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## Sportsmen's Connection

April 2016

### NEWSLETTER SPONSORS



15% off at the 1730 W. Bell Rd location if you have an AZSFWC license plate, and Grease Monkey will also make a donation to AZSFWC.

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Contact us at  
[info@azsfwc.org](mailto:info@azsfwc.org)

MEMBER  
ORGANIZATIONS

We have to contend with the IRS expectations and filings, as there's no choice!

On the wildlife and sportsmen front however, while "we" must deal with issues of concern, you do have a choice. We need more folks making the choice to get involved so we can hang on to what we have!

Here's what is happening now:

- **Glen Canyon Dam EIS and Lees Ferry Management Plan**, our World Class trout fishery is at stake! Please read the TRCP flyer below for details, and click on this link to submit your comment, the deadline is May 9th. <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=70123>
- **Feral Burros**, if you drive north out of Phoenix on I-17, watch out for burros! These feral consumers are eating up our desert landscape and adversely impacting our native wildlife and plants. In support of the Commission's stance, 23 of our AZSFWC member organizations approved a Feral Burro Resolution in order to implore the BLM to take action to reduce their population. [Click here](#) to see the Resolution. You can let the BLM know what you think by writing them here, [ASOWEB\\_AZ@blm.gov](mailto:ASOWEB_AZ@blm.gov) If you don't think we have a problem with burros, check out this video. <https://www.youtube.com/embed/faT-u5QaISg>
- **Federal Public Lands Transfer to the State**, an Arizona Senate Committee continues to explore this concept, and while we believe the likelihood of this coming to fruition is small, it's not going away. [Click here](#) to read our AZSFWC Resolution opposing the transfer of Federal Public Lands approved by 24 of our member organizations. You can find your Legislator at their website, <http://www.azleg.gov/>

- 1.2.3.Go...
- Anglers United
- AZ Antelope Foundation
- AZ BASS Federation Nation
- AZ Big Game Super Raffle
- AZ Bowhunters Association
- AZ Catfish Conservation Association
- AZ Chapter of NWTf
- AZ Chapter of SCI
- AZ Council of TU
- AZ Deer Association
- AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society
- AZ Elk Society
- AZ Flycasters Club
- AZ Houndsmen's Association
- AZ Outdoor Sports
- Back Country Hunters & Anglers
- Coconino Sportsmen
- Mohave Sportsman Club
- Outdoor Experience 4 All
- South Eastern AZ Sportsmen Club
- SRT Outdoors Inc
- The Bass Federation Arizona
- TRCP
- White Mountain Fly Fishing Club
- White Mountain Lakes Foundation
- Xtreme Predator Callers

Affiliate Members:

- Aircomm

- **Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument proposition**, here's another matter that hasn't gone away. If it isn't broken, why set aside 1.7 million acres of Arizona land to "fix it"? We provided comment opposing this land grab at a hearing Congressman Gosar sponsored in Kingman last week. You can [click here](#) to read our submitted comments.
- **Coconino National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM)**, if you were fortunate to draw a tag anywhere on the Coconino, it's time to replace your MVUM! [Click here](#) to read the Coconino NF press release.
- **Havasu National Wildlife Refuge** has a "draft recreational boating Compatibility Determination" ready for comment. You can click on the link below for more information and to comment, with a May 12th deadline.  
<http://www.fws.gov/nwrs/threecolumn.aspx?id=2147587810>
- **Diablo Trust Land Management Collaborative's annual "Day on the Land"** is set for April 23rd from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Flying M Ranch. If you want to go, it is accessed via Exit 219 on I-40 (Twin Arrows). Some of the items that will be discussed include sportsmen-landowner relations, wildlife projects on the Flying M and Bar T Bar ranches, and new ranch and agency access rules. These ranches are in Units 5A and 5B. For reservations, contact Jeremy Krones, the Diablo Trust Program Manager. You can RSVP to Jeremy at [info@diablotrust.org](mailto:info@diablotrust.org), or call (928) 523-0588. <http://www.diablotrust.org>.

