

**TITLE 19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE**  
**CHAPTER 31 HUNTING AND FISHING**  
**PART 11 BEAR AND COUGAR**

**19.31.11.1 ISSUING AGENCY:** New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.  
[19.31.11.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.11.1 NMAC, 4-1-2020]

**19.31.11.2 SCOPE:** Sportspersons interested in bear and cougar management and hunting. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978, and Chapters 30, 31, 32 and 33 of Title 19 NMAC.  
[19.31.11.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.11.2 NMAC, 4-1-2020]

**19.31.11.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state game commission has the authority to establish rules and regulations that it may deem necessary to carry out the purpose of Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and all other acts pertaining to protected mammals, birds, and fish.  
[19.31.11.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.11.3 NMAC, 4-1-2020]

**19.31.11.4 DURATION:** April 1, 20162020 through March 31, 20202024.  
[19.31.11.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.11.4 NMAC, 4-1-2020]

**19.31.11.5 EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 20162020, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.  
[19.31.11.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.11.5 NMAC, 4-1-2020]

**19.31.11.6 OBJECTIVE:** Establishing open hunting seasons and regulation, rules and procedures governing the distribution and issuance of bear and cougar licenses by the department.  
[19.31.11.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.11.6 NMAC, 4-1-2020]

**19.31.11.7 DEFINITIONS:**

**A.** "Arrows" shall mean only those arrows or bolts having broadheads with steel cutting edges.

**B.** "Baiting" shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of any salt, grain, scent or other feed on or over areas where hunters are attempting to take bear or cougar.

**CA.** "Bear entry hunt permit" shall mean a permit awarded through a public drawing which the valid official document awarded through a public drawing for hunting bear. This valid official permit shall entitle the holder of a an over-the-counter bear license to hunt where hunter numbers are limited by rule in a limited entry area during season dates established in rule.

**D.** "Bear license" shall mean a valid official document that is issued or approved by the director that each person hunting bear in New Mexico must have or obtain prior to hunting.

**EB.** "Bear zones" shall define hunt areas consisting of one or more game management units as documented described in the state game commission's rule 19.30.4 NMAC.

**F.** "Bow" shall mean compound, recurve, or long bow. Sights on bows shall not project light, however, illuminated pins/reticles and scopes of any magnification are allowed.

**G.** "Cougar license" shall mean a valid official document that is issued or approved by the director that each person hunting cougar in New Mexico must have or obtain prior to hunting.

**HC.** "Cougar zones" shall define hunt areas consisting of one or more game management units as documented described in the state game commission's rule 19.30.4 NMAC.

**I.** "Crossbow" shall mean a device with a bow limb or band of flexible material 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.

**JD.** "Department" shall mean the New Mexico department of game and fish.

**KE.** "Director" shall mean the director of the New Mexico department of game and fish.

**L.** "Foot snare" shall mean a wire or cable with a single closing device set to capture a cougar by the foot.

**MF.** "Game management units" or "GMUs" shall mean those areas as described in the state game commission's rule 19.30.4 NMAC.

**N.** "Hunter designee" shall mean a person given a written statement by the properly licensed hunter who lawfully killed and possessed the bear or cougar. A written statement consists of: the kind and number of bear and cougar, the date and game management unit of where the bear or cougar was lawfully taken, the hunter's name,

address, and license number under which the bear or cougar was lawfully killed, and the date and place where the written statement was given.

**O.** “License year” shall mean the period from April 1 through March 31.

**P.** “Modern firearms” shall mean center fire firearms, not to include any fully automatic firearms. Legal shotguns shall be only those shotguns capable of being fired from the shoulder.

**Q.** “Muzzle loader” or “muzzle loading firearms” shall mean those rifles and shotguns in which the charge and projectile are loaded through the muzzle. Only blackpowder, Pyrodex or equivalent blackpowder substitute may be used. Use of smokeless powder is prohibited. Legal muzzle loader shotguns shall be only those shotguns capable of being fired from the shoulder.

**R.** “Trap” shall mean a spring actuated device designed to capture a cougar by the foot.

**S.** “Unlimited” shall mean there is no set limit on the number of permits or licenses established for the described hunt areas.

**T.** “Website” shall refer to accessing the department’s internet address.

**UG.** “Wildlife management areas” or “WMAs” shall mean those areas as described in the state game commission’s rule 19.34.5 NMAC.

