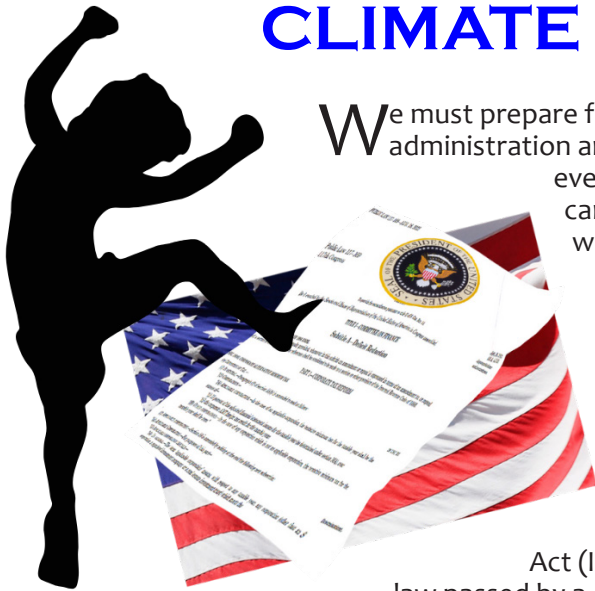


CANYON ECHO

CLIMATE ACTIONS WORTH DEFENDING • by Sandy Bahr



We must prepare for the incoming Trump administration and all that it can mean for everything and everyone we care about. We know there will be attacks, rollbacks, and repeals, but we also know that we can and must resist these and that we can stop some of the most critical rollbacks.

The first thing targeted by Trump will be the funding contained in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the premiere climate law passed by a Democratic Congress and signed by President Biden. The main target will

be the funding that helps to expedite the transition to clean energy and cleaner transportation. Importantly, funds that are already expended or encumbered will not be at risk, and some other funds, such as tax credits for wind and solar or electric vehicles may not be so easy to get eliminated as they provide benefits in states that are heavily Republican.

As noted, some of these dollars have already been spent. Arizona has seen enormous benefits from the IRA since its passage in 2022. According to the Department of Treasury, **“In 2023, more than 88,000 Arizona families saved more than \$285 million on clean energy and energy efficiency investments.”** These benefits are for residential solar, solar water heating, and energy efficiency measures that help people reduce their energy bills. Tribal Nations have also benefited extensively from the IRA, including for distributed solar and some battery storage on Hopi lands and the Navajo Nation. This past year we celebrated the Department of Energy, Navajo Power Home, and QCells partnership. This will result in hundreds of homes on the Navajo Nation, many of which are currently powered by polluting generators that do not provide even enough electricity for a refrigerator, now having clean solar energy with storage and a way to keep fresh food cold.

The IRA has also provided jobs, apprenticeship programs, and important clean transportation benefits in our state, such as clean electric school buses which were also included in the infrastructure law. This means lower climate emissions, but also less exposure for the children to harmful unhealthy pollutants.

The Trump administration cannot wave a wand or just repeal most of the rules, but must instead go through a public rule-making process to repeal most of them. Rules that passed late in the administration could, however, be susceptible to the

Congressional Review Act, which allows Congress to introduce legislation to repeal rules that were enacted within 60 congressional days. If a Act (CRA) is successful, that rule cannot be advanced again unless Congress authorizes it, so this is a dangerous and impactful action. Any rules finalized after August may be subject to this under the new Congress and President

One rule that would normally be at risk is the methane rule that charges oil and gas companies for emitting waste methane, thus providing an incentive for reducing the methane emissions. Because developing this rule was mandated by the IRA. However, it may not be as easy to eliminate.

Some important rules that will not be subject to the CRA, but that may be the subject of repeal actions, include a rule to limit carbon emissions from coal plants and any new base-load gas-fired plants. While this rule was not nearly strong enough—it should have included all gas-fired power plants—it is another important step for reducing emissions. The Mercury and Air Toxics Standards rule for coal-fired plants that further limits these harmful pollutants could be at risk too. Also finalized earlier in 2024 and targeting coal-fired power plants, is a rule that would reduce wastewater pollution by 660 million pounds per year, having a positive environmental justice impact. There are already discussions about whether the rule to require better management of coal ash, something that pollutes ground and surface waters alike, will be weakened or rolled back. The Good Neighbor Rule that requires limits on pollutants that contribute to cross-state ozone pollution will most certainly be the subject of a rollback. Cumulatively, rollbacks of these and other rules will not only mean more climate pollution, but other pollutants that harm our health and shorten our life spans.

One thing that the new administration can repeal right away are the executive orders issued by President Biden, including the **Justice40 Initiative**

contd. P5



See page 10



SIERRA CLUB
GRAND CANYON

TELL CONGRESS:
Hands off Climate Investments + Protections

SOLUTIONS FOR POLLUTION =
200,000+ lives NOT saved

IRA + IHA =
330,000+ jobs NOT created

#StandStrongforClimate

CLIMATE ACTION CAMPAIGN

Canyon Echo

Winter 2025
Vol. 61 No.1

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One vacant At-Large seat		At-Large		
Group rep Flagstaff vacant				
Lynn DeMuth	Compliance Officer	Non-Voting		
Dale Volz	Elections	Non-Voting		

At-large members of the Ex Com are elected by the members statewide. Group representatives are elected in their group geographic area. Other positions are appointed by the Ex Com.

* NOTE: These positions will change in mid January when the chapter executive committee meets to elect positions.

