



THE ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION

PROTECTING ARIZONA'S WILD LANDS & WATERS SINCE 1979

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August 25, 2015

Greetings!

Summer may be winding down, yet AWC's events are heating up. Take a look below at the marvelous array of restoration projects we have planned, along with several special events, all across the state. There's sure to be an activity just for you.

Efforts to preserve wilderness and advance conservation on public lands are moving forward, although progress can seem slow. You can help by participating in the "Get Involved" issues highlighted below, with new developments in agency decisions emerging each month.

And today, let's celebrate a grand bastion of wilderness in our nation, the National Park Service. Read more below.

Yours in Wilderness,



Barbara

Barbara Hawke
Executive Director

AWC in the News



Wild Stew Program Lauded by Arizona Community Foundation

The Arizona Community Foundation of Yavapai County announced the 2015 recipients of its *Joy of Giving Awards* at its annual luncheon earlier this month. The awards honor the contributions of individuals and nonprofit organizations that help to improve lives of

county citizens. AWC's Wilderness Stewardship Program and program coordinator Brian Stultz were lauded for extraordinary community service in our work to engage volunteers in forest stewardship activities. [Read more.](#)



The Value of Public Lands

Land exchanges are under scrutiny these days. While economic health is vital to our local communities, privatization of public lands, or even transferring these lands out of federal ownership, threatens an important part of our Western character. [Read more of](#)

[Barbara Hawke's Op-Ed in the Havasu News-Herald.](#)

Get Involved



Community Forum on Public Lands & Military Viability

TONIGHT! August 25th, 6:00 – 8:00pm

You are invited to attend a meeting to discuss the recent report on the relationship between conserved public lands and military viability. A panel discussion will feature guests Fred Pease (Air Force Deputy

Secretary, Retired), Mike Quigley (The Wilderness Society), Ben Altener (The Arizona Wildlife Federation), and representatives from Pima County. Opening remarks by Mayor Jonathan Rothschild. Come and show your support for using conservation tools to protect military missions. Tucson Midtown Police Station (main conference room), 1100 S. Alvernon Way, Tucson.



Harquahala Mountains Wilderness Management Plan

Comments Due September 24th

The Bureau of Land Management has prepared an updated Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential impacts to the future management of the Harquahala Mountains Wilderness west of Phoenix. The

BLM welcomes your comments on the revised Wilderness Management Plan by September 24th. [Learn more.](#)

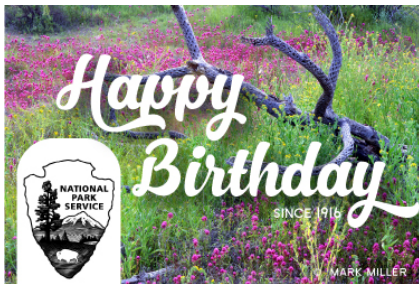


Prescott National Forest Management Plan Release

Appeals Due November 5th

The long-awaited updated Prescott National Forest Final Forest Plan has been released. A 90-day appeals period will end November 5, 2015. Conservation partners will be reviewing the Plan and assessing

appeals topics. Watch for additional updates in the coming months. [Learn more.](#)



Celebrating 99 years of the National Park Service

On August 25, 1916 President Woodrow Wilson signed the act creating the National Park Service (NPS) – [learn more about its history.](#)

Today America celebrates 401 national parks across the nation to preserve local history and create recreational opportunities. Arizona celebrates 22 areas under the National Parks system, from the well-known Grand Canyon National Park to the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail beginning in Nogales. The Arizona Wilderness Coalition thanks the NPS for their continued support of the four wilderness areas under their supervision: Chiricahua National Monument Wilderness, Organ Pipe Cactus Wilderness, Petrified Forest National Wilderness, and Saguaro National Park Wilderness ([download AWC's Wilderness Map & Checklist](#)).

Upcoming Events

SEP
12-13

Arrastra Mountain Wilderness Monitoring

Join us for an overnight backpacking trip along the Big Sandy River in the Arrastra Mountain Wilderness. We will be hiking along the river corridor, monitoring for and recording data of the presence of invasive plants. [Learn more & RSVP.](#)

SEP
12

Arizona Trail Day

The 2nd annual Arizona Trail Day is coming to Flagstaff! AWC and other partners are tabling with the Arizona Trail Association, and invite you to join us for a day full of activities to celebrate the Arizona Trail.

[Learn more & join the celebration!](#)

SEP
19-20

Lower Burro Creek Monitoring

Join us in Lower Burro Creek, a proposed Wild & Scenic River segment. This is an overnight backpack trip to monitor and record data on riparian conditions at designated photo-points along the creek. [Learn more & RSVP.](#)

SEP
19-20

Trail Work Training Session

Join the Arizona Trail Association (ATA) and American Conservation Experience (ACE) for a two-day training that will teach valuable trail building and maintenance skills. This is an intensive weekend of experiential learning that includes discussions and demonstrations. [Learn more & RSVP.](#)

SEP
26

National Public Lands Day!

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands, with more than 175,000 volunteers celebrating at more than 2,100 public land sites. While the official day is September 26th, Arizonans continue the celebration into October. [Find an event & get involved!](#)

OCT
10-11

Apache Creek Wilderness Invasive Species Removal

We are excited to return to Apache Creek for our fourth year in efforts to eradicate the invasive Tamarix shrub. We are making great strides in preventing this invasive species from out-competing native plants and altering this delicate ecosystem.

Please join us as we monitor for regrowth and remove any found Tamarix plants. [Learn more & RSVP.](#)

OCT
17

NPLD at Dos Cabezas Wilderness

Join the Bureau of Land Management to help restore wilderness values at Dos Cabezas Wilderness. Volunteers will break down an old wildlife guzzler found within the wilderness and bundle the materials together to pack them out. [Learn more & RSVP.](#)



JOIN US OR RENEW

supporting member and sharing your resources with Arizona's last, best places.



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CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT WILDERNESS © JASON CORNEVEAUX