

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Friday, June 9, 2017
Saturday, June 10, 2017
Sunday, June 11, 2017
Mazatzal Hotel Fireside Room
Highway 87, Mile Marker 251
Payson, Arizona 85541

PRESENT: (Commission)

(Director and Staff)

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

Director Larry D. Voyles
Deputy Director Ty E. Gray
Assistant Attorney General Jim Odenkirk
Assistant Attorney General Linda Pollock

Chairman Madden 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 of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agent Edgar Garcia who was killed in a car accident, for National Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15 and for Memorial Day on May 29. The Commission introduced themselves followed by introductions of the Director and the Director's staff. This meeting followed an agenda revision #1 dated June 7, 2017.

Awards and Recognition

Chairman Madden presented Mike and Diana Hemovich, owners and operators of Bar X Ranch in Pleasant Valley, with a Commission Commendation of Achievement for their partnership, stewardship and unwavering commitment to conservation.

Mesa Regional Supervisor Jay Cook and Chairman Madden presented a Commission Certificate of Appreciation to Wildlife Manager Joe Sayer in recognition of his exceptional willingness to apply his special skills and efforts in handling responsibilities in his own district as well as those in the vacant Tonto Basin district.

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1. Call to the Public

Woody Cline, Gila County District Supervisor for District #3, welcomed the Commission to his district and stated that he is looking forward to working with the Department on several issues.

Mayor of Payson Craig Swartzward addressed the Commission and expressed appreciation for the partnership Payson has with the Department and Commission, and for the many projects they have accomplished together.

Former Commissioner Bill McLean thanked Chairman Madden for his work on the Commission and as Chairman, and recognized Director Voyles for his years of service as the Director.

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2. Briefing on the American Fisheries Society

Presenter: Chris Cantrell, Chief, Aquatic Wildlife Branch

Mr. Cantrell introduced Dr. Austin, Executive Director of the American Fisheries Society (AFS). Dr. Austin briefed the Commission on the partnership between the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the AFS and provided a PowerPoint presentation on the history and vision of AFS. AFS is the world's oldest and largest organization dedicated to strengthening the fisheries profession, advancing fisheries science, and conserving fisheries resources. The AFS provides the Department a broad base of over 8,000+ degreed professionals that can assist in sharing knowledge and solving fisheries related issues. Dr. Austin provided each Commissioner with an informational packet about the American Fisheries Society that included a booklet titled "Future of the Nation's Fisheries and Aquatic Resources" dated 2016, about the challenges we face in 2017 and beyond.

Mr. Cantrell addressed the Commission and briefed those present on the American Fisheries Society's contributions and leadership in fisheries science and provided the following example: In 2016, at the request of the Department, the Names of Fishes Committee of AFS met in Arizona to evaluate the taxonomy of three native chub species. Department Staff had been unable to verify the species identification of the three chub since identified in 2000. The Department questioned the determination of individual species as the characteristics were too variable and contradict one another. This uncertainty was described to AFS and led to an evaluation. The Committee's review included all data and analyses in published studies and information from previous and ongoing studies on the species. Based on their evaluation, no morphological or genetic data could be used to define populations of Gila in the lower Colorado River basin as members of more than one species, Roundtail Chub. The clarification of Roundtail Chub taxonomy will allow the Department and other conservation oriented entities to move forward with management using the best available science.

Chairman Madden presented Dr. Austin with a Commission Commendation of Achievement to the American Fisheries Society for its contributions and leadership in fisheries science.

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1. Call to the Public (re-opened)

Jim Goughnour, President of Mogollon Sporting Association, addressed the Commission and expressed appreciation for the Department and Commission for the work they do in the Rim country. He thanked Chairman Madden for his work and recognized Director Voyles for all he has done.

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3. 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. Approve Memorandum of Understanding with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for a Habitat Restoration Project Located in North Central Arizona.

Presenter: Al Eiden, Landowner Relations and Habitat Enhancement Program Manager

The Department and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) agree to work cooperatively on habitat enhancement projects for mule deer and all other wildlife species occurring in Arizona in all or parts of Game Management Units 5A, 5B, 6A, 6B, 7, 8, 9, and 10. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) provides a framework for the relationship with regard to future activities and directs funding from NRCS, the Department, and several other partners towards priority habitat projects for the Department.

The Department recommends THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR, AS SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION, TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT AS PRESENTED.

b. Approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The Arizona Land and Water Trust, Inc.

Presenter: Keith Knutson, Wildlife Contracts Branch Chief

The Arizona Land and Water Trust (ALWT) is working with the Department to align both habitat improvements and water conservation strategies within the Lower San Pedro River Wildlife Area. Working with Region V and Wildlife Contracts Branch, ALWT seeks to fund projects aimed at building partnerships with the local grazing permittee at the Triangle Bar allotment and the Department for the conversion of agricultural fields to low water use crops for livestock and wildlife. In the Agreement, ALWT has committed to work with the Department towards conservation actions to offset excessive water pumping for conventional crops within an important riparian corridor along the Lower San Pedro River.

The Department recommends THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOU WITH THE ARIZONA LAND AND WATER TRUST AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR, AS SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION, TO EXECUTE THE MOU AS APPROVED OR AS RECOMMENDED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Motion: Ammons moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE ITEM A AND B ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Vote: Unanimous

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4. 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:

State Legislative Update

- The Legislature went sine die on May 10th
- There were 122 days of Regular Session; 1079 bill posted; 353 bill passed; and 342 bills signed by the Governor

Legislative Accomplishments

S.B. 1154 (G&F omnibus): Brings the state's personal floatation device statutes up to date; Wildlife theft Prevention Funds available for the investigation of a broader array of wildlife crimes; Removes restrictions on the transfer of successfully drawn big game tags.

S.B. 1285 (G&F; in-lieu fee; trust fund): Provides the Treasurer's Office with statutory authority to invest the monies received for mitigation properties in a manner that supports the Department's management of property in perpetuity.

Reaffirmed the Department's responsibility to manage wildlife:

- SB 1182 (G&F; protected species; taking prohibition) potential legislative efforts to weaken Department efforts to manage wildlife
- Wildlife SCM 1104 (urging Congress; hunting; angling; support) affirm the traditions of hunting and fishing.

Goodwill/Good relationships:

- Annual Legislative Day Luncheon, a consistent Arizona Capitol Times Best of the Capitol finalist
- Strong advocates for G&F activities and responsibilities
- G&F is Arizona's most trusted, respected and credible source for wildlife conservation

2018 Legislative Session

- Reauthorization of license simplification: SB1223: license classifications; fees was signed into law in May 2013; Provides Commission flexibility to adjust license, permit-tag structure and pricing to meet customer demand and market conditions; "Sunsets" in 2019
- 2018 Draft Legislative Timeline
 - Review Team - June
 - Request for proposals - June
 - Executive Staff Review/Commission update - August
 - Commission Overview/Direction- September
 - Submit to Governor's office - September

- Director's Review and Approval - October/November
- Stakeholder/Sponsor Meetings - July/August/September
- Commission Approval - December

Congressional Update

Executive Order - Review of designations under the Antiquities Act:

- The Executive Order directs DOI to review 24 large national monuments designated in the past 21 years. Four monuments were designated for review in Arizona: Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument (1 million acres); Ironwood Forest National Monument (128,917 acres); Vermillion Cliffs National Monument (279,568 acres); and Sonoran Desert National Monument (486,146 acres). The Department has provided comments regarding the inclusion of the Aqua Fria National Monument. All five of these monument designations were made without adequate public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders.

Advocacy on Capitol Hill: The Department has been working the Arizona Congressional Delegation, staff, Senate and House committee staff, AFWA and the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation on the following:

- Executive Order to review Antiquities Act on monument designation
- Management of bison on the Grand Canyon Park; Bison bill is expected to be reintroduced in the late June
- Modernization of the Endangered Species Act
- Mexican Gray Wolf reintroduction; success of the IFT in cross-fostering and continued efforts to build social tolerance
- Wilderness issues – Cherry Creek Road- FR 203
- Overpopulation of wild burros in Arizona

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Meeting recessed for a break at 9:10 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:20 a.m.

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5. Commission Priorities Update

Presenter: Kent Komadina, Special Assistant to the Director

Mr. Komadina provided the Commission with a Commission Priorities Report (attached) and discussed several activities with the Commission and Department staff. 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

Wildlife and Recreation Branch Chief Scott Lavin provided a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on Department activities related to the Commission priority for Customer Recruitment, Retention & Reactivation. The presentation included data on the success of the Department's 2017 Outdoor Expo held in April, new Expo activities, outreach efforts, public attendance, engagement and demographics. The presentation also included an overview of Department partnerships and strategic collaborations with outdoor and conservation organizations in outreach activities and programs, such as hunt camps, National Archery in the Schools Program, and the Scholastic Clay Target Program.

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

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Mr. Gray 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. Gray's presentation included an update on the Department's scorecard metrics, information on Hunt/Fish license sales for FY16 and FY17, and progress in eliminating outdated and unnecessary processes for savings in staff time, costs, and improved customer satisfaction.

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Meeting recessed for a break at 9:50 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

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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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Meeting recessed for a break 11:15 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 11:30 a.m.

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9. Petition by Charles and Gene Stewart to be Granted tags from either of the hunts they applied for during the 2017 Elk/Antelope Draw.

