

# Reptiles: Commission Order 43

## GENERAL REPTILES

\*Open Areas do not include areas within municipal parks, municipal preserves, county parks, county preserves, airports, golf courses, or posted water treatment facilities (except as specifically opened in this Commission Order) or areas closed under A.R.S. Sections 17-101, 17-303 and 17-304, or Commission Rules R12-4-321, R12-4-801, R12-4-802 and R12-4-803.  
Other Notes may apply (see Open Areas information below).

Open Season Dates	Notes	Open Areas	Legal Reptiles	Bag and Possession Limit
A. Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2015 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2016	(1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 23, 27, 31, 32, 33)	Statewide, except areas closed in Notes 7, 8, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, and 30 (also noted above*).	All reptiles, except those named in Subsections B, C, D, and E	Four (4) per year or in possession of each species live or dead.
B. Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2015 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2016	(1, 3, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 23, 27, 31, 32, 33)	Statewide, except areas closed in Notes 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 (also noted above*).	<i>Kinosternon sonoriense</i> (Sonoran mud turtle), <i>Lichanura trivirgata</i> (rosy boa), <i>Senticolis triaspis</i> (green ratsnake), <i>Lampropeltis pyromelana</i> (Sonoran mountain kingsnake), and <i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i> (milksnake); except no open season in Cochise County).	Two (2) per year or four (4) in possession of each species live or dead.
C. Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2015 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2016	(1, 3, 8, 11, 12, 13, 23, 27, 31, 32, 33)	Statewide, except areas closed in Notes 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 (also noted above*).	<i>Sceloporus cowlesi</i> (southwestern fence lizard), <i>Sceloporus tristichus</i> (plateau lizard), <i>Tantilla hobartsmithi</i> (Smith's black-headed snake), and all species in the genera: <i>Callisaurus</i> (zebra-tailed lizard), <i>Aspidoscelis</i> (whiptails), <i>Coleonyx</i> (banded gecko), <i>Cophosaurus</i> (greater earless lizard), <i>Holbrookia</i> (lesser earless lizard), <i>Urosaurus</i> (tree lizard), <i>Uta</i> (side-blotched lizard), <i>Hypsiglena</i> (nightsnake), <i>Leptotyphlops</i> (threadsnakes), and <i>Sonora</i> (groundsnake)	Twenty (20) per day or in possession in the aggregate live or dead.
D. Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2015 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2016	(1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 23, 27, 31, 32, 33)	Statewide, except areas closed in Notes 10, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 (also noted above*).	<i>Apalone spinifera</i> (spiny softshell), <i>Trachemys scripta</i> (slider), and all species of the family Chelydridae (snapping turtles)	Unlimited dead.

E. There is no open season on *Phrynosoma mcallii* (flat-tailed horned lizard), *Heloderma suspectum* (Gila monster), *Crotalus lepidus* (rock rattlesnake), *Crotalus pricei* (twin-spotted rattlesnake), *Crotalus willardi* (ridge-nosed rattlesnake), *Lampropeltis triangulum* (milksnake; Cochise County only), *Sistrurus catenatus* (massasauga), *Thamnophis eques* (Mexican gartersnake), *Thamnophis rufipunctatus* (narrow-headed gartersnake), *Gopherus agassizii* (Mojave desert tortoise), *Gopherus morafkai* (Sonoran desert tortoise) and *Terrapene ornata* (ornate box turtle); see Notes 4 and 5.

## LIMITED WEAPON

Open Areas do not include any area closed under A.R.S. Sections 17-101, 17-303 and 17-304, or Commission Rules R12-4-801, R12-4-802 and R12-4-803.

Open Season Dates	Notes	Open Areas	Legal Reptiles	Bag and Possession Limit
A. Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2015 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2016	(2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14)	Statewide, including private lands within city limits and areas within municipal parks, municipal preserves, county parks, county preserves, airports, golf courses, or posted water treatment facilities, except areas closed in Notes 6, 7, 8 and 10.	All reptiles, except those named in Subsections B, C, D, and E	Four (4) per year or in possession of each species live or dead.
B. Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2015 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2016	(2, 3, 8, 10, 14)	Statewide, including private lands within city limits and areas within municipal parks, municipal preserves, county parks, county preserves, airports, golf courses, or posted water treatment facilities.	<i>Kinosternon sonoriense</i> (Sonoran mud turtle), <i>Lichanura trivirgata</i> (rosy boa), <i>Senticolis triaspis</i> (green ratsnake), <i>Lampropeltis pyromelana</i> (Sonoran mountain kingsnake), and <i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i> (milksnake); except no open season in Cochise County).	Two (2) per year or four (4) in possession of each species live or dead.
C. Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2015 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2016	(2, 3, 8, 14)	Statewide, including private lands within city limits and areas within municipal parks, municipal preserves, county parks, county preserves, airports, golf courses, or posted water treatment facilities.	<i>Sceloporus cowlesi</i> (southwestern fence lizard), <i>Sceloporus tristichus</i> (plateau lizard), <i>Tantilla hobartsmithi</i> (Smith's black-headed snake), and all species in the genera: <i>Callisaurus</i> (zebra-tailed lizard), <i>Aspidoscelis</i> (whiptails), <i>Coleonyx</i> (banded gecko), <i>Cophosaurus</i> (greater earless lizard), <i>Holbrookia</i> (lesser earless lizard), <i>Urosaurus</i> (tree lizard), <i>Uta</i> (side-blotched lizard), <i>Hypsiglena</i> (nightsnake), <i>Leptotyphlops</i> (threadsnakes), and <i>Sonora</i> (groundsnake)	Twenty (20) per day or in possession in the aggregate live or dead.
D. Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2015 Jan 1, – Dec 31, 2016	(2, 8, 9, 10, 14)	Statewide, including private lands within city limits and areas within municipal parks, municipal preserves, county parks, county preserves, airports, golf courses, or posted water treatment facilities. Except areas closed in Note 10.	<i>Apalone spinifera</i> (spiny softshell), <i>Trachemys scripta</i> (slider), and all species of the family Chelydridae (snapping turtles)	Unlimited dead.

