

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Friday, September 8, 2017
Saturday, September 9, 2017
Grand Canyon Railway Hotel
235 N. Grand Canyon Blvd.
Williams, Arizona 86046

PRESENT: (Commission)

(Director and Staff)

Chairman James R. Ammons
Commissioner Eric S. Sparks
Commissioner Kurt R. Davis
Commissioner Edward "Pat" Madden

Director Ty Gray
Deputy Director Tom Finley
Assistant Attorney General Jim Odenkirk
Assistant Attorney General Linda Pollock
Assistant Attorney General John LeSueur

Chairman Ammons called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and led those present through the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor and remembrance U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Emil Rivera-Lopez from Tucson who died in a helicopter crash off the coast of Yemen and for Ray Evridge of the Phoenix Varmint Callers, Inc. who recently passed away. The Commission introduced themselves followed by introductions of the Director and the Director's staff. Commissioner Zieler was not present. This meeting followed an agenda revision #1 dated September 6, 2017.

Awards and Recognition

Chairman Ammons and Assistant Director Craig McMullen presented a Commission Certificate of Appreciation to Department Wildlife Manager and Flagstaff Field Supervisor Larry Phoenix for his outstanding contributions to the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Chairman Ammons presented a Commission Commendation of Achievement to the Grand Canyon Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Northern Arizona Flycasters for their efforts in sportfish and native fish conservation. Neil Warner, President of Grand Canyon Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Jack Shambaugh, President of Northern Arizona Flycasters, were present to receive the commendations on behalf of their organizations.

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1. Call to the Public

There were no requests to speak at this time.

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2. Consent Agenda

The following items were grouped together and noticed as consent agenda items to expedite action on routine matters, and/or were previously presented to the Commission as a "first read" item. These items were presented to the Commission and none were removed for discussion.

a. Renewal of Road Closure on State Trust Land Approximately Twelve Miles Northeast of Benson, Arizona

Presenter: Al Eiden, Landowner Relations Program Supervisor

The Department requested the renewal of a closure to vehicles which was granted in 2007 by the Commission, with support of the State Land Department and Bureau of Land Management. This closure addresses a two-track road, 5/8 mile in length, which dead-ends at the abandoned Tungsten Mine Adit. The closure has been successful in reducing disturbance and potential loss of bats that roost in the adit, which is the only known bat roost in the Dragoon Mountains. This site is significant because it is one of only a few known roost sites for the lesser long-nosed bat, a Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Modifying the adit's opening to restrict human access is not a good option at this particular site. This road closure provides a means to reduce the number of people accessing the mine and reduce disturbances from motorized vehicles and campers outside the opening. Additional desirable outcomes have been a decrease in soil and vegetation damage by vehicles turning around on the narrow dead-end road and a decrease in unlawful activities, which include camping close to wildlife waters and vandalism of water improvements and the adit itself. The Department is aware of no complaints regarding the closure. Hunters and other outdoor recreationists still use the area in its "non-motorized access only" form. The Arizona State Land Department and the grazing lessee support renewal of this closure.

The Department recommends THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF A ROAD CLOSURE WHICH PROTECTS A BAT ROOST LOCATED APPROXIMATELY TWELVE MILES NORTHEAST OF BENSON.

b. Wildlife Studies Agreement between the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the City of Scottsdale.

Presenter: Jay Cook, Mesa Regional Supervisor

The City of Scottsdale (COS) has requested to enter into a five year agreement with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) to continue wildlife conservation within the McDowell Mountains east of Scottsdale. The Department has held several agreements over the past five years with the COS for wildlife and habitat conservation work, primarily performed within the McDowell Mountains east of Scottsdale. Recent projects include annual deer and javelina surveys that support Hunt Recommendations for archery deer and javelina within the Phoenix Metro Game Management Unit 25M and Contracts Branch multi-year research project of radio-telemetry collared deer to determine habitat use and travel corridors to mitigate roadkill and evaluate wildlife connectivity between the McDowell Mountains and the adjacent Tonto National Forest. This Agreement will allow the Department to continue performing annual deer, javelina and wildlife aerial surveys in association with the McDowell Mountain Preserve.

The Department recommends THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE FIVE YEAR WILDLIFE STUDIES AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR, AS SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION, TO EXECUTE

THE AGREEMENT AS APPROVED OR RECOMMENDED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Motion: Sparks moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE ITEMS A AND B ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0
Zieler not present

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3. Legislative Engagement and State and Federal Legislation

Presenter: Ed Sanchez, Legislative Liaison

Mr. Sanchez provided a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on the current status of selected state and federal legislative matters. The presentation included the following information and Commission actions:

State Legislative Update

Mr. Sanchez briefed the Commission on the final draft legislative proposal for License Simplification Reauthorization, which must be submitted to the Governor's Office by September 15. This legislation needs to be introduced and approved this session to avoid uncertainty. The current authority expires July 1, 2019. The Legislative Review Team has been working on an outreach plan to educate the public, stakeholders and the Legislature in order to build support similar to the effort in the original legislation in 2013.

Commissioner Davis confirmed with Mr. Sanchez that the disabled veterans language they had previously discussed will be incorporated into the legislation.

Mr. Sanchez added that the issue of the 5% license fee to retailers will also be incorporated into the legislation.

Commissioner Davis discussed with Assistant Director Guiles the language he would like to see in the legislation, in particular, he would like to see more on the e-commerce side as it relates to digital transactions and modernization so that the Department has the broadest latitude possible.

Congressional Update

Executive Order - Review of designations under the Antiquities Act:

The Executive Order directs the Department of Interior to review 24 large national monuments designated in the past 21 years. DOI Secretary Zinke submitted the final report to the President on August 23. The full report has not yet been released by the White House. The released summary does not indicate any specific changes. The Grand Canyon Parashant was removed from review prior to submission of the report. There have been no announcements on the

following Arizona monuments: Ironwood Forest National Monument (128,917 acres) Vermillion Cliffs National Monument (279,568 acres) Sonoran Desert National Monument (486,146 acres).

H.R. 3005, Grand Canyon Bison Management Act:

Directs the Department of Interior to publish a management plan to reduce, through humane lethal culling by skilled public volunteers, the population of bison in the Grand Canyon National Park.

Provisions:

- Permits removal by a skilled public volunteer of a full bison harvested from the Park
- A “full bison” is defined as “all of the remains of a bison after field dressing.”
- Interior shall coordinate & obtain written approval from the Game and Fish Commission on the development & finalization of the management plan
- Shall comply with environmental laws, including NEPA.

House strategy: Bison bill to be amended to House Sportsmen’s Act, once it is introduced; SHARE – Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act.

Senate strategy: Amend companion language to Senate legislative vehicles – Energy and Natural Resources Act (S. 1460); Sportsmen’s Act (S. 733).

The Department’s legislative team is working with members of the Arizona Delegation to advance this legislation.

Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act:

H.R. 3668: Provides for the preservation of sportsmen’s heritage and enhance recreation opportunities on Federal land, and for other purposes. (relates to H.R. 3005)

Provisions:

- Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act Reauthorization
- Fishing Protection Act
- Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act
- Hearing Protection Act
- Hunter Access Corridors Act
- Hunter and Farmer Protection Act
- Lawful Purpose and Self Defense Act
- North American Wetlands Conservation Extension Act
- Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act
- Polar Bear Conservation and Fairness Act
- Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act
- Recreational Lands Self-Defense Act
- Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act

Scheduled for Markup in House Natural Resources September 12 - Amend PR Modernization.

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3A. A Briefing on the Development of a Long Term State Wide Public Awareness Campaign

Presenter: Tony Guiles, Assistant Director

Mr. Guiles briefed the Commission on Department efforts to devise and implement a long term state wide outreach campaign to increase public awareness of the Department, its mission and how it is funded. In October 2014, the Department hired Off-Madison Ave. (OMA), a Phoenix-based advertising firm, who began pre-campaign research to shape messaging, identify target audiences, gauge public attitudes and build an outreach strategy. OMA presented the Department with a comprehensive outreach plan centered on a “microsite” website (GameandFishFacts.com), housing information about the Department that is more accessible to the non-consumptive user, but still acknowledges the conservation contributions of sportsmen. To drive target audiences to the microsite, OMA created ads in a variety of formats (radio, outdoor, online, print and TV). Billboards, radio and TV ads were placed primarily in the metro area, with online advertising and some print advertising being seen statewide.

Mr. Guiles introduced Sasha Howell with OMA. Ms. Howell provided an update using a PowerPoint presentation on the Public Awareness 10-Year Strategic Plan and Campaign. For the past three years, OMA has worked with the Department on a comprehensive statewide outreach campaign. The campaign generated a lift in awareness of 20 points with an impact of reaching an additional 1.5 million people. Ms. Howell’s presentation included the following:

- Highlights of activities from the past year
- The goal of the 10-year plan: Build on the campaign’s momentum; create the framework for AGFD’s future financial success; and protect the Department’s ability to effectively manage the state’s wildlife
- Strategies and tactics for education, innovation, advocacy and collaboration
- Milestones and measurements
- Next steps.

OMA will report back to the Commission in six months.

