

CANYON ECHO

<http://sierraclub.org/arizona>

Grand Canyon Chapter

Fall 2021

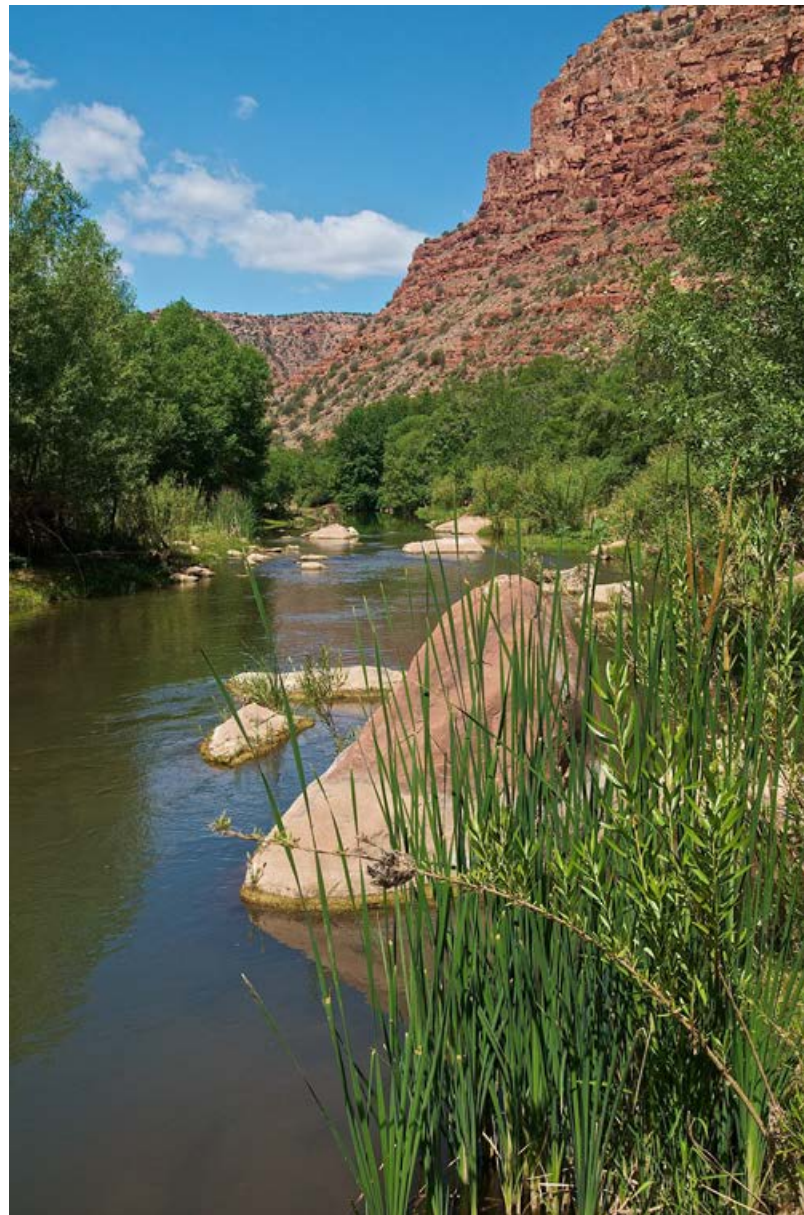
Arizona 30x30: Add 12 Million Acres to Protected Lands

By Gary Beverley 

We face huge problems on a global and regional scale. Climate change has increased Southwest temperatures 2° F, the area is suffering from the most extreme drought since the 15th century, and the Sixth Great Extinction is in progress. But there is one element of hope: the International 30 x 30 Movement.

Respected ecologist E. O. Wilson suggests that in order to preserve biodiversity and mitigate climate change the world needs to protect 50% of the land and oceans by 2050. An interim goal, 30% by 2030, is supported by the Biden Administration as a ten-year, locally led, sciencebased campaign to conserve and restore America's land and waters. Biden's "America The Beautiful" report requires a collaborative approach that honors Tribal sovereignty, creates jobs, and respects private property rights.

In Arizona, a statewide coalition of environmental groups (Center for Biological Diversity, The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Trust, Chispa AZ, and others) is now working to produce a series of Arizona bills and to submit an initial proposal to the current Congress. The first bill is not finalized, but at this point the Grand Canyon area is the low-hanging fruit because it is extremely important and has several "shovel-ready" proposals. The next phase is very exciting because we have identified an astounding number of proposals that can be combined into high priority bills to designate Wild and Scenic Rivers and Wilderness Areas statewide. Some of these proposals date



Upper Verde River. Photo by Gary Beverley

from the early '90s, so they need updated fieldwork before forming into legislation, and we're working on that. WSRs and WAs are extremely important methods of connecting and preserving wildlife habitats.

What does "Protect" mean? Do we prioritize by area, or landscapes, or biodiversity, or carbon capture? There is no national guidance, but one measure of protection is defined by "GAP Codes" based on management policy. Simply put, Wilderness Areas are GAP 1. GAP 2 includes National Parks, Monuments, Wild and Scenic Rivers, etc. GAP 3 includes roadless areas, National Forests, Seashores, Grasslands, etc. GAP 4 includes Tribal lands, State Parks, conservation easements, etc. Private land is unclassified. At this early stage, our goal is to move GAP 3 lands and waters into GAP 1 or 2 status to protect new habitats and create landscape scale connectivity.

This is an enormous task, even for ten years effort. Arizona's total land area is 73 Million Acres (MA), roughly broken down as: GAP 1 - 6% (4.5 MA); GAP 2 - 6.6% (4.8 MA); GAP 3 - 28% (20.4 MA). Tribal lands are 27% (19.8 MA). Our goal is to triple Arizona's existing protected areas by upgrading 12.6 million acres of Federal, State, Tribal, and private land. But Federal land is not enough; we will need to develop sensitive and respectful approaches and listen to the tribes and private landowners.

30x30 is a huge project with tremendous significance. Sierra Club staff in Washington DC will help support statebased 30x30 proposals by lobbying Congress. Be ready to help!

Gary is Water Co-Chair, and is a member of the Publications Committee

Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet





Arizona Chapter Action Directory

Canyon Echo

Fall 2021
Vol. 57 No. 4

Canyon Echo © 2021. *Canyon Echo* (ISSN 0164-7024) is published quarterly for Sierra Club members by Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter, 514 W. Roosevelt St., Phoenix, AZ 85003. Phone: 602-253-8633. Printed at Valley Newspapers.

Front page banner designed by Erika Gronek.

Printed on 100% recycled paper with soy ink.

Guest Editor: Toni Malcolm

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

Outings Editor \ Mailing Organizer: Jerry Nelson
602-550-0282, peakbagger2@gmail.com

Copy Editor: Kurt Florman

Acting Publications Chair: Sandy Bahr
602-253-8633, sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org

Publications Committee:
Sandy Bahr, Gary Beverly, Benjamin Downer,
Kurt Florman, Chris Gehlker, Toni Malcolm,
Jerry Nelson, Joe Shannon, Urb Weidner

Webmaster: Thomas Hatfield
thomas.hatfield@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Annual dues to Sierra Club are \$39 (including \$1 for *Canyon Echo*). Subscription rate for non-members is \$10. Send check payable to Sierra Club - Canyon Echo, 514 W. Roosevelt St., Phoenix, AZ 85003.

ADVERTISING: Advertising is sold on a first-come, space-available basis. The editor reserves the right to refuse any advertisements, and inclusion of advertisements does not imply endorsement by Sierra Club. All interactions between advertisers and consumers are solely the responsibilities of those parties.

SUBMISSIONS: Send electronic or hard copies to the editor (include a self-addressed stamped envelope for return of hard copies). Indicate copyright or Creative Commons preference. We are not responsible for lost or damaged items. Writer's guidelines can be obtained by contacting the editor. All rights to publication of articles in this issue are reserved. The deadline is the first day of the month preceding the issue. Opinions expressed in *Canyon Echo* are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of Sierra Club.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes and postage due to Sierra Club Member Services, c/o Canyon Echo, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-6417. Periodicals postage paid at Phoenix, AZ.

