

Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited

2018 Annual Activities and Accomplishments:



Expanding and Improving
Arizona's Native and Wild
Trout Fisheries

www.az-tu.org

Selected Highlights Report

- **The 9th Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference was hosted together with AZGFD with a record attendance of 155 registrations representing 57 various agencies and organizations from multiple states.**
- The AZTU **Trout-In-the-Classroom** project (TIC) (www.aztic.org) continues to expand its presence throughout the state. Greatly facilitated by grants from Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) AZ Conservation License Plate Fund and others and in cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), all chapters have maintained the TIC Program in 34 Classrooms statewide. TIC continues to directly involve **over 4,000 New students annually** who experience the challenges involved in raising fish from eggs through the school year.
- Several **AZTU members** received significant recognitions for their leadership efforts: The AZGF Commissioner's Conservationist of the Year Award for 2018, The Trout Unlimited National Stream Champion Award, and election to the Trout Unlimited National Leadership Council Chairmanship.
- **Tonto National Forest Management Plan:** With AZGFD and the Tonto NF Planning Team and their Technical Partners Group, campaigned for, helped plan, and sponsored a major Aquatics Resources field trip on Haigler Creek and Canyon Creek. Stream restoration work recently done there over several years by AZGFD and Natural Channel Design Co provided a variety of restoration tools to demonstrate management and tools for the Planning Team and other Volunteers.
- TU Volunteers and staff continued to participate on the **Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) Stakeholders Group** and Work Groups, to help launch Water & Aquatics Resources Restoration and Monitoring techniques for the Rim Country EIS; TU staff and volunteers contributed equipment and volunteer hours related to forest restoration valued by USFS at approximately \$80,000 during FY 2018. With 4FRI, Actively Campaigned with Arizona Corporation Commission for continuation and expansion of Forest Restoration Biomass based Electrical Power Generation in the State.
- **Lees Ferry – Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program** – The Recreational Fishing Representatives sponsored by AZTU secured extension of the comment period and additional public meetings in the Phoenix area on scoping for an NPS proposed Environment Assessment for managing invasive species, especially Brown Trout, in the Lees Ferry Rainbow Trout Fishery area. These actions and their awareness campaign helped generate more than 400 EA comment submissions. AZTU also advertised the Regional Priority of the **Lees Ferry Rainbow Trout Fishery**, pictured below:



Gila Trout

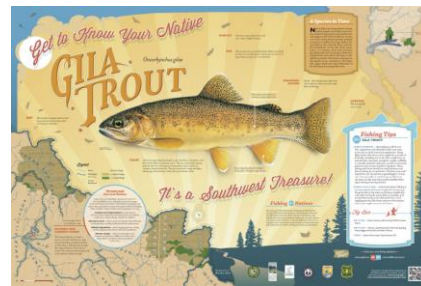
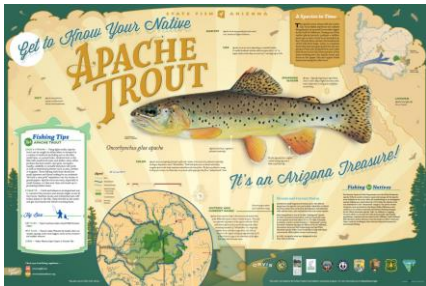
Grand Canyon

Old Pueblo

Zane Grey

Other Continuing Activities

- **Major Arizona Conservation Events:** The AZ Council was again a Gold Sponsor for the Arizona Game and Fish Annual Commissioner's January 2018 Awards Banquet, with a large delegation of Council members in attendance. The Council also again sponsored the AZSFWC fund-raising banquet, and participated in the First Annual AZGFD Volunteer Luncheon.
- Continued distribution of **Apache Trout** and **Gila Trout** information Posters with Life History, Range and Conservation Status. These posters have helped raise the awareness of Arizona's Native Trout.



- **Grants** were received by the Council and/or Chapters from: AZSFWC for TIC and for the 9th Annual NWTC, and The Western Native Trout Initiative for Apache & Gila Trout Posters.
- **Continued** Chapter Based "**Restore**" and "**Protect**" Project Works on the ground & waters:
 - Lakes / Tanks Restoration in Flagstaff area - Grand Canyon TU / Northern AZ Fly Casters
 - Streams Restoration and monitoring in White Mountains Area - Old Pueblo TU in cooperation with the Apache-Sitgreaves NF
 - Stream Temperature Monitoring Project Continued - Gila Trout TU / Payson Fly Casters in cooperation with AZGFD, the 4FRI Team, and the Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino and Tonto National Forests.
- Long Term Continuation of **Outreach & Advocacy** Efforts by Council and all Chapters:
 - Formed an **AZTU Public Policy Committee** to: Engage elected officials, political candidates, governmental agency leaders and other organizations that advocate for clean water, to promote public policy that will conserve, protect and restore Arizona's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.
 - **Continued Diversity, Youth and Women's Initiatives;** Zane Grey - A Stream Girls Program with the Girl Scouts, All Chapters - Project Healings Waters Veterans activities; Gila Trout / Payson Fly Casters Youth Initiative – Multiple Elementary School and now expanded to Middle School Fly Fishing classes.
 - **Legislative Days** with Arizona Wildlife Federation, Western Rivers Action Network, and others.
- **Continued Native Trout Recovery Successes**, Assisting with repeated AZGFD Gila Trout Stockings on: West Fork Oak Creek, Dude Creek and Chase Creek, and with NO New LOSSES – There were No Native Gila or Apache Trout Stream Losses to Fire in 2018.
- **And finally, FY 2018 Volunteer Hours Contributed through Council and Chapters once again increased by over 14,000 hours, bringing the 9-year total to over 89,000 hours, with a 9 Year Total \$ value of well more than \$1.9 Million Dollars.**