



September 10, 2018

Kristine FireThunder
Policy Advisor on Tribal Relations
Office of the Governor
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Tribal Coordination Annual Report – FY 2018

Dear Kristine:

Please find the attached Tribal Coordination Annual Report for the Arizona Game and Fish Department for the period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. We have solicited input from both Headquarters and Regional work units to summarize key activities the Department has conducted with Arizona's Tribes during the 2018 fiscal year.

Please do not hesitate to contact our Tribal Liaison, Jon Cooley, if you have any questions or require additional information relating to this report.

Regards,

Tom Finley
Deputy Director
Arizona Game and Fish Department

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GOVERNOR: DOUGLAS A. DUCEY **COMMISSIONERS:** CHAIRMAN, JAMES S. ZIELER, ST. JOHNS | ERIC S. SPARKS, TUCSON | KURT R. DAVIS, PHOENIX
LELAND S. "BILL" BRAKE, ELGIN | JAMES R. AMMONS, YUMA **DIRECTOR:** TY E. GRAY **DEPUTY DIRECTOR:** TOM P. FINLEY

Goal	Objective	Activity or Performance Measure
Improve statewide wildlife conservation efforts by pursuing cooperative agreements with AZ Tribes to facilitate collaborative management approaches; and provide technical support, operational support and training, as required	Provide required technical support and coordination with Tribal resource managers to improve management effectiveness of shared wildlife resources	Department personnel provided technical support on angling and hunter recruitment and retention strategies at Navajo Nation Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (NNDFW) wildlife management conference at Twin Arrows in October 2017. Effort aimed at building constituent support for wildlife agency efforts on the Navajo Nation.
<i>Same as above</i>	<i>Same as above</i>	Flagstaff Region personnel coordinated with Kaibab Paiute Tribe to update plans for wildlife projects, hunting season dates, and opportunities for collaborative law enforcement. Additionally coordinated on ongoing surveying of bighorn sheep populations on Kaibab Paiute Tribal lands with AGFD providing survey data and assistance in developing tribal survey protocols for bighorn sheep.
<i>Same as above</i>	<i>Same as above</i>	Department personnel hosted members of the Kaibab Paiute Tribe at AGFD's Jacob Lake Deer Check Station to provide training on Chronic Wasting Disease sample collection.
<i>Same as above</i>	<i>Same as above</i>	Department personnel attended annual wildlife management coordination meeting with Navajo Nation biologists to coordinate ongoing management strategies and objectives relating to various game and federally listed/candidate (Endangered Species Act) species.
<i>Same as above</i>	<i>Same as above</i>	Mesa Region personnel met with Gila River Indian Community personnel to review projects on the lower Gila River to include recent project proposal for tamarisk (salt cedar) removal to improve wildlife habitat and watershed function. The discussion additionally included ongoing management of shared bighorn sheep populations.

<i>Same as above</i>	<i>Same as above</i>	Pinetop Region and Wildlife Health personnel assisted the NNDFW personnel capturing deer in the Chuska Mountains. The deer were captured as part of a multi-year project placing GPS tracking collars to determine seasonal movement/migrations and annual mortality and provided training to NNDFW personnel who will be able to conduct these types of captures on their own in the future. Also provided training to NNDFW biologists on Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep captures and Helicopter Safety and wildlife capture operations training during FY18.
<i>Same as above</i>	Cooperate with Tribes in developing agreements addressing law enforcement training and capacity building among Tribal Officers to improve combined enforcement effectiveness	Department personnel initiated agreement with Hopi Tribal enforcement leadership building a DRAFT Agreement for cooperative law enforcement patrol and law enforcement training for Tribal officers.
<i>Same as above</i>	Upon request, provide law enforcement and/or operational support to Tribes in response to immediate public safety or property damage issues/incidents	Department Officers coordinated with Hualapai Tribe Officers on retrieval of legally harvested game (along tribal/state boundary) and provided additional coordination on investigations involving illegal harvest of shed antlers from Hualapai tribal lands.
<i>Same as above</i>	Provide required coordination in support of collaborative management of nuisance wildlife impacting tribal and non-tribal communities	Kingman Region personnel assisted CRIT Fish and Game Department personnel on bat exclusion project located at a tribal head start school.
Facilitate development of public outreach and communication efforts to improve wildlife conservation education and expand responsible public engagement in hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation activities	Provide requested assistance to Tribes in support of public outreach and education events involving Tribal members and/or communities; and assist in providing hunting/fishing opportunities to Tribal communities	Department personnel supported the Kaibab Paiute Tribe in implementation of its annual fishing derby, and also provided support to the Tribe by attending outreach event for tribal hunting guides and non-tribal hunters. Training on collection of Chronic Wasting Disease samples was also provided at this event.

