

**New Mexico State Game Commission New Mexico  
Department of Game and Fish**

*Aug. 9, 2024 – 9 a.m.*

*UNM Taos – Bataan Hall*

*121 Civic Plaza Dr., Taos, NM 87571*

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyjVyQzrsME&t=5842s>.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order**

09:03:26 a.m. (00:00:00/00:00:16 on video)

Called to order by Chairman Richard Stump.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call**

09:03:39 a.m. (00:00:13/00:00:29)

**Present in person:** Chairman Stump, Vice-chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Clemente, Commissioner Fulfer and Commissioner Pack.

**Present virtually:** Commissioner Lopez.

**Absent:** Commissioner Garcia.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Introduction of Guests**

09:04:20 a.m. (00:00:54/00:01:10)

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Approval of Agenda (Action Item)**

09:11:52 a.m. (00:08:26/00:08:42)

**Motion:** To approve the agenda for the Aug. 9, 2024 meeting as written.

**Motion by:** Commissioner Clemente.

**Seconded by:** Vice-chairwoman Salazar Hickey.

**Approved:** Unanimous - Chairman Stump, Vice-chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Clemente, Commissioner Fulfer, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Pack.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Consent Agenda (Action Item)**

9:12:46 a.m. (00:09:20/00:09:36)

**Motion:** To approve the consent agenda as presented by the Department.

**Motion by:** Commissioner Clemente.

**Seconded by:** Vice-chairwoman Salazar Hickey.

**Approved:** Unanimous - Chairman Stump, Vice-chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Clemente, Commissioner Fulfer, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Pack.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Hearing – Migratory Game Bird Rule 19.31.6 NMAC for the 2024-2025 Hunting Season (Action Item)**

09:15:11 a.m. (00:11:45/00:12:01)

The Department presented proposed changes to the Migratory Game Bird Rule (19.31.6 NMAC) based on public comment, the latest information from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), recent survey information, and management goals. Season selections and bag limits are determined in conjunction with the USFWS working through the Central and Pacific Flyway Councils. The proposed amendments focused on:

- Changes to regular waterfowl season dates based on public comment and calendar dates
- Change certain season dates to be later in the year because of calendar shift
- Based on population survey data, increase sandhill crane permits in MRGV and SW draw hunts by 35 total, to be distributed among existing hunts
- Bag limit for northern pintail to remain at 1 per USFWS regulatory framework
- Central Flyway scaup limit to decrease from 3 to 1 per USFWS regulatory frameworks
- Open Bernardo Unit D to handicap-accessible waterfowl hunting during the regular season
- Open Bernardo Unit D to handicap-accessible hunting for the Light Goose Conservation Order on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday during the hours of ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset
- Open Bernardo Ponds Unit for the Light Goose Conservation Order on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday during the hours of ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset

**Motion:** To repeal and replace 19.31.6 NMAC, as presented by the Department and allow the Department to make minor corrections to comply with filing this rule with State Records and Archives.

**Motion by:** Vice-chairwoman Salazar Hickey.

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Clemente.

**Approved:** Unanimous - Chairman Stump, Vice-chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Clemente, Commissioner Fulfer, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Pack.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Hearing – Bighorn Sheep Rule 19.31.17 NMAC (Action Item)**

9:27:42 a.m. (00:24:16/00:24:32)

The Department presented a proposed amendment to extend the bighorn sheep rule for two more years, as it is set to expire on March 31, 2025. This extension would align the Bighorn Rule with the expiration of the other Big Game rules and future rule development.

**Motion:** To amend 19.31.17 NMAC, as presented by the Department and allow the Department to make minor corrections to comply with filing this rule with State Records and Archives.

**Motion by:** Commissioner Clemente.

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Fulfer.

