Commission Order 43: Reptiles

GENERAL REPTILES

*Open Areas do not include areas within municipal parks, municipal preserves, county parks, county preserves, airports, golf courses, or posted water treatment facilities (except as specifically opened in this Commission Order) or areas closed under A.R.S. Sections 17-101, 17-303 and 17-304, or Commission Rules R12-4-321, R12-4-801, R12-4-802 and R12-4-803.
Other Notes may apply (see Open Areas information below).

	Open Season Dates	Notes	Open Areas	Legal Reptiles
A.	Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2013 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2014	(1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13)	Statewide, except areas closed in Notes 7, 8, 10, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31 (also noted above*).	All reptiles, except those named in Subsections B, C, D, and E
	BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT: Four (4) per year or in possession of each species live or dead.			
B.	Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2013 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2014	(1, 3, 6, 11, 12, 13)	Statewide, except areas closed in Note 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31 (also noted above*).	*Lichanura trivirgata* (rosy boa), *Senticolis triaspis* (green ratsnake), *Lampropeltis pyromelana* (Sonoran mountain kingsnake), and *Lampropeltis triangulum* (milksnake; except no open season in Cochise County).
	BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT: Two (2) per year or four (4) in possession of each species live or dead.			
C.	Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2013 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2014	(1, 3, 6, 11, 12, 13)	Statewide, except areas closed in Note 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31 (also noted above*).	*Sceloporus cowlesi* (southwestern fence lizard), *Sceloporus tristichus* (plateau lizard), *Tantilla hobartsmithi* (Smith's black-headed snake), and all species in the genera: *Callisaurus* (zebra-tailed lizard), *Aspidoscelis* (whiptails), *Coleonyx* (banded gecko), *Cophosaurus* (greater earless lizard), *Holbrookia* (lesser earless lizard), *Urosaurus* (tree lizard), *Uta* (side-blotched lizard), *Hypsiglena* (nightsnake), *Leptotyphlops* (threadsnakes), and *Sonora* (groundsnake)
	BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT: Twenty (20) per day or in possession in the aggregate live or dead.			
D.	Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2013 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2014	(1, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13)	Statewide, except areas closed in Note 10, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31 (also noted above*).	*Apalone spinifera* (spiny softshell), *Trachemys scripta* (slider), and all species of the family Chelydridae (snapping turtles)
	BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT: Unlimited dead.			
E.	There is no open season on *Phrynosoma mcallii* (flat-tailed horned lizard), *Heloderma suspectum* (Gila monster), *Crotalus lepidus* (rock rattlesnake), *Crotalus pricei* (twin-spotted rattlesnake), *Crotalus willardi* (ridge-nosed rattlesnake), *Lampropeltis triangulum* (milksnake; Cochise County only), *Sistrurus catenatus* (massasauga), *Thamnophis eques* (Mexican gartersnake), *Thamnophis rufipunctatus* (narrow-headed gartersnake), *Gopherus agassizii* (desert tortoise), and *Terrapene ornata* (ornate box turtle); see Notes 4 and 5.			

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LIMITED WEAPON REPTILES

Open Areas do not include any area closed under A.R.S. Sections 17-101, 17-303 and 17-304, or Commission Rules R12-4-801, R12-4-802 and R12-4-803.

