



Willow explores the trails near Cochise Stronghold © Susan Shobe

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Spring/Summer 2014

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CENTERFOLD ARIZONA WILDERNESS CHECKLIST

Wilderness can play a pivotal role in the health and quality of our lives

When Susan Shobe's children get stressed, she knows it's time to give them a dose of nature. In her case, it's often a trip into Cochise Stronghold in the Dragoon Mountains, a proposed wilderness area not far from Tucson.

Shobe, Office Assistant for the Arizona Wilderness Coalition, says that Dahlia, 8, Willow, 6 and Violet 4 love the escape. "The kids spend hours scrambling over the rocks, hiding and exploring. The acoustics in the canyons make it all the more fun."

Recent studies confirm what moms and dads intuitively know – that kids who get access to nature and the outdoors can benefit in many ways: Less stress, improved motor skills and creativity. Shobe says, "We don't need to teach kids about the benefits of wilderness – we just need to provide access. Wilderness and the experience itself is the real teacher."

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Arizona has so much potential for wilderness conservation. Working with AWC's staff and Board, and our great partner groups, is enlivening and heartening. Our members and volunteers are outstanding – your enthusiasm for preserving favorite wilderness areas is contagious.

In December with regret we said goodbye to Meghan Mix, who previously managed AWC's office functions. Meghan's organizational skills and efficiency were unparalleled. A thrilling career on a tractor beckoned, though – she moved to manage a California farm, fulfilling a long-held dream.

We're delighted to introduce Susan Shobe as our stellar Office Assistant. Susan brings valuable conservation background to running our operations. She formerly served as Assistant Director for the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection.

As we move ahead in 2014, AWC remains committed to preserving wilderness in key areas of the state. The current political climate calls for broad consideration of what conservation approaches can effectively preserve wilderness and surrounding landscapes.

AWC will continue to support permanent legislative protection for the Sonoran Desert Heritage area, which would include a mix of wilderness, national conservation area, and special management areas. And we continue to advance preservation for the Sky Island region of southeastern Arizona.

Interim management of wilderness-quality areas becomes more important in times of legislative doldrums. We currently have important opportunities to influence the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to preserve wilderness through "administrative protections" while seeking opportunities for permanent protection.

No less important is protection of vital watersheds in Arizona. AWC continues to strive for meaningful preservation for the Upper Verde River and eventual designation as a Wild and Scenic River.

To achieve greater results in 2014, AWC is focusing our physical presence in our Tucson and Prescott offices, while Carla Olson anchors our Flagstaff presence. We continue to plan outreach events in Phoenix to connect with our members in this important metropolitan center. Look for upcoming events around the state celebrating the 50th anniversary of The Wilderness Act. And, we hope you enjoy our special "Arizona Wilderness Checklist" pull-out feature in the centerfold.



Yours in wilderness advocacy,

Barbara

Barbara Hawke, AWC Executive Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 26-27th
Wild Stew: Fossil Springs Wilderness

May 3rd
Guided Hike: Upper Verde River

May 10-11th
Wild Stew: Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness

May 31-June 1st
Wild Stew: Strawberry Crater Wilderness

June 21-22nd
Wild Stew: Miller Peak Wilderness

To learn more, or to sign on to one of these projects, visit azwild.org.

PRESERVING FOREST WILDERNESS

VERDE CANYON © GARY BEVERLY

From time to time, AWC calls on its members to get involved in forest planning. Plans are revised roughly every 15 years and cover everything from wildlife to motorized recreation to wilderness, so it's important that the agency hear from people who love their forests and from conservation groups like AWC that advocate for more wilderness and other protections.

"Whenever forest plans are revised, the agency is required to review potential new wilderness and management of existing wilderness," explains Sam Frank, Central Arizona Director of AWC. AWC worked on the Prescott National Forest plan last year, seeking support from them for the citizens proposal to designate the upper Verde as Wild and Scenic. Currently, the Forest has found the upper Verde eligible as a Wild and Scenic river and, therefore, must manage as such to preserve its unique qualities until further decisions are made.

"If an agency finds an area has wilderness qualities, it must decide whether or not the area will be managed as wilderness," says Sam. "That's an important issue for the public to weigh in on. Only congressional action can designate new wilderness and until that can happen, we need to ensure interim protection."

