

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Friday, December 6, 2013
Saturday, December 7, 2013
Arizona Game and Fish Department
5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, Arizona 85086

PRESENT: (Commission)

(Director and Staff)

Chairman John W. Harris
Vice Chairman Robert E. Mansell
Commissioner Kurt R. Davis
Commissioner Edward "Pat" Madden

Director Larry D. Voyles
Deputy Director Ty E. Gray
Assistant Attorney General Jim Odenkirk
Assistant Attorney General Linda Pollock

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and led those present through the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Commission, Director and Director's staff introductions. This meeting followed an agenda revision #1 dated December 4, 2013.

Chairman Harris requested a moment of silence for the following: In observance of the 50th anniversary of the death of President John F. Kennedy; in memory of Thomas S. Foley, former Speaker of the House of Representatives; in commemoration of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend and Fire Prevention Week (Both in October); in honor of the victims of the tragedy at the Washington Navy Yard in September; and in commemoration of September 11 and remembrance of the victims of September 11, 2001.

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1. Call to the Public

There were no requests to speak.

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2. Consent Agenda

The following items were grouped together and noticed as consent agenda items to expedite action on routine matters, and/or they were previously presented to the Commission as a "first read" item. These items were provided to the Commission prior to this meeting and the Department requested that the Commission approve these matters as presented, subject to approval or recommendations of the Office of the Attorney General. Director Voyles presented each item to the Commission and no items were deemed necessary to remove for discussion. The following consent agenda items were presented for approval:

a. Shooting Sports Activities Briefing

Presenter: Jay Cook, Shooting Sports Branch Chief

The Commission was provided with a written Shooting Sports Activities Briefing prior to this meeting (also available to the public) of Department activities related to shooting sports, including shooting programs and shooting range development statewide. The briefing covers activities that have occurred since the last Commission meeting. The briefing was placed on the consent agenda for approval or to be pulled from the consent agenda for questions and/or discussion.

b. Information, Education and Wildlife Recreation Activities Briefing

Presenter: Anthony A. Guiles, Assistant Director, Information and Education Division

The Commission was provided with a written Information, Education and Wildlife Recreation Activities briefing prior to this meeting (also available to the public) of Department activities and events related to Information, Education and Wildlife Recreation Programs. The briefing covers activities and events that have occurred since the last Commission meeting, including the proposed Wildlife Center project. The briefing was placed on the consent agenda for approval or to be pulled from the consent agenda for questions and/or discussion.

c. Law Enforcement Program Briefing

Presenter: Gene F. Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

The Commission was provided with a written Law Enforcement Program Briefing prior to this meeting of Department activities and developments relating to the Department's Law Enforcement Program. The briefing covers activities and events that have occurred since the last Commission meeting. The briefing was placed on the consent agenda for approval or to be pulled from the consent agenda for questions and/or discussion.

d. Lands and Habitat Program Update

Presenter: Joyce Francis, Habitat Branch Chief

The Commission was provided with a written Lands and Habitat Program Update (attached) prior to this meeting (also available to the public) of Department activities and events related to the implementation of land and resource management plans and projects on private, state and federal lands in Arizona and other matters related thereto. The update covers activities and events that have occurred since the last Commission meeting. The update was placed on the consent agenda for approval or to be pulled from the consent agenda for questions and/or discussion.

e. Nongame Subprogram Activities Briefing; April 1, 2013 through July 31, 2013

Presenter: Michael Rabe, Nongame Branch Chief

The Commission was provided with a written briefing prior to this meeting on activities for the Nongame Subprogram from April 1, 2013 through July 31, 2013 (also available to the public). The briefing was placed on the consent agenda for approval or to be pulled from the consent agenda for questions and/or discussion.

f. Request to Approve the Draft Notice of Exempt Rulemaking to Amend R12-4-802 and 803 addressing Wildlife Areas and Department Property.

Presenter: Jennifer Stewart, Rules and Risk Branch Chief

The Department proposes to amend Article 8 rules, addressing wildlife areas and Department property, to implement recommendations resulting from data and research gathered during the previous year. The Commission proposes to amend R12-4-802 to ensure consistency in regards to wildlife area closures and hunting restrictions, where applicable; and to amend R12-4-803 to revise boundary descriptions. Amendments are also made to ensure consistency within Article 8 rules and conformity to the Arizona Administrative Procedures Act, Secretary of State, and the Governor's Regulatory Review Council rulemaking format and style requirements. The Department proposes the following substantive rule amendments:

R12-4-802 Wildlife Area and other Department Managed Property Restrictions: Cibola Valley Conservation and Wildlife Area (CVCWA) is amended to align the rule with existing wildlife area practices regarding closures. The wildlife area has historically closed posted portions to public entry from August 17 through September 30 to provide use of the area to the western yellow-billed cuckoos during their nesting season. Currently, the rule states posted portions are closed to public entry, but does not specify a time-frame for these closures. The amendment benefits the public as providing a specific time-frame allows the public to easily determine when the area is open for use; Lamar Haines Wildlife Area is amended to remove the restriction against gathering or cutting wood. The Department allows citizens the opportunity to collect and clean-up the property at no cost to the Department and make the dead wood available to Arizona citizens for home heating purposes; Lower San Pedro River Wildlife Area is established as a new Wildlife Area as part of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Settlement and the Triangle Bar acquisition; Quigley Wildlife Area is amended by renaming it the "Quigley - Achee Wildlife Area," in honor and memory of former Region IV Wildlife Area Manager Bob Achee.

R12-4-803 Wildlife Area and Other Department Managed Property Boundary Descriptions: Boundary descriptions are amended as a result of regional feedback and Lands Council review, to include establishing the new Lower San Pedro River Wildlife Area and renaming the Quigley Wildlife Area.

The Draft Notice of Exempt Rulemaking has been provided to the Commission for consideration.

If approved by the Commission and in accordance with the exemption authorized under item #4 of Executive Order 2012-03 State Regulatory Review, Moratorium and Streamlining to Promote Job Creation and Retention, the Department will post the Draft Notice of Exempt Rulemaking to the Department's Internet site for a period of 30 days for public comment. Once the public comment period has passed, the Department will present Final Exempt Rulemaking to the Commission for their consideration.

The Department recommends THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE DRAFT NOTICE OF EXEMPT RULEMAKING TO AMEND ARTICLE 8 RULES ADDRESSING WILDLIFE AREAS AND DEPARTMENT PROPERTY.

Motion: Madden moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE ALL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A, B, C, D, E, and F.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0

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3. Legislative Engagement and State and Federal Legislation

Presenter: Jorge Canaca, Assistant Legislative Liaison

Mr. Canaca 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 including the following updates and Commission action:

State Legislative Update:

51st Legislature, 2nd Regular Session:

- Legislature convenes Monday January 13, 2014
- Bills posted: 9
- Update on new Senate members/leaders and committees provided.

2014 Proposed Legislation

Request to Leave: Authorizes a peace officer, at the request of the property owner, to notice a trespasser (part of Landowner Compact).

Disabled Veteran's Tag Transfer: Allows a person to transfer a tag or permit to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving 100% disabled combat (injured or wounded) veterans.

Motion: Mansell moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE 2014 PROPOSED LEGISLATION AGENDA COMPRISED OF REQUEST TO LEAVE AND DISABLED VETERAN'S TAG TRANSFER AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0

2013 Report to the Legislature

Part of SB1223: License Simplification. A.R.S. 17-333 (D) requires the Commission provide an annual report to the Legislature. The report captures all changes to license classifications, fees for licenses, permits, tags and stamps and any other fees the Commission prescribed in rule. The report (provided to the Commission and available to the public) will be submitted by December 31. The rulemaking package filed with the SOS will also be included with the report.

Congressional Update:Public Access to Public Lands Guarantee Acts

S. 1750: Sen. Jeff Flake R-AZ

H. 3661: Rep. Paul Gosar R-AZ (companion bill)

This bill would require the federal government to enter into an agreement with any state or municipality willing to offer funding to keep any public lands open during a shutdown of the federal government. S 1750 was introduced and referred to Committee on November 20. It has not been scheduled for a hearing.

Motion: Madden moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO SUPPORT S1750 AND H3661 PUBLIC ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS GUARANTEE ACTS IN THEIR CURRENT FORM.

Vote: Unanimous

4 to 0

S. 1676: Return Our State Shares Act

Sponsored by Senator Michael Bennet D-CO, this bill exempts Pittman-Robertson/Dingell Johnson (PRDJ) monies from sequestration, among others. It has been introduced and was referred to Committee on November 7. The Department will continue to monitor this and any bill with similar exemption language for PRDJ funds.

Farm Bill Update

The House and Senate are currently conferencing the Farm Bill and working to resolve the differences between two versions of the bill. The Conference Committee is working to find a compromise before Congress is set to recess on December 13.

Selection of Commission Legislative Representatives

Motion: Madden moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO CONTINUE WITH COMMISSIONERS HARRIS AND DAVIS AS THE TWO COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES.

Vote: Unanimous

4 to 0

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4. Updates on Bison Management Strategies for the House Rock Wildlife Area Bison Herd.

Presenter: Craig McMullen, Flagstaff Regional Supervisor

Mr. McMullen provided the Commission with a brief historical summary and current updates on the Department's bison management strategies for the House Rock Wildlife Area (HRWA) bison herd. The HRWA bison herd has recently been living the majority of their time on Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP). Their presence has resulted in documented resource impacts on GCNP. The Department has been participating in an inter-agency work group to develop strategies to manage the HRWA bison herd. The National Park Service allocated funding in 2013 to complete an environmental impact statement (EIS) process relative to management of the HRWA bison herd on GCNP. Part of the EIS process will include development of an interagency bison management plan that includes the GCNP and adjacent lands including U.S. Forest Service Lands and HRWA.

Dave Uberuaga, GCNP Supervisor, addressed the Commission and discussed the GCNP Management Plan and EIS. Part of the discussion included culling on GCNP and current regulations that exist relative to culling within the National Park Service. Specific examples of culling and its success in managing wildlife on other National Parks was provided.

Commissioner Davis commented that maybe Congressional legislation would be something to look into to address the issues, considering that the EIS will take about three years to complete.

Commissioner Mansell commented that for him, culling equated to slaughtering, and he wasn't so sure the Department would want anything to do with that.

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Meeting recessed for a break at 9:13 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:32 a.m.

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5. License Simplification Go-Live Update for Online License Sales and Draw Systems

Presenter: Doug Cummings, Branch Chief, Information Systems

Mr. Cummings provided the Commission with an update using a PowerPoint presentation on the schedule to implement License Simplification changes in the Online License Sales and Draw systems. The briefing detailed the schedule for going live with the new system and included the following information:

Progress to Date:

- Detailed system design
- In-sourced license sales and draw code
- Built platform to run development and test
- Coded all system changes to comply with license simplification legislation (Customer Facing – Web and Back Office – Informix)
- Testing: Selected and implemented automated testing tools; assembled and trained testing team; initiated testing

Go Live Timeline:

- 12/15/2013 – Complete System Testing

- 12/16/2013 – Shut Down Current Online License/Tag Sales (2013 Licenses available through Dealers and AGFD Offices)
- 12/31/2013 – Complete User Testing
- 1/1/2014 – Online License Sales and Draw (OLSD) R2 Goes Live (Turn OLSD R2 On - Online (Web) and Front Counters); Announce Availability of New License Structure

Post Go-Live Schedule:

- January: Intensive systems monitoring; Elk/antelope draw opens; begin work on replacing the NIC payment processing engine
- March: Go-Live on new payment processing engine; ADOA/NIC payment processing engine shut down (3/26/2014)

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6. Budget Allocation Formula for Draw Application Fees

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Mr. Gray presented the Commission with a proposed budget allocation formula to distribute three dollars from resident and five dollars from non-resident Draw Application fees beginning in 2014. As authorized under Laws 2013, Chapter 197, Section 25 the Arizona Game and Fish Commission was granted authority to set fees related to licenses, tags and applications. At its August 2-3, 2013 meeting the Commission voted unanimously to approve a fee schedule which becomes effective January 1, 2014. As part of this fee schedule, the Commission approved Draw Application fees that included an additional \$3 and \$5 for residents and nonresidents, respectively. The Commission directed that these portions of the application fees to be allocated for the following project areas: Habitat improvement, Hunter Access and Recruitment/Retention. The Commission further noted at this meeting that it would discuss and further define the allocation of these portions of the application fees at a future Commission meeting.

