



Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

Wildlife Summits Report

Final

January 3, 2005

**Arizona State Game &
Fish Department**

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Introduction

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) held four Wildlife Summits to obtain input from their stakeholders into the development of the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) as required for federal funding under the State Wildlife Grant Program. Stakeholder groups invited by AZGFD to participate in the Summits included Department constituency groups, special interests, local governments, Native American tribes, interagency cooperators, and the general public.

AZGFD contracted with Gunn Communications, Inc. (GCI) to facilitate the Summits using a real-time data collection system. During the Summits, GCI used CoNexus®, a general purpose tool for group polling, data gathering, and prioritization, to capture the opinions of the participants. Data was collected from the group using individual keypads and results were displayed instantly. After reviewing the results, Summit participants were asked to discuss their perceptions of the outcomes. At the conclusion of each Summit, the participants stated use of the CoNexus® system was effective in representing their opinions. Average effectiveness ratings ranged from 7.2 to 8.4 on a scale of 1 to 9 (9=practically perfect).



This report includes information generated by the CoNexus® software, lists created during individual and group brainstorming, and participant comments.

This information is meant to provide additional insight into the opinions and priorities of the Summit participants and should not be viewed as definitive. This information is most valuable when put into context and compared to the results of other public involvement activities. The statistical information provided in this report should be considered QUALITATIVE information and not statistically valid. The sample size was small and self-selected. The participants may not be reflective of the entire stakeholder community.

A total of 55 stakeholders participated in the Summits. Not every participant voted every section; therefore, the number of voters will vary. The first section of this report includes pie charts identifying which groups and organizations were represented and the personal hobbies and interests of the participants. Reviewing this demographic information will provide some insight into the opinions of the participants and the voting results.

The Summit agenda was divided into three parts. Part one began with a presentation on the CWCS and how the participants input will be used. The presentation was followed with a review and prioritization of AZGFD's 12 challenges using the CoNexus® dual-paired comparison software. Participants were also asked to rate on a scale of one to nine how well the Department was performing today in each of these 12 challenge areas.

Identifying stressors (threats) that may impact Arizona wildlife and habitat in the next 10 years was the focus of the second part of the Summits. Participants began by creating an individual list of stressors. The participants were divided into groups. Each group reviewed the individual lists and came to a consensus of the most important three to five stressors. The small groups posted their lists, and the group as a whole discussed, defined, and combined the stressors into one list which was voted using the CoNexus® dual-paired comparison software.

The purpose of part three was to identify and prioritize the criteria that should be used by AZGFD to identify the "Wildlife of Greatest Conservation Need." The same process that was used to create the list of stressors was used to create a list of criteria which was voted using the CoNexus® dual-paired comparison software.

This report combines the votes from each of the four Summits into one database for analysis. The results for each individual Summit are attached as separate reports. Comparisons are made in this combined report to show differences between the results of individual Summits.

The combined results have also been analyzed to determine if there were any significant differences in opinions of the various stakeholder groups. Demographic breakdowns of the individual Summit results are not included in the separate reports because they would not be statistically valid given the small number of participants at each Summit.

Participant comments are included in the individual Summit reports.



Summary of Key Findings

The stakeholders who participated in the Summits were very pleased that the Department was inviting them to participate early in the development of the CWCS and with a few exceptions stated the Department was performing well today.

Arizona Game and Fish's 12 Challenges

Wildlife habitat was identified as the most important challenge in each of the four Summits, but was usually rated as one of the lowest performing challenges. The importance ranking and performance rating for off-highway vehicle management varied significantly from Summit to Summit.

Summit participants put more value on protecting wildlife and habitats than recreational programs. It seems there may be a disconnect between what the stakeholders believed was important and where they perceived the Department was putting its resources. Some participants stated AZGFD needs to change its mission and put less emphasis on consumptive uses.

The **three most important challenges** identified by the Summit participants were:

1. Wildlife Habitat
2. Biological Information
3. Wildlife Management

The **three least important challenges** identified by Summit participants were:

1. Watercraft Management
2. Wildlife Recreation
3. Administrative Challenges

Nine of the 12 challenges were rated 50-80 on a scale of 100 by Summit participants. The five challenges AZGFD is currently **performing the best** were:

1. Wildlife Recreation
2. Information and Education
3. Law Enforcement
4. Administrative Challenges
5. Partnerships

Representatives of environmental organizations stated the Department was performing too well in providing wildlife recreation opportunities and viewed the top performance rating for wildlife recreation as a negative.

AZGFD performance was rated the **lowest** on these three challenges:

1. Off-Highway Vehicle Management
2. Watercraft Management
3. Wildlife Habitat

Stressors to Arizona Wildlife and Habitat

Each Summit created a unique list of stressors, but there were enough similarities to allow the following categorization:

- Invasive species
- Human causes – loss of habitat due to development, human manipulation, and increased demands on limited resources and for recreation
- Conflicts between humans and wildlife
- Overuse of natural resources and drought
- Ignorance or lack of respect for wildlife and natural resources by an uninformed public
- Lack of funding for wildlife and habitat management
- Fragmentation and loss of habitat and linkages
- Inconsistent management policies, priorities, and politics influencing science

Criteria for Identifying “Wildlife of Greatest Conservation Need”

Each Summit created a unique list of criteria, but there were enough similarities to allow the following categorization:

- Special status or vulnerable species
- Responsibility species - dependent on Arizona that it requires special attention regardless of other factors
- Community focal species - species that indicate or regulate the health of their wildlife communities and habitats
- Species of social or economic value
- Species for which data are lacking to determine their status
- Potential for successful recovery and management of wildlife and habitats
- Future threats to habitat and species (i.e., pollution, disease)

Demographics and Interests

The 54 participants who voted the demographic questions were asked to indicate which stakeholder group they were representing and to identify their personal interests.

As shown on Figure 1, representatives from environmental or conservation groups (22) accounted for forty percent of the participants. The next largest group of representation was from government agencies (19) including the wildlife and resource management agencies which accounted for thirty-six percent of the participants.

Although only seven percent (4) of the participants represent a sportsman's organization, fifty-four percent (29) either hunt and/or fish (Figure 2.)

Most of the participants (91%) watch wildlife and/or participate in animal welfare activities (Figure 3.)

Figure 1: Participant Representation

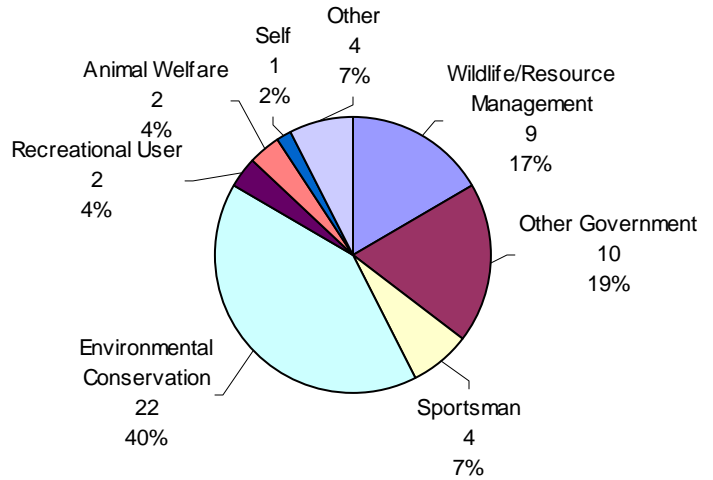


Figure 2: Hunting and Fishing

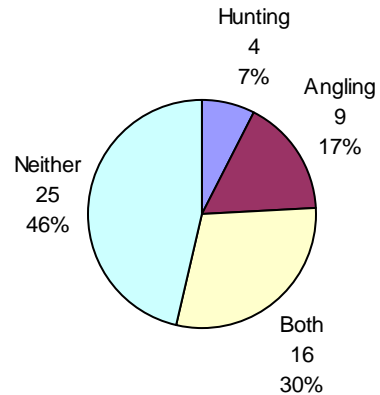
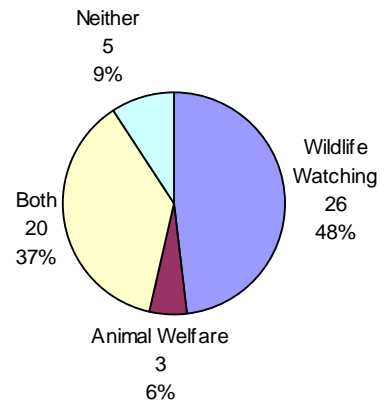


Figure 3: Wildlife



Less than half (23) of the participants use watercraft and/or off-highway vehicles (Figure 4.)

Almost all of the participants (94%) watch wildlife at home and/or participate in horticulture and gardening activities (Figure 5.)

Figure 4: Recreation

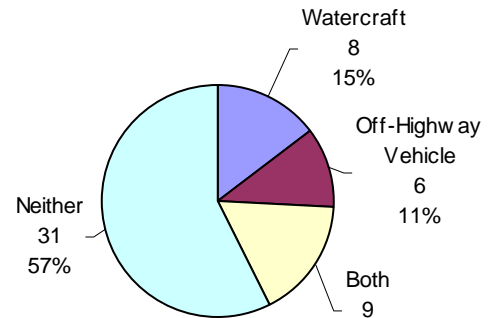
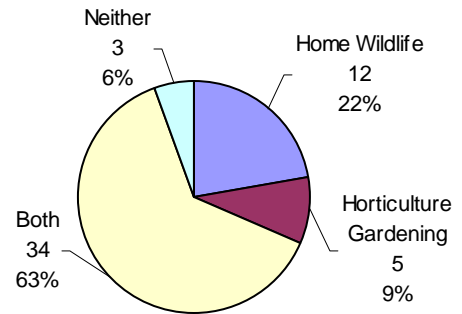


Figure 5: Home Activities



Part 1: Arizona Game and Fish’s 12 Challenges

During recent strategic planning efforts, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) staff identified 12 challenge areas. Summit participants were asked to review the list and determine **“Which one of these challenges is the most important in achieving the AZGFD’s mission.”**

***Agency Mission:** To conserve, enhance, and restore Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and habitats through aggressive protection and management programs, and to provide wildlife resources and safe watercraft and off-highway vehicle recreation for the enjoyment, appreciation, and use by present and future generations.*

The following is a description of each of the 12 challenges used during the Summit. The capital word in parentheses is the keyword used to identify the challenge on the CoNexus® graphs.

- **Planning and Funding** – Manage wildlife resources as a public trust through efficient and funded activities. (PLAN)
- **Biological Information** – Ensure that biological information used in decision making is accurate and used to implement multi-use land management. (BIO INFO)
- **Wildlife Management** - Make wildlife decisions that reflect sound science and values. (MANAGE)
- **Wildlife Habitat** - Work to ensure habitat is protected and properly managed for wildlife. (HABITAT)
- **Partnerships** – Develop partnerships that recognize wildlife as a public trust. (PARTNER)
- **Laws and Legal Considerations** – Ensure laws and policies are sufficient to protect wildlife and their habitats. (LEGAL)
- **Law Enforcement** - Enforce laws to protect wildlife, public health and safety and sustain recreation opportunities. (ENFORCE)
- **Wildlife Recreation** – Provide ample wildlife recreation opportunities for the full spectrum of wildlife recreation users. (RECREAT)
- **Information and Education** – Provide the public wildlife information and education. (EDUCATION)
- **Off-Highway Vehicle Management** – Manage off-highway vehicles impacts on wildlife and their habitats. (OHV)
- **Watercraft Management** - Manage watercraft impacts on wildlife and their habitats. (WATERCRAFT)
- **Administrative Challenges** – Maintain effective agency through sound fiscal management, business practices and well-trained workforce. (ADMIN)

A dual-paired comparison was used to determine which challenges were the most important to the Summit participants. Participants were also asked to rate on a scale of one to nine how well the AZGFD was performing in each of the challenge areas today.



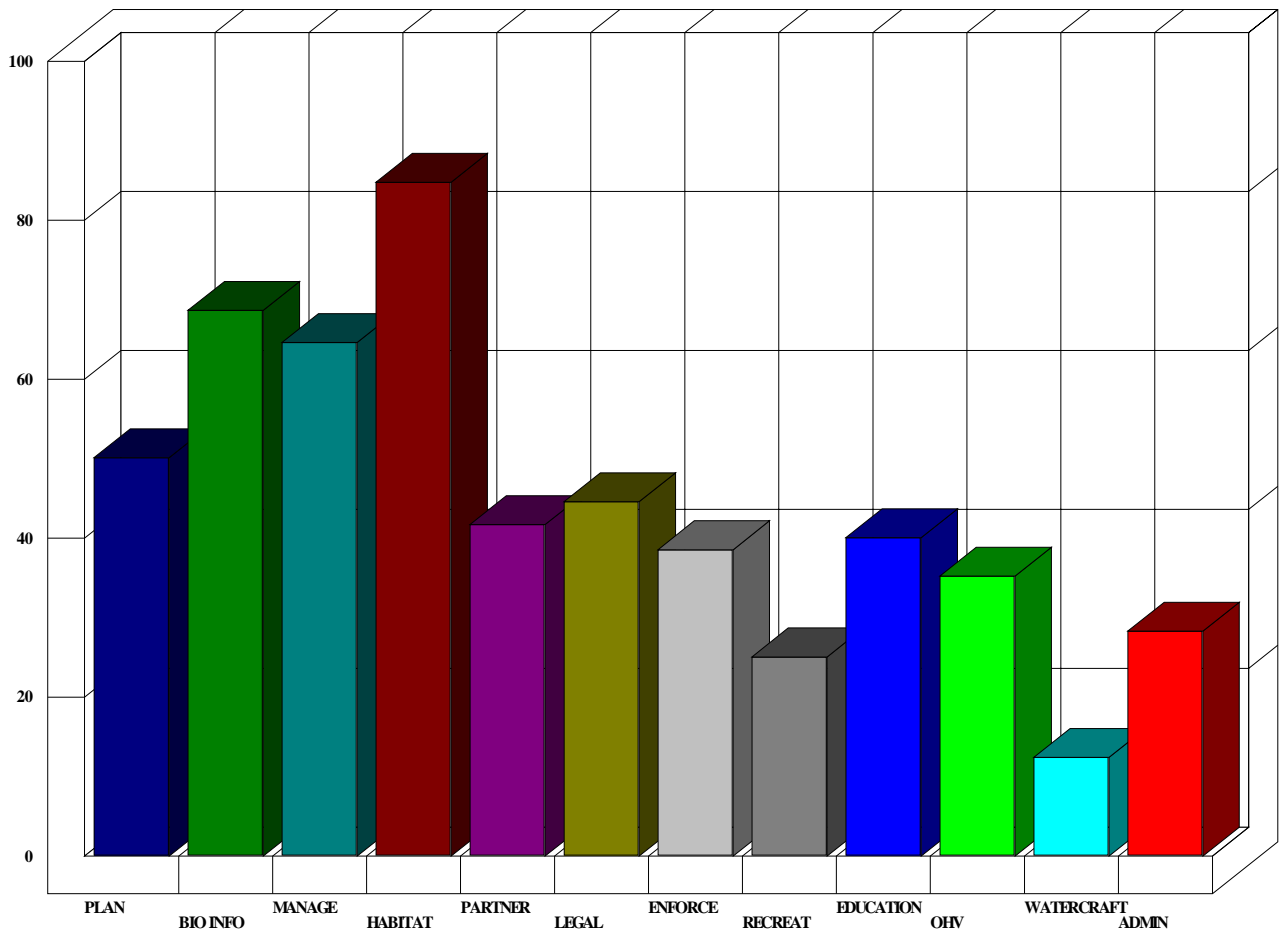
Importance

The participants ranked the importance of the 12 challenges as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Wildlife Habitat | 7. Information and Education |
| 2. Biological Information | 8. Law Enforcement |
| 3. Wildlife Management | 9. Off-Highway Vehicle Management |
| 4. Planning and Funding | 10. Administrative Challenges |
| 5. Laws and Legal Considerations | 11. Wildlife Recreation |
| 6. Partnerships | 12. Watercraft Management |

Figure 6 shows the difference in how much more important each challenge was to the group. There were significant differences in the most important “Habitat” (value=84.8) and the least important “Watercraft” (value=12.4.)

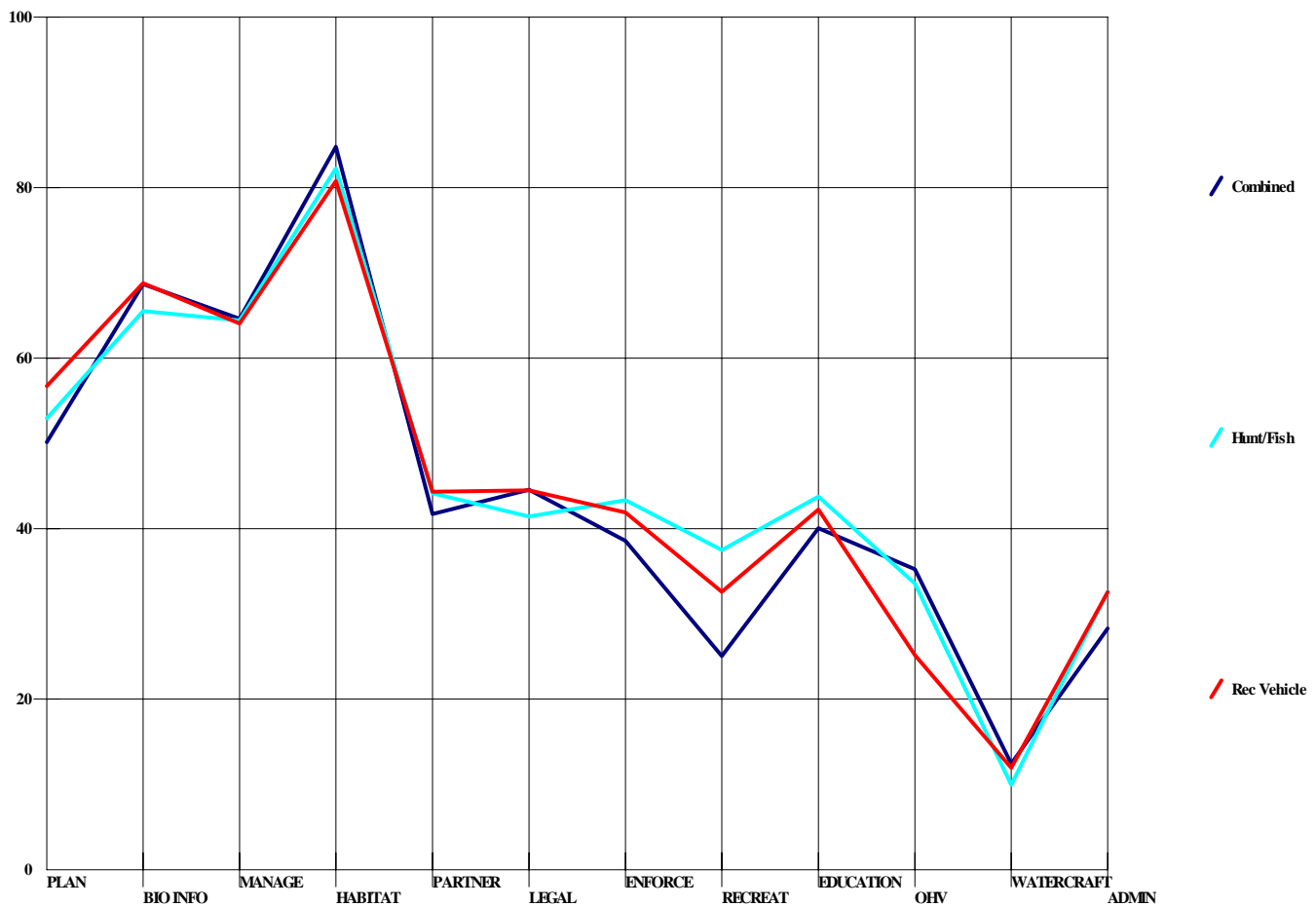
Figure 6: Importance Ranking of AZGFD’s 12 Challenges



Comparison of Importance Rankings by Interest Areas

Figure 7 compares the opinions of the participants who hunt and fish (29) and recreational vehicle users (23) to the combined group's importance rankings. These were the only two special interest areas where there was a difference of opinion. Participants who hunt and fish and recreational vehicle users groups ranked wildlife recreation higher in importance than the combined group.

Figure 7: Sportsmen and Recreation Vehicle Users



Comparison of Importance Rankings by Stakeholder Group

Figure 8 compares the importance rankings of the environmental and conservation (22) and government agency (19) representatives to the combined group. These two stakeholder groups had the most representation during the Summits. As seen on the graph below, the environmental and conservation group representatives ranked the following higher in importance than the combined group:

- Biological Information
- Wildlife Habitat
- Laws and Legal Considerations
- Off-Highway Vehicles

Representatives of environmentalist organizations gave a lower importance ranking to partnerships, wildlife recreation and information and education lower in importance than the combined group.

Figure 8: Environmental Group and Government Agency Representatives

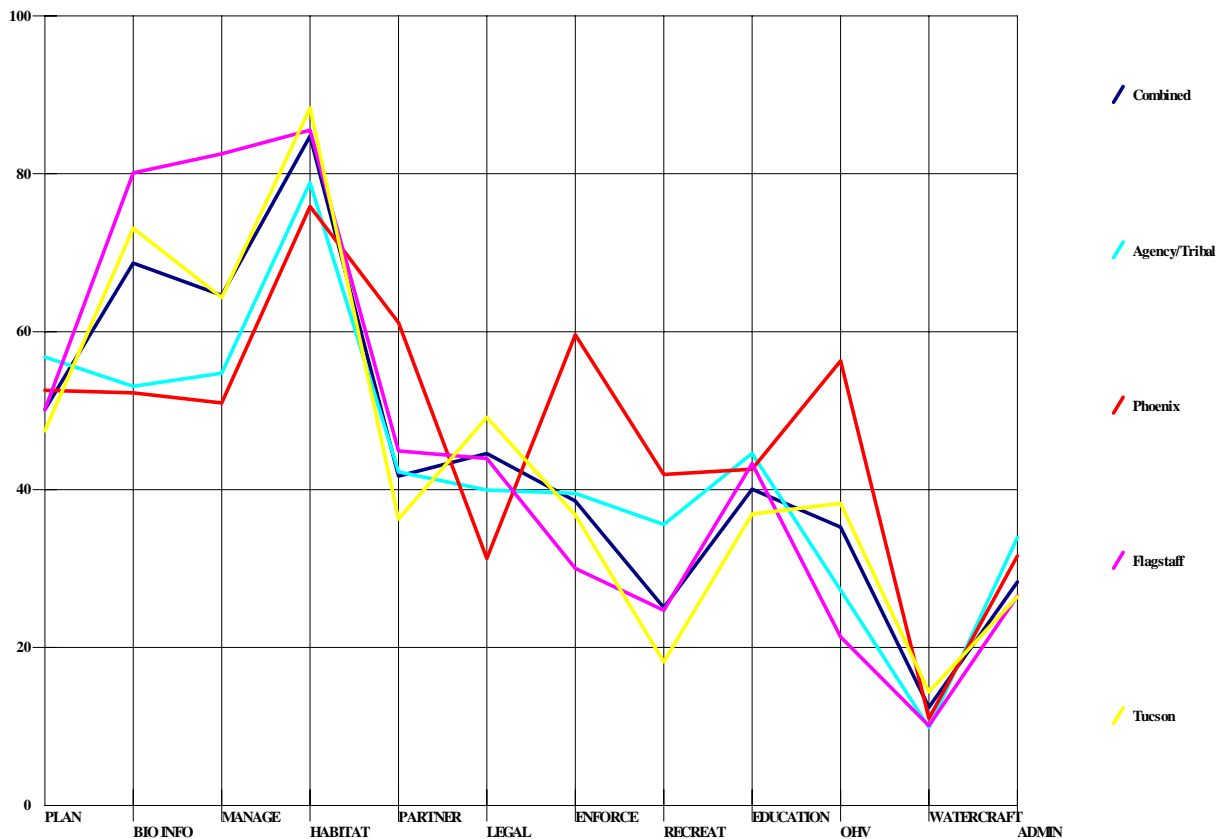


Comparison of Individual Summit Importance Rankings

Figure 9 compares how each of the individual summits ranked the 12 challenges in importance to the combined group ranking. Key findings include the following:

- All four Summits ranked wildlife habitat as the most important challenge
- Flagstaff and Tucson participants gave a significantly higher value to biological information
- Flagstaff participants ranked biological information as number two in importance just below wildlife habitat
- Phoenix participants' importance ranking varied significantly from the other Summit's results. Phoenix rated partnerships, law enforcement, and off-highway vehicle management much more important. Laws and legal considerations were less important
- Tucson participants ranked laws and legal considerations slightly more important and wildlife recreation was ranked much lower in importance

Figure 9: Importance Ranking by Summit



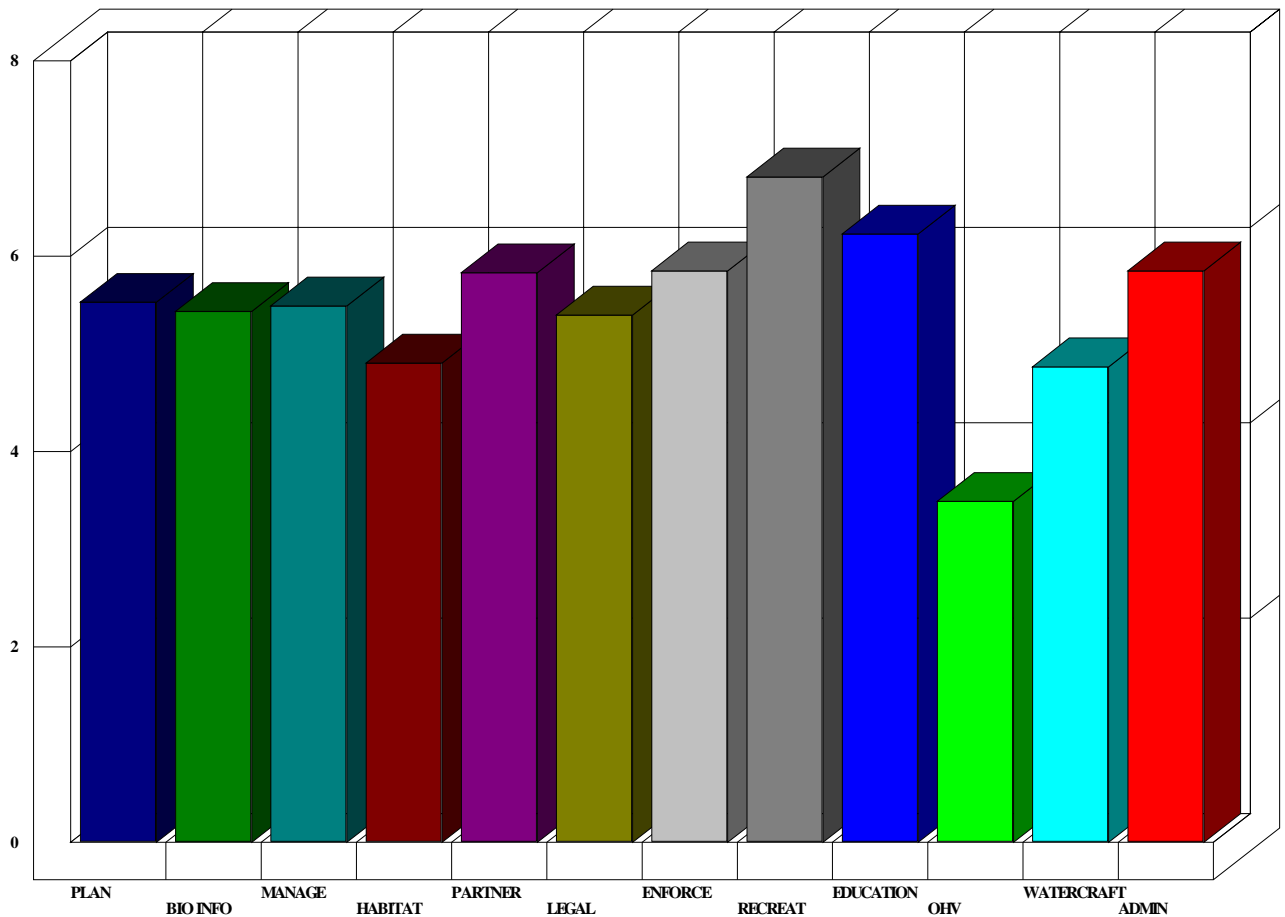
Performance

Participants also were asked to rate the current performance of the AZGFD in fulfilling each of the challenges today. A scale of 1-9 was used (9=practically perfect; 5=just getting by; 1=not at all.) Nine of the 12 challenges were had an average rating of 5 or higher. Figure 10 shows how the participants rated the performance on each of the 12 challenges. According to the participants, AZGFD is **performing the best on the following challenges:**

1. Wildlife Recreation
2. Information and Education

The **three lowest performing challenges** (average rating less than 5) were wildlife habitat, watercraft, and off-highway vehicles.

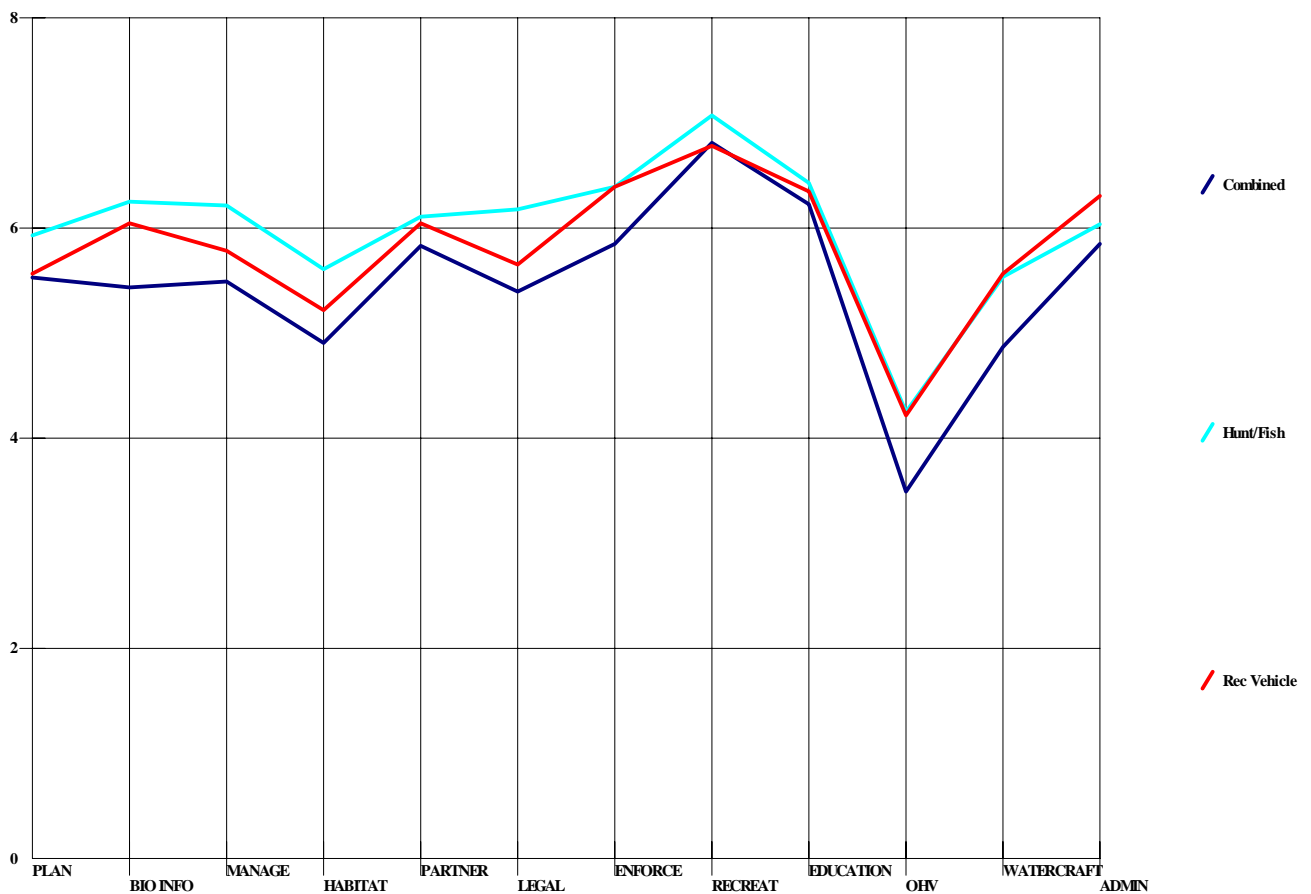
Figure 10: Current Performance by Challenge



Comparison of Performance Ratings by Interest Areas

Figure 11 compares performance rankings of the participants who hunt and fish (29) and recreational vehicle users (23) to the combined group. These were the only two special interest areas where there was a difference of opinion. Both special interest groups rated each challenge area higher in performance than the combined group.

Figure 11: Hunters and Fishermen and Recreational Vehicle Users



Comparison of Performance Ratings by Stakeholder Group

Figure 12 compares the performance rankings of environmental and conservation group (22) and government agency (19) representatives to the combined group. These two stakeholder groups had the most participation during the Summits. The government representatives gave the Department higher performance ratings for the challenges than the group as a whole.

With the exception of partnerships and wildlife recreation, environmentalists rated the Department as lower performing on the 12 challenges. Their performance rating for biological information and off-highway vehicles management were significantly lower than the performance ratings given by the government representatives.

Figure 12: Environmental Group and Government Agency Representatives

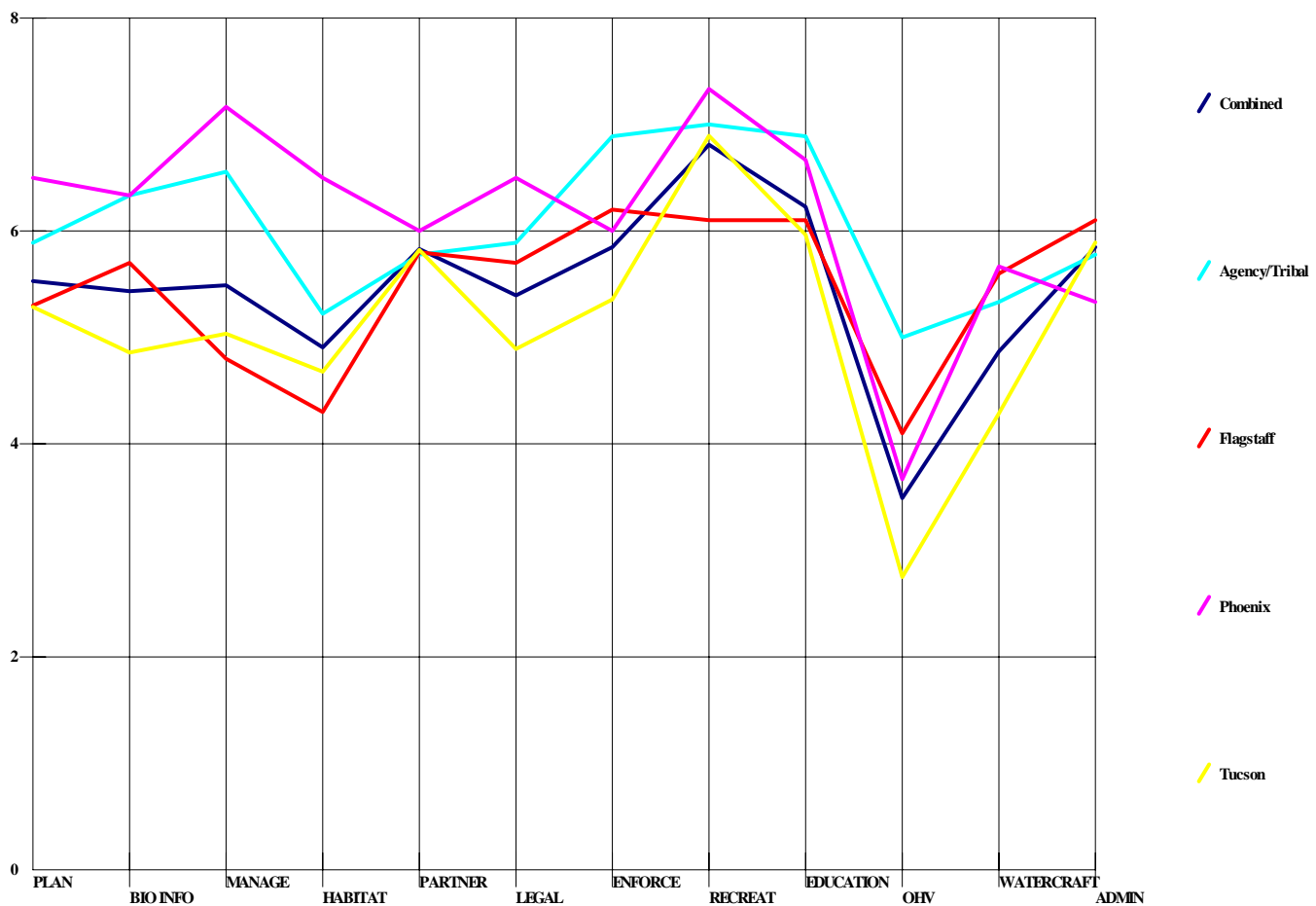


Comparison of Individual Summit Performance Ratings

Figure 13 compares the 12 challenges performance ratings of the individual Summits to the combined group rating. Key findings include the following:

- The Phoenix and Agency/Tribal Summit participants rated the challenges higher in performance
- The lowest performance ratings for wildlife habitat and wildlife recreation were given by Flagstaff participants
- Tucson participants rated the challenges lower in performance than any of the other Summits. The lowest ratings were given to the following challenges:
 - Off-Highway Vehicle Management
 - Law Enforcement
 - Laws and Legal Considerations
 - Biological Information

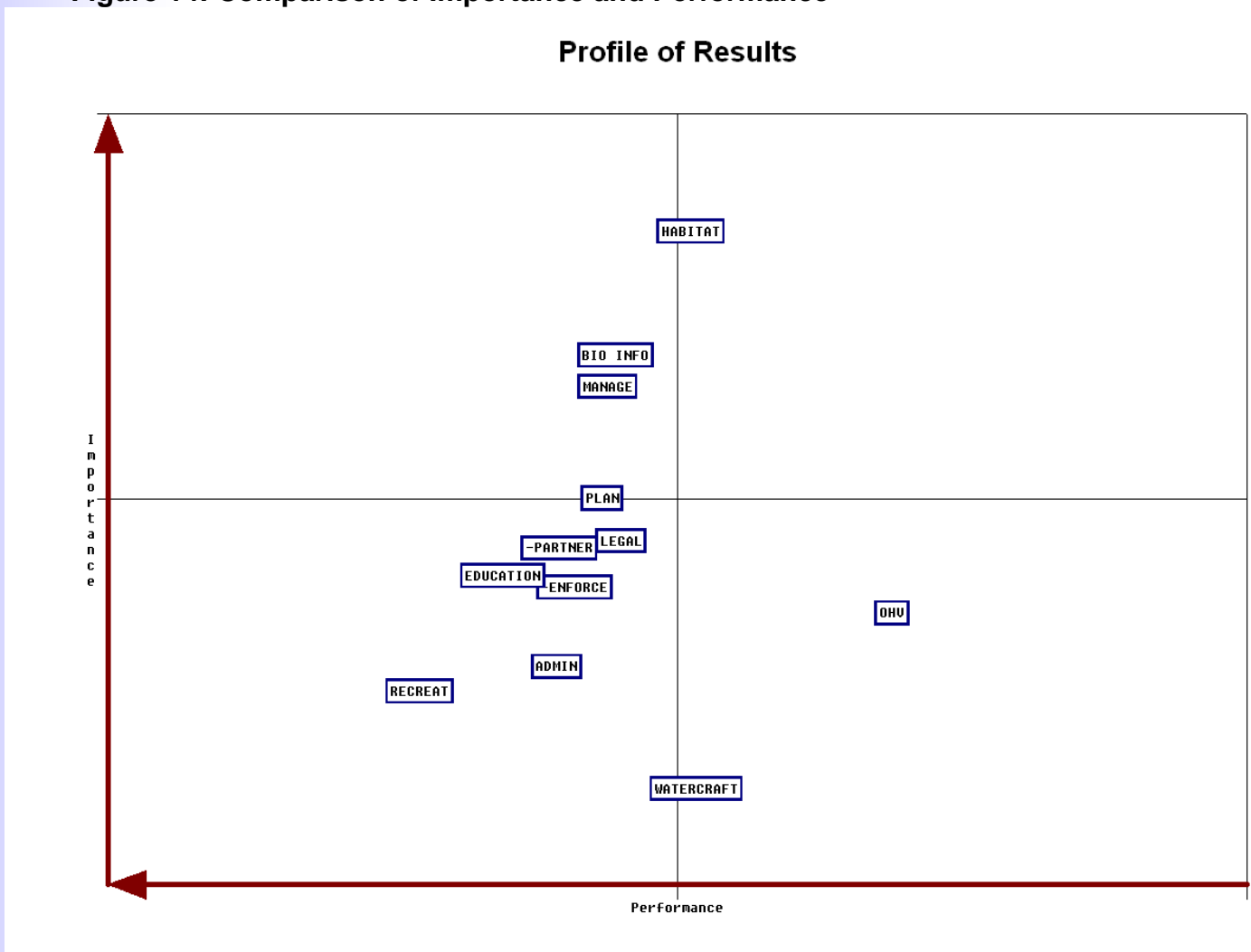
Figure 13: Performance Rating by Summit



Profile Interpretation

The CoNexus® software creates a profile showing the relationship between the importance rankings and performance ratings. Figure 14 shows the importance from top to bottom; the higher the challenge on the profile the more important it was to the participants. Performance is measured from right to left; the further left the challenge is on the profile the better the Department is performing.

