



2018 NEW MEXICO CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

Outdoor recreation including hunting and fishing is a multi-billion-dollar industry in New Mexico and the United States, supporting jobs and economic development in rural communities. But for many sportsmen and women, hunting and fishing are more than a pastime – they are a passion. Hunters and anglers care deeply about wildlife, habitat and the public lands they have used for generations. They also have a long track record of civic engagement.

For all of those reasons, the New Mexico Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, with the concurrence of the New Mexico organizations listed below, developed a short general public interest questionnaire for every candidate listed the 2018 primary ballot for Governor, Commissioner of Public Lands, U.S. Senate and U.S. House. Our goal was to develop questions that affect all New Mexicans, but which are not often considered during the course of a typical political campaign.

Five individuals are vying to become the next Commissioner of Public Lands in New Mexico. We submitted the same questions to each campaign on April 16, then followed up to ensure they had received the questionnaire. We followed up again with a reminder on April 26, and gave the campaigns additional time if needed.

We received responses from all three Democrats who will appear on the June 5 primary – Stephanie Garcia Richard, George Munoz and Garrett VeneKlasen, as well as from Patrick Lyons, who is unopposed in the Republican primary. Libertarian candidate Mike Lucero, who is unopposed in the Libertarian primary, did not respond.

The candidates' answers are on the following pages, along with a short, campaign-provided biography of the candidate and a photograph. We specifically asked the candidates to keep their answers short. We hope that New Mexico voters of all political backgrounds will find the responses informative.

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers and the following groups are nonprofit charitable 501(c)(3) organizations. We do not endorse or oppose any candidate or party for any political office. We do urge all eligible New Mexico residents to vote.

Jarrett Babincsak, Chairman
New Mexico Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

On behalf of:

- New Mexico Wildlife Federation
- Albuquerque Wildlife Federation
- United Bowhunters of New Mexico
- Wild Turkey Sportsmen's Association
- Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen
- Doña Ana County Associated Sportsmen
- Sportsmen Concerned
- New Mexico Sportsmen





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STEPHANIE GARCIA RICHARD DEMOCRAT

Stephanie Garcia Richard is a three-term Representative and Chair of the House Education Committee. A native New Mexican and lifelong educator, Stephanie learned at a young age the importance of serving others. Her father served in WWII and worked as a schoolteacher. Stephanie followed in her father's footsteps after earning her degree at Columbia University. Stephanie used her experience as an educator to shape policy and now wants to transform the State Land Office into a real advocate for public education, renewable energy, and clean water. Common Cause has awarded Stephanie for her work to increase ethics and transparency in our state government and numerous educational organizations named her a champion for working to pass legislation like early childhood education expansion and restricting the use of restraints on students with autism. Stephanie is endorsed by Commissioner Ray Powell, the New Mexico Building Trades, Dave Simon, and more.

Bio provided by candidate

AS COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS, DO YOU SEE STATE TRUST LANDS AS PUBLIC LANDS? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

State trust lands are public lands. These lands were set aside by Congress over 100 years ago for the purpose of funding our schools, select hospitals, and other public institutions. When Congress created these land trusts, they were setting aside lands to provide the greatest good, for the greatest number of citizens in perpetuity. Efforts to claim state trust lands are not public lands is a first step in privatizing public lands. It also allows land leases, swaps and sales to be carried out behind closed doors and without public comment.

IN THE PAST, THE STATE LAND OFFICE HAS CONSIDERED LEASING CERTAIN TRACTS OF STATE TRUST LAND TO PRIVATE ENTITIES, THUS ALLOWING EXCLUSIVE CONTROL OF HUNTING AND FISHING ACCESS. IS THAT A GOOD IDEA OR A BAD IDEA AND WHY?

Any land deals or leases need to be for the benefit of New Mexicans which is the duty of the State Land Office. Whatever we do we have to remember that care and concern for the land and its resources are our top priority and that we do not put profits before stewardship. That said, our beautiful landscape and excellent outdoor opportunities have made outdoor recreation a major industry for New Mexico, but it could be bigger. Even when accounting for population size, Arizona, Colorado, and Utah have a larger economic impact from outdoor recreation.

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT PERSONS OR CORPORATIONS HOLDING AGRICULTURAL LEASES ON STATE TRUST LAND SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONTROL PUBLIC ACCESS TO THOSE PARCELS?

