



THE STATE OF ARIZONA
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

5000 W. CAREFREE HIGHWAY
PHOENIX, AZ 85086-5000
(602) 942-3000 • WWW.AZGFD.GOV

REGION III, 5325 N. STOCKTON HILL ROAD, KINGMAN, AZ 86409

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October 8, 2014

Mr. Tom Guice
City of Prescott
201 South Cortez Street
Prescott, Arizona 86303

Dear Mr. Guice and Members of the City of Prescott Planning and Zoning Commission,

My name is Trevor Buhr. I am the Habitat Program Manager for Region III of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department). On behalf of the Department, I have reviewed the 2014 City of Prescott Draft General Plan (Plan) and have provided comments verbally while in attendance at the September 25, 2014 Prescott Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. Of particular importance to the Department at this meeting was the agenda item entitled "*Discussion of the 2014 Draft General Plan.*" The written comments which follow embody the verbal comments I provided at the above-mentioned meeting. The Department requests that these comments be considered, and incorporated as appropriate into the final draft of the Plan, which will ultimately be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

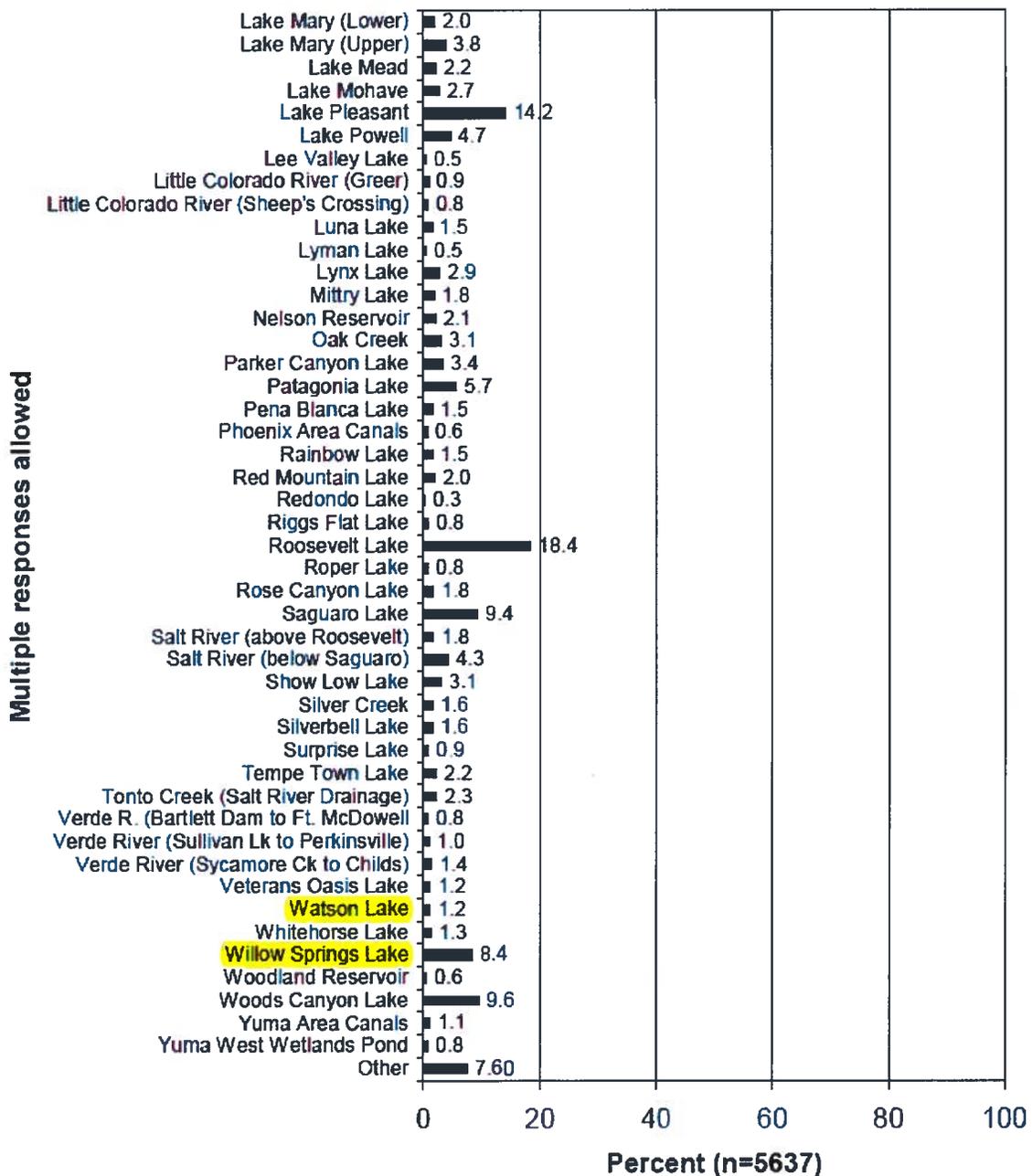
On the pages which follow, are excerpts from three documents which demonstrate the magnitude of the economic impact tied to hunting, angling, and wildlife-related recreation nationally, as well as in Arizona and the City of Prescott. These excerpts highlight the importance of working cooperatively with the Department in the review of development proposals; the development and implementation of Recreational Plans for Watson, Willow and Goldwater Lakes; in identifying, protecting and preserving the wildlife corridors in and proximate to the City of Prescott; and in working collaboratively in the crafting and implementation of Prescott's proposed Open Space Policy.

