

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Friday, April 13, 2012
Saturday, April 14, 2012
Arizona Game and Fish Department
5000 West Carefree Highway
Phoenix, Arizona 85086

PRESENT: (Commission)

(Director and Staff)

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

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

Chairman Freeman called the meeting to order and led those present through the Pledge of Allegiance. The Commission introduced themselves and Director Voyles introduced his staff. This meeting followed an agenda revision #2 dated April 12, 2012.

* * * * *

1. Call to the Public

There were no requests from the public to speak to the Commission.

* * * * *

2. Legislative Engagement and State and Federal Legislation

Presenter: Anthony Guiles, Legislative Liaison

Mr. Guiles briefed the Commission using a Power Point presentation 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:

Commission Supported Legislation

SB 300: game and fish department; continuation

- Transmitted to Governor on 4/11/2012, House final vote 55-01, Senate final vote 24-6

HB 2322: watercraft; registration; fees

- Signed by Governor on 4/11/2012, House final vote 55-0, Senate Third Read 22-6

HB 2639: game and fish omnibus act

- Transmitted to Governor on 4/12/2012, House final vote 50-0, Senate Third Read 24-5

Commission Opposed Legislation

SB 1453: applying aquatic poisons (Rotenone)

- Assigned to House Environment Committee – Held

HB 2072: sale of big game tags

- Has not received a hearing

HB 2540: AZ wildlife conservation service

- Has not received a hearing

Dead Bills of Interest:

HB 2786: off-highway vehicles; indicia

- Held on 2/16/2012

HCR 2047: state parks heritage fund; restoration

- Has not moved since 2/9/2012

SB 1521: heritage fund; audit; hearing

- Has not advance since passing House on 3/26/2012

SB 1305: game and fish omnibus act

- Assigned to House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee - Held

Signed Bills of Interest

HB 2640: hunting; firearm magazine capacity

- Signed by Governor on 3/21/2012

HB 2728: firearms; sound suppressors; hunting

- Signed by Governor on 3/29/2012

HB 2457: S/E possessions of weapons while hunting

- Signed by Governor on 4/11/2012

Congressional Legislation

HR 4089: Sportsmen's Heritage Act of 2012 - a package of four high-priority bills that will:

1. Classify BLM and US Forest Service land as open to hunting, fishing and recreational shooting unless closed or restricted based on scientific evidence
2. Confirm that the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cannot ban lead in traditional ammunition or in sport fishing gear
3. Protect recreational shooting on BLM National Monument land
4. Allow the import of legally hunted polar bear trophies now tangled in federal red-tape.

The Department recommended that the Commission take a position to support HR 4089.

Motion: Husted moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO SUPPORT HR 4089, SPORTSMEN'S HERITAGE ACT OF 2012.

Vote: Unanimous

Chairman Freeman requested that the Department discuss and determine if the Commission should have a joint meeting with the State Parks Board to discuss legislative matters.

Commissioner Husted agreed with having a joint meeting and stated that there were other matters to discuss as well.

The Commission was in consensus.

* * * * *

3. Shooting Sports Activities Briefing

Presenter: Jay Cook, Shooting Sports 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 (also 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. Mr. Cook provided the following additional information:

Ben Avery Shooting Facility

- Recent events included the Duel in the Desert (Arizona Cup). Warm-up events were March 17-18 and the main event was March 22-26. There were 298 participants from 15 countries, including all 32 US Olympic hopefuls as well as Arizona's own Brady Ellison
- DPS has released funds to develop the Education Building. Engineering staff, DPS staff and an Architectural Firm are coordinating design details. The Department will develop a timeline for construction. The total budget is \$800,000 and will be funded by DPS.

Commissioner Mansell requested photos of the Northern Arizona Shooting Range as its development progresses.

Commissioner Harris asked if the Department was involved with Oro Valley and their archery range proposals.

Mr. Cook stated that the Department is very involved in that project and he will provide an update at next month's Commission meeting.

* * * * *

4. Information, Education and Wildlife Recreation Activities Briefing

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

Mr. Gray provided the Commission with a written 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. Mr. Gray provided the following additional updates:

2012 AGFD Outdoor Expo:

- The Department held its 2012 AGFD Outdoor Expo on March 30-April 1. There were 5000 attendees for Youth Day on Friday and 33,000 attendees over the weekend. There were 180 Exhibitors and Vendors, 200 Department staff and 50 Volunteers working the event
- Sponsors for the event included Cabela's, Airpark Dodge/Jeep, USFWS, Weatherby Foundation, Remington, Winchester, Diamond Ridge Development, HomCo Ace Hardware, White Flyer Targets, MCSO
- The 2013 Expo Dates are March 23-24

Chairman Freeman suggested that the Department coordinate with its constituents and with the International Sportsmen's Expo to have an Arizona Expo Week. The two events could be held close together, with maybe the banquets in between, and we could pull together the marketing synergies and other common benefits.

Director's Goal and Objective #9 Update

Goal #9: Simplify Hunt and Fish License Structure and Youth Definition - The Department will continue work to develop a new basic license structure that will be easier to understand and provide more value to traditional customers and establish a consistent definition for Youth. By December 2012, the Department will:

Deliverables:

- Identify all changes to rule/statute that may be affected or required for implementation of the Future License Structure and Youth Definition.
- Conduct an independent review of the 2011 Youth and Future License Structure proposals.
- Conduct economic analysis to determine accurate license price points and ceilings and verify/address Federal Aid concerns.
- Draft language to revise ARS 17-333 to establish a new license structure and set fee ceilings.

Update: The following has been identified related to the first deliverable:

- ARS 17-333 Licenses; classes; fees; definition
 - Change "juvenile" to "youth" and age references
 - Repeal license classes that will no longer be applicable
 - Add new license classes and amend fee ceilings
 - Modify stamp requirements

- Add 365 Day license time frame
- ARS 17-335 Minors; blind residents
 - Change age references
- R12-4-101. Definitions
 - Define “youth” as individual under 18 years of age
- R12-4-102. Fees for licenses, Tags, Stamps, and Permits
 - Repeal license classes that will no longer be applicable
 - Change age reference provided under Youth Class F Combo
 - Change all references from “junior” to “youth”
- R12-4-307. Trapping Regulations: Licensing; Methods; Tagging of Bobcat Pelts
 - Change age references
- R12-4-318. Seasons for Lawfully Taking Wild Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles
 - Change reference from “junior’s-only” to “youth-only” hunt
- Other – 365 Day may require additional statute/rule amendments

Wildlife Center Update

The Department met with Commissioners Freeman and Husted as well as representatives from Wildlife for Tomorrow and the Adobe Auxiliary. The following action items came out of that meeting:

- Determine debt service on \$7.5 million: \$390,309 - \$601,819 annually (4 schedules [6.6.5, 7, 7.5m] with 3 scenarios [20, 25, 30 years], 5% interest)
- Determine if an intern can be hired to coordinate activities – DONE
- Provide Commission with list of viable options that considers: Current available budget; Donations; Bonding /Private Lease to Own; and land disposals – list of possible disposals and estimated values
- Complete design/drawings/conceptual planning for potential sponsorships - ongoing (cost estimates, etc)
- Build Donor menu (list projects and related \$ amount) – Draft list completed
- Revise Marketing packet/plan – ongoing
- Meet with Commissioners Freeman and Husted on May 8
- Continue to meet with Adobe Auxiliary and WFT – ongoing
- Provide an update at the May Commission as an agenda item.

Commissioner Davis stated that he would like to see free youth hunting and fishing licenses provided to youths that go through or participate in any of the outreach or educational activities.

Mr. Gray stated that free youth hunting and fishing licenses was related to the Director’s Goal and Objective #9 which outlines the Commission direction to the Department regarding license structures and youth definitions.

The Commission discussed and was in consensus for the Department to look at formalizing a free youth hunting and/or fishing license. This could be a marketing mechanism and a way to capture customer information and to try and create lifetime customers.

* * * * *

5. Commission Policies on Hunting, Fishing, and Wildlife Viewing

Presenter: Craig McMullen, Wildlife Recreation Branch Chief

Mr. McMullen presented the Commission with draft Commission policies on hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing (attached). Hunting and fishing are Arizona traditions and wildlife viewing is a growing trend among wildlife enthusiasts. Wildlife-related recreation is key to the foundation of wildlife conservation in Arizona. Since its beginning, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission has established season dates and bag limits in order to provide a sustainable harvest of Arizona game species. For many years participation in hunting and angling has been declining in Arizona, and across the country. In addition, broad-scale societal shifts such as urbanization, modernization, and demographic changes have affected the way many people interact with wildlife. Today, people are showing an increasing tendency to connect with wildlife on emotional terms. This shift in wildlife value orientation, along with declining participation in hunting and angling has highlighted the need for the Commission to establish position statements about hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. The Commission was provided with these draft policies prior to this meeting for review and consideration.

Motion: Husted moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE DRAFT COMMISSION POLICY ON HUNTING, DRAFT COMMISSION POLICY ON FISHING, AND DRAFT COMMISSION POLICY ON WILDLIFE VIEWING AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

* * * * *

6. 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 briefed the Commission on "Conserving the Grand Canyon Watershed – A Proposal for National Monument Designation" (attached). This proposed National Monument would connect, in essence, Glen Canyon Recreation area with the Parashant Monument for a total of 1.7 million acres. The proposal comes from the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, the Center for Biological Diversity and The Wilderness Society. Five geographic areas that would be effected are the Kaibab Plateau, Kaibab-Paunsagunt Wildlife Corridor, Kanab Creek Watershed, House Rock Valley, and the South Rim Headwaters (Tusayan Ranger District of Kaibab National Forest). The boundary encompasses lands currently owned by US Forest Service, Arizona State

Trust, Bureau of Land Management, as well as private lands (Note: Monument designation can only apply to federally-owned lands). National Monument designation allows for continued public access including hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and motorized vehicle access on designated routes. The stated goals of National Monument designation are: Permanently protect old growth forests, protect native wildlife and wildlife corridors, protect archaeological sites and traditional tribal access, reduce road density, provide for voluntary retirement of grazing permits, and prevent new uranium mines.

The National Antiquities Act of 1906 authorizes the President to designate National Monuments with no requirements for public input or congressional oversight. The most recent Designations in Arizona are the Agua Fria, Grand Canyon-Parashant, and Ironwood in June 2000 and the Sonoran Desert and Vermillion Cliffs in January 2001. In February 2010, proposed federal legislation for a National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act was assigned to Committee in Congress but it never resurfaced. This legislation would have required some congressional oversight over the designation of National Monuments. The Department will continue to track and keep the Commission updated on any activity regarding the legislation or the Grand Canyon Watershed designation.

Commissioner Davis stated for the record that the Commission should discuss this and quickly articulate its position to the Arizona Congressional Delegation and to the White House. The stated goals of the National Monument designations are all “but statements” and “but statements” are intended to be used as weapons later on to shut down access. To pretend otherwise is foolishness. We need to say that we understand clearly what they are up to and what the long term implications are. Those “but statements” will be used to eliminate and reduce hunter and sportsmen access. We need to be loud and clear so that transparency occurs and there is a robust and loud debate. As much noise as possible needs to be made on this issue by this Commission, by hunters, by sportsmen, and by anyone who enjoys the North Kaibab, the Plateau and those areas.

The Commission was in consensus and discussed whether this item was adequately noticed in order for them to take a position today.

Chairman Freeman stated that he did not want the Commission to rush through this and that this issue could be addressed at a future Commission meeting.

Commissioner Husted added that time was needed to craft a statement that explains the Commission’s position.

The Commission discussed some of what they would like to see articulated such as the financial implications for taxpayers and that the federal government is currently not funding what we already have at an appropriate level.

Commissioner Husted added that when the federal government cannot fund it, they will say that if they can’t protect it they will close it and that will limit access. This has happened time and time again and he would like to see this message sent forward.

The Commission was in consensus to direct the Department to craft a statement and a motion for the Commission to take a position.

Director Voyles stated that the Department will put together a recommendation and will schedule a meeting as soon as possible.

* * * * *

8. Nongame Subprogram Activities Briefing; January 1, 2012 through March 31, 2012

Presenter: Eric Gardner, Nongame Branch Chief

Mr. Gardner briefed the Commission on the Nongame Subprogram activities from January 1, 2012 through March 31, 2012. 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:

Status	Historical Presence Questioned by AGFD or Historic Range Only with No Active Management Program (Not part of Working Total)	Historic Range, and/or Active Management Programs (CCAs) even if not Candidates	Maybe or Known to be Present	Working Total
Endangered	2 (<i>Eskimo curlew</i> , <i>Sinaloan Jaguarundi</i>)	2 (Aplomado falcon and Thick-billed parrot)	26	28
Threatened	1 (<i>Grizzly bear</i>)	0	12	12
Candidate	1 (<i>Greater sage-grouse</i>).	2 (Wet Canyon and San Xavier talussnails have CCAs)	17	19

Multi-district Litigation Settlement

The multi-year listing work plan was first developed through an agreement with the plaintiff group WildEarth Guardians and filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on May 10, 2011. On July 12, 2011, the USFWS reached an agreement with plaintiff group Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) that reinforces the multi-year work plan. This complimentary agreement includes additional scheduling commitments for a small subset of the actions in the work plan that is consistent with the USFWS objectives and biological priorities. These historic agreements were approved by Judge Emmet Sullivan in Washington, D.C. on September 9, 2011, and will allow the USFWS to more effectively focus our efforts on providing the benefits of the ESA to those imperiled species most in need of protection.

On May 10, 2011, WildEarth Guardians entered into a historic and sweeping settlement agreement with the USFWS. The settlement aims to resolve years of litigation and shift the way endangered species are added to the threatened and endangered species list.

On September 9, 2011, Judge Emmet Sullivan in Washington, D.C., approved the settlement agreement that will require the USFWS to make a final determination on Endangered Species Act status for 252 candidate species by September 2016. Under the agreement the USFWS would also make findings over the next two years on a suite of citizens' petitions for imperiled plants and animals.

Multi-district Litigation Settlement Results:

New ESA Listings for Springsnails

- Federal Register publication expected in mid-April with notice on status change
- Three Forks springsnail – Endangered
- San Bernardino springsnail – Threatened
- Both species with designated critical habitat; not anticipated to have any impact to the Department's Sport Fish Stocking Program (or ongoing CAMP efforts)

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (western U.S. DPS) Proposed Rule

- USFWS is in process of preparing a Proposed Rule
- Candidate status since 2001 and is one of the Multi-district Listing species
- Rule to be published in Federal Register February 2013, followed by a 90-day comment period

Chiricahua Leopard Frog (CLF) – Critical Habitat Designation

- 5,791 acres (total = 10,346)
- Critical habitat for CLF is generally restricted to small groups of stock tanks or relatively small stream reaches
- Most sites in Arizona are on federal lands, and will have very little additional effect on Department activities (i.e., federal agencies already have to deal with CLF)
- The Department is already working with private landowners whose lands are affected by Critical habitat
- USFWS explicitly excluded from Critical habitat private lands with existing Safe Harbor Agreements within the range of CLF, acknowledging their conservation value

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Revised Critical Habitat

- Department commented on revised Critical habitat designation in October 2011
- Department supported continued exclusion of Critical habitat at Alamo Lake area and areas covered by SRP's Horseshoe /Bartlett Dams and Roosevelt Lake Habitat Conservation Partnerships
- Department requested exclusion of a new proposed area near the confluence of Gila and Salt Rivers that are included within the Tres Rios Safe Harbor Agreement

Spikedace and Loach Minnow Critical Habitat

- The species' range in Arizona overlaps with other listed species with previously designated critical habitat

- New designation is not anticipated to have much of an impact to the Department's Sport Fish Stocking Program (and ongoing Conservation and Mitigation efforts)

DEFINITION OF ESA "SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF ITS RANGE (SPR)"

This is a policy level issue from the USFWS that has potential implications in Arizona.

- 1) An explanation of the consequences of a species being in danger of extinction or likely to become so in an SPR, but not throughout all of its range;
- 2) a definition of the term "significant" as it applies to SPR;
- 3) an interpretation of the term "range" and explanation of how historical range is considered as it applies to SPR; and,
- 4) a means of reconciling our draft interpretation of SPR with the inclusion of "distinct population segment" (DPS) in the Act's definition of "species."

Director Voyles briefed the Commission that the Association Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) has suggested to the USFWS that it is not necessary to take a policy stance on SPR as it is currently drafted. They have recommended that the USFWS table it. The USFWS has worked closely with AFWA and has extended the comment period significantly at AFWA's request.

The Department sent a letter to the USFWS regarding the SPR with the following key recommendations:

- 1) The policy should include language that allows for unique determinations of the status of populations both inside and outside of the SPR;
- 2) If approved, any previous listing decisions made contrary to the policy be fully reevaluated - the Services should not automatically default to listing the species throughout its range; and,
- 3) The Services' *Interim Endangered and Threatened Species Recovery Planning Guidance* should be fully reviewed to ensure that Recovery Planning is conducted at the level of the species, sub-species or DPS level since those are the only listable entities.

The Commission engaged in discussion with Mr. Gardner and Director Voyles regarding what the Department can do to be more proactive rather than reactive.

Commissioner Husted wanted the Department to have a sense of empowerment to say to the Commission that they need x, y or z in order to be more proactive.

Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl Listing Action

- CBD petitioned any one of three DPS populations of western Mexico ferruginous pygmy-owls
- American Ornithologists' Union did not separate eastern/western Mexico populations
- USFWS 12 month finding – No DPS because not a valid taxon for listing consideration under the ESA
- NOI filed by the CBD and Defenders of Wildlife over 12 month finding stating the USFWS wrongfully applied "Significant Portion of Range".

Bald Eagle DPS Listing Actions

- Judge ruled the USFWS 12-month finding procedurally flawed. Not a valid 12-month review

- Remanded the USFWS to deliver a valid 12-month review by April 20, 2012
- ESA does not contain the same government-government requirements for Native American Tribes as other Acts
- No injunctive relief from the 2007 delisting decision. Bald eagles are not listed during the administrative review.

Golden Eagle Baseline Surveys

- Funded by the BLM through the Renewable Energy Initiative
- Focused on areas where renewable projects were/are planned
- Limited the scope of the survey to cliff nesting golden eagles
- Excluded tribal, military, and National Park Service lands
- Results: Nearly ½ of the state surveyed within 2 years; 55 Breeding areas discovered; Total BAs 92; 161 Potential Bas; (Need Follow-up); Over 250 large nests

International & Borderlands Projects

- 2012 World Wetlands Day (WWD) Ceremony and 14th Wetland Training Course
- Several US wildlife agencies, including Arizona, implement conservation programs in Mexico for waterfowl and wetland conservation
- WWD Ceremony and wetlands training took place in the State of Campeche which includes important wintering grounds for many species of waterfowl, shorebirds, and neotropical migratory birds shared between Mexico and the US.

* * * * *

Meeting recessed for a break at 10:11 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:26 a.m.

* * * * *

7. Update on Audubon Arizona Programs

Presenter: Eric Gardner, Nongame Branch Chief

Mr. Gardner introduced Sarah Porter, Executive Director, Audubon Arizona and Roger Farland, Board Chair, Audubon Arizona, who provided the Commission with a presentation on the accomplishments of the Arizona Important Bird Areas Program and many other key Audubon Arizona projects. The Arizona Audubon mission is to protect birds and other wildlife and their habitats through education, science and advocacy. They have nine active chapters across the state and there are 10,000 National Audubon Society Members in Arizona. They are a respected voice for conservation and are proponents and participants in numerous on-the-ground conservation activities.

* * * * *

9. 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 for Renewal of Road Closure on State Trust Lands of the Perrin Ranch, North of Williams, Arizona

Presenter: Mark Weise, Development Branch Chief

Michael Macauley requested the renewal of closure on multiple unnamed roads on State Trust lands to vehicular access. This closure was originally granted by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, with concurrence from the Arizona State Land Department, in 2007. The two-track roads are dispersed over the Perrin Ranch, which is located approximately seven miles north of Williams, Arizona. This closure is part of a cooperative stewardship agreement and road management plan for the protection of soil, watershed, vegetation, and wildlife habitat while maintaining reasonable alternate public access.

Much recreational use occurs on the Perrin Ranch year-round. During hunting season, an average of over 500 vehicles per month use the ranch. This closure has helped manage this high use while still allowing adequate vehicular access on the ranch. These closed roads are interior two-track roads that originate off the 3 major roads, which continue to provide access throughout the 64,000-acre ranch. The closure includes some wildcat roads, some roads created by past wood cutting operations, and certain ranch roads which provide alternate access points to the roads that Mr. Macauley wants to restrict vehicular access on. Most of these old roads are closed by means of informative signs. Six roads were ripped and are being restored to their natural state. The primary purpose of this closure is to prevent further resource damage to soils, existing roads, and vegetation on the ranch. The closure has been successful in reducing this resource damage, which was especially prevalent during periods of precipitation and high soil moisture.

Non-motorized access will be allowed on all of the closed roads. Furthermore, vehicular access for the purpose of game retrieval will be allowed on all of the closed roads except for the six roads which are being rehabilitated. The Arizona State Land Department supports this closure because it is a reasonable means of protecting soil, vegetation and watershed, as well as providing continued public access. Construction of the wind farm and its associated service roads resulted in slight changes to the road system of 5 years ago, but there remains a very similar system of roads to provide vehicular access throughout the ranch.

The Department recommends THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF MULTIPLE ROAD CLOSURES ON THE PERRIN RANCH FOR RESOURCE PROTECTION.

b. Approval of Law Enforcement Boating Safety Fund (LEBSF) Grant Allocation Formula for FY 2013

Presenter: Lizette Morgan, CFO, Business & Finance

ARS §5-323 requires that 35% of watercraft registration fees shall be allocated as follows: 15% to the state lake improvement funds to be used as prescribed by section §5-382, and 85% to the law enforcement boating safety fund to be used as prescribed in section §5-383. Historically,

every month, the Department remitted these funds to State Parks who administered them. The Law Enforcement Boating Safety Grants Fund provides eligible counties with grants to fund Law Enforcement Boating Safety.

In the 2011 Legislative Session, ARS §5-383 was modified to require the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to annually approve the funding allocation formula for the Law Enforcement Boating Safety Grants and the responsibility for administering the fund was transferred to the State Treasurer. The Commission is required to approve the formula annually. The proposed formula (attached) is the historical formula which has been used by State Parks to distribute funds to the counties. This formula is updated every three years to reflect current Watercraft Survey data and revised salary data from the counties. This update will occur in time for next year's annual approval.

The Department recommends THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT BOATING SAFETY GRANT ALLOCATION FORMULA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013 AS PRESENTED.

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

Vote: Unanimous

* * * * *

11. Law Enforcement Program Briefing

Presenter: Gene F. Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Prior to this meeting, the Commission was provided with a written report that included 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 briefing is in fulfillment of the Commission's request to be briefed on a monthly basis regarding the Department's Law Enforcement Program.

Mr. Elms provided a presentation on his recent 10-week training and experiences at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. The FBI National Academy is a professional course of study for U.S. and international law enforcement leaders that serves to improve the administration of justice in police departments and agencies at home and abroad and to raise law enforcement standards, knowledge, and cooperation worldwide.

