

## Arizona Wilderness Coalition

An organization dedicated to permanently 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.

# 1979

AWC Founded

At the time the Arizona Wilderness Coalition was founded, the protection of roadless areas throughout the state was at an impasse. Stuck in an administrative holding pattern and without congressional action, they could neither be permanently protected nor released for multiple use.



ARIZONA  
WILDERNESS  
COALITION  
[www.azwild.org](http://www.azwild.org)

AWC brought the **change**  
that was needed.

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# 2011-2012

Protecting and Restoring Arizona's Wild Lands and Waters Since 1979.

## The Changing Face of Wilderness



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Annual Report of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition

Photo © Ian Dowdy



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## 6

staff members of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition keep a watchful eye on Arizona's wild lands and waters.



Members of AWC staff and Board pose for a picture at a recent strategy retreat near the Blue Range Primitive Area in eastern Arizona.





## Meet Our New Leader Les Corey!

A passionate conservationist, Les Corey brings more than 35 years of leadership experience to the organization, specializing in bold land conservation strategies, ground-breaking policy initiatives, capital campaign fundraising, and innovative partnerships at local, regional, and national levels. Throughout his career, Corey has pursued a broad range of conservation and environmental goals across diverse geographies and with budgets ranging from \$200K to \$60 million. During his recent 11 year tenure with the National Audubon Society, Mr. Corey held four senior level positions—all based out of Tucson—in which he was primarily responsible for building Audubon state programs nationwide, including launching Audubon Arizona.

Prior to his leadership position with National Audubon, Corey also held positions with The Nature Conservancy for 15 years, serving as vice president and executive director of the Connecticut and Arizona chapters. As Executive Director of the Arizona Nature Conservancy from 1996 to 2001, Corey and the Arizona Board of Directors launched the Wild Arizona Campaign protecting more than 100,000 acres of critical wild lands and raising more than \$35 million in public and private funds.

"Les is going to lead AWC into a bright new future, and we couldn't be more excited to travel that path right alongside him," says Kate Mackay, AWC's Deputy Director and 10-year staff member of the organization.

# 2012

AWC introduces a new face for wilderness protection.

## Message from Board President Don Hoffman



ecstatic when Les enthusiastically accepted our offer.

AWC has further reason to be very optimistic. Our expanded stewardship program is energizing our members and building constructive relationships with public land managers. We have adopted a conservation strategy that will prove successful for our Sonoran Heritage Campaign—one that can be duplicated throughout the state and around the nation. We work with our conservation allies to determine a shared vision for a specific area. Then we work with business and community leaders, local governments, military interests, the faith community, and all stakeholders with a positive spirit to craft a proposal that can garner bi-partisan support. And we know, with history as our guide, that public land victories achieved with broad and diverse support are stronger and the journey is much sweeter.

We owe much thanks to all of our donors, volunteers, and the thousands of Arizonans who continue to advocate for the protection of our last remaining wild places.

*Don Hoffman, Board President*



In June I was crushed to learn that Matt Skroch, our respected executive director and close friend, was taking his passion for protecting wild places to the national level working for Pew Charitable Trusts. How do we replace a stalwart advocate who, for over a decade, devoted himself to protecting Arizona's wild heritage? I convinced myself to remain positive, and it turned out the answer was simple: hire a national conservation legend to take our campaigns and our organization to the next level! Remarkably, within a week of announcing our opening, Les Corey contacted us indicating that he wished to return to what he enjoyed most in his highly successful career - leading grassroots efforts to protect our most cherished public lands. With his impressive skill-set and longtime connection to conservation in Arizona, our Board of Directors and dedicated staff were

AWC staff explored the rugged beauty of the Dragoon Mountains in Southeastern Arizona. Although much has changed there since the clashes between native people and white settlers in the 19th century, AWC hopes to limit degradation to these significant cultural sites and the wild country that surrounds them.



## AWC Celebrates Huge Wins in the Last Year!

# 336,546

acres of wilderness removed from consideration for solar development.

