



Water & Natural Resources Committee Presentation

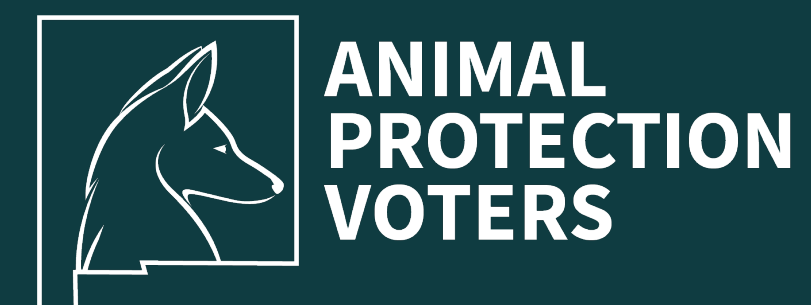
Department of Game & Fish and State Game Commission Reform

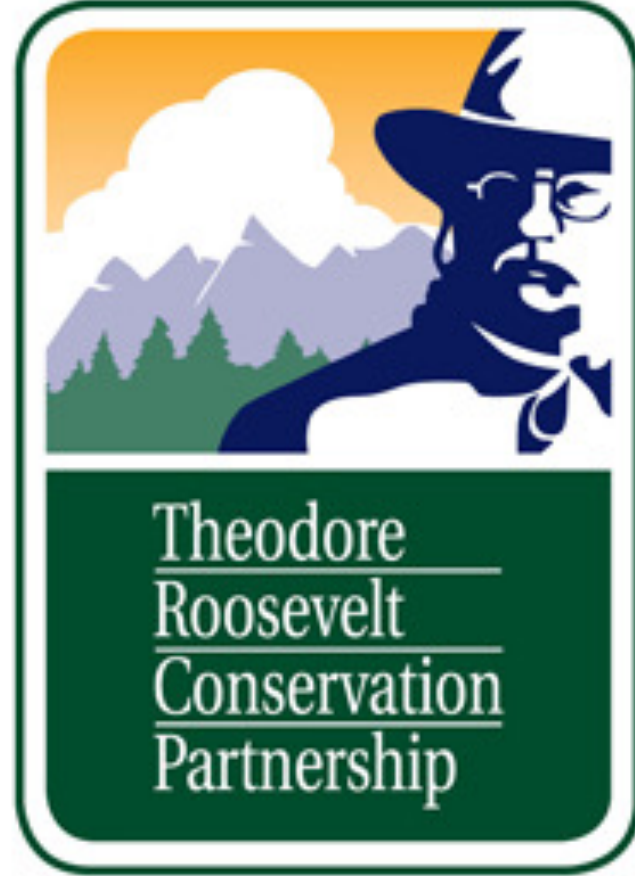
September 26, 2024

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Our Collective Goal

