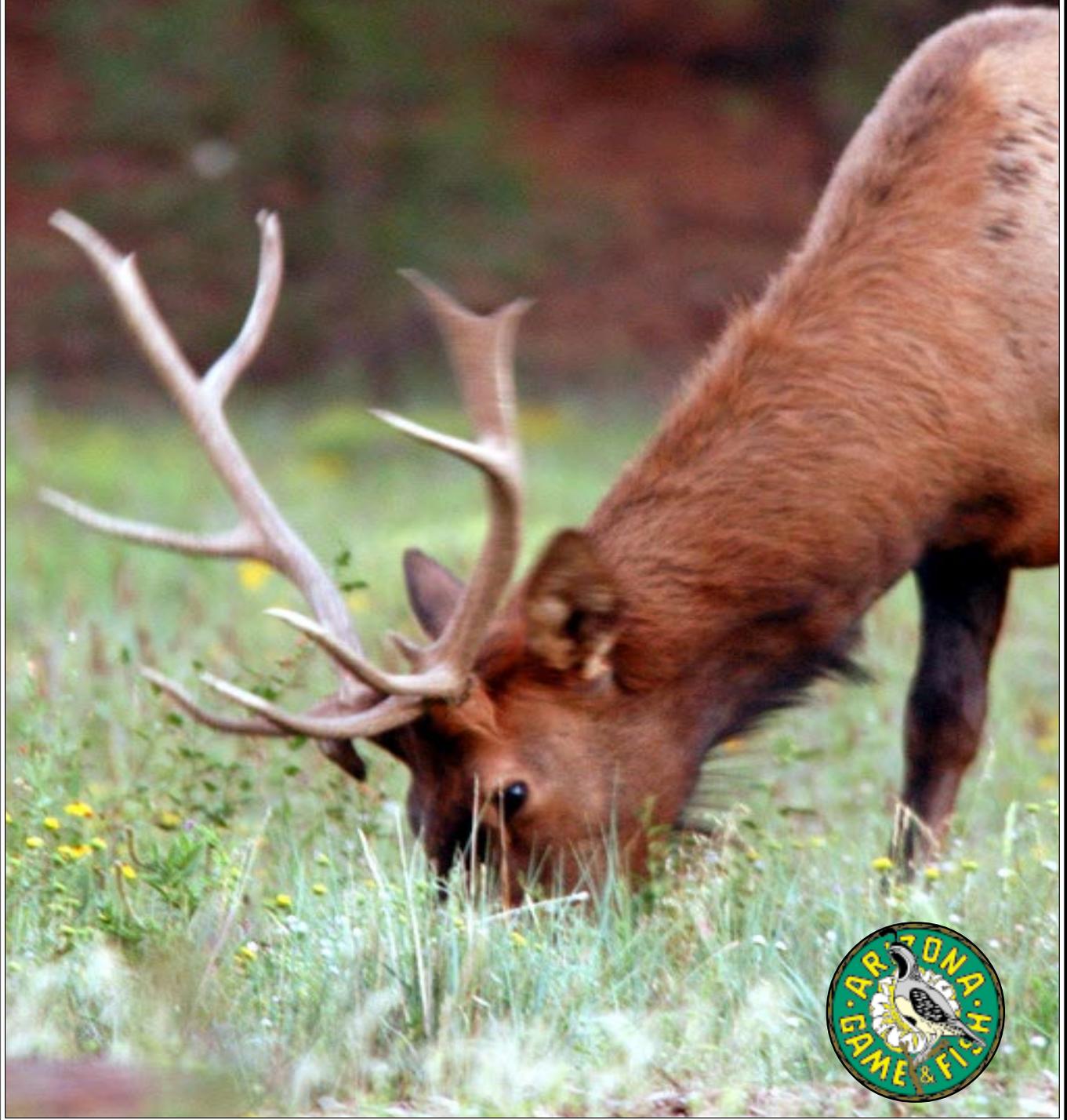


Arizona Game and Fish Department

2003–2004 Annual Report



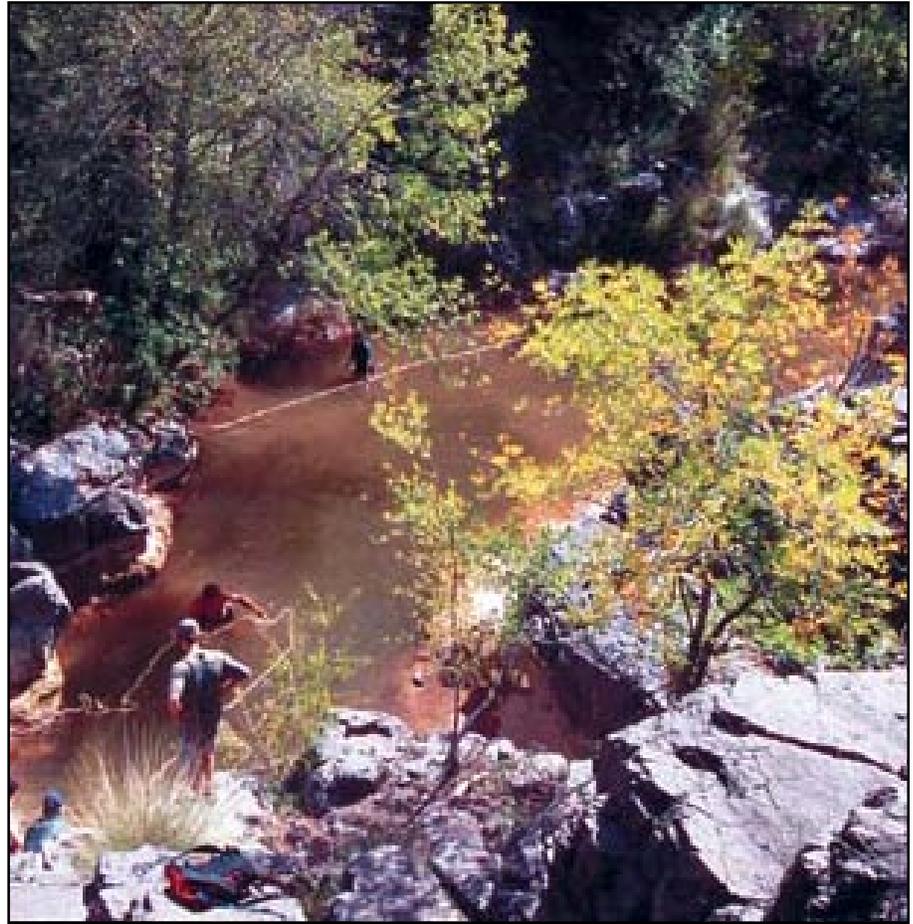
Accomplishments

Fossil Creek restoration Full water flow was restored to Fossil Creek and the department helped the creek return to its natural environment by attempting to restore a native fish community. State and federal biologists salvaged 1,200 speckled dace, roundtail chubs, Sonora suckers and desert suckers from the upper reach of Fossil Creek and then replaced them, completing an integral and necessary step in the stream restoration process. Crews also built a barrier upstream from where Fossil Creek empties into the Verde River, which will keep nonnative fish from traveling upstream and negatively impacting native fish.

Frog reintroduction Two threatened frog species – the Tarahumara and Chiricahua leopard frogs – were reintroduced to nature. The Tarahumara frogs were reintroduced into historic habitat in the Santa Rita Mountains. This effort was accomplished with the aid of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Coronado Forest Service, local Audubon Society, local ranchers and department personnel assisted by volunteers. Chiricahua leopard frogs were released at Sierra Blanca Lake in the White Mountains. The Chiricahua frogs came from the Three Forks area of the White Mountains. They were removed when they were eggs, then were hatched and raised at a Game and Fish Department hatchery in Pinetop.



Chiricahua leopard frogs were raised at a Game and Fish hatchery in Pinetop before being released.



Arizona Game and Fish Department employees worked long hours to salvage native fish from Fossil Creek.

