



Winter Report

EPA urged to protect Arizona drinking water

As Congress stalls, we urge EPA to lead on clean water

For more than a year, lobbyists for polluting industries have blocked legislation to restore the Clean Water Act. With action at a standstill on Capitol Hill, Environment Arizona is pushing the Environmental Protection Agency to step in and restore full protections to the streams that feed our water supply.

94 percent of streams unprotected

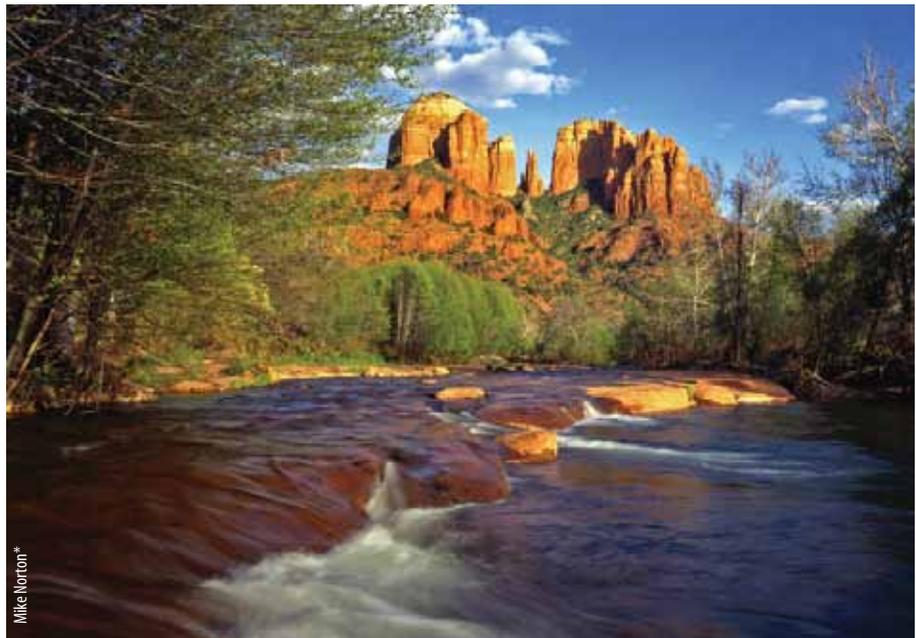
Recent Supreme Court decisions have weakened the Clean Water Act and cast doubt on protections for almost all of Arizona's streams, including waters that feed into the water supply of 800,000 Arizonans. Without these protections, polluters can dump waste with impunity. Ultimately, our drinking water pays the price.

And it's a price our water can ill afford to pay. Over the last six years, 1 million people have decided to make Arizona their home, and water levels in Lake Mead are already at historic lows.

Thousands support EPA action

With the health of Arizona's water supply at risk, it's more important than ever that our leaders in Washington, D.C., restore the Clean Water Act. But with no congressional action in sight, our staff and members are urging the EPA to get involved.

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson is considering a new clean water initiative, saying that the EPA would "consider administrative action to restore the Clean Water Act protections to wetlands and



Mike Norton*

▲ Coconino National Forest.

headwater streams that provide clean water for human and ecological uses."

But with anti-environment members of Congress itching to hamstring the EPA, and well-connected polluters lobbying against strong protections, the EPA needs

all the public support we can muster. We've banded together with our sister groups across the country to rally thousands of people nationwide to send the EPA a message: Americans want strong protections for our waters.



Staff

more online

◀ [Environment Arizona's Bret Fanshaw](#)

Links to additional content are posted in the online version of the newsletter: www.EnvironmentArizona.org/newsletters/winter11



To our members

A few weeks ago, I had a chance to get out of the office and visit Lost Dutchman State Park.

A friend was in from out of town, and I just wanted to show him what raw, natural Arizona beauty is all about: Rolling red and green desert, the sudden dramatic rise of the rock, an endless expanse of cloudless sky.

Gov. Wesley Bolin helped make Lost Dutchman a park because this is a place that all of us can share—with our friends, our children and our grandchildren. It's a commitment that binds Arizonans from one generation to the next.

But with Gov. Brewer threatening to close or privatize our state parks, this commitment is being called into question. If we want to share some of the best places in Arizona with the next generation, we need to stand up and take action.

Thanks for keeping us in the fight.

David Rogers

Recent action

Report: Odd weather patterns linked to warming

From tornadoes in Minnesota, to blizzards in Virginia, to monsoons and dust storms here in Arizona, strange weather has pummeled the entire United States for several years. Environment Arizona released a report, "Global Warming and Extreme Weather," that outlines how, if global warming worsens as experts have predicted, these strange weather patterns could become the new norm.

"2010's dust storms were just one example of how extreme weather causes extremely big problems for Arizona's economy and our public safety," said Bret Fanshaw, Environment Arizona's environmental associate. "Given that unchecked global warming will likely fuel even more severe weather, we need to start cutting global warming pollution now."

Building on the attention our report won, Environment Arizona continued our work at the state and federal level to make sure our leaders take the necessary steps to reduce global warming pollution.

Solar puts nearly 4,000 to work in Arizona

The solar industry is growing. According to a report released by Environment Arizona this fall, the industry employs roughly 3,800 workers in the state. In Arizona, there are now 230 different solar companies helping to fuel this rise in jobs.

"We are on the way to tapping the sun's potential, generating pollution-free energy and a tremendous number of good, green jobs along the way," said Bret Fanshaw of Environment Arizona.

The report, produced by the Solar Foundation and Green LMI Consulting, found that solar employers expect to create a total of nearly 24,000 net new jobs nationwide by August 2011.

