

CANYON ECHO

sierraclub.org/arizona

Grand Canyon Chapter

Fall 2023

Happy 50th Anniversary to the Endangered Species Act!

by Bella Bernat 



California Condor. Photo by Andrew Orr

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is a landmark piece of legislation enacted in the United States in 1973, designed to protect and conserve endangered and threatened species and their habitats. It is widely considered one of the most comprehensive and powerful environmental laws globally. The ESA's primary goal is to prevent the extinction of species and promote their recovery, recognizing the intrinsic value of biodiversity and the vital role it plays in maintaining healthy ecosystems (US Department of the Interior, 2023). Let's take a look together at what the ESA is and what its impacts are.

Key components of the Endangered Species Act:

- Listing of Species: The ESA allows for the identification and listing of species as either "endangered" or "threatened" based on scientific evidence. An

endangered species is one that is at risk of becoming extinct, while a threatened species is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future.

- Critical Habitat Designation: Once a species is listed, critical habitat areas are designated to provide the necessary environment for its survival and recovery. Federal agencies are required to consult with wildlife experts to ensure these habitats are protected.

- Prohibitions and Protections: The ESA prohibits the "take" of listed species, which includes activities like hunting, capturing, harming, or harassing them. Exceptions are made for scientific research, conservation efforts, and certain other activities under special permits.

- Recovery Plans: For each listed species, Contd. p3



Blackfooted Ferret. Photo by Ryan Hagerty (USFWS)

Mexican Wolves in Arizona and New Mexico: making a comeback, but they need our help

by Sandy Bahr 

This year—March 28, 2023 to be exact—marked the 25th anniversary of the reintroduction of Mexican wolves into the wildlands of eastern Arizona. These wolves had been completely eliminated from the U.S. due to predator eradication efforts for the livestock industry. A small number of wolves remained in the wild in Mexico and were captured and became part of a captive breeding program that eventually resulted in wolves in the wild again in Arizona and New Mexico. We celebrated the return of lobos by doing outreach and providing information, especially to young people.

At the end of 2022, there were 241 Mexican wolves in the wild in the Southwest, and while this is encouraging, there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure their recovery, including the introduction of more well-bonded wolf families, not just cross-fostered pups, to maximize genetic diversity, and removal of artificial boundaries such as I-40 to the north, which limits Mexican wolves utilizing the excellent habitat around Grand



Mexican Gray Wolf. Photo Jim Clark (USFWS)

Canyon.

Sierra Club, including the Grand Canyon (Arizona) and the Rio Grande (New Mexico) chapters, have been involved in wolf reintroduction and recovery since the beginning and we plan to continue that work until there is a sustainable population of wolves in multiple locations that is fulfilling their ecological role. After that, we will ensure that the same types of actions that eliminated wolves from the lands do not once again wipe them out.

To learn more about Mexican wolves, check out <https://mexicanwolves.org/>. Look for future film screenings of "Almost Ancestors," a short film about displacement of Mexican wolves and Indigenous people.

Sandy is Chapter Director of Sierra Club, Grand Canyon AZ

Explore, enjoy, &

protect the planet



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Group Representatives to the Ex Com

Palo Verde Group Rep. Don Steuter
Flagstaff N. AZ. Group Rep. Vacant
Saguaro Group Rep. Jo Sylvester
Yavapai Group Rep. Tom Slaback
Rincon/Nopales Group Rep. Anakarina Rodriguez
 At-large members of the Ex Com are elected by the members statewide. Group representatives are elected in their group geographic area. Other positions are appointed by the Ex Com.



BIPOCC: Black Indigenous
 People of Color Committee

CCL: Council of Club Leaders

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Happenings around AZ

Five groups make up the Grand Canyon Chapter. All events and meetings listed below are open to those interested in learning more about Sierra Club. You can find out more at <http://www.sierraclub.org/arizona>. Schedules are subject to change.

Saguaro Group (North Maricopa County)

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/saguaro>

Chair:	Jo Sylvester	602-292-6806	stitchinjo@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair:	Ronda Frost	208-743-1006	junefrost@gmail.com
Secretary/Programs:	Sally Howland	602-663-2889	sally_howland@yahoo.com
Social Media:	Ronda Frost	208-743-1006	junefrost@gmail.com
Membership:	Sue Barsky		

SAT 10/7 8AM - Saguaro Group Saturday Morning Social Hike
THU 10/19 8AM - Service Project at Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area
See Outings Section for details.

Palo Verde Group (Phoenix)

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/palo-verde>

Chair:	Natalia de la Torre		
Vice-Chair/Political:	Greg Clark	480-734-0926	greg@btllcaz.com
Secretary:	Chris Gehlker	602-370-0128	canyonrat@icloud.com
Treasurer:	Jerry Nelson	602-550-0282	peakbagger2@gmail.com
Outings/Wilderness:	Jim Vaaler	602-553-8208	jimvaaler@msn.com
ICO:	Lisa Vaaler	602-468-4158	lvaaler1@gmail.com
Conservation:	Don Steuter	602-956-5057	dsteuter@hotmail.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Greg Brooks		
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Kathy Mohr-Almeida, P.Hd	480-329-8503	kathyllynn626@yahoo.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Lorena Hernandez		

Palo Verde Group executive committee meetings are the **second Thursday of each month** and programs are the **fourth Thursday of each month**.

Flagstaff-Northern AZ Group

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/plateau>

Currently under reorganization

Flagstaff group programs & Executive Committee meetings are held **on the second Thursday of the month**. Contact Kay Bordwell for more information about events in Northern AZ.

Yavapai Group (Prescott)

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/yavapai>

Chair/Web/Treasurer:	Gary Beverly	928-308-1003	gbverde@cableone.net
Vice-Chair/Conservation:	Tom Slaback	928-778-4233	theprescottkid@mail.com
Secretary/Outings:	Jenny Cobb	928-925-1320	cobbsrun@msn.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Stan Bindell	928-636-3903	thebluesmagician@gmail.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Stephen Cook	575-418-9027	scook@projectworldview.org

Yavapai group programs & Executive Committee meetings are held on the **first Wednesday of the month**.

Rincon/Nopales

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona/rincon>

Chair:	Vanessa Gallego	gallego.vanessa@gmail.com
Vice-Chair:	Linda Robles	lindarobles39@gmail.com
Secretary/Note taker:	Vacant	
Conservation Chair:	Cyndi Tuell	cctuell@gmail.com
Group Rep./ Outings Chair:	Anakarina Rodriguez	akrod520@gmail.com
At-Large Member:	Rebecca Hinton	rahinton@hotmail.com

Chapter Announcements

Wildlife Activist Group Meetings OCT 9 , NOV 13, Dec 11 (MON) 6pm. Wildlife Activist Group meetings (virtual). Interested in making a difference for wildlife? Want to help protect habitat, gather important research data on wildlife, or watchdog the Arizona Game and Fish Commission? Please consider joining our Wildlife Activist Group. For more information, please contact sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org

Renewable Energy & Climate Action Team Meetings, OCT 24, NOV 28 (TUE) 6:30pm: Energy and Climate Action Team meetings (virtual). Discussions and programs encompass renewable energy and energy efficiency campaigns nationally and locally. Everyone is invited to participate, no matter how much or how little you know about energy issues. . For more information, please contact sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

Arizona Sierra Club Conservation Meetings, OCT 5, NOV 2, DEC 7 (THURS) 6:30pm: This is the monthly conservation meeting (virtual) of the Arizona (Grand Canyon) Chapter and Palo Verde Group (Phoenix area), where we discuss a broad range of environmental issues. Come learn more about conservation issues or bring an issue you care about to share what you know.

from p1



Humpback Chub. Photo by Ed Moss

federal agencies develop recovery plans outlining the actions needed to stabilize and recover populations. These plans often involve habitat restoration, captive breeding, and other conservation measures.

- Consultation Process: Federal agencies must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), depending on the species, to ensure that their actions do not harm listed species or their habitats. This process is crucial for considering conservation in federal decision-making.

