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← Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Arizona Game and Fish Commission  
→ Friday, January 13, 2017  
Saturday, January 14, 2017  
Arizona Game and Fish Department  
5000 W. Carefree Highway  
Phoenix, Arizona 85086

PRESENT: (Commission)

Chairman Edward "Pat" Madden  
Commissioner James R. Ammons  
Commissioner James S. Zieler  
Commissioner Eric S. Sparks  
Commissioner Kurt R. Davis

(Director and Staff)

Director Larry D. Voyles  
Deputy Director Ty E. Gray  
Assistant Attorney General Jim Odenkirk  
Assistant Attorney General Linda Pollock

Chairman Madden called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and led those present through the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in honor and remembrance of National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on December 7, 2016 and John Glenn, former astronaut and US Senator, who passed away on December 8, 2016. The Commission and Director Voyles introduced themselves followed by introductions of the Director's staff. This meeting followed an agenda revision #1 dated January 11, 2017.

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#### 1. Call to the Public

John Spear, Western Wildlife Alliance, stated opposition to mule deer doe hunts on the Kaibab; would like to see Unit 3C made into a limited weapon or no optics in that area to hunt deer; would like to pull back on turkey in Unit 3C for less pressure.

Chairman Madden recommended to Mr. Spear that he attend the Department's hunt recommendations meetings in Region I, Pinetop and discuss his recommendations.

Teleconferenced from Region III, Kingman:

Tim Goldsmith commented regarding over-the-counter archery deer tags; populations are dwindling; there are too many hunts for too long of hunt periods.

Kevin Larimore stated that with today's technology with archery bows, there are more and more archery deer taken; he is concerned about reduced deer populations; something needs to be done about it.

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#### 2. Consent Agenda

The following items were grouped together and noticed as consent agenda items to expedite action on routine matters, and/or they were previously presented to the Commission as a "first

SKIP TO PAGES 7 & 8 Approval EC Bao Ranch sale

9. Approve Purchase and Sale Agreement to Acquire the EC Bar Ranch

**Presenter:** Joyce Francis, Habitat Evaluation and Lands Branch Chief

Dr. Francis provided the Commission with a PowerPoint presentation and briefing on a request for approval of the Department's purchase and sale agreement with Mr. James Crosswhite for the acquisition of EC Bar Ranch in Nutrioso, Apache County, Arizona. The Department has been in negotiations with Mr. Crosswhite for the acquisition of the EC Bar Ranch. The Ranch is located along Nutrioso Creek and the Department considers the Ranch to hold significant wildlife values and riparian habitat. The acquisition would contribute to recovery of Little Colorado River spinedace, a federally threatened species, and the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse, a federally endangered species. The proposed acquisition would include approximately 391 acres of deeded property, 111 surface water rights, and 45 acre feet of storage in the Nutrioso Reservoir. The Department has been awarded a US Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6 Recovery Land Acquisition Grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 that will contribute toward the purchase. The grant will be matched with Heritage acquisition funding.

**Motion:** Ammons moved and Sparks seconded THAT THE COMMISSION VOTE TO APPROVE ACQUISITION OF EC BAR RANCH IN NUTRIOSO, APACHE COUNTY, ARIZONA, AND TO AUTHOIZE THE DIRECTOR, AS SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION, TO EXECUTE THE PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT AS APPROVED OR RECOMMENDED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Chairman Madden confirmed with Dr. Francis that there were no structures of historical value on the property.

**Vote:** Unanimous

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