### Musings from Bart...

Arizona has tugged at my heart ever since I first wandered in the Sonoran Desert country in the spring of 1979. It's a land with many stalwart defenders who stand up for their wild country as true red-white-and-blue patriots. Two heroes of mine had deep roots in Arizona: the legendary Mo Udall and fearless Ed Abbey. Their leadership led to some of the most magnificent wild parts of Arizona and the nation being safeguarded forever.

But things are changing for wilderness advocacy. In order to garner enactment of wild laws, we need to work with others who may have differing views more than ever before. Every wilderness law I've helped Congress enact had one or more compromises—boundary changes or special language of some sort. This is important to note, because in this day and age, the wilderness proposals we're bringing forward generally tend to be closer to populated areas, lower in elevation, and may contain a select number of roads that need to stay open—like our broadly-supported Sonoran Desert Heritage effort for western Maricopa County. Together, this translates into more conflicts to cope with than ever before.

In 1979, AWC led the charge for locally-driven wilderness campaigns, and we continue to round up key community partners, user groups, landowners, businesses, and lawmakers from both sides of the aisle to find pragmatic solutions to protecting additional wild lands and waters. That was the spirit that Mo and many others ignited in all of us who worked on the 1984 and 1990 Arizona wilderness bills. In some instances, people will say that "we have enough wilderness" in our state—but it was never the intent of one Congress to pre-empt the needs of future lawmakers.

I believe the Arizona Wilderness Coalition is needed now more than ever before. Well-grounded compromises will be an essential part of garnering successful future wilderness legislation. Every wilderness has a story, and each story starts with people who care. So saddle up and savor the wild ride ahead!

*Bart Koehler is an AWC board member who helped revitalize the organization in 2000 and has been working on protecting wild places around the United States for more than 40 years.*

In 2011, AWC successfully shaped public lands policy affecting Arizona by mobilizing our active membership base, harnessing the power of the media, and collaborating with key civic, business, and conservation leaders. Some of our major wins this past year:

- AWC provided vital feedback to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on Arizona's first solar facility on public lands—Sonoran Solar Energy Project—which will supply more than 90,000 Arizona homes with renewable energy. AWC's comments focused on mitigating impacts to wildlife corridors in the Sonoran Desert and reducing water consumption by more than 97% from the original proposal.

- AWC hosted five public open houses across the West Valley that collected the support and feedback of more than 300 citizens on the Sonoran Desert Heritage proposal.

- AWC was the lead author of a report on the Agua Caliente Solar Energy Zone, urging the BLM to mitigate the project for incursion into the Palomas Mountains and Bargas Wash inventoried wilderness-quality lands. The document has since been requested by Ad-

ministration officials for reference and recommendations on similar projects elsewhere in the nation.

- With our key partners in southeastern Arizona, AWC successfully persuaded Cochise County commissioners to roll back anti-wilderness language in the county's amended Comprehensive Plan.

- AWC provided comprehensive feedback on the BLM's long-awaited draft Resource Management Plan for the Lower Sonoran Field District, successfully protecting 91,200 acres of lands that should be managed for wilderness characteristics across this fragile desert ecosystem.

- AWC is participating in precedent-setting efforts to reintroduce bighorn sheep in the Catalina Mountains and Pusch Ridge Wilderness, a collaborative effort with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. AWC proposed creating an advisory committee to direct reintroduction in a way that preserves the integrity of the wilderness, the health of sheep and mountain lions, and a transparent process by which reintroduction occurs.

Lands like these around Yellow Medicine Butte in the Gila Bend Mountains were being considered for renewable energy development in the BLM's Solar PEIS. AWC and other conservation groups fought to remove it and over half a million acres of other lands with wilderness character from consideration.

Photo © Mark Miller





# 2,178

hours of volunteer service in FY 2011-2012.