Presenter: Rachel Gottlieb, Branch Chief, Customer Service & Sales Branch

Ms. Gottlieb presented a petition to the Commission by Charles Stewart and Gene Stewart. In their petition, they are requesting tags in hunt 3037 or 3038. The petitioners applied to the 2017 Elk/Antelope Draw using a paper application. Mr. Gene Stewart had recently purchased a license online, and during that process was generated a new Department ID. On the paper application he used the newly generated ID instead of his social security number which is what his Department ID was previously. They learned after the draw that they entered the draw with only two bonus point for the group instead of four. They contacted the Department and learned that Mr. Gene Stewart was entered using the Department ID listed on his Elk/Antelope Draw paper application. Mr. Gene Stewart feels that because his social security number is also included on the paper application that the Department should have been able to identify the application as belonging to his original profile in our system.

The social security number is captured in a secure location per federal requirement, 42 U.S.C Section 666 A13 and state requirement, A.R.S. 25-320 (P) and 25-502 (K). Once keyed, the application is identified by the entry for Department ID which in Mr. Gene Stewart's case was the newly generated ID. The applicants entered the draw with only two points because that was the group average for all applicants. The petitioners are requesting tags in either of the hunts that they applied for: Hunt 3037 – Antlerless elk, Unit 5B South, 10/20/17 – 10/26/17, General Elk or Hunt 3038 – Antlerless elk, Unit 6A, 10/20/17 – 10/26/17, General Elk

Mr. Charles Stewart and Mr. Gene Stewart were present and addressed the Commission on behalf of their petition. They believe it was a Department error that caused them to not be drawn due to the Department's system not linking the social security number to the newly generated Department ID number, which caused them to have only two bonus points applied to their application instead of four bonus points.

Commissioner Zieler confirmed with Mr. Gene Stewart that Mr. Stewart wrote his Department ID on the application. Commissioner Zieler stated that he is struggling to see this as a Department error. Additionally, it's purely speculation that another two bonus points would have guaranteed that they would have been drawn.

Commissioner Davis stated that the decision before the Commission is whether or not there was a Department error. He understands the bonus point situation, which can be rectified by the Department, but he does not see a Department error in this situation.

Commissioner Davis confirmed with Mr. Odenkirk that without a Department error, there is no basis for the Commission to grant the requested relief.

The Commission discussed with Ms. Gottlieb that when a person creates a new Department ID they have to contact the Department to have the new ID merged with their old ID. In this case now, the Department has done that. Charles and Gene Stewart have acquired another bonus point from this draw and will be going into the next draw, if they choose to apply, with five points each.

Motion: Ammons moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DENY THE PETITION BY CHARLES AND GENE STEWART TO OBTAIN ELK TAGS.

Vote: Unanimous

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13. Approve Agreement with Arizona State Lottery

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Mr. Gray presented a proposed agreement with the Arizona State Lottery to maintain lottery vending machines at Department offices to generate funding for wildlife conservation programs. The Department and the Arizona State Lottery propose to work cooperatively for the common purpose of providing lottery ticket machines in Department offices. This agreement provides a relationship and framework for creating opportunities to offer lottery ticket sales that supports the Department's wildlife conservation programs. This agreement is contingent upon a meeting with the Arizona Department of Administration's General Accounting Office (GAO) to establish an account.

Commissioner Davis stated that he will abstain from voting because he has a client that provides machines to the State of Arizona Lottery and he wants to be abundantly transparent.

Motion: Sparks moved and Ammons seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ARIZONA STATE LOTTERY AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR, AS SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION, TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT AS PRESENTED, CONTINGENT UPON THE MEETING WITH GAO TO ESTABLISH AN ACCOUNT.

Vote: Unanimous

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Davis abstained

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32. 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: Zieler moved and Ammons seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Vote: Unanimous

The Commission had a working lunch during Executive Session.

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Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

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10. Briefing on the Arizona Conservation Strategy

Presenter: Joyce Francis, Habitat, Evaluation and Lands Branch Chief

Dr. Francis provided a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on the development of the Arizona Conservation Strategy. One of the elements of the Department's Wildlife Management Line of Business (WMLOB) is development of an efficient mechanism to both manage and monetize the data that the Department collects. A key component of the WMLOB is a vision for the Department's data development activities known as the Arizona Conservation Strategy (ACS).

The ACS provides a formal mechanism to inform actions that impact natural resources and allow project proponents to voluntarily decide where they will place their projects by using the best scientific data available to inform their decisions. The ACS in turn utilizes data to fairly assess mitigation in a way that focuses conservation activities on the landscape in priority areas, therefore realizing a maximum conservation benefit for wildlife. The foundation of the ACS is the data utilized to predict impacts to wildlife and determine the most effective mitigation to achieve maximum benefit to wildlife. To support the development and usefulness of the sophisticated data technology required to maximize the value to project proponents, the Support Services and Wildlife Management divisions are teaming up to develop the technological infrastructure needed to support the full utility of the ACS.

In the upcoming fiscal year a Wildlife Data Warehouse will be developed and will centralize all natural resource data in a single location for easy use and retrieval. Once in place, data can be added and updated on a real time basis, creating a self-perpetuating system where data are always the most complete and reliable. A key role of the Data Warehouse is that it will enable natural resource data collected by external scientists and other entities, such as universities, to be seamlessly imported into the ACS, thereby expanding the data available for project impact assessments. Concurrently, the data team will be developing an impacts assessment technology that will quantify anticipated impacts from projects using these warehoused data and translate that information into opportunities for meaningful and appropriate mitigation.

By leveraging the Department's data, the ACS interface will provide project proponents unprecedented tools needed to make informed decisions; a repeatable, objective and fair

approach to assess impacts and mitigation; and create voluntary partnerships that will fund fair and effective conservation.

The Commission and Director Voyles discussed the complexity and sophistication of this program and expressed their appreciation. This is a project that will continue to grow and expand, and will provide enormous opportunities now and into the future.

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12. Transfer in Title of Commission Owned Lee Valley Property in Apache County, Arizona.

Presenter: Joyce Francis, Habitat, Evaluation and Lands Branch Chief

Dr. Francis briefed the Commission on the Department's request for approval for the placement of restrictions on the deed to the Lee Valley Property and the subsequent transfer in title of the property. The Commission acquired the 71.52 acre parcel of land known as Lee Valley near Eagar, Arizona in 1960. The parcel was purchased primarily for the water rights as the property itself has limited wildlife value. In 1989, the water right from the property was severed and transferred to Lee Valley Lake. At the same time, the beneficial use of the water right was changed from irrigation purposes to fish and wildlife purposes.

In 2011, the Department began construction of Eagar Pond on the Lee Valley property. During the initial stages of that construction, a large number of Cultural artifacts, including human remains, were disturbed and damaged. In the six years since, the Department has worked closely with federal partners, other State agencies, Tribal governments, and the archaeological community to develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to mitigate the unintended consequences of the work at Lee Valley. The Commission approved that MOA on June 2, 2016. Transfer in title of the property to the Archaeological Conservancy is one stipulation of that MOA. The parties have agreed to record restrictive covenants on the deed outlining allowed uses of the property in perpetuity prior to transferring the Commission's fee simple ownership to the Archeological Conservancy.

Motion: Davis moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PLACEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE DEED OF THE COMMISSION OWNED LEE VALLEY PROPERTY AND THE SUBSEQUENT TRANSFER OF SAID DEED TO THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVANCY AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

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14. Approve Proposed Commission Order 29 for Special Big Game License-Tag Seasons for Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, Pronghorn Antelope, Elk, Turkey, Javelina, Bighorn Sheep, Buffalo, Black Bear, and Mountain Lion for the 2018–2019 Special License Tag Hunting Seasons.

Presenter: Amber Munig, Big Game Management Supervisor

Ms. Munig provided a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on Commission Order 29: Special Hunts, establishing seasons and season dates, bag and possession limits, permit numbers, and open areas for Special Big Game Hunt License Tags. Detailed descriptions of all proposals were available for public review at all Department offices and were provided to the Commission prior to this meeting for review. A.R.S. 17-346 authorizes the Commission to set seasons for up to three (3) special license tags for each big game species. A.R.S. 17-346 authorizes the Commission to set seasons for up to three (3) special license tags for each of the 10 big game species.

The only recommended changes are for pronghorn antelope and bighorn sheep. For pronghorn antelope, Unit 34A is recommended for inclusion as open areas for the Special Big Game Hunt License Tag holders. For bighorn sheep, the recommendation is to include Units 15A, 15B, and the Lower Blue River Hunt Area in Unit 27 and to close Unit 44A West, as this area is not open to the general draw hunter. It is recommended that all special big game license tag hunt seasons be open yearlong, with the season for each species commencing on August 15, 2018 and ending on August 14, 2019. Recommended open areas for the special license-tag hunts are as follows:

Mule Deer: Special license tags will be valid statewide (except Camp Navajo in Unit 6B, Mohave County Park Lands in Unit 16A, and Fort Huachuca in Unit 35A).

White-tailed Deer: Special license tags will be valid statewide (except Camp Navajo in Unit 6B, Mohave County Park Lands in Unit 16A, and Fort Huachuca in Unit 35A).

Pronghorn Antelope: Special license tags will be valid for Units 1–10 (except Camp Navajo), 11M, 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, 15A, 15B, 17A, 17B, 18A, 18B, portions of 19A, 19B, 21, 30A, 31, 32, 34A, 34B, 35A, and 35B.

Elk: Special license tags will be valid statewide (except Camp Navajo in Unit 6B, Mohave County Park Lands in Unit 16A, and Fort Huachuca in Unit 35A).

Javelina: Special license tags will be valid statewide (except Camp Navajo in Unit 6B, Mohave County Park Lands in Unit 16A, and Fort Huachuca in Unit 35A).

