

Bighorn Sheep

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

General Information

- License Requirements and Fees (see pages 12–17).
- All Bighorn Sheep Harvests Must Be Tagged (page 37).
- Legal Sporting Arms for Bighorn Sheep Hunting (specified by hunt code, see page 30).
- Hunting on Military Reservations (see page 46).
- Mobility-impaired Hunts (see pages 19–20).
- Youth-Only Hunts (see page 19).
- Bag Limit (see glossary, page 159).
- It is Legal to Harvest a Marked Animal (see page 9).

Draw Licenses for Rocky Mountain and Desert Bighorn Sheep

The deadline to apply for Bighorn Sheep Draw Licenses is March 18, 2026. Only one hunter may apply per application. Successful applicants will be mailed a bighorn sheep license/tag unless the E-Tag option is chosen. The license includes a hunt code and description of the unit, sporting-arm type, season dates and bag limit. Tags include instructions for proper tagging.

Hunters are eligible to draw one Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep ram license and one desert bighorn sheep ram license in a lifetime. A person who has held a license to hunt a desert bighorn sheep ram may apply for a draw license to hunt a Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep ram and vice versa.

Youth hunters (17 years or younger on the first day of the hunt) are eligible to draw one youth-only Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep ram license and one youth-only desert bighorn sheep ram license.

Hunters may apply for up to three bighorn sheep (BHS) hunt codes in the same license year. Hunters applying for both desert and Rocky Mountain bighorn must do so on the same application.

Bighorn Sheep Ram Heads Must Have a Seal

All bighorn sheep rams taken in New Mexico must have a seal inserted in one horn by NMDOW. Sealing must occur within 10 days of harvest or prior to leaving New Mexico, whichever occurs first. Bighorn sheep heads may not be possessed without a receipt from NMDOW. Bighorn sheep heads found in the field must remain where found. Bighorn sheep heads brought into New Mexico must be sealed by NMDOW within 10 days of entry into the state (NMDOW will seal unsealed out-of-state heads only if origin can be verified). Bighorn sheep legally harvested and sealed by another jurisdiction (state, tribal entity or country) do not have to be resealed by NMDOW.

Application Procedure for Bighorn Sheep (BHS) Hunts

Hunts are divided into four BHS hunt codes (BHS-1-201, BHS-1-202, BHS-2-203 and BHS-1-204). Applicants may choose up to three hunt codes.

Hunt Areas and Hunt Dates: Each BHS hunt code lists the available hunt areas and hunt dates for that hunt code. For each BHS hunt code chosen, applicants may select up to three hunt areas and hunt dates for that hunt code.

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Ram: Hunt Code BHS-1-201

Big-Game Sporting Arms

Hunt Area	Hunt Dates	Licenses	Bag Limit
GMUs 6A and 6C (Jemez)	Aug. 10-24	2	Ram
GMUs 6A and 6C (Jemez)	Sept. 1-15	1	Ram
GMUs 16B, 22, 23, 24 (San Francisco River / Turkey Creek)	Jan. 1-31, '27	2	Ram
GMU 45 (Pecos)	Aug. 7-16	5	Ram
GMU 45 (Pecos)	Aug. 21-30	4	Ram
GMU 45 (Pecos) – Youth Only	Aug. 21-30	1	Ram
GMU 53 (Wheeler Peak) ¹	Aug. 6-15	1	Ram
GMU 53 (Wheeler Peak) ¹	Sept. 1-10	1	Ram
GMUs 53 and 55 (Latir) ²	Aug. 7-16	1	Ram
GMUs 53 and 55 (Latir) ²	Aug. 21-30	1	Ram
GMUs 49, 50 and 53 (Rio Grande Gorge) ^{3, 5}	Aug. 10-24	1	Ram
GMUs 49, 50 and 53 (Rio Grande Gorge) ^{3, 5}	Sept. 1-15	1	Ram
GMUs 49, 50 and 53 (Rio Grande Gorge) ^{3, 5}	Nov. 1-15	1	Ram
GMU 58 (Dry Cimarron) ⁴	Aug. 15-Jan. 15, '27	TBD*	Ram

¹ GMU 53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522.

² GMU 53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522, and GMU 55 south of NM 196 / FS Rd. 1950.

³ Excludes the portion of GMU 53 east of NM 522.

⁴ Herds in GMU 58 often are dispersed, and rams may not be present year-round. Hunters should be prepared to hunt when rams are present. The dates for this hunt are extended as a result. Hunt will most likely occur on private land. If considering this hunt, it is advised to contact the NMDOW Information Center: **1-888-248-6866** before applying.

⁵ Some portions of BLM land are closed to hunting (page 45).

⁶ GMU 55 north of 196/ FS Rd 1950.

* Number of licenses will be posted online no later than Dec. 31, 2025.

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Ewe: Hunt Code BHS-1-202

Big-Game Sporting Arms

Hunt Area	Hunt Dates	Licenses	Bag Limit
GMU 45 (Pecos)	Sept. 19-23	10	Ewe
GMU 45 (Pecos)	Oct. 3-7	8	Ewe
GMU 45 (Pecos) – Youth Only	Oct. 3-7	2	Ewe

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Rocky Mountain Bighorn Ewe: Hunt Code BHS-2-203

Bow Only

Hunt Area	Hunt Dates	Licenses	Bag Limit
GMU 45 (Pecos)	Sept. 4-13	10	Ewe

Desert Bighorn Ram: Hunt Code BHS-1-204

Big-Game Sporting Arms

Hunt Area	Hunt Dates	Licenses	Bag Limit
GMUs 13 and 17 (Ladrones)	Dec. 1-15	2	Ram
GMUs 13 and 17 (Ladrones)	Dec. 16-31	2	Ram
GMU 19 (San Andres) ¹	Dec. 14-21	2	Ram
GMU 19 (San Andres) ¹	Dec. 27-Jan. 3 '27	2	Ram
GMU 20 South (Caballos) ²	Nov. 16-30	4	Ram
GMU 20 South (Caballos) ²	Dec. 1-15	4	Ram
GMU 20 North (Fra Cristobal) ³	Sept. 11-20	TBD*	Ram
GMU 26 (Little Hatchets) ⁴	Sept. 15-30	2	Ram
GMU 26 (Little Hatchets) ⁴	Oct. 1-15	1	Ram
GMU 26 (Big Hatchets) ⁵	Sept. 15-30	2	Ram
GMU 26 (Big Hatchets) ⁵	Oct. 1-15	1	Ram
GMU 27 (Peloncillos)	Nov. 16-30	1	Ram

¹ Access through the White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) is required for this hunt. In addition to the bighorn sheep license fees, validation and stamp fees, WSMR charges a \$160 per hunter access fee; 50% military discount applies. Successful applicants will receive an instruction email from WSMR detailing payment of the fee, including payment deadline. Hunters should anticipate the most opportune times to hunt during the 8-day hunt period will be on weekends, non-duty days and holidays. Military authorities may delay or cancel hunts.

² GMU 20 south of NM 51.

³ GMU 20 north of NM 51. Hunts occur on private land only. Landowner may place restrictions on these hunts. For information contact the Armendaris Ranch at: armendarisranch@retranches.com or 575-894-6782.

⁴ GMU 26 west of NM 81

⁵ GMU 26 east of NM 81

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