## Wilderness Stewardship Program



### Volunteer Spotlight!

I have been an avid backpacker and outdoor enthusiast all my adult life. Volunteering with AWC gives me the opportunity to be in the wilderness when I am not backpacking in the mountains of California, Colorado, or Utah. By volunteering with AWC, I have learned more about the flora and fauna of my adopted Arizona. AWC's service projects allow me to get to know an area in small allotments rather than the bigger picture presented when hiking long distances on a trail. Volunteering with AWC allows me to help keep our wild backcountry healthy. I like the feeling that I am giving back to the Earth and I'm proud of the work we do. I have a wonderful set of backcountry skills and the AWC work is always challenging. I recommend that everyone find their passion and try volunteer work to give back.

Judie Jackson



Wilderness stewards embark on a trip into the Apache Creek Wilderness.

### Wild Stew: A great recipe!

Two years after its inception, AWC's Wilderness Stewardship program continues to grow and become more refined. AWC hosted Wilderness Stewards group outings straight through the winter having at least one public event per month. In addition, individual Wilderness Stewards visit their 'adopted' wilderness areas sometimes bringing friends and family.

Federal agencies took note of AWC's Wilderness Stewards program and have been seeking out assistance on their forests. The Program has now expanded to work in five of the six national forests in Arizona with the intent to begin partnering with other agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management.

In 2012, AWC signed up its first Individual Wilderness Stewards on the Coconino and Tonto National Forests and added a few new ones on the Prescott National Forest.

One of the more rewarding developments in 2012 was the first ever Wilderness Stewards non-native plant removal held at Apache Creek Wilderness on the Prescott National Forest. During this project, volunteers removed over 100 Salt Cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) plants. This outing demonstrated the

evolution of the Steward program and the way in which we are now using our monitoring data to improve the area's wilderness character.

In 2012, AWC's Wilderness Stewards program donated over 2,500 volunteer hours which is the equivalent of over \$50,000, got over 400 people out to experience wilderness areas, and worked in 15 different wilderness areas on five different national forests.



Wilderness stewardship is a **cornerstone** of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition's mission.



# Sonoran Desert Heritage Makes Progress

# 1990

was the last time wilderness lands were protected in Arizona.



Building on a successful public rollout in early 2011, the SDH campaign began further vetting the proposal with key community stakeholders, the general public, and community leaders. Through fall of 2011 and into spring of 2012, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition, along with partner organizations, developed a public outreach plan that included five public meetings in West Valley of Phoenix that gathered more than 300 comments from interest groups and land users. These conversations resulted in modifications to the proposal, including revisions to the map and boundaries as well as language that could be inserted in the final plan. We also initiated meetings with local and regional leaders—many who were engaging on conservation issues for the first time—and commenced a strategy that would bring our key congressional representatives to the table for dialogue around a bill.

In September, 2011 and again in June of 2012, AWC visited Washington D.C., and convened Arizona members of Congress and their staff to discuss traction toward Sonoran Desert Heritage bill introduction. The proposal requires action by Congress, which by design, encourages modifica-

tions voiced by a diverse spectrum of public land users and community leaders that are engaged with us on building the proposal. In the coming year, AWC will work with our partners to help a bipartisan group of our Arizona congressional delegation develop a bill that will be considered by the full Congress. We are aggressively attracting media coverage and leading hikes and educational presentations across the West Valley to help the public show their support for this proposal to their representatives in Washington. With any luck, future residents of Western Maricopa County will enjoy protected public lands; the national security mission of Arizona's military installations will be safeguarded; and the regional economy will benefit from a sustainable future.



The Sonoran Desert Heritage proposal represents one of the **most pragmatic** conservation plans to be tackled anywhere in the country.

A photographer captures a beautiful Arizona sunset in the proposed Belmont Mountains wilderness area within the Sonoran Desert Heritage proposal.



