

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION

ARIZONA
WILD



A River Runs Anew

The Roadless Rule and Other Forest Planning

Thank You, Babbitt's Backcountry Outfitters!

Got Stock?

SPRING/SUMMER 2006

Arizona Wilderness Coalition Main Office
928-339-4525
P.O. Box 529, Alpine, AZ 85920

Communications Office
602-571-2603
3305 N. 25th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85016

**Central Mountains-Sonoran and Western
Deserts Field Office**
928-717-6076
P.O. Box 2741
Prescott, AZ 86302

Grand Canyon Field Office
928-638-2304
P.O. Box 1033
Grand Canyon, AZ 86203

Sky Islands Field Office
520-624-7080
P.O. Box 41165
Tucson, AZ 85717

AWC Staff

Donald Hoffman, *Executive Director*,
dhoffman@azwild.org
Katurah Mackay, *Communications Director*,
kmackay@azwild.org
Jason Williams, *Central Mountains-Sonoran
Regional Director*, jwilliams@azwild.org
Kim Crumbo, *Grand Canyon Regional Director*,
kcrumbo@azwild.org

.....
Kevin Gaither-Banchoff, *Development Consultant*

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President: Matt Skroch, Tucson, Arizona
Vice-President: Jeff Williamson, Phoenix, Arizona
Secretary: Michael Quinlan, Tempe, Arizona
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Mission Statement

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition's mission is 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. We do this by coordinating and conducting inventories, educating citizens about these lands, enlisting community support, and advocating for their lasting protection.

Cover photo:
Fossil Springs Complex, Dewberry Springs
©nbphoto. Image courtesy of Nick Berezenko,
nbphoto@cybertrails.com

Design by Mary Williams/marywilliamsdesign.com

OUT OF THE BLUE

Onward and Upward



Dear Wild Ones,

I have decided that I will step down as our Executive Director (ED) this year. Obviously I have personal reasons for making this decision, but the primary reason for stepping down is that the timing is perfect for the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. Our organization is well-supported, has developed strategically successful programs, and is ready for a positive leadership transition. A brief look at our recent history illustrates my optimism.

In 2000, fifty wilderness advocates decided to resurrect the Arizona Wilderness Coalition to establish permanent and ever-growing support for wilderness in Arizona. Remarkably, I accepted the Director position on the morning of September 11th, 2001, while at Arctic Wilderness week in Washington, DC. Within minutes, we were racing away from the front lawn of the Capitol and of course, much had changed.

Initially, fundraising was not a priority because we anticipated a multi-year grant that would support our basic organization. Understandably, September 11th caused that particular foundation to streamline and reprioritize how they could best support the national wilderness movement. However, they generously provided us with an additional year of full support specifically to allow us to transition into the organization that we are today. We soon decided to incorporate as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit to enhance our fundraising and organizational capacity, and we have continuously been raising funds from diverse sources. We have also significantly expanded our membership. Now, in 2006, we have added staff at our Prescott field office and I can proudly say that we have raised more funds than our anticipated expenses for our current fiscal year.

From the beginning, I expected that I would perform as our director for about five years. I felt that we needed someone who understood the history of Arizona's wilderness movement: someone who respected the wilderness idea and was respected by all the groups that are currently engaged with wilderness issues in Arizona, and someone who was stubborn enough to build a functional statewide organization devoted to wild lands. It was actually quite an epiphany for me to retire from the Forest Service to take this job, but I knew I needed to do it for myself and for the Coalition. It has been the most rewarding professional experience of my life, and believe me, being a Forest Service wilderness manager in eastern Arizona is about the best job on earth!

As we began to transform from an ad-hoc coalition focused on advocacy to a stand alone 501 (c)(3) non-profit, I quickly recognized that I didn't come with the ideal skill set. However, I never doubted that I was still

well-suited to the job—I just needed to learn a lot very quickly. Now, five years later, I see a stable organization with tremendous potential for growth. Clearly we are poised to benefit from hiring an ED with exceptional experience and skills in financial and organizational development. Also, it has become increasingly difficult to serve as the visible face of AWC while living in paradise on the Blue River. Travel (a full day's drive to anywhere) is expensive and very time consuming. While I enjoy traveling to important meetings, there is so much more an accessible ED could be doing to build positive relationships with editorial boards, elected officials, agency contacts, foundation contacts, donors, new members, and others.

I truly believe that, from an organizational standpoint, this is the perfect moment for the AWC to make this transition. We intend to fill the ED position within five months or by August 1st. I will stay on at least until the end of September to help with the transition. I have spent more than 30 years working for Arizona's wilderness and with certainty I am forever hitched to this cause. I have offered to stay engaged with AWC in whatever capacity I am needed. How that will occur is of course the prerogative of the new ED and our Board of Directors. I enjoy so many positive relationships with staff, members, donors, foundation officers, and key officials and their staff, and I would like to continue to develop those connections for the Coalition and for myself.

I cannot unveil my decision to step down as the ED without acknowledging the contributions and enthusiasm of our staff. I believe that people are most motivated when they are empowered to make important decisions regarding their work. In our case, we all work in separate locations and everyday, we individually face decisions regarding what is in the best interest of the Coalition. So independent thinking and individual responsibility is our style - a style that only works with skilled, honest, and passionate employees. We communicate daily to coordinate our efforts. Our staff knows what needs to be done; they anticipate needed changes to our work plans; they are mindful of our short term and long goals; they prioritize well; they are incredibly self-motivated; and most important, we care deeply about each other and the organization. Nearly everyday I am awestruck by what they bring to the Coalition. It is because of them that we all can be very optimistic for Arizona's wilderness and for our organization.

We are very excited and upbeat as we begin our search for a new ED. Also we will be asking for ideas and assistance from our supporters and colleagues in this effort. Your questions and suggestions are most welcome. Please don't hesitate to contact me at any time in this regard.

Its been a pleasure to meet so many of you—our dedicated members and supporters—and I expect that the organization we have begun to build will only keep growing, both in size and influence. We have identified millions of acres of wild lands that are crying out for protection. The Arizona Wilderness Coalition will continue to hear that cry until permanent protection is achieved. Thank you.

Donald Hoffman
Executive Director

Fossil Creek: A River Runs Anew



Fossil Creek Springs. Photo by Jason Williams

by Jason Williams

The citizens of Arizona have a once in a lifetime opportunity to restore and protect one of its greatest natural treasures: Fossil Creek—a river recently returned to life and once more coursing from its origins on the Mogollon Rim. Since 1909, more than 95 percent of Fossil Creek's natural, year-round flow was diverted by the Arizona Public Service (APS) Childs-Irving Hydroelectric Power Plants, which channeled the water into flumes and pipelines turning turbines and generators at two sites, leaving Fossil Creek thirsty along its 14-mile course.

But after many years of negotiations, APS, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Yavapai-Apache Nation, American Rivers, The Nature Conservancy, Northern Arizona Audubon Society, the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club, Tonto and Coconino National Forests and the Arizona Riparian Council reached the historic agreement in 1999 to

decommission the power plants and return flows to Fossil Creek. In June 2005, APS voluntarily closed the plants after nearly a century of operation and full flows were returned to this jewel of the desert. A river called Fossil Creek once again runs free.

"Our decision was based on what was best for Arizona," says Jack Davis, APS president and CEO. "As a responsible corporate citizen, we carefully reviewed our business goals and determined that closing the power plants, returning the stream to its full flow and recreating the natural condition of this beautiful area was simply the right decision."

"This is an unparalleled and exciting opportunity to return a work site to its pristine natural condition, creating an ecosystem where nature can continue to thrive," Davis adds. "This cooperative effort will ultimately enhance the native riparian area and enrich an already popular recreation area that can be enjoyed for generations."

In 2003 the Arizona Wilderness Coalition—in partnership with Prescott College—completed our Wild and Scenic river study that documented the numerous Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs, not to be confused with off-road vehicles) of Fossil Creek. This proposal found the entire 14 miles of the creek as eligible for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (see side bar).

