

2014 Environmental Report Card *Arizona Legislature and Governor*

*"We listened for a voice crying in the wilderness.
And we heard the jubilation of wolves!"*
~ Durwood L. Allen



2014 Environmental Report Card

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Photos on front cover by Mark Coryell, Tiffany Sprague, Sandy Bahr, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Keeping the Legislature at Bay

Stopping the Big Bad Wolf Bills and More

The 51st Arizona Legislature second regular session adjourned in the early hours of April 24 after being in session 101 days, after introducing 1,205 bills, and after passing 303 of those bills, most of which – but not all – were signed by Governor Brewer. Despite starting off as one of the worst sessions relative to the number of anti-environmental bills and anti-democracy measures, the session ended up being a bit better than expected – three terrible bills were vetoed, two were defeated in the Senate, and numerous bills died because they did not advance to a full vote in one house or the other. Several bills were amended to at least address some of Sierra Club’s concerns.

Surprisingly enough, legislators did not re-enact the voter suppression and anti-citizen initiative provisions in HB2305, a measure the Legislature passed in the 2013 session. Because of the anti-democracy provisions in HB2305, a broad coalition of interests organized a referendum on the bill. Voters signed petitions to stop HB2305 and refer it to the ballot. Rather than see HB2305 on the ballot as a referendum, legislators repealed it early in the 2014 session.

Governor Brewer had her best year yet on Sierra Club’s report card, earning a “C+” as she vetoed two anti-wolf bills and a bill that would have harmed wilderness areas, plus she signed into law a small funding measure for parks. The Governor vetoed [SB1211 Mexican wolf; taking; reporting](#) (Griffin, Burges, D. Farnsworth, et al.) and [HB2699 endangered species programs; rescission; reimbursement](#) (Thorpe, Stevens: Gowan, et al.), both of which had provisions to hinder wolf recovery. She also vetoed [HB2541 federal land; emergency access](#) (Townsend, Allen, Borrelli, et al.), an unconstitutional measure that was a clear attempt to get heavy equipment into wilderness and other sensitive lands under the guise of an “emergency.” Governor Brewer said that there are accepted methods for addressing emergencies currently and no need for this unconstitutional measure. She signed [SB1326 state parks; donations; fund; transportation](#) (Shooter, Dalessandro, Hobbs, et al.), a measure that provides for a state parks check-off space on the individual income tax return forms.

Senators defeated [HB2700 federal acquisition; state lands; monitoring](#) (Thorpe) by a [14-15-1](#) vote. HB2700 was another attempted land grab by legislators. It would have required the State Land Department to identify which state trust lands have been transferred to the federal government since statehood and then required compensation from the federal government. It also directed the Legislature and Attorney General to take all steps to recover and acquire these state lands.

Legislators did not advance any of the attacks on clean energy but also did nothing to help promote energy efficiency or roof-top solar. [SB1227 municipalities; counties; energy efficient codes](#) (Crandell) stalled out in the Senate after it was clear the votes were not there to win passage of it. This bill would have prohibited local government from enacting energy efficiency building codes and would have limited measures to reduce electricity and water use and to save taxpayers’ dollars. There was a second attempt to move this measure along via a strike-

everything amendment on **SB1133 building code moratorium; repeal** (Griffin) in the House Government Committee, but that bill was held and the striker never offered.

SB1402 renewable energy; definition (Melvin) passed out of the Senate but was never heard in the House. This bill would have redefined renewable energy to include nuclear power. Several other anti-solar and anti-energy efficiency bills were never heard. Likewise, **HB2206 water and energy improvement districts** (Orr, Sherwood), a measure to provide a financing mechanism for commercial solar energy and other energy- and water-saving programs, did not get a hearing, let alone advance.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department attempted to eliminate the Heritage Fund habitat acquisition dollars by diverting them to operation and maintenance via a strike-everything amendment, **game and fish; operations; maintenance**, on HB2127 in the Senate Natural Resources and Rural Affairs Committee. Long-time Heritage Fund supporters took immediate action to get out the word, and Game and Fish backed off – for now. This proposal will likely be back as it clearly on the agenda of certain Game and Fish commissioners.

