

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Friday, June 10, 2016
Saturday, June 11, 2016
Mazatzal Hotel (Fireside Room)
Highway 87, Mile Marker 251
Payson, Arizona 85541

PRESENT: (Commission)

(Director and Staff)

Chairman Kurt R. Davis
Commissioner Edward "Pat" Madden
Commissioner James R. Ammons
Commissioner James S. Zieler
Commissioner Eric S. Sparks

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

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and led those present through the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor of Navy SEAL Charlie Keating IV, a graduate of Arcadia High School in Phoenix, who was killed in an ISIS attack on May 3; the life and service of Ann Day who was killed in a car accident on May 7; fallen Phoenix Police Officer David Glasser who was killed in the line of duty on May 19; and for Memorial Day in honor and remembrance of our service members who have died for our country. The Commission and Director Voyles introduced themselves followed by introductions of the Director's staff. This meeting followed an agenda revision #1 dated June 8, 2016.

Awards and Recognition

Chairman Davis presented the following Commission award certificates:

- Commission Certificate of Appreciation to Department employee Curtis Herbert for his efforts in strengthening the Department's critical data gathering capabilities.
- Commission Commendation of Achievement to Bill and Lori Brown, owners of H-4 Ranch, in appreciation of their lengthy and exemplary efforts to improve habitat and water resources in the Rim Country.

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1. Call to the Public

Kenny Evans, Mayor of Payson, welcomed the Commission to Payson, the best small town in Arizona. He encouraged the Commission/Department to continue working with the youth of Payson.

John Marcanti, Gila County Supervisor District 3, welcomed the Commission and Department.

Tom Martin, Council Member, River Runners for Wilderness, briefed the Commission and demonstrated the reason for his request that the State of Arizona adopt a rule similar in language to the State of Utah, to allow rough water recreationists the ability to choose to carry a throw bag

in lieu of a Type IV PFD, if they so desire, when on rough water where a Type I, III, or V PDF is required for all participants, regardless of age.

Chairman Davis referred Mr. Martin to discuss this topic with Mr. Canaca, the Department's Legislative Liaison, regarding what the Department is doing related to a Law Enforcement Omnibus bill that includes many of the provisions as brought up by Mr. Martin.

Joe Miller, President, Trout Unlimited, Chapter 530, expressed his thanks to the Aquatics Branch, the Department and the Commission for supporting them in the Trout in the Classroom program.

Dennis Perch, Writer for Payson Roundup, expressed his appreciation in agreement with Mr. Miller's comments.

Jake Swartwood, Vice Principal, Rim Country Middle School, and Football Coach for Payson High School, agreed with Mr. Miller and Mr. Perch's comments and briefed the Commission on some of his activities related to fishing events. Mr. Swartwood requested more projects in which the Department needs free labor for himself and his football team to participate in.

Jim Goughnour, President of Mogollon Sporting Association and Leader of the Gila County Round Table, briefed the Commission on some recent activities and thanked the Commission for the leadership within the Commission and Department.

Chairman Davis requested that the Department create and archive in one place on the website all of the youth opportunities.

Beth Woodin, Board President of Arizona Heritage Alliance and former Commissioner, addressed the Commission and thanked them for their meeting in the cool country. She appreciated hearing all of the good public comments.

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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. Director Voyles presented these items to the Commission and none were removed for discussion.

a. State Land Grazing Lease at Raymond Wildlife Area Renewal

Presenter: Joyce Francis, Habitat, Evaluation and Lands Branch Chief

The Commission has had an Arizona State Land Department Grazing Lease at the Raymond Wildlife Area since 1986. The current lease expires on August 31, 2016. The Department requests that the Commission authorize renewing State Grazing lease number No. 05-1660. The grazing lease is managed for the benefit of bison.

The Department recommends the Commission APPROVE RENEWAL OF AN EXISTING STATE LAND GRAZING LEASE AT RAYMOND WILDLIFE AREA AND AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR, AS SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION, TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT AS RECOMMENDED OR APPROVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

b. Resolution Copper Project Cost Share Position Cooperative Agreement

Presenter: Joyce Francis, Habitat, Evaluation and Lands Branch Chief

The purpose of this Agreement is to establish and maintain a Cooperative Cost Share Position (position) to coordinate the Department's involvement in the Resolution Copper Project (Project) and associated planning, evaluation, and implementation efforts. The Project is located in the area of the former Magma Copper Mine near the town of Superior, 65 miles east of Phoenix, Arizona. The Tonto National Forest (TNF) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate and disclose the potential environmental effects from: (1) Approval of the "General Plan of Operations" (GPO) submitted by Resolution Copper Mining, LLC (Resolution Copper), for operations on National Forest System (NFS) land associated with a proposed large-scale mine; (2) the exchange of land between Resolution Copper and the United States; and (3) amendments to the Tonto National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (forest plan) (1985, as amended). This position will assist the Parties in developing strategies to identify and mitigate potential impacts to wildlife resources associated with the Resolution Copper project described above. This position will assist the Department in providing technical wildlife information, impact analyses, and correspondence; and act as a liaison between the parties to coordinate the Department's input on the TNF's EIS.

The Department recommends that the Commission APPROVE A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH RESOLUTION COPPER PROJECT FOR A COST-SHARED POSITION TO ASSIST IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS FOR IMPACTS TO STATE TRUST RESOURCES, AND AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR, AS SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION, TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT AS RECOMMENDED OR APPROVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Motion: Madden moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE ITEMS A AND B ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Vote: Unanimous

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3. Legislative Engagement and State and Federal Legislation

Presenter: Jorge Canaca, Legislative Liaison

Mr. Canaca provided a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on the current status of selected state and federal legislative matters. The presentation included the following:

State Legislative Update

- The effective date for any enacted legislation will be August 6, 2016
- The Department is working to finalize the Legislative Report to the Commission, which will include enacted legislation run by the Commission regarding Heritage Funds O&M, Military spouses licenses, and the Mexican wolf MOU
- Department interim activities include the request for 2017 legislative proposals; the LE Omnibus and the In-Lieu Fee Bills are ready for reintroduction for 2017

Congressional Legislative Update

Energy Act of 2016: The Energy Act is awaits scheduling of language negotiations by a conference committee. The Act includes the Department's Grand Canyon Bison Management Act language. Both versions have passed the Senate and the House and both include full harvesting by volunteer hunting.

National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA): The Department is working with congressional offices on several Sike's Acts related amendments to strengthen the State's authority.

Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA): This Act would impact the State's authority over Aquatic Invasive Species. The Department is working with AFWA on the issues.

Forest Health Act: There are several Forest Health Acts that are being drafted and negotiated. One of those is currently being drafted that would provide the Forest Service with access to emergency wildfire suppression funds and would make a number of reform changes to the management and communication preparedness of the USFS, as well as streamline any NEPA processes. Ultimately, the Department is most interested in its provision to improve wildlife habitat and meet conservation goals within the states.

Pitman-Robertson Modernization Act of 2016: Director Voyles recently signed a letter to be sent to the Congressional Delegation. The Commission has already voted to support this Act. Department staff will be going to Washington D.C. to present the letter and to discuss ongoing issues, such as burros, monuments, bison, Mexican wolves, and wilderness.

Senators McCain, Flake, Reed and Heller have sent letters requesting a wild horse and burro hearing to the Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee. This is in regards to impacts to natural resources by overpopulation and the unfettered population growth of horses and burros.

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3A. Commission Authorization for a Temporary Price Reduction for Licenses per A.R.S. § 17-333.B

Presenter: Anthony Guiles, Assistant Director, Information, Education & Recreation

Mr. Guiles provided a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on the Department's request for a temporary license reduction per A.R.S. § 17-333.B for the purpose of facilitating promotions intended to sell more hunting and fishing licenses and expand the Department's customer base. The Department just completed its first temporary license fee reduction for the Memorial Day

holiday and the data shows it was a huge success. The Department would like to run another reduction promotion for Father's Day. The Department is requesting that the Commission authorize the Department to continue implementing temporary license fee reduction from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

Commissioner Ammons discussed with Mr. Guiles how the Department is following up with short-term license holders and collecting data to see how many of the short-term become long-term license holders.

Commissioner Zieler discussed with Mr. Guiles that the numbers increased in both resident and non-resident customers.

Motion: Zieler moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO CONTINUE IMPLEMENTING TEMPORARY LICENSE PRICE REDUCTIONS FROM JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017.

