

**MEETING MINUTES
NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION
Central Valley Co-Op
1403 N. 13th Street
Artesia, New Mexico**

Wednesday, April 5, 2017
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

A P P E A R A N C E S

Game Commissioner Thomas Salopek
Chairman Paul Kienzle
Vice Chairman Bill Montoya
Game Commissioner Robert Espinoza
Game Commissioner Ralph Ramos
Game Commissioner Bob Ricklefs
Game Commissioner Elizabeth Ryan

A B S E N T None

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Call the meeting to order. Good morning.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Good morning. Commissioner Espinoza.

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: Present.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ramos?

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Present.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ricklefs?

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Present.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ryan?

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Present.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Salopek?

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Present.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Vice Chairman Montoya?

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Present.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Chairman Kienzle?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Present.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Mr. Chairman, I believe we have a quorum.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Right on. Thank you. Would you do the Pledge of Allegiance, Ralph?

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Yes, sir.

(Pledge of Allegiance is recited.)

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. Can we get a motion to approve the agenda?

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: So moved.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: The ayes have it. Let's go around the room and introduce ourselves.

Who wants to go first?

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, [Indiscernible], my name is Craig Sanchez, Chief of Education, Game and Fish.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning, Commissioners and Director Sandoval. I'm Russ Benjamin. I'm the Construction Project Manager.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, members of the public. My name is Jim Comins and I am the Assistant Director of Resource Division for the Department. And I apologize for the battling of allergies that [Indiscernible].

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Director, I am Chris Chadwick, Assistant Director, Public [Indiscernible/coughing].

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Director Sandoval. I'm [Indiscernible]. I'm the Deputy Director for New Mexico [Indiscernible].

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Director Sandoval, good morning. I'm Lance Cherry. I'm the Chief of Information and Education Division for New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning. I'm Mike Sloane, Chief of Fisheries.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning. Pat Sayer [Phonetic]

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, members of the public. Stewart Liley, Chief, Wildlife.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning, everyone. Jessica Fisher. I'm the Shooting Program Coordinator for New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

GUEST SPEAKER: Joe Rivera [Phonetic].

GUEST SPEAKER: Mark Sanderson [Phonetic]. I'm just an avid hunter and fisherman, New Mexico, State of New Mexico. I'm so proud that you're here in our town holding this meeting. Look forward to having many more. My first time. Thank you.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning, everyone. Rey Sanchez, Major, Field Operations.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning. Donald Griego, Acting State Forestry Division.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning, everyone. Steve [Indiscernible].

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning. Jennifer Ward [Phonetic].

GUEST SPEAKER: Herb Atkinson, representing Safari Club International.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning. I'm Mason Cline. I'm Bird Program Manager.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning. I'm Tanner Anderson with New Mexico Farm and Livestock.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning. Susan Torres, New Mexico Wildlife Federation.

GUEST SPEAKER: Lex Cline [Phonetic], just a citizen.

GUEST SPEAKER: [Indiscernible], registered guide.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning. Bill [Indiscernible].

GUEST SPEAKER: Teresa [Phonetic] [Indiscernible]

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning, Commissioners. We appreciate you guys coming to Artesia. My name is Pat Dix [Phonetic]. I work for the school district here in Artesia and also member of the [Indiscernible]. I really appreciate you holding your meeting here.

GUEST SPEAKER: [Indiscernible].

GUEST SPEAKER: Karl Moffett [Indiscernible]

GUEST SPEAKER: Dan Williams. Good morning, everybody. I'm Assistant Chief of Information.

GUEST SPEAKER: Good morning, members of the Commission. I'm the Executive Assistant to the Director. My name is Sandra DuCharme.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: And we wouldn't be here without you. And Kerrie Romero is late. [Laughter].

SPEAKER: You thought you escaped, Kerrie. Sorry.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: She's late. Duly noted. [Laughter] Thank everyone for coming, and I thank the city for having us. Can I get a motion to approve the minutes from our last meeting?

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: So moved.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: The ayes have it. New business, agenda item number 7, request for extension of lease by New Mexico Forestry Division on Richards Property located in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Presented by Mr. TBD.

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, I am here today to present a request from the State Forestry Division to extend their lease on the Department's Richards Avenue property. Some of you may know this property or remember this property as the Department's old warehouse. In July of 2014, the Department entered into a 3-year lease agreement with State Forestry Division on this property. This agreement will expire or is set to expire on June 30th of this year. The agreement included an option for a 3-year extension and State Forestry is requesting that extension. Currently, the lease agreement supports State Forestry's [Indiscernible] fire fighting program which hires and trains veterans for fire, forestry work and wildland firefighting. Since the initiation of this agreement or since this agreement was initiated, they've installed several new buildings, new structures and new utility lines to the property. Before I stand for any question, Don Griego is here from the State Forestry Division if you guys have any specific questions for him. And with that, I will stand for any questions.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Mr. Griego.

SPEAKER: Good morning.

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CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: How are things working out? Good? Bad?

SPEAKER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. Yes, it's been a wonderful relationship working with Game and Fish. We actually set up a regional training center there at that facility and were able to train a lot of our veteran fire fighters there plus our state employees, our new employees. So it has worked out really well for us. It's close to our state office and right across the road is our other warehouse that we have with State Parks. So it's very critical to our program right now.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Great. Any other questions or comments from anyone? Yes, sir?

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Just curious. Does this new one also include an option for another 3 years?

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ricklefs, it does not.

[Indiscernible]

SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ricklefs, I think if this, as it's turned out to be a beneficial relationship, we have the possibility of entering into a longer term lease. This was new to us, I think, for both agencies and so we just wanted to make sure it was going to work out before we committed into any long term but I think it's showing itself to be beneficial for both and at some point we will entertain a longer lease agreement.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Did you bring a dollar with you today? [Laughter]

SPEAKER: The boss has one there. [Laughter]

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Or, you might have to go get the money out of the seat cushions of the car. I'm pleased it's working out well for you. So, any other questions or comments? I'll entertain a motion on this one.

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: Mr. Chairman, I move to approve the extension of the lease agreement with the New Mexico State Forestry Division on the Richards property located in Santa Fe, New Mexico for an additional 3 years.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: The ayes have it. Thanks so much.

GUEST SPEAKER: Thank you guys.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Enjoy it. Colonel Griego. Agenda item number 8, revocations. Good morning.

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: These lists never get any shorter.

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: No. Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, I am here for license revocations. Basically what we have is 5 groups of individuals that are subject to revocation. The first group is a group of 15 individuals that are up for reciprocal revocations based on the Wildlife Violators Compact. Fourteen of these individuals were convicted of wildlife violations

that if committed in New Mexico would be revocable and one of the individuals is one that has failed to appear in court or comply with the conditions of wildlife citation and until he comes into compliance we typically suspend their privileges until they go before the courts to appear for their crime. I don't know if you all want to do a motion per group?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: We probably will do it by group. Is there anyone here on a revocation matter? [Indiscernible] revocation. Let's do group 1 then. Any questions or comments on group 1? I'll entertain a motion then on this.

COMMISSIONER #1: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes, sir?

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: I move to reciprocally revoke the Hunting, Fishing, and or Trapping license privileges of 15 individuals under the Interstate Wildlife Violators compact, as presented by the Department.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: The ayes have it.

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, group two is a group of 40 individuals who have met the established criteria to start the suspension process, meaning they were convicted of wildlife crimes and have exceeded that 20 points. Each of those individuals was served with a notice of contemplated action and those individuals chose not to partake in a hearing, and before

you is the recommendation for the revocation time period. In that group of 40, we do have six individuals in there that we're asking for above and beyond the 3-year. I can break those down if you would like to hear what each of those individuals.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: You can tell us a little bit more.

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: We've got one, Kevin Archiletta [Phonetic] where we are recommending 5-year revocation on him. And Benjamin Arguelo [Phonetic], a 10-year. If you recall the case I discussed a few months back about the individuals who were going around Cimarron, had kind of a hit list and were shooting deer with cross bows. Mr. Arguelo was the partner in that case and Mr. Archiletta was the driver that would go out and pick up the dead deer and haul them back to Las Vegas. So that's that case for those two. Joel Flores [Phonetic], we're recommending a 5-year on him. Mr. Flores was caught on the Baker Wildlife area. He was using a license that was issued to his son. When the officers found them, he tried to hide the rifle, concealed his identity, claimed that he was his son. He had also killed a turkey out of season without a license there. So we are recommending 5 years on that individual. Michael Malcom [Phonetic] is an individual that was caught trapping on the Vermejo Ranch and two other ranches in the area. He produced written documentation or permission slips that ended up being fraudulent once we talked to the landowners involved. They had not given any of that permission and that individual, we are recommending 5 years on that trapping case. Mr. Mike Neely [Phonetic] is an individual where we're recommending 5 years. He killed two deer. Basically he killed a deer, field dressed it, loaded it but did not tag it. And while they were out there retrieving that animal, they got permission to go in and retrieve the animal and come out. They continued to hunt on private property and ended up killing a second deer which some witnesses caught them doing. So we are recommending 5 years on that individual. The last individual that is above

and beyond 3 years is Gonzalo Mendez [Phonetic]. That individual has been caught fishing without a license three times. Each time he has taken the penalty assessment and not paid it. The third time, the officer, or Corporal Tyson Sanders [Phonetic] caught the individual, recognized him, saw that he was on revocation. Instead of giving him the penalty assessment option, filed for fishing while on revocation. Once again he did not appear in court, did not pay, got a warrant, was arrested. So that individual, we are recommending five years.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Solid work on this. Excellent. Yes, sir?

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Who was the 10-year?

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, the 10-year is going to be Benjamin Arguelo.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: OK.

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Again, he was the co-conspirator on that case in Cimarron.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Bobby, just a question on that other page, that first group, we already voted on them, but fishing without a license penalty assessment, all those, if they pay their penalty then there's no revocation or anything, is that correct.

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Salopek, that is correct.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: I was just wondering.

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: They are suspended while they haven't paid it.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Right, right.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any other questions or comments? I'll entertain a motion on group 2.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: I move to accept the Department's recommendations, and revoke the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping licenses of 40 individuals who have accumulated 20 or more violation points in a three-year time period, as presented by the Department.

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: The ayes have it. Good work. Group number 3, which is a group [Indiscernible], well, I have a 3 and a 4.

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: That's a 3.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Luis [Phonetic] and then Jimmy [Phonetic].

ROBERT GRIEGO: Correct. Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, this is the revocation of two individuals who have agreed to go into stipulated agreements. Both of these cases, when we work with our officers, we always want them to bring their judgment into play if they are investigating a case if they feel there is some mitigating circumstance where the individual was an honest mistake, they turned themselves in, in a situation that we likely would not have caught the individuals if they had not come forward, instances like that. In these two instances, the officers stepped forward and said that they recommended stipulated agreements and those

stipulated agreements are in front of you all. Basically Mr. Gonzales [Phonetic], he killed a Barbary sheep in an area that was not fenced in Unit 37 and where he thought he was on public land and when he shot the Barbary, it ran off about 200 yards what he assumed was the private property, called the local officer to let him know that that Barbary sheep had fallen on private property and would like to go in and retrieve it. The officer came in to assist with the retrieval and found that where, in fact, he had taken the initial shot was probably about 50 yards onto the deeded also. But again it was an instance where this individual did not realize where he was at exactly but if he had not called, and just walked onto to that unfenced property 200 yards and dragged that Barbary sheep, we would have never known. So in that instance, the officer recommended a stipulated agreement with that individual. And Mr. Gomez [Phonetic] was an individual that was, I believe, hunting deer on public land with a private license and again, one of those areas where it was pretty hard to decipher the exact location and that officer recommended stipulated.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Mr. Chairman, with regard to Mr. Gomez, he showed up at my office with questions about what his stipulated agreement meant, and I did not act as an attorney or commissioner in that instance but just to be precautionary, I will be recusing myself from a vote with regard to Mr. Gomez.

