

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Arizona Game and Fish Commission  
Friday, April 11, 2014  
Saturday, April 12, 2014  
Arizona Game and Fish Department  
5000 W. Carefree Highway  
Phoenix, Arizona 85086

PRESENT: (Commission)

(Director and Staff)

Chairman John W. Harris  
Vice Chairman Robert E. Mansell  
Commissioner Kurt R. Davis  
Commissioner Edward "Pat" Madden  
Commissioner James R. Ammons

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 8:00 a.m. and led those present through the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Commission, Director, and Director's staff introductions. This meeting followed an agenda revision #1 dated April 9, 2014.

Chairman Harris requested a moment of silence in honor of Tucson Fire Department Arson Investigator Thomas Robert Quesnel who died on March 14 from a fatal illness contracted in the line of duty and in honor of Hellsgate Fire Department Lieutenant Bobby Mollere. 61, who died from cardiac arrest on March 8 after collapsing during the performance of a Wildland Pack Test earlier that morning.

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## 1. Call to the Public

Russ Jacoby, representing himself, (from Region I Office), expressed his support for the Department's proposed changes to the Fall House Rock buffalo hunt structure. The current structure is not meeting buffalo management objectives. The proposed hunt structure limits human pressure to a level that is proven more successful.

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## 2. Consent Agenda

The following items were grouped together and noticed as consent agenda items to expedite action on routine matters, and/or they were previously presented to the Commission as a "first read" item. These items were provided to the Commission prior to this meeting and the Department requested that the Commission approve these matters as presented, subject to approval or recommendations of the Office of the Attorney General.

Director Voyles presented each item to the Commission and items b, e, f, h and j were removed for discussion. Consent agenda items a, c, d, g and i were presented for approval:

### a. Shooting Sports Activities Briefing

**Presenter:** Jay Cook, Shooting Sports Branch Chief

The Commission was provided with a written Shooting Sports Activities Briefing prior to this meeting (also available to the public) of Department activities related to shooting sports, including shooting programs and shooting range development statewide. The briefing covers activities that have occurred since the last Commission meeting. The briefing was placed on the consent agenda for approval or to be pulled from the consent agenda for questions and/or discussion.

c. Law Enforcement Program Briefing

**Presenter:** Gene F. Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

The Commission was provided with a written Law Enforcement Program Briefing prior to this meeting of Department activities and developments relating to the Department's Law Enforcement Program. The briefing covers activities and events that have occurred since the last Commission meeting. The briefing was placed on the consent agenda for approval or to be pulled from the consent agenda for questions and/or discussion.

d. Lands and Habitat Program Update

**Presenter:** Dr. Dr. Joyce Francis, Habitat Branch Chief

The Commission was provided with a written Lands and Habitat Program Update (attached) prior to this meeting (also available to the public) of Department activities and events related to the implementation of land and resource management plans and projects on private, state and federal lands in Arizona and other matters related thereto. The update covers activities and events that have occurred since the last Commission meeting. The update was placed on the consent agenda for approval or to be pulled from the consent agenda for questions and/or discussion.

g. Approval of Law Enforcement Boating Safety Fund (LEBSF) Grant Allocation Formula for FY 2015

**Presenter:** Lizette Morgan, CFO, Business & Finance

ARS §5-323 requires that 35% of watercraft registration fees shall be allocated as follows: 15% to the state lake improvement funds to be used as prescribed by section §5-382, and 85% to the law enforcement boating safety fund to be used as prescribed in section §5-383. In the 2011 Legislative Session, ARS §5-383 was modified to require the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to annually approve the funding allocation formula for the Law Enforcement Boating Safety Grants and the responsibility for administering the fund was transferred to the State Treasurer. The Commission is required to approve the formula annually. The proposed formula is the historical formula which has been used by State Parks to distribute funds to the counties. This formula is updated every three years to reflect current Watercraft Survey data and revised salary data from the counties. For FY 15, the data has been updated and the current allocation formula was provided to the Commission for review (attached).

The Department recommends THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT BOATING SAFETY GRANT ALLOCATION FORMULA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 AS PRESENTED.

i. Proposed Amendment to the Heritage Public Advisory Committee (HPAC) Charter Document

**Presenter:** Marty Herrera, Heritage Fund Administrator

The current Heritage Public Advisory Committee (HPAC) Charter document was last revised and approved in June 2009. Several housekeeping and format changes are being proposed to clarify the current charter. The Commission was provided with the revised charter for review and consideration. Primary changes proposed to the HPAC charter document are:

- A change to the start and end date of term membership to coincide with the calendar year, January 1 through December 31, to replace current term membership dates of April 1 through March 31
- Added language that allows the Department to backfill a vacancy due to an HPAC member's early resignation
- Added language that further defines membership terms for Regional, Statewide and National representatives
- Added language that reduces the number of HPAC nominees solicited and considered for appointment to HPAC.

The Department recommends THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CURRENT HPAC CHARTER AS PRESENTED, WITH CHANGES EFFECTIVE UPON APPROVAL.

**Motion:** Mansell moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A, C, D, G, AND I.

**Vote:** Unanimous

b. Information, Education and Wildlife Recreation Activities Briefing

**Presenter:** Anthony A. Guiles, Assistant Director, Information and Education Division

The Commission was provided with a written Information, Education and Wildlife Recreation Activities briefing prior to this meeting (also available to the public) of Department activities and events related to Information, Education and Wildlife Recreation Programs. The briefing covers activities and events that have occurred since the last Commission meeting, including the proposed Wildlife Center project. The briefing was placed on the consent agenda for approval or to be pulled from the consent agenda for questions and/or discussion.

Mr. Guiles introduced Wildlife Recreation Branch Chief Scott Lavin. Mr. Lavin provided the Commission with an update on the 2014 AGFD Outdoor Expo held on March 29-30, 2014. The update included information and statistics on attendees and activities. The Expo was a great success again this year, growing in attendance to approximately 48,000 (of which includes 7,000

attending the Youth Day on March 28). The addition of Lake Paddlemore was very popular with 2,800 paddlers. The dates for the 2015 Outdoor Expo have been set for March 28-29.

e. Cessation of Trout Production at Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery

**Presenter:** Chris Cantrell, Fisheries Branch Chief

Mr. Cantrell provided an update on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to redirect priorities at the national level to production of native species and the cessation of trout production at Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery. At the February and March Commission Meetings, the Commission was briefed on activities regarding the termination of trout production at Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery and the cessation of trout stocking in the lower Colorado River below Hoover Dam. This decision was based on the failure of the water delivery system that supports the trout production portion of the facility and a priority shift away from sportfish production in the National Fish Hatchery System of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the Service).

Subsequent to the March Commission Meeting, numerous activities have occurred regarding Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery and the National Fish Hatchery System. On March 7, 2014, the Department, Mohave County, and the Service met to discuss partnering to come up with both a short term solution and a long term solution to resume stocking trout along the Colorado River. As a follow up to the meeting, the Department participated in a conference call with Senator McCain's Office, Senator Reid's Office (Nevada), Nevada Department of Wildlife, Mohave County, and the Service on March 28, 2014.

Per Commission direction, the Department developed a resolution/memorial (attached) regarding the National Fish Hatchery issues. This resolution was approved with input from Commissioner Davis, Director Voyles, Assistant Director Jim deVos and Fisheries Branch Chief Chris Cantrell. The resolution/memorial went to the House for introduction. A House Proclamation was adopted on March 25, 2014.

Commissioner Davis recommended discussions with the Senate Appropriations committee on the Department and USFWS role in supporting sportfishing opportunities.

Director Voyles recommended staying engaged in a broad multi-state effort, and at the same time direct staff to work with the Delegation on the USFWS reprioritization issue.

d. Lands and Habitat Program Update

**Presenter:** Dr. Joyce Francis, Habitat Branch Chief

The Commission was provided with a written Lands and Habitat Program Update (attached) prior to this meeting (also available to the public) of Department activities and events related to the implementation of land and resource management plans and projects on private, state and federal lands in Arizona and other matters related thereto. The update covers activities and events that have occurred since the last Commission meeting. The update was placed on the consent agenda for approval or to be pulled from the consent agenda for questions and/or discussion.

**Motion:** Mansell moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO PULL CONSENT AGENDA ITEM D FOR DISCUSSION.

**Vote:** Unanimous

Commissioner Davis discussed with Dr. Francis the update related to the Coconino National Forest and comments on the draft revised Land and Resource Management Plan, including alternative C, which has very stringent restrictions on access, recreational shooting and camping. There are also concerns about road closures. The Department has formally submitted comments.

Commissioner Davis requested a copy of the Department's comments on the Coconino LRMP, including those on alternative C.

**Motion:** Davis moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO SUPPORT APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION OF HUNTING THROUGHOUT THE PLAN; AND THAT ANY TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANS GO THROUGH THE TRAVEL MANAGEMENT REVISION PROCESS; AND THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO OPPOSE ALTERNATIVE C IN THE COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST REVISED DRAFT LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Director Voyles suggested that the Commission consider establishing a Commission Policy or Resolution on dispersed recreational shooting at a future Commission meeting.

**Vote:** Unanimous

Commissioner Davis commented on the Kaibab National Forest Record of Decision and Final EIS and requested a copy of the Department's appeal.

f. White Mountain Grasslands Wildlife Area Special Land Use Permit

**Presenter:** Dr. Joyce Francis, Habitat Branch Chief

In 2002, the Commission entered into Special Land Use Permit No. 23-106668-03 (SLUP) with the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) to protect, maintain, and enhance wildlife values on the White Mountain Grasslands Wildlife Area (WMGWA). The Commission agrees to pay ASLD an annual use fee, currently \$1,800. The area identified in the SLUP was originally included in the Commission's state grazing leases at WMGWA, but later was designated specifically for wildlife purposes and removed from the grazing lease. The SLUP was renewed in 2009 and expired in January of 2014. The new SLUP will be for an additional five (5) year period.

Commissioner Mansell discussed with Dr. Francis the size of the property and the portion of the property associated with the SLUP, and confirmed that the larger portion of the property is currently being grazed.

**Motion:** Madden moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE RENEWAL OF A SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT WITH THE ARIZONA STATE LAND DEPARTMENT TO PROTECT, MAINTAIN, AND ENHANCE WILDLIFE VALUES

ON THE WHITE MOUNTAIN GRASSLANDS WILDLIFE AREA, AND AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR, AS SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION, TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT AS APPROVED OR RECOMMENDED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

**Vote:** Unanimous

h. 12A Habitat Stamp Revenue

**Presenter:** Craig McMullen, Flagstaff Regional Supervisor

Each year the Commission is asked to approve the budget for the 12A Habitat Stamp Fund for the calendar year. The Kaibab National Forest and the Department jointly develop budget proposals from this fund. The Kaibab Habitat Stamp was eliminated, effective January 1, 2014, as part of the Department's license simplification process. While the fund no longer exists and will not generate additional revenue in the future, there is an unspent balance from stamp sales. The following proposed budget is recommended for the remaining revenue from the sale of Unit 12A Habitat Stamps:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Planned Expenditure</u>
Possible work includes: control of invasive weeds; reseeded; browse regeneration and other habitat improvements on deer winter range; Kaibab deer telemetry project/surveys; water catchment construction/repair; check station staffing \$7500/year	\$111,000 (est.)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$111,000</b>

Commissioner Mansell discussed with Mr. McMullen and confirmed that there is no expiration date for spending the balance of the funds, and that the check station staffing was weighted equally to other uses for the funds. Also discussed was that water catchment repair was high on the list and that the Department must coordinate with the Forest to repair those catchments.

**Motion:** Mansell moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF REMAINING FUNDS IN THE 12A HABITAT STAMP FUND ON THE PROJECTS AS PROPOSED.

**Vote:** Unanimous

j. Federal Compliance Audit Closeout

**Presenter:** Lizette Morgan, CFO, Business & Finance

Ms. Morgan briefed the Commission regarding the closeout of the recent Federal Compliance Audit conducted by the Auditor General. The Auditor General recently completed the State of Arizona's compliance audit with its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2013 in accordance with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133. The Auditor General inspected internal controls over the Fish and Wildlife cluster of programs the Department

Administered and compliance with laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on those programs. The Auditor General found no findings for the Arizona Game and Fish Department to be included in the statewide report. The Auditor General did provide some oral communication to the Department on a few minor issues. The Department is currently working to ensure that all of these noted areas are being addressed.

