



Arizona Game and Fish Department Wildlife Matters

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47th 2nd Regular Session



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Summer Tours Available!



47th Legislature Adjourns

The 47th Legislature adjourned on June 22nd. The Department would like to thank each lawmaker who played an integral role in passing the budget that included key capitol projects like dam modifications and flood warning systems to protect Arizonans. As part of our thank you we would like to offer tours to you and your staff to learn more about the Department and our management of Arizona's wildlife. (*See below-contact the Department at 602-789-3533 for more information*)

Summer Tour Packages

Wildlife Viewing Tour – dates apply

Choose a species or place you would like to go and view wildlife.

- View California Condors
- Go on an Elk Survey (late August)
- Urban wildlife, see the effects of feeding wildlife first hand.
- Capture Big Horn Sheep, Elk and other species for collaring.

Border Impact Tour – flexible dates

This tour shows the impact of illegal immigration on border habitat as well as international cooperation and projects on the border.

- Aerial viewing of improved wildlife habitat and wildlife refuges
- Viewing of dumpsites, polluted catchments and damaged habitat

Law Enforcement Patrols – flexible dates (choose one or more)

Ride along with a Game Ranger or join a “wolf-pack” OUI patrol on an Arizona Lake.

- OUI “wolf-pack” patrol
- Check License and tags during a hunt season
- Check guide and fishing licenses on the Colorado River.

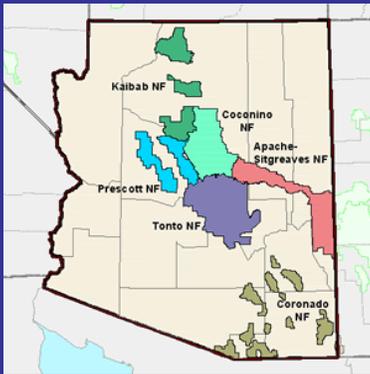
Wildlife Habitat Tour (choose your area of the state!) –flexible dates

This tour shows how wildlife habitat in Arizona is slowly eroding and what we can do to help stop this.

- Aerial viewing of improved wildlife habitat and denigrated habitat.
- View projects going on in your area. (water catchments,etc.)
- Learn about OHV (off-highway vehicle) use on public lands.



Roadless Areas



I want to Learn to ? Tour- flexible dates

Choose what you want to learn and schedule a date!

- Learn about the Department's shooting ranges and shoot some targets!
- Learn how to fish! Try fly-fishing or cast a spin rod.

Create your own tour

This list of tours is not exhaustive. There are many projects the Department is involved in that are not listed. What are you concerned with at the legislature? Make it a tour! Call the department for more details!

Public Input Sought on Management of Arizona's Roadless Areas

PHOENIX - The Arizona Game and Fish Department is seeking input from the public on how it would like to see the state's roadless areas managed. A series of informational open houses will be held around the state in July and August, and written comment will be accepted until Aug. 31.

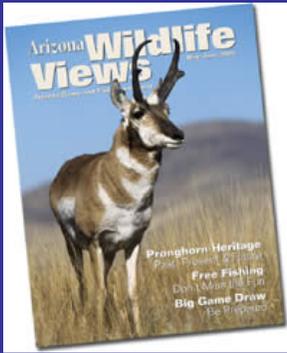
The input will assist Gov. Janet Napolitano and the department in developing Arizona's petition to the USDA Forest Service requesting specific management requirements for some or all of 1.2 million acres of inventoried roadless areas in six national forests in Arizona.

The Forest Service issued a revised rule in 2005 that allows state governors to petition the Secretary of Agriculture with specific management recommendations for inventoried roadless areas in their states. The states have until November 2006 to complete the petition and submit it for review and approval.

The original Roadless Rule (and the interim directive in place until states complete their petition processes) conserves roadless values while allowing for current public access and recreational opportunities, including hiking, camping, hunting and fishing; management of habitat for more than 1,500 species of fish and wildlife, including threatened, endangered or sensitive plant and animal species; and protection of clean water from forest headwaters and streams.

The rule also allows construction of temporary roads under specified circumstances, such as to fight forest fires or to implement actions that reduce the risk of wildfire, for public safety and resource purposes. The rule doesn't change states' or private landowners' rights to access their land. The management of any existing roads within the inventoried roadless areas will be evaluated during the transportation planning process associated with the future revision of individual forest land management plans. To comment contact the Department.