This year, AWC members have already weighed in on forest plans for the Coconino and Coronado National Forests. The Tonto National Forest plan will be getting underway in the near future.

TO KEEP APPRISED
OF FOREST
PLANNING AND
HOW YOU CAN
HELP, SIGN UP FOR
AWC'S MONTHLY
E-NEWSLETTER AT
AZWILD.ORG

CAMPAIGN PROGRAM UPDATES

Land of Legends Preservation

In southeastern Arizona conservation partners are consulting with diverse interests to identify common goals for preservation of the Sky Islands region. Conservation plans that include wilderness could benefit several important industries in the region: the military function of Fort Huachuca; hydrologic and geologic function for the tourist destination of Kartchner Caverns; and ecotourism, particularly globally significant birding opportunities. Conserving this very special landscape could also help grow the economic resource of folks who retire to these beautiful and remote areas.

The recent comment period for the Coronado National Forest Plan provided an excellent opportunity to engage with the community to advocate for preservation of favorite landscapes in southeastern Arizona. To facilitate public participation, AWC helped organize workshops, through which we learned there is strong support to preserve areas such as the Whetstones, Dragoons, Chiricahuas and Tumacacori Highlands.

Sonoran Desert Heritage Act

As we recognize the first anniversary of introduction of the Sonoran Desert Heritage Act, we remain ever grateful to Rep. Raul Grijalva for his leadership in advancing legislation to protect the spectacular wild landscapes of Arizona. SDH represents the way conservation should, and needs to be, approached in current times – by carefully integrating diverse interests and offering solutions for community problems. Among the features of this proposal are benefits to military function by preserving flight routes between Luke Air Force Base and the Goldwater Range; and preservation of open space in the face of burgeoning development west of Phoenix.

With partner conservation groups, we are working to demonstrate support for the proposal in a way that bolsters confidence with legislators. The recent release of the State of the Rockies report provided an opportunity to highlight broad and bipartisan support for land preservation in Arizona, and the need for action on the Sonoran Desert Heritage bill. More:

Public News Service <http://tinyurl.com/PublicNewsService>

KJZZ <http://tinyurl.com/KJZZ-PublicLands>



Meet Wild Stew Volunteer Allyson Pacini

Getting into the backcountry has never been a problem for Allyson Pacini. She and husband Nick met while working summer jobs on the Deschutes National Forest in Oregon. "We love camping, hiking and backpacking in all sorts of terrain, and when we heard about Wild Stew, it seemed like a great way to help while we're enjoying wilderness."

Wild Stew pairs willing volunteers with work on national forests and BLM lands. Much of the work involves monitoring plants and wildlife over a two-day trip by photographing and recording data about what is seen along the trail.

"Working with Wild Stew is a great way to get to know different areas that we haven't visited before," Allyson explains. "And it makes me feel like we're giving back, ensuring that Arizonans today and in the future will be able to enjoy the wilderness."

Allyson and her husband Nick in Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness. © Allyson Pacini



RESTORATION: A KEY INGREDIENT IN WILD STEW

Almost every other weekend throughout the year, you can find AWC members on a wilderness trail, heading to work.

“Most of the work we do is monitoring and restoration,” notes Sam Frank, AWC’s representative in Prescott and frequent leader of the trips. “We find and remove non-native plants, eliminate social trails, put out leftover campfires, and a whole lot more.”

The stewardship trips, usually involving two days in the backcountry, are part of Wild Stew, an award-winning program of AWC.

With decreasing budgets and over-worked staff, federal lands agencies are often hard-pressed to conduct work in wilderness areas. They welcome the support offered by trained volunteers. AWC expects to host at least 20 stewardship projects and trainings this year, expanding to work in the Kaibab National Forest and with the Bureau of Land Management.

TO GET INVOLVED WITH WILD STEW VISIT AZWILD.ORG

This spring, Wild Stew’s involvement will help protect the threatened Mexican Spotted Owl while restoring part of the Fossil Springs Wilderness in the Coconino National Forest. Volunteers will be hauling about 200 pounds of abandoned gear from an illegal marijuana plot out of an all-but inaccessible area of the wilderness.

