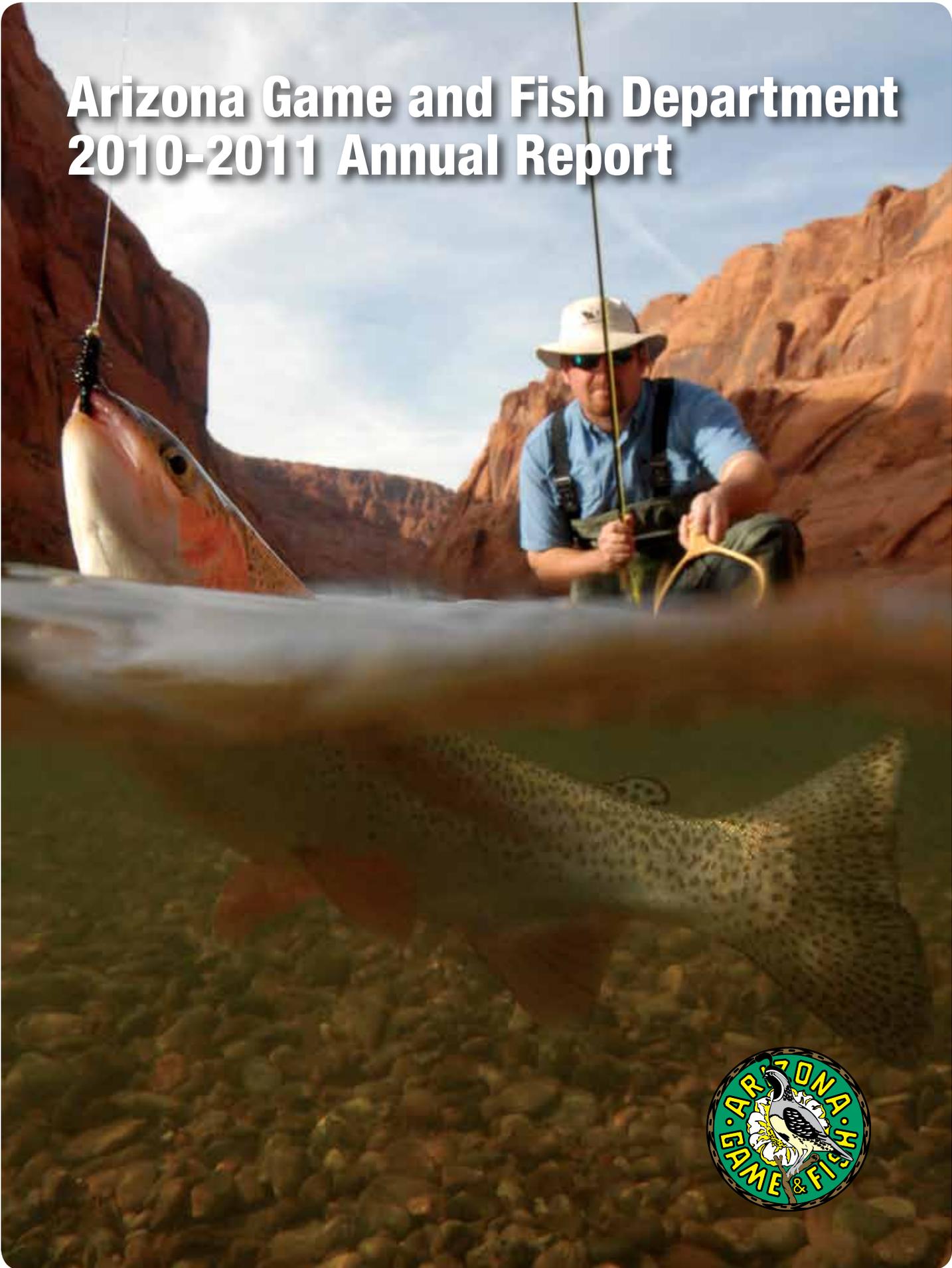


Arizona Game and Fish Department 2010-2011 Annual Report





Larry D. Voyles

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The past year was marked by a number of significant events affecting wildlife conservation. Most notable was the worst wildfire season in Arizona's history, which scorched more than 1 million acres and impacted people, communities and ecosystems. Arizona Game and Fish was proud to have provided assistance to people and wildlife, assisting incident management teams in support of the firefighting efforts and actively engaging in wildlife salvage and burned area rehabilitation efforts in the fires' aftermath.

There were a number of very positive achievements this year. The Department launched HabiMap™ Arizona, an online GIS-based data viewer that gives a visual representation of more than 300 layers of wildlife and habitat-related data.

Available to the public, this non-regulatory tool will be an invaluable source of information to help planners take wildlife needs into consideration in the early stages of infrastructure and other development projects.

New legislation opened up hunter access to about a million acres of land on the outskirts of municipalities that had previously been off limits to hunting. These were primarily uninhabited annexed lands not slated for development for years, where hunting was still a compatible use of the land but not permitted through the unintended consequence of municipal firearm discharge ordinances and existing state laws. The new laws grant the authority to regulate the use of firearms for the take of wildlife within municipal boundaries to the Game and Fish Commission. The Commission and Department took a thoughtful, conservative approach in working with local authorities to implement the new laws in these areas, where safe and appropriate.

Arizonans celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Heritage Fund, which has been so successfully used in gaining critical parcels of land for wildlife habitat. In 2011, the Commission, with funds from Heritage, Fish and Wildlife Service grants, the Arizona Antelope Foundation, and other partners, purchased Horseshoe Ranch north of Black Canyon City. The approximately 200-acre ranch is located adjacent to the Agua Fria River and is surrounded by expansive desert grassland mesas transected by streams and riparian habitat. The ranch property and associated allotments are being managed for long-term sustainability of native wildlife populations and habitats, public access to open space, outdoor education, recreational opportunities, and the tradition of ranching in central Arizona.

There are many other accomplishments and activities of interest described in this annual report, including successful work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure continuation of our sport fish stocking program for Arizonans, continued progress on a shooting range for northern Arizona, new developments in Sonoran pronghorn conservation, and many more. I invite and encourage you to review them.

As we go forward, I would like to point out the value that wildlife and outdoor recreation bring to our state. Aside from the intrinsic value held by Arizonans who are passionate about wildlife, there are huge economic benefits to the state and to local communities. Hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing together account for more than \$2.1 billion in expenditures on these activities and help support jobs and provide tax revenues to the state.

Another important economic role provided by our agency, and one not well known by most people, is the value of the collaborative active management we undertake on behalf of wildlife. This encompasses research and collection of sound scientific wildlife data, as well as efforts to either help recover federally listed (endangered or threatened) species or proactive action to help prevent the need for them to be listed. Through activities ranging from native fish conservation to active management that has helped increase bald eagle numbers, our agency benefits wildlife and helps ensure multiple use of land and public access to outdoor recreation.

We look forward to working with you in the coming year toward the benefit of Arizona's wildlife and its citizens.

