

Arizona Game and Fish Department 2014-2015 Annual Report



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Larry D. Voyles

It may surprise you that the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) is entrusted with managing and conserving more than 800 wildlife species. Accomplishing such a task would be nearly impossible without the many partnerships we have and continue to forge. These partnerships cover projects and programs of all types and sizes and involve a diverse array of stakeholders.

In one such project, AZGFD led 16 federal and state partners in developing a statewide Candidate Conservation Agreement to outline effective conservation actions for the Sonoran desert tortoise in Arizona. The agreement was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for their consideration as they evaluated the need to list the tortoise as threatened or endangered. AZGFD's decades-long scientific studies showed the species is stable, which helped the Service to determine that listing was not warranted. There is more flexibility for this partnership to manage and conserve a species not federally listed as endangered.

Last year Arizona Game and Fish worked with USFWS, local stakeholders and elected officials to restore trout stocking in the lower Colorado River in northwestern Arizona. A 2013 pipeline break at the USFWS Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery made it impossible to draw water into the hatchery, causing a halt in trout stockings and threatening some of the 1,700 jobs and \$75 million generated by anglers along the Mohave County/Clark County stretch of the river. Thanks to the assistance of U.S. Senator John McCain, U.S. Representative Paul Gosar, and the Mohave County Board of Supervisors, led by Supervisor Hildy Angius, an agreement was reached to enable the Service to repair the pipeline and for AZGFD stockings to resume.

In an effort to help keep people safe on our state's waterways, AZGFD utilized a grant from the U.S. Coast Guard to work with the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and Maricopa County Parks and Recreation to install Life Jacket Loaner Stations at Lake Havasu, Lake Mohave and Lake Pleasant. The stations allow boaters needing a life jacket to borrow one, head out onto the lake and return it when done. More stations are being planned for the coming year.

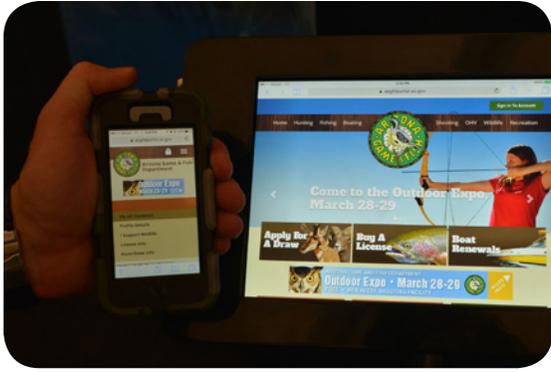
In 2014 we worked with Babbitt Ranches, USFWS, Phoenix Zoo, the Navajo Nation and others to establish the first Safe Harbor Agreement with a private landowner in Arizona for black-footed ferret conservation. The agreement allows the landowner to participate in ferret recovery while simplifying and guaranteeing land use for their business options in the future.

We continue to be at the forefront of Mexican wolf conservation, working with USFWS, counties, local residents and other stakeholders in a balanced approach that takes into consideration the needs of wolf conservation as well as the needs of the ecosystem, wildlife, and people who live or recreate on the land. We are also working with diverse stakeholder groups in an effort to restore bighorn sheep to the Santa Catalina Mountains near Tucson.

Conservation work is neither easy nor inexpensive. AZGFD does not receive Arizona general fund tax dollars and must operate within the revenue it generates largely from the sale of tags, permits, and application and license fees. These accomplishments and successes are the result of essential partnerships working together to help protect and bequeath a wildlife legacy for future generations.

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

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



AZGFD launches new Customer Portal and website

The Arizona Game and Fish Department launched its new Customer Portal and redesigned website. The Portal allows customers to manage and view their contact, license, draw results and bonus point information after creating a free, secure online account. Visitors also can purchase various licenses online, access draw application systems, and access the Department’s “I Support Wildlife” program, which allows the public to show their support for wildlife conservation. Annual membership into the program costs \$25 and includes important benefits. The Portal project incorporates a new, attractive website design with simpler navigation, and it’s mobile friendly.