- International Conservation: The ESA has influenced global conservation efforts and has led to international agreements and cooperation to protect species that migrate across borders. The ESA has had a significant impact on wildlife conservation in the United States and beyond. It has led to the recovery and delisting of several iconic species,

such as the bald eagle and American alligator (US Department of the Interior, 2023). Some recognizable Arizona species such as the black-footed ferret, Mexican gray wolf, and ocelots (among other species) are protected under the ESA as well.

The Endangered Species Act stands as a crucial pillar in the global effort to protect biodiversity. The past 50 years have seen success and struggles in the fight for conservation. What happens in the next 50 years remains up to all of us.

U.S. Department of The Interior. (2023, February 13). The Endangered Species Act: Celebrating 50 Years of Success in Wildlife Conservation. Blog. <https://www.doi.gov/blog/endangered-species-act-celebrating-50-years-success-wildlife-conservation>

Bella Bernat is a member of the Sierra Club - Grand Canyon (AZ) Chapter's Wildlife Activist Group.

Sierra Club Elections

Who can vote?

All current Sierra Club members in good standing (dues paid) who belong to the Grand Canyon Chapter.

How do I vote?

***NOTE:** You can now vote online! Please go to sierraclub.org/arizona for details.

- 1) Review the candidate biographies on pp. 7-9.
- 2) Mark whether you have a Single or Joint (household) membership.
- 3) Vote by marking the box space(s) beside the candidates of your choice. Vote for no more than the number of candidates indicated for the Chapter or Group.
- 4) After voting, photocopy or cut out your ballot and place it in an envelope with your **name, membership number** (if not known, call 602-253-9140 and leave a message), and **address** on the return address. Your membership number is the 8-digit number above your name on your newsletter mailing label. **Deadline: December 1. Ballots postmarked later than December 1 OR without a name, membership number and address on the envelope will not be counted.**


Why are there two boxes following each candidate's name?

The second vote column is for joint memberships (two people living in the same household who are members). If you fill in the "S" box, your vote will count **once**. If you have a joint membership, fill in the "J" box and your vote will count **twice** for one household. If you have a joint membership and the two members want to vote for different candidates, check two "S" boxes in the same section. **Do not check both the S and the J boxes.**

What do I need to remember when marking the ballot?

Do not put your name on the ballot. Before counting, names and joint memberships will be verified from your return address on the outside of the envelope. Ballots will be counted after the deadline (December 1). All members may vote for Chapter Executive Committee candidates, but members may only vote for the candidates in the Group in their respective residential location. If you are unsure of which Group you're in, contact 602-253-9140 or grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org.

Rather than voting by mail, you can vote electronically by visiting: <https://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/2023-elections-for-chapter-and-groups>.



**Postmark deadline
for ballots is Dec. 1**

Be sure to include your name and address on the envelope (not on the ballot). Any envelopes without this information will be discarded and the ballot will not be counted.
Mail to:


Sierra Club Elections
514 W. Roosevelt St.
Phoenix, AZ 85003

2023 ELECTION BALLOT

Is your membership Single

Single or Joint? Joint

<div style="background-color: #2e7d32; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE All Members Vote</div> <p>Vote for no more than 4 candidates</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;"></th> <th style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">Single (Membership Type)</th> <th style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">Joint</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Nick Arnold</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>Vanessa Gallego</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>Kathy Mohr-Almeida, Ph.D</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>Cyndi Tuell</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>Jim Vaaler</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>-----</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>-----</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>-----</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>-----</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Single (Membership Type)	Joint	Nick Arnold	(S)	(J)	Vanessa Gallego	(S)	(J)	Kathy Mohr-Almeida, Ph.D	(S)	(J)	Cyndi Tuell	(S)	(J)	Jim Vaaler	(S)	(J)	-----	(S)	(J)	-----	(S)	(J)	-----	(S)	(J)	-----	(S)	(J)	<p style="text-align: center;">GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Vote ONLY for Your Group</p> <p>If you are not sure which group you're in, contact 602-253-9140 or grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org.</p> <div style="background-color: #ffc107; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">SAGUARO (N. Maricopa County) Vote for no more than 3</div> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>Jo Sylvester</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>-----</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>-----</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>-----</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> </table> <div style="background-color: #6c757d; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">PALO VERDE (Phoenix) Vote for no more than 4</div> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>Greg Brooks</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>Lisa Vaaler</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>Don Steuter</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>-----</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>-----</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>-----</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>-----</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> </table>	Jo Sylvester	(S)	(J)	-----	(S)	(J)	-----	(S)	(J)	-----	(S)	(J)	Greg Brooks	(S)	(J)	Lisa Vaaler	(S)	(J)	Don Steuter	(S)	(J)	-----	(S)	(J)	-----	(S)	(J)	-----	(S)	(J)	-----	(S)	(J)	<div style="background-color: #795548; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">FLAGSTAFF/NORTHERN AZ Vote for no more than 3</div> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>-----</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>-----</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>-----</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> </table> <div style="background-color: #c0392b; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">RINCON /Nopales Tucson) Vote for no more than 4</div> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>Vanessa Gallego</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>Linda Robles</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>Cyndi Tuell</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>Rebecca Hinton</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>-----</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>-----</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>-----</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> </table> <div style="background-color: #008080; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">YAVAPAI (Prescott) Vote for no more than 3</div> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>Stephen Cook</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>Jenny Cobb</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>-----</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>-----</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> <tr><td>-----</td><td style="text-align: center;">(S)</td><td style="text-align: center;">(J)</td></tr> </table>	-----	(S)	(J)	-----	(S)	(J)	-----	(S)	(J)	Vanessa Gallego	(S)	(J)	Linda Robles	(S)	(J)	Cyndi Tuell	(S)	(J)	Rebecca Hinton	(S)	(J)	-----	(S)	(J)	-----	(S)	(J)	-----	(S)	(J)	Stephen Cook	(S)	(J)	Jenny Cobb	(S)	(J)	-----	(S)	(J)	-----	(S)	(J)	-----	(S)	(J)
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Meet the Chapter Executive Committee Candidates (contd. page 7)

[Candidate statements are presented as written. They are not edited in any way.]

Nick Arnold (he/him) (Membership Number: 50709617)

My name is Nick Arnold (he/him), I am a lifelong Arizonan having spent my first 18 years in Phoenix and the last 12 years in Tucson. I have been a Sierra Club member since 2016, currently serving as Vice Chair of the Grand Canyon Chapter Political Committee and I previously served on the Rincon Group's Political Committee.

Between 2016 and 2020 I worked on or ran the legislative campaigns of Kirsten Engel, Domingo DeGrazia, and Stephanie Stahl Hamilton and since 2021 I have worked for Climate Cabinet, a nonprofit focused on helping state and local leaders run, win, and legislate on the climate crisis where I focus on all things energy transition and decarbonization.

I am running for the Grand Canyon Chapter Executive Board because our state has incredible potential and a desperate need to act on climate and Sierra Club is at the center of that work. I believe my background and experience will serve the Grand Canyon Chapter well heading into 2024 elections and I am honored to ask for your support.

Vanessa Gallego (Membership Number: 47782532)

I am Vanessa Gallego and I would like to be a member of the Chapter Executive Committee. As a new member with a year of membership, I would like to continue to foster diversity and inclusion while helping grow the group and uplift the work locally and that of our neighboring groups in Arizona. I am Chief Operating Officer of a metal recycling company that is committed to keeping commodities such as copper in the loop and lessen our dependence on mining. I am an active member of the City of Tucson commission for climate and an advisor for climate action to our Mayor Regina Romero on her council.

Kathy Mohr-Almeida, Ph.D. (Membership Number: 43413679)

I would like to serve a fourth term on the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter Executive Committee because I am deeply committed to the conservation of Arizona's resources and wildlife and the mitigation of environmental issues in Arizona. The vigilance of the Rio Verde, the San Pedro, Fossil Creek, and Oak Flat must continue and protect threatened and endangered species. I am particularly concerned with Oak Flat and ensuring this state treasure is preserved for future generations.

