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NM Capitol Report | A view from the New Mexico state capitol

08/27/2011

Reptile critic too lazy to be original

This is a story of a thief at work. Her name is Marita Noon.

She immodestly describes herself as "an accomplished author of 19 books and a nationally known Christian speaker." Her day job, apparently, is as executive director of the Citizens' Alliance for Responsible Energy.

Noon is an opponent of the federal government listing the dunes sagebrush lizard as an endangered species. The reptile lives in eight counties in the Permian Basin, where oil is king.

Noon can take whatever stand she likes. But she was too lazy to report and write the latest lizard development on her own.

This is what I wrote on Aug. 14 and what was published in eight newspapers under my byline:

The most controversial reptile in Texas and New Mexico does not deserve a place on the federal endangered species list, a group said Monday.

State Rep. Dennis Kintigh, R-Roswell, led a volunteer panel that in May began studying the dunes sagebrush lizard. Kintigh, a retired FBI agent with no background in biology, said from the start he did not support endangered status for the lizard.

He said his group's research backed up his initial hypothesis."

This is what Noon typed five days later under her byline on Texas Insider.Org.

"The most controversial reptile in Texas & New Mexico does not deserve a place on the federal endangered species list, said a group of independent researchers Monday.

... State Rep. Dennis Kintigh, R-Roswell, led a volunteer panel that in May began studying the dunes sagebrush lizard. Kintigh, a retired FBI agent with no background in biology, said from the start he did not support endangered status for the lizard.

He said his group's research backed up his initial hypothesis."

The only change Noon made after lifting the top of my story was to call Kintigh's group "independent researchers," which is untrue. The group was aligned from the start with U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce, R-Hobbs, who is one of the most vigorous opponents of the lizard being listed as endangered.

I wrote to Noon, asking her for her stand on plagiarism. She has not replied. She continues to claim credit for my work.

Numerous bloggers also took my story for their sites, but they properly attributed it.

Posted by Milan Simonich on 08/27/2011 at 09:36 AM | [Permalink](#)