

**MEETING MINUTES
NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION
Thursday April 05, 2018
Clovis Civic Center, Enchantment Ballroom
801 Schepps Blvd.
Clovis, NM 88101
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

A P P E A R A N C E S

Game Commissioner Thomas Salopek

Chairman Paul Kienzle

Vice Chairman Bill Montoya

Game Commissioner Ralph Ramos

Game Commissioner Bob Ricklefs

Game Commissioner Elizabeth Ryan

Game Commissioner Craig Peterson

ABSENT: None

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: I am calling this meeting to order. Good morning.

MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Roll call.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Peterson.

COMMISSIONER PETERSON: Present.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ramos.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Present.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ryan.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Here.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ricklefs.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Here.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Salopek.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Present.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Montoya.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Here.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Chairman Kienzle.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Present.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Chairman Kienzle, I believe we have a quorum.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All right. Commissioner Ryan, I'm putting you in charge of the Pledge of Allegiance today.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: I have a very special guest who's going to lead us this morning.

COMMISSIONER: Right.

CHILD: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Thank you. All right. [Applause]

SPEAKER: She had you beat this morning on the (indiscernible).

COMMISSIONER: She does, by far.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Can I get a motion to approve the agenda, please?

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: So moved.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: The ayes have it. All right. Let's go around the room. Who wants to go first?

GUEST SPEAKER: Donald Jaramillo, Deputy Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, members (inaudible).

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, members of the general public, my name is Jacob Payne, General Counsel for the Department.

GUEST SPEAKER: Morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. My name is Lance Cherry. I am the Chief of Information and Education Division, Game and Fish.

GUEST SPEAKER: Morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Director Sandoval. Craig Sanchez, Assistant Chief of Education, Game and Fish.

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, members of the audience, I am Chris Chadwick, Assistant Director (inaudible/background noise).

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, my name is Paul Varela, (indiscernible), Game and Fish.

GUEST SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

GUEST SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: It's tough to follow that up, Colonel Griego.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning. I am (indiscernible).

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning. (indiscernible) Major for the Department.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning, Commission. Patrick Morrow, White Sands Missile Range.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, members of the public. Stewart Liley, Chief of Wildlife, Game and Fish.

GUEST SPEAKER: Chairman, Commissioners. I'm Rick Andes. I'm the New Mexico YHEC Director.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, members of the Commissioners. I'm Nicole Tatman, the Game Program Manager for Department of Game and Fish.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning Mr. Chairman, Commissioners (indiscernible).

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. I'm Mike Haynes [phonetic]. I'm just a private citizen and sportsman from Los Alamos, New Mexico. And I just happened to be in Clovis and you guys were meeting so I decided to come down.

GUEST SPEAKER: Morning, everyone. I'm Les Dhaseleer from Vermejo Park Ranch.
[phonetic]

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commission and members of the public. My name's Angelica Ruiz and I'm with the Administrative Services Division.

[Break in audio]

GUEST SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: We caught you working there.

[Laughter]

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning. Mike Silagi [phonetic] (indiscernible) fisheries.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning. Casey Meyers [phonetic], wildlife biologist, Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico.

GUEST SPEAKER: Morning, everyone. I'm Dan Williams (inaudible).

GUEST SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman (indiscernible) Division of Game and Fish.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. Welcome. Good morning, everyone. Can I get a motion to approve the minutes from our last meeting in Las Cruces, and our March 28th special meeting in Albuquerque?

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: So moved, Mr. Chairman.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: The ayes have it. Okay. Item number 7, reserving two elk licenses for nonprofit wish-granting organization. Colonel Griego.

COLONEL GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, I'm here to discuss reserving two elk licenses for two nonprofit wish-granting organizations. Statute allows us the opportunity to reserve two elk licenses for individuals under the age of 21 who have been certified by a physician as having a life-threatening illness. Is that not showing up?

COMMISSIONER: There it is.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: It's supposed to be a music video, I think. [Laughter] I think this will have to do.

COLONEL GRIEGO: These two screens aren't showing.

SPEAKER #1: Those two screens aren't working.

SPEAKER #2: Doesn't look like they have power.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Anybody have any duct tape?

[Laughter]

SPEAKER #1: Or baling wire.

[Laughter].

SPEAKER #2: No power to this power strip. It's okay. We can, can we get this screen behind this?

SPEAKER #1: Yes, that's fine.

[Cross talk]

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Colonel Griego, you may continue. We're good. Thank you.

COLONEL GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, currently we have four wish-granting organizations that have been approved through the Commission. Those are Catch [phonetic] a Dream Foundation, the Outdoor Dream Foundation, Hunt of a Lifetime, and Safari Wish. Each of these organizations selects their own applicants and those individuals they do select, they do have to purchase an elk license. This year, the two organizations that are up in the drum are Catch a Dream and Outdoor Dream Foundation. The other two received the authorizations last year. So these authorizations allow them to purchase a license. That hunt is good from September 1st through December 31st, any legal weapon type. They can hunt anywhere in the state that they can gain legal access to, and the bag limit is either sex for that hunt. With that I will take any discussion.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any questions or comments on this one? And I will entertain a motion.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: I move to accept the Department's recommendation and reserve two elk licenses for the two applicants to be sponsored by the nonprofit wish-granting organizations or the alternate should the primary individuals not be able to participate in their elk hunt.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: The ayes have it. Thank you. Mr. Varela, agenda item number 8, fiscal year 2020 initiation of budget development.

COMMISSIONER: Already. That's scary.

PAUL VARELA: Good morning. Agenda item number 8 is the development of the fiscal year 2020 budget. So beginning next month in May we will initiate the development in preparation of the 2020 capital outlay budget.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Nothing but technical difficulties.

SPEAKER: Today the gremlins are running amok with I.T. I apologize.

(Indiscernible)

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you.

PAUL VARELA: And the operating budget, in June we will present the capital outlay budget for the Department to the Commission which is statutorily due to the Department of Finance on July 1st. During the months of June and July we will go around the state meeting with each of you and discussing the 2020 operating budget based on guidelines from the Governor's Office

and the Department of Finance. In August we will present to you the operating budget to the Commission for approval which is due September 1st to the Department of Finance and the Legislative Finance Committee. So that's just the basic timeline for the months ahead. And with that I will stand for any questions.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: So, is this where we meet in groups of 2's and 3's to go over the budget?

PAUL VARELA: Mr. Chairman, yes. During June and July, we'll be meeting, going around in the state and planning those meetings with all of you.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Is it the Pitman-Robertson the money that the Federal government gives us, is it all for the last year that we got, goes into this year's budget or goes into next year's budget. I've been wondering.

PAUL VARELA: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Salopek, we received our apportionment in April. That has been finalized. That is part of the revenue that we receive each year. We usually typically budget about 14 to 15 million in Federal revenue and that comes out of the pot from the Congress. And that's just a general amount.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: So they keep it yearly, so I was just wondering. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Varela, will you have a report on the habitat improvement stamp, dollars, and where those have been spent as well on that when you present that to us?

PAUL VARELA: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, yes, we will have those, that information available when we meet in July and June.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: All right, I'd like to also not only look at the dollars on that report but I'd also like to see more of the habitat projects and, you know, where those have been targeted by region. I know northern, southern, whatnot.

PAUL VARELA: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner, we can have that information available and sent to you before we meet so that you can review that and then we'll address any questions you have at that time.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Thank you.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: So, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, just to clarify, is that Sikes Act and HMAV or HMAV only?

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: I'm sorry, I had a hard time hearing you on that.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: I was asking if you want the project proposals for the Sikes Act stamp and the HMAV stamp or just the HMA stamp, just to clarify.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Probably both.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Okay.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Please.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Got it? Okay. Any other questions or comments? All right. We'll see you in May for sure, and June somewhere.

PAUL VARELA: All right.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Agenda item number 9, update on construction of Roswell office complex.

JIM COMINS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission. Mr. Benjamin is back and he will presenting the update on the Roswell office complex.

MR. BENJAMIN: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. (Indiscernible) So, the Department has contracted by Bohannon Huston back in January to do the design work for the Roswell Complex. They are currently at approximately a 95 percent completion and 100 percent completion is due in mid-April. The Department also conducted an informal open house in Roswell actually last weekend, on March 31st. Feedback received during the open house, attendance, there was only 2 actual people from the public that came to the open house and the Roswell city planner. Very positive, works well with the recreational area that surrounds the complex that we're proposing there. Also, the Department has contracted Dr. Steven W. Carothers and Associates, otherwise known as SWCA. And they've started the National Environmental Policy Act, the NEPA study for the project. As part of the NEPA process, SWCA will solicit public comments on the project as well. Moving forward, complete the design and bid package. Then we'll go through the bid process with State Procurement, complete the archeological and National Environmental Policy Act study, finalize the construction grant, award the project and construct the structure.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: It all looks so easy on one slide. [Laughter] When do you expect completion?

MR. BENJAMIN: I'm targeting January, February depending on utilities primarily.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Great.

MR. BENJAMIN: Next slide I'm presenting to you is the actual layout of the property that we are leasing from the City of Roswell. You can see the office complex on West College

Boulevard. We have our high security warehouse and covered storage, very similar, the exact same size as Albuquerque. And then the farther back portion of the property, we have ATV training capabilities and there's archery ranges for the general public to use during normal hours.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Is this where we got the 99-year lease?

