

Glossary of Terms

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

Active Duty Military: Individuals currently serving on active duty in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard for a minimum period of 90 days. Members of the National Guard or Military Reserve Component, and commissioned officers of the U.S. Public Health Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who have completed a minimum of six years of continuous honorable service also qualify. NM residents qualify for a 50% discount on all licenses, permits and stamps.

Antlerless (A) Deer or Elk: Any deer or elk without antlers.

Antler Point Restricted Elk (APRE/6): Any bull elk with a minimum of six antler points on one side. A brow tine or eye guard constitutes a point; a burr at the base does not.

Antler Point Restricted Elk or Antlerless (APRE/6/A): Antler-point-restricted elk (six or more points on at least one antler) or an antlerless elk.

Any Legal Sporting Arm: Any firearm, muzzle-loader, compressed air gun, shotgun, bow or crossbow. All firearms, except handguns, must be designed to be fired from the shoulder. Legal sporting arms for each species are defined on pages 28–29.

Arrow or Bolt: Only arrows or bolts having broadheads with cutting edges may be used, except that “judo”, “blunt” or similar small game points may be used for upland game and migratory game bird hunting.

Bag Limit: The protected species, qualified by species, number, sex, age, antler/horn requirement, or size allowed by State Game Commission rule that a legally licensed person may attempt to take or take.

Bait: Any salt, mineral, grain, feed, commercially produced game attractant or any other organic material which is attractive to wildlife. An area must be completely free of bait (including feeders) for at least 10 days prior to hunting.

Baiting: The placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of any bait on or over areas where any person is attempting to take protected game mammals or game birds as defined in 17–2–3 NMSA 1978.

Big Game Species: Includes Barbary sheep, bear, bighorn sheep, cougar, deer, elk, ibex, javelina, oryx and pronghorn.

Bighorn Sheep Ewe: Any female bighorn sheep.

Bighorn Sheep Ram: Any male bighorn sheep.

Bow: Compound, recurve, or long bow, which is not equipped with a mechanical device (draw lock) which locks the bow string at full draw. Sights on bows shall not project light; however, illuminated pins/reticles and scopes of any magnification are allowed.

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Broken-horned Oryx: An oryx of either sex that has one or more horn(s) missing at least 25% of its normal length. This may be determined by comparing the broken horn's length to the remaining horn or where it is readily apparent the terminal end would not taper to a point for another 25% of growth.

Bullet: A single projectile fired from a firearm which is designed to expand or fragment upon impact. Tracer or full metal jacket ammunition is not legal for the take or attempted take of any big game species.

Cellular or Satellite Camera: Any remote camera which transmits or is capable of transmitting images or video wirelessly via a cellular, Wi-Fi or satellite connection.

Compressed Air Gun: Handgun or rifle that propels a single, nonspherical projectile by compressed air.

Crossbow: A device with a bow limb or band of flexible material that is attached horizontally to a stock and has a mechanism to hold the string in a cocked position. Sights on crossbows shall not project light; however, illuminated pins/reticles and scopes of any magnification are allowed.

Depredation Damage Fee: A fee required of all big-game hunters that is included in the price of each big-game license. The fee is \$3 for each resident and \$10 for each nonresident big-game license. Money generated is being used to develop permanent solutions to chronic wildlife depredation problems throughout the state.

Drone: Any device used or designed for navigation or flight in the air that is unmanned and guided remotely or by an onboard computer or onboard control system. Drones may also be referred to as “unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV)” or “unmanned aerial vehicle systems (UAVS)”.

Either Sex (ES): Any male or female of a big-game species.

Either-Sex White-tailed Deer (ESWTD): Any male or female white-tailed deer.

Female or Immature Barbary Sheep (F–IM): Any female Barbary sheep, or a male Barbary sheep with horns less than 18 inches long.

Female or Immature Ibex (F–IM): Any female ibex, or any male ibex with horns less than 20 inches long. This measurement is the length along the top of the horn from the base to the tip of the horn (measurement of the longest horn).