Vote: Unanimous

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4. Commission Priorities Update

Presenter: Kent Komadina, Special Assistant to the Director

Mr. Komadina provided an update on the Department's progress towards accomplishing the following Commission Priorities:

- Increase Access/Landowner Relations
- Customer Service, Technology, Research and Development
- Comprehensive Wildlife Management
- Facility Maintenance, Improvements & Real Estate Strategies
- Maximize Officer Field Time and Promote Fair Chase
- Public Affairs
- Customer Recruitment, Retention, & Reactivation
- Habitat Improvement & Conservation
- Sportfish Opportunities
- Maintaining Department and State Authorities for Conserving Wildlife
- Process Improvement (recently added).

The Process Improvement item is the result of information and ideas coming from the Department's Employee Engagement Conference that was held last month.

Chairman Davis requested to see the employee ideas for process improvements that have been submitted.

Wildlife Recreation Branch Chief Scott Lavin provided the Commission with a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on the Commission Priority regarding customer recruitment, retention

and reactivation. The presentation included charts and graphs with data and covered the following:

- License sales
- Outreach engagements (in person)
- New projects/program coordination
- Outdoor Expo attendance

Chairman Davis expressed his appreciation for Mr. Lavin's and the Department's success. He is amazed at the amount of data collected that can be used for decision making and measuring success.

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Meeting recessed for a break at 9:22 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:36 a.m.

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4A. Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Briefing

Presenter: Jim deVos, Assistant Director, Wildlife Management Division

Mr. deVos provided a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on the Department's management and recovery efforts of threatened and endangered wildlife in Arizona. The presentation highlighted recovery efforts and successes from the past year including an overview of the following:

- International & Borderlands Program
- Prelisting Conservation Efforts
- Mitigation Agreements
- Native Fish Programs
- Aquatic Habitat Programs
- Aquatic Invasive Species Programs
- Bighorn Sheep Projects
- Wildlife Health
- Regional Conservation Partnership Projects
- Band-tailed Pigeon Project
- Chiricahua Leopard Frog Recovery
- Arizona Bald Eagle Management Program
- River Otter Project
- Sonoran Desert Tortoise Success
- Barry M. Goldwater-Wildlife Inventory
- Habitat Restoration
- Bat boxes and abandoned mines projects
- Wildlife Connectivity Work Group and Projects

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7. 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

Records of these proceedings are maintained separately.

Following these proceedings, the following comments were made:

Commissioner Ammons commented on the number of revocation cases that seem to involve inexperience and people uneducated about the laws, and requested that the Department find a way to promote the Hunter Education Course in the application process.

Mr. Elms stated that he will get with the Department's Information Systems Branch about Commissioner Ammons' suggestion.

Deputy Director Gray will add this to the action items from this meeting.

Commissioner Madden suggested adding information on identifying species in the Hunter Education Program.

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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: Zieler moved and Ammons seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Vote: Unanimous

The Commission had a working lunch during Executive Session.

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Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:15 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:45 p.m.

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26. Approve Proposed Commission Order 29 for Special Big Game License-Tag Seasons for Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, Pronghorn Antelope, Elk, Turkey, Javelina, Bighorn Sheep, Buffalo, Black Bear, and Mountain Lion for the 2017–2018 Special License Tag Hunting Seasons.

Presenter: Amber Munig, Big Game Management Supervisor

Ms. Munig provided a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on the Department's request for Commission approval of Commission Order 29 for the 2017–2018 special big game license tag hunting seasons for mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, turkey, javelina, bighorn sheep, buffalo, bear, and mountain lion. Detailed descriptions of all proposals were available for public review at all Department offices and were provided to the Commission prior to this meeting for review. A.R.S. 17-346 authorizes the Commission to set seasons for up to three (3) special license tags for each big game species.

The only recommended changes are for pronghorn antelope and bighorn sheep. For pronghorn antelope, Units 34B, 35A, and 35B are recommended for inclusion as open areas for the Special Big Game Hunt License Tag holders. For bighorn sheep, the recommendation is to close the Lower Blue River Hunt Area in Unit 27 as this area is not open to the general draw hunter (Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep subspecies). It is recommended that all special big game license tag hunt seasons be open yearlong, with the season for each species commencing on August 15, 2017 and ending on August 14, 2018. Recommended open areas for the special license-tag hunts are as follows:

Mule Deer: Special license tags will be valid statewide (except Camp Navajo in Unit 6B, Mohave County Park Lands in Unit 16A, and Fort Huachuca in Unit 35A).

White-tailed Deer: Special license tags will be valid statewide (except Camp Navajo in Unit 6B, Mohave County Park Lands in Unit 16A, and Fort Huachuca in Unit 35A).

Antelope: Special license tags will be valid for Units 1–10 (except Camp Navajo), 11M, 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, 15A, 15B, 17A, 17B, 18A, 18B, portions of 19A, 19B, 21, 30A, 31, 32, 34B, 35A, and 35B.

Elk: Special license tags will be valid statewide (except Camp Navajo in Unit 6B, Mohave County Park Lands in Unit 16A, and Fort Huachuca in Unit 35A).

Javelina: Special license tags will be valid statewide (except Camp Navajo in Unit 6B, Mohave County Park Lands in Unit 16A, and Fort Huachuca in Unit 35A).

Turkey: Special license tags will be valid for Units 1, 3B–10 (except Camp Navajo in Unit 6B), 11M, 12A, 13A, 13BS, 17A, 17B, 20A, 22, 23, 27, 29, 33, 34A, and 35A (except Fort Huachuca in Unit 35A).

Bighorn Sheep: One special license tag will be valid for Units 9, 10, 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, 15B West, 15C, 15D, and 16A (except Mohave County Park Lands).

A second special license tag will be valid for Units 16B, 22 South, 24B, 28 (south of US Hwy 70), 31, 32, 37A, 37B, 39, 40A, 40B, 41, 42, 43A, 43B, 44A, 44B, 45A, 45B, 45C (including the Kofa NWR), 46A, and 46B (including the Cabeza Prieta NWR).

A third special license tag will be valid for Units 6A, 22 North, 23, 24A, Upper Blue River Hunt Area in Unit 27, Unit 27 (south of FR 217 and west of US Hwy 191), Unit 28 (north of US Hwy 70), and Black River Hunt Area in Units 1 and 27.

Buffalo: Special license tags will be valid for Units 12A, 12B, and 13A.

Black Bear: Special license tags will be valid statewide (except Camp Navajo in Unit 6B, Mohave County Park Lands in Unit 16A, and Fort Huachuca in Unit 35A).

Mountain Lion: Special license tags will be valid statewide (except National Wildlife Refuges, Mohave County Park Lands).

Motion: Madden moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT COMMISSION ORDER 29: SPECIAL HUNTS AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

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27. Authorize Applications for Special Big Game Hunt License Tags for Pronghorn Antelope, Bighorn Sheep, Black Bear, Buffalo, Elk, Javelina, Mountain Lion, Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, and Turkey for 2017–2018.

Presenter: Amber Munig, Big Game Management Supervisor

Ms. Munig presented the Commission with Commission Order 29 for Special Big Game License-Tag Seasons for Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, Pronghorn Antelope, Elk, Turkey, Javelina, Bighorn Sheep, Buffalo, Black Bear, and Mountain Lion for the for 2017–2018 Special Big Game License Tags as per R12-4-120. Detailed descriptions of all proposals were available for public review at all Department offices and were provided to the Commission prior to this meeting for review and consideration.

The Department received the following applications for Special Big Game License Tags from the following nonprofit organizations in accordance with A.R.S. 17-346 and Commission Rule R12-4-120:

Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF): Requests two (2) Special Antelope License Tags for auction and one (1) Special Antelope Tag for raffle. In lieu of their own request for a raffle tag, the AAF supports the issuance of a Special Antelope License Tag by the Commission to the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle. One of the tags for auction will be sold at an Arizona Antelope Foundation sponsored event and the other will be auctioned at the Wild Sheep Foundation Convention in Reno, NV during January 19 – 21, 2017. The Arizona Antelope Foundation would also like to request to be considered as recipient of any leftover tags.

Arizona Big Game Super Raffle (AZBGSR): Requests one tag for each of Arizona's ten big game species. The request is for: One (1) Antelope, one (1) Desert Bighorn Sheep, one (1) Black Bear, one (1) Buffalo, one (1) Coues Whitetail, one (1) Elk, one (1) Javelina, one (1) Mountain Lion, one (1) Mule Deer, and one (1) Turkey Special Big Game License Tags. All tags will be sold in the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle.