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Mr. Chairman, it's not quite 99 years. We had to work through (indiscernible) but yes, we have a pretty much forever lease with . . .

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: How many years is it?

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: It's 20, I believe.

MR. BENJAMIN: Mr. Chairman, it's 50 years with the option to renew for another 50.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Right.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Right.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: And what do we pay for that?

MR. BENJAMIN: Mr. Chairman, it's going to be a dollar per year.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: A dollar per year. It's a bargain. Okay.

COMMISSIONER: Finally. We got the bargain. [Laughter.] (Indiscernible).

MR. BENJAMIN: So the next slide is the building layout. The actual entry and common area, training areas is an exact duplicate of Albuquerque's model. We did, however, because of the manpower at the Roswell office, reduce one of the wings and removed that from the structure. But if that growth continues and we get more growth down there, we can always come in and add that wing back in. Next slide is a picture of the façade and the building and of course this is

with the landscaping fully matured which will probably take a few years in Roswell to mature.

This is the front entrance again with the façade.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Looks nice. Discussion? Commissioner Ryan, do you like it?

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Love it.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Okay. That's good news. So sometime early next year, completion?

MR. BENJAMIN: Mr. Chairman, yes sir.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: And when will you break ground?

MR. BENJAMIN: Currently we're targeting late July, mid- to late July.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Should be warm by then.

[Laughter]

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Perfect. Any other questions or comments.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman, I do have a comment. I want to absolutely thank you for what you presented here today. I like how the standard of a building has been set for New Mexico here following the Albuquerque model. I do realize the employees, in Albuquerque, there is definitely a higher number there and I still like that same style and again standard for this state and I also like the user-friendly concept that you all have embedded into the whole property, you know, utilizing all the property throughout the whole grounds with the archery and the ATV training sites and who knows what else will be coming from that. But I like that the Department is thinking in that mindset and you know, standardizing things throughout New Mexico. I appreciate your presentation.

MR. BENJAMIN: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any other questions or comments? When will we see this again?

MR. BENJAMIN: Mr. Chairman, it might be a good idea to see if potentially in June or August. There won't be a Commission meeting in July so . . .

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Maybe August. Okay. Great. Thank you. Let us know when the groundbreaking is.

MR. BENJAMIN: We will.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Agenda item number 10, update on the hunter education program and other education opportunity. Mr. Cherry.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Mr. Chairman, while they're getting set up, I would just, if you all have the opportunity, in Albuquerque the walls are going up at the Albuquerque office so you just might want to, the last time we were there, there was just dirt. So the walls are going up and it's neat to see the progress they're making down there. So if you have the chance I would swing by.

LANCE CHERRY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, I am here today to present an update on the Hunter Education Program and share a couple of our positive success stories with you, too, as well as other education opportunities that we offer. To begin, I'd like to share a brief overview of the Department's highly successful fishing education program. Last year they – step back, too many buttons—last year, they conducted over 330 fishing camps and they reached over 9,000 students and more than 45 hundred adults. The program also has been successful in getting into our schools with over 80 school programs actively participating in fishing skills education. And

additionally the program has had a positive impact on angler participation rates with increased license sales for the Department. We credit much of that success to a program with an inclusive approach that they take to not just our youth but also to including families. The Department's archery education program—I'm just bumping buttons today—the Department's archery education program is another that is performing at peak capacity averaging 20,000 student participants. The program has proven effective at reaching and engaging entire families through skills-based camps, outreach events and the National Archery in The Schools Program. Speaking of NASP, the program continues to show a positive return on investment, operating with essentially the same funding that they began with. The program continues to set new participation records and is considered the fastest growing program in the west. This weekend we're going to hold our annual state tournament where we will have more than a hundred—more than a thousand students registered to compete. The program will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday at the Albuquerque Convention Center and I would truly be remiss to not invite the public to come out and see New Mexico's largest scholastic sporting event. I'm very proud of the program itself.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: What time is that on Saturday?

LANCE CHERRY: That's at 8 a.m. and it will run all day until 5 p.m. that day, wrapping up with the final flights [phonetic]. So in 2015 as you'd recall we were facing some difficult challenges with our hunter education program. We were looking at competing interests. Our classes were filled to capacity and we had a long wait list to get in to those classes. Our schools had pretty much abandoned hunter ed as part of the core curriculum that they were teaching in the schools and we lacked a skill-based focus. In 2016, we took some progressive steps to tackle those issues and rolled out online hunter education. We began offering camps and we started re-engaging our schools by offering an after school program that included grants to pay teachers for

their time. In the first year, our efforts to modernize the hunter education program, you can see that there's been a strong shift from our traditional education which included those traditional classes and mentored youth programs, more into the modern approach that we've been taking which includes online hunter education, hunter ed camps, and our hunter education in the schools. And while our numbers have been flat with approximately 4,000 graduates the past two years, we really are following through with our commitment to step cautiously and ensure that our safety record continued intact. The good news on this is that our record has remained safe and strong and we have actually increased the retention of our students over the last year. What I mean by that is that if you had looked at our program just a year ago, about half of our graduates actually went on to actually buy a hunting license. That number has increased drastically and we've had steady growth over the past year of actually recruiting and retaining those customers once they've completed those classes. This year we're going to move into Phase 2 of the program and so we're looking to continually, we're looking to improve those programs. We are excited to announce today that we will be working in partnership with NRA to now offer a free version of our online hunter ed class. We expect that to launch in the next couple months. And we're also working on a targeted marketing campaign to create greater awareness of the program. We're working to increase our skill-based camps and we are continuing our after school program. Another thing we're doing is, we're evaluating other state programs to ensure that we have streamlined our programs to be the most effective they can possibly can be, really to help us increase that participation. So as you know, hunter education is a critical component of our recruitment, retention and re-activation [phonetic] efforts that we put out there and we're continually looking for new ways to engage new audiences and help them become the future

conservationists and leaders that we need for the future. So with that I will stand for any questions.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: You've been busy. That's good news. Ralph, any questions?

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: I do. I have some comments more than anything. Great efforts. I do see that and being that we do offer the online after school program at my school we do see that trend that we started out with a lot of kids which I'm glad that we, you know, got this program going. It's been successful. But it seems like it has reduced and my challenge is to continue getting kids involved just like our guest speaker was talking about at our, at the auction you know, that we had in February. We've got to get new people involved and the beauty of this is, it's not only reaching out to our rural population but the inner-city kids as well, especially with terrorism and everything and the fear of guns that's out there in today's world. You know, it's educating people on the use, and the proper use, of this equipment. But you know, I like the data that you presented here today and incentives. I think that's a big challenge to continue reaching out and motivating them. I think your archery as well that's going on this weekend is a huge success and just seeing those kids who have never really experienced that in public schools and getting to compete has really engaged kids with hunting and hopefully hook them. And your data showed that today. I appreciate it. Thank you, Lance.

LANCE CHERRY: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: So we continue to do a good job with the kids and young people. I'd be, I'll visit with you at some point about what we do with adults and getting sort of first time adult hunters into the field, fish or archery. Because I know for some folks it's just a total black box. They're like, I might want to go do this because I like to be outside. But they're not sure

how to do it. So we might give some thought to how to get adults who are interested engaged for the first time.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: If I could add to that as well, I think that's a great idea, that hunter education. Lance, one of the things I'd like to see, and I think to reach out to students particularly is, I know we used to have a Project Wild or Project Wet as well curriculum. You know, what are we doing with that and is it, like is there electronic versions for science teachers in the classroom to embed in there? And what are our efforts to reach out to school districts in New Mexico to, you know, bring that on there. I know at one time we were wanting to set up a meeting with our Department, our Secretary of Education, and we never were able to accomplish that for whatever reason. But I think now with the new secretary in place, we ought to reach out again and see what we can do because my goal would be to offer an elective course at all public schools dealing with hunter education and everything we have with natural resources to hook more kids. And a great place to do that is through FFA programs as well but even as science teachers, we've got to reach out to those people, you know, to offer that and make that happen.

LANCE CHERRY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, this was one of those situations where our education programs are very robust at the Department and I could have absolutely consumed your entire day with really the number of things and variety that we do. [Crosstalk] I do want to let you know that we do have a full-blown curriculum, online approved, that we are getting into the schools along with our wildlife conservation presentation which really focuses heavily on wildlife conservation that our officers across the state work countless hours putting that into the schools and have made a really strong effort. That doesn't mean that we won't continue to approve and enhance those programs because we do that every day. I think that our strongest tool in the battle for our R3 [phonetic] efforts is our education programs and we rely

heavily on them to ensure that we're doing the right things to change those declining numbers. In fact, New Mexico is bucking the trend nationally and we have reversed that trend in New Mexico which I'm very proud of the staff and the entire Department for doing.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: And just one last thing. You know, recruiting youth for our game and fish, even, I don't know if we offer any scholarships to high schools or FFA programs in our state. And I know we have a strong wildlife contest that engages thousands of kids and today I would have loved, and I just thought about this, why don't we invite FFA Chapters to come to a meeting? We have an awesome facility here that Sandra arranged for us today. But you know, just in that mindset so they can see part of this process that we do as a Commission as well. Maybe invite them, reach out to them, I don't know.

