

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Friday, December 9, 2005 – 8:00 a.m.
Saturday, December 10, 2005 – 8:00 a.m.
Francisco Grande Resort
26000 W. Gila Bend Highway
Casa Grande, AZ 85222

PRESENT: (Commission)

(Director's Staff)

Chairman W. Hays Gilstrap
Commissioner Melton
Commissioner Michael M. Golightly
Commissioner William H. McLean
Commissioner Robert Hernbrode

Director Duane L. Shroufe
Deputy Director Steve K. Ferrell
Assistant Attorney General Jim Odenkirk
Assistant Attorney General Shelley Cutts

Chairman Gilstrap called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. This meeting followed an agenda revision dated November 22, 2005.

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1. Executive Session

The Commission voted to meet in Executive Session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A)(3) and (4) for the purpose of discussion and consultation with legal counsel.

Motion: McLean moved and Gilstrap seconded THAT THE COMMISSION GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Vote: Unanimous

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Chairman Gilstrap called the Public Session to reconvene at 9:10 a.m. following Executive Session. The Commissioners introduced themselves and Chairman Gilstrap introduced the Director and the Director's staff.

Awards and Commissioning of Officers – None at this time.

Note: Agenda items were taken out of order to accommodate members of the public who were present to address the Commission on specific agenda items. Friday agenda item numbers 3, 7, 12, 13, 14 and 21 were postponed to the January 2006 Commission meeting.

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5. Request for Commission Approval of the Exchange of Land at the Page Springs Hatchery in Yavapai County, Arizona.

Presenter: Bob Broscheid, Habitat Branch Chief

Mr. Broscheid provided an update to the Commission on the Page Springs Hatchery land exchange, which was continued from the October 2005 Commission meeting in order to obtain additional information and public input. Approximately two years ago, the Department was approached by an adjacent land owner, Mr. Glomski, to help resolve trespass issues along the Page Springs road. As a result, the Department evaluated the potential for a land exchange. At the October Commission meeting, the Commission directed the Department to evaluate the effects of placing restrictions on the Commission's parcel prior to the exchange. The Department found that placing restrictions on the parcel would reduce the appraised value of the land and would reduce the amount of land received in return from Mr. Glomski; however, Mr. Glomski has informed the Department that the land would be used for legal and safe public access and any remaining land would be used for additional vineyards. Any future development of the exchanged land would be subject to Yavapai County planning and zoning regulations. Additionally, as instructed by the Commission, the Department prepared and signed an agreement with Mr. Glomski to limit the Commission's liability regarding visitors and public access on the Commission-owned lands. Mr. Broscheid further clarified that the only improvement on the Commission-owned land was the road improvement and that the map indicates only the approximate size and shape of the lands and not the actual boundaries of the parcels. The boundaries will be determined following the completion of a professional survey. Mr. Glomski was present to answer any questions as requested by the Commission in October.

Public Comment

Eric Glomski briefed the Commission on his position and interest in the proposed exchange.

Commissioner McLean asked what Mr. Glomski's current zoning was and what his plans were regarding future land use.

Mr. Glomski responded that his land is currently zoned as agriculture exemption and his intentions for the exchanged land would be to combine it with his current land and it would be zoned the same. Mr. Glomski further explained some of the permitting process that he goes through in order to produce and sell the wine from his vineyards.

Wendy Rackov, neighboring landowner, addressed the Commission in opposition to the exchange. Ms. Rackov provided an informational packet to the Commission (on file with the Commission meeting packet). Concerns stated were that the land appraisal was not correct and the proposed exchange was not an even trade, resulting in a loss to the public; and that Mr. Glomski was currently under observation for holding events related to his business that were too large for his site. Also, the most important issue for Ms. Rackov was that she considered the Commission-owned property to be pristine wildlife habitat.

Commissioner McLean confirmed with Mr. Broscheid that the transmission line ditch towards the foot of the parking lot would remain Commission-owned property, that the Department is not proposing to exchange any of the riparian area, and that the proposed exchanged property would abut the current boundary of Commission-owned property so that there would be no trespass. Also, the current Audubon trail will not be affected by this exchange.

Commissioner Melton confirmed with Mr. Broscheid that the acquired property boundary would extend to the middle of the creek, to which Mr. Broscheid could not confirm until the final survey was completed, however, his understanding was that it did. Also, Commissioner Melton confirmed with Mr. Broscheid that new homes were going to be built nearby, which would interfere with a suspected deer trail across the Commission-owned property to be exchanged.

Public Comment

Eric Wyles addressed the Commission in support of the land exchange, stating that it was a win-win situation.

Lou Jeckel, representing his mother who is a neighbor and landowner, addressed the Commission stating that the survey needed to be completed and the exact boundaries defined before proceeding with the land exchange.

Vicki Becker was present in opposition of the land exchange per Speaker Card, but did not speak to the Commission.

Lance T. Leslie, neighbor, addressed the Commission in opposition to the land exchange and stated that the exchange should not take place until the issues were more clear, and suggested only trading a small portion to allow Mr. Glomski access to his property.

Henry Lucas was present in support of the exchange per Speaker Card, but did not speak to the Commission.

Pat Lucas was present in support of the exchange per Speaker Card, but did not speak to the Commission.

Brian T. Magnuson, neighbor and landowner, opposed the land exchange and stated that the Commission will lose habitat for a parking lot.

Alan Rackov, neighbor and landowner, opposed the trade and stated that it is a nice environment as it is and should not be changed.

Bob Fletcher, neighbor and landowner, stated that Mr. Glomski's use permit was coming up for modification and it's unknown what those changes are going to be. Also, to make a decision without the survey is wrong. Mr. Fletcher urged the Commission to take no action at this time.

Craig Martinsen, Page Spring Vineyards Manager, addressed the Commission in support of the land exchange.

Allison Scott was not present, but filled out a Speaker Card in support of the land exchange.

Karen Livingston opposed the land exchange and stated that it would change the character of the land.

Tice Supplee, representing Audubon Arizona, addressed the Commission in support of the land exchange. Audubon Arizona is looking forward to the trail extension once this land exchange is

completed. Ms. Supplee provided a letter of support to the Commission from Audubon Arizona (on file with the Commission meeting packet).

James A. Sauve III was present in support of the land exchange, but did not speak to the Commission.

Mr. Glomski addressed some of the speaker comments; that the property he has offered is clearly defined by county records; that the land use permit is in the process of modification only in anticipation of including the exchanged property; and that waterfront is definitely included in the land exchanged to the Department.

Commissioner Golightly confirmed with Mr. Broscheid that the appraisal was done in May 2006 and reviewed in August 2006. Ms. Rackov provided a copy of the appraisal to the Commission and reiterated concerns about the appraisal's accuracy.

Motion: Golightly moved THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE EXCHANGE OF LAND AT THE PAGE SPRINGS HATCHERY SUBJECT TO THE SURVEY BEING ACCEPTABLE TO THE COMMISSION.

Commissioner McLean suggested including language that provided that the proposed parcel to be received include creek side frontage to approximately midstream and that the proposed parcel to be given up be subject to review and approval by the Director or his designee.

Motion withdrawn.

Motion: McLean moved and Golightly seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE EXCHANGE OF LAND AT THE PAGE SPRINGS HATCHERY, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS: 1) THAT THE PARCEL RECEIVED OF APPROXIMATELY 2.49 ACRES INCLUDE CREEK SIDE FRONTAGE TO APPROXIMATELY MIDSTREAM, AND THAT 2) IN ADDITION TO THE LEGAL REVIEW OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT THAT THE DIRECTOR BE DIRECTED TO REVIEW THE 1.6 ACRE PARCEL TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE ISSUES DISCUSSED TODAY INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY OF THAT PROPOSED PARCEL AS THE ARC SWINGS TO THE SOUTHEAST TO HIT THE HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY; AND FURTHER TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE EXCHANGE AS RECOMMENDED AND APPROVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Vote: Aye Melton, Golightly, McLean, Hernbrode
Nay Gilstrap
Passed 4 to 1

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Meeting recessed for a break at 11:09 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 11:28 p.m.

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8. Presentation of the Draft Arizona Game and Fish Department Guidelines and Recommendations for the 2006-2007 Hunting and Trapping Seasons and Proposed Changes to Commission Rules Regarding Wildlife Areas for Commission Approval

Presenter: Leonard L. Ordway, Game Branch Chief

Using a Power Point presentation, Mr. Ordway briefed the Commission on the public review draft of the Arizona Game and Fish Department Guidelines and Recommendations for the 2006-2007 Hunting and Trapping Seasons and proposed changes to Commission Rules R12-4-801, R12-4-802, and R12-4-803. The Commission was provided with information prior to this meeting for consideration. The Commission approved guidelines will be posted on the Arizona Game and Fish Department web page and copies will be distributed through direct mailings and distribution at public meetings, which are tentatively scheduled for late January and early February in 11 locations around the state. Public comments will be accepted by fax, e-mail, and letter until March 1, 2006, and will be shared with the six Regions for consideration in preparing the final hunt recommendation package.

