

# Management Hunts

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

## Population Management Hunts

Hunters wishing to be considered for population management hunts for Barbary sheep, bighorn sheep, deer, elk, ibex, javelina, oryx or pronghorn **must select the 5th-choice option on the draw application for the appropriate species.**

Hunters cannot be added to the list after the public draw deadline. Applications must be completed online or by telephone by March 22 before 5 p.m.

Applicants must apply for at least one regular draw hunt choice to be eligible for the population management hunt for the same species. By choosing this option, hunters are indicating their willingness, if unsuccessful in drawing their 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th choice, to be contacted by NMDGF if a population management hunt is scheduled for that species.

If a population management hunt is scheduled, a NMDGF official will contact the hunter to notify him/her of the hunt areas, dates, bag limit, allowable sporting arms and any other special restrictions. The hunter will be asked to accept or decline a hunt. If the hunter accepts the hunt, they must purchase the license online or by phone. If the hunter declines, another hunter will be contacted. Bag limits for population management hunts will be primarily female animals, since these hunts are intended to reduce populations in specific areas.

Choosing a population management hunt option is not a guarantee the applicant will be contacted for a hunt. Population management hunters must file a harvest report.

**White Sands Missile Range (WSMR):** To be eligible for population management hunts on WSMR, applicants must enter a hunt authorization code from an approved 2023 WSMR security sponsor (see page 103). **Leave the WSMR Population Management Hunt Authorization Code box unchecked if you do not have an authorization code.**

## Population Management Hunt Fees

If unsuccessful for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th choice, applicants will be refunded the license fee. If a hunter is contacted and accepts a 5th-choice hunt, she/he will be required to purchase the appropriate license(s) with tags.

White Sands Missile Range and Jornada Experimental Range each charge a \$150 access fee to all oryx hunters. Other federal agencies may charge access fees.

Choosing the oryx population management hunt implies acceptance of additional fees should a hunter be called for one of these hunts. Population management hunters must file a harvest report, and may be required to obtain a carcass tag in person at a license vendor or NMDGF office.

## Avoid Late Fees: Harvest Reporting for Late-season Management Hunts

Population management license holders for hunts that occur late in the license year or after the reporting deadlines must submit a harvest report on or before April 7 to maintain draw eligibility. NMDGF recommends reporting by telephone at:

**1-888-248-6866** to avoid late fees.

# Enhancement Hunts

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](https://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)

## Enhancement Hunts

NMDGF issues special hunting permits through either auction or the sale of raffle tickets. NMDGF works with non-profit organizations dedicated to wildlife conservation to carry out these auctions and raffles and all proceeds from enhancement hunts are used solely for habitat enhancement, conservation, research and management projects in New Mexico for each species. Authorizations may be used either by the recipient or any individual of the recipient's choice through sale, barter or gift. These are not once-in-a-lifetime hunts. More information can be found on NMDGF's website: <https://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/hunting/applications-and-draw-information/enhancement-hunts/>

## Enhancement Hunts to be Auctioned

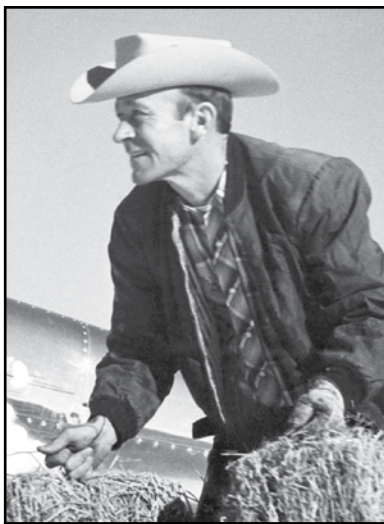
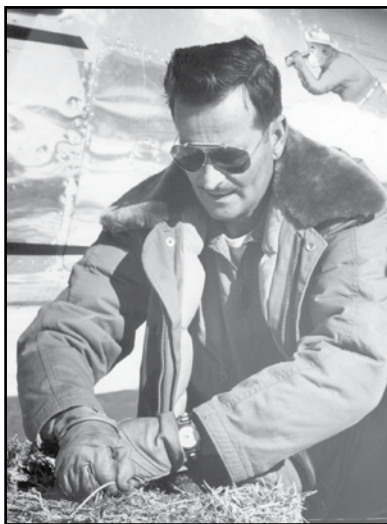
1. Two big game enhancement packages. Each package will consist of five authorizations, one for each of deer, elk, ibex, oryx and pronghorn. The season dates are: Sept. 1, 2023–Jan. 31, 2024 for deer and elk; April 1, 2023–March 31, 2024 for ibex and oryx (for oryx hunts, WSMR access must be prearranged); and Aug. 1–Nov. 1, 2023 for pronghorn.
2. Two bighorn sheep authorizations, one for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and one for desert bighorn sheep. **SEASON DATES:** Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep: Aug. 1–Dec. 31, 2023, except in GMU 53 (Wheeler Peak), which is closed Aug. 16–31, 2023; desert bighorn sheep: Aug. 1–Dec. 31, 2023.
3. One authorization valid for a fork-antlered deer. The season dates are Sept. 1, 2023–Jan. 31, 2024.
4. One authorization valid for a mature bull elk. The season dates are Sept. 1, 2023–Jan. 31, 2024.
5. One authorization valid for one bearded Gould's turkey. The season dates are any consecutive 30 days of the hunter's choosing between April 1 and May 31 each year.

## Enhancement hunts to be raffled

1. Two bighorn sheep authorizations, one for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and one for desert bighorn sheep. **SEASON DATES:** Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep: Aug. 1–Dec. 31, 2023, except in GMU 53 (Wheeler Peak), which is closed Aug. 16–31, 2023; desert bighorn sheep: Aug. 1–Dec. 31, 2023.
2. One authorization valid for a fork-antlered deer. The season dates are Sept. 1, 2023–Jan. 31, 2024.
3. One authorization valid for a mature bull elk. The season dates are Sept. 1, 2023–Jan. 31, 2024.
4. One authorization valid for one bearded Gould's turkey. The season dates are any consecutive 30 days of the hunter's choosing between April 1 and May 31 each year.

# Premium Statewide Hunts

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*(left-right): Austin Roberts and Ocie Gray. NMDGF photo taken the day of the crash.*

## Premium Statewide Deer and Elk Hunts

NMDGF premium deer and elk hunts are in honor of two NMDGF employees, Austin Roberts and Ocie Gray, who were killed in a January 1960 plane crash while delivering hay to starving pronghorn on the snow-covered plains outside of Las Vegas.

Pilot Austin Roberts, 40, of Roswell, was a 14-year veteran of NMDGF at the time of his death. A cause of the accident was never determined. Before joining NMDGF Roberts served as a bomber pilot during World War II and survived 62 bombing runs and being shot down six times. Lake Roberts in the Gila National Forest is named after him.

Ocie Gray, 25, was a NMDGF biologist and a 1959 graduate of New Mexico State University in Las Cruces where a scholarship in his name is available to biology students.

The two premium hunts were authorized by the New Mexico State Game Commission, one for deer and one for elk, to provide the public an affordable chance at a high quality hunting experience. The hunt codes are DER-1-700 and ELK-1-700 and allow hunting with any big-game sporting arm in any unit statewide, including NMDGF's wildlife management areas and private land with written permission, anytime between Sept. 1, 2023 and Jan. 31, 2024. The hunts are available through the draw and are subject to quota (nonresident and outfitted applicants are extremely unlikely to draw).