

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Friday, August 3, 2012
Saturday, August 4, 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 #1 dated August 1, 2012.

Chairman Freeman led those present through a moment of silence in honor of: Sergeant Carl E. Hammar of Lake Havasu City, Arizona, who died on July 14, 2012 in Khost province, Afghanistan, Sergeant Richard L. Berry of Scottsdale, Arizona, who died on July 22, 2012 in Kandahar, Afghanistan, and in honor of the victims of the tragic theater shooting in Aurora, Colorado.

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1. Call to the Public

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

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2. Discussion of Commission Policy Regarding the Development of the Commission Meeting Agenda including Discussion of a First and Second Read Process.

Presenter: Ben Alteneder, Community and Congressional Relations

Mr. Alteneder provided the Commission with a presentation on the development of a potential first and second read process for agreements and other similar matters requiring Commission approval. A first and second read allows for additional public comment and allows the Commission the opportunity to address issues that present themselves during a first read prior to a final decision. Outside of the legislative process, a first and second read process is primarily used by city councils when reviewing proposed ordinances although this conceptual parliamentary form has been in use by a variety of public boards, councils and commissions. The purpose of this agenda item is to allow for Commission discussion and for the Commission to provide guidance to the Department on what agenda items and issues should be placed into a

first and second read format. As always, the Commission retains the authority at any time to bring an item up for further discussion or action if it so chooses as long as it is on the agenda.

The Commission discussed the first and second read concept and how it might work.

Commissioner Davis suggested that ongoing items such as the Tri-State Shooting Range can be put into one category, and another category would be the rules process and the hunt orders, because they already have their own process. That leaves the daily ordinary items (MOUs, Agreements, purchase of property, etc.) that would have a first and second read. That would allow for more public input and the opportunity for the Commission to request and receive additional information before taking action. Renewal of contractual items that are ongoing, the Chairman, through discussion with the Director, should have broad authority to put these items on the consent agenda. There should be broad use of the consent agenda, and a Commission member can still pull an item for discussion if there is a question or issue.

Commissioner Husted stated that, for two day meetings, he would like to see more of a work session day for topics that require in-depth discussion and then a day to do business, and the business day would have the robust consent agenda. Commissioner Husted also questioned the need for the regular monthly briefing presentations.

Commissioner Davis commented that the presenters do not need to call him on first read or work session items. He feels it is a huge waste of Department time for the presenters to have to track down five Commissioners for a pre-briefing and to see if they have any questions.

Chairman Freeman clarified what he understood from discussion, that anything that already has a public process like a state or legislative process (rules, budget, hunt guidelines, Commission Orders, etc.), doesn't need a first and second read process, but new items (MOUs, contracts, acquisitions, building design, policy changes, etc.) will be in a first and second read process.

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3. Legislative Engagement and State and Federal Legislation

Presenter: Anthony Guiles, Legislative Liaison

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

- The Department worked on revisions to the State Parks funding initiative. The initiative did not receive enough signatures to qualify for the ballot, so it will not be on the November ballot. State Parks will now try to get a legislative referral to take it through the legislative process
- The State primary is at the end of the month, which will decide some of the key seats at the Legislature. The Department will provide the Commission with an update after those elections occur.

The Commission discussed and directed the Department to develop a priority list of legislative matters that they would like to work on and to be prepared in case the State Parks initiative or something similar should come back up.

Chairman Freeman suggested that legislative matters be one of the items for the November workshop.

Director Voyles stated that he would like to utilize the Leadership Team to help distill those priorities and he would like to marry those priorities up to the strategic priorities in the strategic planning process. This will be a good discussion for the November workshop.

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4. 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.

The Commission expressed their appreciation for the Grand Opening Ceremony for the Northern Arizona Shooting Range. It was a very successful event and was well attended.

Commissioner Davis expressed his appreciation to the Department and the Director for the creation of a Department Honor Guard that performed their duties at the ceremony.

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

Meeting reconvened at 9:20 a.m.

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5. 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. There were no additional updates and the Commission did not have any comments or questions.

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6. Nongame Subprogram Activities Briefing; April 1, 2012 through July 31, 2012

Presenter: Eric Gardner, Chief, Nongame Branch

Mr. Gardner provided the Commission with a PowerPoint presentation on Nongame Subprogram activities from April 1, 2012 through July 31, 2012. The presentation highlighted several items in the written report that was provided to the Commission prior to this meeting (also available to the public).

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7. Law Enforcement Program Briefing

Presenter: Gene F. Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

The Commission is provided with monthly written reports that include information on law enforcement training activity, wildlife enforcement activity, watercraft and OHV enforcement activities, outreach, forest fire updates, and partnerships that were developed and fostered in each reporting period. Mr. Elms provided an additional briefing using a PowerPoint presentation on the recent North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association conference held in Tucson. This briefing is in fulfillment of the Commission's request to be briefed on a monthly basis regarding the Department's Law Enforcement Programs.

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8. 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.

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9. Request for the Commission to Approve Renewal of a Cooperative Agreement with Salt River Project (SRP) for the Purpose of Operating and Maintaining a Stream Gage within the Upper Verde River Wildlife Area, Yavapai County, Arizona.

Presenter: Josh Avey, Habitat Branch Chief

Mr. Avey briefed the Commission using a PowerPoint presentation on the renewal of a Cooperative Agreement with SRP for the purpose of operating and maintaining a stream gage within the Upper

Verde River Wildlife Area in Yavapai County. The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) received a request from SRP in 2002 to construct, operate, and maintain a stream gage within the Commission's Upper Verde River Wildlife Area (Campbell Ranch Parcel). If approved, the Cooperative Agreement would authorize SRP to continue to operate and maintain the gage for another 10-year period. The Department has determined that the continued operation of the gage is compatible with purposes of the wildlife area. This project allows for the collection and evaluation of accurate surface water flow data specific to the Upper Verde River, which has provided the Department and other resource management agencies with greater desert stream management opportunities. The stream gage and water flow data are of direct benefit to the Commission and Department with respect to future water resource management needs and opportunities within the Upper Verde River Wildlife Area.

Motion: Husted moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT RENEWAL WITH SRP FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A STREAM GAGE WITHIN THE UPPER VERDE RIVER WILDLIFE AREA, YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA, AND EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT AS RECOMMENDED OR APPROVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Vote: Unanimous

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10. Request for the Commission to Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with BLM for the Sonoran Valley Parkway Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Presenter: Josh Avey, Habitat Branch Chief

Mr. Avey briefed the Commission using a PowerPoint presentation on a Memorandum of Understanding to allow the Department to be a Cooperating Agency in the development of the Sonoran Valley Parkway Project EIS. The project area consists primarily of public lands under jurisdiction of the BLM Kingman Field Office with some of the wind turbine generators (WTGs) planned to be located on Bureau of Reclamation federal lands. The project area includes approximately 31,188 acres of public land and approximately 8,960 acres of federal land in the White Hills area approximately 40 miles northwest of Kingman, Arizona, nine miles south of the Colorado River, and 20 miles southeast of Hoover Dam. The project area is located within Townships 28 and 29 North, Ranges 19 and 20 West.

Total energy production from the project is anticipated to be up to 500 megawatts (MW). The project will consist of up to 335 WTGs that would range in size from 1.5 MW to 3.0 MW each. Construction would be in multiple phases and is anticipated to begin by mid-2011, with commercial operations commencing in early 2012. The project will operate continuously, except for maintenance shutdowns on individual wind turbine generators, with a projected 30 year life.

The Department requested to have Cooperating Agency status in the development of the EIS. The purpose of this MOU is to:

- Confirm formal designation of the BLM as lead agency pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.5 with the responsibility for the completion of the EIS and the ROD.

- Formally designate AGFD as a cooperating agency in this National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.5. BLM is enlisting other Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies to aid in providing an encompassing and defensible EIS. In addition to AGFD, cooperating agency designation will be offered to other Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies as appropriate under NEPA, Council of Environmental Quality regulations, and DOI/BLM policy
- Describe respective roles, responsibilities, jurisdictional authority, and expertise of the Parties in the NEPA process
- Provide a framework for the coordination between the Parties that will ensure the successful completion of the EIS in a timely, efficient, and thorough manner.

Motion: Husted moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT TO BE A COOPERATING AGENCY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SONORAN VALLEY PARKWAY PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) AND TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT AS RECOMMENDED AND APPROVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Vote: Unanimous

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11. Consideration of a Memorandum of Understanding with Coconino County for the Management of Rogers Lake

Presenter: Ron Sieg, Flagstaff Regional Supervisor

Mr. Sieg briefed the Commission the Department's request to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Coconino County to cooperatively manage land and wildlife resources at Rogers Lake Natural Area. In 2010, Coconino County purchased 2,250 acres of land at Rogers Lake, including 1,400 acres of ephemeral wetland from the State Lands Department using Growing Smarter and Coconino County Parks and Open Spaces funds. The purpose of this acquisition was to conserve and enhance wetlands, wildlife habitats, plant and wildlife communities and water resources; provide for environmental education, wildlife-based recreation opportunities; and manage through a collaboratively developed management plan. The Department will assist in the development of a 10-year Management Plan and development of annual operations plans. The Commission shall provide leadership in decisions related to wildlife management, wildlife habitat improvement, wildlife-based recreation and mitigation of impacts on wildlife resources from visitors and researchers. This will include management of public hunting.

Motion: Harris moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOU WITH COCONINO COUNTY OVER MANAGEMENT OF ROGERS LAKE.

Vote: Unanimous

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13. Request for Commission to Approve an Agreement with Tri-State Shooting Park, Inc. for the Operation of a Commission owned Public Shooting Facility in Mohave County, Arizona.

Presenter: Jay Cook, Shooting Sports Branch Chief

Mr. Cook briefed the Commission. In 1997, the BLM notified the Bullhead City Gun Club (Club) that their lease for a shooting range site was going to be terminated. In 1999, the Department committed to helping find a new site for the range. In 2004, after considering several locations, a site on BLM land in the vicinity of Boundary Cone Mountain was selected. After coordination with several agencies and tribes and following their in-house processes, on February 10, 2010, the BLM issued a Decision Record, authorizing the conveyance of the property to the Commission for the purpose of a shooting range. The Commission approved this conveyance in December of 2011, after successful completion of BLM and Department due diligence actions. Governor's approval was received in May of 2012 and actual conveyance is being finalized at this time.

The Department is now requesting that the Commission authorize the Club (now renamed the Tri-State Shooting Park, Inc.) to operate the facility. The terms and conditions are the same as those of other Commission owned shooting facilities.

Motion: Harris moved and Husted seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH TRI-STATE SHOOTING PARK, INC. FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF A COMMISSION OWNED PUBLIC SHOOTING FACILITY IN MOHAVE COUNTY, ARIZONA, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR, AS SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION, TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT AS RECOMMENDED OR APPROVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Vote: Unanimous

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14. Scholastic Clay Target Program Update

Presenter: Craig McMullen, Wildlife Recreation Branch Chief

Mr. McMullen provided the Commission with a PowerPoint presentation on Department activities related to the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP). The presentation covered program structure, participation and funding options. The Department currently provides funding at the rate of \$225 per SCTP athlete to incentivize participation in the program. Participation in the program has grown since but the budget for the program has not. As part of the presentation, the Commission was provided options regarding the per-athlete funding rate that takes into account program growth. The options were as follows:

Option 1 (no change):

- FY 13: Funding of \$254,000/mandatory \$225 per athlete
- Fund each club in the amount of \$225 per athlete
 - Athlete recruitment and retention budget is \$162,000
 - Can only fund 720 athletes with current budget

- Would be unable to fund projected growth for FY 13 and beyond

Option 2:

- \$254,000 budget
- Clubs awarded funds by new shooter recruitment
 - The Department funds only 1st & 2nd year shooters (1st year shooter = \$190; 2nd year shooter = \$100)
 - Clubs would also receive a \$2,000 facility fee to cover range fees
- Total ~\$130,000-but some athletes receive no Recruitment and Retention (RR) support
- This same method of funding was used in FY 08 and was not well received by SCTP athletes, parents, and coaches resulting in Commission direction to fund \$225 per athlete

Option 3 (recommended):

- SCTP Budget: \$254,000
- Prorate available AOO (\$162K) to each club based on available budget and number of registered athletes
 - \$225 is the maximum amount the Department will fund per athlete
- Program has ~\$162,000 for athlete RR
 - e.g. \$162,000/ 850 athletes = \$190 RR support per athlete
 - \$190 is very similar to \$225 but allows for program expansion

Chairman Freeman asked about the SCTP, that initially it was only supposed to be funded by the Department for three years.

Director Voyles stated that the initial intent was that it was going to be weaned over to a privately funded operation that was going to seek and solicit support.

The Commission discussed the options. They agreed that this was a very successful program and recruitment tool and they would like to focus on new recruits. The Commission also discussed that there are requirements to be a qualified club in order to receive funding.

Director Voyles stated that the Department will bring back to the Commission a package that will include options for how to move toward a shared financial support environment with standards and expectations from clubs. It could involve a full funding package for new clubs to a percentage based type of cost share package for established clubs.

Mr. McMullen added that a thorough analysis will also be provided of what the program clubs are currently putting into it. They do currently charge and do fundraising. There is a manpower, equipment, and money match to what the Department puts into it.

Motion: Harris moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE FUNDING OPTION ALLOWING PRORATION OF ATHLETE FUNDING BASED ON THE NUMBER OF ATHLETES AND AVAILABLE FUNDING.

Vote: Unanimous

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15. Proposal to combine fee related Director Goal and Objectives

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

Mr. Gray provided the Commission with a PowerPoint presentation on the Department's proposal to combine 2011 Director Goal and Objective #2 (Future Funding and Revenue) with 2012 Director Goal and Objective #9 (Simplify Hunt and Fish License Structure and Youth Definition).

