

Morphy Lake  
Memorandum of Agreement



# Background

- In 1965, the State Game Commission entered into a lease agreement with the Acequias for recreational and related uses of Morphy Lake.
- Also in 1965, the Game Commission was conveyed a perpetual right-of-way and easement for road purposes by the Quintana family which allows use of a road that makes access possible.
- The lease agreement with the Acequias gave the option of a 25 year extension, and this extension was entered into in 1990.
- On February 21, 2015, this lease agreement is set to expire, and the Department desires and proposes to continue with an agreement that would allow for uses of Morphy Lake similar to how it had been previously provided.



# Current State of Property

- The parties to the original lease would like to continue with allowing use through this Memorandum of Agreement.
- There is a current quiet title lawsuit in which the Quintana family is involved regarding land adjacent to the suit.
- While this property in controversy includes the road to which we hold the right of way and easement for road purposes, the parties to the quiet title suit have expressed they want the Department to continue with the easement.
- A proposed stipulated partial judgment may be entered with the Court for the quiet title suit acknowledging the Game Commission's right to the right of way and easement.



# The Department's Interests

- Our interests continue to exist by way of our currently existing lease agreement and our general wildlife management role.
- Our contribution: 1) providing \$20,000 annually in funding to use the lake for fishing, 2) providing fishing and recreation, and 3) maintaining public access.
- This agreement would last 20 years from the date entered into.
- This agreement would guarantee in part: a minimum 150 acre feet pool of water, the ability to stock fish, the ability to provide public fishing, Acequias maintenance inspection and repair at their expense property associated with holding or delivering of water.



*Questions?*

