

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Friday, June 8, 2018
Mazatzal Hotel (Fireside Room)
Highway 87, Mile Marker 251
Payson, Arizona 85541

PRESENT: (Commission)

(Director and Staff)

Chairman James R. Ammons
Commission James S. Zieler
Commissioner Eric S. Sparks
Commissioner Kurt R. Davis
Commissioner Leland S. "Bill" Brake

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

Chairman Ammons called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and led those present through the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of Memorial Day and the service members who have died for our country and for the victims of the Santa Fe, Texas shooting.

The Commission introduced themselves followed by introductions of the Director and the Director's staff. This meeting followed an agenda revision #1 dated June 6, 2018.

Awards and Recognition

Chairman Ammons presented a Commission Certificate of Appreciation to Kriselle Colvin, Wildlife Manager for her superior performance in all aspects of her daily work including building community relationships, training and commitment to wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Chairman Ammons presented a Commission Commendation of Achievement to Teri Cline for her partnership, stewardship and unwavering commitment to conservation and community.

Mike Ingram with the Shikar Safari Club International Foundation, presented Wildlife Manager James Chandler with the 2017 Shikar Safari Wildlife Officer of the Year Award. Each year this award is presented to conservation officers in all 50 states. The award recognizes officers for their outstanding performance and dedication to protecting and preserving wildlife.

Commissioning of Officers Ceremony

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

- Edward Cini
- Kevin Crouch
- Brian Dietz
- Justin Espino
- Nathan Fyffe
- Jonathan Hicks

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1. Call to the Public

Mayor Craig Swartwood welcomed the Commission to Payson, AZ.

James Goughnour expressed his appreciation for the Department Staff and Wildlife Managers.

Jim Strogon expressed his appreciation for the Department and its programs.

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2. Consent Agenda

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

a. Intergovernmental Agreement with Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department

Presenter: Pat Barber, Community Engagement Administrator

The Commission was presented a draft Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Department and the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department. The agreement is intended to be an over-arching agreement between the two agencies that will facilitate cooperative management of wildlife, habitat, and outdoor recreation within the County park system consistent with the mission of both agencies. Any future project that requires a transfer of funding between the two agencies would require a separate project specific agreement. The IGA is valid for five years with an option to renew the agreement for two additional five year periods if both agencies agree in writing. It also includes a clause that allows either agency to terminate the agreement after a 30 day written notice.

The Department recommends THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT AS PRESENTED.

b. Approve Amendment to Externship Agreement with Midwestern University

Presenter: Josh Avey, Terrestrial Wildlife Branch Chief

Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine (MUCVM) provides academic and clinical training to students wishing to obtain a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. As part of their education, MUCVM requires students to participate in clinical rotations in clinics located at the MUCVM and at other locations around Arizona and outside the state. Students may elect to spend time in specialty clinics or institutions in order to broaden their education or provide experience in an area of special interest. In 2017, the Department entered into a one year trial agreement to provide two-week educational opportunities for five students to intern as volunteers with the Department’s Wildlife Health Program in the Terrestrial Wildlife Branch. The trial program was considered successful by the Department and MUCVM and both parties are seeking to amend the agreement and extend the term for an additional five (5) years. While the Department does not pay these volunteer interns, Department resources such as personnel time for training and education and equipment are utilized. In return, the Department receives enthusiastic support from individuals trained in necropsy, disease investigation, and animal care.

The Wildlife Health Program and interns provide documentation of the voluntary contribution to the volunteer program coordinator.

The Department recommends THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO EXTERNSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ARIZONA GAME AND FISH COMMISSION AND MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY, EXTENDING THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT FOR FIVE (5) YEARS, AND TO AUTHORAUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR, AS SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION, TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT AS PRESENTED.

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

Vote: Unanimous

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3. Department Bison Management and Federal Agency Coordination on House Rock Wildlife Area, the Kaibab Plateau and Grand Canyon National Park

Presenter: Scott Poppenberger, Flagstaff Regional Supervisor

Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP) Superintendent Chris Lehnertz, addressed the Commission regarding the bison herd on the GCNP north rim and the shared bison management efforts. The Park will begin herd reduction efforts this autumn within the Park boundaries and welcomes further consultation and collaboration with the Department on the project.

Mr. Poppenberger provided a slide presentation outlining the chronological history of bison management activity on House Rock Wildlife Area (HRWA), the Kaibab Plateau and Grand Canyon National Park (GRCA) over the past 90 years. The presentation will explain how the Department first became involved with bison management on HRWA and the progression of bison management implementation that has contributed to the current condition of the HRWA bison herd residing year round on GRCA. The presentation included AGFD authority and associated federal MOUs that sanction bison management activity on Kaibab National Forest land. Also included was a chronology of Congressional involvement, communication and direction related to the GRCA bison population.

Commissioner Davis commented on the GCNP bison management and herd reduction plan. The Commission recently delivered a message to the Department of Interior in Washington DC that was very clear. The potential solution that has been put on the table for lethal removal of the bison completely violates the North American Model and is nothing more than an unethical slaughter of those bison. The Department has been a steady cooperator and has invested a lot of resources on this issue, including thousands of hours in Department staff time, knowledge, scientific background, and expertise in wildlife management. All of this was done in an effort to have success in meeting the objectives within the confines and respect of the North American Model.

Motion: Davis moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO WITHDRAW FROM THE OVERALL MANAGEMENT GROUP, AS IT DID PREVIOUSLY WITH THE WORKING SUB-GROUP, AND LEAVE IT TO THE DIRECTOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO HAVE CONVERSATIONS WITH THOSE AT THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE PARK LEVEL OR ABOVE; AND, CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSE OF AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE ON FEDERAL LANDS AND THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS) COMPLY WITH THE STATE'S PERMIT TO REMOVE BISON FROM THE GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE A STIPULATION IN ANY PERMIT ISSUED TO THE NPS THAT THE NPS PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH SPECIFIC AND SPECIFIED INFORMATION ON THE DISPOSITION OF ANY CAPTURED BISON FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THAT PERMIT.

Vote: Unanimous

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4. State and Federal Legislation

Presenter: Ed Sanchez, Legislative Liaison

The Commission was provided with a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on the current status of selected state and federal legislative matters. The presentation included an overview of action, or proposed changes to legislation or other elective issues related to Department responsibilities.

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5. Commission Priorities Update

Presenter: Kent Komadina, Special Assistant to the Director

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

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

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6. Federal Lands Planning Update

Presenter: Clayton Crowder, Branch Chief Habitat, Evaluation and Lands Branch

Mr. Crowder provided a PowerPoint presentation on Department activities and involvement with resource management planning and other major actions on federal lands in Arizona. The presentation included highlights from the Federal Lands Update (attached), which provides a summary of activities that occurred since the last Commission meeting.

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7. Approve the Expenditure of Unspent Balances in the Heritage Fund (excluding Acquisition), Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund, Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration, State Wildlife Grants, Coast Guard Grants, Program Income, Endangered Species Act (Section 6 Grants), Capital Improvement Fund, Indirect Cost Recovery Fund and Contracts for Fiscal Year 2019 and any remaining Capital appropriations.

Presenter: Tom Finley, Deputy Director

These requests will ensure that remaining unspent balances in the Heritage Fund, Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund, Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation 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 2019 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 the unspent Heritage Acquisition fund balance will be brought before the Commission for individual review and approval for actual funding authority.

Commissioner Davis stated that the budget committee supports the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Davis moved, Zieler 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 RECREATION 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 2019 AND ANY REMAINING CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS.

Vote: Unanimous

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8. Approve the amended Fiscal Year 2019 Game and Fish Fund Budget and the Fiscal Year 2020 Game and Fish Fund Budget Request.

Presenter: Tom Finley, Deputy Director

The Game and Fish Fund consists primarily of revenue generated from the sale of licenses and tags. The appropriation for Fiscal Year 2019 includes \$1,001,400 in the Capital Budget Request for building renewal. The appropriation is \$38,221,800 for Fiscal Year 2019 and the appropriation request is \$40,010,462 for Fiscal Year 2020.

FY 2019 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget \$2,163,971:

- \$1,677,926 PsEre Adjustments
- \$225,000 Paperless Savings (move to FY 2020)
- \$199,345 Vehicle O&M Costs
- \$50,000 U of A Coop Research
- \$11,700 IT Proportionate Allocation

FY 2019 Proposed One-Time Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget \$266,062:

- (\$1,474,338) Vehicle Replacements (LE)
- \$1,200,000 Marketing
- \$200,000 Wildlife Care and Education Center
- \$194,400 Building Renewal Increase
- \$146,000 Draw and Licensing

FY 2020 Proposed Base Increase of \$920,600:

- \$1,088,000 PsEre Adjustments
- (\$225,000) Paperless Savings
- \$57,600 Aircraft Base Budget Increase

FY 2020 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$1,200,000:

- \$1,200,000 Marketing

FY 2020 Proposed Capital Budget Increase of \$1,108,180:

- \$1,108,180 Building Renewal

Commissioner Davis stated that the budget committee supports the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Davis moved, Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 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 2020.

Vote: Unanimous

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9. Approve the amended Fiscal Year 2019 Watercraft Licensing Fund Budget and the Watercraft Licensing Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2020.

Presenter: Tom Finley, Deputy Director

Watercraft Licensing Fund revenues are generated from watercraft registration and boating infrastructure surcharge fees. The appropriation is \$4,810,700 for Fiscal Year 2019 and the appropriation request is \$4,907,582 for Fiscal Year 2020.

FY 2019 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget \$77,168:

- \$70,671 PsEre Adjustments
- \$4,497 Vehicle O&M costs
- \$2,000 Law Enforcement Training Travel Allocation

FY 2019 Proposed One-Time Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget \$1,000,000:

- \$1,000,000 SLI (JLBC requested Expense Plan for Approval)

FY 2020 Proposed Base Increase of \$2,614:

- \$2,614 Vehicle Replacement to WCF

Commissioner Davis stated that the budget committee supports the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Davis moved, Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 COMMISSION APPROVED WATERCRAFT LICENSING FUND BUDGET AND APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE WATERCRAFT LICENSING FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.

Vote: Unanimous

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10. Approve the Game, Nongame, Fish and Endangered Species Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2020.