Conservation strategy The department solicited public input for Arizona's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy – a 10-year vision for managing Arizona's fish, wildlife and natural habitats. The effort enlisted assistance from various agency cooperators, sportsman and recreational groups, conservation organizations, special interest groups, Native American tribes, county and municipal governments, and the general public. Hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, and off-highway vehicle and watercraft recreation invest billions of dollars into Arizona's economy. This conservation strategy will help ensure dedicated federal funding for wildlife and habitat management activities in Arizona.

Apache trout Department personnel reintroduced pure Apache trout into Lee Valley Creek. The reintroduction was part of a large-scale effort to recover Apache trout, a threatened species that is also officially recognized as Arizona's state fish. Lee Valley Creek was chemically treated 2003 to remove nonnative brook trout. Since then, no live fish have been detected above the fish barrier at the lower

end of the creek, clearing the way for the reintroduction. The stocking was a cooperative effort between the department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

Landowner Incentive Program The first Arizona Landowner Incentive Program project hit the ground running this year. This \$280,000 project included removal of pinyon and juniper trees to restore grassland habitat for birds and pronghorn on 6,000 acres of the CO Bar Ranch owned by Babbitt Ranches in northern Arizona.

Resource management The department continues to work with the Bureau of Land Management on the development of the Lake Havasu, Phoenix North, Phoenix South and Yuma resource management plans and the Sonoran Desert National Monument Management Plan. Personnel also are working with the Department of Defense on the development of an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for the Barry M. Goldwater Range and revising the INRMP for the U.S. Army Yuma



Six events were held statewide to celebrate the completion of Heritage projects. Above, visitors can view wildlife at Sweetwater Wetlands in Tucson. Below, Mountain View Elementary School students pitch in to help complete another Heritage project.

Proving Ground. They continue to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the development of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. These plans will direct the management of approximately 9 million acres of public land. Resource conservation, wildlife management, wildlife related recreation, access, and burro management continue to be Department priorities in the development of these plans.

Condors take flight Two California condor chicks hatched and took their first flight. One took its first flight at Vermilion Cliffs National Monument. The other took flight at Grand Canyon National Park. Both chicks hatched in May. Experts care for about 140 of the birds in captivity and periodically release them in California, Mexico, and Arizona, as the population begins to rebound. Forty-eight of the birds currently live in the wilds of Arizona.

The condor reintroduction in Arizona is a joint project of several partners, including Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Peregrine Fund, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Kaibab National Forest, and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

Grants, Awards and Incentives

Emmy-Award winner The department's *Arizona Wildlife Views* television show won a Rocky Mountain Emmy award for "Best Program Element" based on a show, "Traveling with Mr. Whiskers," that detailed how the Game and Fish Department hauls in catfish from Arkansas to stock local urban lakes. *Arizona Wildlife Views* is a department produced local television show that explores Arizona's amazing wildlife, its habitats, and more.

Achievement award The department is one of 11 recipients of the 2004 Department of Interior Environmental Achievement Awards. The award recognizes exceptional achievements that conserve the nation's natural resources through communication, consultation and cooperation. The award went to participants in the Mitty Lake Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation project. Sharing the





The department's Archery in Schools program received a grant from the Archery Trade Association and one from the Arizona chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

award are the Yuma regional office of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the Yuma field office of the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Reclamation.

Archery grants The department's Archery in Schools program received two grants: \$15,000 from the Archery Trade Association and \$5,000 from the Arizona chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. The first grant will provide Olympic-style archery equipment to 150 schools. The second will fully equip two schools in Tucson and Pinetop.

Heritage Fund grants Arizonans across the state joined with the Arizona Game and Fish Department in celebrating a milestone: the 10 millionth dollar being paid out to the community through Heritage Fund grants. The department hosted six events statewide to show Arizonans some of the great work that has been done through the Heritage Fund, which takes money from lottery ticket sales and invests it in conservation efforts, including protecting endangered species and educating our children about wildlife.

