

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Friday, April 20, 2007 – 8:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 21, 2007 – 8:00 a.m.
Glendale Civic Center
5750 W. Glenn Drive
Glendale, Arizona 85301

PRESENT: (Commission)

(Director's Staff)

Chairman Michael M. Golightly
Commissioner William H. McLean
Commissioner Robert Hernbrode
Commissioner Jennifer L. Martin
Commissioner Joe Melton

Director Duane L. Shroufe
Deputy Director Steve K. Ferrell
Assistant Attorney General Jim Odenkirk
Assistant Attorney General Shelley Cutts

Chairman Golightly called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The Commissioners introduced themselves and Chairman Golightly introduced the Director and the Director's staff. This meeting followed an agenda revision #1 dated April 16, 2007.

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1. State and Federal Legislation

Presenter: Anthony Guiles, Legislative Liaison

The Commission was provided with a Legislative Update handout (also available to the public), which included both Federal and State legislation that may affect the Department. Mr. Guiles further briefed the Commission, using a Power Point presentation, on HB 2443 Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Legislation, HCR 2039 State Trust Land Legislation, and Legislative Tours.

HB 2443 OHV was on the Committee of the Whole calendar yesterday and was retained on the calendar. An amendment was offered by Senator Gould that would exempt any military personnel, including veterans and active duty personnel, from the OHV indicia and the title and registration. It also included a specified fee of \$40.00 for the plate and indicia thereafter. This provision would make this bill a Prop 108 issue, which the Department was trying to avoid with the legislation. Senator Gould is not in favor of OHV legislation and the Department believes that this was a tactic to sink the bill. However, the Department believes that the bill will move forward on Monday without the amendment.

The State Trust Land bill HCR 2039 is working its way through the Senate. This bill authorizes the sale of state trust lands for conservation purposes at full appraised value without advertisement or auction. It requires the land to be used in a manner that is consistent with conservation, which means that it is restricted against development, and must have reasonable public access.

Commissioner McLean asked if the land would be available for purchase by private entities and if reasonable access would continue in perpetuity if the purchaser or subsequent purchaser was a private entity.

Mr. Guiles will look at the language of the bill, as well as changes as it is developed, and report back to the Commission.

Mr. Guiles further briefed on recent Department Legislative Tours, which included OHV impact in the Yuma area attended by Representatives Ulmer and Pancrazi, and a Border Impact Tour attended by Representatives Nichols, Barnes, Campbell, Weiers, Clark, and Local and National media.

Commissioner Martin asked about developing legislation that would offer indemnity to landowners who allow a nominal fee for recreational access on their property.

Mr. Guiles will work on language for that legislation and bring it back to the Commission in August.

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2. Statewide Shooting Range Briefing

Presenter: Ty Gray, Education Branch Chief

The Commission was provided with an update prior to this meeting of Department activities related to shooting range support and development statewide. The update, also provided to the public, covered activities that occurred since the March 2007 Commission meeting. The statewide shooting range briefing is part of the Department's ongoing commitment to provide the Commission with updates on statewide shooting range development and shooting sports in general.

Using a Power Point presentation, Mr. Gray provided an additional update with pictures of the following:

Outdoor Expo held at the Ben Avery Shooting Range: This event was very successful drawing 17,400 attendees.

Usery Mountain Park Archery Range: Maricopa County has decided to leave the range at its current location. The Department has offered to help the county in developing strategies on enhancing the use of the range.

Commissioner McLean asked if discussions could be revisited regarding the location previously considered for moving the archery range to see if there was any opportunity for that land to be changed from county jurisdiction to state jurisdiction.

Mr. Gray will investigate that possibility and report back to the Commission.

The Northern Arizona Shooting Range: The Department expects to have the access permit by Monday or Tuesday of next week. The Class III Cultural Resource Survey and the Biological Evaluation Assessment was completed last week and provided to the Forest Service. The preliminary appraisals came back at \$11,500 per acre. All information regarding the Northern

Arizona Shooting Range is posted on the Department's website. A public group meeting was conducted on April 4, 2007 in Munds Park. Several of those opposed to the range have stated that they will take legal action unless the Department stops development of the range.

Commissioner Golightly requested that the Department be actively involved and stay on top of the timelines with the Forest Service, and further requested that the Department notify the Commission immediately with any issues regarding all shooting ranges.

Commissioner McLean stated that the public group meeting was not a working group and that the Department needs to put together a real working group comprised of people who will work cooperatively together to resolve issues. It needs to be defined what the working group will work on, it needs more and different input from groups, and it needs some major players like the NRA and the Arizona Rifle and Pistol Association.

The Commission requested to open and discuss agenda item number 3 concurrently with agenda item number 2, and then to table these agenda items in case they choose to discuss again later in this meeting.

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3. Alternatives to Expedite Shooting Range Development

Presenter: Ty Gray, Education Branch Chief

Commissioner McLean discussed his interest in the potential option of land grants as a possibility for acquiring land for shooting ranges instead of costly purchases or land exchanges. Commissioner McLean requested that later in this meeting, the Commission give direction to the Department to work legislatively and politically at the local and national level, to recruit sportsmen organizations in this endeavor, and for the Chairman to appoint one or more members of the Commission to work in that regard.

Director Shroufe stated that the Department pursued a land grant in regards to the Bellemont Shooting Range, but after not getting any support or making any progress, the Commission directed the Department to look at land exchanges. Also, another option the Commission may want to consider is a special use permit.

Motion: Martin moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO LEAVE LAND EXCHANGE ON THE TABLE, BUT ALSO LOOK AT THE FEASIBILITY OF A GRANT OR A SPECIAL USE PERMIT IN OBTAINING LAND FOR SHOOTING RANGES.

Commissioner Hernbrode expressed concern about exchanging wildlife values for shooting range values.

Director Shroufe explained that the wildlife values of exchanged lands would not be lost through an agreement (MOU) with the Forest Service that would require maintaining the wildlife values.

Motion Restated: Martin moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO COORDINATE WITH CONGRESS TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF A FEDERAL LAND GRANT FOR A NORTHERN ARIZONA SHOOTING RANGE SITE; COORDINATE WITH OTHER LOCAL AND/OR STATE GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS TO OBTAIN ENDORSEMENTS FOR THIS OPTION; COORDINATE WITH THE FOREST SERVICE TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR DEVELOPING AND OPERATING A SHOOTING RANGE SITE ON FOREST SERVICE LANDS; AND CONCURRENTLY PURSUE THE PRIOR COMMISSION DIRECTION TO PREPARE A LAND EXCHANGE OFFERING DEPARTMENT OWNED LANDS FOR A SHOOTING RANGE SITE IN NORTHERN ARIZONA.

Vote: Unanimous

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Meeting recessed for a break at 9:35 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:03 a.m.

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Public Comment

Alan M. Dapp, Wickenburg Sportsman Club, addressed the Commission and requested assistance in working with BLM to relocate the Wickenburg Shooting Range to a section of BLM land west of Wickenburg.

The Commission directed the Department to work with the Wickenburg Sportsman Club and requested the Wickenburg Shooting Range to be added to the Shooting Range Update.

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4. An Update on Current Issues, Planning Efforts, and Proposed Projects on All Lands in Arizona and Other Matters Related Thereto

Presenter: Josh Avey, Habitat Branch Chief

A copy of the Lands Update report was provided to the Commission prior to today's meeting and is included as part of these minutes. The update addressed decisions or activities since the March 2007 Commission meeting. This update is in fulfillment of the Department's commitment to brief the Commission on a regular basis regarding decisions and actions on all state and federal lands in Arizona.

Mr. Avey further briefed the Commission on three additional items: 1) Ten areas in the State have been identified by the Arizona Department of Mines and Minerals for Uranium exploration. The Department is monitoring this activity and will remain vigilant to mitigate any risks to wildlife resources stemming from newly proposed mines; 2) On March 31, a Northern California District Court decision halted the use of the 2005 Planning Rule for all Forest Service planning efforts. Based on this decision, all Forest Service planning has stalled throughout the State. Nevertheless, this decision did not affect the BLM's planning efforts or the Forest Service travel

management planning. In an effort to educate the public on the current status of the planning process, the Department has initiated statewide education and outreach efforts on the federal land planning process. The public response to this effort has been very positive; 3) The schedule for completion of the Big Ranch A allotment review has been provided to the Department and Commission. The schedule provides a revised Proposed Decision prior to the June Commission meeting; and 4) The Forest Service recently announced that there will be a \$5 per day vehicle fee implemented at Upper and Lower Lake Mary to be used for operational and maintenance cost.

Mr. Avey further noted the addition of the Landowner Relations and Public Access section at the end of the Lands Update.

Commissioner Martin expressed concern with the uranium exploration and confirmed with Mr. Avey that the Department has been looking at the areas of exploration and determining what wildlife impacts there may be, and communicating with the public and interest groups that might be impacted and may not be aware of it.

Mr. Avey stated that several of these are occurring in the Region II Flagstaff area and the Region II staff is very active in reviewing the proposed plans for mining and making comments. A big concern is the road system that would go in for the exploratory efforts. Further outreach efforts will be made to communicate this to the public and get them involved.

The Commission discussed the \$5 fee at Upper and Lower Lake Mary. The Regional Supervisor, Ron Sieg, addressed the Commission stating that the Department tried to prevent this, but was unsuccessful.

Commissioner McLean requested that the Department look into allegations that a rancher/permittee is putting gates up on lands that are not on the permittee's permitted lands or fee lands, on Bluebird Mine Road in the Galliuero Mountains.

Sal Palazolo, Department Access Coordinator, was present and stated that he will look into it.

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4.a. An Update on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Planning for the Ironwood Forest National Monument and Proposed Recreational Shooting Ban

Presenter: Josh Avey, Habitat Branch Chief

Mr. Avey provided an update on BLM planning for the Ironwood Forest National Monument (IFNM). The BLM Tucson Field Office released the Draft IFNM Resource Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) for public review on March 2, 2007. Currently, the draft plan includes a decision within the preferred alternative to "prohibit the use and discharge of firearms within the IFNM, except for permitted or authorized hunting activities conducted in accordance with Department hunting regulations." The Draft RMP/EIS generated a large public response, particularly regarding the prohibition of target shooting within the IFNM. The Department has been working closely with the BLM Tucson Office and has previously submitted comments on draft alternatives in support of target shooting as a legitimate recreational pursuit on the monument and has verbally restated the Department's position to IFNM planners that the

Department does not support the preferred alternative on this issue. Public comments are due by May 30, 2007. The Department asked the Commission to provide direction to be incorporated into a formal comment letter to the BLM Tucson Field Office.

Patrick Madegan, BLM Field Office, addressed the Commission stating that they were looking at the issues and would consider other proposals for target shooting both on and outside the National Monument.

The Commission discussed with Mr. Madegan their concerns, which included some of the language and wording like the definition of the word "use" of firearms, which would also prohibit the carrying of firearms; that the blanket ban of firearms in the Monument ignores the process BLM went through with the Udall study to determine what people wanted to do in there; that target practice is a part of hunting; and that increased restrictions as the solution for illegal trashing and destruction of the desert from wildcat shooting may not be effective, it may only effect law abiding recreational shooters who do not trash the desert. Another concern was that the restriction of recreational shooting on the IFNM would lead to the same restrictions on other National Monuments.

Mr. Madegan agreed that the language could be more specific as to what types of shooting activities were allowed and not allowed as they relate to target shooting.

Chairman Golightly offered the Department and Commission's assistance in drafting some language.

Public comment

Sandy Bahr, Conservation Outreach Director, Sierra Club – Grand Canyon Chapter, addressed the Commission and urged support for restrictions on recreational shooting on the Monument.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO RECOMMEND THAT BLM DESIGNATE A SITE OR AN AREA ON THE MONUMENT OR ON ADJACENT PUBLIC LANDS WHERE SHOOTING AND TARGET PRACTICE WOULD BE ALLOWED AND WHERE SAFETY, RESOURCE IMPACTS AND LITTERING COULD BE EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED.

Commissioner McLean explained that he would vote aye because he believed that BLM should designate an area either on or immediately adjacent to the Monument; however, that does not solve the whole problem with regards to restrictions on the Monument.

Vote: Aye - McLean, Hernbrode
Nay - Golightly, Martin, Melton
Failed 3 to 2

Chairman Golightly asked the Department to discuss this item with Commissioners Hernbrode and Martin and develop language for a recommendation from the Commission to the BLM State Director, and to have that recommendation prepared and brought back later in this meeting.

This item was tabled and addressed again later in this meeting.

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5. Information and Education Activities Briefing

Presenter: Dana Yost, Assistant Director, Information and Education Division

The Commission was provided with a Program Report dated April 2007, also provided to the public, which presented new information as well as progress toward ongoing issues and concerns related to Information and Education programs. The update covered activities and events that occurred during March 2007 and was provided in fulfillment of the Department's commitment to brief the Commission on a regular basis regarding the Department's Information and Education programs.

Commissioner Hernbrode requested that in future reports, the educational content of the report be separated from the informational content, so that additional emphasis can be placed on education.

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6. Request to Close the Rule Record and Adopt the Notice of Exempt Rulemaking to Amend Rules in Article 8, Wildlife Areas and Department Property, as Part of the Annual Hunt Recommendation Process.

Presenter: Dustin McKissen, Rules and Risk Manager

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is making amendments to R12-4-802 as part of the annual hunt recommendation process. The Department is amending the use requirements for specific wildlife areas for the following reasons:

- Arlington Wildlife Area. Amend the rule to prohibit discharge of rifled firearms. Increasing urbanization and habitat constraints have resulted in virtually no rifled firearms opportunities. Management emphasis of this area is for waterfowl and nongame management, watchable wildlife viewing opportunities and shotgun-only hunting for small game and migratory birds.
- Base and Meridian Wildlife Area. Amend the rule to prohibit clay bird target shooting. Due to the relatively small size of this Wildlife Area, public opportunities are primarily watchable wildlife viewing and migratory bird hunting immediately adjacent to the Gila River.
- Powers Butte (Mumme Farm) Wildlife Area. Amend the rule to allow target or clay bird shooting only in designated areas. The Department would designate appropriate sites for target and claybird shooting to address concerns for litter.
- Raymond Ranch Wildlife Area. Amend the name of the Wildlife Area to the current name "Raymond Wildlife Area."

If approved by the Commission, the Notice of Exempt Rulemaking will be submitted to the Secretary of State's Office by April 27, 2007, for publication in the *Arizona Administrative*

Register. The agency will request that the rules become immediately effective when they are published under ARS § 41-1032(A)(1) on the grounds that the rules preserve the public peace, health, and safety. The Department anticipates the rules will be published on May 18, 2007.

Commissioner Golightly asked about “no rifled firearms” and “habitat constraints” in regards to the Arlington Wildlife Area.

Rod Lucas, Mesa Regional Office Supervisor, addressed the Commission stating that the habitat constraints are related to the type of vegetation in that area, which is very thick and constrains the ability to use rifle firearms safely. The take of migratory birds, waterfowl and doves, with shotgun shooting shot would still be allowed.

Commissioner McLean clarified with Mr. Lucas that a person would not be able to shoot a rifle at the Arlington Wildlife Area, but would be able to shoot a rifle at the nearby Powers Butte Wildlife Area which is just across the Gila River.

