

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION

ARIZONA **WILD**

**Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness and
a Conversation with Rep. Raúl Grijalva**

Wilderness and Motherhood

Jaguars: Lord of the Animals

Conserving Arizona's Native Fish

SPRING / SUMMER 2007

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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:
"A Room with a View"
Courtesy Murray Bolesta/CactusHuggers.com
The Tumacacori Highlands, as seen from Atascosa Lookout.

Design by Mary Williams/marywilliamsdesign.com

THOUGHTS FROM THE KGB
Expanding Our Reach

Kevin Gaither-Banchoff

It's been 17 years since Arizona passed its last wilderness bill protecting many of our state's most glorious wild places. We are all indebted to the many citizens and lawmakers who worked steadfastly over the past decades to already protect 4.5 million acres of Arizona as Wilderness. We thank all of you that came before us for your dedication and hard work.

We also know that we still have millions of additional acres in Arizona that deserve to be protected as Wilderness. It is our job as advocates to do our homework and demand these places be protected forever: the Peloncillo, Mescal, and Tumacacori Mountains in the south, the Little Horns, Saddle Mountain, and Perry Mesa across central Arizona, and Lost Springs Mountain and Hurricane Cliffs in the north. These are but a few of the magnificent wild places that we must continue working to protect.

As you know, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition is now a partner in a wide coalition of impassioned individuals, businesses, and organizations that have worked several years to protect almost 85,000 acres of the Tumacacori Highlands as Arizona's newest Wilderness area. This spring we will take a giant step forward towards this goal when our champion, Representative Raúl Grijalva, introduces legislation to do just that. **All of us at the Arizona Wilderness Coalition thank you, Representative Grijalva, for taking leadership on this effort, and many other similar efforts across the country, by working to protect our remaining wild places for the future.**

In this newsletter you will learn more about Congressman Grijalva, some of the history of the Tumacacori Highlands, the magnificent jaguar that is once again returning to southern Arizona, and how you can help in the campaign to protect this great place. We'll also talk about some of Arizona's already protected Wilderness and potential threats to their long-term health, a unique Scottsdale-based business that understands the value of wild places and actively supports our work, and some creative pieces from our friends in the field on motherhood and the value of wolves.

While we hope to see Arizona's first new Wilderness in 16 years in 2007 with the Tumacacori Highlands, we eagerly await the designation of Fossil Creek as Arizona's first new Wild & Scenic River. We continue to engage in forest planning, resource management plans, and travel management planning for almost all of Arizona's federal public lands.



We need to let more folks know that the Arizona Wilderness Coalition exists, our vision for the future, and how they can be involved with our important work. Currently the Arizona Wilderness Coalition has almost 1,500 members. If each of us asked one friend that we know cares about wilderness to join us as a

supporter, we could double the size of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. And we all know that our potential power, influence, and capacity to do good things will increase as our size increases. **Can you help us expand our base by sharing this newsletter with a friend and inviting them to join us? Let us know if we can help you do this in any way.**

Speaking of expanding, I have three happy announcements. Sam Frank, AWC's Wildlands Planning

Coordinator, popped the question last fall to his girlfriend of three and a half years, Katie Borman, in the Blue Range Primitive Area. She said yes. And two long-time Arizona Wilderness Coalition staff members are adding to our future generation of wilderness lovers. Jason Williams, our Central Mountains-Sonoran Regional Director, and his fiancée, Erin Lotz, are the proud parents of Violet Woods Williams, a beautiful, healthy baby girl born late last fall. Communications Director Kate Mackay and her husband Scott Hulbert will welcome a baby boy to their family early this summer. The Arizona Wilderness Coalition congratulates Sam, Katie, Jason, Erin, Kate, and Scott on their exciting future endeavors!

Together we can accomplish our vision for a wild Arizona. Thank you for being a part of our work and vision.

AWC Executive Director Kevin Gaither-Banchoff can be reached at 520-326-4300, or Kevin@azwild.org.

Kevin Gaither-Banchoff



It's time to celebrate wilderness legislation for the Tumacacori Highlands.
Photo: Matt Skroch

My Heart is in the Highlands

Arizona is poised to usher in its first federal wilderness area on Forest Service lands in more than 20 years.

by Katurah Mackay

Edward Abbey, outspoken writer, indomitable wilderness advocate, and lover of the Southwest, captured the essence of southern Arizona in his journal, willing away the hours in a fire lookout atop Atascosa Peak, one of the markers dotting the skyline of the proposed Tumacacori Highlands wilderness on the Coronado National Forest. Abbey's fire lookout still stands, and hikers on the Lookout Trail find the views from its porch unchanged from when the author took note of them more than 35 years ago.

This spring, Arizona wilderness lovers like Abbey will have reason to celebrate when Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-Dist. 7) introduces legislation to protect the windswept peaks and breathtaking vistas of 84,000 acres surrounding Atascosa Peak as the Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness, only an hour's drive south of nearly a million people in metropolitan Tucson. Applying the proven protective power of the Wilderness Act of 1964, Rep. Grijalva's proposal covers land that is already owned by all of us, managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The new wilderness is in two units, one around Abbey's lookout and the other, just

across the gravel Ruby Road, expanding the Pajarita Wilderness to the south. Wilderness protection will safeguard outstanding wildlife habitat and rare roadless qualities of the Highlands, while still offering more than 20 roadside access points for visitors to enjoy the lush backcountry and canyons for non-motorized outdoor pursuits like hiking, camping, hunting, horseback riding, and bird watching.

"I am proud to introduce legislation to protect and preserve the Tumacacori Highlands," says Rep. Grijalva, a native of southern Arizona. "Protecting wilderness is about protecting our quality of life and wilderness designation will ensure that these sensitive lands will remain free from degradation and therefore safe forever."

The much-anticipated legislation calls for permanent protection for the Highlands—home to subtropical species like the jaguar, elegant trogon, and Chiricahua leopard frog that are found nowhere else outside of this Sky Islands region of the United States. Conservation International, a U.S.-based world biodiversity watchdog group, recently named the pine-

madrean oak woodland habitat of this Sky Islands region of the United States and Mexico as a "biodiversity hotspot"—meaning the rare habitat and wildlife species that rely on it are threatened by road fragmentation, logging, and other human-induced causes. Thanks to the size of the new wilderness area, the

Tumacacori Highlands will protect enough habitat diversity for more than 100 species of mammals, 404 species of birds, 26 amphibian species, and more than 110 reptile species.

Building on a bipartisan conservation legacy carved out by Arizona leaders Rep. Mo Udall (D) and Sen. Barry Goldwater (R) and others, the Friends of the Tumacacori Highlands and Rep. Grijalva consulted a broad range of stakeholders to accommodate diverse interests in his legislation. For example, the proposal specifically retains easy road access for families and hunters and fishermen, while assuring habitat protection and primitive forms of recreation. Thanks to this wide consultation with so many interested parties, more than 200 local and statewide organizations support Rep. Grijalva's proposal for the Highlands, including Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, the Arizona Wildlife Federation, the Arizona Ecumenical Council, university scientists, and five Green Valley homeowners' associations representing approximately 1,000 local households. An organized group of Nogales school teachers even traveled to Washington, D.C. to lobby on behalf of the proposal. The Tubac Chamber of Commerce and more than 100 southern Arizona businesses also support wilderness for the Tumacacori Highlands.

"Given the outstanding benefits of wilderness and the population growth we see projected for Southern Arizona, we felt that protecting the Highlands for residents and visitors alike was the best long-term decision we could make for the future of Tubac and our quality of life," says Tubac Chamber Executive Director Carol Cullen. "We hope it will show people that we view our natural landscape as an asset to living here—not an obstacle to economic growth."

Indeed, a 2005 study by the Sonoran Institute, an organization dedicated to finding solutions for the health and prosperity of communities across western North America, demonstrates that protected public lands such as this draw people who want to live and work in rural areas, which leads to vibrant economies and better quality of life for all.

Exercising great foresight, Congress declared in the Wilderness Act over four decades ago that "it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness," explaining it made this decision "in order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States ... leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition." In 1964, the population of Tucson was approximately 300,000. The population of Pima County will soon reach 1,000,000 more than triple what it was 43 years ago when Congress enacted the Wilderness Act. Within Tucson city limits alone, the population is expected to explode to some 1.4 million residents by 2021. Holding on to what draws people here in the first place—clean air, wide open spaces, and access to outdoor recreation—is key to maintaining a high quality of life for residents.

Wilderness designation is a tool in the conservationist's kit for assuring that the wildest parts of our public land remain unscathed by human intrusions like roads and utility development. One of the most insidious threats to areas like the Tumacacoris is the



1968 journal entries from Edward Abbey are testament to the wild beauty of the Tumacacori Highlands.



