

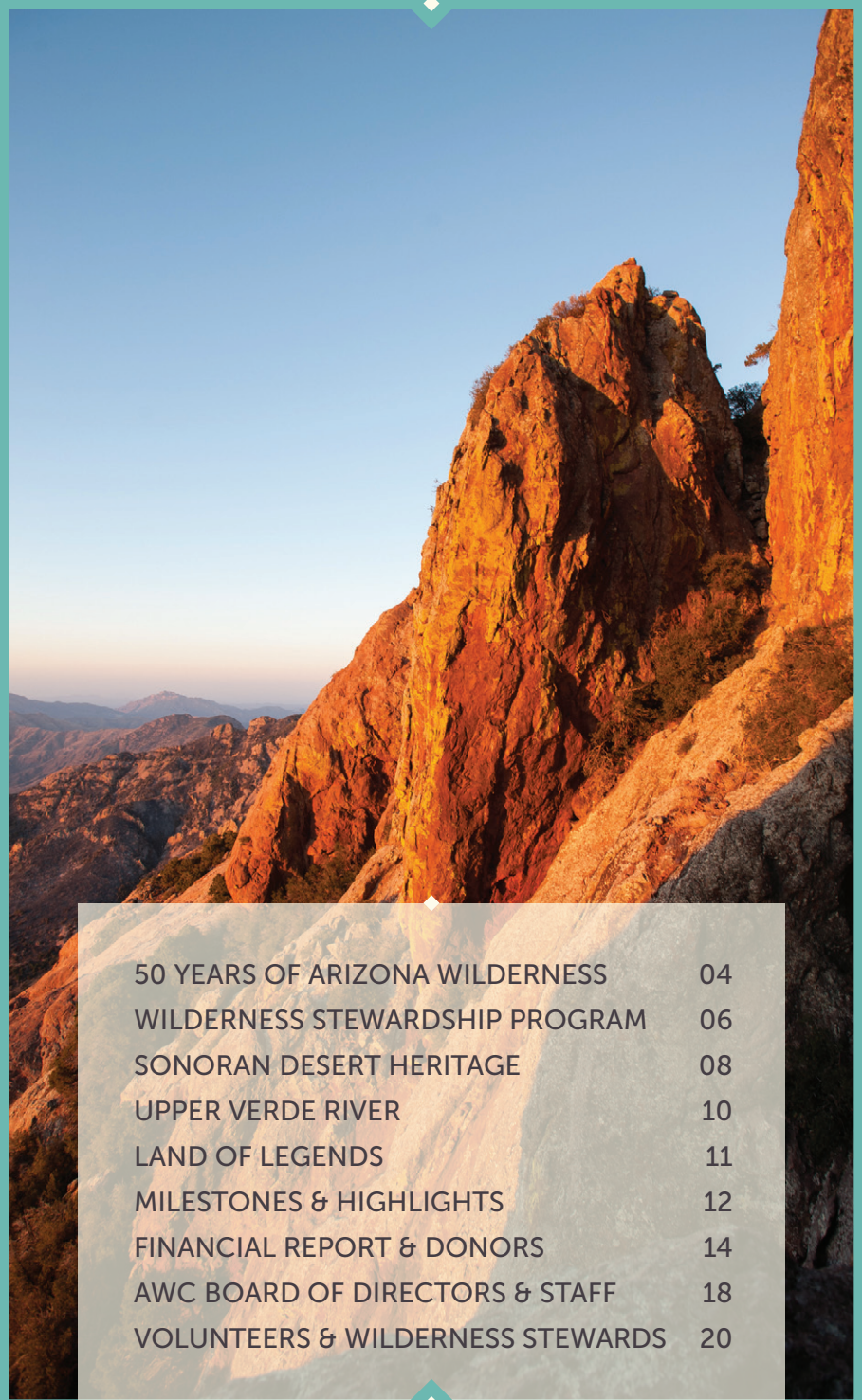
ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION

