

STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING

July 22, 2022

Held at

INN OF THE MOUNTAIN GODS

287 Carrizo Canyon Road, Mescalero, NM 88340

PRESENT:

Sharon Salazar Hickey, Chairwoman

Deanna Archuleta, Vice-Chairwoman

Greg Fulfer, Commissioner

Tirzio Lopez, Commissioner

Roberta Salazar-Henry, Commissioner

Michael Sloane, Director

Stewart Liley, Wildlife Management Division Chief

Sally Malave, Assistant Attorney General

Tristanna Bickford, Assistant Chief of Education



1 MS. SALAZAR HICKEY: That was very good.

2 Commissioners, I think we're ready to move on to Agenda
3 Item Number 9.

4 Director, I think we're looking for Chief Stewart
5 Liley to speak about Migratory Bird Rule 19.13. -- not
6 13 -- 19.31.6, where we're going to have some deliberate
7 and a decision today on Migratory Bird Rule.

8 Good morning, Chief, how are you?

9 MR. LILEY: Good morning, Madam Chairwoman. As you
10 say, this is a hearing, so I think you might have a script
11 for your hearing to start the hearing off.

12 MS. SALAZAR HICKEY: I do. Yes, I think -- give me a
13 minute, please. Very good. Good morning.

14 This hearing will please come to order. My name is
15 Sharon Salazar Hickey. I'm the Chair of the State's Game
16 Commission. I will be serving as the hearing officer, and
17 be advised by the Commission's Counsel from the Office of
18 Attorney General.

19 The purpose of this hearing is for the Commission to
20 receive public comment on repealing and replacing Migratory
21 Game Bird Rule Title 19 Chapter 31 Part 6 of the New Mexico
22 Administrative Code, which will become effective on April
23 1st, 2023.

24 These hearings are being conducted in accordance with
25 the provisions of the Game and Fish Act and the State Rules



1 Act.

2 These hearings are being audio taped and video
3 recorded. Anyone interested in a copy of the audio tape or
4 video recording should contact Ryan Darr with the Game and
5 Fish Department.

6 Public notice of this hearing was advertised in the
7 New Mexico Register, the New Mexico Sunshine Portal, and on
8 the Department's website. Copies of the proposed
9 amendments have been available on the Department's website.

10 Those wishing to comment here today must have
11 registered to submit public comment.

12 The rule hearing will be conducted in the following
13 manner: Staff will only present pre-filed exhibits.
14 Exhibits admitted into evidence are available for review by
15 the public on the Department's website. After all exhibits
16 are entered, we will proceed with the presentation of the
17 proposed rule, after which testimony will be taken from the
18 audience. Participants are asked to wait until they are
19 called upon to speak in order to ensure that the hearing is
20 accurately recorded. Only one person at a time shall be
21 allowed to speak. Any person recognized to speak is asked
22 to, one, identify yourself by name and who you are
23 affiliated with for the record each time you are
24 recognized. And two, speak loud and clear to accurately
25 record your comments.



1 After a person has offered comment, they will stand
2 for questions from the Hearing Officer. The audience may
3 also ask questions of anyone offering comments after being
4 recognized by me.

5 These hearings are not subject to judicial rules of
6 evidence. However, in the interests of efficiency, I
7 reserve the right to limit any testimony deemed irrelevant,
8 redundant, or unduly repetitious. The Commission may
9 discuss the proposed new rule after the public comment
10 portion of the hearing.

11 Final Commission action, including adoption of the
12 rules, may occur after the conclusion of the presentation
13 and public comment period of each hearing.

14 This hearing is now open. Are there any exhibits for
15 the proposed amendment, 19.31.6 NMAC for the record?

16 MR. LILEY: Chair, I wish to enter six exhibits into
17 the record. Exhibit Number 1, the notice of rulemaking.
18 Exhibit Number 2, the initial proposed rule that was posted
19 online. Exhibit 3, the presentation that I'll be giving
20 today. Exhibit 4, the summary of the proposed changes --
21 changes, excuse me. Exhibit 5, the technical information
22 that we relied upon to develop the rule. And Exhibit 6,
23 the two public comments we received during the rule making
24 process

25 MS. SALAZAR HICKEY: Chief Stewart, can you please



1 introduce the supposed amendment 19.31.6?