Presenter: Tom Finley, Deputy Director

The Game, Nongame, Fish and Endangered Species Fund revenue is generated from the Arizona Income Tax Check-Off. The appropriation is \$345,800 for Fiscal Year 2019 and the appropriation request is \$345,800 for Fiscal Year 2020.

Commissioner Davis stated that the budget committee supports the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Davis moved, Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE GAME, NONGAME, FISH AND ENDANGERED SPECIES FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.

Vote: Unanimous

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11. Approve the Capital Improvement Fund and Conservation Development Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2020.

Presenter: Tom Finley, Deputy Director

The Capital Improvement Fund revenue is generated from fund transfers from the Conservation Development Fund. Revenues are received from surcharges on the sale of fishing, hunting, and combination hunting/fishing licenses. The appropriation is \$1,458,200 for Fiscal Year 2019 and the appropriation request is \$1,858,200 for Fiscal Year 2020. The additional Fiscal Year 2019 and Fiscal Year 2020 appropriation request represents specific use of the Capital Improvement Fund prior year unspent balances.

FY 2020 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$850,000:

- \$850,000 Dam, Hatchery, and Property Maintenance

Commissioner Davis stated that the budget committee supports the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Davis moved, Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND AND CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.

Vote: Unanimous

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12. Approve the Wildlife Endowment Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2020.

Presenter: Tom Finley, 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 2019 and the appropriation request is \$16,200 for Fiscal Year 2020.

Commissioner Davis stated that the budget committee supports the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Davis moved, Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE WILDLIFE ENDOWMENT FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.

Vote: Unanimous

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13. Approve the amended Fiscal Year 2019 Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund Budget and the Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2020.

Presenter: Tom Finley, Deputy Director

The Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund consists of revenues generated from motor vehicle fuel taxes and off-highway vehicle decal sales. Annual revenue projections are estimated to be \$1,829,270 for Fiscal Year 2019. The amended budget is \$1,956,727 for Fiscal Year 2019 and the proposed request is \$1,970,625 for Fiscal Year 2020. The additional Fiscal Year 2019 and Fiscal Year 2020 budget requests represent specific use of the Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund prior year unspent balances.

FY 2019 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget \$24,956:

- \$31,567 PsEre Adjustment
- (\$7,861) Vehicle O&M Costs
- \$1,250 Volunteer Management Software

FY 2019 Proposed One-Time Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget of \$46,518:

- \$46,518 OHV Replacement

FY 2020 Proposed Base Increases of \$70,558:

- \$57,500 Vehicle O&M Costs
- \$10,765 Vehicle replacement to WCF
- \$2,293 PsEre Adjustment

FY 2020 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$1,005:

- \$1,005 Level One Fingerprint Clearance Cards

Commissioner Davis stated that the budget committee supports the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Davis moved, Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 COMMISSION APPROVED OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE RECREATION FUND BUDGET AND APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE RECREATION FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.

Vote: Unanimous

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14. Approve the amended Fiscal Year 2019 Heritage Fund Budget and the Heritage Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2020.

Presenter: Tom Finley, Deputy Director

The Heritage Fund consists of revenues generated from Arizona lottery proceeds. The fund will provide up to \$10,000,000 for Fiscal Year 2020. The amended budget is \$9,795,227 for Fiscal Year 2019 and the proposed request is \$9,887,990 for Fiscal Year 2020. The additional Fiscal Year 2019 and Fiscal Year 2020 budget requests represent specific use of the Heritage Fund prior year unspent balances.

FY 2019 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget (\$304,141):

- (\$190,899) Reallocate Black Footed Ferret from Heritage to PR
- (\$115,859) Reallocate CA Condor from Heritage to PR
- \$2,617 PsEre Adjustments

FY 2019 Proposed One-Time Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget \$292,000:

- \$185,000 Reallocate Mexican Wolf from SWG to IIAPM
- \$80,000 WLA Grasslands Wiltbank Reservoir Headgate Repair
- (\$45,000) WLA Sipe Diversion Irrigation Piping
- \$45,000 WLA Grasslands Little Colorado River Spinedace Pond
- \$27,000 Becker Lake LCR Water Diversion Structure

FY 2020 Proposed Base Increase of \$115,823:

- \$114,539 Vehicle Replacement to WCF
- \$1,284 PsEre Adjustments

FY 2020 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$785,340:

- \$150,000 Mexican Wolf projects in Mexico
- \$136,000 WLA Horseshoe Ranch Roof Replacement

- \$128,000 WLA Whitewater Draw Moist Soil Units
- \$125,000 WLA Becker Lake Diversion Ditch Piping and Realignment
- \$100,000 WLA EC Bar Ranch Fence Repair
- \$90,000 WLA Grasslands Water System Extension & Improvement
- \$30,000 WLA Arlington Irrigation Improvements
- \$25,000 WLA Sipe Irrigated Fields Gated Pipe Installation (Phase 2)
- \$1,340 Level One Fingerprint Clearance Cards

Commissioner Davis stated that the budget committee supports the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Davis moved, Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 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 2020.

Vote: Unanimous

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15. Approve the amended Fiscal Year 2019 Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund Budget and the Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2020.

Presenter: Tom Finley, 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 \$6,711,290 for Fiscal Year 2019. The amended budget is \$10,959,555 for Fiscal Year 2019 and the proposed request is \$9,205,941 for Fiscal Year 2020. The additional Fiscal Year 2019 and Fiscal Year 2020 budget requests represent specific use of the Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund prior year unspent balances.

FY 2019 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget (\$858,022):

- (\$278,000) PSH AOO to DJ
- (\$244,002) LPR Habitat to PR
- \$102,704 Vehicle O&M Costs
- (\$90,000) IEWR Positions to PR
- (\$85,546) KOFA Bighorn Sheep to PR
- (\$75,000) Expo Funds

- (\$66,678) Archaeologist to PR
- (\$50,000) U of A Coop Funding to GF
- (\$49,500) Black Mountain Bighorn Sheep to PR
- (\$27,000) Birds & Mammals to PR
- \$5,000 Volunteer Management Software

FY 2019 Proposed One-Time Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget \$2,385,800:

- \$2,391,000 Fleet Replacement
- \$1,500,000 LCR Stream Renovation
- (\$1,500,000) Vehicle FY 19 Estimate
- (\$16,400) LE Vehicle Upfit
- \$11,200 GIS Enterprise License Agreement

FY 2020 Proposed Base Increase of \$150,185:

- \$122,715 Vehicle Replacement
- \$27,470 GIS Enterprise License Agreement

FY 2020 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$2,143,401:

- \$2,143,401 Fleet Purchases

Commissioner Davis stated that the budget committee supports the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Davis moved, Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 COMMISSION APPROVED ARIZONA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND BUDGET AND TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE ARIZONA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.

Vote: Unanimous

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16. Approve the amended Fiscal Year 2019 Indirect Cost Recovery Fund Budget and the Indirect Cost Recovery Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2020.

Presenter: Tom Finley, 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 Recreation Fund, Watercraft Licensing Fund and Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund. Monies are recovered by transferring a set percentage of personal services costs from the subject accounts. In Fiscal Year 2020, estimated recoveries are \$6,600,000. The amended budget is \$8,127,985 for Fiscal Year 2019 and the

proposed request is \$8,040,443 for Fiscal Year 2020. The additional Fiscal Year 2019 and Fiscal Year 2020 budget requests represent specific use of the Indirect Cost Recovery Fund prior year unspent balances.

FY 2019 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget \$366,815:

- \$240,000 IT Security
- \$126,815 PsEre Adjustments

FY 2020 Proposed Base Increase of \$2,458:

- \$2,458 Vehicle Replacement to WCF

Commissioner Davis stated that the budget committee supports the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Davis moved, Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 COMMISSION APPROVED INDIRECT COST RECOVERY FUND BUDGET AND TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE INDIRECT COST RECOVERY FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.

Vote: Unanimous

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17. Approve the amended Fiscal Year 2019 Federal Assistance Funds Budget Request and the Federal Assistance Funds Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2020.

Presenter: Tom Finley, Deputy Director

The Fiscal Year 2019 Pittman Robertson Wildlife Restoration amended budget is \$26,851,752. The Fiscal Year 2020 Pittman Robertson Wildlife Restoration proposed budget increased approximately \$500,000 for a total of \$27,294,460. The Fiscal Year 2019 Sport Fish Restoration amended budget is \$10,558,720. The Fiscal Year 2020 Dingell Johnson Sport Fish Restoration proposed budget decreased approximately \$700,000 for a total of \$9,845,139 (includes boating access). Pittman-Robertson (Federal Assistance in Wildlife Restoration): The federal apportionment for Fiscal Year 2019 is \$22.1 million; an increase from \$21.8 from Fiscal Year 2018. The apportionment for Fiscal Year 2020 is anticipated to be \$21.7 million.

FY 2019 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget \$1,234,766:

- \$370,252 Non-game Birds & Mammal Projects from SWG and Heritage
- \$244,002 LRP Habitat from WCF

FY 2019 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget \$1,234,766 continued:

- \$100,000 Contracted Water Hauling to Catchments
- \$90,000 IEWR Positions from WCF
- \$85,546 KOFA Bighorn Sheep from WCF
- \$66,678 Archaeologist from WCF
- \$49,500 Black Mountain Bighorn Sheep from WCF
- \$49,000 WW Program Manager from WCF
- \$47,050 PsERE Adjustment
- \$40,738 Vehicle O&M Costs
- \$40,000 Community Engagement
- \$27,000 Birds & Mammals from WCF
- \$25,000 Mt. Graham Red Squirrel

FY 2019 Proposed One-Time Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget \$1,673,613:

- \$950,000 Wildlife Care & Education Center
- \$200,000 Water Development
- \$160,000 (4 FTE) Regional LRP Pick-off from Heritage
- \$100,000 Hunt Regulation Booklet Simplification
- (\$128,387) Vehicle Replacements (3)
- \$70,000 WLA Planning & Performance Reporting Database
- \$50,000 Conserve & Protect - In Action
- \$50,000 Sonoran Pronghorn KOFA Technician
- \$50,000 Wild Harvest Initiative
- \$45,000 Non-game Birds & Mammal Projects from SWG and Heritage
- \$40,000 WLA Robbins Butte Replace 3 Buildings
- \$40,000 WLA Whitewater Draw Office/Bunkhouse
- \$25,000 WLA Sipe Rudd Creek Diversion Piping
- \$11,000 Animal Detection System
- \$11,000 Wildlife Management LOB Strategic Planning

