

NOTICE OF FINAL RULEMAKING

TITLE 12. Natural Resources

CHAPTER 4. Game and Fish Commission

PREAMBLE

1. Permission to proceed with this final rulemaking was granted under A.R.S. § 41-1039 by the governor on:

May 9, 2024

2. Article, Part, or Section Affected (as applicable) Rulemaking Action

R12-4-201	Amend
R12-4-202	Amend
R12-4-203	Amend
R12-4-204	Amend
R12-4-205	Amend
R12-4-206	Amend
R12-4-207	Amend
R12-4-208	Amend
R12-4-210	Amend
R12-4-211	Amend
R12-4-213	Amend
R12-4-215	Amend
R12-4-216	Amend
R12-4-217	Amend

3. Citations to the agency's statutory rulemaking authority to include the authorizing statute (general) and the implementing statute (specific):

Authorizing statute: A.R.S. § 17-231

Implementing statute: A.R.S. §§ 17-101, 17-102, 17-231(A)(2), 17-231(A)(3), 17-231(B)(7), 17-245, 17-301(B), 17-301(D)(2), 17-332, 17-333, 17-335, 17-335.01, 17-340, 17-362, and 41-1005

4. The effective date of the rule:

July 1, 2026

a. If the agency selected a date earlier than the 60-day effective date as specified in A.R.S. § 41-1032(A), include the earlier date and state the reason the agency selected the earlier effective date as provided in A.R.S. § 41-1032(A)(1) through (5):

Not applicable

b. If the agency selected a date later than the 60-day effective date as specified in A.R.S. § 41-1032(A), include the later date and state the reason the agency selected the later effective date as provided in A.R.S. § 41-1032(B):

Due to the Department's timing of the Big Game draws and the season openers for those hunts, the Department believes an implementation date of July 1, 2026 would reduce confusion and allow constituents ample time to acquire the updated crossbow permits or CHAMP permits prior to the beginning of the Fall 2026 hunting season.

5. Citations to all related notices published in the Register as specified in R1-1-409(A) that pertain to the current record of the final rule:

Notice of Rulemaking Docket Opening: 31 A.A.R. 2238, Issue Date: July 11, 2025, Issue Number: 28, File number: R25-157

6. The agency's contact person who can answer questions about the rulemaking:

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7. An agency's justification and reason why a rule should be made, amended, repealed or renumbered, to include an explanation about the rulemaking:

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission (Commission) proposes to amend its Article 2 rules, addressing licenses, permits, stamps, and tags to enact amendments developed during the preceding Five-year Review Report. The amendments proposed in the five-year review report are designed to clarify current rule language; facilitate job growth and economic development; enable the Department to provide better customer service; and reduce regulatory and administrative burdens wherever possible. After evaluating the scope and effectiveness of the proposed amendments specified in the review, the Commission proposes additional amendments to further implement the original proposals.

R12-4-201. Pioneer License: The objective of the rule is to establish application requirements and hunting and fishing privileges for the pioneer license. The Commission proposes to amend the rule to correct the reference to the governing statute, replacing 17-336(C)(1) with 17-333(C)(1) to make the rule more concise. The Commission also proposes to amend the rule to correct the references to "Department identification number" with "Customer identification number."

R12-4-202. Complimentary and Reduced-fee Disabled Veteran's License; Reduced-fee Purple Heart Medal License: The objective of the rule is to establish eligibility, application requirements, and hunting and fishing privileges for the complimentary licenses that are issued to disabled veterans and Purple Heart Medal recipients. The rule was adopted to comply with the statutory mandate under A.R.S. § 17-333(C)(2) and (3). The Department offers three types of veterans' licenses: a complimentary or reduced fee license available to veterans who are receiving compensation from the United States government for a service connected disability rated as 100% disabling, a 25% reduced fee license to a veteran who is receiving such compensation for a service connected disability of any rating, and a 50% reduced-fee license to a person who is a bona fide recipient of a Purple Heart Medal. Like the lifetime licenses issued under R12-4-211 (Lifetime License), the permanent (lifetime) Disabled Veteran's License is valid for the person's lifetime and continues to remain valid if the license holder moves out-of-state. The out-of-state license holder must pay the nonresident fee when purchasing any required hunt permit-tag, nonpermit-tag, or stamp to hunt and fish in Arizona, but the hunt-permit tag issuance limitations for nonresident permit holders do not apply to a Disabled Veteran's License holder. The Commission proposes to amend the rule to clarify the permanent disabled veteran's license will remain valid if the license holder moves out-of-state and is not subject to the limits placed on nonresident permit-tags. This amendment will also increase consistency between the permanent disabled veteran's license and other lifetime licenses issued by the Department. This change is in response to customer comment. The Commission also proposes to amend the rule to correct the references to "Department identification number" with "Customer identification number."

R12-4-203. National Harvest Information Program (HIP); State Waterfowl and Migratory Bird Stamp: The objective of the rule is to establish requirements for the application and use of the Arizona migratory bird stamp, which covers the take of waterfowl and migratory game birds. The Arizona stamp is separate from the Federal waterfowl stamp (also known as "Duck Stamp"), which is required when a person wants to hunt waterfowl in Arizona. The stamp enables the Department to obtain hunter participation and harvest data for migratory game birds in compliance with the requirements of the federally mandated

National Harvest Information Program, which is administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). On December 19, 2023, President Biden signed into law the Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023. The Act modifies provisions regarding the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp to allow a person to carry an electronic stamp for the entire waterfowl hunting season; the USFWS Migratory Bird Program worked diligently to implement this Act for the 2024-2025 hunting season. The Commission proposes to amend the rule to reference the federal e-stamp. In addition, the USFWS is in the process of evaluating whether to amend federal migratory waterfowl hunting rules from which states may select season dates, limits, and other options for migratory bird hunting seasons. Over the past 20 years, waterfowl hunter numbers have declined significantly. Many factors are associated with this, including the harvest restrictions for certain species and sexes of ducks, which puts pressure on new or inexperienced hunters to be able to correctly identify waterfowl during their hunt. Because duck identification can be difficult, it is believed this could be preventing potential hunters from getting into the sport. To help address the issue, the USFWS recently approved a two-tier duck regulation experiment. Nebraska and South Dakota are piloting the new system and, if proven a success through waterfowl hunter numbers and duck populations, the program will be extended to additional states. In order to prepare for this potential opportunity in the near future, the Commission proposes to put language in rule that, once authorized, will require a waterfowl hunter to select which tier/bag limit to operate under for the entirety of the waterfowl season: 1) a traditional season with the current species and sex restrictions, and bag and possession limits; or 2) a reduced bag limit for ducks with no species or sex restrictions. Once an option is selected, the hunter must stay with that option for the duration of the duck season. There is no requirement to “move up” after a certain period; waterfowl hunters may select either the traditional or reduced bag option each year. The Commission also proposes to amend the rule to correct the references to “Department identification number” with “Customer identification number”.

R12-4-204. Taxidermy Registration; Register: The objective of the rule is to establish registration requirements with the Department before engaging in the business of taxidermy for hire. The Commission proposes to amend the rule to correct the references to “Department identification number” with “Customer identification number.”

R12-4-205. High Achievement Scout License: The objective of the rule is to establish application requirements and hunting and fishing privileges for the high achievement scout license. The combination hunting and fishing license is offered to a resident of this state who is a member of the Boy Scouts of America "Scouting America" program and who has attained the rank of Eagle Scout or a member of the “Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.” who has received the Gold Award provided the scout is under 21 years of age. The “Boy Scouts of America,” a program where young men could earn an Eagle Scout has been rebranded to “Scouting America” which includes both male and female participants. In addition, the “Girls Scouts of the United States of America,” a program where young women could earn a Gold Award has been rebranded to “Girl Scouts of the USA.” The Commission proposes to amend the rule to reflect the organization’s current programs. The Commission also proposes to amend the rule to correct the references to “Department identification number” with “Customer identification number”.

R12-4-206. General Hunting License; Exemption: The objective of the rule is to establish application requirements and hunting privileges for the general hunting license. The Commission proposes to amend the rule to correct the references to “Department identification number” with “Customer identification number”.

R12-4-207. General Fishing License; Exemption: The objective of the rule is to establish application requirements and hunting privileges for the general fishing license. The Commission proposes to amend the rule to correct the references to “Department identification number” with “Customer identification number”.

R12-4-208. Guide License: The objective of the rule is to establish the application, reporting, and guiding requirements for those persons who provide commercial guiding services in Arizona. Under subsection (T), a licensed guide is required to report any violation of a federal or state wildlife regulation, law, or rule personally witnessed by the guide license holder. In addition, most guides use support personnel (who are not licensed guides) to assist the guide in locating an animal. The Department was recently involved with a lengthy criminal trial, civil lawsuit, and Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) hearing with a licensed guide and a friend of the guide who operated a powered parachute plane. The guide accepted information through text and phone calls

regarding wildlife locations, herd size, horn size of bighorn sheep, and various essential information from the friend who operated the powered parachute plane to locate wildlife during an open big game season in violation of R12-4-319. While the Department was successful in prosecuting the friend of the guide for locating wildlife during a big game season and the OAH hearing regarding the guide accepting this information in violation of R12-4-319(B) and failing to report this information to the Department in violation of R12-4-208(T)(2)(d), it was a difficult hearing. The argument used by the defense was that the guide did not “personally witness the violation.” The Commission proposes to amend the rule to replace “Report any violation of a federal or state wildlife regulation, law, or rule personally witnessed by the guide license holder.” with “Report any violation of a federal or state statute or regulation the guide license holder knew or should have known of that involves or relates to the take or possession of wildlife or involves or relates to another guide or guide license holder’s legal obligations.” The Commission proposes to amend the rule to add that “It is a violation for a licensed or unlicensed guide to employ, hire, direct, or authorize another person to provide guiding services for compensation, and the guide knew or should have known that person would likely commit a violation of A.R.S. Title 17 or Game and Fish Commission rules while the person is providing such guiding services on behalf of, or for the benefit of, the guide.” “Knew or should have known” means actual knowledge, or that a reasonably observant person under the same or similar circumstances would have had knowledge, or a person had a duty to inquire or investigate the facts and circumstances that person would commit a violation. In addition, a guide whose hunting and fishing privileges are revoked is prohibited from obtaining a guide license while under revocation. A guide whose license is revoked is also unable to assist a person in locating or taking wildlife. The Department is aware of instances where a revoked guide will hire another licensed guide to take their clients on a guided hunt, thus usurping the Commission-ordered revocation while still collecting guiding fees from the customer. The Commission proposes to amend the rule to prohibit a licensed guide from acting as an agent for a revoked guide: “A guide license holder shall not aid, assist, serve as an agent to, represent, associate, or contract with a person whose privilege to take wildlife or guide is currently suspended or revoked pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 17-340, 17-362, or R12-4-606.”

R12-4-210. Combination Hunting and Fishing License; Exemption: The rule establishes the requirements and privileges of both the resident and nonresident hunting and fishing combination licenses. The Commission proposes to amend the rule to correct the references to “Department identification number” with “Customer identification number.”

R12-4-211. Lifetime License; Benefactor License: The objective of the rule is to establish the hunting and/or fishing privileges for the three lifetime licenses, application requirements, and fees for lifetime licenses. The rule was adopted to ensure compliance with statutory amendments resulting from the Fifty-first Legislature, 1st Regular Session, which amended statutes within Title 17 to authorize the Commission to establish license, permit, tag, and stamp fees by rule. Arizona’s lifetime general hunting and fishing license program provides a unique opportunity for resident sportsmen and sportswomen to participate in the long-term funding of Arizona’s Wildlife Conservation programs. The dollars derived from the sale of these special licenses are deposited into the established Arizona Wildlife Endowment Fund from which only the interest accrued will be used for management programs. Because the fees for the lifetime licenses are based on the applicant’s age, the Commission proposes to amend the rule to clarify the kind of documents required in order to determine the applicant’s age for the purpose of establishing the fee for the license. The Commission also proposes to amend the rule to correct the references to “Department identification number” with “Customer identification number.”