2 MR. LILEY: Chair members of the Commission, as you
3 stated -- as we know, this is the final rule hearing. We
4 do this rule on an annual basis in conjunction with Fish
5 and Wildlife Service setting migratory bird season dates
6 and the framework that is allowed by the Federal Government
7 in cooperation with other states in the flyway, and again,
8 the Fish and Wildlife Service.

9 The final frameworks were just published this last
10 week in the Federal Register, so they are in the Federal
11 Register, so you're -- basically, de facto, adopting what
12 the Federal Government and us were working conjunctionally
13 to do on that.

14 What it is is just changing our migratory game bird
15 season based off of calendar issues and public comment. I
16 believe what it is up north where it is the start the
17 season a little bit earlier, and end a little bit sooner
18 because the freezeout up north, and in the south try to
19 extend the season as long as allowed by Federal
20 Regulations.

21 And then adjusting Sandhill Crane allocation based on
22 our -- our referments. Doing draw hunts based on our
23 allocation. I'll get to that in just a second.

24 One of the big things for a lot of our hunters is
25 Pintails. Pintail bag limit changes a little bit from year



1 to year depending on population status. Pintail bag limit
2 this next season, or this coming up season, will remain at
3 one, and then no changes to our duck season.

4 Again, we have received two public comments, mainly in
5 support of the proposed changes. There was one comment on
6 crow season. The federal frameworks for this does not set
7 crow seasons. Crow seasons are outside the federal web
8 list and migratory bird framework. It would've been at the
9 non -- excuse me, game bird rule setting. There is
10 allowance that is in there, but it does not fall under
11 migratory game bird in the federal framework settings.

12 Sandhill Crane permits, as you'll see here, we went
13 from an allocation last year of 831 to an allocation of
14 988. That's the highest allocation the State's ever
15 received on Sandhill Crane -- the Rocky Mountain
16 Population, so what we have done or proposed, is to add 55
17 more permits to the middle Rio Grande Valley hunts, and 10
18 permits to the January hunt. We think with that addition
19 of those permits will sell today within our allocated
20 numbers and be within our harvest objectives.

21 And so with that, I would take any questions we may
22 all have.

23 MS. SALAZAR HICKEY: Thank you, Chief. Do we have any
24 comments?

25 Commissioners, would you like to hear from the public?



1 No public comment? Okay. Go ahead.

2 So Exhibits 1 through 6 are hereby admitted into the
3 record.

4 Those that are registered and participated in the
5 hearing will be included on the attendance sheet. At this
6 time, the attendance sheet -- I guess we don't need an
7 attendance sheet. Okay. It will be more --

8 MR. LILEY: (Indiscernible).

9 MS. SALAZAR HICKEY: Exhibit Number 7, perfect.

10 Comments submitted in testimony heard during the rule
11 hearing will be reviewed by the Commission and discussed
12 during the open session of today's meeting. The Commission
13 will vote on the proposed amendments at this time. I would
14 like to thank everyone present for their participation
15 today. Let the record show that this rule making hearing
16 was adjourned at 10:58 a.m. Okay.

17 Commissioners, let's discuss the proposed changes. My
18 goodness. Well then, do we have a motion to approve the
19 proposed changes from the Department of -- ell, let me
20 be -- for the record, I'll go ahead and be clear before
21 your vote. The Vice Chair hereby moves to repeal and
22 replace 19.31.6 NMAC as is presented by the Department and
23 allow the Department to make minor corrections to comply
24 with filing this rule in State records and archives. Thank
25 you, Vice Chair, for your motion.



