### New Mexico Register / Volume XXXI, Issue 22 / November 24, 2020

### STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING AND RULE MAKING NOTICE

The New Mexico State Game Commission ("Commission") will be hosting a virtual meeting and rule hearing on Friday, January 15, 2021, beginning at 9:00 a.m. For instructions on how to virtually attend this meeting, visit the Department's website at http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/webcast/. The purpose of this meeting is to hear and consider action as appropriate on the following: presentation of proposed changes to the Public Land User Stamp (Sikes Act) rule.

### Synopsis:

The proposal is to repeal and replace the Public Land User Stamp (Sikes Act) rule, 19.34.6 NMAC, which will become effective April 1, 2021. The current Public Land User Stamp (Sikes Act) rule will expire on March 31, 2021.

The proposed new rule will include a renewal of the rule for an additional ten years, an update to interagency planning effort language in the rule, a requirement that 50% of the funds over a 5-year period be spent on projects that benefit fish, a reduction in the number of Citizen Advisory Committees, and an increase in the public land management stamp fee.

A full text of changes will be available on the Department's website at: www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

Interested persons may submit comments on the proposed changes to the Public Land User Stamp (Sikes Act) rule at dgf-habitat-stamp-rule@state.nm.us; or individuals may submit written comments to the physical address below. Comments are due by 8:00 a.m. on January 13, 2021. The final proposed rule will be voted on by the Commission during a virtual public meeting on January 15, 2021. Interested persons may also provide data, views or arguments, orally or in writing, at the virtual public rule hearing to be held on January 15, 2021.

Full copies of text of the proposed new rule, technical information related to proposed rule changes, and the agenda can be obtained from the Office of the Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, 1 Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507, or from the Department's website at www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/proposals-under-consideration/. This agenda is subject to change up to 72 hours prior to the meeting. Please contact the Director's Office at (505) 476-8000, or the Department's website at www.wildlife.state.nm.us for updated information.

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the Department at (505) 476-8000 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the Department at 505-476-8000 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.

Legal authority for this rulemaking can be found in the General Powers and Duties of the State Game Commission 17-1-14, et seq. NMSA 1978; Commission's Power to establish rules and regulations 17-1-26, et seq. NMSA 1978.

## TITLE 19NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFECHAPTER 34WILDLIFE HABITAT AND LANDSPART 6PUBLIC LAND USER STAMP (SIKES ACT)

**19.34.6.1 ISSUING AGENCY:** New Mexico department of game and fish [19.34.6.1 NMAC - Rp 19.34.6.1 NMAC, 4/1/2021

**19.34.6.2 SCOPE:** The department of game and fish and all persons who hunt, fish or trap on land administered by the U.S. forest service or the U.S. bureau of land management in the state. [19.34.6.2 NMAC - Rp 19.34.6.2 NMAC, 4/1/2021]

**19.34.6.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide the state game commission has the authority to establish rules and regulations that it may deem necessary to carry out the purpose of Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and all other acts pertaining to protected species. Public Law 93-452 (Sikes Act) permits the state, secretary of agriculture and secretary of interior to enter into agreements for the issuance of public land management stamps.

[19.34.6.3 NMAC - Rp 19.34.6.3 NMAC, 4/1/2021]

**19.34.6.4 DURATION:** March 31, 2031. [19.34.6.4 NMAC - Rp 19.34.6.4 NMAC, 4/1/2021]

**19.34.6.5 EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 2021. [19.34.6.5 NMAC - Rp 19.34.6.5 NMAC, 4/1/2021]

**19.34.6.6 OBJECTIVE:** To provide for a public land management stamp for hunting, fishing or trapping on certain public lands in New Mexico, requires purchase of stamp, creates a citizen advisory committee, and provides for expenditure of funds from stamp revenues. [19.34.6.6 NMAC - Rp 19.34.6.6 NMAC, 4/1/2021]

### 19.34.6.7 DEFINITIONS:

**A.** "**Public land**" means those lands which surface areas are under the management authority of the United States forest service or the United States bureau of land management, except those lands under the management authority of the United States bureau of land management in game management unit 28.

**B. "Public land management stamp"** or **"habitat stamp"** means a stamp or validation that is affixed to or printed on a hunting, trapping, or fishing license to demonstrate compliance with this regulation. [19.34.6.7 NMAC - Rp 19.34.6.7 NMAC, 4/1/2021]

### **19.34.6.8 PURCHASE:**

A. Each person hunting on any public land, must purchase a public land management stamp.

**B.** Resident trappers twelve years of age and older trapping for protected furbearers, and non-resident trappers trapping on any public land, must purchase a public land management stamp.

**C.** Anglers twelve years of age and older, except resident anglers 70 years of age and older, fishing on any public land, must purchase a public land management stamp.

**D.** Only one public land management stamp is required for each individual to hunt, trap, or fish on public land during any license year.

**E.** Purchase price for each public land management stamp shall be ten dollars (\$10.00). Starting in 2022 the purchase price will be adjusted annually based on the consumer price index from the United States department of labor, bureau of labor statistics, and may be rounded. The state game commission may defer annual adjustments; deferral of annual adjustments may not exceed five consecutive years. [19.34.6.8 NMAC - Rp 19.34.6.8 NMAC, 4/1/2021]

#### 19.34.6.9 **EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS COLLECTED:**

Α. The expenditure of funds collected under this regulation shall be consistent with the most current management plans developed by the United States forest service, the United States bureau of land management and the New Mexico department of game and fish.

A minimum of 50% of the funds over a 5-year period will be spent on projects that benefit fish, B. excluding administrative fees.

[19.34.6.9 NMAC - Rp 19.34.6.11 NMAC, 4/1/2021]

19.34.6.10 CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE: A citizen advisory committee shall be created. The committee will be comprised of 9 members, 7 of which shall follow the district and representation requirements as defined in 17-1-2 NMSA 1978. All members shall be selected and appointed by the state game commission from a list of applicants provided by the department. The committee will provide citizen advice to the agencies and will prioritize eligible projects.

[19.34.6.10 NMAC - Rp 19.34.6.12 NMAC, 4/1/2021]

### HISTORY OF 19.34.6 NMAC:

### **Pre-NMAC History:**

Regulation No. 648, Regulation Establishing a User Stamp Requirement on Public Lands Contained Within the Game Management Units 29, 30, 34, 36 and 37, 1/5/1987.

Order No. 8-86, 4/10/1987.

Order No. 4-88, 6/28/1988.

Order No. 3-90, 9/4/1991.

Regulation No. 676, Regulation Establishing a User Stamp Requirement on Public Lands Within the State of New Mexico, 1/12/1990.

### NMAC History:

19 NMAC 34.1, Public Land User Stamp (Sikes Act), 1/18/1996. 19 NMAC 34.1, Public Land User Stamp (Sikes Act), filed - duration expired 3/31/2021

## TITLE 19NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFECHAPTER 34WILDLIFE HABITAT AND LANDSPART 6PUBLIC LAND USER STAMP (SIKES ACT)

**19.34.6.1 ISSUING AGENCY:** New Mexico **D**<u>d</u>epartment of **G**<u>g</u>ame and **F**<u>f</u>ish [19.34.6.1 NMAC - Rp 19 NMAC 34.1.1]</u>

**19.34.6.2 SCOPE:** The department of game and fish and all persons who may hunt, fish and/or trap on land administered by the U.S. forest service or the U.S. bureau of land management in the state. [19.34.6.2 NMAC - Rp, 19 NMAC 34.1.2]

**19.34.6.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide the <u>New Mexico state</u> game commission has the authority to establish rules and regulations that it may deem necessary to carry out the purpose of Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and all other acts pertaining to protected species. Public Law 93-452 (Sikes Act) permits the state, and the secretary of agriculture and secretary of interior to enter into agreements for the issuance of public land management stamps. [19.34.6.3 NMAC - Rp, 19 NMAC 34.1.3,]

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**19.34.6.4 DURATION:** March 31, 2021 2031. [19.34.6.4 NMAC - Rp, 19 NMAC 34.1.4]

**19.34.6.5 EFFECTIVE DATE:** December 28, 2001
 April 1, 2021.

 [19.34.6.5 NMAC - Rp, 19 NMAC 34.1.5]

**19.34.6.6 OBJECTIVE:** To provide for a public land management stamp for hunting, fishing and/or trapping on certain public lands in New Mexico, requires purchase possession of stamp, creates citizen review committees a citizen advisory committee, and provides for expenditure of funds from stamp revenues. [19.34.6.6 NMAC - Rp, 19 NMAC 34.1.6]

### **19.34.6.7 DEFINITIONS:**

**A.** "**Public land**", as used herein, means those lands, which surface areas are under the management authority of the United States forest service or the United States bureau of land management, except those lands under the management authority of the United States bureau of land management in game management unit 28.

**B. "Sikes Act**", as used herein, means Public Law 93 452, which authorizes the issuance of public land management stamps, and regulates the use of funds collected there from.

**C. "Public land management stamp"**, herein shall be referred to as or **"habitat stamp"**, and shall means a stamp or validation that is affixed to or <u>printed</u> denoted on a valid hunting, trapping, or fishing license to demonstrate compliance with this regulation.

[19.34.6.7 NMAC - Rp, 19 NMAC 34.1.7]

### 19.34.6.8 PURCHASE AND POSSESSION:

A. Each person hunting on any public land that is under the management authority of the United States forest service or the United States bureau of land management, except those lands under the management authority of the United States bureau of land management that are contained with <u>in</u> game management unit 28, in the state of New Mexico, must purchase and possess a public land management stamp.

**B.** Each r Resident trappers twelve years of age and over<u>older</u>, trapping for protected furbearers, and each non-resident trappers, trapping on any public land that is under the management authority of the United States forest service or the United States bureau of land management, except those lands under the management authority of the United States bureau of land management that are contained with <u>in</u> game management unit 28, in the state of New Mexico, must purchase and possess a public land management stamp.

C. Each a <u>A</u>nglers twelve years of age and <u>overolder</u>, except <u>those</u> resident anglers 70 years of age and older, fishing on any public land that is under the management authority of the United States forest service or the United States bureau of land management, except those lands under the management authority of the United States bureau of land management contained with in game management unit 28, in the state of New Mexico, must purchase and possess a public land management stamp.

D. Provided, however, that oon public land management stamp is required for each any one individual to hunt, trap, and/or fish on public land within the state of New Mexico during any license year.

E. Purchase price for each public land management stamp shall be five (\$5.00) ten dollars (\$10.00). Starting in 2022 the purchase price will be adjusted annually based on the consumer price index from the United States department of labor, bureau of labor statistics, and may be rounded. The state game commission may defer annual adjustments; deferral of annual adjustments may not exceed five consecutive years. [19.34.6.8 NMAC - Rp, 19 NMAC 34.1.8]

### 19.34.6.9 VALIDATION:

-A public land management stamp must be purchased when buying a license and the vendor must check the appropriate box; or if purchased separately, affix the stamp to a valid license and sign his or her name in ink across the face of the stamp (exception: no more than one stamp must be purchased per license year). Stamps not so validated shall not be valid for hunting, fishing, or trapping on public land within the state of New Mexico.

**B.** Public land management stamps are not transferable.

**C.** No one may use a public land management stamp validated by another person.

D. No hunting, fishing or trapping license used on forest service and/or bureau of land management lands shall be valid unless a public land management stamp is purchased, possessed or affixed as prescribed by 19.34.6.8 and 19. 34.6.9 NMAC.

[19.34.6.9 NMAC - Rp, 19 NMAC 34.1.9]

### 19.34.6.10 AVAILABILITY AND EXPIRATION:

and fish and by hunting/fishing license vendors.

B. Public land management stamp shall be valid when signed pursuant to section 9.A above and expire on the following March 31 after the date of issuance.

[19.34.6.10 NMAC - Rp, 19 NMAC 34.1.10]

#### 19.34.6.<del>11</del>9 **EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS COLLECTED:**

The expenditure of funds collected under this regulation shall be consistent with the most current Δ land management plans that have been developed by the United States forest service, the United States bureau of land management, and the plans of the New Mexico department of game and fish.

The department of game and fish shall, in cooperation with the United States forest service and the **R**.\_ United States bureau of land management, develop a series of regional five year project plans for the use of the funds collected under the authority of Sikes Act and this regulation.

A minimum of 50% of the funds over a 5-year period will be spent on projects that benefit fish. excluding administrative fees.

[19.34.6.11 NMAC - Rp, 19 NMAC 34.1.11]

19.34.6.<del>12</del>10 CITIZEN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEES COMMITTEE: There is hereby created five A citizen review advisory committees, committee shall be created. The committee will be comprised of 9 members, 7 of which shall follow the district and representation requirements as defined in 17-1-2 NMSA 1978. All members shall be selected and appointed by the state game commission from a list of applicants provided by the department. whose members shall be appointed by the state game commission, to The committee will provide citizen advice to the agencies and to will place priorities on prioritize eligible projects, submitted by the citizens of New Mexico and agencies involved with the execution of this regulation.

[19.34.6.12 NMAC - Rp, 19 NMAC 34.1.12]

### HISTORY OF 19.34.6 NMAC:

### **Pre-NMAC History:**

Regulation No. 648, Regulation Establishing a User Stamp Requirement on Public Lands Contained Within the Game Management Units 29, 30, 34, 36 and 37, 1/5/1987. Order No. 8-86, 4/10/1987. Order No. 4-88, 6/28/1988. Order No. 3-90, 9/4/1991. Regulation No. 676, Regulation Establishing a User Stamp Requirement on Public Lands Within the State of New Mexico, 1/12/1990.

NMAC History: 19 NMAC 34.1, Public Land User Stamp (Sikes Act), 1/18/1996.

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Volume: XXXII Issue: 3 Publication date	2/9/2021	Number of pag	jes: 2	(ALD Use Only) Sequence No.	
Issuing agency name and address:					Agency DFA code:
New Mexico department of game and	fish, state gar	ne commissio	on		516
Contact person's name:	Phone number:	E	-mail addres	s:	
Daniel Lusk	575-649-1658		daniel.lusk@	)state.nm.us	
Type of rule action:					Use Only)
New Amendment Repeal Emerger	ncy Renun	iber		Most rec	ent filing date:
Title number:     Title name:       19     Natural Resources and Wildle	ife				
Chapter number: Chapter name:					
34 Wildlife Habitat and Lands					
Part number: Part name:					
6 Public Land User Stam	o (Sikes Act)				
Amendment description (If filing an amendment):		Amendment's I	NMAC citatio	n (If filing an am	endment):
Are there any materials incorporated by reference?	Please list atta	chments or Intern	et sites if ap	plicable.	
Yes No X					
If materials are attached, has copyright permission b	Deen received?	Yes	No	Public dom	nain
Specific statutory or other authorit	y authorizin	g rulemakin	g:		
Sections 17-1-14, et seq. NMSA 1978	; Sections 17	-1-26, et seq.	NMSA 1	978	
Notice date(s): Hearing date(s):		Rule adoption dat	<b>.</b> .	Rule effec	tivo date:

Notice date(s):	Hearing date(s):	Rule adoption date:	Rule effective date
11/24/2020	1/15/2021	1/22/2021	4/1/2021

### **Concise Explanatory Statement For Rulemaking Adoption:**

### FILED WITH NEW MEXICO STATE **RECORDS CENTER**

### Findings required for rulemaking adoption:

**Findings MUST include:** 

2021 JAN 26 PM 3: 56

- Reasons for adopting rule, including any findings otherwise required by law of the agency, and a summary of any independent analysis done by the agency;

- Reasons for any change between the published proposed rule and the final rule; and

Reasons for not accepting substantive arguments made through public comment.

The rule making was undertaken to replace the expiring Public Land User Stamp rule, 19.34.6 NMAC. The new rule simplifies the language in sub sections A - D in the "purchase and possession" section, and modifies Sub section E to change the fee of the stamp and to include a provision to link the fee to a consumer price index, the "purchase and possession" section has been renamed as the "purchase" section. The sections "Validation" as well as "Availability and Expiration" were removed because the language was duplicated from language that exists in other sections of the rule. Subsection B of "Expenditure of Funds collected" was struck from the old rule as it previously included reference to antiguated planning practices that have since been updated in other procedures and Subsection B in the new rule was added to reflect a directive to include specific requirements related to projects that benefit fish, "Citizen Review Committees" was modified to reflect a change from having five individual citizen advisory committees with regional oversight to instead have one single citizen advisory committee with state-wide oversight, the section was renamed "Citizen Advisory Committee". The sections were re-numbered to reflect appropriate chronological order following the deletion of the above mentioned sections.

The initial proposal was published in August, 2020 and public meetings were held on September 10th and 28th of 2020. The initial proposal differed from the final rule in the following ways: Initially it was proposed to modify "Citizen Review Committee" from five citizen advisory committees to three citizen advisory committees with larger regions of oversight, there was no provision in subsection B of "Expenditure of Funds Collected" for projects that benefit fish, and "Purchase and Possession" included no modification to sub section E. Prior to, and after the public meetings held in September, significant public comment was received that supported an increase to the stamp fee (Purchase and Possession), suggestions that there should be more projects that benefit fish (Expenditure of Funds Collected) and there was significant support for modifying the number of citizen advisory committees(Citizen Review Committee). Following these meetings and after review of these comments, the initial proposal was amended to include provisions that addressed these significant public comments, resulting in a final proposed rule.

In mid October, the proposed changes to the rule were posted to the website and an additional public meeting was held on November 5th. The final proposed rule was posted on November 24th, 2020. While a wide array of public comments were received prior to and after this meeting, the final proposed rule was supported by the majority of comments received. This resulted in no changes from the final proposed rule and the final rule. To view public comments please visit http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/meeting-agendas/ and click on the hearing archive tab.

Issuing authority (If delegated, authority letter Name:	must be on file with ALD):	Check if autho	ority has been delegated
Michael B. Sloane			
Title:			
Director, New Mexico Department of Ga	ime and Fish		
Signature: (BLACK ink only)			Date signed:
Michael B. Sloane	Digitally signed by Michael B. Sloa	ne	1/22/2021

Date: 2021.01.22 12:17:40 -07'00'



## TITLE 19NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFECHAPTER 34WILDLIFE HABITAT AND LANDSPART 6PUBLIC LAND USER STAMP (SIKES ACT)2021JAN 26PM 3: 56

**19.34.6.1 ISSUING AGENCY:** New Mexico department of game and fish [19.34.6.1 NMAC - Rp 19.34.6.1 NMAC, 4/1/2021

**19.34.6.2 SCOPE:** The department of game and fish and all persons who hunt, fish or trap on land administered by the U.S. forest service or the U.S. bureau of land management in the state. [19.34.6.2 NMAC - Rp 19.34.6.2 NMAC, 4/1/2021]

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[19.34.6.3 NMAC - Rp 19.34.6.3 NMAC, 4/1/2021]

**19.34.6.4 DURATION:** March 31, 2031. [19.34.6.4 NMAC - Rp 19.34.6.4 NMAC, 4/1/2021]

**19.34.6.5 EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 2021.

 [19.34.6.5 NMAC - Rp 19.34.6.5 NMAC, 4/1/2021]

**19.34.6.6 OBJECTIVE:** To provide for a public land management stamp for hunting, fishing or trapping on certain public lands in New Mexico, requires purchase of stamp, creates a citizen advisory committee, and provides for expenditure of funds from stamp revenues. [19.34.6.6 NMAC - Rp 19.34.6.6 NMAC, 4/1/2021]

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**B. "Public land management stamp"** or **"habitat stamp"** means a stamp or validation that is affixed to or printed on a hunting, trapping, or fishing license to demonstrate compliance with this regulation. [19.34.6.7 NMAC - Rp 19.34.6.7 NMAC, 4/1/2021]

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Each person hunting on any public land, must purchase a public land management stamp.

**B.** Resident trappers twelve years of age and older trapping for protected furbearers, and non-resident trappers trapping on any public land, must purchase a public land management stamp.

**C.** Anglers twelve years of age and older, except resident anglers 70 years of age and older, fishing on any public land, must purchase a public land management stamp.

**D.** Only one public land management stamp is required for each individual to hunt, trap, or fish on public land during any license year.

E. Purchase price for each public land management stamp shall be ten dollars (\$10.00). Starting in 2022 the purchase price will be adjusted annually based on the consumer price index from the United States department of labor, bureau of labor statistics, and may be rounded. The state game commission may defer annual adjustments; deferral of annual adjustments may not exceed five consecutive years. [19.34.6.8 NMAC - Rp 19.34.6.8 NMAC, 4/1/2021]

### **19.34.6.9 EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS COLLECTED:**

A. The expenditure of funds collected under this regulation shall be consistent with the most current management plans developed by the United States forest service, the United States bureau of land management and the New Mexico department of game and fish.



B. A minimum of fifty percent of the funds over a five-year period will be spent on projects that benefit fish, excluding administrative fees. [19.34.6.9 NMAC - Rp 19.34.6.11 NMAC, 4/1/2021] [19.34.6.12 JAN 26 PM 3: 56

**19.34.6.10 CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** A citizen advisory committee shall be created. The committee will be comprised of nine members, seven of which shall follow the district and representation requirements as defined in 17-1-2 NMSA 1978. All members shall be selected and appointed by the state game commission from a list of applicants provided by the department. The committee will provide citizen advice to the agencies and will prioritize eligible projects.

[19.34.6.10 NMAC - Rp 19.34.6.12 NMAC, 4/1/2021]

### HISTORY OF 19.34.6 NMAC:

### **Pre-NMAC History:**

Regulation No. 648, Regulation Establishing a User Stamp Requirement on Public Lands Contained Within the Game Management Units 29, 30, 34, 36 and 37, 1/5/1987. Order No. 8-86, 4/10/1987. Order No. 4-88, 6/28/1988. Order No. 3-90, 9/4/1991. Regulation No. 676, Regulation Establishing a User Stamp Requirement on Public Lands Within the State of New Mexico, 1/12/1990.

### NMAC History:

19 NMAC 34.1, Public Land User Stamp (Sikes Act), 1/18/1996.

19 NMAC 34.1, Public Land User Stamp (Sikes Act), filed – 12/17/2001 duration expired 3/31/2021

# **Subsequent Discussion on** the Public Land User Stamp **Rule - 19.34.6 NMAC**

January 15, 2021 **State Game Commission** Meeting



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# **Rule Development Timeline**

- August, October & January present at SGC meetings
- August Initial NMDGF ideas posted on the website

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- September 10<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and November 5th– Public meetings held virtually
- Early December- Final NMDGF proposed rule posted on the website
  - January- Act on rule



# **Virtual Public Meetings**

- September 10<sup>th</sup>
  - 23 public attendees
- September 28<sup>th</sup>
  - 17 public attendees
- November 5<sup>th</sup>
  - 54 public attendees

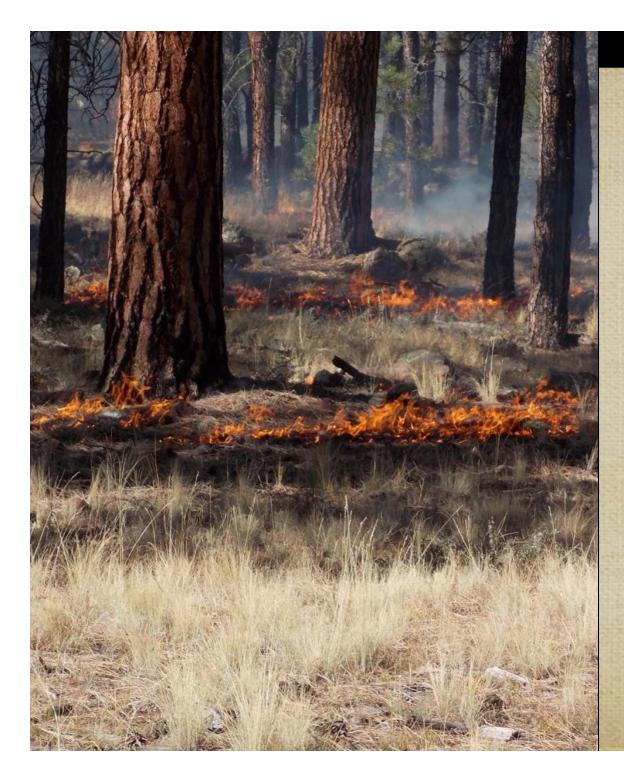
## **Public Comment**



203 comments as of 1/13Majority support each proposed change

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## Proposed Changes:

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- Duration
- Management Plans
- Create 1 HSP Region and 1 Citizen Advisory Committees (9 members)



## Proposed Changes:

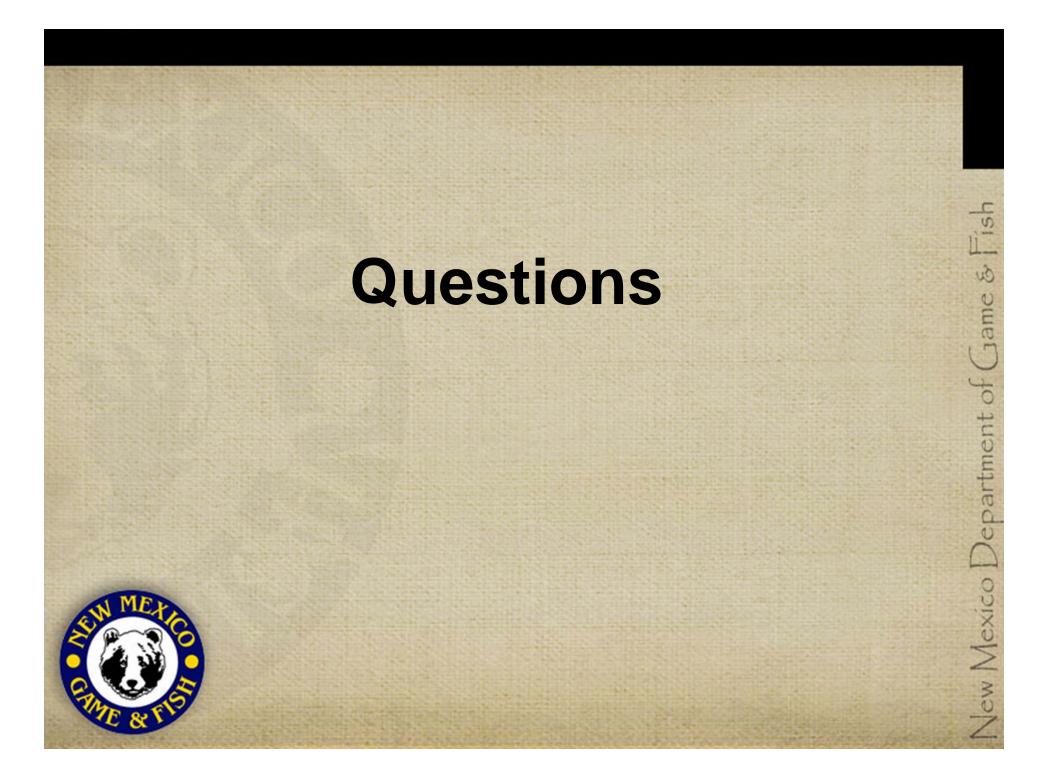
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 50% for Fish Projects

 Increase fee to \$10 and tie to CPI



### Proposed Changes to the Public Land User Stamp Rule (19.34.6 NMAC) Habitat Stamp Program - (Updated 11/24/2020)

The New Mexico Department of Game & Fish (Department) proposes making changes to the Public Land User Stamp Rule (Habitat Stamp Program, HSP) to include extension of the rule and other changes. These proposed changes include:

- Renew Program for an additional ten years (renew through March 31, 2031).
- Edit language related to HSP specific five-year interagency planning documents so that the expenditure of funds collected under this regulation shall be consistent with the most current management plans developed by the United States Forest Service, the United States Bureau of Land Management, and the Department.
- Consolidate the five (5) existing Citizen Advisory Committee jurisdictions into a single (1) Citizen Advisory Committee with a state-wide jurisdiction.
- Require that at least 50% of the HSP funds over a 5-year period be spent on projects that benefit fish (excluding administrative fees).
- Increase the fee of the Habitat Stamp from \$5.00 to \$10.00 and include language in the rule to allow the stamp fee to adjust in relation to the consumer price index.

### What Would Change:

- 1. There would only be one (1) Citizen Advisory Committee that would be responsible for prioritizing project proposals that are requesting HSP funding.
  - The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) would be comprised of nine members.
- Seven members would follow the district and representation requirements as defined in 17-1-2 NMSA 1978
- All members shall be selected and appointed by the state game commission from a list of applicants provided by the department.
- 2. HSP funds would be available from a single pool of funds to any of the USFS or BLM districts/regions within the state.
- 3. There would be greater flexibility to ensure that all HSP funds are spent each year. In the event that a federal partner encountered difficulty in completing projects in any given year, it would be possible to re-allocate those funds to the next, highest ranked, CAC prioritized project.
- 4. The Habitat Stamp fee would become \$10.00 effective April 2021. The fee will be linked to a consumer price index and may be adjusted annually thereafter. The state game commission may defer annual adjustments; deferral of annual adjustments may not exceed five consecutive years.

### What Would Not Change:

- 1. The Habitat Stamp Program would be renewed for another 10 years, and would continue to support interagency coordination, public involvement, and habitat restoration statewide.
- 2. Citizen Advisory Committee involvement continues as an important part of the HSP.
- 3. Regional perspectives and input from members of the public will continue to be important for project prioritization.

## NEW MEXICO HABITAT STAMP PROGRAM

2017 Implementation Report (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017)



January 25, 2018 By Reuben S. Teran

### New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

in conjunction with cooperators in the

### United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management







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### ABSTRACT

Total revenues into the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) Sikes Fund for State fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017) totaled \$1,119,203.35, and total Habitat Stamp Program (HSP) expenditures totaled \$815,521.42. In project year 2017, HSP helped support 3,168 acres of upland vegetative treatments; improvements to 270 acres of riparian habitat; the installation of 7 new wildlife water developments; the construction of 3 handicap accessible fishing piers adjacent to the Town of Red River to improve angler access; improvement of approximately 4 miles of aquatic habitat along the Jemez River; modifying 8 miles of fence to facilitate wildlife migration and movements along US 285; and 479 maintenance and/or inspection activities on existing HSP infrastructure.

Since its inception in 1986, the HSP has helped provide funding for 2,398 habitat enhancement and wildlife management projects in New Mexico, with Sikes Fund project expenditures of more than \$20 million. Through the continued financial support of hunters, anglers, and trappers recreating on federally managed public lands in New Mexico, the State's wildlife resources continue to benefit through a user supported fund dedicated to proactive wildlife management and conservation.

### INTRODUCTION

The HSP is a collaborative effort between hunters, anglers, trappers, NMDGF, U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS) implemented under authority of the Sikes Act (16USC670) and the New Mexico State Game Commission.

The Sikes Act requires the maintenance of accurate records and the filing of annual reports setting forth the amount and disposition of the fees collected from habitat stamps. The purpose of this document is to provide that report to the program partners, and to provide an annual record of accomplishments to all HSP stakeholders.

Since statewide implementation of the program in 1991, all hunters, anglers, and trappers who engage in these activities on BLM and USFS managed lands are required to purchase a \$5.00 validation "stamp". Revenue is dedicated to wildlife conservation and habitat enhancement projects on public lands within the state of New Mexico.

The cooperating agencies have fulfilled their obligations to an interagency agreement with submission of reports that track every proposed project to its completion or deletion. A summary of these reports for 2017 projects are found in Appendix I and serve as the source documents for the compilations contained herein.

### **PROGRAM RATIONAL**

The HSP employs a collaborative decision-making process that has been successful in serving the needs of stakeholders while creating support and credibility. In this process, citizens and/or agency professionals advance project ideas for funding consideration. The agency formulates the idea into a proposal with associated costs. All proposals are then reviewed and prioritized by one of five regional Citizen Advisory Committees (CACs).

This funding decision-making process generally takes two years. Preliminary citizen prioritization in the first year allows agencies to proceed with complex permitting and manpower scheduling requirements (such as National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA] compliance and obtaining cultural and endangered

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species clearances). In the second year, the actual project work is conducted. Thus each agency coordinator is doing three tasks simultaneously: *implementing* current-year work, *finalizing environmental clearances* for next-year's work, and *planning* out-year projects. Although the habitat improvements implemented through the HSP typically focus on game species, the habitat improvements benefit a suite of associated game and nongame wildlife.

While the program is founded on a principle of cooperation, its mission statement keeps cooperators grounded in a common purpose. That purpose serves to guide those involved in the program in the prioritization of limited fiscal and human resources. HSP Habitat Improvement plans also provide a framework for conservation activities within the program, and have been developed from the following statement:

Who:	Habitat Stamp Program cooperators are
What:	to provide ecologically diverse wildlife and fish habitats
Where:	on USFS and BLM managed lands,
How:	by involving the public in an effective, cost efficient, honest, and cooperative management process
Why:	for enjoyment and use by the current and future generations of New Mexicans.

### HABITAT STAMP PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

In 2014, the State Game Commission modified the funding allocation formula for the federal land management agencies, which changed allocation amounts to be based by the number of public land acres managed. The new funding allocation formula reflects the amount of public land in each federal agency unit's jurisdiction, and also assures each agency a portion of annual funds within their respective HSP Region, again based on acres managed.

### FUNDING

The Sikes Fund is an account in New Mexico State government that holds the money generated from the sale of the \$5 Habitat Stamp. Due to complexities between differing state and federal fiscal years, project funding is no longer based on annual stamp sales, but upon a planned budget. The budget is approved by the State Game Commission and appropriated by the Legislature. Federal partners then implement projects within the State's fiscal year of July 1 to June 30 each year. This requirement prevents overbilling by federal partners to the State of New Mexico. In state fiscal year 2016, an intra-agency transfer of \$1,000,000 to a NMDGF Capital Sikes Fund for the HSP was completed, and HSP expenditures are currently being tracked from both fund accounts.

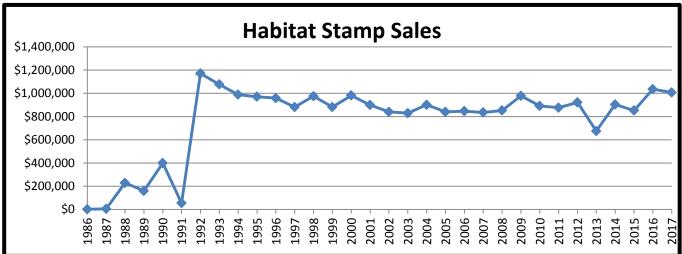
The Sikes Fund accumulated \$1,006,660 in stamp sales and \$9,045.06 in interest from July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017. Federal grants and other revenue also added \$103,498.29 into the Fund. Total revenues for the HSP were \$1,119,203.35. Expenditures from the Sikes Fund, which includes project implementation and program administration, totaled \$358,592.13. The Sikes Fund balance as of June 30, 2017 was \$2,104,665.22.

Expenditures from the Capital Sikes Fund which only includes project implementation totaled \$456,929.29. The Capital Sikes Fund balance as of June 30, 2017 was \$543,070.71. The combination of

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the administration and project implementation expenditures leads to a report of fund balances as seen in Sikes Fund Balance Sheet & Capital Sikes Fund Balance Sheet (Appendix II).

In State fiscal year 2017, the total funds available for annual HSP projects were \$742,300. Appendix III depicts how funds were allocated to federal partners by HSP Region in project year 2017.



### FIGURE 1. HABITAT STAMP SALES FROM FISCAL YEAR 1986-2017

### **PROJECT EXPENDITURES**

HSP expenditures for all projects completed in project year 2017 have been compiled in Table 1 below. Of the total expenditures, the HSP funded \$685,213.29 (34.52%) as tracked by individual projects. Federal agencies, in the form of cash and planning costs, reported contributing \$866,561.53 (43.67%) and agency partners also reported \$432,784.25 was contributed by other project partners (21.81%). A total of \$1,984,559.07 was expended to complete 45 projects.

The program goal is to match agency funds dollar for dollar, and leverage other non-HSP funds at the rate of \$0.25 on the HSP dollar. In 2017, USFS and BLM combined funds exceeded this goal by expending \$1.26 on each HSP dollar (Table 1) this reporting period. This is above the lifetime HSP average federal program match of \$1.16 to \$1 (Appendix IV). Other project funds have exceeded the lifetime average at \$0.63 cents on the HSP dollar for this reporting period (Table 1).

	# of Projects	HSP \$	AGENCY \$	OTHER \$	TOTAL
BLM	20	\$316,816.25	\$283,950.97	\$60,884.25	\$661,651.47
USFS	25	\$368,397.04	\$582,610.56	\$371,900.00	\$1,322,907.60
Total	45	\$685,213.29	\$866,561.53	\$432,784.25	\$1,984,559.07
	% of Total	34.5%	43.7%	21.8%	100%
	Match Ratio	\$1.00	\$1.26	\$0.63	

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### **STATUS OF PROJECTS**

The State Game Commission appoints 35 Citizen Advisors, which review and prioritize all proposals within their particular HSP Region. For tracking purposes, projects are reported annually as either "completed," or "deleted." Those proposals that are not allocated HSP funding are reported as "deleted". Please note that some projects that were prioritized for funding but not implemented are also reported as "deleted". This may be due to lack of manpower, permitting complications, or other implementation / planning problems. Proposals that were not allocated funding or unable to be implemented can be resubmitted in future funding cycles for consideration. Proposals that were allocated HSP funds but ultimately completed without the use of HSP funds are also reported as "deleted". Projects that have outlived their lifespan or are no longer viable to be maintained are ultimately decommissioned. Existing infrastructure on BLM or USFS managed lands may be adopted into the Program that would allow HSP funds to be used to maintain or re-construct these components to benefit wildlife and/or habitat. Infrastructure that has been adopted (2) into the HSP in project year 2017 is identified in Appendix I.

For this reporting period, 80 projects were submitted for funding consideration and tracked. Of the total projects submitted, 48 were prioritized by the CACs for funding. 45 projects were ultimately implemented and completed with the support of HSP funds.

### UNITS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

To summarize and report HSP accomplishments, a numeric-alpha-numeric tabulation system was developed. Due to the lumping of specialized tasks, it is recognized that this method will decrease the accuracy of reporting some accomplishments. However for evaluation purposes, this method has allowed for consistent and cumulative accounting and comparison.

Figure 2 provides a visual percentage-illustration of the project year 2017 data presented in Table 2. During the 2017 reporting period, the HSP expended \$685,213.29 to complete 45 projects. The number of projects completed in 2017 compares to 41 in 2016; 40 in 2015; 45 in 2014; 49 in 2013; 51 in 2012; 67 in 2011/2010; 62 in 2009; 70 in 2008; and 130 in 2007. A goal within the HSP is to ensure that funds are directed toward habitat improvement, protection, or restoration. As the HSP has evolved over the years, maintenance needs on existing infrastructure has increased, and a focus has been made to implement larger landscape type projects. These factors are playing a role in the number of projects submitted and completed each year when compared to earlier years of the HSP.

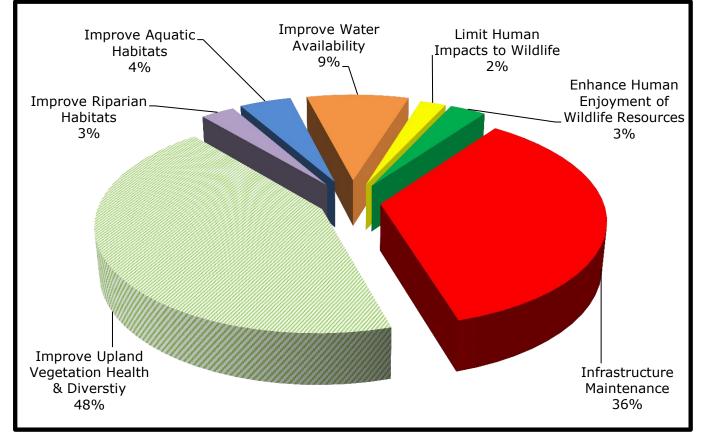
The highest use of HSP funds in 2017 was to improve 3,168 acres upland vegetative habitat, which accounted for \$297,410.468 (48%). This compares to 9,543 acres in 2016; 7,511 acres in 2015; 24,889 acres in 2014; 14,438 acres in 2013; 16,434 acres in 2012; 34,968 acres in 2010/2011; 59,396 in 2009; 29,467 in 2008; and 56,275 in 2007. Restoring historic fire regimes are of high habitat importance, but state/federal fiscal year variances, environmental, social, and political constraints have limited its application. This was evident in 2017 as only 321 acres were able to be treated with prescribed fire. The use of fire as a management tool rises and falls based on impediments mentioned previously.

