



PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA
Revision #1

May 7, 2025

A public meeting of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission will be held on **May 9, 2025** at the **Mohave County Auditorium, 700 W. Beale Street Kingman, AZ 86401**. The public may attend the meeting in person or view the meeting at www.azgfd.gov/commissioncam or may listen to the meeting by calling 404-397-1516, Access code: 280 046 234##. Members of the public may view the meeting from any Department Regional Office and the Department's Headquarters via video teleconference. ***DUE TO THE MEETING LOCATION, PUBLIC COMMENT WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FROM THE REGION 3 OFFICE IN KINGMAN.** Members of the public attending in person wanting to speak on a specific agenda item may submit Speaker Cards (Blue Cards) if they wish to speak to the Commission. Members of the public may only address the Commission by attending in person or from any regional office. Copies of any presentations, documents, etc. discussed during the meeting will be available by contacting sprice@azgfd.gov. Unless expressly provided otherwise with any matter, the Commission may discuss and may vote to take action on the following matters:

Friday, May 9, 2025 **Meeting location opens at 7:45 a.m.**
 Meeting begins at 8:00 a.m.
 Lunch Break at 12:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome/Introductions

Awards and Recognition

Regional Highlights

- 1) Call to the Public.** Those persons wishing to speak on a matter not on the agenda should complete a speaker's card and present it to the host. No discussion or action will be taken by the Commission. Any items requiring further discussion or action will be included on a future Commission meeting agenda.
- 2) Consent Agenda.** The following items are hereby noticed as consent agenda items to expedite action on routine matters, which may not require public discussion. The Commission will be asked to approve briefings and updates without further public input or discussion and to approve other matters as presented, subject to approval or

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GOVERNOR: KATIE HOBBS **COMMISSIONERS:** CHAIRMAN CLAY HERNANDEZ, TUCSON | MARSHA PETRIE SUE, SCOTTSDALE | JEFF BUCHANAN, PATAGONIA
JAMES E. GOUGHNOUR, PAYSON | KURT KERR, PINETOP **DIRECTOR:** TOM P. FINLEY **DEPUTY DIRECTOR:** JOSHUA W. HURST

recommendations of the Commission's legal counsel. Commission members may remove certain items if further public input or discussion is deemed necessary.

- a) **Approve FY 2027 Proposed Budget & FY 2026 Amendments. Presenter: Jennifer Alspaw, Business & Finance Branch Chief.** Approve FY 2027 proposed budget and the proposed amendments to the FY 2026 budget.
- 3) **Approve Notice of Termination of Rulemaking for Article 2. Licenses; Permits; Stamps; Tags. Presenter: Clay Crowder, Assistant Director Wildlife Management Division.** Based on public comments, the Department will request additional time to evaluate the issue further and will ask the Commission to vote to approve the Notice of Termination of Rulemaking for Article 2. Licenses; Permits; Stamps; Tags.
- 4) **Approve the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Notice of Rulemaking Docket Opening, and Economic Impact Statement Amending Rules Within Article 4, Live Wildlife. Presenter: Martin Gueren, Wildlife Law Enforcement Supervisor.** The Department will ask the Commission to vote to approve the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Notice of Rulemaking Docket Opening, and Economic Impact Statement Amending Rules Within Article 4, Live Wildlife.
- 5) **Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) Briefing. Presenter: Jennifer Presler, Birds and Mammals Biologist.** The Department will provide an informational update on the Black-tailed Prairie Dog Reintroduction Program.

TIME CERTAIN AT 10:00AM

- 6) **Hearings on License Revocations for Violations of Game and Fish Codes and Civil Assessments for the Illegal Taking and/or Possession of Wildlife. Presenter: Gene F. Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief.** The Commission will consider and take action on the license revocations and/or civil assessments for the individuals listed below.

Name	Docket #	Conviction
Joseph Martin	2025-0016	Take Mule Deer Without Valid License

- 7) **Rehearing Request Regarding Previous License Revocation/Civil Assessment. Presenter: Gene F. Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief.** Vincente Deleon has requested a rehearing regarding the revocation of his license privileges.
- 8) **Willow Beach Fishing Pier Cleanup. Presenter: Scott Ozborn, Wildlife Manager, Region 3.** The Commission will be provided a briefing on the multi-agency effort to reduce the unintended waterfowl mortalities at the Willow Beach fishing pier.

- 9) **Shooting Range Development Grant Requests for FY 2026. Presenter: Matthew Schwartzkopf, Statewide Shooting Range Administrator.** The Department's Shooting Range Development Grant Program received four grant applications for fiscal year 2026. The Department will ask the Commission to approve three applications, totaling the full \$100,000 allocated. The Commission may vote to take action on, or provide the Department direction on this item.

Agenda item 10 is a first read item. The Commission may choose to take action on first read items as needed or may direct the Department to place first read items on the consent agenda for approval at the next Commission meeting.