My continuance on the Grand Canyon Sierra Club Executive Committee will advance the coalition building I have created over my previous terms between our community and multiple local and national environmental communities outside the Sierra Club. I will continue to advocate for environmental projects and issues important in Arizona alongside these groups and lobby at state and federal levels for our identified goals. I work closely with youth climate activists, am fully Spanish-English bilingual, and possess an open mind.

Cyndi Tuell (Membership Number: 4433780)

I would like to continue to be a member of the Grand Canyon Chapter's Executive Committee. I have been a Sierra Club member since 2014 and support the work of the Chapter to protect federally managed public lands, the borderlands, and our work towards creating a more just and equitable environmental movement. I currently work as the Arizona and New Mexico Director at Western Watersheds Project and have been an active volunteer for the newly formed Nopales Group, serving on the Group's Executive Committee. I have a broad understanding of the conservation issues facing Arizona – from public lands conservation to building climate change resilient communities.

Jim Vaaler (Membership Number: 11880851)

I will uphold principles of justice, equity, diversion, and inclusion (JEDI) in our Chapter as well as within the Palo Verde Group. The Jemez Principles need to guide and inform our decision making process in our Sierra Club work as well as in our daily lives. The 30 x 30 land initiative put forth by the Biden

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Candidates continued on p. 6

Meet the Chapter & Group Committee Candidates (from page 5)

administration is a good first step in dealing with climate change. This means it will be necessary to sell duplicatable and peer reviewed science to politicians who in many cases do not wish to be bothered by the science of climate change. Indeed, one of our political parties is no longer a political party, but simply a cult of personality. I do believe we have our work cut out for us.

Palo Verde Group

Greg Brooks (Membership Number: 55454710)

I am writing this letter to express my interest in serving as a board member of the Palo Verde Branch of the Sierra Club. I have served one term with the board, and I would like to continue, as I feel I have so much more to learn and to offer. Much of what I have learned has come through the development of an after-school high school club called the Glendale Conservation Society. I started the club in 2017 and fellow board member, Natalia Delatorre, served as the very first president of the club. We have partnered with several of the branches of the Sierra Club, and this partnership has created positive pathways for students - who have graduated from Glendale High School - to pursue in college. Several of the former officers have entered the fields of Environmental Engineering, Sustainability, and Environmental Science. I would love to learn much more about the Sierra Club and continue the relationship Between the Sierra Club and GCS. This relationship has served me well, as I was nominated by Urb Weidner and won the 2021 Arizona Game and Fish Educator of the Year award.

Kathy Mohr-Almeida, Ph.D. (Membership Number: 43413679)

I would like to continue to serve our environmental community on the Palo Verde Grand Canyon Chapter Executive Committee Because I am deeply committed to the conservation of Arizona's Resources and wildlife, elimination of invasive species, and the mitigation of the climate crisis in Arizona. My continuance on the Palo Verde Sierra Club Executive Committee will advance the coalition building I have created over my previous terms between our community and multiple local and national environmental communities outside of Sierra Club. I will continue to work hard on environmental projects and issues identified as important by the GCSC membership. I work closely with youth climate activists, am fully Spanish-English bilingual and possess a lively and open mind.

Jim Vaaler (Membership Number: 11880851)

I will uphold principles of justice, equity, diversion, and inclusion (JEDI) in our Chapter as well as within the Palo Verde Group. The Jemez Principles need to guide and inform our decision making process in our Sierra Club work as well as in our daily lives. The 30 x 30 land initiative put forth by the Biden administration is a good first step in dealing with climate change. This means it will be necessary to sell duplicatable and peer reviewed science to politicians who in many cases do not wish to be bothered by the science of climate change. Indeed, one of our political parties is no longer a political party, but simply a cult of personality. I do believe we have our work cut out for us.

Saguaro Group

Jo Sylvester (Membership Number: 45899045)

I'm seeking re-election to the Grand Canyon Chapter executive committee. I've been a member of the Sierra Club since 2012 and this is my second year as leader of the Saguaro Group. I am passionate about being part of the Sierra Club and the opportunity to engage in activities to impact our Arizona environment with so many other dedicated people. I've been involved in many Sierra Club service and outreach projects, as well as outings and group trips. I learned many of the skills for being a Sierra Club leader from Bev Full who founded and led the Saguaro Group for many years. I am looking forward to watching the Sierra Club continue to grow and evolve to meet the needs of all people.

Yavapai Group

Stephen Cook (Membership Number: 47820542)

My intermittent membership in the Sierra Club dates to my UCLA student days in the early 1970s. I have been a continual Sierra Club member since 2015, and have attended most Yavapai Group ExComm meetings since January, 2017. In February 1978, financially supported by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (through the Ozark Headwaters Group -- Arkansas Sierra Club chapter), Tom McKinney and I flew to Washington DC and successfully lobbied the USFS and EPA to stop aerial spraying of herbicides in national forests, part of a continuing battle over national forest management. My interest in this topic continues today. My other interests are in air and water quality, public lands, climate change and in trails. If elected, I will focus my long-time environmental activist efforts to help the Sierra Club with battles related to issues in Yavapai County and Arizona.

Meet the Group Committee Candidates (contd.)

Jenny Cobb (Membership Number: 47163310)

I've served on the Yavapai Group Executive Committee for the past six years and am currently the secretary and Outings Chair. I serve as Outings Chair for the Grand Canyon Chapter. For several years, I've been a Water Sentinel monitoring waterflow on the Upper Verde River every month. I am deeply involved in myriad environmental and conservation issues, including grazing, mining, landscape restoration, wildlife corridors, recovery of Mexican Gray Wolves, wildlife and environment in the Borderlands, climate change, supporting rights of indigenous peoples, air quality, continuing protection of the black-footed ferret, and stewardship of forest trails. I am the Yavapai-Prescott Broadband Leader of Great Old Broads for Wilderness (environmental partners of the Sierra Club in Arizona), conservationists who are advocates, stewards, and educators for wild lands. My truck is always ready for field work, packed with camping and backpacking gear. I am often the chuckwagon for Sierra Club and Broads events. I am a retired college instructor, teaching exercise science and wellness topics. Thank you for your vote so I can continue my advocacy and stewardship for our wild lands. I encourage everyone to join in our advocacy for wild lands and other current issues.

Rincon/Nopales Group

Vanessa Gallego (Membership number: 47782532)

I am Vanessa Gallego and I would like to continue to be a member of the Nopales Group's Executive Committee. As a new member with a year of membership, I would like to continue to foster diversity and inclusion while helping grow the group and uplift the work locally and that of our neighboring groups in Arizona. I am Chief Operating Officer of a metal recycling company that is committed to keeping commodities such as copper in the loop and lessen our dependence on mining. I am an active member of the City of Tucson commission for climate and an advisor for climate action to our Mayor Regina Romero on her council.

Linda Robles (Membership number: 4778447)

I would like to be a member of the Nopales Groups Executive Committee. I have been a Sierra Club member since 2022 and support the work of the Chapter to protect federally managed public lands, the borderlands and environmental justice policy and our work towards creating a welcoming, just, equitable, and inclusive environmental movement. With more than ten years of experience in environmental justice advocacy, I have helped form a national coalition, to support exposed communities from per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) groundwater, surfacewater contamination and it's health crisis in the United States. Currently I am organizing local community members in the Tucson South side area to begin a health study to assess potential health effects from exposure to legacy PFAS water pollution. I have been an active volunteer for the newly formed Nopales Group, serving on the Groups Executive Committee. I have a broad understanding of the pressing environmental justice, social justice, and conservation issues facing Tucson, and in Arizona. I am interested in, and active in, furthering the Sierra Clubs work of the Nopales Group in it's early development, building a strong, diverse, and resilient group.

Cyndi Tuell (Membership Number: 4433780)

I would like to continue to be a member of the Nopales Group's Executive Committee. I have been a Sierra Club member since 2014 and support the work of the Chapter to protect federally managed public lands, the borderlands, and our work towards creating a more just and equitable environmental movement. I currently work as the Arizona and New Mexico Director at Western Watersheds Project and have been an active volunteer for the newly formed Nopales Group, serving on the Group's Executive Committee. I have a broad understanding of the conservation issues facing Arizona – from public lands conservation to building climate change resilient communities. I'm excited at the possibility of being a part of the Nopales Group in its earliest days, building a strong, diverse, and resilient group.

