



Arizona Game and Fish Department  
FY 2021 Tribal Coordination Report

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY or PERFORMANCE MEASURE
<b><i>Deploy Arizona Game and Fish Commission approved Tribal Consultation Policy for the Arizona Game and Fish Department (hereafter: Department, AZGFD)</i></b>	<b>Provide required policy guidance to Department work units together with accompanying operational engagement with Arizona (AZ) Tribes</b>	Revised draft policy has been completed and the Department is awaiting scheduling of the 2022 statewide Tribal coordination meeting to present and discuss with attending Tribes. Tribal feedback will be appropriately considered and integrated into the final draft revision ultimately presented to the AGF Commission for formal adoption.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	The Department continues to convene a statewide coordination meeting with participating AZ Tribes to review issues of common concern and relevance and develop associated action plans. This meeting was held April 2021 (virtual) in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) annual coordination meeting with AZ Tribes. The Department will continue scheduling this statewide meeting and promote it as a venue to facilitate desired consultation and coordination. Separately, the Department continued to hold multiple coordination meetings with individual Tribes as specific issues and circumstances demanded.
<b><i>Improve effectiveness of statewide wildlife conservation measures through collaborative engagement with landowners and other conservation partners</i></b>	<b>Provide required technical assistance, training, operational support and coordination to Tribal resource managers to improve effectiveness in managing AZ wildlife resources</b>	The Department continues to host semi-annual Eagle Management Committee meetings in January and July including the various partner tribes in Arizona. Field activities on Tribal lands include: Arizona Bald Eagle Nestwatch monitoring on Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community lands; training of Gila River Indian Community bald eagle nestwatchers; aerial eagle nesting surveys on Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community, San Carlos Apache Tribe, White Mountain Apache, and Gila River Indian Community lands; banding of bald eagle nestlings at accessible nest sites; and expansion of the American kestrel nest box project onto the Navajo Nation.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	Department Mexican wolf Interagency Field Team personnel continue to routinely coordinate with White Mountain Apache Tribe personnel for the reintroduction, monitoring and management of Mexican wolves in Arizona. Activities included



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		providing technical assistance, management activity information on adjacent non-tribal lands and assistance on aerial capture and count activities of wolves on Tribal lands during the annual survey/capture operation.
<b><i>Improve effectiveness of statewide wildlife conservation measures through collaborative engagement with landowners and other conservation partners</i></b>	<b>Provide required technical assistance, training, operational support and coordination to Tribal resource managers to improve effectiveness in managing AZ wildlife resources</b>	Flagstaff Region personnel continued to coordinate with the Kaibab Paiute Tribe on law enforcement, wildlife health, wildlife surveys and coordinated wildlife management efforts during the annual coordination meeting in February. In addition, Department personnel provided technical assistance to the Tribe in developing a response protocol for wildlife disease events which will assist in developing Tribal programs related to wildlife health responses.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	The Department's Wildlife Health Program and various Regional Office personnel provided required/requested guidance and support to various AZ Tribes to support ongoing management of the hemorrhagic disease outbreak in rabbits, which was detected in early 2020. These efforts included providing a topical presentation to the statewide Tribal coordination meeting in April 2021 and assisting with disease testing of animals found dead on tribal lands.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	Pinetop Region personnel continued to coordinate with White Mountain Apache Tribe wildlife staff on the development of Tribal research programs involving Mountain lion and an ongoing elk mortality and demography study being conducted by New Mexico State University on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. These research planning discussions included proprietary data management approaches to support ongoing data-sharing arrangements.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	Mesa Region personnel continue to collaborate with the Gila River Indian Community to enhance habitat on the Department's Base and Meridian Wildlife Area. Habitat improvements to this area are designed to improve wildlife habitat and watershed function and serve to expand comparable improvements to adjoining tribal lands.



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<b><i>Improve effectiveness of statewide wildlife conservation measures through collaborative engagement with landowners and other conservation partners</i></b>	<b>Provide required technical assistance, training, operational support and coordination to Tribal resource managers to improve effectiveness in managing AZ wildlife resources</b>	The Department's Wildlife Health Program, working with Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife, assisted to secure grant funding to enhance surveillance of hunter-harvested elk and deer from Dine' lands. The Wildlife Health Program provided financial support to the Navajo Nation DFW for testing Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) samples collected from animals harvested by Dine'. The Wildlife Health Program also continues to coordinate with the White Mountain Apache and Hopi Tribes in facilitating CWD surveillance programs on WMAT and Hopi lands.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	During drought months, Kingman Region collaborated with the Hualapai Tribe to provide helicopter staging access to tribal lands to support water hauling operations. Regional personnel additionally continue to coordinate with Tribal managers to manage access through tribal lands, which is key to supporting ongoing habitat management, water development maintenance and hunter access to adjoining state game management units.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<b>Cooperate with Tribes to address law enforcement training &amp; capacity building improving combined enforcement effectiveness; and support relevant case investigations</b>	During the year, Flagstaff and Pinetop regional personnel continued to provide relevant intelligence and information to Navajo Nation, White Mountain Apache Tribe, San Carlos Apache Tribe and Kaibab Paiute Tribe law enforcement officers in support of numerous ongoing case investigations of common concern.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	Mesa Region personnel provided necessary support to the San Carlos Apache Tribe to facilitate tribal officer attendance at annual ARTS academy training as it relates to wildlife crimes.
<b><i>Actively deploy public communication and outreach to expand wildlife conservation education and jointly enhance responsible public participation in hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation activities</i></b>	<b>Promote hunting/fishing opportunities available to Tribal communities and provide requested assistance to support public outreach/education events involving Tribal communities.</b>	Pinetop Regional personnel continue to support the Navajo Nation with their annual youth deer hunt by supplying hunter education mentors and event logistical support. This effort involves meeting with tribal youth several times leading up to the annual tribal youth hunt.



