



# ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018



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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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### LICENSE SIMPLIFICATION LEGISLATION IS REAUTHORIZED

On March 29, Gov. Doug Ducey signed SB1253, renewing the Arizona Game and Fish Commission's authority to set license structure and fees by rule and making improvements that benefit purchasers and retailers. The initial authority, granted beginning in 2014, allowed the Commission to simplify the license structure and operate more entrepreneurially. It was well received by the public. Prior to passage of SB1253, that authority was set to expire July 1, 2019. With the certainty this legislation provides, the Commission and Department can offer strategically selected license discounts and new discretionary products, such as PointGuard to protect bonus points, or Conservation Membership Packages to support wildlife conservation. It also removes the complexities of the former statutorily mandated compensation model with third-party license dealers and allows dealers to determine their own service fees. This will bolster Department efforts to improve the process for retailers, such as the development of point-of-sale solutions allowing digital rather than paper-based sale of licenses.

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### AZGFD STOCKS TROUT AT LEES FERRY FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1998

In November 2018, the Arizona Game and Fish Department stocked rainbow trout into the lower 3-mile walk-in section of Lees Ferry, Arizona's premier blue-ribbon trout fishery below Glen Canyon Dam. This was the first trout stocking at Lees Ferry since 1998. After AZGFD creel survey results had been showing a dramatic decrease in angler catch rates, rainbow trout fishing during the past couple of years seems to have recovered somewhat in the upper portion of the river, with reports of large rainbow trout being captured. Regardless of the improvement, trout fishing in the walk-in area has not recovered as quickly as AZGFD had hoped. This stocking boosted sport-fishing opportunities for rainbow trout at this walk-in portion. AZGFD will continue stocking more trout as necessary to further address low catch rates and angler satisfaction.





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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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### OUTDOOR EXPO DRAWS 44,000

The Arizona Game and Fish Department Outdoor Expo – the state’s largest hands-on outdoor expo – drew 44,000 visitors over the March 24-25 weekend, the second largest turnout in the 14-year history of the annual event. The event was held at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix. The Expo combines conservation, recreation and industry into a welcoming environment for the public. Popular attractions included live wildlife exhibits, family fishing tanks, kayaking at the 90,000-gallon “Lake Paddlemore,” the opportunity to learn firearm safety and try out firearms in a safe, controlled environment on the range, family archery, OHV and boating exhibits, and the opportunity to visit with more than 150 exhibitors, including sportsmen’s and conservation organizations, recreational shooting groups, government agencies, and commercial vendors of outdoor products and services. Shikar Safari Club International was the presenting sponsor of the Expo. Gold sponsors were OneAZ Credit Union, Sig Sauer and My Outdoor TV.



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### WATER HAULING ASSISTS THIRSTY WILDLIFE DURING EXTREME DROUGHT

During this year’s drought, the Arizona Game and Fish Department trucked or airlifted about 600,000 gallons of water to catchments throughout the state. The Department typically stops hauling water in August after monsoon rains, but because of the drought it was on track this year to haul more than 1.5 million gallons before above-average rainfall in October helped mitigate the situation. Historically, droughts can lead to die-offs of wildlife. By hauling water, AZGFD can help stabilize populations, keeping wildlife alive and out of urban areas. The Department partners with many wildlife groups, but bears much of the costs to haul water and maintain about 1,000 of its own catchments, 1,000 Bureau of Land Management catchments, and 1,000 U.S. Forest Service catchments. AZGFD’s “Water for Wildlife” campaign gave the public the opportunity to donate by text (SENDWATER to 41444) or via a website ([www.azwildlifehero.com](http://www.azwildlifehero.com)) from any smartphone.



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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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### AZGFD PARTNERS WITH SPORTSMEN'S GROUPS TO INTRODUCE HUNTING, FISHING TO NEWCOMERS

The Department continued to expand its partnerships with sportsmen's groups, gun clubs and conservation organizations to offer dozens of hands-on events (many with mentoring) to introduce people to hunting, fishing, shooting sports and the outdoors. More than 40 hunt camps have been scheduled between fall 2018 and spring 2019. The camps are categorized to let people choose the camp that corresponds to their skill level: introductory, beginner, developing, intermediate, and experienced. In addition, there were a number of beginning hunt clinics, family campouts and outdoor skills events being offered by AZGFD's partners. Upcoming camps and online registration can be found on the Outdoor Skills Network page on the Department's website: [www.azgfd.gov/outdoorskills](http://www.azgfd.gov/outdoorskills).



