

Bear (877) 950-5466-Zone Closure and Harvest Hotline

Draw Permits and Over-the-Counter Licenses

General Information

To hunt bears, all residents and nonresidents must purchase a **Game-hunting** or **Game-hunting and Fishing License** and an over-the-counter Bear License.

License Fees See page 9.

A Habitat Stamp is required for hunting, fishing and trapping on U.S. Forest Service and BLM lands and must be purchased separately. A Habitat Management and Access Validation must be purchased separately.

Harvest Limits for All Zones

The state is divided into 11 Bear Management Zones. This allows the Department to better manage bear populations on a regional basis. All zones have two different harvest limits. One is the total number of bears that may be harvested. The other limit is the number of female bears that may be harvested.

The harvest limit for each Bear Management Zone is listed in the chart on the following page. The first number indicates the total number of bears that may be harvested in each zone followed by the number of female bears that may be harvested. **Most Bear Management Zones will close when the harvest is within 10% of either the sustainable mortality limit or female sub-limit, whichever comes first. This measure is taken to avoid exceeding sustainable harvest of the resource.**

Zone Closure

BEFORE HUNTING hunters **MUST** call (877) 950-5466 toll-free or check our website www.wildlife.state.nm.us to ensure that the zone is open.

Over-The-Counter License

An over-the-counter Bear License with valid carcass tag may be purchased from license vendors, Department offices, online or by mail using Form 3. One carcass tag comes with each license. (NOTE: Licenses and carcass tags purchased online will be mailed within two weeks of purchase). **Hunters must purchase a Bear License AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE HUNTING** and must possess a valid Bear License and carcass tag while hunting in the field.

Bear Draw Permits

Draw Permits are available for the areas listed below. Only N.M. residents may apply for WMA Bear Draw Permits. Application must be made by **Feb. 1, 2012**. Only one hunter may apply per application. Hunters who successfully draw a Bear Permit must then purchase a **Game-hunting** or **Game-hunting and Fishing License** and an over-the-counter Bear License. Hunters may hunt during the over-the-counter season if they possess an unused tag and have not taken a bear. A hunter must be properly licensed at least two days before hunting.

Seasons For Bear Draw Permits				
Area	Date	Hunt Code	Permits	
Valle Vidal/Greenwood	April 15-May 15	BER-1-106	20	
Unit 2 Youth Only	Aug. 1-31	BER-1-100	5	
Sargent WMA	Aug. 1-31	BER-1-101	10	
Humphries WMA	Aug. 1-31	BER-1-102	5	
Marquez WMA	Aug. 1-31	BER-1-103	5	
Barker and Colin Neblett WMAs	Aug. 1-31	BER-1-104	12	
Valle Vidal/Greenwood	Aug. 1-31	BER-1-105	20	

Dates subject to change. Check the Department's website.

Legal Sporting Arms

Centerfire rifle or handgun; shotgun no smaller than 28 gauge, firing a single slug; muzzle-loading rifle; bow and arrows or crossbow and bolts. In the Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest, only bows and crossbows may be used. Crossbows may not be used during the Sept. 1-22 Bow Only Season.

Baiting and Trapping

Baiting or trapping is NOT a legal method of taking bear. Anyone who accidentally traps a bear must either release it or call the Department for assistance in its release.

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). State law does not require bear meat be taken from the field.

Tagging of Bear Hides

Bears must be tagged with both a carcass and pelt tag. The carcass tag, which is received with the purchase of the license, must be attached immediately after the animal is killed by the hunter. The hunter then must present the license and hide for pelt tagging to any District Conservation Officer or any Department office within five days of killing the bear or before taking the hide out of New Mexico, whichever comes first. **A hunter who kills any bear IS REQUIRED to present the unfrozen skull with the mouth fixed open, to any Department office for removal of a premolar tooth.** The pelt tag must remain attached to the hide until the hide is processed. Improperly tagged hides may be seized by the Department.

Proof of Sex

The male bear's testicles, penis or baculum, or the female bear's vulva must remain attached to the hide of any bear taken and remain visible to the Department's tagging official. **The Department 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 the Department for tagging without proof of sex attached may be seized.**

Use of Dogs

Dog use is NOT allowed on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Dog use is NOT ALLOWED from Sept. 1-22 in ANY unit. Dog use is NOT ALLOWED on Sept. 23 and 24 in Zone 5 (Units 12, 13, 15-18, 20-24, 26 and 27).

When dogs are used in hunting bears, the licensed hunter intending to harvest the bear must be present continuously once 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 for anyone to hunt bears on the Valle Vidal except for those hunters who successfully draw a Bear Draw Permit and purchase **Game-hunting** or **Game-hunting and Fishing License** and an over-the-counter Bear License.

Elk hunters may hunt bears in the Valle Vidal/Greenwood area if they:

1. Possess a Valle Vidal rifle, muzzleloader or bow elk license,
2. Use the sporting arm type specified for their elk hunt,
3. Hunt only during the dates of their elk hunt, and
4. The harvest quota in Bear Zone 2C has not been met and the bear season is still open.