Rebecca Hinton (she/her) (Membership Number: 47513854)

I've been a member of the Sierra Club since 2014, serving as the Chair for the Palo Verde Group (PVG), and on the Chapter Executive Board for the past two years.

I am an active member of the Grand Canyon Chapter Political Committee. On this Committee, we work collaboratively to identify candidates who represent Sierra Club values and priorities, support the campaigns of endorsed candidates within our capacity, and let our members know about these candidates. I am currently working on a Political Action Committee (PAC) fundraiser in Tombstone, AZ. If you'd be interested in joining the Political Committee -- you should! We meet virtually every month.

I work with Ana Gorla and Sandy Bahr to organize the PVG monthly programs featuring interesting speakers and write a (almost) monthly Group newsletter. This year I've become very interested in doing more group hikes! I've thoroughly enjoyed the Sierra Club group hikes! I'm quite excited to recently become an Outings Leader. I hope to see you on the trail, in a Ghost Town, or birding location, or some cool spot in AZ! Visit our calendar to see all the Club hikes!

UPDATE**Arizona has a new National Monument!****Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni–
Ancestral Footprints of the Grand
Canyon National Monument**

by Sandy Bahr



On August 8, 2023, President Biden issued a proclamation utilizing the Antiquities Act to establish the [Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni–Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument](#) to protect 917,618 acres of public lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park. In April, the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition, consisting of leaders from the Havasupai Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, Moapa Band of Paiutes, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Navajo Nation, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, Yavapai-Apache Nation, Pueblo of Zuni, and the Colorado River Indian Tribes, called on President Biden to establish the national monument.

Tribal Nations have been advocating for protection of the area for decades and are the original stewards of the Grand Canyon region since time immemorial. This national monument holds significant cultural and spiritual narratives and important resources, including life-giving springs fed by groundwater that is

threatened by uranium mining. The Grand Canyon region provides important habitat for endangered species such as the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) and Brady pincushion cactus (*Pediocactus bradyi*). It is also a critical refuge and migratory corridor for hundreds of bird species and mammals.

Sierra Club is grateful to everyone who advocated for permanent protection of this landscape, including many of you, and to President Joe Biden, Secretary Deb Haaland, Secretary Tom Vilsack, Representative Raúl Grijalva, Representative Ruben Gallego, Senator Kyrsten Sinema, and Senator Mark Kelly, as well as the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition for making the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument a reality!

You can learn more and see a map of the new national monument <http://bit.ly/ThankYouBidenAZ>.

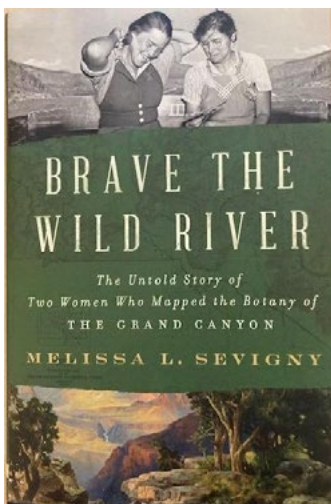
Sandy Bahr is the director for Sierra Club's Grand Canyon (Arizona) Chapter



Grand Canyon East Parcel. Photo by Rich Rudow



Grand Canyon East Parcel. Photo by Rich Rudow

BOOK REVIEW

This is the story of Elzada Clover and Lois Jotter who were the first women to raft through Grand Canyon and live to tell their story. Their story begins in 1938 when they signed on with the Norm Nevills expeditions on his first raft trip through Grand Canyon. The book details the difficulties (which were many), but also the successes of doing the science of botany under difficult conditions. The two women had to deal with prejudice (i.e. women don't belong on these types of expeditions), bad weather, and rafting difficulties, as well as personal and personality differences. On top of it all, the women had to deal with reporters who were not the slightest bit interested in reporting on the science of botany. The science of botany was about preserving dead plants, but apparently the reporters were more interested in reporting on dead people. Well, I guess some things never change. When one of the ladies brought up botany, one of the media people simply made fun of her.

It is noted early on in the book that the field of botany suffered from both racism and colonialism. The indigenous names given to plants are routinely ignored so that Anglo-Europeans may have the privilege of discovering a new species.

When the book isn't talking about the raft trip itself, the author works in interesting sections on scientific controversies. The book talks about George Melendez Wright, a Park Service biologist whose thinking on wildlife was way ahead of his time. Sadly, he was killed in a car accident.

The book follows the lives of Clover and Jotter all the way through to their passing. Lois Jotter lived to be 99 and actually made a second "old timers trip" through Grand Canyon in 1994.

This book is very readable and invites the reader to keep turning the pages. The book is an excellent read from beginning to end.

Review by Jim Vaaler

Latinx Conservation Week

by Ana Gorla



Borderland's Latinx Conservation Week Seeds event with Tucson and Nogales Youth. Photo by Ana Gorla

This year's Latinx Conservation Week was packed with events from an art gallery exhibit in Phoenix to kayaking on Bartlett Lake and gardening in Nogales.

It was amazing to see locals at the events who attended to learn more about the importance of this week for the Latinx community. One of those events included the Sacred Lands film night where we learned and discussed the ongoing fight to protect Oak Flat, Great Bend of the Gila, and the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni-Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument.

Thanks to our partners Chispa Arizona, Hispanics enjoyed camping, hunting and the outdoors (HECHO), and to The Wilderness Society for helping to lead, collaborate, and promote this week of fun and informative and action-oriented events. And thank you to REI for providing kayaks, Sagrado for providing gallery space, Puente for providing the film night space, and to Carletta Tilousi and Henry Munoz for speaking at the film night.



Madre Tierra Art Gallery Night with AZ Artists. Photo by Ana Gorla



Carletta Tilousi speaking at The Sacred Lands Film night. Photo by Ana Gorla



Latinx Conservation Week Kayak Trip with the Chispa AZ Community and Hecho. Photo by Ana Gorla



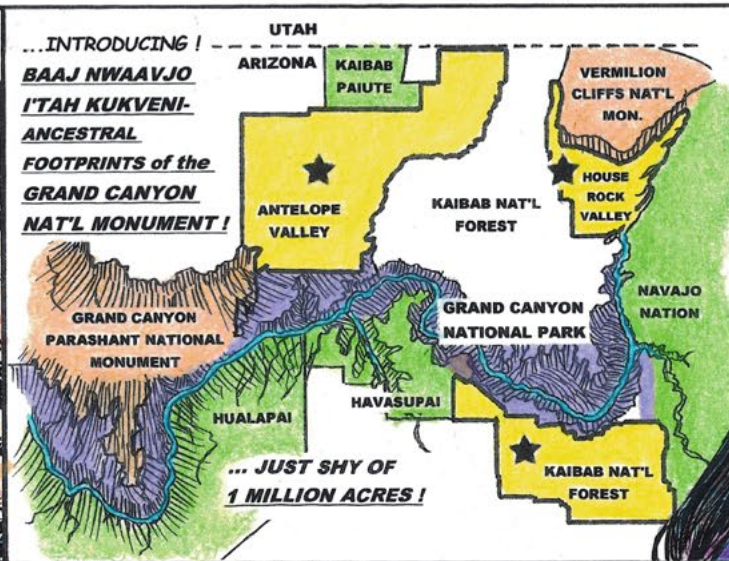
Nature Walk at the Rio Salado in Phoenix. Photo by Ana Gorla

Ana is Energy and Public Lands Coordinator for Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter

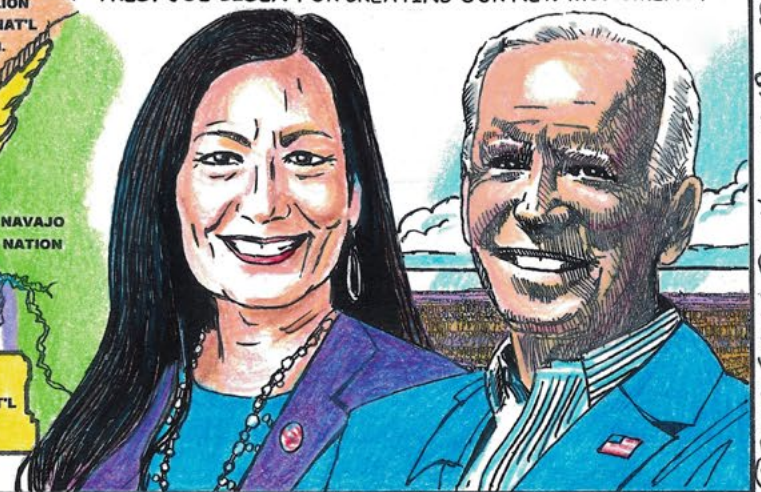
Beyond the Slab

CELEBRATING OVER 30 YEARS OF PUBLISHED ECO-AWARENESS!

