

STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING AND RULE MAKING NOTICE

The New Mexico State Game Commission ("Commission") has scheduled a regular meeting and rule hearing for Tuesday, May 22, 2018, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the Holiday Inn Express Meeting Room, 60 Entrada Drive, Los Alamos, New Mexico, to hear and consider action as appropriate on the following: Presentation of proposed changes to the Bighorn Sheep rule.

Synopsis:

The proposal is to adopt a new Bighorn Sheep rule, 19.31.17 NMAC, which will become effective April 1, 2019. The current Bighorn Sheep rule is set to expire on March 31, 2019.

The proposed new rule will include increasing the maximum number of Rocky Mountain and desert bighorn licenses for rams, modifying certain hunt dates and season lengths to accommodate more Rocky Mountain bighorn hunters, adding hunts in the Jemez and Manzano mountains that will only be drawn if ram numbers indicates it's feasible, adding additional youth, rifle, and archery hunts, increasing licenses for Rocky Mountain ewes to address population management issues, and adding an additional hunt period to Fra Cristobal desert ram hunt to spread out hunters. We propose removing manner and method references from the bighorn sheep rule. Removed content will be included in the manner and method rule to open later in 2018. The proposal also includes allowing the Director, with chairperson concurrence, to designate some population management ram hunts as not once-in-a-lifetime. In addition, we propose modifying the enhancement program such that the auction hunter declares which herd they will hunt by June 30, the raffle hunter declares by July 20, and both hunters can hunt the remaining open areas (but not the other person's declared herd). A full text of changes will be available on the Department's website at: www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

Interested persons may submit comments on the proposed changes to the Bighorn Sheep rule at DGF-Bighorn-Rules@state.nm.us; or individuals may submit written comments to the physical address below. Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on May 21, 2018. The final proposed rule will be voted on by the Commission during a public meeting on May 22, 2018. Interested persons may also provide data, views or arguments, orally or in writing, at the public rule hearing to be held on May 22, 2018.

Full copies of text of the proposed new rule, technical information related to proposed rule changes, and the agenda can be obtained from the Office of the Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, 1 Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507, or from the Department's website at www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/proposals-under-consideration/. This agenda is subject to change up to 72 hours prior to the meeting. Please contact the Director's Office at (505) 476-8000, or the Department's website at www.wildlife.state.nm.us for updated information.

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the Department at (505) 476-8000 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the Department at 505-476-8000 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.

Legal authority for this rulemaking can be found in the General Powers and Duties of the State Game Commission 17-1-14, et seq. NMSA 1978; Commission's Power to establish rules and regulations 17-1-26, et seq. NMSA 1978.



NOTICE STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING

On Tuesday, May 22, 2018, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the Holiday Inn Express Meeting Room, 60 Entrada Dr., Los Alamos, New Mexico, the State Game Commission will meet in public session to hear and consider action as appropriate on the following: Department Awards; Revocations; Request to Dispose of Vehicles and Other Assets; Update on the Construction of Albuquerque Office Complex; Update on Bighorn Sheep Status in Cochiti Canyon; Recognition of Cooperation by the Department and the City of Los Alamos on Implementation of Bear Resistant Trash Receptacles to Reduce Human-Bear Interactions; Subsequent Discussion for Potential Rule Changes on the Barbary Sheep, Oryx and Persian Ibex Rule; Rule Making Hearing on Final Rule Changes on the Bighorn Sheep Rule – 19.31.17 NMAC for the 2019-2023 Seasons; Rule Making Hearing on Final Rule Changes on the Javelina Rule – 19.31.21 NMAC for the 2019-2023 Seasons; Rule Making Hearing on Final Rule Changes on the Pronghorn Antelope Rule – 19.31.15 NMAC for the 2019-2023 Seasons; Repeal of Pronghorn License Allocation System – 19.30.12 NMAC; General Public Comment; Closed Executive Session; and Request by Private Citizen for the Commission to Receive Donated Property in Union County for a Shooting Range located in Clayton, New Mexico.

Copies of the agenda can be obtain from the Office of the Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504, or from the Department's website. This agenda is subject to change up to 72 hours prior to the meeting. Please contact the Director's Office at (505) 476-8000, or the Department's website at www.wildlife.state.nm.us for updated information.

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TITLE 19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE
CHAPTER 31 HUNTING AND FISHING
PART 17 BIGHORN SHEEP

19.31.17.1 ISSUING AGENCY: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.
[19.31.17.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.1 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.2 SCOPE: Sportspersons interested in the management and hunting of bighorn sheep. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978, and Chapters 30, 31, 32 and 33 of Title 19 NMAC.
[19.31.17.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.2 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state game commission has the authority to establish rules and regulations that it may deem necessary to carry out the purpose of Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and all other acts pertaining to protected mammals, birds, and fish.
[19.31.17.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.3 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.4 DURATION: April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2023.
[19.31.17.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.4 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2019 unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.31.17.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.5 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.6 OBJECTIVE: Establishing open hunting seasons and regulation, rules, and procedures governing the distribution and issuance of bighorn sheep licenses by the department.
[19.31.17.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.6 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.7 DEFINITIONS:

A. **“Bighorn enhancement program”** as used herein, shall mean the department activity that allows the issuance of not more than four permits for the taking of one bighorn ram per permit with the purpose of raising funds for programs and projects to benefit bighorn sheep.

B. **“Department”** shall mean the New Mexico department of game and fish.

C. **“Director”** shall mean the director of the New Mexico department of game and fish.

D. **“Either sex” or “ES”** shall mean any one animal of the species.

E. **“Ewe”** shall mean any female bighorn sheep.

F. **“Game management unit” or “GMU”** shall mean those areas as described in the rule 19.30.4 NMAC Boundary Descriptions for Game Management Units.

G. **“Ram”** shall mean any male bighorn sheep.

H. **“Wildlife management areas” or “WMAs”** shall mean those areas as described in rule 19.34.5 NMAC, Wildlife Management Areas.

[19.31.17.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.7 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.8 ADJUSTMENT OF LICENSES: The director, with the verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may adjust the number of bighorn licenses to address significant changes in population levels or to address critical department management needs. The director may change or cancel all hunts on military lands to accommodate closures on those lands; if changed, the season length and bag limit shall remain the same as assigned on the original hunt code.

[19.31.17.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.8 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.9 BIGHORN SHEEP LICENSE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS:

A. **Rocky mountain bighorn sheep ram once-in-a-lifetime hunts:** It shall be unlawful for anyone to apply for a Rocky mountain bighorn sheep ram license if one has previously held a license to hunt a Rocky mountain bighorn sheep ram in New Mexico, except those who have held a youth-only, private land-only (not obtained through the public draw), population management license for ram or ES that the director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, has decided does not qualify as once-in-a-lifetime, auction, and/or raffle bighorn ram license(s). A person that has received the youth-only ram license is eligible for this hunt only

once as a youth (under age 18), but may apply for the other Rocky mountain and desert bighorn once-in-a lifetime hunts as long as they are eligible.

B. Desert bighorn sheep ram once-in-a-lifetime hunts: It shall be unlawful for anyone to apply for a desert bighorn sheep ram license if one has previously held a license to hunt a desert bighorn sheep ram in New Mexico, except those who have held a youth-only, private land-only (not obtained through the public draw), population management license for ram or ES that the director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, has decided does not qualify as once-in-a-lifetime, auction, and/or raffle bighorn ram license(s). A person that has received the youth-only ram license is eligible for this hunt only once as a youth (under age 18), but may apply for the other Rocky mountain and desert bighorn once-in-a lifetime hunts as long as they are eligible.

C. Rocky mountain bighorn sheep ewe hunts: This hunt is not a once-in-a-lifetime hunt. A person that has previously held a license to hunt Rocky mountain bighorn rams or ewes is eligible to apply for this hunt. [19.31.17.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.9 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.10 SEALING OF RAM HORNS: A seal shall be affixed to a horn of every bighorn sheep ram head taken in New Mexico, imported into New Mexico, or found in the field in New Mexico subsequent to August 17, 1973. Bighorn sheep heads found in the field within New Mexico shall remain the property of the state until disposed of by permit from the director. The seal shall authorize possession and transportation of the head within New Mexico.

A. Such sealing shall be done within ten days after the bighorn sheep ram head is taken, imported, or found in the field and before the bighorn sheep head is exported from New Mexico. Bighorn sheep ram heads not so declared shall be seized. Only legally taken and possessed bighorn sheep ram heads shall be sealed.

B. Bighorn sheep ram heads legally sealed in other countries, states, tribal entities, provinces, and territories, and possessing a valid visible seal attached, are exempted.

C. It shall be unlawful to possess any bighorn sheep ram head which has not been sealed as described in this section.

[19.31.17.10 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.10 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.11 BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTING SEASONS: The 2019-20 through 2022-23 hunting seasons shall be as indicated below, listing the GMUs or areas open, eligibility requirements or restrictions, hunt dates, hunt codes, sporting arms, number of licenses, and bag limit. Additional eligibility requirements and restrictions are defined in Section 9 of 19.31.17 NMAC above.

A. Rocky mountain bighorn ram hunt for any legal sporting arms (BHS-1-201). Hunters applying for BHS-1-201 will be allowed to select and rank up to three open areas/hunt dates. The number of licenses available for BHS-1-201 will be up to 60 with a bag limit of one ram.

open GMUs or areas for BHS-1-201	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
6	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
14, 18	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
16B, 22, 23, 24	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31
45	8/9-8/18	8/7-8/16	8/6-8/15	8/5-8/14
	8/23-9/1	8/21-8/30	8/20-8/29	8/19-8/28
45, youth only	8/23-9/1	8/21-8/30	8/20-8/29	8/19-8/28
53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522	8/6-8/15	8/6-8/15	8/6-8/15	8/6-8/15
	9/1-9/10	9/1-9/10	9/1-9/10	9/1-9/10
53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950	8/9-8/18	8/7-8/16	8/6-8/15	8/5-8/14
	8/23-9/1	8/21-8/30	8/20-8/29	8/19-8/28
49, 50, 53 west of NM 522	8/10-8/24	8/10-8/24	8/10-8/24	8/10-8/24
	9/1-9/15	9/1-9/15	9/1-9/15	9/1-9/15
55 north of NM196/FS Rd 1950	8/15/2019-1/15/2020	8/15/2020-1/15/2021	8/15/2021-1/15/2022	8/15/2022-1/15/2023
58	8/15/2019-1/15/2020	8/15/2020-1/15/2021	8/15/2021-1/15/2022	8/15/2022-1/15/2023

B. Private land Rocky mountain bighorn ram hunt for any legal sporting arms. The number of licenses available will be up to 6 with a bag limit of one ram.

open GMUs	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
55 north of NM196/FS Rd 1950	8/15/2019- 1/15/2020	8/15/2020- 1/15/2021	8/15/2021- 1/15/2022	8/15/2022- 1/15/2023
58	8/15/2019- 1/15/2020	8/15/2020- 1/15/2021	8/15/2021- 1/15/2022	8/15/2022- 1/15/2023

C. Rocky mountain bighorn ewe hunt for any legal sporting arms (BHS-1-202). Hunters applying for BHS-1-202 will be allowed to select and rank up to three open areas/hunt dates. The number of licenses available for BHS-1-202 will be up to 150 with a bag limit of one ewe.

open GMUs or areas for BHS-1-202	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
45	9/21-9/25	9/19-9/23	9/18-9/22	9/17-9/21
	10/5-10/9	10/3-10/7	10/2-10/6	10/1-10/5
45, youth only	10/5-10/9	10/3-10/7	10/2-10/6	10/1-10/5
49, 50, 53 west of NM 522	10/12-10/20	10/10-10/18	10/9-10/17	10/8-10/16
	11/9-11/17	11/14-11/22	11/13-11/21	11/12-11/20
	12/14-12/22	12/12-12/20	12/11-12/19	12/10-12/18
49, 50, 53 west of NM 522, youth only	11/9-11/17	11/14-11/22	11/13-11/21	11/12-11/20
53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522	9/21-9/25	9/19-9/23	9/18-9/22	9/24-9/28
	10/5-10/9	10/3-10/7	10/2-10/6	10/8-10/12
53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522, youth only	9/21-9/25	9/19-9/23	9/18-9/22	9/24-9/28
53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950	9/21-10/4	9/19-10/2	9/18-10/1	9/17-9/30
53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950, youth only	9/21-10/4	9/19-10/2	9/18-10/1	9/17-9/30

D. Rocky mountain bighorn ewe hunt for bow only (BHS-2-203). Hunters applying for BHS-2-203 will be allowed to select and rank up to three open areas/hunt dates. The number of licenses available for BHS-2-203 will be up to 60 with a bag limit of one ewe.

open GMUs or areas for BHS-2-203	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
45	9/6-9/15	9/4-9/13	9/3-9/12	9/2-9/11
49, 50, 53 west of NM 522	9/16-9/30	9/16-9/30	9/16-9/30	9/16-9/30
53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522	9/11-9/17	9/11-9/17	9/11-9/17	9/11-9/17
53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950	9/7-9/20	9/5-9/18	9/4-9/17	9/3-9/16
53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950, youth only	9/7-9/20	9/5-9/18	9/4-9/17	9/3-9/16

E. Desert bighorn ram hunt for any legal sporting arms (BHS-1-204). Hunters applying for BHS-1-204 will be allowed to select and rank up to three open areas/hunt dates. The number of licenses available for BHS-1-204 will be up to 60 with a bag limit of one ram.

open GMUs or areas for BHS-1-204	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
13, 17	12/1-12/31	12/1-12/31	12/1-12/31	12/1-12/31
19	12/14-12/21	12/14-12/21	12/14-12/21	12/14-12/21

	12/27/2019-1/3/2020	12/27/2020-1/3/2021	12/27/2021-1/3/2022	12/27/2022-1/3/2023
20: south of NM 51	11/16-11/30	11/16-11/30	11/16-11/30	11/16-11/30
	12/1-12/15	12/1-12/15	12/1-12/15	12/1-12/15
20: north of NM 51	10/11-10/20	8/14-8/23	10/8-10/17	8/12-8/21
	2/16-2/29	3/5-3/14	2/16-2/28	3/3-3/12
20: north of NM 51, youth only	11/22-12/1	11/20-11/29	11/19-11/28	11/18-11/27
26	10/1-10/15	10/1-10/15	10/1-10/15	10/1-10/15
	10/16-10/31	10/16-10/31	10/16-10/31	10/16-10/31
27	11/1-11/30	11/1-11/30	11/1-11/30	11/1-11/30

F. Private land desert bighorn ram hunt for any legal sporting arms. The number of licenses available will be up to 6 with a bag limit of one ram.

open GMUs	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
20: north of NM 51	8/16-8/25	10/9-10/18	8/13-8/22	10/7-10/16
	3/6-3/15	2/16-2/28	3/4-3/13	2/16-2/28
20: north of NM 51, youth only	11/22-12/1	11/20-11/29	11/19-11/28	11/18-11/27

[19.31.17.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.11 NMAC, 4-1-19]

9.31.17.12 BIGHORN SHEEP ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM:

A. The director of the department shall collect all proceeds generated through auction and lottery of special bighorn sheep permits, and such monies shall be deposited in the game protection fund. These monies shall be made available for expenditure by the department solely for programs and projects to benefit bighorn sheep and for direct costs incurred in carrying out these programs. These monies shall be used to augment, and not replace, monies appropriated from existing funds available to the department for the preservation, restoration, utilization, and management of bighorn sheep.

