



YEAR IN REVIEW 2018

YOUTH & HERITAGE



- Hosted over 625 youth at various outdoor skills events including 2 Wild in the City day camps and our annual Wapiti Weekend 2-day camp, as well as 4 junior mentored hunt camps, including our signature Youth Turkey Camp and Junior Elk Camp.
- Taught campers' skills including, archery, survival, wildlife identification, wildlife calling, hunting tactics and conservation.
- Focused on instilling a sense of responsibility in our children for taking care of the wildlife, forests and wildlife habitat as they are vital for the future of Arizona's elk.
- Actively recruited young hunters, women and new hunters for our various elk, turkey, javelina, small game and predator camps. Camps included hunting seminars, expert mentors and volunteers assisting in the field and camp logistics.
- Partnered with many of Arizona's wildlife organizations, sponsors and volunteers.

WATER FOR WILDLIFE PROGRAM



- Funded from the AES State Banquet and AZGFD Habitat Partnership Committee, the AES Catchment Repair Squad is led by Dan Bradford and other dedicated volunteers.
- In 2018, hauled over 500,000 gallons of water to drought-stricken areas of elk range and restored and maintained wildlife water catchments in Northern Arizona.
- Presented with **Commission Commendation of Achievement Award** from the Arizona Game and Fish Department, "For your exceptionally dedicated service and endurance in providing water for wildlife in Region 2 during one of the driest periods on record."

HEROES RISING OUTDOORS



- AES Hunts for Heroes program, provided 100+ experiences for Arizona wounded Veterans, to get back into the outdoors to experience and enjoy the Hunting Heritage of Arizona.
- Many participating veterans, men and women, are first time hunters and loved spending time in the outdoors. The veterans have communicated feeling a connection to nature and the outdoors that has helped them heal inside and that has been very gratifying. "Healing through Hunting" is our motto for this program.
- In 2018 the Arizona Elk Society has partnered with other organizations and volunteers to give our veterans many more opportunities to get out and keep experiencing healing opportunities. Programs include Project Healing Waters with Trout Unlimited, Equine Therapy, Kayaking, Fishing, camping and getting involved on our volunteer wildlife habitat projects in the woods.

"Our goal is not to provide a one and done hunting experience. We will continue to keep the feeling of healing in the outdoors and build on the friendships and camaraderie our veterans are experiencing."

HABITAT PROJECTS



- Funded over \$500,000 in projects across elk range. Money is raised through the AES Banquet, auction and raffle of the Commissioners Big Game Elk Tags, and coordinated through the AZGFD Habitat Partnership Committee. Projects include; New Water Catchments, Grassland Restorations, Juniper Thinning, Controlled Burns and much more.
- Long Valley Meadow Riparian Restoration Phase 2 Completion in May 2018 including tree thinning, rock structure building, stream channel shaping, meadow log fencing.
- Selected by the United States Forest Service for the national **Rise To The Future Partnership Award** for Phase 1 of the nationally acclaimed Long Valley Meadow Riparian Restoration of a 3-mile long headwater meadow next to SR-87, in partnership with: US Forest Service, AZGFD, AZSFWC, and the NFF.

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS



250
Volunteers
100+
Acres Improved

- Coordinated large-scale volunteer work projects with the USFS, AZGFD, area ranchers and other organizations to benefit elk in the state.
- Worked on riparian restoration in the Coconino National Forest including creek channel restoration, removal of encroaching pine trees in the meadows, fence removal and enclosure maintenance.
- Volunteers hauled over 7 tons of rock to build riparian stream structures to restore meadow and watershed, built log fences to protect critical wildlife habitat, maintained important enclosures and stacked logs from thousands of trees.
- AES Sawyers cut many thousands of trees to open riparian wetland meadows.
- Volunteers cleared 100+ acres of invasive juniper and jack pines, by hand, for grassland restorations in the Coconino National Forest.
- Volunteers worked on restoring many water catchments, plumbing, installing new troughs, thinning back brush and fixing fences in the Tonto National Forest.
- Over 250 volunteers spent thousands of hours performing the labor to accomplish these projects. The value of these volunteer hours is not only the benefit to the wildlife and their habitat, but hours are used as match for federal dollars that come back to the state for habitat improvements. This years' value will be in excess of \$100,000 to Arizona.

ANNUAL BANQUETS



\$575,000
Raised for Elk

- State Banquet:** With the help of over 100 committed volunteers, raised over \$500,000 for elk and elk habitat at the 17th Annual Banquet. Our 2019 State Banquet is scheduled for April 13.
- White Mountains Chapter:** Jim and Chris Warren and a dedicated committee, held the 5th Annual AES White Mountain Chapter Banquet in Show Low. They raised over \$35,000 for Arizona's elk for AZGFD Region 1. The 2019 Banquet is scheduled for June 29 in Show Low.
- Northern Arizona Peaks Chapter:** Jimmy Mehen and dedicated Flagstaff area volunteers held their 1st Annual Banquet in Flagstaff. They raised over \$40,000 for AZGFD Region 2 to help improve elk habitat and fund youth hunting camps along with conservation education. The 2019 Banquet will be July 13 in Flagstaff.

EVENTS & OUTREACH



150,000+
Sportsmen Reached

- Arizona Game & Fish Department 2018 Outdoor Expo: AES participated in this 2-day event reaching more than 44,000 attendees and families, shared conservation and information on AES and our programs for wildlife habitats, youth and veterans.
- 2018 International Sportsmen's Expo: AES participated in this 4 day event, reaching over 100,000 sportsman attendees, provided education on Arizona outdoors and conservation.
- AES 2018 Annual Elk Clinic, held our signature learn to hunt one-day seminar, hosted by professional guide and TV host, Dan Adler of Diamond Outfitters. Grew this event to over 500 men, women and juniors. With attendees coming from all over Arizona and the southwest.
- AES participation and booth at various events and conservation activities throughout the year.
- Heroes Rising Outdoors - Hunts for Heroes events including our 2nd Annual Poker Run, hosted by Superstition Harley Davidson and benefitting our Arizona wounded warriors.
- AES White Mountains Chapter sponsored three exceptional events: Sipes White Mountain Elk Viewing Workshop and Learn to Hunt in coordination with AZGFD, White Mountain Chapter 1st Annual Elk Workshop, with Dan Adler, and the 1st Annual Veterans Family Day.

REPRESENTING



Arizona & Nationally

- AES representatives serve on committees for many of the issues that we are involved in to keep wildlife, habitat and our hunting heritage protected for future generations. Throughout the year, we represent sportsmen and our members on many issues related to wildlife habitat, forest health, access issues, threats to hunting, elk management, wolf re-introductions, USFS travel management, forest use planning, natural resource uses and much more.



Our Mission: *The mission of the Arizona Elk Society is to benefit elk and other wildlife by generating resources for habitat conservation and restoration, and to preserve our hunting heritage for present and future generations.*

VOLUNTEER

AES is looking for new volunteers to get involved in projects and programs for wildlife, youth and veterans.

JOIN US TODAY!

Membership is the lifeblood of the Arizona Elk Society, if you like what we do, please join us.

DONATE

Founded in 2001, AES is a 501(c)3 non-profit charity. To donate to AES or our programs please visit ShopAES.org.

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