peloncillo Mountains Wilderness – three jewels that will be loved for generations to come.

That decision also has had a staggering economic impact on Arizona.

Wildlife-related activities – including hunting, fishing and watching wildlife – have a \$3 billion annual

each summer for a 10-week internship in Washington, D.C. and, in partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Tucson, takes 12 middle school students every summer to explore Arizona's natural wonders. The foundation includes the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution that provides mediation and other services and training to help parties resolve environmental conflicts.

The foundation, which is headquartered in downtown Tucson, was established in 1992 to honor Morris Udall's 30 years of service representing Southern Arizona in the House. Known affectionately as "Mo," his love of the environment resulted in numerous pieces of sweeping legislation, including the Alaska Lands Act of 1980, which doubled the size of the national park system and tripled the size of the national wilderness system.

Morris Udall was appointed to the House in 1961 when his older brother, Stewart, was named secretary of the interior by President John F. Kennedy. Stewart Udall's environmental resumé is no less impressive than his brother's.

In 1963, Stewart Udall authored the landmark environmental book, "The Quiet Crisis," in which he told of



# WILDERNESS VOICES

by Aaron Macmann

## An Interview about an Hour to the South

The river stings as I wash myself.

It brings the salt down from my brow  
so that when I look behind me,

the cattle trail which has brought me here  
down from the small dry mesa  
becomes like watercolors

Drops of the pale green river  
cling like webs to lips and nostrils  
and I  
don't spit them away.

I trace the rims of the gorges  
with my fingers in the air,  
in my mind I own all the mesquite and cactus  
where I kneel, from where I came

all the juniper and pinyon.

I have a right to this,  
as the river has a right to me.  
Every cell in my body carries its weight

the same gravity carries me to Phoenix,  
where I will drain  
and dry and stagnate.

But I will postpone this,  
deny it like the remnants of floods.

I untuck and unbutton my shirt,  
let it into the water  
to glide like grass in thick and permanent wind.  
Returning it to my skin, I lie on the bank and breathe  
deep.



### Junk Land

Hardened knuckles of rock  
bring forth offerings like candies  
of juniper, ponderosa,  
a blue glass pool in a basin,  
a tarantula's eight legged caress  
of the ground.  
Wasp patrol colanders  
of granite batholith.  
Stone whittled and whetted  
by inconceivable passages of time  
and holding to crumbling epitaph.  
A place so lost in translation.  
So protected by distance  
by the lips of assayers  
proclaiming no value  
that no road will enter its sheer walls  
no path will lead to its summit.

There  
there will only be raven.



Aaron Macmann lives in Prescott and has explored wilderness areas around the western United States. He works for the Prescott National Forest, which allows him to spend time enjoying some of his favorite wilderness areas in central Arizona.

# WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

## Rescuing the Tassel Ears

by Sylvester Allred, Ph. D.

**T**assel-eared squirrels were first described and collected near the San Francisco Peaks in northern Arizona by Dr. Samuel Woodhouse, a physician and naturalist with Captain Sitgreaves' expedition in 1851. The species was named *Sciurus aberti*, or the Abert's squirrel, in honor of Colonel John James Abert, Chief of the Corps of Topographical Engineers. Fifty-three years later, C. Hart Merriam described and named the Kaibab squirrel that was collected from the Kaibab Plateau. Kaibab squirrels have black bodies with a snowy white tail. Abert's squirrels have white bellies, grayish ventral surfaces, and a gray tail on top with white fur underneath. Both subspecies have a reddish brown patch extending down their backs.

Tassel-eared squirrels are indigenous to, and dependent on, the ponderosa pine forest habitats of the southwestern United States and Mexico. Three of the six subspecies are found in Arizona: the Abert's, the Kaibab, and the Chuska, which is found in the sky island of the Chuska Mountains in northeastern Arizona. It is protected by the Navajo Nation within its boundaries, though logging is allowed in the Chuska Mountains.

Kaibab squirrels have most likely been confined on the plateau since a small number of Abert's squirrels crossed the canyon and Colorado River during low water, colonizing the North Rim, probably during the late Pleistocene period. Based on analysis of mitochondrial DNA, it has been estimated that the Abert's and Kaibab squirrels have been separated for 235,000 years. In a Natural Landmark Brief written for the United States Department of the Interior, it was stated that the Kaibab squirrel "... is as significant as are the



Typical tassel-eared squirrel habitat is intact ponderosa pine forest. Courtesy Dr. Sylvester Allred

agement plan in 1972 specifically stating, "In the Kaibab Squirrel Management Unit, timber production will be subordinate to squirrel habitat maintenance and improvement..." In 1976, The U. S. Forest Service and Arizona Game and Fish Commission (AZGFC)

signed a cooperative agreement in which both parties agreed to develop and manage wildlife resources within the Kaibab National Forest. The management of habitat for wildlife species is the responsibility of the U.S. Forest Service.