CCL: Council of Club Leaders

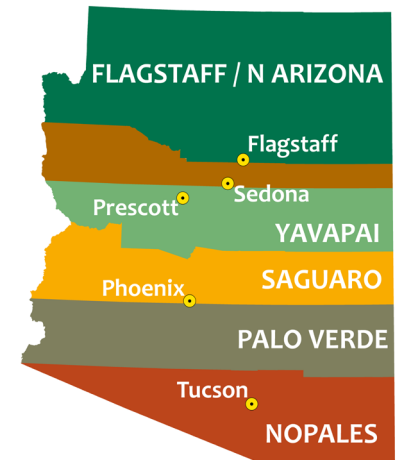


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Happenings around AZ

Five groups 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>. Schedules are subject to change.

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

Chair:	Jo Sylvester	602-292-6806	stitchinjo@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair/Programs:	Sally Howland	602-663-2889	sally_howland@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Steve Larson		SLA1801704@aol.com
Membership:	Sue Barsky		
Outings	John Beshears		

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

Chair	Natalia de la Torre		nadelat098@gmail.com
Vice-Chair/Political	Greg Clark	480-734-0926	greg@btlcaz.com
Secretary	Chris Gehlker	602-370-0128	canyonrat@icloud.com
Treasurer	Jerry Nelson	602-550-0282	peakbagger2@gmail.com
Outings/Wilderness	Jim Vaaler	602-553-8208	jimvaaler@msn.com
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Conservation	Don Steuter	602-956-5057	dsteuter@hotmail.com
Ex Com (At-Large)	Greg Brooks		
Ex Com (At-Large)	Kathy Mohr-Almeida, PhD	480-329-8503	kathylynn626@yahoo.com
Ex Com (At-Large)	Lorena Hernandez		

Programs are currently being scheduled.

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

Currently under reorganization

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

Chair	Gary Beverly	928-308-1003	gbverde99@gmail.com
Vice-Chair	Steve Cook	575-418-9027	scook@projectworldview.org
Conservation Chair	Russ Pilcher		rp1020@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Jenny Cobb	928-925-1320	cobbsrun@msn.com
Group Rep to Chapt. ExComm	Jenny Cobb	928-925-1320	cobbsrun@msn.com
Outings	Stan Bindell	928-636-3903	
Newsletter	Gary Beverly	928-308-1003	gbverde99@gmail.com

Yavapai group programs & executive committee meetings are held on the **first Monday of the month.**

Nopales Group (Tucson)

Chair	Anakarina Rodriguez		akrod520@gmail.com
Vice-Chair	Vacant		
Conservation	Cyndi Tuell		cctuell@gmail.com
At-Large	Nick Arnold		econamold@gmail.com
Membership Chair	Vanessa Gallego		gallego.vanessa@gmail.com

Nopales group executive committee and program meetings are held every **fourth Wednesday of the month.** gmai

Chapter Announcements

Wildlife Activist Group Virtual Meetings Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 10 (MON) 6pm. 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.

Energy & Climate Action Team Virtual Meetings Jan 28, Feb 25, Mar 25 (TUE) 6:30pm. 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.

Arizona Sierra Club Conservation Virtual Meetings Jan 2, Feb 6, Mar 25 (THU) 6:30pm. This is the monthly conservation meeting of the Arizona (Grand Canyon) Chapter and Palo Verde Group (Phoenix area), where we discuss a broad range of environmental issues. Come learn more about issues or bring an issue you care about and share what you know. For more information, contact Don Steuter dsteuter@hotmail.com.

Grand Canyon (Arizona) Chapter Conservation and Executive Committee Jan 22 (SAT). For details and more information, contact Don Steuter at dsteuter@hotmail.com (conservation) and Cyndi Tuell cctuell@hotmail.com (Executive Committee).

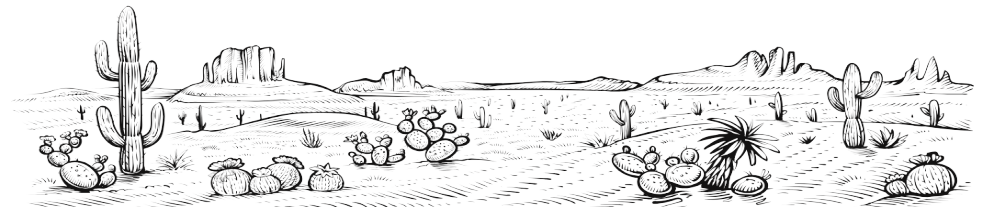
Arizona Sierra Club Water Sentinels Service Events.

Jan 18 (SAT) Beat Back Buffelgrass annual event at the Rio Salado.

Jan 25 & 26 (SAT, SUN) Table at Winterfest, Black Canyon City.

Mar 22 & 26 (SAT, SUN) Table at the first N. Arizona Conservation Expo, Tlaquepaque in Sedona.

For more information, contact Jennifer Martin at 602-423-6157, Jennifer.Martin@sierraclub.org.



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A Day at the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge in our Beautiful Border Lands

• by Clay Begay 

Yá'át'ééh everyone, Clay Begay here, Borderlands intern. I'm here to share about my first outing to the Buenos Aires Refuge and visit to the Border in Sasabe with the Borderlands program for Latino Conservation Week.

We met at The Historic Y for a bit of exercise before setting off. We journeyed through the stunning landscape of O'odham land. After turning south at Three Points, I gazed to the west and saw the Baboquivari Wilderness punctuating the view, several hawks guiding us toward the Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge. I felt a deep sense of reverence because Baboquivari Peak is sacred to my O'odham relatives; this is where their creator, I'toi, lives. As my family taught me, I sent off my prayers when visiting sacred spaces, feeling content as the animals that roam these lands welcomed me.

As we entered the refuge, we were greeted by several birds perched on piles of mesquite branches. I couldn't help but reflect on how beautiful this landscape must have been before colonialism took root on O'odham land, and how much the environment has changed since.

