



THE ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION

PROTECTING ARIZONA'S WILD LANDS & WATERS SINCE 1979

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ AWC Awarded an NFF Matching Grant for Wild Stew Work
- ◆ Find the Wild Way in Lower Burro Creek
- ◆ Arizona Wild Areas are Important to the Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- ◆ Arizonans Support Conservation :: State of the Rockies Report
- ◆ Preservation is Good Economics :: The Golden Rush Report

March 31, 2014

Greetings!

The breezes seem softer, and fragrant. Avian arias waft through the air. *It's Spring!* A perfect time to explore Arizona wilderness in the warmer parts of the state. And AWC will play a part in maintaining trails for your enjoyment – we just received news that the National Forest Foundation (NFF) awarded us more than \$45,000 for stewardship work across the state. Now we need your help to make the match! Read more about our upcoming stewardship projects below, along with adventure reports from Lower Burro Creek.

To whet your appetite for spring birding, check out the fascinating facts about a recently protected Arizona bird, the Yellow-billed cuckoo. And to boost your optimism for conservation, take a look at the heartening results of the recent State of the Rockies poll and a new report on the economic benefits of protecting public lands.

We're bursting with enthusiasm for our great Arizona outdoors. Dust off your boots and binocs and let's go hiking!

Yours in Wilderness,





Barbara

Barbara Hawke
Executive Director



NFF Awards \$46,000 for AWC's Wild Stew!

The National Forest Foundation recently notified AWC that we are being awarded \$46,000 to support our award-winning Stewardship program. This is a huge accomplishment, as this year we were competing with a broad range of forest projects, not limited to wilderness. Our projects in the coming year will maintain

trails in popular areas like the Superstition and Chiricahua Mountains, and beyond.

We must raise dollar-for-dollar match to access the NFF funds. You can be a part of this important effort by [donating today to help us raise \\$15,000 by June 30th](#).

Wild Stew volunteer in the Superstition Mountain Wilderness © Elias Butler



Finding the Wild Way in Lower Burro Creek

AWC is thrilled to work with the expert team from Hassayampa Forestry, Joe Trudeau and Amber Fields, to survey lands in the Kingman Resource Area for Wilderness Characteristics. This month the team met up with AWC Intern Brian Andersen to assess wilderness experiences available in Lower Burro Creek. Brian led an

intrepid group of volunteer backpackers into a rugged and beautiful part of our state. [Read more.](#)

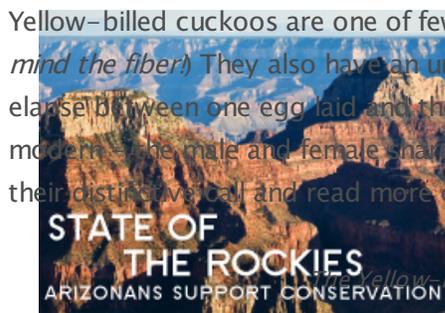
Lower Burro Creek was recently surveyed for Wilderness characteristics. © Brian Andersen



Arizona Wild Areas Important to Yellow-billed Cuckoo

The Yellow-billed cuckoo was listed as a Threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service last November. The proposed Critical Habitat for this elusive bird includes a significant amount of Arizona wild lands – areas like the Bill Williams River, Hassayampa River, Upper Verde River, Aravaipa Creek, and many additional areas. This underscores the importance of wilderness in preserving natural ecological systems that can support

sensitive species.



Arizonans Support Conservation!

Yellow-billed cuckoos are one of few birds that can fly up tall trees. (Guess they don't mind the fiber!) They also have an unusual egg-laying schedule – as long as five days may elapse between one egg laid and the next. When it comes to brood-rearing, they are quite modern – the male and female share equally in incubating eggs and brooding nestlings. Hear their distinctive V call and read more on the great site of [The Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#).

A recent "Conservation in the West" poll found that 95% of Arizona voters visited public lands at least once in the last year. 83% viewed "Protecting and conserving natural areas for future generations" as very important, while 75% thought "Protecting and conserving wildlife habitat" was very important. And nearly three-quarters

support protecting the Greater Grand Canyon region as a national monument! [Read more results from Colorado College's State of the Rockies Institute](#).

Nearly three-quarters of Arizona supports protecting the greater Grand Canyon bio-region.



Preservation is Good Economics: The Golden Rush Report

The Center for Western Priorities recently released "The Golden Rush," an economic study reflecting how retirees are drawn to areas with protected public lands. Retirees bring with them income in the form of investment and retirement payments, and create a need for medical and service jobs, while expanding leisure spending. The report estimates that 141,900 jobs were created by seniors moving in to Arizona between 2000 and 2010. [Read more](#).

The Golden Rush report examines census data, migration trends, economic indicators, and the distribution of protected public lands to help determine which factors drive retirees to the West.





JOIN US OR RENEW

You can make a tremendous difference in the success of wilderness campaigns by becoming a supporting member and sharing your resources with Arizona's last, best places.



PO BOX 40340 • TUCSON, AZ 85717 • (520) 326 - 4300 • WWW.AZWILD.ORG

PROTECTING ARIZONA'S WILD LANDS & WATERS SINCE 1979



ENGELMANN HEDGEHOG CACTUS © MARK MILLER