Forest or Grand Canyon National Park. This lack of knowledge significantly cripples wildlife managers and biologists in arguing for greater protection for the squirrels in land management planning processes. As early as 1924, there was concern that these squirrels might be in peril of extinction. Not until May 1964 was the controversy over the management of Kaibab squirrels brought to the attention of the American people when the Washington Post-Times Herald and the National Parks Magazine each published articles attacking the decision by three of the five Commissioners of the AZGFC to allow public hunting of the Kaibab squirrels for the first time. By August 1964, under intense public criticism and pressure, the AZGFC rescinded the proposed hunt of Kaibab squirrels, turkeys, and the Chukar partridges, stating that since the turkey population was too low, the entire hunt season was closed. The Kaibab squirrels received a reprieve, at least temporarily. One prominent southwestern naturalist, Nat N. Dodge, wrote that he was very concerned that the AZGFC even considered allowing hunting of Kaibab squirrels and prophetically warned about "...the possibility of a repetition in the future." Indeed, 20 years after the AZGFC rescinded hunting, the prediction made in 1965 came true when Kaibab squirrel hunting was again approved, this time by a unanimous vote. Unfortunately, this decision was barely noted except by the hunters. Grand Canyon National Park now serves as the only protected refuge for the Kaibab squirrels.

Though dismissed as pests for many years, tassel-eared squirrels were considerably more understood by the late 1990s, referred to as "ecological barometers" and "windows" that could be used to assist researchers in understanding the intricate relationships within the ponderosa pine forest ecosystem. Today, tassel-eared squirrels are recognized as a management indicator



Courtesy Dr. Sylvester Allred

finches of the Galapagos Islands which gave Darwin key insights into the importance of isolation in evolution."

The National Natural Landmark (NNL) designation was granted in October 1965 by the U. S. Department of the Interior to 200,000 acres of ponderosa pine forests within the boundaries of the North Kaibab Forest and Grand Canyon National Park. This area was referred to as Kaibab Squirrel Area NNL. Regional Forester William Hurst signed a timber man-

only 10% of their range. However, since the AZGFC considers the Kaibab squirrel a small game animal, this squirrel is hunted within the remaining 90% of its range in the North Kaibab National Forest and the Mt. Logan Wilderness, from early October to December 31, with a bag limit of five squirrels per day.

Although the Kaibab squirrel lives nowhere else in the world, presently there are no accurate estimates of the number of Kaibab squirrels in existence, either in the Kaibab National





Above and below, the Abert's squirrel is a tassel-eared variety living on the Kaibab plateau. Courtesy Dr. Sylvester Allred



species because of their narrow habitat association with ponderosa pine forests and because they can be monitored to indicate the effects of a particular management practice.

Not only is there concern for the Kaibab squirrel specifically, but ponderosa pine forests in general were deemed to be endangered ecosystems in a 1995 assessment of ecosystems conducted for the National Biological Survey.

Arizona is home to a subspecies of squirrels that may be endangered but is protected in only 10% of its range. These squirrels have been recognized by the scientific community and the U.S. Forest Service as a management indicator species in an endangered ecosystem. The time is ripe for an official census of the Kaibab squirrel. Moreover, forest managers and wildlife biologists must work jointly to ensure that the squirrels' native habitat is removed from the endangered list. Joseph Hall, a prominent researcher of

Kaibab squirrels, wrote in 1967, "...the welfare of the forests of ponderosa pine is the welfare of this squirrel...."

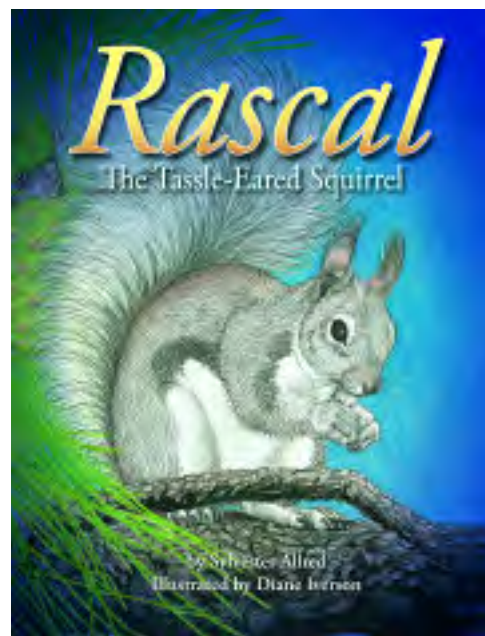
Kaibab squirrels face a literal Perfect Storm of threats that, without adequate mitigation, will culminate in their ultimate extinction.

"Tassel-eared squirrels, especially those isolated in "island" habitats such as the North Kaibab, the Grand Canyon's South Rim, and Chuska Mountains, are vulnerable to logging, shooting, large high intensity fires, and habitat reduction exacerbated by climate disruption," says Kim Crumbo, conservation director for Flagstaff-based Grand Canyon Wildlands Council. "The paucity of population information and general uncertainty regarding persistence of the creature's old growth ponderosa habitat warrants a precautionary approach to squirrel management, including a moratorium on shooting and a possible listing under the Endangered Species Act."

\* \* \*

*The Natural History of the Tassel-Eared Squirrels* by Sylvester Allred will be published in fall 2010 by the University of New Mexico Press. It is a comprehensive review of the state of knowledge of these animals, uniquely charismatic in appearance, and ecologically integral to the ponderosa pine ecosystem. The chapter on the Kaibab squirrel elaborates on the fascinating details of the history of the controversy addressed in this article.

*Rascal, the Tassel-Eared Squirrel*, a children's book, is about the first year of life of a tassel-eared squirrel at the Grand Canyon. It was written by Sylvester Allred and published by the Grand Canyon Association in 2007.



