Arizona Wildlife News

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Cover:

Photo by: George Andrejko, Arizona Game and Fish Dept.

Mountain Lions are currently at center of a controversy on what constitutes proper predator control.
President’s Message

by Mike Perkinson

Another year has passed by already, and I hope everyone had a great holiday season and a successful hunting season. 2002 was an eventful year, but most of the events we could have done without: horrendous wildfires, another year of drought, a state budget crisis, and other events that impact wildlife as well as humans.

Despite such unhappy events, the AWF continued working hard to improve wildlife habitat and thereby enhance our outdoor experiences. We are still fighting for pronghorn and other wildlife on Anderson Mesa. We were part of the Quail Symposium. We raised money to aid in habitat recovery from the Rodeo-Chediski fire. We interviewed three gubernatorial candidates. We put on two successful Becoming-an-Outdoor-Woman (BOW) events. We hosted habitat work projects, put on an annual convention, supported kid’s fishing day, attended countless meetings, wrote numerous email and snail-mail letters, made hundreds of phone calls to various agencies, increased the number of affiliates and added individual memberships.

We have renewed our association with Mutual of Omaha that allows AWF members to purchase insurance at discounted rates. I have probably left out more than a couple of items but the point is the AWF continues working hard for wildlife and wildlife habitat.

I want to thank all the people, especially the volunteers, who helped us with our various projects. Thanks also to the board members and other AWF members who participate on a regular basis, giving of their time, labor, and money. Thank you all for another year of hard work! And special thanks to a non-profit organization, Light Hawk, for donating the use of a plane and pilot for an aerial survey of Anderson Mesa.

And finally words are inadequate to express our appreciation and thanks for the extremely generous bequest we received from the late Frank Murphy and his estate. Frank was a long time member and strong supporter of the AWF who will not soon be forgotten by the AWF for his interest and dedication to Arizona’s wildlife and other natural resources—and for his generosity. His financial contribution will make it possible to pursue many programs that would have been equally of interest to Frank himself, but would have been difficult to accomplish with the AWF’s typically limited financial resources.

This year will be equally challenging. There is much to do and we are counting on all AWF members for their continued support, particularly with our habitat projects. Habitat condition is a major issue in Arizona and elsewhere in the West. All wildlife needs quality habitat. Without it wildlife suffers and may vanish from the scene. Without it our children may not be able to see and appreciate the wonderful variety of animals we have in Arizona. For the same reason, degraded habitat will mean little for hunters to hunt and anglers little to fish.

Last week’s Fishing Day for women at Scottsdale’s Chaparral Park, an event partnered with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, was a big success. This event gave mothers and their daughters (and sons) an opportunity to learn basic fishing techniques without having to travel far from home.

The next BOW workshop will in April, and the AWF convention will be here before we know it. It’s not too early to start thinking about nominations and resolutions. We are working on some very special events for this year’s convention, the eightyieth anniversary of our organization. We expect that attendance will be much higher than in recent years.

Thanks again for your continued support and have a great, and busy, 2003.

Mike Perkinson, President.

Capturing the Wild:
Art that Celebrates the 100th Anniversary of National Wildlife Refuges in Arizona

Presented by the Sky Harbor Art Program, Capturing the Wild showcases Arizona’s National Wildlife Refuges by exhibiting realistic contemporary fine art by over thirty artists that illustrates the landscape features, wildlife and flora that is protected within each refuge.

The nine National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) in the state of Arizona protect some of the most varied wildlife and spectacular landscapes found anywhere in the world. From subtropical shrub ecosystems to saguaro-studded deserts—all are filled with an unparalleled richness and abundance of life.

In 1903 President Theodore Roosevelt set aside a tiny island off the east coast of Florida for the protection of pelicans and other species from market hunters. From that humble beginning arose the world’s largest and most diverse network of lands dedicated to the protection and management of a vast array of wildlife. America’s National Wildlife Refuge System now encompasses over 94 million acres on 538 refuges and thousands of waterfowl production areas. Arizona’s refuges are Bill Williams River, Buenos Aires, Cabeza Prieta, Cibola, Havasu, Imperial, Kofa, San Bernardino and Leslie Canyon. Learn about each refuge in Capturing the Wild.

For more information about this and other airport exhibits, ask Information Booth personnel, or contact the Sky Harbor Art Program, 602/273-8863, or www.phxskyharbor.com.

Editors Note:
This showcase features two of the Raptors of Arizona, the Harris Hawk and the Caracara, by world renowned artist Richard Sloan. Sloan painted 42 different raptors that sometimes inhabit Arizona. Some are rare and only in certain regions of the state. Others are distributed over almost the entire state. Each represented in its natural Arizona habitat. Prints of any of the artworks are available through the Arizona Wildlife Federation. email: RaptorArt@azwildlife.org.
Science without Humanity: The Mt. Graham Telescope Project

By Bob Witzeman

The University of Minnesota (UofM) is currently considering joining the foundering University of Arizona (UofA) telescope project on Mt. Graham in Arizona. This project not only desecrates a profoundly sacred Apache mountain but also threatens an American ecological treasure.

Mt. Graham this April was designated by the U.S. Department of Interior as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as an Apache traditional cultural property of religious importance. Think of it as a Mt. Sinai, Mt. Ararat or Mount of Olives.

Nearly every U.S. Native American and environmental organization has urged the University of Minnesota not to join the project. A unanimous National Congress of American Indians, representing virtually every U.S. tribe, passed a resolution imploring UofM to go elsewhere.

Approval of this project would make a mockery of the recommendations against joining made by the UofM Faculty Senate’s Advisory Committee and the UofM American Indian Advisory Board. The Faculty Senate report stated: “On ethical, material, political and cultural grounds, we cannot afford to join the MGIO project.”

The UofM American Indian Board wrote to President Yudof:…the Advisory Board has researched the Mt. Graham issue looking at the cultural, religious, social, political and scientific aspects and we firmly believe that the University should not participate in this endeavor.”

Repeated San Carlos Apache and White Mountain Apache Tribal Council resolutions over the past twelve years have opposed the project. Several declared the project “...a display of profound disrespect for a cherished feature of our original homeland as well as a serious violation of our traditional religious beliefs.” The United Nations High Commission on Human Rights cites the Mt. Graham observatory as a prime example of religious intolerance by government in the United States.

UofA has unsuccessfully sought partners to complete funding on their binocular telescope project for the past 15 years. During that time, over forty U.S. universities have reviewed, studied, and rejected the project. Thus far, only Notre Dame and Ohio State have joined.

Reasons for the rejections included: bad science, bad economics, bad viewing weather, very bad visibility, and an egregious environmental and cultural affront that would bring shame and dishonor to any university participating. It is currently an empty observatory building waiting for parts.

Mt. Graham has more separate biotic communities than any other isolated North American mountain. It possesses the southernmost spruce-fir or boreal or “Hudsonian” forest in N. America. The tiny, virgin, boreal forest on its summit is a Galapagos-like “sky island” cradle of evolution surrounded by a “sea” of Arizona desert. Here more than 18 plants and animals found nowhere else in the world have evolved.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated that the project would destroy 10% of the “best” habitat of the endangered Mt. Graham red squirrel in its “cradle of evolution” boreal forest. UofA says that if they are ever able to obtain funding partners to complete their Large Binocular Telescope project, they will build four more telescopes. This means more pain and suffering to the Apache, as well as, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, destruction of a total of 22% of that critical boreal forest cradle of evolution.

UofA lawyers have declared in court that even if the project “was going to kill every squirrel nothing could be done about it.” UA spent millions and sneaked a rider through Congress in 1988 without any hearings or public debate. They have argued in court that their rider maneuver exempts them from all U.S. Native American cultural and religious protection laws as well as all U.S. environmental laws.

Other new telescope options continuously become available. Dartmouth, Wisconsin, Florida, and Carnegie-Mellon spurned Mt. Graham and recently joined the huge 10.4-meter Canary Island telescope and/or the 9.1-meter Southern African Large Telescope (SALT). Harvard, MIT and Michigan likewise rejected Mt. Graham for two massive 6-meter telescopes in Chile. A $3,000,000 partnership is still open in SALT. Mr. Hubbard, the UofM benefactor who is offering the university $5,000,000 to purchase seven viewing nights on the Mt. Graham Large Binocular Telescope, should instead invest in SALT. The remaining $2,000,000 could be used to purchase viewing time on any of a number of major telescopes worldwide.