B. The state game commission shall authorize the director of the department to issue not more than four special bighorn sheep permits in any one license year to take one bighorn sheep ram per permit. The director shall allow the sale of two permits through auction to the highest bidders and two permits to persons selected through a random drawing for the holder of a lottery ticket by the department or by an incorporated, nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of wild sheep.

C. Proposals for auctioning two special bighorn sheep permits and the sale of lottery tickets to obtain two special bighorn sheep permits through a pair of random drawings shall be submitted to the director of the department prior to December 30 annually, preceding the license year when the permits may be legally used.

D. The proposals for auctioning two permits, and for the sale of lottery tickets and subsequent selection of recipients for two permits through random drawing(s) shall each contain and identify:

(1) the name of the organization making the request as well as the names, addresses and telephone numbers of those members of the organization who are coordinating the proposal;

(2) a copy of the organization's articles of incorporation with a letter attesting that the organization has tax-exempt status. The letter must also affirm that the proponent agrees to the conditions set forth by the director of the department. The letter must be signed and dated by the president and secretary-treasurer, or their equivalents.

E. The director of the department shall examine all proposals following the close of the application period. The director may reject any application which does not conform to the requirements of this section. In selecting a marketing organization, the director shall consider the qualifications of the organization as a fund raiser; the proposed fund raising plan; the fee charged by the marketing organization for promotional and administrative costs, relative to the funds obtained from auctioning the permit; and the organization's previous involvement with wild sheep management and its conservation objectives. The director may accept any proposals when it is in the best interest of bighorn sheep to do so.

F. The marketing organization must agree in writing to the following:

(1) to transfer all proceeds on or before the tenth day of the month following the auction and drawing for the lottery, and

(2) to provide the department with the names, addresses, and the physical descriptions of the individuals to whom the special bighorn sheep permits are issued.

G. The department and the marketing organization must agree to the arrangements for the deposit of the proceeds, payment for services rendered, the accounting procedures, and final audit.

H. Unless his or her hunting privileges have been revoked pursuant to law, any resident of New Mexico, nonresident, or alien is eligible to submit a bid for the special bighorn auction permits or purchase lottery tickets in an attempt to be selected for the special bighorn lottery permits.

I. The special bighorn sheep permits issued through auction and lottery may be transferred, through sale, barter or gift by the successful individuals to only other individuals qualified to hunt.

J. Special bighorn sheep permits granted through auction or lottery, as described above, shall not be considered 'once-in-a-lifetime' permits. A person is eligible to submit a bid for the special bighorn auction and raffle licenses whether or not he or she has previously held a license to hunt Rocky mountain or desert bighorn sheep in New Mexico.

K. Holders of the auction licenses (BHS-1-500) must declare their exclusive hunt area by June 30 annually to hunt the designated subspecies in one of the open hunt areas. Each holder of the raffle license (BHS-1-600) must declare their exclusive hunt area by July 20 annually to hunt the designated subspecies in one of the open hunt areas not declared by the auction hunter.

L. The remaining hunt units open to bighorn hunting not declared by the auction or raffle hunter as their exclusive hunt area, may be hunted by either the auction or raffle hunter.

M. The hunt dates for BHS-1-500 and BHS-1-600 shall be 8/1-12/31 annually except GMU 53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522 is closed 8/16 to 8/31 annually to all bighorn sheep hunters.
[19.31.17.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.12 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.13 BIGHORN SHEEP POPULATION MANAGEMENT HUNTS:

A. The director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may authorize population management hunts for bighorn sheep when justified in writing by department personnel and must be based on biological information or a potential to compromise population viability.

B. The director shall designate the sporting arms, season dates, season lengths, bag limits, hunt boundaries, specific requirements or restrictions, and number of licenses to be issued.

C. In the event that an applicant is not able to hunt on the dates specified, the applicant's name shall be moved to the bottom of the list and another applicant may be contacted for the hunt.

D. In those instances where a population management hunt is warranted on deeded private lands, the landowner may suggest eligible hunters of their choice by submitting a list of prospective hunters' names to the department for licensing consideration. No more than one-half of the total number of licenses authorized shall be available to landowner identified hunters. The balance of prospective hunters shall be identified by the department.

E. The director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may deem some ram or either sex population management licenses not once-in-a-lifetime; a person that has held a once-in-a-lifetime ram license(s) is not disqualified from this hunt.

[19.31.17.13 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.13 NMAC, 4-1-19]

HISTORY OF 19.31.17 NMAC:

Pre-NMAC History: The material in this part was derived from that previously filed with the State Records Center and Archives under:

Regulation No. 482, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 5/31/67;

Regulation No. 487, Establishing 1967 Seasons On Javelina And Barbary Sheep, filed 12/15/67;

Regulation No. 489, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring of 1968, filed 3/1/68;

Regulation No. 491, Establishing Big Game Seasons For 1968 For Jicarilla Reservation, filed 3/1/68;

Regulation No. 492, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 6/6/68;

Regulation No. 495, Establishing A Season On Bighorn Sheep, filed 10/2/68;

Regulation No. 496, Establishing An Elk Season In The Tres Piedras Area, Elk Area P-6, filed 12/11/68;

Regulation No. 502, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1969, filed 3/5/69;

Regulation No. 503, Establishing 1969 Deer Seasons For Bowhunting Only And Big Game Seasons For The Jicarilla Indian Reservation, filed 3/5/69;

Regulation 504, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Bear, Turkey, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 6/4/69;

Regulation No. 507, Establishing A Season On Bighorn Sheep, filed 8/26/69;

Regulation No. 512, Establishing Turkey Season For The Spring Of 1970, filed 2/20/70;

Regulation No. 513, Establishing Deer Season For Bowhunting Only In Sandia State Game Refuge, filed 2/20/70;

Regulation No. 514, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/9/70;

Regulation No 520, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1971, filed 3/9/71;

Regulation No. 522, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/9/71;

Regulation No. 523, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/9/71;

Regulation No. 531, Establishing A Season On Javelina, filed 12/17/71;

Regulation No. 532, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1972, filed 3/20/72;

Regulation No. 534, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/20/72;

Regulation No. 536, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/26/72;

Regulation No. 542, Establishing A Season On Javelina, filed 12/1/72;

Regulation No. 545, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1973, filed 2/26/73;

Regulation No. 546, Establishing 1973 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 2/26/73;

Regulation No. 547, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, And Javelina, filed 5/31/73;

Regulation No. 554, Establishing Special Turkey Seasons For The Spring of 1974, filed 3/4/74;

Regulation No. 556, Establishing 1974 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/14/74;

Regulation No. 558, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex, filed 5/29/74;

Regulation No. 565, Establishing Special Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1975, filed 3/24/75;

Regulation No. 567, Establishing 1975 Seasons On Deer, Bear, And Turkey On The Jicarilla Apache And Navajo Indian Reservations And On Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/24/75;

Regulation No. 568, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 6/25/75;

Regulation No. 573, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/23/76;

Regulation No. 583, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/11/77;

Regulation No. 590, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/15/78;

Regulation No. 596, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/23/79;

Regulation No. 603, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1980 through March 31, 1981, filed 2/22/80;

Regulation No. 609, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1981 through March 31, 1982, filed 3/17/81;

Regulation No. 614, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1982 through March 31, 1983, filed 3/10/82;

Regulation No. 622, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1983 through March 31, 1984, filed 3/9/83;

Regulation No. 628, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1984 through March 31, 1985, filed 4/2/84;

Regulation No. 634, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1985 Through March 31, 1986, filed 4/18/85;

Regulation No. 640, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1986 through March 31, 1987, filed 3/25/86;
Regulation No. 645, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1987 through March 31, 1988, filed 2/12/87;
Regulation No. 653, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1988 through March 31, 1989, filed 12/18/87;
Regulation No. 663, Establishing Opening Spring Turkey For The Period April 1, 1989 through March 31, 1990, filed 3/28/89;
Regulation No. 664, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1989 through March 31, 1990, filed 3/20/89;
Regulation No. 674, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1990 through March 31, 1991, filed 11/21/89;
Regulation No. 683, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1991 through March 31, 1992, filed 2/8/91;
Regulation No. 689, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1992 through March 31, 1993, filed 3/4/92;
Regulation No. 700, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1993 through March 31, 1995, filed 3/11/93.

History of Repealed Material:

19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game, filed 3-1-2001 - duration expired 3-31-2003.
19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game and Turkey, filed 3-3-2003 - duration expired 3-31-2005.
19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game and Turkey, filed 12-15-2004 - duration expired 3-31-2007.
19.31.17 NMAC, Bighorn Sheep, filed 12-1-2006 - duration expired 3-31-2009.
19.31.17 NMAC, Bighorn Sheep, filed 2-26-2009 - duration expired 3-31-2011.
19.31.17 NMAC, Bighorn Sheep, filed 9-15-2010 - duration expired 3-31-2015.
19.31.17 NMAC, Bighorn Sheep, filed 3-17-2015 - duration expired 3-31-2019.

Initial Proposed Rule

TITLE 19 **NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE**
CHAPTER 31 **HUNTING AND FISHING**
PART 17 **BIGHORN SHEEP**

19.31.17.1 **ISSUING AGENCY:** New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.
[19.31.17.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.1 NMAC,]

19.31.17.2 **SCOPE:** Sportspersons interested in the management and hunting of bighorn sheep. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978, and Chapters 30, 31, 32 and 33 of Title 19 NMAC.
[19.31.17.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.2 NMAC,]

19.31.17.3 **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state game commission has the authority to establish rules and regulations that it may deem necessary to carry out the purpose of Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and all other acts pertaining to protected mammals, birds, and fish.
[19.31.17.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.3 NMAC,]

19.31.17.4 **DURATION:** April 1, 20152019 through March 31, 20192023.
[19.31.17.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.4 NMAC,]

19.31.17.5 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 20152019 unless a later date is cited at the end of individual a
sections.
[19.31.17.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.5 NMAC,]

19.31.17.6 **OBJECTIVE:** Establishing open hunting seasons and regulation, rules, and procedures governing the distribution and issuance of bighorn sheep licenses by the department.
[19.31.17.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.6 NMAC,]

19.31.17.7 **DEFINITIONS:**

~~A.~~ ~~“Arrows” shall mean only those arrows or bolts having broadheads with steel cutting edges.~~

~~B.~~ ~~“Baiting” shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of any salt, grain, scent or other feed on or over areas where hunters are attempting to take bighorn sheep.~~

~~C.~~ ~~“Bighorn enhancement program” as used herein, shall mean the department activity that allows the issuance of not more than four permits for the taking of one bighorn ram per permit with the purpose of raising funds for programs and projects to benefit bighorn sheep.~~

~~D.~~ ~~“Either sex” or “ES” shall mean any one animal of the species.~~

~~DE.~~ ~~“Bighorn eEwe” shall mean any adult female bighorn sheep.~~

~~EG.~~ ~~“Bighorn rRam” shall mean any male bighorn sheep.~~

~~F.~~ ~~“Bighorn sheep license” shall mean a valid official document that is issued or approved by the director that each person hunting bighorn sheep in New Mexico must have or obtain prior to hunting.~~

~~G.~~ ~~“Bow” shall mean compound, recurve, or long bow. Sights on bows shall not project light nor magnify.~~

~~H.~~ ~~“Crossbow” shall mean a device with a bow limb or band of flexible material that is attached horizontally to a stock and has a mechanism to hold the string in a cocked position. Sights on crossbows shall not project light nor magnify.~~

~~IB.~~ ~~“Department” shall mean the New Mexico department of game and fish.~~

~~JC.~~ ~~“Director” shall mean the director of the New Mexico department of game and fish.~~

~~KE.~~ ~~“Game management unit” or “GMU” shall mean those areas as described in the rule 19.30.4 NMAC Boundary Descriptions for Game Management Units.~~

~~L.~~ ~~“License year” shall mean the period from April 1 through March 31.~~

~~M.~~ ~~“Centerfire firearms” shall mean any center fire firearms, not to include any fully automatic firearms.~~

~~N.~~ ~~“Shotgun” shall mean only those shotguns firing shot or slug that are designed to be fired from the shoulder.~~

~~O.~~ ~~“Muzzle loader or muzzle loading firearms” shall mean those rifles and shotguns in which the charge and projectile are loaded through the muzzle. Only black powder, Pyrodex or equivalent black powder~~

substitute may be used. Use of smokeless powder is prohibited. Legal muzzle loader shotguns shall be only those shotguns capable of being fired from the shoulder.

