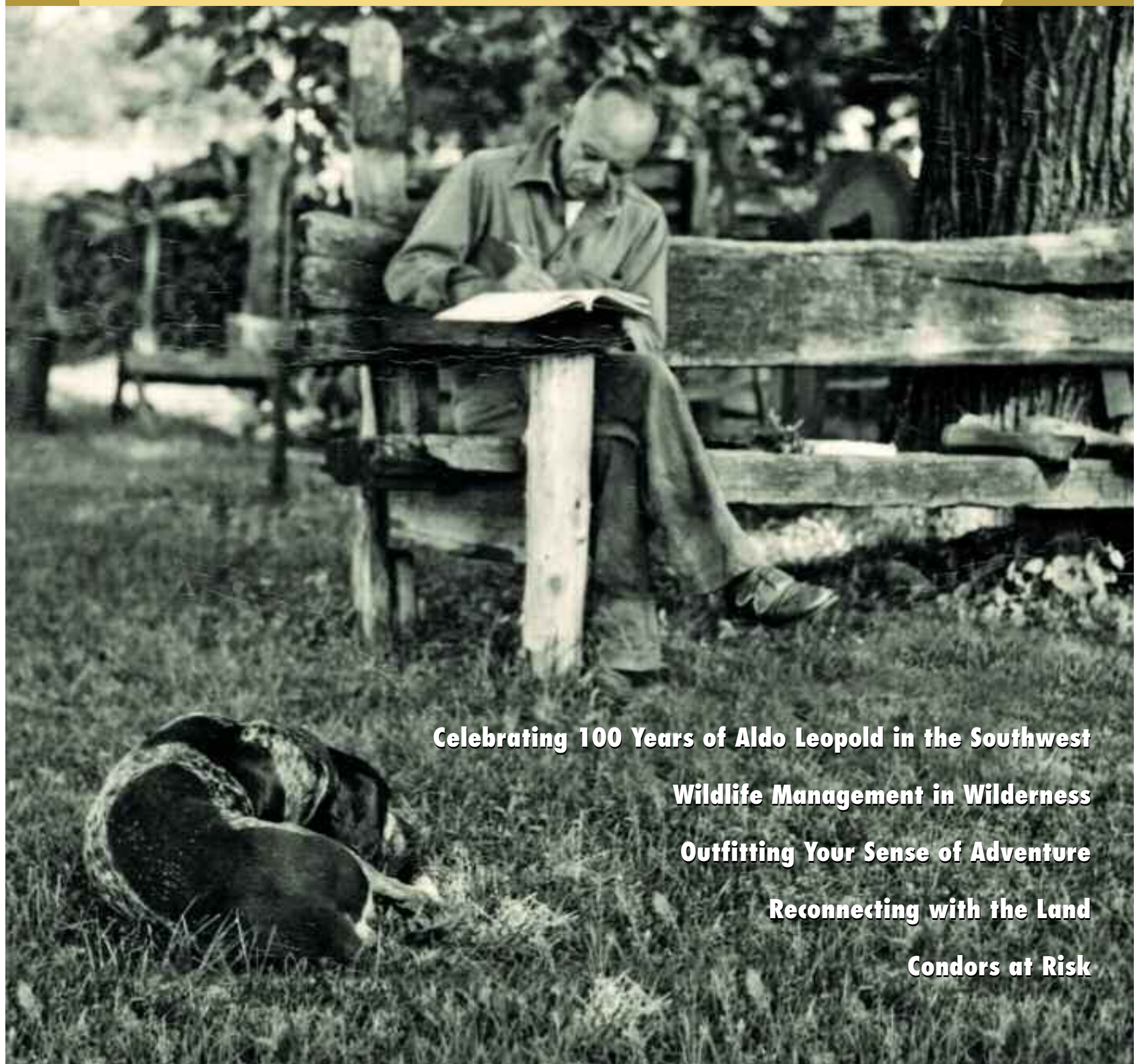


NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION

ARIZONA
WILD



Celebrating 100 Years of Aldo Leopold in the Southwest

Wildlife Management in Wilderness

Outfitting Your Sense of Adventure

Reconnecting with the Land

Condors at Risk

FALL-WINTER 2008/2009

Arizona Wilderness Coalition Main Office
520-326-4300
P.O. Box 40340, Tucson, AZ 85717

Phoenix Office
602-252-5530
P.O. Box 13524
Phoenix, AZ 85002

Central Arizona Field Office
928-717-6076
P.O. Box 2741
Prescott, AZ 86302

AWC Staff

Kevin Gaither-Banchoff, *Executive Director*,
kevin@azwild.org
Katurah Mackay, *Communications Director*,
kmackay@azwild.org
Sam Frank, *Central Arizona Director*,
sfrank@azwild.org
Alison Iaso Isenberg, *Membership Coordinator*,
alison@azwild.org
Danica Norris, *Community Organizer*,
danica@azwild.org

AWC Board of Directors

President: Matt Skroch, Tucson
Vice-President: Brian Segee, Washington, D.C.
Secretary: Don Hoffman, Alpine
Treasurer: Kelly Burke, Flagstaff
Curt Bradley, Tucson
Kim Crumbo, Flagstaff
Trica Oshant Hawkins, Tucson
Douglas Hulmes, Prescott
Bart Koehler, Durango
Michael Quinlan, Tempe

Mission Statement

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition's mission is to permanently protect and restore Wilderness and other wild lands and waters in Arizona for the enjoyment of all citizens and to ensure that Arizona's native plants and animals have a lasting home in wild nature. We do this by coordinating and conducting inventories, educating citizens about these lands, enlisting community support, and advocating for their lasting protection.



Cover Photo: Aldo Leopold writing at The Shack in Wisconsin with his dog, Flick, circa 1940. Courtesy of the Aldo Leopold Foundation.

Design by Mary Williams/marywilliamsdesign.com

THOUGHTS FROM THE KGB

Exploring Our Common Ground

by Kevin Gaither-Banchoff

This summer I took some breaks from my work in the office and did exactly what I urge everyone else to do – I got out and enjoyed the wilds of the world that I love and fight for each day. While at first it's difficult to forget about the finances, strategy and political discussions, and mounds of paperwork (I know the piles will just be higher when I return...) and unanswered emails, I always find it invigorating and find my spirit and passion refreshed. And it doesn't matter whether I'm on an all-day marathon hike, splashing in a mountain stream with my girls, or sitting quietly on a mountain peak that graciously shares its views of a magnificent surrounding landscape.

In July, I spent two weeks with friends and family up at the Blue River Wilderness Retreat (www.blue-river-retreat.com), a slice of paradise situated along a riparian area containing walnut, cottonwood, and ponderosa pine, as well as black bear, mule deer, and an occasional Mexican wolf. I spent most of my mornings running or hiking a nearby trail. With almost a dozen kids underfoot at times, we explored the forest, went on a variety of hikes, and captured and ate invasive crayfish pulled from the nearby Campbell Blue, Dry Blue and Frieborn Creeks, and the Blue River. Several young guests fished and helped me grill fresh trout for dinner several nights in a row. It was awe-inspiring to see 10 and 11 year old kids sit with a fishing pole for hours and beg to come back later the same day.

One highlight for me was hiking to the top of Escudilla Wilderness, where from the lookout tower I could see views extending all the way to Flagstaff to the northwest and the Gila Wilderness to the southeast. It was in this area that Aldo Leopold arrived at the side of a wolf he shot "in time to watch a fierce green fire dying in her eyes," an experience that changed his life. Be sure to read our feature piece on Aldo Leopold; 2009 begins a year-long centennial celebration of Aldo Leopold's arrival to Arizona and New Mexico as a young forester with the fledgling U.S. Forest Service. This part of eastern Arizona is still a popular place for forest users to relax and enjoy their favorite recreational pastimes. I helped conduct a route inventory adjacent to Escudilla Wilderness that one day may allow us to help the Forest Service close illegal off-road-vehicle routes fragmenting the forest. While I understand some people's desire to explore nature from a four-wheel drive vehicle, it shouldn't be done illegally and at the expense of the many others that wish to explore by foot or horseback and experience the quiet and serenity of wild Arizona.

In August, my family traveled north, where we were fortunate to spend several days in Banff and Yoho National Parks in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. We stayed at the Whiskey Jack Wilderness Hostel where we met backcountry hikers and aficionados from around the world, including several from Arizona and the southwest. While we didn't see grizzly bears or elk, Takakkaw Falls was part of the view from our hostel's porch and we spent a morning canoeing around the renowned Emerald Lake. Taking the time this summer to rejuvenate my spirit reminded me again why we do critical work for wilderness: to ensure wildlife still has a home in wild nature, to enjoy clean sources of drinking water and clean air, to preserve fragile cultural artifacts, to protect primitive backcountry recreation like hunting and backpacking, and to secure a wild world for the future.

Everywhere I go—from my hike down the Upper Verde River with the Sierra Club, or my business hike into the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness with the Arizona Game & Fish Department and Bureau of Land Management staff—I meet people from all different political persuasions, economic strata, professions, and parts of the world. There's always one thing in common with everyone I meet: we all agree on the need to protect more wild places, because we all know our world will continue to be impacted and fragmented by new development, recreational pressures on public lands, energy exploration and development, and the sinister impacts of climate change. We travel to Washington, D.C. and across Arizona to get our wilderness message out in communities that cross political, economic, and social spectrums.