The state budget was nothing to write home about when it comes to environmental protection. Legislators did not reinstate the State Parks Heritage Fund and failed again to adequately fund Arizona's state park system, plus diverted more than half of the Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund, a fund that is directed to cleaning up contaminated soil and water. The Legislature maintained the status quo at the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Arizona Department of Water Resources, meaning these agencies continue to be permitting agencies rather than resource protection agencies.

Unfortunately, there were several anti-environmental bills that did advance, including a last-minute unrelated amendment on **HB2523 projects; water supply development** (Barton, Thorpe, Tobin, et al.) that allows cities and counties to accept out-of-state special waste – petroleum-contaminated soils being a major component of that special waste. There was no discussion or any case made on how this was a good idea. It was sold to legislators as a revenue generator.

Both houses passed and the governor signed a bill to promote the removal of mesquite. **SB1478 water protection fund; mesquite; tamarisk** (Griffin) prohibits the use of the Arizona Water Protection Fund for planting non-native trees – that aspect is fine – but also limits the planting of mesquite and promotes the removal of these native trees. Mesquite bosques provide important habitat for wildlife, including for a diversity of bird species, and are also a vital component of riparian-area restoration. This bill further erodes the purpose of the Arizona Water Protection Fund, which is to protect rivers, streams, and riparian areas.

Senator Gail Griffin, a real estate broker, ensured that Arizona will see more unregulated lot-splits in the coming years. Her bill **SB1215 NOW: unsubdivided land; definition** creates a new exception to subdivision regulation, just about the last thing that was needed relative to land use in Arizona.

Finally, the Legislature undermined enforcement of election laws by limiting the Clean Elections Commission's ability to enforce non-Clean-Elections violations. It remains to be seen if this bill, [SB1344 contribution limits; clean elections authority](#) (Pierce: Biggs), will withstand a legal challenge, however.

This year, all 36 Republican House members received failing grades, as did 13 senators, meaning they voted correctly on two or fewer bills. On a positive note, six representatives earned an "A+," which means they voted 100 percent pro-environment and also did not miss a vote on the key bills Sierra Club scored. Ten senators and 13 House members also received an "A."

Senators were graded using 12 bills, and House members were graded using 11 bills. Governor Jan Brewer was graded on eight bills. Everyone was graded on a curve. The bills focused on Mexican gray wolves, public lands, land use, importation of waste, elections, and citizen initiatives, among other issues.

2014 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT CARD

C+	Governor Brewer
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SENATE GRADES

HOUSE GRADES

A+	
A	Begay, Bradley, Cajero Bedford, Dalessandro, Farley, Hobbs, Landrum Taylor, Meza, Pancrazi, and Tovar
B	Ableser and Gallardo
C	
D	McComish, McGuire, S. Pierce, Reagan, and Worsley
F	Barto, Biggs, Burges, Crandell, Driggs, D. Farnsworth, Griffin, Melvin, Murphy, Shooter, Ward, Yarbrough, and Yee

A+	Clinco, Gonzales, Mach, McCune Davis, Saldate, and Steele
A	Alston, Campbell, Cardenas, Contreras, Escamilla, Gabaldón, Larkin, Meyer, Muñoz*, Otondo, Peshlakai, Quezada, Sherwood, and Wheeler
B	Hale, Hernández, Mendez, and Miranda
C	
D	
F	Allen, Barton, Borrelli, Boyer, Brophy McGee, Carter, Coleman, Dial, Fann, E. Farnsworth, Forese, Goodale, Gowan, Gray, Kavanagh, Kwasman, Lesko, Livingston, Lovas, Mesnard, Mitchell, Montenegro, Olson, Orr, Petersen, J. Pierce, Pratt, Robson, Seel, Shope, Smith, Stevens, Thorpe, Tobin, Townsend, and Ugenti

*Representative Muñoz was not in the Legislature for all votes, so we adjusted her grade to reflect that. We did not grade Rep. Gallego as he resigned prior to most of the votes.