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### LICENSE DEALERS WILL HAVE OPTION TO CHARGE CONVENIENCE FEE IN 2019; WILL NO LONGER RECEIVE COMMISSION ON LICENSE SALES

A new law modifying A.R.S. §17-338 was passed this session by the Arizona Legislature, giving Arizona hunting and fishing license dealers the option to charge a convenience fee for license, tag and stamp sales at their locations, effective Jan. 1, 2019. Licenses, tags and stamps purchased online from AZGFD or purchased at AZGFD offices are not subject to a convenience fee. The change in the law allows dealers to "collect and retain a reasonable fee as determined by the license dealer in addition to the fee charged to issue the license or permit." The change eliminates the 5 percent commission that dealers currently deduct and keep from sales of licenses, tags or stamps. That means after Jan. 1, the dealers will transmit to AZGFD the full value of the license for each sale and the dealers will retain the convenience fee, if any. Receiving the full monetary value of each license will benefit department programs, allowing more money to be put into wildlife conservation.

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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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### ARIZONA BIG GAME SUPER RAFFLE NETS RECORD \$692,590 FOR WILDLIFE

The 13th annual Arizona Big Game Super Raffle raised a record \$692,590 for wildlife conservation projects in Arizona. Each year the Arizona Game and Fish Commission sets aside one tag for each of the 10 big game species – bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope, bison, turkey, black bear, javelina and mountain lion – to be raffled in the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle. Tickets range from \$5 to \$25 depending on the species. The raffle is conducted by a nonprofit entity, and a volunteer board of directors comprised of representatives from sponsoring organizations oversees the operation of the raffle. Every dollar raised for each species through the raffle is returned to AZGFD and managed by the Arizona Habitat Partnership Committee (AHPC) for that particular species. With input from local habitat partners across the state and sponsoring organizations involved in the fundraising, project priorities are determined that will provide the most benefit to each species. In the 13-year history of the raffle, almost \$6.8 million has been raised for wildlife and wildlife management in Arizona.



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### COMMUNITY FISHING PROGRAM EXPANDS OPPORTUNITIES IN PRESCOTT VALLEY

The Arizona Game and Fish Department and the town of Prescott Valley have teamed up to expand fishing opportunities in the community of Prescott Valley. A new site, Yavapai Lakes, consisting of two ponds in the Urban Forest Park, has been added to AZGFD's Community Fishing Program. The ponds are located at 8700 E. Lakeshore Drive in Prescott Valley and were originally established as groundwater recharge sites. Fain Lake, which AZGFD already had been stocking with rainbow trout from state hatcheries, will begin to receive fish through the Community Fishing Program as well. "We're pleased to provide more exciting fishing opportunities to this community," AZGFD Community Fishing Program Manager Scott Gurtin said. "Fain Lake will be getting more fish than in the past, and Yavapai Lakes will be a completely new site for anglers to try."





## ARIZONA-WEST VIRGINIA PARTNERSHIP TRANSLOCATES ELK TO HELP RESTORE POPULATIONS IN WEST VIRGINIA



West Virginia's efforts to restore its elk population got a boost, thanks to a collaboration between the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. On March 3, dozens of elk that were captured and quarantined in January east of Flagstaff were loaded into a livestock trailer and transported to a release site in the Tomblin Wildlife Management Area in southwest West Virginia. The Arizona Game and Fish Commission had approved the capture and transport to assist West Virginia's ongoing restoration project. A native species, elk disappeared from West Virginia's landscape when the last documented animal was killed in the Mountain State around 1875. The conservation project marks only the second time Arizona has provided elk to another state. In 2000, Kentucky's elk restoration efforts received a boost with 26 animals that were captured near the Raymond Wildlife Area.