Larry D. Voyles
Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry D. Voyles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



New laws reopened hunting access to many undeveloped lands on the fringes of municipalities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New laws expand hunting access

New legislation (SB 1334) in Arizona in 2011 resulted in law changes that have reopened hunting access to many undeveloped lands on the fringes of municipal boundaries that were once off limits. Many of these lands had previously been annexed by municipalities but not slated for development for years. An unintended consequence was that hunting became prohibited due to state laws and municipal firearm discharge ordinances, even though hunting was an appropriate use of the land. The amended laws grant the authority to regulate the use of firearms for the take of wildlife within municipal boundaries to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. The Commission and Department took a thoughtful, cautious approach to implement the new laws in a manner that maintains public safety while also providing expanded hunting opportunities.

HabiMap™ Arizona online tool helps proactively plan for wildlife

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has launched an innovative new tool that utilizes the latest mapping technology to put wildlife data at your fingertips. HabiMap™ Arizona is a user-friendly, web-based data viewer that

allows users to visually explore the distribution of the state's wildlife, wildlife conservation potential, and stressors to wildlife. Information available through the tool is non-regulatory and may be useful in making decisions about our state's future growth by considering wildlife early in the planning process, helping to ensure that current and future generations have a wildlife legacy to enjoy. HabiMap™ Arizona is a component of the Department's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), which provides a framework for helping to set the state's wildlife conservation priorities. HabiMap™ Arizona provides a visual representation of the Species and Habitat Conservation Guide, which includes more than 300 layers of wildlife data and other information to identify the conservation potential at a statewide level. To view HabiMap™ Arizona, visit www.habimap.org.



HabiMap™ Arizona can help planners consider wildlife needs early in their projects.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will continue to fund AZGFD's sport fish stocking program as part of the selected alternative in the EA process.



USFWS to continue funding to support Arizona's sport fish stocking program

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) as part of the Environmental Assessment of its proposal to continue to fund, in part, the Arizona Game and Fish Department's sport fish stocking program over the next 10 years. The FONSI decision means that the Service can continue funding to support Game and Fish's hatchery operations and fish stocking activities that provide recreational opportunities for anglers. As part of the Selected Alternative in the Environmental Assessment, a Conservation and Mitigation Program will implement actions to avoid, offset or reduce environmental impacts of the stocking action and ultimately contribute to conservation and recovery of native species. Under the Selected Alternative, funding will support stocking of sport fish at 166 sites in selected waters in the state and will support continued operations and maintenance of five AZGFD hatcheries that rear sport fish (primarily trout) for stocking. The actions in this alternative are the most comparable to Arizona's current stocking program. Hundreds of thousands of Arizona residents and nonresidents take advantage of the state's recreational fishing opportunities each year.

Arizona's bald eagles hit it out of the park in 2011

Arizona's bald eagles continue to flourish in the state with three record breeding achievements in 2011. Biologists declared that a record number of breeding areas (55) were occupied, a record number of eggs (at least 79) were laid, and a record number of nestlings (56) fledged. These record-breaking numbers indicate that the species' breeding population in Arizona continues to grow. Bald eagle management falls under the careful watch of the Arizona Game and Fish Department and a coalition of 24 other partners through the Southwest Bald Eagle Management Committee, which includes government agencies, private organizations and Native American tribes. Continued support from the committee and the Heritage Fund, generated from lottery ticket sales, will help ensure that Arizona's bald eagles continue to thrive.

Online application service reinstated for big game drawings

The Department made available a new online application service in early October 2011 for the last week of the application period for spring 2012 hunts for turkey, javelina, buffalo and bear. The new system, which had undergone extensive testing, was rolled out at that time to allow continued fine-tuning of the system in preparation for the 2012 elk/antelope and fall drawing cycles. The reimplementation of the online service was very successful. About 37 percent (11,706) of the 31,900 applicants for this year's spring draw used the online service, and more than 95 percent of those surveyed indicated they were either "extremely satisfied" or "satisfied," with the other five percent indicating they were "somewhat satisfied." About 95 percent said the online service was easy to use.

Management planning begins for newly acquired Horseshoe Ranch property

Game and Fish held a series of public meetings in October 2011 to solicit input on proposed

management scenarios for the Department's newly acquired Horseshoe Ranch property. The 200-acre property is located about an hour north of Phoenix within the Agua Fria National Monument. The Department, along with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Tonto National Forest (TNF), also held a public meeting in November to solicit input on managing approximately 70,000 acres of federal lands associated with the Horseshoe Ranch. The three agencies have entered into an agreement concerning the management of the associated grazing allotments. It is envisioned that the ranch property and allotments would be managed toward goals of long-term sustainability of native wildlife populations, native habitats, public access to open space, outdoor education and recreation opportunity, and the tradition of ranching in central Arizona.

Outdoor Expo draws record 37,500 attendees

The Department's 2011 Outdoor Expo drew a record 37,500 people over the March 26-27 weekend at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix. In addition, a record 4,500 schoolchildren, teachers and chaperones attended the Expo Youth Day on Friday, March 25, for a total of 42,000 people attending over the three days. In addition to the hands-on activities, more than 180 exhibitors were on hand, including sportsmen's and conservation

Arizona Game & Fish Department **OUTDOOR EXPO** **2011**



organizations, government agencies, and commercial vendors of outdoor products and services. The Outdoor Expo is an annual event conducted by Game and Fish to give the public a chance to learn about wildlife-related and outdoor recreation activities, including wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, archery, shooting sports, camping, off-highway vehicle recreation, and boating recreation.



The acquisition of the Horseshoe Ranch property will benefit wildlife conservation, recreational access, and outdoor education.

Landmark agreement made to keep the Rio de Flag flowing

After four years of hard work and with escrow closing in 2011, the City of Flagstaff and the Arizona Game and Fish Department have found a way to keep water flowing in the Rio de Flag for at least the next 20 years. Since 2007, the City and Game and Fish have been in negotiations to exchange land for water. A historic agreement was signed in 2010 by the Game and Fish Commission and the City of Flagstaff, allowing the City to permanently own Bow and Arrow Park, which it had been leasing from Game and Fish since 1998. In return, Game and Fish will see in-stream flows of treated wastewater into the Rio de Flag for at least 20 years at three significant locations. Not only will this monumental project restore and create riparian and wetland habitats for wildlife, it will also provide great locations for families and school groups to go wildlife viewing close to home.

Grants to help OHV law enforcement and education

The Department's OHV program was awarded three grants this year to allow enhanced law enforcement and education efforts. A State Parks Grant of \$99,845 was awarded to purchase five RZR style side-by-sides, including law enforcement packages and trailers. These machines will be dispersed to the different Game and Fish regions for officers to use during OHV patrols and details. Another State Parks

grant in the amount of \$136,680 will be used to produce an OHV safety movie and 10,000 CDs for distribution to entities such as OHV dealers, hospitals and trauma units to help the Department promote safe, responsible OHV use and reduce OHV collisions and injuries in Arizona. A third grant in the amount of \$4,000 was awarded by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) to purchase eight preliminary breath test (PBT) devices that Department OHV law enforcement specialists will use to enforce OHV DUIs.