<i>Same as above</i>	<i>Same as above</i>	Tucson Region personnel provided presentations at the Pasqua Yaqui Wellness Center on boating education in support Water Safety Day, organized by the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Arizona.
<i>Same as above</i>	<i>Same as above</i>	Department personnel continued to provide operational support to Navajo Nation's annual Youth deer hunt in fall 2017. Staff served as hunter education instructors, provided oversight during shooting range days and acted as hunt mentors during the youth hunt.
<i>Same as above</i>	<i>Same as above</i>	Pinetop Region personnel assisted the White Mountain Apache Tribe Game and Fish Department at the Tribe's annual fishing clinic in May 2018. Over 250 tribal members attended the event with AGFD providing fishing tips and fisheries conservation information at this popular event. Regional personnel further attended and supported WMAT's annual Wildlife Fair held at Hon Dah Casino Resort during FY17.
<i>Same as above</i>	<i>Same as above</i>	Established partnership with the Navajo Nation providing fishing equipment, education materials and resources to schools on the Navajo Nation during FY17.
<i>Same as above</i>	Continue collaborative implementation of the Hopi Tribe/AGFD cooperative hunting agreement for checkerboard state-private lands in northern AZ	Department personnel coordinated (2x/year) with the Hopi Department of Wildlife and Ecosystem Management on management of proposed hunt tag allocations and permit numbers for elk, antelope, and deer in support of existing agreement that provides access for both Hopi and State hunters on checkerboard lands. Agreement additionally allows for distribution of hunt permit revenues from Hopi-member tags to the Hopi Tribe's management programs. Further coordinated with Hopi Tribe personnel on the completion of annual ground and aerial surveys for big game species addressed under the cooperative hunting agreement.

<i>Assist and Inform AZ landowners on activities or planning involving AZ species identified as Candidate, Threatened or Endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)</i>	Collaborate with affected Tribes on managing implementation of the California Condor reintroduction project in AZ by promoting use of non-lead ammo on tribal and non-tribal lands in the reintroduction area	Flagstaff Region personnel continue to coordinate with the Navajo Nation and Kaibab Paiute Tribe, through annual agency coordination meetings, on planning and deployment of activities regarding the California Condor Program and non-lead ammunition usage.
<i>Same as above</i>	Provide requested technical assistance and collaboration involving conservation and/or recovery of native fish populations in AZ	Department personnel hosted White Mountain Apache Tribe Tribal Council representatives at the Aquatic Research and Conservation Center in Cornville, AZ as initial step toward collaborative conservation of Loach minnow, to include approaches for securing critical genetic lineages of the native fish species from reservation streams. Members were given a tour of our facility and were joined by staff from BOR and USFWS.
<i>Same as above</i>	<i>Same as above</i>	Department personnel met with WMAT Water and Fisheries Resource personnel to discuss potential implementation of Loach minnow survey and fish collection projects from known Reservation populations.
<i>Same as above</i>	As outlined in project MOU, collaborate with White Mountain Apache Tribe on Mexican Wolf Interagency Field Team in managing Mexican wolf reintroduction project in AZ	The Department's Interagency Field Team (IFT) leader maintains regular communication and collaboration with WMAT IFT leader throughout on project planning and implementation efforts as well on host of wolf management issues and incidents that occur during the year.
<i>Same as above</i>	Provide required information, support and assistance to other Tribes, as required, in managing implementation of Mexican wolf reintroduction project in AZ	Department IFT personnel coordinated removal of a Mexican wolf from the Navajo Nation in October 2017 in a management action to recover the dispersing wolf back to within the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area. This project included arranging all logistical needs, permits and funding, while jointly coordinating the operation with appropriate Navajo Nation, New Mexico and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service authorities prior to execution.
<i>Advance deployment of AGFD non-bird wildlife</i>	Collaborate with the Native American Fish and Wildlife	Department Tribal Liaison completed collaborative agreement with NAFWS to