Female or Immature Pronghorn (F–IM): Any female pronghorn or any pronghorn without horns or with both horns shorter than its ears.

Fork-Antlered Deer (FAD): Any deer possessing an antler which has a definite fork showing two or more distinct points. A burr at the base does not constitute a point or fork.

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Fork-Antlered Mule Deer (FAMD): Any mule deer possessing an antler which has a definite fork showing two or more distinct points. A burr at the base does not constitute a point or fork.

Fork-Antlered White-tailed Deer (FAWTD): Any white-tailed deer possessing an antler which has a definite fork showing two or more distinct points. A burr at the base does not constitute a point or fork.

Fourth-Choice Deer or Elk Hunt: A deer or elk draw license that may be issued to an applicant who enters a quadrant of the state as a fourth choice on their draw application. Applicants do not specifically choose their hunt, they are allocated a license for any hunt in the quadrant for the same sporting arm that is undersubscribed in the draw.

Game-Hunting License: A license that is required to hunt any small game species, and to apply for or purchase any big-game or turkey license.

Game Management Unit (GMU): A subdivision of the state used to manage big game species and turkey as described in 19.30.4 NMAC, Boundary Descriptions for Game Management Units.

Habitat Management and Access Validation (HMAV): A validation that must be purchased once per license year by all hunters regardless of land status of the location hunted. This validation is not required for hunters, trappers and anglers younger than 18 years of age, resident anglers 70 years and older and 100% disabled resident veterans.

Habitat Stamp (Habitat Improvement Stamp): A US Forest Service and BLM management stamp required by all hunters hunting on those lands except resident anglers 70 years and older and 100% disabled resident veterans in conjunction with their free licenses.

Handicapped Hunter: New Mexico resident with a severe physical or developmental disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

High-Demand (HD) Hunt: An elk or deer draw hunt with at least 22% nonresident applicants for the previous two license years. Nonresidents must pay a higher fee (page 12).

Junior Hunting License: Reduced-fee licenses are available to resident hunters 17 years of age or younger.

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. Mountain Standard Time (MST) changes to Mountain Daylight Time (MDT) beginning Sunday, March 12, 2023 at 2 a.m. and ending Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023 at 2 a.m.

License Year: The period from April 1 through March 31 annually.

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Management Zones (Bear and Cougar): Bear or cougar hunt areas consisting of one or more GMUs, as described in 19.31.11 NMAC.

Mature Buck (MB) Pronghorn: A pronghorn with at least one horn longer than its ears.

Mature Bull (MB) Elk: A male elk with at least one brow tine extending six or more inches from the main beam or at least one forked antler with both branches six or more inches long (spike bulls are not legal, page 126).

Mature Bull / Antlerless (MB/A) Elk: Any male elk with at least one brow tine extending six or more inches from the main beam or at least one forked antler with both branches six or more inches long (spike bulls are not legal, page 126) or any antlerless elk.

Mentor-Youth Hunter Program: This program permits first-time hunters 8–17 years of age to hunt under the supervision of a licensed adult hunter before completing a hunter education course. For information see page 19.

Mobility-impaired Hunter (MI): An individual with permanent impairment(s) and/or disabilities that substantially limit their ability to walk and are certified by a doctor. For further information see pages 14–15.

Military-only Hunt: Hunts available to applicants on full-time active duty in the military that have provided proof of current military assignment to the Special Hunts Office in Santa Fe prior to application. Veterans and reservists are not eligible for these hunts.

Muzzleloader (Muzzle): Sporting arm in which the charge and projectile(s) is loaded through the muzzle. Only blackpowder or equivalent blackpowder substitute may be used. Use of smokeless powder is prohibited. Only open or "iron" sights may be used on muzzleloader, bow or crossbow only hunts (sporting arm type 3). Scopes, red dots or other similar sights are not allowed.

NMDGF: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

Nongame Hunting: Nongame species include prairie dogs, ground squirrels, Himalayan tahr, porcupine, rabbits, coyotes and skunks. See page 32.