2012 / 2013 Annual Report



*Designations don't
protect wild places*

*—
people do.*



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BOARD PRESIDENT DON HOFFMAN

We were obviously disappointed when Les informed us that for personal reasons he had decided to step down as our Executive Director. It was going to be a daunting task to find someone of his caliber to lead our organization. However, as usual I've been inspired as our staff and Board of Directors stepped up to the challenge. I am continually amazed at how dedicated this group is to our mission, to the health of our organization and to the well being of each other. We were able to retain Les's leadership skills by electing him to our Board of Directors. Our staff took on additional responsibilities and offered essential support to our search committee. Our entire Board actively participated in this search as we attracted an outstanding group of applicants. This team effort culminated in our top choice enthusiastically joining the team. We are very, very pleased to introduce Barbara Hawke as our Executive Director!

This past year we have witnessed some key milestones that have brought statewide recognition to our mission of protecting Arizona's wild lands. Our Wilderness Stewardship program (fondly called "Wild Stew") continues to expand under the direction by our dynamic Sam Frank, building and energizing our members and creating constructive relationships with public land managers. In September, AWC was recognized at the Arizona Forward Awards Banquet, winning the prestigious Crescordia Award presented by Arizona Forward and SRP in recognition of excellence in environmental stewardship.

In October, the Arizona Chapter of the American Planning Association presented its "Best Project" award to the Sonoran Desert Heritage Conservation Plan for its collaborative approach to bettering our West Valley communities. For several years we have worked closely with our conservation allies to develop the ambitious 950,000-acre proposal to protect federal public lands in western Maricopa County under a variety of designations like national conservation areas and wilderness. The plan was carefully crafted to safeguard the viability of Luke Air Force Base and the Barry M. Goldwater Range in one of the Valley's fastest growing areas. We reached out to business and community leaders, local governments, military interests, the faith community, and all stakeholders with a constructive spirit to fashion this proposal worthy of bi-partisan support. In April, our conservation vision was introduced in Congress by Representative Raúl Grijalva! This is our model for securing our next generation of legislative protections. Victories earned with broad and diverse support are more enduring and the journey is more fun.

Of course it is always nice to receive awards. However, to me this recent wave of recognition is emblematic of much more. It validates that AWC remains on track to protect Arizona's wild places. With our rich history and Barbara's leadership and fresh perspectives, I am feeling quite optimistic.

Donald Hoffman
Don Hoffman, Board President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BARBARA HAWKE

I am delighted to begin this tremendous journey as the new Executive Director of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. Several attributes drew me to AWC – the organization's great reputation among the conservation community; a strong staff and Board; and, most of all, my fervent love for the incredibly varied and starkly beautiful landscapes of Arizona that desperately need preservation. It is my great honor to work with you, as supporters of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition, to ensure that the precious wild lands and waters that give us so much remain intact for our children and for wildlife in the future.

AWC's work is a great model for how we can achieve significant conservation gains in trying times. As you'll read in this annual report, our wilderness campaign work invests heavily in designing conservation proposals that can benefit the state economy and improve residents' quality of life, as well as preserve irreplaceable wild lands and waters. Wilderness preservation in modern times will rest greatly on old-fashioned values – especially hard work in building partnerships with affected communities. It will be imperative to help diverse audiences understand how essential wilderness will be in the future – to sustain healthy ecosystems during rapid environmental change; to retain that superlative quality of life that draws many to live, work and play in Arizona; and, most of all, to ensure that amidst a very stressful world, we all have a place where we can rest, renew and remember our place in nature.

Another hallmark of AWC's work is demonstrating responsibility and accountability by helping to preserve, restore and monitor wilderness areas through our award-winning Wilderness Stewardship program. This sort of balanced pragmatism will be increasingly important if we are to reach the broad audiences necessary to advance permanent wilderness protection under challenging political circumstances.

While 2013 saw many accomplishments to celebrate for Arizona's wilderness, we are entering a pivotal year in 2014. Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the landmark Wilderness Act of 1964, along with specific legislative opportunities ahead of mid-term elections, calls for a redoubled effort to advance permanent protection of wilderness before the end of the year. To enable bold and real movement in wilderness preservation, we need your involvement more than ever. To that end, we are establishing the *Future 50 Fund* to build a foundation for another fifty years of wilderness preservation that can fulfill the vision of the original Wilderness Act. As you read through the following pages, please join us in applauding the great work of AWC's staff, Board and partners, and consider a special contribution that can really make a difference for wilderness with the *Future 50 Fund*.