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition is working hard to get more folks out on the land like I was this summer—it's truly the best way to share and inspire passion in others (see our Get Out There section on page 14). We are also reaching across traditional barriers to engage wildlife advocates with whom wilderness advocates have historically had conflicts—something we feel has been unnecessarily exaggerated. On page 7, you'll find our position statement that will proactively

minimize conflicts around wildlife management in Arizona wilderness.

Thank you for being a part of our movement. If you are not yet a member, please join us and help bring wilderness to others.



Kevin's family and friends enjoy the Blue River near Alpine this past summer. Photo: Kevin Gaither Banchoff



Kevin and Central Arizona Director Sam Frank explored the Upper Verde River this summer. Photo: Sam Frank

Remembering to Think Like a Mountain

In honor of the 2009 centennial anniversary of young forester Aldo Leopold's arrival in Arizona and New Mexico in 1909, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition has reprinted an essay by Terry Tempest Williams that illuminates Leopold's vision about wilderness and the message of humility toward the natural world that we should carry with us always.

by Buddy Huffaker

Aldo Leopold described humanity's greatest challenge as "living on a piece of land without spoiling it," and his life and writings provide us with the insights and inspiration to do so. Aldo Leopold's legacy defies easy categorization. He is most widely-known as the author of *A Sand County Almanac*; published posthumously in 1949, the book has become a catalyst for our evolving ecological awareness and a classic in Western literature. Although he was trained as a forester, Leopold has also been cited for his work as an educator, philosopher, ecologist, and wilderness advocate.

Leopold developed an interest in the natural world at an early age. Born in 1887 and raised in Burlington, Iowa, he spent hours observing, journaling, and sketching his surroundings. Upon graduating, in 1909, from the Yale Forest School's fifth graduating class, he eagerly pursued a career with the newly established U.S. Forest Service in Arizona and New Mexico. By age 24, he had been promoted to Supervisor of the Carson National Forest in New Mexico.

Working in the southwest led Leopold to the idea of wilderness preservation. The nation was just reaching a point, he argued, where running out of wilderness, previously unimaginable, was becoming possible. In 1921, he published an article in the *Journal of Forestry* defending America's need for wilderness. In it, he delineated a list of criteria for wilderness areas—namely "a continuous stretch of country preserved in its natural state, open to lawful hunting and fishing, big enough to absorb a two weeks' pack trip, and devoid of roads, artificial trails, cottages, or other works of man"—and suggested a number of places that would meet his requirements. Of all the areas he considered of sufficient size, only

three were completely undisturbed by roads and trails, and of these, he felt the headwaters of the Gila River to be the most attractive and the least conducive to development. The Gila's natural communities remained relatively intact, there had been very little grazing, and he felt setting it aside would not create undue economic loss. In 1922, he submitted an official proposal to the Forest Service to manage the Gila National Forest as a Wilderness Area; it gained the first such official designation in 1924.

Shortly before the official announcement of the Gila's wilderness designation, the Forest Service transferred Leopold to Madison, Wisconsin. In Wisconsin, Leopold adopted a piece of worn-out farmland, beginning an experiment in ecological restoration that would last him the rest of his life and inspire many of the essays in his famous book. Professionally, he secured a position at the University of Wisconsin, becoming the nation's first professor in the field that has since become known as wildlife ecology.

Despite living and working in the much less wild Midwest, the concept, definition, and most importantly value of wilderness would continue to develop and evolve in Leopold's mind from primarily recreational to primarily scientific. In 1935, working with other prominent conservationists such as Bob Marshall, Olaus Murie, Robert Sterling Yard, and Benton MacKaye, Leopold helped to found The Wilderness Society as "one of the focal points of a new attitude—an intelligent humility toward man's place in nature." By the 1940s, Leopold realized that wilderness served as a benchmark, or standard, for evaluating the health of land anywhere and everywhere, providing critical evidence about our ability to in fact "live on a piece of land without spoiling it."

Yet wilderness remained a deeply personal subject for Leopold, stemming from both the exhilarating expeditions and the haunting mistakes of his early career in Arizona and New Mexico. His humility shines most clearly in his "Thinking Like a Mountain" essay, in which he tells of shooting a wolf as a young forest ranger in Arizona. He describes the incident:

"We reached the old wolf in time to watch a fierce green fire dying in her eyes. I realized then, and have known ever since, that there was something new to me in those eyes – something known only to her and to the mountain. I was young then, and full of trigger-itch; I thought that because fewer wolves meant more deer, that no wolves would mean hunters' paradise. But after seeing the green fire die, I sensed that neither the wolf nor the mountain agreed with such a view."

By the time he wrote the essay in 1944, Leopold had thirty years of hindsight to realize his early beliefs about the role of predators represented a narrow understanding of how ecological systems function. The green fire in the wolf's eyes had marked a turning point, revealing to Leopold the interconnectedness of the natural world. By telling the story, he gives us hope that we can, in fact, heal past transgressions by moving to a new understanding of the land and accepting our responsibility for the health of the larger land community.

In "A Place of Humility," Terry Tempest Williams argues that Leopold's voice on the subject of wilderness has not grown fainter with time, but more profound. She urges us to follow Leopold in approaching wilderness conservation, and all of the emerging planetary issues we face, with "intellectual humility," tackling old and new problems alike with courage and wisdom.

Buddy Huffaker has served as the executive director of the Aldo Leopold Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin, for the past twelve years. He has become recognized nationally as an authority on Aldo Leopold and conservation ethics.

The Aldo Leopold Foundation is a member supported organization working to weave a land ethic into the fabric of our society; to advance the understanding, stewardship and restoration of land health; and to cultivate leadership for conservation. As the primary advocate and interpreter of the Leopold legacy, the foundation manages the original Leopold farm and now-famous Shack, serves as the executor of Leopold's literary estate, manages the extensive Leopold Archives, and acts as a clearinghouse for information regarding Aldo Leopold, his work, and his ideas. The Shack, a rebuilt chicken coop along the Wisconsin River where the Leopold family stayed during weekend retreats, continues to serve as the heart of the foundation's programs. Each year, thousands of visitors are inspired through tours, seminars, and workshops in the same landscape that deeply moved Leopold.

The five children of Aldo and Estella Leopold established the Aldo Leopold Foundation as a not-for-profit conservation organization in 1982. To learn more about Aldo Leopold and the work of the foundation, visit www.aldoleopold.org.



Aldo Leopold sits on a rimrock with quiver and bow at Rio Gavilan in Mexico, 1938. Photo by Starker Leopold. Courtesy of the Aldo Leopold Foundation.

Wilderness: A Place of Humility

by Terry Tempest Williams

A *Sand County Almanac* changed my life. It is the only book that I can remember where and when I read it for the first time: Dinosaur National Monument, June 1974. My mother and grandmother were talking comfortably in their lawn chairs, my brothers were playing on the banks of the Green River, and I was sitting beneath the shade of a generous cottonwood tree.

Aldo Leopold spoke to me.

With a yellow marker in hand, I underlined the words: “Wilderness is the raw material out of which man has hammered the artifact called civilization.... The rich diversity of the world’s cultures reflects a corresponding diversity in the wilds that gave them birth.”

And a few pages later: “Ability to see the cultural value of wilderness boils down, in the last analysis, to a question of intellectual humility.”

I closed the book having finished the last two chapters, “Wilderness” and “The Land Ethic.” I wanted desperately to talk to someone about these ideas, but I kept quiet and tucked Leopold into my small denim pack, not realizing what the personal effect of that paperback copy, with its flaming orange sunset over wetlands, would be. I was eighteen years old.

Twenty-five years later, I can honestly say it is Aldo Leopold’s voice I continue to hear whenever I put pen to paper in the name of wildness. The essays of *A Sand County Almanac* were published in 1949. They were revolutionary then and they are revolutionary now. His words have helped to create the spine of the American wilderness movement.

The vision of Aldo Leopold manifested itself on the land in 1924, when he persuaded the United States Forest Service to designate 1,200 square miles within the Gila National Forest as a wilderness area. That was forty years before the Wilderness Act of 1964 was signed into law.

Aldo Leopold perceived the value of wilderness to society long before it was part of the public discourse. He has inspired us to see the richness in biological systems and to hear all heartbeats as one unified pulse in a diversified world. He understood this as a scientist and land manager, and he understood it as a natural philosopher.



Leopold early in his career with the U.S. Forest Service in Arizona Territory, circa 1909. Courtesy the Aldo Leopold Foundation.

When Leopold writes about “the community concept” and states that “the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts,” he instinctively elevates the discussion above what one typically hears in wilderness debates—that the land is meant for our use at our discretion, that profit must dictate public lands policy.

And when he takes this notion of interdependent parts one step further and proposes that we “[enlarge] the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land,” he challenges us. In a politically conservative and theocratic state like mine (Utah), this kind of thinking may be regarded as grounds for heresy, evidence of paganism, the preemptive strike before black helicopters fueled by the United Nations move in to defend public lands against the people who live there.

But what I love most about Aldo Leopold is that he keeps moving through his lines of natural logic with eloquent rigor and persistence. Finally, he ruptures our complacency and asks simply, “Do we not already sing our love for and obligation to the land of the free and the home of the brave? Yes, but just what and whom do we love?”

