



FRIENDS OF SABINO CANYON

FALL 2014

“A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” — 1964 Wilderness Act

SABINO CANYON: HOW LUCKY WE ARE!

by *Walt Tornow, FOSC Board of Directors*

On a recent nature walk in Sabino Canyon, I had a thrilling encounter with a mountain lion early in the morning. I was heading up the tram road, going toward Rattlesnake Creek. I kept hearing loud vocalization that sounded like someone yelling “WOW!”, with the sound reverberating in the canyon... at least 5 to 7 times. When I was about to cross Rattlesnake Creek bridge, what do I see? It was this beautiful, big mountain lion slowly ambling toward me in the dry creek bed. About 20 or so feet away, the big cat notices me also; and decides to lie down and observe me. And I did the same thing, but decided to keep standing. We did this for almost five minutes — observing each other with much curiosity, and admiration on my part — while several others came by and took pictures. Then the mountain lion got up, turned around and left the scene — in a very leisurely way.

I reflected on the feelings that came over me when I had my encounter with this beautiful creature. They included awe, grace, gratitude and joy. What a privilege to be able to

connect to nature; and experience it in such intimate, and personally meaningful way.

As it so happens, my sighting coincided with our Board of Directors holding a special strategic planning retreat. The retreat was to focus on Friends of Sabino Canyon; and how we can continue to serve, protect and preserve this beautiful Canyon of ours for future generations to enjoy.

I reflected on the feelings that came over me when I had my encounter with this beautiful creature... awe, grace, gratitude and joy... the legacy we want to provide to our future generations so they can become stewards of our beautiful natural places, like Sabino Canyon

I concluded that my wildlife encounter could serve as a broader context for our retreat. That is, the importance to remind ourselves that that's what we're about: Friends of Sabino Canyon! Just like that beautiful creature is a friend of Sabino Canyon, as are all the other creatures that make this wonderful place their home.

It reminds us in a very meaningful and personal way of the larger picture: The legacy we want to provide to our future generations so they can become stewards of our beautiful natural places, like Sabino Canyon... and so they can have the privilege also to experience feelings of awe, grace, gratitude and joy as they encounter nature up close and personal!

Mission

Established in 1993, Friends of Sabino Canyon works to enhance and protect Sabino Canyon. From repairing fire and flood damaged trails and ramadas to supporting research to improve our understanding of the many creatures which make the canyon their home. From restoring historic landmarks like the original Lowell Ranger Station and depression-era built stone bridges to funding school buses to bring local elementary students to the canyon to enjoy educational programs. Your donations go directly to these important programs and preservation projects.

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Photos courtesy Dave Bushell, Diane Drobka, David McCray, and Lahsha Brown

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S MESSY DESK

The sunrise warms my back as I look westward into the wilderness. It is September, time for a change of season. I think, observing the vastness before me through my binoculars, I wonder what does the anniversary of the Wilderness Act mean to me, or to anyone, for that matter? There's no trash, no sardine cans discarded on this high vantage point as there would have been say 30 years ago, in my observation, just shards of pottery from the native peoples, and lots of it. Pack in and pack out seems to have been effective. So, I ask Rob, the mountain man sitting next to me, what does the Wilderness Act mean to him? He answers: "Stewardship, and the future care of these lands. My grandfather gave me the opportunity to experience the western wildernesses he shared his research in ornithology. Who in world is going to carry that flag in today's generation? **Look anywhere else in the world and you will see how there is nothing like our wildernesses**". Hmm, good point Rob.

I unfold my map to a new understanding. From the east coast westward there is a hint of wildernesses until we hit the central New Mexico/ Colorado ranges where there is

an explosion of wilderness blocks that entertain this man's desire to explore; amazing to say the least. Vast lands weave a tapestry to the west coast, and then up and down the coast. Having being born a New Yorker, I see this landscape pull me at my core, a place I can thrive as a man. Good stuff for sure.