Mr. Lucas stated that is correct.

Commissioner Melton asked about signage so people will know where the boundaries are, and also that this could make it difficult for trappers.

Mr. Lucas stated that the Department will continue to try and address signage and boundary issues, and that the rule could be amended to allow a licensed trapper to be able to dispatch wildlife in accordance with his trapping license.

Motion: Martin moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO CLOSE THE RULE RECORD AND ADOPT THE NOTICE OF EXEMPT RULEMAKING TO AMEND RULES IN ARTICLE 8, WILDLIFE AREAS AND DEPARTMENT PROPERTY, AS PART OF THE ANNUAL HUNT RECOMMENDATION PROCESS.

Vote: Unanimous

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8. Request to Approve a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to Amend Article 7 Rules, Dealing with Heritage Grants, as Stated in the 2005 Five-Year Review Approved by GRRC.

Presenter: Dustin McKissen, Rules and Risk Manager

At the March 10, 2007 Commission meeting the Department asked the Commission to provide the Department with direction on the deletion of Article 7 in issuing Heritage Grants under A.R.S. § 41-2702 as the Department currently does with various other grant programs. The Department believes that the statute offers greater flexibility, and is perhaps a better alternative to an article in rule that requires review and a lengthy process to amend. Article 7 was written three years before A.R.S. § 41-2702 became law. At the March Commission meeting the Commission elected to proceed with Proposed Rulemaking and consider a deletion of Article 7 when the Proposed Rulemaking was presented.

In regards to deleting Article 7, the Department believes that the benefits include: Greater flexibility in issuing grants; the ability to issue multiple grant awards; the ability to waive the application process if needed; and there would no longer be the requirement for rule review or rule amendment. Some of the cost would include: The requirement of creating a two-prong process for distributing Heritage Funds, one for private entities and another for governmental entities; the deletion of the rule would result in no codified violations nor application guidelines (those safeguards could still be added into the grant agreements); and the training of personnel on the new review process. However, should the Commission elect to proceed with the Proposed Rulemaking presented on Article 7, rather than deletion, the following amendments were proposed:

R12-4-701. Heritage Grant Definitions

- Amend the definition for “eligible applicant” to include non-governmental nonprofit organizations. This will allow these groups to apply for Heritage Grants.\

R12-4-702. General Provisions

- Allow a permanent employee’s time spent on a project to be used as in-kind match, but only for the project that the employee worked on. Subsection (J).

R12-4-704. Urban Wildlife and Urban Wildlife Habitat Grants

- The communities of Green Valley, Flowing Wells, and Sun City West are now incorporated and do not need to be specified as eligible communities. These areas are still eligible for Heritage Grants, but specific references to them will be deleted. Subsection (B)(2).

R12-4-705. Public Access Grants

- Amend the rule to clarify that public access grants are intended for improving access to recreational opportunities that are related to wildlife, not general outdoor opportunities like hiking or bike trails, which can be funded through other sources. Subsection (C).

R12-4-707. Schoolyard Habitat Grants

- Amend the rule to require that a schoolyard habitat grant develop awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the state’s wildlife and environment; use Arizona wildlife as its focus; and have an impact on Arizona schools and students. Subsection (B)(1)(3) and (6).

R12-4-711. Grant-in-Aid Participant Agreements

- Replace “violation of state law” with “material breach of contract” as grounds for recovering grant funds. Violations of state law include violations that are not relevant or reflect on the participant’s qualifications or abilities to complete a project. Subsection (2).

R12-4-712. Reporting and Record Requirements

- Amend the rule to ensure that post-completion reporting requirements are satisfied. Subsection (C).
- Amend the rule to give the Department flexibility in performing audits on grant participants if requirements are not met. Subsection (D).

If the Commission elects to pursue deletion of Article 7, the timeline for deletion would be the same timeline for the Proposed Rulemaking. The Proposed Rulemaking changes presented today would be replaced with deleting the language that currently exist and the public would then be given opportunity to comment on it again through the Proposed Rulemaking process and the final rulemaking process at the various Commission meetings and at the Governor's Regulatory Review Council (GRRC) meetings.

Both the Notice of Docket Opening and the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and the accompanying Economic Impact Statement were provided to the Commission for review and consideration prior to this meeting. If the Commission approves, these documents will be submitted to the Secretary of State's Office for publication in the *Arizona Administrative Register* by April 27, 2007. The Department will begin to accept public comment on the proposed rules for 30 days after the notice is published. The Department anticipates the rules will become effective by December 2007.

Public Comment

Don Farmer, Arizona Heritage Alliance, addressed the Commission in support of opening the rulemaking process and making amendments to Article 7.

Motion: McLean moved and Martin seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE A NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING TO AMEND ARTICLE 7 RULES, DEALING WITH HERITAGE GRANTS, PRINCIPALLY AS STATED IN THE 2005 FIVE-YEAR RULES REVIEW REPORT APPROVED BY GRRC. THE NOTICE WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE *ARIZONA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER*.

Ms. Cutts clarified with Chairman Golightly that the Commission was voting to continue Article 7 with amendments and were not considering deleting it.

Vote: Unanimous

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13. Call to the Public

There were no request from the public to speak.

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Meeting recessed for lunch at 11:52 a.m.
Meeting reconvened at 1:20 p.m.

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14. Executive Session

The Commission voted to meet in Executive Session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A)(3) and (4) for the purpose of discussion and consultation with legal counsel.

Motion: Martin moved and Melton seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Vote: Unanimous

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16. Hearings on License Revocations for Violation of Game and Fish Codes and Civil Assessments for the Illegal Taking and/or Possession of Wildlife

Presenter: Pat Barber, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Record of these proceedings is maintained in a separate minutes book in the Director’s Office.

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15. Public Access and Open Space Easement on Espee Ranch

Presenter: Ron Sieg, Region II Supervisor

Mr. Sieg briefed the Commission using a Power Point presentation on an opportunity to participate in development of a public access and open space easement on Babbitt Ranch’s Espee Ranch. The briefing included information about the wildlife values for game and non-game animals and sensitive species, as well as special status plants. Also, access opportunities for hunting would be increased as well as the opportunity to prevent development of the area. Maps were used in the Power Point to show the Espee Ranch location and boundaries.

Motion: McLean moved and Martin seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO MOVE FORWARD WITH DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BABBITT RANCHES CONCERNING PUBLIC ACCESS AND CONSERVATION EASEMENTS ON THE ESPEE RANCH.

Vote: Unanimous

Chairman Golightly requested that the Commission be kept informed as negotiations proceed.

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7. Request to Approve the Five-Year Rule Review Report on Article 3 Commission Rules Dealing with Taking and Handling of Wildlife for Filing with the Governor’s Regulatory Review Council

Presenter: Dustin McKissen, Rules and Risk Manager

Under A.R.S. § 41-1056, each state agency is required to review all of its rules once every five years on a predetermined schedule established by the Governor's Regulatory Review Council. Although a five-year review does not actually amend rules and is not binding, a report must be submitted or the rules will automatically be repealed and unenforceable. Under this requirement,

the Arizona Game and Fish Commission's Article 3, Taking and Handling of Wildlife Rules were analyzed for the 2007 five-year rules review cycle.

The Article 3 Five-Year Rules Review Team has completed its study in accordance with these provisions and the requirements of A.R.S. § 41-1056. The 2007 Article 3 Five-Year Rules Review Report was provided to the Commission review prior to this meeting. Substantive amendments suggested in this review include:

R12-4-303. Unlawful Devices, Methods, and Ammunition

- Prohibit pursuing or holding at bay wildlife for another hunter to prevent "will-call" hunts. Subsection (E).
- Clarify use of dogs when pursuing predatory and furbearing wildlife. Subsection (F).

R12-4-304. Lawful Methods for Taking Wild Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles

- Prohibit use of bow and arrow, crossbow, or pneumatic weapons at night when taking nongame and reptiles. Use of these methods at night presents a safety concern and in the case of pneumatics a habitat concern as well. Subsections (E) and (F).

Mr. Kissen offered a floor amendment to R12-4-304, which replaced a portion of R12-4-304 which was mistakenly removed. This floor amendment would include: Bows, as defined in R12-4-304.1.g, drawn with an assisting device to be a lawful method of take for big game in Sections 1.h for bear, 2.h for antelope, 3.h for bighorn sheep, 4.v for buffalo, 5.h for deer, 6.h for elk, 7.h for javelina, 8.h for mountain lion, and 9.h for turkey.

R12-4-305. Possessing, Transporting, Importing, Exporting, and Selling Carcasses or Parts of Wildlife

- Allow sale of crayfish carcasses that are taken under Commission Order. Subsection (M).
- Prohibit an individual who collects crayfish from transporting them from state waters alive. Subsection (N).

R12-4-306. Buffalo Hunt Requirements

- Require hunters at the House Rock Wildlife Area to hunt in the order scheduled by Department staff during a population management hunt, but only if it is necessary to maximize harvest. Subsection (C).
- Also, hunters at the House Rock Area for a population management hunt shall be accompanied by an authorized Department employee. The employee shall designate the animal to be harvested, but again only if the Department finds it necessary.

R12-4-307. Trapping Regulations: Licensing; Methods; Tagging of Bobcat Pelts

- Allow use of a specific type of foothold snare trap that does not cut off circulation or cause undue harm to wildlife. Subsection (E).

R12-4-313. Lawful Methods of Taking Aquatic Wildlife

- Clarify what constitutes a dip net. Subsection (D)(3).
- Allow people to take catfish by bow and arrow or crossbow if the Commission authorizes their lawful use during a fishing season. This provides an additional outdoor opportunity and does significantly affect the resource. Subsection (D).

New Rule R12-4-314. Pickup and Possession of Wildlife Parts

- Add a new rule to authorize people to possess and retain wildlife parts that they pick up in the field. Additional requirements will be included based on the condition of the found parts. Listed under report for R12-4-305.

R12-4-315. Possession of Live Fish; Unattended Live Boxes and Stringers

- Amend the rule to include an exception for possessing live game fish if authorized under new rules to allow off-site weigh-ins associated with a fishing tournament. Subsection (A).
- As part of the report for this review, the Department included proposals for new rules and amendments to existing rules to authorize off-site weigh-ins of fish caught during a fishing tournament. The Department will propose to add a new rule R12-4-412 to prescribe procedures for issuing off-site weigh-in permits and amend R12-4-102, R12-4-106, and R12-4-409 to fully implement the permit.

R12-4-318. Seasons for Lawfully Taking Wild Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles

- Allow hunters participating in an archery season to carry a non-hunting handgun for personal protection. The handgun shall have a barrel of 6 inches or less, does not have a scope, or an electric sight. Subsection (C)

R12-4-319. Use of Aircraft to Take Wildlife

- Amend the rule to clearly prohibit unlawful activities using aircraft.

The Commission may modify any of the attached material prior to approval and will have an additional opportunity to approve or reject any proposed amendments as a part of the Proposed and Final Rulemaking process for Article 3. If approved by the Commission, the 2007 Article 3 Five-Year Rules Review Report will be filed with GRRC by May 21, 2007, for its July 2007 meeting. The Department anticipates opening a Rulemaking Docket to initiate the rulemaking process by October 2007.

Commissioner McLean requested that R12-4-303 F read as follows: If an individual pursues a predatory or furbearing animal with dogs, the individual shall ensure that the dogs do not intentionally kill the wildlife; and also that R12-4-303 E read: An individual shall not pursue any wildlife or hold at bay any wildlife for another hunter who is not a participant in the pursuit.

The Commission was in consensus to make these changes.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and Martin seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE 2007 FIVE-YEAR RULE REVIEW REPORT ON COMMISSION RULES IN ARTICLE 3, DEALING WITH THE TAKING AND HANDLING OF WILDLIFE, FOR FILING WITH THE GOVERNOR'S REGULATORY REVIEW COUNCIL UNDER A.R.S. § 41-1056.

Vote: Unanimous

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9. Consent Agenda

The following items were grouped together and noticed as consent agenda items to expedite action on routine matters. These items were provided to the Commission prior to this meeting for review and the Department requested that the Commission approve these matters as presented, subject to approval or recommendations of the Office of the Attorney General. Director Shroufe presented all of these items to the Commission and none were deemed necessary for removal for further discussion.

a. Request for Commission Approval to Authorize the Department to Renew Arizona State Land Department Road Right-of-Way Number 18-102474 for Legal Access to the Slade Parcel of the Wenima Wildlife Area, and to Pursue Acquisition of the Right-of-Way in Perpetuity.

Presenter: Josh Avey, Habitat Branch Chief

Public access into the main area of Wenima Wildlife Area is available via an existing public roadway. However, road access into the Slade parcel is located entirely on State Trust land (Figure 1). In 1996 the Commission authorized the Department to acquire a right-of-way (ROW) across this road from the Arizona State Land Department (SLD). That 10-year ROW (No. 18-102474) expires on May 28, 2007. Although the Department would prefer to purchase a perpetual ROW at this time, the SLD anticipates that process would take up to 16 months. In order to avoid losing continuity, SLD advises the Commission to renew the current 10-year ROW and then apply for the perpetual ROW. Rental fees paid for the 10-year ROW will be prorated toward the purchase price.

The Department recommended that the Commission vote to authorize the Department to renew Arizona State Land Department Road Right-of-Way Number 18-102474 for legal access to the Slade Parcel of the Wenima Wildlife Area, and to pursue the right-of-way in perpetuity, and to authorize the Director to execute all documents required by the State Land Department.

b. Request for the Commission to Authorize the Department to Enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the Chevelon Canyon Grazing Allotment Permit Holders for use of Groundwater from Commission Owned Dye Ranch Property in Coconino County, for the Benefit of Wildlife and Livestock.

Presenter: Josh Avey, Habitat Branch Chief

In 1961, the Commission acquired the Dye Ranch property, with financial assistance from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Aid, for big game habitat enhancement. The property is within the United States Forest Service (USFS), Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, Chevelon Canyon Grazing Allotment (Allotment). Portions of the Allotment are deficient in reliable water sources, although a well exists on the Commission property. In 1995, the Commission approved a cooperative agreement between the Department, the USFS, and Permittee ranchers Mr. and Mrs. King to develop cooperative opportunities to improve water availability for wildlife and livestock at the Dye Ranch and other portions of the allotment.

When the agreement terminated in 2005, there were no adjacent Permittees and the agreement was not renewed. Furthermore, the role of the USFS, which provided funding for construction, is no longer needed since the water improvements have been fully developed.

Recently, new Permittee ranchers Paul and LouJeanne Lewis expressed interest in working with the Department to continue the commitment of improving water availability on the allotment.

The Department recommended that the Commission vote to authorize the Department to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the Chevelon Canyon Grazing Allotment permit holders for the use of groundwater from Commission owned Dye Ranch property in Coconino County, for the benefit of wildlife and livestock, and authorize the Department to enter into all related documents necessary to complete the transactions approved herein.

c. Request for the Commission to Authorize the Department to Convey a Twenty (20) Year Road Right-of-Way across the Commission Owned Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area, to Cochise County Arizona, and to convert said Right-of-Way into a perpetual Right-of-Way.

