

2014 Legislative Session Update





Even Numbered Years are 30-Day Sessions

- The New Mexico Constitution restricts matters discussed during 30-day sessions to:
 - Budget and fiscal matters
 - Items on the Governor’s “call”
 - Legislation vetoed in the previous session



2014 Legislative Session Update

- Operating Budget Request (SB 313)
- Capital Projects Requests (HB 55)
- Other Legislation
 - Enhanced Penalties
 - Memorials





Operating Budget



- The budget began as HB 6 then rolled up to HB 2 – failed to pass House Floor 34-34
- SB 313 (took the place of HB 2) passed both chambers signed by Governor on 3/11/14 – 6.15 Billion State Budget
- \$38,630,800 (1% decrease from current operating budget – FY 14)
- Special Appropriations totaling \$860,000 (LE Vehicles-\$460K, Legal Support-\$250K, Federal Assistance upgrades-\$150K)
- Keeping all employee positions (initial LFC recommendation was to delete 20 vacant positions)
- No support from the State's General Fund for FY 2015. FY 2008 was the last year of State General Fund appropriations (around \$330,000).



Budget Break Down FY 2015

	Original DGF recommendation	Final Compromise	Difference						
Field Operations									
Budget Total	\$ 8,466.0	\$ 8,131.4	\$ (334.6)						
FTE Total	96.0	96.0							
Conservation Services Program									
Budget Total	\$ 22,385.0	\$ 21,564.4	\$ (820.6)						
FTE Total	157.0	157.0							
Wildlife Depredation and Nuisance Abatement Program									
Budget Total	\$ 1,042.2	\$ 1,042.2							
FTE Total	4.0	4.0							
Program Support									
Budget Total	\$ 8,197.8	\$ 7,892.8	\$ (305.0)						
FTE Total	52.0	52.0							
Total All Programs									
CATEGORY	DGF	LFC							
Budget Total	\$ 40,091.0	\$ 38,630.8							
FTE Total	309.0	309.0	\$ (1,460.2)	Total reduction from request					



Other Budget Impacts

- BAR Authority: additional Department authority.
 - \$250,000 can be moved between programs
 - \$500,000 can be added to operating budget for emergencies
- Employee Raises
 - 3% for all State Employees (includes NMDGF)



Capital Outlay

- The Department approval - \$5.1 million for 9 projects, which were funded:
- All funding sources – DGF/Fed Aid

Laguna Del Campo Dam	7 Springs demolition of old structures	Fish Barrier – Rio Costilla
Warm Water Hatchery irrigation ditch work	Wildlife Habitat Projects	Pecos Watershed Education Center
Facility Renovation	WMA Improvements	Install Alternative Energy Systems - facilities



New Mex

Priority Rank	Project Name	Descriptions/Notes	Total Request Amount	State Funds	Federal Aid Amt
FY15 - 1	Dam Safety Rules Compliance	Project will provide for the design plans based on findings for Laguna Del Campo Lake.	\$ 500.0	\$ 500.0	\$ -
FY15 - 2	Fish Migration Barrier on Comanche Creek	Construction of a fish migration barrier to protect the newly established Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout population from invasion by non-native fishes.	\$ 1,000.0	\$ 500.0	\$ 500.0
FY15 - 3	Watershed Education Center	Watershed Education Center is an outdoor education center designed to provide both self guided and guided education about the Pecos watershed as well as providing examples of actions individuals can take to improve watershed health. The facility is designed to minimize impacts to the watershed and will be constructed using materials found in the watershed.	\$ 450.0	\$ 150.0	\$ 300.0
FY15 - 4	Development & Construction of Alternative Energy on State Game Commission owned Properties.	Acquire & Install Alternative Energy Systems at farms, hatcheries & facilities.	\$ 250.0	\$ 125.0	\$ 125.0
FY15 - 5	Rock Lake Pipeline	Replace existing irrigation ditch with new pipeline.	\$ 250.0	\$ 250.0	\$ -
FY15 - 6	Seven Springs hatchery	Demolish condemned housing, silos, and clarifier.	\$ 100.0	\$ 100.0	\$ -
FY15 - 7	Shooting Ranges	Improve existing shooting ranges or design and construct new ranges in New Mexico.	\$ 1,000.0	\$ 250.0	\$ 750.0
FY15 - 8	Habitat Project 772 Funds	The Department intends to restore degraded landscapes and wildlife habitats across the state of New Mexico with multiple partners and across jurisdictional boundaries. Large-scale restoration is a multi-year endeavor that requires planning, design and environmental and archeological clearance activities, followed by on-the-ground restoration actions.	\$ 1,600.0	\$ 400.0	\$ 1,200.0
FY15 Subtotal:			\$ 5,150.0	\$ 2,275.0	\$ 2,875.0



