

MEETING MINUTES
NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION

Holiday Inn Express
60 Entrada Drive
Los Alamos, NM 87544
Tuesday May 22, 2018

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

A P P E A R A N C E S

Chairman Paul Kienzle

Vice Chairman Bill Montoya

Game Commissioner Thomas Salopek

Game Commissioner Craig Peterson

Game Commissioner Ralph Ramos

Game Commissioner Bob Ricklefs

Game Commissioner Elizabeth Ryan

A B S E N T

None

[Audio in progress-Roll call]

COMMISSIONER: Here.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ryan.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Present.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ricklefs.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Here.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Salopek.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Present.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Vice Chairman Montoya.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Here.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Chairman Kienzle.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Present.

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

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. Ralph, Pledge of Allegiance?

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Absolutely.

COMMISSIONERS and GUESTS: : 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.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. Can I get a motion to approve the Agenda, please?

C COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: So moved.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

ALL COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Ayes have it. Well let's go around the room and introduce ourselves.

Who wants to go first?

GUEST SPEAKER: Commissioners, audience, my name is Chris Chadwick. I'm the Assistant Director of Department of Game and Fish.

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners and members of the audience. My name is Jacob Payne. I'm General Council for Game and Fish.

GUEST SPEAKER: Commissioners, Director, Donald Jaramillo. I'm Deputy Director for the Department of Game and Fish.

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman and Commissioners my name is Darrell Cole. The Revocation Manager for the Department of Game and Fish.

GUEST SPEAKER: Commissioners, Director my name is Paul Varela. I'm Chief of the Administration Services of Department of Game and Fish.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning everyone. My name is Jessica Fisher and I'm the Shooting Program Coordinator for the Department of Game and Fish.

GUEST SPEAKER: I'm Jeff (Indiscernible).

GUEST SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning Chairman, Commissioners, members of the public. I'm Stewart Liley, the Chief of Wildlife Federation.

GUEST SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning everyone. I'm Dam Williams. (Indiscernible).

GUEST SPEAKER: Commissioners, Director, I'm Suzanna (Indiscernible), the new Communications Director for the Department of Game and Fish.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning everyone. (Indiscernible) for New Mexico Wildlife Federation.

GUEST SPEAKER: Steve Schmidt (Indiscernible).

GUEST SPEAKER: Brian (Indiscernible). Good morning everyone. I'm a rancher landowner near Magdalena, New Mexico.

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Tom Lahey, New Mexico Wildlife Federation.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning Chairman, Commissions. Michael Dax, Defenders of Wildlife.

GUEST SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) Anderson (Indiscernible).

GUEST SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

GUEST SPEAKER: Randy Eades, (Indiscernible).

GUEST SPEAKER: (Indiscernible), Habitat Biologist.

GUEST SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) Albuquerque, New Mexico.

GUEST SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

GUEST SPEAKER: I'm Robert Griego. I'm the Colonel (Indiscernible).

GUEST SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning. Officer (Indiscernible).

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning. I'm (Indiscernible).

[Multiple guest speakers inaudible-no microphone.]

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning. I'm Sandra DuCharme. I'm Executive Assistant to the Director.

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Ross Morgan (Indiscernible).

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, members of the public. I'm Martin Perea, videographer for the Department of Game and Fish.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. Good morning. Can I get a motion to approve the minutes of our last meeting?

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTROYA: So moved Mr. Chairman.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

ALL COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Ayes have it. Agenda Item Number 7, Department Awards.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Good morning. Whoa, hello.

[Laughter-high audio volume]

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Good morning everybody. Before we actually get started in the awards, if I may have a personal point of privilege. I would like to recognize Dan Williams. He is, this is his last Commission meeting. Dan, please stand up. Dan I believe had been with the Department for about 15 years. Is that correct? He is a little bit of a legacy. His father also worked for the agency, Jess and Dan has brought his passion for wildlife and particularly, his passion for wildlife photography to the agency. His work is scattered throughout our documents and our pamphlets. That's all due to Dan. He's been a huge attribute for the agency and been an advocate for us and I just want to thank Dan personally for all of the work and your continued efforts to continue to make us look good. So thank you Dan. I appreciate everything.

[Applause]

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: So on with the awards. Thank you for letting me do that. About four years ago when I first became Director, actually Dan Brooks, my Deputy at the time. We sat around and really wanted an opportunity to recognize the employees that make the agency go on a daily basis. I continue to believe that without the folks out on the ground or sitting in the office and sometimes we are a bureaucracy, I get it but they push through that and they get out there and they make wildlife conservation happen every single day and it's a real privilege when you can take a step back and think about what we've accomplished as an agency in the last year, over the five years. You know, over the history of the Department and it's not without these employees that we can do any of this. So it's my privilege today to do the fourth year of Employee Recognition Department Awards here in front of the Commission. This year we had a lot of nominations. It was not easy to make the decision and each and every person who was nominated is deserving of the award. It's just, it's one of those things you have to make the

choice. So this year we're going to start off, the first award is the Outstanding Conservation Service Award and that goes to Mark Watson. So Mark if you could please come up.

[Applause]

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Well I've known Mark for a majority of my career. He and I worked together when I was a Habitat Specialist down in the southeastern part of the state but he's been with the Department for over 22 years. His dedication to making sure that we are protecting the wildlife out on the landscape is evident in everything that he does. He was the leader of the project across the State of New Mexico to try and prevent traffic fatalities, by our wildlife fatalities by traffic, excuse me. And he led that in Titus Canyon up in the Aztec area and all over the State of New Mexico. He's our point on that and has done a tremendous job continuing to carry that message across the state where we have those fatalities, wildlife fatalities out on the highways. He's also been our Terrestrial Habitat Specialist so he's the "go to". When there are things happening out on the ground people know to call Mark. He's got an extensive knowledge of all of the Federal and State Laws that we have to operate underneath and he does a great job. He's so easy to talk to. He's incredibly passionate about wildlife and it's just a real honor to be able to give this award to you today Mark.

[Applause]

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Our next award is the Outstanding Support Services Award and that goes to Jeff Brody. If you could please come up.

[Applause]

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: So what to say about Jeff and the whole IT thing. About 10 years ago Rhonda Holderman, my licensing supervisor and myself sat down and said wouldn't it be

really awesome if we did more stuff online and it was a really heavy lift and we walked back to IT and we're like okay, this is what we want to go do. We want online applications only. We want to be able to have vendor sales on the computer. We don't want to write out licenses anymore and have to try and get those entered into the system and so licensing engaged with IT and it's been a really wonderful relationship ever since. Jeff came on board and he took the bulls by the horn and he, I cannot tell you the work that he has done. When you're able to call in on the phone and do your harvest, that's because of Jeff. He set up the whole IVR System and he was an advocate for that. We are about a month away from being able to go live with our Hunter Harvest App and that's the first step in being able to do electronic tagging. That's because of what Jeff has done and advocated for within the IT. So you know, it's ironic that here we are an agency that goes out into the wilderness and we love being separated from the electronics, right? We talk about putting down the phone when in fact, Jeff and all the folks in IT have lifted us up and enabled us to become a part of the 21st Century. So thank you Jeff for all of your work. Particularly, carrying forward and enabling the agency to really move into the 21st Century and I say it all time. We all live on these dang phones but you have made it so much easier for our customers to be a part of that 21st Century. So thank you.

[Applause]

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: The next award is our Rising Star Award. That's for young officers that have really gone out and taken a hold of their district and really made a name for themselves within the district. So I'd like to present this to Justin Heppler.

[Applause]

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: So Justin actually received a number of nominations from his fellow officers and supervisor and he's the only one this year that got multiples. So congratulations but it really is a testament to who he is and how he represents the Department. He is what embodies the spirit of the Conservation Officer. He goes out there and he has set up on his own, a number of meetings to talk about managing bears and how not to encourage bears to be in your house and really established a wonderful working relationship with his constituents there within the Santa Rosa District. He's been on district two years I believe and he really has become an intricate part of the community and that's what we ask of all of our officers. They're an important part of, especially in the rural communities. They provide that law enforcement but they also provide that outreach that comes from the Department and Justin, really lots of glowing review as about his relationship with the community and that's just key to being an effective Law Enforcement Officer out there on the ground. So Justin, I would like to award this.

[Applause]

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Thank you. So the last award is the Outstanding Teamwork Award. So this award goes to Jacob Davidson, Isaac Cadaente [Phonetic]. Did I say that right? Caviente. Daniel Lusk, Jeff Oddborn and Gary Calkins. If you could all please come up. Don't be shy.

[Applause]

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: So these gentlemen, last Commission meeting you heard about a prescribed burn that the Department did up on the Colin Neblett. That was a historic moment for the Department and these gentlemen made that happen. We had been pushing for large scale habitat restoration across the State of New Mexico and they have absolutely taken on that mission and done a tremendous job. Doing the burn, I'll be honest. You guys Stewart came down

and he's like, we're burning and I went, oh my God. Somebody light a candle. Let's make sure we do this the right way and they did. They made sure we did it the right way. We had all our "I's" dotted and our "t's" crossed and it's a huge amount of work. Especially when it's the first time in an agencies history to do the lift that had to happen to make that. I mean, the federal paperwork and the state paperwork and all the people we had to coordinate with. That was these guys. They made that happen and so now we've established the foundation for us to be able to move forward all across the State of New Mexico on our properties and it really, it's so exciting to see that happen and you can look at and go, oh my God, it's going to take forever but they made it. Thank you so much for the work that you did in coming together and making sure that we brought all the other agencies on board to help us make it happen. So congratulations gentlemen. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Jeff, sorry. Of course, it's going to be the last one. Gary, thank you. Congratulations gentlemen. Great. Thank you.

[Applause]

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: So again, I just want to thank everybody in the Department. It's really quite an honor and quite humbling when you think about what we accomplish on a daily basis. It's not just what people call hook and bullet. We do everything. We do non-game. We do everything under the sun when it comes to wildlife management. So thank you to everybody in the Department for all the work that you do every day.

[Applause]

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you, Director. That was great.

COMMISSIONER: Yeah, we need more of that.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Agenda Item Number 8, Revocations. Colonel, good morning.

COLONEL GRIEGO: Good morning, sir. Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Lieutenant Darrel Cole is going to run it today.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: We will double this up, Agenda, to make it Agenda Item Number 8. Four times two.

LIEUTENANT COLE: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, today for revocations we have three areas that under the new rule the Director has the authority to suspend licenses for the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact, Parental Responsibility Act and Penalty Assessments. There were 36 individuals that were suspended in accordance with the Wildlife Violators Compact. 291 individuals certified by Human Services Department as being out of compliance with Parental Responsibility Act and 20 individuals that failed to pay a Penalty Assessment Citation within 30 days. We also have five groups of revocations today.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Mr. Chairman, if you could please allow us about a five minute break?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Sure.

COLONEL GRIEGO: It's here. We're testing you. The only one that passed was the Chairman that caught the Agenda Item, so. We're back.

LIEUTENANT COLE: Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, let's try this again. So as previously stated, under the new rule the Director has the authority granted by the Commission to suspend people in the Wildlife Violators Compact, the Parental Responsibility Act and Penalty

Assessments. Today we have 21 individuals that were suspended in the Wildlife Violators Compact. We've got 82 individuals that were suspended for being out of compliance with the Parental Responsibility Act and 19 individuals that failed to pay their penalty assessments within 30 days. We have five groups before you today for revocation. Group Number One is one individual who failed to pay a penalty assessment within 30 days. Was sent a Notice of Contemplated Action, requested a hearing. We had a hearing and she did not file an exception.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to go ahead and make a motion on Group One that's just one individual.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: I move to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer as presented by the Department and suspend all license privileges for three years or until this individual has paid their Penalty Assessment Citation.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any discussion? All in favor?

ALL COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Ayes have it.

LIEUTENANT COLE: Group Two is two individuals that accrued 20 or more points in a three-year period. Were mailed a Notice of Contemplated Action. They requested a hearing and the Department entered into a stipulated agreement with these two individuals.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: You satisfied with the agreement?

COLONEL GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, I am.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Can I get a motion on Group Two please?

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman, I move to accept these two stipulated agreements as written and agreed upon by both, the Department and the violators.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any discussion? All in favor?

ALL COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Ayes have it.

LIEUTENANT COLE: Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, in Group Three is four individuals that accrued 20 or more points in a three-year period. They were sent a Notice of Contemplated Action and requested a hearing. They had a hearing and filed exceptions.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes, sir?

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: I wish to recuse myself from discussion or action on Group Three, the four individuals.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Okay. Dooley noted for the record. Any of the individuals here today? Paul Gurule [Phonetic], Clay McClure, Ryan Montoya or Neil Trujillo?

SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) Counsel.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Counsel. Mr. Schmidt, correct?

MR. SCHMIDT: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Okay. Thank you. Any other individuals here in this group? I think since Mr. Schmidt is here we'll break Neil Trujillo out, just into a separate line item but the other three we can take as a group. So any discussion, questions or comments on this one?

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Yes. So I request that the first three individuals I'm speaking of being included in this motion. Mr. Gurule, Mr. McClure and Mr. Montoya are the individuals subject to my motion to accept the recommendations of the Hearing Officer as presented by the Department and revoke all license privileges of these three individuals for the length of time recommended.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any questions or comments? All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: And then can I get a motion as to the fourth individual Neil Trujillo?

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman, I move to accept the recommendations of the Hearing Offer presented by the Department and revoke all license privileges of this individual, Neil Trujillo for the length of time recommended.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any questions or comments on this particular individual? All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Ayes have it.

LIEUTENANT COLE: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners Group Four is revocation of one individual that accrued 20 points in a three-year period. Was sent a Notice of Contemplated Action. Requested a hearing, had a hearing and did not file an exception.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Can I get a motion on this one please?

COMMISSIONER PETERSON: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion to accept the recommendation of the Hearing Officer as presented by the Department and revoke all license privileges of this one individual for the length of time recommended.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

ALL COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Ayes have it.

LIEUTENANT COLE: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners the fifth and final group is revocation of eight individuals that accrued 20 or more points within a three-year period and were sent a Notice of Contemplated Action and did not request a hearing.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Can I get a motion on this group please?