Photo: Sky Island Alliance



Photo: Jen Schmidt, CAW

pernicious rise in off-road vehicle sales in Arizona, giving riders a toy they want to try out on rugged backcountry slopes and in prime wildlife habitat. According to the Arizona Department of Motor Vehicles, off road vehicle and dirt bike ownership has increased 347% since 1998 in Arizona. Many places in Arizona where residents never thought 20 years ago that off-road vehicles would be a threat are now dealing with irreparable erosion, denuded hillsides, and habitat devoid of wildlife. In the Tumacacoris, we still have the chance to get ahead of the noisy machines.

“Thank God that Congress decided back in 1964 to give the strongest kind of protection—protection by Act of Congress—to fragile, quiet, wild places that offer refuges not only for wildlife, but for the human spirit,” says Doug Scott of the Campaign for America’s Wilderness, which is helping with this legislation. “Some may think the Tumacacoris are not really threatened, but the whole logic of the Wilderness Act and Rep. Grijalva’s new legislation is to close the barn door before the horses get out—to preserve this extraordinary wild corner of southern Arizona for all future generations, in whose lifetimes these sanctuaries of natural quiet will be more rare than we can possibly imagine.”

When it is enacted by Congress and signed into law by the President, Rep. Grijalva’s Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Act will join list of the truly historic conservation accomplishments for Arizona, led by giants like Mo and Stewart Udall, Barry Goldwater, John McCain, and Bruce Babbitt. It was under Rep. Mo Udall’s congressional watch in the 1970s and 80s that places like Pusch Ridge, Hellsgate, Mt. Wrightson, and Eagletail Wilderness areas were protected in perpetuity for the people of Arizona to savor while development of desert lands spread so dramatically elsewhere.

Even with the staunch local grassroots support,

wilderness bills like the Tumacacori Highlands need political allies on both sides of the aisle, and in the Senate as well as the House.

“In Mo’s day, he was joined by men like Sen. John McCain in practicing a kind of bipartisan wilderness protection politics that set Arizona apart and helped it succeed where other states failed,” says Mark Trautwein, who was Rep. Mo Udall’s senior legislative assistant to the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

“These political leaders, and many others, were essential to a common effort that was Arizona at its best,” says Trautwein. “Tumacacori will receive the protection it deserves if that kind of politics still lives in Arizona.”

Katurah Mackay is communications director for the Arizona Wilderness Coalition.



Photo courtesies Jen Schmidt and Sky Island Alliance



Photo courtesy Office of Rep. Raúl Grijalva

A Q&A with Congressman Raúl Grijalva, Representing Arizona’s 7th District

Arizona’s seventh district encompasses parts of Pima, Maricopa, La Paz, Pinal and Santa Cruz counties, along with all of Yuma County. It is the only district in Congress representing seven separate Native American Tribes. They include the Tohono O’Odham Nation, Colorado River, Ak-Chin, Gila River, Cocopah, Quechan and Pascua Yaqui Tribes.

Raúl serves on the Committee on Education and Labor, the Committee on Natural Resources - of which he is the Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands - and the Committee on Small Business.

Southern Arizona is “home.” What do you miss about this part of the state while away in Washington?

Southern Arizona is my home, and I miss it often while away in Washington. The things I miss the most are my family, the food, and our beautiful sunsets.

Would you say your childhood and upbringing influenced the way you respect the Arizona landscape? If so, how?

I think that my childhood in Tucson taught me a great deal of respect for the Arizona landscape. I was raised in Canoa Ranch and those experiences have helped to shape my perspective of my community in Southern Arizona and of our shared responsibility to protect our natural heritage. Doing so is vital to the life of the desert and to the quality of life for our community.

What changes need to be made here and in Washington to better protect our natural heritage as Arizona grows?

Southern Arizona’s landscape is precious and unique. It is crucial that we protect the natural heritage of the region, especially now when the region is growing so quickly. When Congress makes decisions in Washington, we need to be conscious of the impact our decisions have on the environment. We need to discourage activities that squander our resources and threaten our natural heritage, and we need to encourage those activities that respect the uniqueness and delicacy of our desert resource.

What role models inspire you when making decisions for Arizona’s people and the environment?

The most obvious role model I can think of when considering Arizona’s people and environment is Morris K. Udall. Mo Udall worked hard in Congress on environmental issues, for the nation as a whole and for Arizona in particular. He was instrumental in setting aside 2.4 million acres of wilderness in Arizona. Udall has left behind a lasting gift of preservation of wilderness and a legacy of commitment to our natural heritage.

BUSINESS FOR WILDERNESS

Pure Adventures

A European hiking and biking tour company with roots in Scottsdale, Arizona.

by Katurah Mackay

It's the best of both worlds: a business located in sunny Scottsdale, Arizona, with a focus overseas, helping adventurous bikers and hikers find their way around the charming back roads of Europe. Sounds like the job you dreamed about before graduating from college, huh? Loren Siekman, founder and owner of Pure Adventures, made that dream a reality.

After being graduated from Arizona State University in 1988, Siekman decided to spend 6 months backpacking around Europe and then began working for Euro-Disney in the early 1990s. Siekman spent as much of his free time as he could bicycling around the bumpy country roads and winding city streets, where he eventually met his wife Florence, who also shares his love of cycling. They traveled extensively around France and came up with a business plan to offer bike tours there. While France was the initial focus, the couple also tried ventures to New Zealand, Canada, and even here in the United States, but they continually returned to Europe, where Siekman says he finds traveling between countries safe, stable, and highly geared toward tourists. The focus of Pure Adventures is on self-guided tours, where Siekman's company provides the hiking or biking routes, overnight stay recommendations, and dining options along the way.

Siekman and his wife decided to locate his Scottsdale-based European hiking and biking tour

enterprise in the Southwest precisely because the Arizona landscape is an inspiration for the adventure tour packages he offers in the "Old World"—France, Ireland, Holland, Spain, Italy, Poland, and numerous other European destinations.

"We love Arizona," says Siekman, "and being here is a great balance between our trips overseas."

Siekman was in REI®, the popular backcountry gear store, browsing around one day when he stumbled upon Arizona Wild, the newsletter of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition.

"I liked how there's no overt political focus to your newsletter," he says, "and I was really drawn to the trail work and volunteer opportunities you offer. That's the kind of hard work that shows dedication to an issue."

Siekman says that wilderness preservation work needs to be inclusive of the greater business community. "Having ambitions for what you want to accomplish is great, but extreme left politics aren't going to get your job done in today's world."

"There's a general trend in the corporate world of being more 'green literate' these days," says Siekman. "Businesses have to see the larger picture so we can leave a better legacy for the future that's not just about profit margins."

And the Arizona he sees is changing rapidly, especially compared to what it looked like when he came to ASU in the mid 1980s. Siekman and his wife enjoy hiking wilderness areas in the state when their sched-



A biker makes his way through Connemara, Ireland.

Photo: Pure Adventures

ule affords it. He hopes that more businesses will see that protecting the wild lands we have now will only ensure greater business opportunities, better quality of life, and happier customers for years down the road.

"People visit Arizona because of the amazing open spaces we have here," Siekman says. "We're lucky, but we need to make sure that businesses factor this in to their bottom line and are supportive of conservation to make sure that wild character isn't getting sacrificed for profit."

Visit Pure Adventures to plan your exciting biking or hiking getaway overseas at www.pure-adventures.com.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR WILDERNESS?

Pine Mountain Wilderness

by Sam Frank

Size: 20,100 acres
Managing Agency: US Forest Service
Location: 15 miles SE of Dugas
Number of Trails: 6
Elevation: 4,600-6,814 ft

Pine Mountain Wilderness is a remote, rugged area located southeast of the small ranching town of Dugas. The area is named after its tallest peak, Pine Mountain, which is part of the Verde Rim and clocks in at 6,814 feet in elevation. On a good day, views from the top stretch for over 50 miles where a visitor can see as far as Horseshoe Reservoir to the south, the lush Verde Valley to the north, the Mogollon Rim country to the East, and the imposing Bradshaw Mountains to the West. Within the wilderness, adventurers can also find steep canyons and juniper covered mesas. Due to the range in elevation, Pine Mountain hosts a variety of plant and animal species ranging from the upper Sonoran life zone containing pinyon, oaks, manzanita, juniper, and chaparral, to the transition life zone,

dominated predominantly by ponderosa pine. Wildlife ranges from songbirds to hawks and eagles, small mammals from skunk and ring-tails to large mammals like mule deer and possibly mountain lions and black bear and a host of reptiles such as snakes and lizards. Opportunities for solitude are plentiful and spectacular wildlife viewing opportunities are possible at every turn on any of the six trails within the wilderness area.

