

Upland Game

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

Upland Game

Upland game includes dusky (blue) grouse, Eurasian collared-dove, pheasant, quail and squirrel.

Valencia County Landowner Pheasant Permits

No public-land pheasant hunting is allowed in Valencia County. Private-land pheasant hunting is allowed, provided permission has been obtained from the landowner. Landowners are required to provide NMDGF's Northwest Office in Albuquerque proof of ownership and sufficient acreage to safely conduct the planned hunt(s). The landowner will be issued application forms to distribute to hunters. Hunters intending to hunt on private land in Valencia County must obtain an application from the landowner and submit it to NMDGF's Northwest Office in Albuquerque (page v). Hunters may possess a Valencia County Landowner Permit in addition to another special pheasant hunt permit.

Special Pheasant Permits

Permits (issued by drawing) are required for Special Permit Pheasant Hunts on W.S. Huey WMA and for Youth-Only Pheasant Hunt on Bernardo WMA. To receive a permit, hunters may apply online:

www.wildlife.state.nm.us or by telephone: 1-888-248-6866. Applications must be submitted by September 30 before 5 p.m. MDT. Hunt codes and further information are listed on page 131.

Dog Call-Pen and Field Trial Permits

A \$15 permit is required for either a call-pen release or dog field trial. Contact NMDGF for information: (505) 476-8064.

Shooting Preserve Permits

A shooting preserve permit fee is \$200. Contact NMDGF's Santa Fe office for information: (505) 476-8064.

Possession of Live Birds

Crippled birds must be killed immediately. Possession of live birds is illegal.

Wanton Waste Is Illegal

Anyone taking game birds must transport the edible portions of the meat from the field for human consumption.

Federally Protected Bird Species

Unless otherwise designated, all birds are protected by federal law. Federally protected birds include eagles, hawks, falcons, owls, vultures, crows, ravens and all songbirds. Unprotected birds are starlings, rock doves (common pigeons) and house sparrows (English sparrows).

Possession, Transportation and Storage

It is unlawful to possess game birds or squirrels without a proper license or other evidence demonstrating the game was taken legally.

The head or leg of each pheasant, the leg of each quail and one fully feathered wing of each Eurasian collared-dove taken must remain attached to the bird until transported to the hunter's home or storage facility.

Game meat may be given to another individual, however, it must be accompanied by a written statement. The statement must include the kind and number of game, the date and county where taken, the name and license number of the hunter and the date and place where the donation occurred (sample donation certificate, page 95).

Game transported by an appropriately licensed hunter or accompanied by a written statement (described above) may be transported within or outside New Mexico. Legally taken and possessed upland game may be stored for five days after the close of the season for that species. After this date, a storage permit must be obtained from NMDGF.

Legal Sporting Arms

Quail and pheasant may be taken with shotguns firing shot, muzzle-loading shotguns, bows and crossbows.

Eurasian collared-dove, grouse and squirrels may be taken with shotguns firing shot, muzzle-loading shotguns, rim-fire and muzzle-loading firearms, bows and crossbows and pellet guns that are .177 caliber and larger.

Nontoxic Shot Required on Game Commission Areas

Nontoxic shot is required for hunting any species with a shotgun on all open areas owned or managed by the New Mexico State Game Commission. Nontoxic shot includes: bismuth-tin, iron (steel), iron-tungsten, iron-tungsten-nickel, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, tungsten matrix, tungsten polymer, tungsten-tin-iron, tungsten-tin-bismuth, tungsten-tin-iron-nickel and tungsten-iron-polymer. **The New Mexico State Game Commission recommends hunters use nontoxic shot for all small game hunting.**

Rabbits and Other Nongame Species

Nongame species include prairie dogs, ground squirrels, Himalayan tahr, porcupine and rabbits. Coyotes and skunks are unprotected furbearers (page 121). Feral hogs are an unprotected species (page 19). New Mexico residents are not required to have a license to take nongame species. Nonresidents must possess either a Nonresident Nongame License or any current New Mexico nonresident hunting license. Nongame species may be taken on State Trust Land which are opened by easement, provided the hunter holds a valid license and is hunting or trapping during the season(s) designated for that license. Nongame species also may be taken on Forest Service and BLM lands open to hunting. White-sided (antelope) jackrabbits, found primarily in Hidalgo county, are protected under the New Mexico Wildlife Conservation Act and may not be hunted. Wildlife Management Areas are closed to all nongame hunting.

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Quail Season (Scaled, Gambel's, Bobwhite, Montezuma)

Hunt Area	Season Dates	Bag / Possession
Statewide . . .	Nov. 15–Feb. 15, '16.	. 15 per day (no more than 5 Montezuma quail) / 30 in possession (no more than 10 Montezuma quail).