*Dr. Sylvester Allred is a biology professor at Northern Arizona University teaching nearly 500 students each semester. He teaches field classes in biology and geology in national parks every summer.*

## Goodbye, AWC Friends

by Kevin Gaither-Banchoff

For the last eight years—almost four as the Executive Director of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition (AWC) and four more before that working for AWC as a consultant—I've put almost all of my time, energy, and passion into fighting for, protecting, and enjoying Arizona's wilderness. It has been a special time for me and my family, and I believe, a special and exciting period of growth for the Arizona Wilderness Coalition and the wider community of people that love and work for wild places.

Personally, I've visited many places I hadn't been—the Eagletail Wilderness, the Blue Range Primitive Area, Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, Fossil Springs Wilderness, and many other wondrous places. In the past three years, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition has grown to include three

offices, six regular staff, multiple interns, a fledgling canvass, hundreds of engaged volunteers, and a new focus to our work. We had our first legislative success in 19 years when, in March 2009, central Arizona's Fossil Creek was designated Arizona's second Wild & Scenic River. In addition to AWC's ongoing campaign work in southern Arizona, across the western deserts, and up through the Verde River watershed, we are also now more active than ever in building Arizona's wilderness community and acting as stewards of our wild places. In the last year alone, AWC lead 16 public field trips to remove illegal roads, stabilize trails, and restore other disturbed habitat. We are also regularly leading hikes, trash clean ups, backpack trips, and hosting events like our third annual Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival that was held in metro-Phoenix in late May.

After considerable contemplation, I've decided it is time to hand the reins over to new director while I transition to my own next endeavor. I believe the organization to be in great hands as it looks to the future. Matt Skroch worked for 10 years with Sky Island Alliance, first as their programs director and later as their executive director, before returning to academia for a graduate degree in conservation planning. He knows the issue of wilderness inside and out, having helped launch the grassroots effort to protect the Tumacacori Highlands in 2002 while lending support across the state for similar efforts to provide permanent protection to Arizona's wild lands. Matt knows the business of running non-profits, too. He has a proven track record of increasing organizational capacity, charting strategies for success, and communicating the importance of conservation to the public and media.

I love the Arizona Wilderness Coalition and will continue to contribute as a volunteer and financial supporter; I hope you will continue to do so as well. I thank you and everyone at AWC for giving me the opportunity to be an integral part of this work. I'm sure I'll run across many of you out hiking the trails, camping under the stars, or maybe in my new role as I continue my work to protect the place I call home.

*Kevin began his new career with WildEarth Guardians in early May.*



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

# You Say Backpack, They Say Pack Animal

by Sam Frank

Long before the United States was established with the Declaration of Independence in 1776, people were exploring the wilderness landscape of the New World. The arrival of Spanish explorers brought a new domesticated animal that would change the means and rate of exploration on the continent forever: the horse. When paired with a horse, a person can carry from two to three times the amount of weight and supplies that a person would be able to transport alone. The human-horse team allowed the farthest and least hospitable corners of the country to be explored and, over time, the pairing has become synonymous with the American frontier.

Today, the art of horse packing and its roots in wilderness are alive and well, thanks in part to a group called Back Country Horsemen of America (BCH). Formed in 1973 in the Flathead Valley of Montana, BCH has grown to have 25 state organizations, more than 174 chapters, and 13,300 members located in 47 out of the 50 states. The Arizona state organization was formed in 2000 with the creation of the Back Country Horsemen of Central Arizona.

If you are wondering how a group like the Arizona Wilderness Coalition (AWC) and BCH came to work together, you have to look no further than the mission statement of BCH:

1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness areas.
2. To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
3. To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
4. To educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the wise use of the backcountry resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
5. To foster and encourage the formation of new back country horsemen's organizations.

The common interest between the two groups is clear: wilderness. BCH appreciates wilderness because it offers backcountry experiences without any chance of encountering mechanized recreationists (mountain bikers and motorized users). But BCH doesn't just use wilderness for its recreation opportunities; they make sure to give something back to the land.

According to Gayle Higgs, past president of the Central Arizona group, the Back Country Horsemen of Central Arizona has done service work in the following wilderness areas: Apache Creek, Cedar Bench, Granite Mountain, Juniper Mesa, Kendrick Mountain, Mazatzal, Pine Mountain, Red Rock-Secret Mountain, Superstition, Sycamore Canyon, West Clear Creek, Woodchute, and Warm Springs.

"The Forest Service in this state has very few horses, so BCHCAZ is the primary source for packing in supplies, tools, whole camps, fencing materials (rolls of wire), fence posts and you name it, we have packed it in for them," says Gayle. "When the project is done, we pack it out. In the Kendrick Mountain Wilderness, their lookout usually gets two to three restocks each year. We pack in propane bottles and lots of water cubes. This past summer, they asked us to pack in a



A hiker passes on the trail as AWC works with BCHCAZ on a recent project. Courtesy: BCHCAZ

piece of glass for a window replacement."

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition and Back Country Horsemen of Central Arizona's common interest in wilderness has developed into a very fruitful relationship, both for the organizations and the wilderness areas of Arizona.