COMMISSIONER RYAN: I move to accept the recommendations of the Department as presented and revoke the license privileges specified of all eight individuals for the length of time recommended.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTROYA: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any question or comments? All in favor?

ALL COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Ayes have it.

LIEUTENANT COLE: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners that's the end of our presentation.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: And then as far as the, we sign off on written decision that comes out of this?

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Mr. Chairman that should be in your packet of items to sign.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Okay. Understood. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT COLE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Mr. Varela, you're on the mic. Agenda Item Number 9: Request to Dispose of Vehicles and Other Assets.

PAUL VARELA: Good morning Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. Agenda Item 9 is the Request to Dispose of Vehicles and Other Assets for Fiscal Year 18.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Is this the Ferrari SUV I've been hearing about?

[Laughter]

PAUL VARELA: Yes, Mr. Chairman. My personal vehicle. Every year used capital assets of vehicles, boats, trailers and other equipment have reached the end of their service life. They've become outdated or obsolete. Reusable items will be sold at public auction. Obsolete, unusable or worn out items will not be sold at auction and will be disposed of per New Mexico Statute. New Mexico Statute requires that the sale of public property is approved by the governing body which is the Commission. You should have a list of all the items that we are requesting disposal

for in your binders. There's quite a bit of items on there. Probably 30 or so vehicles and with that I stand for any questions.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, just as an addition to that, the Department typically receives on our vehicles about \$10,000 to \$12,000 per vehicle at auction and receipts from auction typically are about \$200,000 to \$250,000 a year for us.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: And that's recycled back into what?

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Mr. Chairman that goes directly back into Game Protection Fund. It's not allowed to go anywhere else.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any other questions or comments?

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Just on the vehicles, is this the original or is this what it's worth value now?

PAUL VARELA: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner that's the original purchase price so the actual amount of the vehicle has been depreciated for however many years that the vehicle was bought.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes, sir.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: You got listed here McAllister Lake House derelict, Callister Lake Shop derelict, Callister lake Shed derelict. Explain that to me. I visualize something different there.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Montoya those homes are past the point of repair and so we, in order for us to be able to tear them down we have to get permission from you all. That's just the nomenclature that's used in the Asset System.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTTOYA: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: One other question. On your laptops I'm sure all your computer devices, hard drives have been destroyed and all that?

PAUL VARELA: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner, yes. Our IT Department handles all IT equipment and they make sure there's no sensitive information that are contained on those computers.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Take them to the shooting range.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: So Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, they actually have a whole set of statutes that guide them as how they will dispose of the items.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: I move to approve the Department to dispose of the list of capital assets for Fiscal Year 2018 and capital assets to be disposed of either worn out, obsolete or reached the end of their service life. Assets will be disposed of either by sale at public auction or otherwise in accordance with state law.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any further discussion or comments? All in favor?

ALL COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Ayes have it. Mr. Comins.

JIM COMINS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Agenda Item Number 10, Update on the Construction of Albuquerque Office Complex. Pictures, right?

JIM COMINS: Good morning Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. It's my pleasure to bring the update. It is such a fast moving pace. These pictures are actually outdated when we took them Thursday and Friday of last week. A lot of work going on.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Deal.

JIM COMINS: Currently—

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Agenda Item Number 4.

[Laughter]

JIM COMINS: So this is a picture of the front of the building. Notice the agricultural area has been developed as well and we did lease that five acres in front of our land and that has all been planted already. Although there's about 25 to 30 geese out there every morning trying to take as many seeds away as they can. As you can see, all the decking is on the outside of the building. The blue that you're seeing in the left corner, that's the waterproofing. The stonework has begun on the inside. Just moving right along.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Satisfied with the quality of the construction?

JIM COMINS: I am. I'm there usually twice a week. I live pretty close to there and the quality assurance is being done and the inspections as well for plumbing and heating and things like that are coming right along. This is the backside of the building. Basically, where the employees will

be entering. Again, just a quick view of how it's coming along. It's fully enclosed. The roof isn't on yet but the sub-roof is on and it will go on this week.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Have you had any of our Albuquerque employees out or the people that will eventually occupy this? Have they been out there?

JIM COMINS: Mr. Chairman I send out an overview and a report about every two weeks to every employee in the Department and I do invite folks to drive by. Although it is an active construction site so you can't just walk onto the site without checking in and getting a hardhat and an orange vest and the material to be there.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: I hope you're getting some ooh's and ah's.

JIM COMINS: Mr. Chairman we are. This is a view of the front patio. You can picture this finished with rock and some Adirondack Chairs and a couple tables down the front and you're overlooking the agricultural field with the birds hanging out over there. So it's coming right along. This is the inside of the building. The inner walls are all being done. The HDAC Systems, the fire systems, the electrical systems are all being wired throughout the facility. Some of the heavier equipment will be arriving this week as well. The Warehouse Complex, they put up all the walls first so the wind doesn't blow the roof off. So now this week they're putting the roof on both the warehouse and the covered storage and that will be completed by the end of the week. With that, if there's any questions.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Looks pretty cool.

JIM COMINS: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission I just want to mention that we should receive the building or the building should be turned over to us on September 10th of this year. Obviously, there will be some time that you know, for employees to move in and that sort

of thing but we'll be on schedule to hold the Commission meeting there. Let me knock on wood, in October.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Right on.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman I do have a question. Is there anything going on right now with the established facility that's next, I guess it would be west of the main building that's being constructed now? Any plans with that old structure that's there?

JIM COMINS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Commissioner the old home that's in the front, currently we have some ideas to turn it into a Youth Training Center but we're waiting to see where we are with funding at the end of both, Albuquerque and Roswell.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: There's not a plan?

JIM COMINS: There's not a firm plan yet.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Thank you, sir.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTROYA: Mr. Chairman, I have to say that I've been by there a couple of times and I'm amazed at the progress and I'm also amazed at the geese that have kind of taken in the parking lot and the road into it and no fear at all. They just all but walk into the car while you're there so I'm really tickled how it's going.

JIM COMINS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Montoya that's very true. In fact, the geese had fledglings up in one of the cottonwood trees and that was on a path to one of the restrooms for the contractors and they soon learned to walk around it because a few of them got flogged before they learned.

[Laughter]

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any other questions or comments? So we'll hear from you in June at the next meeting. More pictures.

JIM COMINS: Okay. That would be fine with me Mr. Chairman. Would you like to also hear about Roswell?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes. Yes, I'm sorry.

JIM COMINS: It's sort of a combination.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yeah. Roswell now or do you want—

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Roswell next meeting.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Next meeting. Yes, for sure. Anything else on 10? Okay. Agenda Item Number 11, Update on Bighorn Sheep Status in Cochiti Canyon. Stewart. Move down Agenda Item Number 4 to Number 11.

STEWART LILEY: Sorry Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to get this presentation closed and it's not working there—

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Mr. Chairman I think we're technically challenged today.

STEWART LILEY: Having issues. There it goes.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Funny things happen up there.

STEWART LILEY: Yeah. All right, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission right now in front of you a quick update on a project we started four years ago here in the Jemez Mountains, just out the back door. So it's kind of exciting to be able to present this Los Alamos and exciting to kind of discuss I would say, a huge wildlife success in the local areas. So just a

quick update on that. In 2014 the Department moved 45 Bighorn sheep from Wheeler Peak into the Cochiti Canyon area just to the south of us basically. Cochiti Canyon was selected because of the Las Conchas wildfire that happened in 2012 I believe it was, burned a substantial portion of historic Bighorn Sheep Range. The Department was always interested in trying to get bighorn established back in the White Rock Cochiti Canyon but with this fire it really allowed it. We put 35 females, 10 males in there from Wheeler Peak, like I said in 2014. 2015 we put three rams specifically from Red River herd in there to boost the genetics. We had two adult breeding rams in the original release. We were able to put three more adult rams in and 15 and then in 2017 we were able to take 33 bighorn out of the canyon that runs from Questa up to Red River. We have some traffic collision issues with bighorn in there and we tried to trap out of there and this provides a unique opportunity for us to move those to Cochiti Canyon. We attempted, we were going to capture this winter but with how mild the winter was this year the sheep never came off the tops of the mountain. They were able to stay up on top the whole winter. So a success in the number of translocations but it also has been a really success in terms of survivability of these sheep once we put them there. We've only had 10 fatalities or 10 mortalities of sheep that we've put in these. Some of that is natural mortality. It's just going to happen no matter what and then also if you recall, about two years ago the Commission or the Department brought a recommendation to the Commission to allow population management hunts for Bighorn sheep and that was specifically to remove those two rams so they didn't breed their daughters. It's a success. We got hunters on the ground. They were able to take two rams out of that population and its thriving. We've had positive growth rate since we put them in there and we estimate our population now at a minimum before this lambing season so they're getting ready to lamb in the next month or so, at 150 to 115 animals. We're well on our way to get above 200 before too

long. We plan on using this as another translocation site for that Red River Herd, reduce vehicle collisions, etc., and it's a very high success story. We did put GPS Collars on most of the adult sheep to see how they would use the canyon areas and how they would move about there and they really are selecting the habitats we luckily thought they would but have expanded some too. We've seen sightings outside of basically, right where we are today. We had signs on those canyons as you saw coming up into the meeting today. We've had sheep use those canyons, mainly rams but we have ewes on Bandelier National Monument. We have ewes on National Lab as well so we're getting expansion of the population like we hoped using more habitat and not just staying centered in the main relief site. What this is is a graphic of what we thought would be the best Bighorn sheep habitat outlined in red. We are sitting about right in here. This is the river right here, the Rio Grande River. This is the road coming up to Las Alamos. Up in here is probably about where we are. So the majority of the sheep, the release was in this canyon here. We've had spreading moving into these canyons, this Frijoles Canyon is starting to get more and then also up the river. So it's pretty exciting to see them really utilize the habitat throughout. We think this population or excuse me, this habitat could support a population of maybe 500 Bighorn sheep. So it would maybe become one of our largest Bighorn sheep populations in the state if we get full expansion of the habitat. We probably won't initiate a full-on hunt, established hunt until about 2023-25. We are proposing putting it into this rule and the rule you'll see later today because we're seeing such growth at a faster than when we originally thought. So we might have seven year old rams actually reaching the trophy size, 180's, 190's.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: So around these canyons and around these areas in red, are we looking at the Lab, residential areas? What are we looking at?

STEWART LILEY: What you're looking at here is Forest Service. This is Bandelier National Monument. This is the Lab. This is forest here too. So the majority of this habitat is really on Forest Service and monument.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: In the right spot.

STEWART LILEY: And again, we'll keep capturing like I said out of the Red River and try to put sheep in here, reduce that population, reduce vehicle collisions on the road and keep encouraging growth in this population. So with that I would take any questions.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes, sir.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: What's Bandelier's attitude towards that population Chief Stewart?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Montoya, so Bandelier is really excited about it. It's increased some visitor opportunity. Another species for people to see. We actually had a request for Bandelier. They would like us to put sheep on Bandelier. We've seen movement coming in so I don't know that we necessarily have to put direct sheep on Bandelier but they definitely are encouraging of it. They like it. Like the sheep being there, historically were there and are excited to see them back on the landscape.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: No problems later on in establishing hunts in there? In Bandelier?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Montoya, right now Bandelier has enabling statute, hunting was not allowed. So we would probably not be able to hunt on Bandelier unless we had congressional action that changed the enabling of legislation on it.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any other questions or comments? All of that is great news. Good work to you and the entire Department.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman I do have a question on that last comment with Bandelier and being that we are investing to grow the population there. You said probably a congressional act. Are there any steps working towards that now?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, so if you go back to the graphic on this. The majority, the best habitat really isn't here as you can look at here. Most likely, even our GPS Collar Grams that we have had, they might come into Bandelier portions of the year but the majority of the time they spend is outside of Bandelier National Monument. So from a hunting standpoint we don't think it's going to be something to where we won't have access to those animals from a hunting standpoint.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Is it statutorily no hunting or it's not included in the enabling legislation or is it done by rule or regulation from the—

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman from my understanding is when they establish a unit of the park service in the enabling legislation they have to put on if hunting is going to be a consideration. In the Bandelier National Monument hunting from my understanding was not put in the Enabling Act for consideration. That said, there has been some pushes in the past by organizations and groups to allow for some limited opportunities that would go through congress. It would have to take congress to approve it. For example, a limited archery elk that

was a push a few years ago. So if had Members of Congress that introduced bills that want to push that forward that is a route that can go as well.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: It would be a great opportunity for archery.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: So my understanding is with Bandelier, you have to get a Back Country Permit to do certain things there, right? I don't think you just get free run of the place. So I'm wondering if there are sections of it that are amendable to hunting if the law were to allow it rather than you know, just running over the whole thing.

