

Final Adopted Rule

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TITLE 19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE
CHAPTER 31 HUNTING AND FISHING
PART 17 BIGHORN SHEEP

19.31.17.1 ISSUING AGENCY: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.
[19.31.17.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.1 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.2 SCOPE: Sportspersons interested in the management and hunting of bighorn sheep. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978, and Chapters 30, 31, 32 and 33 of Title 19 NMAC.
[19.31.17.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.2 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.3 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.
[19.31.17.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.3 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.4 DURATION: April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2023.
[19.31.17.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.4 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2019 unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.31.17.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.5 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.6 OBJECTIVE: Establishing open hunting seasons and regulation, rules, and procedures governing the distribution and issuance of bighorn sheep licenses by the department.
[19.31.17.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.6 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.7 DEFINITIONS:

A. "Bighorn enhancement program" as used herein, shall mean the department activity that allows the issuance of not more than four permits for the taking of one bighorn ram per permit with the purpose of raising funds for programs and projects to benefit bighorn sheep.

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

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

D. "Either sex" or "ES" shall mean any one animal of the species.

E. "Ewe" shall mean any female bighorn sheep.

F. "Game management unit" or "GMU" shall mean those areas as described in the rule 19.30.4 NMAC Boundary Descriptions for Game Management Units.

G. "Ram" shall mean any male bighorn sheep.

H. "Wildlife management areas" or "WMAs" shall mean those areas as described in rule 19.34.5 NMAC, Wildlife Management Areas.

[19.31.17.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.7 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.8 ADJUSTMENT OF LICENSES: The director, with the verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may adjust the number of bighorn licenses to address significant changes in population levels or to address critical department management needs. The director may change or cancel all hunts on military lands to accommodate closures on those lands; if changed, the season length and bag limit shall remain the same as assigned on the original hunt code.

[19.31.17.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.8 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.9 BIGHORN SHEEP LICENSE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS:

A. Rocky mountain bighorn sheep ram once-in-a-lifetime hunts: It shall be unlawful for anyone to apply for a Rocky mountain bighorn sheep ram license if one has previously held a license to hunt a Rocky mountain bighorn sheep ram in New Mexico, except those who have held a youth-only, private land-only (not obtained through the public draw), population management license for ram or ES that the director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, has decided does not qualify as once-in-a-lifetime, auction, and/or raffle bighorn ram license(s). A person that has received the youth-only ram license is eligible for this hunt only

once as a youth (under age 18), but may apply for the other Rocky mountain and desert bighorn once-in-a lifetime hunts as long as they are eligible.

B. Desert bighorn sheep ram once-in-a-lifetime hunts: It shall be unlawful for anyone to apply for a desert bighorn sheep ram license if one has previously held a license to hunt a desert bighorn sheep ram in New Mexico, except those who have held a youth-only, private land-only (not obtained through the public draw), population management license for ram or ES that the director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, has decided does not qualify as once-in-a-lifetime, auction, and/or raffle bighorn ram license(s). A person that has received the youth-only ram license is eligible for this hunt only once as a youth (under age 18), but may apply for the other Rocky mountain and desert bighorn once-in-a lifetime hunts as long as they are eligible.

C. Rocky mountain bighorn sheep ewe hunts: This hunt is not a once-in-a-lifetime hunt. A person that has previously held a license to hunt Rocky mountain bighorn rams or ewes is eligible to apply for this hunt. [19.31.17.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.9 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.10 SEALING OF RAM HORNS: A seal shall be affixed to a horn of every bighorn sheep ram head taken in New Mexico, imported into New Mexico, or found in the field in New Mexico subsequent to August 17, 1973. Bighorn sheep heads found in the field within New Mexico shall remain the property of the state until disposed of by permit from the director. The seal shall authorize possession and transportation of the head within New Mexico.

A. Such sealing shall be done within ten days after the bighorn sheep ram head is taken, imported, or found in the field and before the bighorn sheep head is exported from New Mexico. Bighorn sheep ram heads not so declared shall be seized. Only legally taken and possessed bighorn sheep ram heads shall be sealed.

B. Bighorn sheep ram heads legally sealed in other countries, states, tribal entities, provinces, and territories, and possessing a valid visible seal attached, are exempted.

