



RED ROCK-SECRET MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS © MARK FRANK



## THE ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION

PROTECTING ARIZONA'S WILD LANDS & WATERS SINCE 1979

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July 21, 2015

### Greetings!

The monsoons are here, bursting through walls of heat and ensuring nature's relentless advance through the seasons. These magnificent storms remind us that we are part of a much bigger picture of natural forces that continue to shape our Arizona landscape.

Our Stewardship Program will shape outer and inner landscapes with a special project on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon this August, blending trail restoration and personal restoration for veterans. Volunteers are the core of AWC and we'd like to introduce you to one whose commitment to wild spaces runs deep. Learn more below about Brian Barnes, who has given countless days to the Stewardship Program. And thanks to the support of individual donors and Arizona Community Foundation of Yavapai County, our Stewardship Fundraising Challenge is a big step closer to its goal.

This month we're awash in gratefulness for legislators, business owners, and community leaders who advance permanent protection of Arizona wilderness and public lands. Rep. Raul Grijalva reintroduced the Sonoran Desert Heritage Act in June, and business and military voices are echoing the need to preserve wildlife habitat on public lands.

The summer's splendor is alive in our wilderness areas; we hope you are enjoying exploration and adventures!



Yours in Wilderness,



Barbara

Barbara Hawke  
Executive Director



## Veterans Trail Restoration Project

August 15 – 19th | Saddle Mountain Wilderness

Calling all Veterans! Join us for this week-long trail restoration project in the Kaibab National Forest, with special evening activities led by special guest Nick Mancini.

During the day we will be hiking in various locations of Saddle Mountain Wilderness to conduct trail brushing and light tread maintenance. Our mornings and evenings will consist of restorative yoga and other activities with Nick Mancini, who specializes in helping Vets find their inner warrior. [Learn more & register for this free event.](#)

## Legislators and Community Leaders Act to Preserve Arizona Landscapes



The Sonoran Desert Heritage Act (H.R. 2926) was [reintroduced into the U.S. House of Representatives on June 25, 2015](#) by Rep. Raul Grijalva. The legislation creates an array of protective designations to safeguard premier wildlife habitat and support military viability. Let your legislators know you support this bill!



One of the environment's best friends in the business community is [Cochise Stronghold Retreat](#), nestled in the shadow of the spectacular rock formations of Cochise Stronghold in southeastern Arizona. [The Sierra Vista Herald published a delightful article by Retreat owner Nancy Yates](#) highlighting the importance of wildlife and the environment to the economy.



And we so appreciate the perspectives of those with military experience who see the benefits of public lands preservation. In a recent opinion piece in the Arizona Republic, retired Barry M. Goldwater Range director [Jim Uken highlights the benefits of federal land conservation for military viability.](#)



Mutual Benefit: Preserving Arizona's Military Mission and the Value of Publicly-Owned Lands

Underscoring the critical importance of public lands conservation is a new report from [Sonoran Institute](#) that evaluates land conservation tools that might benefit both military installations and the environment. [Read more](#) (*be patient, ~7Mb*).



## ♥ Volunteers ♥ are Our Core!

Thank you [Arizona Wilderness Brewing Co](#) for hosting our annual Volunteer Appreciation event last month. We are so appreciative of the work our volunteers do to contribute to the success of the Wild Stew program. Volunteers also help with tasks beyond the on-the-ground stewardship projects, including grant writing, marketing, and tabling on behalf of AWC at partner events.

We would like to thank the ineffable [Brian Barnes](#) for his commitment to the Wild Stew program. Brian might wear a computer software developer hat during the week, but that doesn't hide his volunteer superhero cape. Countless hours have been dedicated to wild spaces and we are honored to have Brian share so much of himself with the Wilderness Stewardship Program. [Learn more about what makes Brian tick and his infectious commitment to wilderness.](#)



## Stewardship Fundraising Success

We're ecstatic to report [Arizona Community Foundation of Yavapai County](#) awarded AWC \$5,405 for wilderness stewardship projects on the Prescott National Forest, matching National Forest Foundation (NFF) funds. Along with YOUR donations this spring, we met our goal of \$10,000 by June 30th!

**We're not done yet!** We need your help to raise an additional \$15,000 by the end of the year so we can tap even more of the NFF award.

[Donate today!](#)



You can make a tremendous difference in the success of wilderness campaigns by becoming a supporting member and sharing your resources with Arizona's last, best places.



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