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Meeting recessed for a break at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:10 a.m.

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2A. Request for the Commission's Approval of Environmental Analyses to Use Rotenone for the Removal of Non-native Fish.

**Presenter:** Chris Cantrell, Chief, Fisheries Branch

Mr. Cantrell provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Department's request for Commission approval to apply rotenone in the Virgin River Gorge. The Department is seeking approval that the environmental analyses conducted per the Virgin River Gorge Treatment Plan (Plan) are sufficient to ensure that the use of rotenone applied to remove invasive red shiner will not endanger the health of the environment, humans, or livestock when applied according to the Department's Piscicide Treatment Planning and Procedures Manual (PTPPM), product label, and Rotenone Standard Operating Procedures Manual. Commission approval of the environmental analyses conducted for proposed rotenone treatments is a new requirement per Title 17-481 (Laws 2013, First Regular Session, Chapter 117) as a result of the introduced and subsequently chaptered Senate Bill 1469 "Applications of aquatic poisons; analysis; notice; exceptions". In adherence with the PTPPM, the planning, public outreach, and environmental compliance for the rotenone treatment of Virgin River Gorge were included in the Plan that must be reviewed and approved by the Assistant Directors of the Wildlife Management Division and Field Operation Division prior to the treatment in adherence with the PTPPM. The Plan also includes potential future rotenone treatments of the Virgin River Gorge should it become re-invaded with red shiner.

In adherence with the PTPPM, the Plan incorporates several environmental evaluations that assess potential impacts of rotenone on the environment, terrestrial wildlife, and human health, including an Environmental Assessment per the National Environmental Policy Act by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Pesticide Use Plan per the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (the sole land manager for the Project Area); the Department's Environmental Assessment Checklist; the Rotenone Review Advisory Committee's Final Report; and the Pesticide Discharge Management Plan per the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

If the Commission approves that the environmental analyses conducted per the Plan are sufficient to move forward with the use of rotenone in the Virgin River Gorge, the Department will complete the final planning, public outreach, and approval processes, in accordance with the Plan and Title 17-481, and schedule the treatment of Virgin River Gorge during June or July of 2014. If weather conditions in June or July are not appropriate to conduct a rotenone treatment, alternative dates in 2014 and 2015 may be considered. Also per Title 17-481, prior to the treatment the Department will: 1) provide written notice about the treatment to all owners,

lessees and permittees within the project area; 2) publish a general notice in two publications in a daily or weekly newspaper in the general area in which the chemical will be applied; and 3) conduct water and soil analysis pre- and post-treatment within the treatment area.

Nonnative red shiner, a common baitfish species in Lake Mead, moved upstream into the upper Virgin River watershed in the mid-1980s and has negatively impacted several native fish species. To reduce the upstream movement of red shiner into Utah, the Stateline Fish Barrier was constructed in 1988 and is located 2.2 miles above the Utah–Arizona state line. However, the Stateline Fish Barrier wasn't effective in very high flows, and red shiner continued to move upstream during high flow events. In 2009, the Gorge Barrier was constructed 17 miles downstream in Arizona, and is effective at preventing the upstream movement of red shiner. Rotenone treatments applied by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) in the upper Virgin River watershed have been successful at removing red shiner, and have also come at a tremendous cost to the Washington County Water Conservancy District and its UDWR partners, both in terms of dollars and human resources necessary to complete the decade-long project. The presence of red shiner in the Virgin River Gorge jeopardizes the success of these treatments because high annual river flows could allow red shiner to re-invade the river and its tributaries, water diversions, and agricultural irrigation ditches upstream of the Stateline Fish Barrier in Utah. UDWR staff has been intensely monitoring the river above the Stateline Fish Barrier to detect any red shiner upstream of the barrier. The proposed rotenone treatment of the Virgin River Gorge is within the 17 mile reach between the Stateline Fish Barrier in Utah and the Gorge Barrier in Arizona. Once red shiner are removed within this reach, the Gorge Barrier will be successful at preventing the upstream movement of red shiner into the Gorge and upstream of the Stateline Fish Barrier into Utah. Utah Division of Wildlife Resources will provide 16 staff to assist with the fish removal project and have provided \$66,000 in financial support to help accomplish the goal.

#### Public Comment

Rick Frideu, Aquatic Manager, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, addressed the Commission in support of the Virgin River Gorge Treatment Plan, and read a letter of support into the record from the Director of Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

Corey Crum, Washington County Water Conservancy District, addressed the Commission in support of the Virgin River Gorge Treatment Plan, and provided a statement of support from the Washington County Water Conservancy District Board of Trustees.

**Motion:** Madden moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSES CONDUCTED PER THE VIRGIN RIVER GORGE TREATMENT PLAN THAT FIND NO ENDANGERMENT TO THE HEALTH OF THE ENVIRONMENT, HUMANS, OR LIVESTOCK WHEN ROTENONE IS APPLIED PER THE DEPARTMENT'S PISCICIDE TREATMENT PLANNING AND PROCEDURES MANUAL, PRODUCT LABEL, AND ROTENONE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES MANUAL; AND, THESE ANALYSES ARE SUFFICIENT TO UTILIZE ROTENONE IN THE VIRGIN RIVER GORGE FOR THE REMOVAL OF NON-NATIVE FISH.

**Vote:** Unanimous

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2B. Memorandum of Understanding with the Pinetop-Lakeside Sanitary District and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest

**Presenter:** Dr. Joyce Francis, Habitat Branch Chief

Dr. Francis briefed the Commission using a PowerPoint presentation on the Department's request for Commission approval to renew a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Pinetop-Lakeside Sanitary District and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest for cooperative management of Jacques Marsh Wildlife Area. The Arizona Game and Fish Department desires to work with Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest and Pinetop-Lakeside Sanitary District to cooperatively manage the Jacques Marsh Wildlife Area. The Commission has been a partner in several agreements for this purpose since 1999. The MOU provides a framework for use of Pinetop-Lakeside Sanitary District treated effluent water to maintain marshes located on forest service land and managed by the Department. This MOU commits the Department to: cooperate with the Sanitary District in maintaining improvements; maintain and maximize waterfowl habitat; provide public hunting opportunities; and consult with the Forest Service and the Sanitary District concerning the management of Jacques Marsh. This action provides mutual benefit to each agency and for wildlife and public recreation.

Commissioner Davis requested that language (Riley language) be added to the MOU that refers to the State's authority and role.

Chairman Harris stated that this language should become standard and be included in any future MOU or agreement with federal agencies.

The Commission was in consensus to place this item on the consent agenda for the next Commission meeting.

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2C. Page Springs Cellars and Vineyards Encroachment at the Page Springs Hatchery

**Presenter:** Joyce M. Francis, Habitat Branch Chief

Dr. Francis provided a PowerPoint presentation on an encroachment by the Page Springs Cellars and Vineyards at the Page Springs Hatchery. The presentation included maps of the property and the areas of encroachment. In 2007, the Department completed a land exchange with the Page Springs Cellars and Vineyards (Vineyards) exchanging 1.6 acres to the Vineyards for safe physical access to their property in exchange for 2.49 acres. In 2011, the Department commissioned a boundary survey of the entire Hatchery and discovered the Vineyards had constructed an addition to a storage space and office that, according to the survey, was encroaching on Hatchery property by approximately 500 square feet and an approximately 4,500 square foot parking lot. The Vineyards acknowledge the encroachment and would like to purchase approximately 1.0 acre to allow the building to remain in place and resolve the parking lot encroachment. The Vineyards is prepared to pay all due diligence costs including two appraisals, appraisal review, cultural resource survey, and

public notice along with payment of the estimated fair market value of \$20,000 to \$25,000 (\$45,000/acre) for the parcel. Since the Hatchery was included in our Federal Aid Program in 1993, an Environmental Assessment (EA) would need to be completed and the exchange approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The USFWS and Department staff would draft the EA.

The Department presented the following options for Commission consideration:

- Dispose of the minimum portion of the Hatchery property that would amend the trespass of the building (~500 ft<sup>2</sup>)
- Dispose of less than one (< 1.0) acre of the Hatchery property to amend the building trespass and include the parking lot
- Ask Page Springs Cellars and Vineyard to remove the building from Hatchery property.

The Commission discussed the options with Dr. Francis, including that leasing the parking lot was also an option, as well as leasing the property where the portion of the building was encroaching.

### Public Comment

Eric Glomski, owner of Page Springs Cellars and Vineyards, briefed the Commission how the encroachment came about and that it was not done intentionally. What he thought was the boundary line was not correct. Regarding the parking area, they use it for overflow and special events and have been granted permission to use it from the Hatchery, but they would like to purchase that land where the parking lot is located.

The Commission discussed this matter further in Executive Session.

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### 2D. Update on State Wolf Plan Development

**Presenter:** Jim deVos, Assistant Director, Wildlife Management Division

Mr. deVos briefed the Commission on the current status of the development of the state wolf plan and the development of the cooperating agencies and stakeholders alternative. Approximately two years ago, the Commission directed the Department to develop a state wolf plan. A draft plan was presented to the Commission in May 2013. The Commission did not approve the draft plan at that time and instead requested that the Department to develop some guiding principles.

In the summer of 2013, the USFWS developed three proposals and posted them in the federal register. The first was to delist the gray wolf and relist the Mexican gray wolf, the second was the development of a 10(j) EIS, and the third was a new 10(j) proposal. The Department provided extensive comments on these documents. Many of the Department's comments were developed with the input of a stakeholder ad hoc workgroup.

The guiding principles were developed and approved by the Commission at its September 2013 meeting. The Department used the guiding principles in the re-development of a state wolf plan. In January 2014, plan concepts were developed and discussed with the stakeholders group and with the Commission. In April 2014, the cooperating agencies submitted their own alternative

with the support of the stakeholders group, which was largely drafted with the input from the Commission's guiding principles.

The Department currently has a draft state wolf plan under review and plan to present that to the Commission at the June Commission meeting.

Mr. deVos discussed with the Commission that the cooperating agencies alternative plan basically mirrors the Department's draft state wolf plan, except that the alternative plan is a process that would inform the USFWS on actions that the cooperators would like to see evaluated under the EIS, and the state wolf plan is a more comprehensive proposal to the USFWS that would allow the state to assume management of the wolf.

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## 2E. Update on Roosevelt Lake Activities

**Presenter:** Chris Cantrell, Fisheries Branch Chief

Mr. Cantrell provided a PowerPoint presentation and update on a number of field and compliance activities completed by the Department relative to improving fisheries conditions at Roosevelt Lake. The presentation included an overview of the decline in largemouth bass population and plans for restoration.

Since 2008, the Department has noticed a decline in the relative weights of the largemouth bass population in Roosevelt Lake. Relative Weights are an indication of bass condition and how the population is utilizing their food source. These documented declines draw a parallel with the increase of negative communication from the public to the Department on bass size and catch rates at Roosevelt Lake in recent years. They indicated the "lake was dying" and that the catch rates and sizing of bass had declined over time. In 2013 the catch rates hit an all time low as the Department documented a 75% decline in the numbers caught. This level triggered the need to stock based on previous research studies in Arizona. The declines are believed to be linked to number of concerns including, annual reservoir fluctuations, golden algae, largemouth bass virus, and the newly established gizzard shad population.

The Department put together a number of objectives associated with restoring Roosevelt Lake to its previous levels of sportfish populations. This included the following:

- Communication: Ongoing roundtables with Tonto Basin Anglers; Commission briefing planned for June 2014
- Habitat: Develop a Roosevelt Lake Habitat Management Plan for implement in 2015
- Research and Monitoring: Electrofishing survey conducted October 2013; Netting survey scheduled for April 2014; Creel surveys conducted in March 2014; University of Arizona to begin eDNA study in April
- Stocking: Donations were accepted from anglers/public and matched by the Department for the purchase of Florida strain bass; Environmental Compliance completed to stock Florida strain largemouth bass, black crappie and Bluegill in March 2014; Stocked 275,000 Florida strain largemouth bass fry on April 8, 2014.

## Public Comment

Don McDowell, Conservation Director, Arizona Bass Nation / The Bass Federation, thanked the Commission and the Department for the plan and efforts to restore Roosevelt Lake.

