



January 29, 2022

Amber Munig, Big Game Supervisor
Arizona Game & Fish Department
5000 W. Carefree Hwy
Phoenix, Arizona 85086

Via email: AZHuntGuidelines@azgfd.gov

RE: Draft Proposed Guidelines for the 2023-2024 through 2027-2028 Hunting Seasons

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on Arizona Game and Fish Department's (Department) Draft Proposed Guidelines (Guidelines) for the 2023-2024 through 2027-2028 Hunting Seasons as proposed to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission (Commission) on December 28, 2021.

AZSFWC is a 501c-3 non-profit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation, habitat improvement, youth recruitment and retention, as well as educating outdoor enthusiasts on issues important to their passions. AZSFWC consists of 42 member, affiliate, and associate groups that reach across the spectrum of hunting, angling, shooting, outdoor recreation and businesses from all across Arizona. Our member groups represent in excess of 16,000 people from Arizona.

AZSFWC's focus on broader conservation issues does not lend itself to comments on management of individual species under the Guidelines, however it is important for us to weigh in on the overall process. The Commission and Department's statutory authority to manage all 800+ species of wildlife in Arizona is clearly established in Title 17 of the Arizona Revised Statutes. That authority is implemented using the best available science and data for these species, game, and non-game alike. AZSFWC strongly supports this approach.

AZSFWC also supports the Commission and Department's adherence to principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation (NAM). The seven tenets of the NAM are recognized as the most effective model of wildlife conservation in the world. The proposed Guidelines conform to the core principles of the NAM.

Arizona's human population will continue to grow in the foreseeable future. One consequence of that growth is unprecedented pressure on our public lands, from both consumptive and non-consumptive recreational users. When coupled with the arid nature of our state, historic drought, and diminishing habitat, defensible science-based management of our wildlife is paramount!

AZSFWC strongly supports the Commission and Department's efforts to conserve Arizona's wildlife.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Unmacht", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director