

What's New

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: **1-888-248-6866**

Open Sights ONLY for Muzzleloaders

Only iron sights are allowed on muzzle-loading rifles when used during a muzzleloader hunt (Hunt Codes: XXX-3-XXX). Scopes, red dots and all other optical sights are prohibited.

Once-in-a-Lifetime Hunt for Gould's Turkey

A new, once-in-a-lifetime hunt has been established in GMUs 26 and 27. See page 105.

Once-in-a-Youth Hunts for Oryx and Ibex

Youth-only hunts on WSMR for oryx and the Florida Mountains Hunt Area for ibex are now once-in-a-youth hunts.

Youth Encouragement Elk Hunts

Seniors are no longer eligible for encouragement hunts, see details on page 81.

New Bighorn Sheep Hatchet Mountains Hunt Areas

The Hatchet Mountains hunt area for desert bighorn ram hunts has been divided into two hunt areas. See page 93.

Additional Access to Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

Additional WMAs and other properties are now open for hunting. See individual species sections for details.

Over-the-Counter Barbary Sheep

Additional areas are now open for BBY-1-300. See page 97.

Resident Veteran Oryx Hunt on White Sands Missile Range

All resident veterans are now eligible for a new, once-in-a-lifetime oryx hunt on White Sands Missile Range.

Female/Immature Definitions for Ibex and Barbary Sheep

A F-IM ibex must have horns less than 20 inches, and a F-IM Barbary sheep must have horns less than 18 inches long.

Population Management Option for Javelina and Barbary Sheep

There is now a 5th choice option on the javelina and Barbary sheep draw application.

Turkeys on a Roost

It is no longer legal to shoot a turkey on a roost.

Off-Range Oryx Hunt for Seniors 70 and Older

An off-range oryx hunt has been established for resident and nonresident seniors 70 and older.

Important Reminders

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Mandatory Harvest Reporting

All Barbary sheep, deer, elk, ibex, javelina, oryx, pronghorn, turkey and trapper license holders must submit a harvest report, whether they hunted or not. Deadlines for species are listed on page 6. Harvest reports may be submitted online, by telephone or in person at NMDGF offices. Remember to keep your confirmation number!

Electronic Tag (E-Tag) Option for Big Game and Turkey

Hunters may choose the E-Tag option when purchasing or applying for any big-game or turkey hunt. You will not receive a carcass tag if you choose this option. Hunters who choose the E-Tag option are required to download the NM E-Tag app on their smartphone, and **must be able to show the license on their phone while in the field**. A printed license and/or carcass tag are not required, but the animal must still be physically tagged. See pages 8–9 for details.

License/Tag Combo Available Online or by Phone

Hunters who choose to receive a physical carcass tag may not need to carry a separate license. If the license is applied for or purchased online or by telephone, the top section of the carcass tag will serve as a valid license. Hunters must carry the license/carcass tag with them in the field while hunting (details, page 9). If you do not purchase the habitat stamp through the draw, or prior to May 15, 2023, a printed copy may be required. The combined license/tag is not available for license purchases and/or duplicate tags at over-the-counter (OTC) license vendors.

Habitat Stamp

The habitat stamp must be purchased prior to hunting or fishing on BLM and Forest Service lands. To be included in a combined draw license/tag, the habitat stamp must be purchased before May 15, 2023. The habitat stamp must be carried while in the field.

Draw Carcass Tags will be Mailed

Successful draw applicants who did not choose the E-Tag option will receive the license/tag(s) via U.S. Postal Service in late-May or early-June.

Buy a 2023 Game Hunting License through Draw Application

Draw applicants purchasing 2023 game-hunting licenses to apply for draw hunts must click “Draw Hunt Applications” in the main menu and purchase the license as part of the application process. Do not click “License Sales.”

Early Purchase Available for 2023–24 Licenses

Licenses for the 2023–24 license year beginning April 1 will be available online, by telephone, and at license vendors and NMDGF offices beginning March 27.

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Duplicate License Fee

A \$6 duplicate license fee will be charged for all duplicate tags/licenses in accordance with New Mexico state law. This fee will be charged only when a duplicate tag is obtained requiring reprinting the license with a new tag number. Big-game and turkey hunters are advised not to purchase their licenses online if they plan to obtain the tag(s) at a license vendor.

Over the Counter (OTC) Licenses for Some Species Available July 1

OTC licenses for javelina, fall turkey, private-land deer, private-land pronghorn, private-land Barbary sheep, secondary management zone private-land elk, and federal duck stamps will be available beginning July 1.