LANCE CHERRY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, we can do that.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: I think scholarship would be a key one to talk about.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Lance, you might mention the event in Clayton Shooting Range that's coming up the 21st.

LANCE CHERRY: Yes, that is correct. Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ricklefs, we do have a public meeting coming up April 21st to provide the public an opportunity in Clayton to talk to us about the shooting range and our plans. As we brought those down to a more complete plan of what we intend to build and exactly what's going on the grounds and have worked through our compliance process, we are sitting right on that edge of prepping up to get ready for construction. And so this provides an opportunity for that public to come out and talk with us about that project.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Right on. Progress on a lot of fronts. Any other questions or comments on this one? Okay. Thank you. Agenda item number 11, update on the habitat restoration project on Colin Neblett Wildlife Management Area. Liley, you have the mike.

COMMISSIONER: Oh, man, he's got all these.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: After you for four agenda items?

STEWART LILEY: That's right. You're stuck with me for a little while.

COMMISSIONER: Holy cow. (Indiscernible).

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, we want to bring in front of you today just kind of an update on some of our habitat management activities that are occurring on some of the Commission-owned properties and one in particular that was kind of exciting for us this winter that we kind of wanted to showcase is the Colin Neblett. Our objective with the Colin Neblett, and where the Colin Neblett sits—if you're not familiar—right outside of Eagle. Eagle Nest Lake is just to the east of that, is where the Colin Neblett is. There's the north and the south. North and south is divided by the highway that goes into the Cimarron but where we're really focusing on is the south. It's a mixed conifer forest that had a high probability of an intense wildfire. So we really were focusing in on restoring that habitat and really in the mixed conifer habitats, not a lot of people in the state have really gone into the mixed conifer for fear of what do we really do and where we're going to go in there. But it was also to restore some aspen regeneration in there in an historic aspen meadow. So in 2016, we hand thinned. Just the remoteness of the area and lack of roads we had to bring hand crews in with chain saws and hand thinned 538 acres of mixed conifer in there to reduce fuels and promote that aspen regeneration. We then, in the most fire intense areas or potential fire intense areas, hand piled. We had crews

go in and hand pile 41 acres of that slash into about 12 hundred piles, 11 hundred to 12 hundred piles, to be burned. And we were able to in a short burn window this winter, because we didn't get much snow, but we did have a burn window where we had enough snow to go in and burn those piles this winter. So what I wanted to show you is kind of, so this is the Colin Neblett here. As you can see, this is the south. You can see just the tip of Eagle Nest Lake right here. But these are different areas where we thinned. This southern-most area, if anyone is familiar with it, is the Tolby meadows. We had a lot of forest encroachment onto those meadows, historic meadow system, that we were really trying to restore. And then these pockets in here were historic aspen glades through there that we were really trying to restore and bring back that aspen community. That's important for a lot of the wildlife species in there. So what you'll see here in this picture—and the room's a little dark, I don't know if you can see it on your screen—is this polygon that you can see with the yellow line is a thin [phonetic] polygon. What you can see is kind of the brown in there is actually our aspen trees so we would try to really restore that aspen. Left a few of the pine trees in there but the majority of that was taken out, all of that, and it's on a pretty intense slope so you can see fire would normally carry from the bottom up through there so it creates a fire break up around here as well. And so we really went into that, focused on those. That's where we hand piled these two areas. Again, we brought crews in to actually physically go pile the slash, put it into piles and then burned it. We contracted. So the Department of Game and Fish has a lot of habitat specialist staff. We don't have what we consider a burn boss, or what the prescribed burning community would call a burn boss on staff. So we contracted with a national wildlife coordinator group to get a burn boss. And they planned it for us. They helped develop it. We partnered with Forest Stewards Guild who's a big partner on restoration of forest, getting them fire adapted, fire resilient in the southwest especially, too.

And then we got all our necessary permits to conduct the burn this winter. We presented in January our proposed burn plan in a public meeting in the community around Eagle's Nest. We discussed with the public. We had a fair amount of people attend. A lot of people were excited that we were potentially reducing fire danger in and around those communities, especially this January as we went in there with a high-low [phonetic] snow pack, high risk for fire coming in. We really wanted to get our burn done this winter. The prescriptions I called for for the burn was we've got to have 2 to 6 inches of snow on the ground before we could burn—let's see—20 to 50 percent relative humidity and the temperature ought to be between 35 to 50 degrees. So that was a specific burn window that we were looking at. We were able to accomplish that burn window February 14th and 15th, and we burned all 11 hundred piles in two days across that. We had six Department employees that are what we call red carded or basically we're working on our habitat people to all be red carded so they can participate in prescribed burning activities or fire activities. We had two people from the Forest Guild. We had two people from the fire team on Philmont Scout Ranch that came out and helped us. And then, the one person from Forest Fitness was our burn boss. He was the one we contracted to kind of oversee the whole operation. This is what it looked like after the burn. So we monitored it for about 3 weeks afterward to make sure nothing was smoldering and it wasn't going to creep. As you can see we took from an understory that had this, potentially coming into this dry summer that had a lot of potential for high-intensity fire moving through there if we get a strike or some kind of fire going through, to an understory that looks something more like that, a more adapted system that if a fire moves through we hope it doesn't get up in the crown and really improved the habitat resiliency and the wildlife habitat in there. With the Colin Neblett specifically, there's still about another 497 acres where we can pile material. We went in where the highest intensity was first, a potential of fire to

come in. We're planning on piling the rest of that and burning through continued winters. We've started building burn plans for basically all the Commission owned properties because our goal is to really make it more adaptive and fire resilient and make sure we're not having catastrophic wildfires. We're really focusing in on kind of the more high risk areas like the Sargent Wildlife Area which is deemed a really high risk for wildfire but also high risk for a watershed issue because it is kind of the head waters up around the Chama and a severe wildfire in there is really going to have a pretty big impact. The other thing that we're working on is an increase in the number of Department employees that have burn qualifications so they can come on, help us with these prescribed burnings and getting, working with our conservation officers. A lot of them have also worked with the forest service and already have some of those qualifications and just continuing to keep them qualified so they can do it. And the Department works with the forest service and the BLM and state land throughout the state on prescribed burning throughout the state. We really think it's a good tool. It works great for wildlife habitat. It costs a lot less than mechanical treatment. For example, the whole cost of this project on the Colin Neblett was about 300 thousand. And when Commissioner Ramos spoke to where is some of the habitat stamp funding going, this was part of the HMAV funding money that we have spent on this Colin Neblett. About [cannot discern 25 vs 225] thousand of it was for the thinning, 20 thousand was for the burning. So you get an idea of how much cheaper if you can get a burn in there as long you have a safe means to put fire through the system then it's a lot cheaper to use per acre. But the hand crews of course are very expensive. So, you know, we plan on doing this through all of our Department properties. We're kind of assessing our Commission owned properties, assessing which ones are priorities first through different habitat needs from wildlife to fire severity to wild, watershed needs as well. 0:40:06.9#

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: So this particular project was thin, create piles, burn the piles.

STEWART LILEY: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: This is not the kind of burn where you sort of start a fire and hope it doesn't get out of control.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, so this one was a really difficult one. As you can see, a fairly steep slope. It was impossible to run just a broadcast burn through there without getting in the canopy. It's really dense forest all around it. So the best and safest solution was to cut first, pile, burn piles in the middle of winter.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: So is that the model that you're going to use in other burns or . . .

STEWART LILEY: It's really going to be dependent on each area, if there's fire breaks. So there's no fire break on the top of this ridge. That would go over the next ridge to Ute [phonetic] Park or the Cimerron potentially. If we had an area where there was already a fire break put in, there's the potential for some of that. So we're trying to work across the different properties. Every one is going to be a little different depending on the potential for spread of fire.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: I'm in favor of this. Just be careful playing with fire. But it's important work. And then, upon the last line of the what's next, you talked about Forest Service and BLM. Are you getting the cooperation you need from them to do the work?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, you know the biggest thing we work with the Forest Service or the BLM, and even with our projects, is compliance to get the work done. And so once we have the compliance, the cultural clearances, the park sites done and all that, it's easy to go in and do the work. The hardest is trying to get to that point. The

Forest Service has been great once we get all the clearance work done to go out there and get the work done. So . . .

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Well, you know how I feel about cooperation with the federal government. I like to do things on a handshake and get it done. So if you run into road blocks there, let us know and we'll figure out what to do. But all of this is really important work.

SPEAKER: Extremely important policy to have and be doing this consistently and I hope the Federal government and other states take note of the way proper forest management. So thank you to the Department for leading the way on this.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Anyone who's driven to, we've driven twice now to our meeting in Mescalero and seeing just how—maybe I see it more than you guys do because I go that way—but it's just terrible what that fire did. So anything we can do to cut down on catastrophic fires, I think it's really important work. Yes, sir?