Figure 14: Comparison of Importance and Performance



As seen on the profile, there are several challenges in the lower left quadrant. The participants rated the performance higher on these challenges at the same time they ranked them lower in importance. Also of note, the challenge that was the highest in performance was in the middle for performance.

The profile results seem to reinforce comments made during participant discussions. The following issues were identified through analysis of the profile results and participant comments. A listing of participant comments are included in the individual Summit reports.

- The wildlife habitat challenge needs further discussion and clarification. It was the most important challenge during each Summit but was rated third lowest in performance. Potential questions for future discussion, “What are the stakeholders’ expectations for wildlife habitat management? What can AZGFD do to meet these expectations? Are the expectations within the AZGFD mission and/or authority?”
- During Summit discussions, participants stated AZGFD is encouraging too much recreation, which is putting a strain on the state’s natural resources. Although wildlife recreation was the top performing challenge, some stakeholders stated performing too well was a bad thing. This opinion is reflected in the ranking of wildlife recreation as the second lowest in importance.
- Watercraft management was recognized by the Summit participants as a needed program. Comments were received suggesting another law enforcement agency assume the responsibility for the watercraft program.
- The importance and performance votes for off-highway vehicles varied greatly between participants. The challenge was worded to focus on managing the impacts of off-highway vehicles but a few participants stated they assumed the challenge meant the direct management of the vehicle use. Everyone seems to agree off-highway vehicles are a problem but there is no agreement on what should be done and the role of AZGFD.

Missing Challenges

The Summit participants were asked if there were any challenges missing from the list. The following are issues that the participants felt needed to be addressed by the Department:

- Coordination between AZGFD program areas and between wildlife management agencies
- Funding priorities
- Private land hunting access and impacts
- Game vs. non-game priorities and funding
- Politics influencing sound science
- Definition of pristine condition

Funding

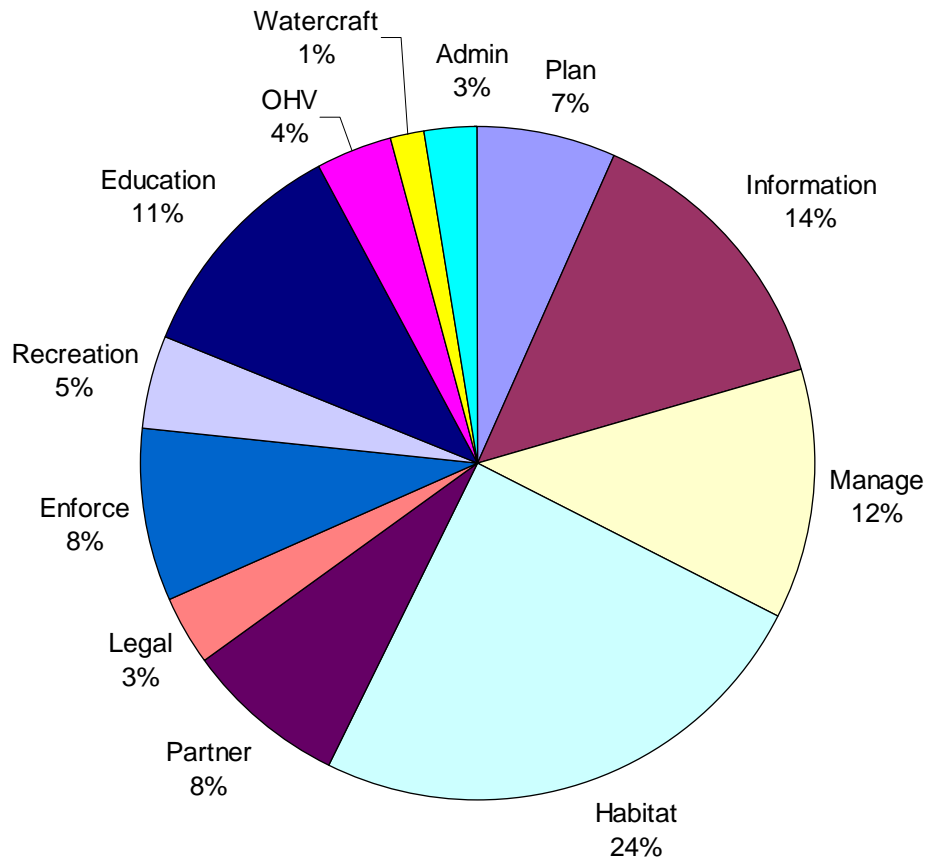
Each participant was given ten gold coins representing \$100. At the back of the room were 12 folders – one for each challenge. The participants were asked to spend their money as they felt appropriate. They were instructed to spend all of their money and not to break any of the coins.

Figure 15 indicates that the participants spent 24% of their money on the most important challenge – wildlife habitat. The next highest funded challenge was biological information (14%) which was second in importance. The spending priorities were very similar to the importance ranking with the following exceptions:

- Planning and funding was voted as the fourth most important challenge (as shown on Figure 6) but only received the seventh highest amount of money
- Information and education ranked seventh in importance (as shown on Figure 6) and received the fourth highest amount of money
- Laws and legal considerations ranked fifth in importance but was tenth in spending receiving only 3% of the funds

Participants commented it was difficult to put money into the administration, planning and enforcement categories when they perceived a more urgent need for additional resources to support habitat and wildlife management. Most realized there was not enough money to fund all of the challenges.

Figure 15: Money Spent by Challenge



Part 2: Stressors to Arizona's Natural Habitats and Wildlife

Each participant was asked to identify three stressors (threats) to Arizona's natural habitats and wildlife they believed were the most important to be addressed in the next ten years. The participants were then divided into groups and asked to review their individual list of stressors and come to a consensus on five top stressors. The participants defined, discussed, and combined the small group list of stressors into one list which was voted using the CoNexus® dual-paired comparison software.

Because **each Summit prepared their own list of stressors**, it is not possible to combine the results. Listed below are the stressors lists in order of importance identified at each summit. Participant comments are included in the individual Summit reports.

Agency/Tribal Summit Stressors:

1. Human development - built environment
2. Water quantity and quality – over pumping, diversions, degradation from pollution
3. Overuse of natural resources
4. Invasive species
5. Lack of respect for wildlife and resources
6. Ignorance of wildlife and resources
7. Human wildlife conflicts - interface between humans and wildlife
8. Recreational demand

Phoenix Summit Stressors:

1. Human causes - loss of habitat due to development and growing population
2. Lack of public priority for wildlife
3. Conflicts - land use and wildlife conflicts
4. Lack of wildlife funding
5. Contamination and invasion of species and habitat - pollution
6. Natural causes - loss of habitat due to drought

Flagstaff Summit Stressors:

1. Fragmentation and loss of habitat and linkages
2. Increased human demands on limited natural resources
3. Negative impacts from human manipulation - fire suppression, non-native species

4. Politics superseding sound science and implementation
5. Inconsistency management policies and goals between land stewards
6. Lack of funding

Tucson Summit Stressors:

1. Habitat loss/fragmentation - associated with growth and development
2. Habitat degradation due to resource use
3. Exotic invasive species
4. Land use priorities don't match wildlife needs
5. Inadequate funding for monitoring and management
6. Lack of an informed and supportive public
7. Lack of inter(intra)-agency coordination and inconsistent laws and policies
8. Illegal and depreciative behavior

After the vote, some of the Tucson participants believed that water loss and degradation should have been included in the list of stressors that were voted by the group. To address their concerns, the group voted a quick poll on the importance of water loss and degradation as a stressor. The group rated water loss and degradation was very important (average 8.5 on a scale of 1 to 9.)

Stressors Summary

To help identify similarities and provide a summary, the stressor list from each Summit was combined into the following groups:

Invasive species

- Invasive species
- Contamination and invasion of species and habitat (pollution)
- Exotic invasive species

Human Causes – loss of habitat due to development, human manipulation, increased demands on limited resources and for recreation

- Human development - built environment
- Human causes - loss of habitat due to development and growing population
- Negative impacts from human manipulation fire suppression, non-native species
- Increased human demands on limited natural resources
- Recreational demand

Conflicts between humans and wildlife

- Human wildlife Conflicts - interface between humans and wildlife
- Conflicts - land use and wildlife conflicts

Overuse of Natural Resources and Drought

- Overuse of natural resources
- Water quantity and quality - over pumping - diversions - degradation from pollution
- Natural causes - loss of habitat due to drought

Ignorance, lack of respect for wildlife and natural resources by an uninformed public

- Lack of respect for wildlife and resources
- Ignorance for wildlife and resources
- Illegal and depreciative behavior
- Lack of an informed and supportive public

Lack of funding for wildlife and habitat management

- Lack of wildlife funding
- Lack of public priority for wildlife
- Lack of funding
- Inadequate funding for monitoring and management

Fragmentation and loss of habitat and linkages

- Fragmentation and loss of habitat and linkages
- Habitat loss/fragmentation associated with growth and development
- Habitat degradation due to resource use

Inconsistent management policies, priorities and politics influencing science

- Inconsistency management policies and goals between land stewards
- Politics superseding sound science and implementation
- Land use priorities don't match wildlife needs
- Lack of inter(intra)-agency coordination and inconsistent laws and policies



Part 3: Criteria for Identifying “Wildlife of Greatest Conservation Need”

Each participant was asked to identify three criteria to be used by AZGFD to select the “Wildlife of Greatest Conservation Need.” The participants were then divided into groups and asked to review their individual list of criteria and come to a consensus on five top criteria. The participants defined, discussed, and combined the small group list of criteria into one list, which was voted using the CoNexus® dual-paired comparison software.

Because **each Summit prepared their own list of criteria**, it is not possible to combine the results. Listed below are the criteria lists in order of importance from each summit. Participant comments are included in the individual Summit reports.

Agency/Tribal Summit Criteria:

1. Special status - federally listed - state species of concern - BLM/FS sensitive
2. Threats - future threats to habitat and species i.e. pollution - disease
3. Habitat status
4. Habitat trends
5. Responsibility - species so dependent on AZ that it requires special attention regardless of other factors
6. Population trend - increasing or decreasing over time
7. Population size - number of individuals in the population
8. Population distribution - where they are

Phoenix Summit Criteria:

1. Impact on the ecosystem
2. Functional species - providing vital functions within ecosystems
3. Economic value - providing significant economic value
4. Indicator species - bio community health
5. Economic impacts
6. Potential for success
7. Legal constraints and opportunities
8. Heritage species

Flagstaff Summit Criteria:

1. Species for which further conservation efforts support ecosystem goals
2. Ensure native species diversity

3. Consider population trends and sizes proactively
4. Keystone species
5. Native and unique species
6. Endangered species
7. Indicator species
8. Species with large area requirements
9. Umbrella species

Tucson Summit Criteria:

1. Declining suitable habitat
2. Threatened, endangered, sensitive
3. Demographic vulnerability
4. Geographic limited distribution- includes endemic
5. Umbrella - keystone species
6. Sensitivity to disturbance
7. Species lacking data

Criteria Summary

To help identify similarities and provide a summary, the criteria list from each Summit was combined into the following groups:

Special Status or Vulnerable Species

- Population size - number of individuals in the population
- Population trend - increasing or decreasing over time
- Habitat trends- increasing or decreasing over time
- Habitat status – suitability of habitat for wildlife
- Population distribution - where they are
- Legal constraints and opportunities
- Demographic vulnerability – species that are highly sensitive to disturbance
- Special status - federally listed - state species of concern - BLM/FS sensitive
- Threatened, endangered, sensitive

Responsibility Species – so dependent on Arizona that it requires special attention regardless of other factors

- Native and unique species
- Geographic limited distribution - includes endemics (only found in specific areas and no where else)
- Ensure native species diversity

Community Focal Species (i.e. species that indicate or regulate the health of their wildlife communities and habitats)

- Indicator species - biological community health
- Species for which further conservation efforts support ecosystem goals
- Umbrella species
- Keystone species
- Functional species - providing vital functions within ecosystems
- Species with large area requirements

Species of Social or Economic Value

- Economic value - providing significant economic value
- Economic impacts
- Heritage species – recognized as state or national symbols

Species for which data are lacking to determine their status

Potential for successful recovery and management of wildlife and habitats

Future threats to habitat and species (i.e. pollution – disease)



Agency/Tribal
Wildlife Summit

October 15, 2004

Demographics and Interest Areas

9 Participants:

- Carol Beardmore, Sonoran Joint Venture
- David BeMiller, US Border Patrol, Tucson Sector
- Brian Davidson, ADEQ
- Katie Decker, Arizona Department of Agriculture
- Elisabeth Lawaczek, ADHS
- Mark Martinez, USFWS
- Henry Messing, US Bureau of Reclamation
- Susan Schuhardt, Prescott National Forest
- Steve Smarik, USDA-NRCS

The participants were asked to indicate which stakeholder group they were representing during the summit and to identify their personal interests.

Demographic results indicate the group was fairly homogenous:

- 7 represent a government agency (Figure A-1.)
- 5 hunt and/or fish (Figure A-2.)
- 7 watch wildlife away from home (Figure A-3.)
- 2 use off-highway vehicles and 1 uses an off-highway vehicle to launch a boat (Figure A-4.)
- 9 garden and/or watch wildlife at their home (Figure A-5.)

Figure A-1: Participant Representation

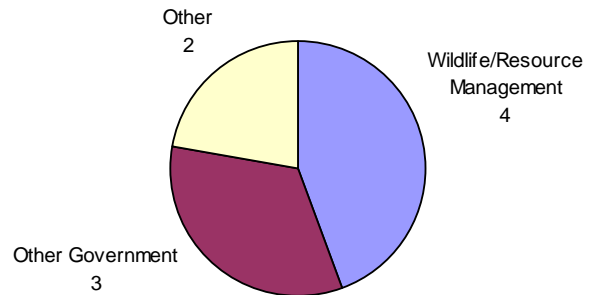


Figure A-2: Hunting and Fishing

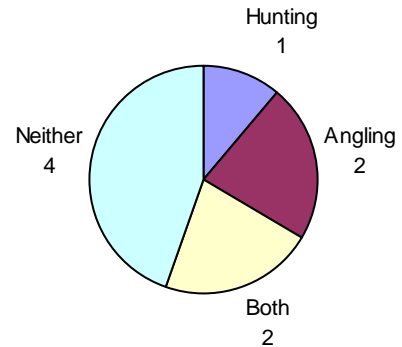


Figure A-3: Wildlife

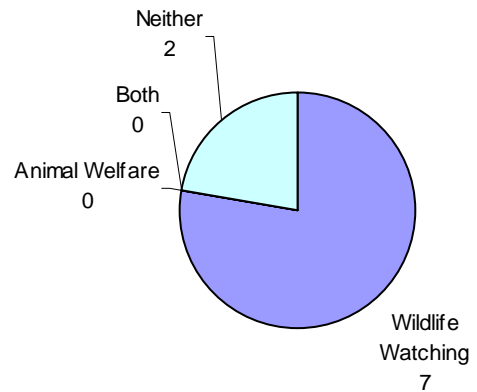


Figure A-4: Recreation

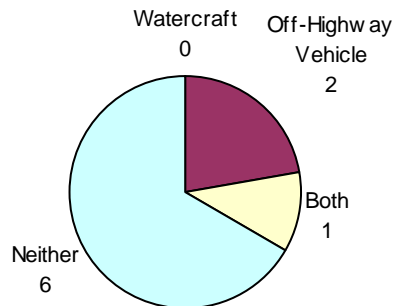
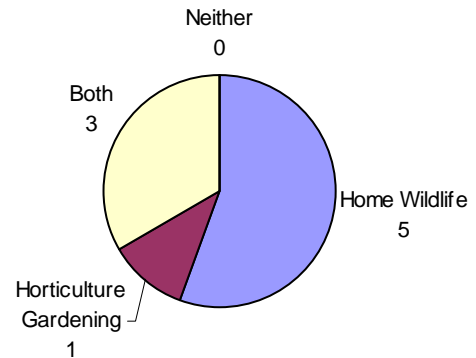


Figure A-5: Home Activities



Part 1: Arizona Game and Fish's 12 Challenges

During recent strategic planning efforts, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) staff identified 12 challenge areas. Summit participants were asked to review the list and determine “Which one of these challenges is the most important in achieving the AZGFD’s mission.”

***Agency Mission:** To conserve, enhance, and restore Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and habitats through aggressive protection and management programs, and to provide wildlife resources and safe watercraft and off-highway vehicle recreation for the enjoyment, appreciation, and use by present and future generations.*

The following is a description of each of the 12 challenges used during the Summit. The capital word in parentheses is the keyword used to identify the challenge on the CoNexus® graphs.

- **Planning and Funding** – Manage wildlife resources as a public trust through efficient and funded activities. (PLAN)
- **Biological Information** – Ensure that biological information used in decision making is accurate and used to implement multi-use land management. (BIO INFO)
- **Wildlife Management** - Make wildlife decisions that reflect sound science and values. (MANAGE)
- **Wildlife Habitat** - Work to ensure habitat is protected and properly managed for wildlife. (HABITAT)

- **Partnerships** – Develop partnerships that recognize wildlife as a public trust. (PARTNER)
- **Laws and Legal Considerations** – Ensure laws and policies are sufficient to protect wildlife and their habitats. (LEGAL)
- **Law Enforcement** - Enforce laws to protect wildlife, public health and safety and sustain recreation opportunities. (ENFORCE)
- **Wildlife Recreation** – Provide ample wildlife recreation opportunities for the full spectrum of wildlife recreation users. (RECREAT)
- **Information and Education** – Provide the public wildlife information and education. (EDUCATION)
- **Off-Highway Vehicle Management** – Manage off-highway vehicles impacts on wildlife and their habitats. (OHV)
- **Watercraft Management** - Manage watercraft impacts on wildlife and their habitats. (WATERCRAFT)
- **Administrative Challenges** – Maintain effective agency through sound fiscal management, business practices and well-trained workforce. (ADMIN)

A dual-paired comparison was used to determine which challenges were the most important to the Summit participants. Participants were also asked to rate how well the AZGFD was performing today in each of the challenge areas.

Overwhelmingly, the group agreed that working to ensure that habitats are protected and properly managed for wildlife was the most important challenge for the Department.



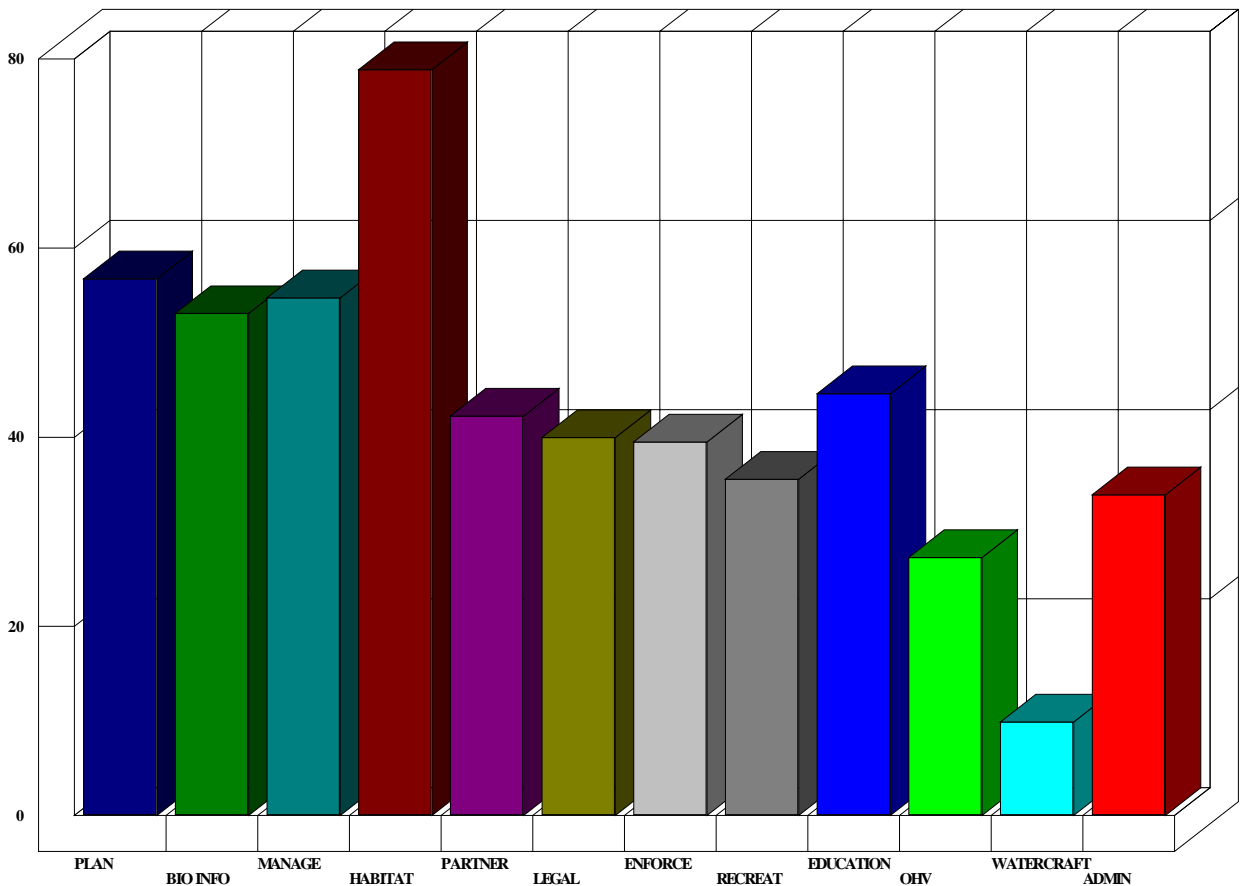
Importance

The participants ranked the importance of the 12 challenges as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Wildlife Habitat | 7. Laws and Legal Considerations |
| 2. Planning and Funding | 8. Law Enforcement |
| 3. Wildlife Management | 9. Wildlife Recreation |
| 4. Biological Information | 10. Administrative Challenges |
| 5. Information and Education | 11. Off-Highway Vehicle Management |
| 6. Partnerships | 12. Watercraft Management |

Figure A-6 shows the difference in how much more important each challenge was to the group. There were significant differences in the most important wildlife habitat (value=78.9) and the least important watercraft management (value=9.9.)

Figure A-6: 12 Challenges by Importance



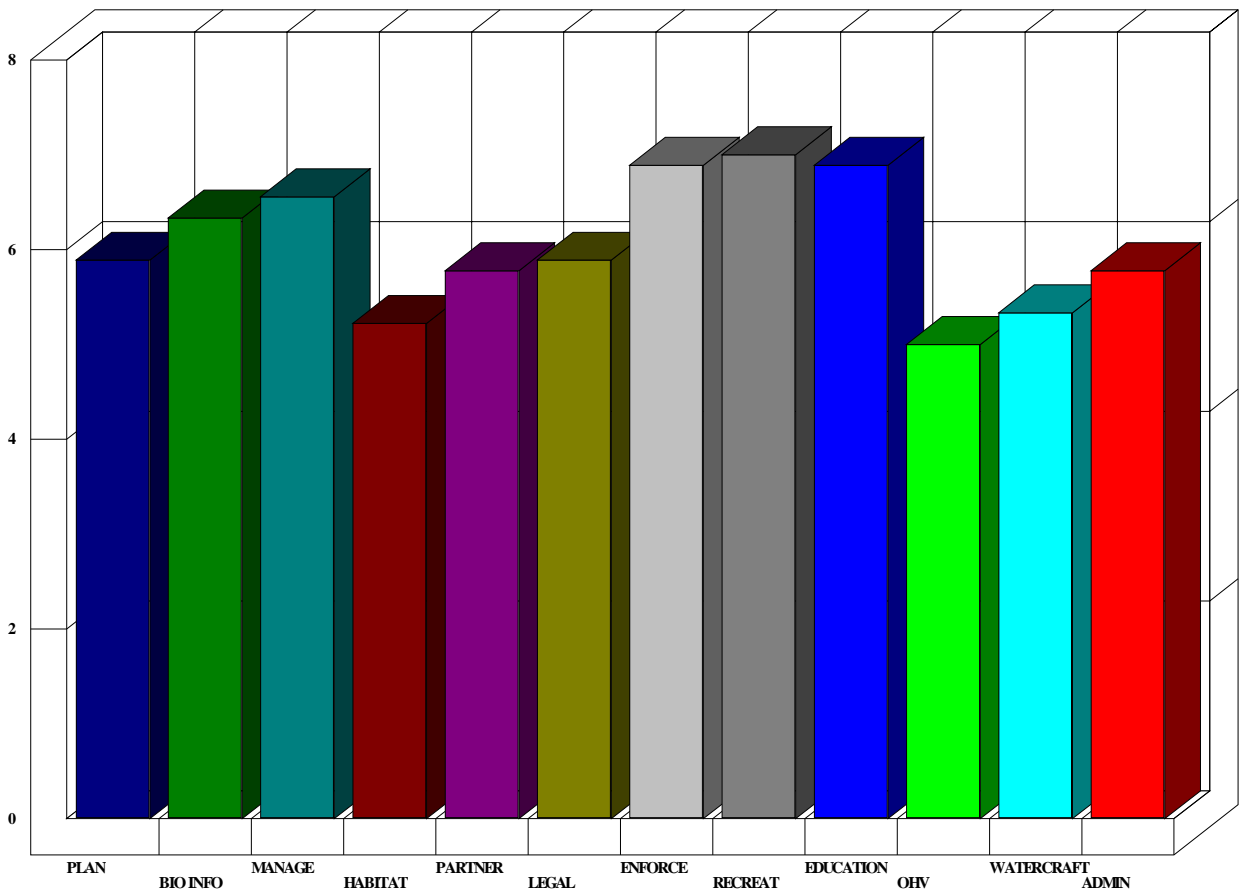
Performance

Participants also were asked to rate the current performance of the AZGFD in fulfilling each of the challenges today. A scale of 1-9 was used (9=practically perfect; 5=just getting by; 1=not at all.) All of the 12 challenges received a rating of 5 or higher. According to the participants, AZGFD is performing the best on the following 5 challenges:

1. Wildlife Recreation
2. Law Enforcement
3. Information and Education
4. Wildlife Management
5. Biological Information

Figure A-7 shows how the participants rated the performance on each of the 12 challenges.

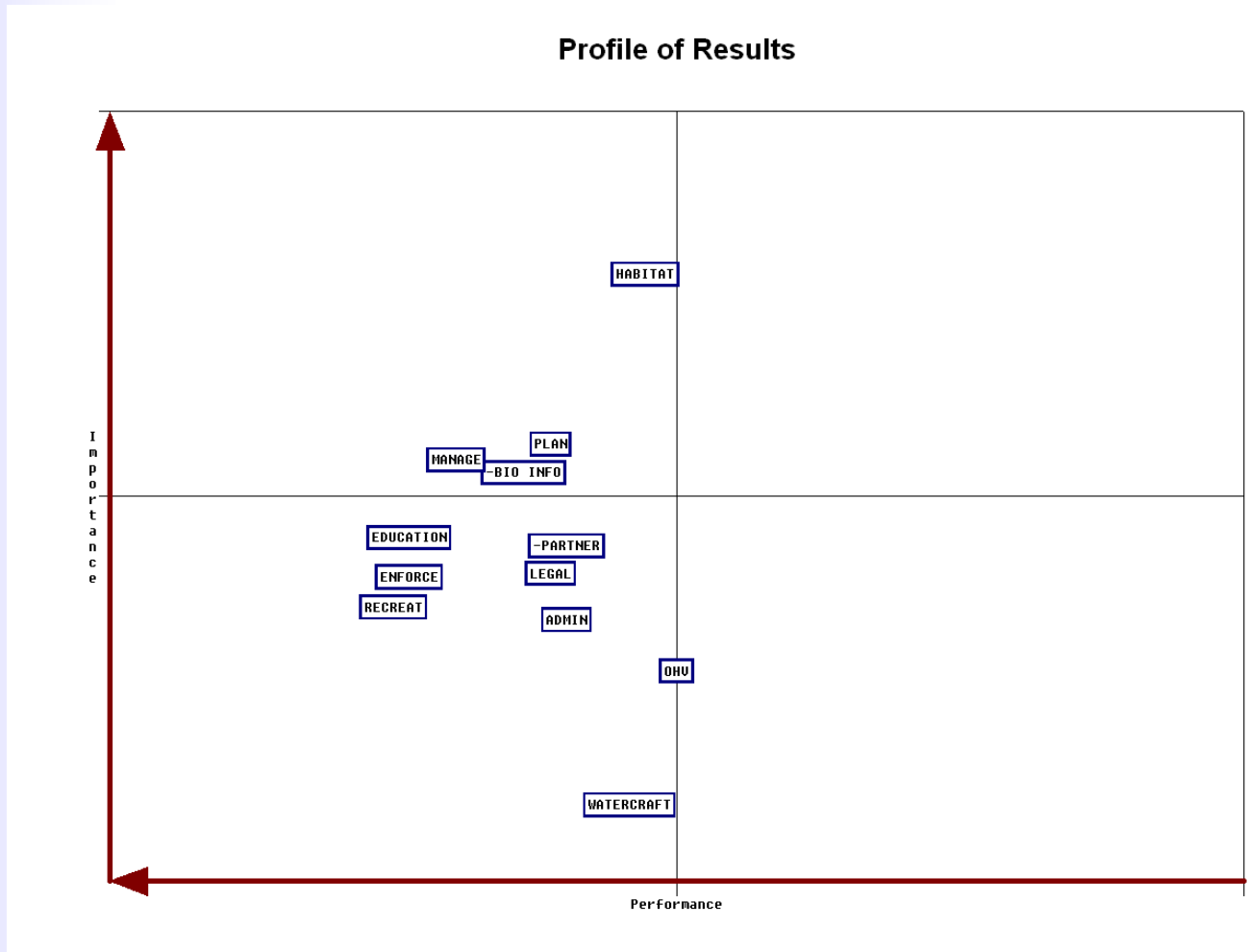
Figure A-7: Current Performance by Challenge



Profile Interpretation

The CoNexus® software creates a profile showing the relationship between the importance rankings and performance ratings. Figure A-8 shows the importance from top to bottom; the higher the challenge on the profile the more important it was to the participants. Performance is measured from right to left; the further left the challenge is on the profile the better the Department is performing.

Figure A-8: Comparison of Importance and Performance



Group Discussion

Off-highway vehicle management:

- Maybe people believed that several of the topics covered more than one issue. Off-highway vehicle manager could be part of law enforcement or habitat management, for example.
- The results probably reflect the makeup of the group. I don't think anyone here is an OHV enthusiast.

Habitat Management:

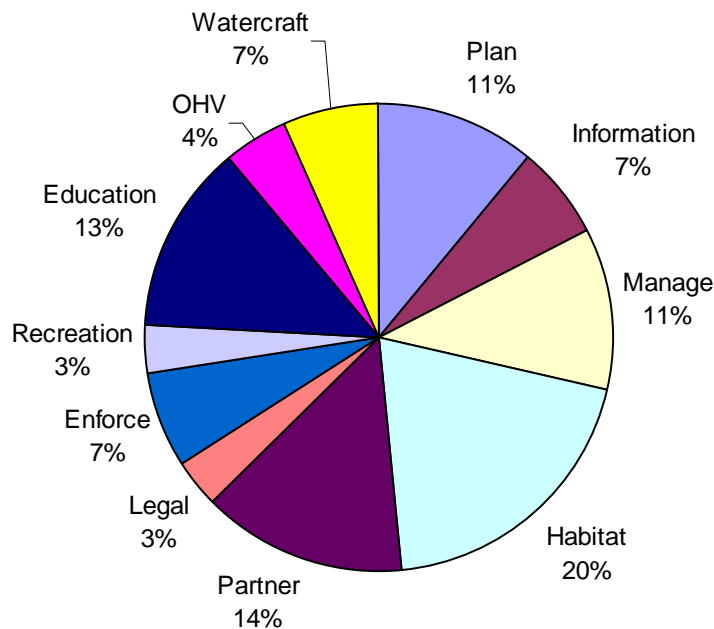
- I don't think Game and Fish has a lot of say-so about habitat management. That seems to be more a function of the federal government and tribal agencies. Game and Fish manages the wildlife.
- It could be a marketing issue. Game and Fish may be doing a great job of managing wildlife habitat but nobody knows it.

Funding

Each participant was given ten gold coins representing \$100. At the back of the room were 12 folders – one for each challenge. The participants were asked to spend their money as they felt appropriate. They were instructed to spend all of their money and not to break any of the coins.

Figure A-9 shows that the participants spent 20% of their money on wildlife habitat; their most important challenge (as shown on Figure A-6). The next highest funded challenge (14%) was partnerships which was sixth in importance. As representatives of wildlife agencies, the participants stated they felt the additional funding would enable them to develop more effective partnerships with AZGFD resulting in enhanced protection of wildlife habitat.

Figure A-9: Money Spent by Challenge



Group Discussion

- It doesn't seem there is enough money to spend. Some things probably are being short-changed.
- I would put most of my money into planning. That should cover just about everything.

- I didn't put anything into administration. I know it is necessary, but it is very hard to put a high priority on it when there are so many important Game and Fish functions and too little money to go around.
- More money probably should go into information and education.
- Most people think of Game and Fish in terms of hunting and fishing, not wildlife habitat management.
- I would put a lot into habitat management. It's just a matter of prioritizing what the agency does.