Motion: Madden moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF DRAW APPLICATIONS FEES AS FOLLOWS: FOR A RESIDENT APPLICATION, \$1 WILL BE ALLOCATED FOR HABITAT IMPROVEMENT, \$1 WILL BE ALLOCATED FOR ACCESS AND \$1 WILL BE ALLOCATED FOR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PROJECTS. FOR A NONRESIDENT APPLICATION, \$2 WILL BE ALLOCATED FOR HABITAT IMPROVEMENT, \$2 WILL BE ALLOCATED FOR ACCESS AND \$1 WILL BE ALLOCATED FOR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PROJECTS.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0

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7. Customer Portal Strategy

Presenter: Doug Cummings, Branch Chief, Information Systems

Mr. Cummings provided an update using a PowerPoint presentation on the development of a customer portal strategy. The customer portal is the concept of a website that provides tools for Department customers to access information and products. The presentation included the definition of a customer portal, as well as a conceptual view of what the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) portal could include. Additionally, the presentation included an overview of an approach to begin development of the AGFD customer portal as follows:

Portal Plan:

- January – Establish Portal Design Team with cross functional Department representation
- January through February - Define detailed requirements
- March through April - Detailed design
- May through October - Build and integrate Portal
- November and December - Test
- January - Deliver Portal R1 to AGFD customers

Major Goals and Key Deliverables:

- Integrate databases with customer information; One customer ID
- Modules / content targeting – hunting, fishing, wildlife conservation, recreation
- Mobile application / mobile functionality
- Migration from current website to Portal
- Customer preferences survey
- Minimum of two financial/revenue generating features
- Begin building the customer database.

Mr. Cummings discussed with the Commission several thoughts and ideas for potential uses of the portal for Department customers and for the Department, including ease of use, data collection, advertisement, and generating revenue.

Commissioners Davis and Madden suggested adding a marketing and public input phase to the portal project.

Commissioner Davis suggested that the Department consider getting the word out to the public similar to what they did for license simplification.

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7A. Arizona Natural Resources Review Council (NRRC)

Presenter: Gary R. Hovatter, Special Assistant to the Director

Mr. Hovatter provided an update on the Department's participation in the NRRC. The council was established in January by Executive Order of the Governor with the Department Director acting as council chair. As we approach the end of the year, a report is due to the Governor on the council's work and accomplishments, which is currently being drafted. Recommendations will be included in the report based on the various perspectives from the agencies about how this council could generate value for the State of Arizona. One of the most exciting aspects about this council is the potential for all state agencies to be aware of all proposed federal actions,

which will provide an opportunity for the State to respond or make the federal government aware of the State's perspective on issues.

The Commission discussed and agreed that the NRRC was productive and valuable, and that Director Voyles should continue to chair the council.

Motion: Madden moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DIRECT DIRECTOR VOYLES TO CONTINUE IN THE LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE NRRC.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0

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8. Request for the Commission to Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mule Deer Foundation for Cooperative Activities.

Presenter: Brian F. Wakeling, Game Branch Chief

Mr. Wakeling briefed the Commission on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to allow the Department to cooperate with the Mule Deer Foundation on projects for public information and wildlife habitat enhancement. The Department and the Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) agree to work cooperatively where mutually beneficial to meet common objectives for public information and wildlife management and habitat enhancement. This MOU provides a framework for the relationship with regard to future activities. MDF is a 501(c)(3) organization that wishes to develop a formal agreement with the Department and Commission through this MOU.

The Commission was in consensus to place this on the January 2014 consent agenda for approval.

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9. Preview of Five-year Review Report Recommendations for Article 1. Definitions and General Provisions.

Presenter: Amber Munig, Big Game Management Supervisor

Jennifer Stewart, Rules and Risk Branch Chief, opened this item with a brief update and overview of the rules process. Article 1 is in the beginning stages of the process. In the review phase, the Department looks at comments received from members of the public and groups within the last five years, evaluate current courses of action, and look toward the future to see if there are things to adjust as we move into the rulemaking phase. The Commission will be asked to consider proposed recommendations to be included in the five-year review report for Article 1, regarding definitions and general provisions.

Ms. Munig provided an overview using a PowerPoint presentation of current recommendations being considered as part of the five-year rule review process for Article 1. At the January Commission meeting, the Department will request Commission approval of the five-year review

report for Article 1, which is due to the Governor's Regulatory Review Council in January 2014. This report does not change rule, but indicates changes the Department would like to make as it enters into subsequent rulemaking following completion of the review.

The recommendations are the result of amendments proposed by the Article 1 review team and include the following: increased consistency between Commission rules and orders; address new definitions; special license time-frames; issuance of tags; Department identification numbers; valid applications; game management unit boundaries; access to State land; computer draw and bonus point processes; and Operation Game Thief reward values.

The Commission discussed and provided input for the Department to review, evaluate, and bring back to the January Commission meeting. Topics included: removal of the 10% nonresident cap for javelina and how to make that flexible so that the cap could be put back in place if needed without going through the rulemaking process; raising the reward payment for reporting wildlife violations to \$500 across the board for all species; a tag surrender concept evaluation and potential processes; and a potential one year waiting period for a person that drawn for a hunt before they are eligible to apply in the draw again for that species.

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Meeting recessed for a break at 11:18 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 11:29 a.m.

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15. Petition for Rule Change to Commission Rule R12-4-517(B); Watercraft Motor and Engine Restrictions.

Presenter: Gene F. Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Mr. Elms presented the Commission with a petition by Richard Apperson to revise Commission Rule 12-4-517(B) to remove the 10 horse power (hp) restrictions on 29 small lakes and replace it with a "no wake" speed restrictions on all 29 of those waterways. The Department understands that many 16' to 22' bass boats with large outboards are currently used on small lakes with their electric trolling motors. This reflects a good recreational opportunity and the Department does not want to restrict or overly regulate such use. The Department also understands that hp restrictions were created to ensure boat speeds were safe for small lakes, but without overly restricting the actual types of boats that could be used on the lakes. Originally the line was drawn at either 8 or 10 hp, and then later standardized at 10 hp. With that generally accepted long term hp standardization, the Department receives very few complaints about problems with boat noise, speeds, or wakes at these lakes, indicating that the general public is mostly in support of the current Rule as written.

This petition to change Commission Rule contains suggested changes that if implemented would have multiple access and cross program implications. Consequently, Law Enforcement and Fisheries Program Staff were tasked to consider and evaluate the requested amendments. After careful review, the Department does not recommend a change to R12-4-317(B) based on the following:

- Without exception, the lakes in question are considered to be fishing lakes, and the hp restrictions are a straightforward way to prevent over-crowding by general boating

recreation. In theory, these lakes would see a notable increase in day-cruising by boaters with larger motors that previously could not use the subject lakes

- Implementing a wakeless speed over an entire lake is not practical in many situations, and would actually make some of the larger lakes less safe if it prevented boaters from rapidly returning to the boat ramps in case of lightning, high winds, etc.
- As a matter of law enforcement, it is a lot more practical for officers to enforce the clear-cut hp rating than the more subjective wakeless speed. Further, enacting a wakeless speed restriction on these 29 lakes will reflect a sweeping change that will impact all lake users including boat fisherman, land management agencies, and marina operators. Addressing uncontrolled wakes is more readily rectified by enforcing the provisions of A.R.S. § 5-343. The Department and 15 other jurisdictions already practice enforcement efforts that address the small number of offending boat operators directly, without enacting a sweeping change that will impact all boaters and marina operators
- The Department recognizes that noise issues on small mountain waterways are a valid concern. However, the Department is unaware of any noise complaints associated with the 29 lakes and believes that the current noise levels associated with the 10 hp motors are acceptable. The petitioner correctly states that newer 4-stroke outboard motors are very quiet, however, removing hp restriction also would mean that a person could idle a 400 hp jet boat with wet-headers across his favorite high mountain lake. In addition, the Department does have an occasional bald eagle nest on some of the small lakes, and the Department is able to currently deal with the issue of potential noise impacts to nesting eagles with small area closures under the current rules. Larger motors would likely result in larger closures around these nests, put into place by the land management agencies, thus increasing the impact on boaters and anglers during the nesting seasons
- Currently, the motor restrictions on small lakes discourage the use of large boats. Many of these lakes are also shallow, and launch ramps are not designed to accommodate the sizes, weights and launching drafts necessary for safe launching of larger boats. The requested amendments would allow individuals with larger, heavier watercraft to potentially exceed the designed weight limit of dirt and gravel small lake launch ramps and thereby create damage to these access structures
- The Department understands that trolling batteries fail and gasoline motors are needed for trailering. Department and other agency's officers have the discretion of dealing with these rare instances appropriately, and the Department remains highly confident that the larger boats and bass anglers operating on the smaller mountain lakes are, for the most part, able to use their trolling motors without problems. Most boaters have redundant batteries or back up battery systems or a separate 10 hp motor that they use. Further, Department personnel in those areas have indicated that they are not aware of bass clubs or larger boats having any issues launching and loading their boats. They do occasionally have the rare issue of a dead trolling motor battery, but these boaters deal with it by having someone tow them back, borrowing a different battery, or when there is a safety issue (bad weather), they will start their gas motor and creep in to the boat ramp. Other users at the lakes tend to be okay with the bass boats rarely starting their large motors when they do have a legitimate problem and need to get off the water.

Mr. Apperson was present and addressed the Commission in support of his petition. He does not want to change the use of the lakes. They should stay restricted and be protected for fishing. His petition is to have a no-wake speed instead of a horsepower limit. He believes a no-wake rule

would be more obvious and easier to enforce than a horsepower limit and it would make it better and more efficient for anglers to be able to use something bigger than a trolling motor.

Motion: Davis moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DENY THE PETITION AND DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO INCLUDE THE CONCEPT IN THE RULEMAKING RECORD FOR CONSIDERATION DURING THE REGULAR RULEMAKING CYCLE.

Commissioner Davis asked Mr. Apperson if he would be willing to withdraw his petition, so that the Commission did not have to deny it, but rather could vote to direct the Department to add Mr. Apperson's request to the regular rulemaking cycle for evaluation and consideration.

Mr. Apperson stated that he withdraws his petition and hopes to see it incorporated into the rules.

Chairman Harris withdrew his second.

Motion dies for lack of second.

Motion: Davis moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO INCLUDE THE CONCEPT IN THE RULEMAKING RECORD FOR CONSIDERATION DURING THE REGULAR RULEMAKING CYCLE.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0

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10. Memorandum of Understanding with the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory

Presenter: Esther Rubin, Branch Chief, Research Branch

Ms. Rubin briefed the Commission on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. The purpose of this MOU will be to establish a framework for collaboration and cooperation between the Department and Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory to conserve and enhance bird populations in Arizona. This agreement will allow collaboration, cooperation, exchange and sharing of biological bird data, labor, materials and funding to assist the Department in research on and management of bird species in Arizona.

Motion: Madden moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIRD OBSERVATORY 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
4 to 0

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13. Mexican Wolf Planning Principles and Plan Requirements Statements

Presenter: Jon Cooley, Endangered Species Coordinator

Mr. Cooley briefed the Commission on the planning principles and plan requirements for the Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project in Arizona, which will serve as a framework for developing Department comments to ongoing comment/scoping and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) development processes on USFWS proposed rules, and to provide a foundation for the Department's ongoing Mexican Wolf planning efforts.

At the September 2013 Commission meeting, the Department presented to the Commission a first-read draft of the "Mexican Wolf Plan Principles and Requirements" document. These planning principles and requirements attempt to capture and reflect appropriate Commission guidance and positions relating to the Mexican Wolf reintroduction project in Arizona, and are intended to establish a framework and reference for the Department as it undertakes ongoing planning processes involving Mexican Wolf. The Commission provided initial comments and a set of requested edits to the planning principles and requirements, which have been incorporated into the revised document. The Commission further directed that the "Mexican Wolf Plan Principles and Requirements" document be presented for second-read during the December 2013 Commission meeting.

Concurrent with engaging in ongoing USFWS Proposed Rule and EIS processes involving Mexican wolf and preparing related Department comments/inputs to those processes, the Department continues to pursue development of a Mexican Wolf Management Plan for Arizona. The Commission's "Mexican Wolf Plan Principles and Requirements" document will serve as the operative framework and reference for the Department as it undertakes ongoing planning processes involving Mexican Wolf.

Public Comment

Roxane George submitted a speaker card in support of Mexican wolf recovery, but was not present to speak.

Commissioner Davis requested the following edits to the document: Add to the planning principles that Texas be included in the statement "Successful recovery can only occur with concurrent recovery efforts in Arizona, New Mexico and Mexico"; insert language that refers to the State of Arizona's sovereignty role in dealing with wildlife and that wildlife is held in the public trust; and specify all five Native American Tribes that have discussed joint concerns about sovereignty and other issues.

Motion: Madden moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE MEXICAN WOLF PLAN PRINCIPLES AND REQUIREMENTS (ATTACHED) WITH THE MODIFICATIONS AS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER DAVIS, WHICH THE DEPARTMENT WILL REFERENCE AND APPROPRIATELY INCORPORATE INTO ALL UPCOMING USFWS PROPOSED RULE/DEIS SCOPING PROCESSES AND DEPARTMENT PLANNING PROCESSES INVOLVING MEXICAN WOLF.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0

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11. Becker Lake Wildlife Area Land Exchange

Presenter: Joyce Francis, Habitat Branch Chief

Ms. Francis briefed the Commission using a PowerPoint presentation that included maps on a potential exchange of approximately an acre of land at the Becker Lake Wildlife Area for 1.11 acres of land and one acre-foot of water right. In 2008, the Commission agreed to a land exchange from Becker Lake Wildlife Area with the adjacent landowners, Phelps and Kay Wilkins, to assist in management of their property. The Commission would have received 1.11 acres of land and one acre foot of water right from the Wilkins. The Wilkins would have received 0.87 acres of Commission property. The Wilkins also requested access through Commission property to another parcel they owned. The Department negotiated to enter into an agreement for access that would terminate when the Wilkins no longer owned the property. The due diligence costs would have been split between the Department and the Wilkins. Health reasons prevented the Wilkins from finalizing the transaction.

