

License Information

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

Habitat Management & Access Validation

Habitat Management and Access Validation must be purchased and possessed by all hunters, trappers and anglers. This once-per-license-year fee is used to: lease access to private lands for public use; provide public access to landlocked public land; and provide improvement, maintenance, development and operation of State Game Commission property for fish and wildlife habitat management. This fee will not be charged to hunters, trappers and anglers younger than 18 years of age, resident anglers 70 years and older and 100% Disabled Resident Veterans in conjunction with their free licenses.

Habitat Stamp

All hunters, trappers and anglers must purchase and possess a current Habitat Stamp to use Forest Service (including the Valles Caldera) and BLM lands in New Mexico. Only one stamp is required each license year for these lands. The stamp is not required on other public property (such as state, county or municipal lands and parks), other federal lands (such as the Bureau of Reclamation, Army Corps of Engineers and military reservations), or on private property. The stamp is not required in Unit 28, a predominately Bureau of Land Management property under military withdrawal. This fee will not be charged to trappers or anglers under 12 years of age, resident anglers 70 years and older or 100% Disabled Resident Veterans in conjunction with their free licenses. Funds from the sale of Habitat Stamps are used to improve wildlife habitat.

Purchase of Stamps and Validations

Habitat Stamps and Habitat Management & Access Validations may be purchased online, by telephone or at license vendors. Purchase of a Habitat Stamp and Habitat Management & Access Validation is not necessary prior to applying for draw hunt licenses and permits. However, purchase will be required if applicable upon receipt of a license or permit and prior to hunting, fishing or trapping.

Hunter Education or Mentored-Youth Number Required

Before purchasing a legal sporting arm, archery or muzzleloader hunt license, individuals younger than 18 years of age must possess a Hunter Education number from New Mexico or another state. Individuals at least 10 years of age—but younger than 18 years of age—may use a New Mexico Mentored-Youth Hunter number, but only for deer, turkey, javelina and small game draw hunts. Hunter Education or Mentored-Youth Hunter numbers must be carried at all times while hunting (pages 8, 9).

Youth-Only Hunts

To qualify for youth-only or youth-adult hunts, applicants must be younger than 18 years of age on opening day of the hunt and must possess a Hunter Education number or Mentored-Youth Hunter number (pages 8, 9). The Hunter Education number is valid for all youth-only hunts. The Mentored-Youth Hunter number is valid only for deer, turkey, javelina and upland game youth-only hunts.

New Mexico Residency Requirements

To qualify for New Mexico resident fees, an individual must meet one of the following criteria.

1. A United States citizen who has resided in New Mexico for a period of not less than 90 days immediately preceding the date of application for a license and who does not claim residency elsewhere for any purpose. **Temporary or seasonal residents**, who maintain a primary residence outside of New Mexico, **do not qualify** for resident licenses.
2. A citizen of another country who is legally in the United States and can verify residence in New Mexico for 90 days immediately preceding his/her license application.
3. A student who has attended an educational institution in New Mexico while residing in the state for at least one full semester preceding the application for a license. Students also must present a certificate or letter from the institution verifying their enrollment and attendance.
4. A member of the U.S. Armed Forces who is assigned permanently to a military installation located within New Mexico and who presents with his/her application a certificate or letter that verifies the military assignment and is signed by the commanding officer.
5. A member of the U.S. Armed Forces who is officially stationed at a military reservation located partially in New Mexico and an adjacent state and who presents with his/her application a certificate or letter that verifies the military assignment and is signed by the commanding officer. This applies only for a special license for hunting and fishing in New Mexico on the military reservation only.

Reduced-fee Resident Handicapped Licenses

A reduced-fee Game-hunting & Fishing License is available to New Mexico residents with a permanent disability in accord with the American Disability Act. Applicants must provide proof, signed by licensed medical doctor, of one or more disabilities that substantially limit major life activities.

A Resident Handicapped License allows a hunter to: 1.) shoot from a stationary motor-driven vehicle that is not on a public road or highway; 2.) have assistance tracking, killing and retrieving big game that has been wounded by the MI hunter; 3.) drive off established roads to hunt for small game or to retrieve downed big game. (Permission of the landowner, lessee or land management agency required. Valid only if area is not closed by the landowner, lessee or management agency or closed under the Habitat Protection Act).

Resident Handicapped License holders must purchase and possess a Habitat Stamp and Habitat Management & Access Validation (page 10) as applicable. All other laws and rules must be followed. For further information telephone: 1-888-248-6866 or write: NMDGF Licensing Operations, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

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Mobility-Impaired Certification (MI)

MI Certification by NMDGF is required prior to submitting an application for MI designated pronghorn antelope, oryx, elk or deer hunts. To qualify for MI Certification, an individual must have a permanent impairment that: 1.) limits his/her mobility to a walker, wheelchair or two crutches; 2.) severely restricts movement in both arms; and/or 3.) has combination of permanent disabilities which cause comparable substantial functional limitations. MI Certification form is available online or may be requested by telephone. This form must be signed by the applicant's physician and attest that one or more of the above mobility-impaired conditions apply.

