



## A Message from the Director

Hunting is a time-honored tradition in New Mexico that has brought our friends and families together to enjoy the great outdoors for generations. Thoughts of hunt camp bring memories of great times to our minds. Slow walks in the woods connect us on a deeper level with the diverse landscapes of this place we call home. In the end, we all hope for the chance to put a healthy, delicious meal on the table to share the experience and memories of our hunt with those closest to us.

But there are many other benefits that come from this annual tradition. By purchasing a hunting or fishing license, you're helping to ensure the future of outdoor recreation in the Land of Enchantment for years to come. Funds from license purchases, as well as from the sale of related stamps, allow the department to take on projects such as big game surveys, wildlife management area enhancement and maintenance, hatchery operations and fish stocking, and the conservation of species of greatest conservation need as listed in the State Wildlife Action Plan, to name a few. Education programs, habitat enhancement projects and conservation and law enforcement efforts also wouldn't be possible if it weren't for the sportsmen and sportswomen of New Mexico.

Nearly one-quarter of the department's funding to support wildlife conservation comes from the Game Protection Fund supported by your license purchase. Your purchase of validations like the Habitat Management and Access Validation (HMAV) and habitat stamp provide additional funding for special conservation projects. The remaining conservation efforts are largely supported by your purchase of firearms, ammunition and fishing equipment through the Wildlife Restoration Program, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Your contributions allow the department to invest in conservation efforts that ensure the future of wildlife, hunting and outdoor recreation in New Mexico.

Thank you for your support of wildlife conservation and the department's efforts to preserve both game and non-game species and their habitats for generations to come. It is because of you that we are able to do what we do.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent. It appears to read 'Michael B. Sloane'.

**Michael B. Sloane, Director — New Mexico Department of Game and Fish**