In restarting discussions, the Wilkins determined a short term agreement for access was insufficient and they requested a perpetual easement. Upon legal review, The Department recommended that the portion of the property the Commission would dispose of be expanded to include the access road to avoid a permanent easement over Commission owned property. The land exchange would add approximately 0.11 acres of Commission owned land including the easement to bring the Commission acres to be exchanged to approximately one acre. The final acreage to be exchanged will be of equal value depending on appraised values. The remaining terms of the exchange would remain the same.

Chairman Harris confirmed with Ms. Francis that the Department still has access to the ditch that provides water to Becker Lake without the land exchange.

The Commission discussed water rights and associated issues with Jim Hinkle, Assistant Director of Field Operations, and considered that they may want to get legal counsel in Executive Session before discussing any further.

(During agenda item #25, Future Agenda and Action Items, the Commission was in consensus to place this item on the January 2014 consent agenda for approval)

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12. Memorandum of Understanding with the Southwestern Region of the Forest Service and the University of New Mexico

Presenter: Joyce Francis, Habitat Branch Chief

Ms. Francis briefed the Commission using a PowerPoint presentation on a potential Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Commission, the Southwestern Region of the Forest Service and the University of New Mexico for the exchange of information on the status and distribution of Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive (TES) species on Forest Service Lands in Arizona and New Mexico. Both the Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department), through the Heritage Data Management System (HDMS), and the University of New Mexico, through its Natural Heritage New Mexico (NHNM) maintain a centralized, computerized and standardized database of current information on the location, biology, and status of TES plant and animal species for their respective states. The HDMS and NHNM are part of an international Network of Natural Heritage Programs and Conservation Data Centers.

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has the responsibility to manage and protect the habitat for TES plant and animal species on National Forest lands. To do this most effectively, the USFS needs the most complete, accurate, and up-to-date information available on TES plants and animals. The USFS uses such information in preparing Biological Evaluations and/or Biological Assessments, and in developing ecosystem management plans and activities that require determining the known locations of TES species. USFS provides data on TES species and occasional funding to HDMS and NHNM. In return, USFS staff acquire information on the occurrence of TES species on USFS lands regularly or on an as-needed basis. In order to be most useful, such information should be stored in a readily retrievable format at a central location. Further, such information would be an essential contribution to the expanding body of knowledge maintained by the Natural Heritage Programs in Arizona and New Mexico.

Thus, it is mutually advantageous to the states and the USFS to share rare plant and animal information in a format and by procedures that allow for the rapid exchanges of large volumes of data with minimal error. The information contained in the HDMS and NHNM have proven invaluable to the Department, and various State and Federal agencies as a source of information from which biological evaluations and land management decisions can be made with regard to the status and conservation needs of TES species in Arizona and New Mexico. Distinct mutual advantages and cost efficiency will occur for all parties involved through the updating and maintenance of data entered into the HDMS and NHNM.

This MOU is a renewal of a previous three-party agreement approved by the Commission on September 18, 1998, (KR99-006-EQS) and which expired in 2004 and a renewal (AGFD 6625) approved by the Commission on October 18, 2007, and expired October 23, 2012. This MOU will replace the expired MOU and make adjustments for newer technologies as a means to exchange data.

The Commission was in consensus for this item to be placed on the consent agenda for January.

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Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:14 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:40 p.m.

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17. Rehearing Request Regarding Previous License Revocation/Civil Assessment.

Presenter: Gene F. Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Mr. Elms presented the Commission with a request for rehearing by Michael S. Herring regarding the revocation of his license. On January 10, 2013, Mr. Herring was convicted in the Flagstaff Justice Court for possession of unlawfully taken wildlife and exceeding the bag limit of trout. On March 8, 2013, the Commission revoked Mr. Herring's hunting, fishing and trapping licenses for three years and imposed a civil assessment of \$900.00. Mr. Herring has requested a rehearing of this matter and decision because he feels the revocation is excessive due to his not receiving the original notices and his co-respondents were not given license revocations. Mr. Herring was notified of this hearing by certified mail.

Mr. Herring was not present, but sent a letter to the Department dated December 4, 2013, which Mr. Elms read into the record as follows: "My name is Michael Shawn Herring (case number 2013-0024). I would like reconsideration of re-instatement of my fishing license. I have paid my fines in July 2013. I have completed the online classes and awaiting to schedule the field course. The next field course is in March in Payson. We moved in September 2012 and did not get the notification of the initial court date. As of this time I am working out of town and unable to attend for my appearance on December 6, 2013. So as of now I am almost 2 years of no fishing license. I feel that this has been ample time."

Motion: Harris moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DENY THE REQUEST FOR REHEARING BY MICHAEL S. HERRING.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0

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14. Call to the Public

There were no requests to speak to the Commission.

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22. Approval of Minutes and Signing of Minutes.

Motion: Davis moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 6-7, 2013, OCTOBER 4, 2013, NOVEMBER 1-2, 2013, AND NOVEMBER 2, 2013.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0

The Commission signed the minutes following approval.

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23. Director's and Chairman's Reports

Director Voyles reported on the following:

- Attended the September 7-13 Fall AFWA Meeting in Portland, OR
- Attended the September 16-18 WHHCC Meeting in DC. One of the key items discussed was travel management and motorized big game retrieval on National Forests
- Met with Dan Ashe in DC on September 18 regarding the proposed 10(j) revisions, gray wolf delisting and Mexican wolf listing
- Met with the Farm Bureau State Board on September 24
- Met with Mike Ingram on September 24 regarding the Shikar Safari Grant process and his interest in working with the Department to prepare grant proposals from Arizona
- Met with the Governor's Office on September 30 regard the potential federal government shutdown and directions Arizona may take in regards to that
- Participated in a debate on October 10-11 at the International Wolf Debate in Duluth, MN
- Met with Senator Griffin on October 19 and participated with her in a wolf meeting in Clifton, AZ
- Met with Director Darwin and Linda Taunt on October 23 regarding funding for Natural Resources Damage Assessment projects and presented a proposal for projects of interest to the Arizona Game and Fish
- Attended the Quail Forever Summit in Akron, IN on October 27-30. Discussion included the potential the possible cost-sharing of a biologist to assist with habitat improvement projects in Arizona
- Met with Brian McNeil on October 31 to discuss Procurement Reform
- Met with Tread Lightly and members of BLM and USFWS to discuss an education project related to the Sonoran Monument Recreational Shooting Pilot Project. The intent is a broad scale education program to educate shooters on public lands about ethical behavior and protocols
- Attended the Federal Aid Joint Task Force in New Orleans, LA on November 4-6 where we met with USFWS and discussed the administration of the Sportfish and Wildlife Restoration Funding program
- Chaired a board meeting of the Council for the Advancement of Hunting and Shooting Sports on November 8 in Memphis, TN. One outcome of this meeting was direction to pursue a nationwide and at the national level a recruitment and retention plan that all 50 states would participate in
- Met with the AFWA Executive Committee in a retreat in Pierre, SD on November 11-13; discussion included the creation of legal strategic capabilities and the formation of a board of inquiry to go to Alaska and work with Alaska Fish and Game and the USFWS to prepare an analysis of the issues related to federal encroachment on the state's authority
- Participated with the National Association of Sportsman's Caucus on November 18-20 in Whittington, IL
- Attended the SECC Fun Shoot
- Had lunch and a shoot with the Hunting Works for Arizona group
- Attended the public wolf meeting in Pinetop on December 3
- Met with the Arizona Sheriff's Association in Phoenix; discussion included how the Department may assist them in developing a revenue stream for search and rescue work
- Attended the Sportsmen's Open Forum in Phoenix on December 5.

Chairman Harris reported on the following:

- Participated in numerous meetings regarding the Catalina bighorn sheep project; was involved in the capture near Yuma and was involved in the release in Catalina State Park; MC'd the celebration with all the groups following the successful reintroduction
- Attended the One Shot Antelope Hunt; as part of that, participated in the Water for Wildlife program hosted by some of the shooters; Arizona was very well received and represented; Arizona will seek funding for water projects from this group in the future
- Attended the wolf meeting and study session in Arizona
- Attended the SECC fundraising event
- Talked with Sheriff Pribil and worked it out for Director Voyles to attend the Sheriff's Association meeting in his stead
- Attended the Sportsmen's Open Forum in Phoenix last night.

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16. 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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18. Rehearing Request Regarding Previous License Revocation/Civil Assessment.

Presenter: Gene F. Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Mr. Elms presented the Commission with a rehearing request by Julian R. Milligan regarding the revocation of his license. On November 21, 2012, Mr. Milligan was convicted in Flagstaff Justice Court for taking wildlife without a valid tag in possession. On August 2, 2013, the Commission revoked Mr. Milligan's hunting, fishing and trapping licenses for five years. Mr. Milligan has requested a rehearing of this matter and decision because he believes the punishment is excessive, and he was misinformed of the severity of the citation by the officer. Mr. Milligan was notified of this hearing by certified mail.

Mr. Milligan was not present.

Motion: Harris moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DENY THE REQUEST FOR REHEARING BY JULIAN R. MILLIGAN.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0

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19. Rehearing Request Regarding Previous License Revocation/Civil Assessment.

Presenter: Gene F. Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Mr. Elms presented the Commission with a request for rehearing by Phillip A. Milligan regarding the revocation of his license. On November 21, 2012, Mr. Milligan was convicted in Flagstaff Justice Court for taking wildlife without a valid tag in possession. On August 2, 2013, the Commission revoked Mr. Milligan's hunting, fishing and trapping licenses for five years. Mr. Milligan has requested a rehearing of this matter and decision because he feels the punishment is excessive, and he was misinformed of the severity of the citation by the officer. Mr. Milligan was notified of this hearing by certified mail.

Motion: Madden moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DENY THE REQUEST FOR REHEARING BY PHILLIP A. MILLIGAN.

Commissioner Davis stated for the record that in these two cases there was an attempt to purchase a tag and have it backdated by the clerk at the store.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0

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20. 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: Madden moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0

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21. Litigation Report

There were no comments or questions on the Litigation Report (attached).

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22. Commissioners' Reports

The Commission was in consensus to suspend the Commissioner's reports.

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25. Future Agenda Items and Action Items

This agenda item was suspended to the end of the meeting on Saturday.

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Meeting recessed for the day at 4:20 p.m.

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Meeting reconvened Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

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Vice Chairman Mansell called the meeting back to order, followed by a Presentation of Colors provided by Department Law Enforcement Officers and the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Harris was not present except for agenda item #2 for which he was present via telephone. This meeting continued to follow an agenda revision #1 dated December 4, 2013.

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Awards and Recognition

Director Voyles introduced the 2013 Arizona Junior Duck Stamp artist, Sydney Kim. Sydney was also the 2011 Arizona Junior Duck Stamp artist. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been conducting a Junior Duck Stamp competition since 1989. All 50 states conduct state competitions and winners at the state level are sent to the national competition where one winner is chosen each year. Sydney Kim was one of those competitors last year and her painting of a fulvous whistling duck was chosen as a winner in the Kindergarten through Sixth grade category. Director Voyles presented Sydney with her original artwork, framed and matted, a letter of congratulations from Governor Jan Brewer, and with the number one duck stamp signed by Governor Jan Brewer.

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

40 Year Service Pin

Lee Luedeker

30 Year Service Pin

Paul Puckett

25 Year Service Pin

Craig Heath

Kyle Cooper

Ken Dinquel

Ron Christofferson

Steven Sunde

Mike Godwin

20 Year Service Pin

Craig McMullen

Richard Langley

Mike Lopez

Scott Poppenberger

Daren Tucker

Jacqueline Burke

Robert Fink

Vice Chairman Mansell recognized Gary Hovatter, Special Assistant to the Director, and Larry Riley, Assistant Director of Wildlife Management, for their years of service and dedication to the Department and wildlife conservation. They are both retiring at the end of this year. Bob Broscheid, Special Assistant to the Director, was also recognized although he was not present. Bob Broscheid left the Department in November to take the position of Director with the Colorado Fish and Wildlife Department.

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Meeting recessed for a break at 9:17 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:31 a.m.

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1. Call to the Public

There were no requests to speak to the Commission.

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2. Consideration of Proposed Commission Orders 3, 4, and 26 for 2014 Hunting Season.

Presenter: Brian F. Wakeling, Game Branch Chief

Mr. Wakeling presented the Commission with Department recommendations for Commission Orders 3 (pronghorn antelope), 4 (elk), and 26 (population management) establishing seasons and season dates, bag and possession limits, permit numbers or authorized limits, and open areas for the respective 2014 fall hunting season. Mr. Wakeling provided a Power Point presentation that included charts and graphs of historical and current survey data, as well as weapon type data and fawn/doe and buck/doe ratios. A detailed description of all proposals were provided to the Commission prior to this meeting for review and consideration, and was available for public review at all Department offices.

