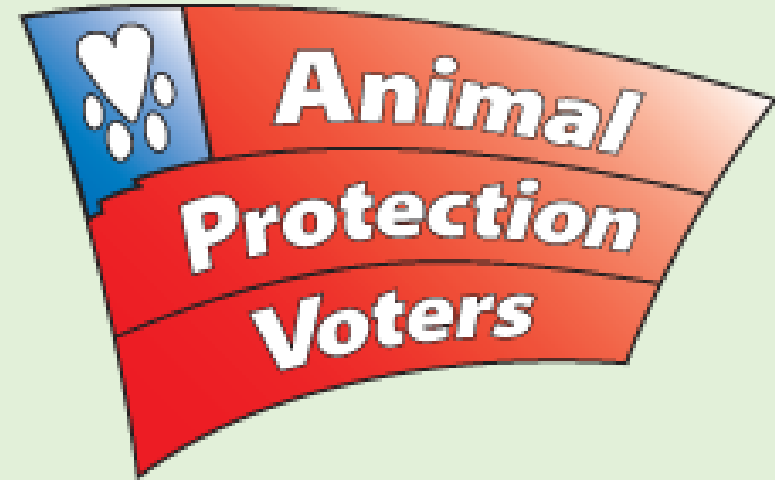


Animal Protection of New Mexico  
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“Letting the Past Inform the Future  
for Conservation Funding”

For 7 years (1999-2005):  
Concentrated effort to establish a NM  
conservation funding mechanism.

What prompted this?  
Familiar refrain from NMDGF: no funds  
to do proper cougar conservation  
research.



# Past History: Summary



## NM Wildlife Alliance

### Mission:

Strengthen and support the laws, institutions and practices necessary for the sound stewardship and management of all the state's wildlife.

### Goals:

1. Establish a reliable funding mechanism for wildlife conservation in New Mexico.
2. Broaden the mandate of NM Game Commission and NMDGF to include protection and management of all native wildlife.



# Past History: Summary

Created/Implemented Phased Plan.  
Phase 5 remained elusive.

**Phase 1:** Comprehensive research on other states. **Identified alternative funding sources** for wildlife conservation funding.

**Phase 2:** **Organized broad coalition** to educate public about wildlife, conservation, and habitat preservation. NMDGF enthusiastic (Director Thompson, and some game commissioners).



**Phase 3:** **Determined most viable (lucrative, supportable) funding option(s) for New Mexico.** Conducted public education. **Conducted public opinion poll** to determine acceptable options.

**Phase 4:** **Analyzed impact of wildlife recreation activities on state's economy.**

**Phase 5:** Establish wildlife diversity funding.



## 2003

- HB 943 (Coll): **Personal Income Tax Surtax for Wildlife Act**: **Died in House Vote: 25-38**  
(wildlife conservation surtax of \$2 for each exemption on NM individual income tax return, with maximum of \$12 per return)
- SB 581 (Romero): **Land Conservation Incentives Act**: **Signed into law by GBR**  
(providing tax credits for the donation of land or interest in land)



## 2004

- HJM 37 (Coll): **Funding Sources for Landscape Protection: Passed (no Gov. sig required)**  
(requesting NMDGF/EMNRD study sustainable alternative funding measures to protect NM's unique landscapes, open spaces, recreation areas, wildlife habitats)





## 2005 (Biggest outcome)

- Significant work on “big conservation funding bill” but GBR wanted HB 885 instead
- HB 885 (Sandoval): **Severance Tax Bond Projects**: Signed into law by GBR (\$1M to purchase land/conservation easements to comply with federal ESA, and \$4M to purchase property with unique ecological value and acquire conservation easements in forested areas to reduce wildlife risk, protect open space, and improve wildlife protection areas statewide)



## 2006

- HB 188 (Martinez)/SB407 (Sanchez): **Land, Wildlife, Clean Energy Act**: Died in HTRC (funding was “stripped” by HBIC committee sub)/Passed Senate 19-18, but with oil & gas conservation funding provision removed, establishing program with no money

(providing for distribution of proceeds from the oil and gas conservation tax; creating a board; creating funds; authorizing the issuance of bonds; making an appropriation)





## 2007 and beyond

Advocates “ran out of gas” on issue.

## Now

Inspired and informed energy is encouraging!

- **Fully understand the universe in which you're operating.**
  - Where are key political leaders on initiative?
  - Timing of initiative?
  - Who else is seeking funding mechanisms? Which mechanisms for which issues?
  - Tie initiative to economic wellness because of NM poverty.
  
- **Fully evaluate funding mechanisms.** Listen hard to input you don't want to hear.
  - Where's the "sweet spot" (balancing stakeholders/fund recipients needed to succeed (wildlife, land, water, parks, open space, etc.) vs. how much funding wildlife need.
  - Poll the public, test messaging, pay attention to results.
  - Study/learn as much as possible from others states' successes/failures:

<http://seas.umich.edu/ecomgt/pubs/documents/SummaryOfFindings.pdf>

*(School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan)*





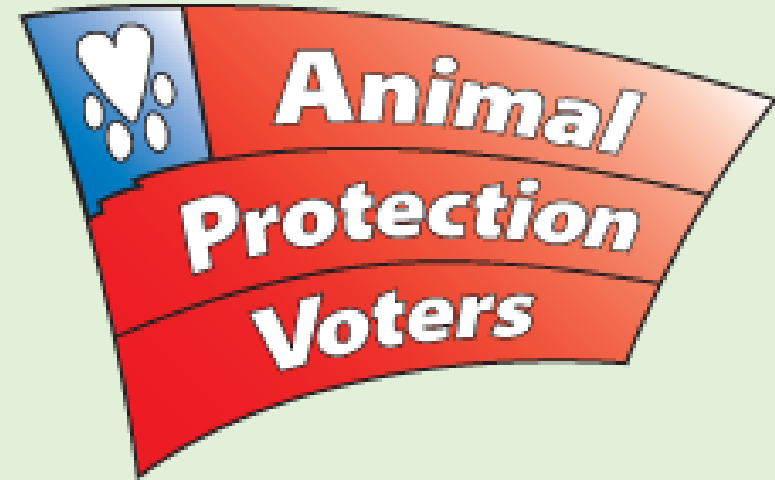
➤ **What will agencies commit to?**

- Consider whether funding mechanism can be/should be coupled with broader wildlife oversight mandates for NM Game & Fish.
- Investment/full partnership of NM Game & Fish—and other recipient agencies like State Parks—is essential for success.
- Budgeting and accountability for spending new funds matters to the public.



- **Elections matter.**
  - Who will be NM's next Governor?
  - Who will be NM's next Land Commissioner?

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