

AGUA FRIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

- 15th Anniversary -

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

15th Anniversary

WET DRY MAPPING EVENT

8th Annual



Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument 2015 Annual Report

Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument
www.aguafriafriends.org
info@aguafriafriends.org
PO Box 290 Black Canyon City, AZ 85324-0290
(480) 779-7414

Dear Friends,

As 2015 comes to an end, the Board of the Friends of Agua Fria National Monument (FAFNM) is excited to share this first year-end report to our members. This year, the Friends have worked very hard to improve our service to the AFNM and our members through increased public outreach and advocacy, leadership and capacity building, and by strengthening our already excellent partnership with BLM and monument staff. In this report, we will provide updates about our financial health, new programs, and committee activities in 2015.

Financial Update

We started the year with \$4,867.42 in the checking account and ended with \$8,166.24, spending \$17,105.17 and taking in \$20,854.49. Dues and donations accounted for \$4,238.90 and the grant provided \$15,000.00. Other sources of miscellaneous income include book royalties and t-shirt, hat, and mug sales. The largest expenditures included liability insurance, Steven Brown as a consultant, Gustafson Book-Keeping, donation to Black Canyon Community Association for the building, tee-shirts and annual meeting expenses. We bought and installed a sign and fixed the Tesky fence. IRS and Arizona Corporation Commission filings are in order.

Awards and Recognition

This year, the Distinguished Member Award and the Service Hours Recognition Program were established to highlight the outstanding work of Friends members. The Distinguished Member Award was given out during the Annual Meeting this year to Tim Flood. Tim's tireless dedication to the FAFNM over the years, which includes leading the annual Wet/Dry Mapping event and yellow-bill cuckoo bird surveys, has helped the Friends to meet their goal of protecting the Monument.

The Service Hours Recognition Program allows members of the Friends to be recognized for the time they dedicate to the mission of the Friends. There are 10 service hours levels that members will achieve as the hours requirement is met. Upon completing each level, members will receive recognition and a memento. To make sure you receive recognition for the hours you are dedicating to the Friends, please remember document your hours through the Friends Website.

New Programs Announced

In addition to the two new ways that the Friends are recognizing the efforts of our members, three new programs were created. Members of the Road Crew will monitor and report changes to the roads that crisscross the Agua Fria National Monument. The Patrol Crew will serve as eyes and ears on the Monument, and therefore members will provide a presence on the Monument to help reduce and manage vandalism and other damage. Members of the Range Crew will help BLM staff to document range improvements on the Monument. Improvements like fences and water tanks dot the Monument, so members of the Range Crew will help the BLM to account for these improvements and provide an important record of their change over time.

If you are interested in helping with one of these programs, join us on January 9th at 9 am for program orientation. The orientation will be held at the BLM Phoenix District Office located at 216057 N. 7th Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85027. If you plan to attend the orientation, please sign up for one of the programs on the Friends Website under the Membership tab. This will help us to know the number of people attending.

Cultural Resources Committee Update

This year was another busy one for the Cultural Resources Committee. Members of the committee continued to assist the AFNM staff in monitoring the condition of archaeological sites, conducting surveys, and documenting petroglyph sites. The committee completed the recording project at the Wagon Wheel petroglyph site. Volunteers also discovered many new and intriguing archaeological sites and conducted archival research in attempting to identify the creators of historic petroglyphs that may have been associated with ranching or sheep drives.

Committee members devoted considerable effort to assist the BLM and the Tonto National Forest in developing a coordinated resource management plan (CRMP) for the Horseshoe/Copper Creek grazing allotments on the AFNM and Tonto NF. This was an important effort to ensure that the protection of cultural resources is an integral part of grazing management. Committee volunteers worked closely with the interdisciplinary team and BLM staff in developing a comprehensive monitoring plan. The committee continued to conduct site protection and cleanup projects, including the trimming of vegetation at the 1891 School House Site.

The highlight of public outreach was the installation of a new interpretive sign about petroglyphs at the Horseshoe Ranch, which is the site of many public events. The sign was developed and installed in cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, which owns the ranch. The committee also participated in the 15th anniversary celebration of the Monument, which took place at the Black Canyon Heritage Park. In September, committee members conducted a tour of the Badger Springs petroglyph site for approximately 50 members of the Public Lands Foundation, an organization of retired BLM employees that serves as an influential advocate for public lands. For long-term public outreach, the committee updated a brochure on “site etiquette” for visitors.

Finally, Connie Stone agreed to become the Cultural Resources Committee chair. Connie’s extensive archaeological knowledge of the Monument and years of service as the first Monument archaeologist, provides a valuable resource for continuing to protect the cultural resources of the Monument. We are excited and honored that she agreed to steer the committee.

If you are interested learning more about the cultural resources of the Monument and are interested in helping to protect them, the Cultural Resource Committee meets the third Tuesday of the month at 12pm at the Deer Valley Petroglyph Preserve. The Preserve is located at 3711 W. Deer Valley Rd. Glendale, Az 85308.

Natural Resources Committee Update

The Natural Resources Committee conducted several river-related events. The committee held the extremely successful 8th annual Wet-Dry mapping of the Agua Fria River and its tributaries. Thirty volunteers braved the heat on June 20, 2015 and mapped surface flows on the Agua Fria River, Little Ash Creek, Big Bug Creek, and Silver Creek. Corresponding with the mapping efforts, committee members participated in meetings of the Upper Agua Fria Watershed Partnership (held the first Tuesday of each month at Arcosanti, just north of Cortez Junction). The Partnership discusses significant issues that development, the ongoing drought, and groundwater withdrawals cause for the watershed. Current plans are aimed at stabilizing the soils of the watershed.

