



September 26, 2019

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

RE: Department Tribal Coordination Annual Report – FY 2019

Kristine:

Please find the attached Tribal Coordination Annual Report for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. 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 2019 fiscal year (for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019).

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Finley".

Tom Finley
Deputy Director

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



GOAL	OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY or PERFORMANCE MEASURE
<p>Improve statewide wildlife conservation by pursuing collaborative management approaches with AZ Tribes; and provide technical assistance, operational support and training, as required</p>	<p>Provide required technical support and coordination with Tribal resource managers to improve management effectiveness of wildlife resources</p>	<p>Department personnel continued coordination with White Mountain Apache, San Carlos Apache, Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, and Gila River Indian Community on bald eagle management programs with activities including: monitoring productivity of all eagle breeding areas, training Tribal crews on bald eagle monitoring, deployment of transmitters on fledglings, recovery of bald eagle mortalities, rescue of nestlings, rebuilding fallen nests, and placement of nest-watcher crews.</p>
<p><i>Same as preceding</i></p>	<p><i>Same as preceding</i></p>	<p>Flagstaff Region personnel coordinated with Kaibab Paiute Tribe to update wildlife project plans, hunting season dates and opportunities for collaborative law enforcement. Additionally conducted bighorn sheep aerial survey on all Kaibab Paiute Tribal lands, provided technical assistance in developing a population estimate, and presented related information to the Tribal Wildlife Committee. Also assisted Tribal wildlife program staff to establish protocols for wildlife capture and telemetry, which supported the Tribe's application for grants to fund future wildlife captures on tribal lands.</p>
<p><i>Same as preceding</i></p>	<p><i>Same as preceding</i></p>	<p>Mesa Region personnel coordinated with Gila River Indian Community to review projects on the lower Gila River including proposal for tamarisk (salt cedar) removal to improve wildlife habitat and watershed function. Coordination additionally included ongoing management of shared bighorn sheep populations.</p>



GOAL	OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY or PERFORMANCE MEASURE
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	The Department hosted the 2019 annual coordination meeting with the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife, with discussions including law enforcement training, wildlife management program coordination, wildlife disease monitoring/mitigation efforts, public recreation program development and associated opportunities for expanded public outreach.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	The Department hosted its annual coordination meeting with leadership and staff of the White Mountain Apache Game and Fish Department in June 2019. Topics included ongoing coordination involving elk management, wolf reintroduction, native/sportfish management opportunities and issues involving feral horses.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	The Department's Wildlife Health Program provided training to Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife personnel on specialized wildlife capture and chemical immobilization protocols. The Wildlife Health Program further facilitated and provided funding support to NNDFW Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance of hunter-harvested elk and deer from Dine' lands.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	Cooperate with Tribes in addressing law enforcement training and capacity building among Tribal Officers to improve combined enforcement effectiveness	The Kingman Region successfully nominated Yavapai-Prescott Nation officer Tim Fletcher for an AZ Game and Fish Commission Award. In recognition of his law enforcement leadership, the Commission recognized Officer Fletcher at the May 2019 Commission meeting held in Prescott.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	The Department continued discussions with the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife leadership in developing an Agreement for cooperative law enforcement patrol and law enforcement training for Navajo Nation DFW officers. Agreement is pending Navajo Nation Tribal Council approval.



GOAL	OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY or PERFORMANCE MEASURE
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	The Department coordinated with newly appointed leadership of the White Mountain Apache Tribe Game and Fish Department to revise the framework of an Agreement (now under development) providing law enforcement patrol/training support and cooperative wildlife management engagement between the agencies.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	The Department continued to pursue development of an agreement with Hopi Tribal enforcement leadership for cooperative law enforcement patrol and law enforcement training for Tribal officers.
<i>Same as preceding</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.
Deploy public outreach and communication efforts to expand wildlife conservation education and enhance 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	Kingman Region personnel continued to support the Kaibab Paiute Tribe in implementation of its annual fishing derby, and also provided support to the Tribe by attending an outreach event for tribal hunting guides and non-tribal hunters.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	Tucson Region personnel provided presentations at the Pasqua Yaqui Wellness Center on boating education in support of Water Safety Day, organized by the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Arizona. Approximately 400 tribal students participated in this event.



