

Bighorn Sheep

Licenses, applications, harvest reports and general information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Draw Licenses for Rocky Mountain and Desert Bighorn Sheep

(See *Big Game Rules: While in The Field You Must Have All of the Following*, page 20.)

Application and Licenses

Hunters are eligible to draw one Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Ram License and one Desert Bighorn Sheep Ram License in a lifetime. A person who has held a license to hunt a desert bighorn sheep ram may apply for a draw license to hunt a Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep ram and vice versa.

Youth hunters (younger than 18 years of age on the first day of the hunt) are eligible to draw one Youth-Only Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Ram License and one Youth-Only Desert Bighorn Sheep Ram License.

A hunter may apply for up to three bighorn sheep (BHS) hunt codes in the same license year, but only on one application (See page 92, *New Application Procedure for Bighorn Sheep Hunts*).

Individuals who have previously held a Bighorn Sheep Enhancement License (pages 39–40) may apply for draw licenses.

Hunters must apply by March 18, 2015. Only one person may apply per application. Anyone applying for a Bighorn Sheep Draw License **must pay** all license and application fees at the time of application.

Youth-Only Hunt

To apply, youth must be younger than 18 years of age on opening day of the hunt and must possess a Hunter Education number (see page 8).

Legal Sporting Arms

Centerfire rifle or handgun, .24 caliber or larger; shotgun no smaller than 28 gauge, firing a single slug; bow and arrows; crossbow and bolts or muzzleloading rifle no smaller than .45 caliber.

Bighorn Sheep Ram Heads Must Have a Seal

All bighorn sheep rams taken in New Mexico must have a seal inserted in one horn by NMDGF. Sealing must occur within 10 days of harvest. Bighorn sheep heads found in the field must remain where found and may not be possessed. Bighorn sheep ram heads must be sealed prior to transport outside New Mexico. Bighorn sheep heads brought into New Mexico must be sealed by NMDGF within 10 days of entry into the state. Bighorn sheep legally harvested and sealed by another jurisdiction (state, tribal entity or country) do not have to be resealed by NMDGF.

License Fees

Game-hunting or Game-hunting & Fishing License and Habitat Management & Access Validation required (page 20). Habitat Stamp required if hunting on Forest Service and/or BLM lands (page 10). All license and application fees must be paid at the time of application (pages 5, 7).

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New Application Procedure for Bighorn Sheep (BHS) Hunts

New application procedures have been instituted for bighorn sheep licenses. These new procedures only apply to bighorn sheep (BHS) hunts.

BHS Hunt Codes: Hunts are divided into four BHS hunt codes (BHS-1-201, BHS-1-202, BHS-2-203 and BHS-1-204). Applicants may choose, in the order preferred, up to three hunt codes.

Hunt Areas and Hunt Dates: Each BHS hunt code lists the available hunt areas and hunt dates for that hunt code. For each BHS hunt code chosen, applicants may select, in the order preferred, up to three hunt areas and hunt dates for that hunt code.

New Mexico resident hunters will be allocated 84 percent of total BHS licenses. Residents and nonresident applicants using a guide or outfitter are eligible for up to 10 percent of BHS licenses. Nonresident applicants are eligible for up to 6 percent of BHS licenses.

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Ram: Hunt Code BHS-1-201

Any Legal Sporting Arm

Applicants may select in order of preference three hunts listed in the table below. Hunt areas, eligibility requirements, GMUs, dates, number of licenses and bag for each selection are provided.

Hunt Area	Hunt Dates	Licenses	Bag
GMU 16B, 22, 23, 24	Jan. 1-31, '16	2	Ram
GMU 45.	Aug. 14-23	2	Ram
GMU 45.	Aug. 24-Sept. 6	1	Ram
GMU 45 - Youth Only Hunt.	Aug. 24-Sept. 6	1	Ram
GMU 53. (GMU 53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522)	Sept. 1-15	4	Ram
GMUs 53 and 55 (GMU 53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; GMU 55 south of NM 196 / FS Rd. 1950)	Aug. 7-16	2	Ram
GMUs 53 and 55 (GMU 53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; GMU 55 south of NM 196 / FS Rd. 1950)	Aug. 17-30	2	Ram
GMUs 49, 50 and 53 (GMUs 49, 50 and 53 west of NM 522)	Aug. 15-Jan. 15, '16	2	Ram
GMU 55* (GMU 55 north of NM 196 / FS Rd. 1950; See below.)	Aug. 15-Jan. 15, '16	1	Ram
GMU 58* (GMU 58 see below.)	Aug. 15-Jan. 15, '16	1	Ram

* Herds in GMUs 55 and 58 are often dispersed, and rams may not be present year-round. Hunters should be prepared to hunt when rams are present. The dates for these hunts are extended as a result. If considering one of these hunts, it is advised to contact the NMDGF Information Center: 1-888-248-6866 before applying.

