



Water and Natural Resource Committee

Wildlife Management Reform

An Agriculture Perspective

August 13, 2021

*Loren Patterson, President-Elect
New Mexico Cattle Growers' Assn.*

NMCGA - History

- Formed after a meeting with Gila National Forest Supervisor Nov 17, 1914
- Started as the *Southwestern New Mexico Cattle Growers ' Assn.*
- Within a year it grew from 40 members in Sierra, Grant and Socorro counties to 137 members throughout the state
- 1915 became the *New Mexico Cattle and Horse Growers ' Assn.*
- 1929 became the *New Mexico Cattle Growers ' Assn.*

"I hope that when you get home, your horses kick you!"

Ray Morley, Datil, President 1916-18

NMCGA - History cont.

The Mission:

“To advance and protect the Cattle Industry of New Mexico, work towards solutions for industry problems, promote the well-being of the industry, provide an official and united voice on issues of importance to cattle producers and feeders, and to create and maintain an economic climate that will provide members the opportunity to obtain optimum return on their investments within the free enterprise system.”

What New Mexico Agriculture Contributes

- Total Economic Value of Ag Production
 - *\$3.44 billion*
- Value of Livestock Production
 - *\$2.43 Billion*
- Value of Hay Production
 - *\$211 million*

(NMDA 2019)



What New Mexico Agriculture Contributes

Open Spaces



Crop Residues



What New Mexico Agriculture Contributes

Permanent Water Sources



Protection & Stewardship



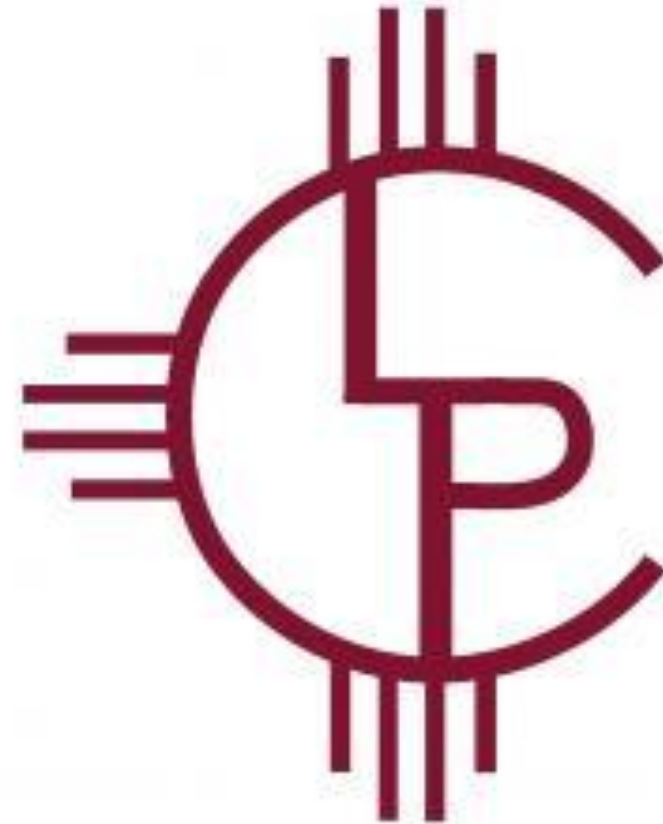
What Wildlife Contribute to Agriculture

- Biodiversity and forage utilization
- Ability to gauge overall range health and changes
- Supplemental income opportunities
- Increased land values of marginal production lands



NMCGA Concerns with Proposed Legislation

- Removing the “Jennings Law”
 - *NMSU Linebery Police Center Study*
- Negative Human-Wildlife interactions must be addressed, immediately
- Changes to Landowner Authorizations
- Expanded Department purpose and authority



Linebery Policy Center



NMCGA Concerns with Proposed Legislation

- Size and scope of proposed Legislation
- Debate and Analysis
- Changes to role of the Game Commission
- Stream Access

Concerns from the National Level

- **Mexican Gray Wolf**
 - *Compensation*
 - *Release of known livestock killers*
 - *Broken promises*
- **Jaguar**
 - *Tenth Circuit Win*
- **Lesser Prairie Chicken**
 - *Impacts to Industry including Renewable Energy*
 - *Critical Habitat Designations*
- **Broad Legislation has consequences**
 - *SB32*

Borderlands:

Disease Control and Inter-agency Cooperation

- Largest International Livestock Trade Center in North America
- Mammalian Diseases
 - can jump species
- Agencies need to be properly funded and cooperate with each other
- *Ounce of prevention...*





NMCGA - Going Forward

A Seat at the Table

“Environmental Stewardship is Nothing New...”

“Environmental stewardship is nothing new for New Mexico’s ranchers. We love what we do and where we live. You would be hard pressed to find a rancher who isn’t focused on sustainability on their operation, because we aren’t just looking to keep our operations viable today but for the next several generations.”

*Randell Major, President
New Mexico Cattle Growers’ Assn.*

