

# **AGENDA ITEM #9**

**NM State Game Commission Meeting: Farmington, NM  
October 27, 2023**

## **Subsequent Discussion of the Hunter Education Rule 19.36.3 NMAC**

**James Pitman, Information and Education Division Chief**



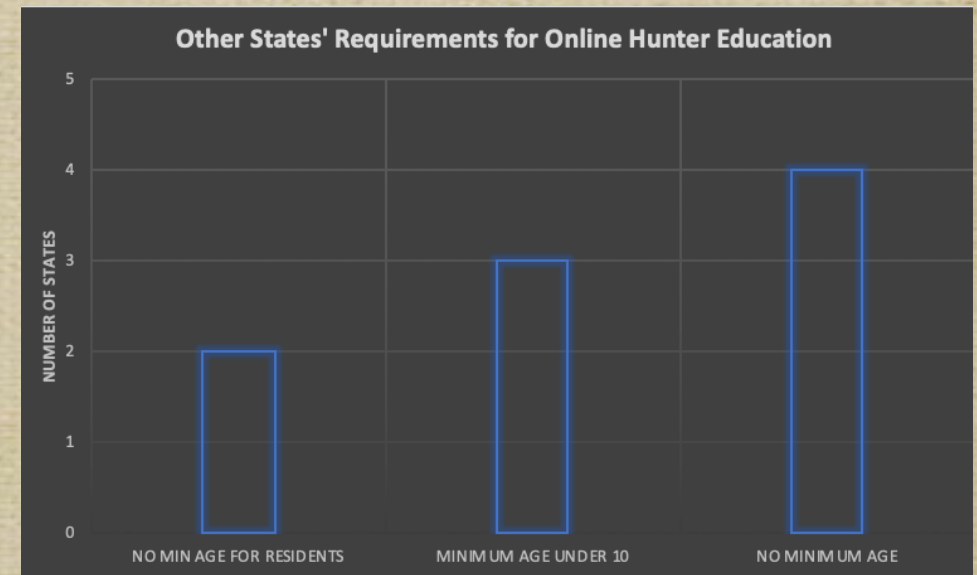
# Hunter Education Rule

- **19.36.3 NMAC** *It shall be unlawful for any person under the age of eighteen years to purchase or apply for...hunting license[s] unless that person has first successfully completed the New Mexico hunter training course or a hunter training course of another state...*