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Meeting recessed for a break at 10:25 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

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### 3. Legislative Engagement and State and Federal Legislation

**Presenter:** Jorge Canaca, Legislative Liaison

Mr. Canaca briefed the Commission on the current status of selected state and federal legislative matters. The Department provides the Commission with regular monthly updates and provided informational materials at this meeting (also available to the public). The briefing included the following updates and Commission actions:

#### Commission Legislative Agenda

SB1118: hunting on private land; trespassing (Landowner Compact) – Authorizes law enforcement officers, acting at the request of a property owner, to request that a trespasser leave private property

- Passed Senate 30-0; Passed House Public Safety, Military and Regulatory Affairs 6-0; Awaiting House Floor Action

HB2303: permits or tags; transfer; veterans – Authorizes the Commission to prescribe the manner and conditions of transferring a license or permit to a veteran who has a service-connected disability.

- Passed House 57-3; Passed Senate NRRA 8-0; Awaiting Senate Floor Action

#### Commission Supported Bills

HB2443: hunting and fishing licenses; military

- Passed House 59-0; Passed Senate NRRA 5-0

HB2003: watercraft; civil and criminal penalties

- Passed House 58-0; Passed Senate Jud 7-0

SB1212: appropriation; wolf recovery; litigation costs

- Passed Senate 16-14; Passed House EENR 5-3; Awaiting Appropriations hearing

#### Bills of Interest

SB1211: Mexican wolf; taking; reporting

- Passed Senate 18-12; Passed House EENR 6-2

SCR1006: Mexican wolf; population rule

- Passed Senate 18-11; Passed House EENR 5-3

HB2699: ESA programs; rescission; reimbursement

- Passed House 34-24; Passed Senate GE 4-2

#### Natural Resources Bills of Interest

HB2343: forest health management (sponsor compromise of forest health bills HB2536, SB1268, SB1267, SB1458); includes intergovernmental agreements; requires State Land Department to establish a program for the removal of vegetation for the purpose of fire suppression and forest management on state lands.

#### Congressional Update

##### Federal Budget

- House Passes “Ryan Budget” 219-205 (won’t be heard in Senate)
- SWG cut in Executive budget by 15%
- The Department will participate in the Budget Working Group of AFWA’s Legislative & Federal Budget Committee
- The Department continues to follow ESA, Sportsmen Bills, etc. closely.

HR4309: Sikes Act Amendments; Amends the Sikes Act to make certain improvements to the administration of cooperative agreements for land management related to Department of Defense readiness activities, and for other purposes.

- Allows Sikes Act monies to be used off of a military installation
- Specifies the monies off-installation must be in compliance with an approved Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP); INRMP’s must be approved by the State.

The Department recommends the Commission vote to Support H.R. 4309 as amended by the House Natural Resources Committee.

**Motion:** Davis moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO SUPPORT HR4309, AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

**Vote:** Unanimous

#### 4. Customer Portal Strategy

**Presenter:** Doug Cummings, Information Systems Branch Chief

Mr. Cummings provided an update using a PowerPoint presentation on the development, progress and current status of the Customer Portal. The update covered activities and progress since the March Commission meeting and a review of the project schedule. The update included the following:

- An overview of the completed First Draw on OLSD R2, including web site load and number and type of licenses sold online
- The new online payment processing service has been implemented

Scott Lavin, Wildlife Recreation Branch Chief provided an update on Department efforts to solicit public input regarding the Portal. The Department's Products and Services sub-team conducted four public meetings and reached out to several key constituent groups. Feedback included a general overall acceptance of creating an online identification and a high confidence level in sharing personal information with the Department. Several great ideas were garnered as well regarding online range coordination, hunt trends, mapping, fishing reports and stocking schedules by zip code. The Department will continue to collect information for the development of the Portal as the project moves forward, and will continue to provide the Commission with updates.

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#### 5. Jennifer Stewart, Rules and Risk Branch Chief

**Presenter:** Jennifer Stewart, Rules and Risk Branch Chief

Ms. Stewart provided an update using a PowerPoint presentation on progress toward the out-of-cycle rulemaking related to bundled service concepts, including tag surrender with bonus point reinstatement and other potential services requiring rulemaking. The update covered activities that have occurred since the March Commission meeting. The main objectives for this update were to review key decision points for the rulemaking package to be presented to the Commission in May and to obtain further direction and feedback from the Commission. The presentation included the following information:

#### Challenges - Hidden Complexity of Concept

Tag Surrender touches the following:

- Draw and programming requirements
- Bonus points process
- Reinstatement process
- Ability for system to recognize feature as part of individual profile
- Application process.

Scope and Scope Creep:

- Ensuring alignment with IT Capabilities
- Avoid increasing scope of overarching portal project.

#### Tag Surrender

Key Assumptions:

- Fee based ability to surrender a tag and have bonus points reinstated
- Individual offering (tied to a single person)
- Available online only.

Individual and Group Applications:

- Not all group applicants are required to opt into tag surrender/club memberships

- Individual group member can surrender tag, while remaining group members keep their tags.

Tag Surrender Decision Points - Implementation:

<u>Club Membership Only Option</u>	<u>Single Tag Surrender + Club Membership Option</u>
<p>Concept: Only available through club membership</p> <p><u>Rulemaking for May:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorizes Director to establish program within certain sideboards:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Dept has administrative capacity</li> <li>* Public interest in program</li> <li>* Meets fiscal objectives</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Answers how and when tag is surrendered (includes single v. unlimited option)</li> </ul>	<p>Concept: Single option available to anyone and available through club membership</p> <p><u>Rulemaking for May:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorizes Director to establish program within certain sideboards:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Dept has administrative capacity</li> <li>* Public interest in program</li> <li>* Meets fiscal objectives</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Answers how and when tag is surrendered (includes single v. unlimited option)</li> <li>• Sets fee for single option in rule</li> </ul>

Tag Surrender - Validity:

<u>Club Membership:</u>	<u>Individual Tag Surrender</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine how surrender privilege is used</li> <li>• Recommendation – for tag surrender to be available, a hunter must have an active club membership at application and at time of surrendering the tag</li> <li>• Note: membership is independent from application (not tied to it)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surrender privilege valid for single tag</li> <li>• Must select the tag surrender option at time of application for specific hunt (fee each time tag surrender selected)</li> <li>• If drawn for a tag and selected the tag surrender option, that tag would be eligible for surrender prior to the hunt starting.</li> </ul>

Deadline for Surrendering a Tag:

- Surrender tag no later than close of the state business day before a hunt begins
- Department options for tag reissuance depend on different circumstances
  - Proximity to start of a hunt
  - Type of tag
  - Demand
- Note: Rule should include all options to reissue a tag that the Department anticipates using

Bonus Point Reinstatement

Criteria for Surrendering a Tag:

- Surrender by close of the state business day before the hunt begins

- Situation becomes as if a person was never drawn
- Tag Transfer Recommendation: Bonus point reinstatement if club member chooses to transfer to qualified nonprofit instead of surrendering tag.

#### Petitions:

- Remove ability of an individual to petition the Commission for reinstatement of forfeited bonus points
  - Note: Will not eliminate possibility of receiving a petition authorized under R12-4-107 (Department error or military member request).

#### Reissuance of Surrendered Tags

##### Department Options:

- Issue to club member who would have been next in line to receive the tag
- Issue to eligible applicant who would have been next in line to receive the tag
- Issue through 1st come 1st serve
- Destroy tag (do not attempt to re-issue).

##### Considerations for Rule:

- Rule should be inclusive of options Department anticipates using
- Rule does not require Department to exercise all options.

##### Individual vs. Group Applications:

- Reissuing a tag when more than one group applicant has a club membership/tag surrender option:
  - Group applicants have same random number
  - Department is likely to see tags surrendered on a single basis as opposed to groups of surrendered tags
- Recommendation: Tag offered to applicant a, then b, etc.

#### Additional Considerations:

Printable tags: Modify existing rules to accommodate for future capability to print tags at home.

The Commission discussed the club membership only tag surrender option and was in consensus to move forward in that direction, however, the club membership should have tiers with higher levels that would offer additional benefits. The base membership option might include a single tag surrender, and the higher level option might include multiple tag surrenders. The Commission discussed including all options presented as ways for the Department to reissue surrendered tags, but asked that reissuance being with the highest level of club membership, and continue on down to the next level.

Commissioner Davis suggested that the Department consider appropriate internal timelines for reissuing surrendered tags, so that the Department is not under undue pressure to reissue the tag, with a suggestion of three to five business days before a hunt begins. The Commission asked the Department to revisit this item as part of the May agenda item.

Ms. Stewart noted that pricing for bundled products and services is not a part of this package and will be addressed at a later date through Scott Lavin's subteam. The rule package will be brought back to the Commission at its May meeting and will include Commission input from this briefing.

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6A. Acquisition of Two Perpetual Access Easements Across the Richens 'Family and Mr. William Watson's Private Property in Game Management Unit 29

**Presenter:** Al Eiden, Landowner Relations Program Manager

Mr. Eiden presented the Commission with a request to approve the acquisition of two perpetual access easements from private landowners leading into Jhus Canyon. Maps of the area were provided. Securing perpetual access for hunters has been and will continue to be a focus of the Department's Landowner Relation Program. Two private landowners (the Richens 'Family and Mr. William Watson) have approached the Department offering a perpetual access easement across their private property. The location of this easement is along Jhus Canyon Road in Game Management Unit (GMU) 29. The Jhus Canyon Road extends in a generally southerly direction, beginning near the north section line in Section 36, T16S, R30E. The road passes into Section 1, T17S, R30E. If the Department is allowed to pursue these acquisitions it will perfect the only reasonable access route to Department owned properties, which are in-holdings within the Forest, known as the "The Manhattan Claims". These easements will also secure access for hunters and other recreationalist to over 14,000 acres of state and federal land that could be lost if either landowner in the future locks a gate on this portion of Jhus Canyon Road.

This easement is supported by the U.S. Forest Service, due to the fact that it will secure access to landlocked portions of the Chiricahua Mountains, Douglas Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest and The Manhattan Claims. This access will improve the Department's ability to manage these lands to promote wildlife habitat and recreational access opportunities.

**Motion:** Madden moved and Ammons seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO ACQUIRE A PERPETUAL ACCESS EASEMENTS ACROSS PRIVATE LAND LOCATED IN GMU 29.

**Vote:** Unanimous

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10. Request for Rehearing to Waive Hunter Education Course Requirement.

**Presenter:** Gene F. Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Mr. Elms presented a request by Mr. Larry Dowty for the Commission to waive the requirement to complete a Hunter Education Course pursuant to A.R.S. 17-245. On February 7, 2014, Mr. Dowty of Tacoma, Washington, appeared before the Arizona Game and Fish Commission for a revocation hearing for license fraud. The Commission revoked Mr. Dowty's hunting, fishing and trapping privileges for a period of two years and required him to complete a Hunter

Education Course and provide proof of completion to the Department before applying for another license to hunt, fish or trap in this state. Mr. Dowty's petition indicates that he does not and will not own a gun, and will never hunt wildlife. Mr. Dowty has submitted a petition requesting the Commission waive the hunter education requirement or possibly take an alternative course of action, if available.

Mr. Elms proposed an alternative to the Commission that Mr. Dowty could take the online hunter education course and provide proof of that to the Department, and the Commission could waive the field component of the course if the so choose.

**Motion:** Mansell moved and Ammons seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO MODIFY THE ORIGINAL FINDING AND ALLOW MR. DOWTY TO TAKE THE ONLINE HUNTER EDUCATION COURSE AND NOT BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE FIELD DAY COURSE TO FULLFILL HIS REQUIREMENT; ADDITIONALLY, IF MR. DOWTY DECIDES TO HUNT IN THE FUTURE, HE MUST COMPLETE THE ENTIRE COURSE INCLUDING THE FIELD DAY BEFORE HE OBTAINS A LICENSE TO HUNT IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA.

**Vote:** Unanimous

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Meeting recessed for lunch at 11:55 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:45 p.m.

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#### 8. Hearings on License Revocations for Violation of Game and Fish Codes and Civil Assessments for the Illegal Taking and/or Possession of Wildlife

**Presenter:** Gene Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Record of these proceedings is maintained in a separate minutes book in the Director's Office.

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#### 9. Rehearing Request Regarding Previous License Revocation/Civil Assessment.