E. There is no open season on *Phrynosoma mcallii* (flat-tailed horned lizard), *Heloderma suspectum* (Gila monster), *Crotalus lepidus* (rock rattlesnake), *Crotalus pricei* (twin-spotted rattlesnake), *Crotalus willardi* (ridge-nosed rattlesnake), *Lampropeltis triangulum* (milksnake; Cochise County only), *Sistrurus catenatus* (massasauga), *Thamnophis eques* (Mexican gartersnake), *Thamnophis rufipunctatus* (narrow-headed gartersnake), *Gopherus agassizii* (Mojave desert tortoise), *Gopherus morafkai* (Sonoran desert tortoise) and *Terrapene ornata* (ornate box turtle); see Notes 4 and 5.

# ARIZONA Reptile and Amphibian Regulations 2015 & 2016



## Arizona Game and Fish Department

5000 W. Carefree Highway  
Phoenix, Arizona 85086

(602) 942-3000  
www.azgfd.gov



## **Reptile Notes:**

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1. A hunting or combination license is required for take of reptiles. A fishing or combination license is required for take of softshell turtles. Reptiles may be taken day or night. See R12-4-304 (F) for restrictions on trapping and the use of artificial light and firearms. By law, softshell turtles are considered aquatic wildlife and a fishing or combination license is required for take; methods of take are prescribed in R12-4-313.
2. A hunting or combination license is required for take of reptiles. A fishing or combination license is required for take of softshell turtles. Reptiles may be taken day or night. See R12-4-304 (F) for restrictions for trapping and the use of artificial light. By law, softshell turtles are considered aquatic wildlife and a fishing or combination license is required for take. Methods of take are prescribed in R12-4-318 (C.9).
3. Per R12-4-404, progeny of lawfully held reptiles other than desert tortoises may, for twelve months from date of hatching or birth, be held in captivity in excess of the stated limits. Before or upon reaching twelve months of age, such progeny must be disposed of by gift to another person or as directed by the Department.
4. Per R12-4-407 (A), desert tortoises legally held prior to April 28, 1989, may be possessed, transported and propagated. Possession limit is one desert tortoise per person. Progeny of lawfully held desert tortoises may, for twenty-four months from date of hatching, be held in captivity in excess of the stated limit. Before or upon reaching twenty-four months of age, such progeny must be disposed of by gift to another person or as directed by the Department.
5. The possession limit for massasaugas legally held prior to January 1, 1989, when season closure went into effect, is four (4) per person. The possession limit for Mexican gartersnakes, narrow-headed gartersnakes, and ornate box turtles legally held prior to January 1, 2005, when season closure went into effect, is four (4) per person. See Note 3.
6. Chuckwallas (genus *Sauromalus*) may not be taken within the boundaries of Phoenix South Mountain Park.
7. Shovel-nosed snakes (*Chionactis occipitalis*) may not be taken from Pima County east of the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation or from Pinal County.
8. The Fort Huachuca Military Reservation, the Yuma Proving Ground, and Camp Navajo control access to hunting on their installations.
9. The Fort Huachuca Military Reservation controls access to the taking of aquatic wildlife on its installation.