Commissioner Davis commented that this may be the most important thing the Department does other than managing wildlife. This will provide Arizona residents the ability to gain a greater knowledge about what the Department’s role is in managing over 800 species and the inter-connectivity between them, as well as the Department’s ability to have every tool necessary to effectively manage wildlife. This is very exciting and he wouldn’t mind another update in three months, rather than six months. This is cutting edge for a state wildlife agency and will leave a legacy long after the Commissioners here today are no longer on the Commission.

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4. Commission Priorities Update

Presenter: Kent Komadina, Special Assistant to the Director

Mr. Komadina provided an update on the Commission Priorities Report (attached) and highlighted several activities since the last Commission meeting. The Commission sets its priorities on an annual basis with some adjustments during the year. The Department regularly reports to the Commission on its progress for each priority. Currently, the Commission Priorities are as follows:

- Increase Access/Landowner Relations
- Business Enterprise Development
- Comprehensive Wildlife Management
- Facility Maintenance, Improvements & Real Estate Strategies
- Maximize Officer Field Time and Promote Fair Chase
- Public Affairs
- Customer Recruitment, Retention, & Reactivation
- Habitat Improvement & Conservation
- Sportfish Opportunities
- Maintaining Department and State Authorities for Conserving Wildlife
- Process improvements

Chris Cantrell, Aquatics Wildlife Branch Chief, provided a PowerPoint presentation and update on the Commission's priority for sportfish opportunities. Last year the Commission and Department discussed four sportfish strategies for 2017 as follows:

- Minimum of 610,000lbs of sportfish stocked
- Minimum of 129 locations stocked
- Expand to 2 new community fishing locations
- Initiate 6 new habitat enhancement phases or projects.

Mr. Cantrell provided the following updates on 2017 accomplishments:

- Exceeded metrics at 856,198lbs of sportfish stocked in 129 locations
- Habitat phases or projects: Roosevelt Lake; Haigler Creek; Continuation at Lake Mohave and Havasu; Dogtown Lake; Numerous others in planning phases, particularly in White Mountain lakes
- Expanded to three new community fishing locations; Show Low creek, City of Mesa pond and Stone Dam
- Area of concern – Golden Algae; fish kills in Apache, Canyon, and Saguaro Lakes.

2018 Sportfish Strategies:

- Minimum 750,000lbs of sportfish stocked
- Minimum 129 locations stocked
- Expand to four new community fishing locations
- Preparing for the future – Golden Algae, increases in Community Waters, fish health concerns, and need for a Florida-Strain Bass Program
- Initiate 6 new habitat enhancement phases or projects: Roosevelt Lake, Lake Mohave, Lake Havasu, Whitehorse Lake, Pena Blanca Lake, Kinnikinick Lake and Christopher Creek.

5. Update on Williams Area Sport Fisheries

Presenter: Scott Rogers, Aquatic Wildlife Program Manager, Region II

Mr. Rogers provided an informational PowerPoint presentation on sport fisheries in the Williams area, including local economic impacts and recent habitat work. Several of Region II's important fishing waters are located near the City of Williams. Dogtown Reservoir and Kaibab Lake are considered priority waters in Region II. The 2013 Economic Impact of Fishing in Arizona (Fedler, 2014) estimates that anglers at Dogtown Reservoir and Kaibab Lake were responsible for approximately \$6,534,582 in direct expenditures in 2013. Approximately 70% of the anglers who utilize these lakes come from outside of Coconino County. Recently (2015-2017), Region II fisheries staff partnered with the Grand Canyon Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Northern Arizona Flycasters and the Kaibab National Forest in order to enhance fish habitat in Dogtown Reservoir. This partnership, combining ongoing juniper thinning on the forest and volunteer labor, made it possible to place over 300 large Juniper trees into Dogtown Reservoir at minimal cost. Recent fishing at Dogtown Reservoir has been better than previously observed with high catch rates for Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout often larger than 20 inches.

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Meeting recessed for a break at 9:14 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:31 a.m.

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6. Briefing on Department Deployment of Arizona Management System (AMS)

Presenter: Clay Crowder, Wildlife Planner

Mr. Crowder provided a PowerPoint presentation and informational briefing on the Department's deployment of AMS methods and tools used to reduce waste and build sustainable efficiency in the Department's systems and processes. AMS was implemented by Governor Ducey as part of his vision for Arizona to be the number one state to live, play, recreate, retire, visit, do business, and get an education. To achieve this vision, a professional, results-driven management system has been deployed to transform the way Arizona state government thinks and does business as one enterprise. State agencies are doing more good for Arizona by tracking and improving their performance each and every day.

Mr. Crowder's presentation included an update on the Department's performance scorecard metrics, progress in eliminating outdated and unnecessary processes for savings in staff time, costs, and improved customer satisfaction, and how the Department's deployment of AMS relates to the Department's 2018 Strategic Plan.

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7. Lands and Habitat Program Update

Presenter: Laura Canaca, Project Evaluation Program Supervisor

Ms. Canaca provided a PowerPoint presentation and update on major developments relating to resource management plans and actions on federal lands in Arizona. The update was provided to keep the Commission informed of major federal land planning actions in Arizona, and included an overview of the following:

Forest Planning:

- A-S National Forest Travel Management Plan: Draft documents will be released this fall
- Coconino National Forest Land and Resource Management: Final expected November 2017
- Coronado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan: Final expected Fall 2017
- Travel Management Planning – by District
 - Safford – Objection Resolution Meeting September 6
 - Douglas – Submitted Objection September 1
 - Santa Catalina - Final Draft EA expected September 2017.

BLM Planning:

- Lower Sonoran Field Office: Buckeye Hills TMP; Route evaluations starting September–November 2017
- Yuma Field Office: Ten West Transmission Line Right of Way.

Federal lands consist of 41% of lands in Arizona (30,541,590 acres). The Department invests heavily in early engagement in planning efforts and actions to fulfill state trust responsibilities and statutory authorities for managing wildlife.

Commissioner Davis asked for future reports to include a list of significant dates regarding travel management plans such as when the draft plan is out, when the comment period is done, and when the Record of Decision is out. It would be helpful for the Commission in keeping track in case the Commission wants to take some kind of action.

Ms. Canaca stated that the Department tracks all of the timeframes on all of the planning efforts and can easily attach that to future Federal Lands Updates.

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10. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Pima County Wireless Integrated Network (PCWIN).

Presenter: Gene Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Mr. Elms briefed the Commission on a proposed IGA with Pima County Wireless Integrated Network to allow the Department to have newly purchased Motorola dual-band radios programmed by PCWIN staff. The agreement will serve up to 50 mobile/portable radios, though the radios will be deployed in shifts of approximately 10. Funding will be provided from the Communications Center annual budget. This Agreement will allow the Department to regain

interoperable communications that have been non-existent since Southern Arizona first responders changed their radios from VHF to 800 MHz frequencies three years ago.

Motion: Madden moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH PIMA COUNTY WIRELESS INTEGRATED NETWORK (PCWIN) AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR, AS SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION, TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT AS APPROVED OR RECOMMENDED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0
Zieler not present

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19. Petition to Close a 0.3-mile-long Road on State Trust Land Approximately Two Miles Southwest of Congress, Arizona.

Presenter: Al Eiden, Landowner Relations Program Supervisor

Mr. Eiden briefed the Commission on a request by Kathleen and Mark Moore to close a road to vehicular access on a 0.3-mile long road on State Trust Land in Yavapai County located approximately two miles southwest of Congress. Mr. Eiden provided a map of the proposed road closure area in a PowerPoint presentation. The reason for this request for closure is to protect the ranch's only well from theft and vandalism, which is a documented problem in the area. The Moore's would like to develop this well and have already obtained the approvals to do so.

Through the construction of the proposed well project and associated drinker, wildlife will gain access to a new, permanent water source in an area with a noted lack of suitable and persistent water. However, the lessees do not want to invest in construction at this site without the protection from theft which a closure to vehicles would provide. The proposed closure would only indirectly affect vehicular access to the small area located between State Route 71 and Phil's Tank, but it will not eliminate access in entirety. The lessees have already conducted capital improvements to the alternative access routes in this area which will allow continued vehicular access to several thousand acres of public land to the north, east and west.

If granted, this road would be closed by means of locking an existing gate along State Route 71; a barricade would be installed just north of the well to prevent vehicles from accessing the site from that direction. Signs would be installed to direct sportsmen to the alternate access route. Non-motorized access will be allowed on the closed road. Regional personnel and the Arizona State Land Department support this closure because alternate access exists and a new year-round water source for wildlife will be created.

Mr. Eiden stated that although this agenda item is listed as a first read item, the Moore's have requested that the Commission take action at this meeting.

Motion: Madden moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO CLOSE A ROAD ON STATE TRUST LAND LOCATED APPROXIMATELY TWO MILES SOUTHWEST OF CONGRESS FOR RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0
Zieler not present

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21. Memorandum of Understanding with the National Forest Foundation

Presenter: Josh Avey, Chief, Terrestrial Wildlife Branch

Mr. Avey provided a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to allow the Department to partner with the National Forest Foundation on conservation and education programs. The Department and the National Forest Foundation propose to work cooperatively for the common purpose of restoring Arizona forests, watersheds, and associated wildlife habitats. This MOU provides a relationship and framework for conservation actions that benefit Arizona wildlife and provide opportunities to inform and educate the public.

