



Exotics Rule 19.31.12 NMAC

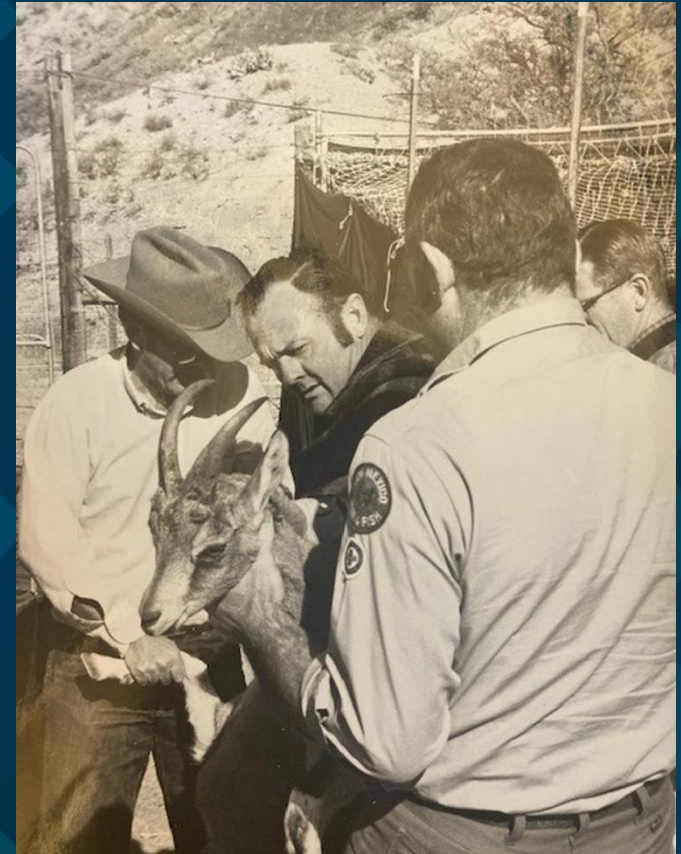
June 25, 2026

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 (18), 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



Helicopter Survey, 6/5/2026

- 106 observed (40 juveniles)



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



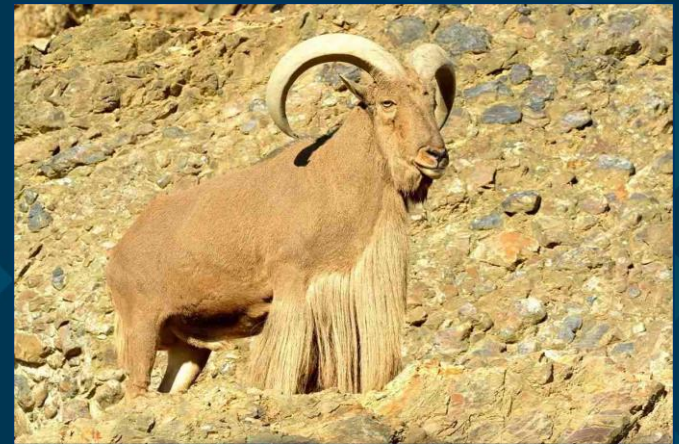
Barbary Sheep

- **Management strategy: maintain huntable population in SE, minimize expansion**
- **Use hunter harvest metrics to track population**
- **2025 harvest data**
 - **Licenses sold: 3,644**
 - **Success: 38%**
 - **Estimated harvest: 652 males, 333 females**
 - **Satisfaction: 3.7**



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: 2896
 - Success WSMR: 79%
 - Success off-range: 58%
 - Harvest: 1021 males, 791 females
 - Satisfaction: 4.2



