

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Friday, August 26, 2011
Saturday, August 27, 2011
Arizona Game and Fish Department
5000 West Carefree Highway
Phoenix, Arizona 85086

PRESENT: (Commission)

(Director and Staff)

Chairman Robert R. Woodhouse
Vice Chair Norman W. Freeman
Commissioner Jack F. Husted
Commissioner John W. Harris
Commissioner Robert E. Mansell

Director Larry D. Voyles
Deputy Director Bob Broscheid
Deputy Director Gary R. Hovatter
Assistant Attorney General Jim Odenkirk
Assistant Attorney General Linda Pollock

Chairman Woodhouse called the meeting to order and lead those present through the Pledge of Allegiance. The Commission introduced themselves and Chairman Woodhouse introduced the Director and the Director's staff. This meeting followed an agenda revision #2 dated August 25, 2011.

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Awards and Recognition

John Harrington, Chief Executive Officer of Banner Health's Dell Webb Medical Center and past president of the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Arizona presented an award to one of the Department's employees for their work in helping to prevent drowning. Mr. Harrington presented Tim Baumgarten, Watercraft Program Manager, with the Linda S. Kirby Water Award for his dedication to safety on the water and his 28 years of promoting safe, sober, responsible boating and life jacket wear.

Director Voyles presented Kirk Young, Fisheries Branch Chief, with WAFWA's Professional of the Year Award for his many contributions as a leader, a visionary, a team builder, and a regional partner in WAFWA, Colorado River Fish and Wildlife Council, and AFWA.

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1. Legislative Engagement and State and Federal Legislation

Presenter: Anthony Guiles, Legislative Liaison

Mr. Guiles briefed the Commission on the current status of selected state and federal legislative matters. The Department provides the Commission with regular monthly updates and provided informational materials at this meeting (also available to the public). The briefing included the following updates:

Potential Internal 2012 Legislative Proposals

- Brake Light Cutouts: Currently it is a violation of A.R.S §28-921 to operate a vehicle on a highway without lights; Seeking legislative exemption would resolve the Department from being in violation of state law; Currently this issue impacts the ability of Department law enforcement officers to conduct nighttime and covert patrols; In 2008 the Department benchmarked 16 states that currently use brake light cutouts; Of the 16 states, 8 states have state laws that allow the use of brake light cutouts; There could be some potential liability issues.
- Dog Law: This statutory change would address conflicts in rural and urban areas between big game and domestic and feral dogs; Currently there is no provision to deal with feral or domestic dogs attacking wildlife.
- Wildlife Interstate Compact: This compact would grant wildlife officers the ability to enforce wildlife violations in adjoining states (Utah and New Mexico); Currently, the Department is a partner to the Colorado River Compact with California and Nevada; Would Authorize New Mexico and Utah wardens the same wildlife enforcement authority on the Arizona side within 25-miles from the state line; Does not authorize prosecution of any person for conduct which is lawful in the state where it was committed any conduct prohibited by any party state; Addresses law enforcement and safety issues on AZ/UT/NM Border.
- Procurement Exemptions: Current procurement code regulations do not take into account the specific, unique functions and operations (e.g. fish hatcheries, shooting ranges) of the Department; May provide flexibility in contract negotiations and reduce costs, using local sourcing options, and savings from labor, fuel, shipping costs travel time and vehicle use.
- Retail Sales: Investigate statutes associated with allowing the Department to expand the authority to provide material goods and services at commission-owned properties, Department offices and events.
- Youth Definition: Clarify definitions of youth used for hunting, fishing and trapping; May include changes to statute, rule, licenses etc.; Currently the Department has 11 definitions of youth for hunting, 5 for fishing, and 2 for trapping.
- Hunter Access Pilot Program: Draft legislation to allow the Department to create a pilot program for access purposes.
- OHV Program: Amend current OHV legislation for the purposes of addressing issues related with Resident/Non-resident status, Decal program, and Fund/Administrative issues.
- Marketable Bighorn Parts: Due to the 10% cap, (limiting nonresident participation in certain draw hunts) A.R.S. § 17-371 was amended to restrict the sale of the hides, horns, and inedible parts of bighorn sheep; The Department does not provide this level of restriction on other species; .Change would allow anyone to sell inedible parts of bighorn sheep if it had been legally acquired as is currently legal for all wildlife other than migratory bird species, which are subject to federal regulation.

AGFD Sunset Review: The AGFD Sunset Review has been submitted to the Committee of Reference. In January 2012 the Committee Chair will sponsor a bill to either continue, revise, consolidate or terminate the Department and the Commission. Mr. Guiles reported that the Chairman of the Committee doesn't feel there are any problems with the Department and so it is expected to continue.

Wallow Fire Update: The House Ad Hoc Committee on Arizona Forest Restoration Management met on August 18. The Department provided maps and information for the meeting and there is a possibility that the Department may be put on the agenda to talk about issues from the Department's perspective.

Rotenone Advisory Committee: The Rotenone Advisory Committee will hold its second meeting on August 30.

Wallow Fire Town Hall: On August 10, Representatives Gosar (AZ-01) and Pearce (NM-02) discussed short-term and long-term forest health solutions with constituents in Arizona and New Mexico affected by the Wallow Fire.

Commissioner Freeman commented that he didn't see anything in Mr. Guiles' update regarding renewable energy. He would like to see the Department become more actively involved in the planning of renewable energy.

Chairman Woodhouse stated that the Commission needs to have some policies in place to deal with some of the issues related to renewables.

Director Voyles advised the Commission that the Department will bring back some potential approaches to legislation on renewable energy issues.

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2. Federal Land Designation

Presenter: Anthony Guiles, Legislative Liaison

Mr. Guiles briefed the Commission on federal land designations and wildlife management issues. The Department has been approached by some groups that have been working on wilderness and other land designations and would like to see the Department be involved in and possibly coming to agreement with certain language and its incorporation leading to future legislation. The Department is pleased that the groups are approaching the Department in the beginning of the process and not after the process as has happened in the past. The Department is looking forward to the dialogue and having a seat at the table.

Public Comment

Ian Dowdy, Arizona Wilderness Coalition: We face unprecedented dangers to our public lands with renewable energy development and future growth; It's time to think about the key lands that we need to protect; Looks forward to continuing cooperation with the Department in the future.

Ben Alteneder, Arizona Wildlife Federation: The AWF was recently invited to work on a conservation measure designating certain federal lands under various conservation designations; The Sonoran Desert Heritage proposal includes conservation of wildlife corridors, habitat, and scenic places in western Maricopa County; AWF requests that the Commission join them in working collaboratively to seek a legislative remedy to the issues of managing wildlife in wild places so that we can have effective wildlife management in wilderness.

Jon Fugate, YVRGC, briefed the Commission on some of the history of the work that he has been involved in dealing with wilderness lands and other designated areas. Mr. Fugate provided some language proposed by the Commission in 1989 (attached) in which the Commission requested that certain management criteria be adopted into the Arizona Wilderness Bill. This language was not adopted in the Bill. The YVRGC requests that the Commission take this language, update it and use it for potential legislation.

George Reiners, YVRGC: When you oppose these solar projects on public lands they just change over to private lands so that no one has a voice against them. These projects are going up all over on private land.

The Commission discussed and was in consensus to have the Assistant Attorneys General look over the language provided by Mr. Fugate, and to use that as a starting point, and to have Commissioners Woodhouse and Freeman work with the Department and stakeholders on something to bring back to the Commission.

Commissioner Mansell asked about Condor deaths from windmills 50 miles south of the Grand Canyon.

Leonard Ordway, Assistant Director, Field Operations, commented that the death of birds is a major concern with any of the windfarms. One of the biggest areas, from Seligman north, is one of the major corridors of movement for migratory birds and then the Condors are a concern on top of that.

Director Voyles stated that dealing with the mortality of migratory birds is one of the largest dialogues and debates at the national level in dealing with renewables. In the case of the Condor, the ESA has provisions for incidental take that can be applied, but in the case of migratory birds there is no provision for incidental take. So it's a huge discussion at the highest level of the USFWS and with interactions with industry and the wildlife community. The Department will gather information on this subject and provide that to the Commission as a future briefing.

Commissioner Husted requested to expand that briefing to information about antelope underneath a windfarm and/or a solar project. He would like to know what is going on with all the species from the prairie dog to the antelope and mule deer. We need to be able to speak with common sense authority on these issues and we need to know what the policies are.

Public Comment

Ian Dowdy, Arizona Wilderness Coalition: Commented that his organization is very interested and looking forward to continuing this conversation with the Department and other stakeholders.

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Meeting recessed for a break at 9:50 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

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3. Shooting Sports Activities Briefing

Presenter: Jay Cook, Shooting Range Branch Chief

Mr. Cook provided the Commission with a Power Point presentation highlighting several items in the Shooting Sports Activities Briefing that was provided to the Commission prior to this meeting and was available to the public. The report included shooting programs and shooting range development statewide and covered activities that occurred since the last regular Commission meeting. This briefing is part of the Department's ongoing commitment to provide the Commission with updates on a regular basis.

In addition, Mr. Cook presented the Commission with the Department's recommendation to amend the Ben Avery Shooting Facility's fee schedule as follows:

Ben Avery Shooting Facility Proposed Fee Schedule Amendments (Intended to recover some of the increasing operational costs (ie. Electricity) and develop new revenue streams):

	<u>CURRENT FEE:</u>	<u>PROPOSED FEE:</u>
<i>Daily Building/Facility Fees:</i>		
Conservation Education Bldg. (seats 50)	\$50.00	\$75.00
Activity Center ½ Day Reservation (<5hrs)	\$75.00	N/A
Activity Center Full Day Reservation (>5hrs)	\$150.00	N/A
Indoor Airgun/Archery Education Building ½ Day Reservation (<5yrs)	N/A	\$75.00
Indoor Airgun/Archery Education Building Full Day Reservation (>5yrs)	N/A	\$150.00
<i>New Corporate Fees:</i>		
Per Shooter Includes 50 rounds and Instruction (4hrs) Archery, Airgun Rifle or Handgun	N/A	\$28.00
Per Shooter (any combination max 3 disciplines)	N/A	\$35.00
Building Fee	N/A	\$50.00
<i>Miscellaneous Fees:</i>		
OHV Track General Use Fee	N/A	\$100.00
Administrative Set-Up Fee	N/A	\$50.00
Late Payment Administrative Fee	N/A	\$25.00
Rifle Sight-In Service (includes range fee)	N/A	\$20.00

Revenue projections effective January 1, 2012, if approved:

- User Group Fee - \$500.00 (estimate 10 user groups annually)
- Administrative Fee - \$250.00 (estimate 10 initially)
- Con-Ed Fee Increase - \$625.00 (assume 25 uses)
- OHV Dust Mgmt. Fee – \$800.00 – (estimate 8 uses)
- Rifle Sight-In Service Fee - \$5200.00 (assuming 400 participants)
- Air Building Use Fee - \$6500.00 (based on this year's use)
- Corporate Fee Structure – Estimate Initially \$6-8K.
- Total - \$20,000.00

Commissioner Husted suggested contacting APS to see about a special rate for municipalities. The Department needs to look at all opportunities before continually raising prices. He would like to see the Department sell more rather than raise rates or create new fees.

Commissioner Mansell confirmed with Mr. Cook that the fee schedule is not a total cost recovery, it is just a step towards offsetting some of the costs.

Motion: Freeman moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE BEN AVERY SHOOTING FACILITY FEE SCHEDULE AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Aye - Woodhouse, Freeman, Harris, Mansell
Nay - Husted
Passed 4 to 1

Mr. Cook briefed the Commission on a few additional items including the following:

- The National Shooting Sports Foundation has recognized the Ben Avery Shooting Facility as a 5 Star Shooting Range, 1 of only 18 in the United States. The ratings were given in 9 Categories: Signage, Visibility; Layout and Appeal; Retail Product Availability; Rental Firearm Availability; Range Safety; Programs/Memberships; Cleanliness; Comments, Impressions.

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4. Information, Education and Wildlife Recreation Activities Briefing

Presenter: Ty Gray, Assistant Director, Information and Education Division

Mr. Gray provided the Commission with an Information, Education and Wildlife Recreation Programs Update prior to this meeting (also available to the public), which presented new information as well as progress on related activities. The update covered activities and events that occurred since the last regular Commission meeting and was provided in fulfillment of the Department's commitment to brief the Commission on a regular basis. A Power Point presentation was provided that included the following:

- The Outdoor Writers Association of America, Inc. awarded Gary Schafer 1st Place Family Participation / Youth Outdoors – Archery in the School and 3rd Place Family Participation / Youth Outdoors – Navajo Youth Deer Hunt, both for his photography.

- Archery in the Schools: Arizona was chosen by USFWS, Bureau of Indian Education, and National Archery in the Schools Program to pilot archery in Tribal Schools; Arizona will receive \$15k or 5 archery kits; Arizona will match to total 10 Tribal schools; Half of the schools must/will be located near National Wildlife Refuges
- Recruitment and Retention: Responsive Management Inc. did a large study this past year to look at the efficacy of some of the hunter/shooter/angler recruitment programs around the nation. Three Arizona programs were selected: Wapiti Weekend, Hunter Education, and Youth turkey hunts. Arizona's programs are working very well. The study concluded that the top youth programs involve one on one mentoring, promotion of purpose/benefits of hunting, camp model-youth learning amongst peers, and diverse range of activities.
- Update on Goal 12 of the Director's Goals and Objectives (Simplify hunt and fish regulations): The Department is on track; completed benchmarking with other states; current focus is to develop a future license structure, a consistent youth definition, and clarification of resident and nonresident definition.

Kellie Tharp, Education Branch Chief, provided the Commission with an update on the Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center. At its May meeting the Commission requested information on expanding the proposed Wildlife Center to reach as many youth as possible. Ms. Tharp provided an informational briefing along with a Power Point presentation that included the following information:

- Arizona had 1,078,939 school age students from pre-school to 12th grade enrolled in the 2010-2011 school year
- The current Wildlife Center design has an estimated cost of \$3,670,000
- The cost with expansion is estimated at \$5,052,000
- Current Outreach Potential:
 - School Program availability: 150 days per year
 - Example of 4th grade program: 2 programs per day, includes outdoor recreation activity
 - Potential Center Outreach: 18,000 4th graders per year (34% in Maricopa County)
 - Additional 10,000 4th graders (33% in all other counties)
- Potential Outreach with Expansion:
 - School Program availability: 150 days per year
 - Example of 4th grade program: 2 programs per day, includes outdoor recreation activity
 - Potential Center Outreach: 37,500 4th graders per year (71% in Maricopa County)
 - Additional 10,000 4th graders (33% in all other counties)
 - Expansion option could double student outreach (Expand Phases 2 & 3 to accommodate 250 students per day – Paved parking to accommodate 4 buses, additional restroom facilities, larger classroom & amphitheater, larger interpretive trail, increase staff and volunteer resources)
- Additional Potential for both options, current or with expansion:
 - 150 additional days for public programming (2 presentations per day with current design would reach 120 people per day and with expansion design would reach 250 people per day)

Commissioner Husted suggested that in the near future the Commission needed to decide on the current or expanded design and then start working towards that goal to make it happen.

The Commission was in consensus.

Director Voyles stated that the Department will bring back a proposal for a date for a campaign launch and will bring back funding information for the Commission to be able to make a decision. A key part of the budget information will be provided in tomorrow's Budget Briefing Workshop.

Commissioner Mansell asked about a lease purchase agreement and if that was something that we should look at for the Wildlife Center.

Director Voyles stated that the Department will investigate that.

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11. Request for a Temporary Access Restriction on Several Sections of State Trust Land to Authorize Hunting with Archery Equipment Only on the Perrin Ranch Located Approximately Eight Miles North of Williams, Arizona within Game Management Unit 10.

Presenter: Mark Weise, Development Branch Chief

Michael Macauley, owner of the Perrin Ranch, and NextEra Energy Resources (NextEra) requested a temporary access restriction for the purpose of hunting with archery equipment only for the upcoming Fall 2011 hunting seasons on several sections of State Trust Lands on the Perrin Ranch within Game Management Unit (GMU) 10. This is a temporary restriction for the safety of hunters and construction workers that will end December 31st, 2011. The 64,000 acre ranch is comprised of a checkerboard land ownership pattern consisting of approximately 50% private and 50% State Trust lands. The Department recently modified an existing Access Agreement with the Perrin Ranch to restrict access for the purpose of hunting with archery equipment only on the private sections of the ranch. Mr. Macauley and co-applicant NextEra have submitted this request for the State Trust Lands to coincide with the temporary access restriction on the private sections. If a hunter has a firearms permit, they will still be allowed to hunt on the ranch as long as they only use archery equipment. On January 1, 2011, access to hunting with firearms will return to what it was in the past and be permitted on both the private and State Trust Lands.

Coconino County approved and granted NextEra a Conditional Use Permit for the project in February 2011 and they have begun construction. This request will ensure the safety of the hunters and approximately 250 construction workers during the construction of 62 wind turbines, approximately 3.5 miles of transmission lines, at least five buildings and approximately 37 miles of new roads. Since the ranch landownership pattern is a checkerboard pattern, and the private sections already limit access for hunting to archery equipment only, enforcement of this restriction will be more manageable for our Wildlife Managers if both the private and State Trust sections have the same restriction of hunting with archery equipment only during the Fall 2011 hunting seasons.

This restriction is a successful example of how working in partnership with landowners, energy companies, counties, and the State Land Department can ensure long term recreational access with only a temporary disruption to hunters and recreationists and still maintain positive relationships with all the parties involved. This type of flexibility will be vital to maintaining recreational access into the future. Regional personnel and the Arizona State Land Department support renewal of this closure for natural resource protection.