This past February, Pine Mountain celebrated its 35th birthday as a wilderness area. Designated by President Richard Nixon and the Congress of 1972, Pine Mountain sees few visitors in contrast to some of the more popular and easily accessed wilderness areas in Arizona. It is jointly managed by the Prescott and Tonto National Forests, with the Verde Rim acting as the boundary between the two. With its close proximity to Mazatzal, Cedar Bench, and Fossil Creek Wilderness areas and the Wild and Scenic portion of the Verde River, Pine Mountain plays an



Scenic Pine Mountain Wilderness

Photo: Sam Frank

important role in creating a wild land corridor where watersheds and ecosystems can be sustained and wildlife can find connected, undeveloped areas to inhabit.

Diary of a Wilder Mom

by Erin Lotz

Many would describe me as an outdoorswoman. I suppose I cannot dispute that claim. For the last 10 or 15 years, I have cultivated a career in what we now call Adventure Education – using the wilderness or other challenging environments for the education and personal growth of participants. This work has had me sleeping under the stars up to 200 nights a year.

Oddly, on my days off, I may be found under the stars as well. While friends vacationed in Hawaii or New York, I was bundled up under layers of down with spiky metal crampons on my feet trudging up some big mountain or filling my ears with sand as I made home in Joshua Tree (the climbers paradise) or on the San Juan river (where there is always a sand storm to be had).

So what happens when a wilderness woman finds herself pregnant? Life changes in wild and wonderful ways.

First Month –Seeing the stick that reads “pregnant” completely erased my former need to analyze



Mom Erin with baby Violet enjoys the mountain air around their Prescott home. Photo: Jason Williams

my life. I am not sure if it is my Scandinavian heritage or my pragmatic family. But I am fully capable of taking “over-analyze” to an extreme. Here in one minute and a tablespoon of urine, it had all been decided. Is it relief, shock, or denial? Either way it was a lot easier than what I had been enduring for the previous years. Maybe I should have tried this earlier. After I caught my breath, it was clear. This was my new path. I was to be a mother.

Second Month – Secrets. We decided not to tell people until I was safely into the third month. Nevertheless, life still had to go on. We were to go on a three week Grand Canyon raft trip in my third month. I had to decide if that was safe and smart. I had to discuss with certain people my possible need to back out of the Grand Canyon, traveling first aid courses, the rock climbing course in the fall, and my month long field course in September. I didn’t look or even really feel pregnant but I already had to make some big changes.

Third Month – In like a lion out like a lamb, they say. This month started out with being bloated, burpy, and full of heartburn. I am up at 10,000 feet of elevation in Leadville, Colorado, teaching a class on wilderness medicine. As I see the students taking runs or skiing on the mountain backdrop, I want to keep up my

exercise routine. But all I have energy for is a nap. Imagine the energy it takes to build a kidney or to create a whole vascular system. I have climbed mountains. I’ve been up to 18,000 ft. Never have I experienced the profound exhaustion without the payoff of a stunning view. I guess my payoff comes in six months.

Out like a lamb though. I am ending the Leadville stint with a reprieve from the bloat and heartburn. Baby Pea and I took a hike into a cirque in the nearby mountains to enjoy the melting snow, the budding alpine flowers, and the fresh, fresh air. Pea seems to like this high mountain wildness. No problem with elevation for this future climber.

Fourth Month – The midwife says I can’t ride my bike anymore. I am not fully in control of my equilibrium, she says. I might crash, she says. But I feel great. I am in full control of my body. I have always been, and will always be, athletic and physically aware. Hmmm, where did that bruise come from?

Fifth Month –I haven’t been climbing for months. I am not sure why I have waited until I am 5 months pregnant. I guess it’s now or never. I can still get into a harness and after getting out of the first trimester’s lethargy, I finally feel a good amount of energy.

I have missed Granite Mountain. However, a place that has been a part of me, an extension of my strong body, is suddenly intimidating. Can I make it? What’s worse, if I can’t, will I feel okay about that? I am still a fit and capable woman, particularly when compared to mainstream American women in their late thirties. Nevertheless, I am comparing myself to myself – only that self was 10 pounds lighter and not forming small body parts inside me everyday.

When Jason yells down from the top of the first pitch that I am on belay, the lump in my throat grows. The inner dialogue begins. ‘Here I go. I have climbed this pitch so many times in my life. I know every move. Why does it not feel the same? I am testing and re-testing every foothold. I rationally know that I am climbing well. I still have it. But there is an underlying feeling that something could go wrong. What if my body gives out? What if I harm the baby? I complete every move. I am not straining. Why am I still questioning?’

Leading the second pitch was a foreign experience. ‘Whose body am I climbing in? Can I trust it? Why does this 5.4 pitch feel like 5.9?’

At some point during the third pitch I decided that there was no real reason why I needed to be climbing. I am not sure if I could have come to that realization without actually doing it. But at this point, I wanted to be down. On the ground. No more gear hanging on my belly. No more chance of slipping. No regrets, just no more technical climbing.

Sixth Month – I decided that my September field course was one that I could still teach. The course is Women’s Topics in Wilderness Leadership. So what did I learn that month? Mummy bags are not mommy bags. I understand the concept that the smaller the bag, the easier it is to warm up. Camping at 10,000 feet of elevation in the Sierra Nevada in California necessitated warmth. But I was feeling like a hotdog cooked to the point that it stressed its own skin. I had no room to move, to wiggle, and rolling was certainly not an option – not with my new protuberance. I wonder if the outdoor companies would consider a bag the



Violet gets her outdoor legs.

Photo: Jason Williams

shape of a snake who just consumed a coyote?

Seventh Month - Risk management is much easier in the wilderness than in pregnancy. Reducing the human-caused risk factors is what my job is about, and with an open, intuitive eye, I can do a lot to change a situation. Not so in pregnancy. At this point, it seems like my daughter is in charge. I can’t tell her to stop doing risky things. Every month there has been a new risk, a new thing to worry about. In the first few months, I checked to see if I was spotting every time I went to the bathroom. At the sixth month, I felt kicks but only intermittently – what was she doing when I couldn’t feel her? At the seventh month, she has started to descend and get ready to come out – two months early! That is her decision, not mine. How can I manage that risk?

Eighth Month –Not only is it uncomfortable to sleep outside, it is now uncomfortable to sleep inside. I don’t feel like exercising. A neighborhood dog walk suffices for wilderness these days. Will I ever want to again be the outdoorswoman I was? Instead I am knitting, collecting little clothes, and reading up on how to be a mom. Nesting is common to many wild animals right? Why not me? Nesting, nesting, nesting.

Ninth Month – Violet arrives! She is early, three and a half weeks. Welcome little girl.

Newborn Violet – Mom is healed, Violet is growing. So far she has been four-wheeling to get to a remote and intriguing canyon in Western Arizona, she has hiked in snow and sun, she has joined her parents as they rock climbed, our backpack with baby carrier is on order, and she is about to grow into her hand-me-down PFD (previously known as a lifejacket) in time for our launch date on the San Juan River.

Yes, life is different. I have spent more time indoors in the last year than I ever have. Stairways, not to mention mountains, slow me down. I am less inclined to lead climbs that I am not familiar with.

But, we are committed to make wilderness part of Violet’s home. She needs the clean air, clean water, and undeveloped areas. She needs to eat dirt, make sand castles, and climb trees.

Erin Lotz is a faculty member at Prescott College.

The Verde River Watershed

by Jason Williams

The Verde River is the artery of Arizona's central mountains. Like an artery in the human body, the river corridor is fed by the heart and lungs (deep underground aquifers and the surrounding mountains), and feeds the entire body with oxygenated blood (the water, biological diversity, and riparian areas of the river and its watershed). The human body cannot live without oxygenated blood and the Verde Watershed cannot live without water. In Arizona, rivers are rare and even more rare are untamed rivers like the Verde. The US Fish and Wildlife Service found that 90% of the riparian areas in the southwest have been lost or significantly altered due to human activity over the last 150 years. The Verde is not completely without dams and diversions, but it flows wild for 150 miles from its headwaters in Sullivan Canyon near Paulden until it reaches Horseshoe Dam just outside of Cave Creek north of Phoenix.

This spring I spent significant time hiking and canoeing stretches of the Verde River with friends, family, and Prescott College classes. I also took a Prescott College Recreation Management class from Childs down to Sheep Bridge, just about 40 river miles through the Mazatzal Wilderness and the wild segment of Arizona's only Wild and Scenic River. We had the pleasure of experiencing this spring's only adverse weather for three days. The rain brought to life the many slopes of the river canyon and highlighted the smaller ridges, buttes, and peaks by engulfing the higher ones in clouds giving us a different perspective. At one point we found ourselves on the river in a torrential downpour and we loved it. The wind blew, the drops were giant, and we paddled on through.