PII. "Wildlife management areas" or "WMAs" shall mean those areas as described in rule 19.34.5 NMAC, Wildlife Management Areas. [19.31.17.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.7 NMAC,]

19.31.17.8 ADJUSTMENT OF LICENSES: The director, with the verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may adjust the number of bighorn licenses to address significant changes in population levels or to address critical department management needs. The director may change or cancel all hunts on military lands to accommodate closures on those lands; if changed, the season length and bag limit shall remain the same as assigned on the original hunt code. [19.31.17.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.8 NMAC,]

19.31.17.9 BIGHORN SHEEP LICENSE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS:

~~A. One bighorn sheep license per year: It shall be unlawful for anyone to hold more than one permit or license for any bighorn sheep during a license year unless otherwise allowed by rule.~~

~~B. Validity of license or permit: All permits or licenses shall be valid only for the specified dates, eligibility requirements or restrictions, legal sporting arms, bag limit and area printed on the permit, license, or carcass tag.~~

~~C.A. Rocky mountain bighorn sheep ram once-in-a-lifetime hunts: It shall be unlawful for anyone to apply for a Rocky mountain bighorn sheep ram license if one has previously held a license to hunt a Rocky mountain bighorn sheep ram in New Mexico, excluding the except those who have held a youth-only, private land-only (not obtained through the public draw), population management license for ram or ES that the director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, has decided does not qualify as once-in-a-lifetime, auction, and/or raffle bighorn ram license(s). A person that has received the youth-only ram license is eligible for this hunt only once as a youth (under age 18), but may apply for the other Rocky mountain and desert bighorn once-in-a lifetime hunts as long as they are eligible. Exceptions: An applicant is eligible to submit a bid for the special bighorn auction and raffle licenses whether or not he or she has previously held a license to hunt Rocky mountain or desert bighorn sheep in New Mexico.~~

~~C.B. Desert bighorn sheep ram once-in-a-lifetime hunts: It shall be unlawful for anyone to apply for a desert bighorn sheep ram license if one has previously held a license to hunt a desert bighorn sheep ram in New Mexico, excluding the except those who have held a youth-only, private land-only (not obtained through the public draw), population management license for ram or ES that the director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, has decided does not qualify as once-in-a-lifetime, auction, and/or raffle bighorn ram license-s(s). A person that has received the youth-only ram license is eligible for this hunt only once as a youth (under age 18), but may apply for the other Rocky mountain and desert bighorn once-in-a lifetime hunts as long as they are eligible. Exceptions: An applicant is eligible to submit a bid for the special bighorn auction and raffle licenses whether or not he or she has previously held a license to hunt Rocky mountain or desert bighorn sheep in New Mexico.~~

~~C. Youth only (YO) bighorn sheep hunts: It shall be unlawful for anyone to apply for a youth only (YO) bighorn sheep license except as allowed by 19.31.3.11 NMAC. Youth hunters must provide their hunter education certificate number on their application.~~

~~C.C. Rocky mountain bighorn sheep ewe hunts: This hunt is not a once-in-a-lifetime hunt. A person that has previously held a license to hunt Rocky mountain bighorn rams or ewes is eligible to apply for this hunt.~~

[19.31.17.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.9 NMAC,]

19.31.17.10 BIGHORN SHEEP MANNER AND METHOD REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS SEALING OF RAM HORNS:

~~A. Season and hours: Bighorn sheep may be hunted or taken only during open seasons and only during the period from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.~~

~~B. Bag limit: It is unlawful for any person to hunt for or take more than one bighorn sheep during a current license year unless otherwise provided by regulation.~~

~~C. Proof of sex: It shall be unlawful for anyone to transport or possess the carcass of any bighorn sheep without proof of sex. The horns and external genitalia of any bighorn sheep taken shall remain attached to the skull or pelt, as appropriate, and be readily visible until arriving at a residence, taxidermist, meat processing facility, or place of final storage.~~

D. Sealing of bighorn sheep horns: A seal shall be affixed to a horn of every bighorn sheep ram head taken in New Mexico, imported into New Mexico, or found in the field in New Mexico subsequent to August 17, 1973. Bighorn sheep heads found in the field within New Mexico shall remain the property of the state until disposed of by permit from the director. The seal shall authorize possession and transportation of the head within New Mexico.

A.(1) Such sealing shall be done within ten days after the bighorn sheep ram head is taken, imported, or found in the field and before the bighorn sheep head is exported from New Mexico. Bighorn sheep ram heads not so declared shall be seized. Only legally taken and possessed bighorn sheep ram heads shall be sealed.

B.(2) Bighorn sheep ram heads legally sealed in other countries, states, tribal entities, provinces, and territories, and possessing a valid visible seal attached, are exempted.

C.(3) It shall be unlawful to possess any bighorn sheep ram head which has not been sealed as described in this section.

~~E. Seizure: Any conservation officer or other officer authorized to enforce game laws and regulations shall seize the carcasses of bighorn sheep that are improperly notched.~~

~~F. Use of dogs in hunting: It shall be unlawful to use dogs to hunt any bighorn sheep.~~

~~G. Use of baits or scents: It shall be unlawful for anyone to take or attempt to take any bighorn sheep by use of baits or scents as defined in Sub Section 7 of 19.31.10 NMAC. Scent masking agents on one's person are allowed.~~

~~H. Live animals: It shall be unlawful to use live animals as a blind or decoy in taking or attempting to take any bighorn sheep.~~

~~I. Use of calling devices: It shall be unlawful to use any electrically or mechanically recorded calling device in taking or attempting to take any bighorn sheep.~~

~~J. Killing out of season: It shall be unlawful to kill any bighorn sheep out of bighorn sheep season.~~

~~K. Bullets: It shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take bighorn sheep by the use of tracer ammunition or any ammunition loaded with a full metal jacketed bullet. Only soft-nosed or hollow-pointed bullets may be used in hunting or taking bighorn sheep.~~

~~L. Drugs and explosives: It shall be unlawful to use any form of drug on an arrow or use arrows driven by explosives.~~

~~M. Legal weapon types for bighorn sheep are as follows: any center-fire rifle of .24 caliber or larger; any center-fire handgun of .24 caliber or larger; shotguns not smaller than 28 gauge, firing a single slug; muzzle-loading rifles not smaller than .45 caliber; bows and arrows; and crossbows and bolts.~~

~~N. Areas closed to bighorn sheep hunting: The following areas shall remain closed to bighorn sheep hunting, except as permitted by regulation: Sugarite canyon state park; Orilla Verde and Wild Rivers recreation areas, including the Taos valley overlook; all wildlife management areas, except Big Hatchet, the Valle Vidal area; and sub-unit 6B (Valles Caldera national preserve).~~

[19.31.17.10 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.10 NMAC,]

19.31.17.11 BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTING SEASONS: The 2015-16 2019-20 through 2018-19 2022-23 hunting seasons shall be as indicated below, listing the GMUs or areas open, eligibility requirements or restrictions, hunt dates, hunt codes, sporting arms, number of licenses available, and bag limits. Additional eligibility requirements and restrictions are defined in Section 9 of 19.31.17 NMAC above. Licenses issued through private land authorizations are not 'once in a lifetime'. The Rocky Mountain ewe hunts shall be offered to address department management needs.

A. Rocky mountain bighorn ram hunt for any legal sporting arms (BHS-1-201). Hunters applying for BHS-1-201 will be allowed to select and rank up to three open areas/hunt dates. The number of licenses available for BHS-1-201 will be up to 2460 with a bag limit of one ram.

<u>open GMUs</u>	<u>2015-2016 hunt period</u>	<u>2016-2017 hunt period</u>	<u>2017-2018 hunt period</u>	<u>2018-2019 hunt period</u>
<u>open GMUs or areas for BHS-1-201</u>	<u>2019-2020 hunt dates</u>	<u>2020-2021 hunt dates</u>	<u>2021-2022 hunt dates</u>	<u>2022-2023 hunt dates</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>TBD</u>	<u>TBD</u>	<u>TBD</u>	<u>TBD</u>
<u>14, 18</u>	<u>TBD</u>	<u>TBD</u>	<u>TBD</u>	<u>TBD</u>

16B, 22, 23, 24	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31
45	8/14-8/23	8/12-8/21	8/11-8/20	8/10-8/19
	8/24-9/6	8/22-9/4	8/21-9/3	8/20-9/2
45	8/9-8/18	8/7-8/16	8/6-8/15	8/5-8/14
	8/23-9/1	8/21-8/30	8/20-8/29	8/19-8/28
45, YO	8/24-9/6	8/22-9/4	8/21-9/3	8/20-9/2
45, youth only	8/23-9/1	8/21-8/30	8/20-8/29	8/19-8/28
53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522	9/1-9/15	9/1-9/15	9/1-9/15	9/1-9/15
53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522	8/6-8/15	8/6-8/15	8/6-8/15	8/6-8/15
	9/1-9/10	9/1-9/10	9/1-9/10	9/1-9/10
53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950	8/7-8/16	8/5-8/14	8/4-8/13	8/3-8/12
	8/17-8/30	8/15-8/28	8/14-8/27	8/13-8/26
53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950	8/9-8/18	8/7-8/16	8/6-8/15	8/5-8/14
	8/23-9/1	8/21-8/30	8/20-8/29	8/19-8/28
49, 50, 53 west of NM 522	8/15-1/15	8/15-1/15	8/15-1/15	8/15-1/15
49, 50, 53 west of NM 522	8/10-8/24	8/10-8/24	8/10-8/24	8/10-8/24
	9/1-9/15	9/1-9/15	9/1-9/15	9/1-9/15
55 north of NM 196/FS Rd 1950	8/15/2019-1/15/2020	8/15/2020-1/15/2021	8/15/2021-1/15/2022	8/15/2022-1/15/2023
58, public draw	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
58, private land	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
58	8/15/2019-1/15/2020	8/15/2020-1/15/2021	8/15/2021-1/15/2022	8/15/2022-1/15/2023

B. Private land Rocky mountain bighorn ram hunt for any legal sporting arms. The number of licenses available will be up to 6 with a bag limit of one ram.

open GMUs	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
55 north of NM 196/FS Rd 1950	8/15/2019-1/15/2020	8/15/2020-1/15/2021	8/15/2021-1/15/2022	8/15/2022-1/15/2023
58	8/15/2019-1/15/2020	8/15/2020-1/15/2021	8/15/2021-1/15/2022	8/15/2022-1/15/2023

BC. Rocky mountain bighorn ewe hunt for any legal sporting arms (BHS-1-202). Hunters applying for BHS-1-202 will be allowed to select and rank up to three open areas/hunt dates. The number of licenses available for BHS-1-202 will be up to 62150 with a bag limit of one ewe.

open GMUs	2015-2016 hunt period	2016-2017 hunt period	2017-2018 hunt period	2018-2019 hunt period
open GMUs or areas for BHS-1-202	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
45	9/7-9/27	9/5-9/25	9/4-9/24	9/3-9/23
45, YO	9/7-9/27	9/5-9/25	9/4-9/24	9/3-9/23
45	9/21-9/25	9/19-9/23	9/18-9/22	9/17-9/21
	10/5-10/9	10/3-10/7	10/2-10/6	10/1-10/5
45, youth only	10/5-10/9	10/3-10/7	10/2-10/6	10/1-10/5
49, 50, 53 west of NM 522	10/12-10/20	10/10-10/18	10/9-10/17	10/8-10/16
	11/9-11/17	11/14-11/22	11/13-11/21	11/12-11/20
	12/14-12/22	12/12-12/20	12/11-12/19	12/10-12/18
49, 50, 53 west of NM 522, youth only	11/9-11/17	11/14-11/22	11/13-11/21	11/12-11/20

		<u>11/22</u>	<u>11/21</u>	
<u>53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522</u>	<u>9/16-9/30</u>	<u>9/16-9/30</u>	<u>9/16-9/30</u>	<u>9/16-9/30</u>
	<u>10/1-10/15</u>	<u>10/1-10/15</u>	<u>10/1-10/15</u>	<u>10/1-10/15</u>
<u>53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522</u>	<u>9/21-9/25</u>	<u>9/19-9/23</u>	<u>9/18-9/22</u>	<u>9/24-9/28</u>
	<u>10/5-10/9</u>	<u>10/3-10/7</u>	<u>10/2-10/6</u>	<u>10/8-10/12</u>
<u>53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522, youth only</u>	<u>9/21-9/25</u>	<u>9/19-9/23</u>	<u>9/18-9/22</u>	<u>9/24-9/28</u>
<u>53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522, YO</u>	<u>9/16-9/30</u>	<u>9/16-9/30</u>	<u>9/16-9/30</u>	<u>9/16-9/30</u>
<u>53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950</u>	<u>9/14-9/27</u>	<u>9/12-2/25</u>	<u>9/11-9/24</u>	<u>9/10-9/23</u>
<u>53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950</u>	<u>9/21-10/4</u>	<u>9/19-10/2</u>	<u>9/18-10/1</u>	<u>9/17-9/30</u>
<u>53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950, YO</u>	<u>9/14-9/27</u>	<u>9/12-2/25</u>	<u>9/11-9/24</u>	<u>9/10-9/23</u>
<u>53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950, youth only</u>	<u>9/21-10/4</u>	<u>9/19-10/2</u>	<u>9/18-10/1</u>	<u>9/17-9/30</u>

CD. Rocky mountain bighorn ewe hunt for bow only (BHS-2-203). Hunters applying for BHS-2-203 will be allowed to select and rank up to ~~two~~^{three} open areas/hunt dates. The number of licenses available for BHS-2-203 will be up to ~~4260~~ with a bag limit of one ewe.

open GMUs	2015-2016 hunt period	2016-2017 hunt period	2017-2018 hunt period	2018-2019 hunt period
open GMUs or areas for BHS-2-203	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
45	<u>9/6-9/15</u>	<u>9/4-9/13</u>	<u>9/3-9/12</u>	<u>9/2-9/11</u>
49, 50, 53 west of NM 522	<u>9/16-9/30</u>	<u>9/16-9/30</u>	<u>9/16-9/30</u>	<u>9/16-9/30</u>
<u>53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522</u>	<u>9/11-9/17</u>	<u>9/11-9/17</u>	<u>9/11-9/17</u>	<u>9/11-9/17</u>
<u>53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950</u>	<u>8/31-9/13</u>	<u>8/29-9/11</u>	<u>8/28-9/10</u>	<u>8/27-9/9</u>
<u>53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950</u>	<u>9/7-9/20</u>	<u>9/5-9/18</u>	<u>9/4-9/17</u>	<u>9/3-9/16</u>
<u>53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950, YO</u>	<u>8/31-9/13</u>	<u>8/29-9/11</u>	<u>8/28-9/10</u>	<u>8/27-9/9</u>
<u>53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950, youth only</u>	<u>9/7-9/20</u>	<u>9/5-9/18</u>	<u>9/4-9/17</u>	<u>9/3-9/16</u>

DE. Desert bighorn ram hunt for any legal sporting arms (BHS-1-204). Hunters applying for BHS-1-204 will be allowed to select and rank up to three open areas/hunt dates. The number of licenses available for BHS-1-204 will be up to ~~3360~~ with a bag limit of one ram.

open GMUs	2015-2016 hunt period	2016-2017 hunt period	2017-2018 hunt period	2018-2019 hunt period
open GMUs or areas for BHS-1-204	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
27	<u>11/1-11/30</u>	<u>11/1-11/30</u>	<u>11/1-11/30</u>	<u>11/1-11/30</u>
26	<u>10/1-10/15</u>	<u>10/1-10/15</u>	<u>10/1-10/15</u>	<u>10/1-10/15</u>
	<u>10/16-10/31</u>	<u>10/16-10/31</u>	<u>10/16-10/31</u>	<u>10/16-10/31</u>
49	<u>12/14-1/1</u>	<u>12/14-1/1</u>	<u>12/14-12/21</u>	<u>12/14-12/21</u>
	n/a	n/a	<u>12/27-1/3</u>	<u>12/27-1/3</u>
19	<u>12/14-12/21</u>	<u>12/14-12/21</u>	<u>12/14-12/21</u>	<u>12/14-12/21</u>
	<u>12/27/2019-</u>	<u>12/27/2020-</u>	<u>12/27/2021-</u>	<u>12/27/2022-</u>