CONSERVATION CHAMPIONS



Rep. Demion Clinco
(D-2)



Rep. Sally Ann Gonzales
(D-3)



Rep. Stefanie Mach
(D-10)



Rep. Debbie McCune Davis
(D-30)



Rep. Macario Saldate, IV
(D-3)



Rep. Victoria Steele
(D-9)

Six Representatives earned an “A+” on the Environmental Report Card this session, including Representatives Demion Clinco (D-2), Sally Ann Gonzales (D-3), Stefanie Mach (D-10), Debbie McCune Davis (D-30), Macario Saldate, IV (D-3), and Victoria Steele (D-9). Everyone on the “A+” list voted pro-environment 100 percent of the time and did not miss any of the votes on bills Sierra Club scored. They voted against all of the bills to hinder wolf recovery, measures that promoted importation of out-of-state waste, and a bill to promote elimination of mesquite trees, among others. In addition to standing up for environmental protection, they were there, day after day, serving their constituents.

ENVIRONMENTAL GUARDIANS



Sen. Carlyle Begay
(D-7)



Sen. David Bradley
(D-10)



Sen. Olivia Cajero
Bedford (D-3)



Rep. Andrea Dalessandro
(D-2)



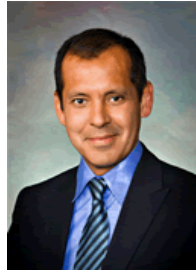
Sen. Steve Farley
(D-9)



Sen. Katie Hobbs
(D-24)



Sen. Leah Landrum
Taylor (D-27)



Sen. Robert Meza
(D-30)



Sen. Lynne Pancrazi
(D-4)



Sen. Anna Tovar
(D-19)



Rep. Lela Alston
(D-24)



Rep. Chad Campbell
(D-24)



Rep. Mark Cardenas
(D-19)



Rep. Lupe Chavira
Contreras (D-19)



Rep. Juan Carlos
Escamilla (D-4)



Rep. Rosanna Galbadón
(D-2)



Rep. Jonathan Larkin
(D-30)



Rep. Eric Meyer
(D-28)



Rep. Norma Muñoz
(D-27)



Rep. Lisa Otondo
(D-4)



Rep. Jamescita Peshlakai
(D-7)



Rep. Martin Quezada
(D-29)



Rep. Andrew Sherwood
(D-26)



Rep. Bruce Wheeler
(D-10)

There were not many opportunities to support bills to protect air, water, land or wildlife this session, so Senators and Representatives who earned an “A” on the report card were environmental guardians, voting against nearly every bill that would have weakened environmental protection. They opposed bills to weaken land protections and wolf recovery, plus most opposed the anti-initiative and anti-clean elections bills, too. **Senators Carlyle Begay** (D-7), **David Bradley** (D-10), **Olivia Cajero Bedford** (D-3), **Andrea Dalessandro** (D-2), **Steve Farley** (D-9), **Katie Hobbs** (D-24), **Leah Landrum Taylor** (D-27), **Robert Meza** (D-30), **Lynne Pancrazi** (D-4), and **Anna Tovar** (D-19) all received an “A” on this year’s report card. **Representatives Lela Alston** (D-24), **Chad Campbell** (D-24), **Mark Cardenas** (D-19), **Lupe Chavira Contreras** (D-19), **Juan Carlos Escamilla** (D-4), **Rosanna Galbadón** (D-2), **Jonathan Larkin** (D-30), **Eric Meyer** (D-28), **Norma Muñoz** (D-27), **Lisa Otondo** (D-4), **Jamescita Peshlakai** (D-7), **Martin Quezada** (D-29), **Andrew Sherwood** (D-26), and **Bruce Wheeler** (D-10) all received an “A” for opposing a very long list of bad environmental bills. (Note: In some cases, members merely missed one vote.)