Grouse, Eurasian Collared-Dove and Squirrel Seasons

Dusky (Blue) Grouse Seasons

Hunt Area	Season Dates	Bag / Possession
Statewide . . .	Sept. 1–Nov. 30 3 per day / 6 in possession

Eurasian Collared-Dove

Hunt Area	Season Dates	Bag / Possession
Statewide . . .	April. 1–March. 31 Unlimited

Squirrel Seasons (Abert's, Red, Gray and Fox)

Hunt Area	Season Dates	Bag / Possession
Statewide . . .	Sept. 1–Nov. 30 8 per day / 16 in possession



Photo courtesy of Dale Buser, Jr.



Pheasant Seasons

Over-the-Counter, Statewide (excluding Valencia County)

Hunt Area	Season Dates	Bag / Possession
Statewide . . .	Dec. 10–13	3 males per day / 6 in possession

Private Land, Valencia County

Hunt Area	Season Dates	Bag / Possession
Valencia only .	Dec. 12	3 males / 6 in possession

Landowners in Valencia County can receive from the NMDGF Northwest Office in Albuquerque an unlimited number of applications specially marked for hunting pheasants on their private land.

Hunters wishing to hunt private land in Valencia County must obtain one of these applications and submit it to the NMDGF Northwest Area Office. Shooting hours for Valencia County Landowner Permits are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. No public-land pheasant hunting is allowed in Valencia County.

Draw Permit Hunts General Information (Resident Only)

To receive a permit, hunters may apply online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us or 1-888-248-6866. Applications must be made no later than Wednesday, September 30 before 5 p.m. MDT.

Bernardo and W.S. Huey WMA Youth-Only Pheasant Hunts

Two Youth-Only Pheasant Hunts are available by drawing. Age requirements are listed on page 10. Hunter Education and/or Mentored-Youth Program requirements are listed on pages 8–9. Using the hunt codes listed below, apply online or by telephone. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult. Shooting hours on Bernardo are ½ hour before sunrise to 1 p.m. Shooting hours on W.S. Huey WMA are ½ hour before sunrise to 4 p.m.

Hunt Area	Hunt Code	Season Dates	Bag	Permits
Bernardo	PHE-0-001.	Oct. 17	3 males	20
W.S. Huey WMA	PHE-0-002.	Dec. 5.	3 males	40

W.S. Huey WMA Pheasant Hunt

A draw-permit hunt will be held at W.S. Huey on December 12. Using the hunt code listed below, apply online or by telephone. Shooting hours on W.S. Huey are ½ hour before sunrise to 4 p.m.

Hunt Area	Hunt Code	Season Dates	Bag	Permits
W.S. Huey	PHE-0-005	Dec. 12	3 males	40

Bitter Lake Youth-Only Pheasant Hunt

A Youth-Only Pheasant Hunt at Bitter Lake Refuge will be scheduled. Hunter Education and/or Mentored-Youth Program requirements are listed on pages 8–9. For details contact the Bitter Lake Refuge at (575) 622-6755 or steve_alvarez@fws.gov.

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New Mexico State Game Commission Areas

State Game Commission areas open to hunting as allowed in the special regulations are listed below. Hunting is **not allowed** outside of open seasons¹ or for species not listed. Vehicles are restricted to designated areas and camping is not allowed. Shooting hours are listed on page 26.

Nontoxic Shot

Hunters must use and possess only USFWS-approved nontoxic shot (page 129) while using a shotgun in all areas listed below (excluding Big Hatchet Special Management Area).

Days Open to Upland Game Hunting (• = Days Open)

Wildlife Management Area	Species	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
W.S. Huey	Quail		•		•			•
Big Hatchet Special Mgmt. Area .	Quail	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Prairie Chicken Areas	Quail	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Colin Neblett, E.S. Barker,	All Upland Game	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Humphries, Marquez, Rio Chama, Sandhills Prairie Conservation Area, Sargent, Socorro-Escondida, Urraca and Water Canyon.								
Forest Service Management Area								
Sandia Ranger District	All Upland Game (Archery only)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Bureau of Reclamation Managed Areas

Areas managed by the Bureau of Reclamation in GMU 31 are open to small game hunting, trapping and angling. All NMDGF rules and regulations apply in these areas.

Seven Rivers: Quail hunting is allowed during open season.

Brantley (except Seven Rivers): Quail and pheasant hunting are allowed during open seasons.

Falconry Upland Game Seasons

Eurasian Collared-Dove

Hunt Area	Season Dates	Bag / Possession
Statewide . . .	April. 1–March. 31 . . .	Unlimited

Pheasant, Grouse and Quail

Area	Date	Bag / Possession
Statewide . . .	Sept. 1–Feb. 28, '16 . . .	3 singly or in aggregate / Singly or aggregate for grouse and pheasant (6) and quail (30) in possession.

Squirrel (Abert's, Red, Gray and Fox)

Area	Date	Bag / Possession
Statewide . . .	Sept. 1–Feb. 28, '16 . . .	3 singly or in aggregate / 16 in possession.