1 Okay. Director, can I please have a roll call vote?

2 MR. SLOANE: Commissioner Salazar -- Commissioner

3 Salazar-Henry?

4 MS. SALAZAR-HENRY: Yes.

5 MR. SLOANE: Commissioner Lopez?

6 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

7 MR. SLOANE: Commissioner Fulfer?

8 MR. FULFER: Yes.

9 MR. SLOANE: Vice Chair Archuleta?

10 MS. ARCHULETA: Yes.

11 MR. SLOANE: Chair Salazar Hickey?

12 MS. SALAZAR HICKEY: Yes.

13 MR. SLOANE: Motion's passed as unanimous.

14 MS. SALAZAR HICKEY: Perfect. Let us move on to
15 Agenda Item Number 7. Do we have Chief Stewart Liley
16 present?

17 MR. LILEY: (Audio interference).

18 MS. SALAZAR HICKEY: Then shall we begin. So this
19 hearing will please come to order. My name is Sharon
20 Salazar Hickey, Chair to the Commission. I will be serving
21 as the hearing officer, and be advised by the Commission's
22 counsel of the Office of Attorney General. The purpose of
23 this hearing is for the Commission to receive public
24 comment on appealing and replacing Barbary -- the Barbary
25 Sheep, Oryx, and Persian Ibex rule, Title 19 Chapter 31



1 Part 12, New Mexico Administrative Code, which will become
2 effective on April 1st, 2023.

3 These hearings are being conducted in accordance with
4 the provisions of the Game and Fish Act and the State Rules
5 Act. These hearings are being audio taped and video
6 recorded. Anyone interested in a copy of the audio tape or
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2 for the record each time you are recognized. And two,
3 speak loud and clear to accurately record your comments.
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5 questions from the hearing officer. The audience may also
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9 evidence. However, in the interest of efficiency, I
10 reserve the right to omit any testimony deemed irrelevant,
11 redundant, or unduly repetitious.

12 The Commission may discuss the proposed new rule after
13 the public comment portion of the hearing. Final
14 Commission action, including adoption of the rule, may
15 occur after the conclusion of the presentation and public
16 comment period of each hearing.

17 This hearing is now open. Are there exhibits for the
18 proposed amendment to 19.31.12 NMAC for the record?

19 MR. LILEY: Madam Chair, I wish to submit six
20 exhibits. Exhibit Number 1, the notice of the rule 19.
21 Exhibit Number 2, the initial proposed rules that were
22 posted on the Department's website. Exhibit 3, the
23 presentation that I'm giving today. Exhibit 4, the summary
24 of the proposed changes. Exhibit 5, the technical
25 information relied upon to develop the rule. And Exhibit



1 6, the 93 public comments we received during the rule
2 making process.

3 MS. SALAZAR HICKEY: Thank you. Exhibits 1 through 6
4 are hereby admitted into the record.

5 Stewart, can you please introduce the proposed change
6 amendments to 19.31.12?

7 MR. LILEY: Madam Chair, members of the Commission, so
8 I'm going to go through each species separately, Barbary
9 Sheep, then Oryx, then Ibex.

10 Starting out with Barbary Sheep, this is a look at the
11 public comments. You'll notice it says 81 instead of the
12 93 I just gave to you, but that is because we did receive
13 quite a few comments yesterday afternoon after I made this
14 presentation. It's mainly on the Oryx, so I'll update
15 those numbers verbally to you. But the Barbary Sheep
16 numbers -- number of comments remain the same from
17 yesterday when I finished this presentation.

18 You'll see here the biggest comment was opposed to
19 combining the units. That was early on in the initial
20 proposal by the Department when we first started to process
21 this back in March. At the June meeting, if you all
22 remember, those of you that were on the commission at that
23 time, we did stop proposing that and we went back to
24 keeping those hunts separate. And we -- it did not make a
25 biological impact by doing this, we took that public



1 comment and went back to some of the original proposed --
2 or excuse me, original way it's been and keep those hunts
3 separate.

4 There's a lot of different other comments either in
5 support of this or not support this. As you'll see there's
6 kind of conflicting, some support and some opposed. The
7 same -- same comment -- but again, the overarching comment
8 we did go back to splitting the units in there, and I'll
9 get to that in just a second.

10 The Department received harvest and licenses, in whole
11 last year -- in 2021, roughly 3,400 licenses -- just shy of
12 3,400 licenses sold. High reporting rate of 35 percent.
13 High success rate of 42 percent as well. You'll see that
14 male/female split on harvest. You'll notice that it
15 definitely is male biased, which has a little bit of a
16 population management concern, and you'll see that with one
17 of our proposals on McGregor Range in particular, that
18 we're more biased on the males, probably seeing more spread
19 of Barbary Sheep in other places.

