

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
SUBSTANTIVE POLICY STATEMENT
SP.007 - A2.33



A2.33 Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund Expenditures

This substantive policy statement is advisory only. A substantive policy statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona administrative procedure act. If you believe that this substantive policy statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties you may petition the agency under Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1033 for a review of the statement.

Administration of the Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund is vested with the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. All monies in the Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund shall be spent by the Commission to conserve, enhance, and restore Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and habitats for the present and future generations.

The Game and Fish Commission deems the mandate of the public initiative to include the expenditure of funds for shooting ranges and shooting sports programs because these programs are integrally and historically part of our wildlife management mission.

One of the most important wildlife conservation programs ever enacted was the Federal Aid to Wildlife Conservation Act of 1937. This legislation has channeled billions of dollars directly back to the states for wildlife conservation activities through an excise tax on firearms, ammunition and other related sporting equipment. The funds generated are directed to support wildlife management programs, habitat acquisition, hunter education, development of wildlife areas and shooting ranges.

A.R.S. 17-231 authorizes the expenditure of funds for training in the safe and legal handling of firearms, and this responsibility is integral to the wildlife management duties of the Commission related to prescribing the manner and methods that may be used in taking wildlife in order to maintain a balance between wildlife populations and habitat capacity.

This substantive policy is also published in the:
Arizona Game and Fish Department Operating Manual
Section A: Information and Commission Policies
Chapter 2: Commission Policies
Policy 33: Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund Expenditures