No CWD detected in Arizona deer and elk testing

The Department reported no detection of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in any of the 1,417 samples from hunter-harvested or road-killed deer and elk during Arizona's 2010-11 hunting season. Arizona Game and Fish has tested nearly 16,000 deer and elk samples since beginning its surveillance program in 1998, and to date, none have tested positive for the disease, although it is present in the three neighboring states of Utah, Colorado and New Mexico. The Department remains steadfast in its sampling efforts in high-risk areas, nearly tripling the number of tested samples compared to last year in Game Management Units 1, 27 and 28 (areas bordering Utah and New Mexico). Another improvement to the program is easy access to test results through a web-based online system at www.azgfd.gov/cwd that allows hunters to

enter their name, phone number, permit and hunt number to obtain results, rather than waiting for a mailed post card with those results.

Mentored camps for new hunters continue to grow

In order to help maintain and grow a hunting tradition, the Department has continued to team up with sportsmen's groups, gun clubs and conservation organizations to offer first-time hunters an experience to learn about hunting. These camps are geared for people who might have an interest but don't know where to start, and they offer a field experience and camaraderie in a friendly, relaxed, mentored environment. For some of these camps, hunting is only one aspect of the camp, with opportunities for people to also learn about wildlife biology, target shooting, archery, wildlife viewing, camping, and more. For a list of camps and other outdoor activities, visit www.azgfd.gov/outdoorskills.

Northern Arizona Shooting Range design receives unanimous approval

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission in March 2011 unanimously approved the master site plan for the future Northern Arizona Shooting Range. Approval of the site design was a huge step towards filling the more than 40-year void for a designated shooting venue in Northern Arizona. The approved design reflected slight modifications from the draft presented to the public at the open house in early March, where more than 100 people attended. Although more costly, these changes were made based on input from competitive long-range shooters and sound concerns from Walnut Canyon National Monument. Construction activities have begun on the range, which will be developed in stages over the next couple of years based on funding, resources, weather conditions, and many other factors.

The fall spotlighting survey for black-footed ferrets brought record results (see story on next page).



Fall spotlighting effort brings record ferret results

The preliminary results from the Department's black-footed ferret fall spotlighting survey continue to show promise for the small, endangered, specialist carnivore. Department personnel, along with 99 volunteers, conducted fall spotlighting efforts in the Aubrey Valley west of Seligman. The results broke several records: a total of 93 ferrets were captured, breaking the previous mark of 78 (this number includes recaptures), and 22 captures in one night broke the record of 20 set in the spring of 2011. There were 54 separate individuals captured in the fall and 58 in the spring, bringing the minimum population in Aubrey Valley to 116, shattering the 2010 record of 96. The numbers have Arizona meeting the original goals established for the recovery site, which now boasts a self-sustaining population. Arizona's endangered black-footed ferret population celebrated a triple anniversary in 2011: the 30th anniversary of the discovery of the last black-footed ferrets, a species that was thought to be extinct; the 20th anniversary of the Phoenix Zoo's breeding program to help recover the species in Arizona; and, the 15th anniversary of Arizona's Aubrey Valley being selected as a reintroduction site.

OHV Decal renewal reminders now offered online

Game and Fish implemented a new system this summer to electronically send out reminder notices to OHV owners whose required annual OHV Decals are about to expire. Simply by signing up, OHV owners can be reminded through an e-mail notice to renew their OHV Decal. The Department had earlier in the year assumed from the Motor Vehicle Division the task of mailing out reminder notices through U.S. mail. The new online system will save on administrative operational costs.



Video and photos showed that bighorn sheep from the important Black Mountains herd were using the wildlife overpasses on Highway 93.

CONSERVATION

Endangered Sonoran pronghorn return to King Valley

For the first time in over 100 years, endangered Sonoran pronghorn are residing in King Valley on the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge in southwestern Arizona, thanks to a collaborative effort between the Arizona Game and Fish Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. After many years of completing extensive public planning and interagency coordination processes, 13 Sonoran pronghorn (eight adult females, two bucks and three fawn females) were released into a 0.5 square mile captive breeding and release facility as a newly established nonessential-experimental population of Sonoran pronghorn in the Kofa Refuge. By 2013, it is anticipated that the two-year-old offspring will be released from the facility into suitable adjacent habitat. Sonoran pronghorn have been protected under the Endangered Species Act since 1967, and the United States population was on the brink of extinction in 2002 due to habitat fragmentation, human disturbance, loss of forage and perennial rivers, and periods of extreme drought.

Bighorn sheep documented using Highway 93 overpasses

Years of research, planning and development showed signs of success in early 2011 when video and still photographs showed that bighorn sheep were using the recently completed wildlife overpasses on U.S. 93 south of Hoover Dam. The overpasses are part of a construction project that widened an existing 15-mile section of U.S.

Gould's turkeys have been an amazing comeback story and a conservation model worth emulating.



93 from a two-lane road to a four-lane divided highway. The project sought to address how to make the highway safer for motorists while also mitigating the “barrier effect” the road might pose to movement of one of the largest and most important bighorn sheep populations in the nation. A research study not only provided information on where the bighorns preferred to cross (from more than 100,000 data points), it also showed they approach the highway from ridgelines, and that overpasses would be the best mitigation method as opposed to underpasses, which bighorns avoid due to their fear of predators lurking above. The project is a collaboration between the Arizona Department of Transportation, Arizona Game and Fish, the Federal Highways Administration, the National Park Service, and the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society.

Released Gould's turkey flies into conservation history

With a quick flapping of powerful wings, a Gould's turkey flew its way into history books on Feb. 9, 2011, becoming the 200,000th wild turkey in the U.S. to be captured and released

back into the wild. It was one of 15 Gould's wild turkeys trapped in the Coronado National Forest near the Huachuca Mountains and then transferred to Gardner Canyon. Gould's turkeys have been an amazing comeback story and a conservation model worth emulating. Once found throughout southern Arizona, they had disappeared by the time Arizona had legal hunting seasons in 1929. However, they have never been listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The Gould's reintroduction project began as a hands-across-the border effort with Mexico, where the first populations of the Gould's subspecies came from to restore Arizona's historic populations during the 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s. With the help of the National Wild Turkey Federation working in close coordination with Arizona Game and Fish and a host of volunteers and cooperating agencies and landowners, today Gould's populations can be found in six mountain ranges throughout southeastern Arizona.

Record participation in voluntary condor lead reduction program

The Department implemented the seventh year of its successful free non-lead

ammunition program within the core range of the reintroduced California condor. Hunter participation reached an all-time high in 2011, with 90 percent of fall Kaibab Plateau deer hunters either using non-lead ammunition or packing their gut piles out of the field in an effort to reduce lead exposure in condors. This voluntary program has achieved an 80-90 percent hunter participation rate for the past five years and has served as a prototype for other states. The Department also continued to work with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to expand lead reduction efforts into southern Utah. A similar program in that state should significantly reduce condor lead exposure rates in the coming years. During 2011, three condor chicks also hatched in Arizona, surpassing the previous high of two wild-hatched chicks in a year.

