

THE ARIZONA WILDLIFER

2022 Issue 4

 [Follow us on Twitter!](#)

 [Like us on Facebook!](#)

Fall Edition

Inside this issue:

Regional News	3
Our Neck of the Woods	5
Awards Nominations	7
Mysterious Monarchs	8
Sharing Tails®	10
Rabies Management	13
Black-footed Ferrets	15
AZTWS News & Resources	17

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: David Bergman
(602) 870-2081 david.l.bergman@usda.gov

President-Elect: Sarah Rinkevich
(520) 203-1448 sarah_rinkevich@fws.gov

Treasurer: Kerry Griffis-Kyle
(806) 834-2619 kerry.griffis-kyle@ttu.edu

Recording Secretary: Christina Kondrat
(623) 451-1250 ckondrat@azgfd.gov

Corresponding Secretary: Lola Van Pelt
(480) 213-5312 lolita.i.vanpelt@usda.gov

Board Member: José G. Martínez-Fonseca
(928) 814-8792 jm3934@nau.edu

Board Member: Jesse Lewis
(480) 727-1101 jesse.s.lewis@asu.edu

Newsletter Editor: Tiffany Sprague
aztwseditor@gmail.com

Contact us:
<https://aztws.com/about/contact-us>
PO Box 87015, Phoenix, AZ 85080



The President's Message



AZTWS President David Bergman with a 44" musky in Ontario, Canada

JAM is scheduled for February 2–4, 2023.

The Board and Committee Members have been working hard to increase membership, especially among Native American tribes. President-Elect Sarah Rinkevich conducted an educational session at the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society's Southwest Region meeting at the Pueblo of Santa Ana during the last quarter. Additional efforts are being made to reach out to tribal colleges to start additional student chapters. I look forward to seeing the growth and outreach as Sarah continues the push while she transitions from President-Elect to President.

I am sorry to say that the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) has not been finalized. The Act sought to dedicate \$1.3 billion in existing revenue from mineral and energy development on federal lands to the conservation of America's wildlife, fisheries, and habitats. President Biden did sign a continuing resolution to keep

Summer has passed us by, and many Wildlifers are headed to the field as we begin fall. For many of us, fall is a favorite time of year as temperatures cool, wildlife become more active, and we have a chance to bond with peers, family, and friends as we venture outdoors. The Wildlife Society has two upcoming opportunities for peer networking. The 29th Annual Conference for The Wildlife Society will be held November 6–10, 2022, in Spokane, Washington (<https://twconference.org>). Closer to home, the Arizona/New Mexico Chapter has chosen Farmington, New Mexico, for the Joint Annual Meeting (JAM). The

(Continued on page 2)

Presidents Message cont...

the federal government open until December 16, 2022. Locally, the 2022 Arizona elections will be held on November 8, 2022, coinciding with the nationwide general election. All six executive offices are up for election, as well as a U.S. Senate seat, the state's U.S. House of Representatives seats, and the state legislature. I encourage each and every one of you to vote to support America and America's natural places, habitat, and wildlife.

Remember to enjoy the fall,
David Bergman

* * * * *

Join the AZTWS Executive Board!

The Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society (AZTWS) is seeking new Executive Board Members who want to take an active role in wildlife conservation and management. Join us to inspire and empower the next generation of wildlife professionals!

The following positions are up for election this year. Visit <https://aztws.com/about/executive-board-positions> to learn more about the roles and responsibilities. All officers are expected to participate in monthly conference calls to help with planning and current business.

President-Elect: Serves a two-year term—one year as President-Elect and one as President—and assists and fills in for the President on a variety of assigned tasks and serves as the Chairperson of the Awards and Nomination committees.

Treasurer: Serves a two-year term and is responsible for maintaining financial records and files for the Chapter.

Corresponding Secretary: Serves a one-year term and is responsible for the Chapter files and correspondence with members and supporters.

Recording Secretary: Serves a one-year term and is responsible for recording and distributing minutes of the Executive Board and Chapter Membership meetings.

Board Member: Serves a two-year term and shares all responsibilities of conducting Chapter business and assisting other Board Members with assigned tasks.