* * * * *

10A. Petition by Mr. Frank Lucero to Reinstate His Bighorn Sheep Bonus Points and Refund his Permit-Tag Fee

Presenter: Brian F. Wakeling, Game Branch Chief

On April 5, 2012, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) received a faxed petition from Mr. Frank Lucero that had originally been drafted on March 29, 2012. That petition claimed that "the Arizona Game and Fish Department had mislead [sic] both the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and the public regarding the bighorn sheep in units being ravaged by a sheep disease." Mr. Lucero requested the reinstatement of his bonus points and a refund of his permit-tag fees (sans application fee), as well as monitoring of areas being ravaged by disease killing off bighorn sheep.

A bighorn sheep hunt has been offered annually in Unit 13A since 1991. In 2004, Unit 13A was separated from Units 12A and 12B West because the majority of harvest was occurring in Unit 13A; rams were not being pursued in the Units 12A and 12B West portion of the hunt area. This separation allowed for an additional bighorn permit to be offered.

1991–2000: Units 12A and 13A

2001–2003: Units 12A, 12BW, and 13A

2004–2011: Unit 13A

The boundary between Units 12A and 13A is Kanab Creek and bighorn sheep regularly move across this administrative boundary.

Survey: The Department surveyed bighorn sheep in Units 12A and 13A during September 19–21, 2011. During that survey, three Class III bighorn sheep rams were observed in Unit 13A, and another three Class III and two Class IV rams were observed during surveys in Units 12A and 12BW. This is a minimum number of rams present because surveys routinely detect about 75% of the bighorn sheep within a survey area, and bighorn sheep may occupy areas that are not surveyed.

During the aerial deer surveys conducted on January 16, 2012, the survey crew observed a herd of 10–15 bighorn sheep near Chamberlain Canyon in an area where Mr. Lucero had reported to the Wildlife Manager that he had been hunting. Within the herd of bighorn sheep were two rams that the survey crew considered harvestable animals.

Hunt Data and Results: Permit levels have been adjusted in Unit 13A to reflect the availability of bighorn sheep in the Unit. Hunter harvest has varied over time as well.

Year	Permits	Harvest
2006	3	3
2007	5	5
2008	3	3
2009	2	1
2010	2	2

In 2011, two tags were offered for Unit 13A and no rams were harvested. One hunter reported hunting on opening day and did not return afterwards. The second hunter, Mr. Lucero, reported hunting 28 days and did not report seeing any bighorn sheep during the entire hunt. The Wildlife Manager was in contact with Mr. Lucero throughout the hunt and provided the 2011 survey results to him prior to the hunt. The 3-year average harvest for Unit 13A is two rams with an

average score of 146 points and the 5-year average harvest is three rams with an average score of 148 points.

Within the 2011–12 Arizona Hunting and Trapping Regulations on page 50 for hunt number 6004, which is the hunt that Mr. Lucero was drawn for, includes reference to a red font footnote number 12. On page 52 of these regulations, footnote number 12 reads in red font: "This unit has a low density bighorn sheep population in a remote area with difficult access. Hunters should be prepared for backcountry camping and extensive strenuous hiking in an extremely remote, harsh environment."

Population Status: Unit 13A is on a 3-year rotation for helicopter surveys. Surveys were conducted in spring 2011 for 6 hours. The 2011 survey classified 38 bighorn which is similar to the 3-year average of 40 and the 5-year average of 41.

Since 2005, when evidence of disease within this bighorn sheep herd was first detected, two spring, health-monitoring captures have been conducted (2006 and 2009). Recent surveys demonstrate the harvestable rams are still present, and permit recommendations are developed consistent with current hunt guidelines. Despite any persisting disease, lamb recruitment during the latest survey was higher than prior years and no coughing has been reported in two years. Further, surveys that occurred before and after the 2011 bighorn sheep hunt in Unit 13A documented the presence of harvestable rams within Mr. Lucero's hunt area.

Recommendation: The Department recommends that the Commission vote to deny Mr. Frank Lucero's petition to reinstate his bighorn sheep bonus points and refund his permit-tag fee for his 2011 hunt in Unit 13A.

Mr. Lucero was present and addressed the Commission on behalf of his petition. He believes that no tags should have been issued in Unit 13A based on the surveys and Commission policy.

Commissioner Harris confirmed with Mr. Lucero that he read in the regulations the following: "This unit has a low density bighorn sheep population in a remote area with difficult access. Hunters should be prepared for backcountry camping and extensive strenuous hiking in an extremely remote, harsh environment."

Commissioner Husted stated that the Commission will be discussing their policies, but that he could not entertain returning Mr. Lucero's bonus points because he didn't get a bighorn sheep.

Motion: Harris moved and Husted seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DENY MR. FRANK LUCERO'S PETITION TO REINSTATE HIS BIGHORN SHEEP BONUS POINTS AND REFUND HIS PERMIT-TAG FEE FOR HIS 2011 HUNT IN UNIT 13A.

Vote: Unanimous

* * * * *

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

Vote: Unanimous

* * * * *

Meeting recessed for a lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:45 p.m.

* * * * *

10. Call to the Public

There were no requests to speak to the Commission.

* * * * *

13. Request to Approve the Final Notice of Exempt Rulemaking to Amend R12-4-801, R12-4-802, and R12-4-803.

Presenter: Jennifer Stewart, Rules and Risk Branch Chief

Ms. Stewart provided the Commission with a rules overview and update. Since 2009, there has been a moratorium on rulemaking. In July 2011, the Department was exempted from the current moratorium, so this is the first opportunity the Department has had to pursue rulemaking for entire Articles. Virtually every Article has been impacted or placed on hold by the moratorium, so the Department has looked at several factors in deciding what to pursue for this year. The Department currently has teams in place to look at R12-4-102 rulemaking (fees/fee flexibility), Article 3 rulemaking (taking and handling of wildlife), Article 8 rulemaking (wildlife areas and Department properties), and Grants Omnibus rulemaking (Articles 7&9, Heritage and WCF grants). In 2013 the new packages will be the Article 2 5-Year Rule Review (miscellaneous licenses and permits), Article 4 5-Year Rule Review (live wildlife), Article 1 5-Year Rule Review (draw, bonus points, special licenses, time frames), and Article 8 rulemaking (exempt package).

Commissioner Husted requested that the rule review team for Article 1 look at a waiting period following the successful draw of a trophy animal like bull elk or antelope, and he would like to have a robust Commission/Department discussion with public input about this topic.

Commissioner Harris asked about Article 3, which is currently being looked at by a team, and asked that they look at the baiting issue, particularly involving salt, and that the team look at that before they bring that to the Commission for discussion.

Commissioner Davis expressed an interest in discussing Article 1 as mentioned by Commissioner Husted and the fees/fee flexibility, but also expressed an interest in discussing the use of technologies relative to taking wildlife and whether the Department will be prepared to deal with the use of new technologies as they become easier to obtain.

Ms. Stewart continued with the request for the Commission to approve a Final Notice of Exempt Rulemaking amending rules within Article 8, addressing wildlife areas and Department property. The Department received permission from the Governor's Office to proceed with this rulemaking on May 20, 2011. The Department proposes to amend Article 8 rules, addressing Wildlife Areas and Department Property, to implement recommendations resulting from field input received for specific wildlife areas. The following are the proposed substantive rule amendments:

R12-4-801 General Provisions – Amended to allow the Department to have greater control and flexibility over management and access of all its property and facilities, to benefit wildlife, protect property and ensure public safety.

R12-4-802 Wildlife Areas and Other Properties:

- Becker Lake Wildlife Area, Jacques Marsh Wildlife Area and Tucson Mountain Wildlife Area - Amended to further clarify firearm and hunting restrictions in response to input received from the Regions.
- Cibola Valley Conservation and Wildlife Area - Amended to restrict motorized vehicle traffic to designated and administrative roads only. The administrative roads are primarily used by the Department, BLM, and the Cibola Valley Irrigation and Drainage District for maintenance of the wildlife area and its irrigation system. The original intent was to limit road access to administrative personnel and those who must retrieve lawfully taken big game; to reduce wear and tear, maintenance costs, liability to the local irrigation district, and prevent excessive vehicle disturbance to sensitive wildlife nesting in the wildlife area.
- Fool Hollow Lake Wildlife Area - Amended to establish restrictions for this newly acquired wildlife area. These restrictions are supported by the Show Low Police Department and are intended to deter harmful activities currently posing challenges in that area.
- Raymond Wildlife area - Amended to establish restrictions for overnight public camping, prohibit the use of off-road and all-terrain vehicles and prohibit the public from being within 1/4 mile of the Raymond Ranch buffalo herd. The intent is to prevent long-term campers from monopolizing the campground, to better control buffalo hunts and disruptions during an active buffalo hunt.
- Hirsch Conservation Education Area and Biscuit Tank - Amended to establish that public access and use of the area is subject to Department authorization. The Department wants to be able to control fishing activities on Biscuit Tank that may conflict with Commission Order 40, such as bag limits, release and take requirements, etc.

R12-4-803 Wildlife Area Boundaries - Amended to establish boundary descriptions for Fool Hollow Lake Wildlife Area and Hirsch Conservation Education Area and Biscuit Tank.

If approved by the Commission, the Department will file the Notice of Exempt Rulemaking with the Secretary of State's office for publication in the *Arizona Administrative Register*.

Motion: Husted moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE FINAL NOTICE OF EXEMPT RULEMAKING TO AMEND ARTICLE 8 RULES ADDRESSING WILDLIFE AREAS AND DEPARTMENT PROPERTY.

Vote: Unanimous

* * * * *

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

Presenter: John Romero, Acting Law Enforcement Branch Chief

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

* * * * *

Meeting recessed for a break at 3:00 p.m.
Meeting reconvened at 3:10 p.m.

* * * * *

14. Strategic Plan Development Update

Presenter: Bob Broscheid, Deputy Director

Mr. Broscheid briefed the Commission on the status of the draft Strategic Plan. A revised gantt chart was provided to the Commission with some adjusted timelines for public and Commission review. The major milestones and deliverables remain the same. The draft Strategic Plan will be provided to the Commission in May. Commission comments can be received at that time or at the July workshop after the public comment period. The July workshop will be critical because that is where the Department will have some thorough dialogue with the Commission. If needed, the draft Strategic Plan can be brought back to the Commission for discussion at the September meeting. The final delivery to the Commission will be in December. That will be the final dialogue following a second round of public and Department input. Hopefully, at that time the Commission will approve the final Strategic Plan and it will be ready to go in January 2013.

* * * * *

Meeting recessed for the day at 3:20 p.m.

* * * * *

* * * * *

Meeting reconvened Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

* * * * *

Chairman Freeman called the meeting back to order and lead those present through the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Commission and Department introductions.

* * * * *

Awards and Recognition

Director Voyles presented Service Pin Awards to the following Department employees:

30 Year Service Pin

Kevin Bright

25 Year Service Pin

Chuck Benedict
Kevin Bergersen
Tom McMahon
Joe Yarchin

20 Year Service Pin

Andy Clark
James Driscoll
Marty Fabritz
Jim Heffelfinger
Candy Holod
Mike Ingraldi
John Kane
Diana Rogers
Tom Snow
Mark Weise

* * * * *

Meeting recessed for a break at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:25 a.m.

* * * * *

Director Voyles was not present for the rest of the meeting. During the break, Chairman Freeman and the other Commissioners sent the Director home to continue his recovery from a recent horseback riding accident.

* * * * *

1. Call to the Public

There were no requests from the public to speak to the Commission.

* * * * *

2. Consideration of Proposed Commission Orders 2, 5-10, and 26 for 2012–2013 Hunting Season, Commission Orders 11–18 for 2012–2013 and 2013–2014 Hunting Seasons, and Commission Order 23 for the 2012–2013 and 2013–2014 Trapping Seasons.

Presenter: Brian F. Wakeling, Game Branch Chief

Mr. Wakeling presented the Commission with a Power Point presentation of the Department's recommendations for Commission Orders 2 (deer), 5–10 (turkey, javelina, bighorn sheep, buffalo, bear, and mountain lion), and 26 (population management) establishing seasons and season dates, bag and possession limits, permit numbers, and open areas for the 2012–2013 season, and Commission Orders 11–18 (tree squirrel, cottontail rabbit, predatory and furbearing mammals, other mammals and birds, pheasant, quail, chukar partridge, and blue grouse) establishing seasons and season dates, bag and possession limits, and open areas for the 2012–2013 and 2013–2014 seasons. Additionally, the Department presented recommendations for Commission Order 23 (trapping), establishing season dates, legal species, open and closed areas, and bag and possession limits for the 2012–2013 and 2013–2014 seasons. A detailed description

of these proposals were available for public review at Department offices and were provided to the Commission prior to this meeting for review.

The Department is recommending seasons, season dates, bag and possession limits, permit numbers, and open areas for Commission Orders 2 (deer), 5–10 (fall turkey, fall javelina, bighorn sheep, fall buffalo, fall bear, and mountain lion), and 26 (population management seasons) for 2012–2013 according to hunt guidelines approved by the Commission in August and December 2011. Small game (Commission Orders 11–18; tree squirrel, cottontail rabbit, predatory and furbearing mammals, other mammals and birds, pheasant, quail, chukar partridge, and blue grouse) and trapping (Commission Order 23) seasons are recommended for both 2012–2013 and 2013–2014 in accordance with the hunt guidelines. The current hunt guidelines were approved by the Commission for a 2-year period that extends through spring 2014. Public meetings to discuss harvest prescriptions for the 2012–2013 seasons were held in each Region prior to meeting with the Game Branch. Each Region also hosted an open house prior to the April Commission meeting where final recommendations were available for public review and discussion. Public participation improved this year with 42 attendees at the 6 public meetings, which routinely see less than 10 attendees on average.

The Commission has provided the Department with direction through the hunt guidelines to offer specific hunting opportunities. Specifically, the Department was to allocate at least 5% of the general deer permits to juniors-only seasons, units with multiple deer hunts will have stratified 7-day seasons, each region will offer a late mule deer season, and Units 3A and 3C will be managed under alternative guidelines for deer similar to Units 45A, 45B, and 45C.

Statewide, white-tailed deer hunting opportunity in December is limited to 5% of the total white-tailed deer permits, although alternative white-tailed deer units (Units 6A, 23, 30B, 31, and 36C) will be structured to harvest up to 30% of the expected take for that unit during December. Units 3A, 3C, 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, 45A, 45B, and 45C are managed according to the alternative deer guidelines for mule deer. Archery deer seasons are recommended for season length adjustments or permitting to attain 10–20% of the total deer harvest by archers. Units 12A, 12B, 13A, and 13B have had permitted archery seasons for a few years; the archery hunt in Units 3A and 3C is recommended for permitting this year.

Fall turkey hunts are recommended as limited-weapon shotgun-shooting-shot seasons. Juniors-only turkey permits will be recommended as over-the-counter nonpermit tags in specific units. Archery turkey seasons have been adjusted to overlap with corresponding archery deer seasons.

Fall javelina hunts are to be offered during juniors-only seasons to strive for 10% of total tags (both fall and spring) for juniors hunters. Juniors-only seasons should coincide with a juniors-only deer season, and companion population management seasons are recommended to capitalize on juniors deer hunters in the field.

All bear seasons have specific female harvest limits that close a season on the following Wednesday when that number of female bears have been harvested. Each unit that provides a bear hunt will also have an annual female harvest limit. If the annual female harvest limit is met, this will close any open season on the following Wednesday or any subsequent season in that unit during the current calendar year, even if the subsequent season has not yet opened. The

annual female harvest limit comprises female bears lethally removed through Department action (e.g., nuisance) and female bears harvested by hunters.

Daylong seasons are recommended to continue for coyote and mountain lion seasons in specific areas and during specific periods as adopted in December 2011, although some adjustments to open units are recommended. Other changes to mountain lion seasons are recommended in accordance with the new hunt guidelines, to include a minimal occurrence zone, similar to that established previously for elk. As with elk, mountain lion seasons within this zone are recommended for liberalization to meet management objectives.

Mearns' quail season is recommended to begin a week later than in prior years.

Hopi tribal members will be allocated a previously agreed upon small portion of deer tags in Units 4A, 4B (8 permits), 5A, and 5B (24 permits) according to the Hopi Trust Land allocation authorized through the hunt guidelines.

Commission Order 2 – Deer

The Department is recommending 42,638 general deer permits in 2012, a decrease of 1,266 permits statewide from 2011. Archery deer seasons in Units 12A and 12B, 13A, and 13B for 2011 are recommended at 755 permits, no change from 2011; Units 3A and 3C are recommended as a permitted hunt with 125 permits. Permit recommendations in Unit 12A are designed to maintain a 5–7% adult population growth. Archers that draw a permit tag are not required to report their harvest through the phone line, and the 10% cap on nonresident participation applies to draw hunts.

Several changes are recommended for deer seasons. White-tailed deer permits are recommended for a decrease of 210 permits. Antlered mule deer and any antlered deer permits are recommended for a decrease of 1,071 statewide. Juniors permits are recommended at 2,320 (5.4% of general), an increase of 150 from 2011. This recommendation includes a 250-permit (increase of 175 from 2011) antlerless deer hunt for juniors-only in Unit 12AW, which is consistent with allowing population growth on the Kaibab described in the hunt guidelines. December general mule deer hunts are recommended in Units 7, 17A and 17B, 23, and 27. Muzzleloader permits are recommended at 1,200 permits, an increase of 195 from 2011. December any antlered deer muzzleloader seasons are again recommended in Units 35A and 35B and Units 39, 40A, 40B, 41, and 42. The December archery deer and general deer seasons are recommended to begin on December 14, 2012.

The archery deer over-the-counter nonpermit tag seasons in Unit 17A is recommended to include additional season length of December 14–31 because archery harvest in this unit is less than 10% of the total take. This additional season length is similar to existing seasons for many other archery seasons.

A 10-permit CHAMP hunt is again recommended for Unit 12AW for 2012; the season is recommended to shift from November to September 14–20, 2012.

Total permits for general (including Hopi), muzzleloader, CHAMP, and juniors-only seasons are 46,200, which is a decrease of 920 permits from 2011 levels. Total permits for archery deer draw permits are 880, an increase of 125 from 2011.

Commissioner Husted discussed with Mr. Wakeling the increase of 175 tags for the antlerless deer hunt for juniors-only in Unit 12AW. He was not comfortable with this increase in harvesting does.

Commissioner Harris expressed the same concerns as Commissioner Husted.

Commissioner Mansell added that he has concerns about the December hunt in Unit 17A. In his mind, a December mule deer hunt is an alternative hunt. He believes a unit in Region III should be identified as alternative or mule deer should not be hunted in December. Also, even though he is a proponent of youth hunting, Unit 3, an alternative hunt unit, has a number of junior hunts and he does not think alternative units are where we should have youth hunts.

Public Comment

John Koleszar, President, Arizona Deer Association (ADA): Disagrees with the 125 archery permit decrease in Units 3A and 3C. This could be bumped up to 200 without any problem whatsoever. On the other side, he agrees with Commissioner Mansell that kids don't need to be put into an alternative management unit hunt for a juniors hunt.

Commissioner Mansell recapped a sequence of events going back to the August guidelines meeting. At that meeting the ADA presented the Commission with some recommendations and he championed those recommendations and made a motion to approve them. Commissioner Harris seconded that motion and Commissioner Husted reluctantly voted aye with the two other Commissioners voting nay. When those recommendations were approved, everyone knew that there would be fewer tags come this time of the year, maybe by 1000-2000 fewer tags. Then in January, HB 2072 came about and one of the talking points was the reduction of hunter opportunity (i.e. tag numbers), and he kept waiting for Mr. Koleszar or ADA to stand up and say that the Commission did exactly what the ADA asked them to do. By not hearing that, he felt thrown under the bus.

Mr. Koleszar stated that he did not create HB 2072 and he doesn't think being thrown under the bus is an accurate assessment. For a long period of time (16 years) with a combination of drought and the lack of what they considered a real comprehensive predator management plan by former Commissions (they support the current Commission), they saw or witnessed a reduction of tags.

Pete Cimellaro, Past President, ADA: Briefed the Commission on the history of deer on the Kaibab. There is a lot more data now and so there is a lot more confidence in how we approach the Kaibab.

Randy Phillips, Arizona Bowhunters Association (ABA): Asked the Commission to reconsider the Department's position on moving the archery deer in Units 3A and 3C to a draw.

Commissioner Husted made a suggestion on the juniors hunt for Units 3A and 3C, that the Commission leave that alone this year and then anticipate that in Unit 1 there will be an explosion in the deer population, so maybe it could be moved next year. He is also in favor of modifying the number of antlerless tags on the Kaibab.

Commissioner Mansell suggested reducing the number of antlerless tags on the Kaibab to 100 instead of 250.

Motion: Mansell moved and Husted seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 2 – DEER AS PROPOSED WITH THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS: INCREASE THE ARCHERY PERMITS IN UNITS 3A AND 3C TO 200 (LEAVE IT AS A DRAW); AND REDUCE THE ANTLERLESS TAGS IN UNIT 12AW TO 100.

Vote: Unanimous

* * * * *

Meeting recessed for a break at 10:45 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

* * * * *

Commission Order 5 - Turkey

The fall limited-weapon shotgun-shooting-shot turkey season is recommended to run October 5–11, 2012 with 5,300 permits, which is a decrease of 20 permits from 2011. There are 7 units (Units 1, 4A, 4B, 6A, 12A, 23, and 27) recommended for juniors-only seasons where over-the-counter nonpermit tags will be offered (no change from 2011). These seasons will run concurrently with the permitted turkey season in the unit. The archery fall turkey nonpermit tag season is recommended to run from August 24–September 13, 2012 with no change to open units from 2011.

Commissioner Harris asked about archery elk tag holders being able to have a companion turkey tag.

Mr. Wakeling stated that the companion turkey tag was not an option adopted during the hunt guidelines. However, that concept can be pursued through the December Commission Orders when the Department presents the elk and pronghorn recommendations. The Department will prepare a recommendation for the Commission for the December meeting that identifies the companion tags and the most appropriate units for the companion tags concept.

Motion: Mansell moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 5 – TURKEY AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 6 – Javelina

For fall 2012, the Department again recommends fall juniors-only javelina seasons, with 850 permits, during season dates that coincide with a juniors-only deer season. Units within Region 5 allocate 15% of the annual permits to either an October 12–21 or a November 23–29, 2012 season. Additional units (Units 16A, 17B, 18B, 20A, 39, and 41) also offer juniors-only opportunity, with season dates typically overlapping a school holiday.

In accordance with the 2011 hunt guidelines, the Department is also recommending the juniors-only deer hunters in Units 16A, 28, 29, 30A, 30B, 31, 32, 33, 36A, and 36B be provided with the opportunity to purchase over-the-counter "companion" tags for javelina, which must be authorized within Commission Order 26.