Arizona Game and Fish Department realigns wildlife branches to improve efficiency

The Arizona Game and Fish Department restructured its wildlife programs to improve the agency’s management and conservation of Arizona’s wildlife. The realignment is the result of the Department’s continuing improvement strategy and will go into effect in January 2016. The new comprehensive wildlife management structure consolidates conservation efforts into two branches: Terrestrial Wildlife Branch and Aquatic Wildlife Branch. The realignment follows Gov. Doug Ducey’s direction that government should be lean, efficient and effective. Realignment gives AZGFD greater financial and staffing flexibility, while increasing efficiency.

State, federal partnerships result in repairs to important fish hatchery

Arizona Game and Fish, in cooperation with Mohave County and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, entered into agreements to restore rainbow trout stocking at the Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery along the Colorado River south of Hoover Dam.

Under the agreement, the Department evenly split the costs of repairing a vital pipeline at the hatchery. The Service also agreed to produce rainbow trout for stocking in the Colorado River for five years; supply two million triploid rainbow trout eggs to the Department annually for five years; supply 160,000 Apache trout eggs to the Department for 10 years; coordinate annually with the Department on these efforts; and, the Department will be given the opportunity to provide input into the planning as needed.

The agreement is vitally important to the state’s angling community, which supports approximately 1,700 jobs and generates \$75 million in economic activity along the Mohave County/Clark County stretch of the Lower Colorado River. Arizona’s congressional delegation, particularly U.S. Sen. John McCain, U.S. Rep. Paul Gosar, and Mohave County

Angling generates a significant economic benefit along the Mohave County (Ariz.) and Clark County (Nev.) stretch of the Lower Colorado River.



Life jacket loaner stations are now located at several Arizona lakes, with more planned for the future.

Supervisor Hildy Angius, played a critical role in reaching an agreement. Stockings from the hatchery stopped in 2013 after a broken pipeline and low water levels made it impossible to draw water. The state's sport fishing industry relies on the national hatchery system for more than 97 percent of sport fish stocked in Arizona.



Life Jacket Loaner Stations debut at Lakes Havasu, Mohave and Pleasant

AZGFD is working to help prevent drownings on Arizona waterways with the installation of new Life Jacket Loaner Stations. The stations allow boaters needing a life jacket for whatever reason to borrow one from the station, head out onto the lake and return it before they leave. Stations are now located at Lake Mohave, Lake Pleasant and Lake Havasu, with more being planned. The stations hold jackets for infants, child/youth, adult and oversized passengers. In addition to the loaner stations, the Department also offered life jacket exchange stations at Canyon and Saguaro lakes, resulting in 800 older or unusable jackets being exchanged for new ones. The exchange stations are supported by a U.S. Coast Guard grant.

Northern AZ range improvements increase trap shooting opportunities

A bigger and better trap range awaits recreational shooters at the Northern Arizona Shooting Range, one of 10 public shooting facilities managed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. A \$22,650 public range fund grant from the National Rifle Association helped fund the construction of two additional trap fields, including trap houses and concrete field and sidewalks, as well as the purchase of two new trap machines, two new voice-release systems, a new propane generator, and additional equipment necessary to operate the trap fields. The Northern Arizona Shooting Range, a 160-acre facility located 20 miles east of Flagstaff, conducted its first registered Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA) event in September, drawing 42 registrants. A full season of events will begin in 2016.

Department implements innovative data management system to enhance fisheries management

The Arizona Game and Fish Department launched a new data management system that modernizes the way the Department collects and shares information on how and where it stocks fish, thus enhancing efficiency and effectiveness in its management of the state's fisheries. The Fisheries Information System (known as FINS) makes it easier and faster for biologists and project managers to collect and share comprehensive fisheries data throughout the state. Data is now stored electronically, and when fish are stocked, a keystroke on a tablet sends the information to a central database. What used to take weeks is now available in moments, and more importantly, customers have access to real-time stocking information online.



Outdoor Expo and Youth Day draw 39,000 visitors

Despite record high temperatures, the Arizona Game and Fish Department's 2015 Outdoor Expo, which ran the weekend of March 28-29 at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix, was visited by 33,100 people. Another 5,900 visited Friday's Youth Day. The annual Expo

showcases activities such as fishing, hunting, shooting sports, archery, camping, off-highway vehicle recreation, boating recreation, wildlife viewing and education. In addition to the hands-on activities, more than 170 exhibitors attended, including sportsmen and conservation organizations, government agencies, and commercial vendors of outdoor products and services.

