

*Arizona
Game and Fish
Department*

2001-2002
Annual Report



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This was a remarkable year. To borrow from Charles Dickens, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times . . ."

Arizona experienced its driest winter on record, followed by a near-record dry spring. That set the stage for the most widespread forest closures ever implemented, followed by the worst wildfire season the state has ever experienced. For those who saw the images on television, or experienced the fire firsthand, the Rodeo-Chediski Fire was horrendous as it raced across the forest and devastated 468,638 acres.

From that perspective, it was the worst of times. Yet during those challenging times and catastrophic events, it was also remarkable how everyone pulled together so unselfishly, especially on behalf of wildlife. From that perspective, this past year was also the best of times.

A good example is water hauling for wildlife. In times of drought, maintaining wildlife waters in a host of areas can mean the difference between sustaining or losing significant wildlife populations. This past year, it was a gargantuan task. I am proud to say that even before we asked for help, various sportsmen-conservation organizations stepped forward and offered their able assistance. When we did ask, there was an outpouring from the public and organizations alike.

I want to personally thank the Wildlife For Tomorrow Foundation, the Wildlife Conservation Council, the Arizona Elk Society, the Arizona Mule Deer Association, the Arizona Bowhunters Association, the Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club, the Mogollon Sporting Association, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and the Mule Deer Foundation. These terrific organizations all came through with financial help, and their members were often on the ground, physically helping us get a tough job done. It was gratifying to watch. It was also effective: this past year, we hauled a record 1.4 million gallons for wildlife: one bucket at a time when necessary.

From a strictly business point of view, 2002 will not go into the ledgers as a banner year. That's not surprising, considering the record drought, record fires, and record forest closures. Yet, hunting license sales weren't down by all that much, and fishing license sales took just a slight dip. However, trout stamp sales were off significantly because most of the forests were closed during the prime high country fishing season.

All in all, we would like to have seen a better year financially, but the good news is that our worst nightmares did not come to pass. Credit that in large part to our folks doing a good job keeping the public informed (and excited) about the fishing and hunting opportunities that did exist.

Yes, it was the best of times; it was the worst of times. But truly, I am proud to say

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Game

Elk management focused on developing new commission rules for various harvest strategies, identifying elk management zones, monitoring forage in the White Mountains, and planning and coordinating activities throughout the state. All Arizona elk habitats were mapped as either standard, winter range, or limited management zones. Harvest strategies specific to each area were developed and implemented during the 2001 hunting season.

The annual big game and small game investigations were conducted and survey and harvest data summaries prepared. The regional elk operational



GEORGE ANDREIKO



GEORGE ANDREIKO

A recent evaluation of big-game survey methods netted process improvements that are saving the department time and money.

Wildlife Management Division

Provides program and policy direction and assistance for the management of wildlife.

Develops, monitors, evaluates, and assists in implementation of strategic and operational plans.

Game Branch

Provides direction for terrestrial wildlife programs for game, waterfowl, predator, and furbearer species.

Recommends annual hunt regulations and conducts hunter surveys.

Coordinates technical planning and reporting for the Heritage IIAPM and Urban Wildlife programs.

plans were updated as were the alternative mule deer management plans for game management units 12, 13, 36, and 45. A specialized Arizona quail hunter harvest and opinion survey was completed and published.

As part of its Total Quality Leadership initiative, the department formed a committee to evaluate big-game survey protocols and develop recommendations to

improve them. Committee recommendations resulted in actions to adopt an alternate year protocol for bighorn sheep surveys, eliminate summer turkey surveys, and halt fixed-wing pronghorn surveys when an adequate sample size has been attained. Rising costs associated with aviation surveys will necessitate further changes to population survey protocols and frequency of survey efforts.

The department held 11 public meetings for hunting and game management in communities throughout the state with an overall attendance of 309 individuals. An additional 173 written comments were received from interested members of the public. Public input was incorporated into the hunting recommendations for all game, predators, furbearers, nongame birds and mammals, and migratory game birds and presented to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission at their April, June, and August meetings.

Fisheries

Several tough blows struck fishing during the past year. The heroic efforts of firefighters kept the Rodeo-Chediski fire from damaging the Canyon Creek Hatchery, but Canyon Creek and Black Canyon Lake suffered severe damage. A combination of forest closures, fires, and poor water conditions made for confusion among anglers about where to fish and even if they should fish. The department responded by revising stocking plans and schedules to get fish to the places people could reach.

