Rule Development for Wildlife Conservation Volunteers 19.30.15 NMAC

17-1-14 NMSA 1978

Gives authority for Commission to allow the Department to develop a Wildlife Conservation Volunteers rule to provide guidance to:

- Recruit Volunteers
- Train Volunteers
- Utilize Volunteer Services

Volunteer Program

Considerations:

- Allow registered volunteers to ride in & drive Department vehicles
- Allow registered volunteers to utilize Department computers & equipment
- Allow registered volunteers to receive per diem, mileage & expense reimbursements
- Establish criteria for background investigations

Policy and Operational Manual

- Develop a volunteer policy
- Develop a volunteer operations manual

19.30.15.7.H

"**public employee**", as defined in 1.6.5.7 F NMAC, means individuals as defined in NMSA 1978, Section 41-4-3 (F) of the Tort Claims Act.

19.30.15.10. REVIEW AND REPORTING

A. The department shall provide to the commission an annual accounting of the wildlife conservation volunteers program.

B. The wildlife conservation volunteers program shall be included in the annual independent audit of the department and must adhere to the Audit Act [12-6-12 NMSA 1978].

[19.30.15.10 NMAC - N, XX-XX-2016]

19.30.15.8.E

"….A registered volunteer that operates a state vehicle under the terms of this section shall be treated for the purposes of insurability and tort claims liability as a public employee of the state as described in the Tort Claims Act [41-4-1 through 41-4-30, NMSA 1978] and the General Government Administration Risk Management Certificate Of Coverage Rule [1.6.5 NMAC]."

Public Comment

Solicited through:

- Departments website
- Emails to current volunteers
- Facebook

13 public comments were received

9 People support the new rule

3 People have concerns with background checks

1 person felt volunteers shouldn't receive per diem

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER
NEW MEXICO GAME & FISH
SERVING NEW MEXICO'S ANGLERS, HUNTERS & WILDLIFE

Information & Education Division