I hike with my daughter in Sabino and she is on fire. My goodness, she is walking me straight up and down these canyons, and at quite the clip, young punk. She started with the statement, "Look for turtles". She is a desert tortoise magnet. I ask her, "What does the wilderness mean to you Katie?" She recalls our hike in the Grand Canyon and how adventurous it was, the wonder of the experience enchants her. The hike was no Bright Angel Trail for us. It was a fall-off-the-cliff-and-die kind of expedition. It was brutal, but fun. What about stewardship, Katie? Look at the age of the people using this canyon right now. Do you think that the youth care about the outdoors? "It's early dad, give it a little time. Those two guys over

there look like they are eighteen." As we start to descend and the wind turns to an updraft, sure enough, here come the youth and families with children. We can see her car in the distance when she sees that tortoise at our feet, really?

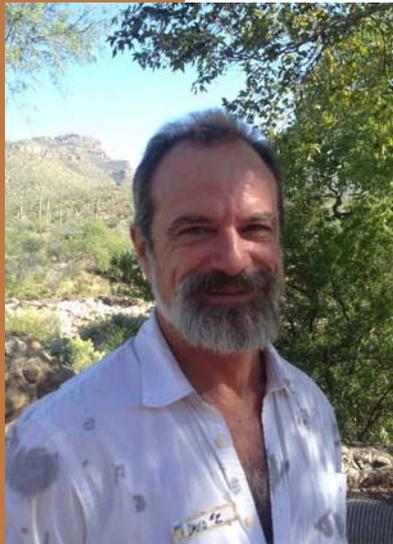
Sabino Canyon is so unique in so many ways, I hope the youth are as engaged nationally are they are here.

I respect the words of President Lyndon B. Johnson when he said as he signed the Wilderness Act; "**If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it.**" You go L.B.J.!

See you in the canyon,

David Bushell, President

Friends of Sabino Canyon



Wilderness to the people of America is a spiritual necessity, an antidote to the high pressure of modern life, a means of regaining serenity and equilibrium.” *Sigurd F. Olson*

PUSCH RIDGE WILDERNESS: TUCSON’S GEM IN THE CATALINAS

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, a historic and important milestone in our Nation’s conservation legacy. Through the designation of Wilderness, we recognize our vulnerability and interconnectedness to the community of life on this planet. Protecting wild places ensures their natural processes and values will not be changed by development. Wilderness acknowledges the fragility and delicate balance that exists in nature, and the impact that man has on such areas.

Wilderness character is ideally described as the unique combination of (a) natural environments that are relatively free from modern human manipulation and impacts, (b) opportunities for personal experiences in environments that are relatively free from the encumbrances and signs of modern society, and (c) symbolic meanings of humility, restraint, and interdependence in how individuals and society view their relationship to nature.

Not only did the Wilderness Act establish a system of wilderness, it also put in place a process for expanding the system. In doing so, the Act made a fundamental change in how new wilderness areas were recommended and acted upon. Essentially, the Act shifted much of this responsibility

from the federal land management agencies and put it into the hands of the American people and the legislative process. From 1964 on, rather than having to wait for land management agencies to make recommendation through a time-consuming administrative process, citizens could develop their own wilderness proposals and submit them directly to a member of Congress. This has had a profound impact on the history of wilderness in the United States.

The Endangered American Wilderness Act included protection for Pusch Ridge, the closest wilderness to Tucson. Pusch Ridge was protected because its “... wilderness values are immediately threatened by pressures of a growing and more mobile population...” (Public Law 95-237).

The Pusch Ridge Wilderness encompasses 56,933 acres in the Santa Catalina Mountains. Located on the western portion of the Santa Catalina mountain range, this area provides outstanding recreation opportunities. Within the Pusch Ridge Wilderness are the major drainages of Romero Canyon, Pima Canyon, Finger Rock Canyon, Ventana Canyon, Esperero Canyon, Sabino Canyon, Bear Canyon, and portions of Cargodera Canyon. Pusch Ridge is a major promontory on

continued next page



MEET OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Growing up in Idaho, I had the privilege of hiking, hunting, fishing and camping in some spectacular country. My step-father worked for the Forest Service as a timber sale marker and fire fighter. He knew all the out of the way places to visit and great fishing spots. One of our favorite activities was hiking up to the many lookouts that dotted the Boise, Payette, Nez Perce, Salmon-Challis, and Sawtooth National Forests.