Wilderness and Trails Manager for the Prescott National Forest:

"It's great to see the collaboration between Forest Service partners to achieve stewardship goals in the Forest Service wilderness system," says Jason Williams, Wilderness and Trails Manager for the Prescott National Forest. "The partnership of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition and Back Country Horsemen of Central Arizona achieves the desires of the volunteers and the needs of U.S. Forest Service. It's a mutually beneficial relationship for everyone involved."



AWC and BCHCAZ volunteers are able to accomplish arduous work in backcountry areas because of the horses' ability to carry supplies and equipment. Photo: AWC



Hikers and horses cooperate on the trail during a project at Cedar Bench Wilderness with AWC, BCHCAZ, and the USFS. Photo: AWC



Riders pitch in with their horses during an AWC trail project at Granite Mountain Wilderness. Photo: BCHCAZ



A BCHCAZ horse prepares to carry some fencing supplies during AWC's Warm Springs Wilderness trip last fall. Photo: AWC



Wayne Pitrat and some trusty sidekicks. Photo: BCHCAZ

To date, AWC and BCHCAZ have worked together on roughly ten projects on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wilderness lands totaling more than 1,000 volunteer hours. But that isn't the full extent of the stewardship work BCHCAZ has donated to public lands. According to Gayle Higgs, BCHCAZ has donated the equivalent of \$177,408 through their volunteer efforts on the Prescott, Coconino, Kaibab and Tonto National Forests and BLM lands in 2009 alone. That works out to a total of 225 stock days (1 stock day equals one person on horseback with stock doing one days work) or 7,545 stock miles. As if those statistics weren't impressive enough, keep in mind all costs associated with vehicle travel (gas and maintenance), volunteer food and lodging, stock food, and other costs are absorbed by individual members of BCHCAZ. Not to mention there are three groups of BCH in Arizona: BCH of Central Arizona, East Valley BCH, and Chloride BCH.

Currently, BCHCAZ and AWC are making plans to

adopt a 14-mile section of the Arizona Trail located in the Mazatzal Wilderness on the Tonto National Forest. BCHCAZ are the current trail stewards of that trail section, but they have asked AWC to help out with the rehabilitation of the heavily fire-damaged trail.

"We value our partnership with the Arizona Wilderness Coalition on these projects," says Higgs. "We all get along great and really enjoy working and camping together. We are looking forward to when the phone rings and Sam says 'Hey BCHCAZ, we need your help again'. We'll be ready and willing to help because protecting and taking care of the wilderness is what we are all about."

\* \* \*

To find out more about Back Country Horsemen of America, visit their website at: [www.backcountry-horse.com](http://www.backcountry-horse.com). To find out more about Back Country Horsemen of Central Arizona visit their website at: [www.bchcaz.org](http://www.bchcaz.org). To hear about upcoming joint Arizona Wilderness Coalition and Back Country Horsemen volunteer projects you can participate in, visit the AWC website ([www.azwild.org](http://www.azwild.org)) and sign up for our action alerts.

*Sam Frank is AWC's Central Arizona Director and works out of the Prescott office. After a bad experience on horseback as a child, Sam has come around to enjoying the company of horses once again, thanks to working with the Back Country Horsemen of Central Arizona.*



# Short Takes

## A Hearty Welcome to Nancy Mangone and Joel Barnes, AWC's Newest Board Members!

Nancy Mangone is a seasoned practitioner and litigator with more than 20 years experience in government and private practice; she runs her own firm based in Phoenix with a focus on environmental, municipal, and natural resources law. Before entering



Nancy Mangone on the San Juan River.

private practice in 2005, Nancy served as an Assistant Attorney General for the Environmental Enforcement Section of the Arizona Attorney General's Office and spent 15 years as a Senior Attorney for the United States Environmental Protection Agency in its Washington D.C., and Denver offices. Nancy was elected to a 3-year term to the Arizona Bar's Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section Executive Council in 2006 and now serves as the Section's Central Arizona Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Program chair.

"I've lived in the West since 1990," says Nancy. "Although I am a native New Yorker, I'm a die-hard Boston Red Sox fan. I'm also an avid golfer and fly fisher. I became an environmental lawyer because I believe our generation has a responsibility to leave the Earth in better shape than we found it. And I joined the Arizona Wilderness Coalition because I agree with Edward Abbey: 'wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit.'"

.....

Since moving to Prescott in 1978, Joel has been exploring and studying the wildlands of the West and he's excited to join the AWC board to help advance the organization's mission. Joel is a professor at Prescott



Joel Barnes

College where he teaches environmental studies and adventure education in their undergraduate and graduate programs. Some of the areas in which Joel teaches include restoration ecology, water resource management, river expeditioning, adventure-based environmental education, and Colorado Plateau field studies. His most current research and teaching explores the ecology and conservation of aridland river systems and watersheds in the American Southwest, with a special focus on the Upper Verde River Watershed and the Colorado River through Grand Canyon.

From 1998 to 2005, Joel and fellow AWC board member Kim Crumbo worked together on a Wild and Scenic River Study for Grand Canyon National Park that identified nearly 600 miles of waterways in and adjacent to GCNP as eligible for WSR designation. These WSR designations, as well as the long overdue designation of wilderness in the park, will hopefully find a home in the upcoming revision of the park's Backcountry

Management Plan. Joel brings to the AWC board a passion for protecting, restoring, and celebrating the wild rivers and wilderness of the southwest.

