

GOVERNOR
Bill Richardson



DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY
TO THE COMMISSION
Bruce C. Thompson, Ph.D.

Robert S. Jenks, Deputy Director

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF GAME & FISH

One Wildlife Way
Post Office Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504
Phone: (505) 476-8008
Fax: (505) 476-8124

Visit our website at www.wildlife.state.nm.us
For information call: 505-476-8000
To order free publications call: 1-800-862-9310

STATE GAME COMMISSION

Dr. Tom Arvas, Chairman
Albuquerque, NM

M.H. "Dutch" Salmon, Vice-Chairman
Silver City, NM

Sandy Buffett, Commissioner
Santa Fe, NM

Jim McClintic, Commissioner
Albuquerque, NM

Alfredo Montoya, Commissioner
Alcalde, NM

Oscar Simpson., Commissioner
Albuquerque, NM

Leo V. Sims, II, Commissioner
Hobbs, NM

Mr. Darren Benjamin, Deputy Chief
Division of Fish and Wildlife Management
and Habitat Restoration
4401 North Fairfax Drive
Mail Stop 730
Arlington, Virginia 22203

4 September 2008

Dear Mr. Benjamin,

The New Mexico Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Council (AISAC) gratefully acknowledges the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) for preliminary review of the "*Draft New Mexico Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan*" (NMPlan).

Based on comments from the ANSTF and those received during a 30-day public review period ending 15 August 2008, I submit the final version of the "*New Mexico Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan*" for review and approval by the ANSTF. The NMPlan has also been submitted for concurrent review and approval by the Governor of New Mexico, Mr. Bill Richardson.

The NMPlan represents a collaborative effort by the AISAC, a coalition of state and federal agencies, NGOs, water user groups, and private citizens. This plan was developed in accordance with the ANSTF's "*Guidance for State and Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plans*." The "Implementation Table" of the NMPlan shows no fiscal year budget allocations for state or federal expenditures, as no state agency currently has funding sources solely dedicated to address aquatic invasive species issues. The AISAC and numerous state agencies will approach the 2009 New Mexico Legislature to request permanent funding and statutory authority for a state-level Aquatic Invasive Species Program.

Please direct your correspondence regarding the NMPlan to:

Mr. Darren Benjamin
4 September 2008
Page -2-

Brian Lang
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
P. O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Phone: 505-476-8108
Email: brian.lang@state.nm.us
Fax: 505-476-8128

Thank you for your guidance and review of this plan.

Respectfully,

Brian Lang (electronically signed)

Brian Lang,
Acting AIS Coordinator

ENC: one (NMPlan, electronic file, separate cover)
one (comments, electronic file, separate cover)

CC: Joanna Prukop, Cabinet Secretary, EMNRD
Bruce Thompson, Director, NMDGF
Bob Jenks, Assistant Director, NMDGF
Luke Shelby, Assistant Director, NMDGF
Dan Brooks, Chief, Law Enforcement, NMDGF
Dave Simon, Director, State Parks Department
Toby Velasquez, Chief, Law Enforcement, SPD
Bob Pitman, USFWS, Region 2, ANS Coordinator