The Commission was in consensus to place this item on the consent agenda for the next regular Commission meeting.

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21A. Approval for Importation/Exportation of Sonoran Pronghorn with Sonora, Mexico.

Presenter: Jim deVos, Assistant Director, Wildlife Management Division

Mr. deVos briefed the Commission on the Department's request to work with the Mexican Government to improve the genetic variability of Sonoran Pronghorn (SOPH) by importing and exporting animals over the next two years to support recovery goals.

The SOPH is listed as an endangered species in both the United States and in Mexico. In 2002, the SOPH population in Arizona plummeted to 21 individuals, which prompted an emergency response by the Department, the USFWS, and other partner agencies. In 2004, a semi-captive breeding program was initiated with a small number of wild caught individuals from Arizona and wild caught individuals from Sonora, Mexico. This effort was successful as the current estimated population in Arizona's is nearly 350 animals. As part of the Recovery Criteria, the two SOPH populations in Sonora, Mexico, and the population in Arizona must maintain genetic heterozygosity. The Recovery Team believes that by exchanging animals between Arizona and Sonora, each population would regain the level of genetic diversity lost before the population declined. The Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Team has recently recommended transfer of up to 10 SOPH from Arizona to Mexico and two SOPH from Mexico to Arizona over the next two years; both actions could occur as early as December 2017.

Motion: Davis moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE EXPORTATION OF UP TO 10 SONORAN PRONGHORN TO MEXICO AND THE IMPORTATION OF TWO SONORAN PRONGHORN INTO ARIZONA OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS TO MAINTAIN GENETIC HETEROZYGOSITY AND TO SUPPORT RECOVERY GOALS.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0
Zieler not present

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

Presenter: Gene Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Records of these proceedings are maintained separately.

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9. Rehearing Request Regarding Previous License Revocation

Presenter: Gene F. Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Mr. Elms presented a request for rehearing by James Travis Lyons regarding the revocation of his guide privileges. On May 16, 2017, Mr. Lyons was convicted in the North Canyon Justice Court for failing to check out a lion within ten days of harvest. On August 4, 2017, the Commission revoked Mr. Lyons' guide license for a period of one year and further required him to complete a Hunter Education Course before obtaining any license to guide in the State of Arizona. Mr. Lyons requested a rehearing of this matter and decision because he feels that he was not able to present all the facts in regards to his case during his initial hearing. Mr. Lyons was notified by certified mail of this hearing to consider his request. The Commission was provided with all documents regarding Mr. Lyons' case prior to this meeting for review and consideration.

Mr. Lyons was present and addressed the Commission stating that that there was a misunderstanding between himself and the person he had asked for help in reporting the lion. He has admitted his guilt and paid the fines. Guiding is how he makes a living and with the one year suspension he is unable to complete the Hunter Education course and re-test for his license until the end of the 2018 season. Since having his license revoked, he has had to decline service to his clients who have made plans and spent countless dollars in preparing for their upcoming hunts. He is also unable to advertise for next year's season without his guide license. This will likely cause him to lose clients. Mr. Lyons asked the Commission to reconsider and show leniency in his case that would allow him to return to work.

James Weeks, retired Judge from Gila County Justice Court, addressed the Commission on

behalf of Mr. Lyons. Mr. Weeks is Mr. Lyons' grandfather-in-law and was in the camp on this particular hunt. He confirmed that it was very late that night after the hunt when Mr. Lyons asked a fellow guide to help with reporting so he could go and meet up with another client. The lion was legal and there was no intent of wrongdoing. Mr. Weeks asked for leniency because taking Mr. Lyons' guide license will be a big burden on his family.

Commissioner Davis asked Mr. Elms about the lion being a spotted kitten.

Mr. Elms stated that it was a spotted kitten, but the officer did not cite Mr. Lyons for a spotted kitten because of the situation and the angle, perhaps Mr. Lyons didn't see the spots, and because of the age of the lion.

Chairman Ammons commented that reporting applies to everyone, not just guides.

Mr. Elms stated that Chairman Ammons is correct and added that guides are held to an even higher standard because they are representing the laws to their customers.

Motion: Madden moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AFFIRM ITS PREVIOUS DECISION IN THE MATTER OF JAMES TRAVIS LYONS (REVOKING MR. LYONS' GUIDE LICENSE FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR), AND THAT THE PETITION FOR A REHEARING BE DENIED.

Vote: Aye - Ammons, Davis, Madden
Nay - Sparks
Passed 3 to 1
Zieler not present

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9A. Request for Rehearing Regarding Denial of License Application.

Presenter: John LeSueur, Assistant Attorney General

Mr. LeSueur informed the Commission that Mr. Christopher North contacted the Department this morning and withdrew his request for a rehearing. The Department suggested the Commission take no action in this case.

The Commission took no action.

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Meeting recessed for a break 11:35 a.m.
Meeting reconvened at 11:46 a.m.

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11. Hunter Education Update

Presenter: Kellie Tharp, Education Branch Chief

Ms. Tharp, assisted by Conservation Program Manager Denise Raum, provided a PowerPoint presentation and update on Arizona's Hunter Education Program. The Department's Education Branch oversees the program and works in partnership with volunteer instructors to deliver the program statewide. The presentation included an overview of the following:

- History of the Hunter Education Program
- Who, why and how students take hunter education
- Volunteer hunter education instructors and their contributions
- The Hunter Education Advisory Committee
- Future of the Hunter Education Program, including partnerships, customer service, Director's Order and request for volunteer input, program diversification, and expansion.

Chairman Ammons expressed his appreciation for the 400+ volunteers that teach the hunter education classes.

Public Comment

Jason Spear addressed the Commission regarding some proposed changes he has heard about in regards to changing the model of hunter education from what it is today. In his opinion, that would be a mistake. The people managing this program have done some extraordinary things in the past eight years. He would not like to see changes in a program that has already been improved and is working very well.

Chairman Ammons discussed with Mr. Spear that Commissioner Zieler has volunteered to lead a committee to work with the Hunter Education Advisory Committee on some of the issues.

Steve Sams, with the Hunter Education Advisory Committee, discussed an issue regarding those who wait until the last minute before a hunt to sign up their youth for Hunter Education. Those who do not plan ahead should not be able to negatively impact those that do plan ahead.

Don Martin, HE Instructor in Kingman, complemented the Department's staff on what they have done over the years to improve the Hunter Education Program. Mr. Martin agreed with Mr. Sams regarding short notice/last minute requests for hunter education and the difficulties in trying to manage and accommodate them. He doesn't agree with the idea of possibly hiring NRA or other instructors, but is confident the Commission will come up with a plan that the 400+ volunteer instructors can live with.

Chris Hastie, HE Instructor, agreed with the previous speakers and added, in regards to utilizing other instructors like the NRA, that hunter education is not strictly about firearms, it is also about conservation, wildlife identification, survival, first aid and more.

Blaine Bickford expressed the need for more information regarding the Director's Order in order to provide input. He would like to see a legal analysis, a business analysis and a customer review/analysis.

Linda Vedo, HE Instructor, added that not enough online field days are offered or classes in general. Ms. Vedo read some comments to the Commission from other instructors that included comments about last minute/short notice requests for Hunter Education.

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12. Shooting Sports Update

Presenter: Mike Raum, Shooting Sports Branch Chief

Mr. Raum provided a PowerPoint presentation and update on the Department's Shooting Sports projects and activities. The Shooting Sports Branch oversees all the Commission-owned shooting ranges, including the management of the Ben Avery Shooting Facility (BASF). The update included an overview of the Department's statewide shooting range program, recent range development and enhancement projects, a review of BASF operations, shooter day trends, the Shooting Sports Branch volunteer program, and the Department's partnership and efforts with Tread Lightly! to keep access open for recreational shooting on public lands.

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13. Petition by Mr. Britten to Purchase PointGuard after the March 16, 2017 Purchase Deadline.

Presenter: Rachel Gottlieb, Branch Chief, Customer Support and Sales Branch

Ms. Gottlieb presented a petition by Mr. Britten asking for permission to purchase PointGuard after the March 16, 2017 purchase deadline. Mr. Britten used a hunt application service to apply for the 2017 elk and antelope draw. Mr. Travis McClendon was the person from the application service who applied for Mr. Britten. He is the co-founder of the service and contacted the Department on Mr. Britten's behalf. Mr. McClendon applied for hundreds of clients for the elk and antelope 2017 draw. He decided to purchase them PointGuard and created portal accounts for each of his clients. This was done only a day or two prior to deadline. Portal accounts can take 24-72 hours to become linked. Mr. McClendon went back, during the time period March 10-13, 2017, into the portal accounts he created to purchase PointGuard. The last day to purchase was March 16, 2017.

The credit card used was declined for 35 transactions. The payment system provides a pop-up notice when the card is declined. Mr. McClendon states he saw no such notice. The system also provides a receipt sent to the email entered in the payment area. The receipt contains the name entered in the payment screen but does not contain the name of the portal account holder since the purchase was made from within an individualized account. Mr. McClendon was unable to reconcile the receipts to his clients.