“If we hadn’t volunteered, the Forest Service was considering using helicopters to drag out the junk,” says Sam. “That would require a special exemption to use mechanized equipment in a wilderness area and would be very disruptive to the Mexican Spotted Owls that inhabit the area.”

MEXICAN SPOTTED OWL © US FISH & WILDLIFE. BILL RADKE

CONTINUED

THE WILDERNESS PRESCRIPTION

Wilderness can provide the same antidote for adults. Who hasn’t felt the stress melt away when hiking a sunset trail, exploring a sandy wash, or watching the night sky?

Most of us today have tightly structured lives. There are the added distractions of the digital world – television, emails, texts and games – that can sap our energy and rewire our brains.

We’re also increasingly removed from nature: Eighty-two percent of Arizonans live in an urban setting. With Arizona’s population set to grow by nearly three million residents in the next few decades, wilderness can play a pivotal role in the health and quality of our lives.

Among the leading proponents of wilderness as good medicine is Richard Louv, author of the groundbreaking *Last Child in the Woods*. In his most recent book, *The Nature Principle*, Louv explores nature as essential for people to remain effective in a frenetic world. Louv cites studies on “continuous partial attention” that identify how digital habits can harm personal relationships and productivity.

Other research points toward solutions. Nature can enhance creativity, overcome mental fatigue, and restore personal focus. Wilderness excels in providing what researchers consider are key factors for health: places that “transport the person away from their day-to-day routine, provide a sense of fascination, allow exploration...”

These are compelling reasons to regard wilderness as imperative for future generations in a world where wilderness will be ever more important, ever more precious – for wildlife, for water, for people.



Dahlia, Willow, and Violet love to scramble over rocks and explore the outdoors. © Susan Shobe

“Arizona is fortunate to have four and a half million acres of designated wilderness, but that’s just four percent of the state’s land base,” explains Barbara Hawke, Executive Director of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. “Many ecologically sensitive and inspiring wilderness areas lack permanent protection. We need these wilderness havens more than ever.”

The Wilderness Act created “an enduring resource of wilderness,” but it’s up to each of us to ensure that wilderness endures.

Our lives depend on it.

LEARN MORE ABOUT AWC’S WORK TO PROTECT ARIZONA’S WILD PLACES AT AZWILD.ORG

ARIZONA WILDERNESS

CHECKLIST



WHITE CANYON WILDERNESS © ELIAS BUTLER

WITH PASSAGE OF THE WILDERNESS ACT IN 1964

the United States charted a course for conservation that was new to the rest of the world. The Wilderness Act defines “Wilderness” as areas where the Earth and its communities of life are left unchanged by people, where the primary forces of nature are in control, and where people themselves are visitors who do not remain. The Act established the National Wilderness Preservation System on federal public lands across America—a system in which individual wilderness units are proposed by citizens who want to protect the natural values that enhance their nearby communities, improve their quality of life, and teach their children about the unaltered natural world. Wilderness designations protect the wildest pieces of our public lands that still exist: special places that look, feel, and function as they may have 200 or more years ago. The Wilderness Act was the first of its kind, anywhere in the world, and today, other nations look to our system to build one of their own.



PUSCH RIDGE WILDERNESS © VANESSA DAVIS

THROUGHOUT 2014 THE NATION WILL CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT, A LANDMARK LAW THAT HAS HELPED PROTECT SOME OF AMERICA’S LAST GREAT WILD COUNTRY. IN ARIZONA THE ACT HAS CREATED A SPLENDID ARRAY OF 90 DIFFERENT WILDERNESS AREAS, FROM CRAGGY MOUNTAIN GEMS IN THE SONORAN DESERT, TO PLUNGING RED ROCK CANYONS, FORESTED PLATEAUS, AND LUSH RIPARIAN WATERWAYS OF THE COLORADO PLATEAU.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT ARIZONA PLAYS IN THE TAPESTRY OF OUR WILDERNESS SYSTEM, WE ARE EXCITED TO BUILD ON THE PLETHORA OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE NATIONAL CELEBRATION AND FOCUS ON OUR OWN BACKYARD. GO OUT & EXPLORE WHAT ARIZONA HAS TO OFFER!



