

# Annual Report

A recap of our work for our members in 2011



## To our members

**“...we will not stand by while the governor and the Legislature close or privatize our parks.”**



**Bernadette Del Chiaro**  
Western Regional  
Director

*Dear Environment Arizona member,*

*From Sedona’s Red Rocks and Four Peaks, to Canyon Lake and the Catalina Mountains, Arizona’s amazing open spaces are a big part of what makes life here so great. I’m proud to be working with you to defend the places we love and the environmental values we share—values like conserving water and energy where we can, replacing dirty fuel with cleaner power sources, and preserving our amazing natural heritage for future generations to enjoy. Together, we’ve made some important progress.*



**Rob Sargent**  
Energy Program  
Director

*In 2011, thousands of Environment Arizona supporters made clear that we will not stand by while the governor and the Legislature close or privatize our parks. You also helped win an amazing victory for the Grand Canyon: no new toxic mining claims for 20 years, the maximum moratorium allowed by law.*

*In the coming months we’ll continue to fight for our state parks, to protect Arizonans’ drinking water, and to get our state to 10 percent solar power by 2020.*



**John Rumpler**  
Water &  
Preservation  
Program Director

*This work is tough, but the rewards are enormous. Thank you for the crucial role you play in preserving Arizona’s beauty and natural resources for future generations to enjoy.*

*Sincerely,*

**Bret Fanshaw**  
Policy Advocate



# Grand Canyon protected

The Grand Canyon is one of the world's natural wonders. Its painted cliffs stretch out for miles above the winding Colorado River, providing a breathtaking experience for millions of visitors each year. It's far too precious to risk contaminating with toxic waste, so we fought to keep new uranium mining operations away from the park's borders—and won.

## A million acres off-limits to new mining

In 2009, with 1,100 toxic mining claims staked near the borders of Grand Canyon National Park, Environment Arizona helped convince the Obama administration to establish a two-year moratorium on new mining and to study the environmental impact of uranium mining near the canyon. In 2011, we helped extend the moratorium for 20 years—the maximum allowed by law.

Advocate Bret Fanshaw worked with Rep. Raúl Grijalva to organize more than 60 members of Congress to sign a letter to the Obama administration, urging full protection. We submitted a second letter signed by more than 50 Southwestern local officials.

Environment Arizona and our allies helped deliver more than 300,000 public comments urging Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to extend the mining moratorium. We also released a report showing that every uranium mining site in the U.S. has required some degree of toxic cleanup.



Environment Arizona's Bret Fanshaw worked with Rep. Raul Grijalva (top, left) to help convince Interior Secretary Ken Salazar (bottom) to protect the Grand Canyon.



# Saving our state parks

From Slide Rock in Sedona to Lost Dutchman and the Catalina Mountains, our state parks are places to experience nature and history, and for wildlife to find refuge; they also contribute millions in tourism revenue. In 2011, our efforts helped get two state parks reopened and privatization off the table—for now.

## Two parks reopened, privatization measure blocked

In 2011, our campaign to save state parks became one of Environment Arizona's best to date. Our citizen outreach team got out into neighborhoods and built support to keep state parks open by speaking to thousands of Arizonans at their doorsteps in Phoenix, Tucson, Tempe, Flagstaff, Sedona and many other communities statewide.

Throughout the year, Environment Arizona spoke to more than 45,000 Arizonans about keeping our state parks open and public. In that time, we helped 2,000 people send messages to Gov. Jan Brewer and the Legislature, urging them to keep our parks open and in public hands.

Over the course of the year, some parks reopened temporarily; others operated on limited schedules—and we alerted thousands of Arizonans to the budget tricks in Phoenix that were causing all this trouble.

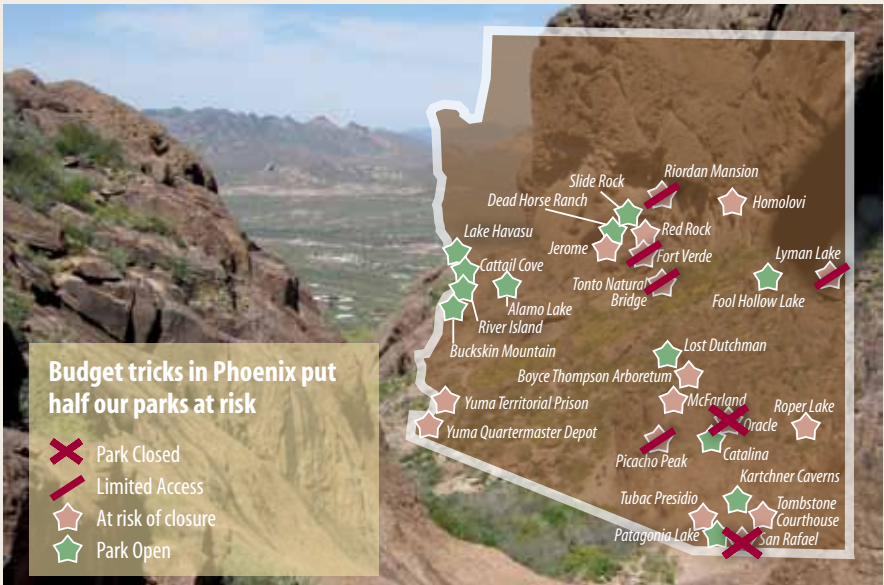
We also successfully fought proposals from the Legislature and governor to privatize some state parks in the 2011 legislative session. Many Arizonans wrote in opposition to leasing our public lands out to private operators for profit and, ultimately, these proposals were rescinded.

