

AGENDA ITEM NO. 31

Northwest Area Office Update



Field Operations Division

Background

- The current office is located in a leased building in Albuquerque, NM serving the Northwest quarter of the state from Valencia to San Juan Counties
- It is the most visited Department Office in the State
- Provides support to approximately 40 employees and their associated programs



Lease Agreement

- The Department leases approximately 8,385 square feet with an annual rent of \$158,627.98
- Lease is set to expire in August, 2015, with an option to renew for 5 years
- Due to growth of several programs, this Office has outgrown the size of its current location



Supporting Programs

- The following programs are currently administered out of the Northwest Area Office:
 - Field Operations (approximately 28 Officers, investigators, supervisors and other support staff)
 - Hunter Education (3 employees)
 - Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Program (4 employees)
 - Game/Habitat Management (3 employees)
 - Depredation Program (1 employee)
 - Public Information and Outreach (5 employees)



Office Complex Development

- The Department would like to acquire property in the Albuquerque/Rio Rancho area and expand its current facilities to include:
 - Northwest Area Field Office (17,100 sq. ft.)
 - Conservation Education Center (7,000 sq. ft.)
 - Urban Fishing Lake (4 acre)
 - Off-Highway Vehicle Training Area
 - Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (1 acre)
 - Indoor Shooting Range (16,800 sq. ft.)



Funding

- The Department has received legislative approval to spend \$2,061,000.00 in capital outlay for the new facility
- Certain capital outlay expenditures can be levied into a 3:1 federal match
- Additional funds from outside sources or in-kind donations can also be utilized to further leverage our investment
- The Department is currently seeking suitable locations in the Albuquerque/Rio Rancho areas



What's Next

- The Department will seek to develop a partnership with either the city of Rio Rancho, Albuquerque or other suitable partner to acquire a property
- Develop a proposal demonstrating how this project will benefit the local economy and add to the quality of life for the community and for all of New Mexico
- Continue refining the project based on input received by the public, business or government partners and the Commission



Discussion



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