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman, Chief, what is the stipulated agreement? Are we going less than 3 years, are we not going to move to revoke? What are the recommendations there on that stipulation?

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, with Mr. Gonzales, what it is, the stipulated agreement is if he can stay out of trouble for a year, it will go away. If he does get cited within a year, he will be up for a 3-year revocation effective the date of that violation. Mr. Gomez is basically a 1-year probationary time frame where we missed him a couple of Commission meetings ago where we thought we were getting that stipulated agreement in and it's taken some time and rather than drag it out again we felt it just would be sufficient to basically, it's a probationary one year. He can continue to hunt.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: When he went to court, what did he get, did he pay a fine, what went on with that?

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, that is correct. He did plead guilty and paid a fine. And again, in these instances, I depend heavily on the judgment of my officers when they come forward and say, "Hey, this individual took responsibility, he's showing remorse. It was an honest mistake," whatever the case may be. And I just go on their judgment on those.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Good work. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any other questions, comments, or recusals? No? We'll do 3 and 4, we'll do Gomez and Gonzales separately. Can I get a motion as to Luis Gomez?

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman, I Move to approve the Stipulated Agreement entered into by Luis Gomez.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: The ayes have it. And then, as to Jimmy Gonzales. Can I get a motion please?

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Mr. Chairman, I move to approve the Stipulated Agreement entered into by Jimmy Gonzales with the Department.

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: The ayes have it. And you'll note for the record the recusal of Commissioner Ryan?

SPEAKER: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Group 5, or group 4, however you want it.

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, basically group 4 is 245 individuals who have failed to pay their penalty assessment within the 30 days of the violation per their agreement when they signed the citation if they choose to take the penalty assessment in lieu of going to court, basically admitting guilt and paying that fine, they have 30 days to remit that fine to the Department. These individuals have failed to pay yet. And I believe we can tie group 5 together. We have 369 obligors with the Human Services Department who have fallen out of compliance with the Parental Responsibility Act in January, February and March.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman, I have a question. So, did we combine both the ones that didn't pay what they agreed to pay once they got cited and then there are the ones that [Indiscernible] pay the Human Service Department?

ROBERT GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, they are two different groups but both individuals, or both groups of individuals, once they come into compliance whether it's paying their child support or paying their citation, they come into automatic compliance which is a fee. So you all can choose to break them up and do two separate motions but basically it's the same boat of come back into compliance, pay your fine, or pay your child support and you're back into compliance with the Department.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: So pretty much, we revoke their privileges until they pay, one way or the other. It may be a year, it may be 3 years, it may be 10 years, is that correct?

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, that is correct. Except for our penalty assessments, we only at this point can rule, we will only suspend them for 3 years. So that's something that we could address in the future but . . .

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: So these individuals that did agree to pay, if they don't pay in 3 years, what's the next steps?

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: They're automatically reinstated.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: And yet the bill goes unpaid?

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, that is it.

SPEAKER: Wow. OK.

COMMISSIONER: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: Brings a question in, Bobby. Do you have any data pertaining to that as far as how many people are just flagrantly avoiding paying the penalty?

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Espinoza, for our fishing without a license penalty assessments, the compliance rate is about 58 percent. So just over half comply. With our other penalty assessments that we've recently enacted with a lot of the hunting violations, it's in the 90's. What that shows is, individuals who don't care to buy a license, about half of them will come into compliance but the other penalty assessments are typically licensed hunters already and they just committed an infraction. They want to continue to keep that license so our compliance rate is very high on those. And the ones that choose to risk it, it's a coin toss.

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: What are some of the hunting penalty assessment, like without a habitat stamp, etc., but give me some other examples.

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Espinoza, the habitat stamp, the habitat management and access stamp, 2-pole violations, picking up heads in the field, improper ammunition, stuff like that, just minor infractions.

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: The fishing without a license, what is the penalty assessment for that? Refresh us.

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: For fishing without a license?

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: Yes.

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: It's going to be a \$75 penalty assessment plus the cost of the license. So it comes out to roughly 110 bucks.

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: That's fine. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes, sir?

COMMISSIONER: Colonel Griego, can you go back to the last [Indiscernible] on penalty assessment? OK, we do not have a motion on our sheet. Is it included in the last one?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Number 5. Are there any other questions?

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: I do have a question. And this may be for the Director, maybe Bobby. So is this a legislative law or something that we have to do to change, if they don't pay this money, is it legislative or can we as a Commission change and add some more meat to that.

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, it is Commission rule or the failure to pay penalty assessments that the time frame is 3 years. You all could address that. The Parental Compliance is a legislative action.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: OK, so the Parental Compliance does go for the 5, 10 years until they pay that or meet that?

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, that is correct. Until they come into compliance per the Licensing Act, they cannot be licensed. For our penalty assessments, it's in our rule. It says it's a 3-year, and that's kind of antiquated back to the day when our revocations were no more than three years. Now that we've addressed that, per your review, it might be a good idea to address that, until you pay your penalty assessment, you're suspended.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: I know that this Commission took the initiative to simplify things for these basic violations that are out there in order to give them that option to pay just like a traffic violation, give them that option, correct? So we went and took that initiative and approved it and yet we still have these people that go unpaid.

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, that is correct.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: I just think that might be something that we need to discuss.

COMMISSIONER: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: Bobby, furthering that, the dollar amount of the assessment, that is legislative, is that correct?

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Espinoza, that is correct on the fine schedule. It is set by the Legislature which, but the ability to continue to suspend those individuals until they come back into compliance and pay that penalty assessment is in Commission rule. But the fine associated with it, yes, is set in statute.

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: I think that answered my question, yeah.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any other questions or comments? Can I get a motion on these groups?

COMMISSIONER RYAN: I move to authorize the Department to administer these suspensions on behalf of the Commission including the issuance and service of a notice of contemplated

action to each individual listed that has failed to pay a penalty assessment within 30 days or is out of compliance with the Parental Responsibility Act.

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: The ayes have it. Thank you.

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Thank you all. Pretty painless today.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: If you have any ideas on Commissioner Ramos's concern about, visit with him or the Director and see if it's something we can address.

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, I'm full of ideas.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: I have one last question, Bobby. And I know that goes back to our website and you know, for violators, and I know these are [Indiscernible] things, I probably wouldn't want to put them. But on other hard core violators, you know, are we still advertising that on the website. It's just kind of difficult to find on there.

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, we are still adding to it. We did put in the policy that they will sit on that website for at least a year. And we have continued to add to it. Now that the hunting seasons are complete and this is the time frame we are typically getting, going to court, and getting convictions, so you'll see an influx of some more cases. We've got some fantastic cases that we will for sure be highlighting. And where

it's located is on our enforcement side. But I can work with I & E. Mr. Wiley is pretty fantastic working with us, and see if we can make it easier to find.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: How about a flattering photo [Laughter] of the violator? We probably don't have those photos, do we?

COLONEL ROBERT GRIEGO: Mr. Chairman, what we do use, per policy, is we will use driver's license photos to insure that it is that individual or photographs that were seized that have that individual with the poached animal. We will use those two types of photographs that we do put on there. So . . .

COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Colonel Griego.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Stewart, agenda item number 9, final presentation of recovery plan for Gould's turkey and Gila monster.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, before you, I'd you [Indiscernible] we have the final plans for both Gould's turkeys and Gila monster. First, we'll start with Gould's turkeys. As we started at the meeting, we described how and where it is, and Gould's is restricted to the Bootheel, the southern half of the state, south of I-10. That subspecies only occurs in Arizona, New Mexico, the state of — and three states in Mexico, Chihuahua, Sonora, and parts of Durango. It inhabits kind of Madrean evergreen forest and really kind of likes those wet riparian areas, roosting in sycamores, cottonwoods and Chihuahuan pines as kind of the main [Indiscernible] and really restrictive in habitat of where it does occur. But the State does offer some significant habitat to the species. This — I don't know why it's not showing, sorry guys — so what we have here is a map of the distribution. The red is kind of the more current, where we surveyed the population. You'll see the survey is conducted by

ground on public lands in the Peloncillos and that forest there. The blue is kind of more of the range where we think Gould's turkeys historically existed and still may potentially exist. Some of those mountain ranges or a majority are on private land so we're trying to gain some access into here. In a few minutes, I'll go into what we've done through the development of the plan and maybe some progress we made with private landowners within this region to get some access onto those properties for some surveys, etc. Gould's turkey was listed in 1975 under the Wildlife Conservation Act as threatened. Really, in New Mexico, as we showed, it's severely limited in habitat but sufficient to maintain the species here in the state at a significant population. Over the course of the last three years, we augmented that Peloncillo population with 60 birds from the State of Arizona. Those augmentations were very successful. The survival rates of those birds rivaled those of probably the birds that are already existing. So we can use augmentation as a tool and we do have the potential maybe in the upcoming future to trade the country of Mexico pronghorn for additional Gould's turkeys to further kind of range in areas that maybe Gould's turkeys are at lower levels and we could, augmentation might boost those populations. In June of 2016, that's when we implemented the start of the recovery plan and announced — we had a press release and also through emails. We had public meetings in both Silver City and Las Cruces, okay attendance. We formed an advisory committee including National Wild Turkey Federation which was a real benefit for us to have on there, very knowledgeable. The plan that we did create, it has the objective of maintaining a minimum population of 175 Gould's turkeys within the Peloncillo Mountains. Why the Peloncillo Mountains, because it is public land where we have a little bit more authority and control over moving birds or surveying and getting constant access throughout there. That's not to say there's not even more Gould's turkeys across the range, say in the Sierra San Luis or in the Animas

Mountains, Animas Valley. But really our core focus is in the Peloncillo Mountains and maintaining 175 birds throughout there. We think right now we have a minimum of approximately 100 birds in the Peloncillo so we're pretty close. We're getting close to that 175 mark, don't know exactly when that's going to happen but we hope here in the near future that we'll be coming in front of you with a delisting actually or initiating a process under the WCA for a delisting. So we're getting there. In the plan, like every plan that we've written recently, contains basically the natural history of the bird, historic and current distribution of the animal, habitat assessment, and the threats to the persistence of the bird, and some recovery issues and management strategies we would have. Really, in the Gould's turkey, the threats are really natural threats and nothing — the human threat that we see with the bird, the biggest threat would be a catastrophic wildfire that would wipe out roost trees is our biggest issue. That habitat is in really good shape. We were actually fortunate. We went down last week, the Malpai Border Land Group invited us down to discuss the Gould's turkey plan which included landowners throughout that range so we're really excited about the recovery effort including maybe getting some surveys on the Animas and the Double A [Phonetic] and so a lot of excitement. They helped comment from the draft to the final plan, made some real beneficial comments to the plan that we really think added to the overall, nice robust plan. I could go straight into Gila monster and then we could do approvals or motions for approval at the end, or . . .

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: That's fine.