By Greg Pentkowski



THANK YOU INTERIOR SEC. DEB HAALAND AND PRES. JOE BIDEN FOR CREATING OUR NEW MONUMENT!





Status Report: Upper Verde Wild & Scenic River

by Gary Beverly

We are making huge progress towards federal designation of the Upper Verde Wild and Scenic River (UVWSR). The US House and Senate still must approve, and the President must sign the bill.

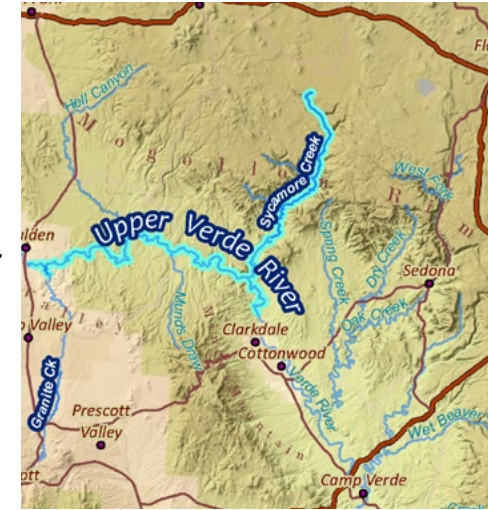
The Grand Canyon Chapter prepared a lengthy proposal in 2011, which is the basis for current efforts by a team consisting of American Rivers, The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, American Whitewater, and several local conservation groups. For the team, this is the top priority conservation project in Arizona.

Our proposal includes 74.1 river miles, including the main stem of the Verde between Paulden and Clarkdale, plus the tributaries Granite Creek and Sycamore Creek. The team is aiming to present legislative language to our senators and representatives in December. We have gathered letters of support from over 130 businesses, all the cities, Yavapai County, the Yavapai Apache Nation, and several Chambers of Commerce. We are working to add even more supporters.

After designation, the UVWSR would require a management plan to be created with stakeholder participation that would preserve or improve the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs). These ORVs include Scenic, Recreational, Cultural, Wildlife, Fisheries, and Botanic values.

The wildlife values are off the charts. The Verde watershed supports over 475 vertebrate species—three-fourths of the species in the entire state—including 19 species listed under the Endangered Species Act. The proposed UVWSR includes critical habitat for two riparian snakes, three native fish, and one bird. Bald eagles are abundant.

The UVWSR would be the third in Arizona. The Verde WSR, designated in 1984 and downstream of Camp Verde, protects 40.5 river miles between Beasley Flat and Red Creek. The Fossil Creek WSR, designated in 2009, protects 16.5 miles of Fossil Creek between the springs and the Verde confluence.



Gary is Chair, Web Director & Treasurer of the Yavapai Group of the Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter.

Exhibit of Proposed UVWSR Area. By Joe Turdeau

2023 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT CARD

A	Governor Hobbs
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SENATE GRADES		HOUSE GRADES	
A+		A+	
A	Alston, Bravo, Burch, E. Diaz, Epstein, Gonzales, Hatathlie, Anna Hernandez, Marsh, Mendez, Sundareshan, Terán	A	Austin, Cano, L. Contreras, P. Contreras, De Los Santos, Gutierrez, L. Hernandez, M. Hernandez, Longdon, Mathis, Ortiz, Peshlakai, Quiñonez, Salman, Schwiebert, Seaman, Stahl Hamilton, Sun, Travers, Tsosie
B	Fernandez, Miranda ¹	B	Aguilar, Blattman, C. Hernandez, Alma Hernandez, Pawlik, Shah, Terech
C		C	Sandoval ²
D		D	
F	Bennett, Borrelli, Carroll, Farnsworth, Gowan, Hoffman, Kaiser, Kavanagh, Kerr, Kern, Mesnard, Petersen, Rogers, Shamp, Shope, Wadsack	F	Biasiucci, Bliss, Carbone, Carter, Chaplik, Cook, L. Diaz, Dunn, Gillette, Grantham, Gress, Griffin, Heap, Hendrix, Jones, Kolodin, Livingston, Marshall, Martinez, McGarr, Montenegro, Nguyen, B. Parker, J. Parker, Payne, Peña, Pingerelli, Smith, Toma, Wilmeth
No Grade	Bolick, Gabaldón	No Grade	Crews, Harris, Villegas, Willoughby

¹ Note that this is a lower grade due to absences, not due to harmful votes.

² Note that this is a lower grade due to absences, not due to harmful votes.

2023 Environmental Report Card for AZ Legislature and Governor Released

Governor Hobbs earns an “A” for her effective vetoes, and stopping the plethora of anti-democracy and anti-environmental bills. Majority of Legislators earn an “F” for those same bills.

Sierra Club, joined by Chispa Arizona, released its 2023 Environmental Report Card for the Arizona Legislature and Governor in late August.

The 2023 Legislative Session was the longest session on record, officially spanning 204 days and finally wrapping up on July 31st. The session included significant breaks as there were vacancies, negotiations, and reluctance by some in the majority to adjourn as they wanted to keep an eye on the governor. Very little of note was accomplished, however, and Governor Hobbs’ veto stamp got a workout as legislators sent up a slew of bad ideas.

The attacks on democratic processes this session were again significant and frequent with more than 200 bills introduced seeking to limit early voting, make voting more difficult, limit the initiative and referendum process, and other efforts to hinder democracy.

2023 brought new attacks on transportation as the majority in the Arizona Legislature sought to put a stop to light rail expansion and really any substantial funding for transit, bicycle, and pedestrian safety, or anything that did not involve concrete or asphalt. Senator Jake Hoffman led the way in introducing anti-transit, anti-bike measures with five bills – SB1312, SB1313, SB1314, SB1697, and SCR1018 specifically targeting multi-modal transportation. All of these bills died in either the Senate or House.

“This legislative session was often a difficult space to be in as a people of color advocating for environmental justice. The mere use of the term environmental justice was shot down and frowned upon,” said Chispa Arizona Advocacy Deputy Director Vania Guevara. “However, our communities were relentless in taking up space at the state capitol and we were able to secure funding for our Trees for Kids initiative and stop bills that would harm our freedom of mobility, access to public transportation, and progress towards complete streets.”

Some positive highlights of the session included important provisions in the budget, SB1720, including \$6 million for the State Parks Heritage Fund, \$7 million for the Upper Verde State Park, \$3.5 million for planning passenger rail service between Phoenix and Tucson, \$300,000 for trees for schools, and \$9 million for Economic Transition Resources for capital projects, economic sustainability developments, renewable energy projects, and broadband projects located within twenty miles of the Kayenta Coal Mine.

