

## Southwest California condor program review complete

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently completed a review of the condor program in northern Arizona and southern Utah.

The review is the second five-year assessment of the program and focuses on the 2002-2006 period. A team of wildlife officials, land managers and condor biologists recommend that the reintroduction program continue with several improvements.

The California condor reintroduction

project began in 1996 with the release of six condors at the Vermilion Cliffs in Arizona. A total of 93 condors have been released since then, with 57 still remaining.

In 2001, a reintroduced condor produced the first confirmed egg laid in the wild since 1986. Five condors have hatched in the wild to date.

Implementation of a voluntary non-lead ammunition program in Arizona has reduced available toxic lead bullet

fragments by an estimated 50 percent on the Kaibab and Paria plateaus.

Overall mortality has been reduced from 40 percent in the first five-year period to 27 percent in this reporting period. Improved field techniques have virtually eliminated predation of newly released condors. Better adaptive management in the field has been implemented to more effectively address condor behavior issues.

The review recognizes that lead toxicity is a major challenge facing condors and the primary inhibitor of a self-sustaining population. Studies have concluded that lead shot and bullet fragments found in game carcasses and gut piles are the main source of lead in condors. Condors are group feeders, so several birds can ingest lead fragments from one carcass or gut pile.

Cooperative efforts are underway to remediate lead contamination in condors. The Arizona Game and Fish Department offers a free non-lead ammunition program, started in 2005, in an attempt to reduce lead exposure for wild condors. Hunters have responded positively to using non-lead ammunition and are credited with helping lower lead toxicity in condors, although expanded adoption of the effort is needed to further reduce lead exposure and mortality in the population.

The review was conducted as a joint effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, The Peregrine Fund and Bureau of Land Management, with input from numerous agencies, local governments and open house participants.

For more information on the California condor, visit [azgfd.gov/condor](http://azgfd.gov/condor).

## More than 17,000 attend Arizona Game and Fish Expo

This year's Arizona Game and Fish Department Outdoor Expo was a resounding success, judging from total attendance, feedback from visitor surveys, and the smiles on the faces of kids and families.

About 17,400 people—three times the number of last year's Shooting Showcase—visited the free Expo at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix on March 31 and April 1.

"People indicated they enjoyed the expanded scope of the event, the hands-on outdoor recreation opportunities, and especially the variety of activities available for young people and families," says Dana Yost, assistant director for information and education.

Popular activities included trying out firearms from various manufacturers on the shooting range; checking out fishing, archery, air gun and .22 shooting at the Family Fun Adventures area; test-driving

off-highway vehicles and seeing demonstrations at the OHV area; seeing live wildlife and learning about wildlife conservation; trying out specialty shooting disciplines at venues hosted by local shooting organizations; and experiencing archery and clay target shooting.

In the Family Fun Adventures area, nearly 1,700 young anglers tried their skill at the family fishing tank, while more than 500 people ventured out onto hunter field course. More than 8,000 rounds of .22 ammunition were expended at the beginners' rifle range.

More than 100 exhibitors—sportsmen's/conservation groups, government agencies and commercial vendors of outdoor products and services—participated at this year's event.

Mark your calendars for next year's Expo—it's scheduled for March 28-30, 2008 at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility. It will be the biggest and best yet!

## Arizona holds its first Archery in the Schools championship

More than 60 young archers squared off for state titles as Arizona's Archery in the Schools Program held its first state championship on March 31 at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility.

"The Archery in the Schools Program has been part of many Arizona schools' physical education curricula for several years, but this is the first time we've had a state championship event," says Denise Raum, statewide archery and bow hunting coordinator for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. "We're planning to expand the championship next year."

Winners in each division were:

- High school boys: Sam Cooke, Achieve Academy, Prescott Valley.
- High school girls: Sheronda DeJolie, Page High School, Page.
- Middle school boys: Robby Andrews, Achieve Academy, Prescott Valley.
- Middle school girls: Tory Gillespie, Desert Foothills Junior High School, Phoenix.
- Elementary school boys: Zachery Clark, Christ the King Academy, Phoenix.
- Elementary school girls: Dahvi Roseman, Christ the King Academy, Phoenix.

Archery in the Schools is a school-based program that teaches international-style target archery to students in grades 4-12 as part of the physical education curriculum. The program was launched in Kentucky in 2002 and has since been adopted by nearly 3,000 schools in 40 states. More than 70

schools participate in Arizona's program. For results of Arizona's championship, visit [azgfd.gov/education](http://azgfd.gov/education).

Full Service  
Gun Shop

Guns Appraised

### MURPHY'S GUNS & GUNSMITHING

3235 N. Country Club Rd.

Tucson, AZ 85716

Phone: (520) 881-7074

Fax (520) 881-6208

Guns Bought • Sold • Traded

Top Prices  
Paid For  
Used Guns

No Collection Too  
Big Or Too Small

CUSTOM MADE BEDS-MANUFACTURING AND RENOVATING  
REBUILTS FOR SALE

PHONE 622-1216

### A-1 MATTRESS

CUSTOM MATTRESSES FOR WATERBEDS

*Bobby Boido*

Tucson Hispanic Chamber

223 West 29th Street  
So. Tucson, Arizona 85713




HC1 Box 24  
Barksdale, TX 78828  
(830) 234-4120

Thompson Temple  
  
Native and Exotic Game






CHRIST  
IS  
LORD




Don't delay. Grow your business by  
advertising in *Safari Trails*.  
E-mail Martin Charlton at [Casey520@msn.com](mailto:Casey520@msn.com)  
for information today!



## Weller's Wildlife Studio, Inc.

Excellence in Taxidermy

3530 W. Flying Diamond, Tucson, Arizona 85742 520-744-3468

[www.wellerswildlifestudio.com](http://www.wellerswildlifestudio.com)