

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Friday, April 6, 2018
Saturday, April 7, 2018
Arizona Game and Fish Department
5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, Arizona 85086

PRESENT: (Commission)

(Director and Staff)

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

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

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Chairman Ammons called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and led those present through the Pledge of Allegiance. The Commission introduced themselves followed by introductions of the Director and the Director's staff. This meeting followed an agenda revision #1 dated April 4, 2018.

Awards and Recognition

Chairman Ammons presented Jim Odenkirk with a Commission Certificate of Appreciation for his dedication and commitment to conserving Arizona's wildlife and outdoor recreation as the Assistant Attorney General representing the Arizona Game and Fish Department and Commission.

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1. Call to the Public

AJ Murosky, Webmaster for Arizona Bowhunters Association and a member of HAHWG, addressed the Commission in opposition of airbow (pneumatic weapons). It's a high powered weapon that shoots an arrow, but it is not a bow.

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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. There items were presented to the Commission and none were removed for discussion.

a. Moved to item #17 on the agenda.

b. Approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Organization Vida Silvestre A.C.

Presenter: Josh T. Avey, Terrestrial Wildlife Branch Chief

The Department requests Commission approval of this Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of establishing a framework for collaboration and cooperation between the Department and the Organization Vida Silvestre A.C. to conserve and enhance native wildlife (including migratory birds) and their habitats, especially those that are shared with 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 (such as Southern Wings). 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.

The Department recommends that the Commission vote to approve this Memorandum of Understanding with the Organization Vida Silvestre A.C. and to authorize the Director, as Secretary to the Commission, to execute the agreement as presented.

c. Approve Agreement between the Arizona Game and Fish Department and Coconino County

Presenter: Rob Nelson, Region 2 Habitat, Evaluation and Lands Program Manager

The Department requests Commission approval of an agreement between the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Coconino County for a shared Urban Wildlife Planner position. This is a change to a recently expired, longstanding agreement with the Department and Coconino County. From 2008-2016 the Department and Coconino County had a cost-shared, Urban Wildlife Planner Position. This position was vacated in late 2016, which coincided with the end of the old agreement. Each agency contributed half of the salary of this position for a three year term and subsequently renewed the agreement for three separate appointments during that time. Both the Department and the County have seen positive outcomes this position has offered with large project planning and incorporating Department interests in large scale planning efforts. In May 2017 the Coconino County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved this position under the new agreement guidelines. The Department and Coconino County would like to continue this partnership and have both allocated the necessary funds to continue this position for the three year term appointment.

The Department recommends that the Commission vote to approve the agreement with Coconino County for the shared Urban Wildlife Planner position.

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

Vote: Unanimous

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3. Legislative Engagement and State and Federal Legislation

Presenter: David Fernandez, Assistant 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 the following:

State

- SB 1253; Simplification Reauthorization: Passed in the House and was signed by the Governor on March 29
- HB 2342; OHV Nonresident Indicia: Passed in the House and is ready for the Governor's signature
- HB 2404; Taxidermy Registry: Signed by the Governor on March 27.

Federal

- Grand Canyon Bison Management Act included in SHARE Act (HR 3005) currently working through the House
- HR 4647; Recovering America's Wildlife Act: Currently working through committee
- Department of Interior Reorganization of Regional Boundaries: This proposal was updated in response to the Western Governors Association; DOI has committed to working with stakeholders and Governors going forward.

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4. Commission Priorities Update

Presenter: Kent Komadina, Special Assistant to the Director

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

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

Creative Services Supervisor Heidi Rayment provided a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on the Department's public affairs efforts, which includes engaging followers on the Department's information channels and platforms, building relationships with the media, transforming how the

Department communicates, and creating awareness and action through the Conserve and Protect campaign. The objective of the Conserve and Protect campaign is to use all available communication/information channels to communicate the vision, mission, goals and activities of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department, to promote public recognition, understanding and appreciation of the North American Model, and to build public support to ensure continued relevancy in the future.

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1. (re-opened) Call to the Public

Nicole Ruhlman addressed the Commission on the proposed changes to Article 3 regarding the crossbow permit and expressed safety concerns regarding crossbow permit holders hunting the same hunt as archery hunters. Archery hunting is a close proximity hunt and she has concerns about getting in between a crossbow hunter and the target. She strongly supports banning the use of live action cameras for aiding in the take of wildlife and agrees with the clarification regarding the use of satellite take devices, and appreciates that the Commission is trying to get ahead of emerging technology to preserve fair chase ethics in Arizona.

Commissioner Zieler asked Mesa Regional Supervisor Jay Cook what the percentage was for sportsmen using CHAMP permit or those with qualifying disabilities that are currently using crossbows on archery hunts.

Mr. Cook stated that he didn't have the exact percentage, but that it was a very low percentage.

Commissioner Davis confirmed with Mr. Cook that CHAMP hunters primarily hunt from the road, so the chance of running into CHAMP hunters is limited.

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

Presenter: Tara Duncan, Manager of Professional and Organizational Development

Ms. Duncan provided a PowerPoint presentation and update on the Department's progress in deploying AMS methods and tools to reduce waste and build sustainable efficiency in the Department's systems and processes. AMS was implemented by Governor Ducey as part of his vision for Arizona to be the number one state to live, play, recreate, retire, visit, do business, and get an education. To achieve this vision, a professional, results-driven management system has been deployed to transform the way Arizona state government thinks and does business as one enterprise.

Ms. Duncan's presentation included an overview of the following:

- AMS elements
- AMS implementation strategy
- A preview of the Department's upcoming 2018 Employee Engagement Conference
- Graph of hunting/fishing license sales for FY17 and FY18

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6. Federal Lands Planning Update

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

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. Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Briefing

Presenter: Angie McIntire, Bat Management Coordinator, Terrestrial Branch

Ms. McIntire provided a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on the North American Bat Monitoring Program, an international collaboration to track bat populations using acoustic detectors and colony counts. The presentation included an overview of the purpose for monitoring bats and how studies are conducted using new technologies.

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11. Department Volunteer Program

Presenter: Jamie Lyons, Volunteer Coordinator

Ms. Lyons provided a PowerPoint presentation and update on the Department's Volunteer Program. The presentation provided an overview on the number of volunteers, hours, fiscal impact, and projects within the program, including the Wildlife Ranger Program, Adopt a Ranch Program and the Cormorant Count Program.

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

Presenter: Gene Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Records of these proceedings are maintained separately.

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9. Petition by Mr. Billy Childers for 2018 Elk Tag

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

Ms. Gottlieb presented a petition by Mr. Billy Childers asking for 2018 tags for elk. Mr. Childers submitted an application for elk that included three people including himself. The application was drawn for hunt 3135, archery only bull elk, unit 6A valid September 9, 2018 – September 27, 2018. Unfortunately, the credit card was declined and per process the application was tagged as not drawn. Mr. Childers states in his petition that he contacted the bank as soon as he was notified that the payment had been flagged as fraud. The bank indicated they were unable to process the payment at that point without action from the Department. Mr. Childers had a bank representative contact the Department and provide verification that the funds were available. It is unknown who the bank representative spoke with and the application remained as not drawn. Mr. Childers has stated that the bank is willing to provide a letter documenting funds were available and the account was in good standing at the time. Mr. Childers is requesting elk tags for the three applicants.

Motion: Davis moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO NOT HEAR THE PETITION BY MR. BILLY CHILDERS.

Vote: Unanimous

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9A. Petition by Mr. Tom Berry for approval to purchase PointGuard after the fact.

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

Ms. Gottlieb presented a petition by Mr. Tom Berry for approval to purchase PointGuard after the fact to surrender the 2018 cow elk tags he applied for by mistake. Mr. Berry submitted an application for elk that included himself and his son Will. The application was drawn for hunt 3168, archery only antlerless elk, unit 1, 2B and 2C valid September 14, 2018 – September 27, 2018. Mr. Berry states in his petition that he mistakenly selected the antlerless hunt. PointGuard was available for purchase until Thursday, March 1, 2018. Mr. Berry is requesting approval to purchase PointGuard after the fact to allow him to surrender the tags.

Motion: Davis moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO NOT HEAR THE PETITION BY MR. TOM BERRY.

Vote: Unanimous

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9B. Petition by Mr. Greg Clark for approval to purchase PointGuard after the fact.

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

Ms. Gottlieb presented a petition by Mr. Greg Clark for approval to purchase PointGuard after the fact to surrender the 2018 cow elk tags he applied for by mistake. Mr. Clark submitted an application for elk that included himself and another applicant. The application was drawn for hunt 3186, archery only antlerless elk, Unit 27 valid September 14, 2018 – September 27, 2018.

Mr. Clark states in his petition that he mistakenly selected the antelerless hunt. PointGuard was available for purchase until Thursday, March 1, 2018. Mr. Clark is requesting approval to purchase PointGuard after the fact so he can then surrender the tags.

Motion: Davis moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO NOT HEAR THE PETITION BY MR. GREG CLARK.

