COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA BRIEFING

Meeting Date: <u>August 15, 2025</u>   **Agenda Number:** <u>13</u>

Presenter: <u>Stewart Liley</u>   **Corroborator:** <u>N/A</u>

Agenda Title: <u>Subsequent discussion of Upland Game Rule (19.31.5 NMAC) for the 2026 – 2030 hunting seasons.</u>

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1. **Summary of Agenda Item**

   The Department will present proposed changes to the Upland Game Rule (19.31.5 NMAC) based on public comment, survey information, and management goals.

   Proposed amendments focus on:
   - Adjust hunts for calendar dates
   - Divide Dusky Grouse into a North and South Zone- use I-40 as the dividing line
   - Set Bag Limits for Dusky Grouse Zones
     - North- 3 Birds/Day; 6 in possession
     - South- 1 Bird/Day; 2 in possession
   - Add special draw permit youth pheasant hunt on Jackson Lake WMA
   - Open Bluebird and Pine River WMAs during squirrel season
   - Open Double E, LBar, Navajo and River Ranch WMAs during quail season

2. **Background Information**

   The upland game rule is amended every four years as part of the upland game rule development cycle. The current 4-year rule expires April 1, 2026. Proposed changes to the rule are made based on findings in scientific literature, data collected by Department staff, and public observations and recommendations.

3. **Strategic Plan References and Possible Impacts of Agenda Item**

   The process as presented to the Commission meets the Conservation Services Program Objectives 1, 2 and 5 of the Department's Strategic Plan: FY 2019 – FY 2023

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

   None

5. **Description and Summary of Public Involvement Process and Results**

   The Department has posted proposed changes to the upland game rule on the Department's website. Input has been gathered from mail and email. Hybrid public meetings were held May 21st in Albuquerque and May 28th in Las Cruces, and a presentation was given at a virtual Quail Forever meeting to gather public comments on the proposed changes to the upland game rule. Public comments will be presented at

the Commission meeting. A final proposal to this rule will be developed and presented at the November 2025 Commission meeting.

Suggested Motion

This is a discussion item and no motion is necessary, unless Commission discretion dictates otherwise.