Erick Meza, Border Program Coordinator, reminded us that we were on O'odham Land, acknowledging the people who once occupied these lands. His recognition deepened my respect, underscoring the importance of honoring those whose lands we visit.

After a delicious meal at the refuge, we set out for Sasabe to witness portions of the border wall, which has disrupted migration trails of many

journeying between Mexico and the U.S. My thoughts drifted to how my relatives often say, "We didn't cross the border; it crossed us." This sentiment was evident just west of the wall at Sasabe, where the Tohono O'odham Nation begins. The Nation understands the importance of living in harmony with their surroundings—animals, plants, and people alike—which is why you won't find an imposing wall on their portion of the border.

I look forward to working with Sierra Club in the coming year. I have much to learn from Sierra Club staff and volunteers, yet I also bring with me the Indigenous knowledge passed down from my parents and grandparents. I hope this knowledge will have a rippling effect on my friends here, just as I am keenly aware of their passion and vitality in restoring harmony to our environment—both physically and spiritually. Ahéhee'. Clay Begay is an intern with the Sierra Club Borderlands Program



A deer walks through water at the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Sunday at South Mountain Park Volunteer Appreciation Day

• by Clay Begay 



Group photo at the picnic

Yá'át'ééh! Clay Begay here, Sierra Club Borderlands intern.

Sunday November 17th, I attended the Sierra Club's yearly picnic event at the Big Ramada in South Mountain Park and Preserve, an area overlooking the city of Phoenix.

Sandy Bahr welcomed us as she set up lunch for the members returning from their morning hike. Her warmth and hospitality were palpable, creating a welcoming atmosphere for everyone. The lunch offerings—plates, cloth napkins, vegetarian/vegan tamales with chips and salsa—were simple yet thoughtful, a reflection of the club's commitment to sustainability and Community.

Throughout the event, I connected with members from across the United States, all united by a shared passion



Vanessa Gallego, the Outstanding Service Award winner, with Sandy Bahr and Cyndi Tuell

for protecting our environment. Several members were honored with awards for their valiant efforts in wildlife conservation. Our conversations reminded me of the Diné philosophy I grew up with to "walk in beauty with our surroundings." It was heartening to meet so many people with this vision, working to safeguard the spaces and wildlife we all cherish.

As the afternoon wound down, it was time to head back.

While the event was a refreshing escape from my life in Tucson, I was eager to return to my studies. I carpoled with Cyndi Tuell from the Nopales Group of the Grand Canyon Chapter of Sierra Club and Carolyn Campbell of the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection. The drive back was filled with laughter and rich conversation as we reminisced about our childhoods and reflected on life. Their company was uplifting, and our shared concerns about the political climate deepened the bond. Meeting Carolyn was particularly inspiring. Her passion for public transportation and her approach to savoring life as a college student left a lasting impression on me. She reminded me to embrace life's joys, even amidst the demands of academia, coupled with notes

of levity that she'll be visiting me during graduation time to persuade me into politics.

As we drove into the Sonoran Desert, I felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude. The day had been a blend of purpose, connection, and beauty—a reminder of the work we do and the people who make it all worthwhile.



Jennifer Martin speaks about our Stave Pawlowski Award and the 2024 Awardee



Picture Attendees watch the Awards Presentation



The Arizona AANHPI equity team receives the Environmental Justice Award

Clay Begay is an intern with the Sierra Club Borderlands Program
Photos by Shahriar Anwar

SAVE THE DATE



ENVIRONMENTAL DAY AT THE CAPITOL 2.12.25



Time to Act: Extreme Heat & Climate Justice



While the election results in November were not what we had hoped—a more environmentally friendly legislature and beyond—we still need to show up to advocate for protections and to stop harmful measures from advancing. That is why we need your voice more than ever. Whether you have tons of experience speaking to legislators or other elected officials or none at all, we encourage you to participate in our 2025 Environmental Day at the Capitol. This is an opportunity to meet with your legislators, hear from knowledgeable and inspiring great speakers, and connect with others who are doing advocacy work both inside and outside the Arizona Legislature. This year our theme is focused on climate and extreme heat.



Time to Act! Extreme Heat and Climate Justice
Environmental Day at the Arizona Capitol
February 12, 2025
Arizona Capitol—Wesley Bolin Plaza
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007
[RSVP and Register Here.](#)

Please mark your calendar and RSVP. It is important to register so we know what legislative district you are in and can connect you with a team for meeting with legislators, and also so we can plan for food and materials. Last year we had more than 300 participants and most people met with at least one legislator.

If you have questions, please reach out to Sandy Bahr at 602-253-8633 or sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org.

Interested in learning more about legislative issues and what is happening at the Arizona Legislature, sign up for our weekly legislative updates [sign up for our weekly legislative updates here.](#)

CLIMATE

Biden set an ambitious new climate goal. Will it still matter under Trump?

DECEMBER 19, 2024 - 5:00 AM ET

Jeff Brady



The Biden administration says some efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions won't go away after President-elect Trump takes office. Renewable energy products like the Block Island Wind Farm off the Rhode Island coast, will continue to operate and others already in the development pipeline will continue to be built.
Julia Nihkinson/AP

from P.1

that requires that 40 percent of the benefits from federal climate and other federal environmental actions flow to communities that have and many of which continue to be overburdened by pollution and the negative impacts of a changing climate. We cannot let this important executive order go quietly and must continue to advocate for climate justice and resist the dystopian future that Trump and his appointees would create.