Vote: Unanimous

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10. Commission Update on Alamo Lake Water Release

Presenter: Chris Cantrell, Aquatic Wildlife Branch Chief

Mr. Cantrell provided a PowerPoint presentation and update on Department efforts regarding the Army Corps of Engineers release of water from Alamo Dam, and plans for post-release monitoring of impacts. Included in the presentation was a summary of efforts by Department staff biologists regarding the implementation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' final Environmental Assessment allowing for the release of water from Alamo Dam and a brief summary of planned actions by Department staff biologists to assess the impacts of these releases to Commission properties and resources.

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12. Department Water Development Update

Presenter: Joseph Currie, Habitat Planning Program Manager, Development Branch

Mr. Currie provided a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on Department activities and involvement with statewide wildlife water development design, construction/redevelopment efforts and coordination planning with external partners. The briefing included an overview of types of water developments, locations across Arizona, maintenance, budget, and challenges.

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13. Approve Purchase of Park Central Farm Conservation Easement

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

Mr. Crowder provided a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on the Department's proposed purchase of a Conservation Easement on Park Central Farm, Yavapai County, Arizona. Park Central Farm is a privately owned property near Camp Verde at the confluence of the Verde River and West Clear Creek. The Department has been working closely with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to acquire a conservation easement on this parcel using Heritage Acquisition funds to protect the riparian and mesquite bosque portion of the property for Arizona state sensitive species of fish and birds known to be present. If approved, the conservation easement would assist in protecting approximately three miles of stream and riparian habitat and

a total of 513 acres of high conservation value private land, while maintaining connectivity between State Park land and two national forests (Coconino NF and Prescott NF).

Public Comment

The following were present and addressed the Commission in support of the purchase:

- Brenda Hauser, Houser & Hauser Farms
- Claudia Hauser, Hauser & Hauser Farms
- Kimberly Shanuck, The Nature Conservancy (available for questions, but did not speak)
- Heather Redding, The Nature Conservancy (available for questions, but did not speak)
- Charles German, Mayor of Camp Verde

Motion: The Department recommends the Commission VOTE TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON PARK CENTRAL FARM, YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA, AND AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR, AS SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION, AND TO EXECUTE THE PURCHASE AGREEMENT AS RECOMMENDED OR APPROVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Commissioner Davis stated that he will vote no, but this is not a negative comment on the project or the work of the Department and the partners involved. His issue is more philosophical in that there are limited resources in this program and he believes the use of those dollars need to be maximized through ownership or title in these types of transactions. He would rather see opportunities for a clean sever and transfer of water rights. He would like to see these funds go toward in-holdings of federal properties, which would give the Department a stronger position in conversations with federal partners in land management and wildlife planning.

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

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14. Approve Cooperative Agreement for Hunting Management between the Hopi Tribe, State of Arizona and the Arizona Game and Fish Department

Presenter: Scott Poppenberger, Flagstaff Regional Supervisor

Mr. Poppenberger presented a PowerPoint presentation on a proposed renewal of an agreement between the Department and the Hopi Tribe for wildlife management, hunting management and big game permit allocations to Hopi tribal members on Hopi Trust Land. This request asks the Commission to consider directing the Department to sign a four-year renewal (until 2021) of an existing agreement between the Commission and the Hopi Tribe for hunting and wildlife management on Hopi Trust and associated 'checker board' State Trust Land in the northern portions of game management units; 4A, 5A and 5B. The current, active agreement expires May 31 of 2018 and is predicated upon a 2002 Master Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission and the Hopi Tribe regarding wildlife management, law enforcement, hunter education and land use.

As with previous years' agreements, the Hopi Tribe will be offered the opportunity to participate with wildlife surveys, and the Department will formulate hunt recommendations in collaboration with the Tribe. Drawing for Hopi Tribal member big game permits will be conducted using the Department's permit draw system, and the agreement provides a fee structure for Hopi allocated permits and licenses. This agreement renewal defines wildlife management responsibilities and communication standards between the Department and the Hopi Tribe on matters including big game permit allocation percentages set aside exclusively for Hopi Tribal members and associated fee structures. The agreement also includes a provision to address hunting access in the event of any impending change of ownership of all or a portion of State Trust lands to the Department of the Interior or to the Hopi Tribe for hunters who have drawn permit tags for hunting seasons that have not yet occurred as of the date the document conveying the State Trust lands in question. Affected drawn hunters shall retain the privilege to access Hopi lands for hunting according to the season dates identified on the issued tags.

Public Comment

Darren Talayumptewa, Director, Hopi Tribe - WEMP, addressed the Commission in support of the agreement.

Motion: Davis moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO SIGN A 4-YEAR RENEWAL OF AN AGREEMENT FOR HUNTING MANAGEMENT ON HOPI OWNED LAND WITH THE HOPI TRIBE.

Vote: Unanimous

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

Vote: Unanimous

The Commission had a working lunch during Executive Session.

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

Meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

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15. Gable Parcel Lease Agreement with Flower Pot Cattle Company

Presenter: Kelly Wolff-Krauter, Region VI Habitat Program Manager

Ms. Wolff-Krauter provided a PowerPoint presentation on a proposed Lease Agreement with the Flower Pot Cattle Company for use of a portion of the Commission's land at the Arlington Wildlife Area for farming and cattle grazing in a manner that benefits wildlife. In June 2009, the Commission acquired approximately 171 acres of land from the Gable Family Trust to protect two federally listed threatened and endangered species, the Yuma Ridgeway's Rail and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. The property is adjacent to and managed as part of the Arlington Wildlife Area. The Department has been working with Flower Pot Cattle Company, an adjacent landowner, to develop a mutually beneficial Lease Agreement to allow farming on 11 acres, and cattle grazing on 34 acres of the Gable parcel, while benefiting wildlife. Planted crops will be approved by the Department, and there must be at least one-acre of grain crop for every 10 acres of lands in production. The lessee will also be required to leave such grain crop un-harvested at the end of each growing season to provide food and cover for wildlife. Department water rights are not being used to irrigate crops. The agreement would expire on November 30, 2022.

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

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16. Salt River Project License Agreement for Mitigation Ponds

Presenter: Keith Knutson, Wildlife Contracts Branch Chief

Mr. Knutson provided a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on a proposed Lease Agreement with Salt River Project for use of a portion of the Commission's land at the Arlington Wildlife Area for mitigation ponds. In June 2009, the Commission acquired approximately 160 acres of land known as the Jagow parcel to protect the Yuma Ridgeway's rail, formally Yuma clapper rail. The property is adjacent to and managed as part of the Arlington Wildlife Area. The Department has been working with Salt River Project (SRP) to develop a License Agreement to meet the requirements of their Section 10(a)(1)(B) permit of the Endangered Species Act for the incidental take of four avian species including the Yuma Ridgeway's rail, SRP has mitigation requirements and funding pursuant to the Roosevelt Habitat Conservation Plan (RHCP) for the creation, operation, maintenance, management and monitoring of at least five acres of habitat of the Yuma Ridgeway's rail. SRP has constructed a 5-acre wetland basin on Cell 4 on the Arlington Wildlife Area (AWA) pursuant to the Cooperative Agreement/License (HAB-05-0606EPS/AML (10/12/05)) and entered into a 2006 Collection Agreement with the Department to fund the Department's operation and management of Cell 4. In 2017, the Department relocated Cell 4 to a new wetland basin on Cell 2 on the Wildlife Area in order to restore flows in Centennial Wash. This agreement provides SRP access to the property for managing the existing wetland habitat at Cell 2 on the Arlington Wildlife Area.

The Commission was in consensus to bring this item back as a second read to the next regular Commission meeting, but as a standalone item and not on the consent agenda at the request of Commissioner Zieler who intends to recuse himself for potential conflict of interest.

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17. Approve Acceptance of a Perpetual Easement, for Recreational Access into the Northern Whetstone Mountains

Presenter: Josh T. Avey, Terrestrial Wildlife Branch Chief

Mr. Avey provided a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on a proposed perpetual access easement for vehicular, equestrian and pedestrian public access, from Cochise County, thereby naming the Arizona Game and Fish Commission as the new Grantee. Cochise County proposes donating a perpetual public access easement it currently holds to the Department. This easement will eventually provide vehicular access into the Northern Whetstone Mountains but until the Coronado National Forest (CNF) can complete the NEPA process necessary to make the roadway connection, a temporary dirt road and parking lot will be built on the forest boundary to provide for walk in access into this highly desirable area of the CNF. The Department has been trying to secure an access point in this area for many years so when an opportunity was presented for Cochise County to secure the easement from a developer in the area, they did so with the intent of transferring it to the Department. Cochise County cannot justify building the road as it actually lies within the City of Benson. As the surrounding development is built out, the easement will be replaced with paved, City of Benson roadway that may be in a slightly different location but will provide access into the CNF. This will alleviate the Department's long term maintenance responsibility. With the uncertainty of the NEPA process and the pace at which the area will be developed the construction of this temporary access point will be critical to provide access to an estimated 900+ Department customers. Since the easement can be obtained with no cost, the cost of building the road itself is negligible when compared to the benefits it will provide for public access in the area.

