

# Important Reminders

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: **1-888-248-6866**

## **Mandatory Harvest Reporting**

All Barbary sheep, deer, elk, ibex, javelina, oryx, pronghorn, turkey and trapper license holders must submit a harvest report, whether they hunted or not. Deadlines by species are listed on page 10. Harvest reports may be submitted online, by telephone or in person at NMDOW offices. Failure to report by the deadline(s) will result in rejection of all draw applications. Remember to keep your confirmation number!

## **License Fee Increase**

License fees have changed this year. See pages 16-17 for details.

## **Shed Hunting License Required for Non-Residents**

All non-resident shed antler hunters must purchase a Shed Hunting License. See page 12.

## **Private-land Pronghorn License Limits**

There is now a limit on the number of private-land pronghorn licenses in GMUs 41, 42, 47, 56, 57, 58 and 59 (pages 94 – 104).

## **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Discount (SNAP)**

New Mexico residents participating in SNAP are eligible for a 25% discount on NMDOW licenses.

## **Chronic Wasting Disease**

Chronic Wasting Disease rules now apply in Unit 29 (page 28).

## **Electronic Tag (E-Tag) Option for Big Game and Turkey**

Hunters may choose the E-Tag option when purchasing or applying for any big-game or turkey hunt. You will not receive a carcass tag if you choose this option. Hunters who choose the E-Tag option are required to download the NM E-Tag app each year on their smartphone, and must be able to show the license on their phone while in the field. A printed license and/or carcass tag are not required, but the animal must still be physically tagged. The E-Tag app must be deleted and reinstalled each license year. See page 13 for details.

## **Update Your NMDOW Account**

All hunters should update their account in the Department's Online Licensing System if any of their information has changed. Hunters are strongly encouraged to provide a valid e-mail address.

## **Non-Resident Hunter Education Age Restriction**

Hunter Education certificates from other states are valid only for youth hunters age 9 and older.

## **Federal Duck Stamp Changes**

The electronic duck stamp is now valid for the entire waterfowl season. Physical duck stamps will be mailed after March 10 annually.

## **White Sands Missile Range and Fort Bliss Hunter Education Requirement**

All hunters, regardless of age, on White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) and Fort Bliss in GMUs 19 and 28 are required to have proof of passing a state-certified Hunter Education course. Mentor-youth hunters are not eligible.

## **Open Sights Only for Muzzleloaders**

Only open (iron) or peep sights are allowed on muzzle-loading rifles when used during a muzzleloader hunt (Hunt Codes: XXX-3-XXX). Scopes, red dots and all other optical sights are prohibited.

## **Bear and Cougar Hunting on WMAs**

Deer and elk hunters who draw WMA hunts may harvest a bear or cougar during their deer and/or elk hunt dates, using the same weapon types, if the zone is open for bear and cougar hunting, and they possess a Bear and/or Cougar License.

## **Bear Hunting Changes**

BMZ 7 has been dissolved. GMU 57 is now part of BMZ 5, and GMUs 56 and 58 are part of BMZ 6. Bear season will open on August 16 in BMZs 12 and 13.

## **License/Tag Combo Available Online or by Phone**

Hunters who choose to receive a physical carcass tag may not need to carry a separate license. If the license is applied for or purchased online or by telephone, the top section of the carcass tag will serve as a valid license. Hunters must carry the license/carcass tag with them in the field while hunting (see page 37). If you do not purchase the Habitat Stamp through the draw, or prior to May 15, 2026, a printed copy may be required. The combined license/tag is not available for license purchases and/or duplicate tags at over-the-counter (OTC) license vendors.

## **Draw Carcass Tags will be Mailed**

Successful draw applicants who did not choose the E-Tag option will receive the license/tag(s) via U.S. Postal Service in June. Please ensure the mailing address you've provided is correct.

## **Habitat Stamp**

The Habitat Stamp must be purchased prior to hunting or fishing on BLM and Forest Service lands. To be included in a combined draw license/tag, the Habitat Stamp must be purchased before May 15, 2026. The Habitat Stamp must be carried while in the field.

## **Buy 2026-27 Hunting License through the Draw Application**

Draw applicants purchasing 2026-27 Game-Hunting Licenses to apply for draw hunts must click "Draw Hunt Applications" in the main menu and purchase the license as part of the application process. Do not click "License Sales 2025."

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## Early Purchase Available for 2026–27 Licenses

Licenses for the 2026–27 license year beginning April 1 will be available online, by telephone, and at license vendors and NMDOW offices beginning March 25.

## Duplicate License Fee

A \$6 duplicate license fee will be charged for all duplicate tags/licenses in accordance with New Mexico state law. This fee will be charged only when a duplicate tag is obtained requiring reprinting license with a new tag number.

## Over the Counter (OTC) Licenses for Some Species Available July 1

OTC licenses for javelina, fall turkey, private-land deer, private-land pronghorn, private-land Barbary sheep, secondary management zone private-land elk and federal Duck Stamps will be available beginning July 1.