Arizona Bowhunters Association (ABA): Requests one (1) Special Javelina License Tag, one (1) Black Bear Special License Tag and one (1) Buffalo Special License Tag. All tags will be auctioned at the 2017 ABA Annual Awards Banquet/2017 Bowhunter Happening. The ABA also supports the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle and is in favor of one tag for each species to be awarded to that organization.

Arizona Deer Association (ADA): Requests one (1) Special Mule Deer License Tag, and one (1) Special Whitetail Deer License Tag, all to be auctioned at the 2017 ADA Annual Fundraiser or other ADA sponsored event. The ADA also supports the issuance of one of each Big Game Special License Tags to the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle Committee. If for some reason the tags would not be given to the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle directly, the ADA request that they be awarded the mule deer and whitetail deer tags to be raffled through the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle, or to be auctioned at the ADA's 2017 fundraiser or another ADA sponsored event. The ADA also requests any tags that the Department would care to award them; they will auction these tags at future events.

Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society (ADBSS): Requests two (2) Special Bighorn Sheep Tags for 2017-2018; one (1) Special Bighorn Sheep License Tag for a Mexicana desert bighorn sheep in the southern GMUs, with the auction occurring at the Wild Sheep Foundation 2017 Convention (January 19-21, 2017); one (1) Special Bighorn Sheep License Tag for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in the eastern and central GMUs, to be auctioned at the ADBSS Fundraising Banquet on March 11, 2017 or by the Wild Sheep Foundation at its 2017 Convention; and one (1) mountain lion tag, which they will either auction or raffle at their March 11, 2017 fundraiser. Additionally, ADBSS supports the issuance of the third Special Bighorn Sheep License Tag for the Nelsoni species to the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle Committee. The Nelsoni desert bighorn sheep tag would encompass the northern GMUs as it has in the past. If the Commission does not issue this tag to the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle directly, ADBSS requests that it be granted the tag to be raffled through the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle or to be auctioned at the ADBSS fundraiser on March 11, 2017. ADBSS is also willing to auction any other Special Big Game License Tags the Commission would like to issue at their fundraiser banquet on March 11, 2017 if there is an opportunity.

Arizona Elk Society (AES): Requests one (1) Special Elk License Tag and one (1) Special Buffalo License Tag, both to be auctioned at the Arizona Elk Society's annual fundraising banquet in April 2017. The AES supports the awarding one of the Special Elk License Tags to next year's Arizona Big Game Super Raffle. In the event that there are tags unapplied for in this year's distribution of tags, the AES is willing to auction any other special tags at their fundraising banquet in April 2017 that the Commission may elect to issue to their organization.

Mule Deer Foundation (MDF): Requests one (1) Special Mule Deer License Tag and one (1) Special Whitetail Deer License Tag. Both tags will be auctioned at the MDF's National Convention in Salt Lake City, UT on February 16-19, 2017 in conjunction with the Western Hunting and Conservation Expo. MDF would also be willing to auction any other tags that haven't been requested through their local Arizona banquets.

National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF): Requests two (2) Special Turkey License Tags, one to be raffled by the Arizona Chapter of the NWTF and the other for auction by the Arizona Chapter of NWTF in conjunction with the Safari Club International-Arizona Chapter (SCI-AZ)

fundraising banquet. NWTf also requests that one (1) Special Turkey License tag be awarded to the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF): Requests one (1) Special Elk License Tag, to be auctioned during their special Hunter's Rendezvous event to be held in Tucson, Arizona, Saturday March 25, 2017.

Safari Club International – Arizona Chapter (SCI-AZ): Requests one (1) Special Whitetail Deer License Tag, one (1) Special Black Bear License Tag, one (1) Special Javelina License Tag, and one (1) Special Mule Deer License Tag. All tags will be sold by auction at their fundraiser.

Public Comment

The following members of the public addressed the Commission on behalf of their respective organization's requests:

- Rich Williams, Arizona Elk Society
- Andy St. John, Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society
- John Koleszar, Arizona Deer Association and Arizona Big Game Super Raffle
- Terry Herndon, Mule Deer Foundation

Motion: Davis moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD THE TAGS AS FOLLOWS: ONE TAG EACH TO AZBGSR; TWO ANTELOPE AUCTION TAGS TO AAF; ONE BLACK BEAR AUCTION TAG TO ABA AND ONE TO SCI-AZ; TWO BIGHORN SHEEP AUCTION TAGS TO ADBSS; ONE BUFFALO AUCTION TAG TO ABA AND ONE TO AES; ONE ELK AUCTION TAG TO AES AND ONE TO RMEF; ONE JAVELINA AUCTION TAG TO ABA AND ONE TO SCI-AZ; TWO TURKEY TAGS TO NWTf, ONE AUCTION AND ONE RAFFLE.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Ammons moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD ONE MULE DEER AUCTION TAG TO ADA AND ONE TO MDF; AND ONE WHITE-TAIL DEER AUCTION TAG TO MDF AND ONE TO ADA.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Madden moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AWARD ONE MOUNTAIN LION TAG TO AES AND ONE TO ADBSS, BOTH TAGS ARE FOR EITHER AUCTION OR RAFFLE.

Vote: Unanimous

Final Chart as selected and voted by the Commission:

	Antelope	Black Bear	Bighorn Sheep	Buffalo	Elk	Javelina	Mule Deer	Turkey	White-tail Deer	Mtn Lion
AAF	2 Auction									
AZ BGSR	1 Super Raffle	1 Super Raffle	1 Super Raffle							
ABA		1 Auction		1 Auction		1 Auction				
ADA							1 Auction		1 Auction	
ADBSS			2 Auction							1 auction or raffle
AES				1 Auction	1 Auction					1 auction or raffle
MDF							1 Auction		1 Auction	
NWTF								1 Auction 1 Raffle		
RMEF					1 Auction					
SCI-AZ		1 Auction				1 Auction				

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The Commission was briefed on all budget items (agenda items #11-21) at the May 2016 Commission meeting and Commissioners were briefed individually prior to this meeting. Commissioners Davis and Zieler were on the Commission budget subcommittee and met with Department staff to provide input in developing the budget items. All information and documents related to the budget items were provided to the Commission prior to this meeting for review and consideration, and were available to the public.

11. Request to approve the Expenditure of Unspent Balances in the Heritage Fund (excluding Acquisition), Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund, Off Highway Vehicle Fund, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration, State Wildlife Grants, Coast Guard Grants, Program Income, Endangered Species Act (Section 6), Capital Improvement Fund, Indirect Cost Recovery Fund and Contracts for Fiscal Year 2017.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

These requests will ensure that remaining unspent balances in the Heritage Fund, Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund, Off Highway Vehicle Fund, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration,

State Wildlife Grants, Coast Guard Grants, Program Income, Endangered Species Act (Section 6), Capital Improvement Fund, Indirect Cost Recovery Fund, and Contracts are available for expenditure in Fiscal Year 2017 for additional qualifying projects and to allow the Department to respond to revenue shortfalls and unforeseen needs. All property acquisition and property Operations and Maintenance proposals utilizing unspent Heritage Acquisition fund balance will be brought before the Commission for individual review and approval for actual funding authority.

Public Comment

Bill McLean, former Commissioner, commented on agenda items 11 and 18. He did not agree regarding the Heritage Acquisition fund as it relates to operation and maintenance, but the Commission got the legislation passed and he will now support 100% the authority given to the Commission by the Legislature. He recommended, regarding this agenda item, to keep those acquisition funds separate and use them for the original intent of the initiative.

Beth Woodin, former Commissioner and Board President of the Arizona Heritage Alliance, commented on the Heritage items, including the rules package for Article 7. Ms. Woodin gave many kudos to the Department and Sherry Crouch for their work that simplifies and clarifies the rule package. Ms. Woodin concurs with Mr. McLean's comments regarding the Heritage budget and the use of the acquisition funds.

Motion: Zieler moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE The Department recommends the Commission VOTE TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF UNSPENT FUND BALANCES FROM THE HERITAGE FUND (EXCLUDING ACQUISITION); ARIZONA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND, OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE FUND, WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION, STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS, COAST GUARD GRANTS, PROGRAM INCOME, ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (SECTION 6), CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND, INDIRECT COST RECOVERY FUND AND CONTRACTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017.

Commissioner Zieler stated that the Commission budget committee met and discussed this item in depth with Department staff, and the Commission budget committee supports this recommendation.

