



**Aubrey Dunn, State Land Commissioner  
State of New Mexico**

For Immediate Release

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**Commissioner Dunn and State Game Commission Agree to Three-Year Access Easement  
*Provides Hunters, Anglers and Trappers with Continued Access to State Trust Lands from 2017 to 2020***

**Santa Fe, NM (October 6, 2016)** – New Mexico State Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn and the New Mexico State Game Commission agreed on a new three-year easement at \$1 million per year for access to certain State Trust Lands by authorized hunters, anglers and trappers from 2017 to 2020. The State Game Commission voted to authorize the new agreement with the State Land Office during a public meeting held yesterday in Las Vegas, NM.

“The agreement will maintain access to over 8 million acres of State Trust Lands for authorized hunters, anglers and trappers while ensuring that our beneficiaries – primarily New Mexico’s public school children – continue to be more adequately compensated for this use of the land,” said Commissioner Dunn. “As a longtime hunter, I am also pleased to announce that the State Land Office has been working closely with the Department of Game and Fish to expand the number of access points and campsites for sportswomen and sportsmen on State Trust Lands. The Land Office has received their positive feedback regarding these improvements that will allow them to better enjoy hunting, trapping and fishing on State Trust Lands.”

The new easement, which will be in effect from April 1, 2017, until March 31, 2020, represents a three-year continuation of the \$1 million agreement made between Commissioner Dunn and the State Game Commission in late 2015 for the 2016-17 season. The annual Game and Fish payment of \$1 million under the new agreement will be made to the State Land Office on or before April 1, 2017.

“Contrary to the misinformation, smear attacks and fearmongering peddled by the New Mexico Wildlife Federation, Game and Fish’s existing budget absorbed the cost of last year’s \$1 million agreement with no increase to license fees for hunters, anglers or trappers,” added Commissioner Dunn. “The New Mexico Wildlife Federation’s petty attacks will not change the fact that the Land Office’s agreements with Game and Fish are directing more money to public education in New Mexico.”

The State Land Office is responsible for administering 9 million acres of surface and 13 million acres of subsurface estate for New Mexico’s State Trust Land beneficiaries, which includes public schools, universities, hospitals and other important institutions.

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