20 Again, like I just stated, we are not proposing -- and
21 the final rule in front of you for adoption today, does not
22 have the combined GMUs that keeps the two split, the two
23 split being 29 and 30 as a separate combined unit, and 32,
24 36, 27. We are proposing increasing the number of rifle
25 hunted Barbary Sheet from five to eight across the state,



1 and then increasing draw licenses by 18 percent. Why you
2 see that plus in there, one of our proposals is to include
3 all of GMU34 in the over-the-counter areas. Currently only
4 the west side of it is in there. This expansion would
5 allow some more licenses, but we don't know what that would
6 be, that's why it's 18 plus, because it could be 19, 20,
7 30, because it is over the counter license.

8 There's also the proposal currently in some of our
9 Desert Bighorn Sheep ranges, we do not allow hunting of
10 Barbary Sheep over concerns of a mistaken identity in
11 harvesting the Desert Bighorn Sheep. That was done by the
12 time when we were probably less than 2 to 300 Desert Sheep
13 across the state. Huge impacts of mistaken identity. Now,
14 we're over almost 1500, so less of a concern. It also
15 allows us to have hunters potentially harvest Barbary Sheep
16 that are trying to establish in our Big -- Bighorn Sheep
17 ranges, which we (indiscernible).

18 And then the biggest one is an increase in McGregor
19 hunts on the McGregor Range, and trading in the new
20 female/immature designation on -- on there. Again, that's
21 part of that female stipend to try to reduce the population
22 on McGregor Range. We're proposing 150 licenses on
23 female/immature on McGregor Range. That's just there,
24 south of the -- basically going to the Texas border, south
25 of the Sacramento Mountains.



1 It appears that the proposed license changes, you'll
2 see here, moving from 1,790 to 2,120 -- that's the draw
3 licenses. That does not include over-the-counter licenses.
4 So again, (indiscernible), but that's our proposed on
5 Barbary Sheep for licenses.

6 Moving on to Oryx. Again, the 93 or 81 comments, but
7 I'll move that to 93. The majority of that came in those
8 new comments, the 12 new comments came in yesterday. They
9 comment on multiple pieces, so I'm going to, again, someone
10 maybe commented on multiple, sort of, the Department counts
11 it as one, but they commented on multiple aspects of -- of
12 it.

13 So the biggest -- what we saw yesterday was a big
14 comment on eliminating the Oryx mobility impaired hunt on
15 White Sands Missile Range, and creating that for 70 or
16 older. And then there was -- the next followed up and that
17 was seven comments, there was eight comments against any 70
18 plus hunt overall, that was eight comments that had that
19 yesterday. And you'll see there's some of those other
20 comments in there. And then there was one comment that
21 wished that we increased licenses greater, and then one
22 comment yesterday that was against any bad designation.

23 So there's a -- you'll see that probably with the
24 comments yesterday, the biggest was concerning the 70 plus
25 mobility impaired group that ranked at the top. Most of



1 them, again, supporting our changes, and there's some where
2 it's support and opposed in the same stance as you pointed
3 out. But overall, not a lot on the biological aspects of
4 this, this is more on kind of how the hunt structure occurs
5 versus the biological, how we plan on hunting Oryx over the
6 next four years.

7 Real briefly, we sold approximately 2,600 licenses
8 last year for Oryx -- 90 percent report rate, high success
9 rate, 74 percent. Occurring close to parody on the
10 male/female harvest on Oryx, with a high satisfaction.

11 So our proposed changes is to increase the offering of
12 licenses by 20 percent to keep that population from
13 growing, success rates have increased at the time, as we've
14 also allowed more licenses and the number of days to
15 harvest an animal has actually decreased suggesting an
16 increase in population.

17 We did do a -- a student structured shift on White
18 Sands to be able to allow some more once in a lifetime
19 hunts on each one of those periods. That was moving some
20 of that -- it used to be Iraq/Afghanistan Veteran Hunts,
21 and each hunt segment, we create a new hunt segment of just
22 any veteran hunt. By opening that up, it allowed us to put
23 more hunters at one time, or the same number of hunters on
24 the range, but at different times. It allowed us just to
25 open it up to anyone in the general pop.