Livestock Damage

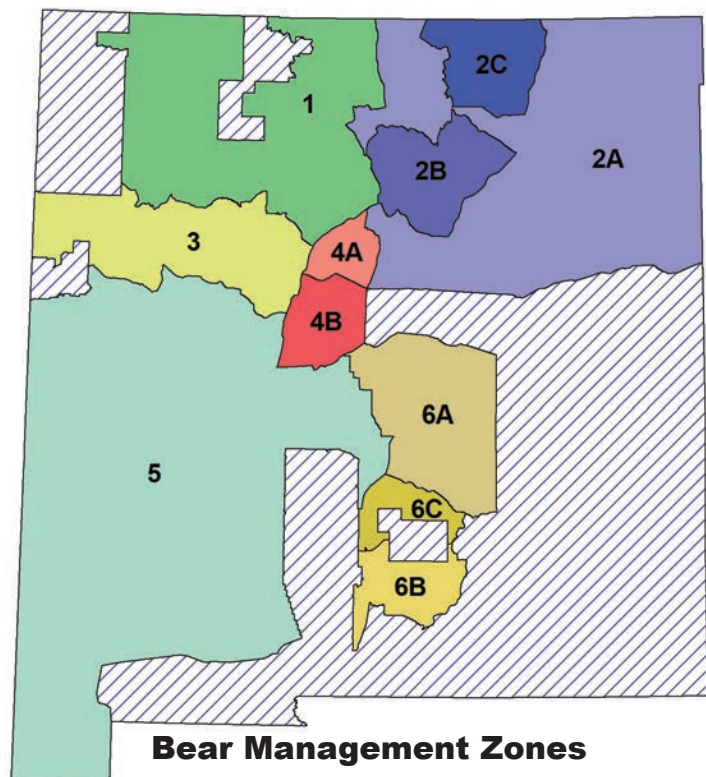
Landowners, lessees or their regular employees may, without a license, kill any bear that has killed domestic livestock or presents an immediate threat to human life or property. The person taking such action **MUST** report it to the Department within 24 hours. Pelts, claws and other parts of depredating animals taken under the provisions listed above are the property of the State of New Mexico and must be turned in to the Department.

Seasons For Over-the-Counter Hunts

Zone	Open Units	Hunt Dates	Sporting Arm Type	Dog Use	Total Limit <u>or</u> Female Limit
Zone 1	Units 4-7, 51 and 52	Sept. 1-22 Sept. 23-Nov. 15	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	139 <u>or</u> 56
Zone 2A	Units 41-43, 47-50 and 53 and 56-59	Sept. 1-22 Aug. 16-31 and Sept. 23-Nov. 15	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	85 <u>or</u> 34
Zone 2B	Units 45 and 46	Sept. 1-22 Aug. 16-31 and Sept. 23-Nov. 15	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	116 <u>or</u> 58
Zone 2C	Units 54 and 55	Sept. 1-22 Aug. 16-31 and Sept. 23-Nov. 15	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	100 <u>or</u> 50
Zone 3	Units 9 (except Marquez WMA) and 10	Sept. 1-22 Aug. 16-31 and Sept. 23-Nov. 15	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	25 <u>or</u> 10
Zone 4A	Unit 8	Sept. 1-22 Oct. 15-Nov. 15	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	5 <u>or</u> 2
Zone 4B	Unit 14	Sept. 1-22 Oct. 15-Nov. 15	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	12 <u>or</u> 5
Zone 5	Units 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20-24, 26 and 27	Sept. 1-24 Aug. 16-31 and Sept. 25-Nov. 30	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	109 <u>or</u> 44
Zone 6A	Units 37 and 38	Sept. 1-22 Aug. 16-31 and Sept. 23-Nov. 30	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	16 <u>or</u> 6
Zone 6B	Unit 34	Sept. 1-22 Aug. 16-31 and Sept. 23-Nov. 30	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	31 <u>or</u> 12
Zone 6C	Unit 36	Sept. 1-22 Aug. 16-31 and Sept. 23-Nov. 30	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	26 <u>or</u> 13

What You Must Know Before You Hunt

Closed Areas: Units 2 (except by draw permit), 19, 25, 28-33, 39 and 40 are closed to bear hunting. **All Wildlife Management Areas are closed unless specifically open to hunting.** See additional closures listed below. **Blaze Orange Clothing:** Hunters must wear at least 244 square inches of blaze orange while hunting on military property. **Restricted Areas:** It is unlawful to hunt bears in the Valle Vidal except as noted on page 53. Grapevine Canyon and McGregor Range Buffer Zone area in Unit 34 of Zone 6 are accessible by permit and military permission only. **Unit 10 of Zone 3 and Units 13, 18 and 20 of Zone 5:** These units are subject to closure by the U.S. Forest Service and/or the military during missile firings. **Zone 4:** Hunters may only use bows or crossbows to hunt bear in the Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest except during the Sept. 1-22 and Sept. 1-24 bow seasons. Dog use is not allowed during any bow season.



Bear Management Zones