The recommended Commission Orders for the fall 2006 hunts will be presented at the April 22, 2006 Commission meeting. Commission Orders for 2006-2007 bandtailed pigeon, dove, javelina, spring turkey, spring bear, spring buffalo, and waterfowl seasons will be presented at noticed Commission meetings during summer 2006. Within the draft guidelines, a proposed recommendation schedule is presented whereby the Department will implement an additional drawing for elk and pronghorn antelope beginning in winter 2006-2007. Seasons will be authorized at the December 2006 Commission meeting and the draw will be held in March 2007. Deer, turkey, bighorn sheep, buffalo, bear, mountain lion, small game, trapping, and population management seasons will continue to be authorized at the April Commission meeting with the draw remaining in July. Spring seasons will continue to be set in August with a November drawing. The intent of this proposal is to provide greater lead time to successful applicants for planning their hunts and possibly reduce the proportion of successful elk and pronghorn antelope applicants that may apply for deer hunts. Included in this proposal is a recommendation to consider an additional fall draw for javelina in Region 5 as part of the April Commission meeting.

The Department recommends that the guidelines as authorized be used for both the 2006 and 2007 hunting seasons. The Department will come back to the Commission with the next recommended hunt guidelines in August 2007; the intent again will be to have guidelines approved for a two year period. Future public meetings will be held during the summer preceding the August meeting (beginning in the summer of 2007).

The Department will recommend that small game and trapping Commission Orders (Commission Orders 11-18 and 23) be approved for a two-year period, beginning in fall 2006.

Additionally, the Department is recommending changes to many season structures throughout the state to standardize and simplify season openers and season length. These standardized structures are described in the hunt guidelines. Other recommended changes are primarily directed at enhancing hunter opportunity.

Arizona Game and Fish Department proposed changes and Commission directives for the 2006-2007 hunting seasons are as follows:

Commission Order 2: Deer

At least two percent (2%) of the general deer permits will be juniors-only. At least one juniors-only season will be offered in each Region. These seasons will be ten days in length and encompass either Columbus Day or Thanksgiving.

In Unit 16A, the Department is recommending that the juniors-only muzzleloader season be stratified, with a ten-day juniors-only muzzleloader season encompassing Columbus Day and leaving the existing juniors-only muzzleloader deer season in December. This would partition opportunity between the two hunts with an increase in permits because of expected lower hunt success in the Columbus Day season.

All units with white-tailed deer hunts will be recommended to have up to 10% of the permits offered during the December season dates. Those units without early seasons in the past will be recommended to have stratified season structures to provide additional hunter opportunity. Guideline for offering late season opportunity for white-tailed deer has been added to the Alternative Deer Management Plan.

The Unit 27 archery deer season is being recommended for expansion to approximately one and a half months in length, split between September and January season time frames. This is in alignment with other archery seasons structures around the state.

Unit 36B has been recommended for removal from the Alternative Deer Management Plan. Region 5 is continuing to work with the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge to finalize deer management objectives.

All general seasons that are outside of alternative deer management season structures will be recommended to provide 15-20% hunter success in accordance with guidelines. All deer seasons are recommended to be a minimum of ten days in length.

Implement antlerless deer harvest in Unit 12AW as needed in accordance with the Alternative Deer Management Plan.

Commission Order 3: Pronghorn Antelope

Standardize all season dates for pronghorn antelope. Firearm seasons will be ten days in length unless the hunt areas offer both muzzleloader and general season hunts, then they will be six-day seasons.

Commission Order 4: Elk

At least five percent (5%) of the total elk permits will be juniors-only antlerless permits.

At least six general early bull elk hunts will be offered annually; two each in Regions 1 and 2 and one each in Regions 3 and 6. At least six muzzleloader bull elk seasons will be offered annually; two each in Regions 1 and 2 and one each in Regions 3 and 6.

In addition to archery early bull hunts, the guidelines provide a late season hunt structure for archery any elk hunts. The intent is to move approximately 50% of the current bull harvest opportunity from the early seasons to this later hunt structure and double the related hunt opportunity.

Place an upper limit on the bull:cow ratios in those units managed for higher ratios (Units 1, 9, 10, and 23 limited to 40 bulls:100 cows). General bull elk hunt success will be managed for 30 to 35%.

Elk populations will be managed in accordance with Regional Elk Operational Plans (plans are developed annually through public input from local Habitat Partnership Committees and provided to the Commission in April); in the future the Department plans to bring Operational Plan draft updates to the Commission for review with the guidelines in August every other year).

Commission Order 5: Turkey

At least two percent (2%) of the spring and fall permits will be offered as juniors-only permits. Fall juniors-only season dates will coincide with the general fall seasons.

Hunt success for all firearm turkey hunts will be managed for 10-15% hunt success. All spring turkey seasons will be stratified.

Institute a fall season for turkeys in Unit 17A and B, and 18B.

Commission Order 6: Javelina

At least two percent (2%) of the javelina permits will be offered as juniors-only permits for the spring seasons.

Season openings dates will be standardized. Archery seasons will be shortened by one weekend to allow for a ten day juniors only season. HAM seasons have also been recommended for extension to ten days.

Javelina herd size will be managed at 7-10 individuals.

Given the history of leftover tags from the spring draw for Region 5 hunt areas, the Department is recommending that 15% of the permits across all season types will be offered in a fall season structure. Archery season will coincide with first ten days of the September archery deer season, the HAM season will coincide with the first ten days of the small game season, and the general season will coincide with the ten-day deer season in November.

Commission Order 7: Bighorn Sheep

Establish a season for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in Units 23 and 24A combined.

Manage for the harvest of 20-30% of Class III and IV rams.

Commission Order 8: Buffalo

No changes.

Commission Order 9: Bear

Implement Commission Rule requiring the physical check of harvested bears.

Standardize archery and general bear season dates for spring and fall seasons.

Split Unit 22 during fall hunts into north and south units to manage sow harvest in an area recovering from a recent fire.

Split Unit 23 into north and south units during spring archery hunts to manage for a release site for bears that must be relocated during open hunting seasons.

Commission Order 10: Mountain Lion

Implement Commission Rule requiring the physical check of harvested mountain lions.

Implement a season closure during June 1 to August 31 in units without multiple bag limits.

Multiple bag limits and boundaries will be reviewed and modified as appropriate to address management objectives. Unit 42 has been suggested for consideration of a multiple bag unit if recently translocated bighorn sheep are suffering from mountain lion predation.

Commission Order 26: Population Management Hunts

All population management hunts recommended for implementation last year are again recommended except for the following changes. Unit 35A is recommended to be eliminated from the proposed HAM bear season, whereas Unit 35B is recommended for inclusion in the general season, and Units 35A and 35B are recommended for inclusion in the archery-only bear seasons.

Additionally, the Department is investigating the success of deer hunters that purchased either an elk tag or a buffalo tag in Units 12A and 12B.

Commission Orders 11: Squirrel; 12: Cottontail Rabbit; 13: Predatory and Fur-bearing Mammals; 14: Other Birds and Mammals; 15: Pheasant; 16: Quail; 17: Chukar Partridge 18: Blue Grouse; 19: Doves; 20: Band-Tailed Pigeon; 21: Waterfowl; 22: Common Snipe; 23: Trapping; and 24: Sandhill Crane

No bag or season frame work changes; small game and trapping Commission Orders (Commission Orders 11-18 and 23) will be recommended for approval for a two-year period. Note: Season dates and bag limits for Commission Orders 19, 20, 21, 22, and 24 are subject to

final approval of Early and Late season Federal Frameworks as prescribed by the Migratory Bird Commission.

Commission Order 29: Special Big Game License-Tag Hunts

The 2006-2007 Special Big Game License-Tag seasons were approved at the October 2005 Commission meeting.

R12-4-802 Wildlife Area Restrictions

Additions underlined:

Chevelon Creek Wildlife Area (located in Unit 4B):

- No open fires.
- No firewood cutting or gathering.
- No overnight public camping.
- Motorized vehicle permitted on designated roads only, except as permitted by R12-4-110(G).
- Posted portions closed to all public entry.
- Additional posted portions closed to public entry from October 1 to February 1 annually.
- Open to hunting in season, except seasonally posted portions closed to hunting from October 1 to February 1 annually.

Public Comment

David Myrick, Desert Christian Archers, opposed the archery elk hunting season changes and would like to see that structure remain unchanged.

Darrin Welsh opposed the late archery elk hunt (per Speaker Card, did not address the Commission).

Tom Cordalis opposed the late archery elk hunt (per Speaker Card, did not address the Commission; noted that archery elk hunts should stay the same as in the past).

Amanda Moors opposed lowering the number of December white tail tags and archery bull elk tags, and does not like the early white tail season; prefers quality over quantity.

Carl Guilliams submitted a Speaker Card in opposition to the restructured archery elk and late white-tailed deer hunts.

Austin Parks agreed with David Myrick in opposition to the archery elk hunting season.

Dick King, Arizona Bowhunters Association (ABA), stated that the archery elk hunting season changes are not acceptable to the majority of bowhunters in Arizona, and urged the Commission to maintain the current quality hunt. Additionally, the lower quality hunts will be discouraging to youth, and in regards to left over tags, the current system is working and shouldn't be changed.

