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## **PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA**

**March 31, 2025**

A public meeting of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission will be held on **April 11, 2025** at the **Arizona Game and Fish Department, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086**. The public may attend the meeting in person or view the meeting at [www.azgfd.gov/commissioncam](http://www.azgfd.gov/commissioncam) or may listen to the meeting by calling 404-397-1516, Access code: 280 046 234##. **Members of the public may view the meeting from any Department Regional Office.** Members of the public attending in person wanting to speak on a specific agenda item may submit Speaker Cards (Blue Cards) if they wish to speak to the Commission. Members of the public may only address the Commission by attending in person or from any regional office. Copies of any presentations, documents, etc. discussed during the meeting will be available by contacting [sprice@azgfd.gov](mailto:sprice@azgfd.gov). Unless expressly provided otherwise with any matter, the Commission may discuss and may vote to take action on the following matters:

**Friday, April 11, 2025**      **Meeting location opens at 7:30 a.m.**  
**Meeting begins at 8:00 a.m.**  
**Lunch Break at 12:00 p.m.**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Welcome/Introductions**

**Awards and Recognition**

- 1) Call to the Public.** Those persons wishing to speak on a matter not on the agenda should complete a speaker's card and present it to the host. No discussion or action will be taken by the Commission. Any items requiring further discussion or action will be included on a future Commission meeting agenda.
- 2) Consent Agenda.** The following items are hereby noticed as consent agenda items to expedite action on routine matters, which may not require public discussion. The Commission will be asked to approve briefings and updates without further public input or discussion and to approve other matters as presented, subject to approval or recommendations of the Commission's legal counsel. Commission members may remove certain items if further public input or discussion is deemed necessary.

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**ARIZONA**

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5000 W. CAREFREE HIGHWAY, PHOENIX AZ 85086

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

- a) **Approval of the Law Enforcement Boating Safety Fund (LEBSF) Grant Allocation Formula for Fiscal Year 2026. Presenter: Gene Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief.** The Department provided the Commission with the proposed LEBSF Grant Allocation Formula per ARS §5-383 at the March Commission meeting.
- 3) **Petition by Center for Biological Diversity and others to Amend A.A.C. R12-4-318 Seasons for Lawfully Taking Wild Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles, and A.A.C. R12-4-304 Lawful Methods for Taking Wild Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles. Presenter: Luke Thompson, Special Assistant to the Director.** The Commission will consider the petitions submitted by the Center for Biological Diversity and others, to amend A.A.C. R12-4-318 Seasons for Lawfully Taking Wild Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles, and A.A.C. R12-4-304 Lawful Methods for Taking Wild Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles.
- 4) **Consideration of Proposed Commission Orders 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 23 and 26 for 2025–2026 Hunting Seasons. Presenter: Erin Butler, Big Game Management Program Supervisor.** The Commission will consider and may approve Commission Orders 2 (deer), 6 (javelina, fall and spring), 7 (bighorn sheep), 9 (black bear, fall and spring), 10 (mountain lion), 13 (predatory and furbearing), 23 (trapping) and 26 (population management) establishing seasons and season dates, bag and possession limits, permit numbers or authorized limits, and open areas for the respective 2025 fall and 2026 spring hunting seasons.
- 5) **Consideration of Proposed Commission Orders 11-12 and 14-18 (Small Game) for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 hunting seasons and Commission Orders 19–22 and 24 (Migratory Game Birds) for the 2025-2026 hunting season in accordance with the Final Rules of the Federal Register (USFWS, anticipated publication July 2025). Presenter: Dr. Larisa Harding, Small Game Management Program Supervisor.** The Commission will consider and may approve Commission Orders 11 (tree squirrel), 12 (cottontail rabbit), 14 (other birds and mammals), 15 (pheasant), 16 (quail), 17 (chukar partridge), 18 (dusky grouse), establishing seasons and season dates, bag and possession limits, and open areas for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 seasons. The Commission will also consider and may approve Commission Orders 19-22 (dove, band-tailed pigeon, waterfowl, and snipe) and 24 (sandhill crane), establishing season dates, open areas, bag and possession limits, and permit numbers (for CO 24 sandhill cranes only) for the 2025-2026 hunting season. A detailed description of proposals will be available for public review at Department offices.

