

COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA BRIEFING

Meeting Date: May 28, 2026

Agenda Number: 12

Presenter: Stewart Liley

Corroborator: N/A

Agenda Title: Rule Making Hearing: Javelina rule (19.31.21 NMAC) for the 2027 – 2030 hunting seasons.

1. Summary of Agenda Item

The Department will present biological and proposed changes to the javelina rule (19.31.21 NMAC) based on biological information, public feedback, and management goals.

The Department proposes the following changes:

- Increases in licenses for OTC area (from 1,200 to 1,300 any-legal weapon licenses)
- Expand the validity of the GMUs 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 (bootheel) javelina licenses to include OTC areas (excluding GMU 28), effectively making these “statewide” licenses.
- Eliminate GMU 28 McGregor hunt of 10 licenses based on discussions with Fort Bliss staff (over time, an average of only 3 of the 10 hunters show up for the hunt and it is logistically burdensome to organize for the military)
- Require the purchase of a license at least one day prior to hunting

2. Background Information

The javelina rule is re-evaluated every four years and changed based on biological data, harvest data, and management goals. In addition, the Department will receive public feedback and consider it in the context of the species biological and management goals. The Department has reached out to the public for input.

Javelina are concentrated in the southwestern part of the state. Javelina continue to be observed in new areas. The Department strives to balance javelina hunting opportunity with population sustainability.

3. Strategic Plan References and Possible Impacts of Agenda Item

The process as presented to the Commission meets the Conservation Services Program Objectives 1, 2 and 5 of the Department’s Strategic Plan: FY 2019 – FY 2023

4. Considerations Regarding Duplications and/or Conflicts with Existing Rules or Statutes

None

5. Description and Summary of Public Involvement Process and Results

The Department has posted proposed changes to the javelina rule on the Department's website. Input has been gathered via email. Hybrid in person/virtual public meetings were held March 11th in Albuquerque and March 12th in Las Cruces.

Suggested Motion

The Department respectfully suggests the following motion unless Commission discretion indicated a different course of action:

“Move to repeal and replace 19.31.21 NMAC, as presented by the Department and allow the Department to make minor corrections to comply with filling this rule with State Records and Archives.”

TITLE 19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE
CHAPTER 31 HUNTING AND FISHING
PART 21 JAVELINA

19.31.21.1 ISSUING AGENCY: New Mexico department of **wildlifegame and fish**.
 [19.31.21.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.21.1 NMAC, 4/1/2027]

19.31.21.2 SCOPE: Sportspersons interested in javelina hunting and management. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17, NMSA 1978, and Chapters 30, 31, 32 and 33 of Title 19 NMAC.
 [19.31.21.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.21.2 NMAC, 4/1/2027]

19.31.21.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Sections 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state **gamewildlife** commission has the authority to establish rules and regulations that it may deem necessary to carry out the purpose of Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and all other acts pertaining to protected mammals, birds and fish.
 [19.31.21.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.21.3 NMAC, 4/1/2027]

19.31.21.4 DURATION: April 1, **20232027** through March 31, **20272031**.
 [19.31.21.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.21.4 NMAC, 4/1/2027]

19.31.21.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, **20232027**, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
 [19.31.21.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.21.5 NMAC, 4/1/2027]

19.31.21.6 OBJECTIVE: Establishing open hunting seasons and regulations, rules and procedures governing the distribution and issuance of javelina licenses by the department.
 [19.31.21.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.21.6 NMAC, 4/1/2027]

19.31.21.7 DEFINITIONS:

- A. **“Department”** shall mean the New Mexico department of **wildlifegame and fish**.
- B. **“Director”** shall mean the director of the New Mexico department of **wildlifegame and fish**.
- C. **“Either sex” or “ES”** shall mean any one javelina.
- D. **“Game management unit” or “GMU”** shall mean those areas as described in 19.30.4 NMAC Boundary Descriptions for Game Management Units.
- E. **“Wildlife management areas” or “WMAs”** shall mean those areas as described in 19.34.5 NMAC, Wildlife Management Areas.