This July Germany’s Max Planck Radio Astronomy Institute refused to renew their Mt. Graham radio telescope contract with UofA. They relocated elsewhere. They said: “We were handicapped because the Quality of the weather was not first class...We would like to cooperate in projects with more efficient telescopes.”

UofA’s own studies, obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, revealed that the visibility at the Large Binocular Telescope site would be between “unacceptable” and “marginal.” On a ranking of one-to-eight, with “one” as worst, it approached a “one.”

The M.K. Gandhi Institute for Non-Violence advises that eight fundamental “blunders” cause all of the violence in the world. Mt. Graham telescope participants are guilty of at least four:

- Knowledge without character.
- Commerce without morality.
- Politics without principles.
- Science without humanity.

Wild Beasts and birds are by right not the property merely of the People who are alive today, but the property of unborn generations whose belongings we have no right to squander (President Theodore Roosevelt).
Craig Springer, U.S. F.W.S.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has made historic progress in restoring the endangered Gila trout. The highly coordinated effort involved the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and the Gila National Forest.

Using pack mules to penetrate the wilderness in early November, biologists planted 1,500 fingerling Gila trout into Black Canyon, a headwater stream of the East Fork Gila River, and into Little Creek, a tributary to the Gila River near the Cliff Dwellings National Monument.

A helicopter delivered 1,500 fingerling Gila trout to White Creek, a tributary to the West Fork Gila River, deep in the wilderness after meeting NEPA compliance. Forest Service personnel, after making a long, difficult horseback ride in, waited for the fish to be delivered on a long line.

All 4,500 young fish were the offspring of wild Gila trout spawned at the Service’s Mora Fish Technology Center in northeast New Mexico. The Mora facility maintains a brood stock of two of the four known distinct lineages of Gila trout.

Biologists took 116 wild adult Gila trout from South Diamond Creek to create a third brood stock at the Fish Technology Center.

These stockings were the last of three such efforts in each stream. The purpose of stocking fish three separate times is to create populations of Gila trout made up of a variety of different ages, like what occurs naturally. Prior to this third stocking, biologists examined the stream populations and determined that adults and naturally spawned young Gila trout were present, a strong indication that previous stockings succeeded.

The Gila trout has been closed to fishing since 1956; this recent effort is part of a larger plan to move the trout from ‘endangered’ to ‘threatened,’ and eventual removal from the endangered species list. A ‘threatened’ designation would open the door to sport fishing.

“We’re chipping away at improving this trout’s conservation status,” said USFWS fish biologist, Jim Brooks, stationed in Albuquerque. “It’s rewarding to see those big copper-colored Gila trout swimming in the streams. It’s taken a lot of time, coordination, and innovation to get the job done.”

Part of that innovation was employed last week with panniers, metal boxes slung over the sides of mules, modified with insulation and injected oxygen. These high-tech panniers, developed at Alchesay-Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery, Whiteriver, AZ, can effectively deliver about six times more fish than the unmodified panniers, saving time and taxpayer dollars.

Ten years ago, the Gila trout survived in about 25 miles of streams. Today they live in over 60 miles of stream.
Primer: Managing Bark Beetle Outbreaks in Ponderosa Pine Forests in Arizona

Brian Nowicki
Center for Biological Diversity

Bark beetles in Arizona  There are many species of beetles that infest ponderosa pines in the Southwest; all of the species are native, and all have historically played important ecological roles as natural thinning agents. However, the western pine beetle2 and the Arizona five-spined ips3 are responsible for the most severe outbreaks in Arizona, capable of killing large proportions of trees in a stand. These species attack live trees, unlike wood borer beetles and secondary beetles that infest only dead or dying trees.

Bark beetle infestation  The western pine beetle generally attacks trees larger than 6 inches in diameter, and the Arizona five-spined ips generally attacks trees larger than 4 inches in diameter, although either may attack trees of any size adjacent to a severely infested tree. These species usually kill trees weakened by water stress or lightning, fire, or mechanical injury. Infestation can be identified by the presence of pitch tubes (sticky yellow-white pitch at the entrance holes) and boring dust (wood dust at the entrance hole and at the base of the tree), as well as browning or dead needles along all branches or at the top of the tree.

Tree mortality  Bark beetles cause mortality in ponderosa pine trees in a variety of ways. These species produce 2-4 generations per year, primarily from April to August; they deposit eggs beneath the bark of the tree, and the growing larvae consume the phloem, effectively girdling the tree. When initially entering the tree, the adults inoculate the tree with blue-stain fungus which infects and closes the phloem, also effectively girdling the tree. Furthermore, bark beetle infestation weakens the tree, making it more susceptible to other infestations and infections that can kill the tree.

Outbreaks  The success of a bark beetle attack, and the severity of an outbreak can be greatly affected by the health of the trees. If the trees are healthy, they may be able to “pitch out” the attacking beetles, effectively “drowning” them in “sap”. If the trees are unhealthy or severely drought stressed, the phloem will be minimal; the beetle larvae will have a minimal food source, and a much smaller generation will survive. Attacks are most successful in stands with generally healthy but stressed trees. There are three major factors that contribute to the severity of the current bark beetle outbreaks: there has been a drought throughout the Southwest for the past several years; high stand densities have lead to high levels of competition for water; and many trees are generally unhealthy due to prolonged drought and stress.4

Thinning to prevent infestation  Forest thinning can increase the resistance to bark beetle attack only by decreasing the competition for water within the stand.2 This can increase the vigor of the remaining trees, making them more able to pitch out attacking beetles. To be effective, thinning treatments must significantly reduce water stress, which is unlikely during severe drought. Also, mechanical thinning treatments can compact soil and roots (leading to greater water stress) and stress trees through damage from logging operations, making trees more susceptible to bark beetle attack.5

Thinning can cause outbreaks  Thinning treatments can produce severe bark beetle outbreaks by creating a vast amount of logs, slash, and stumps, which are an ideal food source and breeding ground for bark beetles. Bark beetles can proliferate in the slash and then spread to the standing trees; creating large amounts of slash, or creating slash in adjacent areas over successive years, greatly increase the likelihood of a bark beetle outbreak.3 To reduce the threat caused by thinning treatments, all slash must be treated on site to reduce the suitability for bark beetles. Thinning should occur in early fall in order to allow maximum time for the wood to dry before the next generation of bark beetles emerges in the spring and all slash should be bucked into short sections or chipped to accelerate drying.5

Logging can spread infestation  Logging and firewood removal can spread bark beetle infestation by transporting infested wood to new forests; logging operations following bark beetle outbreaks can pose an extreme hazard to other forest areas. The only way to reduce the risk of spreading bark beetle infestation is to peel all logs before removing them from site. In order to reduce the outbreak hazard caused by the logging slash, the bark from all logs and slash must be peeled and burned or chemically treated; alternatively, all slash can be piled and covered with plastic sheeting and stored in the sun for an extended period of time.5

Managing the forest to control bark beetles  For the most part, once a bark beetle outbreak has begun, it is too late to thin the forest to increase tree vigor; creating logging slash will provide more food and habitat for the bark beetles, and compacting roots and soil with logging machinery will further stress the trees. Therefore, effective bark beetle management increases the health of the forest before a bark beetle outbreak begins, by maintaining healthy trees over a large area in a diversity of ages and sizes.6 Any thinning projects to increase the resilience of the forest to bark beetle attack must remove the majority of stressed trees and all slash within a very large area.7 Because bark beetles are capable of flying 3 to 6 miles in search of hosts, effective forest thinning must be implemented on this same spatial scale over only one or two years. Very often, this is prohibitively expensive and prone to failure due to the vast amount of stressed trees that must be treated in such a short amount of time.2

Post-fire salvage logging  Trees that survive fire may be extremely weakened, making them highly susceptible to bark beetle attack. However, mechanical thinning operations can severely exacerbate the situation by compacting the soil and roots and leaving large amounts of slash surrounding susceptible trees, as well as leaving a large number of fire-killed trees unmerchantable trees large enough to host bark beetles. Furthermore, post-fire
thinning could further accelerate the spruce beetle outbreak by rendering habitat unsuitable for woodpeckers, which are an important natural control on bark beetle populations. Trees killed by fire are not necessarily good hosts for western pine beetle because the phloem may be severely cooked, making it unsuitable for bark beetles; these fire-killed trees may instead become infested with wood-borers and secondary beetles that do not kill live trees in outbreaks.

