

CONSERVING NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE SINCE 1903

**NEW MEXICO**



**WILDLIFE**



# Exotics Rule 19.31.12 NMAC

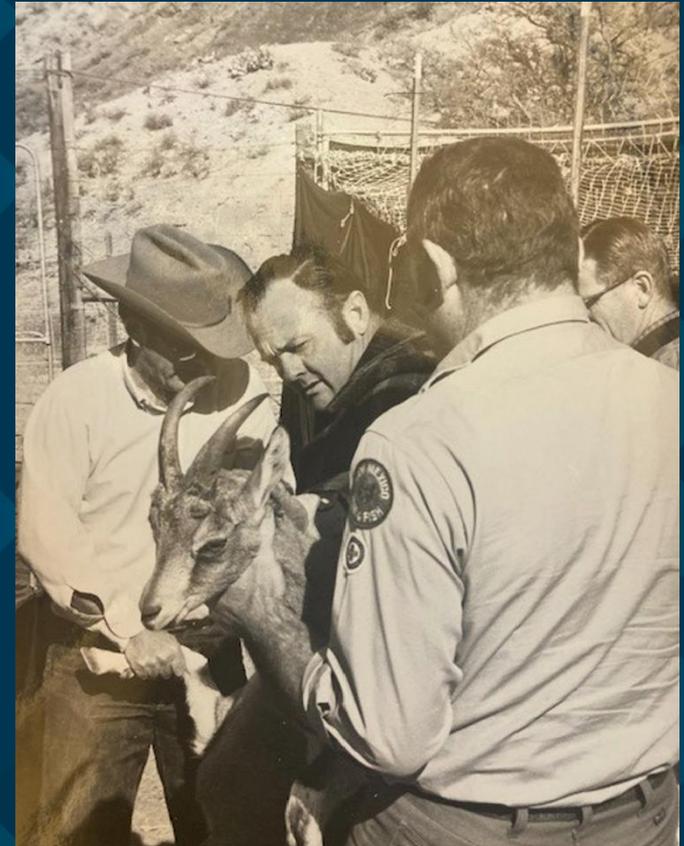
March 20, 2026

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting



# Persian ibex: harvest

- **Management strategy: maintain huntable population on Florida Mtns.**
- **Monitor population status through thermal survey & hunter harvest metrics**
- **2025 harvest data\***
  - **Licenses sold: 300**
  - **Overall success: 15%**
  - **Harvest: male (16), female (4)**
  - **Satisfaction rating: 2.6**