[19.31.11.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.11.7 NMAC, 4-1-2020]

### **19.31.11.8 ADJUSTMENT OF LICENSES, PERMITS, AUTHORIZATIONS, AND HARVEST LIMITS:**

**A.** The director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or his/her designee, may adjust the number of licenses, permits or harvest limits, up or down by no more than twenty percent within the GMU, a bear zone or cougar zone, to address critical department management needs, significant changes in population levels or habitat availability. This adjustment may be applied for bear and cougar within the specified zones to any or all of the specific hunt codes, total harvest limits, or female harvest sub-limits, or sustainable total mortality, for bear and cougar. The director, with verbal concurrence of the chairman or his designee, may also modify the season dates and manner and method of take, to facilitate target removals or embedded quotas for cougars and bears in specific areas or zones for ungulate protection, or conflict minimization in densely populated residential areas.

**B.** The director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or his/her designee, may take management actions independent of seasons and restrictions, harvest limits or female sub-limits for population management, or to address critical situations including ungulate population protection, depredation, and human health and safety or other wildlife management issues. The decision to take management actions pursuant to this subsection shall be reported to the commission within 48 hours.

**C.** The previous year’s harvest data and management implications shall be presented to the commission at a regularly scheduled state game commission meeting by August of each year. The results of this annual review shall be made available to the public at least 30 days prior to presentation at a regularly scheduled and noticed commission meeting.

[19.31.11.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.11.8 NMAC, 4-1-2020]

### **19.31.11.9 BEAR AND COUGAR LICENSE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS:**

**A.** One license per year: It shall be unlawful for anyone to hold more than one permit or license for bear or cougar during the current license year unless otherwise allowed by rule.

**B.** Validity of license or permit: All bear entry permits or licenses shall be valid only for specified dates, eligibility requirements or restrictions, legal sporting arms, bag limit and area specified by the hunt code printed on the permit or license. Over the counter bear licenses shall be valid only for specified dates, eligibility requirements or restrictions, legal sporting arms, bag limit and area specified by rule or regulation. Over the counter cougar licenses shall be valid only with concurrent possession of a cougar identification course completion number as described in Subsection G of 19.31.11.9 NMAC and for specified dates, eligibility requirements or restrictions, legal sporting arms, bag limit and area specified by rule or regulation.

**DA.** Bear entry hunt: It shall be unlawful to hunt bear in designated wildlife management areas or other specifically designated special entry hunt areas without having a valid bear entry permit and a valid bear license in the hunter’s possession or as otherwise allowed by Subsection O of 19.31.11.10 game commission rule. Bear entry hunters shall be allowed to hunt in any other open bear hunt bear zone provided they have a valid bear license. No more than one person may apply under each application number for bear entry permits.

**E.** License purchase: Cougar hunters must purchase a cougar license at least two days prior to hunting cougar. Bear hunters must purchase a bear license at least two days prior to hunting bear.

**F. Youth only (YO) hunts:** It shall be unlawful for anyone to participate in youth only (YO) hunts except as allowed by 19.31.3.11 NMAC.

**GB. Mandatory cougar identification course:** All persons shall complete It shall be unlawful to hunt cougars without carrying a department issued alpha numeric number which shall be proof of successful completion of the mandatory cougar identification course as offered on the department's website prior to purchasing a cougar license.

[19.31.11.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.11.9 NMAC, 4-1-2020]

**19.31.11.10 BEAR AND COUGAR ZONE CLOSURES, BAG LIMITS AND AREA CLOSURES MANNER AND METHOD REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS:**

**A. Season and hours Zone closures:** Bear and cougar may be hunted or taken only during open seasons and only during the period from one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset and only in zones or areas designated as open on the department hotline or website. Twenty four hours prior to hunting bear or cougar, every hunter or hunter's designee must call the toll free number designated by the department or access the department's website to determine if their desired hunt zone is open. Failure to call or check prior to hunting is unlawful. Cougar and bear seasons in each zone Zones will close within 72 hours of when the reported number of bears or cougars or bears harvested is within ten percent of the total limit or female sub-limit, or ten percent of the sustainable mortality limit for that zone, whichever occurs first.

**B. Bag limit:** It is unlawful for any person to hunt for or take more than one bear or two cougars during a current license year unless otherwise provided by regulation. Holders of a valid cougar license who have harvested two cougars under their license may request authorization from the department to take an additional two cougars in the same license year in any cougar management zone that has not closed in at least two of the past three years. Additional take may be requested once the bag limit for the previous authorization has been met. The bag limit for bear is one; the bag limit for cougar is two. It is unlawful to kill a bear sow with cub(s) or any bear cub less than one year old, or to kill a spotted cougar kitten or any female cougar accompanied by spotted kitten(s).