Fossil Creek is unique in that it is home to the largest set of natural springs in central Arizona. These springs gush 410 gallons of water per second at 72 degrees Fahrenheit. The water carries with it high concentrations of calcium carbonate, which gets deposited as the carbon dioxide is released to the atmosphere, causing the creek to form travertine, just like the famous Havasu Creek in the Grand Canyon. These formations are similar to stalactites and stalagmites found in caves, except that it is collecting on the water's surface in formations that replicate the ebb and flow of water.

The restoration of flow to Fossil Creek presents an excellent opportunity to maintain and restore a native fishery for six Arizona native species. This is a big deal in a state where, out of the 36 fish species native to Arizona, one is officially extinct, two have been eliminated from their Arizona range, and 18 are listed as threatened or endangered.

The protection of Fossil Creek is not only significant in its cultural prehistory, but it will also help to restore the Yavapai-Apache's hunting, gathering, and spiritual traditional sites in the watershed.

"We have participated in the decommissioning process as full partners because we believe the waters of Tu Do Tliz should flow freely into Tu Cho (the Verde River)," says Vincent Randall, Apache Historian and Yavapai-Apache Tribal Council member. "It is also a critical first step in restoring an important place within our home country to a more natural state. Our People are proud to have been involved with the construction of the facility, its maintenance, and success over the decades, but now we are happy to let it go back to the way it should be. We seek forgiveness from the water, that it now can be free and living again. The facility's time has passed. This living water is a gauge of the health of the Canyon and it is Sacred to us. Let us all remain vigilant to make sure that the waters continue to flow freely and that Tu Do Tliz is treated with care and respect so all of our Grandchildren can enjoy it and count on it like our ancestors did."

Designation will create an area of more than 14 contiguous miles of year-round water in an area where such resources are virtually non-existent, creating opportunities for camping, birding, hiking, horseback riding, and other recreational activities. Fossil Creek is already a recreation hotspot with 200 dispersed campsites, 2,200 day hikers and 1,000 backpackers per year. With restored flows, the area is expected to see a dramatic increase in use. Wild and Scenic River designa-



Example of travertine along Fossil Creek. Photo by Matt Duperrault

tion will help the U.S. Forest Service focus management on protection of the natural environment and secure increased funding for a full time ranger who can monitor and oversee protection of Fossil Creek.

Congress created the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968 to protect the nation's best free-flowing rivers

from activities that would destroy their wild character. A Wild and Scenic designation for Fossil Creek is one of the greatest opportunities to ensure that our children will enjoy what our grandparents have not: watching the deep blue waters rush by, sustaining an explosion of life in the desert.

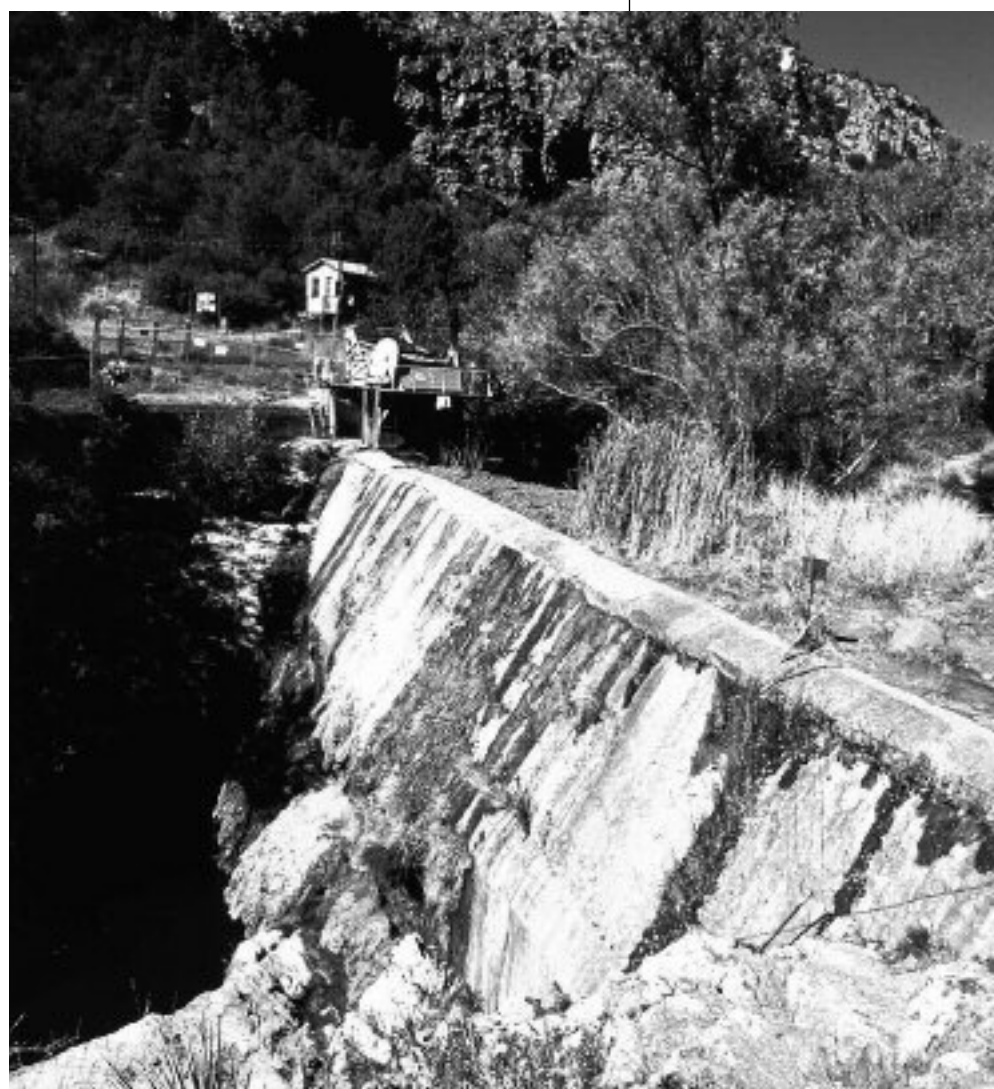
Take Action!

Senator McCain and Representative Renzi have pledged to sponsor legislation that would protect the stream for future generations by including it in the National Wild and Scenic River System. We ask that he introduce this bill right away and applaud his commitment. Unless legislation is introduced soon, this outstanding river may be vulnerable to future projects that would take the water out of the creek. Send letters to Sen. McCain and Rep. Renzi, and if you live out of state, be sure to send a letter to your own House representatives, so they can support the bill when it comes to the House Resources Committee!

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2235

The Honorable Rick Renzi
United States House of Representatives
418 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0301
Phone: 202-225-2315

Jason Williams is Central Mountains-Sonoran Regional Director for the AWC. He lives and works in Prescott.



APS reached a historic agreement with conservation groups to decommission their Fossil Creek facility. Photo by Robin Silver



Kayakers occasionally enjoy the runs on Fossil Creek. Photo ©Nick Berezenko, nbphoto@cybertrails.com

WHAT IS A WILD AND SCENIC RIVER?

By Quinn McKew

Wild and scenic rivers are some of our most well loved recreation destinations, places of rich historical significance, and critical fish and wildlife habitat. From the challenging rapids of California's Kern River, to the quiet beauty of Arizona's Verde River, the Wild and Scenic Rivers System represents the diversity of our river heritage.

Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968, with the goal of protecting certain free-flowing rivers with "outstandingly remarkable values" from the onslaught of hydroelectric dams being built at that time. Approximately 2.5% of our nation's rivers qualify for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. But since the Act passed, only 164 rivers have been designated. That is just one third of one percent of our nation's rivers. By contrast, 600,000 miles—17 percent of our nation's rivers—now lie stilled behind an estimated 60,000 dams.

While the teeth in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act remain the

same—federal dams and other harmful water resources projects are barred, and a management plan is written—the reasons for designation have changed. Rivers threatened by development, pollution, or water withdrawals, or simply in need of a long-term vision for protecting river values, can benefit from the wild and scenic river designation process. People across the country are using the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to protect the outstandingly remarkable values of their river and their communities: locally-driven legislation has been introduced to protect dozens of rivers in California, Oregon, Utah, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Let's make sure Fossil Creek in Arizona is soon added to the list!