Hunt structures and recommendations were formulated based on the two-year hunt guideline package approved in September 2013. The hunt recommendations for fall 2014 pronghorn antelope, elk, and population management seasons are based on the guidance provided by that document. Regions 1, 2, 3, and 6 held public meetings after analyzing current year survey data and prior to meeting with the Game Branch to discuss permit recommendations. These meetings were held during October 16–21, 2013. Attendance was low at these meetings. At each of these meetings, Regional staff shared recommended management direction regarding harvest with those in attendance.

Each Region held an open house between November 26 and December 4, 2013 providing an opportunity for the public to ask specific questions about hunt recommendations for pronghorn, elk, or population management seasons from knowledgeable staff. The hunt recommendations were posted on the Department web site on November 23, 2013.

In accordance with Hunt Guidelines, the Department will continue to allocate a proportion of the permits for pronghorn and elk within Units 4A, 5A, and 5B to Hopi tribal members based on the estimated populations of pronghorn and elk that occupy those lands. In exchange, the Hopi tribe will grant access to Hopi Trust Lands for permit draw hunters within the open hunt area. Likewise, Hopi tribal members that draw from their allotted permits will have access to the entire open area in the hunt area.

The Department provided specific information about its recommendations for pronghorn, elk, and population management seasons, with the exception of Unit 6B and Camp Navajo for Commission Orders 3 and 4. The Department presented the pronghorn antelope and elk

recommendations for Unit 6B and Camp Navajo separately because of considerable public interest. The following information was presented with subsequent Commission action:

Commission Order 3 – Pronghorn Antelope

Statewide buck to doe ratios are above guidelines at 36:100, whereas fawn to doe ratios remaining below guidelines at 29:100. In Region 3, continued public access within many of the large private ranches is facilitating pronghorn hunting, although the modest fee charged to enter the Big Boquillas is not universally supported by hunters. Unit 10 is a unit where improved availability of bucks enables the Department to recommend a 10-permit increase. Closure of private ranches to public access is an ongoing concern and influences permit recommendations. Unit 19B is recommended to have permits for general, muzzleloader, and archery seasons (5 permits each); recent private ranch sales may foster improved cooperative access for hunting in the future.

General season permits are recommended to increase by 31 from last year for a total of 445 permits. The archery-only pronghorn permit recommendation is 286 permits, which is a decrease of 8 permits from last year. Muzzleloader pronghorn seasons are recommended for 72 permits, an increase of 4 permits from last year. Hopi tribal members are recommended to be allocated 10 general permits, 3 archery-only permits and no muzzleloader permits in Units 4A, 5A, and 5B. The Raymond Wildlife Area will be reopened to all pronghorn hunters in this unit.

The hunt for pronghorn on Fort Huachuca in Unit 35A is recommended to continue with a single general permit.

Pronghorn Permit Summary

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| • General | 445 (+31) |
| ○ Increase in Units 3C, 4A, 5B, 7, 9, and 10 | |
| ○ Decrease in Units 18B, 21, 30A, 34B (No hunt) | |
| • Muzzleloader | 72 (+4) |
| ○ Increase in Units 3BS and 8 | |
| ○ Decrease in Unit 3BN | |
| • Archery | 286 (-8) |
| ○ Increase in Unit 7 | |
| ○ Decrease in Units 3BN, 15A/B, 21, and 31/32 | |
| • Bonus Point | |
| • Total | 803 (+27) |

Motion: Harris moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 3 – PRONGHORN ANTELOPE AS PRESENTED EXCLUDING THE UNIT 6B AND CAMP NAVAJO HUNTS.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0

Commission Order 4 – Elk

Statewide bull to cow ratios are near the top of guidelines at 34:100; calf to cow ratios remain within guidelines at 40:100. As with pronghorn, a proportion of the permits in Units 4A, 5A, and 5B are recommended to be allocated to Hopi tribal members.

This recommendation package will continue to adjust bull to cow ratios to meet or move toward management guidelines. General season permits are recommended at 15,030 permits, a decrease of 110 permits from last year (the change comprises a decrease of 29 bull elk permits and a decrease of 81 antlerless elk permits from last year). An additional 38 general bull and 14 general antlerless permits are recommended for allocation to Hopi tribal members in Units 4A, 5A, and 5B. The Raymond Wildlife Area will be reopened to all elk hunters in this unit.

Juniors-only general antlerless elk permit numbers are recommended at 1,137 permits, a decrease of 14 permits, and 6 permits are recommended to be allocated to Hopi tribal members in Unit 4A (juniors-only permits are at 5.0% of standard opportunity).

Muzzleloader permits are recommended to increase by 29 permits to 1,127 (the change comprises an increase of 4 bull elk permits and an increase of 25 antlerless elk permits). One muzzleloader permit is recommended for Hopi tribal members in Unit 5B.

Archery-only elk permits are recommended to decrease by 254 to 5,705 (the change comprises a decrease of 263 bull elk permits and an increase of 9 antlerless elk permits). Hopi tribal members are recommended to receive 19 archery-only bull and 5 archery-only antlerless permits in Units 4A, 5A, and 5B.

CHAMP permit levels will remain unchanged from last year's recommendation, which will provide 45 any elk permits.

Limited opportunity general hunts are recommended to increase by 127 general permits to 1,907 and limited opportunity archery-only hunts are recommended to decrease by 25 permits to 135. Two muzzleloader limited opportunity hunts are recommended with 50 permits, an increase of 20 permits from last year. Hopi tribal members are recommended to receive 38 antlerless general limited opportunity permits in Units 5A and 5B.

Units 12A and 12B and Units 13A and 13B are recommended to be added to the nonpermit over-the-counter elk seasons for 2014 since there have been some new sightings north of the Colorado River.

Elk Permit Summary

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| • General | 15,002 (- 107) |
| • Juniors Only | 1,137 (- 14) |
| • Limited Opportunity (Gen) | 1,843 (+ 126) |
| • CHAMP | 45 (same) |
| • Muzzleloader | 1,127 (+ 29) |
| • Limited Opportunity (Muzz) | 50 (+ 20) |
| • Archery | 5,705 (- 254) |
| • Limited Opportunity (Arch) | 135 (- 25) |
| • General / Archery Nonpermit Tag | |

- 13A & 13B Added
- Bonus Point
- Total 24,814 (- 225)

Commissioner Mansell asked that the Department let him know next year if there are any complaints or disgruntled hunters from archery elk or antelope hunts that follow an early limited rifle hunt.

Public Comment

John Koleszar, representing himself and the Payson Natural Resources Committee (PNRC): Unit 22 has long been a very desirable unit for elk hunting. Unit 22 is within the guidelines now, but has not always been in the past. While the ratio is currently 35 bulls per 100 cows, 60% of those bulls are spikes. There is concern about the future quality of that hunt, especially with the late season rifle hunt and the number of tags in that unit. Mr. Koleszar and the PNRC would like the Commission and the Department to monitor that unit to ensure future quality hunts.

Mr. Wakeling stated that Unit 22 is a standard management unit, which means the bull to cow ratio is managed for 25-35 bulls. If it was an alternative unit, it would go up to 40 bulls. Currently the bull to cow ratio is 41/100, so that is above the alternative guidelines. The most recent survey conducted in 2013 classified 48 spikes and 108 adult bulls. That equates to about 30% of the bulls that are spikes and not 60%. This year from the early bull hunts, 18 questionnaires were returned and 17 from those questionnaires harvested bulls, with 16 of 17 of those taking a 6 point or better. Nine took a 7 point or better. Based on data the Department has, the Department believes its recommendation is within the guidelines and direction provided by the Commission.

Commissioner Davis asked about the process for monitoring Unit 22 and following up with PNRC.

Mr. Wakeling stated that PNRC is one of the most active groups and there is a lot of communication between this group and the Department. While there is some disagreement, there is a lot communication and they will certainly receive feedback.

Motion: Davis moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 4 – ELK AS PRESENTED EXCLUDING THE UNIT 6B AND CAMP NAVAJO HUNTS.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0

Commission Order 26 – Population Management Seasons

Population management seasons are recommended for implementation in generally the same units, seasons, and permit levels as last year. "Designated elk," "designated buffalo," or "designated deer" is the legal wildlife in each of the population management seasons so that the Director may designate the desired legal animal for harvest if the permits are issued. Although the Department is recommending that the Commission authorize 1,525 deer (1,475 general and

50 archery only), 1,710 elk (1,145 general, 100 muzzleloader, 25 HAM, and 440 archery only), 770 javelina (360 general, 250 HAM, and 160 archery only), 170 buffalo (all general), and 122 bear (68 general, 26 HAM, and 28 archery only), these tags will not be issued unless approved by the Director following a determination from the population management hunt review and approval process. The only change this year is that the Department is recommending additional population management hunts in Units 12A and 12B, and Units 13A and 13B, with 25 permits each, in case we are unable to address these through the over-the-counter permits that are previously approved. Most of the population management companion tags are presented at the April Commission meeting with the exception of the turkey companion tags, which are presented here.

Population Management Hunt Summary

- Population Management Seasons: January 1 – December 31, 2014
- Recommended for the same seasons and similar permit authorization levels as last year with one exception:
 - General Elk – add Units 12A/12B and 13A/13B with 25 permits each
- Other PMH companion permits are authorized at April 2014 Commission Meeting with their companion hunts

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

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0

Unit 6B and Camp Navajo Elk and Pronghorn Antelope

Flagstaff Regional Supervisor Craig McMullen briefed the Commission using a PowerPoint presentation regarding Commission Order 3 – pronghorn antelope and Commission Order 4 – elk as they relate to Unit 6B and Camp Navajo. Mr. McMullen explained why Camp Navajo and Unit 6B were being presented to the Commission separate from the rest of Commission Orders 3 and 4: The Sikes Act that was passed in 1960, and amended in 1997, generally provides guidance for how natural resources will be managed on federal lands, including Department of Defense (DOD) installations. The 1997 amendment required the development and implementation of mutually agreed upon integrated natural resource management plans (INRMP). INRMP agreements with DOD installations, USFWS, and state fish and wildlife agencies help manage the challenge of balancing natural resource conservation, recreation, and military training missions on DOD lands. The Sikes Act along with applicable guidance from the DOD stipulates that equitable and impartial access to the public for recreation on DOD lands is the preferred method, except where military necessity dictates otherwise. Camp Navajo does not currently have a mutual agreed upon INRMP, and has not had an INRMP since 2002. The Department has been working since the last quarter of 2012 with Camp Navajo to develop mutually agreeable hunt prescriptions that would be in the spirit of what a mutually agreeable INRMP was supposed to achieve. In negotiations over the past 14 months, the Department has produced two written proposals for hunt prescriptions for Camp Navajo and Camp Navajo has produced several counter proposals as well. To date, the Department and Camp Navajo have not been able to come to a mutually agreeable hunt prescription.

Mr. McMullen presented four options for the Commission to consider. Three options were developed by Camp Navajo for Commission consideration and one option was developed by the Department. The Department's option represents a decision to ask the Commission to authorize the Department to continue in negotiations with Camp Navajo; a likely outcome of which might be more tags allocated to military than civilians. The Department's proposal represents what it believes is a reasonable hunt prescription with the understanding that through the ongoing development of a new INRMP, a long-term mutually agreeable hunt prescription will be developed. The Department hopes to build a platform in its recommendation to honor wounded warrior and disabled veterans with the same or more opportunity to hunt elk at Camp Navajo as in previous years. Honoring the service of members of all branches of the military and allocating a majority of the tags at Camp Navajo to the military would still be scientifically sound and achieve elk harvest objectives, and would bring a more equitable and impartial opportunity to civilians to participate in elk hunting on Camp Navajo. Currently, there are three classes of applicants/hunters at Camp Navajo:

- 1) "Other": All civilian non-Arizona National Guard (AZNG), including active duty military, reservists, and other state National Guard
- 2) Disabled Veteran (DAV) - Qualification requires a letter from VA certifying 50% or greater service connected disability or AGFD disabled veteran's hunting license
- 3) National Guard (NG) - Current or retired members of the Arizona Army or Air National Guard or current Camp Navajo employee

Additionally, there are two designated hunting areas on Camp Navajo: 1) Limited Area (LA) - archery only, active duty military or national guard with security clearance or current or retired AZNG members with security clearance, current CN employees with security clearance; and 2) Buffer Area (BA) - general, muzzleloader, archery; all categories of hunters. The Department is not recommending any changes to how those areas are managed.

The following options were presented to the Commission:

Option A was a conceptual distribution only, for the purposes of establishing a baseline the Department could use for continued negotiations with Camp Navajo. Option A included 155 Elk Permits; 4 Archery Pronghorn

- 14 Wounded Warrior - An allocation to new category of hunter that includes Purple Heart recipients and Wounded Warriors
- 30 DAV
- 83 Military (All branches, active duty & honorably retired, excluding civilian employees who are not honorably retired)
- 28 Other (all eligible applicants)
- Stratified to ensure simultaneous pressure in LA and BA
- 4 Archery Only Pronghorn (Buck Antelope allocated to military).

