

Wildlife Management Division Rule Development Update General Proposals & Group A

April 8, 2010

NM State Game Commission Meeting
Albuquerque

Public Comment and Meetings

WEB

- Proposed changes posted to web February 26, 2010
- 16 web comments received to date

MEETINGS

- Sergeant Districts and Area offices
- NWTF
- DACAS
- Guides and Outfitters – Next week
- Public Meetings in Areas - TBS

General Proposals for all Species

- Change to 4-year rules
 - Base management recommendations on three years of data instead of one
 - Improve consistency in management schemes for hunters and landowners
 - Decrease the amount of staff time spent on rule development while improving management recommendations to the Commission

- Extend legal shooting hours to ½ hour after sunset
 - Increase hunter satisfaction and opportunity
 - Comparable hours to 46 other states
 - Negligible impact on the resource
- Legalize crossbows for use during “any legal weapon” and muzzleloader hunts
 - Increase hunter opportunity with no conflict with traditional archery and compound bow seasons

Javelina Rule Proposals

- Establish a javelina rule separate from the current combination pronghorn/javelina rule
- Open the Lesser Prairie Chicken Area Complex WMAs to javelina hunting

Upland Game Rule Proposals

- Add Arizona gray squirrel, fox squirrel, and eastern gray squirrel to the legal bag limit for squirrel hunters
- Eliminate the GS-1 experimental grouse hunt
- Modify upland bird season dates to November 15 – February 15 annually

Wild Turkey Rule Proposals

- Prohibit hunting turkeys over bait
- Increase the statewide spring bag limit to two turkeys except in the Valles Caldera (Draw hunts remain one bird)
- Change the fall season to September 1 – 30 for archery, and November 1 – 30 for shotgun, archery or crossbows
- Open Sargent and Humphries WMAs to over-the-counter spring turkey hunting
- Open GMUs 6A, 6C, 32, and 33 to fall hunting
- Open portions of GMUs 2A and 2C to spring and fall seasons

Path Forward

GROUP	RULES	TO WEB	TO SGC	SGC DECISION
A	Turkey, Upland Game, Javelina	February	Today	June 3
B	Bighorn, Exotics, Elk, Waterfowl, Open Gate	Next week	June 3	July 8
C	Bear & Cougar, Pronghorn, A-PLUS, Deer	By July 28	August 28	September 30