

DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Department is committed to managing and enhancing the quality, abundance, availability and diversity of sport fishing and wildlife recreation opportunities for present and future generations. The Department's development resources support these objectives through the implementation of habitat maintenance and enhancement activities, engineering and construction support, boating access support and landowner relations.

The role of a habitat maintenance and enhancement is to provide additional benefits beyond the immediate capacity of the natural environment or to address an identified limiting factor affecting wildlife populations. Specific benefits are

1. The ability to enhance populations of game species by reducing the effects of drought and thermal stress.
2. To enable game species to maintain their population numbers in areas where habitat fragmentation or degradation has occurred. Transplanted native ungulates, such as bighorn sheep, will be able to successfully repopulate areas of otherwise suitable habitat where lack of water may be a limiting factor.
3. The ability to mitigate habitat losses and degradation on state and other public lands.
4. Increased economic benefits from enhanced hunting opportunities.
5. Improved satisfaction ratings among Arizona's hunting public.
6. Reduction of resource damage due to user conflicts.

Historically, fisheries improvement activities centered on the construction of dams, which created a number of new fishing lakes. Each of these lakes and the related dams, outlet structures, public-use facilities, access roads and fences represents a significant cyclical maintenance responsibility. The Department owns over thirty dams that are 'jurisdictional' in status with the Arizona Department of Water Resources and are inspected regularly for safety and maintenance requirements. Development activities have expanded considerably to include the development of habitat improvement features in both lakes and streams, improvements in angler access including handicap access, and aquatic weed harvesting at public fishing waters statewide. The primary benefits expected are:

1. Ability maintain or enhance the quality and availability of sportfishing opportunities in the state by the continued development, maintenance and operation of public-use warm water and cold water fishing lakes and their related facilities.
2. Reduction of trout mortality in cold water lakes by implementation of the aquatic weed-harvesting program.

The Department requires professional engineering support in the planning, design and construction of new or modified facilities and infrastructure as well as ensuring cost-effective and timely maintenance of existing assets that support the activities of its workforce. Engineering also provides technical and administrative assistance in the development, operation and maintenance of habitat improvements and other projects that promote wildlife recreational opportunities.

Department staff and external customers also require a broad range of technical assistance in achieving desired programmatic objectives. Major areas of responsibility include development, operation and maintenance of the following:

1. Administrative Facilities
2. Habitat Maintenance and Enhancement
3. Fish Hatcheries
4. Shooting Ranges
5. Dams, Lakes and Boating Facilities
6. Wildlife Areas

Arizona's limited surface water area available for recreational activities imposes a substantial challenge to the management of boating access for present and future generations. This challenge is compounded by the need to consider ecosystem values and multiple use constraints when developing these limited resources. With Arizona's continued growth as well as its high per capita boat ownership, the demand for quality, water-related recreational opportunity continues to rise while the number of places to recreate remains static. As such, it is essential that the facilities and infrastructure that support the operational activities associated with managing Arizona's lakes and waterways are adequately designed, constructed and maintained to provide the highest degree of utility and value obtainable. Boating access activities focus on primary boating facilities (launching ramps, courtesy docks and parking lots) and have been quite successful in this regard. The Department will continue with these types of improvements and plans to expand its focus on secondary amenities. These secondary elements include continued access improvements for persons with disabilities and improvements such as fish cleaning stations, restrooms, boating access day-use areas, campsites, ramp and parking area lighting, and dump stations. Many improvements developed ten or more years ago are in need of rehabilitation or replacement because of extensive use. This will continue to optimize the spatial use of available recreational waterways and the facilities associated with their operation.

