



PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

Revision #1

April 8, 2026

A public meeting of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission will be held on **April 10, 2026** at the **Arizona Game and Fish Department, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086**. 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, April 10, 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

- 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) **Overview of the Department's Wildlife Viewing Program. Presenter: Jeff Meyers, Wildlife Viewing Program Manager.** The Department will brief the Commission on the Department's statewide Wildlife Viewing Program.
- 3) **Species of Greatest Conservation Need Wildlife Briefing. Presenter: Stephanie Cobbold, Wildlife Specialist.** The Commission will be provided a briefing on the Department's

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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 | JESSICA MANUELL, PARKS **DIRECTOR:** TOM P. FINLEY **DEPUTY DIRECTOR:** JOSHUA W. HURST

management efforts regarding the Mexican Spotted Owl.

- 4) **Consider Proposed Amendment to Commission Order 43. Presenter: Audrey Owens, Amphibians and Reptiles Program Manager.** The Commission may consider and approve an amendment to Commission Order 43 (Reptiles).
- 5) **Consideration of Proposed Commission Orders 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 23 and 26 for 2026–2027 Hunting Seasons. Presenter: Erin Butler, Big Game Management Program Supervisor.** The Commission will consider and may approve Commission Orders 2 (deer), 6 (javelina, fall and spring), 7 (bighorn sheep), 9 (black bear, fall and spring), 10 (mountain lion), 13 (predator/fur-bearer), 23 (trapping) and 26 (population management) establishing seasons and season dates, bag and possession limits, permit numbers or authorized limits, and open areas for the respective 2026 fall and 2027 spring hunting seasons.

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: Tyler Raspiller, Statewide Law Enforcement Coordinator.** 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>
Julian Aguirre	2026-0005	Take Deer Within ¼ Mile of an Occupied Structure
Rudy Owens	2026-0006	Take Javelina Without a Valid Tag
Tomas Barraza-Pena Jr	2026-0010	Possess Unlawfully Taken Deer

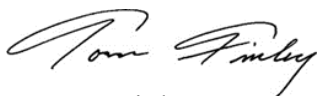
- 7) **Consideration of Proposed Commission Orders 19–22 and 24 (Migratory Game Birds) for the 2026–2027 hunting season in accordance with the Final Rules of the Federal Register (USFWS, anticipated publication July 2026). Presenter: Nathan Fyffe, Terrestrial Wildlife, Small Game Biologist.** The Commission will consider and may approve Commission Orders 19–22 (dove, band-tailed pigeon, waterfowl, and snipe) and 24 (sandhill crane), establishing season dates, open and closed areas, bag and possession limits, and permit numbers (for CO 24 sandhill cranes only) for the 2026–2027 hunting season. All other small game Commission Orders were approved in April 2025 on a two-year cycle, changing only with calendar shifts.
- 8) **Quail Management. Presenter: Clay Crowder, Assistant Director, Wildlife Management Division.** The Department will present an update on Arizona quail species surveys, monitoring, harvest and climate information gathered since September 2025. Small game Commission Orders were approved in April 2025 on a two-year cycle.

Agenda items 9, 10, 11, and 12 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.

- 9) **License Agreement with Sanders Farms for Farming Forage Crops for Wildlife at Arlington Wildlife Area. Presenter: Jim Ruff, Land and Water Program Supervisor.** The Department will ask the Commission to consider the 5-year renewal of a License Agreement with Sanders Farms for the purpose of cultivating up to 85 acres for wildlife forage crops on the Commission-owned Arlington Wildlife Area, Maricopa County, Arizona.
- 10) **Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Buckeye. Presenter: Scott Gurtin, Community Fishing Program Manager.** The Department will ask the Commission to consider entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Buckeye to implement the Community Fishing Program at Sundance Lake.
- 11) **Conveyance of the Commission's 320 acre Topock property, located in Mohave County, Arizona. Presenter: Jim Ruff, Land and Water Program Supervisor.** The Department will ask the Commission to consider the conveyance of the 320 acre Topock property, located in western Mohave County, Arizona.
- 12) **FY 2028 Proposed Budget & FY 2027 Amendments. Presenter: Marvin Mendieta, Budget and Payroll Administrator.** The Department will provide the Commission with a presentation on the FY28 proposed budget and proposed amendments to the FY27 budget.
- 13) **State and Federal Legislation. Presenter: Ed Sanchez, Legislative Branch Chief.** 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.
- 14) **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.
- 15) **Commission Priorities Update. Presenter: Luke Thompson, Special Assistant to the Director.** The Department will provide an update on the Commission Priorities and Metrics. Danielle Klaas will provide an expanded report on Commission Priority: Develop & Implement a Strategy for Resilient Wildlife & Habitat.
- 16) **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.
- 17) **Future Agenda Items and Action Items.**

- 18) **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. Burgum, CV 22-303/453; Desert Tortoise Council v. Burgum, CV 25-00272-JGZ.*
- 19) **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)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding the Heber Wild Horse Territory Management Plan issued by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest.
 - d) **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.
 - 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 requirements for removing a species from the endangered species list after the species reaches its recovery objectives.
 - f) **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding the process and procedures influencing the future use of the range protection zone at BASF.

- g) **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel 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.
- 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 the designation of the Grand Canyon National Monument.
- i) **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice on the scope of the Commission's authority to issue special big game tags.
- j) **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel regarding trespasses and other unauthorized activities on Commission-owned lands.
- k) **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.
- l) **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.
- m) **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”