Board of Directors

President
Mike Quinlan, PhD  Tempe

Vice President
Doug Hulmes  Prescott

Secretary
Joel Barnes, PhD  Prescott

Treasurer
Kelly Burke  Flagstaff

Don Hoffman  Alpine
Kim Crumbo  Ogden, UT
Trica Oshant Hawkins  Tucson
Nichole Trushell  Prescott
Les Corey  Tucson

Advisors
Bart Koehler  Juneau, AK
Kate Mackay  Boise, ID

Staff
Barbara Hawke  Executive Director
Brian Stultz  Stewardship Coordinator
Linda Williamson  Office Coordinator
We are delighted to share with you the marvelous accomplishments of Arizona Wilderness Coalition for our 2014-2015 Fiscal Year. And we've accomplished a lot, with your help and support!

Especially impressive are the successes of our growing Wilderness Stewardship program. Under the able leadership of our new Stewardship Coordinator, Brian Stultz, we are working with more partners and more diverse communities — expanding our work from National Forests onto Bureau of Land Management lands, and working more with veterans and students. This past year AWC completed stewardship projects in sixteen wilderness areas across the state, from mountains to grasslands.

Another exciting new venture is searching for wilderness-worthy lands in parts of the state that haven't seen citizen wilderness inventory for decades. Citizen wilderness inventory formed the backbone of the landmark 1984 and 1990 legislation that designated many of Arizona’s 90 wilderness areas. Yet since that time, conditions and policies have changed, providing an excellent opportunity to identify additional lands in need of preservation. We've found at least thirteen new areas deserving of wilderness management this year!

Citizen-led efforts offer great promise to achieve long-term protection of precious resources in our state.

Volunteers are the engine that drive local preservation efforts, and this year residents in southeastern Arizona organized efforts to secure increased protection along the San Pedro River and more broadly across the Sky Islands. These citizen-led efforts offer great promise to achieve long-term protection of precious resources in our state. AWC is proud to support such citizen initiatives with information and facilitation resources.

The pace of change in our human and natural environments grows ever more rapid. Arizona Wilderness Coalition is growing and evolving to respond to conservation challenges in ways that are effective and feasible in the near term, while strengthening the foundation for permanent wilderness protections. I hope through this Annual Report you’ll savor the accomplishments of the past year made possible by you, our valued donors, volunteers and supporters.

Yours in wilderness advocacy,
Barbara Hawke,
Executive Director
As a young boy and budding biologist, I often immersed myself in small pockets of nature around my home. As I grew older, I became emotionally aware of larger landscapes, and began to feel a powerful and deep-seated attraction to landscapes where the activities of man were hidden or absent. Over time, I came to realize that the environmental issue which meant the most to me was the preservation of wild lands. Aesthetically, emotionally, and biologically, I believe that land protection is essential. Protect the land, and you protect all that lives in it.

I joined the Board of Directors of the AWC just over ten years ago. My first Board meeting was November 1st, 2005. I had been recruited to the Board by Don Hoffman, who was then acting as the Executive Director. I remember feeling a mixture of excitement and trepidation at that first meeting. I still feel a mixture of excitement and trepidation before each Board meeting, some ten years later! Acting as a Board member for such a fine organization as Arizona Wilderness Coalition is an honor, and sometimes a challenge. Protecting land is never easy, but I do believe that we are on the cusp of an important moment in time where land protection may be possible and perhaps even likely. I hope that everyone who feels a desire to protect and care for our public lands will remain vigilant and engaged. AWC needs your help more than ever to advance our shared goals in this time of opportunity.

— Mike Quinlan, Board President
Legacy Giving for Lasting Wilderness

What lies ahead tomorrow? Life is intertwined with uncertainty. Wilderness grounds us with a great reassurance that the earth endures, and will provide solace for anyone who seeks it in the future. Your legacy gift will assure a contribution to the lasting values of wilderness for wildlife and the coming generations. And there are many options for legacy giving, from including AWC in your will to listing AWC as a beneficiary for retirement funds. Contact Barbara Hawke at 520-326-4300 for more information.
Wilderness Stewardship

Wild Stew is growing by springs and mountains, with the critical support of funders, volunteers and partner groups. We have been delighted with the program’s new directions under Wilderness Stewardship Coordinator, Brian Stultz.