**Near houses and campgrounds** Relatively small areas near houses and campgrounds can safely be thinned to increase tree vigor and decrease susceptibility to bark beetle attack, because slash and debris can be effectively treated on that limited scale. Also, some trees near campgrounds and houses can be treated with insecticide (carbaryl) to prevent bark beetle attack. However, this is prohibitively expensive to implement at the forest level where it would kill large numbers of desirable native insect and aquatic populations. Lastly, gathering firewood for home use from areas infested with bark beetles has an extremely high risk of importing the infestation to the home.

Gun Buying Tips For Women

Arizona Game & Fish Department’s Wildlife News - Dec. 15, 2002

Women are increasingly interested in shooting – for safety, sport, hunting and competition – but many guns are designed for men. So, how do you go about finding the perfect firearm for a woman? The Arizona Game and Fish Department’s Ben Avery Shooting Facility has some tips.

“One of the things we stress to anyone buying a firearm is that they pick it up and handle it in the store,” says Don Turner, Ben Avery Shooting Facility chief rangemaster. “You need to select a firearm that fits you – one that you’re comfortable with and can handle well. Remember, the salesperson may not be as knowledgeable as you are.”

Another important factor when selecting a firearm is what you will be using it for. For instance there are many different types of competition pistols – and these pistols are different from the type of firearm used to hunt.

Turner also suggests that women attend the Annie Oakley Sure Shots program at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility. This unique program allows women to get comfortable with firearms and to try out several different types. The following checklist is compiled from expert information and is designed to provide helpful tips for first-time lady gun buyers who are interested in recreational shooting.

When it comes to ammunition, there are a number of factors to consider. Turner says, “Ammunition is offered in as many varieties as there are firearms--and different ammunition is designed for different purposes.”

He says that what often makes this area even more confusing to new gun users is the technical terminology. “For recreational shooting, we advise that you purchase practice-type ammunition for general use.”

He adds an additional word of warning to be careful because “target” ammunition is specially designed for maximum accuracy and thus it can be very expensive. “Generally, if you are shooting a .22-caliber rifle or pistol, we recommend you purchase .22 long rifle ammunition as standard velocity,” he says.

If all you can find is “high” velocity ammunition that is fine. However, you don’t need super velocity, stinger, hornet, or other .22 long rifle ammunition marketed for higher velocities.

The Annie Oakley Sure Shots women’s shooting program meets every Thursday night from 7 to 9 p.m. Women from all experience levels are welcome – from those who have never touched a firearm to expert shooters. You are free to come-and-go as you please, so if you have to leave before 9 p.m. or if you cannot get there before 8 p.m., you are still welcome. For information on this program or on the Ben Avery Shooting Facility, call (623) 582-8313 or visit their Web site: basfaz.com.

PISTOLS/SEMI-AUTOMATIC

- All Models: .22-caliber long rifle, blue or stainless steel finish (more expensive), adjustable sights, 5.5-inch barrel, and three magazines.
- RUGER
  - TARGET MODEL P-512 22/45
  - RUGER MARK II 22/45
- BROWNING
  - BUCK MARK STANDARD
  - SUPERMATIC CITATION
- SMITH & WESSON
  - MODEL 41
  - MODEL 22A SPORT

PISTOLS/REVOLVER

- SMITH & WESSON
  - Model 617
  - .22-caliber long rifle
  - Six-inch barrel
  - Satin stainless finish
  - Model 66
  - .38-caliber S+W Special/.357-caliber
- REVOLVER
  - ANSCHUTZ
    - Model 1903
    - Model 1451 R Sport Target
  - MARLIN
    - Model 2000L
  - SAVAGE
    - Mark I-G Single Shot

SHOTGUNS

- REMINGTON
  - Model 870 Wingmaster
  - Model 870 Express “Youth” Gun
- WINCHESTER
  - Model 1300 Ranger Ladies/Youth
- 20-gauge, pump action, ventilated rib, with a changeable choke.

Note: all shotguns should have stock checked for proper “fit” and shortened if necessary to fit the shooter.
The Arizona Game and Fish Department conducted two bighorn sheep capture/transplant operations last November.

Brian Wakeling, Arizona Game and Fish Department Big Game Management Supervisor, advised that the Rocky Mountain Sheep capture and transplant in eastern Arizona was significant. Although Rocky Mountain sheep have been transplanted into various Arizona locations since 1979, the sheep have always come from out-of-state sources. This was Arizona’s first, in-state capture and relocation of this bighorn subspecies.

In 1979 the department transplanted 8 sheep from Rocky Mountain National Park into Bush Creek near Blue River in Unit 27. In 1980 they released 12 more from that same source into the same area. The next release was not until 1994, when 21 sheep were released at the Blue Administrative Site. Those sheep had been captured near Colorado Springs, Colorado, the same source that an additional 27 animals were from that were turned out on the Triple X Ranch in 1995. That was the last effort until this year.

In late November Arizona Game and Fish Biologists captured 24 Rocky Mountain Sheep in the lower Eagle Creek drainage, and 2 additional animals in the vicinity of the Phelps-Dodge Mine, outside of Morenci. The sheep in the mine area have become habituated to people and are causing traffic problems along Highway 191. “Ten animals from this herd have been killed by mine trucks or other vehicles in the last year,” Wakeling said.

The captured sheep were transported to the Bear Canyon area south of Alpine. “Sheep in the mine area as capture efforts began, the effort was extremely difficult for the teams in the mine trying to net-gun from the back of pickup trucks. This because of the location of the sheep and lack of access to them.”

Photos by George Andreko
Bighorns crossing State Highway 191 near Morenci.

Ewe leaps from the transport trailer to freedom the morning after the capture.

Cont’d on page 22 - “Rocky Mountain”
The Arizona Wildlife Federation is making plans for its 80th Annual Convention and, in keeping with our theme, we are planning activities that focus on our obligation to preserve the future of Arizona’s wildlife and wildlife habitats. As the Federation celebrates its 80th year providing a voice for Arizona’s sportsmen and outdoors enthusiasts, the activities planned will include business meetings, awards presentations, panel discussions and a fundraising banquet with auction. This event will take place in Tempe, Arizona at the Fiesta Inn on Saturday, May 30th, 2003. Visit www.azwildlife.org for more information.

Call for Awards Nominees

Thomas E. McCullough Awards
The Thomas E. McCullough Memorial Award (McCullough Award) is the most prestigious award given by the Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF). Usually the award is presented at our annual convention banquet to two people, one to the “Outstanding Conservationist of the Year” in the professional category and one to the “Outstanding Conservationist of the Year” in the non-professional category. The professional category focuses on nominees who work in the field of wildlife biology, natural resources, or other areas involved in the welfare of Arizona’s wildlife and natural resources and have contributed above and beyond their normal duties to the promotion of conservation of wildlife and natural resources in Arizona. The non-professional category focuses on nominees who work as volunteers in the conservation of wildlife and natural resources and have made outstanding contributions in time, effort, projects, etc. on a voluntary basis. We are also soliciting nominations for the associate/affiliate club of the year. This category honors an AWF affiliate organization for their outstanding work in support of the AWF’s goals toward improving management of our wildlife and their habitats. Nominees for the McCullough Awards may be submitted by members of any club, agency, organization or individual. Deadline for submissions is April 10, 2003. Call AWF office (480-644-0077) or go to awf@azwildlife.org for additional details.