Nearly all of the Republican caucus earned an “F” on the Environmental Report Card this session as they pushed and supported bills to limit transit, consideration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) issues, and to hinder voting. There were 32 senators and representatives who earned an “A.” Governor Katie Hobbs earned an “A” on the report card for her significant defensive actions to veto 11 of the 13 bills we considered. [Read the full report here: bit.ly/3rtOt2V](https://bit.ly/3rtOt2V)

By Sandy Bahr, director, Grand Canyon (Arizona) Chapter



Leading from Local: Tucson's Climate Action Plan

• by Nick Arnold

While debates at the Arizona Legislature and Corporation Commission often revolve around whether our leaders even understand climate change is happening, the City of Tucson didn't wait for permission to declare that climate change is an emergency. After passing the city's [emergency declaration in 2020](#), Mayor Regina Romero and the Tucson City Council got to work with local advocates and experts with backgrounds in land and community planning, economics, and climate science to develop the [Tucson Climate Action & Adaptation Plan \(CAAP\)](#). The CAAP orients around climate justice, understanding that a resilient Tucson requires an intentional, community-centered approach and lists specific equity considerations to ensure historical context and existing power imbalances are understood and repaired through this plan.

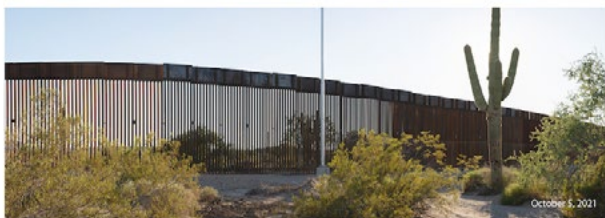
This plan leads with a goal of carbon-neutrality city-wide by 2045 and seeks to achieve that goal through climate resilient policy across transportation, buildings, and energy. This cross-sector focus allows Tucson leadership to fully prepare for climate adaptation and to develop integrated solutions like walkable city policies and investments that reduce transportation emissions and improve community spaces, or prioritizing building energy and water efficiency to make protecting water resources and meeting energy demand with clean, renewable sources easier. The leadership of Mayor Regina Romero and City Councilmembers Lane Santa Cruz, Paul Cunningham, Kevin Dahl, Nikki Lee, Richard Fimbres, and Steve Kozachik, past city leaders, city staff, and advocates across the city and state together represents an incredible model for the rest of Arizona and the nation for what it looks like to build a just and equitable climate action plan – and put it into action.

Nick is a member of Climate Cabinet Action



A Win for People & Wildlife of the Borderlands

• by Ana Gorla & Eric Meza



Before and After, Documenting the borderlands. Photo by Richard Laugham

Recently, Sierra Club and the Southern Border Communities Coalition (SBCC), represented by the ACLU, filed documents in federal court successfully settling two long-running lawsuits challenging the Trump Administration's illegal transfer of Defense and Treasury Department funds to build parts of the border wall that Congress had explicitly refused to fund via the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

When Congress refused to fund more border walls, then-President Trump declared a fake national emergency in order to take funds from the Department of Defense to build border walls. SBCC and Sierra Club sued over this inappropriate use of the dollars. Two federal courts declared Trump's moves illegal, and the cases reached the Supreme Court. Before settlement, the cases returned to the lower courts.

This settlement takes essential steps toward remediation that can provide ecological protection and provide crucial wildlife passages through the border wall and the opening of stormwater gates for sensitive wildlife species, plus mitigate flooding. The settlement also addresses impacts from the Department of Homeland security lighting and road construction, and it creates a process for advocates to monitor remediation and be notified about any future plans for wall construction with opportunities for input, among other provisions.

Thank you to the great legal team, those who live along the border who helped ensure standing, and to our Borderlands Program Coordinator, Erick Meza, for their work on this.

Eric is Borderland Coordinator for Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter
Ana is Energy and Public Lands Coordinator for Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter

Thank you!**Donors** through 08/15/2023**Hitched to Everything Else in the Universe (\$1-49)**

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Kathryn Brown	Diane Gilbert	Shirley Krafft	Ken McGinty	Vaughn & Mary Smith & Hoover	Crystal Williams
Jan Buckwalter	George Girard	John Kromko	Mary McKell	Rebecca Smith Gross	Jana & John Yingst
NJ Carlile	Al Glann	Robert Lachat	Eugene Mertz	Jeffrey Soots	Marie Yonkers
Nancy Chidester	Edward Goff	Patrica Landesman	Robert Moreilon	Martha Stampfer	Lois Zeidman
Stephen Cook	Susan Greendorger	Gabrielle Lawrence	Paul Moreno	Greg Stein	Paula Zimmerman
William Craig	Sandra Guerrero	Kathryn Lee	Cecilia Morgan	Don Steuter	Gabriel Zinsli
Gerald Daniels	Darlene Hagan	Florence Lemke	Mary Napier	Connie Stone	Irene Zsitvay
Catherine Davis	Susan & James Hammar	Mark Lessner	Pam Negri	Robert Stuart	Sally Zumba
Lynn Demuth	Donald Harrington	Richard Lewis	Lee Oler	Andrea Tarby	James Zurich
John Douglas	Norma Angelie Hicks	Ron Lonski	Donna Page	Tom Timmer	

The Morning Stars Sing Together (\$500+)

Elizabeth L. May
Western Conservation
Action

The Grand Canyon Chapter is also thankful for the generous support from those who chose to remain anonymous.



See Sustainable homes & Community Spaces Up Close at the *Desert Living Home Tour*

We're excited to announce this year's Desert Living Home Tour on Saturday, November 4th from 10:00a.m. - 3:00p.m.!

We're teaming up with Watershed Management Group to showcase creative and sustainable yards, homes, and community spaces for all experience levels and budgets across Tucson.

Get ideas for water and energy-saving systems that can go in your yard or neighborhood and see how to use them yourself. Join this self-paced tour to experience desert homes that harvest rainwater and greywater, use solar energy, grow food and shade, and are examples of the sustainable desert future we know is possible.

bit.ly/deserthometour12

Online Media Links

- Chapter | AZ Water Sentinels | Borderlands Campaign Grand Canyon Campaign | Flagstaff/N AZ Group Yavapai Group | Saguaro Group
- Chapter | Borderlands Campaign Grand Canyon Campaign
- Chapter | Palo Verde Group
- formerly Chapter | Borderlands Campaign Grand Canyon Campaign | AZ Energy

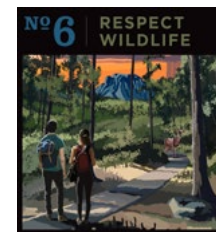
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b) Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions	5622	5622
	2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions	5084	5084
	3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mail	0	0
	4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS	0	0
c) Total Paid Distribution		10706	10706
d) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County included on Form 3541	0	0
	2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County included on Form 3541	0	0
	3) Free or Nominal Rate Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS	0	0
	4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail	150	150
e) Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution		150	150
f) Total Distribution		10856	10856
g) Copies Not Distributed		0	0
h) Total		10856	10856
i) Percent Paid		98.61	98.61
16. Electronic Copy Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date	
a) Paid Electronic Copies	0	0	
b) Total Paid Print + Electronic Copies	10706	10706	
c) Total Print Distribution + Paid Electronic Copies	10856	10856	
d) Percent Paid	98.61	98.61	

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership: 10/1/23

18. Signature: Ana Gorla; 18 September 2022

Ana Gorla



Cast of Characters

Natalia de la Torre



Earlier this year you agreed to be the chairperson for the Palo Verde Group (Phoenix-area group). What made you decide to do this and is there one thing you hope to focus on in this position?

I was a bit reluctant at first because I hadn't been in a position of leadership in quite a while but after I realized all the support I was receiving from the group it made me a lot more comfortable accepting the position. I have received so much appreciation and support since taking on the position, especially from Sandy and Rebecca. I hope to learn more about the Sierra Club and get more acquainted with the community that the Sierra Club has built. Possibly doing more outings and getting my community out, helping the environment as well.

What inspired you to start working on environmental issues? Is there an issue about which you are most passionate?

I've always been very passionate about the environment. My parents took me hiking and camping a lot when I was younger, so I'm a big advocate that the more time you spend with mother nature the more people tend to care about how they are treating her. My passion really picked

up when I was in high school and Gregory Brooks, a teacher at Glendale High School, approached me to be the president of Glendale Conversation Society. Which is also how I met Sandy Bahr. Seeing both people's passions for the environment made me feel like I could really make a difference in my community. This made me particularly passionate about getting people from under-served communities out into the wilderness. As the president of Glendale Conservation Society, I got to experience how much of a difference just getting out into the wilderness, even once, really changed the outlook people had on how they treat the environment.