## Wild & Scenic Film Fest: Energetic, Educational, and Effective

AWC hosted the third annual Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival on May 20th in downtown Tempe, and based on our feedback, ticket sales, and new member sign-ups, the entire evening was a huge success! With more than 450 total staff hours and 20 volunteers pitching in, the event drew approximately 170 people—with an exciting ratio of 10/1 of non-members to existing AWC members. This allowed us to recruit a significant number of new supporters and educate a broad new base of people who hadn't known about AWC prior to the film festival!

Feedback after the event was inspiring:

"Fabulous documentary, 'Fresh.' I really liked having more of Joel Salatin and Michael Polan. The film covered the same material as 'Food, Inc.', but was more in depth." —MaryLou

"The film festival was great. It provided a wonderful opportunity to introduce the Anza National Historic Trail to new people, network with like minded folks, and renew friendships with former colleagues. And the film selection was outstanding...great job of organizing the event and welcoming everyone." —Elizabeth Stewart, Anza Trail Coalition

"The program and films were wonderful (especially the STRAW project!) and the people were great. I am also a member now and I look forward to another event." —Amy Whatley

"Thank you for keeping our minds going on new ideas and providing me with this wonderful opportunity! Congrats to you and your organization for putting on a great event last night." —Shannon Wheeler



In addition to the Wild & Scenic film screenings, AWC hosted a pre-festival happy hour, a competitive raffle on baskets of local goods and services, and GoLocal Expo featuring local vendors and organizations.

Special thanks to all our volunteers, board members, and donors who helped to make this event rewarding for the environmental community in Phoenix! And congratulations to AWC Sonoran Desert Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator Liana MacNeill for a job well-done. We'll miss her as her term of service with Public Allies draws to a close at the end of June. We wish her the best of luck.

## M&I Bank "Casual for a Cause" Donates to AWC!

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition was the grateful recipient of the April Casual for a Cause donation, sponsored by statewide M&I Bank. Casual for a Cause is sponsored by the bank's Employee Club and helps generate awareness and funds for various nonprofit groups throughout our communities. Employees donate a minimum of \$5 and get to wear jeans to work on a specifically chosen day. The organizations supported are chosen by the Employee Club based on an application that has been submitted from an M&I Bank employee who is involved

in the local group they are nominating. AWC was chosen because M&I Bank Marketing and Event Coordinator Bethany Votaw participated in a volunteer restoration event at Sonoran Desert National Monument last fall. She contacted AWC and notified us that we would be receiving the Casual for a Cause donation. All the money generated from the casual day goes directly to the nonprofit chosen; April's collection gifted AWC with \$815!



Employees who donated were provided with an Arizona Wilderness Coalition sticker to proudly wear on that organization's Casual for a Cause Day. Once the donations have been collected, the nominating employee arranges to deliver the monies to the benefiting organization.

## Without Volunteers, Where Would We Be?

This last fall and spring, a group of dedicated and persistent volunteers hiked and drove thousands of miles of Sonoran Desert west of Phoenix. They stopped to take pictures, document routes, look for wilderness qualities...and in some cases, change a flat tire! This inventory of 300,000 acres of wild lands west of Phoenix is helping AWC make the case for their protection, and we couldn't have done it without these volunteers. Thank you, from the AWC staff and board, and most importantly, from the wild lands, waters, and wildlife west of Phoenix.

Jim Vaaler  
Craig and Jan Weaver  
Norm Watson  
Mike Nushawg  
Ethan Gicker  
Mark and Brian Miller  
Dave Wilson  
Rebecca Knuffke  
Shelley McDonald  
Paul Roetto  
Tim Lengerich  
Fred Goodsell  
Judy Shaw  
Heidi Vasiloff  
Pete Thomas  
Ella and Roy Pierpoint  
Carter Gables  
Nicole Layman  
Curt Bradley  
Prescott College 2009 Wilderness and Park Management Students



## WILDERNESS TO WATCH

# Welcome to the Land of Legends in Historic Cochise County

Local residents are working to protect Cochise County's scenic natural and cultural heritage—our Land of Legends—by supporting new wilderness designations for the Whetstone, Dragoon, and Chiricahua mountain ranges, part of an unusual ecological region widely known as the Sky Islands of Arizona. These historic treasures provide unparalleled recreational opportunities, a window into Southern Arizona's past, critical habitat for Arizona's endangered wildlife, and the scenic beauty that makes Cochise County a desirable place to live. Wilderness designation would permanently protect these publicly owned jewels for future generations to enjoy.

The forested mountain ranges of the Sky Islands, rising up out of desert and grassland valleys, form one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in the world. This region between northwestern Mexico and the U.S. Southwest blends temperate and tropical biological zones that harbor more than 4,000 species of plants, 100 mammal species and more than half the bird species of North America. In addition, the Land of Legends is steeped in the rich history that gave birth to the state of Arizona. These ranges also offer priceless scenic beauty and unrivaled opportunities for outdoor recreation within Cochise County.

These public lands are part of the Coronado National Forest, but they are vulnerable to rapid urbanization, mining and irresponsible use by off-road vehicle enthusiasts—all of which disturb wildlife and threaten these quiet and spectacular remnants of Cochise County.

### Dragoon Mountains

Summit: 7,519 feet—Mount Glenn.

