



Aquatic Stocking License Application Process

In Arizona, individuals wanting to stock private waters or home aquaponics systems are able to do so through the Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) under an Aquatic Stocking License (R4-12-410). The Aquatic Stocking License allows a person to import, possess, purchase, stock, and transport certain restricted aquatic species (listed in R12-4-406) designated on the license at the location specified on the license. As a general rule, restricted species are those that cannot typically be found at a pet store. The issuance of a stocking license is at the discretion of the Regional Aquatic Wildlife Program Manager and is based on a variety of consideration including whether the species is already present in the watershed, whether the stocking location is a closed system, whether the species has the potential to harm the environment should it escape, among other factors.

The first step in the Aquatic Stocking License Application process is to determine what species you want to stock and identify the vendor who will be transporting the fish for stocking. The Department maintains a list of [vendors](#) that have delivered fish to the state previously. Once the vendor is identified, the applicant will work with the vendor to determine the date the fish will be stocked. An Aquatic Stocking License is valid for 20 consecutive days, so the Department recommends that the applicant bracket a stocking window around the intended stocking date should issues arise with delivery. Additionally, the applicant will need to obtain a disease certification from the vendor¹ to attach to their application. Once the application is complete it can be sent to the appropriate Regional Aquatics Program Manager. If the application is complete the approval process will typically take less than 10 business days but incomplete applications will delay the process.

Typical issues seen with applications that can cause delays include:

- Not including a stocking date(s).
- Not attaching the disease certification to the application.
- Poor description of the location to be stocked.
- Not signing the application.
- Not remitting the proper payment with the application.

¹ The vendor is also required to obtain an [entry permit](#) from the Arizona Department of Agriculture to import fish into Arizona.

- If stocking for a HOA or community, not designating a person and providing their personal information on the application as the representative.

Although the Aquatic Stocking License process allows for individuals to stock restricted aquatic species, not all restricted species will be permitted. Species typically allowed, depending on your location, include:

- Largemouth Bass
- Bluegill
- Redear Sunfish
- Tilapia
- Black Crappie
- Channel Catfish
- Rainbow Trout
- Tiger Trout
- Brown Trout

Depending on the species you would propose to stock, a site visit by a biologist may be required. If you have any questions related to the process or the potential to stock a certain species contact the appropriate Regional Aquatic Program Manager for your area.

Contacts

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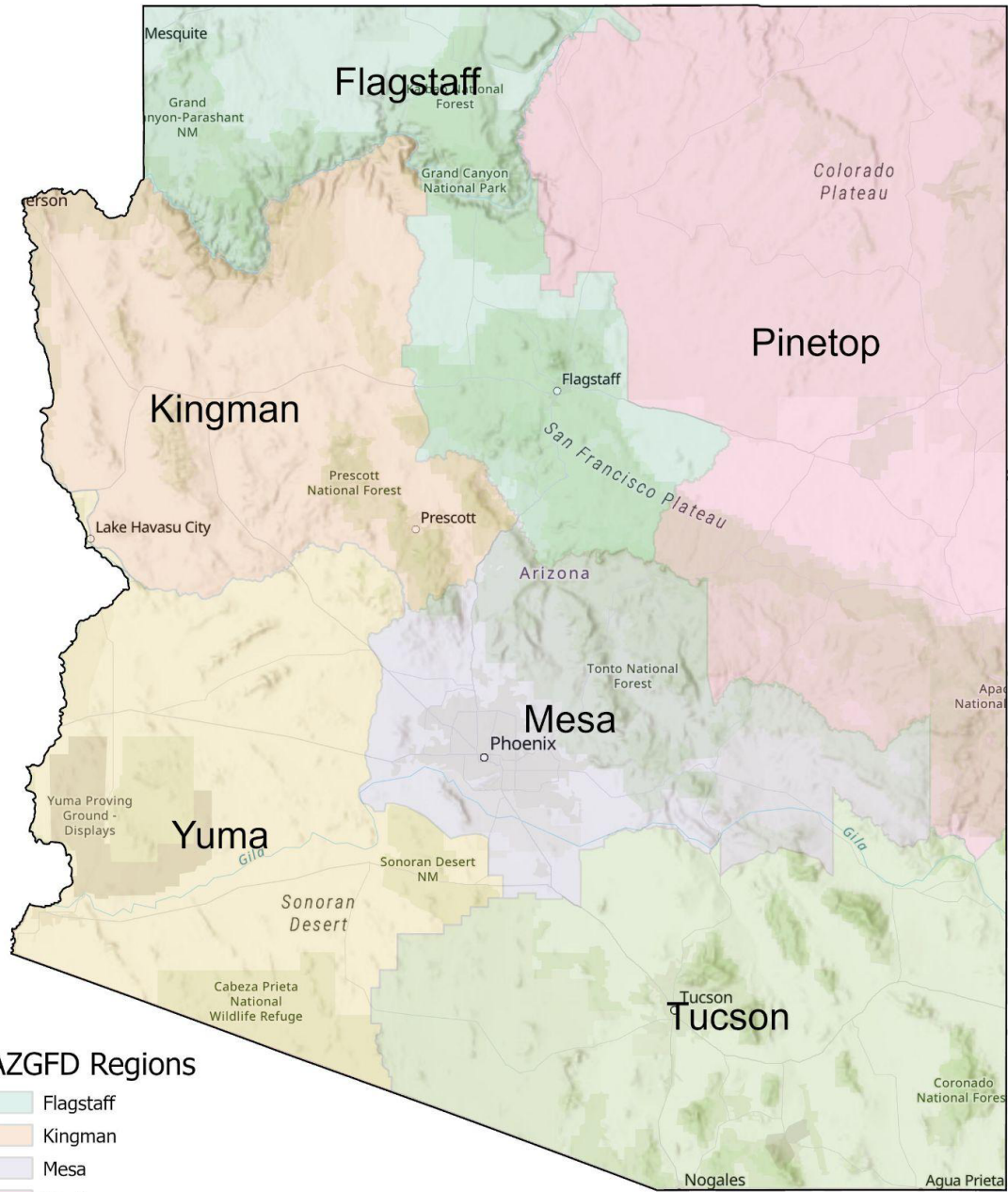
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AZGFD Regions

- Flagstaff
- Kingman
- Mesa
- Pinetop
- Tucson
- Yuma



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Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USFWS, Esri, CGIAR, USGS