(1) It shall be unlawful to kill a female bear accompanied by cub(s), or any cub less than one year old.

(2) It shall be unlawful to kill a female cougar accompanied by spotted kitten(s), or any spotted kitten.

**C. Proof of sex of bear or cougar:** It shall be unlawful for anyone to transport or possess the pelt (even if the pelt is attached to the carcass) of a bear or cougar without proof of sex. External genitalia of any bear or cougar killed shall remain attached to the pelt and be readily visible until the pelt has been inspected and pelt tagged by a department official.

**D. Bear and cougar pelt tagging requirements:**

(1) Any bear or cougar killed shall be tagged with a pelt tag furnished free of charge by the department.

(2) The hunter who kills the bear or cougar or the hunter's designee must present the unfrozen skull and pelt to a department official for tooth removal and pelt tagging within five calendar days from the date of harvest before the pelt can be processed by a taxidermist, or before taking the pelt out of New Mexico, whichever comes first.

(3) Any hunter who appoints a designee to present the skull and pelt for pelt tagging is required to contact a conservation officer prior to having the pelt inspected and tagged.

(4) The pelt tag shall remain attached until the pelt is tanned.

(5) The skull of the bear or cougar must remain unfrozen with the mouth fixed open for removal of a premolar tooth by a department official.

(6) Licensed bear or cougar hunters who provide false or fraudulent information regarding the required information including, but not limited to, sex, date, or location of harvest shall be assessed 20 revocation points pursuant to 19.31.2 NMAC.

**E. Seizure:** Any conservation officer or other officer authorized to enforce game laws and regulations shall seize the carcasses or pelts of bear or cougar that are improperly tagged, presented for pelt tagging without proof of sex attached or without presenting the skull along with the pelt.

**F. Use of dogs in hunting:** Dogs may be used only to hunt bear and cougar during specific open seasons unless otherwise restricted. It shall be unlawful to:

(1) hunt for or pursue bear or cougar with dog(s) in any WMA as described in 19.34.5 NMAC except as provided by regulation;

(2) hunt for or pursue bear or cougar during September bow seasons statewide except as otherwise allowed by rule;

(3) release dogs with the intent of pursuing or hunting bear or cougar or to pursue or hold bear or cougar, outside of legal shooting hours or during closed seasons, it shall be unlawful to pursue a bear or cougar with dog(s) for dog training purposes;

(4) pursue bear or cougar with dog(s) without the licensed hunter, who intends to kill or who kills the bear or cougar, present continuously from the initial release of any dog(s).

**G. Use of baits or scents:** It shall be unlawful for anyone to take or attempt to take any bear or cougar by use of baits or scents as defined in 19.31.10.7 NMAC. Scent masking agents on one's person are allowed.

**H. Live animals:** It shall be unlawful to use live animals as a blind or decoy in taking or attempting to take any bear or cougar.

**I. Use of calling devices:** It shall be unlawful to use any electrically or mechanically recorded calling device in taking or attempting to take any bear, such calling devices are allowed for taking cougar.

**J. Killing out of season:** It shall be unlawful to kill any bear or cougar out of their respective hunting seasons.

**K. Bullets:** It shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take bear or cougar by the use of tracer ammunition or any ammunition loaded with full metal jacketed bullets that does not expand or mushroom. Soft nosed or hollow pointed bullets may be used in hunting or taking bear or cougar.

**L. Drugs and explosives:** It shall be unlawful to use any form of drug on an arrow or use arrows driven by explosives.

**M. Legal weapon types** for bear and cougar are as follows: any center fire rifle; any center fire handgun; shotguns not smaller than 28 gauge, firing a single slug; muzzle loading rifles; bows and arrows; and crossbows and bolts. The Sandia ranger district portion of the Cibola national forest in zone 4 shall be open for hunting with crossbow and bow only.

