



DEBRA K. DAVENPORT, CPA
AUDITOR GENERAL

STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE
AUDITOR GENERAL

WILLIAM THOMSON
DEPUTY AUDITOR GENERAL

June 10, 2003

The Honorable Robert Blendu, Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

The Honorable John Huppenthal, Vice Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Dear Senator Blendu and Representative Huppenthal:

Our Office has recently completed a 24-month followup of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission—Wildlife Management Program regarding the implementation status of the 8 audit recommendations (including sub-parts of the recommendations) presented in the performance audit report released in May 2001 (Auditor General Report No. 01-8). As the attached grid indicates:

- 6 of the 8 recommendations have been implemented; and
- 2 recommendations have not been implemented, 1 of which requires legislative action.

Unless otherwise directed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, this report concludes our follow-up work on the Department's efforts to implement the recommendations resulting from the May 2001 performance audit.

Sincerely,

Debbie Davenport
Auditor General

Attachment

cc: Mr. Duane Shroufe, Director
Arizona Game and Fish Department

**AZ GAME AND FISH COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT
Wildlife Management Program
24-Month Follow-Up Report To
Auditor General Report No. 01-08**

FINDING I: Specific Decisions Needed To Help Address Elk Population and Habitat Concerns

Recommendation	Status of Implementing Recommendation	Explanation for Recommendations That Have Not Been Implemented
<p>1. The Legislature should consider establishing a small, formal, ongoing task force mandated with developing a comprehensive plan for managing forage with specific agreed-upon objectives, and for recommending methods for mitigating private property damages and forage competition between wildlife and cattle. The task force's membership could include legislators, representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, the State Land Department, the Department, landowners, ranchers, sportsmen, and scientists. The task force could also utilize the services of an Assistant Attorney General, legislative staff, and agency staff in appropriate fields, as well as the efforts of existing groups and committees to complete its duties, which should include developing and reaching consensus on the following key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comprehensive forage management plans that establish forage use objectives for wildlife and cattle on summer and winter habitats, and during drought conditions; 	<p>Not Implemented</p>	<p>The task force has not been initiated by the Legislature.</p>

**AZ GAME AND FISH COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT
Wildlife Management Program
24-Month Follow-Up Report To
Auditor General Report No. 01-08**

FINDING I: Specific Decisions Needed To Help Address Elk Population and Habitat Concerns (Concl'd)

Recommendation Issues	Status of Implementing Recommendation	Explanation for Recommendations That Have Not Been Implemented
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forage measurement and monitoring methods that are acceptable to both land managers and the Department; ▪ Agreements for actions to take when there is insufficient forage; ▪ A mechanism for cooperatively identifying areas that may need time to recover from either livestock or wildlife use, and establishing responsibility for rehabilitating those areas; ▪ Recommendations to the Legislature about adopting the appropriate tools to address depredation on private property; and ▪ Recommendations to the Legislature regarding feasible methods for addressing forage competition between livestock and wildlife on federal and state trust lands. 		

**AZ GAME AND FISH COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT
Wildlife Management Program
24-Month Follow-Up Report To
Auditor General Report No. 01-08**

FINDING II: Department Needs To Better Manage Dealer License Sales

Recommendation	Status of Implementing Recommendation	Explanation for Recommendations That Have Not Been Implemented
1. The Department should further develop its computerized licensing database into a comprehensive, accessible source of up-to-date payment and billing information.	Implemented at 18 months	
2. The Department should ensure that needed manual records, such as dealers' monthly sales reports, are appropriately date-stamped and maintained.	Implemented at 6 months	
3. The Department should seek amendments to A.R.S. §§17-338 and 17-339 to establish enforcement options, such as penalties and late fees, to be assessed against dealers who do not meet deadlines for reporting sales, remitting monies, or returning unsold licenses.	Not Implemented	The Commission determined late reporting by license dealers to be a minor problem that did not require enforcement options. Therefore, the Commission instructed the Department to terminate its efforts to secure sponsorship of the recommended legislation.

**AZ GAME AND FISH COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT
Wildlife Management Program
24-Month Follow-Up Report To
Auditor General Report No. 01-08**

FINDING II: Department Needs To Better Manage Dealer License Sales (Concl'd)

Recommendation	Status of Implementing Recommendation	Explanation for Recommendations That Have Not Been Implemented
4. The Department should establish and implement a policy stating the total amount of time, or the number of opportunities, that a dealer will be allowed to submit unsold licenses or payments before being referred to the Attorney General's Office for collection of outstanding monies.	Implemented at 6 months	
5. To help ensure delinquent dealers are identified quickly, the Department should program its computerized licensing database to identify dealers who have not submitted timely monthly sales reports and who have not responded in a timely manner to annual audits.	Implemented at 18 months	

**AZ GAME AND FISH COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT
Wildlife Management Program
24-Month Follow-Up Report To
Auditor General Report No. 01-08**

SUNSET FACTOR 2: The effectiveness with which the agency has met its objective and purpose and the efficiency with which the agency has operated.

Recommendation	Status of Implementing Recommendation	Explanation for Recommendations That Have Not Been Implemented
1. The Department should ensure the timely renewal of the licenses for hunting and fishing license dealers.	Implemented at 12 months	

**AZ GAME AND FISH COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT
Wildlife Management Program
24-Month Follow-Up Report To
Auditor General Report No. 01-08**

SUNSET FACTOR 12: The extent to which the agency has used private contractors in the performance of its duties and how effective use of private contractors could be accomplished.

Recommendation	Status of Implementing Recommendation	Explanation for Recommendations That Have Not Been Implemented
1. The Department should comply with contractual provisions to monitor its private sector contractors.	Implemented at 6 months	