The second highest use of HSP funds in 2017 was to maintain existing HSP infrastructure, and accounted for \$242,714.65 (36%). In HSP's first decade maintenance had required only 10% of HSP funds. However, as existing HSP infrastructure ages and additional infrastructure is adopted into the HSP, this aging infrastructure will require more maintenance. This reality, coupled with the Citizen Advisory Committee's increasing desire to maintain prior investments, will most likely require more dollars for maintenance in the future. Federal partners reported 479 maintenance and/or inspection activities were performed on HSP structures throughout the State.

The construction of 7 new water developments designed to improve water availability for wildlife accounted for the third largest expenditure at \$59,310.80 (9%). While this category continues to be in the top three expenditures category, there has also been an emphasis by program constituents to maintain and/or reconstruct existing water developments as noted previously.

Expenditures on other habitat related project categories include: improving aquatic habitats at \$30,000 (4%); enhancing human enjoyment of wildlife resources at \$21,060.00 (3%); improving riparian habitat at \$19,717.38 (3%); and limiting human impacts at \$15,000 (2%). Improving watershed health, wildlife / fisheries management, inventorying wildlife populations and/or habitat, and improving wildlife shelter were project categories that were not implemented in 2017.





### TABLE 2: HSP UNITS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT COMPLETED IN THE 2017 PROJECT-YEAR

2017 Project Types/Sub-types	# of Projects.	Number	Units	HSP Expenditure	USFS / BLM Expenditure	Volunteer / Other Expenditure	Total		
Maintain integrity and s	Maintain integrity and safety of existing habitat improvements.								
Maintain existing program infrastructure to extend their usefulness.	18	479	structures	\$242,714.65	\$263,497.53	\$29,884.25	\$536,096.43		
TOTALS	18	479	structures	\$242,714.65	\$263,497.53	\$29,884.25	\$536,096.43		
Improve upland vegetat	Improve upland vegetative health and diversity.								
Apply fire to improve forage quantity and/or quality.	3	321	acres	\$49,439.41	\$295,000	\$0	\$344,439.41		
Apply herbicides to improve forage quantity and/or quality.	1	438	acres	\$22,000.00	\$10,000	\$0	\$32,000.00		
Mechanically treat vegetation to improve forage quantity and/or quality.	8	1,379	acres	\$151,649.54	\$95,200	\$24,900	\$271,749.54		
Manage vegetation to increase woody structural diversity.	1	158	acres	\$24,799.96	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$49,799.96		
Manage vegetation to reduce fuels.	2	872	acres	\$49,521.55	\$12,000	\$0	\$61,521.55		
TOTALS	15	3,168	acres	\$297,410.46	\$427,200.00	\$34,900.00	\$759,510.46		
Improve functionality of	f riparian h	abitats (per	ennial and e	phemeral).					
Herbicide treatment to benefit riparian/ephemeral habitat.	1	255	acres	\$10,000	\$60,000	\$0	\$70,000.00		
Implement other treatments to improve riparian/ephemeral habitats (e.g. treating salt cedar and Russian olive, burning piles, and planting cottonwood trees).	1	15	acres	\$9,717.38	\$7,584	\$0	\$17,301.38		
TOTALS	2	270	acres	\$19,717.38	\$67,584.00	\$0.00	\$87,301.38		

2017 Project Types/Sub-types	# of Projects.	Number	Units	HSP Expenditure	USFS / BLM Expenditure	Volunteer / Other Expenditure	Total			
Improve aquatic habita	Improve aquatic habitats.									
B. Install in-stream channel structures.	1	4	miles	\$30,000	\$35,000	\$0	\$65,000.00			
TOTALS	1	4	miles	\$30,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$0.00	\$65,000.00			
Increase availability and	l distributio	n of year-ro	ound water.							
Install artificial structures to provide ground level water sources where free- water is lacking	7	7	structures	\$59,310.80	\$54,180	\$6,000	\$119,490.80			
TOTALS	7	7	structures	\$59,310.80	\$54,180	\$6,000	\$119,490.80			
Wildlife/Fisheries Mana	gement									
TOTALS	0									
Limit adverse impacts o	f man-made	e structures	and human	/wildlife interac	tions.					
Remove or modify fences to minimize impacts to wildlife.	1	8	miles	\$15,000	\$14,100	\$25,000	\$54,100.00			
TOTALS	1	8	miles	\$15,000.00	\$14,100.00	\$25,000.00	\$54,100.00			
Enhance beneficial uses and human enjoyment of fisheries and wildlife resources.										
Install infrastructure to improve sporting satisfaction (e.g. fishing platforms, toilets, recreational access, etc.)	1	3	structures	\$21,060	\$5,000	\$337,000	\$363,060.00			
TOTALS	1	3	structures	\$21,060.00	\$5,000.00	\$337,000.00	\$363,060.00			

2017 Project Types/Sub-types	# of Projects.	Number	Units	HSP Expenditure	USFS / BLM Expenditure	Volunteer / Other Expenditure	Total			
Improve health and fund	Improve health and functionality of watersheds.									
TOTALS	0									
Inventory/monitor wildl Sub-Types.	ife populati	ons, habitat	s, or project	t work to assess	needs or achieve	ement of HSP St	rategic Project			
TOTALS	0									
Provide or improve shel	ter for wild	life benefit.								
TOTALS	0									
GRAND TOTAL	45			\$685,213.29	\$866,561.53	\$432,784.25	\$1,984,559.07			

### LIFETIME HABITAT STAMP PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 1986-2017

The HSP was initiated on an experimental basis on the Valle Vidal Division of the Carson National Forest, and initial projects were completed in 1986. In 1987, the program was expanded into the southeast and northwest areas of the state. A progression of areas fell under the HSP jurisdiction until it culminated with statewide implementation in 1991.

The HSP has served the cooperating agencies, sportsmen, and citizens of New Mexico as a management tool targeted toward the improvement of wildlife habitats and currently serves as a reliable funding source for such work throughout New Mexico. Citizens are involved early on in the decision-making process, which facilitates continued program support by the public. This partnership has created the opportunity for an outstanding record of accomplishments.

In the 32-years of implementing projects through the HSP, 2,398 wildlife and habitat enhancement projects have been funded at a level of over \$49 million (Appendix IV). Through this effort, the HSP has contributed over \$21 million and federal agencies have reported contributing an additional \$24.4 million in the form of labor, materials, planning, fiscal tracking, National Environmental Policy Act compliance, and obtaining archeological/cultural clearances. Since it was tracked in 1999, other organizational and volunteer partners have been reported to contribute \$4 million in time and resources to this effort.

The combined agency (USFS and BLM) ratio for matching funds over the life of the program, 1986-2017, is \$1.16 for each \$1 spent by HSP. The cooperating agencies' ability to match HSP funding varies from year to year based upon priorities and the level of federal funding available within the agencies' budgets.

During the life of the program, the HSP funds have been used to improve approximately 849,854 acres of terrestrial habitat; enhance approximately 11,462 acres of riparian habitat; build 801 places for wildlife to obtain water; complete 825 wildlife population, habitat surveys and/or program needs assessments; complete 17 wildlife transplants; improve 88 aquatic habitat/fishing areas; maintain and/or monitor previously built structures 11,100 times; install approximately 805 erosion control structures for watershed improvement; provide habitat and shelter for wildlife; reduce human impacts on wildlife; and improve overall public enjoyment of wildlife.

### DISCUSSION

The HSP is able to meet its mission to provide diverse wildlife habitats for use and enjoyment by the public because it has maintained a strong level of support. Sportsmen and women continue to supply funding for a program from which they can see positive impacts. The program's use of a collaborative decision-making process that allows a diverse level of involvement though its Citizen Advisory Committees also separates it from typical government programs.

The cooperating agencies, sporting organizations, and volunteers have built habitat improvement structures such as water developments, enclosure fences, fishing sites, trails, etc. long before the HSP began in 1986. With nearly 2,000 structures built by or adopted into the HSP, maintenance of these has become an extraordinary task. The cost of the "stamp" is \$5 since statewide implementation of the program in 1991, and remains the same price today. Agency leaders, cooperators, and the citizens they serve understand that the costs for implementing and maintaining habitat enhancement projects have increased dramatically over the years, and that fiscal and human resources are limited to accomplish all project work that is needed in a given year.

Cooperators are achieving the HSP's mission to provide diverse wildlife habitat for the benefit of current and future generations, and continue to attract partners to leverage more funds to complete larger habitat improvements. It is hoped this effort will better meet the interests of sportsmen, all citizens, and the wildlife we seek to conserve. With continued agency coordination and support of hunters, anglers, trappers, and conservationists who purchase the Habitat Stamp, future prospects are bright for providing increased services and accomplishments funded by the Habitat Stamp Program.

> For more information about the Habitat Stamp Program please contact: Habitat Stamp Program Manager New Mexico Department of Game and Fish 1 Wildlife Way Santa Fe, NM 87507 505-476-8130

Or visit our website at: <u>http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/conservation/habitat-information/habitat-stamp/</u>

### **APPENDIX I**

### **PROJECT YEAR 2017 SUMMARY**

- 1) Table 3. HSP Agency Codes and 2017 Coordinators
- 2) Figure 3. 2017 Habitat Stamp Program Project Locations

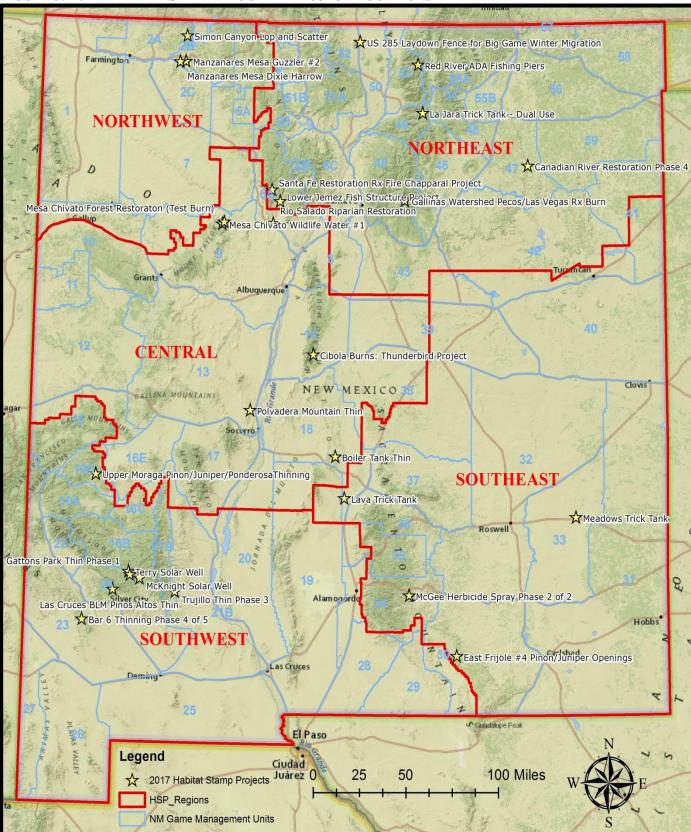
### 3) Table 4. 2017 Habitat Stamp Program Tracking Reports

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TABLE 3. AGENCY	CODE KEY AND 2	<b>2017 HSP COORDINATORS</b>
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Agency Key	Region / Agency	Field Office or National Forest	Federal Agency Coordinator	NMDGF Coordinator
СВ	Central BLM	Rio Puerco Field Office	Josh Freeman	Chuck Schultz
CBS	Central BLM Socorro	Socorro Field Office	Carlos Madril	Chuck Schultz
CF	Central Forest	Cibola National Forest (without Kiowa National Grasslands)	Zack Parsons	Chuck Schultz
NEB	Northeast BLM	Taos Field Office	Pamela Herrera -Olivas	Jeff Ogburn
NECF	Northeast Carson Forest	Carson National Forest (without Jicarilla Ranger District)	Francisco Cortez	Jeff Ogburn
NEK	Northeast Kiowa	Cibola National Forest - Kiowa National Grasslands	Kristen Linner	Jeff Ogburn
NESF	Northeast Santa Fe Forest	Santa Fe National Forest	Will Amy	Chuck Schultz
NWB	Northwest BLM	Farmington Field Office	Neil Perry	Chuck Schultz
NWF	Northwest Forest	Carson National Forest - Jicarilla Ranger District	Willis Sylvest	Chuck Schultz
SEBC	Southeast BLM Carlsbad	Carlsbad Field Office	Randy Howard	George Farmer
SEBR	Southeast BLM Roswell	Roswell Field Office	Randy Howard	George Farmer
SEF	Southeast Forest	Lincoln National Forest	Mark Cadwallader	George Farmer
SWBL	Southwest BLM Las Cruces	Las Cruces Field Office	Steven Torrez	Daniel Lusk
SWFC	Southwest Forest Coronado	Coronado National Forest	Reuben Gay	Daniel Lusk
SWFG	Southwest Forest Gila	Gila National Forest	Jerry Monzingo	Daniel Lusk

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### TABLE 4. 2017 HABITAT STAMP PROGRAM PROJECT TRACKING REPORTS

Project Status	HSP Project Number	Project Name	Project Description	HSP Cost	Agency Reported Cost	Other Partner Reported Cost	Total Project Cost
Complete	CB-2017-001	Boss Tank Wildlife Water Chamisa Losa (Mesa Chivato Wildlife Water #1)	Installation of 1,800 gallon BOSS Tank wildlife water with an exclosure fence which replaces a non- functioning parabolic drinker installed in 1988.	\$1,651.69	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,651.59
Complete	CB-2017-004	Rio Salado Riparian Restoration	Removal of salt cedar and Russian Olive trees, and slash piles were burned. 10 Rio Grande cottonwood trees were also planted within the area.	\$9,717.38	\$7,584.00	\$0.00	\$17,301.38
Complete	CB-2017-005	Rio Puerco HSP Project Maintenance	Maintained 6 existing HSP structures on lands administered by Rio Puerco Field Office.	\$9,968.09	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$19,968.09
Complete	CB-2017-006	Mesa Chivato (IC Grant Forest Restoration)	Test fires near Ned Tank were implemented, but resulted in high mortality of desired trees and vegetation. The proposed project did not meet objectives, and remaining funds were used to plan the implementation of future vegetative treatments on IC Grant.	\$18,262.70	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$68,262.70
Complete	CBS-2017-001	Socorro HSP Project Maintenance	HSP were funds to cost share US Fish and Wildlife Service Pittman-Robertson funds for the replacement of two wildlife water facilities and their exclosure fences: Polvadera Mountain Wildlife Water and Horse Mountain Wildlife Water.	\$10,000.00	\$3,600.00	\$29,884.25	\$43,484.25
Complete	CBS-2017-006	Polvadera Mountain Thin Phase 4 of 6 - Unit 3	Hand crews were used to mechanically treat approximately 160 acres of pinon-juniper and mountain mahogany within selected canyon bottoms, swales, and ridges within Unit 3.	\$39,625.00	\$3,600.00	\$0.00	\$43,225.00

Project Status	HSP Project Number	Project Name	Project Description	HSP Cost	Agency Reported Cost	Other Partner Reported Cost	Total Project Cost
Complete	CBS-2017-008	Boiler Tank Thin for Deer	HSP funds were used to fund a contract crew to implement mechanical thinning of pinon-juniper with chainsaws. Approximately 26 acres were treated.	\$6,760.00	\$3,600.00	\$0.00	\$10,360.00
Complete	CF-2017-001	Cibola HSP Maintenance	Maintained 24 existing HSP structures on lands administered by Cibola National Forest.	\$18,761.61	\$20,187.00	\$0.00	\$38,948.61
Complete	CF-2017-202	Cibola Burns	Conducted a 250 acre prescribed burn in late fall of 2016 in the Thunderbird area ponderosa pine habitat. This improved wildlife habitat by burning an area had that had been previously thinned through the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program.	\$19,831.99	\$45,000.00	\$0.00	\$64,831.99
Complete	NEB-2017-001	Taos HSP Maintenance	Maintained 9 existing HSP structures on lands administered by the Taos Field Office.	\$7,000.00	\$5,406.97	\$0.00	\$12,406.97
Complete	NEB-2017-003	US 285 Laydown Fence for Big Game Winter Migration	Construction of 8 miles of highway fence to incorporate a laydown feature for winter range migration, allowing for free movement of big game in critical winter habitat within the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.	\$15,000.00	\$14,100.00	\$25,000.00	\$54,100.00
Complete	NECF-2017-001	Red River ADA Fishing Piers	Constructed 3 ADA / wheel chair accessible fishing piers to improve the public's ability to utilize USFS lands adjacent to the Town of Red River for fishing.	\$21,060.00	\$5,000.00	\$337,000.00	\$363,060.00
Complete	NECF-2017-004	La Jara Trick Tank Phase 5	Installed one 3,500 gallon galvanized inverted umbrella trick tank and fence enclosure with the La Jara Restoration Project Area - Phase 5. The wildlife drinker is placed at ground level and will have dual use with livestock.	\$13,281.10	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$18,281.10

Project Status	HSP Project Number	Project Name	Project Description	HSP Cost	Agency Reported Cost	Other Partner Reported Cost	Total Project Cost
Complete	NECF-2017-006	Carson NECF HSP Program Maintenance	Maintained 24 existing HSP structures on the Carson National Forest.	\$9,309.37	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$14,309.37
Complete	NEK-2017-001	Kiowa National Grasslands HSP Maintenance	Maintained 4 existing HSP structures and projects on the Kiowa National Grasslands.	\$2,995.62	\$5,537.00	\$0.00	\$8,532.62
Complete	NEK-2017-002	Canadian River Restoration - Phase 4	A crew chemically treated re-sprouts of salt cedar with backpack sprayers in 255 acres as part of the Canadian River Riparian Restoration Project. Funds contributed to staff time managing the work and project treatment work.	\$10,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$0.00	\$70,000.00
Complete	NESF-2017-002	Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger Districts Prescribed Burn	Completed 70 acres of broadcast burning in the Gallinas Project area resulting in a decrease in small conifers and fuel accumulation.	\$11,344.72	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$211,344.72
Complete	NESF-2017-016	Santa Fe Restoration Prescribed Fire Project	Pile burning and jackpot burning was completed within the Chaparral Rx Burn Project. Burning was effective at significantly reducing watershed fuel loads.	\$6,137.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$18,137.00
Complete	NESF-2017-301	Lower Jemez Fish Structure Project	This project restored four sections within a 4 mile reach of the Jemez River. Treatments focused on reducing erosion and sedimentation associated with six failing log structures, including the removal of the existing structures and stabilization of the riverbed and banks. The project also improved instream habitat within the four river sections (Las Casitas, San Diego, Spanish Queen, and The Bluffs public access sites) by reducing the overall bank full width/depth ratio, which will help reduce water temperatures and increase the quantity of pool habitat.	\$30,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$0.00	\$65,000.00

Project Status	HSP Project Number	Project Name	Project Description	HSP Cost	Agency Reported Cost	Other Partner Reported Cost	Total Project Cost
Complete	NWB-2017-009	Farmington BLM Field Office Maintenance	Maintained and/or inspected 73 existing HSP structures within the Farmington BLM Field Office lands.	\$28,029.07	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$68,029.07
Complete	NWB-2017-304	Manzanares Mesa Dixie Harrow	Completed a Dixie-harrow sagebrush treatment in November 2016. Total of approximately 92 acres were treated, and seeded with a mix of shrubs, grasses, and forbs.	\$5,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$17,000.00
Complete	NWB-2017-361	Manzanares Mesa Guzzler #2	Installed a 1,800 gallon polyurethane BOSS Tank guzzler, a 20'x16' water catchment apron, and a livestock exclosure.	\$12,000.00	\$6,500.00	\$0.00	\$18,500.00
Complete	NWB-2017-387	Simon Canyon Lop & Scatter	Completed approximately 40 acres of lop and scatter treatment (20 acres using HSP funds). Seeded a mix of shrubs, grasses and forbs.	\$16,543.00	\$46,000.00	\$0.00	\$62,543.00
Complete	NWF-2017-300	Jicarilla Ranger District Maintenance	Maintained and/or inventoried 69 existing HSP structures on the Jicarilla Ranger District of the Carson National Forest.	\$27,175.87	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$67,175.87
Complete	SEBC-2017-001	Carlsbad BLM Field Office Maintenance	Inspection and maintenance of 21 Habitat Stamp Program infrastructure projects on the Carlsbad BLM District.	\$30,083.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,083.00
Complete	SEBR-2017-001	Roswell BLM Field Office Maintenance	Maintained 7 HSP projects within the Roswell Field Office.	\$11,877.73	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$23,877.73

Project Status	HSP Project Number	Project Name	Project Description	HSP Cost	Agency Reported Cost	Other Partner Reported Cost	Total Project Cost
Complete	SEBR-2017-004	Lava Trick Tank	Built a 30'x20' R panel rain catchment with gutter and installed 2 1,800 gallon BOSS tanks with a one acre enclosure and HSP sign.	\$17,000.00	\$13,680.00	\$0.00	\$30,680.00
Complete	SEBR-2017-007	Meadows Trick Tank	Built a 40'x20' R panel catchment and installed a 6,000 gallon low profile fiberglass storage tank and drinker. A 2-acre enclosure with HSP sign was also installed.	\$4,919.24	\$9,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$19,919.24
Complete	SEF-2017-102	Smokey Bear Ranger District Maintenance	Inspected and/or maintained 43 existing HSP projects on the Smokey Bear Ranger District.	\$9,021.80	\$26,239.00	\$0.00	\$35,260.80
Complete	SEF-2017-201	McGee Herbicide Spray Phase 2 of 2	Project completed herbicide treatments on 438 acres of juniper sprouts less than 6 feet tall in previous wildlife opening cuts from project SEF-1997-031.	\$22,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$32,000.00
Complete	SEF-2017-202	Sacramento Ranger District Maintenance	Inspected and/or maintained 69 existing HSP projects on the Sacramento Ranger District.	\$15,048.87	\$25,736.00	\$0.00	\$40,784.87
Complete	SEF-2017-301	East Frijole #4 PJ Openings	Project thinned 54 5-acre unit openings (273 acres total) in pinon/juniper woodlands to increase browse and allow eventual prescribed fire for future management.	\$24,128.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$29,128.00
Complete	SEF-2017-302	Guadalupe Ranger District Maintenance	This project completed inspection and/or maintenance on 43 existing HSP projects.	\$11,896.61	\$26,996.00	\$0.00	\$38,892.61
Complete	SEF-2017-303	Fiberglass Trick Tank Preservation	Painted and maintained 1 fiberglass storage tank and catchment (Freeze Out Trick Tank).	\$2,222.97	\$2,225.00	\$0.00	\$4,447.97

Project Status	HSP Project Number	Project Name	Project Description	HSP Cost	Agency Reported Cost	Other Partner Reported Cost	Total Project Cost
Complete	SWBL-2017-001	Las Cruces BLM HSP Maintenance	Funding was used to partially fund a Biological Technician position to conduct routine maintenance and regular inspections on 94 Habitat Stamp projects throughout the Las Cruces BLM District.	\$19,994.80	\$29,880.00	\$0.00	\$49,874.80
Complete	SWBL-2017-329	Las Cruces BLM District Fuels Project	Completed a thinning project in Pinos Altos, NM as part of a landscape scale project. 20 acres of oak, small junipers, and pinons were thinned.	\$43,384.55	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$43,384.55
Complete	SWBL-2017-360	Boothill Area Water Replacement and Upgrade	Some materials were purchased and labor charged in preparation for the project; however the helicopter project was not able to be completed because aviation resources were committed to wildfires and aviation personnel were not available.	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
Complete	SWFC-2017-001	Coronado HSP Maintenance	Maintained 8 of existing HSP projects and purchased materials and supplies for maintenance work.	\$8,168.53	\$190.56	\$0.00	\$8,359.09
Complete	SWFG-2017-001	Gila HSP Maintenance	Completed inspection and maintenance on 27 Habitat Stamp Program projects on the Gila National Forest.	\$11,160.71	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$11,660.71
Complete	SWFG-2017-002	Trujillo Thin Phase 3	648 acres of pinon/juniper woodland were treated with cut areas approximately 5-acres in size, leaving 4 to 5 of the largest trees per acre. A 20-200 ft. buffer was maintained between openings. This phase was the final phase of treatment.	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$18,500.00	\$48,500.00

Project Status	HSP Project Number	Project Name	Project Description	HSP Cost	Agency Reported Cost	Other Partner Reported Cost	Total Project Cost
Complete	SWFG-2017-003	Bar 6 Thin Phase 4 of 5	The Silver City Ranger District thinned 94 acres within the Bar 6 project area using hand crews with chainsaws. Thick stands of pinon/juniper were thinned and encroached natural openings were enhanced.	\$25,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$35,000.00
Complete	SWFG-2017-061	Upper Moraga Pronghorn Corridor - FY 2017 Thinning	158 acres of encroaching pinon/juniper and Ponderosa pine were thinned to benefit pronghorn, deer, and elk to increase browse and improve habitat conditions for these species.	\$24,799.96	\$15,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$49,799.96
Complete	SWFG-2017-501	Gattons Park Grassland Restoration Phase 1	Five blocks of encroaching juniper trees totaling 66 acres were thinned in Gattons Park.	\$14,593.54	\$5,000.00	\$6,400.00	\$25,993.54
Complete	SWFG-2017-502	Terry Well	Completed the refurbishing of the entire well system. A contractor installed a new pump, pipe, and solar panel unit. A chain link fence was also installed around the well and solar panel unit to prevent vandalism.	\$5,618.00	\$6,500.00	\$0.00	\$12,118.00
Complete	SWFG-2017-503	McKnight Well	Completed the refurbishing of the entire well system. A contractor installed a new pump, pipe, and solar panel unit. Holes were patched in the storage tank and a chain link fence was installed around well and solar panels to prevent vandalism.	\$4,840.77	\$6,500.00	\$0.00	\$11,340.77

Project Status	HSP Number	Project Name
Adopted	SWFG-2017-504	3 Circles Well
Adopted	SWFG-2017- 505	Elk's Pasture Storage and Drinker
Deleted	CB-2017-002	Chain of Craters #7
Deleted	CB-2017-003	Sawmill Thin
Deleted	CBS-2017-002	North San Mateo Thin - Upper Point of Rocks Unit
Deleted	CBS-2017-004	E. Magdalena Upland Thin-Madera Section 20 Unit, Phase 4 of 13
Deleted	CBS-2017-005	North San Mateo Thin - Sargent Canyon Unit; Unit 5 of 10 for Deer
Deleted	CF-2017-003	Bluewater Area Thin for Turkey
Deleted	CF-2017-004	Southern Manzanos Landscape Restoration Project - Barreras Block
Deleted	NEB-2017-002	Natal Habitat Mapping of Non-Native, Non-Salmonid Fish Species
Deleted	NECF-2017-003	Canjilon Lakes Restoration Full Engineering Design
Deleted	NECF-2017-005	Steel Pipe Material for HSP Projects
Deleted	NECF-2017-007	Carson NECF HSP Project Evaluation and NEPA Review
Deleted	NESF-2017-001	Santa Fe National Forest HSP Maintenance
Deleted	NWB-2017-384	Simon Canyon Sagebrush Hydromow & Seed with Forbs/Shrubs
Deleted	NWB-2017-385	Simon Canyon Sagebrush Hydromow & Seed with Forbs/Shrubs #2
Deleted	NWB-2017-386	Simon Canyon Sagebrush Hydromow & Seed with Forbs/Shrubs #3
Deleted	NWF-2017-301	Companero Arroyo Riparian Restoration High Fence
Deleted	SEBC-2017-002	Hope Study Trick Tank

Project Status	HSP Number	Project Name
Deleted	SEBC-2017-003	Merriam's Trax
Deleted	SEBC-2017-004	North Fence Replacement Project
Deleted	SEBC-2017-005	Delaware River Water Gap Project
Deleted	SEBR-2017-002	Gallo Trick Tank
Deleted	SEBR-2017-003	Cistern Draw Trick Tank
Deleted	SEBR-2017-005	Hackberry Trick Tank
Deleted	SEBR-2017-006	Chimney Canyon Trick Tank
Deleted	SEBR-2017-008	McNally Trick Tank
Deleted	SEBR-2017-009	Rio Bonito Fishery
Deleted	SEBR-2017-010	Quatro Amigos Trick Tank
Deleted	SEF-2017-101	Hale Lake Wetland Restoration Project
Deleted	SEF-2017-203	Ehart Trick Tank Replacement
Deleted	SEF-2017-304	Val Verde Trick Tank
Deleted	SEF-2017-305	Soltolito Trick Tank
Deleted	SEF-2017-306	Palo Duro Trick Tank
Deleted	SWBL-2017-358	Jornada Treatments
Deleted	SWFG-2017-004	Snare Mesa Thin
Deleted	SWFG-2017-031	Slaughter Mesa Landscape Restoration - Unit 12 Thinning

# **APPENDIX II**

# Fiscal Year 2017 Sikes Fund Balance Sheet (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017)

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Sikes as of June, 30, 2017	s Fund Balance
Revenues:	
Service Revenue from Habitat Stamp Sales	\$1,006,660.00
Federal Grants	\$103,498.29
Interest Earned	\$9,045.06
Other Revenue	\$0.00
Total Revenues	\$1,119,203.35
Expenditures:	
<ul><li>Current Operations:</li><li>Game &amp; Fish Resources Conservation</li><li>Habitat Stamp Projects &amp; Program Administration</li></ul>	\$358,592.13
Total Expenditures	\$358,592.13
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	\$760,611.22
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$760,611.22
Fund BalanceBeginning Of Year	\$1,344,054.00
Sikes Fund Balance - End Of Year	\$2,104,665.22

# Fiscal Year 2017 Capital Sikes Fund Balance Sheet (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017)

NOTE: In fiscal year 2016 Sikes funds were transferred to an internal NMDGF Capital Sikes fund account for Habitat Stamp Program project related expenditures. Funds in this capital account are authorized for up to 5 years, and expenditures will be tracked and reported annually along with the Sikes Fund account expenditures (previous page).

Statement of Expenditures in Ca as of June, 30	-	
Capital Sikes Fund FY 2017 Beginning Balance:		\$1,000,000
Interest Earned		\$0
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	\$1,000,000
Expenditures:		
<ul><li>Game &amp; Fish Resources Conservation:</li><li>Habitat Stamp Projects</li></ul>		\$456,929.29
	Total Expenditures	\$456,929.29
Capital Sikes Fund FY 2017 Balance - End	Of Year	\$543,070.71

# **APPENDIX III**

# Funding Allocation By Region

2017 Budget Approved \$742,30					
Region	Percent to Region	<b>Regional Allocation</b>			
Central	19.0%	\$141,385			
Northeast	17.9%	\$132,697			
Northwest	12.9%	\$95,543			
Southeast	20.7%	\$153,536			
Southwest	29.5%	\$219,139			

# **APPENDIX IV**

# LIFETIME (1986-2017) Expenditures and Matching Ratios

	No. of HSP Projects	HSP Expenditures	USFS/BLM Expenditures	Volunteer/ Other Expenditures	Total Expenditures
Lifetime Program Total Expenditures	2,398	\$21,096,602	\$24,432,611	\$4,061,911	\$49,591,125
Percent of Total Expenditures		42.5%	49.3%	8.2%	100%
Lifetime Match Ratio		\$1.00	\$1.16	\$0.19	

# NEW MEXICO HABITAT STAMP PROGRAM

2018 Implementation Report (July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018)



February 4, 2019 By Isaac Cadiente

# New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

in conjunction with cooperators in the

United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management







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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Total revenues into the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) Sikes Fund for State fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018) totaled \$1,209,424.34; Habitat Stamp Program (HSP) expenditures totaled \$760,205.06. In project year 2018, the NMDGF's HSP made available \$742,300 to Federal Cooperators, of which they were able to utilize \$619,897 to help support 38 projects: 13,326 acres of upland vegetative treatments; improve 105 acres of riparian habitat; install one new wildlife water development; install monofilament fishing line disposal receptacles at Quemado Lake to improve angler satisfaction and fish health; install instream fish habitat structures and beaver dam analogs to improve aquatic habitat along Rio Bonito and Tularosa Creek; modify 39 miles of fence to facilitate wildlife migration and movements; increase availability and distribution of year round water in New Mexico's Bootheel; and maintain and/or inspect 475 existing HSP infrastructures.

Through the continued financial support of hunters, anglers, and trappers recreating on federally managed public lands in New Mexico, the State's wildlife resources continue to benefit through a user supported fund dedicated to proactive wildlife management and conservation. Since its inception in 1986, the HSP has helped provide funding for 2,436 habitat enhancement and wildlife management projects in New Mexico, with Sikes Fund project expenditures of more than \$21.7 million.

### INTRODUCTION

The HSP is a collaborative effort between hunters, anglers, trappers, NMDGF, U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS) implemented under authority of the Sikes Act (16USC670) and the New Mexico State Game Commission.

The Sikes Act requires the maintenance of accurate records and the filing of annual reports setting forth the amount and disposition of the fees collected from habitat stamps. The purpose of this document is to provide that report to the program partners, and to provide an annual record of accomplishments to all HSP stakeholders.

The cooperating agencies have fulfilled their obligations to an interagency agreement with submission of reports that track every proposed project to its completion or deletion. A summary of these reports for 2018 projects are found in Appendix I and serve as the source documents for the compilations contained herein.

Who:	Habitat Stamp Program cooperators are
What:	to provide ecologically diverse wildlife and fish habitats
Where:	on USFS and BLM managed lands,
How:	by involving the public in an effective, cost efficient, honest, and cooperative management process
Why:	for enjoyment and use by the current and future generations of New Mexicans.

### HABITAT STAMP PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

#### FUNDING

The Sikes Fund is an account in New Mexico State government that holds the money generated from the sale of the \$5 Habitat Stamp. Due to complexities between differing state and federal fiscal years, project funding is no longer based on annual stamp sales, but on a planned budget. The budget is approved by the State Game Commission and appropriated by the Legislature. Federal partners then implement projects within the State's fiscal year of July 1 to June 30 each year. This requirement prevents overbilling by federal partners to the State of New Mexico.

The Sikes Fund accumulated \$1,056,652.00 in stamp sales from July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018. Federal grants and other revenue also added \$152,772.34 into the Fund. Total revenues for the HSP were \$1,209,424.34. HSP expenditures from the Sikes Funds accounts, which include project implementation and program administration, totaled \$760,205.06.

## **PROJECT EXPENDITURES**

In State fiscal year 2018, the total funds available for annual HSP projects were \$742,300. Appendix II depicts how funds were allocated to federal partners by HSP Region in project year 2018. HSP expenditures for all projects completed in project year 2018 have been compiled in Table 1 below.

Of the total expenditures, the HSP contributed \$619,896 (17.03%) as tracked by individual projects. Federal agencies, in the form of cash and planning costs, reported contributing \$1,010,536 (27.76%); agency partners also reported \$2,009,540 (55.21%) contributed by other project partners. A total of \$3,639,971.74 was expended to complete 38 projects.

The program goal is to match agency funds dollar for dollar, and leverage other non-HSP funds at the rate of \$0.25 on the HSP dollar. In 2018, USFS and BLM combined funds exceeded this goal by expending \$1.63 on each HSP dollar this reporting period.

	# of Projects	HSP \$	AGENCY \$	OTHER \$	TOTAL
BLM	16	\$278,473	\$657,642	\$82,540	\$1,018,654
USFS	22	\$341,423	\$352,894	\$1,927,000	\$2,621,317
Total	38	\$619,896	\$1,010,536	\$2,009,540	\$3,639,971
	% of Total	17.03%	27.76%	55.21%	100%
	Match Ratio	\$1.00	\$1.63	\$3.24	

### TABLE 1. EXPENDITURES FOR HSP PROJECTS COMPLETED IN FISCAL YEAR 2018

### UNITS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

For this reporting period, 54 projects were submitted for funding consideration and tracked. Of the total projects submitted, 41 were prioritized by the CACs and funded by the HSP (\$742,300). 38 projects were ultimately implemented and completed with the support of HSP funding (\$619,896). \$122,404 in HSP funded projects was unable to be implemented or expended by cooperators. HSP strives to minimize unexpended funds through close communication and coordination with agency cooperators to identify potential project implementation shortcomings and reallocate funds within the state fiscal year. Table 2 depicts projects completed in FY18 and total HSP and cooperator expenditures.

A goal within the HSP is to ensure that funds are directed toward habitat improvement, protection, or restoration. As the HSP has evolved over the years, maintenance needs on existing infrastructure has increased, and a focus has been made to implement larger landscape type projects.

The highest use of HSP funds in 2018 was to improve 13,326 acres of upland vegetative habitat, which accounted for \$288,838 (46.6%). Restoring historic fire regimes are of high habitat importance, but state/federal fiscal year variances, environmental, social, and political constraints have limited its application. The use of fire as a management tool rises and falls based on these impediments.

#### New Mexico Habitat Stamp Program 2018 Implementation Report

The second highest use of HSP funds in 2018 was to maintain existing HSP infrastructure, and accounted for \$218,437 (35.2%). Federal partners reported 475 maintenance and/or inspection activities were performed on HSP structures throughout the State. In HSP's first decade maintenance had required only 10% of HSP funds. However, as existing HSP infrastructure ages and additional infrastructure is adopted into the HSP, this aging infrastructure will require more maintenance. This reality, coupled with the Citizen Advisory Committee's increasing desire to maintain prior investments, will most likely require more dollars for maintenance in the future.

The removal or modification of 39 miles of fence to minimize negative impacts to wildlife accounted for the third largest expenditure at \$38,345 (6.2%).

Expenditures on other habitat related project categories include: improving aquatic habitats at \$30,000 (4.8%); Increasing availability and distribution of year-round water at \$30,000 (4.8%); improving riparian habitats at \$13,331 (2.2%); enhancing human enjoyment of wildlife resources at \$946 (0.2%). Figure 1 depicts each percentage of project-type expenditures in this reporting period.