Innovation

Animal crossings The department began working on several projects to help design highways that are more wildlife friendly and

less likely to be the scenes of car and truck accidents involving wildlife. The Arizona Department of Transportation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Federal Highway Administration, Bureau of Land Management, Wildlands Project, and Northern Arizona University worked on the creation of elk crossings on State Route 260 while the road was being upgraded just below the Mogollon Rim. The other project, involving big horn sheep, is focused on U.S. Highway 93 near the Hoover Dam. Radio collars are being used to track the movements of desert bighorn sheep. The data will be used to determine where the sheep travel and, in particular, which highway crossing areas they use. Information will be used to help create plans for road upgrades along U.S. Highway 93.

Tracking jaguars Remote motion-sensing cameras captured two jaguars on film in the wild borderlands of southern Arizona. Four new jaguar photos were taken. Jaguars have never been common in Arizona and New Mexico, but they have been spotted here more than 50 times since the mid-1800s. By the 1900s, they nearly disappeared from the United States. A Jaguar Conservation Team of landowners, ranchers, citizen groups, scientists, and state and federal agencies developed a conservation plan in 1997.

Shooting sports The department's

shooting sports programs – Archery in Schools and Scholastic Clay Target – gained momentum in 2004. The Archery in Schools program partnered with the Archery Trade Association and its two foundations, Arrowsport and the Bowhunting Preservation Alliance, to increase archery and bowhunting participation. The agreement will help the department secure federal funding and private expertise to develop archery ranges, archery education, and bowhunting programs. The statewide Scholastic Clay Target Program launched this year, providing youth new opportunities to learn the sport.

Habitat protection Department personnel developed an agreement with the Electro-Braid fence company out of Ontario, Canada, to test the effectiveness of a new electric fencing configuration for excluding elk from sensitive stream-riparian areas on the Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area. The information collected from the test program will be used to provide Department personnel, private landowners, and other state and federal agencies information on the potential use of electric fencing for habitat protection.

Efficiency

Wolf project The department began soliciting public comment for a five-year review of the Mexican gray wolf reintroduction project. The focus of the five-year review is on objectively identifying specifics about what has worked well and what has not worked well thus far in the reintroduction project, and what should be done in terms of law, policy, and/or procedure to improve the project to better address the relevant recovery and social issues. The agencies cooperating in the Mexican wolf reintroduction are the Arizona Game and Fish Department, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services, and White Mountain Apache Tribe.

Two-year fish regulations approved The Arizona Game and Fish Commission, in an effort to save publication costs and keep regulations consistent for anglers, shifted its regulation setting from an annual process to a two-year process. Fishing regulations are valid for the years 2005 and 2006.

Online draw The department received



The department held its first Hunting and Shooting Showcase. The next showcase is slated for March 2006.

applications from more than 269,000 applicants for the 2004 Fall Big Game Draw. Of this number, more than 205,000 of the applicants used the department's Web site to apply. The percentage of applicants using the Web site increased from 66 percent in 2003 to 76 percent in 2004.

Water development standards Department personnel distributed the 2004 Wildlife Water Development Standards and Specifications document, which is a comprehensive manual of components and construction standards for wildlife water developments. The San Carlos Apache Tribal Government, Arizona Department of Transportation, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation, Pima County Parks and Recreation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Tonto and Coconino National Forests and others requested a copy of the document so they can implement the standards as their own.

Outreach

Events In addition to birding and nature festivals and fairs held around the state, the department also participated in the inaugural APS Tres Rios Nature Festival celebrated the wildlife and rich cultural heritage of the Gila, Salt and Agua Fria rivers. This lush riparian corridor, located at the southwest corner of the Phoenix-metro area, supports more than 150

species of birds, as well as mammals, fish, reptiles and amphibians. The festival featured educational programs, talks, hikes and tours.

Hunting and Shooting Showcase

The inaugural Hunting and Shooting Showcase welcomed Valley residents to Ben Avery Shooting Facility for two days of hunting and shooting demonstrations, tips, activities, and seminars. Local quick draw sharpshooter Rob Leatham, four time International Practical Shooting Confederation world champion and 15 time U.S. Practical Shooting Association national champion, and Emily Blount of Tucson, 16 year-old silver medalist in the junior women's division of this year's National Championships for International Skeet, demonstrated their skills. Other educational workshop topics included off-highway vehicle safety, wildlife research and capture techniques, herpetology, fishing, and wildlife rehabilitation. More than 1,000 people attended the event and publication and license sales totaled \$450 for the event.