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## RECORD NUMBER OF BALD EAGLES TAKE THEIR FIRST FLIGHT IN 2018

Arizona's bald eagle population continues to soar as the number of breeding areas expanded statewide and a record 87 young hatched during the 2018 breeding season, according to AZGFD's annual survey. The number of hatchlings rose from the previous high of 82 in 2017, as did the number of young that actually fledged, rising to 70 birds that made the important milestone of their first flight. In Arizona, at least 102 eggs were laid, which topped the 97 laid in 2017, and a record 87 breeding areas were identified, including three new areas. Arizona's bald eagle populations have flourished since 1978, when 11 pairs were counted within the state and the species was listed as endangered. Today there are an estimated 69 adult breeding pairs. This success was made possible by the continued efforts of the Southwestern Bald Eagle Management Committee – a coalition of AZGFD and 25 other government agencies, private organizations and Native American tribes – and its years of cooperative conservation efforts, including extensive monitoring by the nationally-awarded Bald Eagle Nestwatch Program.



## BIGHORN SHEEP RESTORED TO HISTORIC HABITAT NEAR TUCSON, PAYSON

Sixty bighorn sheep were relocated by AZGFD and its wildlife conservation partners as part of two translocations in November. The first project relocated 30 desert bighorns from the Silver Bell Mountains northwest of Tucson in an effort to re-establish bighorn sheep in their historical range in the Picacho Mountains to the north. The second project involved the capture and relocation of 30 Rocky Mountain bighorns from Eagle Creek near Morenci to East Clear Creek/Leonard Canyon north of Payson. The translocations required extensive planning and expertise of dedicated helicopter pilots, net gunners, muggers (those that exit the helicopter and safely secure the animals on the ground), and dozens of support staff and volunteers. All of the animals were given an identification ear tag and complete health evaluation before being released. A few were fitted with a GPS tracking collar to monitor their move-



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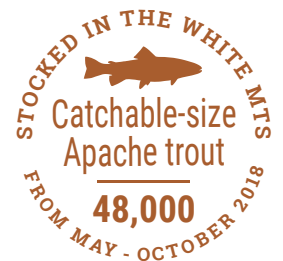
**Projects such as these help us to conserve and protect bighorn sheep by establishing subpopulations within their native ranges.**

ments in their new locale. "Projects such as these help us to conserve and protect bighorn sheep by establishing subpopulations within their native ranges, which could help if there ever were a disease outbreak," said AZGFD Big Game Management Supervisor Amber Munig.

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## ARIZONA'S STATE FISH RETURNS: AZGFD TO RESUME STOCKING APACHE TROUT

The Arizona Game and Fish Department stocked approximately 48,000 catchable-size Apache trout from May through October of 2018 in various waters in the White Mountains. Stockings could not occur in 2017 due to federal hatcheries having tested positive for Bacteria Kidney Disease (BKD). The state relies on federal hatcheries to supply the eggs necessary to raise Apache trout. In 2018, AZGFD received about 200,000 Apache trout eggs. The Department had around 100,000 Apache trout eggs (BKD free) at its Tonto Creek Hatchery that came from Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery and in 2019 contributed to 14,000 stocked Apaches.



## **U.S. MEXICAN WOLF POPULATION SURVEY SHOWS MINIMUM OF 114 WOLVES IN WILD**

The Mexican wolf Interagency Field Team (IFT) completed the annual year-end population survey, documenting a minimum of 114 Mexican wolves in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico at the end of 2017. This number includes 26 pups that survived to the end of 2017, accounting for a slight increase over the estimated 113 wild wolves in 2016. The lack of stronger population growth appears to be primarily due to lower pup survival than in 2016. There were a total of 50 surviving pups born in the wild in 2016. The survey results come from on-the-ground population data collected by the IFT from November 2017 through January 2018, as well as from aerial surveys conducted in January and February of this year. "While the 2017 numbers are not what we were hoping for, this is not the sole metric to measure progress in Mexican wolf recovery," said AZGFD's Assistant Director of Wildlife Management Jim deVos. "The fact that cross-fostered wolves had pups this year is a major milestone and presents a mechanism to better manage genetics." Partners in Mexican wolf recovery include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Mexican government, AZGFD, White Mountain Apache Tribe, U.S. Forest Service, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Wildlife Services, and several participating counties.

