

**Arizona Habitat Partnership Committee (AHPC) Meeting
Minutes of July 23, 2011
Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) Region 2 Office, Flagstaff, AZ**

Present:

Commissioner J.W. Harris, AHPC Chairman
Reuben Teran, AGFD HPC Coordinator
Rex Brown, Springerville/Alpine HPC
Amber Munig, AGFD
Carl Lutch, AGFD
Brian Wakeling, AGFD
Joe Currie, AGFD
Tom Mackin, AZ Wildlife Federation
and Williams-Flagstaff HPC
Ruth Gregory, AGFD
Esther Rubin, AGFD
Bryan Marshall, AGFD
Steve Clark, AZ Elk Society
Stephen Williams, Forage Resource Study Group
Dave McCasland, AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society
John Koleszar, AZ Deer Association
Ben Brochu, AGFD

Joe Sacco, AGFD
Ben Shelby, AGFD
Mike Sumner, AGFD
Jim deVos, AZ Elk Society
Clair Harris, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Bob Jacobs, Mule Deer Foundation
Bob Birkeland, AGFD
Henry Provencio, Coconino National Forest
Marty Holmes, Mule Deer Foundation,
John DeLuca, Kaibab National Forest
Virginia Gouldsbury, AGFD
Glen Dickens, AZ Antelope Foundation
and Tucson HPC
Joe Sayer, AGFD
Duane Aubuchon, AGFD
Anne Casey, Apache Sitgreaves National Forest
Beth Humphrey, Apache Sitgreaves National Forest

Commissioner Harris welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation today. Attendees then introduced themselves to the group.

Roll call of Local HPCs:

Springerville-Alpine – Rex Brown
Winslow – Bob Birkeland
Show Low – Bob Birkeland
Williams-Flagstaff – Tom Mackin
Forage Resource Study Group – Stephen Williams
Prescott – Virginia Gouldsbury

Southwest Arizona – Mike Sumner
Safford – Duane Aubuchon
Tucson – Glen Dickens
Sierra Vista-Douglas – Bryan Marshall
Payson Natural Resources Committee (PNRC) -
Joe Sayer

Representing Conservation Funding Partners:

Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF)–Glen Dickens
Arizona Deer Association (ADA) – John Koleszar
Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society (ADBSS)–
Dave McCasland
Arizona Elk Society (AES)–Steve Clark

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation
(ASFWC)–AAF, ADA, AES, ADBSS
Mule Deer Foundation (MDF)–Bob Jacobs
Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF)–Tom Mackin

Agenda review: A discussion of block funding was added to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes from the February 18, 2011 meeting: The group approved the minutes as written.

HPC Coordinator Updates:

Reuben Teran reported on updates to the HPC manual, the HPC Charter (changes approved at the last AHPC meeting in February) and reminded everyone that all these documents are available on the HPC web page: http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/hpc.shtml. Reuben apologized for delays in the re-vamp of the web page and explained that work is underway to complete it.

The Commissioner asked for a formal motion to accept the charter. Glen Dickens so moved and John Koleszar seconded. Clair Harris asked for an addendum to the motion – that the group review and, if necessary, revise the charter at least every 2-3 years. He noted that it was a good charter, but should not languish for years at a time and be revised as necessary to keep current with the needs and changes in the AHPC. The group agreed and the motion carried with the addendum.

Reuben explained the “HPC Priorities for Habitat Enhancement and Wildlife Management” document, which was co-written by the Department and the conservation funding partners, outlining common priorities for each species. This document will be very helpful in planning projects. Priorities were agreed upon from a statewide perspective. The document was electronically distributed earlier in the year to all the conservation groups for their comments. The document is also on the web page. There were no comments or discussion today regarding the priorities document.