If you are interested in serving, please email Sarah Rinkevich (sarah_rinkevich@fws.gov) by November 30, 2022, and indicate the position that you are applying for and provide a short bio (about 300 words). Voting will commence in mid-December, and the results will be announced at the Annual Business Meeting at the 2023 JAM.

Regional News

Southwest Section Tracks

By Kathy Granillo
TWS Southwest Section Representative

Fall is officially upon us (Autumnal Equinox was September 22)! Although it still feels like summer at my house, and my daily clothing choices are still tank tops and shorts. But the birds are migrating, leaves are thinking about changing, and soon I will not have hummingbirds at my feeders. For me, there are really just two seasons in the year: hummingbird season and crane season. As the hummingbirds migrate south, so do the sandhill cranes, and the Middle Rio Grande Valley, where I live, is filled with their haunting calls. The cranes linger into March each year, then head north to their breeding grounds. Meanwhile, the hummingbirds show up in April to start their breeding season, and the cycle continues. It is one of my favorite days of the year when I see my first hummingbird zipping around the yard and visiting my feeder.

Of course, we are doing our best to disrupt the natural cycles on our planet as global climate change continues unabated. We continue to see record heat across the globe, and storms of incredible force. The Wildlife Society, along with many other organizations, agencies, and industries, is concerned about the impacts to wildlife and all other life on this planet, including people.

There will be several opportunities to learn more and engage with other wildlife professionals at the Annual Conference, and I'd like to highlight one event that will also be available as an online live event that anyone can attend: Wednesday, November 9, 5–7 p.m. – Climate Change and Sustainability Roundtable and Listening Session. This will be an interactive discussion among the audience and organizers with these goals:

- Discussing actions taken and to be taken by TWS and the profession on climate and sustainability
- Catalyzing action on climate and sustainability across the profession
- Engaging membership in topics related to climate and sustainability
- Enriching debate on climate and sustainability in the profession and TWS

For those who attend the conference in person, several sessions are about climate change and wildlife:

- Nov. 7, 3:30–5 p.m. – Symposium: Climate Change Impacts on Human-Wildlife Interactions
- Nov. 9, 1–5 p.m. – Workshop: Habitat Restoration and Conservation with a RAD New View
- Nov. 10, 10:30–12 p.m. – Contributed oral presentations on “Climate Change: Habitat and Species Response”
- Nov. 10, 1:30–3 p.m. – Contributed oral presentations on “Climate Change: Biometrics and Modeling”

Another area of interest is Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). I chair the Women of Wildlife (WOW) Community Team, which is part of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Awareness (IDEA)



Southwest Section Representative
Kathy Granillo with a wolf pup.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Working Group. The conference will have several events hosted and/or supported by WOW and IDEA:

- Nov. 7, 3:30–5 p.m. – Panel Discussion: “Parenthood in the Field: Challenges and Advice for Raising Your Own Brood”
- Nov. 8, 12:30–2:30 p.m. – DEI Network meeting
- Nov. 9, 1:30–5 p.m. – Symposium: “Women in Wildlife Sciences: Building Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion”
- Nov. 9, 7:30–9:30 p.m. – WOW Social and Book Signing (for the brand-new book [*Women in Wildlife Science*](#))
- Nov. 10, 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Symposium: “Women at Work: Stories of Wildlife Science and Management”
- Nov. 10, 7–9 p.m. – Special Session: IDEA Working Group Storytelling Event

Of course, the conference will have symposia, panel discussions, workshops, poster sessions, and contributed oral presentations that address the whole spectrum of wildlife research and management. There will truly be something for everyone, no matter your area of expertise or interest. Please visit the conference website to learn more, where the full schedule is posted: <https://twconference.org>. I hope to see many of you there!

TWS Council has been busy over the last several months. One of the things we are working on is revising several Position Statements (PS). I urge you to visit TWS website to view these position statements: <https://wildlife.org/position-statements>. These statements are developed by advisory teams and/or Working Groups and are sent as drafts to all Working Groups for their review and comment before finalizing by Council. This year, we have revised the PS on the use of lead ammunition and fishing tackle, are finishing up the PS on rangelands and grazing, and are working on one on climate change, wildlife, and sustainability. These statements are used in policy discussions with our partners in conservation, non-governmental organizations, agencies, and Congress and can be influential in federal, state, and local decisions.

