



Protecting Arizona's Land, Air and Water

Arizona is an amazing land! Arizonans see our State's natural beauty and open spaces as our greatest asset. Arizona landscapes matter to us – both economically and emotionally. It is important that future growth and development respect our passion for the quality of life made possible by Arizona's unique environment.

Arizona has amazing scenic resources – from the San Pedro River to the San Francisco Peaks. From the Sonoran Desert to the crown jewel of our national park system, the Grand Canyon. We are privileged beyond measure to have these awe-inspiring places in our state. While we have been good stewards of our lands, there is more we can and must do to protect our scenic wonders, as well as our air and water.

As a native Arizonan, I will always fight to protect our natural heritage for our children and generations to come. As Governor, I will promote a new model of sustainability. That means:

- Providing pure drinking water for our communities
- Limiting groundwater overdrafts
- Protecting the base-flow for rivers and streams to support the vegetation and wildlife that depend on them
- Being more energy efficient
- Promoting renewable energy resources.
- Recommitting to protecting sensitive lands
- Keeping our state parks open and thriving.

Air Quality

Poor air quality plagues many Arizona communities, but nowhere is the air quality worse than it is in the state's largest metropolitan area. The Phoenix metropolitan area is a nonattainment area, meaning it does not meet the federal health-based standards, for both ozone and coarse particulates, referred to as PM₁₀. The failure to take aggressive actions to improve air quality puts at risk our health as well as well as our economy and federal highway dollars.

The Phoenix area failed to meet its deadline for reducing PM₁₀ pollution by the end of 2006 and therefore has had to develop a special plan to reduce particulates by five percent per

year or risk losing federal highway dollars. People continue to breathe unhealthy levels of particulates. The elderly, children, and those with respiratory or other health issues are at greatest risk relative to particulate pollution.

Ozone is a problem and is at its worst during the hot summer months. Ozone is formed when sunlight and oxygen reacts with volatile organic compounds emitted from vehicles, industry, and other sources. Transportation is the number one contributor to ozone pollution. Because of the weather patterns, areas in the northeast valley of the Phoenix area, such as Fountain Hills, suffer most from this pollution. Ozone damages lung tissue by reacting chemically with it and prematurely aging the lungs. Exposure to ozone increases the risk of asthma attacks and reduces lung function. Metropolitan Phoenix is one of the top five U.S. cities for asthma-related mortality.

Measures must be adopted to improve and protect our air quality, including the following:

- Keeping the Clean Car Standard adopted by Arizona and 13 other states
- An indirect source review program for development. Instead of focusing only on the pollution caused by construction activities alone, indirect source review addresses the pollution caused by the resulting use. Developers must develop onsite measures to reduce pollution generated by the completed development including bicycle paths and pedestrian friendly development, mixed land use, increased energy efficiency, and accommodations for transit.
- Assist with developing land use patterns that promote more livable communities that promote walking and biking and “Safe Routes to School.”
- Promote transit statewide.

We must all do our part by driving less, limiting engine idling, refueling after 4pm, and driving more fuel-efficient vehicles.

Water Resources

Water is precious in our desert state and we must respect it as the critical resource it is. Without an assured water supply, all Arizona investment is at risk and further growth in jeopardy. We must continue and perfect our tradition of careful planning and continual monitoring of our water resources so they can support our environment and our economy.

Rivers such as the Verde provide drinking water, support recreation and provide habitat for a variety of a wildlife species. Water diversions and excessive groundwater pumping threaten our rivers however. In fact, riparian areas – the streamside vegetation supported by rivers and streams – are some of our most threatened and important ecosystems. Groundwater pumping threatens the San Pedro River, the Verde River and the seeps and springs in the Grand Canyon. Keeping water in the rivers provides important habitat, but it also helps support tourism and recreation. Tourism affects one in five jobs in Arizona, directly and indirectly.