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Ewe: Hunt Code BHS-1-202

Any Legal Sporting Arm

Applicants may select hunts for which they are eligible from the table below. Hunt areas, eligibility requirements, GMUs, dates, number of licenses and bag for each selection are provided.

Hunt Area	Hunt Dates	Licenses	Bag
GMU 53 and 55 (GMU 53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; GMU 55 south of NM 196 / FS Rd. 1950)	Sept. 14–27	11	Ewe
GMUs 53 and 55 - Youth Only (GMU 53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; GMU 55 south of NM 196 / FS Rd. 1950)	Sept. 14–27	1	Ewe

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Ewe: Hunt Code BHS-2-203

Archery Only

Applicants may select hunts for which they are eligible from the table below. Hunt areas, eligibility requirements, GMUs, dates, number of licenses and bag for each selection are provided.

Hunt Area	Hunt Dates	Licenses	Bag
GMUs 53 and 55 (GMU 53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; GMU 55 south of NM 196 / FS Rd. 1950)	Aug. 31–Sept. 13	11	Ewe
GMUs 53 and 55 - Youth Only (Unit 53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; Unit 55 south of NM 196 / FS Rd. 1950)	Aug. 31–Sept. 13	1	Ewe

Desert Bighorn Ram: Hunt Code BHS-1-204

Any Legal Sporting Arm

Applicants may select in order of preference three hunts listed in the table below. Hunt areas, eligibility requirements, GMUs, dates, number of licenses and bag for each selection are provided.

Hunt Area	Hunt Dates	Licenses	Bag
GMU 27	Nov. 1–30	2	Ram
GMU 26	Oct. 1–15	3	Ram
GMU 26	Oct. 16–31	3	Ram
GMU 19 (See page 94, <i>San Andres Mountains Bighorn Sheep Hunt</i> .)	Dec. 14–Jan. 1, '16	3	Ram
GMU 20 South - First Hunt (GMU 20 south of NM 51.)	Nov. 16–30	2	Ram
GMU 20 South - Second Hunt (GMU 20 south of NM 51.)	Dec. 1–15	1	Ram
GMU 20 North (GMU 20 north of NM 51. See page 94, <i>Fra Cristobal Bighorn Sheep Hunts</i> .)	Aug. 21–30	1	Ram
GMU 20 North (GMU 20 north of NM 51. See page 94, <i>Fra Cristobal Bighorn Sheep Hunts</i> .)	Oct. 16–25	3	Ram

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Desert Bighorn Ram: Hunt Code BHS-1-204—continued.

Hunt Area	Hunt Dates	Licenses	Bag
GMU 20 North (GMU 20 north of NM 51. See below, <i>Fra Cristobal Bighorn Sheep Hunts.</i>)	Nov. 20–29	1	Ram
GMU 20 North - Youth Only (GMU 20 north of NM 51. See below, <i>Fra Cristobal Bighorn Sheep Hunts.</i>)	Nov. 20–29	1	Ram
GMUs 13 and 17	Dec. 1–31	1	Ram

GMU 19 (San Andres Mountains Bighorn Sheep Hunt)

License, Access Fees and Hunt Dates

Access through the White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) is required for this hunt. In addition to the Bighorn sheep license, validation and stamp fees, WSMR charges a \$150 per hunter access fee. Successful applicants will receive an instruction letter from WSMR detailing payment of the fee, including deadline dates.

Hunters should anticipate the most opportune times to hunt during the 19-day hunt period will be on weekends, non-duty days and holidays. Military authorities may delay or cancel hunts if concern for public safety dictates.

WSMR Security

All hunters who successfully draw a San Andres Mountains Bighorn Sheep Hunt (and all guests) will be required by WSMR to complete a security-background check prior to being allowed access. All vehicles entering WSMR are subject to security searches by WSMR officers. Outfitters must be registered with WSMR in advance of the hunt to be allowed access.

GMU 20 North of NM Highway 51 (Fra Cristobal Bighorn Sheep Hunts)

Hunts occur on private land only. Landowner may place restrictions on these hunts. For information contact the Armendaris Ranch at: armendarisranch@retranches.com or (575) 894-6782.