New guidelines aim to help develop wildlife-compatible fencing

After years of research and development, the Arizona Game and Fish Department has made available its completely-revised fence guidelines aimed at helping landowners, project managers, land management agencies and others develop wildlife-compatible fencing across Arizona.

Fencing is an important part of the landscape, but while it is meeting its objectives of keeping something out, improperly designed or located fences can dramatically reduce the “connectivity” of habitat and potentially cause injury to wildlife. The guidelines focus on fence design rather than detailed fence construction specifications. The goal is to provide guidance in designing a fence that will achieve its objective with minimum impact to wildlife. Game and Fish is working with many partners to protect interconnected networks of large natural areas in Arizona that support viable populations of wildlife.

Golden eagle nest survey

In 2011, with funding provided by the Bureau of Land Management, the Department initiated a two-year Golden Eagle Nest Survey in order to document the presence and distribution of



golden eagles statewide. The 2011 nest survey effort totaled 98.1 hours of helicopter time to survey the western one-third of the Arizona. Significant findings include 17 new golden eagle breeding areas, nine occupied but previously known breeding areas, and 134 potential breeding areas with 208 suitable eagle-sized nest structures in varying condition. Results from the 2011 nest survey were incorporated into the Department’s Heritage Data Management System to help inform project evaluations.

AZGFD actively engages in forest restoration issues

The wildfires of 2011 were a stark reminder of the risks posed by unhealthy forests and the urgent need to restore them. The Department engaged in these challenges on multiple fronts. As a member of the Governor’s Forest Health Council, Arizona Game and Fish assisted in developing policy recommendations intended to improve forest health through wider application of restoration treatments and increase community awareness of these critical issues. The Department was, and continues to be, an active participant in the Four Forests Restoration Initiative (4FRI), contributing scientific and policy expertise, and supporting a landmark Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate this collaborative effort. When implemented, 4FRI will be the largest forest restoration effort yet undertaken in the western

Hunter participation in the non-lead ammunition program in California condor territory reached an all-time high in 2011.

The impacts of the 2011 wildfires on wildlife habitat were a reminder of the need to actively engage in forest restoration.



United States. Department staff also worked with the Flagstaff Fire Department, Northern Arizona Ecological Restoration Institute, and the Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership, developing new forest restoration prescriptions that reduce wildfire risk while also improving habitat for wildlife.

Monitoring of Rio Grande turkeys continues

Spring monitoring of the recently-translocated Rio Grande turkeys on Black Rock Mountain continued this year. Four gobblers and eight hens were observed and track sign was common throughout the release area. There have been reports of turkey observations more than 20 miles away from the core release area on Black Rock Mountain. The monitoring that has occurred since the releases have been encouraging, and spring 2012 will see the first hunt of this third turkey subspecies in Arizona.

Game and Fish, Navajo Nation team up on bighorn sheep translocation

Department staff in collaboration with the Navajo Nation captured 42 bighorn sheep near Mexican Hat, Utah on December 13 and 14, 2011. Twenty bighorn sheep (five rams and 15 ewes) were released in Peeples Canyon in Unit 16A in Arizona. Ten of these were equipped with GPS radio collars. To aid in the recovery of bighorn sheep in this area, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission authorized a multiple bag limit and use of artificial light for mountain lion hunting in the southern portion of Unit 16A so hunters can assist with the recovery of the translocated bighorns. Of the other 22 bighorn sheep captured, three went to the Navajo Nation Zoo and Botanical Park in Window Rock, Ariz., and 19 were radio-tagged and released for study within the Upper San Juan River basin.

Commission sets hunt guidelines

The proposed hunt guidelines, which set the framework for the annual hunting regulations for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 seasons, were approved by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission at its Aug. 27 meeting. The review process for the hunt guidelines formally began in April by soliciting public comments, followed by a series of statewide public meetings, as well as an online public survey. The hunt guidelines provide the biological and social parameters that set the management objectives for setting elements like season structures and permit levels for all huntable game species.

Historic first-ever state record Gila trout caught at Frye Mesa Reservoir

The historic first-ever Gila trout record in Arizona was caught in February 2011 from Frye Mesa Reservoir following the stocking of these colorful native salmonids into the reservoir near Safford. Robert Woods of Flagstaff caught a 19¼-inch, 3.35-pound Gila trout at Frye Mesa Reservoir on Feb. 28 and brought it into the Department's Flagstaff regional office for verification. It's not only the standing state record right now, it is also the first-ever record for this native fish. The Arizona Game and Fish Commission on Feb. 4 created the first-ever season on native Gila trout at Frye Mesa Reservoir in the Pinaleño Mountains in southern Arizona. It's a one-fish limit though for these trout, and Department biologists encourage anglers to practice catch-and-release on these natives. Mt. Graham is now the only mountain on the planet where you can fish for native Gila trout, native Apache trout, plus rainbow trout, brown trout and brook trout. It's called the Mt. Graham Grand Slam.

Jaguar, ocelot sightings confirmed in southern Arizona

The Department was able to confirm a hunter's Nov. 19 reported sighting of a jaguar southeast of Tucson, after his dogs had temporarily treed a large cat. The animal left the area after the hunter's dogs retreated. Based on photo and video images, biologists believe the cat was an adult male jaguar in good, healthy condition.



A rare ocelot was observed and photographed in the Huachuca Mountains in February.

Hair samples were collected for possible DNA testing, and biologists are comparing the photos and video to past jaguar images photographed throughout Arizona to determine if the animal has been previously documented. Four of the last five confirmed jaguar sightings in Arizona have been reported by hunters, who took responsible actions to photograph the animal, report it to the Department, and remove their dogs from the area. The Department also reported a rare ocelot was observed Feb. 8 in the Huachuca Mountains in southern Arizona. A resident was working in his yard when his dogs began barking at a cat-like animal that quickly climbed a tree. The man called the Department and an officer took photos and retrieved a scat sample before allowing the ocelot to continue on its way.

Heritage Fund gives head start to Chiricahua leopard frogs

Just one of the many sensitive species benefiting from the voter-approved Heritage Fund, which provides money from Arizona Lottery ticket sales to benefit wildlife conservation, is the Chiricahua leopard frog. Reductions in the frogs' distribution the past few decades prompted their listing as federally threatened in 2002 under the Endangered Species Act. To address population declines, a team of state and federal scientists and stakeholders developed a species recovery plan, identifying captive propagation and reintroductions into suitable habitat. In 2000, Game and Fish personnel, in cooperation with Region I fisheries program staff, converted portions of an old, idled fish hatchery in Pinetop to "head start" and then

Eighty black-tailed prairie dogs were released in three existing colonies in southeastern Arizona to assist in recovery efforts.



eventually propagate Chiricahua leopard frogs. Since 2000, more than 1,000 frogs have been produced and released from that source into their historic habitats. Department biologists believe the source population for these frogs may have disappeared, so this captive breeding group could represent the last remnants of the only robust White Mountains population. Combined with other similar projects, such as Chiricahua leopard frogs being reared at the Phoenix Zoo's Conservation Center, biologists hope to continue to make progress in recovery efforts.