Arizona deer, elk clear of Chronic Wasting Disease

Arizona Game and Fish Department officials did not find any cases of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the 1,342 deer and elk samples tested from the fall 2014 hunting season. The wildlife disease has been confirmed in the neighboring states of Utah, New Mexico and Colorado. CWD is fatal to deer, elk and moose, all of which may not show any visible signs of the illness in early stages of infection. As the illness progresses, the animal suffers progressive weight loss, exhibits abnormal behavior and eventually dies. To further protect Arizona's deer and elk herds from CWD, regulations prohibit hunters from bringing the brain, intact skull or spinal column into Arizona from out of state.



The Outdoor Expo is a great opportunity for people to try out different outdoor recreational opportunities, including fishing.

CONSERVATION



A collaborative statewide conservation agreement will benefit the Sonoran desert tortoise.

Unprecedented partnership moves Sonoran desert tortoise conservation forward

The Arizona Game and Fish Department led 16 federal and state partners in a proactive effort to develop a statewide conservation agreement to benefit the iconic Sonoran desert tortoise in Arizona. The agreement, a Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA), was completed to outline effective conservation for the species and was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for consideration as they evaluated the need to list the Sonoran desert tortoise as threatened or endangered. The agreement guides tortoise conservation actions across multiple agencies that have the potential to directly conserve the species in Arizona. It promotes a coordinated conservation approach statewide; integrated monitoring and research efforts; shared expertise; and supports ongoing conservation partnership formation. The Arizona Interagency Desert Tortoise Team (AIDTT) will manage and periodically review the implementation of the species conservation measures outlined in the CCA.

The initial term of the CCA is ten years, with five-year increments thereafter until long-term habitat and population conservation of the desert tortoise is achieved, as determined by the AIDTT and the Service.

Bald eagles impress biologists by breaking all breeding-season records

Arizona's bald eagle population continued its upward trend as it set multiple breeding-season productivity records in 2015. Key productivity records that were broken include number of: breeding areas, occupied breeding areas, eggs laid, active breeding areas, successful breeding attempts, young hatched, nestlings fledged and the nest success and productivity ratios. These measures are important indicators of the species' health.

In Arizona, at least 89 bald eagle eggs were laid, an increase of 16, and a record 76 breeding areas were identified, including eight new areas. For the first time ever, the number of nestlings that fledged exceeded 60 with 66 young birds making it to the important milestone of their first flight. The previous fledging record was 58. The growth of the population is attributed to the continued efforts of the Southwestern Bald Eagle Management Committee—a coalition of AZGFD and 25 other government agencies, private organizations and Native American tribes.



Bald eagles set productivity records in 2015, thanks to the efforts of the Southwestern Bald Eagle Management Committee.

Hunters set record participation rates in Arizona's voluntary non-lead ammunition program to benefit condors

AZGFD's voluntary non-lead ammunition program, which is designed to reduce lead poisoning in California condors, reached record participation levels in 2014. For hunters in the condor's core range in northern Arizona, 91 percent voluntarily chose to use either non-lead ammunition or remove gut piles from the field. Of the 91 percent, surveys show 73 percent of successful hunters used non-lead ammunition, an increase of 13 percent over the previous year. In addition, 65 percent of the small number of hunters that still used lead ammunition removed their gut pile from the field to prevent condors from feeding on it. The Department started offering free non-lead ammunition in 2005 to hunters drawn for hunts in the condor's core range.

Endangered Mexican wolf population exceeds 100

The Mexican Wolf Interagency Field Team documented a minimum of 110 wolves in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico during its annual population surveys. This population number was a 31 percent increase over the previous year and the fourth consecutive year with at least a 10 percent increase in the known population. There were a minimum of 83 wild wolves identified in the previous year's survey. The results came from data collected on the ground by the field team between November and December 2014, as well as data from an aerial survey conducted in January and February 2015. The population number was considered a minimum number of Mexican wolves known to exist in the wild in Arizona-New Mexico, as other Mexican wolves may be present but uncounted during surveys. Mexican wolf recovery is a partnership between the Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, White Mountain Apache Tribe, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S.D.A. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service—Wildlife Services, and several participating counties.



