

*As you make plans for Memorial Day weekend and summer vacations, now is a great time to both enjoy the wild outdoors, and get involved to preserve those special places. Read more below about events, issues and ways to engage with our public lands.*

**Support AWC**



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**Take a Stand for Wilderness**

[Tonto Forest Plan Meetings](#) | [Defend our National Monuments](#)

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**People Make a Difference**

[Thank You Stephanie](#) | [In Memorium](#)

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**Adventures in Wilderness**

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# TAKE ACTION



## Lend your Voice for Wilderness and Wild Rivers

The Tonto National Forest is undertaking a major revision to their Land and Resource Management Plan, that will affect how public lands can be used for many years to come. They want to hear from you! Attend one of these meetings to voice your support for expanded wilderness preservation, Wild and Scenic River

protections, and conservation of riparian areas and sensitive ecosystems. [Learn more here.](#)

[Learn More](#)

### Find Upcoming Public Meetings Near You

**Tonto Basin:** Tuesday, June 13th from 5:30-7:30 pm  
Tonto Basin Visitor Center, 28079 Hwy 188, Roosevelt, AZ

**Superior:** Wednesday, June 14th from 5:30-7:30 pm  
Superior Jr/Sr High, 100 Mary Drive, Superior, AZ

**Cave Creek:** Thursday, June 15th from 5:30-7:30 pm  
Cave Creek Museum, 6140 E. Skyline Dr. Cave Creek, AZ

**Phoenix:** Friday, June 16th from 9:00 am-12:00 pm, Location TBD

**Mesa:** Monday, June 19th from 5:30-7:30pm  
Porter Elementary, 1350 S. Lindsay Rd., Mesa, AZ

**Young:** Tuesday, June 20th from 5:00-7:00 pm  
Pleasant Valley Community Center, Hwy 288, Young, AZ

**Payson:** Wednesday, June 21st from 5:30-7:30 pm, Location TBD

**Globe:** Thursday, June 22nd from 5:30-7:30pm, Location TBD

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## Defend our National Monuments

National Monuments and other protected public lands are



threatened by a number of Executive and Legislative actions emerging at an alarming rate from our nation's capital. Iconic landscapes in Arizona, southeastern Utah, and across the west are at risk. **Citizen comments are critical** to preserving Arizona treasures like Grand Canyon-Parashant, Ironwood Forest, Sonoran Desert, and Vermillion Cliffs National Monuments.

[Write today to support these special places, and the many other monuments at risk including the recently protected Bears Ears.](#)

Comments will only be accepted until July 10, and comments specifically on Bears Ears National Monument will close TOMORROW, Friday May 26, 2017.

[Comment Now](#)



## Veterans in Wilderness

Through a National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program grant, AWC brought veterans and their families into Arizona's Kaibab and Coronado National Forests for several days of volunteerism, restoration and communion with nature. Now in its second year, our Veterans in Wilderness program has offered vets and their families the opportunity to improve recreational access and restore fragile desert ecosystems. According to Army veteran Bill Losh, "*[The] trip was a good chance to push reality and stress aside and enjoy one of*

*this country's treasures, meet other veterans and make some new friends.*"

See this story featured in the [2016 Annual Report of the National Forest Foundation](#) (page 5).





## Restoring Red Rock-Secret Mountain

Early this year, AWC brought together volunteers, backcountry horsemen, and agencies to clear and restore an illegal marijuana farm discovered in the heart of the Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness area. We faced an onslaught of setbacks, yet through optimistic persistence and collaboration we removed

1500 pounds of concrete and 300 pounds of fencing, with horses packing it all safely out of the Wilderness. [Read the whole story here.](#)

[Learn More](#)



### Thank you Stephanie!

Stewardship of our public lands depends on dedicated people willing to get involved. Stephanie Landers joined our team as the 2016-2017 Stewardship Project Assistant. Her contributions to projects in the Mazatzals, Arnett Creek, and Kendrick Mountain were considerable. Each of these projects featured expansive involvement of volunteers and challenging logistics. We are greatly appreciate all Stephanie did to advance conservation on behalf of AWC!



### In Memory of Matthew F. McDermott

We recognize Matthew F. McDermott, an avid outdoorsman who passed away at the end of March. We were incredibly honored to be chosen as a beneficiary for donations in Matthew's memory. His family informed us that he enjoyed a seven-mile hike in the desert the weekend before his passing. Our sincere gratitude goes to Maureen and Chuck McDermott, as well as the contributors who so generously paid tribute to Matthew.



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## National Trails Day: Lace up your Hiking Boots!

There's a trail and a National Trails Day event to suit the interests of just about everyone this summer! National Trails Day, on Saturday June 3rd, is a great opportunity to meet new people in your area and share a fun experience on a local trail. Planned events include kids activities, hikes, and bike rides, at places such as Hualapai Mountain Park and Dolan Springs. Share your adventure with the nation using #NationalTrailsDay. [Find your trail here!](#)

[Learn More](#)

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## Arnett Creek

Join AWC, Friends of the Tonto National Forest, and other partners as we finalize our work project in Arnett Creek through the installation of an interpretative panel. Activities will include attaching the sign to an existing post, light brushing in the area, and project discussions led by AWC staff. [For more information and to sign up please visit our events page on Facebook.](#)

[Learn More](#)

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## Rucker Canyon Frog Habitat

Help improve habitat for the Chiricahua Leopard Frog in Rucker Canyon, on Coronado National Forest lands in the Chiricahua Mountains. We will spend the day hand pulling cattail from several wetlands where the frogs have been found. [Click here for additional information and to sign up.](#)

[Learn More](#)

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## Kachina Peaks

If you are looking to escape the summer heat, join us for a day of trail brushing high up in the Kachina Peaks Wilderness. [Click here for more information and to sign up!](#)

[Learn More](#)

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## Wilderness opportunities on the Prescott National Forest

If you live in and around the Prescott area and you're looking to participate in assorted wilderness projects while enjoying spectacular places close to home, contact [Jason Williams](#) with the Prescott National Forest for more information about what's happening this summer and how you can get involved.

[Contact Jason](#)

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## Explore more Wilderness

Looking for a unique destination for that Memorial Day hike? Peruse our [Wilderness Checklist](#) to find one of Arizona's ninety designated wilderness areas that might just be calling you.

[Checklist \(PDF\)](#)



DONATE FOR A  
WILD ARIZONA

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