

The Wildlifer

The Voice of the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As this is our first newsletter since the Annual Joint Meeting in February, I would first like to thank all the AFS folks who worked so hard to make this year's meeting a resounding success. We also installed a new board of officers for our chapter at that meeting, and my thanks to them for stepping forward to take up this service: Doug Duncan, President-elect, Duane Aubuchon, Recording Secretary, John Morgart, Corresponding Secretary, and Annalaura Averill-Murray, Board Member. I am glad to welcome back Tom Hildebrandt, Treasurer and Debbie Lutch, Board Member, who are continuing into the second year of their terms. Finally thanks to all those committee chairs and others who agreed to continue steadfastly on in their current positions, Sheridan Stone, Conservation Affairs, Jon Hanna, Continuing Education, Norris Dodd, Resolutions, Brian Wakeling, Newsletter, Frank Baucom, Membership, and Lisa Andersen, Memorial Garden.

Since the Joint Annual Meeting, the Board has moved ahead on several items. An organizational meeting will be held in mid-April to develop plans to host an Ecological Restoration Workshop as an outgrowth of the Forest Restoration Resolution approved by AZTWS at the meeting. Likewise, work on the Memorial Garden at the Phoenix AZGFD Office continues, with plans to have memorial plaques in place in time for a dedication ceremony in October. The annual AZTWS summer meeting is scheduled for 7-8 June at the AGFD Vincent Ranch and I invite all members to attend. Finally, an application has been submitted to the national TWS office to consider our chapter for the Outstanding Chapter of 2001. I was at the awards ceremony at last year's national meeting and believe the accomplishments of our chapter are easily on par with past award winners and the efforts of AZTWS should be recognized.

Finally, just a reminder about several issues. First,

we traditionally have called for individuals or organizations to be nominated for AZTWS awards in the late fall, but we would now like to make that opportunity available year round. To review the awards AZTWS presents, visit our website. Nominating someone is now as easy as sending an e-mail to me (Tad.Theimer@nau.edu) with the nominees name and the award for which you want them considered. Now there really is no excuse not to nominate that person you have been meaning to for so long. We will contact you later about supporting letters. Also, we are still looking for a member in the Phoenix area to step up and help us out by offering to check the AZTWS mailbox and/or help out our stalwart Newsletter Chair in getting the newsletter out. Neither of these would take more than a few minutes or hours per month and we could really use the help. Please contact me if you would be willing to help out. Also, don't forget to plan on attending the summer meeting if you can!

– Tad Theimer

WILDLIFE ALERT!

As you may be aware, John Morgart is the new Corresponding Secretary for AZTWS and as such he is also the 'gatekeeper' for Wildlife Alerts. What this basically means is that anyone with a potential Wildlife Alert for the membership should forward it to him. He will review it for appropriateness and then if it passes scrutiny, forward it on to send out via e-mail to the membership at large. As such, the membership may contact him at his home terminal at: jmorgart@tabletoptelephone.com or work telephone number at 520-387-4989.

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THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS TO ALERT YOU TO CURRENT ISSUES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST BUT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THOSE OF THE AZTWS.

The U.S. Forest Service, Southwestern Region, Arizona (Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Kaibab, Prescott, and Tonto National Forests) issued a Revised Notice of Intent on 13 February 2002 (Federal Register, vol. 67, no. 30, pp. 6675-6677) to prepare an environmental impact statement addressing cross-country travel by motorized wheeled vehicles and how to standardize road and trail signing conventions for OHVs. Comments on the Revised Notice of Intent were due in writing on or before 15 March 2002. The 5 national forests involved in this project currently have different management direction for cross-country use of OHVs. This diversity of approaches has led to confusion by the public as to where they may use OHVs. The Forest Service EIS will deal with alternative strategies for cross-country OHV travel on Forest lands in Arizona. While it was once envisioned that this process would standardize the convention for signing open roads and trails, this has been dropped from the project because it is an administrative matter not subject to NEPA documentation. Five preliminary alternatives have been developed for further analysis including:

Alternative 1 – No Action. The cross country travel strategy would be per current Forest Plans, and exceptions to cross travel country allowed would be variable according to forest and ranger district.

Alternative 2 – Restrictive Management. The cross country travel strategy would be closed on all forests, with exceptions for search and rescue, emergency military.

Alternative 3. The cross country travel strategy would be closed except areas dedicated to OHV in Forest Plans or other projects. Exceptions would include administrative access, with permittees and lessees granted access necessary for terms of permit; campsite access within 150 feet of road; fuelwood permits would not allow off road access by motorized vehicles; disabled access by local permit; and game retrieval by vehicle not allowed off road.