Chairman Davis commented that the Commission's intent with the legislation was to prudently use the authority provided by the legislation and at the same time, move forward on consideration of potential acquisitions.

Vote: Unanimous

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18. Request to approve the amended Fiscal Year 2017 Heritage Fund Budget and the Heritage Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2018.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Mr. Gray briefed the Commission on several changes to this item since the first read at the May Commission meeting (changed or added items are followed by an * in the items below).

The Heritage Fund consists of revenues generated from Arizona lottery proceeds. The fund will provide up to \$10,000,000 for Fiscal Year 2018. The amended budget is \$11,805,109 for Fiscal Year 2017 and the proposed request is \$12,047,331 for Fiscal Year 2018. The additional Fiscal Year 2017 and Fiscal Year 2018 budget requests represent specific use of the Heritage Fund prior year unspent balances. The following details were provided:

FY 2017 Proposed Base Amendments to the Commission Approved FY 2017 Budget \$377,403:

- \$76,718 CAMP Coordinator (move from DJ)
- (\$101,223) Invasive Species Coordinator (move to DJ)
- \$277,308 Intl Borderlands/Vera Cruz Model (move from SWG)
- \$120,000 Indirect
- \$4,600 Region 1 Westland O&M*

FY 2017 Proposed One-Time Amendments to the Commission Approved FY 2017 Budget (\$68,543):

- \$6,500 Region 1 Wetland Completion
- \$60,000 Heritage Property O&M (move from G&F)*
- (\$85,043) Post-Delisting Surveys (move to PR)
- (\$50,000) Landowner Relations (Pick off from Contracts)

FY 2018 Proposed Base Increase of \$316,504:

- \$18,054 Personal Services and Benefits*
- \$298,450 Heritage Property O&M*

FY 2018 Proposed One-Time Increases of \$330,492:

- \$4,992 Level One Fingerprint Clearance Cards*
- \$100,000 Wildlife Center Capital Campaign*
- \$40,000 Social Media Contractor (IED split with PR)*
- \$235,500 Vehicles*
- (\$50,000) Landowner Relations (Pick off from Contracts)*

Public Comment

Bill McLean, former Commissioner, stated that he condones the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Zieler moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 COMMISSION APPROVED HERITAGE FUND BUDGET AND TO APPROVE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE PUBLIC ACCESS; IDENTIFICATION, INVENTORY, ACQUISITION, PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT; HABITAT EVALUATION AND PROTECTION; URBAN WILDLIFE AND URBAN WILDLIFE HABITAT; ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION; AND ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES (INTEREST MONIES) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.

Commissioner Zieler stated that the Commission budget committee has met and discussed these changes and recommends approval.

Vote: Unanimous

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5. Landowner-Lessee/Sportsman Relations Committee Appointment

Presenter: Al Eiden, Habitat Enhancement and Landowner Relations Program Supervisor

Mr. Eiden presented the Commission with nominations for two individuals to fill two vacant spots on the Landowner-Lessee/Sportsman Relations Committee. Mr. Doug Beach and Mr. Jarrett Babincsak are both interested in helping to improve access issues. The Commission was provided with biographies for review prior to this meeting for consideration that exhibit each nominee's qualifications.

Motion: Zieler moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE NOMINATIONS FOR TWO INDIVIDUALS, DOUG BEACH AND JARRETT BABINCSAK, TO FILL THE VACANT SPOTS ON THE LANDOWNER-LESSEE/SPORTSMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

Vote: Unanimous

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6. Request to Approve Final Rulemaking Amending Article 7 Rules Addressing Heritage Grants.

Presenter: Sherry Crouch, Funds Planning Branch Chief

Ms. Crouch briefed the Commission using a PowerPoint presentation on the Notice of Final Rulemaking and Economic Impact Statement amending Article 7 rules addressing Heritage Grants. The Department proposes to amend rules within Article 7 to enact recommendations developed during the preceding Five-year Review Report approved by the Commission in January 15, 2016. For all rules, recommended amendments are designed to reduce the regulatory burden where possible, expand grant opportunities to additional applicants, and provide grant requirements in chronological order for ease of reading. The Commission proposes the following substantive amendments:

R12-4-701. Heritage Grant Definitions:

- Include NGOs in the definition of "eligible applicant" to expand opportunities for Heritage Grant funds to additional applicants.
- Remove regulatory language from the definition of "eligible applicant;" stipulations applicable to the extension of a project is addressed under R12-4-702.
- Remove the stipulation that a non-profit organization applying for a grant be sponsored by a public agency. This will result in a more efficient process by removing

administrative levels and reducing the burden on nonprofits and governmental agency sponsors.

- Remove "permanent" (from the description of a public agency employee) from the definition of "in kind" to reflect changes made by personnel reform legislation.
- Include "administrative subunits" in the definition of "public agency" to reflect changes made to R12-4-702.
- Remove the definition of "sensitive elements" as the only rule that referenced the term is being repealed.

R12-4-702. General Provisions:

- Incorporate other Heritage Grant rule requirements into one, over-arching rule.
- Specify grants are awarded to projects that are either located in Arizona or benefits Arizona wildlife or its habitat to ensure the citizens of Arizona benefit from the use of Heritage Grant funds.
- Remove the requirement that a participant shall not place heritage grant funds in an interest bearing account and require a participant to use any earned interest to further the project or surrender it to the Department.
- Prohibit a participant from comingling heritage grant funds with any other funds.

The Department proposes to repeal the following rules as their requirements have been incorporated into R12-4-702:

- R12-4-703. Heritage Grant Program Funds
- R12-4-704. Grant Application
- R12-4-705. Review of Proposals
- R12-4-706. State Historic Preservation Office Review
- R12-4-707. Grant Agreement
- R12-4-708. Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements

The Commission approved the Notices of Docket Opening and Proposed Rulemaking at the April 2016 Commission Meeting. The notices were published in the *Arizona Administrative Register* on April 15, 2016. The rulemaking record was open for public comment from April 15 to May 15, 2016; the Department did not receive any public comments. No substantive changes were made to the original recommendations. The Notice of Final Rulemaking and Economic Impact Statement were provided prior to this meeting for the Commission's consideration.

If the Commission approves, the Department will submit the Notice of Final Rulemaking and Economic Impact Statement to the Governor's Regulatory Review Council (G.R.R.C.) for review and placement on the G.R.R.C. August 2016 agenda. The Department intends to request an immediate effective date so that changes will be in place for the next Heritage Grant application cycle, which begins in August.

Motion: Zieler moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE NOTICE OF FINAL RULEMAKING DOCKET OPENING AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT AMENDING RULES WITHIN ARTICLE 7 HERITAGE GRANTS.

Vote: Unanimous

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8. Approve Law Enforcement Boating Safety Fund (LEBSF) Grant Allocation Formula for FY 2017.

Presenter: Gene Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief

Mr. Elms briefed the Commission on the proposed LEBSF Grant Allocation Formula per ARS § 5-383. 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 ARS § 5-382, and 85% to the law enforcement boating safety fund to be used as prescribed in ARS § 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 annually revised salary data from the counties. For FY17, the data has been updated and the Commission has been provided with the current allocation formula (attached).

Motion: Madden moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT BOATING SAFETY GRANT ALLOCATION FORMULA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

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8A. Request to Commission to permit Department to contract with OAH to conduct a hearing for the Commission

Presenter: Linda Pollock, Assistant Attorney General

Ms. Pollock presented the Commission with the option to have the Arizona Office of Administrative hearings conduct the administrative hearing for potential revocation of the wildlife rehabilitation license of Lisa Bates, dba Tucson Wildlife Center. The Department has prepared a draft Notice of Hearing for the revocation of the Wildlife Rehabilitation license of Lisa Bates, dba Tucson Wildlife Center, for violations of Commission regulations in Title 12, Ch. 4, Art. 4 related to the care of wildlife. The hearing may take up to two full days and will involve several testifying witnesses. The Commission, as a self-supporting regulatory body, may elect to either conduct the hearing or contract with the Arizona Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) to conduct the hearing for the Commission. A.R.S. § 17-340(G) authorizes the Commission to use the services of OAH to conduct hearings and make recommendations to the Commission. Following the conclusion of the hearing, the administrative law judge will send a copy of the judge's recommended findings of fact, conclusions of law and a proposed order to the Commission, along with the record of the hearing upon request. The Commission retains the authority to make the final administrative decision by accepting, modifying or rejecting the

administrative law judge's recommendations and entering its own order. A.R.S. § 41-1092.08.