Photo © Ian Dowdy

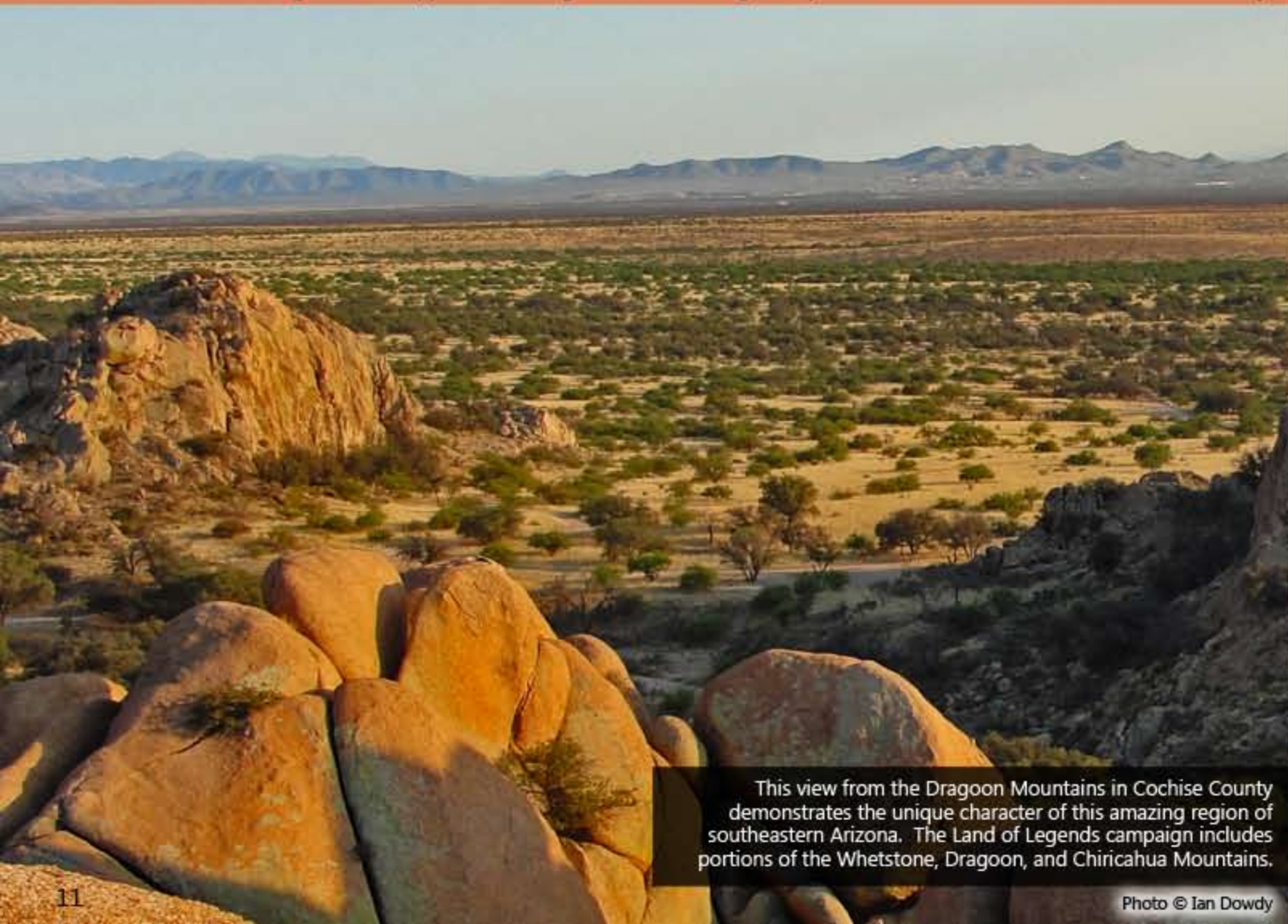
## Renewable Energy

One of the most compelling issues that AWC engaged in during the past year is monitoring and mitigating new renewable energy facilities on Arizona federal lands. While AWC is supportive of renewable energy such as solar and wind facilities, we remain committed to the protection of lands with wild character—believing that this energy infrastructure is best suited on lands that have already lost their wilderness values.