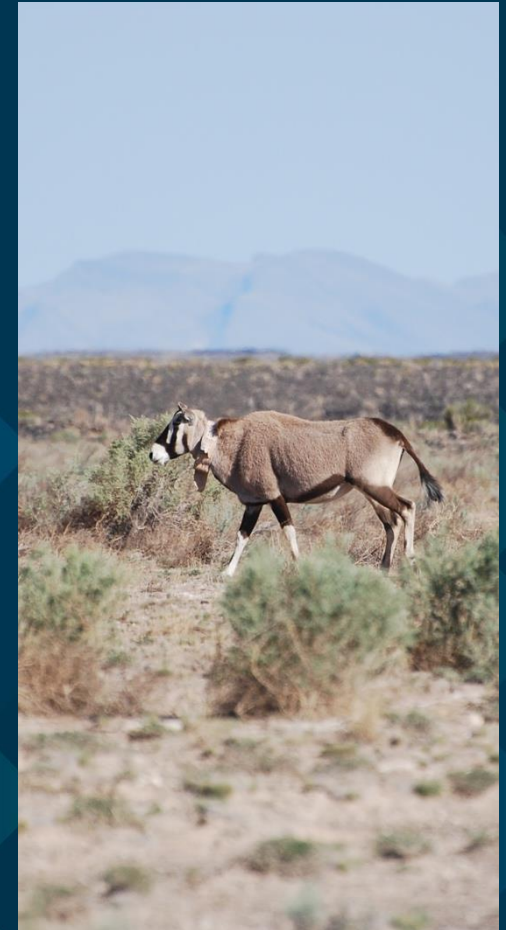
Oryx (Background)

- **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



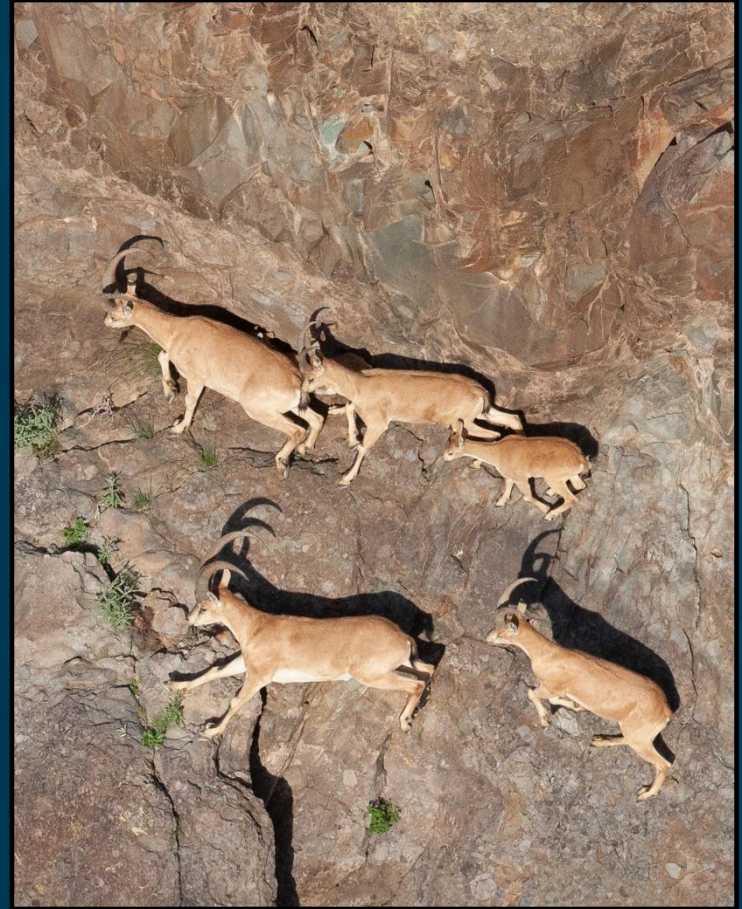
Oryx hunter surveys

- 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 (85 emails)

- **All species**
 - More support (~6) than opposition (~3) for ranch registration
- **Oryx**
 - Off-range tag increase: ~20 opposed, 4 in support*
 - Suggestion and subsequent support (~3) to restructure/eliminate 70+ hunt (oppose: ~2)



Public comment continued

- **Barbary sheep**
 - Support for splitting 29/30 (~6)
- **Ibex**
 - Broad support for license reductions (~23)
 - 2-3 comments opposed to license reductions
 - Minority view: requests for removing ibex to support desert bighorn reintroduction
- **Other comments (~16)**





NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

