



# Wildlife Management for the 21<sup>st</sup> century



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Defenders of Wildlife

# History

1880s – bison go extinct in New Mexico

1897 – market hunted outlawed

1899 – bag limits created and elk hunting banned

~1900s – Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep go extinct in New Mexico and deer and pronghorn population continue to decline

1903 – predecessor of Game and Fish Department established and first territorial game warden appointed

1909 – license system established

~1910 – Rocky Mountain elk go extinct in New Mexico

1921 – Game Commission created



# Scope of Species

<i>Taxa</i>	<i>Total native subspecies protected</i>	<i>Total native subspecies found in NM</i>	<i>Percentage protected</i>
Mammals	49	245	20%
Birds	382	534	72%
Fish	30	78	38%
Amphibians	27	27	100%
Reptiles	112	112	100%
<b><i>Total vertebrates</i></b>	<b><i>600</i></b>	<b><i>996</i></b>	<b><i>60%</i></b>

1. Kevin Bixby, Southwest Environmental Center.



THE OUTSTANDING SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY IS NOT TELEVISION, OR RADIO, BUT RATHER THE COMPLEXITY OF THE LAND ORGANISM. ONLY THOSE WHO KNOW THE MOST ABOUT IT CAN APPRECIATION HOW LITTLE WE KNOW ABOUT IT. THE LAST WORD IN IGNORANCE IS THE MAN WHO SAYS OF AN ANIMAL OR PLANT, "WHAT GOOD IS IT?" IF THE LAND MECHANISM AS A WHOLE IS GOOD, THEN EVERY PART IS GOOD, WHETHER WE UNDERSTAND IT OR NOT. IF THE BIOTA, IN THE COURSE OF AEONS, HAS BUILT SOMETHING WE LIKE BUT DO NOT UNDERSTAND, THEN WHO BUT A FOOL WOULD DISCARD SEEMINGLY USELESS PARTS? TO KEEP EVERY COG AND WHEEL IS THE FIRST PRECAUTION OF INTELLIGENT TINKERING.

- ALDO LEOPOLD -

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# National Data

Hunting, fishing and wildlife watching in US	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016
No. Hunters $\geq 16$ yrs of age (millions) <sup>1</sup>	14	13	12.5	13.7	11.5
No. Anglers $\geq 16$ yrs of age (millions) <sup>1</sup>	35.2	34.1	30	33.1	35.8
No. Sportspersons (millions) <sup>1</sup>	39.7	37.8	33.9	37.4	<b>39.6</b>
No. Both $\geq 16$ yrs of age (millions) <sup>1</sup>	9.5	9.3	8.6	9.4	7.7
No. Wildlife Viewers $\geq 16$ yrs of age (millions) <sup>1</sup>	62.9	66.1	71.1	71.8	<b>86</b>

1. Kevin Bixby, Southwest Environmental Center



# New Mexico Data

Hunting, fishing and wildlife watching in NM	1996	2001	2006	2011
No. Hunters (residents)	88,000	105,000	66,000	64,000
No. Anglers (residents)	198,000	197,000	164,000	213,000
No. Sportspersons (residents)	247,000	237,000	201,000	233,000
No. Wildlife Viewers (residents)	326,000	471,000	490,000	486,000
Total NM Population	1,750,000	1,830,000	1,960,000	2,070,000
Total NM ≥16 years of age	1,276,000	1,337,000	1,505,041	1,619,552
% NM Population Hunters	6.9%	7.9%	4.4%	4.0%
% NM Population Wildlife Watchers	26.0%	35.0%	33.0%	31.0%

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# Examples from other States

- **Missouri:**  $1/8^{\text{th}}$  of 1% sales tax (1976) - ~\$100 million annually
- **Arkansas:**  $1/8^{\text{th}}$  of 1% sales tax (1998) - ~\$22 million annually
- **Minnesota:**  $3/8^{\text{th}}$  of 1 cent sales tax (2008) - ~\$80 million annually
- **Virginia:** “Backpack Tax” (1998) – \$13 million annually
- **Texas:** “Backpack Tax” (1993) – capped at \$32 million annually
- **Arizona:** Lottery funds (1990) – \$10 million annually
- **Colorado:** Lottery funds – 8.75 million annually



# Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA)

- Would allocate \$1.3 billion annually
  - \$650 million from outer continental shelf oil revenues
  - \$650 million from federal land mineral development
- **New Mexico**
  - Currently received ~\$850,000 annually
  - Would receive \$27 million
    - Would require match ~\$7-8 million
- House Bill 4647 – 82 cosponsors
- Senate Bill 3223 – 5 cosponsors

