



PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

Revision #1

August 5, 2026

A public meeting of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission will be held on **August 7, 2026 at The Grand Canyon Railway & Hotel 233 N. Grand Canyon Blvd, Williams, AZ 86046**. 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, from the Department headquarters 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, August 7, 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) Arizona Strip Pronghorn Collaring Project. Presenter: Brady Clement, Wildlife Manager.** The Commission will be provided a presentation that will highlight the Arizona Strip Pronghorn Collaring Project.

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5000 W. CAREFREE HIGHWAY, PHOENIX AZ 85086

GOVERNOR: KATIE HOBBS **COMMISSIONERS:** CHAIRMAN JAMES E. GOUGHNOUR, PAYSON | KURT KERR, PINETOP
JESSICA MANUELL, PARKS | MARSHA PETRIE SUE, SCOTTSDALE **DIRECTOR:** TOM P. FINLEY **DEPUTY DIRECTOR:** JOSHUA W. HURST

- 3) **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.
- 4) **Species of Greatest Conservation Need Wildlife Briefing. Presenter: Dan Dillon, Wildlife Specialist Supervisor-Regional.** The Commission will be provided a briefing on activities at the Aquatic Research Conservation Center (ARCC) in support of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), aquatic species research and conservation.
- 5) **Hunt Permit-Tag Application Schedules for 2027 Hunts. Presenter: Claudia Florea, Draw Administrator.** The Department will present the proposed hunt-permit tag application schedules for the 2027 hunts for Commission approval.
- 6) **Game Data Management System (GDMS) and Harvest Tracking System Updates. Presenter: Grady Vanderlin, Game Data Manager.** The Department will provide an informational briefing on new updates to the Game Data Management System (GDMS) and Harvest Tracking system.
- 7) **Consideration of Proposed Commission Orders 5 and 8 for the 2027 Hunting Season. Presenter: Erin Butler, Big Game Management Program Supervisor.** The Commission will consider and may vote to approve Commission Orders 5 (turkey) and 8 (bison) establishing seasons and season dates, bag and possession limits, permit numbers or authorized limits, and open areas for the 2027 hunting seasons.

TIME CERTAIN AT 10:00AM

- 8) **Hearings on License Revocations for Violations of Game and Fish Codes and Civil Assessments for the Illegal Taking and/or Possession of Wildlife. Presenter: Danielle Klaas, Regional Supervisor.** 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>
Matthew Swallow	2026-0020	Take Elk Without a Valid Permit Take Elk Without a Valid License Possess Unlawfully Taken Elk
Jesse Chapin	2026-0022	Obtain Hunting License by Fraud
Dustin Berg	2026-0024	Apply for Tag by Fraud
Thomas Gerbig	2026-0025	Take Bobcat While Trespassing

Teodoro Celaya	2026-0028	Possess Unlawfully Taken Mountain Lion
Bret Daniels	2026-0029	Take Mule Deer Without a Tag
Imad Alsayegh	2026-0034	Possess Unlawfully Taken Mule Deer
Richard Minyard	2026-0037	Take Javelina in a Closed Season

Agenda items 9 through 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) **An amendment to License Agreement HAB-26-0120(CMY) with Arizona Public Service Company for the Purpose of Providing Utility Service to the Commission's Silver Creek Hatchery, Navajo County, Arizona. Presenter: Chip Young, Senior Land Resources Manager.** The Commission may approve an Amendment to the current License Agreement with Arizona Public Service Company for the Purpose of Providing Utility Service to the Commission's Silver Creek Hatchery.
- 10) **A License Agreement with Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC to operate and maintain a buried fiber optic line through a portion of the Ben Avery Shooting Facility. Presenter: Chip Young, Senior Land Resources Manager.** The Commission may approve a License Agreement with Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC for the continued operation and maintenance of an existing fiber optic cable along the south side of Correctional Institution Road, west of Pioneer Road across 710-feet of the Ben Avery Shooting Facility.
- 11) **Approve Pinetop Office Property Supplemental Lease Agreement with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Presenter: Chip Young, Senior Land Resources Manager.** The Commission may approve a five-year Supplemental Lease Agreement with USFWS for the purpose of maintaining a field office building located on the Commission's Pinetop Regional Office property, Navajo County, Arizona. This is the second extension of the original agreement.
- 12) **A License Agreement with Vero Fiber Networks to install and maintain a buried fiber optic line through a portion of the Becker Lake Wildlife Area. Presenter: Austin Madsen, Water Resources Manager.** The Commission may approve a License Agreement with Vero Fiber Networks for the installation, operation, and maintenance of a fiber optic cable along the south side of US Highway 60, northwest of the Town of Springerville, AZ.
- 13) **Request to Propose Amendments to Commission Order 40 (Fish): Concerning Specific Proposals for Bag and Possession Limits, Special Regulations, and Specific Closures for Sport Fishing for Calendar Year 2027 and 2028. Presenter: Amberle Jones, Statewide**

Sportfish Program Manager. The Commission may approve amendments to Commission Order 40 (Fish): establishing open seasons, open areas, and bag and possession limits for calendar year 2027 and 2028.

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. Callie Cavalcant will provide an expanded report on Commission Priority: Develop a Comprehensive Real Estate Strategy.

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.

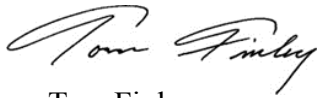
18) Litigation Report. The Department's legal counsel may report on the status of the following litigation matters and the Commission may take action: *In re General Stream Adjudication for the Little Colorado River and Gila River*; *Center for Biological Diversity v. Burgum*, CV 22-303/453; *Desert 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; CBD's Notice of Intent to Sue over the Department's sportfish stocking program.

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 Commission's authority to lock gates and close roads providing access to State Trust lands where there is reasonable alternative public access.
- 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 on the scope of the Commission's authority to issue special big game tags.
- g) **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel regarding trespasses and other unauthorized activities on Commission-owned lands.
- h) **Purchase or Disposal of Real Property and Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (7) for the purpose of discussion or consultation with Department staff in order to consider its position and instruct its representative regarding the purchase or disposal of real property and for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice.
- i) **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding Commission practices related to communication, agendas and public records.
- j) **Personnel Matters.** The Commission may vote to go into executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1) to discuss personnel matters associated with the Director's duties, responsibilities and performance. The Commission may take action in the public session or defer any action to a later date.



Tom Finley
Director

The agenda may be revised and additional items may be added prior to the meeting as authorized by A.R.S. §38-431.02. In that event, an addendum to the agenda will be noticed and posted prior to the meeting at Department offices. Commission agenda items not noticed for a specific time may be taken out of order. 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 Ombudsman, 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 as a public trust resource. 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”