**NC. Areas closed to bear and cougar hunting:** The following areas shall remain closed to bear and cougar hunting, except as permitted by regulation: Sugarite Canyon state park; Rio Grande wild and scenic river area, including the Taos Valley overlook; all wildlife management areas including the Water Canyon and Marquez WMAs in GMU 9 (Marquez is open only to hunters with valid bear entry permit and bear hunting license); the Valle Vidal area; and sub-unit 6B (Valles Caldera national preserve). Limited entry hunt areas listed in 19.31.11 NMAC are closed to over-the-counter bear hunters who do not possess an entry permit. Cougar hunting in these areas is allowed only by legal licensed deer or elk hunters in possession of a valid cougar license in the E.S. Barker, Colin Neblett, Humphries, Marquez, Sargent, and Urraca WMAs, and the Valle Vidal and Greenwood areas. Deer or elk hunters choosing to hunt cougar under this provision may not use dogs, may only hunt in open cougar zones, and must adhere to the weapon type restriction and season dates as specified by their deer or elk licenses. Dogs are not allowed. Cougar hunting is closed in the Florida mountains hunt area during any open Persian ibex season, except by legal Persian ibex hunters in possession of a valid cougar license. Persian ibex hunters choosing to hunt cougar under this provision may only hunt cougar if the cougar zone is open, and must adhere to the weapon type restrictions and season dates as specified by their Persian ibex license.

**O. Use of traps and foot snares:** Hunters with a valid cougar license may use traps or foot snares to harvest cougars on state trust land, or private deeded land with written permission from the landowner. Neck snares are not permitted. Restrictions for cougar take using traps or foot snares shall follow the regulations on methods, trap specification, trap inspection, and cougar removal as defined in 19.32.2.10 NMAC Manner and Method of Take, and 19.32.2.11 NMAC Trap Inspection and Furbearer Removal. Foot snares shall be prohibited in GMU 27 and those portions of GMU 26 designated by the United States fish and wildlife service as critical habitat for jaguar.

**P.** Any take of cougar on public land, other than state trust lands, by the use of traps or snares shall be unlawful unless authorized by the director.

**Q.** It shall be unlawful to attach any collar or electronic tracking device to any bear or cougar except as expressly permitted by the department.

[19.31.11.10 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.11.10 NMAC, 4-1-2020]

#### 19.31.11.11 BEAR HUNTING SEASONS:

**A. Over-the-counter bear hunts for the 2016-17 2020-21 through 2019-20 2023-24 hunt seasons:** The following table lists bear zones, open GMUs or areas within zones, weapon type restrictions, season dates, total harvest limits, and female harvest sub-limits.

<b>Bear zone</b>	<b>open GMUs or areas</b>	<b>bow only</b>	<b>any legal weapon-big game sporting arms</b>	<b>2016-17 2020-21 total limit (female)</b>	<b>2016-17 2021-22 total limit (female)</b>	<b>2016-17 2022-23 total limit (female)</b>	<b>2019-20 2023-24 total limit (female)</b>
1	4, 5, 6, 7, 51, 52	9/1 - 24	9/25 - 11/15	158 (63)	158 (63)	158 (63)	158 (63)
2	2	9/1 - 24	9/25 - 11/15	15 (6)	15 (6)	15 (6)	15 (6)
3	49, 50, and, 53	9/1 - 24	8/16 - 8/31 and 9/25 - 11/15	65 (26)	65 (26)	65 (26)	65 (26)
4	45, 46, and, 48	9/1 - 24	8/16 - 8/31 and 9/25 - 11/30	109 (43)	109 (43)	109 (43)	109 (43)
5	54 and, 55	9/1 - 24	8/16 - 8/31 and 9/25 - 11/15	92 (37)	92 (37)	92 (37)	92 (37)
6	39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 47, and, 59	9/1 - 24	8/16 - 8/31 and 9/25 - 11/15	33 (13)	33 (13)	33 (13)	33 (13)
7	56, 57, and, 58	9/1 - 24	8/16 - 8/31 and 9/25 - 11/15	35 (14)	35 (14)	35 (14)	35 (14)
8	8	9/1 - 24	10/15 - 11/15	11 (4)	11 (4)	11 (4)	11 (4)
9	9 and, 10	9/1 - 24	8/16 - 8/31 and 9/25 - 11/15	36 (14)	36 (14)	36 (14)	36 (14)
10	12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, and, 27	9/1 - 24	<del>8/16 - 8/31 and 9/25 - 11/30</del> 9/25 - 12/15	146 (58)	146 (58)	146 (58)	146 (58)
11	37 and, 38	9/1 - 24	8/16 - 8/31 and 9/25 - 11/30	36 (14)	36 (14)	36 (14)	36 (14)
12	34	9/1 - 24	<del>8/16 - 8/31 and 9/25 - 11/30</del> 9/25 - 12/15	33 (13)	33 (13)	33 (13)	33 (13)
13	36	9/1 - 24	<del>8/16 - 8/31 and 9/25 - 11/15</del> 9/25 - 11/30	16 (6)	16 (6)	16 (6)	16 (6)
14	14	9/1 - 24	10/15 - 11/15	19 (7)	19 (7)	19 (7)	19 (7)

B. Entry hunts for the **2016-172020-21** through **2019-202023-24** hunting seasons shall be as indicated below, listing the open areas, hunt dates, hunt codes, and number of licenses permits, and bag limit.

