# Deer Lake Association Spring Meeting Minutes
# Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 10:00am
# North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center
# 7521 Carmel NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113
# and Virtual via Zoom

**Attendees (In-Person):** Glen Flanders (President), Kevin Tracey (Vice-President), Robert Starkey (Treasurer), Krystal Rodriguez (Secretary), John Bailey (Member at Large), Steve Coleman (Bookkeeper), Larry Wiles, Robert Rodriguez, Joe Nolan, Roseanne Starkey, Julia Starkey, Kathleen Flanders, Dave and Nancy Kelly, Larry and Kathy Tafoya, Steve and Lisa Berniklau, Roxanne Henning, Jerry and Connie Wenk, Merrilou and Kenny Long, Sara Money, Barbara Buxton, Leonard and Rosalie Gutierrez, Silas Suazo, Thomas Krock, Helen Herning, Melissa Parra, Mike Schiffer, Benjamin Otero, Faith Lovato, Jacque Mangham, Tiffany Casados, Steve Hayden, Ron Hawks, Lloyd and Kyla Wood, and Leroy Ortiz.

**Attendees (Online):** Bobby Bailey and Jonathan Skiles.

**Meeting called to order at 10:05am.**

**Welcome (President, Glen Flanders):**

- Welcome Remarks
- The Fall 2026 meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 27, 2026, from 6:30-8:30pm.

**U.S. Forest Service – District Fire Chief, Mr. Thomas Krock**

- There have been a lot of changes in Forest Service personnel because of staffing reductions within the agency. The Cuba District Office has been combined with the Jemez District Office.
- Reading Materials were passed out to members that consist of (see PDF Attachments):
    - Layered Maps
    - IFTDSS Report: Landscape Fire Behavior Summary Report – Deer Lake Run (dated 03.25.26)
    - Cards
        - Understanding Fire Danger
        - U.S. Forest Service QR Code for Information
- Summary of the Nacimiento Fire
    - The fire started the night of March 21st and was reported on March 22nd
    - Mr. Krock was the first person on the scene and initiated dispatch
    - Fire was active along the oak tree bed
    - Air Tankers dropped 8 loads of retardant (equates to about 25,000 gallons of water)
    - 2 Hot Shot Crews were on scene
    - Fire Engines Onsite.
    - Volunteers were performing notification duties.
    - As of the meeting, one week later, Forest Service still has crews monitoring the fire and checking the ground for hot spots. These activities will not be completed until it is all out. By Sunday, it is anticipated that only the Cuba fire engine/crew will be onsite.
    - The cause of the fire remains under investigation; high probability it was human caused.
    - Lucky the Nacimiento fire occurred now in March and not later in the season as the outcome would have been different.
- The Forest Service response time after a fire is reported is dependent on where they are in the district and what operations they are currently involved in at time of notification.

- Air Tankers are deployed out of Albuquerque.
- Seasonal employees are scheduled to start April 6, 2026.
- Cuba District has two fire engines (Type 3 and Type 6) and each are staffed with six individuals. In addition, the office has a Fire Prevention Officer and the District Fire Chief for a total of 14 individuals.
- Cuba District is the highest staffed district right now in NM.
- Road closures only occur for snow and for elk calving. However, historically, roads have been closed if there are no funds to maintain them.
- Assistance for Fire Mitigation efforts are:
    - Fire Wise Grants
    - New Mexico State Forestry Office in Bernalillo (Point-of-Contact: Kevin Pacheco)
- To remove green waste, it was discussed that the Forest Service could help with providing an air curtain/tub grinder since the county closed the green waste dump down by the Sandoval County Fair Grounds.
- Fire Danger Signs are based off fuel measurements which take 3-4 days to get data. However, fuel systems are not activated this early in the season because we typically have snow accumulation this time of year. Fuel systems typically start April-May timeframe.
- To close the forest, all fire managers must meet. For this year, this important meeting occurred on Thursday, March 26, 2026. It is anticipated that Stage 1 fire restrictions will go into effect in the next few weeks and will quickly progress to Stage 2 and 3 early in the season.
- Area did not have good snowpack but did get a good amount of rain. Readings state we got 70-80% of normal precipitation.
- The Forest Service currently has no plans to initiate prescribed burns. These types of activities would be planned in the fall or winter months and not spring and summer months.
- Fire prevention patrols are currently ongoing and are conducted based on availability. If additional support is needed, outside resources can be requested.
- The Forest Service rangers are not law enforcement. If they encounter difficult individuals, there is only so much they can do before having to call the New Mexico State Police. Law enforcement helps patrol during high traffic times such as popular summer holidays.
- Recommended to Google “NM State Forestry” and “Fire Prevention” to educate yourself further on these topics.
- Deer Lake Pile Burning Project has come to an end. All piles they can burn have been burned along with reducing green was through mastication efforts. Any piles that remain will stay there until additional funds are secured to continue this project.
- If water is unavailable to fight future fires, the Forest Service would order water tenders from the State of New Mexico. They don’t typically fight forest fires with water but rather focus on making a break in the fire line. Water is used solely to mop things up.
- Evacuation Protocol
    - Ready – Fire in the area
    - Set – Likelihood of impact, pack and prepare for evacuation
    - Go – Leave now, can’t return to the area
    - Law enforcement cannot force you to leave but you stay at your own risk.
- The Forest Service dispatches are different from 911 emergency dispatches. Once the Forest Service dispatches, they contact 911 to start evacuation which coordinates with the New Mexico Emergency Operations Office. Law enforcement will aid with evacuation protocols.
- If/when the Deer Lake Association has a change to points-of-contacts they should contact the State Forestry to update contact information with the New Mexico Emergency Operations Office.