Yours in Conservation,

Jim Unmacht  
President

## Take Action: Glen Canyon Dam Long Term Experimental Plan

### Support of the Lees Ferry Rainbow Trout Fishery

Since 1964, with the completion of the Glen Canyon Dam, the Lees Ferry tailwater has hosted a recreational trout fishery that has grown in importance and reputation locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Anglers from around the world travel to Lees Ferry to fish for high quality rainbow trout in the large, clear, swift-flowing Colorado River as it winds its way through the lower, scenic segment of Glen Canyon. This blue ribbon recreational sport fishery has also



become a financial and economic mainstay for the small community of Marble Canyon and Coconino County, supporting fishing guide services, hotels, restaurants, fishing and outdoor recreation equipment and supplies, and visitor services. The Lees Ferry trout fishery is clearly one of the important "values" that the Grand Canyon Protection Act was designed to protect and improve.

Glen Canyon Dam operations have direct and indirect effects on the Lees Ferry rainbow trout fishery. Water releases and temperatures affect the production of food, the diversity of insects in the river, and the survival of young trout. Unfortunately, because of the way the dam has been operated, the Lees Ferry trout fishery has experienced several significant population declines over the years which have adversely affected the quality of the fishery and the local guiding and lodging businesses that depend on a reliable sport fishery.

[Please follow this link and provide the following comments on the public review draft of the Glen Canyon Dam Long Term Experimental and Management Plan EIS.](#)

The Recommendations below will benefit many other Colorado River resource values below Glen Canyon Dam including humpback chub recovery, sand conservation, hydropower generation, and cultural resource protection. **Comments need to be provided by May 9, 2016.**

The LTEMP should:

- Explicitly recognize that the Lees Ferry rainbow trout fishery as priority resource "value" for which Glen Canyon Dam should be operated as provided for in the Grand Canyon Protection Act.
- Incorporate the goals and objectives of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Fishery Management Plan for the Lee Ferry Trout Fishery as stated goals and objectives of the LTEMP.
- Fully consider the impacts of repeated fall high flow experiments on the aquatic food base, rainbow trout, and invasive species in Glen and Marble Canyons.
- Place more emphasis on conducting high flow experiments in the spring to benefit a variety of resources besides sediment/sandbars including the aquatic food base, native fish, rainbow trout and riparian vegetation.
- Test the use of sustained low steady flows (also known as "bug flows") to increase the production and diversity of the aquatic insects in the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam. If successful, this will benefit the trout fishery, native fish, and the entire riparian ecosystem in the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam. Carefully test the use of Trout Management Flows (TMF), but only when there is an identified need to reduce the number of young of the year rainbow trout in Lee Ferry.

Congratulations to Mike Petraska, of Chester, UT who won the Gould's Turkey Hunt raffle,

recently drawn at the AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep (ADBSS) banquet. Thanks to Colburn and Scott Outfitters and ADBSS for providing this fundraising activity for AZSFWC!

## **Check out the Northern Arizona Shooting Range**

### *More hours, more venues, 3D archery*

Flagstaff, AZ - Spring has arrived and it's time to take a short drive east of Flagstaff to the Northern Arizona Shooting Range (NASR) and check out all of the new changes and improvements. The 160 acre range is owned by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and maintained and operated by the Northern Arizona Shooting Foundation.

While at the range shooters can try a round of trap at one of our five new trap fields, a round of skeet or for a different challenge try or 12 position sporting clays range. Starting April 1st these venues will operate on Saturday and Sunday from 9 AM until 3 PM. There are several registered trap and sporting clay shoots scheduled for this spring and summer with the first event planned for May 14 and 15.