Due to the continuing drought, the Salt River Project's central Arizona reservoirs were reduced to about 26



Clockwise from above, Arizona's fisheries delivered despite the drought; the "Golden Native" Apache trout made headway toward delisting; volunteers pitched in to restore Silver Creek.

percent of their capacity. Roosevelt dropped to 11 percent, Horseshoe Lake was dry, and Bartlett Lake was at 43 percent. Even though the lakes were low, quality warm-water fishing was available throughout the summer.

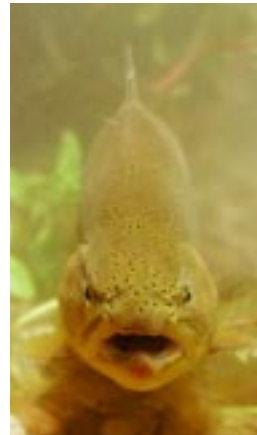
The department continued its focus on lake and stream restoration projects and, by partnering with angler groups, carried out improvements at Middle Tank, Silver Creek, Bartlett Lake, and Lake Havasu. Rose Canyon Lake, drained last year for dredging and improvement, came back on-line and received trout stockings.

The "Golden Natives" restoration efforts continued,

Fisheries Branch

Provides direction for sport fish programs, fish hatcheries and fish stocking, and operates the Urban Fisheries Program.

Monitors the water quality of lakes and streams.



and recovery work for both the Apache and Gila trout moved forward. The department worked with the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to complete compliance requirements that will allow the installation of fish barriers to protect Apache trout. Restoration efforts are setting the stage for removal of Apache trout from the endangered species list and downlisting of Gila trout to

threatened in the not-too-distant future.

This past year saw the posting of public health fish consumption advisories for Lake Mary and Lyman Lake. The department worked with the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Health Services to develop advisories to inform rather than alarm the public. Arizona soils are naturally high in mercury and aquatic systems are efficient at concentrating it, so informing anglers about potential health concerns related to consuming large quantities of fish was a prudent action.

A native fish video, *Cienega Fish of the Gila River Basin*, was produced in partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation and distributed to schools, conservation organizations, and government agencies. The video informs the public about the plight of our native fishes and steps being undertaken to re-

cover dace, Gila chub, topminnow, and pupfish.

In an outreach effort with Nongame fisheries, 20 certified scales were purchased and delivered to bait and tackle shops, marinas, and department offices for anglers to weigh their big fish. This effort helps to address challenges that anglers have encountered in recent years in getting their catch weighed for the record fish program.



Nongame

The department remained focused on restoring a variety of species to population levels that would ensure their continued presence in Arizona. Significant conservation projects were maintained for 49 of the 113 species listed as Wildlife of Special Concern in Arizona; 14 were reestablishment projects for species ranging from Apache and Gila trout, desert pupfish, and Gila topminnow, to leopard frogs, black-footed ferrets, Mexican wolves, and California condors.

Working with a variety of partners, the department began the transition from Partners in Flight, focusing on Neotropical migratory birds, to an Arizona Bird Conservation Initiative that embraces all birds,



GEORGE ANDREKO

A success of the department's reestablishment efforts: Arizona's endangered black-footed ferrets are now reproducing in the wild.

whether migrant or resident, game or nongame. A workshop involving nearly 100 state, federal, and private partners was planned for September 2002 to gain consensus on the best way to ensure that Arizona's efforts become even more effective and efficient.

The department led national state-federal-private efforts to develop and guide major federal funding initiatives, including a state wildlife grants program and a landowner incentives program. Both programs focus on imperiled species and proactive conservation to preclude the need to list new species as endangered, even as work toward recovery of listed species continues. The department also spearheaded the creation of national conservation agreements that complement collaborative conservation under the Endangered Species Act and its programs. The federal government granted the department more than \$3 million for endangered species work.

Habitat

The department played a critical role in the development of federal land and resource management guidelines, policies, and plans at the local and national levels, with a focus on maintaining and enhancing our ability to manage fish and wildlife

Nongame Branch

Provides direction for programs to maintain, enhance, and restore Arizona's natural biological diversity; gathers information on wildlife and their habitat.

Provides guidance for the management of nongame wildlife and threatened and endangered species.

Provides public information about nongame/endangered wildlife and related recreation issues and activities.

Habitat Branch

Provides direction for statewide habitat evaluation and protection activities.

Coordinates review and development of environmental compliance documents; administers environmental compliance process for department activities and projects.

Coordinates review and monitoring of projects and plans to minimize adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources and to identify opportunities for enhancing fish and wildlife habitats.

Administers land and water rights programs; negotiates land acquisitions and conservation easements; coordinates development of wildlife area management plans.

Coordinates Geographic Information System and Heritage Data Management System programs.

populations and opportunities for wildlife-related recreation. This role included participation with federal agencies on teams responsible for developing national agreements, policies, and management plans for national monuments, wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, and military installations.

