



Safari Trails

SCI Arizona

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Annual fundraiser is June 2

Hello Sportsmen,

The Arizona Chapter of Safari Club International is having their Banquet/fundraiser on Saturday, June 2, at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in the Foothills of Tucson. For those of you who have never been to the Resort, it is one of the top resorts in the country, with 36 holes of golf and a Five Diamond restaurant.

For any of you who may not have received an invitation, one is included on page 4 of this issue. In addition to supporting the chapter and preparing a plated filet dinner for our guests, the Resort is offering a \$99 room rate per night for anyone who may like to stay over on Friday or Saturday nights and make a weekend of it, maybe enjoy a massage at the Spa, or play golf on one of two championship courses...

Space is limited for the reduced-rate rooms, so please respond if you are interested in taking advantage of this offer.

I am the former President of the Chapter, and current Board Member, and I also work at the resort, so I am happy to assist you if you have any questions or would like directions.

We appreciate your support, and please give the details of our fundraiser to anyone you know who might like to attend.

Martin Charlton, CMP



Last year the chapter's annual banquet provided \$17,000 for Safari Club International. Bobby Boido, left, presented that check on behalf of the chapter's members later.

Time to apply for Arizona big game permits

PHOENIX—Arizona big game hunters can now download a copy of the 2007-2008 Hunting and Trapping Regulations and apply online at azgfd.gov for the available fall big game hunts or they can apply manually by mail.

The printed copies of the regulations were mailed to license dealers throughout the state on May 16 and should be available at stores. You

Deadline for big game applications is June 12 at 7 p.m.

can also simply download a PDF copy of the regulation pamphlet from the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Web site at azgfd.gov/draw.

Don't forget: the hunt application deadline is June 12 at 7 p.m., (MST). Postmarks do not count.

Those applying via the paper hunt permit-tag application form have a grace period; if a submitted paper application contains an error and is received by May 30, the department will make three attempts within a 24-hour period to notify the applicant by telephone, if indeed a telephone number is provided on the application.

No grace period is needed for the online process, which allows hunters the assurance of entering a correct and complete application when submission occurs.

Those desiring to play the odds can get a compilation of past hunt draw and hunt successes in the "Hunt Arizona Booklet," which is available free online at azgfd.gov/draw. "Hunt Arizona" is also available for \$6 as a printed and bound book from all department offices or you can order it by mail at azgfd.gov/publications.

Don't forget that the small game seasons were set by the commission last year for a two-year period. As part of this two-year process, the department will be conducting hunt guideline meetings across the state in June. The exact meeting dates and locations should be available soon.

Also keep in mind that this is the first year for an early draw on elk and antelope. The draw has already taken place for those two species. Now hunters already know whether or not they have been drawn for those two species prior to applying for other fall hunts.

This might be a good time to pencil a date into your planner for 2008: it is anticipated that the next draw deadline for pronghorn antelope and elk hunts will be Feb. 12, 2008.

Yellowstone grizzlies taken off the Endangered Species list

After nearly disappearing three decades ago, grizzly bears are thriving in the Yellowstone ecosystem and no longer need the protection of the Endangered Species Act, Deputy Interior Secretary Lynn Scarlett announced today.

"The grizzly's remarkable comeback is the result of years of intensive cooperative recovery efforts between federal and state agencies, conservation groups, and individuals," Scarlett said. "There is simply no way to overstate what an amazing accomplishment this is. The grizzly is a large predator that requires a great deal of space, and conserving such animals is a challenge in today's world. I believe all Americans should be proud that, as a nation, we had the will and the ability to protect and restore this symbol of the wild."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is removing the Yellowstone population of grizzly bears from its status as "threatened" on the U.S. list of threatened and endangered species. Four other grizzly populations in the lower 48 states have not yet recovered and will continue to be protected as threatened species under the Act.

Grizzly numbers in the Yellowstone ecosystem have increased from an estimated population of 136 to 312 when they were listed as threatened in 1975, to more than 500 bears today.

Yellowstone grizzlies will now be managed under a comprehensive conservation strategy



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

developed by state and federal scientists and managers that includes intensive monitoring of Yellowstone bears, their food, and their habitat. The conservation strategy incorporates the best available science and allows state and federal agencies to adjust management in response to new scientific information or environmental and bear population changes. State and federal managers will continue to work cooperatively

under this framework to manage and maintain healthy grizzly bear populations throughout the Greater Yellowstone area.

"This comprehensive conservation strategy, agreed to by all state and federal players involved in grizzly recovery, will ensure that the future of the bear remains bright," Scarlett noted.

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