	<u>1/3/2020</u>	<u>1/3/2021</u>	<u>1/3/2022</u>	<u>1/3/2023</u>
20: south of NM 51	11/16-11/30	11/16-11/30	11/16-11/30	11/16-11/30
	12/1-12/15	12/1-12/15	12/1-12/15	12/1-12/15
<u>20: north of NM 51; public draw</u>	<u>8/21-8/30</u>	<u>8/19-8/28</u>	<u>8/18-8/27</u>	<u>8/17-8/26</u>
	<u>10/16-10/25</u>	<u>3/3-3/12</u>	<u>10/13-10/22</u>	<u>3/1-3/10</u>
	<u>11/20-11/29</u>	n/a	<u>11/17-11/26</u>	n/a
<u>20: north of NM 51; private land</u>	<u>3/4-3/13</u>	<u>10/14-10/23</u>	<u>3/2-3/11</u>	<u>10/12-10/21</u>
	n/a	<u>11/18-11/27</u>	n/a	<u>11/16-11/25</u>
	<u>8/21-8/30</u>	<u>8/19-8/28</u>	<u>8/18-8/27</u>	<u>8/17-8/26</u>
<u>20: north of NM 51, YO public draw</u>	<u>11/20-11/29</u>	<u>11/18-11/27</u>	<u>11/17-11/26</u>	<u>11/16-11/25</u>
<u>20: north of NM 51, YO private land</u>	<u>11/20-11/29</u>	<u>11/18-11/27</u>	<u>11/17-11/26</u>	<u>11/16-11/25</u>
<u>20: north of NM 51</u>	<u>10/11-10/20</u>	<u>8/14-8/23</u>	<u>10/8-10/17</u>	<u>8/12-8/21</u>
	<u>2/16-2/29</u>	<u>3/5-3/14</u>	<u>2/16-2/28</u>	<u>3/3-3/12</u>
<u>20: north of NM 51, youth only</u>	<u>11/22-12/1</u>	<u>11/20-11/29</u>	<u>11/19-11/28</u>	<u>11/18-11/27</u>
13, 17	12/1-12/31	12/1-12/31	12/1-12/31	12/1-12/31

F. Private land desert bighorn ram hunt for any legal sporting arms. The number of licenses available will be up to 6 with a bag limit of one ram.

<u>open GMUs</u>	<u>2019-2020 hunt dates</u>	<u>2020-2021 hunt dates</u>	<u>2021-2022 hunt dates</u>	<u>2022-2023 hunt dates</u>
<u>20: north of NM 51</u>	<u>8/16-8/25</u>	<u>10/9-10/18</u>	<u>8/13-8/22</u>	<u>10/7-10/16</u>
	<u>3/6-3/15</u>	<u>2/16-2/28</u>	<u>3/4-3/13</u>	<u>2/16-2/28</u>
<u>20: north of NM 51, youth only</u>	<u>11/22-12/1</u>	<u>11/20-11/29</u>	<u>11/19-11/28</u>	<u>11/18-11/27</u>

[19.31.17.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.11 NMAC,]

19.31.17.12 BIGHORN SHEEP ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM:

A. The director of the department shall collect all proceeds generated through auction and lottery of special bighorn sheep permits, and such monies shall be deposited in the game protection fund. These monies shall be made available for expenditure by the department solely for programs and projects to benefit bighorn sheep and for direct costs incurred in carrying out these programs. These monies shall be used to augment, and not replace, monies appropriated from existing funds available to the department for the preservation, restoration, utilization, and management of bighorn sheep.

B. The state game commission shall authorize the director of the department to issue not more than four special bighorn sheep permits in any one license year to take one bighorn sheep ram per permit. The director shall allow the sale of two permits through auction to the highest bidders and two permits to persons selected through a random drawing for the holder of a lottery ticket by the department or by an incorporated, nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of wild sheep.

C. Proposals for auctioning two special bighorn sheep permits and the sale of lottery tickets to obtain two special bighorn sheep permits through a pair of random drawings shall be submitted to the director of the department prior to January 31/December 30 annually, preceding the license year when the permits may be legally used.

D. The proposals for auctioning two permits, and for the sale of lottery tickets and subsequent selection of recipients for two permits through random drawing(s) shall each contain and identify:

- (1) the name of the organization making the request as well as the names, addresses and telephone numbers of those members of the organization who are coordinating the proposal;
- (2) the estimated amount of money to be raised and the rationale for that estimate; and
- (3)(2) a copy of the organization's articles of incorporation with a letter attesting that the organization has tax-exempt status. The letter must also affirm that the proponent agrees to the conditions set forth by the director of the department. The letter must be signed and dated by the president and secretary-treasurer, or their equivalents.

E. The director of the department shall examine all proposals following the close of the application period. The director may reject any application which does not conform to the requirements of this section. In selecting a marketing organization, the director shall consider the qualifications of the organization as a fund raiser; the proposed fund raising plan; the fee charged by the marketing organization for promotional and administrative costs, relative to the funds obtained from auctioning the permit; and the ~~organizations~~ organization's previous involvement with wild sheep management and its conservation objectives. The director may accept any proposals when it is in the best interest of bighorn sheep to do so.

~~F. After a proposal has been approved, the state game commission shall establish open season dates, open areas, and license requirements.~~

~~GF.~~ The marketing organization must agree in writing to the following:

- (1) to transfer all proceeds on or before the tenth day of the month following the auction and drawing for the lottery, and
- (2) to provide the department with the names, addresses, and the physical descriptions of the individuals to whom the special bighorn sheep permits are issued.

~~HG.~~ The department and the marketing organization must agree to the arrangements for the deposit of the proceeds, payment for services rendered, the accounting procedures, and final audit.

~~HI.~~ Unless his or her hunting privileges have been revoked pursuant to law, any resident of New Mexico, nonresident, or alien is eligible to submit a bid for the special bighorn auction permits or purchase lottery tickets in an attempt to be selected for the special bighorn lottery permits.

~~JI.~~ The special bighorn sheep permits issued through auction and lottery may be transferred, through sale, barter or gift by the successful individuals to only other individuals qualified to hunt.

~~KJ.~~ Special bighorn sheep permits granted through auction or lottery, as described above, shall not be considered 'once-in-a-lifetime' permits. A person is eligible to submit a bid for the special bighorn auction and raffle licenses whether or not he or she has previously held a license to hunt Rocky mountain or desert bighorn sheep in New Mexico.

~~LK.~~ Holders of the auction licenses (BHS-1-500) must declare their exclusive hunt area by June 130 annually to hunt the designated subspecies in one of the open hunt areas. Each holder of the raffle license (BHS-1-600) must declare their exclusive hunt area by July 20 annually to hunt the designated subspecies in one of the open hunt areas not chosen declared by the auction hunter hunter-of-the-auction-license. each raffle hunter must declare if he or she is choosing the hunt occurring in GMU 20 (north of NM 51) or GMU 55 (north of NM 196/FS Rd-1950). If the raffle hunter chooses any other hunt, he or she must designate an available and specific hunt area at the time of obtaining the hunting license.

~~L.~~ The remaining hunt units open to bighorn hunting not declared by the auction or raffle hunter as their exclusive hunt area, may be hunted by either the auction or raffle hunter.

~~NM.~~ The hunt dates for BHS-1-500 and BHS-1-600 shall be 8/1-12/31 annually, except GMU 53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522 is closed 8/164 to 8/31 annually to all bighorn sheep hunters.

~~N.~~ Auction or raffle winners may select any open bighorn sheep unit for the respective subspecies. [19.31.17.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.12 NMAC.]

19.31.17.13 BIGHORN SHEEP POPULATION MANAGEMENT HUNTS:

A. The director, with verbal concurrence of the chairman chairperson or their designee, may authorize population management hunts for bighorn sheep when justified in writing by department personnel and must be based on biological information or a potential to compromise population viability.

B. The director shall designate the sporting arms, season dates, season lengths, bag limits, hunt boundaries, specific requirements or restrictions, and number of licenses to be issued. No qualifying license holder shall take more than one bighorn sheep per license year.

~~C.~~ Applications must be submitted by the deadline date set by the department.

~~D.~~ Applications for licenses may be rejected, and fees returned to an applicant, if such applications are not on the proper form or do not supply adequate information.

~~EC.~~ In the event that an applicant is not able to hunt on the dates specified, the applicant's name shall be moved to the bottom of the list and another applicant may be contacted for the hunt.

~~FD.~~ In those instances where a population management hunt is warranted on deeded private lands, the landowner may suggest eligible hunters of their choice by submitting a list of prospective hunter's names to the department for licensing consideration. No more than one-half of the total number of licenses authorized shall be available to landowner identified hunters. The balance of prospective hunters shall be identified by the department.

GE. The director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may deem some ram or either sex population management licenses not once-in-a-lifetime; a person that has held a once-in-a-lifetime ram license(s) is not disqualified from this hunt.

[19.31.17.13 NMAC - N, 08-45-46 Rp, 19.31.17.13 NMAC,]

HISTORY OF 19.31.17 NMAC:

Pre-NMAC History: The material in this part was derived from that previously filed with the State Records Center and Archives under:

Regulation No. 482, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 5/31/67;

Regulation No. 487, Establishing 1967 Seasons On Javelina And Barbary Sheep, filed 12/15/67;

Regulation No. 489, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring of 1968, filed 3/1/68;

Regulation No. 491, Establishing Big Game Seasons For 1968 For Jicarilla Reservation, filed 3/1/68;

Regulation No. 492, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 6/6/68;

Regulation No. 495, Establishing A Season On Bighorn Sheep, filed 10/2/68;

Regulation No. 496, Establishing An Elk Season In The Tres Piedras Area, Elk Area P-6, filed 12/11/68;

Regulation No. 502, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1969, filed 3/5/69;

Regulation No. 503, Establishing 1969 Deer Seasons For Bowhunting Only And Big Game Seasons For The Jicarilla Indian Reservation, filed 3/5/69;

Regulation 504, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Bear, Turkey, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 6/4/69;

Regulation No. 507, Establishing A Season On Bighorn Sheep, filed 8/26/69;

Regulation No. 512, Establishing Turkey Season For The Spring Of 1970, filed 2/20/70;

Regulation No. 513, Establishing Deer Season For Bowhunting Only In Sandia State Game Refuge, filed 2/20/70;

Regulation No. 514, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/9/70;

Regulation No 520, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1971, filed 3/9/71;

Regulation No. 522, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/9/71;

Regulation No. 523, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/9/71;

Regulation No. 531, Establishing A Season On Javelina, filed 12/17/71;

Regulation No. 532, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1972, filed 3/20/72;

Regulation No. 534, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/20/72;

Regulation No. 536, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/26/72;

Regulation No. 542, Establishing A Season On Javelina, filed 12/1/72;

Regulation No. 545, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1973, filed 2/26/73;

Regulation No. 546, Establishing 1973 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 2/26/73;

Regulation No. 547, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, And Javelina, filed 5/31/73;

Regulation No. 554, Establishing Special Turkey Seasons For The Spring of 1974, filed 3/4/74;

Regulation No. 556, Establishing 1974 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/14/74;

Regulation No. 558, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex, filed 5/29/74;

Regulation No. 565, Establishing Special Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1975, filed 3/24/75;

Regulation No. 567, Establishing 1975 Seasons On Deer, Bear, And Turkey On The Jicarilla Apache And Navajo Indian Reservations And On Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/24/75;

Regulation No. 568, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 6/25/75;

Regulation No. 573, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/23/76;

Regulation No. 583, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/11/77;
Regulation No. 590, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/15/78;
Regulation No. 596, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/23/79;
Regulation No. 603, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1980 through March 31, 1981, filed 2/22/80;
Regulation No. 609, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1981 through March 31, 1982, filed 3/17/81;
Regulation No. 614, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1982 through March 31, 1983, filed 3/10/82;
Regulation No. 622, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1983 through March 31, 1984, filed 3/9/83;
Regulation No. 628, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1984 through March 31, 1985, filed 4/2/84;
Regulation No. 634, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1985 Through March 31, 1986, filed 4/18/85;
Regulation No. 640, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1986 through March 31, 1987, filed 3/25/86;
Regulation No. 645, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1987 through March 31, 1988, filed 2/12/87;
Regulation No. 653, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1988 through March 31, 1989, filed 12/18/87;
Regulation No. 663, Establishing Opening Spring Turkey For The Period April 1, 1989 through March 31, 1990, filed 3/28/89;
Regulation No. 664, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1989 through March 31, 1990, filed 3/20/89;
Regulation No. 674, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1990 through March 31, 1991, filed 11/21/89;
Regulation No. 683, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1991 through March 31, 1992, filed 2/8/91;
Regulation No. 689, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1992 through March 31, 1993, filed 3/4/92;
Regulation No. 700, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1993 through March 31, 1995, filed 3/11/93.

History of Repealed Material:

19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game, filed 3-1-2001 - duration expired 3-31-2003.
19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game and Turkey, filed 3-3-2003 - duration expired 3-31-2005.
19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game and Turkey, filed 12-15-2004 - duration expired 3-31-2007.
19.31.17 NMAC, Bighorn Sheep, filed 12-1-2006 - duration expired 3-31-2009.
19.31.17 NMAC, Bighorn Sheep, filed 2-26-2009 - duration expired 3-31-2011.
19.31.17 NMAC, Bighorn Sheep, filed 9-15-2010 - duration expired 3-31-2015.
19.31.17 NMAC, Bighorn Sheep, filed 3-17-2015 - duration expired 3-31-2019.

Final Adopted Rule

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TITLE 19 **NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE**
CHAPTER 31 **HUNTING AND FISHING**
PART 17 **BIGHORN SHEEP**

19.31.17.1 **ISSUING AGENCY:** New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.
[19.31.17.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.1 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.2 **SCOPE:** Sportspersons interested in the management and hunting of bighorn sheep. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978, and Chapters 30, 31, 32 and 33 of Title 19 NMAC.
[19.31.17.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.2 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.3 **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state game commission has the authority to establish rules and regulations that it may deem necessary to carry out the purpose of Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and all other acts pertaining to protected mammals, birds, and fish.
[19.31.17.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.3 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.4 **DURATION:** April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2023.
[19.31.17.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.4 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.5 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 2019 unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.31.17.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.5 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.6 **OBJECTIVE:** Establishing open hunting seasons and regulation, rules, and procedures governing the distribution and issuance of bighorn sheep licenses by the department.
[19.31.17.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.6 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.7 **DEFINITIONS:**

A. **“Bighorn enhancement program”** as used herein, shall mean the department activity that allows the issuance of not more than four permits for the taking of one bighorn ram per permit with the purpose of raising funds for programs and projects to benefit bighorn sheep.

