



NEWS RELEASE: For Immediate Release
September 15, 2017 **Outdoor Education Event Features San Pedro River and National Author**

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Sierra Vista — Nearly twenty local and national organizations have joined forces to host a unique outdoor educational event along the San Pedro River on Saturday, September 30, in celebration of National Public Lands Day. With a focus on helping children, families and adults connect to one of southern Arizona’s most important natural resources, “Seek the San Pedro” will provide a myriad of free activities from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. around the San Pedro House, located at 9800 E Hwy 90, just east of Sierra Vista, Arizona.

Seek the San Pedro will provide nature walks, educational exhibits, wildlife demonstrations and the chance to learn more about water, birds, history and archeology. Especially broad community support offers something for everyone. Participating organizations include Gray Hawk Nature Center, Fort Huachuca Fire and Emergency Services, Arizona Game and Fish Department, The Nature Conservancy, Empire Ranch Foundation, the Bureau of Land Management, Coronado National Forest, Coronado National Memorial, Arizona Wilderness Coalition, Archeology Southwest, Tucson Electric Power, Viva la Verde, Tucson Audubon, and the Friends groups for the San Pedro River, Huachuca Mountains and Brown Canyon..



As a special feature, nationally recognized author Thomas Cobb will appear and read from his books on Arizona history, set in locations including the Galiuro and Chiricahua Mountains. Mr. Cobb is author of “Crazy Heart,” the basis for the movie starring Jeff Bridges and Maggie Gyllenhaal. The contributions of women to Arizona’s history will be explored by Jan Cleere, author of “Levi’s and Lace” and a number of additional books on western history.

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Seek the San Pedro originated as an effort to draw together diverse interests to enjoy the resource of the San Pedro River in a positive manner. The Bureau of Land Management teamed with Arizona Wilderness Coalition and the Friends of the San Pedro River to make the event a reality. Funding support for author talks is provided by the Arizona Humanities Council. Tucson Electric Power and the Friends of the San Pedro River are sponsoring free lunchtime refreshments.

Seek the San Pedro is part of National Public Lands Day celebrations that will occur across the country this fall. This event showcases the resources available to local communities from public lands sites like the San Pedro National Conservation Area (SPRNCA). Sites like SPRNCA have shown considerable economic return for nearby local communities, in addition to providing nature-based recreation and wildlife habitat. Nationally, quiet recreation produced an estimated 1.86 billion in expenditures in communities near BLM lands in 2014 (see <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/analysis/2016/03/31/the-economic-value-of-quiet-recreation-on-blm-lands>) .

Arizona Wilderness Coalition aims to preserve and restore wilderness areas across the state of Arizona through volunteerism and advocacy. Working with agency partners and some 200 volunteers, AWC conducts ten to twenty restoration projects on public lands annually, engaging students, veterans, and individuals of all backgrounds to enjoy and preserve Arizona's great outdoor resources. See more at www.azwild.org .



For more information on Seek the San Pedro, please visit <http://azwild.org/eNews/seeksanpedro.php> , see the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ArizonaWildernessCoalition/>, or call (520) 326-4300.(AWC) or 520-258-7200 (Bureau of Land Management)

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