Aubrey Cliffs study looks at wind energy impacts

To assess the wildlife resources in the Aubrey Valley area that may be affected by a proposed wind turbine construction, the Department conducted a raptor migration count during fall 2011. From Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, migration counts occurred on 38 days, totaling 237 hours of observation. In total, 1,441 migrants were counted representing 14 different species. Of these migrants, 42.6 percent traveled through the proposed turbine site. Results of this study will inform the Department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and project proponents on the extent of potential wildlife conflicts with

the proposed wind energy development in the Aubrey Cliffs area.

Black-tailed prairie dog releases augment populations

The Department released 80 black-tailed prairie dogs into the three existing colonies at the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area on Sept. 25 and Oct. 15. The black-tailed prairie dogs were acquired from two sites. Twenty animals were translocated from BLM land southwest of Carrizozo, New Mexico, where a pipeline was being constructed. Sixty animals were captured in Sonora, Mexico, after the Department worked closely with the Comisión de Ecología y Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora (CEDES) to acquire prairie dogs that will provide genetic variability into the existing colonies within Las Cienegas.

Grand Canyon environmental assessments

The Department played an integral role as a cooperator for Glen Canyon Dam High-Flow Experimental Protocol and Nonnative Fish Control Environmental Assessments conducted by the Bureau of Reclamation. This effort began in May 2010 and concluded at the end of 2011. The purpose of these efforts was to establish protocols to conduct high-flow dam releases to

conserve sand for beaches while minimizing the impact of other resources within the Grand Canyon and to evaluate methods of reducing nonnative predators to minimize their impacts on the endangered humpback chub and other native species. A final environmental assessment was published in December 2011.

ISSUES

AZGFD helps people and wildlife during devastating wildfire season

Arizona suffered its worst wildfire season on record in 2011. Massive fires such as the Wallow, Horseshoe 2, Murphy Complex, and Monument fires cumulatively consumed hundreds of thousands of acres of land, burned scores of homes, and caused the temporary evacuation of thousands of residents in nearby communities. During the fire season, the Arizona Game and Fish Department assisted in support of the various firefighting efforts, with more than 70 wildlife officers having worked with incident management teams or with local law enforcement on various security or evacuation measures. The Department also monitored a number of its dams and reservoirs to help with flood mitigation efforts, established a temporary mobile wildlife triage center in the fire area, conducted salvage efforts of endangered fish and wildlife, donated hay from the Sipe Wildlife Area to a local animal rescue group that provided feed not otherwise available to livestock that had to be evacuated from the Wallow Fire, and coordinated with land management agencies on Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) activities and mitigation measures to allow recreational access where safe and appropriate.

Commission takes successful rulemaking and hunt order approach to implementing night hunting legislation

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission on Dec. 2 approved rules and commission orders to implement new short-term strategic tools that will allow hunters to help reduce predator numbers to aid struggling pronghorn antelope and bighorn sheep populations in specific game

management units. The commission approved rulemaking to allow the use of artificial lights at night for taking coyotes and mountain lions, as allowed by new laws enacted by the legislature last session. Arizona now joins 41 other states that allow night hunting of predators. In order to help struggling pronghorn antelope populations, night hunting using white light for coyotes, whose populations are abundant, will be allowed in specific hunt units at critical times of year during the spring pronghorn fawning period (typically April, May and June). The rules and orders adopted will allow a similar approach for achieving temporary, local mountain lion population reductions in certain areas to help struggling desert bighorn sheep populations. Mountain lions have expanded their range and populations are currently robust and increasing in Arizona. Since the implementation of sound scientific wildlife management back in the 1940s, hunting has been one of the most effective wildlife management tools available to biologists and to the Game and Fish Commission.

Fatal bear attack in Pinetop

A woman was attacked by an adult male black bear while walking her small dog in a Pinetop subdivision late in the evening on June 28, 2011. The attack occurred not far from a neighborhood dumpster in which the bear reportedly had been scavenging. After receiving emergency treatment at the site of the attack from Pinetop Fire Department EMTs, the woman was immediately flown to a Phoenix area trauma center for medical treatment but tragically died from complications several weeks later. Game and Fish personnel from the Pinetop Region responded to the scene soon after the attack to secure evidence and coordinate tracking of the offending bear. The suspected bear was tracked and destroyed a few hours after the attack incident by USDA Wildlife Services personnel. Game and Fish personnel conducted a forensic necropsy of the bear and also sent samples to an outside laboratory for DNA analysis, which confirmed the bear was the one involved in the attack.



The Arizona Game and Fish Commission voted to continue its support of Mexican wolf conservation but took a position on new wolf releases.

Black bear attacks on people are not common, but they can occur. The Arizona Game and Fish Department advises campers and residents in bear country to educate themselves on steps to take to avoid bear and other wildlife conflicts, including not feeding wildlife and keeping garbage and other potential food sources properly secured.

Court reaffirms AZGFD held valid permit in jaguar case

Two federal judges ruled in 2011 that the Arizona Game and Fish Department held a valid endangered species permit, authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, when the jaguar known as Macho B was captured and collared south of Tucson in February 2009. U.S. District Court Judge Cindy K. Jorgenson's decision in March 2011 was part of a ruling arising from defendant Janay Brun's request to dismiss charges against her. Brun and her supervisor, Emil McCain, worked for the Borderlands Jaguar Detection Project at the time of Macho B's capture. Neither of them was an Arizona Game and Fish employee. McCain pled guilty in May 2010 to violating the Endangered Species Act with regard to Macho B's capture. Brun had also been charged with violating the Endangered Species Act for her alleged involvement in the capture, and she entered into a diversion agreement with the U.S.

Attorney's Office in May 2011 in exchange for having criminal charges against her dismissed. Judge Jorgenson's decision on the validity of the Department's permit adopted an earlier report and recommendation by Magistrate Judge D. Thomas Ferraro, who found the Department's permit to be valid for "take" of an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. Even though the Department held a valid permit, the Department did not authorize anyone to initially capture Macho B. No Game and Fish employees were charged in connection with Macho B's capture.

Commission votes continued support of Mexican wolf conservation, takes position on new wolf releases

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission on Dec. 2 voted to continue both its financial and infrastructure support of Mexican wolf conservation in the state, but voted not to support the release of any new wolves in Arizona until the federal government completes certain critical planning measures. These include: completion of an updated Mexican wolf recovery plan, environmental impact statement, and review of the 10(j) experimental-nonessential population rule. On Jan. 13, 2012, the Commission modified its position to allow the Arizona Game and Fish Director to consider approval of new wolf releases, on a case-by-case basis, to replace Mexican wolves lost from the reintroduced population due to unlawful acts. The Commission also gave itself the flexibility to consider approval of wolf releases, on a case-by-case basis, to replace Mexican wolves lost from the reintroduced population due to other causes of mortality. The Department has been actively involved in the multi-agency effort to reintroduce Mexican wolves to portions of their historic range in the east-central portion of Arizona (and adjacent New Mexico) for many years. The Commission and Department support having an ecologically appropriate and manageable wolf population in Arizona that takes into account the concerns of all stakeholders.