C. It shall be unlawful to possess any bighorn sheep ram head which has not been sealed as described in this section.

[19.31.17.10 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.10 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.11 BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTING SEASONS: The 2019-20 through 2022-23 hunting seasons shall be as indicated below, listing the GMUs or areas open, eligibility requirements or restrictions, hunt dates, hunt codes, sporting arms, number of licenses, and bag limit. Additional eligibility requirements and restrictions are defined in Section 9 of 19.31.17 NMAC above.

A. Rocky mountain bighorn ram hunt for any legal sporting arms (BHS-1-201). Hunters applying for BHS-1-201 will be allowed to select and rank up to three open areas/hunt dates. The number of licenses available for BHS-1-201 will be up to 60 with a bag limit of one ram.

open GMUs or areas for BHS-1-201	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
6	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
14, 18	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
16B, 22, 23, 24	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31
45	8/9-8/18	8/7-8/16	8/6-8/15	8/5-8/14
	8/23-9/1	8/21-8/30	8/20-8/29	8/19-8/28
45, youth only	8/23-9/1	8/21-8/30	8/20-8/29	8/19-8/28
53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522	8/6-8/15	8/6-8/15	8/6-8/15	8/6-8/15
	9/1-9/10	9/1-9/10	9/1-9/10	9/1-9/10
53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950	8/9-8/18	8/7-8/16	8/6-8/15	8/5-8/14
	8/23-9/1	8/21-8/30	8/20-8/29	8/19-8/28
49, 50, 53 west of NM 522	8/10-8/24	8/10-8/24	8/10-8/24	8/10-8/24
	9/1-9/15	9/1-9/15	9/1-9/15	9/1-9/15
55 north of NM196/FS Rd 1950	8/15/2019-1/15/2020	8/15/2020-1/15/2021	8/15/2021-1/15/2022	8/15/2022-1/15/2023
58	8/15/2019-1/15/2020	8/15/2020-1/15/2021	8/15/2021-1/15/2022	8/15/2022-1/15/2023

B. Private land Rocky mountain bighorn ram hunt for any legal sporting arms. The number of licenses available will be up to 6 with a bag limit of one ram.

open GMUs	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
55 north of NM196/FS Rd 1950	8/15/2019- 1/15/2020	8/15/2020- 1/15/2021	8/15/2021- 1/15/2022	8/15/2022- 1/15/2023
58	8/15/2019- 1/15/2020	8/15/2020- 1/15/2021	8/15/2021- 1/15/2022	8/15/2022- 1/15/2023

C. Rocky mountain bighorn ewe hunt for any legal sporting arms (BHS-1-202). Hunters applying for BHS-1-202 will be allowed to select and rank up to three open areas/hunt dates. The number of licenses available for BHS-1-202 will be up to 150 with a bag limit of one ewe.

open GMUs or areas for BHS-1-202	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
45	9/21-9/25	9/19-9/23	9/18-9/22	9/17-9/21
	10/5-10/9	10/3-10/7	10/2-10/6	10/1-10/5
45, youth only	10/5-10/9	10/3-10/7	10/2-10/6	10/1-10/5
49, 50, 53 west of NM 522	10/12-10/20	10/10-10/18	10/9-10/17	10/8-10/16
	11/9-11/17	11/14-11/22	11/13-11/21	11/12-11/20
	12/14-12/22	12/12-12/20	12/11-12/19	12/10-12/18
49, 50, 53 west of NM 522, youth only	11/9-11/17	11/14-11/22	11/13-11/21	11/12-11/20
53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522	9/21-9/25	9/19-9/23	9/18-9/22	9/24-9/28
	10/5-10/9	10/3-10/7	10/2-10/6	10/8-10/12
53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522, youth only	9/21-9/25	9/19-9/23	9/18-9/22	9/24-9/28
53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950	9/21-10/4	9/19-10/2	9/18-10/1	9/17-9/30
53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950, youth only	9/21-10/4	9/19-10/2	9/18-10/1	9/17-9/30

D. Rocky mountain bighorn ewe hunt for bow only (BHS-2-203). Hunters applying for BHS-2-203 will be allowed to select and rank up to three open areas/hunt dates. The number of licenses available for BHS-2-203 will be up to 60 with a bag limit of one ewe.

open GMUs or areas for BHS-2-203	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
45	9/6-9/15	9/4-9/13	9/3-9/12	9/2-9/11
49, 50, 53 west of NM 522	9/16-9/30	9/16-9/30	9/16-9/30	9/16-9/30
53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522	9/11-9/17	9/11-9/17	9/11-9/17	9/11-9/17
53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950	9/7-9/20	9/5-9/18	9/4-9/17	9/3-9/16
53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950, youth only	9/7-9/20	9/5-9/18	9/4-9/17	9/3-9/16