Information Center Extended Hours

The NMDGF Information Center is open year-round, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (except holidays) to answer your questions and assist with license issues and harvest reporting. Extended hours are March 13–17 from 8 a.m.–6 p.m. and March 20–21 from 8 a.m.–8 p.m. The Information Center will close at 4:30 p.m. on March 22.

Requirements for Military Documentation

Proof of service for all military-only hunts and veteran oryx hunts must be received by NMDGF prior to application.

Draw Refunds

Draw license fee refunds for unsuccessful applicants will be processed shortly after draw results are released in April. Applications paid by credit card will be refunded directly to the credit card used for the transaction within 10 business days. Applications paid by cash will be refunded by check by the end of May. Game-hunting license and stamp purchases will not be refunded.

Bear and Turkey Draw Permits

Bear and turkey draw permits must be validated by purchasing an OTC bear or turkey license.

Donate an Unused License

A license may be donated to NMDGF for transfer to a youth (17 years of age or younger), a resident veteran or a resident first responder who has been qualified through a nonprofit organization that promotes hunting (page 20).

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50% Discount for Resident Military and Veterans

New Mexico residents who are active-duty military or honorably discharged veterans are eligible for a 50% discount on all licenses, permits and stamps. Proof of service may be requested to verify eligibility. See page 16 and *Glossary*, pages 122–127 for eligibility requirements and details.

Hunting Maps

A variety of maps, including big game management units, bighorn sheep and turkey ranges, the Silver City management area, elk private lands, pronghorn private lands, state lands, and unitization maps are available online:

www.wildlife.state.nm.us/hunting/maps/

Contact Land Management Agencies Before Hunting

Prescribed burns, wildfires, closures and other activities that could affect hunting may occur on public lands or be conducted by land management agencies during hunting seasons. NMDGF recommends contacting the appropriate management agency prior to your hunt for information on activities that may affect access or animal behavior in your hunting area. Visit: **nmfireinfo.com**. For agency contact information, please see pages 38–42.

Mexican Gray Wolf: Encounters and Identification

Know where wolf encounters may occur and how to distinguish the Mexican gray wolf from coyotes (pages 117 and 118).

Legal Shooting Hours

Legal shooting hours for big game and turkey are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset, unless otherwise noted.

Marked Game Animals

It is legal to harvest a game animal with a radiocollar, eartag or other human-placed identifying mark. Please contact NMDGF at 505-476-8038 to return radiocollars, as they store data and can be used on another animal.

Important Dates

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Important Dates to Remember for All Game

- Feb. 15** Deadline to apply for bear and turkey draw permits. Applications must be completed before 5 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (MST).
- Feb. 15** Deadline to submit 2022–23 harvest reports for deer, elk, pronghorn and turkey license holders. Reports can be submitted online or by telephone. Late fees apply after this date.
- Feb. 22** Results for bear and turkey draw permits are available online, by telephone and at NMDGF offices. Permits will be available in the E-Tag app and can be printed on standard paper after the appropriate license(s) are purchased.
- Mar. 22** Deadline to apply for draw licenses for Barbary sheep, bighorn sheep, deer, elk, ibex, javelina, pronghorn, oryx, and private-land only deer licenses in Units 2A, 2B, 2C, 4 and 5A. Applications must be completed before 5 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (MDT).
- Mar. 22** Deadline to submit late 2022–23 harvest reports for deer, elk, pronghorn and turkey. All 2022–23 license holders must report to be eligible for 2023–24 draw licenses. Reports can be submitted online or by telephone. **Failure to report for these species by this date will result in rejection of all draw applications.** An \$8 late fee applies after Feb. 15, 2023. Remember to keep your confirmation number.
- Mar. 27** 2023–24 over-the-counter (OTC) license types, including game-hunting licenses and game-hunting and fishing licenses, are available online, by telephone, at NMDGF offices and at license vendors.
- April 1** 2023–24 license year begins. All 2022–23 licenses are no longer valid.
- April 7** Deadline to submit 2022–23 harvest reports for Barbary sheep, ibex, javelina, oryx and trapper license holders to be eligible for big-game licenses. Reports can be submitted online or by telephone. **Failure to report for these species by this date will result in rejection of all draw applications.** An \$8 late fee applies after April 7, 2023. Remember to keep your confirmation number.
- April 26** Big-game draw results are available online, by telephone or at NMDGF offices.