Reuben then followed up from items mentioned at the last AHPC meeting in February:

- **Volunteer opportunities:** The AGFD has a volunteer program, but it’s currently being redefined and a new volunteer coordinator will be hired. John Koleszar asked if the AGFD maxes out its volunteer hours. Brian explained how state money works as match to the federal grants, which pay 3:1 against state match. Volunteer hours most definitely count as state match and the AGFD is endeavoring to capture all of them. The more hours we can match, the more non-federal dollars that can be freed up for other wildlife management activities. Currently, the ADBSS is very good about making sure their volunteer hours are counted, especially on water development projects. Steve Clark reminded the group that it’s important for the conservation organizations to let the AGFD know about their projects and coordinate with them on the correct forms to make sure all the hours are captured. The Commissioner asked that this be done well in advance of the project. Any AGFD work units who are working cooperatively with a conservation group on a project are responsible to provide the necessary forms, as the Development Branch staff currently does. Dave McCasland noted that volunteer mileage also counts.
- **Other funding sources:** Reuben compiled a list of other funding sources available for wildlife work. The schedules of these granting programs might not coincide with ours, so advance planning is necessary, especially if project proponents want to include Special Tag funding as match against the grant they’re applying for.
- Reuben also provided two more informational handouts. One has information for Sportsmen’s groups to apply for funding for Hunter Retention and Recruitment activities (deadline to apply – August 5) and the other with current pricing for water development projects, compiled and provided by Joe Currie. Joe also provided a matrix showing what project had been completed in the last year (20 developments) and what the expenditures were for each project.

The Commissioner remarked how important the HPC program and Special Big Game Tag funding are to the management of wildlife in the state. They really do make a difference. Reuben told the group to contact him if anyone needs assistance with any HPC related items.

Block funding – Steve Clark:

At the last meeting, the AHPC discussed having a set-aside fund to use as match against future grant opportunities. There are millions of dollars in matching opportunities available each year, some of which include grants that offer a 9:1 match. Currently the AGFD sets aside funding in some programs (e.g. Farm Bill) to match against other grants. AES and RMEF have discussed this and suggest setting aside \$50,000 in special tag funds for match opportunities in order to leverage and maximize them. Since it's only the non-profits who can typically apply for some of these grants, Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) have been approved in the past year between the AGFD and several of the conservation groups. Brian reminded everyone that we are currently doing block funding with special tag funds for game surveys, emergency water hauling, and the elk stewardship program.

John Koleszar expressed concern for how this will be received by project proponents and how it will affect the AGFD's other concerns. Ben Brochu said that this is addressed by good communication with proponents who may be planning these projects. Brian remarked that this type of set-aside is perfectly acceptable and can be adjusted as necessary. The initial plan would be for \$50,000 from the various tag funds, but there needs to be more thought about what the optimal level of this funding would be. This will be a topic at the next funding meeting. If it happens, it will be treated as any other project – it would be given a project number and expenditures tracked accordingly. Steve said that the Forest Service is involved in completing NEPA work on a huge area and that the AGFD can begin working within any completed blocks where NEPA is complete. Brian cautioned that we just need to be sure that however this money is matched, the project must benefit the species for which tag fund the money is coming from.

Presentation – Henry Provencio – United State Forest Service (USFS) 4 Forests Restoration Initiative (4FRI):

Highlights:

- Henry is the team leader for 4FRI
- The initiative started after the Rodeo-Chediski fire.
- The initiative area covers 2.4 million acres from the south rim of the Grand Canyon to the New Mexico border.
- The first analysis area is from Tusayan to Mormon Lake.
- It will involve a spectrum of treatments focusing on actions to achieve desired conditions, including: no action, burning, thinning and burning, channel restoration, road obliteration.
- Restoration plans will be based on the composition (plant species, and improving conditions for stands of aspen and oak), structure (diversity of age and size classes, woody debris at appropriate levels and soil conservation) and pattern (groups and clumps of trees) of the desired conditions. Ensure that stand conditions are not limiting understory production.

- An area of focus will be the restoration of aspen, meadow and spring habitats through the removal of conifers.
- A goal is also to attract sustainable industry.
- To meet goals, the USFS will need to burn about 70,000 acres per year over 20 years and mechanically treat about 1 million acres.
- Natural fire patterns are limited and difficult because of the human element.
- It will require the involvement of private industry, which is currently a little hesitant to bid because of how long it would take to turn a profit. The USFS is currently accepting bids through August 12, 2011. Any contracts awarded mean that private companies could be logging as early as this fall. This would be no cost to the government – the private companies will realize their profits from the tree cutting.
- There are approximately 900 miles of roadbeds in the South Kaibab and North Coconino National Forests. Many of these would be obliterated using logs and boulders.
- Benefits of the project, apart from preventing catastrophic wildfires include: restoring channels, reducing sedimentation, (watershed health), greater flora and fauna diversity
- This level of planning can plan for migration corridors, etc. to effect change by looking at millions acres at a time.
- Challenges to be met include: agreement on process, consistent message, creation of common and goals and vision, the decision making process, trust.
- Integration will involve using local experts. Local experts have been integrated for FY 2011. Cost is expected at about \$45/acre.
- The USFS still needs for \$3-5 million and is looking for partners. The HPC is a great group to work on this. AWF is already involved.