The MI card allows a handicapped licensed hunter with a proper and valid license to: 1.) apply for Mobility Impaired Only public draw hunts; 2.) shoot from a stationary motor-driven vehicle that is not on a public road or highway; 3.) have assistance tracking, killing and retrieving big game that has been wounded by the MI hunter; 4.) use a crossbow during archery only season(s); 5.) drive off established roads to hunt for small game or to retrieve downed big game. (Permission of the landowner, lessee or land management agency required. Valid only if area is not closed by the landowner, lessee or management agency or closed under the Habitat Protection Act).

The MI card is valid for 48 months from the date approved/issued by NMDGF. The MI card requires the holder to purchase and possess a Habitat Stamp and Habitat Management & Access Validation (page 10) if applicable. All other laws and rules must be followed.

Reduced-fee Junior Licenses

Reduced-fee licenses for Junior Game-hunting, Junior Game-hunting and Fishing, Junior Deer and Junior Elk are available to individuals younger than 18 years of age at the time of purchase. Junior hunters wishing to take advantage of any reduced-fee license to hunt deer or elk on public land must apply for a Deer Draw or Elk Draw License by March 18 (application deadline). Junior licenses for hunting deer on private land may be purchased at local license vendors, by telephone or online. It is recommended the hunter not purchase the Private-land Only Deer License until certain whether he/she has been unsuccessful in the draw.

Reduced-fee Senior Licenses

Reduced-fee licenses for Senior Game-hunting and Fishing, Senior Elk or Senior Deer are available to residents 65 years or older at the time of purchase. Senior hunters wishing to take advantage of any reduced-fee license to hunt deer or elk on public land must apply for a Deer Draw or Elk Draw License by March 18 (application deadline). Senior licenses for hunting deer on private land can be purchased at local license vendors, by telephone or online. It is recommended the hunter not purchase a Private-land Only Deer License until certain whether he/she has been unsuccessful in the draw.

Military and Veteran Licenses and Hunt Opportunities

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish acknowledges the contribution and sacrifice of active military and disabled veterans with several discounted licenses and special hunting opportunities. Information about active military and veteran hunting and fishing opportunities and how to apply is available NMDGF online and by telephone.

Military and Veteran Licenses and Hunt Opportunities—continued.

Proof of Military Status Must Accompany Application(s) for All Military Only Hunts (Fort Bliss opportunities listed on page 14.)

Each license year, applicants must provide proof of full-time active duty or veteran status. Documented proof must be provided to NMDGF by the application deadline date.

Proof may be submitted by e-mail: specialhunts@state.nm.us, fax: (505) 476-8180 or U.S. Mail: NMDGF Special Hunts, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87507.

Free Licenses for 100% Disabled Veterans

New Mexico residents who are 100% disabled veterans of the armed services are eligible free of charge for a lifetime Game-hunting & Fishing License. Disabled veterans may apply to NMDGF for a Disabled American Veteran Card which allows the holder to fish, hunt small game and obtain a deer hunting license. Card holders do not need to buy or possess a Habitat Stamp or Habitat Management & Access Validation when fishing or hunting small game or deer. 100%-disabled veteran hunters who apply for a Public-land Deer License will not be charged an application fee.

Disabled Veterans Game Hunting and Fishing License

New Mexico residents who are disabled veterans of the armed services, but do not meet the 100% disabled qualification, are eligible for a \$10 combination Game-hunting & Fishing License. Disabled veterans may purchase a license online, by telephone or at license vendors. A Habitat Management & Access Validation and Habitat Stamp (page 10) are required if applicable with the Disabled Veterans Game-hunting & Fishing License.

Licenses for Active Duty Military

These licenses may be purchased online, by telephone or at local vendors. A Habitat Stamp and Habitat Management & Access Validation (page 10) are required if applicable.

New Mexico residents who are active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces or the National Guard and who are on leave for 30 days or less are eligible for temporary licenses. A Four-day temporary Game-hunting License is available for \$16. A Five-day Temporary Fishing License is available for \$12.

For all New Mexico residents who are active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces or the National Guard a Game-hunting & Fishing License is available for \$20.