Options B, C, D represented:

Option B: 262 Permits (same as 2013)

- 37 Other: All civilian, non-AZNG, including active duty military, reservists, and other state NG

- 27 DAV
- 198 NG

Option C: 204 Permits

- 37 Other All civilian, non-AZNG, including active duty military, reservists, and other state NG
- 27 DAV
- 140 NG
- 33 of the NG tags designated LA only

Option D: 228 Permits

- Zero Other
- 41 DOD (All branches of military) uniformed active duty and fully retired
- 27 DAV
- 160 NG

All recommendations include 4 Archery Only Pronghorn Permit Tags (Buck Antelope allocated to Military).

The Department recommends the Commission vote to approve:

- The elk and pronghorn seasons in Unit 6B (excluding those in Camp Navajo)
- For the presented Camp Navajo season structures, Option A, an allocation of 155 elk permits and 4 archery pronghorn permits will be contingent on an agreement between the Department and Camp Navajo by December 18, 2013. This will represent an interim harvest strategy while an INRMP is developed that includes a mutually agreed upon harvest strategy. The agreement shall contain the following elements:
 - An allocation of tags for a new class of hunter referred to as “Wounded Warrior,” – Defined as recipients of the Purple Heart or enrollees in the military’s Wounded Warrior program
 - An allocation of tags to Disabled American Veterans
 - Majority of tags reserved for all military including archery, muzzleloader, and general any elk and antlerless elk
 - The uniformed and honorably retired personnel of all military services and components -- excluding civilian employees who do not meet those definitions -- are eligible to compete for the military tags
 - Camp Navajo to provide report by May 9, 2014, that details if permits were issued to the intended recipients per our mutual intent
 - Camp Navajo to provide report that details effectiveness of hunt implementation by December 5, 2014, and
 - With the following recommended season dates (which may be adjusted to best meet desired permit levels), weapon types, and permit tag numbers for elk and pronghorn:

Antelope:

Camp Navajo	Archery buck antelope	Aug 22- Sep 4, 2014	4 permits
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Elk:

Camp Navajo

• General antlerless	Sep 19-25, 2014	20
• General antlerless	Sep 26- Oct 2, 2014	18
• General antlerless	Nov 21- Dec 14, 2014	10
• General any elk	Sep 12- 18, 2014	17
• General Antlerless	Oct 17-23, 2014	15
• General any elk	Sep 26- Oct 2, 2014	5
• General any elk	Oct 24- 30, 2014	10
• Muzzleloader antlerless	Oct 10- 16, 2014	15
• Muzzleloader any elk	Oct 10- 16, 2014	5
• Archery antlerless	Sep 12- 18, 2014	5
• Archery antlerless	Sep 19- 25, 2014	5
• Archery antlerless	Oct 17- 23, 2014	5
• Archery antlerless	Oct 24- 30, 2014	5
• Archery any elk	Sep 12- 18, 2014	5
• Archery any elk	Sep 19- 25, 2014	5
• Archery any elk	Sep 26- Oct 2, 2014	5
• Archery any elk	Oct 10- 16, 2014	5
Total	103 Antlerless, 52 Any Elk	

Summary of conceptual permit distribution:

- Pronghorn – 4 archer only Permits Military
- Elk – 155 Permits Total
 - 14 Wounded Warrior (General)
 - 30 DAV (General)
 - 83 Military (35 Archery, 14 Muzzleloader, 34 General)
 - 28 Other (5 Archery, 6 Muzzleloader, 17 General)

If no agreement is reached between Camp Navajo and the Department by December 18, then the Department recommends the pronghorn and elk permits in Unit 6B and Camp Navajo to be:

<u>Hunt Type</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>	<u>Permits</u>
Antelope Camp Navajo Archery (Buck Antelope) NG	Aug 22-Sep 4, 2014	4
Antelope Unit 6B S General (Buck Antelope)	Sep 5-14, 2014	2
Antelope Unit 6B N (exc CN) Archery (Buck Antelope)	Aug 22-Sep 4, 2014	12
Elk Unit 6B Early Archery Bull	Sep 12-25, 2014	155
Early Archery Antlerless	Sep 12-25, 2014	75
Late Archery Bull	Nov 14-27, 2014	25
Late General Bull	Nov 28-Dec 4, 2014	175
Late General Antlerless	Dec 5-14, 2014	300
*Late General Antlerless	Dec 19-31, 2014	150

*This is a new hunt that would be required to meet harvest objectives if no elk tags were authorized for Camp Navajo.

Gary Hovatter, Special Assistant to the Director, addressed the Commission and advised them that Camp Navajo has stated that the Limited Area requires a security clearance, but the Department recently learned that the Limited Areas does not require a security clearance in all instances. There is in fact a process for waiving the security requirement, so it is not an absolute. Further, Mr. Hovatter read into the record an email he received from Brig. Gen. McGuire, AZNG as follows: "I had a very lively meeting today with my subordinates. Bottom line – At the wavetop level, as DEMA agency director and only official advocate outside the agency, we stand ready to work as Arizona government partners with the commission and their decisions issued through Director Voyles to support fair and equitable use of the wildlife on Camp Navajo. There will be only one authorized representative at your meeting from the agency, Lt. Col. Gage, he will only attend to answer commission questions on subject matter expertise and specific Camp Navajo security or restriction of access issues. Once the result of the commission are released we will cull through to assess any substantive impact to mission."

Vice Chairman Mansell confirmed with Mr. McMullen that the Department's recommendation is scientifically based and is in line with the guidelines.

* * * * *

Meeting recessed for a break at 10:39 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:53 a.m.

* * * * *

(continued) Unit 6B and Camp Navajo Elk and Pronghorn Antelope

Lt. Col. Gage, Commander of Camp Navajo, addressed the Commission and stated that Camp Navajo is dedicated and very willing to work collaboratively with the Department to reach an amenable agreement for the hunting program. He is personally a hunter and wants to support a healthy hunting program that is impartial and equitable. As a fairly new Commander at Camp Navajo, he has identified some areas for further analysis regarding Camp Navajo's security, mission and current operations. Whatever the decision is today, he looks forward to working with staff to access the proposal and to meet the December 18 timeframe for decision.

Public Comment

The following members of the public addressed the Commission in opposition to changes in the number of tags or tag allocations at Camp Navajo, with the exception of the wounded warrior tags:

- Joseph Durco, AZ Air Guard
- Kenneth Nettles
- Henry Dubiel, retired AZNG
- Sgt. Dale Parrish, retired
- Robert Swisher, Conservationist
- Lauren Grove
- Art Mier, retired AZNG

- Odis Brockman
- Louis Leimone, retired military and NG
- Lt. Col. James Clark, retired
- John Capps, retired Marine Corp Major
- Lealand Land, retired Master Sgt.

The following members of the public addressed the Commission in support of the Department's recommendation:

- Patrick McDowell
- John Koleszar

The following submitted speaker cards but were not present:

- Donald Jacobson (no note for oppose or support)
- Scott Johnson, opposed

Motion: Davis moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION AS PRESENTED WITH THE MODIFICATION THAT THE COMMISSION GIVE THE DEPARTMENT THE LATITUDE TO NEGOTIATE PLUS OR MINUS FIVE TAGS IN EACH CATEGORY.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0

* * * * *

Meeting recessed for a break at 12:05 p.m.
Meeting reconvened at 12:15 p.m.

* * * * *

3. Hunt Permit-Tag Application Schedule for 2014 Antelope and Elk Hunts

Presenter: Lizette Morgan, CFO, Business & Finance

Ms. Morgan provided the Commission with a brief presentation relating to the hunt permit-tag application schedule for the 2014 Antelope and Elk 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. The schedule has been modified from previous schedules to include a credit card change cutoff date for online applicants.

Motion: Davis moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION SCHEDULE FOR THE 2014 ANTELOPE AND ELK HUNTS.

Vote: Unanimous
3 to 0
Harris not present

* * * * *

25. Future Agenda Items and Action Items (agenda item pulled from Friday's agenda)

Deputy Director Ty Gray captured the following action/future agenda items:

- Add a marketing public input phase into the Portal development timeline
- The Director will continue the leadership role in Department participation in the NRRC
- Regarding Article 1
 - Revisit language in R12-4-110 regarding how it relates to scouting
 - Regarding tag surrender language, avoid any action or language to impede the ability to offer that concept
 - R12-4-116, analyze the reward maximums at a \$500 level across the board and what impact that may have on the budget
 - R12-4-114, return with an analysis on whether it is possible to retain the 10% cap unless the resident draw is undersubscribed with the idea to retain flexibility in our business role to adjust the cap in any given year based upon participation rate
 - Bring back for discussion and further evaluation on the wait period, look at it on an every other year basis and on a broader scale
 - Assemble a team to evaluate and identify the entire realm of potential products and services (not necessarily just related to Article 1) which might be bundled, including the tag surrender option and with the caveat that the program focuses on generating revenue for conservation
- The Becker Lake Wildlife land exchange will be brought back to the Commission in January on the consent agenda
- Regarding the Wolf Planning Principles, insert language in the MOU addendum regarding the Commission's authority premise and the Department's role; in bullet 6 of the Principles, place Texas back in the list; insert a statement regarding respect for Tribal sovereignty and authority for wildlife within their boundaries; mention specifically the 5 Nations and Tribes that the Department has been communicating with
- Regarding Camp Navajo, the negotiations will include latitude for the Department to adjust five tags per category.

Commissioner Davis requested a future agenda item for discussion on the I-11 corridor issue that includes potential funding and the Department's role and responsibility related to wildlife corridors.

* * * * *

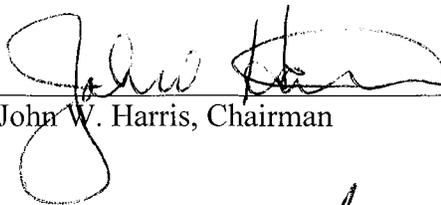
Motion: Madden moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADJOURN THIS MEETING.

Vote: Unanimous

* * * * *

Meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

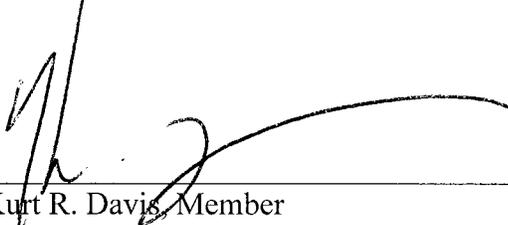
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John W. Harris, Chairman



Robert F. Mansell, Vice Chair

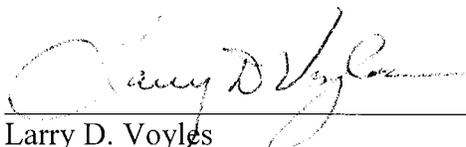


Kurt R. Davis, Member



Edward "Pat" Madden, Member

ATTEST:



Larry D. Voyles
Secretary and Director

**Game and Fish Litigation Report
Presented at the Commission Meeting
December 6-7, 2013**

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. *Center for Biological Diversity et al. v. United States Forest Service*, CV-12-8176-PCT-SMM. Plaintiffs filed an action in the U.S. District Court for Arizona on September 4, 2012. The lawsuit alleges the U.S. Forest Service ("USFS") is violating the Resource Conservation Recovery Act ("RCRA") by allowing the disposal of lead ammunition on the Kaibab National Forest, and the disposal results in significant harm to the California condors and other avian wildlife. Plaintiffs are seeking declaratory and injunctive relief requiring the USFS to abate the harm.

On November 4, 2012, the State of Arizona, on behalf of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, filed a limited motion to intervene for the sole purpose of filing a motion to dismiss on the grounds that the State of Arizona is a required party but joining the State is not feasible due to sovereign immunity. Because the State is a required party that cannot be joined, the case must be dismissed. Plaintiffs filed a response to the State's motion on November 20, 2012. Plaintiffs did not object to the State's intervention but argued that the State does not meet the requirements of a required party.

The National Rifle Association (NRA) and Safari Club International (SCI) filed motions to intervene on November 21, 2012. The State filed a reply on December 4, 2012, to the Plaintiffs' response to the State's motion to intervene. The USFS filed a motion to dismiss on December 14, 2012, on the basis the Court lacks jurisdiction. Plaintiffs filed a response to NRA's motion to intervene on January 4, 2013. On January 22, 2013, the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) filed a separate motion to intervene.

On February 5, 2013, the plaintiffs filed a response to the USFS' motion to dismiss. On February 22, 2013, the District Court issued an order granting the USFS until March 25, 2013 to file a reply in support of its motion to dismiss. On March 25, 2013, the Forest Service filed a reply in support of its motion to dismiss. The parties are awaiting an oral argument hearing on the motion to dismiss.

On July 2, 2013, the court granted the Forest Service's motion to dismiss. The court agreed with the Forest Service that CBD did not have standing to bring the RCRA challenge against the Forest Service. The court found that CBD could not satisfy the requirements for standing because redressability was speculative on two grounds. First, in order for the Forest Service to regulate the use of lead ammunition, it would need to undertake a rulemaking process, comply with NEPA and consult with the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. Due to uncertainty with this process, the court found the outcome of the process speculative. Second, the court found that condors range in an area well beyond the Kaibab National Forest and into areas that do not prohibit the use of lead ammunition. Therefore, even if the Forest Service banned lead ammunition, this would not necessarily reduce the level of lead ingestion in condors.