Chapter Director

Sandy Bahr 602-253-8633 sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org

Conservation Program and Communications Assistant

Vacant 602-253-9140

Grand Canyon Conservation Program Manager

Alicyn Gitlin 928-774-6514 alicyn.gitlin@sierraclub.org

Border Conservation Program Manager

Vacant

Water Sentinels Program Manager

Jennifer Martin 602-254-8362 jennifer.martin@sierraclub.org

Southwest Local Outdoors Coordinator

Sergio Avila 520-624-7080 sergio.avila@sierraclub.org

Southern AZ Energy Program Coordinator

Catalina Ross 520-312-2849 catalina.ross@sierraclub.org

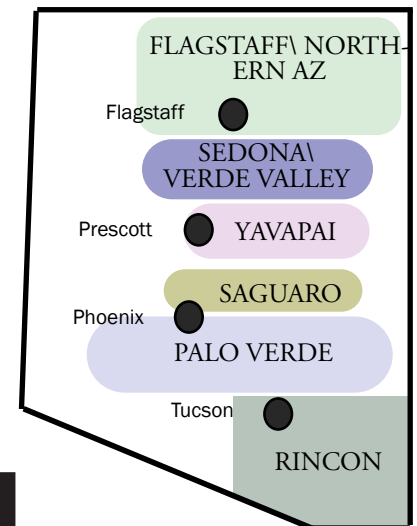


(xc) 2021 Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) members

BIPOCC: Black Indigenous People of Color Committee

CHAPTER OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Chair \ Membership	Kathy Mohr-Almeida (xc)	480-329-8503	kathylynn626@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair:	Vacant		
Secretary:	Joe Shannon	928-380-9537	jshannon278@gmail.com
Treasurer	Chris Gehlker	602-370-0128	canyonrat@icloud.com
Conservation:	Don Steuter	602-956-5057	dsteuter@hotmail.com
BIPOCC:	Oscar Medina (xc)	520-903-8005	oscarmedinagomez@gmail.com
Political:	Korey Hjelmeir (xc)	480-734-0926	khjelmeir@hotmail.com
Outings:	Jenny Cobb	928-925-1320	cobbsrun@msn.com
Water Co-Chair:	Joshua Preston (xc)	520-904-8291	farmerjp99@gmail.com
Water Co-Chair:	Gary Beverly (xc)	928-308-1003	gbverde99@gmail.com
Wilderness:	Jim Vaaler (xc)	602-553-8208	jimvaaler@msn.com
Council Delegate:	Stephanie Vázquez Salas (xc)	623-302-6889	stephanie.vazquez03@gmail.com
Council Alternate:	Anna Mohr-Almeida (xc)	480-329-8503	mmlkm02@gmail.com



Chapter Announcements

OCT 2 (SAT) Chapter Conservation and Executive Committee meetings (virtual). Club leaders meet to consider matters related to statewide conservation efforts, share experiences across groups, and coordinate strategy to align our Chapter mission and goals with our equity values. For more information, please contact sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

NOV 10 (WED) 6:30 p.m. Political Committee meetings (virtual). Help us elect more environmentally-friendly candidates! If you are interested in helping improve the political climate in Arizona, consider being part of our Political Committee! All Sierra Club members are welcome to participate. For information, contact political.chair@grandcanyon.sierraclub.org.

OCT 11, NOV 8, DEC 13 (MON) 6:30 p.m. 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.

OCT 26 , NOV 23 (TUE) 6:30 p.m. 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.

OCT (TBD) Publications Committee meeting (virtual). Have an idea? Help plan future issues of Canyon Echo! Also, we have a volunteer opportunity available for the publications chair position. Contact Sandy Bahr at sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

DEC 1 (WED) Copy deadline for Winter 202e Canyon Echo. Articles, art, photographs, poetry, essays, and brief epiphanies are welcome. Contact Sandy Bahr at sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

Table of Contents

- Arizona 30X30.....1
- Action Directory.....2
- Chapter Announcements..2
- Protest at the senators.....3
- Sierra Club Elections.....4
- Happenings Around AZ...5
- Meet the Candidates.....6
- The Slab.....8
- Project Batch.....8
- PocketMouse.....8
- Gardening for wildlife.....9
- Desert Living.....9
- Inclusive Outings.....10
- Book Review.....11
- Donors.....12
- Env. Report Card.....14
- Leaders Training.....15
- Cast of Characters.....16

Canyon Echo encourages contributors to use Creative Commons licensing.



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 543 Howard Street, 5th Floor, San Francisco, California 94105.

All other contributions, including photos, cartoons, and written work, fall under standard copyright restrictions.

Electronic Newsletter



~ to sign up for the e-newsletter, send an email with your full name and membership ID (8-digit number found on your mailing label) to CanyonEchoESub@gmail.com. You will receive an email when the new issues become available online. The trees will thank you ~

Arizona Local Climate, Justice, and Interfaith Groups Tell Senators: Invest in Bold Climate Action Now

By Sandy Bahr

On September 23rd, leaders from local organizations rooted in clean energy, environmental justice, voter rights, and interfaith advocacy hand delivered a large photo petition and thousands of individual petition signatures to the offices of Senator Krysten Sinema and Senator Mark Kelly, asking for their support of the full Build Back Better Budget. This was part of a year-long effort to convince our members of Congress to support bold climate action.

The full Build Back Better Budget will improve Arizona’s transit systems and provide clean electric school buses to ensure that children are not breathing dirty diesel exhaust, promote clean energy such as solar and wind, invest in restoring and protecting the state’s public lands, and provide opportunities for Arizona youth to get involved through the Civilian Climate Corps.

Arizonans grapple with the impacts of climate change daily, seeing worsening drought and extreme heat, which has life-and-death consequences for many people. Emissions

from dirty energy sources pollute the air, and harm low-income communities and people of color first and worst. And incredibly, many schools around the state still have lead pipes making water dangerous for children to drink. Arizona communities need Sen. Sinema and Sen. Kelly to understand that investing in a clean energy future is essential to meeting the state’s climate goals, and the Build Back Better Budget is the best policy to make it happen.

Sandy is Chapter Director



Climate groups visit Senator Kelly’s office photo by Sandy Bahr

Recreate Responsibly

Some BLM Arizona sites are seeing heavy visitation. As we continue our response to COVID-19, you can do your part when enjoying public lands. We recommend visiting areas close to home. Avoid locations where physical distancing may be difficult. Toilets and trash removal may be limited.

Be prepared.

Avoid crowded sites

Pack out your trash

Bring your own toilet paper & hand sanitizer

Stay at least 6 feet apart

Stay home if you're sick

Learn more about COVID-19 at www.coronavirus.gov

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. 6-7.
- 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** as 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 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.

ELECTION BALLOT

Postmark deadline for ballots is Dec. 1!

Is your membership Single or Joint?

Single Joint

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE All Members Vote

Vote for no more than 4 candidates	Single (Membership Type)	Joint
Kathy Mohr-Almeida Ph.D	(S)	(J)
Cyndi Tuell	(S)	(J)
Jim Vaaler	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)

Very Important!

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

GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Vote ONLY for Your Group

If you are not sure which group you're in, contact 602-253-8633 or grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org.

SAGUARO (N. Maricopa County) Vote for no more than 3

Rhonda Frost	(S)	(J)
Sally Howland	(S)	(J)
Cressie Joe Sylvester	(S)	(J)
Jim Wilkey	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)

FLAGSTAFF/NORTHERN AZ Vote for no more than 2

Sarah King	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)

YAVAPAI (Prescott) Vote for no more than 3

Tom Slaback	(S)	(J)
Steve Cook	(S)	(J)
Jenny Cobb	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)

RINCON (Tucson) Vote for no more than 3

_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)

PALO VERDE (Phoenix) Vote for no more than 4

Kathy Mohr-Almeida Ph.D	(S)	(J)
Jim Vaaler	(S)	(J)
Korey Hjelmeir	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)
_____	(S)	(J)



Happenings Around AZ

Five groups and one regional conservation committee 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/events-activities>. Schedules are subject to change.