Motion: Zieler moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO REFER THE MATTER TO THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS TO CONDUCT THE HEARING AND MAKE THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Vote: Unanimous

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10. Approve a Cooperative Agreement and License Agreement at the Lower San Pedro River Wildlife Area

Presenter: Joyce Francis, Habitat, Evaluation and Lands Branch Chief

Dr. Francis provided a PowerPoint presentation on a proposed Cooperative Agreement and License Agreement with G&H Land and Cattle Company at the Lower San Pedro River Wildlife Area for management of the grazing and agricultural leases. The presentation included maps of the area. In 2012, the Commission purchased approximately 993 acres known as the Triangle Bar Ranch, along with 36,350 acres of state grazing lease and 10 acres of a state agricultural lease. These parcels along with adjacent land obtained from ASARCO via a Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration settlement for habitat damages from the Ray Mine make up the Lower San Pedro River Wildlife Area (LSPRWA). The Department has a Cooperative Agreement and License Agreement for management of the grazing and agricultural leases. The current lessee has asked the Department to terminate the existing agreements. The Department would like to execute new agreements with G&H Land and Cattle Company for the non-exclusive use of portions of the LSPRWA and management of the agricultural and grazing leases.

Dr. Francis noted that this item is a first read, however, it is time sensitive and she would ask the Commission to make a decision today if they so choose.

Motion: Madden moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AND LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH G&H LAND AND CATTLE COMPANY AT THE LOWER SAN PEDRO RIVER WILDLIFE AREA AS RECOMMENDED OR APPROVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Vote: Unanimous

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12. Request to approve the amended Fiscal Year 2017 Game and Fish Fund Budget and the Fiscal Year 2018 Game and Fish Fund Budget Request.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Mr. Gray presented the proposed amended Fiscal Year 2017 approved Game and Fish Fund budget and proposed expenditures from the Game and Fish Fund for Operating and Capital Outlay programs for Fiscal Year 2018. The Game and Fish Fund consists primarily of revenue generated from the sale of licenses and tags. The appropriation for Fiscal Year 2017 includes \$2.62 million in the Capital Budget Request for the renovation of the Sterling Springs Hatchery and replacement of radio towers in Fiscal Year 2018 and Fiscal Year 2019. The appropriation request is \$39,117,695 for Fiscal Year 2018. The following details were provided:

FY 2017 Proposed Base Amendments to the Commission Approved FY 2017 Budget (\$2,356,303):

- (\$19,800) AG Support Costs
- (\$150,000) Wildlife Center Funding
- \$198,618 Personal Services and Benefits
- (\$200,000) Community Fish PS/ERE & partial AOO (move to DJ)
- (\$812,741) Frozen Positions (7)
- (\$427,529) Switch Funding (5)
- (\$180,000) IERD Chiefs and WM Mileage (move to PR)
- (\$155,251) Regional Utilities (move to Indirect)
- (\$166,100) AOO Cuts
- (\$340,000) Information Technology (move to Indirect)
- (\$93,500) Radio Towers (move to PR)
- (\$10,000) FOLE Wildlife Assets

FY 2017 Proposed One-Time Amendments to the Commission Approved FY 2017 Budget (\$357,500):

- (\$357,500) Replacement Vehicles

FY 2018 Proposed Base Increases of \$578,000:

- \$125,000 Hunting Fishing License Marketing
- \$453,000 Personal Services and Benefits

FY 2018 Proposed One-Time Increases of \$2,152,000:

- \$1,565,000 Vehicles
- (\$200,000) Community Fish AOO (move to DJ)
- \$787,000 Building Renewal

Commissioner Zieler stated that the Commission budget subcommittee supports the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Zieler moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 COMMISSION APPROVED GAME AND FISH FUND BUDGET AND APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE GAME AND FISH FUND FOR OPERATING AND CAPITAL OUTLAY PROGRAMS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.

Vote: Unanimous

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13. Request to approve the amended Fiscal Year 2017 Watercraft Licensing Fund Budget and the Watercraft Licensing Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2018

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Mr. Gray presented the amended Fiscal Year 2017 Commission approved Watercraft Fund budget and proposed expenditures from the Watercraft Licensing Fund for Fiscal Year 2018. Watercraft Licensing monies are generated from watercraft registration and boating infrastructure surcharge fees. The appropriation is \$6,067,500 for Fiscal Year 2017 and the appropriation request is \$7,295,900 for Fiscal Year 2018. The following details were provided:

FY 2017 Proposed Base Amendments to the Commission Approved FY 2017 Budget (\$847,989):

- (\$31,789) PS/ERE/Indirect Decrease
- (\$569,700) Aquatic Invasive Species Program & Enforcement
- (\$221,500) Officer Time Allotment (Pick off)
- (\$25,000) Watercraft Program Administration

FY 2017 Proposed One-Time Amendments to the Commission Approved FY 2017 Budget (\$1,671,500):

- (\$500,000) Lower Colorado River RBS Facility
- (\$400,000) Patrol Boat Replacement Grants
- (\$208,000) Replacement Boats
- (\$400,000) Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach Evaluation and Rebranding
- (\$50,000) Safety Navigation Pamphlet
- (\$113,500) Replacement Vehicles

FY 2018 Proposed Base Increases of \$400,300:

- \$228,800 Aquatic Invasive Species Program
- \$151,500 Officer Time Allotment (Pick off)
- \$20,000 Life Jacket Loaner Stations

FY 2018 Proposed One-Time Increases of \$2,324,000:

- \$50,000 Boating Safety and Navigation Rules Pamphlet
- \$879,500 Boats
- \$500,000 Havasu L.E. Water Safety Center
- \$535,000 Aquatic Invasive Species - Control Methods/Evaluation/Outreach
- \$179,500 Vehicles
- \$180,000 Canopies, lift, boathouses

Commissioner Zieler stated that the Commission budget subcommittee supports the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Zieler ;moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 COMMISSION APPROVED WATERCRAFT LICENSING FUND BUDGET AND APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE WATERCRAFT LICENSING FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.

Vote: Unanimous

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14. Request to approve the Game, Nongame, Fish and Endangered Species Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2018.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Mr. Gray presented the proposed operating expenditures from the Game, Nongame, Fish and Endangered Species Fund for Fiscal Year 2018. The Game, Nongame, Fish and Endangered Species Fund consists of revenue generated from the Arizona Income Tax Check-Off. The appropriation is \$346,500 for Fiscal Year 2017 and the appropriation request is \$346,500 for Fiscal Year 2018.

Commissioner Zieler stated that the Commission budget subcommittee supports the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Zieler moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED OPERATING EXPENDITURES FROM THE GAME, NONGAME, FISH AND ENDANGERED SPECIES FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.

Vote: Unanimous

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15. Request to approve the Capital Improvement Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2018.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Mr. Gray presented the proposed expenditures from the Capital Improvement Fund for Fiscal Year 2018. Revenues for the Capital Improvement Fund are generated from fund transfers from the Conservation Development Fund, which receives revenues from surcharges on the sale of fishing, hunting, and combination hunting/fishing licenses. The appropriation/budget is \$1,007,400 for Fiscal Year 2017 and the appropriation request is \$1,507,400 for Fiscal Year 2018. The additional Fiscal Year 2017 and Fiscal Year 2018 appropriation requests represent specific use of the Capital Improvement Fund prior year unspent balances.

The Department Requests A One-Time Increase of \$500,000:

- \$500,000 Dam and Property Maintenance

Commissioner Zieler stated that the Commission budget subcommittee supports the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Zieler moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.

Vote: Unanimous

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16. Request to approve the Wildlife Endowment Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2018.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

The Commission will be asked to vote to approve the proposed expenditures from the Wildlife Endowment Fund for Fiscal Year 2018. The Wildlife Endowment Fund receives revenues from the sale of lifetime hunting and fishing licenses. This appropriation facilitates an annual interest transfer to the Game and Fish Fund per ARS §17-271. The appropriation is \$16,000 for Fiscal Year 2017 and the appropriation request is \$25,000 for Fiscal Year 2018.

Commissioner Zieler stated that the Commission budget subcommittee supports the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Zieler moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE WILDLIFE ENDOWMENT FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.