Stephen Williams asked if there needs to be a separate NEPA for the project, or is part of the Travel Management Rule. He also remarked that interested companies will need to know the infrastructure of the area in regard to wood production before they will invest and bring their industry here. John Koleszar asked about the entire initiative being held up in the courts for months or years from litigation from groups opposed to the plans. Clair asked if a 10-year timeframe would be long enough for local businesses to recoup their investment, especially if there are environmental lawsuits. Henry remarked that the collaborative process will hopefully avoid lawsuits so they can award contracts. Jim deVos stated that he has participated in stakeholders' meetings regarding this initiative, and there's about 80 percent agreement between the different factions. Any lawsuits will be mostly about process, so if the process is correct, it shouldn't be an issue.

Tom Mackin thanked Henry for mentioning AWF's contributions thus far. Tom also thanked ASFWC and its affiliate organizations for their cooperation and contributions. Henry mentioned that Salt River Project is another partner.

Recreational Access Presentation – Brian Wakeling

This issue was elevated in response to the unprecedented elimination of an entire pronghorn hunt in Unit 19A due to loss of public access on private land. The Commission eliminated the hunt just one week prior to the pronghorn hunt draw. The Commission decision was based on the fact that the people who applied for this hunt wouldn't get the hunt they applied for. The private entity that now owns this ranch acquired it as an investment,

and the expected profit to be gained from the wind energy farm development. In earlier years, access issues involved ranches that were lifetime livestock operations.

Current issues affecting landowner relations: Landownership patterns (checkerboard pattern of deeded land and public land), undesirable user behavior, and other perceptions – political, social, and financial.

In Arizona, there are hundreds of thousands of acres of public land, but much of it is located in the checkerboard patterns. Recreationists don't always know whether the section of land they're using is private or public. Recreational use issues that landowners have been legitimately complaining about for years: vandalism, fence cutting, trash, gates left open, trespassing, and disruption of livestock operations. The overwhelming concern today is off highway vehicle use. Other issues that complicate the matter include landowners' liability concerns, illegal immigration, drug trafficking, changes in federal policy, localized closures, changing demographics, and the ethics of recreational users.

Over the years, AGFD has implemented programs such as Access, Adopt-A-Ranch, Respect, the Landowners Incentive program and habitat improvement funding such as Special Tags through the HPC process, The Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and others.

The Commission Access Input approach is an overall involvement process to initiate actions that may take a while to implement toward resolutions. The cycle begins with identifying the problem, objectives to address a solution, alternatives, public involvement, identifying consequences and tradeoffs, recommendations, and action to be taken. This is why AGFD is collecting e-mail addresses, for surveys and public input/comments.

Steve Clark said that AES would like to see elk management zones further defined. The current "limited population" zone does is not adequately described and may limit funding using special elk tag dollars to fund projects in exchange for maintaining access for hunting. Brian said that AGFD has already begun looking into this.

As for hunter behavior, Stephen Williams said it's been his experience that bad behavior is not equally distributed across all hunters. Brian noted that the Perrin Ranch is adding some restrictions to firearms while construction is taking place. Tom Mackin hopes that the Commission looks at this from a larger scale. What can the AGFD and the Commission do to help? There was a workshop with these landowners. They are interested in working for a solution.

John Koleszar noted the difference in ethics among recreationists. Hunters need to have a presence. This is an area in which a conservation bonus point might contribute to getting hunters involved and educated. Clair suggested that there are a lot of ranches that are very cooperative. They can be held up as examples to ranchers and landowners who don't want to participate.

Annual HPC Awards:

Commissioner Harris and Brian Wakeling presented the plaques.

Rex Brown, Chairman of the Springerville-Alpine HPC accepted the award for HPC of the Year. The citation was *"In appreciation of your efforts to engage with local landowners, land management entities, and wildlife*

conservation organizations to implement projects for the benefit of Arizona's big game resources using Special Big Game License Tag Funds and the Habitat Partnership Committee Process."