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Stewart, the 497 acres, is any of that going to be done in Colin Neblett North?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ricklefs, we're going to look at transitioning over to the north. It hasn't been cut yet on the north side but we are looking over there. It wasn't as big of a fire risk as the south side but yes, we'll look into the north. It would again be hand cutting, piling, and burning in there as well.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: I sure know that north side needs some work, too. It's been 40 years that the Department did considerable commercial work, sales and so forth, on both sides of the road. Is there any consideration of a commercial sale.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ricklefs, we actually thought about it with this particular project. The only issue that we had on the south side was road access for logging trucks to get back in there for commercial and actually trying finding a person to bid it from a commercial perspective. We will look at those activities if possible. If we could get a commercial guy coming in, it would cost the Department no money thin out, would be our preference. We were working with a helicopter logging crew as well. They were interested for a while and then backed out. So we will continue to look down those avenues for if there's a potential commercial sale, we would look that way, too.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Stewart, didn't we have a fire in there about 10 years ago on the north?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Montoya, the Ponil fire probably came close to there. It came more on the Elliott Barker. So the Elliott Barker is to the south—excuse me, to the northeast of the Neblett and it did come through the Barker but not really on the Neblett.

SPEAKER: It was a good fire.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman, Stewart, I know we're talking about our properties. But when they have Forest Service fires as well, do they include us in that, and do any of our habitat dollars go into that as well?

STEWART LILEY: So, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, in terms of wildfire we don't necessarily contribute to it. We do an extensive amount of habitat restoration work on Forest

Service, BLM, I think to the tune of I think between Pittman-Robinson dollars and Department and different capital projects, I think we're committed to almost 10 million dollars in habitat restoration across the State of New Mexico. A large chunk of that is going to be on Federal land because they are one of the largest land owners in the State of New Mexico so yes, we do quite a bit. We haven't had any of our habitat biologists go out on fires yet because they just got carded. So we'll see if we get a call out for that stuff, but . . .

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Mr. Chairman, if I may, I just want to extend my greatest thanks to Stewart and his crew. This has been a number of years in the making. And a little bit of a nervous moment as you pointed out, to be careful when we decided to actually burn. Those were some tense moments only because we wanted to make sure we had all our bases covered. But the work that was put in to making this happen was a lot, and I'm greatly appreciative of everything, Stewart, that you and your crew have done to make this happen. It's the beginning of something that I think will carry forward for a number of years and truly appreciative of all the work to make it a go. So thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: What's the term, so we burn piles, what's the term for a different kind of burn that's not—

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, there's like a broadcast burn. That's where you're just burning across. So there are different processes. So we do it across the state. So like in a pinon-juniper dominated landscape, you're not going to get a lot of canopy type fire. And a lot of times there's not a lot of understory to start the fire. So what we might do is go in with a hand crew and thin it out and scatter all the slash and come back two years later after it really dries out and then burn over the top of it with a broadcast burn and get it going that way. So it really depends on what kind of forest type you're working in. Mixed conifer is the most dangerous because it's

most susceptible to a catastrophic wildfire that gets up in the crown and really that's where you get your 3-hundred-thousand-acre fires that we see that these big catastrophics.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: We don't want that. Again, be careful. But this is super important work. So thank you. Any other questions or comments on this? All right. Agenda item number 12, initial discussion for potential rule changes on the Barbary sheep, oryx and Persian ibex rule, 19.31.12 NMAC for the 2019, 20, 23 seasons. My gosh. I'm going to be old when that's over. Stewart.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission. So this is the first time that you guys will hear this rule. As you know, we've kind of discussed the new rule process. It's a little different than the previous years. So we have kind of a more fleshed out proposal in front of you today. We'll come back one more time to kind of get final recommendations from the Commission and then finalize. But we'll come at you today with some of the data behind our proposals and where we're planning on heading and look for direction from there. So we'll start with ibex. This graphic in front of you is a look at license numbers and harvest. We've really ramped up nanny harvest of ibex on the Florida Mountains. Some of you might recall, we had a helicopter survey about 5 years ago, so that would have been around this time period in the 2012-13, where we counted minimum observed about 12 hundred ibex on that mountain. There was an agreed upon number of about 350 ibex on the mountain with the BLM. We've been working with the BLM and it looks like we're going to try, we want to manage around 7 to 750. Well, that number of licenses was really a response to that many. Those are all basically female immature licenses and nanny hunts to try to reduce that nanny population. We were sort of successful. You can see we had one bump of a good year of killing some nannies and then some years here. Success rates vary every so often. But one of the biggest things is, we've maintained

the male segment of that population. In fact, we've increased the male. We really look at trophy billies like classifying them as what we call "white billies" in the surveys. And we're at about 100 to 110 white billies each year. So, we're maintaining our quality but trying to decrease our population at the same time. So for the next 4-year rule cycle what we're really looking for: instead of going through a population management hunt every year like we've been, trying to actually put that into the draw and get as many of those tags into the draw for hunters to draw up front; increasing those female mature draw licenses, potentially at least doubling it but going up to—right now we're at 50—we'd look at least 100 but maybe going up to about 150 to 200; and creating new hunts. So creating hunts of about 50 so quality still is, is a quality hunting experience but trying to get where we can manage and stabilize the population. Last year's count in August still showed our minimum numbers was 800 and I think 15, right around 815 ibex were counted in last year's survey. So we're still a little bit above our objectives but we're starting to kind of slow down. We've reduced it some but we're trying to now stabilize and we think that around that, between 100 to 200 licenses will be where we can stabilize the population for the female immature. Our proposal will be to remain the same on all the either sex and the trophy hunts. So we'd still maintain that quality billy hunt.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: I have a question here. Could you briefly discuss the background of our agreement with the BLM as far as numbers are concerned, the history of that and where we are now.

STEWART LILEY: Sure. Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ryan, part of the history was when we released them was kind of looking at, okay, what is this mountain going to hold carrying [phonetic] capacity-wise, when are ibex potentially going to have a degradation on habitat potential. It was thought there would be about 350. As we've kind of seen more from the

population it looks like it's about more on the 700 end. The other aspect of it was, as we were trying to keep ibex isolated on the Florida Mountains, trying not to get movements like the Tres Hermanas or Cook's Peak or some of those other ranges. When we get about over 800 is when we start seeing movements off the Floridas range. So our goal is to work with the BLM, keep monitoring the habitat conditions on there but also mainly to make sure we're not having populations moving off the Floridas and establishing elsewhere. And that's where that 750, 700 has come in from working with the BLM. So moving from ibex to Barbary sheep, so we get three species done in one presentation at least, so. Barbary sheep licenses have really increased drastically in the last few years. That increase is not because of draw hunts. We have an over-the-counter license for Barbary sheep that allows people to hunt anywhere in the state excluding our areas where we draw. That tag went from 180 sold in 2013 to this last year we sold 871 licenses. So a significant increase in one, interest in the off-range tag—excuse me, not off-range—over-the-counter tag, but a significant increase in that sale. What you'll also see is we had an increase in harvest through time, too, as we had sales go. We also saw increasing success rates on those hunts which is indicative of an increase in Barbary sheep populations. So not only do we have increase in harvest but increase in success. So it wasn't, as we see those it almost trends always to an increase in population.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Maybe the fitness of our hunters is improving.

STEWART LILEY: There's a potential in that, too. So, the other thing is, as you guys will recall, about 4 years ago we opened up the west side of GMU 34 to Barbary sheep hunting, moved it out of the draw and put it into that over-the-counter area. We have a significant amount of people hunting that over the west side of GMU 34. We think last year that estimates were about 300 to 350 people hunting the west side and harvesting almost 150 Barbary sheep on that

west side. So, a significant portion of this is just occurring on the west side of GMU 34 of what you see here.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Are our numbers okay on these? They're not—

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman we think the population continues to increase. We're seeing them in new areas almost every year. Success rates are increasing with the draw hunts that have remained stable license numbers. So yeah, the population if anything is increasing rather than—

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Okay.

STEWART LILEY: We're definitely not seeing a decrease.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman would this be the time to ask a question on that particular west side, 34?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Sure.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: My question is, is that I believe that there's more hunters that are hunting that basically for the male ram you know, harvest versus the ewe harvest and I believe our original objective was to kill or lower that population down to introduce bighorn sheep there and what is our goals again with that bighorn sheep? Are we getting close to start seeing more activity in that west side you know, bighorn sheep habitat or not?

STEWART LILEY: For sure. Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos our hope actually is. So a little bit of history on the desert bighorn. We had one site on a private land where we were using as a translocation site. That was on the Fra Cristobal and then our captive facility at Red Rock. Our while plan all along was to shore up our extant herds of bighorn, desert bighorn before we started moving sheep to new areas and starting a new population. We think we're there with

those herds now. We still have a capture that's to be conducted on the Fra's this next fall. We have a sheep that could come out of Red Rock and then also we're working with White Sands Missile Range to potentially take sheep off the San Andres and move them. Our hope would be that we could work with all those three entities this year to potentially move sheep towards the west side of GMU 34. Maybe as soon as this fall is as quick as we can do it. So we're getting close I guess is the point is we're within a year to or less than a year to a year and a half out. The biggest thing is making sure those source populations, we're able to capture out of them and translocate from those.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: And I understand that the Barbary sheep is only one of the animals in there but what about, what are some other steps that we're going to have to follow leading into translocating date such as predator control and all these other variables, water. I know our, you know again, habitat tanks and projects. What all is going to happen and what are those steps?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos so one of the biggest things that we've found through all desert sheep restoration is predation's the leading cause of mortality for desert sheep and so we have done aggressive predator control to establish populations. We backed off of some of the predator control when we have established populations but before we went in with the new release we definitely wanted to do targeted control around the release area and move around and predation from mountain lions and that's our number one concern. So we would go in with either our department's trapper or contractors to work on reducing the predator numbers in and around the release area of just prior to release and keep working around there. The nice part about the Sacramento's compared to some of the other mountain ranges where we've introduced or re-introduced desert bighorn sheep is there's a whole other suit of species for predator to kill. In the Hatchets for example, we are down to desert bighorn sheep solely. So

really a lion coming there was killing a desert bighorn sheep no matter what. Here we might have a buffer from other species that may lessen predation some but we will do predator control. In terms of water development, we don't think there's a water development issue there. It's an actually kind of a much wetter mountain than some of the other ranges where we have desert sheep. We don't, you know they're pretty good at finding water sources natural or through vegetation. So we're not real worried on a water source limitation issue.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Thank you.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: You can continue now.