<i>repository that provides surplus wildlife remains to Tribes and Educational entities</i>	Society, and member Tribes, to establish a partnership in managing wildlife repository operations	purchase and locate freezers at designated AGFD locations to store wildlife remains for final distribution to requesting Tribes.
<i>Same as above</i>	Continue coordination with Tribes to distribute available wildlife remains to Tribal members for ceremonial and traditional purposes	During FY18, various AGFD personnel assisted in opportunistic collection and delivery of available wildlife remains to Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe and Acoma Pueblo (NM). All repository items provided for ceremonial uses by requesting Tribes.
<i>Maintain public recreation access to fee-simple lands owned by Tribes that do not occur within Reservation (federal trust land) boundaries</i>	Maintain coordination with Navajo Nation and associated land managers/lessees to effectively manage public recreational access on Big Boquillas Ranch in NW AZ	Department personnel completed required negotiations and coordination with Navajo Nation and Big Boquillas Ranch lessee for renewal of Ranch Access Agreement by state hunters during established big game seasons. AGFD Commission approved updated Access Agreement.
<i>Same as above</i>	<i>Same as above</i>	During FY18, Kingman Region personnel maintained necessary coordination with Navajo Nation and Cholla Livestock (lessee) in managing public access for hunting activities on the Ranch, to include planning and deployment of AGFD law enforcement actions to monitor hunt seasons and any violations of the Ranch access rules.
<i>Same as above</i>	Renew existing agreement for hunting access on checkerboard Hopi Trust Lands in AZ Game Management Units 4A, 5A, 5B	Updated existing Agreement for hunting on Hopi Trust Lands, obtained Commission approval for renewed agreement for a period of four years. AGFD Director signed the updated agreement with the Hopi Tribal Council during FY18.
<i>Adhere to Federal and State laws relating to cultural resource conservation and management by engaging with Tribes on Department activities that can impact Tribes or associated cultural resource interests</i>	Complete consultation between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Tohono O'odham Nation regarding ASARCO Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) settlement	Department personnel continued consultation with Tohono O'odham Nation, as tribal lead for NRDA project, in development of cultural sensitivity training video.
<i>Same as above</i>	Complete Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act consultation between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Zuni Pueblo, Hopi Tribe, and	Initiated Department consultation and continue to facilitate coordination between the USFWS, Department, and the three affected tribes in identifying cultural resource concerns and accompanying mitigation.

	Navajo Nation regarding Lees Ferry fish stocking project on Colorado River	
<i>Same as above</i>	Fulfill requirements of Amity Pueblo MOA with participating Tribes	Continued consultation with Zuni Pueblo, Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, and Acoma Pueblo in developing AGFD cultural sensitivity training video. Presented to Amity Pueblo Working Group at annual Society for American Archaeology meeting resulting in positive response from the tribal representatives attending.
<i>Same as above</i>	Facilitate resolution of possible tribal issues regarding Colorado River Nature Center project in support of Nevada Department of Transportation Project component located in AZ	Consulted with Ft. Mojave Tribe regarding project and issues regarding possible white clay source. Performed site visit, reported results to tribe, and resolved issue to satisfaction of tribe.
<i>Same as above</i>	Complete required consultation/coordination with affected Tribes on projects involving AGFD wildlife areas	Department personnel continue to coordinate with Hopi Tribe cultural resource managers regarding cultural resource inventory recommendations (from mid-1990s) relating to Department Wildlife Area in Pinetop Region.
<i>Same as above</i>	Partner with the Gila River Indian Communities on establishing management and monitoring effort of displaced wildlife within the proposed right-of-way for the State Route 202L South Mountain Freeway	Department personnel collaborated with Tribal resource managers to remove and relocate 240 Common Chuckwallas and 3 Sonoran Desert Tortoises from habitat altered by the construction of the South Mountain Freeway.