Presenter: Josh Avey, Habitat Branch Chief

The Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area (WDWA) consists of a 1,448 acre parcel acquired by the Commission in 1997 and an additional 80 acres acquired in 1998. The area is one of three major roosting sites for sandhill cranes. Access to the WDWA is via Coffman Road which was established by, and has been maintained by, Cochise County (County) since 1913. Unfortunately, public right-of-way along the road has never been perfected. Therefore, there is no legal public access into the wildlife area at this time. This agreement will provide the County with a legal right-of-way across that portion of Coffman Road that traverses WDWA for the purpose of roadway maintenance. It will also assist the County with legal public access along the portion of Coffman road that leads into the WDWA.

A perpetual Right-of-Way is subject to approvals from the State Land Department and Governor's office. Conveying a twenty (20) year Right-of-Way to the County at this time, would facilitate their ability to acquire public access to the WDWA. A perpetual Right-Of-Way could then be prepared as soon as we acquire funding and meet other obligations.

The Department recommended that the Commission vote to authorize the Department to convey a twenty (20) year road Right-of-Way across the Commission owned Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area, to Cochise County Arizona, and to convert said Right-of-Way into a perpetual Right-of-Way, and authorize the Department to enter into all related documents necessary to complete the transactions approved herein.

d. Request for Commission Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Reclamation Regarding Cooperating Agency Status during the Development of the Environmental Impact Statement for a Long-term Experimental Plan for Glen Canyon Dam and Other Management Activities

Presenter: Bob Broscheid, Assistant Director, Wildlife Management Division

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Bureau of Reclamation is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for adoption and implementation of a long-term experimental plan for the future operations of Glen Canyon Dam and other associated management activities. The Bureau of Reclamation and the cooperating agencies will develop an appropriate range of alternatives and evaluate the impacts of those alternatives on downstream resources. If approved, this Memorandum of Understanding will allow the Department to act as a cooperating agency during the NEPA process.

The Department recommended that the Commission vote to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Reclamation regarding cooperating agency status during the development of the Environmental Impact Statement for a long-term experimental plan for Glen Canyon Dam and other management activities.

e. Renewal of the Forage Resource Study Group Selective Road Closures on State Trust Lands, Coconino County

Presenter: Mark Weise, Development Branch Chief

The Forage Resource Study Group (FRSG) is a diverse group of agency, resource user group, and landowner representatives who convene periodically to develop resource management strategies within their area of interest. The subject area consists of Arizona Game and Fish Management Units 5A and 5B, near Flagstaff, Arizona. In 1996, the FRSG filed a petition with the Commission requesting road closures within these units for the protection and enhancement of soil, watershed, vegetation, wildlife habitat, and livestock facilities while maintaining reasonable alternate public access. The FRSG developed the road closures in conjunction with a Road Management Plan (Plan) as one element in a holistic approach to resource management. Initially heard at the September 1996 meeting, the Commission reviewed the proposal and directed the FRSG to facilitate a compromise with public users who raised objections to specific road closures. User groups and organizations were contacted by the FRSG to identify potential concerns. There was little opposition, and the FRSG worked cooperatively with the individuals that responded. Their issues focused primarily on hunting access, and were successfully resolved. The Commission unanimously approved the plan at its December 1996 meeting and then renewed it in May 2002.

The time period for the closures has expired once again. Involved parties believe that the objectives outlined in the Plan are being met, and there has been public acceptance of the designated access routes. Rehabilitation of closed roadways has been successful while ensuring hunter and recreation access. The parties have requested that the closures designated in the Plan continue for another five-year period to allow further progress towards the stated goals and objectives.

The Department recommended that the Commission vote to approve the renewal of the Forage Resource Study Group road closures within Game Management Units 5A and 5B for resource protection.

f. Memorandum of Understanding with University of New Mexico

Presenter: Chasa O'Brien, Research Branch Chief

The Department works with various universities whose staff and faculty provide specialized expertise and technical services that support the Department’s mission and benefit Arizona’s fish and wildlife resources and citizens. These interactions also create mutually beneficial education, research, and outreach opportunities. Cooperative efforts with universities are generally accomplished under Agreements or Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), which establish formal lines of communication and provide a legal and procedural framework for subsequent collaboration at the project level. Currently, the Department has agreements in place with all three Arizona universities and a number of other institutions across the United States. A new MOU is proposed to establish a working partnership with the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

The Department recommended that the Commission vote to approve a new Memorandum of Understanding with the University of New Mexico that will provide specialized expertise and technical services that support the Department’s mission and benefit Arizona’s fish and wildlife resources, as provided to the Commission for review and subject to approval by the Office of the Attorney General.

Motion: McLean moved and Martin seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE ITEMS 9.A THROUGH 9.F ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Vote: Unanimous

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10. Commission Briefing on Status of New Headquarters Facility

Presenter: Mark Weise, Development Branch Chief

Using a Power Point presentation, Mr. Weise provided the Commission with an update on the development of the Department’s new headquarters. The project is entering its fourth month. The update included pictures of construction progress, budget status, and other current issues related to the project. The completion date of the project has been extended to late September due to some delays regarding water and utilities, which have been resolved. Efforts will be made by Sundt to try and recover that lost time and get back to the original completion date. The Commission was not asked to take action on this item.

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11. Renewal of a Road Closure on State Trust Land West of Eager, Arizona

Presenter: Mark Weise, Development Branch Chief

In 2002, Elizabeth Colter requested a closure to vehicular access on State Trust lands in Apache County. The Arizona Game and Fish Commission granted this closure with concurrence from the Arizona State Land Department. Wink Crigler, the sub lessee, has requested renewal of the closure.

This closure addresses an unnamed two-track road, 0.35 miles in length, which crosses the Little Colorado River and proceeds to the Old Walton Place (a historic building). The closure has been successful in reducing stream bank erosion at the river crossing and further resource damage to the soils and vegetation of the riparian area and floodplain from off-road vehicles. The Department is aware of no complaints regarding the closure. Hunters, fishermen, and other outdoor recreationists still use the area in its "foot access only" form. Regional personnel and the Arizona State Land Department support renewal of this closure for natural resource protection.

Motion: McLean moved and Martin seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO RENEW A ROAD CLOSURE ON STATE TRUST LAND LOCATED APPROXIMATELY FOUR MILES WEST OF EAGER.

Vote: Unanimous

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12. Request by Mr. William Boyd for a Hearing to Award a Tag or Reinstate His Bonus Points for Elk from the Fall 2006 Draw

Presenter: Harry Seck, Assistant Director, Special Services

William Boyd successfully drew a tag in 2006 for a hunt in Unit 4B (hunt #3105, Muzzleloader Bull – Oct 6-12, 2006). According to the Statement of Facts provided by Mr. Boyd an individual hunting bear with several dogs was in the same area as Mr. Boyd. Mr. Boyd stated the noise of these dogs scared all of the elk into Chevelon Canyon and he was unable to harvest an animal. Mr. Boyd also questioned the hunting of other species in an elk hunt unit. Mr. Boyd's proposed remedy is to be issued another elk tag or the reinstatement of his bonus points.

Motion: McLean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DENY MR. BOYD'S REQUEST FOR AN ELK TAG OR THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE BONUS POINTS HE ACCRUED PRIOR TO THE 2006 FALL HUNT DRAW.

Vote: Unanimous

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4.a. (Continued) An Update on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Planning for the Ironwood Forest National Monument and Proposed Recreational Shooting Ban

Presenter: Josh Avey, Habitat Branch Chief

Mr. Avey and Department staff worked with Commissioners Hernbrode and Martin as directed earlier in this meeting and developed a potential resolution to this issue. Mr. Avey read the resolution as follows: That the Commission support the BLM Alternative D as shown in the Ironwood Forest National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (Page 2 – 63) Decision on the use and discharge of firearms in target shooting, Decision number 13. And that the Commission request that the BLM

define dispersed recreational shooting as “any shooting that is carried out in a safe manner, does not cause resource damage, and does not leave behind litter”. As defined, dispersed recreational shooting will remain a legal activity, and the Commission requests this definition be included in the final RMP. The Commission further requests that the Ironwood Forest National Monument develop a Law Enforcement Coordination Plan in partnership with local Law Enforcement agencies.

Commissioner Martin further requested that the Commission explicitly say that they oppose Alternative C, so that it is not taken that the Commission supports or is neutral on Alternative C.

Commissioner McLean clarified that the Commission supports Alternative D only as it relates to the issue of dispersed recreational shooting.

Motion: Martin moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO OPPOSE THE PREFERRED ACTION ALTERNATIVE C, WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT THE DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS ON THE IRONWOOD FOREST NATIONAL MANUMENT, AND SUPPORTS THE BLM ALTERNATIVE D AS SHOWN IN THE IRONWOOD FOREST NATIONAL MONUMENT DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP) AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) (PAGE 2 – 63) DECISION ON THE USE AND DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS IN TARGET SHOOTING, DECISION NUMBER 13; THE COMMISSION REQUEST THAT THE BLM DEFINE DISPERSED RECREATIONAL SHOOTING AS “ANY SHOOTING THAT IS CARRIED OUT IN A SAFE MANNER, DOES NOT CAUSE RESOURCE DAMAGE, AND DOES NOT LEAVE BEHIND LITTER; AS DEFINED, DISPERSED RECREATIONAL SHOOTING WILL REMAIN A LEGAL ACTIVITY AND THE COMMISSION REQUEST THIS DEFINITION BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL RMP; THE COMMISSION FURTHER REQUEST THAT THE IRONWOOD FOREST NATIONAL MONUMENT DEVELOP A LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION PLAN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

Vote: Unanimous

Chairman Golightly suggested that the Department issue a news release on the Commission’s position in regards to this issue. The Commission concurred.

The Commission further discussed other aspects of the draft RMP including access issues and issues with managing for wilderness characteristics.

Commissioner McLean requested to see the Department’s draft response to the IFNM RMP before it goes for signature and further requested a briefing and update at the May Commission meeting.

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17. Litigation Report

There were no questions or comments regarding the Litigation Report.

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18. Call to the Public

There were no requests to speak to the Commission at this time.

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Motion: McLean moved and Martin seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADJOURN UNTIL 8:00 A.M. TOMORROW MORNING.

Vote: Unanimous

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Meeting recessed for the day at 4:16 p.m.

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Saturday, April 21, 2007 – 8:00 a.m.

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Chairman Golightly called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The Commissioners introduced themselves and Chairman Golightly introduced the Director and the Director's staff. This meeting followed an agenda revision #1 dated April 16, 2007.

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Awards and Commissioning of Officers

Director Shroufe presented Service Pin Awards to the following Department employees:

30 Years of Service: John Diehl

20 Years of Service: Bob Henry, Chuck Benedict, Joe Yarchin, Kevin Bergersen, Joan Scott and Tom McMahon

Deputy Director Steve Ferrell announced Department employee Dave Conrad as the recipient of the Shikar Safari Wildlife Officer of the Year Award. John Mellon, representing the Shikar Safari organization presented Mr. Conrad with a Silver Platter Award, a framed certificate, and a lapel pin for his career of contributions and accomplishments in the field of wildlife management and Law Enforcement.

Kevin Harris, representing the Arizona Deer Association, presented the Jamison Conservation Award to Commissioner Melton for his long and distinguished history of involvement in wildlife conservation activities, community service, mentoring youth, outdoor education, wildlife agency service, contributions to wildlife conservation, hunting advocacy, and other related activity.

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Meeting recessed for a break at 8:34 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 8:52 a.m.

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1. A Briefing on the Results from the Hunter Opinion Survey Conducted after the 2006 Fall Hunt Draw

Presenter: Leonard L. Ordway, Game Branch Chief

Mr. Ordway provided the Commission with a briefing using a Power Point presentation on the results from the Hunter Opinion Survey. The Department conducted a 53-question survey in late summer 2006 post fall draw period to determine hunter opinion on facets relating to hunter recruitment and retention. Responsive Management assisted in the development of the survey to remove biases associated with Department drafted questions. The electronic survey was sent to 59,967 email addresses provided by the Department's online vendor from applicants to the 2006 fall hunts. In all, 15,156 respondents completed the survey during August 15 to September 10, 2006. Responsive Management conducted a non-response bias check using a telephone survey of about 200 individuals (randomly selected from 43,967) that had provided telephone contact numbers on their application. The Commission was provided with a written briefing on this survey and the full survey report was provided prior to this meeting for review. The full report was posted on the Department website on January 9, 2007.

Mr. Ordway presented and discussed key findings of this report with the Commission. The following is a summary of the survey findings:

- Opportunity is more important than quality
- More respondents were satisfied than were dissatisfied with the draw process
- Most respondents believe that overcrowding is a minor problem
- Most respondents hunt frequently and primarily in Arizona
- Most respondents consider themselves experienced hunters
- The most preferred big game species is elk
- The most frequently used weapon type is rifle
- Most respondents were 35 years old or older

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2. Hunt Permit-tag Application Schedule for Fall 2007 Hunts

Presenter: Harry Seck, Assistant Director, Special Services

The Commission was provided with a brief presentation relating to the hunt permit-tag application schedule for the fall 2007 hunting seasons, excluding antelope and elk. The application schedule (attached to these minutes) identifies proposed acceptance dates and deadline dates for all hunts associated with the draw process. Also identified in the schedule are the proposed dates for when hunt permit-tags and refund warrants will be mailed, along with information relating to the first-come/first-serve process for any permits that may still be available.

Motion: McLean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ACCEPT THE HUNT PERMIT TAG APPLICATION FOR FALL 2007 FOR DEER, TURKEY, JAVELINA, BIGHORN SHEEP, BUFFALO, SANDHILL CRANE, PHEASANT AND RAPTORS AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

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2. Consideration of Proposed Commission Orders 2, 5-10, and 26 for the 2007-2008 Hunting Season

Presenter: Leonard L. Ordway, Game Branch Chief

Mr. Ordway briefed the Commission on the Department's recommendations on Commission Orders 2, 5-10, and 26 for the 2007-2008 hunting season, using a Power Point presentation. The Department recommended seasons, season dates, bag and possession limits, permit numbers, and open areas for Commission orders 2 (deer), 5-10 (fall turkey, fall javelina, bighorn sheep, fall buffalo, fall bear, and mountain lion), and 26 (population management seasons) according to hunt guidelines approved by the Commission during December 2005 for a two-year period, as amended at the April 2006 Commission meeting. Because the hunt guidelines were approved for a two-year period, no public meetings discussing the guidelines were held prior to the April 2007 Commission meeting, although each Region hosted, prior to the April Commission meeting, an open house where final recommendations were available for public review and discussion.

The Commission directed the Department to allocate at least 2% of the general deer permits and at least 2% of the general turkey permits to juniors-only seasons. The recommendations in this package offer 5.3% juniors-only deer permits (800 of which are antlerless permits on the Kaibab in Unit 12AW) and 2.6% juniors-only turkey permits. This allocation of juniors hunting opportunity to selectively expose more youth to hunting is consistent with recommendations from the hunter recruitment and retention report and related direction from the Commission to facilitate increased hunter recruitment.

Within this hunt recommendation package, the Department recommended maintaining deer and javelina fall seasons adopted last year. No more than 10% of general white-tailed deer hunting opportunities were recommended to occur during the December hunt structure. Javelina permits were recommended for fall seasons in Region V to provide a greater diversity of opportunity to hunters. Juniors-only archery and muzzleloader javelina seasons were also added in Unit 39. These recommendations should favorably impact hunter recruitment and retention.