AZWILD.ORG

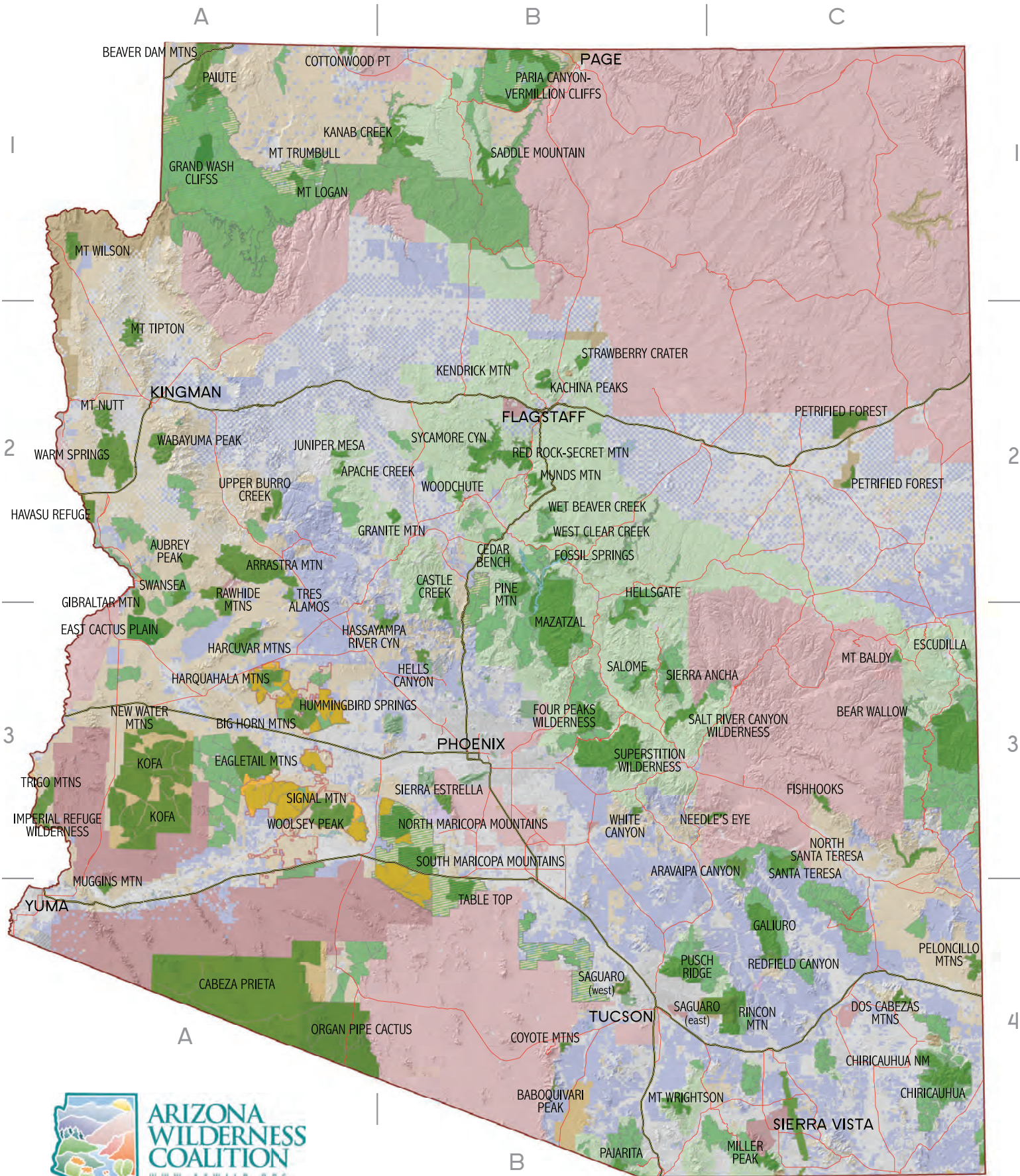


- ❑ **APACHE CREEK WILDERNESS (A2)**
5,666 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **ARAVAIPA CANYON WILDERNESS (B3)**
19,700 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **ARRASTRA MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS (A2)**
129,800 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **AUBREY PEAK WILDERNESS (A2)**
15,400 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **BABOQUIVARI PEAK WILDERNESS (B4)**
2,040 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **BEAR WALLOW WILDERNESS (C3)**
11,080 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **BEAVER DAM MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS (A1)**
18,667 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **BIG HORN MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS (A3)**
21,000 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **CABEZA PRIETA WILDERNESS (A4)**
803,418 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the FWS
- ❑ **CASTLE CREEK WILDERNESS (B2)**
25,215 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **CEDAR BENCH WILDERNESS (B2)**
14,950 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **CHIRICAHUA NAT'L MONUMENT WILDERNESS (C4)**
25,215 Acres • Established 1976 • Managed by the NPS
- ❑ **CHIRICAHUA WILDERNESS (C4)**
87,700 Acres • Established 1964 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **COTTONWOOD POINT WILDERNESS (A1)**
6,860 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **COYOTE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS (B4)**
5,100 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **DOS CABEZAS MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS (C4)**
11,700 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **EAGLETAIL MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS (A3)**
97,880 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **EAST CACTUS PLAIN WILDERNESS (A3)**
14,630 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **ESCUILLA WILDERNESS (C3)**
5,200 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **FISHHOOKS WILDERNESS (C3)**
10,500 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **FOSSIL SPRINGS WILDERNESS (B2)**
10,434 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **FOUR PEAKS WILDERNESS (B3)**
61,704 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **GALIURO WILDERNESS (C4)**
