

Arizona Game and Fish Department 2007-2008 Annual Report





Larry D. Voyles

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It goes without saying that this past year has been one of dramatic change, not only for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, but for the world in which we live.

Change comes in many varieties. Some pose formidable challenges, others present us with opportunities. I believe the collective ideas, energy and teamwork between the Department and its constituents will successfully maximize those opportunities for the betterment of wildlife and the citizens of Arizona.

It was my honor and privilege to be appointed as the Department's Director by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission in March. I'm committed to continuing the Department's innovative programs while at the same time positioning us to succeed in our mission over the next 20 years and beyond.

Success will depend above all else on the core center of gravity for the Department – the Department's credibility with our customers, constituents and partners. Historically, “four pillars” have supported this core center of gravity:

1. The Quality of our Workforce – Professional quality, passion and innovation of the workforce and a leadership that can both instill and foster that passion.
2. The Quality of Internal Processes and Data – Activating our knowledge base on the ground to make a difference in the health of wildlife resources.
3. The Commission Form of Governance – Our Commission form of governance works for the best interests of wildlife regardless of changing political environments. This system is the source of long-term continuity of conservation effort.
4. The Public's Passion for Wildlife – Working with the public to increase its relationship with the outdoors in an increasingly urban environment, while building a “bigger tent” under which all conservationists can come together.

These four pillars will allow for better involvement of all people in the future of wildlife in Arizona. All of us who are working toward better conservation models and practices need to come together, find common ground, and work hand-in-hand to build foundations for addressing the conservation issues that face us.

The future will be challenging, but I'm very excited about the opportunities before us. I look forward to working with the Commission, our staff, and our constituents to navigate and achieve success in this ever-changing world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry D. Voyles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Larry" being more prominent.

Larry D. Voyles

Director



Hunters and anglers make a significant contribution to Arizona's economy.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Hunters and anglers spend \$1.3 billion annually in Arizona

Arizona's 418,000 hunters and anglers can feel a sense of renewed economic importance – they spend \$1.3 billion annually in Arizona, according to a recent report compiled by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation working in conjunction with the National Shooting Sports Foundation. The report says that, nationally, 34 million hunters and anglers are a major economic machine funneling \$76 billion annually into the nation's economy by direct spending. That's \$1.5 billion each and every week. Hunting and fishing are not just big business, these outstanding outdoor sports are a key economic force fueling our state's economy and the economy of the nation as a whole. There is also an economic ripple effect from such spending, which is estimated to be a staggering \$192 billion nationally.

Habitat improvements

The department and its stakeholders and partners within the last year have treated almost 50,000 acres of wildlife habitat through direct restoration approaches, including forest restoration activities and prescribed burning.

An additional 75,000 acres of habitat were improved through the construction of wildlife waters and fish habitat improvements, such as the Canyon Lake Fish Habitat Improvement Project and many others. Department efforts in the landowner relations area resulted in an estimated \$3.4 million in cost-share funding (matching of department funds with federal and state cost-share programs) brought to Landowner Relations Program habitat projects, and an estimated \$210,000 value in outside in-kind labor.

Improvements were made to almost 125,000 acres of wildlife habitat.



New laws will help better manage Arizona's rapidly growing off-highway vehicle use.



Off-highway vehicle legislation passes

The Arizona Legislature in 2008 passed Senate Bill 1167, creating new laws that will help better manage Arizona's rapidly growing off-highway vehicle (OHV) use while protecting natural resources. The laws, which take effect Jan. 1, 2009, require the annual purchase of a \$25 "OHV Decal" for most all-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes, side-by-sides and other OHVs meeting certain criteria. Revenues generated from the fee will provide funding for off-highway vehicle education, law enforcement, trail reconstruction and habitat mitigation. The laws also mandate certain equipment standards and the requirement to stay on roads, trails, and areas that are designated open by the land management agency for motorized vehicle use. The legislation was passed through the support of a broad-based coalition of off-highway user groups, sportsmen's/conservation organizations, government agencies and elected officials.

Bald eagle breeding areas increased in Arizona.



Law enforcement efforts

Arizona's wildlife managers worked diligently over the past year to educate the public and enforce anti-poaching and other wildlife laws. Department officers made over 17,000 contacts with the public in the field and issued 1,934 citations for wildlife law violations during 2008. Law enforcement activities included some major anti-poaching efforts. Operation Bear Bones, a long-term, multi-agency undercover investigation, led to multiple suspects being charged with the unlawful take of nine bears, two elk, five mule deer and one white-tailed deer in late 2007. Operation Canned Kitty was an undercover operation led by the Department that resulted in the arrest of 10 suspects charged with 37 misdemeanor and 10 felony wildlife violations for the unlawful take of six mountain lions, two mule deer and four javelina.

