



December 21, 2016

Greetings!

The holidays are in full swing, and if you're already weary of the frenzy, let us suggest a quiet walk in one of Arizona's evocative wild places to soothe your soul. Take a friend, take a visiting relative or just take yourself - and get out to enjoy the precious gifts of nature found in over four million acres of protected Arizona wilderness.

If you're weary from the difficult election year, turn that mood around by joining one of our convivial Wild Stew events. And action is a great antidote to discouragement -let your voice be heard in important decisions now being made by land management agencies, including the Tonto National Forest and Sonoran Desert National Monument.

Read on for details on how to get involved, and keep this season bright with optimism for the future of our public lands. We hope to see you on the trail, at a public meeting, or around the wassail bowl - wherever you are these holidays, know that we're with you as part of the community of advocates to preserve Arizona's amazing, irreplaceable, vast and stunning wild lands.

With Holiday Warmth and Cheer,



Barbara
Barbara Hawke
Executive Director

P.S. As you're wrapping up your gift list, don't forget to include wilderness - year-end contributions to AWC can be made as quick as the twinkle in Santa's eye on our website [here](#).

TAKE ACTION

Tonto National Forest

The Tonto National Forest (TNF) is revising its far-reaching Land and Resource Management Plan, and comments are sought on "Needs to Change". As the TNF encompasses almost 3 million acres, including seven wilderness areas and two wild and scenic rivers, decisions on this Plan are critically important for wildlife and recreationists alike. Comments are due January 11, 2017, learn more [here](#).



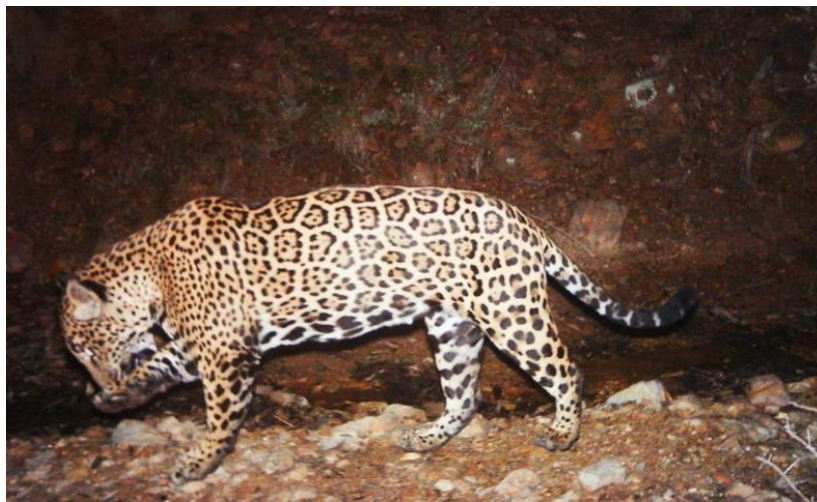
Sonoran Desert National Monument

The Bureau of Land Management has released a plan for managing recreational target shooting in the Monument. This unique National Monument harbors extensive archeological and ecological resources that deserve protection. Submit your comments until March 15, 2017. Learn more [here](#):

Jaguars in the News

A second enigmatic jaguar was observed in Arizona, this time in the Huachuca Mountains. If you've been following this fascinating drama of endangered wildlife, you know a male jaguar was photographed in the Santa Rita Mountains over the past few years. These sightings underscore the importance of preserving vulnerable habitat in the Sky Islands, including the Whetstone Mountains where a jaguar was observed in 2011.

Close on the heels of this sighting of a second male jaguar, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has released its draft Jaguar Recovery Plan. Key factors will determine how much protection jaguar habitat will receive in the U.S. You can comment until March 20, 2017 [here](#):



JOIN A VOLUNTEER EVENT

Keep the holiday spirit going into 2017 by joining one of these engaging events, and give back to your public lands while enjoying great company!

You can learn more and sign up for these events on our Meetup page [here](#).

Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness, Coconino NF

Saturday, January 21st and Sunday, January 22nd

Banish cabin fever by getting out with us in the beautiful Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness. We are helping to restore watershed resources by clearing out heavy debris in drainages that support Oak Creek and ultimately, the Verde River. We need at least a dozen volunteers each day.



South Mountain Park, City of Phoenix

Saturday, January 21st, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

It's a great time of year for a Trail Beautification project in South Mountain Park! Join us in a day of work and fun along the National Trail. This project promises miles and miles of beautiful scenery.

Chiricahua Mountains, Coronado NF

February 9-12

Calling all Veterans, active military, and families, for a long weekend of stewardship and relaxation in beautiful Rucker Canyon. We will be maintaining trails during the day and conversing around the campfires at night. Enjoy fantastic Dutch oven dinners prepared by AWC's very talented back country chef! We'd love to have you join us for a special weekend, including rustic cabin lodging to keep the cold at bay.

Superstition Wilderness, Tonto NF

February 18-19

Join us over Presidents' Day weekend as we perform much-needed maintenance along a section of the Arizona National Scenic Trail in the Superstition Wilderness. Volunteers will be cutting back over-grown cactus and clearing water drains on the Two-Bar Ridge trail.



The Arizona Wilderness Coalition actively engages and empowers citizens like you who care about Arizona's wild lands. For more than 35 years, we have been working with volunteers to conduct wild land inventories, educate citizens about the unique attributes of Arizona's landscape, and empower our activists to build support for their lasting protection. We need your help protecting our wild lands for the future...join us today!



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protecting arizona's wild lands & waters since 1979