

Mission:

AWF is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating, inspiring, and assisting individuals and organizations to value, conserve, enhance, manage, and protect wildlife and wildlife habitat.



Arizona Wildlife Federation

Wildlife & Habitat Post

AWF Action Update

The following are a few issues and projects the AWF has worked on in recent months:

Letter to Gov. Napolitano: Protect the Colorado River Delta

The AWF Board was a co-signer on a letter to Governor Napolitano alerting her to a threat to the open water wetland called the Cienega de Santa Clara located at the eastern edge of the Colorado River Delta. It is the largest remaining wetland on the delta and home to thousands of migratory and resident birds, and it is a critical link in the Pacific Flyway. In September, 2003, the U.S. House and Senate instructed the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to ready for operation the Yuma Desalting Plant (YDP). The operation of this plant would destroy the Cienega de Santa Clara. The YDP would result in a significant increase in salt content and overall decreased flow of the water being discharged into the wetland -- such conditions would effectively kill the marshland and make it uninhabitable for birds.

AWF Board sends letters to Senators opposing Yavapai Ranch Land Exchange

This proposed exchange would trade low value lands, commonly known as Yavapai Ranch, worth about \$500 an acre, for high value lands near Flagstaff and Williams, conservatively worth \$30,000 an acre. Not only is the trade a bad value for taxpayers, the bill supporting it, SB 849, would allow the trade to go forward without undergoing a NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) review. In addition, the trade would increase the burden on a water table that is already overtaxed. Senator John McCain, a sponsor of SB849, is planning to hold two public meetings regarding the trade on November 22, 2003. Details as to location and time are not yet available. If you would like to attend, call the AWF office at (480)-644-0077 for more information.

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Message from the President

Greetings all AWF members and interested parties. In response to members' and affiliates' requests to be better informed, we are producing the more frequent and timely newsletter that you are now reading. The *Arizona Wildlife News* will return in the future.

There have been some other changes at the AWF. Our mission statement now more clearly emphasizes protecting habitat. As you know, without quality habitat, wildlife cannot survive, let alone prosper.

We recently created a new staff position, Director of Administration, and filled it with an excellent hire -- Patricia Turpin. Patricia is working hard to facilitate communication at the AWF. One of her goals is to get your questions answered or direct you to the proper person ASAP. Producing this newsletter is just one of her efforts. Thanks Patricia!

Another of our goals is to increase member involvement. We plan to offer more activities to our members and supporters. In October, the AWF sponsored a fence removal project at Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, that, along with a Dutch oven cooking class and a BOW instructors' appreciation party are three events held recently aimed at getting you more involved.

By the way, if you want to get involved in the decision-making process at the Arizona Wildlife Federation, feel free to attend our board meetings.

Call our office at (480) 644-0077 for the time and date of the next meeting.

Often the attitude in today's economy is to make a fast buck and not consider the long-term consequences of our actions. It seems as if both private and public entities of our society are destroying fragile habitat in the name of conservatism and that having conservative views and wanting to conserve wildlife habitat are incompatible. AWF is non-partisan, and for good reason -- people of all political stripes are in favor of protecting habitat and wildlife. The article by Phillip R. Pryde, reprinted from *The Green Elephant*, demonstrates that conservatives not only can be but **should** be conservationists.

Mike Perkinson
President

AWF Wish List:

If you, your business, or anyone you know has any of the following items and would be willing to donate it to the AWF, we would be grateful:

- Bookcases
- Color printer
- Postage scale
- Secure storage space
- Slide projector
- Laptop computer



The 10 Best Reasons Why Conservatives Should be Environmentalists

by: Philip R. Pryde, Ph. D.

The environmental movement and conservative political philosophy are often viewed as incompatible. But they are not. On the contrary, in the century that has elapsed since the administration of Republican conservationist Theodore Roosevelt, they have been very compatible philosophies.

What are the main connections between conservatism and conservation? The following are the ten best reasons why conservative Americans should be environmental activists.

10| FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The federal budget is bloated by billions spent on unnecessary, environmentally destructive projects. A typical example is Florida's Kissimmee River, which the Army Corps of Engineers spent tens of millions to channelize, creating an environmental disaster, and is now spending millions more to restore to the way nature intended it. More than \$8 billion has been earmarked to restore water flow to the Everglades, harmed by past water diversions funded by taxpayers. Conservative taxpayers have every reason to support the Green Scissors program, which identifies the most wasteful federal land and water pork-barrel schemes, and works to cut them from the budget. They should also urge ending taxpayer subsidies for logging, grazing, and mining on public lands.