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## **ARIZONA RECEIVES FEDERAL RESEARCH GRANTS TO FURTHER MULE DEER CONSERVATION**

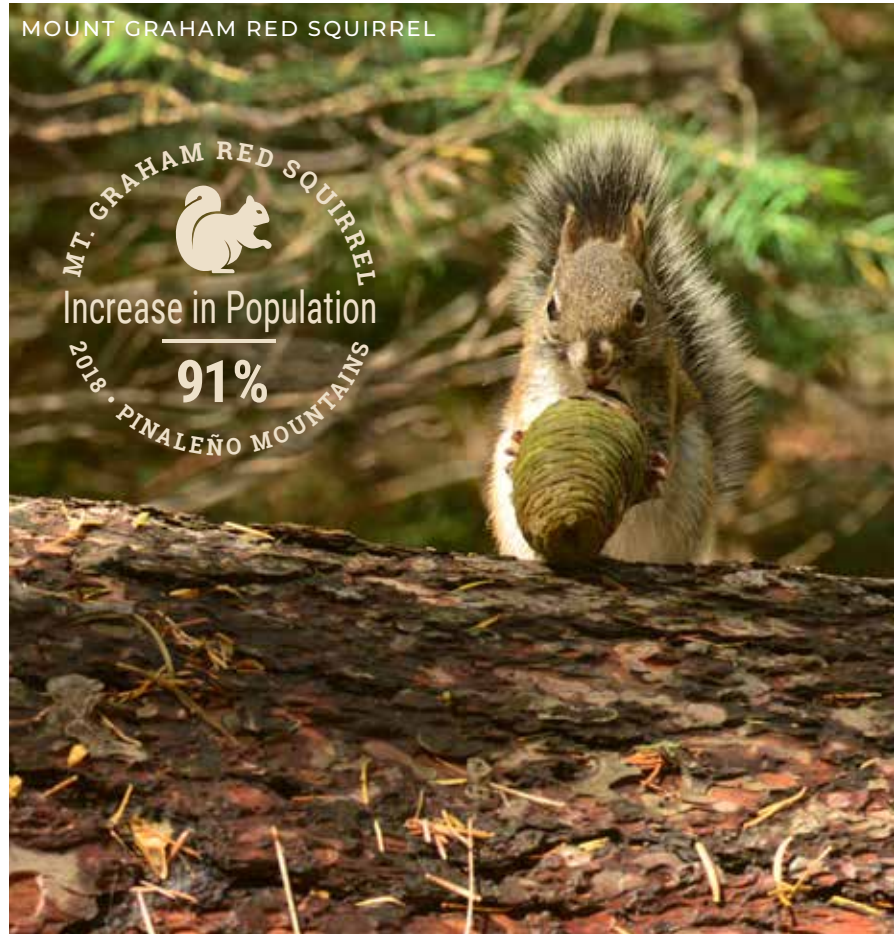
Arizona was awarded funds from the Department of the Interior for research that will help identify and conserve mule deer movement corridors and provide a better understanding of how mule deer move within their habitat. AZGFD will use the funding in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and Department of the Interior to conduct three research projects in different parts of the state to investigate and delineate important mule deer movement corridors and obtain landscape-scale movement data. The research will help guide mule deer management recommendations in these areas and mitigate wildlife habitat fragmentation as Arizona continues to grow. The grant award was announced in October by then-Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and came as a result of Secretarial Order 3362, which aims to improve the federal government's collaboration with the states to enhance and improve the quality of big game winter range and migration corridor habitat. Secretary Zinke had asked states to submit their top priorities to advance big game habitat conservation.





## ENDANGERED MT. GRAHAM RED SQUIRREL SIGNALS REBOUND FROM DEVASTATING 2017 FRYE FIRE

One year after their habitat was nearly wiped out by the 2017 Frye Fire in the Pinaleno Mountains of southeastern Arizona, an annual survey of the endangered Mt. Graham red squirrel showed a notable increase in their population. The annual survey, conducted jointly by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), Coronado National Forest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Center for Nature Conservation – Phoenix Zoo, and the University of Arizona, resulted in a minimum estimate of 67 squirrels – a 91-percent increase from the 35 recorded in 2017, when populations were severely impacted by the Frye Fire. In 2016, there were an estimated 252 squirrels. The Mount Graham red squirrel population peaked at about 550 animals in the late 1990s, but typically ranges between 200 and 300 individuals. This annual red squirrel survey consisted of visiting all known middens, which are areas where red squirrels store or cache their cones. Activity at these middens is used to estimate the population size. The subspecies, which lives only in the upper elevation conifer forests of the Pinaleno Mountains, was listed as endangered in 1987.