1. ARIZONA ANGLERS' OPINIONS, ATTITUDES, AND EXPENDITURES IN THE STATE
 (Conducted for the Arizona Game and Fish Department by Responsive Management, 2014)

Q117-Q141. Percent of active anglers who fished in each of the following locations. (Asked of those who personally fished in Arizona in 2013.) (Part 3, alphabetically.)

Bodies of Water	Mohave	Navajo	Pima	Pinal	Santa Cruz	Yavapai	Yuma	Out-of-State
Silver Creek	0.3	14.6	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.9	0.5	0.8
Silverbell Lake	0.0	0.0	14.2	0.7	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.5
Surprise Lake	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.7
Tempe Town Lake	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.7
Tonto Creek (Salt River Drainage)	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.0	1.3	0.2	0.8
Verde River (Bartlett Dam to Fort McDowell Indian Reservation)	0.0	1.0	0.2	1.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	1.0
Verde River (Sullivan Lake to Perkinsville)	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	9.8	0.0	0.5
Verde River (Sycamore Ck to Childs)	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	11.1	0.0	0.7
Veterans Oasis Lake	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3
Watson Lake	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.0	13.8	0.0	0.2
Whitehorse Lake	2.7	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.0	7.0	0.7	0.2
Willow Springs Lake	1.1	14.8	1.3	8.6	0.0	5.9	1.2	0.8
Woodland Reservoir	0.0	7.3	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Woods Canyon Lake	0.5	12.8	2.3	14.2	0.0	3.3	1.2	0.5
Yuma Area Canals	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.2	1.4	0.2	28.3	0.8
Yuma West Wetlands Pond	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	1.4	0.2	17.2	0.3
Other	3.2	10.6	7.4	8.8	5.6	10.3	8.3	4.4

**Q117-Q141. Percent of active anglers who fished in each of the following locations. (Asked of those who personally fished in Arizona in 2013.)
(Part 2, alphabetically.)**



ARIZONA ANGLER EXPENDITURE DATA

- The expenditure data are shown in the tabulations that follow. In total, it is estimated that Arizona anglers spent a little over \$1 billion on fishing trips and fishing-related equipment in Arizona in 2013. This is an estimated \$3,130.18 per angler annually, based on approximately 350,000 licensed anglers who may make fishing-related purchases in the state. (Even those licensed anglers who did not fish in the state in 2013 were included in the calculations because some of them had made fishing-related purchases, even though they did not subsequently fish in 2013.)