Barbara Hawke, Executive Director
(520) 326 - 4300 barbara@azwild.org

FUTURE 50 FUND

*Preserving Arizona's wilderness heritage
for the next 50 years and beyond*

Future 50 Fund

The legacy of the first 50 years of the Wilderness Act assured that some of our most precious wild lands and waters would be preserved forever. To realize the full vision of the Wilderness Act, we must reengage our efforts to achieve protections for those wilderness gems that lack permanent protection in Arizona.

You can help to ensure that the legacy of the Wilderness Act is not lost – that Wilderness preservation becomes a priority alongside goals for community health and economic well-being.

The future of wilderness protection is in your hands. Donate today to help us establish a strong foundation for wilderness preservation for the next 50 years and beyond. With your support, we can raise \$15,000 by December 31, 2013 and \$50,000 by June 30 of 2014.

Please contact Barbara Hawke at 520-326-4300 to discuss your special *Future 50 Fund* gift.



MARKING 50 YEARS OF WILDERNESS IN ARIZONA

Next year marks the 50th anniversary of one of America's greatest conservation gifts to future generations: passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964 created the National Wilderness Preservation System and an indomitable congressional mechanism for citizens to protect their most treasured wild places from degradation. In Arizona, the Act has enabled creation of 90 different wilderness areas across diverse ecosystems – from the vaulting cliffs of the Superstition Mountains outside of Phoenix to the verdant riparian gem of Aravaipa Canyon in southeastern Arizona and the spectacular russet formations of Red Rock-Secret Mountain near Sedona. Much of this natural and cultural legacy for Arizona was created by Congressman Morris K. Udall, who used the foundation of the Wilderness Act – guided through Washington by his brother Stewart Udall as Secretary of the Interior – to craft two major pieces of legislation: the 1984 Arizona Wilderness Act, which dealt primarily with U.S. Forest Service lands, and the 1990 Arizona Desert Wilderness Act, which established the majority of BLM wilderness areas and national wildlife refuges that millions of visitors and residents enjoy in Arizona today.

“They really complemented each other,” says Mark Trautwein, who served Rep. Mo Udall on the staff of the U.S. House Interior/Natural Resources Committee from 1979 to 1992. “Stewart was instrumental in getting the foundation of conservation laws enacted through the 1960s – the Wilderness Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Clean Water Act – but Mo’s passion and commitment to bipartisan collaboration through the 1970s and 80s fulfilled the promise of these laws for Arizona and many other places across the United States.” From Maine to California and Alaska to Florida, Mo Udall effectively tripled the size of the National Wilderness Preservation System through a variety of locally-driven wilderness bills.



Mark Trautwein served Rep. Mo Udall on the staff of the U.S. House Interior/Natural Resources Committee from 1979 to 1992. He serves on AWC's Board of Advisors.

AWC is leading planning efforts throughout 2014 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of this legislation, in partnership with federal agencies, The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, Arizona Office of Tourism, Arizona Highways, academic institutions, local businesses, civic leaders, and many others. Our goal is to remind citizens that wilderness areas directly contribute to quality of life, a healthy economy, and vibrant communities in Arizona.

Visit www.azwild50th.org to learn how you can get involved!

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HIGHWAYS**

New Subscriptions & Renewals

\$5 will be contributed to Arizona's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act

www.arizonahighways.com

use promo code
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valid through September 2014

The Wilderness Stewardship program volunteers work in more than 25 wilderness areas, and have monitored over 300 miles of trails and 50 miles of waterways, installed trail signs, removed multiple acres of non-native plants, and involved more than 250 volunteers in various projects for a total of more than 4,300 volunteer hours.

Join us as we expand *Wild Stew* to each of Arizona's 90 wilderness areas through partnerships with the USFS, BLM, and other federal land management agencies around Arizona.



WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Our Award-Winning *Wild Stew*

Arizona Wilderness Coalition staff, volunteers, and partners accepted the top tier Crescordia Award in the Central Arizona Stewardship category at Arizona Forward's Environmental Excellence Award Gala. In partnership with Salt River Project (SRP) for the 12th consecutive year, Arizona Forward hosts the awards evening to acknowledge those projects around Arizona that have set a high standard of achievement in environmental and conservation awareness. Launched in 2010 on the Prescott National Forest, AWC's Wilderness Stewardship program – affectionately dubbed '*Wild Stew*' – is a volunteer-based effort to assist land management agencies with activities to maintain, protect, and restore the character of wilderness areas on Arizona's federal public lands. In July, AWC doubled its capacity to cover more wilderness lands by training and certifying 30 new individual stewards. In addition to AWC-led field events, we now have over 60 Wilderness Stewards, who trek into wild backcountry lands on their own time to monitor and collect data that helps the USFS make critical management decisions on the forests.



Volunteers have removed 250 Tamarisk plants along Apache Creek since 2010. Stephanie DeVincent, Apache Creek Wilderness

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Winnie Liang & Jon Atkins

Getting involved with AWC has been a great experience for us! The various group events in the wilderness areas around Arizona have opened up our eyes to how much there is to explore in this beautiful state and the importance of preserving the natural splendor of AZ. Having both escaped from New Jersey, we're continually amazed at the variety of AZ backcountry areas we have visited (with many more on the list!) and are excited about playing a part, however small, in helping to maintain the health of these areas. With just some basic gear, the weekend trips have been fantastic brief escapes from our careers in science and engineering in Phoenix. We have additionally learned a great deal about monitoring for human impacts on the land and invasive species infestation, and look forward to sharing our knowledge with others as Wilderness Stewards.

Designations don't protect wild places — people do.

(Above) Wild Stew volunteers monitor the Mazatzal Wilderness (Inset) Winnie & Jon, Wet Beaver Wilderness



SONORAN DESERT HERITAGE



Rep. Raúl Grijalva accepts SDH commemorative poster. Presented on behalf of the SDH campaign by The Wilderness Society staff; (left to right) Mike Quigley, Rep. Grijalva, Phil Hanceford, and Nada Culver. Great Outdoors "GO" Week, June 2013.

SONORAN DESERT HERITAGE Campaign Ushers Bill to Congress

This 2013 was a banner year for the Sonoran Desert Heritage Conservation Campaign! In April, Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Dist 3) introduced the Arizona Sonoran Desert Heritage Act of 2013 (H.R. 1799) to his colleagues on Capitol Hill, capping a nearly 7 year effort by the Arizona Wilderness Coalition and its partners to build local support and visibility for the plan across western Maricopa County. Coupled with the bill's introduction, AWC and the Tucson-based Sonoran Institute jointly released a report highlighting the benefits of public lands conservation to Arizona's \$9 billion military economy and infrastructure – including the training missions of Luke Air Force Base and the future viability of the Barry M. Goldwater Range. The report and legislation garnered front page-A1 coverage by the *Arizona Republic*, followed by an overwhelmingly positive editorial touting the 'many benefits' offered by the Sonoran Desert Heritage plan to Arizona's future economy, West Valley growth, and quality of life for residents.

Find out more at www.sonoranheritage.org.

What's at stake here transcends partisan politics, so we hope other members of the delegation take a look, contribute their expertise and help achieve the many worthy goals this conservation/national security/recreation bill envisions for Arizona.

Arizona Republic Editorial on SDH Legislation, May 11, 2013



Ian Dowdy and Kate Mackay accept the APA "Best Project" Award from the Arizona Chapter of the American Planning Association for the Sonoran Desert Heritage Plan.

UPPER VERDE RIVER

A Wild & Scenic River on our Doorstep

The Verde River is an ecologically and socially indispensable component of central Arizona, with a watershed covering approximately 6,600 square miles and flowing approximately 125 miles without dams before its confluence with the Salt River. In May, an emphatic letter from Senators McCain and Flake called for a comprehensive plan to protect the Verde River watershed by local communities. AWC has recruited American Rivers to be a key collaborative partner on the steering committee for this campaign, to give political perspective, and guide fresh outreach strategy for conservative central Arizona. AWC has instigated a significant rebranding of this campaign and its outreach strategy, overhauling the public messaging and partnerships to increase community backing and political support from the Arizona delegation.



