

COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA BRIEFING

Meeting Date: March 20, 2026 Agenda Number: 8

Presenter: Tim Cimal Corroborator:

Agenda Title: Huckabay Shooting Preserve Application

1. Summary of Agenda Item

Under 17-3-36 NMSA 1978, the State Game Commission may issue licenses authorizing the establishment and operation of regulated propagated game bird shooting preserves on private lands when in the judgment of the commission such areas will not conflict with any reasonable prior interest. Huckabay has applied for such a shooting preserve.

2. Background Information

Conservation officers and biologists have inspected and found the property to be in suitable temporary holding habitat for propagated game birds (pheasant, chukar and bobwhite quail).

The proposed release area will consist of approximately 240 acres of desert scrubland. It consists of greasewood, grass, and arroyos.

This permit, if approved, would allow for the propagation/possession of up to 100 pheasants, 500 chukars, and 1000 bobwhite quail annually.

3. Strategic Plan References and Possible Impacts of Agenda Item

This shooting preserve, if approved, would provide increased hunter opportunity in the area.

Based on inspections on the property and contacts with the applicant, NMDGF knows of some concerns from neighboring properties. Neighboring properties have concerns regarding domestic animals being affected by the discharging of firearms. There was also concern about pollution into the Tularosa Creek from the discharging of ammunition.

We know of no possible conflicts with reasonable prior interests as the operation is entirely on deeded land.

4. Considerations Regarding Duplications and/or Conflicts with Existing Rules or Statutes

Commission authority is established in 17-3-36 and no conflict is known to exist in rules or statutes.

5. Description and Summary of Public Involvement Process and Results

The legislature adopted this law (17-3-36) in 1957 and went through several House and Senate committees.

6. Suggested Motion

The Department respectfully suggests the following motion unless Commission discretion indicates a different course of action:

“Move to approve a shooting preserve on 240 acres of the Huckabay Ranch property located in Otero County, as presented by the Department.”