

Arizona Wildlife Action Plan

From Vision to On-the-Ground Action

The Arizona wildlife action plan is built on the premise that the most effective way to conserve rare, declining, and common wildlife is to restore and conserve healthy areas to live. Therefore it focuses on habitat types, such as desert scrub, grasslands, forests, woodlands, and aquatic and riparian systems. The 70 priority stressors identified relate to four statewide phenomena: a rapidly increasing human population, changes to water storage and delivery systems in the Southwest, alteration of communities by invasive species, and the ongoing drought and warming trend.

A one-day survey with 48 volunteers revealed over 36,000 aquatic birds of 55 species wintering in urban Phoenix, numbers unmatched by any comparably-sized area in Arizona.

Proactive Efforts that Benefit Wildlife and People

Conserving Wild Birds in Urban Phoenix

As Arizona grows, the monitoring components of Arizona's wildlife action plan will help us fulfill our responsibility to conserve wildlife and the places they live for future generations. New

residential lakes and golf course ponds in the fast-growing Phoenix metropolitan area increasingly attract wintering aquatic birds, many of which are priority species. The volunteer-based Urban Phoenix Winter Aquatic Bird Survey was established to assess these populations and help effectively manage them. A one-

day survey using 48 volunteers revealed over 36,000 birds of 55 species wintering in this otherwise desert urban area, numbers unmatched by any comparably-sized area in Arizona. This annual survey helps identify areas of potential urban conflict, which could include birds eating

stocked fish in urban lakes or damaging turf at parks. This proactive work will help make good management decisions regarding aquatic birds and help maintain opportunities for urban wildlife watching.

Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas

Bringing Back Arizona's Bald Eagles

Bald eagles occur on lands managed by different agencies and Native American tribes, requiring cooperation among many groups to ensure the species' survival – a key priority in Arizona's wildlife action plan. The Arizona Game and Fish Department chairs the Southwestern Bald Eagle Management Committee, a collaborative group of 23 agencies, Native American Tribes, and private organizations who monitor the population to help guide management actions. Through the Arizona Bald Eagle Nestwatch Program, nest watchers monitor eagles, observe their behavior, educate the public, and help protect eagles during their breeding season. These two efforts help biologists and decision-makers conserve bald eagles for future generations while maintaining compatible recreational and educational opportunities for the public.



American wigeon/Bruce Taubert, Arizona Game and Fish Department

Gathering Information to Take Action Conserving the Page Springsnail

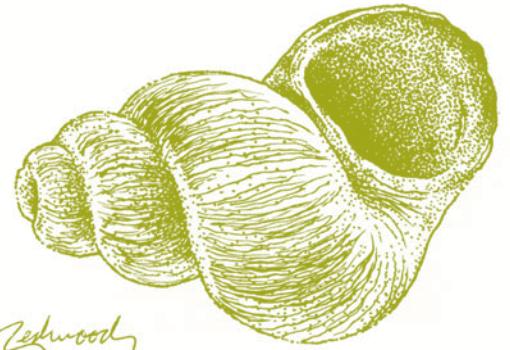
Figuring out where priority wildlife live is crucial to their survival and a priority in Arizona's wildlife action plan. The spring-dwelling Page springsnail is a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act and a species of greatest conservation need. In cooperation with private landowners, a survey of wildlife along Spring Creek yielded the discovery of a new population of Page springsnails, making seven known populations of the snail in Arizona. Using this information, the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are finalizing a conservation agreement for the springsnail. Improving knowledge of this rare snail will help prevent it from becoming more rare and costly to protect, therefore avoiding potential conflicts over another endangered species listing.

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Page springsnail/Nathan Redwood



Adult bald eagle/David Lamkin, Arizona Game and Fish Department



Bald eaglets/Bruce Taubert, Arizona Game and Fish Department

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