**Approved:** Unanimous - Chairman Stump, Vice-chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Clemente, Commissioner Fulfer, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Pack.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Update on Required Revision of the State Wildlife Action Plan**

9:42:36 a.m. (00:39:10/00:39:26)

The Department presented an update on the 2025 review and revision of the State Wildlife Action Plan for New Mexico. The U.S. Congress mandates that these plans be comprehensively reviewed and revised every 10 years (Public Law 106-553, Appendix B Title IX, Section 902).

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Approval to Open the 14-Day Public Comment Period on the Director's Draft 2024 Biennial Review (Action Item)**

10:20:57 a.m. (01:17:31/01:17:47)

The Department requested that the Commission open a 14-day public comment period pursuant to the Wildlife Conservation Act (17-2-40 NMSA 1978).

**Motion:** To authorize the Department to initiate the opening of a 14-day public comment period on the Director's Draft 2024 Biennial Review of state-listed threatened or endangered species.

**Motion by:** Commissioner Clemente.

**Seconded by:** Vice-chairwoman Salazar Hickey.

**Approved:** Unanimous - Chairman Stump, Vice-chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Clemente, Commissioner Fulfer, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Pack.

The Commission took a break at 10:25:48 a.m. and returned at 10:38:43 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Approval of FY26 Budget Proposal (Action Item)**

10:38:43 a.m. (01:35:17/01:22:42)

The Department presented and discussed the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Operating Budget Request for Commission review, approval and certification. The Department must seek final approval from the Commission for submission by the statutory deadline of Sept. 1, 2024.

**Motion:** To approve the Department's Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget and allow Department staff to make technical adjustments and changes necessary to incorporate assessment rate changes provided to the Department and other executive agencies after this meeting, and prior to the statutory deadline.

**Motion by:** Vice-chairwoman Salazar Hickey.

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Fulfer.

**Approved:** Chairman Stump, Vice-chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Clemente, Commissioner Fulfer and Commissioner Pack.

**Opposed:** Commissioner Lopez.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Approval of Two Shooting Preserve Applications (Action Item)**

10:53:06 a.m. (01:49:40/01:37:05)

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. Trout Stalker Ranch and Three Sisters Ranch have applied for such shooting preserves.

**Motion:** Move to approve a shooting preserve on 1,787 acres of the Three Sisters Ranch property located in Mora and Harding counties, as presented by the Department.

**Motion by:** Commissioner Lopez.

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Fulfer.

**Approved:** Unanimous - Chairman Stump, Vice-chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Clemente, Commissioner Fulfer, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Pack.

**Motion:** To approve a shooting preserve on 600 acres of the Trout Stalker Ranch property located in Rio Arriba County, as presented by the Department.

**Motion by:** Commissioner Lopez.

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Fulfer.

**Approved:** Vice-chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Clemente, Commissioner Fulfer, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Pack.

**Abstaining:** Chairman Stump.

The Commission paused the meeting from 10:53:28 a.m. to 10:59:36 a.m. because of technical difficulties.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: General Public Comment**

11:14:10 a.m. (02:10:44/01:53:28)

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Executive Session**

11:34:24 a.m. (02:30:58/02:13:42)

**Motion:** Move to adjourn into executive session, closed to the public, pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(8) NMSA 1978, to discuss purchase, acquisition or disposal; Section 10-15-1(H)(7), attorney-client privilege, litigation update; and Section 10-15-1(H)(2) NMSA 1978, limited personnel matters (director's performance evaluation).

**Motion by:** Commissioner Fulfer

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Lopez

**Approved:** Unanimous - Chairman Stump, Vice-chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Commissioner Clemente, Commissioner Fulfer, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Pack.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Action(s) From Executive Session (Action Item(s))**

01:36:01 p.m. (04:32:35/02:15:50)

The Commission requested that the Director and his staff bring forth a recommendation on how to reduce conflict between shed hunting and spring hunts, as well as how to reduce habitat damage caused by the large number of people in the field, during the State Game Commission meeting scheduled for Nov. 8, 2024.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Adjourn**

01:36:49 a.m. (04:33:23/02:16:38)

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