STEWART LILEY: Yeah, Mr. Chairman portions of the Forest service in here too, really what it is in this portion of this area it's designated as wilderness under the Wilderness Act and so you would have to use a special use permit in some of those area, even on the Forest Service but it still would get access into there and your correct, if enabling or excuse me, if legislature was introduced in congress that allowed hunting in there we would work with them and try to get it in there but again, we don't see this as an issue given that the majority of the time they're spending in the prime habitat which is going to be out in these areas.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Gives them a place to rest. Understood. Well you guys are doing a great job. It's all good news. Any other questions or comments on this one? Thank you. Agenda Item Number 12: Recognition of Cooperation by the Department and the City of Los Alamos on Implementation of Bear Resistant Trash Receptacles to Reduce Human-Bear Interactions. As I recall, I penned a letter on this or signed off on a letter on this sometime ago so I'm pleased that the Department and the city or the county are cooperating to help control this problem.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, just like you said, we're really happy to be in cooperation with Los Alamos on this project. A little bit of background on

it. Bear activity in Los Alamos has been increasing over the last several years. As you guys can imagine, it's a city tucked up next to the mountain in prime bear habitat range and as we all know, anything that draws bears such as food is going to bring them into town. So there was an issue with bears coming into town and mainly dealing with trash as you can see. A couple pictures here. Some of these actually made national news. If you guys do not remember, the bear on the left was a bear that was inside of a dumpster that got put inside of a trash and it rode the top of that. It made national news for quite a while. The bear was fine. That trash man backed up to a tree and it walked off but it was an issue and it's a problem that we had deal with. It's a problem we have to deal with with a lot of our cities. We try to work with our municipalities or cities to work on their issues, bear aware issues but the biggest thing is trying to reduce that attractant. Reduce the attractant into bears coming into town and what we are working on is reducing bears coming to trashes. It is the biggest issue. The first phase of the project was really to work with the county and also the medical center on bear resistant dumpsters, what they were. So you can see here, these are the ones that were installed that we had. They're resistant. The bears can't get in so it reduces that attractant, reduces bear activity in town. The Department, between Department, Los Alamos, county and the medical center, we purchased 13 bear resistant dumpsters. You can see the numbers there. The cost and the split. We used a Share with Wildlife Grant on that to help the county pay the remaining percent that was the non-federal money to help them do this. And then most recently in the Phase Two which I think is really kind of the most exciting because it's, it has potential to get the biggest impact is residential trashcans and so using residential roll-off carts as you'll see there for these big trucks to come in. Those are bear proof, bear resistant I mean. They have a latch in it so the bear can't get in which reduces that attractant. We were able to purchase in cooperation with the county, 300 bear resistant

containers. So a huge success in terms of that. It should reduce our bear complaints and we'll continue to work with the county on funding potential to keep increasing to get more carts out across and reduce that attractant. The other thing I want to applaud the county on and our employees and their department is really working on bear aware. It's one thing to just kind of talk about one thing, to see bears in trash but really working about, why do we want to reduce this trash? Why do we want to not feed bears? Why do we want bears back in the wild and really working on the whole living with bears within your neighborhoods and also talking about you know, a fed bear is a dead bear really and it's difficult to get with habituated bears and get (Indiscernible) for that. So that's what the goal of this was. It's been successful and I think that we'll continue to see this as successful as we get these containers going. So again, kind of talking about the benefit again. We really see less removal of bears because they're not being habituated to food. There's habitat in the mountains but not the strong draw to a human food source inside of the town. So with that I would take any questions and I know we do have someone from the county that maybe would like to say something.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: I just want to say I'm pleased there's progress on this. I know some years ago that there wasn't really recognition of the problem. It was happening. There were pictures. We knew that there were bears in town and I think both, the Department and then me as Chairman of the Commission, we were disappointed that there wasn't recognition that there was a problem but it sounds like those things have worked themselves out. The good news is some of this cost is borne by the Department. We can help solve this problem or make it less of a problem and we will continue to do that throughout the state wherever we have these you know, bear-human interactions. So I encourage any community. If you've got that problem or you see it on the horizon, come visit with the Department. We will cooperate with you to the fullest extent

possible to get a program in place that works for everybody. So I'm glad that there's recognition of this issue. It doesn't just happen, right? There's trash and other things that draw these bears and so is the first step in any of this is recognizing hey, we've got a problem. Now, let's go fix it.

COMMISSIONER: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any questions or comments from the Commission?

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Stewart, are the big commercial dumpsters effective? You've had two years with them.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ricklefs, yes. They're very effective. You know one of the biggest draws was at the medical center and that's actually reduced significantly since we put in those dumpsters, that we're not having the issues of bears in the trashcans. Bears are wandering the medical center. So we've had a pretty significant reduction in bear activity around those areas because of—

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Do the culinary math on what's at a hospital trashcan and it's pretty gross.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Are they easy to close and easy to use and so forth?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ricklefs, yeah. You can kind of see here and it's not the best picture. It's just a hinged door right here that's just a latch so a person could very easily open it up and close it. So it's the same concept of a lid on a trashcan but it just has one little latch that prevents a bear to get in is all the difference is.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Sometimes.

STEWART LILEY: So these trashcans, it's another latching mechanism on these trashcans, the residential carts. I think that's going to be the huge success that we'll see in the future because residential trash as can imagine, some people put it out the night before. Some people keep it out all week and if we can get this residential trash as bear resistant I think we'll really see strides in reducing that bears coming into town. Once they learn that they can't get reward out of that smell, I think they're going to avoid coming in in the first place.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Does someone from the county want to step up and say something? Bring the whole team.

JAMES ROBINSON: Mr. Chairman, fellow Commission, my name is James Robinson. I'm the Chairman of the Los Alamos County Environmental Sustainability Board. I'm joined here with Philo Shelton [Phonetic] and Angelica Gurule [Phonetic], they're also, Angelica is the Environmental Services Director and you're the Community Services Director.

PHILO SHELTON: Public Works.

JAMES ROBINSON: Public Works, there we go. And they're the county, we're the ESP is a Citizen Board that is formed by the council to help with issues like the bear and roll cart, bear and trash problems. In my off-time, I'm also one of the few people who have the privilege of rehabbing bears that come into Doctor Ramsey's Facility. So bears are kind of special to my heart. So when I heard that you all with the Department and Los Alamos were teaming up for these roll carts and dumpsters I was very, very excited because we see so many that just get injured because they just want trash. They love trash. So as you've seen, there is 13 bear dumpsters that you ordered. All 13 of them are in use. We have 300 bear resistant roll carts. 60 of those carts are already in use. I have one myself and including all the other education

materials, Los Alamos has done a wonderful job at Earth Day showing off the roll carts and we're also the first community in New Mexico that has its own Annual Bear Festival. I get to help put that on so that's fun. So we actually take two days out of the year to celebrate bears and teach people how wonderful bears are but how to stay away from them and respect them. So with that, we'd like to award a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Osborn for all of his help with us in getting these roll carts.

[Applause]

JAMES ROBINSON: He had the great privilege of attending one of our meetings which also was one that we had a discussion about an ordinance concerning bears. So he had to kind of wait for some public impute on that one before we got to talk about these roll carts but they were (Indiscernible).

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Good job.

JAMES ROBINSON: Thank you very much. We appreciate it.

MR. OSBORNE: Thank you.

JAMES ROBINSON: And we look forward to working with you guys.

[Applause]

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: I would encourage you to make yourself available as a resource to other communities.

JAMES ROBINSON: Oh yeah.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: So I'm sure Stewart will now pass your email address—

JAMES ROBINSON: Oh definitely. I'm always happy to help any other community. We know there are several that need it. So yes, we are available.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: It's an important program and a big deal.

JAMES ROBINSON: Thank you very much.

ANGELICA GURULE: And I'll just say it's a pleasure to see all of the Commissioners and Alexa and all the familiar faces. So thanks for the partnership and the community really appreciates it. We're working with students to teach them about bear awareness and trying to get that message out a fed bear is a dead bear. We did have an art contest about it and the children came up with beautiful artistic drawings about bears. It was a crazy hair day at school and one little girl made her hair into a trash cart and then put a bear in it, inside of her hair.

[Laughter]

ANGELICA GURULE: So I think the message is pretty clear that bears are an issue and we're just trying to learn how to live with the wildlife. So thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Good. Thank you. Anything else on this one? Thank you, Stewart.

Agenda Item Number 13: Subsequent discussion for Potential Rule Changes on the Barbary Sheep, Oryx and Persian Ibex Rule 19.31.12 NMAC for the 2019-2023 seasons. I'm going to be really old then. My gosh.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, so as stated, this is the second of three on the discussion of rule changes for the exotics Barbary sheep, Oryx, Ibex. So really at this point, as we've been discussing these rule changes, it's the last kind of opportune it to get some opinion in before we bring it in front of you at the next time for a final rule proposed

change. So the Department has come up with kind of with their more final recommendations and looking for any guidance if you guys have any other discussions or not. So just want to kind of get into it real quick. On some public comments the Department did hold three public meetings across the state in Las Cruces, Roswell and Albuquerque and then we received quite a few public comments on the website. So far we've received 31 comments across the whole suite of the three species. The biggest of all those comments is maintaining the Once-in-a-Lifetime status for the on range White Sands Missile Range, either sex hunts. So the public in general is very supportive of the keeping the Once-in-a-Lifetime status. We had some as you'll see there, 10 comments saying in support of not having Once-in-a-Lifetime Hunts. In a second I'll get to the survey that we did. So this is one of public comments but we did receive 3,000 responses back from our survey. So I'll get to that here in a second. We also had some, if you will remember we proposed originally on removing the designation of serving in the Afghan or Iraq campaigns for those veteran hunts. We actually had some people really opposed to that and I'll get to that here in a second. In the draw data suggests maybe we shouldn't remove that. So again, I'll get to that. And then a couple other little changes or comments throughout. I want to go through since the last time to really get at some data on showing what's going on or what we've been seeing with applications as well. So that top left-hand graph is the harvest success by population size. So really, success rates on those hunts on White Sands Military Range are maintaining high. Regardless of what the population size is, success is between a 80 to 95% is where we're seeing it. Maybe a little bit of a dip when it's on the lower end but really you'll see that lines pretty flat. The bottom left-hand graph is the number of resident Iraq or Afghan Applicants that apply each year for that hunt and through time. So what you'll see is we're getting a lot more applicants in the most recent years for those hunts rather than there is supply. So supply is, our demand is way

outnumbering supply. So that's where we're kind of coming back on that recommendation. Originally we said we had pulled the designation to any veteran. We're kind of recommending now given the data that we've looked at, maybe maintaining that and also some of the public comments. The other big thing, on that right-hand graph you'll look at. That is the number of Once-in-a-Lifetime Applicants. So number of resident applicants that have never received a Once-in-a-Lifetime Oryx Tag on White Sands Missile Range. As you'll see here and what these lines represent there is, if you remember we went from a full fee upfront. So when we used to just charge the application fee versus when we went full fee upfront, is where this occurred. Since full fee upfront happened, we've seen a steady increase in the number of applicants each year applying for Once-in-a-Lifetime Hunts. So the demand is way outnumbering supply. Almost 7,000 resident applications each year applying for those Once-in-a-Lifetime Hunts for approximately 300 hunts. So really low draw is right now. One of the other things we wanted to look at is looking at the differences in what's happening with hunter satisfaction and hunter success potentially and what's maybe driving that. So what we have here is satisfaction range. So if you remember on your harvest reports it asked you to write your hunt from a 1 to a 5, 5 being the best. We wanted to look at what might drive some satisfaction. Very slight, maybe driving on that left-hand graph is an increasing in the population size on White Sands Missile Range might increase hunter satisfaction a little bit. Hunter satisfaction by the success really isn't changed much. You can see there, its variable but not changed. Success by the total licenses. So this is the harvest success by the licenses per the hunt. So if there is, this is looking at where we had 120 hunters on the hunt versus where we had 45 hunters on the hunt. You'll see there it doesn't matter how many hunters are the hunt. Success rate is not changing across that hunt and the other thing that we looked at is the number of licenses per hunt versus the hunter satisfaction range. So

the question is, is the more hunters, are people less satisfied with their hunt and we don't see that. As you'll see here, it remains flat and so even as we get more hunters on the range hunting that one time, hunter satisfaction is remaining high. It's not changing by the number of hunters actually hunting. As you recall at the last Commission Meeting, there was a recommendation to send out a survey to Oryx Applicants to judge their feel on proposed changes. We sent out approximately, oh I think it was almost 13,000 surveys. We had responses from 3,400. So a fairly, I would say reasonable response rate. Normal response rates where response rates on surveys are never high unless they're mandatory. So what we looked at was approximately how many years. What the first is is how many years people have been applying for their Once-in-a-Lifetime. So the majority are in that 1 to 5 years. We had 122 respondents that have been applying for Oryx for over 21 years and haven't received their Once-in-a-Lifetime. So then the next question was, would they prefer or would be supportive of a strategy that moves some of those hunts from Once-in-a-Lifetime to Non-Once-in-a-Lifetime? What you'll see there is over prettywhelming, that the response was no. They want to keep them as Once-in-a-Lifetime. Again, on the, kind of the reverse questions. So we asked the same question but two different ways to make sure people are truly not just clicking through a survey to take it versus seeing if we get the same response and the percentage lines up. So it is again, overwhelmingly people want to have more Once-in-a-Lifetime Licenses on range and then the third question kind of talks about increasing Non-Once-in-a-Lifetime. If they would be in support of it. So again, everyone was in favor of keeping Once-in-a-Lifetime for the majority of licenses on range.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Is this an extension of the dialog we had with fellows from White Sands?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, that is correct.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Have we resolved?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman I believe we have. They are here today. We had a discussion last week with them on the phone too. They sat in in all of our public meetings. I do appreciate Patrick and Gilbert coming to all the public meetings and hear it through. As some of you are well aware, public meetings attendance can be okay sometimes. Sometimes we get seven members. Sometimes we get 15. It's never outstanding. So what we really hear more from hunters is through emails or on the backside rather than the public meetings. We discussed the proposals with White Sands after those meetings and we're coming back. I think we're on the same page now. Is yes, we'll keep all those hunts as Once-in-a-Lifetime for the either sex on there and kind of go back with the original structure that we discussed adding four new hunts to White Sands Missile Range, creating as a structure of 65 Once-in-a-Lifetime Hunters, 15 Broken Horn and five Veteran Hunts.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Will this fit within the missions range and our- with the range's mission, the range's mission and then also what your trying to accomplish?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, that is correct. So overall, what it is is adjusting the season dates for calendar shifts. Adding those four hunts on the Missile Range but creating most of those as Once-in-a-Lifetime, 65 of those hunters. Once-in-a-Lifetime Hunts would go from 270 under the current. What we just drew this last year, up to 605 Once-in-a-Lifetime Licenses per year. Increase Broken Horn Hunts from 125 licenses which we currently issued this year, to 135 and increase the Veteran Hunt. And again, we're proposing that Iraq-Afghanistan Campaign from 25 to 45 hunters. Like I said in maintaining that Afghan-Iraq Campaign Hunt. We increased Youth Only for this hunt year. We're proposing continuing that increase through the next rules. So it says maintain but really it is an increase from the previous rule, our previous year so we're

Final Copy

planning on maintaining that. Maintain Mobility Impaired Hunts and one of the big discussions and we're in agreement with White Sands on this is elimination of that in rule Stallion or Rhodes designation. Really, it's going to be drawn to GMU 19. We'll work with the military each year to figure out where the best concentrations of oryx are and have those hunts according to where the oryx are to make it the best hunts as possible. We really think that's a win for hunters. It's a win for the mission and also for the department.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: So you'll have a comp—Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yeah.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: You'll combine Rhodes and Stallion together with the range and then have internal assignments going to these different areas?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Montoya when the proclamation comes up before the hunters draw for it, we'll declare where those hunts will be. So someone is hunting or putting in for where they want to hunt. It's not going to be you put in, draw a tag and then we tell you where to go. We'll say, look Small Missile Range this year has, we should have one hunt in Small Missile Range. It should be the 65. We'll put that in the proclamation. People can have that selection.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Okay.