## Information Center Extended Hours

The NMDOW Information Center is open year-round, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (except state holidays) to answer your questions and assist with license issues and harvest reporting. Extended hours are March 9-13 and March 16-17 from 8 a.m.–6 p.m. The Information Center will close at 4:30 p.m. on March 18.

## Requirements for Military Documentation

Proof of service for all military-only hunts and veteran oryx hunts must be received by NMDOW prior to draw application.

## Draw Refunds

Draw license fee refunds for unsuccessful applicants will be processed shortly after draw results are released in April. Applications paid by credit card will be refunded directly to the credit card used for the transaction within 10 business days. Applications paid by cash will be refunded by check by the end of May. **Game-Hunting License and stamp purchases will not be refunded.**

## Draw Permits

All successful Bear, Turkey, Pheasant and Sandhill Crane Draw Permit applicants must validate their draw permit by purchasing the appropriate over-the-counter (OTC) license.



## 50% Discount for Resident Military and Veterans

New Mexico residents who are active-duty military or honorably discharged veterans are eligible for a 50% discount on all licenses, permits and stamps. Proof of service may be requested to verify eligibility. See page 21, 158 and 163 for eligibility requirements and details.

## Hunting Maps

A variety of maps, including Big Game Management Units, bighorn sheep and turkey ranges, the Silver City Management Area, elk private lands, pronghorn private lands and state lands are available online: <https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov/hunting/maps/>

## Contact Land Management Agencies Before Hunting

Prescribed burns, wildfires, closures and other activities that could affect hunting may occur on public lands or be conducted by land-management agencies during hunting seasons. NMDOW recommends contacting the appropriate management agency prior to your hunt for information on activities that may affect access or animal behavior in your hunting area. Visit: [nmfireinfo.com](https://nmfireinfo.com). For agency contact information, please see pages 44–48.

## Mexican Gray Wolf: Encounters and Identification

Know where wolf encounters may occur and how to distinguish the Mexican gray wolf from coyotes (page 141).

## Legal Shooting Hours

Legal shooting hours for big game, furbearers, upland game and turkey are from one half-hour before sunrise to one half-hour after sunset, unless otherwise noted. Legal shooting hours for migratory game birds are one half-hour before sunrise to sunset.

## Marked Game Animals

It is legal to harvest a game animal with a collar, eartag or other human-placed identifying mark. Please contact NMDOW at **505-476-8038** to return collars, as they store data and can be used on another animal.

## No Trapping on Public Lands

It is illegal to set a trap or snare on public lands. See page 132 for more information.



*NMDOW photo*

# Important Dates

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- Feb. 11** Deadline to apply for Bear and Turkey Draw Permits. Applications must be completed before 5 p.m. Mountain Time (MT).
- Feb. 15** Deadline to submit 2025–26 harvest reports for deer, elk, pronghorn and turkey license holders. Free reports can be submitted online or by telephone. Late fees apply after this date.
- Feb. 18** Results for Bear and Turkey Draw Permits are available online, by telephone and at NMDOW offices. Permits will be available in the E-Tag app and can be printed on standard paper after the appropriate license(s) are purchased.
- Mar. 18** Deadline to apply for draw licenses for Barbary sheep, bighorn sheep, deer, elk, ibex, javelina, pronghorn, oryx and private-land only deer in Units 2A, 2B, 2C, 4 and 5A. Applications must be completed before 5 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (MDT).
- Mar. 18** Deadline to submit late 2025–26 harvest reports for deer, elk, pronghorn and turkey. All 2025–26 license holders must report to be eligible for 2026–27 draw licenses. Reports can be submitted online or by telephone. **Failure to report for these species by this date will result in rejection of all draw applications.** An \$8 late fee applies after Feb. 15, 2026. Remember to keep your confirmation number.
- Mar. 25** 2026–27 over-the-counter (OTC) license types, including Game-Hunting Licenses and Game-Hunting & Fishing Licenses, are available online, by telephone, at NMDOW offices and at license vendors.
- April 1** 2026–27 license year begins. All 2025–26 licenses are no longer valid.
- April 7** Deadline to submit 2025–26 harvest reports for Barbary Sheep, Ibex, Javelina, Oryx and Trapper License holders to be eligible for big-game licenses. Reports can be submitted online or by telephone. **Failure to report for these species by this date will result in rejection of all draw applications.** An \$8 late fee applies after April 7, 2026. Remember to keep your confirmation number.
- April 22** Big-game draw results are available online, by telephone or at NMDOW offices.
- Aug. 12** Deadline to apply for Pheasant and Sandhill Crane Draw Permits. Applications must be completed before 5 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time (MDT).
- Aug. 19** Results for Pheasant and Sandhill Crane Draw Permits are available online, by telephone and at NMDOW offices. Permits can be printed on standard paper after the appropriate license(s) are purchased.