## Our advocacy in Phoenix helped build support for parks

The first step to saving our parks is to end the raids on voter-approved park funding. In 2011, Environment Arizona put some crucial pieces in place to do just that, winning lawmakers' commitments to keep our parks open and in public hands.

Leading up to the start of the 2011 legislative session, Advocate Bret Fanshaw urged state leaders to support a strong parks system, meeting with Senate President Steve Pierce, Senate Minority Leader David Schapira, House Environment Committee Chair Amanda Reeve, House Minority Leader Chad Campbell and the office of House Speaker Andy Tobin.

"There seems to be support in both parties for protecting park funding," Fanshaw said. "But it's clear to me from these meetings that public input will continue to be vital to ensure that decision-makers act in the best interest of our parks."





# Getting Arizona off oil

The environmental costs of our oil dependence are out of control—from accidents and spills, to smog, to climate change. It's time to set Arizona on a path to getting off oil for good. We fought unsuccessfully to preserve Arizona's pioneering clean cars standards, but we also helped double fuel-efficiency standards nationwide.

## Setback at home; big win in D.C.

Arizona's clean car standards, which we helped win back in 2008, have been instrumental in reducing oil consumption and putting electric vehicles on the road. We rallied public support and testified in Phoenix to preserve the standards, but the Brewer administration ultimately repealed them.

Though Arizona's clean cars law is off the books for now, it helped pave the way for historic progress on the federal level. This past summer, after we and our allies mobilized 10,000 people to voice support for clean cars, the Obama administration announced:

- New clean car standards equivalent to 54.5 miles per gallon will make super-efficient cars the norm by 2025.
- The first-ever standard for trucks, announced at the same time, will save more than 20 billion gallons of gasoline by 2018.



Environment Arizona's Federal Global Warming Program Director Nathan Willcox thanks President Obama for raising fuel efficiency standards to 54.5 mpg by 2025.



# Going solar in Arizona

Too much of our energy comes from dirty sources that harm our environment. But by tapping the power of the sun and wind, and using less energy in the first place, we can repower our lives with clean energy that doesn't pollute and never runs out.

## Arizona ranked 3rd for solar jobs

Last fall, Environment Arizona released a report showing that Arizona has the third most solar-related jobs in the country, with an estimated 4,786 people employed by 980 separate companies. Nationwide, only California and Colorado have more people working in the solar industry, which is growing 10 times faster than other sectors of the economy.

The new data came from an analysis by The Solar Foundation, a non-profit solar education and research organization.

Gov. Jan Brewer, the Arizona Solar Energy Industries Association and First Solar joined Environment Arizona in making the announcement.

In December, hundreds of Environment Arizona supporters urged the Arizona Corporation Commission to extend incentives for solar power. Unfortunately, the ACC chose not to act, but we succeeded in showing strong support for solar.



# Protecting Arizona's drinking water

In the last decade, two polluter-driven U.S. Supreme Court decisions left nearly all of the Arizona's waterways vulnerable to pollution and development—putting the drinking water for 3.2 million Arizonans at risk. After years of effort by Environment Arizona and our allies, the Environmental Protection Agency moved to restore crucial clean water protections.

## EPA moved to restore Clean Water Act

In April, 2011, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson announced a plan to restore Clean Water Act protections to all of our rivers, streams and wetlands. Her decision came after years of research, advocacy and activism from Environment Arizona, our supporters and our national federation.

As polluting industries pushed to weaken legal safeguards for Arizona's drinking water, and some members of Congress moved to block the Environmental Protection Agency from doing its job, we delivered a firm response: Don't mess with Arizona's water.

More than 500 Environment Arizona members emailed Sens. Jon Kyl and John McCain, urging them not to let polluters thwart the EPA's plan to protect our drinking water. We also joined with our allies to send more than 100,000 comments to the EPA in support of clean water protections.