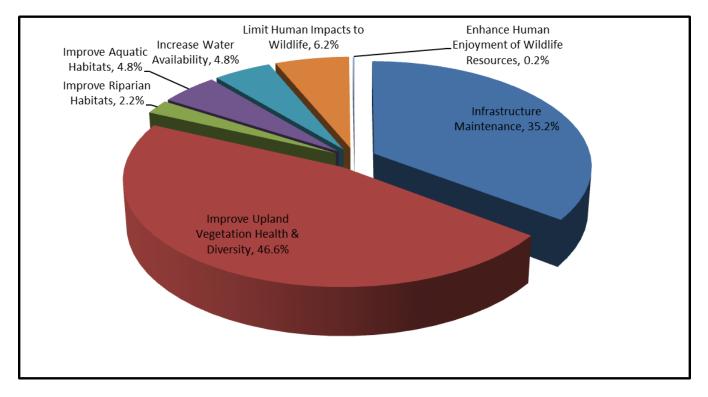


FIGURE 1. % OF HABITAT STAMP PROGRAM EXPENDITURES BY PROJECT TYPE IN 2018

## TABLE 2. UNITS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT COMPLETED IN THE 2018 PROJECT YEAR

2018 Project Types/Sub-types	# of Projects.	Number	Units	HSP Expenditure	USFS/BLM Expenditure	Volunteer/Other Expenditure	Total
1. Maintain integrity and safety of ex	xisting habitat imp	provements.					
M aintain existing program infrastructure to extend their usefulness.	18	475	structures	\$218,436	\$201,237	\$89,540	\$509,212
TOTALS	18			\$218,436	\$201,237	\$89,540	\$509,212
2. Improve upland vegetative health a	und diversity.						
Apply fire to improve forage quantity and/or quality.	4	11,697	acres	\$102,909	\$264,743	\$20,000	\$387,652
Apply herbicides to improve forage quantity and/or quality.	1	237	acres	\$17,659	\$0	\$0	\$17,659
Mechanically treat vegetation to improve forage quantity and/or quality.	5	1,292	acres	\$143,539	\$146,350	\$0	\$289,889
Manage vegetation to reduce fuels.	1	100	acres	\$24,731	\$10,000	\$0	\$34,731
TOTALS	11	13,326	acres	\$288,838	\$421,093	\$20,000	\$729,931
3. Improve functionality of riparian h	abitats (perennial	and ephem	eral).			1	
Implement other treatments to improve riparian/ephemeral habitats (e.g. install fencing for off-channel water developments to protect riparian habitat).	2	105	acres	\$13,331	\$2,077	\$1,900,000	\$1,915,408
TOTALS	2	105		\$13,331	\$2,077	\$1,900,000	\$1,915,408
Improve aquatic habitats.							
Install in-stream channel structures.	2	10	structures	\$30,000	\$310,000	\$0	\$340,000
TOTALS	2			\$30,000	\$310,000	\$0	\$340,000
5. Increase availability and distributi	on of year-round	water.	1			1	1
Install artificial structures to provide ground level water sources where free- water is lacking	1	1	structures	\$30,000	\$30,000		\$60,000
TOTALS	1	1		\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$60,000
6. Wildlife/Fisheries Management			•			•	
TOTALS	0						
7. Limit adverse impacts of man-mad	e structures and h	uman/wildli	fe interaction	ıs.		•	
Remove or modify fences to minimize impacts to wildlife.	3	39	miles	\$38,345	\$44,929	``	\$83,274
TOTALS	3			\$38,345	\$44,929	``	\$83,274
8. Enhance beneficial uses and huma	n enjoyment of fi	sheries and	wildlife resou	irces.			
Install infrastructure to improve sporting satisfaction (e.g. fishing platforms, toilets, cattle guards)	1	1	structures	\$946	\$1,200	\$0	\$2,146
TOTALS	1			<mark>\$946</mark>	\$1,200	\$0	\$2,146
9. Improve health and functionality o	f watersheds.						
TOTALS	0						
10. Inventory/monitor wildlife popula	tions, habitats, or	project worl	k to assess ne	eds or achievem	ent of HSP Strate	gic Project Sub-Types	3.
TOTALS	0						
11. Provide or improve shelter for wil	dlife benefit.						
TOTALS	0						
GRAND TOTAL	38			\$619,896	\$1,010,536	\$2,009,540	\$3,639,972

### LIFETIME HABITAT STAMP PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 1986-2018

In the 33-years of implementing projects through the HSP, 2,436 wildlife and habitat enhancement projects have been funded at a level of over \$53.2 million. Through this effort, the HSP has contributed over \$21.7 million and federal agencies have reported contributing an additional \$25.4 million in the form of labor, materials, planning, fiscal tracking, National Environmental Policy Act compliance, and obtaining archeological/cultural clearances. Since it was tracked in 1999, other organizational and volunteer partners have been reported to contribute \$6 million in time and resources to this effort.

The combined agency (USFS and BLM) ratio for matching funds over the life of the program, 1986-2018, is \$1.17 for each \$1 spent by HSP. The cooperating agencies' ability to match HSP funding varies from year to year based upon priorities and the level of federal funding available within the agencies' budgets.

During the life of the program, the HSP funds have been used to improve approximately 863,180 acres of terrestrial habitat; enhance approximately 11,567 acres of riparian habitat; build 802 places for wildlife to obtain water; complete 825 wildlife population, habitat surveys and/or program needs assessments; complete 17 wildlife transplants; improve 90 aquatic habitat/fishing areas; maintain and/or monitor previously built structures 11,575 times; install approximately 805 erosion control structures for watershed improvement; provide habitat and shelter for wildlife; reduce human impacts on wildlife; and improve overall public enjoyment of wildlife.

## CONCLUSION

The HSP is able to meet its mission to provide diverse wildlife habitats for use and enjoyment by the public because it has maintained a strong level of support. Sportsmen and women continue to supply funding for a program from which they can see positive impacts. The program's use of a collaborative decision-making process that allows a diverse level of involvement though its Citizen Advisory Committees also separates it from typical government programs.

The cooperating agencies, sporting organizations, and volunteers have built habitat improvement structures such as water developments, enclosure fences, fishing sites, trails, etc. long before the HSP began in 1986. With nearly 2,000 structures built by or adopted into the HSP, maintenance of these has become an extraordinary task. The cost of the "stamp" is \$5 since statewide implementation of the program in 1991, and remains the same price today. Agency leaders, cooperators, and the citizens they serve understand that the costs for implementing and maintaining habitat enhancement projects have increased dramatically over the years, and that fiscal and human resources are limited to accomplish all project work that is needed in a given year.

Cooperators are achieving the HSP's mission to provide diverse wildlife habitat for the benefit of current and future generations, and continue to attract partners to leverage more funds to complete larger habitat improvements. It is hoped this effort will better meet the interests of sportsmen, all citizens, and the wildlife we seek to conserve. With continued agency coordination and support of hunters, anglers, trappers, and conservationists who purchase the Habitat Stamp, future prospects are bright for providing increased services and accomplishments funded by the Habitat Stamp Program.

## For more information about the Habitat Stamp Program please contact:

Isaac Cadiente Habitat Stamp Program Manager New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Isaac.Cadiente@state.nm.us 1 Wildlife Way Santa Fe, NM 87507 505-476-8130

Or visit our website at: <u>http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/conservation/habitat-information/habitat-stamp/</u>

# **APPENDIX I**

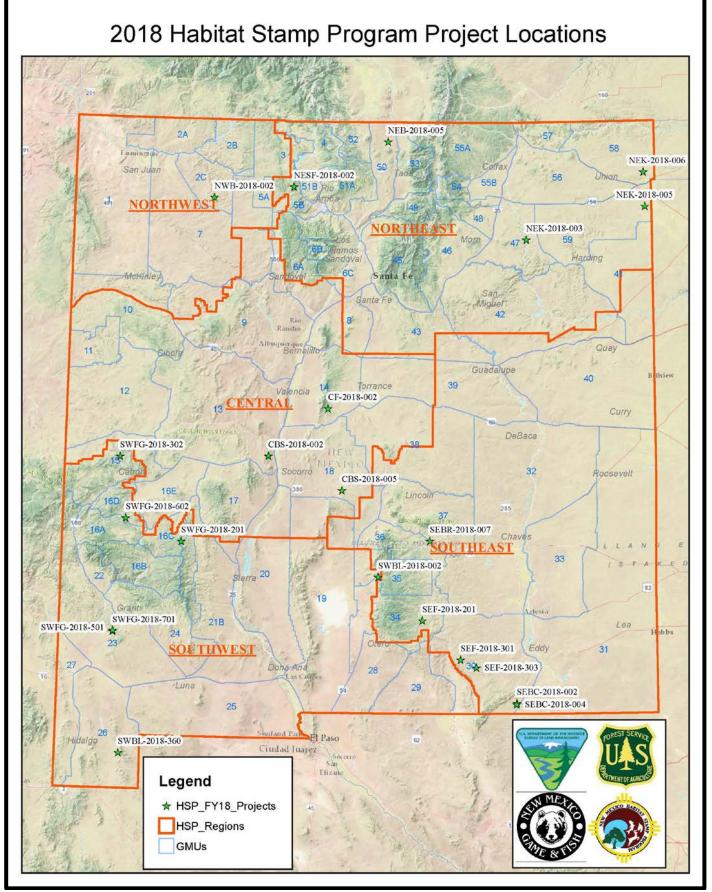
# **PROJECT YEAR 2018 SUMMARY**

 Table 3. HSP Agency Codes and 2018 Coordinators

Figure 3. 2018 Habitat Stamp Program Project Locations

Agency Key	Region / Agency	Field Office or National Forest	Federal Agency Coordinator	NMDGF Coordinator
кеу		Rio Puerco Field	Coorumator	Chuck
CB	Central BLM	Office	Josh Freeman	Schultz
CBS	Central BLM Socorro	Socorro Field Office	Carlos Madril	Chuck Schultz
CF	<b>C</b> entral <b>F</b> orest	Cibola National Forest (without Kiowa National Grasslands)	Andrea Chavez	Chuck Schultz
NEB	<b>N</b> orth <b>e</b> ast <b>B</b> LM	Taos Field Office	Pamela Herrera - Olivas	Jeff Ogburn
NECF	North <b>e</b> ast Carson Forest	Carson National Forest (without Jicarilla Ranger District)	Francisco Cortez	Jeff Ogburn
NEK	North <b>e</b> ast <b>K</b> iowa	Cibola National Forest -Kiowa National Grasslands	Kristen Linner	Jeff Ogburn
NESF	North <b>e</b> ast <b>S</b> anta Fe <b>F</b> orest	Santa Fe National Forest	Daryl Ratajczak	Chuck Schultz
NWB	<b>N</b> orth <b>w</b> est <b>B</b> LM	Farmington Field Office	David Mueller	Chuck Schultz
NWF	Northwest Forest	Carson National Forest - Jicarilla Ranger District	Willis Sylvest	Chuck Schultz
SEBC	Southeast BLM Carlsbad	Carlsbad Field Office	Cassie Brooks	George Farmer
SEBR	<b>S</b> outh <b>e</b> ast <b>B</b> LM <b>R</b> oswell	Roswell Field Office	Randy Howard	George Farmer
SEF	<b>S</b> outh <b>e</b> ast <b>F</b> orest	Lincoln National Forest	Mark Cadwallader	George Farmer
SWBL	Southwest BLM Las Cruces	Las Cruces Field Office	Steven Torrez	Daniel Lusk
SWFC	Southwest Forest Coronado	Coronado National Forest	Rebekah Karsch	Daniel Lusk
SWFG	Southwest Forest Gila	Gila National Forest	Jerry Monzingo	Daniel Lusk

## FIGURE 3. 2018 HABITAT STAMP PROGRAM PROJECT LOCATIONS



Project Status	Project No.	Project Name	Project Description	Final HSP Funding Amount Awarded	HSP Expended	Agency Expended	Other Contributions	Total Expended	Total HSP Unspent
Complete	CB-2018-004	Rio Puerco HSP project Maintenance	Maintenance of existing HSP infrastructure within the BLM Rio Puerco Field Office.	\$10,000	\$4,848	\$2,700	\$0	\$7,548	\$5,152
Complete	CBS-2018-001	Socorro BLM HSP Maintenance	Maintenance of existing HSP infrastructure within the BLM Socorro Field Office.	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$74,361	\$82,540	\$166,901	\$0
Complete	CF-2018-001	Cibola HSP Maintenance	Maintenance of existing HSP infrastructure within the Cibola National Forest.	\$20,000	\$14,198	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$24,198	\$5,802
Complete	NEB-2018-001	Taos BLM HSP Maintenance	Maintenance of existing HSP infrastructure on lands managed by the Taos BLM Field Office.	\$7,000	\$819	\$7,201	\$0	\$8,020	\$6,181
Complete	NECF-2018-001	Carson HSP Maintenance	Maintenance of existing HSP infrastructure on lands managed by the Carson National Forest (excluding Jicarilla RD).	\$20,000	\$19,551	\$5,000	\$0	\$24,551	\$449
Complete	NESF-2018-001	Santa Fe NF Maintenance	Maintenance of existing HSP infrastructure on lands managed by the Santa Fe National Forest.	\$10,000	\$3,741	\$3,000	\$0	\$6,741	\$6,259
Complete	NWB-2018-001	Farmington BLM Field Office Maintenance	Maintenance of existing HSP infrastructure on lands managed by the Farmington BLM Field Office.	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$40,000	\$0	\$72,000	\$0
Complete	NWF-2018-001	Jicarilla Ranger District Maintenance	Maintenance of existing HSP infrastructure on lands managed by the Carson National Forest's Jicarilla RD.	\$30,000	\$28,902	\$30,000	\$0	\$58,902	\$1,098
Complete	SEBC-2018-001	Carlsbad BLM HSP Maintenance	Maintenance of existing HSP infrastructure on lands managed by the Carlsbad BLM Field Office.	\$20,353	\$13,251	\$0	\$0	\$13,251	\$7,102
Complete	SEBR-2018-001	Roswell BLM Field Office Maintenance	Maintenance of existing HSP infrastructure on kands managed by the Roswell BLM Field Office.	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$0	\$0	\$12,000	\$0
Complete	SEF-2018-102	Smokey Bear RD HSP Maintenance 2018	Maintenance of existing HSP infrastructure on lands managed by the Lincoln National Forest's Smokey Bear RD.	\$11,250	\$11,250	\$0		\$11,250	\$0
Complete	SEF-2018-202	Sacramento RD HSP Maintenance 2018	Maintenance of existing HSP infrastructure on lands managed by the Lincoln National Forest's Sacramento RD.	\$20,250	\$7,289	\$0	\$0	\$7,289	\$12,961
Complete	SEF-2018-302	Guadalupe RD HSP Maintenance	Maintenance of existing HSP infrastructure on lands managed by the Lincoln National Forest's Guadalupe RD.	\$12,500	\$7,236	\$0	\$0	\$7,236	\$5,265
Complete	SWBL-2018-001	Las Cruces BLM Maintenance	Maintenance of existing HSP infrastructure on lands managed by the Las Cruces BLM District Office.	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$29,880	\$0	\$49,880	\$0
Complete	SWFC-2018-002	Coronado HSP Maintenance	Maintenance funds needed for existing infrastructure on the Coronado National Forest.	\$9,000	\$902	\$0	\$0	\$902	\$8,098
Complete	SWFG-2018-001	Gila HSP Maintenance	Maintenance and inspection of Habitat Stamp Program infrastructure on the Gila National Forest.	\$16,000	\$20,763	\$0	\$0	\$20,763	(\$4,763)

Project Status	Project No.	Project Name	Project Description	Final HSP Funding Amount Awarded	HSP Expended	Agency Expended	Othe r Contributions	Total Expended	Total HSP Unspent
Complete	NESF-2018-002	Santa Fe Restoration Prescribed Fire Project	Reintroduce beneficial fire into a fire adapted forest where fire has been excluded for the past hundred years. HSP funds will be used for prescribed fire, including fire line construction and preparation. If conditions are unfavorable to burn within the time limits of the HSP agreement, funds will be utilized for fire line construction to prepare areas for future prescribe fire.	\$50,332	\$53,321	\$60,000	\$0	\$113,321	(\$2,989)
Complete	SEF-2018-303	Fiberglass Tank Preservation	Paint 3 fiberglass storage tanks and catchments per year until all are painted.	\$2,225	\$321	\$0	\$0	\$321	\$1,904
Complete	SWBL-2018-360	Bootheel Area Water Replacement and Upgrade	Water locations are within the Big Hatchet, Little Hatchet, Alamo Hueco, and Peloncillo Mountain ranges. Several of the units are at or near the end of life expectancy and will likely fail in the next few years. Replacement soon will ensure a continued water supply to wildlife by replacing units before they fail. Water unit and type of work will be prioritized and completed based on need and funding available in 2018.	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$60,000	\$0
Complete	CBS-2018-002	Polvadera Mountain Thin - Units 3 and 4	To restore habitat conditions the BLM is planning to continue with mechanical treatment efforts, by utilizing hand crews with chainsaws, to mechanically treat Pinon-Juniper (P-J) and mountain mahogany within selected canyon bottoms, swales, and ridges within Units 3 and 4. The mechanical treatment project would impact approximately 900 acres and would also function as a "pre-treatment" for a future prescribed burn.	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$111,000	\$0	\$151,000	\$0
Complete	CBS-2018-005	Copper/Lake Tank Thinning Unit (second entry)	The purpose of this proposed action is to control the expansion of Pinyon/Juniper (PJ) to improve wildlife habitat, improve watershed quality, and improve upland ecological conditions. The management technique would target large stands of PJ within swale bottoms and in some cases slopes to a varying degree where feasible for optimal treatment. Treatment efforts would comprise of a broad-scale approach to set the progression of the PJ infestation to a level where it is redirected to a reduction in tree density to produce a significant shift in ecological conditions.	\$21,385	\$21,385	\$16,000	\$0	\$37,385	\$0
Complete	CF-2018-002	Cibola Burns	The purpose of this project is to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire. Thunderbird occurs on the Mountainair Ranger District. The Mount Taylor RX projects are needed to reduce fuels and restore ecological processes within the Bluewater watershed.	\$20,000	\$18,340	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$53,340	\$1,660
Complete	NEB-2018-005	Netwire Fence Modification Phase 1	The Taos Field Office continues to remove netwire fencing which creates a barrier to safe movement by pronghorn in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument . In 2016, 2 miles were converted to four-strand wildlife friendly fencing with a bottom smooth wire for safe passage by pronghorn and other ungulate species. There are still over 10 miles of this fencing that need to be replaced and the TAFO would like to continue this effort till completed with a multi- year phased approach. In Phase 1 modify 3 miles.	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$21,500		\$43,500	\$0
Complete	NEK-2018-003	Canadian River Restoration, Phase 5	The nonnative species eradication work is done through an agreement with the Canadian River Riparian Restoration Project. They provide funding in addition to the HSP commitment. This proposal will contribute to approximately 20 or more acres of treatment, including treatment of re- growth and new areas. Treatment occurs from August to October. Re-growth will be hand sprayed with herbicide. Treatment of new areas involves cut-stump hand treatment. The new treatments will occur upstream, and north of, the previous treatments.	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$2,077	\$1,900,000	\$1,912,077	\$0
Complete	NEK-2018-005	Pronghorn Fence Modifications - Phase 1	Every unit of the Kiowa National Grasslands is fenced. While we require that all new fences are built with the lowest wire consisting of a smooth wire 18" off the ground, many old fences still pose a problem for Pronghorn passage with low, barbed wires. Fence modifications have been shown to facilitate pronghorn movements across previously uncrossed fences, and to expand home range areas. For phase 1, we propose modifying allotment fence in areas of known heavy Pronghorn usage (including all wildlife exclosures) in Union County.	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$979	\$0	\$2,979	\$0

Project Status	Project No.	Project Name	Project Description	Final HSP Funding Amount Awarded	HSP Expended	Agency Expended	Other Contributions	Total Expended	Total HSP Unspent
Complete	NEK-2018-006	Kiowa HSP Maintenance K-50 Water Well Repair and Planting	The purpose of this project is to install a solar pump setup at the well in order to provision water to shrubs and a drinker. New water lines will be purchased and set up to supply the water along shrub rows where it is needed. The district has a larger guzzler in storage to replace the smaller drinker, if desired. The guzzler in storage can provide a trough at ground-level which will be more beneficial to quail than an above-ground trough.	\$11,365	\$11,365	\$5,095	\$1,000	\$17,460	\$0
Complete	NWB-2018-002	Crow Mesa Lop and Scatter	This project will utilize Southwest Conservation Corps Youth and/or Veteran Crews to complete chainsaw thinning and clearing of pinyon-juniper forests. Trees will be cleared in a mosaic, avoiding cultural resources and other sensitive areas and leaving patches of trees which provide important thermal cover for wintering wildlife. Forested buffers will be maintained adjacent to busy roads and oil and gas developments, providing cover and a visual screen from human developments and activities. Prior to thinning and clearing, native seed mixes incorporating a diversity of native shrubs, grasses and forbs will be broadcast.	\$33,543	\$33,543	\$15,000	\$0	\$48,543	\$0
Complete	SEBC-2018-002	Cottonwood Day Use Project	This project will consist of burning and thinning undergrowth along the Black River Cottonwood Day Use Area. The proposed burn area will be no more than two miles in length. This project will benefit a wide range of species including waterfowl, other avian and game species that utilize riparian habitat.	\$6,000	\$5,296	\$0	\$0	\$5,296	\$704
Complete	SEBC-2018-004	Black River Cottonwood Restoration Project	This project will consist of planting approximately one hundred cottonwood ( <i>Populus deltoides</i> ) trees along the riparian corridor of the Black River. This will contribute to the restoration of degraded riparian habitat. Once restored, these trees would benefit wild turkey and other wildlife species as they provide shade and nesting substrates.	\$4,000	\$3,331	\$0	\$0	\$3,331	\$669
Complete	SEBR-2018-007	Rio Bonito Fishery	The Roswell Field Office will be implementing a variety of fish habitat enhancement projects. These projects will include instream channel improvements, improved pool habitat, installation of large boukler or woody debris, and streambank stabilization projects. The overall goal is to make Tract 4 along the Rio Bonito River a high-quality fishing experience for anglers. We plan to build trails leading to kiosks explaining the habitat work that has been completed.	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$320,000	\$0
Complete	SEF-2018-201	Unit 34 Herbicide Treatment on juniper sprouts	Project involves herbicide treatment of juniper sprouts under 6 feet tall. Unit 34 Herbicide Treatment project involves two potential areas, McGee/Cherry Canyon and Bluewater Canyon. Pinon and juniper vegetation treatments were conducted in these areas several years ago. The project objective is to treatment with herbicide, the alligator juniper sprouts that have regrown since the vegetation treatment was conducted.	\$17,747	\$17,659	\$0	\$0	\$17,659	\$88
Complete	SEF-2018-301	Frijole #4 PJ Opening	Thin heavy P/J proliferation to increase browse and allow eventual Rx fire for future PJ proliferation management on up to 1855 acres.	\$27,211	\$27,160	\$0	\$0	\$27,160	\$51
Complete	SWBL-2018-002	Tularosa Creek Fish and Riparian Habitat Improvement	The project is to continue an ongoing riparian and aquatic restoration at Tukarosa Creek near Bent, NM. Instream structures will be placed in appropriate reaches of the stream and up onto the floodplain (or first terrace), in order to aggrade the stream bed, reduce velocity, reconnect the floodplain and laterally spread high flows, increase streamside and riparian vegetation and habitat complexity and possibly attract migrating beavers.	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$0
Complete	SWFG-2018-201	Area 74 Burn - Wildlife Habitat Enhancement	The Area 74 Units 9 and 10 Prescribed Fire Project is located on the Black Range Ranger District, Gila National Forest. The primary purpose is to improve the overall health of Grasslands, Pinon-Juniper Woodlands and Ponderosa Pine stands. The scope of work will consist of preparation of the exterior boundaries and improvements located in the prescribed fire area. Once the project boundaries and interior improvements have been prepped field going personnel will utilize hand ignition devices to ignite the units. The entire area will consist of hand ignition techniques. The total acreage for both units is approximately 9,078 acres.	\$27,769	\$25,952	\$189,743	\$0	\$215,695	\$1,817

Project Status	Project No.	Project Name	Project Description	Final HSP Funding Amount Awarded	HSP Expended	Agency Expended	Other Contributions	Total Expended	Total HSP Unspent
Complete	SWFG-2018-302	Quemado Lake Fishing Line Recycle Tubes	Install 5 pvc tubes to allow the public a place for old monofilament fishing line. This would encourage the public to remove their line from the lake, instead of it being left on the shore, or in the water for wildlife to be caught in. These tubes would be placed at the boat ramp, and at other locations around Quemado Lake. Stickers with messages about line recycling would be placed on each tube. The tubes would be attached to wooden posts.	\$1,000	\$946	\$1,200	\$0	\$2,146	\$54
Complete	SWFG-2018-501	Gattons Park Grassland Restoration Phase 2	The Gattons Park Grassland Restoration Project is part of the 6,100 acre PJ Restoration Project and the 126,00 acre Upper Mimbres Watershed-Forest Restoration Project. Gattons Park is a large grassland along the Sapillo Creek drainage. This project will remove juniper encroachment from previously untreated grasslands, and also maintain previous grassland treatments. This will be accomplished through a combination of thinning and pulling via a pincher attachment on a John Deer skid-steer. Treatment method will be determined by presence and density of cultural resources. Slash from treatment will be piled and burned at a later date.	\$23,600	\$21,451	\$4,350	\$0	\$25,801	\$2,149
Complete	SWFG-2018-602	Collin's Park Fence Modification	The purpose of this project is to replace the bottom strand of barbed wire with smooth wire to assist in the movement of pronghorn antelope within the Collin's Park area from the Plains of San Augustine, to the T-bar area. The Reserve Ranger District is proposing to remove the bottom strand of barbed wire along 7 miles of fence and replace it with smooth wire. This area was identified by the NMDGF as areas that need the fence modification. NMDGF and the Reserve Ranger District have identified approximately 30 miles of fence that would need modified.	\$14,770	\$14,345	\$22,450	\$0	\$36,795	\$425
Complete	SWFG-2018-701	Bar 6 Thin Phase 5 of 5	The Bar 6 project area is comprised of 5,300 acres within the Burro Mountains approximately 15 miles southwest of Silver City. The project area would involve a combination of thinning and prescribed fire to reduce woody encroachment. All thinning treatments would be accomplished using hand crews with chainsaws to thin pinon/ juniper, ponderosa pine and alligator juniper.	\$25,000	\$24,731	\$10,000	\$0	\$34,731	\$269
Deleted	CB-2018-003	Chain of Craters #7 Thin or Burn	The Chain of Craters project area straddles the boundary between Big Game Unit 12 and 13 with the west half in Unit 12 and the east half in Unit 13. The project area is within the El Malpais National Conservation Area and the Chain of Craters Wilderness Study Area. The project will work to reduce the encroaching piñon and juniper into native grasslands and open meadows. The reduction of the encroaching piñon and juniper will be accomplished through the selective use of hand and mechanical thinning and prescribed fire.	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
Deleted	SWBL-2018-003	Las Cruces District Fuels Project	The purpose is to decrease shrub encroachment, rejuvenate browse species, increase favorable habitat conditions and plant composition, and open travel corridors between densely vegetated areas. Prescribed fire would be the most cost effective way of treating larger areas and therefore be the preferred method of treatment. In years where prescribed fire is not a feasible option due to lack of prescription requirements (availability of fine fuels, optimal relative humidity, temperature, wind speeds, fuel loading, air quality, smoke receptors, etc.) mechanical treatment would be used. This would include hand thinning of browse species such as mountain mahogany by contracted crews.	\$35,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$35,000
Deleted	SWFG-2018-603	Cold Springs Solar Conversion	The district would like to convert the Cold Springs well from a gas powered generator system into a solar well system that would operate year long. These conversions would go to associated drinkers into a multiple use wildlife-livestock trick tank system. This project will provide water to both livestock and wildlife in an under watered area of the Alexander Allotment. A solar well will be installed in a well that has been sitting unused. The Forest Service would install a storage tank at the well and replace the existing tough. Funds will be used to purchase the solar pump system and installation though a contract.	\$7,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,000
				\$ 742,300	\$ 619,897	\$ 1,010,536	\$ 2,009,540	\$ 3,639,972	\$122,403

# **APPENDIX II**

# Fiscal Year 2018 Sikes Fund Balance Sheet (July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018)

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Sik as of June, 30, 2018	es Fund Balance
Revenues:	
Service Revenue from Habitat Stamp Sales	\$1,056,652.00
Federal Grants	\$134,032.61
Other Revenue	\$18,739.73
Total Revenues	\$ 1,209,424.34
Expenditures:	
Current Operations: Game & Fish Resources Conservation • Habitat Stamp Projects & Program Administration	\$323,948.07
Intra-Agency Transfers (capital)**	\$1,000,000
Total Expenditures	\$1,323,948.07
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	\$(114,523.73)
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$(114,523.73)
Fund BalanceBeginning Of Year	\$1,344,054.00
Fund Balance - End Of Year	\$1,229,530.27

\*\*Funds have been transferred to an internal NMDGF Sikes Fund capital account for Habitat Stamp Program project related expenditures. Funds in this capital account are authorized for up to 5 years, and expenditures will be tracked and reported annually along with the actual Sikes Fund account expenditures.

# Fiscal Year 2018 Capital Sikes Fund Balance Sheet (July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018)

NOTE: In fiscal year 2016 Sikes funds were transferred to an internal NMDGF Capital Sikes fund account for Habitat Stamp Program project related expenditures. Funds in this capital account are authorized for up to 5 years, and expenditures will be tracked and reported annually along with the Sikes Fund account expenditures (previous page).

Statement of Expenditures in ( as of June, 3	-	ce
Capital Sikes Fund FY 2018 Beginning Balance	2:	\$543,070.71
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	\$543,070.71
Expenditures: Game & Fish Resources Conservation: • Habitat Stamp Projects		\$436,256.99
	Total Expenditures	\$436,256.99
Capital Sikes Fund FY 2018 Balance - Er	nd Of Year	\$106,813.72

# **APPENDIX III**

# Funding Allocation By Region

2018	2018 Budget Approved									
	Γ									
Region	Percent to Region	<b>Regional Allocation</b>								
Central	19.0%	\$141,385								
Northeast	17.9%	\$132,697								
Northwest	12.9%	\$95,543								
Southeast	20.7%	\$153,536								
Southwest	29.5%	\$219,139								

# New Mexico Habitat Stamp Program 2019 Implementation Report



# January, 2020 By Daniel Lusk New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

in conjunction with cooperators in the

# United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Total revenues into the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) Sikes Fund for State fiscal year 2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019) totaled \$1,253,052. In project year 2019, the NMDGF's HSP made available \$750,000 to Federal Cooperators, of which they were able to utilize \$659,495 to help support 45 projects on publicly accessible federal lands throughout the state of New Mexico.

Through the continued financial support of hunters, anglers, and trappers recreating on federally managed public lands in New Mexico, the State's wildlife resources continue to benefit through a user supported fund dedicated to proactive wildlife management and conservation. Since its inception in 1986, the HSP has helped provide funding for 2,481 habitat enhancement and wildlife management projects in New Mexico, with Sikes Fund project expenditures of more than \$22.3 million.

## INTRODUCTION

The HSP is a collaborative effort between hunters, anglers, trappers, NMDGF, U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS) implemented under authority of the Sikes Act (16USC670) and the New Mexico State Game Commission.

HSP requires the maintenance of accurate records and the filing of annual reports setting forth the amount and disposition of the fees collected from habitat stamps. The purpose of this document is to provide that report to the program partners, and to provide an annual record of accomplishments to all HSP stakeholders.

The cooperating agencies have fulfilled their obligations to an interagency agreement with submission of reports that track every proposed project to its completion or deletion. A summary of these reports for 2019 projects are found at the end of this report and serve as the source documents for the compilations contained herein.

#### FUNDING

The Sikes Fund is an account in New Mexico State government that holds the money generated from the sale of the \$5 Habitat Stamp. Due to complexities between differing state and federal fiscal years, project funding is no longer based on annual stamp sales, but on a planned budget. The budget is approved by the State Game Commission and appropriated by the Legislature. Federal partners then implement projects within the State's fiscal year of July 1 to June 30 each year. This requirement prevents overbilling by federal partners to the State of New Mexico.

#### UNITS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

For this reporting period, 45 projects were prioritized by the CACs and funded by the HSP (\$750,000). 40 projects were ultimately implemented and completed with the support of HSP funding (\$652,495). \$97,505 in HSP funded projects was unable to be implemented or expended by cooperators. HSP strives to minimize unexpended funds through close communication and coordination with agency cooperators to identify potential project implementation shortcomings and reallocate funds within the state fiscal year. Table 1 depicts projects completed in FY19 and total HSP and cooperator expenditures.

A goal within the HSP is to ensure that funds are directed toward habitat improvement, protection, or restoration. As the HSP has evolved over the years, maintenance needs on existing infrastructure has increased, and a focus has been made to implement larger landscape type projects.

#### **PROJECT EXPENDITURES**

In State fiscal year 2019, the total funds available for annual HSP projects were \$750,000. HSP expenditures for all projects completed in project year 2019 have been compiled in Table 1 below.

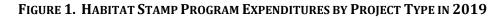
Of the total expenditures, the HSP contributed \$659,495 as tracked by individual projects. Federal agencies, in the form of cash and planning costs, reported contributing \$1,007,240, agency partners also reported \$1,138,662 contributed by other project partners. A total of \$2,798,397 was expended to complete 40 projects. (Table 1)

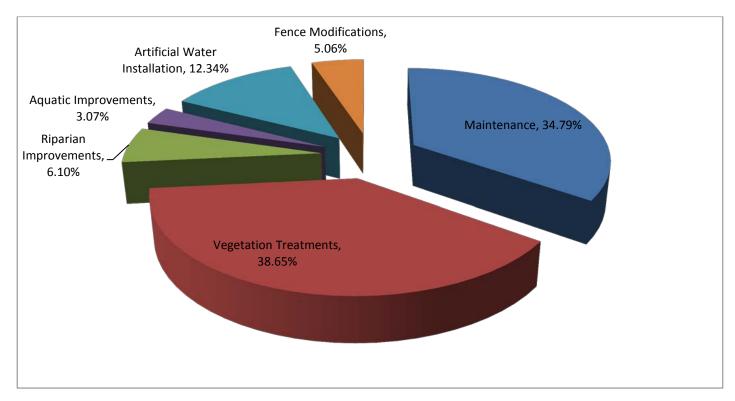
The program goal is to match agency funds dollar for dollar, and leverage other non-HSP funds at the rate of \$0.25 on the HSP dollar. In 2018, USFS and BLM combined funds exceeded this goal by expending \$1.54 on each HSP dollar this reporting period. (Table 1)

The highest use of HSP funds in 2019 was to improve upland vegetative habitat, which accounted for \$252,171 (35.65%). Restoring historic fire regimes are of high habitat importance, but state/federal fiscal year variances, environmental, social, and political constraints have limited its application. The use of fire as a management tool rises and falls based on these impediments.

The second highest use of HSP funds in 2019 was to maintain existing HSP infrastructure, and accounted for \$227,002 (34.79%). Federal partners reported 475 maintenance and/or inspection activities were performed on HSP structures throughout the State. In HSP's first decade maintenance had required only 10% of HSP funds. However, as existing HSP infrastructure ages and additional infrastructure is adopted into the HSP, this aging infrastructure will require more maintenance. This reality, coupled with the Citizen Advisory Committee's increasing desire to maintain prior investments, will most likely require more dollars for maintenance in the future.

Expenditures on other habitat related project categories include: improving aquatic habitats at \$20,000 (3.1%); Increasing availability and distribution of year-round water at \$80,519 (12.34%); improving riparian habitats at \$39,800 (6.1%); Fence Modifications at \$33,003 (5.06%). Figure 1 depicts each percentage of project-type expenditures in this reporting period.





### CONCLUSION

The HSP is able to meet its mission to provide diverse wildlife habitats for use and enjoyment by the public because it has maintained a strong level of support. Sportsmen and women continue to supply funding for a program from which they can see positive impacts. The program's use of a collaborative decision-making process that allows a diverse level of involvement though its Citizen Advisory Committees also separates it from typical government programs.

The cooperating agencies, sporting organizations, and volunteers have built habitat improvement structures such as water developments, enclosure fences, fishing sites, trails, etc. long before the HSP began in 1986. With nearly 2,000 structures built by or adopted into the HSP, maintenance of these has become an extraordinary task. The cost of the "stamp" is \$5 since statewide implementation of the program in 1991, and remains the same price today. Agency leaders, cooperators, and the citizens they serve understand that the costs for implementing and maintaining habitat enhancement projects have increased dramatically over the years, and that fiscal and human resources are limited to accomplish all project work that is needed in a given year.

Cooperators are achieving the HSP's mission to provide diverse wildlife habitat for the benefit of current and future generations, and continue to attract partners to leverage more funds to complete larger habitat improvements. It is hoped this effort will better meet the interests of sportsmen, all citizens, and the wildlife we seek to conserve. With continued agency coordination and support of hunters, anglers, trappers, and conservationists who purchase the Habitat Stamp, future prospects are bright for providing increased services and accomplishments funded by the Habitat Stamp Program.