[19.31.21.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.21.7 NMAC, 4/1/2027]

19.31.21.8 ADJUSTMENT OF LICENSES, AUTHORIZATIONS AND HARVEST LIMITS: The director, with the verbal concurrence of the chairperson of the New Mexico state **wildlifegame** commission or their designee, may adjust the number of licenses for javelina up or down by no more than twenty percent of the total licenses available in the area or GMU to address significant changes in population levels or habitat availability. **The director may change or cancel all hunts on military lands to accommodate closures on those lands; if changed, the season length and bag limit shall remain the same as assigned on the original hunt code.**
 [19.31.21.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.21.8 NMAC, 4/1/2027]

19.31.21.9 JAVELINA HUNTING SEASONS: Javelina hunts for the **2023-242027-2028** through **2026-27 2030-2031** hunt seasons shall be as indicated below, listing the open GMUs or areas, eligibility requirements or restrictions, hunt dates, hunt codes, sporting arms, number of licenses, and bag limit. All WMAs shall remain closed to javelina hunting, except the prairie-chicken areas, Heart Bar, Double E, River Ranch, Red Rock (outside of the high-fence bighorn sheep enclosure only), and Socorro-Escondida WMAs are open to javelina hunting.

A. Draw hunts:

open GMUs or areas	2023-2024 hunt dates	2024-2025 hunt dates	2025-2026 hunt dates	2026-2027 hunt dates	hunt code	licenses	bag limit
Statewide except GMU 28, youth only	2/1-3/31	2/1-3/31	2/1-3/31	2/1-3/31	JAV-1-100	180	ES
GMUs 19, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31	JAV-2-101	330	ES
	2/1-3/31	2/1-3/31	2/1-3/31	2/1-3/31	JAV-1-102	1100	ES

GMU 28 McGregor range, military only	12/30 12/31	12/28 12/29	12/27 12/28	12/26 12/27	JAV 1-105	5	ES
GMU 28 McGregor range	12/30 12/31	12/28 12/29	12/27 12/28	12/26 12/27	JAV 1-106	5	ES

open GMUs or areas	2027-2028 hunt dates	2028-2029 hunt dates	2029-2030 hunt dates	2030-2031 hunt dates	hunt code	licenses	bag limit
Statewide except GMU 28, youth only	2/1-3/31	2/1-3/31	2/1-3/31	2/1-3/31	JAV-STW-R1-ES-YTH	180	ES
Statewide, except GMU 28	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31	JAV-STW-B1-ES-PUB	330	ES
	2/1-3/31	2/1-3/31	2/1-3/31	2/1-3/31	JAV-STW-R1-ES-PUB	1100	ES

B. Over-the-counter hunts: The hunt area shall be statewide except GMUs 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28.

open GMUs or areas	2023-2024 hunt dates	2024-2025 hunt dates	2025-2026 hunt dates	2026-2027 hunt dates	hunt code	licenses	bag limit
Statewide except GMUs 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31	JAV 2-103	360	ES
	2/1-3/31	2/1-3/31	2/1-3/31	2/1-3/31	JAV 1-104	1200	ES

open GMUs or areas	2027-2028 hunt dates	2028-2029 hunt dates	2029-2030 hunt dates	2030-2031 hunt dates	hunt code	licenses	bag limit
Statewide except GMUs 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31	JAV-OTC-B1-ES-PUB	360	ES
	2/1-3/31	2/1-3/31	2/1-3/31	2/1-3/31	JAV-OTC-R1-ES-PUB	1300	ES

[19.31.21.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.21.9 NMAC, 4/1/2027]

19.31.12.10 POPULATION MANAGEMENT HUNTS:

- A.** The director or their designee may authorize population management hunts for javelina when justified in writing by department personnel.
- B.** The director or their designee shall designate the legal sporting arms, season dates, season lengths, bag limits, hunt boundaries, specific requirements or restrictions, and number of licenses to be issued.
- C.** In the event that an applicant is not able to hunt on the dates specified, the applicant's name shall be moved to the bottom of the list and another applicant may be contacted for the hunt.
- D.** In those instances where a population management hunt is warranted on deeded private lands, the landowner may suggest eligible hunters of their choice by submitting a list of prospective hunter's names to the department for licensing consideration. No more than one-half of the total number of licenses authorized shall be available to landowner identified hunters. The balance of prospective hunters shall be identified by the department.