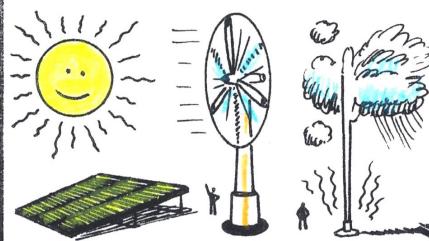
Take Action Now and Ask Congress to Stand Strong for Climate!

Sandy is the Director of the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club

Beyond the Slab

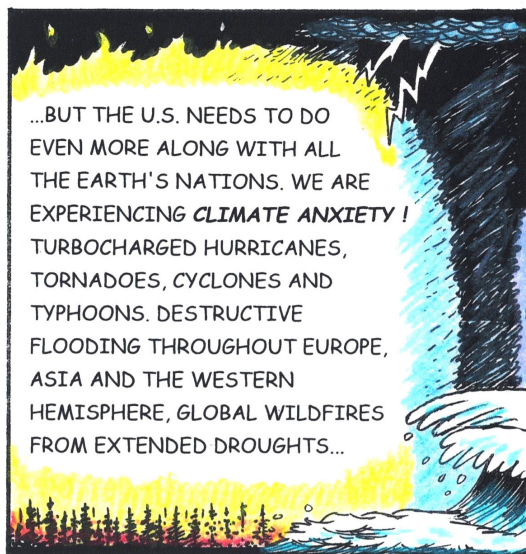
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DUE TO CURRENT GLOBAL WARMING, THE BIDEN ADMIN. HAS PROMOTED VARIOUS RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES TO OFFSET CLIMATE CHANGE...



SOLAR WIND GEOTHERMAL

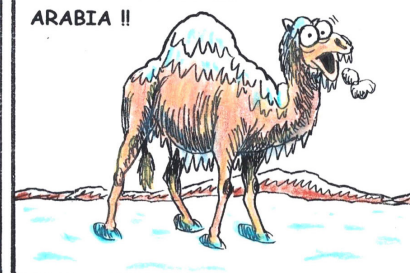
...BUT THE U.S. NEEDS TO DO EVEN MORE ALONG WITH ALL THE EARTH'S NATIONS. WE ARE EXPERIENCING CLIMATE ANXIETY! TURBOCHARGED HURRICANES, TORNADOES, CYCLONES AND TYPHOONS. DESTRUCTIVE FLOODING THROUGHOUT EUROPE, ASIA AND THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, GLOBAL WILDFIRES FROM EXTENDED DROUGHTS...



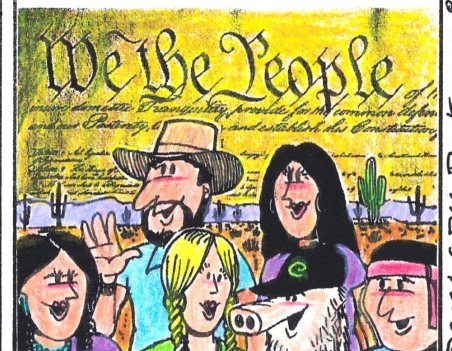
JAPAN'S MT. FUJI IS SNOWLESS FOR THE 1ST TIME IN 130 YEARS !...



...AND IT SNOWED IN SAUDI ARABIA !!



NOW MORE THAN EVER BEFORE, WE NEED TO STEP UP AND PROTECT AND DEFEND OUR PLANET AND OUR U.S. CONSTITUTION !



11/26/2024

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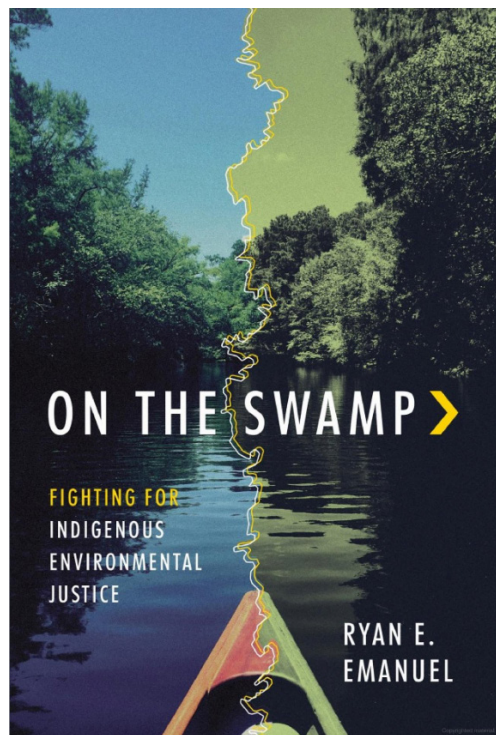
Make the Morning Stars Sing Together (\$500 +)

Caroline Bissell
Mr Stanley Feldman
Jean Miyake
Mark Spiro



BOOK REVIEWS

• by Stan Bindell 



On the Swamp: *Fighting for Indigenous Environmental Justice* lays out the horrors that the Lumbee people faced due to natural gas pipelines coming through their lands, mega-farms that polluted their lands, and hurricanes and other issues related to climate change.

Lumbee author Ryan Emanuel, an Associate Professor of hydrology at Duke University, takes the reader through decades of Lumbee dealing with these problems. But he shows “We are still here” as his tribe has persevered to survive, and have their culture remain part of their lives.

Emanuel also talks about how other tribes have faced similar issues.

Equally important, Emanuel lays out the strategy for resolutions

and ordinances in North Carolina that must be adopted in order to keep these situations from reoccurring. While this would address the problems for the Lumbee people, most of these strategies can be used by other tribes in North Carolina as well as tribes in the other states.

First, he says, governments and corporations must shift in their views of Native American homelands and communities. They should no longer be ignored as governments and corporations need to include indigenous views, values, and voices in their decision making and processes.