Under Goal #2 the Department was directed to submit recommendation(s) for securing additional revenue in existing funds and potential alternative funding sources. Particular focus was to be placed on increasing traditional funding streams. The deliverable was an analysis of viable funding options that includes effective price points for customer demand of hunt/fish license costing alternatives that includes various revenue projections vs. price comparisons. Under Goal # 9, the Department was directed to 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. Deliverables included 1) Identify all required changes to rule/statute; 2) Conduct an independent review of the 2011 Youth and Future License Structure proposals; 3) Conduct economic analysis to determine accurate license price points and ceilings and verify/address Federal Aid concerns; and 4) Draft language to revise ARS 17-333 to establish a new license structure and set fee ceilings.

The Department's proposal to combine these two efforts included an updated implementation timeline (Gantt Chart). Mr. Gray's presentation included a brief overview of the multiple steps outlined in the timeline. The proposed new combined goal was presented as follows:

License Simplification and Fee Flexibility

Process Owner: Ty Gray

The Department will seek measures to provide the Commission authority and flexibility to fully implement a new basic license structure and associated fees (including license, tags and permits). The new structure will generate additional revenue in the Game and Fish Fund, be easier to understand and provide more value to recruit and retain customers. The Department will:

Deliverables/Milestones:

- Obtain Commission approval for new DGO by September 9, 2013
- Draft Legislation to authorize Commission to establish fees and licenses classes from Title 17 and 5 in Rule by December 8, 2012
- Develop and implement a Constituent Outreach Plan by December 31, 2012
- Draft Proposed License Structure and Fees (license, tags, youth classes, etc.) by February 28, 2013
- Update On-line License Sales October 1, 2013
- Complete Exempt Rulemaking to establish new structure and fees by September 30, 2013
- Implement new license and fee structures on January 1, 2014 (Oct 1, 2013 for Spring 2014 Draw)

Reporting: Updates provided to Commission during monthly meetings on progress and as necessary.

Chairman Freeman suggested that the Department look into offering a discount to Ben Avery Shooters if they owned a hunting or fishing license, and other possible cross marketing opportunities.

Motion: Harris moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED LICENSE SIMPLIFICATION AND FEE FLEXIBILITY DIRECTOR'S GOAL AND OBJECTIVE; THIS PROPOSAL WILL SUPPLANT CURRENT DGO #9 AND FOLLOW UP ACTION IN DGO #2 FROM 2011.

Vote: Unanimous

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15A. Update on the Department's Strategic Planning Process

Presenter: Sherry Crouch, Acting Funds and Planning Manager

Ms. Crouch briefed the Commission on the current status and timeline associated with the Strategic Plan. The Department started the process of developing its next strategic plan over two years ago, which is expected take effect January 1, 2013. That process included seeking input from stakeholders, Department employees, the public, organizations and the Commission. Some of the input included assessing opinions of Department priorities, and discussions of a desired future for the Department. A formal planning team was convened in December 2011, to oversee the development of the strategic plan. The timeline for development of the strategic plan has been adjusted to accommodate delayed internal reviews.

The initial draft of the strategic plan is now complete. With the Commission's approval, the strategic plan will be released to the public on September 1, 2012 and will have a 75-day public comment period. In November the strategic plan will go back to Executive Staff for approval and then hopefully will be presented to the Commission at its December meeting. If more time is needed for review and approval, the Commission has the option of extending the current strategic plan beyond December 31, 2012.

Commissioner Husted stated that he didn't think the timeline needed to be extended. The Commission can be reviewing the draft strategic plan and providing input at the same time that the public is reviewing it.

The other Commissioners and the Director agreed. Director Voyles stated that the extension can just be a contingency in case there are unresolved issues that need to be worked through.

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Meeting recessed for a lunch at 11:30 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

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Prior to this meeting, Chief Financial Officer Lizette Morgan provided each Commissioner individually with briefings on all Department budget items for this meeting. Each Commissioner

stated for the record that they had their individual briefings and discussions with Ms. Morgan and other Department personnel and that they had no further questions.

Chairman Freeman confirmed with the Director and with Ms. Morgan that there were no requests from the public to speak to the Commission regarding any of the budget items.

Ms. Morgan noted for the record that there were a couple changes since the individual briefings to agenda items 25 and 27, so those items will be presented separately.

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19. Request to approve the Game and Fish Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015

Presenter: Lizette Morgan, Chief Financial Officer, Budget and Finance Division

The Game and Fish Fund consists primarily of revenue generated from the sale of licenses and tags. The Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Requests are a continuation of the Fiscal Year 2013 appropriated budget adjusted for the following:

Personal Services and Employer Related Expenditures - The Department requests \$470,167 for the five percent increase in the salaries of uncovered positions resulting from personnel reform passed in SB 1523, Fiftieth Legislature, Second Regular Session.

Other Operating Expenditures - In addition to base operating expenditures, the Department requests \$60,000 in each fiscal year to fund increased fuel costs and \$65,000 in Fiscal Year 2014 for the continuation of the computer replacement program.

Motion: Harris moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST OF \$35,209,867 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND \$35,144,867 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 FROM THE GAME AND FISH FUND.

Vote: Unanimous

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20. Request to approve the Watercraft Licensing Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

Watercraft Licensing monies are generated from watercraft registration and boating infrastructure surcharge fees. The Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 Operating Budget requests for the Watercraft Licensing Fund are a continuation of the Fiscal Year 2013 appropriated budget adjusted for the following:

Appropriation Shift - The Department requests that the special line items of \$1,000,000 for the Watercraft Grant Program and \$250,000 for the Watercraft Safety Education Program be discontinued and the \$1,250,000 be added to the lump sum appropriation. With the re-appropriation of Law Enforcement Boating Safety to the counties, the Watercraft Grant Program line item is no longer needed. Adding the appropriation at the lump sum level will allow the

Department to restore funding to important programs such as Aquatic Invasive Species and greater law enforcement and boating education support.

Personal Services and Employee Related Expenditures - The Department requests \$20,884 for the five percent increase in the salaries of uncovered positions resulting from personnel reform passed in SB 1523, Fiftieth Legislature, Second Regular Session.

Other Operating Expenditures - The Department is requesting \$411,650 for Fiscal Year 2014 and \$351,650 for Fiscal Year 2015 for the following:

- \$100,000 added to the base budget in each fiscal year to continue the Aquatic Invasive Species Project for the control of harmful non-native aquatic species in state waterways
- \$240,000 in each fiscal year to replace aging boats
- \$60,000 added to the base budget in each fiscal year for watercraft decal printing.

Motion: Husted moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST OF \$4,504,200 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND \$4,522,200 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 FROM THE WATERCRAFT LICENSING FUND.

Vote: Unanimous

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21. Request to approve the Game, Nongame, Fish and Endangered Species Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

Presenter: Lizette Morgan, Chief Financial Officer, Business and Finance Division

The Game, Nongame, Fish and Endangered Species Fund consists of revenue generated from the Arizona Income Tax Check-Off. The Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 budget request for Game, Nongame, Fish and Endangered Species Fund is a continuation of the Fiscal Year 2013 budget as appropriated by the Legislature. The Department is requesting \$338,600 in Fiscal Year 2014 and \$338,600 in Fiscal Year 2015 for the Game, Nongame, Fish and Endangered Species Fund Operating Budget.

Motion: Harris moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST OF \$338,600 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND \$338,600 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 FROM THE GAME, NONGAME, FISH AND ENDANGERED SPECIES FUND.

Vote: Unanimous

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22. Request to approve the Capital Improvement Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

Presenter: Lizette Morgan, Chief Financial Officer, Business and Finance Division

Revenues for the Capital Improvement Fund are generated from fund transfers from the Conservation Development Fund, which receives revenues from surcharges on the sale of fishing, hunting, and combination hunting/fishing licenses. The Department is requesting a Capital Outlay Budget of \$1,500,000 in Fiscal Year 2014 and \$1,500,000 in Fiscal Year 2015 for the following projects:

- Headquarters Payment \$1,000,000
- Property Operation and Maintenance \$ 500,000

Motion: Harris moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST OF \$1,500,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND \$1,500,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Vote: Unanimous

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23. Request to approve the Waterfowl Conservation Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

Presenter: Lizette Morgan, Chief Financial Officer, Business and Finance Division

The Waterfowl Conservation Fund consists of revenues from the sale of Waterfowl Duck Stamps, royalties from the sale of prints, and interest on funds invested. The Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 Operating Budget Requests adjusts the Fiscal Year 2013 budget, as appropriated by the Legislature for developing migratory waterfowl habitat and associated research and management to increase the number of migratory waterfowl in Arizona.

Other Operating Expenditures - The Department is requesting an increase of \$36,600 in Fiscal Year 2014 and \$36,600 in Fiscal Year 2015 in Other Operating Expenditures for habitat conservation, stewardship, and waterfowl management and research projects.

Motion: Harris moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST OF \$80,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND \$80,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 FROM THE WATERFOWL CONSERVATION FUND.

Vote: Unanimous

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24. Request to approve the Wildlife Endowment Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

Presenter: Lizette Morgan, Chief Financial Officer, Business and Finance Division

The Wildlife Endowment Fund receives revenues from the sale of lifetime hunting and fishing licenses. The Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 Budget Requests are a continuation of the Fiscal Year

2013 budget, as appropriated by the Legislature. This appropriation facilitates an annual interest transfer to the Game and Fish Fund per ARS §17-271.

The Department is requesting \$16,000 in Other Operating Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2014 and \$16,000 in Fiscal Year 2015 to facilitate an annual transfer of accumulated interest to the Game and Fish Fund.

Motion: Mansell moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST OF \$16,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND \$16,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 FROM THE WILDLIFE ENDOWMENT FUND.

Vote: Unanimous

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26. Request to approve the Heritage Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

Presenter: Lizette Morgan, Chief Financial Officer, Business and Finance Division

Commission approval is requested for the proposed expenditures from the Public Access; Identification, Inventory, Acquisition, Protection, and Management; Habitat Evaluation and Protection; Urban Wildlife and Urban Wildlife Habitat; Environmental Education; and Administration and Support Services sub-funds for Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015.

The Heritage Fund request for the Department is summarized below. Major fund highlights are:

Public Access: The requested budget for Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015 is \$622,889.

Personal Services and Employer Related Expense: The Department is requesting \$14,091 for costs due to personnel reform in Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

Identification, Inventory, Acquisition, Protection, and Management: The requested budget for Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015 is \$4,416,358.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2013 funding for six Conservation and Mitigation Program (CAMP) positions in the amount of \$636,337 and one Invasive Species Coordinator in the amount of \$96,638 were moved from the Federal fund to this sub-fund.

Personal Services and Employer Related Expense: The Department is requesting \$99,064 for costs due to personnel reform in Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

Acquisition: All property acquisition proposals utilizing the Acquisition account will be brought before the Commission for individual review and approval for actual funding authority.

Habitat Evaluation and Protection: The requested budget for Fiscal Year 2014 is \$2,015,680 and Fiscal Year 2015 is \$1,421,648.

Personal Services and Employer Related Expense: The Department is requesting \$4,922 for costs due to personnel reform in Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

Other Operating Expenditures: In addition to base operating expenditures, the Department requests \$11,000 in Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015 to fund increased fuel costs, and \$670,888 in Fiscal Year 2014 and \$76,856 in Fiscal Year 2015 for computer software.

Urban Wildlife and Urban Wildlife Habitat: The requested budget for Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015 is \$1,658,667.

Personal Services and Employer Related Expense: The Department is requesting \$29,760 for costs due to personnel reform in Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

Other Operating Expenditures: In addition to base operating expenditures, the Department requests \$3,000 in Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015 for increased fuel costs, and \$3,625 in Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015 for the computer replacement program.

Capital Equipment: The Department is requesting \$40,000 for Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015 to fund the continuation of the Department's fleet replacement program.

Capital Outlay: The Department is requesting \$100,000 in each Fiscal Year 2014 and 2015 to support a capital campaign for the new Wildlife Center.

Environmental Education: The requested budget for Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015 is \$517,909.

Personal Services and Employer Related Expense: The Department is requesting \$7,520 for costs due to personnel reform in Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

Other Operating Expenditures: In addition to base operating expenditures, the Department requests \$6,000 in Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015 for increased fuel costs, and \$1,250 in Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015 for the computer replacement program.

Capital Equipment: The Department is requesting \$40,000 for Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015 to fund the continuation of the Department's fleet replacement program.

Heritage Fund Administration and Support Services (Interest Monies): The requested budget for Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015 is \$807,922. The interest earned on the Heritage fund is insufficient to cover the expenditures for this program. The Department will be exploring alternate methods for funding these positions beginning in Fiscal Year 2013.

Personal Services and Employer Related Expense: The Department is requesting \$26,637 for costs due to personnel reform in Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

Motion: Harris moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE PUBLIC ACCESS; IDENTIFICATION, INVENTORY, ACQUISITION, PROTECTION, AND MANAGEMENT; HABITAT EVALUATION AND PROTECTION; URBAN WILDLIFE AND URBAN

WILDLIFE HABITAT; ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION; AND ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES SUB-FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND FISCAL YEAR 2015.

Vote: Unanimous

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28. Request to approve the Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

Presenter: Lizette Morgan, Chief Financial Officer, Business and Finance Division

The Wildlife Conservation Fund monies are generated from shared gaming revenues, through the Arizona Benefits Fund, with the State of Arizona and local governments, to support specified state and local programs. Annual revenue projections are estimated to be \$6,400,000 for Fiscal Year 2014 and \$6,525,000 for Fiscal Year 2015.

Personal Services and Employer Related Expense: The Department is requesting \$68,883 for costs due to personnel reform in Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

Other Operating Expenses: The Department is requesting increases of \$515,000 for Fiscal Year 2014 and \$345,000 for Fiscal Year 2015. The major highlights are:

- \$120,000 Agency Marketing
- \$100,000 Urban Fishing / Fishing In the Neighborhood
- \$75,000 Helicopter Game Surveys for FY2014,\$85,000 for FY2015
- \$200,000 License Dealer Automation for FY2014,\$20,000 for FY2015
- \$20,000 Fuel

Capital Equipment: The Department is requesting \$540,000 for Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015 to fund the continuation of the Department's fleet replacement program and purchase one aviation engine each year.