- 10) **An Agreement for Permit with the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside for the Purpose of Providing Access to the White Mountain Trail across the Commission's Pinetop Regional Office, Navajo County, Arizona. Presenter: Jim Ruff, Land and Water Program Supervisor.** The Commission may vote to approve the Agreement for a Permit with the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside for the Purpose of Providing Access to the White Mountain Trail on the Commission's Pinetop Regional Office.
- 11) **Request for Referral to OAH. Presenter: Patrick Boyle, Assistant Attorney General.** The Department has requested the Attorney General's Office to seek civil suspension and/or revocation of the guide licenses of Jay Lopeman and Chad Rhoton pursuant to A.R.S. § 17-362 regarding potential violations of Title 17. The Commission may refer the matter to the Office of Administrative Hearings to conduct a hearing and prepare a report and recommendation to the Commission.
- 12) **Approve Cooperative Agreement for Law Enforcement Efforts. Presenter: Gene F. Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief.** The Commission will consider and take action on a Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement.
- 13) **Special Big Game Tag Re-allocation. Presenter: Andrew Cavalcant, Habitat Partnership Committee Coordinator.** The Commission will consider modification to the method of sale for Arizona Elk Society's Special Big Game Tag elk tag for the 2025-2026 season.
- 14) **State and Federal Legislation. Presenter: Ed Sanchez, Legislative Policy Administrator.** The Commission will be briefed on the status of state and federal legislation and may take a position or provide direction to the Department for coordination, action, or proposed changes to legislation related to Department responsibilities.
- 15) **State and Federal Lands Planning Update. Presenter: Callie Cavalcant, Habitat, Evaluation and Lands Branch Chief.** The Commission will receive an update on Department activities and involvement with land management planning and other actions regarding state and federal lands in Arizona.

- 16) **Commission Priorities Update. Presenter: Luke Thompson, Special Assistant to the Director.** The Department will provide an update on the Commission Priorities and Metrics, and Karen Klima will provide an extended presentation for Commission Priority: Develop and Implement a Strategy for Resilient Wildlife and Habitat.
- 17) **Chairman, Commissioners and Director Comments.** The Chairman, Commissioners and Director may provide brief comments on current events and issues. This item is for information only. Items requiring discussion, deliberation or legal action must be placed on a future Commission meeting agenda.
- 18) **Future Agenda Items and Action Items.**
- 19) **Litigation Report.** The Department's legal counsel may report on the status of the litigation matters: *In re General Stream Adjudication for the Little Colorado River and Gila River; Center for Biological Diversity v. Haaland, CV 22-303/453.*
- 20) **Executive Session. (The Commission will not vote to take on any action during the Executive Session).**
- a. **Litigation and Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (4) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice in order to consider its position and to instruct legal counsel regarding the Commission's position concerning: *In re General Stream Adjudication for the Little Colorado River and Gila River; Center for Biological Diversity v. Haaland, CV 22-303/453; OAH No. 24A-0001-AH-AZGFD; Notice of Intent to Sue concerning the Alamo Wildlife Area and In re Ernesto Bernal (OAH case).*
 - b. **Litigation and Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (4) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice in order to consider its position and to instruct legal counsel regarding the Commission's position concerning the legal strategy recommendations from the Department's legal strategies team.
 - c. **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. §§ 38-431.03(A)(3) & (4) for the purpose of discussions and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice and to instruct Department staff on contract negotiations regarding a cooperative multi state agreement for law enforcement resource exchange.
 - d. **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding the Commission's authority to lock gates and close

roads providing access to State Trust lands where there is reasonable alternative public access.

- e. **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding the designation of the Grand Canyon National Monument.
- f. **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding a proposed petition to amend Commission rules related to the lawful methods of take and seasons for taking wildlife.
- g. **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel regarding trespasses and other unauthorized activities on Commission-owned Wildlife Areas.
- h. **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(4) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel in order to consider its position and instruct its legal counsel regarding the Commission's position regarding a proposed right-of-way and right-of-entry agreement with Southline Transmission that is the subject of negotiations.
- i. **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding a potential referral to the Office of Administrative Hearings regarding a potential violation of A.R.S. § 17-309 by licensed guides Jay Lopeman and Chad Rhoton.
- j. **Purchase or Disposal of Real Property and Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (7) for the purpose of discussion or consultation with Department staff in order to consider its position and instruct its representative regarding the purchase or disposal of real property and for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice.
- k. **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding Commission practices related to communication, agendas and public records.

- I. Personnel Matters.** The Commission may vote to go into executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1) to discuss personnel matters associated with the Director's duties, responsibilities and performance. The Commission may take action in the public session or defer any action to a later date.



Tom Finley
Director

The agenda may be revised and additional items may be added prior to the meeting as authorized by A.R.S. §38-431.02. In that event, an addendum to the agenda will be noticed and posted prior to the meeting at Department offices. Commission agenda items not noticed for a specific time may be taken out of order. Background materials provided to Commission members concerning public agenda items are available for public inspection at the main office of the Arizona Game and Fish Department at 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, at Department regional offices in Pinetop, Flagstaff, Kingman, Yuma, Tucson, Mesa and at the meetings.

During the public meeting, the Commission may afford any person, their duly authorized representative, or both, the opportunity to present statements relating to agenda items, with or without the opportunity to present them orally. The Commission may go into Executive Session for the purpose of obtaining legal advice from the Commission Attorneys on any of the above agenda items pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A) (3) & (4). One or more members of the Commission may appear and participate in the meeting telephonically or by other electronic means.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, or this document in an alternative format, by contacting the AZGFD Deputy Director, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, Arizona 85086, 602-942-3000. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is responsible for managing Arizona's fish and wildlife resource as an enduring public trust. In addition, the Department is charged with promoting safe and responsible use of watercraft and off-highway vehicles. Funding is provided from the

sale of licenses and permits; watercraft registration fees; federal excise taxes on firearms, fishing equipment, boats, and other sporting goods; State lottery revenues; donations on State income tax forms; and various contracts and grants. Department policy is set by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, whose five members are appointed by the Governor.

“Managing Today for Wildlife Tomorrow”