

General Rules

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

It is unlawful to:

- Recklessly or carelessly handle a firearm.
- Hunt while under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicants, including marijuana.
- Litter and/or pollute streams, lakes and other waters.
- Leave a fire unattended or improperly control fire.
- Hunt protected species without a license and all applicable permits, tags, stamps or validations, or fail to tag any big game or turkey.
- Hunt protected species using licenses, tags, permits, stamps or validations belonging to another individual, or take or attempt to take a protected species for another person, except as permitted when assisting a licensed mobility-impaired hunter (pages 14–15).
- Kill more than one of the following: elk, pronghorn, Barbary sheep, bighorn sheep, ibex, javelina, oryx, bear or deer during any license year, except as permitted by rule.
- Apply for, buy or use more than one license for any species per license year.
- Shine spotlights or other artificial lights into areas where big-game species or livestock may be present, while in possession of any sporting arm.
- Take or attempt to take game species by the aid of baiting. An area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait. It is also unlawful to take bear by the aid of scent.
- Use live protected species as decoys to take or attempt to take game species.
- Use electronically or mechanically recorded calling devices, except as permitted, for cougars, bears, javelina and nongame species.
- Use tracer ammunition, full-metal jacketed bullets or fully automatic weapons.
- Park any motor vehicle or camp within 300 yards of any man-made water hole, water well or watering tank used by wildlife or domestic stock, without the prior consent of the private landowner, private-land lessee, public-land lessee or public-land management agency.
- Shoot at protected species or artificial wildlife from a motor vehicle.
- Shoot at game on, from or across any paved, graded or maintained public road or within the fenced right-of-way of any paved, graded or maintained public road.
- Shoot at, pursue, harass, harrass, drive or rally any protected species by any means except while legally hunting.
- Use motor-driven vehicles on roads closed under the Habitat Protection Act or other federal regulation.
- Hunt or shoot at any animal from an aircraft or drone or fly an aircraft in any manner which causes any non-domesticated animal to move from its place of rest or change its direction of travel.
- Hunt from an aircraft, use aircraft to signal locations of protected species to hunters from or harass game species with an aircraft; hunt protected species observed from aircraft within 48 hours of observation; or hunt protected species the same day of air travel, except by commercial airline or direct flight to a landing strip.
- Discharge a firearm within 150 yards of a dwelling or building (not including abandoned or vacated buildings on public land) without the permission of the owner or lessee.
- Take any animal that is protected by law but not listed as a game species and/or any animal that is listed as an endangered or threatened species.
- Use any cellular, Wi-Fi or satellite camera for the purpose of hunting or scouting remotely for any big game animal.

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Vehicle Use: Driving Off-road or on a Closed Road

1. During the seasons established for any protected species, it is unlawful to drive or ride in a motor vehicle which is driven off an established road on **public land** or on a closed road on public land when the vehicle bears a licensed hunter, angler or trapper.
2. During the seasons established for any protected species, it is unlawful to drive or ride in a motor vehicle which is driven off an established road on **private land**, without written permission from the landowner, when the vehicle bears a licensed hunter, angler or trapper.
3. It is unlawful to drive or ride in a motor vehicle which is being driven off an established road or on a closed road when gathering or searching for shed antlers on public land.
4. EXCEPTION: Snowmobiles may be driven off established roads, and lawfully taken game may be retrieved in areas not closed to vehicular traffic.
5. Public land as used in this section shall mean any federally owned or managed property, any state-owned or managed property, any private property which is part of a unitization hunting agreement, ranch-wide agreement or unit-wide agreement for the species being hunted, any private property NMDGF has paid for public access for the species being hunted or any New Mexico State Game Commission owned or managed property.

Established Road Means:

1. A road, built or maintained by equipment, which shows no evidence of ever being closed to vehicular traffic by such means as berms, ripping, scarification, reseeding, fencing, gates, barricades or posted closures;
2. A two-track road which shows use prior to hunting seasons for other purposes such as recreation, mining, logging, and ranching and which shows no evidence of ever being closed to vehicular traffic by such means as berms, ripping, scarification, reseeding, fencing, gates, barricades or posted closures.

Harassment of Legal Hunters, Anglers and Trappers

New Mexico Law (Chapter 17–2–7.1, NMSA 1978) prohibits interference with another person who is lawfully hunting, trapping or fishing in an area where those activities are permitted. The first offense is a petty misdemeanor, the second offense is a misdemeanor.

If a person committing interference possesses a license, certificate or permit issued to him/her by the New Mexico State Game Commission, the license, certificate or permit will be subject to revocation.