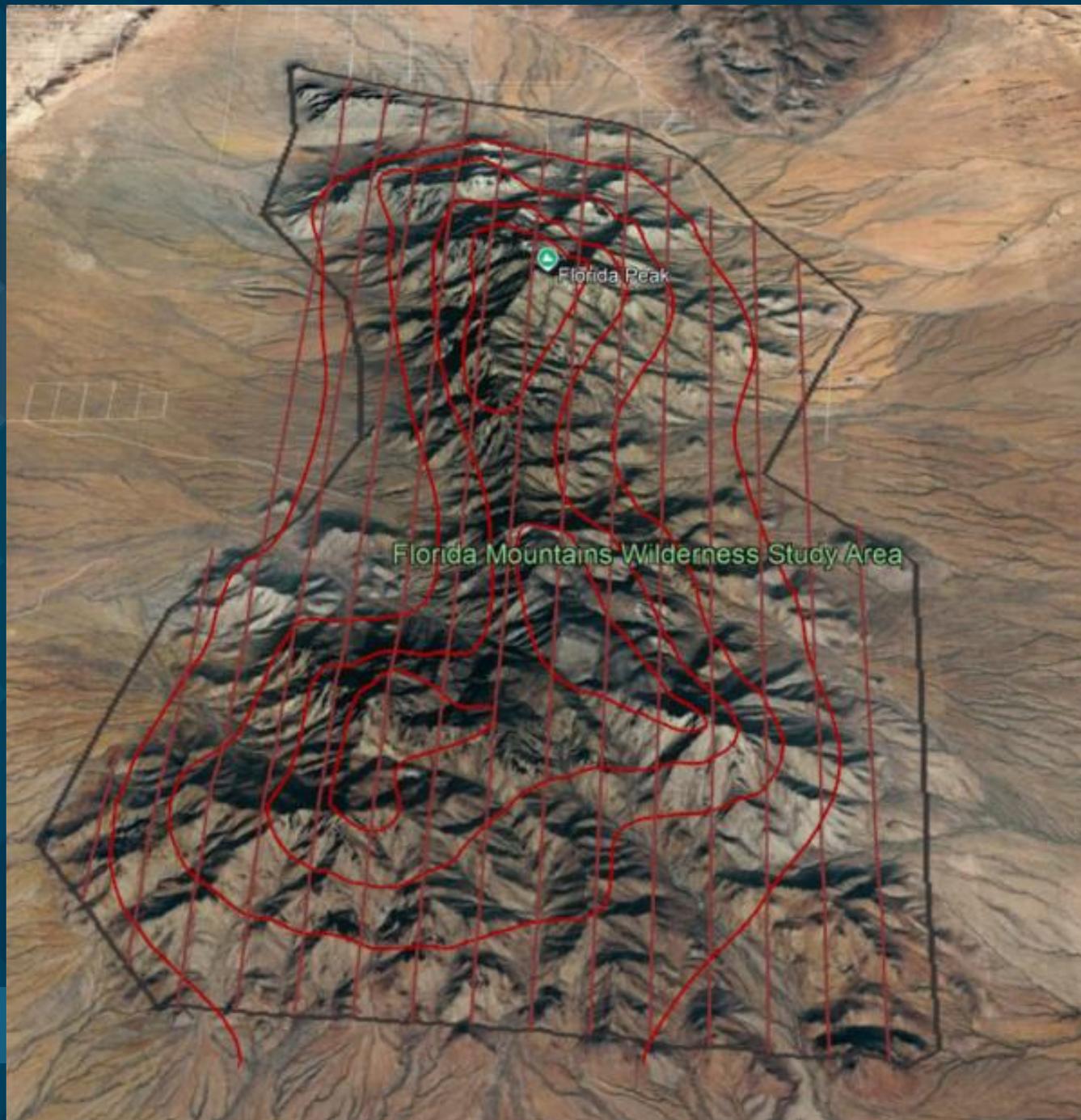


# Persian Ibex (2026-2027 season)

- Decreased licenses significantly for the 2026-2027 season in response to thermal survey
  - Archery, 2 hunts: 100 → 20 each
  - Muzzleloader: 15 → 0
  - OIL: 15 → 5
  - F-IM, 2 hunts: 20 → 0
  - Youth: 5 → 1
  - OTC: unlimited → 0



**Survey**  
**2/15/2026**



# Background: Persian Ibex



# Background: Persian ibex



# Persian Ibex Recommendations

- **Up-to numbers (possible to draw zero)**
  - **OIL: up to 15**
  - **Bow: up to 40 (2 hunt periods)**
  - **Muzzleloader: up to 15**
  - **Youth-only: up to 5**
  - **F-IM: up to 40 (2 hunt periods)**
- **Adjust season dates where necessary**



# Ibex hunter surveys

- **Unique ibex hunt experience primary draw**
- **Dissatisfaction with low ibex density**
  - **Low density of mature billies particularly problematic**
- **Mature billy presence matters to hunter**
  - **43% of respondents report this as most important objective**
- **Hunter density & timing are satisfaction drivers**
  - **Crowding and timing affect satisfaction**



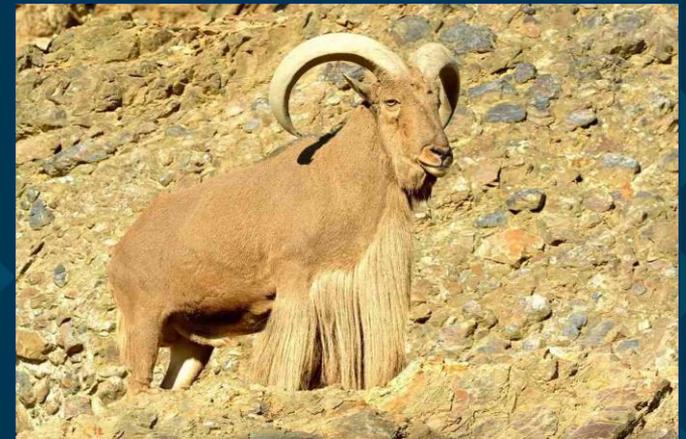
# Barbary Sheep

- **Management strategy: maintain huntable population in SE, minimize expansion**
- **Use hunter harvest metrics to track population**
- **2025 harvest data**
  - **Licenses sold: 3,638**
  - **Success: 38%**
  - **Estimated harvest: 885 males, 403 females**
  - **Satisfaction: 3.6**



# Barbary Sheep: Recommendations

- Ranch registration
- Split GMUs 29 & 30 (same # lic.)
- Adjust season dates
- McGregor
  - Increase ES hunts (2 hunts of 10 → 20)
  - Increase F-IM hunts (from 130 to 150), spread out over 1-month hunt windows



# Barbary sheep hunter surveys

- **Barbary hunting experience top draw**
  - Hunters value both the experience and simply the opportunity to hunt
- **Low density and lack of mature rams drive those who are dissatisfied**
- **Opinions on OTC/draw structure split**
  - No clear public consensus (satisfaction & neutrality over current structures are tied)



# Oryx

- **Management direction: maintain huntable population in GMU 19, manage population adjacent to GMU 19 at acceptable levels**
- **Use hunter harvest metrics & aerial surveys (WSMR) to track population**
- **2025 harvest data**
  - Licenses sold: 2669
  - Success WSMR: 79%
  - Success off-range: 58%
  - Harvest: 954 males, 770 females
  - Satisfaction: 4.1



