

What's New

New Office Location in Albuquerque

The Department's Northwest Area Office is now located at 7816 Alamo Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120 (page 140). For directions call (505) 222-4700 and press 8.

New Game Hunting License Options

Big-game draw applicants will be required to purchase a Habitat Management and Access Validation (HMAV) with their Game-hunting or Game-hunting and Fishing License. Applicants will have the option to add the Habitat Stamp, Harvest Information Program (HIP) number and/or Second Rod Validation, if applicable, to their purchase. Hunters must purchase the Habitat Stamp prior to May 15, 2019 to avoid having to print it separately.

Game Hunting Licenses Are Nonrefundable through the Draw Application Process

Game-hunting license and stamp purchases made through the big-game draw application are no longer refundable.

Electronic Tag (E-Tag) Option for Deer and Elk

Hunters may now choose the E-Tag option when purchasing or applying for any deer or elk hunts. You will not receive a carcass tag if you choose this option. Hunters who choose to E-Tag will be required to download the e-tagging app on their phone, upload their deer or elk license and carry their phone in the field. A printed license and/or carcass tag are not required. See page 8 for details.

License and Tag combined if purchased online or by phone

This year, hunters who choose to receive a physical carcass tag may not need to carry a separate license. If purchased online or by telephone, the top section of the carcass tag will display all annual license and stamp purchases, and will serve as a valid license. Hunters must carry the license/carcass tag with them in the field while hunting (details, page 8). If you do not purchase the Habitat Stamp through the draw, or prior to May 15, 2019, a printed copy may be required. This option is not available for license purchases and/or duplicate tags at over-the-counter (OTC) license vendors.

Upland Game now in *Small Game Rules and Info* booklet

Hunting information for upland game species is not in this booklet. See the *New Mexico 2019-2020 Small Game Rules and Information* booklet for upland-game hunting (published July 2019).

New Definitions for Legal Sporting Arm Types

Sporting arm types are defined on pages 30–31.

Hunt codes are now listed by Game Management Unit

Hunts for all species are no longer listed by sporting arm type. Please review listings thoroughly before applying.

Private-land Elk Licenses

The private-land elk rule has changed. See pages 67–69 for details.

Private-land Only Pronghorn License

Most private-land only pronghorn licenses are now available over the counter. A public-land hunt code must be selected when purchasing this license. **These licenses are not valid on any public land.**

Pronghorn Draw Licenses

Successful draw applicants will no longer be assigned to a private ranch. All draw licenses are valid on public lands and private land with written permission within the Game Management Unit.

New Eligibility Rules for Encouragement Elk Hunts

Only eligible resident youth hunters may purchase these hunts for the first 14 days of the sale. Licenses remaining after the first 14 days of the sale will also be available to eligible resident seniors (65 years and older on first day of the hunt). Nonresidents and resident applicants who were successful for any species (except javelina) are no longer eligible. See page 85 for eligibility information.

Duplicate License Fee

A \$6 fee duplicate license fee will be charged for all duplicate tags/licenses in accordance with New Mexico state law. This fee will only be charged when a duplicate tag is obtained requiring reprinting of the license with a new tag number. Big-game and turkey hunters are advised not to purchase their licenses online if they plan to obtain the tag(s) at a license vendor.

Late Season Archery Elk Hunts Now Offered as Draw Hunts

The late-season archery elk hunts are no longer sold online through secondary sale, but are offered through the draw.

Deer Seasons for Bow

The September and January seasons are now separate hunts.

New Open Areas for Spring and Fall OTC Turkey

See pages 111–113.

Valle Vidal: Greenwood Area No Longer Included

Greenwood Area is no longer included in the Valle Vidal hunt area. It is private property, and written permission to hunt is required. See page 43.

Important Reminders

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

Early Purchase Available for 2019–20 Licenses

Licenses for the 2019–20 license year which begins April 1 will be available online, by telephone, and at license vendors and NMDGF offices beginning March 25.

Purchase 2019 Game Hunting License through Draw Application

Draw applicants purchasing 2019 Game-hunting Licenses to apply for draw hunts must click "Draw Hunt Applications" in the main menu and purchase the license as part of the application process. Do not click "License Sales."

Donate an Unused License

A 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 (page 21).

Free Mobile App

Powered by Pocket Ranger®, the mobile app offers easy access to maps, fishing reports, license purchases, rules and regulations, Operation Game Thief and *New Mexico Wildlife* magazine at: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/home/mobile-app/ This is not the app needed for the E-Tag option (see page 8).

Free Hunting and Recreation Maps (page 142)

Free maps of New Mexico big-game hunting units and recreational areas on public lands can be downloaded to your mobile device at:

www.blm.gov/maps/frequently-requested/new-mexico/hunting-maps

Mandatory Harvest Reporting. Don't Forget!