Glen Dickens, Arizona Antelope Foundation board member accepted the award for Wildlife Conservation Organization of the Year on behalf of AAF, who were recognized "*In appreciation of your contributions to pronghorn antelope management and habitat enhancements through the use of volunteer support, Special Big Game License Tag Funds, and the Habitat Partnership Committee process.*"

Commissioner Harris noted that the AES President Steve Clark was last year's Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Citizen Volunteer of the Year. This year, another Arizona volunteer received this prestigious award - Steve Sams from the Arizona Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. That's Citizen Volunteer of the Year two years in a row for Arizona. WAFWA is comprised of the agencies throughout the western United States, as well as several Canadian provinces.

Steve Clark offered kudos to the AGFD for their assistance in helping NGOs succeed. A Responsive Management survey rated several Arizona events and programs as extremely high on a nationwide scale, including the NWTF mentored youth hunt, the AGFD Hunter Education program, and the AES Wapiti Weekend.

HPC reports and success stories:

Glen Dickens for AAF: AAF's current focus is a 5-year initiative for pronghorn work in southeast Arizona. Anderson Mesa work is wrapped up, as is the Horseshoe Ranch acquisition. AAF's involvement in the Southeastern Arizona Grasslands (SEA Grass) work group will focus on pronghorn as part of the Sky Islands Initiative. Pima County is also a partner and AAF has applied for a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant. This year, they plan on treating about 50,000 acres, which will also address some landowner relations issues.

Steve Clark for AES: The group is working on water projects on the Buck Springs allotment.

John Koleszar for ADA and PNRC: Mogollon Sporting Association, along with AES and ADA, identified projects through the HPC process. Two tanks were completed, utilizing a lot of partnerships. The NGOs received a lot of help from AGFD Wildlife Manager Jarrod McFarlin, who is also planning for and working to obtain permission for tank restorations in wilderness areas.

Tom Mackin for the Williams-Flagstaff HPC: Projects competed include Hunter Point in Unit 5A, the Peaks tanks, and the Long Lake fencing project. The group will be submitting a number of projects for the upcoming cycle.

Rex Brown for Springerville-Alpine HPC: Rex commended the excellent AGFD and USFS people that his group works with. The Iris burn is under way and will be continued later this year. This year the group would like to radio collar pronghorn and monitor their movements for about 2 years to determine their travel corridors. They will be refurbishing an old trick tank. They will also be placing mineral blocks for the Black and Blue Rivers' bighorn sheep herds, and possibly install trail cameras to monitor these herds.

Clair Harris for RMEF: – The group would like to see more water projects proposed by the Wildlife Managers. The Tusayan Pipeline has been a huge success. There is significantly less water hauling necessary due to the refurbishing of these developments.

Stephen Williams for FRSG: There has been a lot of brush work and water development work done on the Hopi 3 Canyon, Hart, and Bar T Bar ranches, as well as a pipeline project on the Flying M. They've reset the monitoring cages to record precipitation. From March to the end of June, the western edge of the monitoring area received only one inch of rain, but has received 2 inches more since July 1.

Dave McCasland for ADBSS: Completed projects include Bill Williams, Casteneda Wash, Marqueta, and Soap Creek catchments. (Soap Creek was completed in cooperation with ADA). Regarding the ADBSS helicopter liability issue – Dave reminded AGFD that we need to address helicopter safety issues prior to the start of the project season. Also, regarding requests to ADBSS for additional remote cameras – proponents should consider submitting these requests through the HPC process for evaluation. Any cameras purchased through banquet dollars may remain property of the Wildlife Conservation Organization (WCO) that provides the funds.