Motion: Husted moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 6 – JAVELINA AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 7 – Bighorn Sheep

Bighorn sheep permits are recommended for a total of 94, a decrease of 2 from last year. Permit increases are recommended in Units 15C South (1 permit), 15D (2 permits), 46A (1 permit), and 46B (2 permits). The Upper San Francisco River Hunt Area in Unit 27 is being renamed as the Lower Blue River Hunt Area because the boundary has been changed to encompass a larger area; it is recommended for 1 permit. Permit decreases are recommended in Units 12B East (1 permit), 13A (1 permit), 13B North (1 permit), 13B South (1 permit), 24B South (1 permit), 37A (1 permit), and 44B North (1 permit). Units where recent declines have been detected or suspected, specifically 15A, 15B, 15C, 15D, 45A, 45B, and 45C, are surveyed annually or bi-annually and hunt recommendations are based on these data.

Public Comment

Dave Mattausch, Past President, Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society (ADBSS) (Called in from Region V): Supports the Department's recommendations and thanked the Department for all their hard work with sheep in Region V.

Chad Jones, Vice President, ADBSS: Supports the Department's recommendations.

Curt Steinke, President, ADBSS: Supports the Department's recommendations.

Commissioner Mansell commented on the additional note (11 and 14) in the regulations that states "hunt success is averaged less than 70%." He appreciates this additional note especially in light of the earlier petition to reinstate bonus points related to an unsuccessful sheep hunt.

Motion: Harris moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 7 – BIGHORN SHEEP AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 8 – Buffalo

Two yearling buffalo hunts for 2 permits each are recommended for the Raymond Wildlife Area herd in Units 5A and 5B. This is a reduction of 2 adult-cow-only buffalo hunts for a decrease of 4 permits. These hunts are recommended to run October 5–7 and November 9–11, 2012.

No general fall hunts are recommended on the House Rock Wildlife Area herd because structured hunts have been ineffective in harvesting buffalo during the fall. In accordance with the 2011 hunt guidelines, the Department is again recommending the general deer hunters in Units 12A West and 12A East and the archery deer hunters in Units 12A and 12B be provided with the opportunity to purchase over-the-counter "companion" tags for buffalo, which must be authorized within Commission Order 26.

Motion: Harris moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 8 – BUFFALO AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order – Bear

During 2012, fall bear seasons are recommended to occur during August 10–23, from August 24 for up to 38 days, or October 5 through the end of the 2012 calendar year. The season in Units 4A and 5A is recommended to begin on November 2 and run through the end of the calendar year. General seasons may occur during any of these season dates and archery seasons may occur during the 38 day season beginning on August 24, 2012. This structure maintains open seasons while allowing Regions to manage female harvest and maintain sites to relocate nuisance bears if necessary. The 2012 recommendation is for a cumulative female harvest limit of 94 for general and 19 for archery season, which is an overall increase of 2 female bears from 2011. The recommendation includes an increase to individual general season hunt female harvest limits in Units 22 South and 27, and a decrease to the individual archery season hunt female harvest limit in Unit 27.

The annual female harvest limit will again apply to fall seasons. Annual female harvest limits were established in August 2011 for the units with 2012 spring hunts. Those units that have both spring and fall hunts were considered in the spring 2012 hunt formulation. Harvest that applies to annual female harvest limits includes any take by a hunter or Department action that occurs within a calendar year. Implementation of the annual female harvest limit may result in the closure of a hunt before it opens if the annual female harvest limit is reached before the start of a season. Annual female harvest limits are recommended to increase in the following open areas Unit 5B, Unit 6B, Units 7 and 9, Unit 8, Units 17A, 17B, 18B, 20A, and 20B, Unit 19A, Unit 22 North, Unit 22 South, and Unit 28. The annual female harvest limit is recommended to decrease in Units 10, 18A, and 19B and Unit 34A.

Hunters will need to contact the Department before they go hunting to determine if a specific hunt unit is open, and notification of this need will be plainly identified within the regulations. Compliance with the mandatory physical check for bear remains high.

Motion: Davis moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 9 – BEAR AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 10 – Mountain Lion

The Department recommends an open mountain lion season for daylight hours from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 in all open units in accordance with the hunt guidelines. Multiple bag limit seasons with daylong shooting hours are recommended for Units 13B South, Units 15B West, 15C, and 15D, Units 16A South and 18B South, Unit 22 South, the Aravaipa-Galiuro hunt area within Units 31 and 32, and Unit 37B North. Multiple bag limit seasons with daylight shooting hours are recommended for the Bear Canyon Hunt Area in Unit 27 and the Lower Blue River Hunt Area in Unit 27 (the Lower Blue River Hunt Area corresponds with the larger area encompassed by bighorn sheep). In accordance with 2011 hunt guidelines and the establishment of minimal occurrence zones for mountain lions, Units 39 West, 40A, 40B, 41, 42, 43A, 43B, 44A, and 44B are recommended for daylong shooting hours with a bag limit of 3 mountain lions per year. The multiple bag limit seasons in Units 40A, 42 South, and 44A East are recommended for removal since these areas are included within the minimal occurrence zones. Unit 6A South is recommended for removal from the multiple bag limit season structure; the population triggers for the bighorn sheep population in that area have been achieved. Compliance with the mandatory physical check for harvested mountain lion remains high.

Public Comment

Dave Mattausch, Past President, Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society (ADBSS) (Called in from Region V): Supports the Department's recommendations as proposed.

Curt Steinke, President, ADBSS: Supports the Department's recommendations, especially the multiple bag in Units 31 and 32.

Chad Jones, Vice President, ADBSS: Supports the Department's recommendations, but wanted to add that ADBSS is not out to get the lions. They are viable and necessary for biodiversity in the state and for wildlife. He is looking forward to all interactions between mountain lion and sheep reaching the point as it has in Unit 6A South where the multiple bag limit is being removed.

Phil Hedrick, Conservation Biologist at ASU: Opposes the multiple bag limit in Aravaipa Canyon; Does not believe that Aravaipa Canyon sheep should be used as a translocation source for other places; There is very little evidence of mountain lion impacts on Aravaipa sheep; Disapproves of ADBSS hiring bounty hunters to kill mountain lions in the area.

Mike Sorum, representing himself: Opposes Commission Order 10; Need to look at predators differently; Believes in the North American Model and that it saved a lot animals, but predators should be looked at as valuable to the ecosystem; Believes in a management system, but it seems like it is anti-predator right now.

Chairman Freeman stated that the mountain lion always polarizes folks. He doesn't agree 100% with the Department recommendation, but he doesn't think anyone does. He thanked the

Department for their work and for bringing forward a sound recommendation and he will support it.

Commissioner Harris noted that the Department/Commission manages the mountain lion as a big game species and the illusion that it is looked at strictly as a predator is not true. Further, the ADBSS has stated here today that they support the removal of the multiple bag limit in units where the objectives have been reached.

Curt Steinke, President, ADBSS: Reiterated that ADBSS is not out to get rid of the mountain lions in Arizona.

Motion: Harris moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 10 – MOUNTAIN LION AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 26 – Population Management Seasons

Population management seasons are recommended for buffalo (cow or yearling buffalo only) to be available to permitted general, muzzleloader, and archery deer hunters in Unit 12A. These seasons are also recommended for javelina to be available to juniors-only muzzleloader deer hunters in Unit 16A and juniors-only general season deer hunters in Units 28, 29, 30A, 30B, 31, 32, 33, 36A, and 36B. These permits are popularly known as "companion" tags. Buffalo population management restricted nonpermit tags are recommended at 840 for general seasons, 50 for muzzleloader seasons, and 700 for archery seasons. Juniors-only javelina population management restricted nonpermit tags are recommended at 575 for general and 25 for muzzleloader juniors-only seasons. These permits will be available only to hunters that successfully draw a deer tag in the coincidental deer hunt.

Motion: Davis moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 26 – POPULATION MANAGEMENT SEASONS AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 11 – Tree Squirrel

The Department recommends no change to the tree squirrel seasons for 2012–2014.

Commission Order 12 – Cottontail Rabbit

The Department recommends no change to the cottontail rabbit seasons for 2012–2014.

Commission Order 13 – Predatory and Fur-Bearing Mammals

The Department recommends reestablishing the limited-weapon shotgun-shooting-shot season during daylight hours for coyotes in Units 11M, 25M, 26M, 38M, and 47M (these units were inadvertently removed in December when an amendment was made to this Commission Order).

The Department recommends maintaining daylong seasons for coyote within the months of March, April, and May for Units 2A, 4A, 10, 13A, 17A, 17B, 31, 32, 34B, 35A, and 35B, although Unit 36B is recommended for removal from the daylong season structure because coyotes may not be hunted in proximity to the pronghorn herd that resides on the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. There are no other changes recommended to the predatory and fur-bearing mammal seasons for 2012–2014.

Commission Order 14 – Other Birds and Mammals

The Department recommends no change to the other birds and mammals seasons for 2012–2014.

Commission Order 15 – Pheasant

The Department recommends 3, 7-day limited-weapon shotgun-shooting-shot seasons with 50 permits each for the 2012–2014 seasons. Although there are no changes recommended to the total number of permits, last year there were 4 seasons of 3 days each. All pheasant hunts in Units 40B are draw hunts. Dates for the individual hunts are adjusted periodically to accommodate local agricultural practices and conditions to maximize hunter success. The juniors-only hunt is recommended with 40 permits (an increase of 10). The archery and falconry seasons remain unchanged. Dates for the hunts in 2012 and 2013 are specified in the attached Commission Orders.

Commission Order 16 – Quail

The Department recommends that the Mearns' quail season begin 1 week later than during prior years in accordance with the hunt guidelines. No other change to the quail seasons is recommended for 2012–2014.

Commission Order 17 – Chukar Partidge

The Department recommends no change to the chukar partridge seasons for 2012–2014.

Commission Order 18 – Blue (Dusky) Grouse

The Department recommends minor change to the blue (dusky) grouse seasons for 2012–2014. The Department continues to recommend Units 4A and 5A remain closed to allow grouse transplants to proceed in those units, and recommends the closure of Unit 31 to facilitate grouse transplants in the Pinaleno Mountains.

Motion: Davis moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDERS 11–18 AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 23 – Trapping

The Department recommends no change to the trapping seasons for 2012–2014.

Motion: Harris moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 23 AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

* * * * *

3. Hunt Permit-Tag Application Schedule for Fall 2012 Hunts

Presenter: Lizette Morgan, CFO, Business & Finance

Ms. Morgan provided the Commission with a brief presentation relating to the hunt permit-tag application schedule for the Fall 2012 hunting seasons (attached). The application schedule identifies proposed acceptance dates and deadline dates for all hunts associated with the draw process. In addition, the proposed dates for when hunt permit-tags and refund warrants will be mailed are also identified, along with information relating to the first-come/first-serve process for any permits that may still be available. A new addition to the application schedule is a deadline date for online applicants to change any credit card information that is provided to the Department.

Chairman Freeman requested that the Department continue to work with the vendor to get closer and closer to the draw deadline date to be able to make corrections. He would like to get even more automated, so that customers can have the most amount of time to make changes and corrections.

Motion: Harris moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION SCHEDULE FOR THE 2012 WINTER HUNTS.

Vote: Unanimous

* * * * *

4. 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: Harris moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Vote: Unanimous

* * * * *

3A. Briefing of Online Draw Including Credit Card Fraud

Presenter: Lizette Morgan, CFO, Business & Finance

Ms. Morgan provided the Commission with a presentation related to the Winter 2012 online draw process including information on a reported widespread credit card fraud issue that may have adversely affected some applications. The Department had a very successful online application period for the Winter 2012 draw. 64% or more than 84,000 applicants were received by the Department online. Customer feedback on the application process indicated a satisfaction rating with the online application process of 97%. During the period in which the Department was attempting to charge successful applicants' credit cards for permit fees, an announcement of widespread potential fraud related to Visa and MasterCard was made. It is believed that banks placed restrictions on cards during this time period due to the potential for fraud. There is the possibility that credit card companies denied certain credit card charges due to the fraud alert for some Department customers who were successfully drawn. Based on the Department's standard operating procedures, the tags were then assigned to the next person who would have been drawn.

If requested, the Department can provide the Commission with a more complete analysis of the situation, including the legal perspective, and provide the Commission with potential courses of action open for their consideration at the next Commission meeting.

Chairman Freeman stated that he would like to try to quantify the extent of the fraud that occurred after the cut-off date and he is talking about those that are directly attributable and can be proven to be a result of that national fraud that occurred.

Commissioner Davis stated that he wanted it to be clear in the record that the fraud situation had nothing to do with the Department. It had to do with banks and credit cards outside of the Department's purview. The Department's online system works and he encourages the continued use of that system.

* * * * *

5. Litigation Report

The Commission was provided with a written Litigation Report (attached), which was also provided to the public. There were no additional updates and the Commission had no comments or questions.

* * * * *

6. Approval of Minutes and Signing of Minutes.

Motion: Harris moved and Husted seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 10, 2012 AND MARCH 9, 2012.

Vote: Unanimous

The Commission signed the minutes following approval.

* * * * *

7. Director’s and Chairman’s Reports

The Commission was in consensus to dispense with the Director’s and Chairman’s reports.

* * * * *

8. Commissioners’ Reports

The Commission was in consensus to dispense with the Commissioners’ reports.

* * * * *

9. Future Agenda Items and Action Items

Mr. Broscheid captured the following action and future agenda items:

- Coordinate with the State Parks Board and Chairman Freeman and develop a date and an agenda for a joint Board and Commission meeting
- Incorporate into the Shooting Sports Update, an update on the Oro Valley Shooting Range project
- The Department will analyze Rules and Article changes as discussed in Friday’s agenda item 13: Article 1 - look at a waiting period following the draw of a trophy animal like bull elk or antelope, and have a robust Commission/Department discussion with public input about this topic; Article 3 look at the baiting issue, particularly involving salt, and bring that to the Commission for discussion; Article 1 - discuss the use of technologies and whether the Department will be prepared to deal with the use of new technologies as they become easier to obtain.
- The Department will prepare a recommendation for December to evaluate the options for the companion archery turkey tags to coincide with the archery elk season
- Develop and formalize a free symbolic hunt and fish license for youth that participate in any Department education or recruitment program. This will include a mechanism to capture customer data to assist with program evaluations.
- Look at scheduling a telephonic meeting on the Grand Canyon National Monument proposal

Commissioner Davis added that he would also like a discussion on the free youth hunt and fish license age limit being 18.

* * * * *

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

Vote: Unanimous

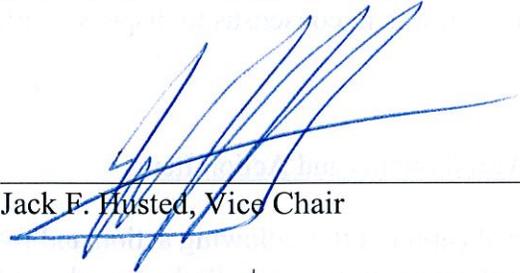
* * * * *

Meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

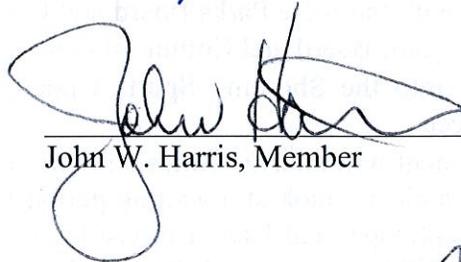
* * * * *



Norman W. Freeman, Chairman



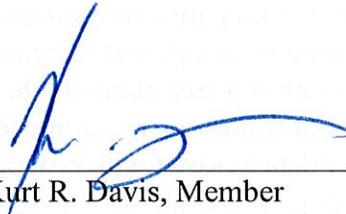
Jack F. Husted, Vice Chair



John W. Harris, Member

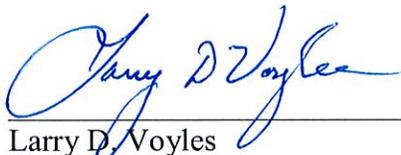


Robert E. Mansell, Member



Kurt R. Davis, Member

ATTEST:



Larry D. Voyles
Secretary and Director

**Game and Fish Litigation Report
Presented at the Commission Meeting
April 13-14, 2012**

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. Based on a stipulation from the plaintiffs and federal defendants, the court issued an additional order giving the parties until October 24, 2011 to file a status report.

The parties filed a stipulated briefing schedule on October 31, 2011, and the Court entered an order on November 1, 2011, requiring the plaintiffs to file a motion for injunctive relief by December 16, 2011, defendants' and interveners' response by January 27, 2012, and plaintiffs' reply by February 24, 2012. Briefing is complete on the plaintiffs' motion for injunctive relief.

2. *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) challenges the road designations in the Plans by alleging violations of the NEPA, FLPMA, NHPA and presidential proclamations for the Vermillion Cliffs and Grand Canyon-Parashant.

The court granted BLM's motions for summary judgment on all issues in both cases, agreeing with BLM, NRA, Safari Club and AGFD that the management of hunting on public lands is reserved to the states, and that BLM is not authorized by any federal regulation or policy to regulate the manner or methods of hunting on its public lands. On October 17 the Wilderness Society filed a notice of appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

3. *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 filed the administrative record on September 26, 2011. The plaintiffs have 45 days from that date to file an opening brief. The plaintiffs filed an opening brief on October 14, 2011 and the Commission's answering brief is due December 13, 2011. The Plaintiffs filed a reply on December 30, 2011.

The Court issued a ruling on January 31, 2012, affirming the Commission's license revocation and civil assessment decisions. The Court entered a judgment for the Commission on February 15, 2012. The plaintiffs filed with the Court a motion to vacate and for rehearing on February 28, 2012.

The Court denied the plaintiffs' motion to vacate on March 22, 2012.

Lands Update
For the Arizona Game and Fish Commission
April 6, 2012
Phoenix, Arizona

FOREST SERVICE LAND AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Coconino National Forest

The Department held its annual coordination with meeting with the Coconino National Forest and the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Flagstaff. The Forest provided updates on their Travel Management Rule (TMR) and Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) Revision process. The Forest intends to begin implementation of the TMR in early May, beginning with the release of their Motor Vehicle Use Map and public outreach. The Forest is planning to release the Draft EIS for its LRMP in late summer 2012 for a 90-day review, with the Final EIS expected by the end of 2013.

Coronado National Forest

The Coronado National Forest announced March 23rd, that the scoping comment periods for the Travel Management Environmental Assessments being prepared on the Douglas, Nogales, Sierra Vista and Safford Ranger Districts will be extended to June 1, 2012. This extension was decided based on public interest and the collaborative alternative process being conducted with the public, and the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution. The Department provided comments on the Nogales travel management plan in 2007, and again during the original scoping period for this process in October of 2010. We are currently analyzing the latest scoping information to try to decipher what has changed or remained the same, and will provide an additional comment letter with any new comments and incorporating our comments from the last two comment periods.

The Forest hired the “*U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, of the Udall Foundation*” to develop a working group from outside agencies, local government, landowners/ranchers, sportsmen, and environmental groups and facilitate seven public meetings. This fifteen-person “Collaborative Alternative Team” (CAT), was selected to develop an alternative to the Forest’s “Proposed Action”, and they will travel to public meetings in each Ranger District. The CAT team is working to identify common-ground, on what changes should be made to the Forest road system. The team is identifying recreational and habitat concerns and is expected to produce a “*Collaborative Alternative*” so the Forest can potentially use this information to modify their Proposed Action, on each Ranger District.

The Department has a regional access specialist on the CAT core team, with local wildlife managers contributing their expertise at the local meetings. Several members of the CAT team have dropped out and the Department is evaluating whether continued participation on the team is value-added.

Previously the Coronado has not allowed draft versions of the Coronado Forest Land Management Plan (LMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be released to the Department. The Department has also been precluded from participation on the Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team) writing the plan. The Department was offered the opportunity to review the “working draft” by appointment in the Forest Service office, but the Forest would not allow the

Department to possess the draft due to concerns that draft versions would then be subject to state public records requests. The Forest has now published the Working Draft on the Coronado's website and informed the Department that we may review and comment, although this draft version is preliminary and not yet part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The Department will be reviewing the posted version of the working draft and has already received some inquiries from our constituents about potential effects of new policies including a reduction in group sizes allowed in Wilderness areas.

Kaibab National Forest

The Kaibab National Forest met with the Department to discuss the Kane Allotment Management Plan. This allotment is up for renewal and incorporates the Westside of the Kaibab Plateau which is premier winter range for mule deer. The Department has invested in mule deer habitat improvements on the Westside and will be engaged in the Forest's allotment management planning process.

Tonto National Forest

The Tonto released the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for motorized travel management in January 2012. The proposed action alternative preferred by the forest includes removing motorized big game retrieval of deer, prohibits all cross-country motorized travel, and limits the motorized big game retrieval to within 200 yards of open Forest Service roads and motorized trails across all districts. The proposed action alternative permits roadside parking up to one-vehicle length from the edge of the road for the purpose of dispersed motorized camping. The limitation would also be placed on some of those existing spur roads commonly used, forcing the public into areas within closer proximity to one another and potentially expanding the footprint of these dispersed camping areas. The proposed action alternative also recommends Sycamore and St. Claire OHV areas to be managed by permit. Impacts to law enforcement staff both within the Forest and other agencies do not seem to be considered within the proposed action alternative. The Forest does not mention any plans to coordinate with local law enforcement and judicial jurisdictions to ensure successful implementation of the Motor Vehicle Use Map. In general, the use and designation of several hundred miles of roads as "Administrative Use Only" will be a new term for the public to understand but is defined with the DEA as closed to public use. The Department met with the forest to discuss concerns and submitted the formal response letter by the March deadline. The Department remains concerned with consistency across forests, lack of early state coordination and recognition of state authorities, and overall limitations to the recreating public.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (A-S)

Department personnel met with the Clifton Ranger District March 14 for the annual coordination meeting. Items discussed included the current round of hunt recommendations, plans to address feral cattle on the AD Bar Allotment, and various planned and ongoing habitat restoration projects on the District.

Rodeo-Chediski Fire Prescribed Burn Project

The Decision Notice Finding of No Significant Impact for the Rodeo-Chediski Fire Prescribed Burn Project (Project) was signed in February. The Project will allow for the implementation of prescribed burning, as funding is available, on 5,000 to 15,000 acres per year across the 148,222 acre analysis area. The Department will be working closely with the Lakeside and Black Mesa Ranger Districts in the design and implementation of this project, as well as pursuing funding opportunities.

Wallow West Fuel Reduction and Forest Recovery Project

The A-S has developed a modified Purpose and Need and Proposed Action for the Wallow West Fuel Reduction and Forest Recovery Project. Key changes include the elimination of the proposed green tree thinning, including the treatment of conifer encroached grasslands elimination of the proposed landscape scale prescribed fire, and the reduction in reforestation activities. The project will retain its focus on salvaging Wallow Fire impacted dead and dying trees. These changes were made in an attempt to streamline the analysis and enable the A-S to meet time constraints.

Coronado National Forest

The Department completed construction of a new wildlife water catchment in the Coronado National Forest, GMU 34A. This project was funded through the Habitat Partnership Committee (HPC) process. Volunteers and Department personnel spent approximately 7 days working on the development.

Tonto National Forest

Currently, the forest is completing the draft existing conditions and refining the Purpose and Need Statement for the Fossil Creek Comprehensive River Management Plan. The ID Team found the initial Purpose and Need Statement too broad to adequately focus on the specific needs in the Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River, and identify the general and key issues.