Exceptional year for Arizona's eagles

Arizona can celebrate what turned out to be an excellent year for the state's bald eagles as a result of ongoing active management and protection. Game and Fish Department biologists confirmed a record number of eagle breeding areas in the state, as well as a tie with the year 2004 for a record number of eaglets that lived to fledge, or begin flying, in Arizona. Forty-two eagle nestlings fledged this year, tying Arizona's previous record. Biologists also found three new bald eagle breeding areas, for a record total of 50.

Commission creates over-the-counter turkey tags for young hunters

Initiating the first-ever over-the-counter turkey tags for youth in designated units and approving the first-ever permitted archery deer hunts in specific units based on a harvest apportioning formula were two of the changes approved by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission during its annual April hunt-set meeting. Another new opportunity for young hunters in the fall hunt regulation package was that all the fall javelina hunts were juniors-only. In addition, those youth javelina hunts coincided with juniors-only antlered deer hunts in the respective units. This was the first year the Game and Fish



The department's new "wildlife viewing" Web site provides useful information to wildlife-viewing enthusiasts.

Commission began implementing the new hunt guidelines adopted in August 2007. Those hunt guidelines will be in place for two years and constitute evolutionary steps to improve the Arizona hunt scene, reflecting an over-arching desire to increase the hunting prospects for everyone while also standardizing hunts where feasible.

New wildlife viewing Web site includes "how to's" and places to go

The Arizona Game and Fish Department launched a new wildlife viewing Web site that can open up a whole new world for wildlife enthusiasts. The new site offers tips for watching wildlife, how to observe wildlife responsibly, where to go in Arizona, a comprehensive list of watchable wildlife events in the state, and news updates and features. From "how to watch" to "when to watch," the site helps novice wildlife watchers get started and reminds seasoned viewers of the finer points of catching a glimpse of their favorite species.

Governor approves plan to combat invasive species

Gov. Janet Napolitano approved a new statewide invasive species management plan that addresses ways to prevent or manage the proliferation

of invasive pests. The plan was developed by the Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council (AISAC), a multi-partner organization created by an executive order issued by the Governor in 2007. The council is comprised of a variety of stakeholder and agency representatives and is supported and led by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Arizona Department of Agriculture. With the approval of the Arizona Invasive Species Management Plan in 2008, the council will now take the next step in addressing invasive species education, anticipation, control, and restoration needs.



Outdoor Expo shatters attendance records

The Arizona Game and Fish Department's 2008 Outdoor Expo drew a record 26,000 people on March 29-30, far exceeding the previous year's attendance of 17,000. Expo activities were concentrated in four different locations throughout the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix. They included the chance to try out firearms and archery on the range, view live



The Outdoor Expo drew a record 26,000 people.

wildlife, test-drive off-highway vehicles, learn about boating safety, attend outdoor workshops, and catch a fish at the kids' catch-and-release fish tank. The department also held its first pre-Expo "Youth Day" on Friday, March 28. About 600 pre-registered children and 200 adults and chaperones attended the youth day event, which focused on wildlife and conservation education.

Larry Voyles named director

Larry D. Voyles was appointed new director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department to replace Duane Shroufe, who retired in March after serving as director for nearly 20 years. Voyles has been with the department for nearly 35 years, serving as a wildlife manager in the Wellton, Wickenburg and Prescott districts, as wildlife enforcement program coordinator, as the department's training coordinator, and as supervisor for the department's Yuma region.

Commission approves first-ever blue ribbon roundtail chub fishery

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission approved creating the country's first-ever blue ribbon catch-and-release-only seasonal roundtail chub fishery along Fossil Creek in the Verde Valley, starting in October of 2009. This is a landmark fishery for a native fish species. Many Arizona anglers along the Verde River over the years have learned to appreciate the angling qualities of roundtail chub, and have long referred to them as 'Verde trout'.

Ben Avery hosts Olympic archery trials

Brady Ellison, 19, from Glendale, Arizona, was pure gold while shooting before a cheering hometown crowd during the Olympic Archery Trials at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix. Ellison finished first during the three-day competition in early May and went on to represent the United States in the Olympic Games in Beijing, China. Jennifer Nichols was the top trials finisher among the women. The event was an excellent venue to showcase the Ben Avery Shooting Facility, which is operated by the Arizona Game and fish Department.

Gould's turkeys thrive, allowing further range and distribution

The Arizona Game and Fish Department and the National Wild Turkey Federation, along with sportsmen and private citizens, successfully captured and relocated 50 Gould's wild turkeys from the Huachuca Mountains in early March. The captured birds were relocated to the Santa Rita and Catalina Mountains to help supplement existing populations and continue to expand the range of this unique but once eradicated wild turkey subspecies. The Gould's turkey is common in Mexico, but only Arizona and New Mexico support populations in the United States. This is the second year that Gould's turkeys from the Huachuca Mountains have been released into these mountain ranges, although Gould's turkeys from Mexico have also been released here. Relocation has been the cornerstone of this restoration success story.