To give shooters another day to sight in a new rifle, put some rounds through a new pistol, or practice their pistol skills please visit the rifle and pistol ranges. Starting April 1st they will be open on Fridays through Sunday, 9 AM until 4 PM. For archers, we're very pleased to announce that we have a new 5 position archery warm-up area with targets from 10-50 yards as well as a new 14 animal walking 3D target trail with unmarked distances.

Charter member and current Board Director Tom Mackin sums it up as follows: "I'm very excited about the new shooting season and I encourage everyone to visit the range and see all of the opportunities for recreational and Competitive shooting at our community facility". For more information about the range, driving directions, and details for the upcoming shooting events go to the range website at [www.northernarizonashootingrange.org](http://www.northernarizonashootingrange.org)

**Calendar - Our Member Groups Are Very Busy!  
Please support their activities.**



## **7th Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference**

**April 21, 2016**

9:00a.m. – 4:30p.m.

**Arizona Game and Fish Department Headquarters  
5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ**

***Sponsored by AZGFD and AZ TU State Council***

The conference is attended by those interested in meeting, networking, and developing future plans to promote restoration and management of native and wild coldwater fish species in Arizona and New Mexico. Over 100 individuals will be attending the conference and will represent more than 35 agencies and organizations involved in water conservation and management, trout recovery and habitat enhancement.

### **Topics**

- AZGFD Coldwater Fisheries Vision and Management Plan
- Trout Unlimited Southwest Native Trout Initiative
- Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) Programs
- Glen Canyon Dam: Long Term Experimental Management Plan
- Stream and Temperature Monitoring Networks
- Making Hatcheries Work for Native Trout - Mora National Fish Hatchery
- Wildfire Risk Assessments and Impacts
- Trout-In-the-Classroom Programs
- Conservation Awards for Distinguished Service

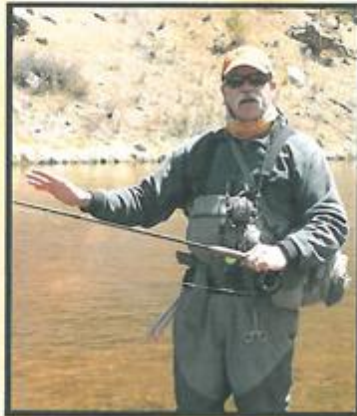
Lunch will be hosted by AZ Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation and AZ TU Council.

*Special lodging rates available for reservations by April 6th at the Drury Inn  
2335 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, Phoenix.  
Call 1-800-325-0720 with group code 2271111.*

**Register by April 18, 2016  
at [www.az-tu.org](http://www.az-tu.org)**

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WHITE MOUNTAIN LAKES  
FOUNDATION  
FOURTH ANNUAL  
**Becker Best**  
EVENT  
BECKER LAKE, SPRINGVILLE, AZ



Guest Appearance by  
Fly Fishing Expert and Author  
**DUANE REDFORD**

**SATURDAY, MAY 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**6:00 am** Becker Lake Opens

**Noon** Lunch Provided by WMLF and  
meet the 2016 WMLF Board of Directors

**1:30 pm** WMLF Becker Best Raffle  
WMLF 2016 Membership Rod Raffle

**WIN GREAT PRIZES!**

WMLF will be raffling some great prizes with the  
proceeds to benefit future WMLF projects such as our  
Crescent Lake and Little Colorado River projects.  
General Raffle tickets will be \$10 each.

Additionally, WMLF will be drawing the winner of the  
2016 Membership Rod Raffle!

\* You do not need to be present to win

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

A block of discounted rooms has been reserved under  
White Mountain Lakes Foundation at the Rode Inn Motel,  
located just a few short minutes from Becker Lake.

