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Sportsmen's Connection

August 2016

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- AZ Antelope Foundation
- AZ BASS Federation Nation
- AZ Big Game Super Raffle
- AZ Bowhunters Association
- AZ Catfish Conservation Association

As I write, some hunts are on and many others are in the planning stages! Good luck to all, be safe, watch for snakes and if you're hunting doves, pick up your litter, aka spent shells.

Here's some other news:

-Read about scheming cattalo from a Wall Street Journal reporter, talking about our "Grand Canyon bison". The author actually talked to me, as well as some other sportsmen and a representative from AZ Game & Fish. Try to find our take on the matter in [this article](#).

-Ironically, the National Park Service has accepted the conclusion that the Grand Canyon bison are native wildlife! The Wall Street Journal reporter must not have read this study. (Sorry the link below was incorrect in our last send). <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/DownloadFile/551229>

-Also in that neck of the woods, the proposed Grand Canyon National Monument, formerly referred to as the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument has not yet been designated as such by the President, stay tuned.

-Environmentalists really want that 1.7 million acres designated as a such because it's one of the missing links in their plan. I've said this before, but it's worth repeating, take a look at www.rewilding.org

-If you missed this, the enviro-litigants have sued to cease motorized game retrieval on the Kaibab. They do not like the concept of multi-use.

-On the wolf front, a recent study on wolf genetics has many people wondering what's next for this "endangered species"? Read [this scientific paper](#) and draw your own conclusions.

-Forest plans and Travel management plans across the

- 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
- The Ryan Thomas Foundation
- TRCP
- White Mountain Fly Fishing Club
- White Mountain Lakes Foundation
- Xtreme Predator Callers

Affiliate Members:

- Aircomm

state are in various stages of completion, and we continue to assess these as closely as possible.

-The Tonto National Forest Plan is set to come out in stages over the next year. In addition, their Travel Management Plan is closer to completion, but we haven't seen it yet. Three historic roads may be impacted by a wilderness recommendation there, so we're keeping an eye on it. We have a committee involved to watch and monitor the "progress", and provide input as appropriate..

-On a much brighter note, the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle recently completed the 2016 raffle of 10 Commissioner's Special Tags, handing a check to the AZ Game & Fish Department for \$633,750.00! A record amount of money for wildlife and habitat! Read more at www.arizonabiggamesuperraffle.com .

-Our 3rd Qtr Grant Requests are being reviewed this month. We have another full slate of project proposals that have been submitted for consideration for funding from the Conservation License Plate Fund. If you missed this cycle, the next application deadline is November 1st. For more information about the grant program, [CLICK HERE](#).

The election season is in full swing, hang in there and choose wisely, as our passions and pastimes are on the line.

Finally, don't forget to take someone new afield this year, for recruitment is as critical as the election!

Yours in Conservation,

Jim Unmacht President

TRCP mapping project show destinations hunters, anglers say worth conserving



When it comes to telling others about their "secret" spots, hunters and anglers are famous for holding their cards close to their game or fishing vests.

Yet, more than 1,200 Arizona sportsmen have willingly tipped their hands, circling their favorite destinations on a map, as part of a national initiative to conserve fish and wildlife habitat while protecting and improving

public access for hunting and angling.

The statewide effort recently was completed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP), in cooperation with Arizona sportsmen's groups. Maps from the Sportsmen's Values Mapping Project are available to

the public, as well as state and federal agencies.

"Some of the most valued public hunting and fishing areas in Arizona are at risk because of deteriorating habitat conditions, limited access and increased development pressures," said John Hamill, TRCP's field representative in Arizona. "With the help of sportsmen, we've been able to pinpoint lands that are cherished for their hunting and fishing values, so that land managers can prioritize habitat conservation and the enhancement of public access in these areas."

Maps are available on AZGFD's website at www.azgfd.com/recreation/valuemapping (click on "Open the Map"). The site features maps for 15 species, or species groups, in the following order: elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, javelina, turkey, cold-water fish, quail, dove, warm-water fish, predators, pronghorn, squirrel, waterfowl, other small game, and bighorn sheep.

