

# New Mexico Wildlife Federation



Protecting our outdoor way of life since 1914

2610 San Mateo Blvd. NE, Suite A, Albuquerque, NM 87110-3162  
505-299-5404 (office) 866-844-5638 (fax)  
[www.nmwildlife.org](http://www.nmwildlife.org)

Jan. 8, 2009

## Events and dates to aim for

- **A quick reminder about Saturday's special meeting** of the New Mexico Game Commission in Albuquerque, which will focus on efforts to clarify state trespass rules. The Game Commission passed new regulations in October that could direct poaching penalties at law-abiding sportsmen unless fixed before March.

Fortunately, the Department of Game and Fish has developed draft language that will fix this rule. If approved, poaching penalties will continue to be directed at those who "knew or should have known" they had entered private lands. This proposal would restore the protections for public land users that have existed for decades. (View the draft rule here <http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/documents/privatelandrule.html>.)

Sportsmen's groups support the department's proposal but we also encourage hunters and anglers to attend the meeting and tell Game Commission members where you stand. **The meeting runs 1-4 p.m. this Saturday, Jan. 10, at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, 1801 Mountain Road N.W.** Or e-mail your comments to [ispa@state.nm.us](mailto:ispa@state.nm.us).

Directions: From the junction of I-25 and I-40, take I-40 West; take the Rio Grande Exit and go South; take a left (east) on Mountain Road. The Museum of Natural History will be on your left (north) side of the road.

- **The deadline is approaching to apply for** oryx draw licenses, bear WMA permits, population management hunts, and turkey draw permits, but hunters first must obtain a Customer Identification Number - a new requirement this year. An ID number is needed before applying for hunting licenses or permits in the annual drawings. Numbers are free, and will be available starting Monday, Jan. 12. Hunters can get them online at [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us) or by visiting a department office in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Raton, Las Cruces or Roswell.
- **Once you have a Customer ID Number**, put a red circle on Feb. 4 - that's the application deadline for oryx draw permits, bear WMA permits, population management hunts and turkey draw permits.
- **Don't forget the Game Commission has changed how the second drawing will work.** This year the Game Commission has instituted an up-front fee system for the April 8 deadline draw in an effort to reduce the number of applicants. Anyone applying during the April 8 deadline for a pronghorn, bighorn sheep, ibex, javelina or Barbary sheep draw license must pay the full license and application fee when applying. In order to pay for management of this new up-front fee system, the Game Commission has also instituted a higher non-refundable application fee of \$9 for residents and \$12 for non-residents.
- **And finally, deer and elk hunters are reminded** to submit mandatory hunter harvest reports or risk having their applications for all hunt drawings rejected. Harvest reports must be submitted before the drawing application deadline or by Feb. 15, whichever is earlier. Submit reports online at [www.newmexico-hunt.com](http://www.newmexico-hunt.com) or by calling toll-free, (888) 248-6866. For more information about big-game hunting regulations, pick up a copy of the 2009-10 Big Game &



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Trapper Rules and Information Booklet at license vendors, department offices or online at [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us).

## ***Legislators return to business***

- **Congress is back in session** and New Mexico has more freshman legislators than ever before. Sen. Jeff Bingaman is now the state's senior senator. He is joined by Sen. Tom Udall, Rep. Martin Heinrich (1<sup>st</sup> District), Rep. Harry Teague (2<sup>nd</sup> District) and Rep. Ben Lujan (3<sup>rd</sup> District.) We've listed their contact information below - Web sites, phone numbers, e-mail and postal addresses.
- **The New Mexico Legislature convenes Jan. 20** in Santa Fe for a 60-day session. As in Congress, there will be a host of new faces in the Roundhouse. And as usual, NMWF will be following legislation of interest to sportsmen. To keep up with the action this session, sign up for NMWF's free Sportsman's ACTION ALERT. We'll keep you posted on key bills, important hearings and opportunities to testify about issues that concern hunters, anglers and others concerned about New Mexico's precious public lands and natural resources. You can sign up for the ACTION ALERT here [http://www.nmwildlife.org/index.php/getinvolved/actiondetails/help\\_protect\\_your\\_right\\_to\\_use\\_public\\_lands/](http://www.nmwildlife.org/index.php/getinvolved/actiondetails/help_protect_your_right_to_use_public_lands/) and we'll do all the rest.