In late 2010, the BLM began the process to establish a solar development program by releasing a Programmatic EIS (PEIS) for six southwestern states including Arizona. During 2011 and 2012, AWC continued working with the BLM on the draft PEIS and reviewed the final document. Additionally, AWC joined forces with a number of conservation groups and representatives in the solar development industry in the Arizona Solar Working Group, working collaboratively to submit comments on the Restoration Design Energy Project, intended to focus development on previously impacted or low conflict public lands. AWC has seen significant benefits from this effort to date, with over 300,000 acres removed from consideration for development, the identification of additional non-wilderness lands for Renewable Energy Development Areas, and the integration of wild lands into the overall energy development conversation. This program remains a focus of AWC's work into the coming year.



## Land of Legends



This view from the Driest Canyon in Cochise County demonstrates the unique character of this amazing region of southeastern Arizona. The Land of Legends campaign includes portions of the Whetstone, Driest, and Chiricahua Mountains.

Photo © Ian Dowdy

The Driest, Chiricahua, and Whetstone Mountains of southeastern Arizona are iconic landscapes —some of the most biologically diverse areas in North America, where the temperate and tropical zones merge and two major desert regions convene. Historically, the region witnessed innumerable interactions between native people and Anglo-Europeans throughout the 19th century. Today, there is significant opportunity for adding these three mountain ranges to the National Wilderness Preservation System, which will permanently safeguard at-risk roadless areas and connect critical wildlife migration corridors for large predators like the jaguar and ungulate species favored by hunters.

With the encouragement of former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and her staff, a detailed Wilderness Feasibility assessment was completed and a proposal had been developed to add nearly 100,000 acres of wilderness to this majestic part of Cochise County. AWC and partner groups recently received a commitment from Rep. Ron Barber to revive the plan and are working to craft a locally-driven outreach strategy

to build momentum for an eventual bill. In late summer of 2011, AWC and other conservation groups raised the alarm on Cochise County's commissioners, who were planning to add boiler plate anti-wilderness language to the county's revised Comprehensive Plan—a measure which we successfully mitigated by rallying our local membership and the Arizona Planning Association. AWC is working with the Sky Island Alliance and The Wilderness Society to engage key community leaders and large landowners, including Fort Huachuca, to address concerns and build support for a comprehensive legislative package. This will likely be a two to three year campaign and AWC is just beginning to raise funds to support this critical conservation initiative.



Photo © Ian Dowdy

**The Sky Island region of Arizona contains one of the most ecologically diverse landscapes in the United States.**



## Upper Verde River

# 48.5

miles of the Upper Verde River will be protected as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational segments in this proposal.

The Verde River is an ecologically and socially indispensable component of central Arizona. Its watershed covers approximately 6,600 square miles in central and northern Arizona. The Verde River proper flows for 170 miles, 125 of which are free-flowing and without dams before its confluence with the Salt River. The Upper Verde, between Sullivan Dam near Paulden and the town of Clarkdale in the Verde Valley, flows through a mix of private, state, tribal and U.S. Forest Service lands. Numerous communities, including the greater Phoenix area, rely on the Verde River as a water source, an economic draw, and for enhanced quality of life. The Verde River is also vital to myriad wildlife—a significant number of which are listed by the state and/or federal government as needing special attention.

Today, the Verde River above Horseshoe Dam is the longest and one of the last perennial, free flowing, and relatively pristine rivers left in the Southwest. The proposed Upper Verde Wild & Scenic River will enhance an already existing resilient corridor of protected lands and waters. The river effectively connects six wilderness areas, eight inventoried roadless areas, three national forests, one national monument, two wild and scenic rivers, two state parks, two important bird areas, and one wildlife preserve. This portion of the Verde

River is the lifeblood of a protected riparian corridor 162 miles long connecting over 543,000 contiguous protected acres, a truly exceptional resource for Arizona and the nation.

### AWC's Role on the Upper Verde River

AWC's goal is to work with local groups and partners to facilitate congressional designation of 48.5 miles of the Upper Verde River and two of its tributaries as Wild & Scenic. This designation will provide a federal reserved in-stream water right while putting in place safeguards to protect the Upper Verde's unique cultural, economic, and environmental values. AWC is also committed to on-the-ground restoration of the river and its watershed through our robust volunteer field program.