What is your favorite place in Arizona and why?

It would have to be between Canyon Lake and West Fork Trails. I really got into paddle boarding last summer and it is a perfect place to go, the canyon is so beautiful with a lot of little caves along it. On a particularly quiet day you can sometimes hear the bats in the caves and the whistles of the air coming in and out of them. Some of the most beautiful sunsets I've experienced are there as well. West fork trails are also an amazing summertime hike, with plenty of places to cool down because you have to pass a few rivers and there are also some places to swim.

What is the best adventure you have had and why?

One of the best adventures I've had was my first time solo hiking. Although it's nice to get out with your friends and family, it is so healing to get out into nature by yourself and really listen to your surroundings and stay present with everything that's going on around you. I have hiked the West fork so many times with friends and family but when I went alone there were so many things I had never noticed. All the different types of bugs and plant life. The sound of the flow of the river. It was almost magical, like I was a part of it all. As long as you've got some experience hiking, I highly recommend going on a solo hike, it really is so healing to the soul.

Is there one message you would like to convey to both a previous and future generation? If so, what is it?

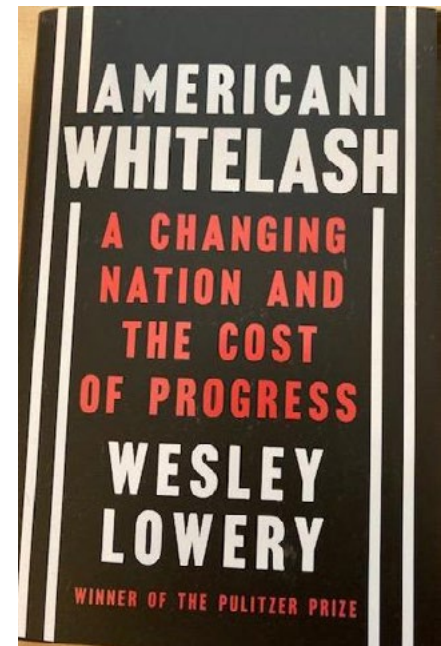
I am always so astonished by how persistent previous generations are. Working on issues for years and staying so active in the community, it's very admirable. For the future generations, I would say to keep with that persistence. Community is the most important thing when it comes to making changes and nothing can be done alone.

Tell us about your favorite book.

One of my favorite books is "Astrophysics for people in a hurry" by Neil deGrasse Tyson. I really love learning about science but sometimes the vocabulary can be a bit confusing, but he makes it really easy to understand. He uses a lot of metaphors to help the reader understand the physics behind everyday things.

What one word do you think describes you best?

I would say understanding. Even when I have different points of views than others I always try to figure out where they are coming from to at least gain some common ground. I feel that it is always important to have that common ground to advance in our communities so everybody in our communities can live content lives.



◦ review by Jim Vaaler



This book does a good job of explaining how America went from the hope and promise of a better America under President Barack Obama to the sickness and lies, sexism and racism of President Donald Trump. It was a political flip-flop that seemingly occurred overnight. Under President Obama it seemed at last that we had put racism behind us and America was on its way to a bright future, free of racism. An African-American president had, at last, been elected, and elected to two terms. But the "whitelash" was coming, and it would be fierce.

Early on the book reminds us that the Supreme Court was not the friend of the people. The 1843 Dred Scott decision reminded us that African Americans were considered property, and not actual human beings. We are also reminded that the trigger for white rage is black advancement.

The book delves into the utter depraved sickness of the far right. Many of the racially motivated mass murders, El Paso for instance, are being done by lone wolves who have been brainwashed by the internet. The FBI cannot infiltrate a lone wolf.

While James Earl Ray literally pulled the trigger that killed Martin Luther King, Jr, he was figuratively killed by a firing squad of millions. The white nationalist movement is extremely dangerous. These people are not conducting thought experiments just for fun.



Explore and Enjoy Arizona

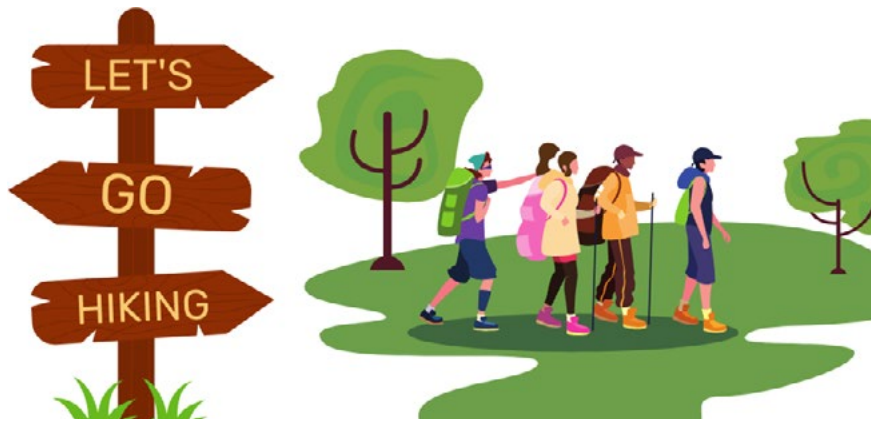
Hiking Guidelines

The Sierra Club is a nationwide organization with active local outings for members and non-members. Please join us as we make friends and explore life-enriching interests. Simply find an outing by date and contact the leader for directions, reservations, time, and additional information. RESTRICTIONS: NO FIREARMS, RADIOS, OR PETS (unless noted otherwise). Outings are by reservation. Call early (group limit 20)

Each hike is rated for degree of difficulty and risk by the leader.

- “A” >16 miles or >3,000 ft. elevation change (EC)
- “B” 8–16 miles and 1,500–3,000 ft. EC RT Round Trip
- “C” 3–8 miles and 500–1,500 ft. EC OW One Way
- “D” <3 miles and 500 ft. EC

The trip leader has absolute authority to question trip participants as to their equipment, conditioning, and experience before and during the trip. All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you choose to participate in an outing, please go to <https://www.sierraclub.org/local-outdoors> or contact the National Outings Dept. at 415-977-5528 for a printed version. Sierra Club liability covers leaders only. Each person is responsible for his/her own first aid equipment. If you are injured, notify the leader immediately. If you leave the trip, with or without the leader’s permission, you are considered to be on your own until you rejoin the group. Hikers are encouraged to carpool and share the driver’s fuel expense. Donations are accepted from all participants at \$1 (member) and \$3 (nonmember). Money is collected by the leader and deposited with the group treasurer. For more information, contact the Sierra Club Grand Canyon office at 602-253-8633. Hikes and outings are also listed online at <https://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/events-activities>. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.



Sierra Club outings/hike leaders are excited to be working on organizing hikes, nature walks, and service projects in Arizona for this fall. Volunteers will be leading trips in beautiful and interesting locations that range in distance and level of challenge. Whether you are a new, intermediate, or more experienced hiker, or not really a hiker at all, we hope you join us in exploring and enjoying the beauty of our state!

We’ve already got several hikes on the calendar for 2023, including a beginner-friendly members-only hike in Tombstone, Arizona, several hikes led by Jim Vaaler in the beautiful Sierra Anchas, different hikes in Prescott including this scenic route among pine, oak, and boulders. Our hikes are all listed on the [Sierra Club calendar](#), so go check it out!



OCT 1 (SUN) “C” Abbey’s Way Dayhike (3.8 miles RT, 800’ EC). We will be hiking in the Sierra Ancha on a trail named after the famous Arizona author Edward Abbey. We should be able to pick some apples at Peterson Place on the way up. There is a unique picnic area on top with nice views in all directions. One can look out and see the White Mountains, the Pinal Mountains near Globe, and the Superstitions, Maztazals, Mogollon Rim, and perhaps even the Kachina Peaks. The leader will talk about the wilderness and public land history of this area, as well how fire is now playing a role in the ecology of the area. The road to the trailhead requires a high clearance vehicle. For reservations meeting time and place, contact your leader, Jim Vaaler, at jimvaaler@msn.com, or you may call Jim at 602-553-8208. For those who would like to have dinner on the way back there are a number of good restaurants to choose from.