Plaintiffs filed a notice of appeal on August 21, 2013. **On November 27, 2013, plaintiffs (now appellants) filed an opening brief with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Forest Service must file an answering brief on or before December 30, 2013. The Commission has seven days after that to file an amicus brief.**

2. *WildEarth Guardians v. James Lane*, 12-00118 (LFG-KBM). Plaintiff challenges New Mexico's failure to regulate trapping in the Mexican wolf occupied range to avoid take of any wolves. The Commission authorized the filing of an amicus curiae brief in support of New Mexico. The Court granted the Commission's motion for leave to file an amicus brief and on September 19, 2012, the Commission filed its amicus brief. Plaintiff filed a response on October 9, 2012, and the Commission filed a reply on October 30, 2012.

The Court issued an order on December 3, 2012, granting Defendants' motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim. Plaintiff filed a notice of appeal on December 28, 2012. The Tenth Circuit issued a briefing schedule on January 3, 2013, ordering Plaintiff to file an opening brief within forty days.

On February 12, 2013, WildEarth Guardians filed an opening brief. On February 15, 2013, the Tenth Circuit issued an order extending the time to file an answering brief until April 17, 2013. The Commission's amicus brief is due seven days after the date the answering brief is filed. The Appellees filed the answering brief on April 17, 2013 and the State of Arizona filed an amicus curiae brief on April 23, 2013. Guardians filed its reply brief on May 20, 2013.

Oral argument is scheduled for January 24, 2014.

Draft Lands Update
For the Arizona Game and Fish Commission
November 29, 2013
Phoenix, Arizona

U.S. FOREST SERVICE LAND AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANNING

General Planning Status – Please see attached worksheet.

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest

No changes.

Coconino National Forest

The Coconino NF is expected to release the draft forest plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in mid-late December 2013. The Department recently met with the planning team to discuss Wildlife Habitat Management Areas (WHMA) included in one DEIS Alternative. WHMA's were developed without Department input and in response to comments from environmental groups (Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, Sierra Club). While ostensibly intended to benefit particular wildlife species, they could significantly restrict public access. WHMAs are not expected to be included in the DEIS preferred alternative; however the Department is monitoring this process closely.

The Forest is in the implementation phase of its Travel Management Rule (TMR) and has produced an updated Motor Vehicle Use Maps for distribution to the public.

Coronado National Forest

The Draft Travel Management Plans are being developed for each District and will be released successively for public comment beginning in Fall 2013.

The Draft Land and Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) have been finalized internally. The Forest released the draft EIS on November 15th and is currently being reviewed by AGFD staff.

Kaibab National Forest

The Forest is in the implementation phase of its Travel Management Rule (TMR) and has released Motor Vehicle Use Maps to the public.

Prescott National Forest

No changes.

Tonto National Forest

The Tonto National Forest (TNF) will be initiating the stakeholders process for the TNF Plan revision early next year. This process will include coordination workshops. Forest Plans are required to be revised every 15 years; revisions to the Tonto's 1985 Forest Plan (Land and Resource Management Plan) are long overdue. Forest Plans are strategic, broad in scope and provide guidance in the decision-making process involved with site-specific projects. Forest

Plans have desired conditions, objectives, standards and guidelines, identification of suitability of areas for certain uses, and monitoring programs. In the Forest Service's 2012 Planning Rule, Forest Plans are to be science-based and developed with extensive public involvement and collaboration.

Travel Management Environmental Impact Statement

The Interdisciplinary team (ID team) has been meeting and working to provide data and input into the process for development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Department has provided a Specialist Report to the team to provide subject matter expertise analyzing the effects of motorized travel management on game and non-game species of wildlife and the effects of visitor satisfaction of motorized use management, focusing on hunters and anglers. The draft EIS was released to the ID team in October. The ID team continues to provide input on the draft EIS. The Department will continue discussion on the draft EIS through leadership meetings. The anticipated public release is early next year.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE – GENERAL UPDATES

Four Forest Restoration Initiative- 4FRI

The Four Forests Restoration Initiative (4FRI) includes 587,923 acres of mechanical thinning and 593,211 acres to be treated with prescribed fire, primarily on the Coconino and Kaibab National Forests. The Forest Service expects to complete the final EIS in mid-2014. An international consortium (Good Earth Power, based in Oman) has taken over from the original Stewardship Contractor (Pioneer Industries). Good Earth Power has appointed the Campbell Group LLC, an international timber investment management company, to handle forest restoration operations on 4FRI.

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (A-S)

South Fork LCR Sheep Translocation

Department personnel have been coordinating with the A-S regarding department efforts to translocate rocky mountain bighorn Sheep from Morenci Mine into the South Fork of the Little Colorado River on the Springerville Ranger District. The A-S has determined that a Bighorn Sheep Viability Analysis was not required to be completed because no domestic sheep are currently grazed on the adjacent allotments. The area proposed for release of bighorn sheep occurs adjacent to the Beehive and Sheep Springs Allotments, both currently permitted for both cattle and domestic sheep grazing under a 2002 NEPA decision. In 2012 the permittees made a request to convert the class of livestock on their permit from cattle and sheep, to just cattle. The A-S is currently in the second year of a trial authorization to graze only cattle on the allotments. Grazing only cattle on the allotments is likely outside of the scope of the 2002 EA, so a new EA will likely need to be prepared to convert these allotments to graze only cattle. The A-S will work to accommodate the request over a period of time as per their internal analysis and processes.

Woodland Lake Park Tract Conveyance

The Decision Notice and Finding of No significant Impact for the Woodland Lake Park Tract Conveyance has been signed with the selection of Alternative 2. The decision authorizes the sale of 543 acres of the Woodland Lake Park Tract (WLPT) by the A-S to the Town of Pinetop-

Lakeside (Town) in Navajo County. The Town has pursued acquiring the WLPT from the A-S since 1986, at which time the WLPT was identified as a Townsite Act Parcel. The National Forest Townsite Act (16 USC §478 (a)) allows the Forest Service to identify tracts of land that would better serve the public in local government ownership than in continued federal ownership. In 1998 Congress passed the Woodland Lake Park Tract Act (112 Stat. 3204), which prohibits the conveyance of the WLPT, which is within the Town boundaries, unless the conveyance is made to the Town or is specifically authorized by law enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act. The acquisition of the WLPT is contingent on available funding, and will likely occur through a series of purchases.

Coconino National Forest

Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project (FWPP)

FWPP is a voter-approved, \$10 million bond to conduct thinning and prescribed fire treatments on U.S. Forest Service lands on the slopes of Mt. Elden, the Dry Lake Hills above Flagstaff and the Mormon Mountain area. The overall goal is to reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire and potential flooding, which would severely impact the city and local economy. The Department supports this effort, has reviewed and made comments on the FWPP project Proposed Action, and serves as a formal member on the FWPP Interdisciplinary Team. The Coconino National Forest is continuing to draft the EIS which is expected to come out in early 2014.

Hunter Access to Aspen Depredation Area

The Department worked with the Flagstaff Ranger District to seasonally open 10.8 miles of road within the Peak Subunit of 7E, which was previously closed under the Travel Management Rule. The Forest Service prepared a categorical exclusion (CE) to allow seasonal access from September 1- December 31st. The CE was not appealed and roads were opened as planned.

Coronado National Forest

Rosemont Copper Project

The Department entered into an “Agreement in Principle” with Rosemont Copper Company (RCC) under which RCC would fund, and the Department would implement, certain wildlife conservation actions should the Rosemont Mine become a permitted activity through the federal process.

The conservation actions would support implementation of certain federally required measures, but are also designed to offset the mine’s impacts to and provide benefits to state responsibility species and recreational opportunities.

The responsibilities of both parties in the Agreement in Principle would be set forth in further detail in a later agreement to be negotiated between the department and RCC upon the issuance of a Forest Service-issued Mine Plan of Operations permit. This later agreement would be subject to review and approval by the Commission.

The Agreement in Principle has been sent to Coronado National Forest (Forest) with the request that it be included in the Forest’s Record of Decision (ROD) for the project. The Department continues to work with the Forest and expects the Forest to reference the agreement in the ROD

and place a Rosemont voluntary measure that briefly summarizes the points in the Agreement in an appendix to the ROD.

Hermosa Mine

The Department Submitted comments on the Hermosa Drilling Project proposed for the Patagonia Mountains in unit 35B. Coronado National Forest (Forest) is considering a request by Arizona Minerals, Inc. (AMI) for approval of a Plan of Operations permit to implement a mineral exploration project (Hermosa Drilling Project) on National Forest System (NFS) land. The project is proposed on the Sierra Vista Ranger District in Santa Cruz County, Arizona, about six miles southeast of the town of Patagonia.

The Department anticipates that the drilling project could have major disruption on hunter access, camping, and use of the area due to the numerous exploration sites slated for mostly areas currently used as dispersed campsites. If exploration is fruitful, the open pit could rival or dwarf the proposed Rosemont Copper Project.

Kaibab National Forest

North Kaibab Ranger District (NKR D) Westside Project

This is a long-term partnership effort to improve mule deer winter range and habitat for other wildlife in Unit 12A West. Department staff completed annual measurements and surveys of winter range condition. Thanks to abundant summer rains, native grasses and other desirable forage plants were extremely productive on the winter range and helped reduce growth of cheatgrass and other invasive weeds. The Department continues working with US Forest Service staff to implement control measures on established weed infestations. Cooperators at Northern Arizona University have also begun work on a ‘firescape’ analysis that will help design future fuels management and habitat protection efforts.

North Kaibab Ranger District (NKR D) Moquitch Project

Primary objectives of this project are reducing fire risk and improving wildlife habitat. The NKR D has applied mechanical treatments (grinding) to open up thickets of small ponderosa pine trees and increase wildlife forage. Department staff are monitoring the project and working with USFS to accomplish wildlife objectives.

North Kaibab Ranger District (NKR D) Raspberry Project

This is a 3,000 acre thinning and prescribed fire project in mixed-conifer forest on the Southeastern portion of the Kaibab Plateau. Its primary objective is wildlife habitat improvement and Department staff will be fully involved. NEPA analysis will begin in 2014 with expected completion by Fall 2015.

Tonto National Forest

Resolution Copper Mine

The mine submitted the plan of operation to the Tonto National Forest (TNF) this year. The plan of operations will include all project features (mine, concentrator, tailings, infrastructure, filter plane, water sources) on private, state and public lands as well as employment numbers. The plan will also address closure and reclamation to include baseline data (water, air, biology, cultural

resources) collected in and around the proposed mine. The plan of operation will have to be approved by the TNF for initiation of the NEPA process. An EIS must be completed before a final mine plan of operations is approved and a record of decision is granted.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

Arizona Strip Field Office

Travel Management

On September 11, the Department provided comments to the Arizona Strip BLM Office on proposed route designations on the AZ Strip Field Office District. Through the BLM's route evaluation process, they are proposing to designate routes as either open to motor vehicles, closed, or administrative use. In addition, the BLM is proposing to designate open approximately 96 miles of off highway vehicle trails, open specifically to ATV's, UTV's and motorcycles only. It is important to note that this route designation effort does not affect camping, big game retrieval or other recreational uses such as target shooting; these uses were previously determined to be compatible in the 2008 Arizona Strip Resource Management Plan.

In October, Regional staff met with the Field Office Manager to discuss Department recommendations for route designations, nearly all of which were adopted. In addition, BLM and Regional staff developed a strategy to secure the Department's standing as a cooperating agency on future travel management planning efforts on the AZ Strip District. This will afford the opportunity to partner in developing specific recommendations on route status prior to development of an EA.

Uinkaret Project

Regional staff continue to partner with the AZ Strip District BLM and the Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument staff in developing the proposed action for the Uinkaret Vegetation Management Project in game management unit 13A. This collaborative will develop a programmatic EIS for vegetative management on approximately 128,000 acres on the AZ Strip. It is the intent that this document will guide the BLM in a myriad of vegetative management tools including prescribed fire and mechanical/chemical vegetation treatments. As part of this effort, regional staff have attended several meetings/field trips and directly assisted with drafting the proposed action. Cooperating agency status is being secured for this effort to ensure that Department mission and objectives are incorporated into the planning effort.

Kingman Field Office

Rangeland Monitoring

Regional Wildlife Managers and members of the Habitat Program are involved in fall rangeland monitoring efforts for several of the allotments that fall within the purview of the Kingman BLM Field Office. Fall monitoring began in early October, and will continue through late December. The grazing allotments being monitored this fall include: the Black Mountain A, Borianna Unit B, Burro Creek, Gediondia, Happy Jack Wash, Mud Springs, Canyon Ranch, Greenwood Community, artillery, Cerbatt, Fort McEwan, Hackberry, Hibernia Peak, Little Cane, Palmerita, Quail Springs, La Cienega, and Yellow Pine Allotments.

RAC Grazing Sub-Committee

During the week of November 10th, Region 3 was notified that one of its personnel had been invited to sit (for the next 12 months) on a Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) Grazing Sub-Committee tasked with developing a suite of proposed grazing options for management of the Cerbatt, Quail Springs, and Fort McEwan grazing allotments. The RAC and its Grazing Sub-Committee are chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). With the Department participating in the development of these resource management options, it may also be recognized as a compliance measure under the Sikes Act as well.

