

Bighorn Sheep

Draw Licenses for Rocky Mountain and Desert Bighorn Sheep

Application and Licenses

To hunt bighorn sheep in New Mexico, all residents and nonresidents first must purchase a **Game-hunting** or **Game-hunting and Fishing License** before applying for a Bighorn Sheep Draw License. There are no over-the-counter Bighorn Sheep Licenses.

Bighorn Sheep Ram Licenses **are** once-in-a-lifetime licenses. Youth hunters are eligible for this hunt once when they are younger than 18, and once again when they are older than 18. Bighorn Sheep Ewe Licenses (including youth hunts), **are not** once-in-a-lifetime licenses. Hunters may apply for both Rocky Mountain and desert bighorn sheep subspecies (both rams and ewes), in the same license year. Hunters **MUST** apply for all bighorn sheep hunts on the same application. Anyone who has held a Bighorn Sheep Enhancement License (see Unique Hunting Opportunities on page 15) may apply for any of these licenses. Hunters must apply by **March 28, 2012**. Only one person may apply per application. Anyone applying for a Bighorn Sheep Draw License **MUST** pay the full license and application fee when making application.

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep

Anyone may apply for a draw license to hunt Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep rams except those who have previously held a draw license to hunt Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep rams in New Mexico. Anyone who has held a license to hunt desert bighorn sheep may apply for a draw license to hunt Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

Desert Bighorn Sheep

Anyone may apply to hunt desert bighorn sheep rams except those who have previously held a draw license to hunt desert bighorn sheep rams. Anyone who has held a draw license to hunt a Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep ram or ewe may apply for a draw license to hunt desert bighorn sheep rams.

Youth-only Hunt

Applicants must be younger than 18 on the opening day of the hunt, provide proof of hunter education certification to apply and carry their certificate number while hunting with a firearm.

Legal Sporting Arms

Centerfire rifle or handgun of .24 caliber or larger; shotgun no smaller than 28 gauge, firing a single slug; bow and arrows; crossbow and bolts or muzzleloading rifle no smaller than .45 caliber.

Seasons

Hunt Area	Hunt Dates	Hunt Code	Licenses	Bag Limit
Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep				
Unit 45 - Pecos Mountains	Aug. 18-24	BHS-1-101	2	Ram
Unit 45 - Pecos Mountains	Aug. 25-31	BHS-1-102	1	Ram
Unit 45 - Pecos Mountains Youth Only	Aug. 25-31	BHS-1-103	1	Ram
Unit 53 - Wheeler Peak (portion south of N.M. 38)	Sept. 8-14	BHS-1-106	4	Ram
Units 53 and 55 - Latir Mountains	Aug. 11-17	BHS-1-109	1	Ram
Units 53 and 55 - Latir Mountains	Sept. 1-7	BHS-1-110	11	Ewe
Units 53 and 55 - Latir Mountains Youth Only	Sept. 1-7	BHS-1-111	1	Ewe
Units 16B, 22, 23, 24 Turkey Creek and San Francisco River	Jan. 5-14, '13	BHS-1-112	2	Ram
Unit 55A - Culebra Mountains *	Aug. 15-Sept. 30	BHS-1-113	1	Ram
Desert bighorn sheep				
Unit 27 - Peloncillo Mountains	Nov. 1-30	BHS-1-100	2	Ram
Unit 26 - Hatchet Mountains	Oct 1-15	BHS-1-114	3	Ram
Unit 26 - Hatchet Mountains	Oct. 16-31	BHS-1-115	3	Ram
Unit 20 - Caballo Mountains	Nov. 16-30	BHS-1-118	1	Ram
Unit 20 - Caballo Mountains	Dec. 1-15	BHS-1-119	1	Ram
Unit 13 - Ladron Mountains	Dec. 1-31	BHS-1-123	1	Ram
Unit 20 - Fra Cristobal Mountains *	Oct. 1-15	BHS-1-120	2	Ram
Unit 20 - Fra Cristobal Mountains Youth Only *	Oct. 31-Nov. 14	BHS-1-122	1	Ram
Unit 19 - White Sands Missile Range **	Dec. 14-Jan. 1 '13	BHS-1-116	2	Ram

Bighorn Sheep Ram Heads Must Have a Seal

Every bighorn sheep ram taken in New Mexico must have a seal inserted in one horn by the Department. Sealing must be done within 10 days of harvest. Bighorn sheep heads found in the field in New Mexico must remain in the field and may not be legally possessed. Bighorn sheep rams must be sealed prior to exportation from New Mexico. Persons who bring bighorn sheep heads into New Mexico must have them sealed by the Department within 10 days of entering the state. Bighorn sheep legally harvested and sealed in another jurisdiction (state, tribal entity or country), do not have to be sealed again in New Mexico.

License Fees

See page 8 for bighorn sheep license, validation and stamp fees. 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 is required and must be purchased separately.

* Culebra Mountains, Fra Cristobal Bighorn

Sheep Hunts

These hunts occur only on private land. Landowners have placed certain restrictions on these hunts. Please call the Department at (505) 476-8038 for more information about these restrictions.

** WSMR Bighorn Sheep Hunt

License and Access Fees

See page 9 for bighorn sheep license fees. WSMR charges a \$150 access fee per hunter for all hunts taking place on the Range. Successful applicants will receive an instruction letter from WSMR detailing payment of the fee, including deadline dates.

WSMR Security

All hunters successfully drawn for a WSMR hunt and their guests will have to complete a security background check by WSMR prior to being allowed access to the WSMR. All vehicles entering WSMR are subject to a security search by WSMR officers. Only Outfitters registered with WSMR in advance of the hunt will be allowed.

Hunt Dates

Hunters must expect that weekends, non-duty days and holidays will be the primary opportunities to hunt during the 19-day hunt period. Military authorities may delay or cancel hunts if they have concerns for public safety.