## Reptile Notes:

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10. Turtles may not be taken at any time (or during periods specified) within the following areas:
  - (1) Posted boundaries of State or Federal hatcheries, except for Arizona Game and Fish Department sponsored fishing clinics.
  - (2) Posted boundary of the Region I regional headquarters in Pinetop.
  - (3) The Colorado River one-half mile upstream and one-half mile downstream from its confluence with the Little Colorado River.
  - (4) That portion of the Little Colorado River lying within the Grand Canyon National Park.
  - (5) Lee Valley Creek above Lee Valley Lake.
  - (6) Gap Creek between Honeymoon Cabin and its confluence with the Verde River.
  - (7) Mineral Creek in Apache County upstream of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest Boundary.
  - (8) Posted areas immediately above the dams at Upper Lake Mary, Alamo Lake and Lake Mead.
  - (9) Posted areas immediately below Davis, Hoover, Glen Canyon, Waddell (Lake Pleasant), Roosevelt, Horse Mesa and Mormon Flat dams.
  - (10) Posted, Spawning Pond Number 1 and Spawning Pond Number 2 located along the Salinity Canal north of Yuma.
  - (11) The Luna Lake Wildlife Area from April 1 through July 31.
  - (12) Posted portions of Alamo Lake.
  - (13) Posted portions of the Tonto Arm of Roosevelt Lake from November 15 through February 15 annually.
  - (14) Posted portions of Mittry Lake from November 15 through February 15 annually.
  - (15) Posted portions of Becker Lake are closed to all public entry from December 15 through June 15.
  - (16) Posted portions of Lake Mead.
  - (17) Posted portions of Powers Butte Wildlife Area are closed to entry for the purpose of taking wildlife.
  - (18) Posted portions of Bog Hole Wildlife Area.
  - (19) Posted portions of Lake Havasu.
  - (20) Posted portions of Cienega Creek in Pima County.

## Reptile Notes:

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- (21) Aravaipa Creek in Pinal and Graham counties.
  - (22) Sycamore Creek in Santa Cruz County.
  - (23) Cibola Lake from the first Monday in September (Labor Day) through March 15.
  - (24) Posted portions of Martinez Lake from October 1 through March 1.
  - (25) Posted in accordance with and pursuant to ARS 17-303 and 304.
11. The Grand Canyon-Parashant, Vermillion Cliffs, Sonoran Desert, Ironwood Forest, and Agua Fria national monuments are open to hunting concurrent with a game hunting season in the unit in which they occur.
  12. Open Areas do not include private lands within city limits and areas within municipal parks, municipal preserves, county parks, county preserves, airports, golf courses, or posted water treatment facilities (except as specifically opened in this Commission Order) or any area closed to hunting, fishing, or trapping under A.R.S. Sections 17-303 and 17-304, or Commission Rules R12-4-321, R12-4-801, R12-4-802 and R12-4-803.
  13. General Reptile seasons must comply with R12-4-304 - Lawful Methods for Taking Wild Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles:
    - F. An individual may take reptiles by any method not prohibited in R12-4-303 or R12-4-318 under the following conditions. An individual:
      1. Shall check pitfall traps of any size daily, release non-target species, remove pitfalls when no longer in use, and fill any holes;
      2. Shall not use firearms at night; and
      3. May use artificial light while taking reptiles, if the light is not attached to or operated from a motor vehicle, motorized watercraft, watercraft under sail, or floating object towed by a motorized watercraft or a watercraft under sail.
  14. Limited Weapon Hand or Hand-held Implement Reptile seasons must comply with R12-4-318 - Seasons for Lawfully Taking Wild Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles:
    - C. When designated by Commission order, the following seasons have specific requirements and lawful methods of take more restrictive than those for general and special seasons, as prescribed in this Section. While taking the species authorized by the season, a person participating in:

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9. A "limited weapon hand or hand-held implement" season may use one or more of the following methods or devices for taking wildlife, if authorized under R12-4-304 as lawful for the species hunted:
  - a. Catch-pole,
  - b. Hand,
  - c. Snake hook, or
  - d. Snake tongs.
15. Hunting is not permitted in Unit 26M in the following described area: Those private lands lying just north of the Town of Cave Creek in Sections 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15 of Township 6 North, Range 4 East.
16. A portion of Unit 25M is closed to hunting. Hunting is not permitted in the following area of Unit 25M: an unincorporated portion of land west of Loop 202 (San Tan Freeway) known as the Elliot and Hawes County Island in Section 16, Township 1 South, Range 7 East.
17. Entry into portions of Units 40A, 40B, 46A, and 46B is subject to military closure and requires coordination with the appropriate land management agency for hunting access to Barry M. Goldwater Range (BMGR) and some adjacent areas. The BMGR is closed to hunting except open public recreational use areas, as allowed by an authorized entry permit. For specifics about accessing the BMGR refer to the 2015 -2016 Hunting Regulations Index: Hunting on Military Reservations.
18. The Florence Military Reservation (training areas B and D: the areas north and south of Cottonwood Canyon Road) in Unit 37B is subject to short term closures due to military operations, including live fire operations, and requires coordination with the Florence Military Reservation for hunting access. For specific closure dates or any other access concerns, contact the Florence Military Reservation at 602-267-2062. A map of the Florence Military Reservation is located on the Arizona Game and Fish Department's website, azgfd.gov (type Florence Military Reservation in the search box).
19. Hunting is not permitted in Unit 26M in the following described area: the unincorporated portion of land within the Town of Queen Creek in Pinal County in Sections 5, 7, 8, and 18 of Township 3 South, Range 8 East.
20. Within Unit 25M as described in R12-4-108, all incorporated lands, including private property within municipal boundaries, are closed to hunting unless opened under Commission Order. Incorporated includes all municipal and corporate limits. County islands are open to hunting provided the