76,317 Acres • Established 1964 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **GIBRALTAR MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS (A3)**
18,790 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **GRAND WASH CLIFFS WILDERNESS (A1)**
37,030 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **GRANITE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS (B2)**
9,762 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **HARCUVAR MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS (A3)**
25,050 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **HARQUAHALA MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS (A3)**
22,880 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **HASSAYAMPA RIVER CANYON WILDERNESS (B3)**
12,300 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **HAVASU WILDERNESS (A2)**
17,801 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the FWS
- ❑ **HELLS CANYON WILDERNESS (B3)**
9,951 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **HELLSGATE WILDERNESS (B3)**
37,440 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **HUMMINGBIRD SPRINGS WILDERNESS (A3)**
31,200 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **IMPERIAL REFUGE WILDERNESS (A3)**
15,056 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the FWS
- ❑ **JUNIPER MESA WILDERNESS (A2)**
7,406 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **KACHINA PEAKS WILDERNESS (B2)**
18,616 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **KANAB CREEK WILDERNESS (B1)**
70,460 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the BLM & USFS
- ❑ **KENDRICK MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS (B2)**
6,510 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **KOFA WILDERNESS (A3)**
516,200 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the FWS
- ❑ **MAZATZAL WILDERNESS (B3)**
252,390 Acres • Established 1964 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **MILLER PEAK WILDERNESS (C4)**
20,228 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **MOUNT BALDY WILDERNESS (C3)**
7,079 Acres • Established 1970 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **MOUNT LOGAN WILDERNESS (A1)**
14,650 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **MOUNT NUTT WILDERNESS (A2)**
28,080 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **MOUNT TIPTON WILDERNESS (A2)**
31,380 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **MOUNT TRUMBULL WILDERNESS (A1)**
7,880 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the BLM

