

ARIZONA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
2016-17 Year in Review
Sipes Ranch Annual Meeting
June 3, 2017

This past year we participated in numerous activities and events. We partnered with the Arizona Game & Fish Department (AZGFD), U.S. Forest Service, Arizona Antelope Foundation, Trout Unlimited, TRCP, WRAN, Audubon and many other conservation organizations during the year on these various activities.

A key part of the AWF's work this year was working with State and Federal legislators to defeat bad legislation and to support good legislation (unfortunately the bad seems to outweigh the good these days). AWF volunteers met with numerous Federal and State legislators, providing them information on national and state issues such as the Public Land takeover, State Water Bills, Responsible Energy Development, Clean Water Act restoration, Lees Ferry management plans and the proposed Grand Canyon National Monument. In addition, AWF Board members traveled to DC in support of the sportsmen alternative to the Grand Canyon National Monument and in support of keeping Federal public lands public.

The AWF led an effort to develop a sportsmen alternative to the proposed Grand Canyon National Monument. Our position was opposition to the National Monument but if a Monument was going to move forward our proposal was a reduced size that would be similar to the Salazar mineral withdrawal. Our active engagement at the County, State and Federal level was somewhat controversial but ultimately played a significant role in the Monument process. The Administration chose to not designate a National Monument in Arizona.

The AWF continues to lead efforts to raise the visibility and level of concern about the States efforts to take over the Federal Public lands. We testified to the study committee that is reviewing the issue. We met with numerous legislators to express our concern about this effort. We published Opinion Editorials and Letters to the Editor expressing our position on this bad idea.

The Becoming an Outdoors Woman Program, (BOW), sponsored by AWF, graduated over 300 women this past year. Women from all walks of life enjoy the opportunities offered at our workshops to participate in a multitude of outdoor skills classes. AWF was at the AZGFD Expo at the end of March, talking to as many of the 40,000+ attendees as we could; handing out educational materials on conservation, outdoors ethics and responsibilities, the BOW Program, and wildlife & habitat concerns.

We participated at the State legislature discussing the importance of water in our arid SW. Working with Sarah Luna, we partnered with Arizona Audubon, Trout Unlimited and other conservation groups as key leaders of the Western Rivers Action Network.

Our strong relationships with the numerous State and Federal agencies are a must for working on critical issues. We participated in the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI), which affects nearly 2 million acres and developed comments on the Tonto Forest Plan revision (over 2 million acres). Two Tucson Board members continued to participate on the Catalina Bighorn Advisory Committee in partnership with the Arizona Game and Fish Department during its 5th year. Twenty more desert bighorns were released on the Catalina's on November 22nd, this latest release brings the number of bighorn transplanted to 112 and as of this writing it is believed the resident population is now at the minimum management objective of 85 animals.

Arizona Wildlife News, our quarterly magazine, is a sought-after publication. We continued to provide in-depth coverage of critical issues. We utilized the AWF e-News Bulletin/Alert, providing updates between magazine issues and active alert system on important issues that require our member's engagement.

The Arizona Trophy Book passed a significant milestone publishing its 50th anniversary 10th edition. Of 500 printed some 300 have sold to date. A special 50th anniversary leather bound edition has been printed and is available. Also in June of 2016 the AWF and the Arizona Antelope Foundation teamed up to formally recognize the 2015 Trophy Book Annual Award Winners at the annual AAF fund raising banquet. The event went very well and 54 award recipients and their families and friends attended.

We have continued to develop our relationship with NWF and other State affiliates. We signed a cooperative agreement to help sponsor the "Certified Wildlife Habitat" program in Arizona this year. We attended the NWF national meeting in Colorado, participated in the Affiliate leader meeting in Alabama, served on the NWF strategic planning team as one of the six affiliate representatives, actively participated in numerous NWF issue caucuses. We participated in the NWF annual "Fly In" on behalf of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We also developed a wilderness wildlife resolution that will be considered at the 2017 NWF annual meeting.

During the year we once again traveled to various Regions for our quarterly meetings, held this year at the Sipes wildlife area, Yuma, Phoenix and Flagstaff. We had great attendance at all of these locations