Nominees To Be Judged For The Following Categories

Thomas E. McCullough Memorial Award: Professional
For the most outstanding overall effort and achievement, or most significant, contribution to the cause of a major conservation problem in the state during the period by a professional individual acting within the capacity of their respective career field. This effort can be in any field of natural resource management, including enhancement and preservation of natural beauty, etc. The individual may also be nominated in a more specific category.

The Thomas E. McCullough -- Memorial Award Non-professional
For the most significant contribution to the cause of a major conservation problem during the period, or for a lifetime of conservation efforts in the state by a non-professional. This effort can be in any field of natural resource conservation, including enhancement and preservation of natural beauty, fish, wildlife, habitat, etc. The individual may also be nominated in a more specific category.

Outstanding Associate / Affiliate Club
For the outstanding contribution to the conservation effort by an organization in the state during the period. State-wide or local bona fide organizations including but not limited to garden clubs, civic organizations, women’s clubs, fishing clubs, shooting/hunting clubs, biking clubs, etc. are eligible. Recipients should have demonstrated keen interest on projects and programs within the state which deal with basic and serious natural resource problems and have evolved an action program stemming from that interest. Industrial films are also eligible for this award. Competition will be limited to these categories. Each winner must be truly deserving of recognition and if there are no outstanding nominees in a category an award will not be given.

AWF Lifetime Achievement Award
This award was conceived and presented for the first time at the AWF’s 1999 Annual Convention. Unlike the prestigious McCullough Award, which represents achievements in the broad conservation arena, the Lifetime Achievement was intended to honor individuals who had worked extraordinarily hard helping the AWF achieve its conservation mission. Criteria for the Lifetime Achievement Award:

A candidate must be a member of the Arizona Wildlife Federation, or the Arizona Wildlife Foundation, or must have been a member of these organizations during some period of time. This award may be awarded annually to a deserving individual who meets
the criteria for the award. Under unusual circumstances, the AWF board may present the award to more than one person. This award may be awarded post-humously for achievements meeting the established criteria for the time period under consideration. Candidates shall be evaluated for their contributions as members of the Board of Directors, as Arizona Wildlife Foundation Trustees, as elected or appointed officers of the Federation or the Foundation, or as an individual functioning as a committee of one representing the AWF on issues or projects sanctioned by the Federation. Candidates shall be evaluated on the basis of their overall efforts for the AWF and for the cause of conservation in general. It is expected that candidates who have performed “above and beyond” in terms of effort and dedication will typically be the recipients of this award. Years of service and membership alone is unlikely to qualify an individual for this award. Candidates for the Lifetime Achievement Award may be nominated by any current or past AWF member or by any Affiliate or Associate Club.

Nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Award may be submitted to the AWF office at any time but will be considered in the time frame provided in the by-laws for awards selection.

Official Nomination Submissions Nominations must contain:

AWARD CATEGORY — Please specify the nominating category. (Use a separate package for each nomination)
NAME OF NOMINEE — Their complete address and phone number
RECOMMENDED BY — Name of person nominating, their phone number and complete address.
NAME OF CLUB or ORGANIZATION — Nominating and the date.
PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS — The official nomination must contain the above information and a resume of achievements must be provided. Please make sure this information is legible. Full documentation on each nominee is required but should not exceed three typed pages detailing specific items on which the recommendation is based. Include such other information as past recognition, organization memberships, affiliation, past achievements, etc., as you may feel is pertinent. Where a company, organization, publication, etc., is nominated, provide the name of the president, chief executive officer, sponsor, editor, etc.

Call for Resolutions

Who can submit resolutions? Any club, organization or association affiliated with the Arizona Wildlife Federation; Arizona Wildlife Federation; Sponsor, Member, or Director; the Arizona Wildlife Federation Board of Directors; the Arizona Wildlife Federation Executive Committee.

RESOLUTIONS

To express the consensus of the AWF on issues and matters of concern to the AWF, proposed resolutions may be submitted and shall be acted upon by the delegates at the annual convention in the following manner:

Any full or Associate-Affiliate or Active Member, including the Board of Directors or Executive Committee, of the AWF may submit resolutions to the AWF office not later than forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting. The proposed resolutions shall be forwarded to affiliated organizations, agencies and other entities as appropriate not later than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting.

All resolutions should be submitted in proper form, preferably on club or organization stationary, and should be signed by an officer of the club. (See www.azwildlife.org for downloadable pdf form.)

All resolutions must be received by Thursday, April 10, 2003 at the AWF office. Late resolutions (those submitted less than 45 days prior to the annual meeting) may be submitted to the Resolutions Committee by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors or during the annual meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates.

Nominations will close on the POSTMARK DEADLINE of April 10, 2003.

All forms and registrations will be available in PDF form on AWF website, www.azwildlife.org.

The Arizona Wildlife Federation is seeking nominations for the AWF Board of Directors for the coming year.

Terms are from June 2003 to June 2004 unless otherwise indicated.

The positions open are:

Executive Positions:
  President
  Vice President, Operations
  Vice President, Conservation
  NWF Representative
  NWF Alternate Representative

Appointed positions:
  Secretary, Treasurer

Regional Directors
  Region I — Flagstaff area, 2 year Term
  Region II — Showlow area, 1 year Term
  Region III — Kingman area, 2 year Term
  Region V — Tucson area, 2 year Term
  Region VI — Central Arizona, 1 year Term

Directors-at-Large (4), 2 year Term
Directors-at-Large (2), 1 year Term
Trophy Book Committeemen (2), 3 year Term
OTHER ANDERSON MESA ISSUES BESIDES ANTELOPE

by Don Farmer

My involvement with the AWF’s efforts to prevent total extirpation of the Anderson Mesa pronghorn herd has provided some interesting opportunities. During the last three years, I have driven and walked untold miles across this scenic landscape, ground-truthing maps and claims by others, and photographing the mesa’s numerous ephemeral wetlands and other habitat types. Last weekend I got an opportunity to also get a birds-eye view of the entire mesa.

This most recent effort was the result of a suggestion from AWF’s legal counsel, Matt Bishop, who suggested an aerial survey of the area might be accomplished through LIGHTHAWK, a non-profit organization that provides such a service for conservation organizations. For AWF it would be an opportunity to gain a new perspective on the extent of the damage to the habitat caused by past and current Coconino National Forest management practices, particularly the misguided and increasingly intensive livestock grazing programs.

In the weeks preceding the December 16th flight, we were in contact with Susan Benepe, LIGHTHAWK’S Rocky Mountain

Most of Anderson Mesa’s ephemeral wetlands are degraded by livestock tanks that keep them from functioning properly.

Photos: by Don Farmer
Program Manager who outlined the details of the flight from planning stages, actual flight, and anticipated outcomes. I looked forward to it with much anticipation since this would be my first time in a small aircraft.

The flight included Dr. Bob Ohmart who has been an active supporter of the AWF’s efforts on behalf of Anderson Mesa pronghorn from the beginning. His expertise on riparian areas and other ecosystems was particularly valuable. We left Stellar Airpark in the Maule four-place aircraft piloted by Chuck Schroll who also owned the plane. Our flight northward paralleled the Verde River, a special treat for me since I have floated this section of the Verde on many occasions. The view of the drought-devastated uplands with the many green ribbons of riparian vegetation that line the Matzatzal Wilderness Area creeks and springs was impressive.

We stopped at the Flagstaff/Pulliam airport to pick up Art Phillips, a botanist who has been helping AWF with vegetation analysis of Anderson Mesa. Our itinerary from the airport took us Northwest of Marshall Lake, down Walnut Canyon and over the Young’s Canyon and Padre Canyon grazing allotments. We then headed southwest, flew over Deep Lake and Potato Lake and then proceeded southeast along Anderson Rim.

What we saw from the air evoked many comments about the horrible condition of the uplands and the total destruction of the dozens of ephemeral wetlands we viewed and photographed. We continued northwest of Jaycox Mountain to Crater Lake. We flew over Melatone Mesa on the far southeast side of Anderson Mesa and up Jacks Canyon, across Hay Lake Ranch and then northwest towards Pine Hill, flying over dozens of wetland areas that had been drastically altered by excavating a stock tank in the bottom and converting what should be a wetland thick with waist-high hydric vegetation to a bare dirt cattle feedlot.