Alternative 4 – Proposed Action. The cross country travel strategy would be closed, except dedicated to OHV in forest plans or other projects. Exceptions would include administrative access, with permittees and lessees granted access necessary for terms of permit; campsite access within 300 feet of road; fuel wood by local permit; disabled access by local permit; and retrieval of big game other than turkey

and javelina.

Alternative 5 – Closed Areas. The cross country travel strategy would be areas open where traffic and use would be sustainable. Exceptions would include administrative access; search and rescue; law enforcement; and emergency military action.

The Forest Service anticipates that environmental analysis and preparation of the draft and final EISs will take about 8 months. The draft EIS can be expected in the spring of 2002 and the final EIS in late summer. A 45-day comment period will be provided for the public to make comments on the draft EIS.

The proliferation of OHVs and Off Highway Vehicle use is a growing issue and concern on all public lands in Arizona. The Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society presented the early steps in formulating a position statement/resolution on OHV use in Arizona at its 2002 Annual Business Meeting in Safford, Arizona (7 February 2002) and is reprinted in its entirety below:

Arizona Chapter – Wildlife Society
Off Highway Vehicle Use – Issues

The sale and use of Off Highway vehicles (e.g., motorcycles, ATVs, 4 wheel drive trucks and SUVs) in Arizona has increased significantly in recent years. If not carefully regulated, the un-restricted use of these vehicles can adversely impact many wildlife and fish species, sensitive habitats (e.g., stream/riparian), key habitat resources (e.g., soils, vegetation, and water), and other public recreationists. The following is a preliminary list of potential impacts related to this issue.

Unrestricted OHV use can result in:

1. Adverse disturbance impacts which affect wildlife-fish activities (e.g., feeding, breeding-spawning, resting, etc.) that can reduce wildlife fitness and survival
2. Adverse impacts to wildlife-fish habitats (e.g., damage to streambanks), particularly sensitive habitats (e.g., wet meadows springs, and stream channels) which can result in reduced habitat quality and capability to support wildlife-fish populations.
3. Creation of wildcat roads and trails which become permanent features on the landscape and result in excessive road-trail densities that lead to habitat fragmentation and reduced habitat quality and capability.
4. Adverse impacts to vegetation, soils, and water

resources through damage of vegetation, compaction and erosion of soils, and increased sedimentation and reduced water quality.

5. Adverse impacts to wildlife through intentional harassment (e.g., chasing) of animals, which can reduce animal fitness and survival.
6. Adverse disturbance affecting other public recreationists (e.g., hikers, wildlife viewing enthusiasts, hunters, fishermen, etc.) which can result in significant conflicts between public user groups seeking different outdoor experiences on public land.

Other issues:

1. Current marketing of OHVs promotes improper use of OHVs through poorly planned advertisements which give the public the visual impression they can be used for traversing through stream channels, up mountain slopes, and through wet meadows and bogs.

This is a critically important issue and given the 5 Forests in Arizona's intent to address it in an EIS, it is important the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society provide comment on the process. If you as a member of the AZTWS would like to comment on the issue of Off Highway Vehicle Use in Arizona, please provide your written comments to:

Bob Vahle
P.O. Box 1533
Pinetop, AZ 85935
e-mail: vahle@wmonline.com.

SUMMER MEETING 2002

YOU'RE INVITED!

To the AZ-TWS Summer 2002 Meeting!

Come join the Executive Board and other chapter members in discussing on-going issues and future directions for AZTWS. Have an issue you feel strongly about? Forest restoration? Pronghorn? Off-Highway vehicles? Come and voice your opinion in the cool, open air of Vincent Ranch.

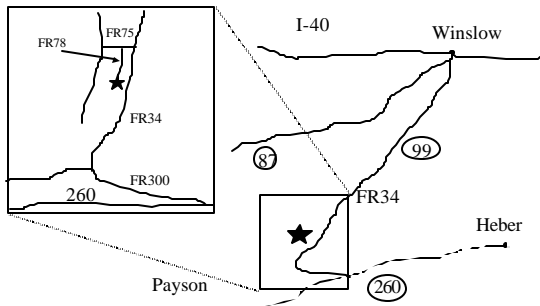
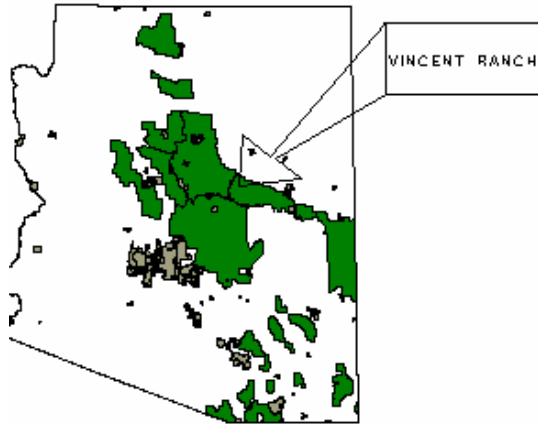
LOCATION: Vincent Ranch, within the Black Mesa District of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. The Ranch is approximately 30 miles northeast of Payson and 30 miles south of Winslow. Vincent Ranch is in the ponderosa pine zone at an elevation of over 7000-ft.