STEWART LILEY: OK. So the Gila monster occurs in the Chihuahuan Desert, kind of in that southwest corner of the state, kind of like in that scrub desert grassland habitat with a lot of rocky substrate that they use for kind of nesting subsurface shelters. They can stay underground

for 90 percent of their life underground, coming out just a little bit to eat every once in a while and breed. Arroyos are probably very important for them for both foraging and also travel corridors. What we have here is kind of a map of known range in that red, and there's different polygons [Phonetic], either dots or squares, where we had reports, confirmed reports, of presence of the species or kind of confirmed reports but not necessarily verified that those are actual population there, one individual and not necessarily a population. One of the issues with Gila monsters is that because they live 95 percent under, a survey is very difficult for them. And we're really trying to assess when we can and get out there. Really in that area, Deming area from Deming to the Peloncillo Mountains, seeing if we have connectivity across that range and get a systematic survey across there to see do we have a continuous population across or is it maybe isolated across the border with Arizona. Again this species was listed in the WCA in 1975, listed as endangered. The threats to this species are probably illegal collecting and road mortality. We have one area specifically in the state where we do get road mortality where the highway cuts through the mountains and that's where we get the most visual records outside of Red Rock of Gila monsters is through road strikes. Luckily, we do have as kind of a stronghold of the habitat. The Commission owns the Red Rock facility for breeding for desert bighorn sheep. It's a strong population of Gila monsters in there where we see them almost every year on our surveys as well. The recovery plan, just like the turkeys, was initiated in 2016 in June. Public meetings in concert with both the turkeys and Cruces and Silver City, and an advisory committee of 16 members including a lot of our herpetologists on that. Again, like the turkey plans and the others, we describe natural history, the current range of the species, threats, and the habitat. Really the biggest objective of this plan is to figure out a systematic survey to look at, is that core range specifically right there on that Arizona border or is it spread out and more widely

distributed that what we have. We have a Share with Wildlife project that was funded last year so the surveyors will be out on the ground here in the next month when they are more visible, the monsters are, and we'll get out there and try to get an assessment of maybe is there some kind of activity in there. Also, going through time to look at their — we think we have some, again, strongholds in the range of the Gila monsters such as the Red Rock area where it will continue to protect that habitat for it. And we think we have some secure lands of BLM across the Peloncillos to where we're not as concerned about other anthropogenic threats to the species. So kind of the final steps, really, from January we presented the draft of both these plans. We went back out to the public and had comments like I stated. We went down to the Malpai Border Land Group and discussed with landowners in the Bootheel both these plans a little bit but focused more on Gould's turkeys. They specifically asked us to come down there to talk to them. We had wide support from it. We've had wide support across the board from both these plans moving forward. We had a lot of great comments. I think the comments we received, as I look to my notes, we received 11 comments on the draft plan for Gould's turkey and 5 comments on the Gila monster that helped strengthen the plan. They weren't negative comments but really helped strengthen both these plans and some more contemporary data than what we had previously. So it really helped out. And with that, I will take any questions.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Commissioners?

COMMISSIONER: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER MONTROYA: Stewart, just give us — I know it's in the plan and everything but — give us a quick run down on your survey technique, just for the public's savvy.

STEWART LILEY: For Gould's turkey specifically?

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: For Gould's and the Gila monster.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Montoya, so Gould's turkey, we really go the core of the habitat in the Peloncillo Range. We have established roost trees that we know of within there where we noted birds have occurred in the past or currently occur. And we go to those roost trees to make sure, one, are birds still present. We go during the breeding season. Two, have new birds moved into different roost trees or, three, are they no longer occupied. So that's kind of the main strategy with Gould's turkeys, is going through the roost trees within that range during the breeding season. One of the things that we did notice in the plan that maybe is lacking is a systematic survey in there, and that's what we discussed with Malpai Border Land Group was, can we fly like other species a helicopter survey on roost trees, maybe winter time when they're concentrated in groups and get a better actual estimate rather than presence or absence on roost trees. So that was one thing that came to light out of the plan is maybe a different way to survey that improves our accuracy. Gila monsters, we really haven't established a survey methodology and that came about at the plan that really showed that we have not been able to get to a systematic survey. Again, 95 percent of its time underground is really a tough way to design a survey. That said, we really would, given how slow these animals move or connectivity between, if we can find pockets throughout range, it will suggest that there are more Gila monsters out there than we would suspect, right? So if we had connectivity from Red Rock all the way to Cruces, there's probably animals across the whole range but it's really trying to get at a more systematic survey to get some more information.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: And road kills.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Montoya, that's correct. We do get road kills and again, cursory to our big horn ground surveys in Red Rock we do get information of Gila monsters each year.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman, Chief, what is your delisting goal, I mean as far as time frame? Do you think we're going to reach that goal?

STEWART LILEY: So, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, it's very difficult to say. If we have continued weather patterns like we are and that Bootheel region stays flush with mast, the mast is pretty important for these birds. We think we're going to get significant growth, or significant — we should be getting growth at a rate to hopefully, maybe in the next 3, 4 years, what we'll be looking at, initiating a delisting plan. I think the other big thing that will help is cooperating with those private landowners to get at, do we have connectivity from the Peloncillos to the Animas Valley? Do we have birds that are existing in both areas and maybe our population because we focus on the Peloncillos and the forest is a lot more robust than we previously thought? Also, trying to get at, can we augment some other populations with the translocation out of Mexico, say in the Sierra San Luis or maybe in Animas Mountains might help us reach that sooner.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: OK. And one of the reasons I was asking was I believe we do have an auction tag, correct?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, that is correct. We actually have two. One is an auction, one is a raffle. The hunter actually went out this weekend. I haven't heard back from him yet, so maybe he's still out in the field. But the goal is to delist and keep

trying to build population, no different than desert bighorn sheep, so we reach the delisting goals, we assess what's a harvestable population, go to the draw, but also continue management moving forward to get Gould's turkeys to a level we think the habitat could sustain. And so, 175 is just our delisting goal but it's not going to be our management goal per se.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: OK. And I'm very happy to hear that we do have, again, the option and the drawing tag. I'd like to still see a public tag in there somewhere, you know, hopefully within the next 2, 3 years.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, that's our goal, too. We need to get them delisted in order to get to that stage. And so as soon as we can get them delisted, just like desert sheep, we'll put a new hunt in the draw the next season as soon as we could.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: Stewart, are you working currently with either Arizona or Mexico to — on some trades to augment that population?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Espinoza, we are currently working with the government of Mexico about a potential trade for pronghorn for Gould's turkeys. Mexico is very interested in pronghorn because they are a federally listed species in Mexico and Gould's turkey is a robust population in Mexico. In fact, they have more than a significant amount. That's how Arizona was really able to establish strong populations there, was with birds out of Mexico. So

our hope is within the next year to come in front of the Commission and maybe seek approval for a trade from — pronghorn to Mexico for Gould's turkeys out of Mexico.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: One last question. Is that basically like the historic range that we have in New Mexico or could we look at Gould's in another area as well.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, yes, the historic range is going to be basically everything south of I-10. Historically, Merriam's probably came down to the burrows [Phonetic] ended at the burrows [Phonetic], and you had isolation across the desert until you got into the basically the Sky Islands of New Mexico-Arizona and then down into the Sierra Madre of Mexico. So we have maybe the potential to look at in the Animas, the Sierra San Luis, maybe the Hatchets but we've kind of — roost trees in the Hatchets are probably a limiting factor— so we will look throughout all that Bootheel region and those Sky Islands if there's more potential in there.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: First, thank you for the state initiative on these recovery plans and addressing species that we can do something about and I appreciate the initiative of the Department to do this, so thank you for that. What is the procedure then, you know, if we get to a delist number, what would be the procedure then and in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, how does that happen?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ryan, there's actually nothing that — because these are not federally listed species. They're just state listed species. It would be an initiative solely taken on by the Department.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Okay.

STEWART LILEY: What we would do, if we felt we reached delisting criteria, we would start what we call an investigation. We'd ask for the Commission to start an investigation for a delisting process. We'd name a research group or researcher within the Department to initiate that investigation, come back in front of the Commission after a time when they've written the reports — Yes, we agree with that assessment, here's the data that supports it — goes out to peer review amongst the universities in the State of New Mexico, that comes back and then the Director will make a recommendation to the Commission for the delist or not a delist.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Okay. So can you explain in the recovery plans the management numbers for both of these species and then also the delist number because they're a little bit different and the criteria is a little bit different.

STEWART LILEY: So, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ryan, the Gould's turkeys first. Gould's turkeys are delist at 175 birds maintained in the Peloncillo Mountains where we have a little bit more control. Again, we don't want — it's — the State Conservation Act is not a regulatory mechanism over private land like, say, the Federal Endangered Species Act. We are focusing on that effort where we could really conserve and preserve the bird across public lands where we have a little bit more authority. That's not to say private landowners can't be a contributing factor towards it but we want to specifically focus where we have a little bit more control over it. So 175 maintained across the Peloncillos is going to be our delisting criteria for that. Our actual management number that we would maintain after delisting is really going to be dependent upon how well birds are doing across the entire habitat to the Sky Islands which is yet to be determined. So we have unoccupied habitat that probably could be occupied. How many birds can actually occupy that habitat we don't know yet, and we'll know through time as we move forward with conservation of the bird. Moving on to Gila monster, the biggest difference with

them is not a number. It's going to be probably distribution and secured habitats within that distribution because that ground dwelling species, 95 percent under the ground, trying to get a systematic survey to get at an absolute number is going to be almost impossible. But we want to maintain a secured population within prime habitat across that range. And when we get to that point and we have surveys to suggest yes, you have populations secured across — let's say it's the Peloncillos, part of the Gila River. You might have some in the Pyramids, those kinds of mountain ranges. We might come in front of you and say, look, given the distribution and what we're seeing in those areas we feel the animal has been recovered in the State of New Mexico.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: So the criteria you just listed for each of the species, is it spelled out that way in the recovery plans? Because, you know, 3 or 4 years down the road you may have an entirely new Commission, entirely new Director even, who knows where we'll all be, even yourself. And so it concerns me that in the future, someone else looking at these recovery plans and interpreting them could have different interpretations. So could you speak to the language of these plans?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ryan, as [Indiscernible] to the Gould's turkey, right there where it says Plan Objective, that's right there in the turkey plan. So it specifically states those objectives, those goals and those measures. Not only that, in the plan it says how we plan to achieve those measures and what we can do. So yes, it does have 175 specifically spelled out in there. In Gould's — excuse me — in Gila monster it also has the objectives and you'll see kind of, evaluate that current status via [Indiscernible] in the core historic range like we discussed, make sure we have populations in there and establish priorities for habitat and population security. So the good thing is, we already got that with a stronghold of habitat in the Commission in the Red Rock area. There is also public lands in the Pyramids,

public lands in the Peloncillos. So the secured of habitats really is pretty much there. It's just us, we need to get to that point where we have a systematic survey to say yes, we have Gila monsters in those locales. So it is specifically in the plan that can't be later interpreted differently.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Okay. Thank you so much. Yes, I think that's my concern with the Gila, is that it's — is that we don't even know how we're going to survey them and that it's very, you know, it's an evolving thing that it's going to be, you know, benchmarks that we can never meet because we don't really know. So I'm just wanting some certainty. Certainly if we get information in and certainty in, you know, I'm for revising plans as — with better information. I mean if we get more information we find a way that we survey them in some way and we actually get numbers or we actually — you know, if there are new benchmarks that can be identified with more certainty with respect to the Gila as we go down that path, you know, I would be supportive of even revising to be more specific if we can just because of the problem with — just if, it's an unknown right now that we might be able to have that data and it be more of a known factor in a year or two. And so I'm just putting that out there for the future.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: I know, back again with a management goal, I know you gave us the delisting goal, but where do you kind of see that management goal? Would it be 250, would it be 500?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, the very difficult thing in Gould's turkey range, if you take a look at this map, a lot of that is private land. And so the range in the Animas Valley and part of the Sierra San Luis is 100 percent private, almost one ranch. The Department's been working recently more so than in the past trying to gain access. We