Emanuel’s second point is that governments and corporations must acknowledge that indigenous people still exist and deserve collective voices in the governing of their lands, especially the right to determine what types of development, or industries, take place in their homelands.

Emanuel’s third point is that minimum standards need to be set for respecting indigenous rights, especially the sacrificial transformation of indigenous landscapers and waterways.

Another point Emanuel makes is that governments and corporations need to acknowledge that marginalized communities can face multiple environmental calamities at the same time.

He urges governments and corporations to improve communication and public outreach, especially when it involves issues of environmental permitting.

He says too often government and corporations “have little or no understanding about the histories, cultures and political framework that tie indigenous peoples to our homelands and define us as peoples.”

Emanuel said for this to change, corporations and agencies need to obtain knowledge by training current workers or hiring new workers.

Emanuel said the Lumbee overcoming colonialism and surviving on their homeland is not a trivial matter. He credits kinship and community with helping the Lumbee survive.

Lumbees survived on their swampland when colonialists thought it was too harsh an environment to enter. Lumbee ancestors used one phrase about On the Swamp to mean “to be in the neighborhood or the community.”

• by Ana Gorla 



Whether you’ve visited a national monument, signed a petition to support one, or simply want to understand how these landmarks protect public lands, this book is a must-read. McKenzie Long takes readers on a journey across our country, engaging with people from all walks of life—those who support monuments, those who oppose them, and those with nuanced views about the designation of protected lands through the Antiquities Act. She also shares some of the history of monument designation and the stories behind some of the most recently established ones.

As someone working in public lands protection, this book gave me valuable insights into the diverse perspectives people hold about these spaces. It taught me to ask deeper questions and to better understand how communities connect with the lands we often advocate to protect. It beautifully highlights how people’s different relationships with land and nature contribute to a shared ecosystem, making it all the more meaningful.

Ana is the Energy and Public Lands Coordinator for the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club

Support Your Local Sierra Club

When you make a donation to the Grand Canon 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

As an educator, Emanuel has worked with members of the Hopi, Navajo, Pascua Yaqui, and many other tribes. The goal has always been for indigenous people to gain all the education they can and to use that education for the survival of their nations.

“Promoting environmental justice is not a sole effort,” he said.

Stan is a member of the Publications Committee



Arizona Youth Climate Coalition passes most comprehensive school climate action resolution in America

• by Ojas Sanghi

On October 29, 2024, the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) adopted **the most comprehensive Climate Action Resolution in the country**, committing the district to ambitious sustainability goals and positioning it as a national leader in school climate action. With over 40,000 students across 85+ schools, TUSD plans to achieve net-zero emissions by 2040 across **all three scopes** (direct, indirect, and supply chain), with an interim goal of cutting its emissions by half by 2030. Key measures include:

- Achieving zero waste by 2040,
- Developing and implementing a comprehensive climate curriculum,
- Transitioning to 100% clean energy by 2035,
- Full electrification of buildings, equipment, and vehicles by 2040,
- Reducing water usage by 25% by 2035,
- Implementing climate and heat adaptation measures, such as ensuring cooling rooms in 95% of facilities by 2027,



TUSD members of the AZ Youth Climate Coalition who contributed to the development of and lobbying for the School Climate Action Resolution.
Photo by Rick Rappaport

- Prioritizing equity-focused climate policies, and
- Adopting LEED standards for new and renovated buildings.

The resolution was entirely written, researched, and lobbied for by the **AZ Youth Climate Coalition (AZYCC)**, a statewide youth climate advocacy organization consisting of members aged 13–20. As the Tucson Co-Lead of AZYCC, I led a team of over 15 students to develop and lobby for the resolution for over 16 months, collaborating closely with one of the TUSD Governing Board Members, Dr. Ravi Shah, throughout the process.

Before the night of the vote, we circulated a **community letter of support**, attaining over 160 signatories, including multiple elected officials and numerous organizations across the country. On the night of the vote, we saw huge community turnout, with dozens of supporters showing up to speak in favor of the resolution. This included youth from across the city, as well as adults and even elected officials—highlighting the strong, intergenerational support behind this resolution.

Especially notable is the passage of this resolution in a decidedly purple state, just a week before the presidential election. The passage of such groundbreaking climate legislation is a testament to the unstoppable force of the climate movement, as well as youth power within that movement; it demonstrates that youth have the power to create systemic, meaningful, and lasting change in their communities.

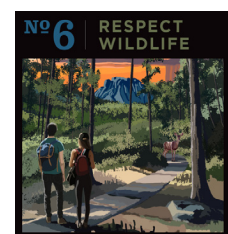
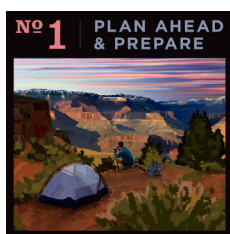
We see this resolution as not just a victory in our school district, but a beacon of hope for students and communities across the country. Indeed, we aim to use this achievement to catalyze further change in communities across Arizona and the country.

The climate crisis is here, and even as the national tides of politics ebb and flow, we all must continue to act to effect change in our local communities. Embrace radical hope and take action.