COMMISSION ORDER 2 – DEER

The Department recommended 40,055 general deer permits in 2007, an increase of 2,080 permits statewide from 2006. Archery seasons for 2007 were recommended consistent with the structure in 2006; mandatory archery harvest reporting through the phone line appears to have improved substantially during the past year. White-tailed deer permits were recommended for an increase of 900 permits. Antlered mule deer permits were recommended for an increase of 1,180, although declining population numbers in southeastern Arizona dampened the overall increase.

Juniors permits were recommended at 2,130 (5.3% of general), an 820 permit increase over 2006. The December archery deer and general deer seasons were recommended to begin on December 14, 2007. Muzzleloader permits were recommended at 930 permits, an increase of 20 from 2006. A 10-permit CHAMP deer hunt will once again be offered on Fort Huachuca.

For the early hunts in Units 12A and 12B, the Department recommend earlier season dates (October 12-21, 2007) because the later dates during 2006 (October 27-November 5, 2006) resulted in higher than expected hunt success. The Department recommended a 900-permit early general antlered season (400 permit increase) in Unit 12AW and a 300-permit early general antlered season (150 permit increase) in Unit 12AE; the earlier season structure allows for increased hunter opportunity while still addressing management of buck:doe ratios within alternative guidelines. The Department also recommended two juniors-only antlerless 4-day seasons on subsequent weekends, 500 permits and 300 permits respectively, for a total of 800 permits (700 permit increase as compared to 2006) on the Winter Range Hunt Area in response to increased forage use, continued population growth, and in preparation for habitat restoration efforts. These recommendations are consistent with the Alternative Deer Management Plan approved by the Commission in April 2006; the Department recommended that the Kaibab deer herd continue with management for slight population growth until habitat research and restoration measures are complete.

The Commission was provided with a briefing and a Power Point presentation by Research Branch Chief Chasa O'Brien on the status of the North Kaibab Mule Deer Project in Unit 12A West, which is an ongoing research project the Department has been conducting since July 2005. The project is proceeding according to schedule and study design, and completion of the field work and analysis is expected by June 2008. At this point the study has determined a decrease in cliffrose leader length between growing years, demonstrating some of the annual variability in growth that can probably be attributed to weather differences, primarily rainfall. Vegetation sampling indicates the winter range quality is low to moderate per the Utah Range Trend Analysis. The Arizona State University Polytechnic Campus is conducting an ongoing nutritional analysis, which may provide more information as to the range quality.

Flagstaff Regional Supervisor Ron Sieg provided an update on the progress of the restoration project on the Kaibab. The Department has been working with the Forest Service for the past three years on planning and implementing an approximate 24,000 acre project on the West side winter range area. The project includes reseeding browse species into the 1996 burned area, seeding browse species into some valley bottom areas, push renovations for pinyon-juniper work that was done between 1960-1980, and looking at some decadent pinyon-juniper woodlands to improve browse species. The Forest Service issued a decision in January to allow the work to proceed. The appeal period ended in March 2007 with no appeals filed. The final step is an agreement with the Forest Service to allow the Department to conduct work on National Forest lands. That agreement is near completion and then the project can proceed.

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Meeting recessed for a break at 10:31 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:48 a.m.

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Chairman Golightly asked if the Department had any alternatives in light of the considerable public input received by the Department on the hunt recommendations for deer, specifically as they relate to the overlap of archery elk and deer.

Mr. Ordway provided the following alternatives:

- Leave the recommendation as it is
- Take the units that have the overlap, except for 16A, 19A, and 23S, and make the season structure August 31-September 13
- Adjust entire deer hunting season, except military seasons, to occur a week earlier keeping a three-week structure making the season structure August 24-September 13

Public Comment

Kevin Harris, Arizona Deer Association (ADA), supported the deer package statewide with the exception of the increased number of antlerless permits recommended on the Kaibab.

Walter Corn, President, ADA Buckskin Chapter, opposed the increased number of permits on the Kaibab.

Doran Stacy Higley, Board Member, Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF), opposed archery deer overlap on elk.

Chris Denham, Board Member, AWF, opposed to increase doe harvest on the Kaibab, the rifle hunt in 12A East and West, and the archery deer-elk overlap.

Keith Gains, opposed to archery deer overlap on elk and the stratified hunts in the northern units for whitetail.

G. Terry Henry, opposed to archery deer-elk overlap.

Nick Heatwole, Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club (YVRGC) opposed to archery deer-elk overlap.

Dick King, Arizona Bowhunter Association, opposed to opening archery deer season on Labor Day weekend and to the archery deer-elk overlap.

Steve Clark, President, Arizona Elk Society (AES), opposed to archery deer/elk overlap and supported the alternative for archery deer hunting seasons to occur one week earlier.

David Hawkins, opposed archery deer-elk overlap.

Rick Merwin, opposed archery deer-elk overlap.

Steve Chevront, opposed to increased permits on the Kaibab.

Marvin Ziezer, opposed to archery deer-elk overlap and supported alternative for earlier season.

Bruce Johnson, supported the Department's recommendation on deer and urged the Department to be conservative in allowing growth of the deer population on the Kaibab.

Phillip Cramer, opposed archery deer-elk overlap and supported alternative to move one week earlier.

Miles Moretti, President, Mule Deer Foundation, urged the Department to proceed slowly and with caution in making changes on the Kaibab.

Commissioner Hernbrode proposed that the season dates for Units 12A, 12B and 13 remain the same as last year with permit numbers of 175 for 12A East, 650 for 12A West, and 175 for 12B West.

Motion: Golightly moved and Martin seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 2 – DEER AS PROPOSED WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS: SEASON DATES FOR UNITS 12A, 12B AND 13 REMAIN THE SAME AS LAST YEAR WITH PERMIT NUMBERS OF 175 FOR 12A EAST, 650 FOR 12A WEST, AND 175 FOR 12B WEST; AND MOVE ENTIRE ARCHERY STRUCTURE TO ONE WEEK EARLIER FOR DEER LEAVING THE OVERLAP FOR BEAR AND SQUIRREL, EXCEPT FOR 16A, 19A, AND 23S, AND MAKE THE SEASON STRUCTURE AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 13.

The Commission further discussed and questioned the permit numbers on the Kaibab noting that a research project was still in progress in that area. The Commission further decided to vote separately on Commission recommendations and then incorporate them into the overall motion to approve the Commission Order.

Commissioner Martin withdrew her second.

Motion Restated: Golightly moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO MOVE THE CLOSING DATE OF THE ARCHERY DEER SEASON BACK TO SEPTEMBER 20; AND TO MOVE THE OPENING DATE, NORTH OF THE RIVER, TO THE LAST FRIDAY IN OCTOBER; AND SEASON DATES FOR THE NEW ADJUSTED EARLY ANTLERED DEER HUNT ON THE KAIBAB, UNITS 12A, 12B AND 13 REMAIN THE SAME AS LAST YEAR WITH PERMIT NUMBERS OF 175 FOR 12A EAST, 650 FOR 12A WEST, AND 175 FOR 12B WEST.

Motion died for lack of second.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and Melton and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THAT THE SEASON DATES AND PERMIT NUMBERS FOR UNITS 12A EAST, 12A WEST, 12B WEST BE ADJUSTED TO PARALLEL THE SEASON DATES THAT WERE RECOMMENDED AND APPROVED LAST YEAR; AND THAT THE PERMIT NUMBERS BE ADJUSTED TO 175 FOR 12A EAST, 650 FOR 12A WEST, AND 175 FOR 12B WEST.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: McLean moved and Martin seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE TO CHANGE THE ARCHERY DEER SEASON DATES, EXCEPT MILITARY SEASONS, TO AUGUST 24-SEPTEMBER 13, 2007.

Vote: Aye - Golightly, McLean, Martin, Melton
Nay - Hernbrode
Passed 4 to 1

Motion: McLean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE REMAINING DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMISSION ORDER 2, INCLUDING THE DOE HUNT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NORTH KAIBAB.

Vote: Aye - McLean, Hernbrode
Nay - Golightly, Martin, Melton
Failed 3 to 2

Motion: Mclean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE REMAINING DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMISSION ORDER 2, EXCEPT THE ANTLERLESS PERMITS ON THE NORTH KAIBAB, AND EXCEPT FOR THOSE PREVIOUSLY VOTED ON AND APPROVED.

Commissioner Melton cautioned against the effect this motion would have on the junior hunts.

Commissioner Hernbrode withdrew his second.

Motion Withdrawn.

Motion: McLean moved and Martin seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ANTERLESS DEER TAGS ON THE NORTH KAIBAB TO 400 FOR NOVEMBER 9-NOVEMBER 12 ON THE WINTER RANGE HUNT AREA UNIT 12A WEST.

Vote: Aye - Golightly, McLean, Martin, Melton
Nay - Hernbrode
Passed 4 to 1

Motion: McLean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE REMAINDER OF COMMISSION ORDER 2.

Vote: Unanimous

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Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:31 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:38 p.m.

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The fall general turkey season was recommended to run October 12-18, 2007 with 5,840 permits, which is an increase of 530 permits over 2006. There were 150 juniors-only season turkey permits recommended (2.6% of general) with the same season dates as the general fall season. In Unit 12A, the fall turkey season was originally recommended to run October 5-11, 2007 to avoid overlapping the proposed dates for the early deer seasons, but could be amended to fall within dates of the other units now that deer season dates in Unit 12AW had been changed.

Motion: McLean moved and Martin seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 5 – TURKEY AS PROPOSED WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT THE TURKEY HUNT FOR 12A WEST BE CHANGED TO THE HISTORIC STRUCTURE (OCTOBER 12-OCTOBER 18 ON THE GENERAL HUNT) AND THAT THE ARCHERY TURKEY HUNTS BE ADJUSTED TO MATCH THE CHANGE APPROVED EARLIER FOR DEER (AUGUST 24-SEPTEMBER 13).

Vote: Unanimous

COMMISSION ORDER 6 – JAVELINA

For fall 2007, the Department recommended the same fall javelina season structure as for 2006. The archery season dates are coincidental with the first 10 days of archery deer (August 31-September 9, 2007), the HAM season is scheduled to coincide with the first 10 days of the small game season (October 12-21), and the general season is scheduled to coincide with a 10-day deer season (November 9-18). The Department recommended 660 archery, 605 HAM, and 920 general season permits.

New for 2007, the Department is recommended juniors-only archery and muzzleloader javelina hunts in Unit 39 with 15 archery permits during November 2-15, 2007, and 10 muzzleloader permits during November 16-25, 2007. These hunts will target javelina population that is increasing and occupying the Robbins Butte Wildlife Area, and are being piloted to enhance big game hunter recruitment near the Phoenix metro area.

Motion: Martin moved and Melton seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 6 – JAVELINA AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

COMMISSION ORDER 7 – BIGHORN SHEEP

Bighorn sheep permits are recommended for a total of 96, an increase of 3 from last year. Units 15B and 15C are still at reduced numbers from historic levels. A more recent decline in the Kofa Mountains (Units 45A, B, and C) was noted in surveys this year; however sufficient rams are present in Unit 45A to merit a 1-permit increase (5 total). Units 45B and C each are recommended for a 1-permit decrease (1 and 4 total in each unit, respectively). Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep continue to do well and comprise 14 of the permits recommended.

Public Comment

Stephanie Nichols-Young, Animal Defense League of Arizona, expressed concern with declining bighorn sheep numbers on the Kofa and recommended no hunting in that area. Ms. Nichols-Young also noted that the Commission received letters of concern from other interested organizations.

Motion: Martin moved THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 7 – BIGHORN SHEEP AS PROPOSED EXCEPT FOR THE 1- PERMIT INCREASE IN UNIT 45A.

Motion died for lack of second.

The Commission further discussed with Mr. Ordway the survey data for Unit 45A. The Department believed that the recommendation was conservative based on survey data showing that rams were available. Also, beginning this year surveys will be completed on an annual basis instead of every three years.

Motion: Hernbrode moved THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 7 – BIGHORN SHEEP AS PROPOSED EXCEPT FOR UNIT 37A REDUCING TO ONE PERMIT INSTEAD OF TWO.

Motion died for lack of second.

Motion: McLean moved and Melton seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 7 – BIGHORN SHEEP AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Aye - Golightly, McLean, Hernbrode, Melton
Nay - Martin
Passed 4 to 1

Commissioner McLean stated that additional coordination was needed with Yuma Proving Grounds and others with the hunters in that area regarding the extreme restrictions placed on hunters that can change almost daily.

Commissioner Hernbrode stated that the Department needed to look at the guidelines in regards to minimum population size at which a hunt may be offered, and the Department should target specific animals with the hunters as it relates to the age of the animal.

COMMISSION ORDER 8 – BUFFALO

Eight buffalo permits were recommended for the fall seasons. The Raymond Wildlife Area buffalo herd was recommended for 5 hunts. The first is an adult bull hunt with a single tag. The second is a single tag for an adult cow. The remaining 3 hunts were for 2 adult cow tags each.

No general hunts were recommended on the House Rock Wildlife Area because structured hunts have been ineffective in harvesting buffalo. As directed by the Commission last year, the Department reviewed the various available hunt structures and expected effectiveness for buffalo at the House Rock area, and continues to recommend that the best current hunt management structure is via the population management hunt structure. Spring hunts were expanded for

2007, but success of that strategy is not yet known. The House Rock herd was recommended for harvest using population management seasons that will allow the Department to be responsive to harvest opportunities when buffalo are available off the Grand Canyon National Park. The Commission was provided with a briefing on House Rock buffalo hunt structures used historically and their relative effectiveness.

Randy Spray, ABA, turned in a speaker card, but did not address the Commission.

Motion: Martin moved and Melton seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 8 – BUFFALO AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

COMMISSION ORDER 9 – BEAR

Fall bear season structures were unchanged from 2006. General seasons may occur from August 10-30 or October 5-December 31, 2007, whereas archery seasons may occur during August 31-October 4, 2007. This structure allows for season type (archery, general) similarity among open seasons for various species (bear, deer, elk). Regions recommended units without hunts to allow for areas where nuisance bears may be released if captured and relocated. The 2007 recommendation is for a sow quota of 81 for general and 12 for archery season, which is an overall reduction of 2 sows from 2006. Compliance with the mandatory physical check for bear has been very good.

Commissioner Mclean clarified with Mr. Ordway that Department killed female bears would be included in the harvest objective.

Motion: McLean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 9 – BEAR AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

COMMISSION ORDER 10 – MOUNTAIN LION

The Department recommended that the mountain lion season be open from September 1 to May 31. This will include a new three-month closure (June through August) to correspond to a documented peak in the birthing of mountain lions. This closure will protect young lion kittens when they are most vulnerable and address continuing social concerns for mountain lion management in Arizona. This recommendation came from the Predator Management Team report completed by the Department over two years ago and was derived through collaboration with external constituents. Units with multiple bag limits will remain open yearlong. Also, Camp Navajo has requested that the lands under their jurisdiction be opened for the take of mountain lion.

The Department recommended the removal of the multiple bag limit in Units 21 West because the pronghorn population in that area has met the minimum population objectives. The establishment of a multiple bag limit of 15 mountain lions was recommended for Units 16A

South and 18B South to facilitate the successful establishment of a bighorn sheep population recently released in the Hell's Half Acre area.