GOAL	OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY or PERFORMANCE MEASURE
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	Department leadership and personnel continued to provide operational support to Navajo Nation's annual Youth deer hunt in fall 2018, with personnel serving as hunter education instructors, shooting range supervisors and hunt mentors during the youth hunt. Additionally, Department personnel assisted the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife at their annual Lake Asayi fishing clinic (May 2019 - attended by over 150 tribal members) and provided free permits to numerous tribal anglers attending the annual free fishing day event at Lees Ferry.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	Department personnel coordinated with Yavapai-Apache Nation to provide multiple Hunter Education classes and other outreach programs addressing wildlife identification, wildlife laws and "Living with Wildlife" at the new Yavapai-Apache Nation Community Center in Camp Verde.
Assist and inform AZ landowners on activities or planning involving species identified as Candidate, Threatened or Endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Directly communicate and collaborate with affected Tribes on ongoing planning and management of programs involving ESA listed and/or Candidate species	Flagstaff Region personnel continue to coordinate with the Navajo Nation and Kaibab Paiute Tribe on planning and deployment of activities regarding the California Condor reintroduction project and promotion of the non-lead ammunition program on tribal and non-tribal lands within the reintroduction area.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	The Department invited numerous Tribes to participate in the Arizona Priority Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Area workshop held in May 2019, which was ultimately attended by Gila River Indian Community representatives.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	Department personnel hosted a member of the San Carlos Apache Tribe Wildlife and Recreation Department at the annual Chiricahua leopard frog Certification Workshop held in Tucson, which provides participants USFWS certification on identifying/handling AZ's native ranid frogs (required for C. leopard frog conservation).



GOAL	OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY or PERFORMANCE MEASURE
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	The Department's Mexican wolf reintroduction project Interagency Field Team (IFT) leader continued to maintain regular communication with the White Mountain Apache Tribe IFT leader and representatives of the San Carlos Apache Tribe on project planning and implementation efforts as well on host of wolf management issues and incidents that occur during the year.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	The Department hosted the Gunnison's prairie dog and Black-footed ferret working group meetings in February 2019 - attended by representatives of the Navajo, Hopi, and Hualapai Tribes. Additionally, the Department continued necessary coordination with these Tribes (and White Mountain Apache Tribe) on the ongoing development of a proposed Experimental Nonessential ferret population designation by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in AZ.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	Mesa Region personnel collaborated with Gila River Indian Community resource managers to relocate 240 Common Chuckwallas and 3 Sonoran Desert Tortoises from habitat altered by the construction of the South Mountain Freeway.
Maintain public recreation access to fee-simple lands owned by Tribes that do not occur within Reservation (federal trust land) boundaries	Maintain coordination with Navajo Nation and associated land managers/lessees to effectively manage public recreational access on Big Boquillas Ranch in NW AZ	Kingman Region personnel continued to maintain 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 preceding</i>	Continue collaborative implementation of the Hopi Tribe/AGFD cooperative hunting agreement for checkerboard state-private lands in northern AZ	The Flagstaff Region continued coordination with the Hopi Department of Wildlife and Ecosystem Management on survey of big game populations and allocation of accompanying hunt permit numbers and tags 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.



GOAL	OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY or PERFORMANCE MEASURE
Adhere to Federal and State laws relating to cultural resource conservation and management by engaging with Tribes on Department activities that impact Tribes or associated cultural resource interests	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, and completed development of cultural sensitivity training. All Tribal consultation (NHPA Sec 106) is now completed.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	Complete Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act consultation between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Zuni Pueblo, Hopi Tribe, and Navajo Nation regarding Lees Ferry fish stocking project on Colorado River	Continued to facilitate coordination between the USFWS, Department, and the three affected tribes in identifying cultural resource concerns and accompanying mitigation. Memorandum of Agreement was executed and carried out.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	Fulfill requirements of Amity Pueblo MOA with participating Tribes	Continued consultation with Zuni Pueblo, Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, and Acoma Pueblo in developing Department cultural sensitivity training video. Presented video to Amity Pueblo Working Group at the annual Society for American Archaeology meeting and draft video sent to USFWS for consultation with tribes.
Operate non-bird wildlife repository to provide surplus wildlife remains to Tribes and other entities in support of cultural and educational end-uses	Continue coordination with Tribes to distribute available wildlife remains to Tribal members for ceremonial and traditional purposes	During FY19, various Department work units provided available wildlife remains to the non-bird repository operations, with most items being distributed to Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe and Acoma Pueblo (NM) for ceremonial uses.