HB128

Hunting & Fishing Infraction Penalties

- Sponsored by Rep. Alonzo Baldonado
- Do Pass in House Health, Government, and Indian Affairs Committee and Judiciary
- Passed House unanimously (64-0)
- Only Passed in Senate Conservation with amendment – removed section dealing with misdemeanor violations
- Session Ended – was not heard in Senate Judiciary



SB157 (Companion – HB 128) Hunting & Fishing Infraction Penalties

- Sponsored by Sen. Clemente Sanchez
- Do Pass in Conservation Committee
- Tabled in Senate Judiciary Committee - concerns about creating felony, misdemeanor language



Other Legislation

- Beaver Management Plan
 - SM 4 (Sen. Keller)
- Trophy Poaching Memorials
 - HM 3 (Rep. Stewart) & SM 14 (Sen. Morales)
 - Passed House & Senate



Memorial Summary

- **SM 4 - Beaver Management Plan (Passed 27-11)**
 - NMDGF/Forestry Division/State Land Office
 - Recommend which Agency take lead
 - Recommend which Stakeholders included in Developing Mgmt. Plan
 - Timeline & Budget
 - Report to Appropriate Interim Committee by Sep. 1, 2014

- **HM 3 & SM 14 – Trophy Poaching Awareness & Education (Passed 63-0, 33-1, respectively)**
 - Request NMDGF to takes steps to deter poaching
 - Increase Public Awareness
 - Commends NMDGF for proposing stiffer penalties
 - Requests Governor to declare Trophy Poaching Awareness day
 - Copies of Memorial sent to Governor, Director, Chair of Commission




The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

FIFTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 2014

SENATE MEMORIAL 4

INTRODUCED BY

SENATOR TIMOTHY M. KELLER
AND REPRESENTATIVE ROBERTO "BOBBY" J. GONZALES

A MEMORIAL
RECOGNIZING THE WATERSHED HEALTH BENEFITS
OF NORTH AMERICAN BEAVER POPULATIONS;
REQUESTING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A
STATEWIDE BEAVER MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, New Mexico has an arid climate that is typified by long periods of limited precipitation interspersed by infrequent heavy rainfalls or sudden snowmelt that are difficult for soil to absorb, leading to harmful runoff; and

WHEREAS, the scarcity of water has made the considerate use and conservation of water resources a foundational element in both New Mexico's culture and its economy; and

WHEREAS, for centuries, New Mexican communities have based their livelihoods and many cultural traditions on irrigated agriculture; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's rugged landscapes, containing diverse populations of wildlife, have attracted generations of hunters and nature enthusiasts and are among the key attractions for the State's Tourism Industry; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is experiencing a multiyear drought that is creating exceptional strains on farmers and the State's wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, maintaining, or restoring, upper watershed health is an important element in assisting New Mexico's communities, industries and wildlife to meet water scarcity challenges; and

WHEREAS, watershed health and restoration efforts typically require coordination among private businesses and organizations, as well as Local, State, Tribal and Federal Agencies; and

WHEREAS, numerous State agencies participate in ongoing watershed restoration efforts; and

WHEREAS, the dams, ponds and associated wetlands created by the North American Beaver are known to increase groundwater percolation, which raises local groundwater tables and storage; and

WHEREAS, beaver dams and ponds and their associated wetlands attenuate erosion, instream silt loading and other harmful effects associated with heavy rainfalls and sudden snowmelt; and

WHEREAS, beaver ponds and their associated wetlands act as contaminant sinks and filters, enhancing downstream water quality; and

WHEREAS, during extended periods of drought, beaver ponds and their associated wetlands greatly enhance the resiliency of riparian zones, including riverine plant communities and fish and wildlife populations; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Game and Fish has developed guidance for individual landowners regarding how to relocate beaver families to their land and how to mitigate or avoid problems created by beavers straying on their land; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico would benefit from a strategic plan for statewide beaver management designed to capture the full watershed benefits of beaver populations and minimize conflicts with other land uses, such as agriculture and the development of transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the State of Utah recently adopted a statewide beaver management plan developed in a process that involved a wide range of public and private landowners, users and managers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Department of Game and Fish, the Forestry Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department and the State Land Office be requested to develop recommendations jointly on how New Mexico may proceed to develop a statewide beaver management plan. The recommendations should include which agency should take the lead role for development, which stakeholder groups should be included in the development and a timeline and budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Game and Fish, the Forestry Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department and the State Land Office be requested to present their recommendations jointly to the appropriate interim committee or committees by September 1, 2014; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the Director of the Department of Game and Fish, the Secretary of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources, the Commissioner of Public Lands and the Co-Chairs of the New Mexico Legislative Council.



