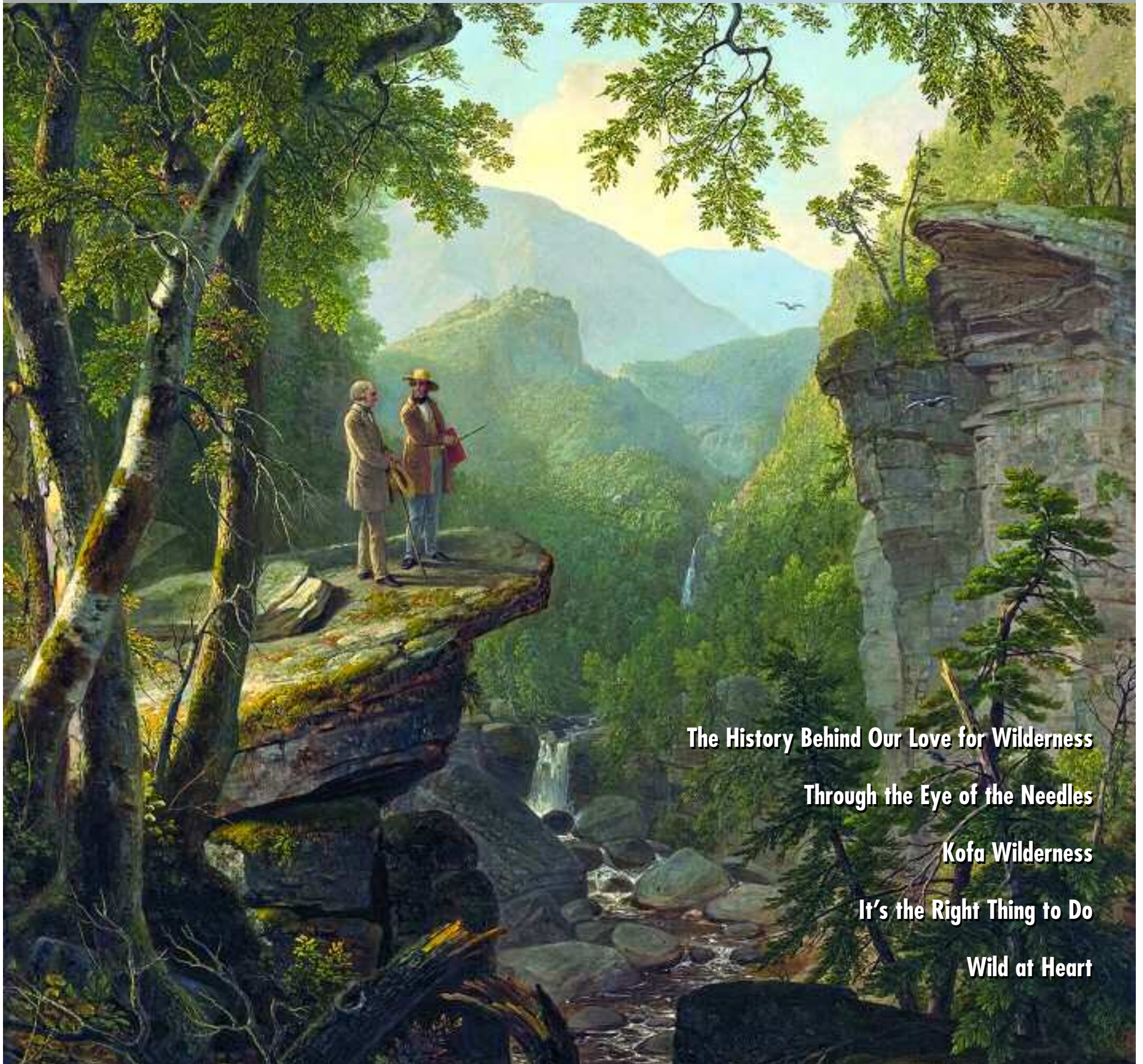


NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION

ARIZONA
WILD



The History Behind Our Love for Wilderness

Through the Eye of the Needles

Kofa Wilderness

It's the Right Thing to Do

Wild at Heart

WINTER 2008

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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: "Kindred Spirits" by Asher B. Durand, 1849. Courtesy of Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR. The work is a masterpiece of American art that depicts two friends—landscape painter Thomas Cole and American poet William Cullen Bryant—engulfed by the wilderness of the Catskill Mountains in New York. The painting captures the fascination with America's wild character among artists and poets during the mid 19th century, which helped launch a more widespread concern for preservation.

Design by Mary Williams/marywilliamsdesign.com

THOUGHTS FROM THE KGB

Looking Back Helps Us See Forward

by Kevin Gaither-Banchoff

In this issue of Arizona Wild, we decided to shed some light on the history behind the protection of American wilderness. Whether you are a long time backpacker who prefers to spend your vacation miles from another human, or if you like to take your family to the edge of the nearest wilderness area for camping and hiking, or if you enjoy back country wildlife watching, hunting, or fishing, we are sure you will learn something new.

Our story takes you on a journey from classical Greece and Rome, through medieval Europe and the Enlightenment to the colonization of North America. We briefly look at the evolution of modern thought, culture and customs, and how these forces in history have affected the way humans think about and interact with wild nature. We remember great artists, thinkers, and champions of wilderness, like Henry David Thoreau, Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, and Aldo Leopold, among others. We tried to keep the story short enough to fit into our newsletter, but when the story first approached eight pages, we realized we had a dilemma. We didn't want to sacrifice important historic details simply to fit on three pages in our newsletter. Thus, the first part of the story is included here, on our feature pages, and it continues on our website (www.azwild.org). This allows us to do our topic justice – even in this brief form.

Soon we hope to write a new chapter on Arizona's Wilderness history. As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, our work to designate the Tumacacori Highlands as Wilderness and Fossil Creek as a Wild & Scenic River have continued to gain momentum; this fall congressional hearings were held in both the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and we hope for full floor votes early in 2008. Key to this success has been the support of friends like you, partner organizations, and longtime Arizona Wilderness Coalition staff member Jason Williams.

Over the past seven years, Jason's name and face have become synonymous with the Arizona Wilderness Coalition in many places. He has traveled to Washington D.C., spent countless hours inventorying wild backcountry Arizona, spoken directly with thousands of wilderness supporters and opponents, worked closely with agency personnel, and so much more. His insights, hard work and long hours, and humor and good nature have been vital to almost all of our organizations successes and growth since our rebirth in late 2000. Unfortunately, most good things eventually come to an end. After long deliberation, Jason has decided that it is time for him to move on to the next phase of his life, which requires that he leave AWC. Over the past six years Jason's job has evolved to include less time sleeping under the stars and wandering through wild places and more time in meetings or in an office shuffling papers, away from the very things he loves the most (see page 13 for more details). While we wish Jason was not leaving, and we wish him well as he moves on to once again spend more

time out in the wild. I know that I, as well as everyone else on staff and board, will miss Jason's input into our work. No matter where Jason goes next he will always be a member of the AWC family. Jason, thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

We fall we have also used this opportunity to evaluate how the Arizona Wilderness Coalition might restructure our work to best protect more of Arizona's remaining wild places. Jason's work had essentially, but not completely, evolved into a policy and technical writing position. Thus, in recognition of this need we are converting Jason's position into a policy position that can be based in any of AWC's three offices (watch for a full job announcement soon). Sam Frank, AWC Wildlands Planning Coordinator, will continue work out of a Prescott office and will lead AWC's on the ground efforts across the Tonto, Prescott and Coconino National Forests.

