

Arizona State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grants Program has played an important role in the conservation of Arizona's wildlife. The following are some of the projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



*Bald Eagle Research,
Photo Courtesy of Arizona
GFD*

Restoration: Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas Bald Eagle Recovery

In Arizona, Bald Eagles are making a comeback! It's a success attributed to the conservation efforts of 18 federal, state, and local agencies working together through the Southwestern Bald Eagle Management Committee. State Wildlife Grants are helping these efforts by funding monitoring and banding projects coordinated by the committee. These studies will provide key information about the bald eagle population and distribution, helping biologists and decision makers take the actions necessary to effectively recover the eagle for future generations.



*Sitgreaves-Apache
National Forest, Photo
Courtesy of NOAA*

Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People Studying How Wildfire Effects Wildlife

The Ryan wildfire occurred in Sonoita Valley, Arizona, in Spring 2002. It presented an opportunity to investigate the effects of fire on vegetation, birds, and rodents in southeastern Arizona. The 39,000-acre fire burned nearly 90 percent of the National Audubon Society's Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch, where more than 30 years of fieldwork provide pre-burn data, making this a rare opportunity to examine the effects of burning and grazing on vegetation and wildlife. The results will be important to land and wildlife managers as they work to integrate fire management and livestock planning into wildlife management practices.



*Collecting Fish, Photo
Courtesy of USGS*

Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife Fish Salvage Effort

The recent Cave Creek Complex wildfire in Arizona contaminated streams and waterways with ash and sediment. As fish need clean water to live, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and various non-governmental organizations, undertook a salvage effort after the fire to help endangered fish in the streams that were affected. The fish are now being held in quarantine at state fish hatcheries and at the Phoenix Zoo. If these endangered fish had been left in contaminated streams they would have become even more rare and more costly to protect.

Congress has appropriated \$8.7 million in State Wildlife Grants to Arizona since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$3.8 million state and partner dollars.