Vote: Unanimous

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17. Request to approve the amended Fiscal Year 2017 Off-Highway Vehicle Fund Budget and the Off-Highway Vehicle Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2018.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Mr. Gray presented the proposed amended Fiscal Year 2017 Commission approved Off-Highway Vehicle Fund budget and the proposed expenditures from the Off-Highway Vehicle Fund for Fiscal Year 2018. The Off-Highway Vehicle Fund consists of revenues generated from motor vehicle fuel taxes and off-highway vehicle decal sales. Annual revenue projections are estimated to be \$1,775,000 for Fiscal Year 2018. The amended budget is \$2,163,311 for Fiscal Year 2017 and the proposed request is \$1,881,241 for Fiscal Year 2018. The additional Fiscal Year 2017 and Fiscal Year 2018 budget requests represent specific use of the Off-Highway Vehicle Fund prior year unspent balances. The following details were provided:

FY 2017 Proposed Base Amendments to the Commission Approved FY 2017 Budget \$20,200:

- \$20,200 OHV Indirect

FY 2018 Proposed Base Decreases of (\$47,270):

- \$32,244 Personal Services and Benefits
- (\$79,514) AOO Reductions

FY 2018 Proposed One-Time Increases of \$34,540:

- \$2,340 Level One Fingerprint Clearance Cards
- \$17,000 Four ATV Trailers
- \$15,200 UTV Polaris Ranger

Commissioner Zieler stated that the Commission budget subcommittee supports the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Zieler moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 COMMISSION APPROVED OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE FUND BUDGET AND APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.

Vote: Unanimous

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19. Request to approve the amended Fiscal Year 2017 Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund Budget and the Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2018.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Mr. Gray presented the proposed amended Fiscal Year 2017 Commission approved Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund budget and proposed expenditures from the Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund for Fiscal Year 2018. The Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund monies are generated from shared gaming revenues, through the Arizona Benefits Fund, with the State of Arizona and local governments, to support specified state and local programs. Annual revenue projections are estimated to be \$6,500,000 for Fiscal Year 2017. The amended budget is \$7,625,396 for Fiscal Year 2017 and the proposed request is \$7,611,196 for Fiscal Year 2018. The additional Fiscal Year 2017 and Fiscal Year 2018 budget requests represent specific use of the Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund prior year unspent balances. The following details were provided:

FY 2017 Proposed Base Amendments to the Commission Approved FY 2017 Budget \$54,700:

- \$54,700 Indirect

FY 2017 Proposed One-Time Amendments to the Commission Approved FY 2017 Budget \$143,700:

- \$100,000 Agency Sales Marketing (Year 1 of 2)
- \$43,700 Community Fishing Patrol (One-time Test)

FY 2018 Proposed One-Time Increases of \$180,000:

- \$100,000 Agency Sales Marketing (Year 2 of 2)
- \$80,000 Phone App Developer Contractor (SS)

Commissioner Zieler stated that the Commission budget subcommittee supports the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Zieler moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 COMMISSION APPROVED ARIZONA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND BUDGET AND TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE ARIZONA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.

Vote: Unanimous

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20. Request to approve the amended Fiscal Year 2017 Indirect Cost Recovery Fund Budget and the Indirect Cost Recovery Fund Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2018.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Mr. Gray presented the proposed amended Fiscal Year 2017 Commission approved Indirect Cost Recovery Fund budget and the proposed Fiscal Year 2018 expenditures from the Indirect Cost Recovery Fund. The Indirect Cost Recovery Fund is used to collect and recover indirect costs from federal grants and agreements, Heritage Fund, Off Highway Vehicle Fund, Watercraft Fund and Arizona Wildlife Conservation Fund. Monies are recovered by transferring a set percentage of personal services costs from the subject accounts. In FY 2018, estimated recoveries are \$6,800,000. The amended budget is \$6,969,682 for Fiscal Year 2017 and the proposed request is \$6,957,682 for Fiscal Year 2018. The additional Fiscal Year 2017 and Fiscal Year 2018 budget requests represent specific use of the Indirect Cost Recovery Fund prior year unspent balances. The following details were provided:

FY 2017 Proposed Base Amendments to the Commission Approved FY 2017 Budget \$530,251:

- \$155,251 Regional Utilities (move from G&F)
- \$375,000 Information Technology Software and Hardware (move from G&F)

FY 2018 Proposed Base Increase of \$258,000:

- \$258,000 Information Technology Software and Hardware (move from G&F)

FY 2018 Proposed One-Time Increase of \$370,000:

- \$370,000 Portal/Paperless/Business Intelligence and Analytics

Commissioner Zieler stated that the Commission budget subcommittee supports the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Zieler moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FY2017 COMMISSION APPROVED INDIRECT COST

RECOVERY FUND BUDGET AND TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE INDIRECT COST RECOVERY FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.

Vote: Unanimous

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21. Request to approve the amended Fiscal Year 2017 Federal Assistance Funds Budget Request and the Fiscal Year 2018 Federal Assistance Funds Budget Request.

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Mr. Gray presented the proposed expenditures from the modified budget for Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration grants, State Wildlife Grant and Coast Guard Boating Safety Grant for Fiscal Year 2017 and the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Grants, Program Income, State Wildlife Grants, Coast Guard Boating Safety, Section 6 Endangered Species Grant and Contracts for Fiscal Year 2018. The Fiscal Year 2017 Pittman Robertson Wildlife Restoration amended budget is \$23,403,091. The Fiscal Year 2018 Pittman Robertson Wildlife Restoration proposed budget decreased approximately \$4.7 million for a total of \$18,692,397. The Fiscal Year 2017 Sport Fish Restoration amended budget is \$8,953,184. The Fiscal Year 2018 Dingell Johnson Sport Fish Restoration proposed budget decreased approximately \$536 thousand for a total of \$8,416,592 million (includes boating access).

Mr. Gray noted a few changes to this item since the first read at the May Commission meeting.

The following details were provided:

Pittman-Robertson (Federal Assistance in Wildlife Restoration): The federal apportionment for Fiscal Year 2017 is \$17.7 million; a decrease of 13% from Fiscal Year 2016. The apportionment for Fiscal Year 2018 is anticipated to be \$16.5 million.

FY 2017 Proposed Base Amendments to the Commission Approved FY 2017 Budget \$306,198:

- \$156,198 Personal Services and Benefits
- \$50,000 Hunter Safety Program
- \$50,000 IEWR Hunting/Shooting Program
- \$50,000 Shooting Sports Program

FY 2017 Proposed One-Time Amendments to the Commission Approved FY 2017 Budget \$3,391,518:

- \$10,000 Wetlands Training Program
- \$25,000 4 FRI
- \$30,000 Game Management (FOR5)
- \$40,000 Social Media Contractor
- \$58,644 Temporary Positions (WMRS & GIS)
- \$63,500 Radio Towers (split with Game and Fish)
- \$94,700 Motor Pool
- \$100,000 Sonoran Pronghorn (FOR4)

- \$100,000 Cormorant Management and Outreach
- \$235,000 Sportsman's Database
- \$306,000 Raymond Ranch Building
- \$350,000 Grasslands Restoration
- \$350,000 Motor Pool (planes)
- \$500,000 Access Programs
- \$500,000 Heavy Equipment (2 water trucks)
- \$628,674 Birds and Mammals Program (move from SWG)

FY 2018 Proposed Base Increase of \$212,778:

- \$5,100 Pacific Flyway Council Assessments
- \$207,678 Personal Services and Employer Related Expense (includes 1.5 FTE)

FY 2018 Proposed One-Time Increases of \$4,290,488:

- \$5,000 Robbin's Butte WMA Dike Repair
- \$10,000 Wetlands Training Program
- \$12,000 BFF Predator Disease Monitoring
- \$25,000 4 FRI
- \$33,300 GIS Program
- \$35,000 House Rock WLS Architectural Survey
- \$36,000 Band-tailed Pigeons Population Status
- \$40,000 Social Media Contractor (split with EE)
- \$41,438 Interns (Bighorn Sheep and Gunnison Prairie Dog)
- \$50,000 Ash Creek Pipeline
- \$50,000 Wildlife Diseases
- \$50,000 Cormorant Occupancy Modeling
- \$50,000 WMA Habitat Restoration for Small Game
- \$91,600 Raymond Ranch/House Rock/Ryan Station Environmental Study
- \$100,000 Sonoran Pronghorn (FOR4)
- \$328,000 Motor Pool (7 vehicles and 1 trailer)
- \$350,000 Grasslands Restoration
- \$500,000 Water Catchment Construction
- \$500,000 Access Program
- \$1,000,000 WHEI
- \$33,150 Level One Fingerprint Clearance Cards
- \$75,000 BASF Operation
- \$75,000 BACTC Roadway Improvements
- \$350,000 Hunter Education Enhancements
- \$450,000 Statewide Range Development

Program Income: The Ben Avery Shooting Range is supported with the Wildlife Restoration grant. As a result, gross revenues are spent in support of the range and reported annually to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Estimated revenue is \$3.04 million for Fiscal Year 2017 and \$3.13 million for Fiscal Year 2018.

Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux (Federal Assistance in Sport Fish Restoration): The federal apportionment for Fiscal Year 2017 is \$6.9 million. The apportionment for Fiscal Year 2018 is anticipated to be \$6.9 million. The Department projects the total federal contribution from “The Federal Assistance in Sport Fish Restoration” to be \$6.5 million in Fiscal Year 2018.

FY 2017 Proposed Base Amendments to the Commission Approved FY 2017 Budget \$45,190:

- \$45,190 Personal Services and Benefits

FY 2017 Proposed One-Time Amendments to the Commission Approved FY 2017 Budget \$297,300:

- (\$162,700) Vehicles
- \$200,000 Community Fish Program
- \$100,000 CCH Fuel Tank Fencing and Bollards
- \$210,000 Sportsman’s Database
- \$140,000 Pontoon Boat
- (\$50,000) Flow Meters

FY 2018 Proposed Base Increases of \$6,688:

- \$6,688 Personal Services and Benefits

FY 2018 One-Time increases of \$544,840:

- \$2,340 Level One Fingerprint Clearance Cards
- \$75,000 Five Year Angler Survey
- \$80,000 SCH Tractor
- \$87,500 Vehicles (2 vehicles)
- \$100,000 FINS Module Development
- \$200,000 Community Fish Program

State Wildlife Grants: State Wildlife Grants (SWG) are only eligible for expenditure on Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in Arizona’s State Wildlife Action Plan, which was developed following eight elements required by Congress for state eligibility in the program. SWG is matched with Heritage IIAPM funds. Collectively, these funds support the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Conservation Program, with focus areas being native birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles and some invertebrates. Implementation is conducted by the Phoenix, regional, and associated remote location field offices. The funding is appropriated annually and fluctuates from year to year. The federal allocation for Fiscal Year 2017 is \$1.25 million, and the projected federal allocation for Fiscal Year 2018 is estimated to be \$1.1 million. The funds are utilized for multi-year projects, and revenues will be received over the course of the project periods. The estimated funding in Fiscal Year 2018 will allow for continuation of projects to conserve wildlife.

FY 2017 Proposed Base Amendments to the Commission Approved FY 2017 Budget \$(179,304):

- (\$179,304) Funding Shifts

FY 2017 Proposed One-Time Amendments to the Commission Approved FY 2017 Budget \$(595,374):

- (\$628,674) Birds and Mammals Program to PR
- \$33,300 GIS

FY 2018 Proposed One-Time increases of \$178,300:

- \$33,300 GIS
- \$145,000 Mexican Wolf Recovery

Coast Guard Boating Safety: The federal allocation is \$1.5 million for Fiscal Year 2017 and \$1.5 million for Fiscal Year 2018. The budget request for Fiscal Year 2018 represents a continuation of the Fiscal Year 2017 budget. The additional Fiscal Year 2017 budget requests represent specific use of Coast Guard prior year unspent balances.

FY 2017 Proposed Base Amendments to the Commission Approved FY 2017 Budget \$5,552:

- \$5,552 Indirect

FY 2017 Proposed One-Time Amendments to the Commission Approved FY 2017 Budget \$255,000:

- \$255,000 Sportsman's Database (Watercraft)

FY 2018 Proposed Base increase of \$16,773:

- \$16,773 Personal Services and Benefits

FY 2018 Proposed One-Time increase of \$4,290:

- \$4,290 Level One Fingerprint Clearance Cards

Section 6, Endangered Species Act: Section 6 funds are only eligible for expenditure on candidate, threatened, and endangered species. For nearly a decade, the Department has allocated the majority of this grant to the Mexican wolf reintroduction project. The funds, coupled with annual federal contracts provided specifically for the wolf program, are used to support personnel services and project costs of the Department's Interagency Field Team, which typically consists of up to five personnel. The budget request for Fiscal Year 2018 represents a continuation of the Fiscal Year 2017 budget. The projected allocation for Fiscal Year 2017 is anticipated to be \$300,000.

Contract Monies: The estimated budget for Fiscal Year 2018 represents a continuation of the Fiscal Year 2017 budget. Projected revenue for Fiscal Year 2018 is anticipated to remain stable at approximately \$6.5 million each year. These are generally contracts for wildlife inventory and research.

Commissioner Zieler stated that the Commission budget subcommittee supports the Department's recommendation.

Motion: Zieler moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM THE MODIFIED BUDGET FOR WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION GRANTS, STATE WILDLIFE GRANT AND COAST GUARD BOATING SAFETY GRANT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 AND THE WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION GRANTS, PROGRAM INCOME, STATE

WILDLIFE GRANTS, COAST GUARD BOATING SAFETY AND SECTION 6
ENDANGERED SPECIES GRANT AND CONTRACTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.

Vote: Unanimous

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22. Commission Meeting Travel Considerations

Presenter: Ty Gray, Deputy Director

Mr. Gray provided a PowerPoint presentation and facilitated discussion with the Commission regarding Commission meeting travel cost considerations and guidelines. The Commission has been committed to conducting its regular Commission meetings throughout the state, including at the Phoenix Headquarters office in order to better serve all of Arizona, enhance public trust and build relationships and partnerships with constituents. This commitment was reaffirmed at the June 2015 meeting. As part of this, the Department works regularly with the Commission to consider ways to help limit travel costs associated with Commission meetings while still meeting their public trust responsibilities and service to all of Arizona.

This presentation and discussion was provided in accordance with the Auditor General's December 2013 Performance Audit Report recommendation (1.3 The Department should work with the Commission to regularly consider ways to help limit travel costs associated with its commission meetings). The Department has developed a policy (DOM C3.5) to help minimize costs associated with holding meetings around the state. The policy includes the following guidelines:

- Ex-Staff and Commission Assistant will attend all regular meetings
- Presenters will be in attendance for their item(s) with the following exceptions:
 - Consent items that likely will not be pulled based on Commission feedback
 - Minor agenda items that can be handled by Assistant Director or other staff
 - LE Officers will attend revocation hearings via teleconferencing from their RO unless case circumstances dictate otherwise
- Non-presenting Support Staff will attend via webcast/teleconferencing unless circumstances dictate otherwise (i.e. budget, hunt recommendations)
- Staff attending to present or provide support for single/few items on same day will consider feasibility of traveling to and from the meetings in the same day
- The assigned Public Information Officer will monitor and take meeting notes via webcast from Phoenix
- Hosting Regional Supervisors will attend and recommend to conduct Community Forums or alternate activity
- Non-hosting Regional Supervisors will view the Commission meetings and Community Forums via webcast/teleconference
- Staff interested in particular agenda items but are not presenting or providing support will view the meeting via webcast unless circumstances dictate otherwise
- Interested staff positioned where the meeting is being hosted are encouraged to attend in person

- Staff are directed to utilize the most cost effective methods for travel as feasible/appropriate (car-pooling, etc.)
- DO in coordination with Regional staff and local Commissioner (if applicable) will evaluate meeting and hotel room accommodations based on cost and functionality.

In addition, beginning at the next Commission meeting, staff that only has one item will present their item, if feasible, via video teleconference from the Phoenix Office.

Chairman Davis noted for the record that there is value in these meetings on the road related to our constituencies and the communities where the meetings are held, the events and opportunities to visit places. There is a value in human interactions between the staff and the Commission and between staff and staff. That is part of this process as well and you can't put a dollar figure on that. He believes this is an important part of building a cohesive team and it's an opportunity to exchange ideas. It's important to be effective in the use of our dollars, but at the same time, there is a need for these interactions and these meetings are a part of that.

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23. Update of Commission Awards

Presenter: Kent Komadina, Special Assistant to the Director

Mr. Komadina presented the Commission with a list of award categories for the 2016 Commission Awards to be presented at the January 2017 Commission Awards Banquet.

The Commission discussed modifying the License Dealer of the Year award to Business Partner of the Year.

Motion: Davis moved and Ammons seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE LIST OF AWARDS AS PRESENTED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MODIFYING THE LICENSE DEALER OF THE YEAR AWARD TO BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD.