Abbey’s Way, Sierra Ancha. Photos by Jim Vaaler.

Cross Conservation area. The hike will be co-lead by Craig Wilson, docent with Desert Foothills Land Trust. Please sign up <https://www.meetup.com/sierra-club-grand-canyon-chapter> Sponsored by the Saguaro Group

OCT 7 (SAT) “C” Upper Verde River Wildlife Area (3 mi, 300’ EC OW) 9 am–3 pm. After visiting Sullivan Dam, river mile 0 and site of the proposed Verde Headwaters State Park, we’ll hike down a trail to the low flow gauge on the Verde River. There we will explore the riparian area. We’ll find old beaver dams, observe wildlife, and share stories about the river. Bring your camera. We’ll learn about the natural history of and the conservation issues surrounding the Verde River, which is particularly threatened by groundwater pumping that will eventually transform the upper Verde into a dry wash, destroying the riparian habitat of nine threatened and endangered species. You may ask for photos of the area. Registration required, 12-hiker limit. Contact Gary Beverly at gbverde99@gmail.com (email preferred) or call 928-308-1003 or register at <https://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/outings> Prescott



Riparian Upper Verde, Arizona. Photo by Gary Beverly

Explore and Enjoy Arizona

OCT 19 (THURS) Service Project at Spur Cross Conservation Area with Ranger Kevin Smith. Meet at 8:00 at the picnic table in the northwest corner of the parking lot. Please dress for heavy work and maybe some hiking for trail maintenance. Plan for three hours. Work gloves and water are needed. Please sign up at www.meetup.com/sierra-club-grand-canyon-chapter Sponsored by the Saguaro Group



Spur Cross Ranch. Photo by Sandy Bahr

OCT. 22 (SUN) "C" Reynolds Creek Trail Day hike (4.5 miles RT, 80'EC). We will be hiking in the Sierra Ancha, starting out on the Murphy Trail for a very short distance and then turning onto the Reynolds Creek Trail. We will be hiking through a forest of ponderosa pine, douglas fir, New Mexican locust, aspen, and even a few corkbark firs. Our first destination will be a viewing area where we can look east and see the White Mountains. We can then walk through an area of aspen trees and find a nice lunch spot. The leader will point out the different kinds of trees and plants as we hike. The road to the trailhead requires high clearance vehicles. For reservations, meeting time and place, contact your leader, Jim Vaaler, at jimvaaler@msn.com or call Jim at (602) 553-8208. For those who would like to have dinner on the way back there are a number of good restaurants to choose from.

OCT 28 (SAT) Service Project: Milkweed Planting with the Friends of the Tonto National Forest Please watch for more info and sign up at www.meetup.com/sierra-club-grand-canyon-chapter Sponsored by the Saguaro Group.



Green Milkweed. Photo by Beatrice Eckertson

NOV 4 (SAT) "C" Upper Verde River Wildlife Area (3 mi, 300' EC OW) 9 AM-3 PM. After visiting Sullivan Dam, river mile 0 and site of the proposed Verde Headwaters State Park, we'll hike down a trail to the low flow gauge on the Verde River. There, we will explore the riparian area. We'll find old beaver dams, observe wildlife, and share stories about the river. Bring your camera. We'll learn about the natural history of and the conservation issues surrounding the Verde River, which is particularly threatened by groundwater pumping that will eventually transform the upper Verde into a dry wash, destroying the riparian habitat of nine threatened and endangered species. You may ask for photos of the area. Pre-registration required, 12-hiker limit. Contact Gary Beverly at gbverde99@gmail.com (email preferred) or call 928-308-1003 or register at www.sierraclub.org/arizona/outings Prescott



Riparian Upper Verde, Arizona. Photo by Gary Beverly

NOV 4 (SAT) Meeting and Hike with Saguaro Group Speaker is Susan Sridharan with The Friends of the Tonto National Forest. Susan has provided leadership to the growing and planting of hundreds of milkweed plants at Bartlett

Lake, Wildcat Pass, SearsKay ruins, Phon D, and other Tonto National Forest locations over the past few years. We have participated in both the growing and planting efforts as has the Glendale Conservation Club. Meet at 8:15 at the Holland Community Center, 34250 N. 60th St. #B, Scottsdale. The meeting will be followed by a hike at Cave Creek Regional Park "D" hike (2-3 miles, easy). The park fee is \$7 a car and we can carpool from the Holland Center. Dress for hiking with a hat and bring water. Please sign up: www.meetup.com/sierra-club-grand-canyon-chapter

NOV 11 (SAT) "D" Day Hikes on Horsecamp Loop Trail #383 (2.7 miles OW, <200' EC, elev 6300 to 6100) **to Wolf Creek Trail #384** (5 miles OW, <300' EC, low elev. 5670). Scenic route among pine, oaks, and boulders. Hike the Horsecamp loop for a shorter hike, or continue on the Wolf Creek Loop to add another 5 miles, with a stop at Wolf Creek Falls and the Hassayampa River. Maverick and Tritle Mountains provide a spectacular background. Bring your snacks, lunches, and drinks. Outing is subject to unforeseen winter weather. For reservations, meeting time to carpool, and place contact leaders Jenny Cobb cobbsrun@msn.com 928-925-1320 or Jimmy Castro jimmygordo01@gmail.com 928-499-7396. Register here.

NOV 11 (SAT) Service Projects at Wild at Heart Rehabilitation Center at 8:30 Work will involve garden cleanup and outside cage cleaning. The length of time will be 2-3 hours. Wear work clothes and bring work gloves and wear closed toe shoes. For more information and sign up at www.meetup.com/sierra-club-grand-canyon-chapter.

NOV 18 (SAT) "C" Photography on Upper Verde River (3 mi, 400' EC RT) 2-7 PM. Photographers have a tough time with groups because we stop and fiddle a lot, so here's a special event for us. We'll hike along the Upper Verde River, taking our time to document this beautiful river on a late summer afternoon and evening, and stumble home in the dark. Afterwards, we'll select the best photos (a friendly competition) for use

by the Sierra Club for Verde River conservation efforts. Also we'll learn about the conservation issues threatening this wonderful river. Pre-registration required, 12-hiker limit. Contact Gary Beverly at gbverde99@gmail.com (email preferred) or call 928-308-1003. Prescott

DEC 2 (SAT) "D" Social Hike at Desert View Trail Head in North Phoenix at 8:00 Hike will be 3 miles with some elevation change (easy to moderate). We will meet at the trailhead. Please bring water. Bathrooms available at trailhead. Please sign up at www.meetup.com/sierra-club-grand-canyon-chapter Sponsored by the Saguaro Group

DEC 9 (SAT) "D" Tin Trough Springs Trail #308 to Baby Granite Loop Trail #320 For a short hike turn around at Mint Wash (1 mile) or continue to Trail #320 (about 2.5 miles). Adding the Baby Granite Loop (counter-clockwise) for a total of 10.5 miles, or hike toward Baby Granite Mountain and turn back for an easier long hike). Beautiful trails on the east and north side of Granite Mountain with spectacular views. In the first mile the trail climbs through sloping grassland to Mint Wash. Continue north downhill and cross Mint Wash with giant cottonwoods. Climb gradually then up and down through granite formations. Fabulous views of Granite Mountain on the south, north are large home/ranch parcels and distant mountains. NW is Baby Granite Mountain. You could do the Baby Granite Loop clockwise by continuing on past Trail #320—a more difficult climb to Trail #671 (an old stagecoach road). Bring your snacks, lunches, and drinks. Outing is subject to unforeseen winter weather. For reservations, meeting time to carpool, and place, contact leaders Jenny Cobb cobbsrun@msn.com 928-925-1320 or Jimmy Castro jimmygordo01@gmail.com 928-499-7396. To register: [here](#)