

MINUTES - NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

The Lodge - Cloudcroft, NM 88317

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order

Called to order by Chairwoman Prukop at 9:04 AM

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call

All present: Chairwoman Prukop, Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Cramer, Commissioner Lopez, Commissioner Soules, Commissioner Vesbach

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Agenda

Motion by: Commissioner Lopez moved to add an approve the agenda as presented.

Seconded by: Commissioner Cramer

Approved: Unanimously

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Introduction of Guests

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Consent Agenda

Motion by: Commissioner Bates moved to approve the consent agenda items.

Seconded by: Commissioner Lopez

Approved: Unanimously

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Workshop – Fisheries Management Division – Presented by Kirk Patten

The Fisheries Management Division is charged with managing New Mexico's recreational fisheries as well as dozens of sensitive, threatened, and endangered fish and aquatic invertebrates. The Division is currently composed of Administration (six employees), a Hatchery Section (35 employees) and a Research and Management Section (27 employees). The Division is guided by a Statewide Fisheries Management Plan that was publicly vetted and adopted in 2016. The plan includes past and proposed management perspectives for waters across the state as well as prioritization of research and conservation projects.

NEW BUSINESS:

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: General Public Comments

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Presentation of the Department's E-tagging Mobile Application - Presented by Lance Cherry

The department will present an update on the recently launched New Mexico Department of Game and Fish NM E-Tag mobile application which provides hunters who chose to use the e-tag process for the 2019-2020 license year, the platform to electronically tag their harvest.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Subsequent Discussion on the Bear and Cougar Rule for 2020 – 2024 Hunting Seasons - Presented by Stewart Liley

The Department will present the proposed changes to the Bear and Cougar rule (19.31.6 NMAC) based on public comment, harvest data, and biological data collected from research in New Mexico and recent literature. Proposed changes for cougar include eliminating trapping as a method of sport harvest, aligning

harvest limits with recent biological data, combining Cougar Management Zones (CMZ) B and F, and no longer allowing individuals additional tags to harvest more than two cougars. The Department is proposing to change the start date of the bear season in Bear Management Zones (BMZs) 10, 12, and 13 from August 15 (any weapon type) to September 1 (archery only), with the season opening to any weapon type on September 25. The bear season closing data for BMZs 10, 12, and 13 would change from November 30 to December 15.

Motion by: Commissioner Cramer to strike the words “private” and the word “and” from the current department recommended cougar rule. (in reference to 19.31.11.10 NMAC)

Seconded by: Commissioner Bates

Un-approved with a vote of 4 no’s to 3 eye’s

AGENDA ITEM NO.10: Subsequent Discussion on the Trapping and Furbearer Rule - Presented by Stewart Liley

The Department will present perspectives on changes to the Trapping and Furbearer rule (19.32.2 NMAC) based on public comment, harvest and biological data collected and information from recent literature. Initial proposed changes include:

- Require every trapper to complete a Department approved trapper education course;
- Prohibit the use of land sets on the Sandia Ranger District, the eastern portion of the Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks National Monument, and on Forest Service lands within ½ mile of NM Hwy 475 on the Santa Fe National Forest, and NM Hwy 150 on the Carson National Forest;
- Create a setback distance of half mile from a designated trailhead;
- Require snares on land to have a break-away device;
- Require traps to have at least two separate swivels points, one within 6 inches of the trap;
- Require stakes, chains, or drags, or other anchoring systems such that any furbearer or wolf will be prevented from escaping with a trap;
- Move manner and method from the trapping and furbearer rule to 19.31.10 NMAC 1978 “Hunting and Fishing - Manner and Method of Take”;
- Make the Furbearer and Trapping rule a 4-year rule.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Initial Discussion on the Hunting and Fishing License Application Rule - Presented by Chad Nelson

The Department will present proposed amendments to the Hunting and Fishing License Application Rule that will add species (sandhill crane, barbary sheep and pheasant) available in the public draw, require applicants for all military only hunts and returning Iraq/Afghanistan veteran hunts to submit proof of service prior to applying for public draw hunts and add the general license, permit and stamp requirements.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Initial Discussion on the Game and Fish Licenses/Permits Rule - Presented by Chad Nelson

The Department will present proposed amendments to the Game and Fish Licenses/Permits rule (19.30.9 NMAC) to clarify the requirements and financial liability of license vendors that do not return carcass tags to the Department.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: General Public Comments

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Closed Executive Session

Motion: The State Game Commission voted 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 pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(7) NMSA 1978, to discuss matters subject to attorney-client privilege relating to threatened or pending litigation.

Moved by: Commissioner Vesbach

Seconded by: Commissioner Lopez

Approved: Unanimously

Roll Call Vote – Chairwoman Prukop, Vice-chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Commissioner Bates, Commissioner Cramer, Commissioner Lopez, Commissioner Soules, Commissioner Vesbach

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Adjourn.


Motion by: Commissioner Lopez moved to adjourn.

Seconded by: Commissioner Cramer

Approved: Unanimously

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION**

**September 18, 2019
The Lodge at Cloudcroft
Pavilion Room
601 Corona Place
Cloudcroft, NM 88317
9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.**



Michael B. Sloane, Director

10/25/19

Date



**Joanna Prukop, Chair
New Mexico State Game Commission**

10/25/19

Date

MS/scd