

Public Purpose Served by This Event:

Arizona manages wildlife based on the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation (NAM). Under the NAM, wildlife is managed and conserved by states, through the efforts of agencies like the Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department), in trust for the citizens of the United States. By managing and conserving wildlife, the Department provides all citizens in good standing an equal opportunity to enjoy wildlife-related recreation, such as hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, wildlife viewing, and trapping. In turn, revenue generated from participation in hunting, fishing, shooting, and trapping provides the majority of the funding for state wildlife conservation efforts.

In effect, the NAM has created a positive feedback loop. This loop is defined as follows: Game species are managed such that a harvestable surplus may be provided for wildlife related recreation such as hunting, angling, and wildlife viewing; the revenue generated from wildlife related recreation (sale of licenses and tags and excise taxes on sporting goods equipment) funds the management of all wildlife, including species for which people may neither hunt nor fish. If one element of the positive feedback loop falters there is potential for the other to be impacted.

The national trend for participation in hunting, angling, trapping, and shooting has been declining in Arizona and nation-wide. The decline in participation in wildlife related recreation has affected budgets and the ability of agencies like the Department to manage wildlife. As such the Department has been focusing on recruitment of new and retention of existing hunters, anglers, trappers and shooters in order to preserve the positive feedback loop between wildlife conservation and wildlife related recreation.

Sportsmen's groups have been the driving force behind wildlife management policy in Arizona and the United States. Sportsmen's groups have advocated for and demanded revisions in wildlife policy, law and regulation. They have secured funding to contribute to habitat management and been a source of connecting community members to wildlife related recreation in communities throughout Arizona. In the middle part of the last decade, the Department realized, as did most fish and wildlife management agencies in the Country, that it must begin working on not only the recruitment of new and retention of existing wildlife recreation participants, but the health of sportsmen's groups as well.

Many agencies, including the Department, believe that the future of wildlife conservation is tied very closely to two things: Longevity and health of sportsmen's groups, and vigorous participation in wildlife related recreation. In the late 2000s The Department began working to provide recruitment and retention events designed to teach people how to hunt, fish, trap, and enjoy wildlife (to increase participation in wildlife related

recreation). The primary target audience for recruitment and retention events is people with no experience in the outdoors. The Department realized there is no chance to have any appreciable impact on participation by doing the work alone because it doesn't have the capacity. It also realized, if the Department failed to take successful action, the ability to manage wildlife may become compromised due to decreased revenue from declining participation, and indifference toward wildlife conservation issues by a disconnected public.. The success of local sportsmen's groups like ours significantly affects the future of wildlife conservation in Arizona.

- The Department has been looking to groups like ours for assistance in recruiting and retaining hunters, anglers trappers, and shooters.
- The desired outcome of these events to enable people to become proficient in the outdoors, which fulfills the public purpose of ensuring the long-term viability of the NAM
- Recruitment and retention of wildlife related recreationists is critical to the future of wildlife conservation on behalf of the citizens of Arizona because it helps the Department fulfill its mission
- By conducting this event, which we would be unable to do without this grant, our organization is completing high priority work that the Department would otherwise be unable to perform
- By conducting this event, we believe our organization may grow in membership, which in turn helps our organization support the Department and the NAM.