

Arizona's deserts and mountains are alive with the sounds of spring. Celebrate recent reports on the value of protected lands in the West, and see what we've been up to in southern Arizona and explore what we have in store for central and northern Arizona!



March 22, 2016

Greetings!,

March is a wonderful month to listen closely to nature, with stirrings deep in the soil, birds cooing and courting, and blooms bursting forth in floral symphony. Wild nature can bring sweet harmony back to a world beset with election-year drama.

We were delighted to play in a restoration duet this past month with the Climbing Association of Southern Arizona.

[Read more](#) about the impressive project accomplishments in Cochise Stronghold, and share in the experience through the voice of volunteer Ann Ranalli.

If you're looking to strike a chord of sanity in the political season, check out [recent research about conservation attitudes and economics](#) from Colorado College and Headwaters Economics. The results are positively upbeat!

There's no auditions needed to join the band for wilderness conservation, and you can be instrumental in restoring better conditions to Arizona's backcountry. Whether the part you play is supporter of [Arizona Gives Day](#), valued [Wild Stew volunteer](#), or a dvocate for sound agency decisions, acting on behalf of the environment will ensure your March ends on a good note.



Yours in support of wilderness,



*Barbara*  
Barbara Hawke  
Executive Director



## Restoration Duet

AWC's Wild Stew program and the Climbing Association of Southern Arizona joined forces with a common goal on February 20 - to disband social trails near a popular climbing area in Cochise Stronghold, and restore the landscape. Read more about the impressive accomplishments and convivial gathering of those who love the outdoors.

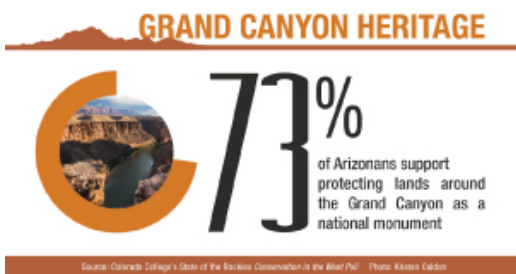
[Read More](#)



## It's all about that Base...

The foundation of any successful nonprofit is dedicated members and supporters. Bring a song to your heart by advancing wilderness restoration and preservation on [Arizona Gives Day](#). Your dollars can be doubled through a 2016 matching grant from the National Forest Foundation!

[Pledge Today!](#)



## Westerners Value Public Lands

The annual Conservation in the West poll found that nearly two-thirds of Arizonans oppose state take-over of public lands, and nearly three-fourths support creation of a national monument to preserve the Greater Grand Canyon Watershed. For more heartening news of what westerners really think about the environment, read the [summary of data for Arizona \(PDF\)](#) and the "[Politics of Conservation](#)" report (PDF).

[of Conservation" report \(PDF\)](#).

[Read More](#)

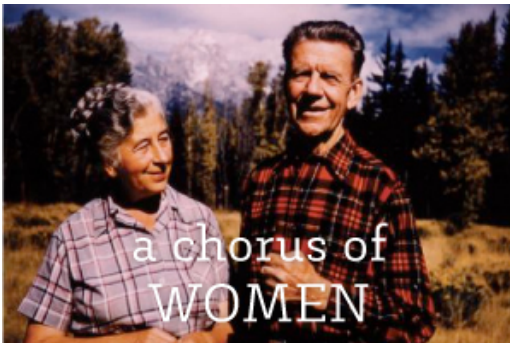


## And Public Lands Bring Value to the West

A study by Headwaters Economics released in early 2016 found that rural counties in the West with the highest proportion of protected federal lands had greater increases for population, employment and personal income.

While every county has unique circumstances, the changing economy of the West has altered the role of nearby public lands. These reports make for great party chatter when you want to impress friends with the importance of protecting public lands!

[Read the Report \(PDF\)](#)



### A Chorus of Women

March is Women's History Month, and we'd like to trumpet the accomplishments of women who achieved much for wilderness through the years. From key female figures in history to contemporary heroines, and those with special ties to Arizona, read about **Women Working for Wilderness**.

[Read More](#)



APR  
2-3

### Superstition Mountain Wilderness Trail Maintenance

Calling those that prefer rugged and adventurous! Join us on an overnight backpack trip to carry out much needed trail maintenance on some of the wildest trails in the Eastern Superstitions - Paradise & Bull Basin Trails.

[RSVP](#)

APR  
16-17

## Superstition Mountain Wilderness Trail Maintenance

We have a spring-cleaning focus on the trails of the Superstition Mountain Wilderness. While final details are still being worked out, plan to grab your backpack for an overnight trip with light trail maintenance.

[RSVP](#)

APR  
23

## Documenting the Wild: Wilderness Inventory

Citizen Wilderness Inventory in the "Pothole" region near Safford. Explore a lesser-known area of Arizona that boasts a scenic canyon along the Safford-Morenci Trail, part of the long-distance Grand Enchantment Trail. This fun and educational outing offers a unique opportunity to learn more about wilderness inventory in an informal setting with friendly volunteers. For additional information and to RSVP, please contact Barbara Hawke ([email](#) or call 520-326-4300).

[Contact Barbara](#)

APR  
23-24

## Pine Mountain Wilderness Crosscut Saw Training & Invasive Grass Removal

We have a hybrid trip up in Pine Mountain Wilderness with a combination of invasive grass removal and crosscut saw training. The focus of the project will be to train and certify participants in the proper use of crosscut saws on our national forests. However, if you just want to work on removing the seed heads from invasive grasses, you are welcome to join! NOTE: If you are interested in receiving the National Forest certification you will need to complete an online training course prior to the field project.

[RSVP](#)

APR  
30-1

## Chiricahua Wilderness Trail Restoration & Sign Installation

We're heading back to the beautiful Chiricahua Wilderness for an overnight event. Volunteers are needed to install and repair signage along the Fitch Trail, as well as trail restoration to include brushing, log removal, and tread repair.

[RSVP](#)



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WILD ARIZONA

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition actively engages and empowers citizens like you who care about Arizona's wild lands. For more than 35 years, we have been working with volunteers to conduct wild land inventories, educate citizens about the

unique attributes of Arizona's landscape, and empower our activists to build support for their lasting protection. We need your help protecting our wild lands for the future...join us today!



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