1 The other thing that we're proposing doing is
2 changing -- right now we -- youth can draw the on range
3 multiple times as a youth. We are proposing to do it as a
4 once a youth designation. So if the youth hunter draws
5 that hunts, they would not be able to draw that hunt again
6 as a youth.

7 Again, as I mentioned a change real quick, right now
8 it's -- there is a hunt specific to Iraq/Afghanistan
9 veterans. During the last four years, we had a lot of
10 comments on changing that to any -- allow any veteran to be
11 able to apply, and that was one of the proposals.

12 One of the things at the last Commission meeting, if
13 you all recall, was to create 70 and older hunts, and we
14 did do 20 70 and older hunts on range, on the White Sands
15 Missile Range, and 20 off range as -- as kind of directed
16 by the committee at the last meeting. And at that point --
17 this is the -- this is our proposed licenses. You'll see
18 it going from 1,935 draw licenses to 3,210. A lot of that
19 being off-range, and you'll notice the biggest change is
20 200 more additional licenses off-range.

21 Moving to Ibex, Ibex comments, I think the majority
22 was in support of some -- some portion of the proposal.
23 You'll see there -- and then there is more comments on the
24 do not have female/immature hunts. I'll get to that in
25 just a second on why we're proposing still having those



1 hunts, and then kind of some -- some of the comments on
2 supporting license decreases, supporting ones to the youth,
3 etcetera, and opposing female/immature (indiscernible).

4 So real quick, the number of licenses we sold last
5 year was just shy of 400 licenses -- 93 percent reporting
6 rate, 25 percent success. You'll notice it was really
7 biased on the male harvest, 34 males, 5 females. So real
8 briefly, going back to the status of the Ibex population,
9 the Ibex population has definitely fluctuated in times
10 since the 1970s. We've seen a lot of sickness patterns in
11 the population. We are trying to keep Ibex isolated to the
12 Florida Mountains. The reason being is that's kind of an
13 agreement with the BLM we had, but another bigger concern
14 is disease transmission from Ibex to Desert Bighorn Sheep.
15 They can and will carry mycoplasma ovipneumoniae, which is
16 a bacteria that well has caused high mortality rates in
17 Desert Bighorn Sheep populations, and Bighorn Sheep
18 populations in general.

19 So we're trying to prevent Ibex movement off-range.
20 We see that movement start to occur in about 700 animals.
21 So anytime the population gets above 700, we start seeing
22 big potential movement off. We try to maintain it in that
23 700 range. The issue with Ibex is they are a twinning
24 species. It's one of our few animals that will -- will
25 twin, so they will have twins one year, and you can have a



1 high survival of twins. So you're doubling the population
2 you have in a period of two years. The issue that we have
3 run into in the past, we've gotten low populations, stopped
4 female/immature harvest, we can't keep up with our service
5 to detect how fast our population is growing. We overshoot
6 the 700 and we're at 1,200 animals, 1,300 animals. Then
7 we're on this campaign to bring the population down. We
8 bring it down too far and we get down into the 2-to-300
9 range. It's hard to -- to judge that harvest rate and what
10 you should be at, are they going to twin at a high rate,
11 are they not?

12 So our proposal in this one is to maintain a small
13 amount of female/immature licenses. We're proposing to
14 maintain 40 licenses so we can bring that population back
15 up towards 700 at a lower rate than what we would've had if
16 we just eliminate, overshoot our 700, have Ibexes come off
17 the mountain. So that's one of the biggest things that
18 we're trying to do, is get rid of the sick patterns. If
19 I showed you the graphic of it you would see -- and in
20 fact, one of the commentators mentioned it early on, high
21 numbers in our helicopter circuits, low numbers in our
22 helicopter circuits. Highs numbers, low numbers. And the
23 other thing to note, and when we get low numbers, group
24 sizes get smaller. Detectability out of helicopters is
25 worse, so we undercount, typically, when we get lower



1 numbers of Ibex on the mountain. So we -- we were -- he's
2 correct that we detected, that's observe, we observed
3 approximately 150 in the helicopter surveys. Actual
4 numbers is hard to say if we detected 80 percent, 50
5 percent, 60 percent. We estimate our population about
6 300 -- between 200 and 300 animals on the mountain right
7 now.