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## FATE OF STOCKED TROUT: 5 THINGS LEARNED FROM 4-YEAR STUDY

Ever wondered what happens to the thousands of trout that the Arizona Game and Fish Department stocks into streams all around the state every year? You're not alone. This year, AZGFD completed a four-year study to investigate the fate of rainbow and Apache trout stocked into several of Arizona's popular stream trout fisheries. As part of this project, AZGFD biologists conducted nearly 5,000 angler interviews on six different streams (Canyon Creek, East Fork Black River, East Verde River, Silver Creek, Tonto Creek, and West Fork Little Colorado River) during the trout stocking seasons (April to September) of 2013–2016. Here's what they learned: Most trout don't survive past one week of being stocked, trout don't move far from release locations, anglers spend tons of time fishing for stocked trout, current stocking amounts satisfy anglers and the best fishing is within a few days of stocking.

## **FROG STUDY HELPS SCIENTISTS UNDERSTAND DISEASE OUTBREAK AND PROGRESSION**

The search for answers to protect Central American frogs from extinction is also giving scientists clues on how to predict and respond to emerging diseases and epidemics in humans, plants and other wildlife. In their paper published in the journal *Science*, March 30, a team that included AZGFD biologist Mason Ryan documented the recovery of some tropical amphibians following continued exposure to a lethal pathogen. For amphibians, scientists have known about a highly lethal disease called “chytridiomycosis” since the 1990s. The study showed that nine species of Central American frogs that reached critically low numbers are showing evidence of recovery, despite the pathogen being just as deadly to hosts a decade after it first appeared. In addition, some species have defenses against infection that are more effective now than they were prior to the epidemic. “Chytridiomycosis has caused significant declines in many of Arizona’s native frogs, particularly Chiricahua leopard frogs,” said Ryan. “This work certainly has potential applications for AZGFD’s frog conservation and recovery programs.”

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## **AZGFD STUDIES CORMORANT IMPACT ON FISH AND OTHER WILDLIFE**

AZGFD conducted a study of the state’s two species of cormorants – neotropic and double-crested – both of which are federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Under those protections, cormorant populations have flourished nationwide, competing with other wildlife for a bounty of local fish at AZGFD’s community fishing waters and privately stocked residential lakes. “We want to learn how these growing populations are connected to the landscape, their migration patterns, and what impact – if any – their increasing numbers are having on other wildlife, including area fish,” said AZGFD biologist Larisa Harding. As part of that research, AZGFD safely trapped and placed numbered, colored tags on the wings of cormorants, and re-released them across the Phoenix metro area and some other areas of the state. The Department will use the data to assist in developing (along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) management practices that will maintain healthy populations of the birds while minimizing their impact to fishery resources, human property values and human safety.





## USFWS PROPOSES RECLASSIFICATION OF HUMPBAC CHUB FROM ENDANGERED TO THREATENED



Through collaborative conservation efforts, the once-dwindling endangered humpback chub has been building a wild population large enough to soon be reclassified as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The success was due to the efforts and commitment of multiple agencies, including AZGFD, Colorado's and Utah's state wildlife agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Geological Service, and others. As a result, the USFWS recently conducted a species status assessment with the assistance of AZGFD staff and determined the fish is no longer in danger of becoming extinct. It is anticipated that within the next year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will propose the chub, which is found in the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam in Page, be reclassified from endangered to threatened. "While it's great to have seen significant progress, we realize the chub will continue to need the commitment and expertise of the Department and its partner agencies to conserve and protect this species for generations to come," said AZGFD Aquatic Wildlife Branch Chief Chris Cantrell.

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### GAME AND FISH COMMISSION MODIFIES PROPOSED RULES ON TRAIL CAMERAS

In considering proposed rules on use of trail cameras, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission agreed to retain a provision prohibiting use of live-action trail cameras for the purpose of taking or aiding in the take of wildlife, but removed a provision that prohibits the use of other trail cameras within one-fourth mile (440 yards) of a developed water source. The provisions were in the amended Article 3, "Taking and Handling of Wildlife," Notice of Final Rulemaking, which was submitted to the Commission for consideration during the June meeting in Payson. A live-action trail camera is defined as an unmanned device capable of transmitting images, still photographs, video or satellite imagery, wirelessly to a remote device such as, but not limited to, a computer, smartphone or tablet. This does not include a trail camera that records photographic or video data for later use (such as on an SD card), provided the device is not capable of transmitting wirelessly.