Please take care of whatever piece of the planet that you can; be safe and be hopeful—if we all work together, we can make the world a better place.

Sincerely,
Kathy, KGBirder55@gmail.com



Our Neck of the Woods...

Wildlife Use of Overpass and Underpass Crossing Structures on the CAP Canal

By Kaela Hamilton (Arizona State University), Thomas Bommarito (Bureau of Reclamation), and Jesse Lewis (Arizona State University)



Mule deer using an overpass to cross the CAP canal. Credit: Kaela Hamilton, Thomas Bommarito, Jesse Lewis

overpass and underpass crossing structures were implemented during the construction of the canal to allow for animal movement across the landscape and to maintain connectivity among wildlife populations on both sides of the canal.

Although some monitoring of the overpass crossing structures has been performed by researchers at the University of Arizona and biologists from Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Bureau of Reclamation, these studies focused on a relatively small area of the canal and a limited number of wildlife species. For example, Dr. Paul Krausman and his graduate students studied wildlife use of crossings near Tucson in the early 2000s,

If you are a resident of Maricopa, Pinal, or Pima County, then you have likely benefited from the Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal, which transports water for 336 miles from the Colorado River through central and southern Arizona to support recreational, municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses. However, like roads, canals can act as filters or barriers to wildlife movement through a landscape, threatening the long-term persistence of wildlife populations. The CAP canal is impermeable to wildlife due to concrete lining and fencing across its entire length for security and to reduce the risk of wildlife and people drowning. Fortunately,



Coyote using an overpass to cross the CAP canal. Credit: Kaela Hamilton, Thomas Bommarito, Jesse Lewis

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

with a particular focus on mule deer, collared peccary, and coyote. More recently, our team initiated a broad-scale study to evaluate wildlife crossing structures along the majority of the CAP canal. The goal of our study is to evaluate the spatial and temporal factors that influence wildlife use of the canal crossings, such as landscape features, crossing structure attributes, and season. In addition, we are evaluating how human recreational activities influence wildlife use of the canal crossings.

We deployed remote wildlife cameras at 56 overpass crossing structures and collected photos for one year. During this



Bighorn sheep using an overpass to cross the CAP canal. Credit: Kaela Hamilton, Thomas Bommarito, Jesse Lewis

period, 17 mammal species were recorded using overpasses to cross the canal. Some common species, such as coyote and mule deer, were frequently recorded using overpasses across the entire canal throughout the year. Other uncommon species, such as mountain lion and bighorn sheep, were recorded using only a few overpasses infrequently. This study is currently in the data analysis phase

to understand the influence of landscape features, overpass attributes, human activities, and season on wildlife use of the crossing structures. However, preliminary results indicate that relationships with these variables are species-specific – some species use canal crossings associated with greater plant productivity and cover, whereas other species use crossings associated with more rugged terrain. Analyses are ongoing, and finalized results are expected in 2023. Ultimately, the crossing structures allow a suite of species to cross the canal and potentially mitigate fragmentation effects.



Sonoran desert tortoise using an underpass to cross the CAP canal. Credit: Kaela Hamilton, Thomas Bommarito, Jesse Lewis

unknown what species use these underpass crossing structures or the landscape and structural variables that potentially influence use by wildlife. Over the course of ten months, 27 species were recorded at underpasses, which included small and medium-sized mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates. The next steps for this project include analyses to evaluate relative use of underpasses across landscape and structural variables, as well as the influence of seasonal monsoons.

In addition to monitoring overpass crossing structures, wildlife cameras were also deployed at 12 underpasses on the canal. Pipe culverts on the CAP canal had not been previously monitored, so it was

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Overall, this study will provide critical information to maintain and restore connectivity across landscapes experiencing canals for the long-term management and conservation of a diversity of wildlife species. In addition, results from this study could be applicable to other human-made linear developments, such as roads and railways.



Mountain lion using an overpass to cross the CAP canal. Credit: Kaela Hamilton, Thomas Bommarito, Jesse Lewis

AZTWS Seeking Chapter Award Nominations

Nominations for the 2022 AZTWS Chapter Awards are open now. Please recognize your peers and submit final nomination documents to Sarah Rinkevich (sarah_rinkevich@fws.gov) by November 30, 2022. AZTWS especially welcomes nominations that showcase diversity, equity, and inclusion. Awardees will be recognized at the 2023 JAM.