AWC is working to facilitate congressional designation of 48.5 miles of the Upper Verde River and two of its tributaries as Wild & Scenic. This designation for the Upper Verde River would protect the river's free-flowing nature and instream flows, and safeguard the river's unique cultural, economic, and environmental values.



(Above) David Moryc, American Rivers, and AWC's Sam Frank step into the Upper Verde River, (Below) Pronghorn in the Verde watershed, photos courtesy Ian Dowdy

LAND OF LEGENDS

Whetstone Watershed Feeds Cave Wonderland

Kartchner Caverns State Park encompasses arid limestone hills and adjacent alluvial slopes at the base of the eastern flank of the Whetstone Mountains in Cochise County. Guindani Canyon cuts deeply into the mountains west of the park, offering refuge to a rich tapestry of wildlife including mountain lions, mule deer, coatimundi, javelina, ocelot, jaguar, elegant trogons, black bear and numerous species of critical desert pollinators like bats and migratory hummingbirds. Sporadic stormwater runoff from the Whetstones flows through the park in Guindani Wash, as well as calmer flows from irregular winter snowfalls. Runoff in Guindani Wash and its tributary, Saddle Wash, is the major source of water infiltrating Kartchner Caverns – a stunning live cave system discovered in 1974. The lush Whetstone Mountain range is the watershed that keeps the ever-growing cave labyrinth of Kartchner Caverns State Park thriving – bringing millions of visitors and tourism dollars every year to this rural part of southeastern Arizona. AWC is working with a locally-grown coalition to craft a legislative campaign that would include wilderness as part of a broader conservation and economic package for the Whetstones and other area mountain ranges that contribute directly to the vibrant natural and cultural splendor of Cochise County.



Rural counties [in the West] with more than 30 percent of their land under federal protection increased jobs at a rate four times faster than rural counties with no federally protected lands.

Headwaters Economics, 2012

(Left) Kartchner Caverns, (Right) Whetstone Mountains, photos courtesy Jon Owen

WINS

Accepting the Arizona Forward-SRP **Crescordia Award for Stewardship** in Central Arizona, recognizing the outstanding achievement of AWC's Wild Stew program for 'contribution to environmental awareness, conservation of natural resources, and a longstanding commitment to environmental quality.'



Celebrating the introduction by Rep. Raúl Grijalva of the **Arizona Sonoran Desert Heritage Act of 2013**, which also garnered the Arizona Chapter of the American Planning Association's award for Best Master Plan/Project/Study.



Working with the Tucson-based Sonoran Institute to co-author a ground-breaking report connecting **the value of land conservation to Arizona's military facilities.**

Coordinating and training an **additional 30 Wilderness Stewards**, doubling our capacity for monitoring Arizona's wild lands and waters.

POLICY MILESTONES

In January, AWC and the statewide Solar Working Group secured approval from the Department of the Interior for the **Restoration Energy Design Project** in Arizona, identifying more than 190,000 acres of BLM lands in Arizona that are appropriate for solar development and exhibit low conflicts with wilderness values.

Throughout the fiscal year, AWC collaborated with key wildlife and habitat experts around the state, including the Arizona Game and Fish Department and a host of sportsmen groups, on a **precedent-setting MOU to reintroduce bighorn sheep** in the Catalina Mountains and Pusch Ridge Wilderness.

In April and May, AWC worked to oppose the proposed **Arizona State House Bill HB2551**, which hampers Arizona authorities' ability to enforce critical off-highway vehicle (OHV) regulations on more than 15 million acres of national forests, national parks, national wildlife refuges, and BLM lands in Arizona.

AWC rallied its members and partners to support protection for inventoried roadless lands in the **Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)** for its Forest Plan revision. Hundreds of thousands of acres of prime roadless wildlife habitat, perennial water sources, and wilderness-quality lands do not yet enjoy protection under the Wilderness Act and are at risk for degradation under the Forest's preferred alternative.

