

Animal Protection of New Mexico
Animal Protection Voters



“Letting the Past Inform the Future
for Conservation Funding”

For 7 years (1999-2005):
Concentrated effort to establish a NM
conservation funding mechanism.

What prompted this?
Familiar refrain from NMDGF: no funds
to do proper cougar conservation
research.





NM Wildlife Alliance

Mission:

Strengthen and support the laws, institutions and practices necessary for the sound stewardship and management of all the state's wildlife.

Goals:

1. Establish a reliable funding mechanism for wildlife conservation in New Mexico.
2. Broaden the mandate of NM Game Commission and NMDGF to include protection and management of all native wildlife.

History: Summary

Created/Implemented Phased Plan.
Phase 5 remained elusive.

Phase 1: Comprehensive research on other states. **Identified alternative funding sources** for wildlife conservation funding.

Phase 2: **Organized broad coalition** to educate public about wildlife, conservation, and habitat preservation. NMDGF enthusiastic (Director Thompson, and some game commissioners).



Phase 3: **Determined most viable (lucrative, supportable) funding option(s) for New Mexico.** Conducted public education. **Conducted public opinion poll** to determine acceptable options.

Phase 4: **Analyzed impact of wildlife recreation activities on state's economy.**

Phase 5: Establish wildlife diversity funding.



2003

- HB 943 (Coll): **Personal Income Tax Surtax for Wildlife Act**: **Died in House Vote: 25-38**
(wildlife conservation surtax of \$2 for each exemption on NM individual income tax return, with maximum of \$12 per return)
- SB 581 (Romero): **Land Conservation Incentives Act**: **Signed into law by GBR**
(providing tax credits for the donation of land or interest in land)



2004

- HJM 37 (Coll): **Funding Sources for Landscape Protection: Passed (no Gov. sig required)**
(requesting NMDGF/EMNRD study sustainable alternative funding measures to protect NM's unique landscapes, open spaces, recreation areas, wildlife habitats)



2005 (Biggest outcome)

- Significant work on “big conservation funding bill” but GBR wanted HB 885 instead
- HB 885 (Sandoval): **Severance Tax Bond Projects**: **Signed into law by GBR** (**\$1M to purchase land/conservation easements** to comply with federal ESA, and **\$4M to purchase property** with unique ecological value and acquire conservation easements in forested areas to reduce wildlife risk, protect open space, and improve wildlife protection areas statewide)



2006

- HB 188 (Martinez)/SB407 (Sanchez): **Land, Wildlife, Clean Energy Act**: Died in HTRC (funding was “stripped” by HBIC committee sub)/Passed Senate 19-18, but with oil & gas conservation funding provision removed, establishing program with no money

(providing for distribution of proceeds from the oil and gas conservation tax; creating a board; creating funds; authorizing the issuance of bonds; making an appropriation)



2007 and beyond

Advocates “ran out of gas” on issue.

Now

Inspired and informed energy is encouraging!

- **Fully understand the universe in which you're operating.**
 - Where are key political leaders on initiative?
 - Timing of initiative?
 - Who else is seeking funding mechanisms? Which mechanisms for which issues?
 - Tie initiative to economic wellness because of NM poverty.

- **Fully evaluate funding mechanisms.** Listen hard to input you don't want to hear.
 - Where's the "sweet spot" (balancing stakeholders/fund recipients needed to succeed (wildlife, land, water, parks, open space, etc.) vs. how much funding wildlife need.
 - Poll the public, test messaging, pay attention to results.
 - Study/learn as much as possible from others states' successes/failures:
<http://seas.umich.edu/ecomgt/pubs/documents/SummaryOfFindings.pdf>
(School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan)





□ **What will agencies commit to?**

- Consider whether funding mechanism can be/should be coupled with broader wildlife oversight mandates for NM Game & Fish.
- Investment/full partnership of NM Game & Fish—and other recipient agencies like State Parks—is essential for success.
- Budgeting and accountability for spending new funds matters to the public.

- Elections matter.
 - Who will be NM's next Governor?
 - Who will be NM's next Land Commissioner?

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