

SPORTSMAN'S ALERT



Oct. 14, 2011

Wildlife Management chief selected as Director of Game and Fish

Jim Lane, chief of the Wildlife Management Division for the last two and a half years, was hired late Thursday as the next director of the Department of Game and Fish. The State Game Commission selected Lane after interviewing four candidates, all of them current or recently retired department employees. Lane will replace Tod Stevenson, who worked for the Department for 33 years, including three as director. Stevenson plans to retire this month. *(Photo NM Department of Game and Fish, 2011)*

Ray Trejo, president of New Mexico Wildlife Federation, **congratulated Lane and wished him the best of luck** as the state's top wildlife management official. "We look forward to working together with Jim and the department on behalf of all New Mexico sportsmen," Trejo said. "His extensive background in wildlife management and biology will ensure that our wildlife and habitat receive the best protection possible."

Also in the running were **Dan Brooks**, chief of the Law Enforcement Division; **Tim Frybarger**, who recently retired as Lane's assistant at the Wildlife Management Division; and **Dale Hall**, coordinator of the Habitat Stamp Program.

After interviewing each candidate behind closed doors for more than an hour, the commission opened the meeting to the public and voted on the new director. One by one, each commissioner announced his top choice. Lane had six votes; Chairman Jim McClintic voted for Dan Brooks.

"I'm excited, but I'm a little overwhelmed right now," Lane said after the vote.

Lane came to New Mexico in May 2009 after years of work in Kentucky. He has both bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Kentucky, and worked for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources as a biologist, Wildlife Division Director, and coordinator of the stream and wetland restoration program. He is an avid hunter and also enjoys trapping and fishing.

Shortly after Lane took over as Wildlife Management Chief in New Mexico, **he proposed several positive changes** for New Mexico hunters, including putting all big game rules on a four-year cycle (they had been brought up for Game Commission review every other year) and extending legal hunting hours to bring New Mexico in line with other states. His division also proposed increasing the spring turkey bag limit to two for a single license and expanding fall hunts.

More recently, his team proposed minor changes in trapping regulations that might have helped reduce the conflict with some members of the public. Game Commissioners Rob Hoffman and Dickie Salopek supported the department's proposal to increase the trap setback from trails, but they were overruled by the rest of the commission. Subsequently, there has been an increased push for a statewide ban on trapping on public lands.

Shortly after he arrived in New Mexico, **Lane inherited an ongoing effort to revamp antelope hunting regulations**. Antelope management did undergo several positive changes, but sportsmen were left disappointed with the overall package when the Game Commission refused to consider alternatives to the A-PLUS program, leaving the vast majority of antelope hunting opportunity in the hands of a small number of landowners.

With Lane's appointment as director and the retirement of Tim Frybarger, the department now has to find a new chief of the Wildlife Management Division. **Lane's first meeting as director is Nov. 3 in Farmington.**



Jim Lane with wife, Beth, son Christian and daughter Allison.

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.

Our key priorities are: Opportunity Habitat Youth

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