Quinn McKew is the associate director of the Wild Rivers program with American Rivers.

Forest Planning, Here We Come! Roadless Rule, Forest Plans, and Transportation

by Don Hoffman

For the past five years, AWC has focused significant attention on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service. We concentrated on those lands because the agencies were/are actively seeking our public input into critical planning processes that will establish management direction for years to come. We've had a lot of ground to cover, a lot of citizens to engage, a lot of agency managers to meet and to gain their respect, a lot of meetings to attend, and a lot of action alerts to send to our members asking for their participation and letters of support. Many of these places will be protected because of our involvement and your stalwart efforts. What isn't protected in this round of planning, we will continue to guard against ill-conceived proposals until we win.

WHATS NEXT?

Now it is time to turn our attention toward our National Forests in Arizona. There are three separate and current efforts that affect wildlands on our National Forests. They include:

- Governor Napolitano's petition to protect our National Forest Roadless Areas;
- Six National Forests in Arizona will be rewriting their Forest Management Plans (an opportunity that comes around every 15-20 years); and
- National Forests in Arizona will initiate transportation planning to designate where motorize travel is allowed and where it is not.

As a former Forest Service manager, even I find it challenging to integrate and explain these separate yet related processes. Once again we will be deluged with a host of inspiring buzzwords like "scoping comments", "planning process", "transportation planning", "route designation", NEPA involvement, public input, Draft EIS, Final EIS and... alhaack—excuse me, that was my cat hacking up a hairball.

Well maybe agency-speak isn't all that inspiring, but when I think of what is at stake in each of these planning efforts, I can't help but become very motivated. All three of these efforts will affect places that are critical to our mission to protect wild lands. In the subsequent sections, I explain what each of these three processes is intended to do and how we can actually make a difference.

Please be sure that we have your email address so that we can keep you informed of the various opportunities where you can make a difference. Also please put the AWC website on your "favorites" list. This train is moving fast—welcome aboard!

* * *

THE ROADLESS RULE: BALANCED PROTECTION FOR OUR FUTURE

Issued in January 2001 following the most extensive public rulemaking in history, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule protected 58.5 million acres of wild national forest land from most commercial logging and road building. With more than one-half of America's national forests already open to logging, mining, and drilling, the rule was intended to preserve the last third of undeveloped forest lands as a home for wildlife, a haven for recreation, and a heritage for future generations. In May 2001, under pressure from Congress and the public, the Bush administration pledged to uphold the rule, promising only minor changes.

However, the Rule was ultimately repealed and replaced in May 2005. Under the new policy, state governors can proceed through a petition process in order to reinstate roadless protections in each individual state. Arizona is blessed with a variety of wild lands ranging from alpine forests, Sonoran deserts, rugged

species of fish and wildlife, including many threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant and animal species;

- Safeguarding clean water from forest headwaters and streams, the source of drinking water for millions of Americans.

Striking a Balance for Forest Users

One of the most affected groups of forest users if the Roadless Rule were to change is Arizona's hunters and anglers, who ply our rugged canyons and forested mountains in search of the perfect game or clearest stream. Roads, as countless biology studies show, effectively act like walls to wildlife, carving up their most prized feeding, mating, and nursery areas and forcing many species, like elk and bighorn sheep, to seek other refuge. For anglers, roads and off-road vehicle trails can deposit large quantities of sediment into stream channels, where it buries the gravel necessary to trout spawning, fills the spaces between rocks where aquatic insects reside, and reduces pool depths, raising water temperatures and mortality in native fish.

"Our state already has too many forest roads which cut every which way into our favorite places," says Robert Frost, a hunter, outfitter and owner of Diablo Canyon Outfitters in Queen Creek, Arizona. "We—as sportsman, hunters, hikers, and campers alike—certainly can make-do with the many forest roads that we already have, and support protecting our last remaining roadless lands in Arizona."

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition is collaborating with groups like Trout Unlimited, Arizona Wildlife Federation, and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership to ensure that hunter and angler needs are addressed in the Roadless Rule petition process. Governor Napolitano will need to hear from as many hunters and anglers as possible to ensure wildlife habitat and

fishing areas in key regions of Arizona are safeguarded under her petition.

Restoring the protections of the Roadless Conservation Rule is a very reasonable approach. The simple goal is to keep these remote areas the way they are today. Use of existing authorized roads can continue if the tenets of the 2001 Roadless Rule are upheld. However, new construction of permanent roads will be prohibited within the roadless units. Motorized trails can be allowed and they would be authorized just as they are on all National Forest lands—through an upcoming transportation planning process where all open roads and trails will be designated.

While providing critical ecological forest protection, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule:

- Provides full access for recreational activities such as backpacking, camping, hunting and fishing,



canyons, and lush woodlands that offer a multitude of outdoor recreational opportunities. We are very fortunate in Arizona that Governor Napolitano is committed to protecting our roadless areas, which will safeguard our remaining remote and wild places as Arizona's population continues to grow. The Arizona Wilderness Coalition is working to ensure that the Governor petitions the U.S. Forest Service for protection of 100% of the lands in Arizona that were inventoried under the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. The Rule's major benefits include:

- Protecting 1,174,000 acres of national forest land in Arizona.
- Maintaining current public access and recreational opportunities, including hiking, camping, hunting and fishing;
- Preserving essential habitat for more than 1,500

and closes no existing roads or trails;

- Allows temporary roads to be built in specified circumstances, such as to fight fires or in the event that other natural events threaten public safety;
- Allows management and logging of certain timber resources to reduce the risk of wildfire;
- Does not change state or private landowners' right to access their land.

"The Roadless Area Rule is simply good public policy," says Dave White, Assistant Professor in the Parks and Recreation Management program of the School of Community and Resources and Development at Arizona State University. "It provides for sustainable recreation use of National Forests while also ensuring the conservation of natural environment. There are provisions to protect both Arizona communities and the forest resources from potential problems. By reinstating the Roadless Area Rule, Arizonans would be adopting a common-sense and balanced approach to National Forest management that represents years of careful consideration and enjoys broad public support."

FOREST PLANNING

In 2006, all six national forests will begin a two-year process to revise their Forest Management Plans. The purpose of these overarching management plans is to broadly allocate forest resources and public uses of the forests in a manner that preserves ecological integrity, meets the needs of public, and complies with law. This is an opportunity that only comes around every 15 to 20 years.

The Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984 created many of our Wilderness Areas on National Forest lands. While Congressman Mo Udall and Senator Goldwater gave us much to celebrate in that legislation, too much land was released from the requirement to "... be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation." However, we were able to secure what is fondly known as "soft release language" in that bill which directs that the Forest Service "shall review the wilderness option when the (Forest) plans are revised..." Now, 22 years later, we have our first opportunity to identify and protect most of those still wild places. Times have changed; our population has exploded; public demand for wilderness has increased; we have a much better understanding of the ecological benefits of wilderness protection that were not previously considered. We will be making bold but defensible recommendations to create Wilderness Study Areas that will preserve the wilderness character of these lands until congressional designation is possible.

AWC has granted a graduate fellowship to Sam Frank to work on Forest Planning and other Forest issues over the next two years (see story, page 8). He will be developing and organizing support for our proposals on the Prescott and Tonto National Forests. Kim Crumbo, our partner at the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, has been doing the same on the Kaibab, Coconino, and portions of the Sitgreaves National Forest along the Colorado Plateau. The Sky Island Alliance will be taking the lead on the Coronado and the Apache National Forests in Southeast Arizona. We have a great opportunity to replicate what we have been doing for lands managed by BLM. Through this process we will identify where and what we intend to protect on our National Forests. Our fall newsletter will highlight how you can get involved in this upcoming planning process.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & ROUTE DESIGNATIONS

The Forest Service adopted a new off-road vehicle (ORV) policy in 2005 that will eventually eliminate indiscriminate cross-country travel with ORVs. The



*Black River Riparian Area Old Growth.
Photo by Don Hoffman.*



Roadless areas are key for protecting habitat for game and non-game species, like the desert tortoise....