STEWART LILEY: Okay Mr. Chairman's.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: And I'm sorry. So with that scenario of information you just gave, do you think the over-the-counter hunts will still continue in that west side?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos yeah. Our goal would be still to manage both those populations in concert. Not let Barbary sheep grow to a size where they overtake desert bighorn but yes, we'd keep that over-the-counter barbary sheep hunt in there even with the presence of desert sheep in there we would do that.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: We're going to hold you to it.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Montoya I know you will for sure. So one of the, we have a couple of kind of changes we want to propose for Barbary sheep. One is of course, the standard adjusts season dates for the calendars but one of the largest is combining. So right now we have two different draw hunts for barbary sheep. 29-30 are split into one draw and then 32-34-36-37 are split into another draw, 600 hunters apiece in each one of those month-long

seasons. Basically, what we're proposing or what we'd like to propose is combining all those draw units together, creating more hunts out and spreading hunter density and let a hunter basically go hunt where Barbary sheep are and let them kind of go across the landscape. Less people hunting at one time, more hunts, more opportunity but not limiting them to certain GMU's as much. So part of this proposal would increase licenses by and the draw licenses by 25% going from 1275 to 1600. Again, like I said, going out and letting hunters choose within those draw units. We're not proposing putting any new units in the draw or changing our statewide over-the-counter. Just letting hunters go throughout the whole draw units if they have a tag and then splitting hunts out. The structure we're proposing for a split is before you. That first hunt that you see, that third weekend in October is really kind of getting in towards some of the rut of Barbary sheep. So it's less hunters out on the ground. It's kind of more of a quality hunt we would call it potentially for Barbary sheep hunters on their five-day hunt in October and then having those three other hunts as you'll see there of 475 licenses apiece. Ten day hunts rather than the one month-long season all concentrated in those two different hunt codes. We think we'll spread out hunter density, increase a little bit of days hunting but really decrease the number of hunters in the field while trying to manage sheep and trying to really manage numbers so we don't see big, more expansion from barbary sheep. That's our goal. The other big thing is and I think it's an oversight on us on the last time in the rule is we don't allow public hunters that draw hunt to hunt private land with written permission. We just want to make sure we didn't [Phonetic] allow that to insure we do it with all of our other licenses. It's just insuring that's in there. And then the description of GMU west side of 34 is a little confusing. We're working with the military to really get at a nice bound that's easier for hunters to understand where they can hunt and where they can't on that west side, the (Indiscernible) of where that is and McGregor

Range, working in concert with them. They're proposing increasing hunts by 33% on McGregor Range as well for Barbary sheep.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: So you don't anticipate you know, the clumping issue is what we get a lot of complaints on from private landowners and so forth with these clumping of hunters around where the game are. And so in this scenario, instead of limiting hunters to specific Game Management Units you're spreading them out calendar wise rather than Game Unit wise? Is that?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ryan so it's calendar wise but also fewer people per hunt period as well. So instead of the 600 per hunt period we create more, 475 in a much larger area for them to go hunt rather than the 29-30 now is where a lot of the complaints in the clumping comes in, is we have 600 hunters hunting all on the month of February. Well in reality, that first week it's 600 hunters trying to get somewhere and that's where we're trying to get at, spread that density out. Move them across the landscape and hope to not have as much of those clumping issues but also achieve our harvest management goals for barbary.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Are we adding more or is it the same number that we currently have for the draw portion of it?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos the proposal is to add approximately 25% increase in the draw numbers as well.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: I like that.

STEWART LILEY: All right. Moving on to third species on the table. So I'm going to split off Oryx a little bit separately from on White Sands Military Range to off range. What you'll see here in front of you, that upper left hand graph is licenses and harvest. Since about 2009 you'll

see a pretty significant decrease in license numbers on White Sands Missile Range which corresponded with a parallel decrease in harvest. The success rates remain the same but harvest was purely driven by license numbers. The graphic on the right is the—

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: That's why Mr. Winn is here complaining.

STEWART LILEY: He must of showed up because I didn't see him behind me before.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: He missed his opportunity.

STEWART LILEY: The graphic on the right are counts from the survey data. You'll there the population did peak. So here's about 2009 where you'll see the highest numbers were here in the 2008-2009, population peaking around that period and then as we kept going a little bit heavy on the license, we had a decline in the population. Not a big surprise but as we saw this license numbers decrease significantly, we're seeing the upturn in the population again to where we're seeing it such to where we're going to probably be up around plus the 2500 too long. Working with White Sands Missile Range to try to determine license numbers to maybe stabilize that. That population is about 700 hunters on draw hunts outside of the population management hunts. So let me skip a couple of these. What we're looking at and what our proposal is, is to in White Sands Missile Range is to create four new hunt periods on White Sands Missile Range. Right now there's five hunt periods for draw hunters on there. We're proposing going to nine and proposing increasing the once in a lifetime hunts from 270 hunters to 585 hunters. Right now on White Sands for those premier hunts we have about 6800 people applying for the 270 to 2355 premier hunts. So it's about a 3.7% chance of drawing a once in a lifetime hunt. There was discussions with White Sands Missile Range if we create these all as once in a lifetime hunts or if we create 400 non-once in a lifetime hunts that aren't part of the once in a lifetime. The

department's recommendation is because we still have such a demand and a desire for once in a lifetime, we have a really low success of hunters drawing it is to create those as once in lifetime hunt periods and that's while you'll see this number going from 270 to 575 is a pretty significant increase in once in a lifetime. Also increasing are broken horn hunts from 125 is in the license for this coming up season to 135 and increasing the veteran hunt from 25 to 45. On that veteran hunt in particular, right now it's reserved for returning Afghan or Iraqi Veterans. That hunt number is the number of people that are applying for that decrease annually and continue to decrease annually. We're wanting to propose to change that to modify it from Afghan-Iraqi Veterans that are New Mexicans to any New Mexican Veteran to apply for that hunt. We think it would be, as we see that, we want to offer up that opportunity. White Sands I know has a lot of people that work on the military base that are non, they weren't part of those campaigns that still want to know why they can't go hunt. So we agree and we're proposing changing that.

Maintaining the youth hunting opportunities and the mobility impaired opportunities but one of the biggest things that White Sands proposed and we agree with them, is eliminating kind of the designation abuse hunt areas, Roads Canyon, Stallion Range. To ensure that we still have quality once in a lifetime hunts is before the proclamation goes out, we would delineate what portions of the military range where we would put hunters. Rather than pigeon hole someone into Roads Canyon, if something happened where the population shifted further to the south or to the north and we wanted to hunt them, we want to give that flexibility to make sure we put once in a lifetime hunters on where the population exists. So people would be drawing for GMU 19, White Sands Missile Range. Have the option right before the (Indiscernible) what month they're going to hunt. Where that actual hunt would happen but not put it in rules so we're not bound to putting hunters out where maybe the oryx population has shifted to or where it's not as good. So that's

one of the biggest changes with our proposal for on White sands Missile Range. I'll go back quick here to an off range graphic unless anyone had any questions on on range but off range, license sales have remained constant as you can see there. Harvest has remained fairly constant to slightly increase and what you'll see here is we had an uptake in the bull harvest, this is bull harvest here. This is cow harvest. You'll see cow harvest is really pretty flat. Bull harvest is maybe up taking a little bit. Success rates are actually increasing a little bit even though the license number is the same, suggesting probably increase in the population size, off-range as well. We're averaging almost 55 to 60% success on off range hunts currently. So it's still highly successful. Our proposals for off range are to increase those hunts from by 25% as well, from 600 to 750 on those hunts spread across all the months where we hunt and then increase the off-range youth hunts as well by 39% from 1810 to the 250. Again, that's in response to the data showing probably increasing numbers given the increasing success with the same number of hunters. With that, I'll take any questions.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Got enough animals to pull it off?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, we believe so, yes.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Okay. Why don't we take some public comment first and then we'll get back to fill in the blanks. Patrick. Welcome back.

PATRICK: You're welcome.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: You can keep your hat on.

PATRICK: Yeah, I know. Oh, is my head that ugly?

COMMISSIONER: No, Pat. It's the face.