Those experiences inspired me to get involved in conservation efforts as a volunteer while I was in college. It wasn’t long before I had a job with The Wilderness Society, spending eleven years leading campaigns to protect and designate Wilderness and public lands in Idaho and across the West.

After falling in love with the desert, I decided to relocate to sunny Tucson, where the weather matches my disposition. I have enjoyed working for Sky Island Alliance and serving on the Advisory Board for Friends of Saguaro National Park. Most recently I was the Executive Director for the Friends of Ironwood Forest. I am blessed to be able to continue to work with so many wonderful people I’ve come to know in our community.

I look forward to meeting and working with each and every one of you — our supporters, donors, and partners. Together we will work to keep Sabino Canyon the treasure it is and a legacy for future generations of outdoor enthusiasts. Thank you for being such great stewards of our irreplaceable Canyon.

Lahsha Brown, Executive Director

A Wilderness is defined by the qualities comprising its character:

Untrammeled: Wilderness is essentially unhindered and free from modern human control or manipulation.

Natural: Wilderness ecological systems are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization, and marked by the following:

Absence of evidence of people and their activities.

Perpetuation of natural ecological relationships and processes and the continued existence of native wildlife populations in largely natural conditions.

Undeveloped: Wilderness retains its primeval character and influence, and is essentially without permanent improvement or modern human occupation.

Providing Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Wilderness provides outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined experiences, and promises the following:

The likelihood of not encountering other people while in wilderness, including privacy and isolation.

The absence of distractions (such as large groups, mechanization, unnatural noise, signs, and other modern artifacts).

Freedom from the reminders of modern society.

The freedom of visitors to explore, with limited or no restrictions; the ability to be spontaneous.

Self-sufficiency and absence of support facilities or motorized transportation; direct experience of weather, terrain, and wildlife with minimal shelter or assistance from devices of modern civilization.

God bless America—let's save some of it.

— Edward Abbey

PUSCH RIDGE WILDERNESS *continued*

the west end of the range that historically supported a small population of desert bighorn sheep (prior to the early 1990s).

Characterized by steep vertical rock faces and spectacular geologic formations, the moderately-high and highly erosive granitic soils provide stunning scenery and micro-climates for unique plant and animal species. In most of the major canyons, riparian — or river-dependent — vegetation and seasonal or year-round water give species the ability to survive. The Santa Catalina Mountains contain one of the most diverse wildlife resources found anywhere in the United States. Many species are endemic — which is to say, they are found nowhere else — to the extreme southwestern United States and Mexico, attracting national attention for tourism, recreation, bird watching, photography, scientific study, education, and conservation.

As more and more land is developed within our country, the need for Wilderness grows. More than two dozen bipartisan and locally supported wilderness bills have been introduced and are awaiting action by Congress. You can help by getting involved and letting your elected representatives know that wilderness is important to you. More information on wilderness can be found at www.wilderness.net.



“We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope.” — Wallace Stegner

To those devoid of imagination a blank place on the map is a useless waste;
to others, the most valuable part." — Aldo Leopold

THANK YOU FOR BEING A FRIEND!