AZTWS is seeking nominations for the following awards; information about these awards and past recipients can be found at <https://aztws.com/past-award-winners>:

Doug Morrison Award
Professional Award
Conservation Award
Roger Hungerford Student Award
Wildlife Habitat Relationships Award
Scrapping Bear Award
Outstanding Service to the Chapter Award
David E. Brown Lifetime Achievement Award

Award nominations should include the following: (1) Name and affiliation of the nominee (nominees need not be members of TWS or the AZ Chapter); (2) The award for which the individual is being nominated; (3) Letter of support signed by nominator and endorsed by at least one additional individual (endorsers may sign the nominating letter or send separate letters of support); (4) Name and contact information of nominator(s).

Mysterious Monarchs: Help Scientists Understand Monarch Overwintering Behavior in Arizona

By Erin Posthumus (USA-NPN), Kim Pegram (DBG), and Natalie Melkonoff (DBG)

Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) in North America have a fascinating migration and overwintering biology; monarchs east of the Rocky Mountains migrate to the mountains of Central Mexico, and monarchs in the Western U.S. migrate to California. The overwintering behavior of monarchs in Arizona is less understood – [Morris et al. \(2015\)](#) discovered that monarchs in Arizona migrate to both the Central Mexico and California overwintering regions, but some also overwinter within the state. Anecdotal sightings indicate monarch presence and even breeding during winter months in Arizona.

To shed light on monarch overwintering behavior in Arizona, Desert Botanical Garden (DBG) and USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN) are partnering on a new project – Desert Refuge: Monarchs and Milkweeds in Arizona. We seek to answer the following questions:

1. Where and when are adult monarch butterflies observed across Arizona during the winter?
2. When are monarchs breeding (as evidenced by the presence of caterpillars)?
3. What life stages do milkweeds experience during the winter and how might this affect monarchs?



Top: Monarchs are important pollinators. Credit: William Vann. Bottom: Milkweeds are the host plants for monarch eggs and larvae. Credit: Erin Posthumus



This fall, we are recruiting community scientists to help us gather information. Participants will locate a milkweed plant that can be accessed weekly in their yard, a local park, or another nearby location, then create an observation site in *Nature's Notebook*, the USA-NPN's plant and animal phenology observation platform. Participants will visit their milkweed plants at least once a week for 10 minutes to document milkweed leaves and flowers and look for monarch adults and caterpillars.

Please help us spread the word about this important project! We will be hosting a virtual training session on Thursday, October 27 at 12 p.m. You can find the registration links at www.usanpn.org/nn/DesertRefuge, as well as instructions on getting started, tips on identifying monarchs and milkweed, and other details about the project. We'll post recordings of the training on the website as well.

Funding for this project has generously been provided by Monarch Joint Venture and U.S. Forest Service International Programs.



BioBlitz

Calling All Citizen Scientists Join the Tortolita Preserve BioBlitz!

When: November 19, 2022

Where: Tortolita Preserve

Help survey and catalogue plants and wildlife at Tortolita Preserve, located just north of Tucson! The preserve is located in the heart of the alluvial fan of the Tortolita Mountains. Survey efforts will focus on a large loop that includes a number of washes.

All are welcome! Whether you consider yourself a naturalist, an enthusiast, or someone interested in learning, we hope you'll join this exciting effort.

[Learn more online.](#)

We will also be updating the [AZ BioBlitz website](#) with more information as the event approaches. We hope to see you there!

Join the AZ BioBlitz Hub!

Are you a facilitator of other BioBlitz or citizen science events across the state? Are you interested in becoming more involved in BioBlitz events in Arizona? Join the Arizona BioBlitz Hub! The Arizona BioBlitz Hub establishes opportunities for sharing resources and connections between facilitators of BioBlitz events and other citizen science efforts. The goal is to maximize the quality, engagement, and outputs of our respective BioBlitz endeavors across the state while building a community of interested individuals and organizations. Through a strong network of professionals and community members, we can encourage advocacy for Arizona flora and fauna while collecting data and making scientific experiences more acces-



Sharing Tails®: Teaching Children About Native Arizona Fishes

By Carol A. Pacey, Marsh Education



The *Sharing Tails®* program teaches students about Arizona's native fishes. Credit: K. Paul

What do you do when it seems people know very little about their state's unique aquatic wildlife species, some which are endangered or threatened with extinction? You create a public outreach program to teach these people how special these species are to them and to their state! But what if you do not know how to create a public outreach program? You do it anyway! Okay, but what if you also do not know how to teach because you are a researcher and not a professional teacher? You still do it anyway!