Vote: Unanimous

The following is a list of approved categories as modified by the Commission:

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE: Any individual, group, organization, club, foundation, or agency that has excelled in efforts to benefit wildlife, wildlife habitats, or programs of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

YOUTH ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR: Any individual, 18 years of age or younger, who has excelled in efforts to benefit wildlife and the mission of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

OUTDOOR WRITER OF THE YEAR: Any professional or freelance writer who has excelled in highlighting issues or activities pertaining to the welfare of wildlife and the mission of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

MEDIA OF THE YEAR: Any media source (radio, television, magazine, newsletter, or periodical) that has published articles or materials beneficial to public interest about wildlife or wildlife related topics and the mission of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR: Any organization, group, foundation, or agency that has excelled in efforts to enhance the welfare of wildlife, wildlife related recreation, and the mission of the Game and Fish Department.

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR: Any individual, not associated with a professional agency, which has excelled in efforts to enhance, conserve, and manage wildlife or their habitats.

NATURAL RESOURCE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR: Any individual who through a professional agency affiliation has excelled in efforts to enhance, conserve, and manage wildlife or their habitats.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: Any individual who, as a *registered volunteer* with the Department, has excelled in efforts to support and benefit the mission of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR: Any individual whose educational activities have advanced and supported the welfare of wildlife, wildlife related recreation, or the mission of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

MENTOR OF THE YEAR: Any individual who has acted in the role of a mentor and whose efforts have resulted in the promotion and support of future wildlife conservation efforts and the development of future wildlife conservation leaders in Arizona.

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR - STATE: Any individual that has engaged in political advocacy for the betterment of wildlife conservation and in the support of the mission of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR - FEDERAL: Any individual that has engaged in political advocacy for the betterment of wildlife conservation and in the support of the mission of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR: Any business partner who actively promotes Game and Fish through innovative approaches, community involvement and a customer service focus that benefits the citizens of Arizona and supports the Game and Fish's mission of wildlife conservation.

BUCK APPLEBY HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD: Any hunter education instructor who actively participates in hunter education activities and demonstrates the highest level of customer service, dedication and professionalism during these activities.

WILDLIFE HABITAT STEWARD OF THE YEAR: Nominations solicited by SSDV (Troy Christensen) and reviewed and ranked by LLSRC for Commission consideration.

GAME AND FISH NORTH AMERICAN MODEL OF THE YEAR: Selected by the Commission from a list of Department employee award recipients.

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD: At the sole discretion of the Commission Chair. (Nominations not taken).

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24. Proposed Dates and Locations of Arizona Game and Fish Commission Meetings for 2017 and January 2018

Presenter: Kent Komadina, Special Assistant to the Director

Mr. Komadina provided the Commission with proposed meeting dates and locations for the Year 2017 and for January 2018. The dates for the January 2017 Commission meeting and Commission Awards Banquet (January 13-14, 2017) were set at the June 2015 Commission meeting. The dates and locations for the remainder of calendar year 2017 and January 2018 were proposed as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 13-14, 2017	Phoenix
February 3-4	Region IV
March 3-4	Region V
April 7-8	Phoenix (hunt orders)
May 5-6	Region III
May TBD	Workshop
June 9-10	Region VI (hunt orders)
August 4-5	Region II (hunt orders)
September 8-9	Region I
November 3-4	Workshop
December 1-2	Phoenix (hunt orders)
January 12-13, 2018	Phoenix

The Commission discussed other options, including some Thursday-Friday meetings instead of Friday-Saturday, and possibly moving some dates, but no changes were made.

Motion: Ammons moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADOPT THE SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED.

Vote: Unanimous

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25. Election of Commission Chair and Vice-Chair for July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 and Election of Positions and Appointments to Standing Committees.

Presenter: Kent Komadina, Special Assistant to the Director

Motion: Davis moved and Zieler seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER PAT MADDEN AS THE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN FOR THE TERM OF JULY 1, 2016 TO JUNE 30, 2017 AND COMMISSIONER JIM AMMONS AS COMMISSION VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE SAME TERM.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Madden moved and Ammons seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO LEAVE THE CURRENT COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS AS THEY ARE UNTIL THE NEXT INCOMING COMMISSIONER.

Vote: Unanimous

The current Commission committees and chairs are as follows:

- Heritage and Habitat Committee (Combined HPAC and HPC)
 - Commissioner Ammons, Chair
 - Commissioner Sparks, Vice Chair
- Legislative Committee
 - Commissioner Davis, Chair
 - Commissioner Madden, Vice Chair
- Budget and Commission Priorities Committee
 - Commissioner Zieler, Chair
 - Commissioner Davis, Vice Chair
- Constituency and Landowner Partnerships Committee (Combined LLSRC/SCG)
 - Commissioner Sparks, Chair
 - Commissioner Ammons, Vice Chair
- Hunt Orders, Guidelines, and Rules Committee
 - Commissioner Madden, Chair
 - Commissioner Zieler, Vice Chair.

* * * * *

30. Approval of Minutes and Signing of Minutes

Motion: Zieler moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MAY 5-6, 2016 AND MAY 6-7, 2016.

Vote: Unanimous

The Commission signed the minutes following approval.

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31. Commissioner Committee Reports

Commissioner Madden reported that the Rules Committee is moving along regarding fair chase and is currently reviewing draft rules.

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32. Director and Commissioner Comments

Director Voyles briefed the Commission on the following activities:

- Attended the Shikar Safari annual meetings in Sea Island, Georgia
- Attended the Trilateral in Ottawa, California
- Attended USFWS/AFWA Leadership Retreat in Kerville, Texas
- Met with the Navajo Nation and reached an agreement regarding the Big Bo
- Met with BOR and MSCP and reached understandings about access.

* * * * *

33. Future Agenda Items and Action Items

Deputy Director Gray captured the following future agenda and action items from this meeting:

- The Department will archive all the opportunities in a single place on the website portal
- The Department will work on publicizing Department success on Commission Priorities
- The Department will add a challenge question on the license/draw page regarding hunter education
- Regarding Article 4, the Department will review as discussed during this agenda item
- The Department will convert the Commission's License Dealer of the Year Award to something similar, but more broad, such as Business Partner of the Year.

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13. (continued) Executive Session

The Commission went back into 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.

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14. Litigation Report

Mr. Odenkirk recommended that the Commission authorize the Department to file an amicus brief and to work with CO and UT, if possible, to file a joint amicus brief in the case of NM vs USFWS regarding Mexican wolf releases in New Mexico.

Motion: Madden moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO FILE AN AMICUS BRIEF AND TO WORK WITH CO AND UT, IF POSSIBLE, TO FILE A JOINT AMICUS BRIEF IN THE CASE OF NM VS. USFWS REGARDING MEXICAN WOLF RELEASES IN NEW MEXICO; AND FURTHER DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO NOTIFY THE USFWS THAT ARIZONA WILL NOT BE RELEASING ANY NEW MEXICAN WOLVES UNTIL THE NM VS USFWS LAWSUIT IS SETTLED.

Vote: Unanimous

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Chairman Davis adjourned this meeting.

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Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

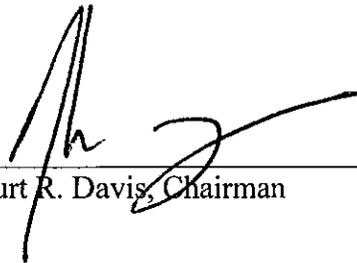
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Saturday, June 11, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.

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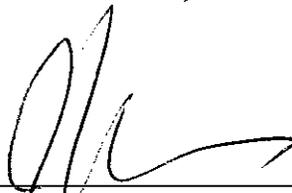
Field Trip: From 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. the Commission and Department staff participated in a tour of Ellison Falls, Ben Avery cabin site and Cold Springs Ranch at 1965 S. Forest Service Road 420, Payson, Arizona 85541. No legal action was taken by the Commission during the field trip.



Kurt R. Davis, Chairman



Edward "Pat" Madden, Member



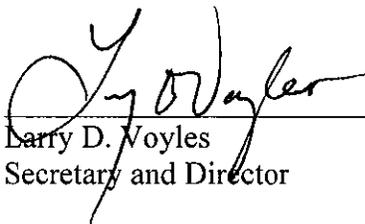
James R. Ammons, Member



James S. Zieler, Member

Eric S. Sparks, Member

ATTEST:



Larry D. Voyles
Secretary and Director