



PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

April 1, 2024

A public meeting of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission will be held on **April 12, 2024** at the **City of Buckeye, Council Chambers, 530 Monroe Ave, Buckeye, AZ 85326**. The public may attend the meeting in person or view the meeting at www.azgfd.gov/commissioncam or may listen to the meeting by calling 404-397-1516, Access code: 280 046 234###. Members of the public may view the meeting from any Department Regional Office and the Department's Headquarters via video teleconference. Members of the public attending in person wanting to speak on a specific agenda item may submit Speaker Cards (Blue Cards) if they wish to speak to the Commission. Members of the public may only address the Commission by attending in person or from any regional office. Copies of any presentations, documents, etc. discussed during the meeting will be available by contacting sprice@azgfd.gov. Unless expressly provided otherwise with any matter, the Commission may discuss and may vote to take action on the following matters:

Friday, April 12, 2024 – Meeting location opens at 7:45 a.m.
Meeting begins at 8:00 a.m.
Lunch Break at 12:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome/Introductions

Awards and Recognition

- 1) **Call to the Public.** Those persons wishing to speak on a matter not on the agenda should complete a speaker's card and present it to the host. No discussion or action will be taken by the Commission. Any items requiring further discussion or action will be included on a future Commission meeting agenda.
- 2) **Consideration of Proposed Commission Orders 2, 6-10, and 26 for 2024–25 Hunting Seasons. Presenter: Callie Cavalcant, Big Game Management Program Supervisor Terrestrial Wildlife Branch.** The Commission will consider and may approve Commission Orders 2 (deer), 6 (javelina, fall and spring), 7 (bighorn sheep), 8 (bison, fall), 9 (black bear, fall and spring), 10 (mountain lion), and 26 (population management) establishing seasons and season dates, bag and possession limits, permit numbers or authorized limits, and open areas for the respective 2024 - 2025 fall and spring hunting seasons.
- 3) **Consideration of Proposed Amendments to Commission Order 16 (Quail) and Proposed Commission Orders 19–22 and 24 (Migratory Game Birds) for the 2024–2025 hunting season in accordance with the Final Rules of the Federal Register**

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5000 W. CAREFREE HIGHWAY, PHOENIX AZ 85086

GOVERNOR: KATIE HOBBS COMMISSIONERS: CHAIRMAN TODD G. GEILER, PRESCOTT | CLAY HERNANDEZ, TUCSON | MARSHA PETRIE SUE, SCOTTSDALE
JEFF BUCHANAN, PATAGONIA | JAMES E. GOUGHNOUR, PAYSON DIRECTOR: TY E. GRAY DEPUTY DIRECTOR: TOM P. FINLEY

(USFWS, anticipated publication July 2024). Presenter: Larisa Harding, Small Game Management Program Supervisor. The Commission will consider and may approve Commission Orders 19–22 (dove, band-tailed pigeon, waterfowl, and snipe) and 24 (sandhill crane), establishing season dates, open and closed areas, bag and possession limits, and permit numbers (for CO 24 sandhill cranes only) for the 2024–2025 hunting season. A detailed description of proposals will be available for public review at Department offices. All other small game Commission Orders were approved in April 2023 on a two-year cycle, changing only with calendar shifts. Potential environmental prescriptions will be presented for establishing the 2024–2025 hunt recommendations for Montezuma (Mearns’) quail(Commission Order 16) outside the 2023–2028 Hunt Guidelines.

- 4) **Update on the Department’s Multi-year Bobcat Survival and Cause-Specific Mortality Project. Presenter: April Howard, Predator, Furbearer, and Large Carnivore Biologist.** The Commission will be presented with a briefing on the Department’s multi-year, statewide project on bobcat survival and cause-specific mortality.
- 5) **Update on the Department’s Statewide Mountain Lion Research Project. Presenter: Brian Jansen, Carnivore Capture Specialist.** The Commission will be presented with a briefing on the Department’s ongoing, statewide mountain lion research project.

