

Dr. Arthur M. Phillips, III is an independent botanical and environmental consultant based in Flagstaff, Arizona, specializing in environmental impact studies, floristics and plant ecology, and rare and sensitive plant species studies in the Southwest. He earned his Ph.D. degree in Botany and Plant Ecology from the University of Arizona and through more than 30 years of field experience has gained broad expertise in working with the flora of Arizona and the Southwest.

Since entering the consulting business full-time in 1990, he has completed over 100 projects including ecological studies on sensitive plants for federal agencies; site and right-of-way clearances for large-scale pipeline projects, powerlines, railroads, mines, land exchanges, and a wide variety of other projects; noxious weeds assessments; assessment of effects of off-highway vehicles on rare plants and sand dune ecology; analysis of effects of grazing on wetlands, natural plant communities, and wildlife; ethnobotanical studies for Native American nations; and development and implementation of mitigation plans when sensitive species are encountered. For ten years he has carried out monitoring and analysis of riparian vegetation along the Colorado River in Grand Canyon for the Hualapai Tribe, the Southern Paiute Consortium, and Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center.

For ten years he was Curator of Biology at the Museum of Northern Arizona, where he was responsible for the management of the MNA herbarium and overall direction of the biology research program. His extensive collection of southwestern plants includes collections from the Grand Canyon, southwestern deserts, central and northwestern Arizona plateau country, and voucher specimens of most of the rare Arizona species presently or formerly considered for endangered species protection. While in graduate school, he worked extensively with the herbarium collections at the University of Arizona, the largest in the state. He was also involved in several studies of resource management problems and recreational impacts on natural environments along the Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park.

From 1978-90, he was continuously under contract with the Office of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, carrying out studies of rare plants throughout the Southwest. He completed status surveys and wrote or supervised the preparation of status reports on more than 110 candidate species throughout Arizona; wrote preliminary listing packages; and authored or co-authored draft Recovery Plans for four listed species. He has been a member of the US Fish and Wildlife Service Arizona Plant Recovery Team since its inception in 1981.

He has authored or co-authored 28 publications since 1984, including a popular guide to the wildflowers of the Grand Canyon, now in second edition; a scientific monograph of the flora of Grand Canyon National Park; a guidebook to the rare and endangered plants of Arizona; and a scientific description of a new subspecies of wild rose.