**EPA Administrator  
Lisa Jackson**

"...we are at a point where we have to remind some leaders in Washington to put the health of their constituents above the wish lists of special interests. Speaking directly to those who want to undermine commonsense environmental protections is one of the best ways to stand up for your right to clean air and clean water."





# Making our air cleaner, families healthier

We should be able to breathe the air and drink the water without worrying about what toxins we're taking in. Yet coal-fired power plants like Navajo Generating Station spew hundreds of thousands of pounds of mercury into our atmosphere every year. In 2011, we helped win commonsense standards to protect our health.

## Mercury emissions cut 90 percent

In December, the Environmental Protection Agency finalized new rules to cut mercury emissions by 91 percent—a huge victory, given mercury's toxic effects on how kids think, learn and behave. Studies show that one in ten women of childbearing age has enough mercury in her bloodstream to put her child at risk of health effects should she become pregnant.

Environment Arizona's national federation helped deliver more than 800,000 public comments to the EPA in favor of the mercury rule—a show of strong support that will be vital as the EPA fights back against attempts by Congress to block clean air rules.

Our federal staff released two reports on the health impacts of smog and mercury pollution, which also detailed how much pollution is emitted by power plants nationwide.



Our research helped shine a media spotlight on the dangers mercury pollution poses to pregnant women and children.



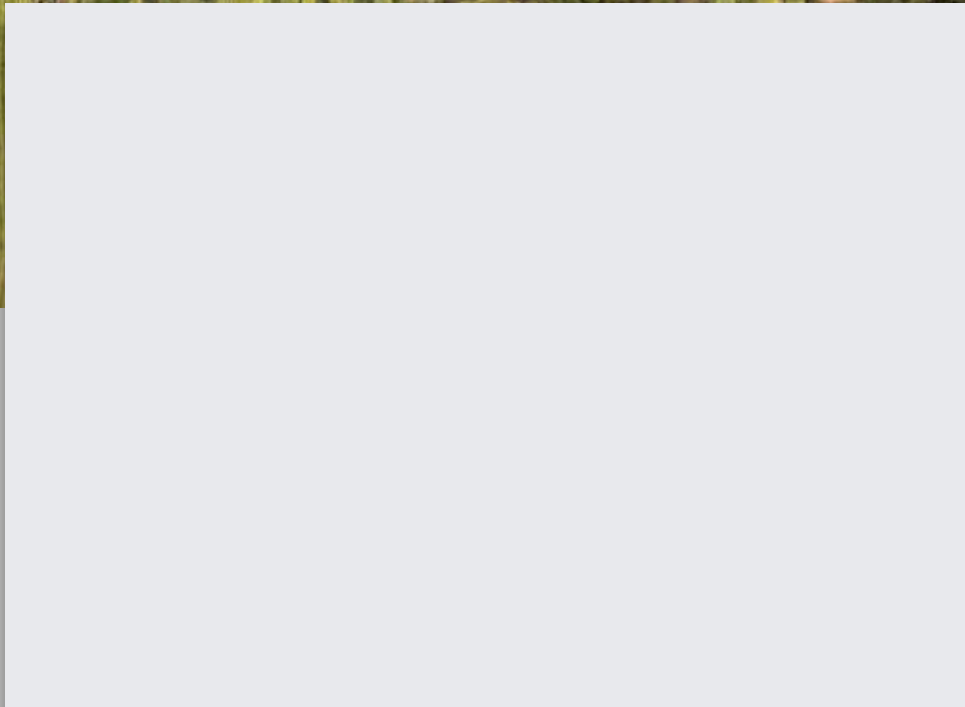
## Environment Arizona support

Citizen support is the cornerstone of Environment Arizona. Thousands of Arizona citizens supported Environment Arizona and the Environment Arizona Research & Policy Center by making membership contributions in 2011. The members listed below were particularly generous in backing the organizations' research and advocacy. Names that appear in italics denote monthly supporters. These members provide stability to the organizations' resources through our monthly giving program.



### Planning for a cleaner, greener, healthier future

Environment Arizona and Environment Arizona Research & Policy Center gratefully accept bequests, beneficiary designations of IRAs and life insurance, and gifts of securities to support our work. Your gift will assure that we can continue to protect Arizona's air, water and open spaces for future generations. For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 or send an email to: [plannedgiving@EnvironmentArizona.org](mailto:plannedgiving@EnvironmentArizona.org).



Environment Arizona Research & Policy Center is a 501(c)(3) organization. We are dedicated to protecting our air, water and open spaces. We investigate problems, craft solutions, educate the public and decision-makers, and help the public make their voices heard in local, state and national debates over the quality of our environment and our lives.

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Contributions to the Environment Arizona Research & Policy Center are tax-deductible.  
To find out more, contact Bret Fanshaw at (602) 252-9225.

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# 2011 Annual Report

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