



GOING PAPERLESS

New rules, license fees and application methods will require New Mexico hunters to do some homework before planning their hunts for the 2012-13 seasons. Dramatic changes adopted by the State Legislature or approved by the State Game Commission will affect the application process, season dates and how many licenses are reserved for state residents.

The changes were designed to streamline the application and licensing process, provide more hunting opportunities for state residents, and to make drawing results and refunds available much sooner.

Going paperless

Say goodbye to paper application forms. Beginning next year, applications for all licenses will be made through the Department's online application system at www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

Hunters who have applied for licenses the past three seasons already are familiar with the system, as they have been required to obtain a Customer ID Number online before applying. Going paperless will simply extend that process. Since the Department first began offering online applications in 2005, the number of online applicants has increased from 54 percent to 82 percent.

Having all applications online will eliminate time-consuming sorting and counting, further increasing accuracy and speeding up the process considerably. Hunters will know their draw results one month after the deadline, instead of having to wait three months under the old system. Unsuccessful applicants also will receive their refunds much sooner.

License and application fees will be charged at the time of application. Applicants can pay by credit card or electronic check, a new convenience beginning next year. Once an application is complete, it can not be changed, only deleted. Applicants can reapply, and will receive a refund for the deleted application after the draw.

First, get your Game-hunting License

New legislation requires everyone who hunts or applies for a license in New Mexico to purchase a Game-hunting License or a combination Game-hunting and Fishing License. The licenses are good for hunting upland game and waterfowl, and will serve as the foundation that allows hunters to apply for public-land deer, elk and other special drawing licenses. They also will be required before purchasing any over-the-counter big-game or turkey license.

Hunters who are unsuccessful in the drawings are encouraged to keep the Game-hunting or Game-hunting and Fishing License and use them throughout the license year, April 1-March 31. If requested, refunds will be available for hunters who purchase a Game Hunting License. Game Hunting and Fishing licenses will not be refundable.

Game-hunting (\$15 for residents, \$65 for nonresidents) and Game-hunting and Fishing licenses (\$30, residents only) will be available online or over the counter from license vendors statewide. Senior and junior hunters, handicapped and some military may be eligible for discounted licenses.

Help available

Hunters who need help applying for 2012-13 licenses online can get it from a real person over the telephone or at one of several locations with public computers staffed by Department of Game and Fish representatives.

Paper application forms no longer will be accepted beginning next season, requiring all hunters to apply online by using a Customer Identification Number at www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

Assistance will be available from Feb. 2, 2012, through March 20, 2012, or by calling a toll-free number to be announced soon. The Department also plans to arrange for computer access in public locations statewide for hunters who need access to computers.

Look for more information and updates on the Department website, www.wildlife.state.nm.us.



wildlife.state.nm.us