Turkey: Special license tags will be valid for Units 1, 3B–10 (except Camp Navajo in Unit 6B), 11M, 12A, 13A, 13BS, 17A, 17B, 20A, 22, 23, 27, 29, 33, 34A, and 35A (except Fort Huachuca in Unit 35A).

Bighorn Sheep:

- One special license tag will be valid for Units 9, 10, 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, 15A, 15B, 15C, 15D, and 16A (except Mohave County Park Lands).
- A second special license tag will be valid for Units 16B, 22 South, 24B, 28 (south of US Hwy 70), 31, 32, 37A, 37B, 39, 40A, 40B, 41, 42, 43A, 43B, 44A East, 44B, 45A, 45B, 45C (including the Kofa NWR), 46A, and 46B (including the Cabeza Prieta NWR).
- A third special license tag will be valid for Units 6A, 22 North, 23, 24A, Lower Blue River Hunt Area in Unit 27, Upper Blue River Hunt Area in Unit 27, Unit 27 (south of FR 217 and west of US Hwy 191), Unit 28 (north of US Hwy 70), and Black River Hunt Area in Units 1 and 27.

Buffalo: Special license tags will be valid for Units 12A, 12B, and 13A.

Black Bear: Special license tags will be valid statewide (except Camp Navajo in Unit 6B, Mohave County Park Lands in Unit 16A, and Fort Huachuca in Unit 35A).

Mountain Lion: Special license tags will be valid statewide (except National Wildlife Refuges, Mohave County Park Lands).

Motion: Zieler moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT COMMISSION ORDER 29: SPECIAL HUNTS AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

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15. Authorize Issuance of Special Big Game Hunt License Tags to Organizations for Pronghorn Antelope, Bighorn Sheep, Black Bear, Buffalo, Elk, Javelina, Mountain Lion, Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, and Turkey for 2018–2019.

Presenter: Amber Munig, Big Game Management Supervisor

Ms. Munig presented the Commission with Commission Order 29 for Special Big Game License-Tag Seasons for Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, Pronghorn Antelope, Elk, Turkey, Javelina, Bighorn Sheep, Buffalo, Black Bear, and Mountain Lion for the 2018–2019 Special Big Game License Tags as per R12-4-120. Detailed descriptions of all proposals were available for public review at all Department offices and were provided to the Commission prior to this meeting for review and consideration.

The Department has received the following applications for Special Big Game License Tags from the following nonprofit organizations in accordance with A.R.S. 17-346 and Commission Rule R12-4-120:

Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF): Requests two (2) Special Antelope License Tags for auction and one (1) Special Antelope Tag for raffle. In lieu of their own request for a raffle tag, the AAF supports the issuance of a Special Antelope License Tag by the Commission to the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle. One of the tags for auction will be sold at an Arizona Antelope Foundation sponsored event and the other will be auctioned at the Wild Sheep Foundation Convention in Reno, NV during January 18 – 20, 2018. The Arizona Antelope Foundation would also like to request to be considered as recipient of any leftover tags.

Arizona Big Game Super Raffle (AZBGSR): Requests one tag for each of Arizona's ten big game species. The request is for: One (1) Antelope, one (1) Desert Bighorn Sheep, one (1) Black Bear, one (1) Buffalo, one (1) Coues Whitetail, one (1) Elk, one (1) Javelina, one (1) Mountain Lion, one (1) Mule Deer, and one (1) Turkey Special Big Game License Tags. All tags will be sold in the 2018 Arizona Big Game Super Raffle.

Arizona Bowhunters Association (ABA): Requests one (1) Special Javelina License Tag, one (1) Black Bear Special License Tag and one (1) Buffalo Special License Tag. All tags will be auctioned at the 2018 ABA Annual Awards Banquet/2018 Bowhunter Happening. The ABA also supports the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle and is in favor of one tag for each species to be awarded to that organization.

Arizona Deer Association (ADA): Requests one (1) Special Mule Deer License Tag and one (1) Special Whitetail Deer License Tag, all to be auctioned at the 2018 ADA Annual Fundraiser or other ADA sponsored event. The ADA also supports the issuance of one of each Big Game Special License Tags to the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle Committee. If for some reason the tags would not be given to the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle directly, the ADA request that they be awarded the mule deer and whitetail deer tags to be raffled through the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle, or to be auctioned at the ADA's 2018 fundraiser or another ADA sponsored event. The ADA also requests any tags that the Department would care to award them; they will auction these tags at future events.

Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society (ADBSS): Requests two (2) Special Bighorn Sheep Tags for 2018-2019:

- One (1) Special Bighorn Sheep License Tag for a Mexicana desert bighorn sheep in the southern GMUs, with the auction occurring at either the Wild Sheep Foundation 2018 Convention during January 18-20, 2018 or the ADBSS Fundraiser on March 10, 2018
- One (1) Special Bighorn Sheep License Tag for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in the eastern and central GMUs, to be auctioned by ADBSS at the ADBSS Fundraising Banquet on March 10, 2018 or by the Wild Sheep Foundation at its 2018 Convention;

and One (1) mountain lion tag, which they will either auction or raffle at their March 10, 2018 fundraiser.

Additionally, ADBSS supports the issuance of the third Special Bighorn Sheep License Tag for the Nelsoni species to the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle Committee. The Nelsoni desert bighorn sheep tag would encompass the northern GMUs as it has in the past. If for some reason the Nelsoni tag would not be given to the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle directly, the ADBSS requests that they be granted the tag to be raffled through the AZBGSR, or to be auctioned at their fundraiser on March 10, 2018. In the event that there are tags unapplied for in this year's distribution of tags, ADBSS is willing to auction any other Special Big Game License Tags the Commission would like to issue at their fundraiser banquet on March 10, 2018 if there is an opportunity.

Arizona Elk Society (AES): Requests one (1) Special Elk License Tag and one (1) Special Buffalo License Tag, both to be auctioned at the Arizona Elk Society's annual fundraising banquet in April 2018. The AES supports the awarding one of the Special Elk License Tags to next year's Arizona Big Game Super Raffle. In the event that there are tags unapplied for in this year's distribution of tags, the AES is willing to consider auctioning any other special tags at their fundraising banquet in April 2018 that the Commission may elect to issue to their organization.

Mule Deer Foundation (MDF): Requests two (2) Special Mule Deer License Tag and one (1) Special Whitetail Deer License Tag. All tags will be auctioned at the MDF's National

Convention in Salt Lake City, UT on February 8-11, 2018 in conjunction with the Western Hunting and Conservation Expo. In the event that there are tags unapplied for in this year's distribution of tags, MDF is willing to auction any other tags at their local Arizona chapter banquets.

National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF): Requests two (2) Special Turkey License Tags, one to be raffled by the Arizona Chapter of the NWTF and the other for auction by the Arizona Chapter of NWTF in conjunction with the Safari Club International-Arizona Chapter (SCI-AZ) fundraising banquet or the Western Hunting and Conservation Expo (WHCE) in Utah. NWTF also requests that one (1) Special Turkey License tag be awarded to the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle for their raffle effort.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF): Requests one (1) Special Elk License Tag, to be auctioned during their special Hunter's Rendezvous event to be held in Tucson, Arizona, Saturday, January 27, 2018.

Safari Club International – Arizona Chapter (SCI-AZ): Requests one (1) Special Whitetail Deer License Tag, one (1) Special Black Bear License Tag, one (1) Special Javelina License Tag, and one (1) Special Mule Deer License Tag. All tags will be sold by auction at their fundraiser.

Safari Club International – Northern Nevada Chapter (SCI-NN): Requests one or more of the following: one (1) Special Antelope License Tag, one (1) Special Bighorn Sheep License Tag, one (1) Special Black Bear License Tag, one (1) Special Buffalo License Tag, one (1) Special Elk License Tag, one (1) Special Javelina License Tag, one (1) Special Mountain Lion License Tag, one (1) Special Mule Deer License Tag, and one (1) Special Whitetail Deer License Tag. Any tags awarded will be sold in their Live Auction portion of their 23rd Annual Wildlife Fundraising Dinner on March 10, 2018.

Public Comment

The following members of the public addressed the Commission on behalf of their respective organization's requests:

- Steve Clark, Arizona Elk Society
- Ken Meadors, Arizona Antelope Foundation
- Terry Herndon, Mule Deer Foundation
- John Koleszar, Arizona Deer Association and Arizona Big Game Super Raffle

Motion: Sparks moved and Ammons THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD THE TAGS THE SAME AS LAST YEAR WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE MOUNTAIN LION TAG GOING TO SCI-NN INSTEAD OF AES.

Vote: Unanimous

The following is the final chart as selected and voted by the Commission:

	Antelope	Black Bear	Bighorn Sheep	Bison	Elk	Javelina	Mule Deer	Turkey	White-tail Deer	Mtn Lion
AAF	2 Auction									
AZ BGSR	1 Super Raffle	1 Super Raffle	1 Super Raffle	1 Super Raffle	1 Super Raffle	1 Super Raffle	1 Super Raffle	1 Super Raffle	1 Super Raffle	1 Super Raffle
ABA		1 Auction		1 Auction		1 Auction				
ADA							1 Auction		1 Auction	
ADBSS			2 Auction							1 auction or raffle
AES				1 Auction	1 Auction					
MDF							1 Auction		1 Auction	
NWTF								1 Auction 1 Raffle		
RMEF					1 Auction					
SCI-AZ		1 Auction				1 Auction				
SCI-NN										1 auction

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16. A Briefing on Public Comment Received and Proposed Revisions to the Hunt Guidelines for the 2018-2019 and 2022-2023 Hunting Seasons.