<b>open GMUs or areas</b>	<b>hunt start</b>	<b>hunt end</b>	<b>hunt code</b>	<b>licenses</b>	<b>bag limit</b>
2, YO	8/1	8/31	BER 1 100	5	1 bear
4: Sargent WMA only	8/1	8/31	BER 1 101	10	1 bear
4: Humphries WMA only	8/1	8/31	BER 1 102	5	1 bear
9: Marquez WMA only	8/1	8/31	BER 1 103	5	1 bear
54/55: E.S. Barker Colin Neblett WMAs	8/1	8/31	BER 1 104	12	1 bear
55: Valle Vidal and Greenwood areas	8/1	8/31	BER 1 105	20	1 bear
55: Valle Vidal and Greenwood areas	4/15	5/20	BER 1 106	20	1 bear
57: Sugarite Canyon State Park/ bow only	8/1	8/31	BER 2 107	5	1 bear

<b>open GMUs or areas</b>	<b>2020-2021 hunt dates</b>	<b>2021-2022 hunt dates</b>	<b>2022-2023 hunt dates</b>	<b>2023-2024 hunt dates</b>	<b>hunt code</b>	<b>licenses</b>
2, youth only	8/1-8/31	8/1-8/31	8/1-8/31	8/1-8/31	BER-1-100	5
4: Sargent WMA only	8/1-8/31	8/1-8/31	8/1-8/31	8/1-8/31	BER-1-101	10
4: Humphries WMA only	8/1-8/31	8/1-8/31	8/1-8/31	8/1-8/31	BER-1-102	5
9: Marquez WMA only	8/1-8/31	8/1-8/31	8/1-8/31	8/1-8/31	BER-1-103	5
54,55: Urraca, E.S. Barker, and Colin Neblett WMAs, and Valle Vidal	8/1-8/31	8/1-8/31	8/1-8/31	8/1-8/31	BER-1-104	32

<u>55: Valle Vidal</u>	<u>4/15-5/20</u>	<u>4/15-5/20</u>	<u>4/15-5/20</u>	<u>4/15-5/20</u>	<u>BER-1-105</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>57: Sugarite Canyon State Park/ bow only</u>	<u>8/1-8/31</u>	<u>8/1-8/31</u>	<u>8/1-8/31</u>	<u>8/1-8/31</u>	<u>BER-2-106</u>	<u>5</u>

C. Bear hunting is closed in the Valle Vidal and Greenwood areas except by legal Valle Vidal and Greenwood area elk hunters or successful applicants for bear entry hunts BER 1 105 and BER 1 106. Dogs are permitted for the BER 1 105 and BER 1 106. Valle Vidal and Greenwood area elk hunters choosing to hunt bears under this provision must adhere to the weapon type restriction and season dates specified by their elk license.

D. Bears taken from the Sargent and William A. Humphries WMAs in zone 1, Elliot Barker/Colin Neblett WMAs and Valle Vidal and Greenwood areas in zone 5, Sugarite Canyon state park in zone 7, or Marquez WMA in zone 8 shall count towards the harvest limit in those zones.  
[19.31.11.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.11.11 NMAC, 4-1-2020]

**19.31.11.12 COUGAR HUNTING SEASONS:**

A. Over the counter cougar hunting season shall be from April 1 through March 31, or until the total mortality harvest limit, or female sub-limit, whichever comes first, is met in any given cougar management zone.

B. Cougar trapping and foot snaring season on state trust land and private deeded land shall be from November 1 through March 31, or until the total mortality limit, or female sub-limit, whichever comes first, is met in any given cougar management zone.

CB. The following table lists cougar zones, open GMUs or areas within zones, weapon type restrictions, season dates, total harvest limits and female harvest sub-limits for the 2016-2020 2020-21 to 2023-24 seasons.