## For more information about the Habitat Stamp Program please contact:

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Or visit our website at:

HTTP://WWW.WILDLIFE.STATE.NM.US/CONSERVATION/HABITAT-INFORMATION/HABITAT-STAMP/

#### TABLE 1. Units of accomplishment completed in the $2019\,\mbox{project year}$

Project Type	# of HSP Projects	# of Projs., Miles, Acres, etc.	HSP Spent	USFS/BLM Spent	Volunteer/ Other	Total Spent
Maintenance	17	475 structures	<mark>\$234,002</mark>	\$253,396	\$35,000	\$515,398
Vegetative Treatments	14	29068 acres	\$252,171	\$592,210	\$585,000	\$1,429,381
Riparian Improvements	4	16 structures	<mark>\$39,800</mark>	\$32,934	\$503,862	\$576,596
Aquatic Improvements	1	1 facility	\$20,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$70,000
Water Availability	6	6 structures	<mark>\$80,519</mark>	\$68,700	\$14,800	\$164,019
Enhance Human Enjoyment	3	11.5 miles	\$33,003	\$10,000	\$0	\$43,003
		<mark>\$659,495</mark>	\$1,007,240	\$1,138,662	\$2,798,397	
Match Ratio			\$1.00	\$1.54	\$1.75	

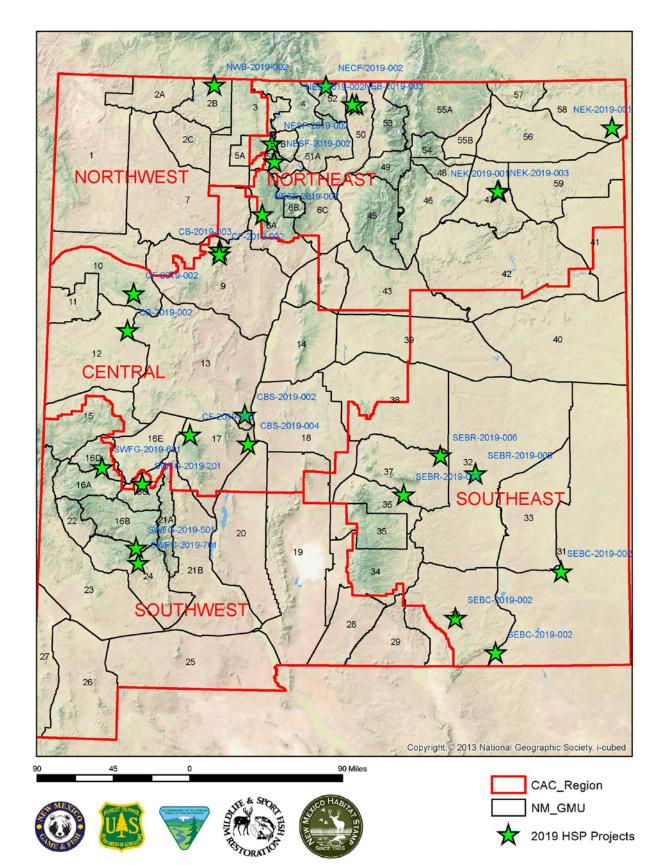


Figure 2. 2019 Habitat Stamp Program Project Locations

Status	Project No.	Project Name	Cost Sha	re	Othe Partr			oject dget	HSP FUNDING	HSP Spent	Age: Expe	ncy ended	Other Funds		HS P Unspent
Completed	CB-2019-001	Rio Puerco HSP project Maintenance	\$ 10	,000	\$	-	\$	10,000	\$10,000	\$6,769	\$	10,000		\$16,769	\$3,231
Completed	CF-2019-001	Cibola National Forest HSP Maintenance	\$ 20	,000	\$	5,000	\$	25,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$	20,000	\$ 5,000	\$30,000	\$0
Completed	CBS-2019-001	Socorro BLM HSP Project Maintenance	\$ 10	,000	\$	30,000	\$	40,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$	10,000	\$ 30,000	\$50,000	\$0
Completed	CF-2019-002	Cibola RX Burns: Cedro Phase 1, Espinoso, West Zone	\$ 135	,000,	\$	605,000	\$	790,000	\$30,852	\$30,852	\$	135,000	\$ 65,000	\$230,852	\$0
Completed	CB-2019-003	Mesa Chivato (IC Grant Forest Restoration)	\$ 80	,000	\$	450,000	\$	530,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$	80,000	\$ 450,000	\$550,000	\$0
Completed	CB-2019-002	Chain of Craters Thin or Burn	\$ 85	,000	\$	-	\$	85,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$	85,000		\$100,000	\$0
Completed	CBS-2019-002	Polvadera Mountain Thin - Units 4 and 5	\$ 40	,000	\$	40,000	\$	80,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$	40,000	\$ 40,000	\$120,000	\$0
Completed	CBS-2019-004	Blue Marble Wildlife Water	\$ 13	,200	\$	14,800	\$	28,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$	13,200	\$ 14,800	\$40,000	\$0
Completed	NEK-2019-001	Kiowa HSP RX Burns		,000,	\$	-	\$	3,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$	3,000		\$10,500	\$0
Completed	NECF-2019-001	Carson Project Inventory, Inspections, and Maintenance	\$ 7	,500	\$	-	\$	7,500	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$	7,500		\$27,500	\$0
Completed	NEB-2019-001	Taos BLM HSP Maintenance	\$ 5	,000,	\$	-	\$	5,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$	7,000		\$14,000	\$0
Completed	NESF-2019-001	Santa Fe NF HSP Maintenance	\$ 5	,000	\$	-	\$	5,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$	5,000		\$15,000	\$0
Completed	NESF-2019-002	Santa Fe Prescribed Fire Project	\$ 60	,000	\$	30,000	\$	90,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$	60,000	\$ 30,000	\$130,000	\$0
Completed	NEK-2019-003	Canadian River Restoration and Planting	\$ 10	,000	\$	500,000	\$	510,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$	10,000	\$ 500,000	\$520,000	\$0
Completed	NEB-2019-002	Netwire Fence Modification Phase 2	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$19,074	\$19,074				\$19,074	\$0
Completed	NEB-2019-005	North Cerro Chieflo Water Catchment Rebuild	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$17,000	\$17,000				\$17,000	\$0
Completed	NESF-2019-003	Upper Rio Cebolla Riparian and Stream Restoration	\$ 3,.	500	\$	3,862	\$	7,362	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$	3,500	\$ 3,862	\$10,862	\$0
Completed	NWB-2019-001	Farmington BLM Field Office Maintenance	\$ 40	,000			\$	40,000	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$	40,000		\$72,000	\$0
Completed	NWF-2019-001	Jicarilla Ranger District HSP Maintenance	\$ 30	,000	\$	-	\$	30,000	\$30,000	\$25,614	\$	30,000		\$55,614	\$4,386
Completed	NWB-2019-002	Carracas Mesa Lop and Scatter	\$ 15	,000,	\$	-	\$	15,000	\$34,534	\$34,534	\$	15,000		\$49,534	\$0
Completed	SEBC-2019-001	Carlsbad BLM HSP Maintenance	\$ 18	,000,			\$	18,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$	18,000		\$42,000	\$0
Completed	SEBR-2019-001	Roswell BLM HSP Maintenance	\$ 12	,000,			\$	12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$	12,000		\$24,000	\$0
Completed	SEF-2019-102	Smokey Bear RD HSP Maintenance 2019	\$ 7	,600	\$	-	\$	7,600	\$11,250	\$10,545	\$	7,600		\$18,145	\$705
Completed	SEF-2019-202	Sacramento RD HSP Maintenance 2019	\$ 11	,821	\$	-	\$	11,821	\$15,250	\$14,191	\$	11,821		\$26,012	\$1,059
Completed	SEF-2019-302	Guadalupe RD HSP Maintenance		.250	\$	-	\$	12.250	\$12,500			12,250		\$18.071	\$6.679
Incomplete	SEF-2019-303	Fiberglass Tank Preservation	\$ 2	.225	\$	-	\$	2,225	\$2,225	\$0		2,225			\$2,225
Completed	SEBR-2019-002	Rio Bonito Fishery - Phase 2	\$ 50	.000			\$	50,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$	50,000		\$70,000	\$0
Completed	SEBC-2019-002	Carlsbad BLM Prescribed Fire Project	\$ 10	.000			\$	10.000	\$6,000	\$5,955	\$	10,000		\$15,955	\$45
Completed	SEF-2019-103	Pothole Wetland Restoration Project	\$ 9	,434	\$	12,000	\$	21,434	\$16,300	\$16,300		9,434		\$25,734	\$0
Incomplete	SEF-2019-301	East Frijole #4 PJ Openings	\$ 64	,560	\$	-	\$	64,560	\$13,603	\$0	\$	64,560			\$13,603
Completed	SEBR-2019-008	Red Hill Trick Tank	\$ 8	,500	\$	-	\$	8,500	\$5,500	\$5,474	\$	8,500		\$13,974	\$26
Completed	SEBR-2019-006	McNally Trick Tank	\$ 8	,500			\$	8,500	\$5,500	\$5,045	\$	8,500		\$13,545	\$455
Completed	SEBR-2019-005	Hackberry Trick Tank	\$ 8	,500			\$	8,500	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$	8,500		\$19,500	\$0
Completed	SWFC-2019-002	Coronado NF HSP Maintenance		,000	\$	-	\$	9,000	\$9,000	\$2,061		9,000		\$11,061	\$6,939
Completed	SWFG-2019-001	Gila HSP Infrastructure Maintenance - 2019	\$ 16	,000	\$	-	\$	16,000	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$	16,000		\$35,000	\$0
Completed	SWBL-2019-001	Las Cruces BLM Maintenance	\$ 35	,000,	\$	-	\$	35,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$	35,000		\$65,000	\$0
Completed	SWFG-2019-501	Gattons Park Grassland Restoration Phase 3	\$ 6	,650	\$	-	\$	6,650	\$19,950	\$19,120	\$	6,650		\$25,770	\$830
Completed	SWFG-2019-601	Collin's Park Fence Modification	\$ 7	,000	\$	-	\$	7,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$	7,000		\$12,000	\$0
Completed	SWFG-2019-701	Georgetown Thinning Phase 1 of 5	\$ 10	,000	\$	-	\$	10,000	\$25,000	\$23,666	\$	10,000		\$33,666	\$1,334
Completed	SWBL-2019-003	Three Rivers Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Improvement	\$ 10	,000	\$	-	\$	10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000		10,000		\$20,000	\$0
Completed	SWFG-2019-201	Indian Peaks Prescribed Fire	\$ 20	.000	\$	10.000	\$	30.000	\$20,000	\$14,836	\$	20.000		\$34,836	\$5,164
Completed	SWBL-2019-360	Bootheel Area Water Replacement and Upgrade	+ =0	.000	\$		\$	30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$	30,000	1	\$60,000	\$0,104
Completed	SWFG-2019-505	Gila Rx Fires		.000	¢	40,000	Ψ ¢	90,000	\$20,231	\$30,000	-	50,000	ł	\$00,000	\$0
	SWFG-2019-505 SWFG-2019-502	Cilla RX Fires Elk's Pasture Fence Alteration Phase 1 of 2	φ 50	,000	ф ф	40,000	\$	3,000	\$20,231	\$0	_	3,000	<u> </u>	\$11,929	\$0
Completed Incomplete	SWFG-2019-302 SWFG-2019-303	Elk's Pasture Fence Alteration Phase 1 of 2 East Centerfire 2019 Prescribed Burn	+ •	,501	\$ \$	-	\$ \$	121,501	\$9,000	\$8,929		3,000		\$11,929	\$23,523
meonpiete	5410 2017 505	Las contajne 2017 Preschoed Jam	φ 121	,501	Ψ		Ψ	121,501	ψ24,231	TOTAL HSP FUNDING	то	TAL HS P xpended	TOTAL Agency Expended	Total Project Expenditures	Total HSP
										\$659,148	\$5	571,874	\$ 604,240	\$773,741	\$67,043

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# About the CPI Inflation Calculator

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The CPI inflation calculator uses the <u>Consumer Price Index</u> for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) U.S. city average series for all items, not seasonally adjusted. <u>This data</u> represents changes in the prices of all goods and services purchased for consumption by urban households.

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# Exhibit #6

From:Deb WatkinsTo:DGF-Habitat-Stamp-RuleSubject:[EXT] \$\$ for fishDate:Tuesday, October 6, 2020 7:43:17 PM

I support upping the price of our habitat stamp to be applied to saving our native fish program!

I also the time to complete repair of habitat and the restocking of natives Be shortened!

Thank you for caring!!!

Deb Sent from my iPhone I hope you do change it to 10\$, I wish it was 25\$. But please make the number one goal to fix all the wildlife drinkers in the state. Its criminal how many are broken, missing parts or just don't work. Many are even full!

Smíle! It's almost hunting season!

Chris Guikema Compass West Outfitters, LLC 33 Road 25531 Aztec, NM 87410

Northwest Area Director - New Mexico Council of Outfitters and Guides <u>www.compasswestoutfitters.com</u> 505- 801-7500 office/bookings 505-860-3197 cell

*"I do not hunt for the joy of killing but for the joy of living, and the inexpressible pleasure of mingling my life however briefly, with that of a wild creature that I respect, admire and value." -John Madson* 

From:	<u>Ty Dose</u>
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Against price increase
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 12:28:56 PM

I am completely opposed to the game commission and the wildlife federation's attempt to double the cost of the habitat stamp. Has the commission or the wildlife federation noticed that this would double the cost of a 1-day fishing license? It would nearly double a Jr game hunting license fee. I'm sure this is a positive for the WF since they hate nonresidents but this is not a good idea for NM, wildlife, or NMDGF. This will discourage license purchases by many, myself included. I am very opposed to tying the price to the CPI.

I am also opposed to 50% of the money being assigned to fish projects, the determination on which projects get funded should come from the HS committee not the game commission or the wildlife federation for the next 10 years. Habitat projects should be based on merit, not a commission who won't even be in place for most of the next 10 years.

It would help NM parents more if habitat stamps were not required for any youth hunters, anglers, or trappers. The cost to take a child hunting is already high but NM's stamps are ridiculous. With the proposed increase the cost of just the stamps required to take my kids on a duck hunt are too high. \$10 HS (not including CPI increases for every year after year 1) + \$25 duck stamp =\$35 in just stamps! A Jr game hunting license is only \$15 so I am required to pay an additional 230% in just stamps for each of my kids every year.

I'm beginning to wonder whether the commission is its own group or just an extension of the wildlife federation.

From:	Kyle Ruggles
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Attn: Habitat Stamp Rule Development
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 11:13:41 AM

I support the proposed change from \$5 to \$10, and I am very supportive of the proposed mandate of 50% of stamp funds to be used for fisheries.

However, there needs to be a consideration made for 1 day resident and non resident fishing licenses. With the proposed change, a 1 day license would total \$27. This is too expensive and much higher than most states. Please consider an exemption for Habitat stamp requirement for the first two purchases of a "one day license" for each license year, similar to Colorado. If the \$10 stamp is required for one day licenses, I think we will actually see a decrease in funds generated as fisherman will just choose to fish places where the stamp is not required i.e. game and fish properties, state parks, private land, etc.

Kyle Ruggles

This is my signature.

From:	Jeff Arterburn	
То:	Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Salazar-	
	Henry, Roberta, DGF; Hickey, Sharon, DGF	
Cc:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule	
Subject:	[EXT] Attn: Habitat Stamp Rule Development	
Date:	Tuesday, November 3, 2020 2:49:27 PM	

Dear NM State Game Commission Members:

I would like to submit my comments on the proposed revisions to the Habitat Stamp Program Rule (Public Land User Stamp Rule 19.34.6 NMAC). I fully support each of the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp Program, and the renewal of the Program for 10 years (through March 2031), for these following reasons:

1) Increasing the Habitat Stamp fee from \$5 to \$10. This increase will begin to address the existing needs for funding habitat projects, and is appropriate at this time because the current fee has been in place for many years and has not kept up with increased costs. In the future, it would be a good idea to make smaller adjustments to the fee on an annual basis, using the consumer price index as a reference.

2) Require that 50% of Habitat Stamp expenditures benefit fisheries. With the increased adjustment in the fee, I strongly support putting more funding toward fish projects. There are tremendous needs across our state to support project that improve and restore stream habitats and watersheds, particularly those that have been severely damaged by wildfires and floods. I would prioritize projects that benefit our native Gila and Rio Grande Cutthroat trout, including large-scale restoration projects that involve removal of non-natives, the construction of fish barriers where necessary to protect restored populations, and in-stream work to provide suitable pool/riffle stream habitat necessary for thriving, resilient populations. The use of low-cost methods with available natural materials such as beaver dam analogs, and reintroduction of beavers are very appropriate for many of our watersheds and these projects should be supported. With the threats from massive wildfires, climate warming, and drought putting the survival of isolated populations at risk, it is more important than ever to focus on watersheds and interconnected streams that allow populations to move and find refuge from these threats. Work that benefits watersheds will also benefit all other game and non-game species, so this really is a win-win option for habitat funding.

Thank you **very much** for the opportunity to comment, **and for continuing this important program**.

Sincerely, Jeff Arterburn 105 Pecan Drive Las Cruces, NM 88001 (575) 649-9729 jeffgilatu@aol.com

From:	±
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Changes on rules
Date:	Friday, August 28, 2020 3:10:54 PM

Please sent me a copy of habit stamp rule please.

Thanks Eugene Bustos

From the Ruidoso area:

I oppose the increase in the cost of a habitat stamp from

\$5 to \$10. It is very poorly timed and I see nothing happening habitat wise in areas I visit. In a time when your governor has the state shut down and hurting every NM Citizen you want to double this tax and add to the taxes she had already increased and the ones she has plans to increase? That is nuts.

On fisheries, from what I see in the areas I fish no habitat work is done. If there were proposed plans to develop instead of plant fish on private land, possibly yes. But that is not happening.

I propose you spend your efforts in stopping the governor from taking our Second Amendment Constitutional Rights and putting your agency out of business. In addition, open your offices to the public. Stop the stupidity of no access to the facilities we paid for and the people hired with our money. These are our facilities and the employees work for us or at least that is how it is supposed to be.

This has all gone on long enough, the citizens of NM are working and interacting. So should employees of the NM government and be accessible to the NM Citizens.

Charles E Dixon, PhD Wildlife Plus Consulting PO BOX 416 ALTO, NM 88312 Cell- **575-808-1221** 

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- 1. Reducing the Advisory Board from 5 to 1 members is a mistake. Too much power in the hands of one individual.
- 2. The use of the monies raised should be spelled out EXACTLY. All monies should be spent on habitat improvement.
- 3. Raising of the fee is wrong. It will only encourage people to ignore the stamp requirement.

Stephen M. Ragsdale Ph: (505) 320-3466 Disagree with proposed changes from \$5.00 to \$10.00, possibly a \$2.00 increase.

Robert Encinas

From:	Buddy Manners
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Citizen Advisory Committee
Date:	Wednesday, October 28, 2020 6:40:59 AM

I do not agree with changt he number from 5 committee members to 1 committee member. That is way too much power for 1 person and leaves no checks and balances.

Thx, Buddy W. Manners II

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Naomi Christensen
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Comment
Date:	Tuesday, November 3, 2020 10:52:27 AM

Our only comment is that any increase or fees associated with the Habitat stamp GO DIRECTLY to NM Fish and Game for habitat improvement and ARE NOT hijacked by the NM politicians in Santa Fe or DC politician for purposes other than what the fees are intended.

Too long both State and Federal governments have "stolen" from funds meant for wildlife, land management and forest service to pay for social programs.

Naomi and Will Christensen

Dear special meeting members,

With times increasingly getting worse and futures being more unknown than ever, we truly feel this would be a horrible time to increase any costs. We feel our license and all related stamps and such are more than the average state and they don't include but hunting of small game and fishing. Beyond this we are also having to add the species draw fees, processing fees when we don't draw, and more. We plead with everyone to consider any costs increases at a later time

The Ahlgrim's

## Benjamin Green paintingpoet13@gmail.com

to dfg-habitat-stamp-rule

Hello,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed Habitat Stamp rule changes.

I am very glad to see that the proposal seeks to extend the program for 10 more years. The work that the Habitat Stamp fees support is vital. Prescribed burns, forest thinning, restoration work and maintenance on Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service properties would most likely not happen if these funds were not available. I do volunteer work with New Mexico Wild, New Mexico Trout, and Trout Unlimited; I am sure some of the projects I was involved with were funded with Habitat Stamp monies.

• am also glad to see that the proposal seeks to fund projects that can happen in a five-year time frame and that address real-life needs.

## •Some of the changes proposed I do not agree with:

"The stamp fee should be increased, perhaps to \$6 immediately and increases for the next 10 years should be tied and automatically built-in to the inflation rate. The fee has not changed in a long time, if ever; projects continue to get more expensive. Rather than fight over an increase every year, build the increase into the proposal for the next decade.

°I disagree with the proposal to reduce the number of regions. If anything, I would like to see more regions so more citizen advisory groups can act as local decision-makers. The regions proposed also do not make sense to me. You are pitting projects that would benefit the grasslands of eastern New Mexico against projects that would benefit the more mountainous and high desert-like conditions of the central and western parts of the state. If the number of regions must be reduced I would suggest three regions: western, central and eastern rather than north, central and southern. This would make more sense for the geography and habitats of the state.

<sup>o</sup>Monies distributed should have some relationship to where the funds originated and to population within regions. The people who provided the funds should receive the most benefits, and the more populous regions should see the majority of the projects.

(Also, I noted that despite the claim that the amount of funds would not change to the same districts/regions under the new proposal, the new North region receives less monies than the old Northwest and Northeast combined.)

The Habitat Stamp program is a good one and I am glad to support it through my Fishing License purchase. I support the projects it enables. I have probably worked on a few of them in my volunteer work. I am glad to see the program continued for another decade. But if you are going to make changes I think they should be improvements: increase the stamp fee so more funds are available, increase local control over what programs are funded rather than reducing it, regions should be designated that better represent New Mexico's geography and major habitats, and the projects should benefit the folks who provided the funds as well as the most populous pas of the state.

Thank you for considering my input on the proposed Habitat Stamp rule changes.

Benjamin Green 3 Zephyr Court Jemez Springs, NM 87025 4:44 PM (3 hours ago)

Good afternoon,

I would like to make some comments on the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp Program:

- I AM NOT in favor of reducing the CAC districts from five (5) all the way down to one (1) because I am positive that my area of New Mexico would not be adequately represented. How does the Game Commission think reducing the number of CAC members is beneficial? It sounds extremely politically motivated to me! I don't want a small group in Santa Fe making decisions for my area.
- 2. I believe fish should receive a portion of the Habitat Stamp money, but not 50% of it. I believe they should receive an amount that is in equality to the percentage of fishing licensed being purchased.
- 3. I am fine with raising the cost of the stamp to \$10 because the CAC's will be able to utilize that extra money to benefit the wildlife in their areas.

Cody Skinner

Principal Hermosa Elementary School 601 Hermosa St. Artesia, NM 88210 Phone: 575-746-3812 Fax: 575-746-8978 <u>cskinner@bulldogs.org</u>

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From:	John Waters
То:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Comments on the Proposed Changes to the Public Land Habitat Stamp Program Rate and Administration
Date:	Wednesday, October 28, 2020 12:43:08 AM

## RE: <u>http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/proposals-under-consideration/</u>

Dear Honorable Members of the State Game Commission:

I am writing these comments to address the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp Program that are under consideration. As a lifetime resident and one who has hunted and fished for almost 45 years in New Mexico, I am very interested in the future of both hunting and fishing in our state. Hunters and anglers are responsible for funding the majority of the wildlife restoration programs around the state and across the nation. Without the decades of the migratory bird and habitat stamp programs, the outdoors would be a much different and less diverse assortment of species that we see today. Animals like our desert bighorn sheep and the Gila Cutthroat Trout might not exist today if not for the money and dedication of sportsmen and sportswomen over the years.

I find it troubling that as the number of these vital types of outdoor enthusiasts has dwindled over the past ten years, our state's leadership seeks to impose conditions that would exacerbate this problem rather than alleviate it. The one thing I find most troubling is the proposed immediate doubling of the Habitat Stamp tax.

Unless it is the goal of this administration to discourage hunting and fishing, I would ask you to consider who this adversely affects the most. True, many advanced hunters and anglers, especially those from other states that travel here to hunt our public lands, have no problem (and do end up) paying more for this privilege to come here. The hunters that are just starting out, however, are the ones that we should be encouraging any way possible to participate and enjoy hunting and fishing. They already are trapped by the electronic age for attention and have the burden of low incomes and the costs associated with raising families. Just getting them to get outdoors is a chore. Doubling the cost of the habitat program creates an added impediment to this and is just not warranted. To a young adult just starting out or an older teenager, the mounting added costs of all of the fees to hunt or fish in our state (that is largely public land), will act as another factor driving this demographic away from hunting and fishing. If we don't get them into these sports early in life, studies show they will probably never take them up later in life, nor pass the interest on to their kids. This is self-defeating and for a state with as small and as poor of a population as NM, we need all of the hunters and anglers that our population can generate.

This increase would also disproportionately affect residents in the southwestern and southeastern portion of the state, especially Grant, Otero, Eddy and Lea Counties. As you are no doubt aware, a far higher percentage of huntable and fishable property in these counties are public lands compared to most of the counties in the rest of New Mexico. Hunters and anglers in this area do not really have an option of whether or not to purchase this stamp- if they want to partake in their respective activity in their county. This is not fair for these residents, who do not really have much private land on which to hunt or fish.

There is also no policy requiring that the money generated in these areas will ever come back to those areas in the percentages that these residents have to contribute to the program. We in the southeastern portion of the state already experience the burden of a disproportionate draining of revenues generated here to pay for the general fund and capital outlay projects of Albuquerque and the northern part of the state. The comparative lack of state funding for our infrastructure needs or programs in our area are evident to any that drive our highways in the SE part of the state and compare them to say, Sandoval, Bernalillo, Santa Fe, or Taos Counties. There is a level of unfairness about this that is similar to the proposed 100% Habitat tax increase on SE New Mexico. I am asking the commission to please consider this and not be too hasty in its approval. This is simply not a equitable source of revenue generation that all citizens will share equally.

Combined with the abolishment of the rural advisory groups of citizens from each area in favor of a more central, Santa Fe-controlled citizen advisory board, the voices and experiences of those in the rural areas with far more public lands will be drowned out by a single Santa Fe-dominated advisory group (which, with the extra members appointed by the appointed NMGF Director, will be a stacked group influenced primarily from the state capital). This new centralized group would, in all likelihood, be handicapped by a lack of understanding the game conditions in the rural areas and/or predisposed to a lack of interest in returning any significant portion of that money back to the rural public lands that generated it. I believe that taking away the local experience and knowledge of a group of people in these areas in favor of centralizing the recommendations among a few that would most likely be controlled in some way by the governor (any governor) is taking input away from the citizens of our very large and rural state, which would be detrimental to game management programs across the state. This centralization fails to facilitate involvement of knowledgeable, local groups in the rural areas and discourages participation from these people by requiring them to have to monitor meeting notices in the Albuquerque Journal and then forcing them to travel 4 to 6 hours to voice input on local projects, conditions, hunting practices or habitats.

I do not think that all is negative with the proposed changes. I believe that utilizing this money equally for both aquatic and terrestrial game habitat management is reasonable, as long as it doesn't disproportionately favor areas closer to urban centers up north at the expense of the rural areas around the state. I also believe that there should be an option for the NMGF if there are dollars left in the fisheries side that are not spent within a particular year, and there are animal habitat projects that could use the funding that year, the NMGF should have the ability to use that money there or vice-versa.

In summary, I oppose the steep habitat stamp tax increase, I oppose centralizing the citizen advisory into the single group as proposed, but support a reasonable allotment of funding between aquatic and terrestrial habitat projects giving the NMGF the opportunity to use money either way if there is funding left over in one or the other.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input on this proposed rule change.

Regards,

John Waters

1308 W. Riverside Drive Carlsbad, NM 88220

From:	David Coulter
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Comments to Wildlife commission proposed changes
Date:	Monday, November 2, 2020 10:44:29 PM

Wildlife Commissioners:

1) I disagree with the proposal to earmark 50% of habitat stamp fees to fishing. As a non-resident license holder, I am not allowed to buy an annual fishing license. But, I am required to pay 2 habitat fees (habitat stamp and HMAV). My habitat fees should ONLY go to hunting-related habitat!

2) I disagree with raising the habitat stamp from \$5 up to \$10. If you decide to earmark 50% to fishing (see #1), you will be charging non-resident hunters DOUBLE for something we can only use 50%. If you need more money for fishing habitat, create a \$5 fishing habitat stamp fee attached to fishing licences only.

By creating a separate \$5 fishing habitat stamp, you automatically earmark additional money to fish habitat in a way that impacts users of that resource. This creates a clearer funding mechanism for aquatic habitat management AND you also keep a clearer, separate funding path for terrestrial habitat management.

Respectfully, David Coulter Get <u>Outlook for Android</u>

From:	william white
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Comments
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 10:23:34 AM

The suggested changes look fine to me, but why have advisory committees if they are bound by the money being spent 50/50? Let them move the money according to need. I am supportive of the increased fee. It's probably about time. William H. White 505 977-6567

From:	My boating friends wish to purchase HMAV licenses to stand alone. How can they do that?
То:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Comments
Date:	Tuesday, September 8, 2020 8:57:25 PM

I do support the habitat stamp program. I purchase one every year with the hunting and fishing licenses that I do not use.

I boat with a number of friends who would also purchase habitat stamps if they were offered conveniently. Need to break out of the exclusivity of the "traditional" users.

I wish that the purchase of the habitat stamp was not only buried in the process of buying a hunting or fishing license. I with that it was also sold in its stand-alone page that tells what it is and displays some of the project work that it supports. An occasional story in the newspapers would also help get the word out.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

I totally support these changes to the habitat stamp program. Thanks for all your work to conserve natural resources.

Dan Magoulick

Arkansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Department of Biological Sciences University of Arkansas 479-575-5449 I would like to comment on the current updated proposal for the Habitat Stamp Rule.

Renew the program for 10 years: I support completely.

Land use plans language adoption for HSP. I support.

Consolidation of 5 CACs to 1 statewide. I support although I do not think enough thought has been given as to what this will mean in terms of logistics with one CAC now evaluating all the project proposals handled by 5 CACs.

50% of funds to "fish" projects. I do not support. I have not seen or been given any definition of what constitutes a "fish" project. Does this mean only water bodies with fishable populations, water bodies with the potential for fishable populations, water bodies which may support non-sport fish populations, or does it also include watershed restoration to benefit downstream water bodies? Any reservation of funds for "fish" projects in waterways should also be limited to native fish species and not the non-natives the Department is notorious for using to make up for a lack of science based management. I have seen no data to support the assertion that because fish licenses are half the Department's license sales that half the stamp funds also come from fish licenses. The largest and most heavily used fishery in the state (Elephant Butte Lake) is not a required stamp area.

Proposal to increase fee. I do not support. Current revenues exceed expenditures substantially. Following information is from the 2017, 2018, and 2019 implementation reports. Total program expenditure for 2019 was not identified as the report was noticeably abbreviated from previous years but I assumed that the administrative cost was similar to that given for 2017 and 2018. Total revenue for this 3 year period was \$3,581,679.69. Total expenditure with similar administrative costs in 2019 was \$2,376.221.48. Revenue not spent was approximately \$1,205,379.00. The amount of carryover funds from previous years was not identified.

I propose the following. Department administrative costs should be borne by the Department instead of being taken out of stamp funds. All maintenance projects will only cover contract and material costs and agency personnel costs will be borne by the agency. A greater effort to ensure compliance with the HSP stamp requirement needs to be made. I have been told that non-compliance may be as high as 25% of all license holders. This gives the potential for 33% increase in funds with enhanced enforcement efforts. The commission also needs to provide greater oversight as the inter-agency executive committee in my opinion has not shown the due diligence that the program requires. One last comment is the noticeable lack of projects addressing the impacts of motorized vehicle travel on wildlife habitats even though this item is specifically addressed in the federal statue itself. Maybe a set reservation funds for such projects is needed since none of the 3 agencies want to follow the statue requirements in this area.

Thank you, David L. Heft

From:	Bill Evelyn Leonard
То:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Cc:	gail cramer
Subject:	[EXT] Commission Advisory Committee
Date:	Sunday, November 1, 2020 8:02:38 AM

At our household we are opposed to the reduction of numbers for Citizen Advisory Committees. A large number of folks should have input instead of a small chosen few. Hello,

Please carefully consider the impact of the habitat stamp price increase proposal from \$5 to \$10 upon revenues generated by single day license sales. A 23% price increase to a single day license (from \$22 to \$27) will very likely have a negative impact on future revenue. If the purpose of offering a single day license is about consumer acquisition (building your consumer base) with a view toward consumer retention (driving consumers to purchase more lucrative 5 day and annual licenses), a price increase of even 10% will create a barrier for entry, let along a 23% price increase. Please keep in mind the business axiom: an increase in price will have a corresponding decrease in units sold.

More broadly, I agree with the following comment from Nick Streit:

I support the proposed change from \$5 to \$10, and I am very supportive of the proposed mandate of %50 of stamp funds to be used for fisheries.

However there needs to be a consideration made for 1 day resident and non resident fishing licenses. With the proposed change, a 1 day license would total \$27. This is too expensive and much higher than most states. Please consider and exemption for Habitat stamp requirement for the first two purchases of a "one day license" for each license year, similar to Colorado. If the \$10 stamp is required for one day licenses, I think we will actually see a decrease in funds generated as fisherman will just choose to fish places where the stamp is not required i.e. game and fish properties, state parks, private land, etc.

Thank you for your consideration.

Charles Stafford

From:	jill tidwell
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Cost of Stamp
Date:	Tuesday, November 3, 2020 8:52:45 AM

I have been paying what I feel is too much every year for my in state fishing license. Now you propose to increase the cost of the habitat stamp from \$5 to \$10. Looks to me like it would result in more people not purchasing a license and staying home instead. I hope nothing comes of the proposal, if it passes then my wife, my son, and myself will no longer be getting a fishing license in the state of New Mexico.

From:	Charles Quintana
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Cost sharing by all
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 10:48:05 AM

Why is it that the Hunters and anglers have to share the whole burden of the cost to habitat. This should als be charged to the rock climbers, bike riders, campers and hikers as well this way the burden is not only on hunters and fishermen. Please consider this as they also affect the habitat.

Thank you.

Charles Quintana/CEO

Santa Fe Steel, Inc. 201 Dinosaur Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87041 (505) 474-5997

 From:
 Michael Dax

 To:
 DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule

 Subject:
 [EXT] Defenders of Wildlife comments

 Date:
 Tuesday, September 29, 2020 3:13:48 PM

 Attachments:
 Defenders of Wildlife Habitat Stamp comments.pdf

Attached, please find comments from Defenders of Wildlife on the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule.

Thank you,

michael



Michael Dax New Mexico Representative

DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE 1130 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036 TEL: 505.395.7334 Facebook | Twitter | Instagram | Medium

From:	<u>Ben</u>
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Drawings
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 10:53:23 AM

There should be a better system for the draws.I have applied for oryx 20 years can't draw.I am 74 I am running out of time.I see some people draw right away.There are family's that every body has drawn.

Sent from my iPad

Hello.

I wish to log my displeasure at the proposed increase in fees to hunt and fish in the state of New Mexico, if this continues soon only those wealthy out of staters will be able to take advantage of these resources.

Why do the bureaucrats wish to punish the sportsmen of New Mexico, by raising the fees? Thank you for your time Charles D Metcalf

From:	Jess Satathite
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Fee increase
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 10:58:10 AM

I don't think a 100 percent increase is right for the citizens of New Mexico

Sent from my iPhone

Hello,

All is fine and good except for the 100% increase in the Habitat Stamp Fee. You give no reason why the increase or how the increase will be of benefit? Then you want to increase each year there after based on the price index, what ever that is or means. NOT acceptable!

Thank you for your consideration,

Lance Kloefkorn

To whom it may concern:

I support increasing the sport fishing Habitat Stamp from \$5 to \$10 and adjusting the fee each year based on the consumer price index.

Sincerely, Richard A McIntyre 6500 Horseshoe Drive Cochiti Lake, NM 7083 505 465 Looks like we need to raise the Habitat Stamp fee! What you do is expensive to do as well as you do it.

New Mexico is facing some debilitating changes and we need to have enough money to ameliorate the situation as well as we can.

I'm thinking a minimum of \$15.00.

Thanks and stay well,

John Dressman

505 501-5279

From:	Richard Rubin
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Cc:	Hickey, Sharon, DGF
Subject:	[EXT] Fisheries Support
Date:	Wednesday, October 7, 2020 1:22:18 PM

Trout flyfishing in NM for fifty plus years, now retired in Arroyo Seco, I support increase in the Habitat Stamp fee. Our recreational and ecological trout programs are important to many people. With a free license at age seventy, the raised fee is easy to afford for most.

As a Senior with old knees, the Red River Hatchery pond has been a joy for several years. I implore you to rebuild the feeder pipe that has left the pond a mudhole unfishable and empty this year for reasons beyond the pandemic. Eagle Rock Lake just doesn't have the close qualities of the pond. I have also observed many happy local kids and people with disabilities there.

Sincerely, Dr Richard Rubin, Arroyo Seco

From:	Linda Davis
То:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] FW: Public Meeting on Proposed Revisions to the Habitat Stamp Program
Date:	Monday, November 2, 2020 3:13:29 PM

Greetings. Thank you for passing along this information. My husband and I are both anglers and we always get the habitat stamp on our licenses. We fully support the proposed changes you've outlined in this email. Not sure if an email counts towards anything, but please count us in as supporters of this.

Stay safe! Tim and Linda Davis Algodones, NM

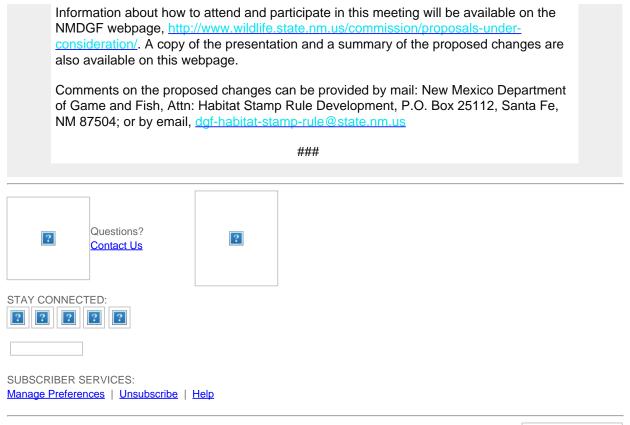
From: New Mexico Department of Game & Fish <nmdgf@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 2:44 PM
To: lindadavis40228@hotmail.com
Subject: Public Meeting on Proposed Revisions to the Habitat Stamp Program

news banner bw logo
2
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Public contact, Information Center: (888) 248-6866
Media contact, Tristanna Bickford: (505) 476-8027
ristanna.bickford@state.nm.us
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, November 2, 2020:
- , ,
Public Meeting to Gather Public Comment on Proposed Revisions to the Habitat
Stamp Program
SANTA FE – The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has scheduled a public
neeting in order to seek public comment on proposed revisions to the Public Land User
Stamp Rule 19.34.6 NMAC (Habitat Stamp Program Rule). A short presentation
providing information about the Habitat Stamp Program and details of the proposed
evisions will be followed by a Q & A session where members of the public are
ancoursed to ask questions. Members of the public are invited to attend the virtual

encouraged to ask questions. Members of the public are invited to attend the virtual meeting **6 p.m., Nov. 5** in order to become familiar with the program and the proposed revisions.

## Summary of Proposed Changes:

- Renew Program for 10 additional years (through March 2031)
- Update planning efforts to align with current interagency coordination efforts
- Require that 50% of Habitat Stamp expenditures benefit fish
- Adjust from five (5) Citizen Advisory Committees to one (1) Citizen Advisory Committee with a statewide jurisdiction
- Increase the Habitat Stamp fee from \$5 to \$10



This email was sent to <u>lindadavis40228@hotmail.com</u> using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: New Mexico Department of Game & Fish · PO Box 25112 · Santa Fe, NM 87504 · (505) 476-8000

?

From:	Sharla Shields
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Fwd: Proposed habitat stamp rule change
Date:	Wednesday, November 18, 2020 5:46:25 AM

>

> Attn: Chairwoman Hickey, Vice-Chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Esteemed Commissioners

> RE: Proposed Habitat Stamp rule changes

>

> I would like to submit my comments as a member of the public who actively hunts, fishes, and traps on public lands (including federal lands such as US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management) annually in New Mexico regarding the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule. As a lifelong resident of New Mexico, I believe that New Mexico Game and Fish has a proud history of being a pioneer in wildlife management and habitat conservation. I am fully in support of the critical partnerships between NMDGF and federal resource management agencies to benefit wildlife in the State of New Mexico. I am in support of the Habitat Stamp program that provides funding to help implement important habitat improvement projects on federal lands within New Mexico.

> I have fully read and understand the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule. I do have one major issue with the proposed changes. I am strongly opposed to the proposed increase in Habitat Stamp fees. Per the current proposal, costs would double from \$5.00 to \$10.00 and be permanently tied to the consumer price index. This would be a significant increase now and in the future for, from what I can tell, no apparent reason.

> Having looked at the original proposal submitted by the wildlife professionals with NMDGF, I noticed that a price increase was not included. I have also noted, when looking at the NMDGF 2020 financial review, that the Habitat Stamp fee increase as proposed is not rooted in need. The Habitat Management fund as of April 30, 2020 was reported as \$3,030,669.51. According to the NMDGF report, \$300,000.00 was budgeted for the 2020 fiscal year of which \$286,733.06 has been spent or encumbered to be spent as of the date of the report on June 23, 2020. Year to Date of the report, \$996,559.27 was the sum of revenue into the Habitat Management fund which was 332% of the expected revenue for the fund for FY 2020. These numbers clearly show that yearly revenue and cash balance in the Habitat Management fund provide ample capital for current and future expenditures.

> In these economically trying times, every penny counts and for many New Mexico families such as mine this increase of fees is just one more unnecessary expense. If the professionals who administer these funds did not originally recommend an increase in fees and there is no danger of depleting the Habitat Management fund these fees are designated for, then it should be an obvious vote against the fee increase and tie to the consumer price index. I respectfully request that you strike these additions from the proposed rule changes.

>

> With Respect,

> Michael Laumbach

>

> Sent from my iPhone

From:	<u>Garrett</u>
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Fwd: Public Meeting on Proposed Revisions to the Habitat Stamp Program
Date:	Friday, October 30, 2020 11:11:18 AM

Sir/Ma'am,

Another 5 dollar increase to licence fees would cause my family and I assume other families to quit paying these ridiculous fees. it's not just the one time increase, but the aggregate of all increases of various licence/stamps/permits/etc.

Another issue is tracking all the permits/fees/stamps/etc. Just make one all inclusive licence and be done with it. This is getting silly.

V/r, Garrett Johnson

------ Forwarded message ------From: **New Mexico Department of Game & Fish** <<u>nmdgf@public.govdelivery.com</u>> Date: Tue, Oct 27, 2020 at 11:16 AM Subject: Public Meeting on Proposed Revisions to the Habitat Stamp Program To: <<u>garrettjohnson36@gmail.com</u>> news banner bw logo

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Public contact, Information Center: (888) 248-6866 Media contact, Tristanna Bickford: (505) 476-8027 tristanna.bickford@state.nm.us

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, October 27, 2020:

# Public Meeting to Gather Public Comment on Proposed Revisions to the Habitat Stamp Program

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has scheduled a public meeting in order to seek public comment on proposed revisions to the Public Land User Stamp Rule 19.34.6 NMAC (Habitat Stamp Program Rule). A short presentation providing information about the Habitat Stamp Program and details of the proposed revisions will be followed by a Q & A session where members of the public are encouraged to ask questions. Members of the public are invited to attend the virtual meeting **6 p.m., Nov. 5** in order to become familiar with the program and the proposed revisions.

## Summary of Proposed Changes:

• Renew Program for 10 additional years (through March 2031)

- Update planning efforts to align with current interagency coordination efforts
- Require that 50% of Habitat Stamp expenditures benefit fish
- Adjust from five (5) Citizen Advisory Committees to one (1) Citizen Advisory Committee with a statewide jurisdiction
- Increase the Habitat Stamp fee from \$5 to \$10

Information about how to attend and participate in this meeting will be available on the NMDGF webpage, <u>http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/proposals-under-</u><u>consideration/</u>. A copy of the presentation and a summary of the proposed changes are also available on this webpage.

