



Arizona Game & Fish

MANAGING TODAY FOR WILDLIFE TOMORROW

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Wildlife Matters

October 2004

Commission moves forward with 10 percent cap alternatives

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission has voted to proceed with a number of measures to maintain resident hunting opportunity. The vote came at a regular meeting of the commission, held in Safford Sept. 17.



The following measures were adopted in response to a July court ruling that declared Arizona's 10 percent cap on nonresident hunt permits for certain big game species unconstitutional:

1. Require all big game permit applicants to purchase a hunting license. The commission approved rule language, pending an opinion from the Attorney General's Office on a potential conflict with state gambling statutes that would require individuals to purchase a license in order to apply for the big game draw.
2. Change Arizona statute so that parts of bighorn sheep cannot be sold, and to create a set-aside for nonresidents. The commission directed the Game and Fish Department to develop language for legislation to prohibit the sale of parts (heads, horns, and hides) of bighorn sheep taken with future permits, and approved rule language to set aside no more than 15 percent of sheep tags for nonresidents to be allocated through a separate, nonresident-only draw. The commission also directed the department to run an analysis of what effect nonresidents have historically had on resident hunting opportunity for bighorn sheep, and to use this number in final determination of the set-aside percentage.
3. Create a loyalty bonus point. The commission approved a notice of proposed rulemaking to create a loyalty bonus point that would be awarded to individuals who buy a license and apply for big game hunts for five consecutive years. The point would be genus specific and would be retained as long as the hunter continues to apply at least once per calendar year for that genus. Year one for the purpose of the 5-year calculation of this program would be 2001.
4. Increase the bonus point pass percentage to 20 percent. The commission approved a notice of proposed rulemaking to increase from 10 to 20 percent the bonus point pass percentage, meaning that 20 percent of tags would be set aside for applicants with the highest number of bonus points.
5. Create a conservation bonus point. The commission approved a notice of proposed rulemaking to create a new conservation bonus point valid for any genus for which a bonus point is issued. The point would be awarded upon accrual of 48 hours of volunteer

work performed during a 3-year period. Unlimited conservation bonus points would be available, but could only be accrued at the rate of one per year. Points would be forfeited, by genus, upon a successful draw. The commission also voted to direct the department to develop proposed legislation to establish a \$10 conservation bonus point application fee.

6. Explore license and application fee increases. The commission directed the department to develop legislation for proposed license fee increases for both resident and nonresident hunters. The department will refine these proposed increases and will seek further public input through the department Web site and through a series of public meetings before the legislative session begins.

7. Suspend the Internet application process for one year. The commission directed the department to suspend the online application process for one year, effective with the Fall 2005 big game draw, and to require payment of all fees, including hunt permit-tag fees, at the time of application. The commission directed the department to implement an improved online application system for the Fall 2006 draw that will include a method to charge tag fees up front.

The commission decided not to adopt a proposal to set aside a percentage of all previously capped big game permits for nonresidents.

Most of the commission-approved proposals will now enter the formal rulemaking process, during which the public will have an opportunity to provide additional comment. A draft final rule package is expected to be submitted to the commission at its December meeting in Phoenix.

Supporting Arizona's Injured and Orphaned Wildlife



For each calendar sold, \$2 will go to the Game and Fish Department's Wildlife Center in Phoenix, which provides rehabilitative care to wildlife and educates the public about Arizona's diverse species of wild animals.

Each year, the Wildlife Center cares for more than 1,000 sick, hurt, or orphaned birds, mammals, reptiles, and yes, even amphibians. Some animals stay only briefly before being released back into the wild, while others become permanent residents because they have lifelong disabilities. Those that stay become members of the center's educational

programs.

One of the permanent residents is a bobcat that was declawed to become a family pet and can no longer defend itself in the wild. Another lifelong resident is a great horned owl. Found in the wild as a baby, he was raised without proper nutrition, resulting in a permanent deformity of his beak and an inability to catch and eat wild foods. Another wild animal living permanently at the center is a Gila monster whose head was run over by a car. Game and Fish wired his jaw back together, but he will never be able to survive in the wild.

The work that Arizona Game and Fish employees and dozens of volunteers do at the Wildlife Center is crucial to the study, conservation and care of Arizona's wonderful wild creatures.

The 2005 Wildlife Calendar will go on sale in mid-October at all AZGFD regional offices, check the Department website for more details.

Celebrating Our Heritage: Six Successful Events Statewide

Across the state, Arizonans have a new appreciation for our Heritage... the Heritage Fund, that is. More than 200 people turned out to mark a milestone in the Fund's history.



Arizona voters overwhelmingly approved creation of the Heritage Fund back in 1990. Last week, crowds came out to help the Arizona Game and Fish Department celebrate its 10 millionth dollar paid out to the community in Heritage grants. The department hosted six events statewide, in an effort to show Arizonans some of the great work that has been done through the Heritage Fund, which takes money from lottery ticket sales and uses it for conservation efforts, including protecting endangered species and educating our children about wildlife.