R12-4-213. Hunt Permit-tags and Nonpermit-tags: The objective of the rule is to establish requirements to validate a license for the taking of a big game animal or any other wildlife requiring a valid tag. The Commission proposes to amend the rule to correct the references to “Department identification number” with “Customer identification number.”

R12-4-215. Youth Group Two-day Fishing License: The objective of the rule is to establish youth group two-day fishing license privileges and requirements by rule to comply with statutory amendments. The Commission proposes to amend the rule to correct the references to “Department identification number” with “Customer identification number.”

R12-4-216. Crossbow Permit: The objective of the rule is to establish eligibility requirements, conditions, and restrictions for

the crossbow permit. The permit allows a person with a disability who cannot draw and hold a bow to use a crossbow during an archery-only hunt. The rule was adopted to provide a mechanism that afforded persons with a disability the opportunity to participate in archery hunting. From January 1, 1996 through January 2, 2015, the Department offered only permanent (lifetime) crossbow permits to persons with a permanent disability of at least 90% impairment of function of one arm. In response to customer comments regarding the overly restrictive eligibility requirements and the need for a temporary crossbow permit, on January 3, 2015, the Commission established a temporary crossbow permit that was valid for the time-frame specified by the healthcare professional and greatly expanded the eligibility criteria. The Department relies on the medical health professional to determine whether the applicant's medical condition is temporary or permanent. No specific testing was required by the medical health professional conducting the evaluation and no documentation of the evaluation was required to be submitted with the application for the crossbow permit. The only requirement is a general diagnosis as to whether the applicant's disability is permanent or temporary and a signature from the medical health professional. There is widespread concern over the issuance of these permits. Public comments voicing concerns over the abuse of the Crossbow Permit have come from multiple sources over the last 5 years (various article reviews, "Call to the Public" during which an individual may speak to the Commission at a public meeting, Hunt Guidelines reviews, etc.). When the public expresses consistent and considerable consternation over a topic, the Department and Commission feel that topic warrants further review and scrutiny. In addition, the Department's law enforcement officers have personally witnessed incidents of abuse of the Crossbow Permits in the field where a permit holder did not appear to have a disability requiring the need for a permit. This further emphasizes the need to scrutinize concerns voiced by our hunting public. The overarching concern is that people with the Crossbow Permit have an unfair advantage over those using compound or traditional bows to gain access to mature bulls and bucks in premium, high-demand hunts when the animals are very vulnerable (i.e., in the rut). Harvesting an animal with a crossbow is easier than with a compound or traditional bow, and the rates of success are higher, thus skewing success rates in archery-only seasons and closing seasons early or limiting opportunities for archery-only hunters using more conventional devices. Looking at recent data, from 2010-2013 to 2014-2018, the Department saw an average annual increase in permanent crossbow permits go from 895 per year to 925 per year; this is an average increase of 3.3%. From 2014-2018 to 2019-2023, the number of permanent crossbow permits increased to 1098 per year; an increase of 15.8%, which is five times greater than the earlier time frame. Many archery groups (e.g. Pope & Young and ABA) and hunters believe that crossbows function more like firearms, especially when equipped with scopes. Several bowhunting groups and archers have voiced the opinion that to use a compound, long, or recurved bow successfully and skillfully requires lots of diligent practicing and patience, while the capability of a scoped crossbow to shoot out to greater distances with greater accuracy, especially when mounted on a bipod or tripod, allows for a relatively unskilled and unpracticed hunter to take a crossbow to the field, point, shoot, and harvest, with no real archery skills or real effort that a vertical bow requires. In addition, the improvements in crossbow technology have advanced to the point that a crossbow is no longer comparable to today's standard archery equipment and can no longer be considered a reasonable accommodation because advanced crossbow technology does not provide evenhanded treatment between the use of crossbows and conventional archery equipment. The unfair advantage the crossbow provides with higher success rates and limited permits has fundamentally altered archery-only hunts such that the crossbow under the current rule is not a reasonable accommodation. After a number of meetings with a group of hunters and stakeholders, and with comments submitted recently via a lengthy public comment period, the Commission proposes to amend the rule to establish stricter standards towards the issuance of permits to ensure all applicants have a disability that prevents them from using conventional archery equipment and to eliminate some of the devices used with a crossbow that have contributed to the unfair advantage over hunters using conventional archery equipment. These changes include a qualified healthcare provider certifying an applicant has a disability and identifying the physical impairment that substantially limits an applicant's ability to use conventional archery equipment. The proposed rule will also restrict the use of magnifying scopes, red dots, and other optics, as well as establishing when and who may use external support structures, like tripods and bipods, to make modern crossbow technology, accessories, and shooting techniques more comparable to modern standard archery equipment. The Commission also

proposes to amend the rule to correct the references to “Department identification number” with “Customer identification number.”

R12-4-217. Challenged Hunter Access/Mobility Permit (CHAMP): The objective of the rule is to establish eligibility requirements, conditions, and restrictions for the Challenged Hunter Access/Mobility Permit (CHAMP). The permit allows a disabled person with significant mobility impairments to perform activities while hunting normally prohibited under A.R.S. § 17-301. The Commission previously amended R12-4-216 to clarify that the use of a pneumatic weapon using bolts or arrows during an archery-only season is limited to persons who possess both a Crossbow Permit issued under R12-4-216 and a CHAMP issued under R12-4-217. The Commission proposes to amend the rule to state a CHAMP holder may use any of the following during an archery-only season as prescribed under R12-4-318: a crossbow, as defined under R12-4-101, using a single bowstring, capable of firing only a single arrow or bolt with each loading and cocking action, and subject to the same prohibitions on the use of a crossbow set forth in R12-4-216 (B)(1)(a), except that a person with a valid CHAMP may use external structures or devices to stabilize the crossbow when in use; any bow to be drawn and held with an assisting device, or a pre-charged pneumatic weapon, as defined under R12-4-301, using arrows or bolts and capable of firing only a single arrow or bolt at a time. The Commission also proposes to amend the rule to correct the references to “Department identification number” with “Customer identification number.”

8. A reference to any study relevant to the rule that the agency reviewed and either relied on or did not rely on in its evaluation of or justification for the rule, where the public may obtain or review each study, all data underlying each study, and any analysis of each study and other supporting material:

Not applicable

9. A showing of good cause why the rulemaking is necessary to promote a statewide interest if the rulemaking will diminish a previous grant of authority of a political subdivision of this state:

Not applicable

10. A summary of the economic, small business, and consumer impact:

The Commission’s intent in proposing the amendments indicated in #6 is to benefit the regulated community, members of the public, and the Department by clarifying rule language, creating consistency among existing Commission rules, creating additional opportunity for archery hunters, and reducing the burden on the regulated community where practical. The Commission anticipates the rulemaking will result in an overall benefit to the regulated community, members of the public, and the Department. The Commission anticipates the rulemaking will result in little or no impact to political subdivisions of this state; private and public employment in businesses, agencies or political subdivisions, or state revenues. The Commission has determined that there are no less intrusive or costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the rulemaking. Therefore, the Commission has determined that the benefits of the rulemaking outweigh any costs.

11. A description of any changes between the proposed rulemaking, to include supplemental notices, and the final rulemaking:

Based on public comments, the department modified the language for the type of medical professional needed to evaluate and endorse a CHAMP or Crossbow permit in order to more accurately reflect the desired outcome of the rulemaking.

12. An agency’s summary of the public or stakeholder comments made about the rulemaking and the agency response to the comments:

The department had a public comment period from July 11, 2025 to August 10, 2025. The public was notified via e-mail distributions and press releases. The department received 176 comments during this period. Many comments were form letters or substantially the same, mostly (127) in support of the rulemaking.

Regarding R12-4-202

Written Comment: July 28, 2025: You're disallowing a right determined by the Federal Government to be applicable. If you allow me, I have many ways to prove it so. ex. I have a federally granted 100% disabled ID card. They do not grant these to someone that is 90% service-connected and 10% otherwise disabled. You are interpreting the rule to the states advantage and in the process denying many 100% service-connected disabled veterans the rights to which state law has granted. I have my car registered in AZ as a 100% service-connected disabled veteran. I have been granted these rights for many years now and have used them without fail to receive 100% service-connected disabled veteran benefits in WA, OR, TX, and with other agencies in AZ. My wife has been granted a Military ID card that is only granted to the spouse of a 100% service-connected disabled veteran. She is also on a Federal Government health plan that that requires your spouse to be a 100% service-connected disabled veteran. The words on the document I submitted, "permanent and total" mean 100% service-connected disabled veteran; you're the only agency in 42 years I have encountered, that interprets it differently. There is nothing wrong with the way the law was written, every other agency I have ever encountered interprets it to be a 100% service-connected disabled veteran. Even the Federal Government that grants the designation deems it to be so and grants me all the rights and privileges I deserve as a 100% service-connected disabled veteran. I have documents to back up what I am saying and ask that you take into consideration what I have said today. Thank you

Agency Response: The department is applying existing statutes to the rule and is currently contemplating no change to the current wording.

Regarding R12-4-204

Written Comment: July 18, 2025: why do we need to have taxidermist register? dumb as shit

Agency Response: This is required by statute and there are no changes to how the registration works in this rulemaking packet.

Regarding R12-4-208

Written Comment: July 18, 2025: "should have known" .. this is going to screw over people when the state decides to prosecute because they think someone "should have known" about a violation.. this ius complete BULLSHIT and you fucking know it .. this is going to give the state too much prosecutorial power to screw over hunters and guide because you, as the state, can just assume someone "should have known" FUCK YOU, FUCK THIS RULE CHANGE

Agency Response: Currently every guide who is licensed must report any violation of a federal or state wildlife regulation, law, or rule personally witnessed by the guide license holder. Recently, the Department was involved with a lengthy criminal trial, civil lawsuit, and Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) hearing with a licensed guide and a friend of the guide who operated a parachute plane. The guide accepted information through text and phone calls regarding wildlife locations, herd size, horn size of bighorn sheep, and various essential information from the friend who operated the powered parachute plane to locate wildlife during an open big game season in violation of R124-319. The Department was successful in prosecuting the friend of the guide for locating wildlife during a big game season and the OAH hearing regarding the guide accepting this information in violation of R12-4319(B) and failing to report this information to the Department in violation of R12-4-208(T)(2)(d), but it was a difficult hearing. The argument used by the defense was the guide did not "personally witness the violation." The Department recommends amending the rule to replace "personally witnessed the violation" with "knew or should have known of the violation" to increase the ability to enforce the rule

Regarding R12-4-216

The department received numerous emails expressing support for the proposal as written.

Agency Response: Thank you for your support.

The department received comments suggesting that the rulemaking is singling out disabled or elderly hunters.

Agency Response: The crossbow permit and CHAMP are available to all individuals who qualify and certify with a qualified healthcare provider that their disability does not allow for the use of conventional archery equipment (crossbow permit) or that their disability impacts life functions and prevents the mobility necessary to hunt without additional accommodations (CHAMP). Neither the crossbow permit nor the CHAMP is restricted to persons of a specific gender or age, just as hunt-permit tags are not restricted by gender or age, except that youth below the age of 10 may not hunt big game.