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Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:50 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:24 p.m.

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8. (Continued) Presentation of the Draft Arizona Game and Fish Department Guidelines and Recommendations for the 2006-2007 Hunting and Trapping Seasons and Proposed Changes to Commission Rules Regarding Wildlife Areas for Commission Approval

Public Comment

Don Parks Jr. opposed changing the archery elk season from what it is currently. Additionally, he requested earlier public notices of meetings and to have this agenda item on a Saturday for those who can't attend on a weekday.

Mike Brinkerhuff was not present when called, but noted "oppose" on Speaker Card in regards to archery elk tags.

Mike Johnson was not present when called, but noted "oppose" on Speaker Card in regards to archery elk season.

Mike Wall was not present when called, but noted "oppose" on Speaker Card in regards to archery elk season.

Ken Patrick, Chairman of ABA, opposed taking half of elk tags and putting them in at a later date and losing the quality of the hunt. Additionally, on the Kaibab buffalo hunt, archers should have the same opportunity to buy those buffalo and elk tags during archery season.

Bill McGriff was not present when called, but noted "oppose" on Speaker Card.

Dave Owens, a new bowhunter, opposed hunts following major rifle hunts.

David Sipe opposed changes in archery season and suggested moving the hunts back a week and only taking some of the tags (not half) and put them from October 13-26 for a 10 to 14 day hunt period.

Todd Phillips supports increasing opportunity in the field, but opposes the late archery hunt and proposed that as tags diminish for the archery hunt, then increase the opportunity by giving it to them late in the season.

Randy Phillips opposed changes to the archery hunt and requested earlier public notification of proposed changes.

This agenda item was tabled to accommodate the 2:00 p.m. Time Certain License Revocations and Civil Assessments.

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18. Hearings on License Revocations for Violation of Game and Fish Codes and Civil Assessments for the Illegal Taking and/or Possession of Wildlife

Presenter: Ronald L. Day, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Record of these proceedings is maintained in a separate minutes book in the Director's Office. Those who were present for their hearings were addressed, those not present were postponed until after agenda item #8.

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8. (Continued) Presentation of the Draft Arizona Game and Fish Department Guidelines and Recommendations for the 2006-2007 Hunting and Trapping Seasons and Proposed Changes to Commission Rules Regarding Wildlife Areas for Commission Approval

Public Comment

Chris Agnew was not present when called. "Archery changes" was noted as subject on his Speaker Card, but oppose/support was not marked.

Rob Mannaard was not present when called, but provided a letter in opposition to the archery bull elk tags in November. (Letter on file with Commission meeting packet).

Tom Sisco was not present when called, but noted "oppose" on Speaker Card to additional hunts for javelina.

John Koleszar was not present when called, but noted "oppose" on Speaker Card regarding hunt guidelines.

Stephanie Nichols-Young, Animal Defense League of Arizona (ADLA), addressed the Commission in support of the changes to the mountain lion guidelines.

Marvin Zieser addressed the Commission in opposition of the archery elk recommendations and would like to see more archery in the buffalo population management hunts.

Dick King, ABA, stated that his organization was not given enough time to prepare to address these changes to the hunt recommendations and discussed some options with the Commission.

Mr. Ordway briefed the Commission on suggestions discussed during the break that might give relief to some of the issues.

Commissioner Hernbrode suggested in regards to Commission Order 2, that no deer season be less than two weekends or less than ten days, except for special situations, and that in addition to archery bull hunts, the guidelines provide a late season hunt structure for archery any elk structure with the intent to create 500 additional permits.

The Commission further discussed what changes to make, if any, to the Department's recommendations.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and Golightly seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE DRAFT ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES AND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES WITH GOALS, RECOMMENDATIONS, OR GUIDELINES FOR THE 2006-2007 AND 2007-2008 HUNTING SEASONS, INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION OF A SEPARATE RECOMMENDATION AND DRAW CYCLE FOR PRONGHORN ANTELOPE AND ELK COMMENCING IN DECEMBER 2006, AND WITH THE FOLLOWING TWO CHANGES: 1). TO PULL THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATION THAT WOULD MOVE 50% OF THE ELK HARVEST AWAY FROM THE EARLY ARCHERY SEASON TO A LATER ARCHERY SEASON AND TO EXPLORE OTHER METHODOGY WITH THE ARIZONA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION AND OTHER CONSTITUENTS GROUPS WITH THE INTENT OF LOWERING THE CURRENT SUCCESS RATE WITHIN THOSE EARLY HUNTS AND INCREASING ARCHERY HUNTER PARTICIPATION; AND 2) THAT THE LENGTH OF THE DEER SEASON NOT BE LESS THAN TWO WEEKENDS IN LENGTH EXCEPT FOR SPECIFIC EXCEPTIONS TO MEET MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES.

Vote: Aye Gilstrap, Melton, Golightly, Hernbrode
McLean abstained

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18. (Continued) Hearings on License Revocations for Violation of Game and Fish Codes and Civil Assessments for the Illegal Taking and/or Possession of Wildlife

Presenter: Ronald L. Day, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Record of these proceedings is maintained in a separate minutes book in the Director's Office.

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9. Commission Briefing on Progress in Addressing Issues regarding Mexican Wolf Reintroduction in West-Central New Mexico and East-Central Arizona.

Presenter: Terry B. Johnson, Endangered Species Coordinator

Mr. Johnson briefed the Commission on Department progress in addressing issues regarding the Mexican Wolf Reintroduction in West-Central New Mexico and East-Central Arizona. At the June 2005 Commission meeting, the Department conducted its last briefing to the Commission on its progress toward achieving the Commission's objective set forth at the September 2002 Commission meeting; to restructure and reorganize the Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project as a more collaborative effort among several agencies with a stronger State and Tribal leadership role. One of those objectives was the development of procedures under which the Mexican wolf reintroduction project operates. (The Commission was provided with a copy of the Standard Operating Procedures for the Mexican Wolf Blue Range Reintroduction Project). In the past six months the 5-Year

Review has been conducted; the Adaptive Management Oversight Committee has been conducting public meetings throughout Arizona and New Mexico; and the lead agencies and cooperators successfully negotiated approximately forty areas of activity to pursue over this next year to continue progress towards Commission objectives. Mr. Johnson further briefed the Commission on detailed activities of the project and provided the Commission with a map of the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area and a copy of the Adaptive Management Oversight Committee 5-Year Review Recommendations Relative to September 2002 Arizona-New Mexico State Wildlife Agency Commission Guidance Regarding Management of Mexican Wolf Recovery and Reintroduction Efforts.

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19. Petition to Revise Rule R12-4-318, Allowing for the Possession of a Handgun for Personal Protection Purposes During an Archery-Only Season.

Presenter: Ronald L. Day, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Mr. David Sipe submitted a petition to revise A.A.C. R12-4-318 (Seasons for Lawfully Taking Wild mammals, Birds, and Reptiles). Mr. Sipe's petition requests that the rule be revised to allow an individual participating in an archery-only season to carry a handgun for personal protection. The proposed language stipulates the handgun to have a barrel length not greater than six inches in length.

The Department believes Mr. Sipe petition has merit, but recommends that the petition be denied at this time. The existing 5-Year rule review process is the appropriate venue for consideration of this petition. The next 5-Year review of Article 3 should commence in 2006. Until this rule change can be made, the Department believes an enforcement directive allowing archers to carry a handgun for personal protection can be drafted. The current rule was drafted to prohibit handguns as a method of take at a time when personal protection was not an issue. This directive will allow archers to carry a handgun with a barrel length of not more than six inches during an archery only hunt. It will not allow the possession of handguns specifically designed for hunting.

Mr. Sipe was present and addressed the Commission in support of the rule change.

Commissioner McLean expressed concern that the rule language needed to be defined with some specific limitations and agreed to work with Mr. Day on that language.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and Melton seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DENY THE PETITION BUT DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO CONSIDER ALLOWING AN INDIVIDUAL TO CARRY A HANDGUN FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION DURING AN ARCHERY-ONLY SEASON DURING THE NEXT REVIEW OF ARTICLE 3, WHICH WILL BEGIN EARLY IN 2006 AND FURTHER THAT SATISFACTORY LANGUAGE WILL BE DRAFTED SO THAT THIS BECOMES A PART OF ARTICLE 3.

Vote: Unanimous

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15. Call to the Public

Bret Borhman briefed the Commission on researchers from the University of Washington conducting research in a remote hunting area, with permission from the Forest Service, which had a significant negative impact on his hunt. Mr. Borhman suggested that the Department communicate and coordinate with the Forest Service on this issue and that researchers be required to provide some kind of notification or post something, so hunters will know to go somewhere else.

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Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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Saturday, December 10, 2005 – 8:00 a.m.

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Chairman Gilstrap called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The Commissioners introduced themselves and Chairman Gilstrap introduced the Director, and the Director's staff. This meeting followed an agenda revision dated November 22, 2005.