	Open Season Dates	Notes	Open Areas	Legal Reptiles
A.	Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2013 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2014	(2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,14)	Private lands within city limits and areas within municipal parks, municipal preserves, county parks, county preserves, airports, golf courses, or posted water treatment facilities, except areas closed in Notes 7, 8 and 10.	All reptiles, except those named in Subsections B, C, D, and E
	BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT: Four (4) per year or in possession of each species live or dead.			
B.	Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2013 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2014	(2, 3, 6, 11,14)	Private lands within city limits and areas within municipal parks, municipal preserves, county parks, county preserves, airports, golf courses, or posted water treatment facilities.	*Lichanura trivirgata* (rosy boa), *Senticolis triaspis* (green ratsnake), *Lampropeltis pyromelana* (Sonoran mountain kingsnake), and *Lampropeltis triangulum* (milksnake; except no open season in Cochise County).
	BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT: Two (2) per year or four (4) in possession of each species live or dead.			
C.	Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2013 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2014	(2, 3, 6, 11,14)	Private lands within city limits and areas within municipal parks, municipal preserves, county parks, county preserves, airports, golf courses, or posted water treatment facilities.	*Sceloporus cowlesi* (southwestern fence lizard), *Sceloporus tristichus* (plateau lizard), *Tantilla hobartsmithi* (Smith's black-headed snake), and all species in the genera: *Callisaurus* (zebra-tailed lizard), *Aspidoscelis* (whiptails), *Coleonyx* (banded gecko), *Cophosaurus* (greater earless lizard), *Holbrookia* (lesser earless lizard), *Urosaurus* (tree lizard), *Uta* (side-blotched lizard), *Hypsiglena* (nightsnake), *Leptotyphlops* (threadsnakes), and *Sonora* (groundsnake)
	BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT: Twenty (20) per day or in possession in the aggregate live or dead.			
D.	Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2013 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2014	(2, 6, 9, 10, 11,14)	Private lands within city limits and areas within municipal parks, municipal preserves, county parks, county preserves, airports, golf courses, or posted water treatment facilities. except areas closed in Note 10.	*Apalone spinifera* (spiny softshell), *Trachemys scripta* (slider), and all species of the family Chelydridae (snapping turtles)
	BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT: Unlimited dead.			
E.	There is no open season on *Phrynosoma mcallii* (flat-tailed horned lizard), *Heloderma suspectum* (Gila monster), *Crotalus lepidus* (rock rattlesnake), *Crotalus pricei* (twin-spotted rattlesnake), *Crotalus willardi* (ridge-nosed rattlesnake), *Lampropeltis triangulum* (milksnake; Cochise County only), *Sistrurus catenatus* (massasauga), *Thamnophis eques* (Mexican gartersnake), *Thamnophis rufipunctatus* (narrow-headed gartersnake), *Gopherus agassizii* (desert tortoise), and *Terrapene ornata* (ornate box turtle); see Notes 4 and 5.			

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Notes:

1. A hunting or combination license is required for take of reptiles. A fishing or combination license is required for take of softshell turtles. Reptiles may be taken day or night. See R12-4-304(F) for restrictions on trapping and the use of artificial light and firearms. By law, softshell turtles are considered aquatic wildlife and a fishing or combination license is required for take. Methods of take are prescribed at R12-4-313.
2. A hunting or combination license is required for take of reptiles. A fishing or combination license is required for take of softshell turtles. Reptiles may be taken day or night. See R12-4-304(F) for restrictions for trapping and the use of artificial light. By law, softshell turtles are considered aquatic wildlife and a fishing or combination license is required for take. Methods of take are prescribed at R12-4-318(C.6).
3. Per R12-4-404, progeny of lawfully held reptiles other than desert tortoises may, for twelve months from date of hatching or birth, be held in captivity in excess of the stated limits. Before or upon reaching twelve months of age, such progeny must be disposed of by gift to another person or as directed by the Department.
4. Per R12-4-407.1, desert tortoises legally held prior to April 28, 1989, may be possessed, transported and propagated. Possession limit is one desert tortoise per person. Progeny of lawfully held desert tortoises may, for twenty-four months from date of hatching, be held in captivity in excess of the stated limit. Before or upon reaching twenty-four months of age, such progeny must be disposed of by gift to another person or as directed by the Department.
5. The possession limit for massasaugas legally held prior to January 1, 1989, when season closure went into effect, is four (4) per person. The possession limit for Mexican gartersnakes, narrow-headed gartersnakes, and ornate box turtles legally held prior to January 1, 2005, when season closure went into effect, is four (4) per person. See Note 3.
6. The Fort Huachuca Military Reservation, the Yuma Proving Ground, and Camp Navajo control access to hunting on their installations.
7. Chuckwallas (genus *Sauromalus*) may not be taken within the boundaries of Phoenix South Mountain Park.
8. Shovel-nosed snakes (*Chionactis occipitalis*) may not be taken from Pima County east of the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation or from Pinal County.
9. The Fort Huachuca Military Reservation controls access to the taking of aquatic wildlife on its installation.
10. Turtles may not be taken at any time (or during periods specified) within the following areas:
    - (1) Posted boundaries of State or Federal hatcheries, except for Arizona Game and Fish Department sponsored fishing clinics.
    - (2) Posted boundary of the Region I regional headquarters in Pinetop.
    - (3) The Colorado River one-half mile upstream and one-half mile downstream from its confluence with the Little Colorado River.
    - (4) That portion of the Little Colorado River lying within the Grand Canyon National Park.
    - (5) Lee Valley Creek above Lee Valley Lake.
    - (6) Gap Creek between Honeymoon Cabin and its confluence with the Verde River.
    - (7) Mineral Creek in Apache County upstream of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest Boundary.
    - (8) Posted areas immediately above the dams at Upper Lake Mary, Alamo Lake and Lake Mead.
    - (9) Posted areas immediately below Davis, Hoover, Glen Canyon, Waddell (Lake Pleasant), Roosevelt, Horse Mesa and Mormon Flat dams.
    - (10) Posted, Spawning Pond Number 1 and Spawning Pond Number 2 located along the Salinity Canal north of Yuma.
    - (11) The Luna Lake Wildlife Area from April 1 through July 31.
    - (12) Posted portions of Alamo Lake.
    - (13) Posted portions of the Tonto Arm of Roosevelt Lake from January 1 through February 15 and from November 15 through December 31.
    - (14) Posted portions of Mittry Lake from November 15 through February 15 annually.