Game and Fish Commission signs historic bison conservation agreement

The Arizona Game and Fish Department soon will be part of a new chapter in the conservation history of the iconic American bison. The Game and Fish Commission signed a memorandum of agreement with the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service and Wind Cave National Park (WICA) in western South Dakota to establish a Plains Bison Conservation Herd, with WICA genetic lineage, at the Raymond Wildlife Area (RWA) in northern Arizona. The commission-owned location was identified to be part of a national effort to conserve bison lineages that have high genetic purity, genetic diversity, and rare bison genes. The goal of this new effort is to establish an ecologically and genetically restored conservation herd of WICA bison at RWA, while maintaining the population at levels that provide diverse recreational opportunities and avoid adverse impacts to the habitat. Bison at RWA are descendants from an unsuccessful bison-cattle, cross-breeding effort more than 100 years ago. Results of genetic testing show the herd has high levels of cattle DNA. Replacement of the RWA bison herd is expected to be completed in fall 2017.

The Raymond Wildlife Area is part of a national effort to conserve bison lineages that have high genetic purity, genetic diversity, and rare bison genes.

The USFWS decided the tiny Page springsnail didn't require ESA listing thanks to AZGFD's proactive conservation efforts over the past 15 years.



Recent listing decisions for three Arizona native species announced

In 2015, the Arizona Game and Fish Department faced three endangered species listing decisions by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service decided not to list the Sonoran desert tortoise under the Endangered Species Act. For more than 25 years, the Department has dedicated considerable effort towards monitoring and researching Sonoran desert tortoise populations statewide. The extensive data collected over the years played a role in the Service's determination that the species' population is stable (see first article in this section on the Sonoran Desert Tortoise CCA). The Service also decided that the tiny Page springsnail did not require listing due to the Department's proactive conservation efforts over the past 15 years. In 2009, a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) was put into place to help reverse the decline of the snail before it necessitated federal listing as an endangered species. Seven of the nine populations that still exist in the state are found at Department-owned fish hatcheries. The CCAA identified measures to ensure that the Department's operation of the fish hatcheries protects both the Page springsnail and its habitat. In the Service's third listing decision, it was proposed that both the roundtail and headwater chub should be listed as threatened species. The Department is concerned that the species status assessment used by the Service did not fully include the Department's

species experts and scientific data that show the significant improvements the fish have made over the past 20 years. The Department is working with the Service to address these concerns prior to the rule being finalized.



More permits issued for 2015 general deer hunting seasons

The Arizona Game and Fish Department issued 43,326 hunt permit tags, which represented an increase from 42,175 in 2014 and the most since 2011 (43,716). The number of first-choice applicants—83,157—was 11,833 more than the number that applied in 2014 (71,324) and represents the most since 2006, when 85,534 filled out an application for the big game draw. Permits available per species are determined and adjusted annually from the results of science-based studies, surveys, and management goals for maintaining healthy, sustainable wildlife populations and habitats.

ISSUES

Arizona takes legal actions to protect state's interest in Mexican wolf recovery

The State of Arizona, on behalf of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, filed two motions aimed at protecting the state's interest in the Mexican wolf reintroduction program and successful recovery of the endangered wolf subspecies. Arizona filed a motion to intervene in the lawsuit *Center for Biological Diversity v. Sally Jewell*. The suit concerns the revised 10(j) Rule that governs the management of Mexican wolves in Arizona and New Mexico. The State filed the motion to intervene to defend its trust authority over wildlife conservation in Arizona and its involvement in the revision of the 10(j) Rule. The State also filed a motion to dismiss the suit based on the court's lack of subject matter jurisdiction because the plaintiffs are unable to demonstrate that their interests have suffered due to the revised 10(j) Rule. The revised 10(j) Rule increases the Mexican wolf population objective from at least 100 animals to a range of 300 to 325. It also expands the previous recovery area where wolves could live to a three-zone area that eventually expands their range ten-fold. The Department and Arizona Attorney General also filed suit against the Secretary of the Department of Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for failing

their statutory duty to develop an updated recovery plan to guide Mexican wolf recovery. The action was taken in an effort to spur development of an updated recovery plan for Mexican wolves that utilizes the best available science as legally required by the Endangered Species Act. The Department has repeatedly requested an updated recovery plan from the Service.