Wildlife Views



Wildlife Views Receives 5 Top Awards for Excellence in National Competition!

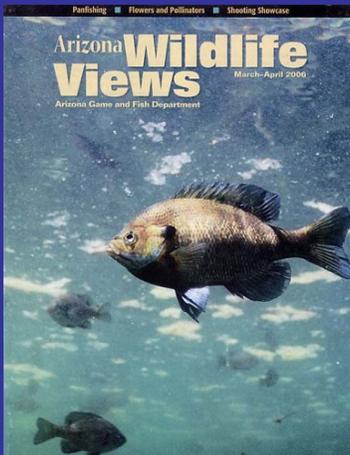
PHOENIX - "Arizona Wildlife Views," the Arizona Game and Fish Department's popular PBS wildlife television program, is being recognized with five "Excellence in Craft Awards" from the Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA). The national awards recognize the highest ethical and communications standards, messages about conservation of natural resources and mentors for the next generation of professional outdoor communicators.

Arizona Game and Fish's video segment "Pull," won the President's Choice Award for video of the year and took first place in the Shooting Sports competition. "Pull," produced by Gary Schafer, highlights the Scholastic Clay Target Program that offers young men and women in grades 12 and under the opportunity to compete as a team in skeet, sporting clays and trap for state and national championships, as well as college scholarship money. This was the first year of Arizona's scholastic Clay Target Program, and it already has more than 400 young participants and more than 90 certified instructors.

Game and Fish also swept the Conservation/Environment category, which recognizes excellence in communicating issues and answers that affect conservation and the environment, with the following videos:

- First place: "Fossil Creek," Carol Lynde, Producer: One chapter in Arizona history ended and another began when the Arizona Public Service Company discontinued operations at two historic hydroelectric power plants and allowed natural water flows to resume their journey down 14 miles of Fossil Creek.
- Second Place: "Onery the Eagle," Gary Schafer, Producer: A young bald eagle that was driven from its nest by aggressive bees goes through four months of rehabilitation and is released back into the wild.
- Third Place: "Tres Rios Beaver," Gary Schafer, Producer: An area just west of Phoenix is being developed into a wildlife paradise; rivers and desert are being converted into an area people can go to see and hear wild animals of many species and types. One part of the Tres Rios project involves the management of the beaver population in the area.

The 13-episode season of "Arizona Wildlife Views" airs on PBS channels KAET TV 8, Phoenix and KUAT TV 6, Tucson. For more information on the show and on the production team, visit azgfd.gov. For more information on OWAA, visit the organization's Web site at owaa.org.



Wolves



July Events

New Wolf Pack to be Released in Arizona

PINETOP, Ariz. -- A pack of four Mexican gray wolves will be placed in a temporary holding pen, located near Middle Mountain in the Apache National Forest, in preparation for the endangered animals' release in Arizona. Arizona Game and Fish Department officials say the wolves will be moved to the pen site during the first week of July in order to meet ongoing wolf reintroduction objectives.

The family group, called the Meridian pack, consists of an alpha male and female and two pups. The pack will stay in a nylon mesh, low-impact acclimation pen for up to two weeks. If they do not release themselves by the end of that period, then wolf project biologists will free them.

The pen site, about 10 miles southwest of Alpine, Ariz., will have a signed, one-mile public closure surrounding it, ordered by the USDA Forest Service, to protect the wolves from disturbance. The closure will remain in effect while the wolves occupy the area.

"The Meridian pack release is part of an interagency program begun in 1998 to reintroduce Mexican wolves to a portion of their historic habitat in east-central Arizona and southwestern New Mexico," says Shawn Farry, the department's wolf project field team leader. "With this release, we are attempting to augment the breeding wolf population now in the wild and also to maintain the genetic diversity of the current population."

Farry says that despite recent setbacks, the project is still progressing. "Existing packs are doing well, with most producing pups this year, and new packs are forming. The Meridian pack will join nine other packs now living in the wild in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area in Arizona and New Mexico." He also notes that the Middle Mountain release site was chosen in close coordination with the public and with approval from the USDA Forest Service.

The reintroduction of the Mexican gray wolf is a cooperative, multi-agency effort of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, White Mountain Apache Tribe, USDA Forest Service and USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services.

