

The Commission was in consensus to place this on the Consent Agenda for the January meeting.

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14. Approval of Revised Commission Policy A2.11, Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Arizona.

**Presenter:** Mike Rabe, Nongame Wildlife Branch Chief

Mr. Rabe presented the Commission with revised Commission Policy A2.11, regarding Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Arizona. Commission A2.11 provides guidance to the Department's Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program through conservation of Species of Greatest Conservation Need, which was developed by the Department as a component of the State Wildlife Action Plan.

The Commission was in consensus to place this on the Consent Agenda for the January meeting.

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15. Base Property License at Horseshoe Ranch

**Presenter:** Jay Cook, Mesa Regional Supervisor

Mr. Cook presented the Commission with a base property license with JH Cattle Company at Horseshoe Ranch for livestock operations. The Horseshoe Ranch (Ranch) and associated water rights were purchased by the Commission in 2011. As part of the purchase, the Commission also paid for the appraised value of the two federal grazing allotments attached to the Ranch and entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service to address the management of these allotments. The Ranch is base property for the Horseshoe allotment with the Copper Creek allotment given to the lessee of the Horseshoe allotment. Subsequent to acquisition, the Commission secured a base property lease with JH Cattle Company, a qualified livestock operator to operate the allotments. The license agreement would provide JH Cattle Company a three year agreement to continue livestock operations on the allotments and ensures the Commission retains the allotments. The agreement also outlines the terms and conditions of JH Cattle Company's use of the base property.

The Commission discussed with Mr. Cook that the Department is working on a master plan for the use of Horseshoe Ranch. JH Cattle Company would like to see a longer agreement and is willing to put significant financial resources into the allotment, but the Department has discussed a three year agreement in anticipation of completing the master plan before asking the Commission to enter into a long term agreement. However, the Commission wanted the Department to look into a longer agreement.

Director Voyles stated that the Commission has expressed a desire to look at cost recovery at Horseshoe Ranch that included entrepreneurial models. If the Commission is comfortable that the agreement would allow for the entrepreneurial models on the casitas and wants to move forward, then he is okay with that.

The Commission was in consensus to direct the Department to re-evaluate the terms of the license agreement and bring this back as a second read at the January meeting.

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15A. Approval of a Cooperative Agreement between the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and the Mohave County Flood Control District

**Presenter:** Tom Finley, Kingman Regional Supervisor

Mr. Finley briefed the Commission on a Cooperative Agreement between the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and the Mohave County Flood Control District. This agreement would allow the Department to partner with the Mohave County Flood Control District to install 20 water catchment monitoring stations on existing Department water catchments in Mohave County. These monitoring stations would allow the Department to receive real time information on water levels in tanks and drinkers, precipitation data, and graph changes in water levels over time. Funds would be provided to Mohave County to purchase monitoring stations for 10 high priority water catchments selected by the Department. Mohave County would assist with installation and maintenance of the equipment and update and maintain an online website for accessing the data. In addition, Mohave County would install and maintain sensors at an additional 10 water catchment sites at no cost to the Department.

This technology is currently being utilized by the Department at three existing catchment sites in Mohave County which were previously installed by the Mohave County Flood Control District. These water sensors have proven to be very effective in remotely monitoring the depth of water at these catchments. They have also provided several years of valuable precipitation data and how it affects each catchment and has proven to be effective in alerting Mohave County Flood Control and the Department when the catchments stop functioning properly. These alerts have allowed the Department to go into these catchments and make repairs before wildlife were affected. Installation of these devices allows managers to remotely monitor water levels, identify water hauling needs, document evaporation rates, and maintain functionality for wildlife use. It is anticipated that the need for physical checks and incursions into wilderness and other areas via helicopter, road, foot, etc. will be reduced with the use of these devices.

**Motion:** Harris moved and Madden seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE THIS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ARIZONA GAME AND FISH COMMISSION AND THE FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT OF MOHAVE COUNTY.

**Vote:** Unanimous

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16. Preview of Rulemaking Recommendations for Article 1 Rules Addressing Definitions and General Provisions.

**Presenter:** Amber Munig, Big Game Supervisor