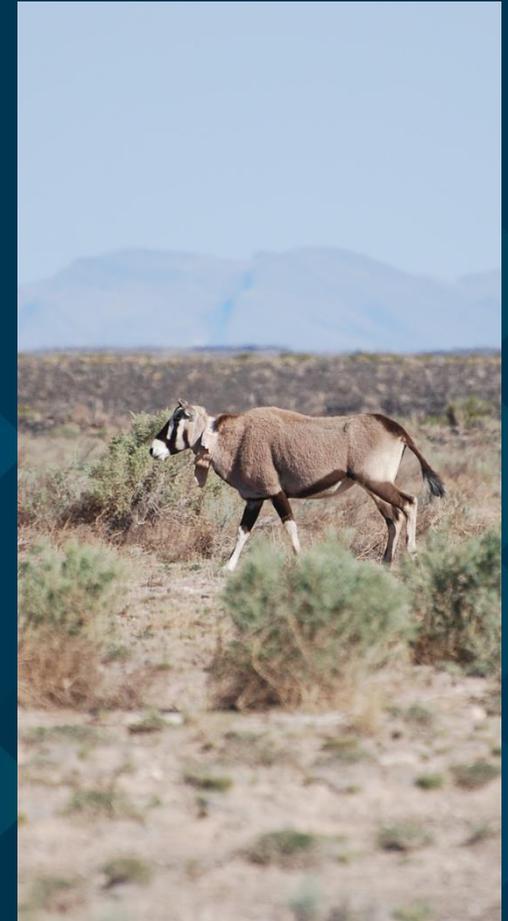
# Oryx (Background)

- WSMR population estimate:
  - 3,000-3,500 (range-wide)
  - 2,200-2,400 (SRC, RCRC)
  - Additional animals off-range adjacent to WSMR
- Collaborate with WSMR & Ft. Bliss on oryx management on military lands
  - Access is limited due to security concerns



# Oryx Recommendations

- Ranch registration
- Maintain license numbers (WSMR, Bliss)
- Increase off-range licenses by 5%
- Adjust dates, including shifts due to military missions
- Shift 70+ hunt based on public comment
- BHO definition clarification



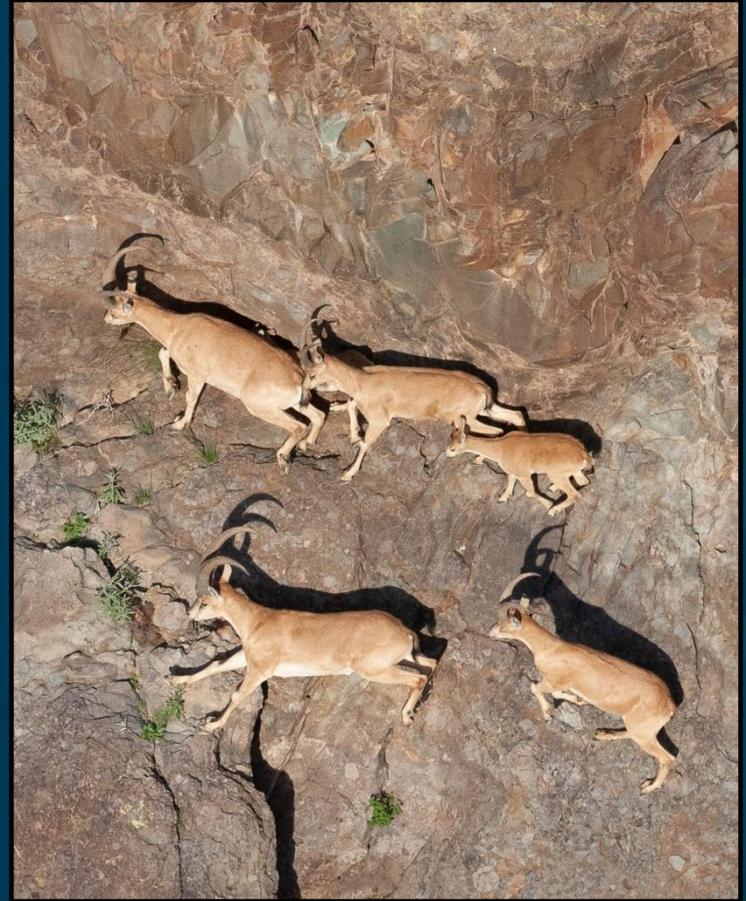
# Oryx hunter surveys

- **Oryx hunters appreciate being able to harvest oryx meat**
  - Less concerned with oryx horn size
- **Strong satisfaction for oryx hunting**
  - 66% of hunters satisfied/very satisfied
- **Some dissatisfied with oryx hunting**
  - These people cited low oryx density



# Public Outreach

- Held 2 hybrid virtual/in-person public meetings (ABQ, Las Cruces)
  - 40 people in attendance



# Public comment (65 emails)

- **Barbary sheep**
  - Majority: in support of current structure
  - In favor of unit-specific adjustments (29/30)
  - Some suggested broader reforms (expanded range across state)
- **Ibex**
  - Urgent population concern: heavy tag decreases
  - Lion predation brought up often
  - Structural reforms: annual tag allocations, and others
- **Oryx**
  - 18 comments opposed to increases to off-range tags (9 in support)
  - Support for ranch registration
  - Suggestions to restructure/eliminate 70+ hunt



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NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

