

New Mexico Wildlife Heritage Act (Senate Bill 312)

Bill Index and Key

Subject	Summary, Section and Page Number
Name Change	Changes name from ‘Department of Game & Fish’ to ‘Department of Wildlife Conservation’ - 181 of the bill’s 198 sections cover only name changes. <i>The 17 remaining sections are covered below.</i>
Authority to Conserve All Wildlife	<p>Updates “Declaration of Policy” to include all wildlife. The agency already protects some non-game such as songbirds, reptiles, amphibians and raptors, but the mission statement has never before been updated to reflect this increased mission. Section 14, page 17</p> <p>Clarifies that additional wildlife species may be protected and that “near and long term changes in climate” can be taken into consideration rather than just “zones of temperatures.” Section 39 & 148, pages 40 & 166</p> <p>Provides authority to the Wildlife Conservation Commission to protect additional wildlife species. Section 43, page 44</p>
Depredation	<p>Ends wasteful slaughter of game by ensuring that landowners killing animals for depredation must follow commission rules for weapon type, what species may be killed, when animals may be killed, etc. Section 50, page 51</p> <p>Clarifies that the “Big Game Depredation Damage Fund” may be used to help with administration of the depredation program. Section 93, page 117</p>
Hunting & License Updates	<p>Adds javelina, bear and cougar to “waste of game statute” requiring that game meat is not wasted. Section 51, page 54</p> <p>Offsets budget impact of increasing resident quota to 90 percent through non-resident standard elk hunting licenses. Section 90, page 112</p> <p>Changes resident quota for big game hunting licenses from 84 to 90 percent. Section 100 & 193, pages 121 & 236</p> <p>Commission may revoke a trapping license for the same amount of time as hunting and fishing licenses. Section 153, page 171</p>
Funding and Appropriations	<p>Defines “Species of Greatest Conservation Need” from the State Wildlife Action Plan. Section 147, page 165</p> <p>Appropriates \$1 million for Species of Greatest Conservation Need, and \$1 million for the name change. Section 195, page 240</p> <p>Changes “should fund” back to “shall fund” for the Wildlife Conservation Act. This restores original language to the WCA. Does not specify how much funding but restores a commitment that hunters and anglers will not continue to be the sole source of support for state wildlife funding. Section 78, page 86</p>
Effective Dates	Sets repeal and effective dates for legislation. Sections 196 through Sections 198, page 241