

Coconino County Fair Kids Fishing Tank 2015

Grant Funding Report
Tom Mackin, Coconino Sportsmen

The Coconino Sportsmen submitted and received a \$3000 AZSFWC License Plate grant for a kids fishing tank at the 2015 Coconino County Fair. The tank and funds were part of the Region II Game and Fish area, where staff and volunteers were present from 10 AM until 6 PM for 4 days, Sept. 4-7. The total tank cost was \$6500 with donations from local Flagstaff non-profits and merchants, the Region II Information and Education Program and of course the AZSFWC grant. The fish tank, approximately 400 square feet including filters, chillers, pumps and covered fishing area, was enjoyed by over 1500 young folks, with each angler receiving a bag with information on fishing opportunities, license and regulation information and various other handouts regarding outdoor recreation.



In addition to the fish tank, the approximately 2500 square foot AZGFD area contained animals from the Department's Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center, the Operation Game Thief display trailer, information on the North American Model of Conservation, fishing and hunting regulations, information on Watchable Wildlife, responsible OHV use and numerous other topics.

There were at least two displays regarding the AZSFWC license plate program and all staff and volunteers were informed about the program so they could distribute the information and answer any questions. Almost 6300 visitors, in addition to the young anglers, came to the AZGFD area over the 4 days of the fair. Coverage of the AZGFD area and fish tank was in the Arizona Daily Sun, the local Flagstaff newspaper on two different days during the fair and included photos of the tank.

The Coconino Sportsmen and the AZGFD Region II are extremely grateful for this grant and the important role it played on providing this excellent opportunity for young people to enjoy their brief fishing exposure and promote the recruitment and retention of anglers.