We'll keep you updated on the details as we move forward. Best Wishes for a Bright and Happy New Year,



Jason Williams at Granite Mountain.
Photo: Erin Lotz

American Beauty: The History Behind Our Love for Wilderness

by Katurah Mackay

I grew up in a rural corner of New England, on the North Shore of Massachusetts—or as they say back home: the Nawth Shaw. I spent my childhood running through the cornfields and patches of woods that ran along our stretch of the Parker River. I would muck around in the leaves, sticks, and mud until darkness fell and my mother's distant voice would call me to the dinner table.

I firmly believe that my passion for protecting wild places came from my experiences growing up in rural Massachusetts. The funny thing is, one doesn't typically think of Massachusetts as an overtly "wild" state. But to my child's mind, that stretch of farmland and riverbank was big enough to swallow me for an entire Saturday afternoon, and steeped in enough natural quiet that I felt miles away from my house. It was wild enough that I started to panic if I didn't head back before the woods got dark. To my playmates who lived



The author with Piggie and Biggie, two sheep she helped raise on Riverview Farm. Photo: the Mackay family

closer to town, their untamed wonderland was a patch of neglected grass behind our elementary school, where cats left an occasional dead mouse. And to some of my adult friends, who grew up in big cities, wilderness was the neighborhood you knew *not* to go wandering in to after dark.

Which brings me to the question that many people think they know the answer to: what makes wilderness *wilderness*? Is it a term with one definition, undisputed among scholars? Or is it a constantly changing sense of place—the river bank, the neglected patch of grass, the inner-city concrete jungle? And where did the notion of wilderness *come* from?

What many people don't realize is that the idea of wilderness—and the passion for wild places that need saving—is the result of an intriguing mix of religious, political, artistic, literary, and social movements in America. The conservation movement as we know it began with the notion of saving wild places in America and it has evolved steadily over the past two centuries. Men and women didn't sail across the Atlantic in the Mayflower, disembark on these desolate shores, and exclaim "My, what beautiful wilderness! Let's SAVE it!!" It took nearly 200 years for Anglo-Americans to come to love their wild lands and for the term "wilderness" to refer to something grand, inspiring, and altogether necessary to the human spirit.

Cast Out of the Garden

New settlers came to this continent with preconceived notions of "wild nature" that were left over from

the Classical periods of Greece and Rome and the church-dominated Middle Ages. Acceptable forms of nature were worked over by industrious tilling to produce beautiful gardens, support domestic livestock, and provide for one's family—these were believed to be the intended purposes of land according to the word of God. The Bible speaks of Adam and Eve being cast out of the Garden of Eden and into the bleak wilderness that lay beyond. The perfect arena for Satan's dark deeds, wilderness harbored witches, demons, and werewolves. Some scholars, however, interpret Christianity as offering the basic concepts of "stewardship," which has evolved into the underpinnings of modern-day environmentalism. But for the most part, early settlers in the New World saw its wilderness as the antithesis of order, harmony, and goodness.

American wilderness was denser than anything Europeans had ever seen: wild lands had been plowed over and tamed for centuries in the Old World. It was a natural reaction to build a "city on a Hill," as Governor John Winthrop counseled his early settlers in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which would be a shining example of settlement to the rest of the world. Such a godly community would shut out the wild land and savage people that dwelled outside its walls. If divinity came to those who led a life rigorous with work and cultivation of the land, allowing wilderness to have a place in the New World would threaten their very salvation.

Blessings of the Great Mystery

Many of the early colonists' fears about wilderness were reinforced when they encountered the native people of North America. Clad in animal hides rather than homespun, living amidst wild forests, and speaking in tongues and with gestures foreign to European ears, American Indians helped to reaffirm the fearsome character of the wilderness in colonial minds.

Most Anglo-Europeans deemed natives savage and subordinate, largely because of their non-Christian views of the world and their place in it. To many native people, however, the wild forests were a blessing, full of various plant, animal, and water spirits that provided sustenance to their people in different seasons. Many tribal communities honor the interconnectedness of land, living creatures and plants, and human life. They give thanks to their "Mother Earth." While this description has often been misused to overly romanticize native people, there is a marked difference between how Anglo-Europeans and American Indians have viewed nature and its purpose.

"Only to the white man was nature a wilderness and only to him was the land 'infested' with 'wild' animals and 'savage' people," wrote

Chief Standing Bear, a member of the Ponca culture. "To us, it was time. Earth was bountiful and we were surrounded with the blessings of the great mystery."

Unfortunately, many acknowledge that our modern notion of wilderness is one that is wiped clean of the native people who once made it their home, and that our collective admiration for "pristine" wilderness often ignores the fact that native people had been altering the landscape for centuries before Anglo-Europeans arrived. How to interpret the native role in the modern day wilderness movement is one issue to which many advocates, scholars, and wilderness users continuously seek meaningful dialogue.

Winds of Change

Overall, the early American pioneer lived too close to wilderness to appreciate it aesthetically or as a life-sustaining source for food, water, and shelter. Transforming wilderness into productive farms and fields was a way to measure pioneer accomplishment and success in the New World.

Two philosophical movements that took hold in Europe and made their way into the New World helped to bring about the first inklings of change in American attitudes toward wild nature. Romanticism was a reaction to the Enlightenment (or Age of Reason) in Europe, and through philosophical writings, art, and literature, it spread to the American colonies,



Offering the buffalo skull, Mandan. Photo: Edward S. Curtis Collection, Library of Congress, 1908



Folk hero Daniel Boone is most famous for blazing the Wilderness Road through the Cumberland Gap, which opened Kentucky and beyond to new settlement. *Daniel Boone*, by Alonzo Chappel, 1861. Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

America's wildness—its rugged landscapes and majestic scenery—truly set it apart from Europe. These grand backdrops provided powerful nationalistic themes for Romantic artists and poets, who used the wild American landscape to play up newfound enthusiasm for strange, remote, and mysterious settings—seen in the works of Hudson River School artists like Thomas Cole and Asher Durand. Subjects of art, literature, and philosophy began to focus on human emotions, the imagination, and direct experiences in nature. Literature from the period—most notably James Fennimore Cooper's *Leatherstocking* tales—glorified the “noble savage,” the man who balanced cultural refinement with heroic capability to survive in the wilderness. For the first time, people began to equate nature with goodness. The American wilderness, in all its purity and uncontrolled beauty, were thought to bring one closer to God.

