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To: Mason, Wendy, FWMRC
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Subject: [EXTERNAL] RULE CHANGE
Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 10:34:23 AM

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Good morning and greetings,

THANK YOU for considering comments regarding the amendment.

I have had the unique opportunity to know and work with State Botanist Daniela Roth in her professional capacity in efforts to preserve the state-listed endangered Santa Fe Cholla. https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?
url=http%3A%2F%2Frmnrareplants.unm.edu%2Ftoolbar%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cwendy.mason%40state.nm.us%7C365c6528baab41af557086d9a14324f2%7C04aeb8648436420bfb4040b7a70e60f8%7C0%7C0%7C637718132627322793%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3dfeyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=ypbRzfiIzrZaVHvoAvEmf%2FU1MfBoqkbFYIcPPcUwqe8%3D&reserved=0
Ms. Roth is exceptional in her relentless dedication and service.

The "mission" to preserve the Santa Fe Cholla started 20 years ago due to the rapid disappearance and the near total unawareness, often abusive and threatening attitudes present, and the lack of recognition and protective measures.

At that time David J. Fergusson, Curator Rio Grande Botanic Garden, Albuquerque, NM, noted that if the few surviving Santa Fe Cholla at Fort Marcy Park died that might be the end of the unique plant.

The future of the Santa Fe Cholla was guaranteed by the efforts of a few concerned citizens. The undertaking was its own reward but it is not a viable or desirable process. A process that cannot be counted upon to save other species.

The amendment changes the current threatening environment and will assure current and future generations that our intrinsically valuable species will continue to flourish with adequate measures for protection.

I have been involved for years with advancing the recognition, informed understanding, and protective measures for other species: coyotes, snakes, and important indigenous wild lives. These species may not be threatened by extinction but are abused, threatened, and exploited by various "dark forces" that fail to consider the long range consequences of short term, often self-centered, motivations and conduct.

The hard fought battles to stop the coyote killing contests and trapping on public lands were needlessly delayed amid the state politics that made the enviable protections delayed in service of private interests. These interests cannot direct or be part of a progressive agenda to move New Mexico into a sustainable future.

The opportunity to advance protections without the political gymnastics and contortions experienced in the legislature is special and unique.

It is also obvious, even by a casual observer, that the progressive climate for protecting our natural environment and its indigenous species has been advanced, frankly, by women in key positions. Specially our governor and state land commissioner. Clearly this perspective and sensitivity is crucial to the creation of an advanced and extended environment of coexistence.

I am certainly concerned for the immediate future for New Mexico but the extended protections will be a gift and a profound legacy to be enjoyed by future generations.

We know extinctions to be irreversible. Please consider continuing to advance a progressive agenda for our natural environment and it's many unique species.

My very best wishes,

Joe Newman

(Cactus Rescue Project, Project Coyote, TrapFree New Mexico, Snake Responders)

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