[Indiscernible] have access on that piece of property right now, trying to work with that landowner. Can we gain access? Can we go in there in a systematic survey approach? Can we cooperate together on something like Gould's turkey management? So to give a pinpoint number is going to be really difficult on the Animas. Now the Peloncillos, we can get a little bit more information because we've looked at habitat throughout that Peloncillos. That's where that 175 comes into play. We think they can sustain that at no problem. Can it go up to 250, 270? It's hard to say for sure because you get those big fluctuations, not like an ungular where it's one birth each year and you don't have those huge population swings. Whereas, you pull off a clutch and you get a poult that's doing really well one year and you get a big boom and then the next year poults don't do real well. So you get these really cyclic population cycles. Can we reach 300 one year? Yes, potentially. But you might be back down to 225 the next year. And so I think we're [Indiscernible] over 175 across the entirety range of the species but I don't know if it's going to be 300, 500 or more depending on again what habitat management is going to be on that private land. And right now, habitat is really good on that private land. It's getting in there to figure out what they actually have for birds.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Alright. And that's kind of where my question was going earlier and I understand and I respect the property owners there as well and I really love their collaboration, you know, to try to make this work. But on the other hand, that's where I was going with historic range. What is the — you mentioned the burrows [Phonetic] earlier. Would it be best to maybe to focus on the burrows with a population there? You know, again, disease tolerant versus the established flock that's already there versus another location very similar to our bighorn goal unit 34.

STEWART LILEY: So the problem, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos, the problem with the burrows would be we already have Merriam's turkeys in there. So hybridization would occur automatically as soon as we go there. We want to keep isolation between this subspecies. It's really a unique subspecies. Arizona and New Mexico are the only two states in the U.S. that actually has Gould's turkeys. It's really a Mexican bird for the most part. It's kind of like the wolf where it's mainly Mexico. And the U.S. has a little bit to offer. We do have some prime habitat in those Sky Islands but outside the Sky Islands it's really not much of a bird that occurred through historically through the west. That said, we have some great habitat in those Sky Islands so we will continue to focus with private landowners and the public land in the Peloncillos. So we don't want to mix them in to hybridize purposely.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Thank you. John [Phonetic], did you have something? You looked like you were about to pop and say something.

GUEST SPEAKER: Yes, sorry. Mr. Chairman and Commissioner Ryan in particular, with respect to your concerns on delisting criteria for Gila monster. We, first of all, it's important to understand that there's no indication that Gila monsters have suffered population declines in New Mexico. They were listed principally because of the difficulty in actually knowing much about distribution and abundance. And no one has thought to rectify that situation in the last 35, 40 years. We've had, in terms of sort of broad-based landscape [Indiscernible] surveys. We can go through and swarm places with people during the rainy season when the Gila monsters are above ground and least do presence-not-detected surveys in areas where we suspect they occur. What we're hoping to accomplish is to find 3 or 4 [Phonetic] good populations that we would then study and we can get density estimates on those through pitfall trap and [Indiscernible/poor mike pickup] data on population density from Arizona, Nevada and Utah as well. At the same

time we'll be doing predictive habitat mapping and continuing to expand, just occupancy-no occupancy. And [Indiscernible] that together, we'll actually have a pretty good picture of how well these guys are doing. It's not ultimately a huge concern, it's just that we don't sit on the data at the moment.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Well, it's very exciting. It will be nice to learn what we learn. Thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes, sir?

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Did I understand that it is — the bird is not listed in Mexico?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ricklefs, that is correct. The bird is doing really well in Mexico. It is a hunted species in Mexico. In fact, Mexico offers more hunting opportunities than anywhere, tenfold, than the U.S. on hunting opportunities throughout there.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: I like your idea of trading antelope for birds from Mexico. Also I just want to say that I like these. They're clear, concise, easy to read. And you did not introduce your [Indiscernible] the author of this [Indiscernible] so appreciate that. Specifically you mentioned that humans are not, or human activity, is not a great threat to the Gould bird and in the plan you mentioned grazing as a possible threat but then go on to praise the borderlands group for their management. And I appreciate your doing that. That's very good. So thank you so much.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ricklefs, you are correct. I cannot take credit for writing these plans. That was all John's handiwork. And also Casey Cardinal. I would like to recognize her, our turkey biologist. She contributed a lot to this and the hard work

of both of these individuals on both these plans has been tremendous. So thank you for pointing that out and my lack of pointing that out.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Casey get to trap her turkeys [Indiscernible]?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ricklefs, yes, 52 turkeys from the Raton to the Guadelupes this winter.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: There's Gould's in the Guadelupes?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Montoya, no. Those were all Merriam's.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Okay, just checking.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any other questions or comments? Can I get a motion as to turkey?

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman, I move to approve the recovery plan for Gould's turkey, wild turkey, as presented by the Department.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: The ayes have it. Can I get a motion as to the Gila monster?

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: Mr. Chairman, I move to approve the recovery plan for the Gila monster as presented by the Department.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: The ayes have it.

SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, if I just might, I'd to just recognize all of the work that they've done to make these recovery plans. And this is the beginning of a long relationship with the Department, hopefully, working towards more recovery planning processes in the future. So thank you, everybody, and particularly all the work that Stewart and your crew. So, appreciate that very much.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Stewart, stick around. Agenda item number 10, draft rule presentation of migratory bird rule for 2017-2018 hunting seasons.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, before I begin I'd like to introduce Mason Cline. Mason came to us just under a year ago as the Bird Program Coordinator. He's been a real asset to the Department and takes on all the, as Commissioner Montoya will know, all the technical committee work on the migratory bird framework. So he's plenty busy with the Feds trying to negotiate different harvest management strategies and trying to help insure that we stay in line with the federal regulations on migratory game bird hunting but also really helps us out to insure that we get as much as we can to offer to our sportsmen. So I wanted to welcome him and bring him along so you guys have a chance to meet him.

MASON CLINE: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, happy to be here.

STEWART LILEY: So, as usual with the migratory game bird, we adjust the season dates every year in concordance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the frameworks they publish on the

Federal Register. We are in liberal seasons again in terms of dates so that's a good thing, 107 days in the Pacific flyway and 97 in the Central. So again, liberal seasons on that. We adjust the bag and possession limits according to the Fish and Wildlife Service as well. The only big change that we saw this year that we're going to have to implement is the reduced limit on pintail from 2 birds to 1 bird. That was a function of just missing the cut in the number of pintails surveyed across the mid-continent, across the last survey season. We're hoping this year that we'll — 2017 will be a 1-year deal where we go back in 2018 back to 2 birds. But again we will be reduced by the federal frameworks to 1 pintail in the bag limit and the aggregate this next season. The federal framework, the final framework, should be published by the end of this month in the Federal Register. One of the big things that we were able to work on with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service specifically in the Pacific flyway was to increase the daily bag limit for goose from 3 to 4 in the Pacific. The birds — and this is Canada goose — the birds are doing great. We don't have any issues with harvest and we're really able to work hard and worked over the last year and a half is what it took to get this through to the Federal Register. So that was a big change. The other thing we were able to do, we didn't do but the birds did it for us — the Rocky Mountain population of Sandhill crane continues to grow. We are getting the highest allocation of numbers that we will ever receive this year, almost 800-and-some birds that we'll be able to harvest. Because of that, we are proposing moving one hunt later in the Sandhill crane draw season and actually creating an entirely new Sandhill crane hunt in the middle Rio Grande. So a lot more opportunity for hunters. In order to do that, we're only allowed 30 days of exposure for the Rocky Mountain population. We'll take one day out of the Estancia Valley hunt in the middle of the week where we actually don't even — we normally get one, maybe two hunters in the check station during that and create an entirely new hunt of almost 70 hunters. So

by taking one day away, we get 70 new hunters to be able to go into the middle Rio Grande. We have received pretty positive comments to that proposal at our public meetings. The other thing that we're doing is lifting the restriction on harvest of Canada goose on Bernalillo and Sandoval Counties really so people hunting in the Pina Blanca areas specifically have the opportunity to harvest Canada goose. And like I said, reducing the pintail bag limit to one per Fish and Wildlife regulations. We have received 34 comments to date on the proposal and held 4 public meetings in Farmington, Las Vegas, La Joya and Roswell. Positive comments on the goose bag limit in the Pacific flyway, people were very happy that we were able to get that through the Federal frameworks. Duck season dates, people are very happy with — last year we changed back to split the north and south [Indiscernible] central flyway. People were happy with that split and recommended we continue this forward [Phonetic] so that proposed is in front of you to continue the split of the north and south zone, north starting earlier and ending earlier, south starting later and end later. And then again, Sandhill crane, we were able to kind of, people were in support of our recommendation to create that new hunt in the Rio Grande Valley, take one day out of Estancia Valley. And we can go back to these if you want, but these are the proposed dates for the central flyway for the different species, start dates for the 2017 and end dates for the 2017-18 season. One thing on mourning dove I just want to mention especially since we're down in the Artesia area, last year during the frameworks, we were able to add an additional 20 days to the dove season. That will continue forward again for the 2017 season with those additional 20 days. It allows us to keep that south zone open until January down here. This is the Sandhill crane season structure. Again, like we said, moving those hunts later when the birds arrive and also creating a new January hunt. We think this structure is going to harvest more birds. Last year, we think we harvested 500 Rocky Mountain Sandhill cranes. We were allocated 680

roughly and we were under allocation by 100 birds. Next year again we are getting the highest allocation the state has every had at 806 birds. So we were able to create later hunts and hunts when the birds really are and it should be really productive hunts next year, next season in that January-November time frame when the birds are really heavy in the middle Rio Grande Valley. And then the Pacific flyway dates, again this is no change from the previous year except for a day creep and then just starting on a Saturday and ending when the Federal frameworks allow us to end. With that, I'll take any questions.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Welcome, Mason. I like your tie with the ducks. Thank you for negotiating, you know, a hunter opportunity, getting more hunters in even if we had to give up a day. I appreciate keeping that in mind and letting folks get out there and have the opportunity so I just wanted to thank you for going into those negotiations with that in mind.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ryan, thank you. I also believe that it's been an opportunity in a responsible way for bird population's sake, it's the way forward.

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: This is a little bit off of — and by the way, thank you as well. I echo Commissioner Ryan's sentiments about creating more opportunity. But I was — question on open gates and properties because I know this was really the first year that I got to hunt Sandhill cranes. But I got a lot of comments from private landowners because of the damage they do. Are you working more to get some more, providing more opportunity, we have more birds, open another season. Are you going to actively pursue more open gates, properties down there with some of those landowners that are complaining especially?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Espinoza, yes. We're always open to opening more gates of willing landowners and I guess the rule [Phonetic] specifically solicit landowners in that area. If there are concerns about depredation we'd like to enter into any kind of agreement we can to get hunters access to those properties at a benefit to the private owners as well. So we will actively search down in there for those people.

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: Thank you.

SPEAKER: Good luck.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Questions or comments? This one's a discussion item. Thank you. Lance, agenda item number 11, update on development of shooting ranges in New Mexico.