**Call (928) 333-4365 for reservations.**

*More Info Contact, Joe Staller | [joestaller@yahoo.com](mailto:joestaller@yahoo.com)*



White Mountain Lakes Foundation is dedicated to improving Arizona's White Mountain fisheries through grassroots conservation, restoration and protection efforts. WMLF is a 100% volunteer organization where all the money raised goes directly to improving fishing in the White Mountains area. Since WMLF is a registered 501-C non-profit, all donations are tax deductible. Our goal is to increase the fishing opportunities for today's anglers and to ensure future generations are able to enjoy great fishing in the White Mountains of Arizona.



501(c)3 NONPROFIT

[www.WMLF.org](http://www.WMLF.org)



**Save  
the  
Date!**

**June 18, 2016  
Annual Hunter Information Clinic  
Antelope Recognition and  
Fundraising Banquet**

AZ Antelope Foundation  
Embassy Suites Tempe

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AZSCI 41st  
Annual Banquet  
Banquet Date June 18, 2016  
Loews Ventana Canyon Resort!  
Doors open at 4:00 PM, dinner at 6:00 PM Tickets  
are \$70.00 each or \$130.00 per couple  
Corporate tables are \$700.00 for seating of 10  
For more information contact  
Bobby Boido (520) 490-8367 Or  
Gilbert Quintana (520) 971-6213

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**National Wild Turkey Federation's  
Valley Longbeard Chapter  
21st Annual Hunting Heritage Banquet**

**SAVE THE DATE  
JULY 9, 2016**

**Hilton Phoenix Airport**

2435 S. 47<sup>th</sup> Street  
Phoenix, AZ

**Doors open at 5:00 P.M.  
Dinner at 6:00 PM.**

- **EXCITING Games, Auctions, and Raffles!**
- **Great Dinner and Drinks!**
- **Special gifts and raffles for JAKES! (Kids)**
- **Fun for the whole family!**



**For Information & Reservations:  
Call**

**Rich Williams at 602-881-7292; Howard Frampton at 602-692-2911;  
Scott Snarey at 602-996-4679**

## **Advertise With Us**

Did you know: AZSFWC reaches over 20,000 recipients with its E-newsletter?

Did you know: AZSFWC has a way for your organization or business to reach out to our email contact list?

We now offer advertising on our E-newsletter. Please contact us at [info@azsfwc.org](mailto:info@azsfwc.org) for ad space pricing and availability.

## **Visit us on Facebook**



## Conservation License Plates - Get yours today!



**Look at our beautiful license plate.** By purchasing this plate you will be making a contribution to Arizona's wildlife and wildlife habitat. Seventeen dollars (\$17) of each twenty-five (\$25) special license fee will go to AZSFWC's conservation fund. AZSFWC will review and approve all grants from the special license plate program revenues. These grants will fund important outdoor

recreational and educational opportunities and on-the-ground wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement projects.

These plates can be purchased online and can also be personalized. To order an AZSFWC Conservation License Plate go to:

<http://www.servicearizona.com>

Click on "Personalized/Specialty Plates" then if you wish to personalize it, check its availability. Once you have verified the availability of your personalization, or if you only want to order the AZSFWC Conservation Special Plate, click on "Order My Plate". Order your plate as a sequential shelf plate for \$25.00 per year or as a personalized plate for \$50.00 per year.

Here is another helpful link when ordering your special license plate. You can have many of your questions answered here:

<https://servicearizona.com/webapp/vehicle/plates/showInfoPage.do>

The AZSFWC Conservation Plate gives all Arizonan's an opportunity to contribute to programs that benefit our wild creatures.

### **Step up and support "Wild Arizona".**

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation is a 501-c-3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to educate and inform sportsmen, wildlife conservation organizations throughout the state and the public at large on important issues related to wildlife and wildlife habitat and to provide, via grants or other sources, funding to conserve Arizona's wildlife populations through habitat enhancement initiatives. The AZSFWC is responsible for managing the conservation license plate program (Wildlife Conservation Habitat Fund). The fund is derived from the sale of wildlife conservation license plates and member organizations as well as non-member organizations are eligible to apply for those funds.