Total Arizona Angler Expenditures in 2013 (Except Large Items)

Expenditure Category	Mean Dollar Amount Spent in 2013	Total Dollar Amount Spent in 2013
Food, groceries, drink, restaurant, and dining	411.53	144,035,011
Lodging at hotels, motels, cabins, lodges, and campgrounds	148.68	52,038,421
Equipment rental, such as boats, fishing, and camping equipment	103.89	36,361,010
Gas and fuel for cars and other land vehicles (NOT including boat fuel)	360.95	126,333,525
Boat fuel	110.13	38,545,764
Boat launch fees	23.90	8,365,287
Fishing guide fees	15.73	5,506,823
Rods, reels, poles, lines, and leaders (including fly fishing gear)	172.78	60,474,320
Live bait	29.98	10,494,150
Artificial baits, lures, and flies	72.98	25,544,549
Hooks, sinkers, and swivels	25.02	8,756,865
Tackle boxes	8.21	2,872,203
Creels, stingers, and fish bags	3.73	1,306,257
Depth finders, fish finders, and other electronic fishing devices	52.73	18,456,842
Other fishing equipment, such as knives, hook removers, and fly fishing accessories	15.43	5,400,476
Clothing, such as foul weather gear, waders, and boots	28.76	10,064,564
PFDs / life jackets	10.61	3,714,224
First aid supplies and medical treatment related to fishing trips	11.22	3,926,257
Camping equipment (NOT including camping vehicles), such as tents, tarps, backpacks, sleeping bags, stoves, coolers, and lanterns	63.10	22,083,350
Boat equipment (NOT including a boat or boat trailer/hitch), such as a new boat motor and other boat parts or accessories	119.71	41,899,226
Motor boat maintenance and insurance	91.44	32,004,864
Canoe maintenance and insurance	2.25	787,429
Fishing licenses, stamps, tags, and permits	59.37	20,780,058
Fishing club or association dues and fees	3.09	1,081,513
Fishing club, association, or other fisheries-related donations	3.78	1,322,760
Fish processing, mounting, and taxidermy	2.44	853,112
Gifts and souvenirs	9.78	3,422,342
Total except large items		686,431,200

2. THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF FISHING AND HUNTING IN AZ BY COUNTY
(A study conducted on behalf of the Department by ASU's John Silberman, PhD., 2002)

TABLE 2: 2001 ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

	Full-time and Part-time Jobs	(IN MILLIONS)			
		Fishing & Hunting Expenditures	Total Multiplier Effect	Salaries and Wages	State Tax Revenues
ARIZONA	17,190	\$958.5	\$1,340.0	\$314.0	\$58.2
APACHE	1,010	\$62.7	\$72.0	\$8.9	\$3.4
COCHISE	194	\$12.7	\$15.2	\$2.4	\$0.7
COCONINO	1,860	\$101.2	\$124.9	\$22.3	\$6.0
GILA	769	\$39.4	\$46.8	\$7.5	\$1.8
GRAHAM	124	\$7.3	\$8.7	\$1.4	\$0.4
GREENLEE	20	\$2.5	\$2.7	\$0.3	\$0.04
LA PAZ	232	\$17.8	\$20.9	\$4.1	\$0.8
MARICOPA	5,382	\$409.1	\$515.0	\$103.0	\$21.1
MOHAVE	1,682	\$79.9	\$99.0	\$17.7	\$3.9
NAVAJO	543	\$33.3	\$38.3	\$5.0	\$1.3
PIMA	1,187	\$84.5	\$105.0	\$18.3	\$5.4
PINAL	296	\$20.0	\$22.9	\$3.8	\$0.9
SANTA CRUZ	216	\$13.9	\$16.7	\$2.7	\$0.9
YAVAPAI	811	\$40.0	\$49.9	\$9.8	\$2.3
YUMA	689	\$34.2	\$42.0	\$7.8	\$1.8