Motion: Husted moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST OF \$6,553,511 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND \$6,383,511 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 FROM THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND.

Vote: Unanimous

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27. Request to approve the Off-Highway Vehicle Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

Presenter: Lizette Morgan, Chief Financial Officer, Business and Finance Division

The Off-Highway Vehicle Fund consists of revenues generated from motor vehicle fuel taxes and off-highway vehicle decal sales. Annual revenue projections are estimated to be \$1,668,100 for each fiscal year.

Personal Services and Employer Related Expense: The Department is requesting \$3,652 for costs due to personnel reform in Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

Other Operating Expenditures: In addition to base operating expenditures, the Department requests \$80,000 in each fiscal year for the full operating costs of law enforcement patrols, \$2,625 in each fiscal year for the computer replacement program, \$25,000 in each fiscal year for barriers, and \$20,000 to purchase trailers.

Capital Equipment: The Department requests \$100,000 in Fiscal Year 2014 and \$200,000 in Fiscal Year 2015 to purchase vehicles and ATVs.

Ms. Morgan explained a technical correction to the table chart attached to the Commission memo (also available to the public). A number in the table was different than the number in the memo and so that was corrected to be the same as the number in the memo.

The Commission had no additional questions.

Motion: Husted moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST OF \$1,791,111 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND \$1,891,111 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 FROM THE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE FUND.

Vote: Unanimous

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16. Call to the Public

There were no requests from the public to speak.

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Meeting recessed for a break at 1:55 p.m.
Meeting reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

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

Presenter: Gene Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

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

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Meeting recessed for a break at 3:25 p.m.
Meeting reconvened at 3:35 p.m.

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18. Request to Approve the Expenditure of Unspent Balances in the Heritage Fund, Wildlife Conservation Fund, and Off Highway Vehicle Fund for Fiscal Year 2013.

Presenter: Lizette Morgan, Chief Financial Officer

Commission approval is requested for the expenditure of unspent fund balances from the Heritage fund, including all of its sub-funds, for Fiscal Year 2013. Approval is also requested for the expenditure of unspent fund balances from the Wildlife Conservation Fund and the Off Highway Vehicle Fund for Fiscal Year 2013. These requests will ensure that remaining unspent balances in the Heritage, Off Highway Vehicle, and Wildlife Conservation Fund programs are available for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2013 for additional qualifying projects and to allow the Department to respond to revenue shortfalls and unforeseen needs. All property acquisition proposals utilizing unspent Heritage Acquisition monies will be brought before the Commission for individual review and approval for actual funding authority.

Motion: Husted moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF UNSPENT FUND BALANCES FROM THE HERITAGE PROGRAMS AND SUB-PROGRAMS; THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND, AND THE OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE FUND, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013.

Vote: Unanimous

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25. Request to approve the Federal Assistance Funds Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

Presenter: Lizette Morgan, Chief Financial Officer, Business and Finance Division

Commission approval is requested for the proposed expenditures from the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux; Coast Guard Boating Safety; Section 6 Endangered Species Act and State Wildlife Grants for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015. The Federal Assistance request for the Department has been summarized in schedules provided to the Commission (and available to the public), and represents a continuation of previously approved activities from Fiscal Year 2013. The major highlights for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 Budget Request amounts are:

Personal Services and Employer Related Expense - The Department is requesting \$548,100 for costs due to personnel reform in Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015.

Other Operating Expenditures:

- \$164,000 FY 2014 and FY 2015 - Provide an increase for helicopter surveys to classify and index javalina, deer, elk, and bighorn sheep populations
- \$128,000 FY 2014 and \$188,000 FY 2015 - Provide growth in the urban fishing program
- \$49,200 FY 2014 and \$54,700 FY 2015-Provide an increase for fuel costs

- \$14,250 FY 2014 and FY 2015- Provide computer replacements.

Capital Equipment:

- \$182,500 FY 2014 - Replace 2 vehicles and a road grader. \$221,500 FY 2015 - Replace 3 vehicles and a three-ton fish stocking truck
- \$50,000 FY 2014 – Water quality quick chemical auto analyzer
- \$45,000 FY 2014 and FY 2015- Replace one boat and trailer.

Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux (Federal Assistance in Sport Fish Restoration) - The federal apportionment for Fiscal Year 2013 is \$7 million, which is a decrease of 5.5% from Fiscal Year 2012. The apportionments for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 are anticipated to be \$7 million each year. We are projecting the total federal contribution from “The Federal Assistance in Sport Fish Restoration” to be \$7 million in Fiscal Year 2014 and Fiscal Year 2015.

Pittman-Robertson (Federal Assistance in Wildlife Restoration) - The federal apportionment for Fiscal Year 2013 is \$9.37 million; a decrease of 3.8% for wildlife restoration and an increase of 15% for Hunter Education from Fiscal Year 2012. The apportionments for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 are anticipated to be \$9 million each year. With the addition of carry forward funds from unspent grant balances, we are projecting the total federal contribution from “Federal Assistance in Wildlife Restoration” to be \$10.1 million in Fiscal Year 2014 and \$9.97 million in Fiscal Year 2015.

Coast Guard Boating Safety - The projected federal allocation is anticipated to be \$1.5 million for Fiscal Year 2014 and \$1.5 million for Fiscal Year 2015. The budget requests for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 represent a continuation of the Fiscal Year 2013 budget.

Section 6, Endangered Species Act - Section 6 funds are only eligible for expenditure on candidate, threatened, and endangered species. For nearly a decade, AGFD has allocated the majority of this grant to the Mexican wolf reintroduction project. The funds, coupled with annual federal contracts provided specifically for the wolf program, are used to support personnel services and project costs of the Department’s Interagency Field Team, which typically consists of up to five personnel. The budget requests for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 represent a continuation of the Fiscal Year 2013 budget. The projected allocations for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 are anticipated to be \$289,000 in each Fiscal Year.

State Wildlife Grants - State Wildlife Grants (SWG) are only eligible for expenditure on Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in Arizona’s State Wildlife Action Plan, which was developed following eight elements required by Congress for state eligibility in the program. SWG are matched with Heritage IIAPM funds. Collectively, these funds support the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Conservation Program, with focus areas being native birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles and some invertebrates. Implementation is conducted by the Phoenix, Regional, and associated remote location field offices. The funding is appropriated annually and fluctuates from year to year. The federal allocation for Fiscal Year 2013 is \$1.2 million, and the projected federal allocations for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 are estimated to decrease slightly. The funds are utilized for multi-year projects, and revenues will be received over the course of the project periods. The estimated funding in Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 will allow for continuation of projects to conserve wildlife.

Contract Monies - The estimated budgets for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 represent a continuation of the Fiscal Year 2013 budget. Projected revenues for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 are anticipated to remain stable at approximately \$5.0 million each year. These are generally contracts for wildlife inventory and research. Examples of Fiscal Year 2013 contracts include studies of Sonoran Pronghorn and Desert Tortoise, and Wildlife/Vehicle Collision Studies.

Ms. Morgan pointed out a change made to the documentation provided to the Commission (also available to the public). The memo defined Section 6 and State Wildlife Grants, and the change was to add additional wording to the two paragraphs to more completely describe the programs and activities covered under both Section 6 and State Wildlife Grants. Ms. Morgan read the two paragraphs into the record (see above Section 6 and State Wildlife Grants).

Motion: The Department recommends that the Commission VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE PITTMAN-ROBERTSON; DINGELL-JOHNSON/WALLOP-BREAUX; COAST GUARD BOATING SAFETY; SECTION 6 ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT AND STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015.

Vote: Unanimous

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Meeting recessed for the day at 3:45 p.m.

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Meeting reconvened Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

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

Director Voyles led those present through a moment of silence in honor of Phyllis Dudycz who passed away on July 27, 2012. Phyllis was a valued employee of the Department for over 38 years and was a dear friend to many.

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1. Call to the Public

John Koloszar, on behalf of the Payson Natural Resources Committee (PNRC), invited any Commissioner to attend their quarterly meetings. This is a standing invitation and they would like a Commissioner to attend and address some of the concerns of the ranchers. Additionally, the PNRC would like to see disabled veterans be able to receive tags from hunters who are drawn but are not able to use their tags.

Curt Steinke, President, Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society (ADBSS), addressed the Commission on two issues: 1) A sheep transplant project is being held up due to the lack of a predator management plan and he doesn't understand because there are predator management plans for other areas that should also work in this area; and 2), The ADBSS has repeatedly asked for a list of bighorn sheep hunters that were drawn for this year and the Department has yet to provide that list. The purpose of asking for the list is to provide those drawn for a tag with information on a sheep hunter's clinic provided solely for their benefit.

Chairman Freeman confirmed with Director Voyles that Department staff has heard these comments and concerns and will address them.

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2. Consideration of Proposed Commission Order 21–Waterfowl and Commission Order 22–Snipe for the 2012–2013 Hunting Season.

Presenter: Mike Rabe, Small Game Management Supervisor

Mr. Rabe presented the Commission with Commission Order 21 (Waterfowl) and Commission Order 22 (Snipe), establishing seasons and season dates, bag and possession limits, and open areas for 2012–2013. A detailed description of all proposals was available for public review at all Department offices and was provided to the Commission prior to this meeting for review. Mr. Rabe provided a PowerPoint presentation that included charts, graphs, historical data, and the following information:

Commission Order 21 – Waterfowl

A total of 5,845 Arizona duck stamps were sold in 2010-2011, a 3% decrease over the 6,000 duck stamps sold the previous year.

Ducks

Forecasts are for robust waterfowl populations this year due to good to strong carryover from last year, favorable water conditions on the prairies, and favorable conditions in most of the Intermountain West. Production of mallards in the coastal regions of the Pacific Flyway was also strong. Because of this, the prescription for the Pacific Flyway is a liberal duck season for the flyway and Arizona.

Season frameworks for the Pacific Flyway are:

1. Liberal, 107 day season, 7 bird bag limit;
2. Moderate, 86 day season, 7 bird bag limit;
3. Restrictive, 86 day season, 4 bird bag limit.

Management plans for pintail, scaup, and canvasback prescribe bag limits and seasons for those species separate from the above frameworks. Despite good conditions overall for ducks, the long-term average population size for pintail and canvasback remains below the goals outlined in their management plans. At the time of writing this memo, analysis of this year's data was

incomplete. However, based on past year recommendations and survey data, this year's season for pintail is likely to be a 2 bird bag for the entire season, scaup is likely a full season (107 days) with a 7 bird bag and canvasback will likely be a full season with a one bird bag. Redheads will be the same as last year, 2 birds per day.

Geese

In 2002, the Pacific Flyway Council requested that the Service include geese in the duck framework extension as well. This was approved, allowing duck and goose seasons to run the same number of days. To assure that Canada goose reproduction in Northern Arizona is not disrupted, goose seasons within Units 1, 22, 23, and 27 open later than goose seasons in the rest of the state.

The Department recommends a liberal package for Arizona, with restricted bags for pintail, canvasback, and redhead ducks. There will likely be no partial seasons this year, which simplifies regulations considerably. The waterfowl season has different season opening and closing dates for the mountain and desert zones; it is most advantageous to hunters to open the season earlier in the mountain zone because birds arrive in mountain waters earlier than they do in the desert; and winter storms or freeze-up often drive those birds to the desert part of the state late in the season. In the desert zone, the season should be open as late as possible because birds typically remain in that zone through February. Federal frameworks do not allow the general waterfowl season to extend beyond January 27. However, junior hunts may occur into February.

Liberal Package

	<u>Mountain Zone</u>	<u>Desert Zone</u>
Juniors-Only	Sep 29– Sep 30– 2012	Feb 2 – Feb 3, 2013
Falconry-Only	Oct 1 – Oct. 4, 2012	Jan 28 – Jan 31, 2013
General Duck	Oct. 5, 2012 – Jan. 13, 2013	Oct. 19, 2012 – Jan. 27, 2013
General Goose	Oct. 5, 2012 – Jan. 13, 2013	Oct. 19, 2012 – Jan. 27, 2013
Restricted Goose Hunts	Nov 15, 2012 – Jan. 13, 2013 (Units 1 and 27) Nov. 15, 2012 – Jan. 30, 2013 (Units 22 and 23)	

The Mountain and Desert Zones in Arizona are defined by unit within the Federal Register as follows: Desert (South) Zone: Those portions of Units 6 and 8 in Yavapai County, and Units 10 and 12B–45. Mountain (North) Zone: Units 1–5, those portions of Units 6 and 8 within Coconino County, and Units 7, 9, and 12A. Essentially, the North Zone is in the mountainous, high elevation areas of Arizona; the South Zone is in the lowland, desert areas.

The Department is recommending adoption of the federal bag limit of seven ducks (including mergansers) per day, with no more than two female mallards, two redheads, two pintails, and one canvasback taken in any one day. New this year is a liberal scaup bag (7) for the entire season. Recommended possession limits for ducks are 14 after opening day, with no more than four redheads, four pintails, and two canvasbacks. Recommended goose bag limits are no more than six white geese (snow, including blue and Ross' geese) and three dark geese (Canada and white-fronted). Recommended goose possession limits are no more than 12 white geese and six dark

geese. The Department recommends that the Commission adopt the species bag limits as prescribed by the Service for the 2012–2013 waterfowl season

The Department recommends continuation of the allowable framework extension for Liberal package. The use of mountain and desert zones is intended to offer mountain hunters the opportunity to hunt ducks and geese when the birds are in those areas. Likewise, the later opening and closing dates for the desert zone allows hunters to hunt as late as possible. Birds arrive earlier in the mountain areas of the state and leave as the waters freeze. In desert areas, many birds arrive later than in the northern areas and stay throughout the winter. Both zones receive the maximum allowance hunt days under both the Liberal and Moderate packages.

Under the Liberal package, there are 107 total hunt days allowed. In the Liberal recommendation above, 101 days are devoted to general waterfowl, four days are a Falconry-Only season and there is a weekend Juniors-Only season in each zone. Federal frameworks require that the youth hunt be on weekend days within 14 days of the General season, but may be outside the General season frameworks. The bag limits for the Juniors-Only hunts will be the same as during the General season.