Interference means:

1. Intentionally locating one's person where human presence may affect the behavior of a game animal, bird or fish, where human presence may interfere with the taking or killing of a game animal, bird or fish, and/or where human presence may interfere with another who is lawfully hunting, trapping or fishing.
2. Intentionally creating a visual, auditory, olfactory or physical stimulus to affect the behavior of a game animal, bird or fish and interfere with another person who is lawfully hunting, fishing or trapping.
3. Intentionally altering, removing or affecting the placement or condition of personal property used for taking a game animal, bird or fish.

If you witness any violation, please document the vehicle description, license plate number or aircraft tail number and contact Operation Game Thief: **1-800-432-4263**.

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Waste of Game

Anyone who takes a Barbary sheep, bighorn sheep, deer, elk, ibex, oryx, pronghorn or turkey must transport the edible portions for human consumption from the field. The edible portions of game animals include all four quarters, backstraps, tenderloins and the neck meat. Hunters are not required to remove the rib cage or organs of game mammals from the field. The edible portions of turkey include the breast, legs and thigh meat. Anyone who wounds or may have wounded any big-game species must go to the place where the animal sustained the wound or may have sustained the wound and make a reasonable attempt to track and kill the animal. This requirement does not authorize trespass on private land. Call **1-800-432-4263** for assistance recovering a wounded animal that enters private land.

Anyone who takes or kills a Barbary sheep, bighorn sheep, deer, elk, ibex, oryx, pronghorn or turkey outside of the legal season or without a valid license, which taking or killing results in waste of the animal, is guilty of a 4th-degree felony. Waste of the animal consists of removing from the animal only the head, antlers or horns or abandoning any of the four quarters, backstraps or tenderloins of the carcass. A violation of the provisions of this paragraph is intended to be separate from and cumulative to any other violation of Chapter 17 NMSA 1978.

License Privileges Can Be Revoked

Points are assessed against privileges based on the type of violation committed. This includes providing false information when harvest reporting. Any person accumulating 20 points or more within any consecutive three-year period shall be considered for revocation of the following: all hunting, fishing and trapping license privileges; any guiding and outfitting registration; landowner authorizations; and/or any permit or certificate issued under Chapter 17, NMSA 1978 and its implementing rules.

Defendants may request to be heard by an outside hearing officer. Recommendations for revocation are made to the New Mexico State Game Commission, which has final authority to revoke privileges.

New Mexico is a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC) and may recognize the suspension or revocation of license privileges of any person listed as a wildlife violator by another participating state. New Mexico will notify IWVC of all revocations, and other states may reciprocate New Mexico's revocations. Contact NMDGF Field Operations for specific information at: **505-476-8065**.

Federal Law

Transporting illegally taken game across state lines is a violation of the federal Lacey Act, and may be classified as a felony.

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Parental Responsibility Act

The Parental Responsibility Act requires the New Mexico State Game Commission to suspend the recreational and professional licenses of anyone who does not comply with court-ordered child support obligations. Hunting and fishing privileges are suspended until court-ordered child support payments are up-to-date and a \$25 reinstatement fee has been paid. For more information, please contact NMDGF Field Operations: **505-476-8065**.

Forfeitures

Sporting arms may be seized and forfeited if used in the following crimes: possession or transportation of big game during closed season, killing big game during closed season, spotlighting or hunting with the aid of artificial light or exceeding the bag limit on any big game species during open season. Any motor vehicle may be seized and forfeited if used while spotlighting or hunting with the aid of artificial light.

All shed antlers collected in violation of any New Mexico State Game Commission, state or federal land closure, in violation of section 30–14–1 NMSA 1978 or in violation of any of the provisions of Chapter 17 or state game commission rule remain property of the State of New Mexico and shall be seized.

Criminal Penalties

Poachers may incur criminal penalties, including:

- **First offense:** Up to \$1,000 in fines and one year in jail.
- **Second offense:** Up to \$4,000 in fines and one year in jail.
- **Third offense:** Up to \$6,000 in fines, mandatory 90 days in jail and up to one year in jail.
- **Felony waste of game:** Up to \$5,000 in fines and 18 months in prison.

Substantial Civil Assessments for Poaching

To recover the loss of the state's wildlife, the New Mexico State Game Commission has adopted substantial civil assessments for the illegal taking of trophy game animals.

The assessments are:

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| Elk | \$10,000* | Pronghorn | \$8,000* |
| Deer | \$10,000* | Barbary sheep | \$6,000* |
| Bighorn sheep | \$10,000* | Turkey | \$500* |
| Ibex | \$10,000* | Trout | \$150* |
| Oryx | \$10,000* | | |

* Higher dollar amounts may be sought in certain cases.

Firearm Eligibility

Any convicted felon according to New Mexico law shall be restricted to the use of archery equipment only. Per New Mexico statute 30–7–16 NMSA 1978, firearm includes any handgun, rifle, muzzleloader or shotgun.