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Sportsmen's Connection

March 2016

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MEMBER

We have a variety of matters on the front burner this go round, so I'll get to it.

Bison:

Some of you will recall AZSFWC and 21 of our member groups submitted comments to the National Park Service (NPS) when they announced plans for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in the spring of 2014. You can [click here](#) to read our Action Alert from June 4, 2014. As this EIS has plodded through the process, evidently the NPS has become "alarmed" at the impact of the bison on the Park's habitat, as they just announced they are switching to an Environmental Assessment (EA) to take action as soon as possible (ASAP) to cull this herd. What's notable, is the NPS, which is in the **RED** to the tune of \$580 Million for deferred maintenance of Arizona National Parks and Monuments alone, wants to hire sharpshooters to kill several hundred bison from this herd!

You can [click here](#) to read about their plans. We continue to believe the NPS should work with the AZ Game & Fish Department and let sportsmen pay to hunt/cull the bison from the Park, saving them money they don't have.

You can let the NPS know what you think about all this by providing comment by clicking here:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=71123>

Proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument:

We helped bring to fruition a letter from the AZ Game & Fish Commission and 10 former Commissioners imploring President Obama **not** to designate 1.7 million acres on the Kaibab National Forest and Arizona Strip a national monument. [Click here](#) to read the letter. You can read a [Policy Brief from the Arizona Chamber and Prosper](#) by [clicking here](#). The Commission also passed a Special Land Use Designation Resolution at their January meeting. You can

- 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
- 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

[click here](#) to read that resolution.

Heritage Fund:

Arizona Game & Fish manages Heritage Fund properties after they are purchased, and there are currently 16 properties in the inventory. That's all good, but did you know 87% of the operating and maintenance costs associated with those properties is being paid for with sportsmen's dollars? Arizona Senate Bill 1361 would change that. You can [click here](#) for a link to the bill and information that explains it.

Recreational Shooting:

The BLM is seeking input for revision of a portion of the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Sonoran Desert National Monument near Gila Bend. A 60-day public scoping period is underway through March 21 to help guide BLM in the development of land-use management alternatives related to recreational target shooting. Based on public input and impact analysis of each alternative, a draft Resource Management Plan amendment with an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be made available for public review and comment. Once approved, the monument's RMP will be amended to identify where and if there will be restrictions on recreational target shooting within the 486,400-acre monument. Restrictions resulting from this decision will not affect licensed hunting in accordance with state regulations, but it potentially could restrict all other forms of recreational shooting, including target practice and the sighting-in of firearms.

Mail comments to the BLM's project manager, Wayne Monger, at 21605 N. 7th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85027, or fax to (623) 580-5623, or e-mail to BLM_AZ_SDNMtargetshooting@BLM.gov.

View the [Notice of Intent](#) to amend the RMP that was published Jan. 21, 2016, in the Federal Register.

Lees Ferry Management Plan:

Please read the information below and follow the link to provide your input. **Comments are due by April 7.**

Federal Land Transfers: This is a subject we continue to watch. While we remain skeptical anything like this would ever pass Congress, the issues haven't gone away, and Arizona's Senate subcommittee continues to meet. Ask anyone if they think Federal land management is without any issues and problems, but our state has difficulty in managing what we have, let alone taking over millions of more acres! If you enjoy recreating on public land, you don't want it carved up and sold to the highest bidder.

Your comments make a difference!

Jim Unmacht
President

March 1st UPDATE - Support of the Lees Ferry Rainbow Trout Fishery **Suggestions for Comments on the** **Draft Glen Canyon Dam Long Term Experimental and** **Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (LTEMP DEIS)**



After more than 3 years in the making, the Bureau of Reclamation, which manages Glen Canyon Dam, and the National Park Service, which manages the lands in the Colorado River corridor, recently released for public review the Long Term Experimental and Management Plan Draft EIS (LTEMP EIS) which will determine how Glen Canyon Dam will be operated for next 15-20 years.

To help assure that the LTEMP will benefit the Lees ferry rainbow trout fishery and other environmental values a coalition of sportsmen and conservation organizations that includes several AZSFWC groups, many TU members, and also the AZGFD have worked long and hard to influence the direction and content of the EIS. Last August, the group finalized and published the [Lees Ferry Recreational Trout Fishery Recommendations:Â the voice of Lees Ferry Recreational Anglers, Guides and Businesses](#), with broad AZSFWC support. The Recommendations are consistent with and will benefit many other Colorado River resource values below Glen Canyon Dam including humpback chub recovery, sand conservation, hydropower generation, and cultural resource protection.