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1. Request to Approve a Notice of Docket Opening and a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to Amend Article 1 Rules Dealing with Definitions and General Provisions to Designate All Game Management Units under A.R.S. § 17-316

Presenter: Dustin McKissen, Rules and Risk Manager

The Department proposed amendments to designate all game management units in the state as "hunt areas" under A.R.S. § 17-316 and to give the Game and Fish Director the authority to direct peace officers to enforce A.R.S. § 17-316 if it is determined that significant interference or disruption of a lawful hunt is likely to occur. Under this rulemaking, the provisions of A.R.S. § 17-316 shall become effective and enforceable immediately upon the Director's order, and enforcement may last for the period of time associated with a particular interference or disruption. Additional amendments that prescribe notification requirements to the public and definition of what constitutes a "hunt area" are also included in the proposed rulemaking. The draft Notice of Docket Opening, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Economic Impact Statement (EIS), and projected timeline were provided to the Commission for consideration prior to this meeting. If approved, the Notice and EIS will be submitted to the Secretary of State's Office by December 16, 2005 for publication in the *Arizona Administrative Register*.

Motion: Melton moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE A NOTICE OF DOCKET OPENING AND A NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING TO AMEND ARTICLE 1 RULES DEALING WITH DEFINITIONS AND

GENERAL PROVISIONS TO DESIGNATE ALL GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS UNDER A.R.S. § 17-316 TO ADDRESS SIGNIFICANT INTERFERENCE OR DISRUPTION OF HUNTS IN THIS STATE. THE NOTICES WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE *ARIZONA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER*.

Vote: Unanimous

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2. Request to Close the Rulemaking Record and Approve a Notice of Final Rulemaking to Amend Article 3 rules to Authorize the Use of a Two-Part Tag, Prescribe Additional Check-Out Requirements for Mountain Lion Hunts, and to Authorize Possession of a Bear or Mountain Lion Taken Under A.R.S. § 17-302 During a Closed Season

Presenter: Dustin McKissen, Rules and Risk Manager

A notice of Notice of Docket Opening and a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was filed to begin the process to authorize the use of a new two-part hunt permit-tag so that an individual who possessed the original tag could allow another individual to possess and transport a portion of a wildlife carcass; establish a new season that would authorize an individual to keep the carcass of a mountain lion or bear that attacks or kills livestock, under A.R.S. § 17-302; and prescribe additional check-out requirements for those who take mountain lion or bear. The Notices were published in the October 21, 2005 issue of the *Arizona Administrative Register*, and during the 30-day written comment period received four comments. The Department has considered the comments and provided responses in the draft Notice of Final Rulemaking. Under the Notice of Final Rulemaking:

- The Department authorizes a two-part tag to allow possession of a divided carcass, and prescribes general guidelines for use of the portions of the tag to establish lawful possession.
- An individual may be authorized to possess mountain lion or bear taken during a closed season, if authorized by A.R.S. § 17-302. Bear or mountain lion taken as prescribed in R12-4-305 will also count towards the bag limit.
- Check-out requirements for individuals who take mountain lion or bear will change as prescribed in R12-4-310.

The draft Notice of Final Rulemaking, Economic Impact Statement, and the comments received were provided to the Commission for consideration prior to this meeting. If approved, the Department will file the documents with the Governor's Regulatory Review Council (GRRC) by December 19, 2006.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and Melton seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO CLOSE THE RULEMAKING RECORD AND APPROVE A NOTICE OF FINAL RULEMAKING TO AMEND ARTICLE 3 RULES, DEALING WITH THE TAKING AND HANDLING OF WILDLIFE, TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF A TWO-PART TAG, PRESCRIBE ADDITIONAL CHECK-OUT REQUIREMENTS FOR MOUNTAIN LION HUNTS, AND TO AUTHORIZE POSSESSION OF A BEAR OR MOUNTAIN LION TAKEN

UNDER A.R.S. § 17-302 DURING A CLOSED SEASON. THE NOTICE WILL BE SUBMITTED TO GRRC FOR CONSIDERATION AT THEIR NEXT OPEN MEETING.

Vote: Unanimous

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3. Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to Amend R12-4-102 to Increase Fees as Authorized by Statutory Changes Made by the 47th Legislature

Presenter: Dustin McKissen, Rules and Risk Manager

Using a Power Point presentation, Mr. McKissen provided the Commission with a presentation summarizing public comments from twelve public meetings, Internet responses and public survey results (provided to the Commission for consideration prior to this meeting), and asked the Commission for direction on proceeding with a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to amend R12-4-102; dealing with licenses, tags, stamps, and permits to increase fees as authorized by statutory changes made by the 47th Legislature to raise fee ceilings.

The survey results indicated 46% in support of the fee increase, 23% in opposition, and 31% with no opinion. Some main concerns from the public were: Class A versus B licenses; the desire to keep youth and families involved in the sport with specially priced youth tags; and the comparative increase between resident and nonresident.

Some of the Department's program priorities that these funds would be used for other than retirement and salary adjustments are: programs to manage wildlife, reintroduce game species, improve fishing and recreation opportunities statewide, support of local sportsman clubs, hunter and angler recruitment, wildlife area enhancements for access and hunt opportunities, facilities and headquarters, information technology, shooting range development and improvements, and increased presence of law enforcement in the field.

If approved, this Notice will be submitted to the Secretary of State for publication in the *Arizona Administrative Register*, and the Notice of Final Rulemaking will be presented to the Commission in February 2006. If the Notice of Final Rulemaking is approved by the Commission, it will be presented to GRRC in April 2006. Under this timeline, the Rulemaking will be effective for 2007 license and tag sales.

The Commission discussed the public input they received with Mr. McKissen and concluded that the opposition was substantially diminished for those who attended the public meetings and participated in discussion.

Commissioner McLean stated that he believed the fee increases were more than reasonable.

Commissioner Melton stated that he supported the proposal, except for the Class A hunt.

Public Comment

Bill Rackley opposed the range of percentage in increase and suggested an across the board 25%.

David McCasland, Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society (ADBSS), opposed the fee increase for nonresidents, and recommended only a 25% increase for both resident and nonresident.

Commission discussion ensued regarding the difference in support and attitude for fee increases since last year, now that the Reid Bill has removed the 10% cap issue for nonresidents. Additionally, the Commission discussed the projected amount of funds the Department would receive from the fee increase, what it would be used for and how programs would have to be cut if the Commission reduced the fee increase from 50% of the cap.

Public Comment

Jon Fugate, Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club (YVRGC), stated that his organization requests that the Commission seriously consider only raising the fees 25% of the cap across the board, that all premium or A hunts not be considered, that all youth fees not be increased, that all paper applicants have the same opportunity of not paying tag fees up front, and most of all, that the sales tax initiative and the Heritage Fund be protected from the Legislature. Additionally, if the sales tax initiative is pursued by the Commission and passed by the voters, the Department won't need to go to 50%. The Commission should only increase 25% this year and then wait and see if the initiative passes.

Commissioner Melton commented that there is no guarantee the initiative will pass. Also, two Commissioners have already lobbied at the legislature for approval to go to 50% and it creates problems to go back and make changes; at 50%, they won't have to go back for a few years.

Public Comment

David Sipe addressed the Commission and stated that he agreed with Mr. Fugate, but also that he was concerned that the fee increase will disenfranchise the public if the Commission goes forward with the sales tax initiative. The Commission should consider decreasing fees if the initiative passes and the percentage of increase should be the same for nonresidents and residents.

Brian Dolan stated that nonresidents helped to get the Reid Bill passed, which alleviated the cap issue, and now the Commission should show some appreciation and not raise the nonresident fees as much as what is proposed; keep it more of an average with the other Western states. Also, regarding resident increases, it was understood that the increases would be spread out over several years, but now the Commission is going for 50% in the first year. Additionally, there is confusion as to what this increase will mean to the Department and what the funds will be used for because the projected amounts have changed.

Mr. Ferrell addressed the question of the changing numbers. The Compensation Maintenance Review (CMR) for the Wildlife Series is over 1 million, the Non-wildlife Series is over a half a million, plus the 7.5% cost of living raise supported by the Governor for all state employees, fuel cost and half a million for the new Department headquarters, totals 4.4 million. The 2003 projection from the fee increase was 5 million, but license sales were down. The 2005 projection from the fee increase is 7.4 million, so there is \$600,000 to 3 million projected that are uncommitted funds depending on what year's projection is looked at. In August 2004, when

justifying a fee increase, the Department came up with 20 areas to address with new revenues. The 4.4 million only addressed two of those 20 items, the employee raise and the new headquarters. There are 18 other items that are program expansions that address everything from habitat enhancement to public access. As for the percentage amount of the increase, rather than getting into different percentages for different licenses, the Department used the same 50% measure for all of them and is presenting that to the Commission to make those changes if they so choose.