Actions to protect our water in Arizona must include:

- Strengthening protections for rivers and streams by limiting groundwater pumping in areas where it will deplete them.
- Protecting in-stream flows to maintain support for wildlife and riparian zones.
- Create incentives for conservation, recharge, reuse, the use of gray water, and where appropriate rainwater harvesting.
- Carefully revisit the Groundwater Management Act of 1980 and make sure that, as we grow, we are growing in a sustainable fashion and meeting the needs of rural Arizona
- Promote efforts to protect and carefully use Arizona's Colorado River water supply. Arizona's share of Colorado River water is in large part dependent on the level of Lake Mead, which has dropped dramatically in the last several years.

Protecting Arizona's State Trust Lands

Arizona retains more than 9.2 million acres of state trust land, the remainder of the more than 10 million acres originally given by the United States government upon statehood. The main beneficiary of state trust lands is the public school system. Additional beneficiaries include universities and state hospitals. When state trust land is sold, the money gained by the state benefits these entities. The trust lands must be managed to produce the highest economic benefit for the beneficiaries.

While State trust lands currently provide a very small percentage of the annual funding for public education, it is a dedicated source of revenues and better managed can make a critical difference. Any dollars that are generated above the FY2001 levels (about \$72 million) go into the Classroom Site Fund.

As Arizona's population grows we must balance the sale of state trust land for development against the lands' value as open space, recreational land, and wildlife habitat.

Arizona needs State Trust Land reform to put it more in line with the needs of the 21st century.

We need to enact measures to:

- Protect key state trust lands while protecting the trust beneficiaries. Among the lands that should be conserved are: Grand Canyon Scenic Corridor, Superstition Mountains, Verde River, San Pedro River, McDowell Sonoran Preserve, Picacho Peak State Park, Walnut Canyon National Monument, and Tortolita Fan and Mountain Park.
- Clarify constitutional questions regarding the Arizona Preserve Initiative (API), so local communities can acquire state trust lands for conservation, while ensuring protection of the trust.
- Reject Proposition 301, which was referred to the ballot by to the Legislature to swipe \$124 million from the Land Conservation Fund and divert it to the General Fund. The

Land Conservation Fund was approved by the voters to provide funding for the conservation of state trust lands.

- Require the State to prepare plans to develop state trust lands with the cooperation of the county, city or town in which the lands are located.

Heritage Fund

In 1990, Arizona voters passed the Arizona Heritage Fund into law by a decisive two-to-one margin. The Heritage Fund provided funding from lottery proceeds for protection of habitat for Arizona's wildlife; support for historic preservation and preservation of archaeological sites; created and improved community and state parks; promoted a statewide trail system; and provided funding for environmental education. The law said that \$10 million dollars per year would be allocated to State Parks and \$10 million dollars per year to the Game and Fish Department.

Since its passage, thousands of school children throughout the state benefited from Heritage Fund "schoolyard grants" and the creation of dozens of community parks. The Heritage Fund provided lottery dollars for many miles of trails and acquisition of important habitat for endangered and threatened species. Kartchner Caverns State Park received significant funding from the Heritage Fund.

Unfortunately, in this last legislative session, the Governor and Legislature repealed the parks portion of the Heritage Fund. Not only did they take the money, they repealed the fund itself. We must reinstate this important, voter-approved public resource and continue the rich Arizona tradition of support for our parks and wildlife programs.

Smart Energy Solutions

Arizona has been at or near the top in population growth in our country. In addition to the many other challenges this rapid growth has presented – air and water quality impacts, overcommitted water supplies, and loss of wildlife habitat – the rapid growth also increases the demand for electricity. Most of Arizona's electricity is generated from coal, nuclear, and natural gas. There is a great opportunity in our state to mitigate the impacts of these polluting sources of energy production by seeking to increase energy efficiency, conserve energy, and invest in renewable energy resources, such as solar and wind.

We must create an environment that will allow Arizona to become the "OPEC" for clean, renewable energy. Alternative energy will create new jobs for the long term and enhance our national security by reducing our dependence on oil from unfriendly foreign governments. Investing in renewable energy sources and energy efficiency will not only reduce air and water pollution, as well as greenhouse gas emissions, but it will lower consumer energy bills, spur economic development and create new jobs.

In Arizona, we can get the biggest bang for our buck by setting standards for efficiency to encourage high performance buildings. Ensuring that a significant portion of new home and

commercial building construction is more efficient and setting a date certain by which we will achieve that goal will provide enormous benefits to our state and reduce our energy consumption.

