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AG Balderas Calls on New Mexico Game Commission to Strengthen New Mexico's Waterway Access Rules

ALBUQUERQUE, NM -- Today, Attorney General Hector Balderas called on the New Mexico Game Commission to immediately strengthen its regulations to address waterway access in compliance with state law. The Attorney General's call for action follows a years long debate surrounding the public's right to access waterways that are adjacent to private land.

"New Mexican families and landowners deserve access to our waterways while protecting the safety of their property, so I will be directing the commission to strengthen the process to protect private property rights and minimize trespass, while respecting access rights and outdoor activities of sports enthusiasts."

In 2015, the New Mexico Legislature passed legislation that addressed the balance between protecting private landowners' interests in protecting their property from trespass and damage, while ensuring New Mexicans' rights of access to waterways are protected. Game Commission regulations address these matters, but the current commission leadership has raised concerns regarding the adequacy of the permitting processes these regulations create. The Office of the Attorney General will work with the commission in the coming months to strengthen the rules governing these processes and ensuring that the Legislature's intent is carried out.

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