Public Comment

John Koleszar addressed the Commission stating that he had the unique opportunity this fall to spend some time in the field with Wildlife Managers where he heard some off-handed comments that he decided to investigate. In an article that will be published next week, he wrote that the Superior Court Justice from the State of Arizona, in a case involving the State versus a Game and Fish employee, had to find for the State of Arizona. But the learned Justice, in his own opinion, stated that he unequivocally felt the State Legislature was remiss in their duties by not handing out any pay increases to Game and Fish employees over the last five years, and that it was ludicrous in the way they were being treated. To qualify to become a Game and Fish Wildlife Manager, you have to have a four-year biology degree and you have to be qualified as a Peace Officer, and the starting salary is roughly \$28,000. If you have a GED and go to work at Tent City for Sheriff Joe as a Detention Officer, you start off at \$31,000. If you want to become a Peace Officer in any other agency around the city, the starting range is roughly \$38,000. Game and Fish employees are dramatically underpaid and have been for quite some time. Another thing noticed in the investigation was that back in the mid-nineties, when the pay structure was more equitable, there would be up to fifty applicants per Wildlife Manager position. Now, the Department is lucky to get three to four applicants per position. It is deplorable the way employees have not been able to get any increases, even in understanding the logistics behind the Legislature in the way they do what they do and the ties it has on the Department. Mr. Koleszar continued by saying that in looking at the projected income from the fee increase, he recognized immediately that the 2.5 million dollars was necessary to start off for all employees, and then the 1.1 million was necessary based on cost of living allowances. Nobody wants to spend more money, but having been with the Wildlife Managers and knowing the dangers that they face and the hard work that they do, as well as all Game and Fish employees, they're not in this to make a lot of money. Who would work for the last five years without a pay increase and not complain about it? The people who work for the Department do it out of love as well as something that they like, as well as an income. Mr. Koleszar hopes that in the future, others will consider the fact that we want these people to be decently paid. They are not getting rich, just decently paid.

Scott Heap, South Eastern Arizona Sportsman's Club, had four points for comment. In light of the potential sales tax initiative, keep the increase at 25% the first year, terminate the premium hunt idea, leave the youth hunt fees alone, and protect the sales tax initiative funds as the Heritage Funds are protected.

Commissioner McLean asked about the increase in youth fees because he understood that there would be no increase in youth tag fees, to which Mr. McKissen stated that the numbers were there for informational purposes only and that the Commission has the authority to set separate fees for youth tags if they so choose.

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Meeting recessed for a break at 10:05 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:20 a.m.

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Public Comment

Gary Anderson stated that it used to be that nonresident fees were set up at a 5 to 1 ratio and that it should still be that way across the board.

Chairman Gilstrap stated that there was a ratio and there is still a relative ratio, but we have changed to what is called Smart Pricing. A trophy bull elk is different than a cow tag, a bighorn sheep is different, and Arizona has a phenomenal antelope herd, and the increases are market driven. Other states were also looked at to see where Arizona fits in with their fees.

Commissioner McLean stated his position on the youth tag fees. Currently, there are special hunts for youth only and as to those hunts, the Commission has the ability to create separate tag fees for youth elk, deer, javelina and turkey. As to those hunts there needs to be a separate fee structure, and those youth hunt fees should be fairly nominal with no difference between resident and nonresident.

Commissioner Melton asked if there would be a cap on nonresident youths, to which Mr. Ferrell stated that the same 10% cap on nonresidents applied to all big game species would be the same for youths.

The Commission and Mr. Ferrell further discussed the difference in revenues if the percentage of increase were lowered from 50%, what would be covered and what programs would have to drop off.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and Melton seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO NOT INCLUDE THE PREMIUM OR CLASS A HUNTS IN THE FEE STRUCTURE.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: McLean moved THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ESTABLISH A NEW TAG AND TAG FEE FOR FOUR PERMANENT YOUTH HUNT CATEGORIES: 1) JUNIOR ELK HUNT, 2) JUNIOR DEER HUNT, 3) JUNIOR TURKEY HUNT, AND 4) JUNIOR JAVELINA HUNT; AND THAT THE FEES FOR THOSE BE ESTABLISHED AT ELK \$50 PLUS CURRENT SURCHARGE, DEER \$25 PLUS CURRENT SURCHARGE, JAVELINA \$15 PLUS CURRENT SURCHARGE, TURKEY \$10 PLUS CURRENT SURCHARGE; AND THAT THE FEES FOR RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT YOUTH BE THE SAME.

Commissioner Hernbrode offered an amendment to add a resident and nonresident Class F (Combo license) youth fee of \$26.

Motion Amended: McLean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ESTABLISH A NEW TAG AND TAG FEE FOR FOUR PERMANENT YOUTH HUNT CATEGORIES: 1) JUNIOR ELK HUNT, 2) JUNIOR DEER HUNT, 3) JUNIOR

TURKEY HUNT, AND 4) JUNIOR JAVELINA HUNT; AND THAT THE FEES FOR THOSE BE ESTABLISHED AT ELK \$50 PLUS CURRENT SURCHARGE, DEER \$25 PLUS CURRENT SURCHARGE, JAVELINA \$15 PLUS CURRENT SURCHARGE, TURKEY \$10 PLUS CURRENT SURCHARGE; AND THAT THE FEES FOR RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT YOUTH BE THE SAME; AND THAT A RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT CLASS F (COMBO LICENSE) YOUTH FEE BE \$26.

Vote: Unanimous

The Commission further discussed how much of the percentage could be cut, while maintaining the main objectives and without expanding any programs. At 40% the revenue would be 5.9 million and \$700,000 of that could go to expanding programs.

Commissioner McLean pointed out that at 40% and without the sales tax initiative, the Commission will be back in two years looking for another increase.

Chairman Gilstrap commented that the remaining 10% was small in comparison to what that 10% could do for wildlife.

Public Comment

Gary Anderson restated that the Commission needed to consider how they will be perceived by the public if they go to 50%.

Dick King stated that the difference between 40% and 50% for example, on one elk tag would be \$11 dollars, and that he spent that much on fast food last night, so if we need to spend another \$11 dollars per elk tag to give the Department what they need, then we should do that.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE THAT THE NONRESIDENT BIGHORN SHEEP TAG BE \$1400.

Commissioner Hernbrode stated that this should address the perception issue.

Vote: Unanimous

The Commission further discussed various pricing.

Motion: Melton moved and McLean seconded THAT INSTEAD OF 50% OF THE STATUTORY FEE CAP, THAT IT BE REDUCED TO 40%, OTHER THAN WHAT THE COMMISSION HAS ALREADY CHANGED, AND THAT THE INDIVIDUAL LICENSES BE ROUNDED UP TO THE NEAREST DOLLAR.

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Meeting recessed for a break at 11:30 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

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While on break, the Commission looked at the figures in the difference between 40% and 50% of the fee cap.

Public Comment

John Koleszar stated for clarification that these fee increases will not take place until 2007.

Vote: Aye Melton, McLean
Nay Gilstrap, Golightly, Hernbrode,
Motion failed

Motion: McLean moved THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE FEE INCREASE TO 50% OF THE STATUTORY FEE CAP, OTHER THAN WHAT THE COMMISSION HAS ALREADY CHANGED.

Motion Amended: McLean moved and Golightly seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE FEE INCREASE TO 50% OF THE STATUTORY FEE CAP, OTHER THAN WHAT THE COMMISSION HAS ALREADY CHANGED; AND ALSO ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT TO FIX ANY DISCREPANCIES IN FAMILY COMBOS TO REFLECT INDIVIDUAL LICENSE PRICES.

Vote: Aye Gilstrap, Golightly, McLean
Nay Melton, Hernbrode
Motion passed 3 to 2

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6. Presentation on Constituent Support for a Dedicated Alternative Funding Source for the Department

Presenter: Steve Ferrell, Deputy Director

Using a Power Point presentation, Mr. Ferrell provided the results from a survey that polled the primary constituent groups of the Department for their support of a ballot initiative to provide a dedicated alternative funding source for the Department. Survey questionnaires were distributed at 13 public meetings, there was a website survey, and questionnaires were distributed via email to approximately 78,000 subscribers of various Game and Fish publications. Overall support of the sales tax initiative was nearly identical to the survey conducted by O'Neil and Associates, which polled 1000 registered voters, and was presented to the Commission at the November 2005 Commission meeting.

Commissioner Hernbrode expressed concern that the Department did not hear from environmentalist and they need to be on board as well to get the initiative passed.

Commissioner Melton expressed concern about the timing; that it's too late in the year to start the initiative process and get the support that's needed, so it should be done in the next cycle instead (2008 ballot).

Sandy Bahr, Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter, submitted a Speaker Card in support of the initiative and noted on the card that her organization would like to see the funds go toward native Arizona wildlife and that the tax not apply to food or clothing under \$50.00.

Commissioner McLean verified with Mr. Odenkirk that the sales tax would be subject to the same exclusions as the general excise tax.

Stephanie Nichols-Young, ADLA, stated that she supports the sales tax initiative, but has concerns about the timing. With the detail of the proposal and all that would have to be done to get the initiative on the ballot, she didn't think it should be pursued for 2006.

Commissioner McLean clarified that if it wasn't done this coming year in 2006, it wouldn't be done until the next general election in 2008.

Beth Woodin, Arizona Heritage Alliance (and former Game and Fish Commissioner), expressed support for the initiative, but agreed with Ms. Nichols-Young in that it was more realistic to pursue in 2008.

John Koleszar, Arizona Elk Society, supported the concept, but stated that the sales tax initiative was going to be complicated with a lot of questions and that there needed to be a well rounded plan. Additionally, the Commission needed to make sure the funds were spent wisely and not excessively.

