

Outfitted Hunts

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

All outfitters and guides in New Mexico must be registered with NMDGF. Hunters who would like to use the services of an outfitter are strongly encouraged to do their research. Here are a few things you should look for in a reputable outfitter:

- Book your hunt with a registered outfitter. The outfitter list is updated weekly and available on the NMDGF website at www.wildlife.state.nm.us/enforcement/guide-and-outfitter-info.
- Ask for references. Ask for successful hunters and unsuccessful hunters to get an accurate idea of what to expect on your hunt. It's also a good idea to search the internet, but remember that anyone can make a website or advertise on social media.
- Ask questions. Make sure you have asked about all of the things you want on your hunt. Make a list so you remember what items you want to discuss with the outfitter and take notes.
- Know whether you will be hunting private land or public land.
- Applying for public-land draw hunts with an outfitter may improve your odds of drawing a license. Please reference the “outfitter list” and search for outfitters that have “Yes” in the 10% pool column. Contracts must be signed and dated prior to applying for draw hunts.
- If you draw a 10% pool license, it is not valid unless your outfitter or their guide is physically with you in the field for at least the first two days during the contracted dates of your hunt where your license is valid.
- Contracts are required by law. In an effort to protect both parties, contracts must designate the terms, hunt dates, guide to hunter-client ratio and compensation charged. Contracts must be signed prior to applying in the draw or for private-land hunts, prior to hunting. Read the contract carefully before signing it.

Outfitted Hunts on Private Land

- Outfitted hunts on private land must be conducted by a registered outfitter, unless the hunt is outfitted by the landowner, their authorized agent or their ranch employees. If you are planning to book a hunt with an “agent” who is not a registered outfitter, please call (505) 476-8066 before booking your hunt. An agent is a person who is legally authorized by employment or written contract to act on behalf of a private landowner to oversee the landowner’s hunting operation on their deeded property. Agents may not act independently from the landowner. Any person who purchases landowner permits or private-land licenses for a hunter-client or pays for access to a landowner’s deeded property for a hunter-client in any way, shall be considered an outfitter and must be registered with NMDGF.
- Private-land Authorizations: Know the difference between ranch-only and unit-wide (see page 66). Ranch-only authorizations are restricted to the property’s deeded acreage and not valid on public land. If you will be hunting private land make sure you know how big the property is before you book your hunt. Finding out you can only hunt on minimal acres can lead to an undesirable experience and hunting illegally where your license is not valid can be costly.

If any person claiming to be a registered outfitter is not on the registered list, do not do business with them. Guides are not outfitters, and it is illegal to book a hunt with a guide. A list of registered outfitters is provided online at www.wildlife.state.nm.us/enforcement/guide-and-outfitter-info.

For more information email: DGf-Guide-Outfitter@state.nm.us or telephone: (505) 476-8066.