E. Desert bighorn ram hunt for any legal sporting arms (BHS-1-204). Hunters applying for BHS-1-204 will be allowed to select and rank up to three open areas/hunt dates. The number of licenses available for BHS-1-204 will be up to 60 with a bag limit of one ram.

open GMUs or areas for BHS-1-204	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
13, 17	12/1-12/31	12/1-12/31	12/1-12/31	12/1-12/31
19	12/14-12/21	12/14-12/21	12/14-12/21	12/14-12/21

	12/27/2019-1/3/2020	12/27/2020-1/3/2021	12/27/2021-1/3/2022	12/27/2022-1/3/2023
20: south of NM 51	11/16-11/30	11/16-11/30	11/16-11/30	11/16-11/30
	12/1-12/15	12/1-12/15	12/1-12/15	12/1-12/15
20: north of NM 51	10/11-10/20	8/14-8/23	10/8-10/17	8/12-8/21
	2/16-2/29	3/5-3/14	2/16-2/28	3/3-3/12
20: north of NM 51, youth only	11/22-12/1	11/20-11/29	11/19-11/28	11/18-11/27
26	10/1-10/15	10/1-10/15	10/1-10/15	10/1-10/15
	10/16-10/31	10/16-10/31	10/16-10/31	10/16-10/31
27	11/1-11/30	11/1-11/30	11/1-11/30	11/1-11/30

F. Private land desert bighorn ram hunt for any legal sporting arms. The number of licenses available will be up to 6 with a bag limit of one ram.

open GMUs	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
20: north of NM 51	8/16-8/25	10/9-10/18	8/13-8/22	10/7-10/16
	3/6-3/15	2/16-2/28	3/4-3/13	2/16-2/28
20: north of NM 51, youth only	11/22-12/1	11/20-11/29	11/19-11/28	11/18-11/27

[19.31.17.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.11 NMAC, 4-1-19]

9.31.17.12 BIGHORN SHEEP ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM:

A. The director of the department shall collect all proceeds generated through auction and lottery of special bighorn sheep permits, and such monies shall be deposited in the game protection fund. These monies shall be made available for expenditure by the department solely for programs and projects to benefit bighorn sheep and for direct costs incurred in carrying out these programs. These monies shall be used to augment, and not replace, monies appropriated from existing funds available to the department for the preservation, restoration, utilization, and management of bighorn sheep.

B. The state game commission shall authorize the director of the department to issue not more than four special bighorn sheep permits in any one license year to take one bighorn sheep ram per permit. The director shall allow the sale of two permits through auction to the highest bidders and two permits to persons selected through a random drawing for the holder of a lottery ticket by the department or by an incorporated, nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of wild sheep.

C. Proposals for auctioning two special bighorn sheep permits and the sale of lottery tickets to obtain two special bighorn sheep permits through a pair of random drawings shall be submitted to the director of the department prior to December 30 annually, preceding the license year when the permits may be legally used.

D. The proposals for auctioning two permits, and for the sale of lottery tickets and subsequent selection of recipients for two permits through random drawing(s) shall each contain and identify:

(1) the name of the organization making the request as well as the names, addresses and telephone numbers of those members of the organization who are coordinating the proposal;

(2) a copy of the organization's articles of incorporation with a letter attesting that the organization has tax-exempt status. The letter must also affirm that the proponent agrees to the conditions set forth by the director of the department. The letter must be signed and dated by the president and secretary-treasurer, or their equivalents.

E. The director of the department shall examine all proposals following the close of the application period. The director may reject any application which does not conform to the requirements of this section. In selecting a marketing organization, the director shall consider the qualifications of the organization as a fund raiser; the proposed fund raising plan; the fee charged by the marketing organization for promotional and administrative costs, relative to the funds obtained from auctioning the permit; and the organization's previous involvement with wild sheep management and its conservation objectives. The director may accept any proposals when it is in the best interest of bighorn sheep to do so.

F. The marketing organization must agree in writing to the following:

(1) to transfer all proceeds on or before the tenth day of the month following the auction and drawing for the lottery, and

(2) to provide the department with the names, addresses, and the physical descriptions of the individuals to whom the special bighorn sheep permits are issued.

G. The department and the marketing organization must agree to the arrangements for the deposit of the proceeds, payment for services rendered, the accounting procedures, and final audit.