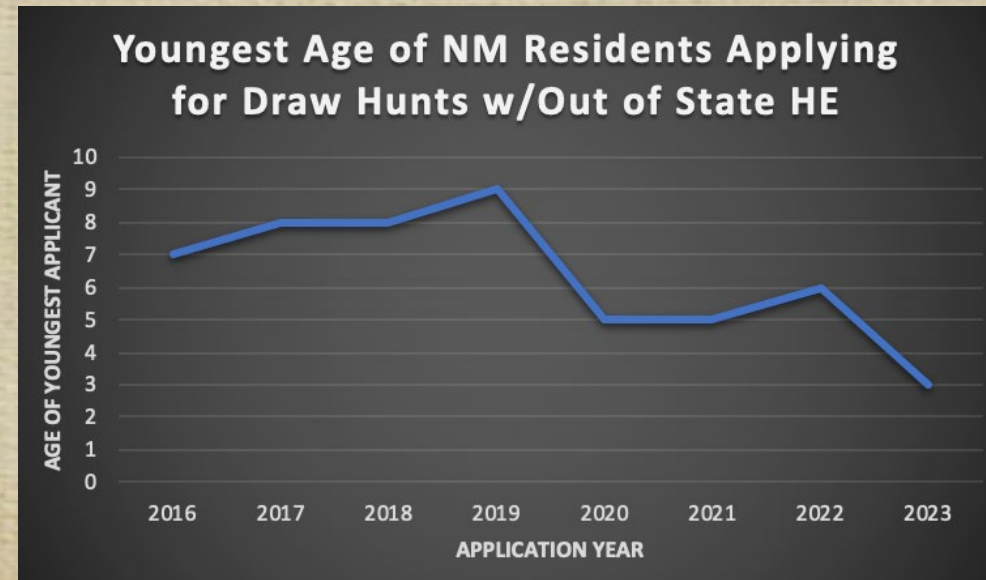
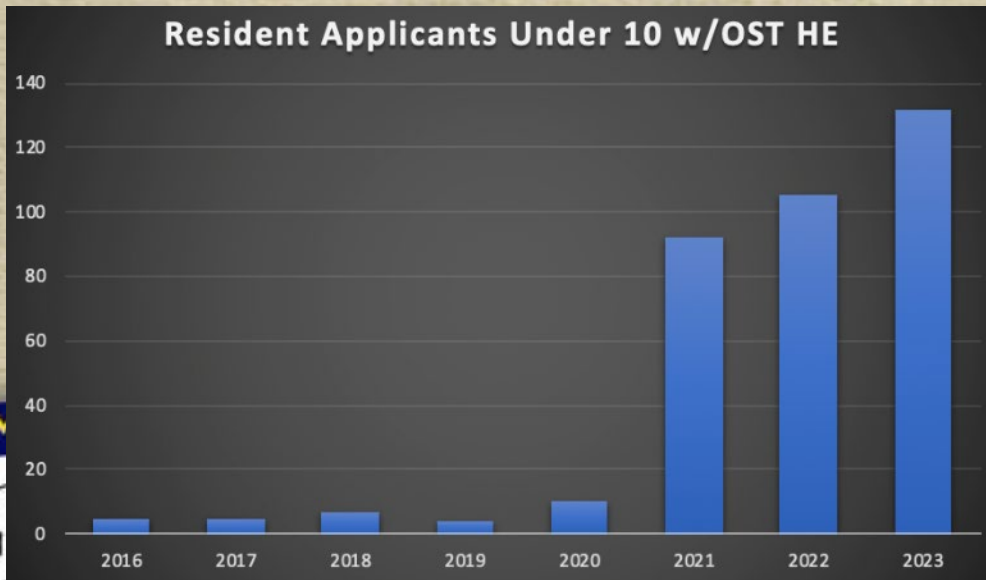
# “Or the hunter training course of another state”

- Some states have online HE with:
  - No minimum age limit
  - No minimum age limit for residents
  - Minimum age lower than NM
    - NM = 10 and older only for online



# The Resulting Issue

- Very young applicants utilizing OST HE in draw
- 2023 youngest draw applicant at age 3
- Fraudulent, unsafe, impacts deserving applicants



# August 25 Commission Meeting

- **Original Proposal:**
  - Use of Out-of-State Hunter Education restricted to ages 10 and older
- **Commission Direction:**
  - Obtain input from HE Instructors in addition to planned public meeting



# Proposal Input

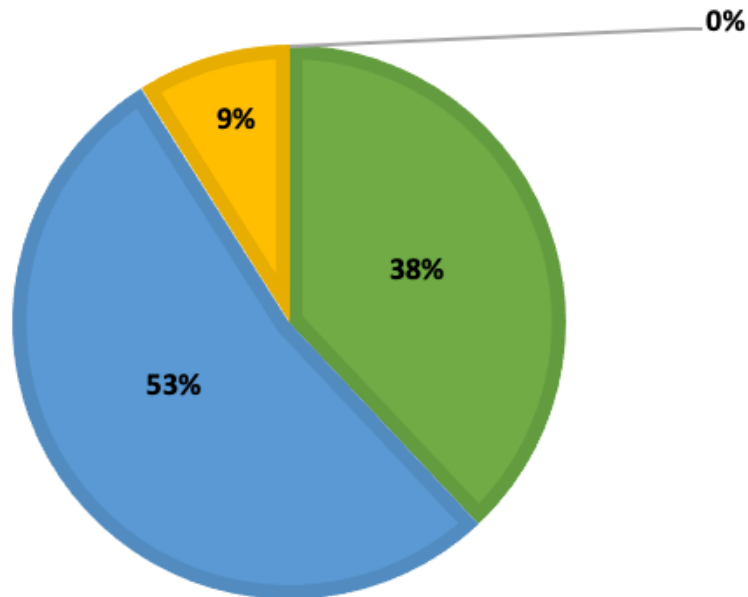
- Virtual HE Instructor Meeting – Sept. 27
  - 41 in attendance
- Hybrid Public Meeting – Sept. 28
  - 13 in attendance
- 39 written comments submitted to date
  - [DGF-HunterEducation-Rule@state.nm.us](mailto:DGF-HunterEducation-Rule@state.nm.us)
  - comment cards