Mr. Britten was drawn for hunt 3120 valid from September 15 – 28, 2017, unit 4B for bull elk. Mr. Britten contacted the Department to surrender his tag and was told he did not have PointGuard. Mr. McClendon then contacted the Department and found out that his card had been declined for the PointGuard purchase. The Department received a petition dated June 12, 2017 from Mr. Britten.

Mr. McClendon was present and addressed the Commission on behalf of Mr. Britten. Mr. McClendon is an Arizona outfitter and he created the portal and applied for the draw on behalf of Mr. Britten. He believes it is a technical error of the Department that purchasing PointGuard was not available at the time the portal account was created. Additionally, he was not noticed of any credit cards being declined.

Ms. Gottlieb addressed the Commission and stated that the PointGuard deadline is 30 days out, the same as it is to update credit card information. This information is in the regulations, informational emails are sent out, and it is on the Department website in the PointGuard section. Additionally, Mr. Britten updated his portal account and edited it on February 13, which gave him over 30 days to purchase the PointGuard product.

Commissioner Davis commented that he personally knows the pop-up works when a credit card is declined, because he accidentally used a credit card that he had cancelled for his own application and got the pop-up.

Commissioner Davis confirmed with Mr. Odenkirk that this is a case where the Commission must determine that a Department error has occurred in order to issue a remedy.

Motion: Davis moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DENY THE PETITION BY MR. BRITTEN.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0
Zieler not present

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24. 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: Madden moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0
Zieler not present

The Commission had a working lunch during Executive Session.

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Meeting recessed for lunch at 1:20 p.m.
Meeting reconvened at 2:41 p.m.

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14. Petition by Mr. Smith to Purchase PointGuard after the July 6, 2017 Purchase Deadline.

Presenter: Rachel Gottlieb, Branch Chief, Customer Support and Sales Branch

Ms. Gottlieb briefed the Commission on a petition by Mr. Smith asking the Commission for permission to purchase PointGuard after the July 6, 2017 purchase deadline. Mr. Smith applied for deer in the 2017 fall draw. He was drawn for hunt 1015, valid for any antlered deer, from October 27 – Nov 5, 2017 in unit 12A West. The Department received a petition dated August 7, 2017 from Mr. Smith stating that he mistakenly selected incorrect hunts on his application. He was only slightly aware of PointGuard but didn't see it as a need as he intended to use a tag if he was lucky enough to be drawn. Mr. Smith is requesting to be allowed to purchase PointGuard in order to surrender his tag and reinstate his eleven bonus points.

Mr. Smith was not present.

Motion: Davis moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DENY THE PETITION FOR HEARING BY MR. SMITH.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0
Zieler not present

* * * * *

14A. Petition by Mr. Loch to Reinstate Elk and Antelope Points due to Evacuation During Hurricane Harvey.

Presenter: Rachel Gottlieb, Branch Chief, Customer Support and Sales Branch

Ms. Gottlieb briefed the Commission on a petition by Mr. Loch asking the Commission for reinstatement of his elk and antelope points due to evacuation during Hurricane Harvey. Mr. Loch was drawn for hunt 2008 and 3113, for elk and antelope. His elk tag is valid for any antlerless elk, from September 29 – October 5, 2017 in Unit 8. His antelope tag is valid for any buck antelope, from September 8 – September 17 in Unit 5A. The Department received a petition dated August 29, 2017 from Mr. Loch stating that that impacts to him from Hurricane Harvey will prevent him from using his tags. He was awaiting the National Guard for evacuation at the time. Mr. Loch is requesting his points be reinstated based on the state of emergency declared due to Hurricane Harvey.

Mr. Loch was not present.

Ms. Gottlieb informed the Commission that Mr. Loch contacted her this morning and added to his petition. In an email to Ms. Gottlieb, Mr. Loch added that he has been busy assisting in hurricane relief efforts and provided several photos. Additionally, flights to Arizona have been interrupted and getting a flight to Arizona will be difficult, but also, he believes he needs to stay in Houston to continue helping with relief efforts. If it were not for this natural disaster, he would never have missed his hunt.

Commissioner Davis stated that while he feels for Mr. Loch and his situation, there are many in the hunting community that have tragedy and events occur on many levels that impact a person's ability to use their tags. The Department now has a product called PointGuard available in the application process as a way to protect from losing points in these situations.

Commissioner Davis confirmed with Mr. Odenkirk that the Commission does not have the legal authority to reinstate Mr. Loch's bonus points.

Mr. Odenkirk added that the Commission has adopted a rule for when a person is eligible for bonus point reinstatement and another separate rule that says a person cannot petition for bonus point reinstatement unless that person has purchased PointGuard.

Motion: Davis moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DENY THE PETITION BY MR. LOCH TO REINSTATE HIS BONUS POINTS.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0
Zieler not present

* * * * *

15. Request to Approve Proposed Expedited Rulemaking Amending Article 6 Rules Addressing Rules of Practice Before the Commission.

Presenter: Kent Komadina, Special Assistant to the Director

Mr. Komadina briefed the Commission on a proposed Notice of Expedited Rulemaking Docket Opening and Notice of Proposed Expedited Rulemaking amending rules within Article 6, addressing rules of practice before the Commission. The Department proposes to amend rules within Article 6 to enact recommendations developed during the preceding Five-year Rule Review Report approved by the Commission at the December 2, 2016 Commission meeting and by G.R.R.C. at the March 7, 2017 Council meeting.

For all rules involving a petition, the Department recommends requiring a petitioner to use a form furnished by the Department to ensure a petition contains the required elements to reduce the regulatory burden. In addition to non-substantive changes designed to remove regulatory uncertainty and increase consistency between Commission rules, the Department proposes the following substantive amendments:

R12-4-601. Definitions:

- Adopt a rule of definitions to ensure compliance with APA and SOS format and style requirements and standards
- Define the terms "business day", "Commission Chair" and "respondent" to ensure the consistent interpretation of Commission rules.

R12-4-602. Petition for Rule or Review of Practice or Policy:

- Replace the term "Director" with "Department" to make the rule more concise

- Remove the statement that the petition shall be placed in the rule record as this requirement is covered under R12-4-602.

R12-4-603. Written Comments on Proposed Rules:

- Clarify a written comment submitted by a person on behalf of a group/organization that does not contain all required information is placed in the rule record as the view of that person, not the group/organization.

R12-4-605. Ex Parte Communication:

- Remove references to the service of a memorandum as a result of a comparison of this rule to rules governing rehearing or review made by other self-supporting agencies: the Arizona Medical Board, State Board of Dental Examiners, and State Board of Accountancy
- Remove the reference to "hearing officer" as the Administrative Hearing Office is governed by R2-19-205 Ex Parte Communications.

R12-4-606. Standards for Revocation, Suspension, or Denial of a License:

- Include additional offenses for which the Commission may revoke, suspend, or deny a license to reflect statutory amendments made to A.R.S. § 17-309(A)(1).

R12-4-608. Rehearing or Review of Commission Decisions:

- Indicate a person who fails to file a timely motion for rehearing or review is prohibited from seeking a judicial review of the Commission's decision to increase clarity
- Extend the time in which the Commission may initiate a rehearing or review
- Specify the time-frame in which the Commission shall hold the rehearing or review to increase clarity.

R12-4-609. Commission Orders:

- Allow the Commission to hold a meeting to review an order establishing a special season, allowing fish to be taken by additional methods on waters where a fish die-off is imminent, as soon as possible.

If approved by the Commission, the Department will publish the proposed rulemaking to the Department's website, provide copies of the proposed rulemaking to the Governor, President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Administrative Rules Committee, and G.R.R.C., and submit the notices to the Secretary of State's office for publication in the *Arizona Administrative Register*. The Department will accept public comment for 30 days after the Notice of Proposed Expedited Rulemaking is published to the Department's website. Once the public comment period has passed, the Department will present the Final Expedited Rulemaking to the Commission for their consideration.

Motion: Sparks moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE NOTICE OF EXPEDITED RULEMAKING AMENDING RULES WITHIN ARTICLE 6 RULES OF PRACTICE BEFORE THE COMMISSION.

Vote: Unanimous

4 to 0

Zieler not present

* * * * *

16. Request to Approve Proposed Expedited Rulemaking Amending Article 11 Rules Addressing Aquatic Invasive Species.

Presenter: Chris Cantrell, Aquatic Wildlife Branch Chief

Mr. Cantrell provided a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on a Notice of Expedited Rulemaking Docket Opening and Notice of Proposed Expedited Rulemaking amending rules within Article 11, addressing aquatic invasive species. The Department proposes to amend rules within Article 11 to enact recommendations developed during the preceding Five-year Rule Review Report approved by the Commission at the December 2, 2016 Commission meeting and by G.R.R.C. at the March 7, 2017 Council meeting.