The species tabs at the top of the webpage are ranked by the number of survey responses - for example, areas valued for elk hunting opportunities received the most responses, making it the first tab. The map for each species is color-coded: The most highly valued areas are red and orange; moderately high-valued areas are yellow, and less highly valued areas are green. The maps allow the user to view, pan, and zoom in or out to explore the most highly valued hunting and angling locations in Arizona.

While the maps will be useful to sportsmen, they largely were developed to guide conservation efforts. The maps have been assembled in a geographic information system (GIS), where they can be overlaid with maps of critical habitat, land ownership and other data. The resulting maps will provide important and previously unavailable data to state and federal agencies for the following purposes: * Balance other land uses with the needs of fish, wildlife, hunters and anglers.

- Identify areas where public access needs to be maintained or improved.
- Identify areas needing stronger conservation efforts, or expansion of hunting and angling opportunities.
- Identify key high-use areas warranting special conservation strategies, because of their value to sportsmen.
- Justify actions and funding requests aimed at conserving highly valued wildlife habitat, and hunting and fishing areas.

A random sampling of 7,500 Arizona residents who had purchased state hunting and fishing licenses were mailed a postcard last fall, inviting them to participate in the survey. Those who received a postcard were directed to a specially designed website where they could highlight on a map their most valued hunting and fishing destinations.

The survey included questions about why sportsmen identified a particular area as being important. The highest valued areas usually were those that offered the greatest chance of harvesting game. Other primary factors included whether a particular area was close to home, or was someone's "traditional" spot, or that it provided the opportunity to harvest a trophy fish or game species. The results demonstrate the importance of maintaining quality fish and wildlife habitat and providing readily available public access for hunting and angling.

The [Sportsmen's Values Mapping Project](http://www.trcp.org/) is a national initiative that was launched in 2007 by TRCP. The project has been endorsed by the Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation, an alliance of more than two dozen Arizona sportsmen's groups. For more information about TRCP, visit <http://www.trcp.org/>.

Give your kids a treat!

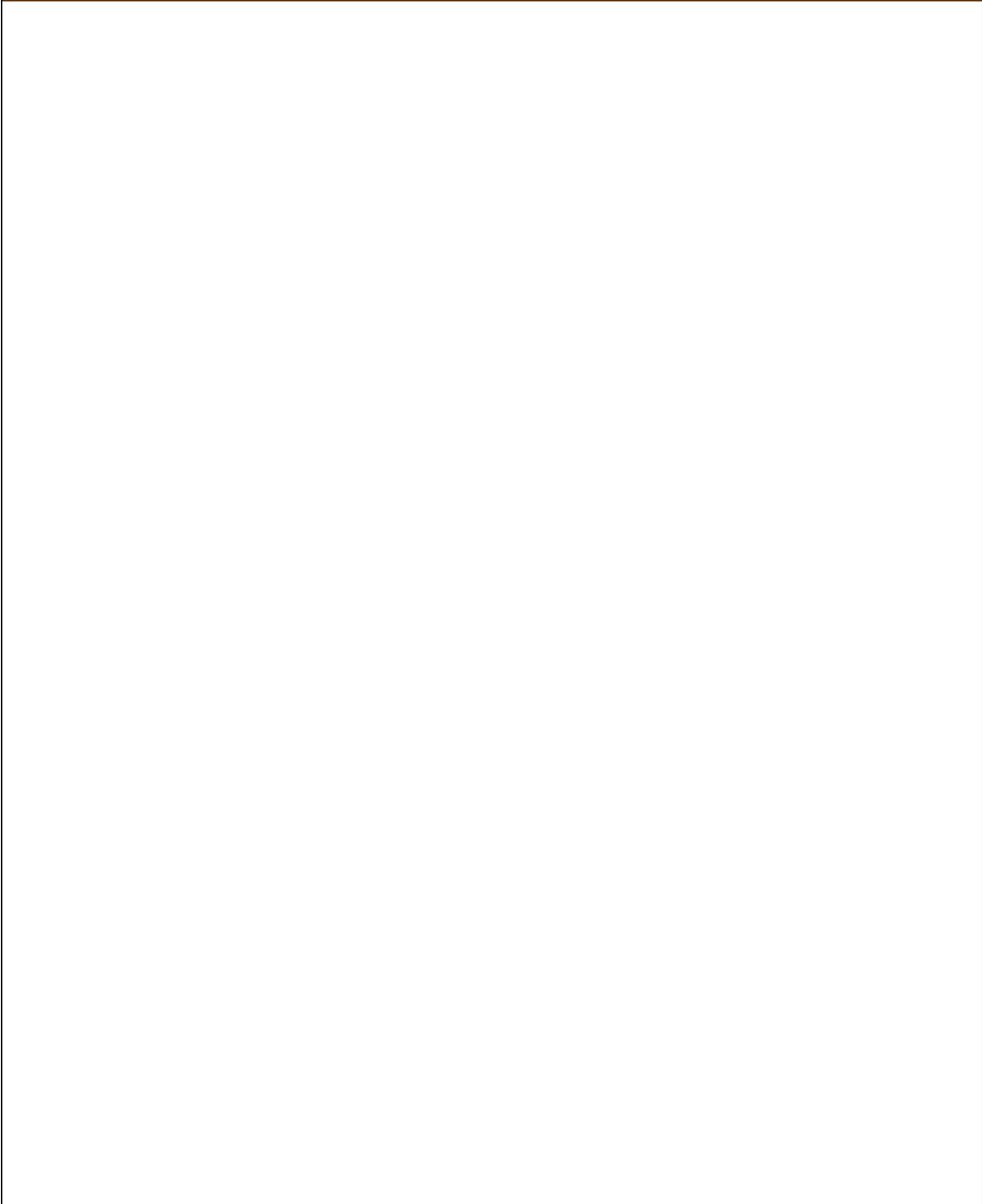
The very successful and popular AZGFD administered Scholastic Clay Target Program for school age athletes from 10 through college is gearing up to start another season. About 25 SCTP