PATRICK: I just want to thank the Department and the Commission for considering these. I think you can see that the data suggest we may have lowered tags a little too much you know, by chance. That 2500 is arbitrary in the core area you know based on the counts and the models that we've developed. They follow pretty well. One thing that we have to consider on that growth, we had a, in 2010 we had a severe freeze on White Sands, especially the northern. We probably lost a whole core herd of calves in 2010 and I think we're seeing not only we're seeing an explosion of babies being born after that and we saw those broken horns. 50 to 70% of all our oryx were broken right after that freeze. Those things are coming back. Quality is coming back to those animals. So I appreciate and we concur with the department. We've had a lot of discussions about the numbers. I introduced one thing that I still would like the Commission to consider and it's really the numbers are the same but we brought up the idea of having open hunts at the end of the season. Four new hunts that are open that anybody can apply to. Those broken horn hunts, they are typically, they don't really help us reduce broken horn animals. It became an opportunity for people who have already had a hunt to hunt White Sands again and so our thought processes is increase opportunity because there's so many people have that had of had a once in a lifetime and there's so many hunts but one of the best is on White Sands. Increase that opportunity and use those hunters that are open and not once in a lifetime to move those hunts around the range. We're not as worried about success rate because most of those guys have already had their oryx. We're happy with the proposal the department's proposing. I would just like some consideration over the next 30 days of some of these other ideas but really, the numbers are a wash. I mean –

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Just talk to him—

PATRICK: We are and we are discussing it.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: You feel like the numbers are there?

PATRICK: Oh, I know they are. We used to have 1600 tags and that's too many. The 1,000 is too many from what the Missile Range and conflict with the mission is. We'd rather not have it but we have to do that for the next four years I think to get our numbers back to a stable and I still can't guarantee that's enough but I think it's a good start.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: As long as the numbers are there.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Just for clarification Pat, are you wanting the hunters that have already got once in a lifetime, are you looking at just having broken horn hunts?

PATRICK: My proposal was to have open hunts. Set some hunts, one to four hunts that have higher numbers so the quality is not important. That anybody can apply. Even those people who haven't drawn a once in a lifetime. It would basically and eliminate the broken horn designation all together because we'll still kill the same number of broken horn animals on a once in a lifetime hunt or an open hunt and it is a wash on the numbers. I mean from White Sands perspective, we really only care about the numbers but I've been in this oryx business for 30 years and I wanted to keep some hunts for that a lower level, 60 to 6500 to keep that once in a lifetime opportunity where there's not as many hunters. We don't have as many enforcement actions and if the quality is good and then the late season hunts have 100 hunters. I don't care about whether it's quality. They are being used to target animals in areas. Those are the hunts I'll move into more into Stallion or into the mountains or other places to kill oryx but either way, I can agree to both of them.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Some of that makes sense? All of it makes sense?

STEWART LILEY: So Mr. Chairman, Patrick and I have been in conversation. So we're on a little bit of differences of opinion on this one. We agree with the numbers. So at least let's say off the top, we agree the numbers are correct to harvest it. The biggest thing that we have and disagreement is how we get once in a lifetime hunters onto the range. Right now we had 6800 residents last year apply for the once in a lifetime hunts that have never had an oryx on the range. So we have a large percentage of New Mexican residents that never had a chance. We would like those hunts, this new opportunity to go to those once in a lifetime hunters rather than to people who have already had the opportunity to harvest. So that's the difference that we really see there. Yes, it may be there's a little bit more people on the range at one time but right now it's about a 3.7% chance of drawing a once in a lifetime hunt on White Sands. Until we see that come up and this chance of drawing a chance, we really don't recommend elimination of the once in a lifetime status on those kind of hunts.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: With those really small percentages you do need Mr. Winn to weigh in on that.

PATRICK: And my one argument to that is we're adding 400 tags and then many more opportunities to apply. There are going to be a lot of people that have never hunted an oryx and that's the key. I want to hunt an oryx. Now there's 400 more opportunities. I guarantee a lot of people who have drawn a once in a lifetime are going to apply for those hunts too. So they're still going to get their oryx.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Square this circle at some point.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Can I ask one more question real quick? What's interesting to me Stewart and Pat, I know some people that will never put in for their once in a lifetime

because it's like they want to keep it. You know, so me and my family, we've all drawn out once in a lifetime but I, it's surprising how many people will not put in because they just, I don't know what year they're waiting for but it's pretty interesting they will not put in because they want to do these, they just want to kill oryx and not waste their once in a lifetime. I just thought I would throw that out.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Salopek, I would have to agree with you on that one there. What you just stated but I've been trying to wrap my brain around both plans because really, what we need to decipher is number one, our objective is 2500 oryx to get our numbers down and are we going to, I guess honor the once in a lifetime program that we've established and what's going to happen with once in a lifetime is where currently we have 60 people hunting on five hunts and if we increase which we do, we're either going to open it up to anybody even once in a lifetime people that have already harvested to hunt on the same White Sands Missile Range or are we with 100 people hunting there versus 60 at a once in a lifetime opportunity. Less traffic or are we going to, because it works both ways. Here's the second option that we have here is that if we have the five original once in a lifetime hunts that we have and we increase four more. You take the average and it's going to be about 85 hunters on the base. So really I think what we need to decide is do we want to just leave it for once in a lifetime and try to reduce that? Let's say 6800 to 55, I don't know once in a lifetime people and allowing them to be on the base or 85 hunters at one time or is it to put them down to 60 and then allow the general public to draw for these four other hunts at 100 out there? But let's also note that you have the 100 tags let's say or 100 hunters in a weekend or two weekends in the month of January. On top of that you have your badge hunters who can also hunt in there. So that 100 number might turn into 15 to 30 for the month of January.

PATRICK: Incorrect, sir. What we would do with those population managements is we would move them away where those premier hunters are and concentrate those hunters in south of 70 in the Southern San Andres where they're truly remote. So I wouldn't overlap those with—

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Not in that same area but that would still be on the base?

PATRICK: It would be on the base but not in the same area.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Correct and with that being said, what I like and what I heard from Stewart is that he's going to be allowing the flexibility now when you put in for hunts for Unit 19 and you all determine where you need the population reduced. Whether it's a once in a lifetime or this new style that you're presenting.

PATRICK: And if I may, Chairman and Commission. The once in a lifetime's, there are so many of those that haven't drawn them but they've been on lots of hunts. They want it and that the idea of Stallion and Roads Canyon is hard core because there are areas that they want to hunt they're going to go. Once in a lifetime we want to keep in those locations. With the ones, the 100 ones, they don't have that expectation. They may want it but they don't because I may hunt them farther south. They're not going to get their hunting holes they know about anymore but I'm not going to worry about them because those I reserve those core areas for those once in a lifetime areas. It is a philosophical thing more than anything else and one other point. Look at all the opportunities for anybody to hunt an oryx. Not like Tim's Missile Range. Off range, you're increasing those. McGregor, all of those things. There's so many opportunities. Even that 3.7 draw the first odds. It doesn't really in my mind match what a once in a lifetime hunt in the State of New Mexico is like. Bighorn sheep or Ibex or Valle Vidal. Those are different because there's

so many Oryx opportunities. The only thing we've created is that core area of White Sands. That is philosophical and I appreciate your time.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: You bet.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Mr. Chairman and Commission if I may just add a bit of informational or piece to the conversation. The number one complaint that we get and this is as my time as ASD Chief is individuals who have not drawn out for their once in a lifetime and so we are the managers of the Commission and the Department of trying to provide those opportunities to the individuals that continue. That is the number one complaint we get for the hunt system is that there are people that have been trying to draw out for a lifetime on White Sands and so this becomes a discussion that I think needs to be brought into the larger population hunters because I would be willing to bet there's a difference of opinion and we need to do the work on that because that is the number one complaint that we get.

PATRICK: And I think that's a good thing. That means we're providing a quality opportunity that people want. So I can live with the department's recommendation. I really can.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Chairman, Director I have a question for you. So do you think this would be a great opportunity to have a survey for people who have been putting in for oryx? These 7,000 and there's probably more with all the off range and survey them on what they would they prefer you know and let the data kind of determine and help us, guide us with this decision?

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: So Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos it's certainly something we can put together given the timelines of where we are in terms of rule proposal. I guess what I'm

struggling with is I'm not sure that we could get that done in time for the rulemaking purposes but we can certainly try and I can take that back to my IT people and see what we can do.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: As we continue this discussion over the next couple of meetings, I think for me you're going to have to convince me on moving those 400 licenses you know, not including them in the once in a lifetime section that the departments proposing and how that would be somehow fair. You know to me it's a fairness issue with these once in a lifetime's. So I tend you know, at this point to agree with the department's proposal but I am trying to remain open minded, so.

PATRICK: That's all I ask.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Sandra, we may need the octagon to settle this. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: If I can continue and I know we've already talked about onsite, on the range and that's what we just discussed and obviously our objective is 2500 and I think either way, both models will work and it again boils down to, do you want 85 or 60 out there on the range? But now to move on to a question on the off range. What are the surveys or how are we getting data on that success other than through hunter harvest report and to me, my concern is on private properties that are outside of the range and how are we going to tackle those issues where and I'll just use for example, the Armendaris Ranch and what are our survey counts there and how many tags are being you know, purchased to particularly hunt on that property? One of things that I would like to see Stewart, I don't know if we've had a conversation with that particular ranch. I know we have a great relationship with our Bighorn Sheep Program where they receive you know, so many Bighorn Sheep Tags and the public gets to use utilize that property. I would like to see some type of an agreement for some public access to hunt that

private property and I know it gets a little more controversial with that because the O-Plus Rule is different from E-Plus and it's almost set up like the deer private owners where they can purchase as many as they want. So what are your thoughts on that?