Vegetation: Desert scrub, semidesert grassland, encinal savanna, mixed pine-oak woodland and Arizona cypress riparian forests. These cypress stands, once common in the region, are now quite rare.

About the Name: Once known as Sierra de la Peñascosa—Spanish for “a very rugged, rocky range”—the Dragoons are named for the U.S. Army's Dragoon regiment of the late 1850s.

Fascinating Facts: Fifteen species that are threatened, endangered or of special concern are found in the Dragoons, including the peregrine falcon and Chiricahua leopard frog.

—Historical records document ocelots and jaguars in the Dragoons.

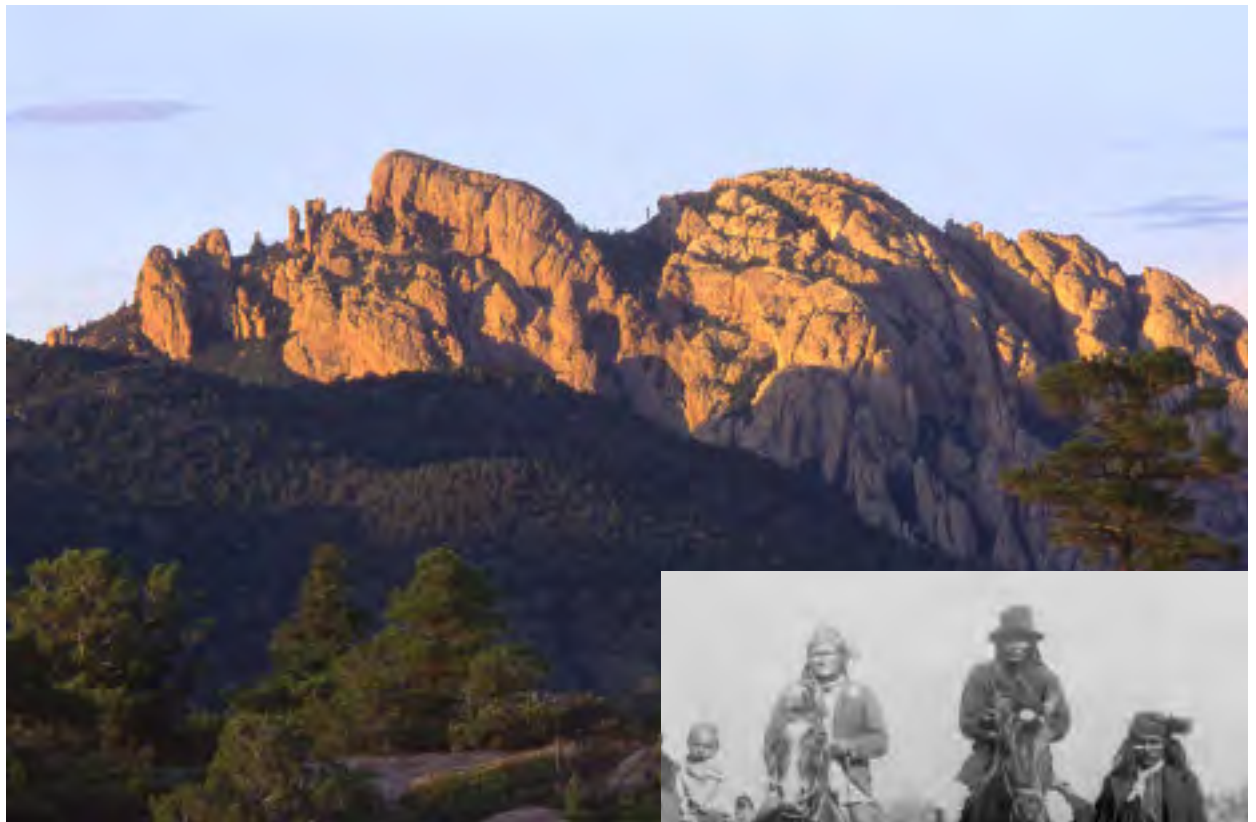
—The Dragoons contain some of the most intact, species-rich grasslands in the Coronado National Forest.

—Elsewhere in southern Arizona, grassland habitats are quickly vanishing.

—The Dragoon Mountains are a popular rock-climbing and bouldering destination.

—This range is part of the sacred homeland for the Chiricahua Apache tribe, led by Chief Cochise, who sought refuge from repeated attacks by the U.S. cavalry in the core of the Dragoons, now known as Cochise Stronghold.

—On October 12, 1872, the U.S. government signed a treaty with Cochise, but after his death a few years later, it was revoked and the homeland reservation was eliminated.



A view of Cochise Head in Chiricahua National Monument. Photo: Mark Miller

Wilderness designation is a balanced solution that would protect the wild and historic character of these legendary lands, link up critical wildlife migration corridors, and safeguard the recreation these lands offer future generations.

The conservation proposal for Cochise County's wild recreational lands is led by Sky Island Alliance, Arizona



Chief Geronimo, his son, and other Chiricahua Apache tribal members, circa 1886. Photo: C.S. Fly, Courtesy Library of Congress Archives.

### Whetstone Mountains

Summit: 7,711 feet—Apache Peak.

Vegetation: Semidesert grassland/mixed scrub, Chihuahuan Desert scrub, Madrean encinal, Madrean pine-oak woodland and ponderosa pine.

