

Arizona Game and Fish Department

Land Acquisition Program State Wildlife Action Plan



Objectives

- ✦ State Wildlife Action Plan
- ✦ How we broadened our
 - Wildlife Responsibilities
 - Management Scope
 - Customer Base
- ✦ What were the changes that AGFD embraced and created over the last 30 years?

Traditional Funding for State Game and Fish Agencies

- ✦ 1937 Pittman-Robertson Act (PR) and 1950 Dingell-Johnson Act (DJ)
 - Relies on Sportsman's fees from hunting and fishing supplies and licenses
 - Established funding for game and sport fish management programs
 - PR and DJ were used to acquire land and lakes for fish hatcheries and game management areas in Arizona
- ✦ Changes would occur in the 70's, 80's and 90's that would broaden our scope and customer base

1973 Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)

- ✦ Endangered and threatened species were protected
- ✦ No state regulated wildlife impacted by the ESA
- ✦ ESA is the direct result of public involvement



1975 TNC Heritage Program Species of Special Concern

- ✦ Network of Natural Heritage Programs developed by The Nature Conservancy
- ✦ Collect and manage data regarding the status and distribution of species and ecosystems of conservation concern

1980 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act

- ✦ To conserve and promote conservation of non-game fish and wildlife
- ✦ Provided guidelines to the state in drafting conservation plans
- ✦ Within 3 years, accepted the Heritage Program

1983 - Arizona Accepts TNC's Heritage Program

- ✚ TNC Heritage Program transferred to AGFD in 1983 - HDMS created
- ✚ Not all states accepted this program
- ✚ Director created first Nongame Branch
- ✚ HDMS collects/catalogs information concerning the distribution/occurrence of species/habitats in need of special attention
- ✚ Arizona passes Nongame check-off

1983 through the Late 1980's Growing Pains!

- ✦ Mainstreaming the Nongame Program into the Arizona Game & Fish Department
- ✦ New Ideas vs. Old Traditions
- ✦ Preparing for Arizona's Heritage Initiative
- ✦ AGFD Director Duane Shroufe, Arizona State Parks (ASP) Director Ken Travis, TNC Director Dan Campbell and Eva Patten of Arizona State University successfully campaigned for the Initiative



1990 Heritage Initiative – AGFD Scope Broadened

Success! Voters approves Initiative in 1990!

- ✦ Each year \$20 million from Lottery revenues is set aside for parks, trails and a full range of wildlife conservation activities
- ✦ AGFD and ASP receive \$10 million annually
- ✦ 2.4 million for AGFD to purchase lands with sensitive habitat
- ✦ Protected over 16,500 acres at a cost of 22 million dollars



2001

State Wildlife Grants Program

- ✦ Created by Congress
- ✦ Program to keep wildlife from becoming endangered
- ✦ Provides annual funding
- ✦ Authority for the state to develop SWAP
- ✦ Department prepared to include SWAP into plans

SWAP and AGFD Land Acquisitions

- ✚ Tenants of SWAP will be integrated in AGFD land acquisitions
- ✚ Additional information included in land prioritization will be information about existing AGFD properties, surrounding ownership, grazing issues, access issues, water issues
- ✚ Prioritization will take place at a landscape level and incorporate the large scale information of significant habitats to make local decisions regarding valuable land for acquisitions

Prioritization Considerations

- ✂️ TNC's Eco-Regional Areas
- ✂️ Key wildlife corridors and migration pathways
- ✂️ Core habitat areas
- ✂️ Threatened habitat
- ✂️ Key conservation areas
- ✂️ Species richness distributions
- ✂️ Native-dominated riparian areas
- ✂️ Vegetation communities

SWAP, Landscape Management = Encompasses Greater Resource Protections

- ✦ Landscape approach bridges gap between point source habitat protection and protection of ecosystems
- ✦ Leads to protection of biodiversity of an area



2005 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) – A Natural Fit!

- ✦ SWAP engages the public, conservation organizations, private landowners, and other government agencies
- ✦ Arizona's SWAP addresses the full array of wildlife, but will focus on identifying and managing the “wildlife and biotic communities of greatest conservation need”