In a nutshell, this is the story of how *Sharing Tails®* came to be. When I moved to Arizona in 1997, I was hired by Dr. Paul C. Marsh to work on a six-month project at Arizona State University (ASU), reporting on resource attributes and overlap between native and non-native fishes of Arizona. At that time, I knew little about native Arizona fishes, but I learned quickly and, at the end of the project, was asked to stay on at ASU to maintain a native Arizona fishes tagging database.

By the early 2000s, after speaking with a variety of Arizonans, it became apparent that few knew about their native Arizona fishes. As someone originally from Maryland, this was strange to me; most Marylanders seem to know their fishes! It also frustrated me because it seemed people's not knowing about these unique wildlife lent to their not caring about them either, so I decided to do something about it.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)



In 2007, I investigated what public outreach programming about native Arizona fishes was available to public school students. Through extensive research, I found limited programming opportunities with most targeting fourth grade and older students. So, after speaking with Dr. Marsh, we chose to focus on students in kindergarten and first and second grade because this age group is particularly delightful with most students eager to learn about all kinds of animals!

Once funding from the Bureau of Reclamation – Phoenix Area Office (BRPAO) was secured in 2008, we created our free-to-

schools, on-site public outreach program *Sharing Tails*® to teach children about native Arizona fishes while meeting aspects of the Arizona Science Standards for each grade level. We began on-site visits with students in the Phoenix metro area in the spring of 2009. Beginning in the fall of 2009, we went state-wide with our on-site visits. Funding with BRPAO ended in 2011, with us surpassing our goal of reaching 30,000 students by more than 3,000 students. In 2014, [we published an article](#) regarding our methods, materials, and results.

After funding from BRPAO ended in 2011, Dr. Marsh and I created a non-profit organization, Marsh Education, which was officially recognized by the Internal Revenue Service in 2013. Marsh Education vision and mission statements are as follows:

Vision: Arizonans appreciate, respect, and protect native Arizona fishes.

Mission: Educate Arizona's children about native Arizona fishes.

In the fall of 2015, we began meeting on-site with students in the Phoenix metro area only due to limited funding. To date, more than 13,000 students have experienced *Sharing Tails*® because of funding partners such as Arizona Game and Fish Department, BRPAO – Gila River Basin Native Fish Conservation Program, SeaLife Trust, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife and from donations from many small, private donors. Since the creation of *Sharing Tails*®, more than 46,000 students have experienced the program (note that some students participated in more than one grade, but each experience was counted as independent events). This total number of students includes meeting with students virtually after we adapted our program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the fall of 2020; *Sharing Tails*® remains a virtual program, making it once again a state-wide program.

For more information about *Sharing Tails*® program, please visit our website at <https://www.marsheducation.org>.

Reed Sanderson Memorial Award

Reed Sanderson (1932–2020) was a husband, father, Navy veteran, wildlife biologist, member of The Wildlife Society, and Fellow of The Wildlife Society. During his long career, Reed worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a Range Conservationist, Range Scientist, and Wildlife Biologist. After his retirement from the Forest Service, Reed worked for the University of Arizona as a liaison between the university and federal and state agencies, working towards the conservation of the Mount Graham red squirrel. In addition to his outstanding career as a wildlife biologist, Reed was known as an engaged mentor who took great pleasure visiting with students and early-career professionals at The Wildlife Society National Meeting and the Joint Annual Meeting of the Arizona and New Mexico chapters of The Wildlife Society and the Arizona/New Mexico Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.



In honor of Reed's tireless support of The Wildlife Society and dedication to mentorship, the Reed Sanderson Memorial Award is given to students from an Arizona college or university to support registration and travel to the Joint Annual Meeting. The Arizona Chapter of the Wildlife Society will be offering Reed Sanderson Memorial Scholarships to support students who wish to attend the 2023 JAM from February 2–4 in Farmington, New Mexico. AZTWS is currently working on an award application process that will be available through our website (<https://aztws.com>) under the dropdown for the "Resources" tab.