Public comment

Matt Colvin, opposed to three month closure in Southeast Arizona.

Ron Thompson, supported the Department's recommendation.

Stephanie Nichols-Young, representing ADLA and other organizations, stated that a three month closed season was too short.

Chris Denham, representing a group of houndsmen, provided a letter with 53 signatures in support of the Department's recommendation.

Michael R. Burris, President, Wildlife Conservation Council, supported the Department's recommendation.

Mark Bool, ADA, supported the Department's recommendation.

Nick Heatwole, YVRGC, opposed closing the season for three months.

Commissioner Golightly suggested that the Department develop a list of lion hunters who would be interested in assisting and pursuing lions in cases of depredation.

Motion: Hernbrode moved THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 10 – MOUNTAIN LION AS PROPOSED.

Commissioner Melton seconded with an amendment accepted by Commissioner Hernbrode.

Motion Amended: Hernbrode moved and Melton seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 10 – AS PROPOSED EXCEPT UNITS 16B, 40B, 41, 43A, 44A, AND 44B BE INCLUDED IN THE STATEWIDE SEASON STRUCTURE WITHOUT A MULTIPLE BAG LIMIT, THEREBY REMOVING FOOTNOTE NUMBER 2 OFF OF REGULATIONS.

Vote: Unanimous

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Meeting recessed for lunch at 2:56 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 3:08 p.m.

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4. The Mule Deer Foundation will make a presentation to the Commission regarding its current efforts and interests in mule deer management

Presenter: Leonard L. Ordway, Game Branch Chief

Mr. Ordway introduced the President of the Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) Miles Moretti. Mr. Moretti provided the Commission with an update on MDF using a Power Point presentation. MDF is a national nonprofit organization formed to ensure the conservation of mule deer, blacktail deer, and their habitats. The presentation included the organization's current efforts and activities related to the conservation of mule deer in Arizona. Some other highlights in the presentation were: MDF plans to hold two fundraising events in Arizona, one in Mesa and one in St. Johns, in 2007; a new Regional Field Director covering Arizona and New Mexico will start on May 15, 2007; and there are plans to restart the MDF Chapters in Flagstaff and Tucson.

Commissioner McLean suggested that MDF get involved with other organizations on the Super Raffle.

* * * * *

2. (Continued) Consideration of Proposed Commission Orders 2, 5-10, and 26 for the 2007-2008 Hunting Season

COMMISSION ORDER 26 – POPULATION MANAGEMENT SEASONS

Population management seasons were recommended for elk and buffalo to be available to deer hunters in Unit 12A and 12B (buffalo only to Unit 12A). Elk population management season permits were recommended at 1,725 and buffalo population management season permits were recommended at 1,425. These permits will be available only to hunters that successfully draw a deer tag in the coincidental deer hunt. Permit holders for these alternate species routinely have very low hunt success. During this past year, 4 adult bull buffalo and no elk were reportedly taken.

Motion: McLean moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 26 – POPULATION MANAGEMENT SEASONS AS PROPOSED, EXCEPT ELK PERMITS IN UNITS 12A EAST, 12A WEST, 12B, 12B WEST WILL BE 1,325 INSTEAD OF 1,725 FOR THE GENERAL DEER HUNTS AND THE NEW DATES WILL BE OCTOBER 26-NOVEMBER 4; THE OTHERS LISTED IN THE NOVEMBER TIME FRAME ARE THE SAME AS THE CERTIFICATION COPY; FOR BUFFALO ON THE COMPANION TAG SIDE THE TOTAL PERMIT TAGS WILL BE 1,050 WHICH CORRESPONDS WITH COMMISSION ACTION ON DEER TAGS.

Vote: Unanimous

* * * * *

3. Proposed Amendment to Commission Order 18 – Blue Grouse

Presenter: Leonard L. Ordway, Game Branch Chief

At the April 2006 Commission meeting, the Commission authorized Commission order 18 – blue grouse for a two-year period. The dates for this hunt in the upcoming year approved by the Commission are September 14-November 25, 2007.

The Department is working to obtain blue grouse for translocation into Units 4A and 5A. The goal of the translocation is to establish additional populations to expand wildlife hunting and viewing opportunity; there is currently no evidence to indicate that this species of game occurs in either of these units. The Department recommended that Commission order 18 be amended to provide blue grouse protection from hunting within these two units until a self sustaining population is established. The proposed amendment to Commission order 18 is as follows:

<u>Season Dates</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Open Areas</u>	<u>Legal Wildlife</u>
Sep 14-Nov 25, 2007	(1)	Open areas Statewide (except for Units 4A and 5A, National Wildlife Refuges, and Mohave County Park Lands)	Blue grouse

Notes: (1) The Grand Canyon-Parashant, Vermilion Cliffs, Sonoran Desert, Ironwood Forest, and Agua Fria National Monuments are open to hunting.

BAG LIMIT: Three (3) blue grouse per day.

POSSESSION LIMIT: Six (6) blue grouse of which no more than three (3) may be taken in any one day.

Motion: Hernbrode moved and McLean seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AMEND COMMISSION ORDER 18 – BLUE GROUSE SEASONS, AS PROPOSED TO ALLOW THE TRANSPLANT ACTIVITIES THAT WERE INITIATED.

* * * * *

5. Call to the Public

Steve Chevront, representing himself, addressed the Commission regarding water projects performed by the Department’s Development Branch. In reviewing the cost of several water projects, Mr. Chevront found a combined total of \$205,947 in over charges between the proposed cost of the project and what was actually charged for the projects.

Director Shroufe stated that the Department will discuss this with Mr. Chevront and investigate the issue, and then provide a report to the Commission.

* * * * *

6. Request for Commission Approval of an Action Plan to Offset the Effects of Golden Alga to Fisheries Resources in Salt River Reservoirs.

Presenter: Bob Broscheid, Assistant Director, Wildlife Management Division

At the Commission’s March meeting, the Department made an informational presentation about golden alga (*Prymnesium parvum*), and the effects it has caused to valuable fisheries resources, notably Saguaro, Canyon, and Apache lakes on the Tonto National Forest. The presentation included a series of strategies that the Department could propose to attempt to offset some of

those effects. The Commission directed the Department to present a more detailed action plan at the April meeting.

In response to the Commission's direction, Mr. Broscheid provided a briefing on the Department's Salt River Lakes and Golden Alga Team Action Plan. A copy of the Action Plan was provided to the Commission prior to this meeting for review and consideration. Elements of the plan included fish stocking, research, outreach, habitat enhancement, monitoring, and partnership actions. The Action Plan also included estimates of cost above existing programs and the Department's financing to address those costs. Further, the plan identified longer-term considerations not taken up at this time.

Commissioner Martin asked about installing oxygen sensors to test the level of dissolved oxygen in the SRP water going into the lakes.

Mr. Broscheid stated that the subject of oxygen sensors could be approached in collaboration meetings with SRP once the Department gets into more formal discussions.

Commissioner Martin requested that it be added as another bullet under preferred actions.

Public Comment

The following members of the public addressed the Commission in support of the Action Plan:

Denny Anderson
Jerry Nelson, Anglers United
Jim Patterson

Motion: Martin moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN AS WRITTEN, AND TO ADAPT THAT PLAN AS NECESSARY DURING ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

Vote: Unanimous

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7. Request for Commission Approval for the Department to Implement the Introduction of Native Fishes to Ash Creek, Gila County, Arizona

Presenter: Eric Gardner, Nongame Branch Chief

Ash Creek is a tributary to the Salt River in Gila County and originates near Hwy 60, between Globe and Show Low on the Tonto National Forest (Forest), Globe Ranger District. Ash Creek flows through two Forest Service grazing allotments; the Haystack Butte (Joe and Kathy Youngblood), and the Chrysotile (Michael Odonetto), and a 640-acre parcel of private land known as Chrysotile. There are currently nine private landowners on this property, all of whom support this proposed action.

In November 2000, the Department was approached by the private landowners at Chrysotile to consider the introduction of native fishes into Ash Creek. Ash Creek supports a thriving population of lowland leopard frogs and is rich in aquatic invertebrates. Surveys conducted by the Department in 2000, 2001 and 2006 determined Ash Creek to be fishless, but did identify an abundance of diverse fish habitat throughout the upper 9-miles of the stream. The lower section, which flows through the Haystack Butte Allotment, is not perennial and would not likely support a viable native fish population.

In 2001, the Department initiated a project to introduce five native fish species including roundtail chub, speckled dace, longfin dace, Sonora sucker and desert sucker. Ash Creek was identified as a high priority project within the approved Statewide Conservation Agreement for Roundtail Chub, Headwater Chub, Flannelmouth Sucker, Little Colorado Sucker, Bluehead Sucker and Zuni Bluehead Sucker. Consistent with the Department's environmental compliance process and previous Commission direction, coordination was initiated with the Forest and the two grazing permittees to discuss the project and identify any issues, and obtain support for the project. During discussions with the Globe District Ranger, and the Haystack Butte Allotment Manager, concerns were raised by both entities about the potential listing of roundtail chub as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. Because of the potential listing, the Department approached this project as if the roundtail chub was a listed species, and operated under 1997 Commission directive on Reintroduction of Federally Listed Aquatic Wildlife. Significant effort has been expended over the last seven years in attempts to identify and address concerns of the permittees involved with the native fish introduction into Ash Creek.

In April 2006, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determined that listing for this species was not warranted. In October 2006, meetings were held with USFWS, the Forest and the permittees in order to address concerns regarding the native fish introductions. No specific impacts to the Chrysotile Allotment could be identified because the species being proposed for reintroduction are not listed. However, no assurances or commitments can be made to the permittees regarding future impacts to grazing operations if any of the species were to become listed in the future. The Department did assure the permittee that we would not support any changes to current operation of the grazing permit as a result of the introduction of these fish as long as operations continue to meet Forest Service standards and guidelines for range and watershed condition. Although permit requirements are under the discretion of the Forest Service, the Department did offer future technical and financial assistance to the permittee for any allotment rangeland improvements. At this time, the Department has not received permittee concurrence, and believes we have exhausted all reasonable avenues to obtain concurrence prior to moving forward with this project.

The Department obtained letters of support from all nine landowners on the Chrysotile private property, and the Tonto National Forest to reintroduce five native fish species to Ash Creek.

Commissioner Hernbrode requested that the Department review and take another look at the guidelines considering that the guidelines referred to were from 1997.

Public Comment

The following addressed the Commission in support of the Department's recommendation:

Sally Stefferud
Stephanie Nichols –Young, ADLA

Motion: Martin moved and Hernbrode seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE INTRODUCTION OF FIVE SPECIES OF NATIVE FISHES TO ASH CREEK IN GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA, AND PRESENT RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING IMPROVING THE 1997 GUIDELINES FOR THE REINTRODUCTION OF FEDERALLY LISTED AQUATIC WILDLIFE AT A FUTURE COMMISSION MEETING.

Vote: Unanimous

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8. Call to the Public

There were no requests from the public to speak.

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9. Commission Work Sessions

Presenter: Martin Fabritz, Executive Staff Assistant

Mr. Fabritz provided the Commission with two topics of discussion/training for the Commission to address in a work session: 1) media training and update; and 2) mule deer management issues on the Kaibab. The Department suggested July or August as the proposed months for the work session.

Chairman Golightly requested that the Department try to locate an inexpensive facilitator for the media training.

Commissioner Hernbrode requested dialogue with Department biologist on the management of the Kaibab and its future, and possibly a review some draft deer guidelines.

Chairman Golightly asked to see some check station information and discuss what it means in terms of permit tags.

Commissioner Hernbrode requested discussion of the hunter survey and how that translates to determining hunt numbers, and suggested inviting Mark Duda.

Chairman Golightly requested another item to be discussion of how to hire a new Director and what the process will be, considering Duane Shroufe’s pending retirement.

Commissioner McLean added that as a part of that presentation that the Attorneys put together an outline of what the various Commission duties are regarding the search for a new Director, including what portions are protected by Executive Session privilege and what portions can be public.

* * * * *

10. Director and Chairman's Report

Chairman Golightly reported that he went on vacation this month; worked on shooting range issues; contacted Legislators on several items; and prepared for this Commission meeting.

Director Shroufe attended and chaired a North American Wetlands Council meeting where 24 million dollars of wetland money was allocated to Canada and another 3.9 million dollars for small wetland projects in the United States; attended two meetings with Freeport Mining (formerly Phelps Dodge) one on a natural resources damage claim from the Morenci mines where we are trying to work with them on a settlement for losses of waterfowl and migratory birds and the other was a meeting was on the sale of the Planet Ranch from Scottsdale to Freeport, which is turning into the possibility of the purchase of some of that land and riparian repair on the Bill Williams River for the Bureau of Reclamation and a land exchange for BLM; attended the North American Natural Resource Conference; attended the Governor's Cabinet meeting, a Colorado River Wildlife Council meeting, a Lake Havasu Habitat Partnership meeting, and a Management Team meeting; also worked closely with staff on the Governor's Growth Cabinet and the Governor's Climate Change Cabinet.

* * * * *

11. Commissioners' Report

Commissioner Hernbrode reported that he attended two meetings on future funding; worked with a couple of foundations to learn more about conservation easements; attended the Commissioner's Cup in Tucson where 160 shooters competed in skeet; and spoke to a graduate class at the U of A.

Commissioner McLean reported first and foremost that his first granddaughter was born; also he met with the Governor's Office staff regarding political support for the Northern Arizona Shooting Range; met with folks on the alternative funding issues; went to the Senate and testified a couple of times on the OHV bill before the Appropriations Committee; spent five days in St. Louis at the National Rifle Association meeting and met with some of their senior people enlisting their support, cooperation and aid in regard to the Northern Arizona Shooting Range and other ranges; attended the 2007 Expo at BASF; helped hand out awards to the kids on the sporting clays Commissioner's Cup Tournament; and spent time talking with Leonard Ordway and staff regarding this Commission meeting.

Commissioner Martin attended the Tres Rios Nature Festival where she participated in showing appreciation for the Luke Air Force for there contributions to habitat work out there; went to the Western Bat Conservation Working Group Conference and delivered the opening comments (also discussed wind energy in one of the sessions and would like to see the Department participate in planning to mitigate impacts to birds and bats); met with the Governor's staff seeking support for the Northern Arizona Shooting Range, and discussed recreational shooting at Ironwood and uranium exploration in Arizona; attended the dedication of the Conservation Center at the Phoenix Zoo; and finally, had a committee hearing in the Senate and her

nomination for AGFC was passed on to the full Senate for a final confirmation.

Commissioner Melton spent a couple days participating at the Outdoor Expo at BASF and talked to all the kids in the Scholastic Shooting Program and their parents; he also talked with all the clubs that participated in that event.

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12. Approval of Minutes and Signing of Minutes

Motion: McLean moved and Martin seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR MARCH 9-10, 2007.

Vote: Unanimous

The Commission signed the minutes for March 9-10, 2007.