Over the course of the last year, AWC and Upper Verde River partners were able to:

- Host 10 volunteer outings to the Upper Verde River and its watershed.
- Give 12 public presentations to raise awareness about the Upper Verde River
- Collect over 1,000 petition signatures
- Collect letters of support from organizations, businesses, tribes, and municipalities.

**The Upper Verde River has it all: clear, clean water, amazing scenery, and abundant wildlife.**

Lush riparian habitat lines the upper Verde River near Mormon Pocket.

Photo © Gary Beverly





## AWC in the Media

Coverage of our campaigns and programs was extensive in 2011-2012, including widespread reporting on our burgeoning Sonoran Desert Heritage conservation plan. Our work appeared in approximately 40 newspaper stories, 35 radio and TV hits, and more than 20 appearances on websites, blogs, social media sites, and other Internet-based outlets throughout the year. Some highlights:

- KPNX-Channel 12 covering our Saddle Mountain wildflower workshop with Colleen Miniuk-Sperry
- Arizona Republic covering forest health, border-public lands issues, our Wild & Scenic Film Festival, and the Sonoran Desert Heritage campaign
- KAET-Channel 8 interviewing AWC Central Arizona Director Sam Frank about our Wilderness Stewardship program
- ABC-15 News covering Ian Dowdy on solar energy siting in the Sonoran Desert
- KFYI-Talk Radio covering AWC's take on wildfires and national forests
- More than 15 different outlets covering the rollout of our Sonoran Desert Heritage plan and successive open houses, including 3 radio stories, 12 local and national print stories, and 2 editorials.



## AWC Events

While our work to protect new wilderness is always paramount, it's our connection with people through events and outreach that buoys our legislative campaigns and increases our visibility in local communities. Some highlights:

- August 2011 marked the 4th year that AWC hosted a tour stop for the traveling Wild & Scenic Film Festival. We had our highest attendance to date with almost 300 film-goers, and welcomed over 40 new members to AWC. Guests enjoyed short films from around the world, covering everything from electronics recycling to wildlife conservation photography.
- In March 2012, Ian Dowdy took a group of youngsters from the scholarship organization Boys Hope-Girls Hope on a trek to Saddle Mountain, where they learned about native flora and fauna of the desert through a scavenger hunt. The trip kindled a new partnership and will help AWC foster stewardship for public lands among the Valley's most urbanized audiences.
- Although West Valley wildflowers were scarce in spring of 2012, AWC Deputy Director Kate Mackay organized a photography workshop with Valley award-winning photographer Colleen Miniuk-Sperry, with the goal of raising awareness about AWC's work to protect core wildlife habitat and cultural sites through its Sonoran Desert Heritage campaign. Twenty guests spent the day at Saddle Mountain, learning new techniques and snapping shots of petroglyphs, saguaros, and vibrant lichen. The workshop was covered by the Arizona Republic on KPNX-Channel 12's "Explore Arizona" segment in May.





## Donor Spotlight

I can't remember when I didn't love spending a lot of time outdoors. My roots go down deep on the East Coast, where growing up in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., with a creek flowing through the two acre property, instilled a love of wildlife and nature in me. I feel most at home in wilderness areas, where one can find more animal tracks than human, and discovery is never-ending. And it's because of this love that I am committed to supporting organizations whose goals are to preserve and protect wilderness. That's why I'm an enthusiastic supporter of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. I know they're "in the trenches" when it comes to being an advocate and keeping watch over Arizona's wilderness. But I'm just as enthusiastic about working alongside like-minded individuals on AWC wilderness projects because they feel the same way I do about wanting to make a difference. I'm very thankful to be a part of the AWC community.