TABLE 4: 2001 HUNTING AND FISHING EXPENDITURES

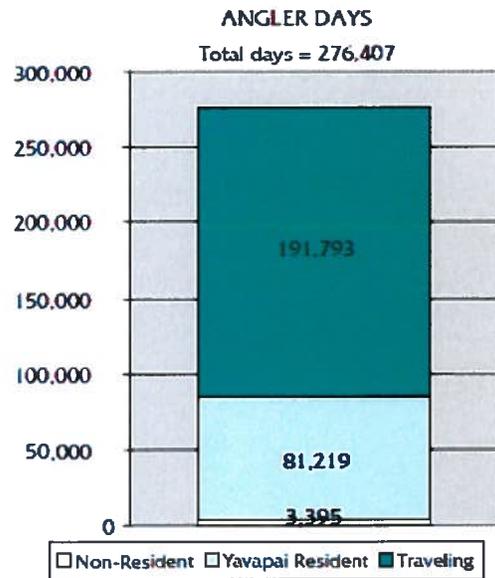
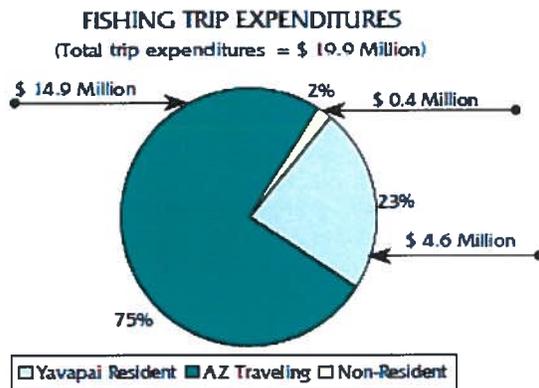
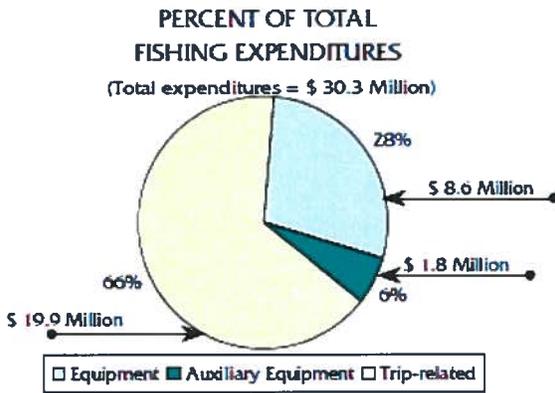
	FISHING EXPENDITURE				HUNTING EXPENDITURE			Total Expenditure
	Trip	Equipment	Auxiliary Equipment	Total	Trip	Equipment	Total	
ARIZONA	\$415,980,900	\$212,819,901	\$202,692,692	\$831,493,493	\$74,282,818	\$52,346,007	\$126,628,825	\$958,122,318
APACHE	\$30,964,703	\$1,410,342	\$21,866,348	\$60,241,394	\$1,672,682	\$830,889	\$2,503,571	\$62,744,965
COCHISE	\$3,297,210	\$2,229,502	\$1,218,270	\$6,744,982	\$4,933,001	\$950,085	\$5,883,086	\$12,628,068
COCONINO	\$57,978,374	\$14,633,322	\$16,504,881	\$89,176,577	\$8,810,095	\$3,151,341	\$11,961,436	\$101,138,013
GILA	\$25,402,249	\$4,710,642	\$4,097,324	\$34,210,215	\$3,672,780	\$1,542,582	\$5,215,362	\$39,425,577
GRAHAM	\$2,507,807	\$589,258	\$778,032	\$3,875,097	\$2,608,826	\$764,712	\$3,373,538	\$7,248,635
GREENLEE	\$439,699	\$240,166	\$2,114	\$681,978	\$1,486,494	\$410,994	\$1,897,488	\$2,579,466
LA PAZ	\$15,942,820	\$465,980	\$2,470	\$16,411,275	\$1,303,077	\$106,038	\$1,409,115	\$17,820,390
MARICOPA	\$124,351,415	\$120,352,363	\$122,082,548	\$366,786,326	\$16,999,358	\$25,244,784	\$42,244,142	\$409,030,468
MOHAVE	\$57,314,447	\$14,872,041	\$2,330,019	\$74,516,507	\$3,659,723	\$1,825,479	\$5,485,202	\$80,001,709
NAVAJO	\$15,490,208	\$6,846,548	\$6,634,860	\$28,971,616	\$2,463,328	\$1,856,052	\$4,319,380	\$33,290,996
PIMA	\$22,702,699	\$24,644,546	\$19,593,827	\$66,941,072	\$9,397,938	\$8,162,991	\$17,560,929	\$84,502,001
PINAL	\$6,869,529	\$5,750,149	\$495,275	\$13,114,953	\$4,491,965	\$2,253,888	\$6,745,853	\$19,860,806
SANTA CRUZ	\$6,376,350	\$900,858	\$3,869,034	\$11,146,242	\$2,392,123	\$322,758	\$2,714,881	\$13,861,123
YAVAPAI	\$19,874,871	\$8,581,738	\$1,783,490	\$30,240,099	\$6,284,757	\$3,358,773	\$9,643,530	\$39,883,629
YUMA	\$20,468,520	\$6,592,440	\$1,374,201	\$28,435,161	\$4,106,671	\$1,564,641	\$5,671,312	\$34,106,473