# HE Instructor Polling

## ORIGINAL PROPOSAL SUPPORT

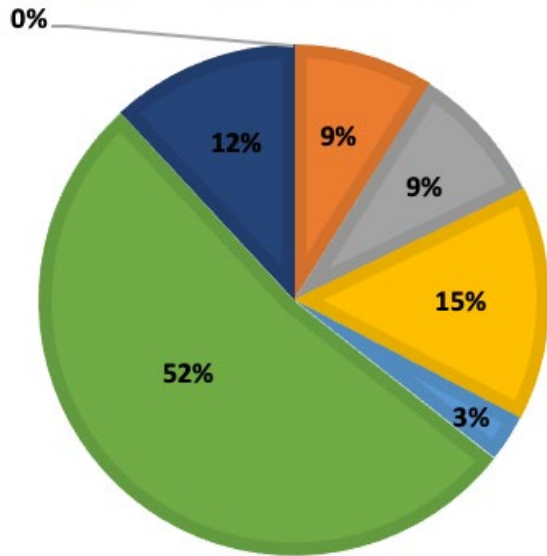
■ Fully ■ Partially ■ No, but the issue should be addressed ■ No, there is no issue



# HE Instructor Polling

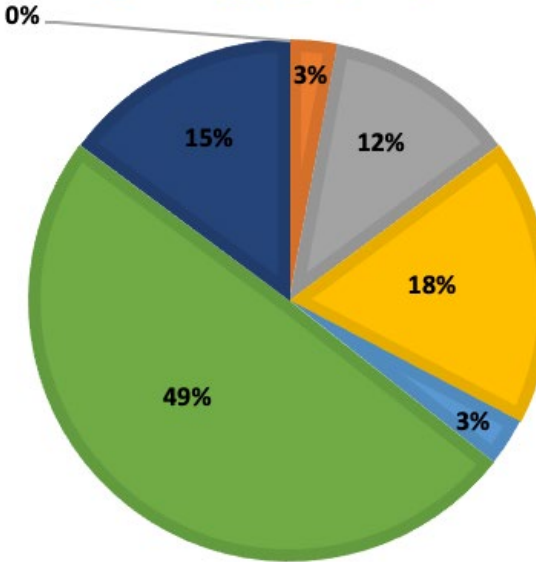
## WHAT AGE CUT OFF?

■ 5 or less ■ 6 ■ 7 ■ 8 ■ 9 ■ 10 ■ Greater than 10



## WHEN SAFELY/ETHICALLY HUNT BIG GAME?

■ 5 or less ■ 6 ■ 7 ■ 8 ■ 9 ■ 10 ■ Greater than 10

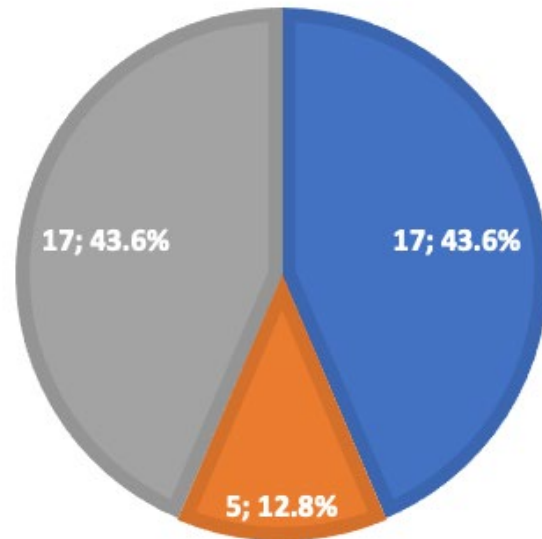




# Written Comments Submitted

## ORIGINAL PROPOSAL SUPPORT

■ For ■ Against ■ Provided input but not for/against



# Rural New Mexico Concerns

- In-person courses not as readily available
  - Higher demand than in-person only can support
- Those living close to neighboring states utilize their HE
- Online HE is the best option in some remote areas