TIME CERTAIN AT 10:00 AM

- 6) **Hearings on License Revocations for Violations of Game and Fish Codes and Civil Assessments for the Illegal Taking and/or Possession of Wildlife. Presenter: Gene F. Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief.** The Commission will consider and take action on the license revocations and/or civil assessments for the individuals listed below.

| Name | Docket # | Conviction |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alejandro Palacios | 2024-0012 | Waste Edible Portions of Game Meat (Elk). |
| Patrick King | 2024-0017 | Careless Misuse of Firearms. |
| James Martin | 2024-0018 | Take Deer by Unlawful Device (Trail Camera). Take Deer by Unlawful Method (Bait). Take Deer Without License/Tag. |
| Jesse Lee | 2024-0019 | Take Deer by Unlawful Method (Bait). |
| Daniel Brinkerhoff | 2024-0020 | Take Deer by Unlawful Device (Trail Camera.) Take Deer by Unlawful Method (Bait). |
| Daniel Dupuis | 2024-0021 | Take Wildlife by Unlawful Device (Trail Camera.) Take Wildlife by Unlawful Method (Bait). |

Joel Broersma 2024-0030 Take White-Tailed Deer by Unlawful Device
(Trail Camera)
Take Bear/Lion by Unlawful Method (Trail
Camera).

Agenda items 7-8 are first read items. The Commission may choose to take action on first read items as needed or may direct the Department to place first read items on the consent agenda for approval at the next Commission meeting.

- 7) **Review of draft Commission policy regarding the state’s primary authority to manage wildlife. Presenter: Clay Crowder, Assistant Director, Wildlife Management Division.** The Department will present a draft Commission policy regarding the state’s primary authority to manage wildlife for Commission review and discussion. This policy is presented based on previous Commission direction to the Department to draft Commission policy regarding maintaining state’s authority.
- 8) **FY 2026 Proposed Budget & FY 2025 Modifications. Presenter: Marvin Mendieta, Budget and Payroll Administrator.** The Department will provide the Commission with a presentation on the FY ’26 proposed budget and proposed modifications to the FY ’25 budget.
- 9) **Lower Gila River Collaborative and Rio Reimagined Information Update. Presenter: Kelly Wolff, Habitat Evaluation and Lands Program Manager.** Informational presentation on the landscape scale collaboration occurring along the Lower Gila River.
- 10) **Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) Briefing. Presenter: Stephanie Cobbold, Senior Wildlife Biologist.** The Commission will be provided a briefing on the Department’s conservation efforts for the Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy Owl (CFPO).
- 11) **State and Federal Lands Planning Update. Presenter: Luke Thompson, Habitat, Lands, and Evaluation Branch Chief.** The Commission will be updated on Department activities and involvement with land management planning and other actions regarding state and federal lands in Arizona.
- 12) **State and Federal Legislative Update. Presenter: Ed Sanchez, Legislative Liaison, Government Affairs.** The Commission will be briefed on the status of State and Federal legislation. The Commission may take a position or provide direction to the Department for coordination, action, or proposed changes to legislation related to Department responsibilities.
- 13) **Commission Priority Report. Presenter: Kent Komadina, Special Assistant to the Director.** The Department will provide an update on the Commission Priorities and Metrics. The Department will also provide an extended presentation by Karen Klima, Develop And Implement A Strategy for Resilient Wildlife and Habitat