(x) Group ExCom members

Palo Verde Group (Phoenix) <http://sierraclub.org/arizona/palo-verde>

Chair/Programs:	Rebecca Hinton (x)	602-405-1779	rahinton@hotmail.com
Vice-Chair/Political:	Korey Hjelmeir (x)	480-734-0926	khjelmeir@hotmail.com
Secretary:	Chris Gehlker (x)	602-370-0128	canyonrat@icloud.com
Treasurer:	Jerry Nelson	602-550-0282	peakbagger2@gmail.com
Outings/Wilderness:	Jim Vaaler (x)	602-553-8208	jimvaaler@msn.com
ICO:	Lisa Vaaler (x)	602-468-4158	lvaaler1@gmail.com
Conservation:	Don Steuter (x)	602-956-5057	dsteuter@hotmail.com
Membership/Newsletter	Jim Dublinski (x)	480-532-2285	jdublinski@icloud.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Greg Clark (x)		greg@btllcaz.com
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Kathy Mohr-Almeida (x)	480-329-8503	kathylynn626@yahoo.com

Palo Verde group programs are **on the fourth Thursday every month at 6:30 p.m.** Meetings will be held virtually via Zoom and are open to the public. Contact Rebecca Hinton for more information.

Saguaro Group (North Maricopa County) <http://sierraclub.org/arizona/saguaro>

Chair:	Doug Murphy (x)	602-329-3690	dbmurphy@cox.net
Vice-Chair:	Jo Sylvester (x)	602-292-6806	stitchinjo@yahoo.com
Secretary/Programs:	Sally Howland (x)	602-663-2889	sally_howland@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Peter Weinelt (x)	623-388-2209	vitalpaw@yahoo.com
Outings:	Bev Full (x)	480-221-2554	bfull@cox.net
Service/Membership:	Urb Weidner (x)	602-300-8505	northwoods@cox.net
Ex-Com (At-Large):	Vacant		

Contact Sally Howland for information about Saguaro Group events

Flagstaff-Northern AZ Group <http://sierraclub.org/arizona/plateau>

Chair:	Joe Shannon (x)	928-380-9537	jshannon278@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Marcia Burns (x)	928-853-3132	swtropicals@yahoo.com
Outings:	Vacant		
Wildlife:	Kay Bordwell	928-779-3517	kbordwell4@gmail.com
Communications:	Sarah King (x)	602-576-6054	garbageldy@hotmail.com
Political Liaison:	Anthony Garcia		
Public Lands:	Emma Benenati (x)	928-527-3116	emmap.benenati@nau.edu

Flagstaff Group programs & Executive Committee meetings are held **on the second Thursday of the month.** Contact Joe Shannon for more information about events in

Yavapai Group (Prescott) <http://sierraclub.org/arizona/yavapai>

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

For information about activities in the Prescott area, contact Gary Beverly

Rincon Group (Tucson) <http://sierraclub.org/arizona/rincon>

The Grand Canyon Chapter is currently deciding on how to reorganize the Rincon Group or utilize an alternative structure to serve our members in Southern Arizona. In the interim, please contact the chapter office at grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org or (602) 253-8633 for questions on events and issues.

Keep Up to Date with Our Chapter!

Chapter - bit.ly/gcc_meetup
Palo Verde Group - bit.ly/pvg_meetup
Rincon Group - bit.ly/rincon_meetup



Chapter - bit.ly/gc_insta
Borderlands Campaign - bit.ly/scb_insta
Grand Canyon Campaign - bit.ly/protectgc

Chapter - twitter.com/SierraClubAZ
Sandy Bahr - twitter.com/SLBahr
Borderlands Campaign - bit.ly/scb_twitter
Grand Canyon Campaign - bit.ly/protectgc_twitter



Chapter - bit.ly/gcc_fb
AZ Water Sentinels - bit.ly/azsentinels_fb
Borderlands Campaign - bit.ly/border_fb
Grand Canyon Campaign - bit.ly/protectgc_fb
Rincon Group - <http://bit.ly/rinconfb>
Flagstaff/N AZ Group - http://bit.ly/flagstaff_fb
Yavapai Group - http://bit.ly/yavapai_fb
Saguaro Group - http://bit.ly/saguaro_fb

Meet the Group Executive Committee Candidates

CHAPTER

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

I would like to serve a third 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. Vigilance of the Rio Verde, the San Pedro, Fossil Creek, and Oak Flat must continue, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. I am particularly concerned with the protection of the Grand Canyon and its related resources and the potential for destruction and toxic waste inside our national treasure. The monitoring of state, federal and corporate activities are crucial to the protection of our natural resources and biodiversity.

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 of 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*)

As an attorney and conservation advocate with more than ten years of experience working to protect public lands in Arizona, I think I would be a valuable addition to the Grand Canyon Chapter's Executive Committee. I currently work as the Arizona and New Mexico Director at Western Watersheds Project, serve on the Board of Directors for Wilderness Watch, and have served as an appointed member of the Bicycle Advisory Committee representing bicycle riders in Pima County since 2019. I have been an active volunteer for the Rincon Group, at times serving on the Group's Executive Committee, and have volunteered with the Sierra Club Borderlands Group for over a decade. I have a broad understanding of the conservation issues facing Arizona – from public lands conservation to building climate change resilient communities. I am keenly interested in, and active in, furthering the Sierra Club's work to address issues of environmental justice, equity, and building a more inclusive organization. My son and I live near downtown Tucson where we enjoy gardening, bike riding, and being active members of our community.

Jim Vaaler (*Membership Number: 11880851*)

I will uphold principles of justice, equity, diversity, 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 daily lives. I am currently involved with the 30 X 30 land initiative. This means we will endeavor to conserve at least 30 % of America's lands and oceans by 2030. This also 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. I do believe we have our work cut out for us.

SAGUARO GROUP

Rhonda Frost (*Membership Number: 44467377*)

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for 12 years (2009). After relocating to Arizona, I became a member of the Saguaro Group in 2018. I would like to nominate myself to become a candidate to serve on the Saguaro Group Chapter executive committee as a voting member as well serve as member for the Social Outreach Board Position.

Sally Howland (*Membership Number: 47783566*)

I am Sally Howland and I am applying for Excomm. I have lived in Anthem, AZ for nine years. During the past nine years I have been active with the Saguaro Group of the Sierra Club as the secretary, meeting planner and hike organizer. I have also in the past been a regular water tester for the Water Sentinels on the Verde River.

Chressie Jo Sylvester (*Membership number 45899045*)

I have been a Sierra Club member for 12 years. I am a retired special ed teacher. I have spent one summer as a National Park Ranger which was a lot of fun. I've been co-leading canoe outings and other outings with my group for seven years. I have greatly missed the in person activities of the Sierra Club this past year and a half. Looking forward to doing more. Serving the community and promoting the welfare of the environment is my goal and one I want to continue.

Jim Wilkey (*Membership number 43313248*)

My membership covers more than 15 years and in that time I've participated in some 30+ river canoe and raft trips, usually as an assistant Leader. I've also been a group rep and attended Chapter ExComm meetings. In the past, I participated in two Sierra Club National backpacks as an assistant Leader.

FLAGSTAFF/NORTHERN AZ GROUP

Sarah King (*Membership Number: 28404590*)

I would like to submit my request to be considered for a position on the Sierra Club Executive Board for the Northern Arizona Group for the coming year. I have served in the capacity of communications coordinator for the past year, helping to write and edit communiques from the group, and interfacing with other environmental-advocacy organizations with special emphasis on faith-based organizations. I think this is important work, especially in this time of climate uncertainty when all groups who support action on climate mitigation, support for renewable energy sources and protections for our land, air and water need to be organizing together to achieve the goal of a sustainable future and justice for all.