About the Name: The Whetstones are named after a deposit in the mountain range called novaculite. This hard, fine-grained rock is used for making whetstones for sharpening blades.

Fascinating Facts: The Whetstones host Kartchner Caverns, an important nursery roost for the cave myotis, a bat that feeds in Cochise County.

—French Joe Canyon supports more than 147 species of birds.

—A fossil hunter discovered exposed dinosaur bones in the Whetstone foothills in 1994. This discovery of *Sonorasaurus thompsoni* marked the first new dinosaur species to be found in southern Arizona for many years.

—According to Arizona lore, Wyatt Earp shot and killed “Curly Bill” Brocius in a shootout at what is now Mescal Springs.

—The Whetstones provide excellent backcountry hunting, hiking, camping, backpacking, horseback riding and birding.

### Chiricahua Mountains

Summit: 9,759 feet—Chiricahua Peak.

Vegetation: Semidesert grasslands and Chihuahuan Desert scrub to montane mixed-conifer forest.

About the Name: The word “Chiricahua” may have come from the Opata Indian word chiguicagui, meaning “mountains of the wild turkeys.”

Fascinating Facts: The Chiricahuas are one of the largest Sky Islands in the United States. —A world-renowned birding destination, the range is home to the parrotlike, subtropical elegant trogon.

—The only recorded short-tailed hawk nesting in the United States outside Florida was documented here.

—In 9,000 B.C., this mountain range was home to Clovis hunters, whose spear points have been found in the fossilized remains of mammoths in the region.

—The Chiricahua Mountains provide excellent opportunities for tracking wild game, horseback riding or simply watching the changing patterns of light through the oak trees at Turkey Creek.



Cochise Stronghold, looking west, within the Dragoon Mountains. Photo: Mark Miller

### Wilderness Is the Answer

Congress passed the Wilderness Act in 1964 as a tool to preserve the historical character of the American landscape. Wilderness designation protects our ecosystems, clean air and drinking water. It also safeguards habitats for such magnificent creatures as ocelots and leopard frogs, provides a living classroom where we can see how the natural world functions, offers opportunities for traditional hunting, provides a setting for reflection and allows us to escape from the pressures of urban living.

### Act Now

Please add your name and address to the postcard and mail it to the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. We'll deliver it to U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.) to show you support wildlands protection in Cochise County. Mail to: Land of Legends Wilderness, c/o Arizona Wilderness Coalition, PO Box 40340, Tucson, Ariz. 85717

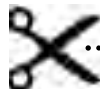
Dear Rep. Giffords,

Please protect Cochise County's scenic natural heritage—our Land of Legends—by supporting new wilderness designations for the Whetstone, Dragoon and Chiricahua mountain ranges. These treasures provide world-class recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, key habitat for Arizona's endangered wildlife and scenic beauty that makes Cochise County a desirable place to live. Please permanently protect these publicly owned jewels as wilderness for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



# Get Out There



Join AWC for an exciting line-up of fall and winter events! As always, our electronic action alerts are the most up-to-the-minute way to get more details on each of these events and whether we need volunteers to help us out with tabling, outreach, phone banking, letter writing, and other important activities. Visit our website at [www.azwild.org](http://www.azwild.org) to sign up for our action alerts, if you haven't already!

**Please Note: cancellations due to fire restrictions, weather, or agency policies are always possible. Please check with the trip leader on status before signing up.**

### August 21-22 Hackberry Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA), Coconino National Forest

An overnight backpack trip into an area proposed for wilderness by AWC. A scenic 6.5 mile hike past the Towel Peaks culminates with camping along the Verde River. Don't forget it's another 6.5 miles back to the vehicles the next day! For more information or to sign up, contact Sam Frank at [sfrank@azwild.org](mailto:sfrank@azwild.org), or 928-717-6076.

### September 25-26 Castle Creek Wilderness, Prescott National Forest

It takes a while to reach the trail head (possible Forest Service shuttle available), but the remote setting of this wilderness makes it worth it! This overnight event will require a little bit of every kind of trail work you can think of. Great views will take your mind off the sweat on your brow and soreness in your legs. For more information or to sign up, contact Sam Frank at [sfrank@azwild.org](mailto:sfrank@azwild.org), or 928-717-6076.

### Two other great events coming up in late summer/early autumn:

#### Grand Canyon National Park, South Side of Canyon

An old road, located in potential wilderness, needs some help returning to a trail. This will be an overnight event within the National Park Service. Details to be announced. For more information or to sign up, contact Sam Frank at [sfrank@azwild.org](mailto:sfrank@azwild.org), or 928-717-6076.

#### Mazatzal Wilderness, Tonto National Forest

AWC and Back Country Horsemen of Central Arizona (BCHCAZ) have become co-segment stewards for a section of the Arizona Trail known as the Red Hills section. This 14-mile stretch of trail is remote, high elevation, and overlooks the Verde River drainage. As co-segment stewards, we need to check on the trail and give it some TLC as necessary. Keep an eye out for details on this challenging event! For more information or to sign up, contact Sam Frank at [sfrank@azwild.org](mailto:sfrank@azwild.org), or 928-717-6076.

