

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ARIZONA GAME AND FISH COMMISSION REGARDING  
THE IMPORTANCE OF WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY AND EFFORTS TO REDUCE  
POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACTS TO WILDLIFE, WILDLIFE HABITAT AND  
ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA**

**WHEREAS**, Arizona is home to one of the most diverse wildlife populations in the nation, including more than 800 species that contribute greatly to the economy and play a vital role in enhancing Arizonans quality of life, and

**WHEREAS**, the conservation of wildlife resources is the trust responsibility of the Commission on all non-tribal lands within Arizona to ensure abundant and sustainable wildlife resources for current and future generations, and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission has primary statewide responsibility for management actions related to fish and wildlife within the state of Arizona, and

**WHEREAS**, the Arizona Game and Fish Department acts under the authority of the Commission, and

**WHEREAS**, Arizona is one of the fastest growing states in the nation and is expected to reach nearly 10 million by 2050, and

**WHEREAS**, land, water, and development projects to accommodate Arizona's population growth have the potential to impact the future of Arizona's wildlife, through direct and indirect loss of wildlife and their habitats, and

**WHEREAS**, roads are one of the primary causes of wildlife habitat fragmentation and wildlife-vehicle collisions on state roads are projected to increase by more than 100% by 2051, and

**WHEREAS**, utility-scale energy, resource extraction, industrial, and residential developments across Arizona will have the potential to displace habitat and act as novel obstructions to wildlife movement, and

**WHEREAS**, interagency collaborations with the Arizona Department of Transportation, other transportation departments, land owners and managers, shall increase opportunities to mutually benefit wildlife connectivity and public safety, and

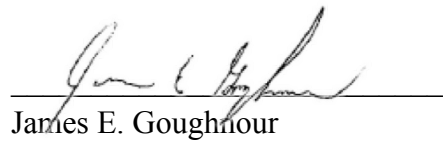
**WHEREAS**, cooperative planning efforts for the identification, conservation and enhancement of wildlife corridors that connect intact wildlife habitat increases the resiliency of Arizona's wildlife to persist through human population growth, severe weather or climatic

events, emerging wildlife health issues, and introduced or invasive species are vital to the health of Arizona's wildlife populations, and

**WHEREAS**, wildlife crossings, underpasses and overpasses, combined with exclusionary fencing, have proven to mitigate habitat fragmentation through enhancement of wildlife corridors, and significantly reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Arizona Game and Fish Commission directs the Department to pursue strategies and resources to identify and implement conservation measures to avoid, minimize, or offset impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat for actual or potential habitat losses resulting from statewide land, water, and development projects, to enhance wildlife connectivity and conserve associated habitats for the benefit of Arizona's wildlife populations.

ADOPTED on the 14th day of April, 2023 by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.



James E. Goughnour  
Chairman  
Arizona Game and Fish Commission