The Department recommends renumbering R12-4-1102 to R12-4-902 and amending to require a person to remove all plugs and devices, except those that are sealed and exist for maintenance purposes only, and any other barriers that prevent water drainage while the watercraft, vehicle, conveyance, or equipment is in transport after leaving any affected waterbody. The Department proposes the following amendments:

R12-4-902:

- Upon removing a watercraft, vehicle, conveyance, or equipment from any waters listed in Director's Order 2 and prior to transport, a person shall:
 - Remove all clinging materials such as plants, animals, and mud
 - Remove all plugs and other valves or devices that prevent water drainage from all compartments that may retain water, such as ballast tanks, ballast bags, bilges, and ensure plugs or devices remain removed or open during transport
 - If no plugs or barriers exist, take reasonable measures to drain or dry all compartments or spaces that may retain water. Reasonable measures include, but are not limited to, emptying bilges, application of absorbents, or ventilation.

If approved by the Commission, the Department will publish the proposed rulemaking to the Department's website, provide copies of the proposed rulemaking to the Governor, President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Administrative Rules Committee, and G.R.R.C., and submit the notices to the Secretary of State's office for publication in the *Arizona Administrative Register*. The Department will accept public comment for 30 days after the Notice of Proposed Expedited Rulemaking is published to the Department's website. Once the public comment period has passed, the Department will present the Final Expedited Rulemaking to the Commission for their consideration.

Commissioner Davis requested that the Department make sure the language, in regards to drying all compartments, does not apply to repairs being done at lake facilities, so that a boater can get back in the water.

Mr. Cantrell stated that the Director's Orders have provided that authorization.

Motion: Madden moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE

THE NOTICE OF EXPEDITED RULEMAKING AMENDING RULES WITHIN ARTICLE 11
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0
Zieler not present

* * * * *

20. Hunting and Fishing License Reciprocity Memorandum of Understanding with State of Nevada

Presenter: Chris Cantrell, Aquatic Wildlife Branch Chief

Mr. Cantrell briefed that Commission on a License Reciprocity Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Nevada to authorize the Director, as Secretary to the Commission, to execute agreements with the State of Nevada consistent with Commission guidance on license reciprocity. The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approved a simplified hunting and fishing license privileges package that will go into effect January 1, 2018. The Department will present the Commission with recommended amendments on the License Reciprocity Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Nevada. As part of these ongoing negotiations the Department will recommend that the Director be granted authority to execute the agreement on behalf of the Commission consistent with the Commission approved license structure wherein the hunting and fishing opportunities afforded by the Colorado River, Lake Mead, and Lake Mohave may be mutually enjoyed by residents and nonresidents of both states.

The Commission was in consensus to place this item on the consent agenda for the next regular Commission meeting.

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22. Approve Proposed Hunt Guidelines for Fall 2018 through Spring 2023.

Presenter: Amber Munig, Big Game Management Supervisor

Ms. Munig presented the Commission with a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on the Department's proposed hunt guidelines for fall 2018 through spring 2023. A detailed description of proposed hunt guidelines was available for public review on the Department's website and at all Department offices, and was provided to the Commission for review prior to this meeting.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department solicits public review and comment concerning proposed hunt guidelines every other year. The Department's proposed hunt guidelines were developed to reflect prior Commission direction, biological limitations, Department input, and public comment. The Department routinely receives comment regarding guidelines during the interim between review cycles. The Department shared 114 written comments with the Commission on April 8, 2017 and another 33 written comments on June 9, 2017. At the June meeting, the Department shared comments provided by 51 participants of the webinar and 28 participants at 7 public meetings in association with the webinar. An additional 61 comments

were received by the Department between July 3 and August 3, 2017 and were provided to the Commission as part of this Commission meeting packet along with Department responses to the comments. Also provided at this meeting were the recommended amendments to the hunt guidelines based on biological analyses and public comment received to date (All documents and public comment were available to the public). The following is a summary of the Department's proposed substantive changes to the hunt guidelines:

- Establish hunt guidelines for a 5-year period
- Establish hunting seasons, permit levels, and bag limits for a 2-year period when appropriate. The Commission retains the authority to amend hunting seasons, permit levels, and bag limits once approved to adapt to current biological or social conditions influencing a species
- *CHAMP* deer and elk hunts may be offered in units that provide suitable access, at times when animals are accessible, and the hunts may be rotated among units. *CHAMP* seasons will not be offered in alternative management units or during high demand rut timeframes (this is not a change from current practice but clarification)
- Adjust the frequency of public outreach for hunt recommendation cycles from 3 times per year to an annual outreach effort to include a webinar and local meetings to coincide with the webinar
- The Commission retains the authority to amend guidelines and hunt recommendations at any time.

Deer

- Increase the minimum percentage of permits allocation to youth from 5% to 8%
- Youth-only seasons for antlered mule deer will not be held within alternative mule deer management units or during December to February
- Allow greater flexibility when removing or adding seasons from over-the-counter archery deer
- *CHAMP* seasons will not be offered in alternative units or during high demand rut timeframes
- The Department will collect tooth data from alternative management units and establish age class parameters for the next guideline cycle
- Standard Whitetail units – “about 5% of permits in the late December season.”

Pronghorn

- No substantive changes recommended.

Elk

- Increase the minimum percentage of permits allocation to youth from 5% to 8%
- *CHAMP* seasons will not be offered in alternative management units or during high demand rut timeframes.
- The Department will collect tooth data from alternative management units and establish age class parameters for the next guideline cycle.

Turkey

- For Gould's turkey, create a 3-tiered season stratification and target harvest of 30% of adult males

- For youth turkey, a permitted youth hunt may revert back to a nonpermit-tag hunt if the habitat quality score is an A or increases to an A and the turkey population is robust enough to support additional harvest.

Javelina

- CHAMP hunts may be offered on Friday of week 4, coinciding with the youth-only hunts. Hunter density and access will be considered before overlapping these hunts.

Bighorn Sheep

- No substantive changes recommended.

Bison

- No substantive changes recommended
- Manage House Rock bison as a wild free-ranging, ecologically functioning herd
- Manage Raymond bison as part of the genetically diverse Wind Cave National Park lineage, in support of long-term bison conservation.

Bear

- Modifying the legal animal to “Any bear except sows with cubs and cubs with sows.”

Mountain Lion

- Establish mountain lion management zones based on biologically similar habitat
- Establish during the hunt recommendation process harvest thresholds by management zone
- Allow for closure of a season if the harvest threshold is exceeded
- Establishing a closed season; proposed closure June 1 to the start of archery deer in August
- Removal of the minimal occurrence zone
- Removal of daylong (24-hour) shooting hours
- Removal of the multiple bag limit
- Should the 3-year mean adult (≥ 3 year old) female harvest comprise $>25\%$ for the management zone, the harvest threshold shall be reduced or the length of the season shall be shortened for that management zone (this is a decrease from 35% to 25%).

Small Game

- Quail season will open on Friday of week 42 (instead of week 40) and close on Sunday of week 7 the following year.

Migratory Birds

- No substantive changes recommended.

Predatory and Furbearing Mammals and Trapping

- Bag limits or season closures may be established for bobcat hunting or trapping seasons if population parameters reflect a declining trend.

Public Comment

Brian Fisher, representing himself, opposes the mountain lion changes in season and structures. He doesn't understand shortening the season for breeding season when lions breed year-round. This adversely affects the income for guides and outfitters. If shortened for the purpose of no take during the summer months, he would like to see a pursuit-only season. Also, disagrees with eliminating the multiple bag limits.

Don Martin, representing himself, opposes the deletion of the Unit 16A December youth muzzleloader deer hunt. This hunt has been in place since the early 90s. That December hunt is the only time that our youth can go out and hunt, and possibly with their parents because the parents may have that time off work. This has come before the Commission three times and each time the Commission has said no to eliminating this hunt. There were 19 public comments against this and only 4 in support.

Sam Dieringer, representing Dieringer Outfitters, opposed the mountain lion changes. The summer closure will not affect mountain lion populations, but it will have a big impact on mountain lion hunters. Mountain lions have a big impact on bighorn sheep.

Brian Thomas, representing himself, opposes the summer closure for mountain lions. There are already rules in place where it's illegal to kill a female with kittens or a kitten. Not a lot of mountain lions are taken in the summer. He believes that this is a political move and not a scientific move. This will not help with that. There are people/organizations that want to stop hunting of all species.

Elizabeth Bolin, representing herself, opposes the summer closure for mountain lions. If implemented, Ms. Bolin requests a pursuit-only season be open during the closure. The Commission is on the right track with rules protecting females and kittens. Training dogs is mostly following a cold trail and is needed to keep the dogs in shape. The changes will not help in the event of a ballot initiative. The groups opposed to lion hunting will always be opposed to any type of lion hunting at any time of year.

Chris Watson, representing himself, agrees with all the previous speakers. Recommends at least a pursuit-only season.

Scott Drummond, representing himself, kids and grandkids, opposes changes to mountain lion hunting. This is not a biological decision, it's political. He is a fifth generation houndsman and he wants his kids and grandkids to have the same hunting opportunities that he has had.

Tim Diehl, representing himself, hopes that if the Commission imposes a summer closure on lion hunting, that it will be from June 15 to August 15, so the whole summer is not closed. Would also like to see pursuit-only established in units when lion quotas are met, but would like to know the numbers on what the lion quotas will be.