The forest released the draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the forest wide Integrated Treatment of Invasive or Noxious Plants in March. The forest proposes to conduct control treatments for invasive plants throughout the area of the forest (2.9 million acres). The proposed action would utilize the approach of integrated vegetation management and the methods would include: manual/mechanical, burning/flaming, cultural, biological control agents, and herbicides. The Department is currently reviewing the DEA for submission of a response in April. The Department supports the forest and recognized the need for this integrated approach to effectively manage this threat; however, we remain concerned for biological controls (livestock and/or insects) and any unintended herbicide impacts to non-target species and aquatic/riparian systems.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

Hassayampa Field Office

The BLM is proposing fuels reduction treatments for the entire field office area boundaries. This project has just initiated and no information has yet become available for review. Early communication could provide some opportunity for experimental approaches to fuel reduction and targets could be identified for potential herbicide use.

Kingman BLM Field Office

Department personnel are assisting the BLM Kingman Field Office's Wild Horse and Burro Specialist with 7 days of helicopter burro surveys on lands proximate to Alamo Lake and the Big Sandy, Santa Maria, and Bill Williams Rivers. BLM is utilizing the Department double count methodology while making use of BLM's USGS-approved survey methodology – for the purpose of establishing reliable burro population estimates that will be used to guide burro management actions in upcoming fiscal years.

Lake Havasu Field Office

Department personnel participated in route evaluations for the Cactus Plain Travel Management Plan. The route evaluations for the Cactus Plain area should be completed in July, and then the evaluations for the Bouse area will begin.

Lower Sonoran Field Office

The Lower Sonoran field Office has announced a release date of May 4, 2012 for the Final Lower Sonoran/Sonoran Desert National Monument Resource Management Plan and EIS. The Department will meet with the Lower Sonoran Field Office to discuss changes from the draft document. The Record of Decision is scheduled to be published in September 2012.

Yuma Field Office

The Yuma Field Office released the final EA for the burro gather for the Cibola-Trigo Herd Management Area. The final decision was to gather 350 burros and not to release any geldings. Department personnel will meet with the Yuma Field Office and U.S Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Complex Office in April to make final edits to the Trigo-Imperial Wilderness Plan.

BLM NATIONAL MONUMENTS & CONSERVATION AREAS

Proposed National Monument by Conservation Groups

There is a new proposed National Monument up here that would connect, in essence, Glen Canyon Recreation area with the Parashant Monument for a total of 1.7 million acres. The proposal (attached) comes from the Center for Biological Diversity, Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, and The Wilderness Society.

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument / Vermillion Cliffs National Monument

Parashant Partnership

The Parashant Partnership is a collaborative group of stakeholders working with the BLM Strip District and National Monuments to identify restoration projects of mutual interest. An upcoming workshop (April 2 and 3rd) in St George aims to identify a priority place or focus area where the partnership can provide additional assessments, monitoring, and management recommendation of on-the-ground treatments. The Department plans to use the Species and Habitat Conservation Guide (crucial habitats) to help facilitate this process in order to assure that wildlife species concerns are taken into consideration.

Wilderness Society and the Center for Biological Diversity litigation

On September 30, 2011 the Arizona federal district court upheld BLM's Records of Decision and Resource Management Plans (RMPs) for the Arizona Strip District and the Grand Canyon-Parashant and Vermillion Cliffs National Monuments. The RMPs were challenged in separate lawsuits in 2009 by the Wilderness Society and the Center for Biological Diversity. One of the claims in the Center's lawsuit was that BLM violated NEPA by failing to analyze the effects of hunters' lead ammunition use on California condors. The NRA and Safari Club intervened in the suit and the Arizona Game and Fish Department filed an amicus brief.

The court granted BLM's motions for summary judgment on all issues in both cases, agreeing with BLM, NRA, Safari Club and AGFD that the management of hunting on public lands is reserved to the states, and that BLM is not authorized by any federal regulation or policy to regulate the manner or methods of hunting on its public lands. The Center for Biological Diversity did not appeal the decision. The Wilderness Society did appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The issues raised in the Wilderness Society appeal involve BLM's road designations on the Monuments.

Ironwood Forest National Monument

The Department filed a protest on the *Ironwood Forest National Monument Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)* on October 24, 2011. The PRMP would close the monument to recreational firearms use and discharge except for hunting. The Department has not received a response from BLM to date.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION & NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and National Park Service (NPS) are leading an effort to develop a Long Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The purpose is to evaluate dam operations and provide the basis for decisions that identify management actions and experimental options that will provide a framework for adaptively managing Glen Canyon Dam over the next 15 to 20 years. The last EIS for Glen Canyon Dam, which was led by Reclamation, was completed in 1995. The purpose of this EIS is to use scientific information developed over the past 15 years to better inform decisions on dam operations and other management and experimental actions so that the Secretary of Interior may continue to meet statutory responsibilities for protecting downstream resources. A draft Memorandum of Understanding acknowledging the Department's role as a cooperator is currently being reviewed by the Department. A scoping report was published in March summarizing comments received during the scoping period. A number of anglers and angling groups provided comments expressing the value of the Lees Ferry rainbow trout fishery. Additionally, a number of commenter's expressed the value of the native aquatic community downstream from Lees Ferry. Department personnel participated in a monthly conference call on March 27th and will attend an alternatives workshop on April 4th and 5th in Flagstaff. It is anticipated that a draft EIS will be completed by December 2012 with the final EIS completed by fall 2013. A website has been developed to track the progress of this EIS: <http://ltempeis.anl.gov/index.cfm>.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Florence Military Range (Florence)

The final Integrated Resource Management Plan (INRMP) is currently being revised to incorporate our information and concerns. The purpose of the INRMP is to develop a plan that integrates natural resources management with the military mission. Florence must provide a variety of environmental conditions and ecosystems in which to train soldiers while providing for sustainable, healthy ecosystems and complying with all applicable environmental laws and regulations. The INRMP provides the basis for the conservation and protection of natural resources by reducing potential adverse effects on the species found on the installation and simultaneously conserving biodiversity. Implementation of this plan will increase overall knowledge of Florence's ecosystem through surveys, research, and outreach programs. The Department provided various comments to update, clarify, and strengthen the partnership between the agencies, in support of the overall goals and objectives.

GENERAL UPDATES

Access Agreements

Bar S Ranch

The Department continues to coordinate with the owners of the Bar S Ranch regarding the details of a seven year access agreement that will be a continuation of an access agreement that expired in February. The final details of that agreement will be worked out in upcoming weeks.

Upper Music Mountain Allotment

Department personnel have reached a verbal agreement with Ranch Management for the Upper Music Mountain Allotment in GMU 15A for a 3 year access agreement. That agreement will soon be drafted and submitted for appropriate signatures. Details will be made available as the specifics of the agreement are worked out.

Agency Coordination

The Department will meet April 3-4 with the BLM Gila District and the Coronado National Forest for our annual agency coordination meeting. The meeting will be held at Kentucky Camp in the Santa Rita Mountains. Agenda items for the meeting include USFS shooting range development, Ironwood Forest National Monument Resource Management Plan update, Sunzia Transmission Line, Rosemont Mine, and USFS Range Program.

Arizona Watchable Wildlife Experience

In partnership with the Forest Service, Coconino County, City of Flagstaff, and Arizona Wildlife Federation, the Department has launched a comprehensive watchable wildlife network for the Flagstaff area. The approach includes site development, an interactive website, map guides, educational materials and programming.

City of Scottsdale

The City of Scottsdale and the Department are currently finalizing an Intergovernmental Agreement to cooperatively manage fish and wildlife resources, practice multiple-use resource management, coordinate natural resource planning efforts, law enforcement and information and education program on McDowell Mountain Preserve. The Department continues to work

collaboratively with the City regarding the research and management of the preserve. The Department will be meeting in April with the City regarding trail planning in the area.

Coconino County Comprehensive Plan Energy Element

The Coconino County's new draft Energy Element (Element) has been submitted to the County Planning and Zoning Commission for review and is scheduled to be acted on by the Planning and Zoning Commission in a public hearing at the end of April. In support of this review Department staff will give a presentation on wildlife issues and the role of agency consultation in wind permitting to a joint informational session of the Coconino County Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Supervisors in early April. If approved, the Energy Element will be added as an amendment to the existing Comprehensive plan.

Coconino County Rogers Lake Natural Area

The Department participated in a field trip with Coconino County in early March and met with NRCS Field Office staff in Flagstaff to begin cooperative development of a range monitoring protocol that will help to inform the County's ongoing cattle and sheep grazing management in the natural area.

Maricopa County Flood Control

The District is currently working to develop a biological "screen" for their Landscape Inventory Analysis. The Department will provide information on this effort, along with developing the ratings for the structures. The idea is to develop a rating system for all the Maricopa Linkages and their wildlife attributes as described in the Maricopa County linkage report. This is a proactive opportunity to develop ratings on flood control structures for wildlife. The end product becomes a biological screen (used in addition to other "screens" like existing landscape, future landscape, parks & recreation, open space) that is used for predictive analyses. This will help generate compatibility classification maps for different flood control methods/structures as they relate to the various resources/values such as "wildlife". Ultimately this data would be used at the front end of planning processes to create alternatives for flood control developments.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

The Department met with NRCS in Willcox to discuss [Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program](#) (WHIP) and [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP) applications for the Bonita Grasslands Restoration Project north of Willcox and potential matching funding sources from the Department. Approximately 2,740 acres has been approved for WHIP and EQIP fiscal year 2012 funding sources and the Department may be assisting with funding on 1,340 of those acres. Approximately 6,500 acres have been completed to date.

Thanks to the new partnership with NRCS which has funded a new Wildlife Habitat Stewardship (WHS) Specialist in Region 5, the Department met with personnel from NRCS, Arizona State Land Department (ASLD), and the producer at the Stockton Hills Ranch east of Tombstone. The purpose of the visit was to go over the Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) for the ranch which is mostly made of State Land with the remainder being private land. The Department reviewed the document and the proposed projects to be implemented on the ranch to improve wildlife habitat.

The Department met with a contractor for the Arizona Association of Natural Resource Conservation Districts (AANRCD) and personnel from NRCS to collect range health data on the Lazy S Ranch north of Willcox which has a 14,000ac State Land allotment with the remainder being private land and is run in conjunction with a 4,500ac allotment on the Coronado Forest.

Northern Pike Removal

Department personnel conducted annual Northern pike removal efforts at Rainbow Lake, Navajo County, in the first 2 weeks of March. A total of 140 pike were captured with gillnets and removed during this intensive effort. A large number of small pike (1-2 pounds) were caught, but a fair number of large spawning adults were also removed. These annual efforts appear to be having some level of success, based on the presence of higher numbers of sunfish than have been seen in many years. There still has been no stocked trout carry over since illegally stocked pike became established in the reservoir.

Department personnel also conducted the first Northern pike removal effort at Fool Hollow Lake, Navajo County. Pike were known to exist in Fool Hollow Lake, but in low numbers. Recently the Department has received reports of more frequent angler catches of pike, thus this mechanical control effort was planned. The lake was gillnetted intensely for 3 weeks, catching only 35 pike. However, they were all large individuals that have the ability to consume approximately 4000 stocked rainbow trout, based on sizes of the pike, sizes of the stocked trout, and the calculated bioenergetics of pike at these temperatures. The largest pike removed from Fool Hollow Lake was 26 pounds and 45 inches long. A smaller but still large pike had a 16" rainbow trout in its gut. The removal effort was considered to be a success and worth the effort, based on the number of stocked trout that will not be consumed by pike this year.

PM-10

Pinal County Air Quality Update

Department personnel attended a stakeholder meeting hosted by ADEQ and Pinal County Air Quality District on February 9, 2012. The EPA is currently in the process of designating large portions of Pinal County as "Non-attainment" for ambient air quality standards. This means that over the next three years Pinal County will have to come up with rules/regulations/policies contained within a State Implementation Plan (SIP) to address the poor air quality. The expected boundary of the "non-attainment" area in Pinal County will be much larger than what the state submitted to the EPA. The Department will have to work to influence the anticipated rules/regulations/policies just as we have in Maricopa County, to ensure that they are not too restrictive on access for outdoor related recreation.

Maricopa County Air Quality Update

ADEQ and MAG will conduct a joint public hearing on the MAG 2012 Five Percent Plan for PM-10 for the Maricopa County nonattainment area on April 12, 2012. MAG's Plan and Technical Support Document are posted at www.azmag.gov. At its May 23rd meeting, the MAG Regional Council will consider submittal to ADEQ for submittal to EPA. ADEQ will conduct a separate public comment period beginning later this month and a separate public hearing later in April for the 2012 Five Percent Plan for the Pinal County Township 1 North, Range 8 East Nonattainment Area. Details will be provided after dates are confirmed. Both portions of the Plan will be submitted to EPA in one package. The Department has reviewed the Plan and has

worked with ADEQ and MCAQD to ensure that Department interests are maintained within the Plan.

Proposed Rosemont Copper Project

The Department continues to monitor the progress of the Rosemont Copper Project. The Coronado Forest is in the process of compiling and reviewing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Arizona Corporation Commission Hearing on Rosemont

The Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) has ordered a hearing on the environmental and ecological impacts of the Rosemont Mine and its transmission line. Details of the hearing have not been finalized.

The impetus for the ACC's action was the decision of the Line Siting Committee to revoke the intervenor status of one Elizabeth Webb, who was poised to give testimony before the Line Siting Committee concerning the adverse environmental effects of the mine and who was not allowed to testify.

The Line Siting Committee is authorized to consider imposing conditions on a certificate of environmental compatibility and is statutorily empowered to consider, inter alia, "fish, wildlife and plant life and associated forms of life upon which they depend", the "proposed availability of the site to the public for recreational purposes", the "total environment of the area", and, "the committee shall give special consideration to the protection of areas unique because of biological wealth or because they are habitats for rare and endangered species". A.R.S. § 40-360.06.

The ACC's order intends to take testimony not just on the environmental impacts of the transmission line, but the Rosemont Mine as well. The transmission line is a connected action to the Mine under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) through which process the Department has commented to the Coronado Forest. The ACC hearing is not part of the NEPA process.

The Department has the option to intervene in the ACC hearing in order to provide testimony to the ACC. If Threatened or Endangered species may be impacted by the mine or its transmission lines (and related support infrastructure), the USFWS will have the option to intervene and testify as well.

Prospect/American West Potash

Department personnel are attending the public meetings sponsored by the Little Colorado River Plateau Resource and Development group detailing information on Prospect/American West Potash mine to be located east and southeast of the Petrified Forest National Park. The first occurred on March 19 in Saint Johns and Pat Avery, Prospect CEO, gave an overview of potash mining. The next public meeting in Apache County will be in Eagar on April 23 covering the topic of Environmental Issues. The final meeting will be held in Saint Johns on May 21 and will cover Economics associated with the potash mine. Prospect/American Potash is moving forward to obtain the necessary permits in order to develop a potash mine in Apache County.

Renewable Energy Development

Wind

Mohave County Wind Project

The proponents of the Mohave County Wind Farm project will release the Draft EIS for public review on April 17, 2012. The Notice of Availability will be published in the Federal Register on April 27, 2012, starting a 45-day public comment period that will run through June 11, 2012. The BLM will be holding four separate public meetings to encourage participation in review of the Draft EIS and to provide feedback and comments on the project analysis. These meetings will take place the week of April 14, 2012, in the towns of Kingman, Meadview, Dolan Springs, and White Hills, Arizona. Responses to comments received from this review period will be incorporated into the Final EIS to the extent practicable.

Boquillas

The Department is reviewing a set of biological studies of the Boquillas Wind Energy Project provided by Western Ecosystems Technology, Inc. (WEST), and will participate in a joint meeting with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists in early April to discuss our respective analyses of these reports and continue our ongoing coordination. The Department will submit formal comment to Edison Mission Energy and the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) who are jointly pursuing this project. The Department and USFWS will also participate in a meeting with Edison and the NTUA in late April to provide initial feedback on WEST's reports and review the developers' plans for further wildlife studies at the project site.

Perrin Ranch

The Department is a participant on the Perrin Wind Farm's Technical Advisory Committee which advises the developer on wildlife issues. On March 27th, the Technical Advisory Committee visited the operating wind farm. The wind farm has been running since mid January and is producing power into the grid. The Department is currently reviewing an MOU for the Technical Advisory Committee.

Grapevine

The Department is reviewing the first draft of the Avian and Bat Protection Plan (ABPP) for the Grapevine wind project. Major topics to discuss and negotiate with the developer (Foresight Wind Energy and Mission Energy) will be possible mortality to birds and bats, and the possible impact of the wind farm on the pronghorn herd on Anderson Mesa. The developers have not yet procured a Power Purchase Agreement from a power company or a Conditional Use Permit from Coconino County. A meeting regarding the ABPP will occur May 2nd in which the Department plans to engage developers in discussions related to the possible funding of pronghorn research.

San Luis

Clean Wind Energy Inc. is currently proposing the construction of two downdraft towers located along the US/Mexico border on Bureau of Reclamation land. The downdraft tower is a hollow cylinder where water is pumped to the top and sprayed as a fine mist. The water evaporates, cools, and falls through the cylinder at speeds of approximately 50 M.P.H., driving turbines inside the towers base. Department personnel have provided comments to the City of San Luis on the rezoning application. The Department will participate in the NEPA compliance process.

Longview Energy Exchange, LLC Hydropower Project

Longview LLC has applied for a permit from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to study the feasibility of a three-reservoir pumped hydropower energy generating facility in Chino Valley. The project as proposed would involve the construction of two upper elevation reservoirs and a lower elevation reservoir to provide for electrical power generation. The project would be constructed on and in the vicinity of the CF and CV ranches (a.k.a Chino Grande) in unit 19B in Chino Valley. The project would also require the siting and construction of transmission lines to and from the facilities with an interconnect to a large regional transmission line. The water source currently identified for the proposed reservoirs is groundwater pumped from the Big Chino aquifer on the Chino Grande Ranch. Total reservoir capacity and initial filling as currently envisioned would require approximately 17,500 acre-feet of water with an annual replacement for evaporation and seepage of approximately 1,200-1,300 acre-feet. On March 8, 2012 the Arizona Game and Fish Department submitted a notice of intervention to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on this project. Representing the Commission as the owner of the Upper Verde River Wildlife Area, the Department sought intervenor status in this FERC process to remain involved and informed as this process moves forward. The concerns of the Department were multiple: impacts to the Upper Verde River stream flow as a result of proposed groundwater pumping in Chino Valley; potential impacts to public access to State trust lands located within the boundaries of Chino Grande Ranch for the purposes of hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreational pursuits; and, direct impact to wildlife resources, wildlife habitat connectivity and migratory birds.

Resolution Copper

Resolution Copper recently held a public meeting in Queen Valley due to complaints about wells going dry by residents. Resolution is planning to begin production in 2021 and they are predicting approximately 1,400 new direct jobs and add 61.4 billion dollars to the state with 20 billion dollar total tax revenue. The planned land exchange to buy the USFS land at Oak Flats for other private land (one of which is the 78 Ranch on the San Pedro) has passed the House last October, but has not passed the Senate yet. Oak Flats would be necessary due to the shafts as well as the expectation of surface subsidence and mineral rights. Resolution is still at the prefeasibility stage and continues looking at alternatives for the mine footprint; the location of the mine tailings and mill site, as well as defining the scope of the project. The NEPA compliance process will begin when plan of operations and studies to determine the tailings and mill site and scope of operations are completed. The Department has requested current hydrology reports as they should show the effect to water levels in Devils Canyon, which is a location for Gila Chub reintroduction and upstream of Gila Chub critical habitat in Mineral Creek. Monitoring sites are not clearly defined in these areas. In addition, potential locations for the mine tailings include 11 sections on State Land with piles 350 feet high and 7,000 acres. Currently, ASLD process does not allow for any review by the Department for the geotechnical work.

Show Low and Winslow HPC Meetings

The Show Low and Winslow Habitat Partnership Committees held their quarterly meetings in mid February. Thirty six members from the public attended these meetings. The groups are represented by private landowners, sportsmen, non-government organizations, forest service and Department personnel. Items on the agenda included: updates on Department activities, projects

funded for 2012, volunteer opportunities, project ideas for next funding cycle, and 2012 deer, bear, and turkey hunt recommendations for game management units 3A, 3B, 3C, 4A and 4B.

Transmission Lines

APS Dugas to Morgan

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Agua Fria National Monument (AFNM) is currently soliciting input on a proposed Arizona Public Service (APS) project within the AFNM. The proposal consists of fiber optic installation on the existing Navajo to West Wing 500 kV overhead transmission line. APS has submitted an application to amend two existing BLM right-of-way (ROW) grants to accommodate the installation and maintenance of the fiber optic cable between the APS Dugas and Morgan substations. The BLM is conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze potential impacts of the proposed project on the AFNM and the human environment. The Department participates on the team developing the EA to ensure minor routes identified do not conflict with the management of Horseshoe Ranch, along with providing input on the biological evaluation and potential impacts to wildlife resources and recreation in the area.

SunZia Transmission Line Project

The Department continues to be concerned with potential routes for the SunZia Transmission Line Project, recently fast-tracked by the Obama administration. SunZia's estimated total transmission capacity is 3,000 megawatts for two 500 kV AC lines, or 4,500 megawatts should a hybrid configuration of one 500 kV AC line and one 500 kV DC line be commercially justified through commitments for new generation facilities, which the Department is also concerned with. The length of the proposed route is approximately 460 miles, segments of which, could potentially fragment some of the largest blocks of unfragmented habitat in the state, as well as attract future infrastructure projects such as renewable energy development along its route. The Department's major areas of concern include the Aravaipa-Galiuro habitat linkage area, Sulphur Springs Valley grasslands, and the San Pedro River Valley.

Within Arizona, the BLM's preferred route for the SunZia project is designated as subroutes 3A1 and 4C2c. Subroute 3A1 enters the state northeast of San Simon and travels through the San Simon Valley until it joins 4C2c east of the Peloncillo Mountains and north of I-10. Subroute 4C2c remains north of I-10 travelling in a southwesterly direction until it crosses the San Pedro River, travels roughly parallel to the San Pedro River up to San Manuel, then turns west to the Tortolita substation near Red Rock and finally north and west to the proposed Pinal substation near the Picacho Reservoir. However, alternative routes, favored by some agencies, cross the other areas mentioned above. The Department has submitted comments to BLM for the Administrative Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and continues to urge the BLM to consider subroute 4C3 (not a preferred route) which travels through Tucson and therefore follows the most previously disturbed habitat. The tentative release date for the Draft EIS is mid-April 2012.

Rapid Response Team for Transmission (RRTT)

The Obama administration's Rapid Response Team for Transmission (RRTT), an interagency group of officials from the Department of Interior, Department of Energy, U.S. Forest Service, and other agencies that was established by the White House in late 2011 to "improve the overall quality and timeliness of electric transmission infrastructure permitting, review, and

consultation.” The RRTT initially focused on seven “pilot project” transmission lines, effectively fast-tracking the projects, one of which is the proposed SunZia transmission line from central New Mexico to southern Arizona. The RRTT met with federal and state agencies, tribes, SHPO, county officials, and others regarding the consultation, coordination, and permitting processes for transmission projects. The Department met with RRTT members on March 20th. They inquired as to what regulatory authority the Department has relating to project approvals and whether we had any specific concerns about how the SunZia project process has been facilitated. We indicated there had been a lack of communication at times with adequate information for project review often not received in a timely fashion. We expressed that we have been providing a consistent message to BLM over the past several years regarding our concern for the introduction of infrastructure into currently unfragmented habitat and potential future projects that would tie into this new transmission line. Additionally, cumulative impacts are a major concern with all transmission line projects.