The state land office allows overlapping recreational and agricultural leases that I will not change. However, all leases whether short term or long term will be required to accept liability and pay for any damage they may cause to the land. Maintaining and caring for our state land for future generations to use and enjoy is of utmost importance.

ENERGY COMPANIES TYPICALLY HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO MITIGATE NEGATIVE IMPACTS TO NATURAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, WHEN OIL, GAS OR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS ARE DEVELOPED ON PUBLIC LAND. DO YOU BELIEVE ENERGY COMPANIES HAVE BEEN MEETING THEIR MITIGATION OBLIGATIONS ON STATE TRUST LANDS OR SHOULD THEY BE REQUIRED TO DO MORE OR LESS?

Currently the industry is relied upon for self-reporting of extraction totals for royalty fees. My platform calls for the end of self-reporting with real inspections that would both verify energy performance for royalty rates as well as check for environmental impact. My platform also calls for methane recapture in order to maximize land use and force more efficient and less damaging environmental impact. And finally, my position is that incentives for cleaner and more responsible project management will be part of contracts going forward. Contracts will have real teeth so that projects that require clean up or show evidence of excessive damage will generate fines for mitigation.

SHOULD THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS BE ALLOWED TO PLACE ADDITIONAL LIMITS ON THE TAKE OF ANY WILDLIFE SPECIES BY LICENSED HUNTERS AND ANGLERS ON STATE TRUST LAND, BEYOND THOSE SET BY THE STATE GAME COMMISSION?

Yes. I will not allow trapping, poisons and coyote killing contests because they kill indiscriminately.

EXPLAIN WHAT CHANGES, IF ANY, YOU WOULD MAKE IN THE WAY THE STATE LAND OFFICE CONDUCTS LAND EXCHANGES OF STATE TRUST LAND WITH PRIVATE PARTIES.

In the past there have been backroom deals that cut of New Mexicans out of the process of managing our state lands. People should have access to land they have enjoyed for generations. One glaring example of how sales can go wrong is the recent White's Peak deal and its reversal by a judge. We need transparency around decision making at the land office and that includes any and all proposed private sales. In the end our state land is held in a trust for all New Mexicans and what we do with our land needs to be the benefit of New Mexicans not private landowners.

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT CURRENT LAW PROVIDES SUFFICIENT CHECKS ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS TO MANAGE OR DISPOSE OF STATE TRUST LANDS? WOULD YOU SUPPORT ADDITIONAL OR FEWER CHECKS ON THE COMMISSIONER'S AUTHORITY?

New Mexico's Enabling Act identified a series of detailed restrictions on trust land dispositions. Most significantly, one major requirement is that trust lands and the natural products of trust lands may only be sold or leased "to the highest and best bidder at a public auction," providing for only a few exceptions to this strict public auction requirement (New Mexico-Arizona Enabling Act, 36 Stat. 557 § 10). However, with our current Land Commissioner we have seen this language is inadequate. The current notification process is not nearly transparent enough and many communities only know of land swaps or sales through the newspaper well after the process has started. My platform calls for greater transparency and early notification to surrounding communities before land is swapped or sold.

EXPLAIN WHY THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS IS AN IMPORTANT OFFICE TO NEW MEXICO SPORTSMEN.

State lands have been used for recreation for generations in New Mexico and important lands for hunting, fishing and other forms of recreation access. Given the complete discretion and near total autonomy that the Land Commissioner has over state lands it makes complete sense that sportsmen would be deeply concerned and interested in not only who becomes Land Commissioner but their vision for recreation on state land in New Mexico. Sportsmen are an important stakeholder of our ecotourism economy and I value their continued partnership in the stewardship and care for our state land.

DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE EXPANDING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY, INCLUDING CAMPING, ON STATE TRUST LANDS? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Yes, recreation should be expanded. In 2013, the New Mexico Partnership, the non-profit organization charged by state government with the task of recruiting industry and jobs to New Mexico did something unusual. That spring, in response to the call of several local communities and elected officials, including myself, the New Mexico Partnership added the outdoor recreation industry to the targeted economic clusters they actively pursue. Outdoor recreation and related industries could be the perfect industry to grow in New Mexico; environmentally sustainable, high wages and economic base, meaning the majority of their sales are to customers outside the state.





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GEORGE MUNOZ
DEMOCRAT

George Munoz is a 6th generation New Mexican. He's a rancher, farmer, and small business owner as well as a lifelong hunter and fisherman. Born and raised in Gallup, NM, he has served for the last ten years in the New Mexico Senate. He is a member of the New Mexico Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus and a champion for New Mexico hunters and fishermen and women. He's proud to have passed Senate Bill 196, which put New Mexicans at the front of the line for the issuance of hunting licenses and tags. He believes that New Mexico's greatest natural resource is our children.