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- hunter does not discharge a firearm within ¼ mile of an occupied farmhouse, residence, cabin, lodge, or building without permission of the owner or resident. Privately held lands within county islands may be closed by the landowner.
21. Hunting is not permitted in Unit 26M in the following described area in the City of Maricopa: that portion of the city east of Green Road, south of Smith Enke Road, and east of the Cobblestone subdivision and that portion of the city north of Farrell Road and west of White and Parker Road.
  22. Hunting is not permitted in Units 26M and 37A in the following described area in the Town of Eloy: beginning with the intersection of Cornman Road and LaPalma Road; south on LaPalma Road to Milligan Road; west on Milligan Road to Overfield Road; north on Overfield Road to Cornman Road; east on Cornman Road to LaPalma Road.
  23. The following Pima County parks and preserves are open to hunting concurrent with a game hunting season in the unit in which they occur: A-7 Ranch in Units 32 and 33, Oracle Ridge Property in Unit 33, Six Bar Ranch in Unit 33, Emperita Ranch in Unit 34B, Bar V Ranch in Unit 34B, Sands Ranch in Unit 34B, Clyne Ranch in Unit 34B, Diamond Bell Ranch in Unit 36A, Marley Ranch in Unit 36A and 36B, Rancho Seco in Units 36A and 36B, Kings 98 Ranch in Unit 36C, Old Hayhook Ranch in Unit 36C, Verdugo in Unit 36C, Bee Ranch in Unit 37A, Mordka Ranch in Unit 37A, Buckelew Ranch in Unit 37A, Carpenter Ranch in Unit 37A, Cochise Canyon Ranch in Unit 37A, Lords Ranch in Unit 37A, and Tortolita Mountain Park in Unit 37A. Hunting in County Parks, opened by this Commission Order, is not permitted within ¼ mile of any developed picnic area, developed camp ground, shooting range, occupied building, boat ramp, or golf course. Developed areas do not include trails.
  24. Hunting is not permitted in Unit 36B in the following described area: in the posted portion of Sopori Ranch south of Arivaca Road in Sections 14 and 15, Township 20 South, Range 11 East. The remainder of Sopori Ranch is open to hunting.
  25. Hunting is not permitted in Unit 37A in the following described area in the Town of Marana: beginning at the intersection of Sanders Road and Avra Valley Road; north on Sanders Road to the Santa Cruz River; southeast along the Santa Cruz River to the Central Arizona Project Canal; southwest along the Central Arizona Project Canal to Avra Valley Road; west on Avra Valley Road to the intersection of Sanders Road.



## Reptile Notes:

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26. Hunting is not permitted in Units 43A and 44B in the following described area in the Town of Quartzsite: Sections 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35, Township 4 North, Range 19 West and Sections 2, 3, and 4, Township 3 North, Range 19 West.
27. The following parks and preserves in Maricopa County are open to hunting as defined in R12-4-321: Lake Pleasant, White Tank Mountains, McDowell Mountain, and Estrella Mountain Regional parks. Hunting in parks and preserves opened by this Commission Order is not permitted within ¼ mile of any developed picnic area, developed camp ground, shooting range, occupied building, boat ramp, or golf course. Developed areas do not include trails.
28. In Units 11M and 38M, the private property within municipal boundaries is closed to hunting.
29. The area in Unit 37A in the Town of Marana is subject to temporary closures in February for special events. All state lands located south of Cochise Canyon Trail in Township 11 South, Range 12 East.
30. Areas of private property within the municipal boundaries (except in Units 1, 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 27, and 39 west of AZ Hwy 85) are closed to hunting during this hunt.
31. The area within the fenced enclosure inside the loop formed by Tonto National Forest Road 647, also known as the Walnut Canyon Enclosure, is open to public entry and hunting during a concurrent open game hunting season.
32. The following City of Tucson water Properties located in Avra Valley are open to hunting via foot access only: the Duval property in Unit 36C and the Buckelew property in Unit 37A; all other Tucson water properties are closed to hunting.
33. In the northern portion of Unit 5A, access is permitted on the Clear Creek Ranch by written permission only by contacting the Hopi Tribe Wildlife and Ecosystems Management Program via e-mail at hopihunts@hopi.nsn.us or by calling (928) 734-3606 or (928) 734-3605 from Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. Please contact in advance to gain access for hunting and scouting. In Unit 5B North, access is permitted on the Hopi's Hart/Drye Ranch and in Unit 4A on the Hopi's Aja Ranch by signing in at designated sign-in boxes located at access points.

## ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES: TITLE 17 LAWS

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### A.R.S. 17-101

#### Definitions

- A. In this title, unless the context otherwise requires:
  18. "Statewide" means all lands except those areas lying within the boundaries of state and federal refuges, parks and monuments, unless specifically provided differently by commission order.
  23. "Wildlife" means all wild mammals, wild birds and the nests or eggs thereof, reptiles, amphibians, mollusks, crustaceans and fish, including their eggs or spawn.
- B. The following definitions of wildlife shall apply:
  1. Aquatic wildlife are all fish, amphibians, mollusks, crustaceans and softshelled turtles.