The department received several comments suggesting that crossbows and vertical bows (and pneumatics) should have comparable equipment restrictions (e.g. no magnifying optics).

Agency Response: The current proposed rulemaking is limited to revising the medical qualifications to obtain a crossbow permit, healthcare providers who review such qualifications, and determining permitted equipment and accessories for the use of crossbows in archery-only hunts. The suggestion that vertical bows and pneumatic bows have no magnifying optics is outside the current purview of this proposed rulemaking. The Department has recorded this suggestion for consideration in the next rule review cycle affecting archery equipment.

The department received comments suggesting that crossbow permittees should be allowed to use shooting sticks/tripod or bipod for hunting.

Agency Response: The crossbow permit is intended to provide individuals with upper body limitations that prohibit use of conventional archery equipment an opportunity to participate in archery-only hunts. The Department desires to set comparable practice and harvest success for vertical bows and crossbows in an archery-only hunt by limiting external support devices on crossbows. A conventional archer must physically hold the bow steady through the draw cycle and release of an arrow, while a bipod or tripod on a crossbow confers stability that is not available for conventional archery equipment.

The department received comments concerning that DOs and MDs with orthopedic practices don't address issues where other specialties are needed, like rheumatology, hematology, mental disorders, etc.

Agency Response: In response to public comments, the Department has modified who may be considered a qualified healthcare provider to evaluate applicants for crossbow permits and CHAMP.

The department received comments suggesting one year crossbow permits are too short.

Agency Response: The Department intends for a crossbow permit's validity to mirror the availability of annual hunt opportunities. Annual hunt periods end at times prescribed by the Commission and permit-tags for those opportunities are no longer usable or available when the hunt or season ends. The Department proposes that crossbow permits for those hunt opportunities also expire annually.

The department received comments suggesting the creation of a separate season for crossbow hunters or allow them to hunt in the

later weeks or phases of archery-only hunts rather than be removed.

Agency Response: This is outside the purview of Article 2 Rulemaking. This suggestion has been noted and will be provided in the review of hunt guidelines for consideration.

The department received comments suggesting that making amputees recertify annually is not reasonable.

Agency Response: The Department intends for a crossbow permit's validity to mirror the availability of annual hunt opportunities. Individuals seeking crossbow permits, even those with permanent amputations, may not have the opportunity to hunt archery-only hunts every year. Annual hunt periods end at times prescribed by the Commission and permit-tags for those opportunities are no longer usable or available when the hunt or season ends. The Department proposes that crossbow permits for those hunt opportunities also expire annually.

The department received a few comments suggesting the repeal of the crossbow permit.

Agency Response: The Commission voted to terminate previous proposed rulemaking that would have repealed the crossbow permit. As such, the suggestion to repeal the crossbow permit is outside the scope of the current proposed rulemaking.

The department received comments requesting the repeal of the temporary crossbow permit and removing crossbows from archery-only seasons, except for CHAMP hunters.

Agency Response: The Commission voted to terminate previous proposed rulemaking that would have repealed both the temporary and permanent crossbow permit. The current proposed rulemaking is limited to revising the medical qualifications to obtain a crossbow permit, healthcare providers who review such qualifications, and determining permitted equipment and accessories for the use of crossbows in archery-only hunts. As this rulemaking does not propose removing all crossbows from archery-only seasons, the suggestion to repeal either form of the crossbow permit is outside the scope of the current proposed rulemaking. While prohibiting or limiting the use of crossbows during archery-only seasons is outside the scope of the proposed rulemaking, this suggestion will be provided to the hunt guidelines review team for consideration and potential future rulemaking.

The department received comments in favor of stricter qualifications and increased restrictions on qualified healthcare providers.

Agency Response: The Department believes the current rulemaking sufficiently restricts the types of qualified healthcare providers.

The department received comments in favor of removing crossbows and airbows from any archery-only hunts and from all hunts, not just archery-only hunts, creating a separate hunt\season\time for crossbow hunters or requiring nonresidents draw for OTC archery-only hunts with a cap of 10% for nonresidents.

Agency Response: This is outside the purview of Article 2 Rulemaking. This suggestion has been noted and will be provided in the review of hunt guidelines for consideration

The department had several comments seeking the grandfathering of the CHAMP, particularly for elderly hunters.

Agency Response: The department does not intend to grandfather any existing crossbow permits or CHAMP permits in order to accomplish the goal of the rulemaking.

13. All agencies shall list other matters prescribed by statute applicable to the specific agency or to any specific rule or class of rules. Additionally, an agency subject to Council review under A.R.S. §§ 41-1052 and 41-1055 shall respond to the following questions:

a. Whether the rule requires a permit, whether a general permit is used and if not, the reasons why a general permit is not used:

The following rules require the issuance of a “general permit” as defined under A.R.S. § 41-1001(11) and are in compliance with A.R.S. § 41-1037.

R12-4-201. Pioneer License

R12-4-202. Complimentary and Reduced-fee Disabled Veteran’s License; Reduced-fee Purple Heart Medal License

R12-4-203. National Harvest Information Program (HIP); State Waterfowl and Migratory Bird Stamp

R12-4-204. Taxidermy Registration; Register

R12-4-205. High Achievement Scout License

R12-4-206. General Hunting License; Exemption

R12-4-207. General Fishing License; Exemption

R12-4-208. Guide License

R12-4-210. Combination Hunting and Fishing License; Exemption

R12-4-211. Lifetime License; Benefactor License

R12-4-213. Hunt Permit-tags and Nonpermit-tags

R12-4-215. Youth Group Two-day Fishing License

R12-4-216. Crossbow Permit

R12-4-217. Challenged Hunter Access/Mobility Permit (CHAMP)

b. Whether a federal law is applicable to the subject of the rule, whether the rule is more stringent than federal law and if so, citation to the statutory authority to exceed the requirements of federal law:

Except for the following rule, all rules included in this proposed rulemaking are based on State law and federal law is not directly applicable to the rules; 50 C.F.R. 20.20 Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program is applicable to rule R12-4-203. National Harvest Information Program (HIP); State Waterfowl and Migratory Bird Stamp. The federal regulation requires all state wildlife agencies to ask each licensed migratory bird hunter to report approximately how many ducks, geese, doves, and woodcock he or she bagged the previous year, whether he or she hunted coots, snipe, rails, and/or gallinules the previous year. The Department has determined the rule is not more stringent than the corresponding federal regulation.

c. Whether a person submitted an analysis to the agency that compares the rule’s impact of the competitiveness of business in this state to the impact on business in other states:

Not Applicable

14. A list of any incorporated by reference material as specified in A.R.S. § 41-1028 and its location in the rules:

Not applicable

15. Whether the rule was previously made, amended or repealed as an emergency rule. If so, cite the notice published in the Register as specified in R1-1-409(A). Also, the agency shall state where the text was changed between the emergency and the final rulemaking packages:

Not applicable

16. The full text of the rules follows:

Rule text begins on the next page.

TITLE 12. Natural Resources
CHAPTER 4. Game and Fish Commission
ARTICLE 2. Licenses; Permits; Stamps; Tags

Section

- R12-4-201. Pioneer License
- R12-4-202. Complimentary and Reduced-fee Disabled Veteran's License; Reduced-fee Purple Heart Medal License
- R12-4-203. National Harvest Information Program (HIP); State Waterfowl and Migratory Bird Stamp
- R12-4-204. Taxidermy Registration; Register
- R12-4-205. High Achievement Scout License
- R12-4-206. General Hunting License; Exemption
- R12-4-207. General Fishing License; Exemption
- R12-4-208. Guide License
- R12-4-210. Combination Hunting and Fishing License; Exemption
- R12-4-211. Lifetime License; Benefactor License
- R12-4-213. Hunt Permit-tags and Nonpermit-tags
- R12-4-215. Youth Group Two-day Fishing License
- R12-4-216. Crossbow Permit
- R12-4-217 Challenged Hunter Access/Mobility Permit

ARTICLE 2. Licenses; Permits; Stamps; Tags

R12-4-201. Pioneer License

- A.** A pioneer license grants all of the hunting and fishing privileges of a combination hunting and fishing license. The pioneer license is only available at a Department office.
- B.** The pioneer license is a complimentary license and is valid for the license holder's lifetime. The license remains valid if the licensee subsequently resides outside of this state.
 - 1. A licensee who resides outside of Arizona shall submit the nonresident fee to purchase any required hunt permit-tag, nonpermit-tag, or stamp to hunt and fish in this state.
 - 2. Limits established under R12-4-114 for nonresident hunt permit-tags and nonpermit-tags do not apply to a pioneer license holder.
- C.** A person who is age 70 or older and has been a resident of Arizona for at least 25 consecutive years immediately preceding application may apply for a pioneer license by submitting an application to the Department. The application form is furnished by the Department and is available at any Department office and on the Department's website. A pioneer license applicant shall provide all of the following information on the application:
 - 1. The applicant's personal information:
 - a. Name;
 - b. Date of birth;
 - c. Physical description, to include the applicant's eye color, hair color, height, and weight;
 - d. ~~Department~~ Customer identification number, when applicable;
 - e. Residency status and number of years of residency immediately preceding application, when applicable;
 - f. Mailing address, when applicable;
 - g. Physical address;
 - h. Telephone number, when available; and
 - i. E-mail address, when available;
 - 2. Affirmation that:
 - a. The applicant is 70 years of age or older and has been a resident of this state for 25 or more consecutive years immediately preceding application for the license; and
 - b. The information provided on the application is true and accurate.
 - 3. Applicant's signature and date.
- D.** In addition to the requirements listed under subsection (C), an applicant for a pioneer license shall also submit a copy of any one of the following documents at the time of application:

1. Valid U.S. passport;
 2. Applicant's birth certificate;
 3. Valid government-issued driver's license; or
 4. Valid government-issued identification card.
- E. All information and documentation provided by the applicant is subject to Department verification.
- F. The Department shall deny a pioneer license when the applicant:
1. Fails to meet the criteria prescribed under A.R.S. § ~~17-336(A)(1)~~ 17-333(C)(1).
 2. Fails to comply with this Section, or
 3. Provides false information on the application.
- G. The Department shall provide written notice to the applicant stating the reason for the denial. The applicant may appeal the denial to the Commission as prescribed under A.R.S. Title 41, Ch 6, Article 10.
- H. A pioneer license holder may request a no-fee duplicate of the paper license provided:
1. The license was lost or destroyed;
 2. The license holder submits a written request to the Department for a no-fee duplicate paper license; and
 3. The Department's records indicate a pioneer license was previously issued to that person.
- I. A person issued a pioneer license prior to January 1, 2014 shall be entitled to the privileges established under subsection (A).

