Greetings!

As the seasons turn with the Autumnal Equinox, it’s a great time to savor favorite memories of summer trips to Arizona’s wild lands–the simple beauty of an expansive sunset, contemplation resting on a boulder far from the bustle of urban life, the warm glow of a crackling campfire.

Yet those experiences wouldn’t be the same without the efforts of wilderness advocates and volunteer stewards to preserve and restore these cherished landscapes.

You can be a part of this important work through exciting National Public Lands Day events scheduled across the state. Officially September 26 this year – but celebrated throughout the fall here in Arizona – National Public Lands Day is a great opportunity to both celebrate our wild places and to give a little back.

There are dozens of events where you can volunteer your time to support the public lands you love the most, or to explore a new area you haven’t yet experienced (download our Wilderness Map & Checklist). And don’t forget to support Arizona Wilderness Coalition with your fall contribution so we can stay connected with you on all our wildlands work!
Whatever your own way of participating, you'll feel great knowing that you helped ensure memorable experiences for yourself and others in the summers to come.

Yours in Wilderness,

Barbara Hawke
Executive Director

Finding "New" Wild Areas
Citizen wilderness inventories formed the foundation of many of the 90 designated Wilderness areas we enjoy in Arizona today. As on-the-ground conditions and agency policies change, opportunities emerge to preserve precious backcountry areas that may qualify for wilderness protection in the future. That's why we've been hard at work surveying remote public lands in northwestern Arizona. Read more about the experience of our talented wilderness explorers who found thirteen new potential wilderness areas.

Harquahala Mountains Wilderness Management Plan
Comments Due September 24th
The Bureau of Land Management recently released a draft management plan for the Harquahala Mountains Wilderness Area, which encompasses part of southwestern Arizona’s highest desert mountain range, approximately 80 miles west of Phoenix.

Through September 24th, you have the opportunity to weigh in on the draft plan and help shape how this area is managed. Learn more about the plan and how to submit your comment.

Celebrate National Public Lands Day All Fall
More than 20 years ago, volunteers and land managers came together to launch the first National Public Lands Day, aiming to promote both enjoyment and volunteer stewardship for our public lands. This year, more than 175,000 volunteers are expected to participate across the country at more than 2,100 sites.
There are currently 38 National Public Lands Day events scheduled across Arizona throughout the fall – including our featured partnership project in the Dos Cabezas Wilderness on October 17th – so there are plenty of opportunities to find an event just right for you.

National Public Lands Day (September 26th) is also a "fee-free" entry day for all visitors to federally–managed public lands, and volunteers on federal project sites that day are rewarded with free entry coupons for future visits. Check out the full listing of Arizona events, and attend an event with AWC or one of our partners throughout the fall.

Upcoming Events

**Ironwood Forest National Monument Sign Installation**

It's National Public Lands Day and you are invited to join the Bureau of Land Management and Friends of Ironwood Forest National Monument to replace signage at designated entrances. Volunteers will work together to excavate two holes, set posts, and mount signs with hardware. All work will be done with hand tools. Additionally, informal talks will be given by on–site staff about the Ironwood Forest Area. Learn more & RSVP.

**Madera Canyon Habitat Remediation**

Join Sky Island Alliance and Coronado National Forest this National Public Lands Day as they work to mitigate the effects of recent bridge construction in Madera Canyon. Volunteers will be building rock structures to help control erosion, removing invasive vinca, installing and watering native plants, and building and installing protective cages for new plants. Learn more & RSVP.

**Verde River Corridor Clean Up & Trail Upkeep**

In celebration of National Public Lands Day, join Tonto National Forest for a “Green Up Clean Up” project along the East Verde River, near Payson. A full range of activities, volunteers will either walk along the East Verde River picking up trash in the riparian areas between developed recreation sites or work on stabilizing social paths and associated eroded areas with various materials (e.g. rocks and gabion barriers, timbers and rebar, straw walls, etc.). Learn more & RSVP.
Apache Creek Wilderness Invasive Species Removal & Monitoring

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.

Dos Cabezas Mountains Wilderness Clean Up

AWC is celebrating National Public Lands Day all Fall! And you are invited to join the Bureau of Land Management to help restore wilderness values at Dos Cabezas Mountains 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.

Chiricahua Wilderness Trail Restoration

Join us as we head to Chiricahua Wilderness to do some much-needed maintenance on trails to restore conditions following wildfires and monsoonal erosion. Details are being developed. Learn more & RSVP.

Arizona Wilderness Turns 25!

The Arizona Desert Wilderness Act was enacted on November 28, 1990, preserving vast acreages of Bureau of Land Management lands across the state. Watch for details on a special event in Tucson celebrating this milestone, slated for late November.

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Do you shop at Amazon.com? With just a quick click or two, you can support our work to protect and restore wilderness lands and waters – at no additional cost to you. The AmazonSmile program donates a small portion of your purchase total towards wilderness protection. Every bit helps, so please take a moment to select the Arizona Wilderness Coalition as your non-profit!
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.

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