Dear Wilderness Friend,

The days grow slightly shorter, families trundle the kids off to school, and the world seems to be spinning ever faster with disturbing news from many fronts. This August, take a break with nature, remember that we can make a difference, and stay strong in the hope that working together, we will preserve our earth and humanity. Read on to find uplifting outdoor activities, and see the positive results of community support for our precious public lands.
Seek the San Pedro

Join us for a fun day of outdoor learning for all ages along the beautiful San Pedro River on Saturday, September 30. From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., we’re celebrating National Public Lands Day and the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation area with nature walks, wildlife demonstrations, kids’ activities, educational displays and so much more! Meet well-known authors including Ken Lamberton, Richard Shelton, and Jan Cleere, and hone your writing skills in a free writing workshop with Ken (registration required). Many thanks to the Bureau of Land Management, Friends of the San Pedro River, and many others for supporting this event. Details here.

Getting a Jump on Frog Habitat

AWC has been delighted to work with the Coronado National Forest this summer to improve habitat for the threatened Chiricahua leopard frog. You can share in the experience through Bob Grey’s essay on stream work done for the frog in the evocative Chiricahua Mountains.

The Big Outdoors is Big Business

Arizona’s public lands are a huge economic driver, with outdoor recreation generating $21.2 billion in consumer spending annually, and 201,000 direct jobs. Read the latest report from the Outdoor Industry Association here.

Public Input Makes a Difference!

There was a huge outpouring of support for our National Monuments in response to the recent Executive Order and review initiated by the Department of the Interior. While many monuments remain under threat, there’s good news that the Grand Canyon Parashant and Canyon of the Ancients National Monuments have been recommended to remain intact. In other encouraging developments, the Tonto National Forest included a number of our
recommendations in their current draft of Wilderness Criteria - recommendations that should help to keep the process open to consideration of additional wilderness management areas. You can find the current draft criteria, and AWC’s recommendations, here.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**SEP 23-24**

**Superstition Wilderness**

Be a part of AWC’s Individual Wilderness Stewards team!! Join us for a two-day learning adventure. We will backpack into one of Arizona’s first wilderness areas, and explore an assortment of topics from wilderness history to the ecology of this unique place. AWC has partnered with the Tonto National Forest to monitor opportunities for solitude throughout the Superstitions. This trip will include in-depth training on what solitude means and how to measure it, so that you can return and help complete these surveys throughout the year. For more information and to RSVP click here.

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**OCT 14**

**Woodchute Wilderness**

Join AWC and the Prescott National Forest for a day of trail maintenance on the Woodchute Trail in the Woodchute Wilderness. Participants will complete routine trail maintenance including cutting back overgrown vegetation, cleaning out drainages and improving other water mitigation features. For more information and to RSVP click here.

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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!