Presenter: Amber Munig, Big Game Management Supervisor

Ms. Munig presented a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on comments received thus far on the existing hunt guidelines and a preliminary draft of revised guidelines. Comments were received at public meetings and through written correspondence.

The Department provided a briefing to the Commission on April 8, 2017 on the comment received to that date on existing hunt guidelines. The Department has continued to receive comment since that date. An internal team has analyzed the comment received, and has proposed revisions to existing guidelines for further consideration. Since late May, the draft guidelines have been posted on the Department's web site. The proposed draft guidelines were also shared during a webinar on May 31 and 6 in-person public meetings were hosted simultaneously to the

webinar on May 31. Two additional public meetings were held in early June. The recorded webinar was also made available on our website and announced through a news release. The purpose of this presentation was to provide the Commission with an opportunity to review the proposed revisions and provide the Department with additional options to consider for final analyses. The Commission was provided with all comments and materials for review and consideration. The Commission was asked to provide the Department with specific measures and metrics they would like to receive to make final determinations at their meeting in September.

The presentation included data in charts and graphs for each species where changes to the hunt guidelines are being considered. The proposed changes are as follows:

Deer

- Increase hunt success parameter for alternative white-tailed deer units
- Allow greater flexibility when removing or adding seasons from over-the-counter archery deer
- Rotation of CHAMP units and timing of hunts
- Increasing youth permit allocation
- No youth hunts during the deer rut
- Collect deer teeth from alternatively managed units to establish age class parameters to guide future guidelines

Elk

- Evaluation of flexibility for first hunt opportunity between archery and early firearms – survey in progress
- Increasing youth permit allocation
- Collect bull elk teeth from alternatively managed units to establish age class parameters to guide future guidelines
- Alternative management units – is the current level appropriate
- Rotation of CHAMP hunt units and timing

Turkey

- No proposed changes to Merriam's turkey
- Gould's turkey
 - Create a 3 tiered season stratification
 - Harvest will target 30% of adult males

Black Bear

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

Mountain Lion

- Establishing mountain lion management zones based on biologically similar habitat
 - A single game management unit or group of units
 - Natural and manmade barriers to movement were considered
- Establishing harvest thresholds by management zone
 - Allow for closure of a season if the harvest threshold is exceeded

- Developing a population estimate through a population reconstruction model (tooth cementum aging)
- Population estimates using this technique along with historic harvest will be used to establish harvest threshold (setting of harvest thresholds would occur annually during the hunt recommendation process, as is done for bear)
- Establishing a closed season
 - proposed closure June 1 and 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
- Evaluating the 35% female harvest threshold based on recent research

Small Game

- Gambel's and scaled quail – move opening date 2 weeks later (mid-October)

Predators and Furbearers

- Bobcats – a bag limit or season closure may be established if population parameters reflect a declining trend based on tooth age data.

Public Comment

The following members of the public were present and addressed the Commission:

- J.S. Smith - Opposes a pursuit season for mountain lions during closed seasons to protect female mountain lions with kittens
- Dale Robertson, lion hunter - Supports the summer closure for mountain lions and supports the female quotas; requests season closures to convert to a pursuit or training only season; should be illegal to carry firearms during pursuit seasons and should be illegal to pursue female lions with kittens or kittens
- Tim Diehl, lion hunter - Would like to see a year-round pursuit season and a pursuit tag where you can harvest a lion
- Josh Meachan - Supports comments of Dale Robertson and Tim Diehl; pursuing lions is not the same as hunting; asked for Commission consideration for people training dogs during the summer
- Steve Clark, AES - Supports the revisions in the hunt guidelines
- Dennis Pirch - Thanked the Department and staff for their leadership in regards to Roosevelt Lake and trout fishing under the Rim; expressed concern for diminishing quality of bull elk in Unit 22
- Tony Flores (turned in a speaker card, but not present at this time)

Commissioner Zieler discussed with Ms. Munig that he would like to find some middle ground and compromise with the houndsmen.

The Commission discussed further and directed the Department to look at some potential opportunities for compromise.

Commissioner Zieler requested the Department look into possibilities of retaining a youth hunt in the area as it relates to removing the youth deer hunt during the rut in Unit 16A, and maybe look at the option of an earlier date.

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Meeting recessed for a break 3:30 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 3:40 p.m.

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11. Approve Impact Analysis on Rotenone for the Department's Coconino National Forest Stock Tank Non-native Fish Removal Treatment Plan.

Presenter: Chris Cantrell, Chief, Aquatic Wildlife Branch

Mr. Cantrell provided a PowerPoint presentation and briefing. The Department requests Commission approval that the environmental analyses conducted per the Coconino National Forest Stock Tank Non-native Fish Removal Project Treatment Plan (Plan) are sufficient to ensure that the use of rotenone applied to remove illegally stocked non-native fish will not endanger the health of the environment, humans, or livestock when applied according to the Department's Piscicide Treatment Planning and Procedures Manual (PTPPM), product label, and Rotenone Standard Operating Procedures Manual.

Commission approval of the environmental analyses conducted for proposed rotenone treatments is a new requirement per A.R.S. Title 17-481 (Laws 2013, First Regular Session, Chapter 117). In adherence with the PTPPM, the planning, public outreach, and environmental compliance for the rotenone treatment of stock tanks on the Coconino National Forest (CNF) included in the Plan have been approved by the Assistant Directors of the Wildlife Management Division and Field Operation Division. The Plan also includes potential future rotenone treatments of additional stock tanks on the CNF should they be found to contain illegally stocked non-native fish.

In adherence with the PTPPM and Title 17-481, the Plan incorporates several environmental evaluations that assess potential impacts of rotenone on the environment, terrestrial wildlife, and human health, including a Categorical Exclusion and Decision Notice per the National Environmental Policy Act by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Pesticide Use Plan per the U.S.D.A Forest Service (the sole land manager for the Project Area); the Department's Environmental Assessment Checklist; the Rotenone Review Advisory Committee's Final Report; and the Pesticide Discharge Management Plan per the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (<http://www.azgfd.gov/hf/rotenone.shtml>).

If the Commission approves that the environmental analyses conducted per the Plan are sufficient to move forward with the use of rotenone in stock tanks on the CNF, the Department will schedule the treatment of stock tanks currently identified as containing non-native fish during July or August of 2017. Additional treatment dates may be set as additional stock tanks are found to contain non-native fish or if treatment dates are logistically infeasible. Also per Title 17-481, prior to the treatment the Department will: 1) provide written notice about the treatment to all owners, lessees and permittees within the project area; 2) publish a general notice in two

publications in a daily or weekly newspaper in the general area in which the chemical will be applied; and 3) conduct water and soil analysis pre- and post-treatment within the treatment area. The Department has coordinated closely with the grazing allotment permittees to ensure the treatments are conducted when cattle are off of the treatment areas; however, if cattle are encountered at the treatment sites, the Department will haze them away from the treatment sites and contact CNF range staff.

Efforts to remove Green Sunfish, a species native to the Mississippi River watershed and non-native to Arizona, have been ongoing on the CNF since 2004. Since then, 11 rotenone treatments have occurred in eight stock tanks and as such, monitoring efforts for non-native fish have increased. In particular, stock tanks within the Fossil Creek and West Clear Creek watersheds are monitored annually by the Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reduce the likelihood of the introduction and establishment of non-native aquatic species into those drainages. In June 2016, the discovery of Green Sunfish in Willow Valley Creek, a headwater tributary of West Clear Creek, prompted the Department to increase monitoring efforts of stock tanks within the greater West Clear Creek watershed. Currently 17 stock tanks within the West Clear Creek watershed are known to contain non-native fish. Green Sunfish have been shown to have significant negative impacts of populations of native fishes through competition for food and habitat resources as well as predation. During high discharge events, Green Sunfish may be displaced from these stock tanks into the streams and rivers downstream, which are currently occupied by and managed for native and sportfish species. The application of rotenone as described in the Plan will allow the threat of highly invasive species to be controlled throughout the CNF.

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

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The Commission was briefed on all budget items (agenda items #17-27) at the May 2017 Commission meeting and Commissioners were briefed individually prior to this meeting. Commissioners Davis and Zieler were on the Commission budget subcommittee and met with Department staff to provide input in developing the budget items. All information and documents related to the budget items were provided to the Commission prior to this meeting for review and consideration, and were available to the public.

17. Approve the Expenditure of Unspent Balances in the Heritage Fund (excluding Acquisition), Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund, Off Highway Vehicle Fund, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration, State Wildlife Grants, Coast Guard Grants, Program Income, Endangered Species Act (Section 6), Capital Improvement Fund, Indirect Cost Recovery Fund and Contracts for Fiscal Year 2018 and any remaining Capital appropriations.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

These requests will ensure that remaining unspent balances in the Heritage Fund, Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund, Off Highway Vehicle Fund, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration, State Wildlife Grants, Coast Guard Grants, Program Income, Endangered Species Act (Section 6), Capital Improvement Fund, Indirect Cost Recovery Fund, and Contracts are available for

expenditure in Fiscal Year 2018 for additional qualifying projects and to allow the Department to respond to revenue shortfalls and unforeseen needs. All property acquisition and property Operations and Maintenance proposals utilizing unspent Heritage Acquisition fund balance will be brought before the Commission for individual review and approval for actual funding authority.

Motion: Sparks moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF UNSPENT FUND BALANCES FROM THE HERITAGE FUND (EXCLUDING ACQUISITION); ARIZONA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND, OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE FUND, WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION, STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS, COAST GUARD GRANTS, PROGRAM INCOME, ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (SECTION 6), CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND, INDIRECT COST RECOVERY FUND AND CONTRACTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018 AND ANY REMAINING CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS.