Issues

Urban wildlife conflicts Department personnel continue to distribute animal restraint and handling equipment to field personnel, and to outfit new officers with equipment and advice on procedures/protocol when dealing with urban wildlife conflicts.

Ongoing human/wildlife conflicts regarding coyotes continued to plague residents. Working with HOAs in the Valley, setting up open meeting forums and providing information to the public are strategies personnel used to educate the public.

Mountain lions The department hosted public participation workshops in an effort to resolve conflicts related to the department's handling of mountain lions. Comments were collected compiled into a report that will be posted on the Department's Web site to solicit additional public comment. Once all comments are received, the Department's protocol for responding to reports of mountain lion – human interactions will be redrafted. The next step in finalizing the document will be to host a tabletop exercise where members of the public will be asked to assist the Department by conducting theoretical exercises and evaluating the appropriateness of the Department's response.



Susan E. Chilton, Chair



W. Hays Gilstrap



Joe Melton



Michael M. Golightly



William H. McLean

The Game and Fish Commission

Under the provisions of the Arizona Revised Statutes 17-231, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission establishes policy for the management, preservation, and harvest of wildlife. The Commission makes rules and regulations for managing, conserving, and protecting wildlife and fisheries resources, and safe and regulated watercraft and off-highway vehicle operations for the benefit of the citizens of Arizona. In

support of the Commission's obligations, the Director, as chief administrative officer, provides general supervision and control of all Department functions and activities.

The Commission is composed of five members appointed by the Governor pursuant to ARS 38-211. The Commission appoints the Director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Director serves as secretary to the Commission. No more than one commissioner may be from any one county. No more than three may be from the same political party. Each commissioner serves a five-

year term, staggered. Commissioners customarily serve as chairman during their last year.

Our Mission

To conserve, enhance, and restore Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and habitats through aggressive protection and management programs, and to provide wildlife resources and safe watercraft and off-highway vehicle recreation for the enjoyment, appreciation, and use by present and future generations.



Department personnel continue to work with the public regarding urban wildlife conflicts, such as coyotes and javelina traveling into local neighborhoods.

Financial Statement

Fiscal Year Revenues by Fund	2002-03	2003-04
Game and Fish Fund	\$19,425,100	\$19,981,266
Watercraft Licensing Fund	2,094,900	2,295,553
Game, Nongame Fund	184,300	171,730
Federal Fund	20,657,500	20,111,680
Heritage Fund	10,154,300	10,494,929
Off-highway Vehicle Fund	842,900	124,145
Capital Improvement/Conservation Development Funds	733,200	1,257,519
Wildlife Conservation Fund	0	2,343,622
Other Funds (See Detail Below)	1,801,500	1,724,597
Total Revenue All Sources	\$55,893,700	\$58,505,042

Other Funds Detail

GF Land and Water Conservation/ Recreation Development	\$ 500	\$ 463
Wildlife Theft Prevention Fund	140,500	177,447
Waterfowl Conservation Fund	78,500	68,965
Wildlife Endowment Fund	70,700	76,113
Trust/Donation Fund	1,255,100	1,149,333
Publications Revolving Fund	256,200	252,276
Total Other Funds	\$1,801,500	\$1,724,597

Fiscal Year Expenditures by Fund	2002-03	2003-04
Game and Fish Fund	\$20,195,300	\$20,524,395
Watercraft Licensing Fund	2,440,000	1,965,541
Game, Nongame Fund	243,900	238,004
Federal Fund	19,605,000	20,921,165
Heritage Fund	10,739,120	9,721,498
Off-highway Vehicle Fund	759,700	576,189
Capital Improvement/Conservation Development Funds	37,200	23,163
Wildlife Conservation Fund	0	835,156
Indirect Cost Fund	853,109	1,315,655
Other Funds (See Detail Below)	1,427,100	1,507,749
Total Expenditures All Sources	\$56,300,429	\$57,628,517