STEWART LILEY: It won't be at the time of, you draw it and then we assign you. So people will know where they're going to hunt or where they want to hunt before but it doesn't pigeon hole us in if we put it in rule like it currently is. We can only hunt Stallion or Rhodes and separately. So this will allow us to move hunters around. It will be well in advance of the hunter

knowing that we're going to move them there but to allow them to move given the population throughout the Military Range here.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman, Stewart is that the flexibility that White Sands was asking for, to be able to do that?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, yes. White Sands asked for that. Commissioner Ramos at the very forefront. So, yes. We wanted to maintain that. The biggest question was on whether we make some hunts Non-Once-in-a-Lifetime or not and the decision was to make them Once-in-a-Lifetime.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Stewart, on that I do want to commend the Department as well as celebrate I think, that this survey was generated in a quick and timely fashion and to me I'm a firm believer you know, data drives need and need drives change and the data is showing that we don't need a change on that. So that really helps support, you know, to make a decision when it comes to voting time for you know, a Commission's mindset. Thank you.

STEWART LILEY: And the last thing with Oryx on the Missile Range was increasing. We have kind of a Wounded Warrior type hunt. Not Wounded Warrior as the actual organization but we do have an Injured Veteran Hunt. We have three licenses in there. These are a lot of times people that can't get out of vehicles, double amputees or something like that. So we have three cases, It's year-around hunts. They can be offered. It's in rule currently but we want to offer more. There's a lot of, there's more opportunities for it. It's a really unique situation. We want to partner with White Sands to help run those hunts and make it a kind of special event for those. So we discussed with White Sands in moving that from three to ten and probably helping them escort those hunters as well and really making it a unique experience.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Would that be a multi-weekend type of hunt to accommodate their needs or what?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos the rule is flexible in that because it's a year-around season but I think what we would discuss with White Sands is maybe doing it as one big event and really trying to showcase the event rather than trying to do it every few weekends and really try to more showcase it. Moving to off range oryx. We've seen increasing success rates and harvest off range suggesting an increasing population which also coincides with an increase in population on range. We've seen that. Most likely we're getting there. Real quick on the applications for off range. What you'll see there in that top left-hand corner, applications for the non-youth hunts off range have been steadily increasing through time as well. So there's a lot more demand for oryx hunting in general. Not only on range but off range. One of the ones that actually did not see an increase through time is Youth Only Off range Hunts. You'll see that in the bottom right-hand graph. That is basically showing steady through time. So our proposal is kind of a little bit different than what we saw in Clovis. We're proposing increasing more off range hunts on that general hunt code rather than the Youth Only Hunt Code. We we're talking about an increase on the Youth Only more significantly than what we originally proposed but because it's maintained same we backed that down. Still a little bit of an increase but not as much and moving those more to that general (Indiscernible). So a 33% increase or 200 more tags on the off range hunt for everybody and then 20 more tags for the youth. Moving on to Ibex. Not as many comments on ibex. The majority of the comments were in support of the Department's proposal to moving those hunts into the draw rather than the, the female and mature hunts into the draw rather than population management hunts and a couple other comments. One license fee which is statutorily and some not in support of increasing. Real

quick, as you know, in the last few years we've been increasing licenses to try to maintain that ibex female and mature population. We're starting to get there and what we've been doing through population management with this rule. What we want to do is actually put those hunts in the draw. So it's opportunities for the hunters rather than in the population management. We want to create four new hunts. Four new female immature hunts of 75 licenses. We think that will stabilize it given the success rates we're seeing on female immature. It's about 40%. So about 120 ibex female immature each year should about stabilize the population but maintain Youth Only Archery and Muzzle Loader and the Once-in-a-Lifetime Hunts. The other suggestion was to combine the Once-in-a-Lifetime Hunts with the five incentive tag hunts so they hunt at the same time. The Billie Hunters are all hunting at the same time. We agree with that. It just puts five more hunters there. They're all hunting the either sex at the same time.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Stewart, I know you're speeding through this now. Can we back up to the ibex? So you're talking about four female hunts. Were there specifically when you put in there for female and that's it?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman and Commissioner Ramos, that's correct. So it would be four hunts of 75 hunters each established in there rather than the population management hunts. We're running about five female mature hunts in a season right now but a lot of those are population management. They're drawn after. This would be in the draw. When people go to apply we'll get it through there. We have seen an increase in the female immature applicants as well. In 2015 it was 164 applicants. In 2017 it was 338. We haven't looked at the data from this year but I guarantee it's going to go up given every other species went up. So we're probably more like 400 applicants just on the female immature.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Absolutely. I think the opportunity for people to apply for that and making that decision. I appreciate that being in there.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes, sir.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Stewart is that population still increasing some or are we staying within the agreement with the BLM, etc.?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Montoya there's no formal agreement but the agreement basically says 350 ibex. We're at about 750 to 800. We've worked with the BLM to say look, the original 350, maybe that wasn't a true carrying capacity. We do see ibex start leaving the mountain once they approach that 1,000 mark. The goal is to keep ibex on the mountain and not have significant resource damage. At 800- 750 we're not seeing that. The BLM is okay with us at management. So we're kind of moving to this right around 700 to 800 animals we want to manage at. That's where that four hunts of 75 female mature comes in. We think that will level the population. Now you know ibex are highly productive. Almost twins every single year. Sometimes triplets. They can breed at age one and so they're highly productive and trying to get at that has allowed us a lot of opportunity but try to maintain it is where we'll be at about that 700 to 800.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Off the mountain permits, our success rate is increasing or do you know?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Montoya so really they're year-around. Anyone can get it. We don't sell very many licenses. Really I think what happens is when someone actually knows about them out there they're going to get the license and they're getting

it. So we don't have many people that just buy the off range license and go try to hunt it off range. We actually kind of discourage them unless someone actually knows they're off-range because there are not many ibex off range. Our goal is to make sure there's not many ibex off range. It occasionally happens and it really gets more predominate when we get above 1,000 ibex on the mountain for sure.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Okay. Thank you.

STEWART LILEY: Moving on to Barbary sheep. We had a little bit more comments on Barbary sheep and we made some changes since we last met in Clovis. Some of the comments on Barbary sheep, if you recall we we're proposing combining all the units and hunting those together. We had four hunts that we we're proposing in there but combining those hunts. We're now proposing splitting those back out to how it is right now. So 29-30 is structured as one hunt and then 32-34-36-37 as a separate hunt. So we've taken that into account. Also some of the more public comments we heard about was increasing the length of the hunt. We were proposing 10 days. We're now proposing 14 and then there's been some other kind of general comments within there as you can see. We think that populations been increasing. What you'll see there is license sales is on the top and the harvest is on the bottom. Again, harvest has been increasing through times suggesting probably increasing population through there. Most of that license sale though is not necessarily, the draw has been flat draw licenses for the last four years. Harvest has mainly been increasing, just the success rates on those draw hunts have been going up suggesting that increase in the population but where we've seen this most significant increase in license sales and that's what this graphic is, is on those over-the-counter statewide hunts. We've gone from as low as 400 up to 800. So they've almost doubled in the last few years on those over-the-counter hunts whereas harvest has remained fairly stable. So yes, more people are buying

licenses and trying to go find them but harvest on over-the-counter has remained stable. Maybe slightly increased as you'll see in the bottom graph. So our proposal is to increase the draw licenses by 25% and total to 1,600 licenses. Again, I'll get to the split in just a quick second on how that hunt structure would look like but it's going to go to the two different splits in the GMU's and four different hunts. Adjusting season dates for calendars as you guys know and gals, we do it every single rule. Maintain those splits like I said but here's what our proposal really looks like in terms of the licenses per hunt and when those hunts would occur. And so we have one October hunt. We talked about a unique experience in that October timeframe and then a December, January and February hunt. Early December running for 14 days, late January 14 days and then February for 14 days. So it increases not only—right now there are only two hunt codes for Barbary sheep. This moves it to eight hunt codes. So more opportunities for hunters to choose what hunts they want to go on, increases licenses and increases kind more of an opportunity for a hunter to choose what they want to hunt on. One thing I also want to mention on Barbary sheep that's not on this presentation but that's in the current rule and would maintain through the current rule is private landowners within those GMU's where we have those draw hunts we can enter into a special management property with those to really coordinate harvest on their property to achieve goals on there. Some of it might be that they're right in the heart of Barbary sheep country, trying to get the ewe harvest in there that's necessary to maintain populations or to stabilize it. We'll work with them on a special management property. It's not on here but we're proposing to keep it in the current rule. Some other quick proposed changes. Right now you can't hunt with your draw licenses on private land. That was an oversight in the last rule. Almost all of our other licenses say you can hunt with a draw license with written permission on private. So that was just an oversight. We're going to put that back in the rule.

Modification of that western portion of the GMU 34. That's over-the-counter so the boundary is really clear to hunters so they know where they are or where they aren't and then McGregor Range, we're seeing an increase in Barbary there and corresponding there we want to increase licenses by 33%. So with that I would take any questions.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Gentlemen from White Sands, you guys want to say anything? Okay. Thank you for being here again, and I appreciate it. Any questions or comments from the public on any of these items? Commissioners?

(Indiscernible)

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes, sir.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Come on up.

[Crosstalk]

GUEST SPEAKER: I was at the other meeting (indiscernible). This is real quick.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Come on up to the microphone. Thank you.

GUEST SPEAKER: Commissioners, everybody, I do a lot of archery in the state and we are all were wondering, you know, if an archery hunt for Barbary wouldn't be a good hunt code also to put in and why it's never been or, I don't know, that was just an idea that I know that a lot of people have, that we've talked about a lot. And I don't know why it wouldn't hurt.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any room for that?

COMMISSIONER: (Indiscernible) hunt.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, yes we definitely could. Right now, because it is any legal sporting arm, archery equipment could be used. We really haven't had a big demand push from a group that says we would really like a stand-alone archery hunt like we've had for elk or deer. It's, the success rates would definitely be less. Part of our goal is, with the license numbers you saw there and the numbers of hunts, is to meet our harvest objectives. So if we were to do an archery, it would probably be another hunt on top of those that would be something separate.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you.

GUEST SPEAKER: No, I just that I do archery all over the state and we've talked about that for years. It would be cool to do something like that and I think you'd see that a lot of people would put in for it I think. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. Commissioners, any further questions or comments?
When will we see this—

GUEST SPEAKER: Can I make a comment?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Sure. Go ahead. When will we see this again?

STEWART LILEY: It will be up for final adoption at the August meeting.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Okay.

GUEST SPEAKER: Chairman, Commissioners, I'm Katie DeLorenzo with Back Country Hunters and Anglers. Just some general statements on the proposed exotic [phonetic] rules and BHA [phonetic] overall supports all of the changes from Game and Fish. We especially appreciate extending hunt dates for aoudad. On the oryx rules we again appreciate keeping those once-in-a-lifetime hunt designations. We feel like the quality of that hunt really comes down to

the population and the opportunity to harvest either-sex oryx and not necessarily the number of hunters on the landscape for that hunt in particular. So thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. All right. I think we'll take a break and then we'll pick up—

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: I did have a question, Stewart, and I'm sorry. I know, but can you go back to the slide on the Barbary sheep with the units? And I know I really appreciate that you split it back up versus conglomerating it into kind of a region or whatnot. But do you think 32, 34, that 36, 37 could be maybe be split into two more? And the reason why I say that is just the congregation of hunters, you know, in these units at a given time, but also more opportunities for people to put in, giving them other options. And I guess it's getting tough to draw and that's kind of what I'm looking at.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, part of the reason why those were all kept in there is, as you, and I don't have a map in front of me so I apologize. Where all those, where those GMUs meet is really where the concentration of Barbary are. It's not that they're in the most, except for maybe a little bit in 32, but especially 34, 36, 37. Those all join together in one area where all the Barbary meet. So the question is not necessarily we don't want to have a hunt specific to 34 and all the Barbary be in 36 at that time. And so it allows the hunters, if they're on that one side of that line to be able to move back and forth. We discussed when we were discussing the splits in general why we went with that is because in that 32, 34, 36, 37, we want to have that flexibility in case the Barbary aren't in there to where we have a 100 drawn that year not have the opportunity to harvest because they're all sitting in 34 or they're all sitting in 36. So that's why those splits were maintained in that.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: And I do appreciate you splitting it up. I just wanted you to verify the justification on that and I do appreciate that. And if I would just like the comments this gentleman made, I would recommend a December archery hunt right there in there somewhere. But that's just my two cents on that.

STEWART LILEY: So Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, I think this is kind of, you know, this is the last time it comes before you for a vote so we're looking for input. If the Commission's in kind of a sort of an archery hunt in Barbary sheep, we would definitely—again from a population standpoint management, I think we could have it. Success rates would be pretty low.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Right.

STEWART LILEY: We don't see a population level impact, so if there is a desire to go that way, I think we'd definitely look into it, and it's a question of where to place that hunt is more what we'd be looking for.

COMMISSIONER: In I guess my opinion I agree with the gentleman and Ralph but that being said, you can use a rifle, muzzle loader or bow. So you bow hunt. If you draw a tag, there's the once-in-a-lifetime Barbary that you see, pull out your rifle and shoot it. I would like that option.

COMMISSIONER 2: Which we have, you know, so it doesn't matter, you know, to me.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: We have it but on the other hand when you're, you know, naturalist and you do want to look at archery you can also look at the perspective of having compound versus traditional and only having those type of hunters out there where a rifle hunter would come in and shoot them under you and spread the herd or whatnot. You know there's also

a lot more homework that needs to be done on an archery hunt versus a rifle hunt where rather than just spotting and stalking there's other forms of . . .

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: To get your population control that you want, you're going to have to put a lot of archery hunters out there to do their thing. So it's six to one, half dozen to the other.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: So, Mr. Chairman, if I would make a suggestion. I know you are ready to go to break. Maybe we can have this discussion during break and come back with a final. It's hard to do this on the fly when it's not even in . . .