9| LOCAL CONTROL

Both conservatives and environmentalists appreciate the benefits of keeping decision-making close to home whenever possible. Environmentalists understand that local residents are often the best defenders of nearby natural assets. Beneficial federal laws and regulations sometimes have a short shelf life, or suffer crippling amendments. But local control can cut both ways, and conservative environmentalists must guard against local governments falling under the influence of special interests that seek to benefit from abusing our natural heritage.

8| STRONGER FAMILY TIES

Outdoor activities are one of the most effective and pleasant means for families to strengthen ties. Recreational pursuits such as hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, nature study, and river running bring families together. Children are naturally curious about nature and greatly enjoy family outings to natural areas. Even better is helping to sustain America's natural heritage by volunteering for stewardship work -- such as maintaining protected natural areas -- and becoming involved in environmental issues.

"Ten Best" lists are a popular feature of contemporary American culture. Likewise, both the environmental movement and conservative political philosophy are important components of contemporary American life. Unfortunately, the two movements are often viewed as incompatible. This article offers a different perspective on conservative conservationists.

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7| AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

Pride in the beauty of one's country is a universal trait. Americans in the future will want to enjoy the same natural wonders as Americans of today, and conservative Americans will want to preserve that beauty, as Dwight D. Eisenhower did when he created the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Our national parks have been called "the best idea America ever had." Conservative Americans will want to protect these showcases of America's beauty, landscapes, and history, and to work to ensure adequate funding to care for them.

6| PROFITABLE BUSINESSES, HEALTHY ECONOMY

Anything that reduces energy consumption and increases resource efficiency in business, industry, and commerce will lower costs and thereby increase profits. At the same time, reducing energy consumption and the volume of waste products will simultaneously lower pollution emissions, producing a double benefit. The same considerations apply in our personal lives, especially with regard to important decisions such as the type of family car, major household appliances, and home lighting that we purchase. Conservatives will want to examine fuel-efficient vehicles such as hybrids.

5| AMERICA'S FUTURE

The greatness of nations depends in part on the adequacy of their natural resource base. Conserving and reducing waste in natural resource extraction and use, and insisting on sustainable management of forests, fisheries, and water supplies, will make more resources available for succeeding generations, resulting in a stronger America in the future. Wasting them will make future generations more dependent on foreign natural resources, and on the willingness of these nations to share them. Allowing toxic chemicals to pollute the environment and threaten public health is an affront to individual liberty and an irresponsible lack of consideration for future generations.

4| PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND JOBS

Many environmental advancements have been made by small businesses, which are often more willing to innovate than large corporations. And environmental industries and enterprises of all sizes and types, such as pollution control equipment, renewable energy technologies, and ecotourism,

constitute a multi-billion dollar segment of the national economy. Many thousands of jobs are created in these industries every year. In the field of natural area protection, private organizations and land trusts are increasingly being sought as the most secure and least bureaucratic tools for conservation.

3| PATRIOTISM

Patriots love their country and desire to protect it. Love of country mandates working together to protect the nation's inherent beauty, the integrity of natural areas that provide essential services, and its reserves of natural resources. Opposition to environmental protection, resource conservation, and natural areas restoration indicates a willingness to allow one's country to deteriorate and weaken -- an attitude both unpatriotic and in the long run, certain to be self-destructive. Remember Theodore Roosevelt's words: "Conservation is a great moral issue, for it involves the patriotic duty of insuring the safety and continuance of the nation."

2| NATIONAL SECURITY

The United States can clearly benefit by reducing its dependence on foreign fossil fuels, which entangle the nation in questionable alliances with unsavory regimes in politically unstable parts of the world. The best ways to reduce fuel imports are to encourage wider use of domestic energy from solar, wind and farm products, increase energy efficiency standards for vehicles and equipment, expand the use of combined heat and power plants, and make our energy facilities more secure by decentralizing energy production.

1| IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO!

Environmental protection is in the tradition of far-sighted Republican leaders such as Theodore Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Richard Nixon, Barry Goldwater, John Chafee, Hohn Saylor and many current members of the Congress and state legislatures. Protecting and enhancing America's environment is the rational thing to do, the patriotic thing to do, the conservative thing to do, and the American thing to do.

Conservation is conservative.