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<b>Inform AZ landowners on planning or activities involving species subject to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and facilitate appropriate engagement</b>	<b>Directly communicate and collaborate with affected Tribes on ongoing planning and/or implementation of programs involving ESA listed &amp; Candidate species</b>	Flagstaff regional personnel continued to coordinate with the Navajo Nation & Kaibab Paiute Tribe on 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>	Through separate meetings held during the year, Department personnel joined USFWS representatives in providing presentations to the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe and Hualapai Tribe. These presentations to respective tribal government advisory committees were held to provide updates and address questions relating to proposed revision to the Experimental Non-Essential designation of Black-footed ferret populations in Arizona.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	Pinetop Region personnel continue to coordinate with the White Mountain Apache Tribe (and other interested Tribes) to provide the public with updates on Mexican wolf packs on tribal land as part of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program's Monthly Update.
<b>Maintain public recreation and wildlife conservation access to public and privately owned fee-simple lands</b>	<b>Maintain coordination with Navajo Nation and associated land managers/lessees to manage public recreational access on Big Boquillas Ranch in northwest AZ</b>	Headquarter and Kingman Regional personnel continued to maintain coordination with Navajo Nation and Cholla Livestock (lessee) in negotiating for the renewal of a public hunting access agreement on the Big Boquillas Ranch north of Seligman, to include planning and deployment of AGFD patrol of hunt seasons and any violations of Ranch access/use rules. Any final agreement remains in the negotiation phase.
<b>Maintain public recreation and wildlife conservation access to public and privately owned fee-simple lands</b>	<b>Continue collaborative implementation of the cooperative hunting agreement with Hopi Tribe for checkerboard state-private lands in northern AZ (fee simple land owned by Hopi Tribe)</b>	The Flagstaff regional personnel continued coordination with the Hopi Tribe on survey of big game populations and allocation of accompanying hunt permits and tags in support of an existing Agreement that provides access for both Hopi and State hunters on checkerboard lands. Agreement additionally allows for distribution of Hopi-member tag revenues to Hopi Tribe management programs. Flagstaff regional personnel also coordinated with The Hopi Tribe for renewal of the hunting agreement



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		and creation of a Landowner Access Agreement to be part of the statewide Landowner Compact.
<b><i>Adhere to Federal and State laws involving cultural resource conservation and management working through the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) in consultation with Tribes on Department activities that impact Tribes or associated cultural resource interests</i></b>	<b><i>Provide necessary coordination with Tribes to effectively manage and protect identified cultural resources.</i></b>	During the year, Department Cultural Resource compliance personnel initiated consultation, on behalf of the USFWS, with 21 federally recognized Tribes for Wildlife/Sports Fish Restoration (WSFR) funded projects having the potential to result in an adverse effect on historic properties. Tribal consultation responsibilities are delegated in Stipulation III of the USFWS-SHPO-AZGFD Programmatic Agreement regarding compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for grants funded by WSFR on state or private lands in Arizona.
<i>Same as preceding</i>	<i>Same as preceding</i>	The Department initiated cultural resource protection improvements to the Chevelon Creek Wildlife Area to address vehicular trespass and impacts to the National Register of Historic Places listed Chevelon Pueblo site. This project was planned and implemented in consultation with SHPO, Arizona State Museum, the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, the Hopi Tribe, the Navajo Nation, the Pueblo of Zuni, the Tonto Apache Tribe, and the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Comments from the Hopi Tribe and the Pueblo of Zuni regarding the respectful treatment of individuals and ancestral belongings were incorporated into the Project Burial Agreement.
<b><i>Operate non-bird wildlife repository to provide surplus wildlife remains to Tribes and other entities in support of cultural and educational uses</i></b>	<b><i>Actively coordinate with Tribes to determine needs and distribute requested repository items to Tribal members for traditional uses</i></b>	Various statewide Department work units continue to provide available wildlife remains to the Department's non-bird repository, with numerous collected items having been distributed to Tribes requesting said items