

**New Mexico Department of Wildlife
2026 – Associate Conservation Officer (Game Warden Recruit)
Hiring Timeline**

Job Announcement Information

August 18th, 2026: Job Posting Start Date
September 17th, 2026: Job Posting End Date

Associate Conservation Officer (DOW
#40869+)



The Selection Process

- September 27th: Physical Pre-Assessment Testing (see physical standards below 6,000 feet) and Wildlife Written Exam (see sample test for study tips): Albuquerque
- September 28th- October 2nd: Formal interviews: Albuquerque
- October 31st- November 1st: Pre-employment Background Investigation (if applicant passed physical pre-assessment testing): Albuquerque
- November 2nd-3rd: Psychological Examination (if selected to continue the process): Albuquerque
- November 4th: Medical Examination (if selected to continue the process): Albuquerque
- November 5th: Body Armor fitting (if given a conditional job offer): Albuquerque

Training You'll Receive in 2027 (while stationed in Roswell)

- January 2nd-5th: Start date. New employee orientation at the New Mexico Department of Wildlife Southeast Area Office in Roswell.
- January 7th-8th: Southeastern New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy Basic Police Officer Physical Pre-Assessment: Hobbs
- January 9th-15th: Recruit Basic Pistol Firearms Training: Hagerman
- January 24th-May 21st: Southeastern New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy Basic Police Officer Training (#A-27-57)- Hobbs
- June 7th-13th: Recruit Basic Rifle, Shotgun, and Vehicle Firearms Training: Logan
- June 16th-July 23rd: Recruit School Training: Roswell
 - Radio Procedures, Evidence.com, Mark43, Chapter 17 Law, Officer Water Survival, ATV/ROV Basic Training, Law Enforcement Vehicle Equipment Use, Computer Resources, Crime Scene Investigations, Vehicle Stops, Checkpoints, Artificial Wildlife, Officer Prosecutions, Simulated Law Enforcement Confrontation Training, and Wildlife Restraint.

Field Training

- July 31st: Begin 14-week field training assignment. Recruits do not have a choice in where they will be field training. Recruit field training locations can be anywhere in the state.
- August 6th: Contingent upon the successful completion of field training, Recruits will receive their Conservation Officer district assignments, and can then begin preparing to find housing etc. Prior to receiving district assignments, Recruits will be given a prioritized list of current vacancies. Recruits must submit a letter of interest selecting their top 3 preferred district choices. Recruits are ranked in order by overall performance from highest to lowest. The highest ranking Recruit will have their letter of interest reviewed first, followed by the second highest-ranking Recruit, and so on until all assignments are filled.
- November 5th: Upon successful completion of field training, Recruits will be promoted to Conservation Officer and will be stationed in their own district.

Please call 505-476-8085 or email DGF-FieldOps@dgf.nm.gov with any questions about becoming a Conservation Officer, the hiring process or to schedule a ride along with an officer in any area of the state.