Arizona youths win national titles at shooting competition

Arizona shooters garnered five medals, the most of any state, at the Scholastic Clay Target Program National Championships for skeet and sporting clays, Aug. 1-2 at the World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta, Ill. Arizona competitors brought home two national championship title gold medals, one second-place silver medal and one third-place bronze medal from the skeet competition, and one third-place bronze medal in sporting clays.



Brady Ellison won the U.S. Olympic Archery Trials at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility.



Seventy-four black-tailed prairie dogs were released in the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area.

CONSERVATION

Black-tailed prairie dogs return to Arizona

Nearly 50 years ago, they vanished from Arizona's landscape, but thanks to a multi-partner reintroduction effort, black-tailed prairie dogs are making a comeback. Seventy-four black-tailed prairie dogs captured at the Ladder Ranch in New Mexico were released in October into the wild in the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area near Sonoita. The reintroduction aims to repopulate these animals to where they once existed in Arizona. Black-tailed prairie dogs are a critical keystone species in Arizona, maintaining grasslands for other animals to forage and serving as important prey for eagles and hawks. Because of the far-reaching effect they have on other species, successful re-establishment would benefit the whole ecosystem by maintaining species diversity.

Dusky "blue" grouse range expanded to Mogollon Rim area

The dusky "blue" grouse's population and

range are increasing in Arizona due to recent translocation efforts by the Arizona Game and Fish Department to offer upland hunters, bird watchers, and outdoor recreationists another area to enjoy this unique bird. Over a two-week-long effort this fall, biologists captured 20 birds near Moab, Utah, and then 12 more from the North Kaibab Plateau in Arizona. Thirty-two blue grouse in total were banded (some were fitted with transmitters) and then released near the Rim Lakes on the Mogollon Rim. Before this translocation, blue grouse could only be found on the North Kaibab Plateau, the highest peaks of the White Mountains, and a very limited range atop the San Francisco Peaks. The effort was done in cooperation with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

Gila topminnows get help from Safe Harbor Program

A couple hundred Gila topminnows were re-established in their native Arizona waters as part of a new program aimed at enlisting the help of non-federal landowners to conserve this endangered species. The fish were released into the TimBuckTwo pond near Amado, south of Tucson, on private land. The fish for this inaugural release came from Arizona State University (ASU), where breeding stock is



Biologists released Gila topminnows in TimBuckTwo Pond under a new cooperative Safe Harbor agreement.

About 30 bighorn sheep were captured and collared for telemetry tracking in Phase II of the Highway 93 expansion project.



maintained for the species. In addition to ASU, Desert Harbor Elementary School in Peoria also maintains a captive population of Gila topminnow. While this was not the first re-establishment of Gila topminnow in Arizona, it is the first to occur as part of a new Safe Harbor Agreement. This program greatly increases the opportunities for private and non-federal landowners to participate in conservation and recovery efforts of endangered Gila topminnow desert pupfish, Yaqui topminnow, and Quitobaquito pupfish, by providing refuge sites.

Key property acquired at head of Verde River

The Verde River, an essential source of water to communities and wildlife from northern Yavapai County to the Phoenix valley, received an increased level of protection when 293 acres along the river's upper path were committed to conservation by The Nature Conservancy and the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The Arizona Game and Fish Commission purchased the Verde Springs property, located at the origin of the river north of Prescott, from The Nature Conservancy to connect with its Upper Verde River Wildlife Area. The additional acreage increases this important wildlife area to more than 1,000 acres of protected land.

The Conservancy will retain 20 acres where the river virtually springs to life above ground at its Verde River Springs Preserve.

Research continues for bighorn sheep overpasses

Research and planning are continuing on a historic multi-agency collaboration to build the first bighorn sheep overpasses in Arizona to protect the Black Mountains bighorn sheep herd, the largest contiguous desert bighorn sheep herd in the nation. As part of the Hoover Dam bypass and Highway 93 expansion project, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration are planning the overpasses to facilitate safe movement of the sheep across the highway and reduce the "barrier effect" the road has on bighorn movement within their range. Previous tracking research in Phase 1 of the project used telemetry collared sheep to identify the best crossing points to locate the overpasses. Current research for Phase 2 involves tracking collared sheep to see what effect construction of the expanded road will have on their movements. The final phase of the project will eventually involve building the overpasses and tracking sheep to see how they're using them.



Backwater site selection continues as part of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program.

Backwater selection continues for Lower Colorado River native fish conservation

Federal and state agencies are continuing the process of selecting appropriate backwater sites to create habitat for three native fish species as part of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP), a 50-year, \$626 million program that aims to protect the lower Colorado River environment while ensuring the certainty of existing river water and power operations. The program is one of the nation's largest partnerships for the restoration of riparian, marsh and backwater habitats. The Bureau of Reclamation is the lead implementing agency for the program; the Arizona Game and Fish Department is one of 20 agencies on the steering committee.