...and the California condor.



Big game species like elk and mule deer rely heavily on the intact habitat found on national forest roadless areas.

previous national policy allowed ORV use anywhere in national forests unless it was signed "closed" to motorized travel. This put the burden on the Forest Service to close areas usually only after unacceptable damage was evident. This approach allowed the insidious creep of unplanned user created routes. The new national policy calls for all areas to be closed to motorized use unless it is designated and signed "open." This rightfully shifts the burden to approving and signing routes that are appropriate for ORV use and it also is intended to halt the proliferation of user-created routes. The Coronado and Prescott National Forest had previously adopted a policy that restricted ORV use to designated routes. However, for the other four national forests in Arizona, the new policy cannot go into effect until each forest completes an intensive transportation planning process that designates all of the routes that are to remain open to off-road vehicles.

Most of the forests in Arizona will tackle this job on a forest-wide basis, but some forests are allowing individual Ranger Districts to independently determine which routes to leave open. With the rapid increase in the number of ORVs in Arizona, there will be tremendous pressure on the Forest Service to designate every single tire track as an open route. It is essential that wildlife advocates, hunters/anglers, and conservation groups come together to ensure that our public lands are not allowed to be degraded.

There are literally hundreds—perhaps thousands—of articles and scientific papers that document the serious damage ORVs can cause to our native plant and animal communities. In a recent survey by Arizona Department of Game and Fish, 54% of respondents indicated that off road vehicle disruption represented a barrier to their participation in hunting; 65% indicated that urbanization/development of hunting areas was affecting their ability to hunt.

"The erosion of hunting quality on public lands, caused in part by ATV [all-terrain vehicle] use, is incredible," says Greg Munther, a hunter and retired U.S. Forest Service biologist and land manager. "The machines are taking hunters to places in a couple of hours where it used to take a man a long time to hike in to. This means those of us who choose to hunt in the traditional way, with horses or on foot, are at a disadvantage for several reasons. First of all, the elk are either scared off or shot by the time we get in to them on foot. In addition, elk avoid roads and the ATVs [all terrain vehicles] are essentially making roads out of trails. This is making for less security for elk, altered feeding and calving grounds, and displacement onto private lands where hunting may be prohibited."

Backpackers, horsepackers, photographers, and bird watchers are all similarly affected, as the quiet places they choose to roam continue to disappear.

The AWC will tolerate some ORV use where damage is not evident or anticipated, but we will strongly advocate keeping the more sensitive and remote portions of our Forests free of disruptive ORV use—for the benefit of all forest users. We will be encouraging our members to attend meetings and to send letters during public comment periods. Please stay tuned to our alerts and join us in our inventory work and at upcoming public meetings.

* * *

Don Hoffman is Executive Director of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. He is a former wilderness manager with the U.S. Forest Service and lives in the White Mountains of Arizona.

From Beltway to Backcountry

by Sam Frank

You know you've been in Washington, D.C. for a while when you can distinguish the Inner Loop from the Outer Loop of the beltway, marches of less than 5,000 people don't faze you, and you've accepted paying taxes without congressional representation. I was at this point when I was offered a graduate fellowship at Prescott College to work with the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. There were aspects about living in D.C. that I did like—mostly where I worked and the people I worked with—but I felt the lure of living out West calling me back. The fortune to work with a fantastic organization, experience the desert wilderness, and get an advanced degree made the opportunity to work with the AWC very attractive.

I grew up in Connecticut in a house that had a 300-acre state forest for a backyard. It was my favorite place to escape to with friends, my dogs, or by myself. It was within Humaston State Forest that I developed a fascination and appreciation for nature. In 2001, I received a B.S. degree in Geologic and Environmental Science from Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania, after which I moved to Wyoming where I spent two years exploring the outdoors and taking occasional



*Sam, Shoni, and Willa enjoy the Prescott National Forest.
Photo by Katie Borman*

classes at the Teton Science School. I ended up in Washington, D.C. working for the American Wilderness Coalition, a small non-profit wilderness advocacy group (and ironically another "AWC") gaining legislative and networking skills.

As soon as I arrived in Prescott, I knew that this position was a perfect fit for me. I find myself in a fun town, at a great school and working with people who

are passionate about their work. To have a job where I can pull off the road and roll out my Thermarest™ in the back of my truck suits me just fine.

My position with AWC entails working to protect the Prescott, Tonto, and Coconino National Forest roadless areas and wild rivers ultimately through designation of Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers. At the beginning of 2006, AWC was awarded a grant by

the National Forest Foundation. The grant money will be used to conduct a comprehensive route inventory of all unauthorized user created routes and trails inside and adjacent to Inventoried Roadless Areas on the Prescott National Forest. The project, known as the Prescott National Forest Inventoried Roadless Area Route Inventory, will enable AWC to implement a working partnership with Forest Service personnel in anticipation of the upcoming Forest Planning 2006. AWC staff, members, volunteers, and students from Prescott College will undertake this inventory. We hope to duplicate these efforts on the Tonto and Coconino National Forests in the future.

We are always looking for people to come out on our inventory trips. Our trips can consist of day trips, overnight car camping trips, or backpacking into some more remote areas. If you want to get involved in any of these efforts, feel free to contact me at sfrank@azwild.org or (928) 717-6076.

* * *

Sam Frank is "happy to be here and making a difference." Welcome Sam!



Sam works on a wilderness inventory at Black Canyon, Agua Fria National Monument.



Sam enjoys his new surroundings in Prescott—far away from the DC Beltway.

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

Hunters and Anglers: Listen Up

by Jonathan Hanson

As a Republican, 4x4 owner, and hunter, I don't fit the current paradigm of an "environmentalist." But just like my Democrat vegetarian environmentalist friends, I pay close attention to the management of our public lands, the birthright of all Americans.

The nation's National Forests provide vital habitat for wildlife, protection for pure water sources, and abundant hunting and fishing opportunities. The parts of those forests that remain roadless offer all of the above, plus the knowledge that even in the 21st century we can see country that is close to what the first trappers and pioneers experienced.

One endangered management policy—the Roadless Area Conservation Rule—is the best tool we have to ensure that our children's children can enjoy the same experience. Roads and illegal off-road vehicle routes already crisscross many of our once pristine hunting grounds, reducing the quality of habitat for deer, elk, and countless other species. It's up to us to make sure we save what's left.

Far from being some last minute Clinton Administration plot, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule was adopted in 2001 after a two-year process involving more than 600 public meetings. The Forest Service received 4 million comments on the proposal — more than for any other issue in its history. American citizens who supported the plan outnumbered those who didn't by almost 2-1. According to one poll, over 80 percent of hunters and anglers supported the plan. The Outdoor Industry Association, which represents 4,000 companies involved in the \$20 billion outdoor industry, supported it. Even the corporate headquarters of KB Homes, one of the nation's largest builders, sent a letter of endorsement.

The reason for this groundswell of support is simple:



Big game elk grow to a healthy maturity in roadless areas.

Americans overwhelmingly want to preserve the last pristine wild areas with which our country is blessed, along with the wildlife that lives there. The Roadless Rule affects only a third of all national forest land. The majority is still open to logging and other resource extraction, as well as motorized recreation, along 386,000 miles of existing Forest Service roads—enough to circle the earth 15 times. If that doesn't qualify as "multiple use," what would?

Incidentally, the Forest Service has a \$10 billion backlog on maintenance for those roads which, remember, are funded by taxpayers in the first place, not by the lumber companies that benefit hugely from them. Public lands timber sales cost the public millions of dollars every year.



Photo courtesy Trout Unlimited

Opponents claim that roads provide necessary access for fire crews. This is either ignorant or deliberately misleading. According to the Forest Service's own studies, large, destructive fires occur much more frequently in roaded and logged areas than in roadless areas. Human-caused fires are almost five times more likely to occur in roaded areas.

Some hunters I know complain that roadless areas make hunting more difficult. But as true conservationist hunters we should be concerned with the health of the game first, our own convenience second. Roadless lands make the best habitat (just two miles of road per square mile of forest can cut elk populations in half). And I'm happy to work hard to enjoy a quality hunting experience in wild country unspoiled by the noise of vehicles.

