
NOTICES OF RULEMAKING DOCKET OPENING

This section of the *Arizona Administrative Register* contains Notices of Rulemaking Docket Opening.

A docket opening is the first part of the administrative rulemaking process. It is an “announcement” that the agency intends to work on its rules.

When an agency opens a rulemaking docket to consider rulemaking, the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) requires the publication of the Notice of Rulemaking Docket Opening.

Under the APA effective January 1, 1995, agencies must submit a Notice of Rulemaking Docket Opening before beginning the formal rulemaking process. Many times an agency may file the Notice of Rulemaking Docket Opening with the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

The Office of the Secretary of State is the filing office and publisher of these notices. Questions about the interpretation of this information should be directed to the agency contact person listed in item #4 of this notice.

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING DOCKET OPENING

TITLE 12. NATURAL RESOURCES

CHAPTER 4. GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

[R15-62]

1. Title and its heading:

12, Natural Resources

Chapter and its heading:

4, Game and Fish Commission

Article and its heading:

1, Definitions and General Provisions
3, Taking and Handling of Wildlife
6, Rules of Practice Before the Commission
8, Wildlife Areas and Department Property

Section numbers:

R12-4-101, R12-4-103, R12-4-104, R12-4-105, R12-4-106, R12-4-107, R12-4-108, R12-4-110, R12-4-111, R12-4-112, R12-4-113, R12-4-114, R12-4-115, R12-4-116, R12-4-117, R12-4-118, R12-4-119, R12-4-120, R12-4-121, R12-4-124, R12-4-125, R12-4-302, R12-4-611, and R12-4-804
(As part of this rulemaking, the Department may add, delete, or modify additional Sections as necessary)

2. The subject matter of the proposed rule:

An exemption from Executive Order 2015-01 was provided for this rulemaking by Ted Vogt, Chief of Operations in the Governor’s office, in an e-mail dated June 1, 2015.

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission proposes to amend its rules following the 2014 five-year rule review of 12 A.A.C. Chapter 4, Article 1, Definitions and General Provisions. The review report, as required under A.R.S. § 41-1056, established a course of action to amend Article 1 rules. A subsequent review of these recommendations evaluated their usefulness in practice and enforcement, resulting in the rulemaking as it is submitted in this Notice. In addition to the amendments proposed in the five-year review report, the Commission proposes to amend rules within 12 A.A.C. 4 to establish requirements necessary to allow a person to surrender an unused, original hunt permit-tag; allow the Department to reinstate bonus points forfeited during the computer draw when a person donates an unused big game tag to a qualifying non-profit organization or surrenders it to the Department; allow a person to transfer an unused big game tag to a non-profit organization that affords hunting opportunities and experiences to veterans with service-connected disabilities and establish an application process for a qualified non-profit organization to implement recent legislative amendments resulting from Laws 2014, 2nd Regular Session, Ch. 55, Section 1; provide the Department with greater flexibility in procuring tags; enable the Department to move to a paperless application process for hunting and fishing licenses and big game tags; and remove the ability to petition the Commission for the reinstatement of bonus points. The Commission is also amending rule language where necessary to increase consistency between Commission rules and ensure conformity with the Arizona Administrative Procedures Act and the Secretary of State’s rulemaking format and style requirements and standards.

3. A citation to all published notices relating to the proceeding:

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: 21 A.A.R. 1001, July 10, 2015 (*in this issue*).

4. The name and address of agency personnel with whom persons may communicate regarding the rule:

Name: Amber Munig, Big Game Management Supervisor



Address: Arizona Game and Fish Department
5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086

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Please visit the AZGFD web site to track progress of this rule and any other agency rulemaking matters at http://www.azgfd.gov/inside_azgfd/rules/rulemaking_updates.shtml.

5. The time during which the agency will accept written comments and the time and place where oral comments may be made:

The Commission will accept comments Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the address listed under item #4. Information regarding an oral proceeding is included in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

6. A timetable for agency decisions or other action on the proceeding, if known:

To be determined.