Wilderness.

In the American West, there may not be a more explosive, divisive, and threatening word.

Wilderness.

The place of a mind, where slickrock canyons hold a state for eons whether or not human beings make an appearance.

Wilderness.

The mind of a place, where perfection is found through the evolutionary path of a mountain lion slinking down the remote ridges of the Kaiparowitz Plateau like melted butter.

Roadless.

Ruthless.

Wilderness.

“A resource which can shrink but not grow... Shrink but not grow... Aldo Leopold’s words echo throughout the wildlands of North America.

Why is this so difficult for us to understand? Why as we enter the twenty-first century do we continue to find the notion of wilderness so controversial?

Perhaps Leopold would say wilderness is becoming more difficult to understand because there is less and less wilderness to be found. Wilderness is threatening as a word because it is now threatened as a place. How can we begin to understand what wilderness is if we have never experienced a place that is unaltered and unagitated by our own species? How are we to believe in the mind of the natural world if we have not seen it, touched it, felt it, and found our own sense of proportion in the presence of wildness. If there is a greatness to the American spirit, a spirit aligned with freedom and faith, surely its origin is to be found in the expanse of landscapes that have nurtured us: coastlines, woodlands, wetlands prairies, mountains, and deserts.

“Shall we now exterminate this thing that made us American?” writes Leopold. The extinction of places we love may not come as a result of global warming or a meteor heading in our direction, but as a result of our lack of imagination. We have forgotten what Wilderness means, that it exists, here, now. If we continue to cut, whittle, and wager it away, stone by stone, tree by tree, we will have turned our backs on bears, wolves, cougars, mountain goats and mountain sheep,

martins, fishers, wolverines, caribou, musk oxen, otters, sea lions, manatees, alligators, gila monsters, blue-collared lizards, roadrunners, song sparrows, milkweeds and monarchs, spring peepers and fireflies and the myriad other creatures with whom we share this continent.

Call their names. Remember their names. When Leopold speaks of silphium, sedge, leatherleaf, tamarack, buffalo, bluebirds, cranes, geese, deer and wolves, one recognizes them as family. His language of landscape evokes an intimacy born of experience. And his experience in nature on the land, allowed him to test his ideas, change, grow, alter his opinions, and form new ones. We are the beneficiaries of his philosophical evolution.

In 1925, Aldo Leopold wrote in “A Plea for Wilderness Hunting Grounds,” “There are some of us who challenge the prevalent assumption that Christian civility is to be measured wholly by the roar of industry, and the assumption that the destruction of the wild places is the objective of civilization, rather than merely a means providing it with a livelihood. Our remnants of wilderness will yield bigger values to the nation’s character and health than they will to its pocketbook, and to destroy them will be to admit that the latter are the only values that interest us.”

Brave words in an America on the verge of the Dust Bowl, the Depression, and the postwar build-up. Leopold held the long view in a country that was spoiled by its abundance of natural resources and whose native gifts were seen as infinite. He took his stand in and for the wilderness.

We continue to learn from Leopold—that Wilderness is not simply an idea, an abstraction, a cultural construct devised to mirror our own broken nature. It is home to all that is wild, “a blank place on the map” that illustrates human restraint.

There are those within the academy who have recently criticized “the wilderness idea” as a holdover from our colonial past, a remnant of Calvinist tradition that separates human beings from the natural world and ignores concerns of indigenous people. They suggest that wilderness advocates are deceiving themselves, that they are merely holding on to a piece of American nostalgia, that they are devoted to an illusory and static past, that they are apt to “adopt too high a standard for what counts as ‘natural.’” These scholars see themselves as ones who “have inherited the wilderness idea” and are responding as “Euro-American men” within a “cultural legacy ... patriarchal Western civilization in its current postcolonial, globally hegemonic form.” I hardly know what that means.

If wilderness is a “human construct,” how do we take it out of the abstract, and into the real? How do we begin to extend our notion of community to include all life forms so that these political boundaries will no longer be necessary? And whom do we trust in matters of compassion and reverence for life?

I believe that considerations of wilderness as an idea and wilderness as a place must begin with conscience.

I come back to Leopold’s notion of “intellectual humility.” We are not alone on this planet, even though our behavior at times suggests otherwise. Our minds are meaningless in the face of one perfect avalanche or flash flood or forest fire. Our desires are put to rest when we surrender to a grizzly bear, a rattlesnake, or a goshawk defending its nest. To step aside is an act of submission; to turn back is an act of admission that other beings can and will take precedence when we meet them on their own wild terms. Our manic pace as modern human beings can be brought into balance by simply giving in to the silence of the desert, the pounding of a Pacific surf, the darkness and brilliance of a night sky far away from a City.

Wilderness is a place of humility. Humility is a place of wilderness.

Aldo Leopold understood these things. He stepped aside for other wild hearts beating in the Gila National Forest, in the Boundary Waters, in the wetlands of the sand counties, and in the fields of his own home lands where he must have puffed his pipe in admiration as the sandhill cranes circled over him at the Shack.

When contemplating Aldo Leopold and wilderness, I believe we will need in the days ahead both intellectual humility and political courage. We will need humility to say we may not know enough to intrude on these wildlands with our desire for more timber, more coal, more housing and development. We may have to bow our heads and admit that our intellectual ceiling may be too low to accommodate the vast expanse above and inside the Grand Canyon. We will need political courage to say: we need to honor and protect all the wilderness that is left on this continent to balance all the wilderness we have destroyed; we need wilderness for the health of our communities and for the health of the communities we acknowledge to exist beyond our own species. We will need both intellectual humility and political courage to say, for example, we made a mistake when we dammed Hetch-Hetchy and Glen Canyon; let us take down with humility what we once built with pride, political courage means caring enough to explain what is perceived at the time as madness and staying with an idea long enough, being rooted in a place deep enough, and telling the story widely enough to those who will listen, until it is recognized as wisdom—wisdom reflected back to society through the rejuvenation and well-being of the next generation who may still find wild country to walk in.

This is wilderness—the tenacious grip of beauty.

In 1974, as a self-absorbed teenager, I was unaware of the efforts made twenty years earlier on my behalf by people like Howard Zahniser, Margaret and Olaus Murie, David Brower, and Wallace Stegner. They kept the Green River free-flowing through Split Mountain in Dinosaur National Monument. Nor did I realize as I sat by the river that summer day that it had been threatened by the Bureau of Reclamation's efforts to dam Dinosaur as part of the Colorado River Basin Storage Project. It was a history no one told us in Utah's public schools. All I knew was that I felt safe enough there to continue dreaming about wildness.



U.S. Forest Service employees outside the Apache National Forest office in Springerville, 1909. Leopold is 5th from right. Courtesy the Aldo Leopold Foundation.

Aldo Leopold was tutoring me sentence by sentence, showing how ecological principles are intrinsically woven into an ethical framework of being.

Historians have said the defeat of the dam on the Green River in Dinosaur National Monument marked the coming of age of the conservation movement. Conservationists of my generation were born under this covenant. The preservation and protection of wilderness became part of our sacred responsibility, a responsibility that each generation will carry.

In order to protect that which is original in the land and in ourselves, we can draw on the intellectual humility, the political courage, the wisdom and strength of character of Aldo Leopold. His lifelong

respect for wilderness, revealed so compellingly in these words, inspires us not to compromise out of expediency and social pressure, not to consider lifestyles over life zones. Rather, as Leopold states in "The River of the Mother of God," "In this headlong stampede for speed and ciphers we are crushing the last remnants of something that ought to be preserved for the spiritual and physical welfare of future Americans, even at the cost of acquiring a few less millions of wealth or population in the long run. Something that has helped build the race for such innumerable centuries that we may logically suppose it will help preserve it in the centuries to come."

Excerpted from: Meine, Curt and Knight, Richard L. *The Essential Aldo Leopold*. © 1999 by the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System. Reprinted by permission of the University of Wisconsin Press.

Terry Tempest Williams has been called "a citizen writer," a writer who speaks and speaks out eloquently on behalf of an ethical stance toward life. A naturalist and fierce advocate for freedom of speech, she has consistently shown us how environmental issues are social issues that ultimately become matters of justice. "So here is my question," she asks, "what might a different kind of power look like, feel like, and can power be redistributed equitably even beyond our own species?"

Known for her impassioned and lyrical prose, Terry Tempest Williams is the author of the environmental literature classic, "Refuge—An Unnatural History of Family and Place;" "An Unspoken Hunger—Stories from the Field;" "Desert Quartet;" "Leap;" "Red—Passion and Patience in the Desert;" and "The Open Space of Democracy." Her new book "Mosaic: Finding Beauty in a Broken World," will be published in October 2008 by Pantheon Books. Her book tour begins October 7th.

In 2006, Ms. Williams received the Robert Marshall Award from The Wilderness Society, their highest honor given to an American citizen. She also received the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Western



Aldo weighs a woodcock after a hunt in 1946. Courtesy of the Aldo Leopold Foundation.

American Literature Association and the Wallace Stegner Award given by The Center for the American West. She is the recipient of a Lannan Literary Fellowship and a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in creative nonfiction.

Terry Tempest Williams is currently the Annie Clark Tanner Scholar in Environmental Humanities at the University of Utah. Her writing has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Orion Magazine*, and numerous anthologies worldwide as a crucial voice for ecological consciousness and social change. She divides her time between Castle Valley, Utah and Moose, Wyoming.



