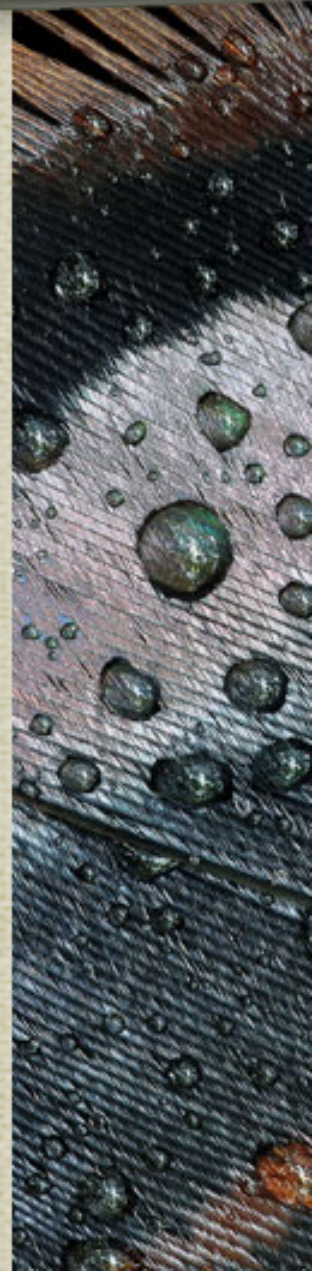




SHOOTING FOR THE FUTURE

Game and Fish-Sponsored
Shooting Program
in New Mexico





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Shooting sports play a critical role in funding the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish through excise taxes that fund wildlife management.





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Wildlife agencies are not likely able to influence urbanization, but it is possible for agencies to provide opportunities for urbanites to gain an introduction to hunting and shooting.

Current Department Efforts Include:

National Hunting and Fishing Day events

- Becoming an Outdoors Woman clinics
- National Archery in the Schools Program
- Outdoor Expo





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Introductory events provide opportunities for Game and Fish to contact individuals in the earliest stages of hunter or shooter recruitment.

- Awareness
- Interest
- Trial





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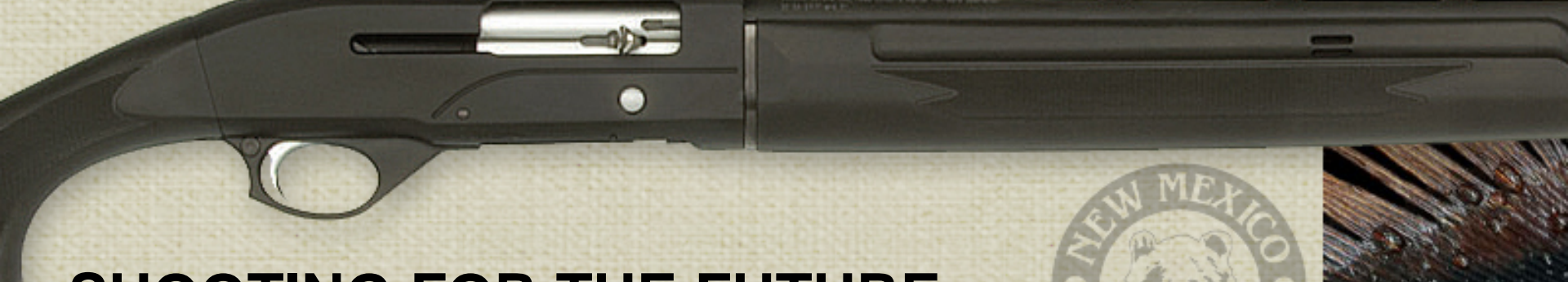
The next stage is Continuation with Support, or the Apprentice stage.

In hunting families, that support commonly comes from other family members who hunt and fish.

They gather around the campfire and tell stories, they cook, and they develop a “culture” of hunting.

The Department of Game and Fish currently offers a few programs for Apprentice hunters, the Youth Hunter Education Challenge is one example.