Jim Unmacht, Executive Director, Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSWC), supports the Department's recommendations. AZSWC sent a joint letter representing 18 conservation organizations to the Commission in support of the recommendations, but also expressed concerns that they do not want to see science based wildlife management turn into ballot box management as it did in California.

Jim Messiner, representing himself, agreed with the previous speakers and recommends year-round mountain lion hunting. He supports the zones, but would like to know what the quota numbers will be. He doesn't want to see a summer closure with no pursuit-only.

Blaine Bickford submitted a speaker card in support of the Department recommendations, but did not speak.

Pete Cimellaro, representing himself, supports the Department's recommendations and reminded them of eight years ago when the Commission addressed a proposed summer mountain lion closed season. It was houndsman, not all houndsman, but houndsman that petitioned the Commission for the closed season, based on protecting the resource, and the Commission chose to do so. Then a couple years ago a Commissioner wanted to change it and the Commission voted to do away with the closed season. That was unfortunate, because the closed season was needed. Personally, Mr. Cimellaro strongly supports the closure and is in support of a longer closure to September 15.

Brian Dolan, via video teleconference from the Department's Region V Tucson office, commented on the alternative white-tailed deer hunt structure. He supports the standard management white-tailed units having about 5% of the permits be authorized in late December in any given white-tail unit. This goes a long way to address the concerns he's been working on with the Department for a number of years.

Brian Thomas addressed the Commission again to remind them that the Humane Society is going to attack lion hunting no matter what, just like it has in other states, whether the summer season is closed or not.

Commissioner Davis asked Ms. Munig to explain for the benefit of everyone the difference between the Commission Guidelines and Commission Orders.

Ms. Munig stated that the guidelines are not regulatory. The guidelines set the boundaries under which the wildlife managers develop their hunt recommendations. There are times where there is evidence other than biological evidence or stronger biological evidence that tells us to do something outside of guidelines, and in the past, we have made recommendations to do so. It is always the Commission's purview to modify the Department's recommendations to how they see fit.

Commissioner Madden stated that the Commissioners committee on hunt recommendations supports the Department's hunt guideline recommendations on deer.

Motion: Madden moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE DEER HUNT GUIDELINES FOR 2018–2019 AND 2022–2023 HUNTING SEASONS AS PROPOSED.

Commissioner Davis stated that he is opposed to removing the flexibility of the Department to choose whether to have the Unit 16 deer youth hunt season in December. He would not want to say that this hunt will no longer be in the guidelines, even though the hunt can be created outside of the guidelines.

Chairman Ammons asked Commissioner Madden if he wanted to amend his motion.

Commissioner Madden stated that he did not.

Vote: Aye - Ammons, Sparks, Madden
Nay - Davis
Passed 3 to 1
Zieler not present

Commissioner Madden stated that the Commissioners committee on hunt recommendations supports the Department's hunt guideline recommendations on pronghorn.

Motion: Sparks moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PRONGHORN HUNT GUIDELINES FOR 2018–2019 AND 2022–2023 HUNTING SEASONS AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0
Zieler not present

Commissioner Madden stated that the Commissioners committee on hunt recommendations supports the Department's hunt guideline recommendations on elk.

Motion: Sparks moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE ELK HUNT GUIDELINES FOR 2018–2019 AND 2022–2023 HUNTING SEASONS AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0
Zieler not present

Commissioner Madden stated that the Commissioners committee on hunt recommendations supports the Department's hunt guideline recommendations on turkey.

Motion: Sparks moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE TURKEY HUNT GUIDELINES FOR 2018–2019 AND 2022–2023 HUNTING SEASONS AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0
Zieler not present

Commissioner Madden stated that the Commissioners committee on hunt recommendations supports the Department's hunt guideline recommendations on javelina, bighorn sheep, bison, bear, small game, predator furbearers and trapping, and other birds and mammals.

Motion: Davis moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE JAVELINA, BIGHORN SHEEP, BISON, BEAR, SMALL GAME, PREDATOR FURBEARERS AND TRAPPING, AND OTHER BIRDS AND MAMMALS HUNT GUIDELINES FOR 2018–2019 AND 2022–2023 HUNTING SEASONS AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous
4 to 0
Zieler not present

Commissioner Madden stated that the Commissioners committee on hunt recommendations supports the Department's hunt guideline recommendations on mountain lion.

Motion: Davis moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOUNTAIN LION HUNT GUIDELINES FOR 2018–2019 AND 2022–2023 HUNTING SEASONS AS PROPOSED.

Chairman Ammons stated that he will vote no. He is opposed to the mountain lion hunt guidelines items 4 and 6 regarding season structure. His thoughts on this are based on multiple conversations and public comments.

Commissioner Davis stated that he is comfortable with the recommendation, but that he understands Chairman Ammons angst and difficulty with this item.

Vote: Aye - Sparks, Davis, Madden
Nay - Ammons
Passed 3 to 1
Zieler not present

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17. Endangered Species Update on the Gila Trout Evacuation and Post-fire Status

Presenter: Julie Carter, Statewide Native Aquatics Program Manager

Ms. Carter provided a PowerPoint presentation and update on the post-fire evacuation of Gila trout from Ash and Fry creeks and the current status of the species in Arizona after two large wildfires occurred within their occupied range. Gila Trout are a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. In 2017, wildfires impacted three populations of Gila Trout in Arizona, two of which were salvaged and fish were transported to the Mora National Fish Hatchery in New Mexico. This presentation provided an overview of this effort, as well as some of the challenges in hatchery management of this species.

The Commission expressed their appreciation to Ms. Carter and the team for their efforts in rescuing the Gila Trout from the fire damaged area.

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18. Commission Order 40 amendment - Temporary closure of Frye Creek Gila Trout fishery

Presenter: Julie Carter, Statewide Native Aquatics Program Manager

Ms. Carter presented a PowerPoint presentation on a proposed amendment to Commission Order 40 to temporarily close Frye Creek to angling to allow evaluation and restoration of the Gila Trout population. Frye Creek is located in the Pinaleno Mountains in Game Management Unit 31, southwest of Safford, Arizona. In June of 2017, the Frye Fire severely damaged the entire watershed of Frye Creek and it is likely that the Gila Trout population has been severely impacted by post fire flood events. Based on early observations of impacts, post flood events have moved large amounts of ash, sediment and debris through the creek. Frye Creek is currently the only Gila Trout recovery population open to angling in Arizona. Gila Trout are a threatened species, but a provision under the 4(d) rule of the Endangered Species Act allows Arizona and New Mexico to manage the species as a sport fish. Because of the predicted negative impacts to the Gila Trout population, the Department recommends to close Frye Creek to all fishing until population surveys can be completed and post-fire status of the population can be fully assessed. The closure would remain in effect until the population consists of at least 500 adults, a minimum of three years of recruitment is observed, and Gila Trout are distributed throughout the previously occupied reach.

Current regulation: Catch and release only for trout; trout must be immediately released unharmed; no trout may be kept; artificial fly and lure only; single barbless hooks only from October 1 through March 30.

Proposed regulation: Closed to fishing.

Motion: Madden moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AMEND COMMISSION ORDER 40 TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE ANGLING ON FRYE CREEK FROM THE HEADWATERS DOWNSTREAM TO THE CONFLUENCE OF FRYE MESA RESERVOIR NOT INCLUDING FRYE MESA RESERVOIR, GRAHAM COUNTY.

Vote: Unanimous

4 to 0

Zieler not present

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23. 2017 Annual Commission Awards Selection

Presenter: Kent Komadina, Special Assistant to the Director

Mr. Komadina provided the Commission with an overview of the 2017 Commission Award nominations and facilitated the Commission's ballot selection process. Each Commissioner was provided with a list of the 2017 nominees and nominee background information for review and consideration prior to this meeting.

The following 2017 award recipients were selected as follows:

- Award of Excellence: Lake Havasu Marine Association

- Youth Environmentalist of the Year: Chase Godbehere
- Media of the Year (2): Kim Quintero and National Veterans Magazine
- Conservation Organization of the Year: Phoenix Varmint Callers, Inc.
- Conservationist of the Year: Clyde Weakley
- Natural Resource Professional of the Year: Erica Stewart
- Volunteer of the Year: Ron Adams
- Educator of the Year: Michael Eilertsen
- Mentor of the Year: Justin Stewart
- Advocate of the Year - State: Governor Doug Ducey
- Advocate of the Year – Federal: Senator Jeff Flake
- Business Partner of the Year: Dave Doss, OneAZ Credit Union
- Buck Appleby Hunter Education Instructor of the Year: John and Linda Vedo
- Wildlife Habitat Steward of the Year: Double O Ranch
- North American Model Commissioners Award: Luke Thompson

Motion: Davis moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE AWARD RECIPIENTS AS SELECTED THROUGH THE COMMISSION BALLOT PROCESS.

Vote: Unanimous

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25. Litigation Report

There were no comments or questions regarding the Litigation Report.

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26. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Davis moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 4-5, 2017.

Vote: Unanimous

4 to 0

Zieler not present

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27. Commissioner Committee Reports

Chairman Ammons commented that he attended an HPAC meeting at Sipe WA. It was a great meeting. The got to see a wolf and received a wolf briefing. He also attended a hunt camp that had hunters ranging from age 7 to 70. It was very well done and worth the trip.