GREEN CENTURY FUNDS
 AN INVESTMENT FOR YOUR FUTURE
 TO LEARN ABOUT ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE MUTUAL FUNDS
 CALL 800-93-GREEN OR VISIT WWW.GREENCENTURY.COM

Before investing, carefully consider the risks. Investments involve risks, charges and expenses. Contact Green Century for a prospectus that contains this and other information. Please read it carefully before investing. Investments are not FDIC insured, nor are they deposits of or guaranteed by a bank or any other entity, so they may lose value.
 Distributed by UMB Distribution Services, LLC 4/10



▲ There are now 230 solar companies operating in Arizona.

Report: As Park visits rise, funds are being cut

First, the good news: Nearly 88,000 more people visited the Petrified Forest National Park in 2009 than in years past. Walnut Canyon National Monument saw a 26 percent increase in visitors in 2009.

What's the bad news? Even as the number of visitors to Arizona national park sites is on the rise, these great places and others face budget cuts in the coming year—leaving them with fewer resources for maintenance, upkeep and stewardship. An Environment Arizona report, titled "The Best of America Under Threat from Underfunding," exposed the growing threat that funding shortfalls pose to parks like the Petrified Forest and Walnut Canyon.

"Last year, visitors poured into these great parks to go hiking, camping and exploring" said Environment Arizona's Bret Fanshaw. "Yet just as their popularity grows, they are under threat from underfunding."

Petrified Forest: Up 16% visits, down on money

The Petrified Forest has taken on renewed importance for Arizonans as the recession squeezes family vacation budgets—leading to the nearly 88,000 increase in visits in 2009. But despite the growing number of visitors, the National Park Service's proposed budget for the coming fiscal year would cut the park's operating budget. The Petrified Forest relies on these funds to hire park rangers, keep park facilities and trails properly maintained, and pay for popular programs like camping—so budget cuts will make it even harder for park stewards to keep the park in good shape.

The remarkable Painted Desert landscape contains one of the world's largest and most colorful concentrations of petrified wood. Many visitors explore the unique landscape from vistas along the park road. Those feeling a bit more adventurous hike along park trails or venture into the trail-less wilderness area. Other visitors travel

the park by horseback. Around the park, park rangers lead walks and programs on the park's incredible history and geology. Along the Giant Logs Trail rangers teach visitors how once-living trees turned to stone, while on the Puerco Pueblo Trail rangers lead walks to an ancestral home of the Pueblopeople.

"Now is the time for protecting these great places," said Fanshaw. "Instead, they face painful cuts which could delay maintenance, lead to fewer rangers being hired, or force cutbacks on programs."

Growing popularity, shrinking budgets

The threats confronting Arizona's parks are also being replicated around the country. Environment Arizona's report reveals that nationwide, two-thirds of national parks saw their visitorship climb in 2009, including parks in nearly every state. However, almost three-quarters of these increasingly popular parks are facing budget cuts in 2011.



THE BEST OF AMERICA
UNDER THREAT FROM UNDERFUNDING
NATIONAL PARKS RECEIVING MORE VISITORS AND LESS MONEY

research

Best of America: Under threat
You can read the whole report
"Best of America: Under threat from
underfunding" on our website. Go to
www.EnvironmentArizona.org/reports.



How many turkeys can you buy at 60 mpg?

With the Obama administration considering a new round of fuel efficiency standards for cars and trucks as millions of us took to the road last Thanksgiving, Alex Wall, an associate with Environment Arizona's Washington, D.C., office, got to wondering: How much money would Arizonans save if we drove ultra-efficient cars that traveled 60 miles per gallon, instead of the current 26.4 mpg average?

After crunching the numbers, Alex came up with an answer: A cool \$5.2 million. That's enough money to put hundreds of thousands of turkeys on holiday tables. That's 1.7 million gallons of oil savings in Arizona alone.

And that's just one more reason—along with our desire to help get Arizona off oil and reduce our state's carbon footprint—that Environment Arizona is joining along with members of our national federation and other environmental advocates, in calling for new government rules that will ensure that by 2025 the average car sold in the United States will go 60 miles per gallon.

The roadmap isn't simple, but it is clear: Step one, we need to make cars that go farther on a gallon of gas. Step two, we need to produce new homegrown fuels that emit far less pollution. Step three: We need to expand bus lines, light rail, and fast trains that shorten our commute times and make our communities more livable.



Download our report on
the benefits of cleaner fuels.

130 N. Central Ave, Ste. 202,
Phoenix AZ, 85004
602-252-9225

Environment Arizona

Address service requested

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BROCKTON, MA
PERMIT NO. 430



Winter Report

VOLUME 5 | NO. 1 | 2011

Environment Arizona

Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind Environment Arizona. We focus exclusively on protecting Arizona's air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

Save our state parks!

Stretching from the cool rivers of Slide Rock to Kartchner Caverns' majestic throne rooms, state parks embody the story of Arizona. So why would we want to bar the gates, or even worse, "privatize" parks?

With 2.3 million visitors each year, our parks bring in \$266 million each year in tourism yet only cost \$75 million to run. But after major cuts from the Legislature last year, four parks have been shut down completely and 12 more are at serious risk of closure. The situation has gotten so bad that some are proposing to lease the parks to private owners. Environment Arizona has launched a new effort to unite thousands of Arizonans and businesses to call on the Legislature to keep the parks open and in public hands. We're working to create an optional vehicle license fee that allow those who pay the optional fee to enter all Arizona state parks.



Staff

Four of Arizona's state parks are closed:

- Homolovi Ruins
- Oracle
- McFarland
- Lyman Lake

Fort Verde, Jerome, Riordan Mansion and Tonto National Bridge state parks are closed two days a week. Without action, more parks are expected to close.