Terry Tempest Williams



The Leopold family at The Shack, 1939. Photo by Carl Leopold. Courtesy of the Aldo Leopold Foundation.

Aldo Leopold Centennial Events in Arizona and New Mexico

February 13-14, 2009 Aldo Leopold, the Southwest, and the Evolution of a Land Ethic for the Future: A Cultural Conversation at the National Hispanic Cultural Center, Albuquerque. The colloquium, conceived as the opening event in the 2009 centennial celebration of Aldo Leopold's arrival in the Southwest, is intended to foster creative discussion in a multicultural context about the history and prospects for vibrant and healthy communities in the Southwest and globally, grounded in environmental sustainability and a land ethic. It will include discussion of the Southwestern roots of Aldo Leopold's land ethic, the roots of an environmental ethic in Hispanic and Native American traditions in the Southwest, and the connections among them historically and prospectively, locally and globally. The colloquium is open to the public, with invited scholars, community leaders, and participants from a wide range of cultural backgrounds. For further information, see the website of the Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration at www.leopoldcelebration.org or the website of the Aldo Leopold Foundation at www.aldoleopold.org.

June 22 – July 17, 2009 A Fierce Green Fire at 100: Aldo Leopold and the Roots of Environmental Ethics, Summer Institute for College Faculty, sponsored by the ASU Institute for Humanities Research and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Guest faculty include Curt Meine, Julianne Warren, J. Baird Callicott, and Scott Russell Sanders. Prescott, Arizona. June 22 – July 17, 2009. More info at www.asu.edu/clas/ihf

September 18 – 20, 2009 The Arizona Association for Environmental Education's bi-annual statewide professional conference: Arizona's Fierce Green Fire: Leopold's 100 Year Legacy in celebration of the centennial anniversary of Aldo Leopold's entry into the Arizona. Sessions, workshops, and field trips will provide academic and practical methods that help Arizona educators respond to today's challenges, keeping in mind the simple philosophy that was true for Leopold 100 years ago: "Conservation is a state of harmony between man and the land." Screening of the National Forest Service's documentary of Aldo Leopold, entitled, "A Fierce Green Fire" will be a highlight of the conference, as well as presentations by prominent keynote speakers. The conference will be held at the High Country Conference Center on the Northern Arizona University campus on September 18, 19, and 20th, 2009. More info at www.arizonaee.org.

October 2009 The Bosque School, an environment and community learning-based school in Albuquerque, New Mexico, will present a site-specific work by Patrick Dougherty on the school grounds along the Rio Grande River and create a student curriculum inspired by the work of Aldo Leopold in conjunction with the Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration.

Combining his carpentry skills with his love for nature, Patrick Dougherty learned about primitive techniques of building and began to experiment with tree saplings as construction material. His work quickly evolved from single pieces on

conventional pedestals to monumental scale environments which required saplings by the truckloads. During the last two decades, he has built over 150 works throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. His installations were recently featured at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix. More info at www.bosqueschool.org and www.stickwork.net.

November 4 – 6, 2009 The Quivira Coalition's 8th Annual Conference, "Living Leopold: the Land Ethic and a New Agrarianism" will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In this 'practitioners' conference, the Quivira Coalition will feature farmers, ranchers, scientists, and conservationists who are "living Leopold" today—people who are implementing his vision of a land ethic on the back forty. Ultimately, the goal of the conference is to facilitate, and possibly speed up, the knitting process. We need a new 'whole'—and quickly. We can start by reinvigorating the land ethic and inaugurating an annual celebration of the new agrarianism. www.quiviracoalition.org. U.S. Forest Service public events around the Aldo Leopold Centennial can be found as specific dates are planned by visiting the Region 3 website at www.fs.fed.us/r3/.

For more information and updated events in Arizona and New Mexico, be sure to visit the Aldo Leopold Centennial website at www.leopoldcelebration.org.

WILDERNESS TO WATCH

Wildlife Management in Arizona Wilderness

by Kevin Gaither-Banchoff

Since the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964 there have been numerous and consistent conflicts between wilderness and wildlife advocates over the issue of wildlife management in wilderness. Our two communities have more in common than not and share similar, if not always synonymous, goals and desires for wildlife and a wild landscape. The Arizona Wilderness Coalition (AWC) is committed to proactively clarify misconceptions about AWC's position regarding the development of wildlife waters, wildlife installations and the use of motorized or mechanized equipment for implementing wildlife projects in Wilderness while also finding ways all interested parties can work better together.

Over the coming months we hope to partner with others stakeholders in an effort to find common ground and minimize future conflict around these issues. Towards that end this summer the AWC Board of Directors approved the following background description and formal Wildlife Management in Arizona Wilderness Policy Statement; we publish it here for all to see.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IN ARIZONA WILDERNESS POLICY STATEMENT BY THE ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION

Purpose

To define the Arizona Wilderness Coalition's official position regarding development of wildlife waters, wildlife installations, and use of motorized or mechanized equipment for implementing wildlife projects in Wilderness.

Issue Background

Created by the Wilderness Act of 1964, the National Wilderness Preservation System in America affords the highest level of legal protection to more than 105 million acres of public lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The state of Arizona currently boasts 90 individual wilderness areas totaling 4,528,913 acres. Since 1964, six distinct pieces of federal legislation have added to the state's Wilderness System.

Historically, wilderness was largely appreciated for its recreational opportunities and natural beauty, and these human-centered values remain some of the system's most popular and important legacies. Over time, however, wilderness preservation has been increasingly recognized for the vital role it plays in the protection of ecological integrity and biological diversity. As a result, scientists and wildlife managers today emphasize the role of wilderness in conserving natural abundance and distribution of wildlife. Current wilderness advocacy efforts acknowledge and embrace these ecological benefits, particularly in a rapidly fragmenting landscape such as Arizona. As a result, today's Wilderness Preservation System not only offers Americans some of their best opportunities for a primitive and unconfined recreational experience, but provides some of our nation's best opportunities for maintaining viable populations of native wildlife species.

Understanding of the principles of conservation biology is critical to the preservation of ecologically intact landscapes and the protection and restoration of ecologically effective—or at least viable—populations of the full spectrum of native species. Wilderness



Water installations put in wilderness for bighorn sheep at Kofa National Wildlife Refuge have caused recent controversy. Photo © Mark Miller.

increasingly supports a number of critical ecosystem services to human and wildlife systems, though opposition to Wilderness is often derived from a concern for single species management by a subset of sportsmen organizations. When wildlife enhancement projects fail to meet the necessary and appropriate criteria provided by the Wilderness Act, wilderness advocates are often forced into a position of protecting the integrity of the Act, including its natural, cultural, and experiential elements. In many cases, the agency affords limited opportunities through a valid NEPA process where the public, including wilderness advocates, can participate in the evaluation of such project proposals. The public oversight role of wilderness advocates unfortunately can be misinterpreted by sportsmen and their organizations, state and federal wildlife and land managing agencies, as well as the local media as direct opposition to efforts to preserve wildlife.



Pronghorn are a heavily managed species in Arizona because of habitat loss and drought. Photo: USFWS

The goal of preserving wildlife and ecosystem integrity is impaired by this unnecessary divide between the sportsmen/wildlife groups and wildlife managers on one side versus the wilderness advocates and conservation biologists on the other. There is a need to develop and utilize a multi-agency standardized process for evaluating wildlife-related projects in wilderness – a transparent process that ensures adequate and fair public participation, while also elucidat-

ing a clear scientific benefit to the natural abundance and distribution of native species.

This increasing focus on wildlife preservation creates its own array of legal, biological, and ethical issues. Prominent among these is determining the necessity and appropriateness of installing artificial water sources for native species within designated Wilderness. Similarly, decisions regarding if and to what extent using motorized or mechanized equipment when implementing wildlife projects in wilderness have also been met with controversy. Addressing these complex issues is particularly important within Arizona. Thousands of wildlife water developments exist across Arizona, including hundreds in existing and potential wilderness areas, and new proposals to construct new water installations within wilderness are regularly put

forward by land management agencies, Arizona Game and Fish Department, or various hunting groups. Additionally, wildlife managers occasionally propose the use of motorized/mechanized equipment for implementing wildlife projects in Wilderness. As the state's only conservation organization solely dedicated to the designation and protection of Arizona's wilderness, the Arizona Wilderness Coalition has thus drafted the following position statement.

Position Statement

Regarding development of wildlife waters, wildlife installations, and use of motorized or mechanized equipment for implementing wildlife projects in Wilderness

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition (AWC) recognizes native wildlife as an essential component to all wilderness areas. Likewise, the existence and long-term maintenance of wilderness areas are critical to ensuring Arizona's natural heritage is conserved into the future. Natural disturbance processes such as fire and floods and natural ecological functions such as predation and habitat connectivity are key aspects to maintaining natural communities of life. Wilderness areas, by definition under the 1964 Wilderness Act, are lands where natural processes are allowed to operate freely. Nonetheless, federal agencies do manage wilderness areas in variable intensities, and because of the significant influence of humans on the landscape, there are instances when active management must be employed in Wilderness areas to maintain natural abundance and distribution of wildlife. AWC recognizes that these instances are exceptions, not a rule. Wilderness offers Arizona's wildlife much of its best habitat precisely for the fact that mechanized intrusions, whether management related or not, are only allowed in outstanding circumstances. However, AWC acknowledges that instances exist when non-conforming development, motorized transport or equipment in wilderness are "necessary to meet the minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act" and to preserve or enhance wilderness character.