Arizona Game and Fish Commission has concerns on potential Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission continued to have concerns over the prospect that President Barack Obama may issue an executive order proclaiming 1.7 million acres of land in northern Arizona as the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument—a unilateral action that could bypass public input and participation. In 2012, the Commission voted to oppose creation of a monument, pointing out that the vast majority of the land in question is already public property currently managed and conserved under multiple-use concepts, primarily by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Conserving these lands and associated wildlife habitats is already being done very effectively and has led to the largest non-fragmented block of wildlife habitat in Arizona. The Commission expressed concern that the proposed monument was to “preserve”—and in some cases lock away—these lands rather than to conserve them. National monument designation could impose unreasonable restrictions greater than what is actually needed to protect the resource, adversely impacting public access, traditional recreational uses, and the ability of the Commission and Department to properly manage wildlife and habitat.



The State of Arizona, on behalf of AZGFD, filed two motions aimed at protecting the state's interest in the Mexican wolf reintroduction program and successful recovery of the endangered subspecies.



AZGFD worked with other agencies in water sampling in the aftermath of Colorado's Gold King Mine spill.

AZGFD assists in monitoring of Lake Powell, Lees Ferry

As a result of the Colorado Gold King Mine spill, the Arizona Game and Fish Department worked with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and other agencies to evaluate potential environmental issues stemming from the spill. A broad spectrum of environmental samples, both biological and physical, were collected from the Arizona portion of Lake Powell and downstream at Lees Ferry as part of continued monitoring. ADEQ officials announced in early September that their analysis of water entering Lake Powell showed that the lake is safe for normal uses. The resulting data sets will be used to compare historical and future data going forward.

Grand Canyon Bison Management Act moves forward

The U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved a bill to allow the Arizona Game and Fish Department to assist in better management and conservation of the bison population within Grand Canyon National Park. The Committee passed Senate Bill 782, which is known as the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act. The bi-partisan bill is due to be considered by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. The act strives to protect the Grand Canyon's critical habitat, cultural and archaeological sites by requiring the U.S. Department of Interior and Arizona Game and Fish Commission to coordinate on a plan that allows sportsmen with valid state-issued hunting licenses to assist in management of the bison population. Wildlife surveys estimate that about 600 bison have migrated from the House Rock Wildlife Area into the national park where hunting is prohibited. The park has since become a safe haven for the exploding bison population, which has led to overgrazing and damage to the Grand Canyon's natural and cultural resources. An identical version of the act, sponsored by U.S. Rep. Paul Gosar, cleared the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee in October. It is hoped the legislation will move forward in 2016.



MISCELLANEOUS



More than 3,000 visitors attended the Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center Open House.

Department's Wildlife Center Open House attracts more than 3,000 visitors

Once a year, the Arizona Game and Fish Department opens its Wildlife Center to the public to provide a glimpse into the center's operations, see wildlife up close, view educational displays, make wildlife-related crafts and meet wildlife experts. This year's event attracted more than 3,000 visitors. The center was opened 30 years ago as the first state-run wildlife rehabilitation and education center in the nation. Since then, it has provided wildlife triage, treatment and rehabilitation to more than 30,000 sick or injured animals. The center's focus has shifted to wildlife education in recent years. Staff and volunteers give talks to tens of thousands of people each year.

Watchable Wildlife Program increases offerings

The Arizona Game and Fish Department's Watchable Wildlife Program ramped up its public workshops this year, offering some for free and some for a fee. Workshops included bison viewing, elk viewing, night hikes to spot nocturnal wildlife, a bat program where participants helped capture and identify local bat species alongside biologists, and more. Income from the fee-based workshops goes to support additional opportunities to increase public awareness of wildlife through positive and personal wildlife viewing experiences.



Big Game Super Raffle nets record \$598,400 for wildlife

The 10th annual “Arizona Big Game Super Raffle” generated a record \$598,400, topping \$557,320 raised in 2007. The prizes included a total of 10 Special Big Game Tags, one for each of the state’s big game species—bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope, buffalo, turkey, bear, javelina and mountain lion. The permit-tags were awarded by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. Raffle tickets ranged from \$5 to \$25, depending on the species. The raffle is conducted by a nonprofit entity to raise money for wildlife conservation efforts. A volunteer board of directors, comprised of representatives from sponsoring organizations, oversees the operation of the raffle. In the 10-year history of the raffle, almost \$5 million has been raised for wildlife and wildlife management in Arizona. Every dollar raised for each species through the raffle is returned to the Department and managed by the Arizona Habitat Partnership Committee (AHPC) for that particular species.