Commission reaffirms commitment to wolf conservation

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission provided the department with new guidance on Mexican wolf conservation, reiterating its support for wolf conservation, but mandating pursuit of Arizona-specific objectives and making continued support contingent upon cooperator progress in several key areas over the next five years. The commission directed the department to pursue the objective of establishing an Arizona population of Mexican wolves that is a component of a larger

“metapopulation” capable of sustaining itself in the long term. The commission also directed the department to, within five years, collaborate with the federal government to develop a new Mexican wolf recovery plan, complete National Environmental Policy Act compliance for revision of the nonessential experimental rule governing wolf reintroduction in the Southwest, and develop and deploy an incentives-based approach to Mexican wolf conservation.

Arizona agencies plan for wildlife linkages in Maricopa County

A forward-thinking group of Arizona agencies met to identify existing and potential wildlife habitat connectivity areas that are vital within Maricopa County. The connectivity areas identified are critical for maintaining wildlife biodiversity and preserving the range of wildlife species found in the area. The Maricopa County Wildlife Linkages Assessment will include those linkages previously identified in a statewide study and new linkages important at the county scale. The data collected during the workshop is currently being refined by the workgroup to include in a countywide linkages map and linkage data tables. The resulting map and data tables will be made available to planners for incorporation into activities including wildlife crossings, land protection measures and community planning.

Partnership protects one of Southwest's most ecologically significant rivers

The Upper San Pedro River, one of the last free-flowing rivers in Arizona, received additional protection when 122 acres just north of the United States/Mexico border were acquired by The Nature Conservancy and the Arizona Game and Fish Department, with support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The property is one of the largest privately owned parcels adjacent to this stretch of the river, where groundwater pumping would directly impact the river's flow. The San Pedro River is nationally renowned for its natural diversity and its support of migrating birds and other wildlife. The property was purchased with funding received from the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service's Section 6 Endangered Species Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Program and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. The latter is part of the foundation's \$13 million grant to The Nature Conservancy to support state wildlife action plans across five Rocky Mountain states – Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico and Wyoming.

Salt River chain of lakes getting protective slot limits

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission voted in the fall to create slot limits at Saguaro, Canyon and Apache lakes, similar to the one already in place at Roosevelt Lake, to give these popular fisheries another nudge down the comeback trail after being blitzed by golden alga blooms in recent years. In addition, possession of one fish from the protected slot limit will be allowed at Roosevelt; this provision is also part of the new slot regulations for Saguaro, Canyon and Apache. For 2009 through 2010, the whole Salt River chain of lakes (Roosevelt, Apache, Canyon, and Saguaro) will have a 13- to 16-inch protective slot limit, with anglers being allowed to keep one slot-sized bass. These slot limits will automatically sunset after two years (the slot limit and newly added one-fish possession provision at Roosevelt Lake do not sunset).

MILESTONES

Bald Eagle Nestwatch Program celebrates 30 years

While you are lying in your bed at night, 20 people are sleeping in tents so they can wake up at the crack of dawn to help protect our state's bald eagles. The Arizona Bald Eagle Nestwatch Program celebrated its 30th anniversary this year. The program began as a weekend volunteer effort by the USDA Forest Service and Maricopa Audubon to help ensure the continued success of bald eagle breeding. Now 23 agencies are involved with the program to monitor bald eagle breeding areas that are under heavy pressure from human recreational activities. The program is one of the factors in the progress of bald eagle recovery in Arizona.

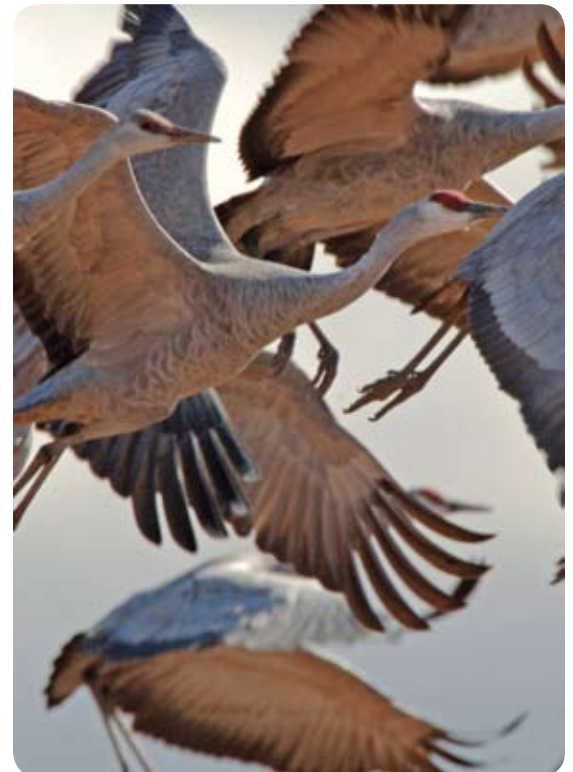
Hunters raise nearly \$500,000 for Arizona's wildlife