It was nothing less than appalling to see that ALL of Anderson Mesa’s 100 or more wetlands, whether small, large or medium, had been essentially destroyed as habitats for waterfowl and wading birds in order to provide open water for livestock. The resulting congregation of cattle

Cont’d on page 14 - “Wetlands”
around this open water has eliminated grasses and sedges around the waters’ edge which once provided excellent nesting cover for ducks and other birds and reduced every single one of these wetlands to a bare dirt feedlot. Areas that should provide for the needs of a rich and diverse plant and animal community have been and are being sacrificed for the benefit of a few ranchers with the approval of the agency, the Coconino National Forest, charged with the proper management of the area.

On the return flight back to Stellar over Schnebly Hill and Oak Creek Canyon we were all more subdued than on the earlier flight north, despite the spectacular scenery below us, as we contemplated the badly abused rangelands of Anderson Mesa. What is particularly disturbing is the realization that such disregard for the welfare of wildlife has gone on for so long despite federal laws that mandate that the national forests be managed for “multiple use”.

The AWF has been unable to achieve any significant change in management emphasis despite several years of trying to convince the Coconino N.F. with volumes of data, including much from the Coconino’s own files, that range conditions and depressed wildlife populations cry out for drastic management changes. We have now come to the reluctant conclusion that the only recourse left to get their attention is the courts. We have already filed one lawsuit and others may follow.

In our efforts on behalf of Anderson Mesa and its many species of wildlife the AWF has incurred significant out of pocket costs in hiring biological experts, for legal fees, and for attending many meetings both in and out of state. The AWF’s budget has been stretched to the breaking point and many of these expenses have been cov-
ered by individual members most active in the struggle.
The fight goes on and we are hopeful the courts will eventually hand down a favorable decision. In the meantime costs keep mounting. If your passions are stirred enough by destruction of wildlife habitat I would encourage you to contribute financially to the AWF’s Legal Defense Fund and join the Federation in this important battle.

Photos: by Don Farmer

Photos Left: Soil near water is totally denuded of any type of plant life. The congregation of domestic livestock in these areas virtually assures no significant plant product can remain year to year.

Photo Top: Shows fencelines and severely grazed pasture to the left of fence line. Elk are constantly blamed by livestock advocates as the culprits of overgrazing, why are they eating so much of the forage on that side of the fence?

Photo Above: Three tanks at the end of a long wetland, each draining from one to the other. Note the turbidity of the water. No light can reach bottom to generate plant growth in the water.
Judge Rules Forest Service Violated Endangered Species Protections by Authorizing Grazing in Gila National Forest

From Forest Guardians
Monday, January 06, 2003

SANTA FE — For the second time in as many months, a federal judge has ruled that the U.S. Forest Service is violating federal environmental laws when permitting livestock grazing on the Southwestern national forests. The recent ruling, which came in response to a lawsuit filed by Forest Guardians, found the Gila National Forest violated both the Endangered Species Act and the National Forest Management Act by failing to fully consider the effects of grazing on endangered wildlife on the Copper Creek allotment.

In her 12-31-02 ruling, Judge Christina Armijo concluded that the Forest Service is not excused from compliance with the ESA or NFMA under a 1995 federal budget law called the Rescissions Act merely grants an extension of time for the completion of the analyses required by environmental laws, rather than an exemption. Further, Judge Armijo held that the Forest Service’s practice of refusing to analyze the full impacts on threatened and endangered species of ten year grazing permits is a violation of the Endangered Species Act. The Forest Service preferred to analyze only a three year term, a period much less likely to show the long-term adverse environmental impacts of grazing. The Forest Service has conducted the illegal shorter consultations on millions of acres of grazing allotments on the eleven national forests throughout New Mexico and Arizona.

“The Forest Service can no longer pretend that it is complying with the mandate of the Endangered Species Act by conducting such scanty consultations when the law clearly requires that the agency consult on the entire term of the grazing permits,” said Laurie Fulkerson, Forest Guardians’ Grazing Program Coordinator. “This ruling will require the Forest Service to take into account the true, devastating impacts of livestock grazing over such a lengthy period of time on native wildlife and their habitat.”

The Copper Creek allotment, like most areas on National Forest lands throughout the Southwest, affects the homes of a vast array of endangered wildlife species, including the Mexican Spotted Owl, Southwest Willow Flycatcher, Chiricahua Leopard Frog, Loach Minnow and Spikedace. It is also, according to Forest Guardians, just one of many allotments on which the Forest Service is ignoring evidence that livestock grazing must be halted in order to protect native wildlife and their habitat. The continued presence of the livestock industry on public lands, Forest Guardians argues, is fundamentally incompatible with restoring the balance of nature on these lands.

“This was another example of the Forest Service trying to make the law comply with its grazing program rather than its grazing program comply with the law,” said Robert Wiygul, the Ocean Springs, Mississippi based environmental attorney representing Forest Guardians. “This ruling means that endangered species will begin to get a more level playing field.”

The Copper Creek lawsuit is one of more than a dozen lawsuits brought by Forest Guardians to ensure that the Forest Service protects native forests, rivers, and endangered wildlife from damage by livestock. To date, the group has won important protections for many of the species dependent on healthy ecosystems on National Forests, such as reducing the number of cattle that can graze in key sensitive habitats and barring cattle from a number of streams and rivers throughout the southwest. A recent decision by an Arizona court found the Forest Service’s grazing program was in violation of the ESA on a regionwide basis for failing to adequately analyze impacts to endangered species. A copy of the ruling is available at: http://www.fguardians.org/pdf/coppercreekorder021231.pdf

For more information, contact:
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Website: http://www.fguardians.org
Mohave Sportsman Club, AWF affiliate, Chosen for Commission Award

By Don Martin
The Mohave Sportsman Club, an AWF affiliate club located in Kingman AZ was honored recently at the Arizona Game & Fish Commission’s annual awards banquet in Phoenix. The club was chosen as the Commission’s “Conservation Organization of the Year.”

Commissioner Joe Melton presented the award on behalf of the Commission, to Don Martin, a member of the MSC who is also the AWF Region III Director.

Melton noted that the club had accomplished many goals in the past year. Melton said the club’s sponsorship of the annual Boquillas Ranch clean-up, plus the club was instrumental in getting the new owners of the Cane Spring Ranch to open up 36,000 acres of private deeded land to both small game and big hunting. “The club also conducted Operation Dove Watch, a program which saw club members being assigned to isolated water holes to watch for violations.” Melton said that these actions by the MSC had greatly improved the landowner/sportsmen relations in Mohave County.

Melton said that the club was a co-sponsor of Kids Fishing Day 2002, a program that saw 200 kids from all over Arizona get the opportunity to fish in a local pond. The AWF has been a regular contributor to the Kids Fishing Day program,

Mohave Sportsman Club awarded Conservation Organization of the Year by Arizona Game and Fish Commission. Don Martin with the plaque and (left) Commissioners Joe Melton, Sue Chilton, Joe Carter, Hayes Gilstrap and Michael Golightly.

Cont’d on page 21 - “Mohave”

Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl Surveys in Central Arizona

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has conducted cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl (CFPO) surveys and monitoring near Tucson and other areas of southern Arizona since the early 1990s. These desert dwelling owls were last documented in 1971 near Phoenix, and the Department conducted surveys within the historic habitat surrounding the Phoenix metropolitan area. Results suggest that CFPOs are not using these areas, although a few responses to taped owl calls were initially thought to be those of a CFPO. Between 1997 and 2002, we had four reports of possible audible detections of CFPO calls.

While worthy of field investigation, in each instance follow-up surveys never confirmed their presence in that area. The results? We did not confirm CFPOs during any surveys. Surveys by the Department, the Tonto National Forest, and surveys completed in conjunction with land development did not indicate these owls were using the desert areas in central Arizona.

The fact that no one has documented a CFPO in the area in more than 30 years, suggests that they do not occupy areas this far north in Arizona. This was a contributing factor in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decision to exclude areas in central Arizona from the Service’s proposed rule: “Critical Habitat Designation for Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl” as published in the 27 November 2002 Federal Register (volume 67, number 229, with comments accepted by USFWS through 25 February 2003).