Ben Brochu for the Tucson HPC: The ADBSS cameras in Region 5 are functioning, but the problem is being able to process all the images. The AGFD is working with Jim Sanderson from the University of Arizona on this and working with DLC, the manufacturer of covert cameras, for replacements and upgraded models. The information available through the use of these cameras has been most valuable. The challenge now is keeping up with the technology. The HPC is enjoying a great partnership with the Altar Valley, Pima County Parks and Recreation and the Coronado National Forest. At the Elkhorn Ranch, the solar pump is great! Pima County may be submitting proposals for the West Mill burn, and a project to address pineapple cactus issues, but probably not until next year. Fagin, Hayhook and Brady Wash catchments will be worked on this fall or next spring. Permits have been secured for Unit 37B water projects for this fall. Pima County will also be submitting a proposal for a small project on the A Diamond Ranch in Unit 37B. Another on the horizon will be the possibility of restoring sheep in the Catalina Mountains. This will require intensive monitoring to find out about use and will be expensive. The group may go after possible public donations.

Bob Jacobs for MDF: – MDF has received funding for youth shooting programs.

John DeLuca for the Kaibab National Forest - The South Kaibab Ranger District will be applying for special tag funds in the upcoming cycle. Ida Grassland - about a 10,000-acre agra-axe project, is done. Project proposals will be requesting funds for treatment of new areas that are especially important to the pronghorn herds. Most of these projects are funded mainly by the Forest Service, but the amount of money is small and HPC funding is crucial, especially for maintaining prescribed and natural fire treatments.

Duane Aubuchon for the Safford HPC – Most of the work this year has been on catchments, including Whitlock Mountains and Government Catchment in the Dos Cabezas. Some projects are awaiting NEPA completion from the BLM. After the treatment of the Bonita grasslands, an increased number of animals were noted on pronghorn surveys. Grassland funding includes \$180,000 each from landowners and NRCS grants for mesquite work. Matching funds from the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative from NRCS amount to about \$200,000 per year for the next 3 to 5 years. Water projects in the Galiuros have helped the Gould's turkeys there and they are reproducing well. Clifton Ranger District is continuing work on the Sunset prescribed fire and thinning and will be starting an upcoming Mesa Planning Unit project. For this year, proposals will ask for funding more waters in the Galiuros and also near the Muleshoe area, as well as funding for about 4,000 acres of treatment in the Bonita Grasslands. In the Eagle Creek area the group would like to rehab some waters that are in high use areas for bighorn sheep. This was proposed by area ranchers, but may or may not be submitted this year, as NEPA is not complete.

Anne Casey for the Coronado NF – The forest is planning for 135,000 acres of prescribed fire in the Galiuros in the next 10 years at a cost of \$6 to 10 dollars per acre. Costs for 3,500 acres for thinning and burning are about \$1,000 per acre.

Virginia Gouldsbury for the Prescott HPC – There have been juniper treatments on Yavapai Ranch and Region 3 collared some pronghorn to monitor travel corridors. Future projects will include proposals for the redevelopment of old concrete tanks. Four in Unit 19A have NEPA complete. Proposals will also be coming for new water developments on Black Mesa in Unit 19B.

Ben Shelby reporting on the 16 Pipeline project on the Boquillas Ranch – The pipeline is about to be done. Delays were caused by the State Land permit process. It will be extremely valuable to the outstanding antelope and elk habitat in Unit 10.

Bryan Marshall for the Sierra Vista/Douglas HPC – The group will be revamping the proposals for some of their previously unfunded projects. They will also be looking at well developments for San Pedro River area to help restore whitetail and mule deer habitat. There may also be some emergency funding requests for repairs due to Monument and Horseshoe II fires.

Bob Birkeland for the Winslow and Show Low HPCs – 2 catchment projects have been hindered by archaeological clearances that were supposed to have been completed by the Black Mesa Ranger District. The district had a lot of turnover this year, which contributed to the delay, but they do have about \$4,500 for the archaeological work. Units 4A and 4B have had decent rain in the past few weeks. This past spring the HPCs ran ads in newspapers and on radio, noticing their meeting. The ad campaign was not very successful, yet Winslow had 14 people at their last meeting.

Steve Clark for the Arizona Elk Society – AES has had great volunteer participation for fence projects. This year they installed over 100 PVC wildlife crossings.

Mike Sumner for the Southwest Arizona HPC – The group had a few successful projects, including Marqueta catchment, a cooperative project completed with ADBSS. The region had to coordinate with the landowner in order to keep the gate open. Work projects will take place for projects funded last cycle. The group is a great support for the Junior dove, quail and waterfowl hunts, which take place in October and November.