Jeri Edwards

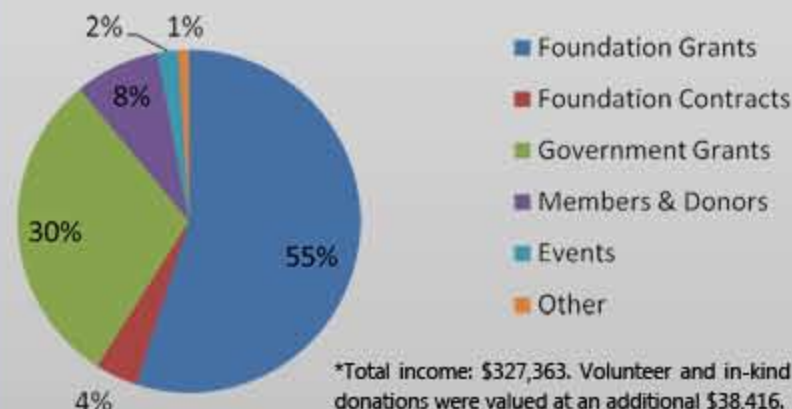
# \$327,363

was the total income of AWC in FY 2011-2012.

## Financial Report

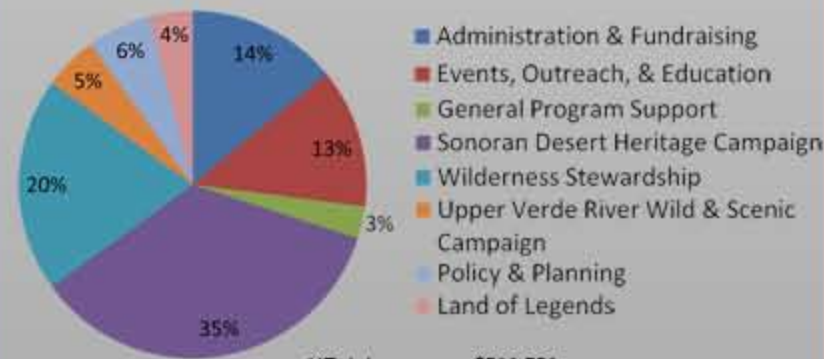


### Organizational Income Allocation\*



\*Total income: \$327,363. Volunteer and in-kind donations were valued at an additional \$38,416.

### Organizational Expense Allocation\*\*



\*\*Total expenses: \$311,591

### Foundation Support:

Campaign for America's Wilderness - PEW Environment Group  
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And other anonymous supporters!

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# AWC Staff and Board of Directors

# 11

board members help AWC remain focused on the mission to protect Arizona's wild places.



**Don Hoffman**  
Board President  
Alpine, AZ



**Michael Quinlan**  
Vice President  
Tempe, AZ



**Kelly Burke**  
Treasurer  
Flagstaff, AZ



**Joel Barnes**  
Secretary  
Prescott, AZ



**Bart Koehler**  
Juneau, AK



**Nancy Mangone**  
Phoenix, AZ



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Tucson, AZ



**Kim Crumbo**  
Ogden, UT



**Doug Hulmes**  
Prescott, AZ



**Mark Trautwein**  
San Francisco, CA



**Nichole Trushell**  
Prescott, AZ

## Welcome, Nichole!

AWC welcomed Nichole Trushell of Prescott to its Board of Directors in June 2012. Nichole says she is excited to work with AWC because "the mission of AWC compliments my own, and it inspires me. The organization's accomplishments are impressive and so important for Arizona."

Nichole brings extensive experience to the Board. "I am a native child of the south-west and my passion for this place runs deep. I also bring a biologist's perspective, and I have the experience of growing an organization from the ground up as founding Director of the Highlands Center for Natural History."

Nichole is passionate about all of Arizona, and when asked to name her favorite region, she replies "Ah so many places ... I can't name a favorite." But she does mention the Verde River, Sonoran Desert, Grand Canyon, Sky Islands, and eastern mountains. In her own words, "Wild lands and waters help me remember that we humans are not separate but part of a greater whole; these places also bring me new mysteries to unravel, lessons, joy, peace and balance in my life."

AWC is a statewide organization that relies on its lean staff and experienced board (not to mention its volunteers!) to accomplish its mission to permanently protect and restore wilderness and other wild lands and waters in Arizona for the enjoyment of all citizens and to ensure that Arizona's native plants and animals have a lasting home in wild nature.