Arizona and California are required to coordinate seasons along the lower Colorado River area. California is required to match their season along the Colorado River with the Arizona season dates.

Coots and Common Moorhens

Commission Order 21 includes bag and possession limits and season structure for coots and common moorhens within the general duck season frameworks. The Department will continue to recommend the full Federal framework and bag limit on coots and moorhens which is 25 per day, either singly or in the aggregate. Possession for coots and moorhens is 25 in possession, either singly or in the aggregate. Although an Arizona State Waterfowl Stamp is not required for harvest of these species, hunters taking coots or moorhens must have in their possession an Arizona Migratory Bird Stamp that registers them for the Harvest Information Program. Harvest of these species is typically incidental to waterfowl hunting.

Commission Order 22 – Common Snipe

The Department recommends that the Commission approve a general snipe season consistent with the total allowable season days and bag and possession limits allowed by the Service for Pacific Flyway states. In Arizona, the allowable bag is 8 snipe per day with a possession limit of 16 after opening day. Seasons for snipe are recommended to run concurrent with the general waterfowl seasons in each of the state's zones.

Motion: Harris moved and Husted seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE, SUBJECT TO FINAL FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS, COMMISSION ORDER 21 – WATERFOWL AND COMMISSION ORDER 22 – SNIPE, AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

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3. Consideration of Proposed Commission Orders 5, 6, 8, and 9, for Spring 2013 Hunting Seasons.

Presenter: Amber A. Munig, Big Game Management Supervisor

Ms. Munig presented the Commission with Commission Orders 5, 6, 8, and 9 (spring turkey, spring javelina, spring buffalo, and spring bear) establishing seasons and season dates, bag and possession limits, permit numbers, and open areas for spring 2013. A detailed description of all proposals was provided to the Commission prior to this meeting for review and was available for public review at Department offices. An open house was held in each region where the public could review these hunt recommendations prior to the Commission meeting. The recommendations were also posted on the Department web site and press releases were provided to let the public know of their availability. Ms. Munig provided a PowerPoint presentation that included charts, graphs, historical data and Department recommendations. The following information describes the Department's recommendations for Commission Orders 5, 6, 8, and 9 for spring 2013.

The Commission provided the Department with direction through the hunt guidelines approved in August 2011 and as amended in December 2011. The proposed Commission Orders were formulated in accordance with that guidance and any deviation is noted in the species-specific summaries below.

Commission Order 5 – Spring Turkey

For spring turkey seasons in 2012, the Commission authorized 5,434 limited weapon shotgun shooting shot and over-the-counter juniors-only seasons in specified units. These draw hunts had 10,186 first choice applicants, 4,125 hunters that participated, and an average of 17% hunt success. These hunters spent 16,535 days hunting to harvest 686 turkeys. In spring 2012, preliminary data indicates 390 youth purchased turkey nonpermit tags and 294 went afield; 56 hunted in more than one unit. These youth harvested 14 turkeys in 1,205 days of hunting for a 5% hunt success. For archery over-the-counter spring turkey hunts in 2011, preliminary data indicates 1,342 archers purchased turkey nonpermit tags and 247 went afield; 29 of these hunters hunted in more than 1 unit. These archers harvested 5 turkeys in 777 days of hunting. Total harvest for 2011 was 705 turkeys, a decrease of 287 turkeys over spring 2011.

For 2013, spring limited weapon shotgun shooting shot seasons are recommended as a decrease of 249 permits statewide. Units 1 and 27 experienced high hunt success, indicating healthy spring turkey populations, but permits are not recommended for an increase yet while allowing more time for recovery following the 2011 Wallow Fire. All spring seasons permits are recommended during stratified seasons occurring April 26–May 2 and May 10–23 or May 3–23, 2013.

Spring seasons are again recommended for Gould's turkeys in Units 29 and 30A, 31, 33, 34A, and 35A. The total number of permits recommended for Gould's turkeys is 34, a 6-permit increase from last year. Units 29 and 30A are recommended for increased permits.

The Department recommends maintenance of the stratified seasons in Unit 13B (north of Wolfhole-Jacobs Well Road) for the Rio Grande subspecies with 1 permit in each hunt. Preliminary results indicate at least one hunter in that unit was successful this year.

Nonpermit limited weapon shotgun shooting shot seasons for juniors-only are recommended in Units 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 6B (except Camp Navajo), 7, 8, 10, and 12A. These permits would be unlimited in number and could be purchased over the counter. Recommended permit hunts for juniors-only seasons remain identical to last year, with a total of 460 permits in Units 1 and 27, 3C, 6A, and 23. The season dates for the juniors-only season are recommended to be April 19–25 and May 10–23, 2012. There were no units in 2012 for which greater than 35% of the total spring turkey harvest was attributed to juniors.

Over-the-counter permits are recommended for archery spring turkey hunts in Units 1, 4A, 4B, 6A, 12A, 23, and 27. Archery seasons are recommended to occur May 10–23, 2013.

Motion: Harris moved and Husted seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT COMMISSION ORDER 5 – SPRING TURKEY, AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 6 - Spring Javelina

In 2012, the Department issued about 98% of the 11,571 general permits authorized by the Commission, 83% of the 9,391 archery permits, 88% of the 5,545 handgun, archery, and muzzleloader (HAM) permits, and 90% of the 1,050 juniors-only permits. Last year, 9,964 general season hunters harvested 2,363 javelina for a 24% hunt success, 4,276 HAM hunters took 847 javelina for a 20% hunt success, and 6,900 archery hunters harvested 2,197 javelina for a 32% hunt success. For youth, 804 juniors-only hunters took 325 javelina for a 40% hunt success.

Although there were fewer leftover permits in spring 2012 than in spring 2011, the Commission had directed the Department to explore options for marketing additional sales. The Department recommends an increase in the bag limit for javelina in 2013 to 2; however, hunters may obtain only a single permit through the draw. Additional permits would have to be acquired through the first come, first served permit issuance. Finally, the recommended bag limit would allow for only 1 javelina to be taken with a permit for a given hunt number; subsequent permits would only be issued for a separate hunt number. Although this recommendation is not identified within the hunt guidelines last amended in December 2011, this idea has been suggested by several individuals in the hunting public.

The Commission directed the Department to equitably distribute permits according to statewide demand. Based on the 5-year average of application demand, the Department targeted about 44% general, 31% archery, 21% HAM, and 4% junior (for the spring). Actual permits (percentages) recommended for spring 2013 include 11,705 (44.2%) general, 9,400 (35.5%) archery, and 5,375 (20.3%) HAM. This is a 150-permit increase for general, and 170-permit decrease for HAM, and a 25-permit increase archery. The Department also recommends 1,060 juniors-only javelina permits (10-permit increase from last spring), which comprises 3.9% of the total permits recommended. When considering the 850 fall juniors-only permits plus the 575

javelina companion tags to deer hunts authorized by the Commission for fall 2012, this brings the total allocation of juniors-only permits to 8.6% of the total permits recommended. This allocation is less than the 10% directed by the Commission, but exceeds the number of permits sold to juniors-only hunters in the last few years.

Archery seasons are recommended to occur during January 1–24, 2013, juniors-only seasons during January 25–February 3, 2013, HAM seasons during February 8–17, 2013, and general seasons during February 22–28, 2013. Over-the-counter permits are recommended for archery hunts in Units 1–5, 7, 9, 11M, 25M, 26M, 38M, and 47M. Season dates for these units correspond with other archery season dates, specifically January 1–24, 2013. A yearlong general season with over the counter permits is also recommended for September 1–December 31, 2012 and extending from January 1–December 31, 2013 in the Mohawk Valley Hunt Area in Unit 41.

Ms. Munig discussed with the Commission the Mohawk Valley Hunt Area in Unit 41. This hunt is to address depredation issues on the leafy green fields and food safety concerns of the local growers. The Department has worked with the growers to deter the javelina and the Department had a population management hunt in 2011 and early 2012. These efforts were not successful in alleviating the javelina depredation issues. The local growers support the year-round season and the local Wildlife Manager is working with the farmers to provide information on the Department's website that will describe access and how to contact the farmers. This will be an over-the-counter nonpermit-tag. Two javelina may be taken from this hunt area as proposed with the new recommended annual bag limit of 2.

Commissioner Husted expressed concern about wasted game meat and hunter ethics, and wanted to make sure that it was understood that this is a hunt.

Ms. Munig stated the Department will provide outreach materials on the Department's website, schedule an informational outreach meeting in the Mohawk Valley area, and provide hunter education classes for the farm workers (this provides the opportunity for hunter recruitment). It will be emphasized that all hunting laws will be enforced.

Commissioner Husted stated that he would like to see this hunt benchmarked and measured, and he will support this as long as the Department is gathering information and making sure that this is a righteous hunt that solves a problem and also captures the opportunity to bring people into the sport.

Ms. Munig stated that the Department is committed to monitoring the hunt and making sure that hunters abide by the rules, and in making sure that it is a successful opportunity for every hunter and not just the locals.

Commissioner Davis strongly suggested that the Department look at youth camp opportunities for this area and potential partnerships that the Department can develop.

Commissioner Mansell asked why the bag limit was only two and not more since the javelina were causing such concern in this area.

Ms. Munig stated that the Department was taking a conservative approach and wanted to be able to monitor the harvest and any access issues that might arise prior to opening it up to a larger number of take.

Public Comment

The following members of the public addressed the Commission in opposition to hunting on the McDowell Sonoran Preserve:

- Guy Phillips, Scottsdale resident: Use of the preserve has increased; there are too many other users such as hikers and horseback riders.
- John Washington, Scottsdale resident: There needs to be more science and data on the wildlife; it is very populated with hikers and other activities.
- Michael Mayer, Scottsdale resident: The Preserve is a jewel; the animal population is declining; a wildlife survey needs to be done and should be done every year; the McDowell Sonoran Preserve has grown by thousands of acres and the map needs to be updated to reflect all of the Preserve.
- Donna Marino, Scottsdale resident: Agreed with Mr. Washington and Mr. Mayer's comments; the Preserve is heavily promoted by the City of Scottsdale as a safe family venue with no mention of hunting and she is very concerned about this; there is a huge disconnect between hunters and other recreational users; she has serious safety concerns
- Joe Meli, Scottsdale resident: There is not enough wildlife data to set hunt recommendations; he has concerns about safety and intrusion.
- Marty Logan, Scottsdale resident: Expressed concern for safety and for the lack of data; does not want hunting in his backyard.
- Rod O'Conner, Phoenix resident: Need to have current wildlife data and has safety concerns.

The following members of the public addressed the Commission in support of hunting on the McDowell Sonoran Preserve:

- John Miller, Scottsdale resident: There is no record of any injury to any archer or bystander in the Preserve; he hunts in the Preserve and appreciates the opportunity; the Preserve is there for everyone to use and not just for people who call it their back yard and tell you to go someplace else; the average number of recorded kills per year is 12 (archery deer); kills on the highway from vehicles is much higher; an archer's motto is to leave no track, no trace, go in quietly, come out quietly, and to leave it cleaner or better than they found it.
- John Koleszar, representing himself: Reminded everyone that the Preserve is public land and not anyone's backyard; suggested additional hunting on predators, which have had an adverse effect on the prey base.

Chairman Freeman thanked everyone for their comments and reminded everyone that the hunt orders have gone through a long public process before this presentation today. The Commission will decide on the hunt orders today, but will also continue to look at the Preserve and what can be done to maximize the use of that public land for everyone that wants to use it.

Motion: Harris moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT COMMISSION ORDER 6 – SPRING JAVELINA, AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 8 – Spring Buffalo

During spring 2011, 14 spring permits were authorized for the House Rock Wildlife Area herd in Units 12A and 12B. All hunters participated and 9 adult bulls and 1 adult cow were harvested. The Department recommends 14 any buffalo permits again for spring 2013, with season dates that will run from January 1–June 14, 2013.

For 2012, 6 spring permits were authorized for the Raymond Wildlife Area herd in Units 5A and 5B. The Department recommends 4 permits for spring 2013: 2 yearling-only permits during February 8–10 and 2 yearling-only permits during March 8–10, 2013.

Motion: Mansell moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT COMMISSION ORDER 8 – SPRING BUFFALO, AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 9 – Spring Bear

Spring bear harvest is relatively low in Arizona with an average 17 bears harvested annually over the last 5 years. In 2012, 6 female and 8 male bears have been taken to date. Four bears were harvested during the March 23–May 3 season in which most hunts where nonpermit tags offered over-the-counter. Ten bears were harvested during the permitted archery season that runs from May 4–July 31, 2012. Units 23N, 24A, and 35A/35B closed because the female harvest limit was met. For spring 2012, 735 nonpermit bear tags have been issued and another 885 nonpermit bear tags have been issued in conjunction with the sale of super conservation licenses. There were 369 applicants for the 285 spring bear permit tags offered in 2012.

The Department recommends no changes to seasons or season structure, female harvest limits, or permits for spring 2012. General bear hunts (Units 10, 18A, and 19B, 17A, 17B, 18B, 20A, and 20B, 19A, 22, 23N, 24A, 27, 29 and 30A, 31, 32, 34A, and 35A and 35B [except Fort Huachuca]) and archery (Units 3B and 3C, and 33) are recommended to offer over-the-counter permits during the March 23–May 3 season. On average, less than 5 bears have been harvested annually during this time period, with few being female. Generally three times more male than female bears are taken. Each hunt will have a female harvest limit, and any female bears taken during this time will apply to the annual female harvest limit that if met would close subsequent hunts.

One permitted general bear hunt is recommended in Unit 6B (except Camp Navajo) with 5 permits and a female harvest limit of 1. Permitted archery-only bears hunts are recommended in Units 3B and 3C, 4B, 22, 23N, 33, 34A, 35A and 35B (except For Huachuca), and Fort Huachuca; total permits are recommended at 280. Over the last 5 years, about one third of the bears harvested during this later season are females.