The department reviewed 16 property offers and considered nine for acquisition. The acquisition of the 295-acre Enders property in Apache County was completed, and the property was incorporated into the Becker Lake Wildlife Area. Using the Heritage Data Management System, the department developed processes and provided guidance to ensure appropriate use of special status species information for the conservation of sensitive species and assisted in the publication of the interagency *Arizona Rare Plant Field Guide*. The GIS Program provided valuable support to property acquisition and management efforts and developed GIS maps for habitat suitability studies, land access agreements, shooting range development, wildlife surveys, and wildlife management activities.

Research

The catastrophic fires of 2001 and 2002 were strong testimony that Arizona's forests need a different management approach. While few would debate this, there are many approaches to restoring forest health. Mount Trumbull on the Arizona Strip is a working laboratory for restoration studies. The department has been

Research Branch

Conducts research to assist in proper management of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife.

Develops new techniques to assist in managing wildlife populations.



GEORGE ANDREJKO

A department surveillance program tested for chronic wasting disease in deer and elk. All testing to date has proved negative. Below, radio implants in razorback suckers revealed their habitat preferences.

working with scientists from the Ecological Restoration Institute at Northern Arizona University and from the Bureau of Land Management to learn how wildlife species such as mule deer, tree squirrels, migratory birds, small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians respond to forest thinning. The importance of this research consortium cannot be overstated, as what we learn on Mt. Trumbull will guide forest restoration through much of Arizona and New Mexico. For example, researchers have found that mule deer feed frequently in the thinned forest as herbaceous vegetation increases, but they seek out more dense areas to bed to avoid predators and high summer temperatures. Finding the exact prescription for thinning will be difficult, but completing the assignment is critical, for the solution will show the way to reduce the

risk of catastrophic fire while still maintaining a place for wildlife in the forests of the Southwest.

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) in deer and elk herds is causing concern in many parts of the United States, and the department is on the alert for the possible spread of CWD to Arizona. While this is an important disease, it certainly is not the only disease of concern in Arizona. As an example, a disease complex called hemorrhagic disease appears to be affecting our mule deer populations. Biologists are working to develop a better understanding of both diseases. For the past few years, the department has been collecting heads from deer and elk and examining them for signs of CWD. This year, as part of the surveillance program, department biologists collected almost a dozen animals that appeared to have CWD. Fortunately, all testing to date has been negative, but the search continues.

The department has also been involved in several fisheries projects. One project, funded by the Bureau of Reclamation, has brought electronic wizardry to the world of fish research. Researchers implanted small radio units in razorback suckers and tracked the fish as they moved about parts of the Colorado River. The electronic devices reveal which habitat types the fish prefer. River managers now have a much better idea of how to manage river systems to help delist this federally protected fish.

Electronic wizardry has also aided studies of endangered Sonoran pronghorn. In February 2002, several department work units, in cooperation with agencies in Mexico and the United States, placed satellite-based transmitters on five pronghorn in northern Sonora.

These transmitters improve upon the telemetry that has been used for decades. Each unit receives signals from several satellites and records the pronghorn's location in a computer on the collar. The locations are collected every seven hours. At the end of the first year more than a thousand locations will have been recorded, all

without the use of a plane. This method is less stressful for the pronghorn and yields much more data at a much lower cost. The large number of locations will result in a better understanding of habitat requirements for this critically endangered wildlife species.



GEORGE ANDREJKO

FIELD OPERATIONS

Regional Offices

During the summer's disastrous wildfire season, department officers provided security and evacuation support for three wildland fires, including the Rodeo-Chediski fire, the largest in recent history. Department officers also aided in suppressing the 35,000-acre Bullock Fire in the Catalina Mountains and in controlling looting and vandalism in the evacuated community of Summerhaven.

Because of fires and drought, fisheries personnel spent significant time monitoring water quality and water levels at many lakes and streams. They investigated numerous fish kills resulting from deteriorating water quality and recommended emergency rule changes to prevent additional fish kills. The drought and resulting forest closures and fires created conditions that excluded many waters from scheduled summer trout stockings.

Department staff and volunteers from several sportsmen's groups put in many hours to get water to catchments and tanks. In one day, approximately 140,000 gallons of water were hauled to tanks and catchments in Game Management Unit 9. Businesses, private citizens, and volunteers donated water, equipment, and manpower.