**Presenter:** Gene F. Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Mr. Elms presented a request by John L. Dickey that the Arizona Game and Fish Commission grant a rehearing regarding the suspension of his license. On October 11, 2013, Mr. Dickey was convicted in the Flagstaff Justice Court for littering while hunting. On January 10, 2014, the Commission revoked Mr. Dickey's hunting, fishing and trapping license for a period of three years. Mr. Dickey has requested a rehearing of this matter and decision because he believes the decision is harsh and excessive in relation to the offense. He would also like to speak on his own behalf to the Commission. Mr. Dickey was notified of the hearing by certified mail. The Commission was provided with all documents related to this case for review.

Mr. Dickey was not present.

**Motion:** Mansell moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DENY MR. JOHN L. DICKEY'S REQUEST FOR A REHEARING.

**Vote:** Unanimous

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11. Rehearing Request Regarding Previous License Revocation/Civil Assessment.

**Presenter:** Gene F. Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Mr. Elms presented a request by Ralph E. Pastorino that the Arizona Game and Fish Commission grant a rehearing regarding the suspension of his license. On July 3, 2013, Mr. Pastorino was convicted in the Flagstaff Justice Court for littering while hunting. On January 10, 2014, the Commission revoked Mr. Pastorino's hunting, fishing and trapping license for a period of three years. Mr. Pastorino has requested a rehearing of this matter and decision because he believes the decision is harsh and excessive in relation to the offense. He would also like to speak on his own behalf to the Commission. Mr. Pastorino was notified of the hearing by certified mail. The Commission was provided with all documents related to this case for review.

**Motion:** Madden moved and Ammons seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO DENY MR. RALPH E. PASTORINO'S REQUEST FOR A REHEARING.

**Vote:** Unanimous

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11A. Appeal of Wildlife Holding License Denial

**Presenter:** Linda Pollock, Assistant Attorney General

Ms. Pollock briefed the Commission on the appeal by applicant Chris Biro regarding the Department's denial of his application for a Wildlife Holding License. This is the continuation of the formal administrative hearing held January 10, 2014 on the appeal of Chris Biro, dba Bird Recovery International, of the Department's denial of his application for a Wildlife Holding License to import into Arizona and possess federally-endangered thick-billed Parrots. The Commission continued the hearing and directed the Department to contact the USFWS to seek clarification on federal permits for thick-billed parrots and for its determination whether the parrots have been legally acquired by appellant. Commission Rule R12-4-406 requires proof of a federal license or permit to lawfully possess a federally-listed species, including thick-billed parrots, before the Department can issue a wildlife holding license. The Department requested this guidance from USFWS as directed.

In a detailed letter dated March 31, 2014, the USFWS responded to Chris Biro in response to his email correspondence containing several questions to the USFWS. The letter concluded that: "Possession of thick-billed parrots without written verification of legal acquisition is a violation of Federal regulations. We have received no permit application from you for research, captive-

breeding, or other activities involving thick-billed parrots as described in your January 18, 2014 proposal. However, if you were to submit such an application, you would not be granted a permit to conduct these activities because we do not support your proposed project since it does not align with our current recovery strategy; further, you have provided no written verification that your thick-billed parrots were acquired legally.”

Ms. Pollock provided a letter from Mr. Biro dated April 10, 2014 in which he states that he is withdrawing his appeal due to the recent and sudden demise of his parrots. With Mr. Biro’s withdrawal of his appeal, the Commission is not required to take action.

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### 13. Executive Session

The Commission voted to meet in Executive Session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A)(3) and (4) for the purpose of discussion and consultation with legal counsel.

**Motion:** Madden moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

**Vote:** Unanimous

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### 14. Litigation Report

There were no comments or questions on the Litigation Report (attached).

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Meeting recessed for the day at 4:40 p.m.

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Meeting reconvened Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

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Chairman Harris called the meeting back to order. The Department’s Honor Guard presented the Colors and Chairman Harris led those present through the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions of the Commission, Director and Department staff followed.

### Awards and Recognition

Director Voyles, assisted by Mike Ingram with the Shikar Safari Club International Foundation, presented Wildlife Manager Clint Adams with the 2013 Shikar Safari Wildlife Officer of the Year Award. Each year this award is presented to conservation officers in all 50 states, and the Canadian Provinces and Territories. The award recognizes officers for their outstanding

performance and dedication to protecting and preserving wildlife. In addition to the award, the Safari Club provided Mr. Adams with a \$20,000 life insurance policy to help protect his family.

Director Voyles presented Service Pin Awards to the following Department employees:

<u>35 Year Service Pin</u>	<u>30 Year Service Pin</u>	<u>25 Year Service Pin</u>	<u>20 Year Service Pin</u>
Steve Andrews	Dave Conrad	Duane Aubuchon	Mark Brown
	John Hervert	Sue Wood	Dan Groebner
	Rod Lucas	Tom Bagley	Jim Odenkirk
		Brian Wakeling	Joshua Hurst
			Shawn Wagner

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Meeting recessed for a break at 9:05 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:15 a.m.

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### 1. Call to the Public

There were no requests to speak at this time.

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### 2. Consideration of Proposed Commission Orders 2, 5-10, and 26 for 2014–2015 Hunting Season, Commission Orders 11–18 for 2014–2015 and 2015–2016 Hunting Seasons, and Commission Order 23 for the 2014–2015 and 2015–2016 Trapping Seasons.

**Presenter:** Brian F. Wakeling, Game Branch Chief

Mr. Wakeling presented the Commission with a Power Point presentation that included charts and graphs of survey data, historical data and scientific data related to the Department's recommendations for Commission Orders 2 (deer), 5–10 (turkey, javelina, bighorn sheep, buffalo, bear, and mountain lion), and 26 (population management) establishing seasons and season dates, bag and possession limits, permit numbers, and open areas for the 2014–2015 season. Also presented were Commission Orders 11–18 (tree squirrel, cottontail rabbit, predatory and furbearing mammals, other mammals and birds, pheasant, quail, chukar partridge, and blue grouse) establishing seasons and season dates, bag and possession limits, and open areas for the 2014–2015 and 2015–2016 seasons, as well as Commission Order 23 (trapping), establishing season dates, legal species, open and closed areas, and bag and possession limits for the 2014–2015 and 2015–2016 seasons. A detailed description of these proposals were available for public review at Department offices and were provided to the Commission prior to this meeting for review.

The Department is recommending seasons, season dates, bag and possession limits, permit numbers, and open areas for Commission Orders 2 (deer), 5–10 (fall turkey, fall javelina, bighorn sheep, fall buffalo, fall bear, and mountain lion), and 26 (population management seasons) for 2014–2015 according to hunt guidelines approved by the Commission in September 2013. Small game (Commission Orders 11–18; tree squirrel, cottontail rabbit, predatory and

furbearing mammals, other mammals and birds, pheasant, quail, chukar partridge, and blue grouse) and trapping (Commission Order 23) seasons are recommended for both 2014–2015 and 2015–2016 in accordance with the hunt guidelines. The current hunt guidelines were approved by the Commission for a 2-year period that extends through spring 2016. Public meetings to discuss harvest prescriptions for the 2014–2015 seasons were held in each Region prior to meeting with the Game Branch. Each Region also hosted an open house prior to the April Commission meeting where final recommendations were available for public review and discussion. Public participation ranged from 0 to 19 at public meetings where population trends were discussed, although the presentation was made at the Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club meeting in Yuma where over 100 members were present.

The Commission has provided the Department with direction through the hunt guidelines to offer specific hunting opportunities. Specifically, the Department was to allocate at least 5% of the general deer permits to juniors-only seasons, units with multiple deer hunts will have stratified 7-day seasons, each region will offer a late mule deer season, and Unit 17A has been added to the units managed under alternative mule deer guidelines. Statewide, white-tailed deer hunting opportunity in December is limited to 5% of the total white-tailed deer permits, although alternative white-tailed deer units (Units 6A, 23, 30B, 31, and 36C) will be structured to harvest up to 30% of the expected take for that unit during December. Units 3A, 3C, 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, 17A, 45A, 45B, and 45C are managed according to the alternative deer guidelines for mule deer. Archery deer seasons are recommended for season length adjustments or permitting to attain 10–20% of the total deer harvest by archers. Units 3A/3C, 12A, 12B, 13A, and 13B have permitted archery seasons recommended.

Fall turkey hunts are recommended as limited-weapon shotgun-shooting-shot seasons. Juniors-only turkey permits will be recommended as over-the-counter nonpermit tags in specific units. Archery turkey seasons have been adjusted to overlap with corresponding archery deer seasons.

Fall javelina hunts are to be offered during juniors-only seasons to strive for 10% of total tags (both fall and spring) for juniors hunters. Juniors-only seasons should coincide with a juniors-only deer season, and companion population management seasons are recommended to capitalize on juniors deer hunters in the field.

All bear seasons have specific female harvest limits that close a season on the following Wednesday when that number of female bears have been harvested. Each unit that provides a bear hunt will also have an annual female harvest limit. If the annual female harvest limit is met, this will close any open season on the following Wednesday or any subsequent season in that unit during the current calendar year, even if the subsequent season has not yet opened. The annual female harvest limit comprises female bears lethally removed through Department action (e.g., nuisance) and female bears harvested by hunters.

Daylong seasons are recommended to continue for coyote and mountain lion seasons in specific areas and during specific periods as adopted in September 2013, although some adjustments to open units are recommended. Season length and structure differ from guidelines, and if adopted, the Department will amend guidelines in accordance with Commission action.

Hopi tribal members will be allocated a previously agreed upon small proportion of deer tags in Units 4A, 4B, 5A, and 5B according to the Hopi Trust Land allocation authorized through the hunt guidelines.

### Commission Order 2 – Deer

The Department is recommending 42,315 general deer permits in 2014, a decrease of 25 permits statewide from 2013. Archery deer are recommended to increase by 50 (decrease of 50 in Units 3A/3C, increase of 100 in Unit 12AW). Muzzleloader permits are recommended at 1,150, a 20-permit increase from 2013. Juniors-only general permits are recommended to increase by 71 to 2,290 and juniors-only muzzleloader permits are recommended to decrease by 2 to 45 permits. CHAMP permits are recommended to remain unchanged at 10. The net change to recommended permits overall is an increase of 114 from 2013 to a grand total of 46,815 permits.

Relatively minor changes to individual unit deer permits are recommended this year. White-tailed deer permits are recommended for an increase of 175 permits, whereas antlered mule deer and any antlered deer permits are recommended for a decrease of 200 statewide. Juniors permits are recommended at 5.5% of general. This recommendation includes a 100-permit increase to the antlerless deer hunt for juniors-only in Unit 12AW (split between a 100-permit late and a 250-permit early antlerless hunt), which is consistent with allowing population growth on the Kaibab described in the hunt guidelines. Unit 12AW has seen 3 consecutive years of over 100 fawns:100 does, and last year the adult deer population grew by an estimated 10% (which is the upper end of guidelines). The projected harvest from the recommended permit level should continue to allow the Kaibab deer population to grow between 5–10% as described in hunt guidelines. December general mule deer hunts are recommended in Units 5A and 5B, 17B, 23, and 27. December any antlered deer muzzleloader seasons are again recommended in Units 35A and 35B and Units 39, 40A, 40B, 41, and 42. The December archery deer and general deer seasons are recommended to begin on December 12, 2014.

The archery deer over-the-counter nonpermit tag seasons in Unit 34A is recommended to include additional season length of December 12–31 for white-tailed deer only because archery harvest in this unit is less than 10% of the total take for this species. Similar to closures enacted by the Commission for archery hunting within ¼ mile of occupied structures in Units 11M, 25M, and 26M, this year the Department recommends a similar closure within communities near Prescott.

A 10-permit CHAMP hunt is again recommended for Unit 12AW during September 12–18, 2014.

### Public Comment

Sandy Bahr, Chapter Director, Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Chapter, was not present but submitted a letter on hunt recommendations for Commission consideration on Commission Orders 7, 10 and 14. The Department read the letter to the Commission. Recommendations included: Reduce the hunt permits for bighorn in the KOFA National Wildlife Refuge to three or less; eliminate year-round hunting season for mountain lions; eliminate night hunting of mountain lions; implement temporary shooting closures on any newly translocated prairie dog colonies for one year or until the population is established; and implement a bag limit for prairie dogs rather than unlimited numbers.