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### AZGFD, INTERNATIONAL STUDY: MEXICAN WOLVES OUTSIDE HISTORICAL RANGE THREATENS RECOVERY

An international research study on Mexican wolves says that encouraging recovery of the endangered subspecies north of its outlined historical range would be detrimental to preserving the wolf's unique characteristics. The leading wildlife science journal Biological Conservation highlighted the new research, further rebuking calls for Mexican wolves to be released far outside their historical range, defined as southeastern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico and the Sierra Madre Mountains in Mexico. Doing so would encourage genetic mixing with northwestern wolves originally from Canada, which threatens the genetic uniqueness of the Mexican wolf. Because data shows that at some point Mexican wolves were on the Mogollon Rim, the recovery boundary now includes a 200-mile expansion from the core historical range to the north into central Arizona and New Mexico. Data also illustrates that Mexico is critical for wolf recovery, given that 90 percent of the animal's historical range and more than 20,000 square miles of high-quality habitat is found south of the border.





### DROUGHT INCREASES URBAN BEAR ACTIVITY STATEWIDE

Ongoing drought conditions throughout Arizona in the summer led more bears to seek food and water in areas of human development. To protect the public, AZGFD officers removed multiple habituated bears - including several that aggressively tried to or did enter homes - and needed to be humanely euthanized under Department policy. Because the lethal removal of bears sometimes is a contentious issue, the Department held a news conference and simultaneous Facebook Live event to help educate the public about bears and bear management. A panel of four bear experts, including an Arizona Game and Fish Department wildlife manager, the Department's bear biologist, an outside captive wildlife expert who has worked for zoos, and an Arizona State University professor (formerly a research biologist with AZGFD), addressed many of the questions about bear biology, the consequences of feeding wildlife or leaving food sources accessible, the rationale behind the Department's bear policy, why bears sometimes can't be relocated, and why it's difficult, if not impossible, to place an adult bear in a zoo or wildlife sanctuary.



### HUNDREDS OF INVASIVE APPLESNAILS REMOVED FROM LOWER SALT RIVER



APPLESNAIL EGG MASS

The Arizona Game and Fish Department conducted its eighth annual battle against the spread of invasive applesnails along the Lower Salt River. AZGFD employees, with help from the Tonto National Forest, SeaLife Aquarium, and community volunteers, boarded kayaks and successfully removed 3,428 egg masses and an astonishing 717 applesnails. This invasive species, which came from South America, was illegally dumped into Arizona waters as unwanted exotic pets. They have the potential to impact fish by outcompeting our resident pond snails and ramshorn snails, components of the food base for native and sport fish. Fish don't eat applesnails – they're unpalatable even to crayfish. A single applesnail can produce 15,000 offspring a year, and with no predators, their population has exploded along a stretch of the Salt River.

## GOVERNOR DUCEY APPOINTS BILL BRAKE TO AZ GAME & FISH COMMISSION

Gov. Doug Ducey appointed Leland S. "Bill" Brake of Elgin, Ariz., as a member of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. An avid wildlife enthusiast, Brake has promoted activities with various wildlife groups in coordination with AZGFD to encourage involvement of youth and women in wildlife programs. He has owned and operated ranches in Arizona for 50 years and has served as past president and current board member of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, chairing its Wildlife Committee. He is active in the community, serving as a board member and current chair of the Advisory Committee for the University of Arizona's School of Natural Resources (Wildlife and Range Management); board member and current chair of the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for the Bureau of Land Management for Arizona; and board member and advisory committee member for the Audubon Society Ranch in Sonoita, Ariz.



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## AZGFD VIDEO PRODUCER WINS TWO OWAA AWARDS

Video producer David Majure won two awards at the Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) 92nd annual conference, held June 23 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Majure won first place in the *Conservation or Nature Category* with his story, "Arizona Elk West Virginia Bound." He received a second place award in the *Gear/Technical Category* with his story, "How to Fly Fish a Lake." OWAA is a nonprofit, international organization that represents a diverse group of professional communicators dedicated to sharing the outdoor experience.