The 2008 Arizona Big Game Super Raffle was held July 19 in Phoenix, and nine lucky ticket holders walked away with a special big game tag and a chance at a hunt-of-a-lifetime. However, the real news is what happened for all of the residents of Arizona. The raffle generated more than \$475,000, which will go directly to benefit Arizona's wildlife. Every dollar raised by the raffle of these special big game tags is returned to the Arizona Game and Fish Department and managed by the Arizona Habitat Partnership Committee (AHPC) for that particular species. With input from 12 local habitat partners across the state, as well as input from the organizations involved in the fundraising, they collectively determine which projects will provide the most benefit to each species represented.

Sulfur Springs Valley draws a record 36,708 sandhill cranes

Arizona has a new winter visitor record of the feathered kind -- the Sulfur Springs Valley of southern Arizona drew an estimated 36,708 sandhill cranes last year, eclipsing the previous record of 31,443 birds set in 2004. Arizona

Sandhill cranes take flight.



Game and Fish Department biologists said the Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area, which is operated by the department, also set a record last year with 22,367 sandhill cranes, versus the previous record of 21,236 birds. Biologists say the high count is probably due to a combination of factors, including consistent habitat through pumping water at those areas. Because of those habitats, many cranes that used to continue south into Mexico now stop in Arizona.

EDUCATION

North American Wildlife Conservation Model outreach

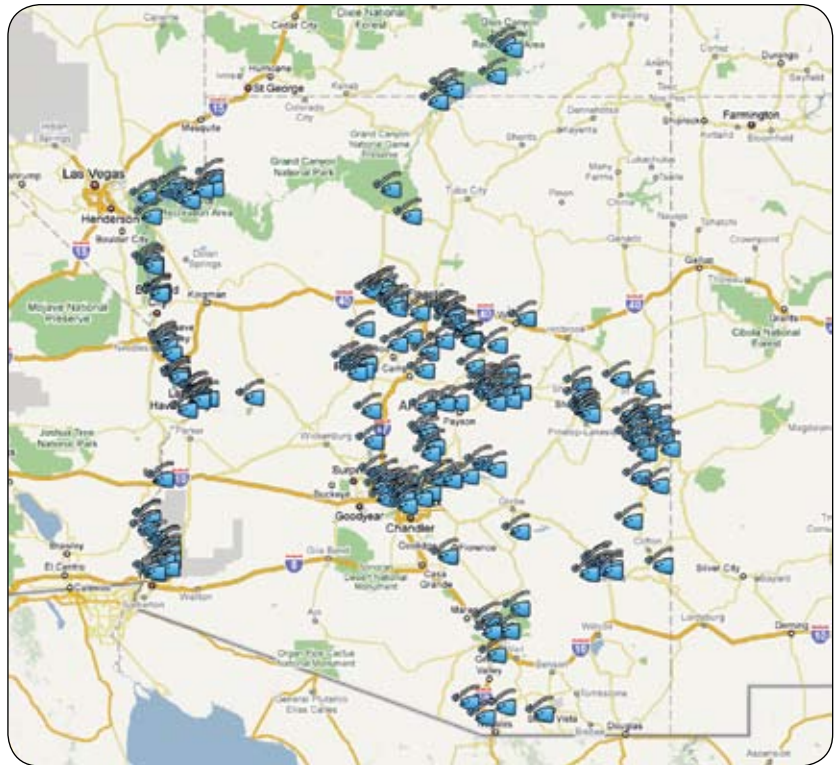
The department's Hunting Heritage Workgroup, a cross-disciplinary workgroup of agency personnel, worked on a number of issues to maintain and enhance our hunting heritage, including hunter recruitment and retention issues, and increasing the public's understanding and support for the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. The group developed a brochure and educational exhibits on the North American Model and the important role that hunters and anglers play in modern wildlife management.

New interactive e-map shows where to fish in Arizona

Ever wish you could see a map of Arizona showing all the places to go fishing, along with what types of fish you can find and even something about the facilities at each lake, river or stream? The Arizona Game and Fish Department now has a computerized interactive fishing hole map of Arizona on its Web site at www.azgfd.gov/fishing under "Where To Fish." Most of the information was taken from the popular "Arizona Fishin' Holes" booklet published by the Game and Fish Department. The map gives you the ability to locate places to fish for specific species.