R12-4-202. Complimentary and Reduced-fee Disabled Veteran's License; Reduced-fee Purple Heart Medal License

- A. The complimentary and reduced-fee disabled veteran's licenses and Purple Heart Medal license grant all of the hunting and fishing privileges of a combination hunting and fishing license. The disabled veteran's and Purple Heart Medal license are only available at a Department office.
- B. The Department offers three types of veteran's licenses:
1. A complimentary lifetime license to a disabled veteran who receives compensation from the U.S. government for a permanent service-connected disability rated as 100% disabling.
 - a. The complimentary license is valid for either a three-year period from the issue date or the license holder's lifetime.
 - b. If the certification or benefits letter required under subsection (D)(1) indicate the applicant's disability rating of 100% is permanent and:
 - i. Will not be reevaluated, the disabled veteran's license shall be valid for the license holder's lifetime.
 - ii. Will be reevaluated in three years, the disabled veteran's license will expire three years from the date of issuance.
 - c. Eligibility for the complimentary disabled veteran's license is based on the disability rating, not on the compensation received by the veteran.
 - d. An applicant for a complimentary disabled veteran's license shall have been a resident of Arizona for at least one year immediately preceding application.
 - e. The lifetime disabled veteran's license remains valid if the licensee subsequently resides outside of this state.
 - i. A licensee who resides outside of Arizona shall submit the nonresident fee to purchase any required hunt permit-tag, nonpermit-tag, or stamp to hunt and fish in this state.
 - ii. Limits established under R12-4-114 for nonresident hunt permit-tags and nonpermit-tags do not apply to a lifetime disabled veteran's license holder.
 2. A reduced-fee license to a disabled veteran who is a resident as defined under A.R.S. § 17-101 and who is receiving compensation from the U.S. government for a service-connected disability.
 - a. The reduced-fee license is valid for one year from the date of purchase or selected start date provided the date selected is no more than 60 calendar days from and after the date of purchase.
 - b. The applicant shall pay the fee required under R12-4-102.
 3. A reduced-fee license to a person who submits satisfactory proof to the Department that the person is a bona fide Purple Heart Medal recipient.
 - a. The reduced-fee license is valid for one year from the date of purchase or selected start date provided the date selected is no more than 60 calendar days from and after the date of purchase.
 - b. An applicant for a reduced-fee Purple Heart Medal license shall have been a resident of Arizona for at least one year immediately preceding application.
- C. A person applying for a disabled veteran's or Purple Heart Medal license shall submit an application to the Department. The application form is furnished by the Department and available at any Department office and on the Department's website. The applicant shall provide all of the following information on the application:
1. The applicant's personal information:
 - a. Name;

- b. Date of birth;
 - c. Physical description, to include the applicant's eye color, hair color, height, and weight;
 - d. ~~Department~~ Customer identification number, when applicable;
 - e. Residency status and number of years of residency immediately preceding application, when applicable;
 - f. Mailing address, when applicable;
 - g. Physical address;
 - h. Telephone number, when available; and
 - i. E-mail address, when available;
2. Affirmation that:
- a. The applicant meets the eligibility requirements prescribed under A.R.S. § 17-333(C)(2), (C)(3), or (C)(4),
 - b. The applicant has been a resident of this state for at least one year immediately preceding application for the license,
 - c. The information provided on the application is true and accurate.
3. Applicant's signature and date.
- D.** In addition to the requirements established under subsection (B), an applicant for a veteran's license shall, at the time of application, certify eligibility for the license by submitting:
- 1. For a complimentary or reduced-fee disabled veterans license issued under A.R.S. § 17-333(C)(2) or (C)(3) respectively, an original or facsimile DD-214, certification form, or a benefits letter issued by the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) or obtained from the DVA website that meets the requirements specified in subsections (B)(1) and (B)(2). The certification form is furnished by the Department and is available at any Department office and on the Department's website. The certification shall be completed and signed by an agent of the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs.
 - 2. For a Purple Heart Medal license issued under A.R.S. § 17-333(C)(4), an original or facsimile DD-214 or DD-215, service records showing the award, military orders of the award, or other military discharge document such as WD AGO Form. The actual Purple Heart Medal or a certificate of award will not suffice alone for verification purposes.
- E.** All information and documentation provided by the applicant is subject to Department verification. The Department shall return the original or certified copy of a document to the applicant after verification.
- F.** The Department shall deny a disabled veteran's or Purple Heart Medal license when the applicant:
- 1. Fails to meet the criteria prescribed under A.R.S. § 17-333(C)(2), (C)(3), or (C)(4),
 - 2. Fails to comply with the requirements of this Section, or
 - 3. Provides false information during the application process.
- G.** The Department shall provide written notice to the applicant stating the reason for the denial. The applicant may appeal the denial to the Commission as prescribed under A.R.S. Title 41, Chapter 6, Article 10.
- H.** A complimentary disabled veteran's license holder may request a no-fee duplicate paper license provided:
- 1. The license was lost or destroyed,
 - 2. The license holder submits a written request to the Department for a duplicate license, and
 - 3. The Department's records indicate a disabled veteran's license was previously issued to that person.
- I.** A person issued a disabled veteran's license prior to January 1, 2014 shall be entitled to the privileges established under subsection (A).
- J.** For the purposes of this Section:
- 1. "Disabled veteran" means a veteran of the armed forces of the U.S. with a service connected disability.
 - 2. "Veteran" means a person who has served in the U.S. armed forces.

R12-4-203. National Harvest Information Program (HIP); State Waterfowl and Migratory Bird Stamp

- A.** All state fish and wildlife agencies are required to obtain data to assess the harvest of migratory game birds in compliance with the federally mandated National Harvest Information Program administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in accordance with 50 C.F.R. Part 20.
- B.** In compliance with the National Harvest Information Program, the Department requires a person to possess a migratory bird stamp or authorization number, which may be affixed to or written on the appropriate license, and a current, valid federal waterfowl stamp or electronic stamp. The migratory bird stamp and authorization number are required to take band-tailed pigeons, ~~moorhen~~ gallinules, coots, doves, ducks, geese, snipe, or swans.
- 1. The state migratory bird stamp expires on June 30 of each year. To obtain a state migratory bird stamp, a person shall submit:
 - a. The fee required under R12-4-102, and
 - b. A completed state migratory bird registration form to a license dealer or a Department office.
 - 2. The person shall provide on the state migratory bird registration form the person's:
 - a. Name,

- b. Mailing address,
 - c. Date of birth, ~~and~~
 - d. Information on past and anticipated hunting activity, ~~and~~
 - e. If applicable, the election of the Tier I or Tier II bag limit for the entirety of the waterfowl season.
3. The youth combination hunting and fishing license includes the state migratory bird stamp privileges. A youth hunter who possesses a valid combination hunting and fishing license shall obtain:
- a. A Federal waterfowl stamp or electronic stamp when the youth hunter is 16 years of age or older and is taking ducks, geese, swans, coots, gallinules; or
 - b. A permit-tag when the youth hunter is taking sandhill crane.
- C.** When authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Commission Order, persons 16 years of age and older who purchase a state migratory bird stamp and indicate they will hunt waterfowl will be prompted to select a tier and are bound to that bag limit for the entire season.
- 1. Tier I Bag Limit: a traditional seven-duck bag limit with species and sex restrictions. Persons 16 years of age and younger are exempt from the state waterfowl stamp requirement only when choosing the Tier I bag limit.
 - 2. Tier II Bag Limit: a reduced bag limit for ducks with no species or sex restrictions. All persons regardless of age must purchase a state waterfowl stamp when choosing the Tier II bag limit.
 - 3. The tiers do not apply to goose, coots, gallinules, or snipe, which have their own bag limit.
- ~~C.D.~~** A license dealer shall submit state migratory bird registration forms for all state migratory bird stamps sold with the monthly report required under A.R.S. § 17-338.

R12-4-204. Taxidermy Registration; Register

- A.** A person shall register with the Department before engaging in the business of taxidermy for hire. A taxidermy registration authorizes a person to mount, refurbish, maintain, restore, or preserve wildlife as defined under A.R.S. § 17-101.
- B.** A taxidermy registration expires on December 31 of each year.
- C.** The Department shall deny a taxidermy registration when the applicant:
 - 1. Fails to meet the requirements established under this Section;
 - 2. Provides false information during the application process; or
 - 3. Provides false information in the register required under A.R.S. § 17-363(B).
- D.** The Department shall provide written notice to the applicant stating the reason for the denial. The applicant may appeal the denial to the Commission as prescribed under A.R.S. Title 41, Chapter 6, Article 10.
- E.** A person may apply for a taxidermy registration by paying the applicable fee and submitting an application to the Department. The application form is available on the Department's website. A taxidermy registration applicant shall provide all of the following information:
 - 1. The applicant's information:
 - a. Name;
 - b. Date of birth;
 - c. ~~Department~~ Customer identification number, when applicable;
 - d. Mailing address, when applicable;
 - e. Physical address;
 - f. Telephone number, when available;
 - g. Email address, when available; and
 - 2. The applicant's business information:
 - a. Name;
 - b. Mailing address;
 - c. Email address;
 - d. Website URL address, if available;
 - e. Business telephone number, when applicable;
 - f. Calendar year for which the application is made; and
 - g. Whether the applicant is seeking renewal of an existing taxidermy registration.
 - 3. Affirmation that the information provided on the application is true and accurate; and
 - 4. Applicant's signature and date.
- F** A registered taxidermist may submit an application for renewal of a taxidermy registration after December 1 of the year it was issued.
- G.** A registered taxidermist shall maintain a register of all persons who furnish raw and unmounted wildlife specimens for taxidermy service using the form available on the Department's website.
 - 1. This register shall be:
 - a. Maintained for a period of five years after the date the raw and unmounted wildlife specimens were received;

- b. Provided upon request to an employee of the Department; and
 - c. Filed with the Department on or before January 31 of each year.
2. This register shall contain all of the following information, as applicable:
- a. The registered taxidermist's information:
 - i. Name;
 - ii. Taxidermy registration number;
 - iii. Email address, when available; and
 - b. The customer's or potential customer's:
 - i. Name;
 - ii. Address;
 - iii. Taker's tag or license number;
 - iv. Species and number of wildlife received;
 - v. Date wildlife received; and
 - c. A signed affirmation from the registered taxidermist that the information provided in the register is true and accurate.
3. The taxidermy renewal registration becomes invalid if the register is not submitted to the Department by January 31 of the year following registration.
- H. As authorized under A.R.S. § 17-363(C), the Commission may revoke or suspend the taxidermy registration of a person convicted of violating any provision of A.R.S. § 17-363 or requirement established under this Section.

R12-4-205. High Achievement Scout License

- A. A high achievement scout license is offered to a resident who is:
- 1. Eligible for a combination hunting and fishing license,
 - 2. Under 21 years of age, and
 - 3. A member of the ~~Boy Scouts of the United States of America~~ Scouting BSA and has attained the rank of Eagle Scout, or
 - 4. A member of the Girl Scouts of the ~~United States of America~~ USA and has attained the Gold Award.
- B. The high achievement scout license grants all of the hunting and fishing privileges of the youth combination hunting and fishing license and is only available at Department offices.
- 1. The license is valid for one year from the date of purchase or selected start date provided the date selected is no more than 60 calendar days from and after the date of purchase.
 - 2. A valid hunt permit-tag, nonpermit-tag, or stamp is required to validate the high achievement scout license for the take of big game animals, migratory game birds, or other wildlife authorized by an applicable tag or stamp.
- C. An applicant for a high achievement scout license shall apply on an application form available from any Department office and on the Department's website. The applicant shall provide all of the following information on the application:
- 1. The applicant's:
 - a. Name;
 - b. Date of birth;
 - c. Physical description, to include the applicant's eye color, hair color, height, and weight;
 - d. ~~Department~~ Customer identification number, when applicable;
 - e. Residency status and number of years of residency immediately preceding application, when applicable;
 - f. Mailing address, when applicable;
 - g. Physical address;
 - h. Telephone number, when available; and
 - i. E-mail address, when available;
 - 2. Affirmation that the information provided on the application is true and accurate; and
 - 3. Applicant's signature and date.
- D. In addition to the application, an eligible applicant shall present with the application:
- 1. For an applicant who is a member of the ~~Boy Scouts of the United States of~~ Scouting America, any one of the following original documents:
 - a. A certification letter from the ~~Boy Scouts of the United States of~~ Scouting America stating that the applicant has attained the rank of Eagle Scout,
 - b. A ~~Boy Scouts of the United States of~~ Scouting America Eagle Scout Award Certificate, or
 - c. A ~~Boy Scouts of the United States of~~ Scouting America Eagle Scout wallet card.
 - 2. For an applicant who is a member of the Girl Scouts of the ~~United States of America~~ USA, any one of the following original documents:

- a. A certification letter from the Girl Scouts of the ~~United States of America~~ USA stating that the applicant has completed the award,
 - b. A Girl Scouts of the ~~United States of America~~ USA Gold Award Certificate, or
 - c. A Girl Scouts Gold Award Certificate from the local council.
- E. The Department shall deny a high achievement scout license to an applicant who:
 - 1. Is not eligible for the license;
 - 2. Fails to comply with the requirements of this Section; or
 - 3. Provides false information during the application process.
- F. The Department shall provide written notice to the applicant stating the reason for the denial. The applicant may appeal the denial to the Commission as prescribed under A.R.S. Title 41, Chapter 6, Article 10.