FY 2020 Proposed Base Increase of \$872,138:

- \$400,000 Water Development
- \$119,000 AZ Conservation Strategy Data Mgr (WL LOB)
- \$100,000 Arizona Coordinated Bird Monitoring Program
- \$81,000 SPV Research on BFF Release Areas

FY 2020 Proposed Base Increase of \$872,138 continued:

- \$60,000 Identification of Raptor Migration Corridors
- \$57,600 Aircraft Base Budget Increase
- \$35,543 Vehicle Replacement to WCF
- \$15,000 Prairie Dog Translocation Contracts
- \$3,995 PsERE Adjustments

FY 2020 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$5,769,832:

- \$2,000,000 Aircraft Replacement
- \$710,000 WHEI/Landscape Level Habitat Enhancement Initiatives
- \$550,000 Statewide Outreach Campaign (includes Conserve & Protect in Action)
- \$400,000 WLA Robbins Butte Replace 3 Buildings & Habitat Enhancement
- \$275,000 WLA Becker Lake Diversion Ditch Piping & Realignment
- \$260,000 Wildlife Data Warehouse
- \$256,000 Elk Predation Research Project
- \$250,000 WLA Whitewater Draw Office/Bunkhouse
- \$119,000 WLA Sipe Maintain Road 57 & Rudd Creek Diversion Piping
- \$100,000 Comprehensive Wildlife Mgt (GDMS)
- \$89,000 WLA Grasslands North Pasture & Road Maintenance
- \$80,000 Gilbert Bridge Bat Habitat
- \$80,000 Deer & Pronghorn Seasonal Movement Identification
- \$65,000 Vehicle Replacement W3159 (1 ton)
- \$65,000 Pronghorn Habitat Connectivity South of I-40
- \$50,000 Wild Harvest Initiative
- \$50,000 WLA Chevelon Canyon Ranches Fence & Fuel Reduction
- \$50,000 WLA Horseshoe Ranch Buildings
- \$40,000 Cultural Resource Compliance Database
- \$39,832 Pinal Open Space Cost Share Position
- \$35,000 WLA House Rock 12 AE Habitat Modification Plan
- \$35,000 WLA Raymond - Burn
- \$30,000 Opportunity Awareness Promotion
- \$25,000 Animal Detection System
- \$25,000 Investigate the Decline of BTPD & Reintroduction
- \$20,000 Black-footed Ferret Data Loggers
- \$20,000 Mourning Dove Reward Banding Study
- \$20,000 Concho Lake Fuel Reduction & Habitat Restoration

FY 2020 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$5,769,832 continued:

- \$16,000 R4 1000 Gallon Water Hauling Trailer
- \$15,000 WLA Powers Butte Irrigation Repairs

FY 2019 Hunter Ed Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget \$81,740:

- \$60,000 AOO Increase
- \$17,500 Volunteer Management Software
- \$(1,634) AOO Adjustment to Match Apportionment
- \$5,874 Vehicle O&M Costs

FY 2020 Hunter Ed Proposed Base Increase of \$635:

- \$7,026 Vehicle Replacement to WCF
- (\$6,391) AOO Equal Apportionment- Section 10

FY 2020 Hunter Ed Proposed One-Time Increase of \$2,390,475:

- \$1,000,000 BASF Infrastructure Development:
- \$500,000 Statewide Shooting Range
- \$325,000 BASF Main Range
- \$325,000 BASF Clay Target Center
- \$150,000 Hunter Education Enhancements
- \$68,750 NWTF Partially Funded R3/3 Year/Temp Position
- \$21,725 Level One Fingerprint Clearance Cards

for Fiscal Year 2020 is anticipated Program Income: Ben Avery Shooting Range is supported with the Wildlife Restoration grant in 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 2019 and \$3.13 million for Fiscal Year 2020.

Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux (Federal Assistance in Sport Fish Restoration): The federal apportionment for Fiscal Year 2019 is \$7.2 million. The apportionment to be \$7.1 million.

FY 2019 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget \$522,851:

- \$278,000 Increase PSH AOO
- \$200,000 Community Fish from G&F
- \$43,883 Vehicle O&M Costs

FY 2019 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget \$522,851 continued:

- \$968 PsERE Adjustments

FY 2019 Proposed One-Time Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget \$139,027:

- \$125,000 Pavement Maintenance PSH, CCH & TCH
- (\$118,273) Vehicle Replacements (3)
- \$100,000 Hatchery Fencing (PSH & BPH)
- \$30,000 Fish Stocking
- \$2,300 Level One Fingerprint Clearance Cards

FY 2020 Proposed Base Increase of \$76,024

- \$50,000 FINS-Web Interface Software Development
- \$25,549 Vehicle Replacement to WCF
- \$475 PsERE Adjustment:

FY 2020 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$170,695:

- \$100,000 Warm & Cold Water Fish Acquisition & Stocking
- \$65,000 Replace (1 Ton) Fish Stocking Truck
- \$5,695 Level One Fingerprint Clearance Cards

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 2019 is \$1.26 million, and the projected federal allocation for Fiscal Year 2020 is estimated to be \$1.00 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 2020 will allow for continuation of projects to conserve wildlife.

FY 2019 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget (\$53,494):

- (\$63,494) Non-Game to PR
- \$10,000 Terrestrial WL Program

FY 2019 Proposed One-Time Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget (\$180,000):

- (\$135,000) Mexican Wolf to Heritage
- (\$45,000) Non-Game to PR

FY 2020 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$15,000:

- \$15,000 Terrestrial WL Program

Coast Guard Boating Safety: The federal allocation is \$1.5 million for Fiscal Year 2019 and \$1.5 million for Fiscal Year 2020. The budget request for Fiscal Year 2020 represents a continuation of the Fiscal Year 2019 budget. The additional Fiscal Year 2019 budget requests represent specific use of Coast Guard prior year unspent balances.

FY 2019 Proposed Base Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget \$59,597:

- \$40,000 PsERE Adjustments
- \$15,100 Vehicle O&M Costs
- \$4,497 Volunteer Management Software

FY 2019 Proposed One-Time Amendment to the Commission Approved FY 2019 Budget \$445,030:

- \$244,680 Replace (2) LE Patrol Boats
- \$200,000 Boat Storage & Docks
- \$350 Level One Fingerprint Clearance Cards

FY 2020 Proposed Base Increase of \$2,751:

- \$2,751 Vehicle Replacement to WCF

FY 2020 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$119,015:

- \$117,340 Replace (1) LE Patrol Boat
- \$1,675 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 2020 represents a continuation of the Fiscal Year 2019 budget. The projected allocation for Fiscal Year 2020 is anticipated to be \$211,570.

Contract Monies: The estimated budget for Fiscal Year 2020 represents a continuation of the Fiscal Year 2019 budget. Projected revenue for Fiscal Year 2020 is anticipated to remain stable at approximately \$6.5 million each year. These are generally contracts for wildlife inventory and research.

Commissioner Davis stated that the budget committee supports the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Davis moved, Brake seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 COMMISSION APPROVED BUDGET FOR WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION GRANTS, STATE WILDLIFE GRANT AND COAST GUARD BOATING SAFETY GRANT AND TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION GRANTS, PROGRAM INCOME, STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS, COAST GUARD BOATING SAFETY AND SECTION 6 ENDANGERED SPECIES GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.

Vote: Unanimous

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TIME CERTAIN AT 10:00 AM

18. Hearings on License Revocations for Violations 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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19. Rehearing Request Regarding Previous License Revocation/Civil Assessment.

Presenter: Gene F. Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Mr. Elms presented a rehearing request by Mr. Errol R. McNeil. Mr. McNeil was convicted in the Desert Ridge Justice Court for obtaining a 2013 duplicate hunting license by fraud. On February 16, 2018, the Commission revoked Mr. McNeil's hunting, fishing and trapping licenses for a period of five (5) years and further required him to complete a Hunter Education Course before obtaining any license(s) to take wildlife in the State of Arizona. Mr. McNeil has requested a rehearing of this matter and decision because he feels he was given excessive penalties and would like to provide the Commission with further information regarding his case. Mr. McNeil was notified of the hearing to consider his request by certified mail. The commission was provided with all documentation regarding to this case.

Mr. Errol R. McNeil provided an outline of today's discussion before the commission.

Public Comment:

Brandon McNeil addressed the Commission on behalf of his father request.

Motion: Sparks moved, Brake seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO MODIFY ITS ORIGINAL DECISION TO REVOKE MR. MCNEIL LICENSES TO HUNT, FISH, AND TRAP IN ARIZONA FOR TWO YEARS FROM THE INITIAL REVOCATION DATE.

Commissioner Davis asked if the two years started today or from the initial revocation. Mr. Jim Odenkirk, General Attorney stated it was up to the Commission to clarify for the record. Mr. McNeil did complete a hunter's education course in California that Arizona accepts.

Vote: Aye – Ammons, Zieler, Sparks, Brake
Nay – Davis
Passed 4-1

* * * * *

19A. Request by Dr. David Meyer, Requesting Extension of Season Dates into 2019 for Pronghorn Special Big Game License-Tag Seasons.

Presenter: Josh T. Avey, Terrestrial Wildlife Branch Chief

Mr. Avey presented a requested for hearing by Dr. David Meyer to extend the 2017-2018 pronghorn special big game license-tag season dates due to health issues. Dr. David Meyer purchased a pronghorn special big game license-tag at auction from the Arizona Antelope Foundation in 2017. The season dates on the permit Dr. Meyer purchased (August 15, 2017 through August 14, 2018) were approved by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission in Commission Order 29 at the June 11, 2016 meeting. Extending the season dates into 2019 would result in the validation of more than three Special Big Game License-Tags for pronghorn during a single year, contrary to statute. Dr. Meyer previously requested an extension of a mule deer Special Big Game License-Tag on February 20, 2008 and for a pronghorn and bison Special Big Game License-Tags on December 16, 2009; on both occasions, Mr. Meyer was informed of the statutory limitations of these seasons. In addition, the Commission has no ability to extend the length of Dr. Meyer's seasons.

Motion: Zieler moved, David seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DENY DR. DAVID MEYER'S REQUEST FOR A SEASON DATE EXTENSION OF ONE YEAR FOR HIS PRONGHORN SPECIAL BIG GAME LICENSE TAG.

Vote: Unanimous

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20. Memorandum of Understanding with Amigos del Centro Ecologico A.C.