Vote: Unanimous

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18. Approve the amended Fiscal Year 2018 Game and Fish Fund Budget and the Fiscal Year 2019 Game and Fish Fund Budget Request.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

The Game and Fish Fund consists primarily of revenue generated from the sale of licenses and tags. The appropriation for Fiscal Year 2018 includes \$530,000 in the Capital Budget Request for building renewal. The appropriation is \$39,150,600 for Fiscal Year 2018 and the appropriation request is \$39,865,030 for Fiscal Year 2019.

FY 2018 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2018 Budget \$585,205

- \$218,305 PsEre Adjustment
- \$25,000 Marketing and Recruitment
- \$341,900 Retirement Adjustment

FY 2018 Proposed One-Time Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2018 Budget (\$1,296,300)

- (\$257,000) Building Renewal (Maintenance)
- (\$1,039,300) Vehicle Replacements (LE)

FY 2019 Proposed Base Increase of \$532,000

- \$153,000 In Grade Adjustments
- \$50,000 Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative
- \$50,000 Access Incentive
- \$191,000 Marketing and Recruitment
- \$300,000 PsEre Adjustments
- (\$225,000) Paperless Savings
- \$200,000 Estimate Vacant WMs

- (\$200,000) Community Fish move to DJ
- \$10,000 Assets Index Adjustments
- \$3,000 Law Enforcement Training Manager Travel Allocation

FY 2019 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$1,474,338

- \$1,474,338 Vehicle Replacements (LE)

FY 2019 Proposed Capital Budget Increase of \$787,000

- \$787,000 Building Renewal

Motion: Ammons moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 COMMISSION APPROVED GAME AND FISH FUND BUDGET AND APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE GAME AND FISH FUND FOR OPERATING AND CAPITAL OUTLAY PROGRAMS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019.

Vote: Unanimous

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19. Approve the Amended Fiscal Year 2018 Watercraft Licensing Fund Budget and the Watercraft Licensing Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2019.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Watercraft Licensing revenues are generated from watercraft registration and boating infrastructure surcharge fees. The appropriation is \$5,834,400 for Fiscal Year 2018 and the appropriation request is \$5,320,400 for Fiscal Year 2019.

FY 2018 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2018 Budget (\$63,986)

- \$65,189 PsEre Adjustment
- \$22,325 Indirect Adjustment
- (\$151,500) Officer Time Allotment (Pickoff)

FY 2018 Proposed One-Time Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2018 Budget (\$1,108,000)

- (\$50,000) Boating Safety Pamphlet
- (\$256,500) Boats
- (\$121,500) Vehicles
- (\$500,000) Havasu LE Water Safety Center
- (\$180,000) Canopies, Lift, Boathouses

FY 2019 Proposed Base Increase of \$267,000

- \$225,000 AIS: Public/Private Partnership & Equipment Maintenance
- \$40,000 Compliance with AIS Laws – LE Capacity
- \$2,000 LE Training Manager Travel Allocation

FY 2019 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$225,000

- \$225,000 AIS Containment and Abatement

Motion: Sparks moved and Ammons seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 COMMISSION APPROVED WATERCRAFT LICENSING FUND BUDGET AND APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE WATERCRAFT LICENSING FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019.

Vote: Unanimous

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20. Approve the Game, Nongame, Fish and Endangered Species Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2019.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

The Game, Nongame, Fish and Endangered Species Fund revenue is generated from the Arizona Income Tax Check-Off. The appropriation is \$346,800 for Fiscal Year 2018 and the appropriation request is \$346,800 for Fiscal Year 2019.

Motion: Zieler moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED OPERATING EXPENDITURES FROM THE GAME, NONGAME, FISH AND ENDANGERED SPECIES FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019.

Vote: Unanimous

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21. Approve the Capital Improvement Fund and Conservation Development Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2019.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

The Capital Improvement Fund revenue is generated from fund transfers from the Conservation Development Fund, which receives revenues from surcharges on the sale of fishing, hunting, and combination hunting/fishing licenses. The appropriation/budget is \$1,007,700 for Fiscal Year 2018 and the appropriation request is \$1,457,700 for Fiscal Year 2019. The additional Fiscal Year 2018 and Fiscal Year 2019 appropriation requests represent specific use of the Capital Improvement Fund prior year unspent balances.

The Department Requests a One-Time Increase of \$450,000

- \$450,000 Dam and Property Maintenance

Motion: Ammons moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND AND CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019.

Vote: Unanimous

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22. Approve the Wildlife Endowment Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2019.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

The Wildlife Endowment Fund receives revenues from the sale of lifetime hunting and fishing licenses. This appropriation facilitates an annual interest transfer to the Game and Fish Fund per ARS §17-271. The appropriation is \$16,200 for Fiscal Year 2018 and the appropriation request is \$25,000 for Fiscal Year 2019.

Motion: Zieler moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE WILDLIFE ENDOWMENT FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019.

Vote: Unanimous

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23. Approve the amended Fiscal Year 2018 Off-Highway Vehicle Fund Budget and the Off-Highway Vehicle Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2019.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

The Off-Highway Vehicle Fund consists of revenues generated from motor vehicle fuel taxes and off-highway vehicle decal sales. Annual revenue projections are estimated to be \$1,775,000 for Fiscal Year 2019. The amended budget is \$1,901,973 for Fiscal Year 2018 and the proposed request is \$1,885,253 for Fiscal Year 2019. The additional Fiscal Year 2018 and Fiscal Year 2019 budget requests represent specific use of the Off-Highway Vehicle Fund prior year unspent balances.

FY 2018 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2018 Budget \$20,732

- \$8,759 PsEre Adjustment
- \$11,973 Indirect Adjustment

FY 2019 Proposed Base Increases of \$6,673

- \$4,673 Personal Services and Benefits
- \$2,000 LE Training Manager Allocation

FY 2019 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$11,147

- \$500 Level One Fingerprint Clearance Cards

- \$10,647 UTV Replacements

Motion: Ammons moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 COMMISSION APPROVED OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE FUND BUDGET AND APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019.

Vote: Unanimous

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24. Approve the amended Fiscal Year 2018 Heritage Fund Budget and the Heritage Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2019.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

The Department proposes amending Fiscal Year 2018 Commission approved Heritage Fund budget and to approve the proposed expenditures from the Public Access; Identification, Inventory, Acquisition, Protection, and Management; Habitat Evaluation and Protection; Urban Wildlife and Urban Wildlife Habitat; Environmental Education; and Administration and Support Services (Interest Monies) sub-funds for Fiscal Year 2019. The Heritage Fund consists of revenues generated from Arizona lottery proceeds. The fund will provide up to \$10,000,000 for Fiscal Year 2019. The amended budget is \$12,126,715 for Fiscal Year 2018 and the proposed request is \$12,035,175 for Fiscal Year 2019. The additional Fiscal Year 2018 and Fiscal Year 2019 budget requests represent specific use of the Heritage Fund prior year unspent balances.

FY 2018 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2018 Budget (\$145,670)

- \$50,084 PsEre Adjustment
- \$53,189 Indirect Adjustment
- (\$26,000) .25 FTE NAP Manager to SWG
- (\$137,900) ESRI Enterprise License to WCF
- (\$85,043) Post delisting Surveys to PR

FY 2018 Proposed One-Time Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2018 Budget \$291,405

- (\$3,595) Vehicle Replacements
- \$100,000 Outreach Campaign
- \$195,000 Wildlife Center Initiative

FY 2019 Proposed Base Increase of \$2,617

- \$2,617 PSPRS Adjustment

FY 2019 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$726,190

- \$100,000 Outreach Campaign
- \$400 Level One Fingerprint Clearance Cards
- \$128,000 WWD Conservation Soil Treatment

- \$16,000 Grasslands WMA Prescribed Burn
- \$45,000 Sipe WLA Diversion Irrigation Piping
- \$20,000 Arlington WLA Removal of Athel Trees
- \$200,000 Bubbling Ponds Hatchery Culture and Quarantine Building
- \$7,000 Black-footed Ferret AOO Adjustment
- \$209,790 Vehicle Replacements (5)

Motion: Ammons moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 COMMISSION APPROVED HERITAGE FUND BUDGET AND TO APPROVE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE PUBLIC ACCESS; IDENTIFICATION, INVENTORY, ACQUISITION, PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT; HABITAT EVALUATION AND PROTECTION; URBAN WILDLIFE AND URBAN WILDLIFE HABITAT; ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION; AND ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES (INTEREST MONIES) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019.

Vote: Unanimous

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25. Approve the amended Fiscal Year 2018 Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund Budget and the Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2019.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

The Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund revenues are generated from shared gaming, through the Arizona Benefits Fund, with the State of Arizona and local governments, to support specified state and local programs. Annual revenue projections are estimated to be \$6,500,000 for Fiscal Year 2018. The amended budget is \$7,826,575 for Fiscal Year 2018 and the proposed request is \$7,812,975 for Fiscal Year 2019. The additional Fiscal Year 2018 and Fiscal Year 2019 budget requests represent specific use of the Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund prior year unspent balances.

FY 2018 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2018 Budget \$258,391

- \$81,145 PsEre Adjustment
- \$24,346 Indirect Adjustment
- \$15,000 Waterfowl Habitat
- \$137,900 ESRI Enterprise License from Heritage

FY 2018 Proposed One-Time Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2018 Budget \$15,000

- \$15,000 Interns

FY 2019 Proposed Base Increase of \$20,000

- \$20,000 AZ Conservation Strategy Data Manager

FY 2019 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$161,400

- \$15,000 Wildlife Health Interns/Pick-off for Fish Health Lab
- \$130,000 Tonto Hatchery Repair
- \$16,400 Truck LE Upfit

Motion: Sparks moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 COMMISSION APPROVED ARIZONA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND BUDGET AND TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE ARIZONA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019.