Resident Veteran Game-hunting & Fishing License

New Mexico residents who are members of the National Guard or the U.S. Armed Forces and were called to active duty on or after April 3, 2003, are eligible for a free Game-hunting & Fishing License for the year following their deactivation and return to New Mexico. Proof of service must be presented to NMDGF. A Habitat Management & Access Validation and Habitat Stamp are not required in conjunction with this license. This is an once-in-a-lifetime benefit.

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Military and Veteran Licenses and Hunt Opportunities—continued.

Oryx Hunts for Iraq-Afghanistan Returnees

New Mexico residents deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan are eligible for an Once-in-a-Lifetime Oryx Hunt, available by drawing each license year. New Mexico resident fees apply. Applicant must before the application deadline (page 2) submit a copy of his/her orders or DD-214 with the draw application by e-mail: specialhunts@state.nm.us, fax: (505) 476-8180 or U.S. Mail: NMDGF Special Hunts, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87507.

Fort Bliss Opportunities

Active-duty military personnel stationed at Fort Bliss are eligible for resident pricing on draw hunt licenses for activities that occur on portions of the Fort Bliss military reservation in New Mexico.

Each year, proof of assignment must be submitted by e-mail: specialhunts@state.nm.us, fax: 505-476-8180 or mail before the application deadline (page 2).

Military Rehabilitation Fishing License

Members or veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces in rehabilitation programs which include the learning and practice of fishing skills are eligible for free fishing licenses. The rehabilitation program must be sponsored by the federal government or a nonprofit organization authorized by the federal government, and it must be under the direction of a military or federal Veteran's Administration rehabilitation center. The Habitat Management & Access Validation and the Habitat Stamp are not required. For more information, please telephone: 1-888-248-6866.

Nonresident Disabled Active Duty and Veteran Licenses for Rehabilitation Enrollees

Nonresident active-duty members or veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces who are undergoing a rehabilitation program that involves hunting activities are eligible for a resident fee on deer, elk, javelina, oryx, pronghorn antelope and turkey licenses. The rehabilitation program must be sponsored by the federal government, or a nonprofit organization authorized by the federal government and it must be under the direction of a military or federal Veteran's Administration rehabilitation center. **This benefit is not available through the draw.** Proof of eligibility must be provided. This benefit is available only at NMDGF offices.

Nongame Hunting License

Residents do not need a license to take nongame species. Nonresidents must purchase a Nonresident Nongame License or any New Mexico nonresident hunting license. Nongame species include prairie dogs, ground squirrels, Himalayan tahr, porcupine and rabbits (Coyotes and skunks are unprotected furbearers, page 121, and feral hogs are an unprotected species, page 19). Nongame hunting is not permitted on Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) unless otherwise posted, except Water Canyon WMA where hunting non-native Himalayan tahr is permitted.

License Refunds, Transfers and Donations

New Mexico Game Hunting Licenses are nontransferable and nonrefundable. However, transfer of a big-game license or permit may be granted by the NMDGF Director if the licensee: 1.) is deceased; 2.) has sustained a severe injury or suffered a life-threatening illness which prevents participation; 3.) is deployed by the U.S. military prior to the start of the hunt which prohibits participation; or 4.) a natural disaster has occurred which prevents the hunt. For more information visit online or telephone.

To promote youth hunting a license or permit may be donated to NMDGF for transfer to a youth (17 years or younger) who has been recommended by a nonprofit organization that promotes youth hunting. Recommending nonprofit organizations must be approved and recognized by New Mexico State Game Commission. For more information visit online or telephone.

Penalties for Hunting Small Game without a License

Hunters cited for hunting small game without a license may pay a penalty assessment instead of appearing in court. The penalty assessment is \$100, plus the purchase of a hunting license and permits, stamps and fees (page 5) related to the citation. A license will be mailed upon payment of the assessment. A hunter cited will be assessed 10 points against a potential 20 points which may result in license revocation.

License Revocation

Hunting and fishing privileges may be revoked for a definite period of time depending on the severity of the violation, if accumulated game law violations equal 20 points within a three year period. For further information contact NMDGF Field Operations: (505) 476-8066.

License Information Is Public Record

Pursuant to the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act, Sections 14-2-1 et seq. NMSA 1978, all information provided when applying for licenses and permits is “public record” and must be disclosed to anyone when properly requested, with the following exceptions: 1.) the last four digits of a taxpayer identification number, a financial account number or a driver’s license number; 2.) all but the year of a person’s date of birth; and 3.) a social security number.

Parental Responsibility Act

The Parental Responsibility Act requires the New Mexico State Game Commission to revoke the recreational and professional licenses of anyone who does not comply with court-ordered child support obligations. The purpose is to discourage parental neglect of children by suspending hunting and fishing privileges until failure to pay court-ordered child support has been corrected. For more information, please contact NMDGF Field Operations: (505) 476-8066.