John Koleszar for the PNR - Connor Catchment was completed and is $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Two projects will be proposed this cycle for the Mescal and Superior Mountains. The Cherry Creek burn is partially complete and will be continuing. Five stock tanks have been approved by USFS for workers to use a bulldozer. The Ellinwood juniper cuts and dirt tank cleaning are underway. Possible upcoming proposals include: 2 other juniper cuts, a new development in the Klondyke Mountains. The Tonto Ranger District maybe proposing a burn in the Picture Mountain area.

Clair Harris for RMEF – They built a new catchment near the east entrance to Grand Canyon.

Dave McCasland for Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation - License plate sales have raised about \$13,000 thus far, and are generating about \$7,000-\$8,000 per month in sales. The plates can be personalized and renewals provide a continuous cash flow. Part of the money will be used toward the 4 FRI. Please get the word out.

Rex Brown introduced Beth Humphrey from the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest, who gave a briefing on the current status of lands affected by the massive Wallow fire.

Beth displayed a map from the Alpine and Springerville Ranger Districts, indicating burn intensity in Units 1 and 27. Four Region 1 Game and Fish personnel are on BAER (Burn Area Emergency Response) team. The Apache Forest is closing heavily damaged area, but keeping access open where it is deemed safe for public presence. So far, all antelope hunts are on, but heavily burned areas will be closed. The Forest will allow motorized game retrieval in open areas wherever possible. Spring turkey hunts are still under discussion. If a wounded animal enters a closed areas, hunters will be instructed to be accompanied by a Game and Fish officer to help retrieve.

Commissioner Harris gave kudos to the Forest for including Game and Fish in BAER. Beth stated that there are a lot of people working on recovery assessment. With this rapid assessment team, NEPA should be done. 80,000 acres of high intensity burn area will be bale bombed and seeded. Flooding is a concern, especially in Nutrioso. The BAER team started work even before fire was out, but is now disbanded. Springerville/Alpine HPC's big project proposal for this year was supposed to be a burn, which is, of course, no longer necessary. Glen asked if aspen regeneration is part of the recovery plan. It has not yet been determined. Aspen is an early succession species. Dave McCasland asked if the Forest will be allowing loggers to help, as they did after the Rodeo-Chediski fire. Beth said yes, on a larger scale. They want more salvaging done than they had in the Rodeo-Chediski fire. Field trips are planned with those who would appeal this. The timeframe for salvage is about 18 months. The EIS will be taking place and the Forest is in the process of reprioritizing their workload to give priority to restoration efforts.

Joe Currie asked if they going to keep up a fire regime. Beth said yes, and it will be according to a landscape scale assessment, putting to use a lot of the lessons learned from Rodeo Chediski.

Game Branch updates and miscellaneous information:

Reuben handed out a list of which groups were awarded Special Tags this year, and asked everyone to please support these groups.

Hunt guidelines are in the revision process, and include comments from 11 public meetings held in June. The Commission will have for their meeting on August 27, 2011. They should be posted to the website by about August 14.

Hunt recommendation information on the website is not yet complete. Turkey recommendations still require gathering data for Units 1 and 27, although fall hunt tags were drastically reduced. Most of the other species seem to be doing well. Biologically, the Department doesn't see any long term detriment.

Arizona Big Game Super Raffle Audit – ABGSR did a great job. John Koleszar participated in the audit. The audit was brought about by Commission concerns about process. An agreement was crafted this year to address these concerns. All the groups that were awarded tags will sign the agreement. All groups who applied to the Commission for Special Tags also addressed the issue in their tag applications. The raffles are harder to monitor than auctions. Charlie Kelly from ABGSR does a great job of keeping records. John Koleszar remarked that the key is to follow all the steps in the process. At any point, they were able to identify any raffle application. They've developed a very thorough process with verifiable components. Commissioner Harris was comfortable

with what was accomplished. Brian also shared information on the Big Game Super Raffle with the Wildlife Chiefs meeting at the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) annual meeting.

Brian reminded everyone to get the project proposals to the Game Branch by the September first deadline. The AGFD will have their priorities and rankings completed and out to the funding partners in October. He asked that the partners share their priorities and rankings with the Department as well, ahead of the project meeting, which will take place in January.

Tentative date for next state HPC meeting: February 18, 2012.

Tentative date for AGFD-WCO Project Funding Coordination meeting: January 28, 2012

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.

DRAFT