[19.31.21.10 NMAC - N, 4/1/2027]

HISTORY OF 19.31.21 NMAC:

Pre-NMAC History: The material in this part was derived from that previously filed with the State Records Center and Archives under:

Regulation No. 482, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 5/31/1967;

Regulation No. 487, Establishing 1967 Seasons On Javelina And Barbary Sheep, filed 12/15/1967;

Regulation No. 489, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring of 1968, filed 3/1/1968;

Regulation No. 491, Establishing Big Game Seasons For 1968 For Jicarilla Reservation, filed 3/1/1968;

Regulation No. 492, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 6/6/1968;
Regulation No. 495, Establishing A Season On Bighorn Sheep, filed 10/2/1968;
Regulation No. 496, Establishing An Elk Season In The Tres Piedras Area, Elk Area P-6, filed 12/11/1968;
Regulation No. 502, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1969, filed 3/5/1969;
Regulation No. 503, Establishing 1969 Deer Seasons For Bowhunting Only And Big Game Seasons For The Jicarilla Indian Reservation, filed 3/5/1969;
Regulation 504, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Bear, Turkey, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 6/4/1969;
Regulation No. 507, Establishing A Season On Bighorn Sheep, filed 8/26/1969;
Regulation No. 512, Establishing Turkey Season For The Spring Of 1970, filed 2/20/1970;
Regulation No. 513, Establishing Deer Season For Bowhunting Only In Sandia State Game Refuge, filed 2/20/1970;
Regulation No. 514, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/9/1970;
Regulation No 520, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1971, filed 3/9/1971;
Regulation No. 522, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/9/1971;
Regulation No. 523, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/9/1971;
Regulation No. 531, Establishing A Season On Javelina, filed 12/17/1971;
Regulation No. 532, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1972, filed 3/20/1972;
Regulation No. 534, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/20/1972;
Regulation No. 536, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/26/1972;
Regulation No. 542, Establishing A Season On Javelina, filed 12/1/1972;
Regulation No. 545, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1973, filed 2/26/1973;
Regulation No. 546, Establishing 1973 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 2/26/1973;
Regulation No. 547, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, And Javelina, filed 5/31/1973;
Regulation No. 554, Establishing Special Turkey Seasons For The Spring of 1974, filed 3/4/1974;
Regulation No. 556, Establishing 1974 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/14/1974;
Regulation No. 558, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex, filed 5/29/1974;
Regulation No. 565, Establishing Special Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1975, filed 3/24/1975;
Regulation No. 567, Establishing 1975 Seasons On Deer, Bear, And Turkey On The Jicarilla Apache And Navajo Indian Reservations And On Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/24/1975;
Regulation No. 568, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 6/25/1975;
Regulation No. 573, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/23/1976;
Regulation No. 583, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/11/1977;
Regulation No. 590, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/15/1978;
Regulation No. 596, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/23/1979;
Regulation No. 603, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1980 through March 31, 1981, filed 2/22/1980;
Regulation No. 609, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1981 through March 31, 1982, filed 3/17/1981;
Regulation No. 614, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1982 through March 31, 1983, filed 3/10/1982;
Regulation No. 622, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1983 through March 31, 1984, filed 3/9/1983;
Regulation No. 628, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1984 through March 31, 1985, filed 4/2/1984;

Regulation No. 634, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1985 Through March 31, 1986, filed 4/18/1985; Regulation No. 640, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1986 through March 31, 1987, filed 3/25/1986; Regulation No. 645, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1987 through March 31, 1988, filed 2/12/1987; Regulation No. 653, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1988 through March 31, 1989, filed 12/18/1987; Regulation No. 663, Establishing Opening Spring Turkey For The Period April 1, 1989 through March 31, 1990, filed 3/28/1989; Regulation No. 664, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1989 through March 31, 1990, filed 3/20/1989; Regulation No. 674, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1990 through March 31, 1991, filed 11/21/1989; Regulation No. 683, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1991 through March 31, 1992, filed 2/8/1991; Regulation No. 689, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1992 through March 31, 1993, filed 3/4/1992; Regulation No. 700, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1993 through March 31, 1995, filed 3/11/1993.

History of Repealed Material:

19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game, filed 3/1/2001 - duration expired 3/31/2003.
19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game and Turkey, filed 3/3/2003 - duration expired 3/31/2005.
19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game and Turkey, filed 12/1/2004 - duration expired 3/31/2007.
19.31.15 NMAC, Pronghorn Antelope and Javelina, filed 12/1/2006 - duration expired 3/31/2009.
19.31.15 NMAC, Pronghorn Antelope and Javelina, filed 3/13/2009 - duration expired 3/31/2011.
19.31.21 NMAC, Javelina, filed 8/15/2010 - duration expired 3/31/2015.
19.31.21 NMAC, Javelina, filed 3/17/2015 - duration expired 3/31/2019.
19.31.21 NMAC, Javelina, filed 5/31/2018 - duration expired 3/31/2023.
19.31.21 NMAC, Javelina, filed 6/9/2022 - duration expired 3/31/2027.