(Above) AWC, volunteer stewards, and partners receive Crescordia Award, (Below) Individual Wilderness Steward training, Phoenix

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Groups Protest BLM Plan to Allow Target Shooting at SDNM, *Environment & Energy Daily*, July
Ian Dowdy discusses SDH, *KAET-Channel 8*:

Arizona Horizon, August

Film Festival Showcases New Verde Film Friday, *Prescott Courier*, September

Sonoran Desert Heritage Conservation Plan, *PBS: This American Land*, October

Arizona Claims Grand Canyon as Fires Fuel Sovereignty Push, *Bloomberg News*, October
Mission: Conservation, *Arizona Republic: Explore Arizona*, December

Volunteers take on Invasive Plants in Arizona Wilderness, *AZCentral.com*, December

Active Voice: Bobbie Holaday, *Arizona Highways*, April

Into the Wilderness: An Evening with John Muir, *Tucson Weekly*, April

Measure would preserve vast area west of Valley, *AI Arizona Republic*, April

Getting Back to the Wild with the Arizona Wilderness Coalition, *AZ Attorney Magazine Blog*, April

One plan, many benefits, *Arizona Republic: Editorial*, May

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

5th Annual **Wild & Scenic Film Festival** in Phoenix, September, and inaugural event held in Prescott, October. We screened a diverse films on the value of conservation and the Verde River to a near sell-out crowd at Prescott's historic Elks Opera House.

A Celebration for the Future of Conservation highlighting the Sonoran Desert Heritage campaign and welcoming Les Corey at Audubon Arizona in Phoenix, November

John Muir Chautauqua performed by Doug Hulmes to a sell-out crowd in Tucson, April

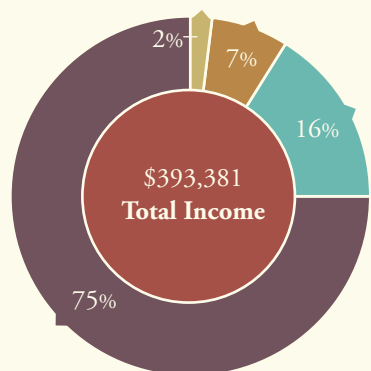
Great Outdoors **GO Week** in Washington DC, July

(2nd from Bottom) Doug Hulmes as John Muir, Tucson
(Bottom) Wild & Scenic Film Festival, Elks Opera House, Prescott



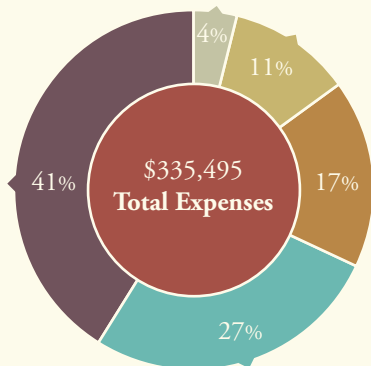
FINANCIALS

Organizational Income Allocation



- ◆ Foundation Grants
- ◆ Government Grants
- ◆ Members & Donors
- ◆ Events

Organizational Expense Allocation



- ◆ Wilderness Campaigns
- ◆ Wilderness Stewardship Program
- ◆ Events, Outreach & Education
- ◆ Administration & Fundraising
- ◆ General Program Support

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Thank you, Engelman-Berger!

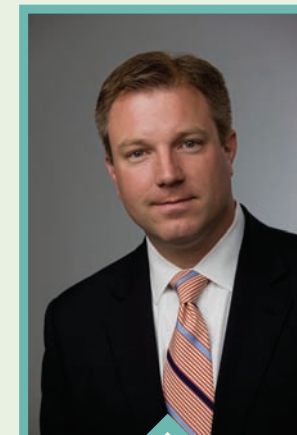


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Engelman Berger, P.C. (EB) is a Phoenix-based law firm specializing in creative solutions for businesses and individuals facing difficult legal and financial issues.