Anglers benefit from roadless areas as well, since streams free from the sedimentation caused by roads and trails provide deeper pools and better spawning conditions.

President Bush's move to rescind the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule doesn't restore local control over national forests, as claimed by his Administration. In fact it gives state governors only 18 months to identify and study areas they believe should remain roadless, and to then petition the under-secretary of Agriculture to develop management strategies for those areas. The undersecretary is free to alter or reject outright those petitions. Does that sound like local control? Since the current under-secretary of Agriculture, Mark Rey, spent 20 years as a timber

industry lobbyist, one can predict where his sympathies might lie. Rey was a chief architect of Idaho Senator Larry Craig's version of the 1997 National Forest Management Act, which would have eliminated citizen oversight of national forest policy and made timber harvest levels mandatory and enforceable. Does that sound like local control?

America does need lumber and minerals and oil. We also need space for fans of motorized recreation. That's why the majority of all national forest land remains open for such activities. And this doesn't count 260 million acres of BLM land, most of which is also accessible by vehicle, or millions of acres of state land.

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule is supported by a solid majority of Americans (and Arizonans) and backed by sound science. It might be our final opportunity to preserve the last pristine areas of our national forests, for the enjoyment of ourselves and our children. We must support Governor Napolitano's effort to restore protection to Arizona's National Forest Roadless Areas.

* * *

Jonathan Hanson of Tucson is an author and correspondent for Outside Magazine, and a founding member of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers.



Fifty Years Ago This Year...

by Sam Frank

Fifty years ago, in April of 1956, Howard Zahniser presented the Wilderness Bill to the public for the first time at the Northwest Wilderness Conference in Portland, Oregon. I was there, as a high school kid, aged 14. You can imagine what it was like to hear Howard Zahniser, Olaus Murie, Sigurd Olson, Dave Brower, Fred Packard, and our northwest activists like Polly Dyer and Karl Onthank speak about wilderness. It was my first day as a wilderness activist, and I wish you could all have been there.

The speakers were celebrating the triumph over Echo Park Dam, which would have flooded the canyons of Dinosaur National Monument. Yet the dominant concern at the conference was about a move by the Forest Service to open protected areas to logging. It looked like we were going to be making one defensive fight after another—and having to re-save areas that had ostensibly been protected. One big lesson had been learned: wilderness protected only by administrative decisions would not long remain wild.

The Wilderness Bill was the answer, because it would turn the tables. Instead of being constantly on the defensive, we would have a positive program.

Wilderness would be protected by Act of Congress.

Zahniser's talk (and a visit to the editor) led to an editorial in the Oregon Journal newspaper welcoming the idea of the bill, along with an editorial cartoon showing the ripples from a stone thrown into a pond as a metaphor for the impact of Zahniser's idea. Those ripples are still spreading.

A few weeks later the Wilderness Bill was introduced—on June 7 by Senator Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) and on June 11 by Representative John P. Saylor (R-Penn.). And thus began the 8-year odyssey of this bill to become the Wilderness Act of 1964. We can look forward to a real celebration 8 years from now, but I suggest we take a moment to remember Zahniser and his Wilderness Bill at this 50-year mark.

My thanks to Polly Dyer, Phil Zalesky, Ed and Mathias Zahniser, Mark Harvey and Doug Scott for their contributions as I was collecting my thoughts. (Even after scratching our heads, we couldn't come up with the precise date of Zahniser's talk in Portland.)

For the wild,
George Alderson
Baltimore, MD



Zahniser wrote the first draft of the Wilderness Act in 1956. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service.

LETTERS FROM THE FIELD

Dear...

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition would like to regularly feature letters from our interested readers. We haven't received many so far, but please do not hesitate to write to us about an issue you see in our newsletter or on our website. Send your letters to azwild@azwild.org.

I'm glad to see another supporter of wilderness that utilizes equines—Diablo Canyon Outfitters (Business for Wilderness, Fall/Winter 2005). We need to get more equine folk, backcountry hunters, and businesses involved with designating wilderness. All my traveling in the backcountry has been on foot, on horseback, or hiking with my pack burro, and as a hunter, I am convinced that the best wildlife habitat and migration routes come about as a result of the protection awarded by wilderness designation.

Tom Taylor
Mesa, AZ

Editor's Note: Read about Tom's recent award from the BLM and his trusty burro, Hualapai, in "Short Takes".

I appreciated Mark Havnes' March 9 article, "How wild is still wild?" describing how the environmentalists have squared off with motorized adventurers and oil and gas interests along the Arizona Strip.

Here, the Grand Canyon-Parashant and Vermilion Cliffs National Monuments buffer the Grand Canyon and harbor magnificent tracts of wild land. I'm fortunate to live near this lonely, high desert. My business depends on such remote places. I've hiked, packed by horse, biked, backpacked and driven the Strip, though it's so full of mystery that I count myself no expert. I just know it as a place where I can find my soul.

A coalition of wilderness advocates is pressuring the Bureau of Land Management to reduce the ribbons of dirt roads that sprawl across the landscape. It's with some regret that I endorse their cause; I've accessed serene rewards on such routes, and yet we're perilously close to losing the wild to the very roads that seem to lead us to it.

I've lived long enough to see the wild chased from many of the favorite places of my youth. Ever more people come. The West is not the endless expanse it once seemed. People complain if their cell phones don't function in places once described as desolate. Rural becomes urban, and suburban, and exurban. The treadmarks of civilization crawl ever outward.

Though it's difficult to limit ourselves, we should set aside a few precious corners of the real wild West. We should not drive and drill everywhere, even if technology makes it possible. The Bureau of Land Management needs to protect these remnants of wild places for all Americans, including those not yet born.

Susan Hand
Kanab

Editor's Note: The above letter appeared in the Salt Lake Tribune during the public comment period for the Arizona Strip national monuments.

Babbitt's Backcountry Outfitters

by Katurah Mackay

Arizona wilderness advocates are better positioned to accomplish their goals, thanks to a timely \$30,000 grant from the Conservation Alliance that will support work on southern Arizona's Tumacacori Highlands wilderness proposal. Out of 29 submissions, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition proposal for the Highlands was chosen by the Conservation Alliance based on its strong likeli-

Babbitt family knows the Arizona landscape well, having settled in Flagstaff in the late 1800s to ranch and later to run a mercantile, lumber, and hardware business. Jim's brother Bruce served in President Clinton's cabinet as Secretary of the Department of the Interior.

"The Conservation Alliance is committed to helping organizations like the Arizona Wilderness Coalition protect our last wild places," said Alliance Executive Director John Sterling. "The Tumacacori Highlands is one of those last, truly untouched corners of our country, and our members saw the tremendous potential to preserve those rugged mountains and canyons just as they are."

The Conservation Alliance is a non-profit organization of outdoor businesses whose collective annual membership dues support grassroots citizen-action groups and their efforts to protect wild and natural areas. One hundred percent of its member companies' dues go directly to diverse, local advocacy groups across the nation. Business members of the Alliance must sponsor an organization's proposal for consideration for a grant.

Since its inception in 1989, The Conservation Alliance has contributed \$5,055,059 to grassroots environmental groups and its member companies are proud of the results: to date the groups funded have saved over 34 million acres of wild lands and 14 dams have been either prevented or removed—all through grassroots community efforts. There are currently 97 member businesses of the

Alliance including REI, Chaco Sandals, Patagonia, Mountain Hardwear, Inc., and The Timberland Company. Visit www.conservationalliance.com for a full member list.

The Conservation Alliance is a unique funding source for grassroots environmental groups. It is the only environmental grantmaker whose funds come from a potent yet largely untapped constituency for protection of ecosystems - the non-motorized outdoor recreation industry and its customers. This industry has great incentive to protect the places in which people use the clothing, hiking boots, tents and backpacks it sells. The industry is also uniquely positioned to educate outdoor enthusiasts about threats to wild places, and engage them to take action. Finally, when it comes to decision-makers - especially those in the Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of



Land Management, this industry has clout - an important tool that small advocacy groups can wield. Ultimately, the Alliance believes that more than any other group, this industry should be giving back to the landscapes on which its customers recreate, and the Conservation Alliance is the ultimate venue by which to do so.

