

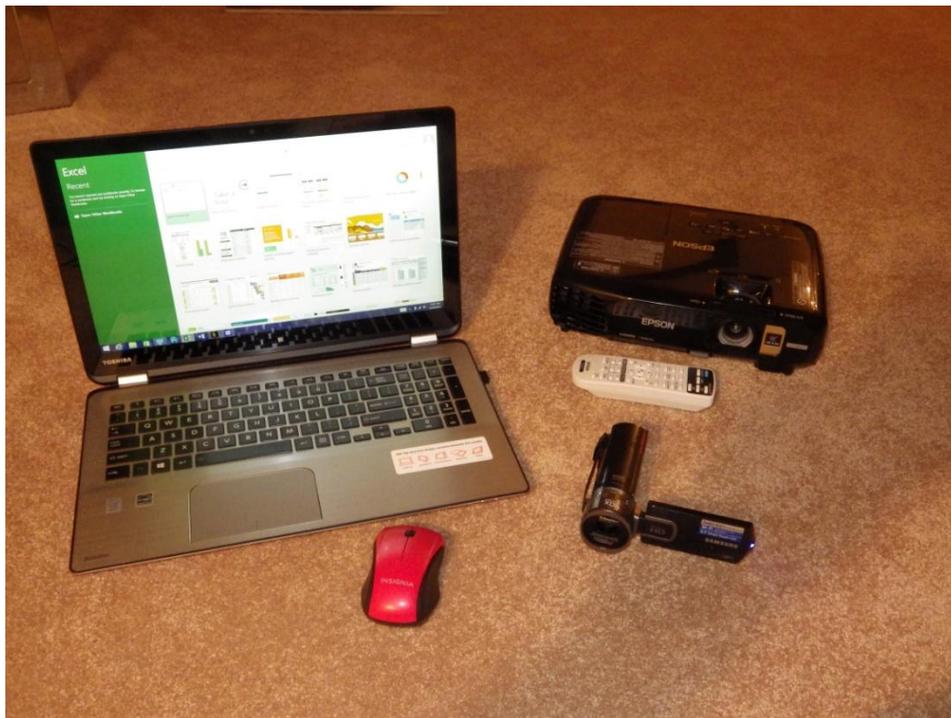
Phoenix Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

Final Report to the Arizona Sportsmen For Wildlife Conservation on the Grant of August 2014

Under the terms of their Memorandum of Agreement with the national Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc, the Arizona Flycasters provides leadership and support of the Phoenix Program of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing. This grant request was made by Arizona Flycasters on behalf of Phoenix Program to support Program needs compatible with the recruiting, retention and education goals of the AZSFWC License Plate Grant program.

In compliance with the grant requirements, the websites of both the Arizona Flycasters and the Phoenix Program of PHWFF, INC, have links to the Arizona Sportsman for Wildlife Conservation's website. They also have a picture of the Arizona Wildlife License Plate on their web sites linked to the MVD wildlife license plate ordering process. The contribution of the AZSFWC to the Program has been recognized in all our orientation programs for disabled veterans and new volunteers, has been brought up in multiple television interviews, in discussion with an Arizona Republic columnist, and routinely as we interface with civic organizations and potential donors.

The Phoenix Program of PHWFF conducts periodic 4-part fly fishing orientation programs for disabled veterans and follows up with on-going classes covering all aspects of the sport and outings to fish. All classes and equipment used for these activities are provided at no cost to the veterans. Prior to receiving the grant we had been totally dependent on borrowed equipment to prepare and conduct the classes, and to fish. Through the grant we were able to acquire a computer, a projector, and a camera to support our educational activities. This new equipment relieves a severe strain trying to support 4+ widely separated alternating activities each month.



Through the License Plate Grant we purchased 10 sets of rods, reels, line, leaders, and cases to support casting classes and fishing activities. These were available "just in time" to handle the influx of new vets to the program in January, augmenting the rods we have borrowed and have purchased from other sources. We have been able to conduct 5 fishing outings in the first 5 months of 2015.



On-going classes have been held since April 2013 in north Phoenix at All Saints Lutheran Church. We had a unique opportunity to recruit new fly fishers while "giving back" to our Phoenix hosts. The vets and volunteers teamed up to offer a 2 day "Welcome to Fly-Fishing" program which introduced 26 new people to fly fishing. The Arizona Flycasters Board of Directors is currently looking seriously at this model as a way to increase their recruiting efforts. The AZSFWC grant was instrumental in that success, sponsoring the food and materials.



Time spent outside in nature and the focus that is necessary in fly fishing have a therapeutic effect, particularly for those veterans with PTSD. We are pulled to expand by the numbers of veterans requesting to participate. The Phoenix program of PHWFF is just over 2 years old. We started in April 2013 with 7 disabled veteran participants. At the end of April 2014 we had 18 active in the program. Starting in October 2014, we added a second operating location in Gilbert. At the end of April 2015 we have 33 vets participating so far this year.

Our ability to provide this program and the number of veterans we can recruit and retain is limited in part by the availability of qualified volunteers, but driven more strongly by funding availability. We provide enough on-going year-round activities to encourage a sense of belonging and build camaraderie. The program encompasses a broad range of topics, from building their own fly rods, to fishing different kinds of waters, practicing and improving skills of casting and fly tying, and more. These in turn promote a sense of achievement and growth for the veterans, and strengthens retention. They in turn become our recruiters.



We are very grateful for the grant and believe we have put the money to excellent use. We've been able to bring many new people to the sport, are educating and retaining them. The equipment obtained from these funds will continue to serve the program for years to come. **Our Thanks.**



Expenditures

	Requested in Grant	Actuals
Hardware for education laptop camera projector	\$1,500	\$1,730
Hardware for fishing 10 rods, reels, etc	\$1,250	\$1,260
ASLC recruiting event	\$500	\$414
	<u>\$3,250</u>	<u>\$3,404 (note)</u>

(note) Overage (\$154) covered from other matching funds