STEWART LILEY: So Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos first off, the biggest thing with oryx management is similar to ibex, we're not wanting to establish all the way. If we let oryx go and then manage the population and try to harvest as much as we could we'd have oryx expanding across all of New Mexico and the goal is not to have mass expansion across oryx. So it's to harvest those animals off ranges as much as possible. Continue to have a once in a lifetime type experience on the missile range but off that range have a hunting opportunity but really manage it so we don't have oryx up in the Santa Fe National Forest or oryx up in the Gila or something like that. Probably wouldn't happen up in that northern latitudes but definitely could happen in the southern latitudes across the state where we don't have a big freezing. That said, so you are correct. That private land oryx is over-the-counter, as many as you want. With our success rates of being almost 60% on off range, we think that we've had an expanding population. We don't physically survey all those areas as an oryx survey. We get cursory information from bighorn surveys, from pronghorn surveys and we're seeing some increases in those populations. Access onto private land is a private property rights issue trying to go down that road and so we will definitely work with landowners that are interested in opening up their land to public hunts through open gate, through those processes. If we have a landowner that's down in where we have consistent oryx use off range, we would be more than willing to enter into an open gate agreement to get them monetary compensation for letting public hunters on there. I think that's our best route to get onto private property with public hunters.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: More public comment, Gilbert?

GILBERT: Mr. Chairman, Director, Commissioners, most of you guys may not know me. My name is Gilbert Villegas. I'm the Hunt Administrator for White Sands Missile Range. I do the daily operations for last, for a while now and regarding the hunts. I've been there since 2003 and we're unique. (Indiscernible) is a unique situation where we have a lot of hands-on with our hunters. As the Director is aware, she was out here last year and the (Indiscernible) time. Commissioner Ramos, Commissioner Salopek, you guys have been out there. You guys have been there on different times of the year. You guys have been out there when we've had 115 hunters and you were out here. This last year we had 65 hunters. My feedback is agreeing with Patrick as well as the department. We have extensive, great relationship with the department. Always has special (Indiscernible) with Desert Bighorn Sheep and stuff. It's been a great relationship. My feedback to this aspect is, is that I know the hunters. I know the hunt on a daily, daily basis. I communicate with 100% of the hunters from the time they draw to the time they go out, via email twice a year. Phone calls, the whole nine yards. I meet everyone at the gate. So I'm there. I understand what the situation is. So based to what Stewart is saying, is a quality once in a lifetime hunt. What is a once in a lifetime hunt? 2003, 115 hunters was not a quality once in a lifetime experience. We're jamming hunters in. It takes 2 ½ hours to get them in, 2 ½ hours to get them out every day. So when you talk about a once in a lifetime experience, we have an opportunity now where in this change role we can actually make this a real quality hunt. Quality in the aspect of hunt pressure and more quality hunting and actual trophy hunting because you don't have that extra pressure. My opinion would be that we should continue to have, not take once in a lifetime opportunities away. We have those five hunts but let's keep them quality. One of the biggest complaints I have is when back in those days when we had 85 to 100 hunters was, man, I couldn't get the down. Guys aren't pulling off the road. People are shooting off the road.

Just too much. So my recommendation to the Commission would be is that you're right, the bottom line is what it is. We're here to manage the numbers on White Sands like Patrick has said and agree here what Patrick said but we have an opportunity to make this a once in a lifetime hunt. Adding the true number for once in a lifetime hunt is that 50 to 65 range. Where someone can go out and enjoy the landscape. Somewhere they'll never be able to set foot again and for me and understanding the hunters at that level, this is an opportunity. The Commission has to make this a once in a lifetime experience and still have the additional four hunts where we have a population management type situation that opens it up to everyone. Youth, Veterans, Veterans across the country. That's another issue that I get a lot is that Veterans across the country that aren't residents, aren't in this pool. This would disallow it. It would allow them again. So that's basically what I'd like to provide the Commission is that you guys have an opportunity to discuss as well as the department a once in a lifetime opportunity. The 3.7% is a number but the reality on the ground is any more than 65 hunters, your starting to pull away from that once in a lifetime experience and to me as a hunter, as an Administrator, I think that once in a lifetime number is that 50 to 65. It gives you the experience and I get emails constantly after hunts. This last four years, a lot more response for that. Enjoying that experience. So that's all I'd like to say.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Stewart, figure it out. Any other questions or comments?

COMMISSIONER PETERSON: I have a comment Commissioner or Chairman. We're talking about the quality being the number 65. Couldn't we have more hunts once in a lifetime instead of just having so many you know, four or five hunts at 65? Couldn't we add hunts and still have the once in a lifetime?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Peterson we would totally be on board with that. If the 65 is the number, we would ask White Sands to open up one more hunt. 10 came from
Final Copy

White Sands on the number of hunts to do it. So if they would be willing to open up another weekend we'd be good. So yeah, maybe that octagon is going to come out.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes, no?

STEWART LILEY: You know—

PATRICK: I mean I don't want the 10 hunts. We got down to five or six (Indiscernible) impact on the military admission. The more hunts we have, the more—we're the last low man on the totem pole when it comes to scheduling time and that's where we wanted to get these down to five-six quality opportunities to maintain the population. Now we'll have to expand that. If I go back to 13 or 14 hunts, all of a sudden we're going to have hunts cancelled because of missions. Missions (Indiscernible) won't go on weekends. They give me some latitude but the more hunts we have, the worse it gets.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: National Security doesn't follow the calendar necessarily. Understood. Sort it out, Stewart and I appreciate your thoughtful comments. There's no substitute for experience. So that's important. So we will see this in a month?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, yes. That is correct.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Okay. Thank you. Let's take a quick break but before we do that. Can I get a motion to move up Public Comment? It's Agenda Item Number 16, to move it up after Agenda Item Number 14?

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: I'll make the motion.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTROYA: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Ayes have it. So Public Comment will go right before we go into Closed Executive Session. So Mr. Leahy [Phonetic], get ready. You're my only card so far.

[Short break]

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Agenda Item Number 13, Subsequent Discussion for Potential Rule Changes on the Turkey Rule 19.31.16 NMAC for the 2019-2023 Seasons.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, so just as a reminder with the rule development cycle. This will be the last time the Commission sees it before we act on it at the next period. So any comments, concerns or different recommendations in the department we'd like to hear them now because after this we'll go develop the rule and post it online and then next time you'll just see the rule that we've finalized. With that, some of our proposed amendments again is always just in calendar dates but adjusting the youth seasons for those calendar dates. Making sure they fall on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday is how we do the youth hunt. Typically, about some times as much as a week and a half before but sometimes as little as four days before the April 15th opener is what we have historically done for turkey. Opening some additional areas for spring turkey. I'll get to that here in a second and then also some fall areas. We have received only 13 written comments as of last Friday. We did hold some public meetings you'll see. We held those in concert with the Migratory Bird Rule in Farmington, Las Cruces and Albuquerque. The Farmington- Albuquerque meetings was primarily driven on migratory bird but we did have people comment on turkey as well. Some of the comments that we did receive, a lot of people are happy with us opening additional areas, creating new youth hunts. Some comments on additional primitive hunting opportunities potentially for spring turkey and then

additional opportunities for Gould's. Gould's were restricted because it's still a listed bird. It's listed as threatened under the SGC. By rule, we can only hunt two of those right now until we get them delisted and we're in the works of trying to do that and cooperation with Mexico. Looking at habitat in the United States to try to move that along as fast as possible. As you know, you all approved a recovery plan last year for Gould's Turkeys so we're on our way there. That's the main comments we received. Our proposal for the youth hunt dates would be what's in front of you. 2019 starting on the 12th, 2020 on the 10th and then going earlier on the 21-22. Probably on 20-22, that's about as early as we would like it to be. Around 2020 I think the next Leap year is 2023. We would move that back a week again to adjust for that creep on a one day. So during this cycle it's just, we're not going to push in another week but that's our proposed options there. The other thing is the Huey. We have some special Youth Turkey Hunts and just adjusting the seasons for those and insuring they coincide on weekend hunt dates for those two different draw tags for the youth only on the Huey. One of the new things that we're proposing that came about from the southeast area is working with the Washington Ranch is creating a new youth hunt on the Washington Ranch in GMU 30 for 10 tags for youth hunts. Kind of an experience hunt for kids. It would probably escorted by officers in the southeast. Kind of give them an experience on hunting, etc., and working with them but again, a new hunt for those birds and 10 tags. And then Rattlesnake Canyon, we move birds up into Rattlesnake Canyon quite a few years ago. The populations doing well. We currently have five tags in there. We're proposing increasing that youth hunt from five to 10 tags. In addition to that, the two units that we're proposing or two areas we're proposing opening for the spring hunt is Bluebird Mesa at WMA. That's at the Hamas in 6A. It's kind of a small WMA. We worked on it recently with the Turkey Federation to improve roost habitat on there and it's looking good and we proposing opening that to the Spring

Turkey Season and then also opening GMU 33 to Spring Turkey for the Spring Season on over-the-counter tags. For the fall, additional areas that we're planning on or are proposing to open is Bluebird Mesa again but GMU 5A, 39, 51, 52 and 53. Some of those northern units where it's currently closed. Population wise, we have the birds to do it and we are proposing opening that up and allowing some more opportunity during that fall time period for turkey hunts.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Are these open for spring as well currently?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman and Commissioner Ramos, yes. They're currently open for spring. It would just allow additional opportunity in the fall now. With that, I will take any questions, recommendations. Again, this is kind of our last hash there.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Is there any turkey hunting like in Units 41, 42 of those? I haven't looked at the proclamation.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, yes. Those are open in the spring as well as in the fall.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Dead silence. Okay. I guess we'll wait to hear from you next meeting.