Meet the Group Executive Committee Candidates

YAVAPAI GROUP

Tom Slaback (*Membership Number: 12611684*)

I am nearing 47 years as a Club member, volunteering in Group, Chapter, and Water Sentinel leadership. The flow in the upper Verde River continues to decrease even without Prescott pumping the Big Chino. I support Biden's proposal to protect 30% of our land and water by 2030 and have many local area and waterways suggestions. We helped kill the Big Chino pump storage project. Counteracting climate change is of utmost importance and we must prevent the PNF from removing the forest to create graze for cattle and releasing massive amounts of stored carbon from the large trees carbon sink. We helped save 274 acres of the Granite Dells iconic Point Of Rocks as public open space and insured that the road will be built as a grade separated crossing of the Peavine Trail. I ask for your vote so that I can continue to speak for our environment, against negative climate changing projects, for land and water protection and clean water and air, and to protect our right to fair and free elections.

Steve 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.

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.

PALO VERDE GROUP

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

I would like to serve a third 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. Vigilance of the Rio Verde, the San Pedro, Fossil Creek, and Oak Flat must continue, as well as protecting threatened and endangered species. I am particularly concerned with the protection of the Grand Canyon and its related resources and the potential for destruction and toxic waste inside our national treasure. The monitoring of state, federal and corporate activities are crucial to the protection of our natural resources and biodiversity.

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 of 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.

Jim Vaaler (*Membership Number: 11880851*)

I will uphold principles of justice, equity, diversity, 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 daily lives. I am currently involved with the 30 X 30 land initiative. This means we will endeavor to conserve at least 30 % of America's lands and oceans by 2030. This also 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. I do believe we have our work cut out for us.

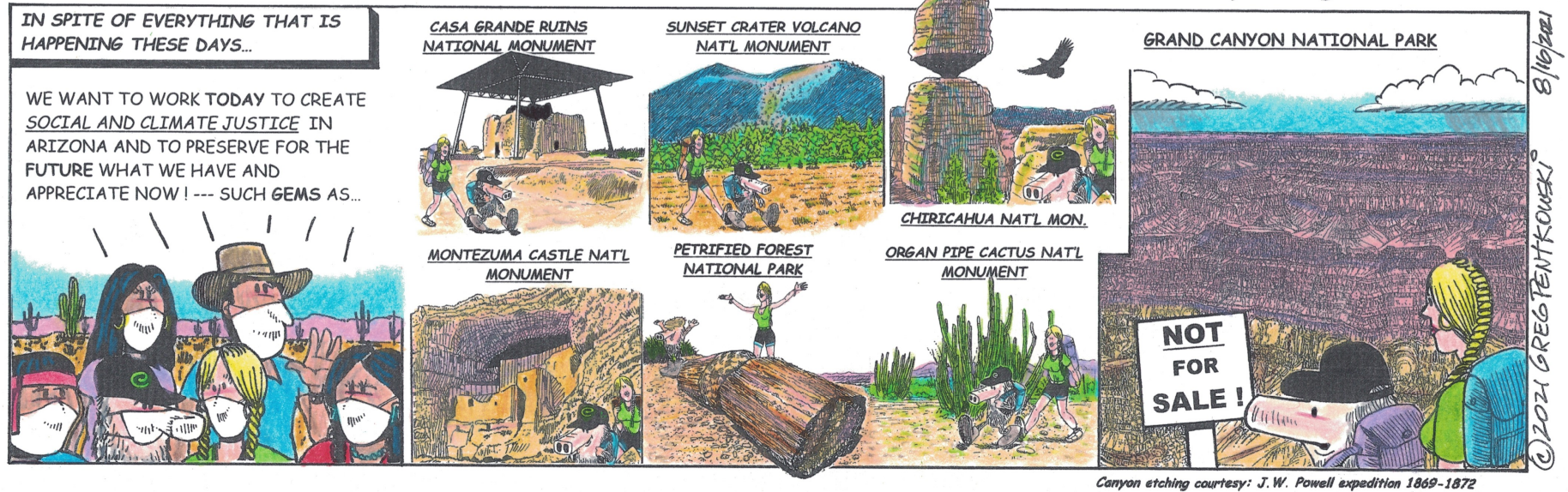
Korey Hjelmeir (*Membership Number: 50097860*)

For as long as I can remember I have loved the outdoors - if there was ever an excuse to be outside, I would find it. As such, I am a passionate environmentalist. With the increased threats to our environment in recent years I decided to narrow the focus of my activism, with the Sierra Club as my organization of choice. Currently I chair the chapter's political committee and participate on the fundraising, publications and wildlife committees. I've put my outings leader designation to use for service projects, fundraising and PAC hikes. I enjoy helping with events like tabling for Climate Action, organizing text banks and canvasses and planning Environmental Day at the Capitol - to name a few. I'm also involved with other likeminded organizations and trainings, to help further environmental causes. While my main focus on the Political Committee is to try get people involved in activism, I've realized working on other committees we all have different goals. For the Sierra Club to be the best we possibly can, we need a strong executive committee working together to help all our different groups achieve their respective goals, and I would like to be part of that team.

Beyond the Slab

-- CELEBRATING OVER **30 YEARS** OF PUBLISHED ECO-AWARENESS !

By Greg Pentkowski



PROJECT BATCH: HELP GET VOTERS REGISTERED FROM YOUR OWN HOME

By Bev Full    

MEET THE ARIZONA POCKET MOUSE

By Erin Hunt    



Downtown Phoenix Protest Photo by Toni Malcolm

The National Sierra Club Political Committee has sponsored an easy and successful way to register eligible voters for the important upcoming elections. The Committee has researched areas of low voter turnout and selected names of voters who may need to register or reregister because of a new address or name change or whatever. Once you sign up to help with this effort you will be sent five voter registration forms plus five voter registration information sheets in two languages, and five sheets for writing a short note about the urgency to get registered and to vote.

Your job is to write a short note about the importance of registering and voting and to thank the voters for their efforts. The letter is signed with your first name only. We are asked to address a legal size stamped envelope with each address. The return address on the envelopes will be Sierra Club. Once this is done, the letters should be mailed immediately and you may request another "batch" of five.

Bria Frame is project director and can be reached at letters.political@sierraclub.org. She and her committee will answer your questions and can sign you up to help with this important work.

Arizona pocket mice are part of a special group of rodents that includes kangaroo rats. Did you know they are neither rats nor mice? They are actually not related to any other species of North American rodent!

They have soft tan- to orange-colored fur and thinly-furred tails that lack the brushy tip characteristic of other species.

These nocturnal, burrowing animals primarily eat seeds which they carry in external fur-lined pouches in their cheeks back to their burrows for storage, a behavior called caching. When foraging, they alter the dispersal of seeds and can change the composition of plant communities. They may aid in germination of uneaten cached seeds and may reduce competition between seedlings.

Their predators include rattlesnakes, hawks, and owls.

Well adapted to living in dry environments thanks to their highly efficient kidneys. most seldom drink water, getting what they need from their food and spending the day in sealed burrows to prevent water loss. In colder temperatures, they might enter torpor, becoming inactive especially during periods when they cannot forage for food.

They live in sandy, open desert with sparse grasses, mesquites, creosote bushes, and some cacti and can be found throughout much of Arizona and into northern Mexico.

Solitary and territorial, they may fight if they encounter another pocket mouse. They breed in February or March, having litters of 3-5 young on average who emerge from burrows in May and June after weaning.

While not currently threatened, they are close to being labeled vulnerable.

What can you do to help?

Protect sensitive desert habitats by respecting rules for outdoor recreation.

Give wildlife their space so pocket mice and their predators have a safe place to call home.

Learn more about these Arizona native animals at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum or your favorite local zoo or museum!