- ❑ **MOUNT WILSON WILDERNESS (A1)**
23,900 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **MT. WRIGHTSON WILDERNESS (B4)**
25,260 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **MUGGINS MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS (A4)**
7,711 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **MUNDS MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS (B2)**
24,411 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **NEEDLE'S EYE WILDERNESS (C3)**
8,760 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **NEW WATER MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS (A3)**
24,600 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **NORTH MARICOPA MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS (B3)**
63,200 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **NORTH SANTA TERESA WILDERNESS (C3)**
5,800 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **ORGAN PIPE CACTUS WILDERNESS (A4)**
312,600 Acres • Established 1978 • Managed by the NPS
- ❑ **PAIUTE WILDERNESS (A1)**
87,900 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **PAJARITA WILDERNESS (B4)**
7,553 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **PARIA CANYON-VERMILLION CLIFFS WILDERNESS (B1)**
110,816 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **PELONCILLO MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS (C4)**
19,440 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL WILDERNESS (C2)**
50,260 Acres • Established 1970 • Managed by the NPS
- ❑ **PINE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS (B2)**
2,061 Acres • Established 1972 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **PUSCH RIDGE WILDERNESS (B4)**
56,933 Acres • Established 1978 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **RAWHIDE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS (A3)**
38,470 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **RED ROCK-SECRET MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS (B2)**
47,194 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **REDFIELD CANYON WILDERNESS (C4)**
6,600 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **RINCON MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS (C4)**
38,590 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **SADDLE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS (B1)**
40,539 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **SAGUARO WILDERNESS (B4)**
70,905 Acres • Established 1976 • Managed by the NPS
- ❑ **SALOME WILDERNESS (B3)**
18,531 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **SALT RIVER CANYON WILDERNESS (B3)**
32,101 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **SANTA TERESA WILDERNESS (C3)**
26,780 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **SIERRA ANCHA WILDERNESS (B3)**
20,850 Acres • Established 1964 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **SIERRA ESTRELLA WILDERNESS (B3)**
14,400 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **SIGNAL MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS (A3)**
13,350 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **SOUTH MARICOPA MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS (B3)**
60,100 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **STRAWBERRY CRATER WILDERNESS (B2)**
10,743 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **SUPERSTITION WILDERNESS (B3)**
159,757 Acres • Established 1964 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **SWANSEA WILDERNESS (A2)**
16,400 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **SYCAMORE CANYON WILDERNESS (B2)**
55,937 Acres • Established 1972 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **TABLE TOP WILDERNESS (B4)**
34,400 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **TRES ALAMOS WILDERNESS (A3)**
8,300 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **TRIGO MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS (A3)**
30,300 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **UPPER BURRO CREEK WILDERNESS (A2)**
27,440 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **WABAYUMA PEAK WILDERNESS (A2)**
38,944 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **WARM SPRINGS WILDERNESS (A2)**
112,400 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **WEST CLEAR CREEK WILDERNESS (B2)**
15,238 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **WET BEAVER WILDERNESS (B2)**
6,155 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **WHITE CANYON WILDERNESS (B3)**
5,790 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM
- ❑ **WOODCHUTE WILDERNESS (B2)**
5,833 Acres • Established 1984 • Managed by the USFS
- ❑ **WOOLSEY PEAK WILDERNESS (A3)**
64,000 Acres • Established 1990 • Managed by the BLM

For additional information and interactive maps, visit

WILDERNESS.NET



**ARIZONA
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WWW.AZWILD.ORG

AZ WILDERNESS AREAS 90
AZ WILDERNESS ACRES 4,528,913 ACRES
LARGEST WILDERNESS AREA CABEZA PRIETA WILDERNESS
SMALLEST WILDERNESS AREA BABOQUIVARI WILDERNESS

AZWILD50TH.ORG

AZWILD.ORG



WILDERNESS CHAMPIONS

MEXICAN POPPIES © AWC

These noteworthy wilderness advocates have provided exceptional support for Arizona wilderness through their contributions to AWC. We asked them to share their favorite wilderness areas with us.



TOOLBOX DRAW, ESCUDILLA WILDERNESS © TOM HOLLENDER

ESCUDILLA WILDERNESS Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest

What I most love about Arizona's wilderness is the ridiculous diversity – from the high-elevation alpine environment in the Kachina Peaks to the stark lowlands of the Cabeza Prieta and Kofa in the arid southwest, and so much more...

If I had to pick a favorite, it's Escudilla. How can you not be in awe of the mountain Aldo Leopold described in his powerful "Thinking Like a Mountain" essay? As Leopold shows us, wilderness experiences put us in touch with ourselves and often cause us to question our assumptions and to grow in our outlook. We are fortunate indeed that this area is protected.

Luther Propst, Tucson



MOUNTAIN LION, WOODCHUTE WILDERNESS © DOUG HULMES

WOODCHUTE WILDERNESS Prescott National Forest

My exhilarating and life-changing encounter with a mountain lion in this small wilderness area overlooking the Verde Valley makes this top of my list of wilderness. And when I told my lion story to Congress, it helped win permanent protection for this treasure.