Lake Havasu Field Office

Travel Management

The Finding of No Significant Impact for Final Environmental Assessment for Havasu Travel Management Area has been signed.

Tucson Field Office

Madrean Archipelago Rapid Ecoregional Assessment (MAREA)

Department staff have been reviewing the reports for the conservation elements and providing feedback on the reports and inputs for the conceptual models. The next meeting for the technical team is September 26.

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) Resource Management Plan (RMP)

The Department continues involvement in development of the SPRNCA RMP, specifically providing comment on access, mesquite management, beaver management, and native fish management issues. The Department and other cooperating agencies will meet with BLM November 5 to assist with development of the final scoping report. Public meetings are scheduled for December 14 (Sierra Vista) and 17 (Benson).

Ironwood Forest National Monument

The Department teamed with Friends of the Ironwood Forest volunteers in honor of National Public Lands Day. About 40 volunteers participated in three different projects on the Ironwood National Forest in GMU 37A. Two of the project locations were Department wildlife water catchments. Vegetation was removed from around the aprons and the drinkers. The third location was a cleanup wildcat shooting area directly adjacent to BLM land. After the projects were completed, the volunteers and AGFD representatives met for brunch and a quick presentation by AGFD about the desert bighorn sheep in the Silver Bell mountains and the importance of wildlife waters.

Yuma Field Office

The Yuma Field Office has released the Draft Environmental Assessment for the La Posa Travel Management Plan. The Department staff has been a full partner in the planning process and will continue to be until the planning process is completed.

Customs and Border Patrol

Department staff met with Customs and Border Patrol, BLM Yuma Field Office, Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to review the latest proposed mitigation plan for

clearing Border Patrol did in the Limitrophe Region of the Colorado River. The Department supports this proposal.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD)

Luke Air Force Base Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP)

The Department received and accepted the invitation for participating in the INRMP process. The INRMP provides guidance for the management of natural resources and is intended to provide a planning tool to allow for managers to take into account natural resources in all potential undertakings on facilities. The objective is to ensure protection and conservation of natural resources at these facilities compliant with all applicable laws, regulations and policies related to natural resource management.

WILDLIFE AREAS

Cibola Valley Conservation and Wildlife Area

Department personnel are working with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to resolve an issue concerning the payment of Cibola Valley Irrigation and Drainage District taxes to La Paz County. In 2008 the BOR entered into a contractual agreement with the Department assuming responsibility for all costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the Cibola Valley Conservation and Wildlife Area. We are assessing whether an amendment to the 2008 agreement is needed to clarify the financial responsibilities of the BOR

Horseshoe Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP)

The Department continues to coordinate and participate on the CRMP for the Horseshoe and Copper Creek Allotments. Information is provided to the public via an updated web-site and the agencies are utilizing the services of a facilitation group. Progress continues as the group is finalizing shared goals and objectives while working into strategies. The CRMP is currently being drafted in sections. The desire to ensure the federal agencies can utilize the CRMP process as their NEPA for formal decision and implementation has affected the timelines somewhat, but will greatly enhance the ability to conduct management actions under one NEPA umbrella at process completion. The anticipated plan document completion will be in 2014

- **Interagency/Planning Team Activities-** the November team meeting included a presentation from the operator on needed improvements, task assignments for sections of the draft document, NEPA update, data update, and next steps.

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

PIPELINES

Kinder Morgan CO2 Pipeline Project

The NEPA for the Kinder Morgan CO2 Pipeline Project from GMU2B east through New Mexico is anticipated to begin during the first week of December. Department personnel will be attending this meeting as well as the Department participating as a Cooperating Agency with BLM throughout the NEPA process.

Sierrita Natural Gas Pipeline Project

The FERC issued Draft EIS October 25. The Department is currently reviewing the document. The comment deadline is December 16. On September 25, 2013 the Department submitted comments to the Land Department for Sierrita's ROW application. Major concerns raised by the Department are control of illegal ROW access, appropriate diversity of re-seeding mix, development of a comprehensive conservation agreement (CCA), and erosion control. The Department has received no response from the Land Department to date.

TRANSMISSION LINES

Southline Transmission Line Project

The Department received the Administrative Draft EIS from the BLM October 17, 2013. Cooperators were given only 2 weeks to provide comment, therefore Department comments were cursory. In general, the Department expects no significant concerns for wildlife posed by this project.

SunZia Transmission Line Project

The Department has received no updates from BLM on the SunZia project for several months. It appears the DOD has major concerns with portions of the proposed route through New Mexico and is working with BLM to determine if their concerns can be ameliorated.

WIND

Boquillas Wind Energy Project

This project has been inactive since May.

Redhorse Wind Project

The Department received, and has reviewed, Interim Data Report #1 & 2 for the proposed Red Horse Wind Energy Facility in Cochise County AZ. Redhorse is providing avian and bat use data as they are collected during the preliminary data collection period and are currently developing and preparing a Bat and Bird Conservation Strategy (BBCS), Eagle Conservation Plan (ECP) and Wildlife Conservation Strategy (WCS) for the project. The proponent is on a very aggressive schedule, and has reported that they would be submitting drafts of the documents for AGFD and USFWS review; to date, the documents have not been received. Based on the data, the Department still has concerns about the impacts this project may pose to golden eagles and raptors in the area. Therefore, we have asked Arizona State Land Department to consider incorporating language to the permit that would require Red Horse to develop the plans in coordination with AGFD and US Fish and Wildlife prior to operation of the facility. These plans outline how the wind facility will respond if wildlife mortality is higher than anticipated or agreed upon within the plans. We also asked that the project developer/operator form a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), as outlined in the AGFD Wind Guidelines. The role of the TAC is to review the project's impacts and whether the plans need to be implemented or amended. The Department has made the same request of other wind companies (i.e. Perrin Ranch) and it has been implemented.

TRANSPORTATION

Greenway Parkway and Wintersburg Parkway

MCDOT has initiated two new parkway feasibility studies for east/west corridor between the White Tank Mountains and the Belmont Mountains, transecting the Hassayampa River corridor. The Wintersburg Parkway is a north-south and east-west roadway reaching approximately 22 miles from Salome Highway to the proposed Turner Parkway as recommended in the I-10 Hassayampa Valley Roadway Framework Study conducted by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). Greenway parkway is an east-west parkway as well. Both will intersect the proposed White Tanks linkage. Department concerns are habitat loss and fragmentation, impacts conservation of the linkage, impacts to special status species including Desert tortoise (Sonoran population), impacts to wildlife recreation and public access to the White Tank Mountains.

- The Department recommended bridged structures (suitable for big game) to preserve big game movement under future roads/parkways/freeways for all major drainages identified by AGFD as important to regional wildlife connectivity goals between the White Tank Mountains, Hassayampa River corridor and Belmont/Bighorn Mountains. Daggs, Star, and Wagner Washes and the Hassayampa River are critical to this plan. The Department will be working with MCDOT to explore future opportunities to identify bridged locations for big game movement within the Technical Memorandums in order to include wildlife mitigation costs into the *Opinion of Probable Costs* during the Phase II – Development of Candidate and Preferred Alignments. Estimating these costs early into project planning may afford a greater degree of opportunity and success in actually implementing wildlife related roadway designs and mitigation, in that costs would be included in early project budget projections.
- The Department also recommended to MCDOT planners to consider developing independent results for each component of the environmental category (biological, water quality, visual, cultural, air quality, noise tec.) within the *Evaluation of Candidate Alignment Alternatives* process; as opposed to a combined result. We recommended assigning ratings for each component, and then a total score for environmental in order to further clarify the tradeoffs that occur between the different components of the environmental category.
- The Department has identified Candidate Alignment 1 as the alternative with the least potential to impact wildlife; it intersects proposed wildlife corridors the least. Special status species concerns exist for Desert tortoise within the planning area.

I-11 Phoenix to Las Vegas Project

U.S. Congress in the 2012 Surface Transportation Act designated Interstate 11. The first phase of the project is from Phoenix to Las Vegas. ADOT and Nevada Department of Transportation are partnering to conduct a two year study of potential corridors for the proposed Interstate. The Department participated in a stakeholder's meeting and expressed that the study should include impacts to wildlife, hunting opportunities and stressed the economic importance of hunting and wildlife-dependent recreation for the region. It should be noted that one of the ideas "being kicked around" is using Carefree Highway as part of the corridor. This proposal would impact Department headquarters and Ben Avery Shooting Range. The Department continues to participate on stakeholders team for the project. The next phase of the project is underway for the development of the corridor concept report, future connectivity corridor study for Phoenix to

Mexico, development of evaluation criteria for alternative corridors, level 1 screening (high level to limit alternatives application to the entire corridor) and level 2 screening (more detailed and weighted evaluation).

At the request of ADOT, the Department and TNC met with ADOT to discuss the Level 2 Screening and evaluation criteria to be used for the *Environmental Sustainability* category. Criteria will be qualitative and quantitative. The analysis will use Level 2 evaluation criteria to further evaluate alternatives that have been shown in Level 1 to be feasible and potentially beneficial to the two states; and to identify two or more alternatives for further planning and environmental work as part of the I-11 project development process. The Department is collaborating with TNC on how to approach a Level 2 evaluation of alternatives, segment by segment, to provide as project review feedback to ADOT. Additionally, the Department and TNC are also working with ADOT to help them with their Level 2 analysis on the *Environmental Sustainability* category and potentially others relevant to wildlife.

FOR5--The Department submitted comments to ADOT identifying proposed segments representing fatal flaws or significant Department concerns. Within the Region, the Department identified Alternative B (segment 7) from Sasabe, through the Buenos Aires NWR, the Altar Valley, the Tucson Mitigation Corridor, and the Ironwood Forest NM as a fatal flaw. ADOT has not recommended this Alternative for further analysis. Only Alternative C, a corridor situated along I-19 and I-10 through Tucson has been recommended for further analysis.

GENERAL UPDATES

Central Arizona Grasslands Conservation Strategy

GMU 21 Agua Fria Grassland Habitat Enhancement Project

The Department is currently finalizing a 4 year contract to hire contractors to thin up to approximately 600 acres pending bids. Two different contractors will be awarded allowing for hire of both. Work will occur on BLM & PNF project areas. Currently, the Cooperator In-Kind Contributions financial plan for submittal (as required) are being updated to the PNF; as well as required paperwork to pass through limited funding to BLM fire crews for burning post-cut on treatment areas on BLM lands. BLM fire crews have no budget to do the work and will be funded with an HPC grant. PNF fire crews will provide fire applications using Forest budgets/workplans. The Department is also currently conducting site visits to finalize flagging, photo points and stand density counts for upcoming contracts.

City of Goodyear

The City is currently updating their General Plan and Planning Department staff invited the Department to present information on “Wildlife Friendly Community Design”, best management practices for the Sierra Estrella-SDNM linkage, and Department wildlife/habitat conservation goals for the Goodyear planning area. Project consultants hired by the City to facilitate the plan revision process have requested a meeting to follow-up on presentation recommendations and to solicit Department review of plan elements related to open space, wildlife and habitat conservation. The Department met with Goodyear consultants and they presented their conceptual ideas to present to the Town Council for future open space in Goodyear. The conceptual ideas include conservation of wildlife linkage in Rainbow Valley on BLM land as a desired open space component, in addition to several wash corridors and the Gila River.

Concentrate Wetlands Management

The City of Goodyear and the Bureau of Reclamation are conducting a siting study for a demonstration concentrate management wetland. The intent is to find a location to construct a quarter size demonstration vertical flow wetland to treat reverse osmosis brine in order to reduce constituent levels to below regulated concentrations. The brine would be used to support riparian habitat, the blend of treated brine and groundwater would be used to support riparian habitat and the 157th water reclamation facility would no longer be blended with treated brine making it suitable for groundwater recharge. The blended water would support riparian habitat along the conveyance channel and also in the Gila River channel, discharge of the blended water into the Gila River is expected to improve the water quality and increase the quantity of water in the Gila River.

Bighorn Sheep Transplant

On November 4-6th, Regional personnel, in cooperation with volunteers from of the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Game Branch, and Research Branch, participated in the successful capture and translocation of 40 desert bighorn sheep. The sheep were captured in a helicopter net-gunning effort in the south end of the Black Mountains in Game Management Unit (GMU) 15D, and were ultimately translocated to the People's Canyon area near the Arrastra Mountain Wilderness Area. This group of sheep will augment a translocated population of sheep introduced into this area roughly 2 years ago with sheep from the Navajo Reservation in Mexican Hat, Utah.

Maricopa County Flood Control District (MCFCD)

River Corridors

The MCFCD has initiated discussion for a project that will assign various grades to river corridors in Maricopa County. The data may be used for planning environmental protection efforts or restoration efforts in river corridors as well as identifying river corridor areas that have potential for economic development. The Department is currently working with MCFCD for data sharing.

Biological Predictive Analysis

The Department is currently working with MCFCD to develop a "Landscape Compatibility Assessment for Biological Resources" that can be used to predict compatibility of various flood mitigation strategies to maintaining biological diversity and habitat functions in Maricopa County. When MCFCD plans flood hazard mitigation methods/structures they evaluate compatibility to resources (like cultural or visual aesthetics) and community development plans. The biological resources compatibility assessment will be used together with other resource assessments contained in the Flood Control District's Landscape Inventory and Analysis (LIA) for Maricopa County. Information from the LIA is used in District planning and design studies to assist in the development flood hazard mitigation alternatives that are intended to be context sensitive with landscape resources in Maricopa County.

