

Bear

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

General Information

- While in The Field You Must Have All of the Following (page 9)
- All Bear Harvests Must Be Tagged (pages 31–32)
- License Requirements and Fees (see pages 8–14)
- Legal Sporting Arms for Bear Hunting (see page 30)
- Youth-only Hunts (see page 15)
- Bear Licenses must be purchased at least two calendar days before hunting.

Bear Draw Permits

Deadline to apply for Bear Draw Permits is February 13, 2019. Only one person may apply per application.

Successful applicants must purchase an Over-the-Counter Bear License with tags, and a Game-hunting License or Game-hunting & Fishing License. If planning to hunt within 14 days of online or telephone purchase, hunters may be required to obtain a tag at a license vendor or NMDGF office. Tags include instructions for proper tagging.

Bear Draw Permits are available for the areas listed in the table on page 118. Only New Mexico residents may apply for WMA Bear Draw Permits.

Hunters may hunt during the over-the-counter season if they have not taken a bear during their draw hunt.

Bag Limit

The bag limit is one bear. A hunter may not take any cub younger than one-year old or any female accompanied by a cub(s). New Mexico law does not require bear meat to be taken from the field.

Over-the-Counter (OTC) License Hunts

An OTC Bear License may be purchased at license vendors, NMDGF offices, online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us or by telephone: 1-888-248-6866. If planning to hunt within 14 days of online or telephone purchase, hunters may be required to obtain tags at a license vendor or NMDGF office. **Bear Licenses must be purchased at least two calendar days before hunting.**

Harvest Limits for All Zones (map, page 119): New Mexico is divided into 14 Bear Management Zones, enabling NMDGF to better manage regional bear populations. Each zone has two harvest limits: 1, the total number of bears that may be harvested (total limit; and 2, the number of female bears that may be harvested. Harvest limits for each Bear Management Zone are listed in the table on page 117. Bear Management Zones close when harvests reach 90% of the total limit, 90% of the female sublimit, or when the season has ended—whichever occurs first.

Zone Closure: Before hunting, hunters must verify the zone is open by checking online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/hunting/information-by-animal/big-game/bear/ or telephone: 1-877-950-5466.

Baiting and Trapping

Baiting and trapping are **not legal methods** for taking bear. If accidentally trapped, the bear must be released. Should assistance be needed to release a bear, contact NMDGF.

Pelt Tags Required

Harvested bears must be both carcass tagged and pelt tagged. The carcass tag must be properly notched and attached immediately after the animal is harvested. The hunter must present the carcass tag, skull, and hide for pelt tagging to any District Conservation Officer or any NMDGF office **within five days** of killing the bear or before transporting the hide outside New Mexico, whichever occurs first. **Hunters who appoint a designee to transport the harvested bear for pelt tagging are required to contact a conservation officer prior to pelt tagging.** Hunters are required to present to any NMDGF office the **unfrozen skull of any bear killed with the mouth fixed open** for removal of a premolar tooth. The pelt tag must remain attached to the hide until the hide is processed. Improperly tagged hides will be seized by NMDGF.

Proof of Sex

The testicles, penis and/or baculum of a male, or the vulva of a female, must remain naturally attached to the hide and be visible to the NMDGF tagging official. NMDGF will only pelt tag a harvested bear if proof of sex is attached to the hide and readily visible to the tagging official. Bears presented to NMDGF for tagging without proof of sex attached will be seized.

Use of Dogs

Dog use is **not allowed** on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) or during September bow seasons. Dog use is **allowed** to hunt bears elsewhere during hunts for any legal sporting arm (see table, page 117). When dogs are used to hunt bears, the licensed hunter who harvests the bear must be present continuously from the time any dog is released. Dogs may only be released during legal hunting hours. There is no “pursuit” or “training” season outside the regular open season.

Valle Vidal

It is unlawful to hunt bears on the Valle Vidal, except for hunters who successfully draw a Bear Draw Permit and purchase a Game-hunting License or Game-hunting & Fishing License and an Over-the-Counter Bear License. Dogs are allowed during the April 15–May 20 and the Aug. 1–31 hunts.

In addition to the above, elk hunters also may hunt bears in the Valle Vidal provided they: 1). Possess a Valle Vidal rifle, muzzleloader or bow elk license; 2). Possess an OTC bear license and tag; 3). Use the sporting arm type specified for their elk hunt; 4). Hunt only during the dates of their elk hunt; and 5). The harvest limit in Bear Zone 5 has not been met and the season is still open.

Livestock Damage

Landowners, lessees or their regular employees do not need a license to kill a bear that has killed domestic livestock or presents an immediate threat to human life or property. Any person taking such action **must report the incident to NMDGF within 24 hours.** Pelts, claws and other parts of depredating animals taken under this provision are the property of the State of New Mexico and must be delivered to NMDGF.