July Dates and Events

July 8, 2006

6:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Saguaro Harvest Celebration

Celebrate the Saguaro! Learn its legends, lore, and natural history at this annual festival. The luscious red saguaro fruit is traditionally harvested as part of the Tohono O'odham summer rain celebrations. There are two ways to participate!



Attend the interactive workshop: You will make a fruit-picker, harvest the fruit, and make your own syrup, guided by our expert presenters, Tohono O'odham tribe member Regina Siqueros and naturalist Bill Peachey. The workshop runs from 6:30 A.M. till the syrup is made, and includes breakfast and lunch featuring O'odham-inspired foods (\$60.00 per adult, \$45.00 for 12 and under). Register early, as there is a cap of 35 participants.

Can't make the workshop? Join us at 11:00 A.M. to talk to the presenters, watch O'odham dancers, listen to the Chicken Scratch Band, see basket-making demonstrations, and taste freshly-made saguaro syrup. Come hungry--the delectable Native Foods lunch will be available. The event will be held at the Park's 128-year-old La Posta Quemada Ranch facility. Presented by the Pima County Parklands Foundation. Please call 647-7121 for information or to register for the workshop. (In lieu of July Sunday in The Park.)

July 11, 2006

6:30 p.m.

Wildlife of the Arizona Strip

Rodd Buck and Luke Thompson will present "Wildlife of the AZ Strip" as part of the 2006 Wildlife Speaker Series. The presentation will be held at Bureau of Land Management's Strip Field office at 345 East Riverside Drive in St. George, Utah.

July 15, 2006

8:30 a.m.

Learn Your Lizards Guided Walk

Native lizards big as bratwurst and with brilliant blue bellies scamper across the trails at Boyce Thompson Arboretum during Summertime to do comical pushups that display their abs of azure. Come "Learn Your Lizards" on a tour with Mesa Community College Professor Andy Baldwin. Kids will enjoy this family-friendly walk on the third Saturday each month; it teaches why Arizona's charismatic little reptiles have blue bellies and other Sonoran Desert adaptations. Meet at the Visitor Center at 8:30 a.m.; bring binoculars if you have them and make sure to carry water and wear sunscreen and a hat. Daily park admission of \$7.50 for adults and \$3 for ages 5-12 includes this tour. Visit www.ag.arizona.edu/BTA for more information.

July 15, 2006

6:00 p.m.

Arizona Wildlife Federation Trophy Banquet

The Arizona Wildlife Federation's Thirty-Sixth Annual Trophy Book Awards Banquet will be held on July 15, 2006, at the Mesa Hilton. This year's Arizona's Big Game trophy head display will once again feature the current year winners, as well as some champions from the past. Join us as we recognize the recipients of the 2005 Trophy Awards and honor the remarkable Big Game wildlife of Arizona. Your support for the raffles and fantastic silent auction will help AWF generate monies to fund wildlife habitat restoration projects across the state.



Contact www.azwildlife.org for more information.

July 22, 2006

9:30 a.m.

Butterflies of Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Bring along binoculars for the most dazzling display of colorful Butterfly species including Queen, Sulphur and Pipevine Swallowtail. This special guided outing is offered on the fourth Saturday each month with Education Coordinator Chris Kline, who will bring along his butterfly net and capture a few to allow kids a close up look at these insects during the tour. Meet at the Visitor Center at 9:30 a.m. in Superior, AZ. Make sure to carry water and wear sunscreen and a hat. Daily park admission of \$7.50 for adults and \$3 for ages 5-12 includes this tour. Visit www.ag.arizona.edu/BTA for more information.



July 22, 2006

10:00 a.m.

Beginning Bird Watching

The 2006 Wildlife Speaker Series will feature "Beginning Bird Watching" presented by Andi Rogers and Susi MacVean. The presentation will be held at the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Flagstaff office located at 3500 South Lake Mary Road. Please Call the Flagstaff Office to sign up at (928)-774-5045.

July 28, 29, and 30, 2006

Three days

Arizona Trappers Association Annual Convention

Arizona Trappers Association annual convention in Globe, AZ. For additional information, contact Don or Joan Rohla at 928-636-0585 or e-mail at jkr0928az@yahoo.com or Park Romney at 928-428-6952. Arizona Trappers web site: www.angelfire.com/az2/ATA.



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Department Staff have contributed to this publication in the form of articles and photographs.

July 3, 2006

Wildlife Matters

AZGFD Legislative Affairs Division