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The Rocky Mountains should be preserved in all their splendor for future generations, not opened to oil and gas development. Renewable energy can help to protect their beauty.

Photo by Steve Ackerman.

Energy Bill

It is now up to a conference committee to develop a final Energy Bill. Urge your senators to oppose any version of the legislation that fails to protect the Rocky Mountain West, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and other critical public lands from oil and gas development. Tell them that any Energy Bill must include real solutions that require greater use of renewable energy, higher mileage standards for cars, and measures such as the Climate Stewardship Act that reduce greenhouse emissions.

Condor Baby Flies

Biologists observing the condor nest saw the chick jump out of the nest, look like it wanted to land, and finding nothing to land on, glide 500 feet to the ground. The California Condor was first released in Arizona in 1996 near the Vermilion Cliffs which are between Page and the Grand Canyon. There are currently 34 condors in our state. This is the first chick to survive since the reintroduction of the birds to the wild.

California Condors have a wingspan of up to nine feet. They were placed on the Endangered Species List in 1967. This is the first wild-hatched chick to survive.

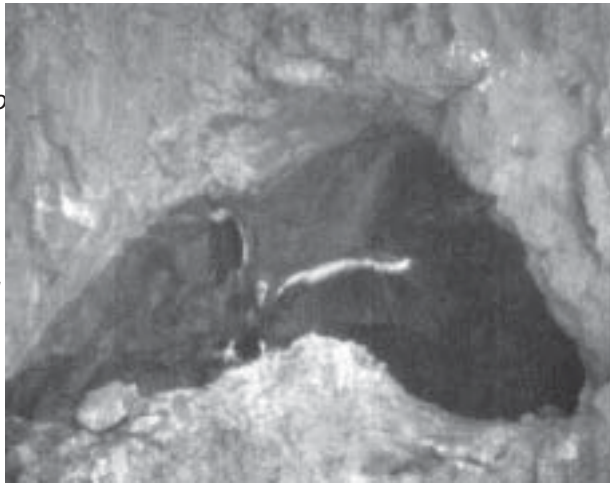


Photo by Bob Miles, Arizona Game & Fish

Next Work Project

On January 10, 2004, the AWF will sponsor another fence removal project at the Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge. See page six for a description of the work project we held in October. We'll provide camp dinner. If you'd like to participate, please call the office at 480-644-0077, or email us at awf@azwildlife.org.

BOW

Mark your calendars: Becoming an Outdoor's Woman will be held April 2 to 4, 2004 and August 20 to 22, 2004. Materials for registration and information about available classes will be sent to interested women in January, 2004. If you want to be on the mailing list, send an email to awf@azwildlife.org or call 480-644-0077.



Thanks to the many volunteer instructors, women like this happy BOW participant can enjoy learning outdoor activities taught by experts including fishing, climbing, canoeing, archery, birding, backpacking, and many more.

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Habitat Improvement Project a Success

Our wildlife habitat improvement project last month was one more success in a long-term relationship with the managers of the Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge. The 50 AWF volunteers included a group from Pima County Community College and another from an ASU East class on small game and habitat management taught by Bob Ohmart. There was an informative slide presentation on Friday evening and a full day's work on Saturday removing five miles of obsolete fencing that was a barrier to wildlife movement. AWF provided a grilled steak dinner on Saturday night, and on Sunday morning, refuge manager Wayne Shiflett provided a tour of the refuge. Pronghorn antelope, mule deer, many species of birds, and other animals were seen. A walking tour was also conducted by Bob Ohmart for his students and others who wanted to tag along. Bob identified the area's various grasses, forbs, and browse plants, both native and non-native. The AWF would like to extend a special thank you to Bonnie Swarbrick,

the refuge volunteer coordinator, for her gracious hospitality and informative presentation.

Conservation Organizations Urge DOD to Protect Wildlife and Habitat

In the next few weeks the U.S. House and Senate will be working on the 2004 Defense Authorization Bill. The House version of the bill would exempt more than 25 million acres of land owned or controlled by the Department of Defense from critical habitat provisions of the Endangered Species Act -- these provisions are necessary for the recovery of species near extinction. It would also weaken the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and includes a rider added by Representative Rick Renzi that would negatively impact the San Pedro River -- the last free-flowing river in Arizona. The Senate version of the bill does not support these broad exemptions from environmental law, and is the version supported by AWF and other groups concerned with protecting wildlife and habitat.

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