

# Management Hunts

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)

## Population Management Hunts

Residents and nonresidents wishing to be considered for Population Management Hunts for Barbary sheep, bighorn sheep, deer, elk, ibex, oryx or pronghorn antelope **must select the 5th-choice option on the draw application for the appropriate species**. Applications must be completed online or by telephone by March 21.

If selecting the 5th-choice option for oryx, applicants will have an option to enter a White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) security authorization code (see page 107) for themselves or their escort to be eligible for oryx hunts on the WSMR. This applies only to population management oryx hunts that occur on WSMR. Applicants must apply for at least one regular draw hunt choice to be eligible for the Population Management Hunt of the same species. By choosing this option hunters are indicating their willingness, if unsuccessful in drawing their 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th choice, to be placed on a list of eligible hunters for that species.

Should a Population Management Hunt become necessary, a NMDGF official will contact hunters to notify them of the hunt areas, dates, bag limit, allowable sporting arm and any other special restrictions. The hunter will be asked to accept or decline a hunt. If a hunter declines, another hunter will be contacted. Bag limits for Population Management Hunts will be primarily female animals, since these hunts are intended to reduce populations in specific areas.

Choosing a Population Management Hunt option is not a guarantee the applicant will be contacted for a hunt. Population management hunters must file a harvest report.

## Population Management Hunt Fees

If unsuccessful for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th choice, applicants will be refunded the license fee.

If a hunter is contacted and accepts a 5th-choice hunt, she/he will be required to purchase the appropriate license(s) with tag for the species that she/he will hunt (page 9, *License Fees*). Hunters 18 years or older also will be required to purchase a Habitat Management & Access Validation and may be required to purchase a Habitat Stamp, if she/he will be hunting on Forest Service or BLM land.

White Sands Missile Range and Jornada Experimental Range each charge a \$150 access fee to all oryx hunters. Other federal agencies may charge access fees. Choosing the Oryx Population Management Hunt implies acceptance of additional fees should a hunter be called for one of these hunts. Population management hunters must file a harvest report, and may be required to obtain a carcass tag in person at a license vendor or NMDGF office.

## Harvest Reporting for Late-season Management Hunts

Population Management license holders for hunts that occur late in the license year or after the reporting deadlines must submit a harvest report on or before April 7 to maintain draw eligibility.

# Enhancement Hunts

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)

All proceeds are used solely for habitat enhancement, conservation and management projects in New Mexico for the species auctioned or raffled. Authorizations may be used either by the recipient or any individual of the recipient's choice through sale, barter or gift. These hunts do not count as Once-in-a-Lifetime Hunts. Additional information will be provided online: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us).

## Big-game Enhancement Packages

Two big-game authorization packages will be auctioned by NMDGF — one through the Mule Deer Foundation at the Western Hunting and Conservation Expo on February 8–11, 2018 in Salt Lake City, Utah — and one through the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation at their Hunters' Rendezvous Auction on January 27, 2018 in Tucson, Ariz. Each package will consist of five authorizations, one for each of the following: deer, elk, ibex, oryx and pronghorn antelope. The season dates are Sept. 1, 2018–Jan. 31, 2019 for deer and elk; April 1, 2018–March 31, 2019 for ibex and oryx (for oryx hunts WSMR access must be prearranged); and Aug. 1–Nov. 1, 2018 for pronghorn antelope.

## Bighorn Sheep Enhancement Authorizations

Two authorizations will be auctioned by NMDGF with the assistance of the Wild Sheep Foundation — one for desert bighorn sheep and one for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep — during their convention on January 18–20, 2018 in Reno, Nev. The successful bidder for desert bighorn sheep will choose one desert bighorn hunt from the list on pages 97–98, and the successful bidder for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep will choose one Rocky Mountain bighorn hunt from the list on page 94 (excluding Unit 58 Dry Cimarron). Each successful bidder must select his/her hunt by June 1, 2018.