Female harvest limits total 17 for general hunts and 14 for archery hunts (Fort Huachuca harvest limits are a subset of Unit 35A). This is no change from 2012. Annual female harvest limits are also recommended for no change.

Motion: Mansell moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT COMMISSION ORDER 9 – SPRING BEAR, AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

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Meeting recessed for a break at 9:32 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:52 a.m.

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3A. Hunt Permit-Tag Application Schedule for Spring 2013 Hunts

Presenter: Lizette Morgan, CFO, Business & Finance

Ms. Morgan provided a brief presentation relating to the hunt permit-tag application schedule for the Spring 2013 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.

Motion: Harris moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION SCHEDULE FOR THE 2013 SPRING HUNTS.

Vote: Unanimous

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3B. 2012 Fall Draw Briefing

Presenter: Doug Cummings, Branch Chief, Information Systems

Mr. Cummings briefed the Commission on the recently completed 2012 Fall Big Game Draw. The briefing included actions taken to prepare for the draw, the major processing steps taken in the draw, and actions planned to drive continued improvement.

Actions taken to ensure a successful draw process included the following:

- Load test completed
- Load balancing adjusted to support anticipated loads
- White Listed www.azgfd.gov on the Vendors Network Intrusion Monitoring Tools
- Link provided to applicants routing them directly to the Vendors Results Page eliminating www.azgfd.gov from the route
- Link to results Page turned off until Results Load was completed.

Several actions are in progress to drive continued improvement, including:

- The results page will be completely turned off until the results load is completed in future draws
- Investigating the possibility of accepting multiple credit cards, and/or alternative payment methods such as PayPal
- Investigating possibility of emailing draw results to applicants.

Chairman Freeman suggested that an alternate phone number be provided for draw results instead of the Department's main number. This would free up the main line for other types of calls and would streamline the necessary changes to the phone recordings once the draw results are ready.

Commissioner Harris commented that the Department is on its way to having the best automated system in the country. He would like to see the paper process completely eliminated, because it is very time consuming and full of potential for errors.

Commissioner Mansell commented that this draw was very successful and he expressed his appreciation to Mr. Cummings and the Department for their efforts.

Commissioner Davis discussed with Mr. Cummings that there were a record number of applications on line for this draw and that the improvements to the online draw were made at no cost to the Department.

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3C. Update of Public Affairs, News Releases and Outreach.

Presenter: Jim Paxon, Information Branch Chief

Mr. Paxon provided the Commission with an update of Department activities and events related to news releases, television and radio interviews, editorials, and social media outreach that has occurred since the last regular Commission meeting. The following highlights were included in the briefing:

- The Public Information section handles news releases, e-news articles, website, social media, special print and electronic communications projects
- The Department has more than 500 contacts for news release distribution
- The e-news subscriber list has more than 80,000 unique subscribers divided into segments (Wildlife News, Hunting Highlights, Fishing Report, Endangered Species, etc.)
- The newest PIO is Reuben Gonzalez, who is translating the boating regulations into Spanish – a much needed outreach effort
- The Department website has 48,000 files (pages, photos, pdfs)
- The website visitation ranges between 440,000 and 800,000 visitors per month
- Social media includes more than 12,000 Facebook followers and more than 8,300 Twitter followers

- The Department plans a transition to a new web platform (DotNet.Nuke) within the next year
- Developing the Wildlife Views as an online magazine is planned for completion by the end of 2013
- The A/V section produces 13 “Arizona Wildlife Views” television shows annually that are aired on PBS and picked up by 30+ Arizona cable stations
- 440+ Department videos on You Tube have received nearly 3 million views since 2007

Chairman Freeman commented on press releases and recommended that the Commission work on clarifying the difference between a Department press release and a press release sent out by the Commission. He doesn't want the Department to come under fire by the Legislature for a press release sent out by the Commission.

Commissioner Husted stated that he is very proud of the Department's Public Information section and the professional face they present to the public. Also, he would like to see some of the award winning videos produced by the Department.

Commissioner Davis stated that Mr. Paxon and the Information Branch were the best in class in both the public and private sectors. They are staying ahead of changes in the media culture and are basically a strategic communications firm within the Department. The next important phase is to monetize communications, to harvest information and then use that for cross promotion and cross sales. Sales provide the revenues to operate the Department and must be a part of the strategic thinking. This will be essential going forward.

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4. Update and Overview of The Peregrine Fund Partnership with the Department and Other Cooperators Regarding the Voluntary Non-lead Program

Presenter: Eric Gardner, Chief, Nongame Branch and Chris Parish, The Peregrine Fund

Mr. Gardner provided the Commission with a brief recap on the 10(j) experimental non-essential population program. It is one of the most effective tools found within the Endangered Species Act. It allows the public to adjust to a complicated and controversial reintroduction and get to a place where they are comfortable with that reintroduction occurring on the landscape. The 10(j) allows for experimental populations to be established. They can contribute to recovery too, as an example, if 30 10(j) black-footed ferret populations can be established across the nation, then there would no longer be concern about that species being threatened or endangered, and that would allow for delisting. The 10(j) in itself is a very effective tool to be applied to achieve recovery.

Mr. Parish of The Peregrine Fund briefed the Commission on the mission of The Peregrine Fund and its Voluntary Non-lead Program in Arizona. Mr. Parish has been a part of the condor program for fifteen years. There are 77 condors in the Arizona/Utah population today, with a total population of over 400 birds. This is up from 22 birds in 1982, so it is a huge success that this species did not slip by the wayside. Wild pairs have produced 17 young and 15 of those have fledged into the wild.

In 2003, The Peregrine Fund shared with the Department their findings of the lead exposure within the condor population and shared some of the preliminary results of their fragmentation studies. A high correlation was found between hunting seasons and high lead levels. The Department responded by surveying the local population, including hunters, ranchers, and the general public, and sharing with them the science and then asking for their support. For the past five years, over 80% of the hunters on the Kaibab Plateau voluntarily participated in reducing lead available to scavengers. They used non-lead that was given to them either by a coupon or by hauling their gut piles out of the field. Last year, there was 90% participation. This success is a fine example of working together with constituent groups and stakeholders.

This program has been a success because of the individual organizations involved, the cooperating agencies, the public, and participating hunters. This should be a leading story in the press, but instead there are groups capturing the mainstream media that claim to be working to save the condor from the brink of distinction, and they are asking the public for money to help them save the condor from lead poisoning. Mr. Parish finds this frustrating because The Peregrine Fund is a non-profit organization and that's what they do and in all of Mr. Parish's years in the field, he has not seen these groups that are represented in the media out in the field. It's true that lead poisoning is the leading cause of death for condors, but for those who say the only solution is to ban lead, it is proven that the voluntary action has been very successful by getting 90% of voluntary participation. These groups assume for the masses that the only solution is to ban lead ammunition. Their plea is very persuasive and their target audience is not hunters, and hunters and shooters are the very people that can make this change. Hunters are not represented by the masses and more needs to be done to target hunters.

In 2008, these same groups were successful in pushing the California Fish and Game Department to ban lead ammunition. A recent study shows that their ban on lead ammunition has no definitive reduction that makes a difference for condors in the field. If the voluntary effort is being deemed a failure because it hasn't removed all lead poisoning cases, then those groups should also deem the California lead ban as a failure as well.

We don't just need the use of non-lead to solve this problem. Hunters are under-represented in that we are not out there telling people about what we are doing for the conservation of condors. Hunters are doing more now than any other group and it needs to be known. This is a call to action - Don't just use non-lead when you are in condor country, but talk about it, write about it, tell the media about it. We hunters and shooters and the rest of the under-represented need to step out in front, acknowledge this issue and handle it in a lasting and meaningful way. We need to revel in the success of conservation that has defined us as sportsmen, maintaining the link between hunting and conservationist alike. Hunters can make this happen and the legacy that we leave behind in instances like this not only define us in history but will also protect our rights for the future in hunting and successful conservation efforts.

Chairman Freeman thanked Mr. Parish for his presentation and thanked the sportsmen's groups that have participated in the voluntary program.

The Commission discussed with Mr. Parish the issues and the push by these other groups to ban lead ammunition nationwide, and what is being done to fight this and what more can be done.

Public Comment

Tice Supplee, Director of Conservation, Audubon Arizona: Addressed the Commission in support of the Voluntary Non-lead Program; It has been successful and she is happy to hear that Utah is going to do the same; Audubon Arizona agrees that people need to get the word out about the program and Audubon Arizona would like to help with that effort as well.

Tom Britt, State Leadership Team Member, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF): RMEF is one of the cooperators in the Voluntary Non-lead Program from its inception and strongly endorses the program and the continuation of the program. Mr. Britt and Mr. Parish tried to write a letter to be distributed widely about the condor program and to try and shed some light on some of these things being said in the national media, but after many renditions of the letter, it fell by the wayside and was not sent.

Commissioner Davis commented that the science should be a part of the communication strategy, but one of the things to remember is that the condor is not the agenda of the people who are providing the mis-information. Part of the communication in return has to specifically point that out. It is imperative to be very specific about what their ultimate agenda is and who is really behind it.

John Koleszar, Vice President, Arizona Deer Association (ADA): Supports the Voluntary Non-lead Program and requested a web link regarding the condor for the ADA website; Stated that it is much better to ask for help (Voluntary Non-lead Program) than it is to be forced to do something (ban on lead ammunition) and he finds this to be true for most people.

Steve Clark, President, Arizona Elk Society (AES): AES has been in full support of this program from day one and they want the Commission to continue the program; the AES can also use the social medias to help get the word out.

Dr. Kathy Orr, Veterinarian, representing herself: Has been taking care of wildlife for years; Eagles also benefit from the non-lead program; the work by The Peregrine Fund and its cooperators has been outstanding; the 10(j) has made it possible to get the information to prove that lead is a serious problem; Supports doing everything possible to keep the lead out of the condor area and supports all the organizations that are working to make this happen.

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Meeting recessed for a break at 11:35 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 11:45 a.m.

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4. (continued) Update and Overview of The Peregrine Fund Partnership with the Department and Other Cooperators Regarding the Voluntary Non-lead Program

Presenter: Eric Gardner, Chief, Nongame Branch and Chris Parish, The Peregrine Fund

Public Comment

Rich Williams, Vice President, Arizona State Chapter, National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF): Read a letter from NWTF AZ State Chapter President Steve Sams that stated NWTF's

support of the Commission and the Department's efforts to reduce potential impacts to the California condor through the Voluntary Non-lead Program and the complete removal of big game carcasses in the condor restoration area; In the event that the Center for Biological Diversity follows through with their notice of intent to sue the U.S. Forest Service, they hope the Commission and the Department will use their results of the years of voluntary compliance by Arizona hunters to assist the Forest Service in that suit.

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5. Rulemaking Recommendations for Article 3 Taking and Handling of Wildlife

Presenter: Dana McGehee, FOR6 Wildlife Manager

Jennifer Stewart, Rule and Risk Branch Chief, provided a brief overview of the rulemaking process, followed by a presentation by Mr. McGehee on the Department's rulemaking recommendations for Article 3, Taking and Handling of Wildlife. The recommendations are the result of recent legislative changes, amendments proposed in the most recent Article 3 Five-year Review Report (approved by the Commission on June 22, 2012), and amendments proposed by the Article 3 rulemaking team. Recommendations include amendments intended to address:

- Shotgun gauge restrictions
- Additional methods of take
- Will call hunts
- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
- Baiting
- Unlawful use of tags
- Unlawful methods of take
- Buffalo hunts
- CITES tag requirements
- Trapping methods
- Picking up wildlife parts and carcasses
- Transport of live crayfish and red shiners
- Reporting and inspection requirements
- License exemption for Department sponsored hunting education events

Mr. McGehee briefed the Commission and provided a PowerPoint presentation on several of the proposed Article 3 amendments including the following:

- Change rule language to conform with recent legislation (magazine capacity, possession while hunting, silencers)(remove language that restricts shotgun gauges, except for migratory birds)
- Allow use of pre-charged pneumatic weapons for taking of furbearers, predators and big game, except elk and buffalo
 - .22 caliber minimum for predators and furbearers
 - .30 caliber minimum for javelina and turkey
 - .40 caliber minimum for antelope, bear, bighorn sheep, deer, mountain lion
 - Allow during "HAM" hunts
 - Allow muzzle-loading pneumatics during "Muzzle-loader Only" hunts
- Will Call Hunts – Unlawful to:

- Hold at bay except during daylight hours
- Injure, confine, place tracking device
- Use dogs to hold a bay unless hunter is present for entire hunt
- When using dogs, lions or bears must be immediately killed or released
- CWD Prevention Plan:
 - Regulate importing cervid carcasses and parts into Arizona
 - Regulate cervid carcasses or parts from game farms in Arizona
 - Prohibit using lures and scents containing cervid urine
 - Prohibit use of bait for big game (also unlawful to knowingly take big game over bait)
- Unlawful Use of Tags:
 - Allow someone else to possess your tag while hunting
 - Allow your tag to be attached to someone else's game
 - Attach someone else's tag to your game
 - Possess someone else's tag while hunting
- Unlawful to place any substance, device, or object in, on, or by any water source to prevent wildlife from using that water source
- Prohibit night vision or thermal imagery equipment (use or possess)
- Buffalo Hunts:
 - Hunter may report in person or by phone
 - Department may designate order of hunter and animals to be taken
 - Department employee may assist in taking wounded buffalo
 - Written acknowledgment that hunter has read and will comply with requirements
 - Tag may be invalidated for failure to comply
- Bobcats:
 - CITES tag required for each bobcat taken (Trappers have 10 days after season closes; Hunters have 10 days after take)(CITES tags sold year-round)
 - Lower jaw required for each bobcat trapped
- Trapping:
 - Language changes for consistency with Best Management Practices of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (ie. Replace term leg hold trap with foot hold trap)
 - Deny trapping license until reporting requirements are met by trapper
 - Allow powered cable device for foot capture
- Pickup of Wildlife Parts: Permission not required for shed antlers or horns, or other parts that are not fresh (permission required for fresh carcasses or parts)
- Allow bullfrogs to be taken with pneumatic weapons
- Allow catfish to be taken with bow and arrow (when authorized by Commission)
- Prohibit live transport of crayfish (allow sale of carcasses)
- Remove inspection or reporting requirements for successful special big game tag holders and successful archery deer hunters
- Hunting license not required for Department sponsored introductory hunting events.