Fear of Loss and Calls for Preservation

With the shackles of England cast away, America began a period of growth and westward expansion that went unabated for nearly 100 years. President Thomas Jefferson doubled the geographical size of the country with the Louisiana Purchase, and settlers found themselves curious about what lay beyond the Mississippi River. Lewis and Clark's reports on their journey helped whet the appetite of Americans looking for a fresh start away from the relatively crowded Eastern seaboard.

Lured by the ever-present promise of a better life and bolstered by the myth of America's interior as a limitless garden, wagon after wagon spilled across the Appalachian Mountains and into the West. The advent of the railroad helped to speed along not only travel and settlement in the West, but the rate of commerce as well. To satisfy the growth of cities and industry, natural resources were at a premium, timber being the number one commodity. By the 1880s, 90% of Eastern

helping to change the way men and women experienced the world both visually and emotionally.

In late 17th and early 18th century Europe, Enlightenment thinkers acknowledged man's ability to rationalize and use his brain as superior over faith-based religions and superstitious zealotry that characterized the Dark and Middle Ages. Math, science, and astronomy began to undercut centuries of unfounded religious beliefs, such as that the Earth was flat. Enlightenment thinkers applied scientific formulas to society and the environment around them: gardens from this period, such as those surrounding the Palace of Versailles, exhibit the rigid principles and precise measurements idealized by the Enlightenment. Men found harmony and precision in math, science, and music; nature, by logic, should imitate that perfection of form and function. Politically, this period was the heyday for powerful monarchs and the rigid hierarchies of land ownership and entitlement set up beneath them.

But by the late 18th century, this strict system of political power and social hierarchy began to crumble. The American Revolution helped spark the explosion of social and political change, in both the Old and New Worlds. People began questioning the grip of monarchies on wealth and political influence, which ignored the interests and welfare of commoners. Passion about equality and egalitarian rule thrust democratic values into the spotlight following the American and French Revolutions. With independence came the rush to assert individuality, both on a personal scale and at the national level.

As industrialization and cities began to grow in America, they came to symbolize all that was corrupt and morally depraved in the Old World. Writers and artists were some of the first to recognize that



Fishing in Oak Creek, Arizona. Photo: B.W. Muir, courtesy United States Forest Service Archives



Clockwise from top:
 "A mountain ramble,"
 [New York] Currier & Ives,
 circa 1840

"Around the campfire,"
 photo: Joseph J. Kirkbride,
 circa 1884-1891,
 Library of Congress Digital
 Collection

"Hunting trip, Custer County,
 Nebraska," photo: Solomon
 D. Butcher, 1889

"Racquet River," [New York]
 Currier & Ives, circa 1840

"Judge Ingersoll: Moosehead
 Lake, Maine,"
 photo: Joseph J. Kirkbride,
 circa 1886, Library of
 Congress Digital Collection





Skidding and loading logs, Grafton County, New Hampshire, 1903. Photo: J.F. Clark, courtesy United States Forest Service Archives

forests had been decimated.

Hunting, both for sport and sustenance, left game and bird populations reeling. As part of the government's plan to weaken American Indian tribes on the Plains to make way for homesteaders, bison were shot from trains, their carcasses left to rot along with the Indian way of life they supported. Large predators, such as wolves and grizzlies that posed a threat to cattle ranchers, were systematically extirpated from most of the West.

While the public attitude toward land and resources was still predominantly utilitarian, by the mid 19th century, there was an emerging panic that America was losing its wild character. Concern over the loss of wilderness and calls for its preservation flourished among writers, artists, and naturalists. Painter George Catlin, renowned for his tribute to the disappearing American Indian way of life in oils and watercolor, was one of the first to propose a "nation's park" in 1832 that would help Americans remember the cultures of the Great Plains. Writer and Transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau called attention to the materialism of society and the need for wildness when he spent a year at Walden Pond, living simply and "sucking the marrow out of life."

He recommended that every Massachusetts township set aside at least 500 acres for a park or primitive forest to provide balance in American life. His writings and thoughts on the necessity of wilderness set the stage for early preservation efforts and are still quoted by conservationists today...

Want to read more? Please find the continuation of this historic narrative on our website at www.azwild.org.

The author is AWC's communications director and holds a degree in American Studies from the University of Virginia. She also works as a faculty associate at Arizona State University, where she teaches "The History of Parks and Wilderness in America" to undergraduates.



Henry David Thoreau, circa 1879. Photo: George F. Parlow, Library of Congress Digital Collection



"American hunting scenes - A good chance," [New York] Currier & Ives, circa 1840

Through the Eye of the Needles

by Jason Williams

The Needles are a rugged and beautiful group of towering mountains, buttes, and pinnacles inside the 17,000-acre Havasu Wildlife Refuge Wilderness. The wilderness was created in 1990 to protect the undisturbed habitat for migratory birds and other species. It also provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation for present and future generations. The refuge as a whole protects 30 river miles - 300 miles of shoreline - from Needles, California, to Lake Havasu City, Arizona, and as such, is an excellent place to bird-watch: it serves as a primary stopover and wintering site for migrating species.

At the pass we found the ruins of an old house made of the surrounding rock. We had views of the river with 1,000-foot mountains and cliffs on either side of us—a good place for lunch. While we ate, we were greeted by the screeching of a peregrine falcon that came down from the high cliffs above to check us out.

The peregrine falcon was one of the first species protected under the Endangered Species Act in 1969. In 1999, their numbers had recovered enough to remove them from the list. Peregrine falcons generally seek out remote, inaccessible cliffs to raise their young and are easily disturbed during the breeding season from February through June. The undeveloped and

The Havasu National Wildlife Refuge is a beautiful place to explore, but it needs citizen involvement to protect its naturalness and solitude from illegal off-road vehicle travel that is occurring inside the refuge wilderness. To help protect this wilderness and others, please contact me, Jason Williams, for more information: 928-717-6076, or jwilliams@prescott.edu.

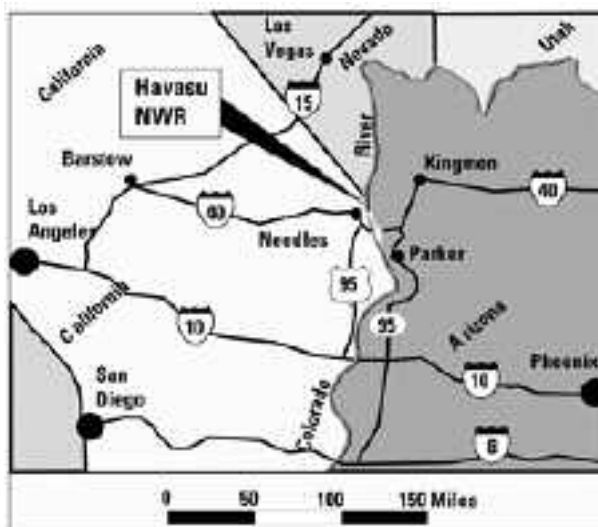


Photo: Arizona Wilderness Coalition

Desert bighorn sheep, tortoises, bobcats, jackrabbits, and rattlesnakes are common here. Bald eagles, peregrine falcons, Yuma clapper rails, American white pelicans, and numerous species of grebes and herons can all be seen in the refuge as well.

