

December 3, 2018

Dear AZTWS Awards Committee,

We, below signed, nominate Barbara Hawke for the 2018 Conservation Award.

Barbara, after a long and courageous battle with a rare and incurable form of cancer, passed away on June 20, 2018 at the age of 63. We hope you will award this honor to her posthumously for her tireless dedication for public lands and wildlife habitat in Arizona.

In 2015, Barbara was diagnosed with leiomyosarcoma, an aggressive, debilitating disease with no known cure. Despite her prognoses, and throughout progressively painful radiation, chemotherapy, and immunotherapy treatments, experimental drug trials, and surgeries, she never wavered in her passion and work ethic to defend and care for Arizona's wildlands. In her final months, at home with family in Michigan, she continued to spend time working for the conservation of Arizona's wildlife habitat and the wild places she loved.

Barbara stands in our minds as one of the great Wilderness advocates of our time. She continually uplifted and supported younger biologists and advocates around her, mentoring and encouraging their talents and passion for conservation of wildlife and habitat. Her deep knowledge of natural resource and land protection issues led her to become Executive Director of the Arizona Wilderness Coalition in 2013, helping the organization to become an increasingly influential force for wilderness policy, stewardship, and partnerships across Arizona. Firm but soft spoken, her dedication to conservation was only outshone by her authenticity, kindness, and desire for building unlikely coalitions and partners that shared common ground.

Previously, she worked as a regional conservation representative for The Wilderness Society, as Executive Director of Colorado's Black Canyon Regional Land Trust, and as the Land Conservation Project Director with The Nature Conservancy of Colorado. Barbara built strong partnerships across diverse community interests. A long previous career in local government in the Midwest forged a strong commitment to public service and cultivated an understanding of community development and planning. Barbara's roots led her to Arizona, where she said that she had a "life-long dream to preserve the evocative deserts and magnificent mountains of the American Southwest."

Barbara held an MBA from Grand Valley State University, with an Environmental Policy graduate specialization from University of Colorado. In other states, she served on various BLM committees, including the Southwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council and several municipal committees there, including the City of Montrose Planning Commission and the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee. Barbara's research focused on rare plant conservation and avian conservation, and she also served on a regional Gunnison sage grouse working group. In Arizona, she was one of the key partners working

to protect the Tumacacori Highlands as Wilderness, and all the way up to her final days she sought stronger protections for the Whetstone, Dragoon, and Chiricahua mountains. When she wasn't focusing on grassroots organizing and policy, she was growing public awareness and boots-on-the-ground land stewardship with youth and local residents on Arizona's national forests for condors, wolves, and other wildlife.

We believe that Barbara contributed significantly to the conservation of wildlife habitat in Arizona, and that her legacy will continue to grow from the seeds she planted. More than her success, we honor her fearless work ethic and unwavering optimism in the face of overwhelming obstacles.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jessica Moreno, Conservation Science Director, Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection

Carolyn Campbell, Executive Director, Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection

Kathleen Kennedy, Associate Director, Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection

Sarah Whelan, Operations & Program Manager, Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection

Clayton Clark, Building Manager, The Historic Y

Kevin Dahl, Arizona Senior Program Manager, National Parks Conservation Association

Christina McVie, 2015 AZTWS Conservation Award Recipient

Julie St. John, Administrative Director, California Society for Ecological Restoration

Katrina Pappas, Office Coordinator, Arizona Wilderness Coalition

Linda Tyler, former Office Coordinator, Arizona Wilderness Coalition

Brian Stultz, Stewardship Director, Arizona Wilderness Coalition

Matt Skroch, former Executive Director, Arizona Wilderness Coalition

Kelly Burke, Board Member & Acting Staff Director, Arizona Wilderness Coalition; Director Strategic Partnerships, Wildlands Network; Executive Director, Grand Canyon Wildlands Council

Jan Holder, former Executive Director, Sky Island Alliance

Kate MacKay, Director of Wildlands Communications, The Wilderness Society

Joshua Hicks, Assistant Director National Forest Policy and Planning, The Wilderness Society

Alex Daue, Assistant Director, Energy & Climate, The Wilderness Society

Sean Prentiss, Author; Assistant professor of Creative Writing at Norwich University