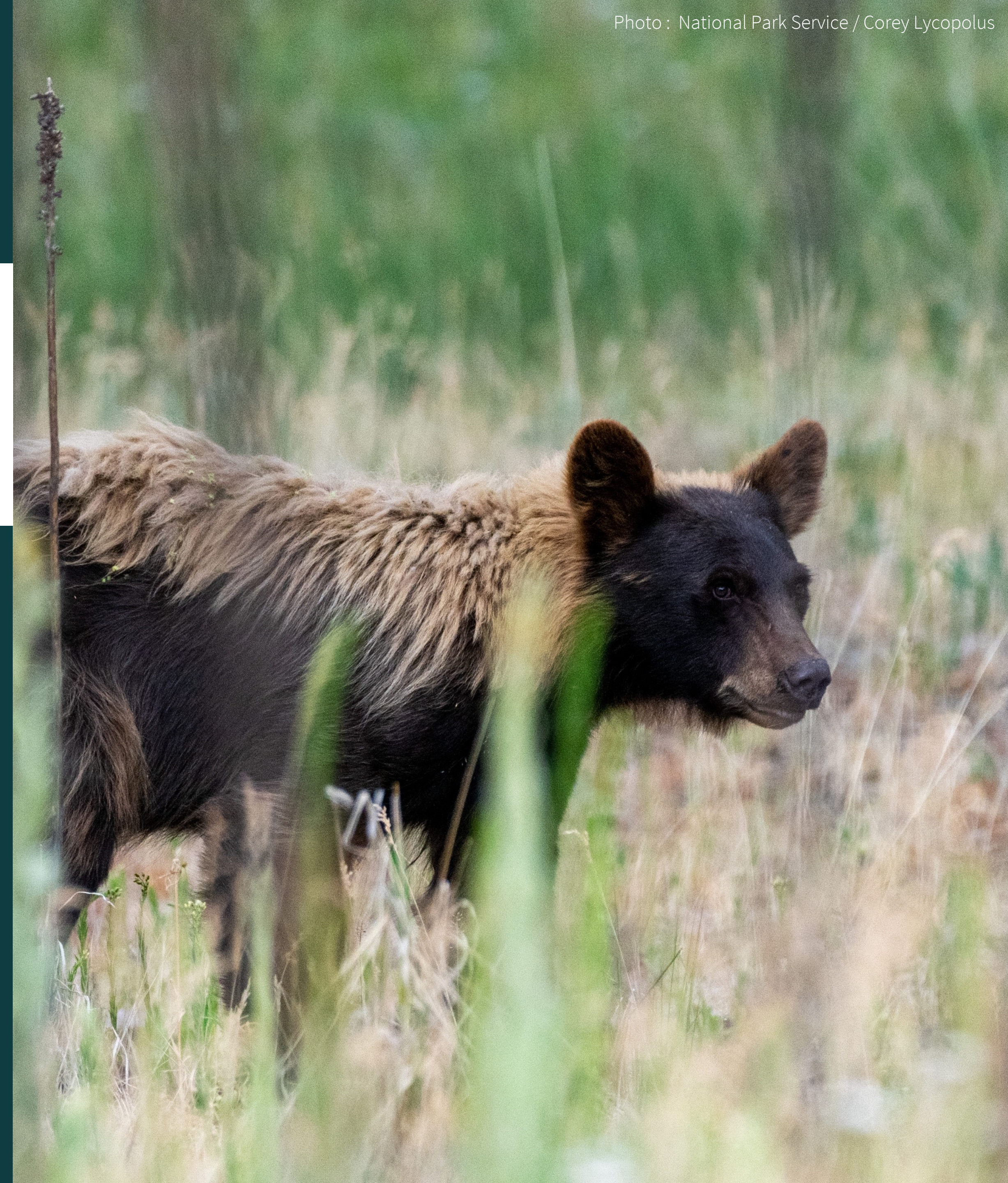
Build a Wildlife Management System for the 21st Century

✓ **Empower**

✓ **Equip**

✓ **Enable**

the Department staff to do the wildlife management and protection work that they need and want to do