Doug Hulmes, Prescott



SYCAMORE CANYON WILDERNESS © ELIAS BUTLER

SYCAMORE CANYON WILDERNESS Coconino, Kaibab, and Prescott National Forests

It's Arizona's second largest canyon, and the beauty is stunning – red rocks and sycamore, walnut and cottonwood trees. And with Sycamore Creek coursing through it, feeding into the upper Verde River, there's more of a chance to see wildlife or their tracks. There's always something new to discover in wilderness, something to marvel over. I never want to stop marveling.

Jeri Edwards, Prescott

ARIZONA'S WILDERNESS LEGACY

SUPERSTITION WILDERNESS © ELIAS BUTLER

Don Hoffman, AWC Board Director

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964, I can't help but reflect on the key role the Arizona Wilderness Coalition (AWC) has played in providing enduring protection to Arizona's wildest places.



The 1964 Wilderness Act designated Arizona's signature Chiricahua, Superstition, Sierra Ancha and Mazatzal Wilderness Areas. But equally important, the Act provided for a process by which citizens and Congress would designate additions to the Wilderness Preservation System.

In the late 1970's the U.S. Forest Service undertook an inventory of its roadless lands and evaluated their wilderness qualities. Arizona Wilderness Coalition was quickly formed specifically to participate in this process and to advocate for the permanent protection of these lands. AWC volunteers "adopted" individual roadless units, got out on the ground to conduct our own citizen inventories, and worked with agencies and other stakeholders to resolve issues. We published our statewide citizen proposal which became a significant force in the public debate.

We were fortunate to have Arizonan wilderness champions in Rep. Morris Udall and Sen. Barry Goldwater. With our persistent advocacy they passed the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984 which successfully designated approximately 1.5 million acres of new wilderness, mostly on national forests. Congressman Udall insisted on including a segment of the Verde River as our first Wild and Scenic River in Arizona specifically to set a placeholder for future advocacy.

In the 1980s BLM and US Fish and Wildlife Service initiated similar processes and again AWC sprang to action to advocate for wilderness legislation. This time Rep. Udall teamed up with then Rep. John McCain and Sen. Dennis DeConcini to pass

the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 which designated an additional 2.5 million acres of Wilderness in Arizona.

As a result of this work by AWC we now have 90 wilderness areas in Arizona protecting 4.5 million acres in perpetuity - this is our legacy! Of course we haven't protected everything that we advocate for, but we adhere to a holistic strategy to achieve that end.



DON HOFFMAN
AWC Board Director,
founding member and first
executive director of AWC.

We continue to maintain a statewide inventory of citizen wilderness proposals that would protect an additional 6 million acres, all eligible and worthy of wilderness protection and essential to satisfy the ecological and human needs of our fast growing state.

AWC is also currently working on two separate wilderness-related legislative campaigns. In 2006 we successfully supported legislation that designated Fossil Creek as our second Wild and Scenic River in Arizona.

Additionally, we engage in agency planning processes to establish administrative wilderness protections and to steer ill-conceived development away from wild places and toward more suitable locations.

Finally we help agencies manage our cherished wildlands and provide opportunities for our members to get out and volunteer as wilderness stewards.

As an early wilderness adopter for AWC in the 1970s, its first Executive Director and now as AWC's Board President, I take more pride in the mission, accomplishments and relationships associated with AWC than any other professional pursuit in my lifetime.

REMEMBER AWC IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING



It's up to each of us to ensure that wilderness endures. You can leave a lasting legacy of wilderness protection and restoration by remembering the Arizona Wilderness Coalition in your estate planning or by designating AWC as a beneficiary for retirement funds. Many folks appreciate that they can first provide for their family, then leave a remaining portion of an estate to AWC.

Establishment of a legacy gift would be a remarkable way to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Please call Barbara Hawke at (520) 326-4300 for additional information on legacy giving.