Bio provided by candidate

AS COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS, DO YOU SEE STATE TRUST LANDS AS PUBLIC LANDS? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Absolutely. The purpose of the office of Land Commissioner is to ensure that state lands are there for the next generation of New Mexicans and to generate revenue for the permanent school fund.

IN THE PAST, THE STATE LAND OFFICE HAS CONSIDERED LEASING CERTAIN TRACTS OF STATE TRUST LAND TO PRIVATE ENTITIES, THUS ALLOWING EXCLUSIVE CONTROL OF HUNTING AND FISHING ACCESS. IS THAT A GOOD IDEA OR A BAD IDEA AND WHY?

This is a very bad idea. As a sportsman and father who has passed down a love and respect for hunting and fishing to my family, as my father did for me, we know that access to hunting and fishing cannot be controlled by insiders or exclusive to moneyed interest. As land commissioner, I will govern inclusively and listen to the community on how we can do better in our mission to protect state lands.

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT PERSONS OR CORPORATIONS HOLDING AGRICULTURAL LEASES ON STATE TRUST LAND SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONTROL PUBLIC ACCESS TO THOSE PARCELS?

Persons or corporations that hold agricultural leases are contractually obligated to protect the lands that they lease from the state. When it comes to public access, there needs to be a balanced approach to protecting the sportsman interests and access in coordination with the leaseholder.

As Land Commissioner, I would create a permitting system that insures sportsman and lease holders interests are both protected and that there are communications between all parties so that state lands are protected from bad actors.

ENERGY COMPANIES TYPICALLY HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO MITIGATE NEGATIVE IMPACTS TO NATURAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, WHEN OIL, GAS OR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS ARE DEVELOPED ON PUBLIC LAND. DO YOU BELIEVE ENERGY COMPANIES HAVE BEEN MEETING THEIR MITIGATION OBLIGATIONS ON STATE TRUST LANDS OR SHOULD THEY BE REQUIRED TO DO MORE OR LESS?

There's always more to be done and room for improvement. I would begin by auditing existing requirements and seek public input from interested parties and develop an inclusive plan to move forward. This may be by rule or amending lease contracts.

SHOULD THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS BE ALLOWED TO PLACE ADDITIONAL LIMITS ON THE TAKE OF ANY WILDLIFE SPECIES BY LICENSED HUNTERS AND ANGLERS ON STATE TRUST LAND, BEYOND THOSE SET BY THE STATE GAME COMMISSION?

No.

EXPLAIN WHAT CHANGES, IF ANY, YOU WOULD MAKE IN THE WAY THE STATE LAND OFFICE CONDUCTS LAND EXCHANGES OF STATE TRUST LAND WITH PRIVATE PARTIES.

Before any changes are made, I would create a board with a longer timeline to review proposed swaps and ensure that there is a framework for maximizing the states return on the swap. As Trustee, my number one priority is that the beneficiaries are not taken advantage of.

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT CURRENT LAW PROVIDES SUFFICIENT CHECKS ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS TO MANAGE OR DISPOSE OF STATE TRUST LANDS? WOULD YOU SUPPORT ADDITIONAL OR FEWER CHECKS ON THE COMMISSIONER'S AUTHORITY?

I would welcome additional checks to ensure that the land commissioner's duties reflect present day circumstances.

EXPLAIN WHY THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS IS AN IMPORTANT OFFICE TO NEW MEXICO SPORTSMEN.

The state land office preserves access to state lands for all New Mexicans. This leads to an appreciation and respect for the land and wildlife and preserves it for the next generation of sportsman.

DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE EXPANDING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY, INCLUDING CAMPING, ON STATE TRUST LANDS? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Absolutely. There is no greater time than spent with family and friends in the outdoors of the Land of Enchantment.





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GARRETT VANEKLASEN DEMOCRAT

Garrett's passion for the Land Office stems from his career exploring and conserving New Mexico's state trust and national public lands. Garrett spent most of his career as the owner of a small travel company, helping people explore public lands around the world. Before becoming the Executive Director of the New Mexico Wildlife Federation, he was the SW Director of Trout Unlimited's Sportsmen's Conservation Project as well as Trout Unlimited's New Mexico Public Lands Coordinator. He is outspoken against the transfer of national public lands to individual states. Garrett was born and raised in New Mexico and is fluent in Spanish. He has a deep appreciation and understanding of core New Mexican cultural values. Garrett lives in Santa Fe with his wife, Annie, and daughter Ava.

