



# WEEKLY REPORT

## ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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## Arizona Game and Fish Commission

John W. Harris, Chairman  
Robert E. Mansell  
Kurt R. Davis  
Edward P. Madden  
Jim Ammons

Publish Date: Friday, March 21, 2014

Day of Session:	68
Bills Posted:	1204
Bills Passed:	7
Bills Vetoed:	1
Bills Signed:	6
Mem, Res Posted:	109
Mem, Res Passed:	16

**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](http://AZGFD Government Affairs)

**News:** The Senate introduced their version of the budget followed quickly by the House, the House will being the budget process on Monday with an expected final vote on Tuesday.

## Commission Sponsored Legislation

### [HB 2303 permits or tags; transfer; veterans](#)

**Summary:** The Game and Fish Commission is authorized to prescribe the manner and conditions of transferring and using big game permits and tags to allow a person to transfer a permit or tag to a qualified organization for use by a veteran of the U.S. armed forces who has a service-connected disability.

**Disposition:** 3/12 from Senate nat res-rural do pass

**Position:** Support

### [SB 1118 hunting on private land; trespassing](#)

**Summary:** The list of circumstances under which the entry of a person for the taking of wildlife is grounds for an action for criminal trespassing is expanded to include that the person knowingly remains unlawfully on the property after a reasonable request to leave by a law enforcement officer acting at the request of the owner.

**Disposition:** 3/18 to House consent calendar

**Position:** Support

## Commission Supported Legislation

### [HB 2443 hunting and fishing licenses; military](#)

**Summary:** Any active duty member of the U.S. armed forces stationed in Arizona for either permanent or temporary duty is permitted to purchase a residential license permitting the taking of wildlife. Previously, the member was required to be stationed in Arizona for a period of 30 days immediately preceding the date of application for the license.

**Disposition:** 3/19 Senate nat res-rural do pass

**Position:** Support

[SB 1212 appropriations; wolf recovery; litigation costs](#)

**Summary:** Appropriates \$250,000 from the general fund in FY2014-15 to the Department of Law for litigation expenses relating to **any** expansion of the Mexican Wolf recovery program in Arizona. The bill was [amended](#) by the sponsor.

**Disposition:** 3/11 from House energy do pass

**Position:** Support

[HB 2003 watercraft; civil and criminal penalties](#)

**Summary:** Establishes civil penalties for a person who operated a motorized watercraft and refuses to submit to a test for alcohol concentration or drug content, to be deposited in the Prison Construction and Operations Fund and the Law Enforcement and Boating Safety Fund. Monies from civil and criminal penalties for operating a motorized watercraft while under the influence are deposited in the Law Enforcement and Boating Safety Fund instead of the Public Safety Equipment Fund.

**Disposition:** 3/18 Senate Jud do-pass

**Position:** Support

## **Budget Bills**

[SB 1485 budget; general appropriations; FY2014-15](#)

**Summary:** General appropriations “feed” bill that appropriates a variety of funds to the Game and Fish Department. (\$34,347,800 lump sum)

**Disposition:** Passed Senate 16-13

[SB 1492 budget; brb; environment; FY2014-15](#)

**Summary:** Makes policy changes pertaining to environmental regulation that affect the state budget. The Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission is permitted to grant to the Department of Water Resources up to \$336,000 of the unobligated balance in the Fund to pay for administrative costs of the Dept in FY2014-15. The Dept is authorized to increase fees in FY2013-14 to generate revenue up to \$100,200. The Arizona State Parks Board is authorized to spend up to \$692,100 from the Board’s portion of the Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund in FY2014-15 for Board operating expenses. Suspends the administrative cap on the Underground Storage Tank Assurance Account for FY2014-15 and allows the Department of Environmental Quality to transfer a combined total of \$6.5 million from the Account for administrative costs of the Dept. Caps the general fund appropriation to the Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund at \$7 million. The State Parks Board is required to establish the Yarnell Hill Memorial State Park subject to specified conditions. Establishes a 15-member Yarnell Hill Memorial Site Board (Site Board) to determine whether to establish a memorial dedicated to the members of the Granite Mountain Hotshot Crew who lost their lives fighting the Yarnell Hill Fire at the location where the crew lost their lives, work with interested parties to design and construct the memorial, and solicit private monetary donations or public monies for deposit in the newly created Yarnell Hill Memorial Fund. The Site Board is required to submit a report on the progress of the memorial to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31, 2015. The Site Board self-repeals on January 1, 2017. Appropriates \$500,000 from the general fund in FY2013-14 to the State Parks Board to purchase the Yarnell Hill Memorial site.