Part 2: Stressors (Threats) to Arizona's Natural Habitats and Wildlife

Stressors Identified by Individuals

Each participant was asked to identify three stressors (threats) to Arizona's natural habitats and wildlife that they felt were the most important to be addressed in the next ten years. This brainstorming activity resulted in the following list of stressors:

- Excessive recreational demand
- Groundwater depletion
- Urban sprawl
- Water use and conservation
- Development
- Habitat destruction
- Invasive species
- Water – increase diversion, increase groundwater depletion
- Urban wild land conflicts
- Habitat fragmentation and loss
- Road development
- Planning and zoning development
- Land development – urban, suburban, 2nd home, commercial, recreation
- Loss of habitat
- Fractured habitat
- Metropolitan growth
- Overuse of resources – grazing, timber, OHV, etc.
- Cattle grazing
- Misinformation and lack of education

Stressors Identified by Groups

The participants were divided into two groups and asked to review their individual list of stressors and come to a consensus on five top stressors. The following were the ten stressors identified by the two groups:

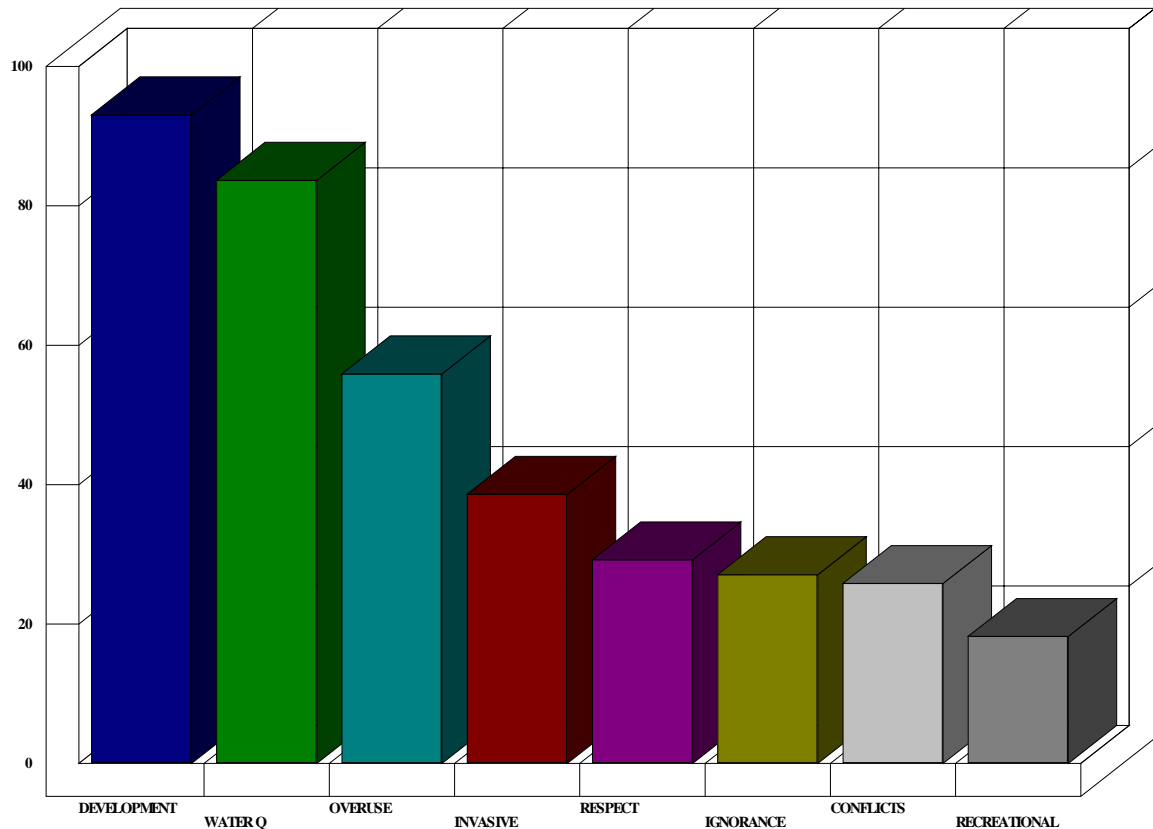
- Urban sprawl
- Forced habitat changes from growth
- Water loss
- Water
- Invasive species
- Invasive species
- Increased recreational demand
- Urban/wild land conflicts
- Misinformation/lack of education
- Overuse of resources (cattle grazing, timber)

Stressors which are the most important for AZGFD to address in the next 10 years:

The participants defined, discussed, and combined their stressors into the following list which was voted using the CoNexus® dual-paired comparison software. The capital word in parentheses is the keyword used to identify the challenge on the CoNexus® graphs.

- **Recreational Demand** (RECREATIONAL)
- **Invasive Species** (INVASIVE)
- **Human Development** - Built environment (DEVELOPMENT)
- **Human Wildlife Conflicts** - Interface between humans and wildlife (CONFLICTS)
- **Overuse of Natural Resources** (OVERUSE)
- **Water Quantity and Quality** – Over pumping, diversions, degradation from pollution (WATER Q)
- **Lack of respect** for wildlife and resources (RESPECT)
- **Ignorance** of wildlife and resources (IGNORANCE)

Figure A-10: Most Important Stressors



The stress placed on habitats and wildlife by **human development** and the **lack of and degradation of water** were ranked by the participants as the most important threats to be addressed in the next 10 years. Throughout the day, the participants discussed the impacts of recreation on wildlife and habitat but voted **recreational demand** as the least important stressor.

Group Discussion

- I really thought population growth would rank higher. That has to be the biggest single threat to wildlife.
- I'm surprised recreational demands didn't get more support. Overuse is a big problem.

Part 3: Criteria for Identifying "Wildlife of Greatest Conservation Need"

Criteria Identified by Individuals

Each participant was asked to identify three factors that should be used by AZGFD to select the "Wildlife of Greatest Conservation Need." This brainstorming activity resulted in the following list of criteria.

- Environmental threats
- Habitat degradation
- Invasive species
- Invasive species
- Balancing tourism with conservation
- Water loss from streams by groundwater pumping
- Surface water diversion
- Protecting our waterways
- Population status
- Federally listed state species of concern
BLM/FS sensitive
- Responsibility
- Threats
- Population trend
- Narrow distribution
- Population size

Criteria Identified by Groups

The participants were divided into two groups and asked to review their individual list of criteria and come to a consensus on five top criteria. The following were the 10 criteria identified by the two groups.

- Federally listed T/E
- Decreased population/distribution
- Aquatic/Riparian/Wetland/species
- Identification of diversity hotspots
- Habitat incursions
- Most at risk wildlife
- Water needs by wildlife
- Population status/trends
- Habitat status/trends
- Threats status/trends

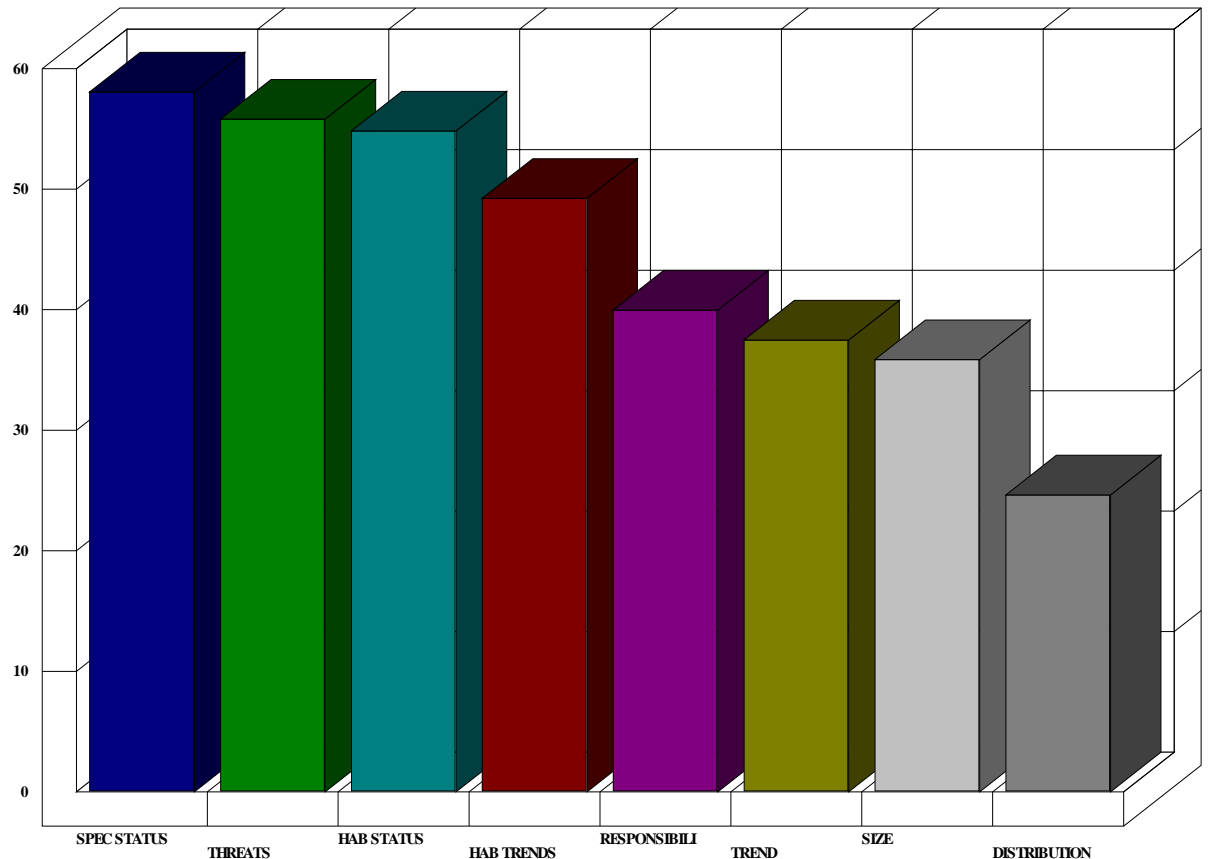


What are the factors that AZGFD should use to determine if a species needs special attention?

The participants defined, discussed, and combined their criteria into the following list which was voted using the CoNexus® dual-paired comparison software. The capital word in parentheses is the keyword used to identify the challenge on the CoNexus® graphs.

- **Population Size** - Number of individuals in the population (SIZE)
- **Population Trend** - Increasing or decreasing over time (TREND)
- **Population Distribution** - Where they are (DISTRIBUTION)
- **Threats** - Future threats to habitat and species i.e. pollution - disease (THREATS)
- **Special Status** - Federally listed - State species of concern - BLM/FS sensitive (SPEC STATUS)
- **Responsibility** - Species so dependent on AZ that it requires special attention regardless of other factors (RESPONSIBILI)
- **Habitat Trends** (HAB TRENDS)
- **Habitat Status** (HAB STATUS)

As shown in Figure A-11 (page A-13) the most important criteria were **special status**, **threats**, **habitat status** and **habitat trends**. However, it should be noted that the group was split on whether or not the criteria should be prioritized. After lengthy discussion the group agreed to vote the pairs, but two participants declined to vote.

Figure A-11: Criteria Ranked by Importance

Group Discussion

- The reason we do not want to rank these is because what may show up in one category may not show up in another, but it may be as important, if not more so and it may fall through the cracks because it was at the end of the priorities.
- The process of assessing the wildlife of greatest conservation need should take the criteria of: population trend, population size, distribution of the species, threats – including habitat threats and degree of endemism to Arizona and rank each equally in a non-prioritized or weighted process.
- I would think that the population of the species would be the most important criteria. How many are there? What are the trends?
- Using someone else's list as criteria doesn't make much sense. What this says is that the most important thing is what someone else believes is the most important thing.
- I believe we should pay attention to what others – the feds – are listing. I guess it tells Game and Fish, "don't reinvent the wheel."



Phoenix
Wildlife Summit

October 16, 2004

Demographics and Interest Areas

6 Participants

- Barbara Hawkins, Town of Wickenburg
- Tom Hulen, Desert Foothills Land Trust
- Eric Larsen, Desert Flycasters (DFC)
- Sam Campana, Audubon Arizona
- Dan Scheske, Arizona ATV Riders
- Ray Chavez, Town of Superior

The participants were asked to indicate which stakeholder group they were representing during the summit and identify their personal interests.

Demographic results indicate the group was fairly homogenous with a few exceptions.

- Even split of government representatives (2), environmentalists (2) and sportsmen (2) (Figure P-1.)
- All (6) hunt and/or fish (Figure P-2.)
- All (6) watch wildlife and/or participate in animal welfare activities (Figure P-3.)
- Half (3) use off-highway vehicles and/or watercraft. (Figure P-4.)
- Most (5) garden and/or watch wildlife at their home (Figure P-5.)

Figure P-1: Participant Representation

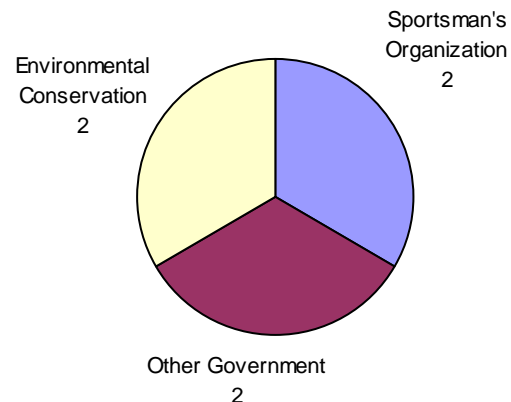


Figure P-2: Hunting and Fishing

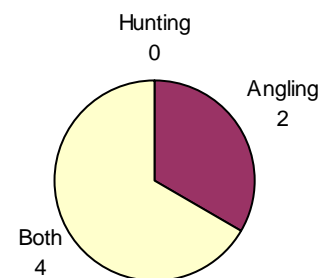


Figure P-3: Wildlife

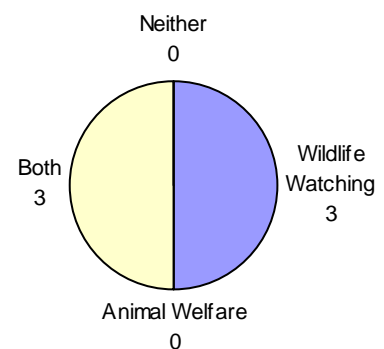


Figure P-4: Recreation

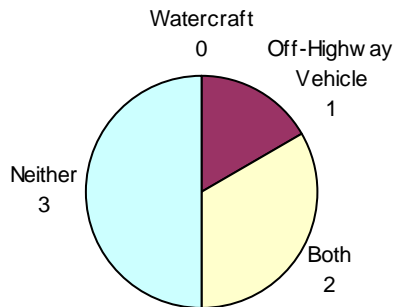
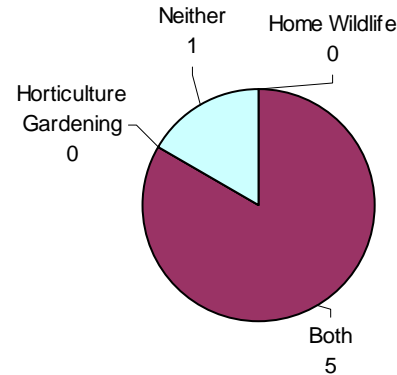


Figure P-5: Home Activities



Part 1: Arizona Game and Fish's 12 Challenges

During recent strategic planning efforts, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) staff identified 12 challenge areas. Summit participants were asked to review the list and determine **“Which one of these challenges is the most important in achieving the AZGFD’s mission.”**

***Agency Mission:** To conserve, enhance, and restore Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and habitats through aggressive protection and management programs, and to provide wildlife resources and safe watercraft and off-highway vehicle recreation for the enjoyment, appreciation, and use by present and future generations.*

The following is a description of each of the 12 challenges used during the Summit. The capital word in parentheses is the keyword used to identify the challenge on the CoNexus® graphs.

- **Planning and Funding** – Manage wildlife resources as a public trust through efficient and funded activities. (PLAN)
- **Biological Information** – Ensure that biological information used in decision making is accurate and used to implement multi-use land management. (BIO INFO)
- **Wildlife Management** - Make wildlife decisions that reflect sound science and values. (MANAGE)
- **Wildlife Habitat** - Work to ensure habitat is protected and properly managed for wildlife. (HABITAT)
- **Partnerships** – Develop partnerships that recognize wildlife as a public trust. (PARTNER)

- **Laws and Legal Considerations** – Ensure laws and policies are sufficient to protect wildlife and their habitats. (LEGAL)
- **Law Enforcement** - Enforce laws to protect wildlife, public health and safety and sustain recreation opportunities. (ENFORCE)
- **Wildlife Recreation** – Provide ample wildlife recreation opportunities for the full spectrum of wildlife recreation users. (RECREAT)
- **Information and Education** – Provide the public wildlife information and education. (EDUCATION)
- **Off-Highway Vehicle Management** – Manage off-highway vehicles impacts on wildlife and their habitats. (OHV)
- **Watercraft Management** - Manage watercraft impacts on wildlife and their habitats. (WATERCRAFT)
- **Administrative Challenges** – Maintain effective agency through sound fiscal management, business practices and well-trained workforce. (ADMIN)

A dual-paired comparison was used to determine which challenges were the most important to the Summit participants. Participants were also asked to rate how well the AZGFD was performing today in each of the challenge areas.

The group agreed that working to ensure that habitats are protected and properly managed for wildlife was the most important challenge for the Department.

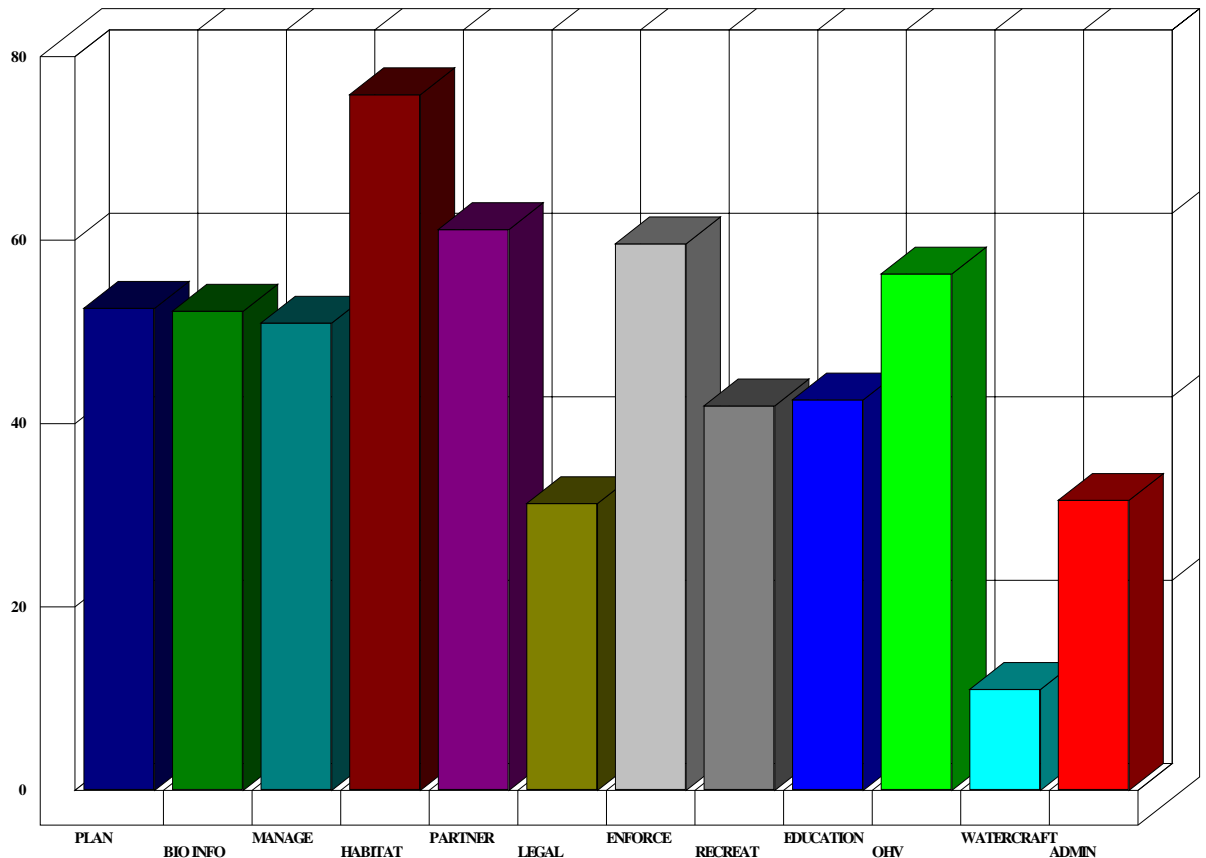
Importance

The participants ranked the importance of the 12 challenges as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Wildlife Habitat | 7. Wildlife Management |
| 2. Partnerships | 8. Information and Education |
| 3. Law Enforcement | 9. Wildlife Recreation |
| 4. Off-Highway Vehicle Management | 10. Administrative Challenges |
| 5. Planning and Funding | 11. Laws and Legal Considerations |
| 6. Biological Information | 12. Watercraft Management |

Figure P-6 shows the difference in how much more important each challenge was to the group. There were significant differences in the most important wildlife habitat (value=75.9) and the least important watercraft management (value=11.)

Figure P-6: 12 Challenges by Importance



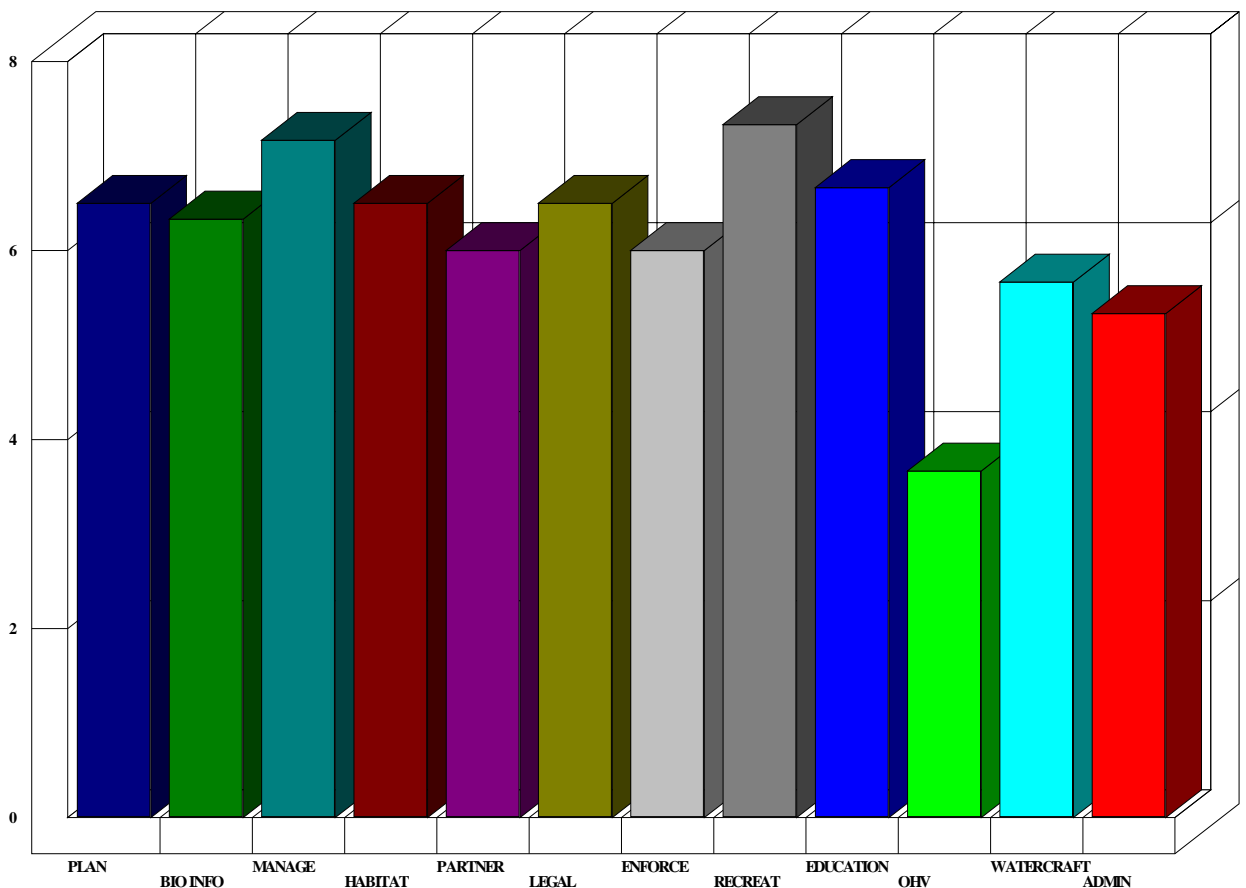
Performance

Participants also were asked to rate the current performance of the AZGFD in fulfilling each of the challenges today. A scale of 1-9 was used (9=practically perfect; 5=just getting by; 1=not at all.) All but one of the 12 challenges were rated 5 or higher. Off-highway vehicle management was the lowest in performance with a value of 33.3. According to the participants, AZGFD is performing the best on the following 3 challenges.

1. Wildlife Recreation
2. Wildlife Management
3. Information and Education

Figure P-7 shows how the participants rated the performance on each of the 12 challenges.

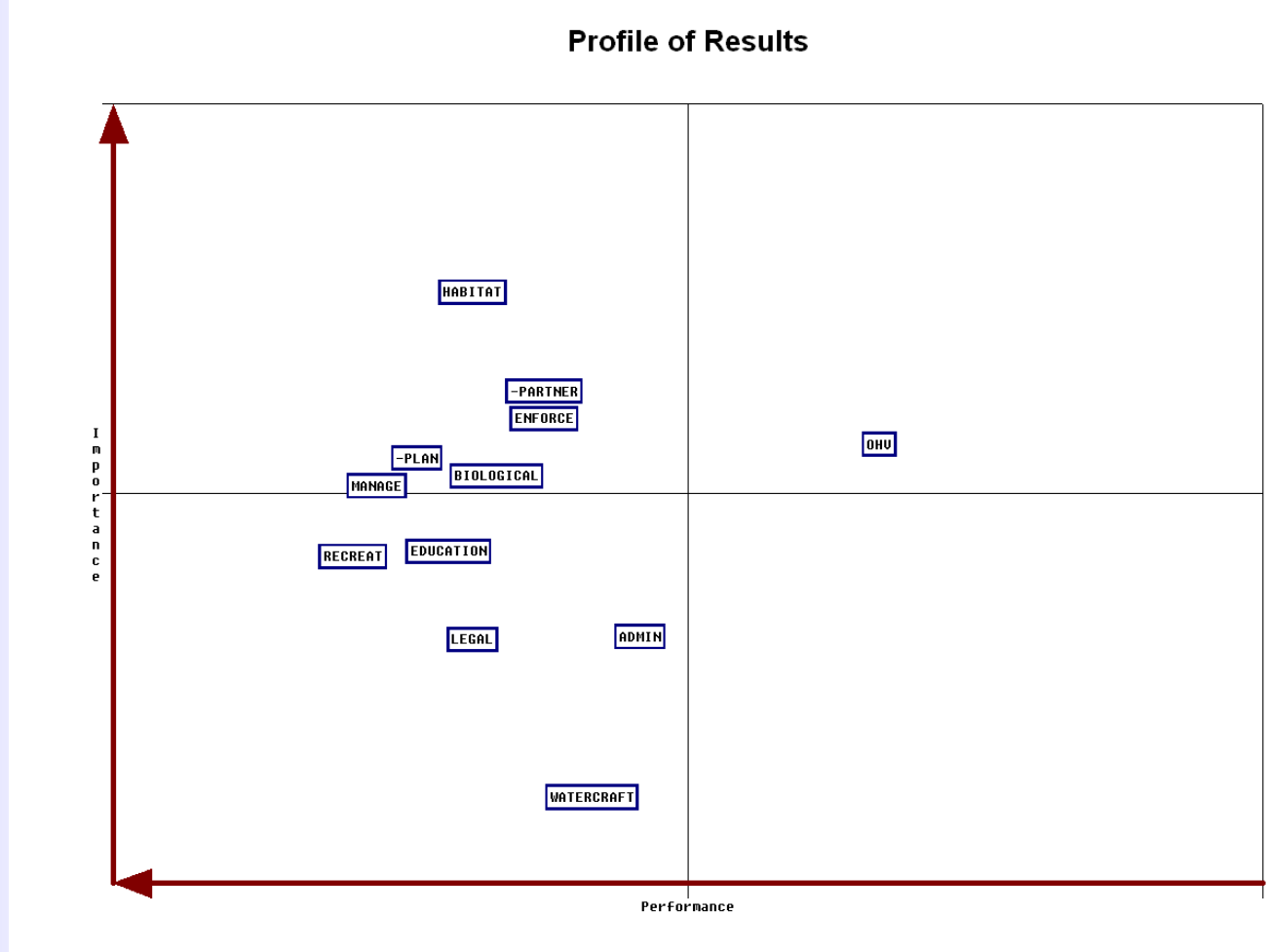
Figure P-7: Current Performance by Challenge



Profile Interpretation

The CoNexus® software creates a profile showing the relationship between the importance rankings and performance ratings. Figure P-8 shows the importance from top to bottom; the higher the challenge on the profile the more important it was to the participants. Performance is measured from right to left; the further left the challenge is on the profile the better the Department is performing.

Figure P-8: Comparison of Importance and Performance



Group Discussion

Off Highway Vehicle Management:

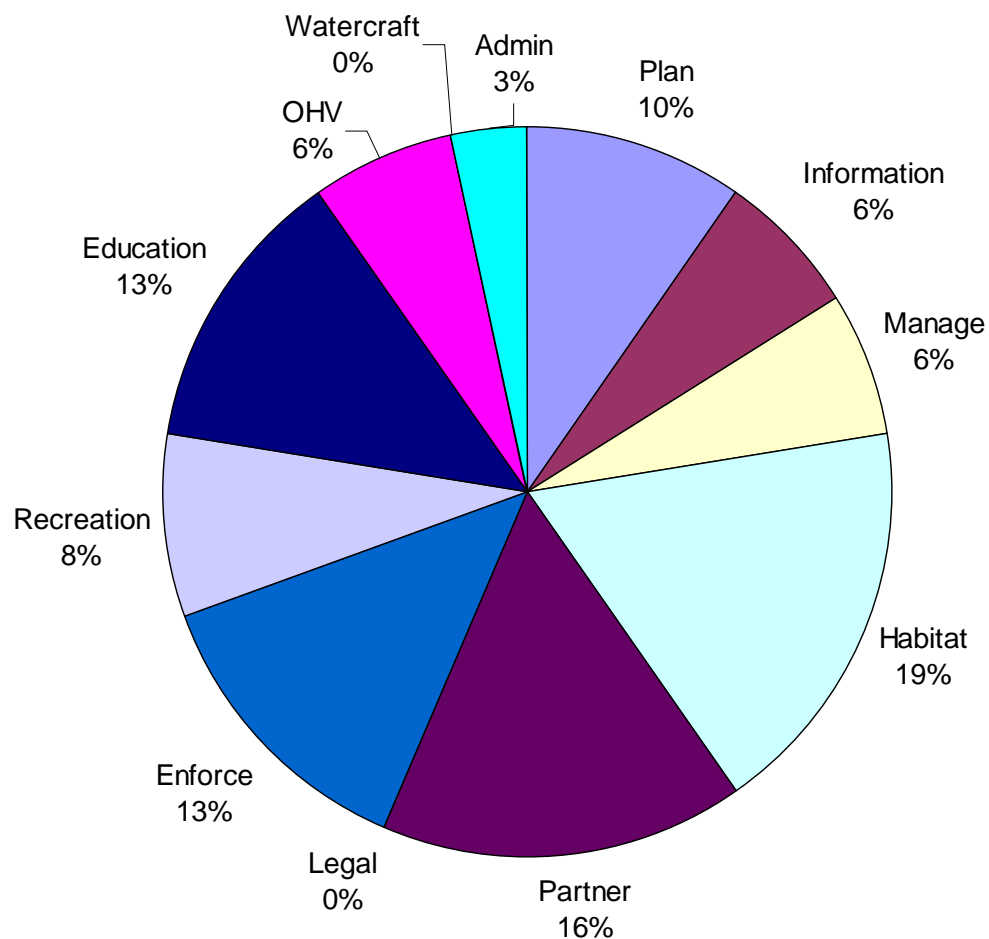
- It is a way for people to get out and recreate without hiking.
- Off-highway vehicle management didn't rank very high with this group. That may be because some of us believe that is part of habitat management.
- Off-highway vehicle management is probably a matter of education and enforcement. Anybody who has been in the outdoors has seen a couple of kids tearing down the road in an OHV at 45 or 50 miles an hour.
- If you use our waterways, you have to get a registration. That is not the same with off-highway vehicles.

Funding

Each participant was given ten gold coins representing \$100. At the back of the room were 12 folders – one for each challenge. The participants were asked to spend their money as they felt appropriate. They were instructed to spend all of their money and not to break any of the coins.

Figure P-9 shows that the participants spent 19% of their money on the most important challenge wildlife habitat (as shown on Figure P-6.) The next highest funded challenge (16%) was partnerships which was second in importance.

Figure P-9: Money Spent by Challenge



Part 2: Stressors (Threats) to Arizona's Natural Habitats and Wildlife

Stressors Identified by Individuals

Each participant was asked to identify three stressors (threats) to Arizona's natural habitats and wildlife that they felt were the most important to be addressed in the next ten years. This brainstorming activity resulted in the following list of stressors:

- Funding
- Lack of funding
- Pollution
- Resource mining
- Abuse to land/wildlife
- Land use
- Poor wildlife management
- Population growth
- Growth number
- More users
- Water use
- Urban development; suburban sprawl
- People
- Development
- Drought
- Drought

Stressors Identified by Groups

The participants were asked to review their individual list of stressors and come to a group consensus on the top stressors. The following were the stressors identified by the group:

- Contamination and invasion of species and habitats
- Land use and wildlife conflicts
- Loss of habitat due to development and growing population
- Loss of habitat due to natural causes; i.e., drought
- Lack of funding priority
- Lack of public priority for wildlife

Stressors which are the most important for AZGFD to address in the next 10 years:

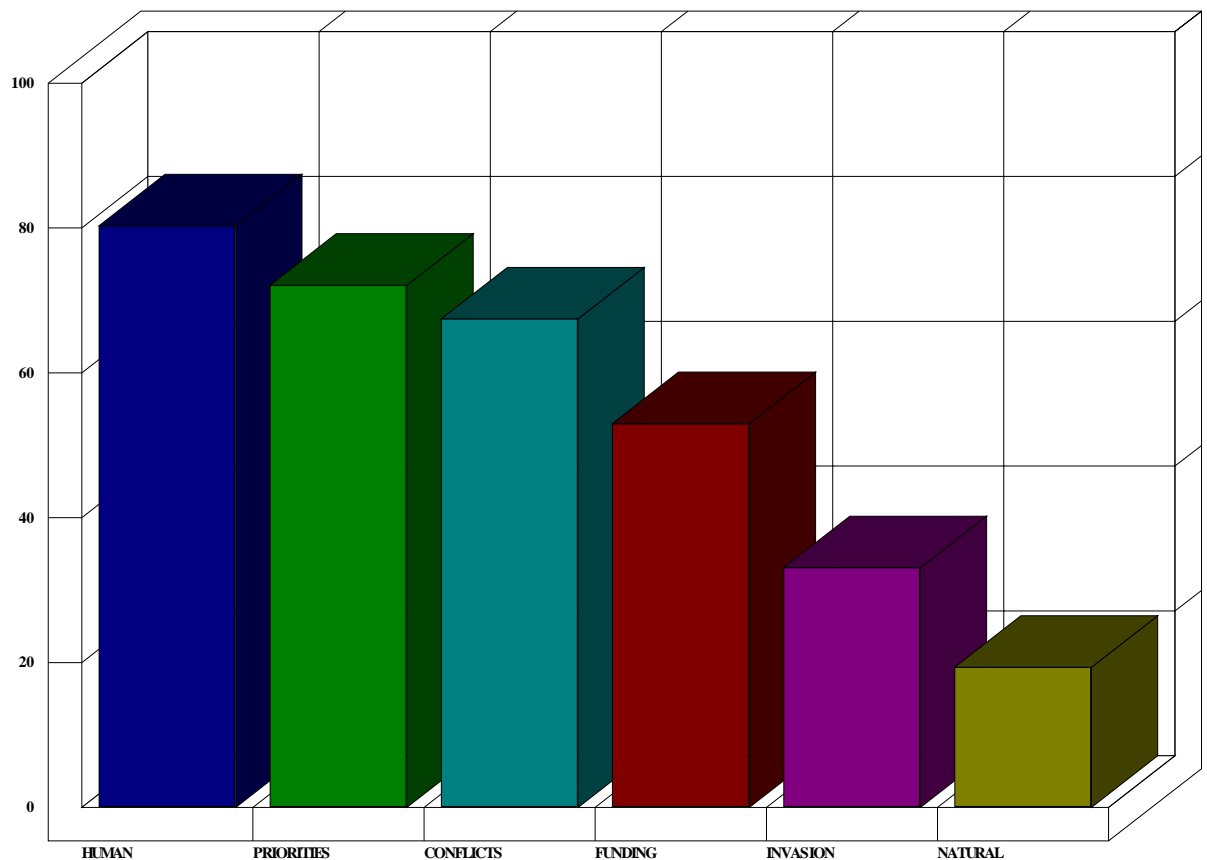
The participants defined, discussed, and combined their stressors into the following list which was voted using the CoNexus® dual-paired comparison software. The capital word in parentheses is the keyword used to identify the challenge on the CoNexus® graphs:

- **Natural Causes** - Loss of habitat due to drought (NATURAL)
- **Human Causes** - Loss of habitat due to development and growing population (HUMAN)
- **Conflicts** - Land use and wildlife conflicts (CONFLICTS)

- **Lack of wildlife funding** (FUNDING)
- **Lack of public priority** for wildlife (PRIORITIES)
- **Contamination and invasion** of species and habitat - pollution (INVASION)

The stress placed on habitats and wildlife by **human causes, lack of public priority and land use and wildlife conflicts** were ranked by the participants as the most important threats to be addressed in the next 10 years. Although the group spent a lot of time discussing the natural causes stressors, they ranked it last in importance. The participants stated they ranked natural causes threats less important because of the inability to address this issue in the next ten years.

Figure P-10: Most Important Stressors



Group Discussion

- You can't control the drought, but you can manage around it.
- The drought causes many problems – loss of the watershed, declining wetlands, the fire hazard, and stress on the natural habitat.
- If funding is a problem, maybe we should look at some sort of impact fees. A lot of communities have done that for residential development. That takes care of police and fire protection, streets and the like. We don't have anything like that for habitat protection.
- When you have any kind of development or land-use planning, wildlife should be a priority. If you're going to develop land, you have to show that you have a 100-year water supply, but you don't have to show any impact on wildlife.