Game and Fish and other agencies continued to urge boaters to exercise safe boating practices when on the water.

Commission eliminates pronghorn hunts in 19B for 2011 due to access issues

Faced with the loss of public access to a vast area of Game Management Unit 19B north of Prescott, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission on March 23 decided to cancel the pronghorn antelope hunt there prior to the big game draw for the 2011 season. The property manager for the private ranch property, which is a checkerboard of private and state trust land parcels, verbally notified the Department that the ranch was closed to public access due to a proposed renewable energy project. The ranch property contains a significant portion of the available pronghorn habitat in Unit 19B. Access to other portions of the unit had also become restricted, with some private lands being closed entirely and other ranches allowing access by payment of “trespass” fees. The Commission’s decision was made only after extensive staff input and Commission discussion. The decision affected the hunting prospects for 65 hunters who would have received allocated tags. The Commission expressed its desire to open up a dialogue on the land access and wildlife availability issue with stakeholders. For 2012, the Commission authorized a limited number of pronghorn permits for Unit 19B (five general, five muzzleloader, and five archery-only).

2011 shows increase in state’s boating fatalities

Arizona experienced 10 boating-related fatalities in 2011, the most since 2006 when 14 boaters died. Two of the 10 fatalities resulted from injuries sustained in accidents, while eight were drowning victims. Of the eight, five were not wearing life jackets. The spike in fatalities this year has officials strongly reminding boaters to exercise safe boating practices, including wearing life jackets, making sure their watercraft equipment is in good working order, and taking a boating safety class.

Commission reduces spring 2012 turkey permit levels due to Wallow Fire

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission on Aug. 6 set the 2012 spring hunts for turkey, javelina, buffalo and bear, but the hunt permit level for turkeys was significantly decreased due to the impacts of this summer’s historic Wallow Fire. The Commission had earlier voted (on July 8) to reduce the number of 2011 fall permits issued through the draw for Game Management Units 1 and 27 (a total reduction of 1,075 hunt permit-tags for fall turkey). At its Aug. 6 meeting, the Commission also set the first-ever hunt (two permits initially) in Hunt Unit 13B for Rio Grande turkeys, which were introduced to Arizona in 2008.

Successful rulemaking aligns the Arizona Sport Falconry Rule with federal regulations

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission at its December 2011 meeting approved a revised Sport Falconry Rule that will bring the rule into compliance with new federal regulations. Recent changes to the federal regulations eliminated the dual (state and federal) permitting system and transferred falconry permit authorization to individual states. In order to continue permitting the sport of falconry, states must revise rules to adopt recent federal regulation changes and must be certified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by January 2014. An internal Arizona Game and Fish team rewrote the rule, incorporating input from public comments and from constituents, and obtained Commission approval of the rule, which at the time of this writing was under review by the Governor's Regulatory Review Council.

MISCELLANEOUS

Education efforts reach school students, public

Arizona Game and Fish continued its involvement in a wide range of education activities to the public. More than 10,500 students in grades K-12 received instruction through the Department's formal wildlife education programs in the schools. About 1,750 teachers had the opportunity to learn about the Department's available educational resources at numerous fairs and workshops around the state. Technology-based learning was also a huge success. The Focus Wild Arizona website received more than 23,000 visitors, and the "America's Wildlife: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" curriculum was downloaded by over 130 educators, potentially reaching 51,000 students. Wildlife presentations were made to a large segment of the general public in 2011. For example, the Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center outreach presentations reached approximately 100,000 people during the year. The Department's Outdoor Expo and Youth Day drew more than 40,000 people over a three-day

period. Community nature and birding festivals brought information and education to another 6,000. The Department engaged in extensive education efforts in other areas as well. More than 16,000 people participated in sport fishing educational clinics and events in 2011. More than 3,500 students graduated from hunter education courses. The Department offered 40 NASBLA boating safety education classroom courses throughout the state, with nearly 600 students successfully completing the classroom course and more than 580 completing the online internet-based course. The Department also launched its OHV safety education online Internet-based course.

Dove hunters received additional cyber help this year

Because new laws opened up approximately one million more acres of land to hunting this year, much of it suitable for dove hunting, the Arizona Game and Fish Department put together a special dove hunting page on its website at www.azgfd.gov/dove. This page provides tips, regulations, a map to help you figure out where you can and cannot hunt, and lots of other valuable information. Got a smart phone? Now there is even a special mobile-friendly dove page; just bookmark www.azgfd.gov/m.dove.





The Ben Avery Clay Target Center is now open seven days a week for customer convenience.

Ben Avery Clay Target Center now open 7 days a week

There's good news for trap, skeet and sporting clays shooters. The Arizona Game and Fish Department's Ben Avery Clay Target Center switched over to new hours in October and is now open seven days a week to offer expanded opportunities for shotgun shooting sports enthusiasts. The Clay Target Center traditionally had been closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. The new hours will remain in effect throughout the year for customer convenience. The Clay Target Center won't switch to separate winter and summer hours, as traditionally had been done in the past.

After 49-year wait, rainbow trout stockings return to Watson Lake

The last time rainbow trout were stocked at Watson Lake near Prescott, John F. Kennedy was still president and landing on the moon was still seven years in the future. That changed the week of Jan. 9, 2011, as the Arizona Game and Fish Department received clearances from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to stock rainbow trout into the lake owned by the City of Prescott. The clearances paved the way for stocking trout for the first time since 1962. Some of the trout were raised for the lake in state hatcheries, but more than 2,000 were

diverted from Fain Lake in Prescott Valley. The stockings will take place only in the winter months and will be based on availability of trout.

Game and Fish's Heritage grants return in 2011 with new simplified processes

Thanks to continued support from Arizona Lottery ticket sales, the Arizona Game and Fish Department's popular Heritage grants program returned after a one-year hiatus with new, simplified processes. The Department completed a comprehensive revision to the Heritage Fund grants program, including the application, eligibility, scoring, award notification and close-out processes. The revised processes make it easier to apply for a grant and get more schoolchildren, teachers, administrators and parents involved in Heritage-related wildlife activities. Started in 1990, the Heritage Fund was established by Arizona voters to provide funding through lottery proceeds to further conservation efforts in the state, including protecting endangered species, educating our children about wildlife, helping urban residents to better coexist with wildlife, and creating new opportunities for outdoor recreation. Over the years, Game and Fish has helped local communities through the awarding of more than \$12 million in grants across the state.

Navajo Nation youth deer hunt

The Department participated and provided mentors at the 2011 Navajo Youth Deer Hunt in northeastern Arizona during Sept. 23–25, 2011. A total of 21 youth participated in the hunting camp. This program is organized by the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife and provides an opportunity for Navajo youth that have an interest in hunting to engage in the activity, even if they do not have the means or resources to participate. This was a very successful interchange and the youth enjoyed a great hunt.