## OFFICERS KEEP ARIZONA'S WATERWAYS SAFE: "OPERATION DRY WATER"



AZGFD officers contacted hundreds of boaters as part of Operation Dry Water, a national sober boating awareness and enforcement campaign. Alcohol is a contributing factor in many boating deaths, and the initiative's goal was to increase safety on Arizona's lakes and rivers, and reduce fatalities and injuries. Enhanced enforcement took place June 29 to July 1 at Lake Havasu and Lake Pleasant, with 32 AZGFD officers stopping 81 boats and discussing safe boating with 366 people. Three arrests were made for operating watercraft under the influence, 13 citations were written for other infractions, and officers issued 46 warnings. The Department has participated in Operation Dry Water, coordinated by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and U.S. Coast Guard, since the initiative began in 2009.

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## MORE THAN 400 STUDENT ARCHERS COMPETE IN 2018 STATE TOURNAMENT

A total of 437 student archers representing 30 schools from throughout Arizona, participants in the state level of the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), competed in the 2018 state tournament and 3D shoot at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix. The Arizona Game and Fish Department coordinates NASP on the state level and hosts a half-dozen state qualifying tournaments throughout the academic year. This year's state tournament was the largest in the 11-year history of the event.



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

<b>FISCAL YEAR REVENUES BY FUND</b>	2017-18
Game and Fish Fund .....	\$35,923,284
Watercraft Licensing Fund .....	\$4,703,010
Game, Nongame Fund .....	\$246,387
Federal Assistance (includes Matching Funds) .....	\$44,291,583
Heritage Fund .....	\$10,176,626
Off-Highway Vehicle Fund .....	\$1,828,983
Capital Improvement/Conservation Dev Funds .....	\$1,325,898
Wildlife Conservation Fund .....	\$6,860,527
Indirect Cost Fund .....	\$7,199,034
Other Funds (see detail below) .....	\$11,179,293
<b>Total Revenue All Sources: .....</b>	<b>\$123,734,626</b>

<b>OTHER FUNDS DETAIL:</b>	2017-18
Federal Grants .....	\$83
Wildlife Conservation Recovery Fund .....	\$1,373,469
GF Land & Water Conservation/Recreation Dev .....	\$516
Wildlife Theft Prevention Fund .....	\$186,478
Waterfowl Conservation Fund .....	\$0
Wildlife Endowment Fund .....	\$200,874
Interagency Service Agreement Fund .....	\$123,197
Credit Card Clearing Fund .....	\$311,738
Federal Economic Recovery Fund .....	\$0
Trust/Donation Fund .....	\$8,750,340
Firearms Safety and Ranges Fund .....	\$60,490
Wildlife Habitat and Restoration Fund .....	\$5
Game & Fish Nevada Col Stamp .....	\$0
Game & Fish California Col Stamp .....	\$26
Game & Fish Federal Duck Stamp .....	(\$140)
Game & Fish Big Game Permit .....	\$682
Game & Fish Kaibab Coop .....	\$1,867
Publications Revolving Fund .....	\$169,667
<b>Total Other Funds: .....</b>	<b>\$11,302,490</b>

<b>FISCAL YEAR EXPENDITURES BY FUND</b>	2017-18
Game and Fish Fund .....	\$31,738,194
Watercraft Licensing Fund .....	\$5,221,539
Game, Nongame Fund .....	\$103,718
Federal Assistance (includes Matching Funds) .....	\$43,267,470
Heritage Fund .....	\$11,466,284
Off-Highway Vehicle Fund .....	\$1,576,702
Capital Improvement/Conservation Dev Funds .....	\$1,007,690
Wildlife Conservation Fund .....	\$6,575,695
Indirect Cost Fund .....	\$5,992,836
Other Funds (see detail below) .....	\$5,222,027
<b>Total Expenditures All Sources: .....</b>	<b>\$112,172,156</b>

<b>OTHER FUNDS DETAIL:</b>	2017-18
Federal Grants .....	\$0
Wildlife Conservation Recovery Fund .....	\$1,315,580
Wildlife Theft Prevention Fund .....	\$208,989
Waterfowl Conservation Fund .....	\$0
Interagency Service Agreement Fund .....	\$0
Federal Economic Recovery Fund .....	\$0
Trust/Donation Fund .....	\$3,510,744
Firearms Safety and Ranges Fund .....	\$20,893
Game & Fish Federal Duck Stamp .....	\$0
Game & Fish Kaibab Coop .....	\$0
Publications Revolving Fund .....	\$165,822
<b>Total Other Funds: .....</b>	<b>\$5,222,027</b>