### A.R.S. 17-301

#### Times when wildlife may be taken; exceptions; methods of taking

- A. A person may take wildlife, except aquatic wildlife, only during daylight hours unless otherwise prescribed by the commission. A person shall not take any species of wildlife by the aid or with the use of a jacklight, other artificial light, or illegal device, except as provided by the commission.
- B. A person shall not take wildlife, except aquatic wildlife, or discharge a firearm or shoot any other device from a motor vehicle, including an automobile, aircraft, train or powerboat, or from a sailboat, boat under sail, or a floating object towed by powerboat or sailboat except as expressly permitted by the commission. No person may knowingly discharge any firearm or shoot any other device upon, from, across or into a road or railway.

### A.R.S. 17-306

#### Importation, transportation, release or possession of live wildlife

No person shall import or transport into the state or sell, trade or release within the state or have in his possession any live wildlife except as authorized by the commission or as defined in title 3, chapter 16.

### A.R.S. 17-331

#### License or proof of purchase required; violation of child support order

- A. Except as provided by this title or commission order, a person shall not take any wildlife in this state without a valid license or a commission approved proof of purchase. The person shall carry the license or proof of purchase and produce it upon request to any game ranger, wildlife manager or peace officer.

### A.R.S. 17-371

#### Transportation, possession and sale of wildlife and wildlife parts

- A. A person may transport in his possession his legally taken wildlife, or may authorize the transportation of his legally taken big game, provided such big game or any part thereof has attached thereto a valid transportation permit issued by the department. Such wildlife shall be transported in such manner that it may be inspected by authorized persons upon demand until the wildlife is packaged or stored. Species

scopes with self-illuminating reticles, and fiber optic sights with self-illuminating sights or pins that do not project a visible light onto an animal.

- of wildlife, other than game species, may be transported in any manner unless otherwise specified by the commission. A person possessing a valid license may transport lawfully taken wildlife other than big game given to him but in no event shall any person possess more than one bag or possession limit.
- D. A holder of a sport falconry license may transport one or more raptors that the person lawfully possesses under terms and conditions prescribed by the commission. Regardless of whether a person holds a sport falconry license and as provided by section 17-236, subsection C, the person may transport for sport falconry purposes one or more raptors that are not listed pursuant to the migratory bird treaty act.

3. An individual shall not:
- Hold wildlife at bay other than during daylight hours, unless authorized by Commission Order.
  - Injure, confine, or place a tracking device in or on wildlife for the purpose of aiding another individual to take wildlife.
  - Place any substance, device, or object in, on, or by any water source to prevent wildlife from using that water source.
  - Place any substance in a manner intended to attract bears.
  - Use a manual or powered jacking or prying device to take reptiles or amphibians.
  - Use dogs to pursue, tree, corner or hold at bay any wildlife for a hunter unless that hunter is present for the entire hunt.
  - Take migratory game birds, except Eurasian Collared-doves, using a shotgun larger than 10 gauge, a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that cannot be removed without disassembling the shotgun so that its total capacity does not exceed three shells, electronically amplified bird calls, or baits, as prohibited under 50 CFR 20.21, revised October 1, 2009. The material incorporated by reference in this Section does not include any later amendments or editions. The incorporated material is available at any Department office, online from the Government Printing Office web site [www.gpoaccess.gov](http://www.gpoaccess.gov), or may be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, 732 N. Capitol St. N.W., Stop IDCC, Washington, D.C. 20401.
  - Discharge a pneumatic weapon .30 caliber or larger while taking wildlife within one-fourth mile of an occupied farmhouse or other residence, cabin, lodge or building without permission of the owner or resident.
4. An individual shall not use edible or ingestible substances to aid in taking big game. The use of edible or ingestible substances to aid in taking big game is unlawful when:
- An individual places edible or ingestible substances for the purpose of attracting or taking big game, or
  - An individual knowingly takes big game with the aid of edible or ingestible substances placed for the purpose of attracting wildlife to a specific location.
5. Subsection (A)(4) does not limit Department employees or Department agents in the performance of their official duties.
6. For the purposes of subsection (A)(4), edible or ingestible substances do not include any of the following:
- Water.
  - Salt.
  - Salt-based materials produced and manufactured for the livestock industry.
  - Nutritional supplements produced and manufactured for the livestock industry and placed during the course of livestock or agricultural operations.

## GAME AND FISH COMMISSION RULES

This summary of reptile and amphibian regulations effective Jan. 1, 2014, is prepared for convenience only. It is not a legal document as it does not contain all the laws and regulations related to reptiles and amphibians. For additional information, contact an Arizona Game and Fish Department office.

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### R12-4-101

#### Definitions

- A. In addition to the definitions provided under A.R.S. § 17-101, R12-4-301, R12-4-401, and R12-4-501, the following definitions apply to this Chapter, unless otherwise specified:
- "Waterdog" means the larval or metamorphosing stage of salamanders.

