



PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

Revision #1

August 6, 2025

A public meeting of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission will be held on **August 8, 2025** at the **Little America Hotel, 2515 E Butler Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86004**. 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. *DUE TO THE MEETING LOCATION, PUBLIC COMMENT WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FROM THE REGION 2 OFFICE IN FLAGSTAFF.** 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 spruce@azgfd.gov. Unless expressly provided otherwise with any matter, the Commission may discuss and may vote to take action on the following matters:

Friday, August 8, 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:** CHAIR MARSHA PETRIE SUE, SCOTTSDALE | JEFF BUCHANAN, PATAGONIA | JAMES E. GOUGHNOUR, PAYSON
KURT KERR, PINETOP | CLAY HERNANDEZ, TUCSON **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) **Request for Approval to Apply Rotenone in Knoll Lake. Presenter: Julie Carter, Aquatic Wildlife Branch Chief.** The Department will present to the Commission the Department's request to apply rotenone in Knoll Lake to remove illegally stocked Green Sunfish.
 - b) **An Agreement with the City of Show Low for a Permit for the Purpose of Providing Access to the White Mountain Trail across the Commission's Fools Hollow Lake Wildlife Area, Navajo County, Arizona. Presenter: Jim Ruff, Land and Water Program Supervisor.** The Department will present to the Commission a Permit with the City of Show Low for the Purpose of Providing Access to the White Mountain Trail on the Commission's Fools Hollow Lake Wildlife Area.
 - c) **Disposal of the Commission's 7.3 acre GSA parcel, located in Maricopa County, Arizona. Presenter: Jim Ruff, Land and Water Program Supervisor.** The Department will present to the Commission the disposal of the 7.3 acre GSA parcel, located along the Lower Gila River in Maricopa County, Arizona.
 - d) **Petition to Close Road on State Trust Land Near Kirkland, Arizona. Presenter: Dan Sturla, Landowner Relations Program Manager.** The Commission may vote to approve a petition submitted by Jeff Harkless to close a road to vehicle access on State Trust Land (STL) located just east of Kirkland, Arizona. The road provides vehicle access to the ranch which is a combination of leased State Land, and private land. Alternative vehicular routes in either direction of the petitioned closure provide reasonable access to the same area. The Commission may vote to take action on, or provide the Department direction on this item.
- 3) **Notice of Exempt Rulemaking within Article 4. Presenter: Martin Guerena, Wildlife Law Enforcement Supervisor.** The Department will present to the Commission the Notice of Exempt Rulemaking within Article 4 to Approve the New Aquatic Animal Aquaculture License.
- 4) **Approve Proposed Commission Order 29 for Special Big Game License-Tag Seasons for Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, Pronghorn, Elk, Turkey, Javelina, Bighorn Sheep, Bison, Black Bear, and Mountain Lion for the 2026–2027 Special License-Tag Hunting Seasons. Presenter: Erin Butler, Big Game Management Program Supervisor.** The Commission will consider and may vote to approve Commission Order 29: Special Hunts, establishing seasons and season dates, bag and possession limits, permit numbers, and open areas for Special Big Game Hunt License-Tags for the 2026–2027 seasons.
- 5) **Consideration of Proposed Commission Orders 5 and 8 for the 2026 Hunting Season. Presenter: Erin Butler, Big Game Management Program Supervisor.** The

Commission will consider and may vote to approve Commission Orders 5 (turkey) and 8 (bison) establishing seasons and season dates, bag and possession limits, permit numbers or authorized limits, and open areas for the 2026 hunting seasons.

TIME CERTAIN AT 10:00AM

- 6) ***REVISED* 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
Timothy Porter	2025-0020	Take Mule Deer Without a Valid Permit.
Tyler Biggs	2025-0021	Use Trail Camera to Aid in The Take of Elk.
Laron Porter	2025-0022	Possession of Unlawfully Taken Mule Deer.
Christopher Bechtold	2025-0023	Take Javelina Within ¼ Mile.
Tomas Barraza Jr.	2025-0024	Possession of Unlawfully Take White-Tailed Deer.

