

Upland Game

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

General Information

- You Must Have All of the Following While in the Field (page 8).
- License Requirements and Fees (see pages 8–13).
- Legal Sporting Arms for Upland Game Hunting (see page 26).
- Hunting on Military Reservations (see page 42).
- Proof of Species, Sex and Bag Limit (See page 27-28).
- Possession, Donation or Sale of Game (See page 28).
- Use of Dogs (page 28).

Voluntary Harvest Reports

Upland-game hunters are encouraged to submit voluntary harvest reports on the Department's online harvest reporting system.

Over-the-Counter Seasons

	Hunt Area	Season Dates	Bag / Possession
Quail (Scaled, Gambel's, Bobwhite, Montezuma)	Statewide	Nov. 15–Feb. 15, '26	15 per day, Singly or in aggregate (no more than 5 Montezuma Quail) / 30 in possession (no more than 10 Montezuma quail).
Dusky (Blue) Grouse	Statewide	Sept. 1–Dec. 31	3 per day / 6 in possession
Squirrel (Abert's, Red, Gray and Fox)	Statewide	Sept. 1–Dec. 31	8 per day singly or in aggregate/ 16 in possession
Pheasant	Statewide	Dec. 11-14	3 males per day / 6 in possession
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Statewide	April 1–March 31, '26	Unlimited

State Game Commission WMAs

State Game Commission owned or managed areas listed below are open to upland-game hunting. No hunting is allowed outside of open seasons or for species not listed. Camping and vehicles are restricted to designated areas.

Legal Shooting Hours

Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, except for Bernardo, Casa Colorada, La Joya, and W.S. Huey WMAs, where hunting hours shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. For the special permit pheasant hunts on W.S. Huey WMA, hunting hours shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Nontoxic Shot Mandatory

Anyone hunting upland game or migratory bird on Bernardo, La Joya or Huey WMAs must use and possess only USFWS-approved nontoxic shot. Nontoxic shot is not required for any species of upland game, dove, band-tailed pigeon and the eastern sandhill crane hunt, on other State Game Commission owned or managed properties.

Nontoxic shot includes: bismuth-tin, iron (steel), copper-clad iron, iron-tungsten, iron-tungsten-nickel, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, corrosion-inhibited copper, tungsten-iron polymer, tungsten-tin-iron, tungsten-tin-bismuth, tungsten-tin-iron-nickel and tungsten-iron polymer.

Days Open to Upland-Game Hunting (• = Days Open)

It is legal to hunt Eurasian collared doves on WMAs when they are open for dove and upland-game hunting seasons.

WMAs	Species	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thr.	Fri.	Sat.
W.S. Huey	Quail (during quail season), collared dove (during dove and quail seasons)		•		•			•
Marquez/LBar, Prairie Chicken Areas, Socorro-Escondida, Water Canyon	All upland game during quail seasons	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Colin Neblett, E.S. Barker, Humphries, Rio Chama, Sargent, and Urraca	All upland game during tree squirrel and dusky grouse seasons	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
La Joya (east of the railroad tracks), Double E, River Ranch, Charette lake, McAllister lake, Wagon Mound, Tucumcari, Hammond tract and Retherford	mourning, white-winged, and collared dove (during dove season)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•



NMDGF photo.

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Draw Pheasant Permits (Resident Only)

Permits (issued by drawing) are required for all pheasant hunts on W.S. Huey and for youth-only pheasant hunts on Bernardo WMA. Hunters may apply online: wildlife.dgf.nm.gov or call: **1-888-248-6866**. No more than four hunters may apply per application, and no more than two hunters may apply per youth-only hunt application. Applications must be submitted by August 13 before 5 p.m. MDT.

Bernardo and W.S. Huey WMA Youth-only Pheasant Hunts

Two youth-only pheasant hunts are available by drawing. Youth hunters must have a Game-Hunting License and be accompanied by a non-hunting adult.

Hunt Area	Hunt Code	Season Dates	Bag Limit / # of Permits
Bernardo	PHE-0-001	Oct. 18	3 males/ 20
W.S. Huey	PHE-0-002	Dec. 6	3 males/ 40

W.S. Huey WMA Pheasant Hunt

A draw-permit hunt open to all applicants will be held at W.S. Huey WMA. Using the hunt code listed below, apply online or by telephone. This hunt is open to adult and youth hunters. Successful applicants must possess a Game-Hunting License.

Hunt Area	Hunt Code	Season Dates	Bag Limit/ # of Permits
W.S. Huey	PHE-0-003	Dec. 13	3 males/ 40

Falconry Upland-Game Seasons (Statewide)

Grouse, pheasant, quail, squirrel and Eurasian collared-doves.

Species	Season Dates	Bag / Possession
Grouse and Pheasant	Sept. 1–Feb. 28 '26	3 singly or in aggregate / 6 in possession
Quail	Sept. 1–Feb. 28 '26	3 singly or in aggregate / 30 in possession
Squirrel	Sept. 1–Feb. 28 '26	3 singly or in aggregate / 16 in possession
Eurasian collared-dove	Apr. 1–Mar. 31 '26	No bag or possession limits

Upland Game Permits

Dog Call-Pen and Field Trial Permits

A \$15 permit is required for either a call-pen release or dog field trial. Contact NMDGF's Santa Fe Office for information: **505-476-8064** or DGf.Permits@dgf.nm.gov

Shooting Preserve Permits

A shooting preserve permit fee is \$200. Contact NMDGF's Santa Fe office for information: **505-476-8064** or DGf.Permits@dgf.nm.gov.