Vote: Unanimous

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26. Approve the amended Fiscal Year 2018 Indirect Cost Recovery Fund Budget and the Indirect Cost Recovery Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2019.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

The Indirect Cost Recovery Fund is used to collect and recover indirect costs from federal grants and agreements, Heritage Fund, Off Highway Vehicle Fund, Watercraft Fund and Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund. Monies are recovered by transferring a set percentage of personal services costs from the subject accounts. In FY 2019, estimated recoveries are \$7,070,000. The amended budget is \$6,930,920 for Fiscal Year 2018 and the proposed request is \$7,250,920 for Fiscal Year 2019. The additional Fiscal Year 2018 and Fiscal Year 2019 budget requests represent specific use of the Indirect Cost Recovery Fund prior year unspent balances.

FY 2018 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2018 Budget (\$26,762)

- (\$34,762) PsEre Adjustments
- \$8,000 Regional Utilities

FY 2019 Proposed Base Increase of \$600,000

- \$600,000 IT Infrastructure

FY 2019 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$90,000

- \$90,000 Exchange Online Migration

Motion: Ammons moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FY2018 COMMISSION APPROVED INDIRECT COST RECOVERY FUND BUDGET AND TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE INDIRECT COST RECOVERY FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019.

Vote: Unanimous

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27. Approve the amended Fiscal Year 2018 Federal Assistance Funds Budget Request and the Fiscal Year 2019 Federal Assistance Funds Budget Request.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

The Fiscal Year 2018 Pittman Robertson Wildlife Restoration amended budget is \$21,773,157. The Fiscal Year 2019 Pittman Robertson Wildlife Restoration proposed budget increased approximately \$2.1 million for a total of \$23,890,330. The Fiscal Year 2018 Sport Fish Restoration amended budget is \$9,360,206. The Fiscal Year 2019 Dingell Johnson Sport Fish Restoration proposed budget increased approximately \$757,600 for a total of \$10,117,807 (includes boating access). Pittman-Robertson (Federal Assistance in Wildlife Restoration): The federal apportionment for Fiscal Year 2018 is \$17.7 million; a decrease of 3.95% from Fiscal Year 2017. The apportionment for Fiscal Year 2019 is anticipated to be \$17 million.

FY 2018 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2018 Budget \$744,820

- (\$281,019) PsEre Adjustment
- \$474,394 Indirect Adjustment
- \$536,445 Birds and Mammals to PR from SWG
- \$15,000 AOO Adjustment

FY 2018 Proposed One-Time Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2018 Budget \$728,832

- \$120,000 Tractor Replacement
- (\$42,500) Vehicle Replacement
- \$20,000 Cluff Ranch Office Building HVAC
- \$110,000 Burro Impacts to Wildlife Research Project
- \$100,000 Comprehensive Wildlife Management (GDMS)
- \$40,000 AZ Conservation Strategy Coordination
- \$70,000 Sipe Visitor Center Repair
- \$20,000 Mourning Dove Reward Banding Study
- \$41,332 Pinal Open Space Cost Share Position
- \$200,000 Wildlife Data Warehouse
- \$50,000 Outreach Animal Enclosures

FY 2019 Proposed Base Increase of \$128,444

- \$45,000 Arizona Conservation Strategy Data Manager
- \$12,000 Black-footed Ferret Predator Sampling
- \$25,000 Regional Small Game Projects
- \$33,300 GIS Data Collection Specialist
- \$8,144 PSPRS Adjustment
- \$5,000 Planet Ranch Road Maintenance

FY 2019 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$4,339,659

- \$170,000 Arizona Conservation Strategy Data Coordination/Developer
- \$110,000 Burro Impacts to Wildlife Research Project
- \$60,000 Collaborative Borderland Projects

- \$100,000 Access Funding
- \$100,000 Comprehensive Wildlife Management (GDMS)
- \$465,340 Wildlife Area O&M
- \$940,000 Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative
- \$400,000 Eater Development Habitat Enhancement
- \$229,000 Robbins Butte WLA Habitat Enhance Project Phase 1
- \$350,000 Mittry Lake WLA Access and Habitat Improvement Phase 1
- \$20,000 Mourning Dove Reward Banding Study
- \$30,000 Small Game Opportunity Promotion
- \$41,332 Pinal County Cost Share
- \$38,000 Urban Javelina Translocation Research
- \$120,000 Black-footed Ferret Preconditioning Pens
- \$100,000 Sylvatic Plague Vaccine Bait
- \$500,000 Statewide Outreach and Marketing
- \$15,000 Ultrasound Machine Replacement
- \$45,000 Heavy Equipment Replacement
- \$120,000 Aircraft Engine Maintenance
- \$128,387 Vehicle Replacements (3)
- \$257,600 Wildlife Data Warehouse

FY 2018 Section 4 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2018 Budget \$69,398

- (\$9,516) PsEre Adjustment
- \$35,281 Indirect Adjustment
- (\$18,867) AOO Adjustment
- \$62,500 Turkey Federation

FY 2019 Section 4 Proposed Base Increase of \$91,290

- (\$4,960) AOO Adjustments to Match Apportionment
- \$6,250 Turkey Federation (NWTF-cost share)
- \$90,000 Hunter Education Building O&M and Online Registration

FY 2019 Section 4 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$2,577,100

- \$500,000 Shooting Range Enhancements
- \$400,000 BASF Main Range Improvements
- \$260,000 Hunter Education Enhancements
- \$17,100 Level One Fingerprint Clearance Cards
- \$400,000 CTC Range Improvements
- \$1,000,000 Main Range Business Center

Program Income: Ben Avery Shooting Range is supported with the Wildlife Restoration granting which gross revenues are spent to support the range and are reported annually to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Estimated revenue is \$3.13 million for Fiscal Year 2018 and \$3.13 million for Fiscal Year 2019.

Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux (Federal Assistance in Sport Fish Restoration): The federal apportionment for Fiscal Year 2018 is \$7.2 million. The apportionment for Fiscal Year 2019 is anticipated to be \$7 million.

FY 2018 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2018 Budget (\$4,364)

- (\$97,662) PsEre Adjustment
- \$40,398 Indirect Adjustment
- \$52,900 AOO Adjustment

FY 2019 Proposed Base Increase of \$478,868

- \$45,000 Arizona Conservation Strategy Data Manager
- \$968 PSPRS Adjustment
- \$200,000 CFP Coordinator
- \$122,900 AOO Adjustment
- \$100,000 Recreational Fishery Habitat Enhancement
- \$10,000 Interns

FY 2019 One-Time Increase of \$823,573

- \$40,000 Lake Fisheries Habitat Improvement
- \$50,000 Arizona Conservation Strategy Coordination
- \$60,000 Treatment on Bear Wallow Creek or West Fork Black River
- \$50,000 Big Lake/Willow Springs ADA Accessible Fishing Jetty
- \$10,000 Boat Replacement
- \$315,000 Hatchery Repair
- \$2,300 Level 1 Fingerprint Clearance Cards
- \$150,000 Repair of Lower Rearing Unit at Silver Creek Hatchery
- \$28,000 Equipment Replacement
- \$118,273 Truck Replacements (3)

State Wildlife Grants: State Wildlife Grants (SWG) are only eligible for expenditure on Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in Arizona's State Wildlife Action Plan, which was developed following eight elements required by Congress for state eligibility in the program. SWG is matched with Heritage IIAPM funds. Collectively, these funds support the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Conservation Program with focus areas being native birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles and some invertebrates. Implementation is conducted by the Phoenix, regional and associated remote location field offices. The funding is appropriated annually and fluctuates from year to year. The federal allocation for Fiscal Year 2018 is \$1.25 million, and the projected federal allocation for Fiscal Year 2019 is estimated to be \$1.2 million. The funds are utilized for multi-year projects, and revenues will be received over the course of the project periods. The estimated funding in Fiscal Year 2019 will allow for continuation of projects to conserve wildlife.

FY 2018 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2018 Budget (\$372,716):

- (\$15,586) PsEre Adjustment
- \$48,745 Indirect Adjustment
- \$5,000 Southern Wings – Pacific Shorebird Survey

- (\$592,515) Birds and Mammals to PR
- \$106,640 1.75 FTE (.25 from IIAPM)
- \$75,000 ARCC Pick-off

FY 2018 Proposed One-Time Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2018 Budget \$241,278:

- \$46,278 Interns
- \$60,000 Mexican Wolf Transmitters
- \$20,000 Speckled Rattlesnake Telemetry
- \$25,000 ESA-listing of Mollusk Species
- \$20,000 Narrow-headed Gartersnake Monitoring
- \$40,000 Sonoran Desert Tortoise Monitoring
- \$20,000 Bullfrog Eradication
- \$10,000 Ornate Box Turtle Monitoring

FY 2019 Proposed Base Increase of \$48,300:

- \$15,000 Bat Acoustic Detectors
- \$33,300 GIS Data Collection Specialist

FY 2019 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$321,478:

- \$30,000 Albert's Squirrel Removal on Mount Graham
- \$20,000 Bullfrog Eradication
- \$75,000 Mexican Wolf Recovery Actions in Mexico
- \$60,000 Mexican Wolf Transmitters
- \$10,000 Ornate Box Turtle Monitoring
- \$25,000 Precluding ESA-listing of Mollusk Species
- \$40,000 Sonoran Desert Tortoise Monitoring
- \$20,000 Speckled Rattlesnake Telemetry
- \$41,478 T&E Species Interns

Coast Guard Boating Safety: The federal allocation is \$1.5 million for Fiscal Year 2018 and \$1.5 million for Fiscal Year 2019. The budget request for Fiscal Year 2019 represents a continuation of the Fiscal Year 2018 budget. The additional Fiscal Year 2018 budget requests represent specific use of Coast Guard prior year unspent balances.