Please Get Involved! Your input is needed.

A lot of **members of AZSFWC groups** have already attended public meetings in Flagstaff and / or Tempe to learn more about the actual contents of the EIS and what it will affect. There are many good points to the EIS, but the information affecting trout is scattered through the enormous document. The EIS is still subject to change as public and cooperating agency comments are gathered, right up to April 7th.

Our main message is that the EIS should more strongly and clearly recognize the Lees Ferry recreational trout fishery as a highly valued resource and a financial mainstay of the small community of Marble Canyon and northern Coconino County. The Trout Fishery should have its own section of the EIS, to make those analyses, information, and the action points clear and accessible.

The draft LTEMP EIS is available on the internet at: <http://ltempeis.anl.gov/>. Written comments can be submitted in an online Form on that same website. Written comments will be accepted **ONLY until April 7, 2016.**

Click [HERE](#) for some key points and more information about providing your input.

Gould's Turkey Hunt Raffle

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

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



Payment Options

All entries and payments must be received by Saturday, March 5, 2016.

Register and Pay Online (PayPal) at:
www.theryanthomasfoundation.com

or

Make checks payable to:
Ryan Thomas Foundation

Mail Checks and registration to:
Ryan Thomas Foundation
2062 East Westchester Drive
Chandler, AZ 85249

For more information contact:
Shannon Liebrock
(480) 993-5610
theryanthomasfoundation@yahoo.com



Who Will Benefit From This Year's Event



The Ryan Thomas Foundation is dedicated to providing life jackets at launch stations located at Arizonas Lanes. To date we have supplied nearly 650 life jackets to the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

DROWNING PREVENTION COALITION OF ARIZONA

DPCA is comprised of parents, health and safety professionals, business leaders, and concerned citizens. The group exists to provide a forum for drowning prevention efforts through the promotion of education, legislative action, awareness, and enhanced product safety.



OEA offers outdoor experiences to young people diagnosed with life threatening illnesses, children of fallen heroes, and children with disabilities.



Garden Children's Hospital is dedicated to the ongoing education of water safety in our community. Money raised will assist the children's hospital in their efforts to educate the public about water safety.



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Ryan Thomas Golf Classic

MESA COUNTRY CLUB
SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016



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Buy a new vehicle from Bill Luke Chrysler Jeep Dodge & Ram and we will upgrade your license plate to the Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation Plate at no additional charge!



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 Wildlife Conservation Habitat Fund. The 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.

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You're Invited

Marvin Robbins Memorial Juniors Spring Turkey Hunting Camp

When: April 15-17, 2016 Contact: Rich Williams, azgobbler60@gmail.com
Where: Colcord Ridge Campground, located in northeastern Unit 23

You're welcome to camp with us.

- Talk to AGFD wildlife managers and experienced turkey hunters about where to hunt turkey in Units 3C, 4A, 4B and 23
- Camp funding by AZ Sportsmen For Wildlife Conservation grant program.
- Units 23 and 3C are draw permit units in 2016.
- Hunt units 4A and 4B with an over the counter juniors tag.
- Turkey Hunting and Calling 101 seminars Friday and Saturday
- Fish Hatchery tours and close by fishing for non hunters.
- Free lunch and dinner Fri. & Sat., snacks and drinks.
- Archery range and other activities for family members
- Raffle prizes and gifts sponsored by Cabela's, A.E.S. and local chapters of the NWTF.
- Youth participants must be accompanied by Parent or Guardian at all times.



Juniors-only hunts are open to properly licensed youth ages 10 through 17. Consult regulations for age cut off definition. Participants must have a hunting license and the proper tag for the unit they hunt. Over the counter tags are available at any AGFD office or AGFD license dealer. Youth ages 10-13 must have passed a hunter education course. Legal weapon is shotgun, shooting shot.

Camp Limit of 75 Youth for 2016 First Time Hunters Will Have Preference

The camp is located at the Colcord Ridge Campground. South of Highway 260 on the road to Young AZ.

Bring your own camping gear. There are Forest Service restrooms, but no electricity or water at the campground. Youth hunters must be properly licensed and should have camouflage and their own shotgun.

Camp Co-sponsors:
Arizona Elk Society
AZ Game and Fish
Department
Phoenix Varmint Callers
Valley Longbeards
NWTF
Sportsman's Warehouse
Cabela's
Quail Forever

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 14th, 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



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.



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www.WMLF.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.