LANCE CHERRY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, I come before you here today again to present an update on the development of shooting ranges in New Mexico. I believe you'll be pleased to know that construction of the Tres Piedras shooting range is complete and we are now ready to pull the trigger on a grand opening at that range. At this time, we'd like to propose a date of some time in May. We recommend that primarily because of the unpredictable weather in April and also we'd like to have some time to make sure to invite the public so they can join us in celebrating the big accomplishment. And we can do that in coordination with the Chairman to pick a date that would work all or most of you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: So, is it open now?

LANCE CHERRY: Technically speaking, yes. There have been people out there shooting on it. So it's a really nice range, too, particularly the way that those shooting rests [Phonetic] were constructed in concrete and I think it'll be something that will last, and durable.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Excellent.

LANCE CHERRY: So moving on to new shooting range development this year, the Department's been continuing to work closely with the landowner who's generously offered to donate property in the Clayton area. In fact, in the next couple days, we'll have Department staff onsite to conduct a preliminary archeological survey. We're optimistic that the site will be cleared and we'll be able to proceed with a similar time frame that we ran along on Tres Piedras. A lot of the same steps and process will be involved in that to get us to similar completion. On the Milan front, I'm happy to report that the Federal Registry notice was officially posted and every day we're growing closer to land transfer. As required, that post, that federal notice will run for 60 days and concurrently we've been doing work to get the mitigation taken care of for the transfer of that property. We anticipate that that probably will occur sometime here in the early fall and we're hopeful that that will provide us an opportunity to start to move into the next phases of that project. And finally, at the last commission meeting, you had requested that we provide you an update on the progress made with the Santa Fe shooting range. Since that meeting, we've been in contact with BLM and we've actually learned that our original contact has left the agency. They have moved on a permanent basis now — I actually found that out just before this meeting — the duties associated to this into the hands of a realty specialist there in the Taos field office. At this time one of the two required federal draft papers has been completed and a briefing paper. It takes some time for this new individual to come up to speed and become familiar with the project and complete that remaining draft. It's important to note that the Department cannot proceed with the next phase of this project, which would be compliance work, the grant application, approval of the grant, construction, until that ownership is transferred to us. In the current project phase which will eventually result in a series of public

meetings prior to that transfer is currently in their hands. And so we're really sitting in a position where we have to wait patiently for them to run their course before we can proceed with that project. To date, we have done all we can to expedite the work on the R and PP process and I would just say that my division and this Department remains committed to the project. In closing, I think we've made some significant progress on shooting ranges and we will continue to keep the Commission posted as to progress for 2017. So with that, I'll stand for questions.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Lance, [Indiscernible] wasn't those people against it or was, if it's controversial, are we looking for another spot or is it going to be okay there with the people?

LANCE CHERRY: Chairman Kienzle, Commissioner Salopek, there certainly is, regardless of where we pick for a piece of property in the Santa Fe area, there will be some folks who are opposed to that. And there's quite a few people who are supportive it. What we've done is, we've actually asked some of those folks to start talking with their local communities to help us along the way. Part of the additional process of the RPP is that it will give significant time frames and very formal processes for people to express opposition or support for this range project.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Salopek if I could add to that. I believe there's a growing tide of support as people have come to understand what we will be eliminating out there is the wild cat shooting and issues with just property damage. We're seeing more and more groups, diverse groups, you know I believe Sierra Club and I won't speak for them but there's groups such as that and shooting groups that are coming together and supportive this notion. So we're seeing a growing support out there.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: This is federal land right now?

LANCE CHERRY: Mr. Chairman, correct.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: And is it BLM?

LANCE CHERRY: Correct.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: And so, our P & P Program is designed specifically, these kinds of projects?

LANCE CHERRY: That is correct.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: And I've dealt with this program before in relation to a shooting range in Northern New Mexico, so this will get done it just takes time. Certainly we'd like to get community buy-in but I think with every project we've ever done, we've never gotten 100% but I'm sure it will, there's going to be a required meeting and other things. Get as much buying as we can so.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Chief Cherry, I just did a search right now on our website for shooting ranges in New Mexico and there's no locations of where I can go to shoot if I was in Artesian, New Mexico right now you know, or what's the nearest. So I think we need to really market that a little bit better, maybe even with a mass email to all sportsmen in New Mexico, you know with a link to that page where everything's at and maybe even getting a description of these shooting ranges with facilities that are there or whatnot, just to really market it a whole lot better and make it user friendly for locating them.

LANCE CHERRY: Chairman Kienzle, Commissioner Ramos, when we started this shooting range search across the state to pick out these areas, we actually did a pretty extensive survey of what was available in the state and so I think we're poised to make something like that happen rather quickly and we'll jump on that when we return to Santa Fe.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: So and I know we're plugging along and you know, are there a lot of them that we have identified that we want to improve and make better? You know some long-term goals as well?

LANCE CHERRY: Chairman Kienzle, Commissioner Ramos, absolutely. There have been a handful of these shooting ranges along the way and over the past years that we actually have come in and done enhancements much like we've done in Pacheco and Las Cruces. We've done quite a bit for that range and enhancing what they offer. Those a lot of times are much easier quite honestly then constructing a range from the ground up.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Thank you, sir.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Mr. Chairman, if I may, you're selling yourself a little bit short, the work that you all have done with the City of Clovis and working with representatives. They, Craig and particularly, Jessica have been working very closely with the Clovis Community, very positive. I know there was, we hit some rough patches in the initial part but the County Commission, we've met with them or City Commission, excuse me, have met with them a number of times. They are taking that, they're very excited. They're going to be the movers and shakers on that project. They've just come to us for technical support and Jessica and Craig have done an outstanding job working with them and I got lots of positive feedback from the representatives so.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Is that the range that is limited as to what will be shot there, used there?

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Mr. Chairman it is limited although they are looking to expand it and remember other, not just shotgun but they're looking at that pellet, indoor pellet for R2C [Phonetic] and a couple of programs and archery.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Will not be rifle?

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: I do not know that, so.

LANCE CHERRY: Mr. Chairman, no, at this time they are not pursuing a rifle range component to it. They're primarily focused on providing all the additional components. One real positive aspect to their new approach which could eventually turn into having a range on it as well, a rifle range, but one of the exciting components of it is that they have embraced our Hunter Ed. Program as a whole with it and some of what we're talking about, putting in there would provide them a tremendously more amount of opportunity to provide Hunter Education to that community as well.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Great.

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes, sir?

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: Quick question Lance, there was some discussion about what you guys have identified as potential and who you're working with currently. Could you provide me and maybe the rest of the Commission would be interested in a list of what you've got on the radar, so to speak?

LANCE CHERRY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Espinoza I would be happy to do that.

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: Great, thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any other questions or comments? You're on the right track. Keep at it and then we'll pick a date in May and we'll have a party.

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: Mr. Chairman, if I might make a suggestion. I know it's, for me it would be on the way but at our May meeting in Clayton, you know, we'll be in the northern part of the state. Maybe the day before or the day after?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yeah.

LANCE CHERRY: Mr. Chairman, I think we probably could make that happen.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: We'll see what we can do. Anything else? All right. Agenda Item Number 12: Update on Governor's Special Auction and Banquet Results.

LANCE CHERRY: This will be to provide an update on this year's Governor's Special Hunt Auction and Banquet and the concurrent New Mexico Outdoor Adventures Hunting and Fishing Show. I'll begin with the New Mexico Outdoor Adventures Hunting and Fishing Show. I'm pleased to report that that was once again a success and this year nearly 6,000 attended the 3-day event which was held February 17th through the 19th. Again, at the Manuel Lujan Building at Expo New Mexico. Once again, we offered admission to all licensed hunters, anglers and trappers for free, youth under the age of 18 were allowed through the doors free and we charged a mere \$3.00 for everyone else. Attendees were treated to all types of exhibits and demonstrations, primarily focused on the hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation industry. They were nonprofit organizations, industry professional that had new boats, new OHV's, all the new

gear that you could enjoy in the outdoors. Next year we're planning to hold that event tentatively, it's scheduled for February 16 to the 18 in 2018, roughly at the same timeframe. In conjunction with the outdoor show, the Governor's Special Hunt Auction and Banquet was held Saturday, February 18th at the Creative Art Center. This year's banquet lays claim to setting a new record for attendance with over 500 guests. Our featured keynote speaker was Steven Rinella. He's an outdoorsman, award winning author and the host of the hit TV Show, MeatEater. The Governor's Tags Gould's, Sheep, all auctioned at the banquet brought in \$18,000, \$118,165 which generated significant funds for wildlife conservation in New Mexico. During the auction banquet, the department announced winners for this year's excellence in Wildlife Conservation Awards. The sculptures were again, created by renounce Santa Fe Artist Kristine and Colin Poole. This year's winners included Doctor Sanford Schemnitz. He's a long-time professor at New Mexico State University who has helped shape the hearts and minds of countless students into wildlife conservation where they can and have made a difference. Doctor Schemnitz received the Governor's Conservation Lifetime Achievement Award. The New Mexico Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation received the Commissioner's Wildlife Conservation Partnership Award for ongoing contributions toward promoting sheep and enhancing habitat throughout the state. And Stewart Liley, our Wildlife Management Division Chief received the Director's Professional of the Year for exemplifying department standard for excellence and wildlife conservation teamwork and customer service.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: I will announce that he stood us up and wasn't here.

[Laughter]

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: But he had an excuse.

LANCE CHERRY: I believe he was hunting. That might be the only excuse.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: He was hunting. That was the only legitimate excuse.

COMMISSIONER: Good reason Stewart, good reason.

LANCE CHERRY: In addition to the Conservation Awards, the Shikar Safari Club International named Captain Tim Cimbala the 2016 New Mexico Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year and the department's Bighorn Sheep Biologist Doctor Rominger also received recognition for his recent induction into the Wild Sheep Foundation's Wild Sheep Biologist Wall of Fame. In closing, I would just like to take this opportunity to thank the countless department staff, volunteers and the New Mexico Youth Conservation Foundation for their efforts to make this year's event truly successful and with that, I will stand for questions.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: It's a cute dog [Phonetic].

COMMISSIONER RYAN: That was a great banquet. That was my first time to be able to attend and it was really wonderful and I heard great things from everybody else attending and I know that it's just going to keep getting bigger and better every year. It's very successful and thank you to the department, all the personnel that put in so much time to make that happen. It's during the legislative session. You guys have a ton going on, so thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: We've been in that building before. It's a great, that's a good location. It was a lot of fun.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Yeah and Stewart, we missed seeing you there but since we didn't get to applaud you there, I would just like to tell you again we're very appreciative of all of your hard work for the department and you're a great asset to us so thank you very much.

[Applause]

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: In reliance of Stewart, seems like Doctor Schemnitz son, they, they're right by us. They're amongst the farms and he was very excited. Doctor Schemnitz has dementia or not being very well but he was very excited and thank, I think he called me four or five times thanking us, so great job.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Aw, so sweet.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: It's great selection as I guess is the right answer.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Along that same lines, I had lunch with Laney Rominger from the New Mexico Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation. Again, he wanted to express his sentiments as far as selecting the Wild Sheep Foundation for all the work that they've done, very appreciative. Chairman, also I want to deal with Mr. Salopek also said about Doctor Schemnitz. He has impacted a lot of students and I think everybody knows him down at New Mexico State but also, his son was very appreciative on what we did for him. I do want to mention possibly for next year, to possibly have a portion of the time maybe throughout that Expo, maybe the day before or that day of the banquet, maybe to have them meet the Commissioner's Greet and maybe have public, you know input at that time as well to just kind of just visit and see what people are thinking out in this great State of New Mexico.

