

# License Information

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting 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 or anglers, except hunters, trappers and anglers younger than 18 years of age, resident anglers 70 years and older (free fishing license) and 100% disabled resident veterans in conjunction with privileges covered by the Disabled-Veteran card. 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.

## Habitat Stamp

Hunters, trappers and anglers must purchase and possess a current Habitat Stamp to use U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in New Mexico, except trappers or anglers 11 years of age and younger, resident anglers 70 years and older (free fishing license) and 100% disabled resident veterans in conjunction with privileges covered by the Disabled-Veteran card. Only one stamp is required each license year for these lands. The stamp is not required on other public property (e.g. state, county or municipal lands and parks), other federal lands (e.g. 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. Funds from the sale of Habitat Stamps are used to improve wildlife habitat.

## Hunter Education or Mentored-Youth Number Required

Before purchasing a license for any legal sporting arm, bow or muzzleloader hunts, individuals 17 years of age or younger must possess a Hunter Education number from New Mexico or another state. Individuals who do not have a Hunter Education number, but are at least 10 years of age but younger than 18 years may use a New Mexico Mentored-Youth Hunter number, but only for deer, turkey, javelina and small-game hunts. Hunter Education or Mentored-Youth Hunter numbers must be carried at all times while hunting (pages 26, 27).

## Youth-only Hunts

To qualify for youth-only hunts, applicants must be 17 years of age or younger on opening day of the hunt and must possess a Hunter Education number or Mentored-Youth Hunter number (pages 26, 27). The Mentored-Youth Hunter number is valid only for deer, turkey, javelina and upland-game hunts.

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## 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 is attending 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 draw-hunt licenses in New Mexico on the military reservation only. The 50% resident military and veteran discount does not apply.

## 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 Americans with Disabilities Act. Applicants must have 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 handicapped hunter; 3, drive off established roads where permitted 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 email: [specialhunts@state.nm.us](mailto:specialhunts@state.nm.us).

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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, have a combination of permanent disabilities which cause comparable substantial functional limitations. The 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 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 bow only season(s); 5, drive off established roads where permitted 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 resident Junior Game-hunting & Fishing, Junior Deer and Junior Elk and Junior Game-hunting (resident and nonresident) 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 21 (application deadline). Junior licenses for hunting deer on private land may be purchased at license vendors, NMDGF offices, by telephone or online. It is recommended the hunter not purchase the Private-land Only Deer License until certain that she/he 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 21 (application deadline). Senior licenses for hunting deer on private land can be purchased at NMDGF offices and license vendors, by telephone or online. It is recommended the hunter not purchase a Private-land Only Deer License until certain that she/he 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 online and by telephone.

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### **50% Discount for Resident Active Military and Veterans**

50% discounts on all licenses, permits and stamps are available to New Mexico residents who are active duty military or veterans. The discount may be claimed by applying for or purchasing any license, permit or stamp online, by telephone or at any license vendor. Residents claiming this discount must be able to provide proof of active duty military (page 137) or veteran status (page 140) upon request. **Discount does not apply to:** application fees, license vendor fees, administrative fees (i.e. Landowner authorization certificate fee) or the Resident Disabled Veteran Game-hunting & Fishing license.

### **Proof of Active 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 status. Veterans are not eligible for these hunts. Documented proof must be provided to NMDGF before the application deadline (page 4). Proof may be submitted by email: [specialhunts@state.nm.us](mailto:specialhunts@state.nm.us), fax: (505) 476-8180 or U.S. Mail: NMDGF Special Hunts, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

### **100% Disabled Resident Veterans**

New Mexico residents who are 100% disabled as a result of having served in the armed services are eligible for a free lifetime Game-hunting & Fishing License. The disabled veteran must apply for a Disabled Veteran card. This card is issued by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and allows the cardholder to fish, hunt small game and obtain a Deer Hunting License free of charge. The Deer Hunting License will be issued only if the cardholder has applied and been successful in a public-land deer draw or if the cardholder can obtain written permission from a landowner for a private-land deer hunt. The free Deer Hunting License must be applied for each license year, and no preference is given for public-land deer draws. Stamps are required for any privilege not covered by the Disabled Veteran card.

### **Disabled Veteran Game-hunting & 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 this license online, by telephone or at license vendors. A Habitat Management & Access Validation and a Habitat Stamp if applicable (page 10) are required.

### **Resident Veteran Game-hunting & Fishing License (one-time benefit)**

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 a 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 to apply for Once-in-a-Lifetime Oryx Hunts, available by drawing each license year. New Mexico resident fees apply. Each year, the applicant must submit a copy of his/her orders or DD-214 before the application deadline (page 4). Copies may be submitted by email: [specialhunts@state.nm.us](mailto:specialhunts@state.nm.us), fax: (505) 476-8180 or U.S. Mail: NMDGF Special Hunts, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

### **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 email: [specialhunts@state.nm.us](mailto:specialhunts@state.nm.us), fax: 505-476-8180 or mail before the application deadline (page 4).

### **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 through the NMDGF Santa Fe office.

### **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 124). Nongame hunting is not permitted on Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) unless otherwise posted, except Water Canyon WMA, where hunting nongame species, including Himalayan tahr, is permitted January 1–March 31, 2019.

### **Donation of a Hunting License**

A hunting license may be donated to NMDGF for transfer to a youth 17 years of age or younger, a resident veteran or a resident first responder who has been qualified through a nonprofit organization that promotes hunting. Refunds are not offered for donated licenses. Qualifying nonprofit organizations must be approved by the New Mexico State Game Commission.

Requests to donate licenses must be in writing and submitted to the NMDGF Office, Santa Fe. For further information telephone 1-888-248-6866. If transfer of a donated license is not completed at least 14 days prior to hunt start date, the recipient will be required to obtain a carcass tag at a license vendor or NMDGF office.

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## **License Refunds and Transfers**

New Mexico hunting licenses are nonrefundable and nontransferable, except as defined following. The director of NMDGF may grant refund of a hunting license fee, 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. Refund or transfer requests must be in writing and submitted to the NMDGF Office, Santa Fe. For further information telephone 1-888-248-6866. If a license transfer is not completed at least 14 days prior to hunt start date, the recipient will be required to obtain a carcass tag at a license vendor or NMDGF office.

## **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 7) related to the citation. A license will be mailed upon payment of the assessment. A hunter cited will be assessed 7 points against a potential 20 points which may result in license revocation.

## **License Revocation**

Hunting and fishing privileges may be revoked for any definite period of time depending on the severity of the violation, if accumulated game law violations equal 20 or more points within a three-year period. For further information see page 18 or contact NMDGF Field Operations: (505) 476-8065.

## **Parental Responsibility Act**

The Parental Responsibility Act requires the New Mexico State Game Commission to suspend 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 and a \$25 reinstatement fee has been paid. For more information, please contact NMDGF Field Operations: (505) 476-8065.

## **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 except as provided by law.