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# Conservation groups nickname NM 'The Land of Entrapment'

Posted at: 09/24/2013 2:04 PM | Updated at: 09/24/2013 2:09 PM  
By: Elizabeth Reed, KOB.com

Conservation groups outraged by a [prairie dog hunting contest](#) organized by a Los Lunas gun shop last month are giving New Mexico a nickname that they say "more accurately represents the state's treatment of wildlife."

"The Land of Entrapment" won in the groups' online poll asking respondents to pick a new slogan for the state.

"The responses revealed a lot of sadness and anger from residents and visitors alike," said Taylor Jones, representative for WildEarth Guardians.

"Respondents agreed that killing contests and leg-hold traps all over public lands aren't 'enchanting.'"



KOB File Photo

The animal groups [attempted to stop the hunting contest](#) by writing an appeal to the organizer, Mark Chavez. They proposed a meeting with the gun shop to talk about other solutions for controlling the prairie dog population in New Mexico, but Chavez said the contest was a way to promote hunters' rights.

"People are trying to take our guns away and hunting is an avenue for them to do it," Chavez told KOB [Eyewitness News 4](#) on the first day of the contest.

The hunt lasted 10 days across the state and mandated that competitors follow New Mexico Game and Fish guidelines.

After organizing the online poll, conservation groups say they have sent a letter to the New Mexico Tourism Department asking officials to "support future legislation to ban cruel treatment of wildlife and ensure that the state lives up to its current nickname, 'The Land of Enchantment.'"

The letter can be read on [WildEarth Guardians' website](#).

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
Posting as Taylor Jones ([Change](#)) [Comment](#)

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 **Elisabeth K. Dicharry** · Top Commenter · The University of Arizona

Nobody is trying to take guns away and this isn't about hunting. It is about wildlife killing contests held by commercial, competitive, and fund raising promoters that advocate the bloodsport killing of wildlife (especially species native to the USA such as prairie dogs and coyotes) for entertainment and prizes. Mr. Chavez and company continue to make false excuses for poor behavior. We are not the extremists -- they are.

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 **Edward Smith** · Top Commenter

Bs when i have coyotes coming into my yard after my dogs in day light it's time to thin them out.At least know what your talking about before you start.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 52 minutes ago

 **Sebastian Smith** · CNM Central New Mexico Community College


Ridiculous. This is not a new name! We've had this name for many, many, years. And as long as we're thinning out the rodent er, I mean, prairie dog population, let's get rid of some pigeons and doves too. Ya, I'm all about PETA! People Eating Tasty Animals!

[Reply](#) · [7](#) · [Like](#) · [Follow Post](#) · 17 hours ago

 **Susie Kaehler** · Top Commenter

I agree!!!!

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 **Leilani Nonies** · [Follow](#) · University of New Mexico

Heh...how DOES prarie dog taste? Or pigeon for that matter?

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 13 hours ago

 **Brenda Tyrrell** · Top Commenter · Albuquerque, New Mexico

Sport killing is wrong no matter how you try to present it.

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 **Nancy Hicks** · Top Commenter


This is not sport. This is killing for the sake of killing, because these "macho" people are trying to compensate for their lack of male parts.

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 **Zachary Stauber** · Top Commenter · University of New Mexico


Nancy Hicks Well that's certainly true. It's destruction of life as entertainment. Not hunting, not sporting, not wildlife management.

[Reply](#) · [2](#) · [Like](#) · 8 hours ago

 **Zachary Stauber** · Top Commenter · University of New Mexico


This is true. This is not hunting, it's not sporting, and it's not wildlife management. It's destruction of life for fun. We have some of the most liberal trapping laws in the country, too, and no enforcement of what little is on the books. Even pets are caught in these things and nobody is ever held responsible. What a terrible, painful way for animals to die. I don't know any hunter that will have anything to do with trapping.

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 **Dave Christy** · Top Commenter · Sandia High School

Haha! They couldn't come up with something more original????? Sebastian Smith is right - we've had this name for many, many years.


[Reply](#) · [2](#) · [Like](#) · [Follow Post](#) · 16 hours ago

 **Karen Hackey** · Top Commenter

There's nothing 'extreme' about respecting and co existing with our magnificent wildlife. Arrogant people who think it's their God given right to decide which of His beings are worthy of life or not have many hard lessons ahead. Please evolve as soon as possible,

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