Tortoise adoption events place more than 100 animals

With the recent move of the Tortoise Adoption Program in-house, the Arizona Game and Fish Department found itself with hundreds of tortoises needing new custodial homes. Excessive backyard breeding has created an over-abundance of captive desert tortoises needing homes. Two large-scale adoption events were held and successfully placed more than 100 animals prior to the animals going into hibernation in the fall. Adopters were required to be pre-approved prior to the events to ensure tortoises found safe, qualified homes. In addition to those animals placed during the events, another 350 tortoises were adopted out during the course of the summer.



Arizona Game and Fish’s Heritage grants offer \$432,000 for wildlife-focused projects

The Arizona Game and Fish Department again offered its popular Heritage grants to wildlife projects either located within the state or those that involve research on Arizona’s wildlife or its habitat. The grants are supported by revenue from Arizona Lottery ticket sales. In the last grant cycle, the Department used Heritage funds to award \$408,000 to 25 grant projects across Arizona. When combined with matching money from other sources, the funded projects total more than \$1 million invested in Arizona. Arizona voters created the Heritage Fund in 1990. A portion of the money from lottery ticket sales goes to conservation efforts such as protecting endangered species, educating our children about wildlife, helping urban residents to coexist better with wildlife, and creating new opportunities for outdoor recreation. Over the years, Game and Fish has awarded more than \$14 million in grants to communities across the state.



AZGFD promotes off-highway vehicle safety

To help ensure OHV users ride responsibly, the Arizona Game and Fish Department's OHV Safety Education program attended several outdoor-related expos to provide education and outreach on proper riding technique, safety gear, and riding ethics. To further promote rider safety and helmet use, the Department also launched a "Show us your helmet hair" social-media campaign that encourages riders to shoot a photo of themselves with their helmet on and off and submit it as part of a contest. By entering, contestants can win prizes from area businesses and OHV safety partners.

Sportsmen encouraged to help conserve valued hunting, angling destinations

The Arizona Game and Fish Department worked with the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership to urge sportsmen to participate in the Sportsman's Values Mapping Project. The Department mailed postcards to a random sample of individuals who have purchased Arizona hunting and fishing licenses, encouraging them to take a few moments to identify lands they cherish for hunting and angling. That input will be combined and assembled in a GIS, where it will be overlaid with maps of critical habitat, migration routes, land ownership and other data. The resulting maps will provide important and previously unavailable data to state and federal agencies for the following purposes: balance other land uses with the needs of fish, wildlife and sportsmen; identify areas needing stronger conservation efforts or expansion of hunting and angling opportunities; justify actions and funding requests aimed at conserving highly valued wildlife habitat; and identify areas where public access needs to be maintained or improved. The Sportsman's Values Mapping Project is a national initiative that was launched in 2007 by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.



AZGFD partnered with the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership on the Sportsman's Values Mapping Project.

AZGFD director reappointed to prominent presidential wildlife council

The U.S. Secretary of the Interior and U.S. Agriculture Secretary reappointed Arizona Game and Fish Director Larry Voyles to the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council. Voyles will serve on behalf of the 50 state wildlife agencies as the state wildlife agency representative on the council, which was established in 2010 to advise the Departments of Interior and Agriculture on wildlife conservation, habitat conservation and hunting. This represents Voyles' second appointment to the presidentially established 18-member council. The council is an advisory group formed under the Federal Advisory Committee Act and helps promote and preserve America's wildlife and hunting heritage for future generations. It also encourages partnerships among the public, sporting conservation organizations, states, tribes and the federal government.

Sen. John McCain inducted into Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame

The Arizona Game and Fish Department, together with the Wildlife for Tomorrow Foundation, inducted four individuals and one organization into the Arizona Outdoor Hall of

Fame. The inductees were U.S. Senator John McCain, former Game and Fish Commissioner John W. Harris, Navajo County rancher Jim O'Haco, active conservationist Dan Priest, and Audubon Arizona. The Outdoor Hall of Fame was developed in 1998 by the nonprofit Wildlife for Tomorrow Foundation to honor those who have made significant contributions to Arizona's wildlife.