Comments on the proposed changes can be provided by mail: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Attn: Habitat Stamp Rule Development, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504; or by email, <u>dgf-habitat-stamp-rule@state.nm.us</u>

###

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From:	Dusty Topper
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Get rid of the habitat stamp to make licenses more affordable.
Date:	Tuesday, November 3, 2020 6:45:47 AM

Sent from my iPhone

Good day,

As an outdoorsman in the great state of New Mexico, please hear my voice when I say NO to an increase in the habit stamp. I ask that no increases be made at this time.

Joshua Stephenson 5053868853

I support an increase in the Habit Stamp cost since the fund is used to support NM Department of Game and Fish activities.

Warren Slade

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From:	<u>canyoung5@juno.com</u>
То:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habit Stamp-I support increase to \$10
Date:	Wednesday, October 7, 2020 6:31:05 AM

The original Habitat Stamp fee was set at \$5 in 1986 and has never been increased. \$5 in 1986 is equivalent to almost \$12 today, which means the Department is able to do less than half of the habitat restoration and maintenance with this program than it could 35 years ago. The rationale for tying to a consumer price index is to allow the fee to adjust in small increments each year. Without such an adjustment, the Department technically has less money in the program each year due to inflation. This is similar to the approach recently adopted by Colorado - this year Colorado's habitat stamp increased just 13 cents to compared to the previous year, and now costs \$10.13. Adjusting the fee to \$10 would roughly double annual revenue from the program derived from resident and non-resident hunters and anglers to \$2 million. Even at \$10, a habitat stamp would still cost less in real dollars than in 1986. Despite the impacts of COVID-19, we're witnessing record numbers of hunters and anglers getting outdoors and record license sales for fishing, which indicate the demand for outdoor recreation has actually increased during the pandemic. Each dollar in the habitat stamp program can leverage up to \$3 in federal funding. Simply put, this habitat stamp adjustment will bring millions of additional federal dollars to New Mexico each year for habitat improvements. There is a huge need for additional on-the-ground habitat restoration and habitat maintenance funding to protect New Mexico's fish and wildlife and to enhance hunting and angling opportunities. This is a small but critical step forward to addressing our habitat challenges.

Jeff Young Sandia Park

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People Will Be Watching Tonight Because of Kamala http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL3141/5f7db4dea0d1e34de70b3st04duc1 Virus Whistleblower Resigns, Calls Out Trump Administration http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL3141/5f7db4dec0f3234de70b3st04duc2 Golfer Gored by Elk http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL3141/5f7db4dee139134de70b3st04duc3 I do not like 1 person representation and would prefer to keep the board of 5 involved.

Kyle Wolfe

Sent from my iPhone

To whom it may concern, I strongly oppose the habitat fee increase in the proposed changes. Obviously there needs to be a budget increase rather than a fee increase.

Thank you,

Bridger Petrini

Tri-State Outfitters, LLC.

P.O. Box 70 Raton, NM 87740

575-445-0200 office 575-707-0393 cell 575-445-0205 fax

bridgerpetrini@msn.com email

www.tristateoutfittersusa.com

Shipping address: 970 County Road A-11 Raton, NM 87740

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From:	Bert Harry
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat fee
Date:	Tuesday, October 6, 2020 5:00:11 PM

As an outdoorsman who loves New Mexico and huts and fishes a lot, I am all in favor of hiking the habitat fee to \$10. I will gladly pay it

From:	James Howe
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat fees
Date:	Wednesday, October 28, 2020 6:31:50 PM

No increase in habitat stamp ,I know it's only 5.00 \$ more but it's getting where fixed income people cant afford to go hunting anymore take it into consideration please

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone Get <u>Outlook for Android</u>

From:	Winifred Taylor
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Improvement Increase
Date:	Monday, November 2, 2020 4:52:16 PM

I strongly oppose such an increase from \$5.00 to \$10:00 for the Habitat Improvement stamp. Enough is enough in this time of economy decay. Cut your cost else where with out raising cost to the outdoors person. Perhaps it is time to get a new Director?????????

Bruce Taylor

From:	bob@thelandcompanynm.com
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] habitat public meeting
Date:	Tuesday, November 3, 2020 11:00:16 AM
Attachments:	<u>sigimg0</u>

I am an avid fisherman and outdoors man and oppose the increase of raising the dollars on the Habitat stamp fee, if anything the fee should be reduced to \$4.

I oppose reducing the Citizen Advisory Committee from 5 to 1, citizens benefit from the Habitat Stamp and should have a positive voice in the program

# Robert Padgett



From:	wmarsh7@comcast.net
То:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat stamp changes
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 11:28:11 AM

As a NM hunter and fisherman I wholly support the proposed changes to the habitat stamp program. Summarized as:

- Renew Program for 10 additional years (through March 2031)
- Update planning efforts to align with current interagency coordination efforts
- Require that 50% of Habitat Stamp expenditures benefit fish
- Adjust from five (5) Citizen Advisory Committees to one (1) Citizen Advisory Committee with a statewide jurisdiction
- Increase the Habitat Stamp fee from \$5 to \$10

The stamp is an important fund rising practice for needed improvements to support hunters and fishermen. The changes are reasonable and appropriately proportion the funds between hunting and fishing, both important activities in NM. While the fee is doubling, it is reasonable since I can't recall the last time it was changed, (and I'm an old guy).

Regards,

David Marsh NM Hunter and Angler

From:	Dan
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat stamp changes
Date:	Monday, November 2, 2020 8:47:13 PM

This seems like something that could be simplified. Why have an extra step? Please just build in the fees to the hunting and fishing licenses.

Secondly, probably not good to stipulate 50% goes to fish. May need flexibility instead of rigidity based on habitat needs.

Sincerely,

Daniel Stulberg

<u>May, Brian</u>
DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
[EXT] Habitat Stamp Changes
Monday, November 2, 2020 2:56:20 PM
image001.png

I disagree with 50% of expenditures going to the benefit of fish. The majority of habitat stamp revenue should be spent on improving big game habitat in ALL areas of the state. This revenue should be spent on improving watering sources such a as wildlife habitat units in areas that desperately need it such as unit 30 and 31. I would much rather see a proposal that a habitat stamp should be purchased for each unit that is hunted or fished. I would rather pay \$5 per license to hunt unit 34 and unit 30 than I would to see half of my habitat monies going to angling. Make a habitat stamp for fisherman and a habitat stamp for hunters. I'd be ok with that as well. I'm sure others would as well.

#### **Brian May**

Principal Training Specialist

UUSA | P.O. Box 1789 | Eunice | New Mexico | 88231 | USA Tel: +1 (575) 394-6372 | Mob: (575) 441-1713 | Email: <u>Brian.May@urenco.com</u> | Web: <u>www.uusa.urenco.com</u>



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I concur with the proposed changes as outlined in today's email. Charles E. Knoblauch Attorney at Law PO Box 25891 Albuquerque, NM 87125 (505) 244-1629 Good morning.

I do not support raising the price of the habitat stamp as it unfairly targets hunters and fishermen without targeting any of the other people who also benefit from the program. Colorado recently required public land users to hold a hunting or fishing license so that the burden of paying for public lands was shifted away from the hunters and fishermen. NM should do the same. Hikers, backpackers, recreational shooters, campers, off-roaders, and many more take advantage of the public lands in NM and yet only hunters and fishermen are required to buy the habitat stamp. Make more people buy it and you won't need to double the price followed by annual increases.

James Anderson

### Oct. 12, 2020

Dear Chairwoman Salazar Hickey, Vice-chair Salazar Henry and members of the State Game Commission,

The New Mexico chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, representing more than 500 members throughout the state, strongly supports the proposal to renew the Habitat Stamp Program for another 10 years, to realign the HSP regional boundaries and to revise the program language to focus more on landscape-scale restoration projects.

New Mexico hunters and anglers have benefited immensely from the joint efforts of NMDGF and its federal partners on hundreds of habitat improvement efforts conducted in the past. But in fact the demand for habitat restoration work and for maintenance of existing habitat improvements projects far outstrips the funding, and that demand will only increase as the effects of climate change rise in coming years. At the same time, the cost of a Habitat Stamp has not risen since the program began, meaning that inflation has dramatically reduced the effectiveness of this important tool.

Therefore, in addition to approving the changes in the Habitat Stamp Program as proposed, New Mexico Backcountry Hunters & Anglers strongly encourages the Game Commission to raise the cost of a Habitat Stamp for hunters and for most anglers to \$10, with some exceptions, such as for one-day fishing licenses. For most license buyers, however, \$10 is the level necessary to support and expand the crucial landscape-scale habitat restoration work so obviously needed throughout New Mexico.

We believe that hunters and anglers statewide would support such an adjustment if the Commission and Department clearly spell the restoration needs and how they will benefit New Mexico sportsmen, women and wildlife for coming generations. New Mexico BHA will do all we can to encourage public support for the cost adjustment.

We also would like to see the Habitat Stamp Program protected from the long-term effects of inflation. To that end, we suggest the Department and Commission consider building in some type of cost-of-living adjustment to ensure the cost of a Habitat Stamp automatically keeps up with inflation and is able to provide full funding in the face of ever-growing habitat restoration needs.

Sincerely,

Joel Gay, Chairman Kevin Lockhart, Vice-chairman New Mexico Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Joel Gay (505) 573-4191

Hello,

I'm writing to you as a member of Trout Unlimited Bosque Chapter in support of the fee adjustment for the Habitat Stamp. The stamp fee has been the same since 1986 - that's 34 years of stagnancy while the cost of everything has adjusted accordingly. Adjusted for inflation, we are only able to do half of the habitat restoration we would've been able to at that time.

Demand for outdoor recreation has increased significantly during the pandemic, so with increased hunters and anglers AND a fee adjustment, habitat restoration and funding would increase as well.

Habitat restoration and maintenance is crucial to keeping New Mexico's great outdoors pristine, and keeping our native and threatened species protected and sheltered.

Thank you for your time, if you have any questions or comments, feel free to reply to this email.

- Matt Cleary, a concerned angler in Albuquerque.

:50 PM
3

Attn: Chairwoman Hickey, Vice-Chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Esteemed Commissioners

RE: Proposed Habitat Stamp rule changes

I would like to submit my comments as a member of the public who actively hunts, fishes, and traps on public lands (including federal lands such as US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management) annually in New Mexico regarding the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule. As a lifelong resident of New Mexico, I believe that New Mexico Game and Fish has a proud history of being a pioneer in wildlife management and habitat conservation. I am fully in support of the critical partnerships between NMDGF and federal resource management agencies to benefit wildlife in the State of New Mexico. I am in support of the Habitat Stamp program that provides funding to help implement important habitat improvement projects on federal lands within New Mexico.

I have fully read and understand the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule. I do have one major issue with the proposed changes. I am strongly opposed to the proposed increase in Habitat Stamp fees. Per the current proposal, costs would double from \$5.00 to \$10.00 and be permanently tied to the consumer price index. This would be a significant increase now and in the future for, from what I can tell, no apparent reason.

Having looked at the original proposal submitted by the wildlife professionals with NMDGF, I noticed that a price increase was not included. I have also noted, when looking at the NMDGF 2020 financial review, that the Habitat Stamp fee increase as proposed is not rooted in need. The Habitat Management fund as of April 30, 2020 was reported as \$3,030,669.51. According to the NMDGF report, \$300,000.00 was budgeted for the 2020 fiscal year of which \$286,733.06 has been spent or encumbered to be spent as of the date of the report on June 23, 2020. Year to Date of the report, \$996,559.27 was the sum of revenue into the Habitat Management fund which was 332% of the expected revenue for the fund for FY 2020. These numbers clearly show that yearly revenue and cash balance in the Habitat Management fund provide ample capital for current and future expenditures.

In these economically trying times, every penny counts and for many New Mexico families such as mine this increase of fees is just one more unnecessary expense. If the professionals who administer these funds did not originally recommend an increase in fees and there is no danger of depleting the Habitat Management fund these fees are designated for, then it should be an obvious vote against the fee increase and tie to the consumer price index. I respectfully request that you strike these additions from the proposed rule changes.

With Respect,

Kyle Jackson

From:	CLAUDIA FISHER
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp fee increase
Date:	Tuesday, November 3, 2020 9:26:33 AM

lam writing to oppose the fee increase, there is currently three plus million dollars in the account that is unspent. There is no need to increase the fee and to divide the funds up with Fisheries makes no sense.

Truly Yours

Tom Fisher

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From:	Milo Chavez
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat stamp fee increase
Date:	Wednesday, October 7, 2020 8:45:36 AM

## To whom it may concern,

# I support increasing the Habitat Stamp fee from \$5 to \$10 and adjusting the fee each year based on the consumer price index.

I would also support legislation outlawing the sale and use of barbed hooks in all waters across New Mexico with the exception of the Kokanee salmon snagging. Sincerely,

Stephen M. Chavez Los Ranchos de Albuquerque NM

#### NMDGF Staff,

Good morning, please count me as fully in support of raising the cost of a Habitat Stamp to \$10 and then adjusting annually in accordance with the Consumer Price Index... I understand that this is part of conservation and I'm proud to be a part of supporting New Mexico outdoor life.

Thank you for your consideration!

Bryant Roy 916 Aster Ct SE ABQ, NM 87116 Dear sir

I am an avid fisherman and have seen the deterioration of fishing habitats over the last 2 decades. I encourage you to upgrade out fishing habitats and I would gladly pay for an increase from \$5 to \$10 to help fund such a program.

I would also encourage partnering with organizations like TU leverage the activity and costs.

Thank you for your efforts Guy Dimonte

From:	Mike Prime
То:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp Fee
Date:	Wednesday, October 7, 2020 8:25:04 AM

Dear DGF and my local and at-large Commissioners,

I have lived in Los Alamos for 26 years and am an avid fisherman and outdoorsman. New Mexico is amazing for outdoors activities.

Could you consider raising the habitat stamp fee to \$10 and then tying it to inflation so that it continues to keep pace? The program does so much good for habitat restoration and maintenance, and there is plenty to do.

While I am writing this, let me thank you for the time you put into the resources that so many New Mexicans enjoy.

Mike Prime Los Alamos, NM Truchas Chapter Trout Unlimited

From:	Barry Neunzig
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat stamp fee
Date:	Monday, November 2, 2020 3:33:03 PM

I don't think the habitat fee should be raised. It's bad enough that you steal the hunting license fee from out of state hunters when they don't draw a tag.

You should all be embarrassed and ashamed of your greed.

You should also start a point system for draw tags that would insure everyone could, sooner or later, draw a tag. A family of 4 loses \$600.00 if they don't draw a tag. That is insulting.

You can do better.

Have a nice day

Barry Neunzig

Sent from my iPhone

From:	John Coon
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp Feedback
Date:	Friday, September 4, 2020 6:23:21 AM

I am writing to inform you of my and numerous other's disappoint with the State of New Mexico's current process of requiring Non-residents to purchase a habitat stamp in order to enter the non-resident license draw process. Then if unsuccessful in drawing the desired tag, NM retains the habitat stamp fee. It is extremely unlikely (99%+) that a non-resident wishing to pursue big game in NM that has not been successful in the draw process is going to travel to NM to hunt small game or fish. The current process is unethical and does not reflect positively on the state of NM. I fully support paying for a habitat stamp if and when I am hunting in NM, but I do not support paying for something I am not receiving any value.

Feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss further.

From:	Marc Harrell
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp Funding and TU
Date:	Tuesday, October 6, 2020 7:16:33 PM

Please consider raising the Habitat Stamp fee to \$10.00 to bring it up to date with current pricing in other surrounding states.

These additional funds will help support our local native fish stocks.

Thank you in advance.

Marc



Marc Harrell Business Development 203 Kit Carson Rd. Taos, NM 87571

(505) 603-1342 <u>Email</u>

From:	Scdavis78
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp Increase
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 1:25:11 PM

I totally disagree with the price increase! Times are hard enough without doubling a fee!

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail Get the new AOL app: <u>mail.mobile.aol.com</u>

Adam Rankin
DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
[EXT] habitat stamp increase
Tuesday, October 6, 2020 10:59:10 PM

I am a liftetime Trout Unlimited member and member of the local Truchas TU Chapter. I support increasing the Habitat Stamp fee from \$5 to \$10 and adjusting the fee each year based on the Consumer Price Index. It is important to me to ensure that New Mexico's wildlife is preserved for my children and their children.

Adam Rankin Santa Fe I am against an increase of the habitat stamp.

I've yet to see how it's helped . I have hunted several locations throughout the state and haven't seen the improvements.

I think this is just more special interest groups wanting more money. It costs enough as it is. This is another way to allow those with money to hunt and those less fortunate to have to give up family traditions of hunting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dewayne

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Spencer Reid
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp pricing
Date:	Tuesday, October 6, 2020 6:38:53 PM

I am a New Mexico resident and a catch-and-release fly fishermen who fishes much of New Mexico. I totally support increasing the cost of the stamp to \$10, and linking the future price to the consumer price index. Keeping the price at \$5, or any other fixed price, basically drives down the inflationadjusted value of the program every year, and is a net negative for habitat improvement and protection.

Spencer Reid 505-346-9114

From:	Cody Wilson
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp Program Changes
Date:	Wednesday, November 18, 2020 6:39:35 PM

As an outdoorsman, who loves to hunt and fish, I am in full support of the proposed changes. It is nice to see the habitat improvements being done by the NM Game & Fish Department across the state.

Thank you, Cody Wilson

From:	wade parker
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat stamp program changes
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 4:56:31 PM

I am writing to say that I am strongly opposed to decreasing citizen participation in any phase of decision making that affects OUR hunting and fishing rights or costs to be involved in any outdoor activity. I am also opposed to paying one cent more to fund any program. It is already ridiculously expensive to pursue hunting and fishing related passions and once implemented the costs NEVER go down they only enable appointed bureaucrats to continually ask for more money to fund another project or personnel increase. We have plenty of red tape and government interference in our right to enjoy our wildlife already.

Thanks, Wade Parker

From:	Henri Dussault
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp Program Proposed Rule Revision
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 10:31:22 AM

As a homeowner outside Red River, NM we have numerous out-of-state friends visit during the fishing season. Many want to fish for a day and buy a daily fishing license. If I am understanding correctly, one of the proposed changes to the Habitat Program would be to increase the fee from \$5 to \$10. I think that increase is fine for yearly licenses but for shorter term licenses the cost should remain \$5. \$10 is just too much to add, especially to a 1 day license. Perhaps also charge the fee every time you purchase a license, where now I believe you only have to purchase it once a season. That might encourage the purchase of more yearly licenses.

Thanks for considering my opinion.

Henri

Henri J. Dussault D: (817) 339-2460 F: (817) 870-2265 hdussault@belaw.com bio | vcard | website





Good Morning,

I would like to make a comment on the proposed habitat stamp. I am not sure how to access or find how many stamps are purchases annually and if they were purchased with trapping, fishing or hunting licenses. But to say 50% of the expenditures benefit fish seems like an overstep of the Government. In my mind it could go two ways. First, it is up to the biologist and land managers that currently use these funds to better public access, improve habitat, etc. Or secondly, if there is a mandate on what species of public resource benefits (i.e. fish or big game) the funds should be split based on how the revenue was generated. If big game license holders drive 80% of the habitat stam revenue, than 80% of the funds should be going to support access and habitat for those types of big game, or vice versa.

Thank you,

## Tyler Kiedrowski

Vista Outdoor l Financial Planning & Analysis Office: 406-284-3609 Cell: 952-917-9747 Dear Sir,

I just wanted to let you know that I'm agreeable to the proposed changes to the stamp rule.

1. Renew for 10 years.

2. Update planning efforts to align with current interagency coordination efforts.

3. Require that 50% of the stamp money benefits fish.

4. Ok with reducing CAC from 5 to 1 with state wide jurisdiction.

5. Really want to increase the stamp price from 5\$ to 10\$ but also tie the fee to the consumer price index so we will never have to go though this fee increase again.

Thanks for letting me comment.

Bill Zenger Angler

Sent from my iPad

To whom it may concern:

First and foremost, I DO NOT support raising the fee for the habit stamp.

I personally have not seen anything done with the money raised by this program.

I would like to see some proof of where the money is used, maybe on the department website monthly.

From what I have seen/heard there is a substantial balance of unused funds in this account, therefore not justifying an increase in fees.

I the fishing side of things wants half, give it \$2.50 of every \$5.00 habitat stamp fee collected.

Regards

From:	Harry Hall
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp Program
Date:	Saturday, August 29, 2020 3:26:06 PM

I can tell you how angry I am when I find places where money was spent by the New Mexico Game & Fish for wildlife in the state.

Places to help catch water are ruined, damaged, no longer useable by wildlife all over my area in the Zuni Mountains and have been left to rot in place and never work again for there intended purpose for wild life.

An investigation of the NMG&F needs to be started to explain why this money is being collected from Sportsmen all over the country to pay for habitat improvement at locations on public lands are never repaired and maintained but money is required to be paid out for the privlidge of getting a license!

Signed;

Mr. Harry L. Hall Disabled USAF Veteran 32. 7 Year Retired NM Police Lt.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From:	Harrison Frazier
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp Program
Date:	Tuesday, October 6, 2020 5:37:00 PM

I support the increase in price for the habitat stamp program from \$5 to \$10.

-Harrison Frazier

From:	Joseph Jones
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp proposal
Date:	Monday, November 2, 2020 3:11:51 PM

As an avid fisherman, I want to comment that I fully support the increase in the Habitat Stamp fee. I understand that it has not been increased in many years, and it is time for this increase.

Thank you,

Joe E Jones DDS Santa Fe, NM Hello,

As a lifelong sportsman of New Mexico; I have seen and appreciate the fruits of our investment into the Habit Stamp fund. I do however, have some concerns.

In the shortest version of my thoughts, I would point out all the MANY current Habitat Stamp Projects (HSP's) that are on our landscape and failing.

I have done past work to maintain these within the Forest Service, and spent several years working for NMDGF.

In order to gain public support of any increase; I would highly encourage using current funds more consistently on existing projects. The most obvious of these being trick tanks or catchment waters. I personally visited over a dozen of these this year, and not a single one was in good functioning condition.

I would, personally, welcome the increase if, and only if, it means a better appropriation of these funds.

Thanks, TJ Wood --Troy Wood

From:	Charles Harvell
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp Proposed Revisions
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:21:34 PM

New Mexico Department of Game & Fish:

I object to your proposal to double the Habit Stamp fee. I also object to your proposal to eliminate four citizen advisory committee.

Charles Harvell Reserve, New Mexico

From:	<u>kurt felix</u>
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp Rule Changes
Date:	Thursday, October 29, 2020 7:50:12 AM

Below are my comments on the proposed changes to the habitat stamp program.

1. The ratio of hunters to anglers utilizing federal land is not 1:1 across the state. Some supervisory areas do not have ANY fishing available on federal land. I believe it would be a mistake to allocate 50% of the funds to fisheries projects.

2. My understanding is that there is already money available that is not being used. For example, the Lincoln National Forest has explained to me that the budget to maintain projects is available but the man-power is not. If we are going to increase funds for the program through a 100% fee increase, we need to have systems in place to make sure that money is actually being used for on the ground projects. If the man-power is not available then contractors should be used. I cannot support increasing the stamp fee by 100% until some kind of better system is in place.

3. If the goal is to increase funds for the program we should be exploring a stamp requirement for all recreational users. Nine months of the year campers and hikers have a much larger impact on resources than do hunters.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kurt Felix

From:	Jeff Arterburn
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp Rule Development
Date:	Wednesday, October 14, 2020 1:47:19 PM

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Attn: Habitat Stamp Rule Development, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504 email: <u>dgf-habitat-stamp-rule@state.nm.us</u>.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for increasing the Habitat Stamp fee to \$10, and renewing the program through the next 10 years. I believe that it is important to do this now, since it is such a critical resource for New Mexico's habitat, wildlife and fisheries. I purchase a small game hunting and fishing license each and every year, and my primary interests are in our native Gila trout and Rio Grande Cutthroat trout. I strongly support the important projects that the NMDGF has been doing for native trout restoration and habitat projects, in particular the large scale treatment and ongoing restoration of Gila trout in the Whitewater Creek watershed, and the Costilla watershed restoration of Rio Grande Cutthroat trout. There are tremendous needs across our state to support riparian and stream habitat restoration and enhancement work for many of our streams, particularly those that have been severely damaged by wildfires and floods. These are really important areas to work on and I hope that the increased habitat stamp fees can be used to support more fisheries-focused projects like these, and appreciate increasing opportunities to involve the public in accomplishing the goals.

I also support the proposed reorganization to northern, central and southern regions, which offers advantages for management. I also support efforts to manage interagency cooperation and funding in ways that enable better coordination with federal agency plans, since cooperation with multiple state and federal agencies is so important for many of these large-scale projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Sincerely, Jeff

Jeff Arterburn 105 Pecan Drive Las Cruces, NM 88001 (575) 649-9729 jeffgilatu@aol.com

6 AM

Do not raise the price for the habitat stamp, I am against this raise, tags are already expensive enough. I am a NM resident and I know several hunters on a fixed income that have a hard time getting enough money to enter the draw. With this increase it will inhibit several NM hunters to enter the yearly draw cycle.

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Nick Streit
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat stamp rule
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 10:43:01 AM

I support the proposed change from \$5 to \$10, and I am very supportive of the proposed mandate of %50 of stamp funds to be used for fisheries.

However there needs to be a consideration made for 1 day resident and non resident fishing licenses. With the proposed change, a 1 day license would total \$27. This is too expensive and much higher than most states. Please consider and exemption for Habitat stamp requirement for the first two purchases of a "one day license" for each license year, similar to Colorado. If the \$10 stamp is required for one day licenses, I think we will actually see a decrease in funds generated as fisherman will just choose to fish places where the stamp is not required i.e. game and fish properties, state parks, etc.

Thank you,

Nick Streit

Taos fly shop www.taosflyshop.com 575-751-1312

The Reel Life www.thereellife.com 505-995-8114

From:	Brian Newell
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] habitat stamp rule
Date:	Wednesday, November 18, 2020 6:05:53 PM

Why does this have to be a separate fee? Why not just include all the stamps in the hunting license fees and be done with it. It would save so much confusion on who needs what stamps and if some people don't need a specific stamp then so what it is just more money for that fund, everyone can pay their part.

From:Mark SandersonTo:DGF-Habitat-Stamp-RuleSubject:[EXT] Habitat Stamp RuleDate:Tuesday, October 27, 2020 12:35:42 PMAttachments:ATT00001.txt

I support the changes,

Found this sign in unit 34 and now questioned just when and how the Maintenance and maintaining \$ kick in. Avid hunter and fisherman Life Resident Mark

From:	Luis Gonzales
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] habitat stamp ruling : PRICE INCREASE
Date:	Friday, October 30, 2020 7:00:47 AM

I AM LUIS GONZALES A HUNTER, TRAPPER, FISHERMAN, HIKER. I ENJOY THESE ACTIVITIES WITH MY GRANDCHILDERN AND OTHERFAMILY MEMBERS. WE ALL LIVE IN THE NORTH WEST PART OF THE <u>STATE AS</u> I DO THESE ACTIVITIES I SEE MANY CHANGES MANY BY NATUE VERY LITTLE BY HABITAT STAMP PROJECTS, IMPROVEMENTS, MAINTENANCE. WE BUY HUNTING, FISHING, AND SOME OF US TRAPPING LICENSES WITH STAMPS. I DO NOT SEE ANY REASON FOR ANY PRICE INCREASE NOR ONE HABITAT IS MORE IMPORTANT THEN THE OTHER. ALL EQUAL OR NONE AT ALL

From:	<u>kirk browning</u>
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat stamp
Date:	Monday, November 2, 2020 4:15:08 PM

Would be nice to see a report on how Funds have been spent in past to judge If more are required

From:	Mark Mays
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat stamp
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 2:41:05 PM

What ,you don't think 3.5 million is enough to work with. You must be a bunch of Democrats that want every penny that they can get their hands on . Do you all hang out with that Idiot governor of our's . As you can tell I am not for the increase of the habitat stamp. You are trying to kill off our elk and deer herds by putting all of the wolves you can in the Gila, and don't tell me that they are not there , I have seen them myself. Why don't you spend some of the 3.5 on protecting our elk and mule deer herds. Why don't you cut down the cow hunt's to one week, not two, every time a cow is killed there are 2 killed , the cow and her unborn calf. No wonder our elk herds are so low. I know the resident hunters will start to bitch about not getting to draw an elk tag, the DGF needs to grow some balls and work to protect my elk and deer , yes my elk and deer, they are not the dgf's .

From:	Ethan Sumrall
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat stamp
Date:	Monday, November 2, 2020 6:36:29 PM

I support the increase in price for a habitat stamp. With climate change, it's important to fund healthy fish habit. This increase only effects people who want to participate in fishing, and it's my view that we should pay for the resource we're using. The idea that lower income citizens will face hardship by increasing the price is substantially counteracted by the fact that when accounting for inflation, 10 dollars today does not go as far as 5 dollars did when the stamp price was last set. --

Respectfully Ethan J Sumrall JD Candidate - class of 2022 601-738-1589

From:	WARD CAMP
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp
Date:	Monday, November 2, 2020 3:09:32 PM

I fully support raising the price of a habitat stamp. \$25 is even reasonable. I only ask for an equitable split for Fishing. I do not hunt, but I am still willing to contribute because hunting runs deep in the New Mexican ethos and public lands for hunting are a benefit to all. I just want H2O issues and fish to receive their fair share. Thank you. Hiram Ward Camp Kinda wonder why your doing this during a pandemic? Shouldn't we wait until next year? I'm all for keeping all wildlife habitat safe for everyone. But, why double the price right now? I'm handicapped now and can't get out like I used to, but at the same time I still get the fishing license and habitat stamp every year. It doesn't matter about the fact I haven't been fishing for over 7 years, it's the fact that I might be able to fish, how many other people are like me?

Wait until next year, as it is, the government pretty much shut down fishing. Tell me how many fishermen/women stand next to each other when they fish? I'd like to meet the first one in my life time because if you actually fish, you don't want anybody around you, if you go fishing with friends, it will usually at least 10-20 yards apart if not more. The only people I ever knew to fish so close together was when my kid was young and really didn't have a choice, other than that, like I said, I don't even want my friends close to me other than to talk about bait and even then, WE ARE ADULTS AND WILL WEAR MASKS.

Just Please don't do anything for now, as it is, your not really letting us go fishing, I won't even go into hunting because I have enough food, but what about the people that don't have the resources and will poach just to put food on the table for their families. Please, you have to be reasonable on your regulations, otherwise, with people going hungry, they're gonna poach either fish, meat or anything in between.

You have to protect your Game Enforcement people, don't make it worse for them. They already do a good job, remember one of your own got killed around 20-30 years ago in ? Linkin? New Mexico, well it might get worse. I always worry about law enforcement whither they enforce laws or game laws.

Think I've said enough, with the pandemic, just leave everything alone for a year and revisit it next year.

Sincerely & Thanx, Danny Estridge

From:	Quincy Neal
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp
Date:	Tuesday, October 6, 2020 6:50:16 PM

Hello- I urge you as an avid fly fisherman with a deep concern for the environment, to raise the stamp fee from \$5 to \$10 and adjusting it with the Consumer Price Index. These additional funds are needed to better fund protection of New Mexico wildlife.

Quincy Neal Santa Fe, NM

Sent from my iPad

Please increase the fee on the habitat stamp from five dollars to \$10 and just currently on annual basis according to consumer price index.

Sent from my iPhone

I support raising the fee for a stamp to \$10.

Doug Loescher

From:	Curtis Seifert
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp
Date:	Tuesday, November 17, 2020 9:30:56 PM

Attn: Chairwoman Hickey, Vice-Chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Esteemed Commissioners RE: Proposed Habitat Stamp rule changes

I would like to submit my comments as a member of the public who actively hunts, fishes, and traps on public lands (including federal lands such as US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management) annually in New Mexico regarding the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule. As a lifelong resident of New Mexico, I believe that New Mexico Game and Fish has a proud history of being a pioneer in wildlife management and habitat conservation. I am fully in support of the critical partnerships between NMDGF and federal resource management agencies to benefit wildlife in the State of New Mexico. I am in support of the Habitat Stamp program that provides funding to help implement important habitat improvement projects on federal lands within New Mexico.

I have fully read and understand the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule. I do have one major issue with the proposed changes. I am strongly opposed to the proposed increase in Habitat Stamp fees. Per the current proposal, costs would double from \$5.00 to \$10.00 and be permanently tied to the consumer price index. This would be a significant increase now and in the future for, from what I can tell, no apparent reason.

Having looked at the original proposal submitted by the wildlife professionals with NMDGF, I noticed that a price increase was not included. I have also noted, when looking at the NMDGF 2020 financial review, that the Habitat Stamp fee increase as proposed is not rooted in need. The Habitat Management fund as of April 30, 2020 was reported as \$3,030,669.51. According to the NMDGF report, \$300,000.00 was budgeted for the 2020 fiscal year of which

\$286,733.06 has been spent or encumbered to be spent as of the date of the report on June 23, 2020. Year to Date of the report, S996,559.27 was the sum of revenue into the Habitat Management fund which was 332% of the expected revenue for the fund for FY 2020. These numbers clearly show that yearly revenue and cash balance in the Habitat Management fund provide ample capital for current and future expenditures.

In these economically trying times, every penny counts and for many New Mexico families such as mine this increase of fees is just one more unnecessary expense. If the professionals who administer these funds did not originally recommend an increase in fees and there is no danger of depleting the Habitat Management fund these fees are designated for, then it should be an obvious vote against the fee increase and tie to the consumer price index. I respectfully request that you strike these additions from the proposed rule changes.

With Respect, Curtis Seifert I support raising the Habitat Stamp from \$5 to \$10 and that any annual increases be pegged to the CPI. Tightlines, Steven Sent from my iPhone

From:	<u>Richard</u>
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat stamp
Date:	Monday, November 2, 2020 8:00:11 PM

Please stop charging hunters to clean up the messes left by picnickers and regular campers. We are an easy target but it is simply unfair!

From:	david rutledge
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat stamp
Date:	Tuesday, November 3, 2020 9:25:11 AM

I do not care what you do since I am not to allowed to go to New Mexico State Parks because I am from Texas. Don't spend all of your Texas money in one place! Oh that's right there isn't any!!!

From:	Richard Johnston
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp
Date:	Wednesday, November 18, 2020 8:04:00 AM

Attn: Chairwoman Hickey, Vice-Chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Esteemed Commissioners RE: Proposed Habitat Stamp rule changes

I would like to submit my comments as a member of the public who actively hunts, fishes, and traps on public lands (including federal lands such as US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management) annually in New Mexico regarding the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule. As a lifelong resident of New Mexico, I believe that New Mexico Game and Fish has a proud history of being a pioneer in wildlife management and habitat conservation. I am fully in support of the critical partnerships between NMDGF and federal resource management agencies to benefit wildlife in the State of New Mexico. I am in support of the Habitat Stamp program that provides funding to help implement important habitat improvement projects on federal lands within New Mexico.

I have fully read and understand the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule. I do have one major issue with the proposed changes. I am strongly opposed to the proposed increase in Habitat Stamp fees. Per the current proposal, costs would double from \$5.00 to \$10.00 and be permanently tied to the consumer price index. This would be a significant increase now and in the future for, from what I can tell, no apparent reason.

Having looked at the original proposal submitted by the wildlife professionals with NMDGF, I noticed that a price increase was not included. I have also noted, when looking at the NMDGF 2020 financial review, that the Habitat Stamp fee increase as proposed is not rooted in need. The Habitat Management fund as of April 30, 2020 was reported as \$3,030,669.51. According to the NMDGF report, \$300,000.00 was budgeted for the 2020 fiscal year of which

\$286,733.06 has been spent or encumbered to be spent as of the date of the report on June 23, 2020. Year to Date of the report, S996,559.27 was the sum of revenue into the Habitat Management fund which was 332% of the expected revenue for the fund for FY 2020. These numbers clearly show that yearly revenue and cash balance in the Habitat Management fund provide ample capital for current and future expenditures.

In these economically trying times, every penny counts and for many New Mexico families such as mine this increase of fees is just one more unnecessary expense. If the professionals who administer these funds did not originally recommend an increase in fees and there is no danger of depleting the Habitat Management fund these fees are designated for, then it should be an obvious vote against the fee increase and tie to the consumer price index. I respectfully request that you strike these additions from the proposed rule changes.

With Respect, Richard Johnston

Ross Clark
DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
[EXT] Habitat stamp
Tuesday, October 6, 2020 6:33:32 PM

As a member of Trout Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the NM Wildlife Federation I strongly support raising the fee for the Habitat stamp to \$10 per year. This has not been raised in over 30 years and is a small fee to pay for my time in the beautiful NM outdoors.

Ross Clark Santa Fe, NM 505-490-1038

From:	Adam Jones
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp
Date:	Friday, October 9, 2020 8:10:23 AM
•	

Hello, my name is Adam Jones, and I'm a proud New Mexican angler and hunter. I'm just writing to say that I strongly support increasing the Habitat Stamp fee from \$5 to \$10, as well as adjusting the fee each year based on the consumer price index.

For that matter, I also am very much in favor of increasing non-resident fishing and hunting licenses. Colorado's prices for these two items, I believe, are an excellent model.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Adam Jones Albuquerque, NM

From:	Rachel Thompson
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp
Date:	Wednesday, November 18, 2020 11:40:30 AM

Attn: Chairwoman Hickey, Vice-Chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Esteemed Commissioners RE: Proposed Habitat Stamp rule changes

I would like to submit my comments as a member of the public who actively hunts, fishes, and traps on public lands (including federal lands such as US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management) annually in New Mexico regarding the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule. As a lifelong resident of New Mexico, I believe that New Mexico Game and Fish has a proud history of being a pioneer in wildlife management and habitat conservation. I am fully in support of the critical partnerships between NMDGF and federal resource management agencies to benefit wildlife in the State of New Mexico. I am in support of the Habitat Stamp program that provides funding to help implement important habitat improvement projects on federal lands within New Mexico.

I have fully read and understand the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule. I do have one major issue with the proposed changes. I am strongly opposed to the proposed increase in Habitat Stamp fees. Per the current proposal, costs would double from \$5.00 to \$10.00 and be permanently tied to the consumer price index. This would be a significant increase now and in the future for, from what I can tell, no apparent reason.

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In these economically trying times, every penny counts and for many New Mexico families such as mine this increase of fees is just one more unnecessary expense. If the professionals who administer these funds did not originally recommend an increase in fees and there is no danger of depleting the Habitat Management fund these fees are designated for, then it should be an obvious vote against the fee increase and tie to the consumer price index. I respectfully request that you strike these additions from the proposed rule changes.

With Respect, Rachel Thompson

From:	Todd Welch
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp
Date:	Monday, November 2, 2020 4:28:39 PM

I agree with most of it and would not hesitate to pay \$10 instead of \$5. The only thing I don't like is tying it to the CPI. Is it going to adjust down if the CPI goes down? One price needs to be set. It is like the state building a budget of projected oil and gas at one rate and then the bottom drops out and they have to cut budgets.

I wish you could have an adjustment in 5 years if needed instead of it adjusting annually based on the CPI.

Sincerely,

T. Todd Welch

From:	roy dunlap
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat stamp
Date:	Tuesday, November 3, 2020 9:00:32 PM

As a senior with free NM fishing license, I believe my age group should have to purchase a habitat stamp whatever the cost. I think you are missing a funding opportunity from a group that demographically can afford it more than younger people

From:	Dorothy Salazar
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat stamp
Date:	Tuesday, November 3, 2020 5:33:23 PM

To whom this concerns,

The proposal of habitat stamp increase is honestly outrageous. I understand that as everything has an increase that's quite a substantial amount and don't think it's a fair amount. Some people are barely hanging on to their jobs and with hunting and camping , fishing , giving our children something to look forward to that makes it more of a challenge. Please reconsider.