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Well, no, what I would recommend is just further dialogue with Commissioner Ramos and perhaps Commissioner Salopek. And you'll take more public comment on this and then perhaps follow up with that gentleman and if it makes sense, I trust your judgement. So if it's something we can fit in, great. But if it doesn't fit with the overall framework of what you're trying to do, I don't want to put a round peg in a square hole. But if you're trying to do population control and the success rate is low, you're going to have to put a lot of people out there which halfway defeats the purpose of . . .

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, we definitely could do that. And because of the new statute on rulemaking, I think we'd have to have this rule to the Register pretty soon so we'll work pretty diligently in the next hours to days and we will. I'll make sure we talk with it. What we will do is probably not reduce rifle hunts. What you see here is we'd probably want to maintain that and just add an additional . . .

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: I wouldn't reduce.

STEWART LILEY: What we would do is add an additional archery hunt if we went with that proposal.

COMMISSIONER: I think that would be great. I mean, we do it for Javelina. It's kind of the same thing on there as well.

COMMISSIONER 2: I would agree that, to not reduce this, and go with that. I'd be in favor.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Who says public meetings are useless? [Laughter] All right. We've accomplished something today. Any further questions or comments on this particular item? All right. Thank you. Why don't we take a quick break and then we'll come back and start . .

[Crosstalk]

[Return from break]

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Public rule making hearing, hearing item number 1a. We're going to do the informational part first. Rulemaking hearing on final rule changes on the Bighorn Rule 19.31.17 NMAC for the 2019-2023 seasons. Stewart.

[Crosstalk]

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Bear with me.

[Laughter].

COMMISSIONER: Try to get it passed [phonetic].

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: I'm going to screw this up so my apologies in advance. Hearing Officer's opening statement. This hearing will please come to order. My name is Paul Kienzle. I am Chairman of the State Game Commission. I will be serving as the hearing officer and may be advised by the Commission and its counsel from the Office of the Attorney General. The purpose of this hearing is for consideration of the Commission for final adoption of the following proposed rules. There are four in front of us today. I will read a summary of the four and then we

will take them in order. We will vote at the end of each particular final rule. First hearing item is number 1 for the Commission to receive public comment on proposed new bighorn sheep rule Title 19, Chapter 31, Part 17 of the New Mexico Administrative Code which will become effective April 1, 2019. The current bighorn sheep rule is set to expire on March 31, 2019. Second hearing item is number 2 for the Commission to receive public comment on proposed new Javelina rule Title 19, Chapter 31, Part 21 of the New Mexico Administrative Code which will become effective on April 1, 2019. Current Javelina rule is set to expire on March 31, 2019. Third hearing item is number 3, for the Commission to receive public comment on proposed new pronghorn antelope rule Title 19, Chapter 31, Part 15 of the New Mexico Administrative Code which will become effective on April 1, 2019. Current pronghorn antelope rule is set to expire on March 31, 2019. Fourth hearing item is number 4, for the Commission to receive public comment on the proposed repeal of the pronghorn allocation system rule Title 19, Chapter 30, Part 12 of the New Mexico Administrative Code which the repeal will become effective on March 31, 2019. The new pronghorn antelope rule Title 19, Chapter 31, Part 15 will replace the current pronghorn licensing allocation systems rule. These sets of hearings are being conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Game and Fish Act and the State Rules Act. The hearing is being audiotape recorded. Anyone interested in a copy of the audio tape record should contact Sandra with the Department of Game and Fish. Public notice of this hearing was advertised in the New Mexico Register, the Albuquerque Journal and the Santa Fe New Mexican, the New Mexico sunshine portal and on the Department's website. Copies of the proposed new rule have been available on the Department's website and at the Department office. Those that are speaking today, I need you to sign an attendance sheet and we will deal with that again to make sure we get that into the record. The attendance sheet while not exactly at the back of the room is

at the side of the room and we will later enter that into the record as an exhibit. Now, let's see, these sets of rule hearings will be conducted in the following manner. Staff will present pre-filed exhibits. Exhibits admitted into evidence are available for view by the public but exhibits may not be removed from this room. Colonel Griego will enforce that rule I'm sure. After all exhibits are entered, we will proceed to the presentation of the proposed rule after which testimony will be taken from anyone who has signed in in accordance with what I said earlier. I will place a time limit, typically I think we've had 2 minutes per speaker. For good cause or at discretion of the chair that time limit can be waived. In order to ensure that the hearing is accurately recorded, only one person at a time shall be allowed to speak. Any person recognized to speak is asked to (1) identify themselves by name and who they are affiliated with for the record each time you are recognized or each time you speak at the microphone which is to say, speak at the microphone not from your seat. And (2) speak loud and clear so the audio record is accurate and contains all of your comments. After a person has offered comment, they may be questioned by the hearing officer or other members of the Commission. The audience may direct questions to the Commission which may or may not then be answered by the Commission or by members of the Department subject to how that is handled by the Chair. This hearing is not subject to judicial rules of evidence. However, in the interest of efficiency, I do reserve the right to limit any testimony or comment deemed irrelevant, redundant or unduly repetitious. The Commission may discuss the proposed rules after public comment portion of the hearing. Final Commission action including adoption of the rules may occur after the conclusion of the presentation and public comment period of the hearing. If members of the Department recall, we do an informational portion, we close the record and then we actually go to a final action vote on the agenda item that's before us. As I said at the outset, we will vote on each agenda item as the record is closed

on that rather than rolling them all up in one big vote at the end. I think the better practice is to take things individually rather than lumping them all together under the circumstances today. Okay, all of that having been said, I think I did the throat clearing part. Hearing item number 1, the informational portion, rule making hearing on bighorn sheep rule 19.31.17 NMAC for the 2019-2023 seasons. This hearing is now open. Are there any exhibits for the proposed new part in rule to 19.31.17 for the record?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, there are 6 records: Exhibit 1, notice of the rulemaking; Exhibit 2, the initial proposed rule; Exhibit 3, presentation that's to be given to the Commission today; Exhibit 4, the summary of the proposed changes; Exhibit 5, the technical info that was relied upon to develop the rule; and Exhibit 6, ten public comments received for the record.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Do you have all those marked with numbers?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, that is correct.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Exhibits, you said six?

STEWART LILEY: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Exhibits 1 through 6 are admitted into the record. The public will have the opportunity to enter additional exhibits into the record but does the public have any letters or any other written documentary evidence they want to enter at this point in time? As I said before, I'll give you the opportunity to do it again if there is anything that you may wish to submit. Stewart, would you please introduce the proposed new rule for 19.31.17.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, for bighorn a real quick background. Last year we had a high harvest success rate like we have on normal years. Again,

we only had three unsuccessful hunters. One hunter couldn't go. And the other two, they wounded an animal and decided to call off their hunt after they wounded the animal. So everyone had the opportunity that went hunting and took rams. Ewe harvest was about 50 percent. We did harvest a later season Rio Grande Gorge hunt and you'll see there a pretty high success and is trying to accomplish our goals for that population management. The Commission has seen this graph before but I just want to highlight again why the proposed rule is coming up is we have a high success and are continuing to see this strong success at growing bighorn sheep populations which is allowing us to increase hunting opportunities for bighorn sheep across both deserts and Rockies. The Department held public meetings in Albuquerque and Las Cruces. We had 17 attendees. We had just a few minor comments, allowing tracking dogs for wounded game that would be in Manner and Method which you will see later this year. Also some archery (indiscernible) opportunities which we did include in this proposed rule, and some changes to our enhancement program which we included in this rule as well to better manage how those enhancement hunters choose the units in which they'll hunt. So like all rules, we adjusted the season dates for calendar shifts. We increased, the proposal in front of you today is to increase the Rocky ram and the Rocky, excuse me, desert ram hunts up to 60 Rocky ram licenses and 60 desert ram licenses throughout the state. So, fairly significant. You'll see there in the last year, we had 29 Rockies and I believe 29 deserts so we're expecting in the next four years to where we can get it up to 120 desert and Rocky sheep ram hunters up on the ground, so a high success. We're really excited about it. Some of the things to accommodate that: we're including the Manzanos and the Jemez [phonetic] so right behind us we're going to include that in this rule. If the population gets there before 2023 when the season ends, we'll open it up to hunting. So there's the potential. We put it in this rule in case it gets there. And then also, the Manzanos, we

haven't hunted the Manzanos yet but it's almost at that state where we could hunt that population. In order to accommodate more hunts, we had to split some of these hunts out. You'll see some of those mountain ranges where we said no change, so the one hunt is fine. But in some we had to go into more hunts, like the Pecos, Wheeler, Latir and Rio Grande Gorge in order to accommodate those hunts. The rest of the mountain ranges that we're currently hunting, we are proposing continuing hunting but just sometimes more hunters. Other thing for deserts is really just a new hunt in the Fra Cristobals in February to spread out hunter density across the mountain range on that. That's our strongest desert sheep population right now but we are soon approaching other populations like the Caballos that are almost at the point of the Fra's, so again successful. With success comes more opportunity and also management of ewe populations as well because given that we are not able, we're filling all historical range of Rockies, we're at the point of harvesting ewes to manage populations. The proposal on that rule in front of you today is to up to 150 ewe licenses across all the different mountain ranges. What that really is, is the Pecos, Rio Grande Gorge, Wheeler and Latir. You'll see there that we have different hunts, multiple hunts for some of those like Rio Grande Gorge 3 hunts, Pecos 2. We also are creating some new archery ewe hunts for Rockies. That would be in Rio Grande Gorge and Wheeler where we're creating those. We currently have one in—and Pecos, excuse me—we currently have an archery ewe hunt in the Latir but this would open those 3 areas to some archery hunting to help meet our harvest management goals. One of the other things we would like to do is in our population management that takes concurrence by the Chairman is to make some ram hunts not once-in-a-lifetime. So what we're not looking for is a trophy ram but if we have to have a management hunt for disease issues or something like that and someone, we want them to harvest yearling rams or 2-year-old rams, we don't want to make that their once-in-a-lifetime

opportunity. So that's a modification. And then like I said we proposed some changes to our enhancement program on when the hunters have to make their declaration on which units they're going to hunt. And what there are changes. It moves it back a little bit later. Right now it's June first and now it's a month later. But then what it allows, when the hunters, when they get that one unit they declare but they can hunt other units that (indiscernible/cough) been declared is what this proposed change would do. (Indiscernible/cough) we heard the most comments on in the bighorn rules. With that I would take any questions.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: You're doing too good a job, so . . .

COMMISSIONER: (Indiscernible) an opportunity.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: No, I don't have any questions, just congratulations to you. Any questions or comments from Commissioners?

COMMISSIONER: Just keep our fingers crossed.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any public comment cards? No? Anyone from the public wish to comment on this? Going to make that number 7? We'll make the attendance sheet number 7. And I don't think there's any further exhibits from anybody? Okay. The last one, Exhibit 7, is entered into the record, or admitted into the record as well the attendance sheet. At this point in time, I am going to close the hearing on agenda item number 1a, I think is what we're calling it. And then we'll move to the action portion of this action item number 1b.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: I move to adopt the proposed changes to 19.31.17 NMAC as presented by the Department and allow the Department to make minor corrections to comply with filing this rule with state records and archives.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any questions or comments? Discussion? All in favor.

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: The ayes have it. Good job, Stewart. Thank you. That's a big deal. Hearing item number 2. This is the informational portion of rulemaking hearing on final rule changes on the Javelina Rule 19.31.21 NMAC for the 2019-23 seasons. I will declare this hearing now open. Are there any exhibits for proposed amendments to rule 19.31.21 for the record?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, there are 6 exhibits for the record: Exhibit 1, notice of the rule making; Exhibit 2, the initial proposed rule; Exhibit 3, the presentation being presented to the Commission today; Exhibit 4, the summary of the proposed changes; Exhibit 5, the technical info that was relied upon to develop the rule; and Exhibit 2 [phonetic], the two public comments we had during the rulemaking process.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: You've marked those exhibits 1 through 6?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, that is correct.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Exhibits 1 through 6 are admitted into the record. Does the public have any written documents they wish to enter into the record at this time? They'll get another

opportunity (indiscernible/background noise). I don't see anything. Stewart, would you please introduce the proposed rule for 19.31.21?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, if you recall about two years ago we amended this rule to better adjust how we hunt Javelina in the state. We created that kind of Boot Hill portion that was the draw area and the rest of the state was open for the over-the-counter hunts that were up to [phonetic] licenses sold. Just wanted to show you that overall we have about a 30 percent success rate on Javelina. The success rates by over-the-counter hunts versus some of the success rates on the Boot Hill, and the Boot Hill is definitely a little bit, gets some higher success but the statewide is still high success. The public comments we had, two like I said. There was one that talked about moving the youth hunt to start on February 5th because of conflict with archery. We didn't really receive much on that. We didn't think it was a big issue. We didn't really move on that proposal because of it. We felt that the structure of the hunt so far has been fairly productive so we didn't move that. And the other is statutory change looking for [phonetic] licenses. That is not a Commission change. That would have to go through statute to adjust license cost for Javelina. Real quick biology, you know they are really highly productive or can be. It's really environmental conditions that are driving Javelina and productivity population, not really harvest mortality. So hunting probably really doesn't have impact on hunting populations. It's more on climatic conditions and what that landscape looks like for Javelina rather than hunting. Our proposed changes, again, is just adjusting the seasons for the calendar dates and then no other proposed changes to the Javelina rule based upon what the last minute was—excuse me, the last amendment two years ago was. With that, I'll take questions.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any questions or comments from the Commission? Are there, anyone signed up on this one? I guess there will be no standing and identifying yourself then for this one. And that's marked for Number 7?

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Correct.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Attendance sheet is marked as Number 7. I'll admit Exhibit 7 along with Exhibit 6 into the record. Anything further on this one from the Department's perspective?

STEWART LILEY: Not at this time, no.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Anyone from the public? Not seeing or hearing anyone from the public, I'll close the informational portion of this hearing and we will move to the action portion of item number 2b. Can I get a motion on this please?

COMMISSIONER PETERSON: Mr. Chairman, I move to adopt the proposed changes to 19.31.21 NMAC as presented by the Department and allow the Department to make minor corrections to comply with filing this rule with state records and archives.