Arizona Wildlife Views television and magazine garner awards in 2015

Video producers with the Arizona Wildlife Views television show were honored were honored in 2015 with three awards from the Association for Conservation Information, eight regional Emmy Awards, and five Excellence in Craft Awards from the Outdoor Writers Association of America. Arizona Wildlife Views is a 13-week, half-hour show that airs on PBS stations in Phoenix and Tucson, as well as city cable channels statewide. The Department was further honored when the editors and staff of "Arizona Wildlife Views" magazine earned first place in the state wildlife magazine category from the Association for Conservation Information.

AZGFD was recognized with numerous awards at the annual conference of the Association for Conservation Information (ACI).



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Fiscal Year Revenues by Fund	2013-14	2014-15
Game and Fish Fund	\$31,327,652	\$32,893,188
Watercraft Licensing Fund	\$4,600,643	\$4,489,650
Game, Nongame Fund	\$170,218	\$946
Federal Assistance (includes Matching Funds)	\$33,760,611	\$36,885,636
Heritage Fund	\$10,722,168	\$10,075,688
Off-Highway Vehicle Fund	\$1,667,105	\$1,683,165
Capital Improvement/Conservation Dev Funds	\$1,361,627	\$1,117,357
Wildlife Conservation Fund	\$6,254,247	\$6,355,750
Indirect Cost Fund	\$4,346,619	\$4,682,304
Other Funds (See Detail Below)	\$4,286,268	\$5,338,597
Total Revenue All Sources	\$98,497,158	\$103,522,281

Other Funds Detail

Federal Grants	\$0	\$141
Wildlife Conservation Recovery Fund	\$0	\$537,715
GF Land & Water Conservation/Recreation Dev	\$265	\$203
Wildlife Theft Prevention Fund	\$131,366	\$127,743
Waterfowl Conservation Fund	\$49,503	\$0
Wildlife Endowment Fund	\$219,627	\$198,900
Interagency Service Agreement Fund	\$818,293	\$0
Federal Economic Recovery Fund	\$15,967	\$0
Trust/Donation Fund	\$2,834,250	\$4,288,155
Firearms Safety and Ranges Fund	\$34,746	\$33,450
W/L Habitat and Restoration Fund	\$3	\$11
Game & Fish California/Coll Stamp	\$1,332	\$0
Game & Fish Kaibab Coop	\$24,731	\$1,805
Publications Revolving Fund	\$156,185	\$150,475
Total Other Funds	\$4,286,268	\$5,338,597

Fiscal Year Expenditure by Fund	2013-14	2014-15
Game and Fish Fund	\$28,412,482	\$30,403,326
Watercraft Licensing Fund	\$3,351,095	\$3,066,985
Game, Nongame Fund	\$154,220	\$154,055
Federal Assistance (includes Matching Funds)	\$33,909,728	\$39,313,625
Heritage Fund	\$7,657,709	\$10,163,913
Off-Highway Vehicle Fund	\$1,513,307	\$1,837,517
Capital Improvement/Conservation Dev Funds	\$1,522,907	\$1,005,159
Wildlife Conservation Fund	\$5,460,787	\$5,805,319
Indirect Cost Fund	\$4,087,045	\$4,733,267
Other Funds (See Detail Below)	\$3,591,099	\$3,469,278
Total Expenditures All Sources	\$89,660,379	\$99,952,444

Other Funds Detail

Federal Grants	\$0	\$15,146
Wildlife Conservation Recovery Fund	\$0	\$578,593
Wildlife Theft Prevention Fund	\$60,518	\$117,771
Waterfowl Conservation Fund	\$166,227	\$0
Interagency Service Agreement Fund	\$882,589	\$0
Federal Economic Recovery Fund	\$769	\$0
Trust/Donation Fund	\$2,309,055	\$2,584,834
Firearms Safety and Ranges Fund	\$18,503	\$11,149
Game & Fish Kaibab Coop	\$16,667	\$0
Publications Revolving Fund	\$136,771	\$161,785
Total Other Funds	\$3,591,099	\$3,469,278

Calendar Year Sales in Numbers by Group	2013	2014
All Licenses/Tags (see detail below)	441,333	504,224
Resident Trout Stamps+	61,225	N/A
Nonresident Trout Stamps+	10	N/A
Tags (excluding special hunts)	161,329	162,778
Misc Permits/Licenses	2,241	3,209
Special Use Licenses/Stamps+	35,242	259
Misc No Cost Licenses/Permits	1,910	619
Two Pole Stamps+	55,703	N/A
Resident Additional Day Stamps+	1,879	N/A