Part 3: Criteria for Identifying "Wildlife of Greatest Conservation Need"

Criteria Identified by Individuals

Each participant was asked to identify three factors that should be used by AZGFD to select the "Wildlife of Greatest Conservation Need." This brainstorming activity resulted in the following list of criteria:

- Revenue potential licensing
- Keystone species within community
- Herbivores and predators (elk, deer, antelope, etc. Not livestock)
- Species that are indicators to healthy ecosystem or community
- Aquatic game and non-game
- Research numbers
- Management difficulty
- Resilience
- Funding available for research?
- Threatened or endangered status
- Based on legal constraints and opportunities
- Laws & regulations
- Legal ramifications
- Heritage species

Criteria Identified by the Group

The participants were asked to review their individual list of criteria and come to a consensus of the top criteria. The following were the criteria identified by the group:

- Environmental impact
- Species providing significant economic value
- Species providing vital functions with ecosystems
- Indicator species (bio-community health)
- Impact on ecosystem
- Avian (Birds: predatory, migratory, and resident)

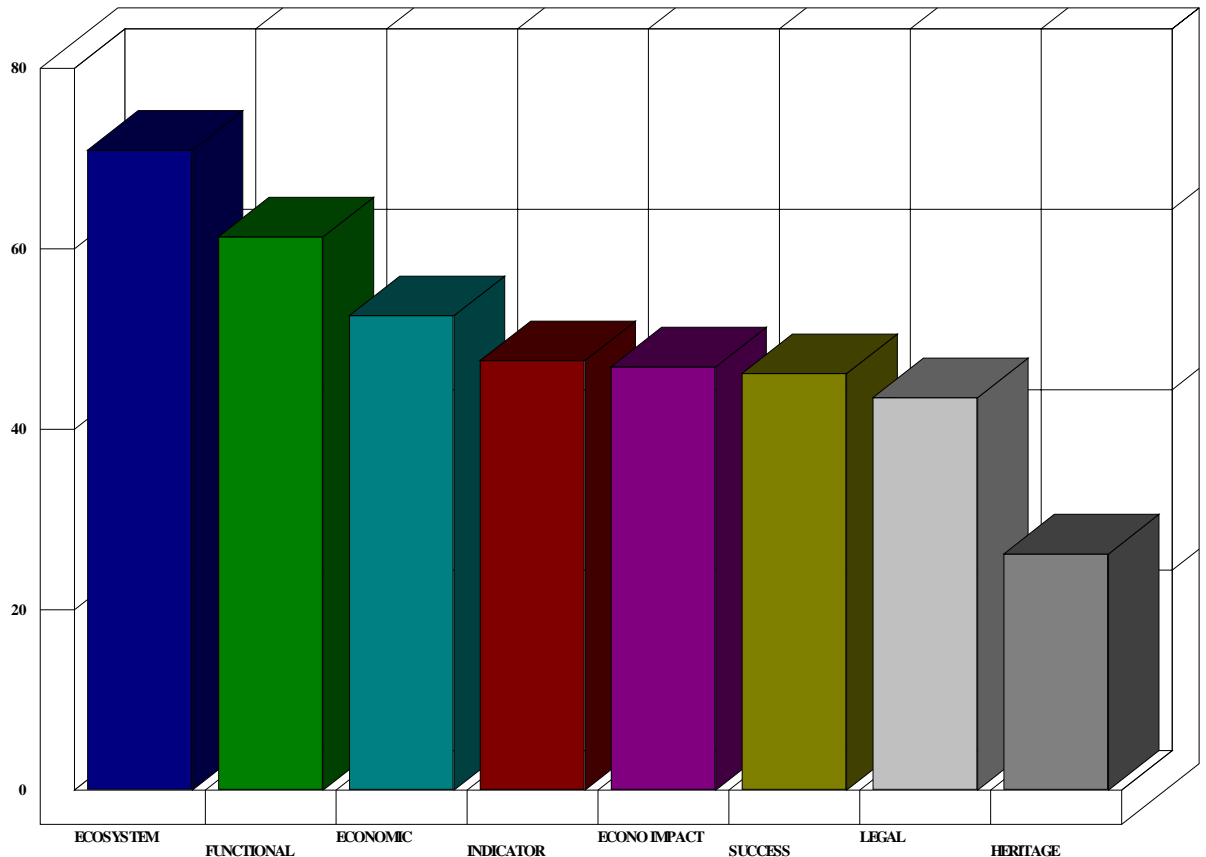


What are the factors that AZGFD should use to determine if a species needs special attention?

The participants defined, discussed, and combined their criteria into the following list which was voted using the CoNexus® dual-paired comparison software. The capital word in parentheses is the keyword used to identify the challenge on the CoNexus® graphs:

- **Legal Constraints and Opportunities** (LEGAL)
- **Indicator Species** - bio community health (INDICATOR)
- **Functional Species** - providing vital functions within ecosystems (FUNCTIONAL)
- **Economic Value** - providing significant economic value (ECONOMIC)
- **Heritage Species** (HERITAGE)
- **Impact on the Ecosystem** (ECOSYSTEM)
- **Potential for Success** (SUCCESS)
- **Economic Impacts** (ECONO IMPACT)

As shown in Figure P-11 (page P-13) the most important criteria were **impact on the ecosystem** and **functional species**. **Heritage species** was significantly less important, but its ranking may be due to a lack of understanding or confusion over the definition.

Figure P-11: Criteria Ranked by Importance

Group Discussion

- You have to look at the economic impact – both good and bad. Are you going to bring a species back so it can wipe out the crops?
- Management difficulty – how hard is it to protect a given species. Is it worth it? Is it cost-effective?
- You have to have the money to do the proper research. You can't have numbers without research.
- What are the legal ramifications? How likely are you to have lawsuits filed by some group asking the courts to force you to do this or that?
- You should look at species that have some unique cultural or heritage meaning. Some species, bald eagles for example, have a special significance.
- The most important think is the species' overall impact on the eco-system. How does it fit in? What role does it have? If you wipe out a predator, does the prey take over?
- We have to look at a lot of different things. Sportsmen have to know that if we don't have a health ecosystem, we don't have a healthy sporting environment.



Flagstaff
Wildlife Summit

October 23, 2004

Demographics and Interest Areas

11 Participants

- Kim Crumbo, Grand Canyon Wildlands Council
- Kevin Davidson, Mohave County
- Scotty Johnson, Defenders of Wildlife, SW Center
- Mike MaCauley, Coconino Natural Resources Conservation District
- Tom Mackin, Coconino Sportsmen
- Don Martin, Mohave Sportsman Club
- Mikele Painter, USFS, North Kaibab RD
- Steve Rich, Fredonia Habitat Partnership Committee
- Barbara Wilson, NPS, Glen Canyon National Rec Area
- Bill Werner, AZ Department of Water Resources
- Liz Boussard, Grand Canyon Wildlands Council

The participants were asked to indicate which stakeholder group they were representing during the summit and to identify their personal interests. *Note: One participant arrived late and was not included in the demographic vote.*

Demographic results indicate the group was somewhat diverse in the stakeholder groups represented but were very similar in their personal interests.

Figure F-1: Participant Representation

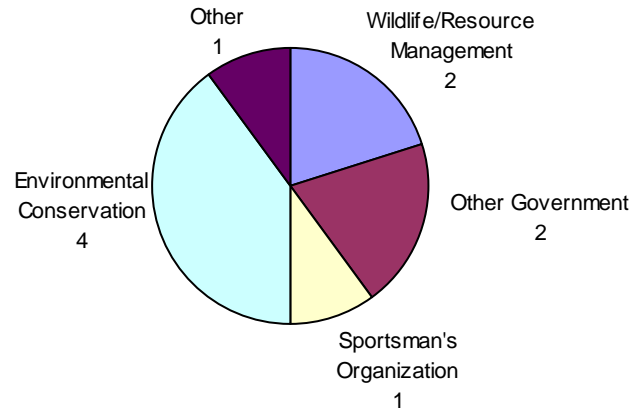


Figure F-2: Hunting and Fishing

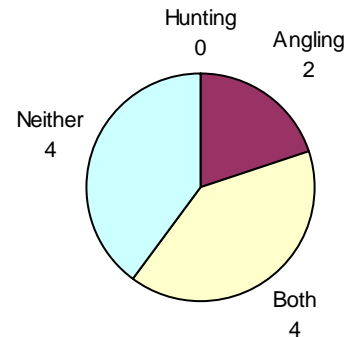
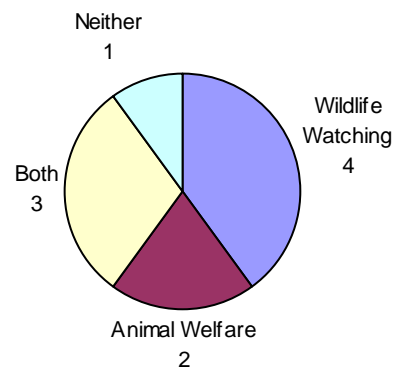


Figure F-3: Wildlife



- Equal number of government representatives and environmentalists (4), a sportsman and one other (Figure F-1.)
- 6 hunt and/or fish (Figure F-2.)
- 9 watch wildlife and/or participate in animal welfare activities (Figure F-3.)
- 7 use off-highway vehicles and/or watercraft (Figure F-4.)
- 9 garden and/or watch wildlife at their home (Figure F-5.)

Figure F-4: Recreation

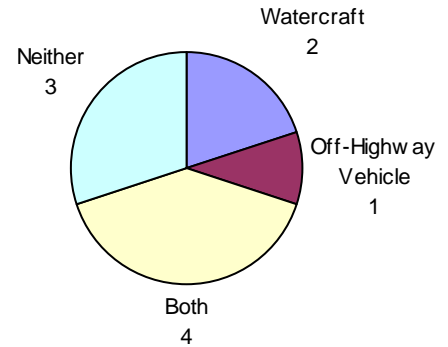
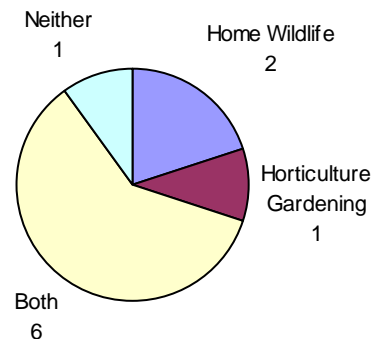


Figure F-5: Home Activities



Part 1: Arizona Game and Fish's 12 Challenges

During recent strategic planning efforts, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) staff identified 12 challenge areas. Summit participants were asked to review the list and determine **“Which one of these challenges is the most important in achieving the AZGFD’s mission.”**

***Agency Mission:** To conserve, enhance, and restore Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and habitats through aggressive protection and management programs, and to provide wildlife resources and safe watercraft and off-highway vehicle recreation for the enjoyment, appreciation, and use by present and future generations.*

The following is a description of each of the 12 challenges used during the Summit. The capital word in parentheses is the keyword used to identify the challenge on the CoNexus® graphs:

- **Planning and Funding** – Manage wildlife resources as a public trust through efficient and funded activities. (PLAN)
- **Biological Information** – Ensure that biological information used in decision making is accurate and used to implement multi-use land management. (BIO INFO)
- **Wildlife Management** - Make wildlife decisions that reflect sound science and values. (MANAGE)
- **Wildlife Habitat** - Work to ensure habitat is protected and properly managed for wildlife. (HABITAT)
- **Partnerships** – Develop partnerships that recognize wildlife as a public trust. (PARTNER)
- **Laws and Legal Considerations** – Ensure laws and policies are sufficient to protect wildlife and their habitats. (LEGAL)
- **Law Enforcement** - Enforce laws to protect wildlife, public health and safety and sustain recreation opportunities. (ENFORCE)
- **Wildlife Recreation** – Provide ample wildlife recreation opportunities for the full spectrum of wildlife recreation users. (RECREAT)
- **Information and Education** – Provide the public wildlife information and education. (EDUCATION)
- **Off-Highway Vehicle Management** – Manage off-highway vehicles impacts on wildlife and their habitats. (OHV)
- **Watercraft Management** - Manage watercraft impacts on wildlife and their habitats. (WATERCRAFT)
- **Administrative Challenges** – Maintain effective agency through sound fiscal management, business practices and well-trained workforce. (ADMIN)

A dual-paired comparison was used to determine which challenges were the most important to the Summit participants. Participants were also asked to rate how well the AZGFD was performing today in each of the challenge areas.



Importance

The participants ranked the importance of the 12 challenges as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Wildlife Habitat | 7. Information and Education |
| 2. Wildlife Management | 8. Law Enforcement |
| 3. Biological Information | 9. Administrative Challenges |
| 4. Planning and Funding | 10. Wildlife Recreation |
| 5. Partnerships | 11. Off-Highway Vehicle Management |
| 6. Laws and Legal Considerations | 12. Watercraft Management |

Figure F-6: 12 Challenges by Importance

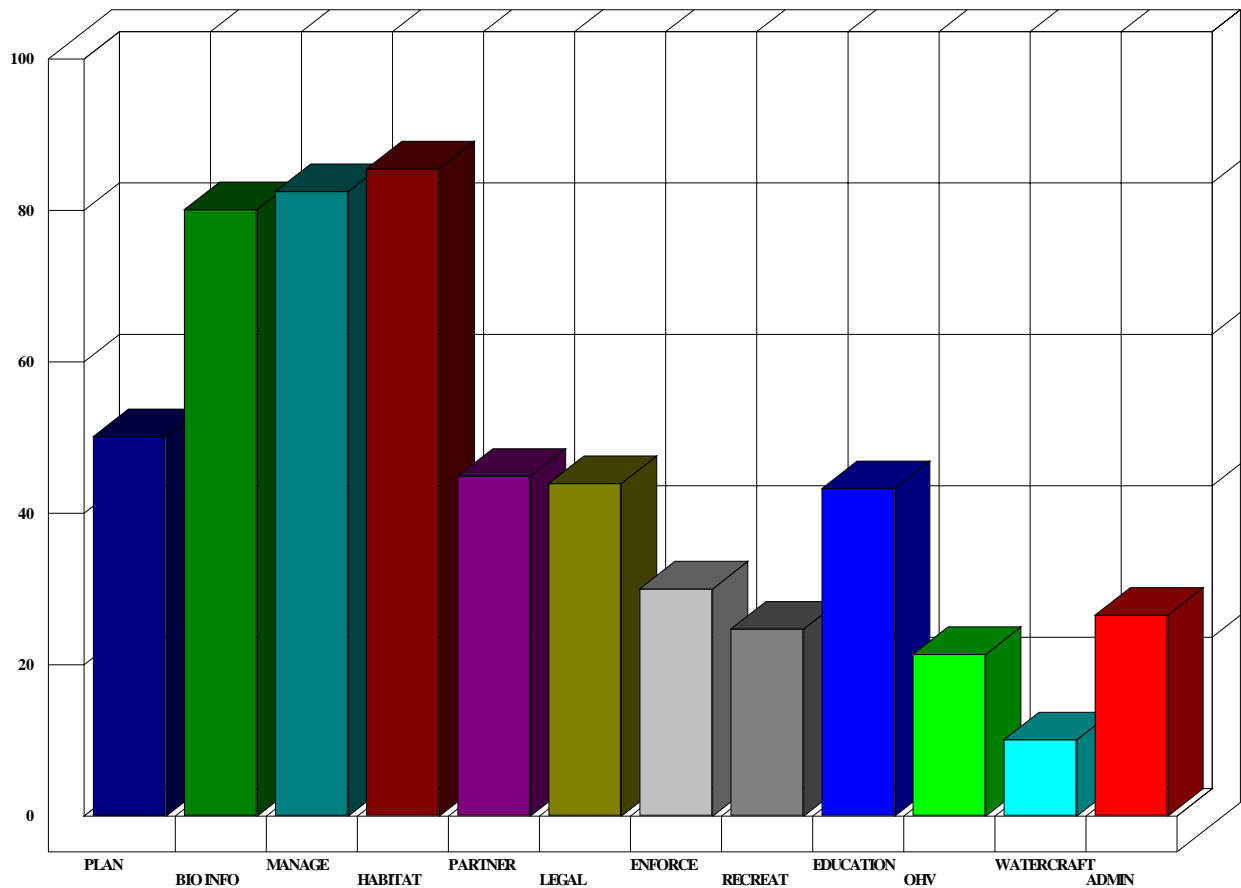


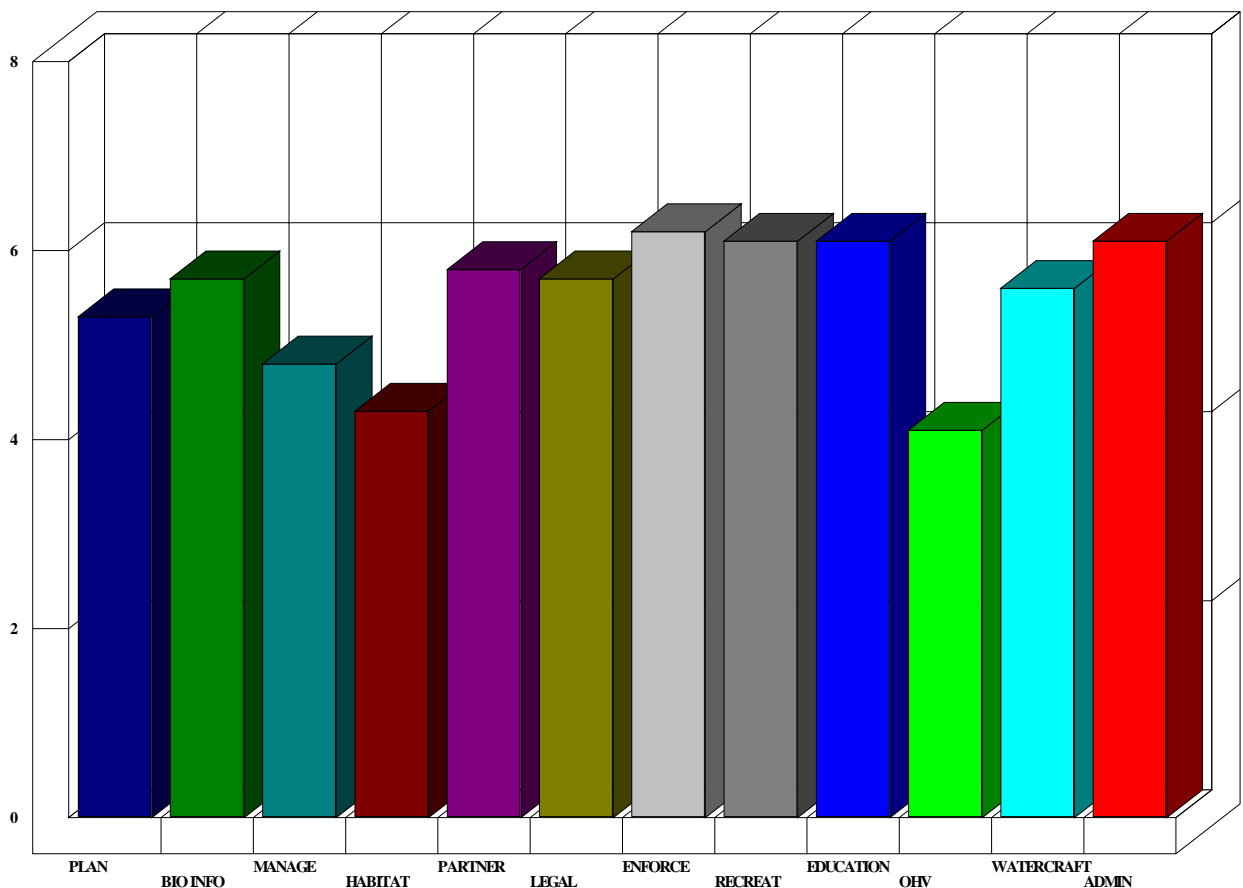
Figure F-6 shows the difference in how much more important each challenge was to the group. Overwhelmingly, the group agreed that working to ensure that **habitats** are protected and properly managed for wildlife, **wildlife management** and **biological information** were the three most important challenges for the Department. There were significant differences in the three most important challenges and the remaining nine.

Performance

Participants also were asked to rate the current performance of the AZGFD in fulfilling each of the challenges. A scale of 1-9 was used (9=practically perfect; 5=just getting by; 1=not at all.) Nine of the 12 challenges were rated 5 or higher. The lowest performing challenge was off-highway vehicles (value=38.8). According to the participants, AZGFD is performing the best on the following 4 challenges:

1. Law Enforcement
2. Wildlife Recreation
3. Information and Education
4. Administration

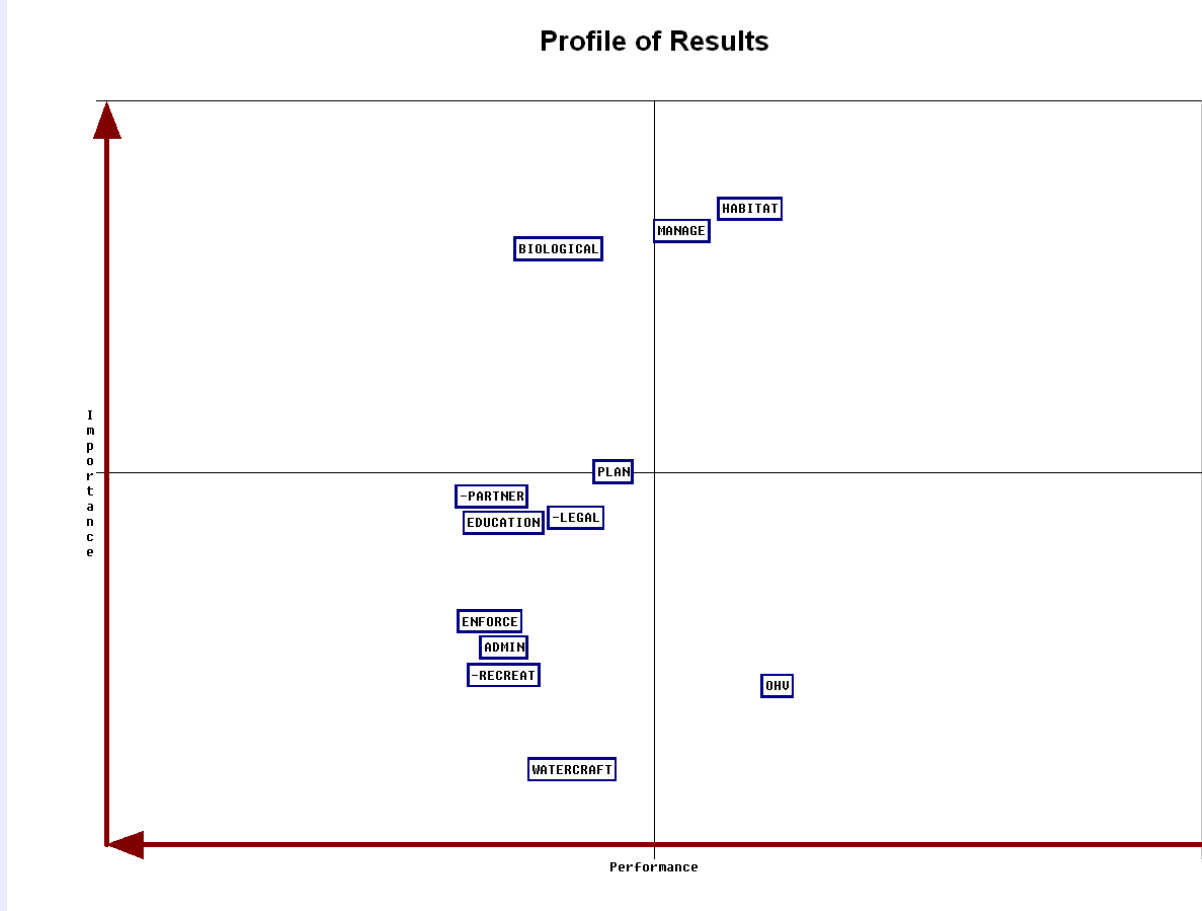
Figure F-7: Current Performance by Challenge



Profile Interpretation

The CoNexus® software creates a profile showing the relationship between the importance rankings and performance ratings. Figure F-8 shows the importance from top to bottom; the higher the challenge on the profile the more important it was to the participants. Performance is measured from right to left; the further left the challenge is on the profile the better the Department is performing.

Figure F-8: Comparison of Importance and Performance



Group Discussion

- Thought partnerships would rank higher.
- Thought off-highway vehicles would rank higher.

“What’s missing in the challenges?”

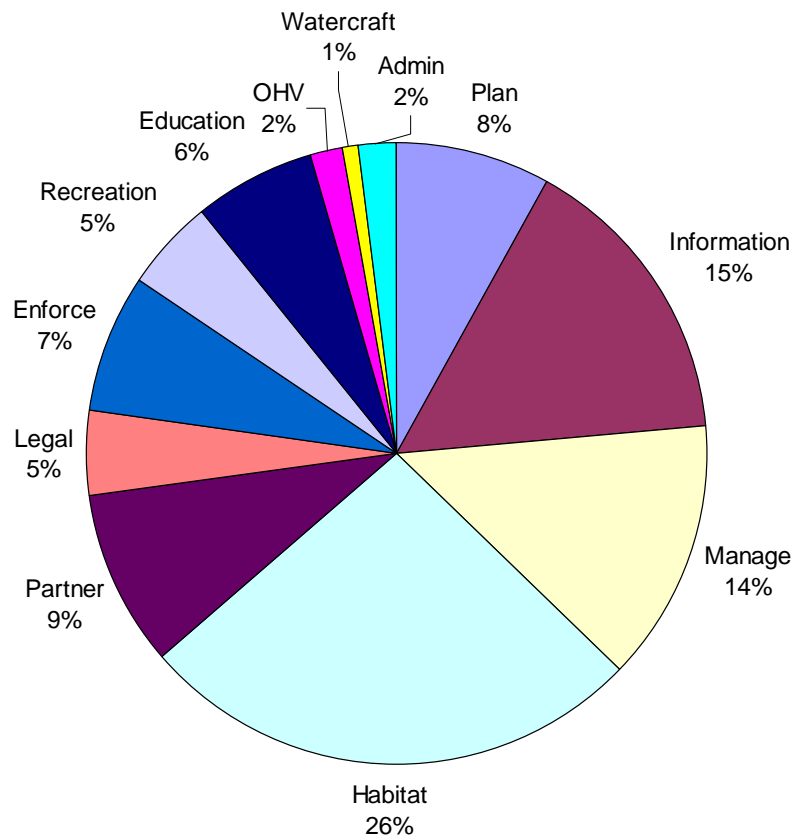
- How private property owners view their relationship with Game & Fish.
 - Need to address ranchers that have shut down access.
 - Use of state land is less expensive than the use of private land.
 - Private property rights vs. state land. Also, don’t see coordination between agencies.
 - State Lands need to stop scapegoating ranchers. Proper grazing activities are shown to be positive to the habitat. This information needs to get out to the public.
- Loss of habitat is a number one problem.
- There was no opportunity to compare game vs. non-game.
 - Both are important – you can’t separate them.
 - The perception is that game is more important.
 - What is the funding for game vs. non-game?
 - Groups of species are not considered, game or non-game.
- Good science says that the habitat tells you what is important.
- Politics can prevent an agency from its mission - the aggressive pursuit to enhance or restore.
- Politics affects the implementation of sound science.
- Early land use was proto-agriculture and included burning and managing agricultural species. This differs from current uses, including the addition of dams to the habitat. A challenge is that we must recognize that wildlife was adapted from this agricultural/proto-agricultural lifestyle.
 - The concept of pristine conditions is not accurate compared to early land use, roughly 5,000 years ago.

Funding

Each participant was given ten gold coins representing \$100. At the back of the room were 12 folders – one for each challenge. The participants were asked to spend their money as they felt appropriate. They were instructed to spend all of their money and not to break any of the coins.

Figure F-9 indicates that the participants spent 55% of their money on their three most important challenges (as shown on Figure F-6): wildlife habitat, wildlife management and biological information.

Figure F-9: Money Spent by Challenge



Group Discussion:

- Interesting spread on lower categories
- OHV is managing impacts, not activity
- Cost of damage due to gaming and fishing activities is not paid by Game & Fish
- Other land managers do not receive money to handle impacts

Part 2: Stressors (Threats) to Arizona's Natural Habitats and Wildlife

Stressors Identified by Individuals

Each participant was asked to identify three stressors (threats) to Arizona's natural habitats and wildlife that they felt were the most important to be addressed in the next ten years. This brainstorming activity resulted in the following list of stressors.

- Ongoing drought
- "Wildness" politics over science
- Inappropriate severe fire
- Use of fire at "sever" levels instead of treatments which conserve soil organics, soil biodiversity, general biodiversity
- Future energy development
- Ben Brooks & Associates
- Suburban growth at urban interface and development of exurban, private holdings
- Urban and exurban development in general and in key habitats
- Ham encroachment (loss of habitat)
- Roads/Motorized vehicles
- Fire suppression
- Human manipulation of natural processes (biotic & a biotic)
- Habitat and habitat linkage fragmentation
- Population growth/urbanization
- Urbanization
- Drought
- Increasing human water demand impacting natural/aquatic systems
- Funding
- Urban interface wildlife issues
- Loss of connectivity of wildlife population
- Loss of habitat for all native species
- Negative impacts of roads
- Differences between land management
- Loss of habitat
- Invasive exotic species
- Public awareness and involvement
- Habitat loss to development
- Decreased funding
- Loss of available funding
- Less game, fewer hunters = less license sales
- More money spent on lawsuits, other species
- Increased human demands - OHV use, Great hunter/fishing demands, Other outdoor recreation activities
- Habitat loss - Natural-fire, drought, flood, Development, fragmentation
- Changes to habitat



Stressors Identified by Groups

The participants were divided into groups and asked to review their individual list of stressors and come to a consensus on the top stressors. The following were the stressors identified by the groups.

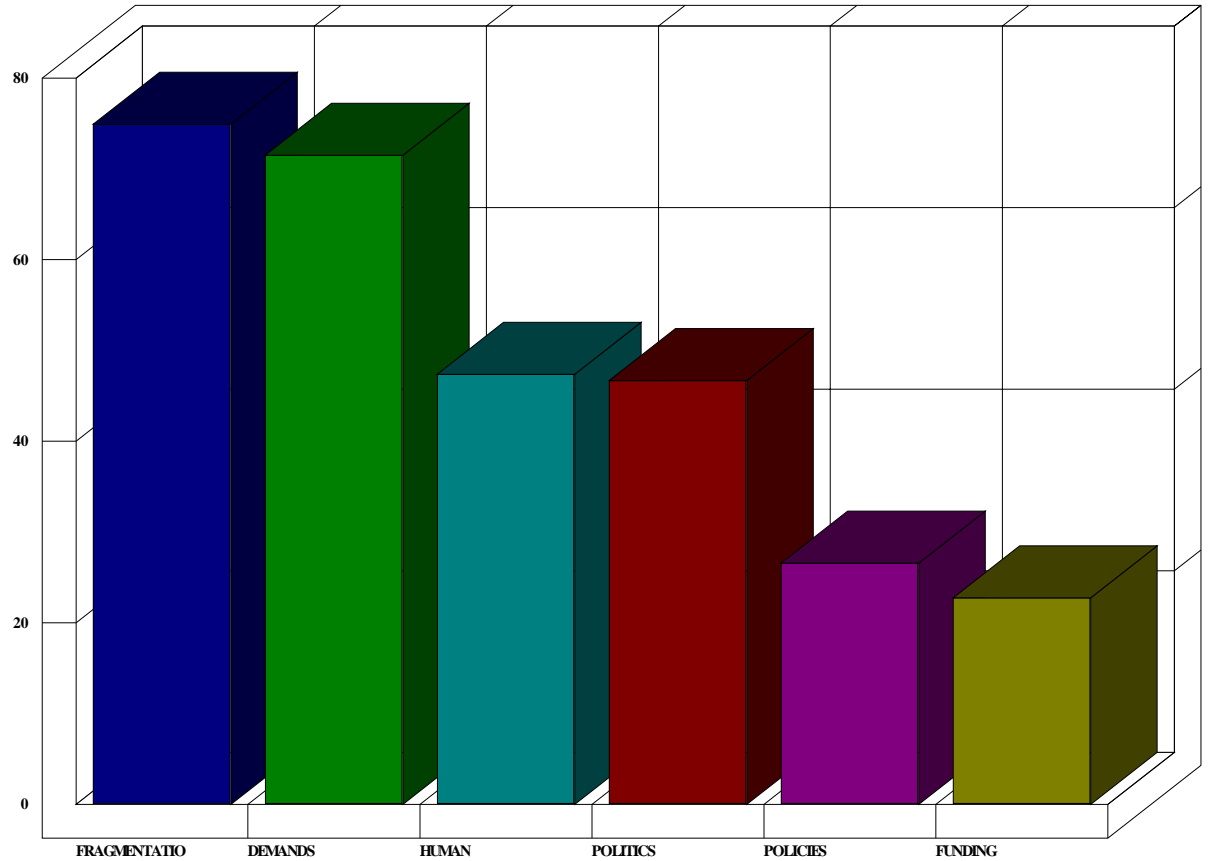
- Inappropriate fire management with severe drought
- Human manipulation (fire suppression, non-native species, etc.)
- Unintended consequences
- Lack of funding
- Human encroachment
- Suburbanization
- Private development within an interlaced land tenure
- Habitat and Linkage fragmentation (urbanization, roads, agriculture)
- Habitat loss (many forms of loss)
- Competition for scarce water resources
- Humans, Agriculture, Grazing, Other wildlife
- Increased human demands on wildlife and habitat
- Politics superseding science and implementation

Stressors which are the most important for AZGFD to address in the next 10 years:

The participants defined, discussed, and combined their stressors into the following list which was voted using the CoNexus® dual-paired comparison software. The capital word in parentheses is the keyword used to identify the challenge on the CoNexus® graphs.

- **Negative impacts** from human manipulation - fire suppression, non-native species (HUMAN)
- **Fragmentation** and loss of habitat and linkages (FRAGMENTATIO)
- **Increased human demands** on limited natural resources (DEMANDS)
- **Lack of funding** (FUNDING)
- **Inconsistency management policies** and goals between land stewards (POLICIES)
- **Politics superseding sound science** and implementation (POLITICS)

Figure F-10 (page F-11) indicates that **fragmentation** and loss of habitat and linkages and negative impacts from **human manipulation** included fire and non-native species were the two most important stressors identified by the group. During the day, there was a significant amount of discussion regarding inconsistent management policies and lack of funding but these issues were ranked as the least important stressors.

Figure F-10: Most Important Stressors

Group Discussion

- Concern about the use of numbers, may end up with a public skew on certain issues. Response: The data will be used to frame the discussion and determine the range of issues to be considered. This is qualitative data, not quantitative.
- The majority of the public may “vote” one way, this is a concern. The demographic information will assist in this area as well.

Part 3:

Criteria for Identifying “Wildlife of Greatest Conservation Need”

Criteria Identified by Individuals

Each participant was asked to identify three factors that should be used by AZGFD to select the “Wildlife of Greatest Conservation Need.” This brainstorming activity resulted in the following list of criteria:

- Endangered species
- Endangered species and clusters
- Endangered species and those likely to become listed
- Species whose needs cover a large group, “umbrella” species
- Umbrella carnivores
- Large carnivores
- Native species
- Keystone native species
- Determine which species may be ecosystem indicators
- Review of scientific data from State, Federal, and civilian groups (TNC, Ducks ULTD, etc. and university sources
- Species for which conservation effort can make a difference
- Restore funding based on ecosystem goals, not species specific
- Does the species occur only in Arizona?
- Provides greatest benefit
- Does the species depend on a limited landscape component?
- Keystone species
- Environmental biased
- Sound scientific information
- Species with large area requirements
- Habitat utilization
- Broadest “common” appeal
- Best exemplifies “wildlife”
- Can they be saved?
- Are they keystone or indicator species?
- Huntability (recreation value) of animal
- Population dispersal
- Ensure diversity of all species
- If we save them, what is helped/hurt?
- Population size
- Population trend wild
- Birth weight or count (depending on species)

Criteria Identified by Groups

The participants were divided into two groups and asked to review their individual list of criteria and come to a consensus on five top criteria. The following were the 10 criteria identified by the two groups:

- Species for which funding/conservation efforts support ecosystem goals
- Can they be saved without sacrifice to others
- Unique species depends on a unique habitat
- Ensure diversity of all species
- Native species
- Endangered species (species clusters, those likely to become)

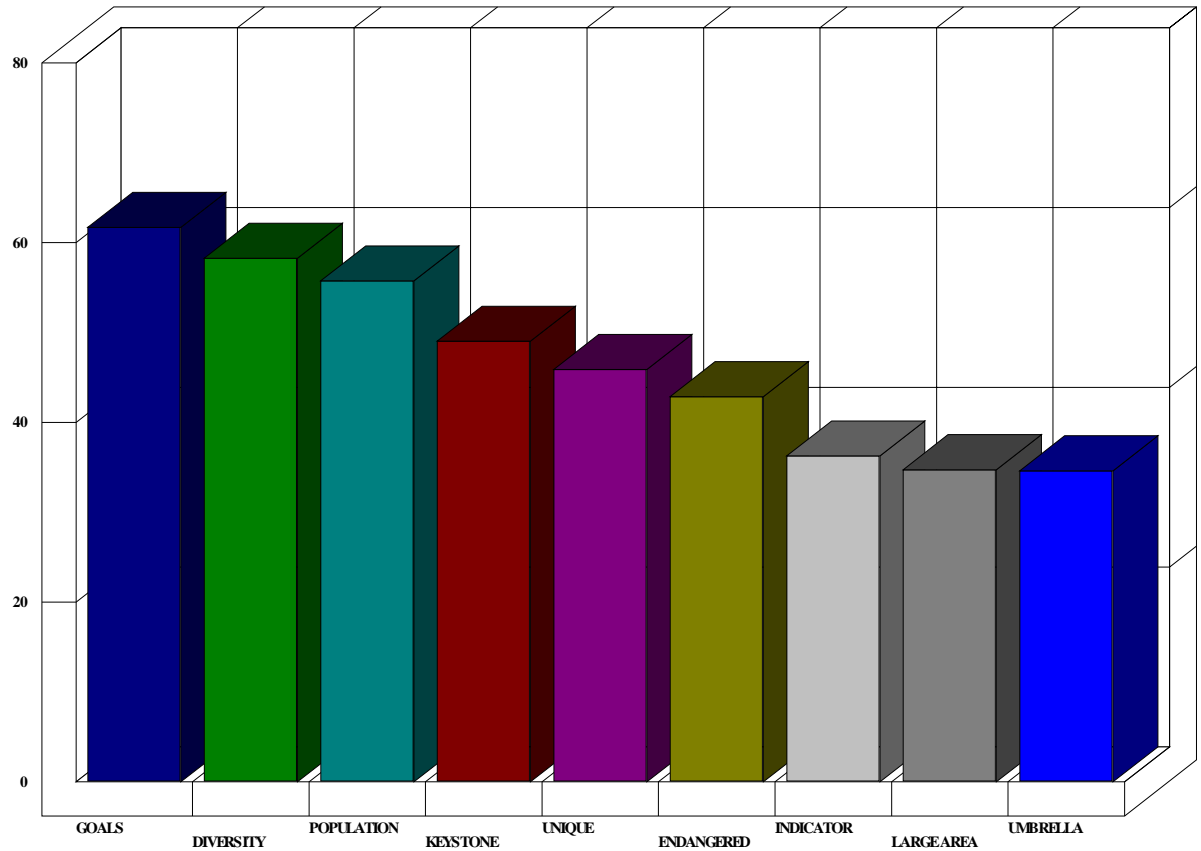
- Population trends size
- Keystone species
- Indicator species
- Umbrella species
- Species with large area requirement
- Provides greatest benefit
- Species with large habitat requirements (large carnivores)

What are the factors that AZGFD should use to determine if a species needs special attention?

