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Arizona Antelope Foundation

Arizona Bowhunters Association

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Arizona Deer Association

Arizona Predator Callers

Arizona Taxidermy Association

Arizona Trappers Association

Arizonans for Wildlife Conservation

Central Arizona Guide and Outfitters Association

Central Arizona Trail Hound Association

Coconino Sportsmen

Copperstate Hunting Retriever Club

Mohave Sportsman Club

Phoenix Varmint Callers

Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club

Senate Bill 1365 Game and Fish fee cap

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is asking the Legislature to approve new price caps for fishing and hunting licenses, stamps and hunt permit-tag fees.

*The department receives **no** share of General Fund revenues: licenses, stamps and tag fees constitute its primary sources of revenues and are the foundation of a formula used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine Arizona's federal funding for wildlife conservation.*

Without the increase in fee authority the department anticipates service reductions.

Caps are established in A.R.S. §17-333; the Game and Fish Commission may vote in public session to alter fees within the cap. If lawmakers approve the request, the commission will still be required to hold public meetings and follow the rulemaking process to increase fees.

The process precludes any possible permit-tag fee increase before 2006, and any possible license fee increase before 2007.

For additional information about the proposed fee cap, visit the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Web site at azgfd.gov/feecap.



The cost of doing business

Fuel costs

Fuel prices in the Rocky Mountain region have risen 36 percent since 2002 (source: Energy Information Association).

Game Ranger training and field costs

There are 74 wildlife manager districts in Arizona, with an average district size of 1,137 square miles. Training new officers takes 10 months and costs \$71,000 per officer.

Retirement contributions

From FY 2003 to FY 2004, state-mandated retirement contributions rose from \$399,520 to \$970,555, an increase of 143 percent.

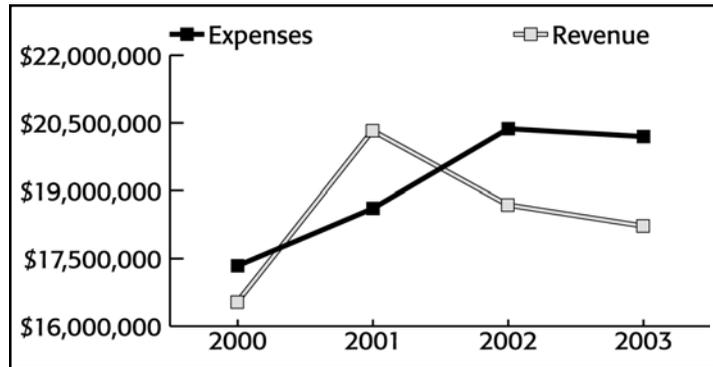
Fish hatcheries

It will cost \$800,000 to make Canyon Creek fish hatchery and Tonto Creek hatchery EPA compliant.

Wildlife waters

Development costs range from \$10,000 to \$65,000 depending on location and design. Material prices are up: concrete rose 7.5 percent in the past year (source: U.S. Department of Labor) and steel jumped 50 percent or more (source: MEPS International).

Game and Fish Fund expenses versus revenues



Fuel costs for Game and Fish funded vehicles



Fee comparison

License	Current cap	New license fee range
Resident general fishing license	\$18	\$18 – \$25
Resident general hunting license	\$25.50	\$25.50 – \$35
Resident adult combination license	\$44	\$44 – \$60
Youth combination license	\$25.50	\$25.50
Nonresident general fishing license	\$51.50	\$51.50 – \$85
Nonresident general hunting license	\$113.50	\$113.50 – \$185

The proposed caps provide a range within which fees could be raised incrementally. The earliest an Arizona fee increase could take effect would be 2007 for licenses and 2006 for permit-tags. Any proposed fee increase would, by law, go through the formal public rulemaking process.

Wildlife conservation and enhancement priorities

Any revenues not used to cover costs will be spent on conservation activities to benefit all Arizonans.

Game management

Additional money would be spent on wildlife management and for improved recreational opportunities.

- ◆ **Wildlife habitat improvements.** In partnership with public and private landowners and at state-owned designated wildlife areas. Examples: improvements to help deer populations, habitat treatments on public lands, and water development.
- ◆ **Recreational access and hunt opportunities.** Easement agreements with landowners to provide access for hunters and anglers; agriculture at state-owned wildlife areas to provide forage; improved access for disabled hunters; and purchase or lease of hunting access on private lands.
- ◆ **Predator management.** An expanded program for estimating predator populations such as coyotes and mountain lions to ensure population stability and to minimize conflict with humans.

- ◆ **Pronghorn management and game species reintroduction.** Stewardship and cooperative projects with private and public landowners to stabilize or increase pronghorn populations and reintroduce game species such as Gould's turkey, Merriam's turkey, pronghorn antelope and bighorn sheep.
- ◆ **Water development.** Construction and maintenance of water catchments crucial to wildlife during summer months and in drought conditions.

Shooting ranges and Ben Avery administration site

Investments would be made in shooting range development and improvements statewide. The



Tucson and Flagstaff areas would be targeted for accelerated development efforts, with improvements planned in eastern, northwestern and southeastern Arizona and the Phoenix metro area. A portion of revenues would be used to construct and consolidate headquarters facilities on the Ben Avery Shooting Range property, providing additional long-term protection for the range.

More fishing opportunities

Investments would be made to improve fishing opportunities and quality. Activities would include necessary improvements at Silver Creek Hatchery in Navajo County, Canyon Creek and Tonto Creek hatcheries in Gila County, Page Springs Hatchery in Yavapai and Coconino counties. Funds would be used to acquire, grow and stock fish, and for angler recruitment programs.



Service improvements

Customer service improvements would include hardware and database support for law enforcement, additional field officers, employee salaries, and facilities repairs and improvements to support field operations in regional offices and rural areas. The goal: greater officer field presence and created savings through workforce stability and facility efficiency.

Family and youth recreation

Funds would be invested in support of local sportsmen's-and-women's clubs to support youth programs and hunter recruitment efforts. Investments may take the form of direct support, expansion of sponsored youth events, and support for the Scholastic Clay Target and Archery in the Schools programs.

Comparison of Recreational Value

Hunting and fishing in Arizona remain an outstanding value. Your licenses can be used all calendar year. Compare the cost and duration with other forms of recreation and entertainment:

Arizona resident general fishing license	\$18 to \$25	Up to 365 days
Arizona resident general hunting license	\$25.50 to \$35	Up to 365 days
Arizona Cardinals single game	\$15 to \$150	Three hours
Golf (18 holes)	\$25 to \$175+	Four to five hours
Dinner at restaurant	\$20 to \$50+	Two hours
Movie	\$7.50 to \$8.50	Two to three hours

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