LANCE CHERRY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos so noted and there's a lot of ideas. We have to continue to improve that outdoor show and that would be one of those things that could help improve that as well.

COMMISSIONER: Mr. Chairman, again, along that lines with Commissioner Ramos. You know I attended that. I was there the three days and you know, I'd go around and talk to every one of the vendors and kind of mingle and that. I know I get a lot of questions. A lot of people just stop me as I'm walking through so that would be a great opportunity for our sportsmen to meet our Commissioners.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any other questions or comments? Excellent. Let's take a break.
Agenda Item Number 13: Update on Construction of Albuquerque Office and the Santa Fe Warehouse Complex.

JIM COMINS: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, we're here to give you a progress update on the Albuquerque Office as well as give you an update on the department's new warehouse. It's currently being constructed in our main office in Santa Fe. I've introduced Russ Benjamin to you in the past. We've been pushing Russ pretty hard and he's responded every time. So we appreciate that. So with that, I'll turn it over to Russ so he can give you the update.

RUSS BENJAMIN: Mr. Chairman and Committee, I'm very happy to bring you the update today on this project. We've been on, as far as the Albuquerque property goes, we've reached out to the community. The department held on January 14th an Open House on the property. We had approximately, 20 local families that attended that Open House. Overall, the response was very positive with just a few concerns. These concerns included the increased traffic of course and the OHV Track, the dust and the noise were the two primary concerns we saw at that

meeting and the department no longer is being considered to build the OHV Track in that area because of that concern. Each of the local residence in attendance was provided with the department contact information. To date, only three comments have been received. Concerns include the cost, increased traffic, traffic calming measures with things like speed bumps, things like that and the OHV Track. Additional concerns on the traffic study data and the zoning. The department reached out through our design firm to bring the County Public Works and (indiscernible) found that the formal traffic impact study was not required due to the minimal impact to the community. However, the department felt because it was the request of the community that we move forward and we did seek and pay for a traffic study to be done to address the local resident concerns. The trip generation for the proposed office, we're using the standard reference which is an engineering reference tool would be slightly lower than the family residential. However, the actual traffic count showed the office to be slightly higher. The department will work with Bernalillo County for future evaluation of the need for traffic calming measures if necessary. Additional public comment will be received via public meetings during the 30-day online comment period starting in mid-April as part of the environmental assessment. The EA Process that drafted that assessment has been received and we're going through it right now. The department will also hold another Open House on the property this Saturday, April 8th from 10:00 to 2:00. The actual design has completed its 70% design and has targeted for 100% design in June. The design firm Berhani Houston [Phonetic] has been working directly with the Construction Industry Division of course and the following Bernalillo County Agencies, Traffic and Transportation, The Water Utility, the County Hydrology Engineering. Public Infrastructure Plans have been submitted to the county and the water authority for imputing comment and we will be meeting with the county planning director once we reach the 95% design. Construction is

started to begin in September of 2017. The Santa Fe Headquarters Warehouse, I want to thank Carl for this panoramic view. This is about two weeks ago. It's currently in construction. This department started this construction in January, 2017. The warehouse complex includes a 10,260 square-foot warehouse and a 9,300 square-foot covered storage. Construction completion is expected in June. This will replace the department's current warehouse located on Richards Avenue in Santa Fe. The layout of the warehouse itself, one of the structures is an enclosed warehouse, this being that and the other one is basically a pole barn, are things under and out of the sun. Any questions?

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Mr. Chairman, if I may just make a comment. I started this project seven years ago and we came in front of the Commission seven years ago to get this going and so as I became Director, it was my goal to get this done for a number of reasons and so I'm truly appreciative of Russ's work to get the warehouse completed. It's been something that's been sorely needed by the department. We need more space, a secure location for all of our equipment and so I'm truly appreciative for all the work. Like I said, it's been seven years and I cannot wait to actually move into the warehouse facility.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you, Director.

RUSS BENJAMIN: Mr. Chairman, if I could make one more comment. I talked to a few of the Commissioners about it but we have a board in back showing the color selection and the (indiscernible) packages that we essentially picked for the Albuquerque office so I encourage each of you to take a look at that if you haven't already and make your comments.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: How goes neighborhood buy-in with the Albuquerque project? Pretty good?

RUSS BENJAMIN: We've had three comments out of 20 families that attended. I think that's very good. Two of the comments were from the same family so I think the public was disarmed when we explained to them that what an OHV Track was and then now the fact that we're not going to have one there because of the concern and they also, the amount of population in the office. We have 35 people assigned to that office at which most of the time 50% of them are on the field. So it's not a big impact to their community as would be homes built on that same property in one-acre lots.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Good. Keep us updated on that and we want to be a good neighbor as much as possible. You're not going to get 100% of the people satisfied but we'll do the best that we can. Any other questions or comments on these two items? All right. Will we hear this again next month?

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Mr. Chairman, if you would like us to, we can certainly do that.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yeah, why don't we do it. It looks like you've got a meeting April 8th so why don't you bring us up to date next month.

JIM COMINS: All right.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: At least on the Albuquerque one and Santa Fe.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Absolutely, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: If you're enthusiastic about the Santa Fe one which seems to be your pet project, that's okay. We can hear that too.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Well Mr. Chairman, I'm just excited that something that I had wished for, I guess maybe since it is my pet project I made it happen, but a long time coming.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: I feel the same way about shooting ranges. Okay, thank you.

JIM COMINS: Thank you Mr. Chairman and Commissioners.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Agenda Item Number 14: Proposed Amendments to the Aquatic Invasive Species Rule 19.30.14 NMAC. Mr. Sloane. Not necessarily to belabor the point.

MICHAEL SLOANE: I will try not to Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Commissioners I'm here to open the Aquatic Invasive Species Rule that you adopted about this time last year. By way of a brief overview, since last year we've inspected over 30,000 boats, decontaminated nearly 200 at risk boats. We have our partnership with the City of Farmington and the Bureau of Reclamation actually now contracts inspections at Elephant Butte in Navajo Lake and we do sort of coordination and training for that. So as you can see from the graphs, we've really ramped up our effort and the effort around the state One of the things that we found in the rule is that some of the language, it could be stronger. It's not really, we're not really proposing any changes to anything as much as we're proposing strengthening the language to make more clear and enforceable and so with that I'll stand for any questions.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: When will we hear this next?

MICHAEL SLOANE: I'll bring you a draft rule in May and plan to adopt the rule in June.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: So what provisions of it seem to be unclear in that you want to make more clearer?

MICHAEL SLOANE: One example is their requirement, I think the language in the rule says something to the effect of, you must remove the plug from your boat when you leave the lake and our field office folks felt like if it said, it shall be unlawful to not remove the plug, that that

would be more clear, more enforceable saying what it is that is unlawful versus saying what you can't do.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Okay. Whenever you do have the proposed language ready and you post it to the website, if you could email that to me I would like to have some time to really work through that because I am for clarifying something that needs to be clarified but I'm not for just word smithing to word smith and constantly revising and amending regulations and so forth but if they're meaningful and it's going to have a real impact to the people out there needing to enforce them then I'm obviously for that.

MICHAEL SLOANE: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner we'll definitely get you a copy and you know, I certainly feel like the rule is clear. As I said I think our field office folks have slightly different view on the way that we formatted all of our rules and so I think that's largely what this is driving at, is trying to make some consistency across the rules and also clarity in terms of forcibility.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Well and I definitely want to hear it. If you think it's clear and people you know in administration thinks it's clear, then I don't, you know I want to make sure before we see it that all of you are in agreement as to the language because if you don't think it's necessary and neither does the Director or anybody else, I really never want to see it.

MICHAEL SLOANE: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner I think that's why we're going with the three Commissions meeting option rather than bringing you a draft now.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Okay, great. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Other questions or comments?

COMMISSIONER: Just a quick question. Mike, are we still invasive free?

MICHAEL SLOANE: We are.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: I like short, direct answers. Any other questions or comments? We will see you next month and then in June on this?

MICHAEL SLOANE: Mr. Chairman, that's correct. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Right on. Thank you. Mr. Donald, Legislative Update, Agenda Item Number 15.

DONALD JARAMILLO: Sir, as you know it was pretty quiet for Game and Fish Department so the stature of this should go pretty quick.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: It was the neezy [Phonetic] session.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Get some naps in.

DONALD JARAMILLO: Okay, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, so (indiscernible). Hopefully, over the legislative update there was lots, lots going on during this Legislative session that in particular, was referenced to department wise we see, I think this is one of the busiest ones I've seen or I've been involved with. A little bit about the session, so this was actually a 60-day session and one of the longer sessions. Next year we're hoping that it will obviously be a shorter session. It opened January 17th of this year and it closed March 18th. There is a deadline for anything that's not signed by this Friday that made it through both the House and Senate and it is at the Governor's office that will be pocket vetoed. Let's see, so I kind of broke it down by the numbers. So last year about this time I think we came to the Commission and asked for to bring to the legislative session for our assignments our recommendations for bills. Obviously, our
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physical, our 2018 Operating Budget was one of them, our 2018 Capital and then the two. There was a felony trophy poaching. This will be the fourth year that we would brought it to you and then some off-road vehicle language to kind of clarify now that the bill was passed a few years ago. It was about OHV's being allowed on paved streets. There's some verification language that we wanted to get kind of cleaned up in that. So this is what was recommended and kind of what we focused on. Obviously, this legislative session, when it closed, there was over 1,473 pieces of legislation that was introduced into the House and into the Senate. Of those, about 49 bills were directly related to the Commission and the department and with that, we do these FIR's, I guess we call them FIR's but they're agency bill analysis. They reach out to us and the department typically only has about 24 hours to respond back. So I would say that's probably the biggest burden or something that we have to do and I want to thank all the staff that's been involved, Stewart Shop, Mike Shop, field ops, admin, because these are short notice. I mean we're turning these things around and have to get them cranked out pretty quickly for Commissions. Operating budgets, so operating budgets have this, two currently sits on the Governor's desk. The budget that we requested is, there was no change to the budget that was submitted. It sits on her desk and we're waiting for signature. Our FT account stayed the same. They didn't take any FTA's away from us and as well as, again, we did not receive any from the General, General Fund. So as of (indiscernible) it's been the same since about 2008. So our budget maybe sits about 40 million dollars, is that what we're asking for and we'll just kind of wait and see how that, this comes this Friday but there's no problem it sits on that one. (Indiscernible) Senate Bill 462 has passed the House and the Senate and is awaiting Governor's signature as well. These three (indiscernible) projects, the big one is you know, for the Brown Fishing and (indiscernible) Hatchery, so on improvements on the Red River Hatchery as far as on the water systems there

and then we also asked for some money for Game Commission Wildlife Areas, (indiscernible) Wildlife Area and kind of some habitat management up there as well as the San Juan River over in (indiscernible) Canyon to do some more fish habitat along the San Juan. So this (indiscernible) budget request is still, it hasn't been signed. It's on the Governor's table. So quickly, I'll just kind of go through both sides of the House. There was lots and lots of bills that kind of came up that affected the department. These are kind of the ones I've got highlighted here are going to be most of the ones that the department we're part of whether we had expert witness and it testified against and were actively kind of in the cross (indiscernible) on some of them, so to speak. So on the House Representative side, obviously, the big one that we're relying for size to talk about is our own proposed bill that we have. So House Bill 92, as it was assigned this year. This is a felony waste of game which provided a separate section in our waste of game statute to make it a felony for those individuals that are hunting out of season or without a license, kill an animal and not only kill it but actually waste portions of that animal. So this isn't something new, I don't believe, I think you guys are familiar with this. Also what this bill will do is kind of make some clarifications to our Penalty Statute 17-210 where it really identified language in it to make sure that all penalties under Chapter 17 are considered misdemeanors unless otherwise specified by a particular statute. That's really good for us as far as enforcement because what is happening in the court system that's being determined that these are petty misdemeanors so the statute of limitation is only one year but we feel in the intent of the original chapter 17 was that they were full misdemeanors and they had stated anything. So this is just waiting for the Governor. This is the fourth year that we pushed it through. Obviously, going through the House unanimously and passing the Senate as well, so. We had a lot of support for this bill going forward. Some other house Bill's related to the department. I know some of you guys might be aware of this. The Gun