The participants defined, discussed, and combined their criteria into the following list which was voted using the CoNexus® dual-paired comparison software. The capital word in parentheses is the keyword used to identify the challenge on the CoNexus® graphs.

- **Ensure native species diversity** (DIVERSITY)
- **Consider population trends and sizes** proactively (POPULATION)
- **Endangered species** (ENDANGERED)
- **Umbrella species** (UMBRELLA)
- **Species with large area requirements** (LARGE AREA)
- **Indicator species** (INDICATOR)
- **Keystone species** (KEYSTONE)
- **Native and unique species** (UNIQUE)
- Species for which further conservation efforts **support ecosystem goals** (GOALS)

As shown in Figure F-11 (page F-14) the three most important criteria were **support ecosystem goals**, **ensure native species diversity**, and **population trends and sizes**.

Figure F-11: Criteria Ranked by Importance

Group Discussion

Discussion following the paired matching of participant-suggested criteria included:

- Need definitions – forgot what differentiated similar concepts.
- The most general criteria resulted in the higher voting responses.
- Not as many hunters were present today as might be on another day.



Tucson
Wildlife Summit

October 30, 2004

Demographics and Interest Areas

29 Participants

- Sandy Bahr, Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Chapter
- Lee Basnar, Arizona Heritage Alliance
- Young Cage, Tucson Herpetological Association
- Dennis Caldwell, Tucson Herpetological
- Chris Carrillo, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
- Mark Dimmitt, Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum
- Tricia Gerrodette, Audubon Society, Huachuca Chapter
- Rich Glinski, Maricopa County Parks & Recreation
- Trevor Hare, Sky Islands Alliance Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection
- Bob Hernbrode, Self
- Greg Hess, Pima Association of Governments
- Sonja Macys, Audubon Society, Tucson Chapter
- Chris McVie, Audubon Society, Tucson Chapter
- Addison Mohler, Hualapai Tribe
- Maruch Myowytewa, Hopi Tribe
- Stephanie Nichols-Young, Animal Defense League of AZ
- Daniel Patterson, Center for Biological Diversity
- Linda Pfister, Arizona Quail Alliance
- Janice Przybyl, Sky Islands Alliance
- Joanne Roberts, Arizona State Parks
- Halina Azyposzynski, Self



Figure T-1: Participant Representation

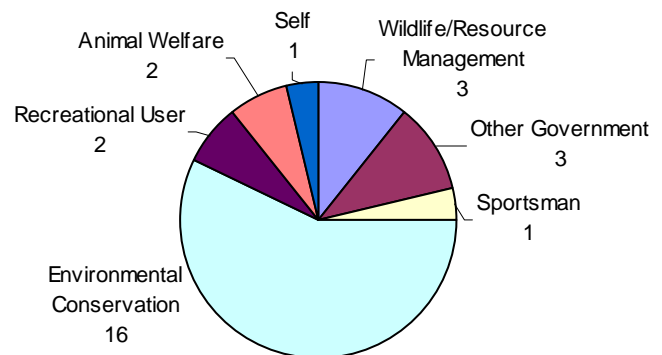
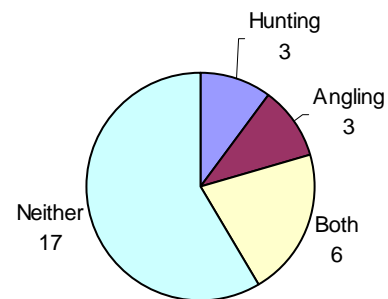


Figure T-2: Hunting and Fishing



- Steve Thomas, U.S. DOT Federal Highways
- Dale Turner, The Nature Conservancy, Tucson Office
- Kim Vacariu, Wildlands Project
- Scott Wilbor, Audubon Society, All Birds Conservation Program
- Jeff Williamson, The Phoenix Zoo
- Tom Wood, Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory
- Beth Woodin, Arizona Wildlife Federation & Arizona Heritage Alliance
- Nancy Zierenbert, Arizona Native Plant Society

The participants were asked to indicate which stakeholder group they were representing during the summit and to identify their personal interests.

Demographic results indicate the group was moderately diverse in representation and interests.

- More than half (16) represented an environmental or conservation organization (Figure T-1.)
- 12 hunt and/or fish (Figure T-2.)
- 27 watch wildlife and/or participate in animal welfare activities (Figure T-3.)
- 10 use off-highway vehicles and/or watercraft (Figure T-4.)
- 28 garden and/or watch wildlife at their home (Figure T-5.)

Figure T-3: Wildlife

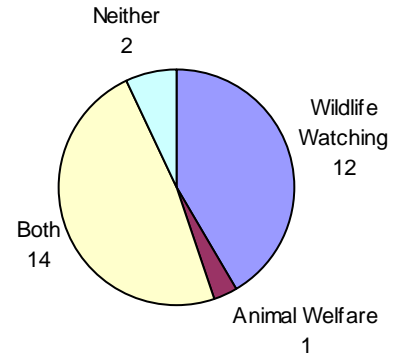


Figure T-4: Recreation

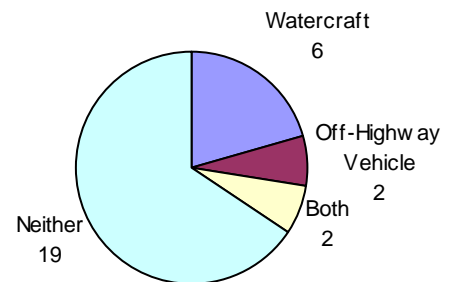
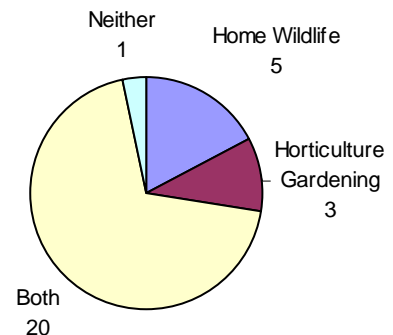


Figure T-5: Home Activities



Part 1: Arizona Game and Fish's 12 Challenges

During recent strategic planning efforts, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) staff identified 12 challenge areas. Summit participants were asked to review the list and determine **“Which one of these challenges is the most important in achieving the AZGFD’s mission.”**

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The following is a description of each of the 12 challenges used during the Summit. The capital word in parentheses is the keyword used to identify the challenge on the CoNexus® graphs.

- **Planning and Funding** – Manage wildlife resources as a public trust through efficient and funded activities. (PLAN)
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- **Wildlife Management** - Make wildlife decisions that reflect sound science and values. (MANAGE)
- **Wildlife Habitat** - Work to ensure habitat is protected and properly managed for wildlife. (HABITAT)
- **Partnerships** – Develop partnerships that recognize wildlife as a public trust. (PARTNER)
- **Laws and Legal Considerations** – Ensure laws and policies are sufficient to protect wildlife and their habitats. (LEGAL)
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- **Wildlife Recreation** – Provide ample wildlife recreation opportunities for the full spectrum of wildlife recreation users. (RECREAT)
- **Information and Education** – Provide the public wildlife information and education. (EDUCATION)
- **Off-Highway Vehicle Management** – Manage off-highway vehicles impacts on wildlife and their habitats. (OHV)
- **Watercraft Management** - Manage watercraft impacts on wildlife and their habitats. (WATERCRAFT)
- **Administrative Challenges** – Maintain effective agency through sound fiscal management, business practices and well-trained workforce. (ADMIN)

A dual-paired comparison was used to determine which challenges were the most important to the Summit participants. Participants were also asked to rate how well the AZGFD was performing in each of the challenge areas today.

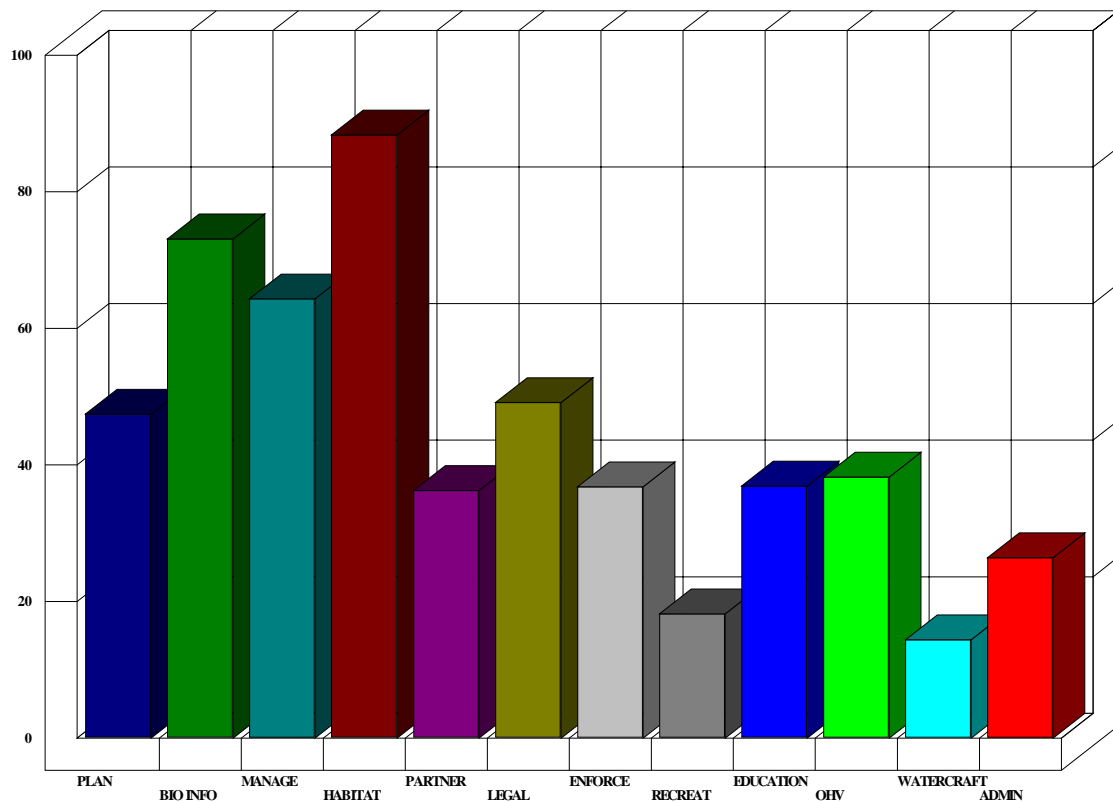
Importance

The participants ranked the importance of the 12 challenges as follows:

1. Wildlife Habitat
2. Biological Information
3. Wildlife Management
4. Laws and Legal Considerations
5. Planning and Funding
6. Off-Highway Vehicle Management
7. Information and Education
8. Law Enforcement
9. Partnerships
10. Administrative Challenges
11. Wildlife Recreation
12. Watercraft Management

The group agreed that working to ensure that habitats are protected and properly managed for wildlife was the most important challenge for the Department. Figure T-6 shows the difference in how much more important each challenge was to the group. There were significant differences in the most important wildlife habitat (value=88.3) and the least important watercraft management (value=14.4.)

Figure T-6: 12 Challenges by Importance

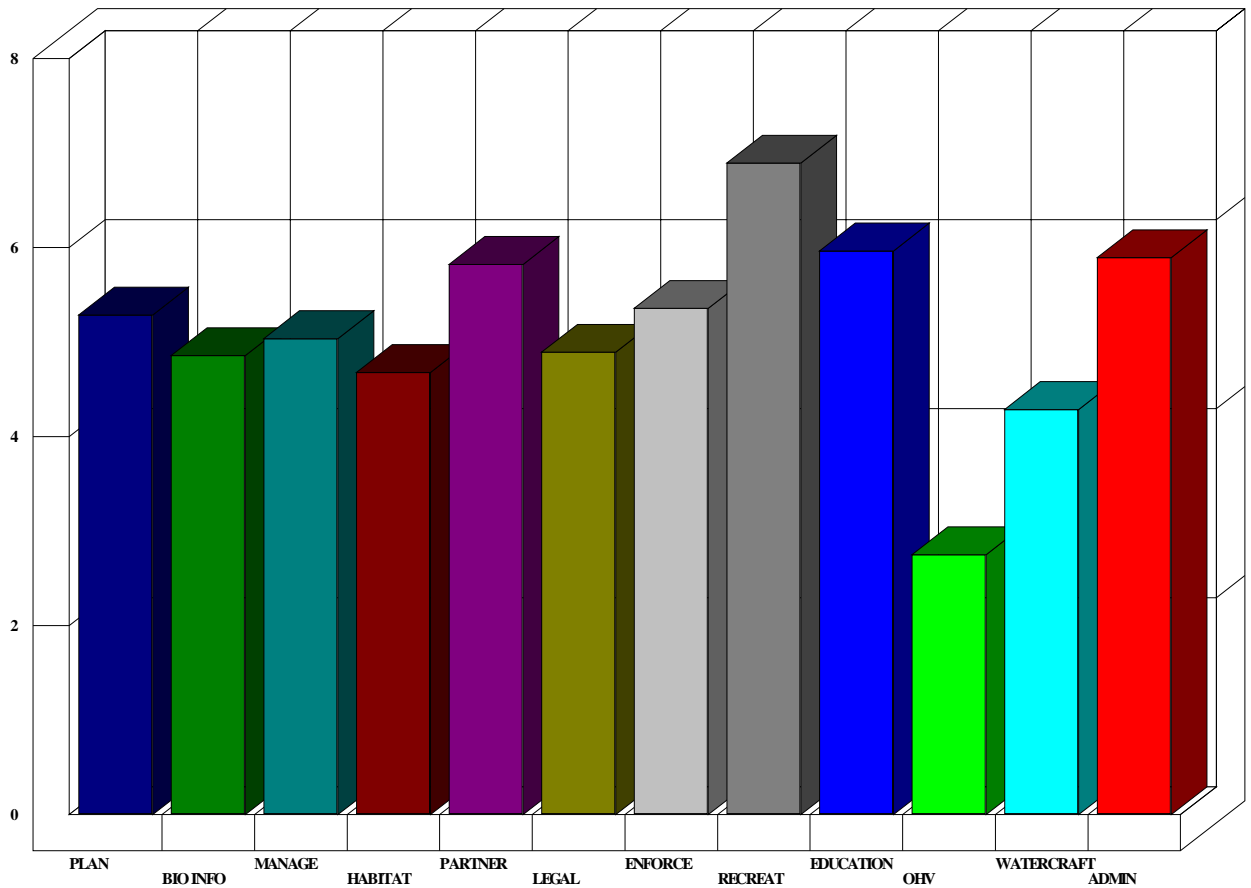


Performance

Participants also were asked to rate the current performance of the AZGFD in fulfilling each of the challenges today. A scale of 1-9 was used (9=practically perfect; 5=just getting by; 1=not at all.) Seven challenges were rated 5 and above. OHV was rated the lowest (value=21.9.) Figure T-7 shows how the participants rated the performance on each of the 12 challenges. According to the participants, AZGFD is performing the best on the following four challenges:

1. Wildlife Recreation
2. Information and Education
3. Administration
4. Partnerships

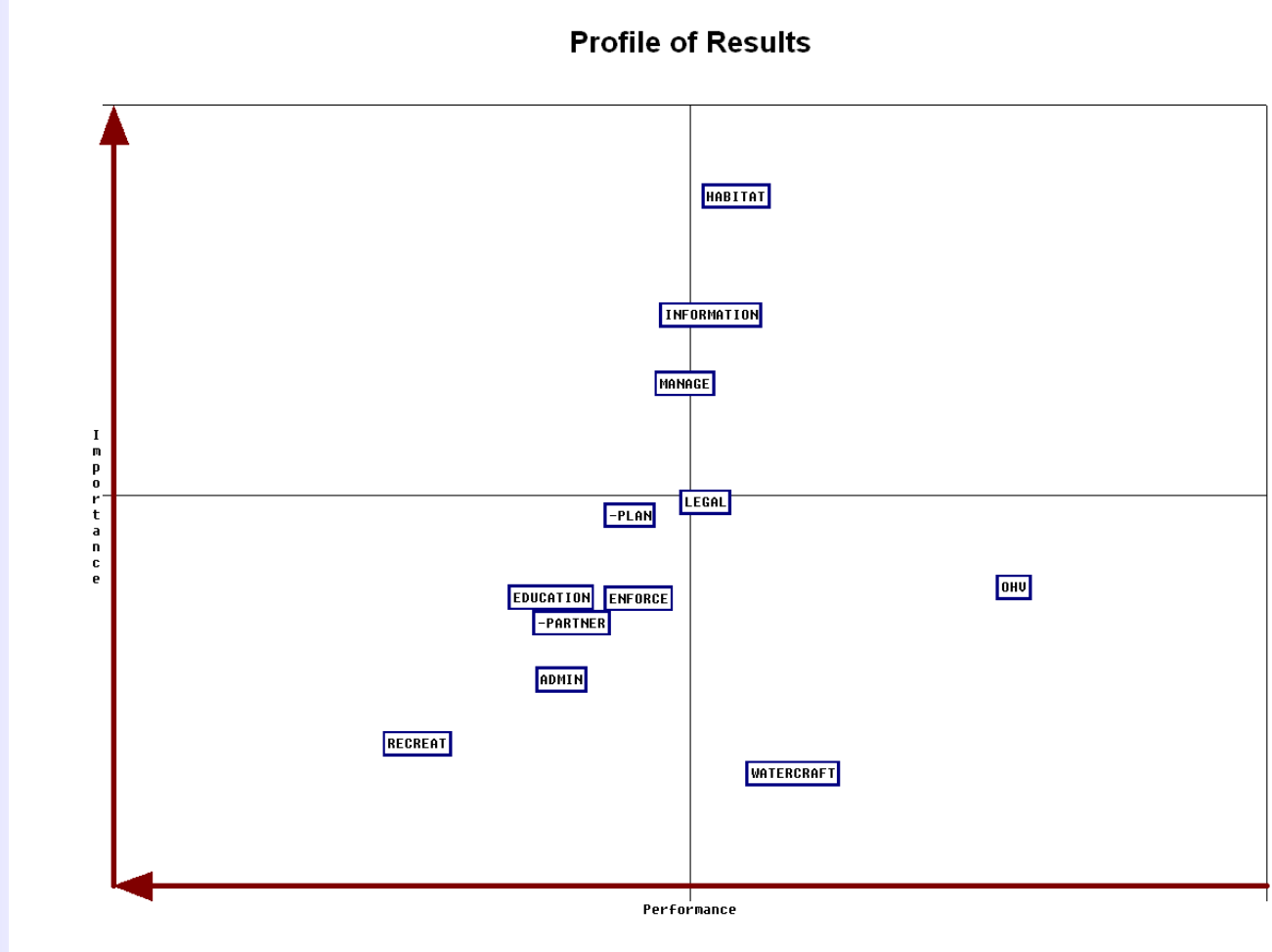
Figure T-7: Current Performance by Challenge



Profile Interpretation

The CoNexus® software creates a profile showing the relationship between the importance rankings and performance ratings. Figure T-8 shows the importance from top to bottom; the higher the challenge on the profile the more important it was to the participants. Performance is measured from right to left; the further left the challenge is on the profile the better the Department is performing.

Figure T-8: Comparison of Importance and Performance



Group Discussion

- Feels like we're comparing apples and oranges.
- How can you say one is more important than the other?
- Regarding the biological information challenge, "multi-use" is not part of the AGFD mission.

- Game and Fish doesn't manage land, they can only make recommendations.
- What if Game and Fish is doing too well a job managing the habitat?
- The perceived performance of the commission and AGFD differs.
- AGFD performance exceeds that of the commission.
- Thought education would rank higher.
- Thought recreation would rank higher than administration.
- Administration has to be working in order for the others to be effective.
- On the "information" challenge, I viewed it as if the word multi-use wasn't there.
- Must use biological information to make decisions.
- The agency is charged with wildlife, not a multi-use capacity.
- AGFD should change their mission.
- Certain uses preclude other uses.
- Recreation is not typically a wildlife use.
- Obligation to wildlife should precede others. Other uses impact this obligation.
- Recreational opportunities trump biology.
- Surprised at the low importance of law enforcement.
- Game and Fish partners with many groups with mixed agendas.
- Fundamentally think these uses should not be part of their mission.
- There is effective Audubon partnering, but not many of these types of partners.
- Recognition from Game and Fish does not include conservation partners.
- Part of the reason regarding the above comments is that this room differentiates the commission from the department. The commission is more on the consumptive use side, and not as much a part of the conservation effort.
- Would like to see a permit-driven funding – one with less AZGFD money.
- Department is handling the recreation challenge well, but it's not as important. There is an over-emphasis on the consumptive aspect.
- Results in these types of sessions will depend on what part of the spectrum we have been involved with.
- There is a split between game and non-game. There has been a perception that hunting and angling is the driving force behind the department.
- The department may not do a good job of telling the non-game side of the story well. However, New Mexico does this well in their newsletter.

“What's missing in the challenges?”

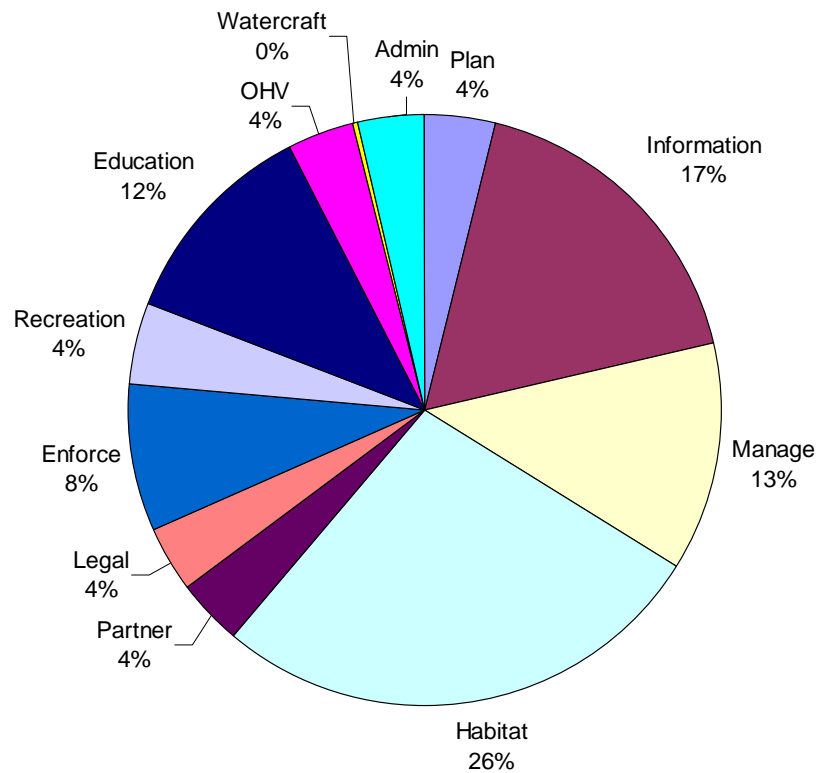
- Funding for non-game.
- Funding priorities.
- Integration of programs.
- Coordination between programs.

- Managing habitat and wildlife is duplicative.
- Remove off-highway vehicles and watercraft from list – this should move to State Parks.
 - OHV and watercraft was included in AGFD parenthetically, and has regulatory, funding, and legal connections to the department.
 - These areas should be folded into habitat management.
- There is a perception that AZGFD is driven by their permitting process. Game is perceived to run everything.
- Funding a conservation effort is difficult to get your hands around.
- Hoped to see a percent breakout of funding sources – if changed, this could affect the perspective of the agency.
- No one knows about the Game and Fish Foundation – attempted to pursue this course regarding big horn sheep and found this to be the case. There needs to be a clear mechanism available.
- Even commissioners and those in the agency believe almost all of the funding is from game.
- Don't see an opportunity for change until everyone in Arizona funds wildlife through taxes.
- I believe hunting is decreasing. (There was disagreement on this point.)
 - This group includes non-participants with the agency.
 - Could make that change by making users pay.
 - This is wrong. Hunting is consumptive; wildlife viewing is not – but they should pay too.
- Game branch individuals and the commission are not aware of the department's mission. See this as a top-down issue.

Funding

Each participant was given ten gold coins representing \$100. At the back of the room were 12 folders – one for each challenge. The participants were asked to spend their money as they felt appropriate. They were instructed to spend all of their money and not to break any of the coins.

Figure T-9 (page T-9) shows that the participants spent 56% of their money on the three most important challenges – wildlife habitat, biological information and wildlife management.

Figure T-9: Money Spent by Challenge

Group Discussion

- Some activities don't require money, but that doesn't mean they are not important.
- There are overlaps of categories.
- Partnerships are important, but you don't need to spend money on it.
- Does AZGFD put its expenditures up against this type of chart?

Part 2: Stressors to Arizona's Natural Habitats and Wildlife

Stressors Identified by Individuals

Each participant was asked to identify three stressors (threats) to Arizona's natural habitats and wildlife that they felt were the most important to be addressed in the next ten years. This brainstorming activity resulted in the following list of stressors:

- Invasive species
- Stressors: invasive species
- Disease Invasive Species
- Invasive aquatic species
- Residential development
- Habitat loss (fragmentation)
- Development
- Human population growth
- Overgrazing
- Livestock grazing
- Agriculture and water diversion
- Predator control
- Off-road vehicles
- Mismanagement
- Climate change
- Roads
- Urbanization
- Encroachment (urban-rural growth)
- Population growth
- Development/population pressure
- Poor stewardship of state lands
- Development
- Habitat fragmentation
- Habitat destruction
- Air & water pollution and diminution
- People
- Legal mandates
- Population growth without understanding of place
- No ordaining relationship with nature
- Funding
- Inadequate funding for habitat management/monitoring
- Grazing
- Drought
- Incompatible resource use/extreme private property rights
- Federal politics (Bush gets re-selected President)
- Invasive species
- Habitat destruction
- Population increase
- Pollution
- Pesticides/endocrine disruptors
- Disease
- Uncontrolled population growth/sprawl
- Habitat loss
- Population growth
- Development (misc. encroachment by humans)
- Encroachment of development
- Lack of public info and education
- Faulty information
- Erosion of public support
- Cattle grazing
- Wildlife mismanagement
- Federal land politics
- Water pumping/diversion
- Agribusiness
- Non-native/invasive species
- Lack of funding for non-game species
- Border security infrastructure & activities
- Habitat loss to urban expansion
- Habitat loss-new development
- Habitat fragmentation—highways
- Habitat fragmentation
- Population growth/development (housing)
- Urbanization
- Growth/development
- Loss of habitat to development
- Habitat loss and fragmentation
- Habitat loss
- Habitat degradation
- Habitat loss
- No water
- Transportation impacts
- Predators
- Exotic invasive species
- Invasive exotics
- Invasive species
- Livestock
- Dept. of agriculture
- Humans
- Urban sprawl
- Climate change
- ORV's
- Livestock grazing
- Roads
- Border situation—blockage of wildlife migration

Stressors Identified by Groups

The participants were divided into groups and asked to review their individual list of stressors and come to a consensus on three top stressors. The following were the stressors identified by the groups:

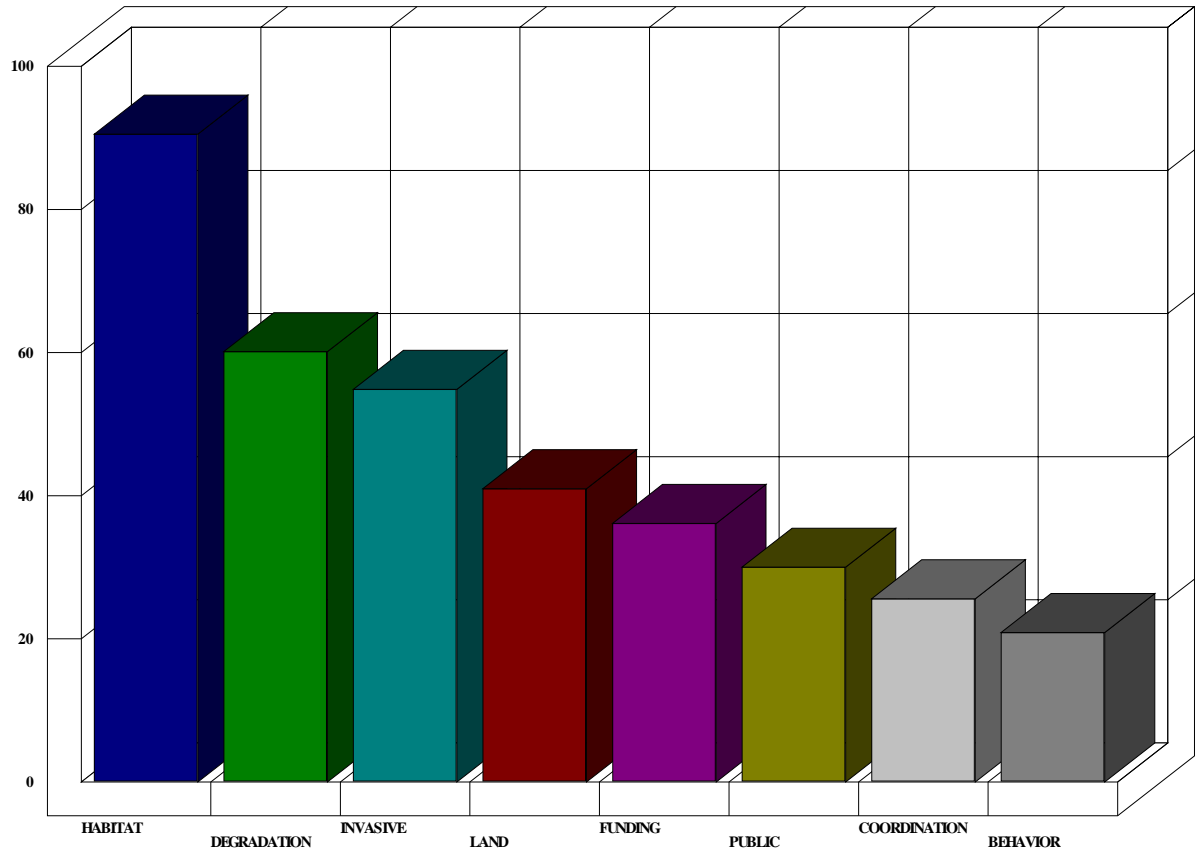
- Protection of wildlife habitat (acquisition with water rights)
- Habitat loss
- Habitat loss associated with growth/development
- Habitat loss
- Habitat loss due to human development
- Invasive of exotic species
- Invasive species
- Habitat degradation
- Quality of habitat (pollution)
- Habitat degradation due to resource use (grazing, water, diversions, etc.)
- Livestock management
- Illegal and depreciative human behavior
- Human management issues
- Land use priorities
- Pool land management policies (including AZ/Mexico border)
- Lack of support from an uninformed public
- Inadequate funding for monitoring and management
- Lack of inter/intra agency coordination and inconsistency

Stressors which are the most important for AZGFD to address in the next 10 years:

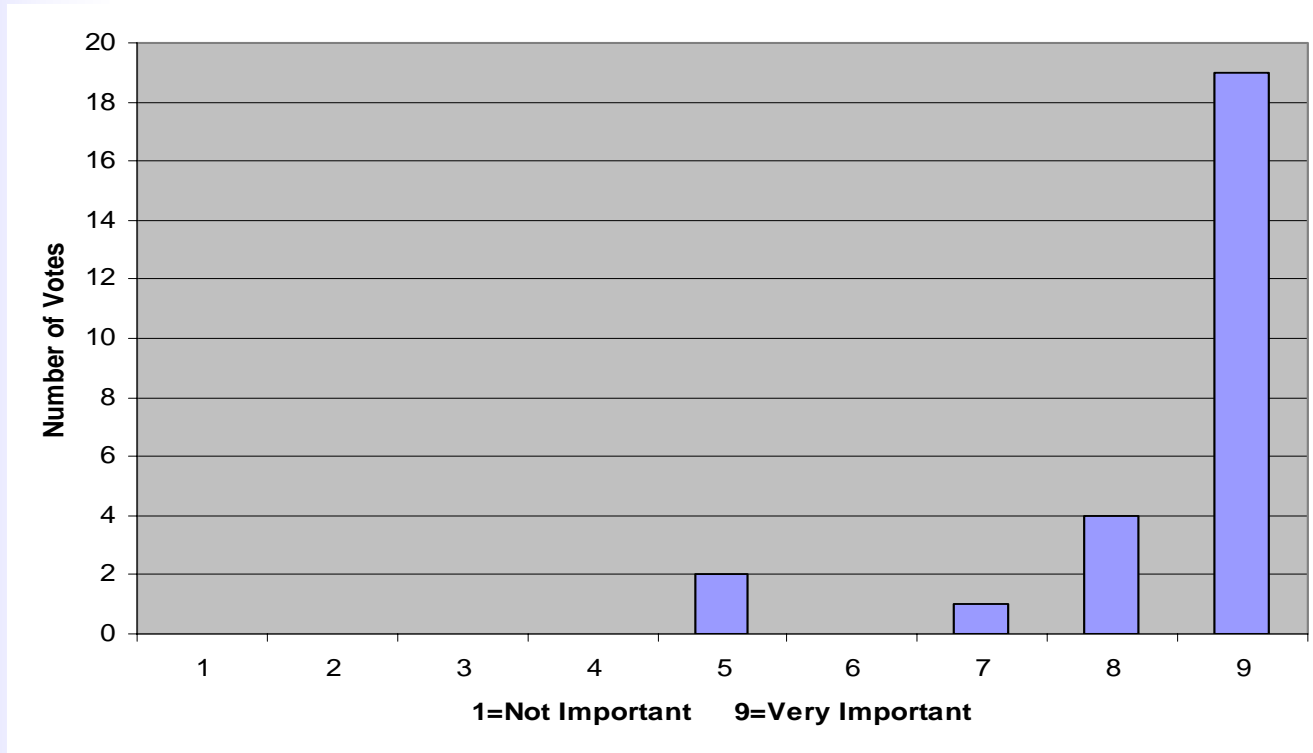
The participants defined, discussed, and combined their stressors into the following list which was voted using the CoNexus® dual-paired comparison software. The capital word in parentheses is the keyword used to identify the challenge on the CoNexus® graphs. *Note: Three participants did not return after lunch. Only 26 participants voted on the stressors.*

- **Habitat Loss/Fragmentation** - associated with growth and development (HABITAT)
- **Exotic Invasive Species** (INVASIVE)
- **Habitat Degradation** due to resource use (DEGRADATION)
- **Illegal and Depreciative Behavior** (BEHAVIOR)
- **Land Use Priorities** don't match wildlife needs (LAND)
- **Lack of an Informed and Supportive Public** (PUBLIC)
- **Inadequate Funding** for Monitoring and Management (FUNDING)
- **Lack of Inter(Intra)-agency Coordination** and inconsistent laws and policies (COORDINATION)

Overwhelmingly, the stress placed on habitats and wildlife by **habitat loss and fragmentation** was the most important threat to be addressed in the next 10 years (Figure T-10, Page T-12). Even though the group spent a lot of time discussing the illegal and depreciate behaviors, it was ranked as the least important.

Figure T-10: Most Important Stressors

After the vote, some of the participants believed that water loss and degradation should have been included in the list of stressors that were voted by the group. To address their concerns, the issue was put into a quick poll and the group voted on the importance of water loss and degradation as a stressor. As shown in Figure T-11 (page T-13), the group stated water loss and degradation were very important (average 8.5.)

Figure T-11: Importance of Water Loss and Degradation

Group Discussion

- Thought invasive species would rate higher.
- Thought the public aspect would be more important.
- Statistics are misleading.
- We are a diverse group on what we think is important.
- Overlap of concepts may be skewing these results.
- It's easy to come up with this list of eight, but priorities differ.
- The button we press represents what people think right now, not the hindsight view we might gain 100 years in the future.
- Some are causes, some are effects – it's tough to compare.
- Water loss and degradation are as an important part of the picture.