Thank you Dorothy Salazar Sent from my iPhone

From:	Steve Barrett
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat Stamp
Date:	Saturday, December 19, 2020 9:22:38 AM

Hi, I am an avid catch and release fly fisherman and member of Trout Unlimited and BHA and NM resident. I support the increase in the cost of the Habitat Stamp. Sincerely, Steve Barrett

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Brian Gray
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat stamp
Date:	Tuesday, November 3, 2020 6:57:56 AM

Hello my name is Brian, I was reading up and saw you all want to increase the cost of the habitat stamp for \$5 to \$10. That is not a good idea at all. You already make it mandatory if we want to hunt. Now you want to increase the cost. Instead of charging us hunters more money. Why don't you start charging every hiker a \$5 fee to use the trails, charge every biker \$5 fee to use the trails. Charge everyone who wants to go out \$5. Don't increase it on the ones who pay your salary. We as hunters already pay a extra \$35 in small game license (mandatory if you want to hunt big game) witch is stupid but ok. \$5 habitat and a \$4 access validation (mandatory if you want to hunt). We as hunters pay enough. Start charging everyone else a \$5 fee.

Besides you all leased a habitat improvement area to a group of environmentalist to study the Jumping mouse. They installed 2 rows stacked 2 wire high of electric fence around this area. They say to keep it natural and keep the cattle out. But it's not natural. They are keeping the wildlife out witch is natural. This area has killed multiple elk. Elk try to cross they jump one then get caught up in another. That's when they end up dying. Why would you allow this. We pay for habitat improvement. You all lease it out to environmentalist who end up killing our wildlife. Just so they can study a stupid little mouse. Now you want to increase our dues. I say HELL no!!

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"LIVE TO HUNT"

From:	RALPH MORA
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] habitat stamp
Date:	Wednesday, October 28, 2020 8:22:22 AM

Raising the price of the habitat stamp from 5 to 10 dollars is bullshit, it's bad enough that in state people can't draw hunts because out of state people get most of the tags and now you want to raise the price of a habitat stamp!!!

From:	Jeremy Allen
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Habitat stamp
Date:	Thursday, November 19, 2020 12:19:21 PM

Hi my name is Jeremy Allen. I'm a avid sportsmen. I wanted to make a comment to Oppose the habitat stamp rule. I think it will be bad to be able to increase every year for the sportsmen and women of NM, especially the people that money is an issue. Thank you. Jeremy Allen

Sent from my iPhone

Brett Myzer
DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
[EXT] Habitat stamp
Tuesday, October 27, 2020 10:46:45 AM

Why would you cut the representation of the public from 5 to 1? This sounds fishy! If your going to double the fee then what are the benefits to the environment and fishing people? I have had a fishing license all my life, but I have only been able to fish twice this year due to Covid and layoffs. Think of the community before making drastic changes.

From:	<u>Richard</u>
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] habitat stamp
Date:	Monday, November 2, 2020 8:02:20 PM

The real solution is to seek a line item funding from the legislature and stop making a small group pay for this.

From:	Bill Evelyn Leonard
То:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Cc:	gail cramer
Subject:	[EXT] habitat stamp
Date:	Sunday, November 1, 2020 7:58:32 AM

At our household we are opposed to the price raise in the Habitat Stamp. With a large number of seniors fishing this imposes a hardship on them due to fixed income and also during this time of financial stress on so many households it is definitely the wrong thing to do.

I support increasing the cost of the habitat stamp. The department needs it for critical projects. Thanks for all that you do.

Sent from my iPhone

Jeff Young from Sandia Park

I am fine w the changes to the zones.

I thought I heard something about increasing the fee but I do not see that in the proposed changes. I would support a fee increase.

Also, I worked on the central committee and on a number of projects w Dale Hall. I do not receive any information about the program or different project opportunities. I would like to help once again

Also, I thought in the past the habitat coordinator w game and fish would coordinate all of the work including maintenance? I think that should happen again. I think spreading responsibility thoughout land agencies creates an opportunity for missing maintenance projects.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Jeff Young Sandia Park

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S®6 active, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

So now the government of New Mexico is going go after sportsman to get money. What has this administration done AND OR DOING ?

## G. Scott Taylor

From:	wm7_MARSH
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] HSP comment on proipsoed chages eff Aug 2020
Date:	Saturday, August 29, 2020 10:55:24 AM

I support the proposed changes. It would better leverage the limited funds we have and ensure we get projects completed rather than have insufficient, unused funds linger. Hi Daniel:

I've tried twice to send comments in to the email address in the Public Meeting notification information (ipsa@state.nm.us) but the email keeps getting refused. I tried sending a pdf scanned signed letter and when that was rejected, just a email with same text. Neither worked. I don't know if you can accept comments but here is copy of what I sent.

Jim

James M. Ramakka Certified Wildlife Biologist® Wildlife Society Fellow SW Representative TWS Council

69 Rd. 2785 Aztec, NM 87410 Phone: 505-486-2746

From:	dsheft82@pvtn.net
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] HSP rule comments
Date:	Monday, September 28, 2020 6:33:27 PM

Unable to join in on virtual meeting despite pre-registering. Department still doesn't understand challenges in rural NM.

I support the reauthorization of the rule enabling the HSP program for another 10 years.

The proposal to change plan language is either deliberately too vague or is inconsequential if just two existing paragraphs are being combined. Without the actual rule change language being made available this is not enough information to provide meaningful comment on.

I oppose the proposed changes to the region boundaries and the resultant reduction in CACs. Excuse being given by the Department is to make more funds available for competition. Department currently does not allocate all of annually collected funds. NMGF budget presentations to State Game Commission show annual revenue of approximately 1.2 million dollars. Department is only proposing allocation of 750K. Budget authority requested for FY 21 was only 386k and for FY 22 389k (NMGF presentation to state game commission). NMGF reported cash on hand balance of over 3.5 million as of 4/30/2020 with only 130k in encumbered funds in Sikes Act fund. Solution to provide more money for competition is to allocate all of annually collected funds and current surplus, not increase to region size. Change in regions will also decrease local knowledge input into program (40% reduction in CAC membership). New Mexico along Arizona line is very different from New Mexico along Texas line. Would be very difficult for one CAC to represent a region stretching entire width of state. Department also claims change would not impact base guarantee funds for any agency offices. However, archived full HSP presentation on Department website shows funds would decrease for BLM overall with increase to FS, while 2 BLM and 2 FS units would see 30-50% reduction in base funds. I do not support any proposal that reduces current funding levels for either agency or any agency units.

David L. Heft P.O. Box 13 Mayhill, New Mexico 88339

From:	Robert S Nordstrum
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] HSP Suggestions
Date:	Thursday, November 12, 2020 3:37:16 PM

In regard to the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp Program, the following comments are offered for your consideration.

I think your suggestion of three regions instead of the current five is the best option. These would have a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) with same current configuration as the current committees. These committee members would more likely have local knowledge of habitat needs and the federal partners of their region than the one committee suggestion.

I support the increase to \$10 HSP stamp. Maybe there should be a "junior stamp" for the kids; leave the current \$5 fee for kids. It fits with other thoughts that G & F does for the kids.

Your updated changes of 10/23/2020 suggest:

## "What Would Not Change:

2. Citizen Advisory Committee involvement continues as an important part of the HSP."

I take exception to this statement. The current CAC member has submitted an application to be considered a member of a CAC. This gives all individuals an opportunity to sit on a committee.

Your suggested committee appointment by Commissioners and the Director is *no long a citizen committee*, but a Commissioner committee. Do I need to explain that a Commissioner is a political appointee. This one committee would be responsible to the Commission and no longer responsible to the citizens of the New Mexico.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments regarding.

Bob Nordstrum 4531 Sorrel Lane, SW Albuquerque, NM 87105 (505) 873-2764

From:	Dan Bastion
To:	Lusk, Daniel, DGF
Subject:	[EXT] HSP
Date:	Saturday, November 14, 2020 10:52:56 AM

Daniel: I have the following comments regarding the proposed changes to the HSP program

CAC - I am opposed to reducing the number of CACs to one. I feel three committees is the absolute minimum for proper management. The state of NM is vast, and geographically very divergent. I do not believe that the membership of a single committee can have reasonable knowledge of wildlife populations and habitat conditions on all BLM and Forest lands statewide. I believe local knowledge is essential for intelligent assessment of project proposals.

50% of funds for fisheries projects - in my seven years on the Central CAC I have seen very few project proposals for fisheries/riparian habitat. I do not believe setting aside half the funding will result in a proportional increase in fisheries/riparian project proposals.

Fee increase - in most years (if not all) the money collected from the HSP program is not allocated. Furthermore, the state legislature has always capped spending from the HSP fund, so an increase in fees will result in a greater surplus of funds which are unavailable.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Dan Bastion, Jr. Chairman, Central Region CAC

From:	Steve Gates
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] In favor of moving the fee up to \$10
Date:	Tuesday, October 6, 2020 4:53:34 PM

Also, indexed for inflation. Five bucks doesn't do squat going forward.

Steve Gates Taos

## Dear DGF:

I am an avid fly fisherman and enjoy fishing in our No. NM streams. I believe strongly that the funds collected by DGF via its annual Habitat Stamp Fees are a critical part of funding for important habitat restoration projects, including projects that benefit native and wild trout, all especially critical in these drought times.

I fully support increasing the annual Habitat Stamp Fee from \$5 to \$10 and adjusting the fee each year based on the consumer price index.

I also support charging the Habitat Stamp Fee to those, older people like me, who benefit from no cost fishing licenses.

While that is appreciated, we should not have a free ride on funding the needs for habitat improvement.

Sincerely, Robert M. Curtis 12 Black Mesa Santa Fe, NM 87506 I agree to the increase, so long as it benefits the fish habitat.

Jim & Esther Bargas

## Bargas Farm

PO Box 241 Portales NM 88130-0241 Phone 575-356-3647

From:	<u>William</u>
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Increase habitat stamp cost
Date:	Thursday, October 15, 2020 7:24:03 PM

Dear Sir,

I have just one comment and that is this state has been very liberal about not raising the cost of the habitat stamp. Raising the cost to \$10.00 is still short on what it should be.

I know there are a lot of people that have a shortage of funds in this state, but 10\$ for a years worth of hunting and fishing is nothing.

Go to a store and see if ammo, lures, bait, guns haven't gone up. I tell you this if you can go hunting these days you damn well can spend 10\$ for a stamp.

We need more money in the habitat stamp program because working materials have gone up, as well as labor, especially contract labor.

Trust me, fishing people can afford the 10\$. When people get of age for a free license they should have to buy a habitat stamp since they are using the resources.

When you raise the price to 10\$ tie it to the cost of living index and we won't have to go through this ever again. Department of Game and Fish has given this state a big break for 34 years and now with the cost of things we can't afford not to raise the fee. We need projects for wildlife to be done so raise the stamp fee to 10\$, people can afford it.

Bill Zenger 505-920-4892 Sent from my iPad

From:	Richard Beilue
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Increased cost
Date:	Wednesday, October 28, 2020 10:44:34 AM

I am a 73 year old man who lives out of state. The cost of a non resident license is already too high. \$68. On top of that was not even allowed into your state. Wasted my money.

From:	Ken Tabish
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Increasing the cost of the Habitat Stamp
Date:	Tuesday, October 13, 2020 1:20:03 PM

To Whom it May Concern.

I have bee a resident of New Mexico since 1981 and a fly fisherman for the past 48 years. I have purchased a NM Fishing License for the past 39 years. I was also willing to purchase a Habitat Stamp with my license beginning in 1986 when it was first introduced. I knew those funds would go to quality conservation and restoration projects on public lands throughout New Mexico.

Today, there is a growing need for more conservation and restoration projects related to hunting and fishing in the state of New Mexico. Unfortunately, funding levels for such projects have declined and the buying power of \$5.00 per Habitat Stamp has diminished with inflation.

I ask that you seriously consider raising the cost of the Habitat Stamp from\$5.00 to \$10.00 beginning in fiscal year 2021 and tying it to the Consumer Price Index. This will insure that the value of the stamp will increase as inflation increases. An increase will also increase a significant amount of funds and matching funds from the Federal Government to ensure the paying for much needed conservation and restoration projects throughout the state.

I thank you for your time and consideration

Kenneth R. Tabish

TU- New Mexico Council Board Member TU-Bosque Chapter Board Member

From:	Robert T
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Input to proposed changes to Habitat program
Date:	Monday, November 2, 2020 4:39:22 PM

Totally against reducing citizen advisory board from 5 person to 1.

Doubling of the fee is too extreme, a 100% increase, no. I would support a 20% increase, \$1. There are already so many funds filtering into habitat.

Not supportive of 1/2 of funding going to fish projects.

Robert Truncellito NM hunter and fisherman Dear NMDGF staff,

Attached please find the New Mexico Wildlife Federation Comments on the proposal before the New Mexico State Game Commission to change the Habitat Stamp Rule. Please contact me with any questions. Thank you.

Best Regards, Ben Neary Conservation Director, NMWF

505-999-7592

From:	Kerrie Romero
To:	<u>NMCOG</u>
Subject:	[EXT] NMCOG Official Stance Regarding Changes to 19.34.6 NMAC
Date:	Monday, November 9, 2020 2:32:53 PM

Good Afternoon Chairwoman Salazar Hickey and NM State Game Commissioners,

Please accept this email as the official position statement of the New Mexico Council of Outfitters and Guides regarding the NMDGF proposed changes to the Public Land User Stamp Rule (19.34.6 NMAC), commonly referred to as the Habitat Stamp Rule.

The New Mexico Council of Outfitters and Guides is the official trade association of the outfitter/guide industry. We represent the interests of 250 hunting/fishing business owners, 1500 guides employed by NM outfitters, and approximately 25,000 hunters & anglers who choose to book a trip with an outfitter in New Mexico annually.

In general our members are impartial to the majority of the proposed changes. Specifically the program renewal length, editing the program language as it relates to five-year interagency planning documents, consolidating the five existing jurisdictions into a single state-wide Citizen Advisory Committee, and the requirement that at least 50% of program funds be spent on projects that benefit fisheries.

We additionally understand that there has not been an increase to the Habitat Stamp fee since the program's inception and we recognize the validity that the Department has a decreased ability to utilize program funds to benefit the same level of projects in 2020 that they did in 1986. However, while we are not opposed to a fee increase, we would like to see the Department more clearly address the issue of inadequate maintenance on existing HSP projects, particularly wildlife water features.

Our members collectively spend more time in the backcountry than any other sportsman demographic. Outfitter's have a vast understanding of habitat conditions on both public and private lands. Since this Rule has been open for public comment NMCOG has received numerous complaints from our members regarding empty, destroyed, and dysfunctional HSP funded water features across the state on BLM and FS lands.

In our discussions with NMDGF personnel we understand that maintenance of HSP projects is actually the responsibility of the land management agency rather than the Department. NMCOG finds this to be an unacceptable response. The FS and BLM are notoriously bad at providing infrastructure maintenance. As an association that has been partnering with the FS and BLM on trail maintenance projects for many years, we have first hand understanding of the overwhelmingly high level of inefficiency within the federal land management agencies. These agencies can not be relied upon to adequately maintain HSP funded infrastructure projects. Regardless of who is responsible for project maintenance, dilapidated drinkers are a black-eye on the Department and the Habitat Stamp Program. We would like to see the NMDGF resolve this very serious issue.

Regarding future Habitat Stamp fee increases: NMCOG strongly opposes attaching the Habitat Stamp fee increase to the Consumer Price Index. We understand that the theory behind this proposal is to shelter the program from rising inflation which will increase project costs over time. However, NMCOG feels that federally calculated inflation rates do not always

translate equally to real world disposable income levels. Future fee increases would be better assessed actively by the Commission every 5 to 10 years rather than by uncontrolled fluctuations in the inflation rate. Additionally and somewhat unrelated, NMCOG has found that most resident and non-resident sportsmen prefer to make hunting license and stamp purchases in rounded dollars rather than in dollars & cents.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our industry comments.

Sincerely,

Kerrie C. Romero Executive Director - New Mexico Council of Outfitters and Guides 51 Bogan Rd Stanley, NM 87056 (505) 440-5258 (www.nmoutfitters.com) To Whom it may concern,

Hello I just wanted to write in saying that I support an increase to the habitat stamp cost. I think the health of our ecosystems should be prioritized over the monetary cost of being a sportsman.

I still believe in this statement despite the fact that I have not always had as much discretionary income as others who enjoy the outdoors.

Thanks, Frank Cordova

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Attn: Chairwoman Hickey,

I am strongly opposed to the proposed increase in Habitat Stamp fees. From what I am able to discern, this is an unnecessary imposition during a time when Americans are already being imposed on enough.

M. Yara Las Vegas, NM

Jimmy Torrez
DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
[EXT] Opposition to fee increase.
Tuesday, October 27, 2020 5:30:09 PM

This is not the time to impose new fees on hunters and anglers.

From:	Eric Peterson
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Price increase
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 10:28:15 AM

Doubling the cost of the habitat stamp is excessive. We are in the midst of a pandemic and my company is down at least 30% and I'm lucky. I know government thinks they are entitled to increasing budgets and money grows in trees. But the working folks are struggling Sent from my iPhone

Proposed change against

Another governor controlled appointment

Bad idea. I can't attend at that time but it's an extremely bad change

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The following is my input on the proposed rule changes:

- 1. I am in favor of increasing the fee to \$10
- 2. I am in favor of renewing the program for an additional 10 years
- 3. I am against consolidating the existing Citizen Advisory Committee jurisdictions. If anything I believe it should be expanded to allow for more regional input rather than turned into a political oversite committee.
- 4. I believe that 50% to fishing is too much. Perhaps 35%?

Thank you,

Tyler Burnett

From:	Dennis Kauffman
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] proposed changes
Date:	Wednesday, November 18, 2020 11:58:19 AM

I was a Sikes Committee member for two of the first three periods that the Sikes act was enabled within in New Mexico. I think it would be much more effective to have more than one committee so that there is more "local knowledge" applied to the expenditures.

Thanks for all that goes into the decisions and the actual projects!

Dennis Kauffman 575 430-4239

From:	KWilliam@psl.nmsu.edu
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Proposed changes
Date:	Friday, August 28, 2020 3:07:01 PM

I have looked thru 4 pages of your links and cannot determine what the proposed changes are. Please forward a link with the proposed changes

Thanks

Kerry williamson

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From:	<u>Mike Kilroy</u>
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Proposed Changes
Date:	Monday, November 2, 2020 3:47:02 PM

As an avid hunter and fisherman in NM, I oppose the following proposed changes as follows:

1) I oppose the adjustment from five (5) Citizen Advisory Committees to one (1) Citizen Advisory Committee with a statewide jurisdiction. I feel that having more citizens involved is better than having one committee. This will reduce the input of citizens.

2) I oppose the increase the Habitat Stamp fee from \$5 to \$10. Furthermore, I feel like this has been misrepresented, because you would never know it is proposed to "include language in the rule to allow the stamp fee to adjust automatically in relation to the consumer price index". A increase would be ok but not to be automatically increase every year. This needs to be reconsidered and NOT tied to the consumer price index. NM is a poor state and if you increase fee each and every year you will discourage citizens from being able to afford fishing and hunting in this state. Before we know it the Habit Stamp will be \$20 plus dollars which is unwanted....this is not Colorado, this is not California......

Thank you, Mike Kilroy 505-414-3421 or <u>kilroy.mc@gmail.com</u>

From:	Mikey Lopez
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Proposed Changes
Date:	Thursday, November 19, 2020 10:30:35 AM

I am agreeable with an increase to the cost and extending the amount of time this habitat stamp program will continue. I do believe these to be beneficial programs for the state. I am however not agreeable with changing the civilian leadership from a council to just one person. I believe this to be a point of contention and does not provide any transparency or oversight or accountability. Each region of the state has different needs and desires for supporting both wildlife and the hunter/angler who pursues these treasures.

By doing away with the council you run the risk of these communities and or regions voice no longer being heard and decisions being made without any real or true input or considerations.

I am not agreeable with 50% of the program funding goes solely to fish or fishing programs. Fishing is another great outdoor activity but it already has hatcheries and programs in place to continue and better the fishing as is. Sadly, increasing funding for fishing will not increase the rain that is needed to replenish and fill reservoirs and lakes. Put the funding to youth and new hunter education activities and veteran and wounded warrior initiatives instead.

R,

Mike Lopez

Gila Hotsprings, NM #575-536-9551

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From:	John Bliss
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Proposed changes
Date:	Sunday, November 1, 2020 8:22:33 AM

As a homeowner in 5A, I have experienced many changes in the past 15 yrs that have resulted in a consistently lower quality of outdoor experiences. Starting off with the overall loss of the landowner elk tag that I was given EVERY year. Since then, the wheels of bureaucracy and corruption led to more and more legislation that eventually eliminated my landowner elk tag completely to make room for only the large ranches. Now, the Game and Fish wants "changes" to the habitat stamp program. After reading the proposed changes, I just have to ask:

1) Why would anyone think a 10 year agreement would not eventually result in MORE changes in even 3 years?

2) This is pure bureaucracy language that targets nothing. Please explain this change.

3) 50% expenditures towards FISH in a state that is known for Elk, Deer, Ibex etc. A state that routinely is known for drought conditions with very few lakes.

4) Minimize public citizen advisory so as to give more power to the State. Really?

5) Habitat stamp to \$10....not \$6, not \$7...\$10! During the mountainous financial debt and boondogles this department is guilty of, i think not.

In summary, what ever decision is made, I can foresee a state with more and more regulations that hurt the people of New Mexico more than help them. Personally your programs have driven me to hunt or fish in Colorado.

J Bliss

From:	Keith & Ann Fine
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Proposed Habitat Stamp Changes
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 1:26:11 PM

I am not in favor of doubling of the fee. It is not the extra expense, it's that I see little to no evidence that any of the money is being spent in southeast New Mexico, which is generally the case for a host of other expenditures that tend to benefit only those that reside north of I-40.

I am also not in favor of using 50% for fish, as again, southeast New Mexico has only one basic water way, the Pecos River, and would receive minimal, if any funding.

I would like to see a detailed explanation posted on the Game and Fish website, and updated in a timely manner, of the location, project benefit, and costs of ALL projects statewide that are funded by the Habitat Stamp Fee

Thank you,

Keith Fine 1714 Loretta Ln Carlsbad, NM 88220 575-706-1268

From:	Scott Mabray
То:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Proposed Habitat Stamp Rule Change
Date:	Wednesday, November 18, 2020 7:39:11 AM

Attn: Chairwoman Hickey, Vice-Chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Esteemed Commissioners

I would like to submit my comments as a member of the public who actively hunts, fishes, and traps on public lands (including federal lands such as US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management) annually in New Mexico regarding the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule.

I fully support the critical partnerships between NMDGF and federal agencies to benefit wildlife in the State of New Mexico. I am in support of the Habitat Stamp program that provides funding to help implement habitat improvement projects on federal lands within New Mexico.

I have fully read and understand the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule. I do have one major issue with the proposed changes. I am strongly opposed to the proposed increase in Habitat Stamp fees. Per the current proposal, costs would double from \$5.00 to \$10.00 and be permanently tied to the consumer price index. This would be a significant increase now and in the future with, from what I can tell, no supporting data.

Having looked at the original proposal submitted by the wildlife professionals with NMDGF, I noticed that a price increase was not included. I have also noted, when looking at the NMDGF 2020 financial review, that the Habitat Stamp fee increase as proposed is not rooted in need. The Habitat Management fund as of April 30, 2020 was reported as \$3,030,669.51.

According to the NMDGF report, \$300,000.00 was budgeted for the 2020 fiscal year of which \$286,733.06 has been spent or encumbered to be spent as of the date of the report on June 23, 2020. Year to Date of the report, \$996,559.27 was the sum of revenue into the Habitat Management fund which was 332% of the expected revenue for the fund for FY 2020.

These numbers clearly show that yearly revenue and cash balance in the Habitat Management fund provide ample capital for current and future expenditures.

In these economically trying times, every penny counts and for many New Mexico families such as mine this increase of fees is just one more unnecessary expense. If the professionals who administer these funds did not originally recommend an increase in fees and there is no danger of depleting the Habitat Management fund these fees are designated for, then it should be an obvious vote against the fee increase and tie to the consumer price index. I respectfully request that you strike these additions from the proposed rule changes.

Respectfully.

Scott Mabray Wildlife Biologist

From:	Sharla Shields
То:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Proposed habitat stamp rule change
Date:	Wednesday, November 18, 2020 5:35:04 AM

Attn: Chairwoman Hickey, Vice-Chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Esteemed Commissioners RE: Proposed Habitat Stamp rule changes

I would like to submit my comments as a member of the public who actively hunts, fishes, and traps on public lands (including federal lands such as US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management) annually in New Mexico regarding the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule. As a lifelong resident of New Mexico, I believe that New Mexico Game and Fish has a proud history of being a pioneer in wildlife management and habitat conservation. I am fully in support of the critical partnerships between NMDGF and federal resource management agencies to benefit wildlife in the State of New Mexico. I am in support of the Habitat Stamp program that provides funding to help implement important habitat improvement projects on federal lands within New Mexico.

I have fully read and understand the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule. I do have one major issue with the proposed changes. I am strongly opposed to the proposed increase in Habitat Stamp fees. Per the current proposal, costs would double from \$5.00 to \$10.00 and be permanently tied to the consumer price index. This would be a significant increase now and in the future for, from what I can tell, no apparent reason.

Having looked at the original proposal submitted by the wildlife professionals with NMDGF, I noticed that a price increase was not included. I have also noted, when looking at the NMDGF 2020 financial review, that the Habitat Stamp fee increase as proposed is not rooted in need. The Habitat Management fund as of April 30, 2020 was reported as \$3,030,669.51. According to the NMDGF report, \$300,000.00 was budgeted for the 2020 fiscal year of which \$286,733.06 has been spent or encumbered to be spent as of the date of the report on June 23, 2020. Year to Date of the report, \$996,559.27 was the sum of revenue into the Habitat Management fund which was 332% of the expected revenue for the fund for FY 2020. These numbers clearly show that yearly revenue and cash balance in the Habitat Management fund provide ample capital for current and future expenditures.

In these economically trying times, every penny counts and for many New Mexico families such as mine this increase of fees is just one more unnecessary expense. If the professionals who administer these funds did not originally recommend an increase in fees and there is no danger of depleting the Habitat Management fund these fees are designated for, then it should be an obvious vote against the fee increase and tie to the consumer price index. I respectfully request that you strike these additions from the proposed rule changes.

With Respect, Sharla Laumbach

Sent from my iPhone

Terri JHarris
DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
[EXT] Proposed Habitat Stamp rule changes
Tuesday, November 17, 2020 10:16:20 PM

Attn: Chairwoman Hickey, Vice-Chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Esteemed Commissioners

I would like to submit my comments as a member of the public who actively hunts, fishes, and traps on public lands (including federal lands such as US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management) annually in New Mexico regarding the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule. As a lifelong resident of New Mexico, I believe that New Mexico Game and Fish has a proud history of being a pioneer in wildlife management and habitat conservation. I am fully in support of the critical partnerships between NMDGF and federal resource management agencies to benefit wildlife in the State of New Mexico. I am in support of the Habitat Stamp program that provides funding to help implement important habitat improvement projects on federal lands within New Mexico.

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Having looked at the original proposal submitted by the wildlife professionals with NMDGF, I noticed that a price increase was not included. I have also noted, when looking at the NMDGF 2020 financial review, that the Habitat Stamp fee increase as proposed is not rooted in need. The Habitat Management fund as of April 30, 2020 was reported as \$3,030,669.51. According to the NMDGF report, \$300,000.00 was budgeted for the 2020 fiscal year of which \$286,733.06 has been spent or encumbered to be spent as of the date of the report on June 23, 2020. Year to Date of the report, \$996,559.27 was the sum of revenue into the Habitat Management fund which was 332% of the expected revenue for the fund for FY 2020. These numbers clearly show that yearly revenue and cash balance in the Habitat Management fund provide ample capital for current and future expenditures.

In these economically trying times, every penny counts and for many New Mexico families such as mine this increase of fees is just one more unnecessary expense. If the professionals who administer these funds did not originally recommend an increase in fees and there is no danger of depleting the Habitat Management fund these fees are designated for, then it should be an obvious vote against the fee increase and tie to the consumer price index. I respectfully request that you strike these additions from the proposed rule changes.

With Respect, Kyle Jackson

From:	Kendal Hardt
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Proposed Habitat Stamp rule changes
Date:	Wednesday, November 18, 2020 2:39:39 PM

Attn: Chairwoman Hickey, Vice-Chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Esteemed Commissioners

I would like to submit my comments as a member of the public who actively hunts, fishes, and traps on public lands (including federal lands such as US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management) annually in New Mexico regarding the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule. As a lifelong resident of New Mexico, I believe that New Mexico Game and Fish has a proud history of being a pioneer in wildlife management and habitat conservation. I am fully in support of the critical partnerships between NMDGF and federal resource management agencies to benefit wildlife in the State of New Mexico. I am in support of the Habitat Stamp program that provides funding to help implement important habitat improvement projects on federal lands within New Mexico.

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Having looked at the original proposal submitted by the wildlife professionals with NMDGF, I noticed that a price increase was not included. I have also noted, when looking at the NMDGF 2020 financial review, that the Habitat Stamp fee increase as proposed is not rooted in need. The Habitat Management fund as of April 30, 2020 was reported as \$3,030,669.51. According to the NMDGF report, \$300,000.00 was budgeted for the 2020 fiscal year of which \$286,733.06 has been spent or encumbered to be spent as of the date of the report on June 23, 2020. Year to Date of the report, \$996,559.27 was the sum of revenue into the Habitat Management fund which was 332% of the expected revenue for the fund for FY 2020. These numbers clearly show that yearly revenue and cash balance in the Habitat Management fund provide ample capital for current and future expenditures.

In these economically trying times, every penny counts and for many New Mexico families such as mine this increase of fees is just one more unnecessary expense. If the professionals who administer these funds did not originally recommend an increase in fees and there is no danger of depleting the Habitat Management fund these fees are designated for, then it should be an obvious vote against the fee increase and tie to the consumer price index. I respectfully request that you strike these additions from the proposed rule changes.

Thank You and Have a Blessed Day, Kendal Hardt

From:	Seth Taylor
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Proposed habitat stamp rule changes
Date:	Wednesday, November 18, 2020 5:46:38 AM

Attn: Chairwoman Hickey, Vice-Chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Esteemed Commissioners RE: Proposed Habitat Stamp rule changes

I would like to submit my comments as a member of the public who actively hunts, fishes, and traps on public lands (including federal lands such as US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management) annually in New Mexico regarding the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule. As a lifelong resident of New Mexico, I believe that New Mexico Game and Fish has a proud history of being a pioneer in wildlife management and habitat conservation. I am fully in support of the critical partnerships between NMDGF and federal resource management agencies to benefit wildlife in the State of New Mexico. I am in support of the Habitat Stamp program that provides funding to help implement important habitat improvement projects on federal lands within New Mexico.

I have fully read and understand the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule. I do have one major issue with the proposed changes. I am strongly opposed to the proposed increase in Habitat Stamp fees. Per the current proposal, costs would double from \$5.00 to \$10.00 and be permanently tied to the consumer price index. This would be a significant increase now and in the future for, from what I can tell, no apparent reason.

Having looked at the original proposal submitted by the wildlife professionals with NMDGF, I noticed that a price increase was not included. I have also noted, when looking at the NMDGF 2020 financial review, that the Habitat Stamp fee increase as proposed is not rooted in need. The Habitat Management fund as of April 30, 2020 was reported as \$3,030,669.51. According to the NMDGF report, \$300,000.00 was budgeted for the 2020 fiscal year of which \$286,733.06 has been spent or encumbered to be spent as of the date of the report on June 23, 2020. Year to Date of the report, \$996,559.27 was the sum of revenue into the Habitat Management fund which was 332% of the expected revenue for the fund for FY 2020. So why as for more money when more money isn't needed? These numbers clearly show that yearly revenue and cash balance in the Habitat Management fund provide ample capital for current and future expenditures.

In these economically trying times, every penny counts and for many New Mexico families this increase of fees is just one more unnecessary expense. If the professionals who administer these funds did not originally recommend an increase in fees and there is no danger of depleting the Habitat Management fund these fees are designated for, then it should be an obvious vote against the fee increase and tie to the consumer price index. I respectfully request that you strike these additions from the proposed rule changes. 2020 has screwed with us enough, please don't add to the list of things that have happened.

With Respect, Seth Taylor

Sent from my iPhone

David Woodward
DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
[EXT] Proposed New Rules
Tuesday, October 27, 2020 3:55:12 PM

I oppose the rule change that wants 50% of expenditures from the Habit Stamp to go to fishing. There is absolutely no need for this change. If change is to be made, I would support 50% to go to hunting.

I oppose an increase in Habit Stamp fees. I can see no justification for this increase.

Sincerely,

David A. Woodward Albuquerque, NM

From:	Steve Henke
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Proposed Rule Changes
Date:	Friday, August 28, 2020 2:36:03 PM

Please forward via email the proposed changes to the Sikes Act Stamp program.

Steve.henke44@gmail.com Sent from my iPhone

From:	Joe Suina
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Public Comment
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 11:30:48 AM

I do not support increasing the habitat improvement fee from \$5 to \$10.

Year after year I do not get drawn, but yet on social media you see all these out of state hunters coming in and killing our wildlife. Many times mainly for a wall mount. Our NM fees need to benefit NM residents. I would support a 50% increase over a 100% increase plus reducing permit to out of state hunters by 50-75%.

Thank you Joseph Suina Tax payer/voter/hunter and fisherman

Sent from my iPhone

From:	deerhunter
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Public Comment
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 11:11:15 AM

Hi there, I am against raising fees. And here is why. The general public who don't hunt or fish are allowed to use our public lands at will and not pay a cent for using and causing destruction of the habitat which we as hunters and fishermen pay for. Not to mention the destruction that cattle are causing by overgrazing. If you want to see evidence of this, go to mile marker 4, highway 13, unit 32 where cattle have literally destroyed the Choya Cactus and the Prickly Pear Cactus and made it look like a moonscape.

Furthermore I see no evidence of any habitat improvement whatsoever anytime I hunt public land with dry water tanks, drinkers that are in disrepair and don't work. Where is the oversite on this stuff? And you want to charge us more?

Thank You,

David

Sent from Yahoo for iPhone

From:	John Davis
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Cc:	John Davis
Subject:	[EXT] Public Land User Stamp Rule 19.34.6 NMAC (Habitat Stamp Program Rule)
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 10:50:41 AM

## Hello,

Please consider this as my submission under public comment:

As an active resident hunter and fisherman in NM, I have and will always continue to support the Habitat Stamp Program. However upon review of the proposed changes I see some issues that cause concern for me.

First, allocating 50% of funding (Im assuming dedicated and not able to be used for game animal habitat) for fishing habitat seems a bit excessive. I've nothing to support my assumptions that small and big game habitats make up the lions share of habitat the NMDGF habitat stamp program covers. So why the disproportionate amount to fishing habitats? Far fewer fishing habitats for example are affected by wildfire (managed and unmanaged) than small and big game habitats. I am against an even split of the funds between game animal habitat and fishing, it's not proportional.

Second, doubling the fee from \$5 to \$10??? You've provided us the end user with very little example of what (and how much) these funds actually go to? But yet you're going to double the fee? I get that as time goes on fees need to occasionally be adjusted....but to my knowledge I've not seen any actual "cost vs benefit" statement of this proposal?? Meaning how are you justifying the doubling of the fee? Therefore I am OPPOSED to DOUBLING the fee to \$10, especially in the countries current economically challenging environment. I would however support some kind of incremental increase provided adequate justification was provided publicly with it. For example: increase from \$5 to \$10 over a 5 year period (\$1 per year) staring with your proposed 2021 implementation.

Thank you for all you do, it is appreciated. With respect,

John Davis C-(505) 330-5908 jadavis343@gmail.com

\_\_\_

From:	Nick Boris
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Public Land User Stamp Rule 19.34.6 NMAC
Date:	Tuesday, September 15, 2020 4:45:56 AM

I attended the online meeting held on September 10th and I am submitting my support for the changes as proposed.

Extending this valuable and important program for an additional ten years is critical to supporting our natural resources.

Additionally, the information presented on shifting from 5 regions to 3 regions is a great idea. Allowing the completion of larger sized projects that may not be possible with 5 smaller budgets is a win for our outdoors and those who enjoy them for recreation.

I appreciated the time and effort of the presenters of the meeting as well.

Thank you.

Nick Boris

Daniel

I listened to the entire meeting last night; a couple items I thought important:

a) increase fee -- maybe there should be a "junior stamp" for the kids; leave the current \$5 fee for kids; it fits with other thoughts the G & F does for the kids

b) a commissioner's comment that they work with the **governor and LFC** ( something like that anyway); maybe that is a better place for them than appointing CAC members

c) commitment - if 1 CAC, it will be a major(should be) time commitment for a CAC member; the meeting probably be a least a 2-day affair; time to review projects; talk with hunters & anglers around the state; talk with other CAC members; communicate with G & F, BLM, and FS staff

Commitment is a very important factor for me. I could get on a "soap box" about this. This is the factor that makes or breaks the important of the CAC.

thanks, I will call you, and then I'll quit, bob

From:	Ro Nash
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Public use please
Date:	Friday, August 28, 2020 8:53:31 PM

Little or no money should go to private hands/private lands. In those instances where stamp money goes to private hands, there should be comprehensive, free, convenient public access to same. Best, Rob

Stream fishing, upland bird hunting, walk in. Cattle free habitats

Rob Nash RN

From:	<u>davg0424</u>
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Raising of habitat stamp
Date:	Monday, November 2, 2020 9:28:35 PM

I've been a life long hunter Fisher and camper I love the outdoors Now I remember before I would pay 20 to 30 dollars for my deer hunting license and that included a beer and a turkey can you realize how much the license have gone up and habitat stamps added to the license and nothing has changed but the price of hunting and fishing license and now you want to raise the habitat maybe you should try something else cause I feel that raising prices and having to put in for a draw is ridiculous maybe you should control spending on your side and I bet that will even out

## Thank you David Gomez

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From:	Cody Skinner
To:	Lusk, Daniel, DGE; Farmer, George, DGE; brthanson@aol.com; Cody C. Hudson; John Bell; Mark Pantuso; Mike
	Jones; Pat McCasland
Cc:	Davidson, Jacob, DGF
Subject:	[EXT] Re: HSP Renewal Proposal: Input Requested
Date:	Wednesday, October 28, 2020 9:58:40 AM
Attachments:	image001.png
	image003.png
	image004.png
	image006.png

Good morning, Daniel,

I just saw an email from NMDGF that there will be a public meeting held at 6pm on Nov. 5 to discuss changes in the Habitat Stamp Program. One of the changes being going from five (5) Citizen Advisory Committee districts to one (1) state-wide district. I was pretty sure in our last meeting that the discussion was to go from five down to three which would increase revenue for each district. I feel that going to one (1) state-wide CAC district is not in the best interest of Southeast New Mexico. I was also not aware of the proposal that 50% of the HSP revenue is supposed to go to fish.

Maybe I missed an email or meeting where you went over this information. If so, I apologize for missing it. Could you please send me some information on the reasoning for these proposed changes so I can better inform the sportsmen in my area?

Thank you,

Cody Skinner

From: Lusk, Daniel, DGF <Daniel.Lusk@state.nm.us>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 4:54 PM
To: Farmer, George, DGF <george.farmer@state.nm.us>; brthanson@aol.com
<brthanson@aol.com>; Cody C. Hudson <cody@renoeq.com>; Cody Skinner
<cskinner@bulldogs.org>; John Bell <Johnbell8@sbcglobal.net>; Mark Pantuso
<mark\_pantuso@chs.net>; Mike Jones <nmwdc@ymail.com>; Pat McCasland
<mccasland\_67@msn.com>
Cc: Davidson, Jacob, DGF <Jacob.Davidson@state.nm.us>

Subject: RE: HSP Renewal Proposal: Input Requested

# 'Warning: This message originated outside of Artesia Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you are expecting the email and know the content is safe.'