8 We also have an issue with spectator issue, because we
9 brought that -- brought that population back down, we
10 killed females at a higher rate to try to reduce the
11 population, and that's the way that -- that population
12 dynamics work. You want to kill the reproductive porch and
13 the populations become habit. In doing so we created,
14 basically, parities of the sex ratios. The same number of
15 males and the same number of females. And -- and
16 polygamous animals like this, that is an issue in terms of
17 breeding success and reproductive success. When you have
18 multiple mature males trying to breed the same female, we
19 have issues of -- concerns that could have issues of
20 biological condition of the female where she's being pushed
21 around so much, nutritional condition, she doesn't carry as
22 many kids. And the other aspect is -- is young guys get
23 pushed around a lot too.

24 So what we're trying to do as we're building the
25 population back, we're trying to get the sex ratios back to



1 more, quote-unquote, normal -- somewhere in that 50
2 males -- for every 100 females, 50 males.

3 The way that we're proposing to do that, you'll see
4 that proposed change is changing our definition of female
5 and immature male Ibex. Immature male Ibex have a
6 highest -- some of the highest background mortality rates,
7 die of mountain lions, die from other things, so the
8 probability of them becoming an old mature male like this
9 10 plus year old male is very low. We're trying to take
10 advantage about harvest the young males before they get --
11 while they have the higher mortality rate, to bring down
12 that sex ratio back to normal. So we're harvesting very
13 few females, harvesting the young males, and so young males
14 being males with horns that are less than 20 inches, a
15 year or a 2-year-old male, leaving the older age class
16 males, and continue to have a trophy class type of a hunt
17 but harvesting that segment, bringing that male segment
18 back.

19 That's why we are proposing continuing that
20 female/immature hunts. You'll see and you heard from
21 previous comments, it may be more to eliminate that -- or
22 proposals to keep it, again, to have a steady growth, we
23 want to see growth, but to where we don't have growth that
24 we can't deal with once it gets to above the level -- and
25 also have a female/immature hunt so it allows us to harvest



1 immature males.

2 There's another provision in the rule that we will
3 continue to keep that was in the previous rule that if we
4 determine that female harvest, the female component harvest
5 is unsustainable, within the four year rule we can propose
6 the Director with concurrence of the Chair, stopping that
7 act. So that is in the rule, that you are about to adopt
8 today that would allow us to stop that hunt if we feel it's
9 necessary that we, even though going down to 40 licenses
10 (indiscernible).

11 All right. So the other changes are just a simple
12 shifting of the hunt dates. So we have Saturday starts,
13 and the other one I got, Oryx is making -- there is a youth
14 hunt for Ibex in here. We are proposing making it, if you
15 draw it once as a youth, you can't draw it again as a
16 youth, so it's a once in a youth hunt.

17 We also are, as we discussed multiple times, and
18 Commissioner Fulfer, for your edification, we are proposing
19 the removing scopes, all the muzzleloaders from all big
20 game species. The reason for that proposal is through
21 time, as muzzleloaders become more effective, the success
22 rate with guns almost parity -- they're almost the same as
23 rifle hunts, so it's not much of a difference between a
24 single shot rifle and a single shot muzzleloader. When we
25 created muzzleloader hunts back 20, 30 years ago, the



1 reason why we created it is because with a lower success
2 rate we can offer more opportunity. We're wanting to still
3 be offered the opportunity to harvest a number of licenses,
4 so in order to do that, we would either have to cut
5 licenses or in the case of Ibex, our proposal would be, if
6 we did have -- if we did not use the scopes we eliminate
7 the hunt, because again it's not sustainable. But because
8 we're proposing removing scopes off muzzleloaders, we think
9 the success rate is going to drop drastically. Right now
10 they're about 40, 45 percent. We think they're going to be
11 in the teens or maybe less. So the harvest is a lot less,
12 but we can still offer the opportunity to go hunting.
13 There's still a chance, much less, but still offer the
14 hunt.

