A Message from the Director

As we consider the health and social challenges that confront us, the contributions and benefits of hunting and fishing to our citizens, communities and state are especially important.

Hunting and fishing have provided sustenance to many for generations. That is evident, but there is much more.

Being outdoors and enjoying wildlife and wildlands can benefit our health and wellbeing, help us to transcend the concerns of daily life and reconnect us with a long-standing wildlife heritage unique to New Mexico.

Beyond the direct benefits of hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation, funds necessary for wildlife conservation are provided from licenses fees and federal taxes on outdoor sporting equipment. With these funds agencies like the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish are able to restore species, improve habitat and provide educational programs. Rural communities across the state benefit as well with almost a billion dollars contributed annually to local economies.

And as a result of the support that hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation provides, species as diverse as elk and the Rio Grande cutthroat trout thrive, watersheds and forests flourish, and the Department can adapt and offer programs and remote services that address present challenges facing individuals and communities.

Your participation in the hunting and fishing sports also provides the means to teach our youth about the benefits of getting outdoors and the importance of becoming good stewards. Education is essential for future generations to recognize how important wild, natural resources are and how the knowledge and skills they develop now will help them steward these resources in the future.

As you plan your year in the great outdoors, consider these many benefits and allow time to share your experiences with someone new to hunting and fishing. Everyone needs to understand the important benefits wildlife conservation provides, whether health and well being, civic or economic. With your continued help we can ensure that the future remains bright and that our natural resources and heritage continue.

Thank you for your support and be safe in the field.

Michael B. Sloane, Director — New Mexico Department of Game and Fish