AWARDS

AZGFD professionals recognized for conservation and education efforts

Several Arizona Game and Fish Department employees were recognized over the past year for their outstanding achievements in wildlife conservation and outdoors education:

AFWA Awards

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), composed of state and provincial agencies from the United States, Mexico and Canada, recognized three Arizona Game and Fish employees at its annual awards ceremony in Omaha, Neb. on Sept. 13.

An honorary lifetime membership was awarded to Endangered Species Coordinator Terry B. Johnson (now retired), in recognition of his three decades of “extraordinary, distinguished service” in conservation work on behalf of North America’s sensitive wildlife. Johnson created and then spearheaded the formation of Arizona Game and Fish’s nongame and endangered program in 1983 and managed it through 2004. Since then, he has continued to serve as the Department’s endangered species coordinator.

Education Branch Chief Kellie Tharp received the Mark Reeff Memorial Award for “outstanding young wildlife management professional.” Tharp oversees all of the Arizona Game and Fish Department’s educational

programs, including hunter, angler, boater, and wildlife education, as well as the Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center. She also developed a school curriculum, “America’s Wildlife: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow,” to tell the story of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which reached more than 22,000 students in 2010.

The Department’s Hunting and Angling Heritage Work Group (HAHWG), under the leadership of Wildlife Recreation Branch Chief Craig McMullen, received the Boone & Crockett Club Award for outstanding achievement in promoting and encouraging outdoor ethics. Established in 2007, the HAHWG has focused on educating Arizonans about the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and providing more recruitment and retention opportunities.

WAFWA Awards

The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA), composed of 19 states, three Canadian provinces and one Canadian territory, recognized two Arizona Game and Fish employees at its annual awards ceremony in Big Sky, Montana in July.

Endangered Species Coordinator Terry B. Johnson was honored with the Phillip W. Schneider Lifetime Achievement Award, one of the most prestigious and rarest of the recognitions presented by WAFWA each year. The award is given to recognize exceptional long-term commitment and achievements on behalf of fish and wildlife resources and to acknowledge a recipient who fosters a vision and ability to effect change for future conservation. WAFWA awarded him with Life Member status in the organization.

Fisheries Branch Chief Kirk Young received the WAFWA Professional of the Year Award, presented to an employee of a member agency for outstanding contributions to the management, protection or enhancement of fish and wildlife resources. WAFWA recognized Young’s leadership in helping resolve long-

standing sport fish and native fish issues between the Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by completing a complex consultation under the Endangered Species Act.

Other Awards

At the Ninth Biennial Deer-Elk Workshop in Albuquerque, N.M., Region 5 Game Specialist Jim Heffelfinger received the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' O. C. Wallmo Award. The award was given in recognition of his contributions to mule deer research and management, as well as his many scholarly works on the subject, which included authoring "Deer in the Southwest." Heffelfinger's leadership in ungulate management has been exhibited for years in his role as chair of WAFWA's Mule Deer Working Group.

Statewide OUI Coordinator Tim Baumgarten received the Linda S. Kirby WATER award from the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Arizona (DPCA) for his outstanding work in the community to promote water safety. Baumgarten developed the "Wear-It" boat that is a huge attraction at boating safety outreach events throughout the state.

Boating and OHV Safety Education Program Manager Ed Huntsman was named Boating Educator of the Year at the annual conference of the Western States Boating Administrators Association. The award recognizes those in the boating education field who excel in engaging boaters, raising awareness, and making boating education initiatives exciting and relevant. Huntsman was one of three finalists for the National Boating Educator of the Year award presented by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). He was also one of 15 people appointed by NASBLA to the new Education Standards Panel that will review, develop and revise the National Boating Education Standards.

Arizona Boating Law Administrator Kevin Bergersen received an award of recognition from Brunswick Commercial and Government



Producers Gary Schafer and Carol Lynde won an Emmy Award for Arizona Wildlife Views, the Arizona Game and Fish Department's television show.

Products, Inc., at the annual conference of the Western States Boating Administrators Association. The award honored his going above and beyond the call of duty in serving the boating community along the Colorado River and in ensuring the success of the Colorado River Law Enforcement Association's training programs.

Arizona Wildlife Views television wins top honors at regional Emmys

Carol Lynde and Gary Schafer, producers of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Arizona Wildlife Views television show, took home the Emmy Award in the "Environment – Program/Special" category at the 34th annual Emmy Awards of the Rocky Mountain Southwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences on Oct. 15 in Phoenix. The award was given for excellence in a regularly scheduled program or special on environmental issues and topics. The winning program featured several stories highlighting the Arizona Game and Fish Department's commitment to conserve wildlife and habitat in Arizona, including a segment on the Sonoran pronghorn program, a segment on a wild jaguar brought from Mexico to receive medical treatment, and a segment on a family of Harris' hawks that built its nest and raised its young in the middle of a Scottsdale neighborhood. To view past shows from Arizona Wildlife Views television, visit www.azgfd.gov/tv.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Fiscal Year Revenues by Fund	2009-10	2010-11
Game and Fish Fund	\$27,132,427	26,918,142
Watercraft Licensing Fund.....	5,236,761	4,472,208
Game, Nongame Fund.....	205,572	157,478
Federal Assistance (Includes Matching Funds).....	32,440,397	35,173,247
Heritage Fund.....	10,123,753	10,093,287
Off-highway Vehicle Fund.....	1,471,886	1,528,169
Capital Improvement/Conservation Dev. Funds.....	1,527,693	1,487,094
Wildlife Conservation Fund.....	5,635,240	5,583,115
Indirect Cost Fund.....	2,302,987	3,233,706
Other Funds (See Detail Below).....	3,271,876	2,943,175
Total Revenue All Sources	\$89,348,521	\$91,589,621

Other Funds Detail

GF Land and Water Conservation/ Recreation Development.....	\$349	218
Wildlife Theft Prevention Fund.....	144,528	163,369
Waterfowl Conservation Fund.....	69,769	83,057
Wildlife Endowment Fund.....	19,213	114,501
Interagency Service Agreement Fund.....	0	12,200
Federal Economic Recovery Fund.....	107,134	184,170
Trust/Donation Fund.....	2,705,651	2,182,877
Firearms Safety and Ranges Fund.....	73	25
W/L Habitat and Restoration Fund.....	377	2
Game & Fish California/Coll Stamp.....	0	1,635
Game & Fish Kaibab Coop.....	43,659	40,971
Publications Revolving Fund.....	181,054	160,150
Total Other Funds	\$3,271,806	\$2,943,175

Fiscal Year Expenditures by Fund	2009-10	2010-11
Game and Fish Fund	31,505,473	29,854,206
Watercraft Licensing Fund.....	3,462,907	3,152,447
Game, Nongame Fund.....	311,435	227,594
Federal Assistance (Includes Matching Funds).....	33,028,877	35,156,740
Heritage Fund.....	9,738,955	10,792,511
Off-highway Vehicle Fund.....	1,152,890	1,463,328
Capital Improvement/Conservation Dev. Funds.....	2,778,750	1,890,567
Wildlife Conservation Fund.....	5,912,414	5,112,333
Indirect Cost Fund.....	2,435,212	2,480,281
Other Funds (See Detail Below).....	2,792,595	3,095,261
Total Expenditures All Sources	\$93,119,508	\$93,225,268