The Commission discussed the pneumatic weapons and expressed some concerns including that the varying calibers allowed may complicate regulations and whether the pneumatic weapons were considered firearms under the law. There was also discussion of whether the pneumatic

weapons should be used for Ham hunts and whether the muzzle-loading pneumatic weapons could really be considered muzzle-loaders because of their sophistication and accuracy.

In regards to the CITIES tag, Commissioner Davis requested that it be called something other than a CITIES tag.

Commissioner Husted requested that the CITIES tag not be required, but that a person “may” be required to get a CITIES tag if they are going to participate in trade or transport outside of Arizona.

Public Comment

Rich Williams, Vice President, Arizona State Chapter, NWTF: Strongly opposes the use of .30 caliber pneumatic rifles for turkey hunting; opposes all but shotguns and would like to see a permanent ban on any weapons not shooting shot. The only exception to this would be archery. Also strongly supports the banning of bait for taking turkeys.

Steve Clark, representing himself: Cautioned the Department to do something about the misinformation about the baiting issue; this will be a contentious issue with sportsmen; people need to understand that this is a wildlife management issue and not a restriction on the way you hunt.

Chairman Freeman asked two questions he received from the public: 1) Does bait include salt or mineral blocks set by ranchers, and 2) will the rule prohibit legally purchased game farm deer carcasses from being transported to a meat processor.

Mr. McGehee stated that bait is defined as ingestible substances that do not include water, salt or mineral products, or nutritional supplements that are manufactured for the livestock industry and placed during the normal course of livestock operations. On the second question, Mr. McGehee stated that the rule would prohibit game farm deer carcasses from being transported to a meat processor. The carcass would have to be processed prior to leaving the game farm within the state.

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6. Executive Session

c. Legal Counsel. The Commission may vote to go into Executive Session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice on impacts to the Commission and Department from State Personnel Reform.

This item was pulled from the Executive Session agenda for a briefing in the Public Session by the Department’s Human Resources Manager Diana Shaffer and for Commission discussion.

Ms. Shaffer provided the Commission with an overview of the State Personnel Reform, which becomes effective on September 29, 2012. The Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) has already begun the process of getting information out to state employees and reviewing rules, handbooks, and developing policies. The groups of employees that will be impacted by the Reform are employees that are a grade 19 and above, all supervisors (regardless of grade level),

all Information Technology employees, new hires, covered employees that voluntarily accept a new assignment, and covered employees that voluntarily elect to become uncovered during the allowed time frame prior to September 29. These employees will be able to receive the 5% retention stipend. Law enforcement employees that are fully authorized peace officers and are in a law enforcement position will remain in covered status. Certified peace officers in non-law enforcement positions will convert to uncovered status as long as they are in an uncovered position. Approximately 273 Department employees will automatically convert to uncovered status on September 29. After implementation, employees will be considered one of the following: Covered, uncovered and uncovered political employees. Covered employees will be governed by the current personnel rules.

Chairman Freeman requested the Department to provide a summary of the costs to the Department for the 5% retention stipend.

The Commission discussed with Ms. Shaffer and the Director that there are some conflicts in the covered/uncovered status for law enforcement. Ms. Shaffer stated that the Department is still working with ADOA and are waiting for a response on the issues.

Ms. Shaffer provided additional detailed information on what will be the personnel rules and status for uncovered employees and for uncovered political employees. The personnel reform will also effect Director Voyles' position in that the he will no longer operate under a five-year contract once his current contract expires. Director Voyles or any future Directors will serve at the pleasure of the Commission.

* * * * *

6. 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 Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Vote: Unanimous

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7. Litigation Report

The Commission was provided with a written Litigation Report (attached), which was also provided to the public.

Motion: Husted moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JIM ODENKIRK TO FILE AN AMICUS BRIEF IN THE CASE OF WILDEARTH GUARDIANS VS. JAMES LANE.

Vote: Unanimous

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8. Approval of Minutes and Signing of Minutes.

Motion: Husted moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 22-23, 2012.

Vote: Unanimous

The Commission signed the minutes following approval.

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9. Director's and Chairman's Reports

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

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10. Commissioners' Reports

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

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11. Future Agenda Items and Action Items

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

- Regarding the first and second read, the Department will put the monthly reports on the consent agenda and will work with the Chairman to rotate the quarterly presentations to the Commission (Lands Update, Shooting Sports, IEWR and Information and Publications, and LE Briefing)
- Discussions on ballot initiatives, referendums and potentials will be scheduled for the November workshop (Date TBD); Leadership Team will start looking at those strategic priorities and will agenda those for discussion and approval at the November workshop

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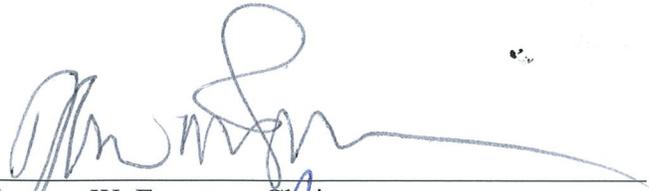
Motion: Mansell moved and Husted seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADJOURN THIS MEETING.

Vote: Unanimous

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Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

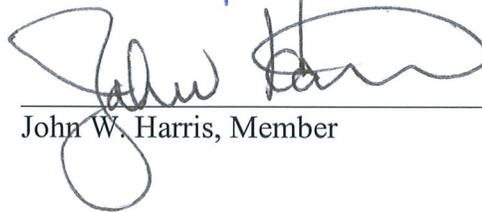
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Norman W. Freeman, Chairman



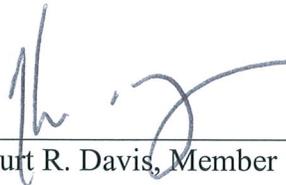
Jack F. Husted, Vice Chair



John W. Harris, Member

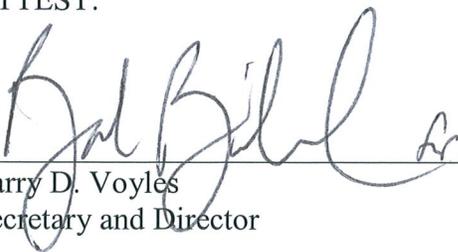


Robert E. Mansell, Member



Kurt R. Davis, Member

ATTEST:



Larry D. Voyles
Secretary and Director

**Game and Fish Litigation Report
Presented at the Commission Meeting
August 3, 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.

The Court issued an order on May 11, 2012 denying the plaintiffs' motion for injunctive relief. The Court remanded the matter back to the USFWS for action consistent with the Ninth Circuit's opinion.

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. The Wilderness Society appealed to the Ninth Circuit. Briefs have been filed. One of the issues raised by the Wilderness Society is whether BLM's

resource management plan failed to protect ruins, wildlife and other monument objects by allowing motor vehicle use on unmaintained routes that don't qualify as "roads".

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. The plaintiffs filed a notice of appeal on April 20, 2012. The Pima County Clerk's Office transmitted the record to the Court of Appeals on June 8, 2012. **The Reed's opening brief to the Arizona Court of Appeals is due by July 31, 2012**

4. *United States and State of Arizona v. Freeport-McMoran Inc., et al., 12-CV-00307-TUC-CKJ.* A consent decree resolving claims of natural resource damages against Freeport-McMoran for bird mortalities at the Morenci Mine in 2000-2001 was approved by the federal district court last month. The plaintiffs are the United States, acting through the Fish and Wildlife Service as the federal natural resource trustee, and the State of Arizona, represented by the Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality as the State natural resource trustee. The \$6.8M cash-out settlement is the result of negotiations that began in 2003 among the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (participating at the request of the ADEQ Director) and Freeport-McMoran. The settlement resolves the claims of the United States and the State of Arizona for natural resource damages pursuant to CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §9607, and grants Freeport McMoran a covenant not to sue.

The Arizona settlement proceeds will be deposited in a federal natural resources recovery fund and may be expended solely for the Congressionally-directed purposes of restoring, replacing or acquiring the equivalent of the injured resources. A trustee council will be formed, consisting of one representative from AGFD, ADEQ, and USFWS. The trustee council will then select Arizona projects to fund following public comment.

Lands Update
For the Arizona Game and Fish Commission
July 27, 2012
Phoenix, Arizona

FOREST SERVICE LAND AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest

The Forest recently provided an update on the timeline for their forest plan revision. Following the Wallow Fire of 2011, the Forest planning team has been assessing the changed condition resulting from the fire. The Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision are now expected to be published in the summer of 2013.

Coronado National Forest

Catalina Unit Travel Management

The Department continues to review proposed changes to motorized travel system on the Catalina District of the Forest. Several roads have been identified for closure that the Department expects to recommend for retention in the travel system. At least one road, which used to provide access to the former Laquachi Archery Range, permitted as a special use, was not recognized as an existing road. The Department has previously expressed the importance of this portal to the forest from the Tucson metro area as an access point for hunters and as a potential access point for youth educational activities. Former attempts to retain the use of the area as an archery range were unsuccessful.

Kaibab National Forest

The Notice of Availability for the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Forest was published in the Federal Register on April 20, 2012, which initiated the 90 day comment period. The Department is currently reviewing the document and will submit comments by July 18, 2012. The Department attended a workshop on June 28th to improve the monitoring chapter in the Land Management Plan (LMP). The revised LMP guides the Forest in fulfilling its stewardship responsibilities and provides direction in the form of desired conditions, objectives, standards, guidelines, and suitability. The planning rule also directs the Forest to use the best available science, and provides a framework for adaptive management. This draft plan is much more strategic in nature than the previous plan; therefore the Department will be reviewing the document and asking for assurances that the level of detail is sufficient to translate into how management will be implemented on the landscape. Key variables the Department will be looking for are consistency with the restoration framework set forth by the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI); clear and detailed desired conditions; and how Standards and Guidelines may be implemented. The Department has had a very productive relationship with the Kaibab throughout plan revision and their process has been very transparent. The Department will continue to meet individually with Forest planners to clarify language in the Plan and bolster its emphasis on wildlife habitat.

Tonto National Forest

The Forest updated the Department during a recent coordination meeting regarding the timeline for the Land Management Plan draft revision (by 2014), with anticipation of 4-6 years for the final Plan and EIS.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (A-S)

Wallow West Fuel Reduction and Forest Recovery Project

On June 7, the Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact was signed for the Wallow West Fuel Reduction and Forest Recovery Project, allowing for salvage of dead and dying trees and pile burning of slash on up to 15,402 acres in moderate to high burn severity areas. Reforestation would also occur on up to 400 acres in treated salvage units annually over a 10-year period. Up to 141 miles of existing open roads would be used for salvage activities and up to 136 miles of maintenance level 1 closed roads would be opened and then closed after use. Two miles of new temporary roads would be required. They will be closed and rehabilitated after use.

Burro Creek Allotment Work Project Weekend

The Arizona Elk Society (AES) sponsored the 6th annual Burro Creek Allotment work project weekend. Eighty-two volunteers from AES, Southeastern Arizona Sportman's Alliance, Phoenix Varmint Callers, AZGFD, and the USFS participated. Over the two workdays four more miles of old and/or burnt fence were removed from the landscape. Much of the fence removal included fence damaged in the Wallow fire. Also fences around several upper elevation wetlands were rebuilt or repaired. Many of these wetlands are important for nesting waterfowl, as well as elk and antelope populations. The work was done in conjunction with the Department's Adopt-a-Ranch program in cooperation with the 26 Bar Ranch. Approximately 10 miles of wetland protection fencing was repaired.

Coconino National Forest

Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive River Management Planning (CRMP)

The Forest is working on an Environmental Assessment for the Fossil Creek CRMP, which is a requirement of its Wild and Scenic River designation. The Fossil Creek CRMP is expected to address protection of the Wild and Scenic 'outstandingly remarkable values' which have been determined to be recreation, geology, fish and aquatic resources, wildlife, history and traditional cultural uses, and water. On May 10, the Forest granted the Department Cooperating Agency status for the CRMP planning process. As part of this relationship, the Forest will provide the Department with a seat on the interdisciplinary planning team to provide input into their process. In exchange, the Department will provide our Fisheries Program staff capacity and expertise and other areas of expertise, as needed. A Proposed Action for the CRMP has been released, and the Forest is in the process of developing their Environmental Assessment.

Coronado National Forest

Conservation and Mitigation Program (CAMP)

The Department, the Forest, and volunteers seined Bull Tank on the Bull Grazing Allotment in the Ash Creek Area of the Galiuro Mountains in efforts to remove non native tiger salamanders in preparation for reintroducing Chiricahua leopard frogs. On June 4-15 the Department collected 155 Chiricahua leopard frogs from Home Ranch Tank and released them in Bull Tank. This action is a step towards establishing a second metapopulation in the Galiuro Mountains Management Area, and could potentially meet recovery criteria established in the species

recovery plan. This action may also fulfill a conservation and mitigation measure identified under the Department's CAMP Program for sportfish stocking.

Reddington Pass AGFD Kiosk

The Forest finished a special use permit for the Department to erect an informational kiosk in Reddington Pass. The kiosk will be filled with information regarding dispersed recreational shooting, off-highway vehicle laws, fire restrictions, cleanup information, Friends of Reddington Pass Adopt-a-Road info, and any other info related to the area. The Department has a target install date of September so that information will be available for fall hunting season.

Four Forests Restoration Initiative (4FRI)

4FRI is a federally-funded, US Forest Service Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Project to restore ponderosa pine forests across 2.4 million acres of the Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Kaibab, and Tonto National Forests over the next 20 years. Collaboration and planning have been ongoing since 2009, and the Department is a founding member of the 4FRI Stakeholder Group which includes a diverse list of over 35 organizations. The Department is also a Cooperating Agency on the USFS 4FRI Coconino-Kaibab Project, which is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) proposing mechanical thinning and burning over 580,000 acres on those two forests. Planning on the Coconino-Kaibab Project is ongoing, and the expected release of the Draft EIS is some time in August.