ENVIRONMENTAL WRECKING CREW

Bipartisan support for environmental protection is non-existent at the Arizona Legislature, which is unfortunate because for many years there were strong leaders within the Republican caucus to improve air quality and to protect land. The significant partisan divide on environmental protection is evidenced by the fact that all House Republicans and 13 of the Senators earned an “F” on the 2014 Environmental Report Card.

The “Environmental Wrecking Crew,” earned an “F” on the report card – that means the legislators’ total scores were six or less in the Senate and seven or less in the House. Many of the legislators who received an “F” voted pro-environment only once, and two Representatives failed to do even that. The low scores reflect votes to hinder recovery of endangered Mexican gray wolves, to weaken elections laws enforcement, and to undermine citizen initiatives, as well as to promote bulldozing in protected lands. Failing in the Senate were **Senators Nancy Barto** (R-15), **Andy Biggs** (R-12), **Judy Burges** (R-22), **Chester Crandell** (R-6), **Adam Driggs** (R-28), **David Farnsworth** (R-16), **Gail Griffin** (R-14), **Al Melvin** (R-11), **Rick Murphy** (R-21), **Don Shooter** (R-13), **Kelli Ward** (R-5), **Steven Yarbrough** (R-17), and **Kimberly Yee** (R-20).

Senator Gail Griffin was the leader of the “Environmental Wrecking Crew” as she had more anti-environmental bills than any other legislator, including two anti-wolf bills and an anti-wolf resolution, a bill to promote the removal of mesquite trees, and a measure that allows for more irresponsible development.

All Republicans in the House got a failing grade. This includes **Representatives John Allen** (R-15), **Brenda Barton** (R-6), **Sonny Borrelli** (R-5), **Paul Boyer** (R-20), **Kate Brophy McGee** (R-28), **Heather Carter** (R-15), **Doug Coleman** (R-16), **Jeff Dial** (R-18), **Karen Fann** (R-1), **Eddie Farnsworth** (R-12), **Tom Forese** (R-17), **Doris Goodale** (R-5), **David Gowan, Sr.** (R-14), **Rick Gray** (R-21), **John Kavanagh** (R-23), **Adam Kwasman** (R-11), **Debbie Lesko** (R-21), **David Livingston** (R-22), **Phil Lovas** (R-22), **J.D. Mesnard** (R-17), **Darin Mitchell** (R-13), **Steve Montenegro** (R-13), **Justin Olson** (R-25), **Ethan Orr** (R-9), **Warren Petersen** (R-12), **Justin Pierce** (R-25), **Frank Pratt**

(R-8), **Bob Robson** (R-18), **Carl Seel** (R-20), **T.J. Shope** (R-8), **Steve Smith** (R-11), **David Stevens** (R-14), **Bob Thorpe** (R-6), **Andy Tobin** (R-1), **Kelly Townsend** (R-16), and **Michelle Ugenti** (R-23).

2014 Environmental Report Card

Bill Summaries

[SB1211 Mexican wolf; taking; reporting](#) (Griffin, Burges, D. Farnsworth, et al.) was an unconstitutional bill due to its conflicts with federal rules on Mexican gray wolves. Irrespective of that, it was a bad idea and sent a terrible message – that killing endangered wolves was somehow desirable. It said that the Arizona Department of Agriculture could kill wolves if there was an agreement with the federal government to do so. The bill would have authorized the livestock industry to kill endangered wolves that take livestock on private and public lands. Under the federal provisions, there are significant limits on this, and the livestock industry can only kill a wolf that is killing cattle on private land. The additional language about killing wolves if an individual feels threatened was unnecessary as an individual can already do that.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 5

This bill passed the House [37-22-1](#) and the Senate [18-12](#) and was vetoed by Governor Brewer.

[SB1212 appropriation; wolf recovery; litigation costs](#) (Griffin, Burges, Crandell, et al.) would have appropriated \$250,000 of state money for litigation relating to **any** expansion of the Mexican gray wolf recovery area. This is a terrible waste of money that should instead be directed to programs that benefit conservation or other important issues, not diverted to try to subvert recovery of this important animal.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 5

This bill passed the Senate [16-14](#) and the House Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee [5-3](#) but was never heard in the House Appropriations Committee, so it died.