When you make a donation to the Grand Canyon Chapter, you support Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our efforts to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, to curb global climate change, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. If you haven't already, please also consider signing up to become a monthly, recurring donor to support local Chapter efforts


Contributions to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support the Sierra Club's citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

Donate online at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/donate>

or by mail to:

Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter
514 W. Roosevelt St.
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Gardening for Wildlife

By Gail S. Abend 

*"When we walk, we naturally go to the fields and woods what would become of us if we walked only in a garden or a mall."
Henry David Thoreau*

When Thoreau wrote these words, the woods and fields near Concord, Massachusetts and Walden Pond were abundant. The gardens of that era, tidy and modeled on English gardens. Today the fields, woods and meadows aren't gone, but bisected by highways and increased population.

Why have a garden? Why do I garden? It's not to replace walking in the woods or the desert, but it is something I enjoy. Something where the results of my labors are evident and clear; I can make a difference for our vanishing wildlife. I may sign a petition on behalf of nature; write my lawmakers, but providing a habitat for the birds, bees and butterflies is something I see every day.

Habitat is crucial for the survival of wildlife. Loss of habitat puts wildlife at risk. We all know that. We are responsible for stewardship of the Earth's biosphere. Sometimes we feel helpless when businesses and destroy supposedly on behalf of human citizens. As Sierra Club members, we've already decided to act on behalf of wildlife. But what can we do?

We can restore habitat one garden at a time. Plant native plants for native bees, migrating birds and butterflies, and more. My garden, covered with colorful native plants, is rewarding and brings a smile to my face. And in this pandemic environment it's a necessity.

Hummingbirds dart from flower to flower butterflies do their dance looking for a friendly place to land bees, so small they are hard to see, buzz inflorescence their size. Quails hide under dense shrubs at the sight of a Cooper's Hawk. Ground squirrels feast on cactus fruit. When neighbors plant native plants, a wildlife corridor is created.

This abovenormal monsoon season has been extraordinarily beneficial to my garden and therefore to the animal life it attracts. Travel and some recreational options have been reduced these last couple of years, however I need only look out my window onto my garden and I am transported, thoroughly entertained and rewarded. I think Thoreau might agree.



Wildlife in a Garden. Photos by Heather M. Spencer



*Mark your calendars on April 22, 2022
for Earth Day 2022*



Earth Day 2022 is an event observed annually on April 22. It is a day held to demonstrate and promote environmental awareness and calls for the protection of our planet. Today, Earth Day, 2022 is celebrated in more than 193 countries each year.



Eco House.

10th Annual Desert Living Home Tour in Tucson

On October 23rd, in partnership with Watershed Management Group, the Sierra Club is co-hosting the 10th Annual Desert Living Home Tour in Tucson! This is a socially-distanced sustainable home tour with a companion virtual tour featuring a wide variety of passive and active solar and water harvesting systems in the Tucson and Phoenix areas. You will get to explore elements using efficiency and resources we receive naturally to help answer your questions and inspire you to create desert-friendly features in your home's outdoor spaces! More details can be found on our Chapter calendar or contact catalina.ross@sierraclub.org.

Creating Inclusive and Welcoming Outings

By Sergio Avila 

Two of the most common questions I get in my work are, “How can we diversify our outings program?” “How can we attract more people of color to our outings?” The questions are clear and straightforward; the answers? Not so much. Creating inclusive and welcoming spaces is not a cooking recipe where you collect and mix ingredients, cook for some time and... done! There is no formula to attract diverse participants in your outings programs, only your authentic interest and your willingness to make others comfortable even when you might be a little uncomfortable.

The Sierra Club envisions a just, equitable, and sustainable future where all people benefit from a healthy, thriving planet and a direct connection to nature. Sierra Club Outings

programs like Local Outings, Inspiring Connections Outdoors, and Military Outdoors are rooted at each Chapter or Group, where local knowledge and expertise are held, and are advised and supported by Chapter and National staff by sharing the organization’s values, resources, and networks. The “Outdoors For All” theory of change, a document developed to effectively leverage the strength of our outings programs, helps us achieve this vision by naming and reducing barriers, and ensuring all people have opportunities to explore and enjoy nature. But we don’t envision this to be done the same way for everyone.

A healthy outings program offers a variety of options, works collaboratively with community partners, and is well positioned to make connections between participants and





Verde River near Prescott during Outings Leader . Photo by Sergio Avila




San Pedro River during an interview with Borderlands and Military Outdoors. Photo by Sergio Avila


local issues. Planning also involves creating a welcoming environment for your participants. Welcoming and inclusive outings enable greater equity among people by implementing equity and justice practices into every aspect of your outings program and individual outings. Whether it is environmental education, outings programs, or youth mentoring, here are a few things to consider:


 Be authentic in your actions, words, even in your mistakes. Educate yourself; Google is your friend. Be curious and aware of issues affecting local communities.


 Acknowledge that we all are part of a society that has created structures of power and privilege, and we all play a role in it.

 Keep in mind that people live different realities and see the world through different glasses, experiences, and context. Often, when people don’t see themselves represented in

some activities or areas of life, it’s difficult for them to have a model to inspire, follow, or learn from.

 Be relatable. We all have been new to something—school, work, sports, travel. As an outings leader, you must relate to new participants in their limited experience or comfort level, instead of them relating to your “close encounters” with a bear or a rattlesnake, or being caught in a storm.


 Share experiences, stories, outings opportunities that allow people to see themselves as new participants, not as experts.

 Don’t expect people to wear technical clothing or gear; accept them showing up as they are. Same for food, transportation, footwear, etc.

The outdoors community is diverse, but not truly inclusive, because

Outings continued on p. 11

Book Review

By Tyler Kokjohn 

Elizabeth Kolbert. 2021. *Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future*. Crown, New York

[for more information](#)

Trekking the world to collect information, journalist Elizabeth Kolbert outlines several of humankind’s eclectic efforts to both preserve and dominate nature. Combining her evocative personal impressions with the musings of scientists and engineers behind these complex projects, she distills these unique accounts into a clear, comprehensible theme. Although examining a hodgepodge of weighty subjects, Ms. Kolbert conveys the collected stories to readers in a lively, engaging style reminiscent of a classic travelogue.

The general notion that human activities perturb the structure and function of ecosystems over the planet is unsurprising, but many readers may be shocked to learn the specific details of the audacious schemes underway that bend nature to our will. Marshaling some impressive evidence, Ms. Kolbert asserts that we are racing to a future wholly unlike the past in which schemes to control nature will be

transformed into Rube Goldberg contrivances to control our artificial control mechanisms. Perhaps symbolic of the unknown territory dead ahead, but appropriate for the mind-bending control projects already in progress or in planning, Ms. Kolbert sprinkles references to science fiction classics through her accounts to provide some contextual signposts for readers. We do seem to be going where no one has gone before – and quickly.

Saving the most alarming material for the end, readers will discover that plans to begin testing active interventions to mitigate global climate change impacts are well advanced. Unfortunately, the thoughts expressed by persons actively involved in these efforts are not reassuring. *Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future* is a quirky and necessarily limited snapshot of where we are and might be heading as we cope with the transforming climate we created. It is well worth reading.

Tyler is a wildlife and wilderness activist

Outings continued from p. 10

not everyone feels heard or seen. Inclusion is a system where everyone feels comfortable, heard, and seen; an environment where diversity is expressed and accepted, not just present for a photo. Make people feel they belong in your group instead of making them feel like they have to fit in—it should be your effort, not theirs. Understand the difference between belonging and fitting in, and welcome different people as their own selves. Don’t patronize or condescend. Acknowledge their humanity, their background, disability, and physical shape.

Consistent engagement and inclusion of diverse participants will reflect in retention as a way of measuring success. If people say thank you for a specific gesture or action, if they come back and bring other people, if they want to get more involved, if they share on their social media a positive experience, all these are signs of a welcoming and inclusive space. It doesn’t mean that the opposite is failure, but maybe it means you need to continue being creative and open. And keep trying.