From Pages 10 and 12

YAVAPAI COUNTY

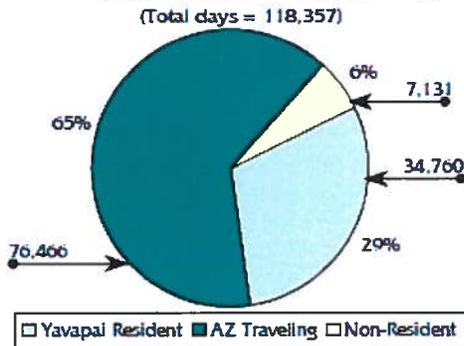
ECONOMIC IMPACTS	
FISHING AND HUNTING EXPENDITURES	\$ 40.0 Million
TOTAL MULTIPLIER EFFECT	\$ 49.9 Million
SALARIES AND WAGES	\$ 9.8 Million
FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME JOBS	811
STATE TAX REVENUES	\$ 2.3 Million

FISHING: DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACTS	
ANGLER DAYS	
TOTAL ANGLER DAYS	
276,407	
Yavapai County Resident	
81,219	
AZ Resident Traveling to Yavapai County	
191,793	
Non-Resident	
3,395	
EXPENDITURES	
TOTAL FISHING EXPENDITURES	
\$30.3 Million	
TOTAL TRIP RELATED	
\$19.9 Million	
Food, Restaurant	
\$4.9 Million	
Lodging	
\$2.9 Million	
Transportation	
\$4.4 Million	
Other	
\$7.7 Million	
TOTAL EQUIPMENT EXPENDITURES	
\$10.4 Million	
Fishing Equipment	
\$8.6 Million	
Auxiliary Equipment	
\$1.8 Million	

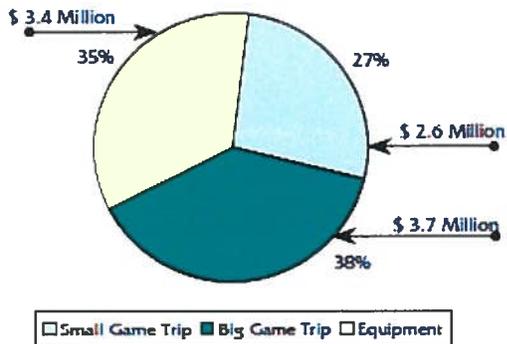


YAVAPAI COUNTY

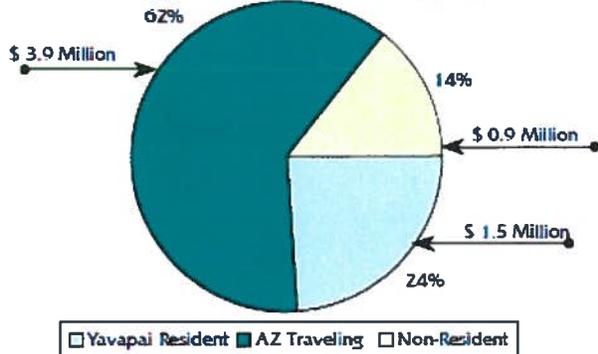
PERCENT OF TOTAL HUNTER DAYS



PERCENT OF TOTAL HUNTING EXPENDITURES
(Total expenditures = \$9.7 Million)



HUNTING TRIP EXPENDITURES
(Total trip expenditures = \$6.3 Million)