<u>zone</u>	<u>open GMUs or areas</u>	<u>2016-17 total limits (female)</u>	<u>2017-18 total limits (female)</u>	<u>2018-19 total limits (female)</u>	<u>2019-20 total limits (female)</u>
A	2 and 7	42 (13)	42 (13)	42 (13)	42 (13)
B	5, 50, and 51	28 (8)	28 (8)	28 (8)	28 (8)
C	43, 45, 46, 48, 49, 53	85 (43)	85 (43)	85 (43)	85 (43)
D	41, 42, 47 and 59	23 (12)	23 (12)	23 (12)	23 (12)
E	9 and 10	50 (15)	50 (15)	50 (15)	50 (15)
F	6	46 (23)	46 (23)	46 (23)	46 (23)
G	13, and 17	73 (37)	73 (37)	73 (37)	73 (37)
H	18, 19 and 20	37(16)	37(16)	37(16)	37(16)
I	36, 37, and 38	24 (7)	24 (7)	24 (7)	24 (7)
J	15, 16, 21, and 25	89 (27)	89 (27)	89 (27)	89 (27)
K	22, 23, and 24	66 (33)	66 (33)	66 (33)	66 (33)
L	26 and 27	19 (10)	19 (10)	19 (10)	19 (10)
M	31, 32, 33, 39, and 40	31 (9)	31 (9)	31 (9)	31 (9)
N	4 and 52	15 (5)	15 (5)	15 (5)	15 (5)
O	12	21 (6)	21 (6)	21 (6)	21 (6)
P	56, 57, and 58	14 (7)	14 (7)	14 (7)	14 (7)
Q	28, 29, 30, and 34	35 (11)	35 (11)	35 (11)	35 (11)
R	54 and 55	26 (8)	26 (8)	26 (8)	26 (8)
S	8 and 14	25 (13)	25 (13)	25 (13)	25 (13)

<u>zone</u>	<u>open GMUs or areas</u>	<u>2020-21 total limit (female)</u>	<u>2021-22 total limit (female)</u>	<u>2022-23 total limit (female)</u>	<u>2023-24 total limit (female)</u>
A	2, 7	42 (13)	42 (13)	42 (13)	42 (13)
B	5, 6, 50, 51	25 (8)	25 (8)	25 (8)	25 (8)
C	43, 45, 46, 48, 49, 53	57 (17)	57 (17)	57 (17)	57 (17)
D	41, 42, 47, 59	15 (5)	15 (5)	15 (5)	15 (5)
E	9, 10	43 (13)	43 (13)	43 (13)	43 (13)
G	13, 17	50 (15)	50 (15)	50 (15)	50 (15)
H	18, 19, 20	29 (9)	29 (9)	29 (9)	29 (9)
I	36, 37, 38	24 (7)	24 (7)	24 (7)	24 (7)
J	15, 16, 21	84 (25)	84 (25)	84 (25)	84 (25)

<b>K</b>	22, 23, 24	45 (14)	45 (14)	45 (14)	45 (14)
<b>L</b>	25, 26, 27	19 (6)	19 (6)	19 (6)	19 (6)
<b>M</b>	31, 32, 33, 39, 40	25 (7)	25 (7)	25 (7)	25 (7)
<b>N</b>	4, 52	13 (4)	13 (4)	13 (4)	13 (4)
<b>O</b>	12	17 (5)	17 (5)	17 (5)	17 (5)
<b>P</b>	56, 57, 58	14 (7)	14 (7)	14 (7)	14 (7)
<b>Q</b>	28, 29, 30, 34	35 (11)	35 (11)	35 (11)	35 (11)
<b>R</b>	54, 55	26 (8)	26 (8)	26 (8)	26 (8)
<b>S</b>	8, 14	17 (5)	17 (5)	17 (5)	17 (5)

[19.31.11.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.11.12 NMAC, 4-1-2020]

**19.31.11.13 PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING COUGAR DEPREDATION CONTROL IN OCCUPIED BIGHORN SHEEP RANGES:**

A. The department shall investigate all bighorn sheep deaths to determine if cougar depredation has occurred. To determine cougar depredation, a field examination and a standardized necropsy of the dead bighorn sheep shall be completed by a department employee or contractor.

B. Should it be determined that a depredation has occurred, the following procedures will be used.

(1) The department will make an evaluation of the following: viability of the statewide bighorn population, review of long term and recent data on the local population (or meta population), review of data on recent predation, alternative management options such as habitat manipulation or transplants, feasibility of taking the offending animal(s), effects on the predator population, and feasibility of having a positive effect on the local bighorn population.

