



PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

Revision #1

February 4, 2026

A public meeting of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission will be held on **February 6, 2026** at the **Maricopa Library and Cultural Center, 18160 N Maya Angelou Dr., Maricopa, Arizona 85138**. The public may attend the meeting in person, or view the meeting at www.azgfd.gov/commissioncam or may listen to the meeting by calling 404-397-1516, Access code: 280 046 234##. Members of the public may view the meeting from any Department Regional Office and the Department's Headquarters via video teleconference. Members of the public may only address the Commission by attending in person or from any regional office. Copies of any presentations, documents, etc. discussed during the meeting will be available, when final, by contacting sprice@azgfd.gov. Unless expressly provided otherwise with any matter, the Commission may discuss and may vote to take action on the following matters:

Friday, February 6, 2026 Meeting location opens at 7:45 a.m.
Meeting begins at 8:00 a.m
Lunch Break at 12:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome/Introductions

Awards and Recognition

Regional Highlights

- 1) **Call to the Public.** Those persons wishing to speak on a matter not on the agenda should complete a speaker's card and present it to the host. No discussion or action will be taken by the Commission. Any items requiring further discussion or action will be included on a future Commission meeting agenda.
- 2) **Species of Greatest Conservation Need Wildlife Briefing. Presenter: Charlotte Rozanski, Wildlife Specialist II.** The Commission will be provided a briefing on the Department's management efforts regarding the Lowland Leopard Frog.

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5000 W. CAREFREE HIGHWAY, PHOENIX AZ 85086

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

- 3) **Managing for the Future: Habitat and Wildlife Stewardship. Presenter: Travis Clarkson, Wildlife Manager Senior.** The Commission will be provided an overview of ongoing habitat and wildlife management initiatives in the Yuma Region.

Agenda items 4 and 5 are first read items. The Commission may choose to take action on first read items as needed or may direct the Department to place first read items on the consent agenda for approval at the next Commission meeting.

- 4) **Request from Region V for Road Closure on State Trust Land. Presenter: Dan Sturla, Landowner Relations Program Supervisor.** The Commission will be provided an update on Department efforts and success, and may approve one new petition requesting to close two (2) short roads on State Trust lands where reasonable access has been identified. The Commission may vote to take action on, or provide the Department direction on this item.
- 5) **Requests from Regions V and VI for Short Road Closure. Presenter: Dan Sturla, Landowner Relations Program Supervisor** Each five years, Commission authorized closures expire and are evaluated to be either renewed and continue, or be unlocked for vehicle access to resume. The Commission may approve to move these three (3) requests to renew existing closures. The Commission may vote to take action on, or provide the Department direction on this item.

TIME CERTAIN AT 10:00AM

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Docket</u>	<u>Conviction</u>
Corey Gardiner	2025-0047	Unlawful Take of Tiger Rattlesnake.
Steven Little	2026-0001	Take Mule Deer Without a Tag. Take Mule Deer in Closed Season. Possess Unlawfully Taken Mule Deer.
Steven Little	2026-0002	Take Elk Without a Tag. Possess Unlawfully Taken Elk.
Alexander Del Castro	2025-0044	Take Gila Monster Without a License.