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

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18. Intergovernmental Agreements to Implement Community Fishing Waters.

Presenter: Scott Gurtin, Community Fishing Program Manager

Mr. Gurtin provided a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on the Department's request to finalize negotiations, execute, and amend as necessary Intergovernmental Agreements and any future sub-agreements between the Department and Avondale, Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa, Payson, Peoria, Phoenix, Prescott Valley, Queen Creek, Sahuarita, Scottsdale, Somerton, Surprise, Tempe, Tucson, and Yuma to implement Community Fishing Waters. Commission action is required under the provisions of A.R.S. § 17-231 B.7 to enter into agreements with other entities for the operation of wildlife facilities and the conduct of related wildlife management. Furthermore, A.R.S. § 11-952 F (Intergovernmental Agreement and Contracts) requires that appropriate action by ordinance or resolution or otherwise pursuant to the laws applicable to the governing bodies of agencies (Commission) approving or extending the duration of the agreement or contract shall be necessary before any such agreement, contract or extension may be filed or become effective.

In 2013 the Community Fishing Program began expanding to new communities including Yuma and Somerton. New waters were added to the program in Region IV but were never formalized via Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA's). The Department is beginning the process of renewing IGA's and has requested to formalize the partnerships with Somerton and Yuma. The respective Parks and Recreation Programs are supportive of formalizing the partnerships. Likewise, the Town of Prescott Valley desires to partner with the Department to implement the Community Fishing Program in two locations: Fain Lake and Yavapai Lakes (Urban Forest Park). The Town of Queen Creek desires to partner with the Department to implement the Community Fishing Program at a brand new location called Mansel Carter Oasis Park. Twelve current Intergovernmental Agreements to implement Community Fishing are due to expire June 30, 2018 and include waters in Avondale, Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa, Payson, Phoenix, Peoria, Sahuarita, Scottsdale, Surprise, Tempe, and Tucson. All new and renewed IGA's would target an expiration date of June 30, 2023 to coincide with typical 5-year duration cycles.

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

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20. Litigation Report

There were no comments or questions regarding the Litigation Report.

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21. Approval of Minutes and Signing of Minutes

Motion: Davis moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 16, 2018 AND FEBRUARY 26, 2018.

Vote: Unanimous

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22. Commissioner Committee Reports

Commissioner Zieler stated that the Hunt Recommendation Committee will give a report at tomorrow's meeting and the Budget Committee has a meeting scheduled for later this month.

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23. Director and Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Brake commented on the Department's Expo. He took his family and it was excellent. It was a huge event and Department staff did a wonderful job.

Director Gray commented that he unfortunately didn't get to attend the expo, but did attend the North American conference last week, which was very informative and productive.

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Meeting recessed for the day at 2:05 p.m.

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Meeting reconvened on Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

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Chairman Ammons called the meeting back to order at 8:00 a.m. and lead those present through the Pledge of Allegiance. The Commission introduced themselves followed by introductions of the Director and the Director's staff.

Awards and Recognition

Director Gray presented Service Pin Awards to the following Department employees:

35 Year Service Pin

Tim Baumgarten

30 Year Service

Carl Lutch
Kyle Cooper
Ken Dinquel
Sherry Crouch

25 Year Service Pin

Sue Boe
Sandy Helle
Scott Rogers
Jackie Burke
Wade Zarlingo
Kirby Bristow
Ken McGown
Mel Underwood

20 Year Service Pin

Sam Huselton

Chairman Ammons presented Director Gray with his 25-Year Service Pin.

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1. Call to the Public

Rudolph Hoffman, a native fish angler, addressed the Commission stating he would like to see the Commission ensure roundtail chub stocking on the Lower Salt River and the Lower Verde River. He also asked for a catch and release season for Colorado pike minnow on the Verde River.

Chairman Ammons asked Department staff to discuss Mr. Hoffman's suggestions with him.

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2. Consideration of Proposed Commission Orders 11, 12, 14-18 (Small Game), 19-22, and 24 (Migratory Game Birds) for 2018–2019 Hunting Season.

Presenter: Johnathan O'Dell, Small Game Biologist

Mr. O'Dell presented the Commission with a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on proposed Commission Orders 11, 12, 14-18 (tree squirrel, cottontail rabbit, other birds & mammals, pheasant, quail, chukar partridge, and blue grouse), 19-22 (dove, band-tailed pigeon, waterfowl, and snipe), and 24 (sandhill crane) establishing seasons and season dates, legal species, open and closed areas, bag and possession limits, permit numbers for the 2018–2019. A detailed description of all proposals were provided to the Commission prior to this meeting for review and consideration and were available for public review at all Department offices. Information and Department recommendations provided to the Commission and subsequent Commission actions included the following:

Commission Order 11 - Tree Squirrel

The Department recommends no changes to the tree squirrel seasons for 2018–2019.

Commission Order 12 - Cottontail Rabbit

The Department recommends no change to the cottontail rabbit seasons for 2018–2019.

Commission Order 14 - Other Birds and Mammals

The Department recommends removing Hualapai vole and adding New Mexico jumping mouse to the list of other mammals not allowed for take under this Commission Order. The Hualapai vole is no longer listed as an endangered species whereas the New Mexico jumping mouse is now listed as an endangered species. There are no other changes to the other birds and mammals seasons for 2018–2019.

Commission Order 15 - Pheasant

The Department recommends two 7-day limited-weapon shotgun-shooting-shot seasons with 30 permits each for the 2018 season, a decrease of 30 permits (1 hunt) from the previous season. All pheasant hunts in Units 40B are draw hunts. Dates for the individual hunts are adjusted periodically to accommodate local agricultural practices and conditions to maximize hunter success. The youth-only hunt is recommended with 30 permits. The archery and falconry seasons remain unchanged. Dates for the hunts in 2018 are specified in the Commission Orders.

Commission Order 16 - Quail

The Department recommends starting the desert quail (Gambel's, scaled, and California) season on Friday of week 42 (October 19, 2018) and ending the Sunday of week 7 (February 10, 2019). This is two weeks later than the previous year (week 40 in 2017) and the change is consistent with the most recently approved 2018-2023 Hunt Guidelines. There is no change recommended to the Mearns' quail season for 2018-2019.

Commission Order 17 - Chukar Partridge

The Department recommends no change to the chukar partridge seasons for 2018–2019.

Commission Order 18 - Blue (Dusky) Grouse

The Department recommends no change to the blue grouse seasons for 2018–2019.

Commissioner Davis stated that the Hunt Recommendations Committee supports the Department's recommendations.

Motion: Zieler moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDERS 11, 12, 14–18 AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 19 – Dove

The Department recommends no change to the season structure for mourning doves and white-winged doves from the 2017 recommendation. The 2018-2019 recommendation is for a September season of 15 days from September 1–15 as per Federal Frameworks. The late season recommendation is for the season to be open from November 23, 2018 to January 6, 2019 for mourning doves only. This recommendation is the maximum number of days allowed under Federal Frameworks.

For the early season the Department recommends an aggregate bag of 15 mourning doves and white-winged doves; of which no more than 10 may be white-winged doves, a possession limits for the early season are 45 mourning doves or white-winged doves in the aggregate of which no more than 30 may be white-winged doves. During the remainder of the season, the daily bag limit is 15 mourning doves and 45 in possession.

The dates for the Robbins Butte junior's-only hunt are recommended for September 1-2, 2018. To facilitate hunt operation, hunters will be required to check in and out. Bag limits and shooting hours will be the same as for the general season.

The Department is recommending continuation of the extended falconry-only dove season initiated in 1991. Recommended falconry-only season dates are September 16, 2018 through November 1, 2018. This season recommendation includes the maximum number of hunt days available for falconry (47). Falconry is also a legal method of take during both the regular early and late dove seasons.

The Department recommends that Eurasian collared dove season to remain open yearlong (September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019) with an unlimited bag limit. Falconry remains a recommended legal method of take with an open season yearlong for Eurasian collared doves. Pneumatic weapons are recommended as a lawful method of take for Eurasian collared doves.

Commissioner Davis stated that the Hunt Recommendations Committee supports the Department's recommendations.

Motion: Davis moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 19 – DOVE AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 20 – Band-tailed Pigeon

The Department recommends no change to the band-tailed pigeon season for 2018. The Department also recommends a bag and possession limits of 2 and 6, respectively. To address the deficiency in band-tailed pigeon harvest information, the Department recommends continuation of the voluntary free online registration for all hunters that wish to hunt band-tailed pigeons that was put in place two years ago. This will allow us to identify and survey those hunters resulting in a better harvest estimate than we currently get through HIP.

Commissioner Davis stated that the Hunt Recommendations Committee supports the Department's recommendations.