H. Unless his or her hunting privileges have been revoked pursuant to law, any resident of New Mexico, nonresident, or alien is eligible to submit a bid for the special bighorn auction permits or purchase lottery tickets in an attempt to be selected for the special bighorn lottery permits.

I. The special bighorn sheep permits issued through auction and lottery may be transferred, through sale, barter or gift by the successful individuals to only other individuals qualified to hunt.

J. Special bighorn sheep permits granted through auction or lottery, as described above, shall not be considered 'once-in-a-lifetime' permits. A person is eligible to submit a bid for the special bighorn auction and raffle licenses whether or not he or she has previously held a license to hunt Rocky mountain or desert bighorn sheep in New Mexico.

K. Holders of the auction licenses (BHS-1-500) must declare their exclusive hunt area by June 30 annually to hunt the designated subspecies in one of the open hunt areas. Each holder of the raffle license (BHS-1-600) must declare their exclusive hunt area by July 20 annually to hunt the designated subspecies in one of the open hunt areas not declared by the auction hunter.

L. The remaining hunt units open to bighorn hunting not declared by the auction or raffle hunter as their exclusive hunt area, may be hunted by either the auction or raffle hunter.

M. The hunt dates for BHS-1-500 and BHS-1-600 shall be 8/1-12/31 annually except GMU 53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522 is closed 8/16 to 8/31 annually to all bighorn sheep hunters.

[19.31.17.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.12 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.13 BIGHORN SHEEP POPULATION MANAGEMENT HUNTS:

A. The director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may authorize population management hunts for bighorn sheep when justified in writing by department personnel and must be based on biological information or a potential to compromise population viability.

B. The director shall designate the sporting arms, season dates, season lengths, bag limits, hunt boundaries, specific requirements or restrictions, and number of licenses to be issued.

C. In the event that an applicant is not able to hunt on the dates specified, the applicant's name shall be moved to the bottom of the list and another applicant may be contacted for the hunt.

D. In those instances where a population management hunt is warranted on deeded private lands, the landowner may suggest eligible hunters of their choice by submitting a list of prospective hunters' names to the department for licensing consideration. No more than one-half of the total number of licenses authorized shall be available to landowner identified hunters. The balance of prospective hunters shall be identified by the department.

E. The director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may deem some ram or either sex population management licenses not once-in-a-lifetime; a person that has held a once-in-a-lifetime ram license(s) is not disqualified from this hunt.

[19.31.17.13 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.13 NMAC, 4-1-19]

HISTORY OF 19.31.17 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 5/31/67;

Regulation No. 487, Establishing 1967 Seasons On Javelina And Barbary Sheep, filed 12/15/67;

Regulation No. 489, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring of 1968, filed 3/1/68;

Regulation No. 491, Establishing Big Game Seasons For 1968 For Jicarilla Reservation, filed 3/1/68;

Regulation No. 492, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 6/6/68;

Regulation No. 495, Establishing A Season On Bighorn Sheep, filed 10/2/68;

Regulation No. 496, Establishing An Elk Season In The Tres Piedras Area, Elk Area P-6, filed 12/11/68;

Regulation No. 502, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1969, filed 3/5/69;

Regulation No. 503, Establishing 1969 Deer Seasons For Bowhunting Only And Big Game Seasons For The Jicarilla Indian Reservation, filed 3/5/69;

Regulation 504, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Bear, Turkey, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 6/4/69;

Regulation No. 507, Establishing A Season On Bighorn Sheep, filed 8/26/69;

Regulation No. 512, Establishing Turkey Season For The Spring Of 1970, filed 2/20/70;

Regulation No. 513, Establishing Deer Season For Bowhunting Only In Sandia State Game Refuge, filed 2/20/70;

Regulation No. 514, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/9/70;

Regulation No 520, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1971, filed 3/9/71;

Regulation No. 522, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/9/71;

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 6/9/71;

Regulation No. 531, Establishing A Season On Javelina, filed 12/17/71;

Regulation No. 532, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1972, filed 3/20/72;

Regulation No. 534, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/20/72;

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 6/26/72;

Regulation No. 542, Establishing A Season On Javelina, filed 12/1/72;

Regulation No. 545, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1973, filed 2/26/73;

Regulation No. 546, Establishing 1973 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 2/26/73;

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 5/31/73;

Regulation No. 554, Establishing Special Turkey Seasons For The Spring of 1974, filed 3/4/74;

Regulation No. 556, Establishing 1974 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/14/74;

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 5/29/74;