<b>CALENDAR YEAR LICENSES AND STAMPS SOLD</b>	2017
Resident General Fish .....	149,408
Nonresident General Fish .....	19,958
Resident General Hunt .....	51,781
Resident Combo Hunt/Fish .....	101,247
Nonresident Combo Hunt/Fish .....	29,209
Youth High Achievement Scout .....	84
Youth DLR .....	43,195
Resident Youth Combo Hunt/Fish .....	22,030
Nonresident Youth Combo Hunt/Fish .....	4,547
Resident Migratory Bird Stamp .....	17,438
Nonresident Migratory Bird Stamp .....	5,317
Resident Short-term Combo .....	17,542
Nonresident Short-term Combo .....	33,318
Migratory Bird Stamp DLR .....	29,409
Community Fishing DLR .....	3,735
Resident Community Fishing .....	1,382
Nonresident Community Fishing .....	900
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>530,500</b>

<b>CALENDAR YEAR LICENSE, TAG AND STAMP SALES</b>	2017
Fishing .....	\$6,612,280
Hunting .....	\$1,924,245
Hunt/Fish Combo .....	\$10,446,623
Youth .....	\$349,560
Community Fishing .....	\$143,374
Migratory Bird Stamps .....	\$260,820
Short-terms .....	\$1,054,742
Permit Tags .....	\$8,434,013
Non Permit Tags .....	\$2,104,822
Application Fee Revenue .....	\$4,548,535
<b>Total License, Tag, Stamp &amp; Application Revenue .....</b>	<b>\$35,879,014</b>
Dealer Commissions .....	(\$586,500)
<b>TOTAL LESS DEALER COMMISSIONS .....</b>	<b>\$35,292,514</b>

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## THE COMMISSION

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James R. Ammons



James S. Zieler



Eric S. Sparks



Kurt R. Davis



Leland S. "Bill" Brake

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## THE GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

Under the provisions of the Arizona Revised Statutes 17-231, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission establishes policy for the management, preservation and harvest of wildlife. The Commission makes rules and regulations for managing, conserving and protecting wildlife and fisheries resources, and safe and regulated watercraft and off-highway vehicle operations for the benefit of the citizens of Arizona. In support of the Commission's obligations, the Director, as Chief Administrative Officer, provides general supervision and control of all Department functions and activities.

The Commission is composed of five members appointed by the Governor pursuant to ARS 38-211. The Governor is assisted in the selection of Commission candidates by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission Appointment Recommendation Board.

The Commission appoints the Director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Director serves as Secretary to the Commission. No more than one Commissioner may be from any one county. No more than three may be from the same political party. Each Commissioner serves a five-year term, staggered. Commissioners customarily serve as Chair during their last year.

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## OUR MISSION

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

*The Arizona Game and Fish Department prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, religion, or disability in its programs and activities. If anyone believes that they have been discriminated against in any of the AZGFD's programs or activities, including employment practices, they may file a complaint with the Director's Office, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086, (602) 942-3000, or with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Attn: Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS:WSFR, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation or this document in an alternative format by contacting the Director's Office as listed above.*



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## AZGFD OFFICES

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### MAIN OFFICE

5000 W. Carefree Highway  
Phoenix, AZ 85086  
(602) 942-3000  
[www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov)

### AGENCY LEADERSHIP

Ty Gray	Director
Tom Finley	Deputy Director
Kent Komadina	Special Assistant to the Director
Pat Barber	Executive Community Engagement Administrator

### ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

Jim deVos	Wildlife Management
Craig McMullen	Field Operations
John Bullington	Support Services
Tony Guiles	Information, Education & Recreation

### REGIONAL OFFICES

**Region I** — Chris Bagnoli, Supervisor  
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**Region II** — Scott Poppenberger, Supervisor  
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**Region III** — Larry Phoenix, Supervisor  
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**Region IV** — Mike Sumner, Supervisor  
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**Region V** — Raul Vega, Supervisor  
555 N. Greasewood Road, Tucson 85745  
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**Region VI** — Jay Cook, Supervisor  
7200 E. University Drive, Mesa 85207  
(480) 981-9400