Presenter: Jim deVos, Assistant Director, Wildlife Management Division

Mr. deVos presented a slide presentation to review a Memorandum of Understanding with Amigos del Centro Ecologico A.C. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish a framework for collaboration and cooperation between the Department and the Soluciones Ambientales Itzeni A.C. to conserve and enhance native wildlife and their habitats, primarily to benefit big game species and Wetlands in Mexico. Conservation and enhancement of wildlife populations and their habitats may be accomplished through the exchange of information, management of priority species, habitat conservation, educational programs, and other projects of mutual interest. This agreement will allow collaboration, cooperation, exchange

of expertise, labor, materials and funding to assist the Department in conservation and management of Arizona's wildlife and their habitats, including shared migratory birds.

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

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21. Memorandum of Understanding with Soluciones Ambientales Itzeni A.C.

Presenter: Jim deVos, Assistant Director, Wildlife Management Division

Mr. deVos presented using a slide presentation to review a Memorandum of Understanding with the Soluciones Ambientales Itzeni A.C. for the purpose of conservation and management of wildlife and related educational programs, primarily to benefit Mexican Wolf conservation. Conservation and enhancement of wildlife populations and their habitats may be accomplished through the exchange of information, management of priority species, habitat conservation, educational programs, and other projects of mutual interest. This agreement will allow collaboration, cooperation, exchange of expertise, labor, materials and funding to assist the Department in conservation and management of Arizona's wildlife and their habitats, including shared migratory birds.

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

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22. Item Removed (Renewal of Utility Permit Agreement with CenturyLink, Inc.)

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23. Renewal of Utility Permit Agreement with UNS Gas, Inc.

Presenter: Clay Crowder, Branch Chief Habitat, Evaluation and Lands Branch

Mr. Crowder presented using a slide presentation to approve renewal of a Utility Permit Agreement with UNS Gas, Inc. to use a portion of the Commission's land at the Pinetop regional office property for a right-of-way to construct, operate and maintain underground gas lines and services. The existing gas utility permit agreement is due to expire on September 10, 2018, and UNS Gas wishes to renew the permit, with the changes being contact information for both parties, for an additional ten years. The new agreement would expire on September 10, 2028.

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

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24. Renewal of Utility Permit Agreement with Citizens Telecommunications Company

Presenter: Clay Crowder, Branch Chief Habitat, Evaluation and Lands Branch

Mr. Crowder presented using a slide presentation to approve renewal of a Utility Permit Agreement with the Citizens Telecommunications Company of the White Mountains, Inc. to use a portion of the Commission's land at the Pinetop regional office property for a right-of-way to construct, operate and maintain underground telephone lines and services. The existing utility permit agreement is due to expire on August 26, 2018, and the Citizens Telecommunications Company wishes to renew the permit, with the changes being contact information for both parties, for an additional ten years. The new agreement would expire on August 26, 2028.

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

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25. Fish Health Service Agreement with the State of Nevada

Presenter: Chris Cantrell, Aquatic Wildlife Branch Chief

Mr. Cantrell briefed the Commission that the Nevada Department of Wildlife has requested to develop an agreement with the Department to provide fish health testing and analysis services to their hatcheries. This agreement would allow the Department to recover all expenses incurred, continue building strong relationships with our neighboring state and allow the Department to assist in the documentation of reportable and emergency disease pathogens in Nevada sportfish.

Motion: Davis moved, Brake second THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR, AS SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF NEVADA TO CONDUCT THE FISH HEALTH TESTING AND ANALYSIS, AS APPROVED OR AS RECOMMENDED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Vote: Unanimous

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30. Selection of New Members to the Heritage Public Advisory Committee (HPAC)

Presenter: Sherry Crouch, Funds & Planning Chief

Ms. Crouch presented the Commission with a list of candidates for the Heritage Public Advisory Committee (HPAC). The positions involve one representative from each Region; one statewide and one national representative. The terms for newly appointed members will be three years. The nominees information was provide to the Commission prior to this meeting for consideration. The Commission selected the following nominees:

- National: Nick Lund

- Statewide: Noah Stalvey
- Region I: Glenwood Bradley
- Region II: Les Butters
- Region III: Steve Sams
- Region IV: Julie Engel
- Region V: Claudia Campos
- Region VI: Vashti Supplee

Motion: Sparks moved, Brake seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE EIGHT NEW MEMBERS TO THE HERITAGE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE AS SELECTED.

Vote: Unanimous

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31. 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 2018 Commission Awards to be presented at the January 2019 Commission Awards Banquet. He modified the language to the *Youth Conservationists of the Year* award and recommended to only have one *Award of Excellence*.

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 CONSERVATIONIST 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) 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 that 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. Award category recently approved by the AZGFD Commission in honor of Buck Appleby, a long time hunter education instructor who passed away in 2010.

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

NORTH AMERICAN MODEL COMMISSIONERS AWARD: 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).

Motion: Davis moved, Sparks second THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ACCEPT THE AWARDS LIST AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

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32. Election of Commission Chair and Vice-Chair for July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 and Election of Positions and Appointments to Standing Committees.

Presenter: Kent Komadina, Special Assistant to the Director

Motion: Davis moved, Ammons second THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER JAMES ZIELER AS THE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN FOR THE TERM OF JULY 1, 2018 TO JUNE 30, 2019 AND COMMISSIONER ERIC SPARKS 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 (Both HPAC and HPC)
 - Commissioner Ammons, Chair
 - Commissioner Brake, Vice Chair
- Public Affairs and Marketing Committee (Name changed from Legislative Committee)
 - Commissioner Zieler, Chair
 - Commissioner Davis, Vice Chair
- Budget and Commission Priorities Committee
 - Commissioner Sparks, Chair
 - Commissioner Ammons, Vice Chair
- Constituency and Landowner Partnerships Committee (Combined LLSRC and SCG)
 - Commissioner Brake, Chair
 - Commissioner Sparks, Vice Chair
- Hunt Orders, Guidelines, and Rules Committee
 - Commissioner Davis, Chair
 - Commissioner Zieler, Vice Chair.

Motion: Zieler moved, Sparks second THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPOINT THE POSITIONS AND APPOINTMENTS TO STANDING COMMITTEES.

Vote: Unanimous

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33. 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 presented the following Commission meeting dates:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 11-12, 2019 (Selected June 2017)	Phoenix
February 8-9	Region IV
March 15-16	Region V
April 12-13	Phoenix (hunt orders)
May 10	Region III
May 11	Workshop
June 7-8	Region VI (hunt orders)
August 2-3	Region II (hunt orders)
September 20-21	Region I
November 1-2	Workshop
December 6-7	Phoenix (hunt orders)
January 17-18, 2020	Phoenix

Motion: Zieler moved, Davis second THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT THE SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED WITH THE EXEPTION OF THE JANUARY 2020 DATE TO BE DETERMINED AT A LATER TIME.

Vote: Unanimous

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36. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Zieler moved, Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 6-7, 2018 AND MAY 5, 2018.

Vote: Unanimous

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37. Commissioner Committee Reports

Budget Committee report was reported earlier during the budget items and the Hunt Committee will report after 2:00 p.m. Otherwise, the Commission has no committee reports.

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38. Director and Commissioner Comments

Chairman Ammons commented that he attended the Elk release that was held in West Virginia and it was a great experience.

Director Gray commented that he and Deputy Directory Finley, took Gilbert Davidson, Governors Chief of Operation on a field tour of the Tonto Creek Hatchery and the crossing project at highway 260. They ended the tour speaking to Jerrod McFarlin to discuss wildlife issues across Arizona.

Commissioner Brake commented that he got great enjoyment on a routine conference call with Ty that his new puppy peed on him.

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34. 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 Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Vote: Unanimous

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26. Amend Commission Order 26 Population Management Hunts and Approve Proposed Commission Order 29 for Special Big Game License-Tag Seasons for Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, Pronghorn, Elk, Turkey, Javelina, Bighorn Sheep, Bison, Black Bear, and Mountain Lion for the 2019–2020 Special License Tag Hunting Seasons.

Presenter: Josh T. Avey, Terrestrial Wildlife Branch Chief

Mr. Avey presented using a slide presentation briefing on Commission Order 26 Population Management Hunts and approve 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.

Commission Order 26: Population Management Hunts

The Department recommends amending Commission Order 26 to add the following hunts for 2018 and 2019 seasons. Region 1 is experiencing elk depredation issues again in the Snowflake Taylor area. Existing population management hunt structures only allow for archery and muzzleloader seasons, however, the Department believes that the objective of reducing agricultural conflicts in the area can best be accomplished with a limited, general season structure.

<u>Season Dates</u>	<u>Open Areas</u>	<u>Legal Wildlife</u>	<u>Permits</u>
Jun 10 - Dec 31, 2018	3B and 3C	Designated elk	15
Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2019	3B and 3C	Designated elk	15

Motion: Zieler moved, Sparks seconded, THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT COMMISSION ORDERS 26 AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 29 for Special Big Game License-Tag Seasons

A.R.S. 17-346 authorizes the Commission to set seasons for up to three (3) special license tags for each big game species.

The Department will present Commission Order 29 for the 2019–2020 special big game license tag hunting seasons for mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn, elk, turkey, javelina, bighorn sheep, bison, bear, and mountain lion.

The only recommended changes are for turkey, bighorn sheep, and bison. For turkey, the Department recommends to closing Unit 20A, as this unit is not open to the general draw hunter. For bighorn sheep, the Department recommends including Units 44A West as an open area and closing the Lower Blue River Hunt Area in Unit 27, as this area is not open to the general draw hunter. For bison, the Department recommends adding Units 5A and 5B (Raymond Herd) with the legal animal as “designated bison” and the stipulation that the hunters must contact the Raymond Wildlife Area manager to schedule their hunt at least two weeks prior to hunting.

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, 2019 and ending on August 14, 2020. 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: Special license tags will be valid for Units 1–10 (except Camp Navajo in Unit 6B), 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, 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, 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.

Bison: Special license tags will be valid for Units 12A (excluding House Rock Wildlife Area), 12B, and 13A (House Rock Herd) and Units 5A and 5B (Raymond Herd).

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, and Camp Navajo).

Motion: Zieler moved, Sparks seconded, THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT COMMISSION ORDERS 29 AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

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27. Authorize Issuance of Special Big Game Hunt License Tags to Organizations for Pronghorn, Bighorn Sheep, Black Bear, Buffalo, Elk, Javelina, Mountain Lion, Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, and Turkey for 2019–2020.