Regulation No. 565, Establishing Special Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1975, filed 3/24/75;

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 3/24/75;

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 6/25/75;

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 2/23/76;

Regulation No. 583, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/11/77;

Regulation No. 590, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/15/78;

Regulation No. 596, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/23/79;

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 2/22/80;

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 3/17/81;

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 3/10/82;

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 3/9/83;

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 4/2/84;

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 4/18/85;

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 3/25/86;
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 2/12/87;
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 12/18/87;
Regulation No. 663, Establishing Opening Spring Turkey For The Period April 1, 1989 through March 31, 1990, filed 3/28/89;
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 3/20/89;
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 11/21/89;
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 2/8/91;
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 3/4/92;
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 3/11/93.

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.
19.31.17 NMAC, Bighorn Sheep, filed 12-1-2006 - duration expired 3-31-2009.
19.31.17 NMAC, Bighorn Sheep, filed 2-26-2009 - duration expired 3-31-2011.
19.31.17 NMAC, Bighorn Sheep, filed 9-15-2010 - duration expired 3-31-2015.
19.31.17 NMAC, Bighorn Sheep, filed 3-17-2015 - duration expired 3-31-2019.

NMAC Transmittal Form

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Your Access to Public Information:

Volume: Issue: Publication Date: Number of pages: (ALD Use Only) Sequence No.

Issuing agency name and address:

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Agency DFA code:

516

Contact person's name:

Elise Goldstein

Phone number:

505-476-8032

E-mail address:

Elise.Goldstein@state.nm.us

Type of rule action:

New Amendment Repeal Emergency Renumber

(ALD Use Only)

Most Recent Filing Date:

Title number:

19

Title name:

Natural Resources and Wildlife

Chapter number:

31

Chapter name:

Hunting and Fishing

Part number:

17

Part name:

Bighorn

Amendment Description (If filing an Amendment):

Amendment's NMAC Citation (If filing an Amendment):

Are there any materials incorporated by reference?

Yes No

Please list attachments or Internet sites if applicable.

If materials are attached, has copyright permission been received?

Yes No Public domain

Concise Explanatory Statement for rulemaking adoption:

Specific statutory or other authority authorizing rulemaking:

17-1-14, et seq. NMSA 1978; 17-1-26, et seq. NMSA 1978

Notice date(s):

April 10, 2018

Hearing date(s):

May 22, 2018

Rule Adoption date:

May 22, 2018

Rule Effective date:

April 1, 2019

Findings required for rulemaking adoption.

Findings MUST include:

- Reasons for adopting rule, including any findings otherwise required by law of the agency, and a summary of any independent analysis done by the agency;
- Reasons for any change between the published proposed rule and the final rule; and
- Reasons for not accepting substantive arguments made through public comment.

The rulemaking was undertaken to adopt a new Bighorn Sheep rule, 19.31.17 NMAC, which will become effective April 1, 2019. The current Bighorn Sheep rule is set to expire on March 31, 2019.

The new rule includes increasing the maximum number of Rocky Mountain and desert bighorn licenses for rams, modifying certain hunt dates and season lengths to accommodate more Rocky Mountain bighorn hunters, adding hunts in the Jemez and Manzano mountains that will only be drawn if ram numbers indicates it's feasible, adding additional youth, rifle, and archery hunts, increasing licenses for Rocky Mountain ewes to address population management issues, and adding an additional hunt period to Fra Cristobal desert ram hunt to spread out hunters.

Continued on reverse side

**Findings required for rulemaking adoption
continued**

We removed manner and method references from the bighorn sheep rule. Removed content will be included in the manner and method rule to open later in 2018. The rule also includes allowing the Director, with chairperson concurrence, to designate some population management ram hunts as not once-in-a-lifetime. In addition, we modified the enhancement program such that the auction hunter declares which herd they will hunt by June 30, the raffle hunter declares by July 20, and both hunters can hunt the remaining open areas (but not the other person's declared herd).

There have been no changes between the published proposed rule and the final rule. There were no substantive arguments made through public comment that were not accepted. To view public comments, please visit www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/meeting-agendas/ and click on the Hearing Archive tab. The resulting rule was based on what was best for the resource and overall hunter satisfaction.

Issuing authority (If delegated, authority letter must be on file with ALD):

Name:

Alexandra Sandoval

Check if authority has been delegated

Title:

Director, NMDGF

Signature: (BLACK ink only)

Alexandra Sandoval

Date signed:

5/25/18