



State of New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands

Executive Order No. 2019-001 Prohibiting Organized Killing Contests on State Trust Lands

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Public Lands (the "Commissioner") has broad constitutional authority and statutory jurisdiction over the direction, control, care and disposition of state trust lands, in accordance with the acts of Congress relating thereto and such regulations as may be provided by law (*see* NM Const., art. XIII, Sec. 2 and NMSA 1978, §19-1-1);

WHEREAS, the Commissioner is charged with exercising that authority and jurisdiction for the long-term benefit of the state trust land beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, it is a misdemeanor offense (i) for any person to enter upon, occupy or use state trust lands without having obtained a legal right from the Commissioner to do so; (ii) for any lessee to use state trust lands leased for any purpose than that specified in the lease; and (iii) for any person (lessee or not) to commit waste on state trust lands (*see* NMSA 1978, § 19-6-3);

WHEREAS, an easement issued to the State Game Commission allows entry upon and through certain state trust lands to authorized hunters for the regulated harvest of protected species as defined by Chapter 17 of the NMSA and State Game Commission regulations;

WHEREAS, allowing the use of state trust lands for unrestricted, organized killing contests of coyotes and other unprotected species is inconsistent with sound land management and causes severe disruption of the health of our public lands; and

WHEREAS, high rodent populations have been linked to widespread damage of healthy grazing lands, and allowing coyotes to feed naturally on rodents helps keep the predator-prey balance intact, thereby maintaining healthy and productive public lands;

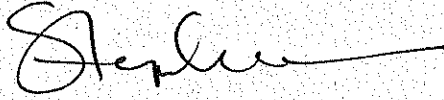
WHEREAS, agribusiness, ranching and the livestock industry are important components of New Mexico's economy;

WHEREAS, when native predators or wild domestic dogs kill agricultural and

companion animals, the specific offending animal needs to be removed in a prompt and humane way;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Stephanie Garcia Richard, Commissioner of Public Lands, hereby determine that state trust lands shall not be used for the purpose of organized killing contests of coyotes and other unprotected species inconsistent with sound land management practices; provided that this restriction shall not be construed as prohibiting individuals lawfully entering, occupying or using state trust lands from promptly and humanely removing or killing a specific offending animal causing depredation to agricultural and companion animals when it is consistent with their authorized occupation and use of state trust lands.

SIGNED AT THE STATE LAND OFFICE
THIS 10TH DAY OF JANUARY 2019.



STEPHANIE GARCIA RICHARD
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