John Koleszar, Arizona Deer Association, recommended the Commission look at increasing the number of units that would allow night hunting, including Unit 22 and the boundary lines of Unit 23, to help the deer populations.

Commissioner Davis stated that he had previously discussed with Mr. Wakeling his concerns that muzzleloader opportunity was not distributed sufficiently, and that Mr. Wakeling was going to prepare an alternative.

Mr. Wakeling stated that the Department examined the amount of muzzleloader opportunity, and current allocation was consistent with demand. However, the Department also examined opportunities to distribute that opportunity more broadly among added units. The Commission can return the Unit 12BW muzzleloader hunt during November 7–13, 2014, for 20 permits, reduce the general permits in Unit 12BW by 35 during October 24–November 2, 2014 to 130 permits, reduce the muzzleloader opportunity in Unit 12AE by 20 permits during November 7–13, 2014 to 30 permits, and increase the general in Units 12AE by 20 permits during October 24–November 2, 2014 to 95 permits. In Unit 9, add a muzzleloader season with 25 permits during November 7–13, 2014 (the same dates as the added hunts in 12BW), and reduce the general season permits in Unit 9 by 25 during October 31–November 6, 2014 (original end date was November 9, but will need to shorten to avoid overlap) to 400 permits. In Units 5A and 5B change general season during December 12–31, 2014 to a 15 permit muzzleloader hunt. Reduce the number of muzzleloader permits in Unit 20B by 40 to 100 permits during October 24–30, 2014 and increase the general tags by 40 to 390 permits during November 7–13, 2014.

Chairman Harris thanked the Department for amending the juniors hunt in Units 36A and 36B by combining both seasons into a single season with the equivalent number of permits (200 total). There is a recommended 25 tag increase in white-tailed deer tags for October 24-30, and an increase of 75 tags for November 28-December 7. Due to rancher concerns, Chairman Harris recommended that these be reduced back to the same as last year's numbers until the Department can meet with the ranchers and address their concerns.

Commissioner Mansell recommended a reduction of 5 tags in Unit 13A general and a reduction of 24 general tags and 1 Hopi tag in Units 4A and 4B, which would take them back to last year's numbers.

**Motion:** Harris moved and Ammons seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 2 – DEER AS PROPOSED WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS: THE MUZZLELOADER HUNTS WILL BE CHANGED AS DISCUSSED, THE UNIT 36A WHITE-TAIL SEASONS WILL BE REDUCED BACK TO LAST YEAR'S NUMBERS; AND THE UNITS 13A, 4A AND 4B DEER SEASONS WILL BE REDUCED BACK TO LAST YEAR'S NUMBERS.

**Vote:** Unanimous

#### Commission Order 5 – Turkey

The fall limited-weapon shotgun-shooting-shot turkey season is recommended to run October 3–9, 2014 with 5,475 permits, which is an increase of 175 permits from 2013. Increases are

recommended in Units 1, 5B South, 6A, 23, and 27, whereas a decrease is recommended in Unit 5A. There are 7 units (Units 1, 4A, 4B, 6A, 12A, 23, and 27) recommended for juniors-only seasons where over-the-counter nonpermit tags will be offered (no change from 2013). These seasons will run concurrently with the permitted turkey season in the unit. The archery fall turkey nonpermit tag season is recommended to run from August 22–September 11, 2014 with no change to open units from 2013.

**Motion:** Madden moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 5 – TURKEY AS PROPOSED.

**Vote:** Unanimous

#### Commission Order 6 – Javelina

For fall 2014, the Department again recommends fall juniors-only javelina seasons, with 855 permits, during season dates that coincide with a juniors-only deer season. Units within Region 5 allocate 15% of the annual permits to either an October 10–16 or a November 21–27, 2014 season. Additional units (Units 16A, 17B, 18B, 19A, 19B, 20A, 39, and 41) also offer juniors-only opportunity, with season dates typically overlapping a school holiday.

In accordance with hunt guidelines, the Department is also recommending the juniors-only deer hunters in Units 16A, 28, 29, 30A, 30B, 31, 32, 33, 36A, and 36B be provided with the opportunity to purchase over-the-counter "companion" tags for javelina, which must be authorized within Commission Order 26.

Mr. Wakeling stated that because of the adjustments made in Unit 36A, the Department recommends the removal of the juniors youth hunt in Units 36A, B and C during the same time it overlapped the deer season. In Commission Order 26, the Department will work those into the Unit 36A companion tag hunts for deer.

Mr. Wakeling pointed out another substantive change for Units 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 7 and 9, the Department recommends over-the-counter archery tags that coincide with the deer hunts there.

**Motion:** Mansell moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 6 – JAVELINA AS PRESENTED.

#### Commission Order 7 – Bighorn Sheep

Bighorn sheep permits are recommended at 104, a decrease of 3 from last year. Permit increases are recommended in Units 16A (1 permit), 27 (Lower Blue River Hunt Area, 1 permit), 40A (new hunt, 1 permit), and 43B (1 permit). Another permit was gained through a recombination of hunt areas in Units 42 and 44A. Permit decreases are recommended in Units 15B West (1 permit), 15C North (3 permits) 15D North (stratification eliminated, 3 permits), and 37A (1 permit). Units where recent declines have been detected or suspected, specifically, Units 15A, 15B, 15C, 15D, 45A, 45B, and 45C, are surveyed annually or biennially and hunt recommendations are based on these data.

Public Comment

Charlie Kelly, Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society (ADBSS), stated his organization's support for the recommendations as presented.

Chairman Harris asked Mr. Kelly about splitting 15D, 43B, and 46B into two separate, stratified hunts with half the hunters because he had been approached about it by a couple of ADBSS members.

Mr. Kelly stated that he had not heard about that request, but if there should be additional bighorn sheep tags in the future, the split season has worked very well in the past.

Chairman Harris stated that he will ask the Department to look into the split hunts in the future.

Commissioner Mansell mentioned that he got a call about Unit 40B and the person claimed the additional tag is not warranted because there are not that many class 3 or class 4 rams in there.

Mr. Wakeling stated that Unit 40B is surveyed every three years and additionally, the region has trail cameras that they monitor and they have seen that there are at least two class 4 and eight class 3 rams in that area. The recommendation for this year is no change from last year.

**Motion:** Ammons moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 7 – BIGHORN SHEEP AS PROPOSED.

**Vote:** Unanimous

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Meeting recessed for a break at 10:15 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

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Commission Order 8 – Buffalo

Three separate buffalo hunts are recommended for the Raymond herd in Units 5A and 5B. The first is a single permit for an adult bull during September 26–28, 2014, and the second 2 hunts are for 2 adult cow permits during September 26–28 and November 7–9, 2014. The total recommendation is for 5 permits for the Raymond herd, which is 3 fewer than last year.

A stakeholder meeting was held on February 18, 2014 to discuss hunt management for the House Rock herd in Units 12A, 12B, and 13B. Because the Department has been attempting to entice buffalo to leave the Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP), the stakeholder group believes that there may be some opportunity to increase hunting pressure during the fall. This group suggested a series of fall permitted hunts might increase harvest of cow and yearling buffalo if permit levels were relatively low and season length was about 2 weeks. The recommendation presented to the Commission for consideration is consistent with that recommended by the stakeholder group, and consists of 8, 2-week hunts beginning on August 15, 2014. The first 2 hunts are recommended as archery-only seasons to avoid conflicts with archery deer hunts scheduled at the same time, followed by 6 general hunts. Each hunt has 7 permits for cow or

yearling buffalo only. Total permits for consideration include 42 general and 14 archery permits. The House Rock Wildlife Area is excluded from the hunt area because if buffalo are located there, the Department would intend to provide this area as an alternate and preferred refugia for buffalo than the GCNP.

Similar hunt structures in the past have resulted in buffalo retreating to GCNP for the duration of the fall hunting period, with a correspondingly low hunting success and low hunter satisfaction. Alternative hunt structures that the Department discussed with the Commission were a shorter season length (10-day hunts rather than 14-day hunts) and a combination of permitted draw hunts and companion tag hunts.

#### Public Comment

Kevin Horton, representing himself, recommended the following: Eliminate the three hunts that conflict with the general hunts (Archery and early rifle hunts for August 15, August 29 and October 24), and retain the companion tag program for the archery and general hunts, and supplement that by adding an early archery hunt.

The Commission discussed alternatives, including retaining companions tags and population management hunts, and what might be the best approach for hunt success without putting too much pressure on the buffalo and driving them back onto the Park.

**Motion:** Harris moved and Ammons seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION FOR BUFFALO HUNTS AT RAYMOND RANCH.

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Motion:** Mansell moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE ALTERNATIVE PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND RECOMMENDED BY THE STAKEHOLDERS GROUP FOR BUFFALO AT HOUSE ROCK (2 ARCHERY HUNTS AT 7 TAGS EACH AND 6 GENERAL HUNTS AT 7 TAGS EACH, AND THAT THEY BE 14 DAY HUNTS).

**Vote:** Unanimous

Commissioner Davis confirmed with the Commission and the Department that population management hunts are one of the tools that remain available for buffalo in these units.

#### Commission Order 9 – Bear

During 2014, fall bear seasons are recommended to occur during August 8–21, from August 22 for up to 38 days, or October 3 through the end of the 2014 calendar year. The season in Units 4A and 5A is recommended to begin on October 31 and run through the end of the calendar year. General seasons may occur during any of these season dates and archery seasons may occur during the 38 day season beginning on August 24, 2012. This structure maintains open seasons while allowing Regions to manage female harvest and maintain sites to relocate nuisance bears if necessary. The 2014 recommendation is for a cumulative female harvest limit of 102 for general

and 21 for archery season, which is an overall increase of 3 female bears from 2013. The recommendation includes a shift to individual general season hunt female harvest limits in Units 1, 2A, 2B, and 2C (late general decrease by 1 to 3, early season increase by 2 to 6).

The annual female harvest limit will again apply to fall seasons. Annual female harvest limits were established in August 2013 for the units with 2014 spring hunts. Those units that have both spring and fall hunts were considered in the spring 2014 hunt formulation. Harvest that applies to annual female harvest limits includes any take by a hunter or Department action that occurs within a calendar year. Implementation of the annual female harvest limit may result in the closure of a hunt before it opens if the annual female harvest limit is reached before the start of a season.

Hunters will need to contact the Department before they go hunting to determine if a specific hunt unit is open, and notification of this need will be plainly identified within the regulations. Compliance with the mandatory physical check for bear remains high.

**Motion:** Madden moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 9 – BEAR AS PROPOSED.

**Vote:** Unanimous

#### Commission Order 10 – Mountain Lion

The Department recommends an open mountain lion season for daylight hours from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 in all open units in accordance with the hunt guidelines. Multiple bag limit seasons with daylong shooting hours are recommended for Units 13B South, Units 15B West, 15C, and 15D, Units 16A South and 18B South, Unit 22 South, Unit 28 South, and Unit 37B North. The multiple bag limit within the Aravaipa-Galiuro Hunt Area in Units 31 and 32 is recommended for removal. Similarly, the restricted hunt in the Pusch Ridge Hunt Area in Unit 33 is recommended for removal. In accordance with hunt guidelines and the establishment of minimal occurrence zones for mountain lions, Units 39, 40A, 40B, 41, 42, 43A, 43B, 44A, and 44B are recommended for daylong shooting hours with a bag limit of 3 mountain lions per year. Compliance with the mandatory physical check for harvested mountain lion remains high.

Chairman Harris asked the Department to check the footnotes regarding mandatory checkout to make sure they are correct.

#### Public Comment

Charlie Kelly, ADBSS, supports the Department's recommendations.

Stephanie Nichols-Young, Animal Defense League of Arizona, cautioned whether the number of take is sustainable and expressed concerns with night hunting, year-round hunting, minimal occurrence zones, and multiple bag limits; suggested going back to seasons with a partial year closure and make sure we are being conservative with the lion populations.

**Motion:** Mansell moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 10 – MOUNTAIN LION AS PROPOSED.

**Vote:** Unanimous

Chairman Harris commented that the removal of the multiple bag limit in Units 31 and 32 was because the objective there was accomplished. The Commission looks at these on a case by case basis and they are sensitive to the issues, and that is why the recommendation was to remove the multiple bag limit in those units specifically.

