

Minutes of the Work Session Meeting of the
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Friday, November 1, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 2, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.
Horseshoe Ranch Wildlife Area
22600 E. Bloody Basin Road
Mayer, Arizona 86330

PRESENT: (Commission)

(Director's Staff)

Chairman John W. Harris
Commissioner Robert E. Mansell
Commissioner Kurt R. Davis
Commissioner Edward P. Madden

Director Larry D. Voyles
Deputy Director Ty E. Gray
Assistant Attorney General Jim Odenkirk
Assistant Attorney General Linda Pollock

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. This meeting followed an agenda revision #1 dated October 30, 2013. This meeting was held in an informal outdoor setting and was for discussion and informational purposes only. The Commission took no action at this meeting.

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1. Updates on Proposed Big Game Hunt Strategies at Camp Navajo Army Depot

Presenter: Craig McMullen, Flagstaff Regional Supervisor

Mr. McMullen provided updates on proposed big game hunting strategies at Camp Navajo Army Depot in unit 6B. The Department has been working with Camp Navajo Army Depot (CN) regarding big game hunting season dates, permit numbers, and hunting opportunity prescription. Applicants for permits at CN are currently classified into three categories relative to their eligibility.

- NG: Current or retired Arizona Army or Air National Guard or current CN employees
- DAV: Certified service connected disability of 50% or greater, or possession of an AGFD DAV license.
- OTH: All civilians including active duty military, reservists and other state NG.

In recent years the majority of elk tags offered at CN have been allocated to the NG category of hunters. Discussion included strategies being developed relative to hunting opportunity at CN. Employees of CN, Oscar Alejandro, Wes Tavegia and Sgt. Bo Deneff were present and participated in discussion with the Commission and Department staff.

Director Voyles addressed the issue of Camp Navajo not being in compliance with the Sikes Act Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP). Director Voyles requested that the Department begin immediate negotiations to develop a Sikes Act compliant INRMP.

Mr. McMullen discussed that the Department will be recommending 57% of the permits in the buffer area at Camp Navajo to be available to all of the public.

The Commission will decide at their December Commission meeting how they want to move forward regarding tag allocation on Camp Navajo.

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Meeting recessed for a break at 2:35 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 2:45 p.m.

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2. Discussion on Communication Issues Between the Commission and the Department.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Mr. Gray facilitated discussion on ways to improve communications between Department personnel and individual Commissioners. Discussion outcomes included:

- Communication will be a topic on the agenda for every workshop
- The Department will develop a Commission profile to identify individual information needs and preferred methods/times for contacting
- The Department will reinvent/re-deploy the Quail Calls and Intranet to communicate and distribute information.

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3. Bonus Point Processes and Policy.

Presenter: John Bullington, Assistant Director, Special Services Division

Mr. Bullington facilitated discussion on the process for evaluating and considering new proposals, including establishing a Commission policy on bonus points. Discussion outcomes included:

- The process and policy for providing bonus points should not be changed, but other types of rewards should be looked at and discussed
- Reinstating bonus points for a surrendered tag will be discussed at the December Commission meeting as part of the Article 1 rule review
- Other rule/policy to look at will be bundling products, tag surrender options, and the ability to explore new concepts.

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4. General Discussion on Law Enforcement, and Draft Policies Concerning Officer Discretion in Enforcing Title 17, Employee License Revocation and Intentional Versus Unintentional Violation Reporting.

Presenter: Jim Hinkle, Assistant Director, Field Operations Division

Mr. Hinkle led a discussion on various law enforcement topics including draft policies on officer discretion in enforcing Title 17, employee license revocation and the handling of self-reported

violations. Discussion included that only Arizona violations would result in termination. Discussion outcomes included:

- Mr. Hinkle will review the draft policy with Director Voyles to consider including Interstate Wildlife Compact related violations in other states.

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5. Youth Hunting Issues Related to License Simplification.