Other Funds Detail

Game and Fish Land and Water Conservation/Recreation Dev.	\$ 0	\$ 0
Wildlife Theft Prevention Fund	121,800	171,526
Waterfowl Conservation Fund	154,800	202,651
Wildlife Endowment Fund	8,300	8,404
Trust/Donation Fund	865,100	900,040
Publications Revolving Fund	277,100	225,128
Total Other Funds	\$1,427,100	\$1,507,749

Fiscal Year Heritage Funds Allocation	2002-03	2003-04
Environmental Education	\$465,372	\$500,000
Public Access	465,372	500,000
Habitat Evaluation and Protection	1,396,118	1,500,000
Urban Wildlife	1,396,118	1,500,000
Habitat Acquisition	2,233,788	2,400,000

IIAPM (Identification, Inventory, Acquisition, Protection, and Management)	3,350,682	3,600,000
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Total Allocation \$9,307,450.. \$10,000,000

Calendar Year Sales in Numbers by Group	2002	2003
Licenses (see detail below)	422,590	421,283
Trout stamps	71,423	79,416
Tags	148,953	140,129
Special use licenses/stamps	96,414	69,486
Two Pole Stamp	57,278	56,778
Waterfowl Stamps	6,733	6,787
Migratory Bird Stamps	58,109	58,068
Utah Lake Powell Stamps	2,029	1,639
Miscellaneous permits/licenses	2,105	2,380
Totals	865,634	835,669

Calendar Year License Sales by Category

Resident General Fish	153,562	155,165
Nonresident General Fish	2,296	2,047
Family Fish	3,638	4,475
Resident General Hunt	61,778	61,752
Nonresident General Hunt	18,407	18,718
Resident Hunt/Fish	73,684	71,398
Nonresident Hunt/Fish	767	786
Nonresident 3 Day Hunt	8,398	7,419
Urban Fishing	27,533	26,728
Nonresident Colorado River Fish	1,263	1,214
Nonresident 5 Day Fish	13,068	11,675
Resident Youth Hunt/Fish	20,149	20,772
Nonresident 4 Month Fish	6,533	6,144
Resident/Nonresident 1 Day Fish	28,078	29,445
Resident Youth Group 2 Day Fish	77	86
Resident General Fish Nov/Dec	3,121	3,154
Nonresident General Fish Nov/Dec	238	305
Lifetime License	143	208
Grand Totals	422,733	421,491

Calendar Year License and Tag Sales	2002	2003
Licenses	\$12,641,910	\$12,549,612
Stamps	1,547,037	1,557,070
Tags	4,498,915	4,210,783
Total Value	\$18,687,862	\$18,317,465

Notes

1. All figures are rounded to the nearest one hundred.
2. Capital Improvement and Conservation Development Funds are combined for revenues, as the Cap. Improvement Fund earns interest only. The Conservation Development Fund receives revenue from the surcharge on license sales.

Arizona Game and Fish Department

2221 West Greenway Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85023
(602) 942-3000
azgfd.gov

DUANE L. SHROUFE *Director*
STEVE K. FERRELL *Deputy Director*

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

BRUCE TAUBERT *Wildlife Management*
MIKE SENN *Field Operations*
RICHARD RICO *Special Services*
MARTY MACURAK *Information & Education*

REGIONAL OFFICES

Region I – JON COOLEY, *Supervisor*
2878 E. White Mountain Blvd., Pinetop 85935
(928) 367-4281

Region II – RON SIEG, *Supervisor*
3500 S. Lake Mary Road, Flagstaff 86001
(928) 774-5045

Region III – BOB POSEY, *Supervisor*
5325 N. Stockton Hill Road, Kingman 86401
(928) 692-7700

Region IV – LARRY VOYLES, *Supervisor*
9140 E. 28th St., Yuma 85365
(928) 342-0091

Region V – GERRY PERRY, *Supervisor*
555 N. Greasewood Road, Tucson 85745
(520) 628-5376

Region VI – ROD LUCAS, *Supervisor*
7200 E. University Drive, Mesa 85207
(480) 981-9400