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### 12-4-301

#### Definitions

- In addition to the definitions provided under A.R.S. § 17-101, the following definitions apply to this Article unless otherwise specified:
- "Dip net" means any net, excluding the handle, that is no greater than 3 feet in the greatest dimension, that is hand-held, non-motorized, and the motion of the net is caused by the physical effort of the individual.

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### R12-4-303

#### Unlawful Devices, Methods, and Ammunition

- A. In addition to the prohibitions prescribed under A.R.S. §§ 17-301 and 17-309, the following devices, methods, and ammunition are unlawful for taking any wildlife in this state:
- An individual shall not use any of the following to take wildlife:
    - Fully automatic firearms, including firearms capable of selective automatic fire; or
    - Tracer, armor-piercing, or full-jacketed ammunition designed for military use.
  - An individual shall not use or possess any of the following while taking wildlife:
    - Poisoned projectiles or projectiles that contain explosives;
    - Pitfalls of greater than 5-gallon size, explosives, poisons, or stupefying substances, except as permitted under A.R.S. § 17-239 or as allowed by a scientific collecting permit issued under A.R.S. § 17-238;
    - Any lure, attractant, or cover scent containing any cervid urine; or
    - Electronic night vision equipment, electronically enhanced light-gathering devices, thermal imaging devices or laser sights; except for devices such as laser range finders,

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### R12-4-304

#### Lawful Methods for Taking Wild Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles

- F. An individual may take reptiles by any method not prohibited under R12-4-303 or R12-4-318 subject to the following restrictions. An individual:

1. Shall check pitfall traps of any size daily, release non-target species, remove pitfalls when no longer in use, and fill any holes;
2. Shall not use firearms at night; and
3. May use artificial light while taking reptiles provided the light is not attached to or operated from a motor vehicle, motorized watercraft, watercraft under sail, or floating object towed by a motorized watercraft or a watercraft under sail.

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### **R12-4-305**

#### **Possessing, Transporting, Importing, Exporting, and Selling Carcasses or Parts of Wildlife**

- A. An individual shall ensure that evidence of legality remains with the carcass or parts of a carcass of any wild mammal, bird, or reptile that the individual possesses, transports, or imports until arrival at the individual's permanent abode, a commercial processing plant, or the place where the wildlife is to be consumed.
- M. Except for cervids, which are subject to requirements established under subsections (I), (J), and (K), an individual may import into this state the carcasses or parts of wildlife, including aquatic wildlife, lawfully taken in another state or country if transported and exported in accordance with the laws of the state or country of origin.

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### **R12-4-311**

#### **Exemptions from Requirement to Possess an Arizona Fishing License while Taking Aquatic Wildlife**

- A. In addition to the exemptions prescribed under A.R.S. § 17-335, and provided the individual's fishing and hunting license privileges are not currently revoked by the Commission:
  1. A fishing license is not required when an individual is:
    - a. Fishing from artificial ponds, tanks, and lakes contained entirely on private lands that are not:
      - i. Open to the public, and
      - ii. Managed by the Department.
    - b. Taking terrestrial mollusks or crustaceans from private property.
    - c. Fishing in Arizona on any designated Saturday occurring during National Fishing and Boating Week, except in waters of the Colorado River forming the common boundaries between Arizona and California, Nevada, or Utah where fishing without a license is limited to the shoreline, unless the state with concurrent jurisdiction removes licensing requirements on the same day.
    - d. Participating in an introductory fishing education program sanctioned by the Department, during scheduled program hours, only. A sanctioned program shall have a Department employee, sport fishing contractor, or authorized volunteer instructor present during scheduled program hours. For the purposes of this subsection, "authorized volunteer instructor" means an individual who has successfully passed the Department's required background check and sport fishing education workshop.

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### **R12-4-313**

#### **Lawful Methods of Taking Aquatic Wildlife**

- A. An individual may take aquatic wildlife as defined under A.R.S. § 17-101, subject to the restrictions prescribed under R12-4-303, R12-4-317, and this Section. Aquatic wildlife may be taken during the day or night and may be taken using artificial light as prescribed under A.R.S. § 17-301.
- B. The Commission may, through Commission Order, prescribe legal sizes for possession of aquatic wildlife.
- C. An individual may take aquatic wildlife by angling or simultaneous fishing as defined under R12-4-301 with any bait, artificial lure, or fly subject to the following restrictions, an individual:
  1. Shall not possess aquatic wildlife other than aquatic wildlife prescribed by Commission Order;
  2. Shall not use the flesh of game fish as bait, except sunfish of the genus *Lepomis*;
  3. May use live baitfish, as defined under R12-4-101, only in areas designated by Commission Order; and
  4. Shall not use waterdogs as live bait in that portion of Santa Cruz County lying east and south of State Highway 82 or that portion of Cochise County lying west of the San Pedro River and south of State Highway 82.
- D. In addition to angling, an individual may also take the following aquatic wildlife using the following methods, subject to the restrictions established under R12-4-303, R12-4-317, and this Section:
  6. Amphibians, soft-shelled turtles, mollusks, and crustaceans may be taken by minnow trap, crayfish net, hand, or with any hand-held, non-motorized implement that does not discharge a projectile, unless otherwise permitted under this Section.
  7. In addition to the methods described under subsection (D)(5), bullfrogs may be taken by:
    - a. Bow and arrow,
    - b. Crossbow,
    - c. Pneumatic weapon, or
    - d. Slingshot.