Arizona should:

- Enact legislation that establishes model energy efficiency building codes for new residential and commercial construction.
- Promote Legislation that supports the Corporation Commissions leadership in the renewable energy standard that requires electric utilities to generate a minimum of 15% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025.

Save Our State Parks

Arizona's state parks are an extraordinary collection of natural areas, historic places and archaeological sites. We must be better stewards of these amazing treasures. Our state parks should stay open and our state park system must not be destroyed.

Public open space is critical to the well-being of Arizonans and to our future quality of life. Access to parks and other public lands affects the health of our community and, in particular, our children. Our parks provide informal learning environments that compliment and add value to in-school learning.

Keeping our state parks open is good business. Parks are an important part of bringing tourist dollars to our state. According to Northern Arizona University, Arizona State Parks attract 2.3 million visitors each year. Those visitors produce \$266 million of direct and indirect economic impact in Arizona, plus \$22.7 million in state and local taxes. Parks create and support jobs throughout Arizona.

Parks are critical to Arizona's economy and to preserving our heritage. We should be working to develop a greater economic return from our parks, not sweeping their gate revenue as this governor and legislature have done.

Arizona State Parks has had no increase in operating funds since 2002 and was no longer receiving any general fund dollars. Unfortunately, the legislature took the special dedicated funds as well including the enhancement fund (park entrance fees), state lake improvement fund (gas and usage tax), and lottery revenues (Heritage Fund), and diverted those to the general fund, leaving State Parks with almost no source of operating funds.

As Governor, I will restore the parks' money. Park entrance fees should be used to maintain parks, not swept into the general fund. Arizona State University's Morrison Institute on Public Policy has estimated that it costs \$32 to \$34 million to operate our state parks and none of the operating funds need to come from the Arizona State general fund.

Additionally, I propose:

- Reinstating the State Parks Heritage Fund monies swept by the Governor and legislature
- Discontinuing the transfer of monies to the general fund or other unrelated projects.
- Expanding partnerships with local governments and volunteer entities to keep parks operating and maintained.
- Recognizing parks and open space as integral to our quality of life, our economy, and to the future of our state and generations yet to come.
- Consider a measure to allow free day use of all of our State Parks for a fee on every vehicle registration. This can be accommodated by implementation of a \$9-\$12 fee on Arizona vehicle registrations that will generate about \$39 million, which will allow parks to maintain and operate the system. This will be good for the parks and for the people of Arizona.

Game and Fish

The 21st century Game and Fish Department is very different from that of the last century. G&F has a public trust responsibility to all of the citizens of this State to conserve and protect wildlife and to provide a variety of public services to that citizenry . Arizona citizens look to the Department for leadership in wildlife policy and services.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is Arizona's wildlife agency and has a trust responsibility for most of Arizona's wildlife. A five-member commission appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate governs it. As Governor, I will:

- Insure the agency uses the best possible science, both social and biological, to make management decisions of this public trust responsibility.
- Support Arizona Game and Fish's responsibility to regulate and manage wildlife consistent with its duties, and ensure that science, not politics, guides wildlife management in Arizona.
- Ensure that appointments to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission have a strong knowledge of wildlife and a commitment to science-based wildlife management.
- Protect habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors to help ensure strong healthy populations of native wildlife.
- Reconstitute the Smart Growth coalition, including restarting regular meetings with the conservation community in which the Department will be an active participant in the process.
- Ensure Arizona Game and Fish Commission will remain the sole entity responsible for the policy and direction of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.
- Protect and support the rights of hunters and other law-abiding citizens to legally purchase, own, transport, and use firearms.

- Promote the opportunity for all to participate in hunting and angling regardless of social status, financial capacity or land ownership. Public use of wildlife ensures a broad base of financial support and advocacy that supports research, monitoring, habitat conservation and law enforcement for all wildlife. Arizona's wildlife resource is a shared responsibility and provides opportunity for all.

Paid for by Goddard for Governor
PO Box 1792
Phoenix, AZ 85001