Transportation

Hidden Waters North Parkway

Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) has completed the corridor feasibility study for the proposed parkway and released the preferred alignment. This future parkway will provide a north/south link between I-10 and US 60 to the north, west of the Hassayampa River corridor. The corridor feasibility study for the proposed parkway and release of the preferred alignment has been completed and recommendations on the alignment that would minimize impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat connectivity goals that were not incorporated into the recommended alignment as a result of various urban development constraints that took priority. The Department submitted an addendum to MCDOT for further documenting our concerns with omissions, accuracy of maps, and discussion related to wildlife linkages.

North South Corridor Study

This study is to provide a connection between US 60 and I-10 in the east valley through identifying and evaluating routes. The Department participates on the stakeholder team. The Department has provided draft wildlife linkages information, and currently we are working directly with the project managers to address our immediate concerns for removal of an alignment on the west of the CAP in the northern area of the study. This particular alignment would have the least environmental impacts and would utilize some of the existing infrastructure. Alignments to the east of the CAP within the northern area of the study would impact wildlife linkages, access and recreation. The progress meeting was cancelled for April.

Pinal Partnership Parks, Trails, Open Space and Public Lands Committee

The Pinal partnership, parks, trails, open space and public lands committee’s purpose is to move forward with regional efforts to initiate localized citizen participation in discussions and projects across the county. This committee is charged with planning outreach, vision statements and recommendations about parks, trails and open space for the county comprehensive plan and open space and trails master plan. The goal of the committee is to protect regional landscapes and private rights while providing natural and multi-use recreational connectivity for parks, trails and open space and the education of Pinal County residents and visitors. The Department has re-initiated the commitment to the committee and we are currently engaging and providing wildlife linkages, recreation and OHV planning information in the discussions.

SR 260 Heber-Overgaard to Show Low Widening

The Department was approved by ADOT for \$270,000 for the Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Mitigation Study: State Route 260, Rim to Show Low. The overall goal of this study is to apply insights we have gained on the long-term SR 260 project (Payson to the Rim) combined with data that will be obtained from this study to help address the current elk-vehicle collision problem along the Rim to Show Low SR 260 corridor. The study will begin with trapping hopefully late fall of this year or possible early spring of 2013. At least 40 elk and some mule deer if possible, will be outfitted with either a store-on-board GPS receiver collar or a downloadable "spread-spectrum" or satellite collars. Elk close to the highway corridor (preferably within ½ mile) will be targeted for capture and collaring. This portion of the study should run for 24 months. Other study objectives include installing a traffic counter along SR 260 within the study area, evaluate elk/deer movements associated with water sources located in close proximity to SR 260, and investigate wildlife-vehicle collision patterns along SR 260. Finally, this study will provide data to develop recommendations both for the retrofitting of existing and development of new wildlife passage structures and other mitigations to reduce elk-vehicle collisions while maintaining or promoting highway permeability along SR 260.

SR303/30/Hassayampa

A feasibility study is being developed to identify and evaluate alternatives for the future extension of SR303L between the proposed SR30 and Hassayampa freeways. This would include a crossing over the Gila River and would provide for 4 lanes and an HOV lane in each direction. The agency kick-off meeting was just held in March with Department participation. The Department is concerned with regards to linkages and the preferred crossing over the Gila River.

SR30/85

A preliminary design plan for the future SR30/85 system traffic interchange is currently being developed. The Department was invited to participate in the early planning stages, due to potential impacts to Robbins Butte and PLO1015 lands. The project would require acquisition of 26 acres of Robbins Butte.

US 60, Silver King/Superior

The project will widen the existing US60 to a 4 lane rural and urban fringe cross section. The project begins around Boyce Thompson Arboretum and end in the streets of Superior. The Department participates on the project team for incorporation of wildlife and recreational access concerns. The project began in the early 2000's and NEPA compliance documentation was completed at that time. Since it has been re-initiated, revisions to earlier documentation are necessary. The projects critical path currently, is the permitting/clearances for the geotech investigations for the project. The Department is currently working with the team to incorporate wildlife friendly specifications into the culvert and bridge designs, along with updating the environmental documentation. This project includes several drainage, bridge structures and lighting that will provide opportunity for wildlife friendly retrofitting. In addition, several wildlife linkages will need to be considered in project planning.

Yuma County Rail Corridor and Logistics

Department personnel attended the Yuma County Rail Corridor and Logistics Study on February 22, 2012, regarding the goal to identify a feasible rail corridor to develop freight related economic opportunities for Yuma County. The rail corridor would transport freight from the Pacific coast of Mexico through Yuma County. Department personnel have provided preliminary comments to help reduce impacts this project may cause.

Wildlife Linkages

Buckeye Hills Linkage Design

The Department has completed the Linkage modeling and the final report will be drafted after the finalization of White Tanks.

Pinal County Wildlife Linkages

The Department is currently working on identifying focus areas to begin refinement from the workshop. The east valley has been identified as one focus area priority, due to the development and transportation projects posing threats to the linkages within the area. The entire workshop product is anticipated to be final in the next year.

White Tanks Linkage Design

The Department has completed a draft final linkage design that represents what we consider to be our best biological recommendation for linkages between the White Tank, Belmont, Vulture and Hieroglyphic Mountains for wildlife at this time. A final report will be completed later this spring.

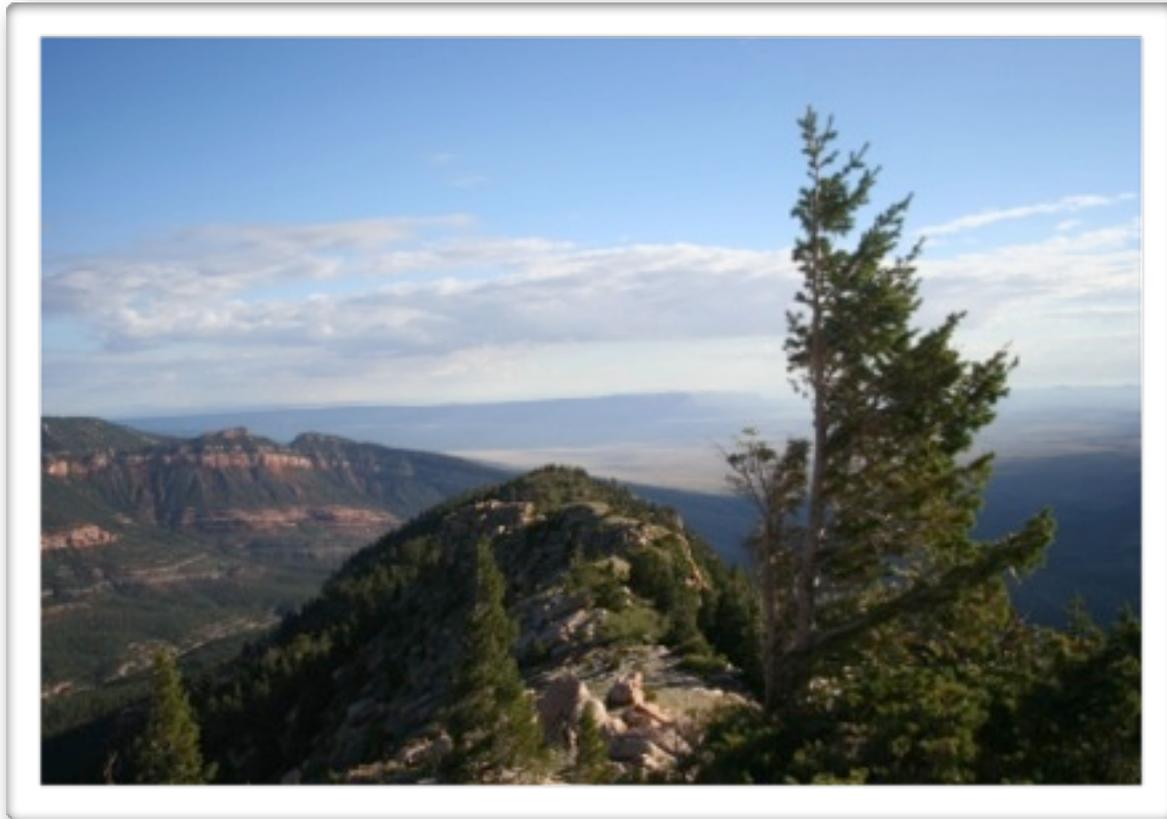
Woody Ridge Corridor Restoration

In partnership with Arizona Wildlife Federation, the Department received a grant from the National Forest Foundation and matching contributions from Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation to restore wildlife habitat within the Woody Ridge Wildlife Corridor west of Flagstaff. Throughout the summer, volunteers will remove user-created trails, close unnecessary roads to public access, remove or upgrade fencing to wildlife-friendly guidelines, and remove invasive weeds within this area identified by the Department as crucial for habitat connectivity at a landscape scale.

Conserving the Grand Canyon Watershed A Proposal for National Monument Designation



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



©2010 GCWC

“Certain [lands] of the forest reserves should also be made preserves for the wild forest creatures.” —Theodore Roosevelt, 1901

A Unique Landscape

Ranging from the arid Sonoran and Great Basin Deserts to lush, boreal Rocky Mountain forests, the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument is an ecological wonder. The proposed Monument embraces one of the most spectacular American landscapes—the Grand Canyon—and encompasses a wild, rugged array of towering cliffs, deeply incised tributary canyons, grasslands, and numerous springs that flow into the Colorado River in Grand Canyon. Unique geologic formations contribute substantially to the proposed Monument’s spectacular biological diversity, with escarpments and canyons dating back millions of years. At least twenty-two sensitive species call the landscape home, including the endangered California condor and the rare northern goshawk.

Five distinctive and diverse geographic areas comprise the proposed Monument: the *Kaibab Plateau*, the *Kaibab-Paunsagunt Wildlife Corridor*, *Kanab Creek Watershed*, *House*

Rock Valley, and the *South Rim Headwaters*—all encompassing much of the watershed of the Colorado River around Grand Canyon National Park, which provides water for millions of people in Arizona, Nevada, and California. These lands include the uranium withdrawal areas south of the Grand Canyon and west of Kanab Creek.

The Proposed Monument by the Numbers

Total number of acres — 1.7 million

Number of acres privately held — ~7,000

Number of years of human history (from Ice Age hunters to ancient farmers) — 12,000

Tribes for whom the land holds great significance — Kaibab Paiute, Hopi, Zuni, Hualapi, Havasupai, and Navajo

Number of archeological sites — more than 3,000

Number of acres containing ancient trees or old-growth forest — approximately 300,000

Number of different plant species — 300-400

Number of wildlife species on the federal Endangered Species list — 4

Number of wildlife species on the *Arizona Species of Greatest Conservation Need* list — 22

Number of creeks, springs and seeps — more than 125

A 12,000-year Human Record

The proposed Monument holds lands of great significance to the Kaibab Paiute tribe, as well as Hopi, Zuni, Hualapi, Havasupai, and Navajo tribes, and was home to the Clovis, Basketmaker, and Puebloan peoples. More than three thousand ancient Native American archaeological sites have been documented in the region, representing just a fraction of the human history of the area. Ranging from settlements or habitations, temporary camps, granaries and caches, and rock art, some of the sites date from as far back as the Paleo-Indian period—11,000 BCE.

Kanab Creek falls within the traditional territory of the Kaibab Band of the Paiute, as does the entire Kaibab Plateau. The Paiutes called the Plateau Kai Awvavh, the “mountain lying down,” and its people Kai’vavh Eetseng. Springs with evocative names like Moonshine Spring, Wa’akarerempa or Yellowstone Spring, and Tinkanivac or Antelope Spring, are significant to the tribe—and are also important wildlife water sources.

The Havasupai believe that the Grand Canyon, and the surrounding plateau including South Rim Headwaters, and all the plants and animals, were given to them to care for, and that these lands are sacred. Hualapai, Navajo, Hopi and Zuni people consider the area part of their extensive traditional territories.

An Endangered Ecosystem

The proposed Monument contains the most intact, largely unprotected old-growth forest in the Southwest, including old growth ponderosa pine forests—which constitute one of America’s most endangered ecosystems. Together with the adjacent *House Rock Valley*, the *Kaibab-Paunsagunt Wildlife Corridor*, the *Kanab Creek Watershed*, and the *South Rim Headwaters*, the proposed monument includes areas of critical and significant biological diversity, providing crucial habitat and wildlife movement corridors for a host of distinctive species, including the Kaibab squirrel, northern goshawk, the Kaibab-Paunsagunt mule deer herd, mountain lion, and the iconic and endangered California condor.

As the Southwest faces climate change and increasing probability of drought, preservation of remaining intact ecosystems is critical not only for wildlife, but for humans as well.

Ecological Threats to proposed Monument lands

1. **Logging of ancient trees**—which ultimately affects native wildlife diversity as well as the resiliency and ecological integrity of the landscape.
2. **High density of primitive roads**—which causes soil loss and vegetation damage, affecting archeological sites, water sources, increasing poaching and creating habitat fragmentation and barriers for wildlife.
3. **Loss of landscape connectivity for wildlife**—between Grand Canyon National Park and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument—which becomes critical as the climate becomes warmer and drier.
4. **Inappropriate grazing**—which has led to habitat degradation, shrub invasion, and soil erosion.
5. **Uranium mining**—the potential for uranium mining continues to threaten the water quality, wildlife, and intact habitat of the Grand Canyon watershed.

The Solution: National Monument Status

National monument designation protects and reserves landmarks, structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest as authorized by the Antiquities Act of 1906. National monument designation allows for continued public access, rights of way, sightseeing, hiking, wildlife observation, birding, hunting, fishing, and many other activities, including traditional tribal access and uses. Only lands owned by the federal government can be declared national monuments, by the President or by Congress.

Each national monument proclamation is specific to its location. National monument designation for the Grand Canyon Watershed would:

- Permanently protect old-growth forests
- Protect native wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors
- Protect archeological sites and traditional tribal access
- Reduce road density
- Provide for voluntary retirement of grazing permits
- Prevent new uranium mines

Our goal is to conserve, protect, and restore old growth forests and grasslands, important archaeological sites, native wildlife, springs and wetlands, and wildlife migration routes. If we preserve the region's natural and cultural values, residents and visitors will reap its benefits for years to come.

Conservation Benefits Everyone

- Wild landscapes protect our water supplies
- Conserving wild places protects our wildlife
- Protected public lands provide hands-on learning for citizens, especially children
- Conservation of wild places offers us places for spiritual renewal
- Protected landscapes nurture a human connection to Arizona's heritage past

... and Supports the Local Economy

The desire to experience the natural beauty of the Grand Canyon draws visitors from across the country, generating \$687 million for the economy in northern Arizona each year—and supporting 12,000 jobs.

Proposal partners, including The Wilderness Society and Sierra Club, are spearheading a strategy to reach a wide range of constituents, including local government, tribe, and community representatives. Representatives are working with federal agencies in Washington, DC, as well as members of the conservation community, with the expected goal of fostering a groundswell of support for conservation.

For more information contact:

Kim Crumbo, Grand Canyon Wildlands Council Conservation Director at 928-606-5850 or kim@grandcanyonwildlands.org.

The Wilderness Society

Sierra Club

Taylor McKinnon, Center for Biological Diversity

Conserving the Grand Canyon Watershed A Proposal for National Monument Designation

OVERVIEW

Geographic Components: Cultural and Ecological Significance

The proposed 1.7 million-acre Grand Canyon National Monument consists of five geographic regions (see proposal map, page 7). At its heart lies the *Kaibab Plateau*, the mountain through which the Colorado River carves the Grand Canyon, rising over nine thousand feet above sea level. Aspen stands, ancient pine and fir forests, and montane meadows cover much of the higher elevations of its 750,000 acres. Vast areas of ponderosa pine surround this enormous, lush “sky island,” as well as desert grass and shrub at lower elevations. The Paiutes called it Kai Awvahv, the “mountain lying down,” and its people Kai’vahv Eetseng (Martineau 1992:154,190). Clarence Dutton, a seasoned explorer and geologist, described the mountain in 1880 as “the most enchanting region it has ever been our privilege to visit.” The Kaibab Plateau presents a rare example of a fundamentally intact mature forest retaining a high density of ancient pines—part of the largest southwestern ponderosa pine forest in the US outside of unprotected areas.



House Rock Valley, called Aesak or “basket-like” by the Paiute (Austin et al. 2005:57), consists of approximately 150,000 acres of desert grass and shrublands lying between the Kaibab Plateau and Grand Canyon National Park. Paiute bands traditionally utilized the valley’s plants and animals, and depended on springs including Oarinkanivac and Pagampiaganti (Kelly 1964:10–12). Early explorers described the valley’s extensive grasslands, although these soon became damaged through overgrazing by livestock (Rasmussen 1941:267). The Nature Conservancy classifies most of the area as “at risk”



grasslands with less than five percent perennial native grass cover and/or severe soil erosion (Schussman and Gori 2004:21). House Rock Valley has the potential to be restored back to functioning grassland communities if grazing pressure is significantly reduced (Schussman and Gori 2004:45).

The **Kanab Creek Watershed** encompasses Kanab Creek, which flows south from the Pink Cliffs of

the Paunsagunt Plateau to its confluence in Grand Canyon. The Paiute’s traditional “entrance” into that vast canyon, Kanab Creek falls within the traditional territory of the

Kaibab Band of the Paiute, who farmed along the creek and utilized the various available plant and animal resources. Kanab Creek was also an important north-south trade route and served as a refuge for Paiutes during European-American encroachment.



The ***Kaibab-Paunsagunt Wildlife Corridor*** comprises a crucial wildlife linkage between Arizona’s Kaibab National Forest and the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, leading to Utah’s Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and the Paunsagunt Plateau—the Bryce Canyon National Park region. The area’s corridor function is well documented by Arizona and Utah state wildlife agencies (Carrel et al. 1999).

As winter approaches, Utah’s mule deer migrate off the high Paunsagunt Plateau (Bryce Canyon National Park region) south to lower elevation winter range—as do their primary predator, mountain lions. In the spring, the deer return to the higher, cooler summer range of the Paunsagunt Plateau. While the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument protects much of this important winter habitat, a significant portion lies

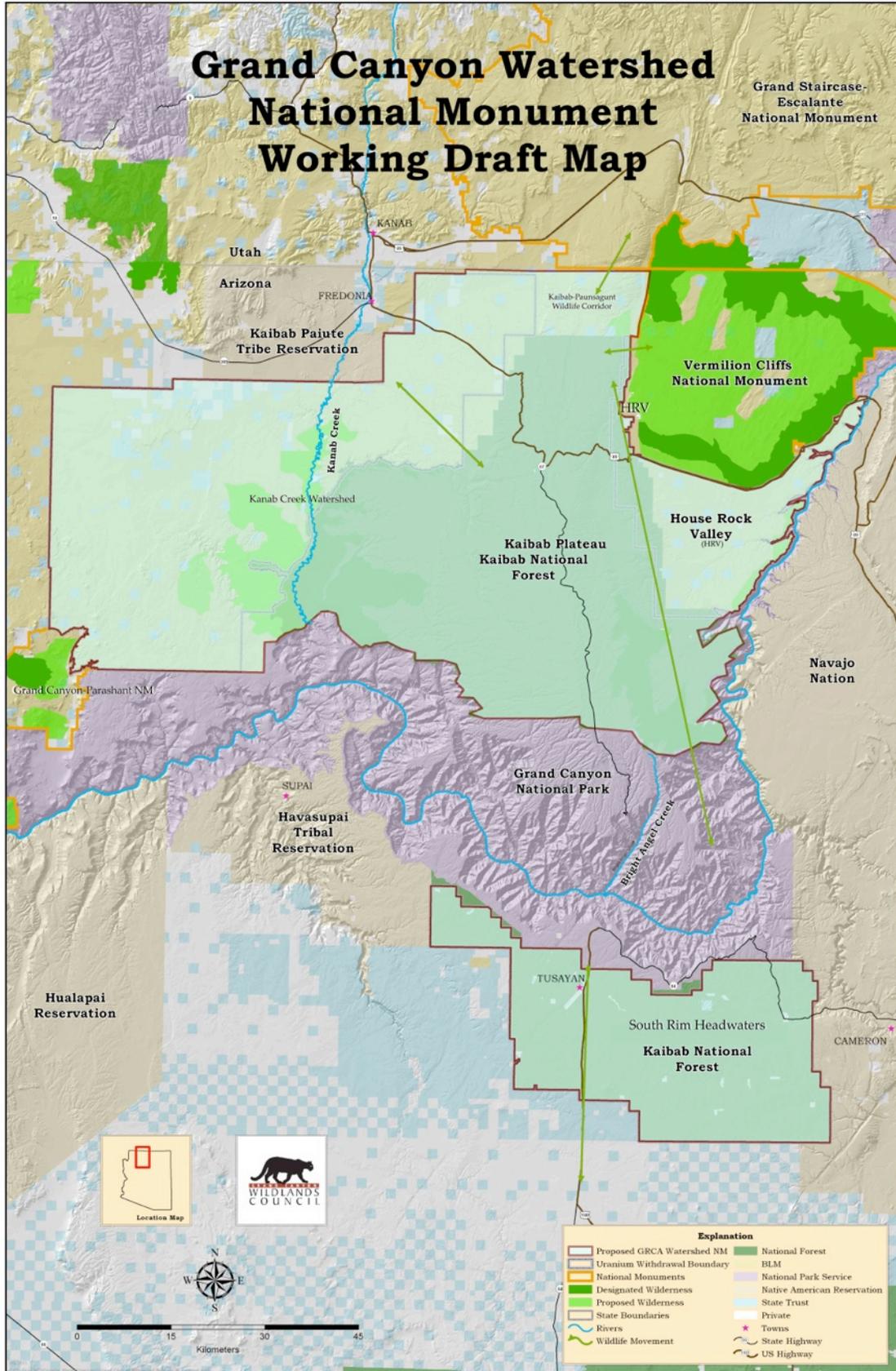
outside any protected area. Including Arizona’s portion of the corridor within the proposed monument would preserve the region’s wildlife connectivity and protect important wildlife and rare plant habitat.

The 325,425-acre ***South Rim Headwaters*** consists of the Kaibab National Forest Tusayan Ranger District, encompassing not only the Cataract/Havasupai Creek headwaters, but also other drainages of the Grand Scenic Divide, the western Little Colorado River, as well as the source for Grand Canyon springs of the Esplanade and the Tonto Platforms beneath the South Rim. The District’s ponderosa pine and woodlands are integral to the Grand Canyon National Park’s South Rim,

providing habitat for numerous wildlife species that often utilize both park and National Forest. The Havasupai believe that the Grand Canyon, the surrounding plateau including South Rim Headwaters, and all the plants and animals, were given to them to care for, and that these lands are sacred. Hualapai, Navajo, Hopi and Zuni people consider the area part of their extensive traditional territories.



Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument Working Draft Map



Wildlife Species and Rare Plants

The proposed Monument area offers a compelling diversity of wildlife, including mountain lions, bobcats, long-tailed weasels, and healthy and abundant populations of mule deer. A lucky visitor might catch a glimpse an occasional black bear roaming the forest once haunted by gray wolves, jaguars, and the mighty grizzly bear. Desert bighorn sheep dwell in the canyons and cliffs, while pronghorn antelope, badgers, black-tailed jackrabbits, and coyotes live in the valleys and grasslands. The House Rock Valley chisel-toothed kangaroo rat, a Category 2 federal candidate under the Endangered Species Act, is found only in House Rock Valley.



The distinctive and vulnerable endemic Kaibab squirrel dwells exclusively within the Kaibab Plateau's ponderosa pine forest, while red squirrels inhabit the Plateau's mixed conifer forests. Climatic disruption, along with recent large-scale high intensity fires, threatens both species and their isolated habitat.

The great thunderbird, the endangered California condor, forages the mountain's diverse landscapes, and the Plateau also shelters one of the highest concentrations of the uncommon northern goshawks known in North America. Other important bird species include golden eagles, rough-legged hawks, ferruginous hawks, northern harriers, western burrowing owls, and the threatened Mexican spotted owl.

North Canyon Creek within the Saddle Mountain Wilderness is a significant center of fresh water biodiversity, and is home to the threatened Apache trout. Other large mammals include mountain lions, and bighorn sheep. Small mammals occur such as bobcat, badger, porcupine, red squirrels, desert cottontail, black-tail jackrabbit, cliff chipmunk, white-tailed antelope squirrel, coyote, gray fox, spotted skunk, three species of pocket mice and the two kangaroo rats (O'Farrell 1995:9). Reptiles include the Great Basin rattlesnake, gopher snake, and eastern collared lizard (AGFD 2005).



Rare, sensitive plants include the endangered Brady pincushion cactus, the threatened Siler pincushion cactus, the candidate species Fickeisen plains cactus, Paradine (Kaibab) Plains cactus, the Grand Canyon Rose, and the Paria Plateau fishhook cactus, as well as the Tusayan flameflower, and the Arizona leatherflower.

Ecological Threats to proposed Monument lands

1. **Logging of ancient trees**—which ultimately affects native wildlife diversity as well as the resiliency and ecological integrity of the landscape.

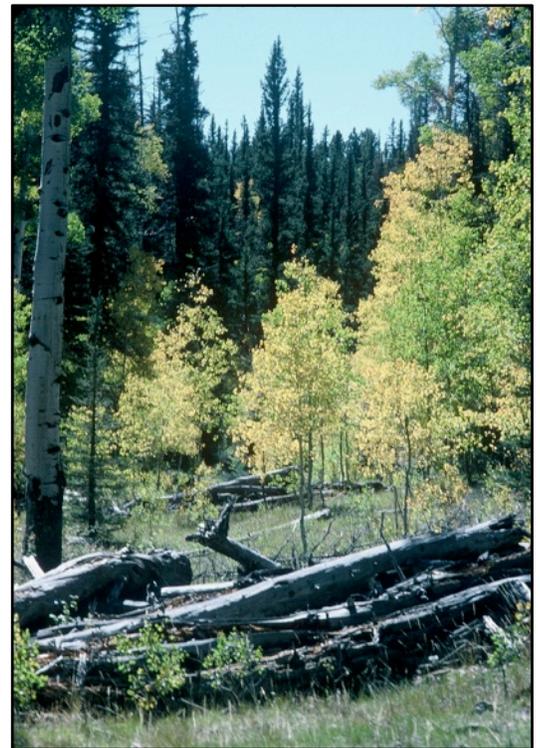
2. **High density of primitive roads**—which causes soil loss and vegetation damage, affecting archeological sites, water sources, increasing poaching and creating habitat fragmentation and barriers for wildlife.
3. **Loss of landscape connectivity for wildlife**—between Grand Canyon National Park and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument—which becomes critical as the climate becomes warmer and drier.
4. **Inappropriate grazing**—which has led to habitat degradation, shrub invasion, and soil erosion.
5. **Uranium mining**—the potential for uranium mining continues to threaten the water quality, wildlife, and intact habitat of the Grand Canyon watershed.

CONSERVATION PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

1. Stop Old-Growth Logging

Ecologists have determined that old growth ponderosa pine forests constitute one of America’s most endangered ecosystems. Old-growth ponderosa pine has suffered an estimated 85-98 percent area loss due to destruction, conversion to other uses, and significant degradation in structure, function, and composition. The proposed Monument’s forested areas offer a unique opportunity to restore southwest old-growth forests at the landscape level. The Kaibab Plateau sustains a rare example of a fundamentally intact, mature southwestern ponderosa pine forest retaining the highest density of ancient trees outside of protected areas. Such trees once dominated the country’s largest contiguous ponderosa pine forest (Forest Service 2009:6). ***The preservation of these stands, and restoration of degraded habitat, is of regional, national, and global significance.***

Mature, natural forests are resilient to disturbances because of their genetic, taxonomic and functional biodiversity. This resilience includes regeneration after fire, resistance to and recovery from pests and diseases and adaptation to changes in radiation, temperature and water availability including those resulting from global climate change. Conservation of naturally evolving old growth forests requires protection and restoration of biotic components including native species, forest structure and function as well as abiotic processes especially natural fire regimes.



2. Protect Cultural and Archaeological Sites

The proposed Monument holds lands of great significance to the Kaibab Paiute tribe, as well as Hopi, Zuni, Hualapi, Havasupai, and Navajo tribes, and historically was home to the Clovis, Basketmaker, and Puebloan peoples. Monument designation recognizes and retains

traditional tribal access and uses, and protects significant archaeological sites, some dating from 11,000 BCE. Appropriate primitive road closures and reduction of logging will help to preserve these values.

3. Manage for Native Wildlife and Wildlife Migration Routes

The proposed National Monument harbors significant wildlife populations including numerous bird species and rare, endemic plants all of which are discussed throughout this document. National monument designation would provide critical wildlife connections between Grand Canyon National Park, and Grand Staircase-Escalante and Vermilion Cliffs national monuments. Providing safe haven for these species requires evaluating, forecasting and acting to support their resilience in the context of climate change.

National monument designation can explicitly emphasize protection and restoration of viable and ecologically effective native wildlife populations by calling on both the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of the Interior to expeditiously authorize a scientifically credible analysis of the current and projected status of keystone species including the Kaibab squirrel, goshawks and mountain lions, as well as an analysis regarding recovery of extirpated wildlife such as bears and wolves. National monument administration will continue to rely on effective interagency cooperation based on existing jurisdiction of the State and Federal agencies with respect to fish and wildlife management. Management of the House Rock Valley Wildlife Area will continue under current legal agreements between the USFS and AZGFD.



4. Reduce Road Density

A high density of primitive roads causes soil loss and vegetation damage, affecting archeological sites, water sources, increasing poaching and creating habitat fragmentation and barriers for wildlife. Open-road density, including primitive or gravel based/dirt roads, is a good predictor of habitat suitability for large mammals, with habitat effectiveness and population viability declining as road density increases. The extent of roads within the proposed national monument should not exceed a density based on credible scientific standards.

5. Provide for voluntary retirement of grazing permits

Inappropriate grazing has led to habitat degradation, shrub invasion, and soil erosion. Precedent exists within other national monuments for voluntary retirement of grazing permits. While existing authorized permits or leases may continue, we propose allowing for voluntary permanent retirement of grazing permits should the Monument be designated.

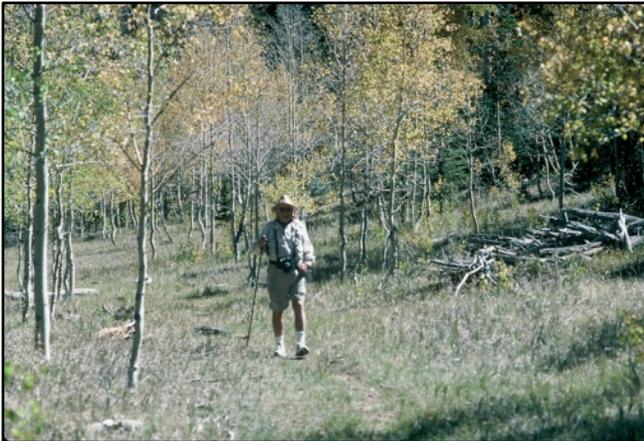
6. Prevent New Uranium Mines

On January 9, 2012, the Department of the Interior announced a 20-year ban on new hard rock mineral leasing and mining on one million acres surrounding the Grand Canyon.

National Monument designation would make this withdrawal permanent, forever protecting Colorado River water quality, wildlife habitat, and the scenic wonder of the area.

RECREATION AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION

National monument designation allows for continued public access, rights of way, sightseeing, hiking, wildlife observation, birding, hunting, fishing, and many other activities, including traditional tribal access and uses. The desire to experience the natural beauty of the Grand Canyon draws visitors from across the country, generating \$687 million for the economy in northern Arizona each year—and supporting 12,000 jobs.



Headwaters Economics, an independent, nonprofit research group, recently studied the impact of national monument designation on communities in the West. Research shows that communities adjacent to Vermilion Cliffs National Monument and Grand Staircase Escalante experienced job growth, and that conserving public lands provides amenities that draw new residents, tourists, recreation uses, and businesses.

The North Kaibab, as the gateway to the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park, annually receives around 290,000 visitors. While the North Kaibab's two paved highways offer pleasant forest surroundings and spectacular vistas of adjacent wildlands, the forest's non-motorized trails, two wilderness and four roadless areas, and an extensive network of montane meadows affords ample quiet recreational opportunities complementing the adjacent Grand Canyon National Park's unspoiled wilderness. Most visitors (56 percent) to the Kaibab National Forest's three ranger districts enjoy viewing natural features, while 46 percent engage in viewing wildlife and 36 percent indicate that relaxation is part of their experience. Nearly 50 percent of visitors engage in hiking and walking (Forest Service 2006, 2010b).

The Outdoor Industry Foundation (OIF) reports that well over one million Arizonans, or twenty-seven percent of the state's population, participate in hiking, trail running, bicycling and rock climbing. Twenty-four percent (1,098,000) enjoy bird watching and other wildlife watching (OIF 2010). In Utah, the OIF reports similar findings with 43 percent of the state's population (714,000) engaging in hiking, backpacking, rock climbing and trail running (OIF 2010a). Thirty-two percent enjoy bird and other wildlife watching. About five percent of visitors to the Kaibab National Forest listed hunting as a primary activity. The OIF reports that ten percent of Utahns, and three percent of Arizonians, hunt (OIF 2010; 2010a).

Active outdoor recreation supports about 82,000 jobs and produces almost \$5 billion annually in retail sales and services across Arizona (OIF 2010). In Utah, it contributes \$5.8 billion annually to Utah's economy by supporting 65,000 jobs and producing \$4 billion

annually in retail sales and services (OIF 2010a). Active outdoor recreation generates almost \$350 million annually in Arizona (\$300 million in Utah) state tax revenues (OIF 2010;OIF 2010a).

Off-road vehicle (ORV) use on the Kaibab National Forest accounts for less than four percent of recreation on the forest with less than two percent indicating this activity as their primary activity (Forest Service 2009a:18). This figure is nearly identical with ORV recreational activities on other National Forests (Forest Service 2010b:14).

CONSERVATION HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

History of Protection



U.S. Presidents from Benjamin Harrison to Theodore Roosevelt and Lyndon B. Johnson, who all recognized the North Kaibab's uniqueness and importance, included the Kaibab Plateau in sweeping designations of forest and game preserves and a smaller national landmark.

Concerns over degradation of the northern Arizona Kaibab Plateau forest's values led to the establishment in 1893 of a forest reserve surrounding Grand Canyon. In fact, between 1882 and 1886, Senator (later President) Benjamin Harrison introduced three Grand Canyon National Park bills that evidently included the North Kaibab (Morehouse 1996:39).

By 1905, Congress and President Theodore Roosevelt recognized that forests like the Kaibab should be set aside "*for the wild forest creatures*" ...[to] *afford perpetual protection to the native fauna and flora*" (U.S. Congress 1905). In 1906, and in accordance with earlier Congressional authorization, Theodore Roosevelt established the Grand Canyon National Game Preserve for "the protection of game animals... recognized as a breeding place therefore..."¹ That designation, while still on the books, has proven ineffective in preserving the full spectrum of native species and their habitat, especially large carnivores and the Plateau's old growth forests and grasslands. In 1908, Roosevelt, making good use of the recently passed Antiquities Act, proclaimed a Grand Canyon National Monument better protecting the Canyon proper but leaving out most of the forested Kaibab Plateau (Morehouse 1996:37).

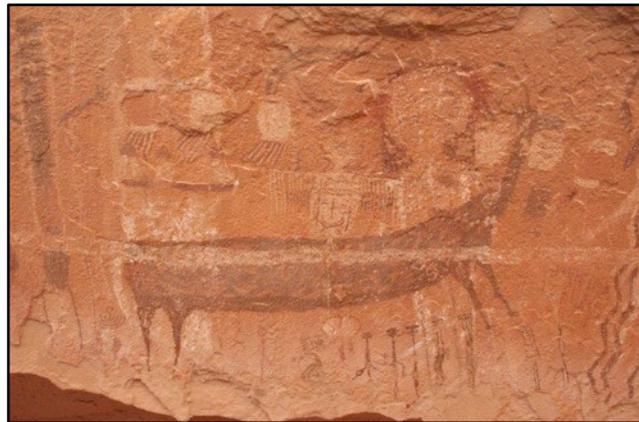
¹ S 2732, 59th Congress (S 11-8-06, 40, 787).

Efforts to protect the lands surrounding Grand Canyon continued with recommendations for an enlarged, five million-acre national monument including not only the North Kaibab and Tusayan Ranger Districts adjacent to Grand Canyon, but portions of Utah's Dixie National Forest (Morehouse 1996:40). Two decades after Roosevelt's gesture, "Ding" Darling, the head of the U.S. Biological Survey, proposed creating a vast wildlife area on the Arizona Strip. At least one rancher, Preston Nutter, expressed enthusiasm for the idea (Price and Darby 1964:251). However, loggers and other ranchers blocked these conservation efforts (Morehouse 1996).

Cultural and Historic Values

The proposed Monument holds lands of great significance to the Kaibab Paiute tribe, as well as Hopi, Zuni, Hualapi, Havasupai, and Navajo tribes, and historically was home to the Clovis, Basketmaker, and Puebloan peoples. Three thousand ancient Native American archaeological sites have been documented in the region, some dating from as far back as the Paleo-Indian period—11,000 BCE.

During the first 12,000 years of human presence in the northern Southwest, men and women pursued a mobile hunting and gathering lifestyle, focusing their efforts on those species that were most readily available and provided the greatest return for the least amount of effort. Between 10,000-9000 BCE, the focus was on large game species, such as mammoth and mastodons. As large herbivores became rare, and many extinct, Pleistocene hunters switched to smaller species: first bison, then deer, sheep, rabbits and rodents.



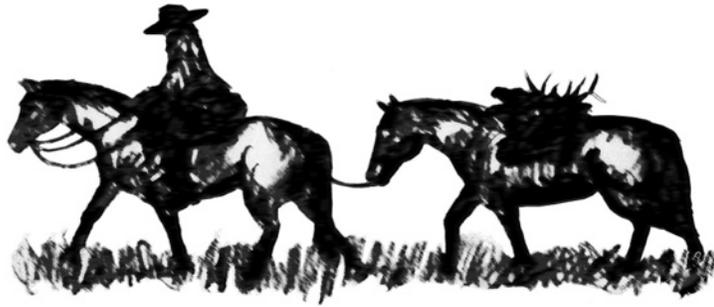
By 7000 BCE, humans in the Southwest had diversified their hunting and gathering strategies considerably. Small family bands moved seasonally between high and low elevation zones, possibly competing with wildlife for scarce resources, such as roots, seeds, fruits and nuts, as each food source ripened in turn (Fairley 2004).

For at least the past 2500 years, cultivated foods supplemented, if not fully sustained, people in this semi-arid region. By 700 CE, virtually everyone living on the southern Colorado Plateau followed a semi-sedentary lifestyle and depended on cultivated products for much of their daily diet. Between 1050 and 1200 CE, scattered farming plots were abundant, extending across the Arizona Strip including the Kaibab Plateau and North Rim of the Grand Canyon (Fairley 2004).

Hundreds, if not thousands of prehistoric dwellings, storage cists, and agricultural features cover the Kaibab Plateau and adjacent lands proposed for permanent protection. Subsistence hunting for mule deer on the Kaibab, as the Southern Paiutes call the Plateau, or "Buckskin Mountain," as early settlers sometimes referred to it, had long been an important, productive endeavor of the Paiutes and later Navajo as well as the early Mormon settlers (Anderson 1998:134).

The Monument's colorful, modern historic period includes expeditions of the Spanish missionaries Dominguez and Escalante, and government explorers including John Wesley

Powell and Clarence Dutton. Its history is replete with accounts of settlers such as the “Buckskin Apostle” Jacob Hamblin and the infamous John D. Lee, the latter best known for establishing the ferry now bearing his name.

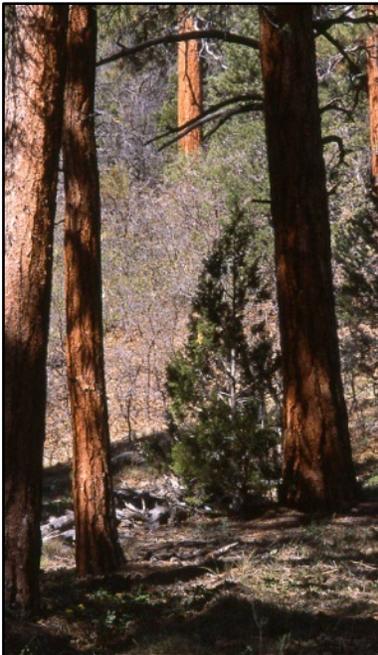


President Theodore Roosevelt and novelist Zane Grey popularized the region, as cowboys and herders plied their ecologically damaging trades, trading stories and exchanging threats during brief episodes of their traditional, simmering range war (Rider 1985). Early settlers, miners, newly wed or weathered Mormon “Saints,” and sinners of all callings used the Honeymoon Trail, a relatively direct route across the proposed Monument.

Today, many of the descendants of the early prehistoric people, and Native American tribes that arrived later, dwell in the Grand Canyon region. Across the area early settlers named places—Le Fevre Canyon, Cram Ranch, Johnson Wash, and Jacob Lake—names familiar to us today.

Old Growth Forests

A colossal green crescent blanketing the high plateaus and mountains from west central New Mexico through northern Arizona and southern Utah constitutes the world’s largest ponderosa pine forest (Friederici 2003; Covington 2003). Ancient large trees that often reached an age of a several centuries or more once dominated this old growth forest (Forest Service 2008; Suckling 1996). These resilient forests, replete with the full spectrum of native species, persisted for the past 10,000 years and evolved through a long history of climatic variation (Noss and Cooperrider 1994:189; Covington 2003:28). Human activity within the past 120 years has dramatically changed these relatively stable environments to imperiled and relatively impoverished ecosystems (Covington 2003).



At an earlier time, a natural regime of fires produced a diverse mosaic of forest and grasslands. Frequent, low intensity ground fires generally cleared smaller trees and shrubs, leaving stands of generally open forest of fire-resistant ancient trees surrounded by thriving grasses and forbs, and inhabited by abundant wildlife including black and grizzly bears, and wolves. Although subjected to extensive timber harvest during the past half century, the area was never systematically railroad-logged. However, past and ongoing impacts including logging, overgrazing, and a high density of superfluous primitive roads adversely affect watershed, forest and wildlife alike.

Old growth usually refers to older seral stages of natural forests (Noss and Cooperrider 1994:189) and includes features such as vertical layering, horizontal patchiness, live trees with decay or southwestern dwarf mistletoe brooms, and hardwood species that increase vertical structural diversity and support more species than forests with simpler structure (Hunter 1999, Chambers and

Germaine 2003). These values are significant, given that more than 200 years are required to develop old growth structure in southwestern ponderosa pine forests (Reynolds et al. 1992; 2006:308).

Springs, Seeps and Wetlands

Springs and other riparian areas are of special concern due to their great biological significance. Arizona has the second highest density of springs in the United States (Forest Service 2008:51). The Mogollon Rim and the Kaibab plateaus have the highest density of springs in Arizona (Forest Service 2008:51). These include, to name but a few, Crystal, Tater Canyon, Timp, Big, and Warm springs. The Kaibab Plateau also contains numerous wetlands, such as Lookout, Deer, Crane, Cougar, and Indian lakes. Frank's Lake contains a free-floating bog, a rarity in the arid southwest (Forest Service 2009:6).



Some research suggests water quality may be as important as water availability (Bright 1999:14). Most of the springs and wetlands of the proposed Monument are in poor or fair condition due primarily to livestock and native ungulate use, and recreational impacts (Forest Service 2008:51). The recent migration of non-native bison hybrids (cattalo) on to the Plateau presents additional challenges regarding wetlands protection (Larsen et al. 2009). In addition, many wetlands have been modified to capture additional water that, in turn, affects natural flow regimes and water availability to aquatic and other native species.

Native Wildlife

The proposed National Monument harbors significant wildlife populations and also comprises critical wildlife connections between Grand Canyon National Park, and Grand



Staircase-Escalante and Vermilion Cliffs national monuments, which have been discussed throughout this document. Of special importance is the mule deer population on the the Kaibab Plateau, one of the few coniferous ecosystems in the Southwest without significant elk presence. Consequently, the Forest Service considers the mule deer population as “healthy and abundant” (Forest Service 2009:6). Pronghorn antelope, while now marginally present, were once common in the grasslands adjoining the Kaibab Plateau (Rasmussen 1941:238). Black Bear once inhabited the North Kaibab, as did grizzly bear and gray wolves (Rasmussen 1941; Hoffmeister 1986).

In 1965, the Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall recognized that the Kaibab squirrel, found only on the Kaibab Plateau, represents

“a classical example of the process of evolution through geographic isolation.” Udall also recognized the squirrel’s dependency on the Plateau’s forest resources, “one of the largest and best examples of a climax [old growth] community,” and established the 200,000-acre Kaibab Squirrel National Natural Landmark (NPS 1993). The Kaibab subspecies is considered to be vulnerable to extinction based on the geographical isolation of the subspecies (Bratland 2008:89; NatureServe). Unfortunately, protection of the landmark’s values is only voluntary. A significant portion of old growth has been logged and the future of both the Kaibab squirrel and its old growth habitat remain problematic.

Livestock Grazing

By 1891, an estimated 1.5 million cattle, sheep, horses and goats grazed the Kaibab Plateau. (Foreman 2004). Overgrazing by domestic cattle and sheep is considered to be one of the leading causes of watershed, stream and grassland degradation in western North America (Belsky et al. 1999, Fleischner 1994, Donahue 1999). Today, it is reasonable to assume that livestock grazing has affected virtually every acre of the proposed Monument.