#### Commission Order 26 – Population Management Seasons

Population management seasons are recommended for javelina to be available to juniors-only muzzleloader deer hunters in Unit 16A and juniors-only general season deer hunters in Units 28, 29, 30A, 30B, 31, 32, 33, 36A, and 36B. These permits are popularly known as "companion" tags. Juniors-only javelina population management restricted nonpermit tags are recommended at 575 for general and 25 for muzzleloader juniors-only seasons. These permits will be available only to hunters that successfully draw a deer tag in the coincidental deer hunt.

**Motion:** Harris moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 26 – POPULATION MANAGEMENT SEASONS AS PROPOSED.

**Vote:** Unanimous

#### Commission Orders 11, 12, and 14-18 (tree squirrel, cottontail rabbit, other mammals and birds, pheasant, quail, chukar partridge, and blue grouse)

Commission Order 11 – Tree Squirrel: The Department recommends no change to the tree squirrel seasons for 2014–2016, except to increase the possession limit to three times the daily bag consistent with hunt guidelines.

Commission Order 12 – Cottontail Rabbit: The Department recommends no change to the cottontail rabbit seasons for 2014–2016, except to increase the possession limit to three times the daily bag consistent with hunt guidelines.

Commission Order 14 – Other Birds and Mammals: The Department recommends no change to the other birds and mammals seasons for 2014–2016, except to expand the season on jackrabbit within the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge during September 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015 and September 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016.

Commission Order 15 – Pheasant: The Department recommends 3, 7-day limited-weapon shotgun-shooting-shot seasons with 50 permits each for the 2014–2015 seasons. All pheasant hunts in Units 40B are draw hunts. Dates for the individual hunts are adjusted periodically to accommodate local agricultural practices and conditions to maximize hunter success. The juniors-only hunt is recommended with 40 permits. The archery and falconry seasons remain unchanged. Dates for the hunts in 2014 and 2015 are specified in the attached Commission Orders.

Commission Order 16 – Quail: The Department recommends no change to the quail seasons 2014–2016, except to increase the possession limit to three times the daily bag consistent with hunt guidelines.

Commission Order 17 – Chukar Partridge: The Department recommends no change to the chukar partridge seasons for 2014–2016, except to increase the possession limit to three times the daily bag consistent with hunt guidelines.

Commission Order 18 – Blue (Dusky Grouse): The Department recommends no change to the bluegrouse seasons for 2014–2016, except to increase the possession limit to three times the daily bag consistent with hunt guidelines.

### Public Comment

Stephanie Nichols-Young, ADLA, addressed the Commission in regards to Commission Order 14, other birds and mammals, and stated that prairie dogs help the ecosystem and would encourage the Commission to extend the closure for another month because of the young and to consider a bag limit.

**Motion:** Madden moved and Ammons seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDERS 11, 12 and 14–18 AS PROPOSED.

**Vote:** Unanimous

Commissioner Davis asked the Department to look into the science regarding extending the closure for prairie dogs and report back in April 2015.

### Commission Order 13 – Predatory and Fur-bearing Mammals

Consistent with hunt guidelines, the Department recommends daylong seasons for coyote within Units 10, 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, 17A, 17B, 31, and 32 during the 2014–2015 season. For the 2015–2016 season, the Department recommends daylong seasons within Units 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, 17A, 17B, 31, and 32. Pronghorn populations in each of these units currently experience fawn recruitment substantially below guidelines. The Department recommends a longer season (December 1 through May 31) and a change from the limited-weapon shotgun-shooting-shot to a general season, which would increase the range at which coyotes could be taken. Because of the concern regarding inadvertent misidentification of a wolf during conditions with poor lighting, the Department does not recommend daylong seasons within Region 1 where Mexican gray wolves currently exist, nor does the Department recommend any daylong seasons within the border area where potential conflicts with border security agents may develop. Those units recommended for removal are Units 2A, 4A, 28, 30A, 34B, 35A, and 35B. Units recommended for including are 12A, 12B, 13B, 15A, 15B, 18A, and 18B. That's in addition to Units 10, 13A, 17A, 17B, 31 and 32. No other changes to predatory and fur-bearing mammal seasons are recommended.

Commission Mansell recommended that the decision made by the Commission today be reassessed in one year and looked at again. He also recommended that Unit 4A be added back in as well as Units 5B and 8.

Chairman Harris agreed that the Department should keep an eye on this and bring it back to the Commission in one year.

#### Public Comment

Stephanie Nichols-Young, ADLA, stated that the limiting factor for pronghorn survival is drought, so killing coyotes won't help. Regarding the impact on coyote populations, coyotes will respond to the pressure by breeding more. Additionally, night hunting is not acceptable to most people.

**Motion:** Mansell moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 13 AS PROPOSED.

**Motion to Amend:** Mansell moved and Ammons seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AMEND THE MOTION TO ADD UNITS 4A, 5B, AND 8 TO THE DAYLONG SEASON, AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT BE DIRECTED TO BRING THIS BACK IN ONE YEAR FOR REVIEW.

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Amended Motion:** Mansell moved and Harris seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 13 AS PROPOSED WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT: ADD UNITS 4A, 5B, AND 8 TO THE DAYLONG SEASON, AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT BE DIRECTED TO BRING THIS BACK IN ONE YEAR FOR REVIEW.

**Vote:** Unanimous

#### Commission Order 23 – Trapping

The Department recommends no change to the trapping seasons for 2014–2016.

**Motion:** Madden moved and Mansell seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSION ORDER 23 AS PROPOSED.

**Vote:** Unanimous

\* \* \* \* \*

#### 3. Hunt Permit-Tag Application Schedule for Fall 2014 Hunts

**Presenter:** Lizette Morgan, CFO, Business & Finance

Ms. Morgan provided the Commission with a draft hunt permit-tag application schedule for the Fall 2014 hunting seasons (attached). The application schedule identifies proposed acceptance dates and deadline dates for all hunts associated with the draw process. In addition, the proposed dates for when hunt permit-tags and refund warrants will be mailed were also identified, along

with information relating to the first-come/first-serve process for any permits that may still be available.

**Motion:** Madden moved and Ammons seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION SCHEDULE FOR THE 2014 FALL HUNTS.

**Vote:** Unanimous

\* \* \* \* \*

#### 4. Approval of Minutes and Signing of Minutes

**Motion:** Davis moved and Ammons seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MARCH 7-8, 2014, MARCH 17, 2014, AND MARCH 28, 2014.

**Vote:** Unanimous

The Commission signed the minutes following approval.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### 5. Director's and Chairman's Reports

Director Voyles reported on the Arizona Game and Fish Department Heritage Grant Awards offered in 2014 as follows:

A total of 47 Heritage Grant applications were received and 27 applicants will be offered a Heritage grant award for the 2014 Heritage Grant cycle. Of the \$432,000 available, \$410,190 will be offered for award. The following is information for each of the six sub-categories for the Department's 2014 Heritage Grant cycle.

1. Environmental Education (EE) received nine applications and two applicants will be offered Heritage EE Grant awards totaling \$16,000 of the \$16,000 available.
2. Outdoor Education (OE) received 11 applications and eight applicants will be offered Heritage OE Grant awards totaling \$13,150 of the \$16,000 available.
3. Schoolyard Habitat (Schoolyard) received five applications and all five schools will be offered Heritage Schoolyard Grants totaling \$29,486 of the \$37,500 available.
4. Urban Wildlife (Urban) received nine applications and six applicants will be offered Heritage Urban Grant awards totaling \$112,500 of the \$112,500 available.
5. Public Access (Access) received five applications and two applicants will be offered Heritage Access Grant awards totaling \$46,700 of the \$50,000 available.

6. Identification, Inventory, Acquisition, Protection and Management (IIAPM) received eight applications and four applicants will be offered Heritage IIAPM Grant awards totaling \$192,354 of the \$200,000 available.

Chairman Harris waived his regular report, but wanted to mention that Alan Taylor from HPAC was assigned by HPAC to represent them in the stakeholders group being put together by Assistant Director Jim deVos.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 6. Commissioners' Reports

The Commission was in consensus to suspend the Commissioner's reports.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 7. Future Agenda Items and Action Items

Commissioner Mansell added that the Jim deVos' stakeholders group should only have about 8-10 members.

Commissioner Davis asked if the Department could look at a potential Unit 48 to encompass Grand Canyon National Park.

Chairman Harris requested the Department to examine the use of hunter orange in firearms season.

Deputy Director Ty Gray captured the following action and agenda items:

- Inform Senate Appropriations committee of Department and USFWS role in supporting Sportfishing opportunities; Department to stay engaged in broad multi-state effort, and staff to work with the Delegation on the USFWS reprioritization issue
- Provide the Commission a copy of the Department's comments on the Coconino LRMP to include those on alternative C; Draft a letter for the Chair expressing the Commission's opposition to alternative C
- Draft a Commission policy/resolution on dispersed recreational shooting on public lands
- Ensure that the State's authority/role (Riley) language is included in the Pinetop/Lakeside Sanitary District and Apache Sitgreaves MOU; Ensure that this language become standard "boilerplate" and included in any future MOU/ agreement with Federal agency
- Exempt Rulemaking – proceed with the membership option for tag surrender; Add language regarding preference to highest tier for next in line; Should there be a variance that outlines expectations of reissuing surrendered tags to avoid undue pressure on the Department; look at 5 day reissuance timeline
- Add an agenda item to examine the use of Hunter Orange to the May meeting agenda; Presentation to include process to establish a requirement and Commission authorities; (benchmark other states, HE references, accident rates, customer comments, etc.)
- Heritage Acquisition ad hoc team – develop a charter prior to convening the team; Charter to include Commission's tenants for potential solutions; Final proposed

recommendations are due to Commission by Sept 1; Allen Taylor to represent HPAC on the ad hoc group; Group to be 8-10 members per Commission direction

- Analyze the feasibility and process for establishing a game management unit to encompass Grand Canyon National Park in Article 1 rulemaking (Unit 48)
- Amend Heritage Grant rules to allow NGOs to apply either through Article 7 regular rulemaking or exempt – Department will look into the timeline.

\* \* \* \* \*

Chairman Harris adjourned the meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

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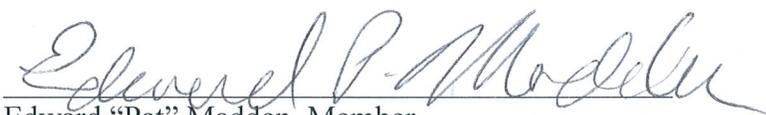
John W. Harris, Chairman



Robert E. Mansell, Vice Chair



Kurt R. Davis, Member

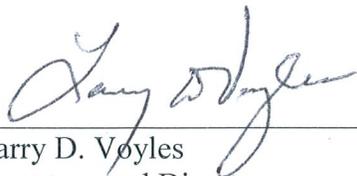


Edward "Pat" Madden, Member



James R. Ammons, Member

ATTEST:



Larry D. Voyles  
Secretary and Director

**Game and Fish Litigation Report  
Presented at the Commission Meeting  
April 11-12, 2014**

The Assistant Attorneys General for the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and the Arizona Game and Fish Department are representing these agencies in the following matters in litigation. This report does not include claims and lawsuits for damages against these agencies in which the agencies are represented by Assistant Attorneys General in the Liability Defense Section of the Attorney General's Office.

1. *Center for Biological Diversity et al. v. United States Forest Service*, CV-12-8176-PCT-SMM. Plaintiffs filed an action in the U.S. District Court for Arizona on September 4, 2012. The lawsuit alleges the U.S. Forest Service ("USFS") is violating the Resource Conservation Recovery Act ("RCRA") by allowing the disposal of lead ammunition on the Kaibab National Forest, and the disposal results in significant harm to the California condors and other avian wildlife. Plaintiffs are seeking declaratory and injunctive relief requiring the USFS to abate the harm.

On November 4, 2012, the State of Arizona, on behalf of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, filed a limited motion to intervene for the sole purpose of filing a motion to dismiss on the grounds that the State of Arizona is a required party but joining the State is not feasible due to sovereign immunity. Because the State is a required party that cannot be joined, the case must be dismissed. Plaintiffs filed a response to the State's motion on November 20, 2012. Plaintiffs did not object to the State's intervention but argued that the State does not meet the requirements of a required party.