A good working relationship between Mr. Macauley, ranch managers, and the Department exists and has led to a hunter access agreement with the Perrin Ranch as well as various habitat enhancement projects. Approving this restriction is more crucial than ever with the current push for renewable energy development. Our continued cooperation and flexibility with the Perrin Ranch will help ensure a positive relationship into the future and a potential model for dealing with renewable energy development, which is critical to maintaining hunter access onto these lands and many others across the state.

Commissioner Harris asked about crossbows and suggested that it be included in the Commission's consideration if that is appropriate to the property owners.

Chairman Woodhouse discussed with Mr. Weise and confirmed with Assistant Attorney General Jim Odenkirk that the wind turbine structures would not qualify under the definition in statute as an occupied structure.

Commissioner Husted stated that this request is reasonable and acceptable, but he would like to know that after the agreement expires, it will go back to the way it was.

Mr. Weise stated that the Department has worked with Mr. Macauley for years on several projects and is comfortable about future agreements allowing firearms.

Commissioner Freeman would like to see an agreement 10-20 years into the future that rifle hunting will continue.

Public Comment

Matt Gomes, Project Director, NextEra, Perrin Ranch Wind Project, addressed the Commission on behalf of this request and answered questions for the Commission. He understands and appreciates the access issues, but believes archery only will be more safe during the construction period. He also believes that the crossbow would be acceptable by his company.

Chairman Woodhouse commented that in the future when rifles are allowed again, the ¼ mile restriction will be a conflict for the Commission.

Michael Macauley, Manager, Perrin Ranch, LLC, stated that the whole purpose for making the ranch archery only is for safety.

Commissioner Husted confirmed with Mr. MaCauley that it is his intent to not have any firearms restrictions in the future and that the ranch will be open to rifle hunting once construction is complete.

Duane Weston, Attorney for NextEra, submitted a speaker card in support of this request but did not speak to the Commission.

Motion: Mansell moved and Husted seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO A TEMPORARY ACCESS RESTRICTION ON APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF STATE TRUST LAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF HUNTING WITH ARCHERY EQUIPMENT ONLY FOR THE FALL 2011 HUNTING SEASONS AND INCLUDE CROSSBOWS DURING SEASONS WHEN THEY ARE A LAWFUL METHOD OF TAKE ON THE PERRIN RANCH LOCATED APPROXIMATELY EIGHT MILES NORTH OF WILLIAMS WITHIN GAME MANAGEMENT UNIT 10.

Vote: Unanimous

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Meeting recessed for a break at 12:30 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

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

Presenter: Gene Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

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

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Meeting recessed for a break at 3:25 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 3:35 p.m.

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5. An Update on Current Issues, Planning Efforts, and Proposed Projects on All Lands in Arizona and Other Matters Related Thereto

Presenter: Josh Avey, Habitat Branch Chief

A copy of the Lands Update report (attached) was provided to the Commission prior to this meeting and was available to the public. The update addressed the latest developments relating to the implementation of land and resource management plans and projects on private, state and federal lands in Arizona and other related matters, and included decisions or activities since the last regular 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.

Mr. Avey provided an additional update. The Sonoran Desert National Monument RMP came out today for the 90-day public review period. Mr. Avey provided the Commission with a map that dated back 3 years to a project that required some closures. The RMP cites some re-opening

of those roads that were previously closed. The Department is going to be reviewing the RMP and preparing comments.

Chairman Woodhouse stated that these closures took place because of Off-highway vehicle damage and he remembered clearly that Mike Taylor with BLM assured the Commission that after a 3-year period, those closed roads would be re-opened.

Mr. Avey will provide written updates on this issue in the Lands Update until the 90-day public comment period expires.

Chairman Woodhouse requested that Mr. Avey review the minutes from 3 years ago to refresh the Commission on the agreement made by BLM. Also, Chairman Woodhouse requested another map with more detail, particularly to look at the roads that seem to dead end.

Mr. Avey provided another update in reference to renewables. The Palo Verde Devers power line project was stopped by the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC), in part because the Department provided input that the line was going to go through bighorn sheep lambing sites. One of the recommendations from the June Commission was to consider legislation to authorize the ACC to have the permitting authority for solar photo voltaic and wind turbine sites. Mr. Avey will be working with Mr. Guiles on potential legislation in reference to A.R.S. § 40-360, to change the term "plant" to include "all electric generations of 50 megawatts or more." This would allow the ACC to take renewables into consideration and require developments to have a certification of environmental compliance. Through that the Department could address some of the concerns regardless of the land management agency.

Commissioner Freeman questioned specifying a power number when 50 megawatts or less can still have profound effects on the ground. The smaller plants can be more numerous because they can tie into smaller lines, so he is concerned about a large volume of small facilities.

Mr. Avey stated that the Department will bring back some options in the language regarding the ACC on how they would regulate or be effective.

Public Comment

Jon Fugate, YVRGC, stated that the YVRGC believes that a total sum of all the impacts from being able to manage for Wilderness characteristics as opposed for waiting for Congress to designate something as Wilderness, is going to have as much or the same results as if there was a Wilderness designation. In regards to retrieval of game, that's about the only thing we were given is game carriers in the Monuments. In true Wilderness we can't even use a wheeled game carrier anymore, except on the Kofa. Mr. Fugate read the following paragraph from a letter written to BLM from YVRGC dated February 23, 2005 as follows: "Additionally, the YVRGC believes proposed land use allocations other than Community Interface and Front County prescriptions in combination with other land use allocations, including significant reduction in vehicular access and possible vehicle based camping restrictions will create defacto Wilderness." A Congressional Wilderness Designation takes years but these things happen over night. So, it will be interesting to see the Sonoran Desert National Monument RMP that just came out.

Commissioner Husted commented that the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest has done a great job working with the Department in regards to the Wallow Fire. They accepted Department staff on their team and the access allowed for this year's hunting season is pretty reasonable. They have been very responsive to the Department, so he would like to give credit where credit is due.

The Commission was in consensus to direct the Department to draft a thank you letter to the Forest Service from the Commission.

Director Voyles advised the Commission that the Governor has also requested that the Department draft a letter for her signature to the Regional Forester for the same reasons.

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6. Request for the Commission to Approve the Agreement for Permit with Bryson Ranch for the Purpose of Constructing and Operating an Equestrian Trail through a small portion of the Page Springs Fish Hatchery, Yavapai County, Arizona.

Presenter: Josh Avey, Habitat Branch Chief

The Commission was asked to approve the Agreement for Permit with Bryson Ranch for the Purpose of Constructing and Operating an Equestrian Trail through a small portion of the Page Springs Fish Hatchery, Yavapai County, Arizona. Bryson Ranch, LLC (Bryson Ranch) requested issuance of a right-of-way for the purposes of constructing and operating an equestrian trail through a small portion of the Page Springs Fish Hatchery. If approved, the new Agreement would serve to grant Bryson Ranch a two-year, three-foot wide right-of-way to provide winery customers with equestrian access from a parking area north of the property to the winery and present them with some educational information about the Hatchery. The Department has determined that the equestrian trail will not interfere with the operation of the Page Springs Fish Hatchery and will benefit the Commission and the Department by presenting an outreach opportunity and support positive relationships with private land owners in the area. This right-of-way is consistent and compatible with the operation of the Page Springs Fish Hatchery. The lease for the equestrian trail right-of-way would be granted for an initial trial period of two years.

Commissioner Freeman expressed concern in making sure that the public will have equal access, and that would include parking for large groups with horse trailers.

The Commission discussed that the properties at both ends of the trail were operating businesses for profit and expressed some concern that the public might be excluded from this access.

Mr. Avey stated that any limitation of the public's access to the trail would constitute a breach of contract and would terminate the right-of-way agreement.

Director Voyles recommended that the Commission table this item and allow the Department to bring this back with additional information so that it is more clear what exactly is being asked of the Commission.

Commissioner Mansell would like to know what exactly is entailed with regards to the term "construction" of the trail.

Motion: Mansell moved and Freeman seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL THE NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING AND HAVE THE DEPARTMENT BRING BACK MORE SPECIFICS ON THIS REQUEST.

Vote: Unanimous

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7. Commission Discussion of Recreational Access Issues within Arizona.

Presenter: Larry Riley, Acting Assistant Director, Wildlife Management Division

Mr. Riley provided the Commission with an update. Since the workshop held on April 16, 2011, the Department continues to work on recreational access issues and challenges. Currently, the Department is working with the public to collect feedback. Mr. Riley introduced Albert Eiden of Development Branch who provided the remainder of the presentation.

Mr. Eiden, the Department's Landowner Relations Program Manager, briefed the Commission on some recent activities as follows: On July 28, the Department held a Landowner, Lessee, Sportsmen Relations Committee (LLSRC) meeting in conjunction with the Annual Cattle Growers Meeting. The Department collected input from Landowners and Lessees related to issues with recreational access. The following is a comparison of access themes:

Landowner/ Lessee Access Themes

- Changing ethics and increasing education
- Too many recreationists for too long
- Increase participation and influence over Hunt Recommendations
- Change and improve Landowner Relations Program
- Create new laws to protect ranch infrastructure and livestock
- More law enforcement, support from judges for convictions, increased self policing from users

Themes from Commission Access Workshop

- Values and education
- Partnerships and relationships
- Finance and revenue
- Public lands policy
- Enforcement and regulatory approaches
- Attributes of a successful Landowner Incentive Program

Commissioner Freeman stated that the most important thing here, and he hasn't heard this discussed at any meetings for a long time, is that the most important thing the Commission and Department can bring to ranches is wildlife management. Some people have forgotten that when wildlife is actively managed, the lands are better for the rancher. Closing a ranch and charging a trespass fee is not how you manage wildlife. Effective wildlife management keeps herds under control so that the rancher can be more effective in running their cattle.

Mr. Eiden agreed and stated that this is the fundamental reason the Land/owner Lessee program and LLSRC were created, to improve relationships.

Mr. Eiden discussed with the Commission that he has been working on surveys with Loren Chase. They would do two different surveys, one for landowners and one for sportsmen. The concepts will be the same but will be from different points of view. The Department would like to collect any ideas the Commission has on concepts related to access that the Commission would like to include in these surveys.

Commissioner Husted stated that instead of pitting opportunity against trophy, as it seems to have been in the past, we should be getting answers regarding the quality of the experience. For some it will be seeing a deer or elk, for some it is harvesting a spike, some a fork horn, and for some it's letting their kid harvest the fork horn. Also, some are willing to pay extra for a four-point buck and some would pay a whole lot more for a 30-inch buck. And then some folks just like to camp. This is what he needs to know to make some decisions he wants to make, so he would like to tease out the different kinds of experiences.

Commissioner Harris stated that he would like to see something in the survey for the non-consumptive user who uses access continually. One of the things talked about at the WAFWA conference was how do we include the non-consumptive users in these discussions, provide them access, and have them start providing a revenue stream to help gain those access points for all of us. This is a question that he would like the Department to look at.

Commissioner Freeman agreed with Commissioner Harris, but strongly disagrees with paying extra. It's a public trust resource and not a wealthy public trust resource or a special interest group public trust resource. It's everyone's resource.

Chairman Woodhouse stated that this survey should be only about access and that maybe a future survey could include other types of questions.

The Department will be in contact with each of the Commissioners to gain their input as they progress with the survey development.

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8. Nongame Subprogram Activities Briefing; April 1, 2011 through July 31, 2011

Presenter: Eric Gardner, Chief, Nongame Branch

Mr. Gardner briefed the Commission on the Nongame Subprogram activities from April 1, 2011 through July 31, 2011. Using a Power Point presentation, Mr. Gardner presented highlights on several items in the written report (provided to the Commission and available to the public) and noted any significant updates that occurred since the briefing was written. The following are some of the highlights noted:

Threatened, Endangered and Candidate Status Species (No change since last report)

Status	Historic Range Only, No Active Management Program	Historic Range, Not Known to be Present but Active or Potential Management Programs	Recently or Likely Present	Working Total
Endangered	2 (Eskimo curlew, Sinaloan jaguarundi)	2 (Aplomado falcon and TBP)	26	28
Threatened	1 (Grizzly bear)		12	12
Candidate	1 (Greater sage-grouse)		19	19

The Department is currently analyzing the impacts of the USFWS settlements with WildEarth Guardians and CBD (WildEarth Guardians = 251; Center for Biological Diversity = 757; this is across the nation).

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Critical Habitat Revision:

- USFWS proposed rule for critical habitat revision published in Federal Register on 8/15/11
- Critical Habitat is in portions of all Arizona counties except Coconino and Navajo; including several AGFD Wildlife Areas.
- Areas proposed as Critical Habitat can be excluded from the final designation if they are protected by approved HCPs or other partnerships
- Overall effects for AGFD should be relatively minimal (Concern for adverse modification to habitat if using federal funds).

SW Partners in Amphibian & Reptile Conservation (SWPARC):

- National conservation organization with strong Arizona ties
- Regional meetings held in Tucson, August 10-13
- Stakeholders from AZ, CA, CO, NM, OK, TX, UT
- WMNG leadership on meeting preparation & workshops/field trips (AGFD biologists presented talks on citizen science, Chiricahua leopard frog recovery, invasive species, Mexican gartersnake ecology, juvenile desert tortoise ecology, Sonoran Desert snake communities and bullfrog eradication)

Bald Eagle Nesting Season:

- Record number of:
 - Occupied breeding areas (55)
 - Eggs laid (at least 79)
 - Successful nests (34)
 - Young fledged (56)
- Two active nests survived the Wallow Fire and fledged 3 young
- One new breeding area was found near Lake Havasu City.

Wallow Fire Salvage Efforts:

- 428 Little Colorado spinedace (from among Rudd Creek, Nutrioso Creek & LCR)

- 94 Little Colorado suckers (from LCR)
- 345 bluehead suckers (from LCR & Rudd Creek)
- 139 roundtail chub (from Black River)
- 26 loach minnow (from Blue River)
- ~1100 Three Forks springsnails (from Boneyard Creek)
- 12 California floaters [Anodonta = native clams] (from Boneyard Creek).

Monument Fire Salvage Efforts (Miller Canyon, Huachuca Mountains):

- Salvaged Chiricahua leopard frogs
 - 16 frogs went to a Safe Harbor site near Sierra Vista
 - > 50 frogs and 60 tadpoles went to Glendale Community College Department of Biology

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9. Consideration of Amendments to Commission Order 43 Reptiles

Presenter: Eric Gardner, Chief, Nongame Branch

Mr. Gardner presented the Commission with amendments to Commission Order 43 for 2011-2012 hunting season to incorporate changes to open areas as authorized by SB1334. Due to the recent passage of SB1334 by the Arizona Legislature, many areas within municipal boundaries previously closed to hunting will open this year. The Department formed a team of employees to consider the implications of the legislation and assure that the opening of these amendments proposed address any intergovernmental agreements that were voided by SB1334. The Commission received a briefing on the influences of SB1334 in June when the Dove Commission Order was presented.

The Commission was provided with a copy of the amended Commission Order 43 Reptiles (attached) for review and copies were provided to the public. Mr. Gardner highlighted the changes to Commission Order 43 Reptiles in a Power Point presentation and requested the Commission to approve the following additional amendments:

- Firearms are a legal means of take for reptiles
- Commission Order 43 is amended to provide 2 seasons for legally taking reptiles:
 - 1) A general season for which all legal means of take continue to apply, but municipalities, county parks, etc., are closed to hunting reptiles, and
 - 2) A limited weapons season, in those areas excluded in the general season due to firearms restrictions, that excludes firearms as a legal means of take. Note: Other areas previously closed to take remain closed in this Limited Weapons season.

Motion: Freeman moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT AMENDED COMMISSION ORDER 43: REPTILES, ESTABLISHING OPEN AREAS, SEASON DATES, AND BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS FOR 2011 and 2012, AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

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10. Consent Agenda

The following items were grouped together and noticed as consent agenda items to expedite action on routine matters. These items were provided to the Commission prior to this meeting and the Department requested that the Commission approve these matters as presented, subject to approval or recommendations of the Office of the Attorney General. Director Voyles presented each item to the Commission and none were deemed necessary to remove for discussion.

a. Request Renewal of a Road Closure on State Trust Land Approximately Ten Miles South of Winslow, Arizona

Presenter: Mark Weise, Development Branch Chief

Duane Coleman, manager of the Hopi 3 Canyon Clear Creek Ranch, has requested the renewal of a closure to vehicular access which was originally granted by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, with concurrence from the Arizona State Land Department, in 1978. The closure allows for the locking of five gates that access the ranch from State Route 87 – one gate is for cattle and has no road associated with it, another has only a wildcat road that goes 0.1 mile to a dirt tank. The remaining three gates included in the closure have roads that can be accessed by sportsmen after properly signing in at the ranch headquarters and obtaining the designated lock combinations. The closure has been successful in reducing damage to soils and vegetation due to off-road travel. It has also allowed wildlife, such as pronghorn, to escape the constant vehicle pressure often experienced elsewhere with Arizona's vast road systems. Regional personnel and the Arizona State Land Department support renewal of this closure for natural resource protection.

A good working relationship between the Hopi Tribe, ranch managers, and Department exists and has led to a hunter access agreement with the Hopi Tribe as well as various habitat enhancement projects. Renewing this road closure is more crucial than ever with the recent land status change. Our continued cooperation with the Hopi tribe will help ensure co-management into the future, which is key to maintaining hunter access onto these lands.

The Department recommends THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO RENEW A ROAD CLOSURE ON STATE TRUST LAND APPROXIMATELY TEN MILES SOUTH OF WINSLOW.

b. Request Renewal of a Road Closure on State Trust Land Approximately Thirty Miles Southwest of Tucson, Arizona.