FY 2018 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2018 Budget \$10,792:

- \$10,792 PsEre Adjustment

FY 2019 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$350:

- \$350 Level One Fingerprint Clearance Cards

Section 6, Endangered Species Act: Section 6 Funds are only eligible for expenditure on candidate, threatened, and endangered species. For nearly a decade, AGFD has allocated the majority of this grant to the Mexican wolf reintroduction project. The funds, coupled with annual federal contracts provided specifically for the wolf program, are used to support personnel services and project costs of the Department's Interagency Field Team, which

typically consists of up to five personnel. The budget request for Fiscal Year 2019 represents a continuation of the Fiscal Year 2018 budget. The projected allocation for Fiscal Year 2018 is anticipated to be \$295,044.

Contract Monies: The estimated budget for Fiscal Year 2019 represents a continuation of the Fiscal Year 2018 budget. Projected revenue for Fiscal Year 2019 is anticipated to remain stable at approximately \$6.5 million each year. These are generally contracts for wildlife inventory and research.

Motion: Ammons moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE MODIFIED BUDGET FOR WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION GRANTS, STATE WILDLIFE GRANT AND COAST GUARD BOATING SAFETY GRANT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018 AND THE WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION GRANTS, PROGRAM INCOME, STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS, COAST GUARD BOATING SAFETY AND SECTION 6 ENDANGERED SPECIES GRANT AND CONTRACTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019.

Vote: Unanimous

* * * * *

28. Commission Meeting Travel Considerations

Presenter: Kent Komadina, Special Assistant to the Director

Mr. Komadina provided a PowerPoint presentation and facilitated discussion with the Commission regarding Commission meeting travel cost considerations and guidelines. The Commission has been committed to conducting its regular Commission meetings throughout the state, including at the Phoenix Headquarters office in order to better serve all of Arizona, enhance public trust and build relationships and partnerships with constituents. This commitment was reaffirmed at the June 2015 meeting and again at the June 2016 meeting. As part of this, the Department works regularly with the Commission to consider ways to help limit travel costs associated with Commission meetings while still meeting their public trust responsibilities and service to all of Arizona.

This presentation and discussion was provided in accordance with the Auditor General's December 2013 Performance Audit Report recommendation (1.3 The Department should work with the Commission to regularly consider ways to help limit travel costs associated with its commission meetings). The Department developed a policy (DOM C3.5) to help minimize costs associated with holding meetings around the state. The policy includes the following guidelines:

- Ex-Staff and Commission Assistant will attend all regular meetings
- Presenters will be in attendance for their item(s) with the following exceptions:
 - Consent items that likely will not be pulled based on Commission feedback
 - Minor agenda items that can be handled by Assistant Director or other staff
 - LE Officers will attend revocation hearings via teleconferencing from their RO unless case circumstances dictate otherwise

- Non-presenting Support Staff will attend via webcast/teleconferencing unless circumstances dictate otherwise (i.e. budget, hunt recommendations)
- Staff attending to present or provide support for single/few items on same day will consider feasibility of traveling to and from the meetings in the same day
- The assigned Public Information Officer will monitor and take meeting notes via webcast from Phoenix
- Hosting Regional Supervisors will attend and recommend to conduct Community Forums or alternate activity
- Non-hosting Regional Supervisors will view the Commission meetings and Community Forums via webcast/teleconference
- Staff interested in particular agenda items but are not presenting or providing support will view the meeting via webcast unless circumstances dictate otherwise
- Interested staff positioned where the meeting is being hosted are encouraged to attend in person
- Staff are directed to utilize the most cost effective methods for travel as feasible/appropriate (car-pooling, etc.)
- DO in coordination with Regional staff and local Commissioner (if applicable) will evaluate meeting and hotel room accommodations based on cost and functionality.

In addition, Department staff that has only one item will present their item, if feasible, via video teleconference from the Phoenix Office.

Commissioner Davis stated that the Commission was very clear during the audit and at subsequent Commission meetings, that it is the Commission's prerogative to hold meetings in communities outside of Phoenix. The Commission believes it is an important part of what they do. The Commission recognizes that the Department does all it can to limit the costs, but the fundamental issue is that the Commission decides whether it is appropriate or not to take meetings on the road. Commissioner Davis believes the Commission should continue to send a clear message that holding meetings around the state is an important part of what the Commission does, which is to reach out to communities, and that the value is worth the economic impact.

The Commission was in consensus.

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29. Update of Commission Awards

Presenter: Kent Komadina, Special Assistant to the Director

Mr. Komadina presented the Commission with a list of award categories for the 2017 Commission Awards to be presented at the January 2018 Commission Awards Banquet.

The Commission discussed and agreed that the Outdoor Writer of the Year and the Media of the year were both actually media awards and suggested they be combined.

The Commission was in consensus to approve the following categories as modified:

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE: Any individual, group, organization, club, foundation, or agency that has excelled in efforts to benefit wildlife, wildlife habitats, or programs of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

YOUTH ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR: Any individual, 18 years of age or younger, who has excelled in efforts to benefit wildlife and the mission of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

OUTDOOR WRITER OF THE YEAR: Any professional or freelance writer who has excelled in highlighting issues or activities pertaining to the welfare of wildlife and the mission of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

MEDIA OF THE YEAR: Any media source (radio, television, magazine, newsletter, or periodical) or any professional or freelance writer that has published articles or materials beneficial to public interest about wildlife or wildlife related topics and the mission of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR: Any organization, group, foundation, or agency that has excelled in efforts to enhance the welfare of wildlife, wildlife related recreation, and the mission of the Game and Fish Department.

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR: Any individual, not associated with a professional agency, which has excelled in efforts to enhance, conserve, and manage wildlife or their habitats.

NATURAL RESOURCE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR: Any individual who through a professional agency affiliation has excelled in efforts to enhance, conserve, and manage wildlife or their habitats.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: Any individual who, as a *registered volunteer* with the Department, has excelled in efforts to support and benefit the mission of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR: Any individual whose educational activities have advanced and supported the welfare of wildlife, wildlife related recreation, or the mission of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

MENTOR OF THE YEAR: Any individual who has acted in the role of a mentor and whose efforts have resulted in the promotion and support of future wildlife conservation efforts and the development of future wildlife conservation leaders in Arizona.

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR - STATE: Any individual that has engaged in political advocacy for the betterment of wildlife conservation and in the support of the mission of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR - FEDERAL: Any individual that has engaged in political advocacy for the betterment of wildlife conservation and in the support of the mission of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR: Any business partner who actively promotes Game and Fish through innovative approaches, community involvement and a customer service focus that benefits the citizens of Arizona and supports the Game and Fish's mission of wildlife conservation.

BUCK APPLEBY HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD: Any hunter education instructor who actively participates in hunter education activities and demonstrates the highest level of customer service, dedication and professionalism during these activities.

WILDLIFE HABITAT STEWARD OF THE YEAR: Nominations solicited by SSDV (Troy Christensen) and reviewed and ranked by LLSRC for Commission consideration.

GAME AND FISH NORTH AMERICAN MODEL OF THE YEAR: Selected by the Commission from a list of Department employee award recipients.

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD: At the sole discretion of the Commission Chair. (Nominations not taken).

* * * * *

30. Election of Commission Chair and Vice-Chair for July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 and Election of Positions and Appointments to Standing Committees.

Presenter: Kent Komadina, Special Assistant to the Director

Motion: Davis moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER JIM AMMONS AS THE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN FOR THE TERM OF JULY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018 AND COMMISSIONER JIM ZIELER AS COMMISSION VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE SAME TERM.

Vote: Unanimous

The Commission discussed and agreed to the following changes to the Commission Committees:

- Heritage and Habitat Committee (Combined HPAC and HPC)
 - Commissioner Ammons, Chair
 - Commissioner Sparks, Vice Chair
- Public Affairs and Marketing Committee (Name changed from Legislative Committee)
 - Commissioner Davis, Chair
 - Commissioner Ammons, Vice Chair
- Budget and Commission Priorities Committee

- Commissioner Zieler, Chair
- Commissioner Davis, Vice Chair
- Constituency and Landowner Partnerships Committee (Combined LLSRC/SCG)
 - Commissioner Ammons, Chair
 - Commissioner Sparks, Vice Chair
- Hunt Orders, Guidelines, and Rules Committee
 - Commissioner Zieler, Chair
 - Commissioner Madden, Vice Chair.

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31. Proposed Dates and Locations of Arizona Game and Fish Commission Meetings for 2018 and January 2019

Presenter: Kent Komadina, Special Assistant to the Director

Mr. Komadina provided the Commission with proposed meeting dates and locations for the Year 2017 and for January 2018. The dates for the January 2018 Commission meeting and Commission Awards Banquet (January 12-13, 2018) were set at the June 2016 Commission meeting. The dates and locations for the remainder of calendar year 2018 and January 2019 were proposed as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 12-13, 2018	Phoenix
February 16-17	Region IV
March 9-10	Region V
April 6-7	Phoenix (hunt orders)
May 4	Region III
May 5	Workshop
June 8-9	Region VI (hunt orders)
August 3-4	Region II (hunt orders)
September 21-22	Region I
November 2-3	Workshop
December 7-8	Phoenix (hunt orders)
January 11-12, 2019	Phoenix

Motion: Sparks moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT THE SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

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33. Litigation Report

There were no comments or questions regarding the Litigation Report.