### What Membership Means

With the growing strength of our members behind us, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition is able to fight for wilderness when it really counts. When the Omnibus legislation was working its way through Congress at the beginning of 2009, Kevin Gaither-Banchoff was in Washington, D.C. advocating for Fossil Creek's Wild & Scenic designation. Without our active members, he would not have been able to make the case that Arizonans treasure our irreplaceable wild rivers like Fossil Creek. Together we will work to give more of our beautiful, quiet places the highest level of protection they can receive—for wildlife and for people. Over the coming years, our members will enable us to secure new Arizona wilderness and Wild & Scenic designations.

The more members we have, the stronger case for wilderness we can make to congressional representatives and land managers: we make it apparent that citizens in their districts care about and are willing to take action for wild places. With our members' generous contributions, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition will continue to expand our efforts to save the remaining wilderness in our state.

### Are YOU a member?

You become a member of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition with your annual membership gift of \$25 or more. With this simple action, you join a dedicated community of people that is working to protect the special places in nature that you love, sometimes use, and always know exist for the plants and animals that make wilderness home. With membership comes a commitment on your side – a yearly membership contribution at least, but also your time and energy, if you are able to commit those things – and on our side as well: the many benefits, direct and indirect, that our members receive.

Our members are updated about Arizona's wild places with our biannual newsletter and email alerts. They receive perks including invitations to events like hikes and campouts, and special discounts, for example to our Wild & Scenic film festival event. We also inform our members about wilderness policy issues and give them the opportunity to have direct input into land management agencies' planning processes. But most of all members of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition have the satisfaction of knowing that they are making the difference in saving our state's wild beautiful lands and waters – one membership at a time.

## Giving the Easy Way

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition's monthly giving program is the convenient, hassle-free way to donate. Simply sign up below and we will automatically charge a monthly, quarterly, or annual gift to your credit or debit card.

Automatic giving saves paper, postage, and time spent signing and mailing checks. Plus, it puts more of your donation directly to work to protect Arizona's wild places. Automatic giving also allows you to divide larger contributions into manageable monthly payments. For example:

\$5 per month = \$60 per year for wilderness  
 \$30 quarterly = \$120 per year for wilderness  
 \$25 per month = \$300 per year for wilderness!

Arizona's extraordinarily special wild places need protection now more than ever as our state experiences an explosion of growth and development. Your support as a monthly donor ensures that the Arizona Wilderness Coalition has the resources necessary to respond to threats to wilderness whenever and wherever they occur.

Thank you.

.....

**Yes!** I want to donate to the Arizona Wilderness Coalition with easy monthly payments of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be charged to my credit/debit card

Monthly    Quarterly    Annually

Card number:

\_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card:

\_\_\_\_\_

Billing address for card:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please clip and mail the completed form to AWC, P.O. Box 40340, Tucson, AZ 85717

You can easily cancel at any time with a simple phone call to the Arizona Wilderness Coalition.

Your donation is tax-deductible. With your support, we can continue the work to permanently protect Arizona's wilderness, wild lands, and waters.



**Join us! You become a member with your yearly membership gift of \$25 or more. When you become a member you enter a community of dedicated people working to protect the special places you love and use and wish to pass along intact to future generations.**

**As a member you'll receive our biannual newsletter, as well as regular email updates and announcements on wilderness-related events and opportunities to take action for wild lands and waters. You will also enjoy discounts to events like our Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festivals, conferences, and special invitations to hikes and campouts.**

**But most of all, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that with your membership you strengthen the case for wilderness protection for the places you love. When you join your voice and your resources with those of so many others across Arizona you send the message to members of Congress and land managers that citizens in their districts treasure wild places and are willing to take action for them.**

**Yes! I want to:**

- Become a member**
- Renew my membership**
- Become a monthly donor by credit/debit card - the easiest (and "greenest") way to join**
- Make a one-time gift**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*Our updates, Action Alerts and event notices are done via email to save costs, reduce paper waste, and to reach our members as quickly as possible. You may choose to stop receiving our email announcements at any time.

**Enclosed is gift of:**

\$250    \$100    \$50    \$25 Basic Membership    Other \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **Arizona Wilderness Coalition**

Online gifts can be made at [www.azwild.org](http://www.azwild.org)

Contributions to the Arizona Wilderness Coalition are tax deductible.

**I want to volunteer!** What are your interests and skills? (Please check all that apply.)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Volunteer         | <input type="checkbox"/> Wild Land Inventory                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events            | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Work (or other physical work) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing/Publishing        | <input type="checkbox"/> Letter Writing                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Naturalist or Hike Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography/Art/Graphic Design      |

**Mailing preferences?** (Please check any that apply.)

- Do not mail semi-annual newsletter.    Do not share\*  
 (\*We occasionally share addresses with like-minded conservation groups for one-time mailings.)

Cut and mail this form with your payment in to:

Arizona Wilderness Coalition  
 PO Box 40340 Tucson, AZ 85717

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



NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION

# ARIZONA WILD

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### 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.

### What is a Wild and Scenic River?

To be eligible for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, a river must be free-flowing and contain at least one “outstandingly remarkable value,” i.e., scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar value. The Act mandates that selected rivers be preserved in a free-flowing condition and be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Today, approximately 600,000 miles of once free-flowing rivers (approximately 17% of the America’s rivers) have been altered by 60,000 dams.

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## ARIZONA WILD

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