COMMISSIONER: Excuse me Mr. Chairman. That means Ralph can't change it between now and then.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman [Laughing]—

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Now Manner and Method will be discussed later, right?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos that is correct. So as you'll recall and I didn't say at this, we're pulling Manner and Method from each one of these rules to live in one rule. As we get closer or further down into the summer we'll bring forth Manner and Method

Rule to discuss as a whole in the rule rather than putting it into individual species rule and every time we want to change something in Manner and Method we have to go through every species rule. We think it's better to live in one rule that we adjust and make it a more simplistic rule and go through that process.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Good luck with that. Okay. So we'll see this next meeting?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, it will be at the June meeting for final adoption.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Got it. Okay. Agenda Item Number 14, Subsequent Discussion for Potential Rule changes on the Migratory Game Bird Rule 19.31.6 NMAC for 2018-2019 Hunting Seasons.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Is it too late to ask a question on the turkey? Just one comment and I think we really need to look at this. Stewart, I know we have the youth hunts and I think that's a great thing but have you considered allowing mobility impaired hunters to hunt during that time frame as well?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, no. I guess it hasn't come across to us as one, either a public comment or as something we've considered, so. I don't know that it would—you know the creation of the youth hunt was to create a unique opportunity for the youth outside of the adult hunts because turkey is over-the-counter anyone can get it whether your mobility impaired, youth, senior, non-resident, resident. We weren't really concerned as much as creating just a special opportunity for youth is why that stands alone but we haven't considered otherwise.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: The only reason why I say is of course and I love the presentation that they made with the gobbling peak and incubation time and all of that and I wouldn't want to

move the dates earlier but that one week earlier time for a mobility impaired hunter in a wheelchair who is out there wanting to call a bird in. It would just improve their odds a little bit better and I'll leave it at that.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Okay. We'll pick up Agenda Item Number 14 again then.

STEWART LILEY: All right. Mr. Chairman, Commissioners this is migratory bird. As you know, we go through this every single year to coincide with the federal regulations on migratory birds. We have to adjust our calendar dates and season dates according to the federal frameworks. Same with possession limits and the bag limits. Final frameworks for the Federal Register, since this presentation was made we had notice that they're probably not going to come out until May now. So we're going to get final, the proposed frameworks came out a month later. They're saying the final frameworks are probably going to come out in May this year but that still gives us time for rule and getting this in place and it doesn't mess at all with our rule scheduling. So at least it's going to coincide to where we can get it done and finalized in June as well. Again, just the proposed changes is to conform to the federal frameworks. One of the nice parts about the federal frameworks this year is we're allowed to increase the pintail bag limit from one that we had this previous season back to two. So we're increasing the pintail which is big for our state as winter a lot of pintails along the middle Rio Grande and a lot of our hunters there. Sand Hill Cranes, our proposal is in that middle Rio Grande Valley is to move that hunt later when more of the birds are in. We're still not getting allocation or we're not taking our full allocation of Sand Hill Cranes so we have that opportunity to move that hunt later and have it a higher success hunt as well. 12 public comments received. Again, we had public meetings in Farmington, Las Cruces and Albuquerque. Some of the comments received, while they were valid comments would go against the federal frameworks and we can't do that and that was

really having a dark goose season that started early and ended really late. The Federal Government doesn't let us to do the splits in that, so we can't go the full later into February is where a lot of those birds are there. We have to end at the end of our duck season which is typically the last Sunday in January. The biggest comment on duck season was start as late as possible and ends as late as possible. That's our proposal is to do that and Sand Hill Crane dates again, start as late as possible and end as late as possible to increase harvest and that's the proposal in front of you. Real quick, this is just our proposed hunt dates in the central flyaway starting the north zone a little bit earlier before freeze out and the south zone a little bit later trying to end those hunts as late as possible and have the dark goose and light goose seasons coincide with that. Mourning Dove, again the last year we had a lot of the days added to Mourning Dove. Federal frameworks allow us to continue to add those days. So we're the same. No change in pacific flyaway. Again, liberal bag limits. Liberal seasons so we have ling seasons ending at the end of January. Geese have the split in the pacific flyaway but again we're ending the last day possible. So nothing big with changes with water fowl from last season.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Questions, comments? So we'll see this what? May? June?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, it will be up for final adoption in June.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Okay. We did move up Agenda Item Number 16, Public Comment. Mr. Leahy, you're on the mic.

MR. LEAHY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Madam Director, I just wanted to let you all know that at the last meeting I had informed you that our members were asking for a shooting range in Farmington. We have surveyed our members. We've gotten a number of responses. I was just talking to the Chairman about the opportunities to do this and I think we can get this

rolling and start moving this through by identifying some properties. Getting that information to you and hopefully get this started before the change in administration so that we can get this moving for our members up there and I hope to work with Commissioner Peterson a little more closely to get this done. So I just wanted to make everybody aware. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yeah, as many troops as we can put on the ground to find locations is great. It's a big state and we can't be everywhere at all times so if you've got people to do the leg work and feed us some potential locations, I'm sure Mr. Cherry and Company will do the due diligence to make it happen.

MR. LEAHY: Oh and I revised my comment about J.B. Martinez (Indiscernible).

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Seeing no further public comment, can we get a roll call to go into Executive Session? Somebody other than me.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Mr. Chairman, I move to adjourn into Executive Session closed to the public pursuant to Section 10-15-1 (H)(2) NMSA 1978 to discuss limited personnel matters relating to complaints and discipline pursuant to Section 10-15-1 (H)(8) NMSA 1978 to discuss property acquisition in pursuant to Section 110-15-1(H)(7) on matters subject to the attorney client privilege relating to threatened or pending litigation which the Commission and or Department is or may become a participant as listed in Agenda Item 15, Subsection A, B and C.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Peterson— I'm sorry.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTROYA: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: We got a second. Now we can do that part.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: I apologize. Commissioner Peterson.

COMMISSIONER PETERSON: Present.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ramos.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Here.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ricklefs.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ryan.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: (Inaudible).

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Salopek.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Vice Chairman Montoya.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Vice Chairman Kienzle.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes and Chairman Kienzle.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Excuse me Mr. Chairman; Council has advised me that instead of voting here. You need to vote yes. So are you asking that we redo the vote?

MARYLOU POLI: Yes, I am. Thank you.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Okay. Commissioner Peterson.

COMMISSIONER PETERSON: Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ramos.

Final Copy

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ricklefs.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ryan.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Salopek.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Vice Chairman Montoya.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: My vote remains the same.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Kienzle. Excuse me.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Still the same. Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Okay.

COMMISSIONER: No matter who you are.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: And with that, I think the vote carries and we'll go onto Executive Session.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: So this is where we're having Executive Session so we'll need to ask everybody to leave.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: This Commission had adjourned into Executive Session closed to the public. During the Executive Session the Commission discussed only those matters specified in its motion to adjourn and it took no action as to any matter. No further agenda items. Can I get a motion to adjourn?

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: So moved.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: The ayes have it.

NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION

April 05, 2018
Clovis Civic Center
Enchantment Ballroom
801 Schepps Blvd.
Clovis, NM 88101
9:00 a.m. –5:00 p.m.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Cheryl Melgarejo and I, Rose Leonard
DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the
above captioned transcription was prepared by me;
that the RECORDING was reduced to typewritten
transcript by me; that I listened to the entire
RECORDING; that the foregoing transcript is a
complete record of all material included thereon,
and that the foregoing pages are a true and correct
transcription of the recorded proceedings, to the
best of my knowledge and hearing ability. The
recording was good.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed
by nor related to nor contracted with (unless
excepted by the rules) any of the parties or
attorneys in this matter, and that I have no
interest whatsoever in the final disposition of this
matter.

Rose Leonard Cheryl Melgarejo
(Name of Transcriptionists)

Quality Assurance and transcript provided by:

Premier Visual Voice, LLC

www.premiervisualvoice.com: 216-246-9477

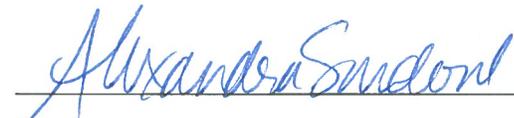
Quality Assurance and transcript provided by:

Premier Visual Voice, LLC

www.premiervisualvoice.com: 216-246-9477

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION**

**April 05, 2018
Clovis Civic Center
Enchantment Ballroom
801 Schepps Blvd.
Clovis, NM 88101
9:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.**



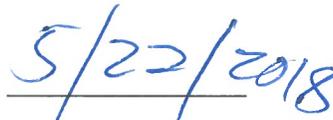
Alexandra Sandoval, Director and Secretary



Date



Paul M. Kienzle III, Chairman
New Mexico State Game Commission



Date

AS/scd