Ray Mine Tailings Facility in GMU 37B

The Department met with the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO) and submitted scoping comments on the Ray tailings facility in

37B. The facility is proposed to be located on twelve square miles of Arizona State Trust Land under application for sale to ASARCO for the purpose of creating additional tailings storage to support up to approximately 750 million tons of material. The proposed site is a major tributary to the Gila River comprised of rich Sonoran desert vegetation type including saguaro and ironwood communities. The area is popular with mule deer, javelina, Gambel's quail, and other small game hunters and other outdoor recreationists. The 2,129 acre facility will require a permit from the Corps under Section 404 (404 permit) of the Clean Water Act. The Corps is the lead federal agency for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS.)

The Department requested Cooperating Agency status for the project based on special expertise related to wildlife resources potentially affected by the project. The Corps denied the Department Cooperating Agency status but has committed to coordinating with the State as required under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA.) Under the FWCA, the Corps must first consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Department "with a view to preventing loss of and damage to wildlife resources."

The Department informed the Corps that Preservation of 2,129 acres will be the Department's starting point when considering compensation at 100% level under Commission policy. The Department suggested that compensation lands be protected at a higher than 1:1 acreage and be funded to enhance habitat that will achieve 100% replacement value for the habitat lost.

Pinal Partnership Open Space and Trails Committee

The Department remains in the discussions for implementation of the master plan and participates on the subcommittee for drainage protection. The Department will be meeting with the County Planning and Zoning in the near future to present the wildlife linkages product and wildlife friendly development. The County has a new Parks and Trails Department. The Committee assists the new Department through providing recommendations. The Department continues to work on the drainage protection subcommittee for development of identification of important drainage features within the county. The county has posted the link to the wildlife linkage county product on their planning and development website.

San Rafael State Natural Area

The Department provided comments on the San Rafael Draft Management Framework (Framework.) The Department's comments centered on public and Department access for game management to the Natural Area. The Department requested that Arizona State Parks meet with Department staff to discuss the Framework in detail before completing a final draft.

Forest	Status	Next Step	Projected Next Step Completion
Apache Sitgreaves	The Proposed LRMP and Draft EIS public review period ended 5/16/2013.	Final LRMP EIS, TMP on hold.	Final EIS (LRMP) 6/2014 TMP start after LRMP complete, draft out late 2014. (separate decisions)
Issues:	MBGR in preferred Alt B of previous TMP draft allows 1mile from road for elk, mule deer & bear. 658 miles of corridors for dispersed camping 300 ft off established roads.		
Coconino	TMP signed Sept 2011, MBGR appeal denied; Draft EIS(LRMP) ready. Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM's) available	Draft LRMP EIS anticipated imminent	Decision anticipated 6//2015
Issues:	Dispersed camping 300 ft from designated roads, else 30 ft. MBGR for elk only, 1 mile from roads except GMUs 5A & 5B.		
Coronado	Proposed Plan DEIS released 11/15/13	Under review by AGFD	Final EIS 7/2014
	TMP in Process in all Districts.	Final TMP	Final TMP end of 2013: Decisions by district: Douglas 7/2014; Nogales 3/2013; Safford 3/2014; Santa Catalina 3/2014; Sierra Vista 9/2014
Issues:	Motor Vehicle Use maps show access through roads that have locked gates. Maps not enforceable.		

Forest	Status	Next Step	Projected Next Step Completion
Kaibab	AGFD appeal on North Kaibab TMP declined. TMP completed by district. MVUM's available.	Final LRMP	LRMP Decision imminent
Issues:	Tusayan & Williams TMP: MBGR 1 mile from road for elk in designated areas. Dispersed camping in camping corridors, or 30 feet from road. North Kaibab MBGR 1 mile off designated roads for elk and bison, dispersed camping 300 feet off 99 miles of designated roads and 100 feet off 104 miles of		
Prescott	Final EIS in Federal Register imminent. AGFD personnel were invited to participate in Strategic planning	Expected FEIS in Federal Register 3/2014	Will not do new TMP. Rely on 2009 updated/amended TMP
Issues:	Current draft advocates MBGR: Elk within 1 mile of designated open road. May be changed by amendment. Dispersed camping 300' from centerline of designated roads. Wilderness under consideration		
Tonto	LRMP began 2006. Negotiating to reinstate due to rule change. TMP elevated to EIS from EA. Notice of intent to prepare TMP EIS has been released for review and comment. Department comments submitted 3/4/2013. Request to be Cooperating Agency has been accepted. IDT teams have met and individual Ranger District meetings have been held.	LRMP Assessment beginning; public scoping in 2014. TMP final EIS anticipated 11/13	Final LRMP & EIS Fall 2017
Issues:	Consistency across forests, enforceability, MBGR, road closures, and Dispersed Camping all addressed in response to NOI.		

Hunt Permit-tag Application Schedule – Winter 2014

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	DEADLINE DATES²	
HUNT	Applications accepted on or after:	Deadline 7 p.m. (MST) in Department offices on:	Hunt permit-tags and refund warrants mailed out by:
Antelope	(See note 1)	Feb. 11, 2014	April 18, 2014
Elk	(See note 1)	Feb. 11, 2014	April 18, 2014

First Come³		
	Applications accepted by mail on or after 8:00 a.m. (MST):	Permits available for purchase with a completed application at all Department offices after 8:00 a.m. (MST)
HUNT	ACCEPTANCE DATES	ACCEPTANCE DATES
Antelope	April 21, 2014	April 28, 2014
Elk	April 21, 2014	April 28, 2014

Online Applicants⁴
Deadline for updating your credit or debit card information online by 11:59 p.m. (MST)
Sunday, March 9, 2014

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.
- 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.
- Online applicants are encouraged to keep their payment information current. If your payment is rejected at the time of the draw, your application may be rejected. The Department will attempt to contact the payee and/or applicant A three times within two business days to accept an alternate payment method if a phone number and/or email is provided.

Mexican Wolf Plan Principles and Requirements

THE AGFC WOLF CONSERVATION PLAN PRINCIPLES FOR ARIZONA

*This represents a living document that is subject to ongoing review and update by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission

PRINCIPLES (values): The Arizona Game & Fish Commission (Commission, AGFC) has primary statewide responsibility for management actions related to fish and wildlife within the state of Arizona and the Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) acts under the authority of the Commission. The Arizona Game & Fish Department will manage Mexican wolves under the Commission's guidance, on non-tribal lands in Arizona pursuant to the state's authority to manage all wildlife within the state of Arizona, and in a manner that is consistent with and reflects the following principles:

- The Department's ongoing management of all wildlife, including Mexican wolf, will continue to be consistent with the North American Model of wildlife conservation.
- The Department will use appropriate public, government-to-government and stakeholder engagement processes to inform Mexican Wolf management in Arizona.
- The return of the Mexican wolf to its historic range in Arizona will be implemented within approved levels of funding and human resource capacity, which will be supported with appropriate financial support from both federal and private sources.
- Mexican wolf restoration in Arizona will only occur within manageable areas of the state's Mexican wolf historic range that provide suitable and acceptable habitat.
- An Arizona wolf conservation plan will ultimately identify specific numbers of Mexican wolves and geographic ranges within Arizona to drive ongoing management efforts. Those objectives must reflect acceptable occupation by wolves at populations that are biologically, socially, economically and financially sustainable on Arizona's landscape.
- Mexican wolf cannot be recovered with Arizona as the only participant. Successful recovery can only occur with concurrent recovery efforts in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Mexico.
- Because genetic diversity is essential for a biologically sound, sustainable wolf population, the Department will work to optimize genetic diversity in Mexican wolves to the extent possible.
- Because wolf-dog hybridization has been documented in free ranging Mexican wolves and poses a potential threat to the genetic integrity of the Mexican wolf population, wolves must be managed to minimize wolf-dog-hybrid interactions.
- Successful reintroduction and management of Mexican wolves in Arizona is dependent upon wolves being accepted and tolerated by the public in the context of modern Arizona's working landscapes, which provide for multiple public uses.
- The Department's Mexican wolf management activities within Arizona will identify and seek to address appropriate levels of incentives or restitution for stakeholders affected by the project.
- The Department is uniquely positioned to form partnerships with local communities, stakeholders and businesses that may be positively or negatively affected by the restoration of

Mexican wolves. Mexican wolf restoration must not result in unacceptable impacts to the economic well-being of Arizona's rural communities and the state's hunting opportunities.

- Because wolves can, in some circumstances, dramatically influence native ungulate populations, the Department will implement management strategies to drive a Mexican wolf management plan that considers long-term sustainability of both predators and their prey such that current baseline hunting opportunity is maintained in terms of both the quality and quantity of hunting recreation. The Department and the Commission will establish acceptable ungulate loss rates to wolf density ratios to sustain populations of those species, preserve associated hunting opportunity and maintain economic viability for the State of Arizona.

THE AGFC WOLF CONSERVATION PLAN REQUIREMENTS

- The Arizona State Wolf Plan (Plan) will serve as the mechanism for the Department to continue to represent the interests of the Commission and the State of Arizona in all areas of Mexican wolf conservation including how the efforts in Arizona relate to overall Mexican wolf recovery.
- The Arizona Plan assumes a revised 10(j) rule allowing state management under an approved state management plan supported by appropriate Endangered Species Act Section 4(d) wolf management provisions.
- The Arizona State Wolf Plan can be endorsed by USFWS before record of decision on USFWS Recovery Plan.
- The Arizona State Wolf Plan can achieve formal recognition/certification of ESA compliance by USFWS and Mexican P.A.S.E.

The plan:

- Must be developed through strong public engagement, including suitable outreach with targeted constituents such as livestock producers, sportsmen conservationists, local governments, tribal governments, conservation groups (and the public at large) in deploying adaptive management approaches in managing a sustainable wolf population;
- Must recognize that, to achieve and maintain a range-wide, sustainable population of Mexican wolves managed at levels sufficient to meet population objectives:
 - Requires a strong recovery program in Mexico, and;
 - Must clearly articulate the limited potential role of Arizona, New Mexico and Texas contributing to Mexican wolf recovery efforts in the U.S., and emphasize the critical role of Mexico in achieving recovery of Mexican wolf range-wide.
- Must include a research component to ensure that questions are answered with sound science, both biological and sociological, and must incorporate measures of effectiveness and success where applicable. Questions to be clearly addressed include: population census methodology; prey requirements, predator-prey relations, genetic purity, and taxonomic validity;
- Must define where in Arizona Mexican wolf recovery will be supported, such that:
 - Mexican Wolf recovery will only occur within components of its historical range in Arizona determined to be viable by the Commission/Department;

- Identified management areas will require contiguous and suitable habitat that serves to minimize human conflict and supports a corresponding wolf population distribution as a required condition for any proposed expansion of wolf restoration areas in Arizona;
- Mexican wolf restoration plans be supported by the White Mountain Apache and San Carlos Apache Tribes, Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe as participants in Mexican Wolf recovery and acceptable to other affected Tribes such that they will participate in productive planning efforts;
- Mexican wolf restoration plans must be designed to minimize wolf-domestic dog hybridization potential by limiting wolf occupation of areas in close proximity to known areas of domestic dog concentration.
- Must include an **enforceable** upper limit on wolf impacts upon game ungulate populations in Arizona such that the current quantity and quality of hunting opportunity in Arizona remains at current levels as a minimum, and include **enforceable** provisions to successfully manage wolf populations to maintain those levels including provision to financially compensate the State of Arizona for exceedances that reduce hunting opportunities below current baseline levels;
- Must include a provision to ensure the manageability for wolves that move outside the 10(j) area;
- Must provide for clear delineation of an **affordable** Interagency Field Team (IFT) structure and function that can be:
 - Cost effective;
 - Implemented within the 10(j) nonessential/experimental population designation, such that responses to potential depredation incidents in Arizona are initiated within 24 hours of receiving such reports, and;
 - Ensure that initial releases and planned translocations of Mexican wolves in Arizona are vetted with the public.
- Must ensure that wolf conservation efforts are appropriately balanced by on-the-ground interdiction, incentive, and compensation measures that offset impacts to the private sector;
- Appropriately note that the States of Arizona and New Mexico, the White Mountain Apache Tribe, San Carlos Apache Tribe, the newly formed State Resource Council, various local governments and local stakeholders are willing participants in the wolf project;
- Will ensure that appropriate private or federal funds are identified, procured and directed to support the wolf reintroduction project that provide interdiction incentives and measures, to include:
 - Productively engaging public lands grazing permittees and private lands livestock operators in voluntary, incentives-based Mexican wolf conservation measures;
 - The Mexican Wolf–Livestock Coexistence Council interdiction, incentives, and compensation program that attempts to address the impacts of Mexican wolf reintroduction and recovery on the private sector and create incentives for enhanced conservation and stewardship;

- Willing Native American Tribes within the existing experimental population area in Arizona, particularly the White Mountain Apache Tribe, which has demonstrated its substantial commitment to wolf conservation over several years.