Presenter: Mark Weise, Development Branch Chief

Mr. John King, of the King's Anvil Ranch in Unit 36C, has requested the renewal of a closure to vehicular access which was originally granted by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, with concurrence from the Arizona State Land Department, in 1995. The closure allows for the locking of one gate on State Trust land; it restricts vehicular access on a narrow road next to the

Tohono O'Odham Indian Reservation boundary. This closure has been successful in alleviating problems with people camping and parking near two water sources. It has also preserved the quality of hunting on Saucito Mountain and hunters often access the area by foot in pursuit of game. Regional personnel and the Arizona State Land Department support renewal of this closure for natural resource protection.

The closure is well-accepted; in fact most hunters park their vehicles at a gate approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile before the closure because the road is in very bad shape. A sign has been installed at that gate warning the public of the poor road conditions, and that they travel at their own risk.

The Department recommends THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO RENEW A ROAD CLOSURE ON STATE TRUST LAND APPROXIMATELY THIRTY MILES SOUTHWEST OF TUCSON.

Motion: Harris moved and Husted seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A AND B AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

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12. Request for Bonus Points for Gary & John White

Presenter: John Bullington, Assistant Director, Special Services

Mr. Bullington presented a petition from Gary and John White to relinquish their Bull Elk tags in exchange for receiving bonus points. Gary L. White and John M. White were successfully drawn for hunt number 3009, Bull Elk, Unit 1, 2B, and 2C for November 25, 2011 through December 1, 2011. Gary White has indicated that his 81 year old father John White inadvertently submitted their application for the wrong hunt choice and they would like to relinquish their permits and exchange them for bonus points.

Motion: Harris moved and Freeman seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DENY THE PETITION TO GRANT BONUS POINTS TO GARY L. WHITE AND JOHN M. WHITE.

Vote: Unanimous

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13. Call to the Public

There were no requests from the public to speak.

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14. Law Enforcement Program Briefing

Presenter: Gene Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Mr. Elms briefed the Commission on activities and developments that occurred since the last regular meeting relating to the Department's Law Enforcement Program. This briefing was in fulfillment of the Commission's request to be briefed on a monthly basis regarding the Department's Law Enforcement Program. The Commission was provided with a written report (also available to the public) and a Power Point presentation by Mr. Elms which highlighted several items in the report including law enforcement training activity, wildlife enforcement activity, watercraft and OHV enforcement activities, outreach, and partnerships that were developed and fostered in this reporting period. This month's briefing also included a briefing on the Department's activities related to the deadly bear attack in Pinetop, Arizona.

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16. Informational Update on House Rock Bison Herd Management

Presenter: Ron Sieg, Flagstaff Regional Supervisor

Mr. Sieg provided the Commission with an informational briefing on the House Rock bison herd including history, past and current management, hunting seasons and ongoing discussions with Grand Canyon National Park on issues they have raised regarding the bison spending more and more time on the Park. Mr. Sieg provided a PowerPoint presentation that included the following information:

Background on House Rock Herd:

- 1906: Congress established the Grand Canyon Game Preserve
 - Ideal for buffalo, deer and wild game
 - Predates establishment of Grand Canyon National Park
- 1906: Charles "Buffalo" Jones trails a herd of bison from Lund, UT to the Bright Angel Point area of the Kaibab Plateau
 - Starts a "cattelo" experiment to breed them with Galloway bulls
 - By 1908 abandoned this project due to high birth mortality and sterility
 - Bison left free to roam, though some captured and moved to other areas
- 1926: Jimmy Owens sells 98 bison to the State of Arizona
- 1950: Agreement between US Forest Service, BLM, AGFD and 7 ranchers establishing the House Rock Wildlife Area for bison and adjusting grazing on other lands
 - Requires Department to maintain a pipeline and provide water to north
 - Requires Department to "maintain an adequate fence on the north boundary"
- Bison never confined by fencing though fencing tried in North Canyon, Fence, Wildcat and South Canyon – damaged by high flows and discontinued
- 1997: Meeting between Department, GCNP, KNF to discuss issue of bison moving onto park
 - Ongoing discussion regarding fencing, habitat improvements, baiting, camping restrictions, hunting season design
- 1998: KNF letter stating that House Rock is not a grazing allotment and that bison are considered free roaming wildlife
- 2001: Meeting with GCNP Superintendent on management options
- 2002: Meeting with GCNP/KNF/FWS to discuss options – small work group formed

- NPS desire for fence on Wildlife Area boundary, not on their boundary
- Commissioner tours of fence options
- 2002: Department team evaluated options, produced report
- 2003: In cooperation with NPS mitochondrial DNA testing of hunter harvest animals show that most have cattle DNA present
- 2004: NPS meet with Commission, Commission tour of North Rim, Commission review of options at several meetings
 - AGFD/GCNP/KNF team formed to evaluate new options
- 2005: Survey of bison to set baseline population
- 2005: NPS bison capture attempt – no success
- 2005/2007: Telemetry on bison to help determine movements, use
- 2008/2009: NAU graduate class, with NPS funding, spends semester looking at bison issue and makes recommendations
 - Increased collaboration between AGFD, GRCA and KNF
 - Targeted studies on key questions (e.g. demographics, ecosystem impacts, nativeness, genetics)
 - Public education campaign, gauge GRCA visitor perceptions/attitudes
- 2009/2011: NAU grad student evaluating impacts on park resources, evaluating options/costs.

Population Estimates:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	<u>Population</u>
2005	70	43	19	166
2006	77	47	18	195
2007	94	57	20	233
2008	111	67	34	266
2009	129	77	39	304
2010	138	83	25	364
2011	165	99	12	451

Major Options:

- Maintain current free-ranging bison herd (New agreements with GCNP/KNF)
- Remove all current bison from entire area and don't replace them
- Remove current bison, replace with other bison
- Retain current bison, begin NEPA on fence options
- Chemical/physical sterilization of bison herd
- More aggressive harvest
- Habitat improvements to hold bison off the Park

Next Steps:

- NAU grad student completes work in fall 2011
- GRCA staff evaluate information and determine if there is impairment
- If impairment, GRCA Superintendent has to take action to limit impairment
- Start NEPA process on options

Department Recommendations:

- Evaluate option of using state licensed hunters during closed season (October to May) to harvest bison on GRCA
- Reduce herd to 100 animals or less
- Continue current harvest strategy

Mr. Sieg discussed with the Commission that current legislation does not allow licensed hunters on the Park. There have been some inroads in a couple of the National Parks where they have allowed citizen hunters under their authority to harvest animals. In many cases they require that those animals go to food banks and not to the hunter. We've been arguing for a long time that we have an ideal situation because the North Rim is basically closed all winter and it would be ideal to allow hunters to go on the Park. Citizens are willing to pay and would likely be willing to go to expert hunter training that the Park Service may require. Hopefully, when the Park sees that the world is not going to come to an end, maybe they will allow year-round hunting and the bison will come down and increase our opportunities on the Forest Service side.

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17. Call to the Public

There were no requests from the public to speak.

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18. 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: Freeman moved and Husted seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Vote: Unanimous

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Public meeting reconvened at 5:50 p.m.

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19. Litigation Report

There were no updates and the Commission had no comments or questions.

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20. Approval of Minutes and Signing of Minutes.

Motion: Husted moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 24-25, 2011.

Vote: Unanimous

The Commission signed the minutes following approval.

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The following agenda items were postponed to tomorrow's meeting:

21. Director's and Chairman's Reports

22. Commissioners Reports

23. Future Agenda Items and Action Items

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Motion: Mansell moved and Husted seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADJOURN THIS MEETING.

Vote: Unanimous

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Meeting recessed for the day at 5:50 p.m.

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Meeting reconvened Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

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Chairman Woodhouse called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. in the Eagle Room for agenda item #1, which was conducted in a workshop setting. This meeting followed an agenda revision #2 dated August 25, 2011.

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1. Financial Status Presentation

Presenter: Lizette Morgan, Chief Financial Officer, Business & Finance

Ms. Morgan provided the Commission with an update on the current financial status of the Department. This briefing was provided in a workshop setting and included an open question/answer session and discussion with the Commission and the Department. Topics of discussion included the following:

- Status of major funds: Game and Fish, Wildlife Conservation Fund, OHV, Watercraft, Coast Guard, Heritage, Pittman Robertson (Wildlife Restoration) and Dingell Johnson (Sportfish Restoration)
- Pressures and potential threats
 - External Factors (Recession, drought, fire, land closures, access issues)
 - Declining Revenue (Decline in license revenue, reduced permit sales)
 - Increasing Fixed Expenses (Employer Related Expenses, postage, printing, fuel)
 - Unbudgeted Priorities (Unplanned cost incurring initiatives, fish stocking mitigation, equity pay increases, expansion of the Reserve/Volunteer Program)
- Current and Potential Strategies to enhance the Department's Financial Position
 - Reduce Expenditures: To preserve fund balances at reasonable operational levels expenditures must be kept in line with revenue; Operational reductions have been necessary in most funds; Establishing hiring priorities (every hire becomes a strategic budget decision); No budgeted Classification Maintenance Review (Across the board raises for W/L series); New cost incurring initiatives require reductions or eliminations to existing budgets and realignment of priorities; Develop additional tools and processes to improve clarity and better inform decisions
 - Grow Existing Lines of Business: Actively seek opportunities for revenue growth through license simplification and price point analysis; Online draw/E Commerce Expansion; Actively seeking to expand urban fishing program; Focus of effort by employees on revenue generation through the PIP program
 - Identify New Revenue Streams and Lines of Business: Expansion of Wildlife Contracts; Recreational Access Permits.

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Chairman Woodhouse called the meeting back to order at 10:30 a.m. in the Auditorium for agenda items #2 and #3, and lead those present through the Pledge of Allegiance followed by introductions.

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2. Presentation of the Proposed Hunt Guidelines for the fall 2012 through spring 2015 for Commission Approval.

Presenter: Brian F. Wakeling, Game Branch Chief

Mr. Wakeling presented the Commission with the Department's proposed hunt guidelines for fall 2012 through spring 2015. A detailed description of proposed hunt guidelines was available for public review at all Department offices and was provided to the Commission for review prior to this meeting.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department solicits public review and comment concerning proposed hunt guidelines every other year. The Department's proposed hunt guidelines were developed to reflect prior Commission direction, biological limitations, Department input, and public comment. The Department routinely receives comments regarding guidelines during the interim between review cycles (40 unsolicited comments received prior to April 27, 2011). The

Department solicited public input on existing hunt guidelines during April and May. The existing hunt guidelines were posted on the Department's website and noticed through media releases to the public (92 solicited comments received). The Department developed proposed hunt guidelines for consideration and shared these on the Department's website throughout June 6–July 15, 2011, which was also noticed through media releases to the public. The Department held 11 public meetings to solicit input drawing 126 attendees (in Kingman with 30 attendees, Page with 2, Phoenix with 2, Prescott with 25, Flagstaff with 4, Mesa with 6, Payson with 10, Pinetop with 17, Yuma with 6, Sierra Vista with 11, and Tucson with 13). At each public meeting, a survey was distributed asking questions about support for a variety of proposals regarding the hunt guidelines; 112 attendees responded to the survey. This same survey was placed on the Department website and was taken by 595 individuals. This same survey was mailed to 2,700 randomly selected license holders, of which 797 responded by mail. Since June 1, the Department received 23 written comments. The Commission was provided with copies of all comments. The Department summarized the 23 comments received throughout June and July along with comments received at the public meetings and provided that to the Commission along with Department responses.

Commissioner Husted stated that he is not satisfied with the hunt guidelines process. He is not satisfied that the vetting that is needed has been done. He was not consulted to his satisfaction and he believes that the sportsmen community has not been consulted. He feels he has been directed by the Department and he is looking forward to the public comments at this meeting. He suggested that the Department listen very closely to the public and to the Commission. At this point he is convinced that he is not going to vote for this hunt guidelines package.

Commissioner Freeman stated that he is comfortable with the process, although he agrees there could be improvements. He believes the sportsmen have had a voice and the process has collected and documented their voices and the Department has passed that on to the Commission. These comments were collected through a process that was created in a very public and open way with multiple opportunities for public input. His only criticism is that only the very narrow and vocal minorities present today will be heard at this meeting.

Chairman Woodhouse stated that if there is any flaw in the process it is not fair to point any fingers at the Department because the Commission outlined and approved this process. If there is a flaw in the process then the Commission needs to look at themselves and make some changes in the next process.

Commissioner Harris commented that he had some concerns too because he was approached by sportsmen who did not feel their voices were heard. He would like to see the Commission look at the process and make sure that they are inclusive and not exclusive.

Commissioner Mansell commented that he felt he was left out of the process, but he noted an added step in the process for the next cycle, specifically an agenda item for a spring Commission meeting during the last year of the guidelines cycle where Commission guidance will be sought. This will allow for the Commission to get involved in the next process and he appreciated that change.

Mr. Wakeling provided the Commission with a PowerPoint presentation on the Department's recommended changes to the hunt guidelines that would differ from the previous hunt guideline

package. The presentation included looking at the guidelines historically, the objectives, the timeline cycle, and the process approved by the Commission in September 2009. The objectives of the guidelines are to guide Wildlife Managers, inform the public, acknowledge Management Plans (including Comprehensive Game Management Plan, Elk and Pronghorn Management Plans), acknowledge planning processes, and acknowledge the importance of sustaining wildlife for all. The guidelines process approved by the Commission included the following:

- Hunt Guidelines Team
- Agency solicits input on current guidelines
- Review current guidelines – consistency, prior direction, advances in science
- Use public input to guide survey development
- Draft guidelines posted
- Input solicited via public meetings, website, survey
- Team drafts proposed guidelines that includes social input
- Agency revision and final recommendation
- Commission review and approval
- Hunt Recommendations follow approved guidelines.

Loren Chase, the Department's Human Dimensions Coordinator, discussed the survey approach and specific data examples with the Commission.

Public Comment

Bob Hernbrode, (former AGFD Commissioner) addressed the Commission. His comments included the following: The opportunity to go hunting is the number one priority and studies have shown that to be true historically and today; reliance on the Department's staff is the Commission's best reference to determine how much hunting can be accommodated without jeopardizing wildlife populations; rifle hunters are the vast majority and the season structure should reflect that reality; bonus points complicate the regulations and does little for the Arizona hunter; the guidelines are not perfect but they reflect a significant compromise and this is as it should be; the proposed 3-year cycle on the hunt guidelines will simplify the regulations (a 5-year cycle would even be better), give biologists the opportunity to adequately analyze the data, and the Commission always has the opportunity for emergency regulation options.

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Meeting recessed for a break at 12:10 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 12:15 p.m.

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2. (continued) Presentation of the Proposed Hunt Guidelines for the fall 2012 through spring 2015 for Commission Approval.

Presenter: Brian F. Wakeling, Game Branch Chief

Mr. Wakeling presented the proposed hunt guidelines for each game species to the Commission with the Department's proposed changes using a PowerPoint presentation. The Commission discussed and asked questions of Mr. Wakeling, considered public input and then took action as follows:

Proposed Changes - Mountain Lion Guidelines, CO 10

Summary of substantive recommended changes to mountain lion:

- Definition of management zones (Standard – 1 lion bag; Minimal occurrence – 3 lion bag)
- Yearlong season for both zones
- Retain ability to use multiple bag limits (In a standard management zone – should harvest in a subzone comprise >35% adult females [not in a multiple bag limit area], may implement closure during July through September in subsequent years)

Public Comment

John Spear, Sportsman (Region I): Supports the multiple bag limit and asked if a multiple bag limit in Unit 13B and a few other units would really have an impact because these are remote areas and not hunted by a lot of people.

Mr. Wakeling stated that there would not likely be a substantial increase of mountain lion harvest in these areas, but it would provide people with additional opportunities to pursue lions if they so choose.

Sharon Fairchild, representing herself: Did not address the Commission but submitted a blue card with comments; opposed to year-round mountain lion season and minimal occurrence lion management zone; too many mountain lions are being killed – period.

Stephanie Nichols-Young: Opposes going back to a year-round season; it would be a huge step back; Texas is the only other state that does this; the survey targeted hunters, but wildlife is a public trust for the benefit of citizens of Arizona; a majority of Arizonans have a great respect for mountain lions; they play a critical part in the ecosystem; females with kittens will be impacted; we need to continue being conservative in how we manage mountain lions; the Department should follow WAFWA's guidelines for managing mountain lions; it's not clear what triggers a closure and whether that is a Commission or Department decision.

Bob Hernbrode, representing himself: Opposed to year-round seasons and multiple bag limits; mountain lions should be treated as a trophy animal and the tag should be comparable to that of a bighorn sheep; hunters should not be used or responsible financially for solving the problems that people have with lions; when we use predator control to solve ungulate management problems, we should clearly articulate up front what we are trying to accomplish and use the best available scientific findings.

Sandy Bahr, Chapter Director, Sierra Club – Grand Canyon (Arizona) Chapter: The Sierra Club supports science based hunting; opposes proposed year-round season; there is a very low confidence level in the method of estimating mountain lion populations.

Commissioner Freeman stated that the guidelines say to manage for zero mountain lions and the objective on the front of the guidelines says that the Department manages wildlife in the public trust for all of Arizona. He is not anti-lion hunting or anti-prey, he just takes his responsibility to

the public trust very seriously and there is language in there that says “zero” and for that reason he will oppose this motion.

Commissioner Husted stated that the guidelines do not talk about managing the State of Arizona for zero mountain lions but rather is talking about specific areas that historically have not had a big mountain lion population.

Motion: Mansell moved and Husted seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE DEPARTMENT’S RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Aye - Woodhouse, Husted, Harris, Mansell
Nay - Freeman
Passed 4 to 1

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Meeting recessed for a break at 1:10 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:25 p.m.