Bio provided by candidate

AS COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS, DO YOU SEE STATE TRUST LANDS AS PUBLIC LANDS? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

This has recently been a controversy in the news. As the question notes, the official title of the office is the NM Commissioner of Public Lands, stating clearly state trust lands are public lands. I firmly believe this, which is fundamental to why I am running for Land Commissioner. Like national public lands, SLO lands are held in a public trust. The difference between SLO lands and our national public lands is their management mandate. National public lands are managed for multiple use. SLO lands are managed to generate revenue for specific public institutions/beneficiaries including public schools, hospitals, penal institutions etcetera.

IN THE PAST, THE STATE LAND OFFICE HAS CONSIDERED LEASING CERTAIN TRACTS OF STATE TRUST LAND TO PRIVATE ENTITIES, THUS ALLOWING EXCLUSIVE CONTROL OF HUNTING AND FISHING ACCESS. IS THAT A GOOD IDEA OR A BAD IDEA AND WHY?

This is a terrible idea! Free ranging wildlife is held in a public trust. State trust lands are held in a public trust. Both the land and the wildlife should be EQUALLY accessible to all New Mexicans. And for this reason New Mexicans should receive the majority of tags issued on SLO lands similar to the percentages offered in Arizona. 90% residents, 10% non-residents. I will enthusiastically support legislation to permanently set this into NM law.

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT PERSONS OR CORPORATIONS HOLDING AGRICULTURAL LEASES ON STATE TRUST LAND SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONTROL PUBLIC ACCESS TO THOSE PARCELS?

Absolutely not. As long as there is permanent public easement to a specific tract of SLO lands, the public should be able to access and enjoy those lands as long as they have a legitimate SLO pass (hunting/fishing licence or recreation pass). Furthermore, I don't believe lessees with exclusive access to landlocked SLO lands should have exclusive hunting/fishing use of those SLO lands. Either EVERYONE gets to hunt/fish those SLO lands or NO ONE gets to hunt or fish them. I respect the private property rights of those landowners who control access to landlocked lands, but those rights should not offer them exclusive hunting/fishing rights of the public SLO lands behind their private property. If they want to utilize them for hunting or fishing, they will have to at least allow walk-in public access to those SLO lands behind their private property. Permittees who harass or threaten permitted sportsmen/women or recreational users will be subject to losing their SLO lease if I am elected as NM Commissioner of Public Lands.

ENERGY COMPANIES TYPICALLY HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO MITIGATE NEGATIVE IMPACTS TO NATURAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, WHEN OIL, GAS OR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS ARE DEVELOPED ON PUBLIC LAND. DO YOU BELIEVE ENERGY COMPANIES HAVE BEEN MEETING THEIR MITIGATION OBLIGATIONS ON STATE TRUST LANDS OR SHOULD THEY BE REQUIRED TO DO MORE OR LESS?

As Commissioner, I will be a loud voice in the legislative arena backing new laws to create a permanent structure for requiring any leasing and development that happens on state lands to go through a rigorous process, much like NEPA (the National Environmental Policy Act). The Montana and California state environmental policy act legislative models have components of this idea. Furthermore, my restoration initiative focusing on State Land Office tracts with outstanding habitat values will complement a state based environmental policy act.

I also want to give NMDGF back their \$1 million annual access fee and have them wrap that money into a 3:1 USFWS restoration grant that will be applied specifically to SLO restoration projects determined by my SLO Habitat & Wildlife Task Force (composed of sportsmen, conservationists, environmentalists and biologists from NMDGF, USFWS, BLM, and USFS). When elected, the State Land Office will do an immediate species-specific/habitat landscape assessment using United States Fish and Wildlife Services data and the Western Wildlife Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT). I also believe NM needs to significantly raise binding rates tied to mineral development.

SHOULD THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS BE ALLOWED TO PLACE ADDITIONAL LIMITS ON THE TAKE OF ANY WILDLIFE SPECIES BY LICENSED HUNTERS AND ANGLERS ON STATE TRUST LAND, BEYOND THOSE SET BY THE STATE GAME COMMISSION?