OUI education campaign

The Department continued its "Boat Safe, Boat Smart, Boat Sober" campaign during the summer boating season to educate boaters on the risks and consequences of operating a



watercraft while under the influence of alcohol (OUI). The campaign included billboards, broadcast, print and blog advertising, and other public information communication. One aspect of the campaign was a partnership with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety to produce a series of OUI/DUI public service announcements that ran from mid-August through Labor Day. New boating laws passed during the past legislative session made the penalties, repercussions and enforcement nearly identical for both driving and boating while impaired, including mandatory jail time for all offenders.

Camps teach small game hunting basics to youths and novices

The Arizona Game and Fish Department partnered with several organizations to offer hunting camps for youngsters and adults who want to learn how to hunt small game in Arizona. These fun, hands-on camps are designed to provide youth and new hunters with an opportunity to enhance their hunting knowledge and skills here in Arizona, while also teaching them the values of stewardship and wildlife conservation. Participants learn information on firearm safety, hunting

The department's new Web-based map shows where to fish in Arizona and what to fish for.

Youth archery programs are increasing in popularity.



opportunities, game care, archery instruction, survival basics and first aid. There are also hands-on hunting opportunities with experienced mentors.

Public outreach events

Informational booths and/or educational presentations on the value and diversity of Arizona's wildlife were held around the state. Among the events were: Urban Watchable Wildlife Bat Workshops; Arizona State Fair (staffing of exhibits at the Wildlife Building for three weeks); International Sportsmen's Expo; Arizona Game and Fish Department Outdoor Expo; Welcome Back Buzzard Party at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum; Bye Bye Buzzard at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum; Region III Wildlife Fair; Region VI Wildlife and Nature Festival (Payson Wildlife Fair); National Migratory Bird Day at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum; Biker's Soar for Wildlife Bike Run; Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival; Wings over Wilcox Birding and Nature Festival; Camp Courage for Burns and Trauma; Arizona Legislators Day; Veteran's Day Parade in Anthem; Global Awareness Day at the Arizona Science Center; Yuma Birding and Nature

Festival; Deer Valley Unified School District Science Rocks Summer Camp; International Migratory Bird Day at Rio Salado; Mini-Calf Camp at Bass Pro Shop; Girl Scout Jamboree at Camp Marapai; Tres Rios Nature and Birding Festival; High Country Hummingbird Event; National Hunting and Fishing Day; National Public Lands Day; and the Mexican Wolf Workshop.

Teacher Events

Outreach booths promoting the Focus Wild Arizona online curriculum and resources were offered at the following educational conferences: The Teacher Resource Expo at the Arizona History Museum; Valley Forward Earth Fest Educator Night; AZ Science Teachers Association Conference; AZ Foundation for Legal Services and Education Conference; Geofest; AZ Foundation for Home Educators History Day; Maricopa County Educators Expo; and the Apache County Summer Academy Workshop.

4th Grade Program

Approximately 6,425 students from 223 classrooms in 65 schools participated in the 4th grade Adaptations classroom presentations.

Focus Wild newsletter

The Focus Wild Arizona electronic newsletter was sent out quarterly to approximately 1,200 educators providing information about new educational programs and resources.

ISSUES

Invasive quagga mussels found at CAP-SRP canal connection

Invasive quagga mussels were discovered last fall near the Granite Reef Diversion Dam in the Central Arizona Project (CAP) delivery canal that supplies water to Salt River Project's (SRP) canal system. SRP employees found 11 quagga mussels on concrete blocks placed in the CAP-SRP Interconnect channel that delivers water from the CAP canal into the SRP water-delivery system. The blocks were placed in the concrete-lined channel by SRP as a reliable and quick way to monitor for settlement of microscopic veligers (fertilized eggs). Adult quagga mussels have not been found in the SRP canals (as of this writing), but those canals are being carefully monitored. Quagga mussels were first detected in Lake Mead on the Colorado River in January of 2007, followed almost immediately with detections in Lake Havasu



Invasive quagga mussels can settle in large colonies that clog water intakes for water and power operations.

and Lake Mohave. While quagga mussels do not pose a human health risk, they can settle in massive colonies that block water intakes and affect municipal water supply, agricultural irrigation and power plant operation.

No CWD found in Arizona deer and elk testing

The Arizona Game and Fish Department concluded another sampling season for chronic wasting disease (CWD) and reported that lab tests found no presence of the wildlife disease in any of the 2,157 hunter-harvested or road-killed deer and elk sampled during Arizona's 2007-08 hunt season. The department has tested nearly 10,450 deer and elk samples since beginning its



The department's fish-stocking program provides recreational angling opportunities for Arizonans.

surveillance program in 1998. None have tested positive for the disease. Although CWD has not yet been found in Arizona, it is present in the neighboring states of Utah, Colorado and New Mexico, so the department will remain vigilant with its monitoring program.

Fish stocking program begins environmental assessment process

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Department solicited public input on sport-fish stockings in Arizona as part of a draft environmental assessment process that is required to continue using federal funding for stocking activities in Arizona. The stocking program is supported with federal funds through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program, along with state funds from the sale of licenses and trout stamps. The agencies will prepare a draft environmental assessment to evaluate the social, economic and environmental effects of stockings related to continue funding for the program through the Sport Fish Restoration Program.