The department monitored and documented the effects on Sonoran pronghorn from the worst drought on record. The pronghorn recovery team was successful at experimentally enhancing forage by watering desert areas with a water truck. Forage, particularly the perennial species, showed renewed growth and succulence. The presence and availability of high quality succulent forage appears to be a key factor in the survival of Sonoran pronghorn fawns through the critical early to midsummer drought period of the year. The department, in conjunction with the Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Luke Air Force Base, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and through contracts with the Bureau of Reclamation, dug two wells to provide the necessary water source for forage enhancements.

During the drought, the two habitats occupied by the largest known concentrations of the East Clear Creek strain of the Little Colorado spinedace, Dines Tank,

Field Operations Division

Administers programs for fisheries, wildlife, and habitat management; watercraft and OHVs; and public information and education.

Administers the department's Aviation and Law branches.

Organized into six regions administered by Regional Supervisors and subdivided into Game Management Units overseen by Wildlife Managers who

- *Enforce watercraft, off-highway vehicle, and game/fish laws and rules,*
- *Implement terrestrial and aquatic management activities,*
- *Recommend mitigation, protection, and enhancement of wildlife habitat on state, federal, and private land,*
- *Provide public information and education services.*

and a pool in West Leonard Canyon, were in danger of drying up. These habitats are the only places in the East Clear Creek drainage where spinedace have been found consistently during recent years and probably represent the majority of the known population in the drainage. An interagency team from the department, the Coconino National Forest, and the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service salvaged native fish from these rapidly shrinking habitats. After the fish were captured, the spinedace were stocked into the refugium pond at the Flagstaff Arboretum. They will be restocked into the two habitats when water returns to a safe level.

When the Grasslands Wildlife Area near Springerville was established in 1999, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission acquired livestock grazing leases for 8,140 acres of state land. The land consists of high plains grassland and mixed pinyon-juniper habitat which has management potential for species of special concern such as the mountain plover, ferruginous hawk, and pronghorn, as well as prairie dogs, burrowing owls, and many other key grassland dependent species. The department has completed a livestock-grazing



GEORGE ANDREJKO

Determined efforts of department and volunteer water haulers kept catchments replenished during Arizona's record drought.

management plan for the land, a first for this agency. The plan recommends subleasing approximately 5,100 acres to improve grassland habitat conditions for species such as mountain plover and pronghorn. It also recommends dormant season use, a deferred three-pasture rotation, and conservative stocking and grazing utilization standards. The commission has entered into a cooperative agreement with the owners of the MLY and X Diamond ranches to sublease the land and implement the grazing plan.

The department completed a facilitated resolution process in regard to the Anderson Mesa pronghorn. Coconino National Forest, the Arizona State Land Department, the Hopi Tribe, the Wildlife Federation, Arizona Antelope Foundation, Diablo Trust, and National Wildlife Federation participated. By working together to clarify issues and seek resolution, the group agreed that there is a need for healthy grassland, that woody species encroach on grasslands and savannas, that there is a need for a grassland management plan, that general habitat conditions can be improved, that cattle and elk grazing are potential factors, and that there is a need to take action. The next step is to hold an adaptive management meeting with interested parties in 2003 to set up upcoming projects and adapt plans as needed.

Department personnel initiated a cooperative work group with the Camp Verde Ranger District and the Arizona Antelope Foundation to work on wildlife and habitat, focusing on pronghorn in Game Management Unit 21. The Habitat Partnership Committee awarded



The Arizona Antelope Foundation and the Camp Verde Ranger District joined with the department on a project to benefit pronghorn in Game Management Unit 21.

funding to the work group for a project to conduct aerial survey work for the next two years. The data will be reviewed along with habitat evaluations to assess pronghorn distribution, population trends, and habitat management options.

The Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area held a celebration in May 2002 to mark the grand opening of the new visitor center. The event resulted from two years of hard work by many people, including dedicated volunteers from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Audubon Society. The volunteers helped to restore the center, install birdhouses, construct hiking trails, and install interpretive signs so visitors can learn about wildlife they might encounter in the area.

The department participated on a planning team that is developing an integrated natural resources management plan for the Barry M. Goldwater Range. The plan will guide the management of natural resources on approximately 1.7 million acres of land managed by the Department of Defense. The plan prescribes activities related to wildlife management and wildlife-related recreation. The planning team completed a preliminary draft of the document, which is undergoing internal review.

The department has been reintroducing black-footed ferrets in Aubrey Valley since 1996. In the past five years, 177 ferrets have been released or escaped into the wild. In 2001, seven wild-born kits were found, which marks the first time reproduction has been documented in the wild in Arizona. Project emphasis in 2002 resulted in 12 observations of ferrets, which included an adult female that had survived 470 days since her release and two females born in the wild last year that had survived more than 280 days since they were tagged in November 2001. One was seen with other ferrets, suggesting that she produced a litter of kits. Two wild-born kits were tagged in 2002.