In 2015 we launched two long-anticipated initiatives—beginning work with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and engaging veterans—thanks in large part to support from Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. We completed a project in BLM’s White Canyon Wilderness, removing purple paint that marred a wilderness trail, and hope to continue monitoring and restoring this lesser-known wilderness area east of Phoenix. In the Arrastra Wilderness near Wikieup, dedicated volunteers braved the triple-digit temperatures to support BLM’s stream assessments of Lower Burro Creek and the Big Sandy by conducting photopoint monitoring within these scenic canyons.
Veterans Back in the Saddle

In August, we delved into the Saddle Mountain Wilderness region near the North Rim of the Grand Canyon with a tremendous group of a dozen veterans as well as staff and families from the Kaibab National Forest. The crew cleared trails of downed trees and brush, relaxed with yoga, and experienced their own restoration within the Wilderness.

“I especially enjoyed the beauty and quiet seclusion of the wilderness,” said one participant, a U.S. Marine veteran. “There was nothing but friendly and professional folks running this program, and plenty of time to myself. I think the volunteer program is a major plus and would do it again if asked.”

Wilderness is... The original natural history museum
Stew by the Numbers

Our Wilderness Stewardship program made substantial impact on conditions in Arizona wilderness areas this year. All of this is only made possible by our fantastic volunteers, partner groups, and Stewardship funding supporters including National Forest Foundation, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Arizona Community Foundation – Yavapai and Cochise Counties, National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Public Lands Foundation and our individual donors. Special thanks go to project partners White Mountain Conservation League for leading efforts in the Escudilla Wilderness, and to Prescott College for extensive involvement from faculty and students alike.

- 16 Stewardship Projects completed in 16 Wilderness Areas
- 2,700 volunteer hours contributed
- 200 volunteers participating
- 200 miles of trail surveyed for conditions
- 400 pounds of trash removed from Wilderness Areas
- 175 acres restored or maintained
- 152 miles of trail improved or maintained
- $60K of volunteer labor invested in public lands
- 20 campsite and 14 campfire rings naturalized

Wilderness is... Thrilling

Arizona Wilderness Coalition 8 azwild.org
With the help of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, AWC is undertaking more extensive, longer-term riparian restoration projects for two unique streams in the Sonoran Desert — Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness northwest of Phoenix and Arnett Creek east of Phoenix. These riparian corridors hold special qualities: rare perennial flows of water as well as habitat for threatened and sensitive species including Yellow-billed cuckoo, Longfin dace and Lowland leopard frog.

These projects assemble a wonderful array of partners, including Friends of the Tonto National Forest, Arizona Trail Association, Prescott College, Bureau of Land Management, Back Country Horsemen of Central Arizona, and Tonto National Forest. Together, we’ll remove invasive tamarisk and oleander, and plant cottonwoods and willows to improve stream function and wildlife habitat. AWC will contribute our backcountry skills for remote areas that lie as much as six miles away from a trailhead.
Preservation in the Near Horizon

While AWC’s goal is to permanently preserve Arizona’s remaining unprotected wilderness-worthy lands, the benefits offered by “administrative protections” are significant. Administrative protections result from agency decisions in their land management planning processes, decisions that can secure sensitive lands for up to fifteen, twenty or more years.

This year AWC worked extensively to support conservation management in several active agency planning processes, including plans for the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area; the Harquahala Mountains Wilderness; the Coronado National Forest and the Prescott National Forest. As the public phase of the Tonto National Forest planning process expands, AWC will work to advance wilderness preservation in areas that are important for ecological values and human solitude.
This year we joined with the Bureau of Land Management, The Wilderness Society and additional partners to recognize the 25th anniversary of the 1990 Arizona Desert Wilderness Act. The 1990 Act was in many ways a culmination of early mandates of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Following the 1984 Arizona Wilderness Act that preserved 35 wilderness areas emphasizing National Forest lands, the 1990 Act brought long-needed recognition to lower-elevation lands primarily managed by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Like the 1984 Act, the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act was grounded in citizen support and tireless volunteer survey work. The 1990 Act protected more than 1.1 million acres of 42 Arizona wilderness gems including the Eagletail Mountains, Hassayampa River Canyon, and Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge.

Partners assembled in Tucson to commemorate the anniversary with a panel discussion evaluating the history and future of desert wilderness. Highlights of the evening included presentations by Mark Trautwein, former staffer to U.S. Representative Morris Udall; and Jack Dykinga, Pulitzer-prize winning landscape photographer. AWC was proud to be represented on the panel and to support recognition of the monumental effort that led to passage of the 1984 and 1990 Arizona wilderness acts.