[SB1215 NOW: unsubdivided land; definition](#) (Griffin) will open up even more areas of Arizona to unsustainable development and additional wildcat subdivisions, plus will stress water resources in Cochise County and further harm the San Pedro River. The bill changes the definition of **unsubdivided lands** to include any land that is sold that constitutes the sixth lot from a particular parcel, if the sale occurs at least 10 years after the earliest of the previous five sales and if all the sales are from the same lot and the original parcel was 36–160 acres. Arizona’s land use regulations are already weak, so this new loophole was certainly unnecessary.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 3

This bill passed the Senate [25-2-3](#) and the House [36-21-3](#) and was signed by Governor Brewer.

[SB1227 municipalities; counties; energy efficient codes](#) (Crandell) would have prohibited cities, towns, and counties from adopting any mandatory energy efficiency, energy conservation, or green building codes, stipulations, or ordinances – all or in part. This bill would have

significantly hindered local efforts to reduce electricity and water use and to save taxpayers' dollars.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill, but it never made it to a floor vote, so we did not score it.

This bill passed out of the Senate Government and Environment Committee [3-2-2](#) and went through the Committee of the Whole but never came to the Senate Floor for a Third Read vote, so it died for this session.

[SB1301 2014 tax corrections](#) (Yarbrough) was amended to remove the solar tax provisions. The bill contained a number of corrections and clarifications but also contained a new tax on property owners who lease solar modules. Luckily, this language was removed before the bill was voted out. Unfortunately, the Department of Revenue is still planning to tax these systems, and the bill to fix that, the strike-everything amendment [renewable energy devices; ownership; valuation](#) on HB2407, did not advance.

Sierra Club was opposed the anti-solar provisions in this bill, but those were stripped out, so we did not score it.

This bill passed out of the Senate [28-0-2](#) and the House [55-0-5](#) and was signed by the Governor.

[SB1326 state parks; donations; fund; transportation](#) (Shooter, Dalessandro, Hobbs, et al.) provides for a state parks check-off space on the individual income tax return forms, which will generate a little revenue for parks. Unfortunately, the dollars are limited to infrastructure rather than for protecting resources. It will help parks a bit, and they could use all the help they can get.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 2, No 0

This bill passed the Senate [28-1-1](#) and the House [57-3](#) and was signed by Governor Brewer.

[SB1344 contribution limits; clean elections authority](#) (Pierce: Biggs) limits the Clean Elections Commission's authority to take an enforcement action against candidates who are violating Arizona's campaign finance laws. This limitation is contrary to the intent of the Citizens Clean Elections Act enacted by the voters. Clean Elections was supported by voters to limit the influence of money on politics. That cannot happen without proper enforcement.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 3

The bill passed out of the House [36-23-1](#) and the Senate [16-12-2](#) and was signed by the Governor.

[SB1478 water protection fund; mesquite; tamarisk](#) (Griffin) contained an unrelated amendment on long-term storage credits for water, which made this bill difficult to stop as it was being promoted by the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, Salt River Project, and

the usual “water buffaloes.” The portion of the bill that concerned us the most, however, was the portion that prohibits the Arizona Water Protection Fund from being used to plant mesquite and that also promotes the removal of those same trees. Mesquite are native to Arizona and are an important component of riparian area restoration; mesquite bosques provide important habitat for wildlife, especially for a diversity of birds. The focus of the Arizona Water Protection Fund should be on the restoration of riparian areas, not on the removal of vegetation.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 4

This bill passed the Senate [18-11-1](#) and the House [47-13](#) and was signed by Governor Brewer.

