

General Information

- While in The Field You Must Have All of the Following (page 8)
- All Bear Harvests Must Be Tagged (pages 29–30)
- License Requirements and Fees (see pages 8–13)
- Legal Sporting Arms for Bear Hunting (see page 28)
- Youth-only Hunts (see page 14)

Restrictions and Requirements

Bag Limit: The bag limit is one bear. No cub younger than one-year old or any female accompanied by a cub(s) may be taken.

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 unit 6B (Valles Caldera National Preserve).

Electronic Calls: Electronic calls are allowed for bear hunting.

Bear Management Zones and Harvest Limits (map, page 112): 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 (female limit). Harvest limits for each bear management zone are listed in the table on page 110. Bear management zones close when harvests reach 90% of the total limit, 90% of the female limit, or when the season has ended—whichever occurs first.

Bow Only: Sandia Ranger District in zones 8 and 14, and Sugarite Canyon State Park.

Zone Closure: Before hunting, hunters must verify their preferred zone is still open.

Check online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/hunting/information-by-animal/big-game/bear/ or telephone: 1-877-950-5466.

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 conservation officer or any NMDGF office **within five days** of killing the bear before the pelt can be frozen, processed, tanned or salted by a taxidermist 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 to receive a designee code.** Hunters or their designee are required to present the **unfrozen skull of any bear killed with the mouth fixed open** for removal of a premolar tooth. Hunters or their designee must provide all required information at the time of pelt tagging including, but not limited to, sex of the animal, and date and location of harvest. The pelt tag must remain attached to the hide until the hide is processed. Improperly tagged hides will be seized by NMDGF.

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

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 110). 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.

Baiting and Trapping: Baiting and trapping are **not legal methods** for taking bear. If accidentally trapped, the bear must be released. For assistance releasing a bear, contact NMDGF.

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.

Properly licensed Valle Vidal elk hunters may also hunt bears on 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.

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, unless the E-Tag option is chosen.



Bear

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

Over-the-Counter Seasons

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	Sept. 1–24.	Bow Only.	Not Allowed . .	146	58
Units: 12, 13, 15–18, 20–24	Sept. 25–Dec. 15	Any Legal.	Allowed		
	26, 27				
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	Sept. 1–24.	Bow Only.	Not Allowed . .	33	13
Unit 34	Sept. 25–Dec. 15	Any Legal.	Allowed		
Zone 13	Sept. 1–24.	Bow Only.	Not Allowed . .	166
Unit 36	Sept. 25–Nov. 30	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)

Deadline to apply for bear draw permits is February 12, 2020. Only one person may apply per application.

Successful applicants must purchase an over-the-counter bear license with tags unless the E-Tag option is chosen. A game-hunting license or game-hunting & fishing license and applicable stamps are required. Licenses and tags are available at NMDGF offices, license vendors, online and by telephone. Online and telephone purchases must be made at least 14 days prior to hunt start date to allow mailing of tags unless the E-Tag option is chosen. Tags include instructions for proper tagging.

Bear draw permits are available for the areas listed in the table below. 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.

Bear Draw Permits

Area	Date	Hunt Code	Permits
Unit 2 _____			
Any Legal - Youth Only	Aug. 1–31	BER–1–100.	5
Unit 4 Sargent WMA Only _____			
Any Legal - NM Resident Only	Aug. 1–31	BER–1–101.	10
Unit 4 Humphries WMA Only _____			
Any Legal - NM Residents Only.	Aug. 1–31	BER–1–102.	5
Unit 9 Marquez WMA Only _____			
Any Legal - NM Resident Only	Aug. 1–31	BER–1–103.	5
Units 54 and 55A - Urraca, E.S. Barker, and Colin Neblett WMAs, and Valle Vidal _____			
Any Legal	Aug. 1–31	BER–1–104.	32
Unit 55A - Valle Vidal Only _____			
Any Legal	Apr. 15–May 20	BER–1–105.	20
Unit 57 - Sugarite Canyon State Park Only _____			
Bow Only	Aug. 1–31	BER–2–106	5

Bear

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Bear Management Zones and Game Management Units