Friends of Sabino Canyon is an independent non-profit organization. Since 1993 we have worked to inspire people to protect, preserve, and enhance Sabino Canyon's natural and cultural heritage for future generations. Many projects in partnership with the Coronado National Forest are made possible by you, the generosity of friends and neighbors, Friends of Sabino Canyon. We would like to recognize the individuals, families, and businesses who have made donations from January 9, 2014 through October 24, 2014. *Thank you!*



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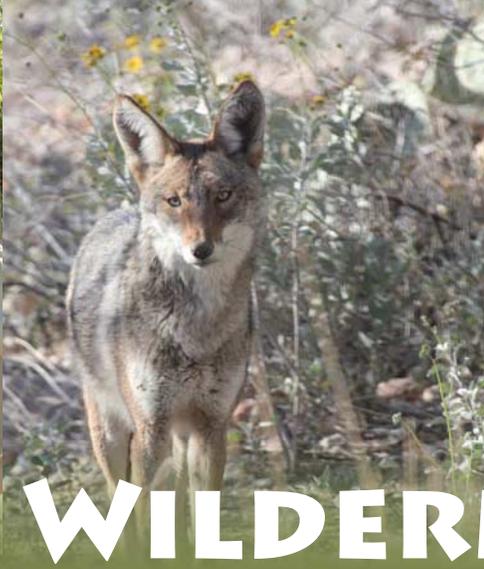
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WILD FOR WILDERNESS:

Arizona Wilderness at a Glance

Wilderness Areas: 90
2nd highest # in U.S.

- Acres: 4,517,618
- * 15% of the federal land in Arizona
- * 6% of all Arizona lands
- * 4% of all U.S. wilderness

Agency Number* / Acres:

BLM 47 / 1,418,438
 USFS 36 / 1,339,993
 FWS 4 / 1,343,444
 NPS 4 / 444,055

*One is co-managed

Key Legislation:

- * Wilderness Act 1964
- * Public Law 91-505 1970
- * Public Law 94-56 1976
- * Endangered American Wilderness Act 1978
- * Arizona Wilderness Act 1984
- * Arizona Desert Wilderness Act 1990

by Diane Drobka, Wild for Wilderness Festival Planning Team

On September 3, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Wilderness Act, establishing the National Wilderness Preservation System.

It designated the first 54 wilderness areas encompassing 9.1 million acres of National Forest wildlands for the use and benefit of the American people in perpetuity or, as Congress stated, "for the permanent good of the whole people."

Citing the overwhelming House support (only one dissenting vote) President Johnson stated, "So it seems to me that this reflects a new and a strong national consensus to look ahead, and, more than that, to plan ahead; better still, to move ahead."

This momentous day was the result of eight years of work by Howard Zahniser, a principle author and promoter, who wrote the first draft of a Wilderness Bill introduced in 1956.

With passage of the Wilderness Act, Congress designated 54 U.S. Forest Service (USFS) wilderness areas. Five of those were in Arizona, with two in the Coronado National Forest: Chiricahua and Galiuro.

In 1970, Petrified Forest National Park became the first National Park Service (NPS) site in Arizona to include designated wilderness; Saguaro and Chiricahua National Monument wilderness areas followed in 1976.

The Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984, crafted by the late Congressman Morris K. Udall, added 30 USFS units and created the first nine Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wilderness areas.

The Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 increased to 47 the number of BLM units and created four National Wildlife Refuge wilderness areas.

2014 is truly a year to celebrate wilderness. The nation has commemorated the 50th Anniversary throughout the year. In the Southwest, we recognize 30 years of the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984. We also celebrate 90 years for the Gila Wilderness, our nation's first, championed by conservationist Aldo Leopold and supported by wilderness pioneer Arthur Carhart prior to the passage of the Wilderness Act.

While 4,517,618 acres may sound like a large area, it represents only 15% of the federally managed land in Arizona and only 6% of all Arizona lands. These scattered untamed parcels have substantial benefits.

First and foremost, they ensure that our children and grandchildren can experience a piece of American history by visiting places that remain untouched by ever-expanding development.

Find out more about Wilderness in Arizona — BLM 520.258.7200 * NPS 602.794.3804 * FWS 520.387.6483 * USFS 520.388.8300
Arizona Wilderness Coalition 520.326.4300 * Friends of Sabino Canyon 520.749.1900 * Sierra Club 602.253.8633



CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT

Indigenous people respected and lived off these lands that were often considered sacred spaces. Later when early pioneers searched for a new life, wilderness became what we can now call the Original American Adventure.