- 14) **Chairman, Commissioners and Director Comments.** The Chairman, Commissioners and Director may provide brief comments on current events and issues. This item is for information only. Items requiring discussion, deliberation or legal action must be placed on a future Commission meeting agenda.
- 15) **Future Agenda Items and Action Items.**
- 16) **Litigation Report.** The Department's legal counsel may report on the status of the litigation matters: *In re General Stream Adjudication for the Little Colorado River and Gila River*; *Center for Biological Diversity v. Zinke*, CV 15-00019 (AZ); *Center for Biological Diversity v. Zinke*, CV 18-00047; *WildEarth Guardians v. Ashe*, CV 15-00285 (AZ); *Safari Club International v. Zinke*, 16-00094 (AZ); *Wildearth Guardians v. Bernhardt*, CV-19-00441. *State of California v. Bernhardt*, CV 19-06013 and companion cases challenging the USFWS's ESA rule changes; Tonto NF Travel Management Plan; litigation challenging the revised 10(j) rule for Mexican gray wolves.
- 17) **Executive Session (The Commission will not vote to take on any action during Executive Session).**
 - a. **Litigation and Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (4) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice in order to consider its position and to instruct legal counsel regarding the Commission's position concerning *In re General Stream Adjudication for the Little Colorado River and Gila River*; *Center for Biological Diversity v. Zinke*, CV 15-00019 (AZ); *Center for Biological Diversity v. Zinke*, CV 18-00047; *WildEarth Guardians v. Ashe*, CV 15-00285 (AZ); *Safari Club International v. Zinke*, 16-00094 (AZ);, et al., CV 2018-010149; *Center for Biological Diversity v. U.S. Forest Service*, CV 20-00075; *Wildearth Guardians v. Bernhardt*, CV-19-00441; *State of California v. Bernhardt*, CV 19-06013 and companion cases challenging the USFWS's ESA rule changes; Tonto NF Travel Management Plan; Tonto NF Revised Land Management Plan; litigation challenging the revised 10(j)rule for Mexican gray wolves.
 - b. **Litigation and Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (4) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice in order to consider its position and to instruct legal counsel regarding the Commission's position concerning the legal strategy recommendations from the Department's legal strategies team.
 - c. **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding the Commission's authority to close state trust lands to hunting and to close roads providing access to state trust lands.

- d. **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding cattle trespasses on the Commission's Coal Mine property and the State Parks & Trails Sonoita Creek State Natural Area.
- e. **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding Commission authority over license revocation and civil penalties for wildlife-related criminal violations under Title 13, Arizona Revised Statutes.
- f. **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding the designation of the Grand Canyon National Monument.
- g. **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding non-resident guide license fees that differ from resident guide license fees.
- h. **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding the BLM's plan for recreational shooting within the Sonoran Desert National Monument.
- i. **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel regarding trespasses and other unauthorized activities on Commission-owned Wildlife Areas.
- j. **Purchase or Disposal of Real Property and Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (7) for the purpose of discussion or consultation with Department staff in order to consider its position and instruct its representative regarding the purchase or disposal of real property and for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice.
- k. **Personnel Matters.** The Commission may vote to go into executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1) to discuss personnel matters associated with the Director's duties, responsibilities and performance. The Commission may take action in the public session or defer any action to a later date.



Ty E. Gray
Director

The agenda may be revised and additional items may be added prior to the meeting as authorized by A.R.S. §38-431.02. In that event, an addendum to the agenda will be noticed and posted prior to the meeting at Department offices. Commission agenda items not noticed for a specific time may be taken out of order. Background materials provided to Commission members concerning public agenda items are available for public inspection at the main office of the Arizona Game and Fish Department at 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, at Department regional offices in Pinetop, Flagstaff, Kingman, Yuma, Tucson, Mesa and at the meetings.

During the public meeting, the Commission may afford any person, their duly authorized representative, or both, the opportunity to present statements relating to agenda items, with or without the opportunity to present them orally. The Commission may go into Executive Session for the purpose of obtaining legal advice from the Commission Attorneys on any of the above agenda items pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A) (3) & (4). One or more members of the Commission may appear and participate in the meeting telephonically or by other electronic means.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, or this document in an alternative format, by contacting the AGFD Deputy Director, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, Arizona 85086, 602-942-3000. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is responsible for managing Arizona's fish and wildlife resource as an enduring public trust. In addition, the Department is charged with promoting safe and responsible use of watercraft and off-highway vehicles. Funding is provided from the sale of licenses and permits; watercraft registration fees; federal excise taxes on firearms, fishing equipment, boats, and other sporting goods; State lottery revenues; donations on State income tax forms; and various contracts and grants. Department policy is set by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, whose five members are appointed by the Governor.

“Managing Today for Wildlife Tomorrow”