"Sometimes voters approve a measure, and they don't know what happens after that," says Tony Guiles, legislative liaison for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. "We want to make sure Arizonans know this money went to the cause they chose."

The six events were held at locations across the state that have received Heritage money. Project partners, state legislators, Heritage Alliance members, the media, and the public were invited to attend.

At Mountain View Elementary School in Phoenix, teacher Dianna Bonney explained how Heritage money paid for an educational garden where her students learn about our native plants and the environment. Near Eagar, Arizonans enjoyed bird watching hikes at the Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area, a property acquired with Heritage money, which won the Governor's Office of Tourism Award. In Flagstaff, the President of the Arizona Heritage Alliance joined others in a celebration at the Willow Bend Environmental Education Center, a facility that received Heritage funding and teaches Arizona's children about nature. In Kingman, Mohave Community College students helped celebrate at a beautiful project that's received Heritage money and includes a nature trail, a wildlife garden, and a pond that's newly stocked with Arizona native fish. In Yuma, participants in an event at Yuma West Wetlands enjoyed the park's burrowing owl habitat, hummingbird garden, lakes, and bird sanctuaries, as well as an observation area paid for by Heritage grant money. In Tucson, Arizonans were offered walking and bird watching tours of Sweetwater Wetlands, a property that received Heritage money for brochures and a wildlife inventory.

State legislators, a city council member, a school superintendent, and a college president are among the dignitaries who participated in these events. The Arizona Game and Fish Department thanks everyone for making the events successful and for supporting our Heritage.

10-year Wildlife Management Plan



The Arizona Game and Fish Department is developing a "Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy" (CWCS)—a 10-year vision for managing Arizona's fish, wildlife and natural habitats. This effort will enlist input and partnerships with various agency cooperators, sportsman and recreational groups, conservation organizations, special interest groups, Native American tribes, county and municipal governments, and the general public.

All 50 States, U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia are producing their own CWCS plans, as required by Congress, under the new State Wildlife Grant Program (SWG). Guiding principles for developing State CWCS plans were established by state fish and wildlife agencies working with the

International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the Teaming With Wildlife committee. To continue to be eligible for SWG Program funding, all States and Territories must have their CWCS plans submitted and accepted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by October 1, 2005.

Arizona's CWCS will address the full array of wildlife, but will focus on identifying and managing the "wildlife and biotic communities of greatest conservation need." It will be based on a landscape-level approach—identifying important habitats and conservation needs to sustain fish and wildlife populations and maintain ecosystem health.

To learn about Arizona's CWCS, please contact the Arizona Game and fish Department or review the Department website.

Quigley Wildlife Area

The 612-acre Quigley Wildlife area (QWMA) is located within the Gila River floodplain, approximately 40 miles east of Yuma. Approximately 552 acres of the property were acquired by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission in March 1994 through the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District (WMIDD) in a land exchange with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). The remaining 60 acres of active farmland were purchased by the Commission in 1997 for \$266,000 through a combination of Heritage and Waterfowl Conservation Funds. This additional piece provides added protection and enhancement of QWMA by providing water delivery and control structures and a buffer between the QWMA's moist soils zone and adjacent lands. The land and resource values associated with this acquisition provide opportunities to meet objectives of Arizona's Heritage Fund for Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive species and habitats, as well as provide benefits for other wildlife species and the public.



The Quigley Wildlife Management Area contains approximately 622 acres consisting of two major open water areas, idle farmland; upland habitat; Creosotebush-bursage habitat; marshland habitat, associated with the open water areas and characterized by emergent vegetation such as cattail and bulrush; and the remainder of the QWMA is characterized by dense stands of saltcedar and arrowweed.

Management Objective Goals

The goals for management of the Quigley Wildlife Area are to:

- 1) Restore and manage riparian habitats.
- 2) Maintain and enhance habitat suitability for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other riparian associated wildlife.
- 3) Restore, enhance and manage habitats required by sensitive species.
- 4) Encourage compatible consumptive and non-consumptive uses and educational activities, including development of "watchable wildlife" opportunities.
- 5) Maintain and enhance fisheries and fishing opportunities.

Public Use Opportunities and Resource Management Emphasis

To restore, enhance, and manage wetland habitat including open water and marsh, riparian and associated upland wildlife habitats; and to provide public opportunities for wildlife viewing, education, research, hunting and fishing.

Management emphasis for QWMA includes managing habitat and its associated wildlife, and encouraging non-conflicting wildlife-associated recreation and other agency and public uses.

Special Status Species occurring on or near the Quigley Wildlife Area have been identified through the Department's Heritage Data Management System. To learn more about Quigley Wildlife Management Area visit the Arizona Game and Fish Department website.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, disability in its programs and activities. If anyone believes they have been discriminated against in any Game and Fish program or activity, including its employment practices, the individual may file a complaint alleging discrimination directly with the Game and Fish Deputy Director, 2221 W. Greenway Rd., Phx., AZ 85023, (602) 942-3000 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Dr., Ste. 130, Arlington, VA 22203. If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact the Game and Fish Deputy Director as listed above or by calling TTY at 1-800 367-8939.