Animal Protection of New Mexico Animal Protection Voters



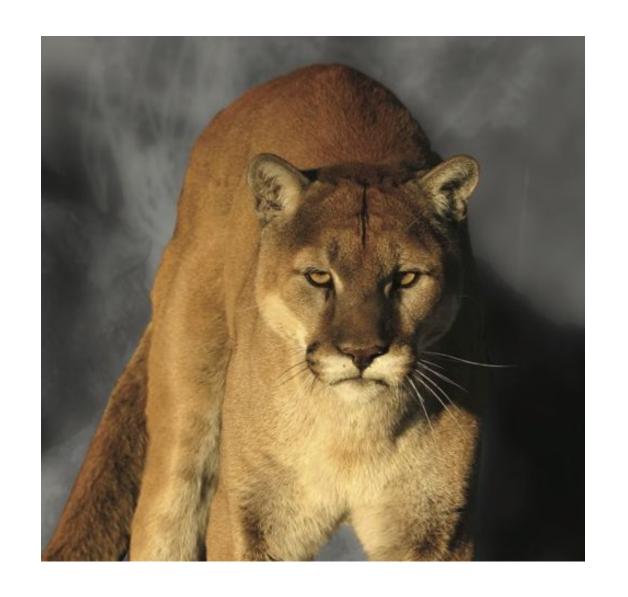


"Letting the Past Inform the Future for Conservation Funding"

History: Summary

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.



History: Summary



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

<u>Created/Implemented Phased Plan.</u>
<u>Phase 5 remained elusive.</u>

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.

History: Outcomes



<u>2003</u>

- 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)

APNM/APV

History: Outcomes



<u>2004</u>

• 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)

History: Outcomes



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)

APNM/APV

History: Outcomes



<u>2006</u>

• 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)

History: Outcomes



2007 and beyond

Advocates "ran out of gas" on issue.

<u>Now</u>

Inspired and informed energy is encouraging!

Lessons

- ☐ Fully understand the universe in which you're operating.
 - O Where are key political leaders on initiative?
 - o 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)



Lessons, cont'd.



☐ 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.

Lessons, cont'd.

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

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