Reform Package with Three Components




1. Update the Department's Mission

2. Fix the Game Commission

3. Funding to Protect our Wildlife Traditions

1. Update the Department's Mission

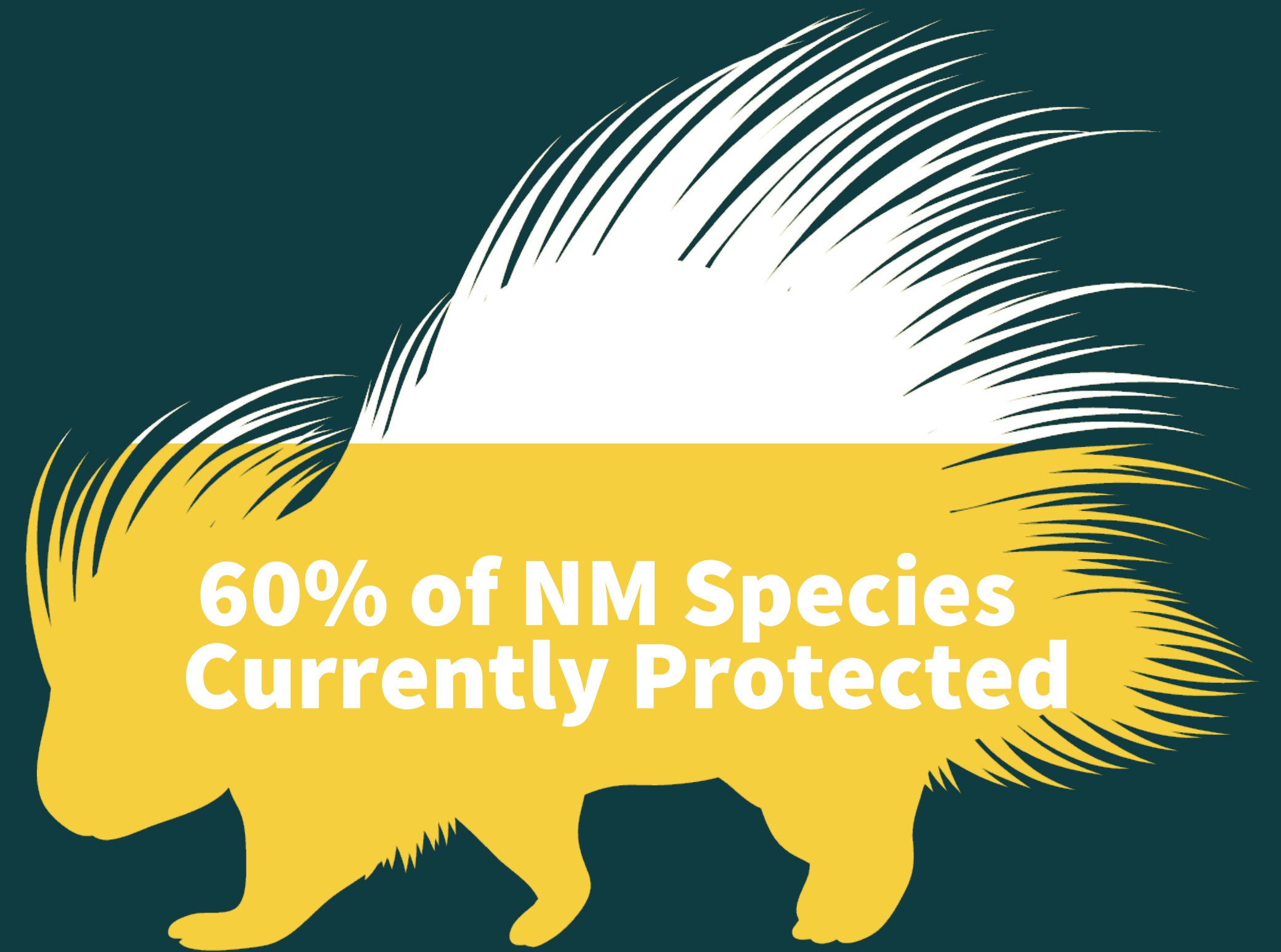
Legislative Action Needed: 3 Updates to the Department

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- A. Clarify the Department's Mission** to Reflect Current Views and Understanding of the Role of Wildlife
 - B. Update the Department's Name** to Reflect New Mexico's Wildlife Populations—Not Just Game & Fish
 - C. Codify Explicit Authority** to Perform Conservation Work and Regulate Take of Any Species Needed and Leverage Federal Funding

Updating the Department's Mission

Today, the Department of Game & Fish is:

- **Constrained** by a management system designed for a century ago
- **Limited** by a patchwork of laws which allow management of some, but not all wildlife species
- **Lacking** a clear directive to dedicate resources to important non-game species



**60% of NM Species
Currently Protected**



Modern-Day Wildlife Trends

- + Non-Consumptive Wildlife Appreciation
- + Outdoor Recreation
- Biodiversity Crisis
- Habitat Loss
- Population Decline
- Funding Crisis

Reform Benefits

2025 Wildlife Management Reform Three-Part Package

Saving Taxpayer Dollars
\$\$ Dollars \$\$

Updated & Modernized Department with Clear Direction from Legislature

Reduced Need for Federal Intervention & Regulation

Increased Healthy Wildlife Populations





Funding Opportunities

- Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund
- GRO Fund
- Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA)
- Discussions of further revenue source(s)

Conclusion

➤ Large, Diverse Coalition

➤ Foundational 3-Part Reform Package for the 21st Century

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1. Update the Department's Mission
 2. Fix the Game Commission
 3. Funding to Protect our Wildlife Traditions

➤ The Time is Now: 2025 Legislative Session



Thank You for Creating a 21st Century Wildlife Management System for all New Mexicans