Ojas Sanghi is Tucson Co-Lead, Arizona Youth Climate Coalition



TUSD members of the AZ Youth Climate Coalition who contributed to the development of and lobbying for the School Climate Action Resolution.
Photo by Rick Rappaport



UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC

• by Gary Beverly

Renewable energy, especially photovoltaics, is booming. The major growth is in large, utility-scale systems for one simple reason: lower costs. The graph below tells the story: solar panel costs have declined more rapidly than any other technology. Solar PV and on-shore wind are now cheaper than natural gas, coal, or nuclear.

dozens of new facilities covering 73,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land in Arizona as of September, 2024—and this is an incomplete estimate. The BLM is in the final stages of a solar siting plan that will allow solar development on more than 31 million acres of public land in 11 states. It proposes to:

- Allow solar applications

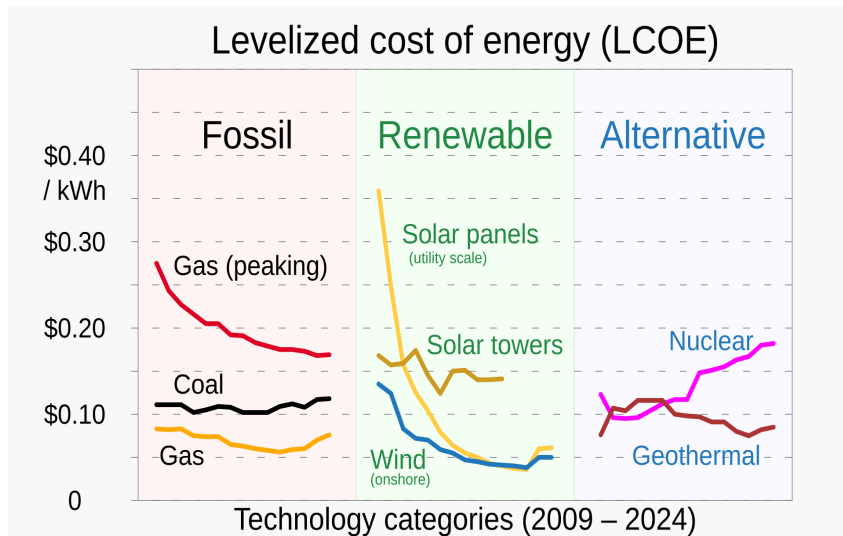
Locating large PV facilities on private land is controlled by local zoning codes. Those codes are created and administered by less rational local county and city officials, usually in rural Arizona where misinformation is thicker than cold honey.

For example, in Yavapai County there are roughly 8,000 acres of proposed PV facilities. The Board of Supervisors just enacted—despite vigorous opposition from Yavapai Group—an anti-solar ordinance that restricts large solar to a county-wide maximum of 10,000 acres located at least 10 miles from a

“visual resource” (whatever that is...), and more. The Town of Chino Valley is considering an ordinance that is reasonably well designed. In each case the public hearings were full of citizen fear, NIMBY, and misinformation.

I encourage Sierra Club members to watch for local solar ordinances and to participate in the civic discussion. Myth-busting is super important. There are lots of online resources—here’s one: “Rebutting 33 False Claims About Solar, Wind, and Electric Vehicles,” available at https://scholarship.law.columbia.edu/sabin_climate_change/217/

Gary is the Chapter Water Chair and is Chair of the Yavapai Group



With increasingly widespread implementation of renewable energy sources, costs have declined, most notably for energy generated by solar panels. Levelized cost of energy (LCOE) is a measure of the average net present cost of electricity generation for a generating plant over its lifetime. Image courtesy of https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cost_of_electricity_by_source

The new administration says it will gut the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and cut renewable energy programs, but they can’t change the economics, and IRA benefits are mainly in red states. Corporations invest to maximize shareholder profit by building the least expensive new capacity or by purchasing the cheapest power from other producers. Economics, not politics, will likely be the controlling factor.

Where should solar farms be located? Public land? Private land? The national Sierra Club approved a “Policy for Siting of Renewable Energy...” that supports renewable energy projects if environmental and social issues are addressed (for the details see <https://www.sierraclub.org/policy/energy>).

Corporations smell profits in utility-scale solar and have proposed

within 15 miles of existing or proposed transmission lines, and beyond that distance on previously disturbed lands,

- Exclude development in areas with a high likelihood of resource conflict, including with sensitive wildlife or cultural resources,
- Apply only to solar projects that are 5 megawatts or larger and connect to the grid,
- Allow solar development applications in areas with up to a 10-percent slope,
- Ensure projects avoid, minimize, and compensate for adverse impacts.

The Sierra Club objected to the BLM solar siting plan for several reasons, including the excessive acreage, but at least BLM had a rational planning process.



Graphic by Toni Malcolm

Online Media Links



Chapter | AZ Water Sentinels | Borderlands Campaign
Grand Canyon Campaign | Flagstaff / N AZ Group
Yavapai Group | Saguaro Group



Chapter | Borderlands Campaign
Grand Canyon Campaign



Chapter | Palo Verde Group



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Martin-McCleod

CAST OF CHARACTERS

When I joined the staff of the Sierra Club's Grand Canyon Chapter, my son, Justice, was ten years old. We were blessed with a shared life of abundant passions— involvement in our church, martial arts, music, his school and my career, and the ever-essential quiet moments enjoying nature, books, our home, and each other's company. So much has changed since then, in my life and in the world. My ten-year anniversary managing the Water

Sentinels Program brought about myriad reflections and a wave of gratitude.

What stands out most is the people I've had the privilege of working with. Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do. They're the ones who show up to monitor and restore rivers, inform their communities, and push for policy changes to protect Arizona's waterways. What I love most about them is their curiosity and commitment. I'm lucky to say they're not just volunteers I coordinate. They're friends who enrich my life and inspire me as they care for Mother Nature.

Sandy Bahr, our Chapter Director, has been a big part of my journey, too. She has an exceptional ability to focus on what matters most while navigating the messy, complicated world of environmental policy. She's unrivaled in the depth of her knowledge, and passionate about Arizona's wild places. Her fierce dedication, regardless of obstacles, is a great example for us all. She has always supported my growth and my needs both within and apart from the organization. I jokingly refer to her as my "work mom," and she is a great one.