U.S. Supreme Court Declines Review On Arizona’s 10% Cap On Non-Res Hunt Tags For Elk & Deer

AGFD NEWS RELEASE
U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 10 denied Arizona’s petition to review an appellate court decision regarding the Arizona Game and Fish Department’s 10-percent cap on nonresident hunt-permit tags for bull elk and for deer north of the Colorado River.

Arizona’s appeal to the Supreme Court was filed following a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals opinion on Aug. 20 that overturned a lower court decision favoring the state on the 10-percent cap.

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission is being sued by a professional hunting guide service in New Mexico, which claims that the 10-percent cap on nonresidents violates the commerce, privileges and immunities and equal protection clauses of the U.S. Constitution and is requesting “a declaration of invalidity as well as damages.”

The federal district court initially granted the Game and Fish Department’s cross-motion for summary judgment dismissing the commerce clause claim as a matter of law. The judges, Lawrence Montoya, Filberto Valerio and Carole Jean Taulman, appealed the district court’s decision.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on Aug. 20 overturned the lower court decision regarding the Arizona Game and Fish Department,” the court files state.

“...Arizona is home to what is considered by many hunters to be some of the best deer and elk hunting in the world...”

The recent decision by the Supreme Court not to review the case puts the issue back before the district court for a determination. Arizona wildlife officials say they will continue pursuing the matter in the lower court.

“The quality of the hunting in Arizona is in large part a result of the conservation efforts supported by Arizona citizens and administered by the Arizona Game and Fish Department,” the court files state.

For many years, Arizona distributed the limited hunt tags for antlered deer and bull elk through a lottery (draw) without regard to the residence of the applicant. In the late 1980s, however, the Game and Fish Department explained that the regulation discriminates against interstate commerce, such that the dormant Commerce Clause applies to the regulation. “We further hold that the regulation discriminates against interstate commerce, but that Arizona has legitimate interests in conserving its population of game and maintaining recreational opportunities for its citizens,” the court ruled.

The department explained that the continued management of Arizona’s big game “is dependent on the continued support of Arizona residents” and that Arizona residents should be afforded the opportunity “to hunt Arizona’s best.”

Each plaintiff in the case is a professional hunter and guide residing in New Mexico who applies for hunting tags through the Arizona Game and Fish Commission in 1991 amended Rule 12-4-114 of the Arizona Administrative Code to place a 10-percent cap on the number of tags that could be awarded to nonresidents for the hunting of bull elk throughout the state and for antlered deer in the area north of the Colorado River.

“To better meet the overwhelming desires of the resident hunting public, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission in 1991 amended Rule 12-4-114 of the Arizona Administrative Code to place a 10-percent cap on the number of tags that could be awarded to nonresidents for the hunting of bull elk throughout the state and for antlered deer in the area north of the Colorado River.

The department explained that the continued management of Arizona’s big game “is dependent on the continued support of Arizona residents” and that Arizona residents should be afforded the opportunity “to hunt Arizona’s best.”

Each plaintiff in the case is a professional hunter and guide residing in New Mexico who applies for hunting tags around the country in order to “obtain the meat of the animals, their hide, their ivories, and especially their head and rack of antlers to profit from the sale and use of the non-edible parts,” the court filings show. The plaintiffs argued that profit seeking is their sole purpose in hunting... in Arizona... they do not hunt for recreational enjoyment.
Many Americans Not prepared for Long-term Care Expenses

Fueled by misconceptions and lack of knowledge about long-term care, many Americans are failing to properly plan for the costs associated with these services.

Two of the most common reasons many Americans are not prepared are general lack of information and the fact that many individuals mistakenly believe that they will be covered through traditional health insurance or by Medicare for their long-term care needs.

Long-term care is assistance with activities of daily living—such as dressing, eating and bathing. It also covers a wide range of non-medical and medical services both at home and in assisted living and nursing facilities.

Nursing home costs average $44,200 a year and costs are expected to triple in the next 20 years.* Are you prepared to handle the expenses associated with long-term care? With 50% of people over age 55 spending time in a nursing home at some point, the possibility of needing long-term care insurance is high.**

Now more than ever, long-term care insurance helps people protect savings and ensure a comfortable retirement by maintaining a financial and social independence. Becoming a burden is a real threat because today’s families have fewer children to help share the responsibility of caring for aging parents. In addition, women, who are the traditional caregivers, represent a greater percentage of the work force. Finding the time or energy to provide care for aging parents while, in some cases, still caring for children, is challenge and can result in emotional burnout if you don’t get help with long-term care.

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Campers, Hikers Encouraged to Take Precautions Against Rabies Exposure

AGFD NEWS RELEASE

(Phoenix, Ariz.) – After a record year of animal rabies and with warmer weather inviting more outdoor recreation opportunities, the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Arizona Game and Fish Department are encouraging Arizonans to take precautions to protect themselves and their pets from rabies exposure.

Last year, there were 143 cases of animal rabies, compared to 129 in 2001. Rabies infection was confirmed in 56 bats, 44 skunks, 33 foxes, three bobcats, three llamas, two coyotes, one dog and one javelina.

So far in 2003, three foxes and one skunk from Cochise County and a fox from Maricopa County have tested positive for rabies. There have been two human exposures attributed to the rabid fox in Maricopa County.

“People can be exposed to rabies when they attempt to approach, assist, feed or handle wild mammals,” says Craig Levy, Department of Health Services biologist. “And, many pets that are off-leash are exposed to rabies when chasing wild mammals. Keep your pets vaccinated and under control at all times. This serves to protect them and you.”

Though bats are the wildlife group most people associate with the virus, any mammal—particularly foxes and skunks—are potential carriers of this disease.

A javelina from the Globe area that tested positive for rabies in December is also a timely reminder for hunters to take precautions when handling game. “The hunting season for javelina started this month and one hunt or another will be open until early March,” says Randy Babb, an Arizona Game and Fish Department spokesman. “Hunters should always wear rubber or latex gloves when cleaning their animals to protect themselves from disease.”

Babb urges all outdoor enthusiasts to avoid contact with wildlife acting in an aggressive or abnormal manner, and to refrain from handling wildlife found dead in the field. “If you see a wild animal that is sick or acting strangely, report it immediately to Game and Fish Department officials, or to your local animal control office,” he says.

Rabies is a viral disease that attacks the central nervous system and is always fatal once symptoms appear. The virus can be transmitted to people or animals through bites from infected animals or exposure to infected saliva through open wounds or mucous membranes.

Individuals who are exposed to a rabid animal must promptly receive rabies vaccines and anti-rabies serum to prevent the disease.

Health Services and Game and Fish Department officials recommend the following to protect you and your pets from rabies:

When enjoying outdoor activities, such as hiking or camping, avoid wild mammals, especially those that are behaving abnormally. Such behavior from the animal might include: showing no fear; unusual vocalizing; staggering and/or acting sickly; and nocturnal mammals that are active during the daytime.

Do not pick up, touch or feed wild or unfamiliar mammals. If someone has been bitten or scratched, or has had contact with...
AWF Women’s Fishin’ Fun Day

The day dawned with perfect weather for the First Annual Fishin’ Fun Day, Saturday January 25, at 9:00 A.M. This year’s event was held at Chaparral Park in Scottsdale. All equipment and bait was supplied courtesy of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD). Walt Oxley and with several other (AGFD volunteers provided instruction to novice anglers. A number of sizable trout were caught. AWF members Mike Perkinson, Mary Jo Miller, Lisa Endres, Jack Simon and Jerry Thorsen were on hand to support the event.

Water Supply Outlook as of February 1, 2003

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) U.S. D. A - February 1, 2003 by Larry Martinez

The current drought in Arizona is not over. We have received some relief from rain during the 2002 fall season, and some snow in December, after following a rather weak summer monsoon season, but overall the drought picture has not improved in Arizona.

