



PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

Revision #1

September 3, 2025

A public meeting of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission will be held on **September 5, 2025** at the **Eagar Town Hall, 22 W 2nd St, Eagar, AZ 85925**. 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.** 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, September 5, 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) **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.
- b) **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.
- 3) **Ben Avery Shooting Facility Master Plan, September Range Protection Zone Update. Presenter: Mike Raum, Shooting Sports Branch Chief.** The Commission will be provided the quarterly update on the Department's ongoing evaluation of future range protection zone planning as designated in the Ben Avery Shooting Facility Master Plan. The Commission may vote to take action on and provide the Department direction on this item.
- 4) **Approve a Notice of Rulemaking Docket Opening, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Economic Impact Statement Amending Rules Within Article 10 Off Highway Vehicles. Presenter: Micah White, Off-highway Vehicle Law Enforcement Program Manager.** The Department will ask the Commission to vote to approve the Notice of Rulemaking Docket Opening, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and draft Economic Impact Statement Amending Rules Within Article 10. Off Highway Vehicles; the Commission may provide the Department direction on this item.
- 5) **Approve the Notice of Final Rulemaking and Economic Impact Statement Amending Rules Within Article 4, Live Wildlife. Presenter: Martin Guerenza, Wildlife Manager Field Supervisor.** The Department will ask the Commission to vote to approve the Notice of Final Rulemaking and Economic Impact Statement Amending Rules Within Article 4, Live Wildlife.
- 6) **Region 1 Waterfowl Project Updates. Presenter: Cody Johnston, Wildlife Manager Senior.** The Commission will be provided a briefing of the current progress and goals of the waterfowl banding project in the Pinetop Region.

TIME CERTAIN AT 10:00AM

- 7) ***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: Danny Rodriguez, State Watercraft Law Enforcement Programs Coordinator.** The Commission will consider and take action on the license revocations and/or civil assessments for the individuals listed below.

Name	Docket #	Conviction
Jacob Hancock	2025-0025	Possess/Transport Big Game Without Tag Attached
Ronald Larson	2025-0026	Take Wildlife in a Closed Area
Kalil Garcia Corral	2025-0027	Possess Unlawfully Taken Mule Deer
Oscar M. Garcia	2025-0028	Possess Unlawfully Taken Mule Deer
Mark Gann	2025-0031	Possess Unlawfully Taken Elk
Tara Gann	2025-0032	Take Elk Within ¼ Mile

Agenda items 8 and 9 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.

- 8) **Approve Pinetop Office Property Lease Agreement Extension with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Presenter: Callie Cavalcant, Habitat, Evaluation and Lands Branch Chief.** The Commission may approve a one-year Agreement Extension with USFWS for the purpose of maintaining a field office building located on the Commission's Pinetop Regional Office property, Navajo County, Arizona.
- 9) **Approve a License Agreement with Salt River Project for the Purpose of Providing Utility Service to the Commission's Usery Mountain Shooting Range, Maricopa County, Arizona. Presenter: Chip Young, Senior Land Resources Manager.** The Commission may approve the License Agreement with Salt River Project for the Purpose of Providing Utility Service to the Commission's Usery Mountain Shooting Range.
- 10) **Approve the Notice of Proposed Exempt Rulemaking, Amending Rules within Article 8. General Provisions and Wildlife Area and Other Department Managed Property Restrictions. Presenter: Aaron Hartzell, Regional Supervisor, Pinetop.** The Department will ask the Commission to vote to approve the Draft Notice of Exempt Rulemaking, Amending Rules within Article 8, General Provisions and Wildlife Area and Other Department Managed Property Restrictions. The Commission may provide the Department direction on this item.

- 11) **Quail Management. Presenter: Dr. Larisa Harding, Small Game Program Manager.** The Department will present an update on Arizona quail species, outline results of recent surveys, drought monitoring, and data analysis. The Department will present a recommendation to amend Commission Order 16 - Quail to shorten quail seasons and lower bag limits for the upcoming 2025–2026 quail seasons. The Commission may elect to take action on the recommendation.
- 12) **Briefing on Pollinator Conservation Efforts in Arizona. Presenter: Cheri Bouchér, Project Evaluation Program Specialist.** The Commission will be provided a briefing on the Department's efforts for pollinator conservation in Arizona.
- 13) **Approve the Notice of Final Rulemaking and Economic Impact Statement Amending Rules within Article 2. Licenses; Permits; Stamps; Tags. Presenter: Dr. Larisa Harding, Small Game Program Manager.** The Department will ask the Commission to vote to approve the Notice of Final Rulemaking and Economic Impact Statement Amending Rules within Article 2. Licenses; Permits; Stamps; Tags.

TIME CERTAIN AT 2:00PM

- 14) ***REVISED* Petitions to Amend Bison Hunt #7005 season dates on the North Kaibab National Forest pursuant to A.A.C. R12-4-611. Presenter: Luke Thompson, Special Assistant to the Director.** The Commission will consider the petitions submitted pursuant to A.A.C. R12-4-611 to amend Bison hunt season dates associated with Bison hunt #7005 on the North Kaibab National Forest.

Petitioners:

Kyle Sitkowski
Sam Gualtiere
Michael Filkins
Andrew Young
Diego Martinez

- 15) **Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) Native Fishes. Presenter: David Rogowski, Regional Supervisor, Research Branch.** The Department will provide an informational briefing about the status of native fishes in the Colorado River.
- 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 Matt King and Brian Hickerson will provide an extended presentation for Commission Priority: Establish a Comprehensive Wildlife Management Approach.
- 19) **2025 Annual Commission Awards Selection. Presenter: Luke Thompson, Special Assistant to the Director.** The Department will present the 2025 Commission award nominees and will ask the Commission to select the award recipients.
- 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.*
 - 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) **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.
- 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 Commission practices related to communication, agendas and public records.
- j) **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”