SAVE THE DATE

FEBRUARY 2–4, 2023

**JOINT ANNUAL MEETING
OF**

**THE ARIZONA AND NEW MEXICO CHAPTERS OF
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

AND

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO

Rabies Management: Trap~Vaccinate~Release Update for Flagstaff, Arizona

By Lias Hastings, Wildlife Specialist, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services



Hog-nosed skunks (top) and gray foxes (bottom) can be host species for rabies.
Credit: Lias Hastings

Rabies is a deadly zoonotic disease that impacts people and wildlife on a global scale. In the U.S., rabies virus variants are typically associated with specific mammalian hosts that inhabit certain geographic regions. Rabies viruses can spill over and infect non-reservoir host species, but these events usually result in dead-end infections in which the infected animal does not assist in the spreading of the virus. More concerning are host-shift events in which the virus can spillover into a new species and then continue to be spread by that new species. These types of events threaten public health and the success of rabies management programs.

Since 2001, Flagstaff, Arizona, has repeatedly experienced events in which big brown bat rabies has been associated with rabies outbreaks in striped skunks and gray fox populations. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Public Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) Wildlife Services (WS) has implemented both the use of aerial baits and trap-vaccinate-release (TVR) programs to manage these rabies outbreaks in the past.

In Fall 2021, warnings of rabid skunks were issued to the public as several skunks had tested positive for rabies in the Greenlaw and Coconino estates communities of the city. In response to the situation on the ground, WS initiated a TVR program targeting striped skunk populations in these communities. This method utilizes Tomahawk live cage traps, which capture and safely hold individual animals until they can be processed. During the workup, the skunk is mechanically immobilized at the bottom of the trap. Plastic sheeting around the trap protects the crew from any spray as the animal receives a rabies vaccine and is fitted with a pair of metal ear tags sporting a unique identification number. After the gender and weight of the animal is recorded, it is released unharmed in the same place of capture.

The 2021–2022 outbreak included 16 rabies-positive striped skunks in 2021 and 1 rabies-positive striped skunk in early 2022. As TVR efforts continued through winter and into the spring of 2022, capture rates began to increase. Additionally, no new rabies-positive samples were reported in either of the two TVR work areas.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)



Striped skunks (left) and raccoons (right) are common host species for rabies. Credit: Lias Hastings

Trapping success again increased in the late summer of 2022 as juvenile skunks began emerging from their dens and dispersing on the landscape. In late July 2022, a wildlife conflict between a domestic dog and skunk in the Ponderosa Trails community was reported to the county health department. Testing indicated that this skunk was rabies-positive with a big brown bat variant of the rabies virus. We found ourselves at the cusp of a potential outbreak in the Ponderosa Trails community. We immediately organized and implemented our TVR program in this new neighborhood. In early September, three more skunks tested positive for a rabies variant associated with big brown bats; of these, two were in the Ponderosa Trails community.

WS is currently trapping in three regions of Flagstaff. We will continue our TVR efforts within these three regions through the remainder of the year with the goals of preventing and managing wildlife rabies in these urban areas. To date, WS has captured 262 animals; 143 have been successfully vaccinated and released, and 119 individuals have been recaptured and released. Vaccinated species include striped skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*), hog-nosed skunks (*Conepatus leuconotus*), raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), and gray foxes (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*).

Interested in a Leadership Role?

AZTWS has open vacancies for Chair Committee positions. Join us and make a difference in your Arizona wildlife community. The following positions are available:

1. **Conservation Affairs Chair** — This position includes review of regulatory, planning, environmental, and other issues related to wildlife and their habitat in Arizona. Duties include soliciting, recommending, and preparation of materials related to conservation issues. The Chair is also responsible for an annual summary of conservation affairs to be distributed in the AZTWS Annual Report.
2. **Events and Opportunities Chair** — This position involves acquiring information related to events and opportunities that may be of interest of Chapter members and distributing them to committee members in charge of Chapter outreach.

Please contact us at aztws@gmail.com to inquire.