The primary focus of landowner relations involves habitat restoration and protection project on private and public lands. These activities incorporate coordinating and maintaining partnerships with private landowners and land management agencies, providing technical and financial assistance to partners to promote stewardship for wildlife habitats, and informing and the public on responsible recreational use, including impacts on wildlife resources, courtesy toward other recreationists and respect for private property rights. These efforts comprise of the following:

- Landowner Incentive: The Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2002, allocated \$40 million dollars from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to the states, for conservation grants under a Landowner Incentive Program (LIP). LIP is a grant program establishing a partnership among federal/state governments and private landowners. At the federal level administrative oversight will be provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (The Service). The Service will award grants to states for programs that enhance, protect and/or restore habitats that benefit federally listed species, proposed or candidate

species, or other at risk species on private lands. For the purposes of this program, other at risk species includes species of concern officially determined and documented by a State. The State role in the implementation of LIP is to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners for projects that meet the aforementioned criteria. The private landowner role is to provide the habitat necessary to accomplish the objectives of LIP.

- Identification, Inventory, Acquisition and Protection and Management (IIAPM non-acquisition) and Big Game (hunter donation) Stewardships: Under Arizona Revised Statute § 17-298(A), thirty six percent of the monies received pursuant to § 5-522, which established the Arizona Game and Fish Heritage Fund, shall be spent on IIAPM non-acquisition activities. In Section A2.20 (Commission Policy) of the Department Operating Manual the Arizona Game and Fish Commission places a high priority on the conservation of lands and waters within “Sensitive Habitats of Arizona.” The Stewardship Program provides technical management assistance to other agencies and the public, including private landowners, to enhance wildlife habitat and populations and other sensitive elements. Assistance can include use of heavy equipment, materials and labor.
- Public Land Access: Under Arizona Revised Statute § 17-298(A), five percent of the monies received pursuant to § 5-522, which established the Arizona Game and Fish Heritage Fund, shall be spent on public access. Further “public access” is defined in § 17-296(1) as entry to publicly held lands for recreational purposes where such entry is consistent with the provisions establishing those lands. In Section A2.20 (Commission Policy) of the Department Operating Manual the Arizona Game and Fish Commission places a high priority on preserving existing access to public and State Trust lands for hunting and fishing and on improving access to such lands in areas of the state where access to such lands is currently difficult or nonexistent. This policy directs the Department to seek such access to public lands in cooperation with the corresponding land management agency or landowner/lessee as appropriate.

OPERATIONAL APPROACHES

Sport Fish Restoration

Cold Water Fisheries

1. Reduce nutrient loading that often interferes with coldwater fisheries management by implementation of aquatic weed-harvesting or other technologies. (1.A.4, 1.A.6, 1.B.2, 2.A.4)
2. Improve in-stream habitat to accommodate larger populations of coldwater fish. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1, 1.B.3, 2.A.4)
3. Restore in-stream habitat to accommodate new populations of coldwater fish. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1, 1.B.3, 2.A.4)

4. Evaluate and improve where desirable, road development, trail development, fishing pier and boat ramp construction, fish cleaning stations, developed camping, parking, handicapped access and toilets. (1 B.1-3, 1 B.6, 2.A.4, 2.B.8, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.5-6)

Warm Water Fisheries

1. Examine current warm water habitat needs, and develop and implement habitat improvement plans. (1.A. 4-5, 1.B.1, 2.A.4, 2.B.8, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3)
2. Construct and compare effects of natural versus artificial habitat structures. (1.A.4-5, 1.B.1, 1.B.3, 1.B.6, 2.A.4, 2.B.8, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3)
3. Evaluate and improve, where desirable, angler access through road construction, trail development, fishing pier and boat ramp maintenance and construction. (1.B.1-3, 1.B.6, 2.A.4, 2.B.8, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3)