AWC recognizes that the Arizona Game and Fish

continued on next page, column three

Hunting and Wilderness

by Alison Iaso Isenberg

Wilderness is federal land that has received the highest level of protection possible. It takes an act of Congress to confer wilderness protection, and to qualify for consideration federal land must, in the words of the Wilderness Act of 1964, have retained “its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation.” Wilderness must be protected and managed so that it appears “affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.” Roads and permanent structures are not allowed in wilderness, and activities like logging and mining are prohibited.



Theodore Roosevelt was a champion for protecting wild lands in the West and ignited a passion for hunting by starting the Boone and Crockett Club and the Boy Scouts of America. During his tenure as president, Roosevelt provided federal protection for almost 230 million acres, a land area equivalent to that of all the East coast states from Maine to Florida. Credit: Library of Congress Digital Archives

Q. As a hunter, I want to make sure I've got access to all my favorite places. Now I hear that my favorite hunting camp is part of a “wilderness proposal” that will likely become law. If this place gets labeled wilderness, what will this mean for me and for other hunters?

A. Access by foot, horseback and not-motorized boat for hunting is permitted in wilderness areas. As long as hunting is permitted in an area before that area becomes wilderness, it will remain a legal activity after the area is designated as wilderness. For example, hunting is legally allowed on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service lands, but it is not permitted in national parks or on other lands managed by the National Park Service. When an area becomes wilderness, the only thing that changes is how hunting takes place.

Because motorized vehicles are not allowed in wilderness areas, you and the game animals you hunt will find a wild backcountry, free from motorized noises and big lights. This (ever more rare) opportunity for a truly rugged backcountry hunting experience is the reason so many hunters are wilderness advocates.

Q. I want to see game animals protected, so I can hunt them. I hear different things, so I'm not sure if I should support wilderness or not. How does a wilderness designation impact game animals?

A. Wilderness is good for wildlife! When an area becomes wilderness, no new roads or buildings can be built and extractive activities, such as logging and mining, are no longer permitted. Motor vehicles are also no longer permitted. Furthermore, the area must be managed as wilderness, which means that every effort is made to support a thriving natural ecosystem—which encompasses all of its native plant and animal species, including game animals.

Q. What the heck are wildlife waters?

A. The term “wildlife waters” refers to artificial water sources, such as water tanks, that are created for native wildlife species. These wildlife projects can be controversial. To learn more, read our accompanying article: “Wildlife Management in Arizona Wilderness, Policy Statement by the Arizona Wilderness Coalition.”

If you would like to contribute a question for our next Wilderness Q&A, please send it to Alison Iaso Isenberg at alison@azwild.org.



Wilderness offers sportsmen a quiet backcountry hunting experience, an opportunity that is rapidly disappearing in America. Credit: Dave Peterson, Trout Unlimited

Wilderness to Watch continued

Department has jurisdiction and responsibilities for managing Arizona's wildlife in wilderness in coordination with the jurisdiction and responsibilities of federal land or wildlife agencies.

AWC recognizes that language in individual wilderness bills references specific reports, policies and guidelines that provide supplemental authorities regarding fish and wildlife management. For instance, the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 specifically applied Policies and Guidelines for Fish and Wildlife Management in National Forests and Bureau of Land Management Wilderness (FS BLM & IAFWA August 1986) to the lands designated by that Act and administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

AWC maintains an organizational responsibility and is committed to review all proposals in wilderness that would result in normally incompatible developments and installations or wildlife related proposals that involve the use of motorized or mechanized equipment and expects to be notified and involved in the decision process.

AWC believes that all new construction, reconstruction and relocation of developments/ installations in wilderness and new proposals requesting the use of motorized/mechanized equipment in wilderness require, at minimum, an Environmental Assessment and a robust NEPA decision-making process including public notice and opportunity for public comment. Based on their controversial nature, the use of NEPA “categorical exclusions” is not appropriate for any such proposals.

AWC endorses the Minimum Requirement Decision Process as the format for evaluating and documenting decision rationales for projects that propose non-conforming development or motorized/mechanized transport or equipment in Wilderness, and that the Minimum Requirement Decision Process documentation is available to public during the NEPA decision-making process.

AWC will use—and expects managing agencies to use—the best available science when evaluating whether a proposed wildlife development is necessary and appropriate. This includes peer-reviewed literature originating from academic journals or external sources.

AWC believes that all agencies with management responsibilities in wilderness are obligated to develop primitive skills that will enable them to effectively carry out projects in Wilderness. Lack of training or lack of interest by agencies, agency personnel, or volunteers are not appropriate reasons for allowing non-conforming installations or the use of motorized/mechanical equipment in Wilderness. The Arizona Game and Fish Department has an equal obligation to train, equip, and instill pride in competent Wilderness implementation crews.

Conclusion

This position statement clarifies our beliefs regarding the development of wildlife waters, wildlife installations, and use of motorized or mechanized equipment for implementing wildlife projects in Wilderness. It should be useful in minimizing conflicts around these issues in the future.

Approved June 8, 2008

Please free to contact AWC Executive Director Kevin Gaither-Banchoff at 520-326-4300 or kevin@azwild.org if you wish to share your thoughts on this effort.

BUSINESS FOR WILDERNESS

Outfitting Your Sense of Adventure: Manzanita Outdoor

by Katurah Mackay

Ask Dave Wheeler what's changed about Prescott since he moved there in 1988 and there's a long pause. When he finally answers, it's clear he's not sure whether to talk about the good or the bad—because there's been both.

"I moved here from Tucson at the beginning of what is now a 'rush' on Prescott," says Wheeler. "The diversity of interests here, the new restaurants, the cultural events—that's all good. But I think Prescott has missed the boat on building a community that's easy to get around in and highlights the natural treasures that surround it. We could use a lot more bike trails, a few more parks, and fewer gated communities."

Wheeler is owner of Manzanita Outdoor, an all-purpose outdoor gear shop that provides everything from climbing gear and kayaks to apparel and footwear—an outdoor lover's one stop shopping extravaganza in Prescott. He originally owned an anti-freeze recycling company in Phoenix for 10 years, but then he decided it was "time to relax."

at Prescott College. "People come out and volunteer their time and energy and it's a lot of fun to have some goodies to give away to say 'Thanks'. Dave and the whole crew at Manzanita Outdoor are really knowledgeable about the gear in the store and always enthusiastic to support AWC's work."

Since opening its doors, Manzanita Outdoor has been excited to help AWC in numerous ways—from posting notices about upcoming events, having newsletters in the store, and donating items from backpacks to energy bars. In fact, Manzanita Outdoor was the sponsor for the 2008 National Trails Day event, co-hosted by AWC and Back Country Horsemen, when volunteers built new trails and trailheads at Juniper Mesa Wilderness.

"My goal is to build a good business so that the people who like to get outdoors and enjoy the wild places in Arizona can do that," says Wheeler. "The shop is a gathering place too. People come in here looking for local information on trails and projects like those Sam leads for the Coalition. I'm happy to bring

LETTERS FROM THE FIELD

Dear...

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition would like to regularly feature letters from our interested readers. We haven't received many so far, but please do not hesitate to write to us about an issue you see in our newsletter or on our website. Send your letters to azwild@azwild.org. The Arizona Wilderness Coalition reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

Dear Kevin,

I picked up a copy of your 2008 Summer edition of the Arizona Wild newsletter at Bookman's the other day.

It was refreshing to find a newsletter not bashing businesses, capitalism or Republicans (except for the silly cartoon of the elephant driving the bulldozer) for all things bad about the environment. I read every article. And congratulations on a professional looking publication.

Although I have been with Walmart Stores, Inc. for ten years it seems during that time the company I work for does not get the notice of all the good things we do for the environment.

I have to say that since transferring from Yuma to Tucson I have taken more of an interest in things environmental. I have volunteered at the Arizona-Desert Museum for almost three years and the Walmart Foundation has given the Mammalogy-Ornithology department over \$2000 for the Pelican project. That money was given through a program called "Volunteerism Always Pays." When a Walmart Associate volunteers with an organization at least 25 hours per 6 month period that organization receives a check for \$250.00 from Walmart.

Again, I enjoyed the newsletter. Keep up your good work.

Philip Wright
Assistant Manager
Walmart Neighborhood Market #3357
Tucson



Dave Wheeler and the staff of Manzanita Outdoor. Photo: Manzanita Outdoor

"I wanted a closetful of toys to play with, and what better way to do that than to open a shop for outdoor lovers like myself?" asks Wheeler, a runner and mountain biker. "I looked at Prescott and saw the need for a good gear store and the rest is history."

Wheeler was hoping to learn climbing and kayaking, but these days he doesn't get out much because he's working seven days a week in the shop. But his dedication to wilderness and the people who advocate for its protection is no less apparent. Wheeler has donated gear to the Arizona Wilderness Coalition on several occasions for service projects led by AWC's Central Arizona Director Sam Frank.