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders. After hearing back from several of you, I would like to set up the call for **5pm tomorrow**.

The conference # is 800-747-5150, access code 4499417

Looking forward to this meeting, Thank you.

#### Daniel Lusk

Habitat Stamp Program Manager New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Cell: 575-649-1658



#### CONSERVING NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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From: Lusk, Daniel, DGF

Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 9:24 AM

**To:** Farmer, George, DGF <george.farmer@state.nm.us>; 'brthanson@aol.com' <brthanson@aol.com>; 'Cody C. Hudson' <cody@renoeq.com>; 'Cody S. Skinner' <cskinner@bulldogs.org>; 'John Bell' <Johnbell8@sbcglobal.net>; 'Mark Pantuso' <mark\_pantuso@chs.net>; 'Mike Jones' <nmwdc@ymail.com>; 'Pat McCasland' <mccasland\_67@msn.com>

**Cc:** Davidson, Jacob, DGF <Jacob.Davidson@state.nm.us> **Subject:** RE: HSP Renewal Proposal: Input Requested

I appreciate the feedback I have received from those who have sent it in. The Southeast CAC is currently the only Advisory committee statewide that is opposed to this proposal. I would like to set up a conference call to discuss potential solutions to your concerns. As I mentioned before, this is a preliminary draft proposal, and has not been set in stone.

As a sportsman, I care about how the money I spend on the Habitat Stamp is spent and managed. Being in the position that I am in, I can see a lot of opportunities to improve how that money is managed by this program and we are currently at a time where we can implement some positive changes. Would any of you be available for a conference call to discuss this proposal and potential alternatives tomorrow? I would like to suggest that we try to schedule this call for tomorrow afternoon between **4pm and 7pm**, if you are interested in this call please reply by letting me know if there is any portion of that time block that you are unavailable. After I hear back from a few of you, I will set a firm time for the call.

Thank you,

### Daniel Lusk

Habitat Stamp Program Manager New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Cell: 575-649-1658



#### CONSERVING NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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From: Lusk, Daniel, DGF

Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 5:57 PM

To: Farmer, George, DGF <<u>george.farmer@state.nm.us</u>>; 'brthanson@aol.com' <<u>brthanson@aol.com</u>>; 'Cody C. Hudson' <<u>cody@renoeq.com</u>>; 'Cody S. Skinner' <<u>cskinner@bulldogs.org</u>>; 'John Bell' <<u>Johnbell8@sbcglobal.net</u>>; 'Mark Pantuso' <<u>mark\_pantuso@chs.net</u>>; 'Mike Jones' <<u>nmwdc@ymail.com</u>>; 'Pat McCasland' <<u>mccasland\_67@msn.com</u>>

Cc: Davidson, Jacob, DGF <<u>Jacob.Davidson@state.nm.us</u>> Subject: HSP Renewal Proposal: Input Requested

Hello Citizen Advisors,

The Habitat Stamp Program (HSP) renewal cycle is upon us. Over the next few months we will be working to get the program renewed by the State Game Commission.

At the CAC meetings this year, we discussed this renewal cycle and some of the common

issues that each CAC felt were important to consider during this process. From my meeting notes, these included a general dissatisfaction with the number of proposed projects for each CAC to choose from, the lack of available funding, and the number of incomplete projects and the amount of money left on the table each year.

In each of those meetings we discussed the idea of potentially combining or re-delineating HSP regions as a way to help address these issues.

Since meeting with each CAC from all five regions, I have worked with both the federal partners and internal NMDGF staff to develop a preliminary proposal that I would like for you to consider. I would greatly appreciate any feedback you have about it (good or bad) and whether or not you would support this proposal. **Ideally, I would like to have this feedback from you no later than August 7th** so that we can incorporate your feedback into our proposal prior to the first meeting with the Game Commission.

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The proposal that has been developed is to move away from the current model of having <u>FIVE</u> HSP regions and to instead employ a model with <u>THREE</u> HSP Regions. (see attached pdf)

This proposal aims to address the three consistent issues that were brought up when I met with each CAC from all regions in the past year:

<u>Number of quality projects for each CAC to prioritize:</u> This proposal would greatly enhance the need for federal partners to develop high quality projects as they will be competing with more partners than they have in the past for the competitive portion of the funding.

<u>Lack of available funding</u>: This proposal would result in essentially twice the available competitive funds for any given region as what is presently available. This would allow for individual partners to develop project proposals that ask for more funding, but are of higher quality and have larger impacts to the landscapes.

<u>Incomplete Projects and Unspent Funds:</u> This proposal would allow for enhanced flexibility to move any unspent funds from incomplete projects to eligible projects across a given region. There would be more eligible partners to utilize those funds on projects already prioritized and approved by the regional CAC.

## What Would Change:

- There would only be Three Citizen Advisory Committees that would be responsible for prioritizing projects in their respective regions. The three revised regions would be the Northern, Central and Southern Regions.

- Since the Regions would be larger, each Region would have more funding available than at present. Each Forest and BLM district in the region would have more Competitive Funds available to them, but would also have more districts to compete with.

- There would be greater flexibility to ensure that all HSP funds are spent each year. In the

event that a federal partner in a region encountered difficulty in completing projects in any given year, it would be easier to move those funds to other partners with eligible projects within the same region,

## What Would Not Change:

-NO CHANGE TO BASE GUARANTEE. Each district partner would still be eligible to receive the same "base guarantee" funding that they receive now, provided that they have submitted an approved HSP Proposal and that the Proposal is recommended for funding by the CAC.

\_\_\_\_\_

Please feel free to reach out to me with any clarifying questions or concerns. Please provide your final comments/feedback in email form by **August 7th**. Your feedback will help the Department of Game and Fish develop a final proposal for any changes to the HSP Rule that we present to the Game Commission.

#### **Daniel Lusk**

Habitat Stamp Program Manager New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Cell: 575-649-1658



#### CONSERVING NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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From:	Jake Turnbull
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Re: Proposed Changes to Habitat Stamp Program
Date:	Monday, November 2, 2020 7:03:15 PM

To whom it may concern:

As a lifelong New Mexican and outdoorsman who has purchased between 15 and 20 Habitat Stamps over the last 21 years, I would like to register my opposition to the proposed price increase on the Habitat Stamp. In my opinion, the ongoing gentrification of hunting and fishing, partly catalyzed by a gradual but unremitting series of increases in licensing costs, disproportionately affects lower-income people who may rely upon hunting and/or fishing as their primary shared family activity or as a significant source of food. Furthermore, it has never been apparent to me why I should have to pay to utilize my own public lands for recreational purposes.

Peace,

Jacob G. Turnbull

From:	Salinas Jr, Cesar
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] RE: Proposed Habitat Stamp rule changes
Date:	Wednesday, November 18, 2020 6:19:51 AM

Attn: Chairwoman Hickey, Vice-Chairwoman Salazar-Henry, Esteemed Commissioners

I would like to submit my comments as a member of the public who actively hunts, fishes, and traps on public lands (including federal lands such as US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management) annually in New Mexico regarding the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule. As a lifelong resident of New Mexico, I believe that New Mexico Game and Fish has a proud history of being a pioneer in wildlife management and habitat conservation. I am fully in support of the critical partnerships between NMDGF and federal resource management agencies to benefit wildlife in the State of New Mexico. I am in support of the Habitat Stamp program that provides funding to help implement important habitat improvement projects on federal lands within New Mexico.

I have fully read and understand the proposed changes to the Habitat Stamp rule. I do have one major issue with the proposed changes. I am strongly opposed to the proposed increase in Habitat Stamp fees. Per the current proposal, costs would double from \$5.00 to \$10.00 and be permanently tied to the consumer price index. This would be a significant increase now and in the future for, from what I can tell, no apparent reason.

Having looked at the original proposal submitted by the wildlife professionals with NMDGF, I noticed that a price increase was not included. I have also noted, when looking at the NMDGF 2020 financial review, that the Habitat Stamp fee increase as proposed is not rooted in need. The Habitat Management fund as of April 30, 2020 was reported as \$3,030,669.51. According to the NMDGF report, \$300,000.00 was budgeted for the 2020 fiscal year of which \$286,733.06 has been spent or encumbered to be spent as of the date of the report on June 23, 2020. Year to Date of the report, \$996,559.27 was the sum of revenue into the Habitat Management fund which was 332% of the expected revenue for the fund for FY 2020. These

numbers clearly show that yearly revenue and cash balance in the Habitat Management fund provide ample capital for current and future expenditures.

In these economically trying times, every penny counts and for many New Mexico families such as mine this increase of fees is just one more unnecessary expense. If the professionals who administer these funds did not originally recommend an increase in fees and there is no danger of depleting the Habitat Management fund these fees are designated for, then it should be an obvious vote against the fee increase and tie to the consumer price index. I respectfully request that you strike these additions from the proposed rule changes.

With Respect,

Cesar Salinas Terminal SCADA Supervisor Holly Energy Partners 1602 W. Main St Artesia, NM 88211 Cell: <u>575-513-5205</u> Office: 575-748-1708 cesar.salinas@hollyenergy.com CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail, and any attachments, may contain information that is privileged and confidential. If you received this message in error, please advise the sender immediately by reply e-mail and do not retain any paper or electronic copies of this message or any attachments. Unless expressly stated, nothing contained in this message should be construed as a digital or electronic signature or a commitment to a binding agreement. CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail, and any attachments, may contain information that is privileged and confidential. If you received this message in error, please advise the sender immediately by reply e-mail and do not retain any paper or electronic copies of this message or any attachments. Unless expressly stated, nothing contained in this message should be construed as a digital or electronic signature or a commitment to a binding agreement. Dear Sirs:

I DO NOT AGREE with the proposed increase in the cost of the Habitat Stamp. It sounds like there is quite a bit of money that is not being used in this program. You should be asking the public about some suggested uses for these funds. As far as the proposed use of these funds towards fish management, they should be directly associated with the lands in question and limited to 25% since the majority of these funds come from hunters. Adjustment of 5 Citizen Advisory Committees to 1 sounds like a good idea, AS LONG AS YOU HAVE REPRESENTATION FROM ALL SEGMENTS OF THE STATE. Thank you for this opportunity to comment. I hope you will take them seriously.

Gary P. Montoya 875 W. 9th St. Truth or Consequences, NM 87901

From:	<u>clint king</u>
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Rule change
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 12:03:17 PM

I don't mind the change but I am against the cost increase.

From:	<u>Jesse</u>
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Rule changes
Date:	Wednesday, October 28, 2020 11:03:47 AM

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule change for the Habitat Stamp Program. I am very supportive of all the proposed changes save one. I believe you should not have just one Citizen Advisory Committee for the program. As the BLM counterpart to the original three agency team including NMG&F and USFS back in the 80's, the one common denominator we all heard from the public was they wanted a say in where and how the funds would be spent. Although we understood the importance of establishing advisory committees we did not really know how many to set up or how efficient they would be. All three agency representatives conducting the outreach and trials on this new program agreed that one of the key benefits of having the advisory committees was to improve a connection between the public and all three agencies related to wildlife and habitat management. In addition, each region was more closely connected to its constituents than just one representative on a statewide basis. I truly understand the efficiency and desire by the NMG&F commission and agency to deal with one Citizen Advisory Committee but I also know that this will most likely lead to a growing disconnect between the citizens and all three agencies leaning toward focusing the funds on one area in the state vs. providing funds across the state. As you separate the public from that input, you also risk the desire by the public to increase the stamp fee.

New Mexico has a valuable Habitat Stamp Program (Sikes Act) and a unique process that engages our public regionally. Please don't lose that connection to the public and the corresponding relationship building that comes along with that. I believe you could move to 3 citizen advisory committees for the state and evaluate the effectiveness of that over the next 10 years of reauthorization. In particular, you should examine the impact of the public user awareness, understanding and relationship toward the management of wildlife and habitat with all the agencies to determine whether this is a good change.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Jesse J. Juen Natural Resource Specialist

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From:	Bill Rehm
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Sikes act stamp
Date:	Tuesday, November 24, 2020 4:32:30 PM

I recommend a Sikes Act stamp is purchased for each license the sportsperson purchases for public land use. Meaning, if I purchase an elk tag I must purchase (included in the license) an elk Sikes stamp. If I purchase a fishing license then I would purchase a fishing Sikes stamp (included in the license). Each stamp purchased will allow that monies to be used for only that species. I realize improving habitat for elk improves habitat for deer and turkey, etc.

Yes, this will increase my cost of each years license but the Sikes money will improve habitat for each species. Additionally, the Sikes money will be increased by our specific species partners in habitat restoration.

Thank you,

William "Bill" Rehm Albuquerque, NM

From:	David Harkness
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Sr. fishing
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 11:05:01 AM

I assume that there are no plans to begin adding or increasing fees for the State's Senior Fishers.

Game and Fish,

I do support the idea of changing the Habitat Stamp from 5 to 10 dollars and fix it to inflation.

I would also support refunding less on the draws- both in and out of state.

These fees and the management of fish and wildlife are what makes the outdoors so great here in New Mexico!

**Frank Seckler** 

El Prado,NM

Game and Fish,

I am an avid angler in NM and support the increase in fees. I support and increase in all fees and can go up more than just 5.00. You have done well with what you receive in fees but it's time to get you more. I fully support any and all increases.

Suzanne Wieser

From:	<u>H Con</u>
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Stop the Extortion!
Date:	Sunday, November 15, 2020 10:05:50 PM

I am speaking out against the fraud and extortion the department of game and fish has proposed with a 100% increase in the cost of the habitat stamp from \$5 to \$10. This will negatively effect the over 200,000 sportsmen who purchase them. As of the November 5th meeting there were only 61 comments received which seemed to be all pro increase. I attended a virtual public meeting with 59 attendees. The majority of attendees that appeared to be in attendance were NMDGF members and special interest groups pushing to raise the already outrageous fees we pay to hunt in New Mexico through incrementalism. The department should be ashamed of itself. The department is a perfect example of how government begins with a mission to promote the general welfare and instead works for it's own selfish interests and insatiable need for money. Stop justifying this need through taxation of our sportsmen in New Mexico! I am 100% against the proposed 100% tax increase of the habitat stamp program!

From:	RICHARD JONES
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Support Fee Increase and 50% for Fish Habitat Restoration and Improvement
Date:	Tuesday, November 3, 2020 11:21:29 AM

I wish to express my support for the updated habitat stamp rules, particularly the components earmarking 50% for fish habitat improvements and the fee increase from \$5 to \$10.

The additional revenue will support habitat improvements for fish and wildlife during a time of increased stress due to drought, low water, and demand by an increasing population. This is especially true for cold water fish as well as fish in lakes with diminished water levels.

If we are to have viable fish and wildlife populations for future generations, it is vital that we maintain and improve habitat.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

**Richard Jones** 

From:	<u>Steve</u>
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] Support for increasing habitat stamp
Date:	Wednesday, October 7, 2020 9:54:29 AM

Greetings,

As an avid fan of the New Mexican outdoors, this is to lend my support to increasing the habitat stamp to \$15, with future increases tied to the consumer price index or a similar inflation index.

My family and I would be happy to continue to purchase habitat stamps at the higher price- it's a bargain in this beautiful state.

Thanks for considering! Steve Jenkusky

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Lorna Anderson
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] SUPPORT PRICE INCREASE FOR HABITAT STAMP
Date:	Tuesday, October 6, 2020 5:45:12 PM

I support increasing the Habitat Stamp fee from \$5 to \$10 and adjusting the fee each year based on the consumer price index.

Sincerely, Lorna Anderson Volunteer, Trout Unlimited

Sent from <u>Mail</u> for Windows 10

I am in favor of the proposals for increased Habitat Stamp fees.

J. Schweitzer (505) 603-9985 Text - Voice

From:	Dan Roper
То:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule; Sloane, Michael B., DGF; Lusk, Daniel, DGF
Cc:	Toner Mitchell; Garrett Hanks
Subject:	[EXT] TU Comments on Habitat Stamp Rule Development
Date:	Friday, October 9, 2020 1:50:18 PM
Attachments:	image001.png
	Habitiat Stamp Comments Trout Unlimited October 2020.pdf

Hello,

Please find the attached comments from Trout Unlimited regarding the Department's Habitat Stamp Rule development. We are supportive of the Department's proposed changes and recommend that the fee be adjusted to \$10 and tied to a consumer price index to increase funding for habitat restoration and maintenance in the coming years.

Our rationale for a fee adjustment, as well as other suggestions for improving the program, are included in the letter.

Thank you,

Dan



Dan Roper New Mexico Coordinator Angler Conservation Program dan.roper@tu.org (541) 841-0946 www.tu.org

From:	bonesu2
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT] What the hell
Date:	Friday, August 28, 2020 2:24:55 PM

Sent from my iPhone. You took my money for a year long fishing license and then your governor will not allow us to fish there and y'all will not give our money back so quit sending me this junk

From:	Larry Martinez
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT]
Date:	Monday, November 2, 2020 4:47:59 PM

One person for state wide advisory not fair representation..several ranch person lock out hunters and spectators from BLM and state land..will this program help....

54023802@vzwpix.com
GF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
XT]
lesday, October 27, 2020 9:21:33 PM
<u>kt_0.txt</u>

Increase it to \$10!

Sent from my iPad

From:	<u>jerry kolke</u>
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT]
Date:	Monday, November 2, 2020 3:26:28 PM

Stop increasing the cost of hunting

I am all for the increase to \$10 IF you require bicycles to participate as well.

They reap the benefits but bear no fiscal responsibility!!

Doug Foshee Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From:	<u>john R</u>
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT]
Date:	Monday, November 2, 2020 3:52:20 PM

People are out of work and you want to raise prices .that makes absolutely no sense

From:	Richard Beilue
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT]
Date:	Monday, November 2, 2020 4:50:49 PM

Non resident fishing license too high, especially for senior citizens

From:	cookhuntfish@aol.com
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT]
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 12:08:54 PM

#### habitat stamp!

ANYONE using these lands should require a habitat stamp, why is it only hunters and fisherman that pay for it?

Please answer that question for me.

hikers/campers/bird watchers/mountain bikers/and the list goes on.... use all these lands too.

Colorado requires them to have stamps...why are we/NM always at the end of the line/day late and a dollar short?

Thanks for your time,

LANE

From:	Roth Sneddy
To:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT]
Date:	Monday, October 12, 2020 8:53:16 AM

Where's the money ..? Repairs are due ..!

Michael Gibbs
DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
[EXT]
Friday, August 28, 2020 2:59:26 PM

Can u please send revisions to above e mail, thank u

From:	jacob quintana
То:	DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule
Subject:	[EXT]
Date:	Wednesday, November 18, 2020 8:07:12 PM

My name is Jacob and I am concerned about this unnecessary raise in price on the habitat stamp. There's no reason to gouge the hunting community for a stamp. Hunters are the biggest employers in the world. We pay for several stamps and high license fees, we pay for the draw which hardly any residents draw out like we should. Outfitters & non resident hunters get all the licenses because of money. Non resident hunters also tend to be trophy Hunters who kill & only take the heads and leave the carcasses to rot. The residents should be getting those tags. Other than more money to game & fish what is this money really for? I've been a hunter for many years now and have seen the prices & stamps increase by an incredible rate & amount. I say put a stop to these rate changes & stop gouging the hunters and fishers. Let us residents get more tags.

Thanks for letting me voice my opinion.

 From:
 otto888@juno.com

 To:
 DGF-Habitat-Stamp-Rule

 Subject:
 [EXT]

 Date:
 Wednesday, October 7, 2020 9:18:39 AM

Hello Fish& Game I support raising the the habitat Stamp to 10.00 dollars or more. Regards chris ottemiller box 6502 navajo dam nm 87419 5053606136

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From:	Garcia, Larry, DGF on behalf of ISPA, DGF
To:	Lusk, Daniel, DGF; Davidson, Jacob, DGF
Subject:	FW: [EXT] Habit stamp proposal for change
Date:	Wednesday, October 28, 2020 3:53:10 PM

From: Wiley, Robert A, DGF
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 2:15 PM
To: ISPA, DGF <dgfinformationspecia@state.nm.us>
Subject: FW: [EXT] Habit stamp proposal for change

Fwd. Thank you.

From: HENRY OLIVAS <<u>hankie1952@hotmail.com</u>>
Date: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 11:49 AM
To: DGF-Webmaster <<u>DGF-Webmaster@state.nm.us</u>>
Subject: [EXT] Habit stamp proposal for change

I can not participate for the meeting but I would like to voice my opinion. I think for the habit stamp it should remain at \$5.00 but just add it to the cost of all licenses sold. So that means that any one that has the luck of drawing more then one license should pay additional. Cause there are many that don't draw at all. 
 From:
 Liley, Stewart, DGF

 To:
 Lusk, Daniel, DGF

 Subject:
 FW: [EXT] Habitat Stamp CAC Revisions

 Date:
 Wednesday, October 28, 2020 1:59:23 PM

Could you please add this to the public comment folder

Stewart Liley, Chief Wildlife Management Division New Mexico Game and Fish One Wildlife Way Santa Fe, NM 87507 Ph: 505-476-8038 stewart.liley@state.nm.us

## CONSERVING NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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From: Cramer, Gail, DGF Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 1:50 PM To: Liley, Stewart, DGF Subject: Fw: [EXT] Habitat Stamp CAC Revisions

Comment for the HSP. Gail

From: cody <cody@renoeq.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 11:57 AM
To: Cramer, Gail, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Habitat Stamp CAC Revisions

Ms. Cramer,

My name is Cody Hudson, I'm from Lovington NM, I sit on the SE CAC, I'm also the DSCNM board president. I am contacting you to voice my opinion on the changes to CAC committees since you are the Game Commissioner for my district. I whole heartedly agree with the proposed fee increase for two reasons, Habitat Stamp fees can be increased by rule rather than legislation which makes it simpler to accomplish, also HSP fees are designated specifically for habitat conservation. Allocating 50% of funds to fishery habitat is an excellent idea, especially since most of the revenue in the HSP comes from fishing license sales. I do however disagree with reducing the CAC to one committee. I understand it streamlines the project funding process and I believe the five committee system is inefficient and outdated. When Daniel Lusk explained the three committee system I felt that Game and Fish was spot on without that proposal. It allows funds that are unspent to be used in other projects by increasing the are of influence and increases the budget allowing for larger projects. Three committees also allows for more local participation which I feel is important to these projects. I am asking you to reconsider and ask your fellow commissioners to reconsider amending the

rule to have one CAC and go with the original proposal to have three CAC districts.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

FYI, A public comment.

Craig Sanchez Assistant Chief of Education, Information and Education Division New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (505) 222-4713 (505) 379-5340 (Cell phone)

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for future generations.

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On 11/5/20, 4:58 PM, "Chance Thedford" <xmodriver@icloud.com> wrote:

1: I have heard from a very reliable source that the habitat stamp program currently has 3.5 million dollars in unspent money. If this is the case, why would we increase the fee?

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Garcia, Larry, DGF on behalf of ISPA, DGF
To:	Lusk, Daniel, DGF; Davidson, Jacob, DGF
Subject:	FW: [EXT] Habitat stamp program public comment
Date:	Thursday, October 8, 2020 8:26:10 AM

Forwarding,

Thank you

Larry Garcia New Mexico Dept of Game & Fish Public Information Coordinator #1 Wildlife Way Santa Fe NM (888)248-6866

From: chase Wilbanks <chase3wilbanks@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2020 5:59 AM
To: ISPA, DGF <dgfinformationspecia@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] Habitat stamp program public comment

I support rebalancing the Habitat Stamp to \$10 and automatic adjustments for inflation. Keep up the hard work!

From:Garcia, Larry, DGF on behalf of ISPA, DGFTo:Davidson, Jacob, DGF; Lusk, Daniel, DGFSubject:FW: [EXT] Habitat stamp program public commentDate:Thursday, October 8, 2020 9:51:25 AM

Forwarding,

Thank you.

Larry Garcia New Mexico Dept of Game & Fish Public Information Coordinator #1 Wildlife Way Santa Fe NM (888)248-6866

From: Lynzee Aldaz <aldazlynzee@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2020 7:47 AM
To: ISPA, DGF <dgfinformationspecia@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] Habitat stamp program public comment

I support rebalancing the Habitat Stamp to \$10 and automatic adjustments for inflation.

From:	Pitman, James, DGF
To:	Lusk, Daniel, DGF; Davidson, Jacob, DGF; Auer, Donald, DGF
Subject:	FW: [EXT] Habitat Stamp Program Public Comments
Date:	Wednesday, October 7, 2020 1:07:53 PM

Another comment below.

# James W. Pitman

Assistant Chief of Information New Mexico Department of Game and Fish One Wildlife Way Santa Fe, NM 87507 Work Phone: 505-476-8004 james.pitman@state.nm.us

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From: "Garcia, Larry, DGF" <Larry.Garcia@state.nm.us> on behalf of "ISPA, DGF"
<dgfinformationspecia@state.nm.us>
Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 1:02 PM
To: "Pitman, James, DGF" <James.Pitman@state.nm.us>
Subject: FW: [EXT] Habitat Stamp Program Public Comments

Forwarding , Thank you, Larry

From: Jonathan Rosse <rossejo84@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 12:50 PM
To: ISPA, DGF <dgfinformationspecia@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] Habitat Stamp Program Public Comments

I support rebalancing the Habitat Stamp to \$10 and automatic adjustments for inflation. Thank you J Rosse From:Garcia, Larry, DGF on behalf of ISPA, DGFTo:Davidson, Jacob, DGF; Lusk, Daniel, DGFSubject:FW: [EXT] Habitat Stamp Program Public CommentsDate:Thursday, October 8, 2020 4:29:05 PM

Good afternoon,

Forwarding . Thank you.

Larry Garcia New Mexico Dept of Game & Fish Public Information Coordinator #1 Wildlife Way Santa Fe NM (888)248-6866

From: Jebb Norton <jebbnorton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2020 4:26 PM
To: ISPA, DGF <dgfinformationspecia@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] Habitat Stamp Program Public Comments

To the Game Commission,

I support rebalancing the Habitat Stamp to \$10 and automatic adjustments for inflation.

Thanks for your consideration. jebb norton, Tesuque, NM

From:	Garcia, Larry, DGF on behalf of ISPA, DGF
To:	Lusk, Daniel, DGF; Davidson, Jacob, DGF
Subject:	FW: [EXT] Habitat Stamp Program Public Comments
Date:	Thursday, October 8, 2020 8:17:56 AM

Forwarding.

Thank you.

Larry Garcia New Mexico Dept of Game & Fish Public Information Coordinator #1 Wildlife Way Santa Fe NM (888)248-6866

From: Brent Taft <brenton.taft@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 8:46 PM
To: ISPA, DGF <dgfinformationspecia@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] Habitat Stamp Program Public Comments

I support rebalancing the Habitat Stamp to \$10 and automatic adjustments for inflation.

Thanks, Brent Taft

From:	Pitman, James, DGF
To:	Lusk, Daniel, DGF; Davidson, Jacob, DGF; Auer, Donald, DGF
Subject:	FW: [EXT] Habitat Stamp Program Public Comments
Date:	Wednesday, October 7, 2020 1:04:24 PM

See the comment below that came into the Info Center. Thanks!

# James W. Pitman

Assistant Chief of Information New Mexico Department of Game and Fish One Wildlife Way Santa Fe, NM 87507 Work Phone: 505-476-8004 james.pitman@state.nm.us

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From: "Garcia, Larry, DGF" <Larry.Garcia@state.nm.us> on behalf of "ISPA, DGF"
<dgfinformationspecia@state.nm.us>
Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 1:02 PM
To: "Pitman, James, DGF" <James.Pitman@state.nm.us>
Subject: FW: [EXT] Habitat Stamp Program Public Comments

Forwarding . Thanks Larry

From: Matt Jackson <matthewwjackson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 12:48 PM
To: ISPA, DGF <dgfinformationspecia@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] Habitat Stamp Program Public Comments

I support rebalancing the Habitat Stamp to \$10 and automatic adjustments for inflation

From:Garcia, Larry, DGF on behalf of ISPA, DGFTo:Lusk, Daniel, DGF; Davidson, Jacob, DGFSubject:FW: [EXT] Habitat stamp program public commentsDate:Thursday, October 8, 2020 8:19:01 AM

Forwarding another,

Thank you.

Larry Garcia New Mexico Dept of Game & Fish Public Information Coordinator #1 Wildlife Way Santa Fe NM (888)248-6866

From: Adam Sapp <sapp.aw@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 11:22 PM
To: ISPA, DGF <dgfinformationspecia@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] Habitat stamp program public comments

Hello,

I've been a hunter and angler in New Mexico for the past eight years. Every year, I buy a hunting, fishing, and trapping license, I apply for almost every species in the draw, and purchase almost every OTC license available.

I support rebalancing the Habitat Stamp to \$10 and automatic adjustments for inflation.

Further, I support making both the habitat stamp and access validation stamp/fee required to purchase a hunting license.

I would also like to request that you consider offering a one button solution to purchasing combo hunting/fishing/trapping licenses to include habitat and access validation stamps/fees.

Sincerely, Adam Sapp From:Garcia, Larry, DGF on behalf of ISPA, DGFTo:Lusk, Daniel, DGF; Davidson, Jacob, DGFSubject:FW: [EXT] Habitat Stamp rule changesDate:Tuesday, November 10, 2020 7:57:07 AM

Good morning,

Forwarding . Thank you,

Larry Garcia New Mexico Dept of Game & Fish Public Information Coordinator #1 Wildlife Way Santa Fe NM (888)248-6866

From: Benjamin Green <paintingpoet13@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 10:57 PM
To: ISPA, DGF <dgfinformationspecia@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] Habitat Stamp rule changes

Benjamin Green 3 Zephyr Court Jemez Springs, NM 87025

#### paintingpoet13@gmail.com

Hello,

Thank you for considering my comments on your revised Habitat Stamp rule changes.

I applaud your work on this proposal and your response to public comments.

I am in favor of extending the program for 10 years. I am in favor of increasing the fee, and automatically tying increases to the CPI. (I hope this is coupled with an increased budget; it would make no sense to collect more fees but then to not allocate those fees to wildlife habitat improvement programs). I am in favor of allocating 50% of the funds to projects that would benefit fisheries. I am in favor of prioritizing projects that can be completed on-time and that parallel planning priorities of the agencies involved.

Some areas could still use some additional tweaking, in my opinion.

• In addition to state, Forest Service, and BLM lands, I would like to see these funds available for National Park Service/National Preserve/National Monument properties. Some of the best fisheries are in the Valles Caldera and some of the most needed restoration work is in Bandelier National Monument. It would be nice if these agencies could apply for funding.

•While I understand the rationale for reducing the number of CACs from 5 to 1, I would have preferred to increase the number of CACs so there was more local control and involvement. If you decide to stick with one statewide CAC please increase the membership from 9 to at least 15. Some

of these members should be nominated by someone other than the Game and Fish Commissioners; for example, each of our two senators and three congressional representatives could appoint one. •While having only one CAC dividing up a larger cash supply might mean some larger, more expensive projects get approved, it could also mean many small-scale projects done mostly with volunteers will get left out. A substantial amount of the budget should be mandated for small, volunteer-based projects. (I have worked on volunteer projects with Trout Unlimited, New Mexico Trout, New Mexico Wild, and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers.)

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on these proposed rule changes. You obviously paid great attention to the first batch of comments in response to the original rule change proposals. Hopefully your final draft will reflect a similar response to the current batch of comments. Yours,

Benjamin Green

PS: my emails to <u>dgf-habitat-stamp-rule@state.nm.us</u> have been returned as undeliverable

From:	Garcia, Larry, DGF on behalf of ISPA, DGF
To:	Lusk, Daniel, DGF; Davidson, Jacob, DGF
Subject:	FW: [EXT] Habitat stamp
Date:	Thursday, October 8, 2020 8:16:29 AM

Good morning , Forwarding below email for your consideration. Thank you. Larry Garcia New Mexico Dept of Game & Fish Public Information Coordinator #1 Wildlife Way Santa Fe NM (888)248-6866

-----Original Message-----From: Howard Bradley <howardbradley419@gmail.com> Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 7:11 PM To: ISPA, DGF <dgfinformationspecia@state.nm.us> Subject: [EXT] Habitat stamp

I support the rebalancing of the cost of the annual Habitat Stamp to \$10 with regular increases for COLA. I have served on the NW Citizens advisory group and been active with NWTF and more conservation/habitat organizations and have seen the benefits.

You might also consider a small increase in NM sales tax exclusively for Fish, Wildlife and Parks. I strongly support that! Thank you,

Howard Bradley

Sent from my iPad

From:	Sanchez, Craig C., DGF
To:	Lusk, Daniel, DGF; Davidson, Jacob, DGF; Auer, Donald, DGF
Subject:	FW: [EXT] HSP Question
Date:	Thursday, November 5, 2020 5:40:25 PM
Attachments:	image002.png
	image003.png
	image004.png

# Another comment below.

Craig Sanchez Assistant Chief of Education, Information and Education Division New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (505) 222-4713 (505) 379-5340 (Cell phone)



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### **STAY CONNECTED!**



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From: Robert S Nordstrum <bnordstr@unm.edu>
Date: Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 5:39 PM
To: "Sanchez, Craig C., DGF" <craig.sanchez@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] HSP Question

Why does the Dept of Game & Fish want to take away the project review from people that pay to hunt and/or fish on BLM/FS lands and give that to the Game Commission?

From:	Sanchez, Craig C., DGF
To:	Lusk, Daniel, DGF
Cc:	Davidson, Jacob, DGF; Auer, Donald, DGF
Subject:	FW: [EXT] HSP questions
Date:	Tuesday, November 3, 2020 6:54:57 AM

FYI,

I received the public comment in the below email.

Thanks.

Craig Sanchez Assistant Chief of Education, Information and Education Division New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (505) 222-4713 (505) 379-5340 (Cell phone)

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On 11/3/20, 5:20 AM, "David" <dsalva10@yahoo.com> wrote:

#### NMG&F,

I just had to accept a 5% reduction in salary, or lose my job, due to my company's covid response. My income doesn't keep up with CPI! My main concern is linking the HSP stamp fee with the CPI. The Personal Consumption Expenditures price index, issued by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, seems more appropriate. Also, I would be in favor of making an increase every 5 years instead of annually, adjusted accordingly, to reduce the cost of implementation.

I am opposed to doubling the fee of the Habitat Stamp from \$5 to \$10. This just seems arbitrary, and I would like to see where the justification comes from. How does a family man buy 5 licenses for his kids and 5 HSP stamps, and still be able to go?

I am in favor of 50% if the HSP funds over a 5-year period be spent on fish related projects, however, these funds must be spread out over the entire state and not just the northern half.

I am in favor of consolidating the CAC, but the way the announcement was worded conflicts with 17-1-2 NMSA 2018.

DS Alvarez

From:	Sanchez, Craig C., DGF
To:	Lusk, Daniel, DGF; Davidson, Jacob, DGF; Auer, Donald, DGF
Subject:	FW: [EXT] New Mexico Habitat Stamp Program
Date:	Thursday, November 5, 2020 5:12:41 PM
Attachments:	image002.png
	image003.png
	image004.png

# Another Public comment below.

Craig Sanchez Assistant Chief of Education, Information and Education Division New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (505) 222-4713 (505) 379-5340 (Cell phone)



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From: Robert Bowman <rbowman27@gmail.com>
Date: Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 5:00 PM
To: "Sanchez, Craig C., DGF" <craig.sanchez@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] New Mexico Habitat Stamp Program

Hi Craig,

Does New Mexico have a Wildlife Habitat Protection Program supported by the Habitat stamp similar to Colorado? They publish a very nice project highlights report that summarizes the work in the program over a period of 6 years. This is a great way to feedback to the hunters and fishermen about how the Habitat stamps funds are being used. Bob Bowman, Trout Unlimited

From: Ben Neary <<u>ben@nmwildlife.org</u>>
Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 5:45 PM
To: Lance Cherry <<u>lance.cherry@state.nm.us</u>>
Subject: [EXT] New Mexico Wildlife Federation Comments on Habitat Stamp Rule

Mr. Lance Cherry, NMDGF

Dear Lance,

Attached please find comments from the New Mexico Wildlife Federation on the Habitat Stamp Rule. Please contact me with any questions. Thank you,

Best Regards, Ben Neary Conservation Director NMWF

505-999-7592

From:	Garcia, Larry, DGF on behalf of ISPA, DGF
То:	Davidson, Jacob, DGF; Lusk, Daniel, DGF
Subject:	FW: [EXT] Support Habitat Stamp rebalance
Date:	Thursday, October 8, 2020 8:19:32 AM

Forwarding.

Larry Garcia New Mexico Dept of Game & Fish Public Information Coordinator #1 Wildlife Way Santa Fe NM (888)248-6866

From: Joss A <j.trixter@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2020 4:27 AM
To: ISPA, DGF <dgfinformationspecia@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] Support Habitat Stamp rebalance

"I support rebalancing the Habitat Stamp to \$10 and automatic adjustments for inflation."

Best,

Joseph Aragon Sent from my iPhone

From:	Sanchez, Craig C., DGF
То:	Lusk, Daniel, DGF; Davidson, Jacob, DGF; Auer, Donald, DGF
Subject:	FW: [EXT]
Date:	Thursday, November 5, 2020 5:38:35 PM
Attachments:	image002.png
	image003.png
	image004.png

# Another comment below.

Craig Sanchez Assistant Chief of Education, Information and Education Division New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (505) 222-4713 (505) 379-5340 (Cell phone)



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From: Todd Welch <ttoddwelchnm@gmail.com>
Date: Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 5:22 PM
To: "Sanchez, Craig C., DGF" <craig.sanchez@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT]

Questions that I posted on the website plus a few more.

1) If the CPI drops will stamp prices drop?

2) Any way to have a 5 year increase rather than trying it to the CPI?

3) If tied to the CPI will that be at the start of the fiscal budget or when the license is purchased?

4) I have no problem paying more I just like knowing what it will be.

Thanks T.Todd Welch

From:	Pitman, James, DGF
To:	Lusk, Daniel, DGF; Davidson, Jacob, DGF; Auer, Donald, DGF
Subject:	FW: Habitat Stamp Program Public Comments
Date:	Wednesday, October 7, 2020 1:25:09 PM
Attachments:	image001.png image002.png image003.png image004.png image005.png

See the comment below.

# James W. Pitman

Assistant Chief of Information New Mexico Department of Game and Fish One Wildlife Way Santa Fe, NM 87507 Work Phone: 505-476-8004 james.pitman@state.nm.us

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From: "Garcia, Larry, DGF" <Larry.Garcia@state.nm.us> on behalf of "ISPA, DGF"
<dgfinformationspecia@state.nm.us>
Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 1:17 PM
To: "Pitman, James, DGF" <James.Pitman@state.nm.us>
Subject: FW: Habitat Stamp Program Public Comments

Forwarding another.

From: Rob Anderson <randerson@ifpc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 1:08 PM
To: ISPA, DGF <dgfinformationspecia@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] Habitat Stamp Program Public Comments

Dear Game Commission:

I support rebalancing the Habitat Stamp to \$10.00 and automatic adjustments for inflation.

Sincerely,

## **Rob Anderson**

randerson@ifpc.com



# International Food Products Corporation

Alto, New Mexico Office: 800.261.6953 |Cell: 817.980.8956 |Fax: 575.336.1337

www.ifpc.com



Hi Daniel,

I hope you are doing well. Please see the attachment. This piece of mail arrived today. Thought I would forward it to you.

Thank you,

## Melody S. Gonzales



Vendor Training Liaison Administrative Services Division <u>Melody.Gonzales@state.nm.us</u> or <u>DGF-Vendor@state.nm.us</u> Toll Free 1-888-248-6866 Phone: (505) 476-8164 Fax: (505) 476-8180 Never bend your head. Always hold it high. Look the world straight in the eye. - Helen Keller

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From:	Bickford, Tristanna, DGF
То:	Chance Thedford; Lane, Jeremy, DGF; Lusk, Daniel, DGF; Davidson, Jacob, DGF
Subject:	Re: [EXT] Fee increases
Date:	Thursday, October 22, 2020 11:17:11 AM

Hi Chance - I hope you and the family are doing good!