HUNTING: DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACTS

HUNTER DAYS

TOTAL HUNTER DAYS

118,357

TOTAL SMALL GAME

59,625

Yavapai County Resident

18,757

AZ Resident Traveling to Yavapai County

36,598

Non-Resident

4,270

TOTAL BIG GAME

58,732

Yavapai County Resident

16,003

AZ Resident Traveling to Yavapai County

39,868

Non-Resident

2,861

EXPENDITURES

TOTAL HUNTING EXPENDITURES

\$9.7 Million

Small Game Trip Expenditures

\$2.6 Million

Big Game Trip Expenditures

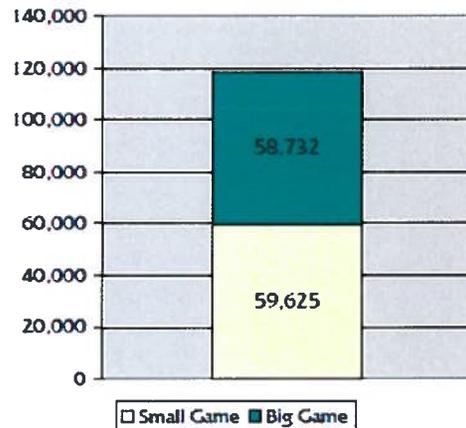
\$3.7 Million

Equipment Expenditures

\$3.4 Million

HUNTER DAYS

(Total days = 118,357)



3. 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation Nationally
(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Total Wildlife-Related Recreation

Participants	90.1 million
Expenditures	\$144.7 billion

Sportspersons

Total participants*	37.4 million
Anglers	33.1 million
Hunters	13.7 million

Total days	836 million
Fishing	554 million
Hunting	282 million

Total expenditures	\$89.8 billion
Fishing	41.8 billion
Hunting	33.7 billion
Unspecified	14.3 billion

Wildlife-watchers

Total participants**	71.8 million
Around the home	68.6 million
Away from home	22.5 million

Total expenditures	\$54.9 billion
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* 9.4 million both fished and hunted.

** 19.3 million wildlife watched both around the home and away from home.

Excerpt from Page 4

As you can see, based upon the excerpts provided from the sources above, hunting, fishing, and wildlife-related forms of recreation are highly valued, both nationally and locally, and provide a tremendous infusion of revenue to the economy of the State and to the economies of local communities.

It is for the purpose of preserving and enhancing the natural infrastructure upon which wildlife depends, and by extension - the revenue streams generated by wildlife-related recreation, that the Department advocates close partnership with the City of Prescott in the management of habitat and wildlife resources, and offers the following comments relating to the draft 2014 Plan:

Please note: Proposed changes to Plan wording are captured in red font...

(Page 46, Section 6.2.3, Open Space and Wildlife, Goal 1, Strategy 1.2):

Current wording - In cooperation with property owners, preserve and connect green belts, riparian areas, wildlife corridors and continue acquisition of targeted open space parcels.

Proposed wording - In cooperation with property owners **and the Arizona Game and Fish Department**, preserve and connect green belts, riparian areas, wildlife corridors and continue acquisition of targeted open space parcels. **This might be facilitated by involving the Department in the planning and zoning permitting process. In so doing, the Department might review development proposals with potential significant impacts to wildlife habitat or connectivity (PADs, commercial scale energy development, new transportation alignments, annexations, etc.), and share its resources, expertise and recommendations with the City, thereby enabling decision-makers to make informed decisions – potentially avoiding, minimizing or mitigating impacts to wildlife and the natural infrastructure upon which it depends. (Please reference wildlife linkages map/s included after the glossary at the end of the Plan...)**

(Page 65, Section 8.4, Parks and Recreation Activities):

Proposed wording – Add **“Fishing”** in the list of recreational opportunities.

(Page 66, Section 8.4.1, Parks and Recreation Goals and Strategies, Goal 2):

Current wording - Establish recreation strategies for Willow, Watson, and Goldwater Lakes to continually improve and enhance these assets for both residents and visitors.

Proposed wording – **Recognizing the recreational and economic benefit of angling to the City of Prescott, in cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, establish recreation strategies for Willow, Watson, and Goldwater Lakes to continually improve and enhance these assets for both residents and visitors.**

(Page 66, Section 8.4.1, Parks and Recreation Goals and Strategies, Goal 2 Strategy 2.3):

A suggestion has been made to remove dead and downed trees at the southern end of Watson Lake. This action may be detrimental to cavity nesting birds and other wildlife in the area. In deciding whether to include strategy 2.3 in the Plan, the Department requests that the possibly minimal risk of wildfire be balanced with consideration of the benefit this habitat provides to wildlife.

(Page 69, Section 8.6.1 Open Space Policy, Goals 3, Strategy 3.6):

Current wording - Ensure that wildlife and desired trail corridors are conserved through development agreements should State Trust Lands change ownership.