Absolutely, though this is a double edged sword which needs careful analysis. Although it has never been done, the Commissioner can amend the NMDGF lease at his/her discretion (that doesn't mean the NMDGF will agree to it, however). I intend to push this idea to its limits with a push for redistribution of tag allocations on SLO lands greatly favoring residents as mentioned above. None of this can happen until the current NMDGF/SLO agreement expires on March 31, 2020.

EXPLAIN WHAT CHANGES, IF ANY, YOU WOULD MAKE IN THE WAY THE STATE LAND OFFICE CONDUCTS LAND EXCHANGES OF STATE TRUST LAND WITH PRIVATE PARTIES.

Obviously White Peak is the poster child for this question and legislative steps - both changing the culture of the office and legislative action - need to be taken.

As part of the permanent mandated accountability/transparency statute changes mentioned above, the State Land Office should have real time reporting on any and all leasing, commercial transactions, and land swap/sales on the State Land Office website - public or private. Any citizen should be able to log on to the website and type in a keyword or specific location and receive real-time information of the State Land Office's ongoing day-to-day business. The website should also have a statewide interactive map with waypoint pins featuring any relevant and ongoing agency business. The agency should also have a public computer bank with a State Land Office staffer in the office who helps citizens who come into the office easily find detailed information about specific tracts of state land.

The State Land Office should be required to hold public meetings and have a public comment structure (similar to the public input structure for national public lands with an EA/EIS and public scoping period) on development plans that have significant impacts on landscapes, communities, watersheds/aquifers, wildlife, or the environment.

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT CURRENT LAW PROVIDES SUFFICIENT CHECKS ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS TO MANAGE OR DISPOSE OF STATE TRUST LANDS? WOULD YOU SUPPORT ADDITIONAL OR FEWER CHECKS ON THE COMMISSIONER'S AUTHORITY?

Currently the NM Commissioner of Public Lands has virtually no mandated oversight or transparency even though he/she manages 9 million surface acres and 13 million acres of subsurface minerals worth billions of dollars. This needs to be immediately and permanently changed.

I began my campaign by calling out the historic "smoke-filled back room" business culture of the Land Office and calling for mandating permanent (through statute and rule) new standards of transparency and accountability. As Commissioner, I will modernize the office and its day-to-day business. The agency's website should have an interactive map showing any and all agency business in real time. The agency must shine a light on its day-to-day business, while literally opening the doors of the office for greater public involvement and broad public engagement on the management of SLO resources. The State Land Office and the Commissioner of Public Lands should be governed by a whole new set of transparency/accountability standards. These should be permanently changed through statute and rule and can be implemented in the first year in office.

The SLO Advisory Board has no authority and meets at the discretion of the Commissioner. Its makeup is antiquated with no true representation of the modern stakeholder community and this should be seriously analyzed. These sort of substantive changes require constitutional amendments, and are truly worthy of discussion.

EXPLAIN WHY THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS IS AN IMPORTANT OFFICE TO NEW MEXICO SPORTSMEN.

Again, the Commissioner is supposed to steward (this is actually a mandate that is rarely mentioned) 9 million acres of critical public lands which fosters extensive populations of native wildlife held in the public trust. Even though sportsmen/women are legitimate leaseholders through the NMDGF access lease (paid for by hunter/angler dollars) public lands sportsmen and women are often treated like second class citizens. Sportsmen/women access and use will change significantly if I am elected.

DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE EXPANDING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY, INCLUDING CAMPING, ON STATE TRUST LANDS? WHY OR WHY NOT?

I view expanded public hunting, fishing, ecotourism and outdoor recreation opportunities as an integral part of leveraging our public lands to support education in our state.

Greatly expanding camping on SLO lands is a no brainer. The USFS model limiting camping close to designated routes and out of critical habitat, riparian, culturally sensitive and certain commercial development being off limits) areas makes the most sense. Arizona is doing it now and making considerable money for its public institutions charging a reasonable fee for camping permits. And like national public lands, backcountry camping should also be widely available throughout the SLO's 9 million acres. There will be no requirement for obtaining camping permission form the grazing permittee if I am elected into office. So yes, I will open almost all of it (with the above mentioned conditions carefully considered) to camping. This has never been done in the history of the NM State Land Office. I look forward to being the first commissioner to make it a reality!