Presenter: Josh T. Avey, Terrestrial Wildlife Branch Chief

Mr. Avey presented using a slide presentation briefing the Commission on applications from organizations for 2019–2020 Special Big Game License Tags as per R12-4-120. The Department received 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)

The Arizona Antelope Foundation requests two (2) Pronghorn Special License-Tags for auction and one (1) Pronghorn Special License-Tag for raffle. In lieu of their own request for a raffle tag, the AAF supports the issuance of a Special Pronghorn 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 February 7 – 9, 2019. The Arizona Antelope Foundation would also like to request to be considered as recipient of any leftover tags.

Arizona Big Game Super Raffle (AZBGSR)

The Arizona Big Game Super Raffle requests one tag for each of Arizona's ten big game species. The request is for: one (1) Pronghorn, one (1) Desert Bighorn Sheep, one (1) Black Bear, one (1) Buffalo, one (1) Coues White-tailed Deer, 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 through the 2019 Arizona Big Game Super Raffle.

Arizona Bowhunters Association (ABA)

The Arizona Bowhunters Association requests one (1) Javelina Special License-Tag, one (1) Black Bear Special License-Tag and one (1) Bison Special License-Tag. All tags will be auctioned at the 2019 ABA Annual Awards Banquet/2019 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)

The Arizona Deer Association requests one (1) Mule Deer Special License-Tag and one (1) White-tailed Special Deer License-Tag, all to be auctioned at the 2019 ADA Annual Fundraiser or other ADA sponsored event. The ADA 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 two deer tags would not be given to the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle directly, the ADA request that they be awarded the mule deer and white-tailed deer tags to be raffled through the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle or to be auctioned at the ADA's 2019 fundraiser or another ADA sponsored event. The ADA supports issuing one (1) Mule Deer Special License-Tag to the Mule Deer Foundation. 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)

The Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society requests two (2) Bighorn Sheep Special License-Tags and (1) Mountain Lion Special License-Tag for 2019-2020 as follows:

- One (1) Bighorn Sheep Special License-Tag for a *Mexicana* desert bighorn sheep in the southern units, with the auction occurring at either the Wild Sheep Foundation 2019 Convention during February 7 – 9, 2019 or the ADBSS Fundraiser on March 9, 2019, in Scottsdale
- One (1) Bighorn Sheep Special License-Tag for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in the eastern and central units, to be auctioned by ADBSS at the ADBSS Fundraising Banquet on March 9, 2019 or by the Wild Sheep Foundation at its 2019 Convention.
- One (1) Mountain Lion Special License-Tag, which they will either auction or raffle at their March 9, 2019 fundraiser.

Additionally, ADBSS supports the issuance of the third Bighorn Sheep Special License-Tag for the *Nelsoni* subspecies to the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle Committee. 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 awarded the tag to be raffled through the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle or to be auctioned at their fundraiser on March 9, 2019. The ADBSS is willing to auction any other special big game license-tags the Commission would like to issue at their fundraiser banquet on March 9, 2019 if there is an opportunity.

Arizona Elk Society (AES)

The Arizona Elk Society requests one (1) Elk Special License-Tag and one (1) Bison Special License-Tag, both to be auctioned at the Arizona Elk Society's annual fundraising banquet in April 2019. The AES supports awarding one of the Elk Special License-Tag to the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle.

Arizona Mule Deer Organization (AMDO)

The Arizona Mule Deer Organization requests one (1) Mule Deer Special License-Tag, one (1) Black Bear Special License-Tag, and one (1) Bison Special License-Tag. All tags will be sold by auction at their fundraising banquet(s) during May through July, 2019. The AMDO also requests any tags that the Commission would care to award them, to be auctioned at next year's banquet(s).

Mule Deer Foundation (MDF)

The Mule Deer Foundation requests one (1) Mule Deer Special License-Tag and one (1) White-tailed Deer Special License-Tag. Both tags will be auctioned at the MDF's National Convention in Salt Lake City, UT during February 14 - 17, 2019 in conjunction with the Western Hunting and Conservation Expo.

National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF)

The National Wild Turkey Federation requests two (2) Turkey Special 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 in Utah. NWTF also requests that one (1) Turkey Special License-Tag be awarded to the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle.

Pheasants Forever, Inc. (PFI)

Pheasants Forever, Inc., and its subsidiaries Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, request two (2) Javelina Special License-Tags and one (1) Turkey Special License-Tag. The javelina tags would be auctioned or raffled by Quail Forever chapters in Idaho, Colorado, or South Dakota. The turkey tag would be auctioned or raffled by Quail Forever at their national convention, Pheasant Fest, during February 22-24, 2019.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF)

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation requests one (1) Elk Special License-Tag, to be auctioned during their special Hunter's Rendezvous event to be held in Tucson, Arizona, Saturday, January 26, 2019.

Safari Club International – Arizona Chapter (SCI-AZ)

Safari Club International, Arizona Chapter requests one (1) White-tailed Deer Special License-Tag, one (1) Special License-Tag, one (1) Mountain Lion Special License-Tag, and one (1) Mule Deer Special License-Tag, and one (1) Javelina Special License-Tag. All tags will be sold by auction.

Wild Sheep Foundation – Midwest Chapter (WSF-MWC)

The Wild Sheep Foundation – Midwest Chapter requests one of the following tags: one (1) Elk Special License-Tag, one (1) Pronghorn Special License-Tag, or one (1) White-tailed Deer Special License-Tag. Tags will be sold at live auction at the annual fundraising banquet. WSF-MWC would also be open to looking at any other tags that may be available as well.

Public Comment

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

- Don Byers, Arizona Elk Society (*signed in but was not present when called on*)
- Bill Keebler, Arizona Antelope Foundation
- Terry Herndon, Mule Deer Foundation
- John Koleszar, Arizona Deer Association and Arizona Big Game Super Raffle
- Miles Moretti, President, Mule Deer Foundation
- Andy St. John, Arizona Desert Big Horn Sheep Society
- Al Eiden, West Region Director, Quail Forever
- Rich Williams, Arizona Elk Society and National Wild Turkey Federation

Motion: Zieler moved, Sparks second THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD THE TAGS THAT ARE LISTED UNDER THE BIGHORN SHEEP, TURKEY, AND MOUNTAIN LION AS REQUESTED ON THE LIST. (see following final chart)

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Zieler moved, Sparks second THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD THE BIG GAME SUPER RAFFLE AS PRESENTED. (see following final chart)

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Zieler moved, Sparks second THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD THE TAGS OF THE PRONGHORN TO AAF AS REQUESTED. (see following final chart)

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Zieler moved, Sparks second THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD ONE BLACK BEAR TAG TO ABA AND ONE TO SCI-ARIZONA.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Zieler moved, Sparks second THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD ONE WHITE-TAILED DEER TAG TO ADA AND ONE TO MDF.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Zieler moved, Sparks second THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD ONE ELK TAG TO AES AND ONE TAG TO AMDO.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Zieler moved, Sparks second THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD ONE MULE DEER TAG TO ADA AND ONE TAG TO MDF.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Zieler moved, Sparks second THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD ONE JAVELINA TAG TO ABA AND ONE TAG TO SCI-ARIZONA.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Zieler moved, Sparks second THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD ONE BISON TAG TO ABA AND ONE TAG TO AES.

Vote: Unanimous

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

	Pronghorn	Black Bear	Bighorn Sheep	Bison	Elk	Javelina	Mule Deer	Turkey	White-tailed 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					
AMDO					1 Auction					
MDF							1 Auction		1 Auction	

NWTF								1 Auction 1 Raffle		
PFI								4		
RMEF										
SCI-AZ		1 Auction				1 Auction				1 Auction
WSF- MWC										

* * * * *

28. Article 3. Taking and Handling Wildlife: Options for Addressing the Use of Trail Cameras.

Presenter: Jay Cook, FOR6 Regional Supervisor

Mr. Cook presented using a slide presentation to the Commission who asked to be provide options for regulating the use of trail cameras and proposed amendments to rules within Article 3. These options are being presented in response to Commission direction provided at the May meeting to explore new alternatives regarding the use of trail cameras as they relate to fair chase. The complete Article 3 package was presented to the May 4th Commission meeting.

Public Comment

The following members of the public addressed the Commission in opposition to proposed restrictions to trail cameras:

- Gino Wullkotte
- Tory Brolk
- Andy St. John
- Joe Sheehey
- Dorothy Dolan
- Brian Han
- Brian Dolan
- Shane Rhoten
- Russ Jacoby
- Laura Jacoby
- Tom Wagner
- Gil Chambers
- Robert Hoffman
- Gary Drake
- Brian Fisher
- Will Randolph

Public Comment

The following members of the public addressed the Commission in support of Department recommendation on trail cameras:

- Bruce Johnson
- Representative Regina Cobb (*Not present but submitted an email to the Commission*)

Motion: Davis moved, Brake second THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE NOTICE OF FINAL RULEMAKING AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

AMENDING RULES WITHIN ARTICLE 3, ADDRESSING TAKING AND HANDLING OF WILDLIFE.

Sparks commented that he was not present to the last vote that was taken 2 to 2. He did some research and called the following major hunting organization to view their position on this issue:

- *Safari Club International, Tucson* - The organization does not see trail cameras either in live action or the chip cameras have any impact on fair chase, they support cameras.
- *Wild Turkey Federation, South Carolina* – The organization does not think cameras have an impact on fair chase and most of their members have both cameras who use them in the woods in South Carolina and Georgia.
- *Elk Foundation, Montana* – The organization believes that the live action camera is the only one that would have an impact; the chip camera is not a fair chase issue.
- *Boone and Crockett* – The organization believes the only possible influence on fair chase is the live action cameras, they do not oppose to the chip camera which most of their members use them.
- *Pope and Young* – The organization believes using a game camera does not give unfair advantage.

Commissioner Sparks final comment that he has some friends who have disabled children who use trail camera on water and he will vote no on this item.

Commissioner Brake commented to the abundance of emails that he had received and responded to. He will be voting yes to the recommendation which addresses his concerns to non-hunters.

Commissioner Davis commented that he doesn't see a benefit going forward with the current motion so he will withdraw his motion.