Historically, livestock grazing in southwestern ponderosa pine forests reduced grass and sedge abundance, allowed dense recruitment of seedling pines, and altered fire regimes (Belsky and Blumenthal 1997).

Unsustainable livestock grazing continues to contribute to degradation of forest ecosystems, including resultant higher tree density in piñon-juniper woodlands, ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests, which contributes to destructive high intensity fires (Forest Service 2009:48; Covington 2003).

Inappropriate grazing is the leading cause of the disturbance that led to the regional shift of perennial bunch grasses and open stands of sagebrush to dense sagebrush and harmful exotics such as cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), as well as increased shrub density and juniper encroachment in sagebrush scrubland (Noss and Cooperrider 1994; Donahue 1999; Forest Service 2008:49,50).

Springs and other riparian areas are of special concern due to their great biological significance and the well-documented negative impacts of inappropriate grazing on these areas, which may include loss of native species diversity (Forest Service 2009:51). Overgrazing adversely affects native reptiles, and songbirds, especially those that nest or forage on or near the ground (Finch et al. 1997), may alter bird community composition (Schulz and Leininger 1991), and may ultimately decrease the abundance and diversity of native herbivores (Donahue 1999). Carnivore numbers may decline as prey availability decreases (Brown 1992; Mech 1995) and as they are eliminated by the government at the request of the livestock industry (Robinson 2005).

Reduction or cessation of livestock grazing would appreciably improve native vegetation surrounding water sources, increasing survival of pronghorn fawns, and improving habitat for small mammals including the House Rock Valley chisel-toothed



kangaroo rat (USDA and USDI 2000:45,47; O'Farrell 1997:20). Rare plants such as the Kaibab pincushion cactus and the endangered Brady pincushion cactus would also benefit from removing or reducing the number of cattle (USDA and USDI 2000:30,39,43).

A 2000 interagency Environmental Assessment concluded that a significant portion of the North Kaibab Ranger District, specifically the Kane Ranch Allotment (Kaibab Plateau and House Rock Valley), exhibited "poor to very poor" range conditions (USDI and USDA 2000). The agencies concluded that ecosystems benefiting from a reduction or cessation of livestock grazing include sagebrush/shrublands, ponderosa pine and mixed conifer and their aspen communities, piñon-juniper woodland, grassland, shrubland, montane/subalpine grassland, Colorado Plateau/Great Basin grassland, spruce-fir forests, and semi-desert grasslands (Forest Service 2008:88,89).

Road Density

Open-road density, including primitive or gravel-based/dirt roads is a good predictor of habitat suitability for large mammals, with habitat effectiveness and population viability declining as road density increases (Noss and Cooperrider 1994). Because of changes to the environment and danger resulting from roads, many wildlife species have learned to partially or completely avoid roads. For example mule deer, mountain lions, small rodents and likely many other animals all show partial or total aversion to roads, to the extent that they either will not cross roads at all, creating a complete dispersal barrier, or will use



roadside habitat less extensively, effectively reducing total habitat area (Garland and Bradley 1984, Kozel and Fleharty 1979, Fox 1989, Lyon 1979, Mclellan and Shackleton 1988, Van Dyke et al. 1986).

In fact, high road densities are a known cause of extirpation of wildlife species. For example, habitat models for elk have shown that road densities higher than one mile per square mile reduces effective habitat to zero (Lyon 1979). In another study, mountain lions avoided improved dirt and hard-surfaced roads and selected home range areas with lower densities of these road types (Van Dyke et al. 1986). Related studies demonstrated that lions on the Kaibab Plateau and southern Utah avoided logging areas and established home ranges in areas with lower road densities (Van Dyke et al. 1986b). The Kaibab National Forest has acknowledged these many significant negative impacts to wildlife and habitat suitability (Forest Service 2010: 20-22).

National Monument designation should result in a road density standard less than the recommended maximum of one mile per square mile. Reducing road density to restore wildlife habitat and native biological diversity significantly reduces soil erosion, helps mitigate non-native species invasions, helps mitigate air quality impacts (especially to Class 1 airsheds; e.g., Grand Canyon NP) and comprises a key management strategy to maintain and restore resiliency to Forests and their watershed function. The most practical and economical long-term mitigation of these problems lies with closure and revegetation (Forest Service 2001: 22; Moll 1996).

Conservation Options

The Forest Plan Revision Process, in theory, provides an opportunity to develop and implement wildlife conservation management objectives implementing ecologically effective populations of critical native species by protecting core habitats and facilitating wildlife movements across the landscape. As the history of the North Kaibab amply demonstrates, forest plans and administrative designations fail to provide long-term protection and restoration of old growth forest ecosystems, including its full native diversity of life. Although the Forest Service currently manages four congressionally designated national monuments (Williams 2003),² congressional designation remains problematic during the current and foreseeable Congress.

The President has the authority under the Antiquities Act to protect an endangered, ecologically critical landscape by designating an expansive Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. ³ National Monument designation would provide new management direction reflecting modern conservation biology precepts build the original, 100 year-old Congressional intent to *“afford perpetual protection to the native fauna and flora [and] safe havens of refuge to our rapidly diminishing wild animals...”*⁴ [emphasis added].⁴

² Mount Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument (WA); Newberry Crater National Volcanic Monument (OR); Misty Fords National Monument (AK); and Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument (CA).

³ . Currently, the Forest Service manages two presidentially established national monuments: California’s Giant Sequoia National Monument and New Mexico’s Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument.

⁴ House of Representative, 38th Congress, Report No. 3528.

REFERENCES

- Alward, G.S., J.R. Arnold, M.J. Niccolucci, and S.A. Winter. 2003. *Evaluating the Economic Significance of the USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan (2000 Revision): Methods and results for programmatic evaluations*. USDA Forest Service Inventory and Monitoring Report No. 6, Fort Collins, CO.
- Anderson, Michael F. 1998. *Living at the Edge: Explorers, Exploiters and Settlers of Grand Region*. Canyon, AZ: Grand Canyon Association. 184 pages.
- Arizona Game and Fish Department. 2002. Hunting Regulations 2002-03.
- Arizona Game & Fish Department. 2002a. *Black Bear*. <www.gf.state.az.us>. Phoenix: Arizona Game and Fish Department
- Arizona Game and Fish Department. 2005. House Rock Wildlife Area. <http://www.wildlifeviewingareas.com/wv-app/parkdetail.aspx?parkid=57>. Accessed January 26, 2012.
- Austin, D., E. Dean, and J. Gaines. 2005. *Yanawant: Paiute and Landscapes on the Arizona Strip*, Vol. 2: *The Arizona Strip Landscapes and Places Names Study*. Tucson: Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology.
- Barlow, J., and C.Y. McCulloch. 1984. Recent dynamics and Mortality Rates of the Kaibab Deer Herd. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 62:1805-1812.
- Beach, Ben, Leslie Jones, and Jay Watson (eds). 2004. *The Wilderness Act Handbook*. Washington, D.C.: The Wilderness Society. 84 pages. <http://wilderness.org/content/wilderness-act-handbook-40th-anniversary-edition>. Accessed January 26, 2012.
- Beier, Paul, and Joyce Maschinski. 2003. Threatened and Endangered, and Sensitive Species. Pages 306-327. In Friederici, Peter. 2003. *Ecological Restoration of Southwestern Ponderosa Pine Forests*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press. 561 pages.
- Belsky, A.J., and D.M. Blumenthal. 1997. Effects of Livestock Grazing on Stand Dynamics and Soils in Upland Forests of the Interior West. *Conservation Biology* 11:315-327.
- Bratland, Kristin, Bill Noble, and Rodger Joos. 2008. Management Indicator Species of the Kaibab National Forest: Population Status and Trends. Version 2.0.
- Bright, Jill. 1999. Home Ranges, Habitat Selection and Distribution Around Water Sources of Pronghorn in Northern Arizona. MS Thesis, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ. 66 pages.
- Brocke, R.H., J.P. O'Pezio, and K.A. Gustafson. 1990. A Forest Management Scheme Mitigating the impact of Road Networks on Sensitive Wildlife Species. In *Is Forest Fragmentation and Management Issue in the Northeast?* General Technical Report NE-140, U.S. Forest Service, Radnor, PA. p.13-17.
- Brown, David E. (ed.). 1992. *The Wolf in the Southwest: The Making of an Endangered Species*. Forth printing. Tucson: University of Arizona Press. 195 pages.
- Carrel, William K., Richard A. Ockenfels, and Raymond E. Schweinsburg. 1999. An Evaluation of Annual Migration Patterns of the Paunsaugunt Mule Deer Herd Between Utah and Arizona. Arizona Game and Fish Department Technical Report 29. Phoenix. 44 pages. http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/documents/TR-29-ANEVALUATIONOFANNUALMIGRATIONPATTERNSOFTHEPAUNSAUGUNTMULEDEERHERDBETWEENUTAHANDARIZONA.pdf. Accessed 3/31/11.

- Chambers, Carol L. and Stephen S. Germaine. 2003. Vertebrates. Pages 268-285. In Friederici, Peter. 2003. *Ecological Restoration of Southwestern Ponderosa Pine Forests*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press. 561 pages.
- Concerned Scientists. 2004. A letter sent October 19, 2004, by 127 concerned scientists to the Content Analysis Team, USDA Forest Service <www.statepetitionroadless@fs.fed.us>
- Covington, Wallace W. 2003. The Evolutionary and Historical Context. Pages 26-47. In Friederici, Peter. 2003. *Ecological Restoration of Southwestern Ponderosa Pine Forests*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press. 559 pages.
- Crist, Michele R. and Bo Wilmer. 2002. *Roadless Areas: The Missing Link in Conservation*. Washington, D.C.: The Wilderness Society.
- Crist, Michele R., Bo Wilmer, and Greg H. Aplet. In Review. Assessing the Value of Roadless Areas in a Conservation Reserve Strategy: An Analysis of Biodiversity and Landscape Connectivity in the Northern Rockies, USA. *Applied Ecology*.
- DellaSala, D.A., and E. Forst. 2001. An Ecologically Based Strategy for Fire and Fuels Management in National Forest Roadless Areas. *Fire Management Today* 61(2);12-23.
- DeVelice, R.L. and J.R. Martin. 2001. Assessing the Extent to Which Roadless Areas Complement the Conservation of Biological Diversity. *Ecological Applications* 11(4):1008-1018.
- Dobson, Andy, Katherine Ralls, Mercedes Foster, Michael E. Soulé, Daniel Simberloff, Dan Doak, James A. Estes, L.Scott Mills, David Mattson, Rodolfo Dirzo, Hector Ariita, Sadie Ryan, Elliott A. Norse, Reed F. Noss, and David Jones. 1999. Corridors: Reconnecting Fragmented Landscapes. Pp. 129- 170 in M.E. Soulé and J. Terborgh (eds.) *Continental Conservation*, Washington, D.C. Island Press.
- Donahue, Debra. 1999. *The Western Range Revisited: Removing Livestock from Public Lands to Conserve Native Biodiversity*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press. 338 pages.
- Duffy-Deno, K.T. 1998. The Effect of Federal Wilderness on County Growth in the Intermountain Western United States. *Journal of Regional Science* 38(1): 109-136.
- Dutton, Clarence, Edward. 1882. *Tertiary History of the Grand Canyon District; with atlas*. U.S. Geological Survey Monograph 2, 264 pp.; Atlas, 23 sheets.
- Fairley, H.C. 2004. *Changing River: Time Culture, and the Transformation of Landscape in the Grand Canyon*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.
- Fleischner, Thomas L. 1994. Ecological Costs of Grazing in Western North America. *Conservation Biology* 8(3): 629-644.
- Fleischner, T.L., D.E. Brown, A.Y. Cooperrider, W.B. Kessler, and E.L. Painter. 1994. *Society for Conservation Biology Newsletter* 1(4):2-3.
- Finch, D.M. 1992. Threatened, Endangered, and Vulnerable Species of Terrestrial Vertebrates in the Rocky Mountain Region. USDA Forest Service General Technical Report RM-215.
- Forest Service. 2000. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation: Final Environmental Impact Statement*. Vol. I. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.

- Forest Service. 2001. Forest Transportation System: Notice of final policy. Washington, DC: Federal Register. January 3, 2001.
- Forest Service. 2006. National Visitor Use Monitoring Results for Kaibab National Forest. September 2006. <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/>. Accessed January 27, 2011.
- Forest Service. 2007. FSH 1909.12. *Land Management Planning Handbook*, Chapter 70—Wilderness Evaluation. January 31, 2007
- Forest Service. 2007a. *R3 Potential Wilderness Inventory Process*. February 10, 2007.
- Forest Service. 2008. *Kaibab National Forest Ecological Sustainability Report*. Version 1.01, December 19, 2008. Forest Service. 2008a. *Kaibab National Forest Ecological Sustainability Report*. Version 1.01, December 19, 2008. http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsm91_050014.pdf.
- Forest Service. 2009. *Kaibab National Forest Comprehensive Evaluation Report*. April 2009. http://fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsm91_050073.pdf.
- Forest Service. 2009a. National Visitor Use Monitoring Results. Kaibab National Forest. February 2009. http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/2009/Kaibab_FY2005.pdf.
- Forest Service. 2010. Proposed Action for Motorized Travel Management on the North Kaibab Ranger District. March 2010.
- Forest Service. 2010b. National Visitor Use Monitoring Results, National Summary Report. Data Collected FY 2005 through FY 2009. Updated 25 April 2010. http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/nvum_national_summary_fy2009.pdf.
- Foreman, Dave. 2004. *Rewilding North America: A Vision for Conservation in the 21st Century*. Washington, Covelo, London: Island Press. 295 pages.
- Fox, R.A. 1989. Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) Home Range and Habitat Use in an Energy-Impacted Area of the North Dakota Badlands. Masters Thesis, University of North Dakota. Grand Forks, ND.
- Franklin, J.F., and J. Agee. 2003. Scientific Issues and National Forest Fire Policy: Forging a Science-based National Forest Fire Policy. *Issues in Science and Technology* 20(1): 59-66.
- Friederici, Peter. 2003. *Ecological Restoration of Southwestern Ponderosa Pine Forests*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press. 561 pages.
- Frome, Michael. 1997. *Battle for the Wilderness*. Revised. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press. 278 pages.
- Garland, T., and Bradley, G. (1984). Effects of a Highway on Mojave Desert Rodent Populations. *American Midland Naturalist*, 111(1), 47-55.
- Gelbard, Jonathan L., and Jayne Belnap. 2003. Roads as Conduits for Exotic Plant Invasions in a Semiarid Landscape. *Conservation Biology* 17(2):420-432.
- Grand Canyon Wildlands Council (GCWC); and the Arizona Wilderness Coalition (AWC). 2004. Arizona Strip Resource Conservation Area: A Proposal. A report submitted to the Bureau of Land Management Arizona Strip Field Office, August 23, 2004. Document on file at the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, Flagstaff, AZ.

- Gratson, M.W., and C.L. Whitman. 2000. Road Closures and Density and Success of Elk Hunters in Idaho. *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. 28(2):302-310.
- Groom, Martha, Deborah B. Jensen, Richard L. Knight, Steve Gatewood, Lisa Mills, Diane Boyd-Heger, L. Scott Mills, and Michael E. Soulé. Buffer Zones: Benefits and Dangers of Compatible Stewardship. Pp. 171-197 in M.E. Soulé and J. Terborgh (eds.) *Continental Conservation*, Washington, D.C. Island Press.
- Haefele, Michelle, Pete Morton, and Nada Culver. 2007. *Natural Dividends: Wildland Protection and the Changing Economy of the Rocky Mountain West* <http://wilderness.org/content/natural-dividends-wildland-protection>. Accessed November 25, 2010.
- Hannon, S.J., C.A. Paszkowski, S.J. DeGroot, S.E. Macdonald, M. Wheatley, and B.R. Eaton. 2002. Abundance and Species Composition of Amphibians, Small Mammals, and Songbirds in Riparian Forest Buffer Strips of Varying Widths in the Boreal Forests of Alberta. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* 32:1784-1800.
- Harris, L.D., T. Hctor, D. Maehr, and J. Sanderson. 1996. The Role of Networks and Corridors in Enhancing the Value and Protection of Parks and Equivalent Areas. In *National Parks and Protected Areas*, ed. R.G. Wright, pages 173-197. Cambridge, England: Blackwell Science.
- Havlick, David G. 2002. *No Place Distant*. Covelo, CA: Island Press. 297 pages.
- Headwaters Economics. 2011. *The Economic Importance of National Monuments to Local Communities*. <http://headwaterseconomics.org/land/reports/national-monuments/>. Accessed September 5, 2011.
- Headwaters Economics. 2011. *Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments; Geographic Area: Garfield County, Utah and Kane County, Utah*. <http://headwaterseconomics.org/wphw/wp-content/uploads/Escalante.pdf>. Accessed September 5, 2011.
- Headwaters Economics. 2011. *Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument: A Summary of Economic Performance*. <http://headwaterseconomics.org/apps-public/national-monuments/2011-03/pdf/escalante.pdf>. Accessed September 5, 2011.
- Headwaters Economics. 2011. *Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument: A Summary of Economic Performance*. http://headwaterseconomics.org/apps-public/national-monuments/2011-03/pdf/gc_para.pdf. Accessed September 5, 2011.
- Headwaters Economics. 2011. *Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument: Geographic Area: Mohave County, Arizona and Washington County, Utah*. http://headwaterseconomics.org/wphw/wp-content/uploads/GC_Para.pdf. Accessed September 5, 2011.
- Headwaters Economics. 2011. *Vermilion Cliffs National Monument: A Summary of Economic Performance*. <http://headwaterseconomics.org/apps-public/national-monuments/2011-03/pdf/vermilion.pdf>. Accessed September 5, 2011.
- Headwaters Economics. 2011. *Vermilion Cliffs National Monument Geographic Area: Coconino County, Arizona*. <http://headwaterseconomics.org/wphw/wp-content/uploads/Vermilion.pdf>. Accessed September 5, 2011.
- Heiken, D. 2007. The Straight Facts on Forests, Carbon, and Global Warming. Available at <http://tinyurl.com/2by9kt>.

- Heilman, G.E., Jr., J.R. Strittholt, N.C. Slosser, and D.A. Dellasalla. 2002. Forest Fragmentation of the Conterminous United States: Assessing Forest Intactness Through Road Density and Spatial Characteristics. *BioScience* 52(5):411-422.
- Hendee, John C. and Chad P. Dawson. 2002. *Wilderness Management: Stewardship and Protection of Resources and Values*. Third Edition. Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing. 640 pages.
- Hendee, John C. and David J. Mattson. Wildlife and Wilderness: A North American and International Perspective. Pages 321-349 In Hendee, John C. and Chad P. Dawson. 2002. *Wilderness Management: Stewardship and Protection of Resources and Values*. Third Edition. Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing. 640 pages.
- Hilty, Jodi A., William Z. Lidicker Jr, and Adina M. Merenlender. 2006. *Corridor Ecology: The Science and Practice of Linking Landscapes for Biodiversity Conservation*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press. 323 pages.
- Hoffmeister, D.F. 1986. *Mammals of Arizona*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson, AZ. 602 pages.
- Holmes, F.P., and W.E. Hecox. 2004. Does Wilderness Impoverish Rural Regions? *International Journal of Wilderness* 10(3): 34-39.
- Johnson, J., and R. Rasker. 1993. The Role of Amenities in Business Attraction and Retention. *Montana Policy Review* 3(2): 11-19.
- Johnson, J., and R. Rasker. 1993. The Role of Amenities in Business Attraction and Retention. *Montana Policy Review* 3(2): 11-19.
- Johnson, J., and R. Rasker. 1995. The Role of Economic and Quality of Life Values in Rural Business Location. *Journal of Rural Studies* 11(4): 405-416.
- Johnson, J., and R. Rasker. 1995. The Role of Economic and Quality of Life Values in Rural Business Location. *Journal of Rural Studies* 11(4): 405-416.
- Kelley, I.T 1964. *Southern Paiute Ethnography*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press.
- Kilgore, B.M. 1985. What is "Natural" in Wilderness Fire Management? In Lotan, James E. et al., technical coordinators. *Proceedings--Symposium and Workshop on wilderness Fire; 1983 November 15-18; Missoula, MT*. General Technical Report INT-182. Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station: 57-67.
- Kozel, R. M., and Fleharty, E. D. (1979). Movements of Rodents across Roads. *The Southwestern Naturalist*. 24(2), 239-248.
- Landres, Peter, and Shannon Meyers. 1998. *National Wilderness Preservation System Database: Key Attributes and Trends, 1964-1998*. General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-18. Ogden, UT: Department of Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 97 pages.
- Larson, Amy, Avi Henn, Carrie Cultra, Chris Ray, Karin Wadsack, Moran Henn, and Rex Bergamin. 2009. Bison in the Grand Canyon Region: Implications and Recommendations. Report prepared for Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Forest Service, Grand Canyon Trust, and other stakeholders. March 27, 2009. Copy on file at Grand Canyon National Park, Division of Science and Resource Management.

- Lorah, P., and R. Southwick. 2003. Environmental Protection, Population Change, and Economic Development in the Rural Western United States. *Population and Environment* 24(3): 255- 272.
- Loucks, C., N. Brown, A. Loucks, and K. Cesareo. 2003. USDA Forest Service Roadless Areas: Potential Biodiversity Conservation Reserves. *Conservation Ecology* 7(2); www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol17/iss2/art5/index.html.
- Lyon, L. J. 1979. Habitat effectiveness for elk as influenced by roads and cover. *Journal of Forestry* October, 658-660.
- Lyon, L.J. 1983. Road Density Models Describing Habitat Effectiveness for Elk. *Journal of Forestry* 81: 592-595.
- Lyon, L.J.; T.N. Lonner, J.P. Weigand, C. Les Marcum, W. D. Edge, J. D. Jones, D.W. McCleerey, and L.L. Hicks. 1985. Coordinating Elk and Timber Management. Final Report of the Montana Cooperative Elk-Logging Study 1970-1985.
- Martineau, LaVan. 1992. *Southern Paiutes*. Las Vegas: KC Publications. 312 pages.
- McCloskey, Michael. 1966. The Wilderness Act of 1964: Its Background and Meaning. *Oregon Law Review* 45(4):288-321.
- McLellan, B. N., and Shackleton, D. M. (1988). Grizzly bears and Resource-Extraction Industries: Effects of Roads on Behaviour, Habitat Use and Demography. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 25, 451-460.
- Mech, L.D.; S.H. Fritts; G.L. Raddle; and W.J. Paul. 1988. Wolf Distribution and Road Density in Minnesota. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 16:85-87.
- Miller, Brian, Dave Foreman, Michelle Fink, Doug Shinnerman, Jean Smith, Margaret DeMarco, Michael Soulé, and Robert Howard. 2003. *Southern Rockies Wildlands Network Vision: A Science-Based Approach to Rewilding the Southern Rockies*. Golden CO: The Colorado Mountain Club Press. 248 pages.
- Moll, Jeffrey E. 1996. A Guide for Road Closures and Obliteration in the Forest Service. San Dimas, California: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, San Dimas Technology and Development Center. 49 pages.
- Morehouse, B.J. 1996. *A Place Called Grand Canyon: Contested Geographies*. Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press. 202 pages.
- Ndubisi, F., T. Demeo, and N.D. Ditto. 1995. Environmentally Sensitive Areas: A Template for Developing Greenway Corridors. *Landscape and Urban Planning* 33: 159-177.
- Nickas, G. 2001. Wilderness: Keep it Wild! *Wild Earth* 61-63.
- Noon, B.R., D. Murphy, S.R. Beissinger, M.L. Shaffer, and D. DellaSalla. 2003. Conservation Planning for US National forests: Conducting Comprehensive Biodiversity Assessments. *BioScience* 53(12): 1217-1220.
- Noss, Reed F. 1991. Landscape Connectivity: Different Functions at Different Scales. In *Landscape Linkages and Biodiversity*, ed. W.E. Hudson, pages 27-39, Washington, D.C.: Island Press.

