



As we begin 2017 a number of matters have carried over from 2016 and our "to do" list isn't shrinking.

You have the opportunity now through March 15th to provide comment on the Sonoran Desert National Monument Recreational Shooting assessment. Details and information about commenting can be found on our website [HERE](#). The BLM has offered up five Alternatives with a preference for Alternative C. Our AZSFWC Board will discuss the matter at our February meeting and make a decision on which Alternative to support.

On October 31, 2016 we wrote Senator McCain about our concerns with the USFWS' inaction relative to Mexican wolf F1437. Click [HERE](#) to see the letter. Hearing nothing into the new year, we followed up on January 9th and was advised by the Senator's staff they have asked Dr. Tuggle in the USFWS Albuquerque office for a response. We haven't received a response to date. We do understand F1437's collar ceased working, her mate has been removed from the landscape, and there haven't been any recent depredations attributed to her. We'll stay on this one.

The Tonto National Forest planning process plods on. We continue to stay engaged and are providing comment when possible. On January 11, 2017 we signed on to a letter to the Tonto NF Supervisor regarding their "Needs to Change" step. Click [HERE](#) to see that letter.

We were successful in working with the Trust for Public Land to help them acquire the ET Ranch in southeast Arizona, in concert with the AZ Game & Fish Department and the South Eastern Arizona Sportsmen Club, to ensure sportsmen access into the Santa Theresa Wilderness Area. We have another similar project in the works in the same part of the state and will report more on that effort in the coming months.

In the coming weeks we'll report in more detail on the following issues: AZ legislative matters, BLM Planning 2.0, Cormorant surveys, Congressional matters affecting AZ sportsmen, and the status of Federal Public Land transfers.

Finally, in closing, some Great News to welcome in 2017...

-our "Conserving Wildlife" license plate receipts totaled \$147,833 for 2016 breaking the record set in 2015.

-at \$17 per plate received from the State, that is 8696 wildlife plates on the road. Look at the opportunity, if all the sportsmen and women of Arizona put one of these plates on

their vehicles!

their vehicles.

-the AZSFWC Board awarded \$140,000 in grants over the course of 2016, another record!

-and last but certainly not least, President Obama did not designate a national monument in and around the Grand Canyon! Some folks were "profoundly disappointed", we were "decidedly ecstatic"!

Yours in Conservation,  
Jim Unmacht President

## AZSFWC Executive Director

The Board of Directors of Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) voted unanimously on January 10, 2017 to appoint outgoing AZSFWC President Jim Unmacht as the organization's Executive Director. Unmacht has a long history of volunteer conservation leadership dating back to the early 2000's. He joined the AZSFWC Board in 2009 and was elected President in 2010, serving continuously since then. In addition, Governor Doug Ducey appointed him to the Arizona Livestock Loss Board in 2015.

Prior to his involvement with AZSFWC, he served on several wildlife conservation organization's Boards, including leadership roles in the following: President of the AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society in 2009, Vice President of the Arizona Wildlife Federation from 2007 to 2008, Vice President of the Wildlife Conservation Council from 2004 to 2007, and President of the Arizona Antelope Foundation in 2004 and 2005. In his new role he will continue to lead the organization on issues important to Arizona sportsmen and women, as well as with those issues critical to Arizona's wildlife.

As our AZSFWC organization continues to expand, now with thirty member organizations, and the number of issues impacting wildlife and sportsmen continues to increase, it will be important to raise our level of involvement on all these fronts in order to make a difference across the spectrum. During his tenure as President of AZSFWC Jim has continuously demonstrated his firm grasp of the issues critical to sportsmen conservationists. AZSFWC will go a long way toward impacting those issues, expanding our influence and fulfilling its mission with Jim Unmacht serving in this new capacity.

Pete Cimellaro AZSFWC Past President

## Upcoming Member Activities

Valley of the Sun Chapter of Quail Forever  
Annual Banquet

February 24th 5:30 PM

Ina Levine Jewish Center

12701 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

[INFORMATION HERE](#)

**ADA 21st Annual Fundraising Banquet**  
**FEBRUARY 25, 2017 AT THE RUSTLER'S ROOSTE**  
**AT THE ARIZONA GRAND HOTEL IN PHOENIX**  
*– Stick around after the banquet for music and dancing! –*  
**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

**TICKETS WILL BE SOLD ONLINE ONLY!**  
**DEADLINE TO PURCHASE TICKETS IS 2/20/2017**  
**NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!**

**WE WILL BE AUCTIONING THE COMMISSIONERS' TAGS FOR MULE DEER & COUES WHITETAIL**

**TICKET PRICES:**  
**\$520 FOR TABLE OF 8,**  
**\$620 FOR ENHANCED TABLE OF 8**  
**WITH \$200 IN RAFFLE TICKETS**  
**\$65 FOR INDIVIDUAL TICKETS**



**AZ Fly Casters**  
**Annual Banquet & Raffle**  
**Sunday, March 5, 4:00 PM**  
**Arrowhead Country Club**  
**67th Avenue and the 101**  
[\*\*BUY TICKETS HERE\*\*](#)

**Sponsors & Supporters**



**Members**

1.2.3.Go...	Anglers United	AZ Antelope Foundation
AZ Bass Federation Nation	AZ Big Game Super Raffle	AZ Bowhunters Association
AZ Catfish Conservation Assoc	AZ Chapter NWTf	AZ Chapter SCI
AZ Council of Trout Unlimited	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 Cub	Outdoor Experience 4 All	South Eastern AZ Sportsmen Club
SRT Outdoors Inc	The Bass Federation Arizona	The Ryan Thomas Foundation
TRCP	Valley of the Sun Quail Forever	White Mountain Fly Fishing Club
White Mountain Lakes	Xtreme Predator Callers	

## Affiliate Members-



## [American Precision Target Systems](#)

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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.