Motion: Davis moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 20 – BAND-TAILED PIGEON AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 21 – Waterfowl

Robust waterfowl populations are forecast again this year due to good carryover from last year and favorable water conditions on the prairies and in most of the Intermountain West. Production of mallards in the coastal regions of the Pacific Flyway remains strong. Because of this, the prescription for the Pacific Flyway is a Liberal season.

Season frameworks for the Pacific Flyway are:

1. Liberal, 107 day season, 7 bird bag limit;
2. Moderate, 86 day season, 7 bird bag limit;
3. Restrictive, 86 day season, 4 bird bag limit.

Management plans for pintail, canvasback, redhead, and scaup prescribe bag limits and seasons for those species separate from the above frameworks. Despite good conditions overall for ducks, the long-term average population size for these 4 species remains below the goals outlined in their management plans. There was a change in frameworks from last year for pintail which will have a daily bag limit of 2 which is up from the bag limit of 1 last season. The frameworks for hen mallards, Mexican-like ducks, redheads, and canvasback will have a 2 bird daily bag limit. Scaup will have a 3 bird daily bag limit and an 86 day season. Arizona will additionally add a 1 bird bag limit for black bellied whistling duck because of declines seen of these ducks on other bird surveys. Arizona is the only state in the Pacific Flyway with this species of duck.

The Department recommends adopting the Liberal package with a daily bag limit of 7 ducks and mergansers, including no more than 2 female mallards (or Mexican-like ducks), 2 pintail, 2 canvasback, 3 scaup, 2 redheads, and 1 black-bellied whistling duck. For scaup, the season length is 86 days, which may be split according to applicable zones/split duck hunting

configurations approved for Arizona. Recommended goose bag limits are no more than 20 white geese (snow, including blue and Ross' geese) and 4 dark geese (Canada and white-fronted). Recommended coot and common moorhen bag limit is 25 singly or in the aggregate. Recommended possession limits for all waterfowl is 3 times the daily bag limits. The waterfowl season has different opening and closing dates for the Mountain and Desert zones. Federal frameworks do not allow the general waterfowl season to extend beyond January 31. However, junior hunts may occur into February.

Liberal Package:

	<u>Mountain Zone</u>	<u>Desert Zone</u>
Juniors-Only	Sep. 29– Sept 30, 2018	Feb 2 – Feb 3, 2019
Falconry-Only	Oct 1 – Oct. 4, 2018	Jan 28 – Jan 31, 2018
General Waterfowl	Oct. 5, 2018 – Jan. 13, 2019	Oct. 19, 2018 – Jan. 27, 2019
Scaup	Oct. 20, 2018 – Jan. 13, 2019	Nov. 3, 2018 – Jan. 27, 2019

The Mountain and Desert Zones in Arizona are defined by unit within the Federal Register as follows: Desert (South) Zone: Those portions of Units 6 and 8 in Yavapai County, and Units 10 and 12B–45. Mountain (North) Zone: Units 1–5, those portions of Units 6 and 8 within Coconino County, and Units 7, 9, and 12A. Essentially, the North Zone is in the mountainous, high elevation areas of Arizona; the South Zone is in the lowland, desert areas.

Commissioner Davis stated that the Hunt Recommendations Committee supports the Department's recommendations.

Motion: Davis moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 21 – WATERFOWL AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 22 - Common Snipe

The Department recommends that the Commission approve a general snipe season with the 101 days, falconry-only season with 4 days, and youth-only season with 2 days and limits of 8 snipe per day and 24 in possession as allowed by the Service for Pacific Flyway states. Seasons for snipe are recommended to run concurrent with the general waterfowl seasons in each of the state's zones.

Commissioner Davis stated that the Hunt Recommendations Committee supports the Department's recommendations.

Motion: Davis moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 22 – SNIPE AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 24 - Sandhill Crane

Mid-Continent and Rocky Mountain populations – The allowed Federal season dates and bag limits for the Mid-Continent and Rocky Mountain populations of cranes in Arizona are as follows: The outside dates of the season must fall between September 1 and January 31 and must not exceed 60 days. The bag limit may not exceed 3 per day or 9 per season.

The Department recommends no change to the season structure for sandhill cranes from the 2017 season, except for the addition of an archery-only hunt with 10 hunters. Each permitted hunter is allowed to harvest 3 cranes.

General Sandhill Crane

Nov 16 – 18, 2018	Units 30A, 30B, 31, and 32	90 Permits
Nov 20 – 22, 2018	Units 30A, 30B, 31, and 32	90 Permits
Nov 24 – 26, 2018	Units 30A, 30B, 31, and 32	90 Permits
Nov 28 – Nov 30, 2018	Units 30A, 30B, 31, and 32	90 Permits
Dec 2 – 4, 2018	Units 30A, 30B, 31, and 32	90 Permits
Nov 24 – 26, 2018	Unit 28	12 Permits
Nov 28 – Nov 30, 2018	Unit 28	12 Permits
Dec 2 – 4, 2018	Unit 28	12 Permits
Dec 6 – 8, 2018	Unit 28	12 Permits
Dec 10 – 12, 2018	Unit 28	12 Permits

Youth-Only Sandhill Crane

Dec 7 – 9, 2018	Units 30A, 30B, 31 and 32	25 Permits
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Archery-Only Sandhill Crane

Nov 9 – 11, 2018	Units 30A, 30B, 31 and 32	10 Permits
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With the recommended season structure, we estimate total harvest will be between 400 to 525 cranes. The predicted RMP harvest is estimated at 90-110 birds. This is within the 2018 RMP allocation for Arizona (157).

Commissioner Davis stated that the Hunt Recommendations Committee supports the Department's recommendations.

Motion: Davis moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 24 – SANDHILL CRANE AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

* * * * *

1. (re-opened) Call to the Public

Lon Clifton expressed opposition to the proposed regulation restricting game trail cameras on developed water sources, however, he does agree with restrictions on wifi cameras.

Ron Nixon, representing Broadhead Nation, stated his opposition to restricting game trail cameras on developed water sources. He sent the Commission an email statement (attached to

rulemaking file) and read it to the Commission.

Kip Perow, avid sportsman and conservationist, strongly opposes the use of the airbow, which has nothing to do with the definition of a bow. These devices are simply a rifle and not a bow, and should not be allowed in an archery hunt.

Regional Supervisor Jay Cook responded that the language needs to be clarified and airbows are only allowed in place of a crossbow for CHAMP permits and are not allowed in regular archery-only seasons.

Chairman Ammons directed Mr. Cook to discuss Mr. Perow's concerns with him.

* * * * *

3. Consideration of Proposed Commission Orders 2, 5-10, 13 and 26 for 2018–2019 Hunting Season and Commission Order 23 for the 2018–2019 Trapping Seasons.

Presenter: Amber Munig, Big Game Management Program Supervisor

Ms. Munig presented the Commission with a PowerPoint presentation that included charts and graphs of survey data, historical data and scientific data related to the Department's recommendations for Commission Orders 2 (deer), 5–10 (turkey, javelina, bighorn sheep, buffalo, bear, and mountain lion), 13 (predatory and fur-bearing mammals), 26 (population management), and 23 (trapping) establishing seasons and season dates, bag and possession limits, permit numbers, and open areas for the 2018–2019 season. Detailed descriptions of these proposals were available for public review at Department offices and on the Department's website, and were provided to the Commission prior to this meeting for review. Information provided to the Commission and subsequent Commission action included the following:

The Department is recommending seasons, season dates, bag and possession limits, permit numbers, and open areas for Commission Orders 2 (deer), 5–10 (fall turkey, fall javelina, bighorn sheep, fall bison, fall bear, and mountain lion), 13 (predatory and fur-bearing mammals), 23, (trapping), and 26 (population management seasons) for 2018–2019 according to hunt guidelines approved by the Commission in September 2017. The current hunt guidelines were approved by the Commission for a 5-year period that extends through spring 2023. No public meetings were held prior to this hunt recommendation cycle. Per hunt guidelines, a single outreach effort, to include a webinar and opportunities for in person discussions simultaneous to the webinar, will be conducted annually; the webinar is planned for late July or early August.

The Commission has provided the Department with direction through the hunt guidelines to offer specific hunting opportunities. Specifically, the Department was to increase the youth-only permit allocation from 5% to 8% of the general deer permits, units with multiple deer hunts will have stratified 7-day seasons, and each region will offer a late mule deer season.

In standard management units, white-tailed deer hunting opportunity in December is limited to about 5% of the total white-tailed deer permits, and in alternative management units for white-tailed deer (Units 6A, 23, 30B, 31, and 36C) up to 30% of the harvest is to occur during December. Units 3A, 3C, 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, 17A, 45A, 45B, and 45C are managed according

to the alternative guidelines for mule deer. Archery deer seasons are recommended for season length adjustments or permitting to attain 10–20% of the total deer harvest by archers. Units 3A/3C, 11M, 12A, 12B, 13A, and 13B have permitted archery seasons recommended. Hopi tribal members will be allocated an agreed upon small proportion of deer tags in Units 4A, 4B, 5A, and 5B according to the Hopi Trust Land agreement authorized in the hunt guidelines.