- 7) **Analysis of Fishing Revocations from the Last 5 Years. Gene Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief.** The Department is presenting an analysis of fishing revocations over the last 5 years for the Commission to consider allowing individuals who have not yet completed the Department's hunter education course requirement, the option to complete the Department's fishing education course.
- 8) **State and Federal Legislation. Presenter: Ed Sanchez, Legislative Policy Administrator.** The Commission will be briefed on the status of state and federal legislation and may take a position or provide direction to the Department for coordination, action, or proposed changes to legislation related to Department responsibilities.
- 9) **State and Federal Lands Planning Update. Presenter: Callie Cavalcant, Habitat, Evaluation and Lands Branch Chief.** The Commission will receive an update on Department activities and involvement with land management planning and other actions regarding state and federal lands in Arizona.
- 10) **Commission Priorities Update. Presenter: Luke Thompson, Special Assistant to the Director.** The Department will provide an update on the Commission Priorities and Metrics, and Dan Sturla will provide an extended presentation for Commission Priority: Improve and Conserve Habitat.
- 11) **Chairman, Commissioners and Director Comments.** The Chairman, Commissioners and Director may provide brief comments on current events and issues. This item is for information only. Items requiring discussion, deliberation or legal action must be placed on a future Commission meeting agenda.
- 12) **Future Agenda Items and Action Items.**
- 13) **Litigation Report.** The Department's legal counsel may report on the status of the following litigation matters and the Commission may take action: *In re General Stream Adjudication for the Little Colorado River and Gila River*; *Center for Biological Diversity v. Haaland*, CV 22-303/453; *Desert Tortoise Council v. Burgum*, CV 25-00272-JGZ.
- 14) **Executive Session. (The Commission will not vote to take on any action during the Executive Session).**
 - a) **Litigation and Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (4) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice in order to consider its position and to instruct legal counsel regarding the Commission's position concerning: *In re General Stream Adjudication for the Little Colorado River and Gila River*; *Center for Biological Diversity v. Burgum*, CV 22-303/453; *Desert Tortoise Council v. Burgum*, CV 25-00272-JGZ; *Koury v. Marsha Petrie Sue, et al.*, CV 2025-030971.
 - b) **Litigation and Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (4) for the purpose of discussing and

consulting with legal counsel for legal advice in order to consider its position and to instruct legal counsel regarding the Commission's position concerning the legal strategy recommendations from the Department's legal strategies team.

- c) **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(4) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel and staff in order to consider its position and instruct its legal counsel and staff regarding the Commission's pending application with ADWR for Type 2 grandfathered water rights for the new Crane Lake.
- d) **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding the Commission's authority to lock gates and close roads providing access to State Trust lands where there is reasonable alternative public access.
- e) **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding the designation of the Grand Canyon National Monument.
- f) **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel regarding trespasses and other unauthorized activities on Commission-owned lands.
- g) **Purchase or Disposal of Real Property and Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (7) for the purpose of discussion or consultation with Department staff in order to consider its position and instruct its representative regarding the purchase or disposal of real property and for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice.
- h) **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding Commission practices related to communication, agendas and public records.
- i) **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. §§ 38-431.03(A)(3) & (4) for the purpose of discussions and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice and to instruct Department staff on contract negotiations regarding a cooperative multi state agreement for law enforcement resource exchange.

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



Tom Finley
Director

The agenda may be revised and additional items may be added prior to the meeting as authorized by A.R.S. §38-431.02. In that event, an addendum to the agenda will be noticed and posted prior to the meeting at Department offices. Commission agenda items not noticed for a specific time may be taken out of order. Background materials provided to Commission members concerning public agenda items are available for public inspection at the main office of the Arizona Game and Fish Department at 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, at Department regional offices in Pinetop, Flagstaff, Kingman, Yuma, Tucson, Mesa and at the meetings. During the public meeting, the Commission may afford any person, their duly authorized representative, or both, the opportunity to present statements relating to agenda items, with or without the opportunity to present them orally. The Commission may go into Executive Session for the purpose of obtaining legal advice from the Commission Attorneys on any of the above agenda items pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A) (3) & (4). One or more members of the Commission may appear and participate in the meeting telephonically or by other electronic means.

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

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is responsible for managing Arizona's fish and wildlife resource as an enduring public trust. In addition, the Department is charged with promoting safe and responsible use of watercraft and off-highway vehicles. Funding is provided from the sale of licenses and permits; watercraft registration fees; federal excise taxes on firearms, fishing equipment, boats, and other sporting goods; State lottery revenues; donations on State income tax forms; and various contracts and grants. Department policy is set by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, whose five members are appointed by the Governor.

“Managing Today for Wildlife Tomorrow”