R12-4-206. General Hunting License; Exemption

- A. A general hunting license is valid for the taking of small game, fur-bearing animals, predatory animals, nongame animals, and upland game birds. A valid hunt permit-tag, nonpermit-tag, or stamp is required to validate the general hunting license for the take of big game animals, migratory game birds, or other wildlife authorized by an applicable tag or stamp.
- B. The general hunting license is valid for one-year from:
 - 1. The date of purchase when a person purchases the hunting license from a license dealer, as defined under R12-4-101;
 - 2. On the last day of the application deadline for that draw, as established by the hunt permit-tag application schedule published by the Department;
 - 3. On the last day of an extended deadline date, as authorized under subsection R12-4-104(C). If an applicant does not possess an appropriate license that meets the requirements of this subsection, the applicant shall purchase the license at the time of application; or
 - 4. The selected start date when a person purchases the hunting license from a Department office or online. A person may select the start date for the hunting license provided the date selected is no more than 60 calendar days from and after the date of purchase.
- C. A resident may apply for a general hunting license by submitting an application to the Department, a License Dealer as defined under R12-4-101, or on the Department's website. The application is furnished by the Department and is available at any Department office, license dealer, and on the Department's website. A general hunting license applicant shall provide the following information on the application:
 - 1. The applicant's:
 - a. Name;
 - b. Date of birth,
 - c. Physical description, to include the applicant's eye color, hair color, height, and weight;
 - d. ~~Department~~ Customer identification number, when applicable;
 - e. Residency status and number of years of residency immediately preceding application, when applicable;
 - f. Mailing address, when applicable;
 - g. Physical address;
 - h. Telephone number, when available; and
 - i. E-mail address, when available; and
 - 2. Affirmation that the information provided on the application is true and accurate; and
 - 3. Applicant's signature and date.
- D. In addition to the requirements listed under subsection (C), at the time of application an applicant who is applying for a general hunting license:
 - 1. In person shall pay the applicable fee required under R12-4-102.
 - 2. Online shall electronically pay the fee required under R12-4-102 and print the new license. A person applying online shall affirm, or provide permission for another person to affirm, the information electronically provided is true and accurate.
- E. A person who is under 10 years of age may hunt wildlife other than big game without a hunting license when accompanied by a properly licensed person who is 18 years of age or older.

R12-4-207. General Fishing License; Exemption

- A. A general fishing license is valid for the taking of all aquatic wildlife and allows the license holder to engage in simultaneous fishing as defined under R12-4-301. The general fishing license is valid:
 - 1. State-wide including Mittry Lake and Topock Marsh and the Arizona shoreline of Lake Mead, Lake Mohave and Lake Havasu, and Commission designated community waters. The list of Commission designated community waters is available at any license dealer, Department office, and on the Department's website.

2. On that portion of the Colorado River that forms the common boundary between Arizona and Nevada and Arizona and California and connected adjacent water, provided Arizona has an agreement with California and Nevada that recognizes a general fishing license as valid for taking aquatic wildlife on any portion of the Colorado River that forms the common boundary between Arizona and Nevada and Arizona and California.
- B.** The general fishing license is valid for one-year from:
1. The date of purchase when a person purchases the fishing license from a license dealer, as defined under R12-4-101; or
 2. The selected start date when a person purchases the fishing license from a Department office or online. A person may select the start date for the fishing license provided the date selected is no more than 60 calendar days from and after the date of purchase.
- C.** A resident or nonresident may apply for a general fishing license by submitting an application to the Department, a License Dealer as defined under R12-4-101, or on the Department's website. The application is furnished by the Department and is available at any Department office, license dealer, and on the Department's website. A general fishing license applicant shall provide the following information on the application:
1. The applicant's:
 - a. Name;
 - b. Date of birth,
 - c. Physical description, to include the applicant's eye color, hair color, height, and weight;
 - d. ~~Department~~ Customer identification number, when applicable;
 - e. Residency status and number of years of residency immediately preceding application, when applicable;
 - f. Mailing address, when applicable;
 - g. Physical address;
 - h. Telephone number, when available; and
 - i. E-mail address, when available; and
 2. Affirmation that the information provided on the application is true and accurate; and
 3. Applicant's signature and date.
- D.** In addition to the requirements listed under subsection (C), an applicant who is applying for a general fishing license:
1. In person shall pay the applicable fee required under R12-4-102.
 2. Online shall electronically pay the fee required under R12-4-102 and print the new license. A person applying online shall affirm, or provide permission for another person to affirm, the information electronically provided is true and accurate.
- E.** In addition to the exemption prescribed under A.R.S. § 17-335, a person who is under 10 years of age may fish without a fishing license.

R12-4-208. Guide License

- A.** A guide, as defined under A.R.S. § 17-101, is a person who does any one of the following:
1. Advertises for guiding services.
 2. Is presented to the public for hire as a guide.
 3. Is employed by a commercial enterprise as a guide.
 4. Accepts compensation in any form commensurate with the market value in this state for guiding services in exchange for aiding, assisting, directing, leading, or instructing a person in the field to locate and take wildlife.
 5. Is not a landowner or lessee who, without full fair market compensation, allows access to the landowner's or lessee's property and directs and advises a person in taking wildlife.
- B.** A person shall not act as a guide unless the person holds one of the following guide licenses:
1. A hunting guide license, which authorizes the license holder to act as a guide for the lawful taking of wildlife other than aquatic wildlife as defined under A.R.S. § 17-101.
 2. A fishing guide license, which authorizes the license holder to act as a guide for the lawful taking of aquatic wildlife.
 3. A hunting and fishing guide license, which authorizes the license holder to act as a guide for the lawful taking of wildlife.
- C.** A guide license shall expire on December 31 of each year.
- D.** A person is not eligible to apply for an original or renewal guide license when any one of the following conditions apply:
1. The applicant was convicted of a felony violation of any federal wildlife law, within five years immediately preceding the date of application;
 2. The applicant was convicted of a violation listed under A.R.S. § 17-309(D), within five years immediately preceding the date of application;
 3. The applicant was convicted of a violation of a federal or state wildlife law for which a license to take wildlife may be revoked or suspended within five years immediately preceding the date of application; or

4. The applicant's privilege to take or possess wildlife or to guide or act as a guide is currently suspended or revoked anywhere in the U.S. for violation of a federal or state wildlife law.
- E.** Notwithstanding subsection (D), a person who was convicted of a misdemeanor violation of any wildlife law within one year preceding the date of application may apply for a guide license provided the person immediately and voluntarily reported the violation to the Department after committing the violation.
- F.** An applicant for a guide license shall:
 1. Be 18 years of age or older, and
 2. Possess the required Department-issued license, as applicable:
 - a. A current Arizona hunting license when applying for a hunting guide license;
 - b. A current Arizona fishing license when applying for a fishing guide license;
 - c. A current Arizona combination hunting and fishing license when applying for a hunting and fishing guide license;
- G.** The guide license does not exempt the license holder from any applicable method of take or licensing requirement. The guide license holder shall comply with all applicable Commission rules, including, but not limited to, rules governing:
 1. Lawful methods of take,
 2. Lawful devices, and
 3. License requirements.
- H.** Unless otherwise provided under this Section, a person shall successfully complete the Department administered examination, and answer at least 80% of the questions correctly, prior to applying for a guide license. Guide examinations are:
 1. Provided at a Department office.
 2. Valid until December 31 of the year in which it was taken.
 3. A person interested in taking the guide examination shall contact a Department office to obtain scheduling information.
- I.** The examination is based on the type of guide license the person is seeking.
 1. Before taking the examination, the applicant shall provide their:
 - a. Name;
 - b. Date of birth; and
 - c. Driver license number and issuing state.
 2. The examination may include questions regarding any of the following topics:
 - a. A.R.S. Title 17 Game and Fish statutes and Commission rules regarding the taking and handling of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife;
 - b. A.R.S. Title 28, Ch 3, Article 20 Off-highway Vehicles statutes and rule regarding the use of off-highway vehicles;
 - c. A.R.S. Title 5, Ch 3, Boating and Water Sports statutes and Commission rules on boating;
 - d. Requirements for guiding on federal lands;
 - e. Identification of aquatic wildlife species;
 - f. Identification of wildlife;
 - g. Special state and federal laws regarding certain species;
 - h. General knowledge of fair chase, hunter ethics, and conservation in Arizona;
 - i. General knowledge of species habitat and wildlife that may occur in the same habitat;
 - j. General knowledge of the types of habitat within the State; and
 - k. General knowledge of special or concurrent jurisdictions within the State.
 3. An applicant who fails the examination may retake the examination as agreed upon by the applicant and the examination administrator.
- J.** In addition to the guide examination requirement under subsection (H), a guide license holder shall take the Department administered examination when:
 1. The applicant currently holds a hunting or fishing guide license and is applying for a combination hunting and fishing guide license;
 2. The applicant for a hunting guide license was convicted of a violation of A.R.S. Title 17 or Game and Fish Commission rule governing the taking and handling of terrestrial wildlife within one year preceding the date of application;
 3. The applicant for a fishing guide license was convicted of a violation of A.R.S. Title 17 or Game and Fish Commission rule governing the taking and handling of aquatic wildlife within one year preceding the date of application;
 4. The applicant failed to submit a renewal application postmarked before the expiration date of the guide license; or
 5. The applicant failed to submit the annual report for the preceding license year by January 10 of the following license year.
- K.** A person may apply for a guide license by submitting an application to the Department. The application form is furnished by the Department and is available at any Department office and on the Department's website. A guide license applicant shall provide all of the following information on the application:

1. The applicant's personal information:
 - a. Name;
 - b. Date of birth;
 - c. Physical description, to include the applicant's eye color, hair color, height, and weight;
 - d. Social Security Number;
 - e. Current hunting, fishing, or combination hunting and fishing license number;
 - f. Residency status;
 - g. Mailing address, when applicable;
 - h. Physical address;
 - i. Telephone number, when available;
 - j. E-mail address, when available;
 - k. Type of guide license sought; and
 - l. Calendar year for which the application is made;
 2. The outfitting or guide:
 - a. Business name; and
 - b. Business address, as applicable;
 3. Responses to questions relating to criminal violations;
 4. Affirmation that:
 - a. The applicant meets the eligibility requirements prescribed under this Section; and
 - b. The information provided on the application is true and accurate;
 5. Applicant's signature and date.
- L.** In addition to the requirements listed under subsection (K), an applicant for a guide license shall also submit a copy of any one of the following as proof of the applicant's identity:
1. Valid U.S. passport;
 2. Applicant's birth certificate;
 3. Valid government-issued driver's license; or
 4. Valid government-issued identification card.
- M.** All information and documentation provided by the guide license applicant is subject to Department verification.
- N.** An applicant for a guide license shall pay all applicable fees required under R12-4-102 upon approval of an initial or renewal application for a guide license.
- O.** The Department shall deny a guide license when the applicant:
1. Fails to meet the criteria prescribed under A.R.S. § 17-362,
 2. Fails to comply with the requirements of this Section,
 3. Provides false information during the application process,
 4. Fails to provide the annual report required under subsection (R) by January 10, or
 5. Provides false information in the annual report required under subsection (R) within three years immediately preceding the date of application.
- P.** The Department shall provide written notice to the applicant stating the reason for the denial. The applicant may appeal the denial to the Commission as prescribed under A.R.S. Title 41, Chapter 6, Article 10.
- Q.** A guide license holder may submit an application for renewal of a guide license after December 1 of the year it was issued. The Department shall not start the substantive review, as defined under A.R.S. § 41-1072, before January 10 of the following license year, unless the Department receives the annual report prior to the date established under subsection (R). The current guide license shall remain valid pending a Department decision on the application for renewal, provided:
1. The application for renewal is submitted to the Department by December 31, and
 2. The Department receives the annual report submitted in compliance with subsection (R).
- R.** A guide license holder shall submit to the Department the annual report required under A.R.S. § 17-362(C) for the previous calendar year ~~before~~ after January 1 but no later than January 10 of the following license year. The report form is furnished by the Department and is available at any Department office or on the Department's website.
1. A report is required whether or not the license holder performed any guiding activities.
 2. The annual report shall include all of the following information, as applicable:
 - a. License holder's personal information:
 - i. Name;
 - ii. Guide license number; and
 - iii. E-mail address, when available; and
 - b. Client's personal information:
 - i. Name;
 - ii. Mailing address; and

- iii. Arizona license, tag and permit numbers, and
 - c. Dates guiding activities were conducted;
 - d. Number and species of wildlife taken by the clients;
 - e. Game management unit or body of water where guiding activities took place;
 - f. Affirmation that the information provided in the annual report is true and accurate; and
 - g. License holder's signature and date.
- 3. The Department shall not renew a guide license if the annual report is not submitted to the Department by January 10 of the following license year.
- S. The date of receipt for the items required under subsections (K), (L), (Q), and (R) shall be as follows:
 - 1. The date a person presents the items to a Department office;
 - 2. The date a private express mail carrier receives the package containing the items as indicated on the shipping package; or
 - 3. The date of the United States Postal Service postmark stamped on the envelope containing the items.
- T. A guide license holder shall:
 - 1. Complete a Department-sanctioned continuing education course at least once every five-years.
 - 2. While performing any activities or services as a guide activities or providing guide services, as defined under A.R.S. § 17-101:
 - a. Possess a valid guide license.
 - b. Possess a valid Arizona hunting, fishing, or combination hunting and fishing license, as applicable under subsection (F)(2).
 - c. Present the license for inspection upon the request of any peace officer, including wildlife managers and game rangers.
 - d. Report any violation of a federal or state statute or regulation, law, or rule personally witnessed by the guide license holder ~~knew or should have known of that involves or relates to the take or possession of wildlife or involves or relates to another guide or guide license holder's legal obligations.~~
- U. A guide license holder shall not:
 - 1. Use, or allow another person to use, any method or device prohibited under any federal or state wildlife regulation, law, or rule while taking wildlife.
 - 2. Aid, counsel, agree to aid, or attempt to aid another person in planning or engaging in conduct that results in a violation of any federal or state wildlife regulation, law, or rule while taking wildlife.
 - 3. A guide license holder shall not aid, assist, serve as an agent to, represent, associate, or contract with a person whose privilege to take wildlife or guide is currently suspended or revoked pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 17-340, 17-362, or R12-4-606.
 - ~~3.4.~~ Pursue any wildlife or hold at bay any wildlife for a person unless that person is present during the pursuit to take the wildlife.
 - a. The person shall be continuously present during the entire pursuit of that specific target animal.
 - b. If dogs are used, the person shall be present when the dogs are released on a specific target animal and shall be continuously present for the remainder of the pursuit.
 - ~~4.5.~~ Hold wildlife at bay other than during daylight hours, unless a Commission Order authorizes the take of the species at night.
- V. It is a violation for a licensed or unlicensed guide to employ, hire, direct, or authorize another person to provide guiding services for compensation, and the guide knew or should have known that person would likely commit a violation of A.R.S. Title 17 or Game and Fish Commission rules while the person is providing such guiding services on behalf of, or for the benefit of, the guide.

"Knew or should have known" means actual knowledge, or that a reasonably observant person under the same or similar circumstances would have had knowledge, or a person had a duty to inquire or investigate the facts and circumstances that person would commit a violation.
- ~~W.~~ As authorized under A.R.S. § 17-362(A), the Commission may revoke or suspend a guide license when any one or more of the following actions occur:
 - 1. The guide license holder failed to comply with the requirements of A.R.S. Title 17 or was convicted of violating any provision of A.R.S. Title 17;
 - 2. The guide license holder was convicted of a felony violation of any federal wildlife law;
 - 3. The guide license holder was convicted of a violation listed under A.R.S. § 17-309(D);
 - 4. The guide license holder was convicted of a violation of a federal or state wildlife law for which a license to take wildlife may be revoked or suspended; or
 - 5. The guide license holder's privilege to take or possess wildlife is suspended or revoked by any jurisdiction for violation of a federal or state wildlife law.

R12-4-210. Combination Hunting and Fishing License; Exemption

- A. A combination hunting and fishing license is valid for the taking of small game, fur-bearing animals, predatory animals, nongame animals, and upland game birds.
- B. A combination hunting and fishing license is valid for the taking of all aquatic wildlife and allows the license holder to engage in simultaneous fishing as defined under R12-4-101. The combination hunting and fishing license is valid:
 - 1. State-wide including Mittry Lake and Topock Marsh and the Arizona shoreline of Lake Mead, Lake Mohave and Lake Havasu, and Commission designated community waters. The list of Commission designated community waters is available at any license dealer, Department office, and on the Department's website.
 - 2. On that portion of the Colorado River that forms the common boundary between Arizona and Nevada and Arizona and California and connected adjacent water, provided Arizona has an agreement with California and Nevada that recognizes a combination hunting and fishing license as valid for taking aquatic wildlife on any portion of the Colorado River that forms the common boundary between Arizona and Nevada and Arizona and California.
- C. The Department offers three combination hunting and fishing licenses:
 - 1. A short-term combination hunting and fishing license, valid for one 24-hour period from midnight to midnight.
 - a. The short-term combination hunting and fishing license is not valid for the take of big game animals.
 - b. The short-term combination hunting and fishing license is valid for the take of migratory game birds and waterfowl, provided the person possesses the applicable State Migratory Bird stamp and Federal Waterfowl stamp.
 - c. The Department does not limit the number of short-term combination hunting and fishing licenses a resident or nonresident may purchase.
 - 2. A combination hunting and fishing license for a person age 18 and over.
 - a. The combination hunting and fishing license is valid for one-year from:
 - i. The date of purchase when a person purchases the combination hunting and fishing license from a license dealer, as defined under R12-4-101;
 - ii. On the last day of the application deadline for that draw, as established by the hunt permit-tag application schedule published by the Department;
 - iii. On the last day of an extended deadline date, as authorized under subsection R12-4-104(C). If an applicant does not possess an appropriate license that meets the requirements of this subsection, the applicant shall purchase the license at the time of application; or
 - iv. The selected start date when a person purchases the combination hunting and fishing license from a Department office or online. A person may select the start date for the combination hunting and fishing license provided the date selected is no more than 60 calendar days from and after the date of purchase.
 - b. A valid hunt permit-tag, nonpermit-tag, or stamp is required to validate the combination hunting and fishing license for the take of big game animals, migratory game birds, or other wildlife authorized by an applicable tag or stamp.
 - 3. A youth combination hunting and fishing license for a person through age 17.
 - a. The combination hunting and fishing license is valid for one-year from:
 - i. The date of purchase when a person purchases the combination hunting and fishing license from a license dealer, as defined under R12-4-101;
 - ii. On the last day of the application deadline for that draw, as established by the hunt permit-tag application schedule published by the Department;
 - iii. On the last day of an extended deadline date, as authorized under subsection R12-4-104(C). If an applicant does not possess an appropriate license that meets the requirements of this subsection, the applicant shall purchase the license at the time of application; or
 - iv. The selected start date when a person purchases the combination hunting and fishing license from a Department office or online. A person may select the start date for the combination hunting and fishing license provided the date selected is no more than 60 calendar days from and after the date of purchase.
 - b. A valid hunt permit-tag, nonpermit-tag, or stamp is required to validate the combination hunting and fishing license for the take of big game animals, migratory game birds, or other wildlife authorized by an applicable tag or stamp.
- D. A resident or nonresident may apply for a combination hunting and fishing license by submitting an application to the Department, a License Dealer as defined under R12-4-101, or on the Department's website. The application is furnished by the Department and is available at any Department office, license dealer, and on the Department's website. A combination hunting and fishing license applicant shall provide the following information on the application:
 - 1. The applicant's:
 - a. Name;
 - b. Date of birth,

- c. Physical description, to include the applicant's eye color, hair color, height, and weight;
 - d. ~~Department~~ Customer identification number, when applicable;
 - e. Residency status and number of years of residency immediately preceding application, when applicable;
 - f. Mailing address, when applicable;
 - g. Physical address;
 - h. Telephone number, when available; and
 - i. E-mail address, when available; and
- 2. Affirmation that the information provided on the application is true and accurate; and
 - 3. Applicant's signature and date.
- E. In addition to the requirements listed under subsection (C), an applicant who is applying for a combination hunting and fishing license:
- 1. In person shall pay the applicable fee required under R12-4-102.
 - 2. Online shall electronically pay the fee required under R12-4-102 and print the new license. A person applying online shall affirm, or provide permission for another person to affirm, the information provided on the online application is true and accurate.
- F. Exemptions authorized under R12-4-206(E); and R12-4-207(E) also apply to this Section, as applicable.

R12-4-211. Lifetime License; Benefactor License

- A. The Department offers the following lifetime licenses:
- 1. A lifetime hunting license includes the privileges established under R12-4-206(A).
 - 2. A lifetime fishing license includes the privileges established under R12-4-207(A).
 - 3. A lifetime combination hunting and fishing license includes the privileges established under R12-4-210(A) and (B).
 - 4. A benefactor lifetime combination hunting and fishing license includes the privileges established under R12-4-210(A) and (B).
- B. A valid hunt permit-tag, nonpermit-tag, or stamp is required to validate lifetime hunting or combination hunting and fishing license for the take of big game animals, migratory game birds, or other wildlife authorized by an applicable tag or stamp.
- C. The lifetime licenses identified under subsection (A) do not expire and remain valid if the licensee subsequently resides outside of this state.
- 1. A licensee who resides outside of Arizona shall submit the nonresident fee to purchase any required hunt permit-tag, nonpermit-tag, or stamp to hunt and fish in this state.
 - 2. Limits established under R12-4-114 for nonresident hunt permit-tags and nonpermit-tags do not apply to a lifetime license holder.
- D. A resident may apply for a lifetime license by submitting an application to the Department and paying the applicable fee required under subsection (E). The application is furnished by the Department and is available at any Department office and on the Department's website. A lifetime license applicant shall provide the following information on the application:
- 1. The applicant's:
 - a. Name;
 - b. Date of birth,
 - c. Physical description, to include the applicant's eye color, hair color, height, and weight;
 - d. Social Security Number, when required under A.R.S. §§ 25-320(P) and 25-502(K);
 - e. ~~Department~~ Customer identification number, when applicable;
 - f. Residency status and number of years of residency immediately preceding application, when applicable;
 - g. Mailing address, when applicable;
 - h. Physical address;
 - i. Telephone number, when available; and
 - j. E-mail address, when available; and
 - 2. Affirmation that the information provided on the application is true and accurate; and
 - 3. Applicant's signature and date.
 - 4. In addition to the requirements listed under subsections (1) through (3), an applicant for a lifetime license shall also submit a copy of any one of the following documents at the time of application:
 - a. Valid U.S. passport;
 - b. Applicant's birth certificate;
 - c. Valid government-issued driver's license; or
 - d. Valid government-issued identification card.
- E. The fees for resident lifetime licenses listed under (A)(1) through (A)(3) are determined by the age of the applicant as follows:
- 1. Age 0 through 13 years is 17 times the fee established under R12-4-102 for the equivalent one-year license.