California condors nested at two locations in Grand Canyon National Park during the 2002 breeding season. Although both breeding attempts failed, several more condors will reach breeding age in 2003, and it is anticipated that future breeding attempts will be successful.

The department worked cooperatively with Northern Arizona University and the Grand Canyon Trust to locate, verify, and map Gunnison's prairie dog colonies in Northern Arizona. The information is being used to develop a more accurate distribution map of the species.

A trapping web for flat-tailed horned lizards was operated in the Yuma Desert. This web was part of an effort to monitor flat-tailed horned lizard populations as called for in the conservation strategy. The ability to develop population data could become a factor in future listing decisions. Extensive GIS training and assistance was provided to a Mexican researcher who is conducting distribution surveys for these lizards in Sonora and Baja. Several Section 6 projects on the lizards were administered, including a revision of the flat-tailed horned lizard rangewide management strategy.

An environmental assessment was drafted for a controlled burn project intended to benefit Yuma

clapper rails at Mittry Lake. Wildfire burns of Yuma clapper rail habitat were photographed to document vegetation regeneration. Willow flycatcher surveys were conducted along the lower Colorado River, long-term bat monitoring was continued at several sites to provide previously unknown information on wintering bats, several sites were inspected for possible desert pupfish introduction, and mesquite mouse surveys were conducted at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

The department participated in a cooperative project with the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, Southwest Habitat Partnership Committee, and Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club to construct a picnic area at Mittry Lake. The project required clearing, leveling, and surfacing an area adjacent to the boat ramp and installing a ramada, picnic tables, and rock barrier. Future plans include barbecue grills, lights, Americans with Disabilities Act compliant parking, trails, and restroom facilities, and expansion of the existing dock.

The Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement Project has reached 90 percent completion. The project was originally estimated to take 10 years and cost \$28 million to complete, but it is nearing completion at a cost of slightly over \$10 million. The project called for installation of 67,482 bass shelters, 54,724 catfish houses, 3,484 bass ambushing cover structures, 1,050 tire towers, and 11,800 brush bundles at 42 sites in the lake covering an area of approximately 875 acres. Fishing docks and access piers have been constructed at five locations. The docks and piers are state-of-the-art designs and constructed of durable materials. They have restroom facilities and roofs for shade. The goal of stocking more than 30,000 12-inch razorbacks has been achieved.

Law Enforcement

The department made an effort to increase its law enforcement presence on rivers and lakes across the state. This decision was made to educate the boating public on watercraft equipment requirements and to reduce the number of boating accidents caused by negligence, inexperienced operation, and impaired operation. Department officers either coordinated or participated in 13 Operating Under the Influence (OUI) checkpoints or wolf pack patrol efforts that specifically targeted impaired operation. During these OUI patrol activities, a total of 1,475 watercraft were checked, 61 operators were either arrested or cited for operating under the influence of alcohol (with one refusal), and 291 miscellaneous Title 5 violations were cited ancillary to the OUI investigative stops. The department plans to maintain or increase this type of OUI detection and apprehension in the future.

For the past seven years, Outdoor Sports, a Yamaha dealer in Page, has been loaning personal watercraft

Law Branch

Provides direction for wildlife/law enforcement, and boating, OHV, reserve officers, and safety programs.

Responsible for special investigations, Operation Game Thief, boating and OHV enforcement, enforcement records, and communications center.

to the department. During 2002, department officers operated the personal watercraft during 12 of the OUI checkpoints conducted on Arizona lakes and rivers.

The department presented 47 cases to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission for license revocation and/or civil assessment action. The commission imposed civil assessments of \$34,942.84 and license revocations totaling 153 years and six months. The department collected \$28,788.57 in civil assessments and received restitution of \$8,798.03 from various courts. The Attorney General's Tax & Collection Division collected delinquent civil assessment accounts for the department totaling \$9,408.54. The department recognizes approximately 2,000 individuals as being revoked of license privileges in the state, approximately 400 of them

resulting from in-state actions and 1,600 resulting from reciprocal revocation recognition from other states that are members of the Wildlife Violator Compact.

The Operation Game Thief Hotline received 940 calls that resulted in cases submitted for investigation. Of these cases, 88 resulted in arrests and/or citations. Rewards totaling \$5,850 were paid out on 19 cases.

The Special Operations Unit was involved in 10 license fraud investigations. One illegal guiding investi-



BOB MILES

The department coordinated with other agencies to step up law enforcement efforts on Arizona's rivers and lakes.

gation was brought to an end, with the suspects awaiting trial. This investigation involved licensed Arizona guides involved in illegal hunting activities. One big-game case was concluded, resulting in revocation actions by the commission.