I have copied Daniel Lusk and Jacob Davidson on this email. They oversee the Habitat Stamp Rule and are in the best place to answer your question.

Thanks!

Tristanna

Tristanna Bickford Communications Director, Information and Education Division New Mexico Department of Game and Fish 1 Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, NM 87507 Phone: (505) 476-8027 Mobile: (505) 309-2085 Fax: (505) 476-8116 <<u>http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/</u>> Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations

To report a wildlife-law violation, please call the toll-free Operation Game Thief hotline at (800) 432-GAME (4263) or click in the logo here. Callers can remain anonymous and earn rewards for information leading to charges being filed.

<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/enforcement/operation-game-thief-overview/>

<<u>https://www.facebook.com/nmdgf</u>>

<<u>https://twitter.com/NMDGF</u>>

<<u>https://www.youtube.com/user/NMGameandFish</u>>

<https://www.instagram.com/nmgameandfish/>

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On 10/20/20, 6:36 PM, "Chance Thedford" <xmodriver@icloud.com> wrote:

Hello you guys

Just a heads up, I got an email recently from the NM Wildlife Federation (Jesse Deubel). He is asking the NMTA to sign on to a letter to the Governor, requesting an increase in fees for the habitat stamp program. I am told they are wanting to increase fees across the board now.

The NMTA is not going to co-sign this letter for the following reasons; 1- there is 3.5 million dollars unspent in the habit stamp program. 2- It seems to me like any request like this should be presented to the game Commision first? Am I wrong? We don't feel comfortable not following chain of command 3- With the efforts that the NMTA, NMDG&F and I'm sure several other groups have made to recruit young and new people into hunting, fishing and trapping, it seems like fee increases will go against this.

As always, feel free to contact me any time Chance Thedford

President NMTA

Sent from my iPhone

From:	<u>William</u>
To:	Lusk, Daniel, DGF
Subject:	Re: [EXT] Rule change
Date:	Friday, November 6, 2020 10:06:58 AM

The meeting was good last night and some good points were brought up. Arts point about too many people on the CAC board is a great idea. I've been to meetings that had too many people and nothing got done. They had to have another meeting to finish. 9 or at most 11 is plenty, 15 is too many. I would like 9.

Another point good or bad was giving a break to family buying stamps for kids. I've been hunting since I could hold a 410 or 22. When I got older I observed hunters and there ways plus manufactures of hunting gear. First hunters treat hunting as a celebration and go all out on spending where as fishing is just something to do until hunting. The hunting manufacturers have not kept up with inflation but increased it by much more because they know hunters will pay the price. Fishing gear has gone up a little but still affordable and you don't have the investment in it. So paying 5\$ more for the stamp is a drop in the bucket for hunters/fishing. So as far as giving breaks I would hold off and see what happens down the road. In ten years when the renewal comes up then you can address the problem after some research has been done. I do feel sorry for some but some will all so take advantage of it, especially families that are hunting/fishing ones. People will adjust and get use to it or even forget it. Than there's the free license after age 72 and no stamp cost so that's a big break that I think no other state has or very few that do.

I get it but still I buy the habitat stamp just to help out plus share the wild life donation.

Well that's my two cents worth and it was a good meeting. Bill

Sent from my iPad

> On Oct 29, 2020, at 8:01 AM, Lusk, Daniel, DGF <Daniel.Lusk@state.nm.us> wrote:

> Hi Bill, this came as a request from the State Game Commission. I would recommend watching their last meeting where they discuss HSP. It starts at around the 3hr and 10 min mark in the following link:

```
> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3rmkcBR2OA
>
> Daniel Lusk
> Habitat Stamp Program Manager
> New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
> Cell: 575-649-1658
>
> 
> Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations
> 
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> >

- > ----- Original Message-----
- > From: William <lakota77@earthlink.net>
- > Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 11:38 AM
- > To: Lusk, Daniel, DGF < Daniel.Lusk@state.nm.us>
- > Subject: [EXT] Rule change

>

> I noticed that the notice by Game & Fish has the CAC from 5 down to 1. The last I saw was 5 down to 3. Where did the dropping of two more come from? I thought I was up on the changes or must have slipped by me.

> Take care

> Bill

>

> Sent from my iPad

## New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting - January 15, 2021 Registration/Sign-In Sheet

First	Last	Email	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Organization	Title	Wish to Speak	Agenda Item	Questions & Comments
Michael	Ortiz	ortiz.mike64@gmail.com	2578 Avenida de Isidro	Santa Fe	NM	87505		Property owner application for EPLUS	Scientist	Yes	E-Plus	
Ray	Trejo	Ray@nmwildlife.org								Maybe		
Barbara	Brodmerkle	doggiegames@yahoo.com								No		
Kerrie	Romero	kerriecoxromero@gmail.com	51 Bogan Rd	Stanley	NM	87056	(505) 440-5258	New Mexico Council of Outfitters and Guides	Executive Director	Maybe		
Earl	Conway	way2busy2fish@aol.com	12913 Blackstone Rd NE	Albuquerque	NM	87111	(505) 610-5156	New Mexico Bass Nation	Conservation Director	No		
Craig	Sanchez	craig.sanchez@state.nm.us	7816 Alamo Rd NW	Albuquerque	NM	87120	(505) 222-4713	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	Assistant Chief, Education	No		
Jason	Amaro	amaro_jason@hotmail.com	5118 Little Walnut Road	Silver City	NM	88061	(505) 235-7762	NM Outdoor Adventures	Owner	No		
Jennifer	Morgan	jennifer.morgan@state.nm.us	7816 Alamo Rd NW	Albuquerque	NM	87120	(505) 263-8581	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	Hunter Education Program Manager	No		
Charles	Crawford	charles.crawford@state.nm.us	803 S 5th Street	Raton	NM	87740	(505) 500-6980	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	NE Region Biologist	No		
David	Kenneke	dave.kenneke@scouting.org	22 Deer run Road, 11	Cimarron	NM	87714	(575) 447-2366	NMCGA Philmont Scout Ranch	Wildlife Committee Chair Director of Ranching and Conservation	Yes	12, 15	
Mike	Binns	mikebinns61@gmail.com	2241 Dakota Dr	Las Cruces	NM	88011	(575) 644-8331		Citizen Advisory Member Habitat Stamp Program	No		
Charles	Tripp	chtrippjr@gmail.com	7 Deborah Dr	Roswell	NM	88201	(970) 361-5554	New Mexico Backcountry Hunters and Anglers		Yes	11, 14, 15, 16	
Jennifer	D'Annibale	jennifer.dannibale@state.nm.us	1406 West Brown Rd, Apt B	Las Cruces	NM	88005	(505) 470-9712	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	SW Habitat Biologist	No		
Stephanie	Garcia Richard	sgarciarichard@slo.state.nm.us		Santa Fe	NM		(505) 827-5761	New Mexico State Land Office	Commissioner of Public Lands	Yes	5	Approval of the 2021-2025 State Land Office Easement
Roger	Siegmann	rogersiegmann@msn.com	901 Gunnison Ave.	Grants	NM	87020	(505) 287-8019		Member of Citizens HSP Advisory Committee	Yes	14	
Valerie	Huerta	valerieh@nmflb.org	2220 N Telshor Blvd	Las Cruces	NM	88011	(505) 690-5797	NM Farm and Livestock Bureau	Director of Organization	Yes	12	Rule Making Hearing on Final Rule Changes to Importation of Live Non- Domestic Animals, Birds and Fish Rule 19.35.7 NMAC
Harris	Klein	Hknm@comcast.net	712 Charles PI NW	Los Ranchos	NM	87107	(505) 974-0232	Trout Unlimited	State Chair	Yes		
Jeffrey	Arterburn	jarterbu@nmsu.edu	105 Pecan Drive	Las Cruces	NM	88011	(575) 649-9729			No		
Colleen	Payne	colleen@muledeer.org	3923 Agua Azul Ct	Las Cruces	NM	88012	(505) 363-5241	Mule Deer Foundation	New Mexico Regional Director	Yes	15	
John	Pearce	buildelite@comcast.net	11520 Ranchitos Rd NE	Albuquerque	NM	87122	(505) 975-3095			No		
Kevin	Lockhart	kevylockhart@gmail.com	36 La Luz Canyon Rd	La Luz	NM	88337	(512) 669-1171	Mew Mexico Backcountry Hunters & Anglers	Chair	Yes		
Jeff	Tafoya	metal2meat@gmail.com	31 CR 6050	Farmington	NM	87401				Yes		
Ross	Morgan	ross.morgan@state.nm.us	7816 Alamo Rd NW	Albuquerque	NM	87120	(505) 379-5017	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	Northwest Region Public Information Officer	No		
Bob	Nordstrum	bnordstr@unm.edu	4531 Sorrel Lane, SW	Albuquerque	NM	87105	505-681-9704			No		I'm disappointed in the recommendations for the HSP program.
Jessica	Fisher	jessica.fisher@state.nm.us	1 Wildlife Way	Santa Fe	NM	87507	(505) 659-8320	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	Shooting Program Coordinator	No		
Tristanna	Bickford	tristanna.bickford@state.nm.us	1 Wildlife Way	Santa Fe	NM	87507	(505) 476-8026	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	Communications Director	No		
Ryan	McBee	rmcbee@blm.gov								No		
Philip	Holmes	Philip.Holmes@state.nm.us	1 Wildlife Way	Santa Fe	NM	87507	(505) 476-8065	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	Revocation Manager	No		
John	Crenshaw	jndlcrensh@aol.com	1923 Hopi Road	Santa Fe	NM	87505	(505) 577-7510	New Mexico Wildlife Federation	NMWF Board of Directors	Yes	8, 15	8: Our organization & others would like to hear the department's assessment of the LFC budget narrative for the agency's FY22 appropriations request, particularly regarding huming-fishing license and other revenue streams, and projected cash balances.
												15: Discussion of HB 78, aimed at transferring Chama-area WMAs to the Tierra Amarilla Land Grant
John	Davis	jadavis343@gmail.com	1395 E 36th st	Farmington	NM	87401	(505) 330-5908			No		
Jennifer	Black	jennifer@medicinemassage.org	808 11th Ave SW	Rio Rancho	NM	87124	(505) 363-9919			No		
Ricardo	Duarte	rspjcduarte1@msn.com		Albuquerque	NM	87114	(505) 269-2794			No		

1	NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION
2	NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH
3	VIRTUAL MEETING
4	
5	AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: RULE MAKING HEARING ON REPEALING AND
6	REPLACING THE PUBLIC LAND USER STAMP (SIKES ACT) RULE,
7	19.34.6 NMAC
8	Starts at $1:16:20$ to $1:51:53 = 36$ minutes AND
9	AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: RULE MAKING HEARING ON AMENDING THE
10	IMPORTATION OF LIVE NON-DOMESTIC ANIMALS, BIRDS AND FISH RULE,
11	19.35.7
12	Starts at 1:51:56 to 3:08:37 = 77 minutes
13	January 15, 2021
14	
15	PRESENT:
16	JEREMY VESBACH, Vice-chairman
17	JIMMY BATES, Commissioner
18	SHARON SALAZAR HICKEY, Chairwoman
19	ROBERTA SALAZAR-HENRY, Commissioner
20	GAIL CRAMER, Commissioner
21	TIRZIO LOPEZ, Commissioner
22	DAVID SOULES, Commissioner
23	STEWART LILEY, Chief
24	MICHAEL SLOANE, Director
25	



AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: RULE MAKING HEARING ON REPEALING AND REPLACING THE PUBLIC LAND USER STAMP (SIKES ACT) RULE, 19.34.6 NMAC

Starts at 1:16:20 to 1:51:53 = 36 minutes 4 5 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Shall we move onto our 6 next topic, agenda item on Ruling Making Hearing on Repealing and Replacing the Public Land User Stamp, this --7 8 the rule -- the Sikes Act. And I believe we are going to hear from Chief Stewart Liley on this. It is an action 9 10 item, we have on our agenda, the rule hearing comments, discussion, and action. 11

12 CHIEF LILEY: Madam Chair, before I begin, I think 13 you need to -- to read the statement opening up the -- the 14 rule hearing, and then I'll go ahead and get started with 15 it after that.

16 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: I -- I understand. So 17 what I am looking for give -- give me a second because 18 my -- the way I organized my notes, the numbers have 19 actually changed because of the change in the agenda. So 20 give -- bear one moment with me. Hold on. Thank you.

21 So this hearing will please come to order. My name is 22 Sharon Salazar-Hickey, chair to the commission. I will be 23 serving as the hearing officer and be advised by the 24 commission's counsel from the office of attorney general. 25 The purpose of this hearing is for the commission to



receive public comment on repealing and replacing the
 public land user stamp Sikes Act Rule Title 19, Chapter 34,
 Part 6 of the New Mexico Administrative Code. The new rule
 will become effective on April 1st, 2021.

5 These hearings are being conducted in accordance with 6 the provisions of the Game and Fish Act and the State Rules 7 Act.

8 These hearings are being audiotaped video recorded. 9 Anyone interested in a copy of the audiotape or video 10 recording should contact Tristanna Bickford with the game 11 and fish department.

Public notice of this hearing was advertised in the New Mexico Register, the New Mexico Sunshine Portal, and on the department's website. Copies of the proposed changes have been available on the department's website.

16 Those wishing to comment here today must have 17 registered to submit public comments on the Zoom webinar 18 platform.

Explanation to the audience of the hearing procedure is as follows: these rule hearings will be conducted in the following manner. Staff will be present -- pre-filed exhibits (audio interference) will present pre-filed exhibits. Exhibits admitted into evidence are available for review by the public on the department's website. After all exhibits are entered, we will proceed to the



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presentation of the proposed rule after which testimony
 will be taken from the audience.

3 Participants are asked to raise their hand in the Zoom webinar platform and wait until they are called upon to 4 speak. In order to ensure that the hearing is accurately 5 6 recorded, only one person at a time shall be allowed to speak. Any person recognized to speak is asked to first, 7 8 identify yourself by name and who are you affiliated with for the record each time you are recognized. And second, 9 10 speak loudly and clearly to accurately record your 11 comments. After a person has offered comments, they will 12 stand for questions from the hearing officer. The audience 13 may also be asked -- will -- maybe also ask questions of 14 anyone offering comments after being recognized by me.

15 These hearings are not subject to judicial rules of 16 evidence; however, in the interest of efficiency, I reserve 17 the right to limit any testimony deemed irrelevant, 18 redundant, or unduly repetitious.

19 The commission may discuss the proposed new rule after 20 the public comment portion of the hearing. Final 21 commission action, including adoption of the rule, may 22 occur after the conclusion of the presentation and public 23 comment period of each hearing.

That -- that said, let us begin this hearing. This
hearing is now open. The hearing is item number on our



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agenda referenced as informational Rule Making Hearing on
 Repealing and Replacing the Public Land User Stamp Sikes
 Act Rule 19 34 -- 19.34.6 of the New Mexico Administrative
 Code.

5 Are there any exhibits for the proposed new rule 6 19.34.6 for the record?

CHIEF LILEY: Madam Chair, I have entered six exhibits 7 into the record. Exhibit Number 1, which is the notice of 8 9 the proposed rulemaking. Exhibit Number 2, the copy of the 10 proposed rule as well as the str -- underlying strike 11 through rule. Exhibit 3, a copy of the presentation that 12 I'll be giving today. Exhibit 4, the summary of the 13 proposed changes to the rule. Is -- Exhibit 5, the 14 technical information we relied upon to develop the 15 proposed rule. And Exhibit 6, the 203 public comments we 16 received during the rulemaking process.

And with that, those have been entered in. I havegiven those to Director Sloane as well.

19 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Very good.

20 CHIEF LILEY: All right.

CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Thank you, Chief.
Exhibits 1 through 6, as described by you, for the record
are admitted now into the record.

24 Stewart, can you please introduce the proposed new 25 rule for 19.34.6?



CHIEF LILEY: Madam Chair, Members of the Commission, I just want to make sure that you're able to see my screen right now and the presentation is in front of you. Great.

1

2

3

4 So as we've discussed through multiple meetings, this is the -- the public land user stamp rule or the habitat --5 6 commonly referred to as the habitat stamp rule. I just want to go through a little background on -- on meetings 7 8 we've held, both commission meetings and public meetings as 9 we went through the rule development process. This was 10 presented at two meetings, the August and October meeting, 11 and then again today for final adoption. In August, we 12 posted our initial proposed ideas or proposals to the 13 department website.

14 And then September 10th and 28th, we held our initial 15 public meetings to discuss the proposed changes.

At the October meeting, we made some adjustments. The commission recommended some adjustments to the proposed rule, which we then subsequently took back out for public comment at a number -- November 5th public meeting to discuss those proposed changes. We had fairly decent attendance at those -- those meetings. And -- and we had fairly decent support for most of those proposed changes.

At the December meeting, we -- the director updated the commission of these meetings and that there was no subsequent need to have another presentation on those



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proposed changes at that time before this rule hearing
 today.

Also in December, at the first week of December, all of our proposed changes and the proposed rule was posted on the department's website.

6 Again, our virtual public meetings, we had fairly decent attendance compared to some of the meetings where we 7 8 have statewide. Our largest being the November 5th public 9 meeting after we kind of adjusted some of the proposed 10 changes with fifty-four attendees to that. And also 203 11 comments received through the rulemaking process as -- when 12 the public comment process ended on the 13th of this --13 this month. Again, the majority of those comments were in 14 support of the proposed changes.

15 We had a lot of comments early on in the original 16 proposals that supported it, but then we had additional 17 comments after we adjusted the proposed changes that lended 18 more support to those proposed changes. I'll go briefly 19 through, since the -- the -- the commission and many 20 members of the public have heard the proposals a lot 21 throughout the last six months, but I will briefly go 22 through our proposed changes that are in front of you 23 today.

The first one, kind of an easy one, is -- is extending the duration of the rule like previous rules for ten years,



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so this rule would be a ten-year rule. That doesn't mean that the commission during that ten-year period could -could come back in and adjust if they wanted to, but again, it would be a ten-year rule if their decision was not to adjust making it to where the commission would have to come back in, in ten years and -- and reauthorize or -- or -- or look at if any amendments are necessary.

8 One of the other things that we did is the rule that 9 describes management plans that the -- the federal land 10 management agencies need to -- to complete in cooperation 11 with the department on what habitat actions across the 12 landscape should happen. It was specific just to this 13 habitat stamp funding, whereas the department works with 14 these land management agencies on a whole larger suite of 15 habitat management issues across the state, and we develop 16 management plans with them in cooperation on these larger 17 scale that we felt like it wasn't necessary to specifically 18 go down to one level of the Sikes funding. So again, agreement with the -- the federal land partners and us on 19 20 let's -- let's really work on these larger landscape scale 21 management plans on there.

22 One of the larger changes is moving from one habitat 23 stamp region -- or excuse me, five regions to one region. 24 Really what that came in was a lack of available funding to 25 divvy up across those five regions to really get larger



landscape scale projects. Each -- each region was 1 2 competing for their own funds within those regions, and 3 there wasn't a lot to divvy up amongst -- what this will do is create one region where they are -- where everyone 4 across the state is competing for funds, hopefully 5 6 providing for the opportunity for larger landscape scale projects that have a larger benefit for -- for wildlife 7 8 across the state. So that was that the main -- main goal 9 of that -- that one region.

10 And then also when we did that, we -- we increased the 11 membership of the -- the citizen advisory committees. Ιt 12 used to be five members in each region were going to one 13 committee composed of nine members is the proposal. Nine members, seven of which would follow the -- the statute 14 17-1-2, which describes representation to the state game 15 16 commission, so it gives a statewide representation is -- is 17 the goal of that. So seven members of our that CAC, 18 citizen advisory committee, would follow that state game commission representation, divvy it up amongst five 19 20 districts in the state so -- so every portion of the state 21 has representation. And then two members, one being --22 representing kind of conservation type orientated groups or 23 habitat conservation orientated groups and one member 24 having some agricultural interest where they -- they own --25 own or manage a farm or ranch that has at least two game



species on it. And then two members just selected at large as well to com -- to compose that nine-member committee hoping to get a larger regional or -- or statewide representation on that one committee so -- so there is voices to be heard across the entirety of the state.

6 The other change that was proposed -- or that we're proposing in this is over a five-year period that fifty 7 8 percent of the funds of the habitat stamp should be spent towards projects that will benefit fish. As -- as you all 9 10 are aware, a large portion of the revenue received in the 11 habitat stamp program comes from fishing license buyers, so 12 this is a way to try to ensure that those -- those people 13 that are paying into this program are -- are being 14 represented in some fish habitat management projects that 15 will be beneficial.

16 One of the other large changes that was proposed at 17 the last meeting was increasing the -- the current fee from 18 five dollars to ten dollars, and then in subsequent years, after in 20 -- starting in 2022, adjusting that fee based 19 20 upon the consumer price index. And one of the things that 21 was recommended at the last meeting that we put in there 22 too is that consumer -- if that consumer price index is 23 used, that fee could be rounded to the nearest whole 24 number. And also it allows the commission to defer annual 25 adjustments. It's not a mandatory CPI adjustment on an



annual year, but the commission could decide not to -- to 1 2 increase. Maybe it could be something similar to this year 3 where we had an economic issue due to a pandemic, decided not to -- to increase that. It does also state, though, if 4 5 the deferral is made, deferrals cannot exceed five 6 consecutive years. So again, the (indiscernible) that fee to consumer price index, not guaranteed it's going to 7 increase. The commission has to decide that on an annual 8 basis but cannot defer for more than five. 9 10 And with that, I would take any quest -- questions that you all may have. 11 12 COMMISSIONER SOULES: Madam Chair? 13 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Yes, Commissioner Soules. Commissioner --14 15 MALE SPEAKER: (Indiscernible). 16 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: -- we cannot hear you. 17 You need -- thank you. No. 18 MALE SPEAKER: You're muted. 19 COMMISSIONER SOULES: Okay. Let's try this one more 20 time. 21 Chief Liley, I think you said this would effective 22 April 1st, but as we heard earlier from the director 23 applications are out now so when individuals apply for 24 hunts this fall, if we pass this today, would they be 25 paying the higher habitat stamp fee now? In anticipation



of the next license year, I'd -- I'd just like to clarify
 that first.

3 CHIEF LILEY: Madam Chair, Commissioner Soules, so we 4 currently have a rule in place that doesn't expire until 5 March 31st of 2021 that states the fee is five dollars. So 6 if someone's applying between now and March 31st, they're 7 going to pay five dollars because that's what the current 8 rule states.

9 When this rule comes into place on April 1st, if they 10 apply after April 1st, they'll be paying ten dollars. So 11 if you want to do your application early and save five 12 dollars this year, there's that potential. But again, 13 because we have a rule in place that doesn't expire until 14 March 31st, the fee will be five dollars until that time.

15 COMMISSIONER SOULES: Okay. Thank you. I'm -- I'm 16 glad I asked because I wasn't sure how that would work out, 17 and I -- I imagine a number of other people will be curious 18 about it as well.

My other question has to do with the CPI. If it gets deferred in any given year and not the next year, on the second year, would it then catch up to where the CPI is? And if not, how would that work?

23 CHIEF LILEY: Madam Chair, Commissioner Soules, I 24 think the way the rule is written that that consumer price 25 index could be adjusted based upon those deferrals. So if



you deferred for three years, you would take the consumer price index that happened from the last time you increased to the time when you decide to make that increase. So it wouldn't just be that annual adjustment in the -- in the year when you didn't defer, if that makes sense. So it's, yes, it would -- it would take into account from the last time it was adjusted.

8 COMMISSIONER SOULES: Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Commissioners?

10 COMMISSIONER CRAMER: Madam Chair?

11 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Commissioner Gail.

12 COMMISSIONER CRAMER: Is this the time for comments or 13 just questions?

14 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Questions, comments. 15 COMMISSIONER CRAMER: Okay. I just -- I guess I want 16 to make the comment that from now when we're looking at 17 rules, I just want to ask that we don't make a change at 18 the last hour where then some of us can't go do research 19 and make constructive --

20 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: All right.

21 COMMISSIONER CRAMER: -- comments about it. And 22 that's what I feel like we did at this one because the last 23 time that the commission had a chance to comment, a lot of 24 this, the changes, came up at the very last minute, and I 25 don't feel like I had a chance to think about it and do



research on it and was kind of taken aback that it actually
 happened.

3 But you know, habitat stamp program is just near and dear to my heart. I've been a lot of the citizen's 4 advisory committees. I think it's an awesome program. 5 And 6 I hate to be a naysayer, but just part of the changes, I just can't support this time. I think it's a bad time to 7 8 be increasing fees, particularly on families, large 9 families with lots of children. I have a neighbor with ten 10 children. You know, he was -- the father was saying, man, 11 you guys are killing us. The rural families are really 12 important to the foster care system, and those people have 13 huge family and nonfamily that are living. And they do 14 lots of hunting and fishing, and it's really going to 15 impact them as well.

16 And we also didn't look at the other end of the 17 spectrum. I think we could have -- had we had the time, we could have tweaked this and not increased those under 18 19 eighteen and not increased those over sixty-five who are on 20 a limited income and not just -- I mean, I know it's -- you 21 say just five dollars, but it's important to those people, 22 particularly after the speech last night, where we're 23 giving stimulus checks because families are hurting so 24 badly at this time.

25

And I did make a little research on what happens to



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the consumer price index when the minimum wage is doubled,
like it's being proposed, and I think we all know what's
going to happen for the consumer price index at that point
which we'll have to defer maybe right away.

So anyway, I love this program, but I cannot support
the change -- some of the changes. Some of the changes are
good, that's fine, but I just can't support all of it.
CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Thank you, Commissioner.
Any other, Commissioners, questions, comments?

10 Vice-chair?

11 VICE-CHAIRMAN VESBACH: Madam -- Madam Chair, yeah. 12 Just to -- to tee off of that, I -- I think we discussed, 13 you know, the -- the -- the -- our stamps and -- and 14 getting them aligned for age, you know, requirements. I think we've discussed that probably at every single meeting 15 16 we had on the habitat stamp this year. And I -- you know, 17 I'm a big advocate for everything we can do to get more use outside and reduce barriers. 18

And I think -- yeah. I just wanted to reiterate. We had talked about incorporating that into our next license adjustment for, not just the habitat stamp, but all our stamps. And I -- I continue to -- to support that and looking at that across the board and -- and lowering those barriers for -- for families.

25

I do strongly support this -- this proposal. I -- I



think the ability to do fish projects, to do better projects. And so it's like everybody says, it's such a great program, but -- and we received such a great amount of public input through the process too. Like, I learned a lot through all the public input we received. I think we have a good proposal here and am really looking forward to the new -- new program. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER SALAZAR-HENRY: Madam Chair? 9 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Commissioner Roberta. 10 COMMISSIONER SALAZAR-HENRY: I just want to thank, 11 Stewart and his staff, for listening to the commission, 12 listening to the public, going back out to the public every 13 time there was a question about something.

14 You know, unlike Commissioner Cramer, I feel like 15 we've discussed this enough, and I am not a bit concerned about going from five to ten dollars. We haven't changed 16 17 the fee since 1986. And one of the things I've been referred to was in 1986, a loaf of bread was fifty-six 18 cents; the cost in 2020 is \$1.95, so I think -- I think 19 20 it's time the fees been changed. And I think that if --21 the CPI will help from doing the sticker shock. I mean, 22 it's always difficult to go from five to ten, doubling 23 something. And it's a lot easier. Nobody knew that every 24 year bread went up a few cents, a few cents, to almost a 25 two bucks, which is more than triple. So I think the CPI



adjustment that's in this bill is going to help some people just being overwhelmed when they see it come up, increase again.

4 So I appreciate -- I think this is a great program. 5 I've been on the CHP (phonetic) committees also as chair and vice-chair in the southwest, and in the southwest, our 6 committee that meets -- still meets has always got a 7 8 quorum. They've very active. They've very vocal. And I 9 talked to them, and from what I know from the current 10 committee that's down here, they support the program 11 changes. So I look forward to the new structure and seeing 12 some really great projects come out of this new system. Thank you, Madam Chair. 13 14 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Thank you, Commissioner. 15 Any other, Commissioners? 16 Okay. We will proceed. Are there any comments from 17 the public on the new rule 19.34.6 in the audience, 18 Lance --19 MR. CHERRY: We've got --20 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: -- Cherry? 21 MR. CHERRY: Madam Chair, the first one to raise their 22 hand is Pat McCasland. Pat, you're connected. 23 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Thank you. You are 24 recognized. Thank you. Good morning, Pat McCasland. Ι 25 think unmute --



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1 MR. MCCASLAND: Yeah.

17

2 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: -- maybe. 3 MR. MCCASLAND: Good morning, Chairman --4 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Good morning. 5 MR. MCCASLAND: -- Hickey and the Commission. 6 Yeah. I appreciate the summary discussion provided by -- is it Director Hickey or Lily -- Liley. Anyway, that 7 8 was a real good -- it was Chief Liley. I appreciate that a 9 lot.

10 I did have one question, and it was in regard to your comment about fifty percent of the habitat funds come from 11 12 fishing license. I was wondering if you factored in the 13 combination license that are purchased in that statistic 14 that you -- you cited? And the reason I ask that is it 15 seems to be the basis for having fifty percent of the 16 habitat stamp money go toward improving fish projects.

Is -- do you understand my question, Chief Liley? 18 VICE-CHAIRMAN VESBACH: So Madam Chair, you know, we don't typically have the -- the members of the public 19 20 directly ask questions, but if -- if you'd direct to a 21 question, I think, you know, that's -- that's appropriate. 22 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: And I agree. Thank you, Vice-chair. 23

24 Mr. McCasland, we are going to allow you to enter your 25 comments, and once you complete your comments, I'm going to



continue obtaining comments from other persons who would 1 also like to speak, and then we will all turn it over to 2 3 Chief Liley or any other commissioners before we wrap-up. Do you have anything else to say --4 5 MR. MCCASLAND: Certainly. 6 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: -- Pat? Thank you. 7 MR. MCCASLAND: Yeah. I -- I -- I support the -- I --8 9 I support the increase in the fee. I think it's a very 10 valuable program. I -- I appreciate everything the commission does. 11 12 I haven't heard any response from the forest 13 department or the -- the national forest -- the national 14 forest groups or the BLM in regard to -- to this change. 15 And so if someone could respond to that, I'd appreciate 16 that too. 17 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Okay. Thank you --18 MR. MCCASLAND: That's all I have. 19 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: -- sir. 20 Okay. 21 Thank you. MR. MCCASLAND: 22 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Very good. Uh-huh. 23 Mr. Lance Cherry, do we have anybody else that would 24 like to enter a comment? 25 MR. CHERRY: Madam Chair, next up is Charles Tripp.



1	CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Thank you.
2	Charles Tripp, good morning.
3	MR. TRIPP: Good morning, Madam Chair and
4	Commissioners.
5	I'm just I'm Charles Tripp. I'm with New Mexico
6	BHA. I'm the policy chair.
7	I would just like to show full support for this
8	program. It's a great program. The funding needs to be
9	there. It should have been done years ago. But we've had
10	broad work from sportsmen across the state to have this
11	done. I'd just like to say that one more time, even though
12	we did a written comment for it.
13	And thank you for all you do.
14	CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Thank you, Charles Tripp.
15	Lance Cherry, do we have someone else?
16	MR. CHERRY: Madam Chair, next up is Jesse Deubel.
17	CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Thank you.
18	Good morning, Jesse Deubel.
19	MR. DEUBEL: Good morning, Madam Chair and Members of
20	the Commission. Jesse Deubel here, Executive Director of
21	the New Mexico Wildlife Federation.
22	I would just like to express a sincere appreciation to
23	department staff members, Daniel Lusk and David Jacobson,

24 who hosted some of the public meetings and -- and are just 25 fantastic assets to this department and to the residents of



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New Mexico who care so much about this habitat stamp 1 2 program. So fantastic job to the entire department and 3 particularly those two staff members who really went above 4 and beyond as far as I'm concerned. And I appreciate the 5 commission and the department making these adjustments. I think it's fantastic, and it's going to really provide a 6 lot of benefit to residents of New Mexico and to future 7 8 generations. Thank you very much.

9 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Oh, very good. Thank you,
 10 Jesse.

11 Lance Cherry, next up?

MR. CHERRY: Madam Chair, that was the final comment.CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Very good.

Before I go to the commissioners -- and I do have something to say as well -- Chief Liley, do you want to wrap up or enter some responses or comments?

17 CHIEF LILEY: Yeah, Madam Chair, I would -- kind of to Mr. McCasland's questions, I would say that yes, we did 18 19 take into account both the combination license, as he was 20 discussing, that are both fishermen and -- and women and 21 hunters, sportsmen as well by that combo. The thing is, is 22 a large portion of that is both hunters and fishermen, but 23 we have a large portion also coming in that are just buying 24 fishing licenses, not necessarily buying hunting licenses 25 on a basis.



And that's just to recognize that a lot of this work 1 2 that probably in the past has not gone towards a lot of 3 our -- our fisheries restoration, one, because it's so 4 expensive. One project was not -- would not be able to be funded under the previous structure under that five CAC 5 region just because it costs so much. This new process 6 and -- and with the new funding should be able to allow to 7 8 get some of these larger fish projects done across the 9 landscape that haven't happened in the past, so it's a 10 little bit of catching up as well as recognizing that a 11 large portion of that revenue received comes from -- from 12 sports people but also as -- as well as fishermen people. 13 So that's that.

14 And then the last thing I -- I neglected and failed to mention when we talked about the public process. We work 15 16 through a lot of our CAC members, current CAC members, in 17 developing these proposals, but we also work with our 18 federal land management agencies guite a bit through the development of those proposals, both the BLM and the forest 19 20 service, and they're -- they, both those federal agencies, 21 are supportive of these changes moving forward. 22 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Thank you.

23 Commissioners, I would like to also say a big thank 24 you, not only to the department of game and fish, Chief 25 Liley, Daniel, Mr. Jacobson, but also the persons that are



speaking here today, Pat McCasland, Charles Tripp, Jesse
 Deubel, all the persons that have attended the public
 meetings that we've had as well as those persons who are
 applicants to our citizen's advisory committee.

5 We can't have a success with this type of program 6 without hearing all points of view. And it's good to hear 7 all points of view. We don't want to be a, no pun 8 intended, rubber stamp. We -- we -- we need to hear all 9 perspectives.

And I wanted to say thank you, Commissioner Gail, for extending your comments. I -- I think that's very good.

So commissioners, if there are any other commentsbefore we move on with this rulemaking process?

14 Therefore, I'm going to ask, are there any exhibits 15 from the public that need to be entered into the record at 16 this time?

DIRECTOR SLOANE: Madam Chair, I think the onlyexhibit that is remaining is the list of attendees.

CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Perfect. Thank you,
 Director.

21 Well, in that case, that will also be admitted into 22 the record as an exhibit; therefore, I am going to close 23 this hearing. Those that are registered and participated 24 in this hearing will be included on the attendance sheet as 25 you've described. And at this time, the attendance sheet



1 will be marked and admitted as Exhibit 7.

2 The comments submitted and the testimony heard during 3 this rule hearing will be reviewed by the commission and discussed during the open session of today's meeting. 4 5 The Commission will now vote on the proposed rule. 6 At this time, I would like to thank everyone again, for their participation today. 7 And I believe we do need -- do we not need a vote at 8 9 this time, or let the record show that the rulemaking 10 hearing was adjourned? Don't we need a vote, sir, Director? 11 12 DIRECTOR SLOANE: Madam Chair, you can close this 13 first hearing, and then you go into the vote process 14 after --15 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Oh, okay. 16 DIRECTOR SLOANE: -- you close the meeting. 17 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Thank you, sir. 18 All right. Well, then let the record show that this rulemaking hearing was adjourned at exactly 10:52 a.m. at 19 20 1/15 -- I mean, 1/15 -- it was closed at 10:52 a.m. on 21 January 15th, 2021. 22 So now, Director Sloane, may we proceed? DIRECTOR SLOANE: I think we need a motion. 23 24 COMMISSIONER SALAZAR-HENRY: Madam Chair? 25 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Vice-chair --



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1 COMMISSIONER SALAZAR-HENRY: I move to vote.

CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Commissioner Roberta?
 COMMISSIONER SALAZAR-HENRY: Never mind. I changed my
 mind.

CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Oh, come on.

6 Vice-chair Jeremy?

5

7 VICE-CHAIRMAN VESBACH: Madam -- Madam Chair, I would 8 move to repeal and replace 19.34.6 NMAC that's presented by 9 the department and allow the department to make minor 10 corrections to comply with filing this rule with the state 11 records and archives.

12 COMMISSIONER BATES: I'll second that --

13 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER BATES: -- (indiscernible).

CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Thank you, Vice-chair and
 Commissioner Jimmy Bates.

17 Director Michael Sloane, I turn it over to you. Thank18 you.

19 DIRECTOR SLOANE: Commissioner Soules?

20 COMMISSIONER SOULES: Yes.

21 DIRECTOR SLOANE: Commissioner Salazar-Henry?

22 COMMISSIONER SALAZAR-HENRY: Yes.

23 DIRECTOR SLOANE: Commissioner Lopez?

24 COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: Yes.

25 DIRECTOR SLOANE: Commissioner Cramer?



- 1 COMMISSIONER CRAMER: No.
- 2 DIRECTOR SLOANE: Commissioner Bates?

3 COMMISSIONER BATES: Yes.

4 DIRECTOR SLOANE: Commis -- Chair Salazar Hickey?

5 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR-HICKEY: Yes.

6 DIRECTOR SLOANE: Vice-chair Vesbach? Excuse me, 7 comma.

8 VICE-CHAIRMAN VESBACH: Ye -- yes.

9 DIRECTOR SLOANE: The motion passes with six in the 10 affirmative, one in the negative.

11 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Thank you, sir.

12 COMMISSIONER SALAZAR-HENRY: Madam Chair?

13 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Yes, Commissioner Roberta.
14 COMMISSIONER SALAZAR-HENRY: I just want to apologize.
15 I was going to ask a question, and the answer dawned on me
16 without having to ask the question, so I apologize for that
17 brief interruption.

18 CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Would you like to ask your 19 question? No?

20 AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: RULE MAKING HEARING ON AMENDING THE 21 IMPORTATION OF LIVE NON-DOMESTIC ANIMALS, BIRDS AND FISH RULE,

22 19.35.7

23 Starts at 1:51:56 to 3:08:37 = 77 minutes

CHAIRWOMAN SALAZAR HICKEY: Okay. Very good. So we
 can now move onto our next action item Rule Making Hearing



1	CERTIFICATION
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3	I, Sarah Cunningham, certify that the foregoing transcript
4	is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.
5	
6	
7	Darch Curringhacon
8	
9	Sarah Cunningham
10	
11	eScribers
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13	New York, NY 10001
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15	Date: January 29, 2021
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Dated at Santa Fe, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

STATE GAME COMMISSION

Sharon Salazar Hickey Sharon Salazar-Hickey, Chair

ATTEST:

Digitally signed by Michael B. Michael B. Sloane Sloane Date: 2021.02.01 07:50:31 -07'00'

Michael B. Sloane, Secretary

## CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION

State of New Mexico ) ) ss County of Santa Fe )

I, Michael B. Sloane, Director of the Department of Game and Fish of the State of New Mexico, do hereby certify that the foregoing amendment or rule 19.34.6 NMAC Public Land User Stamp (Sikes Act) rule is a true copy of said amendment of the State Game Commission of the State of New Mexico; that said amendment has been adopted, signed, and filed in the office of the Director in accordance with Section 17-2-5, New Mexico Statutes Annotated, 1978 Compilation, and in the office of the State Records Center of the State of New Mexico in accordance with Section 14-4-1, New Mexico Statutes Annotated, 1978 Compilation.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Director at Santa Fe, New Mexico, this 15th day of January, 2021.

Michael B. Sloane, Director

SEAL

19.34.6 NMAC