



# WEEKLY REPORT

## ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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## Arizona Game and Fish Commission

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Kurt R. Davis, Vice Chair-Phoenix  
Edward P. Madden, Flagstaff  
James R. Ammons, Yuma  
John W. Harris, Tucson

Publish Date: Friday, February 20, 2015

Day of Session: 40  
Bills Posted: 1138  
Bills Passed: 5  
Bills Vetoed: 0  
Bills Signed: 2  
Mem, Res Posted: 83  
Mem, Res Passed: 3

### February Session Deadlines

20 Last day for House consideration of House bills and Senate consideration of Senate bills.

**Weekly Report** is published by the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Legislative and Government Affairs Division. While the state's Legislature is in session, legislative staff provides a summary of bills that pertain to the Department, or that the Arizona Game and Fish Commission has voted to support or oppose, and a tracking list of bills that may have potential impacts to the state's wildlife and wildlife resources. The Legislative and Government Affairs staff also actively monitors and reports on Congressional Legislation with potential impacts to the Department, and those reports (Congressional Courant) are also available online at: [AZGFD Government Affairs](#)

### **Legislative News:**

Today was the last day for House consideration of House bills and Senate consideration of Senate bills. Long committee agendas were common place and some controversial bills were ardently debated. Few committees are meeting next week and lengthy Third Read calendars are expected.

#### Commission Sponsored Legislation

##### **HB2365: off-highway vehicles; enforcement**

Peace officers and other duly authorized state employees are no longer limited to enforcing off-highway vehicle regulations only on land solely under state or county jurisdiction or land that is open as indicated by federal law.

Disposition: 2/19 Passed Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee 9-0

Position: Support

##### **HB2396: wildlife; guides; firearms**

A person acting as a wildlife guide is no longer prohibited from carrying firearms other than a revolver or pistol.

Disposition: Passed the House 57-1. 2/25 hearing in Senate Government Committee

Position: Support

##### **HB2399: G&F; hunter harassment**

The list of violations for which the Game and Fish Commission is authorized to revoke or suspend a license to take or possess wildlife is expanded to include intentionally interfering with, preventing or disrupting the lawful taking of wildlife.

Disposition: Passed the House 58-0. Referred to Senate Natural Resources Committee.

Position: Support

**SB1386: wildlife transportation and release prohibition**

It is unlawful for a "person" (defined as an individual, partnership, corporation, group, company, society, the federal government, state or local government or any political subdivision) to knowingly and without lawful authority import and transport into Arizona and release within Arizona a species of wildlife that is listed as a threatened, endangered or candidate species under the federal Endangered Species Act. Violations are a class 4 (mid-level) felony, except that violations with the intent to disrupt or interfere with the development or use of public natural resources to establish the presence of the species in an area not currently known to be occupied by that species is a class 2 (second-highest) felony. It is unlawful for a person to release wildlife except as expressly permitted by state statute.

Disposition: 2/16 Passed Senate Natural Resources 6-0. Awaiting Rules Committee action.

Position: Support

**SB1387: recreational user immunity; access**

For the purpose of a property owner or occupant being immune from liability except in cases of negligence for injury to a "recreational user" of the property (defined as a person to whom permission has been granted or implied without the payment of an admission fee to travel across or enter for various recreational pursuits), payment by a state agency to an owner or lessee for public recreational access to the premises is not considered payment of an admission fee.

Disposition: 2/16 Passed Senate Natural Resources 6-0. On Rules Calendar for 2/23.

Position: Support

**SB1466: Livestock loss board; compensation fund**

Establishes a 9-member Livestock Loss Board to address the depredation of wolves on livestock operations. The Board is required to establish and implement procedures to compensate landowners, lessees or livestock operators for livestock depredation caused by wolves. The Livestock Compensation Fund is established for this purpose. The Board is required to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31 of each year that includes specified information on the compensation and any recommendations. The Board terminates on July 1, 2023. On February 6<sup>th</sup>, the Commission voted to support this bill contingent on amendment language that would protect and clarify eligible compensation funds as funds appropriated from the state general funds and not Arizona Game and Fish Department funds. This bill was amended ([amendment #4111](#)) to change the language of the bill but did not substantially change the purpose of the bill.

Disposition: 2/18 Passed Senate Appropriations 5-2. On Rules Calendar for 2/23.

Position: Support

**Commission Supported Legislation**

**HB2236: ATV and motorcycle passengers**

A person other than the operator is prohibited from riding on a motorcycle or all-terrain vehicle unless the motorcycle or ATV is equipped, instead of designed, to carry more than one person. On February 6<sup>th</sup>, the Commission voted to support this bill.

Disposition: 2/19 passed House 49-8 with a COW floor [Amendment](#).

Position: Support

**SB1185: appropriation; wolf recovery; litigation costs**

Appropriates \$250,000 from the general fund in FY2015-16 to the Department of law for litigation expenses relating to a challenge against any expansion of the Mexican wolf recovery program in Arizona. On February 6<sup>th</sup>, the Commission voted to support this legislation contingent on appropriate language change to reflect consistency with the Commission supported, Final Revision to the Regulations for the Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexican Wolf issued by the USFWS on January 12, 2015.

Disposition: 2/19 Passed Senate 18-11.

Position: Support

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**A Quick Reference to the Department's  
Monitored, Opposed, and Supported Legislation**  
*To view the most current language please click the links below.*

**MONITOR**

**SUPPORT**

**OPPOSE**

**LEGEND**

- Monitor – The Game and Fish Department is monitoring the progress of these measures, and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission has not taken a position.
- Oppose – The Arizona Game and Fish Commission has voted to oppose these bills.
- Support – The Arizona Game and Fish Commission has voted to support these bills

**If you have questions relating to legislation, please contact:  
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This publication may be found online: [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov)**