Game Species Restoration

1. Reduce the effects of drought and thermal stress on game species and other wildlife by constructing, redeveloping and maintaining wildlife water developments through established priorities that are delineated on the Department's water development implementation schedule. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1-6, 2.A.4-5, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6, 4.A.7)
2. Implement an annual process to establish up-to-date water (re)development needs and priorities, review the prior year's performance and assure the most efficient allocation of funds and deployment of Department-wide resources. (3.A.2, 3.A.4)
3. Utilize external contracting services to optimize efficiency and production capabilities for constructing and redeveloping wildlife waters. (3.A.2, 3.A.4)
4. Disperse recreational pressures and reduce off road resource damage by providing road, trail and fencing development and maintenance. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1-6, 2.A.4-5, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5, 4.A.7)
5. Preserve or improve habitat quality by providing fencing, vegetative manipulation, erosion control, and other habitat maintenance and development activities. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1-6, 2.A.4-5, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6, 4.A.7)
6. Reduce the effects of drought on game species and other wildlife by transporting water to critical catchment locations as required. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1-6, 2.A.4-5, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6, 4.A.7)

Boating Access Facilities

1. Improve boating access at lakes where boat launch ramps were not previously available or where access was limited to inferior or poorly maintained ramps. (1.B.2, 2.B.8, 3.B.2.)

2. Improve the condition and distribution of launch ramps at lakes with congested boat launching and retrieval. (1.B.2, 2.B.8, 3.B.2.)
3. Improve parking area developments to increase capacity for boat trailers, alleviate parking congestion, streamline parking efficiency, and provide a management opportunity to regulate watercraft numbers on the waterway resource. (1.B.2, 2.B.8, 3.B.2.)
4. Add or improve courtesy docks to provide safer and more convenient boarding, and alleviate congestion by providing a more efficient means of launching and retrieval. (1.B.2, 2.B.8, 3.B.2.)
5. Maintain boating access facilities owned by the Department, including those at Mittry Lake, Rainbow Lake, Show Low Lake, and Becker Lake. (3.B.1.)
6. Purchase and install boat washing stations and equipment to assist in the prevention of distribution of invasive aquatic species, as necessary. (1.A.4, 2.B.2)

Other Boating Related Facilities:

1. Add or improve pump-out systems to provide readily-accessible and inexpensive means of waste disposal, as well as to prevent water pollution. (2.B.8, 3.B.2.)
2. Add or improve tie-up facilities specifically built to accommodate watercraft over 26 feet in length. (1.B.2, 2.B.8, 3.B.2.)
3. Add or improve fish cleaning stations for public convenience and to alleviate improper disposal of fish carcasses. (1.B.1, 2.B.8, 3.B.2.)
4. Add or improve other facilities related to boating, including lighting, access roads, trailer maneuvering areas, boater day-use areas, boater information signage and information broadcasts, restrooms, etc. to satisfy public convenience and experiential needs. (1.B.2, 1.B.9, 2.A.3, 2.B.2, 2.B.8, 3.B.2.)
5. Assist other agencies with minor maintenance issues of boating facilities. (2.D.2-3.)

Anticipated Projects:

- Continued improvements to the boating access facilities at Rainbow Lake, Show Low Lake, Becker Lake, C.C. Cragin Reservoir (formerly Blue Ridge), and Lake Havasu at Winsor Beach State Park.
- Expansion of the Bagley Flat breakwater project at Saguaro Lake.
- Installation of a breakwater at Cholla launch ramp at Roosevelt Lake.
- Installation of a new courtesy dock at the Key Hole recreation area at Saguaro Lake.

- Installation of ADA-compliant courtesy docks at Larned Landing and Wren campsites at Lake Havasu.
- Extension of the launch ramps at Patagonia State Park.

Boating Aids to Navigation

1. Install and maintain buoys on waterways not under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service, including Alamo Lake and portions of Lake Havasu and the Lower Colorado River. (1.B.9, 2.B.2.)
2. Provide technical assistance and buoys to Department personnel for special projects and training efforts. (1.A.2, 2.B.7.)
3. Conduct installation and removal of buoys for seasonal Department waterfowl closure areas at Mittry Lake, Roosevelt Lake, Luna Lake and Becker Lake. (1.A.4-6)
4. Conduct installation and removal of buoys for bald eagle nest closure areas as necessary and depending on annual needs. (1.A.4-6)
5. Collect buoy type and location information on the Lower Colorado River in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard. (2.D.3.)
6. Provide technical assistance to other agencies on buoy installation procedures and maintenance. (2.D.3.)
7. In coordination with Department Regional and Boating Safety personnel and other agencies, develop and install signs related to boating safety statewide, as necessary. (1.B.9, 2.A.3, 2.B.2, 2.C.4, 2.D.2-4.)
8. Provide administrative oversight and coordination of Aids to Navigation Program. (1.B.6, 2.C.4, 2.D.2-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.4-5, 3.B.3, 4.A.7.)