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Proposed Changes – Deer, CO 2

Summary of substantive recommended changes to deer:

- Add to the Management Goal “and, where possible, enhance deer populations”
- May extend the third whitetail season to 10 days
- Managing for within guidelines rather than to the center of guidelines
- Add Unit 3A/3C as an alternative management unit (Expanding hunt success range to 30-50% - includes Unit 45 ABC; Seasons may begin as early as week 47 - early October)
- Allowing for up to 10 additional late mule deer seasons with up to 40 permits each
- Allowing for the shift of deer permits to a late season structure if permits remain unissued 2 of 3 years after returning to an online application process

Commissioner Harris commented on the third whitetail season and suggested that the word “third” be left out and it just be identified as a whitetail season so that it could be put in any hunt structure when the Department makes their recommendations.

Public Comment

Dusty Parsons, representing himself (Region I): “Opportunity” has caused a severe drop of some populations including a severe drop in deer populations. (submitted petition to Commission regarding turkey (see Proposed Changes for Turkey).

John Spear, Sportsman (Region I): Agreed with Dusty Parsons; supports the Alternative Management units.

Randy Phillips, Arizona Bowhunters’ Association: Suggested moving archery deer draw into the first draw cycle with elk and antelope; only committed archery hunters will apply for that hunt; this would also give bowhunter’s more time to prepare for their hunts.

John Koleszar, Arizona Deer Association: The conservation groups have hired a former employee, Jim deVos, to advise them; believes the Department's survey is flawed by using poor terminology.

Jim deVos: Discussed the questionnaire with the Commission; recommended a change to the buck:doe ratio; is looking for a middle ground between quality hunt and participation; provided a document from the Southwest Wildlife Advisory Group (attached) with data and recommendations to the Commission.

The Commission discussed the data provided by Mr. deVos and discussed with Mr. Wakeling the Department's reasoning for not implementing their recommendations.

Chairman Woodhouse commented that the statewide average is only 3 bucks to does difference between the Department and the ADA's recommendation.

John Koleszar: Recommended removing more coyotes to increase fawn survival in order to grow deer populations.

Don Martin, Government Liaison, Mohave Sportsmen's Club: The reduction in deer population in Mohave County is deplorable; would like to see an Alternative Deer Management unit in Region III; would like to see a conservative buck harvest to promote more bucks and wider range of age class regardless of antler size or score; supports going back to pre-2006 guidelines on deer.

Pete Cimellaro, representing himself: Since 1983 to 2011 we've lost 60% of our resource, if you use permits as a barometer; the ADA has asked for years for less permits; there is a myriad of different opinions even within the Department on why our herds are decreasing, which has caused a stalemate and mixed management.

Chairman Woodhouse stated that there are lots of pressures such as coyote and mountain lion and drought pressures that have contributed to the decline in deer herds. The Department has done a lot to deal with the issues and a lot of great people have had their hands on deer herd management in the state, and have done the best they can to weigh the issues and make the best science-based decisions.

Commissioner Husted stated that if we are going to seek public comment then we need to value it, analyze it, and then with the analytics be able to say why we will or will not go with a particular public input or recommendation.

Motion: Husted moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO POSTPONE THE GUIDELINES FOR COMMISSION ORDER 2, DEER, TO THE OCTOBER MEETING AND ASK DEPARTMENT STAFF TO GET WITH THESE CONSTITUENT GROUPS, DO THE ANALYTICS, AND BUILD A CONSENSUS.

Vote: Aye - Husted, Harris
Nay - Woodhouse, Freeman, Mansell
Failed 3 to 2

Motion: Mansell moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE THAT THE STANDARD PRESCRIPTION ON BUCK:DOE RATIOS FOR MULE DEER AND WHITETAIL DEER BE CHANGED TO 20-30:100 (MANAGE TOWARD CENTER OF GUIDELINES) AND THE ALTERNATIVE PRESCRIPTION BE CHANGED TO GREATER THAN 30.

Vote: Aye - Husted, Harris, Mansell
Nay - Woodhouse, Freeman
Passed 3 to 2

Motion: Mansell moved THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ESTABLISH AN ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT UNIT IN EACH OF THE SIX REGIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY STAFF WITH THE EXCEPTION OF REGION II WHICH SHOULD STAY 12A, 12B, 13A AND 13B.

Motion failed for lack of second.

Motion: Freeman moved THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO MODIFY THE GUIDELINES SO THAT WILDLIFE MANAGERS WOULD MANAGE MULE DEER TO BE IN THE CENTER OF THE GUIDELINE RANGES.

Motion failed for lack of second. (Already passed in previous motion by Mansell, seconded by Harris - THAT THE STANDARD PRESCRIPTION ON BUCK:DOE RATIOS FOR MULE DEER AND WHITETAIL DEER BE CHANGED TO 20-30:100 (MANAGE TOWARD CENTER OF GUIDELINES) AND THE ALTERNATIVE PRESCRIPTION BE CHANGED TO GREATER THAN 30).

Motion: Husted moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT THE GUIDELINES WITH LANGUAGE ADDED TO THE MANAGEMENT GOAL "AND WHERE POSSIBLE, ENHANCE DEER POPULATIONS."

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Harris moved and Freeman seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADD TO THE GUIDELINES "MAY EXTEND THE THIRD WHITETAIL SEASON TO A 10-DAY SEASON."

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Harris moved and Husted seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: ADD UNIT 3A/3C AS AN ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT UNIT (EXPANDING HUNT SUCCESS RANGE TO 30-50% - INCLUDES UNIT 45 ABC; SEASONS MAY BEGIN AS EARLY AS WEEK 47 - EARLY OCTOBER) AND ALLOW FOR UP TO 10 ADDITIONAL LATE MULE DEER SEASONS WITH UP TO 40 PERMITS EACH.

Vote: Aye - Woodhouse, Husted, Harris, Mansell

Nay - Freeman
Passed 4 to 1

Motion: Harris moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: ALLOW FOR THE SHIFT OF DEER PERMITS TO A LATE SEASON STRUCTURE IF PERMITS REMAIN UNISSUED 2 OF 3 YEARS AFTER RETURNING TO AN ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Husted moved THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO CHANGE THE GENERAL SUCCESS RATE TO BETWEEN 20-30.

Motion fails for lack of second.

Motion: Harris moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE REMAINDER OF THE HUNT GUIDELINES FOR COMMISSION ORDER 2, DEER.

Commissioner Freeman stated that he is concerned about adding the success rate into it when the buck to doe ratio is already increased. He also has concerns about managing for success.

Commissioner Mansell confirmed with Mr. Wakeling that we already manage for hunt success and by approving the remainder of the guidelines as written, it would include a 15-20% hunt success as part of that.

Commissioner Mansell asked if it would be wise for the Commission to re-examine the 15-20% success ratio in lieu of the motion passed earlier.

Mr. Wakeling stated that multiple barometers are considered with all hunts. Buck to doe ratios are looked at, fawn to doe ratios, population trajectory, and hunt success. All of these factor into the decision, so it's hard to say what this will look like over time.

Commissioner Mansell confirmed with Mr. Wakeling that if we go from 15-20% to 20-25% then available tags would be reduced, so it would be an additional reduction in addition to what has already been done.

Mr. Wakeling stated that it would be one more barometer that would result in decreasing permits. Because the Commission has approved substantive changes, unchanged portions and nonsubstantive changes (e.g. year) are considered to be accepted as presented.

Motion withdrawn.

Proposed Changes – Elk, CO 4

Summary of substantive recommended changes to pronghorn:

- Add to the Management Goal “and, where possible, enhance elk populations”

- Defining 4 elk management zones (Standard, Winter Range, Flexible, and Minimal Occurrence)
- Define how antlerless and bull hunts influence desired management direction as identified in the Elk Management Plan
- Retain the November archery bull seasons but include as part of the weapons allocation pie and allow for flexibility in permit numbers.

Commissioner Woodhouse discussed with Mr. Wakeling the proposed change to retain the November archery bull seasons but include as part of the weapons allocation pie, to ensure that this would not affect the September archery elk tags. When the Commission talked about the November archery tags, the Commission made a firm commitment to the archers that the November archery tags would not have any effect on the September hunts.

Mr. Wakeling stated that it can be crafted in a fashion so that it is articulated clearly. Rather than taking any permits from the September season, we may add a handful of permits to a later season. But we would not be moving any opportunity out of September to November.

Public Comment

Steve Clark, President, Arizona Elk Society: AES made recommendations to the Department and was turned down on just about everything they asked for; They are not happy with the opportunity over quality; Need to go back to guidelines before 2006; AES hired Jim deVos, former AGFD employee, in order to analyze and discuss the Department's data.

Jim deVos: Recommended that the Commission adopt as part of the guidelines a bull:cow ratio of 25-35 (this verbal request was for 25-35 instead of the 30-40:100 AES had requested in their correspondence).

Jim Unmacht, representing himself: Asked the Commission to consider a waiting period for successful people that elk draw tags; if you draw a bull tag, you have to wait 3-5 years before you are eligible to draw another bull tag; while that person waits, he can buy bonus points; for antlerless, a 1-3 year wait is recommended; and every other year for a junior.

Commissioner Husted commented that Mr. Unmacht's request would have to be done in the rulemaking process and requested that the Department take note to make this discussion happen at the earliest opportunity.

Randy Phillips, ABA: Discussed the September archery hunts; recommended that if it is not going to adjust the numbers of the September tags, then why put it in the pie allocation. If it's going to be a management tool, then most of those hunts are zero success rate hunts. If you see more opportunity where more people want to apply for a zero success rate hunt then put them in there. In the case of the two or three units where animals are actually harvested, if that becomes out of range then just move that number down. If we are going to get guarantees that it's not going to be in the September hunt then why even bring it into the pie allocation to begin with and then just move the numbers up and down as we go.

* * * * *

Meeting recessed for a break at 4:10 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 4:20 p.m.

* * * * *

(continued) Proposed Changes – Elk, CO 4

Motion: Freeman moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHANGES: ADD TO THE MANAGEMENT GOAL “AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, ENHANCE ELK POPULATIONS”; MANAGING TO THE CENTER OF GUIDELINES WITHIN THE RANGE OF 25-30:100 BULL TO COW RATIO; DEFINING 4 ELK MANAGEMENT ZONES (STANDARD, WINTER RANGE, FLEXIBLE, AND MINIMAL OCCURRENCE).

Vote: Aye - Woodhouse, Freeman, Harris, Mansell
Nay - Husted
Passed 4 to 1

Motion: Harris moved and Freeman seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHANGES: DEFINE HOW ANTLERLESS AND BULL HUNTS INFLUENCE DESIRED MANAGEMENT DIRECTION AS IDENTIFIED IN THE ELK MANAGEMENT PLAN; RETAIN THE NOVEMBER ARCHERY BULL SEASONS BUT NOT INCLUDE AS PART OF THE WEAPONS ALLOCATION PIE ALLOWING FOR FLEXIBILITY IN PERMIT NUMBERS.

Vote: Aye - Woodhouse, Freeman, Harris, Mansell
Nay - Husted
Passed 4 to 1

Commissioner Husted clarified that he is not necessarily opposing this. The Commission has come to a point where they have a consensus and he is not specifically voting against this, but he made some statements today about the process and he is voting against the process right now.

Motion: Freeman moved and Woodhouse seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE REMAINDER OF THE HUNT GUIDELINES FOR COMMISSION ORDER 4, ELK.

Vote: Aye - Woodhouse, Freeman, Harris, Mansell
Nay - Husted
Passed 4 to 1

Proposed Changes – Turkey, CO 5

Summary of substantive recommended changes to turkey:

- Adjust the mean hunt success guideline from 10-15% to 10-20%
- Add to the Management Goal “and, where possible, enhance turkey populations”

Public Comment

Mark Adkins, Member of NWTF, representing himself (Region 5): Mr. Adkins had to leave but submitted written comments that included: Mr. Adkins is a strong advocate for over-the-counter spring turkey tags and urges the Commission to keep turkey open over-the-counter to youth and open the areas closed to over-the-counter tags for youth as biological recommendations are made.

Mark Sloan, Territory Manager (Region I): Would like to see all spring youth hunts go back to a draw using the existing stratified hunt structure allowing the youth 1 week prior to the general hunts.

Dusty Parsons (Region I): Submitted a petition with over a hundred signatures. The petition urged the Commission to discontinue the practice of approving unlimited across the counter spring turkey tags. Populations are declining for the sake of “opportunity”.

Fred Deneke, President, Yavapai Yelpers, NWTF Chapter: Supports Mr. Adkins comments; supports the Commission recommendations dealing with youth turkey camps; Need to continue the week early permit for juniors.

Scott Lerich, Senior Regional Biologist, NWTF: Supports the continuation of juniors hunts in Arizona and urges the Commission to continue to lead by example in providing these opportunities; supports the guidelines as presented.

Steve Sams, NWTF: The guidelines for turkeys in Arizona are working very well; the Department has knowledgeable wildlife professionals making recommendations and he urged the Commission to approve the guidelines as presented by the Department.

Commissioner Husted suggested that over-the-counter tags could be offered only to those juniors attending a juniors camp instead of wholesale over-the-counter juniors tags. This would be a structured situation offered on a limited basis.

Motion: Woodhouse moved and Freeman seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMISSION ORDER 5 TURKEY GUIDELINES WITH PROPOSED CHANGES AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Aye - Woodhouse, Freeman, Harris, Mansell
Nay - Husted
Passed 4 to 1

Proposed Changes – Pronghorn, CO 3

Summary of substantive recommended changes to pronghorn:

- Adding to the Management Goal “and, where possible, enhance pronghorn populations”
- Managing for toward the center of guidelines.

Commissioner Husted asked about the antelope populations.

Mr. Wakeling responded that the antelope populations have remained relatively stable for the past five years with a plus or minus of about 1,000.

Commissioner Freeman confirmed with Mr. Wakeling that pronghorn would be managed towards the center of guidelines rather than within the guidelines to keep it consistent with the others.

Public Comment

Jim Unmacht, representing himself (comments written on back of blue card read by Chairman Woodhouse): Consider instituting a 5-year waiting period subsequent to successful tag holders drawing a permit (okay to buy bonus points during wait period); Consider instituting a one per lifetime pronghorn bag limit per weapon type.

Motion: Freeman moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE HUNT GUIDELINES FOR COMMISSION ORDER 3 PRONGHORN WITH PROPOSED CHANGES AS PRESENTED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MOVING TOWARDS THE CENTER OF GUIDELINES.

Vote: Aye - Woodhouse, Freeman, Harris, Mansell
Nay - Husted
Passed 4 to 1

Proposed Changes – Javelina, CO 6

Summary of substantive recommended changes to javelina:

- Extend the OTC archery javelina season in Units 11M, 25M, 26M, 38M and 47M and Units 1-5 and 7-9 to coincide with the August-September and December archery deer seasons
- Establish an OTC hunt structure if permits remain unissued in a hunt 2 of 3 years after returning to an online application process

Motion: Freeman moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE HUNT GUIDELINES FOR COMMISSION ORDER 6 JAVELINA AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Aye - Woodhouse, Freeman, Harris, Mansell
Nay - Husted
Passed 4 to 1

Proposed Changes - Bighorn Sheep, CO 7

No proposed changes; only clarification on use of available research.

Motion: Harris moved and Freeman seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE HUNT GUIDELINES FOR COMMISSION ORDER 7 BIGHORN SHEEP AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Aye - Woodhouse, Freeman, Harris, Mansell
Nay - Husted

Passed 4 to 1

Proposed Changes – Buffalo, CO 8

No proposed changes to buffalo guidelines.

Motion: Harris moved and Freeman seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE HUNT GUIDELINES FOR COMMISSION ORDER 8 BUFFALO AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Aye - Woodhouse, Freeman, Harris, Mansell
Nay - Husted
Passed 4 to 1

Proposed Changes – Bear, CO 9

No proposed changes to bear guidelines.

Public Comment

Sandy Bahr, Chapter Director, Sierra club, Grand Canyon Chapter (comments written on back of blue card read by Chairman Woodhouse): Supports the Department decision to not include a pursuit-only bear season; encourages the Commission and the Department to consider extending the closure time for Gunnison's prairie dogs to help ensure a strong sustainable prairie dog population.

Motion: Freeman moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE HUNT GUIDELINES FOR COMMISSION ORDER 9 BEAR AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Aye - Woodhouse, Freeman, Harris, Mansell
Nay - Husted
Passed 4 to 1

Proposed Changes Small Game and Trapping– CO 11-18, 23

Summary of substantive recommended changes to quail CO 16:

- Opening Mearns' quail season 1 week later beginning on December 6, 2012

Motion: Mansell moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE HUNT GUIDELINES FOR SMALL GAME AND TRAPPING, COMMISSION ORDERS 11-18, AND 23 AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

Guidelines Cycle and Review Schedule

Proposed changes to overall guidelines:

- Change to a 3-year cycle on hunt guidelines
- Explicit addition of Commission query on topics for public response at April 2014 meeting or a workshop prior to the April meeting
- Reference Comprehensive Game Management Planning document
- Process and Cycle Time: 3-year through spring 2015; addition of Commission workshop in final year of cycle to discuss potential survey topics; public input process.

Commissioner Freeman stated that the 3-year cycle would give the Department more time to analyze input that is biological in nature. The 2-year cycle puts a big load on the Department. Even a three or five year cycle is big or bigger than rulemaking.

Commissioner Harris commented that he is opposed to a 3-year cycle because the Commission is responsible for setting the guidelines and some Commissioners would only have one opportunity to participate in setting the guidelines during their 5-year term.

Commissioner Woodhouse agreed with Commissioner Freeman, especially considering all that the Commission will be asking the Department to do in analyzing all the public input.

Motion: Harris moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO CONTINUE THE TWO-YEAR GUIDELINE PROCESS AND TO HAVE A COMMISSION WORKSHOP IN THE FINAL YEAR OF THE CYCLE TO ASSESS POTENTIAL SURVEY TOPICS AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS TO BE INVOLVED.