We might think of wilderness as “A gift from our grandparents, a promise to our grandchildren.” With that said, it’s important to remember that wilderness is our common heritage and responsibility.

Today, this gift offers us a unique opportunity to escape the hectic rush of everyday work, traffic, noise, and pollution to find a place where the world is simple, once again. When life seems to be moving faster and faster, wilderness offers a place of refuge where you can slow down and hear yourself think. It can be a place of wonder and inspiration, where life regains perspective.

Visitors can instead hear the bugling of an elk, the rustling of leaves and the tapping of a woodpecker while taking in a spectacular sunset. Simply put, wilderness is a place to Simplify, Balance, Unplug, Awaken.

The National Wilderness Preservation System currently contains 758 wilderness areas in the U.S. comprising 109,511,038 acres. More than a dozen of these are in southern Arizona; here are some of them:

- Aravaipa Canyon (BLM) * Baboquivari Peak (BLM) * Cabeza Prieta (FWS)
- Chiricahua National Monument (NPS) * Chiricahua (USFS)
- Coyote Mountains (BLM) * Dos Cabezas Mountains (BLM) * Fishhooks (BLM)
- Galiuro (USFS) * Miller Peak (USFS) * Mount Wrightson (USFS)
- Needle’s Eye (BLM) * North Santa Teresa (BLM) * Organ Pipe Cactus (NPS)
- Pajarita (USFS) * Peloncillo Mountains (BLM) * Pusch Ridge (USFS)
- Redfield Canyon (BLM) * Rincon Mountain (USFS) * Saguaro (NPS)
- Santa Teresa (USFS) * White Canyon (BLM)

Arizona Wilderness Fun Facts

Largest Wilderness:
Cabeza Prieta 803,418 acres

Smallest Wilderness:
Baboquivari Peak 2,065 acres

Wilderness Highs and Lows:
Kachina Peaks 12,643’
Imperial 200’

Arizona is one of only five states in which all four federal land management agencies have designated wilderness; Pima County also has wilderness managed by all four agencies

Arizona is in the Top Five states with the most wilderness acres *and* with the most wilderness areas

The Arizona National Scenic Trail crosses 8 units:
Miller Peak, Mt. Wrightson, Saguaro, Rincon Mountain, Pusch Ridge, Superstition, Four Peaks, and Mazatzal



Thank you Cakes for Causes, Republic Services, and Water Street Station for your support of the Wild for Wilderness Festival!



FRIENDS OF SABINO CANYON

PO Box 31265, Tucson, AZ 85751

MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US FOR
MUSIC IN THE CANYON
MARCH 7, 2015

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF WILDERNESS **1964-2014** YOURS: TO ENJOY AND PROTECT

WHAT'S NEW IN THE BOOKSTORE?



Did you know that there are several items for sale in the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center Bookstore that benefit the Friends of Sabino Canyon?

New this fall, there are **Take A Hike Drawstring Day Packs** (right). These are small and lightweight, perfect for carrying just the bare essentials for a hike into the Canyon. They are great for kids and would make nice stocking stuffers for the holidays. They also take up less room than a pair of socks. **\$4.99**

Also new are beautiful t-shirts in sandstone reddish brown and sky blue (left). These shirts feature a hawk soaring above the landscape of Sabino Canyon. **\$22.99**

If you would like more information about the great finds in the bookstore, just give them a call or stop by. The non-profit Public Lands Interpretive Association (PLIA) runs the store and can be reached at 520.749.7711.



Thank you Mindi Lehew, Dispersed Recreation Program Manager for the Santa Catalina Ranger District, for modeling these products. Mindi has been a great leader and partner to Friends of Sabino Canyon, working closely with us on the National Public Lands Day volunteer project and the Wild for Wilderness Festival.