The Verde may have a low flow, but it showed us that it is a wilderness river and must be approached with reverence and care as we experienced many challenging rapids: filling our canoes with water, pinning them to rocks, and sending us to get intimate with some of the vegetation that lines the river banks.

We were accompanied by the United States Forest Service River Ranger, Dexter Allen, for the length of our trip. We learned about the challenges the Forest Service faces with excessive public use at the Childs site, invasive tamarisk in the river corridor, implementation of the new Wild and Scenic management plan that requires fire pan and river toilet use, illegal roads in the river corridor and wilderness area, archeological sites being looted, and trying to have a presence on the river to address all of these issues. We did our part to

help by restoring an illegal route in the Red Creek area that allowed motorized intrusions into the Mazatzal Wilderness.

The Verde River is one of the southwest's premier wildlife areas. It provides homes for thousands of birds and other awesome animals including some of my favorites: southwestern bald eagles, yellow billed cookoos, king fishers, and American dippers. I have been lucky enough to hang out with river otters floating through calm stretches of the river, run into black bears on remote trails, see the signs of beaver from the headwaters all the way down, and enjoy the all too familiar sound of a rattlesnake telling me that I should always walk softly and pay attention to the world around me.

But who is looking out for this spectacular river?

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition printed a story about the wild and scenic river study being completed by Cacia McClain in 2004, which has since been updated and expanded by another Prescott College student, Kelly Evans. In the spring of 2004, another Prescott College student completed a study that now proposes the remaining 8 miles of lower Verde to become a wild river from Red Creek to Sheep Bridge. We now have a Wild and Scenic proposals for an additional 42 miles of the Verde River. AWC has also been working very hard on completing inventory of two Forest Service roadless areas in the Upper Verde watershed—Muldoon Canyon and Fritsche—as well as working to complete our

recommendations for expansion of the Juniper Mesa and Apache Creek Wilderness areas. Initially, we thought Muldoon Canyon would be 5,000 to 6,000 acres, but recent ground truthing and analysis of Forest Service road data shows us that significant roads are planned for decommissioning (closure), which would make the unit over 10,000 acres.

There are many organizations and individual citizens working to protect the Verde River from the impending doom of groundwater pumping in the Big Chino Aquifer (which feeds the headwaters of the river) by the cities of Prescott, Prescott Valley, and Chino Valley. At press time, Arizona Wilderness Coalition joined the ranks of those organizations and citizens working to protect the Verde for present and future generations of Americans to enjoy and cherish.

Look for more information shortly on AWC's Verde River Watershed protection efforts. If you have questions or want to get involved contact us at our Prescott Regional Office: (928) 717-6076, or jwilliams@azwild.org



Currently the Verde River is Arizona's only Wild and Scenic river. Photo: Matt Hart

Voices from the Verde

A Chat with Vincent Randall,
of the Yavapai-Apache Nation

The following information was collected through a phone interview with Vincent Randall, a Yavapai-Apache Nation elder and historian. It is important for non-native Americans to develop a cross-cultural perspective through understanding the values that native peoples place on natural functions and features of the landscape. This interview attempts to capture that perspective.

—J.W.

Mr. Randall is an Apache and described what cultural values the Apache place on the Verde River:

"River is life itself and indicates the quality of life. Once polluted, life disappears. Water is life."

The Native words for the Verde River are Tunlini cho, meaning "big river." I asked what would happen if the river dried up. Vincent replied, "We will have faith the Almighty will take care of it. The Yavapai Apache will stay and wait for the people to leave and the river to return."

Vincent went on to describe how significant the springs that feed the river are, and not just water itself, in the Yavapai-Apache Culture: "The river is fed by sacred and holy springs and have been used by the people for all of their time in this world. The water from the springs flows through our arteries and veins. All springs are sacred. The first child born was from the water."

Previous generations of Yavapai didn't eat fish because they were part of the water. "Yavapai didn't eat fish because we believe that during the flood, the people who were lost became fish and therefore were ancestors."

In the creation story of the Apache, they migrated from the first world (the underground), into the second world (the surface of the earth) from Montezuma Well, located in the Verde Valley at Montezuma Well National Monument. The great flood began the third world and now we are in the fourth world started with the uprooting of the native peoples in 1875 and when the Apache came back to the Verde Valley in the 1900s.

Vincent recalls, "An elder in the 1940s and 50s said, 'I don't quite understand: we are fighting for water when it is already gone.' He used swim in 9 feet [in the river] and now it is 9 inches."

Vincent also expressed concern with the delisting of the bald eagle, which would include the southwestern eagles that inhabit the Verde River. The delisting of the eagles is of great concern because 80% of the eagles' diet is fish. If they stay on the list, the water must flow in the Verde River.

Lord of the Animals

The jaguar, a powerful hunter and symbol in ancient Mesoamerican mythology, may be regaining its former habitat in southwestern Arizona.

by Sergio Avila, M.S.

The jaguar (*Panthera onca*) is the largest cat in the Western Hemisphere, and third largest of the world only after the Asian tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and the African lion (*Panthera leo*). Historically, el tigre Americano was found throughout the Americas, from Argentina to northern Mexico and southern United States. Today, it is fully protected across most of its range, with hunting prohibited in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, French Guiana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Suriname, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela, and hunting restrictions in place in Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru. Jaguars are better known from the tropical forests of Brazil, Belize, or Yucatan, but they have also been found in grasslands, different types of forests, and arid lands. As a well-adapted carnivore, the jaguar feeds on almost any prey available – javalina, white-tailed deer, tapir, sea turtle, caiman, fish, an occasional mountain lion and other carnivores, even carrion – using its long teeth and razorblade-like claws, strong shoulder, neck and jaw muscles, powerful legs and sharp eyesight and hearing.

The interest in jaguar research and conservation in the United States, especially in Arizona, has increased since 1996 following a series of events that have shed light on this big cat's distribution in the Southwest. Once familiar inhabitants throughout the Sky Island region, jaguars have been photo-documented in Arizona and New Mexico over the last ten years, suggesting that individual jaguars are traveling from source populations in northern Mexico to the United States. Current research has precipitated additional information: based on the individual pattern of their coats, at least 2 individuals (possibly three) have been identified through remote-triggered camera efforts in southern Arizona. However, while data exists on the assumed origin of these cats in Sonora, presumably from the Rio Aros region, and information is emerging on their northern reach in the Tumacacori Highlands, little or no data exist on the presence of jaguars within the 150 miles of habitat between these two areas.

"Lord of the Animals", the jaguar has long been recognized as an important symbol of indigenous peoples from South America to the Southwest and beyond. In Tikal, Guatemala, there is a Temple of the Great Jaguar; in Mexico's Chichén Itzá, a Jaguar Throne sets in the Temple of the Warriors; an Aztec day is named for the felid. Jaguar glyphs are found at Hueco Tanks, Texas, and Three Rivers, New Mexico; kiva murals including the big spotted cats are at Awatovi in Arizona and Broken Pottery Ruin in New Mexico. Some archaeologists believe that Mimbres pottery includes stylized jaguars in their designs. Early Jesuit missionaries found jaguar war bonnets and body paint on people that might have been Sobaipuri, resembling Aztec Jaguar Warriors. An O'odham legend portrays the jaguar as a



*A remote sensing camera records jaguar movements in southern Arizona.
Photo: Jack Childs/Emil McCain, Borderland Jaguars Detection Project*

powerful hunter who could transfer hunting prowess through dreams. In Mesoamerican mythology the jaguar is a strong, intelligent, and powerful god; it reincarnates beauty and ferocity, and is the father that breeds with a woman to originate Mesoamerican peoples. The jaguar god is alive, and has been alive thanks to the rituals and the people who keep the connection with the underworld and the spirits that live in it.

Threats to jaguar conservation remain on both sides of the international border, from habitat degradation to poaching to loss of wildlife linkages. Human activities, such as cattle raising, hunting, logging, and agriculture, can negatively impact the dynamics of prey popula-

tions and the feeding ecology of large felids that depend on them. In 2006, border security and law enforcement activities saw substantial changes due to the Secure Fence Act, which proposes at least two layers of 15'-high pedestrian fencing that would disrupt, sectionalize and isolate wildlife populations in both sides of the border and the linkages they use to disperse. The lack of permeability in the border also threatens ecological processes like gene flow and genetic variability, control of prey populations by predators, seed dispersal, and pollination, among others.