2. Age 14 through 29 years is 18 times the fee established under R12-4-102 for the equivalent one-year license.
 3. Age 30 through 44 years is 16 times the fee established under R12-4-102 for the equivalent one-year license.
 4. Age 45 through 61 years is 15 times the fee established under R12-4-102 for the equivalent one-year license.
 5. Age 62 and older is 8 times the fee established under R12-4-102 for the equivalent one-year license.
 6. For the purposes of this subsection, when the applicant is under the age of 18, the fee for the lifetime license is based on the full priced license fee, not the youth license fee.
- F.** The fee for the benefactor license listed under (A)(4) is \$1,500. The difference between \$1,500 and the license fee for a resident lifetime combination hunting and fishing license established under subsection (E):
1. Is a donation to the State for continued management, protection, and conservation of the State's wildlife.
 2. Shall be credited to the wildlife endowment fund established under A.R.S. § 17-271.
 3. May be tax deductible to the extent allowed by federal and state income tax statutes for contributions to qualifying tax-exempt organizations.
- G.** A lifetime license may be denied or suspended pursuant to, and for the offenses described under, A.R.S. § 17-340.
- H.** A person issued a lifetime license prior to the effective date of this Section shall be entitled to the privileges established under subsection (A)(1), (A)(2), (A)(3), or (A)(4), as applicable, for the equivalent lifetime license.

R12-4-213. Hunt Permit-tags and Nonpermit-tags

- A.** A valid hunt permit-tag or nonpermit-tag is required to validate a license to take a big game animal or other wildlife requiring a valid tag. Before a person may take a big game animal or other wildlife requiring a tag, the person shall apply for and obtain the appropriate tag required for the take of that big game animal or other wildlife.
- B.** A person may apply for a hunt permit-tag in accordance with R12-4-104 and at the times, locations, and in the manner established by the hunt permit-tag application schedule that the Department publishes and is available at any Department office, on the Department's website, or a License Dealer as defined under R12-4-101.
- C.** A person applying for a nonpermit-tag shall apply in accordance with R12-4-114 and pay the required fee established under R12-4-102.
- D.** Under A.R.S. § 17-332(C), the Department and its license dealers may issue a duplicate tag to a person whose tag was not used and is lost, destroyed, mutilated, or otherwise unusable; or placed on a harvested animal that was subsequently condemned and the carcass and all parts of the animal were surrendered to a Department employee as required under R12-4-112(B) and (C). The person shall complete and sign the affidavit furnished by the Department. The affidavit is available at any Department office or License Dealer. The person shall provide the following information on the affidavit:
1. The applicant's personal information:
 - a. Name;
 - b. ~~Department~~ Customer identification number, when applicable;
 - c. Residency status and number of years of residency immediately preceding application, when applicable;
 2. The original license or tag information:
 - a. Type of license or tag;
 - b. Place of purchase;
 - c. Purchase date, when available;
 3. Disposition of the original tag for which a duplicate is being purchased.
 4. A person applying for a duplicate tag after a harvested animal that was subsequently condemned as described under subsection (D) shall also submit the condemned meat duplicate tag authorization form issued by the Department.
- E.** The person shall pay the applicable duplicate fee prescribed under R12-4-102.

R12-4-215. Youth Group Two-day Fishing License

- A.** A youth group two-day fishing license authorizes a nonprofit organization or governmental entity as defined under subsection (C) that sponsors adult supervised activities for youth to take up to 25 youths fishing. The youth group two-day fishing license is only available from a Department office. The youth group two-day fishing license is valid for:
1. Two consecutive days,
 2. The take of all aquatic wildlife, and
 3. All privileges established under R12-4-207(A).
- B.** A nonprofit organization or governmental entity may apply for a youth group two-day fishing license at any Department office. An applicant for a youth group two-day fishing license shall be a resident. The applicant shall pay the fee required under R12-4-102 and provide the following information at the time of application:
1. The nonprofit organization's or governmental entity's:
 - a. Name;
 - b. Mailing address; and
 - c. Telephone number, when available;

2. The applicant's:
 - a. Name;
 - b. Date of birth,
 - c. Physical description, to include the applicant's eye color, hair color, height, and weight;
 - d. ~~Department~~ Customer identification number, when applicable;
 - e. Mailing address, when applicable;
 - f. Physical address;
 - g. Telephone number, when available; and
 - h. E-mail address, when available;
 3. The dates on which the nonprofit organization intends to conduct the youth group fishing activity.
 4. The approximate number of youth participating in the group fishing activity.
- C. For the purpose of this Section, "governmental entity" means any town, city, county, municipality, or other political subdivision of this state or any department, agency, board, commission, authority, division, office, public school, public charter school, public corporation, or other public entity of this state or any department agency bureau, or office of the federal government that is physically located within this state.

R12-4-216. Crossbow Permit

- A. For the purposes of this Section, the following definitions apply:
- "Qualified healthcare provider physician" means a currently licensed and board-certified medical or osteopathic physician (M.D. or D.O. only) person who has an unrestricted license to practice medicine in any U.S. state or U.S. territory. Physician shall primarily practice or specialize in musculoskeletal or neuromuscular disorders, diseases or conditions that cause a physical impairment that substantially limits the use of a standard bow and arrow for hunting. who is licensed to practice by the federal government, any state, or U.S. territory with one of the following credentials:
- ~~1. Medical Doctor;~~
 - ~~2. Doctor of Osteopathy;~~
 - ~~3. Doctor of Chiropractic;~~
 - ~~4. Nurse Practitioner, or~~
 - ~~5. Physician Assistant.~~
- "Disability" means a physical impairment that substantially limits one or more life activities, but does not include typical or natural physiological conditions associated with age or gender that may affect physical abilities.
- B. When authorized under R12-4-304 as lawful for the species hunted:
1. A person who possesses a valid crossbow permit may use any of the following during an archery-only season as prescribed under R12-4-318:
 - a. A crossbow, as defined under R12-4-101, using that is restricted to a single bowstring, capable of firing only a single arrow or single bolt with each loading and cocking action. The crossbow permit prohibits the following when using a crossbow:
 - i. Magnifying or telescoping scope, magnifying red dot or other type of magnifying optic on a crossbow;
 - ii. Attached accessories or built-in accessories that throw, cast or project an artificial light or electronically alter or intensify a light source for the purpose of visibly enhancing an animal image or placing a point of aim on an animal;
 - iii. Any form of bipod, tripod or other device used to balance, rest or steady a crossbow when a crossbow is in use, except a permit holder with a missing upper body extremity as defined in subsection (E)(4)(a)(i) below, may use such a device. The use of illuminated reticles, illuminated sights or illuminated sight pins is not prohibited; or
 - b. Any bow to be drawn and held with an assisting device.
 2. A person who possesses both a valid crossbow permit and CHAMP, issued under R12-4-217, may use any of the following during an archery-only season as prescribed under R12-4-318:
 1. A crossbow, as defined under R12-4-101, using that is restricted to a single bowstring, capable of firing only a single arrow or single bolt with each loading and cocking action, and subject to the same prohibitions on a the use of crossbow set forth in R12-4-216 (B)(1)(a)(i-iii), except that a person with a valid CHAMP may use external structures or devices to stabilize the crossbow when in use;
 - b. Any bow to be drawn and held with an assisting device; or
 - c. Pre-charged pneumatic weapon, as defined under R12-4-301, using arrows or bolts and capable of firing only a single arrow or bolt at a time.
- C. The crossbow permit does not exempt the permit holder from any other applicable method of take or licensing requirement. The permit holder shall be responsible for compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements.

- D. ~~The crossbow permit does not expire, unless:~~ The crossbow permit expires one year from the date the medical certification portion of the application was signed by a qualified physician. A crossbow permit also expires when:
- ~~1. The medical certification portion of the application indicates the person has a temporary physical disability; then the crossbow permit shall be valid for a period of one year from the date the medical certification portion of the application was signed by the healthcare provider;~~
 - ~~21. The permit holder no longer meets the criteria for obtaining the crossbow permit, or~~
 - ~~32. The Commission revokes the person's crossbow permit or hunting privileges under A.R.S. § 17-340. A person whose crossbow permit is revoked by the Commission may petition the Commission for a rehearing as established under R12-4-607.~~
- E. An applicant for a crossbow permit shall apply by submitting an application to the Department. The application form is furnished by the Department and is available at any Department office and online at www.azgfd.gov. A crossbow permit applicant shall provide all of the following information on the application:
1. The applicant's:
 - a. Name;
 - b. Date of birth;
 - c. Physical description, to include the applicant's eye color, hair color, height, and weight;
 - d. ~~Department~~ Customer identification number, when applicable;
 - e. Residency status;
 - f. Mailing address, when applicable;
 - g. Physical address;
 - h. Telephone number, when available; and
 - i. E-mail address, when available;
 2. Affirmation that:
 - a. The applicant meets the requirements of this Section, and
 - b. The information provided on the application is true and accurate, and
 3. Applicant's signature and date.
 4. The certification portion of the application shall be completed by a qualified healthcare provider physician. The qualified healthcare provider physician shall:
 - a. ~~Certify the applicant has one or more of the following physical limitations: Certify (1) the applicant has a disability; (2) the disability substantially limits the applicant's ability to use a standard bow and arrow for hunting; and (3) the applicant's physical limitations do not prevent the applicant from using a crossbow for hunting. The qualified physician must affirm on the certification that the applicant's substantial physical limitation that prohibits drawing and holding a bow at full draw is due to one or more of the following conditions:~~
 - i. ~~An amputation involving body extremities 3 or more fingers at the proximal interphalangeal joint, wrist, elbow, or shoulder that prevents stable function to use conventional archery equipment a bow;~~
 - ii. ~~A spinal cord injury resulting in a disability to the lower extremities, leaving the applicant non ambulatory; Spinal cord injury affecting a hand, wrist, arm, or shoulder;~~
 - iii. ~~A wheelchair restriction. Weakness resulting from a disability of the muscles, nerves, joints or connective tissue in the shoulder, arm, wrist, hand, or back used in drawing and holding a bow at full draw. The weakness is confirmed and documented using a reliable and appropriate functional capacity evaluation, upper extremity performance test or manual muscle test (MMT) where the results correlate with a physical impairment substantially limiting the ability to use a conventional bow. Using a MMT requires a score of 3 or worse on a scale of 0 to 5 to qualify an applicant for a crossbow permit. Weakness that is appropriate for age or gender or deconditioning not due to a chronic medical problem shall not be considered a reason for a crossbow permit.~~
 - iv. ~~A neuromuscular condition that prevents the applicant from drawing and holding a bow; Restricted range of motion, where range of motion is assessed using a medically-accepted goniometric evaluation system and the score correlates with a physical impairment substantially limiting the ability to use a bow.~~
 - v. ~~A failed manual muscle test involving the grading of shoulder and elbow flexion and extension or an impaired range-of-motion test involving the shoulder or elbow;~~
 - vi. ~~A combination of comparable physical disabilities resulting in the applicant's inability to draw and hold a bow;~~
 - vii. ~~A failed functional draw test that equals 30 pounds of resistance and involves holding it for four seconds. The functional draw test may not be used to determine eligibility for the permit when it is not associated with a disability.~~
 - b. ~~Indicate whether the disability is temporary or permanent and, when temporary, specify the expected duration of the physical limitation; and~~ The qualified physician shall assess the level of impairment on the applicant's ability to use a bow in relation to other people of same gender and age who have no physical limitations using a bow. An

applicant should be assessed on whether the applicant's disability prevents the functional equivalent of holding a bow steady in a full draw position with a minimum of 30 pounds of resistance at full draw and holding a full draw for at least 4 seconds. The qualified physician must include in the medical certification a narrative statement in lay terms explaining how the applicant's impairment substantially limits the individual's use of a bow based on the criteria in this subsection.