B. **“Department”** shall mean the New Mexico department of game and fish.

C. **“Director”** shall mean the director of the New Mexico department of game and fish.

D. **“Either sex” or “ES”** shall mean any one animal of the species.

E. **“Ewe”** shall mean any female bighorn sheep.

F. **“Game management unit” or “GMU”** shall mean those areas as described in the rule 19.30.4 NMAC Boundary Descriptions for Game Management Units.

G. **“Ram”** shall mean any male bighorn sheep.

H. **“Wildlife management areas” or “WMAs”** shall mean those areas as described in rule 19.34.5 NMAC, Wildlife Management Areas.

[19.31.17.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.7 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.8 **ADJUSTMENT OF LICENSES:** The director, with the verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may adjust the number of bighorn licenses to address significant changes in population levels or to address critical department management needs. The director may change or cancel all hunts on military lands to accommodate closures on those lands; if changed, the season length and bag limit shall remain the same as assigned on the original hunt code.

[19.31.17.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.8 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.9 **BIGHORN SHEEP LICENSE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS:**

A. **Rocky mountain bighorn sheep ram once-in-a-lifetime hunts:** It shall be unlawful for anyone to apply for a Rocky mountain bighorn sheep ram license if one has previously held a license to hunt a Rocky mountain bighorn sheep ram in New Mexico, except those who have held a youth-only, private land-only (not obtained through the public draw), population management license for ram or ES that the director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, has decided does not qualify as once-in-a-lifetime, auction, and/or raffle bighorn ram license(s). A person that has received the youth-only ram license is eligible for this hunt only

once as a youth (under age 18), but may apply for the other Rocky mountain and desert bighorn once-in-a lifetime hunts as long as they are eligible.

B. Desert bighorn sheep ram once-in-a-lifetime hunts: It shall be unlawful for anyone to apply for a desert bighorn sheep ram license if one has previously held a license to hunt a desert bighorn sheep ram in New Mexico, except those who have held a youth-only, private land-only (not obtained through the public draw), population management license for ram or ES that the director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, has decided does not qualify as once-in-a-lifetime, auction, and/or raffle bighorn ram license(s). A person that has received the youth-only ram license is eligible for this hunt only once as a youth (under age 18), but may apply for the other Rocky mountain and desert bighorn once-in-a lifetime hunts as long as they are eligible.

C. Rocky mountain bighorn sheep ewe hunts: This hunt is not a once-in-a-lifetime hunt. A person that has previously held a license to hunt Rocky mountain bighorn rams or ewes is eligible to apply for this hunt. [19.31.17.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.9 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.10 SEALING OF RAM HORNS: A seal shall be affixed to a horn of every bighorn sheep ram head taken in New Mexico, imported into New Mexico, or found in the field in New Mexico subsequent to August 17, 1973. Bighorn sheep heads found in the field within New Mexico shall remain the property of the state until disposed of by permit from the director. The seal shall authorize possession and transportation of the head within New Mexico.

A. Such sealing shall be done within ten days after the bighorn sheep ram head is taken, imported, or found in the field and before the bighorn sheep head is exported from New Mexico. Bighorn sheep ram heads not so declared shall be seized. Only legally taken and possessed bighorn sheep ram heads shall be sealed.

B. Bighorn sheep ram heads legally sealed in other countries, states, tribal entities, provinces, and territories, and possessing a valid visible seal attached, are exempted.

C. It shall be unlawful to possess any bighorn sheep ram head which has not been sealed as described in this section.

[19.31.17.10 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.10 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.11 BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTING SEASONS: The 2019-20 through 2022-23 hunting seasons shall be as indicated below, listing the GMUs or areas open, eligibility requirements or restrictions, hunt dates, hunt codes, sporting arms, number of licenses, and bag limit. Additional eligibility requirements and restrictions are defined in Section 9 of 19.31.17 NMAC above.

A. Rocky mountain bighorn ram hunt for any legal sporting arms (BHS-1-201). Hunters applying for BHS-1-201 will be allowed to select and rank up to three open areas/hunt dates. The number of licenses available for BHS-1-201 will be up to 60 with a bag limit of one ram.

open GMUs or areas for BHS-1-201	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
6	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
14, 18	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
16B, 22, 23, 24	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31	1/1-1/31
45	8/9-8/18	8/7-8/16	8/6-8/15	8/5-8/14
	8/23-9/1	8/21-8/30	8/20-8/29	8/19-8/28
45, youth only	8/23-9/1	8/21-8/30	8/20-8/29	8/19-8/28
53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522	8/6-8/15	8/6-8/15	8/6-8/15	8/6-8/15
	9/1-9/10	9/1-9/10	9/1-9/10	9/1-9/10
53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950	8/9-8/18	8/7-8/16	8/6-8/15	8/5-8/14
	8/23-9/1	8/21-8/30	8/20-8/29	8/19-8/28
49, 50, 53 west of NM 522	8/10-8/24	8/10-8/24	8/10-8/24	8/10-8/24
	9/1-9/15	9/1-9/15	9/1-9/15	9/1-9/15
55 north of NM196/FS Rd 1950	8/15/2019-1/15/2020	8/15/2020-1/15/2021	8/15/2021-1/15/2022	8/15/2022-1/15/2023
58	8/15/2019-1/15/2020	8/15/2020-1/15/2021	8/15/2021-1/15/2022	8/15/2022-1/15/2023

B. Private land Rocky mountain bighorn ram hunt for any legal sporting arms. The number of licenses available will be up to 6 with a bag limit of one ram.

open GMUs	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
55 north of NM196/FS Rd 1950	8/15/2019- 1/15/2020	8/15/2020- 1/15/2021	8/15/2021- 1/15/2022	8/15/2022- 1/15/2023
58	8/15/2019- 1/15/2020	8/15/2020- 1/15/2021	8/15/2021- 1/15/2022	8/15/2022- 1/15/2023

C. Rocky mountain bighorn ewe hunt for any legal sporting arms (BHS-1-202). Hunters applying for BHS-1-202 will be allowed to select and rank up to three open areas/hunt dates. The number of licenses available for BHS-1-202 will be up to 150 with a bag limit of one ewe.

open GMUs or areas for BHS-1-202	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
45	9/21-9/25	9/19-9/23	9/18-9/22	9/17-9/21
	10/5-10/9	10/3-10/7	10/2-10/6	10/1-10/5
45, youth only	10/5-10/9	10/3-10/7	10/2-10/6	10/1-10/5
49, 50, 53 west of NM 522	10/12-10/20	10/10-10/18	10/9-10/17	10/8-10/16
	11/9-11/17	11/14-11/22	11/13-11/21	11/12-11/20
	12/14-12/22	12/12-12/20	12/11-12/19	12/10-12/18
49, 50, 53 west of NM 522, youth only	11/9-11/17	11/14-11/22	11/13-11/21	11/12-11/20
53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522	9/21-9/25	9/19-9/23	9/18-9/22	9/24-9/28
	10/5-10/9	10/3-10/7	10/2-10/6	10/8-10/12
53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522, youth only	9/21-9/25	9/19-9/23	9/18-9/22	9/24-9/28
53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950	9/21-10/4	9/19-10/2	9/18-10/1	9/17-9/30
53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950, youth only	9/21-10/4	9/19-10/2	9/18-10/1	9/17-9/30

D. Rocky mountain bighorn ewe hunt for bow only (BHS-2-203). Hunters applying for BHS-2-203 will be allowed to select and rank up to three open areas/hunt dates. The number of licenses available for BHS-2-203 will be up to 60 with a bag limit of one ewe.

open GMUs or areas for BHS-2-203	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
45	9/6-9/15	9/4-9/13	9/3-9/12	9/2-9/11
49, 50, 53 west of NM 522	9/16-9/30	9/16-9/30	9/16-9/30	9/16-9/30
53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522	9/11-9/17	9/11-9/17	9/11-9/17	9/11-9/17
53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950	9/7-9/20	9/5-9/18	9/4-9/17	9/3-9/16
53 north of NM 38 and east of NM 522; 55 south of NM 196/FS Rd 1950, youth only	9/7-9/20	9/5-9/18	9/4-9/17	9/3-9/16

E. Desert bighorn ram hunt for any legal sporting arms (BHS-1-204). Hunters applying for BHS-1-204 will be allowed to select and rank up to three open areas/hunt dates. The number of licenses available for BHS-1-204 will be up to 60 with a bag limit of one ram.

open GMUs or areas for BHS-1-204	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
13, 17	12/1-12/31	12/1-12/31	12/1-12/31	12/1-12/31
19	12/14-12/21	12/14-12/21	12/14-12/21	12/14-12/21

	12/27/2019-1/3/2020	12/27/2020-1/3/2021	12/27/2021-1/3/2022	12/27/2022-1/3/2023
20: south of NM 51	11/16-11/30	11/16-11/30	11/16-11/30	11/16-11/30
	12/1-12/15	12/1-12/15	12/1-12/15	12/1-12/15
20: north of NM 51	10/11-10/20	8/14-8/23	10/8-10/17	8/12-8/21
	2/16-2/29	3/5-3/14	2/16-2/28	3/3-3/12
20: north of NM 51, youth only	11/22-12/1	11/20-11/29	11/19-11/28	11/18-11/27
26	10/1-10/15	10/1-10/15	10/1-10/15	10/1-10/15
	10/16-10/31	10/16-10/31	10/16-10/31	10/16-10/31
27	11/1-11/30	11/1-11/30	11/1-11/30	11/1-11/30

F. Private land desert bighorn ram hunt for any legal sporting arms. The number of licenses available will be up to 6 with a bag limit of one ram.

open GMUs	2019-2020 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates
20: north of NM 51	8/16-8/25	10/9-10/18	8/13-8/22	10/7-10/16
	3/6-3/15	2/16-2/28	3/4-3/13	2/16-2/28
20: north of NM 51, youth only	11/22-12/1	11/20-11/29	11/19-11/28	11/18-11/27

[19.31.17.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.11 NMAC, 4-1-19]

9.31.17.12 BIGHORN SHEEP ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM:

A. The director of the department shall collect all proceeds generated through auction and lottery of special bighorn sheep permits, and such monies shall be deposited in the game protection fund. These monies shall be made available for expenditure by the department solely for programs and projects to benefit bighorn sheep and for direct costs incurred in carrying out these programs. These monies shall be used to augment, and not replace, monies appropriated from existing funds available to the department for the preservation, restoration, utilization, and management of bighorn sheep.

B. The state game commission shall authorize the director of the department to issue not more than four special bighorn sheep permits in any one license year to take one bighorn sheep ram per permit. The director shall allow the sale of two permits through auction to the highest bidders and two permits to persons selected through a random drawing for the holder of a lottery ticket by the department or by an incorporated, nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of wild sheep.

C. Proposals for auctioning two special bighorn sheep permits and the sale of lottery tickets to obtain two special bighorn sheep permits through a pair of random drawings shall be submitted to the director of the department prior to December 30 annually, preceding the license year when the permits may be legally used.

D. The proposals for auctioning two permits, and for the sale of lottery tickets and subsequent selection of recipients for two permits through random drawing(s) shall each contain and identify:

(1) the name of the organization making the request as well as the names, addresses and telephone numbers of those members of the organization who are coordinating the proposal;

(2) a copy of the organization's articles of incorporation with a letter attesting that the organization has tax-exempt status. The letter must also affirm that the proponent agrees to the conditions set forth by the director of the department. The letter must be signed and dated by the president and secretary-treasurer, or their equivalents.

E. The director of the department shall examine all proposals following the close of the application period. The director may reject any application which does not conform to the requirements of this section. In selecting a marketing organization, the director shall consider the qualifications of the organization as a fund raiser; the proposed fund raising plan; the fee charged by the marketing organization for promotional and administrative costs, relative to the funds obtained from auctioning the permit; and the organization's previous involvement with wild sheep management and its conservation objectives. The director may accept any proposals when it is in the best interest of bighorn sheep to do so.

F. The marketing organization must agree in writing to the following:

(1) to transfer all proceeds on or before the tenth day of the month following the auction and drawing for the lottery, and

(2) to provide the department with the names, addresses, and the physical descriptions of the individuals to whom the special bighorn sheep permits are issued.

G. The department and the marketing organization must agree to the arrangements for the deposit of the proceeds, payment for services rendered, the accounting procedures, and final audit.

H. Unless his or her hunting privileges have been revoked pursuant to law, any resident of New Mexico, nonresident, or alien is eligible to submit a bid for the special bighorn auction permits or purchase lottery tickets in an attempt to be selected for the special bighorn lottery permits.

I. The special bighorn sheep permits issued through auction and lottery may be transferred, through sale, barter or gift by the successful individuals to only other individuals qualified to hunt.

J. Special bighorn sheep permits granted through auction or lottery, as described above, shall not be considered 'once-in-a-lifetime' permits. A person is eligible to submit a bid for the special bighorn auction and raffle licenses whether or not he or she has previously held a license to hunt Rocky mountain or desert bighorn sheep in New Mexico.

K. Holders of the auction licenses (BHS-1-500) must declare their exclusive hunt area by June 30 annually to hunt the designated subspecies in one of the open hunt areas. Each holder of the raffle license (BHS-1-600) must declare their exclusive hunt area by July 20 annually to hunt the designated subspecies in one of the open hunt areas not declared by the auction hunter.

L. The remaining hunt units open to bighorn hunting not declared by the auction or raffle hunter as their exclusive hunt area, may be hunted by either the auction or raffle hunter.

M. The hunt dates for BHS-1-500 and BHS-1-600 shall be 8/1-12/31 annually except GMU 53 south of NM 38 and east of NM 522 is closed 8/16 to 8/31 annually to all bighorn sheep hunters.
[19.31.17.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.12 NMAC, 4-1-19]

19.31.17.13 BIGHORN SHEEP POPULATION MANAGEMENT HUNTS:

A. The director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may authorize population management hunts for bighorn sheep when justified in writing by department personnel and must be based on biological information or a potential to compromise population viability.