- Noss, Reed F. 1992. The Wildlands Project Land Conservation Strategy. Pages 10-25 in *Wild Earth* (special issue), Plotting a North American Wilderness Recovery Strategy. The Wildlands Project. Canton, N.Y. 88 pages.
- Noss, Reed F., and R.L. Peters. 1995. *Endangered Ecosystems: A Report on America's Vanishing Habitat and Wildlife*. Washington DC: Defenders of Wildlife. 132 pages.
- Noss, Reed F., E.T. LaRoe III, and J.M. Scott. 1995. *Endangered Ecosystems of the United States: A Preliminary Assessment of Loss and Degradation*. Biological Report 28, National Biological Survey, Washington, D.C. 68 pages.
- Noss, Reed, Michael A. O'Connell, and Dennis D. Murphy. 1997. *The Science of Conservation Planning: Habitat Conservation Under the Endangered Species Act*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press. 246 pages.
- Noss, Reed F., and A.Y. Cooperrider. 1994. *Saving Nature's Legacy: Protecting and Restoring Biodiversity*. Washington, D.C.; Covelo, CA: Island Press. 416 pages.
- NPS. 2010. NPS Public Use Statistics –Grand Canyon NP. October 2010. <http://www.nature.nps.gov/stats/viewReport.cfm>.
- O'Farrell, Michael J. 1995. Distribution of the Houserock Valley Chisel-Toothed Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys microps leucotis* Goldman). Phoenix, Arizona: Arizona Game and Fish. 22 pages.
- Outdoor Industry Foundation. 2006a. *Outdoor Recreation Participation Study 8th Edition for the Year 2005 Trend Analysis for the United States*. Outdoor Industry Foundation, Boulder, CO.
- Outdoor Industry Foundation. 2006b. The Active Outdoor Recreation Economy. Outdoor Industry Foundation, Boulder, CO. Available from <http://www.outdoorindustryfoundation.org/resources.research.recreation.html>.
- Outdoor Industry Foundation. 2007. *State-Level Economic Contributions of Active Outdoor Recreation—Technical Report on Methods and Findings*. Southwick Associates, Inc., Fernandina Beach, FL.
- Outdoor Industry Foundation. 2010. *The Active Outdoor Recreation Economy: Arizona*. Outdoor Industry Foundation, Boulder, CO. Available from <http://www.outdoorfoundation.org/pdf/ResearchRecreationEconomyStateArizona.pdf>. Accessed November 29, 2010.
- Outdoor Industry Foundation. 2010a. *The Active Outdoor Recreation Economy: Arizona*. Outdoor Industry Foundation, Boulder, CO. Available from <http://www.outdoorfoundation.org/pdf/ResearchRecreationEconomyStateUtah.pdf>. Accessed November 29, 2010.
- Power, T. 1995. Economic Well-Being and Environmental Protection in the Pacific Northwest: A Consensus Report by Pacific Northwest Economists. University of Montana, Missoula, MT.
- Power, T.M. 1996. *Lost Landscapes and Failed Economies*. Island Press, Covelo, CA.;
- Price, Virginia N., and John T. Darby. 1964. Preston Nutter: Utah Cattleman, 1886-1939. *Utah Historical Quarterly* 32(3):232-251.
- Public Law 88-577. The Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964. 78 Stat. 890.
- Pringle, Catherine M. 2001. Hydrologic Connectivity: A Call for Greater Emphasis in the World's Wilderness. *International Journal of Wilderness*. 7(3): 221-26.

- Rasker, R. 1994. A New Look at Old Vistas: The Economic Role of Environmental Quality in Western Public Lands. *University of Colorado Law Review* 52(2): 369-399.
- Rasker, R., B. Alexander, J. van den Noort, and R. Carter. 2004. *Public Lands Conservation and Economic Well-Being*. The Sonoran Institute, Tucson, AZ. Available from <http://www.sonoran.org/library/reports.html>. Accessed 11/28/10.
- Rasmussen, D.I. 1941. Biotic Communities of Kaibab Plateau, Arizona. *Ecological Monographs* 11(3): 229-276.
- Reynolds, R.T., R.T. Graham, M.H. Reiser, R.L. Bassett, P.L. Kennedy, D.A. Boyce, Jr. G. Goodwin, R. Smith, and E.L. Fisher. 1992. Management Recommendations for the Northern Goshawk in the Southwestern United States. USDA Forest Service General Technical Report RM-217. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Fort Collins, CO.
- Rider, Rowland W. 1985. *The Roll A Way Saloon: Cowboy Tales of the Arizona Strip*. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press. 114 pages.
- Robinson, Michael J. 2005. *Predatory Bureaucracy: The Extermination of the Wolves and the Transformation of the West*. Boulder, CO: University Press of Colorado. 473 pages.
- Rogers, L.L. 1977. Movements and Social Relationships of Black Bears in Northeastern Minnesota. PhD dissertation. Univ. of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN. 194 pp.
- Rost, G.R., and J.A. Bailey. 1979. Distribution of Mule Deer and Elk in Relation to Roads. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 43(3):634—641.
- Rowland, M.M., M.J. Wisdom, B.K. Johnson, and M.A. Penninger. 2005. Effects of roads on elk: implications for management in forested ecosystems. Pages 42-52 in Wisdom, M.J., technical editor, *The Starkey Project: a synthesis of long-term studies of elk and mule deer*. Reprinted from the 2004 Transactions of the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Alliance Communications Group, Lawrence, Kansas, USA.
- Rudzitis, G. 1999. Amenities Increasingly Draw People to the Rural West. *Rural Development Perspectives* 14(3): 9-13.
- Rudzitis, G., and H.E. Johansen. 1989. *Amenities, Migration, and Nonmetropolitan Regional Development*. Report to National Science Foundation, Department of Geography, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID.
- Rudzitis, G., and R. Johnson. 2000. *The Impact of Wilderness and Other Wildlands on Local Economies and Regional Development Trends*. Pages 14-2 in: McCool, S.F., D.N. Cole, W.T. Borrie, and J. O'Loughlin, Comps. *Wilderness Science in a Time of Change Conference, Volume 2: Wilderness Within the Context of Larger Systems*, 1999 May 23-27, Missoula, MT. Proceedings RMRS-P-15-VOL 2., U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Ogden, UT.
- Sage, R.W., W.C. Tierson, G.F. Mattfeld, and D.F. Behrend. 1983. White-tailed Deer Visibility and Behavior Along Forest Roads. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 47: 940-962.
- Schulz, T.T., and W.C. Leininger. 1991. Nongame Wildlife Communities in Grazed and Ungrazed Montaine riparian Sites. *Great Basin Naturalist* 51:286-292.
- Schussman, Heather and David Gori. 2004. An Ecological Assessment of the Bureau of Land Management's Current Fire Management Plans: Materials and

- Recommendations for Future Fire Planning. March 2004. The Nature Conservancy.
- Scott, Doug. 2001. Congress's Practical Guide for Designating Wilderness. *Wild Earth* 11(1):28-32.
- Scott, Douglas W. 2001-2002. "Untrammelled," "Wilderness Character," and the Challenges of Wilderness Preservation. *Wild Earth* 11(3-4): 72-79.
- Scott, Douglas W. 2001. *A Wilderness-Forever Future: A Short History of the National Wilderness Preservation System*. Washington, D.C.: Pew Wilderness Center.
- Scott, Doug. 2004. *Closing and Restoring Roads for Inclusion in a Wilderness*. Campaign for America's Wilderness Briefing Paper. http://www.leaveitwild.org/psapp/view_page.asp?PEB_PAGE_ID=30
- Scott, Douglas W. 2004b. *The Enduring Wilderness: Protecting Our Natural Heritage Through the Wilderness Act*. Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing. 184.
- Simberloff, Daniel J, Dan Doak, Martha Groom, Steve Trombulak, Andy Dobson, Steve Gatewood, Michael E. Soulé, Michael Gilpin, Carlos Martinez del Rio, and Lisa Mills. 1999. Regional and Continental Restoration. Pages 65-98. in Soulé, M.E., and J. Terborgh. 1999. *Continental Conservation: Scientific Foundations of Regional Reserve Networks*. Washington, D.C.; Covelo, CA: Island Press.
- Soulé, Michael E. 1996. Are Ecosystem Processes Enough? *Wild Earth* 6(1): 59-60.
- Soulé, Michael E., James A Estes, Brian Miller, and Douglas L. Honnold. 2005. Strongly Interacting Species: Conservation Policy, Management, and Ethics. *BioScience* (55):2: 168-176.
- Strittholt, J.R., and D.A. DellaSalla. 2001. Importance of Roadless Areas in Biodiversity Conservation in Forested Ecosystems: A Case Study—Klamath-Siskiyou Ecoregion. *Conservation Biology* 15(6): 1742-1754.
- Suckling, Kieran. 1996. *Forests Forever!: A Plan to Restore Ecological and Economic Integrity to the Southwest's National Forests and Forest-Dependent Communities*. Flagstaff: Southwest Forest Alliance. 30 pages.
- Terborgh. 1999. *Continental Conservation: Scientific Foundations of Regional Reserve Networks*. Washington, D.C.; Covelo, CA: Island Press.
- The White House. 2000. Proclamation Establishing Cascades-Siskiyou National Monument. June 9, 2000.
- Thiel, R.P. 1985. Relationship Between Road Densities and Wolf Habitat Suitability in Wisconsin. *American Midland Naturalist* 113:404-407.
- Thiessen, J.L. 1976. Some Relations of Elk to Logging, Roading and Hunting in Idaho's Game Management Unit 39. Pages 3-5 in S.R. Hieb and J.M. Peak (Ed. and Chairman). *Proceedings of the Elk-Logging-roads Symposium*. Moscow, Idaho. December 16-17, 1975. Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station, University of Idaho, Moscow. 142 pp.
- Timmermann, H.R., and R. Gollath. 1982. Age and sex structure of harvested moose related to season, manipulation, and access. *Alces* 18:301-328.
- Trumbulak, S.C., and C.A. Frissell. 2000. Review of Ecological Effects of Roads on Terrestrial and Aquatic Communities. *Conservation Biology* 14(1):18-26.
- Turner, James Morton. 2001. Wilderness East: Reclaiming History. *Wild Earth* 11(1): 19-27.

- Union of Concerned Scientists. 2008. Recognizing Forests' Role in Climate Change. Accessed May 31, 2008.
http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/solutions/recognizing-forests-role-in-climate-change.html
- USDI, Bureau of Land Management, and USDA, Forest Service. 2000. Kane Ranch Allotment Management environmental Assessment. North Kaibab Ranger District. Fredonia, Arizona.
- VanDyke, F. G., Brocke, R. H., and Shaw, H. G. (1986). Use of road track counts as indices of mountain lion presence. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 50(1):102-109.
- VanDyke, F. G., Brocke, R. H., Shaw, H. G., Ackerman, B. B., Hemker, T. P., and Lindzey, F. G. (1986b). Reactions of Mountain Lions to Logging and Human Activity. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 50(1): 95-102.
- Walker, R., and L. Craighead. 1997. Analyzing Wildlife Movement Corridors in Montana using GIS. *ESRI User Conference Proceedings, California*. <http://gis.esri.com/library/user-conf/proc97/abstract/a116.htm>
- Whitelaw, E., and 99 others. 2003. A letter from economists to President Bush and the governors of eleven western states regarding the economic importance of the West's natural environment. Available from <http://www.econw.com/pdf/120303letter.pdf>.
- Williams, Gerald W. 2003. National Monuments and the Forest Service. November 18, 2003. http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/fs/monuments.htm. Accessed 8/10/10.

DRAFT - Arizona Game and Fish Commission Policy on Fishing

A2.36 Fishing

Fishing provides significant recreational and economic benefits to Arizonans and Arizona's visitors; and is an integral part of wildlife conservation in Arizona. Maintenance and growth of fishing in Arizona is challenged by many complex factors.

It is the position of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission (Commission) that fishing is a valuable and legitimate means of accomplishing the following things: 1) providing affordable and accessible recreational opportunity; 2) maintaining a long-standing lifestyle and quality of life for Arizonans; 3) funding conservation of fish and wildlife resources and habitat; 4) collecting information used for management of aquatic wildlife; 5) educating and informing the public and youth about wildlife resources and the habitats on which they depend; 6) funding enforcement of laws protecting both game and nongame species, and; 7) providing direct economic benefit to industry and communities statewide. The Commission is aware of the diverse public opinions concerning fishing and providing recreational opportunity by stocking fish. Therefore, the Commission recognizes the need to increase public awareness and personal investment in the importance of fishing in Arizona, and also the impacts to wildlife conservation if fishing were abolished.

It is the policy of the Commission that the Department shall recognize that fishing is a fundamental requirement of wildlife conservation in Arizona. The Department shall actively manage for and promote participation in a variety of fishing opportunities for the public. The Department will utilize fish culture and stocking of fish, where reasonable and prudent to do so, in order to provide recreational opportunity to the public. The Department shall identify, and seek to aggressively address threats to the future of fishing. Further, the Department shall work with federal, state, county, tribal, and municipal agencies, along with private land owners, to take all necessary measures to maintain access to, and management authority of, all wildlife in Arizona.

DRAFT – Arizona Game and Fish Commission Policy on Wildlife Viewing

A2.37 Wildlife Viewing

Wildlife viewing is a popular recreational activity in Arizona. The participation rate in this activity is increasing nationally and in Arizona. The 2006 National Survey on Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation found 1.28 million wildlife viewing participants spent \$838 million in Arizona that year.

It is the position of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission (Commission) that wildlife viewing is a valuable and legitimate means of: 1) maintaining the quality of life in Arizona; 2) providing wholesome recreation opportunities for friends and families; 3) providing for health, learning and lifestyle benefits to Arizonans, and; 4) providing direct economic benefit to industry and local communities. The Commission is aware that many people choose to enjoy wildlife through non-consumptive activities, and recognizes that wildlife viewing is a critical means of providing interactive products and services to non-consumptive wildlife enthusiasts.

It is the policy of the Commission that the Department shall actively manage for and promote participation in a variety of wildlife viewing recreation opportunities. The Department shall identify, and seek to enhance, wildlife viewing opportunities in Arizona. Further, the Department shall work with federal, state, county, tribal, and municipal agencies, along with private landowners, to take all necessary measures to maintain access to, and promote, wildlife viewing opportunities.

LEBSF Formula Explanation

Column A: Mid-range Salary of Officers assigned to Boating Enforcement Duties

Column B: Number of Officers assigned to Boating Enforcement Duties (*Requested by each Agency and approved by State Parks Board*)

Column C: Column A x Column B

Column D: Total Personnel costs - Total of Column C

Column E: 80% of Column D (*in percentage*)

Column F: 80% of total personnel costs (*State Parks felt that Counties should have some stake in their funding and their policy was to fund 80% of allowable personnel costs, leaving an “informal” maintenance of effort of 20% on the Counties.*)

Column G: Percent of Boat Use days per County from latest Watercraft Survey

Column H: Column G x .20 (*20% left out of Column E*)

Column I: Column E + Column H (*Final percentage for distribution of LEBSF Funds*)

State Parks policy was to fund 80% of Boating Officer Salary (including ERE). Any funds remaining following the allocation to all Counties would be distributed based upon Boat Use Days from latest Watercraft Survey. The above formula is what they came up with to meet this policy.

The final percentage (Column I) is what share of all monies in the LEBSF is allocated to each County. Every 3 years, just prior to the Watercraft Survey being released, State Parks would solicit the latest salary and Officer information and adjust the formulation accordingly. The new figures would then be used to determine allocation for the NEXT 3 years.

This formula was set up so that the amount of money in LEBSF wasn't a “factor” in the formulation, as that amount changed each year. Each county would get their percentage of LEBSF whether there was 1 million dollars or 3 million dollars. For example, La Paz County's final percentage for FYs 10, 11, 12 is 17.872%. That means that La Paz would get 17.872% of all funds in LEBSF.

This kind of negated the 20% maintenance of effort, but was the fairest and most equitable way to distribute the money to the Counties, with the Counties with the most boating activity getting a higher percentage and hence more funds. This also ensures compliance with ARS 383.C.2 regarding consideration of *“The number of recreational days of use on water within the jurisdiction of the counties in areas of administrative authority”*.

Hope this explains it well enough.

Historic Formulations of LEBSF based on 2009 Watercraft Survey

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
		(A x B)	(C / Total of C)	(D x .80)	(E x Total of C)		(G x .20)	(E+H)	
County	New Mid-Range Salary	Number of Officers	Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Personnel Costs	80.000%	Amount of Personnel Costs Paid	Percent Boat Use Days / Participating Counties	20.000%	Percent Allocation
Apache	\$71,658.00	1	\$71,658.00	3.558%	2.847%	\$57,326.40	0.69%	0.138%	2.985%
Coconino	\$69,371.00	3	\$208,113.00	10.334%	8.267%	\$166,490.40	11.45%	2.290%	10.557%
Gila	\$77,800.00	3	\$233,400.00	11.590%	9.272%	\$186,720.00	5.40%	1.080%	10.352%
La Paz	\$70,115.00	5	\$350,575.00	17.408%	13.926%	\$280,460.00	19.73%	3.946%	17.872%
Maricopa	\$88,784.00	4	\$355,136.00	17.634%	14.107%	\$284,108.80	12.36%	2.472%	16.579%
Mohave	\$87,343.00	6	\$524,058.00	26.022%	20.818%	\$419,246.40	47.03%	9.406%	30.224%
Navajo	\$65,304.00	1	\$65,304.00	3.243%	2.594%	\$52,243.20	1.06%	0.212%	2.806%
Yuma	\$68,549.00	3	\$205,647.00	10.211%	8.169%	\$164,517.60	2.28%	0.456%	8.625%
Total	\$598,924.00	26	\$2,013,891.00	100.000%	80.000%	\$1,611,112.80	100.00%	20.000%	100.000%

County	Boat Use Days from 2009 Survey	Percent Boat Use Days / Participating Counties
Apache	22,392	0.69%
Coconino	371,676	11.45%
Gila	175,498	5.40%
La Paz	640,550	19.73%
Maricopa	401,409	12.36%
Mohave	1,527,284	47.03%
Navajo	34,284	1.06%
Yuma	74,171	2.28%
Total	3,247,264	100.00%

10R

Hunt Permit-tag Application Schedule – Fall 2012

Hunt permit-tag applications will be accepted and processed in accordance with R12-4-104 and R12-4-114 and this schedule.

Drawing					
	ACCEPTANCE DATES¹	CORRECTION PERIOD²	DEADLINE DATES³		
HUNT	Applications accepted on or after:	Deadline 5 p.m. (MST) in Department offices	Deadline 7 p.m. (MST) in Department offices on:	Hunt permit-tags mailed out by	Refund warrants mailed out by:
Deer	(See notes 1, 2, 3)	May 25, 2012	June 12, 2012	Aug. 10, 2012	Aug. 20, 2012
Turkey	(See notes 1, 2, 3)	May 25, 2012	June 12, 2012	Aug. 10, 2012	Aug. 20, 2012
Javelina	(See notes 1, 2, 3)	May 25, 2012	June 12, 2012	Aug. 10, 2012	Aug. 20, 2012
Bighorn Sheep	(See notes 1, 2, 3)	May 25, 2012	June 12, 2012	Aug. 10, 2012	Aug. 20, 2012
Buffalo	(See notes 1, 2, 3)	May 25, 2012	June 12, 2012	Aug. 10, 2012	Aug. 20, 2012
Pheasant	(See notes 1, 2, 3)	May 25, 2012	June 12, 2012	Aug. 10, 2012	Aug. 20, 2012
Sandhill Crane	Aug. 6, 2012 ⁴	N/A	Aug. 31, 2012 ⁴	Sept. 28, 2012	N/A
Raptor	Feb. 19, 2013 ⁴	N/A	March 12, 2013 ⁴	March 19, 2013	N/A

First Come		
	Applications accepted by mail on or after 8:00 a.m. (MST):	Permits available for purchase with a completed application at all Department offices after 8:00 a.m. (MST):
HUNT	ACCEPTANCE DATES	ACCEPTANCE DATES
Deer	July 30, 2012 ⁵	Aug. 6, 2012 ⁵
Turkey	July 30, 2012 ⁵	Aug. 6, 2012 ⁵
Javelina	July 30, 2012 ⁵	Aug. 6, 2012 ⁵
Bighorn Sheep	July 30, 2012 ⁵	Aug. 6, 2012 ⁵
Buffalo	July 30, 2012 ⁵	Aug. 6, 2012 ⁵
Pheasant	July 30, 2012 ⁵	Aug. 6, 2012 ⁵
Sandhill Crane	Sept. 17, 2012 ⁵	N/A
Raptor	March 26, 2013 ⁵	N/A

Online Applicants
Deadline for updating your credit or debit card information online by 11:59 p.m. (MST)
Friday, July 13, 2012

Notes:

- The Department will accept Hunt Permit-tag Applications for big game and Pheasant listed above as soon as the applicable year's hunt information is available on the Department's website (www.azgfd.gov), or from any Game and Fish Department office or license dealer, unless otherwise noted in the Hunt Permit-tag Application schedule. Please consult the regulation booklet for eligibility and requirements before submitting your application.
- If a paper Hunt Permit-tag Application that is submitted contains an error and is received by May 25, 2012, the Department will make three attempts within a 24-hour period to notify the applicant by telephone (if a phone number is provided).
- Department offices in Flagstaff, Kingman, Mesa, Phoenix, Pinetop, Tucson and Yuma will close for business at 5:00 p.m. (MST); completed applications will be accepted at these locations until 7:00 p.m. (MST) on deadline days. No applications will be accepted after this time regardless of the postmark. Deadline dates and times will apply to online as well as paper applications. Deadline dates may be extended in the event of a Department-related system failure.
- Sandhill Crane and Raptor applications are accepted by mail only at the following addresses: P.O. Box 74020, Phoenix, AZ 85087-1052; or at 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086-5000. These applications may not be hand delivered to any Department office.
- First come permits are issued if available and will sell very quickly. Applicants are advised to check with the Department before submitting an application for leftover permits. A listing of leftover permits is available online at www.azgfd.gov under "Big Game Draw" or at any Department office. To submit first come applications by U.S. mail only, please send to: 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086, ATTN: DRAW/FIRST COME.

Deadline for updating your credit or debit card information online is 11:59 p.m. (MST) Friday, July 13, 2012.