Conservation groups unveiled the Tumacacori Highlands wilderness proposal in January 2004 to preserve the area's outstanding biodiversity and remote beauty in the face of a rapidly developing southern Arizona. Situated on the Coronado National Forest, about 50 miles southeast of Tucson, the Highlands region is the largest remaining roadless area left on Forest Service lands in Arizona. The proposal would protect approximately 85,000 acres of prime wildlife habitat for species such as the elegant trogon, Mexican vine snake, and jaguar, and preserve traditional recreation such as hunting, camping, hiking, birdwatching, and horsepacking.

Federal wilderness designation is the highest level of protection available for public lands and is made possible by the 1964 Wilderness Act. Congressman Raul Grijalva (D-District 7) supports the proposal and will eventually sponsor a bill on the House side. Arizona citizens are looking for a champion in either John McCain (R) or Jon Kyl (R) to carry the bill through the Senate with bi-partisan support.

"Arizona has a rich conservation legacy of preserving wild lands by advocates like Congressman Mo Udall and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt," says Don Hoffman, executive director of AWC. "The Tumacacori Highlands are such a remarkable window to the past and show how a wild ecosystem truly functions. We are deeply appreciative of Jim Babbitt for recognizing that value and for the Conservation Alliance enabling us to work on protecting the Highlands for all to enjoy."

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition will use the funding to work cooperatively on media work, outreach, and organizing for the Tumacacori Highlands proposal with local conservation groups in Tucson, such as the Sky Island Alliance, and the citizen group, Friends of the Tumacacori Highlands.

* * *

Katurah Mackay is Communications Director for the AWC. She lives and works in Phoenix.



Hikers enjoy the trail to Atascosa Peak in the Highlands. Photo: Mike Quigley

hood of success and the localized, grassroots approach conservation groups are taking to ensure designation by Congress. Proposals must be nominated to the Alliance from one of its business members. Babbitt's Backcountry Outfitters, a longstanding outdoor gear shop in Flagstaff and the Alliance's only Arizona business member, nominated the Arizona Wilderness Coalition's proposal for consideration.

"As someone who makes a living from people who enjoy Arizona's remarkable wild lands, I feel very fortunate to be able to contribute directly to an organization like the Conservation Alliance," says Jim Babbitt, owner of Babbitt's Backcountry Outfitters. "Arizona is the second fastest growing state in the nation. Unless we save some of the wild lands we have left, our grandchildren won't have places to hike, camp, fish, hunt and otherwise enjoy the Arizona outdoors." The

AWC Volunteers Win National BLM Award

Father-and-son team Tom and Marty Taylor, long time AWC members and active volunteers, have been selected as Bureau of Land Management's 2006 "Making A Difference" National Volunteer Award Winners. Tom and Marty have been volunteers and ambassadors for the BLM-Phoenix Wild Horse & Burro program for more than 15 years. Tom regularly performs local outreach, including presentations to schools, businesses, and civic groups. With his formerly-wild adopted burro, Hualapai, he also conducts "burro clinics" to help educate prospective adopters. Additionally, Tom, Marty, and Hualapai travel around Arizona to enlighten people about wild burros and the BLM adoption program. The trio has regularly participated in National Public Lands Day celebrations, BLM Wild Horse and Burro adoptions, and Earth Day exhibitions, to name just a few activities.



Tom and Marty with Hualapai, their adopted burro.

Tom, Marty, and Hualapai were selected by Public Broadcasting System talent scouts to be filmed for the new kids' cartoon show, "Postcards from Buster," which premiered in Fall 2005. Tom and Hualapai have also been featured on local television programs and in numerous publications, including the Arizona Republic, High Country News, and East Valley Tribune.

Upper Verde River Listed as #10 Most Endangered in U.S.

Increasing groundwater pumping to feed booming development in Arizona poses a severe threat to the Verde River, threatening not only one of the state's most popular rivers, but also water supplies for downstream communities. American Rivers, a Washington, D.C.-based river watchdog group, listed the Upper Verde as America's #10 most endangered river for 2006. The annual America's Most Endangered Rivers report highlights ten rivers facing a major turning point in the coming year, where action by citizens can make a huge difference for both community well-being and river health.

"Arizona law might not recognize the reality that water pumped out of the ground can't wind up in the river," says Rebecca Wodder, President of American Rivers, "but reality has a way of winning the argument in the end. If that happens, downstream communities that depend on good water in the Verde River— like

the tiny town of Perkinsville, as well as the city of Phoenix—will lose."

BLM Management Planning Update

The Lake Havasu BLM released their Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the 1.3 million acres of public land near Lake Havasu in late September 2005. The draft plan proposed protecting 41,500 acres of lands for wilderness characteristics. This falls short of the AZ Wilderness Coalition's proposals that identified 198,000 acres in 7 areas containing wilderness quality lands. We await the Final EIS sometime next winter to see what is in store for these unprotected wildlands.

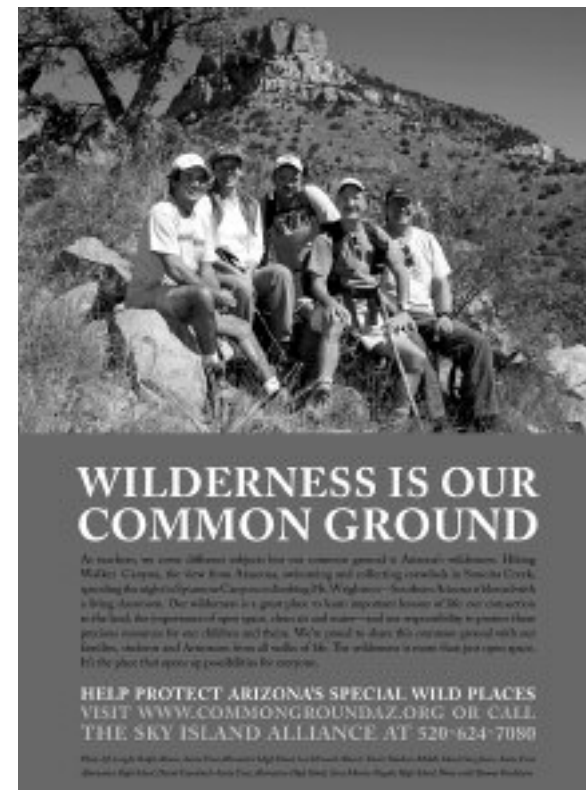
The Phoenix BLM released their Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Agua Fria National Monument and the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning areas in January 2006 and closed the public comment period on April 5th. This draft plan proposed protecting 20,900 acres in two areas on the Agua Fria NM and 75,000 acres in 3 areas in the Bradshaw Harquahala region. The Arizona Wilderness Coalition inventories and proposals recommended 37,500 acres in three areas on the monument and 207,205 acres in eleven areas in the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning region. BLM proposed closing 100 out of 170 miles of roads in the monument and the AZ Wilderness Coalition asked BLM to go an extra 20 miles of closures on Perry Mesa to protect pronghorn habitat and archeological sites. We are confident that our members' voices were heard with the many letters submitted asking for these protective measures and believe the final plan will be better than the draft in protecting these spectacular resources. The Final plan should be published sometime next year.

The Tucson BLM also opened public scoping for their land management plan in January. We submitted preliminary comments that asked for protection of wilderness characteristics around White Canyon Wilderness and Area of Critical Environmental Concern, as well as closure of destructive ORV trails in the Martinez Canyon area to protect native fish species, riparian vegetation, water quality, and bighorn sheep habitat. This planning process will be ongoing over the next couple of years, so look for more opportunities to get involved!

Tumacacori Highlands: Common Ground for Arizonans

What do a group of high school teachers, a women's exercise class, and a local businessman have in common? A love of Arizona's special wild places—and the desire to see them protected for their children and grandchildren. "Wilderness is Our Common Ground" is the theme of the new print ad campaign that began this spring by the Sky Island Alliance—a conservation group based in Tucson—to help draw attention to the proposed Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness campaign. To view the ads, go to www.commongroundaz.org.