The National Rifle Association (NRA) and Safari Club International (SCI) filed motions to intervene on November 21, 2012. The State filed a reply on December 4, 2012, to the Plaintiffs' response to the State's motion to intervene. The USFS filed a motion to dismiss on December 14, 2012, on the basis the Court lacks jurisdiction. Plaintiffs filed a response to NRA's motion to intervene on January 4, 2013. On January 22, 2013, the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) filed a separate motion to intervene.

On February 5, 2013, the plaintiffs filed a response to the USFS' motion to dismiss. On February 22, 2013, the District Court issued an order granting the USFS until March 25, 2013 to file a reply in support of its motion to dismiss. On March 25, 2013, the Forest Service filed a reply in support of its motion to dismiss. The parties are awaiting an oral argument hearing on the motion to dismiss.

On July 2, 2013, the court granted the Forest Service's motion to dismiss. The court agreed with the Forest Service that CBD did not have standing to bring the RCRA challenge against the Forest Service. The court found that CBD could not satisfy the requirements for standing because redressability was speculative on two grounds. First, in order for the Forest Service to regulate the use of lead ammunition, it would need to undertake a rulemaking process, comply with NEPA and consult with the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. Due to uncertainty with this process, the court found the outcome of the process speculative. Second, the court found that condors range in an area well beyond the Kaibab National Forest and into areas that do not prohibit the use of lead ammunition. Therefore, even if the Forest Service banned lead ammunition, this would not necessarily reduce the level of lead ingestion in condors.

Plaintiffs filed a notice of appeal on August 21, 2013. On November 27, 2013, plaintiffs (now appellants) filed an opening brief with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Forest Service filed its opening brief on January 29, 2014 and the Commission filed its amicus brief on February 7, 2014. **Plaintiffs filed their reply brief on March 21, 2014.**

**2. *WildEarth Guardians v. James Lane*, 12-00118 (LFG-KBM).** Plaintiff challenges New Mexico's failure to regulate trapping in the Mexican wolf occupied range to avoid take of any wolves. The Commission authorized the filing of an amicus curiae brief in support of New Mexico. The Court granted the Commission's motion for leave to file an amicus brief and on September 19, 2012, the Commission filed its amicus brief. Plaintiff filed a response on October 9, 2012, and the Commission filed a reply on October 30, 2012.

The Court issued an order on December 3, 2012, granting Defendants' motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim. Plaintiff filed a notice of appeal on December 28, 2012. The Tenth Circuit issued a briefing schedule on January 3, 2013, ordering Plaintiff to file an opening brief within forty days.

On February 12, 2013, WildEarth Guardians filed an opening brief. On February 15, 2013, the Tenth Circuit issued an order extending the time to file an answering brief until April 17, 2013. The Commission's amicus brief is due seven days after the date the answering brief is filed. The Appellees filed the answering brief on April 17, 2013 and the State of Arizona filed an amicus curiae brief on April 23, 2013. Guardians filed its reply brief on May 20, 2013.

Oral argument occurred on January 24, 2014. The Court's questions focused primarily on the jurisdictional issues of sovereign immunity and standing. The Court issued an opinion on February 19, 2014. The Court held that Plaintiffs had no standing due to a lack of redressability because the Chair of the New Mexico Commission had no authority alone to correct any alleged violations. The Court ordered the case remanded back to the District Court with instruction to dismiss the case without prejudice to allow Plaintiffs to refile the case.

**On March 7, 2014, the Tenth Circuit granted New Mexico's motion for clarification, in which New Mexico requested that the Court's decision would not affect the District Court's decision dismissing as to Director Lane. The District Court's decision as to Director Lane stands. On March 18, 2014, the District Court dismissed without the prejudice the case against the Chairman.**

**Lands Update**  
For the Arizona Game and Fish Commission  
April 4, 2014  
Phoenix, Arizona

**U.S. FOREST SERVICE**

**General Planning Status** – Please see attached worksheet.

**Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI)**

- No change.

**Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest**

- No Change

**Coconino National Forest**

- The Department submitted extensive comments on the proposed Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). Regional staff expects to meet with the Coconino NF Plan Revision Team in April to discuss these comments.

**Coronado National Forest**

- The draft Travel Management Plans (TMP) are being developed for each District and will be released successively for public comment beginning with the Nogales District in June 2014.
- The Department met with the Nogales and Santa Catalina districts regarding TMPs and is setting up meetings with the Douglas, Safford, and Sierra Vista Districts. In addition, a coordination meeting between the Department, the Forest, and BLM is set for 4/8 – 4/9 to discuss travel management planning.
- The Department submitted comments on the draft proposed Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) and programmatic draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The final LRMP is expected in late 2014 with a final decision in 2015.
- Rosemont Copper Project - The Department filed objections on the Final Environmental Impact Statement and the draft Record of Decision on February 14, and has requested a meeting with the Regional Forester to discuss the issues raised in those objections. The Department is also preparing comments on ADEQ's draft Clean Water Act certification for the Rosemont Copper Project.

**Kaibab National Forest**

- A Record of Decision and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) was issued. Department staff is reviewing the final plan compared to comments submitted on the draft plan and EIS. Deadline for filing an appeal is June 5, 2014.

### **Tonto National Forest**

- The Tonto National Forest (TNF) has initiated the design phase of the public participation process for the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) revision process. The Department continues to be invited and attends the public meetings focused on public participation opportunities.
- The Department continues to participate as part of an ID Team for the Travel Management Plan (TMP) and maintains an agenda item to discuss the TMP draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) during bi-monthly leadership meetings. The anticipated date for release of the DEIS is this summer.
- The annual coordination meeting with the TNF has been scheduled for late May. The Department anticipates a work session on the LRMP revision.

### **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)**

#### **Arizona Strip Field Office**

- The Department has been working closely with BLM to coordinate a rotenone treatment in a section of the Virgin River through the Virgin River Gorge. BLM is preparing a Categorical Exclusion to provide NEPA compliance for temporary closure of the area during treatment.

#### **Kingman Field Office**

- On April 24<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>, the BLM Kingman Field Office will be conducting burro surveys through the Black Mountain range. They have made available a seat on each flight for an AGFD representative to assist with the surveys.
- Spring utilization monitoring will be conducted through the month of March on the Hackberry, Yellowpine, and Hibernia Peak allotments.
- The BLM Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Grazing sub-committee met on March 17<sup>th</sup> to begin design/modification of the new grazing system.

#### **Tucson Field Office**

- The Tucson Field Office has completed the scoping report for the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA), documenting the scoping process, impacts, and potential alternatives to address in the draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and EIS. BLM is hosting public meetings in Sierra Vista February 22<sup>nd</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup> to collect input on the range of alternative.

#### **Phoenix District Office**

- The Department, Phoenix District Office, and Hassayampa Field Office will be holding the annual coordination meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **WILDLIFE AREAS**

### **Horseshoe Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP)**

- The anticipated draft plan document is scheduled for this summer.
- The interagency planning team has been invited to participate in a pilot adaptive management course.

### **Lower San Pedro River Wildlife Area**

- The Department participated in a tour of the new wildlife area with the Arizona Land and Water Trust for their members.
- The Department has re-initiated the wildlife area planning process and expects the Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) inventory to get underway in May.

### **Alamo Lake Wildlife Area**

- Department personnel recently established permanent transects within Alamo Lake Wildlife Area. The transects were established for performing annual surveys to determine if wild burros are impacting riparian vegetation.

## **ENERGY DEVELOPMENT**

### **PIPELINES**

#### **Kinder Morgan CO2 Pipeline Project**

- The Department accepted BLM's invitation to participate in the project as a cooperating agency. The Department just received a draft Memorandum of Understanding from BLM and is currently reviewing.

#### **Red Horse Wind and Solar**

- On February 21<sup>st</sup>, the Department received an ASLD application submitted by Red Horse for a PV solar development on 526 acres in Allen Flat. The Department has concerns about loss of habitat for an already struggling pronghorn herd in Allen Flat.
- The Department was notified on March 12<sup>th</sup> that the Red Horse Wind project has revised the *Pre-Construction Avian and Bat Studies for the Proposed Red Horse Wind Energy Facility: 2012-2014*, to include additional data. The project has been greatly reduced from 34 turbines to 15 turbines. The Department is still waiting to see drafts of these reports.

#### **Sierrita Natural Gas Pipeline Project**

- The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has issued a Notice of Revised Schedule for Environmental Review of the project. The Notice of Availability of the Final EIS is scheduled for March 28, 2014.

## **TRANSMISSION LINES**

### **SunZia Transmission Line**

- The Department met with SunZia, their consultant, BLM, and the USFWS on March 6<sup>th</sup> for a presentation of the initial Habitat Equivalency Analysis (HEA) underway for mitigation of impacts to migratory birds. The Department will review the HEA and provide comments and recommendations.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **I-11 Phoenix to Las Vegas Project**

- Department staff attended a Stakeholders/Partners meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>. ADOT presented a review of the results of the Alternatives Level 2 Analysis and a preliminary review of public comments and next steps.

## **NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE**

### **Tucson, Douglas, Wilcox and Safford Field Offices**

- The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has allocated funding for improvement and/or maintenance of habitat in Arizona for the southwestern willow flycatcher (SWFL) to be distributed through their Working Lands for Wildlife Program.
- Four landowners in Cochise County with Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts have requested AGFD funding through the Landowner Relations Program to assist with the completion of brush removal projects.

## **GENERAL UPDATES**

### **Central Arizona Grasslands Conservation Strategy (CAGCS) Implementation Team**

#### Bar Triangle Antelope Habitat Work Project

- On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Department coordinated a wildlife friendly fence improvement project in the Chino Valley area to improve pronghorn movements in various pastures.

#### Wagontire Grassland Enhancement Project

- Contactors will begin cutting trees on March 19<sup>th</sup> as part of the 2,607 acre enhancement project- Phase I. Another 192 acres are being cut by the rancher as part of the Phase II treatments, which should be completed by the end of April.

#### Cinega Watershed Improvement Project

- Prescott National Forest fire crews will soon begin cutting roughly 200 acres of invading juniper on the 1,049 acres originally defined within the Cinega Watershed Improvement project area.

#### 7-Up Grassland Improvement Project

- The 7-Up Ranch Grassland Enhancement Project- Phase II is currently in stasis and is awaiting Arizona State Land Department approval and compliance processing. It is hoped that this project will be able to proceed later this summer.

#### Fort Rock Grassland Enhancement Project

- The Fort Rock Ranch has started cutting trees on a project area that will exceed 200 acres and will create a movement corridor for pronghorn, allowing unimpeded access to recently added waters on the ranch.

#### **Ray Mine Tailings Facility in GMU 37B**

- The Department attended an interested agency status update meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The Department was presented with site alternatives and has expressed extreme concern that all feasible sites were not being adequately analyzed.
- ASARCO is moving forward with an application to purchase 12 sections of State Trust Land for the facility. The auction for the State Land is anticipated to occur in the next few months.

#### **Picacho Peak Water Catchment**

- During the weekend of February 22<sup>nd</sup>, volunteers with the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society assisted the Department to redevelop a water catchment in the Picacho Mountains in GMU 37A on BLM Land.

#### **Arizona Prescribed Fire Council**

- On February 27th, Department personnel attended the Arizona Prescribed Fire Council spring statewide meeting.