Celebrating Arizona Desert Wilderness
Wilderness Valued

In thinking about the values wilderness holds for those who love and cherish the untamed backcountry, we asked our volunteers what makes them give of their personal time and talent to restore and preserve wilderness. Here’s what we heard:

Wilderness: self-willed land, “an area where earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man… retaining its primeval character and influence” (Wilderness Act of 1964). These poetic words were declared law 51 years ago. As this act predicted, over time our population expanded rapidly, and currently with the influences of humans there is no place on earth that is truly ‘untrammeled’. Yet wilderness as a political construct is the closest we come as a nation to living in communion with the earth. Wilderness is a gift, the ultimate humility of our species. Wilderness is art and a place of rejuvenation for the human spirit. Ecologically vital, these areas are the heart of preservation efforts to prevent an extinction event that threatens our planet. Wilderness is walking down a desert wash and witnessing a mountain lion watching you. Wilderness is immersing in a pool of water, and witnessing other species do the same. Wilderness is self-willed earth. Which means everything to me. — Brian Andersen
For me, wilderness is a place where beasts roam, where water runs wherever it wants, where broken, mangled trees sprawl this way and that, and where all of that is just as it should be. It’s a place where things are what they are. And so, I too can be just what I am when I’m there. In the wilderness, I can feel the sun on my face and the rocks under my feet. I can wade through clear, cool water for miles. I can spend all day listening to the wind in the trees. I can work hard, get dirty, and be utterly content. Wilderness is harsh, beautiful, surprising, forbidding, curious, and astounding. Wilderness just is. — Nancy Lewis
Land of Legends

This past year we’ve been pleased to expand our connections with working communities in southeastern Arizona to build the foundation for a broad-based conservation plan that would preserve remaining unprotected areas in this sensitive, highly biodiverse, working landscape.

More than two dozen additional businesses signed on in support of greater conservation measures for areas like the Whetstone Mountains and Cochise Stronghold. We were delighted to see the Sierra Vista Herald publish a thought-provoking letter from the Cochise Stronghold Retreat bed and breakfast, reflecting the importance of preserving nature and wildlife habitat for the benefit of local business. And we are expanding cooperative stewardship projects with partners active in southeastern Arizona, including the Arizona Trail Association and Climbing Association of Southern Arizona.

In June, AWC facilitated a focused input session to help more than a dozen conservation groups and individuals share perspectives with the BLM on planning for the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. The conversation was wide-ranging and reflected the extensive collective expertise of the gathered conservation groups. Alongside this effort, we’ve seen a small group of volunteers from far southeastern Arizona grow into a very capable cadre of citizen activists advocating for preservation of the precious San Pedro.
Spotlight on the Whetstone Mountains

The Whetstones form a dreamlike backdrop to Kartchner Caverns State Park just outside Benson, Arizona. Often overlooked, these quiet rolling hills are awash in the soft green and yellow hues characteristic of the Sky Islands. This area has been frequented by the only known jaguar found in the United States, sees movement by endangered ocelots, and supports more than 147 bird species found in secluded ravines like French Joe Canyon. In the past year the importance of preserving this area has intensified, as major residential development moves forward directly adjacent to these currently unprotected public lands. This is a very special pocket of Arizona that deserves greater attention to preserve its phenomenal value for nature and nearby tourism.
Old is New: Citizen Wilderness Inventory

AWC is proud to lead new citizen inventory for potential wilderness-worthy lands, building on the work of our early days that helped permanently preserve Arizona’s 90 current wilderness areas. Ably led by the stellar survey team of Joe Trudeau and Amber Fields, AWC identified thirteen new areas with wilderness characteristics among the ridges, canyons and valleys of northwestern Arizona in 2015. Volunteers assisted by documenting wilderness criteria reflecting outstanding visitor experiences.

Next up, inventory teams will roam the enigmatic landscape of far southeastern Arizona, searching for additional “Lands with Wilderness Characteristics.”
Wilderness supporters were thrilled to see the Sonoran Desert Heritage Act reintroduced into U. S. House of Representatives on June 25th by environmental champion Congressman Raul Grijalva. Designed to preserve wildlife corridors, support military viability and manage the expansive growth of Phoenix's West Valley, this bill found support as diverse as its potential benefits.

The *Arizona Republic* published several opinion pieces supporting the bill, including a letter to the editor from our outstanding Stewardship volunteer Brian Barnes. Retired Air Force Director Jim Uken authored an insightful Guest Editorial highlighting the bill's mutual benefits to conservation and military function.