- c. Provide the qualified healthcare provider's physician's:
 - i. Typed or printed name,
 - ii. License number,
 - iii. Business address,
 - iv. Telephone number, and
 - v. Signature and date;
 - vi. Acknowledgement with signature that the attesting qualified physician understands that a knowingly false or fraudulent submission may result in a complaint of unprofessional conduct to the appropriate medical board.
- 5. A person who holds a valid ~~Challenged Hunter Access/Mobility Permit (CHAMP)~~ and who is applying for a crossbow permit is exempt from the requirements of subsection (E)(4) and shall indicate "CHAMP" in the space provided for the medical certification on the crossbow permit application.
- F. In addition to the requirements listed above, at the time of application an applicant who is applying for a crossbow permit shall pay the applicable fee required under R12-4-102.
- G. The Applicant shall include with the application records from the qualified physician's evaluation of applicant's disability and physical limitations. All information and documentation provided by the applicant is subject to Department verification.
- H. The Department shall deny a crossbow permit when the applicant:
 - 1. Fails to meet the criteria prescribed under this Section,
 - 2. Fails to comply with the requirements of this Section, or
 - 3. Provides false information during the application process.
- I. The Department shall provide written notice to the applicant stating the reason for the denial. The applicant may appeal the denial to the Commission as prescribed under A.R.S. Title 41, Chapter 6, Article 10.
- J. The applicant claiming a ~~temporary or permanent~~ disability and requesting a crossbow permit is responsible for all costs associated with obtaining the medical certification and documentation, re-evaluation of the information, or a second medical opinion.
- K. When acting under the authority of a crossbow permit, the crossbow permit holder shall possess the permit, and exhibit the permit upon request to any peace officer, including wildlife managers and game rangers.
- L. A crossbow permit holder shall not:
 - 1. Transfer the permit to another person, or
 - 2. Allow another person to use or possess the permit.
- M. This rule is effective July 1, 2026. Any valid crossbow permit issued prior to the effective date is void on or after the effective date.

R12-4-217. Challenged Hunter Access/Mobility Permit (CHAMP)

- A. For the purposes of this Section, the following definitions apply:
 - "Qualified physician" means a currently licensed and board-certified medical or osteopathic physician (M.D. or D.O. only) person who has an unrestricted license to practice medicine in any U.S. state or U.S. territory. Physician shall primarily practice or specialize in disorders, diseases or conditions that cause a severe permanent disability as that term is defined in this section.
 - "Healthcare provider" means a person who is licensed to practice by the federal government, any state, or U.S. territory with one of the following credentials:
 - ~~1. Medical Doctor;~~
 - ~~2. Doctor of Osteopathy;~~
 - ~~3. Doctor of Chiropractic;~~
 - ~~4. Nurse Practitioner, or~~
 - ~~5. Physician Assistant.~~
 - "Severe permanent disability" means one or more permanent physical or mental disabilities resulting from amputation of both upper and lower limbs, permanent use of wheelchair, crutches, or a walker, arthritis, autism, blindness, extensive burn injury, cancer, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, intellectual disability, muscular dystrophy, musculoskeletal disorders, neurological disorders, paraplegia, pulmonary disorders, quadriplegia and other spinal cord conditions, sickle cell anemia, and end stage renal disease or a combination of permanent disabilities resulting in comparable substantial life functional limitations.

- B.** The Challenged Hunter Access/Mobility Permit (CHAMP) allows a person with a severe permanent disability to perform one or more of the following activities:
1. Discharge a firearm or other legal hunting device from a motor vehicle if, under existing conditions:
 - a. The discharge is otherwise lawful;
 - b. The motor vehicle is not in motion;
 - c. The motor vehicle is not on any road, as defined under A.R.S. § 17-101; and
 - d. The motor vehicle's engine is turned off.
 2. Discharge a firearm or other legal hunting device from a watercraft, as defined under R12-4-501; provided the motor is turned off, the sail furled, or both; and progress has ceased.
 - a. The watercraft may be drifting as a result of current or wind, beached, moored, resting at anchor, or propelled by paddle, oars, or pole.
 - b. A person may use a watercraft under power to retrieve dead or wounded wildlife.
 - c. For the purposes of this subsection, "watercraft" does not include a sinkbox.
 3. Use off-road locations in a motor vehicle if use is not in conflict with federal or state statutes or regulations or local ordinances or regulations and the motor vehicle is used as a place to wait for game. A person shall not use a motor vehicle to chase or pursue game.
 4. Use any of the following during an archery-only season as prescribed under R12-4-318:
 - a. A crossbow, as defined under R12-4-101, using a single bowstring, capable of firing only a single arrow or single bolt with each loading and cocking action, and subject to the same prohibitions on the use of a crossbow set forth in R12-4-216 (B)(1)(a)(i-iii), except that a person possessing a valid CHAMP may use external structures or devices to stabilize the crossbow when in use; or
 - b. Any bow to be drawn and held with an assisting device, or
 - c. Pre-charged pneumatic weapon, as defined under R12-4-301, using arrows or bolts and capable of firing only a single arrow or bolt at a time.
 - ~~4.5.~~ Designate an assistant to track and dispatch a wounded animal, and to retrieve the animal, in accordance with the requirements of this Section.
- C.** The CHAMP holder shall comply with all applicable regulatory requirements. A CHAMP does not exempt the permit holder from any other applicable method of take or licensing requirement.
- D.** The CHAMP does not expire, unless:
1. The permit holder no longer meets the criteria for obtaining the CHAMP, or
 2. The Commission revokes the person's CHAMP or hunting privileges under A.R.S. § 17-340. A person whose CHAMP is revoked by the Commission may petition the Commission for a rehearing as established under R12-4-607.
- E.** An applicant for a CHAMP shall apply by submitting an application to the Department. The application form is furnished by the Department and is available from any Department office and on the Department's website. The CHAMP applicant shall provide all of the following information on the application:
1. The applicant's:
 - a. Name;
 - b. Date of birth;
 - c. Physical description, to include the applicant's eye color, hair color, height, and weight;
 - d. ~~Department~~ Customer identification number, when applicable;
 - e. Residency status;
 - f. Mailing address, when applicable;
 - g. Physical address;
 - h. Telephone number, when available; and
 - i. E-mail address, when available;
 2. Affirmation that:
 - a. The applicant meets the requirements of this Section, and
 - b. The information provided on the application is true and accurate, and
 3. Applicant's signature and date.
 4. The certification portion of the application shall be completed by a qualified healthcare provider physician. The qualified healthcare provider physician shall:
 - a. Certify the applicant is a person with a severe permanent disability as defined under subsection (A), and
 - b. Provide the qualified healthcare provider's physician's:
 - i. Typed or printed name,
 - ii. Business address,
 - iii. Telephone number, and
 - iv. Signature and date;

- v. Acknowledgement with signature that the attesting qualified physician understands that a knowingly false or fraudulent submission may result in a complaint of unprofessional conduct to the appropriate medical board.
- F. In addition to the requirements listed above, at the time of application an applicant who is applying for a CHAMP shall pay the applicable fee required under R12-4-102.
- G. The Applicant shall include with the application records from the qualified physician's evaluation of applicant's disability and physical limitations. All information and documentation provided by the applicant is subject to Department verification.
- H. The applicant claiming a severe permanent disability and requesting a CHAMP is responsible for all costs associated with obtaining the medical certification and documentation, re-evaluation of the information, or a second medical opinion.
- I. The Department shall deny a CHAMP when the applicant:
 - 1. Fails to meet the criteria prescribed under this Section,
 - 2. Fails to comply with the requirements of this Section, or
 - 3. Provides false information during the application process.
- J. The Department shall provide written notice to the applicant stating the reason for the denial. The applicant may appeal the denial to the Commission as prescribed in A.R.S. Title 41, Chapter 6, Article 10.
- K. When acting under the authority of the CHAMP, the permit holder shall possess and exhibit the permit upon request to any peace officer, including wildlife managers and game rangers.
- L. The CHAMP holder shall ensure the CHAMP vehicle placard, issued with the CHAMP, is visibly displayed on the motor vehicle or watercraft when in use.
- M. The Department shall provide a CHAMP holder with a dispatch permit that allows the CHAMP holder to designate a licensed hunter as an assistant to:
 - 1. Dispatch and retrieve an animal wounded by the CHAMP holder, or
 - 2. Retrieve wildlife killed by the CHAMP holder.
- N. The CHAMP holder shall:
 - 1. Designate an assistant only after the animal is wounded or killed.
 - 2. Ensure the designation on the dispatch permit is in ink and includes:
 - a. A description of the animal,
 - b. The assistant's name and valid Arizona hunting license number,
 - c. The date and time the animal was wounded or killed, and
 - 3. Ensure compliance with all of the following requirements:
 - a. The site where the animal is wounded and the location from which tracking begins are marked so they can be identified later.
 - b. The assistant possesses the dispatch permit and a valid hunting license while tracking and dispatching the wounded animal. When acting under the authority of the dispatch permit, the assistant shall possess and exhibit the dispatch permit and hunting license upon request to any peace officer, including wildlife managers and game rangers.
 - c. The CHAMP holder is in the field while the assistant is tracking and dispatching the wounded animal.
 - d. The assistant does not transfer the dispatch permit to anyone except that the dispatch permit may be transferred back to the CHAMP holder.
 - e. Dispatch is made by a method that is lawful for the take of the particular animal in the particular season in accordance with requirements established under R12-4-304 and R12-4-318.
 - f. The assistant attaches the dispatch permit to the carcass of the animal and returns the carcass to the CHAMP holder, and the tag of the CHAMP holder is affixed to the carcass.
 - g. If the assistant is unsuccessful in locating and dispatching the wounded animal, the assistant returns the dispatch permit to the CHAMP holder. The CHAMP holder shall strike the name and authorization of the assistant from the dispatch permit.
- O. A dispatch permit may not be reused when all spaces for designation of an assistant are filled or the dispatch permit is attached to a carcass. The CHAMP holder may request another dispatch permit from the Department if:
 - 1. All spaces for assistants are filled,
 - 2. The dispatch permit is lost, or
 - 3. When the CHAMP holder needs another dispatch permit for another big game hunt.
- P. A CHAMP holder shall not:
 - 1. Transfer the permit to another person, or
 - 2. Allow another person to use or possess the permit.
- Q. This rule is effective July 1, 2026. Any valid CHAMP issued prior to the effective date is void on or after the effective date.