These threats, though significant, should not restrict research and conservation efforts on both sides



*A female northern jaguar from Sonora, Mexico.
Photo: Sergio Avila*



A female jaguar receives periodic health care at The Phoenix Zoo, one of the many interested organizations working on jaguar conservation in Arizona.
Photo: The Phoenix Zoo

Recommended Readings:

- Brown, D. and C. Lopez-Gonzalez. 2001. *Borderland Jaguars: tigres de la frontera*. The University of Utah Press. 170 p.
- Chavez, C., and G. Ceballos. 2006. *Memorias del Primer Simposio. El Jaguar Mexicano en el Siglo XXI: Situación Actual y Manejo*. CONABIO-Alianza WWF Telcel-Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. México, D.F.
- El Jaguar en el México Prehispánico. *Revista Arqueología Mexicana*. Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia. Vol. XII – Num. 72. México. <http://www.arqueomex.com/S2N2SUMARIO72.html>
- Glenn, W. 1996. *Eyes of fire: encounter with a borderlands jaguar*. El Paso, TX: Printing Corner Press. 28 p.
- Prechtel, M. 1999. *Secrets of the Talking Jaguar: memoirs from the living heart of a mayan village*. Jeremy P. Tarcher / Putnam.
- Rabinowitz, A. 1986. *Jaguar: One man's struggle to establish the world's first jaguar preserve*. Arbor House.

Recommended links:

- <http://www.northernjaguarproject.org/>
- <http://www.borderjag.org/>
- http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/es/jaguar_management.shtml
- <http://www.defenders.org/border/ontheline.html>

of the border. Ultimately, the protection of wildlife species in both countries will benefit populations and habitats, and the biological and cultural diversity of the Sky Island region.

Sky Island Alliance is committed to securing jaguar recovery in the region and promoting conservation throughout the borderlands. The Jaguars of the Sonoran Sky Islands project strives to generate information on the species, its habitats and corridors across the border, based on the ecological importance of jaguars as top predators and the need of information from the unstudied mountains, canyons and rivers between central Sonora and southern Arizona. While building cooperative relationships with landowners, we aim to collect scientific data using non-invasive methods such as remote cameras and tracking transects.

The proposed Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness offers protection for the jaguar, its habitat, prey, and all ecological interactions in the area. Here, the presence of jaguars is an indicator of a healthy ecosystem, a significant endorsement considering the jaguar's habitat needs. Wilderness designation will also provide Americans a sense of pride – preserving for present and future generations the only known area inhabited by jaguars in the United States.

Sergio Avila is a Conservation Biologist with the Sky Island Alliance, based in Tucson.



The unbroken habitat that would be protected in the Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness is ideal for the return of jaguars to the United States.
Photo: Sky Island Alliance



Each jaguar's spot pattern is unique.
Photo: Rick Williams

Native Fish Conservation: A Continued Effort

by Chris Cantrell

Arizona's extreme topographical diversity is the driving force behind its beautiful landscape. Across the state, riparian habitats are vastly different due to the variability in climates, elevations, vegetative communities, and soil types. From small springs to the raging Colorado River, the differences in these watercourses are reflected in the uniqueness of Arizona's native fish.

Historical records indicate 36 fish species were once native to Arizona and 35 still swim the state's waters today. The Santa Cruz pupfish however was declared extinct in 1971. Sixty percent of Arizona's remaining 35 native fish are protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and more than 90 percent are identified as a Species of Greatest



Gila topminnows are on the Federal Endangered Species list.
Photo: Bruce Taubert

Conservation Need in Arizona's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, a recent conservation effort put in place by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department).

A number of compounding factors contributed to the decline of Arizona's native fish, including the over-allocation of water resources and/or diversion of water resources, water impoundments, prevailing drought, wildland fire, livestock grazing, and most importantly, the interaction with non-native aquatic species.

So, why is native species conservation so important? There are three primary advantages to the conservation of native species. Often, a species can be utilized to benefit our economy. For example, the Gila topminnow is known to spend the majority of its life near the surface of the water. Although it spends so much time in direct sunlight and in constant exposure to the sun's harmful UV rays, this species mysteriously evades cancer and is currently being utilized in skin cancer research. An ecosystem's integrity and stability depends on its biological diversity. Some native raptors have been documented to nest in the spring in conjunction with native sucker spawning times. This symbiotic relationship is crucial to these predatory birds' survival. If the suckers' populations were to decline significantly, the birds would be faced with a considerable food shortage for themselves and their young and overall nest success would suffer. Lastly, there is an ethical component to conserving our native species. As the most evolved species, humans have an ethical responsibility, not only to present and future generations, but to our planet and the organisms living here.

In 1929, the Department was given responsibility and authority for managing of all wildlife, including

fish within the state. Correspondingly, the department's mission guides its employees to conserve enhance and restore Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and habitats through aggressive protection and management programs, and to provide wildlife resources for the enjoyment, appreciation, and use by present and future generations. The department funds more than 60 fish related positions, all of which have and will continue to work on native fish as part of their duties. Of those positions, a dedicated group of department employees is tasked with overseeing native fish management.

The department engages in many activities statewide to help restore and conserve Arizona's native fish. An example is the current effort to recover Apache trout. The Apache trout is Arizona's State Fish and is endemic or "only found" in the White Mountains of Arizona. Since it was listed as endangered in 1969, the department has dedicated resources and funding to securing and managing for 15 of the 30 populations needed for recovery that occur on state or federal lands. The other 15 do not fall under the department's jurisdiction. In 2006, the department returned two streams, the West Fork Little Colorado River and Conklin Creek, by removing non-native trout species and constructing a barrier to prevent future movements upstream of nonnative fish. This year the department is planning to secure two more streams, South Fork Little Colorado River and Stinky Creek, in an effort to meet recovery criteria by 2007 and propose delisting closely to follow.

The restoration of Fossil Creek remains one of the biggest success stories in recent years. Fossil Creek, a tributary to the Verde River is located in the Mazatzal Mountains of central Arizona and is one of Arizona's rare, warm-water perennial streams. The Fossil Creek project, by way of decommissioning the Child-Irving hydroelectric facilities, removal of non-native fish species, and barrier placement has returned the stream and its native fish assemblage closer to pre-settlement conditions. This was a multi-million dollar project that took over 12 years to complete in cooperation with several local, state and federal agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations. The department is also planning to return two native species, spikedace and loach minnow, to Fossil Creek. Both native fish are federally listed as threatened.

Using another tool for recovery, the department and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service are developing a Safe Harbor Agreement for Gila topminnows and desert pupfish, both federally listed as endangered. The department will work with non-federal property owners who voluntarily agree to carry out conservation



Volunteers work with Arizona Game and Fish on an Apache trout barrier.
Photo: Arizona Game and Fish Department

efforts for the benefit of these two fish. The agreement extends assurances to the property owners that in exchange for their voluntary conservation commitments, future alteration or modification of their property back to its original baseline condition will be permitted. This agreement will not only allow the department to work more effectively with private landowners but may assist in public health and safety efforts via mosquito control. Traditionally, non-native mosquitofish have been stocked for mosquito control in Arizona. Mosquitofish out compete the topminnow



Restoring Apache trout, Arizona's State Fish.
Photo: AZ Game and Fish Department

and have been a compounding factor in its population decline. The Gila topminnow has been documented to be as effective in controlling mosquitoes as the non-native mosquitofish and the ability to utilize this attribute will help serve to protect public health while assisting in the recovery programs for these endangered fish. The department also focuses efforts on unlisted native fish as well.

The department also focuses efforts on native fish species that are not on the federal Endangered Species List. A recent statewide effort is underway targeting the proactive conservation of the roundtail chub, headwater chub, flannelmouth sucker, Little Colorado sucker, bluehead sucker, and Zuni bluehead sucker. This conservation agreement and strategy, signed in January 2007, will utilize existing resources from the department and its partners to ensure the conservation of these six species. The agreement is a new concept in native fish conservation and has been well received by our partners. So far the team associated with this effort is underway on the preliminary planning for numerous conservation projects statewide. It is expected that this level of commitment will keep these native fish from becoming a species of concern in the future.

None of this work would be possible without cooperators. The Department readily acknowledges the need for cooperation with land managers, regulatory authorities, researchers, non-governmental organizations, industry, and other interested parties in order to successfully achieve our goals. With this in mind, the department has developed and is leading a forum known as the Native Fish Conservation Team. This team's mission is to collaboratively, comprehensively, and cooperatively plan and implement native fish conservation in Arizona. Further, the team is to serve as a body of resident experts, assisting agencies with enhanced conservation, standardization, effectiveness, and efficiency in conservation-related management and activities related to the conservation of native fish within Arizona.

While there are many efforts underway to conserve Arizona's native fish, there is still much to be done. Native fish will continue to face great challenges, but the Arizona Game and Fish Department is dedicated to continuing efforts to maintain, enhance, and restore native fish in Arizona.