The department completed its first comprehensive law enforcement project narrative during the fiscal year. This planning milestone brought the agency into full compliance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service comprehensive management system, thus affording the department more flexibility in the future for administering federal grant monies.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Information

The department coordinated three major marketing campaigns this year. The first promoted fall hunting for Gambel's quail. Hunters listened and, with the benefit of a healthy number of quail, participated in the hunt at a level 3 percent higher than that of the preceding year. Despite a license fee increase, small game hunters returned to the field.

The year's second marketing effort encouraged the occasional angler to pick up a rod and *Go Fish*. The department joined the national *Take Me Fishing - Water Works Wonders* campaign in its second year and placed a special emphasis on the promotion of fishing in the months leading up to National Boating and Fishing Week in June. The department encouraged anglers to purchase a license and go fishing before the summer months when forests and lakes might be closed to access because of severe fire danger. Unfortunately, license sales from February through May were down compared to the same months in the previous year; angler concerns about low water were more than marketing could overcome.

The year's third publicity campaign focused on watercraft safety. The *It Only Takes One* campaign began in March and ran for eight months with television and radio commercials airing on almost 70 broadcast outlets statewide. A post-campaign survey showed that 67 percent of Maricopa County residents saw or heard a watercraft safety message.

In addition to advertising and publicity efforts,

Information and Education Division

Promotes public awareness of the department's mission and activities.

Provides information and education programs to foster responsible public actions toward wildlife resources.

Information Branch

Produces and distributes information on wildlife, regulations, OHV, Heritage, Watercraft, Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration programs, and other department activities.

Oversees Customer Service Center and responds to public inquiry.

Provides a weekly news service for external electronic and print media.

Publishes Arizona Wildlife Views magazine, hunting and fishing regulations, annual report, brochures, books, and other printed materials.

Maintains department Web site.

Produces Arizona Wildlife Views TV program, public service announcements, internal training videos, and slide shows.

Provides still photography for publications.

Provides support for department and commission meetings.

employees participated in 18 major public events in the past year, educating, speaking with or listening to more than 200,000 of the department's customers.



The department's watercraft safety campaign used television and radio commercials as well as billboards to get the message across.

Education

The department conducted more than 500 education workshops, seminars and public outings statewide last year. More than 150,000 people visited the State Fair Wildlife Building and more than 145,000 shooter days were logged at the Ben Avery Shooting facility. The National Shooting Sports Foundation recognized the Ben Avery Shooting Facility for operational excellence and presented an award to the facility manager for efforts in shooting range development. The Hunter Education program graduated its 200,000th student and 2002 is expected to be one of the safest hunting seasons of the past decade with only three reported accidents in more than 1.6 million hunter days. The Boating Safety program published a new Boat Arizona student workbook and posted a 10 percent increase in class participation over the previous year. More than 100,000 people got hands-on fishing experience through Aquatic Education workshops and events. Volunteers associated with

Education Branch

Develops and implements hunter, aquatic resources, boating, and environmental education programs; presents wildlife workshops for teachers, hunters, and the public,

Oversees the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at Adobe Mountain which gives public presentations on its activities in caring for injured and orphaned animals,

Oversees coordination of statewide shooting range program and operation of the Ben Avery Shooting Facility.

the various educational outreach programs contributed well over 16,000 hours of time conducting educational workshops and events for the public.



MARK QUIGLEY

These participants in the Step Outside program are taking advantage of one of the many educational opportunities the department offers to encourage people of all ages to enjoy and appreciate Arizona's great outdoors.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Development

The department constructed two new water developments for mule deer, in addition to renovating 30 catchments and maintaining 34 catchments. Thirty-five miles of roads were maintained at House Rock Ranch, Raymond Ranch, and Willcox Playa wildlife areas, 2,317 tons of aquatic weeds were harvested from nine trout lakes, and 868 deliveries were made to 356 catchments totaling 1,423,000 gallons of water.

Substantial renovation was performed on several fish hatcheries. Projects include reconstructing an outfall to improve water quality at the Tonto Creek Hatchery, placing a metal canopy over one of the primary raceways at Tonto Creek Hatchery, reconstructing a pond and renovating in-stream raceways at Silver Creek Hatchery, installing a harvesting slab and piping at the Bubbling Ponds Hatchery walleye pond, pouring a concrete slab for bulk oxygen tanks at Page Springs Hatchery, and designing a new settling basin to improve water quality at Canyon Creek Hatchery.