Don Farmer, Arizona Heritage Alliance, stated support for the initiative, but agreed that it was too late in the cycle for 2006.

Jon Fugate, YVRGC, supports the initiative, but concurred with previous public comments regarding timing.

Michael O'Gornau, stated support for the initiative.

Mary Jo Miller, Arizona Wildlife Federation, submitted a Speaker Card in support of the initiative. Comments on the card noted reservations regarding the timing and should be postponed to 2008.

Motion: Melton moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO PURSUE THE SALES TAX INITIATIVE FOR THE 2008 GENERAL ELECTION SEASON.

Commissioner Hernbrode expressed concern about the loss of momentum, but stated that he would vote yes.

Don Farmer, Arizona Heritage Alliance, suggested that the Commission may not want to prematurely reveal their plans to those who oppose the initiative by making a motion at this time.

Commissioner McLean stated that if there is opposition, they need to know what they have to say, and that they needed to enlist the help of those who support it.

Vote: Unanimous

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Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:54 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

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4. Request to Approve the Five-Year Rule Review Report for Commission Rules in Article 5 Dealing with Boating and Water Sports for Filing with the Governor's Regulatory Review Council

Presenter: Dustin McKissen, Rules and Risk Manager

Mr. Ferrell presented this item in Mr. McKissen's absence. Under A.R.S. § 41-1056, each state agency is required to review all of its rules once every five years on a predetermined schedule established by the Governor's Regulatory Review Council (GRRC). Under this requirement, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission's Article 5, Boating and Water Sports Rules were analyzed for the 2005 five-year rules review cycle. A report detailing the findings of the Article 5 five-year rules review was presented to the Commission for review prior to today's meeting. If approved by the Commission, the 2005 Article 5 Five-Year Rules Review Report will be filed with GRRC by December 19, 2005 for its February 7, 2006 meeting. The Department anticipates opening a Rulemaking Docket for proposed rule changes to Article 5 by June 2006.

Motion: Melton moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE 2005 FIVE-YEAR RULE REVIEW REPORT FOR COMMISSION RULES IN ARTICLE 5, DEALING WITH BOATING AND WATER SPORTS, FOR FILING WITH THE GOVERNOR'S REGULATORY REVIEW COUNCIL UNDER A.R.S. § 41-1056.

Vote: Unanimous
McLean absent

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5. Request to Approve the Five-Year Rule Review Report for Commission Rules in Article 7 Dealing with Heritage Grants for Filing with the Governor' Regulatoru Review Council

Presenter: Dustin McKissen, Rules and Risk Manager

Mr. Ferrell presented this item in Mr. McKissen's absence. Under A.R.S. § 41-1056, each state agency is required to review all of its rules once every five years on a predetermined schedule established by the Governor's Regulatory Review Council (GRRC). Under this requirement, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission's Article 7, Heritage Grants were analyzed for the 2005 five-year rules review cycle. A report detailing the findings of the Article 7 five-year rules review was presented to the Commission for review prior to today's meeting. If approved by the Commission, the 2005 Article 7 Five-Year Rules Review Report will be filed with GRRC by December 19, 2005 for its February 7, 2006 meeting. The Department anticipates opening a Rulemaking Docket for proposed rule changes to Article 7 by June 2006.

Motion: Melton moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE 2005 FIVE-YEAR RULE REVIEW REPORT FOR COMMISSION RULES IN

ARTICLE 7, DEALING WITH HERITAGE GRANTS, FOR FILING WITH THE GOVERNOR'S REGULATORY REVIEW COUNCIL UNDER A.R.S. § 41-1056.

Vote: Unanimous
McLean absent

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7. Call to the Public

There were no requests from the public to speak at this time.

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With the completion of Saturday's agenda items, the rest of Friday's agenda were addressed, except for those postponed to January 2006.

10. State and Federal Legislation

Presenter: Anthony Guiles, Legislative Liaison

Mr. Guiles provided the Commission with a brief overview regarding state and federal legislation. The legislative session begins January 9, 2006. It will be a record year for the number of bills introduced; there are over 1000 pre-filed at this point. Senator Hellon is willing to sponsor the wildlife feeding bill and the Department made a commitment to meet with committee members so they are aware of what we are trying to accomplish. Regarding the OHV bill, State Parks is not going to be a part of this legislation due to some budgetary issues they are having with the legislature. Additionally, the constituents understand that the OHV bill needs to be a constituent driven issue. Regarding the Federal Deficit Reduction Act and the mining patents, this is causing a great deal of concern with sportsman's groups. The way the language is written is vague and there are no definitive answers to where it may lead. Mr. Guiles recommended that a letter be drafted on behalf of the Commission addressing some of these concerns.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO DRAFT A LETTER RELAYING THE COMMISSIONS CONCERNS TO SENATOR POMBO'S PROVISIONS IN THE HOUSE BUDGET RECONCILIATION BILL WHICH WOULD MODIFY THE 1872 MINING LAW.

Vote: Unanimous

Mr. Guiles stated that it is also time to designate two Commission representatives to the legislature to act upon emergency issues and Commission positions.

Motion: Golightly moved and Melton seconded THAT COMMISSIONERS MCLEAN AND GOLIGHTLY BE THE COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LEGISLATURE TO ACT UPON EMERGENCY ISSUES AND COMMISSION POSITIONS.

Vote: Unanimous

Commissioner Hernbrode requested to participate as a matter of training.

Don Farmer, Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF), submitted a Speaker Card, but was not present. Mr. Farmer provided the Commission with a copy of a letter that the AWF sent to Rick Renzi and a copy of a letter to Senator Craig Thomas from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, both in regards to the House Budget Reconciliation bill, which would modify the 1872 Mining Law (on file with the Commission meeting packet).

Director Shroufe clarified that the letter drafted on behalf of the Commission would be sent to the appropriate Senators with copies to the Arizona delegation.

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2. Litigation Report

A copy of this report was provided to the Commission prior to today's meeting and is included as part of these minutes. There were no further updates from Mr. Odenkirk and the Commission had no comments or questions.

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4. Update on Current Issues, Planning Efforts, and Proposed Projects on State and Federal Lands in Arizona and Other Matters Related Thereto

Presenter: Bob Broscheid, Habitat Branch Chief

A copy of the Lands Update report was provided to the Commission prior to today's meeting and is included as part of these minutes. The update addresses decisions or activities since the October 2005 Commission meeting. This update is in fulfillment of the Department's commitment to brief the Commission on a regular basis regarding decisions and actions on all state and federal lands in Arizona.

Since the Lands Update was published, the BLM Arizona Strip Office released the draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. This includes all the public lands on the Arizona Strip including the Vermillion and Grand Canyon Parashant National Monuments. The Department is reviewing it now during the 90-day reviewing period and will participate in meetings to address concerns.

The Department has received a letter from the BLM Kingman Office regarding the status of the Big Ranch A allotment. BLM, due to other commitments and priorities, delayed the analysis of the Big Ranch A for a couple more months.

Director Shroufe stated that he will contact Elaine Zielinski, BLM State Director, who gave direction for two employees to go and start that evaluation in December.

The Commission further discussed the lack of commitment from BLM, as well as the Forest Service, on other projects as well. Depending on the outcome of Director Shroufe's discussion with Ms. Zielinski, a letter may be drafted on behalf of the Commission, and sportsman's groups may be contacted to weigh in on this issue.

Commissioner Melton, in regards to the Arizona Strip Resource Management Plan, expressed concern about the road closures that may be in that plan, and requested that the Department take a close at those road structures.

Mr. Broscheid stated that the Department continues to track road closures in all plans, and will be looking at that. Also, the Department has contacted BLM regarding availability to make a presentation to the Commission prior to the public comment period closing.

Commissioner McLean expressed concern in regards to the San Manuel Development portion of the Lands Update and suggested that the Department watch that situation closely.

Public Comment

Jon Fugate, YVRGC, stated that YVRGC asked BLM to put in their statewide MOU, in regards to their Resource Management Plans, some simple language that the Game and Fish Department's trust responsibilities will not be negatively impacted, and they are having a problem with that simple statement, which raises a very big red flag.

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6. Request for Commission Approval of the Acquisition of Right-of-Way (No. 018-102462) in Perpetuity for Continued Access into Charouleau Gap in Pinal County from the Arizona State Land Department and Subsequent Transfer to the Coronado National Forest After Acquisition.

Presenter: Bob Broscheid, Habitat Branch Chief

In October 1996, the Commission approved a ten (10) year Right-of-Way from the State Land Department (SLD) for roadway access through Charouleau Gap in the Coronado National Forest (Forest Service). The current 10-year recreational right-of-way expires October 8, 2007. The Department transferred the right-of-way to the Forest Service in April of 2002 to enable the Forest Service to apply for the right-of-way in perpetuity. The Forest Service has applied for this right-of-way in perpetuity, but due to anticipated irresolvable differences in appraisal values between State and Federal appraisal standards the Forest Service has requested the Commission assume the application. If acceptable to the Commission, the Department would like to assume the application from the Forest Service and pursue the right-of-way in perpetuity. Once the right-of-way has been acquired in perpetuity the Department would then transfer the right-of-way to the Forest Service.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and Melton seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY (NO. 018-102462) IN PERPETUITY FOR CONTINUED ACCESS INTO CHAROULEAU GAP IN PINAL COUNTY FROM THE ARIZONA STATE LAND DEPARTMENT AND SUBSEQUENT TRANSFER TO THE CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST AFTER ACQUISITION AND AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO ENTER INTO ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE TRANSACTIONS APPROVED HEREIN.

