



Proposed Increase to Statutory Ceiling for Licenses and Permit Fees

Wildlife conservation and enhancement activities

Game management

In addition to addressing revenue shortfalls, the Arizona Game and Fish Department will spend 30 percent of additional revenues from any fee increase on programs and activities to manage wildlife and improve recreation opportunities throughout the state:

- **Wildlife Habitat Improvements.** In partnership with public and private landowners and at state-owned designated wildlife areas. Examples include habitat improvements to help deer populations, landscape vegetation and habitat treatments on public lands, and water development.
- **Recreational Access and Hunt Opportunities.** Easement agreements with landowners to provide access to hunters and anglers; agricultural programs at state-owned wildlife areas to provide wildlife forage, particularly for migratory birds; improved access for disabled hunters; and purchase or lease of hunting rights on private lands, particularly for migratory bird hunting near urban areas.
- **Predator Management.** An expanded program for estimating predator populations, such as coyotes and mountain lions to ensure their future ecological values while minimizing conflict with humans and adverse impacts on other wildlife species.
- **Pronghorn Management and Game Species Reintroduction.** Stewardship and cooperative projects with private and public landowners to stabilize or increase pronghorn populations, and reintroduction of game species such as Gould's turkey, Merriam's turkey, pronghorn antelope, and bighorn sheep.
- **Water Development and Maintenance.** Construction and maintenance of water catchments crucial to wildlife during summer months and in drought conditions.

Increased Fishing Opportunities

Fifteen percent of any additional revenues would be targeted on activities to improve fishing opportunities and quality for Arizona anglers statewide. The money is earmarked for required hatchery improvements at Silver Creek Hatchery in Navajo County, Canyon Creek and Tonto Creek hatcheries in Gila County, Page Springs Hatchery in Yavapai and Coconino counties; to acquire, grow and stock fish; and for angler recruitment programs. Expenditures will improve both warm- and cold-water fishing opportunities.

Shooting Ranges / Ben Avery Administration Site

Twenty-one percent would be invested in shooting range development and range improvements statewide. The Tucson and Flagstaff areas will be targeted for accelerated new range

development efforts, while facilities improvements are planned in eastern, northwestern and southeastern Arizona and the Phoenix metro area. A significant portion of revenues will be used to construct and consolidate department administration facilities on the Ben Avery Shooting Facility property, providing additional long-term protection for the range. The new facility will be the site of statewide wildlife management administration, shooting range administration, customer service activities, and hunter and angler education activities.

Customer Service Improvements and Support

Thirty-one percent would be used for customer service improvements, including hardware and database support for law enforcement, additional field officers, salaries and personnel-related expenses for field officers, and facilities repairs and improvements necessary to support field operations, particularly in regional offices and rural areas. The investment is expected to result in greater officer field presence and generate savings by reducing turnover and turnover-related expenses.

Sportsmen's Clubs / Hunter and Angler Recruitment

\$150,000 would be invested in support of local sportsmen's-and-women's clubs, to support youth programs and hunter recruitment efforts. Investments may take the form of direct support, expansion of sponsored youth hunt events, and support for local club involvement in the Scholastic Clay Target and Archery in the Schools programs.

Program reductions

The Arizona Game and Fish Department receives no tax revenues from the state. Drought conditions and economic factors have contributed to resource limitations and a downward trend in license sales, the department's sole source of funding for wildlife conservation activities.

Planned or potential reductions include:

- Decreased law enforcement field presence
- Reduction in game surveys
- Decreased hunting opportunities
- Cuts to motor pool and facilities maintenance
- Lost federal revenue through reduced match
- Decreased water development
- Reduced hatchery production
- Reduced fishing opportunities, including urban
- Wildlife areas closures