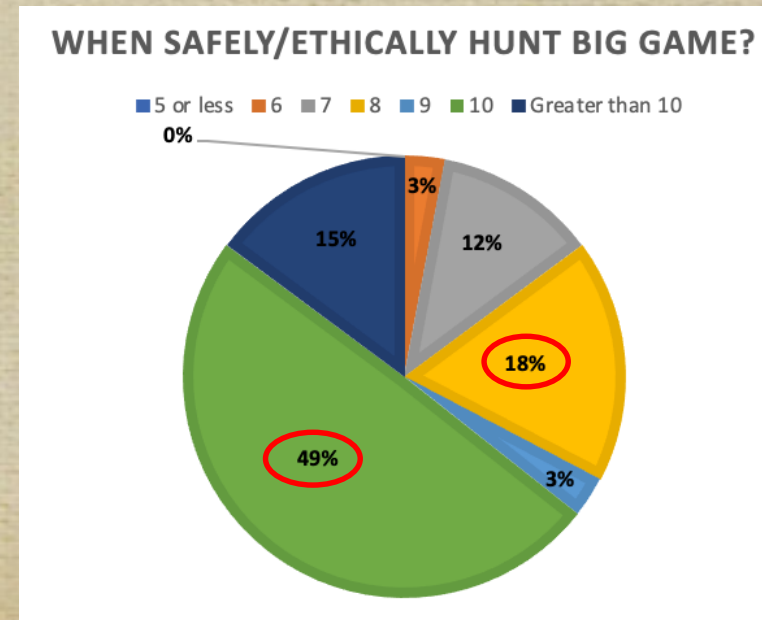
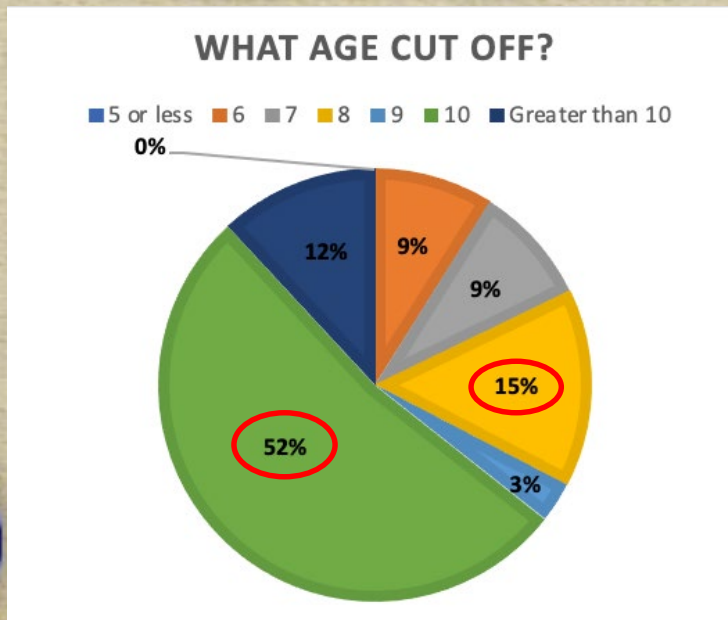
J. Pitman, October 27, 2023

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# Addressing Rural NM Concerns

- Neighboring States
  - TX – minimum age of 9 for in-person HE
  - AZ – minimum age of 9 for in-person/online HE
- Two other states also have minimum participation at 9



# Modified Proposal & Next Steps

- Propose adding language to the rule:
  - Use of Out-of-State Hunter Education restricted to students ages 9 and older
- Earliest Rule Hearing Option:
  - Jan. 12, 2024 Commission Meeting



# Questions?



J. Pitman, October 27, 2023