The average temperatures in June range from highs in the 80's (°F) to lows in the 40's. Two-wheel drive vehicles can access the Ranch, but they should have good ground clearance.

DIRECTIONS: From I-40, take exit 253 in Winslow. Travel south on this road (North Park Rd.) through town to Second St. Turn east (left) on Second and go to Williamson Rd. Turn south (right) on Williamson (which is actually Highway 87) and approximately 1 mile down Highway 87 is the Highway 99 junction. Take Highway 99, which becomes Forest Road (FR) 34, to the Black Mesa Work Center (about 40 miles). Here the pavement ends, but continue to take FR 34 for about 5.5 miles to the FR 75 junction and turn west (right) on this road. After about a 1/2 mile down the 75 road, turn south (left) on Forest Road 78 and Vincent Ranch is approximately 1/2 mile down the road.

From Highway 260, east of Payson or west of Heber, turn north onto FR 300 (Rim Road, Woods Canyon Lake) at approximately mile post 282 (est.), right on the edge of the Rim. Travel approximately 9 miles to the FR 34 junction and turn north (right) on the 34 road. Go about 7 miles on the 34 road to the FR 75 junction and turn west (left) on this road. Be sure to cross some power lines before reaching the 75 road since there are two FR 75 junctions, and you do not want to turn onto the first one. After about a 1/2 mile down the 75 road, turn south (left) on Forest Road 78 and Vincent Ranch is approximately 1/2 mile down the road.

AMMENITIES: Vincent Ranch has a large open meadow with several dispersed camping sites available. There is an old cabin on site with gas lighting, a stove, and a refrigerator. Two other buildings are open for use as storage/meeting/sleeping quarters if needed due to weather conditions. A new concrete vault restroom put in a couple years ago will also be accessible. A supply of water (several 5-gal jugs) for cooking/drinking is usually available, but everyone should bring their own water in case supplies are low. Cookware is also available, but again, it is a good idea to bring a personal set along. Wood, a fire-pit, and a barbecue are all present on-site as well. Bring folding chairs, food, drinks, and camping equipment (pets allowed).



Mud Map to Vincent Ranch

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**PROFESSIONAL AWARD
ARIZONA CHAPTER, THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

The Professional Award from AZTWS recognizes an individual (or team) working in a wildlife position in Arizona who has made significant contributions to the management of wildlife resources. Since the original award, the *Doug Morrison Award*, was set up for those working in field positions, the Chapter established the Professional Award to honor individuals typically in management or administrative positions. Outstanding individuals work in every agency.

Consider nominating someone for the Professional Award, or any of the awards for that matter. Many

people in Arizona are highly deserving of this award or one of the other awards. Take a little time and honor someone you think is special.

Year	Recipient	Agency
1979	Bob Furlow	BLM
1980	Gary Ferrier	BLM
1981	Bruce Jones	BLM
1982	Bob Hernbrode, Sr.	Oracle Wildlife Refuge
1983	Tom Britt	AGFD
1984	Jerry Davis	USFS
1985	Kerry Baldwin	AGFD
1986	Tice Supplee	AGFD
1987	Tom Gatz	BOR
1988	Larry Voyles	AGFD
1989	Ray Lee	AGFD
1990	Robert Mesta	USFWS
1991	Dave Patton	NAU
1992	----	Not Awarded
1993	Bruce Palmer	USFWS
1994	Rick Miller	AGFD
1995	Bill Werner Ron McKinstry Ron Powell Gerald Mulcahy	AGFD USFWS BOR CDFG
1996	----	Not Awarded
1997	----	Not Awarded
1998	Heather Green	USFS
1999	John Goodwin	AGFD
2000	Jim Heffelfinger	AGFD
2001	Cecelia Dargan- Overby	USFS

OTHER AWARD RECIPIENTS

CONSERVATION AWARD, ARIZONA CHAPTER, THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Year	Recipient	Agency
1980	Charles Beeler	
1981	Jack Wight	Wildlife Studios
1982	----	Not Awarded
1983	Barbara Van Cleve	Save Our Public Lands
1984	Ace Peterson	AWF
1985	Sen. John Hays	Arizona Legislature