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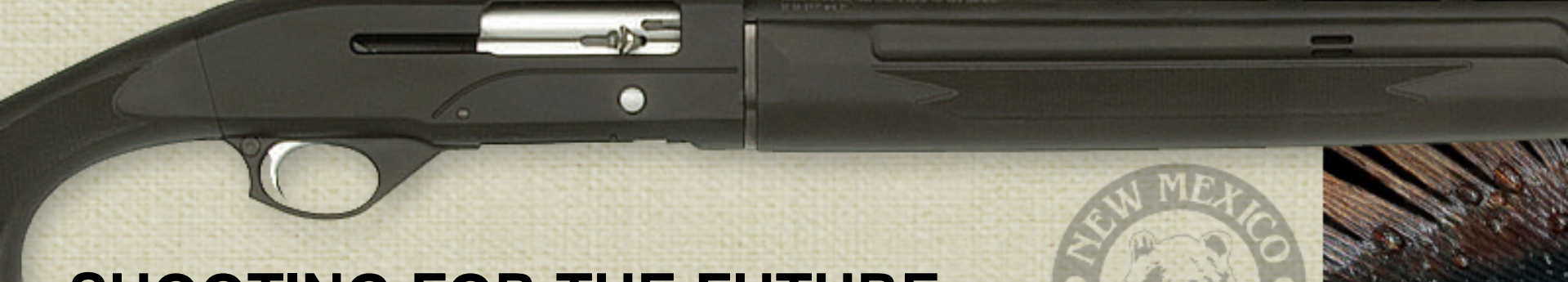
To expand this recruitment stage, many states are using shooting programs, for example:

- Alaska,
- Arizona,
- North Dakota
- Texas
- Utah

The Department proposed and received an expansion position for this purpose, but the statewide hiring freeze has delayed efforts to expand our efforts in this area.

Despite the delay, we are taking some steps in this direction.



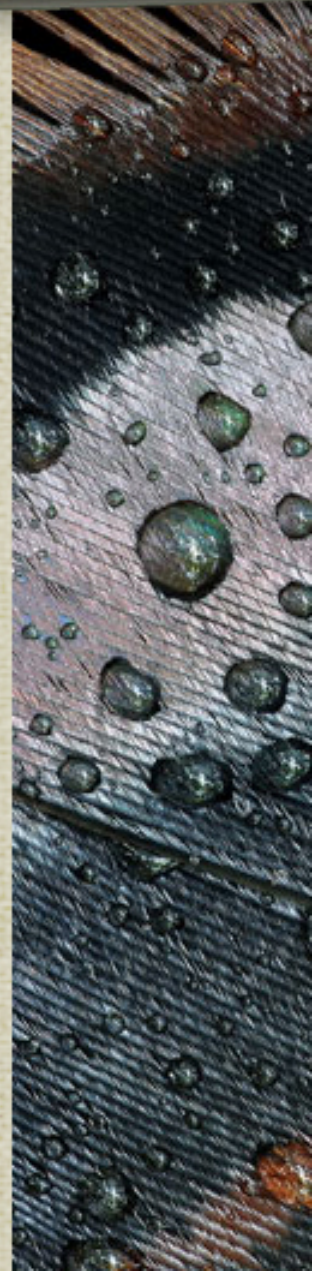


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We are working to schedule a coaches training clinic

- Jan. 30-31 at the NRA Whittington Center near Raton.
- The training will be provided by the Amateur Trapshooting Association.
- Coaches who pass the course will be eligible to work with young shooters through the ATA's AIM program.