Vote: Unanimous

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11. Statewide Shooting Range Briefing

Presenters: Marty Macurak, Assistant Director

Bob Broscheid, Habitat Branch Chief, first briefed the Commission using a Power Point presentation on the progress of the Northern Arizona Shooting Range. A meeting was held at Northern Arizona University. Public comments were positive and suggestions for the location were similar to those of the Department. Preliminary site visits were conducted on eleven potential sites and those findings were relayed to the Commission. The Department is on track with the timeline and expects to have a preferred site selected in January 2006. Mr. Broscheid suggested dropping a couple of the potential sites, due to various issues.

Director Shroufe recommended dropping down to the five most suitable sites for the final evaluation and the NEPA process and, if necessary, add more at a later date.

Public Comment

Bill Perkins, NRA Range Development Advisor, completed a Speaker Card, but was not present. Ms. Macurak informed the Commission that a meeting is planned with Mr. Perkins and the Friends of the NRA regarding improvements at the L. Z. Pearson Range.

Ms. Macurak continued with her briefing.

Department Owned Ranges

Ben Avery Shooting Facility, Phoenix - The main range/small-bore lighting improvement project is on target. The bidding process is finished, an okay was received from APS to proceed, and the work schedule with the vendor is being finalized; completion is anticipated in January or February 2006. The City of Phoenix has begun utility work along Carefree Highway. A road has been cut west and south of the high power range to maintain customer access to the Clay Target Center, and the Department and City of Phoenix are working together to provide signage on Carefree Highway and inside the property. Beginning in January and continuing through March, ADOT will make improvements to the freeway interchange at Carefree Highway. They will install traffic lights and will add a westbound lane over the Carefree Highway to reduce bridge backups. A new telephone system and updated computers have been installed. Staff is making progress on a program to recruit, train and retain Line Safety Officers; the goal is to have

the program fully implemented by March 2006. A contractor has been hired to create a new customer management database for the facility, which will be used to help manage accounts and analyze usage patterns. Progress continues on hiring a vendor to coordinate a Master Plan for the facility; the goal is to begin the planning process in January 2006 and finish in September or October 2006. In November, Ms. Macurak met with members of the Arizona State Rifle and Pistol Association to discuss new partnership activities and range improvements. The Request for Proposals for range operations has been publicly posted; the timeline is: December 3, RFP posted; March 3, RFP closes; March 27 – April 30, Evaluation process; May or June, Commission briefing and direction; July, Execute contract if approved by the Commission.

Chairman Gilstrap requested that Ms. Macurak email a copy of the RFP to the Commission.

Regarding surplus brass at the range, the brass has been considered state surplus property and money from that coming back to the Department has been around \$7500 a year. As for selling it to a vendor as suggested by Commissioner Golightly, the Department has turned the matter over to the Attorney General's Office to determine if the brass is actually state surplus property.

Two items requested by the Commission at the October meeting will be presented to the Commission at the February 2006 Commission meeting: 1) a proposal to create a new Department organizational unit to house the shooting sports and 2) a more detailed estimate of the cost and needs associated with the Department operating the Clay Target Center. Ms. Macurak provided the Commission with a draft organizational chart for the proposed Shooting Sports Division and an employee cost estimate.

Commissioner McLean stated that he understood that the cost estimate was an estimate, but for the evaluation process beginning March 27, the Commission needed to have the numbers refined in detail and solidified, and the Commission needed to know where that additional funding would come from.

Commissioner Melton left the meeting for the remainder of the day at 2:50 p.m.

Commissioner Golightly requested to see a list of benefits that the proposed Shooting Sports Division would provide.

The Commission discussed what the proposed Shooting Sports Division would encompass, what programs would be included, and potential funding sources, as well as whether or not they wanted to be in the shooting range business.

Commissioner Hernbrode summarized that the Commission believes they should be in the shooting sports business, that it should come from the level of a Division for shooting sports and include hunter education, hunter recruitment, archery and clays programs, and that it should be geared to start when the sales tax initiative is passed.

Chairman Gilstrap and Commissioners McLean and Golightly concurred, except for waiting for the sales tax initiative, and after further discussion, the Commission gave direction to the Department to continue looking into creating a Shooting Sports Division.

Usery Mountain Shooting Range, Mesa - The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has reviewed the site assessment and has determined that no additional remediation activities are needed for chemicals in the septic system. The contaminated septic system has been decommissioned and the Department will submit a No Further Action letter report that will close the case. The vendor hired to conduct sound studies, advises that their study equipment is being repaired, which will slightly delay the completion date.

Shooting Programs and Other Activities

Scholastic Clay Target Program and Archery - The months of October and November were devoted to youth enrollment; 650 young people signed up in October and 60 in November. Enrollment will continue until equipment availability is exhausted. New programs are in Wickenburg, Central Arizona (Casa Grande), Sierra Vista, Prescott and Yuma. Other locations expressing interest are Davis Monthon Air Force Base, Luke Air Force Base, Williams (Flagstaff), Parker and Cottonwood. Instructor trainings in October included Level 1 Senior training for 25 existing SCTP coaches, and Youth Coach Instructor training to 30 brand new coaches. An introduction to clay target event will be held at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility on December 10.

An archery workshop was presented at Ft. McDowell Reservation on October 29 for youth at the reservation's Recreation Center. Thirty young people were trained during the half-day session.

White Mountain Trap and Skeet Club – Progress has been made on the request of the White Mountain Trap and Skeet Club for Department assistance in grading the road to their range. A check on easements has turned up several sections without easements; club members will contact these owners and request signatures on permission letters. Once permissions are secured, the next step is a cost/public benefit analysis.

Northeastern Arizona Sportsman's Association - The association desires that the Commission acquire a shooting range in St. John's that is owned by Apache County and the Commission has given general approval to the concept. The Department conducted a Phase I Environmental Assessment of the property in November. The findings are : 1) The property has been surveyed but is not fenced or signed as a shooting range, 2) there is evidence of a significant amount of vandalism which will require improved operational controls to remedy, 3) as expected, significant levels of lead contamination were observed in down-range areas, 4) at the time of the site visit, a significant number of used tires were observed on the range property; club members tell us the tires were placed on the site by the Apache County Sheriffs Office and will be removed within the next two weeks, 5) groundwater at the subject site is reported to be relatively shallow (20-50 feet below ground level), 6) the range site is located in an area of mainly heavy clay and sandstone derived soils with slightly basic Ph values; these soils act to limit any potential mobility of lead, and 7) no additional assessment or testing appears to be needed at this time. The conclusion is that acquisition of the range (at no to little cost to the Department) appears to be justified. The property should be fenced and signed as a shooting range as soon as possible and administrative controls should be instituted to limit vandalism. If the range is acquired by the Department, staff will meet with club membership to define a range development plan; the plan must include improvements necessary to comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO MOVE FORWARD AND WORK WITH APACHE COUNTY TO FACILITATE THE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF THE ST. JOHN'S SHOOTING RANGE FROM APACHE COUNTY TO THE ARIZONA GAME AND FISH COMMISSION.

Vote: Unanimous
Melton absent

Ms. Macurak further briefed that the window has closed for the fiscal year's shooting range grants. Seven applications were received and will be reviewed and presented to the Commission at the June 2006 Commission meeting; the requests total \$117,000. Additionally, Prescott Sportsman's Association has asked the Department to investigate the possibility of entering into discussion with the Forest Service to take over the Sportsman's Association's lease on their shooting range.

Director Shroufe informed the Commission that the County Manager of Gila County proposed a site in his county to replace the Bellemont site. Director Shroufe told him that the Department would be glad to look at his proposition, but not for replacing the Northern Arizona site.

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16. Rehearing Request Regarding Previous License Revocation/Civil Assessment

Presenter: Ronald L. Day, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Assistant Director Mike Senn briefed the Commission in Mr. Day's absence. On the 10th Day of May 2005, Harold D. Corbin was convicted in the Payson Justice Court for: Count E: Take wildlife without permit/tag (elk). On August 12, 2005, the Commission revoked Mr. Corbin's hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses for a period of five (5) years, and invoked a civil assessment in the amount of \$2,337.87 and further required him to complete a Hunter Education Course before obtaining any license(s) to take wildlife in the State of Arizona. Mr. Corbin has requested a rehearing of this matter and decision.

Mr. Corbin was notified by certified mail that the Commission will consider this request at the December 9, 2005, Commission meeting, at the Francisco Grande Resort, 26000 West Gila Bend Highway, Casa Grande, AZ. Mr. Corbin was not present at today's meeting and was not present on Friday, December 9. The Commission was provided with the case summary and other pertinent information for consideration prior to this meeting.

