

New Mexico State Game Commission New Mexico
Department of Game and Fish
November 15, 2021

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order 09:02:58 a.m. (00:00:31)
Called to order by Chairwoman Salazar Hickey.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call and Approval of Agenda 09:03:06 a.m. (00:00:38)
Present: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairman Vesbach, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

Motion: To approve the agenda as written.

Motion by: Commissioner Salazar-Henry

Seconded by: Commissioner Lopez

Approved: Approve: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairman Vesbach, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Introduction of Guests 09:04:43 a.m. (00:02:15)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Consent Agenda (Action Items A - B) 09:07:26 a.m. (00:04:59)

- A. Approval of Minutes of October 22, 2021, Virtual Special Commission Meeting.
- B. Approval of License Revocations.

Motion: Move to approve the consent agenda A and B.

Motion by: Vice-chairman Vesbach

Seconded by: Commissioner Bates

Approved: Approve: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairman Vesbach, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: General Overview of the Governmental Conduct Act

09:08:51 a.m. (00:06:24)

Valerie Joe, Assistant Attorney General, provided brief direction for the commission on Governmental Conduct Act.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Directors Report 09:13:31 a.m. (00:11:04)

Wildlife Management Division

- Worked with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to successfully capture and release 24 ptarmigan in the Pecos Wilderness, to augment the small extant population as part of the 2017 State Ptarmigan Recovery Plan.
- 46 Desert bighorn sheep were translocated from the Red Rock Facility to the Alamo Waco Mountains. These sheep will create a new population of desert sheep, further expanding and stabilizing the species.
- Vidal Creek headwater restoration was implemented in August before the hunts began, and utilized \$100k of HSP funding and \$300k of PR dollars to install 155 structures designed to enhance and conserve slope wetland and riparian areas important for a wide variety of upland and aquatic wildlife species.
- Completion of annual elk population surveys across the state.

Fisheries Management Division

- The kokanee spawn occurred due to significant interdivisional cooperation.
- Glenwood hatchery renovations are continuing as planned. Substantial completion is anticipated for April 2022.
- Completed second rotenone treatment in Costilla for RGCT.

Law Enforcement Division

- In the process of hiring 5 new recruits to add to the 7 currently in training.
- Dealing with multiple moose sightings in the Farmington area and developing a plan if relocation becomes necessary.
- Dealing with GMU 48 and HWY 199 access issues as well as complaints from folks about amount of non-hunting OHV use.
- Hunting season and associated patrols (to include wilderness patrols), roadblocks, artificial wildlife operations, night flights, investigations, etc. are occurring amongst other duties.
- Andrew Armendariz was recently promoted to Training Lt. position and has actively begun recruiting efforts.
- Officers continue to respond to a wide variety of calls from wildlife related to car accidents to threats of suicide.

Environmental and Ecological Planning Division

- Ginny Seamster was recently promoted to the Assistant Chief Position.
- Working with the Department of Transportation and their contractor to finalize the Wildlife Corridors Act Draft Action Plan.
- 12 Projects were selected for funding under the Share With Wildlife Program.

Administrative Services Division

- The Human Resources division has been asked to help EMNRD with processing of HR actions for EMNRD employees.

Information and Education Division

- Education staff are back to offering small in-person workshops, clinics and classes. Everything from basic fishing skills, wildlife conservation, hunter education and off-highway vehicle safety training.
- The Department's Spanish translation efforts continue to pick up, including the 2022-2023 Rules and Information booklets.
- With the assistance of D.J. Case and Associates, the Department completed a social media listening study that will help shape social media messages.
- The Department completed an analysis of alternative funding sources and public perceptions of these options. We will be posting this to the web site and using it going forward as a basis for discussion about future funding.
- Due to supply chain issues for paper, the Department was told there will not be paper available to print Rules and Information Booklets (RIBs) until likely February. The Department will be encouraging people to go digital this year and the Department plans to simplify access to the electronic RIB. The Department is trying to have a limited number of RIBs printed in both English and Spanish.
- Finally – we have received notice from the USFWS that PR receipts are up approximately 66% and DJ receipts are down approximately 3.7%. We do not have apportionment numbers yet but expect the PR apportionment to be significantly higher this year and DJ to be slightly lower.

RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT

This bill provides funding for (1) the conservation or restoration of wildlife and plant species of greatest conservation need; (2) the wildlife conservation strategies of states, territories or the District of Columbia; and (3) wildlife conservation education and recreation projects.

For New Mexico, the bill is estimated to bring \$27 million in federal funds for SGCN work. The bill will require a \$9 million match which we have requested via a special appropriation from the General Fund. A total of \$36 million would then be available to conserve species and habitats that have not traditionally been a focus of management.

LEGISLATURE

The Department has three legislative priorities during this short 30-day financial session. Our FY 23 budget request which includes a total requested increase of 10%, a request for a special appropriation to provide match in anticipation of passage of RAWA and our Capital Outlay request of \$19.5 million for dam repairs, hatchery renovations and habitat enhancement.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: General Public Comments 09:34:39 a.m. (00:32:12)

Motion: To have the director present a plan at January's commission meeting for Recovering America's Wildlife Act with timeline, stakeholder outreach, expansion of services, staff and salaries and Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Relevancy Roadmap recommendations.

Motion by: Vice-chairman Vesbach

Seconded by: Commissioner Bates

Approved: Approve: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairman Vesbach, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: CFO Report 09:50:49 a.m. (00:48:22)

The Department presented financial and license sales data for discussion purposes. The presentation included revenue data related to license sales, federal revenue and other revenue generated by the Department for the first quarter of FY2022. In addition, the Department presented multiple fiscal year comparisons for license sales. Lastly, the Department presented the requested FY23 budget and the anticipated accomplishments with the funding.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Field Operations Report 10:12:57 a.m. (01:10:30)

The Department presented an overview of the Field Operations Division which will include topics such as Law Enforcement efforts, Special Operations, Investigations and the various programs within Field Ops such as permits, guide/outfitters, revocation, training and recruitment.

Motion: Move to approve the Ron Carroll shooting preserve.

Motion by: Vice-chairman Vesbach

Seconded by: Commissioner Salazar-Henry

Approved: Approve: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairman Vesbach, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

Motion: Move to approve the Zachary Graham shooting preserve.

Motion by: Vice-chairman Vesbach

Seconded by: Commissioner Salazar-Henry

Approved: Approve: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairman Vesbach, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Wildlife Report 10:59:06 a.m. (01:56:38)

The Department presented an update on progress toward achieving goals for the Habitat Stamp Program (19.34.6 NMAC). The Department also presented a recommendation to fill a recently vacated seat on the nine-member Citizen Advisory Committee.

Motion: Move to approve Department recommended applicant for Citizen Advisory Committee.

Motion by: Vice-chairman Vesbach

Seconded by: Commissioner Lopez

Approved: Approve: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairman Vesbach, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: General Public Comment 11:22:26 a.m. (02:19:58)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Old Business, New Business 11:26:33 a.m. (02:24:06)

Commissioner Salazar-Henry requested discussion on E-PLUS, a formal presentation of the wildlife corridor plan, a plan for Recovering America's Wildlife Act, discussions on the hunting rules that open in January and the Open Gate Program at January's commission meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Executive Session (Closed to the Public) 11:29:08 a.m. (02:26:41)

Motion: Move to adjourn into executive session, closed to the public, pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(8) NMSA 1978, to discuss property purchase, acquisition or disposal; Section 10-15-1(H)(7) NMSA 1978, Attorney-Client Privilege, Litigation Update (Discussion); Section 10-15-1(H)(7) NMSA 1978, Attorney-Client Privilege, Litigation Update (Discussion), and Section 10-15 1(H)(2) NMSA 1978, Personnel Matters.

Motion by: Commissioner Salazar-Henry

Seconded by: Commissioner Lopez

Approved: Approved: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chairman Vesbach, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Salazar-Henry.

11:31:00 a.m. (02:28:33)

This Commission had adjourned into executive session, closed to the public. During the executive session, the Commission discussed only those matters specified in its Motion to Adjourn, and it took no action as to any matter.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Adjourn (Action Item) 01:37:02 p.m. (04:34:35)

Adjourned by: Chairwoman Salazar Hickey

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION

Monday, November 15, 2021

Department of Game and Fish NW Area Office 7816 Alamo Rd. NW Albuquerque, NM 87120

<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/webcast/>



Michael B. Sloane

3/4/2022

Date



Sharon Salazar Hickey, Chair

New Mexico State Game Commission

3/4/2022

Date

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