The ads, which started running in February in a number of area newspapers including the Nogales International, La Estrella de Tucson, the Arizona Daily Star, and the Tucson Citizen, feature a variety of citizens who value wilderness for different reasons. For Tubac architect Bruce Pheneger, it's the "open space that draws people to Arizona in the first place." Nogales teachers who often hike together look at wilderness as "a great place to learn important lessons of life: our connection to the land, the importance of open space, clean air and water—and our responsibility to protect these precious resources for our children and theirs." High school teacher David Courtland says,



"Wilderness is more than just open space. It's the place that opens up possibilities for everyone."

The last time wilderness was designated in Arizona was more than a decade ago, and today just 6.2 percent of the state's land is protected as wilderness, the highest level of protection for federal public lands. An April 2005 poll by Phoenix-based Behavior Research Center Inc., found that when voters were informed of this percentage, 75 percent said they thought that amount was "too little." Voters said they wanted to see approximately 35 percent of lands in Arizona protected as wilderness—six times the amount actually protected today. The Tumacacori Highlands area is the largest remaining roadless area left on U.S. Forest Service lands in Arizona that has not already received Wilderness protection.

We must urge our elected leaders to take action to permanently protect the Highlands - before it's too late! Address your letters to:

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jon Kyl
United States Senate
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Calling All Hunters and Anglers

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition and the Sky Island Alliance (SIA) are collaborating on a longterm effort to bring together two natural allies in the conservation field that have traditionally disagreed on the best ways to protect wildlife. Because hunting and fishing rely on healthy ecosystems that offer safe harbor to a diversity of wildlife, hunters and anglers can help the conservation community accomplish their shared goals for saving Arizona's last wild places.

Roads are the number one enemy of wildlife—game and non-game species. According to numerous state wildlife agencies and sportsmen's groups around the country, the quality of fishing and hunting is markedly better in areas with few or no roads. When roads divide large landscapes into smaller patches,

wildlife populations may become isolated from each other, reducing genetic mixing necessary for species diversity and health. One study in western Montana showed that, as the amount of roads increased, the number of mature bull elk harvested in that area dropped dramatically after only a few years. Biologists in the area concluded that the drop was due to the fact that there were few, if any, mature bull elk left in the area. A Journal of Forestry article reports that two miles of road per square mile can cut elk populations in half.

Similarly, roads and off-road vehicle trails can deposit large quantities of sediment into stream channels, where it buries the gravel necessary to trout



Clients with Diablo Canyon Outfitters enjoy backcountry hunts in roadless and wilderness areas.

spawning, fills the spaces between rocks where aquatic insects reside, and reduces pool depths, raising water temperatures and mortality in native fish—all of which destroy stream conditions for anglers and other sport fishermen.

In order to break down the traditional myths that hunters, anglers, and conservation groups have nothing in common, the AWC and SIA are holding regular gatherings to foster dialogue between these groups, devise a strategy for getting the message out in the media, and work together to change policies that will better protect hunting and fishing areas in Arizona. If you are a hunter or angler in Arizona and would like to join these monthly gatherings, we'd love to have you! Please contact Kate Mackay, kmackay@azwild.org or 602-571-2603, or Mike Quigley, mike@skyislandalliance.org, or 520-624-7080, ext. 205.

Thank You!

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition wishes to express its continued thanks and gratitude to the growing number of individuals, businesses, and foundations that support the Arizona Wilderness Coalition and our work. Since we sent you our fall newsletter, several hundred new individuals have joined you as AWC supporters, as well as the following foundations and organizations: American Rivers, Conservation Alliance, Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation, Heritage Forest Campaign, National Forest Foundation, and the New Land Foundation. Please forgive us if we missed anyone!

Get Out There

AWC has been awarded a grant by the National Forest Foundation to create a comprehensive route inventory of Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) within Prescott National Forest. There are a total of ten IRAs within Prescott National Forest totaling 138,628 acres. By identifying user created (illegal) routes, AWC can prioritize restoration efforts and further management strategies that protect the integrity of these areas in upcoming Forest Planning 2006 and the Forest Service 2006/2007 transportation planning.

Here's a list of upcoming AWC inventory and trail restoration projects. We can always use volunteers' help, so come on out and help protect the Prescott National Forest and experience some of Arizona's wild areas.

**Prescott National Forest Inventory
June 10**

**Prescott National Forest Trail Restoration
July 8**

**Prescott National Forest Inventory
July 22**

**Prescott National Forest Inventory
August 19**

**Prescott National Forest Route Restoration
September 2**

**Prescott National Forest Inventory
September 30**

Locations of inventory and restoration projects will be determined based on priorities and announced through email alerts. For more information, please contact Sam Frank, 928-717-6076 or sfrank@azwild.org

Celebrate National Trails Day! Saturday, June 3

Come out and help out REI, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition, and the Prescott National Forest with much-needed trail restoration work.

To RSVP, contact: Jason Williams, AWC Central Mountains-Sonoran Regional Director, 928-717-6076 or 928-925-6472

Where: Twin Peaks trail in the Castle Creek Wilderness. This trail begins in Horsethief Basin where ponderosa pine and douglas fir trees dominate and leads to the Sonoran Desert where ocotillos, saguaros, and palo verde can be found. Approximately two hours from Phoenix, near the historic mining town of Crown King. We will be camping at the campground in Horsethief Basin.

What: Trail restoration work, which will include using crosscut saws to clear downed trees, clippers to cut the brush, and numerous other tools to improve the water diversions on the trail. We will have work for all ability levels, from scouting sections of trail to be worked on to hard digging and cutting.

When: People can come on Friday to camp out and stay on Saturday to camp out, but plan on showing up to begin work at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 3rd.

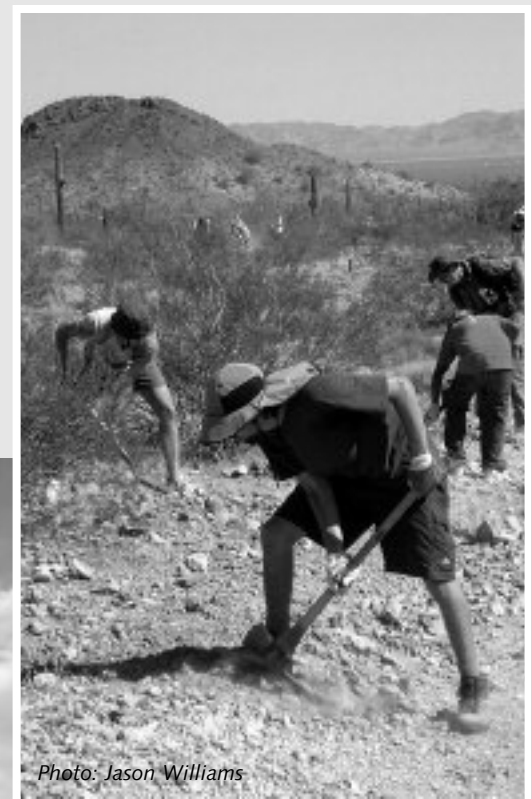


Photo: Jason Williams



Photo: Jason Williams

Keeping it Wild in the West Campaign. Our Goal: \$30,000

by Kevin Gaither-Banchoff

Over the next two years, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition has the opportunity to both improve interim wilderness protections and permanently protect almost 5 million acres of wilderness across Arizona. We may not have an opportunity to protect some of this land for another 15 or 20 years. By then it may be too late.

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition has set itself an aggressive agenda aimed at saving much of Arizona's wilderness legacy. We continue to work as part of the Friends of the Tumacacori Highlands to build support leading to 85,000 acres of the Tumacacori Highlands being declared Arizona's first new wilderness area in sixteen years. The Tumacacori's are the largest roadless area left on Forest Service lands in Arizona and offer critical habitat for magnificent subtropical animals like the jaguar, elegant trogon, and Chiricahua leopard frog. Today, the Tumacacori Highlands stand at the doorstep of wilderness designation. See story on page 12.