Chris Cantrell is the Native Fish Project Coordinator of the Nongame Branch with the Arizona Game and Fish Department.



A statewide effort is underway to restore the native roundtail chub to Arizona waters.

Photo: AZ Game and Fish Department

Get Out There

• • • • •

Cooler temperatures and summer breezes await those who join us for volunteer work in Northern Arizona this summer. AWC has a list of upcoming volunteer events in some of the pristine roadless areas of the Prescott National Forest. Working off a grant from the National Forest Foundation, in 2006 AWC conducted an intense inventory of roadless areas on the Prescott National Forest. Now AWC has prioritized a list of roads and routes that the Forest Service has scheduled to be closed. We want to help the Forest Service restore these routes to a natural condition and prevent any further damage to the land and we need your help! We would really appreciate volunteers coming out to show their support for AWC and the wild lands and waters we work to protect.

Saturday, May 19

Route Closure in Muldoon IRA, Prescott National Forest
9:00 am -3:30 pm

Saturday, June 2

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition, Prescott National Forest, and REI will host an overnight National Trails Day celebration at Granite Mountain Wilderness, near Prescott, on Saturday, June 2nd. The activities will include hiking trail 261, Granite Mountain Trail, while performing trail maintenance on this very popular trail that leads to superb views from the top of Granite Mountain.

Saturday, June 9

Route Closure in Grief Hill IRA, Prescott National Forest
9:00 am -4:00 pm

As always, more extensive and detailed volunteer and field opportunities come your way throughout the season via our electronic action alerts, which you can sign up for through our website at www.azwild.org, under "Support AWC."

For more information about future opportunities, contact Sam Frank at sfrank@azwild.org, or 928-717-6076.

Photo: Arizona Wilderness Coalition

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE
THE CONTINUING PARTNERSHIP OF

Arizona
Wilderness
Coalition

AND



PLEASE HELP US MATCH THIS SIGNIFICANT
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SUPPORTING THE CRITICAL WORK OF THE

Arizona Wilderness Coalition

OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE \$75,000
by Fall 2007

**We also send out a giant
THANK YOU to all our
generous supporters.
Since our last newsletter,
hundreds of generous
individuals, businesses,
and foundations have
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work. Our most generous
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American Rivers, The
Conservation Alliance,
Central Arizona Project,
Earth Friends Wildlife
Foundation, New Belgium
Brewing Company, New-
Land Foundation,
Campaign for America's
Wilderness, American
Hiking Society and the
Wilburforce Foundation,
among others.**

Thank you everyone!

Short Takes

Northern Arizona Update

In March, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Park Service released its Proposed Resource Management Plan for the Arizona Strip, including two National Monuments. After six years of active participation, conservationists were appalled by the plan's inadequacy to protect the monuments natural and archeological treasures, including the threatened desert tortoise and other wildlife, soils, native vegetation and other wilderness values.

For example, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition (AWC) proposed a total of 1,106,910 acres in 43 units of Arizona Strip federal land for eventual designation as wilderness. This included 25 units in Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument (795,185 acres), seven proposed units (169,959 acres) in Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, and 12 units (141,766 acres) on the Arizona Strip's other public lands. The BLM's own inventory of the entire Arizona District Office identified 690,718 acres (62% of the AWC Proposal) as having wilderness characteristics. Despite this and other public comments requesting more acres of lands with wilderness characteristics, the Proposed Plan would only manage 287,853 acres of land for wilderness characteristics (26% of the AWC Proposal and 42% of the BLM's own inventory), failing to protect the majority of the Arizona Strip's wilderness values.

As a result, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition, Center for Biological Diversity, Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, the Sierra Club – Grand Canyon Chapter and The Wilderness Society have formally protested the Proposed Resource Management Plan. Keep posted for results of this effort.

—Kim Crumbo



Petrefied Dunes reflected at Vermilion Cliffs National Monument. Photo: © Mark Miller

McCain-Renzi Bill Protects Rare Arizona River Ecosystem

In January, American Rivers and the Arizona Wilderness Coalition applauded Senator John McCain (R) and Representative Rick Renzi (R-Dist. 1) on January 4th for re-introducing a bill to protect Fossil Creek in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System. Senator Kyl (R) co-sponsored the legislation.

With the introduction of the legislation, Senator McCain and Rep. Renzi are the first members of Congress this year to meet American Rivers' "40 x 40 Challenge," a drive to designate 40 new National Wild and Scenic Rivers by the 40th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 2008.

"Fossil Creek is a thing of beauty, with its picturesque scenery, lush riparian ecosystem, unique geolog-

ical features, and deep iridescent blue pools and waterfalls," Senator John McCain said. "Fossil Creek is a unique Arizona treasure, and would benefit greatly from the protection and recognition offered through Wild and Scenic designation."

"Having seen Fossil Creek firsthand, I am amazed by its spectacular pools and cascades, its unique plant life, and its deep history, making it a vital treasure not only for Arizonans, but for all Americans," said



Fossil Creek is a gem of the Arizona Desert. Photo: Copyright Nick Berezenko

Congressman Renzi. "Today's action will ensure that one of Arizona's most precious natural jewels is enjoyed and preserved for generations to come. I am delighted to join Senator McCain in introducing this legislation."

Fossil Creek is a gem of the Arizona desert, often drawing comparisons to the better-known Havasu Falls. This spring-fed stream contains unusually high levels of calcium, which creates uniquely fascinating formations, such as deep iridescent blue pools and waterfalls. For roughly the past 100 years, this treasure was virtually dried out due to an upstream diversion dam. In 2005, Arizona Public Service (APS) decommissioned the dam and life returned to Fossil Creek.

"Even among all the natural wonders of Arizona, Fossil Creek stands out. It's right up there with some of the best desert rivers in the country," said Quinn McKew, Associate Director for Wild Rivers programs at American Rivers. "We call on the Congress to recognize this leadership and act swiftly to enact permanent protections for this amazing river."

Now that the water has been restored along the entire length of the stream, Fossil Creek will provide habitat for several very rare desert fish species, as well as a tremendous recreational resource for local residents and visitors. The re-birth of Fossil Creek also helps to restore the Yavapai-Apache Nation's hunting, gathering, and spiritual traditional sites in the watershed. This combination of cultural, scenic, and ecological uniqueness makes Fossil Creek a true national treasure worthy of inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

A Wild and Scenic river designation forever protects the free-flowing condition and outstanding values of our country's most precious rivers, primarily by prohibiting the construction of dams on the river. To qualify, a river must be free-flowing and must be deemed to have one or more "outstandingly remarkable" scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values. The protection ensures that current and future generations can continue to enjoy swimming, hunting, fishing, and other primitive recreational activities without the threat of a future dam destroying the river. Only 168 rivers throughout the country have been designated: a stretch of the Verde River represents the only designated Wild and Scenic River to date in Arizona.

"Senator McCain and Congressman Renzi's staff

took valuable time to visit Fossil Creek and worked diligently to safeguard this amazing place," said Jason Williams, Central Mountains Regional Director with the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. "Ultimately it's the sheer beauty and intrinsic value of Fossil Creek that inspired them to act on its behalf. That value will continue to inspire many future generations of Arizonans."

Since the decommissioning of the Childs-Irving power plant in 2005, a coalition of business interests, community members, sportsmen, conservationists, educators, and the Yavapai Apache have sought to protect this Arizona treasure for future generations.

"The introduction of today's legislation is the result of a true community effort," said McKew. "Fossil Creek has given a lot to Arizona, and now Arizonans are returning the favor."

As of the printing of this newsletter, Fossil Creek has received more congressional support as Representatives Raul Grijalva, Gabrielle Giffords, Ed Pastor, and Trent Franks now co-sponsor the legislation. Please take the time to contact your representatives to either thank them or ask them to support passage of this important legislation now. For more information visit the AZ Wilderness Coalition website.

—Jason Williams



A gray wolf pup tries out his lungs. Photo: USFWS

Mexican Gray Wolf Update

March 29, 2007 marked the nine-year anniversary of the release of Mexican gray wolves into the wilds of Arizona and New Mexico. With a starting population of 11 captive bred wolves, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Arizona Game and Fish Department has finished a 2006 end of year report which claims near 60 wolves roam the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (BRWRA). While the cooperative Blue Range wolf reintroduction group has overcome many obstacles since the project's inception, there is a great deal more progress to be made in areas such as reaching the 100 wolf population goal for 2008, expanding current wolf recovery areas and utilizing new wolf recovery areas, and the ongoing development of trust and cooperation between agencies, tribes, forest users, and the general public.