Forest	Status	Next Step	Projected Next Step Completion
<b>Apache Sitgreaves</b>	LRMP ROD expected Oct 2014	Review public comments and produce final LRMP and EIS	Final EIS (LRMP) ~6/2014. TMP for each district start after LRMP complete, draft out ~late 2014).
Issues:	7100 new acres of Wilderness (mostly expanding boundaries Motorized Big Game Retrieval (MBGR) in previous TMP draft allows 1 mile from road for elk, mule deer & bear. 658 miles of corridors for dispersed camping 300 ft off established roads. MVUM's delayed due to Wallow Fire.		
<b>Coconino</b>	TMP Final 9/2011 (forest wide), AGFD MBGR Appeal - denied; TMP evaluated annually with opportunity for revision; Draft EIS (LRMP) comments period ended. MVUM's available	Draft LRMP/EIS out 12/2013; comments due 3/20/14. Department submitted comments	Final decision anticipated ~6/2015
Issues:	Dispersed camping 300ft from specifically identified roads, 30ft from all other roads. MBGR for elk only, 1 mile from roads except GMUs 5A & 5B.	Meet with revision team in April	
<b>Coronado</b>	Proposed Plan & DEIS released 12/19/13	AGFD comments submitted 3/4/14	Final EIS ~7/2014
	TMP in Process by district.	Final TMP	Final TMP end of 2014: Decisions by district: Douglas 7/2014; Nogales 3/2014; Safford 3/2014; Santa Catalina 3/2014; Sierra Vista 9/2014
Issues:	NO MBGR. MVUM's show access through roads that have locked gates		

Forest	Status	Next Step	Projected Next Step Completion
<b>Kaibab</b>	AGFD appeal on North Kaibab TMP declined.	Final LRMP issued 2/14	
	TMP completed by district. MVUM's available.	Department reviewing plan and EIS	Appeal deadline June 5, 2015
Issues:	Tusayan & Williams TMP: MBGR 1 mile from road for elk in designated areas. Dispersed camping in camping corridors, or 30 feet from road. North Kaibab MBGR 1 mile off designated roads for elk and bison, dispersed camping 300 feet off 99 miles of designated roads and 100 feet off 104 miles of additional designated roads		
<b>Prescott</b>	Final EIS in Federal Register imminent. AGFD personnel were invited to participate in Strategic planning.	Expected FEIS in Federal Register 4/2014	Will rely on 2009 updated/amended TMP
Issues:	Current draft advocates MBGR: Elk within 1 mile of designated open road. May be changed by amendment. Dispersed camping 300' from centerline of designated roads. Wilderness under consideration reduced from 44,000 acres to 23,000. MVUM's available.		
<b>Tonto</b>	LRMP began 2006. Negotiating to reinstate due to rule change. TMP elevated to EIS from EA. Notice of intent to prepare TMP EIS released. Department comments submitted 3/4/2013. AGFD has Cooperating Agency status. ID Team meetings held in individual Ranger Districts.	LRMP Assessment beginning; public scoping in 2014. TMP final EIS anticipated late 2017	Final LRMP & EIS Fall 2017

<b>Forest</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Next Step</b>	<b>Projected Next Step Completion</b>
<i>Issues:</i>	Consistency across forests, enforceability, MBGR 1 mile off road for elk and bear. Road closures, and dispersed camping all addressed in response to NOI. MVUM's are inaccurate.		

1 To the Congress of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, sport fishing routinely draws more than 350,000 participants in  
4 Arizona annually, including thousands of Arizona's youth and constitutes an  
5 important component of Arizona's economy, with angler expenditures exceeding \$1.0  
6 billion in 2013; and

7 Whereas, the Arizona Game and Fish Department's (Department)  
8 conservation mission received more than \$9 million of revenue from the sale of  
9 fishing licenses in fiscal year 2013, a significant portion of the agency's budget; and

10 Whereas, trout produced in both state and federal hatchery systems and  
11 stocked into waters throughout Arizona are important in maintaining sport fishing  
12 and its economic benefits; and

13 Whereas, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recently  
14 completed a reprioritization of its mission and moved sport fishing to the bottom of  
15 their priorities as an agency; and

16 Whereas, USFWS completed a study predicting the closure of many National  
17 Fish Hatcheries, coupled with funding cuts to additional National Fish Hatcheries,  
18 that will certainly curtail the stocking of Arizona's waters, entailing a loss of  
19 associated economic benefits; and

20 Whereas, The continuation of the Ennis National Fish Hatchery's role as a  
21 rainbow trout brood facility and eyed egg producer and the continuation of Willow  
22 Beach National Fish Hatchery are extremely important to Arizona's trout stocking  
23 program and economy; and

24 Whereas, The USFWS entered into an Memorandum of Understanding  
25 (MOU) in 1959 for the construction, operation, and maintenance of Willow Beach  
26 National Fish Hatchery for the purposes of propagating trout; and

27 Whereas, The MOU was to developed in association with the Boulder Canyon  
28 Project Act of 1928, an Act providing for the construction of Hoover Dam and the  
29 storage of the Colorado River, and which was to remain in effect until terminated by  
30 the Secretary of the Interior; and

31 Whereas, the MOU agreed to have the Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery  
32 construction, operation, and maintenance be paid for by congressional appropriation;  
33 and

34 Whereas, the Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery has a major repair need  
35 due to deferred maintenance over the past 5 years; and

36 Whereas, following the trout die-off at Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery  
37 due to deferred maintenance, the Department offered to stock trout on the Colorado  
38 River and USFWS did not accept this offer; and

39 Whereas, The USFWS also entered into a Memorandum of Agreement,  
40 agreeing to provide the Department with 2 million triploid rainbow trout eyed eggs  
41 annually through 2016; and

1           Whereas, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission has requested Members of  
2 the Arizona Congressional Delegation and the Arizona State Legislature to take all  
3 appropriate actions to insure the USFWS fulfill the National Hatchery System  
4 mission as a support to the State's fisheries conservation mission and honor its  
5 MOU's with the states and their associated conservation agencies.

6 *Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona,*  
7 *the Senate concurring, prays:*

- 8       1. That the United States Congress take immediate action to support the  
9       continued operation of the Willow Beach and Ennis National Fish Hatcheries  
10       and urge the USFWS, in partnership with Department, to maintain its  
11       commitment in full by providing services and stocking of Arizona waters for  
12       recreational fishing.
- 13       2. That the United States Congress urge the USFWS to honor its commitment to  
14       identify specific funds to operate, maintain, and repair the Willow Beach  
15       National Fish Hatchery.
- 16       3. That the United States Congress urge the USFWS to honor its commitment to  
17       propagating trout at Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery.
- 18       4. That the United States Congress urge the USFWS to coordinate with the  
19       States on a review of its *National Hatchery System strategic hatchery and*  
20       *workforce plan* including conducting an economic analysis to determine the  
21       impact from their decisions prior to implementation.
- 22       5. That the United States Congress consider removal of fish hatcheries and their  
23       associated funding and designate those assets and funding to the States for  
24       their continued operation.
- 25       6. That the Secretary of the State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this  
26       Concurrent Resolution to the United States Secretary of the Interior, the  
27       Director of the United Sates Fish and Wildlife Service, each Member of  
28       Congress from the State of Arizona, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission,  
29       the Mohave County Board of Supervisors.

30

**State FY15 LEBSF Calculation**  
**Based on 2012 Watercraft Survey and FY14 Deputy Salary Info**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
		(AxB)	(C/Total of C)	(D x .80)	(E x Total of C)		(G x .20)	(E + H)	
County	New Mid-Range Salary rev March 2014	Number of Officers	Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Personnel Costs	80.000%	Amount of Personnel Costs Paid	Percent Boat Use Days /Participating Counties	20.000%	Percent Allocation
Apache	\$74,524.00	1	\$74,524.00	3.499%	2.799%		0.53%	0.106%	2.906%
Coconino	\$95,363.00	2	\$190,726.00	8.955%	7.164%		10.98%	2.196%	9.360%
Gila	\$77,564.00	3	\$232,692.00	10.926%	8.741%		4.18%	0.836%	9.577%
La Paz	\$85,340.00	5	\$426,700.00	20.036%	16.028%		9.56%	1.911%	17.940%
Maricopa	\$99,817.00	4	\$399,268.00	18.747%	14.998%		18.98%	3.796%	18.794%
Mohave	\$80,537.00	6	\$483,222.00	22.690%	18.152%		51.00%	10.201%	28.352%
Navajo	\$85,928.00	1	\$85,928.00	4.035%	3.228%		0.43%	0.087%	3.314%
Yuma	\$78,885.00	3	\$236,655.00	11.112%	8.890%		4.33%	0.867%	9.756%
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$2,129,715.00</b>	<b>100.000%</b>	<b>80.000%</b>		<b>100.00%</b>	<b>20.000%</b>	<b>100.000%</b>

County	Boat Use Days From 2012 Surveys	Percent Boat Use Days / Participating Counties
Apache	15,161	0.53%
Coconino	312,706	10.98%
Gila	119,067	4.18%
La Paz	272,177	9.56%
Maricopa	540,503	18.98%
Mohave	1,452,549	51.00%
Navajo	12,342	0.43%
Yuma	123,385	4.33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,847,890</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

# Hunt Permit-tag Application Schedule – Fall 2014

Hunt permit-tag applications will be accepted and processed in accordance with R12-4-104 and R12-4-114 and this schedule.

<b>Drawing</b>				
	<b>ACCEPTANCE DATES<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>DEADLINE DATES<sup>2</sup></b>		
<b>HUNT</b>	<b>Applications accepted on or after:</b>	<b>Deadline 7 p.m. (MST) in Department offices on:</b>	<b>Hunt permit-tags mailed out by</b>	<b>Refund warrants mailed out by:</b>
Deer	(See notes 1, 2, 3)	June 10, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	Aug. 18, 2014
Turkey	(See notes 1, 2, 3)	June 10, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	Aug. 18, 2014
Javelina	(See notes 1, 2, 3)	June 10, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	Aug. 18, 2014
Bighorn Sheep	(See notes 1, 2, 3)	June 10, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	Aug. 18, 2014
Buffalo	(See notes 1, 2, 3)	June 10, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	Aug. 18, 2014
Pheasant	(See notes 1, 2, 3)	June 10, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	Aug. 18, 2014
Sandhill Crane	Aug. 4, 2014 <sup>3</sup>	Aug. 29, 2014 <sup>3</sup>	Sept. 26, 2014	N/A
Raptor	Feb. 17, 2015 <sup>3</sup>	March 10, 2015 <sup>3</sup>	March 17, 2015	N/A

<b>First Come<sup>4</sup></b>		
	<b>Applications accepted by mail on or after 8:00 a.m. (MST):</b>	<b>Permits available for purchase with a completed application at all Department offices after 8:00 a.m. (MST):</b>
<b>HUNT</b>	<b>ACCEPTANCE DATES</b>	<b>ACCEPTANCE DATES</b>
Deer	July 28, 2014	Aug. 4, 2014
Turkey	July 28, 2014	Aug. 4, 2014
Javelina	July 28, 2014	Aug. 4, 2014
Bighorn Sheep	July 28, 2014	Aug. 4, 2014
Buffalo	July 28, 2014	Aug. 4, 2014
Pheasant	July 28, 2014	Aug. 4, 2014
Sandhill Crane	Sept. 15, 2014	N/A
Raptor	March 24, 2015	N/A

<b>Online Applicants<sup>5</sup></b>
<b>Deadline for updating your credit or debit card information online by 11:59 p.m. (MST)</b>
Sunday, July 6, 2014

## Notes:

- The Department will accept Hunt Permit-tag Applications for big game and Pheasant listed above as soon as the applicable year's hunt information is available on the Department's website ([www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov)), or from any Game and Fish Department office or license dealer, unless otherwise noted in the Hunt Permit-tag Application schedule.
- Department offices in Flagstaff, Kingman, Mesa, Phoenix, Pinetop, Tucson and Yuma will close for business at 5:00 p.m. (MST); completed applications will be accepted at these locations until 7:00 p.m. (MST) on deadline days. No applications will be accepted after 7:00 p.m. (MST) regardless of the postmark. Deadline dates and times apply to online and paper applications. Online applicants are given 45 minutes to complete their application. If an online applicant enters the online site any time prior to the 7 p.m. deadline, the applicant will be allowed the 45-minute period to complete the application. Deadline dates may be extended in the event of a Department-related system failure.
- Sandhill Crane and Raptor applications are accepted by mail only at the following addresses: P.O. Box 74020, Phoenix, AZ 85087-1052; or at 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086-5000. These applications may not be hand delivered to any Department office.
- First come permits are issued if available and will sell very quickly. Applicants are advised to check with the Department before submitting an application for leftover permits. No person, including Juniors, may submit more than one valid application per genus for the First Come process, with the exception of javelina (see the javelina bag limit description). A listing of leftover permits is available online at [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov) under "Big Game Draw" or at any Department office. To submit first come applications by U.S. mail only, please send to: 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086, ATTN: DRAW/FIRST COME.
- Online applicants are encouraged to keep their payment information current. If your payment is rejected at the time of the draw, your application may be rejected. The Department will attempt to contact the payee and/or applicant A three times within two business days to accept an alternate payment method if a phone number and/or email is provided.

**Deadline for updating your credit or debit card information online is 11:59 p.m. (MST) Sunday, July 6, 2014.**