The moderate El Niño condition that has developed in the tropical Pacific Ocean is expected to continue through the winter and spring of 2003. Historically, El Niño has favored a wetter than normal winter condition in Arizona and western New Mexico, however, El Niño has yet to kick in as expected. As a result, Arizona snowpack levels currently range from 25% to 42% of average in key watersheds. Snowpack levels are now at the lowest point of the snow season (See Table 1 for current snowpack conditions).

Marginal snowpacks, as well as below normal winter rainfall for six of the last seven years, have created an extreme water deficit in the state. In that regard, most in-state reservoirs are very low at this time. (See Table 2 for current storage data).

Runoff forecast call for much below medium streamflow levels for the period Feb.-May. Forecasts for major streams and rivers in Arizona will hover around 50% of medium this season.

The 2003 fire season could be severe depending on winter moisture. To avoid a repetition of the fire season that was so disastrous in 2002, it is critical to get enough snow in February and March to moisten the larger size classes of forest fuels (decaying logs, etc.). If the winter moisture does not materialize, then Arizona forests will once again become dangerously dry before the start of the summer monsoon season.

Another consequence of the drought is that well over 600,000 acres of Arizona and New Mexico forests have become infested with pine bark beetles, a very destructive forest pest native to ponderosa pine and pinyon-juniper forests. Low tree vigor caused by drought, and excessively dense stands of trees, have combined to allow beetle populations to reach outbreak levels (about a 7-fold increase in acreage since 2001). This insect pest not only causes severe economic damage due to destruction of timber resources, but also the dead trees can seriously increase the potential for fires.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Watershed</th>
<th>% of Average Snowpack levels as of Feb. 1, 2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salt River Basin</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verde River Basin</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Colorado River Basin</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco-Upr Gila River Basin</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuska Mountains</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Mogollon Rim</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Canyon</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco Peaks</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statewide Snowpack</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2

“InState Reservoirs Very Low. Colorado River Reservoirs (Mead & Powell) Continue to Drop” Key storage volumes in thousands of acre feet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reservoir</th>
<th>Current Storage</th>
<th>Last Yr</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>30 Yr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salt River System</td>
<td>558.8</td>
<td>725.7</td>
<td>1189.3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verde River System</td>
<td>62.7</td>
<td>73.2</td>
<td>150.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Carlos Reservoir</td>
<td>36.1</td>
<td>70.6</td>
<td>421.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyman Lake</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Show Low Lake</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Pleasant</td>
<td>452.9</td>
<td>605.2</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Havasu</td>
<td>537.1</td>
<td>549.6</td>
<td>551.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Mohave</td>
<td>170.5.3</td>
<td>1673.8</td>
<td>1672.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Mead</td>
<td>1685.4.0</td>
<td>19870.0</td>
<td>21992.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Powell</td>
<td>13269.0</td>
<td>17507.0</td>
<td>18463.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Monofilament Recovery Program

The Arizona Game and Fish Department’s Monofilament Recovery Program (MRP) is based on a similar successful project in Florida. It is dedicated to clean up Arizona’s recreation areas, and to reduce wildlife losses associated with this form of litter.

Improperly disposed monofilament can be consumed by or entangle many animals including migratory birds and fish. It can be hazardous to people hiking, swimming or diving. Fishing line can also damage boat motors. The Game and Fish Department encourages recreationists to properly dispose of used monofilament in recovery containers and bins to help reduce the amount of monofilament in the environment.

Below are three easy steps to help launch this program, reduce the litter around Arizona’s waterways and eliminate mortality in Arizona’s wildlife.

- Properly dispose of used monofilament in recovery containers and bins. Manufacturing companies such as Stren” and Berkley™ convert recovered monofilament into tackle boxes, lures and artificial fish habitats.
- To reduce fish from breaking line, use the appropriate test line for the desired fish and fishing technique and replace monofilament yearly. Due to Arizona’s extreme temperature regimes, fishing line easily becomes damaged or brittle.
- While enjoying Arizona’s vast wilderness, take the initiative and pick-up discarded monofilament and tackle along our shores and deposit the litter into the nearest recovery bin if available.

The Monofilament Recovery Container is made of cardboard: three feet tall by 1.5 feet wide and 1.5 feet deep. Created by Pure Fishing, the parent company of Berkley™, the container has two cardboard boxes, one for monofilament and the other for spools. Both boxes have UPS postage-paid labels so when full, they can be taped shut and shipped back to Pure Fishing for recycling.

The Game and Fish Department is working with organizations like scouting groups, angler clubs, environmental organizations and other civic clubs to assist in purchasing, building and maintaining the monofilament recovery bins. The total cost of the complete unit is around $20. The department provides assembly and installation instructions, stickers and locations for installation. This is a great opportunity to help clean up our angling recreation areas throughout Arizona.

By conducting regular cleanups, we can prevent ospreys, bald eagles, waterfowl, and pets from dangerous and often lethal entanglement. Recovery containers and bins will be stationed at local license dealers, tackle shops, boating ramps, and recreation areas throughout Arizona. Look for recovery bins and information about the program at your local Arizona Game and Fish Department office or at our website: azgfd.com.

Sonoran Pronghorn Numbers . . .

With assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Region IV (Yuma) wildlife staff, and the Aviation Branch conducted surveys of Sonoran pronghorn in southern Arizona and Sonora (Mexico) during November and December. Biologists from Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, the state of Sonora, Pinacate Biosphere Reserve, and the Arizona National Guard assisted. Based on poor range conditions from the drought and the death of five of six radio collared animals, we feared the worst. These fears were confirmed when we found only three groups, totaling 18 animals, in five days of surveying 2,000 square miles.

Thankfully, pronghorn in Sonora fared better! Although habitat there endured the same drought that hit Arizona, we counted 216 pronghorn and estimated a population of 285. This is slightly less than counts and estimates of 266 and 346 in the 2000 survey.

The severe drought resulted in some mortality of perennial shrubs and trees in areas on both sides of the border. This may have negative impacts on pronghorn for some time into the future. However, recent rains resulted in wide areas of greening vegetation that should benefit the spring fawn crop. Survey results lend urgency to recovery efforts, such as the establishment of irrigated forage enhancement plots, new water sources, and a captive breeding facility.

*Reprinted with permission from the Arizona’s Nongame News, Arizona Game and Fish Department’s Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program.*
Continued from page 19 - “Rabies”

For more information about rabies, call your local health department, the ADHS Vector-Borne & Zoonotic Disease Section at (602) 230-5932 or the Arizona Game and Fish Department at (602) 942-3000.

Campers should keep pets under control and maintain a clean camp to discourage visits from unwanted wildlife. Do not leave uneaten food out when you retire for the evening.

Always contain and place trash in a location inaccessible to wildlife. Pet food should not be left out overnight.

Keep pets on a leash and do not allow them to wander.

Vaccinate all dogs and cats against rabies. Pet owners should check the vaccination records of any previously vaccinated animals to ensure that the animals are current in their vaccinations.

Do not disturb roosting bats. If you find a bat on the ground, don’t touch it. If the bat is found in an urban area, report the bat and its location to your local animal control office or health department.

A Desert Bighorn capture occurred in the Kofa Mountains of western Arizona near Yuma on November 21. “The 20 animals captured were sent to New Mexico to help that state bolster its desert sheep population. In return, Arizona will receive Rocky Mountain sheep to help our state’s expanding herd in the future,” Wakeling stated. New Mexico operates a captive breeding program near Red Rock, New Mexico and 32 of those sheep will be added to the ones from Arizona.

Continued from page 9 - “Rocky Mountain”

Continued from page 17 - “Mohave”

which has been ongoing for several years.

The Mohave Sportsman Club also operates the 7 Mile Hill Range, the only public shooting range in the Kingman area. The club recently completed at Heritage Fund Project that saw over $15,000 in improvements made on the range.

AWF members in attendance at the banquet included AWF Directors Mike Perkinson, Jack Simon and Mary Jo Miller.

### Embroidered AWF Sportswear

**M-44**
- **Short Sleeve Basketweave Pique Sport Shirt** by Hanes.
- Features: 65% cotton, 35% polyester, 7 oz., three button placket, woodtone buttons, welt knit collar and cuffs in contrasting stripes.
- **Sizes**: M, L, XL, XXL.
- **Color**: Pebble/Navy.