Commissioner Brake withdrew his second.

Amended Motion: Ammons moved, Davis second THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE NOTICE OF FINAL RULEMAKING AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT AMENDING RULES WITHIN ARTICLE 3, ADDRESSING TAKING AND HANDLING OF WILDLIFE AS PRESENTED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NO RESTRICTIONS ON PASSIVE TRAIL CAMERAS.

Vote: Unanimous

* * * * *

29. Dedicated Funding for Outreach and Education

Presenter: Anthony Guiles, Assistant Director, IERD

The Department recommends the establishment of an advisory committee consisting of 7 members chaired by the Commission's Legislative/ Public Affairs sub-committee to develop recommendations for a consistent, long-term discretionary funding strategy for outreach and education. The committee would consist of 5 representatives (1 chosen by each Commissioner)

plus 2 additional At-Large representatives (selected by the Commission). Final committee recommendations will be presented at the August 3, 2018 Commission meeting.

Public Comment

The following members of the public addressed the Commission in support of the Department Recommendation:

- Jim Unmacht
- Dustin Hoeflinger
- Pete Cimellaro
- Andrew Gillett
- Bruce Johnson

Motion: Davis moved and Sparks seconded that THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT THE COMMITTEE CHAIR RECOMMENDATIONS BE PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION AT THE SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2018 COMMISSION MEETING AND THAT THE EVALUATION OF RAISING LICENSE FEES WILL NOT BE PART OF COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS.

Vote: Unanimous

* * * * *

35. Litigation Report

This were no comments or question to the report.

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39. Future Agenda Items and Action Items

This item was not discussed.

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Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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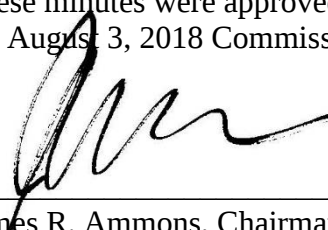
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Saturday, June 9, 2018

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Field Trip: At 8:00 a.m., members of the Commission and Department staff traveled from the Mazatzal Hotel to the Gillette Ranch for a visit and tour of the property. Gillette Ranch is accessed by 12 miles of gravel and paved roads from Hwy 260. From Hwy 260 near mile marker 277 take Colcord Road (FR 291) four miles to FR 200, the first couple miles of Colcord Rd are paved. Take FR 200 (aka Chamberlain Trail) approximately 8 miles. No legal action was taken by the Commission during the field trip.

These minutes were approved by the Commission at the August 3, 2018 Commission meeting.

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

James R. Ammons, Chairman

**Game and Fish Litigation Report
Presented at the Commission Meeting
June 8, 2018**

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 the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS") for violations of the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"). Arizona alleged in the lawsuit that the FWS 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 sought 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. The parties reached a tentative settlement that the Commission approved on February 5, 2016.

On October 18, 2016, the court issued an order approving the settlement agreement and ordering the parties to comply with the settlement. The settlement required 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 November 29, 2017, the FWS completed the final recovery plan. On the same date the recovery plan was released, a number of environmental organizations submitted a 60-day notice of intent to sue, alleging the recovery plan violates the ESA. On January 30, 2018, the same environmental groups filed suit against the FWS. On March 9, 2018, the Commission voted to pursue intervention on behalf of the FWS. The plaintiffs have filed motions to consolidate these cases with the cases challenging the revised Mexican wolf experimental population rule.

On May 16, 2018, the federal defendants filed a motion to dismiss on the basis the lawsuit is not authorized under the citizen suit provision in ESA and is unreviewable under the APA.

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 (WEG) and others filed its lawsuit on July 2, 2015, alleging violations of ESA and NEPA. WEG contends 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 December 2, 2015, the court granted Arizona's motion to intervene and ordered the filing of Arizona's motion to dismiss.

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 court heard oral argument on April 26, 2017.

On March 30, 2018, the Court entered an order remanding the 2015 10(j) rule to the FWS to address deficiencies identified in the order. The Court required the parties to propose a deadline by April 30, 2018, for publication of a revised 10(j) rule. **The Court extended this until May 14, 2018, a date on which the parties filed separate responses on a proposed schedule for issuing a revised rule.**

Based on the responses, the Court held a telephonic hearing on May 24, 2018. After considering the parties' positions at the hearing, the Court directed WEG to file a proposed order. On May 30, 2018, WEG submitted a proposed order for the Court's consideration. The proposed order authorizes the plaintiffs to file motions for injunctive relief by June 22, 2018, and that the FWS will have 25 months to issue a final revised rule from the final order on the motions for injunctive relief and entry of final judgment in the three consolidated cases.

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. .

The National Rifle Association (NRA) and Safari Club International (SCI) filed motions to intervene on November 21, 2012. 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 appealed. 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 June 10, 2016, the court granted NSSF’s, NRA’s and SCI’s motions to intervene.

On March 15, 2017, the district court issued an order granting 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. As of November 30, 2017, all briefing in the case was complete.

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.

After the superior court ruled that only a court can assess civil damages for the loss of wildlife to the state, the Department successfully sponsored legislation to amend A.R.S. 17-314, and the Commission directed the AGO to file suit in the superior court to collect civil damages from Holden and Gynn. The suit was filed in September 2016. **The Gynn case is set for hearing on July 9, 2018. The Holden case is set for June 26, 2018.**

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, intervened as co-defendants. The parties each filed separate motions for summary judgment. On September 26, 2017, Judge McNamee issued an order denying the Plaintiffs motion for summary judgment and granting the Forest Service's motion for summary judgment. Because we sought the same relief as the Forest Service, Judge McNamee dismissed as moot the Department's and SCI's motions for summary judgment. On November 22, 2017, the Plaintiffs filed a notice of appeal. **The Plaintiffs filed their opening brief on March 19, 2018.** Our answering brief is due by **July 3, 2018.** The Appellants reply brief is due on **August 20, 2018.** We do not know yet when or if the Ninth Circuit will set our case for oral argument, but we don't expect it to be this year. The Court will contact the parties approximately 14 weeks before our case is set for oral argument.

6. *Dennis G. Scarla v. Arizona Game and Fish Commission*, Maricopa County Superior Court LC2017-000019-001 (filed Jan. 23, 2017). On March 10, 2017, Dennis Scarla filed a notice of appeal challenging the Commission's order revoking his license to hunt, fish, and trap in the state and denying him the privilege of obtaining a new license for a period of five years. Mr. Scarla asserts that the Commission should not have imposed the statutory-maximum five-year ban on him because this was his first offense. The administrative record has been forwarded to the Superior Court and Mr. Scarla filed his Opening Brief with the Superior Court on January 17, 2018. Our Answering Brief was filed March 9, 2018. **On May 24, 2018, the Superior Court entered a final judgment, affirming the Commission's decision. Mr. Scarla has thirty days to appeal the judgment of the Superior Court.**

7. *State of Arizona v. United States Army Corps of Engineers*, CV 18-00696 GJH. The Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) proposed a project to inspect the upper outlet facilities at Alamo Dam starting on March 12, 2018, with water releases out of the dam reaching as high as 5,000 cubic feet per second. The Corps claims the high rate of release is necessary to scour the sediment in the outlet tunnel, and lowering the lake level is necessary to allow the Corps to safely access the outlet facility.

Arizona Game and Fish and State Parks & Trails claim they will suffer harm from the Corps' action due to the timing of the project in March. The rapid drawdown will impact the spawning season in the lake, and could cause the loss of the annual fish recruitment. Word of the

project has deterred anglers and boaters from visiting the Alamo Lake State Park, and with March being the highest visitation month at the park, a loss of revenue will occur.

The State filed a complaint and motion for TRO/preliminary injunction on March 2, 2018. The complaint alleges the Corps' project violates the Administrative Procedures Act because it is not authorized under the water control manual for the dam, and violates the National Environmental Policy Act because the Corps failed to evaluate the harm the project would cause to aquatic resources and recreational use of Alamo Lake.

The court held a hearing on the motion for TRO on March 9, 2018. After the hearing, the court denied the motion. **Based on the parties' stipulation, the Court granted the Corps an additional 30 days until June 1, 2018, to file an answer to the complaint.**

Federal Lands Update
For the Arizona Game and Fish Commission
May 2018

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (A-S)

Travel Management Planning (TMP)

- The Department continues to participate as a Cooperating Agency. The Department has requested the A-S provide an opportunity for the public to comment on significant changes incorporated within the revised EIS. The EIS is expected late 2019.

Coconino National Forest

Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP)

- The revised Final LRMP was released May 2018, and is open for a 90 day appeal process. The Department is currently reviewing the Final LRMP with particular attention given to the outstanding issues presented by the Department in formal comments/recommendations.

Travel Management Planning (TMP)

- The Forest is continuing to review public comments on TMP at the District level. The Department continues to assist in the review of campsite data collected.

Coronado National Forest

Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP)

- The LRMP has been signed by the Regional Forester and is awaiting approval by the Washington D.C. Office. The Forest expects the plan to be released in June of 2018.

Travel Management Planning (TMP)

- The Department continues to track, provide input, and coordinate with the Forest on changes to Motorized Travel systems by district.

Kaibab National Forest

Travel Management Planning (TMP)

- The Kaibab National Forest (KNF) is continuing to review public comments on Travel Management at the District level. The Department continues to work with the KNF to update Motor Vehicle Use Maps.

Prescott National Forest

Chino Landscape Restoration Project (EA)

- The Chino Valley Ranger District has initiated a second round of scoping, seeking comments on the Environmental Assessment for the Chino Landscape Restoration Project. The project proposes a series of actions to restore and maintain soil and

watershed function, vegetation conditions, riparian and groundwater dependent systems, and natural fire regime. The Department provided scoping comments back in September 2017, and again in March 2018. A record of decision is expected in June 2018, with project implementation beginning October 2018.

Hassayampa Landscape Restoration Project (EA)

- The Bradshaw Ranger District, Prescott National Forest, is proposing a 246,000 acre forest restoration project. The Department has worked with the Forest Service in support of these proposed treatments; identifying specific areas of concern and providing information for wildlife and habitat in the designated treatment areas. Treatments are scheduled to begin in June 2018 with mechanical thinning around the town of Prescott. Prescribed burns will be dependent on weather conditions and precipitation levels.