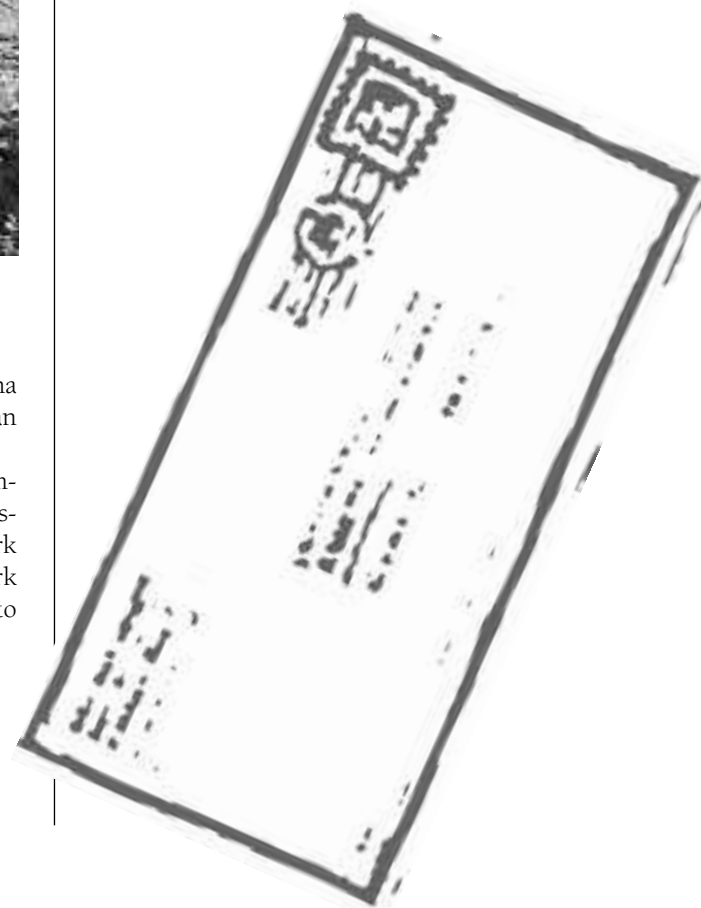
"The support we have gotten from Manzanita Outdoor has really helped boost the morale of volunteers at our events," says Frank, whose office is based

like-minded people together."

Wheeler says he decided to support the Arizona Wilderness Coalition when he realized it wasn't an organization that was about "finger-pointing."

"I like a group that's working toward finding common ground instead of touting their self-righteousness. AWC brings a variety of people together to work and solve a problem, have an open dialogue, and work to make change. I'm happy to pass people along to them—when they're finished shopping at my store."

Find Manzanita Outdoor in the Frontier Village Center, Prescott. www.manzanitaoutdoor.com



Reconnecting With the Land We Love

by Justin Loxley

“We can be ethical only in relation to something we can see, feel, understand, love, or otherwise have faith in.”
—Aldo Leopold, 1949

The life of a Wilderness Ranger in the Forest Service could be easily described as the best job in the country, and often that’s the comment I get when coming in contact with our forest visitors. The humbling experiences that our wilderness areas have taught me over the years have truly been life changing, providing me with memories that will last a lifetime and entertaining my kids with hours of camp fire stories.

Yet, those areas of our public lands where wilderness abuts urban areas—known as the “wilderness/urban interface”—have suffered severe damage at the hands of our national forest users. The Red Rock Ranger District (RRRD) is unique in that these district wilderness boundaries are shared with backyards, traffic noise, and millions of new visitors every year who are unfamiliar with the rigors and standards of wilderness protection. As one of the busiest districts in the country at over 4 million visitors annually, the land ethic learning curve on the RRRD is quite high and has become a serious issue for rangers and managers of this beautiful part of Arizona. As Aldo Leopold, one of the earliest U.S. foresters and an ardent wilderness lover, wrote, “A land ethic . . . reflects the existence of an ecological conscience, and this in turn reflects a conviction of individual responsibility for the health of land.”

So what does all of this mean locally and nationally? In the simplest terms, on a national level, Americans have begun to place less emphasis on our inherit connection to the land and placed far more emphasis on activities and issues that seem to break down that connection. There are many contributing factors, such as politics, advertising, and other forces that contribute to a “land ethic deficit”, and certainly many respected government and community leaders are researching alternatives to solve the public’s disconnect with the land. But until the trend makes a turn for greater environmental awareness, we still have a large component of society that appears to be ignorant about the proper use and care of public lands.

Individually how can we make a difference? Locally, we can address some of these issues by the way we conduct ourselves in the backcountry and in our communities. For starters, try to educate several of your friends, your own children, or even neighborhood children about Leave No Trace land ethics. Bring an extra trash bag when hiking to pick up some of the trash others left behind. If you happen to see someone doing something detrimental to the land and you feel the situation is safe to do so, offer another method that may have less impact on the land. Take time to volunteer and assist your local land manager or mentor a youth group. Go spend a week in the woods if your time allows. Take time and plant a garden and get your family’s hands’ dirty. Re-connect yourself and those around you with our beautiful Arizona landscape and wildlife!

The Wilderness Ranger title is just that—a title. Just like many of our wilderness area enthusiasts, I find pleasure is nature’s beauty, but I’m repulsed by the way some treat our backcountry areas. I don’t like to pick up trash or bury human waste, but I’m pleased not to see it upon my return. I would also rather not stop and educate the never-ending stream of visitors about the simple fundamentals of land ethics, but I’m



Justin on top of Loy Canyon in the Red Rock Secret Mountain Wilderness Area. Photo: USFS

always thankful for a visitor who modifies his or her behavior to have less impact on the land. Ever heard the saying “Teach a man to fish”...?

In the end it will take an even greater effort by you and me to make a difference, even in the short term. Each of us, wilderness user or not, is a steward of the earth and each of us in some way, will benefit from the long term care and thoughtful management of wilderness wherever it maybe. The road to the respectful treatment of our nation’s spectacular wilderness legacy is a long one: to shoulder this burden of caring for the land and encouraging a stronger land ethic is no small task, but the end prize is well worth the extra effort. Hope to see you on the trail, especially in wilderness.

Justin Loxley is a Wilderness Ranger / Volunteer Coordinator for Coconino National Forest, Arizona.



For more information about Leave No Trace ethics, visit www.lnt.org.

WE ARE PROUD TO CONTINUE
THE CHALLENGE GRANT PARTNERSHIP
BETWEEN



AND



PLEASE HELP US MATCH THIS
SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGE GRANT OF
\$125,000 SUPPORTING THE CRITICAL
WORK OF

Arizona Wilderness Coalition

PLEASE MAKE A GIFT BEFORE
DECEMBER 31, 2008

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

Grand Canyon Condors Are at Risk

by Kim Crumbo

Of the many superlative spectacles offered by the Grand Canyon and its adjacent wild lands, few creatures evoke the magnificence of size and grace as the California condor. Condors, one of the most endangered birds in the world, were so close to extinction in the mid-1980s that the last 22 wild condors were captured as biologists initiated a captive-breeding program leading to their progeny's release back to the wild by the mid-1990s. Still perilously hovering near extinction, a flock of approximately 60 free-ranging individuals now inhabits the area extending from the Grand Canyon to the Zion region of southern Utah.

In Arizona, reintroduction to the Grand Canyon eco-region was conducted under a special provision of the Endangered Species Act that allows for the designation of a nonessential experimental population. Under this designation (referred to as the 10(j) rule) the protections for an endangered species are relaxed, providing greater management "flexibility," and sometimes increased peril, for endangered species such as the condor and Mexican Wolf.

Condors restored to the wild face a variety of threats, including habitat loss, shooting, and collisions with power lines. Lead poisoning, resulting from the birds scavenging carcasses containing lead bullet fragments, remains the leading cause of death in wild condors. Ongoing blood testing reveals that the majority of individual condors are exposed each year (90% in 2006), many of which require treatment (70% in



Condors are one of the most endangered birds in the world. Photo: USFWS Digital Library

2006). In 2006, five individuals died of lead poisoning. This threat remains a serious obstacle to condor survival.

Accumulating scientific evidence indicates that lead has even more serious consequences than formerly believed. A recent radiographic study of rifle bullet fragmentation revealed the presence of hundreds of lead particles in whole deer and gut piles left by hunters. The majority of rifle-killed animal remains left in the field and consumed by scavengers are now known to contain considerable quantities of lead. In addition to condors, studies show that bald eagles, golden eagles, ravens, mourning doves, upland game birds, and more than 50 other species of birds are known to be poisoned by ingesting spent bullet fragments and shotgun pellets.

Lead poisoning appears to present a potentially serious threat to humans who consume game animals. Several investigations have found elevated lead levels in subsistence hunter families, a serious issue since even small amounts of lead exposure in developing children may substantially and permanently reduce cognitive ability.

Although lead-free ammunition is available and its use promoted, eliminating lead from the condor's habitat has unfortunately proven controversial. In Arizona, the Arizona Game and Fish Department has initiated a voluntary educational program to encourage hunters to use lead-free ammunition in the condor recovery area. The agency presents on its website a plethora of studies addressing this threat, and lists ammunition sources and retailers providing lead-free ammunition. While they report that an encouraging number of hunters using lead-free ammunition, agency and other research staff agree that lead exposure is simply too prevalent for the condor population to maintain itself by natural reproduction unless lead in the wild food supply is greatly reduced.

