



WEEKLY REPORT

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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Arizona Game and Fish Commission

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Publish Date: Friday, March 7, 2014

Day of Session:	54
Bills Posted:	1186
Bills Passed:	7
Bills Vetoed:	1
Bills Signed:	6
Mem, Res Posted:	108
Mem, Res Passed:	15

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:

The House and Senate moved a significant number of bills to the other chambers, committee meetings should resume next week.

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: 3/5 referred to Senate nat res-rural

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: Passed Senate 30-0, 2/20 referred to House Public Safety and Military and Regulatory Affairs

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: 2/26 referred to Senate nat res-rural

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: referred to house energy, approps hearing in House energy 3/10

Position: Support

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: Passed Senate 18-12, ready for House

[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: 2/26 referred to 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 hearing in House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources

[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: 3/5 passed House 58-0 ready for Senate

[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: 2/19 referred to Senate nat res-rural

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

Summary: The Game and Fish Department is required to cease participation in all programs under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 if they are "programs that were not cooperatively implemented" (defined). All species of wildlife that were introduced under these programs and offspring of that wildlife must be removed from Arizona by January 1, 2015. All

threatened or endangered species programs in effect on the effective date of this legislation are terminated on August 31, 2014 unless the program is approved by a majority vote of the state Legislature. Establishes a Federal Reimbursement Fund consisting of monies obtained from the federal government by the Attorney General, to be used to reimburse persons who sustained losses from actions by wildlife that were introduced under programs that were not cooperatively implemented or other aspects of the programs. Emergency clause.

Disposition: 3/4 passed House Rules, floor amendment expected.

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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