

Hunting Information

Legal Sporting Arms

Sporting arms legal for hunting big-game species are listed on the individual species' pages. Exceptions to the following descriptions are noted where applicable.

Hunters may use only soft-nosed or hollow-pointed bullets. Full metal-jacketed or tracer bullets are illegal. No fully automatic arms may be used.

Sights on bows may not magnify targets or project light. Arrows must have broadheads (fixed or mechanical) with steel cutting edges. No drugs may be used on a hunting arrow and arrows cannot be driven by explosives.

Crossbow use is legal during "Any Legal Sporting Arm" hunts and "Muzzleloader" hunts. Sights on crossbows may not magnify targets or project light. Bolts must have broadheads (fixed or mechanical) with steel cutting edges. No drugs may be used on bolts. Bolts cannot be driven by explosives.

Scopes, sabots, in-line ignition and belted bullets may be used with muzzleloaders but not Restricted Muzzleloaders. See page 7 for definition.

Criminal Trespass Is Against the Law!

A. Criminal trespass consists of knowingly entering or remaining upon posted private property without possessing written permission from the owner or person in control of the land. The provisions of this subsection do not apply if:

1. The owner or person in control of the land has entered into an agreement with the Department granting access to public hunters for the purpose of taking any game animals, birds or fish by hunting, fishing or trapping; or

2. A person is in possession of a landowner authorization given to him by the owner or person in control of the land that grants access to that particular private land for the purpose of taking any game animals, birds or fish by hunting, fishing or trapping.

B. Criminal trespass also consists of knowingly entering or remaining upon the unposted lands of another knowing that such consent to enter or remain is denied or withdrawn by the owner or occupant thereof. Notice of no consent to enter shall be deemed sufficient notice to the public and evidence to the courts, by the posting of the fenced property at all vehicular access entries.

C. Criminal trespass also consists of knowingly entering or remaining upon lands owned, operated or controlled by the state or any of its political subdivisions knowing that consent to enter or remain is denied or withdrawn by the custodian thereof.

D. Any person who enters upon the lands of another without prior permission and injures, damages or destroys any part of the realty or its improvements, including buildings, structures, trees, shrubs or other natural features, is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be liable to the owner, lessee or person in lawful possession for civil damages in an amount equal to double the value of the damage to the property injured or destroyed.

E. Whoever commits criminal trespass is guilty of a misdemeanor. Additionally, any person who violates the provisions of Subsection A, B or C of this section, in connection with hunting, fishing or trapping activity, shall have his hunting or fishing license revoked by the State Game Commission for a period of not less than three years, pursuant to the provisions of NMSA Chapter 17-3-34, 1978.

F. Whoever knowingly removes, tampers with or destroys any "No Trespassing" sign is guilty of a petty misdemeanor; except when the damage to the sign amounts to more than \$1,000,

Criminal Trespass continued

in which case he or she is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to imprisonment in the county jail for a definite term less than one year or a fine not more than \$1,000 or to both imprisonment and fine, at the discretion of the judge.

Unlawful Taking of Game On Private Property

It is unlawful to hunt, capture, take, attempt to take or kill any game animal or furbearer on posted private property without written permission of the landowner or person in control of the land or if consent to remain on the property has been denied or withdrawn.

Unlawful Taking of Game On Unposted Private Property

It is unlawful to knowingly enter upon any private property to hunt, capture, take, attempt to take or kill any game animal or furbearer without written permission of the landowner or person in control of the land. Any game animals or furbearers taken in violation of the above, shall be subject to seizure.

Military Closures

The U.S. Forest Service and the Military may delay or cancel hunts in portions of GMUs 10, 13, 18, 19, 20 and 28 due to concerns for public safety. Closures of these areas could occur on several occasions throughout the year and may affect a number of hunts listed in this booklet.

Closures typically will occur between the hours of 3 am and 8 am. Evacuation of all people from these areas is required. Roadblocks will be positioned along all roads leading into the closed areas.

The area subject to closure in GMU 10 includes approximately 29 square miles of the Mount Taylor Ranger District, Cibola National Forest, located in the Zuni Mountains directly south and east of Fort Wingate Launch Complex and south of I-40.

The area subject to closure in GMU 13 includes approximately 200 square miles of the western portion of the Magdalena Ranger District, Cibola National Forest, located in the Datil Mountains north of U.S. Highway 60 and northeast of Datil, N.M.. Authority for the closures is 36 CFR 261.53 (E) and 36 CFR 261.54 (E) New Mexico.

Law Prohibits Harassing Legal Hunters

New Mexico has a law (NMSA 1978, Chapter 17-2-7.1) prohibiting "hunter harassment" or interfering with another person who is lawfully hunting, trapping or fishing in an area where those activities are permitted. The first offense is a petty misdemeanor, the second a misdemeanor.

If a person who commits interference possesses a license, certificate or permit issued to him/her by the State Game Commission, the license, certificate or permit will be subject to revocation.

Interference means:

1. Intentionally placing yourself in a location where a human presence may affect the behavior of a game animal, bird or fish or the feasibility of killing or taking a game animal, bird or fish, with the intent of interfering with or harassing another person who is lawfully hunting, trapping or fishing.

2. Intentionally creating a visual, aural, olfactory or physical stimulus for the purpose of affecting the behavior of a game animal, bird or fish, with the intent of interfering with or harassing another person who is lawfully hunting, fishing or trapping.

3. Intentionally affecting the condition or altering the placement of or removing personal property used for the purpose of killing or taking a game animal, bird or fish.