- 7) **Consideration of Proposed Commission Orders 25, 41, 42, and 43 for the 2026-2030 Hunting Seasons. Presenter: Dr. Thomas R. Jones, Reptiles and Amphibian Program Supervisor.** The Commission will consider and may vote to approve Commission Order 25 (raptors), Commission Order 41 (amphibians), Commission Order 42 (crustaceans and mollusks) and Commission Order 43 (reptiles) establishing seasons and season dates, bag and possession limits, and open-closed areas for the 2026-2030 hunting seasons.
- 8) **Hunt Permit-Tag Application Schedules for 2026 Hunts. Presenter: Claudia Florea, Draw Administrator.** The Department will present the proposed hunt-permit tag application schedules for the 2026 hunts for Commission approval.
- 9) **Special Big Game Tag Revenue Update. Presenter: Andrew Cavalcant, Habitat Partnership Committee Coordinator.** The Department will provide the Commission

with an update on the current status of the Special Big Game Tag revenue and account balances.

- 10) **Authorize Issuance of Special Big Game Hunt Tags to Wildlife Conservation Organizations for Pronghorn, Bighorn Sheep, Black Bear, Bison, Elk, Javelina, Mountain Lion, Mule Deer, Turkey and White-tailed Deer for 2026–2027. Presenter: Andrew Cavalcant, Habitat Partnership Committee Coordinator.** The Commission will consider and may vote to take action on applications from organizations for 2026–2027 Special Big Game Tags as per R12-4-120.

Agenda items 11, 12, and 13 are first read items. 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.

- 11) **License Agreement renewal with UNS utility to provide electric service to the Tri-State Shooting Park in Mohave County. Presenter: Jim Ruff, Land and Water Program Supervisor.** The Department will present to the Commission a license agreement with the UNS utility to access, maintain and provide electric service to the Tri-State Shooting Park in Mohave County, Arizona.
- 12) **Approval of a License Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration for the purpose of maintaining a telecommunications navigational beacon on the Three Points Shooting Range. Presenter: Jim Ruff, Land and Water Program Supervisor.** The Commission will be asked to approve renewal of a License Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration for the purpose of maintaining a telecommunications navigational beacon on the Three Points Shooting Range in Pima County.
- 13) **Interagency Bison Agreement. Presenter: Rob Nelson, Region 2 Terrestrial Wildlife Program Manager.** The Department will present to the Commission a Bison Agreement for the Kaibab Plateau Bison Herd.
- 14) **Introduction and Management of Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep into East Clear Creek - Game Management Units 4A/5A. Presenter: Eddie Cini, Wildlife Manager Senior, Region II.** The presentation will highlight the Department's successful introduction of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep into the East Clear Creek watershed in Game Management Units 4A/5A.
- 15) **Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) Wildlife Briefing. Presenter: Alex Loubere, Native Trout and Chub Coordinator.** The Commission will be provided with a briefing on conservation and management of Gila Trout.
- 16) **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.

- 17) **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.
- 18) **Commission Priorities Update. Presenter: Luke Thompson, Special Assistant to the Director.** The Department will provide an update on the Commission Priorities and Metrics, and Chris Cantrell and Callie Cavalcant will provide an extended presentation for Commission Priority: Develop a Comprehensive Maintenance Program and Real Estate Strategy.
- 19) ***ADDITIONAL ITEM ADDED* Consideration of Proposed Amendment Commission Order 6 for the Spring 2026 Hunting Season. Presenter: Erin Butler, Big Game Management Program Supervisor.** The Commission will consider and may vote to approve an amendment to Commission Orders 6 (javelina) establishing seasons and season dates, bag and possession limits, permit numbers or authorized limits, and open areas for the 2026 hunting seasons.
- 20) **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.
- 21) **Future Agenda Items and Action Items.**
- 22) **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.*
- 23) **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) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding implementation of HB 2603.
- 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 Lands.
- 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) **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.

- j) **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.
- 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 the sale of special big game tags by raffle and the Commission's position on new terms and conditions for the special big game tag agreement with wildlife conservation organizations.
- l) **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”