During my recent visit with a good friend, we hiked down to the river using washes and old trails. Unfortunately, we found that irresponsible off-road vehicle users had created an illegal route to bypass the very large and obvious barricade at the wilderness boundary. Although we did not see any vehicles on our hike, it was disturbing that we were following vehicle tracks instead of those created by animals. When we arrived at the river, we went for a cold and refreshing swim and basked in the sun on a small sand beach.

The next day we ventured into the Needles by way of an easy hike up a wash to a very old trail that goes through the heart of the Needles to the Gold Dome Mine. We quickly found ourselves high in the mountains surrounded by the rock pinnacles and buttresses of the ancient volcanoes that created the Needles. The breeze was cool and we enjoyed the shade of the mountain as we hiked on towards a small pass.



remote nature of wilderness provides excellent habitat for peregrines since they are so sensitive to human disturbance.

After lunch we explored the Gold Dome Mine and made it back to the car and out to the highway well before dark.



Peregrine falcons have a chance to thrive in the Havasu Wildlife Refuge Wilderness. Photo: USFWS

Before you go: Fuel up the vehicle, bring plenty of water—normally one gallon per person per day—and make sure you tell someone where you are going and when you will be back.

Helpful Topographic Maps: Toprock and Castle Rock

Getting there: From Interstate 40, take the Needle Mountain Road exit. From the interstate go south and cross a cattle guard. This dirt road veers right and crosses through an old borrow pit. Continue straight across a large open area. At 1.4 miles from the cattle guard turn right and drive out along a ridge above a large wash. The road drops down into the large wash and enters a canyon. Follow this route for one mile to the Refuge boundary, park here and use maps to navigate on your hike. Four-wheel-drive is required, as the last mile of road travels through a tight rocky canyon.

Special Considerations: There is no overnight camping in the refuge and seasonal closures for bighorn sheep lambing occur in the spring. Remember: wilderness prohibits motorized vehicles and mountain bikes. For more information, contact the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge by calling (760) 326-3853 or visit the website at: <http://southwest.fws.gov/refuges/arizona/havasu/>

DO YOU KNOW YOUR WILDERNESS?

Kofa Wilderness

by Alison Iaso-Isenberg

Size: 547,719 acres of designated wilderness inside the 665,400-acre Kofa National Wildlife Refuge

Location: Between Yuma and Quartzsite, Arizona east of U.S. Highway 95.

Managing Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Entry fees: None

Large populations of Arizona's desert bighorn sheep roam among the remote desert vistas and jagged peaks of the Kofa Wilderness. The Kofa National Wildlife Refuge was founded in 1939 to protect these bighorn sheep, and in 1990 most of the refuge was designated as wilderness. Today, the Kofa wilderness contains 547,719 acres, or approximately 82% of the refuge. It is the second largest wilderness area in Arizona!

Kofa received its name from the old mining company, King of Arizona (KOFA) Mine which left after the early 1900s. Today, instead of mining trails, observant visitors will discover the trails of bighorn sheep, mule deer and other wildlife. . . along with the delicate

presence of the rare Kofa mountain barberry, a medicinal plant found only in southwestern Arizona. In Palm Canyon, hikers can walk among the California fan palm, the only palm native to Arizona.

Kofa is a great place for wildlife viewing, with many opportunities for challenging hiking and back-packing trips. Backcountry hiker Ted Hand reports, "The Kofa is a gorgeous desert setting, with beautiful rock formations and wide sand washes for camping." However, he cautions, "Although the vegetation is plentiful and diverse—cholla, yucca, willow—this is no riparian area. Water can be elusive, and overnight hikers should plan accordingly."

Adventurous hikers get to forge their own path, as the only established hiking trail on the refuge is a 1/2-mile trail from the parking lot to a viewing point in Palm Canyon. Many "snowbirds" visit the refuge between March and October, but they generally enjoy sightseeing from the refuge's 300 miles of designated roads. For the hiker heading into the wild, solitude is quickly found.

Limited hunting is permitted on the refuge. For information on hunting opportunities (which coincide with designated State seasons), contact the refuge manager.

During the winter months, the bighorn sheep have their lambs in the high country, so when recreating there, please carefully avoid the lambing grounds, especially between January and March. During the summer months, be aware of the dangerously hot temperatures, which can reach into the 120s. Whatever time of year you visit Kofa, you are sure to enjoy the majesty of this vast desert wilderness.

The author is AWC's membership coordinator in Tucson.



Photo: Ted Hand



Light and color illuminate spectacular rock formations at Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. Photo copyright Mark Miller

Wild Open Spaces Set the Stage for Good Business

by Katurah Mackay

In any given day in Tubac, groups of locals gather outside The Tubac Deli for a few hellos over a steaming cup of coffee or tea. The sun is bright and the Sonoran desert air is clear, faintly scented with creosote and sage brush. In the background, just 2 1/2 miles to the southwest, the mountains of the Tumacacori Highlands seem to float against the cobalt sky, reminding Garry Hembree why he lives and works in this lively artists' community.

"This valley, in which Tubac was founded in the 1700s, is a very special place, situated between the Tumacacori Highlands—soon to become a wilderness area, we hope—and the Santa Rita Mountains," says Hembree, owner of Old Presidio Traders, a 25-year-old family-owned and operated Native American and Southwestern gift shop in Tubac. "The Spanish settled here because of the water and today most people come for the beauty of the area. Our livelihood is dependent on the visitors who come for the history and the many natural areas around us that lend themselves to birding, hiking, and camping."

Tubac is rousing from its relative rural anonymity: weary urbanites from Phoenix, Tucson, southern California, and even New York City pass through or relocate here for much needed peace and quiet. Its small-town charm, coupled with its close proximity to one of the last wild corners of Arizona, make Tubac a rising star in the West. The village was first established in 1752 as a Spanish presidio. Working artists' studios now surround the grounds which once served as the home for a Spanish military garrison. Tubac remembers its origins at the Tubac Presidio State Historic Park located in the village's Old Town. More than ninety businesses now line Tubac's meandering streets, and a full day can be enjoyed wandering through the numerous art galleries, working studios, and gift shops.

Business owners in Tubac are recognizing the appeal of being located so close to a beautiful landscape: the Tumacacori Highlands are some of the most biologically diverse lands in the United States, offering quiet, secluded opportunities for birding, hiking, camping and hunting only an hour's drive south of more than one million people in metropolitan Tucson.