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Zone: Open Units	Hunt Dates	Sporting Arm	Dog Use	Total Limit	Female Limit
Zone 1	Sept. 1–24.	Bow Only.	Not Allowed .	158	63
Units: 4–7, 51, 52	Sept. 25–Nov. 15	Any Legal.	Allowed		
Zone 2	Sept. 1–24.	Bow Only.	Not Allowed .	156
Unit 2	Sept. 25–Nov. 15	Any Legal.	Allowed		
Zone 3	Aug. 16–31	Any Legal.	Allowed	65	26
Units: 49, 50, 53	Sept. 1–24.	Bow Only.	Not Allowed		
	Sept. 25–Nov. 15	Any Legal.	Allowed		
Zone 4	Aug. 16–31	Any Legal.	Allowed	109	43
Units: 45, 46, 48.	Sept. 1–24.	Bow Only.	Not Allowed		
	Sept. 25–Nov. 30	Any Legal.	Allowed		
Zone 5	Aug. 16–31	Any Legal.	Allowed	92	37
Units: 54, 55	Sept. 1–24.	Bow Only.	Not Allowed		
	Sept. 25–Nov. 15	Any Legal.	Allowed		
Zone 6	Aug. 16–31	Any Legal.	Allowed	33	13
Units: 39–43, 47, 59.	Sept. 1–24.	Bow Only.	Not Allowed		
	Sept. 25–Nov. 15	Any Legal.	Allowed		
Zone 7	Aug. 16–31	Any Legal.	Allowed	35	14
Units: 56–58	Sept. 1–24.	Bow Only.	Not Allowed		
	Sept. 25–Nov. 15	Any Legal.	Allowed		
Zone 8	Sept. 1–24.	Bow Only.	Not Allowed .	114
Unit 8	Oct. 15–Nov. 15.	Any Legal*	Allowed		
* USFS Sandia Ranger District is bow only.					
Zone 9	Aug. 16–31	Any Legal.	Allowed	36	14
Units: 9, 10	Sept. 1–24.	Bow Only.	Not Allowed		
	Sept. 25–Nov. 15	Any Legal.	Allowed		
Zone 10	Aug. 16–31	Any Legal.	Allowed	146	58
Units: 12, 13, 15–18, 20–24	Sept. 1–24.	Bow Only.	Not Allowed		
26, 27	Sept. 25–Nov. 30	Any Legal.	Allowed		
Zone 11	Aug. 16–31	Any Legal.	Allowed	36	14
Units: 37, 38	Sept. 1–24.	Bow Only.	Not Allowed		
	Sept. 25–Nov. 30	Any Legal.	Allowed		
Zone 12	Aug. 16–31	Any Legal.	Allowed	33	13
Unit 34	Sept. 1–24.	Bow Only.	Not Allowed		
	Sept. 25–Nov. 30	Any Legal.	Allowed		
Zone 13	Aug. 16–31	Any Legal.	Allowed	166
Unit 36	Sept. 1–24.	Bow Only.	Not Allowed		
	Sept. 25–Nov. 15	Any Legal.	Allowed		
Zone 14	Sept. 1–24.	Bow Only.	Not Allowed .	197
Unit 14	Oct. 15–Nov. 15.	Any Legal.	Allowed		

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Bear Draw Permits (OTC Bear License Required): Seasons for All Sporting Arms

Closed Areas: Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River Area, including Taos Valley Overlook; All Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs are open only to hunters with a valid Bear Draw Permit and Bear Hunting License during draw seasons for that area.); and Subunit 6B (Valles Caldera National Preserve). **Bow Only** (crossbow may only be used by certified mobility-impaired hunters); Sandia Ranger District: Zones 8 and 14, and Sugarite Canyon State Park. **Electronic Calls:** Electronic calls are allowed for bear hunting.

Area	Date	Hunt Code	Permits
Unit 2 _____			
Any Legal - Youth Only	Aug. 1–31	BER–1–100.	5
Unit 4 Sargent WMA _____			
Any Legal - NM Resident Only	Aug. 1–31	BER–1–101.	10
Unit 4 Humphries WMA _____			
Any Legal - NM Residents Only.	Aug. 1–31	BER–1–102.	5
Unit 9 Marquez WMA _____			
Any Legal - NM Resident Only	Aug. 1–31	BER–1–103.	5
Units 54/55 Barker and Colin Neblett WMAs _____			
Any Legal - NM Resident Only.	Aug. 1–31	BER–1–104.	12
Unit 55 Valle Vidal _____			
Any Legal	Apr. 15–May 20	BER–1–106.	20
Any Legal	Aug. 1–31	BER–1–105.	20
Unit 57 Sugarite Canyon State Park _____			
Bow Only	Aug. 1–31	BER–2–107	5

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Bear Management Zones and Game Management Units