Fall turkey hunts are recommended as limited-weapon shotgun-shooting-shot seasons. Youth-only turkey permits will be recommended as over-the-counter nonpermit-tags in specific units. Archery turkey seasons have been adjusted to overlap with corresponding archery deer seasons.

Fall javelina hunts are to be offered during youth-only seasons to strive for 10% of total tags (both fall and spring) for youth hunters. Youth-only seasons should coincide with a youth-only deer season, and companion population management seasons are recommended to capitalize on youth deer hunters in the field.

Bison hunts for the Raymond Herd in Units 5A and 5B are being recommended to widen the bull to cow ratio of this herd. The bison recommendation for the House Rock Herd in Unit 12A continues to target an overall population reduction.

All bear seasons have specific female harvest limits that close a season on the Wednesday following when that number of female bears has been harvested. Each unit that provides a bear hunt will also have an annual female harvest limit. If the annual female harvest limit is met, this will close any open season on the following Wednesday or any subsequent season in that unit during the current calendar year, even if the subsequent season has not yet opened. The annual female harvest limit comprises female bears lethally removed through Department action (e.g., nuisance) and female bears harvested by hunters.

The Department is recommending the adoption of smaller mountain lion management zones, harvest thresholds by zone, a shortened hunting season, and the reduction of the allowable percentage of adult females in the harvest (to no more than 25%), which are all measures that will further protect and ensure sustainable mountain lion populations across the state.

Commission Order 2 - Deer

The Department is recommending 42,820 general deer permits in 2018, an increase of 466 permits statewide. Muzzleloader permits are recommended at 1,370, a 50-permit decrease from 2017. Permitted archery deer are recommended to increase by 20 (in Unit 11M). Youth-only general permits are recommended to increase by 305 to 3,185 and youth-only muzzleloader permits are recommended to increase by 10 to 55. The December youth-only muzzleloader hunt in Unit 16A is recommended to occur over the Thanksgiving holiday and run for 10 days (November 23 to December 2). CHAMP permits are recommended to remain unchanged at 20 permits. The net change to recommended permits overall is an increase of 801 from 2017 to a grand total of 48,185 permits.

Relatively minor changes to individual unit deer permits are recommended this year. Youth permits are recommended at 7.6% of all deer permits. A fifth white-tailed deer hunt in Unit 33 is recommended in an attempt to minimize crowding concerns; this hunt is outside the normal season dates as established in the hunt guidelines. This recommendation continues stratification

of the Unit 12AW youth, antlerless deer hunts into 2 hunts, allowing 2-3% growth of the deer population on the Kaibab. December general mule deer hunts are recommended in Units 6A, 17B, 21, and 27. December any antlered deer muzzleloader seasons are recommended in Units 35A and 35B, and Units 39, 40A, 40B, 41, and 42. The December hunt in Unit 20C is not recommended for 2018. The December archery deer and general deer seasons are recommended to begin on December 14, 2018.

Season date changes are recommended in 3 units for the archery deer over-the-counter nonpermit-tag season: Unit 6A (revert back to January 1-15 from December 15-31), Unit 8 (change from January 1-31 to December 14-January 15), and 16A (add to the December 14-31 season time period). Closures enacted by the Commission for archery hunting within ¼ mile of occupied structures are again recommended.

Two 10-permit CHAMP hunts are again recommended for Unit 12AW during September and Unit 7 during October.

Hopi tribal members are recommended to receive 46 general deer permits, an increase of 5 permits. There are no youth-only permits recommended for Hopi tribal members.

Public Comment:

Johnny Spear, Western Wildlife Alliance, addressed the Commission and asked them to consider archery only hunts on a rotation basis for 3-5 years in Units 13A, 13B and 12B in order to preserve the older age class bucks and their genetics. Also, the youth deer hunt in that area should be reconsidered. This would benefit the long-term health of the mule deer populations in those units.

Chairman Ammons recommended that Mr. Spear participate in the public hunt recommendations meetings that are held prior to the Department recommendations being brought to the Commission.

Commissioner Zieler suggested that Ms. Munig discuss the matter further with Mr. Spear.

Commissioner Zieler stated that the Hunt Recommendations Committee has reviewed and supports the Department's recommendations.

Motion: Zieler moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 2 – DEER AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 5 - Turkey

The fall limited-weapon shotgun-shooting-shot turkey season is recommended to run October 5–11, 2018 with 5,000 permits, an increase of 200 permits from 2017. There are 7 units (Units 1, 4A, 4B, 6A, 12A, 23, and 27) recommended for youth-only seasons where over-the-counter nonpermit-tags will be offered (no change from 2017). These seasons will run concurrently with the permitted turkey season in the unit. The fall archery turkey nonpermit-tag season is

recommended to run from August 24–September 13, 2018. Unit 20A is recommended to be removed from the fall archery season; the turkey population may have been displaced by the Goodwin Fire and the unit is once again on the translocation priority list for turkeys.

Commissioner Zieler stated that the Hunt Recommendations Committee concurs with the Department's recommendations.

Motion: Zieler moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 5 – TURKEY AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 6 - Javelina

The Department recommends adding Unit 10 to the fall youth-only javelina seasons resulting in a permit increase of 40 and 820 total permits, during season dates that coincide with a youth-only deer season. Units within Region 5 allocate 15% of the annual permits to either an October 5–11 or a November 23–29, 2019 season. Additional units (Units 16A, 17B, 18B, 19A, 19B, and 20A) also offer youth-only opportunity, with season dates typically overlapping a school holiday.

In accordance with hunt guidelines, the Department is also recommending the youth-only deer hunters in Units 15A, 15B, 15C, 15D, 16A, 28, 29, 30A, 30B, 31, 32, 33, 36A, and 36B be provided with the opportunity to purchase over-the-counter "companion" tags for javelina, which must be authorized within Commission Order 26. Additional companion tag opportunities are still being considered.

Commissioner Zieler stated that the Hunt Recommendations Committee concurs with the Department's recommendations.

Motion: Zieler moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 6 – JAVELINA AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 7 - Bighorn Sheep

Bighorn sheep permits are recommended at 111, an increase of 7 from last year. Permit increases are recommended in Units 12B East, 15A and 15B East, 15D, 16A South and 18B, 37B, 44A West, 45B, 45C, 46B West, and Black River Hunt Area in Units 1 and 27. Permit decreases are recommended in Units 31 and 32, 46A West, 46B East, and Lower Blue River Hunt Area. Unit 13A is recommended to be stratified into the Cottonwood Wilderness (Unit 13A North) and Kanab Creek (Units 12A, 12B West, and 13A South) hunt areas. Lower Blue River Hunt Area in Unit 27 is recommended for closure.

Public Comment:

Greg Koons, Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, expressed concerns about the reduction in permits in Unit 46B East. The reduction is based on a poor survey conducted last year. The older sheep in that area were on the desert floor at the time of the survey and during the hunt.

Commissioner Zieler stated that the Hunt Recommendations Committee concurs with the Department's recommendations.

Motion: Zieler moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 7 – BIGHORN SHEEP AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commissioner Davis suggested that Department staff get with Mr. Koons to discuss the survey and look his comments on the survey earlier in the process for next year.

Commission Order 8 - Bison

For the Raymond herd in Units 5A and 5B, the Department recommends 3 designated bull hunts with 2 permits each. Our objective with these hunts is to widen the bull to cow ratio.

The bison recommendation for the House Rock Herd in Unit 12A, 12B, and 13A is to continue towards population reduction. The recommendation also includes removing all of House Rock Wildlife Area from the open hunt area to allow the bison herd an outlet for travel once bison reduction begins as anticipated on Grand Canyon National Park (GRCA) in the fall 2018. Bison reaction to pressure on GRCA will be monitored and adaptive management used to address bison reaction. The Department desires to control the amount of hunting pressure any bison returning to House Rock Wildlife Area receives during this herd reduction phase.

Commissioner Zieler stated that the Hunt Recommendations Committee concurs with the Department's recommendations.

Motion: Zieler moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 8 – BISON AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 9 - Bear

During 2018, fall bear seasons are recommended to occur during August 10–23, from August 24 for up to 38 days, or October 5 through the end of the 2018 calendar year. Units 4A/5A and 29/30A are recommended to begin on November 2 and run through the end of the calendar year. General seasons may occur during any of these season dates and archery seasons may occur during the 38 day season beginning on August 24, 2018. This structure maintains open seasons while allowing Regions to manage female harvest and maintain sites to relocate nuisance bears if necessary. The 2017 recommendation is for a cumulative female harvest limit of 110 for general and 25 for archery season. This represents an increase to the individual hunt female harvest limit in Units 29 and 30A; the annual female harvest limit remains the same for these units.