	Rep. Larry Hawke	Arizona Legislature
1986	Les Rosenkrance Dick and Judy	BLM
1987	Newbold	BLM Volunteers
1988	Paul Pierce	Save the Grahams
1989	----	Not Awarded
1990	----	Not Awarded
1991	Barry Burkhardt	Arizona Republic
1992	Rick Erman	AWF
1993	Thomas Woods, Jr.	APS, Arizona Game and Fish Commission
1994	----	Not Awarded
1995	----	Not Awarded
1996	Anita MacFarlane	Northern Arizona Audubon Society
1997	Oscar Camou Frank and Linda Brandt, Elaine	Sonora, Mexico
1998	Morrall	Heritage Alliance, Arizona Game and Fish Commission
1999	Beth Wooden	
2000	Dave Dalton	
2001	--- Harris	Not Awarded
2002	Environmental Group, Inc.	Entire Group given award, not individual

DOUG MORRISON AWARD, ARIZONA CHAPTER, THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Year	Recipient	Agency
1975	Fred Phillips	AGFD
1976	Bob Hernbrode, Jr.	AGFD
1977	Jim McKibbens Melvin Wilhelm	USFS BLM
1978	Norman Woolsey	AGFD
1979	Tom Waddell	AGFD

1980	Al LeCount	AGFD
1981	Pat Morrison	USFS
	Bill Kepner	BLM
1982	Brian Millsap	BLM
1983	Tom Deecken	USFS
1984	Pat O'Brien	AGFD
1985	Jim Burton	AGFD
1986	-----	Not Awarded
1987	Norris Dodd	AGFD
1988	Bill Kepner	USFWS
1989	Bill Carrel	AGFD
1990	Steve Andrews	AGFD
	Dave Conrad	AGFD
1991	John Hervert	AGFD
1992	-----	Not Awarded
1993	-----	Not Awarded
1994	-----	Not Awarded
1995	-----	Not Awarded
1996	Lee Leudeker	AGFD
1997	-----	Not Awarded
1998	Randy Babb	AGFD
1999	Bob Barsch	AGFD
2000	Dave Carrothers	AGFD
2001	Stan Cunningham	AGFD
2002	John Hervert	AGFD

1990	Joe Ganey	NAU
1991	-----	Not Awarded
1992	Rich Etchberger	UA
1993	Rick Keller	NAU
1994	David Olson	NAU
1995	-----	Not Awarded
1996	-----	Not Awarded
1997	Lisa Fox	UA
1998	Mike Rabe	NAU
1999	Mike Ingraldi	NAU
2000	Karen Mock	NAU
2001	Shaula Hedwall	NAU
2002	Cathy Blasch	UA

**ROGER T. HUNGERFORD STUDENT AWARD
ARIZONA CHAPTER, THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

Year	Recipient	School
1983	Tom Ohmart	ASU
1984	Kerry Christensen	NAU
1985	Dave Smith	UA
1986	Chuck Hunter	ASU
1987	Heather Green	NAU
1988	-----	Not Awarded
1989	Mark Wallace	UA

**SCRAPPING BEAR AWARD
ARIZONA CHAPTER, THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

Year	Recipient	Agency
1987	Tom Waddell	AGFD
1988	Bob Vahle	USFS
1989	Norrid Dodd	AGFD
1990	Lesley Fitzpatrick	USFWS
1991	Rick Miller	AGFD
	Heather Green	USFS
1992	Susie MacVean	AGFD

1993	Sandra Nagiller	USFS
1994	Tim Tibbitts	USFWS
1995	Sally Stefferud	USFWS
1996	Jim Copeland Linda White	USFS
1997	Trifaro	USFS
1998	Bob Csargo	USFS
1999	----	Not Awarded
2000	----	Not Awarded
2001	Bruce Palmer	USFWS
2002	----	Not Awarded

**WILDLIFE HABITAT RELATIONSHIPS – WILDHARE
AWARD
ARIZONA CHAPTER, THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

Year	Recipient	Agency
1989	Greg Goodwin	USFS
1990	----	Not Awarded
1991	Bob Vahle	USFS
1992	----	Not Awarded
1993	----	Not Awarded
1994	----	Not Awarded
1995	Heather Green	USFS
1996	----	Not Awarded
1997	Joe Ganey	USFS
	Rick Miller	AGFD
1998	Tammy Randall-Parker	USFS
1999	Steven Rosenstock	AGFD
2000	----	Not Awarded
2001	Mary Ann Benoit	USFS
2002	Bill Mannan	UA