Motion: McLean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION REVIEW THE ATTACHED DOCUMENTS, AND BASED ON THE CONCLUSION THAT NONE OF THE CAUSES LISTED IN COMMISSION RULE R12-4-607 SECTION D EXIST, VOTE TO AFFIRM ITS ORIGINAL DECISION, AND NOT GRANT A REHEARING.

Vote: Unanimous
Melton absent

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17. Rehearing Request Regarding Previous License Revocation/Civil Assessment

Presenter: Ronald L. Day, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Assistant Director Mike Senn briefed the Commission in Mr. Day's absence. On the 8th Day of November 2005, Wilma J. Stubblefield was convicted in the Fredonia Justice Court for: Count A: Allow another to use big game tag (deer). On August 12, 2005, the Commission revoked Ms. Stubblefield's hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses for a period of five (5) years, and further required her to complete a Hunter Education Course before obtaining any license(s) to take wildlife in the State of Arizona. Ms. Stubblefield has requested a rehearing of this matter and decision.

Ms. Stubblefield was notified by certified mail that the Commission will consider this request at the December 9, 2005, Commission meeting, at the Francisco Grande Resort, 26000 West Gila Bend Highway, Casa Grande, AZ. Ms. Stubblefield was not present at today's meeting and was not present on Friday, December 9. The Commission was provided with the case summary and other pertinent information for consideration prior to this meeting.

Motion: McLean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION REVIEW THE ATTACHED DOCUMENTS, AND BASED ON THE CONCLUSION THAT NONE OF THE CAUSES LISTED IN COMMISSION RULE R12-4-607 SECTION D EXIST, VOTE TO AFFIRM ITS ORIGINAL DECISION, AND NOT GRANT A REHEARING.

Vote: Unanimous
Melton absent

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20. Briefing on the Employee Compensation Proposal to be submitted to the 2005 and 2006 Arizona State Legislature

Presenter: Steve Ferrell, Deputy Director

Mr. Ferrell provided the Commission with a briefing on the employee compensation proposal to be submitted to the 2006 Arizona State Legislature as proposed legislation. The pilot study that the Department of Administration has worked up for all State employees is at the Attorney General's Office, so there is no information yet as to what that study will entail. The Department may need to be proposing legislation to do a salary bill for the Non-wildlife series. The Wildlife Series increase has been revised and will average about 12.5% per employee. Meetings have been held with employees with the results for what the impact will be should this be approved by the legislature in the supplemental budget appropriation.

Director Shroufe stated that the Department of Administration has done half the work for the Non-wildlife Series in their pilot study, but if they don't come back with justification for an increase in the Non-wildlife series, then the Department will have to go to the legislature with a bill.

Mr. Ferrell stated that at this late date, it's not known what the pilot study will suggest and the figures need to be ready in case the pilot study misses the mark or never becomes a reality.

Chairman Gilstrap asked about the time for filing a bill and if the process should be started now, just in case.

Mr. Guiles stated that the deadlines are January 17 for the Senate and the House is approximately one week later, and advised not to submit a proposal now due to the increase for all state employees that is supposed to be submitted.

Motion: Golightly moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE DEPARTMENT TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION AS NECESSARY TO DEVELOP AND OPEN A FILE ON A BILL THAT WOULD ALLOW FOR A COMPARABLE PAY INCREASE FOR THE NON-WILDLIFE SERIES AS FOR THE WILDLIFE SERIES.

Vote: Unanimous
Melton absent

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22. Proposed Date Change for the September Arizona Game and Fish Commission Meeting for 2006

Presenter: Steve Ferrell, Deputy Director

The Department requested that the current meeting scheduled for September 22 and 23, 2006 in Pinetop be changed to September 8 and 9, 2006 due to scheduling conflicts.

The Commission discussed changing the location of the meeting as well as the date.

Motion: Golightly moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO CHANGE THE DATE AND LOCATION OF THE SEPTEMBER 22 AND 23, 2006 COMMISSION MEETING IN PINETOP TO SEPTEMBER 8 AND 9, 2006 IN PHOENIX.

Vote: Unanimous
Melton absent

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23. Director's and Chairman's Reports

Chairman Gilstrap attended a couple of meetings at the capitol.

Director Shroufe reported that he went to South Dakota to work with the Governor there and several top level people from around the country to discuss the farm bill. As a result of that there was a letter sent out from the Western Governor's Association about the conservation measures of the farm bill. Besides saving the conservation measures, efforts were put forth to enhance measures in the west to use with the ranching communities. Director Shroufe also chaired the

North American Wetlands Council this past week in West Virginia, where he participated in allocating 21 million dollars for Wetlands grants in the United States and Mexico. A meeting was held with the Public Safety Retirement System Funds Manager regarding PIPP being excluded as part of a law enforcement employee's base salary, and that was straightened out. The Department is currently undergoing their 5-Year Federal Aid Audit. This is a comprehensive audit to make sure the Department doesn't have a diversion of funds. Director Shroufe met with the Governor's staff and the last meeting was to discuss the initiative issue. And lastly, the Department met with some private citizens who proposed starting a game preserve using part of the Department's wildlife lands at Mummy Farm. In January or February, they plan to make a presentation to the Commission.

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24. Commissioner's Reports

Commissioner Golightly participated in shooting range issues in Northern Arizona; acquired a Mexican Gray Wolf for the Museum of Northern Arizona; and met with several groups of sportsmen and the new Director of BLM to discuss the wilderness designations that are written in to the EIS documents for the Parashants and Vermillion Cliffs proposal.

Commissioner McLean continued to meet with Region II people regarding hunter access issues in Coconino Forest; spent an entire day with Region VI personnel on the Anderson Mesa; attended one of the hunter meetings; went to Page Springs; went and looked at some roads leading to a bat cave in the Superstition wilderness area; and spent a few days in the field with a shotgun and helping some folks with some center fire rifle intervention.

Commissioner Hernbrode spent a lot of time working on this Commission meeting and spending time with groups of people; met with people on the Ironwood plans; helped Colorado with their over population of elk; and got first hand experience in dealing with Arizona white-tail.

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25. Approval of Minutes

Motion: McLean moved and Golightly seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR AUGUST 12 AND 13, 2005, SEPTEMBER 23, 2005, OCTOBER 21, 2005 AND NOVEMBER 9, 2005.

Vote: Unanimous

The Commission signed the minutes for August 13 and 14, 2004, September 17, 2004, and June 24 and 25, 2005.

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Future Agenda Items

Mr. Ferrell recorded 18 action items, some of which are future agenda items:

- In January of 2006, the Department will return to the Commission with described process improvements in law enforcement case management and make sure those are a priority for the law enforcement program
- Proceed with the Page Springs land exchange provided that the final survey is completed, the Director reviews and approves the survey of the parcel to be traded, and that the parcel to be acquired include steam frontage to approximately mid-stream
- Survey 12A deer hunters to better understand their opinion of the value of offering buffalo tags to them as part of the population management hunt strategy
- Draft a letter to the appropriate U.S. Senators with copies to the Arizona Delegation regarding concerns with the 1872 mining law, and that letter will be drafted for the Chairman's signature
- Look into the rumored bill in the Arizona State Legislature referencing access to public lands
- Draft a letter to the BLM State Director expressing the Commission's distain over the repeated delay in evaluating the Big A allotment, pending the results of the Director's conversation with the BLM State Director on Monday
- Contact Mohave Sportsman's Club and the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society regarding the potential role they may play in resolving issues at the Big A allotment
- Remain involved in the development of, and when it's available, evaluate the draft transportation plan for the Arizona BLM Strip District Field Office
- Keep pressure on the Coconino National Forest to address personnel issues and work load to the Mormon Lake Ranger District, specifically in regards to pronghorn antelope in Anderson Mesa
- Evaluate the options that might exist regarding the disposal of surplus brass collected at the Ben Avery Shooting Range
- In February, report to the Commission on a preferred site and four alternate sites for the evaluation of the Northern Arizona shooting range
- Email a copy of the RFP for the Ben Avery Shooting Facility to the Commission in addition to the distribution list that the RFP was mailed to
- No later than the April Commission meeting, present a best estimated cost for a Shooting Sports Division, identify the source of funds to support that concept, and include in that presentation, an analysis of revenue that might be generated from shooting sports to the Department
- By the February Commission meeting, present features and benefits of developing a new Shooting Sports Division
- Work with Apache County to transfer the ownership of St. John's Shooting Range to the Commission
- Jim Odenkirk will meet with Chairman Gilstrap on the issues of using state funds to finance the travels of the scholastic clay target winners to the National competition
- Move the September 2006 Commission meeting to the September 8 and 9, 2006 in Phoenix
- As necessary, open a file with the Arizona Legislature to address a Non-wildlife Series salary bill.

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Motion: Hernbrode moved and McLean seconded THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN.

Vote: Unanimous

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Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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W. Hays Gilstrap, Chairman

Joe Melton, Member

Michael M. Golightly, Member

William H. McLean, Member

Robert Hernbrode, Member

ATTEST:

Duane L. Shroufe
Secretary and Director