Once-in-a-Lifetime License: A draw license that can be issued only once in an applicant's lifetime. Hunters who have previously held a once-in-a-lifetime-license may not apply again.

Once-in-a-Youth License: A youth-only draw license that can be issued only once.

Over-the-Counter (OTC) License: A license available from vendors, NMDGF offices, online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us and by telephone: 888-248-6866.

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Population Management Hunt: A hunt designed to manage the number of big game on public or private lands where animals have damaged property or may interfere with military operations.

Private-land Authorization: Documentation obtained from a private landowner that allows a hunter to purchase a private-land elk or pronghorn license.

Private-land Only Deer License: A license authorizing hunters to hunt deer only on private land with written permission. Hunters must enter a hunt code from a public-land hunt for the Game Management Unit (GMU) where the private land is located. Not available from license vendors for units 2A, 2B, 2C, 4 and 5A.

Protected Species: Protected species include all big game, turkey, squirrels and game birds. All protected species are defined in NMSA 1978 Sections: 17–2–3, 17–5–2, 17–2–13, 17–2–14 and 17–2–4.2. All animals listed as endangered or threatened species or subspecies as stated in 19.33.6 NMAC are also protected species.

Public Lands: Public lands include U.S. Forest Service, BLM and State Trust Lands. Descriptions of federal and state public lands are listed on pages 38–43.

Quality (Q) Hunt: These hunts are designed to increase opportunities for successful harvest, provide wider selections of mature deer or elk, and/or provide a pleasurable experience based on timing of the hunt and/or hunter density. Quality hunts are determined by the New Mexico State Game Commission, and nonresidents must pay a higher fee (page 12).

Ranch-wide Agreements (Pronghorn): Ranch-wide agreements allow private landowners to enroll their ranch's private-deeded and public-leased acres as one contiguous ranch for access by public-draw hunters. Landowners are issued authorizations for pronghorn licenses valid on that property's deeded and public-leased acres.

Restricted Muzzleloader (for specific deer hunts): Any muzzle-loading rifle using open sights, black powder or equivalent propellant and firing a full bore diameter bullet or patched round ball. The use of in-line ignition, scopes and smokeless powder are prohibited.

Senior Hunting Licenses: Reduced-fee deer, elk and game-hunting & fishing licenses available to New Mexico resident hunters 65 years of age and older.

Shotgun: Any centerfire shotgun or muzzle-loading shotgun not larger than 10 gauge. An off-range oryx draw hunt is available for seniors 70 and older (resident and nonresident) on the first day of the hunt.

Small game: Includes upland game and migratory game birds.

Spike Bull: Any antlered male elk with no second fork on any antler.

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Standard (S) Hunt: Deer or elk hunts which are charged a regular license fee rather than a quality or high-demand fee.

State Trust Land: Lands administered by the Commissioner of Public Lands.

U. S. Military: Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, or their Reserve Components, Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and commissioned members of the U.S. Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Veteran (NM Resident): New Mexico resident veteran with a minimum of 90 days active duty service in the U.S. Military, or six continuous years in the National Guard, Military Reserve Component, or commissioned officers of the U. S. Public Health or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Veterans must have been honorably discharged from military service. NM resident veterans qualify for a 50% discount on all licenses, permits and stamps.

Wildlife Management Area (WMA): Properties owned or managed by and under the control of the State Game Commission as described in 19.34.5 NMAC.

Written Permission: A document (which may include a valid hunting, trapping or fishing license) that asserts the holder has permission from the private land owner or their designee to hunt, fish, trap or drive off road on the landowner's property. The information on the document must be verifiable and include the name of the person(s) receiving permission, activity permitted, property's location and name (if applicable), name of person granting permission, date and length of time the permission is granted, and phone number or e-mail of the person granting the permission. Licenses issued for private land which have the ranch name printed on them constitute written permission for that property and no other permission is required except for private land elk licenses in the secondary management zone pursuant to 19.30.5 and 19.31.14 NMAC.

Youth-only Hunt: Draw hunts available to applicants 17 years of age or younger on opening day of the hunt.