**New Mexico Game and Fish – Captain, Ben Otero and Officer, Faith Lovato**

- Association explained situation that occurred in the fall 2025 where a lot owner killed a deer in Deer Lake (on their own property) but the deer then jumped into neighboring where it died. The hunting lot owner contracted the lot owner where the deer died and asked permission to retrieve the dead animal.
    - It is not illegal to hunt on private land if you have written permission to do so.
    - You must also have permission to retrieve the dead animal from private land.
    - Must have a valid hunting permit for the area.
    - If Homeowners Association wants to prevent hunting within Deer Lake, it must be stated in the Bylaws along with methods of enforcement.
    - Law enforcement or Game and Fish will not implement bylaws on the Association's behalf to include monitoring fishing permits and rules.
- Rules
    - Shooting (bullets/arrows) cannot be performed within 150 yards of occupied dwellings.
        - This rule makes it difficult to shoot anywhere within Deer Lake.
        - If you see shooting within 150 yards you should call New Mexico State Police who will dispatch accordingly or you can call the New Mexico Game and Fish Dispatch line at 505.841.9256.
    - Shooting from a front porch is illegal.
    - Exception is if you must kill an animal for personal protection. Must report such shooting to NM Game and Fish within 24 hours.
    - No shooting from vehicles.
- Mountain Lions
    - Year-round hunt from April 1st to March 31st.
    - Both male and female quotas are managed by the New Mexico Game and Fish and once they are met the zone is closed.
    - An increase in human conflicts with mountain lions occurs when zones are closed since houndsman are not in the area hunting and scaring the lions away from people.
        - Houndsman are guides/hunters with hunting dogs that track scents. Dogs are good at identifying whether the lion is a male or female.
- Bears
    - Bears are also managed under a quota system.
    - Bear season is typically two weeks out of the year.
    - There are not many bear issues in or near Deer Lake anymore as they are not being rehomed in the area.
- There are no prohibitions for killing coyotes as they are not a protected species.
- Fishing
    - Since the Associations owns the lake and stocks it, the burden of monitoring and managing it falls on the Association.
    - The only issue that NM Game and Fish can assist with would be illegal trespassing.
    - Mr. Otero will send signage verbiage for no trespassing, and it should be posted at the entrance.
- Feeding Wildlife
    - There are laws against feeding wildlife.
    - By feeding wildlife it can create a nuisance to the community. For instance, it can increase mountain lion kills in the area as they keep returning to the area to find prey and it can initiate the outbreak of disease (Chronic Waste Disease).
    - The goal is to keep deer independent, so they do not die if they are not sustained 365 days a year by humans.