Part 3: Criteria for Identifying “Wildlife of Greatest Conservation Need”

Criteria Identified by Individuals

Each participant was asked to identify three factors that should be used by AZGFD to select the “Wildlife of Greatest Conservation Need.” This brainstorming activity resulted in the following list of criteria:

- Population trend
- Trends up and down
- Number remaining
- Rarity
- Low numbers
- Population size
- Sensitivity to disturbance
- Sensitivity to habitat disturbance
- Sensitive to human disturbance
- Keystone species
- Lack of knowledge
- Overall distribution
- Unique to Arizona
- Unique to Arizona
- Endemics
- Available/potential habitat quality
- Actual imminent habitat alteration
- Quality of and availability of habitat
- Is loss of habitat critically affecting the species?
- Species viability
- Population viability
- Can the species be expected to survive without help?
- Endangered/threatened status
- Threatened w/extinction
- Is it threatened?
- Importance to system keystone or indicator species
- Is the species keystone and what is its relationship to ecofunctions?
- Keystone species
- Endemism range limited/restricted to Arizona?
- State or national symbol
- Habitat availability
- Needed habitat (includes food, water, shelter)
- Threat(s)
- Habitat vulnerability (in path of development?)
- Habitat availability
- Reproduction rate
- Geographic distribution
- Range of distribution
- Range/distribution
- Endemic population viability
- Population numbers
- Population size and trend
- T&E
- Population
- Genetic viability (numbers)
- Population stability
- Rate of recovery (reproduction migration)
- Species population in state declining
- Eminent threat of extinction
- Species with declining population
- Declining numbers over time
- Loss of critical habitat
- Habitat of species in state declining/threatened
- Significant loss of species habitat
- Species population distribution very restricted
- Species with specific habitat needs
- Wide-ranging
- Top carnivore
- Keystone status in ecosystem
- Umbrella/keystone
- Keystone species
- Significant ecological impact-keystone

- Endemism
- Population
- Declining population
- Population/status as threatened/endangered
- Rarity
- Population density vs. pressure
- At risk for endangered status
- Special status species (GESA MGTA or otherwise imperiled)
- Threats to habitat
- Critical habitat size
- Localized distribution
- Indicator of ecosystem health
- Keystone species
- Key role in the food chain (e.g., top predator)
- Indicator species—critical role in ecosystem (umbrella, keystone)
- Put the effort where the odds of success are highest
- Native species
- Threats
- Loss of habitat range and/or population
- Collecting or over harvesting
- Lack of regulatory/legal protection

Criteria Identified by Groups

The participants were divided into groups and asked to review their individual list of criteria and come to a consensus on three top criteria. The following were the criteria identified by the groups:

- Is the loss of habitat affecting the species?
- Habitat jeopardized
- Habitat availability, threats, needs
- What is the species/sub-species viability?
- Small/declining population
- Reduced or declining population over time
- Species with low numbers and a downward trend
- Population size, trend, recovery rate
- Threatened and endangered
- Geographical limited species
- Range limited or restrictive?
- Endemics—native vs. introduced
- Endemics unique to Arizona
- Keystone species
- Umbrella/keystone
- Sensitivity to disturbance
- Species lacking data



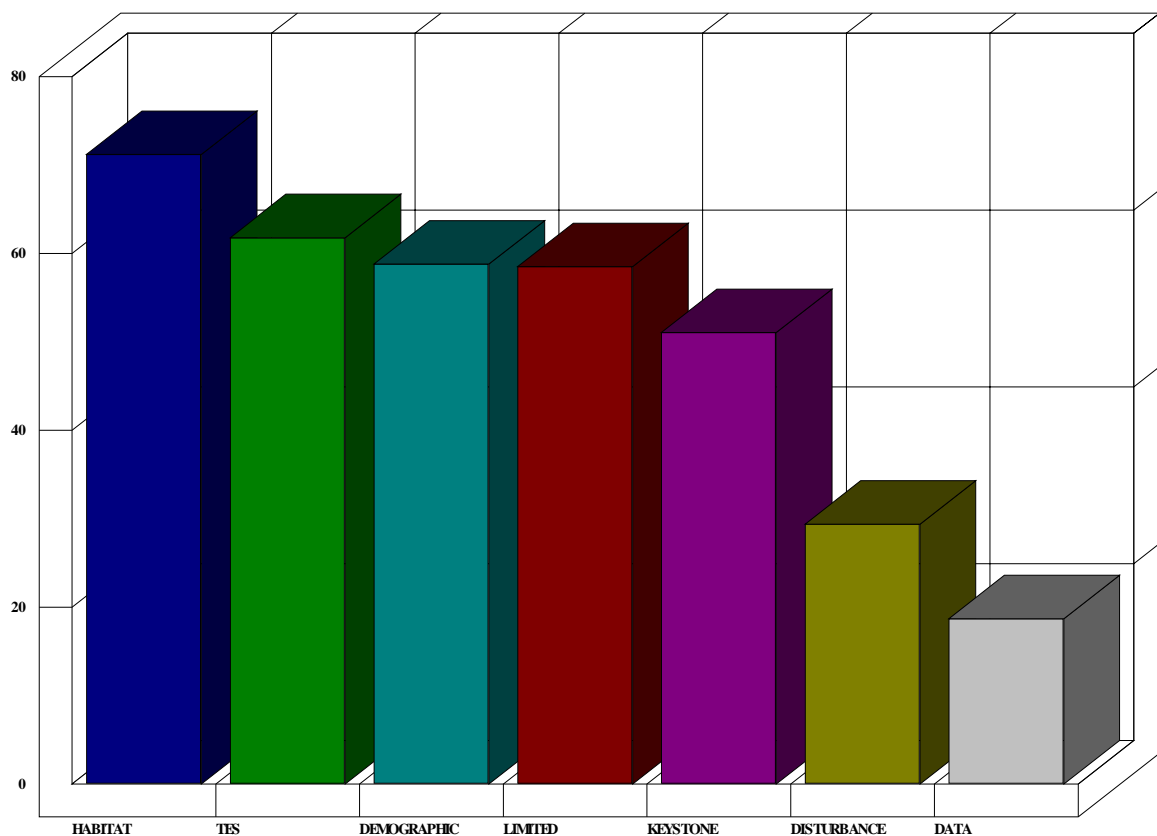
What are the factors that AZGFD should use to determine if a species needs special attention?

The participants defined, discussed, and combined their criteria into the following list which was voted using the CoNexus® dual-paired comparison software. The capital word in parentheses is the keyword used to identify the challenge on the CoNexus® graphs.

- **Declining Suitable Habitat** (HABITAT)
- **Demographic Vulnerability** (DEMOGRAPHIC)
- **Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive** (TES)
- **Umbrella - Keystone Species** (KEYSTONE)
- **Species Lacking Data** (DATA)
- **Sensitivity to Disturbance** (DISTURBANCE)
- **Geographic Limited Distribution**- Includes endemic (LIMITED)

As shown in Figure T-12 the most important criteria was **declining suitable habitat**. The least important were **sensitivity to disturbance** and **species lacking data**.

Figure T-12: Criteria Ranked by Importance



Group Discussion

- Surprised that “lack of data” had such a poor response.
- Loss of habitat would include most every species in Arizona.

Comments Posted by Participants

Throughout the day, participants were asked to post any comments they wanted included in the report. The following is verbatim transcription of those comments:

- Produce draft
- Another round of meetings in Phoenix, Flagstaff, and Tucson for comments on draft
- Development communication and education initiatives that result in quality public policy that conserves landscaping
- Full funding for monitoring and management
- Protection of wildlife habitat (acquisition with water rights)

- AZGFD needs to relax their efforts to control wildlife related conservation activities
- The CWCS should be a vehicle for better fed-state cooperation, but not to delegate regulatory authority to state over federal laws such as Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treat Act, etc.
- Need to resolve conflicts between management for non-native game species and native wildlife, especially fish
- Healthy landscape and proper ecological functioning are on obligations: all human uses should not compromise that
- Ferret was shown in PowerPoint show; but we have none i.e., we need prairie dogs and ferrets in our grass lands. Will help control shrub/tree invasions.
- Appreciate the department for contacting stakeholders early in the process and in such an upfront manner. (*There was widespread agreement on this point.*)



Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

CoNexus Online Survey Report

Final

February 28, 2005

Arizona State Game &
Fish Department

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Introduction

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) held four Wildlife Summits to obtain input from their stakeholders into the development of the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) as required for federal funding under the State Wildlife Grant Program. Stakeholder groups invited by AZGFD to participate in the Summits included Department constituency groups, special interests, local governments, Native American tribes, interagency cooperators, and the general public.

Upon completion of the four Summits, AZGFD contracted with Gunn Communications, Inc. (GCI) to conduct an online survey similar to the polling that was conducted during the Summits. GCI subcontracted with Idea Sciences, owner and developer of the CoNexus® software, to manage the survey. CoNexus® is a general purpose tool for group polling, data gathering, and prioritization of issues using dual-pair comparisons.

A press release was e-mailed by AZGFD staff to 16,000 stakeholders. The e-mail included a link to the survey registration site. A link to the survey was also posted on the AZGFD website.



The potential participants were asked to register by providing their e-mail address. A return e-mail with a password and link to the survey was sent to the participant. Participants were able to log-in and take the survey at their convenience (twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week between Monday, November 15 and Monday, December 6, 2004.) After voting, participants were able to provide comments.

This information is meant to provide additional insight into the opinions and priorities of AZGFD stakeholders and should not be viewed as definitive. This information is most valuable when put into context and compared to the results of other public involvement activities. The statistical information provided in this report should be considered QUALITATIVE information and not statistically valid. The participants were self-selected and may not be reflective of the entire stakeholder community.

A total of 418 people voted at least the survey demographic questions, and 256 of those respondents completed the entire survey. This report only includes information from the completed surveys.

The online survey was divided into the same four parts. Part 1 was the collection of demographic and personal interest information. Participants were then asked to prioritize AZGFD's 12 challenges using dual-paired comparisons. Participants were also asked to rate on a scale of one to nine how well the Department was performing today in each of these 12 challenge areas.

Identifying stressors (threats) that may impact Arizona wildlife and habitat in the next 10 years was the purpose of the third part of the survey. At the Summits, participants created their own list of stressors. For the online survey, the stressor lists from each of the four Summits were combined into one list. The list was voted using dual-paired comparisons.

The final part of the online survey was to prioritize the criteria that should be used by AZGFD to identify the “Wildlife of Greatest Conservation Need.” The same process that was used to create the list of stressors was used to create a list of criteria which was voted using dual-pair comparisons.

Comments on a wide variety of issues were received from 98 participants. Each comment was separated into topic related categories resulting in 183 individual comments. These comments are summarized in this report and a verbatim transcript is included as Appendix A.

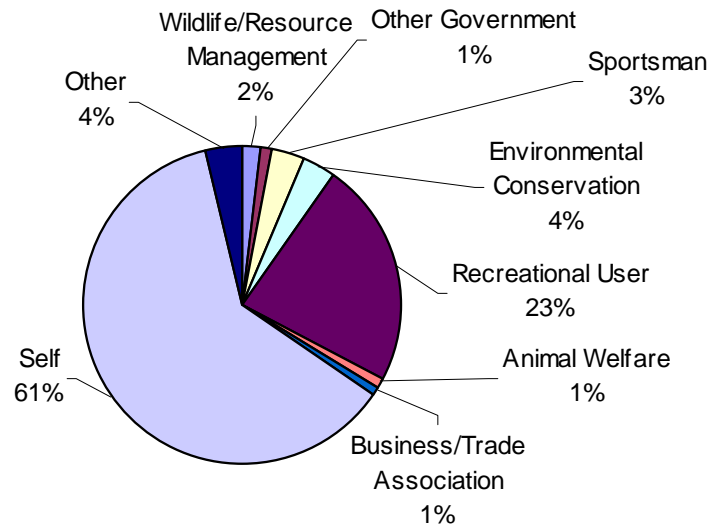
This report also includes the results of the online survey, a breakout by stakeholder group and comparison to the Summit results.

Demographics and Interests

The 256 participants who completed the entire online survey were asked to indicate which stakeholder group they were representing and to identify their personal interests.

As shown on Figure O-1, more than 60% of the online survey participants were representing themselves. The next largest demographic group was participants representing recreational vehicle users (23%). During the Summits, the largest demographic groups were representatives of environmental or conservation groups (40%) and government agencies (36%).

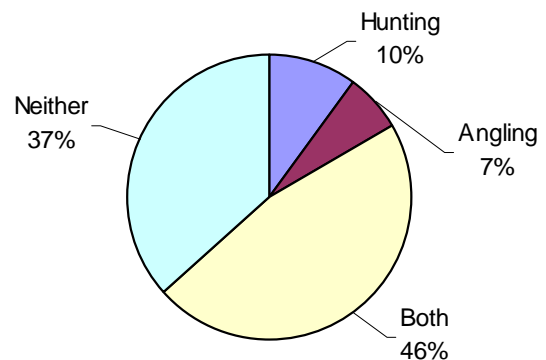
Figure O-1: Participant Representation



Although only three percent of the participants represent a sportsman’s organization, 63% either hunt and/or fish (Figure O-2.)

This percentage is just slightly higher than the 54% from the Summits who hunt and/or fish.

Figure O-2: Hunting and Fishing



Most of the participants (90%) watch wildlife and/or participate in animal welfare activities (Figure O-3.) This percentage is similar to the (91%) of the Summit participants who watch wildlife and/or participate in animal welfare activities.

Almost half of the survey respondents (49%) use watercraft and/or off-highway vehicles (Figure O-4.) This percentage is slightly higher than the 43% of Summit participants who are recreational vehicle users.

Only 71% of the survey respondents watch wildlife at home and/or participate in horticulture and gardening activities compared to 94% of the Summit participants (Figure O-5.)

Even though the demographics groups represented were significantly different between the online survey and Summits, the interest areas were very similar with the following exceptions:

- Survey respondents were slightly more likely to hunt, fish and/or use recreational vehicles.
- Survey respondents were less likely to watch wildlife at home and/or participate in horticulture and gardening.

Figure O-3: Wildlife

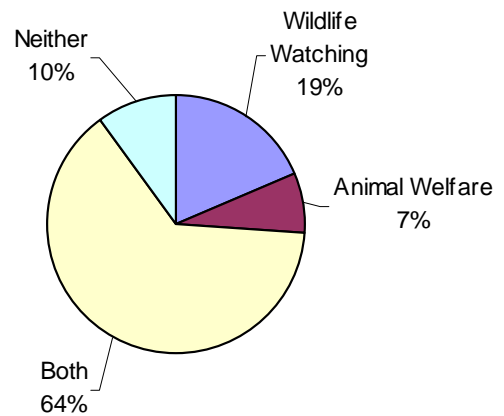


Figure O-4: Recreation

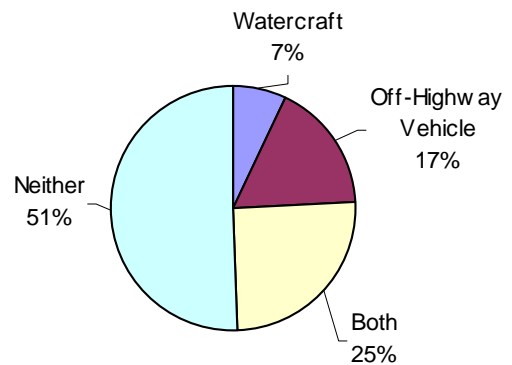
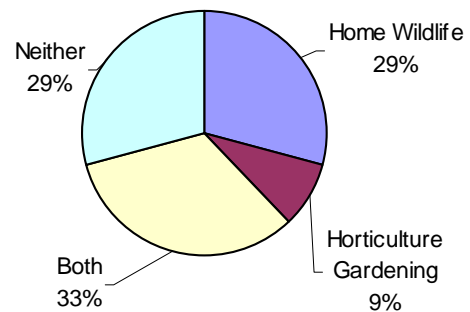


Figure O-5: Home Activities



Arizona Game and Fish's 12 Challenges

During recent strategic planning efforts, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) staff identified 12 challenge areas. Survey respondents were asked to review the list and determine “Which one of these challenges is the most important in achieving the AZGFD’s mission.”

Agency Mission: To conserve, enhance, and restore Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and habitats through aggressive protection and management programs, and to provide wildlife resources and safe watercraft and off-highway vehicle recreation for the enjoyment, appreciation, and use by present and future generations Note: The mission was posted in the survey on the second day of voting.

The following is a description of each of the 12 challenges used online. The capital word in parentheses is the keyword used to identify the challenge on the graphs.

- **Planning and Funding** – Manage wildlife resources as a public trust through efficient and funded activities. (PLAN)
- **Biological Information** – Ensure that biological information used in decision making is accurate and used to implement multi-use land management. (BIO INFO)
- **Wildlife Management** - Make wildlife decisions that reflect sound science and values. (MANAGE)
- **Wildlife Habitat** - Work to ensure habitat is protected and properly managed for wildlife. (HABITAT)
- **Partnerships** – Develop partnerships that recognize wildlife as a public trust. (PARTNER)
- **Laws and Legal Considerations** – Ensure laws and policies are sufficient to protect wildlife and their habitats. (LEGAL)
- **Law Enforcement** - Enforce laws to protect wildlife, public health and safety and sustain recreation opportunities. (ENFORCE)
- **Wildlife Recreation** – Provide ample wildlife recreation opportunities for the full spectrum of wildlife recreation users. (RECREAT)
- **Information and Education** – Provide the public wildlife information and education. (EDUCATION)
- **Off-Highway Vehicle Management** – Manage off-highway vehicles impacts on wildlife and their habitats. (OHV)
- **Watercraft Management** - Manage watercraft impacts on wildlife and their habitats. (WATERCRAFT)
- **Administrative Challenges** – Maintain effective agency through sound fiscal management, business practices and well-trained workforce. (ADMIN)

A dual-pair comparison was used to determine which challenges were the most important to the respondents. Participants were also asked to rate on a scale of one to nine how well the AZGFD was performing today in each of the challenge areas.

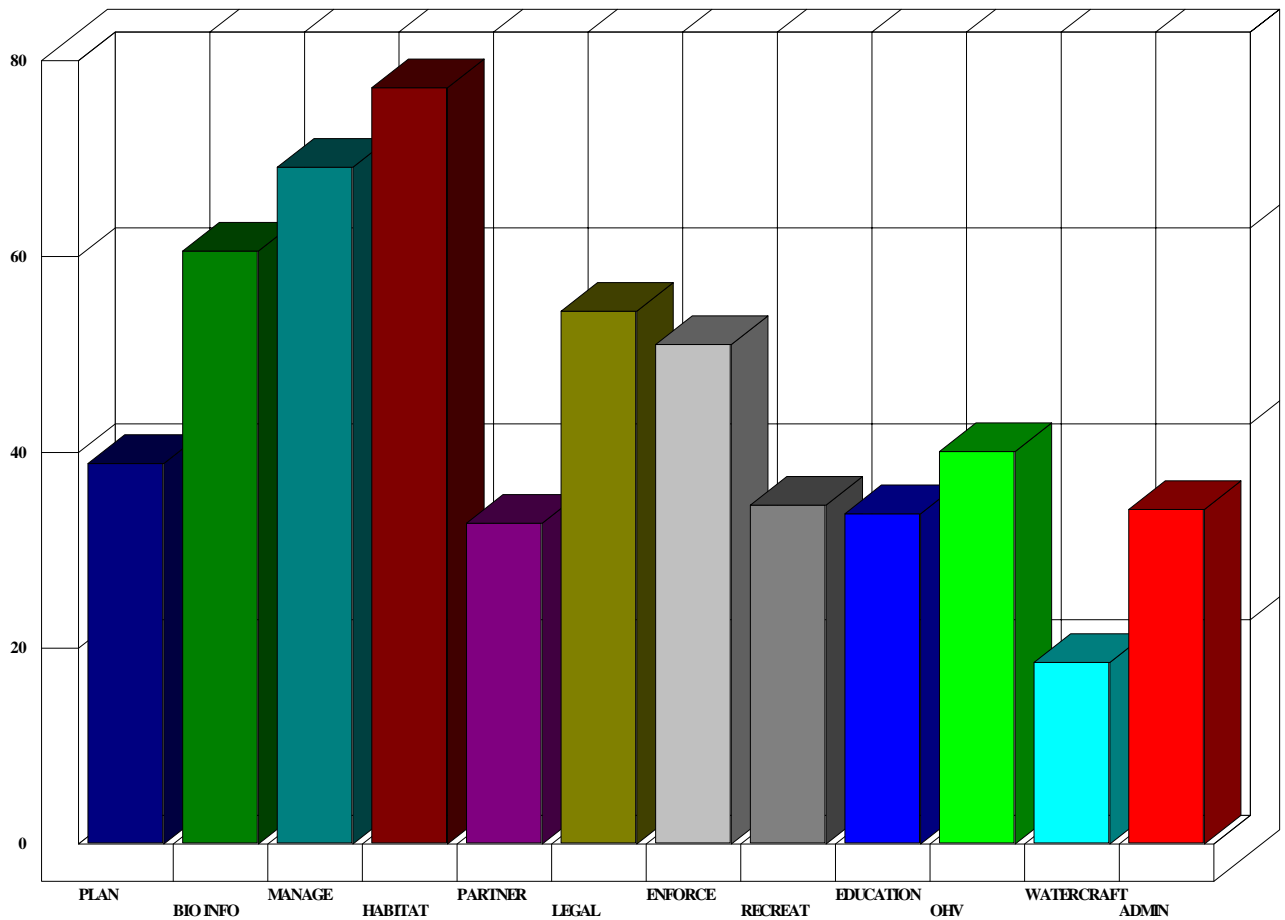
Importance

The participants ranked the importance of the 12 challenges as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Wildlife Habitat | 7. Planning and Funding |
| 2. Wildlife Management | 8. Wildlife Recreation |
| 3. Biological Information | 9. Administrative Challenges |
| 4. Laws and Legal Considerations | 10. Information and Education |
| 5. Law Enforcement | 11. Partnerships |
| 6. Off-Highway Vehicle Management | 12. Watercraft Management |

Figure O-6 shows the ranking in importance for each challenge by survey respondents.

Figure O-6: Importance Ranking of AZGFD’s 12 Challenges (Scale 0-100)



Comparison of Importance Rankings by Interest Areas

Figure O-7 compares the opinions of the participants who hunt and fish (152) and recreational vehicle users (119) to the importance rankings of the entire group of respondents completing the entire survey. These were the only two special interest areas where there was a difference of opinion. Participants who hunt and fish and recreational vehicle users groups ranked wildlife recreation and law enforcement higher in importance than the entire group. They also felt habitat management was less important.

Figure O-7: Sportsmen and Recreation Vehicle Users (Scale 0-100)



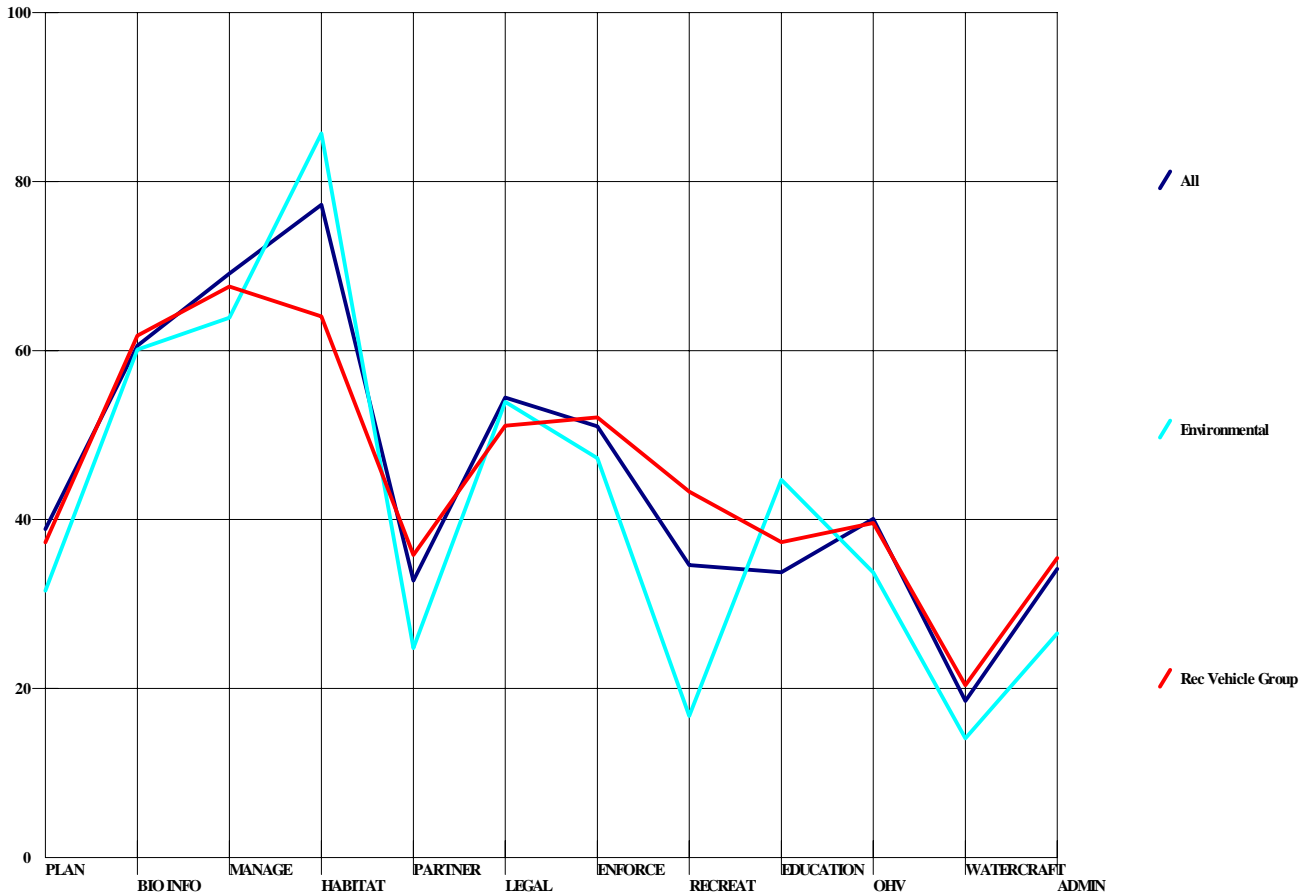
Comparison of Importance Rankings by Stakeholder Group

Figure O-8 compares the importance rankings of the environmental and conservation (9) and recreational vehicle user group (59) representatives to the entire group. As seen on the graph below, the environmental and conservation group representatives ranked the following higher in importance than the entire group:

- Wildlife Habitat
- Information and Education

Representatives of environmental-conservation organizations gave a lower importance ranking to partnerships, wildlife recreation and watercraft management than the entire group.

Figure O-8: Environmental Group and Recreational Vehicle Users Representatives (Scale 0-100)

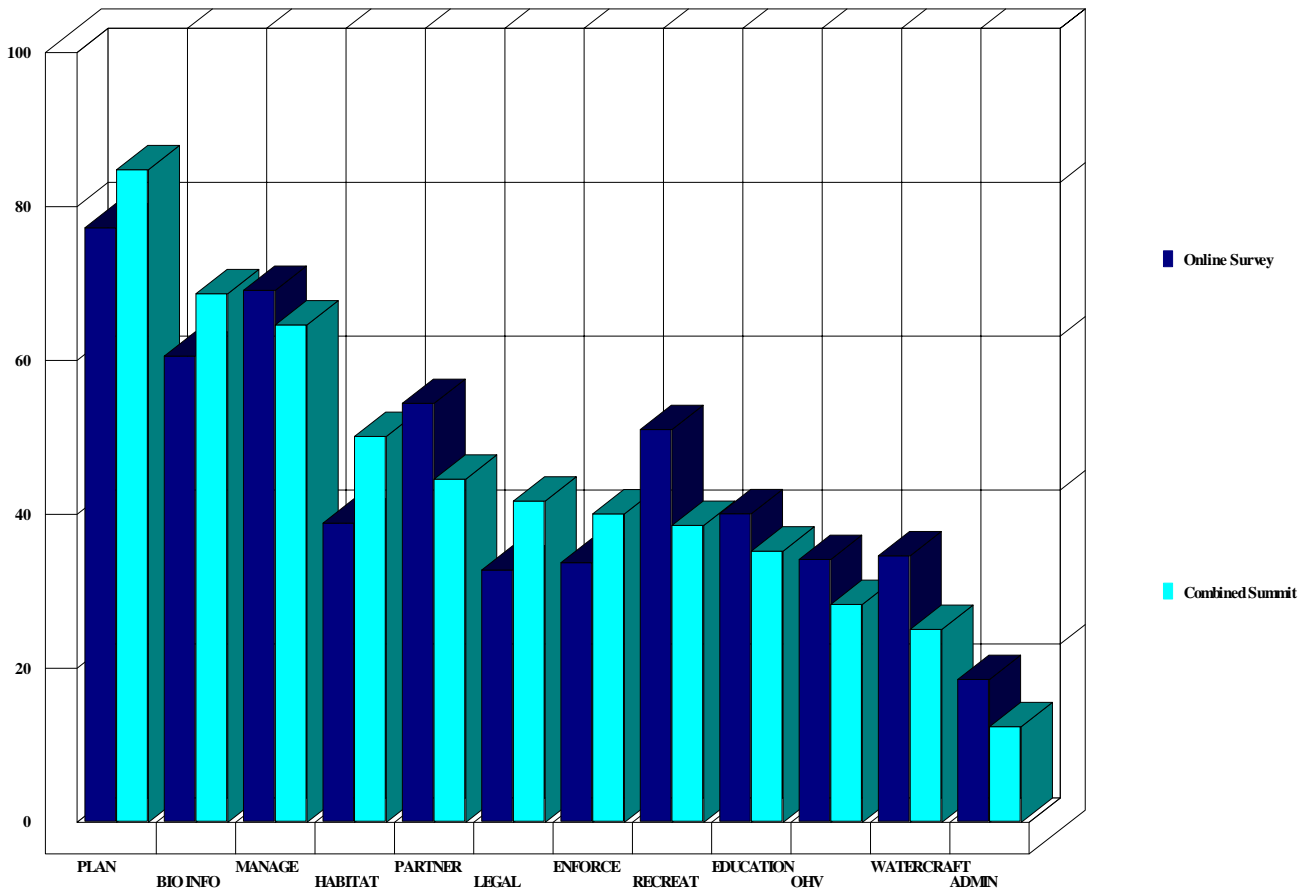


Comparison of Online Survey and Combined Summit Importance Rankings

Figure O-9 compares how online survey respondents ranked the 12 challenges in importance to the Summit participants. Key findings include the following:

- Both the online and Summit participants agreed wildlife habitat, biological information and wildlife management were the three most important challenges.
- Online respondents felt that partnerships, wildlife recreation and watercraft management were much more important.
- Wildlife habitat, laws and legal considerations and law enforcement were much less important to the online responders than the Summit participants. Although law enforcement was low in importance for the online survey, 14 of the comments posted discussed the need for more law enforcement.

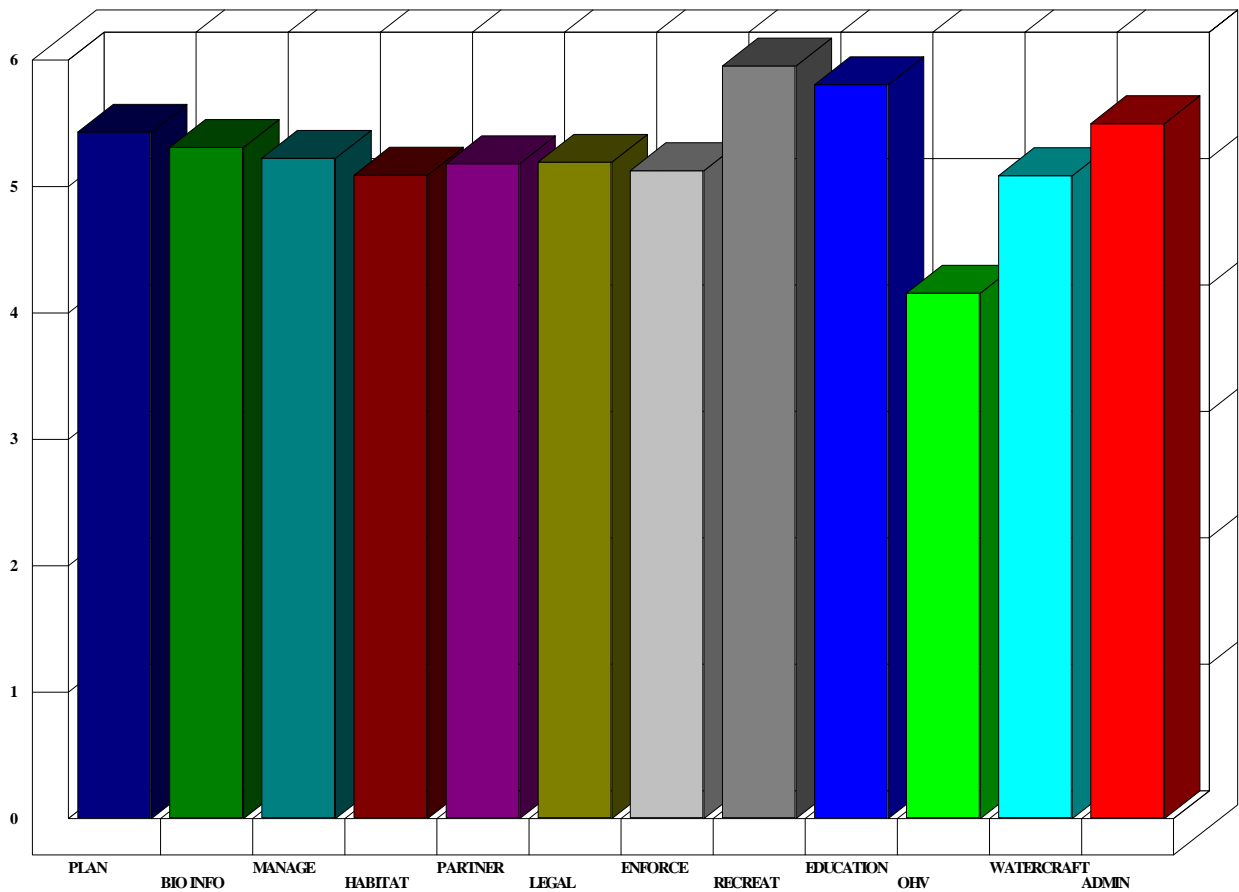
Figure O-9: Online vs. Summit Importance Rankings (Scale 0-100)



Performance

Participants also were asked to rate the current performance of the AZGFD in fulfilling each of the challenges. A scale of 1-9 was used (9=practically perfect; 5=just getting by; 1=not at all.) All but three of the challenges were rated a 5 +/- . Because there is little variation in the data, the validity of these results is questionable. Figure O-10 shows how the participants rated the performance on each of the 12 challenges.

Figure O-10: Current Performance by Challenge (Scale 0-9)



Because of the concern over the validity of these results, no further comparisons will be made in this report.

Stressors to Arizona's Natural Habitats and Wildlife

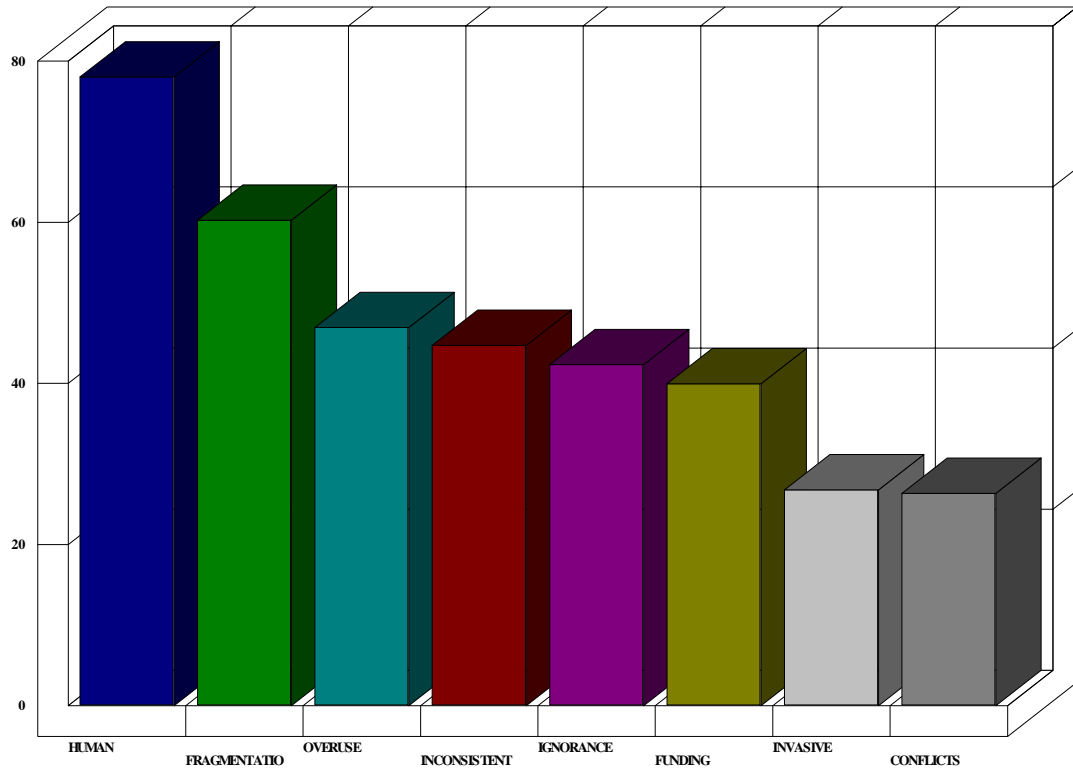
During the four Summits, each group developed their own list of stressors (threats) to Arizona's natural habitats and wildlife they believed are the most important to be addressed in the next ten years.

To be able to have all online survey respondents rank the same stressors, individuals were not able to create their own list. The list of stressors used for the online survey was a compilation of the stressors identified at each of the four Summits. The online participants voted this list using dual-pair comparisons. The capital word in parentheses is the keyword used to identify the stressor on the report graphs.

- **Invasive Species** (INVASIVE)
- **Human Causes** - Loss of habitat due to development, human manipulations, increased demands on limited resources and for recreation (HUMAN)
- **Conflicts** between humans and wildlife (CONFLICTS)
- **Overuse** of natural resources and impact from drought (OVERUSE)
- **Ignorance** and lack of respect for wildlife and natural resources by an uninformed public (IGNORANCE)
- **Lack of funding** for wildlife and habitat management (FUNDING)
- **Fragmentation** and loss of habitat and linkages (FRAGMENTATION)
- **Inconsistent management policies** priorities and politics influencing science (INCONSISTENT)

Overwhelmingly, the loss of habitat due to human causes was the most important threat to be addressed in the next 10 years (Figure O-11.)

Figure O-11: Most Important Stressors (Scale 0-100)

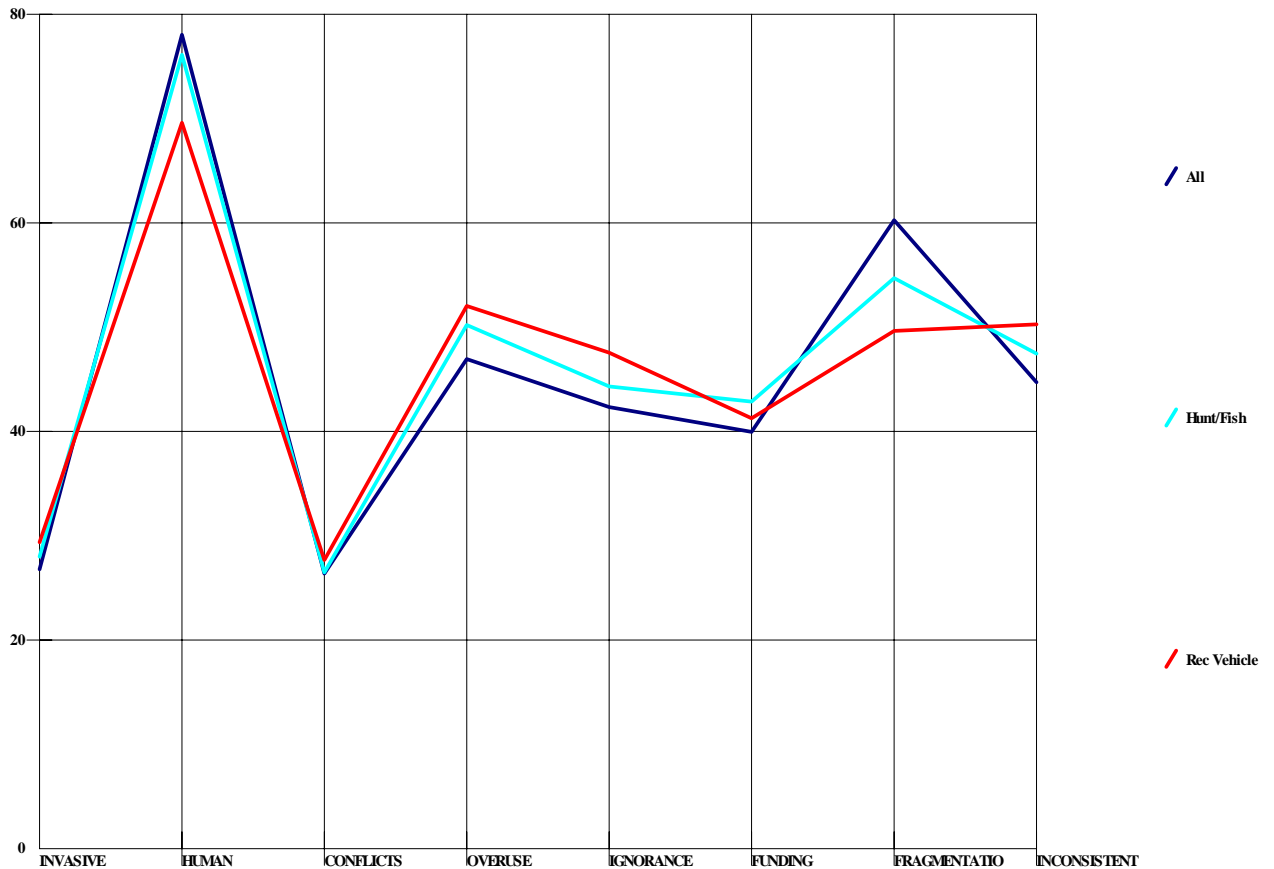


Comparison of Stressor Rankings by Interest Areas

Figure O-12 compares how the participants who hunt and fish (152) and recreational vehicle users (119) ranked the importance of the stressors to the rankings of the entire group. These were the only two special interest areas where there was a difference of opinion.