Vote: Aye - Husted, Harris, Mansell
Nay - Woodhouse, Freeman
Passed 3 to 2

Proposed Changes - Migratory Birds, CO 19, 22, 24

No substantive recommended changes to migratory birds.

Motion: Harris moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE HUNT GUIDELINES FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS, CO 19, 22, AND 24 AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

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3. Call to the Public

There were no requests to speak to the Commission.

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Agenda items 21, 22, 23 were postponed to Saturday's meeting.

21. Director's and Chairman's Reports

Director Voyles recommended suspending the Director's reports. The Commission was in consensus.

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22. Commissioners Reports

No reports given.

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23. Future Agenda Items and Action Items

No review of future agenda or action items.

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Motion: Mansell moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADJOURN THIS MEETING.

Vote: Unanimous

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Meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

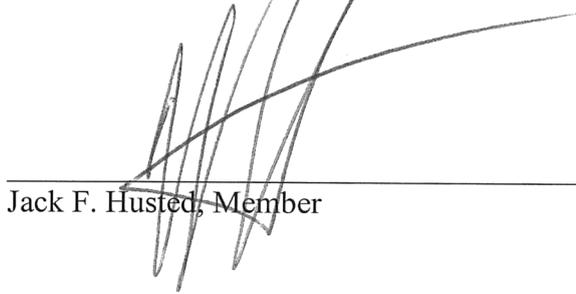
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Robert R. Woodhouse, Chair

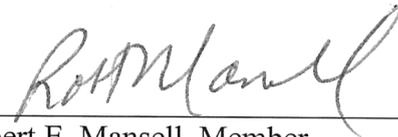


Norman W. Freeman, Vice Chair



Jack F. Husted, Member

John W. Harris, Member



Robert E. Mansell, Member

ATTEST:



Larry D. Voyles
Secretary and Director

**Game and Fish Litigation Report
Presented at the Commission Meeting
August 26, 2011**

The Assistant Attorneys General for the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and the Arizona Game and Fish Department are representing these agencies in the following matters in litigation. This report does not include claims and lawsuits for damages against these agencies in which the agencies are represented by Assistant Attorneys General in the Liability Defense Section of the Attorney General's Office.

1. *Wilderness Watch, Inc. et al. v. United States Fish and Wildlife Service et al., CV01185-MHM.* Plaintiffs filed suit on June 15, 2007, challenging the decision of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS") to redevelop two water structures on the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. The water structures provide supplemental water to wildlife populations that have suffered due to persistent drought. Plaintiffs allege that these water developments violate the National Environmental Policy Act because the FWS did not first determine the environmental impact of these projects. Plaintiffs also allege that such permanent structures are prohibited by the Wilderness Act. Plaintiffs seek declaratory and injunctive relief. They are asking the court to find that the FWS violated the law and to order the FWS to remove the structures.

The Commission has voted to file an application with the court to intervene on behalf of the FWS. Any court order finding that the FWS violated federal law will impair the Commission's ability to restore the wildlife populations in the refuge and in other wilderness areas in Arizona. The Attorney General's Office anticipates that a motion to intervene will be filed by August 15th.

On August 7, 2007, the State filed its Motion to Intervene. Plaintiffs, in response to the State's motion, did not object to the State's permissive intervention, so long as the court imposes restrictions on the State's participation, such as page limits, requiring the State to file joint briefs with the other intervenors, and prohibiting the State from duplicating arguments made by the federal defendants. On August 29, 2007, the State filed a reply in support of its Motion to Intervene and opposed any restrictions on the State's intervention.

On August 20, 2007, the State also filed a response to plaintiffs' Motion for Temporary Restraining Order.

On August 30, 2007, the federal defendants filed an answer to plaintiffs First Amended Complaint.

The court has issued a scheduling order for the parties to file motions for summary judgment. The plaintiffs' motion is due December 14, 2007; the defendants' cross-motion and response is due February 1, 2008; plaintiffs' response/reply is due February 29, 2008 and defendants' reply is due March 14, 2008.

Plaintiffs have withdrawn their motion for a temporary restraining order so the status quo will remain until the court rules on the motions for summary judgment.

As for the motions to intervene filed by the State of Arizona and various conservation organizations, the court has indicated it will not likely rule on these motions prior to the time the

parties file their motions for summary judgment. The court, however, granted permission to the applicants for intervention to file motions for summary judgment. Also, the plaintiffs stated on the record that they have no objection to the State of Arizona intervening in the case.

On February 1, 2008, the State of Arizona, the federal defendants and conservation groups filed separate cross motions for summary judgment and responses to the plaintiffs' summary judgment motion.

On February 29, 2008, the plaintiffs filed a response to the cross motions for summary judgment. Defendants have until March 14, 2008, to file replies.

On March 4, 2008, the court granted the motions to intervene by the State of Arizona and the conservation groups.

On March 14, 2008, the State of Arizona and the other defendants filed replies to the plaintiffs' cross motion for summary judgment.

On April 2, 2008, the organization Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility ("PEER") filed a motion for leave to file an amicus curie brief in support of the plaintiffs' cross motion for summary judgment. At the same time, PEER lodged its amicus brief with the court clerk. Each defendant has filed a response opposing PEER's motion for leave. Not only is the motion untimely, the brief that PEER has lodged contains many additional factual assertions not included in the administrative record. This attempt to supplement the administrative record with new information violates the established law in this area.

The parties filed supplemental briefs on June 3, 2008, addressing the issue whether the Wilderness Act or the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act controls in this case. Oral argument on the cross motions for summary judgment took place on June 12, 2008. The court has taken the motions under advisement.

The court issued an order on September 5, 2008, denying the plaintiffs' cross motion for summary judgment and granting the defendants' and interveners' cross motions for summary judgment. Judgment in favor of the defendants was entered on September 11, 2008.

The plaintiffs filed a notice of appeal on October 29, 2008. The court entered a time schedule order on November 4, 2008. The plaintiffs (now appellants) filed an opening brief on February 13, 2009. The defendants and intervenors filed motions for thirty day extensions to file responsive briefs. The court granted the motions and extended the date to file the briefs to April 15, 2009.

The court issued an order on April 27, 2009, granting the plaintiffs an additional 21 days from the date of the order to file a reply brief. The reply is now due on May 18, 2009.

The Court of Appeals held oral argument on December 10, 2009 and has taken the case under advisement.

The Court of Appeals issued an opinion on December 21, 2010. The Court held that wildlife conservation, and the conservation of bighorn sheep in particular, is a purpose of the Kofa Wilderness Area. The Court, however, found that the Service did not sufficiently explain

that redeveloping two water structures in the wilderness area was necessary to restore the bighorn sheep population. The Court expected the Service to evaluate alternative actions to determine whether these alternatives would increase the sheep population without the additional water. The court remanded the case back to the district court for a decision on whether to allow the Service to supplement its decision.

The Safari Club International (intervener) filed a petition for rehearing en banc. On March 1, 2011, the Ninth Circuit issued an order denying the petition. The Ninth Circuit has returned the case to the District Court for further action and Judge Bolton has been assigned the case.

The Court held a status conference on May 9, 2011, to determine how to proceed with the case. The plaintiffs and the federal defendants advised the court that they are in preliminary settlement discussions. The court will allow the parties sixty days to settle the case. If the parties do not report a settlement by July 8, 2008, the court will set a briefing schedule on what remedy the court should order.

Based on a stipulated motion filed by the federal parties and the plaintiffs, the court on August 10, 2011, issued an order granting the parties an additional 30 days to reach a settlement and to submit a status report by September 9, 2011.

2. *Anderson v. Arizona Game and Fish Department, et al., 2 CA-CV 2010-0098* Plaintiff Ralph Anderson seeks judicial review of the Commission's June 27, 2008 action revoking his licenses to take wildlife for ten years for taking big game in excess of bag limit (bull elk). Anderson had previously had his hunting privileges revoked for five years for taking a Gould's turkey during closed season. On March 8, 2010 the Pinal County Superior Court affirmed the Commission's decision. Anderson appealed to the Arizona Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals, in a decision filed November 8, 2010, reversed in part and affirmed in part. The Court held that A.R.S. §17-340(B) does not grant the Commission authority to impose consecutive sanctions on offenders for repeat offenses. The Court affirmed the Commission's power to impose additional sanctions under A.R.S. §17-340(B)(2) while a person is serving a current term of revocation and to revoke or suspend the license of a person whose license has already been revoked based on a conviction of another covered Title 17 offense. Anderson filed a petition for review to the Arizona Supreme Court seeking review of the Court of Appeal's ruling that the Commission can further sanction a person whose hunting licenses have already been revoked. The Supreme Court has denied review and the case will be remanded to the Commission for a new hearing for the purpose of imposing a non-consecutive term of revocation (or other sanction as the Commission determines) for the bull elk violation.

3. *Mojave Valley Shooting Range Appeal.* The Hualapai and Fort Mojave Indian Tribes ("Appellants") filed an administrative appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals ("IBLA") on March 15, 2010. The appeal seeks review of the BLM's Decision Record to transfer to AGFD 315 acres of public land in the Mojave Valley for construction and operation of a shooting range. The Appellants allege that the Decision Record violates the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"), the National Historic Preservation Act ("NHPA"), and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act ("NAGPRA").

The Appellants served their Statement of Reasons on the Department on April 16, 2010. On April 30, 2010, AGFD filed a Motion to Intervene in support of the BLM's decision. The

Department's Answer to the Appellants' Statement of Reasons is due on May 17, 2010.

The IBLA granted the Department's motion to intervene and extended the time for the Department to file an answer to the appellants' statement of reasons. On June 15, 2010, the Department filed its response brief to the appellants' statement of reasons.

The IBLA issued an opinion on December 7, 2010, affirming the BLM's decision to transfer land to the Department for use as a shooting range. The IBLA found that the BLM did not violate NEPA or the National Historic Preservation Act.

4. *Center for Biological Diversity v. U.S. Bureau of Land Management et al.* CV-09-8011-PCT-PGR; *The Wilderness Society et al. v. U.S. Bureau of Land Management et al.* CV-09-8010-PCT-PGR. On May 9, 2008, Records of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plans for the Arizona Strip, Vermillion Cliffs National Monument and portions of the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument were released to provide guidance for BLM-administered lands in northern Arizona. In *Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) v. U.S. Bureau of Land Management*, No. CV 09-8011-PCT-PGR (US Dist. Ct. AZ), plaintiff CBD challenges the Plans, alleging that BLM and FWS have failed to comply with the NEPA, FLPMA, and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by refusing to incorporate actions necessary to protect public land and endangered and threatened species from adverse impacts of excessive off-road vehicle use, livestock grazing, and the use of lead ammunition. *The Wilderness Society et al. v. BLM, et al.* No. CV 09-8010-PCT-PGR (US Dist. Ct. AZ) also challenges the Plans by alleging violations of the NEPA, FLPMA, NHPA and presidential proclamations for the Vermillion Cliffs and Grand Canyon-Parashant Plans.

The National Rifle Association is an intervener. AGFD filed an amicus brief in the CBD case, which argued that BLM was not legally obligated to analyze the effects of lead ammunition on California condors in the BLM strip district, as the manner and methods of hunting are vested exclusively with the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.

CBD seeks a court order setting aside all Plans as arbitrary and capricious. The Wilderness Society seeks the same result, but only for the Vermillion Cliffs and Grand Canyon-Parashant Plans. Both plaintiffs request a remand to BLM for further proceedings. If the Court finds BLM's actions arbitrary or capricious, the Court will then conduct the "remedy" phase of the case, where the plaintiffs may seek injunctions against motorized use of roads or the use of lead ammunition during the period of time that BLM is revising its RMPs in accordance with the Court's ruling. The matter is calendared for oral argument on September 28, 2011

5. *Lorta v. Arizona Game and Fish Commission et al.*, CV-11-134. Plaintiffs filed an action on February 15, 2011, seeking judicial review of the Commission's license revocation and civil assessment decisions. The case was filed in Santa Cruz County Superior Court. The Commission has until March 16, 2011 to file a responsive pleading. On March 15, 2011, we filed a motion to dismiss on the basis the court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over the civil assessment order and the license revocation decision is moot because the underlying conviction was set aside.

The plaintiffs filed a response to the motion to dismiss on April 11, 2011, and also filed a motion for summary judgment. On April 21, 2011, we filed a reply in support of the motion to dismiss and a motion to preclude on the grounds that the plaintiffs' response was untimely and

the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure do not permit a motion for summary judgment prior to the filing of an answer. The Court scheduled an oral argument hearing on the motion to dismiss for June 21, 2011.

At the oral argument hearing, the parties stipulated to dismiss the suit on the condition that a new conviction in the second trial will require the Commission to hold a new hearing on the license revocations and civil assessment.

6. *Reed v. Arizona Game and Fish Department and Commission, C20111354.* The plaintiffs filed an action on March 3, 2011, seeking judicial review of the Commission's license revocation and civil assessment decisions. The case was filed in Pima County Superior Court. We agreed to waive service of process, and in so doing, we have sixty days to respond to the complaint.

On May 6, 2011, we filed a partial motion to dismiss the civil assessment claims and a motion to enlarge the time to file an answer. The Reeds filed a response on May 19, 2011 and we filed a reply in support of the motion to dismiss on May 27, 2011. The Court scheduled an oral argument hearing for July 5, 2011.

The Court denied the defendants' motion to dismiss on the basis that the Commission's authority to revoke license privileges until the assessment is paid in full makes the civil assessment decision a final agency decision subject to judicial review. The defendants filed their Answer on July 25, 2011, to the First Amended Complaint. The Department is in the process of compiling and certifying the administrative record.

Lands Update
For the Arizona Game and Fish Commission
August 19, 2011
Phoenix, Arizona

FOREST SERVICE LAND AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Coronado National Forest

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Coronado's Land Management Plan will be re-reviewed at the Forest Service Southwest Regional Office in November, the draft Plan and EIS will be reviewed at the Washington Office in January, and the earliest the Forest expects a public release is March, 2012.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Four Forests Restoration Initiative (4FRI)

The Forest Service published their Notice of Intent on their revised Proposed Action for the first 4FRI EIS in the Federal Register on August 19th, and the Request for Proposals for the 10-year Stewardship Contract closes on September 4, 2011. The Forest still plans to have a decision on the EIS by April 2012. The Department continues to be heavily engaged as a Cooperating Agency with the Forest Service, and as a stakeholder on the 4FRI Stakeholders Group.

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests

Recovery from the Wallow Fire and its aftermath continues to dominate the daily activities of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (Forest). The Forest anticipates that over the next one to three years workload demands associated with post-fire recovery analysis and project implementation will strain current workforce capacity. The Forest has solicited the assistance of a Rapid Assessment Team (RAT), which includes two Department employees, to provide recommendations and priorities for post-fire recovery activities. The Forest is currently reviewing the draft document submitted by the RAT.

In addition to post-fire related activities and analyses, such as timber salvage and livestock restocking of the burned area, the Forest is also working to prioritize its ongoing projects, such as Forest Plan Revision, Travel Management, White Mountain Stewardship Contract, and Four Forests Restoration Initiative. Although no final decisions have been made to date, it is likely that a number of pre-fire activities, including Forest Plan Revision and/or Travel Management will experience delays in completion due to the additional workload resulting from the fire.

Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burro Act

The impact of unauthorized horses on wildlife habitat values within two areas on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (Forest) has been an ongoing concern for a number of years. The first area is within the southern portions of the Black Mesa and Lakeside Ranger districts, and is associated both with the 19,700 acre Heber Wild Horse Territory as well as adjacent lands. The second area is on the far western end of the Alpine Ranger District. Both of these areas border the White Mountain Apache Indian Reservation (Reservation), which has served as a source for horse immigration onto Forest lands across a largely ineffective boundary fence. Traversing generally heavily timbered lands, it has been common for the boundary fence to sustain damage annually from falling trees.

The integrity of the boundary fence between the Black Mesa and Lakeside Ranger districts and the Reservation was further compromised by the 2002 Rodeo-Chediski Fire. Although substantially reconstructed by the winter of 2002, gaps remained where fences and cattle guards awaited installation, and decaying trees killed by the fire continued to fall onto the fence. As a result, there was no effective barrier to livestock for several years following the fire, providing easy access to the Forest for Reservation horses, which began to establish themselves throughout the fire burned area.

In 2005, based on concern that the increased number of unauthorized horses was adversely impacting the recovery of the burned lands, the Forest advertised a contract to gather and remove unauthorized livestock accessing the Forest in an area corresponding to the Rodeo-Chediski (R-C) Fire. Prior to completion of the contracting process a lawsuit was filed and the Forest was enjoined by the court from proceeding with any gather of horses. The lawsuit was settled by a Stipulation Agreement that among other things prevented any gathering until a Wild Horse Territory Management Strategy was developed for the Heber Wild Horse Territory. The Department is currently awaiting completion of the analysis. Following completion of the analysis, there may be an opportunity for the Department to provide financial assistance to the Forest to contract a gather and removal of unauthorized horses from the R-C Fire impacted portions of the Black Mesa and Lakeside Ranger districts.

Similar to the 2002 R-C Fire, the 2011 Wallow Fire impacted significant portions of the Reservation boundary fence in an area where unauthorized horses from the Reservation had already become established on the Forest. Prior to the fire, the Forest was reluctant to address the horse issue on the Alpine Ranger District because of the Stipulation Agreement, though it is the Department's understanding that the Stipulation Agreement did not address the Alpine Ranger District. The potential for these horses to negatively impact post-fire vegetative and watershed recovery may help to induce the Forest into taking action.

As was the case following the R-C Fire, repair and reconstruction of the boundary fence is the most immediate need. This should include the removal of hazard trees adjacent to the fence line to assure that the integrity of the fence is maintained. Although the boundary fence within the Wallow Fire perimeter would be the focus of this work, adjacent segments of the boundary fence that are in a general state of disrepair would also need attention. Once the boundary fence has been repaired or reconstructed, unauthorized horses would need to be gathered and removed from the Wallow Fire area.