While the majority (60% in the past two years) of hunters responsibly choose non-toxic ammunition, at least in the condor recovery area, many wildlife conservationists remain highly skeptical of a purely voluntary program to save the endangered condor from this serious, imminent threat. Lead poisoning remains a serious problem and threatens other species and quite possibly humans as well. The simplest, most responsible solution is to require non-toxic ammunition for hunting.

We urge our readers to tell the Arizona Game and Fish Department that full recovery of the condor is the number one priority and that getting the lead out of the condor recovery area now is absolutely necessary. The agency's California Condor Project Coordinator is Kathy Sullivan. Kathy can be reached by phone at (928) 214-1249 or by email at ksullivan@azgfd.gov.

For those interested in finding out more about condors, wildlife and lead, check out the following web sites:

www.biologicaldiversity.org/swcbd/species/condor/index.html

www.peregrinefund.org/conservate_category.asp?category=California%20Condor%20Restoration

www.azgfd.gov/w_c/california_condor.shtml

Kim Crumbo is a wilderness and land planning professional and serves as the Wildlands Conservation Director for the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council. He also sits on the board of directors for the Arizona Wilderness Coalition and the Arizona Wildlife Federation.



A condor learns to feed in captivity. Photo: USFWS Digital Library



An adult condor in flight; wingspan can measure up to 9.5 feet. Photo: USFWS Digital Library

Short Takes

Mr. Frank Goes to Washington

On October 2nd, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act celebrated its 40th birthday. This river counterpart to the Wilderness Act gives Congress the power to enact protections for maintaining water quality and quantity and the “outstandingly remarkable values” of our nation’s free flowing rivers. The combination of the anniversary year and the pending legislation to designate Fossil Creek Arizona’s second Wild and Scenic river was enough reason for AWC to send Central Arizona Director Sam Frank to Washington, D.C., to take part in River Lobby Days, hosted by the non-profit group American Rivers. The objective of the trip was to visit the offices of members of Congress to inform and remind them of the importance of protecting free-flowing rivers with Wild and Scenic designation, specifically Fossil Creek. Fellow Arizonans joined Frank on his lobby visits: Mayor Tony Gioia of Camp Verde and members of the Yavapai-Apache Nation including their Chairman, Thomas Beauty.

Frank’s team met with members of Congress or their staff and held conversations with influential individuals such as Mark Rey, under secretary for natural resources and environment in the Department of Agriculture (the Department the Forest Service is within); Abigail (Gail) Kimball, Chief of the Forest Service; and Chris Brown, Director of Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers for the Forest Service. Currently, the legislation to designate Fossil Creek as a Wild and Scenic River—originally introduced by Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.) in January 2007—is packed in a bundle of non-controversial bills in the Senate under the title Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2008 (S. 3213). The bill is sponsored by Senator Jeff Bingaman (D) from New Mexico and is on the legislative calendar. Fossil Creek has come a long way thanks to a lot of hard work from many people concerned for its preservation, but the bill still has a long way to go before passing into law.

—Take Action!—

You can help to make Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River a reality by contacting your members of Congress and urging them to support the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2008 before this session of Congress concludes at the end of the year. To find Members of Congress that represent you visit the Arizona Wilderness Coalition’s webpage at www.azwild.org/action.

Leave No Child Inside

The Arizona Wilderness Coalition is proud to be part of the No Child Left Inside Coalition, which continues to achieve enormous success in Washington, D.C.. The Coalition, with more than 650 member organizations, has won strong support in Congress for the No Child Left Inside Act. This legislation would authorize a significant increase in federal spending on environmental education. It would give states an incentive to create environmental literacy plans, to make sure that all graduates have a basic understanding of environmental issues.

The bill represents a major milestone in environmental education, which has won bipartisan support but has never been adequately funded. Members of Congress are increasingly recognizing the benefits that stem from environmental education and understand the need to equip the next generation of Americans with the knowledge to respond to the serious environmental challenges facing our nation. The effort to pass the NCLI Act will continue into 2009, and more support from friends of the environment in Arizona will be important to the effort. For more information on the NCLI Act and how to get involved, visit www.NCLICoalition.org.

Wild Photography Adorns AWC Office Walls

AWC extends a hearty thank you to the photographers who have donated art work to permanently hang in our new office in downtown Phoenix!

Our front reception room is graced with verdant images of Fossil Creek, donated by freelance photographer Nick Berezenko. The coalition has been working to ensure Fossil Creek’s designation as a Wild and Scenic River to protect the creek’s vital ecological functions in the desert and its outstanding recreational opportunities. Nick’s work appears regularly in Arizona Highways magazine. In our conference room, guests are treated to six of Mark Miller’s stunning images representing different bioregions of Arizona. Mark has donated his work to AWC for more than 6 years—most notably for our website and new brochure. Mark enjoys traveling around Arizona with his camera, when he has time, and capturing the phenomenal diversity of Arizona’s wild landscapes. We were also grateful to receive several stunning, up-close photographs of flora and fauna of the Sonoran Desert by Scottsdale-based photographer Tom Cheknis. Thank you Nike, Mark, and Tom! Be sure to view their work at our Phoenix open house celebration on October 23, details at www.azwild.org

Wilderness Week Hits the Nation’s Capitol

AWC’s Kevin Gaither-Banchoff, executive director, and Danica Norris, community organizer, traveled to Washington, D.C. in September for Wilderness Week, which is held every other year in D.C. a few weeks before Congress adjourns. The event brings together Wilderness advocates from around the country to celebrate and educate lawmakers about Wilderness. Fellow Arizonans, Eric Gorsegrner from Sonoran Institute and Mike Quigley from Sky Island Alliance joined Danica and Kevin in DC. This September was of particular importance



Front (l-r): Vincent Randall, former chairman of the Yavapai-Apache Nation; Bruce Babbitt, former Governor of Arizona and Secretary of the Interior under the Clinton Administration; Thomas Beauty, current chairman of the Yavapai-Apache Nation. Back (l-r): Tony Gioia, Mayor of Camp Verde; Sam Frank, AWC’s Central Arizona Director.



Wilderness advocates convened on Washington, D.C., the week of September 15th to lobby congressional offices about the importance of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Photo: AWC



Sam Frank and Congressman Harry Mitchell (D-Dist. 5).
Photo: AWC



AWC staff and friends from the Campaign for America's Wilderness prepare to take on the Capitol during Wilderness Week. Photo: AWC



Sam Frank visits with Congressman Edward Pastor, (D-Dist. 4). Photo: AWC

Save the Date!



The Arizona Wilderness Rendezvous Celebrating the Aldo Leopold Centennial

APRIL 24 – 26, 2009

Join us, fellow advocates, and friends for this exciting wilderness celebration weekend up on Mt. Lemmon (45-minutes northeast of Tucson) near Pusch Ridge Wilderness Area. We'll camp under the stars at the beautiful Whitetail group campground, where you'll enjoy inspiring workshops and speakers, learn about Leave No Trace ethics, the history of the wilderness movement, and current campaigns across Arizona. You'll still have plenty of time for relaxation and exploring the wilds. We'll also have storytelling and rockin' music around the campfire.

Throughout the weekend, we'll be celebrating the centennial of Aldo Leopold's arrival in the Southwest and the relevance of his visionary land ethic to wilderness issues today. We hope this weekend extravaganza will fire up the wilderness movement in Arizona, and we want you there!

APRIL 26 – 28, 2009
Optional Backpacking Trip Add-On

We're also offering a guided backpack trip down the mountain via Sabino Canyon, a spectacular way to exit the Rendezvous! Space will be limited.



For more information on the Arizona Wilderness Rendezvous, or the add-on backpacking trip, contact Alison Iaso Isenberg at 520-326-4300 or alison@azwild.org.

Get Out There



Join AWC for an exciting line-up of fall and winter events! The bulk of our trips this season are around the Valley—due to more hiker-friendly temperatures.

As always, our electronic action alerts are the most up-to-the-minute way to get more details on each of these events and whether we need volunteers to help us out with tabling, outreach, phone banking, letter writing, and other important activities. Visit our website at www.azwild.org to sign up for our action alerts, if you haven't already!

**Face Mountain Hike with Jim Vaaler of the Sierra Club
October 19th**

Join AWC and Sierra Club for this west valley hike into the Sonoran Desert. Contact Danica Norris at danica@azwild.org, or 602-252-5530 for more information and to sign up.

**Sonoran Desert National Monument Restoration and Road Removal
November 8th**

AWC is leading this service project and will be joined by our friends from Arizona Clean & Beautiful. Contact Danica Norris at danica@azwild.org, or 602-252-5530 for more information and to sign up.

**Cedar Bench Wilderness Project, Prescott National Forest
November 8 & 9**

Our last overnight backpacking trip into Cedar Bench was such a hit, we're returning for another round of hiking, camping, and trail work. November offers cool daytime temperatures for hiking and trail work; evenings are perfect for wrapping up in a sleeping bag. Come join us for two days and a night of camaraderie in a remote and rugged wilderness on the Prescott National Forest. Contact Sam Frank, sfrank@azwild.org, or 928-717-6076 for more information and to sign up.

**Hike the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness
November 15th**

A spectacular wilderness not far from Phoenix. Contact Danica Norris at danica@azwild.org, or 602-252-5530 for more information and to sign up.