15 So with that, here's our license proposal. You'll
16 notice we do reduce licenses sales significantly and try to
17 maintain the once in a lifetime trophy quality hunt.
18 You'll also notice on the female/immature, I don't know why
19 that -- that -- where it says FMI, it got changed on mine.
20 It should say FSIM, that should be the muzzleloader hunt.
21 That should be -- the muzzleloader hunt is what we're
22 proposing going from 25 to 15, and then youth hunt from 15
23 to 5, female/immature going from 80 to 40.

24 And with that, I would take any questions.

25 MS. SALAZAR HICKEY: Thank you, Stewart. Would anyone



1 like to comment, and I've been given cards, so I shall see.
2 First comment is Gail Kramer (phonetic), can you please
3 come to the microphone?

4 MS. KRAMER: That was for something else.

5 MS. SALAZAR HICKEY: I'm sorry?

6 MS. KRAMER: That was for the general comments.

7 MS. SALAZAR HICKEY: Oh, I'm sorry. It said Hearing
8 10. Okay. then I will take this (indiscernible) later.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think the others are
10 (indiscernible).

11 MS. SALAZAR HICKEY: Okay. Brandon Wynn (phonetic),
12 were -- were you signed up for this particular --

13 MR. WYNN: I was, but I'm going to pass. Thank you
14 very much.

15 MS. SALAZAR HICKEY: Okay. Dennis Kaufman (phonetic).
16 Do you want to speak on this one? Okay. Very good. Thank
17 you, sir.

18 MR. KAUFMAN: I think I'd rather point out that that's
19 my photograph. (Audio interference). Thank you.

20 MS. SALAZAR HICKEY: That's beautiful. Thank you.

21 MR. KAUFMAN: I'm Dennis Kaufman. I've been working
22 and guiding for 38 years. I have over 800 days of my life
23 (indiscernible). In general, I like the changes that are
24 proposed. The one exception, I would like to see if in any
25 upcoming year for this four-year rule, the field surveys do



1 not show an increase in the numbers of females on just the
2 raw numbers, we exclude the FIM -- exclude the female tags
3 from the FIM hunt and limit it to young Ibex only. If
4 indeed the herd size increases based on the proposed rule,
5 then we're going to eventually get back to where we were.
6 But if the female population isn't increasing, we're on
7 flat water. I think that's enough from me. Thank you.

8 MS. SALAZAR HICKEY: Thank you. Next is Gilbert --
9 Gilbert Villegas (phonetic). Yes, thank you.

10 MR. VILLEGAS: Good morning, Commission, Madam Chair.
11 (Indiscernible). I work for White Sands Missile Range.
12 I'm an administrator there, working with Patrick Morrow
13 (phonetic). I'm the hunt program manager. I have several
14 comments.

15 One, I want to thank the Department, the big game
16 program manager Nicole Tatum (phonetic), and Stewart for
17 getting all the agencies together to have input in the
18 Barbary management unit 20 and 34. We support that
19 totally. The western expansion of the Barbary is crucial
20 to make sure that that -- we have over 100 miles of
21 mountain chain on White Sands Missile Range. We do not
22 have the resources to hunt Barbary on White Sands. We
23 currently have over 2,500 hunters that we have to deal
24 with, background checks, on an active weapons test
25 facility. And so we want to just thank the Department for



1 acknowledging to get that meeting together. I know I can
2 speak on behalf of Fort Bliss, Organ Mountain Peak, Organ
3 Mountains as well. We need to make sure that population
4 stays in -- on the east side and on the west. So we
5 support that totally.

6 And then just some comments regarding the -- the Iraqi
7 veteran hunt. We support it going to a veteran hunt. We
8 really wanted to make sure that it was a New Mexico veteran
9 hunt. As the rule stands right now, and I'm sure that the
10 Commissioner is aware of that, the way that veteran hunt
11 qualifies --

12 (End of audio)



C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Ashley Bennett, certify that the foregoing transcript is
a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Ashley Bennett

Ashley Bennett

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