

Recommendations for Wildlife Funding in NM

Presentation to the NM Interim Committee on Water and Natural Resources—9/26/24

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NM's Exceptional Biological Diversity

- ~550 bird species (2nd most in US)
- 180 mammal species (3rd most)
- 110 reptiles (3rd most)
- 70 fish species
- 27 amphibians



FY23 NMDGF Revenues (millions)



Source: NMDGF presentation to Game Commission 4/19/24

Recommendation #1:

Establish new, dedicated funding sources for SGCNs

- General Fund Appropriations: Vermont, Washington
- Outdoor Gear Tax: Texas, Virginia, Georgia
- General Sales Tax: Missouri, Arkansas, Minnesota
- Real Estate Transfer Tax: Florida, South Carolina

Recommendation #2:

Amend Land of Enchantment Fund statute to require use only for SGCNs

• Current language:

75-12-2. Land of enchantment legacy fund; created; distribution. (6) twenty-two percent shall be distributed to the department of game and fish to carry out projects and programs for the protection and propagation of game and fish.

Recommended language:

(6) twenty-two percent shall be distributed to the department of game and fish to carry out projects and programs for the restoration and protection of species of greatest conservation need.

Recommendation #3:

Ask USFWS to make Pittman-Robertson funding available for ALL species

- If rules changed, could use PR funding for more SGCNs, e.g. native fish, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates
- Currently, 60% of New Mexico's proposed SGCNs are ineligible for PR funds