DOING THE RIGHT THING FOR WILDERNESS

RINCON MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS

Moving beyond confrontation in the spirit of collaboration for conservation goals

During her 30-year career, Trica Oshant-Hawkins has seen a lot of change in conservation approaches. One of the most positive: *The move from confrontation to collaboration.*

Trica, co-founder of the Environmental Education Exchange, is a member of AWC's Board. She represents AWC on the Bighorn Advisory Committee, reintroducing Bighorn sheep to the Santa Catalina Mountains. Establishing new populations of bighorns throughout the state has been essential to the species' survival.

Trica has seen progress in how state agencies approach collaboration, a trend evident nationwide. She wants to see AWC involved in more such efforts. "AWC's Board and staff have backgrounds rooted in science with years of experience in policy, education and resource management," she notes. "AWC has the expertise and the constituency to contribute to policy decisions and to build the trust so essential for collaboration."

"After all, at the end of the day it's about doing the right thing for wilderness."



TRICA OSHANT-HAWKINS
AWC Board Member
and co-founder of the
Environmental Education
Exchange, Tucson.

SECURING THE FUTURE OF WILDERNESS

Become a Wilderness Sustainer

Just as wilderness sustains life, your monthly gift sustains our work to protect Arizona wilderness.

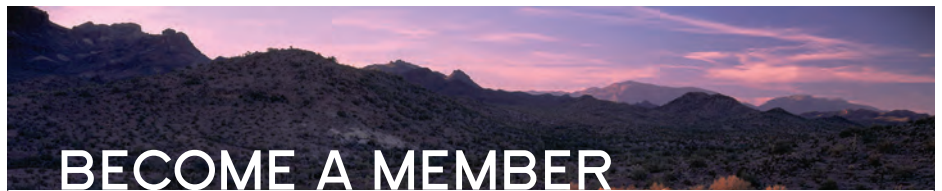
Michael Quinlan of Tempe is an AWC Wilderness Sustainer who has signed up for automatic monthly giving. "AWC has been protecting Arizona wilderness for thirty-five years. I give monthly so that AWC will have a stable source of funding to complete their work and to launch innovative new ventures such as Wild Stew."



MICHAEL QUINLAN
AWC Board Member
and Associate Professor,
Midwestern University.

Monthly giving is easy, and you can become a monthly donor for as little as \$5 a month. If you're already a monthly donor, thank you! If you'd like to become a monthly donor, simply fill out the "Become

a Member" form, or contact Susan Shobe, susan@azwild.org or (520) 326-4300.



BECOME A MEMBER

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Wilderness Sustainer

I would like to make a recurring, monthly gift.

\$ 10 \$ 20 Other _____

Annual Membership

I would like to make a one-time gift.

\$500 \$250 \$100
 \$ 50 \$ 35 Other _____

Check Enclosed *make payable to "Arizona Wilderness Coalition"*

Credit Card

Card # _____ Expiration _____

Name _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____ The Security Code is the 3-digit number on the back of your credit card.

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PO Box 40340 · Tucson AZ 85717
(520) 326-4300

WILDERNESS 50TH EVENTS

In addition to AWC's Wild Stew trips, check out these fantastic Wilderness 50th events already planned for this year around the state!

June 28th

Arizona Highways Hike: Bell Trail

Wet Beaver Wilderness, Coconino National Forest

August 23rd

Arizona Highways Hike: Humphrey's Peak Trail

Kachina Peaks Wilderness, Coconino National Forest

November 8th

Wild for Wilderness Festival Sabino Canyon, Tucson



VISIT AZWILD50TH.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER.

Groups throughout the state are planning events, so check back regularly to see what's been added. And, if you know of other Wilderness 50th events being planned in Arizona, please encourage groups to let us know so we can help spread the word. Thanks!

SUPERSTITION WILDERNESS ◦ AWC



2014 JEEP CHEROKEE RAFFLE Help AWC Raise \$5,000!

We all know that AWC stands for wilderness stewardship, and always the responsible use of vehicles in appropriate places...but something's got to get you out of the city!

A 2014 Jeep Cherokee has been donated by the Jim Click Automotive Team to local non-profits for this raffle event. The best part is that 100% of your ticket goes to support AWC's work!

Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100. Purchase online, by phone (520) 326-4300, or email susan@azwild.org

AZWILD.ORG

Drawing will be held November 13, 2014.
Additional details available online.

