

Outdoor Recreation *is* Outdoor Education

Learning About New Mexico's Wildlife Persian Ibex

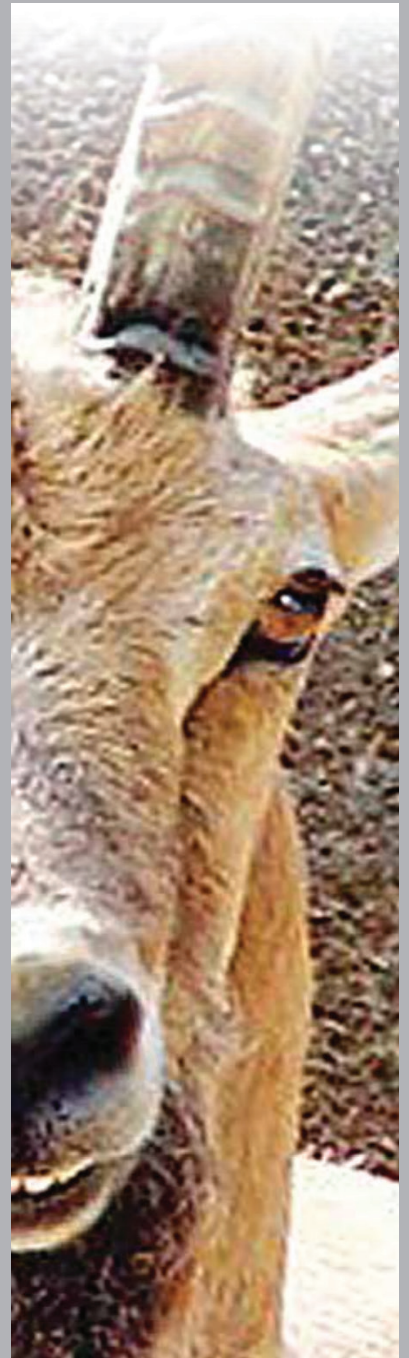
Persian ibex

In 1970, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) imported 15 Persian ibex from Iran and released them in the Florida Mountains near Deming, New Mexico. Soon after, an additional 27 were released, and a sustainable population was established.

By 1974, the first Persian ibex hunt in the Florida Mountains was offered to the public; one to two hunts have been conducted every year since.

The Bureau of Land Management has established an optimum, supportable number of 400 animals for this localized population. To achieve and maintain this target, NMDGF annually conducts aerial surveys, determines populations and offers public and management hunts accordingly.

Sometimes called bezoar goat or Iranian ibex, the short-legged Persian ibex stands approximately 30 inches at the shoulder, and the hind quarters are noticeably higher than the front. Adult males weigh up to 150 pounds, and females usually weigh up to 90 pounds. Both sexes grow horns — the female's nine-inch prongs are modest, compared to the male's 30-inch horns which curl in an arch over the back.



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