The Forest is currently working to prioritize post-fire recovery actions, which include boundary fence reconstruction as well as the gathering and removal of unauthorized livestock. Potential support from the Department will depend on the outcome of the prioritization process and available Forest funding.

Kaibab National Forest

The Department met with the Williams Ranger District to discuss the Bill Williams Mountain Restoration Project. In addition, the Department has submitted comments to the Proposed Action which aims to improve forested conditions on approximately 15,200 acres on and around Bill Williams Mountain near Williams. The Department has some concerns as it relates to forestry techniques (cable logging) being proposed that will likely not be able to avoid cutting old, pre-settlement trees that have great value to wildlife. The Department recommended that the Forest consider an experimental approach to the treatment of the areas within the project that are

considered mixed conifer. Collaborations such as the Kaibab's Health Focus Group, of which the Department was a member of, indicated that there is little to no agreement on methods to restore mixed conifer vegetation types. The Department does support appropriate treatments on Bill Williams however; we are working closely with the Forest to assure that this project will not negatively impact wildlife in the area.

Prescott National Forest (PNF)

The Verde Ranger District has hired a FS Enterprise Team to conduct a landscape assessment to identify future needs for conducting habitat restoration/management activities for areas in the forest east of I-17 and not including the Wilderness areas. The intent is to do a comprehensive landscape assessment that focuses on vegetation management. So they will be looking at multiple management actions/tools such as juniper thinning or prescribed fire to move the landscape towards desired future conditions. The assessment is meant to be broad to streamline implementation. The District Ranger is interested in what the Department would like to see for wildlife on this landscape. The Department met in the field with a representative from the Enterprise Team to discuss wildlife habitat management needs and visit various areas within the planning area that may have potential for wildlife habitat enhancements.

Tonto National Forest

The Globe and Tonto Basin Ranger Districts have issued a notice for the intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will analyze management strategies to maintain and improve ecological conditions on six grazing allotments along the Salt River corridor, between Roosevelt Lake and the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. The Forest has stated that the primary purpose of the EIS is to analyze a variety of tools such as fire management or grazing that influence ecological conditions; develop an adaptive management approach; and authorize the continuance of livestock grazing on 6 allotments. The Department has provided scoping input on general wildlife and habitat management priorities/concerns for the planning area, special status species for each allotment, and ideas on habitat management opportunities that would benefit wildlife. The Forest has contacted the Department to initiate collaborative planning and the Department will be working closely with the Forest to incorporate our ideas and professional expertise on management strategies that benefit wildlife. Our goal will be to incorporate wildlife resource objectives that translate into proactive habitat management strategies as components of a range of alternatives for analysis in the EIS.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

AZ Strip Field Office

The Department is participating in the development of another workshop for the newly formed Parashant Partnership. This workshop will be held October 3-5th in Mesquite, Nevada and will focus on the existing and emerging habitat issues within the Mojave Desert portion of the Monument. Topics will include items such as fire in the Mojave Desert, grazing management, Monument policy and BLM Resource Management plan direction. It is anticipated that at the closing of this workshop, the decision on whether to move forward as a true partnership will be made. The Department hopes that this partnership will come to fruition and lead to larger landscape planning and habitat restoration on the AZ Strip.

Tebuthiuron Treatments

The Department commented on a draft Environmental Assessment for the use of Tebuthiuron treatments (to control sagebrush) on a large area on the AZ Strip. The Department has observed that these treatments have worked very well in some areas on the Strip (e.g., Wolfhole Valley) and not so well in other areas, i.e. some places do not seem to be recovering and are now dominated by non-desirable plant species. Given our uncertainty in the effectiveness of Tebuthiuron to achieve objectives, the Department recommended that the BLM drastically reduce the acreage being scoped. Until we can better understand the success of treatments, the Department is uncomfortable treating over 30,000 acres on the AZ Strip. In addition to reducing the acreage treated, we have asked to meet with the Strip to see monitoring results for past treatments, and engage in field discussions to work together to better define objectives for the project.

Uranium DEIS

The BLM is working on responses to substantive public comments and EIS revision is underway. It is expected that by the end of August a preliminary draft FEIS will be made available for cooperating agencies. The Department will be attending a cooperating agency meeting on August 18th in Kanab, UT. A major part of the revision was a further economic analysis. It is our understanding that this economic analysis is drafted with most counties providing information to the contractor.

Havasu Field Office

The Department continues to coordinate closely with the Field Office in the development of Travel Management Plans, including the associated route designation process, and developing alternatives for NEPA compliance. The Department will be participating in an upcoming Havasu Field Office Travel Management Plan meeting the week of September 19, 2011.

Yuma Field Office

The Yuma Field Office is working with the Department and others to develop and implement a Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation Plan for the human-caused 2011 Laguna Fire, which started on 5-18-11 and was contained on 5-24-11. The fire was located west of the Colorado River and east of SR-24 and was pushed by high winds across the Colorado River and into Arizona and onto public lands. The fire later burned through Betty's Kitchen recreation site, Pratt nursery, Mittry south restoration and into the Mittry Lake Wildlife Area (approximately 240 acres). Rehabilitation of the burned area will include erosion control and bank stabilization, removing hazard trees, clearing of the weeds, seeding and planting native species, replacing the lost structures, improving the damaged historic trail, and monitoring the effects of the project. The Department is also continuing to work with BLM on the development of the La Posa Travel Management Plan. Route evaluations covering open, closed, and limited use trails will be discussed at the next meeting the week of August 22, 2011.

BLM NATIONAL MONUMENTS & CONSERVATION AREAS

Agua Fria National Monument

Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument (FAFNM) - Natural Resource Committee

The Department continues to attend monthly Committee meetings. The committee is currently trying to identify new leadership and build membership. In general, the FAFNM organization as a whole is undergoing a "rejuvenation" effort. They are revising bylaws and have reorganized 3

subcommittees: Cultural Resources, Natural Resources and Recreation & Tourism. The Committee requested input from the BLM and Department on future opportunities and partnerships on projects that support natural resource conservation and wildlife management goals on the Agua Fria National Monument. Ongoing and past projects the FAFNM have supported include: Wet/Dry Mapping, Yellow-billed cuckoo surveys, riparian assessments and noxious weed removals to name a few. Future projects under consideration include: expanding yellow-billed cuckoo survey efforts, crawfish eradication, tamarisk and noxious weed removal, developing a monument visitor universal survey as a tool to expand visitor awareness of wildlife and habitats on the monument, and developing a FAFNM blog. The BLM has a forum to update and answer questions on various AFNM projects such as the River Bend OHV Barrier project. The Department has recommended a long-term project to conduct crayfish removal in Silver Creek and support of Department efforts to modify livestock fences to wildlife standards across the monument. The Department has committed support to train volunteers on capture of crayfish in the spring of 2012, and the Committee plans to try a summer long effort to remove crayfish from Silver Creek.

Badger Spring Fence Relocation Project

The Department provided input on the BLM proposal to relocate a livestock fence and a water development outside of the Badger Springs Recreation Area on the Cordes allotment. Currently livestock fencing does not meet wildlife friendly standards and the water development that is proposed for moving is located immediately adjacent to the I-17 corridor. The Department has recommended relocating the water away from the interstate corridor and the Badger Springs Recreation Area parking to a location that affords wildlife more cover and security when utilizing the water, and minimizes the potential for wildlife/vehicle collisions as a result of an attractive nuisance such as water on the side of a busy interstate highway. The Department also recommended design standards for the fence and future water development that enhance wildlife access and minimizes barriers to wildlife movement, with emphasis on pronghorn for this area. The BLM has requested Department involvement in siting and design of the new livestock improvements.

Upper Agua Fria Watershed Partnership (UAFWP)

The Department has recently renewed involvement in the UAFWP meetings as time permits. The Partnership is currently involved with a Water Advisory Committee, Bureau of Reclamation Water Demand Analysis and the Water Resources Research Center, UoFA, and the Non-point Education for Municipal Officials wet/dry mapping in the watershed. The Sonoran Audubon has initiated the “Together Green Agua Fria Community Planning Project” to create a unified approach to “points of pride” in and around the communities of the Agua Fria Watershed. Efforts might be combined with UAFWP meetings at Arcosanti.

Lower Sonoran and Sonoran Desert National Monument

The Department will be reviewing the proposed Resource Management Plan (Plan) and Environmental Impact Statement once released. The Plan had cleared the Washington review and was expected to be released to the public in May. The Phoenix Field Office notified the Department that BLM’s new Wild lands Policy had to be implemented on the Monument which had sent the plan back to the Field Office for further review. However, on June 1, 2011 in memo to BLM Director, Bob Abbey, Secretary Salazar confirmed that the BLM will not designate any lands as “Wild Lands.” The Department will coordinate with the Phoenix Office to find out when they anticipate the Plan and EIS will now be released.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Glen Canyon Dam High Flow Experimental Protocol Environmental Assessment

The Department was invited by the Bureau of Reclamation to serve as a cooperating agency in the preparation of this environmental assessment (EA). The proposed action is to develop a protocol that will evaluate short-duration, high-volume dam releases during sediment enriched conditions for a 10 year period to determine how multiple events can be used to build and maintain sandbars and beaches downstream. The Department has participated in weekly conference calls and provided comments on a cooperators draft of the EA on December 7, 2010. The comments provided expressed the Department's concerns on the unknown impacts that multiple high flows will have on humpback chub and rainbow trout at Lees Ferry. The EA was open for a 60-day public comment period which closed March 18, 2011. The Department provided additional comments on the public draft. The EA was sent out for a second round of reviews by cooperators in June 2011 prior to a second two-week public review period. The Department provided additional comments on the second draft during the cooperators review. Tentative timeline for completion of this EA is October.

Nonnative Fish Control Environmental Assessment

The Department was invited by the Bureau of Reclamation to serve as a cooperating agency in the preparation of this environmental assessment (EA). The proposed action is to reduce the number of non-native fish in the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam that prey on and compete with endangered fish. The Department has participated on weekly conference calls, attended a structured decision making workshop, and provided comments on a cooperators draft of the EA on January 7, 2011. A public review draft was released on January 28, 2011 and closed on March 18, 2011. The Department provided additional comments on the public draft. The EA was sent out for a second round of reviews by cooperators in June 2011 prior to a second two-week public review period. The Department provided additional comments on the second draft during the cooperators review. Tentative timeline for completion of this EA is October.

GENERAL UPDATES

Central Arizona Grasslands Strategy Projects

Game Management Unit 21- Sycamore Mesa & Agua Fria Antelope Habitat Improvement Project

This project was initiated in 2002 and is ongoing. The total project area includes approximately 5,750 acres that are identified for juniper thinning treatment, of which 45% have been completed to date. The treatments have included hand cutting of junipers, piling, and burning to restore pronghorn movement corridors within the Agua Fria grasslands. This past fiscal year the project received \$85,300.00 of funding from the Central Arizona Grasslands Conservation Strategy Team budget, and a total of 367 acres were treated. The Prescott National Forest contributed Fire Management staff and resources to burn piled juniper trees post-cut. There is an estimated 3,116 acres remaining for treatment pending future funding. This year the Prescott National Forest plans to contribute \$50,000 towards juniper thinning in addition to prescribed fire post-treatment by the end of their fiscal year (October). To date, \$491,596 dollars have been spent on juniper thinning contracts with an average treatment cost at \$282/acre. The Bureau of Land Management and Prescott National Forest have provided substantial contributions towards environmental compliance documentation, fire management, juniper thinning contracts, and project implementation oversight.

Central AZ Grassland Strategy Team

The interagency Implementation Team met in July for discussion of updates from last year's projects, proposed projects, funding opportunities and implementation for this year's budget. Priorities were not set due to lack of information on budget.

City of Flagstaff

Department personnel participated in an advisory role to the City of Flagstaff's recent Design Charrette process, an activity of the revision of the Greater Flagstaff Area Regional Land Use Plan in which public and agency input was solicited on several possible growth scenarios for the planning area. The Department submitted comments on potential wildlife and habitat impacts of each scenario to the Core Planning Team guiding the Plan revision process and will remain engaged with further evaluation of growth scenarios and land use planning as the revision proceeds.

City of San Luis

The Department is working with the City of San Luis on the City's 2010 General Plan Update. The General Plan is a policy document and guide providing comprehensive direction for the growth and development of the City of San Luis. The plan is intended to be both long range and visionary and to provide guidance for actions to be taken in the next ten to twenty years. The Department is working to help incorporate wildlife-friendly development guidelines that consider wildlife populations and linkages/corridors, native habitats, open space, and wildlife-oriented recreation.

City of Surprise General Plan amendment

The Surprise City Council adopted a Major General Plan Amendment to add wildlife habitat linkages to the City of Surprise 2030 General Plan. The adoption required a super majority vote to pass. The plan documentation will include a map illustrating the location of the approved linkages, related wildlife information and a wildlife linkage guideline which defines the widths and development buffers that will be implemented for the linkages as development progresses. The Department's recommendations to the City were heavily based on mule deer movement research (GPS/telemetry) in the White Tank Mountains, funded several years ago by a consortium of developers and conducted by the Department's contract research biologists. The Department's ability to illustrate site specific information on mule deer movements in presentations and workshops with City Planning Department staff, Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council provided a convincing and defensible argument for the need and was a primary reason for our success. The Department continues to finalize a GIS based model of a fine-scale linkage design for the White Tank Mountain ecosystem that will be used to further planning with other stakeholders. The Surprise amendment represents the first of many actions that will be required to make a linkage between the White Tanks and surrounding wildlands a reality.

City of Tucson Water Department

The City of Tucson owns 24 square miles of property in scattered parcels outside of the city limits of any municipality in an area NW of the Tucson Metro area. The properties are found in an area stretching from Ajo Way to Pinal Air Park. These lands have been posted no trespassing since the City purchased them, some years ago. The Department is working with the City of Tucson to determine if these lands are legally "public" or "private" lands and whether they are

legally posted considering Arizona Revised Statute 17-304 prohibiting posting of State and Federal Lands.

Coconino County

The Department participated in the Rogers Lake County Natural Area Dedication Ceremony to commemorate Coconino County purchase of the property from the Arizona State Trust. Coconino County's intention is to manage the 1300-acre wetland and 2200-acre property as open space for wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation including hunting and wildlife viewing. The Department also received a tour of the property and the recently-donated Frontiere estate, where we explored outdoor recreation and environmental education opportunities with Coconino County leadership and Parks and Recreation staff.

Dugas to Morgan Fiber Optic Line

The Department has been working with the BLM, APS and Logan Simpson on the proposed Dugas to Morgan fiber optic line. The proposed scope, purpose, need, and initial project planning have begun. The main concern for the Department, initially, was the identification of access routes for the project. APS had identified a route straight through Horseshoe Ranch. The Department has since provided the access information and clarified the need to correct the initial routes. Additional concerns include the timing of the project and equipment.

Eagar – Community Fishing Pond

Department personnel have been working to develop a new community fishing pond in Eagar, Apache County. The Department has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Town of Eagar, in which the Department would construct a pond on Department property, and the Town would supply the water rights and ongoing maintenance of the facility. Archaeological surveys were completed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service and design plans were finalized with approval from the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO). Construction of the pond began in April and May, using the Northern Arizona Vocational Institute of Technology (NAVIT) that trains local high school students to operate heavy equipment under constant supervision of two college professors. Unexpected sensitive archaeological resources were discovered and construction was halted. The Department has since coordinated further with SHPO and the Arizona State Museum (ASM) to properly address these sensitive archaeological resources. A draft plan for progressing on the pond has been developed by the Department with input from SHPO and ASM, that will include relocating the archaeological resources, altering the design of the pond to accommodate the relocation, plans for a professional archaeologist to be onsite for the remainder of the construction, and a covenant to ensure that the relocated resources are not disturbed in the future.

Pima County Workshop

In Pima County, a local partnership secured funding through the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County to support the identification of county wildlife linkages and to model at a finer scale the highest priority linkages. A stakeholder workshop was held in May and it was well-attended by many conservation groups, planners, consultants, and governmental agencies. Stakeholder input has been put into GIS and the partner meetings have continued to plan another workshop and to determine how to incorporate other datasets into a final report.

A local partnership has formed recently and has begun discussing wildlife corridors in Cochise County. The Yavapai County and LaPaz County stakeholder reports on wildlife corridors are close to completion.

Geographic Information Systems and Capability

Our goal is to Enhance Geographic Information System (GIS) capability to enable the Department to effectively, appropriately and methodically inform and influence the impact of Arizona's future on all wildlife and wildlife habitat. The Department will implement Level 3 of the GIS framework outlined in the final report for the 2010 Director's Goal and Objectives. In the future, the Department will discuss with the Commission approaches for broadening our GIS capability into tools that better assist in the management of all wildlife and the potential for revenue generation, while preserving our proprietary rights to the information and associated systems.

Accomplished objectives:

- Objective 1: Habitat and Information Systems Branch (SSIS) personnel conducted a 2 day GIS Enterprise Discovery Workshop facilitated by our GIS vendor ESRI. The resulting findings and document (see <http://phx-gis-kb/content/azgfd-gis-enterprise-discover-document-esri>) was used to inform current GIS Program and SSIS hardware and software investments to increase the Department's GIS capability.
- Objective 3: The Department's GIS development server was successfully deployed on the intranet with the help of SSIS. It will be used to develop and showcase GIS Web tools and services for internal and external uses.
- Objective 5: The GIS Knowledge Base showcase website is now up on the intranet and it is continuously populated with articles for our internal GIS community of practice (<http://phx-gis-kb>).
- Objective 6: The GIS Work Order System showcase website is now up on the intranet. It is used to submit, track, and manage - mostly "walk-in" - GIS requests to the GIS Program (<http://phx-gis-wo>). To date, 286 tasks have been submitted to the Work Order System of which 197 have been closed.