VICE-CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any questions? Comments? Further discussion? All in favor on action item number 2b and the motion that's on the table. All in favor.

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any opposed?

[Laughter]

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: No opposed. Okay.

COMMISSIONER: We were asleep [phonetic] there, Mr. Chairman.

[Crosstalk]

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: I used a different rigamarole there. I just threw you off a little bit. My apologies. Hearing item number 3a, the informational portion of rulemaking hearing on final rule changes on the pronghorn antelope rule 19.31.15 NMAC for the 2019-2013—or 2023 seasons, excuse me. The hearing is now open. Are there any exhibits for proposed new part in rule 19.31.15 for the record?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, we will enter 6 exhibits: Exhibit 1, the notice of the rulemaking; Exhibit 2, the initial proposed rule; Exhibit 3, the presentation given to the Commission today; Exhibit 4, the summary of the proposed changes; Exhibit 5, the technical information we relied upon to develop the rule; and Exhibit 6, the 140 public comments received to date.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: And those are all marked Exhibits 1 through 6?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, that is correct.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: I will admit Exhibits 1 through 6 into the record. Does the public have any exhibits they want us to consider at the outset? You have written, something written?

SPEAKER: (Indiscernible)

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: You're going to make a public comment? Okay, we'll pick that up in just a minute. Is there anything in writing? Okay. How many public comments?

SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Five signed up? Okay. We'll move on to you introducing the proposed new rule for 19.13.15 [phonetic].

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, as you well know, this has been about a year and a half in the making. So we've had these discussions multiple times. I wanted to take the opportunity to just go back a little bit on how this rule came to about. The biology based on pronghorn is unique compared to our other ungulates in the state. Really it's driven by fawn survival more than any other populations. But the unique part about pronghorn is the fast growth especially in terms of growth of, in horns as it comes on to trophy age and trophy size. Really they can reach peak trophy size at 2 years old, 2 to 4 years old. If you look in the Boon and Crockett book at the top 20 bucks, the ones in the top 15, the majority are 3 years old or younger. So they're really reaching that maturity fast and in achieving that they reach body size fast. And the same with females in terms of being able to have young and pregnant. They reach that really fast compared to the others. One of the big shifts that the Department has done in the last 5 to 6 years is to shift our pronghorn survey methodology. We're really getting into more of a stats-based [phonetic] methodology to understand what pronghorn populations are doing across the landscape but also realizing that we've captured almost 1,000 pronghorn in the last 10 years and (indiscernible) some of our survey data. And we really are undercounting bucks. The buck-to-doe ratio as what we see in the air versus what we get on the ground are higher on the ground than what they were in the air. And that makes sense with a 1-year-old or coming on 1-year-old pronghorn buck that has about the same horn size as a female. It's very difficult to classify. So we have been very conservative in our harvesting of bucks through time because of that. Again, once you get past that 4 years old, the horn size actually starts to decline. So an older age buck doesn't mean anything for trophy quality. So given that, there's a unique

opportunity, for hunter opportunity with pronghorn just because of their biology. But one of the biggest issues that we have with pronghorn right now is the current system, our A-PLUS system that doesn't allow equal distribution of hunting opportunities across the landscape. Pronghorn are not equally distributed across the landscape. They are more clumped. They clump where habitat is best. But the way the system recognized it currently is you, we only recognized it through a minimum acreage. If you didn't meet minimum acreage you weren't able to hunt pronghorn even if you were a 5,000 acre ranch or let's say you were in GMU 12 for example. If you're a 12,000 acre rancher in GMU 12 and you have 400 pronghorn on your property the current system would not allow you to hunt because of the way that we distribute licenses based upon minimum acreage. So what you'll see there in front of you is just a graphic of an example of a GMU where we have pronghorn hunts. That white unhashed area is where we currently are hunting. The red is ranches that would like to participate but don't meet minimum qualifying, and that black patch doesn't qualify. It may be because it's 20 small little ranches that don't even come close or it may be people don't want to enter into the system. So there's a lot of people from the private land side that don't want to take on a public hunter if they have public land. And the current rule makes that happen. There may be people that don't want to sign an agreement with the Department to be able to hunt. They'd rather be able to just be, to manage their hunting on their own. So what you see there is 265 ranches that had self-identified that want to hunt but don't meet minimal qualifying acreages across the state. There's a lot more ranches out there that would like to hunt, don't want to sign up, so they just don't participate. One of the big things that as you will recall, we presented this in front of the Commission, I think this is the fourth time now. We've made changes throughout this, through every single iteration. We've probably had more public meetings with this rule than we've had, at least in my history with the Department—

and we've made iterations and changes based upon what public comment has. What you'll see in front of you today is the structure of what the proposal is. It's based on comments we took in. Now not every single comment we took in went into the rule but the majority went into the rule. One of the biggest changes was we originally proposed hunting August, September, October. One of the biggest against [phonetic] was to hunt in August only. So we moved those hunts to August. One of the other big things was that we originally proposed 5-day hunts. We moved those to 3-day hunts after concerns from that. You'll see there, that's the general structure we have throughout the state on an archery hunt being 9 days long and then each one of those 3 rifle hunts being 3-day hunts. Depending on the year, some years there's 5 Saturdays in August and some years there's only 4 and it will fall on a different Saturday given the structure of the year. One of the biggest things that we did is, currently in the pronghorn rule there's 60 hunt codes that a hunter could choose from to go hunting in the state. With this new proposal there's 160 different choices that a hunter could choose from to go hunt. You choose by your hunt that you want to go on or by the unit that you want to go on. So it really increases the opportunity in the hunters to select what they want to hunt on rather than applying for the one rifle hunt in the northeast that includes all the GMUs in the northeast quadrant. You could select at this point the second hunt in 57 for example. One of the other big notable changes given public comment that we had or some of the big ones we had is the discussion about checker-boarded properties that are private land intermixed with either State or BLM or Forest Service on how to really hunt those ranches or hunt those properties appropriately. What we created in this system was a ranch-wide agreement. So basically what it does is it allows that landowner that might have a public lease land, either State or BLM or Forest Service and their private land to enroll that whole property under what we would call a ranch-wide agreement. When they enroll that property we'll

limit the amount of tags that the private landowner receives but they can hunt the entire enrollment of that property. When they enroll that, though, anyone that drew that hunt in that unit has the ability to go on their unrestricted access to be able to hunt. So it's kind of a, it was a system that there was some individuals that liked the current A-PLUS system, don't mind public hunters coming on their deeded property and don't mind having a special (indiscernible) checkerboard instance where they would allow that to happen. So that was one of the big changes that we did as we went through the public process. One of the other big ones was the pronghorn conservation recognition program, kind of like what we have for deer. Those properties that are making substantial benefits to pronghorn biology, pronghorn animals, we want to recognize those. What this does is allow them to have more adjustable or allows us to work with them to have a more flexible harvest date, not necessarily number of tags or how many pronghorn are going to be killed but when those pronghorn are going to be killed is really the flexibility to say, Look, you have a privet [phonetic] and you're not minding pronghorn eating on it, they're going on to public land and providing an opportunity and you want to keep encouraging that. Or you've modified your fences to allow pronghorn moving through and back and forth or a year like this where you're watering during the fawning season where it's really important for nutrition. It gives them if the August structure hunt doesn't work for them, we can work with them on a structured hunt that would. So was one of the big ones we did. And then throughout time, talking with landowners and the public down in the southeast was splitting GMU 31 and 32 into different, in half so we'd distribute hunters more appropriately across there. Like I entered into the record, there were 140 public comments. The comments ranged all across the different spectrum but in general the comments were more in favor of the proposed changes than opposed. And some of those opposed, the comments that were opposed to the changes were

comments that we took into consideration and then made those changes. For example, we had probably 25 comments that talked about—well, it was 21 comments—that were opposed to the 5 days hunt structure. We changed that to 3. So really, yes there was an opposed but then it got changed back to where it went into the favor of them. Real quick break down on summary by the quadrants in the state. Northeast: our proposal to increase rifle tags from 379 currently to 515 in the draw; archery from 100 to 200; and youth rifle from 100 to 280; mobility impaired we would maintain the current opportunity. A unique herd, the Tres Piedras herd, lives at high elevation. GMU 4 has been currently closed to pronghorn hunting. We're proposing opening 4 at this time to pronghorn hunting and we're also proposing an archery hunt in those GMUs to give a unique opportunity for hunting pronghorn up on the Aspens. You know, there's not many populations of pronghorn in the Aspens anywhere in the United States. Southeast area, slight increases, not much increased. The population (indiscernible) coming up this time sustain, it's a big increase but you'll see a 6 percent increase in rifle, 20 percent in archery, and then maintaining on youth and mobility impaired. Again, splitting GMU 31, 32. Northwest is probably one of our smallest pronghorn populations, a very slight increase of 3 tags on rifle and 5 on archery. Southwest area, a little bit of an increase, a little bit more than some of the areas: rifle going from 122 to 185; archery 122 to 135; and youth, an increase from 37 to 42. [Crosstalk] –That antelope there that's in that picture is actually the world's record antelope that was killed in, outside in the southwest area—; maintaining the mobility impaired opportunity with that. And with that, I would take any questions.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: So Stewart, would you characterize these changes as being based on the best available science the Department has available to it?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, yes we would because it's hunting pronghorn as they are distributed on the landscape rather than trying to do it on a treating every pronghorn acre as equal across the landscape. This now lets hunters and landowners decide where pronghorn are to be able to hunt them with opportunity with this [phonetic].

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: And would you consider these changes to be in accord with best practices for wildlife management for this species?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, I would.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any questions or comments from the Commission? We're going to take public comment and then we can circle back around.

COMMISSIONER: Not right now.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Mr. Wells, you get a double shot.

[Background noise only]

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: I don't need it. Somebody else can take it. It's radioactive.

JIM WELLS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, and Director Sandoval. My name is Jim Wells. I live in Albuquerque at 10600 Eagle Rock Avenue Northeast. Just a point of clarification for the Commission and with all due respect to Stewart. The aspect of not being able to hunt those ranches that are in those units that are checkerboard I think is a false statement. The MI hunters, the archery hunters and the youth hunters all with legal access to those particular public lands can hunt those ranches. They also can pay trespass fees to those particular landowners. So I think that needs to be made clear to the Commission. You all probably know how I feel about this proposal. And I've offered some alternatives that seem like they just, they

just went away. And I'm using the MI, the archery, the youth hunt as an example. But I think it's very drastic. I think this change has consequences to both the herd and the landowners with regard to the trespass issues that a lot of us are going to have to deal with. So anyway, one of the things I did notice in the motion I thought was a little ironic to me was make the minor corrections and as looked through this and I saw the yellow I thought well, I know you guys have what you have to say but I'm thinking it's a large change. It has potential for some large implications to both the landowners and the herds. That's all I have from me personally.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Then I have you down for a couple of . . .

JIM WELLS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: So . . .

JIM WELLS: Okay.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: . . . like another organization (indiscernible).

JIM WELLS: Caren Cowan, as some of you may know is, has had some health issues so she was not able to make it. She asked me as a member to go ahead and make this statement based on, for the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association: The New Mexico Cattle Growers Association appreciates all the efforts the Commission and Department have put into this rulemaking. Unfortunately unit-wide with land mix status options still allows what appears to be an unlimited number of hunters on their ranches. This will be a great hardship on these folks. If there was an ability to control the number of hunters on the public and state trust lands, New Mexico Cattle Growers Association may have a different position. At this time, the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association must oppose the proposed rule. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. So is it unlimited? What's your sense of the rule as written?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, in the rule the number of public hunters is limited by rule. So it is not unlimited.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Not unlimited.

STEWART LILEY: Not for public hunters by rule. And the draw, as you'll see in the rule that's proposed in front of you today, each GMU and each hunt has a limited amount of hunters that we could draw.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: So are they worried about, oh, the hunters that go on a unit go to the one ranch?

JIM WELLS: Yes, that's correct.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: That doesn't happen during elk or deer, does it?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Salopek, in order to go hunt on private deeded property, that landowner would have to give written permission. That would be an illegal hunt by that individual if they were to enter upon, just like it would be a deer or elk or other hunt.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Keep puzzling over that. We'll pick it up here in a minute. And, Todd Leahy? Todd Lee? Is he still around?

SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) still here, so . . .

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Well, we'll give him a minute. Brian Olney.

BRIAN OLNEY: Yes, sir. Commissioners, everybody.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: You need to identify yourself . . .

BRIAN OLNEY: Brian Olney . . .

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: . . . basic information about yourself.

BRIAN OLNEY: My family owns a ranch near Magdalena-Socorro area. And I can't speak of any other areas, you know, other than the southwest part of the state. But our ranch and a few bordering ranchers we've talked to and you know when I see increasing tags on the antelope in that area I don't see how it could be done because I mean our antelope population there is pretty weak right now I'd say due to drought and other conditions and I think I'd give it a second look to do anything in that area before making changes there. I know some ranchers there on the San Agustin plains where the antelope population is usually pretty good, you know. And Jackie Bruton [phonetic], Travis Keeny [phonetic], they have big ranches there and they've got the same concerns I have about increasing any antelope hunts in that area. You know I'm a hunter but I just, I don't know, it just don't seem with the drought and other things right now that you could do that. And that's all I got. You know, right now it's so bad over there a lot of the antelope are getting killed on the side of the highways because that's the only green grass right now that they're able to get. You know, I've seen several just there on Highway 60 by my place getting killed this year. But thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. Lance Bernal. I do have your written submission and we'll mark that as an exhibit and get it into the record as well.

LANCE BERNAL: My name is Lance Bernal. I'm actually the wildlife biologist at Vermejo Park Ranch up in northeastern New Mexico. We just want to reiterate our support for the rule

especially the New Mexico Game and Fish taking into consideration our comments on the pronghorn conservation program. We're excited about it. We're looking forward to it. I already spoke with Oren [phonetic] on how we can get a head start on that. So we look forward to this new rule if it goes through. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. Todd Leahy. He is in the house.

TODD LEAHY: My apologies.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Oh, it's okay.

(Indiscernible)

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: That's all right.

TODD LEAHY: Todd Leahy, New Mexico Wildlife Federation. Mr. Chairman, [crosstalk] Commissioners.