(2) The wildlife management division and the appropriate area operations office will be contacted.

(3) A permit for the taking of each depredating cougar(s) will be issued to the local district wildlife officer. Physical possession of the permit is not required to initiate action.

(4) A decision to hound hunt or snare will be based on evidence at the kill site.

(5) If the bighorn sheep kill is fresh enough that the cougar may return or is likely to still be in the immediate area, the department will attempt to get a hound hunter or trapper to begin kill the cougar(s) the same day the bighorn carcass is discovered.

(6) The size of the hunted area will be determined from the sex and, in some cases, number of cougars (i.e. female with kittens) involved in the bighorn kill.

(7) Where possible, cougar feces shall be taken at the scene of the depredation and tissue samples from the cougar killed by the hunter(s) will be collected. Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) testing will be performed to determine if the scat and tissue samples are from the same cougar.

[19.31.11.13 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.11.15 NMAC, 4-1-2020]

**19.31.11.14 DURATION OF DEPREDATION CONTROL PROGRAMS:** The duration of the special permit to take depredating cougars shall be for no more than six weeks from the onset to the end of the measures taken. An evaluation and justification for extension of the permit shall be written before measures will continue beyond six weeks.

[19.31.11.14 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.11.16 NMAC, 4-1-2020]

**19.31.11.15 PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING PREVENTIVE COUGAR CONTROL IN BIGHORN SHEEP RANGES:**

A. The New Mexico department of game and fish may conduct preventive cougar control within bighorn sheep ranges.

B. The total number of cougars removed per license year from any zone containing bighorn ranges will not exceed the sustainable mortality limit for that zone unless approved pursuant to 19.31.11.8 NMAC.

C. The department will obtain the services of houndsmen or trappers either from the department's depredation list or through private contract.

D. A decision to hunt with hounds or to use snares will be made by the department.

E. All cougars taken for preventive control will be reported to the department.

F. The department will provide a program evaluation update to the commission no later than December biennially beginning in December 2010.

**HISTORY OF 19.31.11 NMAC:**

**Pre-NMAC History:** The material in this part was derived from that previously filed with the state records center and archives under:

- Regulation No. 482, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared and Chickaree Squirrel, and Barbary Sheep, filed 5/31/1967;
- Regulation No. 487, Establishing 1967 Seasons on Javelina and Barbary Sheep, filed 12/15/1967;
- Regulation No. 489, Establishing Turkey Seasons for the Spring of 1968, filed 3/1/1968;
- Regulation No. 491, Establishing Big Game Seasons for 1968 for Jicarilla Reservation, filed 3/1/1968;
- Regulation No. 492, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared and Chickaree Squirrel, and Barbary Sheep, filed 6/6/1968;
- Regulation No. 495, Establishing a Season on Bighorn Sheep, filed 10/2/1968;
- Regulation No. 496, Establishing an Elk Season in the Tres Piedras Area, Elk Area P-6, filed 12/11/1968;
- Regulation No. 502, Establishing Turkey Seasons for the Spring Of 1969, filed 3/5/1969;
- Regulation No. 503, Establishing 1969 Deer Seasons for Bowhunting Only and Big Game Seasons for the Jicarilla Indian Reservation, filed 3/5/1969;
- Regulation 504, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Bear, Turkey, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree and Tassel-Eared Squirrel, and Barbary Sheep, filed 6/4/1969;
- Regulation No. 507, Establishing a Season on Bighorn Sheep, filed 8/26/1969;
- Regulation No. 512, Establishing Turkey Season for the Spring Of 1970, filed 2/20/1970;
- Regulation No. 513, Establishing Deer Season for Bowhunting Only in Sandia State Game Refuge, filed 2/20/1970;
- Regulation No. 514, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared and Chickaree Squirrel, Barbary Sheep and Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/9/1970;
- Regulation No 520, Establishing Turkey Seasons for the Spring of 1971, filed 3/9/1971;
- Regulation No. 522, Establishing 1971 Seasons on Deer, Bear, Turkey, and Elk on the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/9/1971;
- Regulation No. 523, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared and Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep and Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/9/1971;
- Regulation No. 531, Establishing a Season on Javelina, filed 12/17/1971;
- Regulation No. 532, Establishing Turkey Seasons for the Spring of 1972, filed 3/20/1972;
- Regulation No. 534, Establishing 1972 Seasons on Deer, Bear, Turkey, and Elk on the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/20/1972;
- Regulation No. 536, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree and Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep and Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/26/1972;
- Regulation No. 542, Establishing a Season on Javelina, filed 12/1/1972;
- Regulation No. 545, Establishing Turkey Seasons for the Spring Of 1973, filed 2/26/1973;
- Regulation No. 546, Establishing 1973 Seasons on Deer, Bear, Turkey, and Elk on the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 2/26/1973;
- Regulation No. 547, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree and Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep and Bighorn Sheep, and Javelina, filed 5/31/1973;
- Regulation No. 554, Establishing Special Turkey Seasons for the Spring of 1974, filed 3/4/1974;
- Regulation No. 556, Establishing 1974 Seasons on Deer, Bear, Turkey, and Elk on the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/14/1974;
- Regulation No. 558, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared and Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, and Ibex, filed 5/29/1974;
- Regulation No. 565, Establishing Special Turkey Seasons for the Spring of 1975, filed 3/24/1975;
- Regulation No. 567, Establishing 1975 Seasons on Deer, Bear, and Turkey on the Jicarilla Apache and Navajo Indian Reservations and on Elk on the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/24/1975;
- Regulation No. 568, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree and Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx and Ibex, filed 6/25/1975;
- Regulation No. 573, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared and Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx and Ibex, filed 2/23/1976;
- Regulation No. 583, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx and Ibex, filed 2/11/1977;