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### **R12-4-318**

#### **Seasons for Lawfully Taking Wild Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles**

- A. Methods of lawfully taking wild mammals, birds, and reptiles during seasons designated by Commission Order as "general" seasons are designated under R12-4-304.
- C. When designated by Commission Order, the following seasons have specific requirements and lawful methods of take more restrictive than those for general and special seasons, as prescribed under this Section. While taking the species authorized by the season, an individual participating in:
  8. A "limited weapon" season may use one or more of the following methods or devices for taking wildlife, if authorized under R12-4-304 as lawful for the species hunted:
    - a. Any trap except foothold traps,
    - b. Bows and arrows,
    - c. Capture by hand,
    - d. Crossbows or bows to be drawn and held with an assisting device,
    - e. Dogs,
    - f. Falconry,
    - g. Hand-propelled projectiles,
    - h. Nets,

- i. Pneumatic weapons discharging a single projectile .25 caliber or smaller, or
  - j. Slingshots.
9. A "limited weapon hand or hand-held implement" season may use one or more of the following methods or devices for taking wildlife, if authorized under R12-4-304 as lawful for the species hunted:
  - a. Catch-pole,
  - b. Hand,
  - c. Snake hook, or
  - d. Snake tongs.

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### **R12-4-321**

#### **Restrictions for Taking Wildlife in City, County, or Town Parks and Preserves**

- A. All city, county, and town parks and preserves are closed to hunting, unless open by Commission Order.
- B. Unless otherwise provided under Commission Order or rule, a city, county, or town may:
  1. Limit or prohibit any individual from hunting or trapping within 1/4 mile of any:
    - a. Developed picnic area,
    - b. Developed campground,
    - c. Boat ramp,
    - d. Shooting range,
    - e. Occupied structure, or
    - f. Golf course.
  2. Require an individual entering a city, county, or town park or preserve, for the purpose of hunting, to declare the individual's intent to hunt when entering the park or preserve, if the park or preserve has an entry station in operation.
  3. Allow an individual to take wildlife in a city, county, or town park or preserve only during the posted park or preserve hours.

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### **R12-4-401**

#### **Live Wildlife Definitions**

In addition to definitions given in A.R.S. § 17-101, and for the purposes of this Article, the following definitions apply:

24. "Restricted live wildlife" means wildlife that cannot be imported, exported, or possessed without a special license or lawful exemption. Restricted live wildlife are listed in R12-4-406.
26. "Special license" means any permit or license issued under this Article, including any additional stipulations placed on the license that authorizes specific activities normally prohibited by A.R.S. § 17-306 and R12-4-402.

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### **R12-4-402**

#### **Live Wildlife: Unlawful Acts**

- A. An individual shall not perform any of the following activities with live wildlife unless authorized by this Chapter or A.R.S. Title 3, Chapter 16:
  1. Import any live wildlife into the state;
  2. Export any live wildlife from the state;
  3. Transport, possess, offer for sale, sell, sell as live bait, trade, give away, purchase, rent, lease, display, exhibit, propagate, stock, or release live wildlife within the state; or
  4. Kill any captive live wildlife;
- B. If an individual lawfully possesses wildlife, but holds it in a manner that poses an actual or potential threat to other wildlife, or the safety, health, or welfare of the public, the Department shall seize, quarantine, or hold the wildlife.



# Amphibians: Commission Order 41

Statewide – As defined in ARS§17-101, excluding wildlife areas not opened for hunting (R12-4-802). Open Areas do not include any area closed to hunting, fishing, or trapping under A.R.S. §17-303 and 17-304, or Commission Rules R12-4-321, R12-4-801, R12-4-802, and R12-4-803.