Through informal agreements with landowner/lessees, the department provided informational and regulatory signage and accessories as part of the Ranch Respect program on over 286 ranches statewide with a coverage area of 12,000 acres.

In cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, the department successfully completed production and distribution of the Unit 6A map. Maps for units 30A and 30B are ready for printing, and draft maps for

Special Services Division

Provides support for all department functions.

Maintains finance and accounting support and telecommunications/data processing services.

Manages the department vehicle fleet.

Development Branch

Manages programs for water development, habitat improvement and maintenance, boater access, and aids to navigation, develops and maintains dams and fishing lakes.

Evaluates access needs to state, federal, and private lands, negotiates easements on private lands.

Provides engineering functions for feasibility studies to determine design and specification standards and to supervise/inspect contracts for department projects.

Information Systems Branch

Provides data processing capabilities, including systems analysis and design.

Provides support for department computers, phone system, Local Area Networks, Wide Area Networks, and backbone network connections to Internet, Department of Public Safety, Department of Administration, and contract data entry services.



TOM WHETTEN

By donating their services to haul water with their own trucks, companies such as Tucson Electric Power made it possible for the department to maintain wildlife waters during the state's severe drought.

units 31 and 32 are in preparation. OHV access and hunter etiquette information are provided along map margins.

Information Systems

The addition of online drawing results is the latest innovation for the department's annual big-game draw. This new Web service was established in time for the 2001 fall drawing and was an instant success. Out of 126,800 hunters who applied for the fall drawing, 80,400 took advantage of this new option. The days of trying to dial into the department's overworked

Interactive Voice Response system for drawing results are over.

Seventy-five personal computers were distributed to wildlife managers throughout the agency, a new automated tape library and enterprise backup solution was implemented in support of our local area network, a storage area network device was installed that will provide three to five years of storage space (potentially 730 gigabytes of data) to our network computer users, and



The department's new Web service to provide online big-game drawing results scored an instant success.

a data circuit was installed for the Ben Avery Shooting Facility providing personnel there with access to the department's computer network.



The department's finance and accounting branch oversees Arizona watercraft registrations, just one of the branches many responsibilities.

Finance & Accounting Branch

Provides finance and accounting support, and prepares financial and cost statements.

Oversees watercraft registration, license dealers, and big-game drawings.

Coordinates data entry contract work, and processes payments to vendors, contract workers, employees, and other government agencies.

Support Services Branch

Administers procurement, maintains supply warehouse, administers and maintains motor pool vehicles, maintains property/equipment inventory.

Assists in developing equipment budget requests, disposes of surplus property, provides department printing, mailing, and courier services.

Prepares specifications/bid invitations, conducts dealer mailings.

Finance and Accounting

Arrangements were made for the Hunt Regulations booklets to be drop-shipped directly from the printer to regional offices and dealers. Previously, the printer shipped the booklets to the Phoenix office, where they were repackaged and then shipped to the dealers. This change resulted in a saving of three workdays. Dealers

and regional offices received the regulations 10 days earlier than in previous mail-outs, which improved our service to hunters applying for the fall big game draw

First come/first serve tags were offered online for the first time. Applicants did not have to mail in their applications and wait to see if they were successful in obtaining a tag. They were able to determine at the time they applied if any tags were available. Since mail from rural areas takes longer to reach the department, the online first come/first serve was especially advantageous to applicants who live in rural areas. Also, if no tags were available, the applicant was saved the application fee charged for processing. All tags were sold in approximately two hours.

Financial Statement

Fiscal Year Revenue by Fund	2000-2001	2001-2002
Game and Fish Fund	\$20,084,400	\$21,585,300
Watercraft Licensing Fund	2,361,400	2,271,500
Game, Nongame Fund	209,000	193,600
Federal Aid Fund	18,414,500	16,796,700
Heritage Fund	9,818,600	9,627,400
Off-Highway Vehicle Fund	778,300	699,500
Capital Improvement/Conservation Dev. Fund	641,700	903,900
Other Funds	2,408,200	1,335,700
Total Revenue	\$54,716,100	\$53,413,600

Fiscal Year Expenditures by Fund	2000-2001	2001-2002
Game and Fish Fund	\$18,610,900	\$20,369,700
Watercraft Licensing Fund	1,920,700	2,148,800
Game, Nongame Fund	162,600	158,500
Federal Aid Fund	16,682,800	16,796,700
Heritage Fund	6,395,500	8,603,100
Off-Highway Vehicle Fund	1,000,700	686,600
Capital Improvement Fund	57,100	853,700
Other Funds	1,598,400	1,590,200
Total Expenditures	\$46,428,700	\$51,207,300