**Disposition:** Passed Senate 16-13

[HB 2703 budget; general appropriations; FY2014-15](#)

**Summary:** General appropriations “feed” bill that appropriates a variety of funds to the Game and Fish Department. (\$34,347,800 lump sum)

**Disposition:** 3/24 House Appropriations Hearing

[HB 2707 budget; brb; environment; FY2014-15](#)

**Summary:** Makes policy changes pertaining to environmental regulation that affect the state budget. The Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission is permitted to grant to the Department of Water Resources up to \$336,000 of the unobligated balance in the Fund to pay for administrative costs of the Dept in FY2014-15. The Dept is authorized to increase fees in FY2013-14 to generate revenue up to \$100,200. The Arizona State Parks Board is authorized to spend up to \$692,100 from the Board’s portion of the Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund in FY2014-15 for Board operating expenses. Suspends the administrative cap on the Underground Storage Tank Assurance Account for FY2014-15 and allows the Department of Environmental Quality to transfer a combined total of \$6.5 million from the Account for administrative costs of the Dept. Caps the general fund appropriation to the Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund at \$7 million. The State Parks Board is required to establish the Yarnell Hill Memorial State Park subject to specified conditions. Establishes a 15-member Yarnell Hill Memorial Site Board (Site Board) to determine whether to establish a memorial dedicated to the members of the Granite Mountain Hotshot Crew who lost their lives fighting the Yarnell Hill Fire at the location where the crew lost their lives, work with interested parties to design and construct the memorial, and solicit private monetary donations or public monies for deposit in the newly created Yarnell Hill Memorial Fund. The Site Board is required to submit a report on the progress of the memorial to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31, 2015. The Site Board self-repeals on January 1, 2017. Appropriates \$500,000 from the general fund in FY2013-14 to the State Parks Board to purchase the Yarnell Hill Memorial site.

**Disposition:** 3/24 House Appropriations Hearing

## **Other Bills of Interest**

[SB 1211 Mexican wolf; taking reporting](#)

**Summary:** This bill was heavily amended by the sponsor to permit an ADA employee to take any wolf that has been documented or caught in the act of killing livestock pursuant to an agreement between ADA and the USFWS. Allows a landowner or lessee, who is a livestock operator or their agents, to take a wolf if the wolf is:

- a) actually engaged in the act of killing, wounding or biting livestock;
- b) taken by livestock guarding dogs; or
- c) taken in self-defense of the lives of others and the take is reported as specified.

Requires AGFD to do all of the following:

- a) request from the USFWS a full DNA profile on each animal reintroduced in Arizona as part of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program;
- b) request from the USFWS a quarterly report of all incidences in which a wolf harms, kills or harasses a human or livestock; and
- c) notify private landowners, permittees or lessees of federal land within the allotment area where wolves are released or held for release at the time of the placement of the wolves in the area.

**Disposition:** 3/11 from House energy do-pass

[SB 1267 natural resource management; state agencies](#)

**Summary:** The State Land Department, Department of Water Resources, Department of Environmental Quality and Arizona Game and Fish Department are required to monitor federal natural resource management issues that impact federal lands located in Arizona, encourage increased cooperation with federal agencies and submit comments as necessary regarding federal regulations impacting natural resource management of federal lands in Arizona, and inform the Legislature of federal natural resource management issues considered to be of statewide importance.

**Disposition:** a [strike everything amendment](#) has been adopted relating to livestock cruelty, not a bill of interest now.

#### [SB 1268 natural resource protection fund](#)

**Summary:** Establishes the Natural Resource Protection and Preservation Fund, to be administered by the State Forester. An amount sufficient for the balance of the Fund to be at least an unspecified amount (blank in original) is appropriated from the general fund on July 1 of each year. Specifies conditions and purposes for which monies in the Fund may be spent. Appropriates an unspecified amount (blank in original) from the general fund in FY2014-15 to the Fund.

**Disposition:** Dead

#### [SB 1292 Arizona resource advisory council](#)

**Summary:** Establishes a 15-member Arizona Resource Advisory Council to act as an advisory body regarding the planning and management of federal land resources in Arizona. The Council must submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31 of each year. The Council terminates on July 1, 2024.

**Disposition:** 3/19 passed House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources

#### [SB 1458 conservation land; purpose; ownership](#)

**Summary:** The county assessor is required to identify land used for "conservation purposes" (defined), and the Department of Revenue is required to create a new identifiable property use code for conservation land.

**Disposition:** Dead

#### [SCR 1006 Mexican wolf; population rule](#)

**Summary:** The members of the Legislature support focusing future Mexican Wolf introduction efforts on remote areas within the northern Sierra Madre Occidental mountain range, support shifting primary responsibility for administration of the Mexican Wolf introduction program in Arizona and New Mexico to the game and fish departments of those states, and believe that private landowners in Arizona and New Mexico should be authorized to take Mexican Wolves that are killing, wounding or threatening humans, pets or livestock on private land.

**Disposition:** 3/10 passed House energy

#### [HB 2127 wildlife; guides; firearms](#)

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

**Disposition:** Dead

#### [HB 2699 endangered species programs; rescission; reimbursement](#)

**Summary:** A landowner or lessee who is a livestock operator is authorized to take a wolf in self-defense or the defense of the lives of others if the taking is reported within 24 hours to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Establishes a Federal Reimbursement Fund consisting of monies obtained from the federal government by the Attorney General, to be used to reimburse the state for the use of property and private property owners for damage to property in the current areas of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program. The Attorney General is required to take all steps necessary to obtain from the federal government monies sufficient to pay for all reimbursements, and to work with the State Land Department and private landowners to establish land use agreements with the federal government to compensate the state and private landowners for the use and diminution in value of their lands as a result of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program. Contains legislative findings.

**Disposition:** 3/21 passed Senate Gov, environment

### **A Quick Reference to the Department's Monitored, Supported, and Opposed 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)**