In the next year, we have an opportunity to permanently protect Fossil Creek by adding it to the

nations Wild & Scenic River system. Senator McCain has pledged to do just that! It's now AWC's job to build and demonstrate widespread public support for protecting Fossil Creek forever. Read more on page 3.

For the first time since 1984, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition also has the opportunity to build healthy, wild forests by integrating wilderness management into Arizona's Forest Land Management Plans. The Apache-Sitgreaves, Tonto, Coconino, Coronado, Kaibab, and Prescott National Forests are all up for revision, and together, they encompass more than 11.5 million acres of federal public land. The revision process provides a rare opportunity to raise public awareness and limit inappropriate and unmanaged forest uses. See story on page 6.

In order to work on these three exciting campaigns, as well as other issues like the Roadless Rule, public comments for Arizona's Bureau of Land Management lands, and education and outreach on the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System, we launched our KEEPING IT WILD IN THE WEST

CAMPAIGN. Thanks to a lead challenge gift from the Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation, we hope to raise at least \$30,000 in matching gifts from both current and new AWC individual supporters. So far in 2006, we've increased our budget to just over \$300,000—the amount of money we believe we'll need to complete our next twelve month's work. But we need your support to raise this money and protect Arizona's wilderness quality lands.

Wild nature cannot attend meetings, write letter or make phone calls. It also can't make a donation to save itself, but you can. Please join our Keeping it Wild in the West Campaign by making a generous donation today. See how to donate at www.azwild.org, or on page 15.

* * *

Kevin Gaither-Banchoff is a development consultant for the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. He lives in Tucson.

New Giving Opportunity: Gifts of Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

"I wanted to make a stock gift to the Arizona Wilderness Coalition for several reasons. First and most importantly, I completely believe in AWC's mission and ability to protect Arizona's wilderness. I also know that by giving a gift of stock directly to AWC I could avoid paying capital gains AND make a significantly larger gift to AWC than I could normally make. I know that AWC is now set up to receive these kinds of gifts and hope other donors will join me in making significant gifts in support of AWC's wilderness work."

—New AWC Stock Donor

AWC was excited and pleased this winter when a supporter came to us and declared their intent to give AWC a gift of stock. Since we'd never received such a gift, this prompted us to set up the needed systems and accounts to be able to accept this donation. AWC has now set up a brokerage account so we can receive this, and hopefully many more, generous gifts of stocks, bonds and mutual funds.

Gifts of securities such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds are especially advantageous if you hold a security such as stock that has increased in value since you acquired it. By making a gift of stock held longer than one year, you completely avoid paying capital gains tax. In addition, you receive an income tax deduction for the current market value of the gift. You may deduct gifts totaling up to 30% of your adjusted gross income in any year, with a five-year carry-over for any excess.

If you hold stocks or bonds in street name with a broker, you may transfer the securities electronically by instructing your broker to send the securities to our account at Zion's Direct.

Brokerage contact: Veronica Atkinson
Phone: 1-800-524-8875
DTC Number: 0443
Account Name: Arizona Wilderness Coalition
Account Number: AC5016814

You will need to call or send a letter to your broker with written instructions. In order to facilitate the transfer and acknowledgment of your gift, please notify us of your name, the name of the stock and the number of shares being donated before you transfer the stocks. Of course, we will respect the wishes of donors who prefer not to have their name publicly disclosed. You may notify us by contacting Don Hoffman by phone at (928) 339-4525 or by e-mail at dhoffman@azwild.org.

If you hold stocks or bonds in certificate form, you may send the certificates via registered mail to Arizona Wilderness Coalition at the address below. Please leave the back of the certificate blank and don't endorse it.

Arizona Wilderness Coalition
Attn: Don Hoffman
P.O. Box 529
Alpine, AZ 85920

Separately, in a second envelope via regular first-class mail, send us one stock power for each stock certificate. You may download a stock power form or obtain stock powers from your bank or broker. Be sure to sign the power exactly as you're listed on the face of the certificate. When you fill out the stock power form(s), please leave the assignment blank to facilitate our selling the shares. You will need to sign each form and fill in the description of the stock. Enclose a dated letter, which identifies the stock and includes your signature as it appears on the certificate and/or stock power.

Mutual funds make excellent gifts and offer the same tax benefits as gifts of stocks or bonds.

If your mutual funds are held by your broker or banker, or are in certificate form, please use the procedure for stocks or bonds explained above. If your mutual funds are held by the fund company, you may write a dated letter to the fund, indicating your account number and instructing them to transfer the shares to:

Arizona Wilderness Coalition
Tax identification number 20-0412328
Attn: Don Hoffman
P.O. Box 529
Alpine, AZ 85920
928-339-4525

Your letter should be signed and your signature guaranteed by your broker or banker. Enclose a copy of your latest statement if possible. Send your letter by certified mail (and return receipt requested if you would like to have proof of its delivery). Please send a copy of your authorization to Don Hoffman to notify us of your gift.

Note: Most mutual fund companies have a toll-free number for shareholder questions. You may want to call them to confirm the above procedure before mailing your authorization letter. If you would like more information on gifts of stocks, bonds or mutual funds, please call Don Hoffman.

The above information is a general guide for donating stock. We recommend that you consult with your personal financial advisor on all charitable donations.



JOIN US!

Yes! I want to help the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. Together, we can build a lasting legacy of Arizona wild lands for this and future generations. You may make tax-deductible donations payable to "The Arizona Wilderness Coalition." Enclose your check with this card to: The Arizona Wilderness Coalition, P.O. Box 529, Alpine, AZ 85920. Questions? 928-339-4525

Tell us about yourself!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

____ I wish to receive your e-mail alerts and newsletter. Sign me up! (Your email is necessary for us to send you our electronic alerts and event notices, but we will not share your email address outside of AWC.)

____ Enclosed is my one-time donation of \$ _____.

____ I wish to make a monthly donation to the AWC, in the amount of \$ _____.

Card Type _____ Card No. _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

By sharing your interests and hobbies with us, we can be more accurate in sending you alerts, event notices in your region, and requests for volunteer help. Please take a few minutes to fill out the information below. Thank you!

Hobbies or Skills (please check all that apply):

- General Volunteer
- Public Speaking
- Special Events
- Wild Land Inventory
- Letter Writing
- Photography/Art/Design
- Writing/Publishing/Newsletter Help

Region of interest (please check all that apply):

- Central Mountains–Sonoran
- Grand Canyon
- Western Deserts Region
- Sky Islands–Southeastern

Mailing Preferences (please check all that apply):

- Newsletter Only
- Newsletter and Alerts
- All Mailings
- Action Alerts Only
- No Mailings: I prefer to visit your website for news.



On behalf of Arizona's Wilderness,
thank you.

What is Wilderness?

Wilderness is an area of undeveloped federal land that appears “to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of mans’ work substantially unnoticeable,” as written in the Wilderness Act of 1964. Unlike national parks, wildlife refuges, or monuments, wilderness designation from Congress provides the highest level of natural resource protection available in the world. The Wilderness Act created the National Wilderness Preservation System to preserve the last remaining wild lands in America. Currently, about 4.7 percent of all available land in the United States is protected as wilderness. In Arizona, wilderness designation protects approximately 6.2 percent of our land and wildlife habitat.

**A R I Z O N A
WILD**

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WILDERNESS
America's Common Ground
 Home to the Grand Canyon, the Sonoran Desert, and forested mountains, Arizona's diversity of species and habitat creates a fragile tapestry of lands susceptible to destruction and fragmentation.

Only 6% of Arizona's public land is protected as wilderness by Congress. Those who love wild lands can work with us to ensure our Congressional leaders support wilderness legislation. It's the only way to see these lands into the future.

Arizona Wilderness Coalition AZWild.org
 Friends of the TUMACACORI HIGHLANDS TumacacoriWild.org
 CAMPAIGN FOR AMERICA'S WILDERNESS LeaveitWild.org

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION

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Arizona Wilderness Coalition
 P.O. Box 529
 Alpine, AZ 85920