Bringing greater focus to the need for conservation action in Southern Arizona, our partner the Sonoran Institute published a new report on the need to consider a variety of land conservation tools to retain military viability. A subsequent series of community forums assembled both military representatives and conservationists to evaluate conservation designations for public lands. These sorts of bridges between key interests in the state form our best chance for achieving long-term protection of landscapes like the Sonoran Desert Heritage region.
Key Partners and Business Supporters

Arizona Community Foundations of Yavapai and Cochise Counties
Arizona Conservation Partners
Arizona Ecumenical Council Earthcare Commission
Arizona Trail Association
Arizona Wilderness Brewing Co.
Mary Ellen Arndorfer
Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center
Back Country Horsemen of Central Arizona
Bean Tree Farm

Blue Frog Jump LLC, Carla Olson
Casa de San Pedro
Center for Biological Diversity
Cochise Stronghold Retreat
Friends of Ironwood Forest National Monument
Friends of the Tonto National Forest
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Hayden-Winkelman Unified School District
Hopi High School
Huachuca Audubon Society

Local First Arizona
Nick Manci
Peregrine Book Company
Prescott College
Doug Scott
Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter
Sky Island Alliance
Sonoran Institute
The Wilderness Society
The Yoga Connection
Tucson Audubon Society
US Vets Prescott
White Mountain Conservation League
Our Volunteers Make Us Unstoppable!

In the field, at events, being the Voice for Arizona Wilderness

Thearee Adkins  Laura Kulish Greb  Sharon Rock
Brian Andersen  Julian Lacroix  Julie Rogers
Brian Barnes  Steve Larson  Tedd Smith
Gary Beverly  Brian Leibold  Mike Snodgrass
Stan Bindell  Nancy Lewis  Darrell Thompson
Christina Burden  Winnie Liang  Felicia Uranga
Dave Dorbad  Kathy Lopez  Dao Uttsekz
Maleea Ezekiel  Larry Lopez  John Watkins
Abby Finkelstein  Bill Losh  Craig Weaver
Tatyana Finkelstein  Andrew Maher  Matthew Welsh
Chris Forcum  Nick Manci  Marty Zumwalt
Craig Friesner  Jill Maxwell
Mary Gavan  Sallie McCutcheon
Jeff Glessing  Flynn McFarland
Janet Golio  Sonia Mehren
Paul Grimm  Lizann Michaud
Don Heller  Karla Moeller
Ethin Higgins  John Morgan
Thom Hulen  Michael Nushaws
Michael Inzano  Howard Olien
Judie Jackson  Tim Ormond
Judy Jackson  Daeho Pak
Barbara Jacobsen  Jonathan Patt
George Kamikubo  Peter Pierson
Carol Keller  Julie Polovitch
Sarah King  Ann Marie Ranalli
Audrey Kruse  Rafael Reyna

Celebrating Wilderness Heroes

Small organizations like AWC only succeed with the help of amazing, outstanding volunteers like Tedd Smith. Tedd has been a Wild Stew volunteer since June of 2013, and his passion and dedication for wilderness preservation is reflected in his ongoing participation in Wild Stew events. Going above and beyond, Tedd has donated countless hours creating professional-quality event flyers and redesigning AWC’s displays for outreach events. Tedd has also represented AWC at events like Arizona Trails Day in Flagstaff this past September. As a result of his inviting personality and knowledge of wilderness and AWC, Tedd recruited a number of new AWC members and Wild Stew volunteers. Bravo Tedd!

“When doing trail maintenance, monitoring for invasive plant species, picking up trash, removing graffiti, or helping with an event, the results are positive not only for sustaining Arizona’s Wilderness areas, but also gratifying on a personal level. And as an artist, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to explore wilderness areas which provide me with inspiration and subject matter for some of my paintings.” — Tedd Smith

Don Heller has served as an outstanding event volunteer for AWC this past year, making it possible for AWC to have a presence at community outreach events when it might have been otherwise impossible. Don helped staff AWC tables at the major Wild for Wilderness event at Sabino Canyon and the Tucson Folk Festival. He also helped with other AWC functions, no matter how exciting or unglamorous. We also appreciate Don’s effort to provide input to AWC on programs and strategies for conservation success.
We appreciate all the gifts you bring to the Arizona Wilderness Coalition!