AWARDS

Department Awards

Arizona's bald eagle management wins national conservation award

The Department of the Interior recognized the Southwest Bald Eagle Management Committee (SWBEMC) for implementing the Arizona bald eagle nestwatch program. Secretary Dirk Kempthorne presented the Cooperative Conservation Award to members of the SWBEMC at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. The SWBEMC is a broad coalition of 23 government agencies, private organizations and Native American tribes that oversees a comprehensive management plan to help ensure the continued success of the bald eagle population in Arizona.

Wildlife crossing project wins national award

An innovative wildlife crossing project on Highway 260 through prime elk habitat along the Mogollon Rim was recognized with a



The innovative wildlife crossing project on Highway 260 won a national award.

national environmental award. Nearly 10 years ago, a multi-agency project began in Arizona to incorporate wildlife-friendly components in the expansion plans for State Route 260, in a stretch east of Payson. The project created a complex system of underpasses, wildlife fencing and a cutting-edge electric “wildlife crosswalk,” to allow wildlife to more safely cross the road, thereby reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions and reducing population isolation due to the “barrier effect” of the road. The project was recognized for its revolutionary concept and design by being awarded the 2008 National Environmental Excellence Award for Environmental Stewardship from the National Association of Environmental Professionals.

Individual Awards

Flagstaff regional supervisor named Wildlife Professional of the Year

The Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society awarded Ron Sieg, regional supervisor for the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Flagstaff office, its 2008 Wildlife Professional of the Year Award.

Wildlife manager wins two “Officer-of-the-Year” awards

Shawn Wagner, Region I Pinetop wildlife manager, was honored in 2008 as “Wildlife Manager of the Year” by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and as the “Pogue-Elms Officer of the Year” by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA).

Game and Fish employee recognized for landowner relations work

Wade Zarlingo, the landowner relations coordinator for the Arizona Game and Fish Department’s Pinetop region, received the Outstanding Service Award from the Arizona section of the Society of Range Management.

Game and Fish employee receives national boating honor

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) honored Madelynn Fenske, watercraft customer service supervisor, with its esteemed President’s Award for her contributions to the association and to boating safety.

Communications awards

Department work units and personnel won several communications awards over the past year. Arizona Wildlife Views magazine received four “Communicator Awards” (sanctioned and judged by the International Academy of the Visual Arts) for content and graphic design. The Hunting Highlights e-newsletter received an award from the Association for Conservation Information (ACI). Kingman Region Information and Education Program Manager Zen Mocarski received a Communicator Award for his wildlife trading card series. Arizona Wildlife Views Associate Editor Julie Hammonds, Public Information Officer Rory Aikens and Photographer George Andrejko all received ACI awards for their work.



Researchers captured and collared pronghorn antelope near Highway 89 to track their movements and road-crossing patterns.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Fiscal Year Revenues by Fund	2006-07	2007-08
Game and Fish Fund	\$31,008,504.	\$32,279,875
Watercraft Licensing Fund.....	5,652,468	5,244,405
Game, Nongame Fund.....	273,357	251,756
Federal Assistance (Includes Matching Funds).....	28,144,075	29,192,255
Heritage Fund.....	10,824,320	14,531,647
Off-highway Vehicle Fund.....	869,474	786,499
Capital Improvement/Conservation Dev. Funds.....	1,545,574	1,764,206
Wildlife Conservation Fund.....	6,901,172	7,256,138
Wildlife Habitat and Restoration Fund.....	3,583,885	57,344
Indirect Cost Fund	2,162,906	2,265,400
Other Funds (See Detail Below).....	3,439,988	4,011,907
Total Revenue All Sources	\$94,405,724.	\$97,641,432

Other Funds Detail

GF Land and Water Conservation/ Recreation Development.....	\$1,352	\$1,382
Wildlife Theft Prevention Fund.....	154,569	222,232
Waterfowl Conservation Fund.....	80,781	132,406
Wildlife Endowment Fund.....	225,016	210,469
Trust/Donation Fund.....	2,638,091	3,228,136
Firearms Safety and Ranges Fund.....	72,050	21,386
Publications Revolving Fund	268,128	195,896
Total Other Funds	\$3,439,988	\$4,011,907

Fiscal Year Expenditures by Fund	2006-07	2007-08
Game and Fish Fund	\$26,459,769	\$29,262,352
Watercraft Licensing Fund.....	2,887,626	5,886,249
Game, Nongame Fund.....	187,937	235,455
Federal Assistance (Includes Matching Funds).....	27,638,779	29,029,433
Heritage Fund.....	11,036,808	19,032,125
Off-highway Vehicle Fund.....	882,977	868,122
Capital Improvement/Conservation Dev. Funds.....	509,233	722,947
Wildlife Conservation Fund.....	4,940,466	8,763,916
Indirect Cost Fund	1,817,258	3,144,133
Other Funds (See Detail Below).....	3,474,105	3,518,194
Total Revenue All Sources	\$79,834,959	\$100,462,926

