

# Management Hunts

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

## Population Management Hunts

Hunters wishing to be considered for population management hunts for Barbary sheep, bighorn sheep, deer, elk, ibex, javelina, oryx or pronghorn **must select the fifth-choice option on their draw application for the appropriate species.**

Hunters cannot be added to the list after the public draw deadline. Applications must be completed online or by telephone by March 19 before 5 p.m.

Applicants must apply for at least one regular draw hunt choice to be eligible for the population management hunt for the same species. By choosing this option, hunters are indicating their willingness, if unsuccessful in drawing their first, second, third or fourth choice, to be contacted by NMDGF if a population management hunt is scheduled for that species.

If a population management hunt is scheduled, a NMDGF official will contact the hunter to notify him/her of the hunt areas, dates, bag limit, allowable sporting arms and any other special restrictions. The hunter will be asked to accept or decline a hunt. If the hunter accepts the hunt, they must purchase the license online or by phone. If the hunter declines, the next hunter in sequence will be contacted. Bag limits for population management hunts will be primarily female animals, since these hunts are intended to reduce populations in specific areas.

Choosing a population management hunt option is not a guarantee the applicant will be contacted for a hunt. Population management hunters must file a harvest report.

**White Sands Missile Range (WSMR):** To be eligible for population management hunts on WSMR, applicants must enter a hunt authorization code from an approved 2025 WSMR Security Sponsor (see page 114). **Leave the WSMR Population Management Hunt Authorization Code box unchecked if you do not have an authorization code.**

## Population Management Hunt Fees

If unsuccessful for the first, second, third or fourth choice, applicants will be refunded the license fee. If a hunter is contacted and accepts a fifth-choice hunt, she/he will be required to purchase the appropriate license(s) with tags.

White Sands Missile Range and Jornada Experimental Range each charge a \$150 access fee to all oryx hunters. Other federal agencies may charge access fees.

Choosing the oryx population management hunt implies acceptance of additional fees should a hunter be called for one of these hunts. Population management hunters must file a harvest report and may be required to obtain a carcass tag in person at a license vendor or NMDGF office.

## Avoid Late Fees: Harvest Reporting for Late-Season Management Hunts

Population management license holders for deer, elk, pronghorn or turkey whose hunts end after January 31 must submit a harvest report on or before April 7 to maintain draw eligibility. NMDGF recommends reporting by telephone at:

**1-888-248-6866** to avoid late fees.

# Special Hunting Opportunities

## Enhancement Hunts

NMDGF issues special hunting permits by partnering with non-profit conservation organizations who conduct auctions and raffles to raise funds for big-game management. Authorizations may be used either by the recipient or any individual of the recipient's choice through sale, barter or gift. These are not once-in-a-lifetime hunts. More information can be found on NMDGF's website: <https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov/hunting/applications-and-draw-information/enhancement-hunts/>

**BIG GAME PACKAGES:** Two big game enhancement packages, consisting of one authorization for each of deer, elk, ibex, oryx and pronghorn, will be auctioned. The season dates are: Sept. 1, 2025–Jan. 31, 2026, for deer and elk; April 1, 2025,–March 31, 2026, for ibex and oryx (for oryx hunts, WSMR access must be prearranged); and Aug. 1–Nov. 1, 2025, for pronghorn.

**BIGHORN SHEEP:** Two Rocky Mountain bighorn and two desert bighorn sheep authorizations will be available, one via auction and one via raffle for each species. The season dates are: Aug. 1–Dec. 31, 2025, except in GMU 53 (Wheeler Peak), which is closed Aug. 16–31, 2025.

**DEER AND ELK:** Two fork-antlered deer and two mature bull elk authorizations will be available, one via auction and one via raffle for each species. The season dates are Sept. 1, 2025–Jan. 31, 2026.

**GOULD'S TURKEY:** Two bearded Gould's turkey authorizations will be available, one via auction and one via raffle. The season dates are any consecutive 30 days of the hunter's choosing between April 1 and May 31 each year.

## Premium Statewide Deer and Elk Hunts

NMDGF premium deer and elk hunts are in honor of two NMDGF employees, Austin Roberts and Ocie Gray, who were killed in a January 1960 plane crash while delivering hay to starving pronghorn on the snow-covered plains outside of Las Vegas. These hunts provide the public an affordable chance at a high quality hunting experience. The hunt codes are DER-1-700 and ELK-1-700 and allow hunting with any big-game sporting arm in any unit statewide, including NMDGF's wildlife management areas and private land with written permission, anytime between Sept. 1, 2025 and Jan. 31, 2026. The hunts are available through the draw and are subject to quota (non-resident and outfitted applicants are extremely unlikely to draw).

## Governor's Hunts

Special licenses for some big game species may be auctioned upon authorization from the governor. Auction winners must select an existing hunt code that they are eligible to participate in and will have the option to add additional days to their hunt. If a hunt code on military property is selected, coordination with the military is required.