

Wildlife Management Division

Bighorn Sheep Rule Proposed Amendments

April 5, 2012

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

Gallup, NM



Bighorn Sheep Rule Proposed Amendments

- 2012 Legislature approved additional Auction and Raffle licenses
- Private land licenses not 'Once-in-a-lifetime'
- Modify hunts on:
 - private lands
 - White Sands Missile Range
 - Pecos, Peloncillos and Hatchet mountains



Questions?



Auction/Raffle enhancement licenses provide primary funds for bighorn management, including transplants, surveys, monitoring and research.

Rule amendments needed include:

- increasing the authorization and license numbers to text & tables
- clarifying instructions for those hunters, and
- and removing language related to de-listing.

We added language to clarify that the additional pair of auction and raffle licenses and the licenses on the private land hunts are not Once-in-a-Lifetime.

In the delisting process we omitted a private land youth hunt on the Fra Cristobal Mountains.

We clarify that currently the only desert bighorn hunts on the San Andres Mountains are only on the WSMR and the number of licenses available will be determined annually. Once we have approval to hunt on the San Andres National Wildlife Refuge, this hunt will be a mountain-wide hunt.

Reduced ram licenses available in the Pecos by 1 license in each of 2 hunts due to reduced number of available rams in the population, this is the impact of a couple of severe winters several years ago essentially eliminating any recruitment those years.

We propose to increase from 1 to 2 licenses available in the Peloncillo and 4 to 6 licenses available in the Hatchet mountains.