All Barbary sheep, deer, elk, ibex, javelina, oryx, pronghorn, turkey and trapper license holders must submit a harvest report, whether they hunted or not. Deadlines for species are listed on page 6. Harvest reports may be submitted online, by telephone or in person at New Mexico Department of Game and Fish offices.

Information Center Extended Hours

The NMDGF Information Center is open year-round, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (except holidays) to answer your questions and assist with license issues and harvest reporting. Extended hours are March 11–March 15, Monday–Friday from 8 a.m.–6 p.m. and March 18–March 19 from 8 a.m.–8 p.m. The Information Center will close at 4:30 p.m. on March 20.

Premium Statewide Deer and Elk Draw Hunts

Statewide memorial hunts now available by draw for deer and elk (page 39).

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

Mexican Gray Wolf: Encounters and Identification

Know where wolf encounters may occur and how to distinguish the Mexican Gray Wolf from coyotes (pages 130 and 131).

50% Discounts for Resident Military and Veterans

Residents of New Mexico who are active duty military or veterans can receive 50% discounts on licenses, permits and stamps. See pages 19 and *Glossary*, pages 135–139 for eligibility requirements and details.

Online Hunter Education Course (Residents only)

New Mexico residents 11 years of age or older can take New Mexico hunter education online (page 17).

Contact Land Management Agencies Before Hunting

Prescribed burns and/or other activities that could affect hunting may be conducted by land management agencies during hunting seasons (visit: nmfireinfo.com). The Department recommends contacting the appropriate management agency prior to your hunt for information on activities that may affect access or animal behavior in your hunting area. For contact information, please see Federal Lands (pages 42–44).

Habitat Stamp

The Habitat Stamp must be purchased prior to hunting, fishing or trapping on BLM and Forest Service properties. To be included in a combined license/tag, the Habitat Stamp must be purchased before May 15, 2019. Proof of Habitat Stamp purchase must be carried while in the field.

Draw Carcass Tags by Mail

Successful draw applicants will receive the license/tag(s) via U.S. Postal Service in late-May or early-June.

Draw Refunds

Draw license fee refunds for unsuccessful applicants will be processed shortly after draw results are released in April. Applications paid by credit card will be refunded directly to the credit card used for the transaction within 10 business days. Applications paid by check or cash will be refunded by check by the end of May. Game-hunting License and stamp purchases will not be refunded.

Over the Counter (OTC) Licenses for Some Species Available July 1

OTC licenses for javelina, fall turkey, private-land deer, private-land pronghorn, private-land Barbary sheep, and federal duck stamps will be available beginning July 1.

Important Dates

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

Important Dates to Remember for All Game

- Feb. 13** Deadline to apply for bear and turkey draw permits. Applications must be completed before 5 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (MST).
- Feb. 15** Deadline to submit 2018–19 harvest reports for deer, elk, pronghorn and turkey license holders. Reports can be submitted online or by telephone. Late fees apply after this date.
- Feb. 27** Results for bear and turkey draw permits are available online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us, and permits can be printed on standard paper. Permits are not valid unless accompanied by the appropriate license(s). Bear licenses must be purchased at least two days prior to hunting. Carcass tag required.
- Mar. 20** Deadline to apply for Draw Licenses for Barbary sheep, bighorn sheep, deer, elk, ibex, javelina, pronghorn and oryx, and to apply for Private-land Only Deer Licenses in Units 2A, 2B, 2C, 4 and 5A. Applications must be completed before 5 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (MDT).
- Deadline to submit late 2018–19 harvest reports for deer, elk, pronghorn and turkey. All 2018–19 license holders must report to be eligible for 2019–20 draw licenses. Reports can be submitted online or by telephone. **Failure to report for these species by this date will result in rejection of all draw applications.** An \$8 late fee applies after February 15, 2019. Remember to keep your confirmation number.
- Mar. 25** All 2019–20 over-the-counter (OTC) license types, including Game-hunting Licenses and Game-hunting & Fishing Licenses, are available online, by telephone and at NMDGF offices and license vendors.
- April 1** 2019–20 License Year begins. 2018–19 licenses no longer valid.
- April 7** Deadline to submit 2018–19 harvest reports for Barbary sheep, ibex, javelina, oryx and trapper license holders to be eligible for big-game licenses. Reports can be submitted online or by telephone. **Failure to report for these species by this date will result in rejection of all applications.** An \$8 late fee applies after April 7, 2019. Remember to keep your confirmation number.
- April 24** Big-game Draw results are available online, by telephone or at NMDGF offices.