**M-106**
- **Short Sleeve Denim Shirt** by Three Rivers: 100% cotton, 7.25 oz. Washed denim fabric, left chest buttoned pocket, button down collar.
- **Sizes**: M, L, XL, XXL.
- **Color**: Khaki.

**M-110**
- **Long Sleeve Denim Shirt** by Camp Creek. 100% cotton, 6.5 oz., left chest pocket. Sizes M, L, XL, XXL.
- **Color**: Natural.

**M-211**
- **Ladies Long Sleeve Classic Denim Shirt** by Three Rivers: 100% cotton, 7.25 oz. washed denim fabric.
- Sizes M, L, XL, XXL.
- **Color**: Khaki.

**H-101**
- **Baseball Hat** Washed Canvas, adjustable strap w/ metal snap. One size fits all. **Color**: Khaki with Forest Green Bill

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**Shipping & Handling**

$ 4.50

**Total**

| 7 Mile Hill Range, the only public shooting range in the Kingman area. The club recently completed at Heritage Fund Project that saw over $15,000 in improvements made on the range. A Desert Bighorn capture occurred in the Kofa Mountains of western Arizona near Yuma on November 21. “The 20 animals captured were sent to New Mexico to help that state bolster its desert sheep population. In return, Arizona will receive Rocky Mountain sheep to help our state’s expanding herd in the future,” Wakeling stated. New Mexico operates a captive breeding program near Red Rock, New Mexico and 32 of those sheep will be added to the ones from Arizona.

Continued from page 9 - “Rocky Mountain”

### Embroidered AWF Sportswear

**M-44**
- **Short Sleeve Basketweave Pique Sport Shirt** by Hanes.
- Features: 65% cotton, 35% polyester, 7 oz., three button placket, woodtone buttons, welt knit collar and cuffs in contrasting stripes.
- **Sizes**: M, L, XL, XXL.
- **Color**: Pebble/Navy.

**M-106**
- **Short Sleeve Denim Shirt** by Three Rivers: 100% cotton, 7.25 oz. Washed denim fabric, left chest buttoned pocket, button down collar.
- **Sizes**: M, L, XL, XXL.
- **Color**: Khaki.

**M-110**
- **Long Sleeve Denim Shirt** by Camp Creek. 100% cotton, 6.5 oz., left chest pocket. Sizes M, L, XL, XXL.
- **Color**: Natural.

**M-211**
- **Ladies Long Sleeve Classic Denim Shirt** by Three Rivers: 100% cotton, 7.25 oz. washed denim fabric.
- Sizes M, L, XL, XXL.
- **Color**: Khaki.

**H-101**
- **Baseball Hat** Washed Canvas, adjustable strap w/ metal snap. One size fits all. **Color**: Khaki with Forest Green Bill

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**Shipping & Handling**

$ 4.50

**Total**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**City:** _____ **ST:** _____ **Zip:** _____

**Telephone:** _____ **Email:**
YOU BELONG IN THE AWF

IF YOU ARE A HUNTER ANGLER CAMPER CONSERVATIONIST Or just WATCH WILDLIFE,

WHAT IS THE ARIZONA WILDLIFE FEDERATION?
AWF is a state-wide, non-profit, politically non-partisan association of persons interested in the present and future well-being of Arizona’s wildlife and wildlife habitat. They are concerned with the conservation of our wildlife, waters, forests, soil and air so that future generations may enjoy the recreational, economic, and aesthetic benefits they provide.

WHAT IS AWF DOING?
- Representing the needs of Arizona’s wildlife, and the interests of sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts before the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, the Arizona State Land Department, the Arizona State Legislature, the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and National Park Service.
- Fighting to conserve habitat critical to wildlife such as pronghorn antelope, mule deer, Gambel’s quail, and other species.
- Working for the restoration of wildlife habitat degraded by years of neglect and abuse.
- Educating Arizonans about their wildlife heritage, and the critical issues confronting Arizona’s wildlife.
- Protecting threatened natural resources and forcefully advocating for better management of Arizona’s public lands.
- Speaking out against unreasonable firearms legislation and unreasonable restrictions on recreation.

WHAT’S IN IT FOR ME?
Your future hunting, future fishing, future wildlife watching, and future enjoyment of Arizona’s outdoors. Had not the early founders of AWF taken the proper steps when they did, chances are you would not be enjoying the amount of hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing that you do today. The AWF and its affiliate clubs have been instrumental in establishing a professional system of fish and wildlife management, and improving conditions for Arizona’s wildlife. However, the fight is not over. To protect these resources and opportunities for your children, YOU SHOULD BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE AWF!

AS AN AWF MEMBER YOUR SUPPORT WILL:
- Help protect and restore wildlife and wildlife habitat;
- Fund programs to help educate Arizonans about the unique wildlife heritage of our state;
- Ensure that there is a voice speaking to politicians, bureaucrats, and journalists on behalf of the needs of wildlife and the interests of sportsmen;
- Fund needed wildlife research;
- Help ensure that our wildlife is managed according to the best professional principles -free from political and economic pressures from special interest groups.

WHAT BENEFITS DO MEMBERS RECEIVE?
Membership in the largest, oldest, and most powerful conservation organization in the state, and affiliation with the largest and most powerful international conservation organization in North America - the National Wildlife Federation • A subscription to the 24 page quarterly Arizona Wildlife News, and the companion newsletter, AWF Outdoors Advisor, issued 8 times per year • E-mail alerts on issues of interest • The opportunity to attend all AWF functions, events, and outings • The opportunity to become active in a local AWF affiliate club of your choice • The opportunity to participate in AWF habitat restoration projects • A membership card for your wallet and a decal for your windshield.

Arizona Wildlife Federation Pledge:
“I give my pledge to save and Faithfully Defend from waste, the natural resources of America, its soil and minerals, its forests, water, air and Wildlife. I further pledge to support The Arizona Wildlife Federation, to abide by its by-laws and to abide by the game and fish laws of the State of Arizona and the United States”

☐ $25 Individual Membership
☐ $40 Family Membership
☐ $50 Small Business Membership
☐ $100 Patron Membership
☐ $500 Life Membership

New Member
Name on Card __________________________________________  Signed ______________________________

Credit Card #: [Redacted]
Expiration Date: [Redacted]

Please Make Checks Payable and Mail TO: Arizona Wildlife Federation - 644 N. Country Club Drive, Suite E Mesa, AZ 85201

The opportunity to participate in AWF habitat restoration projects

The opportunity to attend all AWF functions, events, and outings

The opportunity to become active in a local AWF affiliate club of your choice

The opportunity to become an active member of the AWF!
Becoming an Outdoors Woman is an Outdoor Skills Clinic for women. The objective of the program is to provide women with an opportunity to learn basic outdoor skills in a fun, non-threatening manner. We are looking for women who have never had an opportunity to experience the “out of doors” and are interested in learning basic outdoor skills with us.

Examples of Course Offerings
Plus Many More!

✓ Intro to Canoeing & Kayaking!
✓ Outdoor Survival!
✓ Fly Fishing!
✓ Basic Firearms Safety!
✓ Beginning Fishing!
✓ Basic Shotgun Shooting!
✓ Birdwatching!
✓ Dutch Oven Cooking!
✓ Basic Camping!
✓ Beginning Archery!
✓ Rifle Marksmanship!
✓ Intro to Map and Compass!
✓ Rappelling!
✓ Mountain Biking!
✓ Arizona’s Wildlife Habitats!
✓ Wildlife Photo Safari!
✓ Big Game Hunting!
✓ Backpacking!
✓ GPS!

Sponsored By:

In Partnership with:

For Information or to download registration material: Visit our web site, www.azwildlife.org

Call, write or Email
Arizona Wildlife Federation
644 N. Country Club Drive
Mesa, Az 85201
(480) 644-0077
Email: BOW@azwildlife.org

Please send me information and registration materials:

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
City: ________________________ ST: ________ Zip ______________
Email Address: __________________________________________

For the April 4-6 Workshop
For More Information — Visit Us at: www.azwildlife.org