Commissioner Madden reported that the Fair Chase Committee is working on Article 3 and is moving along.

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26. Director and Commissioner Comments

Director Gray commented that he has been very busy other than his fishing trip to Alaska in the last part of August.

Commissioner Davis complimented the selection of Williams for this meeting. It's been great to come here.

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27. Future Agenda Items and Action Items

Deputy Director Finley captured the following future agenda/action items from this meeting:

- The Department will provide the Commission with a report every three months on the Statewide Public Awareness Campaign every three months
- In future Lands Updates, the Department will attach a list of important dates relating to the TMP.

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Motion: Ammons moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADJOURN THIS MEETING.

Vote: Unanimous

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Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

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Saturday, September 9, 2017, 8:00 p.m.

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Field Trip: The field trip to historic Hat Ranch was cancelled due to rain the night before. The fishing trip was not cancelled and one Commissioner attended along with Department staff.

These minutes were approved by the Commission at the December 1, 2017 Commission meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Ammons', written over a horizontal line.

James R. Ammons, Chairman

**Game and Fish Litigation Report
Presented at the Commission Meeting
September 8, 2017**

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 of Arizona v. Jewell*, CV 15-00245-CKJ. On June 8, 2015, the State of Arizona filed suit against the Secretary of Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS") for violations of the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"). Arizona alleges in the lawsuit that the FWS has failed to develop a new recovery plan for the Mexican wolf that complies with the requirements of ESA. The FWS prepared an original recovery plan for the Mexican wolf in 1982, but that plan has since expired, and it does not include the necessary elements ESA requires for a recovery plan. Arizona will seek declaratory and injunctive relief compelling the FWS to develop a new recovery plan within a reasonable period.

On its own motion, the court transferred this case to the same court assigned to *Center for Biological Diversity v. Jewell*, CV 15-00019. Due to ongoing settlement discussions, the federal defendants filed a motion on January 29, 2016, seeking an additional 45 days to file an answer to the complaint. The Commission voted on February 5, 2016, to approve the agreement in principle.

On April 26, 2016, the parties submitted the settlement for court approval and filed a joint motion to enter the settlement. On October 18, 2016, the court issued an order approving the settlement agreement and ordering the parties to comply with the settlement. The settlement requires the FWS to complete a revised Mexican wolf recovery plan no later than November 30, 2017. In approving the settlement, the court also ordered the dismissal of the complaint.

On April 17, 2017, the federal defendants submitted a six-month status report. The report states the FWS will issue a biological report in May and publish a draft recovery plan in June. In July, the FWS will hold four public meetings in Arizona and New Mexico. The FWS will issue the final recovery plan in November 2017.

On June 28, 2017, the FWS issued a draft recovery plan and opened the public comment period until August 29, 2017.

2. *Center for Biological Diversity v. Jewell*, CV-15-00019-JGZ; *WildEarth Guardians v. Ashe*, CV 15-00285. CBD filed its lawsuit on January 15, 2015, alleging violations of the Endangered Species Act ("ESA") and the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"). Plaintiffs contend that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's ("FWS") final revised rule governing the Mexican wolf experimental population, and a research and recovery permit issued under Section 10(a)(1)(A) of ESA impede Mexican wolf recovery and survival. Plaintiffs also allege the final environmental impact statement ("EIS") and a biological opinion associated with the final rule are inadequate. Plaintiffs seek a court order to set aside and remand to the FWS portions of the final rule, the permit and final EIS.

On April 15, 2015, the State of Arizona on behalf of Game and Fish filed a motion to intervene in support of the FWS. At the same time, Arizona filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit

on the basis the court lacks subject matter jurisdiction. The federal defendants filed an answer to the complaint on April 22, 2015.

On May 12, 2015, the court granted a motion to consolidate a case from New Mexico brought by various livestock organizations and local governments. On May 12, 2015, the court also granted Arizona's motion to intervene and authorized Arizona to file either a motion to dismiss or an answer. On July 20, 2015, the court granted the plaintiffs' motion and granted a motion to consolidate the lawsuit *WildEarth Guardians v. Ashe*, CV 15-00285. On July 23, 2015, the court issued a scheduling order.

WildEarth Guardians filed its lawsuit on July 2, 2015, alleging violations of ESA and NEPA. The plaintiffs contend that the FWS's final revised rule and the research and recovery permit impede Mexican wolf conservation. The plaintiffs also allege the final EIS and the biological opinion associated with the final rule are inadequate. The plaintiffs contend the FWS has a duty to reconsider its decision that the Mexican wolf population is nonessential. The plaintiffs seek a court order to set aside and remand to the FWS portions of the final rule, the permit and final EIS.

On August 7, 2015, the Game and Fish Commission voted to intervene in the WildEarth Guardians case on behalf of the FWS. On December 2, 2015, the court granted Arizona's motion to intervene and ordered the filing of Arizona's motion to dismiss.

On January 8, 2015, the parties filed a joint stipulation to amend the scheduling order to delay the start of briefing an additional 30 days. The parties filed the stipulation to allow the New Mexico District Court to issue an expedited ruling on the motion to transfer *SCI v. Jewell* to Arizona and to consolidate the case with the other Arizona cases challenging the Mexican wolf 10(j) rule. On February 11, 2016, the New Mexico District Court granted the motion to transfer the *SCI* case to the Arizona District Court. On February 26, 2016, the Arizona District Court issued an order consolidating the *SCI* case with the other Arizona cases. On February 23, 2016, the plaintiffs in three of the consolidated cases filed motions for summary judgment.

On March 31, 2016, the court issued an order denying Arizona's motion to dismiss in *CBD v. Jewell*. On April 18, the federal defendants filed a cross motion for summary judgment in *CBD v. Jewell* and on April 25, Arizona filed its cross motion for summary judgment in the same case. On April 25, the federal defendants filed a cross motion for summary judgment in *WEG v. Ashe*, and on May 2, Arizona filed its cross motion for summary judgment in the same case. On May 2, the federal defendants filed a cross motion for summary judgment in *Arizona and New Mexico Coalition v. Jewell*.

On June 20, 2016, the plaintiffs filed responses in opposition to the federal defendants' and Arizona's cross motions for summary judgment. The federal defendants filed replies on July 20 and July 27, and Arizona filed replies on July 27 and August 3. The briefing is now complete and the next step will be a hearing on the summary judgment motions. The court heard oral argument on April 26, 2017.

3. *Center for Biological Diversity et al. v. United States Forest Service*, CV-12-8176-PCT-SMM. Plaintiffs filed an action in the U.S. District Court for Arizona on September 4, 2012. The lawsuit alleges the U.S. Forest Service ("USFS") is violating the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ("RCRA") by allowing the disposal of lead ammunition on the Kaibab National Forest, and the disposal results in significant harm to the California condors and other avian wildlife. Plaintiffs are seeking declaratory and injunctive relief requiring the USFS to abate the harm.

On November 4, 2012, the State of Arizona, on behalf of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, filed a limited motion to intervene for the sole purpose of filing a motion to dismiss on the grounds that the State of Arizona is a required party but joining the State is not feasible due to sovereign immunity. Because the State is a required party that cannot be joined, the case must be dismissed. Plaintiffs filed a response to the State's motion on November 20, 2012. Plaintiffs did not object to the State's intervention but argued that the State does not meet the requirements of a required party.

The National Rifle Association (NRA) and Safari Club International (SCI) filed motions to intervene on November 21, 2012. The State filed a reply on December 4, 2012, to the Plaintiffs' response to the State's motion to intervene. The USFS filed a motion to dismiss on December 14, 2012, on the basis the Court lacks jurisdiction.

On July 2, 2013, the court granted the Forest Service's motion to dismiss. The court agreed with the Forest Service that CBD did not have standing to bring the RCRA challenge against the Forest Service. The court found that CBD could not satisfy the requirements for standing because redressability was speculative on two grounds. First, in order for the Forest Service to regulate the use of lead ammunition, it would need to undertake a rulemaking process, comply with NEPA and consult with the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. Due to uncertainty with this process, the court found the outcome of the process speculative. Second, the court found that condors range in an area well beyond the Kaibab National Forest and into areas that do not prohibit the use of lead ammunition. Therefore, even if the Forest Service banned lead ammunition, this would not necessarily reduce the level of lead ingestion in condors.

Plaintiffs filed a notice of appeal on August 21, 2013. The Ninth Circuit held oral argument on November 19, 2015, and took the case under advisement. The Ninth Circuit issued a decision on January 12, 2016, reversing the lower court decision dismissing the complaint on the basis of standing. The court found that CBD satisfied the constitutional standing requirements, but the court remanded the case back to the district court to resolve the Forest Service's separate motion to dismiss on the basis CBD failed to allege a legal cause of action. On remand, the district court must decide whether the Forest Service can be held legally liable under RCRA. If the court finds the Forest Service is not liable as a "contributor" to causing harm to the environment, then the court will need to dismiss the case for failure to state a claim.