**Overnight Camping and Service Project at Sonoran Desert National Monument
November 22-23rd**

Restoration & road removal, followed by hiking and a night under the stars in this gorgeous national monument that needs some TLC. Work will focus on the North Maricopa Mountains Wilderness & Margie's Cove Trail. Contact Danica Norris at danica@azwild.org, or 602-252-5530 for more information and to sign up.

**Car Camping at Yellow Medicine Butte with Jim Vaaler of the Sierra Club
December 6-7th**

Contact Danica Norris at danica@azwild.org, or 602-252-5530 for more information and to sign up.

**Saddle Mountain Geology Hike
December 13th**

Contact Danica Norris at danica@azwild.org, or 602-252-5530 for more information and to sign up.

**Restoration and Road Removal at Sonoran Desert National Monument
December 14th**

We'll be joined by our friends at Arizona Clean & Beautiful. Contact Danica Norris at danica@azwild.org, or 602-252-5530 for more information and to sign up.

**Hike and Inventory Work, Belmont Mountains
January 10th**

Contact Danica Norris at danica@azwild.org, or 602-252-5530 for more information and to sign up.

**Overnight Backpacking in the Hummingbird Springs Wilderness
January 18-19th**

Contact Danica Norris at danica@azwild.org, or 602-252-5530 for more information and to sign up.

**Restoration and Road Removal at Sonoran Desert National Monument
February 7th**

We'll be joined by our friends at Arizona Clean & Beautiful. Contact Danica Norris at danica@azwild.org, or 602-252-5530 for more information and to sign up.

**Hike in the Sand Tank Mountains
February 21st**

Contact Danica Norris at danica@azwild.org, or 602-252-5530 for more information and to sign up.



We Need Your Support!

AWC continues to build a bigger presence across Arizona to help meet the challenges facing Arizona's most wild places, whether they are in the Grand Canyon region, across the Verde River Watershed, eastern Arizona's White Mountains, the low western deserts, or the beautiful Sky Island region. We now have five staff, offices in Tucson, Phoenix and Prescott, and are attending or hosting a public event several times a month, including two Wild & Scenic Film Festivals this past winter and spring.

As a member and financial supporter of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition, you are a vital part of our ability to accomplish work and goals. Some of the current work you support includes:

- Convincing Senator McCain to keep pressure on his colleagues to pass legislation that includes Fossil Creek Wild & Scenic River protections.
- Building support to pass the Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Act of 2008.
- Growing our base of wilderness supporters across the metro Phoenix region that leads to a progressive movement focused on safeguarding more endangered wild places facing increased growth and recreational pressures.
- Using momentum from our Fossil Creek work to investigate and plan next steps for protecting more critical places across the Verde River Watershed.
- Engaging in national forest planning and the Travel Management Rule for all of Arizona's national forests, minimizing road densities, protecting roadless areas, and ensuring conservation-oriented management for the next 15-20 years.

We are now asking you to financially support our work. By giving a gift, you will help AWC expand our capacity to more effectively engage in wild land and wilderness protections across the entire state. This year we have again received a challenge from the Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation to raise \$125,000 in new support by year's end. Please help us meet this challenge.

- If you are not a member, please join by giving at least a \$25 donation.
- If you normally give \$25, please consider giving \$50.
- If you normally give \$50, please consider giving \$100.
- If you can give more, please consider supporting our work at a higher level.
- If you can, please become a monthly donor. It is one of the easiest ways to increase your support without having to write a check each month.

Your donation is tax-deductible. With your support, we can continue the work to permanently protect Arizona's wilderness, wild lands, and waters.



Yes! I want to join the Arizona Wilderness Coalition, because together we can save Arizona's wilderness legacy. As a member you'll receive our biannual newsletter, as well as regular email updates and announcements on wilderness-related news, events and opportunities to take action for wilderness. You will also enjoy discounts to events like our Wilderness Rendezvous and Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festivals, special invitations to hikes and campouts, and the knowledge that your donation supports our wilderness protection efforts.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email* _____

*We send our Action Alerts and event notices via email to save costs and to reach our members as quickly as possible. You can choose to stop receiving our email announcements at any time.

Enclosed is my one-time donation of:

__\$250 __\$100 __\$50 __\$25 __Other _____

I would like to make a monthly donation of:

__\$30 __\$20 __\$10 __Other _____

Card Type _____ Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

I want to volunteer! What are your interests and skills? (Please check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Wild Land Inventory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Work (or other physical work) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing/Publishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Letter Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Naturalist or Hike Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography/Art/Graphic Design |

Mailing preferences? (Please check any that apply.)

- Do not mail semi-annual newsletter. Do not share*
(*We occasionally share addresses with like-minded conservation groups for one-time mailings.)

Cut and mail this form with your payment in to:
Arizona Wilderness Coalition
PO Box 40340
Tucson, AZ 85717

On behalf of Arizona's Wilderness,
thank you.



What is Wilderness?

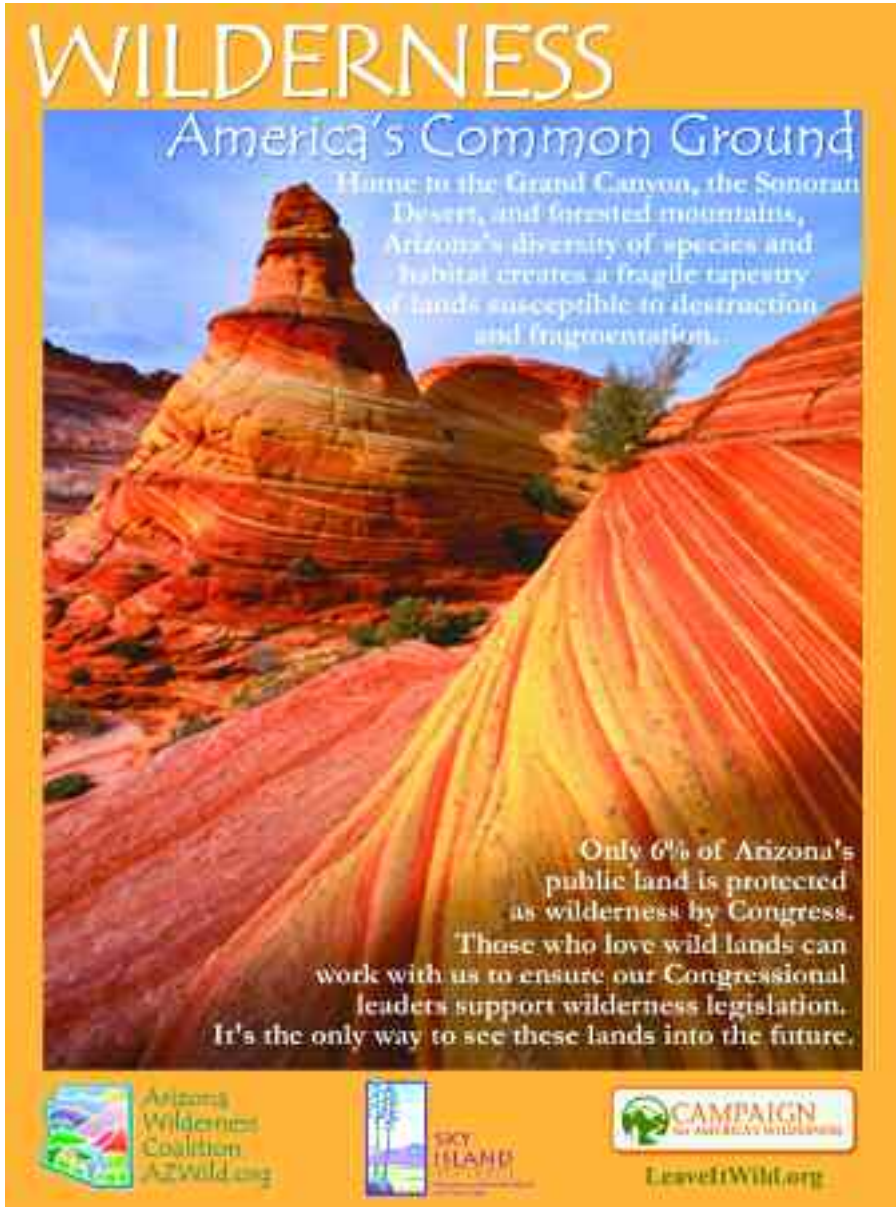
Wilderness is an area of undeveloped federal land that appears “to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of mans’ work substantially unnoticeable,” as written in the Wilderness Act of 1964. Unlike national parks, wildlife refuges, or monuments, wilderness designation from Congress provides the highest level of natural resource protection available in the world. The Wilderness Act created the National Wilderness Preservation System to preserve the last remaining wild lands in America. Currently, about 4.7 percent of all available land in the United States is protected as wilderness. In Arizona, wilderness designation protects approximately 6.2 percent of our land and wildlife habitat.

**A R I Z O N A
WILD**

In this issue

FALL-WINTER 2008 / 2009

100 Years of Aldo Leopold	3
Managing Wildlife in Wilderness	7
Outfitting Your Sense of Adventure	9
Reconnecting with the Land	10
Condors at Risk	11



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TUCSON, AZ
PERMIT NO. 541

Arizona Wilderness Coalition
P.O. Box 40340
Tucson, AZ 85717