Other Funds Detail

Federal Grants.....	\$0	89,436
Wildlife Theft Prevention Fund.....	119,890	182,264
Waterfowl Conservation Fund.....	80,753	159,547
Interagency Service Agreement Fund.....	0	10,185
Federal Economic Recovery Fund.....	86,572	169,285
Trust/Donation Fund.....	2,182,672	2,323,860
Game & Fish Kaibab Coop.....	129,774	7,788
Publications Revolving Fund.....	192,934	152,896
Total Other Funds	\$2,792,595	\$3,095,261

Calendar Year Sales in Numbers by Group	2009	2010
Licenses (see detail below)	457,605	440,318
Resident Trout Stamps.....	80,429	71,677
Nonresident Trout Stamps.....	297	253
Tags (excluding special hunts).....	154,443	155,927
Misc Permits/Licenses.....	3,270	2,373
Special Use Licenses/Stamps.....	61,311	38,331
Two Pole Stamp.....	60,755	58,053
Resident Additional Day Stamps.....	1,852	1,876
Nonresident Additional Day Stamps.....	2,025	1,860
Arizona Waterfowl Stamps.....	5,681	6,000
Migratory Bird Stamps.....	44,313	47,488
Kaibab 12A Habitat Stamps.....	2,343	2,017
Restricted Non-permit Tags.....	1	1
Supplemental Hunt Tags.....	46	48
Companion Hunt Tags.....	71	163
Totals	874,442	826,385

Lifetime License/Stamp Sales	2009	2010
Lifetime License Sales Fish.....	85	62
Lifetime License Sales Hunt.....	86	84
Lifetime License Sales Combo.....	99	126
Lifetime License Sales Trout Stamps.....	56	36
Wildlife Benefactor Combo License.....	1	3
Totals	327	311

Calendar Year License Sales by Category	2009	2010
Resident General Fish.....	158,262	142,410
Nonresident General Fish.....	914	774
Family/Primary Fish.....	4,191	4,975
Family/Spouse Fish.....	2,028	2,576
Family/Child Fish.....	1,829	2,241
Resident Super Fish/Trout/Urban License.....	12,772	12,808
Nonresident Super Fish/Trout/Urban License.....	1,722	1,854
Resident General Hunt.....	56,269	57,521
Nonresident General Hunt.....	19,443	19,494
Computer Family/Primary Hunt.....	566	702
Computer Family/Secondary (Spouse) Hunt.....	261	343
Computer Family/Youth & Child/10-13 Hunt.....	1,732	2,012
Resident Hunt/Fish.....	72,945	71,978
Nonresident Hunt/Fish.....	662	554
Computer Family/Primary Hunt/Fish.....	2,364	2,734
Computer Family/Secondary Hunt/Fish.....	1,307	1,461
Computer Family/Youth & Child/10-13 Hunt/Fish.....	1,597	1,745
Computer Super Hunt w/Stamps.....	177	168
Computer Super Hunt/Fish w/Stamps.....	851	835
Nonresident 3-Day Hunt.....	6,924	6,813
Urban Fishing.....	30,618	28,696
Nonresident Colorado River Fish.....	1,430	1,299
Nonresident 5-Day Fish.....	9,062	8,261
Resident Youth Hunt/Fish.....	23,602	23,209
Nonresident 4-Month Fish.....	8,244	8,007
Resident/Nonresident 1-Day Fish.....	32,819	31,016
Resident Youth Group 2-Day Fish.....	73	109
Resident General Fish Nov/Dec.....	3,028	3,234
Nonresident General Fish Nov/Dec.....	163	153
Computer Family/Primary Half Fish Nov/Dec.....	13	24
Computer Family/Spouse Half Fish Nov/Dec.....	2	8
Urban Fishing Nov/Dec.....	1,735	2,304
Totals	457,605	440,318

Calendar Year License and Tag Sales	2009	2010
Licenses.....	\$17,149,131	\$16,535,455
Stamps.....	2,100,230	1,933,823
Tags.....	7,928,344	7,937,130
Total Value.....	\$27,177,705	\$26,406,408



Robert R. Woodhouse



Norman W. Freeman



Jack F. Husted



John W. Harris



Robert E. Mansell

THE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

Under the provisions of the Arizona Revised Statutes 17-231, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission establishes policy for the management, preservation and harvest of wildlife. The Commission makes rules and regulations for managing, conserving and protecting wildlife and fisheries resources, and safe and regulated watercraft and off-highway vehicle operations for the benefit of the citizens of Arizona. In support of the Commission’s obligations, the Director, as Chief Administrative Officer, provides general supervision and control of all Department functions and activities.

The Commission is composed of five members appointed by the Governor pursuant to ARS 38-211. The Commission appoints the Director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Director serves as Secretary to the Commission. No more than one Commissioner may be from any one county. No more than three may be from the same political party. Each Commissioner serves a five-year term, staggered. Commissioners customarily serve as Chair during their last year.

OUR MISSION

To conserve, enhance and restore Arizona’s diverse wildlife resources and habitats through aggressive protection and management programs, and to provide wildlife resources and safe watercraft and off-highway vehicle recreation for the enjoyment, appreciation and use by present and future generations.



The Arizona Game and Fish Department prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability in its programs and activities. If anyone believes that they have been discriminated against in any of the AGFD’s programs or activities, including employment practices, they may file a complaint with the Director’s Office, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086, (602) 942-3000, or with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Dr., Ste. 130, Arlington, VA 22203. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation or this document in an alternative format by contacting the Director’s Office as listed above.

Arizona Game and Fish Department

5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086
(602) 942-3000
www.azgfd.gov

LARRY D. VOYLES Director
GARY R. HOVATTER Deputy Director
ROBERT D. BROSCHEID Deputy Director

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

LARRY RILEY Wildlife Management
LEONARD ORDWAY Field Operations
JOHN BULLINGTON Special Services
TY GRAY Information & Education

REGIONAL OFFICES

Region I — JON COOLEY, Supervisor
2878 E. White Mountain Blvd., Pinetop 85935
(928) 367-4281

Region II — RON SIEG, Supervisor
3500 S. Lake Mary Road, Flagstaff 86001
(928) 774-5045

Region III — BOB POSEY, Supervisor
5325 N. Stockton Hill Road, Kingman 86409
(928) 692-7700

Region IV — PAT BARBER, Supervisor
9140 E. 28th St., Yuma 85365
(928) 342-0091

Region V — RAUL VEGA, Supervisor
555 N. Greasewood Road, Tucson 85745
(520) 628-5376

Region VI — ROD LUCAS, Supervisor
7200 E. University Drive, Mesa 85207
(480) 981-9400