**TIME CERTAIN AT 10:00AM**

- 6) **Hearings on License Revocations for Violations of Game and Fish Codes and Civil Assessments for the Illegal Taking and/or Possession of Wildlife. Presenter: Gene F.**

**Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief.** The Commission will consider and take action on the license revocations and/or civil assessments for the individuals listed below.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Docket #</b>	<b>Conviction</b>
Nathan Moody	2025-0012	Use of Aircraft to Locate Wildlife Within 48hrs Of Open Big Game Hunt.

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

- 7) **FY 2027 Proposed Budget & FY 2026 Amendments. Presenter: Marvin Mendieta, Budget and Payroll Administrator.** The Department will provide the Commission with a presentation on the FY 2027 proposed budget and proposed amendments to the FY 2026 budget.
- 8) **State and Federal Legislation. Presenter: Ed Sanchez, Legislative Policy Administrator.** The Commission will be briefed on the status of state and federal legislation and may take a position or provide direction to the Department for coordination, action, or proposed changes to legislation related to Department responsibilities.
- 9) **Department Engagement on Mitigation and Mitigation Opportunities. Presenter: Callie Cavalcant, Habitat, Evaluation and Lands Branch Chief.** The Commission will receive a briefing on the history of and current Department engagement with state, federal and private entities regarding mitigation for Arizona's wildlife and their habitats.
- 10) **State and Federal Lands Planning Update. Presenter: Callie Cavalcant, Habitat, Evaluation and Lands Branch Chief.** The Commission will receive an update on Department activities and involvement with land management planning and other actions regarding state and federal lands in Arizona.
- 11) **Commission Priorities Update. Presenter: Luke Thompson, Special Assistant to the Director.** The Department will provide an update on the Commission Priorities and Metrics.
- 12) **Chairman, Commissioners and Director Comments.** The Chairman, Commissioners and Director may provide brief comments on current events and issues. This item is for information only. Items requiring discussion, deliberation or legal action must be placed on a future Commission meeting agenda.
- 13) **Future Agenda Items and Action Items.**

- 14) Litigation Report.** The Department's legal counsel may report on the status of the litigation matters: *In re General Stream Adjudication for the Little Colorado River and Gila River; Center for Biological Diversity v. Haaland, CV 22-303/453.*
- 15) Executive Session. (The Commission will not vote to take on any action during the Executive Session).**
- a. Litigation and Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (4) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice in order to consider its position and to instruct legal counsel regarding the Commission's position concerning: *In re General Stream Adjudication for the Little Colorado River and Gila River; Center for Biological Diversity v. Haaland, CV 22-303/453; OAH No. 24A-0001-AH-AZGFD; Notice of Intent to Sue concerning the Alamo Wildlife Area and In re Ernesto Bernal (OAH case).*
  - b. Litigation and Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (4) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice in order to consider its position and to instruct legal counsel regarding the Commission's position concerning the legal strategy recommendations from the Department's legal strategies team.
  - c. Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding the Commission's authority to lock gates and close roads providing access to State Trust lands where there is reasonable alternative public access.
  - d. Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding the designation of the Grand Canyon National Monument.
  - e. Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding a proposed petition to amend Commission rules related to the lawful methods of take and seasons for taking wildlife.
  - f. Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel regarding trespasses and other unauthorized activities on Commission-owned Wildlife Areas.

- g. Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(4) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel in order to consider its position and instruct its legal counsel regarding the Commission's position regarding a proposed right-of-way and right-of-entry agreement with Southline Transmission that is the subject of negotiations.
- h. Purchase or Disposal of Real Property and Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (7) for the purpose of discussion or consultation with Department staff in order to consider its position and instruct its representative regarding the purchase or disposal of real property and for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice.
- i. Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice regarding Commission practices related to communication, agendas and public records.
- j. Personnel Matters.** The Commission may vote to go into executive session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1) to discuss personnel matters associated with the Director's duties, responsibilities and performance. The Commission may take action in the public session or defer any action to a later date.

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Tom Finley  
Director

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

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

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

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

### **“Managing Today for Wildlife Tomorrow”**