The annual female harvest limit will apply to all fall seasons. Annual female harvest limits were established in August 2017 for the units with 2018 spring hunts. Harvest that applies to annual female harvest limits includes take by a hunter or Department action that occurs in the calendar year. Implementation of the annual female harvest limit may result in the closure of a hunt before it opens if the annual female harvest limit is reached before the start of a season.

Hunters will need to contact the Department before they go hunting to determine if a specific hunt unit is open, and notification of this need will be plainly identified within the regulations. Compliance with the mandatory physical check for bear remains high.

Commissioner Zieler stated that the Hunt Recommendations Committee concurs with the Department's recommendations.

Motion: Zieler moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 9 – BEAR AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 10 - Mountain Lion

The Department recommends removing all mountain lion seasons with multiple bag limits. The annual bag limit statewide is recommended at 1 mountain lion per licensed hunter per calendar year.

The Department recommends that regulated mountain lion harvest be managed through the use of 15 management zones which will consist of one or more biologically similar game management units. The total number of mountain lions that may be harvested (harvest thresholds) will be established by management zone. When a harvest threshold is reached in a management zone that zone will close to mountain lion hunting for the remainder of the season. The mountain lion season will run from August 24, 2018 through May 31, 2019.

Harvest thresholds for each zone are based on the results from research conducted in several western states that evaluated or modeled mountain lion population dynamics in response to harvest management. The range of harvest rates associated with population stability varied across the mountain lion's range, even between regions within a single state, but most studies suggested that harvest rates of 14% or less of independent mountain lions results in a stable population and age structure. The Department, therefore, estimated mountain lion abundance for each zone and then applied a 14% harvest rate to determine the harvest threshold. These thresholds are not objectives we wish to meet but rather a maximum not to exceed if a stable population is to be maintained.

Mountain lion population size was estimated for each zone, when sample size allowed, using age-at-harvest data and non-harvest mortality rates, the same method currently used to estimate the statewide mountain lion population. Sample sizes at the statewide scale are robust and the statewide estimate is considered reliable. When those data are distributed and used at smaller scales, sample sizes for each zone are lower and estimates have wider confidence intervals. Therefore, there is less certainty around the estimates generated for each zone. Although the

Department views the zone estimates with caution, it believes that those estimates are in line with its knowledge of regional mountain lion populations.

Six zones (Zones 1, 3, 8, 9, 12, and 14) had sample sizes too low to estimate population size. In those zones, we used historical harvest data along with knowledge of mountain lion and prey populations to inform harvest thresholds. In Zones 13 and 15, the 14% harvest rate yielded thresholds that were much higher than historical harvest levels. The Department chose to use the lower historical harvest numbers since these zones experience higher levels of livestock depredation removals.

The mountain lion population and harvest management matrix below shows how we arrived at the proposed harvest thresholds.

When the number of mountain lions equaling the harvest threshold for a particular mountain lion management zone has been reached, that zone will close at sundown the Wednesday immediately following for the remainder of the mountain lion hunting season. Hunters are responsible for calling 1-877-438-0447 before hunting to determine if any mountain management zones are closed. Only hunter harvested mountains will count towards the harvest thresholds.

The adoption of smaller mountain lion management zones, harvest thresholds by zone, a shortened hunting season, and the reduction of the allowable percentage of adult females in the harvest (to no more than 25%) are all measures that have been put in place to further protect and ensure sustainable mountain lion populations across the state.

Mountain Lion Population and Harvest Management Matrix
(August 24, 2018 - May 31, 2019)

Zone	Units within a Zone	Population Estimate	Average Harvest	Maximum Harvest	14% of the Estimated Population	Harvest Threshold
1	13A, 13B	*	4	12	*	12
2	12A, 12B	102	12	21	14	14
3	15A, 15B, 15C, 15D	*	2	4	*	4
4	7, 9, 10, 11M	137	17	26	19	19
5	16A, 16B, 18A, 18B	123	12	18	17	17
6	17A, 17B, 19B, 20A, 20B, 20C	262	28	41	37	37
7	4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 6A, 6B, 8, 19A	231	28	37	32	32
8	2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 3C	*	5	7	*	7
9	42, 44A	*	2	5	*	5
10	21, 22, 23, 24A, 24B, 25M, 26M	343	43	53	48	48

11	1, 27	208	17	31	29	29
12	39, 41, 43A, 43B, 44B, 45A, 45B, 45C	*	1	2	*	3
13	28, 31, 32, 33, 37A, 37B, 38M	625	45	59	88	59
14	40A, 40B, 46A, 46B	*	1	1	*	2
15	29, 30A, 30B, 34A, 34B, 35A, 35B, 36A, 36B, 36C	597	51	68	84	68

*Sample size too low to estimate population size. Harvest threshold based on historical harvest.

Public Comment:

Jim Unmacht, Executive Director, AZSFWC, supports the Department's recommendation, but recommended that the Department meet with Arizona Sporting Dog Alliance and talk about some of their concerns.

Megan Tibbetts, Arizona Sporting Dog Alliance, supports the Department's recommendation, but would like to discuss with the Department a year-round pursuit season.

Chris Todd discussed the Department's reason for closing the mountain lion season during the summer. He appreciates the concern for mountain lion kittens, but no one has ever been cited for their hounds killing a kitten. No one wants to hurt the kittens. He strongly opposes the season being closed during the summer.

Johnny Spear, Western Wildlife Alliance, appreciates the Department and Commission and supports the recommendation, however, he would like to see a pursuit-only season during the closed seasons.

Pete Cimellaro, President, Conserve and Protect Arizona, strongly supports the Department's recommendation, but also respects the houndsmen's position. Discussion needs to take place between the Department and the houndsmen.

Commissioner Zieler stated that the Commission appreciates the input from the public and it helps in making these decisions. Arizona houndsmen have a lot invested in this sport and are very concerned about the future. The Commission is very concerned about it as well and has put in a very significant amount of time on this issue.

Commissioner Zieler read the following statement into the record: The Arizona Game and Fish Commission strives to fairly meet the public trust wildlife management responsibility charged to it by gathering input from our diverse constituencies as well from the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The Commission uses these inputs to make informed and appropriate decisions on the management of Arizona's wildlife resources. As the Department has made recommendations to modernize mountain lion management, some points of disagreement have been brought to the Commission. One of the key points of mountain lion management brought to the Commission is that of having a pursuit-only mountain lion season. There are those that believe a pursuit-only season is reasonable and desirable, and others who believe that pursuit-only seasons can be

detrimental to mountain lion populations. Based the information available to this decision-making body, I recommend that the following action be taken by the Commission: That the Commission support Commission Order 10, as presented by the Department; however, the Commission's Committee for Hunt Recommendations recommends the following changes: 1) If any zone is closed due to meeting the threshold for closure, that unit will remain open to pursuit-only use with exception of the period of the statewide closed period; 2) I further recommend that a working group be formed that includes six representatives from the hound hunting community, three representatives from the Department and one member of the Commission with the charge of continuing the dialogue to help formulate future regulations on the management of mountain lions using appropriate science-based management actions.

Motion: Zieler moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 10, MOUNTAIN LION AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: 1) IF ANY ZONE IS CLOSED DUE TO MEETING THE THRESHOLD FOR CLOSURE, THAT UNIT WILL REMAIN OPEN TO PURSUIT-ONLY USE WITH EXCEPTION OF THE PERIOD OF THE STATEWIDE CLOSED PERIOD; AND 2) THAT A WORKING GROUP BE FORMED THAT INCLUDES SIX REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HOUND HUNTING COMMUNITY, THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND ONE MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION WITH THE CHARGE OF CONTINUING THE DIALOGUE TO HELP FORMULATE FUTURE REGULATIONS ON THE MANAGEMENT OF MOUNTAIN LIONS USING APPROPRIATE SCIENCE-BASED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS.

Ms. Munig clarified the motion that it will approve Commission Order 10 as presented with the addition of a pursuit-only season statewide that will run concurrent to the open season August 24 through May 31.

Commissioners Zieler and Davis stated that is correct along with the establishment of the committee.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 26 - Population Management Seasons

Population management seasons are recommended for javelina to be available to youth-only muzzleloader deer hunters in Unit 15A, 15B, 15C, and 15D and Unit 16A and to youth-only general season deer hunters in Units 28, 29, 30A, 30B, 31, 32, 33, 36A, and 36B. These permits are popularly known as "companion" tags. Youth-only javelina population management restricted nonpermit-tags are recommended at 750 for general and 55 for muzzleloader youth-only seasons. These permits will be available only to hunters that successfully draw a deer tag in the companion deer hunt.

The Department is also recommending adding an Elk HAM population management season in Units 3B and 3C, Javelina General population management seasons in Units 17B, 19A, 19B, 20A, 42, and 44A, and Javelina Archery population management seasons in Units 17B, 19A, 19B, and 20A to address depredation and nuisance issues, each with 50 permits.

Motion: Zieler moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 26 AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 13 - Predatory and Fur-bearing Mammals

The Department recommends no change to the predatory and fur-bearing mammal seasons for 2018-2019.

