

COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA BRIEFING

Meeting Date: January 10, 2025 Agenda Number: 11

Presenter: Stewart Liley Corroborator: N/A

Agenda Title: Habitat Stamp Program Overview

1. Summary of Agenda Item

The Department will present an update on the Habitat Stamp Program with a summary of accomplishments since the reauthorization of the Public Land User Stamp Rule (19.34.6 NMAC) in January 2021 by the Commission.

2. Background Information

Habitat Stamp Program (HSP) funding is used to improve and restore fish and wildlife habitat on US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands with an emphasis on improving sportsmen and sportswomen opportunities for hunting and fishing.

In January 2021, the Commission reauthorized the HSP for an additional 10 years; created one statewide Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC); mandated that at least 50% of expenditures benefit fish; and increased the annual HSP fee from \$5 to \$10.

Since January 2021, 42 fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects have been successfully implemented on US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands statewide, with HSP expenditures for these projects totaling \$5.88M. All of the projects presented to the CAC for HSP review are developed in close collaboration between Department and federal agency project leads.

In August of 2024, the CAC prioritized an additional 12 fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects with a total estimated cost of \$3,000,000. The Department is actively moving to push these newly prioritized projects toward completion in FY25.

3. Strategic Plan References and Possible Impacts of Agenda Item

The process as presented to the Commission meets the Conservation Services Program Objectives 1 and 8 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 held fourteen (14) public meetings with members of the public, program collaborators, and the statewide Citizen Advisory Committee since 19.34.6 NMAC was reauthorized, and the new CAC was appointed by the Commission in January 2021.

Suggested Motion

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