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13. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Ferrell captured the following future agenda items/action items:

- Look into the possibility of acquiring the 100 plus acre vacant parcel at Uesry Park from Maricopa County for future range development or other uses that may be advantageous to the Department's constituents
- Aggressively keep the Coconino National Forest on the timeline for the development of the Northern Arizona Shooting Range
- Revise the list of invitees to the Northern Arizona Shooting Public Working Group to include supporters of the project
- Coordinate with congress and other local and/or state entities to explore the possibility of a federal land grant for the Willards Springs site of the Northern Arizona Shooting Range
- Coordinate with NGOs and other appropriate parties to obtain endorsements for this option
- Coordinate with the Forest Service to explore the possibility of obtaining a special use permit for developing and operating a shooting range site on Forest Service land while concurrently pursuing the prior Commission direction to prepare a land exchange offering Department owned lands for a shooting range site in Northern Arizona with the caveat that wildlife values of Department owned lands not be compromised after the exchange
- Work with the Wickenburg Sportsman Club exploring the potential for an RMPP on BLM land and also include that project in the monthly Shooting Range Update
- Be sure the Prescott Shooting Range is part of the monthly Shooting Range Update
- Research the Department's investment and programs at Upper Lake Mary
- Investigate access issues involving the Bluebird Mine Road and the closure in the Galliuro Mountains

- Send the resolution from the Commission signed by the Chairman to BLM regarding recreational shooting on the Ironwood National Monument, and follow up with a news release announcing that resolution
- Re-format the monthly I&E report to better separate information from education and particularly highlight formal classroom education
- Pursue discussions and more serious negotiations for public access and conservation easement for the Espee Ranch in Unit 10 with Babbit Ranches
- Brief the Commission on Department's review and comments on the Ironwood Forest National Monument at the May Commission meeting
- Consider keeping a list of houndsmen that livestock operators might call upon to solicit services and respond to a depredation
- Look into cost for materials on Habitat Development projects
- Review the 1997 guidelines for the reintroductions of federally listed aquatic wildlife and make a presentation to the Commission at May Commission meeting
- Schedule an informal working session for the Commission at a date to be determined in July or August. Those would include a facilitator for media training, Kaibab mule deer management, look into the guidelines of the mule deer working group, provide some check station data, the hunter survey (see if Mark Duda will join that working session and help translate the information in the hunter survey to season structures), and the process for hiring a new Director asking the Attorney General's Office to assemble an outline for the process of searching for a new Director
- Provide the Commission with a briefing on the progress of future funding initiative at the May Commission meeting

Commissioner Martin added that she would like the Department to provide an update on the Salt River Reservoirs Research.

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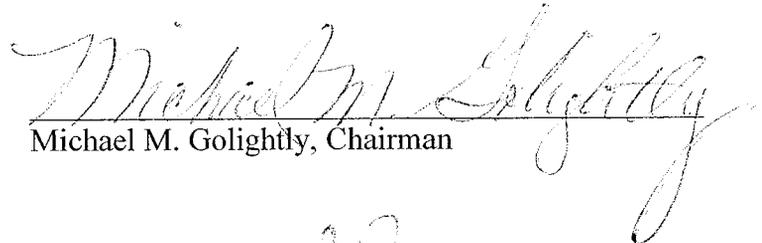
Motion: McLean moved and Martin seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADJOURN THIS MEETING.

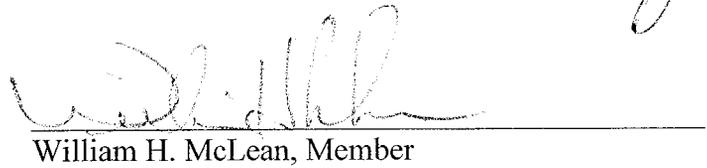
Vote: Unanimous

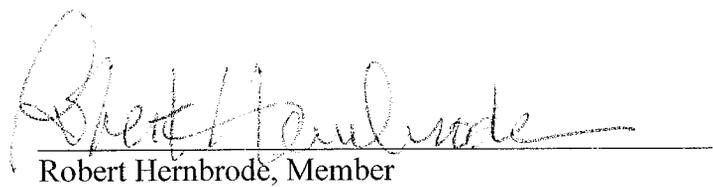
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Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

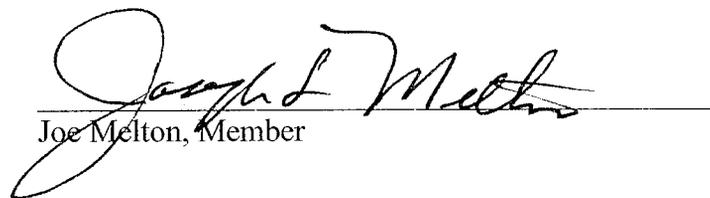
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Michael M. Golightly, Chairman


William H. McLean, Member


Robert Hernbrode, Member


Jennifer L. Martin, Member


Joe Melton, Member

ATTEST:


Duane L. Shroufe
Secretary and Director

Game and Fish Litigation Report
Presented at the Commission Meeting
April 20, 2007

The Assistant Attorneys General for the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and the Arizona Game and Fish Department are representing these agencies in the following matters in litigation. This report does not include claims and lawsuits for damages against these agencies in which the agencies are represented by Assistant Attorneys General in the Liability Defense Section of the Attorney General's Office.

1. ***State v. Johnson, CV2005-002692.*** On February 14, 2005, the State of Arizona ("State") filed a multi-count complaint against land developer George Johnson and related individuals and entities ("Defendants") alleging that Defendants: (1) bulldozed over 270 acres of State Trust Lands and 2,415 acres of other lands in and near the Ironwood Forest National Monument ("Monument") and the Los Robles Archeological District; (2) irreparably damaged protected archeological sites on State Trust Lands; (3) destroyed thousands of protected native plants; (4) discharged pollutants into waters of the State and altering and damaging watercourses of the State; (5) breached the terms of a State grazing lease; and (6) allowed diseased domestic goats to roam into the habitat of the Silver Bell desert bighorn sheep herd on the Monument, thereby infecting 47 desert bighorn sheep with keratoconjunctivitis and contagious ecthyma and causing the deaths of 21 members of the herd.

Along with the Complaint, the State filed a motion to place the case into Arizona Superior Court's Complex Litigation Pilot Program.

On March 18, 2005, the State filed an amended Complaint wherein the State Land Department added claims for waste and punitive damages.

On March 25, 2005, the Court issued an order designating the case as complex and assigning the matter to Judge Rebecca Albrecht. The parties held a case management conference before Judge Albrecht on May 11, 2005.

On May 23, 2005, Defendants filed motions to dismiss the Commission's negligence per se and unlawful killing of wildlife claims. Defendants did not move to dismiss the Commission's negligence claim. The Attorney General's Office filed responses to Defendants' motions on June 21, 2005. Defendants filed reply briefs in support of their motions to dismiss on July 6, 2005, and the Court heard oral argument on the motions on July 21, 2005.

On August 23, 2005, the Court issued a ruling denying both of Defendants' motions to dismiss. On September 15, 2005, the State filed a Second Amended Complaint at the Court's direction to more fully address the State's basis for asserting personal liability against George Johnson for certain of the State's claims related to trespass, destruction of native plants, damage to archeological sites, and violation of water quality and storm water discharge laws.

On October 13, 2005, Defendants filed a counterclaim for defamation against the Attorney General and the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality arising from statements made to the press about the case. On October 14, 2005, Defendants filed an answer to the State's Second Amended Complaint. As required by Rule 26.1 of the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure, the parties

will exchange comprehensive disclosure statements regarding the factual and legal basis of the claims in the case on November 10, 2005.

The parties served initial disclosure statements on November 10, 2005, and are working on a proposed case management order. Due to the retirement of Judge Albrecht, the case was transferred to Judge Barton. The defendants filed a notice of change of judge with respect to Judge Barton, and the case has been reassigned to Judge Kenneth L. Fields. Judge Fields has scheduled a status conference for February 13, 2006 to discuss the proposed case management order. The parties held a status conference before the Court on February 27, 2006. The Court ordered the parties to prepare a Joint Case Management Order no later than noon on March 8, 2006. The parties have started the written discovery process, and depositions will commence the second week of May.

The parties held a status conference on June 5, 2006, and filed a Joint Alternative Dispute Resolution Statement with the Court. The parties agreed to mediate this dispute, and have Tom Toone of Beer & Toone to serve as mediator. On August 7, 2006, the parties filed their respective mediation statements. The mediation took place on August 18, 2006, but the parties were not able to resolve the dispute. Following the mediation, the defendants noticed the depositions of several Department employees. These depositions took place in the fall of 2006.

2. *Charles M. Johnson v. Arizona Game and Fish Department, LC2006-000775.* On November 13, 2006, Charles M. Johnson filed a Complaint in Arizona Superior Court appealing the Commission's orders revoking his license privileges for three (3) years, requiring him to complete a hunter education course before obtaining another license to hunt in Arizona, and denying his request for a rehearing. Mr. Johnson filed with his Complaint an Application for Order to Show Cause ("Application") asking the Court to stay his license suspension pending the outcome of the appeal. On November 17, 2006, Game and Fish filed an Opposition to Mr. Johnson's Application. On November 21, 2006, the Court issued a minute entry finding that Mr. Johnson's Application was "neither procedurally appropriate nor substantively adequate" and declining to issue a stay.

The parties held their first status conference before the Court on January 10, 2007. The Court set the briefing and oral argument schedule as follows: (1) Johnson's Opening Brief due March 5, 2007; (2) the State's Response Brief due April 16, 2007; (3) Johnson's Reply Brief due May 16, 2007; and (4) Oral Argument on May 30, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

(1/17/07) (JFO/SDC)

Lands Update

For the Arizona Game and Fish Commission

April 20, 2007

Glendale, Arizona

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests

The Department continues to participate on the Goshawk Guidelines Collaborative Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team). The ID Team was formed to provide input to the Forest on a goshawk guidelines demonstration project within the approximately 3,500 acre Eagar South Wildland Urban Interface Analysis area in Apache County. Recent meetings have focused on the development of recommended monitoring activities, and discussion of proposed prescriptions.

The Department continues to work on plans to install fish habitat structures in local lakes, including Lyman Lake in Apache County, Fool Hollow Lake, Show Low Lake, and Rainbow Lake in Navajo County. The goal is to increase populations of bass, sunfish and catfish, which should increase angler success and satisfaction, particularly among young anglers. The Lyman Irrigation Company, owners of the water rights and lake bottom for Lyman Lake, have expressed concerns for safety and maintenance. We have received opposition to the project from the Lyman Irrigation Company, owners of the water rights and lake bottom at Lyman Lake, due to safety and maintenance concerns. There has been little response from the Show Low/Pinetop/Woodland Irrigation Company, owners of the water rights and lake bottom at Rainbow Lake. Coordination with these irrigation companies will continue in an effort to gain their support, and modifications to the project plans may occur to alleviate their concerns.

The Department continues to work with researchers from the University of Arizona on a Northern pike control project at Rainbow Lake and Fool Hollow Lake in Navajo County. Northern pike were illegally introduced and have established reproducing populations that are now impacting sportfish populations. Pike have been tagged in both lakes to develop population estimates and to test different mechanical control methods. The pike population in Rainbow Lake was previously estimated at approximately 900 pike in early 2006 (pre-spawn), however, the population appears to be much larger now. Angler creel surveys in 2006 showed that anglers caught approximately 726 pike but only harvested 256 pike throughout the year. A week of gill netting and trap netting efforts during the pike spawn in March caught approximately 200 pike. Details are being discussed for a proposed reward system, funded by U of A, which would pay \$10 per tag for turning in pike tags.

The Department tagged a number of rainbow trout in early March that will be stocked into several Regional lakes starting in early April. The goal is to evaluate the success of stocking larger rainbow trout into lakes with predators, in an effort to increase return to creel of stocked trout, angler success and satisfaction at Scott Reservoir, Show Low Lake,

and Rainbow Lake in Navajo County. A number of volunteers, most from the White Mountain Flyfishing Club, and hatchery personnel assisted in fin clipping 23,200 rainbow trout for this evaluation project.

The Department stocked Little Colorado spinedace into a refuge pond at the Grasslands Wildlife Area, Apache County, in March. Preparations have been taking place for the last few years and final improvements to the pond were completed this past winter and the pond was recently filled with spring runoff. A total of 80 LC spinedace were collected from the Little Colorado River on the Becker Wildlife Area, Apache County, and immediately transported to the refuge pond.

The Department continues working on the construction of a refuge pond for threatened Little Colorado spinedace at the Winslow High School in Navajo County. Students at the school have been assisting with construction, while funding is coming from US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners For Wildlife. The Department is providing coordination, technical assistance in construction of the pond, and some materials such as pumps for the stream and liner material.

Coconino National Forest

The Department met with US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest about the Fossil Creek Allotment. Some major problems are the result of a change in management philosophy, which removes all solid numbers and commitments from the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) except maximum numbers and target utilization levels. The philosophy is called adaptive management and relies heavily on monitoring data to make the right decisions. Unfortunately, the range program is so poorly funded that monitoring will be limited to site visits in most years. Monitoring was discussed at length at the last ID Team meeting but no solid commitment was made. Without sufficient monitoring adaptive management is crippled. The Department is writing a letter in response to the Proposed Action recommending a reduction in grazing intensity and utilization on the winter pastures, habitat restoration projects and lower number of cattle until specific soil condition targets can be met.

The Department's contract archaeologist has completed Phase 1 surveys for the Anderson Mesa SB 1414 project and is working with the Forest on their draft report. Additional surveys will be conducted after the Department and the Forest review the results of Phase 1. The Forest has completed a Programmatic Agreement and submitted it to the State Historic Preservation Office for their review; completion is expected by late April. The Department completed a Stewardship Agreement with Diablo Trust to authorize reimbursement of their costs with the SB 1441 funds. Diablo Trust is completing negotiations with vendors to do the grassland restoration work the Department, the Forest, and Diablo Trust have identified. The Diablo Trust contract with NRCS, which will match part of the SB1441 funds, needs one more signature from the State office to be finalized, which is expected within early April. Implementation of the grassland restoration is planned to begin May 1. Other SB 1441 funds have been allocated to fence wetlands on Anderson Mesa. Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF) received a National Forest Foundation grant last year for this project and has received preliminary approval

for this year's application to help fund this fencing effort. The Department has encumbered our SB 1441 fencing funds to AWF who will contract with vendors and administer the fence construction to Department standards. The Department and AWF have a Collection Agreement in place to authorize our reimbursement of funds for this work. Fence construction could begin as early as May.

The Department continues to participate with the Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership (GFFP) to analyze fuels reduction projects. The Department is currently reviewing the Proposed Action for the Jack Smith/Schultz Fuels Reduction Project. The Jack Smith/Schultz Project proposes fuels reduction and prescribed burning treatments on approximately 8500 acres on the southeast and east flanks of the San Francisco Peaks in Flagstaff. Elements of the desired forest condition developed by the Department and USFWS may be incorporated, and the Department remains actively engaged in discussions with GFFP to ensure proposed changes to forest canopy cover meet wildlife habitat needs. Significant financial shortfalls may lead to a temporary or permanent suspension of organization activities. This fiscal year, the Ecological Restoration Institute's federal budget was cut and monies traditionally allocated to GFFP are no longer available. In the event GFFP dissolves, the Partnership may create a transitional entity – beyond GFFP, Inc. – to carry on important tasks, albeit in a reduced capacity and likely have a different role and makeup.