SPEAKER: Sorry.

TODD LEAHY: Thank you very much. I just wanted to echo our support. You received formal comments from us that were submitted prior to this to the website. You also have the written comments from me today. I just wanted to say that the Wildlife Federation supports the rule. We thank the Department for its sort of innovative approach to taking this rule and we look forward to working with you as the rule goes along to monitor and make sure everything's working and addressing flaws and making changes as we need. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. Any further public comment? I'll take one more.

Attendance sheet. Before you say anything, you've got to sign in or something bad will happen.

[Laughter]

Final Copy

[Background sounds only]

KATIE DELORENZO: Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, I'm Katie DeLorenzo, Southwest Coordinator for Back Country Hunters and Anglers. BHA [phonetic] strongly supports the pronghorn rule. We certainly appreciate more public draw opportunity and the ability of the Department to more adeptly manage our pronghorn population. In addition, we value being able to hunt the entire GMU and hope that encourages communication between both public land hunters and the private landowners as well. So we applaud the progress and hope to see it evolve further in the future.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. Okay. We're on Exhibit 6, correct? That was the last number?

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: I believe it's 7.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: So Exhibit 7 will be the March 1, 2018 letter from Vermejo Park Ranch. Mark that number 7. The attendance sheet I will admit as Exhibit 8.

SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Commissioners, questions, comments?

COMMISSIONER RYAN: I'll make a couple of comments. One is that we've tried to listen a whole lot to, you know, both sides of this issue. In particular, I attended a lot of private landowner/ranch owner meetings to hear their concerns about trespass and the issues they're having from public hunters on their, on the public lands that are included in their ranch boundaries. And so I would like to applaud the Department for all the meetings that they've had and the ways that the Department and also the law enforcement division of the Department has

been working with ranchers to help address this trespass issue. I see a lot of movement among the DA's offices and magistrate judges to help address this issue. We've also been pretty harsh on making sure that those criminal trespasses that come up for revocation are all approved and those folks are getting their licenses revoked for criminal trespass. So I do want to applaud the Department for that. And I want to keep the ball moving forward to help continue to address those concerns. But you know, absent eliminating all public hunters from the public lands that they're entitled to hunt under the, you know, lease agreement with State Land Office and on BLM lands, that's just not an option. That's just something they're entitled to have and so this A-PLUS program I support because it puts the control and decision making in the private landowner and like we heard from public comments, there's areas of drought and concern. Well, that private landowner can address that drought and concern and not allow hunters that year, for several years, in order to bring the numbers back up. So the landowner knows what's going on on its ranch and is the best person to make decisions regarding the wildlife that's on its ranch. And that's why I support this program. Thank you to the Department and Stewart for all of your hard work.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any other questions or comments?

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: I do have some comments, maybe also a question here. Stewart, again great job with all this long process that we've been out there getting input. My question again is like our Pocket Ranger technology, the app, where are we at on that as far as, you know, coming up with the private versus public land? And I think that would really help with the trespassing. And you know it's nice to see the law enforcement be able to make a good case. But also this would probably also encourage private owners to also properly post their property as

well. And I think that's a key thing here, not only your access point or your gate into that property but you know, throughout their whole property on that. Where are we at on that?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, one of the biggest things or the one big thing the Department has been working on is an app either through Pocket Ranger or through CarryMap. Working with the BLM and in cooperation with the State Land Office to really have a map that could be on a cell phone where a hunter knows where they're at, but also show on that the area where access points are to legally accessible public land. So we worked with our GIS team. Our Geographic Information Team has been working with the State Land Office with their GIS people and the BLM to really go, all right this point is an access point that's confusing. Let's put it on this map so hunters know that this is the legal access point to get to public land here. And it shows that through the map. You can pull it up in any quadrant of the state. A hunter can download it from the Department's website, put it on their phone and it shows those points. I think there's over 500 access points across the state right now. We keep working with our law enforcement and also the BLM law enforcement, the State Land Office, their field offices, to keep putting more points on there of where access, those legal access points are, where hunters can get to the public land and to better delineate what's public or publicly legally accessible as well.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: One thing I would encourage, you know, as part of our education in our Department is possibly some workshops on to how to utilize this program to really benefit, you know, hunters and the public on access points. You know and I know the question always arises like you were showing the checker-platted map there, entering state to state and crossing that corner piece. You know, is that legal or not if it's not an actual access point. Those are the

kinds of things that I think I would like to see making us more aware and what, you know, to follow those rules.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Let me follow up on Mr. Well's concern, that's (indiscernible) to quality or picking the best ranch out of the bunch if you will. What recourse does a private landowner have if that were to happen, if you were to have sort of every hunter going to the same ranch or the same spot. What recourse would a private landowner have under the circumstance?

STEWART LILEY: So, Mr. Chairman, right now the proposed rule in front of you, a public hunter cannot go in or on deeded (indiscernible) deeded property without written property—permission, excuse me. So if a private landowner with deeded land does not want public hunters or any hunters on their land, it would be illegal on entry. So the question would be, if a public or private landowner wanted public hunters on their deeded land, they could allow them to go on there. It's the same thing as deer right now or elk. So our tag numbers on this, we try to limit the number of hunters per hunt code to try to really look at distribution of hunters across the landscape. Why we split 31 or 32 is to say look, hunters will self-distribute. Let's not put 500 hunters in this hunt code at one time. Why we went to 160 hunt codes was there might be only 10 hunters in an entire GMU during that hunt time so they could distribute across. Most hunters are not going to want to go pull up where there's 15 other pickup trucks and go hunt that public land together. They go distribute across. So we . . .

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: So you went to more hunt codes?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, we went to more hunt codes, fewer hunters in the field at one time.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: To slice and dice it more effectively?

STEWART LILEY: That is correct.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Okay. Mr. Wells, that may not solve your problem but does it answer any of your questions?

JIM WELLS: No, no sir. What I'm more concerned about is the aspect of (indiscernible) legal posting of the land (indiscernible/inaudible, microphone not picking up) posting in pastures when you (indiscernible/inaudible) Pocket Ranger, I think that's a great tool, but again that (indiscernible) does not have that charge (indiscernible) you know, the way they could be at 500 feet (indiscernible/inaudible) I don't know. (indiscernible/inaudible) to it. It may push all the animals over to the private land, I don't know (indiscernible). I just can't see a system that's that broken (indiscernible) my point. (Indiscernible/inaudible) adding an additional hunt code to allow those ranches that are not signed up (indiscernible/inaudible).

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Understood.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Question.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Stewart, the way you have it listed here, you go by unit. When you come out in the proclamation is that going to be rifle then bow and muzzle loader instead of like this right here?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Salopek, that is correct. We'll have it separated on the proclamation just for ease of rules and archives and records. That's how they like it.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: I figured that. I just wanted to make sure. Well, you all put a lot of effort into it. We looked at this eight years ago and I want to thank you for working with landowners and special interest groups to come to, it's a big change. I think it's on the right track. Yes, there will be issues. Your unitization, open gates, I think that was my biggest concern I think that helps adjust to some of the concerns. Naturally Mr. Wells has some valid points but we have issues right with the system we have with landowners or public hunters. So I commend you all for what you did.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: And just let me just address signage. It may be a burden. I'm not sure it's an undue burden. You're asking to invoke the machinery of the state to help you bounce trespassers or alleged trespassers. I don't believe it's too much to ask to maintain signage. It gives clear guidance to the men and women in the field who have to do a difficult, sometimes difficult job of dealing with trespassers or alleged trespassers. So I'm sympathetic but there has to be some sort of balance between invoking the machinery of the state to your benefit versus what you need to do to get that done. So I'm sympathetic but I think the signage requirements that we've got strike a pretty fair balance at the end of the day. Any other questions or comments on this one.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: I think just a comment, too, is that the Department has been working with landowners and Cattle Growers Association to put together some options. The issue of signage is a state, is a legislative matter and it's not something that our Commission can address because it's statutory. So, you know, the Department is working with the cattle growers and landowners to come up with other solutions but that process with the legislature is definitely time consuming and more involved on how to resolve some of that. So I encourage that process to continue.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Would you lay out some of those options that are being considered?

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: So some of the options would be to have a different option besides posting of a sign, that there be an alternative such as painting corner fence posts a certain color. It would be easier and cheaper for a rancher to be able to do that rather than maintaining a certain sign at specific dimensions and so forth. So that's an option that's rolling around. It didn't pick up a lot of support this past legislative session but my understanding is that there is some support behind it and interest in trying to continue to work through some of that at the legislature in the future. So . . .

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Is the . . .

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: It's not falling on deaf ears. It's just not something we can address as a Commission. It has to go through the legislature.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Is the signage requirement under Title 17 under our . . .

SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, no. It sits under Chapter 30, Criminal Trespass.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Why would they put it under 30? Under 17, I could more easily deal with it.

SPEAKER: It's a criminal trespass.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: It's outside my bailiwick. Yes, Colonel.

COLONEL GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, we do have some regulations under 17 to deal with similar violations but criminal trespassing is (indiscernible).

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: And that's signage requirements under Title 30?

COLONEL GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, that is correct.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Makes it a little harder for me to . . .

COMMISSIONER: It's been there for ages.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: So it's a personal, you know, interest of mine to continue to help the cattle growers and those ranchers interested in pushing that issue at the legislature. I'm, there's a lot of people interested and trying to think of options like that that would make it easier on the landowner to post. In other words, that way, the reason the sign's important is because if they're posted when a trespasser comes on the law enforcement can immediately arrest them and all the factors of criminal trespass that are needed to be there in order to make an arrest is there. If there is no signage or no posts painted like we would propose then the landowner has to tell the trespasser to leave, has to notify them first. Then they would have to come back and then they could be arrested. So that's the hurdle for law enforcement and landowners in trying to arrest and prosecute these criminal trespassers. And so we, there has been a lot of really good productive discussions between our law, our Department's law enforcement and landowners in trying to come up with more solutions. I'm also aware that our law enforcement, when they go out now, have a bunch of information pamphlets to help educate landowners. That's more than it used to be. So I know the law enforcement is making really big strides to inform, in order to help them when, you know, and get license plate numbers and to help, you know, to have a real goal in order to prosecute these trespassers.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: What we'll do, is we'll look at Title 30 and then the powers the Commission has, sometimes there are—well, in banking we'd call it cross collateralization but there may be the opportunity for the Commission to weigh in on this. I haven't looked at it

directly but I'll visit with the Department's—wait your turn, Mr. Wells—I'll look at, I'll visit with the Department's lawyer and see if there is a way that we can extend or more easily do signage without having to do a legislative fix on it.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Mr. Chairman, the reason why I brought it up, I believe that the antelope rule, if it passes the way it's proposed, is a great opportunity for us to do something as a Department and it's a great start because when we look at even the EPLUS with the ranch only and unit wide private owners, that's even more complicated. But I think this is a great start to have a tool for us to work with.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Okay. Mr. Wells, one more comment and that's it.

JIM WELLS: The only think I'd like to say is if you could put the responsibility, share the responsibility between the hunter and the landowner, that would be a lot more palatable (indiscernible/microphone pick up). I mean, right now it's purely on the landowner (indiscernible) trespass is something that's been abused to no end. In Texas I believe it's on the hunter as to where the heck they are (indiscernible/inaudible).

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: It's 6 to 1, half dozen to the other. Okay. I'm going to close the informational portion of this and close the record unless there's any further questions or comments from the Commission. Anything else you want to say? Okay.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: I'll make a motion.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: We are closed. We will move on to the action item portion of number 3b.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: I move to adopt the proposed changes to 19.31.15 NMAC as presented by the Department and allow the Department to make minor corrections to comply with filing this rule with state records and archives.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTROYA: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any questions, comments or further discussion? All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any opposed? It passes unanimously. Hearing item number 4, informational portion, repeal of pronghorn license allocation system, 19.30.12 NMAC. Stewart. Hearing is now open. Are there any exhibits for proposed repeal of rule 19.31.12 [phonetic] for the record?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, I have 5 exhibits: Exhibit 1, the notice of the rulemaking; Exhibit 2, the initial proposed repeal of the rule; Exhibit 3, the presentation given to the Commission today; Exhibit 4, the technical information that was relied upon for the repeal; and Exhibit 5, the 140 public comments.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Are those the same public comments from the other?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, that is correct.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Otherwise, it would be too much of a coincidence. And that's exhibit numbers 1 through . . .

STEWART LILEY: Five.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: . . . 5. Exhibits 1 through 5 are admitted into the record. Does the public have any exhibits they wish to introduce at this time? They will get the opportunity again

before we close the record. Okay. You can introduce the proposed repeal of rule for 19.31.12 [phonetic].

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, the rule that you just passed at the last hearing nullifies the pronghorn rule. Therefore, we are proposing to repeal it. That is it.

COMMISSIONER 1: Short and sweet.

COMMISSIONER 2: That's it?

[Laughter]

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Out with a whimper and not a bang.

COMMISSIONER: You want a motion?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Well, let me get any more, I've got one public comment. Katy DeLorenzo. Katy DeLorenzo, in the back. Maybe I should shout.

KATY DELORENZO: I think I put my comment on the wrong one. I already made my statement, so I'm good to go.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: So we will put this down as a 3a.

KATY DELORENZO: Yep. Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: And we already have your name on the sheet for 3a, so I think we're okay adding that. Is there any public comment then on item number 4? Nothing further back there? Okay, no public comment. Anything else to put in the record. All right. I will close the record on item number 4a, and we will move on to the action item number 4b. We'll vote on the repeal of the pronghorn license allocation system rule 19.30.12 NMAC.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: So, Mr. Chair, just for the record?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: That's just part of the exhibit.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Six.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Whatever the one was that had the attendance sheet and all that, from the previous rule.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Right. But Mr. Chairman, we do need to acknowledge that there was no public comment for this, so this will be item number 6 for this purpose for 4a. So, Mr. Chairman, we had no public comment for the hearing and so we'll acknowledge this as no public comment as Exhibit Number 6 for this hearing.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: So why don't we just pull a blank sheet and put a 6 on it. Because that's not accurate.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: I made the correction. It doesn't matter either way but we do need—

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: So give me a blank one. That one belongs in the hearing before.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Mr. Chairman, we have captured her signature on the other sign in sheet so we do have that reflected in 3a.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: We'll just do a blank one I think for this one.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: So for the record, Mr. Chairman, this will be Exhibit Number 6.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes. Drop a 4a on the top of that.