Participants who hunt and fish and recreational vehicle users groups ranked ignorance higher in importance than the full group. They also gave a lower rating to fragmentation and the recreational vehicle users gave a slightly lower value to the human caused stressors.

Figure O-12: Stressors Rankings by Interest Area (Scale 0-100)

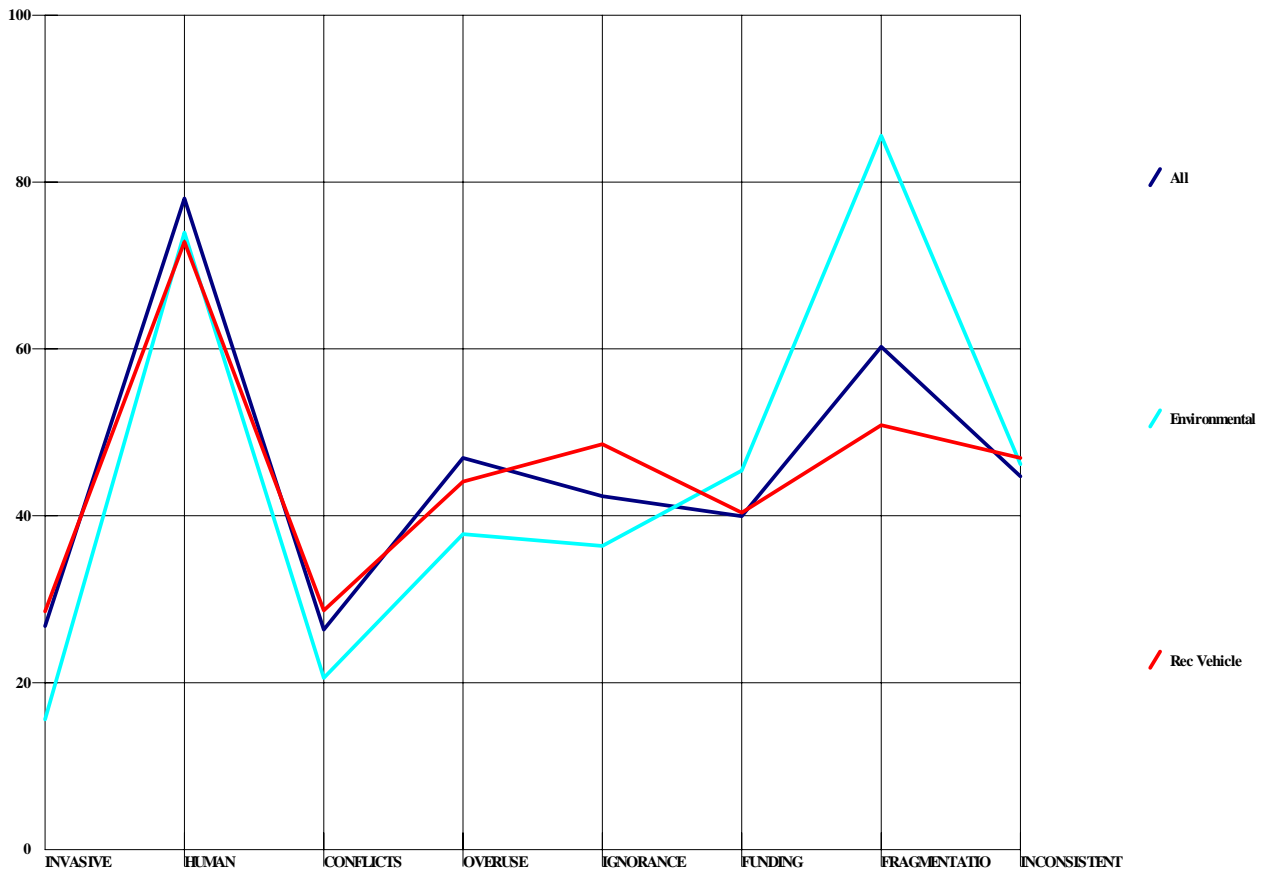


Comparison of Stressor Rankings by Stakeholder Group

Figure O-8 compares the stressor importance rankings of the environmental and conservation (9) and recreational vehicle user group (59) representatives to the combined group.

As seen on the graph below, the environmental group representatives ranked the fragmentation of habitat a much more significant threat than the group and recreational vehicle users.

Figure O-13: Environmental Group and Recreational Vehicle Users Representatives (Scale 0-100)



Criteria for Identifying “Wildlife of Greatest Conservation Need”

During the four Summits, each group developed their own list of criteria to be used by AZGFD to select the “Wildlife of Greatest Conservation Need.”

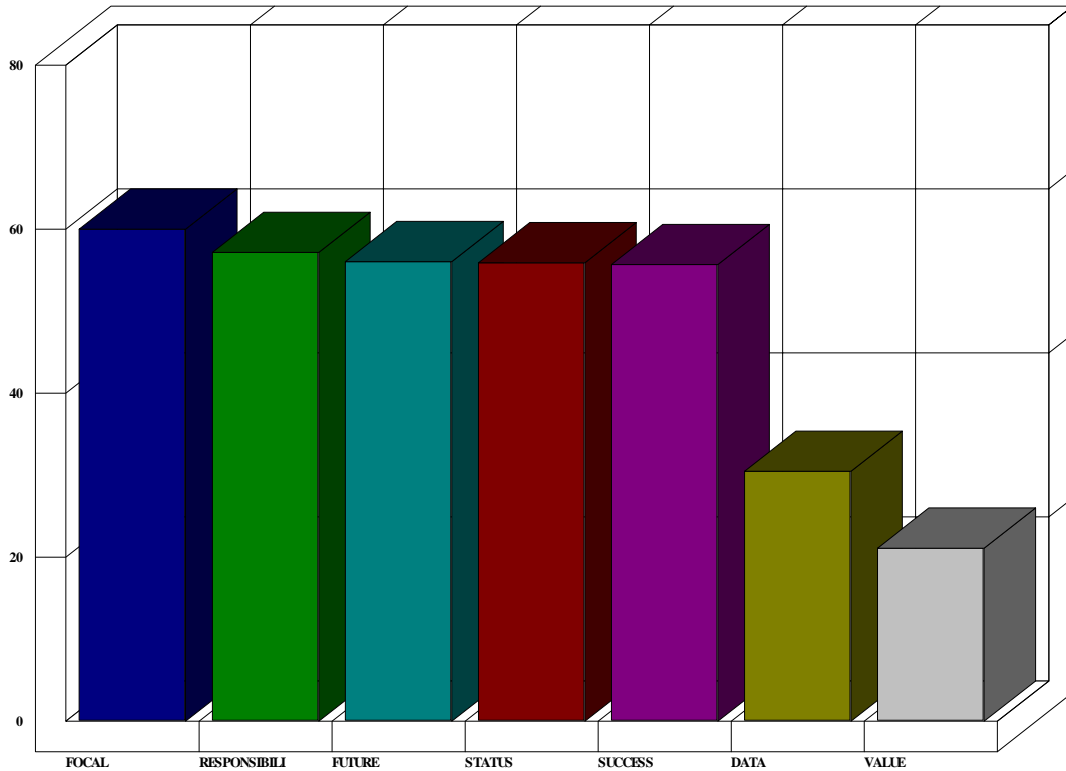
To be able to have all survey respondents rank the same criteria, individuals were not able to create their own list. The list of criteria used for the online survey was a compilation of the criteria identified at each of the four Summits.

The online participants voted this list using dual-paired comparisons. The capital word in parentheses is the keyword used to identify the criteria on the report graphs.

- **Special status** or vulnerable species (STATUS)
- **Responsibility species** dependent on AZ that it requires special attention regardless of other factors (RESPONSIBILI)
- **Community focal species** - species that indicate or regulate the health of their wildlife communities and habitats (FOCAL)
- **Species of social** or economic value (VALUE)
- **Species for which data are lacking** to determine their status (DATA)
- **Potential for successful recovery** and management of wildlife and habitats (SUCCESS)
- **Future threats** to habitat and species such as pollution and disease (FUTURE)

The importance of the criteria was pretty much equal except for species which data are lacking and species of social or economic value which were considerable lower in importance (Figure O-14.)

Figure O-14: Most Important Criteria (Scale 0-100)

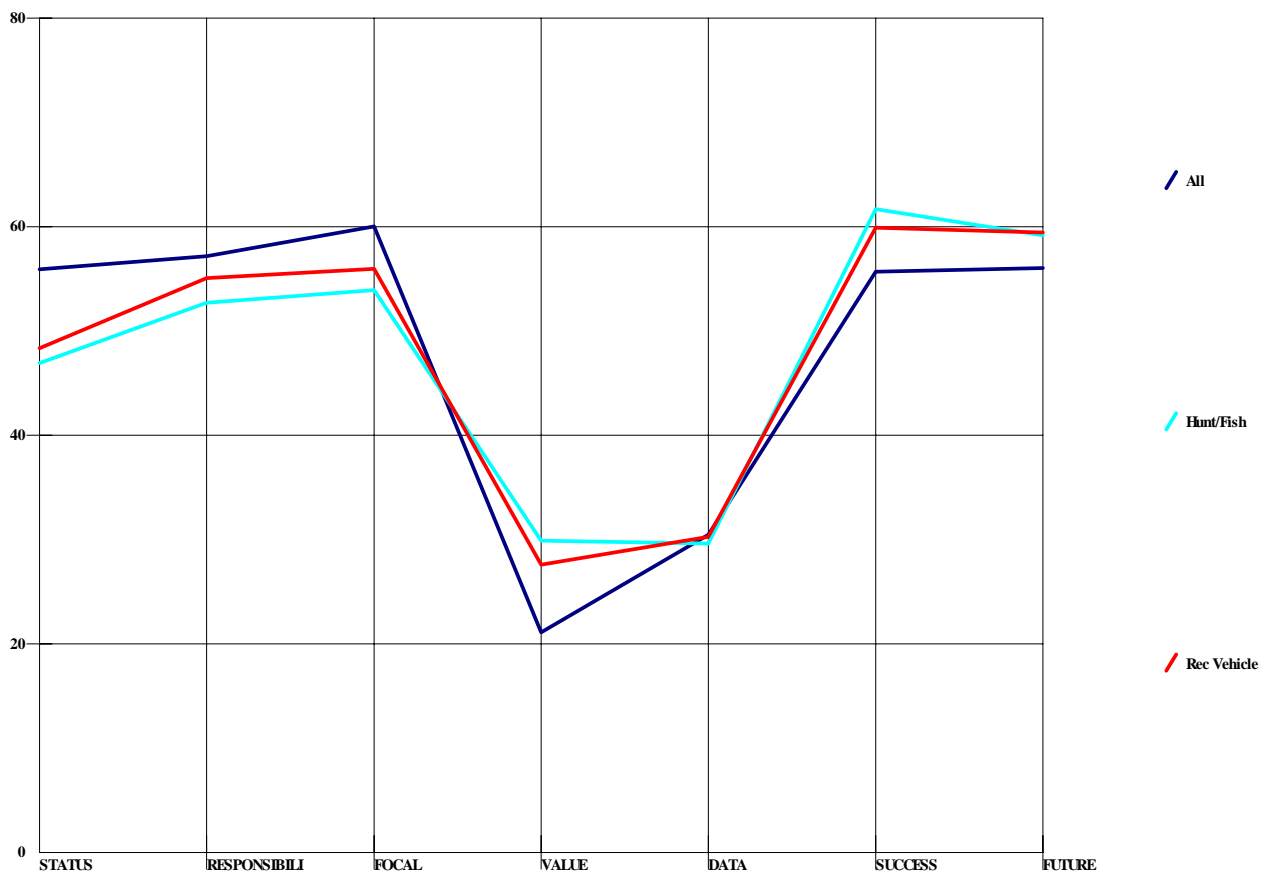


Comparison of Criteria Rankings by Interest Areas

Figure O-15 compares how the participants who hunt and fish (152) and recreational vehicle users (119) ranked the importance of the criteria to the rankings of the entire group. These were the only two special interest areas where there was a difference of opinion.

Participants who hunt and fish and recreational vehicle users groups gave the economic criteria higher rankings. They voted the potential for success and the social and economic value of the species criteria as more important than the group as a whole. On the other hand, they ranked the science based criteria (status, responsibility and focal) lower than the group.

Figure O-15: Stressors Rankings by Interest Area (Scale 0-100)



Comparison of Criteria Rankings by Stakeholder Group

Figure O-16 compares the criteria importance rankings of the environmental and conservation (9) and recreational vehicle user group (59) representatives to the combined group.

As seen on the graph below, the environmental group representatives had significant differences of opinion from the remainder of the group. Environmentalists gave much higher ranking to the focal species criteria and less to the social and economic value and potential for success.

Figure O-16: Environmental Group and Recreational Vehicle Users Representatives (Scale 0-100)



Comment Summary

Participants in the online survey were able to post comments at the end of the survey. They were also able to read and respond to questions posted by other participants. Of the 418 registered participants, 98 posted a comment. Several of the comments discussed several different issues. To be able to summarize the comments, each comment was separated into individual topic areas. A total of 183 individual comments were recorded.

The following is a summary of the comments received. A complete verbatim list of the comments is included in Appendix A.

Comments Related to the CWCS:

CWCS Specific Comments:

- Final program should have a broader view to provide and protect viable habitat for all of Arizona's wildlife.
- Plan should be comprehensive of all wildlife species for which AZGFD has authority
- Plan should be strategic and aggressively provide professional and scientific leadership to sustain wildlife species and their habitats

Funding:

- Most comments stated that AZGFD didn't have enough funding to accomplish its mission
- Three comments stated that the legislature should provide funding to protect AZ's wildlife and habitat
- One requested information on where AZGFD's funding comes from

Growth:

- Six comments stated the number one concern is the loss of habitat to continued urban growth.
- Legislature should be convinced to set aside sufficient land and funding for future recreational use
- AZGFD should get involved in the State's land management plans

Loss of Habitat:

- Twelve comments emphasized the greatest problem was the loss of habitat
- Emphasis needs to be on habitat and species protection

- More habitat restoration such as road closures and water projects
- Protect and improve critical habitats on State Trust Lands
- Legislature should allow AZGFD to purchase more critical habitat
- Manage habitats for the greatest benefit of the animals instead of for the greatest benefit of people who use them for recreation
- Establish a mitigation land bank
- Acquisition of private lands

Land Use Management Policies:

- Arizona needs better land use practices and monitoring
- More active stance on preservation of habitat from development and overgrazing
- Federal regulations favoring abusive livestock grazing and mining need to change

Illegal Immigrations:

- One person commented that illegal immigration in southern Arizona is a significant threat to the habitat and wildlife

Native Fish:

- AZGFD needs to do more for native fishes in AZ – too much emphasis is placed on sport fish

Off-Highway Vehicles:

- Thirteen comments provided stories about how OHVs are destroying habitat and disrupting hunters

Politics vs. Sound Science:

- Six comments stated that the management of wildlife and habitats should be left to the professionals using sound science and the politics should be kept out of the decisions

Volunteers:

- Enlist more volunteer and amateur naturalists, ornithologists and environmentalists to do a lot of the more mundane work

Water:

- The lack of water is a problem

Wildlife Conservation and Management:

- Thirteen comments were received

- Conservation needs to be the top priority
- Decisions require very hard choices but AZGFD has the expertise to make them
- Predator control needs to be implemented as a wildlife management tool
- Wildlife management is about more than just hunting and fishing
- Support cluster development projects
- Incorporate all open space lands into a master multiple species protection program
- Careful mapping of the habitat and species
- Difficult to meet short-term demands while trying to accomplish long-term goals
- The basic question is whether to support active management or passive management

Youth:

- Don't forget the kids' programs. The kids are the future and need to be included

Comments Not Directly Related to the CWCS:

Unrelated comments fell within the following categories:

- Continued public access to State and Forest Service lands should be a priority
- Seven comments were specific to the AZGF Commissioners
- One comment was concerned about the continued protection of the Arizona 'sub-species' (population) of the bald eagle
- Four comments were related to recent license and permit fee changes
- One comment stated AZGFD needs to bridge the gap between the Game and Nongame Branches
- A large number of comments (16) were related to hunting issues
- Fourteen comments were related to a need for more law enforcement and suggestions for using volunteers to assist with enforcement
- Eleven comments discussed options for changing AZGFD leadership, management, and policies
- The Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program was the focus of four comments
- More than 25% (25) of the people posting comments stated they supported AZGFD
- Thirty-three comments were posted relating a dislike of the survey design

Appendix A

Verbatim Comments

<i>Password</i>	<i>Comment</i>
WQWMTL	They should have the youth hunts After the regular hunts, so that the herds can be kept culled down, instead of the kids going up and scaring all of the game before the regular hunt. All they do is spook all of the game by shooting at anything that moves!!
E4ZDY3	Just wanted to make the comment that my experience with the AZGF has been positive and feel that they are taking the right tract of planning for wildlife with public input, science and education. I want the future generations to have the same opportunities to enjoy the AZ outdoors as I have had. Thanks, NC
WYTUXN	I believe the AZFGD has done a commendable job. Loss of habitat is by far the biggest problem facing AZ wildlife. If our legislators do not recognize that land and resources are being used up at an incredible rate, it won't matter what the AZFGD does.
GNHNZU	Please include the AZGFD Mission statement along with the section 2 of the survey, as it is hard to determine which of those challenges are most impactful to the mission if you don't know what the mission is.
GEXNZL	The impact of urban growth, which in turn promotes pollution, destruction of critical habitat, and other problems, should be addressed by the legislators, and stop the budget cuts for state agencies.
OYJEWZ	The economic value of many of Arizona's huntable species is an untapped resource. Drought has caused much stress on many of these species, reducing their value. The installation of Guzzlers in Nevada has improved their Upland Bird hunting considerably. (80,000 Chukars were harvested there last year.) These guzzlers have not been maintained properly, and now the Nevada authorities have authorized a \$10 Upland game Habitat stamp just for the repair and/or installation of new guzzlers. Speaking for myself, I would gladly pay an additional \$10 to hunt if there were more birds to hunt. Many other species benefit as well. If this is feasible in Arizona, I would love to see it considered. Of course this would not be much of a benefit if "Nuclear Grazing" practice continues. Better land use practices and monitoring would benefit Arizona to a much greater degree economically than is currently practiced. I spend over \$1500 annually within the state of Arizona yearly, just to hunt quail, and I generally only visit 2-3 times each year. Thanks for your consideration!
GJLYTG	Is there a link available to monitor the results of the survey :?:
ONDFMY	Folks, I respect the Arizona Game and Fish department and believe they do a pretty good job. I don't think that the survey will help much, since it is obtuse and certainly not intuitive to take. You should redo the survey with straight forward questions that will get to the heart of what you want to know... looks like some PhD company sold somebody bill of goods. redundant and tricky is no way to do a survey.
Q5YZU3	If we cannot convince our state legislators to set aside sufficient land and funding for future recreational use, we will probably see the demise of our hunting and fishing opportunities within our lifetime. Unfortunately, the developers have more clout than the sportsmen and women. It will take our concentrated efforts to sway them on these issues. I think the Arizona Game and Fish Department has done a commendable job with the resources they have at their disposal.
5ZWIYM	WOULD LOVE TO SEE A WAY TO GET A "BIG GAME" TAG MORE FREQUENTLY. SOME OF MY FRIENDS HUNT "SOMETHING" EVERY YEAR BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN DRAWN FOR ANYTHING IN SEVERAL YEARS. MY CHILD COMPLETED HUNTER SAFETY BUT IT HAS BEEN FOR NOT AS HE CANNOT GET A TAG. I AM CONSIDERING PICKING UP BOW HUNTING JUST SO I CAN TAKE HIM HUNTING BEFORE HE IS 20! PERHAPS FOLKS NEED TO DECIDE BETWEEN DEER AND ELK (ONE OR THE OTHER) SO THERE ARE MORE "BIG GAME TAGS" AVAILABLE FOR OTHERS TO AT LEAST GET ONE INSTEAD OF ONE PERSON GETTING 2 AND THE OTHER GETTING NOTHING? I HAVE APPLIED FOR DEER, ELK, TURKEY AND JAVELINA AND GOT NOTHING..... BONUS POINTS? YOU HAVE TO BUY A LICENSE TO GET THOSE AND THEN YOU DON'T GET A TAG AND SO WASTED YOUR MONEY AS YOU CAN'T GO HUNTING. (THE RICH GET THE BONUS POINTS)
I4NZA2	The Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program is, by far, the greatest and most successful wildlife reintroduction effort in history. No bugeting, staffing, funding, or prioritizing activities should ever place it in a subordinate position to any other AGFD activity. The ecological, environmental, biological, financial, and state-recognition benefits to Arizona are monumental, and they should never be underestimated. Any effort by Washington to remove any of the protections of the Endangered Species Act should be fought with the greatest effort possible. Law enforcement that investigates any illegal activities involving the Mexican Gray wolf (such as shootings, harassments, fabricated livestock predation, etc.) should be significantly increased. This recovery program is a real "feather in the cap" for Arizona. Any act that indicates Arizona is not supporting this effort to the greatest degree possible would significantly tarnish the brilliance that this program has brought to the great state of Arizona.
LHN2I3	Keep up the excellent work. The more capable the staff (scientists, biologists, engineers, etc.) the better the natural resource is protected. Thanks for keeping us informed.
VHOWQ4	Considering the limited resources available, the Arizona Game & Fish Department is doing a creditable job. However, there currently exists a dire need for more law enforcement. Given the large expanses of public land administered by the Department, there should be a minimum of two wildlife managers per wildlife management unit.

M4ZDEY	Overall, I am happy with the job that G&F does with the budgetary limitations in place. If you can suggest an effective way to do it, I would be very willing to lobby for increasing funding and staffing. I would like to have G&F take a more active stance on preservation of habitat, both from development and overgrazing. Most of the state lands that I hunt are severely overgrazed, and every year development shrinks the areas that can be hunted. G&F should be more visible in reforming grazing lease laws and advocating for constitutional reform to address the land grant dilemma of selling off our last open spaces to fund the school system. One place to save some of your very limited resource would be to stop using G&F personnel to enforce DUI boating laws. This has nothing to do with protecting the states habitats and species, and should be ignored or left to the sherriff's department.
5MTY3N	1. Train & use more volunteers. 2. Better management of urban development by the state. 3. My experience with AZGF – great hunters education program & other educational programs/activities for kids and adults. 4. I feel that AZGF has one of the better conservation and enforcement programs, as is, and appreciate being kept informed by email.
ME1MMU	Wow, where did you get the money to even perform this survey. In this neo-conservative state, I'm surprised the legislator didn't try to steal these funds away from you. I'm a 42 year old native and I'm appalled at the limited resources that the G & F is being allocated as our state explodes with people. I stopped quail hunting 5 years ago because everywhere I went I ran across hunters hunting on ATV's rolling right through the desert. Went out this year once to the Tonto Basin and ran across the same thing. Is this legal, and if it isn't wheres the enforcement? People and ATV's are by far your biggest challenges for the future. I keep hearing the argument of the elderly and handicap needing them for the same access to our wild lands as the healthy, but I've seen nothing but beer drinking, cigar smoking bubbas riding these things in the deserts and forests. That lobby must really be a powerful one.[/b]
JHMMGY	[quote="VHOWQ4"]Considering the limited resources available, the Arizona Game & Fish Department is doing a creditable job. However, there currently exists a dire need for more law enforcement. Given the large expanses of public land administered by the Department, there should be a minimum of two wildlife managers per wildlife management unit.[CAMPING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GMA AND WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO RAT OUT HIS BUDDY IS NOT MY IDEA OF PROPER LAW ENFORCEMENT
DQ1MZG	I think game and fish does a good job but the hundreds of years of mismanagement in this state is not going to correct itself over night. :roll: [quote:541fbd7f43="ME1MMU"] I'm a 42 year old native and I'm appalled at the limited resources that the G & F is being allocated as our state explodes with people. I stopped quail hunting 5 years ago because everywhere I went I ran across hunters hunting on ATV's rolling right through the desert. Went out this year once to the Tonto Basin and ran across the same thing. Is this legal, and if it isn't wheres the enforcement? People and ATV's are by far your biggest challenges for the future. I keep hearing the argument of the elderly and handicap needing them for the same access to our wild lands as the healthy, but I've seen nothing but beer drinking, cigar smoking bubbas riding these things in the deserts and forests. That lobby must really be a powerful one.[/b][/quote:541fbd7f43] I agreee with ME1MMU. ATV's are destroying hunting. I have had elk hunts ruined two years in a row now by morons cruising the roads and forest on their ATV's. I can see after a kill is made using an ATV to speed recover of a downed animal. However, going humming through a meadow at first light and scaring away a herd is wrong and unethical. Last year I went as camp cook and outfitter on a youth deer hunt which was my godson's first big game hunt. On the first day of the season I was in camp and witnessed the same pair of hunters on ATV's cruising a loop around a three road triangle. They passed my camp five times in about a two hour period. To my mind this is not ethical hunting. This year I was stalking a bull elk that I had seen with two or three cows around him on both the Wednesday and Thursday before the season. I was within about 50 yards when an ATV comes roaring down a nearby road spooking the bull and my last sight of him was his rump patch and three cows heading down the side of the canyon. I had a cow tag by the way and because of an ATV moron lost my one and only potential opportunity. Of course this went right along with the jeep that was cruising roads with a clanking cow bell and the elderly couple riding their mountain bikes in the middle of an active hunt area. What is the world coming to???
A3YTTY	You know, I am a hunter too but the forest service roads aren't ours! Granted, a little respect towards us when using atv's would be nice but you can't expect the forest to be locked up while you hunt. It belongs to everyone including the folks that aren't hunting. I don't think folks should be buzzing by at 50 mph constantly but they have every right to be there that we do. Perhaps you should try hunting away from the roads and you won't experience this problem. If the atv's aren't on the roads then that's where law enforcement comes in.
5ZWIYM	[quote:848284b428="I4NZA2"]The Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program is, by far, the greatest and most successful wildlife reintroduction effort in history. No bugeting, staffing, funding, or prioritizing activities should ever place it in a subordinate position to any other AGFD activity. The ecological, environmental, biological, financial, and state-recognition benefits to Arizona are monumental, and they should never be underestimated. Any effort by Washington to remove any of the protections of the Endangered Species Act should be fought with the greatest effort possible. Law enforcement that investigates any illegal activities involving the Mexican Gray wolf (such as shootings, harassments, fabricated livestock predation, etc.) should be significantly increased. This recovery program is a real "feather in the cap" for Arizona. Any act that indicates Arizona is not supporting this effort to the greatest degree possible would significantly tarnish the brilliance that this program has brought to the great state of Arizona.[/quote:848284b428] :x
2E3YJU	

I realize that you guys have to (and should) represent the interests of all Arizonians when you decide how to manage our land. Often when you present the public with the opportunity to comment on the options that are available for the management of a wildlife area you do not give them the choice afforded in this type of survey, good work. I am concerned that you may have recorded me incorrectly in the first section of the survey. All other sections are dead on my views. To explain to you how important I feel that habitat preservation is please read my comments below in the hope that conservation will allow us all to use our lands as we would use our own private land. Manage our land as you would manage your own when it comes to serving public fiscal interests when you contract on their behalf. Use our profits to better our wildlife management and preservation efforts and a lot will be way better. With the establishment of off road vehicle areas and wilderness areas, we are seeing that it is possible to separate recreational interests and reduce the conflict that occurs between Bud Light drinking gas burners and (admittedly granola eating) shoe leather burning wilderness enthusiasts. I think the roadless rule is important, but it seems to me that most all wilderness designations are made to preserve mountain tops. This limits the winter recreation activities that are available to hikers who do not wish to hike in deep snow and cold. We need to preserve lowland areas unimpaired for our wildlife and for future generations. With all of the logging that we will soon see, I think that we should limit the area available to off road desert destroying off road vehicles. Is it possible to ATV in clear cut forest areas? Perhaps we can minimize desert destruction by letting the ATV people automatically recreate in areas where the state has allowed people to profit from commercial enterprises that destroy our public land. Opening these areas to motorized wheel based recreation could allow a reduction of available space for these people in areas that are not compromised by other commercial activities. Presumably, access to these areas would be better. Law enforcement and emergency vehicles could better reach these commercial enterprise areas both to enforce drunk driving rules and to offer life saving services that are necessary when these enforcement efforts fail. That is, why not make letting ATV users tromp any land that is leased for the extraction of public resources, a condition of doing business with the public on their land? I fundamentally believe that individuals should not profit from the exploitation of our public resources (Canadian mining profits are the most egregious example of this). I also believe that motorized recreation should be regulated to a greater degree. I believe that increased regulation should happen because I think that once a road is built, it is a road. We are seeing the federal government undertake a project to document as many easements on public land as possible, presumably they are doing this to prevent further wilderness classification efforts. It is actions like this that enrage those who are paying attention. This type of action on the part of the department of the interior, makes land use negotiations more difficult for everyone. These types of actions make those who are stewards of our land appear to be on the development side of the debate over public land usage. That blows all of the trust that the conservationists have in their ability to get a fair deal from those who are managing land for them. A lack of trust is what makes lawsuits creep into the process and these costly delays serve no one's interest. By making "allowing public off road vehicle usage" a condition of leasing rights that will require a lessee who plans to use motor vehicles in their extraction of public resources, you can eliminate some of the pro-development bias that many on the pro-conservation side feel is rife in your agency. This condition must be accompanied with restrictions in new OHV use areas on other public land sites in order to make land stewards appear as if they are listening to those who do not want their public land to be exploited for individual or corporate profit or destroyed by irresponsible recreation. This is particularly true because often the clean up efforts for these undertakings are often funded by the public without expense to the mess making contractor whose efforts were sanctioned by those watching our land. You are the government and you can do all of these things. I can not imagine how anyone can champion current public land management policy as being "fair to the public" or even "managed in a fiscally sound manner". That no one can do so should alarm all those involved in the implementation of your current efforts. It is only a matter of time before someone important (or a political office seeking rival) asks you "Why?". Things will look way better for you if you have an answer. To sum up my points, 1) More wilderness designations in lower elevation winter accessible areas. 2) Curb OHV and Snowmobile use on public land everywhere where the land has not yet been degraded. 3) Open all mining and lumber project areas to OHV usage and retire an equal amount of OHV accessible acres elsewhere. 4) Stand up for the public that you represent in demanding their fair share of the profits associated with the exploitation of public land, when you contract with individuals who wish to undertake such exploitation. 5) Beef is a luxury. Charge fair market value for grazing. As it is now, private citizens sell their grazing rights to others at a profit. As an owner of the public land on which the cows graze, I see no reason why individuals should be able to do so. 6) At the very least, do not charge those who practice leave no trace ethics on public land five dollars to recreate when you are not getting fair market value for the impairment of that same land by miners' and cattlemen's corporate enterprises. Until I see a fair price charged for "leave no trace" mining operations on my land, I will feel that I am being marginalized by my government's land stewards in their charging me to recreate. I run into cows when I am hiking a bunch and each cow or cow leaving that impairs my wilderness experience, reminds me of how abjectly unfair current recreation fees are. The government is again broke (running at a deficit), and it only seems right that you start making some money back by charging a fair price for the resources (of ours) that you are managing (for us). Why is this not happening now? I will stop even thinking about public land management if I could get an answer to this question from someone. Thank you for your consideration of my points. Respectfully, Paul

JVLOTG

I believe with limited resources the AZGF is performing remarkably. I would like to see more habitat restoration, such as road closures & water projects. Some habitats are capable of supporting greater number of wildlife however, I have noticed a decrease in wildlife quantity in some units due to multiple reasons (drought, habitat loss, etc) The topic should be addressed & more aggressively pursued, with an increase in projects, funding, & a decrease in the amount of animals allowed for harvest in such areas until the populations can recover to respectable numbers. I would also like to see a dramatic increase in the cost of out-of-state licenses & permits issued. Such increases could help fund more habitat restoration projects. I would also like to see a mandatory requirement of proof of insurance & state land permits before any guides can be licensed & or the above must be in possession while the guide is in the field. If the guide is to have associates or helpers in the field with them, those associates must have the proper permits, insurance, & licensing independent of their cohort.