[SCR1003 initiatives; referendum measures; periodic reauthorization](#) (Crandell, Ward, Kwasman, et al.) would have referred to the ballot a measure that would have required any ballot measure that affects the state general fund be reauthorized on the ballot after seven full fiscal years. It was retroactive and affected all statutory and constitutional measures. This would have made it even more difficult to improve environmental protection, to reinstate the State Parks Heritage Fund, and to pass other measures as most advocates do not have the resources to run a campaign every eight years.

Sierra Club was opposed to this referendum.

Points: Yes 0, No 3

This bill was defeated in the Senate [15-14-1](#).

[SR1003 EPA; nullification of rules](#) (Burgess, Crandell, D. Farnsworth, et al.) states that the Senate supports nullifying all Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules. This includes rules to implement the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and other important environmental protections. The resolution was over-the-top ridiculous.

Sierra Club was opposed to this resolution.

Points: Yes 0, No 1

This resolution passed the Senate [18-11-1](#) and was transmitted to the Secretary of State.

[SCR1006 Mexican wolf; population rule](#) (Griffin) is a resolution that contains inaccurate information and inflammatory language regarding wolves. It states that the legislature opposes additional wolf introductions in Arizona and New Mexico, unless it is determined the wolves cannot be introduced in northern Mexico, and it says the legislature supports killing wolves that have harassed or killed livestock, pets, or people. Wolves are not harassing, harming, or killing people.

Sierra Club opposed this resolution but did not score it as we scored three anti-wolf bills.

This resolution passed the Senate [18-11-1](#) and the House [34-24-2](#) and was transmitted to the Secretary of State.

[SCR1022 rulemaking; electric generating units; opposition](#) (Griffin, Burges, Shooter, et al.) asks Congress to stop the Environmental Protection Agency from implementing carbon standards for power plants.

Sierra Club opposed this resolution but did not score it as it really has no impact on law or on enforcement of the law.

This resolution passed the Senate [18-9-3](#) and the House [34-21-5](#) and was transmitted to the Secretary of State.

[HB2014 ballot measures; proposition 105 disclosure](#) (Ugenti) required any campaign literature, publicity pamphlet, and ballot to contain language about ballot measures that would be inaccurate and misleading, including that the measure could “never be changed in the future” except via a three-fourths vote of the legislature and if the change furthered the purpose of the original measure or by referral of the change to the ballot. There are several inaccuracies in this brief statement, including that the measure can be changed by referring the change to the ballot. Referring a measure to the ballot changes nothing. The change must be APPROVED BY THE VOTERS. Using the word “never” was also misleading as a measure can clearly be changed under the conditions mentioned. The language was intended to discourage citizen initiatives, not to better inform voters.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 3

This bill passed out of the House [36-23-1](#) and passed out of the Senate Government and Environment Committee [4-1-2](#) with one amendment. It was never considered by the Senate Rules Committee, so it died for the session. This was a reincarnation of a bill from last year, and the results were also the same.

[HB2196 election law amendments; repeal](#) (Farnsworth) repealed the provisions of HB2305, a bill passed and signed by Governor Brewer in 2013. HB2305 erected additional impediments to citizen initiatives and to early voting, among other things. To stop the measure, more than 146,000 Arizonans from around the state signed petitions, a referendum, and stopped its enactment. The law was on hold until the 2014 General Election, but legislators decided they did not want it on the ballot, so they repealed it. Sierra Club opposed the repeal due to concerns about legislators reenacting the anti-democracy measures. That did not happen this session, but we will have to be vigilant for future sessions, as always.

Sierra Club opposed this bill due to concerns about the Legislature repealing and then reenacting the most egregious aspects of it. They did not do that, so we did not score the bill.

HB2196 passed the Senate [17-12-1](#) and the House [36-23-1](#) and was signed by Governor Brewer.

[HB2343 NOW: wildfire prevention; state trust land](#) (Barton, Thorpe, Crandell) requires the State Land Commissioner and the State Forester to establish a program for state trust lands to remove vegetation for the purpose of fire suppression and forest management. Because the bill focuses on removal of vegetation and fire suppression rather than on thinning of vegetation

and restoration of natural processes such as fire, it is likely to have limited positive impact on state trust lands. A provision that would have granted blanket immunity to the State Land Department for any action in the statute was not included in the bill, after strong opposition from a broad range of interests. The Legislature should have passed a bill to promote restoration. Still, this bill is much better than it would have been without a concerted effort to ensure that it would at least do no harm.