Recognizing the immediate need for landscape-scale restoration work to begin, the Department is supportive of a stewardship contract going forward. The 4FRI stewardship contract recipient, Pioneer Forest Products (Pioneer), met with the 4FRI Steering Committee and Stakeholder Group on June 26-27 at their monthly meeting in Pinetop. At this meeting, Pioneer shared a portion of their business plan with the stakeholders and stated their willingness to engage in relevant working groups. Pioneer intends to construct a wood mill in Winslow, creating jobs for plant construction and operation, as well as logging and trucking. Small diameter, ponderosa pine timber will be converted into non-commodity, high value lumber, laminate wood panels used for doors, windows, furniture, cabinetry, and specialty components. A portion of the wood slash will be used for the mill's kiln-firing. Pioneer proposes to also use slash in the production of biodiesel fuel. Pioneer will begin harvesting 5,000 acres this year and proposes full capacity at 30,000+ acres per year by 2014.

The Department continues to be actively engaged in the 4FRI Stakeholders' Landscape Assessment and Monitoring Working Group, where we are actively collaborating on the 4FRI Monitoring Plan. During recent NEPA update meetings for the DEIS, the USFS shared their draft implementation plan which increases the Department's confidence that there will be a system of checks and balances that ties directly into adaptive management. Collaboration in this regard is ongoing and productive.

Prescott National Forest

Gold Button Mine Reclamation Plan

The Department reviewed and provided supportive project evaluation comments on a reclamation plan the Forest recently issued for the Gold Button Mine in GMU 20A, located Southeast of Crown King. The plan calls for offsite disposal of construction materials from abandoned mine structures and disposal of mine tailings in abandoned, on-site evaporative

ponds, which will be capped with soil and revegetated after internment. The only concerns associated with the reclamation plan were associated with the proposed backfilling of an abandoned mine adit at the site. Those concerns were alleviated by the Forest's commitment to have the adit surveyed for bats and other wildlife prior to closure. Bat gates will be considered if survey data warrants their construction.

Tonto National Forest

Salt River Allotments Vegetation Management Project

The Department continues to work with the Forest on providing wildlife related information to support development of the Environmental Impact Statement. No further actions have occurred since the June 2012 Lands update.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

Pakoon Basin and Tweeds Points Area Brome Management EA

The Department submitted comments to Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument regarding the Environmental Assessment for the Pakoon Basin and Tweeds Points Area Brome Management plan, an effort of the Mohave Desert Initiative of which the Department is a partner. The goal of this proposed action is to reduce fire threat to native vegetation posed by fuel loads created by exotic grasses and to protect desert tortoise habitat, through the preferred alternative of application of the herbicide Plateau. The Department has offered its general support for the preferred alternative while recommending changes including greater buffer distances around water sources; avoiding intact areas of oak and other key forage species; and expanding the proposed monitoring plan to include additional native plant species.

Kingman BLM Field Office

Iron Basin Mule Deer Habitat Improvement Project

The Department met with Kingman BLM to discuss progress on the environmental clearance necessary to move forward with the Iron Basin Mule Deer Habitat Improvement Project funded in the 2011 HPC cycle. It was confirmed that all clearances for moving forward with this brush management/native re-seeding project would be complete by August with implementation to begin soon thereafter.

Travel Management Planning (Route Evaluation)

The Department participated in BLM Kingman's Route Evaluation carried out during the week of June 25. This Route Evaluation is in support of the Colorado River District's ongoing Travel Management Planning effort, with this week's focus on the Bagdad and Francis Creek Allotments of GMU 18B.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Grand Canyon National Park – Comprehensive Fisheries Management Plan

In cooperation with Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (NRA), Grand Canyon National Park released its Scoping Packet for the Comprehensive Fisheries Management Plan for both Glen and Grand Canyons. The Department is a Cooperating Agency on this project, and recently

submitted comments on the Scoping Packet. In those comments, the Department reiterated its authority to manage fisheries resources in Grand and Glen Canyons and its interest in maintaining the Lees Ferry rainbow trout fishery while also maintaining and enhancing native fishes in the Park and the NRA. We recommended including Lake Mead in this management plan because of the emerging impact of striped bass. We also called out several of the NPS-NRA proposed actions that we felt had not been fully evaluated for their impact to the sport fishery or native fish populations and requested thorough development of a robust monitoring and adaptive management program.

GENERAL UPDATES

Access Agreements

Dunton Ranch

On May 22, the Department executed a seven-year Access Agreement with Dunton Ranch for lands north of I-40. The Department continues to engage in discussions with the Landowner Relations Program, Ranch Ownership, and neighboring landowners to resolve concerns associated with the sign-in kiosk, map, and signage associated with the agreement.

Francis Creek, Greenwood Community, and Byner Allotments

The Department met with Ranch Management of the Francis Creek, Greenwood Community, and Byner Allotments to discuss a comprehensive access agreement that would ensure extensive access in GMU's 16A and 18B. If awarded, Access funding will be utilized to implement a suite of rangeland improvements including fence construction and water development, to provide for better livestock distribution and implementation of a rotational grazing system that would provide the rest necessary to protect rangeland resources, while at the same time providing better habitat quality and perennial water sources for wildlife. To move forward with this agreement, the Permittee needs to acquire a letter of approval from the Lessee, the Bagdad Mine's Ownership - Freeport McMoran.

Upper Music Mountain Allotment

The Department continues to await Ranch Management's decision between a three or five year Access Agreement for the Music Mountain Ranch located in GMU 15A. Funding from the selected Agreement will be utilized by the rancher to renovate waters, clean and restore dirt tanks, and address other resource and management concerns on the Ranch.

Kane/Two Mile Ranches

The Department met with NRCS and BLM staff to kick off a remapping effort of soils and ecological sites on the Kane/Two Mile ranches to allow for a forthcoming collaborative grazing management research project. The Department is also currently reviewing the U.S. Forest Service EA for the Kane Ranch allotments. Comments will be submitted by August 7th.

Woody Ridge Restoration

The Arizona Wildlife Federation and the Department are implementing a National Forest Foundation grant to improve wildlife habitat and permeability within the Woody Ridge Wildlife Corridor located in GMU 6B and GMU 7 in Region 2. The corridor links habitat in the San Francisco Peaks area south to the Mogollon Rim. Volunteer work days are being held throughout

the summer to repair livestock fencing to wildlife friendly standards, obliterate user-created roads and trails, and remove invasive weeds within the corridor. Project sites are on or adjacent to the Coconino National Forest and include forest grazing allotments, Coconino County's Rogers Lake Natural Area, Centennial Forest State Land parcels, and City of Flagstaff utility properties. Community stewardship is building among these stakeholders and volunteer groups like Friends of Northern Arizona Forests, Grand Canyon Trust, Northern Arizona University, and sportsmen's groups to restore this crucial landscape feature. To date, we have repaired over 1 mile of fence, built nearly 1 mile of new fence, and removed ¼ mile of downed fence material. We have scheduled four additional work days for fence and weed projects.

Habitat Partnership Committee (HPC) Applications

Mountain Shadow Allotment

The Department participated in a field visit to the Mountain Shadow Allotment in GMU 16A to investigate the opportunity for a Habitat Partnership Committee (HPC) Grant Application. In exchange for HPC funds, the Permittee would re-drill a well and install a 5,000 gallon storage tank and wildlife friendly drinker to provide perennial water for wildlife and livestock operations.

Music Mountain #1, #2, and Powerline Wildlife Water Catchments

The Department carried out site visits to the Music Mountain #1, #2, and Powerline wildlife water catchments in GMU 15A, for which HPC applications will be resubmitted in the upcoming HPC cycle. In the previous cycle, funding was not awarded for Music Mountain #1, #2, and Powerline Catchments, which were submitted collectively, as *Phase 2* of a previously funded, large-scale water improvement project for the Music Mountains. Feedback from the HPC Program Coordinator indicated that the previous proposal did not receive funding due to its size, cost, and limited funds availability – and that the likelihood of funding would be increased if the catchment renovation proposals were submitted individually.

Sugarloaf Wildlife Water Catchment

The Department carried out a site visit to the Sugarloaf wildlife water catchment in Eastern GMU 15A. The existing catchment, located on State Trust Land on the Eastern edge of the X-One Ranch, has been defunct since 2006. This water was, and can again become an important perennial source of water for pronghorn, mule deer, elk, and assorted small game and non-game species.

Wildlife Areas

Arivaca Lake Wildlife Area

The Department met with the Coronado Forest regarding a scoping notice on the Arivaca Lake grazing allotment which surrounds Arivaca Lake Wildlife Area – a Commission-owned property managed as a trophy bass fishery. The Department owns the lake and immediate area around the lake as well as an easement along the road accessing the lake. The Forest administers a grazing lease for 31 Cows Year Long on the allotment but issues annual operating instructions which allow 100 cows to graze for one month during the winter non-growing season. The lake is the only water on the allotment and the cattle depend on the lake for water. The Department is looking into the need for a memorandum of agreement to allow the use of the water for purposes other than fish and wildlife use.

Horseshoe

The pond has recently been renovated to remove the excess organic matter and vegetation, along with bullfrogs, for contribution to the CAMP Program under the sportfish stocking consultation. The pond was lined and fish habitat was installed.

Lamar Haines Wildlife Area

The Department has been evaluating Veit Springs on Lamar Haines Wildlife Area for the potential to move it from a non-functioning to a functioning spring. Veit is a group of three springs for which the Department holds the water rights. Currently two of the three springs lack surface flow likely due to historic plumbing developments in place prior to Department ownership. As the Department works on perfecting those water rights with ADWR, we are also exploring restoration options to restore surface flows and create wetland pond habitat for native aquatic wildlife such as the northern leopard frog.

Coordinated Resource Management Plans (CRMP)

The Department continues to inventory resource baseline data on The Willow Springs Ranch in Unit 37B. The Willow Springs Ranch consists of 186,000 acres of State leased lands and 30 sections of private lands and is immediately west of the Triangle Bar Ranch. The Willow Springs Ranch is an important small game, mule deer, and javelina hunting destination. The CRMP was initiated when the ranch contacted the Department about access concerns. The Department recommended that all issues, including access, be addressed in a CRMP. Since that time the State Land Department has expressed concern over using the CRMP process to address access concerns. The Department is now addressing the access separately from the CRMP and continues to address other resource concerns concurrently but not in the same document as the CRMP or under the same framework.

Battle Axe

The Department recently provided review and comment on the Battle Axe CRMP located in GMU 37B.

Horseshoe

The Department continues to coordinate and participate on the CRMP for the Horseshoe and Copper Creek Allotments. The Landscape Assessment Team continues to make progress on various field sessions and beginning the required assessment inventory monitoring for BLM. This team is made up of agency experts and stakeholders. The next Agency-Stakeholder Planning Team meeting is anticipated for September. There are several active subgroups and topical working groups planning meetings for August and September.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Field Offices (Avondale, Chandler, Casa Grande)

The Department made visits to each office for introductions and communications about coordinating efforts and technical assistance for projects.

Rogers Lake County Natural Area

The Department in collaboration with NRCS is providing a rangeland health assessment for Coconino County at their Rogers Lake County Natural Area (RLCNA), which will serve as a baseline for forthcoming monitoring program, which the Department is also helping the County develop. Grazing leases were transferred from the Arizona State Land Department to the County as a condition of purchase of Rogers Lake parcels and the County will be assessing rangeland conditions as part of its overall management plan for RLCNA.

Freeport McMoran, ASLD Water Lease Application

The Department reviewed a water lease application submitted by Freeport McMoran to the Arizona State Lands Department to extract water from State Trust Lands in GMU 18B near the Bagdad Mine, and proximate to Boulder Creek. The water lease application was submitted to replace water ensured by previous 10-year leases, but scheduled to expire in December of 2012. The Department provided project guidance recommending that new water extractions not exceed previous withdrawals; thereby ensuring that source water for Boulder Creek's riparian habitat would not be reduced.

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 part of the larger Pinal Partnership. The 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, drainage and OHV planning information into the discussions. The Department continues to participate with the committee and is currently assisting in providing information and recommendations in the development of the committees reporting.

PM-10

Pinal County Air Quality Update

As of May 22, EPA is redesignating a portion of Pinal County to nonattainment for the 1987 24-hour PM10 national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS). It appears that the EPA has taken stakeholder input and reduced the size of the nonattainment area by approximately 36% when compared to the draft nonattainment area boundary proposed in 2010. The areas that were excluded from this final designation were large areas of Tonto National Forest, BLM, and Arizona State Trust Lands that are not developed and did not make sense to include in the nonattainment area. This reduction in size is a positive outcome for the Department in regards to future restrictions to motorized outdoor-related recreation. Many heavily used OHV areas in Pinal County and hunting areas were originally included in the original nonattainment boundary but are now excluded. The areas include populous segments of Pinal County, including the San Tan Valley area, Maricopa, Casa Grande, and portions of Coolidge, Florence and Eloy. The ADEQ and Pinal County Air-Quality Dept will be required to identify sources of PM-10 (e.g. dirt roads, construction, agriculture, livestock ops, etc.) and outline what measures (e.g. State Implementation Plan (SIP)) will be implemented to ensure levels are in compliance with the

described federal standards. Pinal County will have approximately 18 months to draft a SIP and associated rules and regulations on PM-10 sources outlined in the SIP. It has been determined that Pinal County has some of the highest PM-10 levels in the country, by EPA estimates. For the past 10 years, air-quality monitors throughout the county have shown persistent violations of the PM-10 standard. The EPA sets air-quality standards based on health-related data, and its threshold for acceptable PM-10 emissions is 150 micrograms per cubic meter over a 24-hour period. To remain in compliance, communities cannot exceed the threshold more than three times in three years.