ME2YTL

ZCZZJD	While it is nice to see you asking for public input this "survey" is very vague in its questions and as such is misleading in what it is asking, I agree with the earlier post you paid too much for some consultant to write it, when a simple survey would have given you much better results. I personally believe while it would be nice to raise "non resident" tags to try and help lower the number of applicants, it is unrealistic to make hunt AZ a rich man's sport. And that goes for both residents and non residents. One of the biggest problems facing Arizona wildlife is loss of habitat due to human encroachment caused by the unchecked development in the state. Not only is land lost for the are built upon, but the area's that buffer it are often overrun with ATV's, rails, dirtbikes, and other OHV type vehicles. This causes larger impact often times than a subdivision does due to erosion, habitat destruction, and harassment of wildlife. I would like to see SEVERE punishments offered along with active enforcement of illegal OHV activities, the current punishments if caught are a joke, and that is IF caught and IF the arresting officer decides to charge them. :roll: Lastly water stations added to areas that have historically had natural springs but have since gone dry due to water table drops for human use make perfect sense. I do not think installing water basins in areas where there normally wasn't water before would be beneficial in the long run to wildlife management, esp if eventually they were allowed to run dry or become unmaintained.
NJRKMZ	The Arizona Game & Fish Department does well considering it's handicaps. Wildlife management should be left to the Wildlife professionals in the Game & Fish Department and keep the legislature and the Governor away from the Wildlife funds and from making ill-informed wildlife decisions.
DM4YWM	During a recent elk hunt, the numbers of road hunters was appalling. My partner and I hunted for 3 days and were lucky to tag an elk. During those three days, we saw no other hunters other than us on foot. But there were dozens if not more vehicles packed with road hunters. We also saw atvs driving cross country spooking game and destroying habitat. I would like to see increased enforcement regarding road hunters and off road vehicle use. Thank you for the job you are trying to do, however I would like to see more enforcement officers out there.
XY2UWN	Wildlife and habitats should be managed by good science, not by politics.
OYJEW	[quote:d54f07e76e="JVLOTG"]I realize that you guys have to (and should) represent the interests of all Arizonians when you decide how to manage our land. Often when you present the public with the opportunity to comment on the options that are available for the management of a wildlife area you do not give them the choice afforded in this type of survey, good work. I am concerned that you may have recorded me incorrectly in the first section of the survey. all other sections are dead on my views. <Snip) Respectfully, Paul[/quote:d54f07e76e] Paul, The instructions state that you can retake the Survey, and only your last choices will be recorded. Redo the part that you are unsure of..
OTRKM2	Something needs to be done to control predator populations which are growing at an uncontrolled rate. Large packs of coyotes are becoming common while deer herds continue to decrease. Also Mountain Lion are posing a greater threat to all species. Thanks,
MU4OTM	In the section of the survey on the perceived current performance of the department, an option of "I have no basis for judging this item" is needed. People may have opinions on the subjects even if they are uninformed. To make the survey more accurate, the "I don't know" option is needed. I view uninformed opinion as less than useful.
WE3MZN	Thanks to the AZGFD for the job they do, I know at times it is a thankless job and they are not perfect but, overall a great job. With all that is to be considered please do not forget the kids programs. The kids are obviously the future and need to be included. I know with the lawsuit against our state that some people may not like the nonresident hunter but they do bring a lot of economic value to our state and some are our family members also that like to come and hunt with us.
2ZDBLN	Thanks for the opportunity to participate in your survey. Overall, I believe AZGF does an excellent job with the resources they have. Habitat loss due to extensive development is a problem I don't believe you alone can solve. And the problem with lack of water will just get worse because of the development. The legislature and the cities need to realize that water is in short supply and until that problem is solved they should reduce or curtail new development. My previously used hunting areas are now Vistancia and Verrado developments. Where are they getting water for all the people and their water wasting golf courses?
I2Y2QY	I too, would like to add my kudos for the job that G&F does with the limited resources at their disposal. As to the survey, I would agree with ONDFMY; ask straightforward questions to get straightforward answers. The questions as presented are convoluted and confusing. Wanna know what people think? Ask 'em straight out!
OTLHNT	I'm pretty satisfied with how you are doing the job of game management. I'm happy with the ability of the youth to hunt and the order in which it is as to the adult hunts. Sure, sometimes I don't get drawn but overall, I'm happy there too. Now the thing that concerns me is raising the "ceiling" for fees. You and I both know what's coming after that. I hunt with my 2 young sons and am only supported by my own income. Don't price us single dads out of something in which I find extremely important to not only the wildlife but sound mind and body for the future generation of this country also.
BMZJE0	I would like to see the AGFD do more for native fishes in Arizona. They are a threatened resource whose condition will get worse. Too much emphasis dedicated toward sport fish. Need to designate areas as native fish only and develop cohesive management for these native only areas. Sport fishing and other recreational opportunities are economically important, wide spread and do not need to be eliminated. But how about giving native fish a chance before they disappear.
4NTBKY	I believe that AZFG is doing a remarkable job considering the funding shortages, and economic/political impacts influencing decision making. Some of these decisions require some very hard choices. I believe AZFG has the expertise to properly manage our states wildlife/water programs within the confines of the social impacts. Arizona's wildlife, both water and land species, and the lands that influence them, have been entrusted to our generation for their safe keeping. It must be managed in such a way that our children, and their children's children, have the same opportunities to enjoy our state's outdoor resources as we have. Rudy
WU3OGF	[color=darkblue:db4f0030d7][color:db4f0030d7]

LMTAZY	OVERALL I AM HAPPY WITH DIRECTIONS BEING TAKEN WOULD LIKE TO SEE VANDALS PROSECUTED
1ZMU3N	<p>My greatest concern at this point is for the continued protection of the Arizona sub-species of the Bald Eagle. If the US Bald Eagle is de-listed, the AZ birds will no longer be protected by the nest-watchers who now guard the nesting eagles from harm. If these excellent people lose their funding due to de-listing, God only knows what will become of "our" eagles. These birds presently get into serious trouble by the continued harrassment of humans and I would hate to see the end result of Bald Eagles with no watchers to protect them. At nest sites, there are already too many ATV's, low-flying aircraft, and yahoos with guns. Please do whatever possible to keep our eagles separate as they should be so that they will be here for generations to come.</p>
3ZTQYZ	<p>I'm skeptical of the departments attempt to base their future management direction on public input. People will support what they selfishly want even if it is to the detriment of the very species they love. I think the department needs to bridge the gap between the game branch and the non-game branch. They constantly contradict each other in management practice. The department should be commended on their use of sound science but the science doesn't mean anything when the commissioners disregard it for their own political agendas. Lets get a balanced non-biased group of commissioners that will listen to the departments biologists and start working for wildlife rather than against it. The commissions of the past 10 years have been a disgrace to the fine work AGFD is trying to perform! Wow, It feels good to get that off my chest.</p>
1YMLN	<p>Go Paul! The enemy to all of our concerns is urbanization. The united front on this forum is the dread of urban sprawl into the natural lands that we use to hunt, ranch, recreate and leave our native frogs, fishes and jaguars alone in. The huge influx of people into the state of Arizona is taking up open space, introducing polluting machines and sucking water out of the ecosystem in ways that cannot be truly appreciated today. I fear by the time we do understand it there will be nothing but ghost towns of track housing left. The best thing the AZG&F agency can do is to get actively involved in the land management plans for this state to control development. Protect those areas where there are game and wildlife. Allow them to have corridors to move around. Protect the watersheds that sustain both the wild and the urban lives of this state. Every group and individual in Arizona needs that protection or the environment wouldn't support us living here. We may not agree on the best ways to protect these natural assets, but every effort counts. Specifically, my experience is that AZ Game and Fish is only interested in hunting. If someone is willing to pay to shoot it, then they are interested in protecting it. The hunting community is respresented well by this agency as is its primary purpose. Unfortunately this does not incorporate the broad spectrum of interests that represent all Arizonans. An agency with a broader scope would be required to protect our non-game wildlife and lands better. Cooperation by the AZG&F with the other national and state land management agencies is a good start though and I appreciate any efforts to do so. However, AZG&F has exhibited on numerous occasions that it has no desire to expand its role in protecting our environment beyond the management of game species for hunters. The capture of the mountain lion in Sabino Canyon when there was no real threat to park visitors, the decline of support for the Tumacacori Highlands (a proposal which benefits residents, hunters, ranchers and conservationists alike I might add) demonstrates the agency's current agendas quite well. I am saddened by this lack of interest in cooperative land management planning, but will welcome the opportunity when it arises. Off-highway vehicles have nothing to do with game or land management. They can be fun, useful and even necessary but they are destructive to the land, the sea and the air. Only their responsible use on designated roadways will keep them from becoming such a problem for everyone that they will be banned entirely. Maybe George Bush will conquer some roadless land in the middle east when we run out. As for the wolves. I love them. I think it is amazing that we have them in the state. I don't have to drive (read pollute) 1400 miles to see them. They are not afraid of people (though they probably should be) which means you can actually get lucky and see them. It is a miracle and a dream come true. They are part of our heritage as westerners and as humans who have hunted along side these majestic creatures for tens of thousands of years. You see that history every time you pet a domesticated dog on the head. We are brothers when it comes to hunting and they deserve our respect. I must point out though that AZG&F is not in charge of the wolf re-introduction program. It is run by US Fish and Wildlife. The re-introduction program is managed in the poorest fashion of any program in the United States. It is possibly the only one that might be responsible for the extinction of a sub-species. This is the only program with an artificial boundary in which the individuals are forced to live in. The disruption to their natural dispersal and hunting patterns threatens this project. The disruption to the individuals who are captured and relocated back to the safety zone destroys packs. Many are eventually taken back to the breeding centers. It is not possible to actively manage wildlife. That is the point of being "wild". I fear this program will fail and we will loose the Mexican Grey Wolf forever. If there is some influence that AZG&F has in this project I'd be grateful for the assistance.</p>
ODE4YZ	<p>G&F does a good job, as far as I can tell, with what they have--for one thing, thank you for buying up Coal Mine Springs!!! RE OTV control, I don't know how you can cover the state unless you target frequently used, sensitive habitat (try along the Santa Cruz River in Santa Cruz County)---but more education efforts down here might help, especially through the school systems. I agree with a comment made a few days ago about the weird format of this survey, don't know how you'll come up with a real feel for the public's priorities this way. Why not, as the other person suggested, make a straightforward survey?</p>
GFKNZM	<p>1) Nice try with an internet survey...too bad it is so obtuse! Good luck on getting anything useful. Next time try more on using clear, straight-forward questions and less on a cute program. 2) The conflicts between the Fed programs and our State G&F need to be openly addressed. I've had one set tell me to toss all game fish up on the bank (instead of catch&release) to make room for the endangered species, and the other tell me the personnel effort and money has to address the fish our license money supports. 3) Are the Commissioners alive and well? I've written several times on a topic/question that I anticipated a response and heard nothing. Our G&F folks answer me every time. Are they (we) all on the same page or is there a political agenda the rest of us don't know about? 4) 10 years seems like a odd & restrictive planning window. Seems to me that there are immediate, intermediate and long-range requirements and threats here. 5) Is there a method in this portion of the survey to comment on the comments. There are some that really hit the target.</p>

2OTK5N	Folks, I respect the Arizona Game and Fish department and believe they do a pretty good job. I don't think that the survey will help much, since it is obtuse and certainly not intuitive to take. You should redo the survey with straight forward questions that will get to the heart of what you want to know... looks like some PhD company sold somebody bill of goods. redundant and tricky is no way to do a survey. I copied and pasted his from another reply. Couldn't have said it as good. Game and fish needs to take care of the people that feed them. :!:
2YXNGI	It used to be that the poor man could hunt, too. We are raising the prices of our licenses and tags so often and so much that it is difficult to afford to hunt on a regular basis. Why don't we run Game and Fish a little more efficiently so that we don't push the poor man out?
MJM5NJ	The format of the survey is annoying. Just have us rank the issues 1..N and be done with it.
KNDA3N	I think many of the G&F staff I've worked with have been terrific. Too bad the Commission is absolutely terrible, hostile to science, and clueless about the value of non-game wildlife (for tourism/recreation, etc.). They have a flat-earth, scorched-earth policy that should be tossed out on its heels. They value the TINY MINORITY of public land (ab)users like the cattle magnates, mining moguls, and timber companies much more than they do the OVERWHELMING MAJORITY of recreational users, including hunters/anglers, hikers, and equestrians. Let's get this Commission and the department's mission truly conservation-focused! Thanks for the opportunity to do this survey. RG
5MJMYO	To ensure choices are properly reflected and to be able to consider the overall effect of the choices in this complicated survey, it would be VERY helpful to include the ability to review the choices in their completed context. Simply revisiting the survey forms doesn't provide the prior responses. Also, providing concrete examples of each choice would make it clearer what the intent of each choice is, particularly given the conceptual/abstract nature of the questions. AZ G&F has a tough job trading off the conflicting values and interests of its varied stakeholders. Keeping politics out, peer-reviewed science in, and preferring the wishes of Arizona citizens to monied interests and out-of-state influences is vitally important.
3YZGWN	I appreciate the opportunity to provide input, especially since it was clear in the Sabino Canyon lion debacle that the Commission was not really open to the views of those who disagreed with their hunt-and-kill position. I resented the manipulation of the agenda and speaker's list to favor pro-Commission citizens. This survey, if widely disseminated beyond hunters and fisherfolk to all who are concerned with wildlife, can be a healing process. Habitat protection is clearly necessary to protect our dwindling species, and to make welcome the return of the jaguar to Arizona. The Commission will, I hope, support a Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness proposal that will benefit all outdoors enthusiasts, and protect our jaguars. --AVL
NHNDBM	I'm grateful to have the opportunity to participate in this survey, even if it does not seem to offer any straightforward solutions. There are many issues to be weighed and I suppose this is as good a way to do it as any. My experience with the staff of AZGFD has been excellent. Arizona is fortunate to have such dedicated people working for the protection of people and the environment. We know that people are capable of destroying the habitat of species, often through ignorance and greed. So, I am for protecting the environment more strongly - with laws, funding, sound business practices, and increased public education. :roll:
WUYWZ	Overall, I have been unimpressed with AZGF's efforts, but realize that a great deal of my dissatisfaction lies in the fact that they do not have nearly enough funding or manpower. I think our legislators need to get it together and realize that we need plans such as the one that AZGF is engaging in, and that we need sustainable and controlled development. If we keep going the way we're going, we will destroy this beautiful state's wildlife, land and our own opportunities in it.
WRIOGE	[color=red:9fea9f387f][color:9fea9f387f][size=9:9fea9f387f][size:9fea9f387f]Why not combine the hunts so that you could hunt several different species at the same time? This would be a special hunt that you would select either two or three species that are found in the hunt unit that you like to hunt. By having the combination of this hunt you would cut down on the human factor and the erosion of the roads in the forest.
YJBHM2	Put a bunch of responsible persons who frequent the outdoors thru a short Game Ranger school then supply them with information cards for reporting violations, such as littering, poaching and others. These volunteers also agree to go to court as a witness and work with the Game Warden with field duties. They cannot arrest a subject. GRM
LN2U3N	The juniors hunts are great just like they are. OHV use is destroying habitat and harrassing wildlife populations. Federal regulations that favor abusive livestock grazing and mining need to change. Manage all wildlife species. While I enjoy hunting, I place an even greater value on the knowledge that wildlife populations will persist. Don't be afraid to place the needs of wildlife populations above the short term desires of the recreating public. The long term survival of our wildlife resources should be the highest priority. The Commission should be composed of hunters, fishers and wildlife advocates, not industry reps. Good Luck.
TKZOTD	Who came up with this survey? How much of our tax funds were spent on this thing? It seems that the questions were structured so that in the end you will look at the survey and say "Geez, it's clear that we need to spend all of our time and money on creating a larger organization so we can be more sensitive to the people who do the least to support our wildlife." I would be very interested in seeing what portion of AZGF's budget comes from hunting/angling fees and taxes. I would be willing to bet that the percentage of funds generated by hunters and fishermen is far greater that any other source. It's time that AZGF wakes up and starts paying attention to the groups that pay the bills, not the ones who get the most publicity. The Sabino Canyon lion fiasco is the perfect case in point. Use science, not emotions, to manage wildlife. Just because a few vocal protesters can get some media coverage and a few clueless politicians to agree with them doesn't mean they know jack about lions. Let's get back to reality.

TVLYTQ	<p>AZ G&F does a commendable job with limited resources. The Department needs to seek, and the public needs to support, a significant role in protecting and improving critical habitats (e.g., riparian) on State Trust Lands. State lands are now among the most devastated, yet they have perhaps the greatest potential for harboring large wildlife populations for all recreational uses in vast areas. It is good that Mearn's Quail bag limit has been reduced, but it needs to be further reduced. It is too easy for a good hunter with a good dog to wipe out a population of this species locally. Reducing the bag limit significantly should allow populations of this quail to recover over a larger area, thus providing opportunity for more hunters to hunt this magnificent bird.</p>
ZMMZYX	<p>I found this survey worthwhile in intent but quite obtuse in execution.</p>
ODVJZT	<p>I believe that the greatest threat to wildlife in this state is uncontrolled development. The second greatest threat is the animal rights movement and so-called conservationists who contribute nothing to wildlife preservation or management. Choosing AZ G&F commissioners from the ranks of developers or liberal conservationists is like choosing the fox to guard the henhouse!</p>
M2YTJJ	<p>I think the best thing the AZ Game and Fish can do is enlist more volunteer and amateur naturalists, ornithologists and environmentalists to do a lot of it's more mundane work, thus freeing the professional biologists to study those species for which very little is known (including their present status). I believe this will work simply based on the success most of the National Wildlife Refuges have had with their "Friends of the xyz NWR" program and their affiliation with local conservation groups like Audubon. By using these volunteer groups for doing things like X-mas bird counts, reporting wildlife sightings and general habitat clean-up, as well as habitat maintenance and invasive species removal, it allows for the professionals to focus more on the specific and academically demanding tasks.</p>
MZY0YZ	<p>I agree with the opinion that the AZG&F does quite well within the limits of their budget. We don't need new laws but we do need much more vigorous enforcement of existing laws. We need hundreds of G&F people out there on the ground during the season. I am sick to death of ignorant flatlander hunters cutting my fences and leaving gates open. I don't believe they can be educated when they are intoxicated or simply high on inappropriate behavior! They are a small minority of the hunting community but their actions have dire consequences on the public's perception of hunters. Habitat protection is also critical.</p>
ZDU2NT	<p>The survey seems like it was designed to generate results that Arizona Game and Fish would like to see.</p>
C3YJK0	<p>Although I am pleased with the overall performance of the department, three areas need study. 1. The department is heavy with "desk sitters" and not enough guys and gals in the field. 2. The department needs a financial audit to closely examine funds spent for travel out of state, and perhaps even in state. 3. The answer for tight financial times is not to raise fees but to cut back on personnel by attrition; and to cut back on needless expenditures such as out of state travel. After reading 5 pages of replies/comments to this survey, I can see we are basically preaching to the choir here. It's obvious what the AZG&F is supposed to be managing. Look at their title, it's not AZ wildlife and wildlands conservancy. This survey looks like lipservice designed by someone from MIT or the school of confusing the issues to create disparity. The issues are obvious. Those in charge of taking a poll should read this comments section and assess our views from here. Anything having to do with conservation of wildlands and endangered or imperilled species has come by way of lawsuits by conservation organizations to agencies like AZG&F, USFS & USFWS. Read the history books. The latest issue of the (AZG&F) Wildlife Views magazine shows them working to conserve the jaguar which at one time roamed the southwest in numbers before being killed off in the late 1800's. It took a lawsuit to get the jaguar listed in 1997 on the endangered species list for protection after being hunted to near extinction in the US. The G&F neglected to mention this fact. Many important conservation issues or laws today have been kept alive due to myriad lawsuits over many years by conservation organizations forcing our state and federal wildlife & land management agencies to do the job they were paid to do by us. Since they seem to be politically motivated to do otherwise or nothing at all, I had to put my money and my activism where my mouth was. We can use our pens and computers to write our elected officials, representatives and commissioners to tell them directly what we would like to see happening or not happening in AZ. This is not the forum to get any action done. I get out and vote, volunteer, and donate money to as many conservation organizations as I can afford. The results are always publicized and we can see issues get acted upon if even by legal force. We voted for the AZ Heritage Fund Act and fought to keep it going. The AZG&F has accomplished much with the help of these gifts from our wallets. But, I'm giving my extra time and dollars to organizations that have made and will continue making a difference in forcing our state and fed agencies to comply. These guys are game wardens and their budgets and agendas tell us they are basically powerless to do much else. It's up to us to make a difference. Let's donate more of our energies to organizations that do more than take strange surveys. -NM</p>
MZA2OW	<p>Arizona lawmakers must allow Game and Fish to purchase more critical habitat. Most other Western agencies do this to the benefit of their citizens. The Arizona legislators are very short-sighted for not giving Game and Fish more ability to purchase critical wildlife habitat.</p>
YJI4OD	<p>It's not so plain and simple but to meet the mission of the Department here's the perfect worlds scenario. 1st Management decisions should be all about the science 1st. 2nd Land Use and management agreements should be all about the science to insure adequate habitat with coordinated efforts for public accessibility 3rd Provide Quality opportunities (not just opportunities) to the majority of users without interfering with the science/habitat 4th Use the existing laws with adequate enforcement personnell (why have biologists enforcing criminal law) to insure significant compliance so that #1-3 are met. Significantly increase penalties for violations involving a total disregard for wildlife habitat and public safety.</p>
MZGWOD	<p></p>
JHMWIX	<p>It wasn't clear whether one should wait for the processing of each question to complete before going to the next one.</p>

NTFHZD	The survey is very confusing. There should be real examples by each of the statements that you are voting for. In some cases you don't know if you are voting for what you think or not. Also, I have a suggestion when it comes to the big game hunts in Arizona. I feel that there should be units that are shut down to deer or elk hunting for a year or two. The success rates in some units are very low. Also, the quality of the bucks or bulls is very low. These units could rotate for two years being shut down. An example is unit 9. The deer population in this unit is horrible. Ten years ago there were many more deer in this unit. Issuing 800 deer tags in this unit with a 4% success rate is not a good combination. If this unit was shut down to deer hunting for a couple maybe three years the deer population would increase and would give hunters a better chance at harvesting a deer and the quality of the deer would be better. The elk population has overtaken this unit. Ten years ago there were not the amount of elk that there is today. I am sure there are other units that are in the same situation. I am familiar with unit 9 due to the history I have hunting this unit over the years.
MQ3ZTM	This is a very poorly designed survey and a very poor vehicle for registering the votes. The mechanism does not appear to work, nor is the survey designed to elicit actual concerns. I agree with the previous poster in that it appears to have been designed to steer the answers to what the department would like to see. This survey is as bad as the polls that CNN runs. They are limited in responses so results are geared toward making headlines.
ZAWZDM	The emphasis needs to be on habitat and species protection. An increased level of enforcement on depredation by poachers and developers needs to occur as well. If we do not protect all the species that we have and the habitat that they live in there will not be any wildlife to enjoy no matter what your passion is, hunting, recreating or environmentalist. The way to achieve this is through education and enforcement.
YJKWNW	[quote="I4NZA2"]The Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program is, by far, the greatest and most successful wildlife reintroduction effort in history. No budgeting, staffing, funding, or prioritizing activities should ever place it in a subordinate position to any other AGFD activity. The ecological, environmental, biological, financial, and state-recognition benefits to Arizona are monumental, and they should never be underestimated. Any effort by Washington to remove any of the protections of the Endangered Species Act should be fought with the greatest effort possible. Law enforcement that investigates any illegal activities involving the Mexican Gray wolf (such as shootings, harassments, fabricated livestock predation, etc.) should be significantly increased. This recovery program is a real "feather in the cap" for Arizona. Any act that indicates Arizona is not supporting this effort to the greatest degree possible would significantly tarnish the brilliance that this program has brought to the great state of Arizona.[/quote]
YJKWNW	Reinstating the Mexican Grey Wolf into this state was in my opinion not the brightest move the AGFD has ever made. Our forefathers got rid of this predator and it should stay gone. [/quote]
FMMTA2	With limited resources Game and Fish is doing a decent job. They must keep politics out of wildlife decision making policy. Referring to what happened with the Sabino Lion controversy, as an example. Predator control needs to be implemented as a wildlife management tool. Scientific evidence appears to be more and more convincing each day that predators play a significant role in reducing big game populations. Loss of sheep populations in northwestern Arizona due to drought and lion depredation is of extreme concern. Restricted access to many parts of Arizona are becoming commonplace, especially in southern Arizona. This will probably be one of the most significant issues to deal with in the next 10 years if hunting is to continue in southern Arizona. Also, nothing was mentioned in the survey about this issue, but there are significant adverse affects to the health of wildlife populations and habitat resulting from illegal immigration in southern Arizona. Almost every canyon that borders Mexico has two foot wide trails running through them with trash scattered everywhere. This is creating major health hazards and the risks of hunter/UDA conflicts is increasing daily. Also, significant drug trafficking is being observed in these same areas. This poses a considerable risk to those people hunting in the area.
GWODAY	The Game and Fish Department should focus on managing the habitats and animals for the greatest benefit of the habitats and animals instead of for the greatest benefit of the people who use them for recreation.
TQ5OTR	Until the AG&F restore my rights of yearly harvest (of all game) as a fifth generation native, they can kiss my ass! I'll take what I want, when I want...All you fricken newbies can compete all you want for tags in the states largest circus!! [quote:cdf405a891="TQ5OTR"]Until the AG&F restore my rights of yearly harvest (of all game) as a fifth generation native, they can kiss my ass! I'll take what I want, when I want...All you fricken newbies can compete all you want for tags in the states largest circus!![/quote:cdf405a891] That's the most ridiculous statement I have ever heard....and don't let me catch you! It's people like you give us "real" hunters a bad reputation. You are a pathetic, self-centered jerk and if you were in front of me right now I'd kick your ass! Twice! You may be fifth generation (I doubt it, I don't think you can count that high) but you sure the hell haven't gotten any smarter, and if your great, great grandfather was like you, I bet he didn't live to be very old. Now, for you intelligent people, I think AZGFD's overall intentions are primarily good, but they are victims of poor internal management, and are often forced into "crisis management". Reasonable raises in the fee ceilings (not the ones that have been proposed) should only be a small part of a well thought out, balanced, structured management program, based on science and fact, with the best interest of our wildlife and accompanying habitat, as well as the public, at heart. All of the factors mentioned in the survey are legitimate concerns and all need to be considered to develop a good management program. Because of poor leadership in the Dept, and a lack of good decision making, information like this survey is necessary to help establish the order of priority of pertinent concerns. The format stinks, but I think it's a step in the right direction. I may not agree with everything AZGFD does, but they have my support, as long as I have the opportunity to speak my mind.
XNZLLM	
NWNIZD	Unless something is done to convince the State Land Department and the Forest Service that public access to the National Forests in the Southeastern quarter of our state is important, there will not be any recreational opportunity as those places still open will be inundated. Make this a priority in the future as the AGFD can't do it all alone.

ME2YTL	Go ahead TQ5OTR & break the law. Because when you do I'll be right there to report you & will throw a party when your arrested & thrown in jail! The last thing our AZGF needs is to spend all their time on thugs like you, when they could be devoting there time in a more useful fashion. Just remember, ethical sportsmen are watching your every move.
LZDLMZ	:? Is this survey a joke or what? Surely AZGFD could not possibly hope to gain anything by the questions asked! I sure hope none of my license money was wasted on it.
ZKYJU5	Wildlife management today is about more than just hunting and fishing, but AGFD leaders haven't caught up. Many of us enjoy Arizona wildlife without firearms, fly rods and ATVs, yet decision makers repeatedly favor users with heavier impacts on the land and wildlife. The Commissioners and administrators need to stop undermining citizen input with ballot proposals that limit wildlife management initiatives and reinstate contest hunts. The Sabino Canyon lion hunt demonstrated that they will even lie to the public in order to stubbornly carry out their agenda. In contrast, the lower level employees that I've had the pleasure to meet were dedicated and professional. They're also over-worked and underpaid. Morale in many branches is low among these folks. It's no wonder that many of them leave the agency as soon as they have some training and experience.
JYJM0M	I am glad to participate in Survey to Help Improve Wildlife Management, but found this set up difficult and frustrating to complete. Is there another way to do it where not so much Page flipping, waiting for responses and Figuring out how to complete the survey is involved ? Not being Computer savvy, I found this to be a pain in the Hindquarters to do. For all I know I did not even do it right and my Responses did not get recorded.
ZDQ4MW	[quote:e97c2367ab="WYTUXN"]I believe the AZFGD has done a commendable job. Loss of habitat is by far the biggest problem facing AZ wildlife. If our legislators do not recognize that land and resources are being used up at an incredible rate, it won't matter what the AZFGD does.[/quote:e97c2367ab] I agree with this participant and would add that adequate funding is a HUGE problem, as it is for the National Parks. If the Fed is mandating this, they need to fund it adequately, plain and simple. I grew up in NYState--like AZ much of the land is wilderness, but less so now due to development. However, funding has never been such a problem. I think AZ and NY are way ahead of much of the country in terms of the models used to preserve multi-use of natural resources. However, I think Arizona Legislators are WAY BEHIND other states in attitudes towards development(many are on the payroll of huge developers) and proper funding of managing this state's vast natural resources. They seem to think mining and housing development are the only resources worth developing here, and the resulting loss of habitat has been dreadful. Time to get out of the 18th century anachronistic wildwest mindset that the western lands are an unlimited resource to be exploited and move into the 21st century. Susan in Tucson
ZDQ4MW	I can understand the brother's scorn for all this. My husband is Native and some states have Native American hunting rights. I think it would be prudent for AZ to have the same, as many Native people depend on wildfood as their main food source. The hostility stems from frustration at the present system, but I doubt that any Native would overhunt species they depend on for food. Please try to understand where this gentleman is coming from and honor his request for traditional native hunting practices. Thanks, peace out Susan in Tucson
ZDQ4MW	[quote:e735771720="XNZLLM"]Until the AG&F restore my rights of yearly harvest (of all game) as a fifth generation native, they can kiss my ass! I'll take what I want, when I want...All you fricken newbies can compete all you want for tags in the states largest circus![/quote:e735771720] That's the most ridiculous statement I have ever heard....and don't let me catch you! It's people like you give us "real" hunters a bad reputation. You are a pathetic, self-centered jerk and if you were in front of me right now I'd kick your ass! Twice! You may be fifth generation (I doubt it, I don't think you can count that high) but you sure the hell haven't gotten any smarter, and if your great, great grandfather was like you, I bet he didn't live to be very old. Now, for you intelligent people, I think AZGFD's overall intentions are primarily good, but they are victims of poor internal management, and are often forced into "crisis management". Reasonable raises in the fee ceilings (not the ones that have been proposed) should only be a small part of a well thought out, balanced, structured management program, based on science and fact, with the best interest of our wildlife and accompanying habitat, as well as the public, at heart. All of the factors mentioned in the survey are legitimate concerns and all need to be considered to develop a good management program. Because of poor leadership in the Dept, and a lack of good decision making, information like this survey is necessary to help establish the order of priority of pertinent concerns. The format stinks, but I think it's a step in the right direction. I may not agree with everything AZGFD does, but they have my support, as long as I have the opportunity to speak my mind.[/quote:e735771720]
XNZLLM	[quote="XNZLLM"]Until the AG&F restore my rights of yearly harvest (of all game) as a fifth generation native, they can kiss my ass! I'll take what I want, when I want...All you fricken newbies can compete all you want for tags in the states largest circus![/quote:0bf63f261a] [quote="ZDQ4MW"]I can understand the brother's scorn for all this. My husband is Native and some states have Native American hunting rights. I think it would be prudent for AZ to have the same, as many Native people depend on wildfood as their main food source. The hostility stems from frustration at the present system, but I doubt that any Native would overhunt species they depend on for food. Please try to understand where this gentleman is coming from and honor his request for traditional native hunting practices. Thanks, peace out Susan in Tucson Susan - this "gentleman" :evil: :?: claims to be a fifth generation native. First, he mentions nothing about being Native American. And if he is Native American, then he should hunt on his tribal land, where he can practice his Native American hunting rights and where he can play by the rules established there. If he wants to hunt elsewhere, he should abide by the laws the same as me. And let's get technical. I'm a native American too. I was born in this country just like him, but he should have more hunting rights than me? NO WAY! Second, he may be a brother of yours, but not mine. In my book he is nothing more than an outright POACHER. What he has made here is not a request, it's a threat, and if I am lucky enough to catch him, I will celebrate when he is prosecuted. This man is not a hunter, but someone who thinks he is above the law.

HNZI2N	<p>Who is Harry? First question took me off guard. The choices should be better tailored and should recognize that being a hunter does not exclude one from being a conservationist. Environmentalists and conservationists are generally miles apart in viewpoints. I would think the categories would better be described as hunter/conservationist and environmentalist/obstructionist. The basic question is to support active management or passive management. Also note sure my votes in part 1 were recorded correctly. No matter what choice I picked the screen chose another selection when I hit enter. Would like to have a means to confirm that you collected my correct selections. BFD</p>
TU4ODY	<p>[quote:87a528eeb0="0NDFMY"]Folks, I respect the Arizona Game and Fish department and believe they do a pretty good job. I don't think that the survey will help much, since it is obtuse and certainly not intuitive to take. You should redo the survey with straight forward questions that will get to the heart of what you want to know... looks like some PhD company sold somebody bill of goods. redundant and tricky is no way to do a survey.[/quote:87a528eeb0] : I agree with this statement!</p>
TU4ODY	<p>[quote="2E3YJU"][quote:af5155bd5d="I4NZA2"]The Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program is, by far, the greatest and most successful wildlife reintroduction effort in history. No bugeting, staffing, funding, or prioritizing activities should ever place it in a subordinate position to any other AGFD activity. The ecological, environmental, biological, financial, and state-recognition benefits to Arizona are monumental, and they should never be underestimated. Any effort by Washington to remove any of the protections of the Endangered Species Act should be fought with the greatest effort possible. Law enforcement that investigates any illegal activities involving the Mexican Gray wolf (such as shootings, harassments, fabricated livestock predation, etc.) should be significantly increased. This recovery program is a real "feather in the cap" for Arizona. Any act that indicates Arizona is not supporting this effort to the greatest degree possible would significantly tarnish the brilliance that this program has brought to the great state of Arizona.[/quote:af5155bd5d]:x[/quote[:af5155bd5d]While I never want to see another species become extinct on this earth, this is a free country and therefore you may voice your opinion and I may disagree. Wolves ARE predators and livestock predation is no fabrication. The only fabrication is your view that the the wolf is more valuable than human life. Wake up![:af5155bd5d]</p>
JA0YZC	<p>ANY NEW PROGRAM SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: 1. CAREFUL MAPPING OF THE HABITAT OF ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES. 2. INCORPORATION OF ALL CURRENT FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT "OPEN SPACE" LANDS INTO A MASTER "MULTIPLE SPECIES PROTECTION PROGRAM." 3. ACQUISITION OF PRIVATE LANDS THAT ARE NECESSARY TO PROTECT LINKAGE AND GENETIC DIVERSITY -- ACQUISITION VIA PURCHASE OR FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT CREDITS FOR LAND OWNERS WILLING TO INCLUDE THIER LAND IN THE PROGRAM. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF A MITAGATION LAND BANK THAT WILL ALLOW CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF SOME SENSITIVE LANDS IF THE DEVELOPER IS WILLING TO PURCHASE MORE VALUABLE HABITAT AS AN OFFSET TO ANY "TAKE." 5. CREATION OF LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING GROUPS WHOSE ROLE WOULD BE TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENTS IN TERMS OF THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND SUITABLE ALTERNATIVES -- THE INPUT FROM THESE GROUPS WOULD BE ADVISORY TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL BODIES, INCLUDING LOCAL PLANNING COMISSIONS. (MOST LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL BODIES NEVER RECEIVE ADEQUATE INPUT CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ISSUES RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THEY CONSIDER.) 6. SUPPORT "CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT" PROJECTS THAT IN EXCHANGE FOR DEDICATION OF SIGNIFICANT OPEN SPACE OR EVEN THE PURCHASE OF HABITAT FROM A HABITAT LAND BANK ARE ALLOWED TO UP-ZONE THEIR PROJECT. (THIS CAN BE USEFUL IN THE DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND SUPPORTING BIODIVERSITY.) 7. SET UP A PROGRAM THROUGH LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING GROUPS TO BECOME ACTIVE IN WORKING WITH LOCAL GOVENMENTAL BODIES TO MAKE SURE THAT THEIR GENERAL PLANS AND ZONING ORDINANCES INCLUDE STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROVISIONS. 8. STRUCTURE THE FINAL PROGRAM SO THAT IT NOT ONLY PROVIDES PROTECTION FOR CURRENT ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES BUT TAKES A BROADER VIEW THAT ITS ROLE IS TO PROVIDE AND PROTECT SUITABLE HABITAT FOR ALL OF ARIZONA'S WILDLIFE. (WITHOUT THIS PERSPECTIVE THE FINAL PROGRAM WILL HAVE LIMITED FUTURE VALUE -- WITH CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT, THE NON-THREATENED SPECIES OF TODAY MAY ALSO BECOME EXTINCT.)</p>
ZDIYMM	<p>AGFD has served the citizens of AZ, the nation and the world well. It has been extremely difficult to meet short term demands that continue to pop up while trying to accomplish long term goals defined in strategic planning documents. The mgt. team of AGFD, the Comm. in conjunction with the executive/legislative branches of state govt. must learn how to be responsive to the public without saying yes to every request. Wildlife must be managed for long term viability not short term crisis resolution.</p>
U2OGM3	<p>I could only wish that this survey were is rare event. To see a government agency waste so much tax payer dollars putting together such a self serving survey that will have little impact on your grant process other than you may check the box that asks if you surveyed the public. I am sure hours and hours of payroll went into establishing these questions and producing some summary that will be optimized and construed as you wanted it in the first place. I for one feel that AZGF finds work to do unnecessarily. I expect that very shortly they will be going back to the Prescott area again to SAVE the antelope, which through their past stupidity nearly killed all those captured. How much did that cost? Take a look at your administration and tell me that those dollars do any good at all.</p>

MJIODY	<p>In general, I'd like to say the AZ Game and Fish is doing a pretty good job overall. I've heard a few rumors about individuals who got caught breaking game laws and they were punished accordingly. Word of mouth works wonders. Unfortunately, this survey was difficult and confusing to complete. I've written a few surveys myself, and this was not what I would call a strong one. The method of "weighting" certain statements places an unknown priority on future strategies where the test taker may not ultimately want his or her tax dollars spent. Also, certain environmental groups should be prohibited from hiding behind the endangered species act of the 70's to protect useless, non-socioeconomic species like the pierson's milkvetch plant. In reality, their real agenda is to stop hunting and OHV recreation so that all we have left is some pretty pictures in a book to thumb through. I support equal access for all outdoor enthusiasts and I always stay on designated trail systems. That pretty much sums it up.</p> <p>I certainly hope the plan is indeed comprehensive of all wildlife species for which AGFD has management authority. I also hope it's strategic in terms of aggressively providing professional and scientific leadership at many scales on behalf of conserving and appreciating the wildlife heritage of our state and the larger region. That means the planning and implementation strategies must include shaping and spearheading creative changes in statewide policies and statutes needed to sustain wildlife species and their habitats. AGFD and their partner agencies and organizations also must develop innovative mangement techniques, monitoring procedures and collaborative approaches at all levels in the state and among neighboring states. AGFD and the state should provide technical and managerial leadership for all levels of federal and state land management offices so that their activities are fully attentive to wildlife needs. Wildlife conservation should be fully integrated with other goals for managing ecosystems and landscapes in Arizona. Thanks for the opportunity to participate, and also for the efforts to make us think and to delve into subtle comparisons among potential conservation priorities.</p>
U1YTRJ	
ZDLOTJ	<p>found the survey to be very redundant and tricky...NEED TO BE MORE STRAIGHTFORWARD!!</p> <p>I would like to take this opportunity to thank the AZ G&F dept for a job well done. They are the only agency that I interface with that seems to recognize that they work to manage the resources of AZ for the people and not from the people. All of my interfaces with them have been positive and I think that they should stand as a model to the rest of the western states as to how game management should occur.</p>
GNMNTU	
WOWVMY	<p>All the Game Wardens deserve a huge pay raise. Game Wardens make an average of about \$34,000/year. DPS officers make an average of about \$60,000/year! Game Wardens are required to have at least a bachelors degree and several have advanced degrees. DPS has a step pay system to keep us with the ever increasing cost of living. Game Wardens never get raises. All Game Wardens should be making as much or more money than the average D.P.S. officer. Fund a raise for these wonderful wildlife professionals who dedicate their lives and careers to the protection of the animals who have no voice, and selflessly help the public become more aware of and educated about wildlife - often at the personal expense of their families sacrifices. GIVE ALL GAME WARDENS A HUGE PAY RAISE AND A STEP SYSTEM TO PROGRESSIVELY INCREASE THEIR SALARIES THROUGHOUT THEIR CAREERS! PAY EM" MORE!!!!</p> <p>I found the survey to be redundant I thought they could have come up with something better than that. That 5th generation guy is a bozo Arizona has only been a state since 1912 hard to get five generations in less than 100 years unless you are a in-breed hillbilly....and if I ever catch him out taking what he wants when he wants his ass will belong to me won't tolerate that kind of behavior :D [/quote]</p>
A2NZKY	
YTJMOW	<p>It is nice to be asked, but I agree with others that the survey wasn't really designed to be able to represent the opinion I would like to convey. Some items didn't fit together at all, like "overuse of natural resources and drought conditions." Another statement went something like..."using sound science to promote multi-use activities." Because there were statements that included two different intents, in my opinion, it was difficult to choose ONE that fit! When it comes to Wildlife/Conservation we hear alot about the need to compromise. From my camp, I see no room left. One more step back and it will be the drop over the cliff. Wildlife/Environment is in the red; bankrupt! But there is good news. People are the problem and also the solution. We are intellegent, innovative and full of ways to make things happen. I hope we choose to be wise! I would like to thank AZGF for the opportunity to participate in many of their programs/activities geared at involving the general public. They do one of the best jobs of this I've seen! And to the person who would like to move the youth hunt to the end of the season, I would say; "Patience, my friend, patience. Take one of those kids under your wing and show her/him a responsible way to hunt in the woods!"</p>
GY5ZJM	<p>i am a atv rider and i use to hunt when i lived in ill and in.i totally agree that atvs should not be allowed to hunt ,there are too many nuts out there riding thru the desert chasing and scaring game.i dont see the sportsmanship in hunting like that.lets get back to the basics. you still should be able to ride but some areas should be off limits during hunting season.</p> <p>:shock:</p>
WYMQ00	<p>Conservation needs to be the top priority.</p>