Sierra Club was neutral on this bill, so we did not score it.

This bill passed out of the House [55-0-5](#) and the Senate [22-0-7-1](#) and was signed by the Governor.

[HB2523 projects; water supply development](#) (Barton, Thorpe, Tobin, et al.) allows the use of Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) monies outside an active management area in certain circumstances and allows intergovernmental agreements for use of WIFA monies. The funding was stripped out of the bill. HB2523 was amended on the floor of the Senate to include an unrelated and questionable amendment, however. The bill was amended to allow the state, counties, and cities to accept out-of-state “special waste.” This means that certain landfills can accept petroleum-contaminated soils, shredded waste from plastics and metals, and more from surrounding states. This bill was being promoted by the County Supervisors Association on behalf of La Paz County, which wants to accept waste from California. As there was no real discussion, no committee hearing, and no information provided on the amendment, it raises significant questions about the risks and what kind of liability county taxpayers will incur.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 2

This bill passed the Senate [22-1-7](#) and the House [36-18-6](#) and was signed by Governor Brewer.

[HB2541 federal land; emergency access](#) (Townsend, Allen, Borrelli, et al.) was unconstitutional, unwise, and was a thinly veiled attempt to get heavy equipment into wilderness and other sensitive lands under the guise of an “emergency.” This measure would have resulted in more lawsuits and would have done nothing to solve any problems. The bill said that the state or local government could access federal land in an “emergency” with whatever equipment deemed necessary. As Governor Brewer said when she vetoed this bill, there is already an accepted method for accessing public lands in a real emergency.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 4

This bill passed the House [35-23-2](#) and the Senate [18-12](#) and was vetoed by the Governor.

[HB2699 endangered species programs; rescission; reimbursement](#) (Thorpe, Stevens: Gowan, et al.) was a poorly-drafted bill that contained inaccurate information and inflammatory language about wolves, plus was contrary to the intent of the Endangered Species Act – which is to promote the recovery of imperiled species. The bill referred to wolves as “dangerous” and as “varmints” and directed the Arizona Attorney General to ask the federal government to

reimburse the livestock industry and for the State Land Department to work with private land owners to obtain federal tax dollars to compensate for “diminution in value” of property due to Mexican gray wolves. The bill said that if the federal government did not enter into land use agreements to pay people for any “losses” within six months of the bill becoming law, then the Legislature would consider enacting legislation to prohibit Arizona's continued participation in the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program and to require that the federal government remove all wolves from state or private land.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 4

This bill passed the House [36-21-3](#) and the Senate [16-12-2](#) and was vetoed by the Governor.

[HB2700 federal acquisition; state lands; monitoring](#) (Thorpe) would have required the State Land Department to identify which state trust lands have been transferred to the federal government since statehood and then would have required compensation from the federal government, even though the state has already been compensated as many of these lands were acquired via land exchanges. It also directed the Legislature and Attorney General to take all steps to recover and acquire these state lands. It was yet another unconstitutional measure and attempted land grab.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 3

This bill passed the House [34-24-2](#) and was defeated in the Senate [14-15-1](#).

[HCR2018 funding ballot measures; reauthorization](#) (Boyer, Thorpe: Allen, et al.) was similar to SCR1003. It would have referred to the ballot a proposed constitutional amendment that would have required certain ballot measures that have an expenditure of state monies associated with them to be referred back to the ballot every eight years. It was an attempt to make it harder to pass citizen initiatives.

Sierra Club was opposed to this bill.

Points: Yes 0, No 3

This bill passed the House [35-23-2](#) and the Senate Appropriations Committee [4-3-2](#) but was never heard in the Senate Rules Committee, so it died for the session.



Sierra Club Mission

"To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives."

