

# The Rewilding Institute

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**To: The New Mexico Game Commission**

**Re: Restoration of River Otters to New Mexico**

The Rewilding Institute is a non-profit conservation think tank that supports and is dedicated to the protection, restoration, and conservation of biological diversity in New Mexico and North America. A primary focus of our mission is the restoration of native predators. We enthusiastically support the proposal to restore river otters to their native habitats in New Mexico.

We suspect that you have been fully briefed by Department of Game and Fish experts and others on the biology and ecology of river otters. Thus, we will spare you another long iteration of these details and the ecological advantages of otter restoration. Suffice it to say that reintroducing the otter will restore this aquatic predator to a long-vacant ecological niche; and that its return to New Mexico's aquatic ecosystems could contribute, naturally, to the control of exotic fish and crayfish. Aquatic ecosystems within which the otter is restored will become more "natural" as a result.

The Rewilding Institute appreciates this opportunity to comment on the proposal to restore river otters to New Mexico's aquatic ecosystems.

Sincerely,

David R. Parsons  
Carnivore Conservation Biologist