teams exist around the state providing shotgun training for 1000 Arizona students. Most teams fill their registration quotas quickly. Great way for your kids , neices, nephews, etc to learn how to shoot a shotgun safely and responsibly for recreation, competition, and hunting. Over 20 of these athletes got serious about it this last season and qualified to shoot in the Junior Olympic Championship at Olympic Village. They will never forget the experience of shooting on the Olympic Range.

Here is a link to an AZGFD map showing the locations and contact info of SCTP teams in A r i z o n a . [https://www.azgfd.com/PortalImages/files/shooting/2015-16%20Arizona%20SCTP%20Map\(1\).pdf](https://www.azgfd.com/PortalImages/files/shooting/2015-16%20Arizona%20SCTP%20Map(1).pdf)

Anyone reading this is welcome to send an email to me for more information, Tom@ArizonaOutdoorSports.com or check our our web site at ArizonaOutdoorSports.com

Support our Member Organizations Activities



★ 100 Big Bangs! for Freedom ★

Annual commemoration of **NATIONAL PATRIOT DAY (9/11)**;
Sponsored by Arizona State Rifle & Pistol Association—Shotgun Div.
as a benefit for **HUNTS FOR HEROES**, an Arizona Elk Society program
to help disabled veterans here in Arizona heal through hunting.





Saturday Sept. 10th

Sporting Clays Tournament

**At Ben Avery Clay Target Center
Phoenix, AZ 85086**

100-Target NSCA Sporting Clays Shoot
9 AM Shotgun Start; Registration: 7 AM—9 AM
Unregistered NSCA shooters will be placed in "Hunter Class"
\$75 Registration Fee; Includes Catered Lunch

NRA DAY 25-Target Fun Shoot

Warm Up for Main Event; Intro for Beginners
7:30 AM—11 AM
\$25/person; includes: Ammo, Targets, Shotguns, if needed

Shot Heard Round the World

Join our Patriots for a "shot" heard round the world at 9 AM

**Registration call: 602-571-4055
or email secretary@asrpa.com**



ARIZONA ANTELOPE FOUNDATION BONITA GRASSLAND FENCE MODIFICATION AND REMOVAL SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

Project Location: We will be working on private lands approximately 31 miles north of Wilcox and 12 miles west of Bonita, AZ off the High Creek Road.

Project Begins: Saturday September 24th. Please meet at camp at 8:00AM. This is a one day project. If you arrive after 8:00 AM someone in camp will direct you to the project worksite.