## ***NMWF gearing up to serve members better***

**Sportsmen already signed up for the ACTION ALERT** will want to keep an eye on our Web site, too. NMWF is about to unveil a newly redesigned site to better serve our members and other New Mexico outdoors enthusiasts. Expect to see stories about local, regional, state and national issues; a Conservation Calendar to keep up with important dates and events, and much more. Start looking next week at [www.nmwildlife.org](http://www.nmwildlife.org).

## ***Other organizations busy, too***

- **The annual Crosshairs for Christ draw information banquet** begins at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23, at Soul Rio Church in Rio Rancho. Cost is \$15 per person and includes "grub and giveaways," according to the group. Speakers and topics include "How to succeed in the big-game draw," by Lance Cherry, the assistant chief of the Game and Fish Department and C4C president, plus stories from the field and the mountains. All are invited, but make reservations through Cherry at 620-6883 or e-mail [lance@crosshairsforchrist.org](mailto:lance@crosshairsforchrist.org). For more details, visit the C4C Web site, [www.crosshairsforchrist.org](http://www.crosshairsforchrist.org).
- **If you have an artistic bent, think "prairie chicken."** The High Plains Prairie Chicken Festival is looking for artists to create the official poster for its eighth annual event, April 17-19 in Milnesand, N.M. The grand prize winning entry will be reproduced on the annual festival poster. The artist will receive \$300. Top winners in three age categories: adult, grades 7-12, and grades K-6, will receive \$50. Deadline to submit art is March 1. Any two-dimensional media will be accepted, but the image should represent the lesser prairie chicken. Registration forms and more information about the festival are available on the Department's Web site, [http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/recreation/prairie\\_ckn/Festival.html](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/recreation/prairie_ckn/Festival.html).

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## ***Some good reads***

- **A Missoula, Mont., writer recalls his decision to begin hunting** a few years ago, and in the process gets to the heart of the matter for many people. Yes, hunting to help feed your family is hard work in several ways, but it provides a connection between a family and its food that goes back a long, long time. You can read Robert Struckman's story in the latest edition of the High Country News <http://www.hcn.org/wotr/hunting-is-the-ultimate-do-it-yourself-experience>.
- **No one ever said Los Alamos residents lack ambition.** The newest example is an idea to scoop 6,000 cubic yards of muck and sediment out of an old reservoir west of town and restore it for what it once was: a favorite fishing hole for locals. The Santa Fe New Mexican (<http://www.santafenewmexican.com/Local%20News/Los-Alamos-Forest--county-officials-plan-to-restore-old-fishing>) reports that Santa Fe National Forest and Los Alamos County officials are working together to save the reservoir, which filled with sediment after the 2004 Cerro Grande Fire. They figure it could cost \$1.6 million in local, state and federal funds, including the dredging itself, plus a 55-foot-long bridge and other work to make it safe.

## ***Mmmmm, tastes just like chicken ....***

**England doesn't have much of a reputation for its food** - certainly not like France, China or New Mexico. But [The New York Times](#) reports something new and exciting on menus all over the county - squirrel. Gray squirrel, to be exact. The non-native species (imported from North America) is wreaking havoc on the native red squirrel throughout England, Scotland and Wales, prompting a movement to rid Great Britain of its invaders. "Save a red, eat a gray," is the campaign slogan, and Britons have responded. "... In farmers markets, butcher shops, village pubs and elegant restaurants, squirrel is selling as fast as gamekeepers and hunters can bring it in," the newspaper wrote.

## ***Save these contact numbers***

Sen. Jeff Bingaman  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
<http://bingaman.senate.gov>  
(800) 443-8658

Sen. Tom Udall  
B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
[website currently unavailable]  
(202) 224-6621

Rep. Martin Heinrich  
1505 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
<http://heinrich.house.gov>  
(202) 225-6316

Rep. Harry Teague  
1007 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
<http://teague.house.gov>  
(202) 225-2365

Rep. Ben Lujan  
502 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
<http://lujan.house.gov>  
(202) 225-6190

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## **About The New Mexico Wildlife Federation**

Founded in 1914 by sportsman and conservation pioneer Aldo Leopold, the New Mexico Wildlife Federation is New Mexico's first and most effective conservation advocate. We are dedicated to protecting New Mexico's wildlife, habitat, and outdoor way of life. We spearheaded permanent protection of our hunting and fishing rights in the Valle Vidal, and stopped cold the previous sell-off of your public lands.

We believe that the best way to get things done is to build consensus with common goals.