Proposed Rule Will Help Expand Black-footed Ferret Presence in Arizona

By Sarah Rinkevich, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Black-footed ferrets are the only ferret species native to North America. Credit: Scott Sprague

proposed 10(j) rule, when finalized, would make it easier for volunteer landowners to host ferrets on their property. Three Arizona Tribes support reintroductions on their reservation lands, including the Hopi Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, and the Navajo Nation (whose reservation land also includes portions of Utah and New Mexico).

The flexibility provided by Section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act allowed the USFWS to reintroduce ferrets in Aubrey Valley, Arizona, in 1996 and in other parts of the ferret's range on public and private lands. Several potential sites for reintroductions in Arizona have been identified in AZGFD's ferret management plan. The special allowances afforded under the 10(j) rule enable landowners to host the ferrets in a way that is compatible with the management of their property and without many of the regulatory restrictions normally associated with listed species under the Endangered Species Act. The USFWS is currently addressing public and peer reviewed comments and will finalize the proposed rule by the end of this year or in early 2023.

[You can read the proposed rule here.](#) The mission of the USFWS is to work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is working to expand the presence of one of the most endangered mammals in North America.

On June 25, 2021, the USFWS published a proposed rule to expand the area for the reintroduction of experimental populations of the black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) to include much of northern and southeastern Arizona. The species' historical range included Arizona, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. The USFWS, with the support of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) and several Arizona Tribes, proposed the effort as part of its ongoing efforts to conserve the endangered black-footed ferret. The



A black-footed ferret being released into Aubrey Valley, Arizona. Credit: Scott Sprague

SHARE YOUR AZ WILDLIFE STORIES

Want to share your Arizona wildlife stories and perspectives? Please consider submitting **articles, stories, project updates, events, and pictures** for upcoming newsletters! AZTWS welcomes all contributors.

The Arizona Wildlifer Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
Winter 2023	Dec 16, 2022
Spring 2023	Mar 17, 2023

Email submissions at any time to aztwseeditor@gmail.com.

Continuing Education Grants

AZTWS offers \$1,500 annually in [Continuing Education Grants](#) to its members (including professionals, graduate and undergraduate students) to support education and career advancement opportunities. Grant requests should not exceed \$500 per application and only one grant is awarded per person, per year. Grants are limited to current Chapter members only; membership dues are \$6/year. Join or renew [here](#).



Applications can be submitted at any time and will be reviewed quarterly by the Continuing Education Committee. Applicants will be notified within 30 days of the Committee's review. The Committee evaluates applications based on your explanation of how the activity will enhance your career development, your financial need, your efforts to obtain supplemental funding, and your involvement in Chapter activities. AZTWS encourages applicants from under-represented individuals and groups.

Submit Your
Application [Online](#)



AZTWS News & Resources

The [Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) is dedicated to promoting sound management and conservation of Arizona's wildlife resources and strives to be the preeminent resource for Arizona's community of scientists, managers, educators, students, technicians, planners, and others working to manage and conserve wildlife and habitats in the state. To help you keep up with AZTWS's resources, opportunities, and happenings, we hope that you find the following hotlinks useful:

- **Members** gain access to numerous opportunities; if you are not yet a member, sign up [here](#). Annual dues are only \$6!
- **AZTWS's Web Store** is live! Show your support by gifting cool AZTWS swag to others (or splurging for yourself). Proceeds support AZTWS resources, including conference events and our Continuing Education Grant. [Shop now!](#) [You can also support AZTWS's Mission by [donating](#) discretely or in monthly recurrences.]
- Support others and help increase representation in Arizona's natural resource fields by **gifting a AZTWS membership** (1-year) – [details here](#).
- Looking for that older issue of *The Arizona Wildlifer*? **All issues** are freely accessible [here](#)!
- Our parent society, TWS, emphasizes important resources for [diversity, equity, and inclusion](#) throughout the wildlife profession. AZTWS also strives to uphold these values.
- Want to get more involved with your Chapter? Check out the information available on our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [website](#) for opportunities.
- AZTWS has vacancies for several Committee Chair positions. See [page 14](#) for details.
- Have questions for us? Contact us [here](#).



Monsoon magic brings much-needed precipitation to the land as well as stunning scenery. Credit: Tiffany Sprague