

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Sandy Bahr, Sierra Club | 602-253-8633 | 602-999-5790 (cell)

Protect Arizona's Future – Keep It Clean and Green

Environmental Day at the Capitol

Phoenix, AZ – On Thursday, January 22, 2015, at the Arizona State Capitol, more than 150 people from 25 different legislative districts met with their state legislators to encourage the support of environmental protection and conservation programs. This year's focus was **Protect Arizona's Future – Keep It Clean and Green**.

Constituents urged their legislators to create and continue funding for environmental agencies, habitat protection, conservation programs, and State Parks. No prior experience interacting with legislators or state leaders was necessary; all volunteer advocates were a part of team with an experienced leader. It was a great opportunity for volunteers to learn more about the legislative process, environmental issues, and how they could make a difference.

Environmental Day at the Capitol provided an opportunity for people to voice their concerns and encourage their legislators to support clean air, clean energy, and clean water.

“We had a great day at the Capitol making sure our legislators don't forget that having clean air and clean water, investing in clean energy, and protecting wildlife and public lands is critical to our future and our economy,” said Sandy Bahr, chapter director of the Sierra Club's Grand Canyon (Arizona) Chapter. “It was wonderful to see so many Arizonans at the Legislature to express strong support for keeping our state clean and green.”

Advocates also asked Governor Doug Ducey to rethink his first official action of continuing a rule-making moratorium, which would result in deeper cuts into agencies such as Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Arizona Department of Water Resources, and Arizona State Parks among others.

Volunteers began Environmental Day in the Historic Senate Chambers of the Capitol Museum where they heard from Senate Minority Leader Katie Hobbs and House Minority Leader Eric Meyer. Several other legislators were invited to join advocates for the morning program. Participants proceeded to meet with legislators and attend to committee hearings. The Arizona Interfaith Power and Light held a prayer vigil for environmental protection in the Rose Garden, west of the House of Representatives.

For more information about the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club visit:

<http://arizona.sierraclub.org/>

***Groups Participating in Environmental Day at the Capitol included
the following:***

Animal Defense League of Arizona
Arizona Ecumenical Council Earth Care Commission
Arizona Forward
Arizona Heritage Alliance
Arizona Interfaith Power and Light
Arizona Parks and Recreation Association
Chispa
Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection
Environment Arizona
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
National Parks Conservation Association
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon (Arizona) Chapter
Sky Islands High School
Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP)
UMC Southwest Desert Conference Earth Care Group
Yuma Audubon Society