Latest Wolf News:

February 27, 2007—The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has issued a permanent removal order for a Mexican wolf, male 1007. Since March 20, 2006, M1007, a member of the Saddle Pack, has been involved in three confirmed depredation incidents involving three cows in New Mexico. This removal order applies to M1007 only, and not to other members of the Saddle pack

• The 19th Annual North American Wolf Conference Conference was held April 24-26 at the Little American Hotel in Flagstaff, Arizona. The conference serves as a bridge to bring together leading wolf biologists, conservationists, livestock owners, depredation specialists,



A male Mexican gray wolf.
Photo: USFWS

educators, and state, tribal and federal wolf managers to share information ranging from ecological and genetic research, non-lethal techniques to reduce livestock conflicts, and economic and environmental impacts of wolf restoration. Please visit <http://www.defenders.org/wolf/conference/> for more details.

- The Grand Canyon Ecoregion has been identified by wildlife ecologists as offering extraordinary habitat for wolf recovery. The region contains vast expanses of undeveloped land in national parks, monuments, and forests, and contains ample food for wolves. Scientific research indicates that this region, extending from the Mogollon Rim all the way up to the high plateaus of southern Utah, can sustain at least 200 wolves. Please visit <http://www.gcwolfrecovery.org/index.html> for more details.

- The Blue Range reintroduction project is managed jointly by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, USDA Forest Service, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services, White Mountain Apache Tribe, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Adaptive Management Working Group (AMWG) is comprised of any member of the interested public and functions to identify local issues and citizen concerns, review the effectiveness of the project, and make management recommendations. AMWG meetings are hosted quarterly in an open forum accessible to any interested party and alternate between Arizona and New Mexico. The AMOC is a State-led entity and is currently chaired by Arizona Game and Fish Department. Additional information about the Blue Range Reintroduction Project can be found on Arizona Game and Fish Department's web page at: <http://azgfd.gov/wolf>. At least three more Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) public meetings will be held in 2007. More meetings will be scheduled, if necessary.

Dates, Times, and General Locations
AMWG Meetings:

Thursday July 19, 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm, Hon-Dah
Resort-Casino, 3 miles east of Pinetop, Arizona

Thursday October 18, 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm, Reserve
Community Center, Reserve, New Mexico

—Sam Frank

Never Cry by David Seaborg

Your eyes, still shining mustard-moon yellow,
still able to awaken the walking dead,
are going out like two candles
melting their last bits of wax;
a bullet hole in your head
as wide as a dry desert river bed;
your head in my arms;
and a gun,
smoking like an extinguished campfire,
carried away by a running
marksman, manicured and masculine in his cowboy
boots,
with bloody hands,
and an excuse of one dead sheep
(killed by disease).

Scapedog, we project our nature onto you,
create myths that misrepresent you:
when a man chases a green young woman,
with schemes to feed on her
as Romulus and Remus did,
thoughtless of love,
we raise our snouts,
dangle our tongues,
and howl, “ !”
When we tell our children fairy tales
of villainous, deceitful
predators of hairy-chinned little piggies,
grandmothers, and
little girls, red and innocent in their riding hoods,
we lick our chops,
bear our teeth,
and huff and puff, “ !”
When our sheep and cattle die
from brutal conditions leaving
stress, starvation, and disease in their wake,
or when buffalo, elk, deer, antelope disappear
in silver gun smoke,
we lower our heads,
raise our lips,
and growl, “ !”
When someone sucks
food straight into the stomach
like a vacuum cleaner
at relativistic speed,
we chomp on our teeth,
swallow our saliva,
and yelp that this is to “ ” it down.

Without predators to offer us the possibility of death,
without the primal howl of evolution's night,
where is the wild in wilderness?
How will we awaken to our nature's connection to
nature?
Or to the strands of spider-silk that tether us to the
Universe?
Domesticated dogs can't awaken domesticated minds.

My wish for your race
is a
backward spell
on the
evil flow
of progress!

I could tear flesh,
rage like a mad dog

in anger about this bloody killing,
and howl madly
at the moon
about the need
to protect your species.
But that would be
taken as another excuse to kill
your brothers and sisters.
No: to defend your race,
I'll have to be
as gentle as a wolf.

David Seaborg is an evolutionary biologist who does scientific research on evolutionary theory. He is an active environmental leader, who founded and heads the World Rainforest Fund, a nonprofit foundation dedicated to saving the earth's tropical rainforests and biodiversity.

All in the Family

Arizona Wilderness Coalition members Tom and Tomas Taylor were recently awarded the 2006 Arizona Game and Fish Commission's Volunteers of the Year Award. The father and son team were nominated by AZ Game and Fish Wildlife Manager John Windes of unit 37B. The nomination and selection was primarily for the Taylors' efforts with the reintroduction and



Tom Taylor and his son, Tomas, (center) receive the AZ Game and Fish Commission's Volunteer of the Year Award for 2006.
Photo: AZ Game and Fish Department

introduction of native fish species in Martinez Canyon in the Mineral Mountains, south of Superior. They have also been volunteers for the reintroduction of desert bighorn sheep to their historical habitat in the Mineral Mountains. The Taylors participated in the release of this keystone species and the continued monitoring of them by AZ Game and Fish in the White Canyon Wilderness.

The Taylors believe wilderness designation and healthy wildlife habitat go “hand in hand. Wilderness offers the most undisturbed interaction between mankind and the needs of wildlife,” says father Tom Taylor. The Taylors are also involved with an established desert tortoise study near Sugarloaf Mountain northeast of Phoenix.

—AWC Member Tom Taylor

Becoming an Outdoors Woman

by Linda Dightmon

It has been about forty years since a wide-eyed four-year-old told her dad that she couldn't wait until she turned into a boy so that she could do all the fun things her big brother gets to do. Things like shooting, fishing, hunting and camping. Tom, the little girl's father, vividly remembers the look of disappointment on the child's face when he explained that she would always



BOW members learn to shoot firearms safely.

Photo: BOW/AWF

be a girl. At the time, he thought that it was cute.

Little Barbie grew up to be a mom and a wife with little interest in 'boy stuff'. Tom and his son are avid outdoorsmen. He regrets not involving his daughter in the outdoor pursuits that he loves so much. It was unwritten law in those days. Girls did girl things and boys? Well... boys will be boys.

In 1991, Dr. Christine Thomas of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point offered the first ever Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) workshop. It filled to capacity and today, more than 20,000 women a year attend BOW workshops held in 40 states and several Canadian provinces. Since its inception, approximately 150,000 women have attended BOW workshops. The disappointed 'Little Barbies' had a vehicle for outdoor knowledge and they were ready for driving lessons.

What make the program successful are a few basic concepts. Classes are taught in a non-threatening, testosterone-free environment. Instructors with egos or agendas are simply not allowed. Accommodations may be rustic but a warm place to sleep, hot showers, and three meals a day are always provided. BOW laws are:

Safety first
Have fun
No politics

BOW workshops are for women 18 and older. They begin Friday afternoon and end on Sunday afternoon. There are four sessions with about 10 choices of classes for each session. Shooting, fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, rappelling, canoeing, and archery are just a sampling of the 30 or so classes offered.

2007 will mark the 12th year of the Arizona BOW, which is administered through the Arizona Wildlife Federation. The workshops are held in April and August at Friendly Pines Camp in the Bradshaw Mountains. One hundred participants is the maximum and it is usually sold out a month prior. Evenings are filled with fun. The Arizona BOW has a night hike, fly tying, cowboy singers, story telling, night fishing, a game taste, and, of course, a blazing campfire.

Perhaps, in the not too distant future there will be no need for a BOW program. Little girls may get the same opportunities as their male siblings. That would probably suit Dr. Thomas just fine.

For more information, contact Arizona BOW, www.azwildlife.org, or 480-644-0077.

Linda Dightmon is the BOW Coordinator for the Arizona Wildlife Federation.

Comment on Your Favorite Forest

As of this printing, all six forests in Arizona—the Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Coronado, Kaibab, Prescott and Tonto—National Forests have begun to revise their Land Management Plans or Forest Plans. Region 3 of the Forest Service, which includes Arizona, New Mexico, and grasslands in Oklahoma and Texas, is the first to use the new 2005 Forest Plan Revision regulations. The Forest Service hopes these regulations will allow them to adapt to changes on the forest as they occur and, unlike the previous 1982 regulations, each forest is required to review their plan every five years and make sure the current management is in compliance with the plan direction. However, at the time of this printing, Federal District Judge Hamilton in San Francisco ruled that the Bush Administration violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act, and the Administrative Procedures Act in promulgating the 2005 regulations. The court enjoined the Forest Service from implementing or using the 2005 Rule until it complies with the laws. Under this new ruling, it is unclear how the Forest Service will proceed with its planning process.

