

Outfitted Hunts

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

Outfitted Hunts

NMDGF regulates registered outfitters. An outfitter is any person who advertises or holds him/herself out for hire to the public or accepts compensation for providing equipment and/or services for hunting activities. A New Mexico outfitter is a person who has met very specific qualifications as set forth in law.

New Mexico's draw quota system allocates big-game licenses and permits to residents and nonresidents who contract in writing with a New Mexico outfitter prior to application. Allocations will be drawn from a pool of up to 10% of all available licenses or permits.

Landowners and their authorized agents are exempt from registration requirements when guiding a hunter on the landowner's deeded property.

A list of registered outfitters is provided online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us (under the 'Enforcement' tab). Before hiring an outfitter, hunters should research the preferred outfitter(s) and obtain references. Hunter-clients are encouraged to contact the NMDGF outfitter program to check the status of an outfitter prior to booking a hunt. If any person claiming to be a registered outfitter is not on the registered list, do not do business with them until contacting NMDGF. Guides are not outfitters, and it is illegal to book a hunt with a guide.

Hunters

To apply for the 10% special-drawing pool, all applicants **must have a signed contract** with a registered New Mexico Outfitter **prior to applying** for the hunt. The contract must be signed and dated by all parties and designate the terms, compensation and services to be provided by the outfitter.

It is unlawful to use a New Mexico outfitter number to apply in the 10% special-drawing pool, if a contract with that New Mexico outfitter has not been signed. It is also unlawful to hunt with a license obtained from the 10% special-drawing pool without using a registered outfitter. Those who apply using an

outfitter number but choose to hunt on their own will be prosecuted for hunting without a valid license.

Any applicant, who receives a valid license by applying with a New Mexico Outfitter's number, must be accompanied in the field by that outfitter or their registered guide for at least two days.

New Mexico Outfitters

The requirements for becoming a New Mexico Outfitter vary, depending on whether the applicant is doing business as a corporate entity (i.e. a corporation, limited liability company, etc.) or as a noncorporate entity (an individual or unincorporated sole proprietor).

In order for a corporate entity to become a New Mexico Outfitter, the applicant must:

- 1, have a valid New Mexico state, county or municipal business registration; 2, be authorized to do and must do outfitting business under the laws of this state; 3, have paid property taxes or rent on real property in New Mexico, paid gross receipts taxes and paid at least one other tax administered by the taxation and revenue department in each of the three years immediately preceding the submission of its application; 4, have majority ownership by a person who has resided in New Mexico during the three-year period immediately preceding the submission of its application; 5, employ New Mexico residents as at least eighty percent of its total personnel; and 6, have either leased property for ten years or purchased property greater than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in value in New Mexico; 7, be identical in every way to the previously certified business that meets all criteria, if it has changed its name from that of a previously certified business; 8, possess all required federal or state land use permits for the hunt; and 9, operate as a hunting guide service that accompanies each client for at least two days in the area where the license is valid.

In order for a noncorporate entity to become a New Mexico Outfitter, the applicant must:

- 1, have a valid New Mexico state, county or municipal business registration; 2, be authorized to do and must do outfitting business under the laws of this state; 3, be identical in every way to the previously certified business that meets all criteria, if it has changed its name from that of a previously certified business; 4, possess all required federal or state land use permits for the hunt; and 5, operate as a hunting guide service that accompanies each client for at least two days in the area where the license is valid.

To apply or obtain more information, email: DFG-Guide-Outfitter@state.nm.us or telephone: (505) 476-8066.