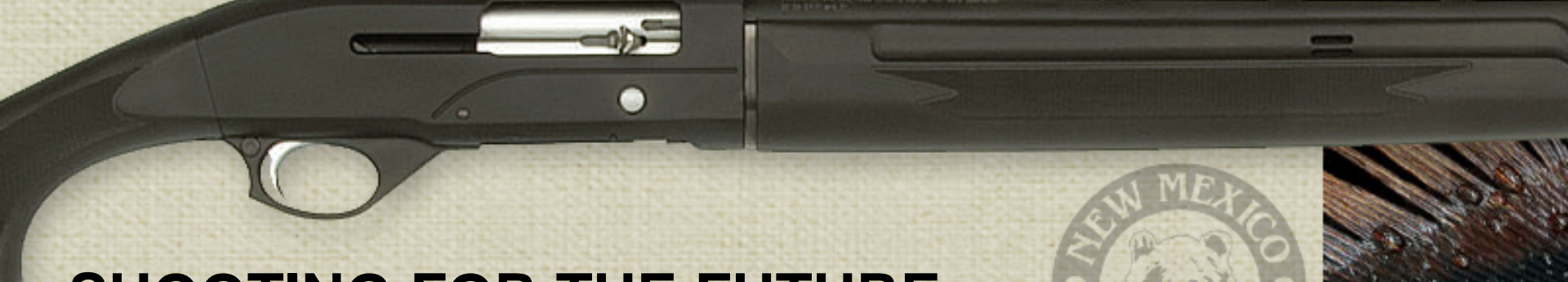
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AIM = **A**cademics, **I**ntegrity, **M**arksmanship.

Benefits of working with ATA include:

- Insurance coverage
 - The ATA will recognize 4H instructors
 - Established nationwide program
 - The ATA will list the training on its website, it is limited to 10 coaches.
- 



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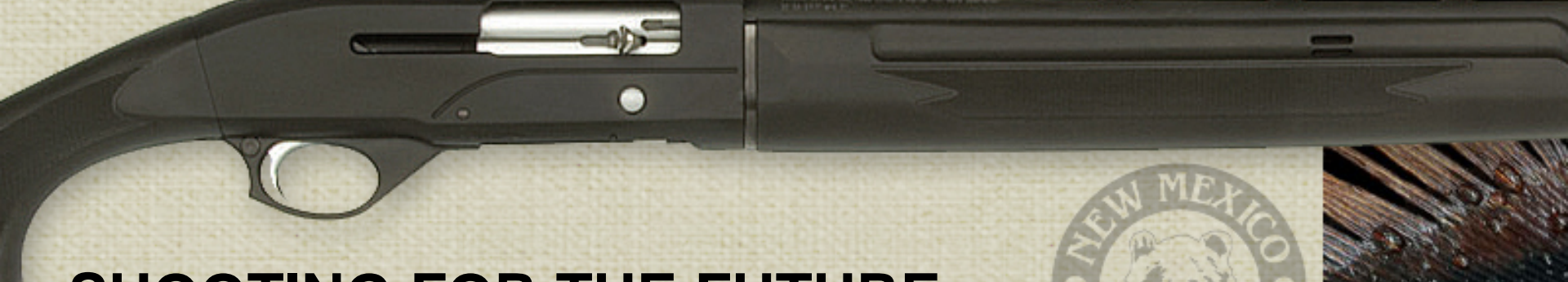


Future Opportunities:

There are many existing programs and organizations that are potential partners as we increase our efforts, a few examples include:

- NRA Programs
- Scholastic Clay Target Program
- National 4-H Shooting Sports
- American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program
- Scholastic Steel Challenge
- Boy Scouts of America





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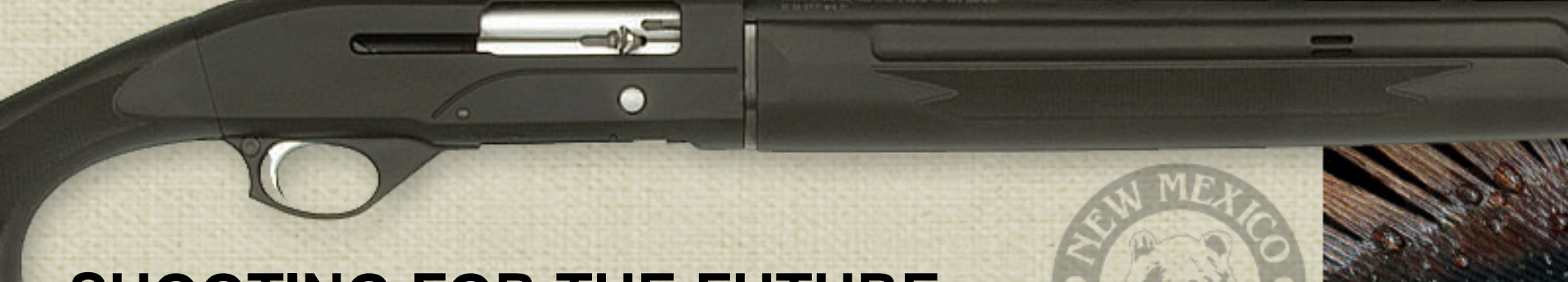