Two authorizations will be raffled by NMDGF with the assistance of the New Mexico Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation — one for desert bighorn sheep and one for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. **Raffle tickets can be ordered** by contacting NMWSF President Bryan Bartlett: (575) 635-3499 or [bartlebc@yahoo.com](mailto:bartlebc@yahoo.com). However, **tickets cannot be paid by telephone or email**. Tickets are \$20 each. No "volume" discounts apply. Tickets can be paid using Visa, MasterCard, check, cash or money order (U.S. funds only). Full payment must be received via mail by midnight on Wednesday, June 21, 2018.

The raffle winner for desert bighorn sheep will choose one hunt from the desert bighorn hunts remaining after the auction winner has chosen his/her hunt. The raffle winner for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep will choose one hunt from the Rocky Mountain bighorn hunts remaining after the auction winner has chosen his/her hunt. Hunt dates are Aug. 1–Dec. 31, 2018, except in GMU 53 (Wheeler Peak), where the dates are Aug. 1–10, 2018 and Sept. 1–Dec. 31, 2018.

## Deer Enhancement Authorizations

One deer authorization will be auctioned by NMDGF with the assistance of the Mule Deer Foundation at the Western Hunting and Conservation Expo on February 8–11, 2018 in Salt Lake City, Utah. One deer authorization also will be raffled with the assistance of the Mule Deer Foundation. Tickets must be purchased by June 14, 2018 to be considered for the June 15, 2018 drawing. The bag limit for these hunts is one buck deer.

# Enhancement Hunts

## Elk Enhancement Authorizations

One bull-elk authorization will be auctioned by NMDGF with the assistance of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation at the RMEF Hunters' Rendezvous Auction on January 27, 2018 in Tucson, Ariz. One bull-elk authorization will be raffled with the assistance of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation at the NMDGF Santa Fe office in June, 2018. For more information please visit the RMEF website: [www.rmef.org](http://www.rmef.org).

## Gould's Turkey Enhancement Permits

One Gould's turkey enhancement permit will be auctioned by NMDGF with the assistance of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) at the NWTF Convention and Sport Show on February 14–18, 2018 in Nashville, Tenn. Additional information will be available on the NWTF website: [www.nwtf.org/convention](http://www.nwtf.org/convention). A second permit will be raffled by NMDGF with the assistance of the New Mexico Chapter of NWTF. Winners of the auction and raffle for Gould's turkey authorizations also will receive a regular New Mexico Spring Turkey license with tag(s). Only 300 tickets will be sold. Tickets are \$20 each. The winner will be drawn on Wednesday, March 16, 2018. For more information email: [nmturkeyhunt@bajabb.com](mailto:nmturkeyhunt@bajabb.com).

## Premium Statewide Deer and Elk Hunts

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish's premium deer and elk hunts are in honor of two department employees, Austin Roberts and Ocie Gray, who were killed in a January 1960 plane crash while delivering hay to starving pronghorn antelope on the snow-covered plains outside of Las Vegas.

Pilot Austin Roberts, 40, of Roswell, was a 14-year veteran of the department at the time of his death. A cause of the accident was never determined. Before joining the department Roberts served as a bomber pilot during World War II and survived 62 bombing runs and being shot down six times. Lake Roberts in the Gila National Forest is named after him.

Ocie Gray, 25, was a department biologist and a 1959 graduate of New Mexico State University in Las Cruces where a scholarship in his name is available to biology students.

The two premium hunts were authorized by the State Game Commission to provide the public an affordable chance at a high quality hunting experience. The hunt codes are DER-1-700 and ELK-1-700 and allow hunting with any legal sporting arm in any unit statewide, including the department's Wildlife Management Areas and private land with written permission, anytime between Sept. 1, 2018 and Jan. 31, 2019. The hunts are available through the draw and quotas apply.



*Right (top–bottom): Austin Roberts and Ocie Gray. NMDGF photo taken the day of the crash.*