



PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

January 5, 2026

A public meeting of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission will be held on **January 16, 2026** 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 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 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, when final, by contacting 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, January 16, 2026 Meeting location opens at 7:45 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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5000 W. CAREFREE HIGHWAY, PHOENIX AZ 85086

GOVERNOR: KATIE HOBBS **COMMISSIONERS:** CHAIR MARSHA PETRIE SUE, SCOTTSDALE | JEFF BUCHANAN, PATAGONIA | JAMES E. GOUGHNOUR, PAYSON
KURT KERR, PINETOP | CLAY HERNANDEZ, TUCSON **DIRECTOR:** TOM P. FINLEY **DEPUTY DIRECTOR:** JOSHUA W. HURST

- a) **Approve a License Agreement with Arizona Public Service Company for the Purpose of Providing Utility Service to the Commission's Silver Creek Hatchery, Navajo County, Arizona. Presenter: Chip Young, Senior Land Resources Manager.** The Commission may approve the License Agreement with Arizona Public Service Company for the Purpose of Providing Utility Service to the Commission's Silver Creek Hatchery.
- 3) **Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) Briefing. Presenter: Kenneth "Tuk" Jacobson, Raptor Management Coordinator.** The Department will provide an informational briefing on the Department's raptor migration tracking project.
- 4) **Approve the Notice of Final Rule Making, and Economic Impact Statement Amending Article 10 Off Highway Vehicles. Presenter: Micah White, Off-highway Vehicle Law Enforcement Program Manager.** The Department will ask the Commission to vote to approve the Notice of Final Rulemaking and Economic Impact Statement Amending Article 10 Off Highway Vehicles. The Commission may vote to take action on and provide the Department direction on this item.
- 5) **Approve the Article 5 Boating and Water Sports Five-year Rule Review Report, for Submission to the Governor's Regulatory Review Council (G.R.R.C.) Presenter: Danny Rodriguez, Watercraft Law Enforcement Program Manager.** The Department will ask the Commission to vote to approve the Five-year Rule Review Report for Article 5 addressing Boating and Water Sports, for submission to G.R.R.C. The Commission may vote to take action on and provide the Department direction on this item.
- 6) **Proposed Amendments to Commission Order 40 Two Proposals for Out-of-Cycle Fishing Regulations. Presenter: Amberle Jones, Statewide Sportfish Program Manager.** The Commission will be presented with a proposed amendment to Commission Order 40 (Fish) to amend fishing regulations at Lake Mead and Lake Mohave.

TIME CERTAIN AT 10:00AM

- 7) **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.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Docket</u>	<u>Conviction</u>
David S. Koury	2025-0029	Use Aircraft to Locate Wildlife Within 48 Hours Of Open Big Game Hunt
Angel Sanchez	2025-0040	Take Elk in the Wrong Unit
Bryce White	2025-0041	Trespass While Hunting

Bryce White	2025-0042	Possess/Transport Unlawfully Taken Mule Deer Unlawful Take of Mule Deer Take Mule Deer Without a Valid Tag
Nicholas Debaca	2025-0044	Possession of Unlawfully Taken White-Tailed Deer
Carter Anderson	2025-0045	Use Trail Camera to Aid in Take of Elk
Kevin Smith	2025-0046	Take Mule Deer Without A Valid License

- 8) **Approval of Cooperative Agreement for Law Enforcement Efforts. Presenter: Gene F. Elms, Law Enforcement Branch Chief.** The Department is requesting approval for a cooperative law enforcement agreement between the Arizona Game and Fish Department and partner states.
- 9) **Wildlife Health Program Update: Preparing for Wildlife Disease Events, Presenter: Anne Justice-Allen, State Wildlife Veterinarian.** The Commission will be provided a briefing on the Department's Wildlife Health Program activities to respond to wildlife disease events and prepare for emerging wildlife diseases.
- 10) **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.
- 11) **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.
- 12) **Commission Priorities Update. Presenter: Luke Thompson, Special Assistant to the Director.** The Department will provide an update on the Commission Priorities and Metrics, and Julie Carter will provide an extended presentation for Commission Priority: Increase and Improve Sportfish Opportunities.
- 13) **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.
- 14) **Future Agenda Items and Action Items.**
- 15) **Litigation Report.** The Department's legal counsel may report on the status of the following litigation matters and the Commission may take action: *In re General Stream Adjudication for the Little Colorado River and Gila River*; *Center for Biological Diversity v. Haaland*, CV 22-303/453; *Desert Tortoise Council v. Burgum*, CV 25-00272-JGZ.

16) 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. Burgum*, CV 22-303/453; *Desert Tortoise Council v. Burgum*, CV 25-00272-JGZ; *Koury v. Marsha Petrie Sue, et al.*, CV 2025-030971.
- 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)(4) for the purpose of discussing and consulting with legal counsel and staff in order to consider its position and instruct its legal counsel and staff regarding the Commission's pending application with ADWR for Type 2 grandfathered water rights for the new Crane Lake.
- 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 Commission's authority to lock gates and close roads providing access to State Trust lands where there is reasonable alternative public access.
- 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 the designation of the Grand Canyon National Monument.
- 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 lands.
- g) **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.

- h) **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.
- i) **Legal Advice.** The Commission may vote to meet in executive session in accordance with A.R.S. §§ 38-431.03(A)(3) & (4) for the purpose of discussions and consulting with legal counsel for legal advice and to instruct Department staff on contract negotiations regarding a cooperative multi state agreement for law enforcement resource exchange.
- 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.



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”