Engineering Support

1. Plan and implement the department's Capital Outlay and Building Improvement budget. (1.A.6, 1.B.2, 1.B.3, 1.B.4, 1.B.5, 2.A.5, 2.B.3, 2.B.8, 2.C.4, 3.A.2, 3.A.3, 3.A.5, 3.B.1, 3.B.2, 3.B.3)

Projects for FY08 and FY09 are shown in the following table. Note, projects with asterisks will require either additional legislative approval or will be reliant and land management agency decisions.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS	FY 2008	FY 2009
PRIVATIZED LEASE PURCHASE		
New State Headquarters Project	X	
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND		
Seven Mile Range Water System Upgrade	X	
Robbins Butte Levee Repair/Ditch Conversion	X	
Becker Lake Facilities Improvements	X	
Little Colorado Footbridge at Becker Lake	X	
Yuma Regional Office/Remodel/Expansion*		X
Flagstaff Regional Office/Remodel/Expansion	X	
Statewide Shooting Range Access	X	X
Mesa Regional Office Paving Project		X
Tonto Creek Hatchery Improvements		X
Cluff Ranch Access Improvements	X	
Yuma Regional Office Storage Canopy	X	
Yuma Regional Office Security Improvements	X	
House Rock Water System/Shop Improvements	X	
Flagstaff Regional Shooting Range Facility*	X	X
Silver Creek Hatchery Improvements	X	
Lake Havasu Shooting Range Development*	X	X
Black Canyon Dam Modifications	X	
"ALERT" - Dams Warning System	X	X
Fool Hollow Dam Modifications	X	X
Statewide Equipment Shade Canopies	X	
WATERCRAFT FUND		
FOR2		
Construction of boat covers at the regional office.	X	
FOR3		
Construction of boat covers at the regional office and remote Aid Station facilities.	X	X
FOR4		
Construction of boat covers at the regional office.		X
FOR6		
Construction of boat covers at the regional office.	X	
SSHQ		
Boat Registration Kiosks, 6 @ \$30,000 ea FY	X	
SSDV		
Boat cover in storage area - New AGFD Headquarters	X	

2. Plan and implement the department's cyclic maintenance and building renewal budget. (1.A.6, 1.B.2, 1.B.3, 1.B.4, 1.B.5, 2.A.5, 2.B.3, 2.B.8, 2.C.4, 3.A.2, 3.A.3, 3.A.5, 3.B.1, 3.B.2, 3.B.3)

The Department's two year Cyclic Maintenance Plan is currently under preparation with annual allocation plans approved annually by legislative committee.

3. Maintain full, professionally competent technical staffing available for department wide programmatic and external customer support. (1.A.4, 1.A.6, 4.A.5)