Regulation No. 590, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx and Ibex, filed 2/15/1978;  
Regulation No. 596, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx and Ibex, filed 2/23/1979;  
Regulation No. 603, Establishing Open Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx and Ibex for the Period April 1, 1980 through March 31, 1981, filed 2/22/1980;  
Regulation No. 609, Establishing Open Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx and Ibex for the Period April 1, 1981 through March 31, 1982, filed 3/17/1981;  
Regulation No. 614, Establishing Open Seasons on Deer, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx and Ibex for the Period April 1, 1982 through March 31, 1983, filed 3/10/1982;  
Regulation No. 622, Establishing Open Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx and Ibex for the Period April 1, 1983 through March 31, 1984, filed 3/9/1983;  
Regulation No. 628, Establishing Open Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx and Ibex for the Period April 1, 1984 through March 31, 1985, filed 4/2/1984;  
Regulation No. 634, Establishing Open Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx and Ibex for the Period April 1, 1985 Through March 31, 1986, filed 4/18/1986;  
Regulation No. 640, Establishing Open Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx and Ibex for the Period April 1, 1986 through March 31, 1987, filed 3/25/1986;  
Regulation No. 645, Establishing Open Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx and Ibex for the Period April 1, 1987 through March 31, 1988, filed 2/12/1987;  
Regulation No. 653, Establishing Open Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx and Ibex for the Period April 1, 1988 through March 31, 1989, filed 12/18/1987;  
Regulation No. 663, Establishing Opening Spring Turkey for the Period April 1, 1989 through March 31, 1990, filed 3/28/1989;  
Regulation No. 664, Establishing Open Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx and Ibex for the Period April 1, 1989 through March 31, 1990, filed 3/20/1989;  
Regulation No. 674, Establishing Open Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx and Ibex for the Period April 1, 1990 through March 31, 1991, filed 11/21/1989;  
Regulation No. 683, Establishing Open Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, and Ibex for the Period April 1, 1991 through March 31, 1992, filed 2/8/1991;  
Regulation No. 689, Establishing Open Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, and Ibex for the Period April 1, 1992 through March 31, 1993, filed 3/4/1992;  
Regulation No. 700, Establishing Open Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, and Ibex for the Period April 1, 1993 through March 31, 1995, filed 3/11/1993.

**History of Repealed Material:**

19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game, filed 3/1/2001 - duration expired 3/31/2003.  
19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game and Turkey, filed 3/3/2003 - duration expired 3/31/2005.  
19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game and Turkey, filed 12/15/2004 - duration expired 3/31/2007.  
19.31.11 NMAC, Bear and Cougar, filed 12/1/2006 - duration expired 3/31/2009.  
19.31.11 NMAC, Bear and Cougar, filed 3/13/2009 - duration expired 3/31/2011.  
19.31.11 NMAC, Bear and Cougar, filed 2/22/2011 - duration expired 3/31/2016.  
19.31.11 NMAC, Bear and Cougar, filed 2/29/2016 - duration expired 3/31/2020.