Conservation groups, including the Arizona Wilderness Coalition and the Sky Island Alliance, have been working for more than 4 years on a proposal to designate the Highlands a federal wilderness area, using the Wilderness Act of 1964. Such a designation would forever protect the intact wildlife habitat and solitude of the Highlands from new roads, power lines, and motorized recreation that have become the unfor-

tect approximately 85,000 acres of the Highlands. It would be the first wilderness designation on Forest Service lands in Arizona in more than 20 years.

In 2005, the Tubac Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 120 businesses, voted unanimously to support the wilderness proposal—citing reasons that protect Tubac's quality of life and economy.

"We are very aware of the extent to which our economic viability is connected to our landscape," says Carol Cullen, Executive Director of the Tubac Chamber of Commerce. "We need to preserve wild places such as the Tumacacori Highlands to maintain our economic engine in southern Arizona. Tourism and environmental amenities - pristine open spaces, clean water and fresh air - are our lifeblood." Cullen traveled to Washington last fall to testify in favor of the wilderness bill on behalf of the Tubac Chamber of Commerce in the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands.

Outdoor enthusiasts can get hungry and thirsty after a day of fresh mountain air: Tubac's restaurants, shops, and galleries offer a refreshing respite for Highlands visitors on the road back home.

All those pit stops can add up. A 2006 study by the Outdoor Industry Foundation shows that sales of outdoor gear and money spent on amenities associated with outdoor recreation produces almost \$5 billion annually in retail sales and services across Arizona and nearly \$350 million in annual state tax revenue. And over the longterm, a 2005 study by the Sonoran Institute confirms that protected, wild public lands such as the Tumacacori Highlands draw people who want to live, work, and play in rural areas, leading to vibrant economies, higher-paying jobs, and a better quality of life for everyone.

"Since coming to Tubac over 25 years ago, I've been lucky enough to see deer, cotamundi, javalina, foxes, and rabbits," says Hembree. "Maybe someday I'll see a jaguar."

* * * * *

Read more about the Tumacacori Highlands at www.tumacacoriwild.org.



Top: The Tumacacori Highlands, photo: Sky Island Alliance. Bottom: A busy street festival in Tubac, with the Highlands as a backdrop. Photo: Tubac Chamber of Commerce

tunate trademark of rapidly developing Arizona. The area provides exceptional habitat for rare and sensitive species and offers refuge for many endangered species, such as the peregrine falcon, Chiricahua leopard frog, and Mexican spotted owl. Southeastern Arizona also boasts the highest concentration of jaguar sightings in the nation and offers birding enthusiasts one of the most species-rich habitats in the world.

In August, Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-Dist. 7) introduced a bill to the House—the Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Act of 2007—that would pro-

It's the Right Thing to Do

by Mark Trautwein

Each generation has its important tasks to complete. The generations of Udalls before me met their challenge to tame the wilderness, to settle it and make it a home. ... But the challenge of our generation is different. We must show ourselves capable not only of conquering nature but also of caring for it... It is important that those who come after us know that we cherished these living deserts, their waters and all the life that regenerates itself there season after season, generation after generation. In wilderness, we value that which man did not create and by restraining man's altering hand, we hope to honor this powerful work. Long after our own footsteps have been forgotten these places will remain. Their eloquent stillness will bear testimony that we as a people are grateful for our chance to walk upon this Earth and that we have the strength, the courage and wisdom to leave at least these places as we found them.

—Rep. Morris K. Udall, remarks to Congress on the 1990 Arizona Desert Wilderness Act,



Mo Udall on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

Early in my 13-year career as Rep. Morris K. Udall's legislative assistant on wilderness and public lands, I recommended that he push for a controversial land acquisition. However, the critics in the local press and the criticism were getting personal.

I thought the campaign of rumor and ridicule might force him to back off. Mo's reply surprised me, but only because I was just getting to know him.

"Do you think it's the right thing to do?" he asked. When I answered, "Yes, of course," Mo shrugged his shoulders. That was all he needed to know. The discussion was over.

I thought of that moment recently during a visit to the Tumacácori Highlands. The Sky Island Alliance, Friends of the Tumacácori Highlands, and the Arizona Wilderness Coalition have been working hard to designate a 84,000-acre wilderness on this rugged and beautiful land.

The highlands are a fantastic landscape of multicolored cliffs, rolling grasslands and Madrean oaks. It is ecologically healthy, with rare subtropical species found nowhere else in the United States. By any definition, this is wilderness.

More than that, Tumacácori is unmistakably Arizona. It's the kind of place that makes native and new Arizonans want to live here and draws visitors. Arizona's allure has a cost — explosive growth has put Arizona's magnetic wild places that make the state distinctive under mounting threat. We know where that threat is most severe.

In a recent examination of areas left unprotected by Mo's two statewide wilderness bills in 1984 and 1990, I found that wherever wilderness values had been significantly degraded, the wildlands were close to fast-growing urban and suburban communities. Off-road vehicles and other pressures had hit them hard.

Tumacácori Highlands has escaped that fate — so far. But it fits today's profile of an endangered wilderness in Arizona too precisely for comfort.

Taking in the breathtaking, panorama, I remembered why Tumacácori had not been included in the 1984 Arizona Wilderness Act. Congressional district lines had been recently redrawn, taking Tumacácori out of Mo's district and putting it in — barely — the district of vulnerable freshman Jim McNulty.

With other endangered areas having higher priority, McNulty triaged Tumacácori from the bill. If the line had kept Tumacácori in Mo's district, it would be protected today. That it is not is simply an accident of history.

Some critics suggest that because Tumacácori failed to win designation in 1984, it should be ineligible for a second look. They say there was a promise — some even say Mo promised it — that there would be "no more" Forest Service wilderness in Arizona.

They are mistaken.

The so-called release language of the 1984 law clearly contemplates that places like Tumacácori will be periodically re-examined. Wilderness opponents wanted to bar the Forest Service from ever recommending lands for wilderness that Congress had already passed over. Mo strongly disagreed and repeatedly killed bills with "hard release." The Arizona bill's "soft release" assumes that lands like Tumacácori would be reconsidered.

Mo never believed that love of the land should be ossified by the decisions of any one man or any one

generation. In 1984, he was in Alaska explaining to a hostile audience why he so aggressively drew the map of wilderness and parks in his landmark Alaska Lands Act. He told them that a small but growing Tucson had been wise enough to overcome the naysayers of an earlier day and set aside wild areas like Pusch Ridge and Mount Wrightson in the then-distant mountains.

Over time, he told the Alaskans, he'd seen those areas become virtual islands in an urban ocean. Whether it was Alaska or Arizona, Mo had learned that good stewardship of the land took vision that could see over the horizon.

Mo also would have approved of the work done by Tumacácori's advocates. They have listened to local stakeholders, made numerous public presentations and fully informed congressional offices. More than 100 businesses; 23 local, regional and national conservation groups; and seven homeowner associations in nearby Green Valley have signed on.