Open Season Dates	Notes	Open Areas	Legal Amphibians	Bag and Possession Limit
A. Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2015 Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2016	(1, 2, 5, 7, and 8)	Statewide, except areas closed in Note 7	All amphibians, except those named in Subsections B, C, D, E, F, G, and H	Ten (10) per year or in possession of each species live or dead.
B. Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2015 Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2016	(1, 2, 7, and 8)	Statewide, except areas closed in Note 7	<i>Bufo cognatus</i> (Great Plains toad), <i>B. punctatus</i> (red-spotted toad), <i>Scaphiopus couchi</i> (Couch's spadefoot), and <i>Spea multiplicata</i> (Mexican spadefoot)	Ten (10) per day or in possession per species live or dead.
C. Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2015 Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2016	(1, 2, 3, 7, and 8)	Statewide, except areas closed in Note 7	<i>Craugaster augusti</i> (barking frog)	Two (2) per year or in possession live or dead.
D. Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2015 Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2016	(1, 2, 4, 7, and 8)	Statewide, except areas closed in Notes 4 and 7	All species in the genus <i>Ambystoma</i> (waterdog or tiger salamander)	Unlimited live or dead.
E. Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2015 Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2016	(1, 2, 7, 8, 9, and 10)	Statewide, except areas closed in Notes 7 and 9	<i>Rana catesbeiana</i> (bullfrog)	Unlimited dead.
F. Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2015 Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2016	(1, 2, 7, and 8)	Statewide, except areas closed in Note 7	All species in the genus <i>Xenopus</i> (clawed frog) and <i>Bufo marinus</i> (giant toad)	Unlimited dead.
G. Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2015 Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2016	(1, 2, 6, 7, and 9)	Statewide, except areas closed in Notes 6 and 7.	<i>Rana berlandieri</i> (Rio Grande leopard frog)	Unlimited dead.
H. There is no open season on <i>Ambystoma tigrinum stebbinsi</i> (Sonoran tiger salamander), <i>Rana tarahumarae</i> (Tarahumara frog), <i>Rana blairi</i> (plains leopard frog), <i>Rana chiricahuensis</i> (Chiricahua leopard frog), <i>Rana pipiens</i> (northern leopard frog), <i>Rana yavapaiensis</i> (lowland leopard frog), <i>Rana onca</i> (relict leopard frog).				

## Amphibian Notes

- A fishing or combination license is required for take of amphibians. Amphibians may be taken day or night. Methods of take are prescribed in R12-4-313.
- The Fort Huachuca Military Reservation controls access to the taking of aquatic wildlife on its installation.
- The possession limit for *Craugaster augusti* (barking frog) legally held prior to January 1, 2005 is 10 per person.
- No waterdogs or salamanders may be taken in that portion of Santa Cruz County lying east and south of State Highway 82 or that portion of Cochise County lying west of the San Pedro River and south of State Highway 82.
- No *Hyla wrightorum* (Arizona treefrogs) may be taken in Cochise or Santa Cruz counties.
- Rana berlandieri* (Rio Grande leopard frogs) may not be taken from the portion of the Hassayampa River between Wickenburg and Morristown.
- Amphibians may not be taken at any time (or during periods specified) within the following areas:
  - Posted boundaries of State or Federal hatcheries, except for Arizona Game and Fish Department sponsored fishing clinics.
  - Posted boundary of the Region I regional headquarters in Pinetop.
  - The Colorado River one-half mile upstream and one-half mile downstream from its confluence with the Little Colorado River.
  - That portion of the Little Colorado River lying within the Grand Canyon National Park.
  - Lee Valley Creek above Lee Valley Lake.
  - Gap Creek between Honeymoon Cabin and its confluence with the Verde River.
  - Mineral Creek in Apache County upstream of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest Boundary.
  - Posted areas immediately above the dams at Upper Lake Mary, Alamo Lake and Lake Mead.
  - Posted areas immediately below Davis, Hoover, Glen Canyon, Waddell (Lake Pleasant), Roosevelt, Horse Mesa and Mormon Flat dams.
  - Posted, Spawning Pond Number 1 and Spawning Pond Number 2 located along the Salinity Canal north of Yuma.
  - The Luna Lake Wildlife Area from April 1 through July 31.
  - Posted portions of Alamo Lake.
  - Posted portions of the Tonto Arm of Roosevelt Lake from November 15 through February 15 annually.
  - Posted portions of Mitty Lake from November 15 through February 15 annually.
  - Posted portions of Becker Lake are closed to all public entry

## Amphibian Notes

- from December 15 through June 15.
- Posted portions of Lake Mead.
- Posted portions of Powers Butte Wildlife Area are closed to entry for the purpose of taking wildlife.
- Posted portions of Bog Hole Wildlife Area.
- Posted portions of Lake Havasu.
- Posted portions of Cienega Creek in Pima County.
- Aravaipa Creek in Pinal and Graham counties.
- Sycamore Creek in Santa Cruz County.
- Cibola Lake from the first Monday in September (Labor Day) through March 15.
- Posted portions of Martinez Lake from October 1 through March 1.
- Posted in accordance with and pursuant to ARS 17-303 and 304.
- The Grand Canyon-Parashant, Vermillion Cliffs, Sonoran Desert, Ironwood Forest, and Agua Fria National Monuments are open to the take of wildlife.
- Havasu, Bill Williams River, Cibola, and Imperial National Wildlife Refuges are open to the take of bullfrogs, as permitted by refuge regulations (posted areas are closed).
- Within Unit 25M, bullfrogs may only be taken by minnow trap, crayfish net, hand, or with any hand-held, non-motorized implement that does not discharge a projectile, as prescribed in R12-4-313(D.6).

## Arizona Game and Fish Department

5000 W. Carefree Highway  
Phoenix, Arizona 85086

(602) 942-3000

www.azgfd.gov



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