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PATRICK LYONS REPUBLICAN

Patrick H. Lyons is a third generation New Mexican and owner of Lyons Angus Ranch. In addition to serving as a Public Regulation Commissioner, he is an active managing rancher and farmer in New Mexico with a continuous cow/calf operation, buying and selling beef cattle, and growing and harvesting alfalfa. Commissioner Lyons served as the New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands from 2003 to 2010. As Commissioner, he was responsible for revenue generation through the management of more than 13 million acres held in trust for the state's 22 beneficiaries (including universities, public schools, hospitals) through oil and gas, and agricultural leases, economic development, and sales and exchanges of land held in trust. During his tenure, Commissioner Lyons was able to more than double the revenue generated and distributed to beneficiaries, while maintaining an annual flat budget for eight years and every dollar accounted for. From 1992 to 2002, Commissioner Lyons served as a New Mexico State Senator, representing six counties in the northeastern area of the state. During his tenure, he sponsored legislation that led to the acquisition of Eagle Nest Lake for the people of New Mexico. In 1978 and 1979 Commissioner Lyons worked in the Department of Commerce, Agriculture Bureau.

Bio provided by candidate

AS COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS, DO YOU SEE STATE TRUST LANDS AS PUBLIC LANDS? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Yes

IN THE PAST, THE STATE LAND OFFICE HAS CONSIDERED LEASING CERTAIN TRACTS OF STATE TRUST LAND TO PRIVATE ENTITIES, THUS ALLOWING EXCLUSIVE CONTROL OF HUNTING AND FISHING ACCESS. IS THAT A GOOD IDEA OR A BAD IDEA AND WHY?

Sometimes it can be a good idea for commercial leases near metropolitan areas in the path of development. During my tenure as Land Commissioner, the State Land Office was able to secure land leases for both Cleveland Middle School and UNM West Hospital in Rio Rancho. Both of these developments provided jobs and much needed services to the community.

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT PERSONS OR CORPORATIONS HOLDING AGRICULTURAL LEASES ON STATE TRUST LAND SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONTROL PUBLIC ACCESS TO THOSE PARCELS?

If the lease is private property then access should be granted with permission, however if it is a state or county road right-of-way then public access should not be controlled.

ENERGY COMPANIES TYPICALLY HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO MITIGATE NEGATIVE IMPACTS TO NATURAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, WHEN OIL, GAS OR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS ARE DEVELOPED ON PUBLIC LAND. DO YOU BELIEVE ENERGY COMPANIES HAVE BEEN MEETING THEIR MITIGATION OBLIGATIONS ON STATE TRUST LANDS OR SHOULD THEY BE REQUIRED TO DO MORE OR LESS?

Some have and some have not, not every business operates the same way.

SHOULD THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS BE ALLOWED TO PLACE ADDITIONAL LIMITS ON THE TAKE OF ANY WILDLIFE SPECIES BY LICENSED HUNTERS AND ANGLERS ON STATE TRUST LAND, BEYOND THOSE SET BY THE STATE GAME COMMISSION?

The State Land Office does not have the wildlife officers or biologists on staff to make those decisions, which is why they have a lease agreement with the State Game Commission.

EXPLAIN WHAT CHANGES, IF ANY, YOU WOULD MAKE IN THE WAY THE STATE LAND OFFICE CONDUCTS LAND EXCHANGES OF STATE TRUST LAND WITH PRIVATE PARTIES.

The State Land Office currently advertises locally and statewide by newspaper. I believe there are additional ways to get the word out, such as online advertisements and on the Land Office website. The goal is to be as open and transparent as possible..

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT CURRENT LAW PROVIDES SUFFICIENT CHECKS ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS TO MANAGE OR DISPOSE OF STATE TRUST LANDS? WOULD YOU SUPPORT ADDITIONAL OR FEWER CHECKS ON THE COMMISSIONER'S AUTHORITY?

The Legislature has oversight over the budget, while the Auditor's Office and Attorney General ensure compliance with state statutes and laws. Any changes to the authority would require a constitutional amendment. During my tenure as Land Commissioner, we raised a record \$4 Billion with every dollar accounted for.

EXPLAIN WHY THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS IS AN IMPORTANT OFFICE TO NEW MEXICO SPORTSMEN.

The State Land Office provides the opportunity to hunt and fish on State Trust Lands while raising revenue for education.

DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE EXPANDING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY, INCLUDING CAMPING, ON STATE TRUST LANDS? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Yes, I support expanding recreational opportunity. Designated camping sites should be the only access areas due to fire danger, land management and wildlife impact. People should not camp in non-designated areas during wildlife calving season or in areas that will disrupt wildlife. Also, land lessees must maintain the land, which places an undue burden on them and subject them to liability.