This is how Mo did business. He sought the views of all Arizonans before constructing any wilderness bill and always made it clear to me that my job was to listen for the equity in the other guy's argument. Tumacácori wilderness advocates have been doing their job, and their work deserves respect.

In Mo's day, he was joined by men like Sen. John McCain in a brand of bipartisan politics that helped Arizona succeed where other states failed. If that politics is alive today, Tumacácori will win the protection it deserves.

The spirit that produced two statewide wilderness bills established a wilderness legacy no state other than Alaska can claim. Mo would have readily acknowledged the legacy is not complete.

If Mo were here today and was asked whether Tumacácori Highlands should be designated as wilderness, I know what his response would be.

Of course, Mo would say, it's the right thing to do.



Mark Trautwein, courtesy: KQED, San Francisco

Mark Trautwein served on the staff of U.S. House Interior/Natural Resources Committee from 1979 to 1995, specializing in parks, wilderness and public lands. He was lead staffer for the 1984 Arizona Wilderness Act and the 1990 Arizona Desert Wilderness Act.

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

Wild at Heart

by Michelle Myers

He's handsome, five years old, and 350 pounds of raw muscle. Meet Berry, a black bear who is a permanent resident at Southwest Wildlife Rehabilitation & Educational Foundation, Inc., in Scottsdale, Arizona. Berry came to us a yearling with a long and tangled story of survival. He started his life as any other bear cub, born in a cozy den lined with vegetation during the late winter. In the spring, as Berry and his mother emerged from their long winter sleep, the search for food began. While foraging one day, Berry wandered a bit to far from his mother and was picked up by two young boys and taken home. Whatever the reason the boys picked Berry up, it was definitely the wrong thing to do. Mom was nearby and within range to hear his cries. The mother bear, after searching for days, finally gave up hope. One bad decision changed the life of this black bear cub forever.

Because it is illegal in the state of Arizona to house native wildlife such as black bears, the authorities stepped in and confiscated Berry. By the time wildlife officials seized the cub, he was grossly under weight, suffering from seizures, and his body was beginning to shut down from severe malnutrition. Navajo Nation authorities placed Berry with the tribe's official veterinarian, Dr. Scott Bender in hopes he would recover. After many long nights and dedicated care by Dr. Bender and his wife, and despite the odds stacked against him, Berry began to recover.

Berry was placed in the Navajo Nation Zoo and Botanical Gardens in Window Rock, Arizona, with the hope he would have a life long home. Unfortunately, Berry was housed with female bears who displayed aggression towards him, and the decision to remove him from the zoo became one of life and death. Back in Dr. Bender's care, recuperating from his wounds, the vet realized Berry did not know how to act or communicate like a bear because he was raised by people. After Dr. Bender realized Berry could not communicate with other bears, Southwest Wildlife received a call about a non-releasable yearling black bear that needed a permanent home. How could we refuse? Since Berry arrived at Southwest Wildlife, he has become an integral part of each of our lives. Our day is not complete unless we stop by his enclosure offer him a treat and a warm hello.

Berry will never be a wild bear again and he will never know what it feels like to roam in the open wilderness of Arizona. However, each year Southwest Wildlife receives many orphaned bear cubs that are releasable. Why are these cubs left orphaned? Perhaps their mothers die from starvation due to extended drought conditions and the stress of feeding cubs, or they are shot by hunters. Regardless of the circumstances of their mothers deaths, the cubs have been left alone, an almost certain death sentence.

We provide releasable cubs with extensive care, housing, and proper diet. Once they are healthy enough, they are paired up and moved to outdoor enclosures. Late the following winter, hibernation is induced and a den prepared for each pair in a remote area of a national forest, chosen by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Luckily, the orphaned cubs get a second chance at a life.

Black bears used to roam in all areas of North America, except the Great Plains, desert areas, and the barren portions of Northern Canada. Today, they may



Berry thoroughly enjoys his new home at Southwest Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Photo: SWREF

still be found in 38 states, including Arizona, but are extinct in Illinois, Iowa and Kansas. Bears need a large home range of up to 50 miles to sustain their omnivore diet that consists primarily of vegetation.

Because bears need such a large area to live, conserving wilderness areas becomes crucial to their survival as a species. Without protected lands that offer large home ranges, the success of released bears and their wild brethren could be compromised. Black bears prefer areas of open timber with dense shrubs, and riparian areas. These areas tend to have better water supply, and therefore provide better cover and higher quality and quantity of food resources. Habitats that offer adequate food, water, and shelter also offer better denning sites. Specific criteria such as location, food and water supply, number of existing bears in the area, distance from people, and possible denning areas are sought out for release sites.

As urban areas spread into wild lands and people encounter wildlife near their homes on a daily basis, the phones at Southwest Wildlife get busier and busier. Southwest Wildlife aspires to see all wild creatures free in their native habitats. We can all make a difference by being responsible for our own behavior, coexisting with wildlife, and preserving the wilderness lands that are rightfully theirs.

For more information on Southwest Wildlife www.southwestwildlife.org or call 480-471-3621

* * * * *

Michelle Myers is the Education Director for Southwest Wildlife Rehabilitation & Educational Foundation, Inc.



An orphan bear cub arrives at the center. Photo: SWREF

Short Takes

Trash at Fossil Creek a Growing Problem

The irony of Fossil Creek's rebirth since APS dismantled its dam can be seen in the piles of trash hauled out by volunteers in July: the creek's swelling popularity for heat-soaked desert dwellers is leading to the deterioration of Fossil Creek's vitality and wild character—the very traits that make it appealing and eligible for Wild and Scenic River status.

Conservation groups, including the Arizona Wilderness Coalition, are urging Senator McCain to move quickly on his legislation, S. 86, that will provide much-needed management guidelines for the U.S. Forest Service to steward the creek as a Wild and

waterways. It also requires the managing agency—in this case, the U.S. Forest Service—to provide management criteria to protect the waterway's unique resource values. 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 165 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.

Fossil Creek, flowing through the stunning Mogollon Rim country of central Arizona, often draws

comparisons to the better-known Havasu Falls. This spring-fed stream runs continuously, even on hot summer days, and contains unusually high levels of calcium, which creates 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.

“Fossil Creek provides habitat for several very rare desert fish species, as well as restoring the Yavapai-Apache nation's hunting, gathering, and spiritual sites in the watershed,” says Jason Williams, Central Mountains-Sonoran regional director for AWC. “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. We hope Senator McCain can act swiftly to prevent further deterioration of the creek's grandeur and value to our desert ecosystem.”

Welcome New Staff Member, Alison Iaso-Isenberg

As a long-time friend of the big wild, Alison brings a passion for connecting people and communities with the wild places that sustain us—as well as a background in environmental education, technical writing, and event coordination/outreach work.