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34. Approval of Minutes and Signing of Minutes

Motion: Davis moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MAY 5, 2017 AND MAY 15, 2017.

Vote: Unanimous

The Commission signed the minutes following approval.

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35. Commissioner Committee Reports

Commissioner Davis briefed the Commission on a two-day meeting and retreat he had with the marketing group. Commissioner Madden was there as well. Recommendations came out of the meeting that will be vetted by the Department and then brought before the Commission.

Chairman Madden briefed the Commission on activities regarding rulemaking and the fair chase issue. The report was just approved by GRRC. The Department is currently drafting a letter request formal rulemaking.

Commissioner Ammons reminded everyone about the joint HPC and Landowner meeting in Prescott on July 25.

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36. Director and Commissioner Comments

Chairman Madden commented that this was his last meeting as Chairman and he has really enjoyed his time on the Commission.

Commissioner Zieler commented on Director Voyles' retirement. He has never been involved with an agency that is run as well and this Department and that speaks to Director Voyles' leadership.

Director Voyles expressed his appreciation for this Commission. This Commission has provided the latitude, support and sophisticated guidance that he doesn't think any other state Director has had. The vision he brought and that of the Commission and others in the Department has come together to make this Department the leading agency in the country. He is very proud of this Department.

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17. Executive Session (continued)

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: Davis moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Vote: Unanimous

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21. Future Agenda Items and Action Items

This item was not discussed.

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

Vote: Unanimous

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Meeting recessed for the day at 5:30 p.m.

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Meeting re-adjoined Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

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Chairman Madden called the meeting back to order at 8:00 a.m. and lead those present through the Pledge of Allegiance. The Commission and Director Voyles introduced themselves and Director Voyles introduced his staff.

Commissioning of Officers Ceremony

The following Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers were sworn in by Director Voyles:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| • Travis Clarkson | • Corbett Landes |
| • Jered Ellingson | • Yoseline Robledo |
| • William Hull | • Stuart Whitmore |
| • AJ Lander | • Sam Williams |

* * * * *

1. Executive Session. Conducting Interviews for Hiring a New Game and Fish Department Director.

The Commission voted to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1) for the purpose of conducting interviews with qualified applicants for the position of Director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Motion: Ammons moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Vote: Unanimous

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2. Conducting Interviews for Hiring a New Game and Fish Department Director. Upon a candidate's request and pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1), the Commission may conduct interviews of qualified candidates in the public session for the position of Director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

There were no requests by candidates to be interviewed in the public session.

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3. Selection of Final Candidates, Second Interviews and Selection of a New Arizona Game and Fish Director. The Commission may select final candidates for director and decide to conduct second interviews. If the Commission decides not to conduct second interviews, the Commission may vote to appoint a new Arizona Game and Fish Director.

The Commission did not conduct second interviews at this time or appoint a new Arizona Game and Fish Director.

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Meeting recessed for the day at 5:30 p.m.

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Meeting re-adjoined Sunday at 8:00 a.m.

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1. Executive Session. Conducting Second Interviews for Hiring a New Game and Fish Department Director.

The Commission voted to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1) for the purpose of conducting second interviews with final candidates selected from the first round of interviews for the position of Director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Motion: Davis moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Vote: Unanimous

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2. Conducting Second Interviews for Hiring a New Game and Fish Department Director. Upon a candidate's request and pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1), the Commission may conduct second interviews of final candidates selected from the first round of interviews in the public session for the position of Director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

There were no requests by candidates to be interviewed in the public session.

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3. Selection of a New Arizona Game and Fish Director.

The Commissioners commented on all the interview candidates and stated that they interviewed very well and were all highly qualified.

Commissioner Zieler commented that the PowerPoint presentations of each candidate were very good and requested that copies be sent to Kent Komadina.

Motion: Ammons moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPOINT TY GRAY AS THE NEW ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DIRECTOR.

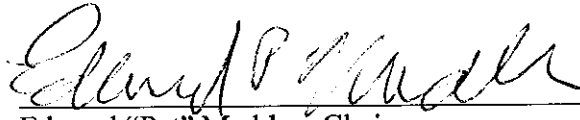
Vote: Unanimous

Chairman Madden adjourned this meeting.

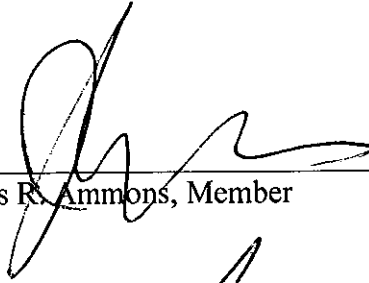
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Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

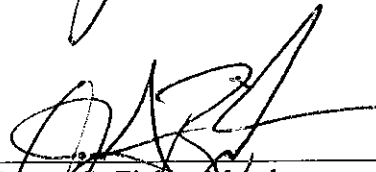
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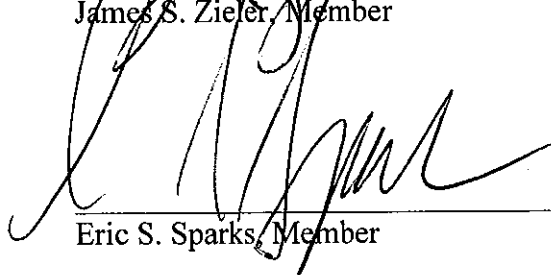
Edward "Pat" Madden, Chairman



James R. Ammons, Member



James S. Zieler, Member



Eric S. Sparks, Member

Kurt R. Davis, Member

ATTEST:



Larry D. Voyles
Secretary and Director

**Game and Fish Litigation Report
Presented at the Commission Meeting
June 9, 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.

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 (No developments have occurred in the *State v. Guynn* case, as Guynn is allegedly deployed overseas with the Department of Defense). **So far, the two arbitrators appointed by the superior court to hear the case have recused themselves. The parties will now ask the superior court to appoint yet another arbitrator.**

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.**

6. ***Dennis G. Scarla v. Arizona Game and Fish Commission***, Maricopa County Superior Court LC2017-000019-001 (filed Jan. 23, 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. The Department received notice of the appeal on March 10, 2017, and Mr. LeSueur entered a notice of appearance on behalf of the Department and Commission on March 26, 2017.

Commission Priorities Report

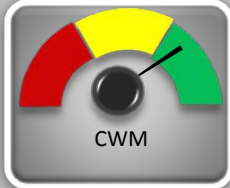
June 9, 2017



FY17 Target of 200,000 acres secured for access: On track. 3 new agreements this month; Target of 5,000 Volunteer hours: ~4,100 hours coordinated; Target 3 outreach efforts on Access Program targeting sportsmen: 6 for year.



Over 2,500 ISW accounts purchased. Over 2,500 PointGuard Purchases so far on Fall Draw. 107,000+ Portal memberships activated. Sportsmans Re-Write underway. This will result in a Customer Database that will support ongoing Marketing efforts.



Mock-up versions of the Z-screen and the hunt recommendation template have been created. A new programmer has been hired and is currently developing the code to provide functionality to the mock-up versions and interlink them for future draws



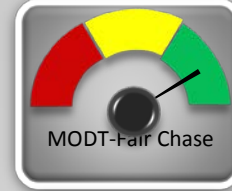
Collecting facility inventory/assessment data for input into database; Const. projects on track for completion by June 30th including Raymond residence, 3 Points Range Building, Sierra Vista Range restroom, BASF Shop Building and the SSDV Ops Building, BASF Main Range septic, Tucson RO restroom renovations.



724,983 lbs. of fish were stocked in 127 locations. Roughly 55,000 fish in June are part of the promotion to stock 250,000 more fish which will run through July.



EEC recommendation presentations to E Staff complete. Projects approved for transform and improve begin July 1. Three topics approved to "Stop Doing". From the EIL: 38 other ideas are complete, 27 exhibit significant progress, 14 exhibit slow progress but expect to be accomplished and 1 has shown no progress. Staff still attending AMS training.



MOFT: New ALERT (Advanced Law Enforcement Response Team) LEM approved. Team deployed to serve warrants on multistate reptile trafficking case. FAIR CHASE: Darren Tucker discussed new technologies, changes to Article III and the FC Committee with a Kingman newspaper writer.



Successful Fishing License sales campaign over 5/5 weekend saw 243% increase over '16; Ads for boating safety, OHV safety and "Operation Dry Water" produced and running on Arizona media; Department Facebook page tops 72,500 followers.



FY17, license sales trending up 10% YTD. 763 attended SCTP Commissioners' Cup. FY17 Revenue for BASF through March is \$2.4+ million; YTD shooter days are 41,277. No live cam on perigrines led to digital decline in engagement numbers.



TARGET: 500,000 acres restored- 816,510 completed; TARGET: \$1 million in funding secured- met RCPP-getting \$2 million from partners; Target: 6 aquatic restoration projects- 2 complete 4 on track. TARGET: Engage in 2 federal planning activities per quarter: on track; TARGET: 20 catchments- 24 complete.



DE FACTO WILDERNESS: Working with FS. CHERRY CREEK RD: Admin. fix in process. TMR CONSISTENCY: Working with F.S. MONUMENTS: Preparing response to DOI. CORMORANTS: Working with FWS re permits. BURROS: Data gathering in process.