B. The director shall designate the sporting arms, season dates, season lengths, bag limits, hunt boundaries, specific requirements or restrictions, and number of licenses to be issued.

C. In the event that an applicant is not able to hunt on the dates specified, the applicant's name shall be moved to the bottom of the list and another applicant may be contacted for the hunt.

D. In those instances where a population management hunt is warranted on deeded private lands, the landowner may suggest eligible hunters of their choice by submitting a list of prospective hunters' names to the department for licensing consideration. No more than one-half of the total number of licenses authorized shall be available to landowner identified hunters. The balance of prospective hunters shall be identified by the department.

E. The director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may deem some ram or either sex population management licenses not once-in-a-lifetime; a person that has held a once-in-a-lifetime ram license(s) is not disqualified from this hunt.

[19.31.17.13 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.17.13 NMAC, 4-1-19]

HISTORY OF 19.31.17 NMAC:

Pre-NMAC History: The material in this part was derived from that previously filed with the State Records Center and Archives under:

Regulation No. 482, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 5/31/67;

Regulation No. 487, Establishing 1967 Seasons On Javelina And Barbary Sheep, filed 12/15/67;

Regulation No. 489, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring of 1968, filed 3/1/68;

Regulation No. 491, Establishing Big Game Seasons For 1968 For Jicarilla Reservation, filed 3/1/68;

Regulation No. 492, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 6/6/68;

Regulation No. 495, Establishing A Season On Bighorn Sheep, filed 10/2/68;

Regulation No. 496, Establishing An Elk Season In The Tres Piedras Area, Elk Area P-6, filed 12/11/68;

Regulation No. 502, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1969, filed 3/5/69;

Regulation No. 503, Establishing 1969 Deer Seasons For Bowhunting Only And Big Game Seasons For The Jicarilla Indian Reservation, filed 3/5/69;

Regulation 504, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Bear, Turkey, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 6/4/69;

Regulation No. 507, Establishing A Season On Bighorn Sheep, filed 8/26/69;

Regulation No. 512, Establishing Turkey Season For The Spring Of 1970, filed 2/20/70;

Regulation No. 513, Establishing Deer Season For Bowhunting Only In Sandia State Game Refuge, filed 2/20/70;

Regulation No. 514, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/9/70;

Regulation No 520, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1971, filed 3/9/71;

Regulation No. 522, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/9/71;

Regulation No. 523, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/9/71;

Regulation No. 531, Establishing A Season On Javelina, filed 12/17/71;

Regulation No. 532, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1972, filed 3/20/72;

Regulation No. 534, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/20/72;

Regulation No. 536, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/26/72;

Regulation No. 542, Establishing A Season On Javelina, filed 12/1/72;

Regulation No. 545, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1973, filed 2/26/73;

Regulation No. 546, Establishing 1973 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 2/26/73;

Regulation No. 547, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, And Javelina, filed 5/31/73;

Regulation No. 554, Establishing Special Turkey Seasons For The Spring of 1974, filed 3/4/74;

Regulation No. 556, Establishing 1974 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/14/74;

Regulation No. 558, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex, filed 5/29/74;

Regulation No. 565, Establishing Special Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1975, filed 3/24/75;

Regulation No. 567, Establishing 1975 Seasons On Deer, Bear, And Turkey On The Jicarilla Apache And Navajo Indian Reservations And On Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/24/75;

Regulation No. 568, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 6/25/75;

Regulation No. 573, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/23/76;

Regulation No. 583, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/11/77;

Regulation No. 590, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/15/78;

Regulation No. 596, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/23/79;

Regulation No. 603, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1980 through March 31, 1981, filed 2/22/80;

Regulation No. 609, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1981 through March 31, 1982, filed 3/17/81;

Regulation No. 614, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1982 through March 31, 1983, filed 3/10/82;

Regulation No. 622, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1983 through March 31, 1984, filed 3/9/83;

Regulation No. 628, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1984 through March 31, 1985, filed 4/2/84;

Regulation No. 634, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1985 Through March 31, 1986, filed 4/18/85;

Regulation No. 640, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1986 through March 31, 1987, filed 3/25/86;
Regulation No. 645, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1987 through March 31, 1988, filed 2/12/87;
Regulation No. 653, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1988 through March 31, 1989, filed 12/18/87;
Regulation No. 663, Establishing Opening Spring Turkey For The Period April 1, 1989 through March 31, 1990, filed 3/28/89;
Regulation No. 664, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1989 through March 31, 1990, filed 3/20/89;
Regulation No. 674, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1990 through March 31, 1991, filed 11/21/89;
Regulation No. 683, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1991 through March 31, 1992, filed 2/8/91;
Regulation No. 689, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1992 through March 31, 1993, filed 3/4/92;
Regulation No. 700, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1993 through March 31, 1995, filed 3/11/93.

History of Repealed Material:

19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game, filed 3-1-2001 - duration expired 3-31-2003.
19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game and Turkey, filed 3-3-2003 - duration expired 3-31-2005.
19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game and Turkey, filed 12-15-2004 - duration expired 3-31-2007.
19.31.17 NMAC, Bighorn Sheep, filed 12-1-2006 - duration expired 3-31-2009.
19.31.17 NMAC, Bighorn Sheep, filed 2-26-2009 - duration expired 3-31-2011.
19.31.17 NMAC, Bighorn Sheep, filed 9-15-2010 - duration expired 3-31-2015.
19.31.17 NMAC, Bighorn Sheep, filed 3-17-2015 - duration expired 3-31-2019.

NMAC Transmittal Form



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Volume: Issue: Publication Date: Number of pages: (ALD Use Only) Sequence No.

Issuing agency name and address: Agency DFA code:

Contact person's name: Phone number: E-mail address:

Type of rule action: New Amendment Repeal Emergency Renumber (ALD Use Only) Most Recent Filing Date:

Title number: Title name:

Chapter number: Chapter name:

Part number: Part name:

Amendment Description (If filing an Amendment): Amendment's NMAC Citation (If filing an Amendment):

Are there any materials incorporated by reference? Yes No Please list attachments or Internet sites if applicable.

If materials are attached, has copyright permission been received? Yes No Public domain

Concise Explanatory Statement for rulemaking adoption:

Specific statutory or other authority authorizing rulemaking:

Notice date(s): Hearing date(s): Rule Adoption date: Rule Effective date:

Findings required for rulemaking adoption.

- Findings MUST include:
- Reasons for adopting rule, including any findings otherwise required by law of the agency, and a summary of any independent analysis done by the agency;
 - Reasons for any change between the published proposed rule and the final rule; and
 - Reasons for not accepting substantive arguments made through public comment.

The rulemaking was undertaken to adopt a new Bighorn Sheep rule, 19.31.17 NMAC, which will become effective April 1, 2019. The current Bighorn Sheep rule is set to expire on March 31, 2019.

The new rule includes increasing the maximum number of Rocky Mountain and desert bighorn licenses for rams, modifying certain hunt dates and season lengths to accommodate more Rocky Mountain bighorn hunters, adding hunts in the Jemez and Manzano mountains that will only be drawn if ram numbers indicates it's feasible, adding additional youth, rifle, and archery hunts, increasing licenses for Rocky Mountain ewes to address population management issues, and adding an additional hunt period to Fra Cristobal desert ram hunt to spread out hunters.

Continued on reverse side

**Findings required for rulemaking adoption
continued**

We removed manner and method references from the bighorn sheep rule. Removed content will be included in the manner and method rule to open later in 2018. The rule also includes allowing the Director, with chairperson concurrence, to designate some population management ram hunts as not once-in-a-lifetime. In addition, we modified the enhancement program such that the auction hunter declares which herd they will hunt by June 30, the raffle hunter declares by July 20, and both hunters can hunt the remaining open areas (but not the other person's declared herd).

There have been no changes between the published proposed rule and the final rule. There were no substantive arguments made through public comment that were not accepted. To view public comments, please visit www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/meeting-agendas/ and click on the Hearing Archive tab. The resulting rule was based on what was best for the resource and overall hunter satisfaction.

Issuing authority (If delegated, authority letter must be on file with ALD):

Name:

Alexandra Sandoval

Check if authority has been delegated

Title:

Director, NMDGF

Signature: (BLACK ink only)

Alexandra Sandoval

Date signed:

5/25/18



Wildlife Management Division

Bighorn 19.31.17 NMAC

May 22, 2018
New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting
Los Alamos, NM

Wildlife Management Division

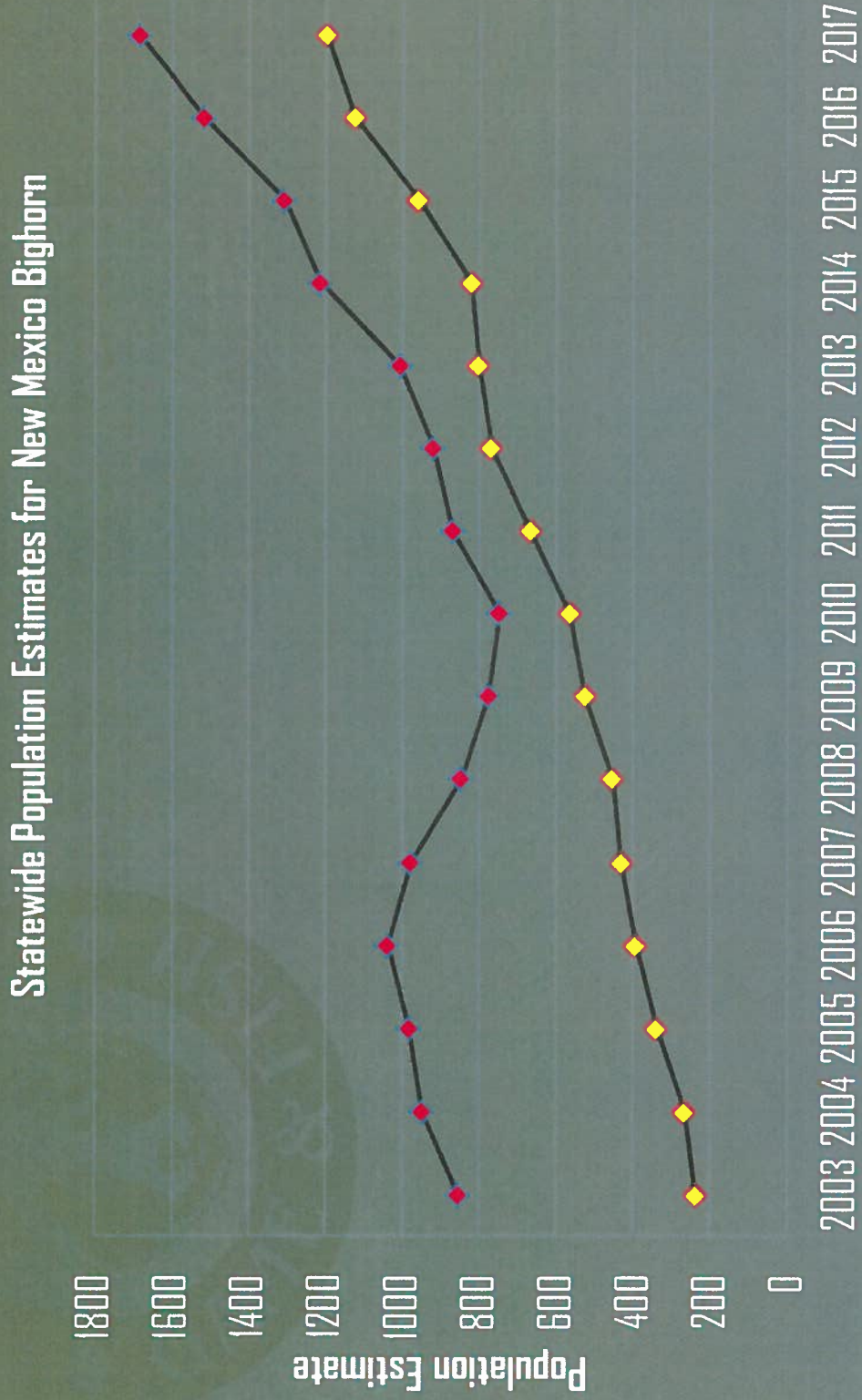
EXHIBIT

3

tabbles

To date 2017-2018 Harvest Data

- **Rocky Mountain Rams:** (27/29)
- **Desert Rams:** (28/29)
- **Estimate of Rocky ewes:** (15/30)
- **RGG ewes:** (36/43)



Summary of public comment

- **Total attendees at meetings (ABQ & Las Cruces): 17**
- **Tracking wounded big game with dogs (2)**
- **Archery ewe opportunity (1)**
- **Enhancement changes (3)**
- **Feeding comment (1)**

Proposed Amendments: Bighorn

19.31.17 NMAC

- **Adjust seasons for calendar dates**
- **Increase desert & Rocky “up to” numbers for rams**
 - Up to 60 Rocky & 60 desert licenses



Proposed Amendments: Bighorn

19.31.17 NMAC

- **Modify hunt dates to accommodate**

- **more hunts, Rocky rams**

- **MANZANOS, JEMEZ: include TBD hunts**
- **SAN FRANCISCO RIVER: No Change**
- **PECOS: 2 ram hunts**
- **WHEELER: 2 ram hunts**
- **LATIR: 2 ram hunts**
- **RIO GRANDE GORGE: 2 ram hunts, 15 days**
- **CULEBRES: No Change**
- **DRY CIMARRON: No Change**

Proposed Amendments: Bighorn 19.31.17 NMAC

- Add new Feb. hunt date to Fra Cristobals to spread out hunters



Proposed Amendments: Bighorn 19.31.17 NMAC

- **Additional Rocky rifle ewe
hunts (up to 150)**

- **PECOS: 2 hunts**
- **RIO GRANDE GORGE: 3 hunts**
- **WHEELER: 2 hunts**
- **LATIR: 1 hunt**



Proposed Amendments: Bighorn

19.31.17 NMAC

- **Additional Rocky archery ewe hunts
(up to 60, before rifle ewe hunts begin)**
 - **PECOS: 1 hunt**
 - **RIO GRANDE GORGE: 1 hunt**
 - **WHEELER: 1 hunt**
 - **LATIR: 1 hunt**

Proposed Amendments: Bighorn

19.31.17 NMAC

- **Pop. mgmt. rams potential for NOT once-in-lifetime**
 - **If identified by Dept. w/chairperson concurrence**
- **Enhancement program**
 - **Auction hunter declares June 30**
 - **Raffle hunter declares July 20**
 - **Both hunters can hunt other open areas**
(exception: each persons declared range)

Questions?