The Forest will begin charging a \$5.00 per day per vehicle fee to use the facilities at Upper and Lower Lake Mary and the Narrows. The fees will be used for maintenance such as keeping toilets clean and stocked with supplies, picking up litter, cleaning picnic tables, replacing damaged signs and other amenities, maintaining planned boat docks and repairing asphalt.

Coronado National Forest

The Department continues to work with the Forest, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and grazing permittees on the proposed construction of a fish barrier in Redrock Canyon on Forest lands. The construction of this fish barrier is part of the Biological Opinion on the impacts of the CAP canal on Gila Basin native fish populations. An additional part of this project is also a chemical renovation of the watershed for the protection of historic Gila topminnow populations. Grazing permittees are supportive of restoration efforts to protect the fish, and after several meetings have become supportive of the construction of the fish barrier.

The Department continues to work with the Forest to establish Gila topminnows in Sabino Canyon. Gila topminnow was found in Sabino historically but was extirpated in the late 1980's. The Forest is supportive of the Department's efforts to restore native fish populations in this location; however, they are concerned about the impacts this might have on their efforts to rebuild the road in the Canyon that was destroyed following severe flooding last summer. The Department agreed to closely coordinate with the Forest on this project and that no fish will be released if their presence will complicate the effort to restore access into the Canyon.

The Department is coordinating with the Safford Ranger District on surveying for Chiricahua leopard frogs in the Galiuro Mountains. The objective is to collect egg masses from the last remaining known population of Chiricahua leopard frogs and deliver them to the Phoenix Zoo for rearing until they can be released back into that mountain range.

The Department continues to meet with the Forest and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss mitigation needs for sensitive and listed species for the Pinaleño Ecosystem Restoration Plan. A compromise is being pursued for methods to treat mixed conifer habitat to address forest health issues (e.g., insect outbreaks and catastrophic fire) while preserving habitat for species that require specific habitat conditions (e.g., Mount Graham red squirrel).

The Department recently announced several public meetings will be held for public input into the Forest Travel Management Plan. The first of several meetings will be held in Tucson on May 11th and 12th. The Department is expected to meet with our constituents and document all the roads that our customers use on the Nogales and Santa Catalina Ranger Districts, and then submit them to the Forest by June of 2007. The Forest will incorporate these roads into their database. Roads that are not on the final map will be closed to public use. The Department will work on documenting the roads on the remaining Coronado districts, after the completion of the Nogales and Santa Catalina Districts. The Forest must develop maps of all open roads on the Forest to be presented to the public by 2009.

Kaibab National Forest

The Department is working with the Williams Ranger District on the McCracken fuels project located south of Bill Williams Mountain. The objectives of the project include fire risk reduction, forest stand improvement, restoration of meadows, facilitation of pronghorn movement and improvement for pine stringer habitats. The area includes important turkey wintering habitat, major meadow systems and pronghorn travel routes to winter range.

The Department continues to work with the Tusayan Ranger District on the Airport Project. The project is intended to reduce fire risk southwest of Tusayan. The project should also improve meadows and elk habitat in the area. The District is currently working on developing a proposed action for the project.

The Department continues to work on the North Kaibab Westside Habitat Project to improve mule deer habitat through tree thinning and browse seeding treatments. The Forest Service released the Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice this past year. April marked the end of the appeal period for planning and no appeals were filed. As a result, the Department is preparing for implementation this month with the pinyon-juniper push renovation as the first of many treatments. The Department has been working with Jim Truax of Truax Drills who has been developing an interseeding tool that will seed shrubs into existing vegetations. This tool will be crucial for a 500-acre seeding treatment in the fall of 2007. The Department has been meeting with NAU and

Grand Canyon Trust on Westside Habitat future research and monitoring. A funded Grazing Land Conservation Initiative grant will fund an NAU student to look at the effects of herbicide on shrub seedlings on the Westside. In addition, a Doris Duke grant awarded to the Grand Canyon Trust will develop a GIS model for future cheatgrass expansion on the Westside, and assist with a more detailed monitoring plan for the Westside. The Grand Canyon Trust also has taken over 250 photo-monitoring plots of the Westside treatment area.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is currently being drafted for recovery of the Warm Fire area and is expected to be released in May. The Proposed Action for the Warm Fire calls for the potential salvage of 9,990 acres, reforestation on approximately 14,690 acres, and natural regeneration of aspen on 4,050 acres. The Warm Fire Stakeholder Group has been meeting for the past several months to look at recovery efforts outside the salvage operation proposal. It is hoped that planning and implementation on the Westside will assist in determining how to approach recovery efforts on the east side of the Warm Fire. The Proposed Action and the EIS will not address the eastside pinyon-juniper area as part of recovery efforts. These areas are important for mule deer and other pinyon juniper obligates. Since this low elevation area is in jeopardy of cheatgrass invasion, the Department has been working with the Forest and the permittee on methods of recovery for this area. A field trip to the eastside pinyon juniper area is currently being planned for late April or early May.

Coconino and Kaibab Forests

During March, the Department continued to participate in the Land Management Plan Revision Process. Progress was made on species lists, special areas, ecological sustainability and socioeconomics. However, the United States District Court in northern California has ordered the Forest Service not to use the 2005 Planning Rule in on-going forest planning processes. The Office of General Counsel is reviewing this matter and will provide legal advice to the Forest Service on how to proceed with planning. All public collaboration efforts specific to forest planning are postponed until further direction is available. There are large questions surrounding the implementation of the planning process, which caused Director Shroufe to write Regional Forester Harv Forsgren. However, those concerns may be moot due to the revision process being placed on hold.

The Department continues to work with the Kaibab and Coconino Travel Management Revision (TMR) planners to ensure adequate access, camping for hunters, and game retrieval are included. The Department attended the meeting for Kaibab TMR and it was well attended by the public.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Arizona Strip Field Office

The Proposed Final Resource Management Plans (RMP)/Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) were released on March 2, 2007 for the Arizona Strip Field Office planning area. The proposed final includes route designations for the Grand Canyon-Parashant and Vermillion Cliffs National Monuments. The Department continues to coordinate closely with the Field Office in the development of subsequent Travel Management Plans and associated route networks for the remaining planning area.

The Department is commenting on Hazardous Fuels Categorical Exclusion projects on the AZ Strip District. These projects are pinyon juniper and ponderosa pine projects in the Mount Trumbull area, in which goals are reintroduction of a frequent fire regime and recovery of understory plant species. The Department had concerns with some fuel treatments in the past due to use of high intensity fire, openness of the treatment areas, and general coordination between the BLM and the Department. After a field visit in 2006, the Department has seen improvements with the BLM documents, although projects received lately are again raising concerns of the potential for burning too hot and treating fuels too aggressively for wildlife needs. The Department has written several letters of comment and is waiting to see how projects will be modified to meet mutual needs.

The range staff for the BLM is currently planning a 2,000-acre chaining and reseeding of an area in the Buckskin Mountains, which is important for wintering Unit 12B deer. The Department supports this treatment with a few modifications. Recent chaining treatments on the Strip have involved burning and reseeding. The Department has some concerns about the lag time between the initial chaining, burning, and subsequent seeding and re-chain. BLM has been burning the slash to rid the old carcasses; however, we are concerned that cheatgrass will have enough time to establish during the lag time. The Department recommendations to BLM in order to prevent cheatgrass invasion, and asked that they consider this treatment on only half of the treatment area.

Havasu Field Office

The Proposed Final Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was released on September 22, 2006 for the Havasu Field Office. The Department continues to coordinate closely with the Field Office in the development of subsequent Travel Management Plans and associated route designations.

Lake Havasu and Kingman

The Lake Havasu and Kingman Field Offices initiated their Travel Management/OHV Plan Process and will be designating roads as open, closed, or seasonal. The Department has been coordinating between the two field offices to ensure consistency in products across their respective boundaries. The Bullhead City Management Area will be evaluated first, and all routes are expected to be designated by fall, 2007. This area contains important desert tortoise habitat in the Black Mountains and a newly created Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) has been designated for tortoises within

its boundary. Also, the area encompasses a Department research project that will analyze behavior and habitat use of tortoises via radio-telemetry. Other priority areas that will receive route designations at a later date include Temple Bar in and around Trail Rapids Wash, Western slopes and flats of the Hualapai Mountains, and Cottonwood Road area in the central Black Mountains.

The Department met with both field offices to discuss vehicle collisions with wild burros on SR 95 north of Lake Havasu City. ADOT has proposed to fence both sides of the Right-of-Way; however, the area has been identified as a wildlife linkage in Arizona for desert bighorn sheep. A healthy bighorn sheep population resides in the area, and regularly crosses the highway at specific locations. Cooperative monitoring of burros by the Department and BLM suggests that all burros along the highway reside on the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge west of the highway, and only approach the road during winter months. Eliminating burros west of SR 95 was identified in the Lake Havasu Resource Management plan, which expected to become final some time this spring. Removal of burros is expected to resolve accidents, and dramatically improve habitat conditions in the area. ADOT is looking into providing funding to BLM for the removal of burros.

Kingman Field Office

The Department formed an oversight committee to ensure unified coordination for completion of the Big Ranch "A" allotment. BLM managers have met with the Department several times over the last few weeks to develop processes for both completion of the evaluation, and to address ephemeral rule grazing issues on all allotments in the Black Mountains. BLM provided the Department a Cooperative Rangeland Agreement they initiated with the permittee in 2003, and requested additional stipulations to address wildlife needs. The Department was ensured that a final decision could be reached this summer if the parties agreed to stipulations in the cooperative plan. The Department believes the agreement sufficiently incorporates health of wildlife habitat, and supports the need for long-term management plans on all livestock allotments in this arid region of the state. However, specific elements of the grazing rotation were still too general and did not explicitly prohibit yearlong grazing in the 54,000 acre west pasture of the allotment. The Department provided five additional stipulations needed to address land health concerns:

1. Grazing deferment in the west pasture occurs between April 15 and October 31.
2. Utilization monitoring occurs each May in west pasture, and includes the RRT and Department
3. Immediate deferment in west pasture for 2 years following future wildfires.
4. Drought monitoring to occur each May in west pasture, to include RRT and Department.
5. All stipulations in July 7, 2003 agreement are upheld.

The Department, BLM and permittee will meet next week to discuss these additional stipulations.

The Department has reviewed a notice of proposed decision for livestock grazing on the Crozier Canyon Allotment (Gary Overson, permittee). This allotment contains approximately 45,000 acres of grassland that is important for pronghorn. The BLM is

proposing to reinstate grazing privileges that were suspended during the last permit. The decision incorporates an increase of 780 to 930 cattle that will be phased over several years, seasonal rest for several pastures in pronghorn habitat, and outlines mechanisms to protect important riparian values in Wright Creek. The Department's request for specific language in the evaluation related to habitat improvement projects in once productive bottom-land grasslands, in grassland- savannah habitats that have been invaded by juniper species, and in riparian habitats along Wright Creek was granted in the final evaluation. The Department looks forward to many landscape-scale habitat improvement projects on the allotment in the coming year.

The Department met with BLM fire personnel to discuss a cooperative prescribed burn to benefit mule deer in Iron Basin (Diamond Bar Allotment, Nigel Turner Permittee). The cost share project included \$25,000 from both agencies for 7000 acres of treatment. Due to extremely dry soil and vegetation moisture, the project has been postponed until fall-but will still be weather dependent.

The Department agreed to chair a committee with BLM and the NRCS to discuss elements required in Cooperative Resource Management Plans on livestock grazing allotments. Plans are needed if applicants wish to use EQIP dollars for projects on federal lands. The committee will work towards developing a template for these plans that will meet the eligibility requirements for EQIP. Last year, EQIP was a \$22 million NRCS funding source in Arizona. Use of these funds requires a 50% non-federal match, of which many department funding sources qualify. While use of this funding source is clearly critical for deployment of landscape-scale habitat projects, only one cooperative plan exists in Mohave County. The committee intends to change this trend.

The Department finalized proposals to monitor highway mitigation features designed for desert tortoise along U.S. 93 between I-40 and Wickenburg. Objectives include evaluation of current structures and monitoring tortoise, and recommendations for modification where appropriate. The monitoring is in conjunction with impact analyses underway on the western slopes of the Black Mountains, where SR 95 is slated for expansion through virgin Mohave Desert. The Department will present these proposals to an ADOT panel in late April.

Tucson Field Office

The Department is attending OHV route planning workshops focusing on consensus to develop a preferred alternative road network for BLM lands in Unit 37B north of the Florence Kelvin Highway. Workshops are being facilitated by the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, and will occur from March 15 to April 19. There is a website continuously updated for the public's information on this effort at www.middlelegilattravel.ecr.gov. The State Land Department (ASLD) and Tonto National Forest have both ceased participation in this road planning effort, which has been ongoing for several years and was conceived as a "seamless" transportation plan. Three alternatives were developed for the area with these lands included. The Department intends to approach ASLD and Tonto independently after the BLM process is complete.

Safford Field Office

The Department reviewed draft NEPA documents for the construction of a fish barrier and chemical renovation of aquatic habitat in the lower reaches of Bonita Creek. The Department supports this effort that will increase protection of existing native fish populations in the upper portions of Bonita Creek. However the Department has some concerns regarding beaver dam removal, vegetation treatments, and water withdrawals.

The Department is a cooperating agency in the development of the Aravaipa Ecosystem Management Plan, an activity level plan that encompasses comprehensive planning on 70,000 acres in and around the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness Area. The Department met with the Aravaipa Management Plan core team members—the BLM, the Nature Conservancy, and Logan-Simpson Design—to finish reviewing the last of the comments from the BLM's State Office and incorporate those comments into the current draft document. The team also provided comments to Logan-Simpson Design on the initial draft of the Environmental Assessment for the management plan. The management plan and Environmental Assessment are nearly in their final format and will be ready for public review soon.

Yuma Field Office

The public comment period for the Yuma Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) ended on March 14, 2007. The Department provided a formal comment letter regarding the draft RMP and will continue to work closely with both the Field Office and State Office levels to ensure consistency in regards to wildlife and wildlife management. The Department will continue to meet with BLM to review and discuss comments on the draft's preferred alternatives for biological resources, recreation, transportation, and public access.

BLM NATIONAL MONUMENTS

The Department continues to be involved as a Cooperating Agency in the planning efforts for the five national monuments and the adjacent BLM landscapes through direct participation in meetings and workshops or by reviewing draft documents and providing verbal and written comments. The Department continues to meet with the BLM State Office to discuss direction regarding consistency issues pertaining to transportation, recreation, and management of lands containing wilderness characteristics, among other resources. The Department continues to work with the State Office to update and finalize the statewide Master MOU consistent with Commission direction. The draft MOU has been finalized and sent to the Solicitor's Office of both agencies for review.

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

The proposed final RMP/EIS was released on March 2, 2007 for the Arizona Strip planning area including the Grand Canyon-Parashant NM. The proposed final includes a series of unique route networks and designations.

Vermillion Cliffs National Monument

The proposed final RMP/EIS was released on March 2, 2007 for the Arizona Strip planning area including the Vermillion Cliffs NM. The proposed final includes a series of unique route networks and designations.

Agua Fria National Monument

The public review period ended on April 5, 2006, for the draft RMP/EIS. The proposed final is expected to be released in summer of 2007. The Department will be working closely with BLM to address any comments submitted regarding wildlife and wildlife management.