Native Fish Salvage Efforts – Wallow Fire

Due to threats from the Wallow Fire, Department personnel planned, coordinated, and implemented a number of native fish salvage efforts in late June and early July. Native fish species were salvaged from waters downstream of high severity burn areas that were expected to be impacted by ash flows, including a) Little Colorado spinedace from Rudd and Nutrioso creeks and the Little Colorado River (LCR), b) loach minnow from the Blue River, c) roundtail chub from the Black River, d) Little Colorado sucker from the Little Colorado River, and c) bluehead sucker from Rudd Creek and the Little Colorado River. A salvage effort for Apache trout from the South Fork LCR was also attempted, unfortunately this effort occurred too late as a fish kill had already occurred. The salvage efforts that were successful are appearing to be warranted due to several fish kills occurring in these drainages since the monsoon rains have begun. Monitoring of the affected watersheds is currently being planned and restocking of salvaged species into affected waters will occur after the ash impacts have subsided and restocking is considered appropriate.

Proposed Rosemont Copper Project

The Department continues to closely monitor the progress of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Rosemont Copper Mine. The Coronado Forest released an administrative draft of the document to the Cooperating Agencies on June 1 with a deadline for review of June 30. In November of 2010 the Department had requested a 90 day review period citing the language of our memorandum of understanding which required a negotiated amount of review time. The Forest declined this request. On June 9th the Department again submitted a request for an additional 45 days, which was again declined. The Department committed to a review emphasizing compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (Purpose and Need Statement etc.) and to identify omissions in analysis, data gaps, and general inaccuracies.

On June 30th the Department submitted 17 pages of comments and a cover letter enumerating the items that were not reviewed due to lack of negotiated review period. In the comments the Department was especially critical of the Forest's lack of coordination with the Department on issues of critical importance to us including reported loss of hunting opportunities and numbers of permit tags. The Forest used information from our "where to hunt" feature on our website to conclude that no hunt permit tags would be lost and that hunting would generally not be impacted. The Department, under a short deadline, conducted a very basic calculation and determined that at minimum, for white-tailed deer alone, a loss of 10,592 hunter days are expected for a total of 1,630 hunt permits lost over the life of the mine (20 years only). We also calculated impacts to Mearns's quail (2,520 hunter/days), black bear (10 black bears permits lost), and javelina (2,405 hunter days/588 permits). We did not calculate losses for numerous other eligible species or try to quantify non-tangible losses to hunting heritage and traditional hunting area. Nor do these numbers attempt to quantify hunter opportunity lost as a result of increased roadkill due to increased traffic on Hwy 83 and on FS roads. It is important to note that the Department anticipates the losses to be permanent, so the 20 year calculation is only a fraction of anticipated losses to the public trust.

On June 30th, the Forest extended the review period to August 1st after the Department's review was already submitted. The Department, having been denied several previous requests for extension had largely calendared other important work for this period and was not able to utilize this time to the extent we would have if given the whole 60 days upfront. Nevertheless the Department did submit additional comments on July 29th.

On July 7th, the Department provided our comments and cover letter to a newspaper in Green Valley per a Public Records Request. The Arizona Daily Star had previously received the full draft of the EIS from the Forest per the Freedom of Information Act. The Green Valley newspaper printed a story characterizing the Department's comments as being highly critical of the Forest's lack of coordination with the Department.

The Forest Supervisor asked for a meeting with the Director to discuss the coordination issues the Department raised in recent and past correspondence. On August 16th the Department met with the Forest supervisors to discuss improving our working relationship on this and other projects.

Rainbow Lake – Nuisance Aquatic Weed Issue

Department personnel participated in several monthly meetings with the Show Low Creek Watershed Group (SCWG) between May and August, as well as coordinating with The Shores Homeowners Association (The Shores). These discussions centered on addressing the nuisance

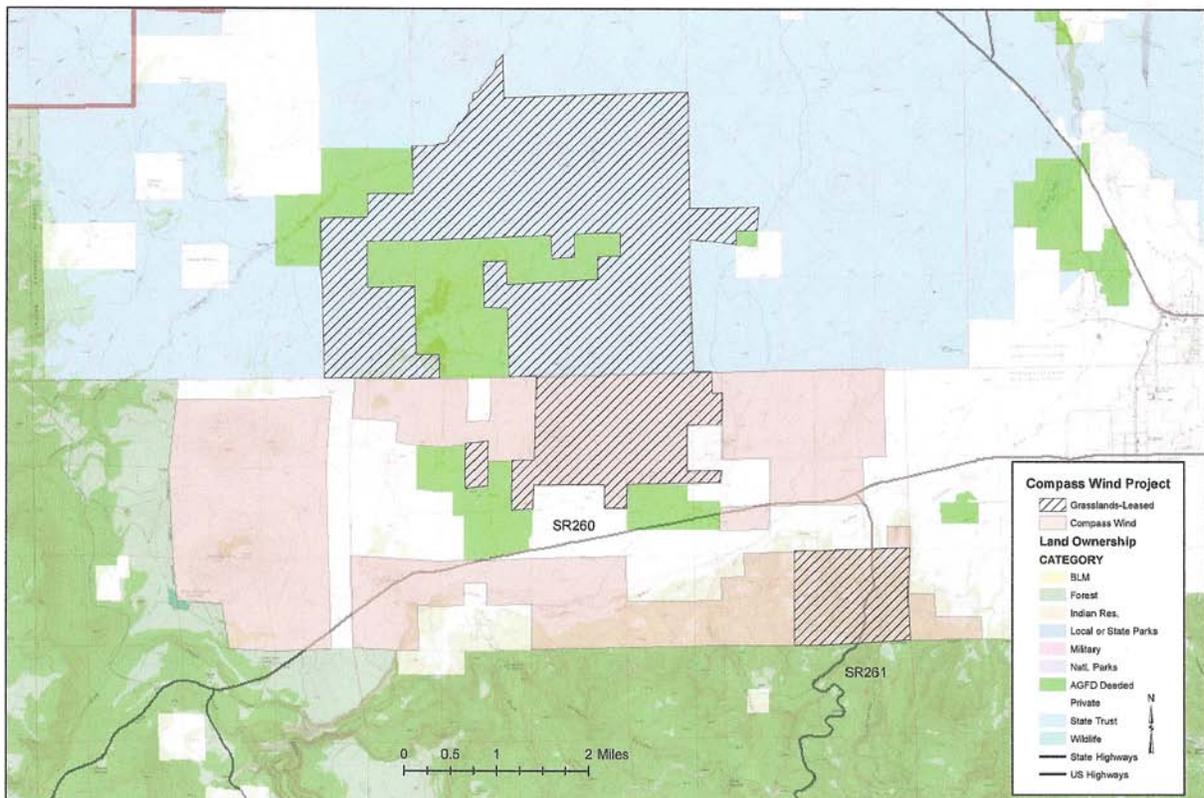
aquatic weed issues present in Rainbow Lake and actions being implemented. The Shores had hired a private contractor to apply an herbicide in October-November 2010 to eliminate Eurasian watermilfoil from the lake, which was mostly successful (reducing watermilfoil prevalence from 59% to 4%). However, coontail continues to be widespread throughout the lake. The Shores again hired the same private contractor to apply a different herbicide in July 2011 to continue to eliminate watermilfoil and to kill the coontail. Recent investigations show that the herbicide treatment was only partially effective. The Department's contribution of operating the weed harvester in the center portion of the lake has been effective. The harvester removed weeds from Rainbow Lake in late June. Its use has been very well received, so much so that The Shores, the SCWG, and the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside have requested that the harvester be brought back in late August. The Department had also entered into an access agreement with The Shores to use their private boat ramp to better facilitate use of the Department's harvester in Rainbow Lake.

Renewable Energy Development

The Department has been invited by Coconino County to participate as a member of an interdisciplinary working group set up to develop an Energy Element to be adopted as an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. This element will in large measure be focused on the planning and development of renewable energy facilities in the County as well as issues such as energy efficiency and the relation of renewable development to issues such as land use, water resources, and impacts on other natural resources including wildlife. Biweekly meetings are planned for the foreseeable future at which the Department will be a regular participant.

Wind

Compass Wind: The Department received for review an ASLD right-of-way permit application submitted by Compass Wind for wind energy testing near and adjacent to the Grasslands Wildlife Area (GWA). The area identified by Compass Wind includes portions of the Department's ASLD lease associated with the GWA. The Department is currently reviewing the application and will be drafting a comment letter to be submitted to ASLD.



Perrin Ranch

The Perrin Ranch Wind facility has begun initial road construction for the wind facility which is expected to be up and running in December. In addition, the Department has been asked to participate as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The development of the TAC is a Coconino County Board of Supervisors condition of the permit for the wind facility. Serving on the TAC will allow the Department to stay engaged in reviewing monitoring protocols, mortality thresholds, annual reports, and post construction monitoring. More importantly, engagement in the TAC will allow the Department to influence adaptive management strategies such as determining if mortality thresholds are effective, and if not how to modify them to minimize risk to wildlife. The TAC is a voluntary group and will be in place throughout the life of the project. It is expected that the TAC may meet 2-3 times per year.

Solar

Arlington Valley Solar Energy

Located in Maricopa County, Arlington Valley Solar Energy has submitted an application to the Arizona State Land Department seeking a 24-foot right of way to allow for emergency access to their property. If permitted, the right of way will pass through state land that is currently under lease for grazing. Department personnel will provide comments to help reduce environmental impacts this right of way may cause.

Aurora Solar – Superstition Vista’s

The amendment to the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan is currently out for public comment. This major amendment to the plan includes adoption of the outcome of the visioning process for Superstition Vistas, Aurora Solar’s proposed facility and the plan’s general policies and objectives. The Department was originally involved in the early stages of visioning for Superstition Vistas; however, the effort was contracted to a consultant to prepare a final vision product through the East Valley Partnership and the Department was not on the committee for its development. The place holder within the plan is for the adoption of the vision once completed set back in 2009. The Department will provide comment on the amendment to include consideration for wildlife linkages, recreational access, and minimization of impacts to habitats, wildlife friendly development, and mitigation for desert tortoise and shovel nosed snake.

Dry Lake Phase 2

Aurora Solar is proposing to construct a 399 acre photo-voltaic solar energy generation facility in Navajo County. This facility will be located within the existing footprint of the Dry Lake Phase 2 wind energy generation facility. Aurora Solar will be going before Navajo County Planning and Zoning on August 18, and then the Board of Supervisors on August 23 for a Special Use Permit for the build out of this facility. Department personnel are in the process of coordinating with Navajo County and Aurora Solar on the scope of the project.

Pinal County Comprehensive Plan

Hyder Valley Solar

The Department continues to work with the BLM and Pacific Solar Investments, Inc. on the proposed Hyder Valley Solar Energy Project. Pacific Solar Investments, Inc. has requested a right-of-way from the BLM to construct and operate a concentrated solar thermal project on 2,750 acres of land about 85 miles southwest of Phoenix, in the Hyder Valley, north of Interstate 8. BLM is in the process of preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS). A draft EIS is anticipated to be released in 2011.

Hyder Solar Energy 1 & 2

Maricopa County is considering Revised Minor Comprehensive Plan Amendments (CPA) for the Hyder Solar Projects 1 and 2. The applicant is requesting a CPA for the project site of 95.59 acres. The current zoning of the land is Rural-190. The Board of Supervisors may permit numerous Special Uses including solar utilities. Department personnel will attend a Technical Advisory Committee to discuss the application on June 21. The main issue discussed was the appropriateness of mitigation due to the disturbance of over 1,000 acres of desert habitat.

Sonoran Solar

The Department continues to work closely as a cooperating agency with the BLM on the preparation of what will be the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the project. The project will impact between 2,000 and 4,000 acres (photovoltaic vs. parabolic trough solar thermal technology) of currently undeveloped desert on public lands in southwestern Maricopa County. The Department met with representatives from NextEra and BLM to finalize the proposed applicant committed mitigation that is in addition to project design and implementation mitigation measures required by BLM. NextEra considered several mitigation options the Department recommended in the form of wildlife research in lieu of replacement of habitat in kind. The Department believes there is a need to first identify the spatial extent of impact a large-scale solar development may have on the surrounding environment, in order to apply fair and adequate mitigation and environmental protection measures. The results of this research will be used to inform evaluations of future utility scale solar developments. NextEra has decided to support the mitigation request and is offering \$300,000 in the form of biological mitigation fees to the Department. The Department will be developing a decision tree on how the fees will be spent to accomplish the research proposals at NextEra's request. NextEra and BLM are scheduled for completion of the FEIS by fall 2011 and NextEra hopes to have all operations permitted for implementation before December of 2011.

Sun Valley North Solar

Capital Power Investments is proposing the construction of a 2,121 acre 330 megawatt photovoltaic facility on undisturbed desert and previously disturbed state land. The proposed development is located in western Maricopa County and is bounded by Interstate 10 to the north, the 483rd Avenue alignment to the west, Salome Highway and Indian School Road to the south, and the 459th Avenue alignment to the east. The applicant is requesting the Maricopa County 2020, Eye to the Future (Comprehensive Plan) be amended to allow for the proposed development. The Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) request seeks approval to amend the Comprehensive Plan Rural Development Area designation to an industrial land use designation to accommodate the proposed development. The applicant is requesting a single CPA for the entire proposed development area, but will file separate Special Use Permits for each block of the Proposed Development Area. Department personnel will attend upcoming Technical Advisory Committee meetings on the proposed project.

Sun Valley South Solar and Natural Gas

Capital Power Investments is proposing the construction of a 781 acre photovoltaic and natural gas-fired facility to generate a total of 400 megawatts. The proposed development is located on state land approximately six miles west of Tonopah in western Maricopa County. The applicant is requesting a single Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) for the entire development area, but it will file separate applications for Special Use Permits for the solar and natural gas blocks of the development covered by the CPA. The applicant also requests the Maricopa County 2020,

Eye to the Future (Comprehensive Plan) be amended to allow for the proposed development. The CPA request seeks approval to amend the Comprehensive Plan Rural Development Area designation to an industrial land use designation to accommodate the proposed development. Department personnel will attend upcoming Technical Advisory Committee meetings on the proposed project.

SunZia Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The Department has received sporadic updates on the SunZia Transmission Line project which is proposed between Las Cruces New Mexico and the Eloy area. The BLM contractor is currently working with the BLM and in the process of preparing the BLM's Administrative Draft EIS for internal review. The BLM is working with their EIS Contractor and revising the various chapters based on BLM resource staff comments, and Department of Defense (DOD) route concerns on military mission impacts.

The BLM has negotiated a route through New Mexico with the Department of Defense. Several routes through Arizona will be brought forward in the ADEIS including routes through the San Pedro, Aravaipa, and Sulfur Springs Valleys, including new infrastructure between the Aravaipa and Galiuro Wilderness through an important bighorn sheep habitat linkage. The Department's concerns with the formerly proposed routes resulted in the inclusion of an alternative route being brought forward into the ADEIS which will follow the Interstate 10 corridor through metro Tucson. The Department finds many reasons to support this route, which will have significantly fewer impacts to wildlife and habitat than the other routes, all of which have the potential to significantly impact wildlife.

Transportation

Hidden Waters Parkway

The Hidden Waters Parkway was identified in the I-10/Hassayampa Valley Roadwork Framework study as a necessary high capacity roadway to serve the future developments west of the White Tank Mountains. The study area includes the northern section of the Hidden Waters Parkway from I-10 north to the future alignment of SR 74. The Department continues to participate in the technical review committee and is currently reviewing the environmental overview for the study and will continue to provide concerns with connectivity and permeability, fragmentation, degradation, access and invasive species.

I-17 Flagstaff to SR 179

The Department had the opportunity to comment on an early version of a draft Environmental Assessment for the I-17 Flagstaff to SR 179 (Sedona exit) highway widening project. I-17 exhibits very high wildlife strikes when compared to national averages. Overall, the Department is very pleased with ADOT's willingness to incorporate wildlife crossing features within project design. Data from elk collars from the Department will determine best locations for crossing along this corridor. ADOT's willingness to incorporate crossings is reflective of the work of the Department in cooperation with ADOT over many years.

SR 87

Highway construction to improve north and south bound lanes of SR87 between Four Peaks Road and Dos S ranch north of Fountain Hills has been completed. A one mile stretch of tortoise fence was installed along the ADOT ROW as a mitigation measure to reduce roadway mortality of Sonoran Desert tortoise, where high concentrations of tortoise occur in the area. In addition, entrances to roadway culverts were redesigned to facilitate tortoise access as a crossing

opportunity under the highway. The Department received funding from ADOT to evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of the mitigation measures. Methods include roadkill surveys and video monitoring on culverts. Pre-construction surveys were conducted in 2010. Post-construction surveys are currently ongoing during spring and late summer peak activity periods for tortoise. The Department is funded for post-construction monitoring in 2011 and 2012. A final report will be completed by spring of 2013. Department personnel continue to meet with ADOT and the Forest to provide project updates.

Beardsley Parkway

The Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) has initiated planning for the Beardsley Parkway alignment between US 60 and the Hassayampa River corridor. The proposed parkway will traverse proposed wildlife linkages within the City of Surprise that were recently adopted as a Major General Plan Amendment, in addition to others proposed further west. The Department's primary concerns at this time are wildlife habitat fragmentation and loss, impacts to proposed White Tank Mountains linkages, and potential direct roadway impacts to Mule Deer and special status species known to occur in the area including Sonoran Desert Tortoise. The Department will participate in the Technical Advisory Committee meetings in order to pursue alignment and design considerations that are compatible with linkage goals and that minimize direct impacts to wildlife as a result of roadway mortality.