Presenter: Gene Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Mr. Elms discussed youth hunting issues related to the new license simplification, including how Law Enforcement Officers will respond to a youth with no license or who have taken wildlife. Discussion outcomes included:

- Director Voyles will issue a directive to Law Enforcement on how to respond to these circumstances.

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6. Public Trust Doctrine

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Mr. Gray led discussion on a commentary in the Journal of Wildlife Management, “The Role of State Wildlife Professionals Under the Public Trust Doctrine.” Discussion resulted in the following:

- The Public Trust Doctrine will be sent to all Department employees
- It will be considered for Leadership Team training
- It will be added to the new Commissioner’s orientation packet.

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7. Evolving Challenges to Fair Chase.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Mr. Gray led discussion on new or evolving technologies and methods that may present future challenges to the concept of Fair Chase. Topics included new technologies such as equipment that registers heat indexes of different kinds of animals, drones, improvements in firearms and archery equipment, and related concerns for potential resource depletion. Discussion resulted in the following:

- The Department will create/define a system for reacting quickly to new issues (Out of cycle rulemaking or possibly legislation)
- The Department will establish a team to project future issues and will develop a Commission policy
- The Department will provide public outreach of current and future issues
- Director Voyles will bring this issue up to the national level through AFWA.

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Meeting recessed for the day at 4:45 p.m.

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Meeting reconvened Saturday at 9:20 a.m.

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Chairman Harris called the workshop meeting back to order at 9:20 a.m. This meeting followed an agenda revision #1 dated October 30, 2013. This meeting was held in an informal outdoor setting and was for discussion and informational purposes only. The Commission took no action at this meeting.

8. Department Priorities Discussion

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Mr. Gray facilitated discussion on Department priorities including topics associated with the FY16 budget priorities, license simplification implementation schedule, Commission policies, personnel reform, development of the Wildlife Conservation Education Center, customer relations concepts including new products, services and on-line license sales and draws, access and habitat improvement projects, customer recruitment and retention, and strategic planning and messaging. Discussion resulted in the following:

- The Department will craft a statement that defines Comprehensive Big Game Management
- The Department will report back to the Commission as budget priorities are accomplished
- Regarding license simplification implementation, the Department will look to adjust the soft launch to earlier in December and have customers “help” find bugs in the system
- The Commission will be provided with copies of all Commission policies and the Department will bring this back for discussion at the May Commission workshop
- Two Commissioners will work with the Director to address issues and non-intended consequences with Personnel Reform and Compensation Strategies
- The Department will move forward with planning and development for the Wildlife Conservation Education Center
- The Department will present the Commission with allocation options for the resident and nonresident application fees at the December Commission meeting
- The Department will provide the Commission with monthly updates on the Customer Portal
- The Department will look at organic messaging regarding wildlife meat to reach new markets and will look at equating hunting to wildlife viewing and vice-versa
- The Department will look into managing/utilizing the Wildlife Views more effectively.

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9. Meeting Wrap up and Future Agenda Items

Mr. Gray noted the following action/future items:

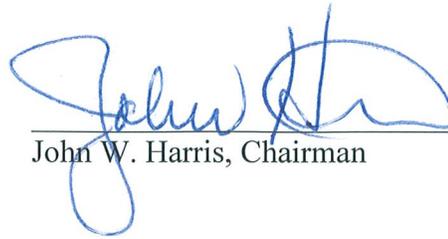
- Camp Navajo: Begin negotiating immediately on developing a Sikes Act compliant INRMP including increased engagement from AGFD as opposed to reviewing CN draft
- Communications: Develop Commission Profile for Commission to identify information needs and preferred methods; Reinvent/re-deploy Quail Calls and Intranet to include comings and goings
- Bonus Points: Present policy for Commission consideration; Develop list of other/substitute benefits that could be provided including ideas to support SO S&R efforts
- Tag Surrender: Ensure new Article 1 Rules do not prohibit development of tag surrender options idea
- Develop tag surrender options program/product as part of customer relations package
- Employee Revocation Policy: Consider modifying to include compact related violations in other states that would be violations in AZ
- Youth Take/Licensing: Develop Directive from GF1 on how LEOs respond to 10 year old (etc.) with no license or who have “taken” wildlife
- Public Trust Doctrine: Send article to all employees; consider LT training with Chris Smith possibly; include in new Commissioner packet
- Fair Chase: Establish Team to project future issues; Develop Commission policy – possibly first task of committee; Public outreach of current and future
- Fair Chase: Create/define a system for reacting quickly to new issues; this will likely have to be out of cycle rulemaking or legislation possibly
- Comprehensive Big Game Management: Craft a statement to define what it means
- Budget Priorities: Report back to Commission on accomplishments (op plan review)
- LSFF Implementation: Look to adjust soft launch to earlier in December and have customers “help” find bugs in the system; set expectations for issues
- Commission Policy: Send Commission copy of all policies and bring back for discussion at May workshop
- WCEC: Move forward with capital consultant plans
- Access/Habitat Improvement/R&R: Present application fee allocation options to Commission including 1/1/1 for Res and 2/2/1 for NR fees; consider using HPC process for habitat improvement dollars
- Customer Relations: Replace previous Commission action item with new direction to provide Commission update at monthly meetings on portal development including new products and services: soft launch portal prior to 2014 holiday season (Portal, marketing, promotions, insurance program, frequent flyer, credit card, etc)
- Strategic Messages: Refine and provide for E-staff review; add locavore/organic messaging to reach new market; equate hunting to wildlife viewing and vice/versa; market WL Views magazine better/more effectively
- Response to Forest Service LE Approaches: Draft letter; Build downloadable placard and instructions/outreach; Consider amendments to Title 28

- Develop TMP web page to include old actions, Commission policy, federal contacts/sources, WHHCC and current actions
- May Commission Workshop: Consider changing dates to accommodate Davis and consider other venues for commission approval.

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Meeting adjourned at 11:36 p.m.

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John W. Harris, Chairman



Robert E. Mansell, Vice Chairman



Kurt R. Davis, Member



Edward P. Madden, Member

ATTEST:



Larry D. Voyles
Secretary and Director



Your camp was visited by the Forest Service and no one was around. Please let me take this opportunity to explain a few of the rules that apply to this area.

Where your camp is located, the stay limit is **14 DAYS** in a 30 day period. After that time period, you must **MOVE OFF** of the National Forest.

If your primary place of residence is the National Forest, you are in violation of "USING THE NATIONAL FOREST FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES," no matter how long you have been here.

When property is left unattended for more than 72 hours, it is considered to be abandoned and may be removed from the site. This is done both to protect the property and allow all recreationists equal access to the National Forest.

Please enjoy your National Forest and help us protect it while you are here. Thank you for your cooperation.

Forest Officer

Date & Time



72 HOUR ABANDONED VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT ON USFS LANDS

APPLICABLE FEDERAL AND STATE STATUTES

Code of Federal Regulations

Title 36: Parks, Forests, and Public Property
PART 261—PROHIBITIONS
Subpart A—General Prohibitions

§261.10 Occupancy and use.

The following are prohibited:

(e) Abandoning any personal property.

(f) Placing a vehicle or other object in such a manner that it is an impediment or hazard to the safety or convenience of any person.

Arizona Revised Statutes

28-4801. Definitions

In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Abandoned vehicle" means a vehicle, trailer or semitrailer that is of a type subject to registration under this title whether lost, stolen, abandoned or otherwise unclaimed and that has been abandoned on a public highway, public property or elsewhere in this state, including private property. Evidence that a vehicle was left unattended for a period of forty-eight hours within the right-of-way of any highway, road, street or other public thoroughfare or for a period of seventy-two hours on public or private property or elsewhere in this state is prima facie evidence of abandonment.
2. "Officer" means any police officer or other law enforcement officer.
3. "Vehicle registration agency" means the agency or department of any state that has charge of the records of motor vehicle registration in that state.

28-4831. Abandonment prohibited

A person shall not abandon a vehicle on any street or highway or on any other public, federal, state trust, national forest, state park or bureau of land management land or private property.