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(15) Posted portions of Becker Lake are closed to all public entry from December 15 through June 15.
(16) Posted portions of Lake Mead.
(17) Posted portions of Powers Butte Wildlife Area are closed to entry for the purpose of taking wildlife.
(18) Posted portions of Bog Hole Wildlife Area.
(19) Posted portions of Lake Havasu.
(20) Posted portions of Cienega Creek in Pima County.
(21) Aravaipa Creek in Pinal and Graham counties.
(22) Sycamore Creek in Santa Cruz County.
(23) Cibola Lake from the first Monday in September (Labor Day) through March 15.
(24) Posted portions of Martinez Lake from October 1 through March 1.
(25) Posted in accordance with and pursuant to ARS 17-303 and 304.

11. The Grand Canyon-Parashant, Vermillion Cliffs, Sonoran Desert, Ironwood Forest, and Agua Fria national monuments are open to the take of wildlife as permitted by monument regulations.
12. Open Areas do not include private lands within city limits and areas within municipal parks, municipal preserves, county parks, county preserves, airports, golf courses, or posted water treatment facilities (except as specifically opened in this Commission Order) or any area closed to hunting, fishing, or trapping under A.R.S, Sections 17-303 and 17-304, or Commission Rules R12-4-301, R12-4-801, R12-4-802 and R12-4-803.
13. General Reptile seasons must comply with R12-4-304 - Lawful Methods for Taking Wild Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles.
    F. An individual may take reptiles by any method not prohibited in R12-4-303 or R12-4-318 under the following conditions. An individual:
        1. Shall check pitfall traps of any size daily, release non-target species, remove pitfalls when no longer in use, and fill any holes;
        2. Shall not use firearms at night; and
        3. May use artificial light while taking reptiles, if the light is not attached to or operated from a motor vehicle, motorized watercraft, watercraft under sail, or floating object towed by a motorized watercraft or a watercraft under sail.
14. Limited Weapon Reptile seasons must comply with R12-4-318. Seasons for Lawfully Taking Wild Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles.
    C. When designated by Commission order, the following seasons have specific requirements and lawful methods of take more restrictive than those for general and special seasons, as prescribed in this Section. While taking the species authorized by the season:
        6. An individual participating in a "limited weapon" season may only use or possess the following methods or devices for taking wildlife, when prescribed in R12-4-304 as lawful for the species hunted: bow and arrow; crossbow; pneumatic weapons; falconry; slingshots; any trap except foot-hold steel traps; nets; hand-propelled projectiles; or capture by hand.
15. Hunting is not permitted in Unit 26M in the following described area: Those private lands lying just north of the Town of Cave Creek in Sections 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15 of Township 6 North, Range 4 East.
16. A portion of Unit 47M is closed to hunting. Hunting is not permitted in the following area of Unit 47M: an unincorporated portion of land west of Loop 202 (San Tan Freeway) known as the Elliot and Hawes County Island in Section 16, Township 1 South, Range 7 East.
17. Entry into portions of Units 40A, 40B, 46A, and 46B is subject to military closure and requires coordination with the Barry M. Goldwater Range for hunting access. For specifics about accessing the Barry M. Goldwater Range refer to the Index: Hunting on Military Reservations.
18. The Florence Military Reservation (training areas B and D: the areas north and south of Cottonwood Canyon Road) in Unit 37B is subject to short term closures due to military operations, including live fire operations, and requires coordination with the Florence Military Reservation for hunting access. For specific closure dates or any other access concerns, contact the Florence Military Reservation at 602-267-2062. A map of the Florence Military Reservation is located on the Arizona Game and Fish Department's website, azgfd.gov (type Florence Military Reservation in the search box).
19. Hunting is not permitted in Unit 25M in the following described area: an unincorporated portion of land within the Town of Queen Creek in Pinal County in Sections 5, 7, 8, and 18 of Township 3 South, Range 8 East.