Tonto National Forest

Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP)

- The Department is a Cooperating Agency on the plan revision and continues to meet with the Tonto National Forest (TNF) Planning and ID Team. The Department participated in an ID Team meeting in March to address comments and discuss development of alternatives for the EIS. The LRMP/DEIS is anticipated summer of 2018.

Travel Management Planning (TMP)

- A project team has been assembled to identify a timeline for the Supplemental EIS (SEIS) and draft record of decision for travel management on the TNF. Until the SEIS and a Final Record of Decision is made, the existing system of roads and travel areas on the Payson and Pleasant Valley Ranger Districts will remain in effect.

Resolution Copper Project and Land Exchange EIS

- The Department continues to participate as a Cooperating Agency for the Resolution Copper Project and Land Exchange EIS. The Department continues to work internally to research the mine project; collect wildlife and recreation information on the project area; and prepare mitigation recommendations for the EIS.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Hassayampa Field Office

Travel Management Planning

- The Department is a Cooperating Agency on the Black Canyon Corridor Travel Management Plan. The Field Office plans to complete all Travel Management Plans by the end of federal FY 19. The Department submitted comments on the 30-day Review of the Black Canyon Corridor Draft TMP EA and Draft Travel Management Implementation Plan on May 22, 2018.

Skull Valley Pozzolan Mine, Kirkland Mining

- The BLM Hassayampa Field Office has released a series of baseline studies as part of the

development of the EA for the proposed pozzolan mine in Skull Valley. The Kirkland Mining Company, Skull Valley operation is a proposal to mine approximately 76 acres in Yavapai County for pozzolan, a replacement for a portion of Portland cement in the process of formulating concrete. The Department submitted comments on the Draft Mining and Reclamation Plan of Operations during public scoping in July 2017. The BLM will hold a 60-day public comment period following the completion and publication of the draft EA anticipated in the summer of 2018.

Havasu Field Office

Travel Management Planning (TMP)

- Havasu Field Office has postponed scheduled route evaluations for the Alamo and Salome Travel Management Areas. The plan is for all route evaluations to be completed this federal fiscal year and the plans to be completed by the end of FY 19.

Kingman Field Office

Travel Management Planning (TMP)

- The Department continues to provide input on routes and the development of draft alternatives. The Draft TMP and EA is planned for release in Summer 2018.

Lower Sonoran Field Office

Travel Management Planning (TMP)

- The Department continues to participate as a Cooperating Agency on the Buckeye Hills TMP and Environmental Assessment (EA). The Department submitted comments on the 30-day Review of the Buckeye Hills Draft TMP EA and Draft Travel Management Implementation Plan on May 8, 2018. The Field Office plans to complete all Travel Management Plans by the end of federal FY 19, and the target date for a decision is September 2018.

Sonoran Desert National Monument Recreational Shooting

- BLM's Washington office is completing the protest resolution. The final step will be signing the ROD and submitting the documents to the court. The Department has been actively engaged on this issue for over a decade and anticipates a Record of Decision in the near future.

Safford Field Office

Gila-San Simon Travel Management

- The Draft Gila Travel Management Plan (TMP) was completed about 10 years ago but never finalized. BLM decided to combine the Gila with the San Simon planning area and has been conducting a series of week-long route-by-route analyses in December 2017, and February and March 2018. The Department participated in all of these meetings. The Draft EA is in progress awaiting finalization of the preferred alternative. The Draft EA/TMP is expected to be available for public comment early summer 2018, with a target date of March 2019 for the completed TMP.

Tucson Field Office

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area

- The Department is a Cooperating Agency on the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) RMP/EIS process. The Department provided comments on the Administrative Draft, which the BLM will address prior to publication of the public Draft document. The Draft RMP/EIS is expected to be available for public review in summer 2018.

Yuma Field Office

Travel Management Planning

- Notice of Intent was issued in February 2018 for development of TMP and EA for the Lower Colorado River Travel Management Area. The public comment period for the scoping phase began on February 12. The comment period was extended to March 30 due a delay in the release of the interactive map on their Eplanning site. The Department provided comments on March 23, 2018 and will continue to be involved throughout the TMP process.

North Gila - Imperial Valley #2 500 kv Transmission Line

- The North Gila – Imperial Valley 500 kv Transmission Line (NG-IV#2) project has been resubmitted to BLM. One alternative crosses the Mittry Lake Wildlife Area. The Department has requested cooperating agency status.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Interstate 11 Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- ADOT preparing Tier I DEIS for I-11 (Wickenburg to Nogales). Department is Cooperating Agency and provides feedback on alternatives, and in depth analyses of resource concerns and mitigation opportunities as the Tier I DEIS process progresses. An Administrative Draft EIS is expected to be available for Cooperating Agency review in late June 2018. Draft Tier 1 EIS for public review expected fall 2018. Final Tier 1 EIS expected late 2019. FHWA will be choosing a single 2000-ft corridor from Wickenburg to Nogales. As funding becomes available, individual municipalities will evaluate sections under Tier 2 NEPA analyses to identify the final 400-foot wide corridor to be constructed.

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Proposed Alamo Dam Water Control Plan Update

- The Army Corps of Engineers has published a Notice of Intent to prepare of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Alamo Dam Water Control Plan Update, Alamo Lake. The Department has requested cooperating agency status for the plan update and EIS. The Department provided scoping comments to the Corps identifying issues and concerns with the proposed Update.

National Park Service

Grand Canyon National Park Initial Bison Herd Reduction EA

- Grand Canyon National Park Initial Bison Herd Reduction EA was completed in September 2017 and the Department was a cooperating agency during that time. In January 2018, the Department formally withdrew as a cooperator in this effort due to fundamental conflicts between NPS and AZGFD on how herd reduction activities will occur. The Park is planning on beginning implementation of reduction activities in fall 2018.

Wupatki National Monument

- In April 2018, Wupatki National Monument informed key stakeholders of their intent to complete a Wilderness Study and General Management Plan Amendment which will set the stage for designating 97% (34,194 acres) of their lands as wilderness within the existing Monument boundaries. In May, the Department plans to provide comments highlighting concerns with the proposal and will stay engaged with the Monument as this study progresses.

Federal Land Management Planning Status

US Forest Service (USFS)

Status of USFS Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMP) and Travel Management Planning (TMP) in Arizona – May 2018

USFS				
Forest	Plan	Status	Issues and Next Steps	Projected Completion and Implementation
<u>Apache-Sitgreaves</u>	LRMP	June 30, 2016: Department sends decline to withdraw appeal letter to Appeal Reviewing Officer.	Majority of appeal points resolved. Recommended Wilderness unresolved.	LRMP completed.
<u>Apache-Sitgreaves</u>	TMP	Oct. 2, 2017: NOI published for preparation of revised draft EIS. Nov. 29, 2017: Department commented and requested an opportunity for public/partners to comment on updated information/draft (last opportunity was 2010).	Department waiting for response to request for public comment opportunity. FS is preparing revised draft EIS.	Revised draft EIS expected summer 2018. Final EIS expected winter 2019.
<u>Coconino</u>	LRMP	Final Draft released May 2016. Nov. 6, 2017: Dept. met with Forest Service leadership Feb. 7, 2018: Forest responded to the Department's February 2017 formal comment letter.	Department preparing for release of Final LRMP. Majority of issues/concerns expected to be resolved in final draft. Exceptions may include: Recommended Wilderness and/or wild and scenic river areas, and semi-primitive, non-motorized area designations. Potential for long term impacts to wildlife management and public recreation/access.	Final LRMP was released May 2018 and is in a 90 day appeal process.
<u>Coconino</u>	TMP	Final 2011 (forest wide), MVUMs available; Department appealed plan on MBGR and dispersed camping decisions;	Dispersed camping 300ft from specifically identified roads only, 30ft from all other roads. MBGR for elk only, 1 mile from roads except GMUs	TMP revision process ongoing. Department continues to work with the forest to identify and recommend needed changes. Ex.

Federal Land Management Planning Status

USFS				
Forest	Plan	Status	Issues and Next Steps	Projected Completion and Implementation
		appeal denied.	5A & 5B.	Region collected ~95% of CNF dispersed camping locations. This data was instrumental in latest TMP revisions.
<u>Coronado</u>	LRMP	Draft released in 2013, Department submitted comments; Plan submitted to Washington, DC office. Feb. 2018: Meeting with FS to discuss Dept. comments	Outstanding issues include state vs. federal authority over wildlife issues and Recommended Wilderness.	FEIS NOA in Fed Register estimated June of 2018.
<u>Coronado</u>	TMP	Changes to Motorized Travel System EA's are progressing district by district. Region addressing district-specific road closures and access issues; 300' corridor closure in some areas.	Review and comment on Sierra Vista EA.	Nogales: Completed, 3/17 Safford: Completed, 11/17 Douglas: Completed, 12/17 Sierra Vista: Final draft EA expected 6/2018 Catalina: Final Draft EA expected 8/2018
<u>Kaibab</u>	LRMP	Finalized 2014		
<u>Kaibab</u>	TMP S. Zone	Revision released Jan 2016, Department accepted final revision. The Department is completing dispersed camping inventory to inform TMP. KNF released new MVUM's for the Williams, Tusayan, and North Kaibab ranger districts 2/17.	Department engagement resulted in: motorized dispersed camping along 276 miles of roads (currently 100 ft. from roads, with Forest looking to expand to 300 ft); 14 camping spur roads added; and 24 miles of roads re-opened. MBGR limited to elk/bison 1 mile from open roads. 9 miles of open roads closed due to resource degradation.	MVUMs anticipated to be updated annually. Department continues to work with KNF on adaptive management for MVUM's and TMP revisions.
<u>Kaibab</u>	TMP N. Zone	Region has completed data collection of all dispersed camping locations.	No TMP revision process has been initiated (timing uncertain). See above for N. Kaibab. Department	MVUMs anticipated to be updated annually.