4H offers programs for:

- .22 Rifle
- Air Rifle
- Black powder
- Shotguns
- Pistol
- Archery

The 2010 4H State Shoot will be April 30 to May 2 at the NRA Whittington Center.

4H instructor training will be Jan. 29-31 in Las Cruces.

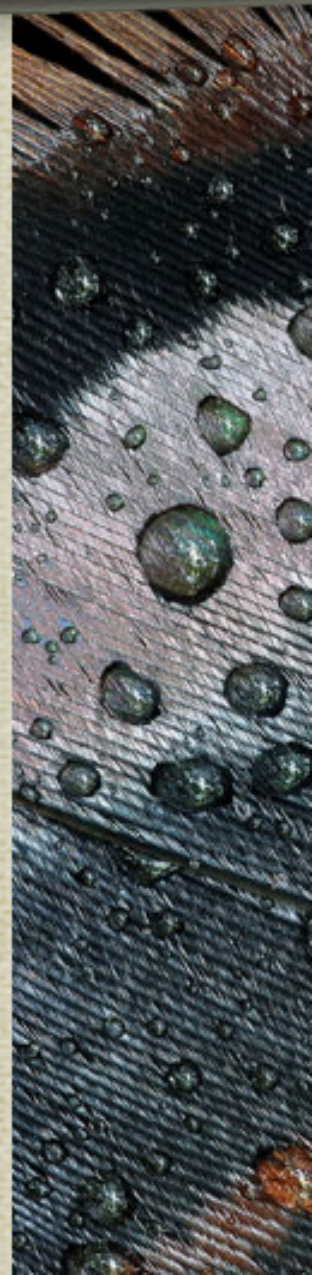


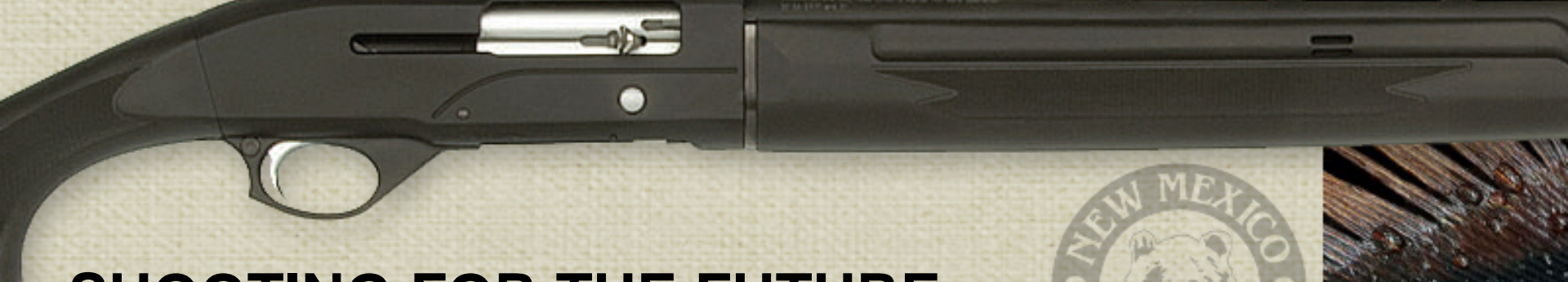
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With instructors in place we intend to provide materials for shooting teams – clay targets and shot shells.

4H teams are funded by county extension programs, and DGF will work to provide some funds to youth shooting groups in the state.





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Comments

Questions?