Sergio is Southwest Local Outings Program Coordinator

Canyon Echo Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: Canyon Echo	9. Names and Addresses of Publisher and Editor: Publisher: Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter; Editor: Sandy Bahr; addresses same as #7
2. Publication Number: 0164-7024	10. Owner: Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter
3. Filing Date: 18 September 2020	11. Known Bondholders, Mortgages, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1% or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: None
4. Issue Frequency: quarterly	12. Tax Status: Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
5. No. Issues Published Annually: 4	13. Publication Title: Canyon Echo
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$10	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data: Fall 2021
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter, 514 W. Roosevelt St., Phoenix, AZ 85003	
8. Complete Mailing Address of General Business Office of Publisher: Same as #7	

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a) Total Number of Copies (<i>Net press run</i>)			
b) Paid Circulation (<i>By Mail and Outside the Mail</i>)	1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions	12661	12661
	2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions		0
	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		12661	12661
d) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (<i>By Mail and Outside the Mail</i>)	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	478	478
e) Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution		478	478
f) Total Distribution		13139	13139
g) Copies Not Distributed		0	0
h) Total		13139	13139
i) Percent Paid		0	0
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		12661	12661
c) Total Print Distribution + Paid Electronic Copies		13139	13139
d) Percent Paid		96.36	96.36

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership: Fall 2021 17. Signature: Sandy Bahr, Editor, 13 September 2021

They live in sandy, open desert with sparse grasses, mesquites, creosote bushes, and some cacti and can be found throughout much of Arizona and into northern Mexico.

Solitary and territorial, they may fight if they encounter another pocket mouse. They breed in February or March, having litters of 3-5 young on average who emerge from burrows in May and June after weaning.

While not currently threatened, they are close to being labeled vulnerable.

What can you do to help?

Protect sensitive desert habitats by respecting rules for outdoor recreation.

Give wildlife their space so pocket mice and their predators have a safe place to call home.

Learn more about these Arizona native animals at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum or your favorite local zoo or museum!

NOTE: These lists include donations
received from July 2 - Sept. 17

Thank You to Our Donors!

Thank you to our Monthly Donors

Garvin G Larson
Ms Karen Michael
Sally & Esther Rings
Nancy Lashutka
Julie Pindzola
Victoria Cahill
Bich Hoa Nguyen
Joanne Lewis
Ken Collier
Dan Millis & Kate Van Roekel
David Cardinali
Christine Carlson
Joan Mason
Nyssana Reyes
Sandy Hughes
Sarah W Gordon
Susan O'Hara
Rebecca Smith Gross
Mrs Karen Muir
Ms Sadie Hanson
Bruce Plenk
Michael J Pope
Shane Nicholas
Dan Stormont
Serena Unrein
Elizabeth Bromley
Deborah Sebree
Ms Rosemary Kist
Leilani Rothrock
Carmen Velarde
Jennifer Baltz
Paul Rawson
Janice E. Myers

Jerry Gless
Richard Babin and Jo Eaton
Janette Huntington
Drs. Tuber & Schechtman
Stephen E Griffin
Joan Batchelor
Ms Mary Smith-Hansen
Georgine Morris
Ms Marsha Turkin
T J Wernette & C Brown
Mrs Lisa Reyes
Mr Stephen Nunn
Peggy Papay
Kenneth Smith
Jeff Winkler
Charles Weeks
Amy Meyertholen
Ms Laura Key
John Seamon
Ray Alfini, PE
Alice & Karl Stambaugh
Howard Johnson
Eligh Masaquaptewa
Gary McCormick
Meg Weesner
Gail Bliss
Tim Hogan
Abby Spotskey
Sandy Bahr and Dave Komm
Louise Courtney
Kenneth Norton
K M Wyly and A Stumpf

Betsy Bolding
Peter & Betty Bengtson
Harry Lumley
Tiffany Sprague
Robert Zaccaria
Nancy Atherton
Robert and Ila Wist
Ms Rebecca Berry
Bonnie Hughes
Phillip Long
Patricia Vanmaanen
Fannie Allen
Sergio Avila & Jenny Neeley
Deborah Weir
Sisko Munves
Thomas Schlabach
Doug Bland
Craig Anderson
Susanne Durling
Jim McPherson & Elna Otter
Dale & Christine Volz
Kendra Vining
David Rohrer
Hollace Lyon
Kal Raman
Becky Peters
Carolyn Bosserman
Elena Moshinsky
Tyler and Katrina Kokjohn
Joy Wall
Harley Halseth
Karen McClelland

Susan Vaughan
Hideo Mansho
Carrie Gilbert
Mark McKain
Gloria Becker-Rial
Elizabeth Harrison
Mark Mulligan and Toni Ramsey
John M Franklin
Laurie Jurs (Borderlands)
Linda Crouse
Rachel Davis
Philip Shea
Jan Buckwalter (PAC)
Elizabeth Tait
Michael Curran
Ingeborg Senuta
Barbara Filosi
Sandra & Gregory Novak
Charles Steak
Lorraine Backman
Sheila Tepper
Larry Morris
Sharon Olbert
Uriel Nelson
Mira Dobson
Anne Jehle
Barb Peacock
Mark and Marcia Lussier
Daniel Brune
Thomas Hulen
Lee Nackman
William E. Sisson
Molly McKasson Morgan

Hitched to Everything Else in the Universe (\$1-49)

Sharon Ehrlich
James Gilmore
Anne Jehle

Keep Close to Nature's Heart (\$50-99)

Loraine Zagula

Make the Mountains Glad (\$100- 499)

Kristin Carkeek
Ted and Jean Dunham
Steve Finucane
Jim Hannan
Richard Small

The Morning Stars Sing Together (\$500+)

Margaret Diaz

Explore and Enjoy Arizona

NOV 17 (WED "D") Hike to the Camp Creek Waterfall and Sears-Kay Ruin Meet at Tonto National For OCT 23 (SAT) Stewardship Maintenance of the Maricopa Trail We will work for about three hours to reduce erosion and clear water channels on a 2-mile section of this 315-mile winding trail which connects Maricopa County's regional parks. Bring drinking water, sunscreen, work gloves and a hat. Required tools will be provided. Carpooling can be arranged or go directly to the trail located at N. 32nd St & E. Rockaway Hills Rd. Go North on 24th St, (becomes 26th St) from Carefree Hwy about 3.4 miles to Saddle Mountain. East on Saddle Mtn to 32nd St. Then North to Rockaway Hills Rd. The event will start at 8:30am. Call Urb Weidner at 602-300-8505 or email northwoods@cox.net. Please include your phone number in the email.

NOV 3 (WED) 11am Tour Southwest Wildlife Animal Rehabilitation Center Located at 27026 N. 156th Street. Our Group of 20 will have a guide to introduce us to the many species being cared for at this unique facility. Please bring a \$25.00 donation made out to SWWL to help with operating costs. Call Bev Full at 480-221-2554 or email bfull@cox.net for reservations and information.

NOV 7 (SUN) Hands-on Assistance to Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center SWCC rescues native wild animals that have lost their homes to development, or are found injured, orphaned or abandoned. When possible, the animals in their care are rehabilitated and released, healthy and wild, back where they belong. This interesting 3-hour project will start at 9:00am and will involve raking, trimming, painting, cleaning, or anything that needs to be done. We will also tour the facility for a first-hand view of their activities. Bring drinking water, sunscreen, work gloves and a hat. Iced tea will follow work/tour. Required tools will be provided by SW Wildlife. For carpooling call Urb Weidner at 602-300-8505 or email northwoods@cox.net and please include your cell phone number. We will meet at the CVS on the SW corner of Tatum & Dynamite Rd. at 8:20am and park on the east side. We will leave CVS at 8:30am, or you may go directly to the facility, located at 27026 N. 156th St. in Scottsdale.