Federal Land Management Planning Status

USFS				
Forest	Plan	Status	Issues and Next Steps	Projected Completion and Implementation
			looking to remedy insufficient designated dispersed camping opportunities in lower elevations.	
<u>Prescott</u>	LRMP	Final signed 2015. Department Appeal Declined, Plan approved 2016.	Recommended wilderness areas. Potential for long term impacts to wildlife management and public recreation/access based on land use/management changes.	
<u>Prescott</u>	TMP	No new TMP, amending 2005 plan for travel management.		
<u>Tonto</u>	LRMP	The Department participates as a Cooperating Agency in plan revision process. November 2017: The Forest released Preliminary Proposed Draft Plan. Jan 2018: Department submitted formal comments on the Prelim Draft Plan. February 12, 2018: Department commented on draft wilderness evaluation map.	Wilderness areas, wild and scenic river additions, special management areas, lakes and streams management areas all have be identified and are on the record as having the potential for long term impacts to wildlife management and public recreation/access.	The draft plan/EIS anticipated late summer 2018.
<u>Tonto</u>	TMP	Draft Decision and Final EIS was not complete. A supplemental to the EIS is being developed.	Currently undergoing development of a supplement to the EIS, due to the need for further analysis.	Timeline unknown.

Federal Land Management Planning Status

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Status of BLM Resource Management Plans (RMP) and Travel Management Plans (TMP) in Arizona – May 2018

BLM				
Field Office/District	Plan	Status	Issues and Next Steps	Projected Completion and Implementation
<u>AZ Strip</u> (including Grand Canyon-Parashant and Vermillion Cliffs NMs)	RMP	Record of Decision Feb 2008		
<u>AZ Strip</u>	TMP	February 15, 2018: FONSI/ROD signed for transportation network for St. George Basin, Colorado City and Littlefield.	We have faced very few issues with respect to maintaining appropriate motorized access. Where they have occurred, BLM has afforded opportunities to negotiate and successfully resolve.	February 2018: FONSI/ROD for St. George Basin, Colorado City and Littlefield.
<u>Hassayampa</u>	RMP	ROD for Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP and Agua Fria National Monument signed February 2009.		
Black Canyon Corridor	TMP	May 2017: EA Planning reinitiated and Department engaged as Cooperating Agency. September 2017: Route evaluations for ~524 miles of existing routes completed. March 7, 2018: The Department submitted comments on the Administrative Draft TMP/EA	There are 4 alternatives to the No Action; a range of scenarios from maximum conservation to maximum access; a hybrid of access for motorized and non-motorized with designations that separate users; unique to this TMP are technical vehicle sites (TVSs) which are existing user created routes.	The Target date for a decision is September 2018. Field Office plans to complete all TMP's by the end of federal FY19

Federal Land Management Planning Status

BLM				
Field Office/District	Plan	Status	Issues and Next Steps	Projected Completion and Implementation
		and Alternatives maps May 22, 2018: Department submitted comments on Draft EA and Implementation Plan.		
Box Canyon	TMP	Decision on Wickenburg Travel Management Plan issued. Town of Wickenburg appealed decision Box Canyon area. BLM agreed to re-evaluate the Box Canyon area (judge remanded only that portion of the decision) and is working with Wickenburg to re-evaluate with a more focused approach.	Looking to develop an MOU with Wickenburg to formalize partnership, and give Wickenburg status for future planning.	Unknown
<u>Havas</u>	RMP	ROD signed July 2007.		
<u>Havas</u>	TMP	March 2009: FONSI signed for Bullhead Unit September 2013: Havasu Unit Route Evaluations begun for Bouse Unit.	Completed new route inventories for Bouse and Cactus Plain TMA. Begin route evaluations for Alamo and Salome TMA	All Plans to be completed by end of FY19
<u>Kingman</u>	RMP	ROD Signed 1993; route evaluations currently being conducted. Plan Life: 20 years, with amendments as needed.	BLM KFO looking at updating RMP. Asked the Department for review and update of issues for the new plan. Provided December 2016.	
<u>Kingman</u>	TMP	Route Evaluation completed in 2014/2015/2016. August 2017: BLM initiated planning efforts for TMP for the entirety of the Kingman Field Office; Department accepted	Draft TMP EA is planned for release to the public in Summer 2018.	

Federal Land Management Planning Status

BLM				
Field Office/District	Plan	Status	Issues and Next Steps	Projected Completion and Implementation
		Cooperating Agency Status. March 2018: the Department began review of alternatives.		
Bullhead	TMP	FONSI/ROD signed March, 2009	In effect until rescinded or amended by management action.	
<u>Lower Sonoran</u>	RMP	September 2012: ROD signed for Lower Sonoran Field Office and Sonoran Desert National Monument		
Buckeye Hills	TMP	May 2017: Scoping for the TMP and associated EA; The Department accepted Cooperating Agency Status. June 22, 2017: Department submitted scoping comments. Oct 2017: Route evaluations for ~524 miles of existing routes completed. March 1, 2018: Department submitted comments on administrative Draft TMP and EA and Alternatives maps.	There are 4 alternatives to the No Action; a range of scenarios from maximum conservation to maximum access; a hybrid of access for motorized and non-motorized with designations that separate users; The biggest issue with this includes the PLO1015 lands and the management authorities associated with those lands. Public release of the draft EA was released April 2018.	The Target date for a decision is September 2018.
<u>SDNM</u>	Recreational Shooting	Final EIS and Proposed Amendment October 20, 2017	Washington DC Review and Governor's Consistency Review	Record of Decision expected in the near future.
SDNM Juan Bautista De Anza Area	Recreation Plan	Reviewing Draft Plan. Provided Comments	Plan Implemented.	FONSI signed, implementation not begun awaiting funding
<u>Safford/ Gila-San Simon</u>	TMP	Department provided scoping comments November 3, 2017	Department to participate in route-by-route analysis	Draft EA/TMP out for public comment early summer 2018. March 2019

Federal Land Management Planning Status

BLM				
Field Office/District	Plan	Status	Issues and Next Steps	Projected Completion and Implementation
			meetings in Dec 2017, and Feb and Mar 2018	target for completed TMP
<u>Tucson/ Ironwood Forest NM</u>	RMP	Ironwood Forest NM RMP completed		
<u>Tucson/ Ironwood Forest NM</u>	TMP	Ironwood Forest NM TMP finalized 7/2014		
<u>Tucson/ San Pedro Riparian NCA</u>	RMP	February 7, 2018: Department submitted comments on Administrative Draft RMP/EIS.	Draft RMP/EIS available to public September 2018	Approved RMP and ROD predicted for public release June 2020.
<u>Tucson/San Pedro Riparian NCA</u>	TMP	scoping comments sent for SPRNCA 9/2013	TMP on hold until RMP completed and ROD issued	SPRNCA Draft TMP/unknown
<u>Tucson/ Las Cienegas NCA</u>	RMP	Las Cienegas TMP/RMP completed		
<u>Yuma</u>	RMP	RMP ROD signed January 2010.		
<u>Lower Colorado River</u>	TMP	NOI issued February 2018 March 23, 2018: Dept Commented		
<u>La Posa</u>	TMP	La Posa Plan Final EA and FONSI signed.	Begin implementation	
<u>Imperial Hills</u>	TMP	Reviewed public comments on route evaluation alternatives for Imperial Hills. Began route evaluation for Laguna Mountains. Held public scoping meetings.	Public Draft EA	
<u>Yuma Ten West Transmission</u>		Administrative Draft reviewed by cooperating agencies. Public	Incorporate agency comments, release public draft	Uncertain behind schedule

Federal Land Management Planning Status

BLM				
Field Office/District	Plan	Status	Issues and Next Steps	Projected Completion and Implementation
<u>Line</u>		draft scheduled to be released March 23		

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Status of USFWS planning in Arizona – May 2018

USFWS				
Office/Refuge	Plan	Status	Issues and Next Steps	Projected Completion and Implementation
<u>Havasu National Wildlife Refuge</u>	Compatibility determination for Recreational Boating	USFWS announced on April 12, 2016 that a draft recreational boating Compatibility Determination was available for public review and comment. May 2016: AZGFD commented on Draft Compatibility Determination for Havasu National Wildlife Refuge.	After receiving and reviewing a substantial number of comments seeking reconsideration of the draft CD, the Service decided more deliberation is required before a final CD is developed.	June 2016: USFWS determines additional deliberation is required. New CD released, Department supported new CD. Process completed.
<u>Lower Colorado River Refuge Complex</u>	Renewal of Compatibility Determinations for current recreational activities	Compatibility Determinations (CD) must be reviewed and renewed every ten years. Refuge complex released proposed actions	Proposal is to renew existing recreational activities. Proposing to discuss any additional activities in the near future.	Uncertain
<u>Cabeza Prieta NWR</u>	Renewal of CDs for current recreational activities	Compatibility Determinations must be reviewed/renewed every ten years. Refuge complex released proposed actions	Proposal is to renew existing recreational activities. Proposing to discuss any additional activities in the near future.	Uncertain

Federal Land Management Planning Status

National Park Service (NPS)

Status of NPS planning in Arizona – May 2018

NPS				
Office/Park	Plan	Status	Issues and Next Steps	Projected Completion and Implementation
<u>Grand Canyon-Parashant National Park</u>	Initial Bison Herd Reduction EA	2013: The Department began as a Cooperating agency March 2017: Department submitted comments Draft EA. May 2017: Department participated in public workshops. June 2017: Department commented	In January 2018, the Dept. formally withdrew as a cooperator in this effort due to fundamental conflicts between AZGFD and NPS on how herd reduction activities will occur.	FONSI was finalized and signed in September 2018. Current schedule has a bulk of the implementation activities starting in fall 2018.
<u>Wupatki National Monument</u>	Completing Wilderness Study and General Management Plan Amendment	Initiating a wilderness study that can set the stage for designating 34,194 acres (97%) of their existing lands as wilderness.	In May 2018 the Department will issue a comment letter to the Monument highlighting concerns with the proposal. The Department will stay engaged with the Monument as the study progresses.	On-going

Federal Land Management Planning Status

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT)

Status of major transportation planning in Arizona – May 2018

FHWA-ADOT				
Project	Plan	Status	Issues and Next Steps	Projected Completion and Implementation
<u>I-11</u>	Tier 1 Draft EIS	ADOT preparing Tier I DEIS for I-11 (Wickenburg to Nogales). Department is Cooperating Agency and provides feedback on alternatives, and in depth analyses of resource concerns and mitigation opportunities as the Tier I DEIS process progresses.	An Administrative Draft EIS is expected to be available for Cooperating Agency review in late June 2018.	Draft Tier 1 EIS expected fall 2018. Final Tier 1 EIS expected late 2019. FHWA will be choosing a single 2000-ft corridor from Wickenburg to Nogales. As funding becomes available, individual municipalities will evaluate sections under Tier 2 NEPA analyses to identify the final 400-foot wide corridor to be constructed.