[Background sounds only]

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: So Exhibits 1 through 6 are admitted. Record's closed. We're now on to the action item portion of it. Can I get a motion on action item number 4b?

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTROYA: I move to repeal the pronghorn license allocation system 19.31.12 NMAC as presented by the Department.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any further discussion, questions or comments? Seeing none, all in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: The ayes have it. We're going to do public comment, agenda item number 14, then we're going to take a break and go into executive session. Is there any public comment? It's really dramatic when you come around the corner like that. I kind of like it.

SPEAKER: You have to smile.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Maybe we'll put a screen or something up in the future because it looks a whole lot cooler than, you know, just coming up from the back. [Laughter] Benjamin Otero.

[Crosstalk]

BENJAMIN OTERO: Good morning, Chairman, Commissioners, Director Sandoval. I was just here to introduce myself. I am the new president of New Mexico Conservation Officers Association. I'm just here to say that we're looking forward to working with you, Commissioners, on anything that comes up in the future. And if there's anything that you ever

need from us as an officers' association, don't be afraid to give us a call or give me a call if there's anything. I am looking forward to working with you in the future.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. Katy DeLorenzo.

SPEAKER: She left.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: No mas? (Indiscernible). She's back. Katy, you're on my public comment list. Anything to say? Okay.

KATY DELORENZO: (Indiscernible).

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All right. Then no more public comment. We will both take a break. But we will do our motion to go into Executive Session.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: 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; and pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(7); on matters subject to the attorney-client privilege relating to threatened or pending litigation which the Commission and/or Department is to may be come a participant as listed on agenda item 15, subsection A, B and C.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Roll call vote.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Peterson.

COMMISSIONER PETERSON: Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ramos.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ricklefs.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Commissioner Ricklefs.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ryan.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Salopek.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Vice Chairman Montoya.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Chairman Kienzle.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: And we are going to be meeting in here, so everybody will need to step . . . [Audio ends here.]

[Return from Executive Session]

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: 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. Okay. Agenda item number 16, request by private citizen for the Commission to receive donated property in Union County for a shooting range located in Clayton, New Mexico.

CHRIS CHADWICK: Okay, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission. So today I come before you, much like the title said, to talk about, not only to talk about a donation to property in Clayton, New Mexico for the purpose of constructing a shooting range but I'd also like to give you a quick update as to the status of the range and the progress that we're making on the Clayton shooting range. As you know, Ms. Suzie Bush [phonetic] recently donated a 160-acre parcel for the purpose of developing a range. Since that time, much work has been done to complete this project. Again, it is 160 acres of property. It's located east of State Road 370 in Clayton, New Mexico and just outside of town. It is an area that would be well served as there are no other shooting ranges within 90 miles of the proposed range that Suzie donated. As far as construction with that property right now, we are in the final stages of the NEPA compliance process. All the land transfer has taken place. We've met with the public, had several public meetings and right now we are in a comment period with Fish and Wildlife Service awaiting for their approval. Once that happens then we can amend our current grant and roll into the construction phase and then of course we'll have to go out to contractor and move forward with it. But we are very well along in this process. I'm very pleased with the design that came out of this plan which I can get into here briefly.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any chance we'll break ground this year?

CHRIS CHADWICK: I think we're in, I think we have a 30-day comment period and then there's another 45 days that has to take place but we can begin going out to bid and amending the grant to fund the project after this 30-day grant period or waiting, comment period is over.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: (Indiscernible).

CHRIS CHADWICK: I think so. Yessir, Mr. Chairman. As you can see the current design is quite, is a full service range including 90 [phonetic] 10-yard shooting range, archery ranges, 50-yard small bore rifle range, a 50-yard pistol range. Plans also call for a 200-yard rifle range and then a shotgun trap range with a 5-stand overlay. In addition to that, we will have shooting benches. The pistol and the—not the pistol but the rifle range and the small bore and the 200-yard rifle range will each have covered shooting ports to shoot from on the range itself. So moving forward to the donation, we do have a new opportunity. Mrs. Bush is very pleased with the way the progress that we've made on it. She likes the design. And she has come forward and made an offer to donate an additional 76 acres to add to our, to complement this existing plan. This donation is intended for, at some point in the future. She recognizes that we are limited in terms of the amount of money that's available but she is, she would like to see that additional acreage be used for a possible education center in the future, maybe an indoor air rifle range and possibly even an archery range indoors.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: We could put the Las Cruces office there.

[Laughter.]

CHRIS CHADWICK: Mr. Chairman it would be a little bit hard for Commissioners Salopek and Ramos to visit the office but we could certainly do whatever.

COMMISSIONER: That would probably be the goal, to not have us there.

[Laughter.]

CHRIS CHADWICK: So essentially what I'm coming before you is I wanted to give you a brief overview of the donation and of course it's a purview of the Commission to choose whether or not to accept this donation. But given all the desire that's been expressed in the past to construct

shooting ranges, I think that this is an amazing opportunity for the Commission and the Department. So with that I'll stand for any questions.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: What was the, you had public meetings? Or a public meeting?

CHRIS CHADWICK: Mr. Chairman, yes. We've actually had two public meetings that we hosted. In addition to that there were numerous city council meetings that occurred there in the community of Clayton.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Public support?

CHRIS CHADWICK: We've got overwhelming public support. There are some people that did voice some opposition to it. They based it upon the location, number 1. And then number 2, they voiced some concern that they hadn't been made aware of the project which is sort of contradictory when you go back and look at the information that was in the local newspaper. There were numerous articles.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Did the city vote on it, and vote in support or something like that?

CHRIS CHADWICK: Mr. Chairman, yes indeed. In fact they had to amend local ordinance to account for it. In addition to that, they voted in full support of the construction of this project.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Mr. Chairman, that was the county. The shooting range is not in the city limits.

[Crosstalk]

CHRIS CHADWICK: I stand corrected.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: That's about as good as you're going to get from public support and comment. Any questions or comments on this? Well this is pretty exciting. I'm encouraged by

this one. It's perhaps quite a bit different than the other one, Tres Piedras and some of the others we're working on it. Looks like we'll get the shooting and archery part of it off the ground pretty quickly and then at some point down the road, hopefully another facility to go with it.

CHRIS CHADWICK: Mr. Chairman, we've got numerous projects in line. This one is certainly moved to the forefront in terms of the speed with which we think we can complete this project. We are moving as quickly as the bureaucratic inertia will allow us.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Right on. I will entertain a motion on this one to accept the donation of property located near Clayton, New Mexico in Union County as presented by the Department.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTROYA: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Department accept the donation of the property located near Clayton, New Mexico and in Union County.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Questions or comments? Discussion? All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: The ayes have it. Our last agenda item, agenda item number 17, approval of the Mesilla Valley Bosque Plan.

CHRIS CHADWICK: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, as you know this has been a discussion point before the Commission for some time now. Today, however, I'm pleased to come forward with you and present the actual plan, the transition plan that we like to call it. As a result of several public meetings that we had, this Commission and the members of the Commission asked the Department to move forward and they wanted to see a plan on what we

would do as an agency if we were to move into and assume this property which is now currently under the State Parks Division. When formulating the plan, we looked at a number of things. We wanted to make sure that we covered numerous topics including some of the real brief introduction, some of the history, some of the cultural resources, and all those other items listed on the slide. Most importantly I think is the Department's vision and perhaps maybe some of the proposed additions that we're going to make to it and of course the habitat work that we are going to be performing on that property along with the education opportunities that we hope to provide. Backing up just one step, you know I think it's a very important to talk about some of the items also found in here which may be embedded within the plan and those are really the benefits of this transition. You know, we've looked at this really long and hard and immediately it jumps out that if the Department assumes this, obviously the Bosque Valley, we have the resources to increase onsite staffing. We can provide additional education programs that right now State Parks just isn't positioned to provide. We think that with some of the volunteer, the opportunities for volunteer, to increase our volunteer base, we passed rule. We have a process in which we're beginning to recruit volunteers and we think we can sure make use of them. In addition to that, of course, we do the habitat restoration, continue with some of the partnerships and generally improve the facility itself, not only some of the buildings but also some of the outdoor areas which the public can access. As you can see with this slide before you, this is a quick rendition of some of the changes that we helped propose. Up in the top corner you will see where we would hope to increase some of our storage capacity and then you can look at some of the changes that we're looking at doing in terms of creating additional office space, additional reception area for the public when they enter the park. As we pull out a little bit you'll see where plans include the addition of a multi-purpose room. This will be modeled somewhat after what

we see at the Albuquerque and Roswell projects except these will have its own stand-alone bathrooms and a little bit, it will have a vestibule, but it will be able to facilitate hosting Game Commission meetings. But just as important as that, it will be able to provide an indoor classroom setting to where we can meet with our public and provide educational opportunities for them. You can see that we've also had plans to increase some of the public parking that can occur on weekends and after hours, some additional trails to access the back part of the park and then some security gates would be installed. In addition to that, we're proposing paving the road that would come into the park in order to maybe lower some of the dust that blows when people come through on the current substrate that's on that road.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: There's no, is there an archery component to this?

COMMISSIONER: There's a plan for the future I guess on the west end of it, northwest end (indiscernible).

CHRIS CHADWICK: Mr. Chairman, indeed, you know this is a brief overview of the plan. But indeed we do have, if we were to look into about where the Bear Head is on that slide, there's a trail that goes down there and in that area we propose to install an archery range. The plans also call for, you know, increasing some, our water capability, and improving some of the habitat to add for some fishing opportunities. There's a whole range of education components, outdoor skills-based education as well as wildlife or non-consumptive education opportunities that we hope to provide out there at the facility once we get up and running. So with that I'll stand for any additional questions.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman, I do have some comments I'd like to make. And, number 1, I want to thank the Department for really opening up the door for collaboration with

me and really looking at, you know, the standard for New Mexico. It's really exciting to see the Albuquerque property and future site for Roswell and I think Dona Ana County and the southwest of New Mexico is really in a great position with this property if we get this going, not only with the road that's going in but as you start looking at the habitat value that's there, to really I think to take the educational aspect of it to another level for New Mexico for all visitors from, you know, kids with the archery involved there but also looking at the aquatic tanks that are going to be, you know, with the water rights and everything that's going on there to get those (indiscernible) with the aquaculture, whatever we're going to be doing there. The trail system, you know I think also even looking at the Mesilla Valley Park people who want to come in and you know, looking at visitors to continue kind of what's been there in the past, but I think our Department's going to take it to a much higher level. I do also want to say that I want to thank the Department for the thinking-out-of-the-box, to also keep that standard with the new facilities that we're proposing there. And I think that the nice thing that is happening is that we have the building that's outside of the original property there which will give us some multipurpose uses for that. I know there's still a lot of questions from the public as far as like weekend use and things like that because they've been originally used to weddings and things like that. But I know that the Department's going to be discussing all those type of things. But overall, I think we've definitely met the standard for New Mexico and I really look forward to seeing it if not exceeding those standards. Great job.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: If it is being used for weddings and events like that, I would encourage those to continue. Again, I don't want to be a round peg in a square hole. I want to be a good neighbor in these communities. So unless it's totally inappropriate or not possible to do, I would strongly encourage that those kinds of things be continued.

CHRIS CHADWICK: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, I appreciate your comments. And I think the full intent is to, with all our facilities, to make them part of the community and to provide a place for our public, our constituents, which is broad based. It is not any one segment of our local community to be able to utilize our facilities. So I'm sure these are the opportunities that will present themselves moving forward.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: So even your visitors' center, you know, I think the way we've changed that, to that being the first place where they walk in our door. It's very open, welcoming. I think it's going to be what New Mexico Game and Fish is all about. Again, thank you very much.

CHRIS CHADWICK: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, thank you. I agree with you. This is an amazing opportunity with the property that's out there. There's a whole bunch of opportunities available to us. So thank you.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: I'm going to say, Chris, thank you and the Department and Ralph. He was really on top of it. I know down there it gives people heartburn because they made a gallant effort to make it into a state park and now it's going to Game and Fish and they don't necessarily (indiscernible) whether they like us or not. But my—for the record, what are we saving State Parks by doing this? How much were they losing a year for the record.

CHRIS CHADWICK: You know, on the face of it, it looks to me, and the numbers we looked at, there's about 200 thousand dollars in savings annually for both the State Parks and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. You know, for State Parks, they're very strapped. They really don't have enough FTE, or full time employees, to run their parks. They've only got one

person at the park. So I think the value and savings to them is exponential. But [crosstalk] monetary.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: But would it be roughly 80 or 100 thousand, roughly half?

CHRIS CHADWICK: It is my understanding that it would be about 100 thousand dollars annually for State Parks alone.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: So that being said, we won't charge visitors. Have they been charging a fee to get in?

CHRIS CHADWICK: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Salopek, yes. That's one of the benefits that will happen with this transition when it occurs. We will no longer, the Department has no plans at this point to charge any sort of entrance fee to utilize the facility.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: And it's still open. That's, I just wanted those points, you know. Kudos to you all for doing what you did. Thank you. Great job.

CHRIS CHADWICK: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any other questions or comments? I don't think there's anyone from the public to comment on this. Can I get a motion? This is an action item. Can I get a motion on this one?

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman, I'd be honored to move to approve the Mesilla Bosque Plan as presented.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: And I'll second that.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any further questions, comments? Discussion? All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: The ayes have it. One final agenda item. Can I get a motion to adjourn?

COMMISSIONER RYAN: So moved.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: The ayes have it.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Rose Leonard and I, Cheryl Melgarejo,
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 Transcriptionist) (Name of Transcriptionist)

Quality Assurance and transcript provided by:
Premier Visual Voice, LLC
www.premiervoice.com: 216-246-9477

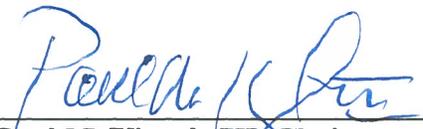
**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION
Tuesday May 22, 2018
Holiday Inn Express (Meeting Room)
60 Entrada Dr. Los Alamos, NM 87544
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**



Alexandra Sandoval, Director and Secretary



Date



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



Date

AS/scd