Wildlife Management Division



Transplants

New Mexico Desert Bighorn Transplants

YEAR	SOURCE	DESTINATION	NUMBER
2014	Fra Cristobal	Big Hatchets	40
2014	Red Rock	Big Hatchets	26
2016	Red Rock	Peloncillos	12
2017	Fra Cristobal	Ladrones	22
TOTAL			100

New Mexico Rocky Mountain Bighorn Transplants

YEAR	SOURCE	DESTINATION	NUMBER
2012	Wheeler Peak	Manzanos	31
2014	Wheeler Peak	Jemez	45
2016	Red River	Jemez	3
2017	Red River	Jemez	33
TOTAL			112

Rocky Population Estimates

New Mexico Rocky Mountain Bighorn

Herd	Population Estimate
Pecos	350-400
Wheeler	230-275
Latir	55-65
Culebres	65-70
Dry Cimarron	170-190
Rio Grande Gorge	355-400
San Francisco River	75-90 did not survey 2017
Turkey Creek	20-25 did not survey 2017
Manzanos	65-80 did not survey 2017
Jemez	105-115
Red River Valley	80-100 did not survey 2017

Desert Population Estimates

New Mexico Desert Bighorn

Herd	Population Estimate
Fra Cristobals	280-320
Caballos	170-190
Peloncillos	130-150
Little Hatchets	60-80
Big Hatchets	135-155
Sierra Ladron	110-125 did not survey 2017
San Andres	220-260

BIGHORN SHEEP RULE PROPOSED CHANGES, 2019-2023

- Adjust seasons for calendar dates
 - o For example, if a 5-day hunt typically starts on a Saturday, this date shifts earlier during the course of a 4-year rule and occurs earlier during each year the 4-year rule is active. To avoid having these hunts occur earlier and earlier, the dates need to be “reset” during each new 4-year rule cycle. See the table below for an example hunt.

Example hunt dates, current rule	Example hunt dates, new rule
10/10/2015 – 10/14/2015	10/12/2019 – 10/16/2019
10/08/2016 – 10/12/2016	10/10/2020 – 10/14/2020
10/07/2017 – 10/11/2017	10/09/2021 – 10/13/2021
10/06/2018 – 10/10/2018	10/08/2022 – 10/12/2022

- Increase Rocky & desert “up to” numbers for rams (60 for each subspecies)
- Modify hunt dates to accommodate more Rocky hunters including possibly shortening some hunts to allow for 2 hunt windows in certain populations
 - o Pecos, Wheeler, Rio Grande Gorge, Latir
- Add a Jemez and Manzanos hunt with bag limit TBD
 - o Will only draw these hunts if data indicates it’s feasible
- Add additional Rocky ewe hunts in alpine & lower elevation populations w/‘up to’ numbers to address expanding populations or density issues
 - o Rifle
 - Pecos (2 hunts), Rio Grande Gorge (3 hunts), Wheeler (2 hunts), Latir (1 hunt)
 - o Archery
 - 1 hunt in each; Pecos, Rio Grande Gorge, Latir, Wheeler
- Added new Youth only hunts for ewes
- Add 1 February hunt period to Fra Cristobal desert ram hunt to spread out hunters
- Modify enhancement program
 - o Auction hunter declares June 30, raffle hunter declares July 20, both can hunt other open areas (exception: each persons declared range)

*If you would like to comment on the proposal, please send an email to:
DGF-Bighorn-Rules@state.nm.us*





Technical Information for Bighorn Rule Development



Overview of Survey and Harvest Data

Bighorn sheep populations in New Mexico are generally surveyed annually, though some exceptions occur. Helicopters are used to survey in desert bighorn range and alpine Rocky Mountain bighorn range. Ground rut censuses are the preferred method for low-elevation Rocky Mountain bighorn herds. In addition to helicopter survey, ground survey may be conducted for alpine Rocky Mountain bighorn populations to obtain an additional minimum count and better assess composition.

Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep numbers in New Mexico are generally stable or increasing with the total population estimated at 1410-1640 (midpoint=1525). The high-elevation Pecos herd continues to increase so trapping or ewe hunts will be required to stabilize this herd. The Wheeler Peak population was not large enough to remove sheep for transplant in 2017. The Latir herd was believed to be near carrying capacity after the 2015 surveys, but increased ewe licenses and hunter success in the 2015-2016 hunt season has likely decreased these numbers below carrying capacity and the ewe hunt was discontinued for 2017. Rocky Mountain bighorn were captured in the Red River Valley in the spring of 2017 and translocated to the Jemez herd. The Rio Grande Gorge herd continued to increase from an estimated 85-90 in autumn 2009 to ~355-400 in autumn 2017.

Desert bighorn sheep herds are steadily increasing. The 2017 statewide population estimate is 1105-1280 compared to a 2015-2016 estimate of 965-1115 (midpoint=1043). A combination of mountain lion control and translocations has allowed desert bighorn sheep populations to increase. The Peloncillo herd received an augmentation of 11 sheep in October 2016 and has increased since the spring 2016 survey. The Sierra Ladron herd received an augmentation of 21 sheep in December 2017.



EXHIBIT

5

Part I. Survey Data

Table 1. Rocky Mountain and desert bighorn sheep population estimates and lamb:ewe ratios. Fall ratios are marked with an "a" and spring ratios marked with an "s"

Rocky Mtn Herd	Lambs/100 Ewes	Population Estimate
Pecos	38:100	350-400
Wheeler Peak	42:100	230-275
Latir	28:100	55-65
Culebres	66:100	65-70
Rio Grande Gorge	35:100	355-400
Dry Cimarron	50:100	170-190
San Francisco River	26:100	75-90 did not survey 2017
Turkey Creek	No Census	20-25 did not survey 2017
Manzano	35:100	65-80 did not survey 2017
Jemez	24:100	105-115
Red River	No census	80-100 did not survey 2017
TOTAL		1410-1640 Midpoint=1525
Desert Herd	Lambs/100 Ewes	Population Estimate
Fra Cristobals	21:100a	280-320
Caballos	38:100a	170-190
Peloncillos	45:100s	130-150
Little Hatchets	27:100s	60-80
Big Hatchets	32:100s	135-155
Sierra Ladron	28:100a	110-125 did not survey 2017
San Andres	27:100a	220-260
TOTAL		1105-1280 Midpoint=1192

Table 2. Observed Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep during surveys. Ground survey represented with "g".

Pecos Population											
Year	Ewes	YF	Lamb	YM	CI	CII	CIII	CIV	UNK	Total Obs	Est. No.
2014	118		47		7	17	9	20		218	235-260
2015	119		45		13	22	18	31		252	290-350
2016	171	3	69		28	18	18	35		342	400-350
2017	134		51		7	36	26	23		277	400
Wheeler Peak Population											
Year	Ewes	YF	Lamb	Unk	YM	CI	CII	CIII	CIV	Observed	Est. No.
2014	114		37			8	13	24	15	217	250-300
2015	63		17			7	14	11	23	142	215-260
2016	72		37			12	17	16	28	182	230-275
2017	77	5	32		2	8	3	6		133	230-275
Latir Population											
Year	Ewes	YF	Lamb	YM	CI	CII	CIII	CIV	Unk	Total	Est. No.
2015g	43		18		5	11	5	2		84	125-145
2016	25	1	4	1	4	2	6	2		46	85-100

2017g	18		5		2	7	6	5		43		55-65
Culebres Population												
Year	Ewes	YF	Lamb	YM	CI	CII	CIII	CIV	Unk	Total		
2015a/gg	12		5	1	5					23		
2016	25		9		2	2	2	2		42		
2017g	28	4	21		1	3	1		5	63		
Rio Grande Gorge Population												
Year	Ewes	YF	Lamb	YM	CI	CII	CIII	CIV	Unk	Total	Est. No.	
2015g	113		57		6	26	27	9		245	265-290	
2016g	80	9	33	10	8	11	19	10		222*	320-350	
2017g	118	11	45	7	28	23	16	17		271	355-400	
Dry Cimarron Population												
Year	Ewes	YF	Lamb	YM	CI	CII	CIII	CIV	Unk	Total	Est. No.	
Nov 15g	48		27		7	6	10	12	1	110	115-130	
Nov 16g	52		28		7	7	15	3	4	116	145-165	
Nov 17g	66	1	34		10	7	11	9		140	170-190	
San Francisco River Population												
Year	Ewes	YF	Lamb	Unk	YM	CI	CII	CIII	CIV	Total		
2015	21	2	4			2	1	10	7	47		
2016	34		9			1	3	7	4	58		
Manzano Population												
Year	Ewes	YF	Lamb	YM	CI	CII	CIII	CIV	Unk	Total	Est. No.	
June 2015	21		2	7	1	1	3			35		
Nov 2015	26		2	9		3	8	4		52	52-60	

Table 3. Observed desert bighorn sheep during surveys.

Peloncillos Population												
Date	Tot	Rams	Ewes		Juv.	Rams				Unk	Est. No.	
			Ad	Yrl		I	II	III	IV			
May 2015	79	32	36	6	12	12	4	2+	7		90-110	
Apr 2016	103	13	51	1	38	3	6	1	3		125-145	
May 2017	99	29	42	5	21	4	4	11	9	2	130-150	
Hatchets Populations												
Date	Tot.	Rams	Ewes			Rams					Est. No.	
			Ad	Yrl	Juv	I	II	III	IV	Uncl		
May '15 (LH)	68	26	27	5	10	0	3	12	1		75-85	
Oct 15 (BH)	99	34	47	3	15	2	7	6	19		120-150	
Apr 16 (BH)	116	38	47	10	21	7	9	10	12		135-155	
Apr 16 (LH)	89	22	42	2	23	4	5	6	7		90-110	
May 17 (LH)	52	9	24	6	13	1	2	1	2		60-80	
May 17 (BH)	112	42	45	6	17	4	16	9	15		135-155	
Nov 17 (LH)	69	17	41		11	3	2	5	7		60-80	

San Andres Population												
Date	Total	Rams	Ewes			Rams						Est. No.
			Ad	Yrl	Lambs	Unk	I	II	III	IV	Uncl	
Oct 15	173	76	81	4	12		7	20	19	30		180-220
Oct 16	142	41	71		22	1	5	12	11	20		220-260
Nov 17	190	71	93	1	25		10	15	17	29		210-250

Fra Cristobal Mountain Population												
Date	Tot	Rams	Ewes			Rams						Est. No.
			Ad	Yrl	Lambs	I	II	III	IV	Uncl		
May 15	193	81	72	8	31		15	21	28	17		210-220
Oct 16	221	68	108	10	34		10	22	14	22		230-260
Dec 16	263*	83	110		68		2	39	28	13		290-320
May 17	272	87	138	7	40		14	32	31	10		300-350
Nov 17	242	89	112	14	27		15	30	36	8		280-320

Caballo Population												
Date	Total	Rams	Ewes		Lambs	Rams				Est. No.		
			Ad	Yrl		I	II	III	IV			
Oct 15	115	51	48	2	14	3	18	10	20		125-150	
Oct 16	130	48	50	3	29	3	15	13	17		140-155	
Oct 17	165	62	74	1	28	9	22	13	18		170-190	

Ladron Mountain Population												
Date	Tot	Rams	Ewes			Unk	Rams				Est. No	
			Ad	Yrl	Juv		I	II	III	IV		Uncl
Sep 16	49	13	18	2	5	11	3	2	2	6		90-105

Part 2. Harvest Data

The tables below include ram harvest from 2015-16 season through the 2017-18 season. Ewe hunt results are from 2015-16 season through the population management hunt in the Rio Grande Gorge in March 2018.

2017-2018 Bighorn Ram Hunt Results for New Mexico

B & C	Age	Location
164 6/8	8	Truchas Lake
171 4/8	7+	Pecos Baldy
139 2/8	6	Trailrider's Wall
175 1/8	11	Jicarita
174 2/8	10	Santa Barbara

175 4/8	11	Jicarita
197 7/8	11	Jicarita
158 1/8	11	N. Rincon Bonito
159 2/8	6	Truchas Lk
175 2/8	10	No Fish Basin
175 1/8	8	Upper Bull Creek
169 3/8	10	Virsylvania Peak
187 7/8	11	Above Williams Lake
191 0/8	11	Vallecitos
170 2/8	9	Kachina Peak
191 1/8	10	Kachina Peak
182 0/8	12	W-side Williams Lk. Basin
dnh		dnh—ram wounded
192 7/8*	7	NW John Dunn Bridge
162 4/8	7	NW High Bridge
180 5/8	6	NW High Bridge
179 4/8	10	NW John Dunn Bridge
155		N of High Bridge
175 5/8	9	Alma Box
		Did not hunt

184 5/8	11	Sloan Canyon
179 1/8	11	Wedding Cake (north)
178 6/8	9	Wedding Cake (north)
174 7/8	8	
162 5/8	5	Eagle's Nest
163 7/8	8+	Granite Peak
162 5/8	7	Granite Pass--LH
181 2/8	9	Sheridan Canyon—BH
163 4/8	10	Horse Pasture Canyon-BH
177 4/8	11	S of Zeller/Thompson—BH
180 5/8	9+	Ram Gorge--BH
158 5/8	5	Granite Pass--LH
163 0/8	8+	Redhouse Mountain
163 3/8	8+	Redhouse Mountain
148 5/8	9	Redhouse Mountain
173 6/8	9+	East Redhouse Mountain
166 1/8	8+	Apache Gap
167 7/8	7	N. Side of Apache Gap
188 0/8	11	N. Strawberry Peak
167 7/8	8	S. Polvadera
		8/18-27

156 0/8	7	South of Eagle Canyon (W)
162 7/8	11	North Canyon
		10/13-22
171 4/8	9	Mid-Mountain West-side
dnh		Ram was wounded
		11/17-26 (youth hunt)
166 6/8	8+	Pluton Canyon
162 4/8	8	Waddell Canyon
		3/2-18
166 3/8	10+	S of Red Gap
159 3/8	6	Massacre Gap
147 4/8	9.5	Capital Peak
161 1/8	7	San Andres Peak
163 4/8	10	
170 5/8	9	Lost-San Andres
168 2/8	8	Bennet Mountain

2016-2017 Bighorn Ram Hunt Results for New Mexico

B & C	Age	Location
181 6/8	12	Geode
171 6/8	7	Chimayosa Peak
166 1/8	12	Santa Barbara
171 4/8	8	Truchas
161 4/8	8	Big Jicarita
178 5/8	11	Bull Creek
180 5/8	9	Virsylvania Peak
dnh		
150 6/8	7	
173 7/8	9.5	Lake Fork Peak
dnh		
179 2/8	9.5	Lobo Peak
176 5/8	12	Kachina Peak
166 0/8	9.5	SE End of Culbres
183 4/8	12	Cochiti Canyon
168 2/8	10	Cochiti Canyon