Explore continued on p. 13

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

IN THESE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR DONATIONS FOR THE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Sandy Bahr	Andre Dargis	Edward & Elizabeth Goff	Robert Mawk	Linda and J Michael	Tom Timmer
Deron Beal	Jennifer Dawson	Mark Hackbarth	Jerry McCoy	Powers	Maria & Gene Troutner
Diane Beatty	Sandra De Neu	Gayle Hartmann	Lynda McEvoy	Ellen Ristow	Pamela Tucker
Judith Becker	Joseph & Dianne de	Ehrick & Sally Howland	Ken McGinty	Joan Roberts	Dianne Vais
Peter Bengtson	Roulhac	Paul Hoyt	Cary & Nancy Meister	Rev. Jean Rogers	Roger Van Horsen
John-Paul Bierny	Cathy Della Penta	Paulette Hunt	Sally Merrill	Marilyn Rollins	Logynn Vanwells
Robert Blair	Lynn Demuth	Phil Hurray	Leonard Meyer	Mary Sanchez	Mary Walker
Jennifer Blair	Brigitte Dickinson	Mark Johnson	Paul Moreno	Marilyn Saxerrud	Gary Walsh
Louise Brescia	David/Ruth Dube/Rettig	Paul Kallina	Cecilia Morgan	Joanne Schlosser	Christine Warsaw
Jan Buckwalter	Bobbi Eller	Barbara Kelly	Susan Morris	Sandra Short	Louis Woofenden
Jean Campbell	Alvin Finkelstein	Steve Ketchel	Len Motta	Janet Sliva	Ruth Wootten
Roger Carpenter	Bobbi Fischella	Daniel Langhorst	Jill Newby	Milt Stamatis	Gary Wright
Nancy Chidester	Kimberly Fitzpatrick	Patricia Lund	Sue Ordway	Don Steuter	Rochelle Yospe
Mark Coryell	Ingelore & James Fritsch	Mark Manoil	Ronald Pelech	William Thornton	Lois Zeidman

Explore from p. 12

NOV 17 (WED) D Hike to the Camp Creek Waterfall and Sears-Kay Ruin Meet at Tonto National Forest Parking Lot (Cave Creek Road and Bartlett Lake Road) at 9 AM. Drive 1 mile to park and start the hike. Return from Falls hike and drive another mile to Sears-Kay Ruin Preserve for lunch (bring your own packed lunch) and take the self guided interpretive trail to the ruins. Call Bev Full at 480-221-2554 or email bfull@cox.net for reservations and information.

NOV 20 (SAT) Planting Milkweed for Monarch Butterflies in Tonto National Forest Join the Sierra Club Saguaro Group and Friends of the Tonto National Forest as we plant Milkweed plants to provide foraging and reproductive habitat for migrating Monarch Butterflies. Monarch populations are declining, likely due to loss of habitat and the use of pesticides and herbicides. Bring drinking water, sunscreen, work gloves, and a hat. Required tools will be provided at the site although a trowel will be helpful. This interesting and fun event should run about three hours. Carpool from the CVS at the SW corner of Tatum and Dynamite Rd. at 8:15am. Park on the east side. We will leave CVS at 8:20am. Call Urb Weidner at 602-300-8505 or email and include your phone number to Urb Weidner at northwoods@cox.net to request carpooling, or go directly to the site, located at Rattlesnake Cove at Bartlett Lake, Scottsdale, AZ. (33.849902 -111.634024) We will start at 9:00am.

DEC 8 (WED) "D" Hike in the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area Meet 9 AM at Walgreens Drugstore parking lot, Scottsdale Rd. and Carefree Hwy. From there we'll go to Spur Cross to explore the scenic trails. Optional stop in Cave Creek to marvel at the display of huge rocks filled with colorful crystals and gems. Optional lunch after. Call Bev Full at 480-221-2554 or email bfull@cox.net for reservations and information.

APR 10-15 (SUN-FRI) Green River Raft and Camp Four nights in a scenic Utah canyon. Trip begins in Moab. Approximate cost is \$250. Contact Bev Full, leader at 480-221-2554 or bfull@cox.net

est Parking Lot (Cave Creek Road and Bartlett Lake Road) at 9 AM. Drive 1 mile to park and start the hike. Return from Falls, then hike and drive another mile to Sears-Kay Ruin Preserve for lunch (bring your own packed lunch) and take the self guided interpretive trail to the ruins. Call Bev Full at 480-221-2554 or email bfull@cox.net for reservations and information.

NOV 17 (WED) "D" Hike to the Camp Creek Waterfall and Sears-Kay Ruin Meet at Tonto National Forest Parking Lot (Cave Creek Road and Bartlett Lake Road) at 9 AM. Drive 1 mile to park and start the hike. Return from Falls, then hike and drive another mile to Sears-Kay Ruin Preserve for lunch (bring your own packed lunch) and take the self guided interpretive trail to the ruins. Call Bev Full at 480-221-2554 or email bfull@cox.net for reservations and information.

DEC 8 (WED) "D" Hike in the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area Meet 9 AM at Walgreens

Drugstore parking lot, Scottsdale Rd. and Carefree Hwy. From there we'll go to Spur Cross to explore the scenic trails. Optional stop in Cave Creek to marvel at the display of huge rocks filled with colorful crystals and gems. Optional lunch after. Call Bev Full at 480-221-2554 or email bfull@cox.net for reservations and information.

APR 10-15 (SUN-FRI) Green River Raft and Camp Four nights in a scenic Utah canyon. Trip begins in Moab. Approximate cost is \$250. Contact Bev Full, leader at 480-221-2554 or bfull@cox.net

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
 - "C" 3-8 miles, 500-1,500 ft. EC
 - "D" <3 miles and 500 ft. EC
- RT** Round Trip
OW One Way

The trip leader has absolute authority to question trip participants as to their equipment, conditioning, and experience before and during the trip. All participants on 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 <http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/local-outdoors/resources> 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 Released 2021 Environmental Report Card

A Bad Session for Democracy, Water, Climate, and more

By Sandy Bahr 

Sierra Club released its 2021 Environmental Report Card for the Arizona Legislature and Governor in July. The report card reflects a strong partisan break on environmental protection and democracy issues. There was continued inaction on the climate crisis and the associated water challenges

our state faces. All bills to address climate resiliency, limit groundwater exploitation, or sustain flowing rivers were stopped without a hearing by the gatekeepers and chairs of the House and Senate Natural Resources, Energy, and Water Committees, Representative Gail Griffin (R-14) and Senator Sine

Kerr (R-13). House Speaker Rusty Bowers and Senate President Fann, who assign these bills to the committees where the bills languish, also showed no leadership on these important issues. Sadly, the GOP majority was not satisfied with inaction, and actively passed numerous harmful environmental bills,

including limiting the consideration of new hydrological information for assured water supplies for development, a weak water quality program that fails to protect the majority of Arizona rivers and streams, a bill to protect large concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) from legal challenges by neighbors, and a measure to deregulate plastics by allowing these facilities to engage in such activities as making plastics into fuel without being regulated as solid waste facilities.

“This legislative session was not only one of the longest sessions, it was one of the worst for environmental protection and for democracy measures,” said Sandy Bahr, chapter director for Sierra Club’s Grand Canyon Chapter. “Now it will be much more difficult to hold a factory farm accountable for harm to their neighbors, properly regulate plastics processes that convert plastics to fuels, further limit groundwater pumping, or protect water quality in our rivers, streams, and desert washes.”

The Fiscal Year 2022 budget was also loaded up with harmful policies, including a massive tax cut for the wealthiest Arizonans that will hurt our state in tough times; a new border wall fund to further vilify migrants and promote racist policies; \$200 million for water projects that include ways to import out-of-state water, potentially including from the Mississippi River; and a plethora of bad policies on elections. Republican legislators made blatantly partisan moves limiting the power of the Secretary of State through the end of her term, creating a committee to review the partisan assessment of the 2020 Maricopa County election, and giving outside entities authority to review the voter rolls, among many other anti-democratic actions.