The district court held a status conference for April 18, 2016. The court agreed to resolve the pending motions to intervene filed by NRA, SCI and NSSF, and then take up the Forest Service's motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim. On June 10, 2016, the court granted NSSF's, NRA's and SCI's motions to intervene. On July 21, 2016, the court granted the parties' stipulated motion to set a briefing schedule on the motions to dismiss. The federal defendants and intervenor NSSF filed their motions on August 12, 2016. The NRA and SCI will file their motions to dismiss by August 26, 2016. The parties have completed briefing the motions to dismiss and now await a hearing or a decision from the court.

On March 15, 2017, the district court issued an order granting the motions to dismiss. The court on its own volition decided the case could not proceed because CBD was only seeking an advisory opinion and did not meet the Constitution's Article III requirement of establishing an actual case or controversy. The court concluded that CBD's requested relief for an order that the Forest Service exercise its discretion to abate the harm from lead ammunition would be nothing more than the court's recommendation to the Forest Service. According to the court, an order that only recommends action would constitute an advisory opinion. Even if the court were to find the Forest Service in violation of RCRA, the court could not compel it to take action to stop

the violation. CBD has sixty days from the date of the court's order to file a notice of appeal.

CBD filed a notice of appeal on April 20 2017.

4. *Holden and Guynn v. Arizona Game and Fish Commission*, Maricopa County Superior Court CV 2014-013211 (filed October 14, 2014). The Plaintiffs, whose Title 17 criminal charges were dismissed by the justice court (Guynn) or resulted in an acquittal following a justice court bench trial (Holden) were separately civilly assessed by the Commission for the loss of wildlife to Arizona. The Plaintiffs, who have not paid their civil assessments, filed their suit against the Commission after they were denied the right to purchase hunting licenses and big game tags.

The superior court denied the State's Motion to Dismiss, stating that the language and legislative history of A.R.S. §17-314 only authorizes the courts of this state to assess civil damages for the loss of wildlife to the state. The Commission has directed the AGO to file suit in the superior court to collect civil damages from Holden and Guynn. On September 26, 2016, the AGO filed an action against Guynn (CV 2016-015578) and a separate action against Holden (CV 2016-015579). **The superior court granted the motion of AGO to dismiss Holden and Guynn's suit (CV 2014-013211) as moot.** Judge Brodman then assigned the *State v. Holden* case to mandatory arbitration. **The Superior Court has now appointed a third arbitrator who has until October 16, 2017 to set an arbitration hearing. Last month the AGO sent a disclosure statement of the Department's witnesses and exhibits to Holden's attorney.** In *State v. Guynn*, Judge Brodman issued a continuance until April 2018, to allow Guynn to return home from serving abroad in the military.

5. *WildEarth Guardians et al. v. United States Forest Service*, 3:16-cv-08010-PCT-PGR. This suit, filed January 25, 2016 by WildEarth Guardians, Grand Canyon Wildlands Council and the Sierra Club, seeks a ruling that the Forest's travel management decision on the Williams, Tusayan and Kaibab Ranger Districts allowing motorized retrieval of legally-harvested big game (elk and, for the Kaibab, elk and bison) during designated hunting seasons violates the Forest's Travel Management Rule, NEPA, and the National Historic Preservation Act. The suit also seeks injunctive relief enjoining Forest from allowing motorized big game retrieval until the Forest "can demonstrate compliance with federal law". The Department, along with Safari Club International, filed motions to intervene. The Plaintiffs and the Department of Justice did not oppose the motions. At the AGO's request DOJ forwarded the Forest's administrative record. Department staff have reviewed it to ensure all written submissions of the Department are included in the record. **All parties have completed their motions and cross-motions for summary judgment. The Court has not yet set the matter for oral argument.**

***Dennis G. Scarla v. Arizona Game and Fish Commission*, Maricopa County Superior Court LC2017-000019-001 (filed Jan. 23, 2017).** On March 10, 2017, Dennis Scarla filed a notice of appeal challenging the Commission's order revoking his license to hunt, fish, and trap in the state and denying him the privilege of obtaining a new license for a period of five years. Mr. Scarla asserts that the Commission should not have imposed the statutory-maximum five-year ban on him because this was his first offense. **In his appeal, Mr. Scarla requests that transcripts of the hearings be included in the administrative record that the Department files with the Superior Court. This request obligates Mr. Scarla to arrange for the transcription of the hearings himself. The Department has prepared the remainder of the administrative record (sans hearing transcripts) and informed Plaintiff's counsel that it will file the administrative record upon receiving transcripts of the hearings. The**

Department has forwarded audio files of the hearings and contact information for transcription companies to Plaintiff's counsel, but counsel said that Mr. Scarla intends to transcribe the hearings himself to keep his costs down. The Department has yet to receive transcripts from Mr. Scarla. On July 3, 2017, the Plaintiff obtained a 60-day extension of time to transcribe the hearing audio so the administrative record may be filed with the Superior Court. The case is subject to dismissal after September 1, 2017.

Commission Priority	Process Owner	Status	rank	4	Needle Width	Remainc	Scale
Increase Access/Landowner Relations	Al Eiden	Green					
Business Enterprise Development	Doug Cummings	Yellow	2		0.1	0.9	5
Comprehensive Wildlife Management	Josh Avey	Yellow	2		0.1	2.9	5
Facility Maintaince, Improvements & R.E. Strategy	Mark Weise	Yellow	2		0.1	2.9	5
M.O.F.T. and Promote Fair Chase	Gene Elms	Green	4		0.1	2.9	5
Public Affairs	Bill Andres	Green	4		0.1	0.9	5
Customer Recruitment, Retention, & Reactivation	Scott Lavin	Green	4		0.1	0.9	5
Habitat Improvement & Conservation	Al Eiden	Green	4		0.1	0.9	5
Sportfish Opportunities	Chris Cantrell	Green	4		0.1	0.9	5
Maintaining State Authoriities for Conserving Wildlife	Kent Komadina	Green	4		0.1	0.9	5
Processes Improvements	Clay Crowder	Green	3.4		0.1	0.9	5
					0.1	1.5	5

Color	Meaning
Red	No progress; not expected to accomplish nearly
Yellow	Slow progress; but expected to accomplish most tasks
Green	Significant progress; all tasks are on track or ahead of schedule

Commission Priorities Report

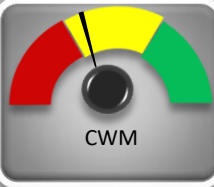
September 8, 2017



FY18 Target of 150,000 acres secured for access: On track. 3 new agreements this month. Target of 5,000 Volunteer hours: ~250 hours coordinated. Target 3 outreach efforts on Access Program targeting sportsmen: 1 for year-HPC/LLSRC joint meeting at Cattle Growers Annual meeting.



120,081 Portal Memberships established. Although it is early in FY17, this is not on track to achieve the 175k target for the year. Planning is underway to evaluate options to bring this on track. Sportsman's Re-Write underway. This will result in a Customer Database that will support ongoing Marketing efforts.



Online HIP stamp sales are tracking 42% over 2016. Survey tool being used and tested for all big game surveys. Phone survey app tool in beta testing. Survey and Hunter Questionnaire Summary data tools in progress. Beta version of the Hunt recommendation model nearly complete.



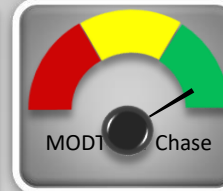
SSDV working with the design consultant on the Sterling Springs Hatchery renovation. Design of the spring delivery system is 90% complete. Planning phase for the rest of the hatchery infrastructure is underway but progress is hindered by the environmental compliance process, specifically in determining constraints in maintaining historic integrity of the hatchery



Extended Presentation Priority
Presenter: Chris Cantrell



From 2016 EEC, employees have completed 47 ideas; 5 exhibit significant progress, 10 exhibit slow progress but expect to be accomplished on time, 1 shows no progress. Staff performing work on 2017 EEC projects. 7 Step Training complete, project is in implementation phase. 7 Step Training staff are now coaches for 2017 EEC projects.



MOFT: Law Branch to implement a process which would enable officers to submit citations for data entry via their cell phones. This will save hundreds of hours of field time annually and deliver a better product for data entry.
Fair Chase: The Article III package was approved by GRRC and the Department is proceeding with the public process



Facebook page eclipses 82,000 mark. New season of Wildlife Views TV will begin airing in September. Mountain lion education effort continues.



Shooter Days for July totaled 27,619, up 9.8% from FY17. BASF Revenue for July totaled \$142,721.22, up .23% from FY17. SCTP annual Coaches Meeting was held Aug 19. 1st time attendance by the National SCTP program. Preparations for the 1st firearms industry, media range day approved for 2018 Outdoor EXPO.



FY 18 TARGET of 500,000 acres restored: 96,265 completed. TARGET of \$1 million in funding secured: applying for \$3 million in Grants. Target of 6 aquatic restoration projects: on track. TARGET to engage in 2 federal planning activities per quarter: on track. TARGET of 20 catchments: 0 complete.



WILDERNESS ISSUES: Cherry Cr Rd, de facto wilderness, wildlife mgt in W.A.s-working with FS and NGOs. WOLF: Reviewing draft Rec. Plan. BURROS: Data gathering in process. COLORADO RIVER: Working with DOI/BOR on fish stockings. BISON: Fed Legis. in process.