*Newly created licenses for license simplification structure that took effect Jan. 1, 2014
 +Licenses that were eliminated in license simplification structure, had residual sales into calendar year 2014

Nonresident Additional Day Stamps+	2,141	4
Arizona Waterfowl Stamps+	6,657	376
Migratory Bird Stamps+	N/A	1,493
Migratory/Waterfowl Stamps*	51,652	53,162
Kaibab 12A Habitat Stamps	1,606	45
Supplemental Hunt Tags	10	N/A
Companion Hunt Tags	221	116
Totals	823,159	726,285

Lifetime License/Stamp Sales	2013	2014
Lifetime License Fish	111	46
Lifetime License Hunt	152	115
Lifetime License Combination	148	183
Lifetime License Trout Stamp+	38	N/A
Wildlife Benefactor License	44	8
Totals	493	352

Calendar Year License Sales by Category	2013	2014
Resident General Fish	126,056	161,994
Nonresident General Fish	N/A	17,338
Family/Primary Fish+	5,481	85
Family/Spouse Fish+	2,738	21
Family/Child Fish+	2,004	19
Resident Super Fish/Trout/Urban+	14,468	53
Nonresident Super Fish/Trout Urban+	2,523	30
Resident General Hunt	62,331	59,389
Nonresident General Hunt+	22,845	2,267
Family/Primary Hunt+	1,127	319
Family/Spouse Hunt+	516	175
Family/Child Hunt+	2,563	122
Super Hunt w/Stamps+	172	85
Resident Combo Hunt/Fish	67,607	108,202
Nonresident Combo Hunt/Fish	400	23,872
Family/Primary Hunt+	1,127	319
Family/Spouse Hunt+	561	175
Family/Child Hunt+	2,563	122
Super Hunt+	172	85
Family/Primary Combo Hunt/Fish+	4,277	1,772
Family/Spouse Combo Hunt/Fish+	2,132	913
Family/Child Combo Hunt/Fish+	2,269	855
Super Combo Hunt/Fish w/Stamps+	785	479
Resident Youth Combo Hunt/Fish	24,221	70,782
Nonresident Youth Combination*	N/A	3,067
High Achievement Scout	236	189
Nonresident 3-Day Hunt+	7,228	N/A
Resident Short-term Combo*	N/A	16,145
Nonresident Short-term Combo*	N/A	27,271
Urban Fishing+	26,737	151
Resident Community Fishing*	N/A	8,095
Nonresident Community Fishing*	N/A	445
Nonresident Colorado River Fishing+	1,574	N/A
Nonresident 5-Day Fishing+	7,900	N/A
Nonresident 4-Month Fishing+	7,443	N/A
Resident 1-Day Fish+	16,759	N/A
Nonresident 1-Day Fish+	15,158	N/A
Resident Youth Group 2-Day Fish+	86	89
Resident General Fish Nov/Dec+	2,972	N/A
Nonresident General Fish Nov/Dec+	1	N/A
Family/Primary Fish Nov/Dec+	44	N/A
Family/Spouse Fish Nov/Dec+	27	N/A
Urban Fishing+	1,608	N/A
Totals	441,333	504,224

Calendar Year License and Tag Sales	2013	2014
Licenses	\$18,014,097	\$21,838,318
Stamps	1,648,163	276,530
Tags	7,872,671	9,428,146
Total Value	\$27,534,931	\$31,542,994



Robert E. Mansell



Kurt R. Davis



Edward "Pat" Madden



James R. Ammons



James S. Zieler

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 Governor is assisted in the selection of Commission candidates by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission Appointment Recommendation Board.

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 Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and manage for safe, compatible outdoor recreation opportunities for current and future generations.



The Arizona Game and Fish Department prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, religion or disability in its programs and activities. If anyone believes that they have been discriminated against in any of the AZGFD'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, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS:WSFR, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803. 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

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TY GRAY Deputy Director
JIM PAXON Special Assistant
to the Director
KENT KOMADINA Special Assistant
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ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

JIM DEVOS Wildlife Management
TOM FINLEY Field Operations
JOHN BULLINGTON Special Services
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