    - Food typically given to deer causes them great harm, so it is encouraged not to do this. Food such as bird seeds are the worst for them as their body does not know how to process it and it creates ulcers inside them.
    - Use of salt licks is okay but not needed in the summertime. They are useful in the wintertime.
- UTV/ATV Laws
    - The New Mexico Game and Fish is responsible for enforcing these laws and posts signs for UTV/ATV use.
    - UTVs/ATVs cannot ride on HWY 126; exception is crossing HWY 126 to cross over to Blue Bird.
    - Not authorized on state highways unless the community/city has granted an exception (i.e. Red River, Espanola etc.).
    - If an owner has received a "pavement license/registration" that does not authorize the ATV/UTV's use on state highway unless the community/city has granted the exception noted above.
    - There is a $200 fine for riding on a UTV/ATV on a state highway and you can get points on your license.
    - Kids must have a helmet on when on a UTV/ATV.
    - Make sure you have your registration with you when riding. No proof of registration is a $10 fine.
- If your family is struggling and in need of meat, you can contact Officer, Faith Lovato, at 505-538-5250 to see what New Mexico Game and Fish has available.

Upon the completion of the New Mexico Game and Fish's presentation, both groups departed and the meeting continued addressing normal Association business.

- All Association Members attending in person introduced themselves.

**Association Meeting Minutes Approval**

- Members were asked for feedback regarding the Deer Lake Association Fall Meeting Minutes held on October 1, 2025. No corrections were recommended. **Motion to approve the Association Meeting Minutes was made by acclamation, motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report -** Both Glen Flanders and Steve Coleman gave the Treasurer's Report.

- The Association's CD matured on January 18, 2026. A new 4-month CD was entered into at 3.85% and it will mature on May 18, 2026. The CD will be renewed at the best possible rate in May 2026.
- The Association's Profit and Loss Statement was presented for the Period of April 1, 2025, to March 20, 2026, and it showed a positive balance of $4.60. However, additional dues have been posted since March 20th, and the balance is more than $2,000.
- This last fiscal year, the Board, along with the Bookkeepers help, were able to collect 100% of the dues and there are no outstanding balances.
- No questions were raised regarding the expenditures year-to-date from the Association Members.
- The Association remains financially solvent.
- Summary, annually the association collects dues of $8900, and half of this income goes towards insurance costs.
- The April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027, budget was presented to the Association for approval.

- Krystal Rodriguez requested that one item be removed, annual Zoom subscription of $180 as the cost keeps increasing, very few virtual participants at each meeting, equipment is becoming dated and it's a burden to the Board to manage. **A motion to cancel the Zoom subscription was made by Jacque Mangham, seconded by Larry Wiles. Motion carried.**

**Lake Report**

- The water levels are currently so low at the lake the Association agreed that there is no need to do any lake maintenance at this time. All agreed that mother nature would run its course this summer and the Association will have lake cleanups for trimming and removing debris, as needed.
- Mr. Steve Berniklau raised that he had a point-of-contact regarding a rubber liner and he would obtain information on this possibility for Deer Lake.
- Aerators will remain on as long as we have water.
- Historically, the upper lake has been burned to remove cat tails and other growth. However, we will need a fire truck onsite if the Association wants to pursue this.
- Fence between the upper and lower lake was left up for safety reasons (i.e., keep ATV/UTVs from crossing).

**Budget Approval**

- **A motion was made by Glen Flanders to approve the budget as presented minus the Zoom subscription. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

**Road Maintenance**

- The emergency exit remains in good shape. At this time there is no need for it to be serviced.

**New Business:**

- Many lot owners have had their homeowner's insurance cancelled for their properties at Deer Lake. An Association Member, Mr. Joe Nolan, brought business cards to an agent from Allstate who provides insurance at Deer Lake. See attachment for contact information. The Association is not endorsing this agent but only providing it for informational purposes.
- A Social Committee Sign-Up sheet was initiated and discussed by Krystal Rodriguez. It was discussed that social activities are not part of the Board's official business and therefore as a community we need to come together to build up our community. This was well received and we received 12 volunteers to plan social activities this summer. Committee will meet soon to start planning.

**Board Vacancies**

- President, Glen Flanders, announced that this was his last term and did not seek reelection.
- There are two Board vacancies available for a two-year term. It was announced that Krystal Rodriguez agreed to serve on the Board for an additional two-year period. In addition, we had a nomination for Helen Herning to join the Board. No other members expressed interest in serving on the Board. **Based on this, the Association, by acclamation, voted to have Krystal Rodriguez and Helen Herning serve a two-year term on the Deer Lake Association's Board.**

**Thank You**

- Krystal thanked President, Glen Flanders for his 12 years of service to the Deer Lake Board and wished him well doing other things he enjoys.
- Cake was served at the end of the meeting in Glen's honor.

**Deer Lake's Association Meeting was adjourned at 11:53am.**