Alison coordinates our membership activities, plans educational and fundraising events, and manages our database. Most of all, she enjoys this opportunity to support Arizonans in advocating for the protection and restoration of our wildlands and rivers!

Before happily making her home among the saguaros in Tucson, she managed an herbal business on a 600-acre retreat center in the San Juan Mountains of southern Colorado. Previously, her wilderness-related work adventures have included leading teens at a therapeutic wilderness program in Idaho's sagebrush steppe, working as a park-ranger naturalist in the high country at Glacier National Park, and driving a 27-foot fiberglass salmon down the West Coast in support of wild free-flowing rivers and the salmon who swim in them.

Alison holds a B.A. in Physical Geography from the University of California, Davis and an M.Ed. in Environmental Education and Nonprofit Leadership from the North Cascades Institute and Western Washington University. Welcome Alison!



Photo: Kevin Gaither-Banchoff



Volunteers make ready to collect trash at Fossil Creek. Photo: Sierra Club

Scenic River. In late September, Senator McCain urged the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to schedule a hearing for the Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River Act, which was introduced jointly by McCain and his colleague Senator Jon Kyl. Representative Rick Renzi introduced legislation for the creek on the House side. On November 8, 2007 this legislation was part of a hearing in front of the Senate's National Park subcommittee. We expect further action in the New Year.

In his letter to Chairman Pete Dominici and Ranking Member Jeff Bingaman, Senator McCain writes: “Recreational visitation to the riverbed has increased dramatically, and by the Forest Service's own admission, it isn't able to manage current levels of visitation or the pressures of increased use. As such, there's a growing need to provide additional protection and adequate staffing there.”

“It's way past time for our delegation to move this very crucial legislation for Fossil Creek,” says Kevin Gaither-Banchoff, AWC's executive director. “So many groups and agencies have cooperated on restoring this vital waterway. To see it all go down the drain because of overuse and lack of management is robbing the citizens of Arizona of the chance to experience the enchantment and beauty of Fossil Creek.”

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 specified



Photo: Sierra Club

So Long to a True Wilderness Friend

After seven years as one of the primary faces of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition, Regional Director Jason Williams has decided it's time for him to move onto the next phase of his life, which requires that he leave AWC.

Jason has been an integral part of AWC since our rebirth in late 2000. His input and insights, hard work and long hours, and humor and good nature have been vital to our successes and growth. Since I started as Executive Director in August 2006 I have often relied on Jason to get me up to speed on issues, to serve as a sounding board, and to just be a friend. I will miss Jason. I know that wilderness will miss Jason.

In Jason's words: *"This has been and is a very difficult decision to make. For much of the last 6 years I have loved my job. I still love wilderness and believe that its protection is integral to biodiversity and the well being of humans on this planet. Nevertheless, the primary reason I am leaving is for my own health and well being of my family—I need to spend less time in front of computers and attending meetings and more time out in the wilds I love."*



Jason Williams, photo: Arizona Wilderness Coalition

There is still a ton of unfinished work that needs to be done and I know that there will never be a perfect time for me to leave—relationships will need to be reformed, many projects are half completed, and threats continue to grow. I leave the wilderness movement at a time when the tide is changing and more communities will soon be asking their political leaders that more lands be protected as wilderness, and more rivers be protected as wild and scenic. I also know that the Arizona Wilderness Coalition is in good hands with the current staff, board of directors and volunteers.

I have greatly appreciated all of the conservation partners and agency personnel that I have worked with over the years and wish you all luck—our wild lands sure need your hard work and dedication. I would especially like to thank the volunteers that spent countless hours of valuable free time helping to protect Arizona's wild lands, they'll never be protected without your voice.

Lastly, I express my deepest appreciation for Prescott College for entering into partnership with Arizona Wilderness Coalition six years ago to hire two graduate students to engage in wilderness advocacy throughout Arizona (I was one of those students). I have had many wonderful experiences with faculty, instructors, staff, and students. Prescott College has been integral to AWC's efforts to protect so many wild places and know that the strong partnership that has been developed will continue to grow and facilitate the protection of more wild places."

Jason remained on staff through the end of the year to finish up work and ensure a smooth transition—and will help with small things as he has time in the New Year. Jason has no immediate plans and is just waiting to see where life takes him. He plans to do lots of relaxing, volunteering, and will continue to represent environmental concerns on the Bureau of Land Management's Arizona Resource Advisory Council.

Please join me in thanking Jason for all his years of work and wishing both he and his family the best of luck for the future.

Kevin Gaither-Banchoff
Executive Director
Arizona Wilderness Coalition



"It was cold. We were sitting around a campfire. We'd hiked all day, we were tired. We were well fed. We were sharing stories, and songs, and tequila. We were photographers, writers, poets, songwriters, scientists, naturalists, and environmentalists. We were in the Tumacacori Highlands of southern Arizona. The firewood crackled, the air shimmered... One spring weekend, a group of artists and conservationists gathered in the Coronado National Forest to camp and hike, learn and experience. The idea was to come together, learn from and share with each other, and then teach and share with others the values of a special place in our own backyard... The idea became Art in Wilderness..."

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Now available — a magical collection from 19 artists, poets, writers, photographers...
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Get Out There



Join AWC for an exciting line-up of winter and spring events! As always, our electronic action alerts are the most up-to-the-minute way to get more details on each of these events and whether or not we need volunteers to help us out with tabling, outreach, phone banking, letter writing, and other important activities.

Visit our website at www.azwild.org to sign up for our action alerts if you haven't already!



Like Movies?

Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us the Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival, held first in Tempe and again in Sedona. Filmgoers will catch screenings of critically-acclaimed environmental films produced around the country and get information about local issues, such as protection of Fossil Creek as a Wild and Scenic River here in Arizona. Fossil Creek is a remarkable success story, but there are many other watersheds—such as the Verde River—that are endangered by groundwater pumping for development in the Chino Valley. The Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival will inspire and motivate you to go out and make a difference for Arizona's endangered waterways.

It's a festival for activists by activists. The event is organized and hosted by the Arizona Wilderness Coalition and is sponsored by Patagonia™. Movie times and titles will be announced in January. Stay tuned!

Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival in Tempe

WHERE: Harkins Valley Art Theater, 509 South Mill Ave, Tempe
WHEN: Thursday, February 21

Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival in Sedona

WHERE: Sedona Dream Theater, Village of Oak Creek Prime Outlet Mall, 6615 Hwy 179, Sedona
Come early to catch our wilderness art show with live music. Delicious dinner food will be available for purchase!
WHEN: Saturday, April 5

Information on tickets and other details will be available early in 2008.

Speaking of Watersheds...

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition has participated every year at the Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival, and 2008 will be no different! Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival is a two-day outdoor event that focuses on the rich diversity of wildlife, habitat, history and culture of the Gila River drainage. This is an opportunity to celebrate the rich heritage, ecology, history and wildlife of the Gila, Salt and Agua Fria Rivers! It's also a great opportunity for the whole family to enjoy a beautiful spring day in Arizona and learn something about the place we call home. The Coalition will be there educating the public about important efforts to protect wilderness and Wild and Scenic rivers in Arizona. Don't miss us!

Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival

WHERE: B&M Wildlife Area, Avondale Blvd. and the Gila River
WHEN: March 15-16, 2008

Visit www.tresriosnaturefestival.com for more information on the event.



Giddyup!

Don't Miss the May 2008 Wilderness Rendezvous! Under the pines at Camp Tontozona, we hope to gather with you, and other wilderness friends and families, to celebrate the beauty and diversity of Arizona's wild places. Join us for several days and nights of inspiring presentations, workshops, hikes, nature writing, nightly music around the fire, and much more. We are still finishing up the details, but know that there will be camping and cabins to stay in, hearty food, and many new and old friends to meet. Book your calendar so you can join us to reconnect, rejuvenate, get more involved, and help create a stronger Arizona Wilderness movement. Details will follow soon. Please call Alison at 520-326-4300 if you have any questions.

Wilderness Rendezvous

WHERE: Camp Tontozona, near Payson
WHEN: Friday, May 9 – Sunday, May 11

Show Your Passion for Outdoor Sportsmanship

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition will be attending the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Outdoor Expo, March 29-30, at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in North Phoenix. The exposition includes activities, demonstrations, and exhibits in the areas of hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, archery, conservation and wildlife education, camping and other outdoor elements. AWC will be educating attendees about the importance of wilderness protection for healthy wildlife and opportunities for backcountry recreation like hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching, horseback riding, and camping.

AZGF 2008 Outdoor Expo

WHERE: Ben Avery Shooting Facility, 4044 W. Black Canyon Blvd. Phoenix
WHEN: March 29th and 30th, beginning at 9 a.m.

Visit www.azgfd.gov for more information on the expo.

8th Annual Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival

The Verde Valley Birding & Nature Festival provides a unique recreational experience to anyone interested in the natural world and fosters awareness of the importance of habitat for the enrichment of all life in the Verde Valley. This year's festival partners with local wineries and farmers to promote sustainable agriculture as a positive way to enhance habitat while contributing to the economic and ecological health of the Valley. The Arizona Wilderness Coalition will be tabling with educational materials and outreach tools about our major wilderness campaigns around the state—drop by and see us!

Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival

WHERE: Deadhorse Ranch State Park, Cottonwood
WHEN: Thursday, April 24th through Sunday, April 27th

Visit www.birdyverde.org for more information on the festival.

Thank You Supporters!

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 supported our wilderness work. Our most generous foundation and business supporters include American Rivers, Campaign for America's Wilderness, Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation, New-Land Foundation, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Patagonia, Wilburforce Foundation, and the Wyss Foundation, among others.

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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!

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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.)

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

I wish to make a monthly donation to the AWC, in the amount of

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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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Wild Land Inventory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letter Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography/Art/Design |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing/Publishing/Newsletter Help | |

Region of interest (please check all that apply):

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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Action Alerts Only | <input type="checkbox"/> No Mailings: I prefer to visit your website for news. | |

On behalf of Arizona's Wilderness,
thank you.

What is Wilderness?

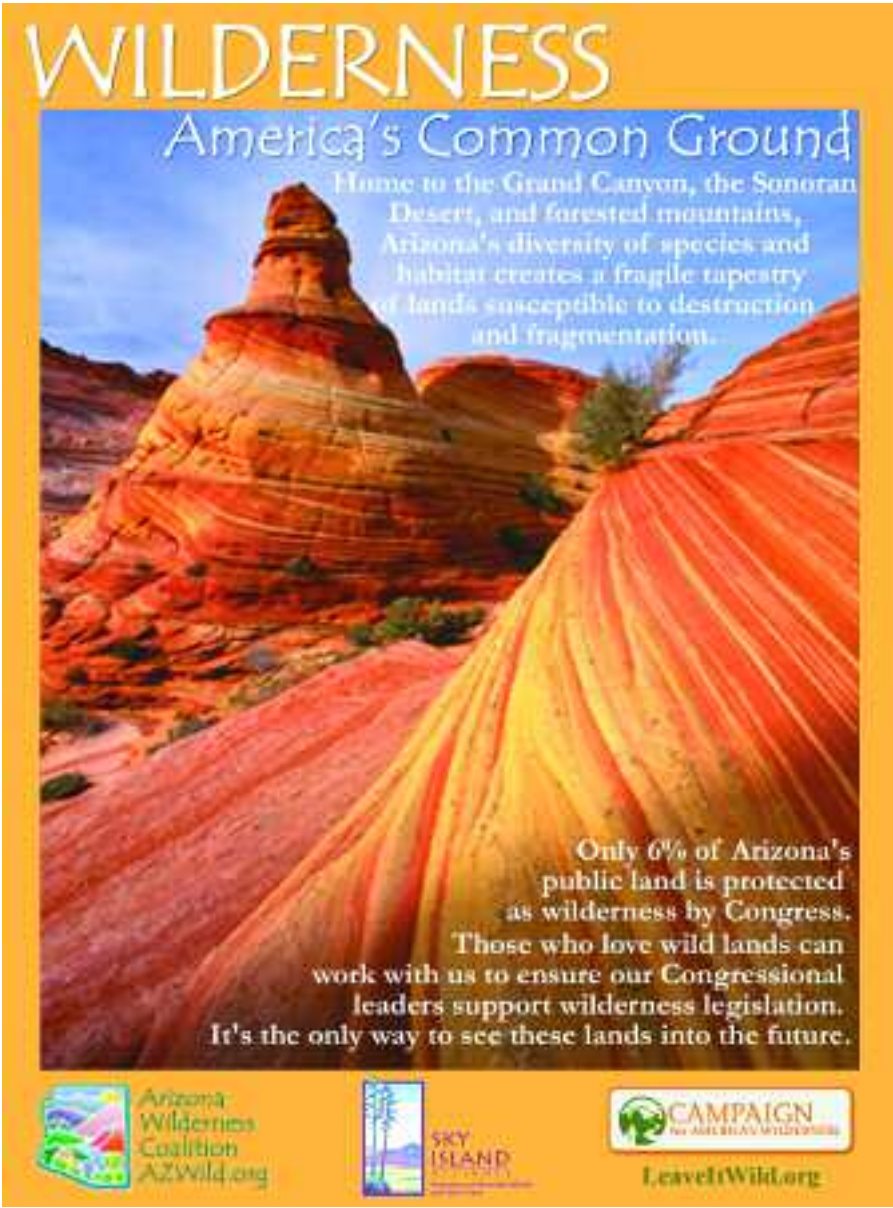
Wilderness is an area of undeveloped federal land that appears “to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of mans’ work substantially unnoticeable,” as written in the Wilderness Act of 1964. Unlike national parks, wildlife refuges, or monuments, wilderness designation 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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