Motion: Zieler moved and Davis moved THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 13 AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

Commission Order 23 - Trapping

The Department recommends no change to the trapping seasons for 2018-2019.

Motion: Zieler moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 23 AS PROPOSED.

Vote: Unanimous

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1. (re-opened) Call to the Public

Brian Fisher addressed the Commission in opposition to the proposed regulations restricting game trail cameras on developed water sources.

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4. Hunt Permit-Tag Application Schedule for Fall 2018 Hunts

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

Ms. Gottlieb presented the Commission with the draft hunt permit-tag application schedule for the Fall 2018 hunting seasons (attached). The application schedule identifies proposed acceptance dates and deadline dates for all hunts associated with the draw process. In addition, the proposed dates for when hunt permit-tags and refund warrants will be mailed are also identified, along with information relating to the first-come/first-serve process for any permits that may still be available.

Motion: Zieler moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION SCHEDULE FOR THE 2018 FALL HUNTS.

Vote: Unanimous

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5. Future Agenda Items and Action Items

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

- Regarding license reauthorization, the Department will prepare a letter from the Chair to the 82 voting members of the Senate and House thanking them for passing this legislation
- The SRP license agreement item will be brought back as a regular item and not on the consent agenda.

* * * * *

Motion: Brake moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADJOURN THIS MEETING.

Vote: Unanimous

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Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

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These minutes were approved by the Commission at the June 8, 2018 Commission meeting.

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

James R. Ammons, Chairman

**Game and Fish Litigation Report
Presented at the Commission Meeting
April 6, 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 Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS") for violations of the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"). Arizona alleges in the lawsuit that the FWS has failed to develop a new recovery plan for the Mexican wolf that complies with the requirements of ESA. The FWS prepared an original recovery plan for the Mexican wolf in 1982, but that plan has since expired, and it does not include the necessary elements ESA requires for a recovery plan. Arizona will seek declaratory and injunctive relief compelling the FWS to develop a new recovery plan within a reasonable period.

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

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

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

On June 28, 2017, the FWS issued a draft recovery plan and opened the public comment period until August 29, 2017. 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. The FWS has sixty days to file an answer or a motion to dismiss. 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.**

2. *Center for Biological Diversity v. Jewell*, CV-15-00019-JGZ; *WildEarth Guardians v. Ashe*, CV 15-00285. CBD filed its lawsuit on January 15, 2015, alleging violations of the Endangered Species Act ("ESA") and the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"). Plaintiffs contend that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's ("FWS") final revised rule governing the Mexican wolf experimental population, and a research and recovery permit

issued under Section 10(a)(1)(A) of ESA impede Mexican wolf recovery and survival. Plaintiffs also allege the final environmental impact statement (“EIS”) and a biological opinion associated with the final rule are inadequate. Plaintiffs seek a court order to set aside and remand to the FWS portions of the final rule, the permit and final EIS.

On April 15, 2015, the State of Arizona on behalf of Game and Fish filed a motion to intervene in support of the FWS. At the same time, Arizona filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit on the basis the court lacks subject matter jurisdiction. The federal defendants filed an answer to the complaint on April 22, 2015.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On March 15, 2017, the district court issued an order granting the motions to dismiss.

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

CBD filed a notice of appeal on April 20 2017. As of November 30, 2017, all briefing in the case is 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 Guynn. The suit was filed in September 2016. **The Guynn case is continued until April 2018, to allow Guynn to return home from serving abroad in the military. The Holden case will be set for hearing in May 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 29, 2018**. The Appellants reply brief is due on **September 15, 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. Mr. Scarla's Reply brief is due on April 4, 2018.**

7. *State of Arizona v. United States Army Corps of Engineers*, CV 18-00696 GJH. The Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) project to inspect the upper outlet facilities at Alamo Dam started on March 12, 2018, with water releases out of the dam that will reach 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 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.

Commission Priorities Report

April 6, 2018



FY18 Target of 150,000 acres secured for access: On track, 2 new perpetual easements secured, 13 agreements total. Target of 5,000 Volunteer hours: ~3,300 hours coordinated. Target 3 outreach efforts on Access Program targeting sportsmen: 3 for year



As of March 28th, 2018, 126,541 Portal Memberships have been established. This is not on track to achieve the 159,640 target for the year. Planning is underway to evaluate options to bring this on track. Posted Mid-Winter Draw Results in 23 days, 2 days ahead of the target, and 15% of all Mid-Winter Applicants



The Data Warehouse Business Requirements Plan has been submitted to ADs for review. GDMS - Further development of the mobile portion of the Survey App is stalled because of staffing constraints; development of the Hunt Recommendation module is progressing.



Sterling Springs Hatchery: staff met with the design consultant to kick off design for the renovation. Design ready for bid by early FY19. CC Craigan Boating Facility: Construction crews installed guardrail on the upper road and launch area; concrete poured at the launch ramp for nine parking spaces of which three are ADA compliant.



Q3: 124,246 lbs. of sportfish stocked in 75 unique waters. Cumulative through March, 2018: 362,396 lbs. of sportfish stocked in 106 unique waters



SEE: AMS Report presented as a separate Agenda item.



Fair Chase: Committee attended Shot Show to maintain awareness on industry direction and to evaluate new technologies. MOFT: The Department authorized two limited appointment Wildlife Specialist positions that will assist the Regions with nuisance wildlife calls and ultimately free up officer time to address other priorities.



Exceeding social media engagement targets; Conserve and Protect ads boost Wildlife Center fundraising; Social Media specialist on board; Multiple media reports touting Expo; First Expo "Facebook Live" broadcasts; Completing project to coordinate messaging in WLV Magazine and WLV TV show; Prepping for EEC; Branding campaign continues.



Shooter days – 263,668 through Feb., up ½ % over FY17. BASF Revenue - \$2,401,426.24 through March down 1% over FY17. Successful deployment of innagural Media - Industry Range day at 2018 EXPO. Currently reviewing data from 2018 Outdoor EXPO to be presented to the Commission.



FY 18 TARGET of 500,000 acres restored: 622,476 acres completed. TARGET of \$1 million in funding secured: \$2.355 million total. TARGET of 6 aquatic restoration projects: on track. TARGET of 20 catchments: 13 complete.



WILDERNESS: Efforts to keep Cherry Creek Rd open and do W.L. management in WAS proving difficult. LEES FERRY: Working with DOI/BOR on fish stockings. BISON: Dept W/D from EA process, still pursuing fed legislation. DOI RE-ORG: Developing info for Gov's Office re current map.

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

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (A-S)

Travel Management Planning (TMP)

- The Department continues to participate as a Cooperating Agency, providing information and expertise through meetings, field visits, and formal comments. In October 2017, the A-S published a notice of intent (NOI) to revise the Environmental Impact Statement and intends to use comments received in 2010 for this initial NEPA phase. 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 Final LRMP is anticipated for release spring 2018, followed by a 90 day appeal process. Based on meetings and the Forests' most recent response (February 7, 2018) to formal comments/recommendations, the Department anticipates outstanding issues will be carried forward in the final plan.

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.

Special Use Permit for Water Developments

- The Department met with the Forest on March 19th to discuss special use permit reissuance for 73 water catchments, ponds, and springs managed by the Department and located across all five districts of the Forest.

Chiricahua Firescape Project

- The Department actively participates on the ID team for the Chiricahua Firescape project, which will plan for fire management in the Chiricahua Ecosystem Management Area. The Department expects this firescape plan to result in better habitat management through planning for fire at the landscape scale. The Department provided comments on March 8, 2018.

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.

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. Team members will be going through the Preliminary Proposed Plan for revisions which are due the first week of April. The LRMP/DEIS is anticipated summer of 2018.
- In efforts to recommend areas on the TNF for wilderness designation, a draft wilderness evaluation map was released for public input in late January. The Department submitted formal comments on February 12, 2018. Note: Areas identified for wilderness and wild and scenic rivers evaluation could be included across all developed alternatives.

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.

Pinto Valley Mine

- The Department continues to participate as a Cooperating Agency for the Pinto Valley Mine EIS and any necessary amendments to the Tonto Forest Plan. The Forest has posted the Final Draft Scoping and Issues Report on the public website. In January 2018, the Forest held an alternatives development workshop with Cooperating Agencies to identify potential alternatives, design features, and best management practices. The Forest Service requested Cooperating Agency review/analysis of state trust species impacts and input on Pinto Creek resource concerns.

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 provided Cooperating Agency feedback on proposed draft alternatives, resulting in a revised set of alternatives. The TNF has posted the draft Alternatives Evaluation Report on its website. The Department is working with the ID Team on the Biological Workgroup and the Ground Water Modeling Workgroup. 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

Arizona Strip Field Office

Transportation network for St George Basin and Colorado City

- The Department participated on the interdisciplinary team to conduct route evaluations and develop a range of alternatives. During that time, the Department faced very few issues with respect to maintaining appropriate motorized access. Finding of No Significant Impact for the EA was issued on February 15, 2018.

