

Minutes of the Telephonic Meeting of the
Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Friday, October 16, 2015, 10:00 a.m.
Arizona Game and Fish Department
5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, Arizona 85086

PRESENT: (Commission)

(Director's Staff)

Via telephone:
Chairman Kurt R. Davis
Commissioner Edward "Pat" Madden
Commissioner James R. Ammons

In person:
Director Larry D. Voyles
Deputy Director Ty E. Gray
Assistant Attorney General Linda Pollock

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Director Voyles conducted roll call. Commissioners Zieler and Mansell were not present. There were no members of the public present. Several Department staff members were present. This meeting followed an agenda dated October 14, 2015.

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1. Cooperative Agreement Renewal at the Lower San Pedro River Wildlife Area

Presenter: Joyce Francis, Habitat Branch Chief

Dr. Francis briefed the Commission on the Department's request to renew the existing Cooperative Agreement with Table Mountain Farms for farming operations associated with the Lower San Pedro River Wildlife Area. The Department currently has a Cooperative Agreement with Table Mountain Farms for farming on a portion of the Lower San Pedro River Wildlife Area known as the Hayfields parcel. The agreement expires in November of this year. The Department is requesting approval to renew the Cooperative Agreement which will provide a continuous application of crops reducing invasive weeds on the agricultural areas of the parcels.

Motion: Madden moved and Ammons seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE RENEWAL OF THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH TABLE MOUNTAIN FARMS AND AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR, AS SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION, TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT AS RECOMMENDED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Vote: Unanimous
3 to 0
Zieler and Mansell not present

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2. Approval of Extension of Season Dates for 2 Camp Navajo General Antlerless Elk Hunts (Hunt Numbers 3955 and 3956)

Presenter: Al Eiden, Acting Game Branch Chief

Mr. Eiden briefed the Commission and asked for Commission consideration of extending season dates for two Camp Navajo general antlerless elk hunts to include November 11-19, 2015 due to the administrative closure of Camp Navajo during the existing season dates of October 16-22, 2015.

At the December 2014 Commission meeting, the Commission approved the 2015 elk hunts on Camp Navajo. Due to scheduled training missions, Camp Navajo will be restricting access to both the restricted zone and the buffer zone during 2 general antlerless elk hunts, hunt numbers 3955 and 3956, occurring from October 16-22, 2015. Fifteen military and 7 other hunters will be affected by this closure. Commission Order 2-Elk in the 2015 Pronghorn Antelope and Elk Hunt Regulations clearly states that Camp Navajo may restrict hunter access for training missions and industrial operations with little or no prior notice, so any person with a tag for these hunts should be aware in advance that closures are a possibility. Camp Navajo has reached out to the Department and offered an alternative timeframe for these hunts to occur from November 11-19, 2015. Camp Navajo has agreed to contact each of the 22 tag holders for these hunts to notify them of the closure and inform them that the Commission is considering extending these hunts to include 9 additional days in November. Camp Navajo has also agreed to inform these tag holders about the Commission's decision on whether or not extension is approved. A decision to extend the season for these hunts ensures hunt opportunities for these tag holders and acknowledges the proactive efforts of a partner to promote wildlife management through the use of hunting.

Commissioner Ammons stated that people who hunt Camp Navajo know and understand that something could happen and they may not get to go hunting. This is a great opportunity to extend the season, but people need to know that this is not precedent setting and this is not necessarily going to happen again in the future.

Mr. Eiden stated that the Department will work with Camp Navajo to notify people that this situation is an exception and not the rule.

Chairman Davis discussed with Mr. Eiden that the elk populations in this area are going up and the need to do these specific antlerless hunts is the main driver behind this request. Any request like this in the future would require Commission action and there would be a sound biological purpose behind any potential Department request.

Motion: Madden moved and Ammons seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THE SEASON EXTENSION OF 2 GENERAL ANTLERLESS HUNTS ON CAMP NAVAJO, HUNT NUMBERS 3955 AND 3956, TO INCLUDE THE DATES NOVEMBER 11-19, 2015.

Vote: Unanimous
3 to 0
Zieler and Mansell not present

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Motion: Madden moved and Davis seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO ADJOURN THIS MEETING.

Vote: Unanimous

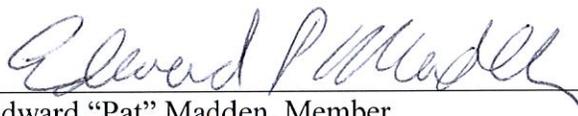
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Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

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Kurt R. Davis, Chairman



Edward "Pat" Madden, Member



James R. Ammons, Member

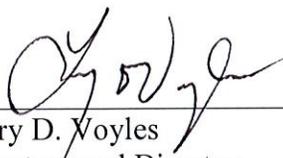


James S. Zieler, Member



Robert E. Mansell, Member

ATTEST:



Larry D. Voyles
Secretary and Director