

# Special Hunting Opportunities

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: [wildlife.dgf.nm.gov](https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov)

## Enhancement Hunts

NMDOW issues special hunting permits by partnering with non-profit conservation organizations who conduct auctions and raffles to raise funds for wildlife 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 NMDOW'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 each for deer, elk, ibex, oryx and pronghorn, will be auctioned. The season dates are: Sept. 1, 2026–Jan. 31, 2027, for deer and elk; April 1, 2026–March 31, 2027, for ibex and oryx (for oryx hunts, WSMR access must be prearranged); and Aug. 1–Nov. 1, 2026, 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, 2026, except in GMU 53 (Wheeler Peak), which is closed Aug. 16–31, 2026.

**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, 2026–Jan. 31, 2027.

**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

NMDOW premium deer and elk hunts are in honor of two NMDOW 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 NMDOW's wildlife management areas and private land with written permission, anytime between Sept. 1, 2026 and Jan. 31, 2027. 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.