Hassayampa Field Office

Travel Management Planning

- The Department is a Cooperating Agency on the Black Canyon Corridor Travel Management Plan. The Department participated on the interdisciplinary team to conduct route evaluations and develop a range of alternatives. Route evaluations were completed September 2017. BLM released the Draft TMP and EA and Alternatives maps for cooperating agency 30-day administrative review. Unique to this TMP are technical vehicle sites (TVSs) which are presently user created routes for rock crawling within drainages that offer large rocks and other off-camber obstacles for specialized vehicles. The Department submitted comments on March 7, 2018 on the Administrative Draft TMP and EA. Public release of the Draft TMP and EA is estimated for April 2018. The target date for a final decision is September 2018. The Field Office plans to complete all Travel Management Plans by the end of federal FY 19.

Havasu Field Office

Travel Management Planning (TMP)

- Havasu Field Office has 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)

- In August 2017, the BLM Kingman Field Office initiated TMP efforts for the entirety of the Kingman Field Office: Bagdad, Black, Cerbat, Hualapai, Music Mountains, Poachie, Goodwin Mesa, and White Hills travel management areas. The Department was involved

throughout the initial route evaluation process from 2014 through 2016. As a Cooperating Agency, the Department continues to provide input on routes and the development of draft alternatives. The Draft TMP and EA is planned for release in April 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 participated on the BLM interdisciplinary team to conduct route evaluations and develop TMP alternatives to be analyzed through the NEPA process. Route evaluations were completed October 2017. The Department provided comments on individual route designations and input on the Administrative Draft TMP and EA on March 1, 2018. Public release of the Draft TMP and EA is estimated for April 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

- On October 20, 2017, BLM issued the Final EIS and proposed RMP amendment. 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.

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.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Barry M. Goldwater Range/Luke Airforce Base INRMP

- In 2015, the Airforce expressed its intention to combine Luke Airforce Base (Luke AFB) and Barry M. Goldwater Range (BMGR) into one Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The regulatory agencies suggested each installation have a separate analysis and review. At that time, Luke AFB drafted and finalized an interim INRMP to be in place until the BMGR five-year review.
- The BMGR Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) five-year review process is underway. The Department has reviewed and provided initial feedback on the administrative draft. The Department has been working closely with Luke AFB and in February 2018, they released an interagency draft INRMP for Luke AFB and Fort Tuthill. The Department submitted comments on February 26, 2018. Final draft is expected to be released to the public on March 26, 2018.
- On February 28, 2018, Department of Defense published Notice of Intent to prepare an update to the 2012 INRMP for BMGR and prepare a new INRMP for Luke AFB including Fort Tuthill and Marine Corp Air Station (MCAS) in Yuma. The Department attended public meetings held in Ajo and Yuma in March.

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 – March 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 expected Spring 2018, followed by a 90 day appeal process.
<u>Coconino</u>	TMP	Final 2011 (forest wide), MVUMs available; Department appealed plan on MBGR and	Dispersed camping 300ft from specifically identified roads only, 30ft from all other roads. MBGR for elk	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
		dispersed camping decisions; appeal denied.	only, 1 mile from roads except GMUs 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 – March 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	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. Public	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
		Administrative Draft TMP/EA and Alternatives maps	release of the draft EA is estimated for April 2018.	
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>Havasup</u>	RMP	ROD signed July 2007.		
<u>Havasup</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 Cooperating Agency Status.	Draft TMP EA is planned for release to the public in April 2018.	

Federal Land Management Planning Status

BLM				
Field Office/District	Plan	Status	Issues and Next Steps	Projected Completion and Implementation
		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 is estimated for 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	TBD following route-by-route analysis

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	
<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	

Federal Land Management Planning Status

BLM				
Field Office/District	Plan	Status	Issues and Next Steps	Projected Completion and Implementation
<u>Yuma Ten West Transmission Line</u>		Administrative Draft reviewed by cooperating agencies. Public draft scheduled to be released March 23	Incorporate agency comments, release public draft	Uncertain behind schedule

Federal Land Management Planning Status

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Status of USFWS planning in Arizona – March 2018

USFWS				
Office/Refuge	Plan	Status	Issues and Next Steps	Projected Completion and Implementation
<u>Havas</u> <u>National</u> <u>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</u> <u>Refuge</u> <u>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</u> <u>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 – March 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 2017. Current schedule has a bulk of the implementation activities starting in fall 2017/spring 2018.

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

Status of major transportation planning in Arizona – March 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 May 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.

Hunt Permit-tag Application Schedule – Fall 2018

Hunt permit-tag applications will be accepted and processed in accordance with R12-4-104 and R12-4-114 and this schedule.

Drawing					
	ACCEPTANCE DATES ¹	DEADLINE DATES ²			
HUNT	Applications accepted on or after:	PAPER APPLICATIONS: Deadline 7:00 p.m. (Arizona time)	ONLINE: Deadline 11:59 p.m. (Arizona time):	Hunt permit-tags mailed out by:	Refund warrants mailed out by:
Deer	(See notes 1, 2, 3)	May 8, 2018	June 12, 2018	July 31, 2018	July 20, 2018
Turkey	(See notes 1, 2, 3)	May 8, 2018	June 12, 2018	July 31, 2018	July 20, 2018
Javelina	(See notes 1, 2, 3)	May 8, 2018	June 12, 2018	July 31, 2018	July 20, 2018
Bighorn Sheep	(See notes 1, 2, 3)	May 8, 2018	June 12, 2018	July 31, 2018	July 20, 2018
Bison	(See notes 1, 2, 3)	May 8, 2018	June 12, 2018	July 31, 2018	July 20, 2018
Pheasant	(See notes 1, 2, 3)	May 8, 2018	June 12, 2018	July 31, 2018	July 20, 2018
Sandhill Crane	July 30, 2018 ³	Aug. 31, 2018 ³	N/A	Sept. 10, 2018	N/A
Raptor	Feb. 18, 2019 ³	March 11, 2019 ³	N/A	March 18, 2019	N/A

First Come ⁴		
	Applications accepted by mail on or after 8:00 a.m. (Arizona time):	Permits available for purchase with a completed application at all Department offices after 8:00 a.m. (Arizona time):
HUNT	ACCEPTANCE DATES	ACCEPTANCE DATES
Deer	July 23, 2018	July 30, 2018
Turkey	July 23, 2018	July 30, 2018
Javelina	July 23, 2018	July 30, 2018
Bighorn Sheep	July 23, 2018	July 30, 2018
Bison	July 23, 2018	July 30, 2018
Pheasant	July 23, 2018	July 30, 2018
Sandhill Crane	Sept. 10, 2018	N/A
Raptor	March 26, 2019	N/A

Online Applicants ⁵
Deadline for updating your credit or debit card information and to purchase Point Guard online by 11:59 p.m. (Arizona time)
Thursday June 28, 2018

Notes:

- The Department will accept Hunt Permit-tag Applications for big game and Pheasant listed above as soon as the applicable year's hunt information is available on the Department's website (www.azgfd.gov), or from any Game and Fish Department office or license dealer, unless otherwise noted in the Hunt Permit-tag Application schedule.
- Department offices at Flagstaff, Kingman, Mesa, Phoenix, Pinetop, Tucson and Yuma will close for business at 5 p.m. (Arizona time); completed paper applications will be accepted at these locations until 7 p.m. (Arizona time) on paper application deadline days. No applications will be accepted after this time regardless of the postmark. **Deadline dates are different for paper applications and online applications.** Deadline dates may be extended in the event of a Department-related system failure that prevents the public from submitting an application within the deadlines listed above. The online system slow down due to heavy traffic is not considered a Department-related system failure and may not result in a deadline extension. Applicants are encouraged to apply early to avoid the last minute rush. Application assistance can be obtained Monday through Friday (8 a.m.–5 p.m. Arizona time) by contacting the Department. Only on deadline day, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., after the close of normal business, the Department can be reached at 623-236-7424 for online application assistance.
- Sandhill Crane and Raptor applications are accepted by mail only at the following addresses: P.O. Box 74020, Phoenix, AZ 85087-1052; or at 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086-5000. These applications may not be hand delivered to any Department office.
- First come permits are issued if available and will sell very quickly. Applicants are advised to check with the Department before submitting an application for leftover permits. No person, including Youth, may submit more than one valid application per genus for the First Come process, with the exception of javelina (see the javelina bag limit description). A listing of leftover permits is available online at www.azgfd.gov under "Big Game Draw" or at any Department office. To submit first come applications by U.S. mail only, please send to: 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086, ATTN: DRAW/FIRST COME.
- Online applicants are encouraged to keep their credit card payment information current. If your payment is declined at the time of the draw, your application will not be drawn. The Arizona Game and Fish Department will no longer call customers to obtain payment on drawn applications where credit cards have failed. **NOTE: If your credit/debit card has been used for multiple applications, please notify your banking institution that multiple charges from Arizona Game and Fish could be processed simultaneously.**