I will always be grateful for how the Chapter has supported me through so many stages of life. When I started, I was a single mom raising a ten-year-old. The Chapter gave me the flexibility I needed to be present for my son while still contributing to this important work. Since then I've lost beloved friends and pets, gotten my black belt,



Jennifer testing water, training and geeking out on the Verde River. Photos by Toni Malcolm

Reflections on a Decade with the Grand Canyon Chapter

• by Jennifer Martin-McCleod 

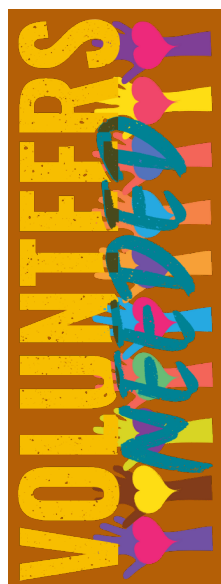
travelled around the world, watched my son grow up and move out on his own, and married the love of my life.

In many ways, I've grown up with this program. The person I was at the beginning is not the person I am today. Life has shaped me in ways I never could have imagined—through gifts, trials, multiple rebirths, and an ever-deepening understanding of what it means to stay true to my values. Those values—caring for the natural world, fostering community, and working for justice—are what drew me to the Sierra Club in the first place, and they're why I'm still here.

In these alarming times, my work is an anchor. It's not just about protecting rivers and streams, though that's essential. It's about creating a sense of connection—to each other, to the natural world, and to a future where people and planet can thrive together.

After all these years, I'm more grateful than ever to call the Sierra Club my home. It's a place where I've been able to evolve, contribute, and belong. And as I look ahead, I know the work will continue to matter—not just to me, but to all of us who call Arizona home.

Jennifer is the Water Sentinels Manager of the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club



JOIN SIERRA CLUB'S VIBRANT COMMUNITY OF VOLUNTEERS! MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT THROUGH CONSERVATION, OUTDOOR EDUCATION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY WHILE CONNECTING WITH PASSIONATE INDIVIDUALS WHO SHARE YOUR VALUES AND COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING OUR PLANET'S NATURAL TREASURES!



Publications Committee Chair Opportunity

Volunteer as chair of our publications committee to help create Canyon Echo, our quarterly newsletter with a 40-plus-year legacy of keeping our members and supporters informed about important issues facing our state, and actions and activities in which our chapter is engaged. Help facilitate quarterly virtual meetings and special meetings periodically, recruit additional volunteers for the publications committee, identify authors and photographers, occasionally write content, and work with our team to help prepare Canyon Echo for both online and print publication.

For further information about either of these opportunities contact: Miché Lozano at 602-253-9140 or miche.lozano@sierraclub.org



Grand Canyon Chapter Website Volunteer

The Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club is looking for a volunteer who is interested in managing our website content! This would include posting blogs, making edits to existing web pages, and occasionally adding a new page to the site. The website is hosted on the Drupal content management system. Experience with editing websites (especially via a content management system such as Drupal or Wordpress) is helpful, but not mandatory. Technical skills (coding, HTML) are not required. If you can use Google Docs, you can learn to manage our website. Training and support is provided by the national organization.

‘Everybody Goes Their Own Way’


• by Brian Mostoller 



Photo Courtesy of Mark Maresca

Deem Hills Park one side of the mountain is full of Buffelgrass.” Maresca has helped remove Buffelgrass in many areas, including the Desert Vista Trailhead, but the most rewarding work he has done thus far is on the Freedom Trail at Piestewa. Over five-and-a-half miles of trail, he and others “built 17 different stone steps and picked rocks out of surrounding areas,” he said.

“The tools we primarily use on trails are pickaxes and McLeods,” Maresca remarked. “McLeods rake and smooth, and they help decrease erosion by opening up drains so that water gets off the trails.”

Maresca’s love for Arizona’s environment began with Grand Canyon. Since moving from Delaware to Arizona in 1977 he has hiked the canyon rim-to-rim four times. On one of those trips he was with his brother, who became ill and he carried his brother’s backpack and his own back to their campground on Bright Angel Creek about a mile and a half away.

There are 32 Arizona state parks, and Maresca has been to 31 of them. The beauty of this state draws his interest, but it’s simpler than even that. Just the mere hiking and camping throughout this state thrills him. “There are so many RVs now, and often I’m the only tent in a campground.”

When Maresca camps he is often with a friend who is from Colombia. He has ventured south of Arizona to Mexico and the Northern Triangle (Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador), but Arizona is home.

Recently he was involved with teaching others about Hike Patrol, a group that teaches people how to treat Arizona hiking areas with respect.

He doesn’t hear or see many of his former students anymore. “Everybody goes their own way,” he remarked with a smile.

His way seems to be the simple task of defending the Arizona environment and carrying the weight of serving others.

It has been four years since Mark Maresca retired as a high school Spanish teacher. For 30 years he taught, and now he serves again as a Desert Defender, helping Arizona in a different way.

Desert Defenders is a program that unites citizens, the Central Arizona Conservation Alliance, the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department, and surrounding conservancies to improve the state’s biodiversity and ecosystem health. The most pressing issue for the group right now is the removal of invasive plants in Arizona such as Buffelgrass and Stinknet. These species displace native plants, fuel wildfires, and threaten wildlife.

When Maresca retired from teaching in 2020 he reached out to the City of Phoenix and the Phoenix Parks and Recreation in order to volunteer in some capacity.

From picking up garbage to trail work to supervising water stations to teaching a little Spanish to other park stewards, Maresca has served at Piestewa Peak, Papago Park, and Echo Canyon.