**Les Corey**  
Executive Director  
Tucson, AZ



**Kate Mackay**  
Deputy Director  
Phoenix, AZ



**Meghan Mix**  
Office Manager  
Tucson, AZ



**Ian Dowdy, AICP**  
Conservation  
Outreach Associate  
Phoenix, AZ



**Sam Frank**  
Central Arizona  
Director  
Prescott, AZ



**Carla Olson**  
Volunteer and  
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Flagstaff, AZ



## Help us Protect Arizona's Wild Places!

### Thanks to Our Volunteers!

Aaron Cohen ☐ Alan Richardson ☐ Allyson Brennan ☐ Aminda Parafinik ☐ Benjamin King ☐ Bert O'Brian ☐ Bill Jay ☐ Bob Cox ☐ Bob Dyson ☐ Bob Manley  
☐ Brain Andersen ☐ Brain Haas ☐ Brain Stultz ☐ Carla Olson ☐ Cathy Bartlow ☐ Cheryl Houser ☐ Claire Groom ☐ Cooper Means ☐ Cory Prator ☐ Dave  
Holaway ☐ Dave Kollar ☐ Doug Hulmes ☐ Elijah Mendelsohn ☐ Emily Collins ☐ Eva Hernandez ☐ Garrett Hildebrand ☐ Gerry Thorning ☐ Greg Nosek ☐ Hannah  
Thorning ☐ Hannah Widner ☐ Henry Collins ☐ Henry Dahlberg ☐ Hugh Denno ☐ James Cuenca ☐ James Michael Allen ☐ James Townsend ☐ Jason Corneveaux  
☐ Jeanie Watkins ☐ Jenny Lucier ☐ John Arndt ☐ John Mangimeli ☐ John Rendal ☐ John Watkins ☐ Judy Jackson ☐ Kaitlyn Boyle ☐ Kathy Lopez ☐ Kelsey  
Shaw ☐ Ken Satoyoshi ☐ Kim Huenecke ☐ Kristie Alexander ☐ Larry Lopez ☐ Lisa Shane ☐ Liz Katz ☐ Michael Jacques ☐ Mindy Fontius ☐ Nick Pacini ☐ Pam  
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Wellborn ☐ Scott Cohen ☐ Scott Hulbert ☐ Stan Bindell ☐ Stephen Keierleber ☐ Steve Groom ☐ Steve Munsell ☐ Tamara Lawless ☐ Tim Craig ☐ Tom Warley  
☐ Wendy Satoyoshi ☐ William Besuden ☐ William Comstock

Wilderness stewards enjoy a campfire  
after a hard days work in the Apache  
Creek Wilderness.

With the help of thousands of members and donors and the support of scores  
of volunteers, AWC makes a **real difference** for Arizona's wild places.

Imagine Arizona two centuries ago. When flowing, verdant rivers threaded their way through expansive desert landscapes and towering sky islands; when seas of swaying grasslands carpeted broad uplands, framed by healthy oak savannahs and pine forests. Imagine thundering herds grazing the land and flocks of migratory birds darkening the skies.

We will never be able to recapture the grandeur and magic of those wild places, yet exciting opportunities remain to protect and restore significant intact wild lands before they become fragmented and degraded.

For 33 years, AWC has identified Arizona's most pristine wildlands and proven its power to build public support and political momentum for their protection; we have successfully facilitated the designation of more than 3.5 million acres of wilderness across the state. This is our legacy. Yet today, the fate of millions of acres of public wildlands hangs in the balance.

With your membership and support, you can become an integral part of this growing

and dynamic coalition of over 2,500 individuals and organizations who take action to secure the best of the rest of Arizona's wildlands. Join our growing cadre of stewardship volunteers working to protect and restore existing wilderness areas, and experience first-hand the power and beauty of our wild backcountry.

By joining us, 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. You will share ownership in our wilderness victories and become a trusted ally in our fight to protect more special places.

When you join the Arizona Wilderness Coalition, you join a community of people passionate about protecting wilderness. Your generous support will ensure a future for Arizona's wild places that we can all be proud of.