Project Activity: We will be modifying 3.5 miles of existing boundary and interior fencing south of the High Creek Road. Approximately 2.5 miles of existing fence, requires the wooden stays to be disconnected and the bottom barbed wire strand to be removed and lifted to a height of 16 inches. The remaining 1 mile of fence will involve removing and replacing the barbed wire with smooth, along with installing stays along the fenceline.

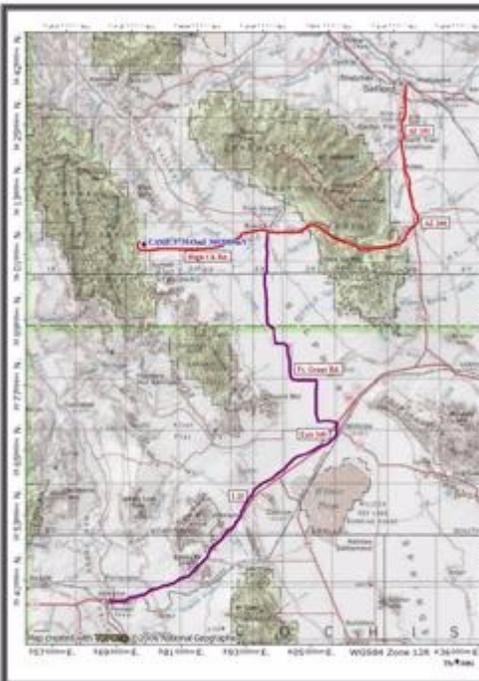
Pronghorn Benefits: This effort is located in direct proximity to ongoing mesquite removal for the Bonita Grasslands NRCS/G&F restoration project with a goal of improving up to 10,000 acres in the next 4 years. Over the past 4 years, the areas adjacent to and within this project have been grubbed, new waters and boundary fence installed. These projects will help ensure that resident pronghorn and mule deer can safely utilize open grassland corridors without interference due to fence line obstructions. It will assist in accomplishing a key portion of the overall Bonita Plains pronghorn travel corridor improvement project.

NFWF Grant Benefits: All labor hours, materials and mileage will be used to match the AAF's \$430K 6-year grant for our "Southeastern Arizona Grasslands Pronghorn Initiative". The grant has a goal of improving up to 100,000 acres of "Pronghorn habitat connectivity".

What to Bring: Work gloves (The AAF will have a limited supply), snacks, water, personal gear. There will be minor brushing to do along some of the fence lines.

Meals: Please provide your own lunch to eat in the field on Saturday. AAF will provide dinner for all volunteers on Friday and Saturday nights and continental breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Contact: Glen Dickens at (520-247-4907) for project information. If you are planning to attend, **please RSVP** to info@azantelope.org by **Monday September 19th** so we can plan to have enough food and tools.



Directions to Camp:

AAF project/camp site will be on USFS lands, approximately 1.5 miles west of the High Creek Road/Sunset Loop intersection. Access to the site is along a maintained travel corridor route, the site is trailer friendly. It is located approximately 33 miles west of the intersection of AZ 191 and AZ 266, and 35 miles north of I-10 and Fort Grant intersection from exit 340.

From Safford: Drive south 17 miles on AZ 191 to AZ 266. Turn southwest onto AZ 266, continue 19 miles to Bonita School (located just south of 266 on Fort Grant Road). Take High Creek Road (dirt road), located on north side of Bonita School, west approximately 14.5 miles to High Creek Road/Sunset Loop curve. Continue west along fenced travel corridor access road 1.5 miles to Campsite.

From Wilcox (Route 2): Turn north from I-10 at exit 340 (past Shell/Truck Stop) on Fort Grant Road. Drive the main paved road approximately 30 miles north (it has several dog leg turns) to the Bonita School. Just north of the school, turn left and proceed west on High Creek Road (dirt road) for approximately 14.5 miles to High Creek Road/Sunset Loop curve. Continue west along fenced travel corridor access road 1.5 miles to Campsite.

Camp GPS coordinates: Datum NAD83 0573543 E/ 3603089 N OR N32 33.46 W110.13.00

Visit our website for a larger printer-friendly map
www.azantelope.org

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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.