“It’s almost a losing battle,” remarked Maresca when speaking about the need for more volunteers, especially when it comes to the removal of invasive species. “For example, at

Subscribe to Current News and Action Email Alerts



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



Energy email updates are sent once every other month.



Borderlands email updates are sent every month.



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



Wildlife email updates are sent once every other month.



Legislative updates are sent weekly during the legislative season.



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

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

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 208 776 640.

Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

EXPLORE AND ENJOY ARIZONA

JAN 4, 2025 (SAT) Time TBA. "C". Moderate Clark Spring Trail in Granite Mountain Wilderness (4.8 miles RT, EC 1047 ft). This hike starts on trail 40 and has a gradual incline to trail 37. We will hike to the small Juniper tree that has a spectacular view of Williamson and Skull valleys. We will enjoy a variety of trees and high desert flora with a seasonal stream. This hike is one of my favorites in the area. National Forest fee area. For reservations, meeting time to carpool, and place, contact leader Heidi Alton at threedogzazi@gmail.com or 480-200-5480. **PRESCOTT.** To Register: [HERE](#)



Glassford Hill, Prescott Valley.
Photo by Jenny Cobb

JAN 11, 2025 (SAT) Time TBA. "D". Mint Wash Granite Lake Loop (2.75 RT, EC 360). Pretty hike through pine, juniper, and brush downhill from Granite Basin Lake. Mint Wash Trail #345 where there are huge boulders in the wash (.75 miles). Over the hill on Trail #352 (1.5 miles with Granite Mountain views to #351 West Lake back to Granite Lake .5 miles). Longer loop available via trails #348 and #347 back to #351 (4.75 miles). Outing is subject to unforeseen winter weather. For reservations, meeting time to carpool, and place, contact leader Jenny Cobb at cobbsrun@msn.com or 928-925-1320. **PRESCOTT.** To Register: [HERE](#)



Surprise Spring and Balancing Rock Trails in Granite Basin. Photo by Jenny Cobb

FEB 8, 2025 (SAT) Time TBA. "D". Granite Dells Loop Day Hike (3.5 miles RT, EC minimum). Hobbit, Gateway, Peavine, Iron King, Tom Mix, Elisabeth Trails, Dells, boulders, creek. Longer hike available via Boblett Trail. Outing is subject to unforeseen winter weather. For reservations, meeting time to carpool, and place, contact leader Jenny Cobb at cobbsrun@msn.com or 928-925-1320. **PRESCOTT.** To Register: [HERE](#)

FEB 15, 2025 (SAT) Time TBA. "D". Willow Lake Woods Wildlife Ramble (<2 miles flat). Join our naturalist and other environmental partners for a casual hike in the woods around Willow Lake. There are always birds and evidence of other wildlife. This a favorite place for forest bathing. Bring your binoculars, cameras, snacks, and drinks. Outing is subject to unforeseen winter weather. For reservations, meeting time to carpool, and place, contact leader Jenny Cobb at cobbsrun@msn.com or 928-925-1320. **PRESCOTT.** To Register: [HERE](#)

FEB 22, 2025 (SAT) Time TBA. "C". Moderate Wolverine and Quartz Mountain loop in Prescott National Forest (4.5 mi RT, EC 997 ft). This trail starts in the suburbs of Prescott and starts as a steady steep climb

to Wolverton Mountain. The terrain then eases to bring you to the beautiful white Quartz Mountain with a variety of scenic views along the way. For reservations, meeting time to carpool, and place, contact leader Heidi Alton at threedogzazi@gmail.com or 480-200-5480. **PRESCOTT.** To Register: [HERE](#)

MAR 1, 2025 (SAT) Time TBA. "C". Agua Fria Highlands near Arcosanti Day Hike (Walk about 3 hours along river, grasslands, some roads, and trails). There are Pronghorn in the area. We will park then hike in a circle looking for Pronghorn and learning about them, other wildlife, history, and environmental issues from local advocates and naturalists. Bring your binoculars, cameras, snacks, lunch, and drinks. Outing is subject to unforeseen winter weather. For reservations, meeting time to carpool, and place, contact leader Jenny Cobb at cobbsrun@msn.com or 928-925-1320. **CORDES JUNCTION.** To Register: [HERE](#)
This field will populate automatically when the event is saved. While editing, use the Preview tab. [HERE](#)



Surprise Spring and Balancing Rock Trails in Granite Basin. Photo by Jenny Cobb

MAR 8, 2025 (SAT) Time TBA. "D". Centennial Trail Day Hike (2 miles OW or 4 miles OB EC 282). City trail through suburbs of west Prescott that meanders through boulders and canyons with great views of Prescott, rodeo grounds, Thumb Butte, and Granite Mountain. Possible to leave a vehicle at the high end where there is an interesting rock formation, or turn around back to the trailhead. Outing is subject to unforeseen winter weather. For reservations, meeting time to carpool, and place, contact leader Jenny Cobb at cobbsrun@msn.com or 928-925-1320. **PRESCOTT.** To register: [HERE](#)

MAR 29, 2025 (SAT) Time TBA. "B". Moderate Granite Mountain Trail In Granite Mountain Wilderness (8.1 RT, EC 1,663ft). Experience a challenging ascent to the "near" top of Granite Mountain. This hike has endless spectacular views of the surrounding area. Rocky terrain that includes high desert flora and ponderosa pine. National Forest fee area. For reservations, meeting time to carpool, and place, contact leader Heidi Alton at threedogzazi@gmail.com or 480-200-5480. **PRESCOTT.** To Register: [HERE](#)



Water Sentinel Russ Pilcher measuring waterflow at Perkinsville. Photo by Jenny Cobb