Other Funds Detail

Game and Fish Land and Water Conservation/Recreation Dev.	\$ 0	\$ 0
Wildlife Theft Prevention Fund.....	155,575	202,982
Waterfowl Conservation Fund.....	66,876	71,737
Wildlife Endowment Fund.....	0	0
Trust/Donation Fund.....	1,584,841	2,794,502
Firearms Safety and Ranges Fund.....	1,382,344	211,442
Publications Revolving Fund	284,469	237,531
Total Other Funds	\$3,474,105	\$3,518,194

Fiscal Year Heritage Funds Allocation	2006-07	2007-08
Environmental Education.....	\$500,000	\$500,000
Public Access.....	500,000	500,000
Habitat Evaluation and Protection.....	1,500,000	1,500,000
Urban Wildlife.....	1,500,000	1,500,000
Habitat Acquisition	2,400,000	2,400,000
IIAPM (Identification, Inventory, Acquisition, Protection, and Management)	3,600,000	3,600,000
Total Allocation.....	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000

Calendar Year Sales in Numbers by Group	2006	2007
Licenses (see detail below)	487,642	467,698
Resident Trout Stamps	92,544	82,124
Nonresident Trout Stamps.....	408	260
Tags	152,998	149,181
Misc Permits/Licenses.....	3,896	2,506
Special Use Licenses/Stamps	69,571	68,500
Two Pole Stamp	68,088	62,328
Resident Additional Day Stamps.....	—	1,710
Nonresident Additional Day Stamps	—	2,089
Arizona Waterfowl Stamps	6,994	7,072
Migratory Bird Stamps	53,161	48,659
Utah Lake Powell Stamps.....	1,436	10
Kaibab 12A Archery Deer Stamps	3,194	3,847
Restricted Non-permit Tags.....	226	116
Supplemental Hunt Tags.....	65	43
Totals	940,223	896,143

Lifetime License/Stamp Sales	2006	2007
Lifetime License Sales Fish.....	34	73
Lifetime License Sales Hunt	100	89
Lifetime License Sales Combo	108	111
Lifetime License Sales Trout Stamps	28	47
Totals	270	320

Calendar Year License Sales by Category	2006	2007
Resident General Fish.....	176,076	161,879
Nonresident General Fish	2,927	1,489
Family/Primary Fish	2,559	3,635
Family/Spouse Fish	1,390	2,046
Family/Child Fish	1,301	1,688
Resident Super Fish/Trout Urban License.....	—	8,216
Nonresident Super Fish/Trout Urban License	—	1,233
Resident General Hunt.....	63,861	58,931
Nonresident General Hunt	24,179	23,659
Computer Family/Primary Hunt	—	542
Computer Family/Secondary (Spouse) Hunt	—	319
Computer Family/Youth & Child/10-13 Hunt	—	899
Resident Hunt/Fish.....	80,939	76,121
Nonresident Hunt/Fish	961	917
Computer Family/Primary Hunt/Fish	—	2,499
Computer Family/Secondary Hunt/Fish.....	—	1,364
Computer Family/Youth & Child/10-13 Hunt/Fish	—	1,922
Computer Super Hunt w/Stamps.....	—	277
Computer Super Hunt/Fish w/Stamps.....	—	1,131
Nonresident 3-Day Hunt.....	7,727	7,913
Urban Fishing	36,837	28,609
Nonresident Colorado River Fish	1,666	1,693
Nonresident 5-Day Fish.....	13,871	9,982
Resident Youth Hunt/Fish.....	24,157	23,443
Nonresident 4-Month Fish.....	7,545	8,393
Resident/Nonresident 1-Day Fish.....	36,438	32,995
Resident Youth Group 2-Day Fish.....	98	91
Resident General Fish Nov/Dec	4,622	3,917
Nonresident General Fish Nov/Dec	437	177
Computer Family/Primary Half Fish Nov/Dec	43	20
Computer Family/Spouse Half Fish Nov/Dec	8	6
Urban Fishing Nov/Dec	—	1,692
Grand Totals	487,642	467,698

Calendar Year License and Tag Sales	2006	2007
Licenses.....	\$14,740,686.	\$16,361,714
Stamps.....	1,762,701	2,178,210
Tags	4,973,822	4,809,142
Total Value.....	\$21,477,209	\$23,349,066



William H. McLean,
Chair



Bob Hernbrode



Jennifer L. Martin



Robert R. Woodhouse



Norman W. Freeman

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 chairman during their last year.

OUR MISSION

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



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

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