Signed and Sealed at The Capitol,
in the City of Santa Fe.


Senator Timothy M. Keller
New Mexico State Senate


John A. Sanchez, President
New Mexico State Senate


Representative Roberto J. Gonzales
New Mexico State Senate


Leanne J. Noranjo, Chief Clerk
New Mexico State Senate



New Mexico Department of Game & Fish


The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

FIFTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 2014

SENATE MEMORIAL 14

INTRODUCED BY

SENATORS HOWIE G. MORALES,
JOSEPH CERVANTES, CARLOS R. CISNEROS, DANIEL A. IVEY-SOTO,
LINDA M. LOPEZ, RICHARD C. MARTINEZ, CISCO McSORLEY,
MARK MOORES, BILL B. O'NEILL, GERALD ORTIZ, PINO,
MICHAEL PADILLA, MARY KAY PAPAN, CLIFF R. PIRTLE,
SANDER RUE, CLEMENTE SANCHEZ, JOHN M. SAPIEN,
BENNY SHENDO, JR., JOHN ARTHUR SMITH,
WILLIAM P. SOULES AND PETER WIRTH

A MEMORIAL
RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR INCREASED PENALTIES FOR AND
EDUCATION ABOUT TROPHY POACHING; REQUESTING THAT THE
GOVERNOR DECLARE A TROPHY POACHING AWARENESS DAY


WHEREAS, wildlife belongs to the citizens of New Mexico and is too precious to be wasted; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a long tradition of hunting, which provides food for some families, income to local communities and opportunities for tourists to enjoy the animals that roam in this unique State; and

WHEREAS, trophy poaching is the act of illegally killing an animal for the most valuable part of its body, such as its head or antlers, and leaving the rest to waste; and

WHEREAS, trophy poaching is increasing in New Mexico, is unfair to legal hunters, damaging to big game populations and leaves fewer animals for future generations to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, although only a small percentage of the population engages in trophy poaching, these individuals cause significant damage to big game animal populations by depriving them of successful genes for future generations; and



WHEREAS, big game animals have inherent value in themselves, value to people who enjoy seeing the animals in their natural habitat and economic value as a draw of tourists and legal hunters to the State; and

WHEREAS, trophy animals poached in New Mexico include elk, bighorn sheep, oryx, ibex, Barbary sheep, deer, pronghorn antelope, javelina, bear and cougar; and

WHEREAS, existing penalties do not effectively deter trophy poaching; and

WHEREAS, more public education is needed about the damage that trophy poaching causes and the need for greater enforcement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the importance of wildlife in the State be recognized and that the harm caused by trophy poaching be acknowledged; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Game and Fish be requested to take all possible steps to deter trophy poaching; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Game and Fish be commended for proposing stiffer penalties for trophy poaching, such as making trophy poaching a fourth degree felony; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Game and Fish be requested to take steps to increase public awareness that trophy poaching is illegal and to inform the public about how to report these crimes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor be requested to issue a proclamation declaring a trophy poaching awareness day to further increase public awareness of the problems associated with trophy poaching; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of the Department of Game and Fish and the Chair of the State Game Commission.



Signed and Sealed at The Capitol,
in the City of Santa Fe.


John A. Sanchez, President
New Mexico State Senate


Senator Howie G. Morales
New Mexico State Senate


Lorena N. Naranjo, Chief Clerk
New Mexico State Senate



New Mexico Department of Game & Fish

Important Dates

- March 12, 2014- Legislation not acted upon by governor is pocket vetoed
- May 21, 2014- Effective date of legislation enacted (except Budget July 1)
- Next Session
 - NMDGF Requests to Commission for Legislative Initiatives Aug/Sep 2014
 - *Pre-file* Legislation Dec 2014
 - Session Dates Jan 20, 2015 – Mar 21, 2015





Questions, Comments?

