



# 2015 Legislative Session Update





# Odd Numbered Years are 60-Day Sessions

- Anything Goes Session:
  - 639 House Bills
  - 726 Senate Bills



# 2015 Legislative Session Update

- Operating Budget Request (HB 2)
- Other Legislation
  - Penalties for hunting, fishing and trapping (felony waste of game & penalty assessments)
  - Veteran license discounts (50% discounts for resident veterans)
  - Broad-based volunteer program
  - Commission authority for tilapia
  - Other Legislation







# Operating Budget



- HB 2 – State of New Mexico Budget Bill – 6.2 Billion
- Do Pass House (42-25)
- Do Pass Senate (38-3) w Senate Finance Committee Amendments
- House Concurrence, March 20, 2015 (67-0)
  - Earmarked **\$500K** Game Protection Fund to State Parks for support hunting, fishing, trapping and wildlife conservation
  - Earmarked **\$500K** Trail Safety Fund to go to State Parks Programs
  - Earmarked **\$297K** Game Protection Fund to go to Office of the State Engineer for Silver Minnow Refugium
  - Special Appropriations - **\$525K** to upgrade and outfit law enforcement vehicles
  - Special Appropriations - **\$350K** for IT hardware and software (offsite data warehouse)
  - Special Appropriations - **\$500K** Trail Safety Fund & **\$500K** from the Game Protection Fund to go to Forest Watershed Restoration (If HB 38 passes)



# Operating Budget FY 2016

	Original DGF Request	Final Action HB2	Difference
<b>Field Operations</b>			
Budget Total	\$ 8,251.6	\$ 8,251.6	\$ -
FTE Total	96.0	96.0	
<b>Conservation Services Program</b>			
Budget Total	\$ 21,914.0	\$ 22,991.0	\$ 1,077.00
FTE Total	157.0	157.0	
<b>Wildlife Depredation and Nuisance Abatement Program</b>			
Budget Total	\$ 1,040.1	\$ 1,040.1	\$ -
FTE Total	4.0	4.0	
<b>Program Support</b>			
Budget Total	\$ 7,964.9	\$ 7,964.9	\$ -
FTE Total	52.0	52.0	
<b>Total All Programs</b>			
Budget Total	\$ 39,170.6	\$ 40,247.6	\$ 1,077.00
FTE Total	309.0	309.0	



# Other Budget Impacts

- Budget Adjustment Request Authority:
  - \$250,000 can be added to operating budget for emergencies
- No Capital Projects approved this year; however Department will continue with existing projects (1-4 years in length)





# HB202

## Hunting & Fishing

### Penalty Assessment Citations

- Sponsored by Rep. Alonzo Baldonado
- Do Pass in Regulatory and Public Affairs Committee and Agriculture, Water and Wildlife Committee
- Passed House (57-3)
- Do Pass in Senate Conservation and Senate Judiciary
- Passed Senate (40-0)
- Governor Signed - TBD



# SB254

## Hunting & Fishing

### Waste of Game

- Sponsored by Sen. Clemente Sanchez
- Passed in Senate Conservation
- Tabled in Senate Judiciary





# HB203

## Veteran License Discount

(50% Resident Veterans & Active Duty)

- Sponsored by Rep. Alonzo Baldonado
- Do Pass in Regulatory and Public Affairs Committee and Agriculture, Water and Wildlife Committee
- Passed House (59-0)
- Do Pass in Conservation Committee and Finance Committee
- Passed Senate (38-0)
- Governor Signed - TBD



# SB231

## Volunteer Authority

- Sponsored by Sen. Benny Shendo
- Do Pass in Conservation Committee and Judiciary Committee
- Passed Senate (38-0)
- Do Pass in Agriculture, Water and Wildlife Committee
- Passed House (61-0)
- Governor Signed - TBD



# HB201

## Tilapia and Bass

- Sponsored by Rep. Alonzo Baldonado
- Do Pass in Agriculture, Water and Wildlife Committee
- Passed House (62-1)
- Do Pass in Conservation Committee and Public Affairs Committee
- Passed Senate (40-0)
- Governor Signed - TBD





# Other Successful Legislation

## •Stream Access

- SB 226 (Sen. Martinez)
- Senate version (2 substitutes, 1 amendment)
- Similar bill - HB 235 (Rep. Bandy)
- Passed Senate (32-7)
- Passed House (32-31)
- Governor Signed - TBD

C. **No person** engaged in hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, hiking, sightseeing, the operation of watercraft or any other recreational use **shall walk or wade onto private property through non-navigable public water** or access public water via private property unless the private property owner or lessee or person in control of private lands has expressly **consented in writing.**"



# Other Successful Legislation

- **Forest Restoration**

- HB 38 (Rep. Bandy)
- 1 substitute, 1 amendment
- Passed House (58-0)
- Passed Senate (37-0)
- Governor Signed - TBD



# Unsuccessful Legislation

- HB 97 Restrict Certain Draw Hunts to Non-felons
- HB 98 Department Annual Report
- HB 235 NM Wildlife Protection & Public Safety Act (prohibited trapping on public lands)
- HB 468 State Sovereignty over Lesser Prairie Chickens
- HB 502 Off-highway Vehicles
- HB 586 Unprotect Cougars
- HB 616 Elk Population Management
- SB 215 Depredation/Prohibit Killing without Contacting NMDGF First
- SB 253 Prohibit Coyote Killing Contests
- SB 254 Game and Fish Violation Penalties





## Other Legislation

- **Unlawful Use of Drones to Take Protected Species**

- SB 82 (Sen. Morales – amended/withdrawn)

- **Study to Protect Wildlife from Drones Memorials**

- HM 81 (Rep. Baldonado) – Passed 70-0
- SM 91 (Sen. Morales) – Passed 26-0



# Other Legislation

## •Other Memorials

- HM 45—Watershed Restoration for Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (Passed House 45-0)
- HM 66—Wolf Recovery Plan with compensation
- HM 74—Lesser Prairie Chickens on State Lands (Passed House 31-22)
- HM 99—Manage Mexican Wolf Program
- HM 114—Elk population Management
- HM 117—Denounce Wolf plan and transfer to state



# Important Dates

- April 10, 2015- Legislation not acted upon by governor is pocket vetoed
- June 19, 2015- Effective date of legislation enacted (except Budget July 1)
- Next Session
  - NMDGF Requests to Commission for Legislative Initiatives Summer/Fall 2015
  - *Pre-file* Legislation Jan 15, 2016
  - Session Dates Jan 19, 2016 – Feb 18, 2016





# Questions, Comments?