Arizona Wilderness Coalition  20  azwild.org
Our Amazing Donors

Jean-Paul Bierny and Chris Tanz
Stan Bindell
Jeffrey Black
Doug Bland Community Church
Linda Brady
Bob Brister
Carolynn Bryan
Kelly Burke
Ray Cage
Jenny Lea Cobb
Matthew Conley
Jason Corneveaux
Robert Cox
Kevin and BAM Dahl
Ken and Linda deMasi
James DeMay
Carol des Cognets
Doris B Eiland
Neil and Barbara Lee
Elliott
Don Eydenberg
William and Laura Fields
Kim Fieldstad
Holly Finstrom
Steve Finucane
Kim Fitzpatrick and Frank Tomizuka
Thomas Fleischner
Therese Ann Flood
Jeanette and Gary Frank
Jon Froke
Lydia Garvey
Michael P Ghiglieri
Peter Gustafson
Jennifer Hall and David Mount
Joan and GJ Hamburger
Phil Hanceford
Paula Hartgraves
Don and Marilyn Heller
Steve Hertzfeld
Vicki Herveurt
Bobbie Holaday
Attila Zsolt Horvath
Ke Chiang Hsieh
Billie Hughes and Russ Winn
David Huizingh
Barbara Jacobsen
Art Janssen M.D.
Nicki Jimenez
CB Johnson
Dr. Keith Ross Kackab
Terri Kass
David Kell
David Kollar
Mary and Anthony Krzyszik
Michelle and Robert Kuo
Edwin Kurtz
Jodie Labowitz
Arlene Leaf
Howard and Barbara Lilley
William Lockwood
Jay and Amy Loschert
Paul and Karen Lynn
Robert C Majors
John Mangimeli
Jim Manning
Bannye Marie
James Matthews
Kaitlyn Mazoyer
Carol McBride
Earl and Dorothy Montgomery
John Mudd
Kathy and Jake Newhouse
Carla Olson
Mark Olson
Steve W Pace
Vivian M Pace
Dave Parsons
Kathy Petersen
Dena Pierre
Susan and Steven Platte
Alison Potts
Richard and Gail Potts
Patty Leah Rattay
Kristen and Bob Rothrock
Linda Rowland
Bob and Cathy Royal
Wendy Russell
Malcolm and Lori Ryder
Mindy Schlimgen
Reed Secord
Deborah Segall
Jessica Simons
Penelope Smith
Mike Snodgrass
Julie St. John
Don Steuter
Scott and Sarah Sticha
Thomas Stultz
Dora Suttell
Helene Tack
Bruce and Allene Thompson
Kim Vacariu and Lorraine Titus
Vincent and Kathleen Waldron
John and Jeanie Watkins
Frank and Lakyntiew Watrous
Margaret W Weesner
Jerome Weinert and Marni Dittmar
John Welch
Tim Wernet and Carolyn Brown
Cynthia Wicker and Kent Jacobs
Hal and Cathy Williams
Robert and Janet Witzeman
Vicki and Gerry Wolfe
Harold Wolters
Bryan Wyberg

Hurray for Wilderness Champions!

Wilderness preservation would fail without the help of dedicated wilderness rangers, planners and managers at our public lands management agencies. This year we’ve seen expansion of our Wilderness Stewardship Program, made possible by agency staff who help plan restoration projects, provide tools and resources, obtain permits, and write letters of support. Our hats are off to agency wilderness and recreation specialists including Zac Ribbing of the Coronado National Forest; Todd Murdock and Mike Schijf of the Safford Field Office, Bureau of Land Management (BLM); Rem Hawes and Codey Carter of the BLM Hassayampa Field Office; Greg Schuster and Patricia Bean of the Tonto National Forest; Denise Carpenter and David Hercher of the Kaibab National Forest; Francisca Adrian of the Coconino National Forest; Jason Williams of the Prescott National Forest; Matt Driscoll of the BLM Kingman Field Office; Jim Mahoney and Heather Swan son of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area; Francisco Mendoza of the BLM Tucson Field Office; and so many additional agency staff and managers who work in partnership with groups like ours to restore and preserve public lands.
Foundations and Agency Grants

Arizona Humanities
Met Foundation, Inc.
National Environmental Education Foundation
National Forest Foundation
National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance
Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust
Public Lands Foundation
The New-Land Foundation, Inc.
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Tortuga Foundation
USDA Forest Service
Wilburforce Foundation

**Income**

- Foundation Awards: 79%
- Government Grants: 9%
- Members & Donations: 10%
- Events & Sales: 2%

**Income**: $247,217

**Expense**

- Wilderness Stewardship Program: 36%
- Permanent Protection Campaigns: 15%
- Administrative Protections, Policy & Planning: 15%
- Events, Outreach & Education: 15%
- Administration & Fundraising: 15%

**Expense**: $245,618
“The American frontier is not just a physical frontier, not just unexplored spots on maps; it’s the places of mystery populating the American mind.”

— Sean Prentiss, Finding Abbey: The Search for Edward Abbey and His Hidden Desert Grave