Northern Parkway/Tonopah Parkway

The Northern Parkway study is partly a result of the Interstate 10/Hassayampa Valley Transportation Framework study. The Northern Parkway study area includes the planned Northern Parkway, an east-west corridor centered on the Northern Avenue section line, from the planned Tonopah Parkway (411th Avenue alignment) to the planned Turner Parkway (267th Avenue alignment). The Northern Parkway corridor within the project study area is approximately 18 miles long and two miles wide. The Department continues to participate in the technical review committee and has provided environmental overview for the study regarding connectivity and permeability, fragmentation, degradation, access and invasive species.

North South Corridor Study

The purpose of the study is to provide a connection between US 60 and I-10 through identifying and evaluating routes. The Department has provided initial comments that identified connectivity and permeability, fragmentation, degradation, access and invasive species concerns. The Department continues to participate in the stakeholder meetings and anticipates providing comments on the alignment alternatives. The Department has provided comments on the recent draft purpose and need, and corridor screening efforts for the study. The Department participated in the last stakeholders meeting that provided a progress update and screening of corridors presentation. The screening of corridors resulted in a map that included proposed segments to advance to alignments. All of the proposed segments are west of the CAP canal, reducing some of the potential impacts the Department preliminarily identified.

Yuma Parkway

The Department is participating in the recently-formed technical review committee for the Yuma Parkway feasibility study and is providing environmental overview regarding connectivity and permeability, fragmentation, degradation, access and invasive species. The Parkway study was also derived from the Interstate 10/Hassayampa Valley Transportation Framework study. The Yuma Parkway study area is generally centered on the Buckeye/Yuma Road section line, from ½ mile west of Salome Highway to ½ mile east of Palo Verde Road. The study area is

approximately 13 miles long and two miles wide. The primary purpose of this feasibility study is to identify the optimum corridor alignment for long-term right-of-way protection by investigating, mapping, and analyzing corridor constraints and opportunities. Study emphasis is on corridor location rather than facility validation or design.

Yuma County Rail Study

The Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization is examining freight and multimodal opportunities for the Yuma Region. This project's overall goal is to identify a feasible rail corridor and develop freight related economic development opportunities and increase mobility and access for freight movements between Sonora Mexico and Yuma County. The Department is participating in the corridor selection process and will provide environmental overview for the study regarding connectivity and permeability, fragmentation, degradation, and invasive species.

US 60 Superior to Globe

The lead agencies have specified to the consultants to move forward with the 3-mile Queen Creek segment and to point out the red flag items, with no in-depth analysis completed to date. There is no preferred alternative at this point, as there will be various alternatives within each segment (alignment), these alternatives will need to be narrowed down within in each segment before they can compare all of the segments (alignments) to move forward with a preferred alternative and those eliminated. The environmental analysis is anticipated for mid 2012, draft Design Concept Report by the end of 2012 and Draft Environmental Impact Statement out by the end of 2012 or early 2013.

Vulture Mountains Recreation Plan

The Department is working with Maricopa County, the Bureau of Land Management, and others to establish a general framework of cooperation upon which a Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) for the Vulture Mountain Cooperative Recreation Management Area (Vulture Mtn.-CRMA) will be developed. The County is currently working with stakeholders to develop alternatives that would provide access for equestrian and OHV users and address other recreational uses and needs of the area. Easements and right of way access across state and private land is being evaluated to reach the desired outcomes of the parties, the public, and surrounding communities.

Wildlife Areas

Cibola Valley Conservation and Wildlife Area

The Department, in cooperation with Bureau of Reclamation personnel from the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP), has recommended a temporary posted closure for entry to Phases I-III and part of Phase IV, V, and XII of the Cibola Valley Conservation and Wildlife Area (CVCWA). Managers from the LCR MSCP expressed concern regarding the late arrival and nesting of western yellow-billed cuckoo's (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*; YBC). The closure will remain in place for 45 days, beginning August 17 till September 30, 2011. This will eliminate immediate management concerns regarding the nesting success and safety of the YBC. This recommended closure is not anticipated to have any significant adverse impacts on dove hunting opportunities within the CVCWA.

Horseshoe Ranch

The Department, BLM, Tonto NF, TNC and NRCS continue to move forward with coordination for the Coordinated Resource Management Planning process. The process design is currently

being developed along with identification of the various stakeholders who may hold an interest in the process. The initial stakeholder's workshop is anticipated to take place in the fall.

Yuma County 2020 Comprehensive Plan

On August 8, 2011 Yuma County released the draft Yuma County 2020 Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan evaluates and directs land use development policies for the future economic growth and development within Yuma County. The draft plan has a 60 day comment period and ending on October 7, 2011. The Department is working to help incorporate wildlife-friendly development guidelines and other Department objectives that consider wildlife populations and linkages/corridors, native habitats, open space, and wildlife-oriented recreation.

Listed below is the Management Criteria established by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission (Commission). It is their request that these Management Criteria be adopted into the Arizona Wilderness Bill, to ensure the most beneficial approach to managing Arizona's wildlife on all approved Wilderness Areas. The Commission feels that this Criteria and the other concerns listed in the "Commission Approved Wilderness Study Areas, April 1989", must be resolved in order for the Commission to support any of the Wilderness proposals endorsed at their April 8 meeting.

Arizona Game & Fish Commission
Management Criteria
Arizona Wilderness Bill

Sec. (). (a) As provided in section 4(d)(8) of the Wilderness Act, nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibility of the State of Arizona with respect to wildlife and fish in the national forests, Bureau of Land Management lands, or National Wildlife Refuges, in Arizona.

(b) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as limiting the ability of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, in consultation with the affected federal land management agency, from using mechanized equipment including, but not limited to, helicopter, fixed wing aircraft, and motorized vehicles, to carry out the following activities within lands designated wilderness by this Act.

(1) Fish and wildlife research and management surveys and population sampling.

(2) Facility development and habitat alteration, including the maintenance, operation or creation of flow maintenance dams, water developments, water diversion devices, and associated structures necessary for fish and wildlife conservation. Clearing of debris impeding movement of fish on spawning streams shall be permitted. Motorized equipment may be used to accomplish the purpose of this paragraph.

(3) Stocking or transplanting of fish or collection of fish spawn, is permitted if the purpose is to accomplish at least one of the following objectives:

- (i) reestablishment or maintenance of indigenous species;
- (ii) recovery of threatened or endangered species; or
- (iii) maintenance or enhancement of recreational values associated with indigenous or exotic species.

(4) Chemical treatment of waters is permitted when the purpose is to accomplish at least one of the following objectives:

- (i) reestablishment of native species;
- (ii) recovery of threatened or endangered species; or
- (iii) corrections of undesirable conditions resulting from human influence.

(5) Removal, reintroduction or supplemental transplants of terrestrial wildlife species, including the use of motorized vehicles to perform this work, shall be permitted if:

- (i) the status of threatened or endangered species would be enhanced or
- (ii) a population of a native species eliminated or reduced by acts of man would be restored or enhanced; or

... maintenance or enhancement of recreational values associated with

sampling.

(2) Facility development and habitat alteration, including the maintenance or creation of flow maintenance dams, water developments, water diversion devices, and associated structures necessary for fish and wildlife conservation. Clearing of debris impeding movement of fish on spawning streams shall be permitted. Motorized equipment may be used to accomplish the purpose of this paragraph.

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- (i) reestablishment of native species;
- (ii) recovery of threatened or endangered species; or
- (iii) corrections of undesirable conditions resulting from human influence.

(5) Removal, reintroduction or supplemental transplants of terrestrial wildlife species, including the use of motorized vehicles to perform the work, shall be permitted if:

- (i) the status of threatened or endangered species would be enhanced or
- (ii) a population of a native species eliminated or reduced by acts of man would be restored or enhanced; or
- (iii) maintenance or enhancement of recreational values associated with indigenous or exotic species as identified in the applicable wilderness management plan would result; or
- (iv) other significant wilderness values would not be impaired.

(6) Control of problem wildlife shall be permitted to:

- (i) reduce depredations on other wildlife and domestic livestock;
- (ii) remove animals creating a public nuisance related to human interests;
- (iii) prevent transmission of diseases or parasites affecting other wildlife or humans; or
- (iv) abate conflicts with native species, particularly if those native species are endangered or threatened.

Commission Order 43: Reptiles

GENERAL REPTILES

*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. Other Notes may apply (see Open Areas information below).

	Open Season Dates	Notes	Open Areas	Legal Reptiles
A.	Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2011 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2012	(1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13)	Statewide, except areas closed in Notes 7, 8, 10, and 12 (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, 2011 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2012	(1, 3, 6, 11, 12, 13)	Statewide, except areas closed in Note 12 (also noted above*).	<i>Lichanura trivirgata</i> (rosy boa), <i>Senticolis triaspis</i> (green ratsnake), <i>Lampropeltis pyromelana</i> (Sonoran mountain kingsnake), and <i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i> (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, 2011 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2012	(1, 3, 6, 11, 12, 13)	Statewide, except areas closed in Note 12 (also noted above*).	<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i> (eastern fence lizard), <i>Tantilla hobartsmithi</i> (Smith's black-headed snake), and all species in the genera: <i>Callisaurus</i> (zebra-tailed lizard), <i>Aspidoscelis</i> (whiptails), <i>Coleonyx</i> (banded gecko), <i>Cophosaurus</i> (greater earless lizard), <i>Holbrookia</i> (lesser earless lizard), <i>Urosaurus</i> (tree lizard), <i>Uta</i> (side-blotched lizard), <i>Hypsiglena</i> (nightsnake), <i>Leptotyphlops</i> (threadsnakes), and <i>Sonora</i> (groundsnake)
BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT: Twenty (20) per day or in possession in the aggregate live or dead.				
D.	Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2011 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2012	(1, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13)	Statewide, except areas closed in Note 10 and 12 (also noted above*).	<i>Apalone spinifera</i> (spiny softshell), <i>Trachemys scripta</i> (slider), and all species of the family Chelydridae (snapping turtles)
BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT: Unlimited dead.				
E.	There is no open season on <i>Phrynosoma mcallii</i> (flat-tailed horned lizard), <i>Heloderma suspectum</i> (Gila monster), <i>Crotalus lepidus</i> (rock rattlesnake), <i>Crotalus pricei</i> (twin-spotted rattlesnake), <i>Crotalus willardi</i> (ridge-nosed rattlesnake), <i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i> (milksnake; Cochise County only), <i>Sistrurus catenatus</i> (massasauga), <i>Thamnophis eques</i> (Mexican gartersnake), <i>Thamnophis rufipunctatus</i> (narrow-headed gartersnake), <i>Gopherus agassizii</i> (desert tortoise), and <i>Terrapene ornata</i> (ornate box turtle); see Notes 4 and 5.			

LIMITED WEAPON REPTILES

Open Areas do not include 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.

	Open Season Dates	Notes	Open Areas	Legal Reptiles
A.	Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2011 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2012	(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, 2011 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2012	(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.	<i>Lichamura trivirgata</i> (rosy boa), <i>Senticolis triaspis</i> (green ratsnake), <i>Lampropeltis pyromelana</i> (Sonoran mountain kingsnake), and <i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i> (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, 2011 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2012	(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.	<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i> (eastern fence lizard), <i>Tantilla hobartsmithi</i> (Smith's black-headed snake), and all species in the genera: <i>Callisaurus</i> (zebra-tailed lizard), <i>Aspidoscelis</i> (whiptails), <i>Coleonyx</i> (banded gecko), <i>Cophosaurus</i> (greater earless lizard), <i>Holbrookia</i> (lesser earless lizard), <i>Urosaurus</i> (tree lizard), <i>Uta</i> (side-blotched lizard), <i>Hypsiglena</i> (nightsnake), <i>Leptotyphlops</i> (threadsnakes), and <i>Sonora</i> (groundsnake)
BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT: Twenty (20) per day or in possession in the aggregate live or dead.				
D.	Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2011 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2012	(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.	<i>Apalone spinifera</i> (spiny softshell), <i>Trachemys scripta</i> (slider), and all species of the family Chelydridae (snapping turtles)
BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT: Unlimited dead.				
E.	There is no open season on <i>Phrynosoma mcallii</i> (flat-tailed horned lizard), <i>Heloderma suspectum</i> (Gila monster), <i>Crotalus lepidus</i> (rock rattlesnake), <i>Crotalus pricei</i> (twin-spotted rattlesnake), <i>Crotalus willardi</i> (ridge-nosed rattlesnake), <i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i> (milksnake; Cochise County only), <i>Sistrurus catenatus</i> (massasauga), <i>Thamnophis eques</i> (Mexican gartersnake), <i>Thamnophis rufipunctatus</i> (narrow-headed gartersnake), <i>Gopherus agassizii</i> (desert tortoise), and <i>Terrapene ornata</i> (ornate box turtle); see Notes 4 and 5.			

- 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 methods of take and 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 for aquatic wildlife are prescribed in 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. Methods of take for Limited Weapons Seasons are prescribed in R12-4-318(C.6). 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 for aquatic wildlife are prescribed in R12-4-313.
 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 Mitty Lake from November 15 through February 15 annually.

- (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 - 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.

S-2
CO ELK

Southwest Wildlife Advisory Group

Elk Guidelines (Standard)

Criteria	Staff Recommendation	AES Recommendation
Bull to Cow Ratio	15-25 (20 mid-point) 25-35	30-40 (35 mid-point) 25-35
Late Bull Hunt Success	20-30 (25 mid-point)	30-40 (35 mid-point)

Population Modeling

A stable elk herd of average calf recruitment rates (37:100) and normal mortality rates (12% bulls, 4% cows, 15% calves) provides **16% fewer bulls for harvest when managed at 35:100 versus 20:100.**

2010 Survey Data (from Hunt AZ 2011)

Statewide 2010 elk survey bull to cow ratio (all units combined) was 35:100, exactly at the mid-point of the AES suggested guideline range.

Of the 15 game management units managed under standard criteria, only 4 had bull:cow ratios below our suggested range during 2010. Of these four units, Unit 6B at 29:100 was only marginally below, and Unit 4B had a low sample size and high historic variability. Therefore **only Units 7W and 27 with bull to cow ratios of 12:100 and 19:100 respectively would be real candidates for harvest reduction as a result of our suggested bull to cow guidelines.**

Impact to Statewide Harvest

Units 7W and 27 provided 14% of the 2010 statewide bull elk harvest. If each of these units bull harvest were reduced by a reasonable 15% as result of our suggested guideline bull to cow ratios, the **net reduction to the statewide bull elk harvest would be less than 2%.**

Late Bull Hunt Success

2009 late season hunt success was 35% for all units combined and the five-year average 2005-2009 was 38%. The late season hunter success range was recommended to fit the success levels experienced by Arizona hunters in the most current 5-year period. **No change in late general hunter opportunity is expected to result from this recommendation.**

Prepared by: Jim deVos
Jim Hinkle

S-2
CO Deer

Southwest Wildlife Advisory Group

Mule Deer Guidelines (Standard)

Criteria	Staff Recommendation	ADA Recommendation
Buck to Doe Ratio	10-20 (15 mid-point)	20-30 (25 mid-point)
General Hunt Success	15-20 (17.5 mid-point)	20-30 (25 mid-point)

Population Modeling

A stable mule deer herd of average fawn recruitment rates (40:100) and normal mortality rates (15% adults, 24% fawns) provides **12% fewer bucks for harvest when managed at 25:100 versus 15:100.**

2010 Survey Data (from Hunt AZ 2011)

Statewide 2010 deer survey buck to doe ratio (all units combined) was 22:100, within the ADA suggested guideline range.

Of the 54 game management units managed under standard criteria, only 19 had buck: doe ratios below our suggested range during 2010. **65% of all standard mule deer management units had 2010 survey buck to doe ratios within our suggested guideline range.**

Impact to Statewide Harvest

Specific impact to statewide harvest from our recommended buck to doe guideline range is difficult to calculate. However, **potential reductions to harvest are anticipated to be minimal given that the statewide average ratio falls within our suggested range.**

Hunt Success

2010 general deer hunt success¹ was 24% for all units combined and the five-year average 2006-2010 was 26%. The hunter success range was recommended to fit the success levels experienced by Arizona hunters in the most current 5-year period. **No change in hunter opportunity or experience is expected from this recommendation.**

¹ includes combined hunter and harvest data for both mule deer and white-tailed deer

Prepared by: Jim deVos
 Jim Hinkle

Southwest Wildlife Advisory Group

S-2
CO
White-tail

White-tailed Deer Guidelines (Standard)

Criteria	Staff Recommendation	ADA Recommendation
Buck to Doe Ratio	15-25 (20 mid-point)	20-30 (25 mid-point)
General Hunt Success	15-20 (17.5 mid-point)	20-30 (25 mid-point)

Population Modeling

A stable white-tailed deer herd of average fawn recruitment rates (32:100) and normal mortality rates (14% adults, 17% fawns) provides **7% fewer bucks for harvest when managed at 25:100 versus 20:100.**

2010 Survey Data (from Hunt AZ 2011)

Statewide 2010 deer survey buck to doe ratio (all units combined) was 32:100, in EXCESS of the ADA suggested guideline range.

Of the 18 game management units (with adequate data) managed under standard criteria, only 2 had buck: doe ratios below our suggested range during 2010. **89% of all standard white-tailed deer management units had 2010 survey buck to doe ratios within our suggested guideline range.**

Impact to Statewide Harvest

Specific impact to statewide harvest from our recommended buck to doe guideline range is difficult to calculate. However, **potential reductions to harvest are anticipated to be minimal given that the statewide average ratio is in EXCESS of our suggested range.**

Hunt Success

2010 general deer hunt success¹ was 24% for all units combined and the five-year average 2006-2010 was 26%. The hunter success range was recommended to fit the success levels experienced by Arizona hunters in the most current 5-year period. **No change in hunter opportunity or experience is expected from this recommendation.**

¹ includes combined hunter and harvest data for both mule deer and white-tailed deer

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