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20. Hunting is not permitted in Units 25M, 26M, and 47M in the following described area: beginning at the junction of I-17 and Loop 303; west and south on Loop 303 to Bell Road; west on Bell Road to the Beardsley canal; south on the Beardsley canal to Indian School Road; west on Indian School Road to South Jackrabbit Trail; south on South Jackrabbit Trail to Tuthill Road; south on Tuthill Road to the Gila River; east along the Gila River to 115th Avenue/Salt River junction; east along the Salt River to 51st Avenue; south on 51st Avenue to Pecos Road; east on Pecos Road to the I-10/Loop 202 junction; east, north, and then west on the Loop 202 to Gilbert Road; north on Gilbert Road to AZ Highway 87; east on AZ Highway 87 to Fort McDowell Road; north on Fort McDowell Road to Rio Verde Drive; west on Rio Verde Drive to Dynamite Road; west on Dynamite Road to Pima Road; north on Pima Road to Cave Creek Road; west and south on Cave Creek Road to Deer Valley Road; west on Deer Valley Road to 7th Street; north on 7th Street to Happy Valley Road; west on Happy Valley Road to I-17; north on I-17 to the Loop 303. Base and Meridian Wildlife Area falls within the boundary described above but is open to hunting. County islands within this boundary are also open to hunting provided the hunter does not discharge a firearm within ¼ mile of an occupied farmhouse, residence, cabin, lodge, or building without permission of the owner or resident. Privately held lands within county islands may be closed by the landowner.
21. Hunting is not permitted in Unit 25M in the following described area in the City of Maricopa: that portion of the city east of Green Road, south of Smith Enke Road, and east of the Cobblestone subdivision and that portion of the city north of Farrell Road and west of White and Parker Road.
22. Hunting is not permitted in Units 25M and 37A in the following described area in the Town of Eloy: beginning with the intersection of Cornman Road and LaPalma Road; south on LaPalma Road to Milligan Road; west on Milligan Road to Overfield Road; north on Overfield Road to Cornman Road; east on Cornman Road to LaPalma Road.
23. The following Pima County parks and preserves are open to hunting: A-7 Ranch in Units 32 and 33, Oracle Ridge Property in Unit 33, Six Bar Ranch in Unit 33, Emperita Ranch in Unit 34B, Bar V Ranch in Unit 34B, Sands Ranch in Unit 34B, Clyne Ranch in Unit 34B, Diamond Bell Ranch in Unit 36A, Marley Ranch in Unit 36A and 36B, Rancho Seco in Units 36A and 36B, Kings 98 Ranch in Unit 36C, Old Hayhook Ranch in Unit 36C, Verdugo in Unit 36C, Bee Ranch in Unit 37A, Mordka Ranch in Unit 37A, Buckelew Ranch in Unit 37A, Carpenter Ranch in Unit 37A, Cochise Canyon Ranch in Unit 37A, Lords Ranch in Unit 37A, and Tortolita Mountain Park in Unit 37A. Hunting in County Parks, opened by this Commission Order, is not permitted within ¼ mile of any developed picnic area, developed camp ground, shooting range, occupied building, boat ramp, or golf course. Developed areas do not include trails.
24. Hunting is not permitted in Unit 36B in the following described area: in the posted portion of Sopori Ranch south of Arivaca Road in Sections 14 and 15, Township 20 South, Range 11 East. The remainder of Sopori Ranch is open to hunting.
25. Hunting is not permitted in Unit 37A in the following described area in the Town of Marana: beginning at the intersection of Sanders Road and Avra Valley Road; north on Sanders Road to the Santa Cruz River; southeast along the Santa Cruz River to the Central Arizona Project Canal; southwest along the Central Arizona Project Canal to Avra Valley Road; west on Avra Valley Road to the intersection of Sanders Road.
26. Hunting is not permitted in Units 43A and 44B in the following described area in the Town of Quartzsite: Sections 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35, Township 4 North, Range 19 West and Sections 2, 3, and 4, Township 3 North, Range 19 West.
27. The following parks and preserves in Maricopa County are open to hunting using shotgun shooting shot when this season coincides with a quail season as defined in R12-4-301: Lake Pleasant, White Tank Mountains, McDowell Mountain, and Estrella Mountain Regional parks and McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Hunting in parks and preserves opened by this Commission Order is not permitted within ¼ mile of any developed picnic area, developed camp ground, shooting range, occupied building, boat ramp, or golf course. Developed areas do not include trails.
28. In Units 11M and 38M, the private property within municipal boundaries is closed to hunting.
29. The area in Unit 37A in the Town of Marana is subject to temporary closures in February for special events. All state lands located south of Cochie Canyon Trail in Township 11 South, Range 12 East.
30. Areas of private property within the municipal boundaries (except in Units 1, 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 3C, 4A, 4B, and 27) are closed to hunting during this hunt.
31. The area within the fenced enclosure inside the loop formed by Tonto National Forest Road 647, also known as the Walnut Canyon Enclosure, is open to public entry and hunting during an open season.

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