Proposed wording – **In cooperation with, and making use of the data and spatial resources possessed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (Habimap.org, wildlife telemetry data, Arizona’s Missing Linkages Document, Yavapai County Stakeholders Linkage Report, etc.) identify and prioritize important wildlife corridors, and ensure that wildlife and desired trail corridors are conserved through development agreement should State Trust Lands change ownership. (Please reference wildlife linkages map/s included after the glossary at the end of the Plan...)**

(Page 72, Section 9.3.1, Lakes Goals and Implementation Strategies, Goal 2):

Current wording: Develop an up to date Lake Management Plan for each of Watson and Willow Lakes.

Proposed wording: In cooperation with Arizona Game and Fish Department, develop an up to date Lake Management Plan for each of Watson and Willow Lakes. (See comments pertaining to page 66 above)

(Page 75, Section 9.4.2, Wildlife Corridors Implementation Strategies, Goal 1):

Strategy 1.1

Current wording: Require developments to evaluate animal species within their development sites and create appropriate wildlife corridors through master plans and subdivision plats.

Proposed Change – Incorporate language in Strategy 1.1 that is consistent with the comments provided by the Department relating to page 46, Section 6.2.3 (see above) regarding The Department providing assistance in the review of proposed developments in the planning and zoning permitting process. (Please reference wildlife linkages map/s included after the glossary at the end of the Plan...)

Strategy 1.2

Current wording – Plan for connectivity of open spaces and wildlife corridors using Specific Area Plans, neighborhood plans, subdivision master plans, or other appropriate planning tools.

Proposed wording – In cooperation with Arizona Game and Fish Department, plan for connectivity of open spaces and wildlife corridors using Specific Area Plans, neighborhood plans, subdivision master plans, and other appropriate planning tools, including the data and spatial resources possessed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department such as Habimap.org, wildlife telemetry data, Arizona’s Missing Linkages Document, the Yavapai County Stakeholders Linkage Report, etc.

Strategy 1.3

Current wording – Coordinate with federal and state agencies, and adjoining jurisdictions to assure regional connectivity of open space and wildlife corridors.

Proposed wording – Coordinate with, and make use of the expertise, resources and data of federal and state agencies, and adjoining jurisdictions to assure regional connectivity of open space and wildlife corridors.

Concluding Remarks:

In a correspondence which will soon follow, I will provide the Planning and Zoning Commission with a map (or maps) showing current wildlife linkages important to wildlife in or near Prescott and the surrounding areas. This map can serve as a starting point for guiding project development and siting. It is the request of the Department that wildlife linkages map/s be included along with the other maps found at the end of the General Plan, in the pages following the glossary.

Additionally, if requested for reference or inclusion in appendix form in the Plan, I would be happy to provide the Planning and Zoning Commission with the following resources above-mentioned in this letter.

- ARIZONA ANGLERS' OPINIONS, ATTITUDES, AND EXPENDITURES (2014)
- ECONOMICS OF FISHING AND HUNTING IN ARIZONA BY COUNTY (2002)
- NATIONAL SURVEY OF FISHING, HUNTING, AND WILDLIFE RECREATION (2011)
- Habimap.org GIS data layers
- Pronghorn antelope telemetry data
- Arizona's Missing Linkages document and data
- Arizona Game and Fish Department's Yavapai County Stakeholder's Linkages Report

The Department thanks the City of Prescott for the opportunity to have reviewed this draft and participate in the development of what will become the final draft of this Plan. The Department values this opportunity to partner with the City of Prescott, in constructing the guiding language of this Plan as it relates to Wildlife, Habitat and Wildlife Connectivity, and looks forward to future opportunities to cooperate, collaborate, and partner in the preservation and management of wildlife related resources in the Prescott area. It is only with this type of cooperation that the Department can fulfil its Trust Responsibility to manage wildlife and habitat on behalf of the people of Arizona.

If you have any questions about these comments and or recommendations, please feel free to call me at 928-692-7700 ext. 2305, or via email at tbuhr@azgfd.gov. If it would be helpful to meet in person to discuss these recommendations, I will gladly make myself available for that purpose.

Sincerely,



Trevor Buhr
Habitat Program Manager, Region III Kingman

CC: Tom Finley, Regional Supervisor, Kingman
Joyce Francis, Branch Chief, Wildlife Management Habitat Branch