Fiscal Year Heritage Funds Allocation	2000-2001	2001-2002
IIPAM (Identification, Inventory, Protection, and Management)	\$3,054,330	\$3,163,500
Habitat Acquisition	2,036,220	2,109,000
Urban Wildlife	1,272,637	1,318,125
Habitat Evaluation and Protection	1,272,637	1,318,125
Environmental Education	424,212	439,375
Public Access	424,212	439,375
Total Allocation	\$8,484,248	\$8,787,500

Calendar Year License Sales by Category	2000	2001
Resident General Fish	192,200	184,991
Nonresident General Fish	2,958	2,272
Family Fish	2,278	3,375
Resident General Fish Nov/Dec	2,337	3,936
Nonresident General Fish Nov/Dec	117	280
Resident General Hunt	62,880	65,084
Nonresident General Hunt	18,061	17,731
Resident Hunt/Fish	83,399	77,886
Nonresident Hunt/Fish	2,010	1,068
Nonresident 3-Day Hunt	8,869	8,923
Urban Fishing	28,124	26,412
Nonresident Colorado Fish	1,349	1,282
Nonresident 5-Day Fish	14,906	15,021
Resident Youth Hunt/Fish	22,095	21,543
Nonresident 4-Month Fish	12,766	7,064
Res/Nonres 1-Day Fish	39,923	33,949
Resident Youth Group 2-Day Fish	66	80
Lifetime License	146	118
Total Licenses	494,484	471,016

Calendar Year Sales in Numbers by Groups	2000	2001
Licenses (See detail above)	494,484	471,016
Two Pole Stamps	59,545	59,508
Trout Stamps	95,470	95,504
Special Use Stamps	112,946	42,882
Waterfowl Stamps	9,019	7,733
Migratory Bird Stamp	56,157	59,667
Utah Lake Powell Stamps	2,353	2,143
Tags	154,929	157,812
Miscellaneous Permits/Licenses	1,788	2,188
Total	986,691	898,453

Calendar Year License and Tag Sales	2000	2001
Licenses	\$10,556,476	\$13,644,478
Stamps	1,453,137	1,655,399
Tags	4,526,450	5,026,645
Total Value	\$16,536,063	\$20,326,522

Heritage Fund

Public Access

Identify, evaluate, and administer programs for public access.

Provide information on public access and recreational use of public lands.

Administer Heritage programs for Access Grants-In-Aid, Stewardship, Landowner/Lessee Sportsmen Respect, and Adopt-a-Ranch programs.

Urban Wildlife

Conserve, enhance, and establish wildlife habitats and populations in harmony with urban environments.

Increase public awareness of urban wildlife resources.

Work with local governments and other organizations to reduce the impact of urban development on wildlife.

Habitat Acquisition

Evaluate acquisition proposals to determine their suitability for protection.

Prepare environmental documents to determine impact of acquisitions.

Acquire suitable habitat to protect threatened or endangered fish and wildlife.

Habitat Evaluation & Protection

Protect and enhance Arizona's natural biological diversity and abundance through habitat management and protection by evaluating proposed projects for their impact on fish and wildlife resources and monitoring environmental compliance and mitigation commitments.

Coordinate Geographic Information System and Heritage Data Management System to track status of threatened and endangered species.

Coordinate land and water rights program.

Environmental Education

Promote awareness, appreciation, and understanding of Arizona's wildlife and its environment and increase responsible actions toward wildlife through the educational grants-in-aid program, natural history teacher workshops, and by providing additional resources made possible by the Heritage Fund.

IIPAM — Identification, Inventory, Acquisition, Protection, & Management

Identify and inventory occurrence of Arizona native fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

Implement techniques and develop tools for use in the protection and management of designated and candidate sensitive species and sensitive habitats.

NOTES: Capital Improvement and Conservation Development Funds are combined for revenues, as the Capital Improvement Fund earns interest only. The Conservation Development Fund receives revenue from the surcharge on sales of combo licenses and trout stamps. OTHER FUNDS include: Wildlife Theft Prevention, Publications Revolving, Trust/Donation, Waterfowl Conservation, Wildlife Endowment, Land & Water Conservation, Recreation Development, Stamp Funds, and the Big Game Permit Fund. (Some of these funds can earn interest only.)

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 the chair during their last year.



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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 its employment practices, the individual may file a complaint alleging discrimination directly with the AGFD Deputy Director, 2221 W. Greenway Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85023, (602) 942-3000 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Dr., Suite 130, Arlington, VA 22203. If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact the AGFD Deputy Director as listed above or by calling TTY at 1-800-367-8939.



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Arizona Game and Fish Department

June 30, 2002

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