Under the Bush Administration's 2005 rule, forest plans would have been categorically excluded from NEPA, which requires extensive public participation in the planning process. In lieu of such a requirement, the Forest Service had been compiling what they were calling an Environmental Management System (EMS), which included a "Comprehensive Evaluation Report (CER)," the only section where the Forest Service gets feedback from the public on what is working with the forest currently and what needs to be changed in the new Forest Plan. At this point, all six forests in Arizona are undertaking or have just completed the CER portion of the plan revision. At the end of each forest's update, there is a website and phone number where you can get more information, find out about public meetings, or get comment forms to submit.

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest

The A/S (Apache-Sitgreaves) began Forest Plan revisions in summer 2006 with public meetings for its Comprehensive Evaluation Report (CER). The first round of meetings, also known as Phase 1, took place between August and September 2006. Phase 2 meetings occurred in January of 2007 and the forest is

planning on having the CER completed by early to mid 2007. A draft Proposed Plan will be developed for the remainder of 2007 stretching into early 2008. The A/S is scheduled to have its Plan revision completed by early 2009.

More Information:

Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/plan-revision/>

Phone: (928) 333-4301

Coronado National Forest

The Coronado was first out of the gate beginning its revision process in August of 2005. They completed the CER portion of the revision between February and December of 2006 with public meetings occurring in May, June and September. Currently, the Coronado is utilizing the public comments to develop their proposed Forest Plan. Once the draft proposed plan is complete they will be holding more public input meetings between October 2007 and April 2008. The proposed Forest Plan revision completion date is August 2008.

More Information:

Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/plan-revision/index.shtml>

Phone: (520) 388-8300

Coconino National Forest

The Coconino was the next forest to begin its Forest Plan revision moving concurrently with the Kaibab National Forest. The Coconino began revisions back in January of 2006 and they ran through September 2006. Currently the Coconino has completed Phase 1 of the CER, which is the first round of public meetings to find out what the public feels is working with the current Forest Plan and what needs to be changed for the new one. They are now wrapping up Phase 2 of the CER, which is another round of public meetings to present a summary of the comments received during Phase 1. The scheduled completion of the CER is May 2007 with drafting of a proposed plan taking place from May 2007 through November 2007. There will be another round of meetings with interested parties later in 2007. The proposed Forest Plan revision completion date is March 2009.

More Information:

Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/plan-revision.shtml>

Phone: (928) 527-3600



Volunteer Laurie Back enjoys some time on the Prescott National Forest portion of Sycamore Canyon Wilderness.

Photo: Sam Frank

Kaibab National Forest

The Kaibab is on roughly the same schedule as the Coconino for its Forest Plan revision. The Kaibab began Plan revisions in January 2006 and started its CER in August 2006 with public comment meetings. They completed Phase 1 and are finishing Phase 2 meetings at the end of March 2007. From April till December 2007, the Kaibab will be developing a draft Proposed Forest Plan with additional public input towards the end of 2007. The Kaibab is scheduled to complete the Forest Plan revision process by March 2009.

More Information:

Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/kai/plan-revision/index.shtml>

Phone: (928) 635-8200

Prescott National Forest

The Prescott, along with the Tonto National Forest will be the last two forests in Arizona to complete their Forest Plan revision. Currently, the Prescott is reviewing their existing Forest Plan and the new 2005 Forest Planning regulations. Unlike all the other forests in Arizona, the Prescott will not initially be hosting public meetings. Instead they have hired a 'public input group' to travel to the various towns and cities in and around the forest to gather public input on what is working with the current Forest Plan and what needs to be changed for the new one. However, the Forest will be hosting public meetings later in the summer of 2007 and hopes to finish their CER by the end of 2007. A draft Proposed Plan is scheduled to be completed by fall 2008 with a finalized Forest Plan due in late summer/early fall 2009.

More Information:

Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott/plan-revision/index.shtml>

Phone: (928) 443-8000

Tonto National Forest

The Tonto is following the same general time schedule as the Prescott for its Forest Plan revision. The Tonto began its revision process in July 2006 and continued through January 2007. The first round of public meetings, or Phase 1 of their CER, took place in March 2007. The second round of public meetings, Phase 2, will take place in April 2007 with the CER being wrapped up by December 2007. The forest will then work to draft their Proposed Plan between January and September 2008 with a public input period following from January to March of 2009. The Tonto is scheduled to complete their Forest Plan revision process by September 2009.

More Information:

Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto/plan-revision/>

Phone: (602) 225-5200



What if the Arizona Wilderness Coalition earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Well, now we can!

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results.

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Arizona Wilderness Coalition as the charity you want to support. Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7300 in a year without anyone spending a dime! And, be sure to spread the word!



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 40340, Tucson, AZ 85717. Questions? 520-326-4300

Tell us about yourself!

NAME: _____

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____ 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.)

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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):

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing/Publishing/Newsletter Help | |

Region of interest (please check all that apply):

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☐ Grand Canyon
☐ Western Deserts Region
☐ Sky Islands–Southeastern

Mailing Preferences (please check all that apply):

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter and Alerts | <input type="checkbox"/> All Mailings |
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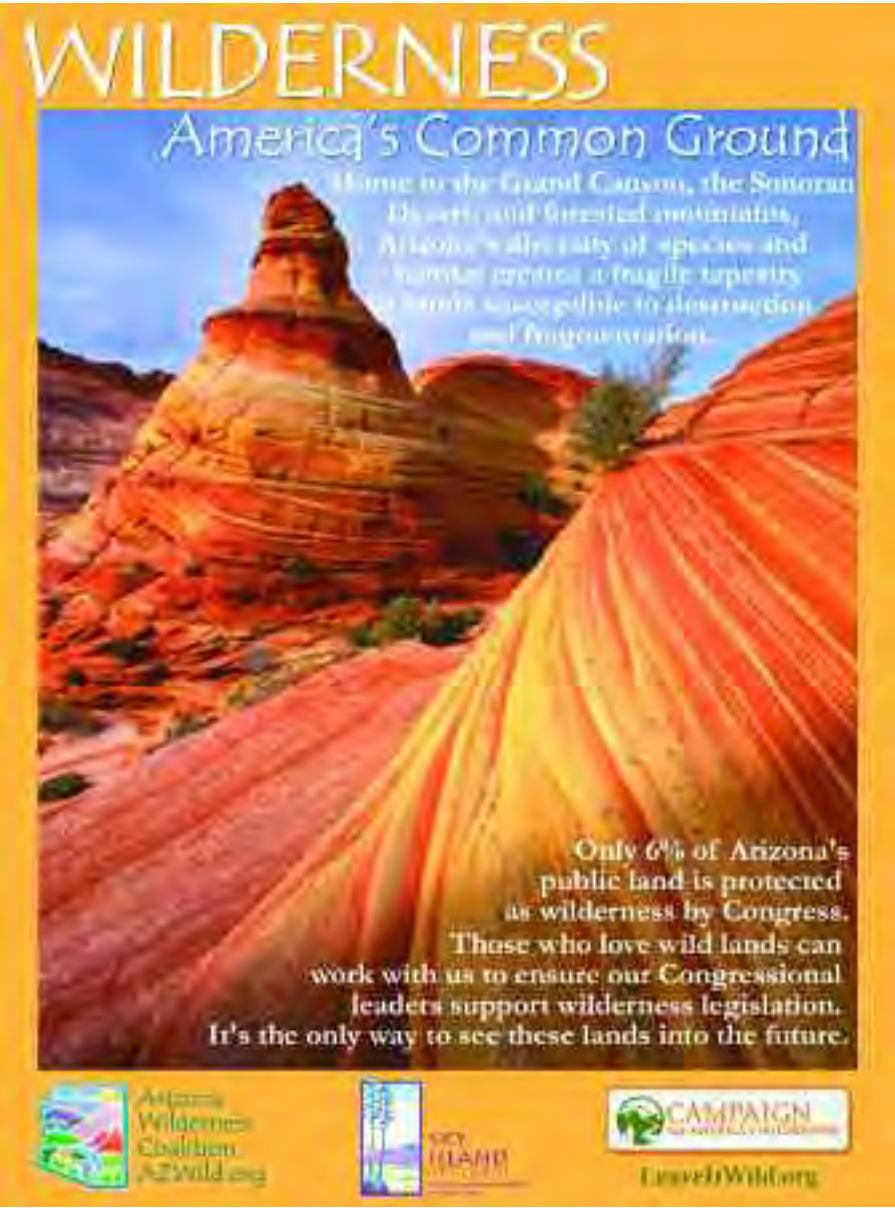
On behalf of Arizona's Wilderness,
thank you.

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, wilder-ness 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 remain- ing wild lands in America. Currently, about 4.7 percent of all available land in the United States is protected as wilderness. In Arizona, wilder-ness designation protects approximately 6.2 percent of our land and wildlife habitat.

ARIZONA
WILD
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