Transfer Bill. This was House Bill 50 and then there was a related bill on the Senate side 49 that were kind of similar where upon any kind of a transfer of a firearm. There was some, you would have to go to a dealer, an FFL Dealer that would have to do a background check before you can make the transfer. There were some exceptions obviously, I think immediate family members were exempt from that but where this really affected the department was our ability to do a hunter (indiscernible) and using volunteers for firearm transfers and stuff like that. So this is one and I'll get to it but these are pretty hot topics at the Commission. So with House Bill 50, originally when it was due we asked for an amendment I believe in that meeting in one of the committees and it ended up going through the House Judiciary Committee and that's where it died. It was kind of revamped in another House Bill. House Bill 48, 548 again and then it died in that committee. So really it never made it outside of the House side so we're pretty much status quo as we are right now. Moving on, House Bill 109 which is Wildlife Animal Bites and Procedures. This Bill came about with the change in statute, particularly for when wildlife animals bite humans, particularly concerned around the rabies concerns and what this Bill was asking is that the Health Department would make a determination on whether a wild animal would be euthanized or be tested depending on determining what the circumstances, maybe is rabies really relevant in that area or not. What it did though, it was kind of took some of the Commission's authority, especially over those, are bears and lions. It's kind of trumped. A lot of what else it did it was our safety concerns. We felt there was big safety concern because it didn't allow our officers when they responded to actually participating, actively participating trying to capture this animal in and identify it quickly. It let that determination upon the Health Department before we could even act on it. So this one died in the second committee. It was pretty early on.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Is that the one that arose from that bear attack on a marathon runner?

DONALD JARAMILLO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ryan, yes.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Okay.

DONALD JARAMILLO: And it was seen in and around committee's I believe before so we kind of knew it was coming. I'll go on to the next one. House Bill 135, Depredation of Fund Uses. This one was actually seen last year. This was for direct payment and compensation for damages incurred by, you know big protected species. Not necessarily elk or big game. So this was related to the first committee of the bill sponsor was requested on opinion by the Attorney General's Office on whether a wrecked compensation to a land owner was a violation of the Constitution of New Mexico. In the second committee he provided that opinion by the Attorney Generals and it basically did say that it was in violation of the State Constitution to directly pay people for damages that occur on wildlife. So it basically was tabled and voted on and tabled there at that committee. I'm trying to catch up on my notes because I know eventually I'm going to run into something. So other House Bills, one in particular was Game Commission Legislative Appointments, this kind of, we can figure the Game Commission. I don't think they we're necessarily picking on the Game Commission because I believe there's other bills looking at the Water (indiscernible) and Quality Control Commission as well. It's trying to revamp the kind of organization. So what this bill was attempting to do, that (indiscernible) positions typically separated by US Congress Districts will be appointed by the Governor and then the floor would be appointed by the Legislative Council Committee. So actually the Legislative Council wouldn't represent the floor. They've still, they did that on consumptive position to

those, one of those floors so it was a non- consumptive as sportsmen. Then there was a scientist that was employed by one of the University's throughout the state and then an Ag Representative but those were all applied by the Legislative Council and the Governor had the ability to appoint three. They also staggered six-year-terms and it would start, like I said, you know, even though it isn't specific to the Game Commission, there was other committees or Commissions, bills similar that were represented in the same way. This one died in the second committee on the House side. Another bill that kind of directly impacted the department was Elk Hunting Licenses and Grazing Allotments, House Bill 333. What this was attempting to do was as permits or allotter's that have allotments on the Forest Service. Those allotments as those cattle are being brought off that they wanted some kind of ratio of elk numbers and any specific elk, nothing else. it was specific in the bill that they were just targeting elk and (indiscernible) decreases in the same proportion. Obviously, we had some issues. How we manage elk across core units and not necessarily the allotments. Yes, some allotments can be pretty large but allotments can also be pretty small and it went and this bill was talking about the decrease of the elk numbers or increase of license sells but we never talked about how that ratio would work in reverse if it were increase. Allotments where we would be allowed then to increase elk. I guess it was saying but this was brought up (indiscernible-voice muffled) early on in the committee to it and it also was tabled in the first committee by a vote. And then we get into wild horses and we're kind of starting at the end here because it (indiscernible) this was going to be a senate and we're going to continue to see a consistent message of wild horses or pharaoh horses I guess, depending on how you define it and which side of the fence it's on throughout this slide presentation. So wild horses, House Bill 446, was specifically trying to assign pharaoh or wild horses which ever your interpretation is, and get direct authority over to for the Game Commission. Basically they were

uncertain whether the WCA under Chapter 17 Wildlife Conservation Act Endangered Species. We do have a definition of wildlife in that. It was their idea was specific to add to that definition about specific species where we never do that, you know what definition is so its wildlife (indiscernible) what was defined and wild horses. So basically, we're thinking that they could make them initially a bit more endangered at that point and provide protection. It also stays pretty good with elk and bulls and lions and all the other big game species. He just didn't seem like he was up to the task for wild horses at the time. So obviously, an ability is a lot that you're going to see. These are all (Indiscernible) mandates to the department so none of these bills that we see especially with the horses are not providing any additional funds so they're requiring us to spread out in our current resource, our current budget over and taking on a whole new species I guess. So this is what was tabled in the first committee and House of Regional and Natural Resources Committee because specifically what it was trying to do was just put it on as WCA. So, we have seen representatives and then after that we got tabled, we started seeing these lawyers starting jumping up. So basically House Bill 21-17 which requires both or looking for both the Senate and the House side to come into an agreement on and House Bill 120 basically the same, same (indiscernible). So we started with House Bill 102 and there was working on a committee and it wasn't even heard on and what they heard in a committee from what I remember but House (indiscernible) was banning wild horses or pharaoh horses or however you want to describe them was asking the department to do a comprehensive state-wide study on wild horses, pharaoh horses in new Mexico. Obviously, I went to Stewart and said, hey get the helicopter ready and we're going to be ready here to go do some surveys and I think it will be about three million dollars to do it I believe. Again, it was (indiscernible) and it was tabled in the first committee. Protection of wild horses (indiscernible) was the same thing. House Bill Item 94

by representatives was on a study about placing distributions and that one in particular was looking at the distribution of licenses I guess to the (indiscernible) system so now we have the same through public and (indiscernible) when we do our draw we'll have a certain percentage of licenses that go to residents and nonresidents. This Bill kind of wanted to deal with on getting (indiscernible). We want to do the same thing to the E-Plus System where as we divvy out the licenses for those private land owners that participated in the E-Plus System, that there would be some allocation of those licenses to go to residents in New Mexico. (indiscernible-voice muffled) late in the game, within the last week or two so it really never got heard in a committee but this is just some of the ideas there being out there in the legislative session that we saw his year. So let's jump over to the Senate side. Senate side had some pretty interesting ones. Again, our OHV Department was proposing one of the (indiscernible-voice muffled). It made it both through the House and passed the Senate. What this was clarifying was as far as an OHV's, when those OHV's are driven on a paved street, approved paved streets. It's important to say that. But now they will be required to have a license plate. There's a helmet requirement. We got that definition kind of squared away where if you wore 18 and over you're not required to have any (indiscernible). If you're 18 and older you're not required to have a OHV Permit as well. So, that one again has made it through. It has clarified some of the issues. It also makes sense that the, part of that language in this bill is awaiting the Governor's signatures is that we will operate these OHV's on an approved paved streets and highways that you list all the motor vehicle and code and IE, speeding, traffic violations, passing and stuff like that. So we'll wait and see where that one's going to end up. Other Senate Bills related to the department that came up are Wildlife Trafficking Acts and AbilityOne. This bill is kind of looking at anything that's endangered and the (indiscernible) does as far as Game and Fish, We work with our fellow partners and others.

When this happens is on you know, (indiscernible) are all in New Mexico and stuff like that so these are endangered species. It is a (indiscernible) to the endangered species such as elephants, somethings that endangered and (indiscernible) and it prohibits the selling of it. So those parts. Those animals and parts of. So I think that some of the bigger concerns I've heard were like, you know (indiscernible) certain types of reptiles that are endangered in one country but currently this kind of recreates all of this. I mean we do work with the (indiscernible) so it really didn't affect us but what this bill is trying to do is to allow local law enforcement, state law enforcement agencies to be able to have the same kind of ability to enforce the selling of these protected species. We had brought in because we were concerned about certain hunts and as long as their (indiscernible) and their brought into the state legally we thought that we need an amendment to administer and to make sure to insure that these animals are brought in by hunters from Safari or other countries are brought in there are protected and in doing the last, the last one (indiscernible) what it would be that it recommends but it is done (indiscernible) for all law enforcement not specific just to Game and Fish to enforce throughout the state. So this one actually made it both through the House and Senate. It is one of the bills that's awaiting the Governor signature. Senate Bill 126, this is where I think that both wild horse versus pharaoh horse thing started and this was pretty early on in the legislative session so Senate Bill 126 chose a definition in the livestock statute on domesticated animals that are abided by the livestock (indiscernible). They were taking out, domesticated and adding pharaoh horses, donkeys, bulls and stuff like that into the thing so this will run through the House and Senate. We had some concerns because initially the language when we removed the domesticated out of it and you start talking about goats and sheep that kind of affects our Bighorn Sheep and Ibex and Barbary Sheep and stuff so we, early on we ended as a friendly amendment and then they were willing to

accept it so whether it excluded any of those species under their provided by protection by Chapter 17. So I think this is what kind of started the wild horse's bills that you started seeing coming through. Senate Bill 246 which is a Game and Fish License Generation. This is one that we have seen in the past probably back in 2012, 2013, somewhere around there.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Last year.

DONALD JARAMILLO: Just last year? So this was giving out licenses for around I have with the intent of it was that if you buy a hunting license or a fishing license today, instead of it expiring on March 31 it would last a full year. The problem with that is they, I think the intent might have been fishing but they included all the hunting licenses as well. Obviously, that shows some concerns because if you order a deer license or an elk license to a private land tag in November or on those late seasons, that will (indiscernible) to be put in for the draw or back hold another license until that year passed by another definition in statute that we currently have. So that one ended up, it never came out of the first committee on the Senate side. State Game Commission Mission and Purpose Senate Bill 266. This was created in the first committee and allow what this bill to this by additional protections to all wildlife as defined so this would be (indiscernible) and currently the department has produced statutory requirements of what species that it protections under. This would almost increase to you know, 6,000 species throughout the state. Again it was an unfunded mandated and unfunded and would not provide any additional funding but would require the department to provide to potentially rules, regulations, protections, responses by our department personnel to those that are covered. This was tabled in the first committee. Protection of fur bearing animals and coyotes was the second one. They constricted of Fur-bearing Statute 17-5 providing protection for coyotes and skunks. Again, unfunded mandate providing the protection for (indiscernible) and it would fall under you guys as State

Game Commission to provide rules and we would have to respond to every coyote complaints just like we do any other depredations, skunk complaint as well. With that, that's a pretty big, pretty big task with being unfunded with the amount of staff sometimes that we have but that didn't make it. It was tabled in the first committee as well. Senate Bill 268, the Prohibition of Coyote killing Contests throughout the state. I don't, I think pretty much everybody's with that. I think that was one that's has been around for a few years or a couple years at least.