The Natural Resources Committee also participates in bird surveys on the Monument. This was the 5th year of monitoring for the western yellow billed cuckoo, a critical activity because this bird was placed on the federal Threatened and Endangered Species list in early 2015. In the summer, the Agua Fria River provides one of the few nesting habitat for the cuckoo in Arizona. Furthering these efforts, members of the committee participate in the biannual general survey of birds in the riparian area in conjunction with the Sonoran chapter of the Audubon Society.

In the coming year, these opportunities will continue for members of the Friends. If you are interested in becoming a part of this committee and its activities please contact Tim Flood at TJFlood@att.net.

Outreach and Recreation Committee Update

The Outreach and Recreation Committee continued to expand its public education and outreach efforts. The committee hosted booths at several events we have attended in the past including the annual Arizona Archaeology Month Expo in Yuma and the Deer Valley Petroglyph Preserve Archaeology Festival. We also attended several new events in the hope of increasing public awareness of the monument. These included the High Country Bluegrass Festival held at Arcosanti and Mayer Daze. Finally, committee members helped to organize the. The committee also helped coordinate and run the 15th Anniversary of the establishment of the Monument at the Black Canyon Heritage Park and the FAFNM Annual Meeting held at the Horseshoe Ranch.

The Outreach and Recreation Committee needs your help. In 2016, the committee is planning Agua Fria Day on the Monument and several other events. If you enjoy a good party, come help us plan some. Contact April Kamp-Whittaker at akampwhi@asu.edu if you are interested in helping with these fun events.

As you have read, 2015 was an important year of growth and capacity building for the Friends. All of these activities are made possible through the volunteer and financial support of our generous members. If you would like to get involved, please use the contact information indicated for each committee in this report, or email me personally at sarah.striker@aguafriafriends.org. We are in urgent need of a Natural Resources Committee Chair and an editor for our newsletter (individuals or groups welcome). As always, donations are welcome at any time on our website at aguafriafriends.org or by mail. Thank you again for your support in 2015, and we look forward to another strong year ahead.

Sincerely,

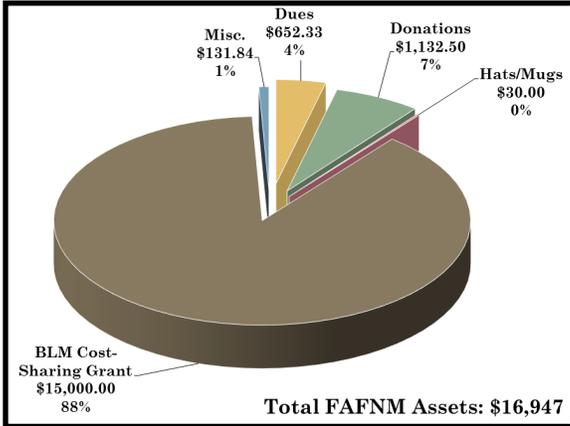
Sarah Striker
President,
Friends of the Agua Fria
National Monument

MEASURING THE SUCCESS OF THE FRIENDS

Financial Status

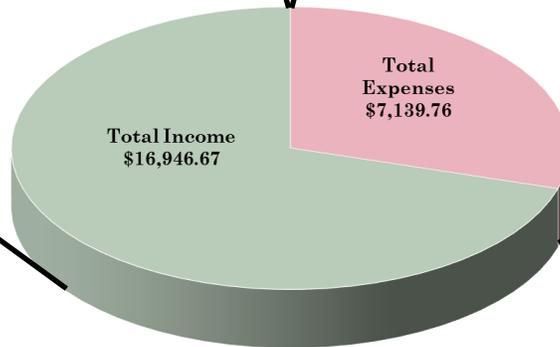
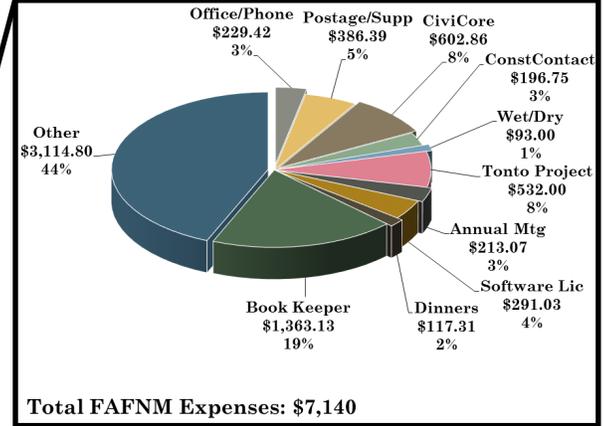
FAFNM ASSETS

As of September 30, 2015



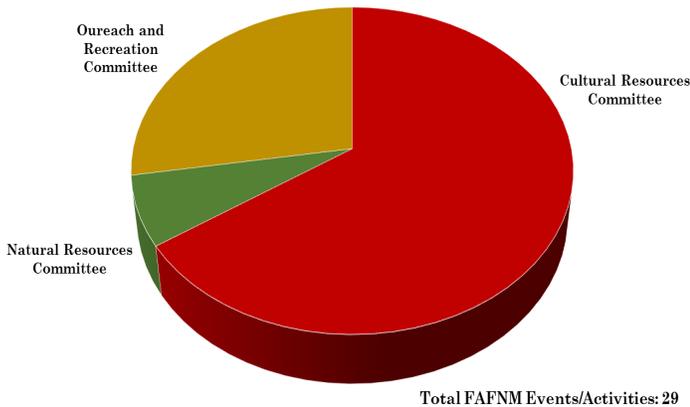
FAFNM EXPENSES

As of September 30, 2015



Committee Involvement

As of September 30, 2015



Member Involvement

As of September 30, 2015