“This session was characterized by attacks on the foundations of direct and representative democracy,” said Bahr. “The majority limited early

2021 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT CARD			
F	Governor Ducey		
SENATE GRADES		HOUSE GRADES	
A+	Mendez, Quezada	A+	Andrade, Blackwater-Nygren, Bolding, Dalessandro, DeGrazia, Fernandez, Salman, Schweibert, Stahl Hamilton
A	Bowie, Engel, Gabaldón, Gonzales, Marsh, Navarrete, Otondo Peshlakai, Rios, Steele	A	Butler, Cano, Epstein, Espinoza, Friese, M. Hernandez, Jermaine, Lieberman, Longdon, Meza, Pawlik, Powers Hannley, Shah, Sierra, Terán, Tsoisie
B	Alston, Contreras	B	A. Hernandez, D. Hernandez, Rodriguez
C		C	Chavez
D		D	
E		E	
F	Barto, Borrelli, Boyer, Fann, Gowan, Gray, Kerr, Leach, Livingston, Mesnard, Pace, Petersen, Rogers, Shope, Townsend, Ugenti-Rita	F	Barton, Biasiucci, Blackman, Bolick, Bowers, Burges, Carroll, Chaplik, Cobb, Cook, Dunn, Fillmore, Finchem, Grantham, Griffin, Hoffman, John, Kaiser, Kavanagh, Nutt, Nguyen, Osborne, Parker, Payne, Pingerelli, Pratt, Roberts, Toma, Udall, Weninger, Wilmeth

The Sierra Club report card is available on the on the Grand Canyon website.

Report Card continued on p. 15

OUTINGS LEADER TRAINING AND RENEWAL

We are planning an Outings Leader 101 class this Fall via ZOOM. Please contact Chapter Outings Chair Jenny Cobb a cobbsrun@msn.com, or 928-925-1230 to enroll. If you are renewing, whether it has been four years or not, it is advisable that you attend this class because of all the new material that has been recently added to the OLT 101 curriculum. Written materials will be provided prior to the ZOOM session. If you are a potential new Outings leader, the requirement of co-leading an Outing can be fulfilled later.



Group Hike.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO BE AN OUTINGS LEADER. YOU MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE AND A MEMBER OF THE SIERRA CLUB FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR. IN ADDITION TO THE BASICS, THE CLASS WILL BE INTERACTIVE SO WE CAN ALL SHARE OUR EXPERIENCE AND INSIGHTS ABOUT THE OUTDOORS WE ALL LOVE.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUMMER/FALL 2021 OUTINGS

Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter Outings are happy to be back after the past year and a half moratorium. We look forward to seeing you back on the trail and encourage you to recommend Sierra Club Outings to your friends, family, associates, and others. Some new rules are outlined below.

COVID Symptoms

If you are experiencing possible COVID symptoms or are sick, you should not be attending the outing

You are responsible for contacting the Outings leader to report a positive COVID test

Group Size

Group sizes may be limited for safety and to allow for social distancing.

Masks

- 🌐 Masks are option for adults outdoors
- 🌐 Unvaccinated minors must wear a mask
- 🌐 Masks are required for indoor close quarters such as vehicles, restaurants, visitor centers, etc. regardless of local mandates or vaccination status
- 🌐 In close quarters such as vehicles, it is recommended that you open windows for ventilation when possible
- 🌐 You are welcome to wear a mask outdoors if it makes you more comfortable
- 🌐 Vaccination Status
- 🌐 No vaccine or tests are required for day events
- 🌐 Be aware that there may be participants in your group who are vaccinated or not vaccinated
- 🌐 You will not be identified as to your vaccine status and cannot be turned away if you are not vaccinated
- 🌐 Vaccination is required for multi-day trips that involve staying overnight indoors. Exemptions are allowed with a negative PCR test 72 hours before trip departure
- 🌐 Medical Form
- 🌐 Not required for front country outings
- 🌐 Required for the back country for leader review and is confidential.

Report Card continued from p. 14

voting by establishing an Election Day deadline to confirm ballots with those who forgot to sign their early ballot, created an early voter purge program and eliminated the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL), and referred two measures to make it more difficult to put measures on the ballot and to blow a hole in the Voter Protection Act provisions in the Arizona Constitution. On these last two, we are optimistic the voters will say ‘no’ when they are on the ballot in 2022.”

There were a couple of small positive actions, including funding \$5 million for the State Parks Heritage Fund and \$250,000 for the Arizona Trail, and substantial funding for the Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund to help clean up contaminated sites. The Legislature also passed an air quality bill to jump start the voluntary vehicle repair and retrofit program to help those with limited means to get their cars running cleaner.

This year’s report card reflects the strong partisan divide with all Republicans, including Governor Doug Ducey, earning a failing grade. Most of the Democratic caucus earned an “A” or an “A+.” The Governor was graded on 10 bills, the Senate on votes on 16 pieces of legislation, and the House on 18 Third or Final Read votes.

Cast of Characters



Anna and Kathy Mohr Almeida. Photos by Anna Mohr-Almeida

Anna Mohr-Almeida

Though only in her second year at Arizona State University, Anna Mohr-Almeida already has years of experience volunteering for environmental causes. When she was 11, she participated in the Sierra Club Beyond Coal campaign's sit-in at the Arizona Corporation Commission. She loved the energy of the activists and the colorful t-shirts they wore, and she gave her first speech there.

A native Arizonan, Anna says she has always loved animals and became concerned about the effects of dirty energy, loss of habitat, and the need to protect biodiversity. When she was about 13, she attended the Sierra Student Coalition's SPROG (Summer Program) in California. The program holds week-long retreats to train young environmental enthusiasts to be empowered activists.

At Westwood High School in Mesa, Anna joined the Earth Club. With other students, she advocated conserving and reusing

everything that they could. Her teacher/advisor invited students from the Earth Club to participate in the annual Environmental Day at the State Legislature. Anna joined other students talking to their elected representatives about the environment. And she was one of several dynamic speakers at the first youth-led media conference on Environmental Day.

Anna was elected to the Grand Canyon Chapter Executive Committee at the end of 2020. She was inspired to run because she saw the need for a more diverse group of leaders in our state, including more young people. She has come to appreciate being part of "a more mature organization," with know-how, structure, funds, and staff. She especially admires Sierra Club because it "takes the time to do hands-on projects," from demonstrations to picking up plastic.

Anna is studying civil engineering at Arizona State University. She has many ideas for potential careers,

but wants to focus on sustainable engineering, energy-efficiency, carbon sequestration, housing designs that make sense for the desert, and similar applications of engineering.

In her spare time, Anna devotes herself to artistic roller skating. This is figure skating, as you see in the winter Olympics, but on roller skates. She's pretty good at it. She went to the national competition in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, this summer, and placed 3rd in the dance competition, while also achieving recognition in two other events.

Anna's mother, Kathy, is currently serving as Chair of the Grand Canyon Chapter of Sierra Club. Anna says that

she was the one who led her mother to environmental causes, and she adds that her mother has been nothing but supportive of Anna's activities. Anna knows she is lucky to have her mother as an "awesome source of empowerment."

Anna's message to youth activists: "If we put our minds to it, we can reverse what has been done to the climate and adapt to the changes that are inevitable." But, she acknowledges, "We have a rough road ahead of us" to protect our planet and all life on it. And yet, "we can't let our world fall apart; we must act." And that's exactly what she is already doing in Sierra Club.

Written by Meg Weesner

Subscribe to Current News & Action Alerts

We send 2 **Chapter** email updates per month, including upcoming events and activities, action items, and more.



<http://bit.ly/gcchapter>

Borderlands email updates are sent once every month.



<http://bit.ly/borderemail>

Grand Canyon Protection Campaign email updates are sent once every other month.



<http://bit.ly/grandcanyonemail>

Arizona Water Sentinels email updates are sent once every other month.



<http://bit.ly/azwateremail>

Wildlife email updates are sent once every other month.



<http://bit.ly/wildlifeemail>

Energy email updates are sent once every other month.



<http://bit.ly/azenergyemail>

Legislative email updates are sent weekly during the legislative session.



<http://bit.ly/legislativeemail>