(Indiscernible) anything the Game Commission wouldn't be affected by the installation of the, if this bill was to make it to the Governor's desk. So we asked for a real short amendment on that. That's the only reason I put it up there and for the most part we just saw it and made sure the amendment was still in just to protect us but this one made it pass the Senate and then died on the House floor at the last week of the legislative session. The last two, I guess I don't know if you want to talk about it. Senate Bill 286 an election of protection and public safety. This is the trapping, trapping bill which prohibits, wanted to prohibit trapping on public lands in New Mexico. This was introduced by Senator Compels. It was introducing the committee that (indiscernible) the same committee and then requested that we, we potentially meet with them and I think next month and I don't know if we can get him here he would be here at the May Game Commission Meeting in Clayton. I think during those conversations is wanting to reaching out to the Game Commission and the department to see if there's some kind of common ground so both sides of the fence can work through to try to before a bill was passed because was bill was pretty comprehensive. It's just stopping trapping on all public lands including lands and Game Commission lands in the state. We're working closely with Senator Compels and we hope to see him here and we've already started the process of trying to gather and what constituent groups would be affected and would be good players for these, these meetings. The last one and I

think this one came on very, very, very late. Maybe within the last week was the Senate Bill 41 Endangered Species Coordination and I think Director Sandoval knows probably a lot more about it than me but this one, what I saw in our bill analysis is starting this having the state set up (indiscernible) and specie coordination group, what it would be to the economist. So whether it was taking in any kind of social or economic impacts when they (indiscernible) endangered species or are in the areas and they obviously, the department doesn't employ any kind of endangered species economists. Also the ESA, the Federal ESA does not take it into any kind of account the effects of economy on it but this one was pretty intense. This was like about a seven, eight page bill that give you know, there would be multiple committees assigned to certain species and they would work directly through the Director to come up with recommendations on ESA activities. So that kind of covered it. I mean that was a tough one for me.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: That was perfect.

DONALD JARAMILLO: Was it? Fine, we're getting there. So that is a lot of it in the nut shell and what we'll be looking at next year so next year will be a 30-day session. Too typically they only discuss budget and their fiscal matters unless the Governor calls on others. So we'll probably come back to you here in the next, I think last year we were on a little tighter schedule when you saw this in May. Just till the governor's office it might fall back into a regular time and we'll probably show up in June with some recommendations if not August to move forward into December or to next year's legislative session. So next year obviously, it will start on the 16th and end February 15th. That's when the session ends. With that, I know that's a mouth full and those are pretty just skipping over the highlights of the legislative session but I do want to point out two individuals that may have testified in most these bills and that was going to be Colonel Booby Griego pushing our House Bill 92 through almost four, at least four committees on each

side in the House side getting that bill and being able to respond on those and the other one is our Director Sandoval. On all the other bills that came out, I mean it's impressive to watch those two and how quickly they can respond and come up with that information and articulate to a committee on that information. So my hats off to them. That was impressive to work with them. Also our staff and getting these FIR's turned around. I mean it was incredible and a lot of work. It really was so my hats to you guys.

[Applause]

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Questions of the Commission?

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: Mr. Chair, Vice Chairman, I have some comment remarks.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: Sorry, just a quick comment and real quick. You know I got some calls from legislatures and for the most part, they were concerned and had a question, wanted to (indiscernible) but the majority, the overwhelming comments was how impressive it was and how good it was to work with department staff. So don't short-change yourself Donald because a lot comments were on you as well and the whole entire staff of the department, they really liked working with you guys. They were impressed by the amount of the detail of comments that you guys could give or providing the quick turn-around for data that they required, etc., so I got lots of positive comments from the Senators and Representatives of the my part of the world at least. So hats off to you guys as a whole.

DONALD JARAMILLO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Espinoza, thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any other questions or comments?

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Just one last comment. Also the way the department communicated with the Commission on all these items as they were being presented and whatnot. Thanks again. That was very helpful and good job.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Our fear, not quite over yet. We have one public comment. Susan? Oh, I'm sorry.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: The Senate Bill 81, that passed and was on the Governor's desk. Was that the one that limited your authority over bear, lion and bobcat?

DONALD JARAMILLO: No, Senate Bill 81 is a wildlife trafficking Act. So that would be the sell of (indiscernible) species or endangered species that could not sell any parts or there also unless I'm mistaken. I don't recognize that particular one.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: No, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ricklefs it was amended but it was amended to include, originally it was just for all cited species and they got emended on the floor for just appendix one. So it didn't limit our authority per say. It just was amended to only look at those truly endangered species listed there are appendix one.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: On Public Comments, Susan Torrez [Phonetic].

SUSAN TORREZ: I'm short. Thank you. Good morning Chairman, Commissioners. Susan Torrez, New Mexico Wildlife Federation. I just wanted to make a quick comment that the New Mexico Wildlife Federation was at the session almost every day this year and I'm also glad it's over. But I just wanted to say that the Oldest Person's Organization which showed up and helped support the Commission. We and our members were very instrumental in getting the attempted Formulator [Phonetic] appropriation killed as well as the skunk and coyote, horse and wild

horses bill and we supported even the felony poaching and we just wanted to make a note of that and hope that you will all make some of our priorities such as increasing the public lands big game opportunities a priority in the coming year and we look forward to continuing to work with you. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. Okay, any other questions or comments? All right, we are going into Executive Session. Can I get a motion to adjourn please?

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman, I move to adjourn into Executive Session closed to the public ; pursuant to 10-15-1(H)(2) NMSA 1978, to discuss limited personnel matters relating to complaints and discipline; pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(8) NMSA 1978, to discuss property acquisition and issues Section 10-15-1(H)(7) NMSA 1978 on matters subject to the attorney-client privilege relating to threatened or pending litigation in which the Commission and her department is or may become a participant as listed in Agenda Item 16, Subsection a, b and c.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Espinoza.

COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ramos.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ricklefs.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Ys.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ryan.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Salopek.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Vice Chairman Montoya.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Chairman Kienzle.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: We will be adjourning. Commission just right around the corner.

It's the little kitchen where all the chairs are.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: This Commission had adjourned into Executive session closed to the public during the Executive Session. The Commission discussed only those matters specified in its motion to adjourn and it took no action as to any matter.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: You do have a couple of motions.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Pardon me?

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: A couple of motions.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: But we didn't take any...

COMMISSIONER: We didn't take any action.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: No action in our meeting. Ralph, you want to do the..

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman I do want to go and present a motion to make a decision here today to amend the Santa Fe County 1995 easement on one wildlife way to include

a 594 square foot easement for the new warehouse. I'm sorry, for the new installation of water line at the department's main office property.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTROYA: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any discussion? All in favor?

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Ayes have it.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Mr. Chairman, I do also have another motion that I would like to present. I would like to make a motion for the Director with the Chairman to proceed with negotiations in an agreement with the Mesilla Valley Boscia [Phonetic] State property.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Second.

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: And that property is in Dona Ana County.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any discussion? All in favor?

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Ayes have it. Okay, I think that concludes anything related to our Executive Session. Public Comments, Susan Torrez. Jim Steinbach your next.

SUSAN TORREZ: Chairman and Commissioners, hi again. Susan Torrez, New Mexico Wildlife Federation. I just want to thank and commend the department for the help that you're giving us. My husband is a teacher in Albuquerque Public School District and he teaches at Freedom High School which caters to students who for one reason or another have not done

well, have not succeeded at more traditional high schools and we are going to be taking them fishing tomorrow and the Commission is providing the licenses and their staff time and equipment and we have a couple more schools lined up and we're really excited about this project so thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Very cool.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Jim Steinbach. Art, your next.

JIM STEINBACH: I'm not quite as short. Thank you Commissioners for coming to our Artesia. This is the first time I've been to your meeting in our home town with the Game and Fish Department. So my concern was on habitat stamp monies. I'm in the woods probably more than anybody in this room combined. My personal view but recently I've been out in the woods for the last, say recently last eight months hiking nearly every day. Many of the trip tanks [Phonetic] drinkers are in disrepair, don't work, flow tripped off. Some of the tanks are full of water with no access for the wildlife to even access them though in a trip the other day I noticed five different tanks were inaccessible by roads that I did hike to. Zero of them had any water. One of them, we did find a few elk in there looking for sheds. There was 10 or 12 bulls maybe and they were more than five miles to the nearest water. That's going to hurt some wildlife herd and to make them move so far for group. One herd can be back to (indiscernible) 10 or 12 different groups of elk. For that much county, put in say 25 square miles. That's not a lot more animals at (indiscernible) this last wind we had. It looks like a war zone. All the dead trees are just and I'll tell you, you can't go without a chain saw. Even on the main roads versus off road trails which has nothing to do with the water but I just wondered about what we could do to see about

repairing the water or who we can attach. I talked to Mr. Low a while ago about it and I got some avenues where maybe we can see about getting some of them fixed or who they even belong to, whether their cattle allotments. One of the big ranches up there had just broke so all of the private where they had gotten their water from to water the entire area is now all cut off. So this rancher, this minor small 100 acre walk now, there's no water going to the other forest in the back. So it's a big concern. That was the main thing and another is I guide for a living and I see the number of elk, quality going down a bit in 34 and I notice they've issued another 400 additional cow tags. I'd like to see it maintained. I mean my opinion this is making my living that are chasing little bulls. Better find some better quality. If I did get the second biggest bull ever killed in the state this year. So anyway, that's just my opinion. Thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. Mr. Hanson.

MR HANSON: Shorten this up gain. Thank you Commission and Miss Director for coming to Artesia. We appreciate that. I just have one brief comment on the Huey Refuge. As a crane hunter, the non-access to the Huey Refuge, once the feed is being cut down there the cranes congregate on there and just don't come off after their, you know they're not out in the farm country and I know the farmers like that but if we had any hunting on the Huey I think it would keep things stirred up a little bit here there would be a little more hunting access availability of cranes. So just a thought. Thank you again.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. Mike Casabaum [Phonetic].

MIKE: I'm here but I think I'll just forego my opinion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. Joe Rivera. Okay. Any questions or comments from the Commission? Motion to adjourn?

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: So moved.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: I second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Ayes have it.

In Re:

Game Commission Hearing

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Cheryl Melgarejo and Rose Leonard,
DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the
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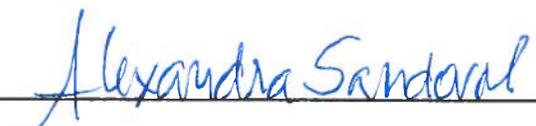
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APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION

Central Valley Co-op
1403 N. 13th Street
Artesia, NM
April 05, 2017



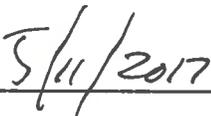
Alexandra Sandoval, Director and Secretary



Date



Paul M. Kienzle III, Chairman
New Mexico State Game Commission



Date

AS/scd