Sonoran Desert National Monument

The Phoenix Field Office continues to work on finalizing the range of alternatives along with the development of a preliminary preferred alternative. The Department continues to participate in cooperative meetings and is also proactively developing comments throughout the planning process.

Ironwood Forest National Monument

The BLM issued a draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) for the Ironwood Forest NM and is holding public meetings for comment. The Draft RMP/EIS generated a large public response, particularly regarding closing public lands to target shooting within the IFNM. The Department is reviewing the Draft RMP/EIS. The Department previously submitted comments on draft alternatives in support of target shooting as a legitimate recreational pursuit on the monument and has verbally restated our position to IFNM planners that we do not support the preferred alternative on this issue.

The Department worked with the Tucson Field Office and approximately 50 volunteers from the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society to construct a new wildlife water catchment in the Waterman Mountains in the Ironwood Forest National Monument. About 20 tons of materials were sling-loaded to the site with a helicopter, and volunteers hiked in to build the catchment. The Tucson Field Office was very helpful in working cooperatively with interested public groups to reach consensus on this project and in completing the NEPA compliance documentation.

The BLM issued a draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) for the Ironwood Forest NM and is holding public meetings for comment. The Draft RMP/EIS has generated a large public response, particularly regarding closing public lands to target shooting within the IFNM. The Department is reviewing the Draft RMP/EIS. The Department previously submitted comments on draft alternatives in support of target shooting as a legitimate recreational pursuit on the monument and has verbally restated our position to IFNM planners that we do not support the preferred alternative on this issue.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge

The Department continues to work cooperatively with the Service on completion of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Refuge. The Department awaits release of the final plan.

Kofa National Wildlife Refuge

The Department is actively working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reach consensus on actions to be taken to aid the recovery of the Refuge bighorn sheep herd, as outlined in the recently completed white paper. The Department will be traveling to Albuquerque in mid-April to meet with USFWS to discuss the white paper's recommendations. Some of the recommendations are already being acted upon, which include the capture of a young male mountain lion that was fitted with a radio collar to monitor activities; redevelopment of Modesti Tank, a waterhole used by bighorn in the Castle Dome Mountains, was recently completed with volunteer help. Applications for funding have been submitted for two more water projects, along with funds for collaring bighorn sheep and additional mountain lions. The two agencies are also putting together a plan to closely monitor waterholes this summer and deliver water to any that threaten to go dry.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Barry M. Goldwater Range

The final EIS/INRMP for the Goldwater Range has been released to the public. No formal comments were received during the comment period and the Department of Defense released a draft Record of Decision for agency review and comment. The Department is currently reviewing a draft of the stand-alone INRMP, which will include a proposed project list for the first five years of the plan.

Yuma Proving Ground

The Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) is proposing to expand military training activities into Game Management Unit 41 through a withdrawal of BLM land. The YPG staff completed the initial information gathering and evaluation phase and is starting the Army's process for approval of a withdrawal. The application process will further define the purpose and need for the mission. The timeline for completion of the withdrawal process is at the end of the 2008 Congressional session. The Department will be actively participating in this process and will provide the Commission with more information on this proposal when it becomes available.

LANDOWNER RELATIONS AND PUBLIC ACCESS

The Department completed projects for 6 existing stewardship agreements, funding for these projects totaled \$102,350. The Department also negotiated 8 new stewardship agreements where \$166,500 of Department funding was obligated to access-related projects. These projects will maintain or open up access to approximately 250,000 acres

of land for recreation. One perpetual right-of-way was purchased from State Lands Department crossing the Sopri Ranch for a total of \$63,756. This Right-of-Way will provide access to the northern Tumacacori Mountains within the Coronado National Forest. To date the Department completed or agreed to 16 access projects totaling \$504,778 since beginning of the fiscal year.

Aravaipa Canyon, BLM Safford

The landowner has locked the gate on Aravaipa Canyon Road again blocking public access into the east end of the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness. This gate disallows the BLM to issue permits for hiking into the east side of the Aravaipa Wilderness as well as restricting hunting in the area. Forest Service Road 277 to the historic town site of Aravaipa and Landsman Camp also remains locked. The Attorney General's representatives and the Department are researching the legality of these road closures as directed by the Commission at the March Commission Meeting.

Whetstone Mountain Access

The Department and BLM are finalizing the perpetual ROW agreement for the Empirita Road across BLM land near the Whetstone Mountains in Unit 34B. The Department submitted an Environmental Assessment in October 2006 to BLM to reopen an existing road across BLM land east of the Empirita Ranch. The BLM agreed to grant the perpetual ROW to the Department provided that we improve the road to BLM lands across State Trust land and install a cattle guard at the boundary. The ROW agreement will allow sportsmen and recreational users to access thousands of acres of public and State Trust Land (STL) north of Haystack Mountain. This agreement should be secured after the contract has been approved for language. This road will continue south and east for one mile across BLM, and then east on STL approximately two miles and terminate at the Simonson private property gate. The Simonson property has been named in two recent land exchanges proposed in Congress (formerly Kolbe H.B.5016 and Kyl S.B. 3497). The Department hopes that another land exchange bill will be authored in this Congress and provide perpetual access connection between the STL across the Simonson property to the Forest road system in the Whetstone Mountains. The Department will continue to work in cooperation with Pima County Parks and Recreation to allow limited access through the Empirita Ranch Headquarters, along Wakefield Canyon Road. These two access routes compliment each other. Both roads allow public access to two distinct designated access points near the Forest, but these roads do not connect due to the separation by the Simonson private lands.

Galiuro Mountains, High Creek Road

The Department has reopened High Creek Road on the new alignment. The new road restores public access to thousands of acres of National Forest and STL in the High Creek, Harrison Canyon, and Paddy's River Areas of the Galiuro Mountains. The Department recently installed safety signs to direct the public onto the Forest road system.

A-7 Ranch

The Department continues to work with Pima County Parks and Recreation (County) to secure a twenty-year access agreement on the A-7 Ranch. Thirteen roads and trails have been identified as roads that need to remain open on the ranch to allow access to surrounding public lands. The Department and the County are finalizing the draft agreement. Several incidents of motor vehicles involved in cross-country travel have occurred on the ranch in recent weeks. In cooperative effort with the County to stop the spread of illegally developed trails, the Department closed several new trails created by motorcycles across open rangeland.

Tuzigoot Bridge Boating Access, Verde River Greenway (Completed)

The Department collaborated with Phelps Dodge, AZ State Parks, National Park Service, and the Town of Clarkdale to develop a new river access day use area near the Tuzigoot Bridge National Monument. The project consisted of building a boat access and parking lot, which alleviated the growing safety hazards associated with the current river access point, and creating a trail connecting Dead Horse Ranch State Park to the Tuzigoot National Monument. Phelps Dodge provided the machinery and operator to construct the access and parking area and the City of Clarkdale will patrol the area to ensure safety. The Departments' contribution of \$10,000 went towards signage, information kiosks, and fencing located at the parking lot for the boat access. The benefits to the Department include increased public access to the Verde River, which will provide more fishing, wildlife viewing, and watercraft recreational opportunities. This area will provide public access to the Verde River in perpetuity, and the area will be jointly maintained by AZ State Parks and the National Park Service.

Hopi 3 Canyon Ranches (Completed)

The Department continues to build a cooperative relationship with the Hopi Tribe through projects like this, which hopefully will lead to future success and collaboration with the Tribe on all matters important to the Department. The project provided double benefits for the Department, since the money used to secure access to these ranches will be used on projects that will improve water availability and distribution for wildlife across the ranches as well as projects that will fence riparian areas for protection. The total cost of this project was \$40,000 to secure hunter access to over 80,000 acres of deeded property in units 4A, 5A and 5B, including the Aja, Hart, and Clear Creek Ranches owned by the Hopi Tribe. These ranches are used by nearly 1000 big and small game hunters each year, and losing hunter access to these ranches would significantly reduce the hunting opportunity in these units.

Pima County Access Projects

These projects will provide access to 3 ranches purchased by Pima County (County) as conservation areas and open space areas. The project secured access to all roads that cross the Pima County Property that lead into Coronado National Forest on three ranches for 20 years. The cost to the Department will total \$80,000. The Department benefits by ensuring hunter access into thousands of acres of federal land and building a solid relationship the County to secure hunter access across other county owned ranches and

any future ranches purchased by the county. Additionally, the funds provided to the county will be used on projects that benefit wildlife, such as providing drinkers with year round supply of water, and restoring and enhancing grasslands. The access issue in Southeastern Arizona is a well-known and sensitive issue, and by working with the County, the Department was able to secure long-term public access in high priority areas.

Adopt-A-Ranch

The Department coordinated and facilitated 9 Adopt-a-Ranch volunteer projects since the beginning of the year. Included were two projects, that involved new ranches and new volunteer groups who wanted to join the program. Various agencies provided support or participated in several of the projects. The projects included litter removal, wildlife fence modification, erosion control, and fence removal projects. 392 volunteers participated in the projects and contributed 2,895 volunteer hours; using a value of \$15.00 per hour, this represents \$43,425.00 in volunteer match. Projects which involve the clean up of Undocumented Aliens (U.D.A.) trash are being tracked to use as justification to request a BLM grant to fund additional tools and supplies for volunteer projects. Several Adopt-a-Ranch projects are being planned for the upcoming quarter.

Road Maintenance Program

The Department has been working on ranches in southern Arizona to repair roads damaged by last year's heavy rains. Repairs were completed on approximately 18 miles of roads on 4 different ranches in the southeastern part of the state.

Cattle guards were also installed at the Willcox Playa Wildlife Area to enhance public access and prevent problems with a neighboring ranch.

GENERAL UPDATES

City of Flagstaff

Restoration of the Rio de Flag continues along several stream reaches through the City of Flagstaff. Along the Rio de Flag revegetation efforts are taking place, new interpretive signs have been developed for Frances Short Pond, development of the interpretive sign construction have resumed at the Department's Watchable Wildlife site at Sawmill County Park, and revegetation near the I-40 Wetlands at the Rio de Flag Wastewater Treatment Facility is complete. Viability of the Rio de Flag is largely dependent on effluent discharge from the City of Flagstaff wastewater treatment facilities. The Department is actively engaged in negotiations with the City to secure a commitment in-stream, perennial flow of wastewater to maintain riparian and wetland conditions in the Rio de Flag. Frances Short Pond, the I-40 Wetlands, Sawmill, and Picture Canyon create a viable open space greenway that is valuable for wildlife habitat connectivity and urban Watchable Wildlife opportunities in Flagstaff. The Department has been heavily involved in the project scoping meetings for the Picture Canyon restoration project, and recently participated in a multi-agency field effort to map the noxious weeds in Picture Canyon. The City of Flagstaff has been awarded an Arizona Water Protection Fund grant to restore Picture Canyon, which will provide benefits for wildlife and wildlife habitat including construction of ephemeral and perennial wetlands, restoration of wetland and

riparian vegetation, removal of noxious weeds, and construction of a Watchable Wildlife nature trail. Overall, restoration efforts will expand the existing 2 acres of wetlands in Picture Canyon to over 8 acres, and reduce noxious weed impacts on approximately 60 acres surrounding the wetlands.

Coconino County

The Department continues to review the Coconino County planning and zoning projects. The Department also continues to provide planning assistance for open space acquisition projects with County Parks and Recreation.

Gila River Technical Subcommittee

Legislation funding for the Gila River Coordinating Committee (GRCC) was vetoed by New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, the GRCC and the Gila River Technical Subcommittee are disbanded and are no longer examining the feasibility of diverting water from the Gila River. It appears at this time that the project is stalled and may or may not continue. The Department will continue to monitor this issue and will coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure Arizona's resources are considered.

Town of Marana HCP

The Department is participating as a member of the Stakeholder Working Group and as a member of the Technical Biological Team for Marana's Habitat Conservation Plan. At this point the teams are still evaluating which species will be included and what areas should be protected for this conservation plan.

Hunt Permit-tag Application Schedule -- Fall 2007

Hunt permit-tag applications will be accepted and processed in accordance with R12-4-104 and R12-4-114 and this schedule.

Drawing					
	ACCEPTANCE DATES¹	CORRECTION PERIOD²	DEADLINE DATES³		
HUNT	Applications accepted on or after:	Deadline 5 p.m. (MST) in department offices	Deadline 7 p.m. (MST) in department offices on:	Hunt permit-tags mailed out by:	Refund warrants mailed out by:
Deer	(See note 1)	May 30, 2007	June 12, 2007	Aug. 10, 2007	Aug. 17, 2007
Turkey	(See note 1)	May 30, 2007	June 12, 2007	Aug. 10, 2007	Aug. 17, 2007
Javelina	(See note 1)	May 30, 2007	June 12, 2007	Aug. 10, 2007	Aug. 17, 2007
Bighorn Sheep	(See note 1)	May 30, 2007	June 12, 2007	Aug. 10, 2007	Aug. 17, 2007
Buffalo	(See note 1)	May 30, 2007	June 12, 2007	Aug. 10, 2007	Aug. 17, 2007
Sandhill Crane	July 30, 2007 ⁴	N/A	Sept. 4, 2007 ⁴	Sept. 21, 2007	N/A
Pheasant	July 9, 2007 ⁴	N/A	July 24, 2007 ⁴	Aug. 3, 2007	N/A
Raptor	Jan. 7, 2008 ⁴	N/A	Feb. 5, 2008 ⁴	Feb. 26, 2008	N/A

First Come	
HUNT	ACCEPTANCE DATES
Applications accepted online only at azgfd.gov on or after 8:00 a.m. (MST):	
Deer	Aug. 13, 2007 ⁵
Turkey	Aug. 13, 2007 ⁵
Javelina	Aug. 13, 2007 ⁵
Bighorn Sheep	Aug. 13, 2007 ⁵
Buffalo	Aug. 13, 2007 ⁵
Applications accepted by mail only	
Sandhill Crane	Sept. 24, 2007 ⁴
Pheasant	Aug. 6, 2007 ⁴
Raptor	March 3, 2008 ⁴

Notes:

1. The department will accept Hunt Permit-tag Applications for big game listed above as soon as the applicable year hunt information is available on the department's Web site (azgfd.gov), or from any Game and Fish Department office or license dealer, unless otherwise noted in the Hunt Permit-tag Application schedule.

- If a paper Hunt Permit-tag Application that is submitted contains an error and is received by May 30, 2007, the department will make three attempts within a 24-hour period to notify the applicant by telephone (if a phone number is provided).
- Department offices at Flagstaff, Kingman, Mesa, Phoenix, Pinetop, Tucson and Yuma will close for business at 5:00 p.m. (MST); completed applications will be accepted at these locations until 7:00 p.m. (MST) on deadline days. No applications will be accepted after this time regardless of the postmark. Deadline dates and times apply to online as well as paper applications. Deadline dates may be extended in the event of a department related system failure.
- Sandhill Crane, Pheasant and Raptor applications are accepted by mail at the following address: P.O. Box 52002, Phoenix, AZ 85072-2002. These applications may not be hand delivered to any department office.
- First come permits are issued if available and will sell very quickly. Applicants are advised to check with the department before submitting an online application for leftover permits. A listing of leftover permits is available by telephone at (602) 789-3702, or online at azgfd.gov.