

ARIZONA STATE POLICIES



The Center for Western Priorities' **Western States Conservation Scorecard** evaluates each Western state in three areas: Lands and Access, Outdoor Recreation, and Responsible Energy Development. Our aim is to illuminate best practices and gaps in state-level public lands-related policy in the West. We hope to highlight where Western states are demonstrating leadership, as well as where they can improve. Please see the full report for a breakdown of methodology and the complete grading rubrics with scores at www.westernpriorities.org/statescorecard.

ARIZONA	LANDS AND ACCESS	OUTDOOR RECREATION	RESPONSIBLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT
	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	AVERAGE	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT — LANDS AND ACCESS

Arizona ranks “needs improvement” when it comes to lands and access. Arizona state trust lands are open to any resident who buys a **recreational permit** or a hunting and fishing license. Camping is limited to no more than 14 days per year. In Arizona, stream access is very restricted. The **Arizona Navigable Stream Adjudication Commission** has the power to decide which of Arizona’s waterways are navigable, allowing boaters to float through private property. To date, only the Colorado River has received such distinction. Arizona has funding for conservation, but it is variable and impermanent. The **Arizona Heritage Fund**, established in 1990, has directed proceeds from the state lottery towards a range of conservation programs, including wildlife conservation and improvements at state parks. In 2010, legislation **eliminated funding** for the State Parks Heritage Fund in an attempt to balance the budget, but left funding for wildlife conservation intact. The state has also invested in the **Arizona Water Protection Fund**, which supports measures that “enhance and restore rivers, streams and riparian habitat, including projects that benefit fish and wildlife, that are dependent on these important resources.”

AVERAGE — OUTDOOR RECREATION

With some state-level funding for outdoor recreation infrastructure in Arizona—and some funding for outdoor education—Arizona ranks “average” in the category of outdoor recreation. Arizona has no office of outdoor recreation, but it does have a **Council for Enhancing Recreation and Tourism**, which produces an interactive **online map** of recreational opportunities. To recognize and support non-motorized trails of special significance in the state, the **Arizona State Committee on Trails** and Arizona State Parks have partnered on the **Arizona Premier Trail System**. The 2018 grant cycle objectives of the **Arizona Heritage Fund** include environmental education, outdoor education, and schoolyard habitat. Arizona has no statewide standards for outdoor or environmental education.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT — RESPONSIBLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Compared to most Western states, Arizona has few policies related to responsible energy development. The state requires oil and gas development setbacks varying from **150-1,000 feet**. When it comes to spill reporting and transparency, Arizona requires reporting of spills within 24 hours, but does not provide readily available spills data to the public. The state continues to allow blanket bonding to address oil and gas well reclamation. The state has no fracking chemical disclosure rules and reporting through **FracFocus** is voluntary. Arizona matches the federal oil and gas royalty rate of 12.5 percent. The state of Arizona also charges a severance tax on production, but no conservation tax. Arizona does not require water testing before and after drilling, and the state does not have methane capture rules.