Proposed Rosemont Copper Project

The Coronado National Forest is currently reviewing public input received during the comment period for the Rosemont Copper Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Forest received over 25,000 comments during this period. All substantive comments have been identified, coded, and organized and responses are being developed for them. The Forest's response to these comments will be incorporated into future public disclosures for the project as required under NEPA.

The Forest is now working more closely with the Department to identify mitigation measures and monitoring plans for impacts to wildlife, habitat, and recreation. The Department had one meeting with the Forest and other cooperators in June to identify mitigation measures. A date has not been set for publication of the Final EIS. The Forest has indicated a target date of the end of the calendar year.

RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Energy Element

The Coconino County Board of Supervisors on July 10 approved the new Energy Element as an amendment to the County Comprehensive Plan. The Element is designed to promote energy conservation and to guide the siting and design of renewable energy facilities in the County. The Department is actively involved in the development of goals and policies to promote avoidance, minimization and mitigation of impacts to wildlife and habitat associated with utility-scale renewable facilities. The Element is highly reflective of the Department's approach to renewable energy as embodied in our Wind and Solar Guidelines.

Proposed Sasabe Natural Gas Pipeline

The Project would consist of an approximately 60-mile pipeline extending from El Paso Natural Gas' (EPNG) existing South Mainline System near Tucson to the US/Mexico border near Sasabe. The Project is designed to provide additional export capability to Mexico with an initial capacity of 195 million cubic feet per day. The Department is a cooperating agency for the NEPA process. The Federal action agency is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The Department is participating in bi-weekly conference calls with the cooperating agencies. The project is in the FERC pre-filing review process. Environmental reports (water, T&E species, vegetation, cultural, etc.) are anticipated to be complete this fall. EPNG expects to file the formal application for the project in January 2013.

WIND

Mohave County Wind Project

The Eagle Conservation Plan (ECP) will be combined with the Avian Conservation Strategy (ACS) into one document. The second draft of the ECP/ACS is currently under review with comments due by July 31.

The BLM and BP Wind Energy are currently coordinating on responses to public comments received from the open forum on the draft Environmental Impact statement. Specific technical issues are being discussed with resource leads and conference calls are scheduled with core participants to respond to each question.

The noxious weed and native plant management plan are being combined into a single Vegetation Management Plan. This vegetation plan will be facilitated with the Bureau of Land Management's Kingman Field Office. The National Park Service has offered to contribute to the reclamation portion of the vegetation plan, as they have expertise in appropriate seed mixture for the project site.

Boquillas Wind Energy Project

In June the Department with input from Regional and Phoenix staff submitted extensive comments on a series of biological reports prepared by WEST, Inc. The project was formerly being developed jointly by the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) and Edison Mission Energy of California, but Edison has since withdrawn as partner. NTUA sent the Department a letter upon receipt of our comments acknowledging Department concerns, and pledging to continue working with the Department and the USFWS to "economically mitigate environmental impacts that may result from such project." The Bureau of Indian Affairs has agreed to oversee the NEPA process for this project and has requested Department participation at an initial meeting with NTUA and USFWS later in July.

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 project team 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. The Department provided comments on the draft EA before it was made public and will continue to provide information to the project team until the document becomes final.

SunZia Transmission Line Project

Although tentatively scheduled for mid June, the SunZia cooperator meeting was not held until July 17. The original intent of this meeting was to discuss the project, comments, and any unresolved issues; however the meeting was not structured adequately to allow time for discussion of issues. The Department has taken the lead in scheduling another meeting between BLM and only those cooperators responsible for wildlife and land management in Arizona.

The BLM's preferred route (4C2c) for the transmission line would travel through the San Pedro River Valley, on the west side of the river. There is strong support from the project proponent (SunZia, L.L.C.) and Fort Huachuca for route 4B, which goes through the Sulphur Springs Valley and between the Aravaipa and Galiuro Wilderness Areas. The Department supports route 4C3 which avoids the sensitive Sulphur Springs Valley, Aravaipa and Galiuro Wilderness Areas, and the San Pedro River Valley, traveling instead through the Tucson metropolitan area to the project terminus near Picacho Reservoir. The Department's main concerns continue to be the proposed routes through these sensitive areas, and adequate mitigation to offset project impacts to wildlife and habitat.

Timeline for the DEIS:

May 25, 2012	Release of the DEIS
Mid June	Cooperator Meeting – Discuss comments that have not been resolved/incorporated & discuss upcoming public meetings
Late June/July	Public Meetings
Mid-August	Conference Call with Cooperators – Opportunity for additional conversation & discussion with Cooperators
August 22, 2012	End of 90 day comment period

Southline

The Department submitted scoping comments for the Southline Transmission Project on July 5, recommending the BLM eliminate from further consideration the portion of the proposed route on the east side of the Willcox Playa, as this alternative is routed through the Willcox Playa Wildlife Area and would pose a considerable impact hazard to sandhill cranes and other waterfowl.

TRANSPORTATION

Deer Valley Parkway (formerly Beardsley Parkway)

The Department continues to participate in Technical Advisory Committee meetings and provide input on wildlife and wildlife habitat issues/opportunities/constraints. Most recently Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) has released Tech Report 4- Candidate Alignment and Evaluation. The evaluation criteria for the preferred alignment included a measure of the impact each alternative is anticipated to have on existing wildlife habitat and movement corridors for wildlife species of concern. MCDOT has narrowed the potential alignment to two alternatives. The Department does not believe there are significant advantages

or disadvantages to wildlife for either alternative. Both alternatives will result in a new roadway that will cross several washes that the Department has identified as important linkage for the White Tank Mountains and which the City of Surprise adopted as Wildlife Linkage Corridors. The locations of the drainage control structures required for the new roadway will generally coincide with the wildlife movement corridors, so there may be opportunities to incorporate wildlife crossing treatments into the drainage control structures. The Environmental Overview recommends future studies to verify that there will be no impacts to Threatened and Endangered species including Sonoran desert tortoise and Tucson shovel-nosed snake, and that impacts to other Species of Special Concern and wildlife linkages are mitigated to the extent feasible during the design and implementation phases of the project.

North South Corridor Study

This study is evaluating routes for a connection between US 60 and I-10 in the east valley. The Department participates on the stakeholder team. The Department has provided draft wildlife linkages information, and currently we are working with the project managers to address our concerns for removal of an alignment on the west of the CAP in the northern area of the study. A small meeting was scheduled May 2 for specific discussion on the Department's concerns. These discussions included the Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corp of Engineers and Pinal County. This discussion provided sufficient rationale for retaining an alternative west of the CAP, along with two other additional alternatives west of the CAP. The alternatives selection report is being compiled for internal review by ADOT in late June. Planning is also commencing for the environmental fieldwork. The Department is working across Regions and work units to provide participation and input on this project.

Sonoran Valley Parkway (SVPP)

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invited the Department to become a formal Cooperating Agency for the project's Environmental Impact Statement. The Department is finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to facilitate our involvement. The Department was involved with planning for this parkway with BLM and the City of Goodyear several years ago and provided input on alignments and wildlife related issues/opportunities/constraints, as well as recommendations on types and locations of wildlife crossing structures to mitigate impacts to wildlife movement within the Sierra Estrella – Sonoran Desert National Monument linkage area on BLM lands. The City of Goodyear is the project proponent and needs the parkway to provide access to annexed lands near Mobile. The BLM hosted a webinar kickoff meeting with the Cooperating Agencies for the development of the Environmental Impact Statement in July 2012. The BLM plans to have Draft EIS out to the public in December of 2012; a Final EIS in July 2013; and Record of Decision in September 2013. The BLM is interested in Department input on wildlife issues/concerns and input on ways to mitigate negative impacts to wildlife, such as design features for ROW fencing, wash crossings and general recommendations for the linkage area.

SR 95 Climbing Lane and Fencing Project

The Department performed a field review of the SR 95 Climbing Lane/Fencing Project in the Mohave Mountains North of Lake Havasu City, to identify the locations for, and type of interim fencing mitigation necessary to maintain connectivity for wildlife throughout the project footprint. The proposed work will include construction of game fencing along both sides of the

SR 95 highway, with cattle guards at permitted access points along the right of way. The Department provided ADOT with our recommendations to maintain connectivity.

State Route 303L

ADOT continues planning for an expansion of SR303L to create a north/south link between I-10 and the future proposed Hassayampa Freeway. SR 303 is proposed to run through Rainbow Valley just west of the Sierra Estrella Mountains in western Maricopa County, through the City of Goodyear. The Department has provided input on the Environmental Feasibility Study and Proposed Alternatives for the expansion project and is attending monthly project planning meetings. The Department has identified 'Alternative 3' along existing Rainbow Valley Road as having the least potential for impacts to wildlife and habitats. In addition, concerns to special status species, riparian habitat, xeroriparian habitat, wildlife connectivity, recreation and access have been identified. The project will require a crossing on the Gila River. Discussions have included where the best location would be and what hard structural improvements should be utilized to bridge the crossing. The City of Goodyear is interested in channelizing the river at the bridge location to minimize the bridge size and costs. The Department is concerned with loss of riparian habitat, impacts to special status species and downstream affects to stream channel morphology and riparian habitat that a channelized solution might create. The Draft Feasibility Report/Environmental Overview is expected to be released in September 2012.

US 60, Silver King/Superior

The project is to widen the existing US 60 to a four-lane rural and urban fringe cross section. The project begins around Boyce Thompson Arboretum and ends in 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 documentation was completed at that time. Because it has been re-initiated, revisions to earlier documentation are necessary. The project is in the permitting/clearances phase for the geotech investigations for the project. The Department is 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 and Wildlife Contracts is also involved in the current discussions and reviews of the 20% designs for the bridges. The Department continues to coordinate and provide information for the biological evaluation and NEPA process. Recently, the Department reviewed and commented on the designs and provided information on movement of sheep in the Mineral Mountains, habitat suitability from the US60 Superior to Globe Linkages design, and information on placement and specifications related to culverts and bridges.

Wild Rose Parkway Feasibility Study

Maricopa County Dept. of Transportation (MCDOT) corridor feasibility study for the 6-8 lane parkway is ongoing and the Department continues to participate on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The proposed parkway will provide a north/south link between Sun Valley Parkway and US 60, generally along the 243rd Ave alignment north of the White Tank Mountains. Similar to all parkways proposed in western Maricopa County, the purpose and need for action is based on the projected "build-out" transportation demands analyzed around the MAG Hassayampa Framework Study. Most recently MCDOT released the Technical Memorandums 1 (Existing Features), 2 (Environment) & 3 (Drainage) presented the conceptual

alignments to the TAC for feedback, and discussed the candidate alignment evaluation criteria. TAC meeting 5 will be held in August to discuss the preferred alignment. Department concerns in the analysis area are: maintenance of wildlife habitat connectivity between the White Tank Mountains and surrounding undeveloped lands; preservation of outdoor recreation and hunting opportunities associated with the White Tank Mountains; and potential impacts to Special Status Species. There is no alignment under consideration that would avoid the need for mitigation of losses to habitat connectivity.

City of Peoria – Open Space Preservation Program

The City Planning and Community Development Department has initiated the development of a comprehensive open space program within the City and Planning Area (General Plan). Previously, the City implemented regulatory tools including Hillside Development Overlay (HDO) and Desert Lands Conservation Overlay (DLCO) as a means to guide development in these sensitive areas. The Open Space Prioritization, Preservation & Acquisition Program will be designed to work in concert with these tools. The City is currently holding public meetings to solicit stakeholder input on the Program and the modeled priorities. In conjunction, they are working on a 2012 Amendment to the Peoria Open Space Master Plan. The City has received a significant amount of feedback from the OHV community relating to continued access to public lands that fall within the planning area boundary. The City has responded by underscoring the fact that travel management on public lands is controlled by the land owners (in this case BLM and State Land Department) with emphasis that the City has no intention of conducting travel management outside their jurisdiction. However, the City agrees some aspects of “active recreation” (OHV) should be incorporated into their planning as part of the key element for high quality recreational opportunities. Currently the plan has 4 key elements to the vision for the program: identify ecologically and historically significant lands; provide abundant, high quality recreational opportunities; create an extensive open space network for future generations to enjoy; and prioritize desirable open space properties for acquisition. The Department will be providing input on wildlife resources as well working with Peoria to develop outdoor recreation goals and objectives to incorporate into the plan and prioritization model that include hunting and OHV recreation in addition to those identified for passive recreation.

Hunt Permit-tag Application Schedule – Spring 2013

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:
Spring Turkey	(See note 1)	Sept. 21, 2012	Oct. 9, 2012	Nov. 30, 2012	Nov. 26, 2012
Spring Javelina	(See note 1)	Sept. 21, 2012	Oct. 9, 2012	Nov. 30, 2012	Nov. 26, 2012
Spring Buffalo	(See note 1)	Sept. 21, 2012	Oct. 9, 2012	Nov. 30, 2012	Nov. 26, 2012
Spring Bear	(See note 1)	Sept. 21, 2012	Oct. 9, 2012	Nov. 30, 2012	Nov. 26, 2012

First Come⁴		
	Applications accepted by mail on or after 8:00 a.m. (MST):	Permits available for purchase at all Department offices after 8:00 a.m. (MST):
HUNT	ACCEPTANCE DATES	ACCEPTANCE DATES
Spring Turkey	Nov. 26, 2012	Dec. 3, 2012
Spring Javelina	Nov. 26, 2012	Dec. 3, 2012
Spring Buffalo	Nov. 26, 2012	Dec. 3, 2012
Spring Bear	Nov. 26, 2012	Dec. 3, 2012

Online Applicants
Deadline for updating your credit or debit card information online by 11:59 p.m. (MST)
Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2012

Notes:

- The Department will accept Hunt Permit-tag Applications for big game listed above as soon as the applicable year's hunt information is available on the Department's Web site (www.azgfd.gov), or from any Game and Fish Department office or license dealer, unless otherwise noted in the Hunt Permit-tag Application schedule.
- If a paper Hunt Permit-tag Application that is submitted contains an error and is received by Sept. 21, 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 at 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. If applicable, 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.
- 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 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. No person, including Juniors, may submit more than one valid application per genus for the First Come process.