Private Lands Stewardship

1. Provide funding to private landowners to enhance and restore Arizona's wildlife habitat resources for habitats and species of concern. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1-9, 2.B.1, 2.B.2, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6)
2. Provide funding to land management agencies to enhance and restore Arizona's wildlife habitat resources. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1-9, 2.A.4-5, 2.B.1-2, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6)
3. Attempt to match funds whenever possible with federal cost-share programs. (1.A.4-6, 2.B.2, 2.B.6-7, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6)
4. Provide technical assistance for the implementation of projects that benefit species and habitats at risk. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1-9, 2.B.1-2, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6)
5. Seek to expend each years allocation as provided by the Department. (3.B.2, 3.B.5-6)
6. Attempt to conduct at least one project positively impacting a riparian area each year. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1-9, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3)
7. Provide funding to private landowners to enhance and restore Arizona's wildlife habitat resources for At-risk species. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1-9, 2.B.1, 2.B.2, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6)
8. Seek to expend all funding received from US Fish & Wildlife Service within the 2-year period. (2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6)
9. Provide funding to private landowners to minimize the negative impacts of invasive species. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1-9, 2.B.1, 2.B.2, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6)
10. Provide funding to private landowners to improve quality and connectivity of habitats to support a variety of species. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1-9, 2.B.1, 2.B.2, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6)
11. Provide funding to private landowners to enhance and restore wildlife habitat resources for Big game species. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1-9, 2.B.1, 2.B.2, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6)

12. Focus efforts on grassland restoration within northern and eastern Arizona. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1-9, 2.B.1, 2.B.2, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6)
13. Attempt to match funds whenever possible with federal cost-share programs. (2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6)
14. Increase the opportunities for use and enjoyment of wildlife by increasing big game species populations. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1-9, 2.B.1, 2.B.2, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6)

Public Lands Access

1. Provide agreements and funding to private landowner to enhance and restore wildlife habitat in exchange for recreational opportunities. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1-9, 2.B.1, 2.B.2, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6)
2. Attempt to match funds whenever possible with federal cost-share programs. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1-9, 2.B.1, 2.B.2, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6)
3. Create multiple short-term agreements, which provide funding to Private landowners to conduct habitat enhancement to provide for sustainable use of wildlife by people. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1-9, 2.B.1, 2.B.2, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6)
4. Provide access to federal and private property for the public to recreate on as opportunities arise. (1.B.1-9, 2.B.1, 2.B.2, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3)
5. Coordinate volunteer activities that benefit Arizona's wildlife such as development of watering facilities. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1-9, 2.B.1, 2.B.2, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.6)
6. Coordinate and initiate multiple volunteer activities that assist in the modification of fencing to allow for the passage of pronghorn antelope. (1.A.4-6, 1.B.1-9, 2.B.1, 2.B.2, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.6)
7. Increase the opportunities for use and enjoyment of wildlife by maintaining areas for the public to recreate. (1.B.1-9, 2.B.1, 2.B.2, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3)
8. Increase participation in wildlife –oriented recreational activities, by providing volunteer opportunities for sporting and out-door groups. (1.B.1-9, 2.B.1, 2.B.2, 2.C.4, 2.D.1-3)

Interagency Cooperative/Cost Sharing

1. Work cooperatively with US Fish & Wildlife Service to promote and utilize funding from their Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program. (2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6)

2. Work cooperatively with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service to promote and cost-share using Farm bill programs. (2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6)
3. Work cooperatively with the Arizona Department of Agriculture to promote and utilize funding from the Livestock Crop Conservation Grant Program (LCCGP) to enhance and restore wildlife habitat. (2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6)
4. Attempt to match funds whenever possible with federal cost-share programs (2.C.4, 2.D.1-3, 3.A.2, 3.A.5-6)

LINKAGES TO OTHER OPERATIONAL PLANS

1. Business Administration Program
 - Purchasing
 - Materials/ Contractor Procurement
 - Human Resources
 - Volunteer Coordination
 - Funds/ Planning
 - Assistance Agreement and Budget Management
2. Game Subprogram
 - SBTG Funds/ HPC Process
 - Big Game
 - Small Game/ Migratory Birds
3. Nongame Subprogram
 - Specialized Wildlife Projects for all non-game species
4. Habitat Project
 - Project Evaluation Program
 - Lands
 - HDMS
 - GIS
 - Property Acquisition
 - Rights-of-Way
5. Research Project
 - Terrestrial Research
 - Aquatic Research
 - Water Quality/ Wildlife use Water Quality/ Wildlife use
6. Education Project
 - Hunter Recruitment and Retention Projects
7. Wildlife Areas Project