The firm has been generously supportive of AWC's *Wild Stew* program, which was featured in the Arizona Republic's *Explore Arizona* section in November and *Arizona Attorney Magazine's* blog in April. EB attorneys have joined AWC on Wilderness Stewardship trips to Castle Creek, Munds Mountain, Mazatzal and Apache Creek Wilderness areas, and provided a generous donation to AWC through their annual holiday fundraiser in which EB's staff chooses the charities the firm supports each year. They were also a key donor that allowed AWC staff, volunteers, and special guests to attend the Arizona Forward Environmental Excellence Awards gala in Scottsdale, where AWC accepted the SRP Crescordia Award for Stewardship in Central Arizona.

Find out more about Engelman Berger and their legal services by contacting Scott Hulbert at (602) 271-9090 or visiting the firm's website at www.eblawyers.com.



continued

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Arizona's Wilderness Legacy

Consider a legacy gift to the Arizona Wilderness Coalition in your will or revocable living trust to ensure that Arizona's Wilderness lands will remain intact for future generations. Please contact Barbara Hawke, Executive Director, with any questions about making a planned gift to AWC. Email barbara@azwild.org or call (520) 326 - 4300.

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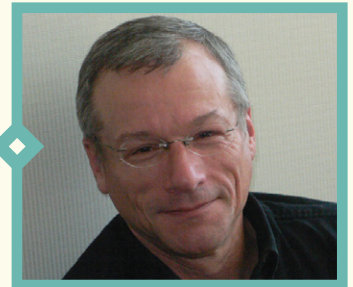
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Volunteers are the Heart of AWC

As a lean organization, we take great pride in our dedicated volunteers and the valuable ways they help us accomplish our mission for wilderness. Whether in the office, at a special event, or in the field, we extend a big ‘Thank You!’ to those who supported the Arizona Wilderness Coalition with your time and energy.

Tiffany Ash	Sara Diamond	Aaron MacMann	Lloyd Sharp
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Join with us to honor Arizona's natural heritage and to ensure a healthy, vibrant network of wild places for generations to come!



Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead



Individual Wilderness Stewards

We would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to the growing cadre of individual Wilderness Stewards who have committed to monitoring an adopted wilderness area. You are the future of the *Wild Stew* program, and we thank you!

Patty Adams	Alex Fitzhugh	Kathy Lopez	Mike Snodgrass
Mike Allen	Claire Groom	Larry Lopez	Margaret Starnes
Jon Atkins	Steve Groom	Louis Mackall	Fred Stellbrink
Jana Austin	Michael Hecht	John Mangimeli	Gail Stellbrink
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Nancy Dunlap	Nancy Lewis	Kelsey Shaw	Chip Wilson
Duane Dunning	Winnie Liang	Ted Smith	Diane Woodyard
Heather Finden			

ARIZONA'S WILD PLACES

Protected by people like you!

For more than 33 years, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition has been guided by our mission to permanently protect and restore wilderness and other wild lands and waters for the benefit of people and our native plants and animals. We have found success by following the simple principle: *people are the solution.*

With several land and water protection campaigns on the cusp of success, along with our highly successful volunteer restoration projects across Arizona's wilderness areas, AWC needs your involvement now more than ever.

With your donation, you can become an integral part of this dynamic network of over 2,500 individuals and organizations who take action to protect the rest of Arizona's best wild places. Or, join our growing cadre of stewardship volunteers working to protect and restore existing wilderness areas while experiencing first-hand the power and beauty of our wild backcountry.

As a member and supporter of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition, you become an active participant in wilderness advocacy – with unlimited opportunities to explore, restore, learn and lend a strong voice on behalf of Arizona's most precious wild lands and waters.



(Left) Tamarisk Removal, Apache Creek Wilderness, (Right) Wild Stew volunteers in Fossil Springs Wilderness, photos courtesy Elias Butler

(Above) Dragoon Mountains, Land of Legends (Below) Anemopsis californica (Yerba Mansa), Verde River

Founded in 1979, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition works to protect and restore wilderness and other wild lands and waters for the enjoyment of all citizens and to ensure that Arizona's native plants and animals have a lasting home in wild nature.



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*Tamarisk Removal, Apache Creek
Wilderness, photo courtesy Elias Butler*