



## THE ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION

PROTECTING ARIZONA'S WILD LANDS & WATERS SINCE 1979

September 22, 2016

As our hot summer temperatures finally start to dwindle, the fall event season starts to heat right on up! There are a wide variety of fun events over the next few months that we'd love to see you at—festivals, Wild Stew restoration projects, and advocacy opportunities...to name just a few.

Joining one of our upcoming events is one of the best ways to learn more about Arizona's public lands, get more involved in something you're passionate about, and meet fellow wilderness supporters from across the state. If you've been looking for a way to give back to the public lands we all cherish, we have an opportunity just for you. Scroll down for more details. Let's get out and Fall headlong into the wild outdoors!



## RECENT ARIZONA CLIMATE SCIENCE IN THE NEWS

We all know that protected wilderness is an important component of reducing the broad impacts of climate change, especially when it comes to creating critical refuges for sensitive species and preserving naturally functioning habitats. Three recent news articles with Arizona ties highlight the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems in our public lands in the face of a changing climate.

### **Forests won't save us from climate change, says study with Arizona ties**

A new study concludes that drier weather in regions such as the Southwest may reduce North American forests' growth rate through the 21st century. This could slowly reduce the rate at which forests absorb carbon, while reducing the significant role they've played in mitigating the effects of greenhouse gas emissions. [Read more](#)

### **Arizona plant researchers laying groundwork for species forecasts**

A new effort by U of A researchers seeks to put centuries of species' data together with models of predicted climate change to track movement and forecast conditions for plants, mammals and birds. It's a challenging project that hopes to provide better data on where protected biodiversity hot spots are most needed. [Read more](#)



### **Climate Change Predicted to Dramatically Affect Tonto National Forest**

The Tonto National Forest recently released the Draft Assessment for their far-reaching Land and Resource Management Plan. That report highlights the vulnerability of TNF forests to climate change. [Read more from the perspective of local news coverage](#)

## YOUR CHANCE TO IMPROVE TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

Do you know a particular area in the Tonto National Forest that has pressing needs for different management or restoration to preserve wild lands and ecological values? Do you see trends in Forest use that greatly need attention? This is your opportunity to help improve how the Forest is managed.



Check out the [recently released Draft Assessment](#), and [let the Forest know](#) if they've missed important conditions or

trends.

Upcoming public meetings on the [Needs for Change](#) will be held from 5:30p–8p at the following locations:

- Sep 26 – Globe at High Desert Middle School, 4000 High Desert Dr, Globe
- Sep 27 – Young at Pleasant Valley Community Center, 288 Hwy 288, Young
- Oct 4 – Mesa at Franklin Junior High School, 4949 E Southern Ave, Mesa
- Oct 11 – Phoenix at Central High School, 4525 N Central Ave, Phoenix
- Oct 12 – Cave Creek at Black Canyon Elementary School, 33606 N. 60th St, Scottsdale

More information on the planning process is available at [tontoplan.org](http://tontoplan.org). [Please get in touch](#) if you have any questions about how to get involved in this critical planning process.

## WE WANT TO SEE YOU AT ONE OF THESE EVENTS!

AWC will be participating in a number of fun events this fall, so grab your calendars and get involved! We need volunteers at several of these events. It's a perfect opportunity to give a little time to help promote wilderness in Arizona and make some new friends. To get involved, email [linda@azwild.org](mailto:linda@azwild.org) with your event interest, or call us at 520–326–4300. We need your help!

### Wild Stew trail restoration in Miller Peak Wilderness: Sep 23–25

Our wilderness stewardship crew will be conducting a backcountry trail cleanup and restoration project in the scenic Miller Peak Wilderness near Sierra Vista. [Sign up!](#)



### National Public Lands Day Expo at South Mountain Park: Sep 25

Stop by AWC's booth at this celebration of our public lands to learn more about our state's amazing wild lands and our work to protect and restore them. Find us from 8am–12pm in the outdoor courtyard of South Mountain Environmental Education Center inside of South Mountain Park at 10409 South Central Avenue, Phoenix.

### Patagonia Fall Fest: Oct 7, 8, & 9

Find AWC at the [Patagonia Area Resource Alliance](#) booth to learn more about conservation efforts in the Sky Islands, and enjoy the Festival's arts, music and food. Best of all, we'll be painting little Jaguar faces for kids on Saturday afternoon! [More info](#)  
*Volunteers needed.*

### Tucson Meet Yourself: Oct 7, 8, & 9

One really good time with food, crafts, dance and much more from the rich cultural heritage of southern Arizona. [Our Land of Legends for our Future](#) coalition will be working the crowds, seeking support for greater land protections in the Sky Islands.



[More info](#)

*Volunteers needed.*

### Wild Stew visits Grand Wash Cliffs: Dec 9–11

Our wilderness stewardship crew will be exploring the iconic Grand Wash Cliffs area, northeast of Kingman, learning about potential future wilderness and helping to document what makes this place truly wild. This is a fabulous opportunity to experience a unique region of Arizona that's off the beaten path. [Join the trip!](#)



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.



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