181 1/8	7	NW of high bridge
182 7/8	8	SW John Dunn
191 2/8*	8	NW of J. Dunn bridge
180 2/8	8	NW of J. Dunn bridge
183 1/8	8	NE of High bridge
159 7/8	10	Alma Box
150 2/8	8	Sundial
dnh		
165 4/8	11	Black Mesa
184 5/8	8	Black Mesa
173 2/8		Eagle's nest
160 3/8	7	N. side of Pratt Peak
170 5/8	8	
159 4/8	6	Big Hatchets
163 7/8	8	South end of L. Hatchets
166 7/8	8	Little Hatchets
169 6/8	9	Mescal Canyon, BH
171 2/8		Little Hatchets
172 2/8	6	New Well Peak, BH
176 1/8	9	W side, below towers
172 2/8	9	Redhouse

dnh		
186 6/8*	8.5	San Lorenzo
174 0/8	10	Polvedera Mountain
150 3/8	6	
166 6/8	9	
139 0/8	9.5	
156 0/8	6	Deer Spring
152 5/8	8	Scenic Spring
168 3/8	9	Red Rocks area
		Hunt dates: 3/3-12/17
163 0/8	6	N. of Red Gap
155 5/8	8+	Cox Canyon
156 4/8	8+	SW side of Fra's
156 0/8	11	Chalk Peak
148 2/8	8	E. Side—opp. Release Cyn.
172 2/8	9	East Bennet
182 0/8	11	Black Mt.
175 5/8	10	Onate Peak
172 6/8	10	Deadman Canyon-N side of Gardner Peak

2015-2016 Bighorn Hunt Results for New Mexico

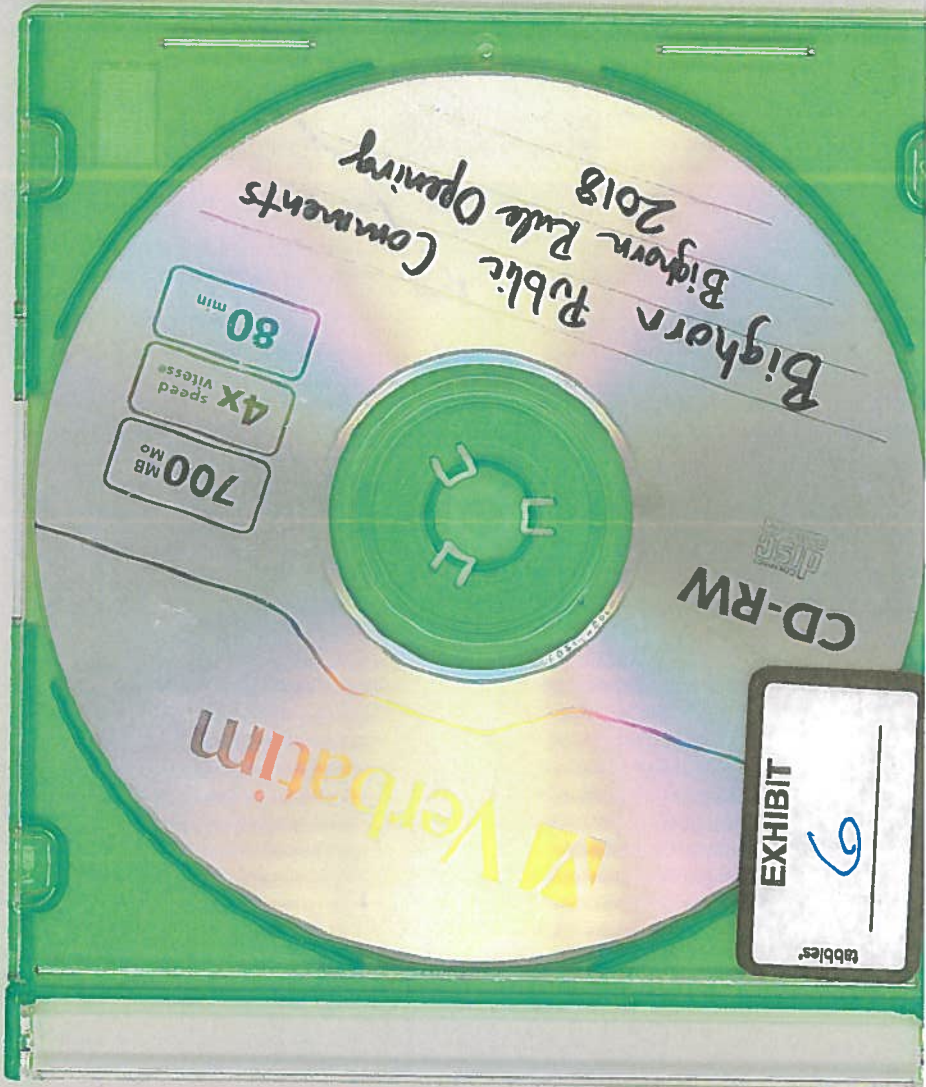
B & C	Age	Location
167 4/8	9	Medio Truchas
182 1/8*	13	Serpent Lake
186 2/8	11.5	Jicarita
169 7/8	9.5	North Truchas Peak
156 1/8	7	Middle Truchas
182 1/8	12	Virsylvania Peak
158 0/8	15	Virsylvania Peak
167 2/8	7	Bull Canyon
160 5/8	8	Bull Creek
DNH	--	???
175 7/8	11	N. of Goldhill
171 5/8	6	Goldhill
175 1/8	8	Williams Lake Basin
174 7/8	10	Vallecitos
174 4/8	11	Gold Hill
165 1/8	13	E. of Big Costillo
189 5/8*	8	S. of JD Bridge (eastside)

176 3/8	7	Manby Spring (eastside)
162 6/8	5	Sundial Mtn.
171 6/8	8	W. of Glenwood
152 2/8	9	SE Saytr's Rim;
190 1/8	8	Behiemer Canyon
175 3/8	9	NW of Pratt Peak
173 5/8	10	NW of Pratt Peak
164 4/8	9	Granite Pass L. Hatchets
176 0/8*	11	Mescal Cyn. Big Hatchets
158 6/8	10	Btw. Sheridan/Thompson Cyns—north side
146 7/8		Bugle Ridge—Big Hatchets
164 5/8	7	Ram Gorge—Big Hatchets
170 2/8		Big Hatchets-NE side
DNH		
159 0/8	12	N. Redhouse Mtn.
168 3/8	7	N. Redhouse Mtn.
163 3/8		Burbank Canyon
173 2/8	10+	S. of Polvedera Peak

182 2/8	7	West of Riley
174 6/8	9.5	?
162 2/8	9	Hellion Canyon
160 0/8	8	Top Catchment
163 6/8	10	Northeast Fras
156 0/8	8	Eagle Rock Canyon
159 6/8	8	?
145 4/8	7	North Canyon
161 4/8	8	?
dnh		
168 2/8	9+	Red Gap
167 0/8	10+	King Canyon
157 6/8	9	Spring Canyon
172 7/8	10	San Andres Peak
173 6/8	?	Black Mtn. (south-side)
172 4/8	10	Bennett Mtn. (WSMR)

Ewe Hunt Results—2015-2018

Year	# Licenses	# Went Hunting	# Successful	# Unk	% Success from known reports	Comments
2018	48	43	39	0	91%	Population reduction hunt in Rio Grande Gorge
2017	30	19	12	11	63%	First Pecos ewe hunt
2016	8		2		100%	Latir;
2015	24	23 [12 arch, 11 rifle]	14 [6 arch, 8 rifle]	3 [2 arch, 1 rifle]	Overall= 70% [14/20] Arch= 60% [6/10] Rifle= 80 [8/10]	Latir; archery and rifle



Bighorn Public Comments
Bighorn Rule Opening 2018

80 min
4X speed class
700 MB Mo

CD-RW
digi

Verbatim

EXHIBIT
9
tabbles

Ruhl, Caitlin, DGF

From: Bill Lewellen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2018 3:48 PM
To: Quintana, Nicole, DGF
Subject: Re: Raffle Auction ideas

Let the auction hunter have the first 2 weeks to hunt, after that it is up in the air.

-Bill

On Thursday, February 8, 2018 11:23 AM, "Quintana, Nicole, DGF" <Nicole.Quintana@state.nm.us> wrote:

All;

Thank you for thinking about this and providing input. To clarify, none of these proposals would require any legislative action. Changes can be made to the Department's bighorn sheep rule, which is currently "open". We are accepting comments and considering changes at the moment, so your timing is perfect. We will present our recommendations to the State Game Commission on March 1, 2018. Eric, Caitlin, and myself will discuss this topic with our supervisors in the next week and follow up with you at that time.

Cheers,

Nicole T. Quintana
Big Game Program Manager
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
office: (505) 476-8035

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations

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From: bryan bartlett [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2018 11:04 AM
To: G.T. Nunn; Rominger, Eric M., DGF
Cc: Bill Lewellen <[REDACTED]> Neil Lawson (TRO); Ruhl, Caitlin, DGF; Quintana, Nicole, DGF
Subject: Re: Raffle Auction ideas

If we ever change it, I like Eric's thoughts better. The other is to let both hunters hunt wherever they want.
BCB

On Thursday, February 8, 2018, 8:28:33 AM MST, Rominger, Eric M., DGF <eric.rominger@state.nm.us> wrote:

I don't think I like the east/west of I-25 idea, especially if it is permanent or alternates like Hell's Canyon—e.g., a big ram shows up east as it did this year and we tell the bidders that they cannot go there—because it is the raffles turn or side...that would reduce the value of the permit rather than increase it...

I think the permit would be much more valuable by stating that each hunter is required to choose a unit as is currently the case...and then all the remaining units could be hunted by either hunter...yes, there could be a 2nd hunter in the unit but you would know that in advance and if you didn't want to see another hunter you could hunt your 'private' unit. You could hunt the entire state, sans the one unit, whereas you are excluded from ½ the units with the proposal above.

Thoughts on the pros/cons of that idea?

EMR

Eric M. Rominger, Ph.D.
NMDGF Bighorn Sheep Biologist
O: (505) 476-8045
C: (505) 690-3207

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations

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From: G.T. Nunn [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 7:33 PM
To: Bryan Bartlett
Cc: Rominger, Eric M., DGF; Bill Lewellen [REDACTED] Neil Lawson (TRO); Ruhl, Caitlin, DGF; Quintana, Nicole, DGF
Subject: Re: Bighorn Rule

I think a good solution for Desert Sheep would be if the auction tag hunter had the choice of hunting east or west of I-25 and had to designate it by June 1st and the Raffle tag hunter could hunt the alternative. This would generate more money for the tag and give each hunter the same amount of units to hunt. For the Rocky tag we would have to find a fair dividing line....



FRONTIER OUTFITTING

G.T. Nunn
[REDACTED]

On Feb 7, 2018, at 10:27 AM, GT Nunn [REDACTED] wrote:

Maybe we could do something similar to Arizona... They allow their auction tag to hunt north of I 10 and the raffle tag to hunt south. We could allow auction tag to hunt west of I 25 and raffle tag to hunt east of I 25???

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 7, 2018, at 9:21 AM, Bryan Bartlett <[REDACTED]> wrote:

GT, If we adopted this, how would we handle the raffle hunters without having a conflict?
BCB

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 7, 2018, at 7:25 AM, G.T. Nunn <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Ladies and Gentlemen,
I have expressed to you in prior years that I believe the auction Sheep tag would bring much more money if the hunter was not contained to one unit that he/she had to designate June 1. Lets face it, the tag was designed to raise money and and a ram will be harvested no matter what. To get the most for the tag the hunter should have access to all or most of the units to hunt. This system has made the raffle tag more valuable than the auction tag(In 2016 the raffle tag was sold for 400K in an online auction). There is no other reason that other states consistently raise more money for there tags when we consistently harvest bigger rams. I think this is something that will have to be addressed legislatively but if there is anything that can be done in rule I would strongly recommend it.
<image001.jpg>

G.T. Nunn
[REDACTED]

On Jan 23, 2018, at 11:13 AM, Rominger, Eric M., DGF <eric.rominger@state.nm.us> wrote:

GT/Bill/Kerrie/Neil:

As you know the bighorn rule is open w/ public meetings scheduled for January 30th and February 6th. If you have thoughts on the current rule, including how the auction/raffle hunts operate please bring them to the meetings or reply to me and/or Caitlin. Thanks. EMR

Eric M. Rominger, Ph.D.
NMDGF Bighorn Sheep Biologist
O: (505) 476-8045
C: (505) 690-3207

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations

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Ruhl, Caitlin, DGF

From: Will Durrett [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 8:14 PM
To: DGF-Bighorn-Rules
Subject: Feeders in Dry Cimarron

To Whom it May Concern:

The feeding of sheep with protein feeders in the Dry Cimarron has been an issue since the sheep were relocated to this area. In 2016, the state sheep hunter (Jimmy Cotant) even witnessed sheep eating out of Feeders on the Wedding Cake Ranch during his once in a lifetime hunt.

Up to this point, the feeding of sheep has been frowned upon by the biologists, but not illegal. It also hasn't seemed to effect the private land hunt allocation. For example, Wedding Cake Ranch promised to "halt all feeding of sheep" at June 2016 Commission meeting, Wedding Cake Ranch signed their sheep hunt agreement in October of 2016. In November of 2016 sheep were witnessed to be eating out of protein Feeders on a Wedding Cake Ranch, and pictures and video of the sheep eating out of protein feeder was shared with NMDGF, but yet the Wedding Cake Ranch was issued a private land sheep hunt in 2017 and in 2018.

In the Dry Cimarron, the NMDGF needs to do more to address the feeding of sheep and particularly how it relates to private land sheep vouchers. Landowners receiving sheep hunts should clearly know repercussions of feeding, if any. There should absolutely be no hunting of sheep in the presence feeders. Instead of verbal promises not to feed, there should be hard, fast rules as it relates to the feeding of sheep and subsequent private land hunt allocation to landowners.

Furthermore, a ranch with State Trust Land in a "business-use lease" which disallows ANY access or hunting should not be granted private land sheep vouchers. No ranch that won't allow public hunters on accessible State Trust Land should not receive a private land sheep voucher.

Respectfully,

Will Durrett

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Ruhl, Caitlin, DGF

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 01, 2018 8:55 AM
To: DGF-Bighorn-Rules
Subject: Bow hunting
Attachments: Summary-Proposed-Changes-Bighorn-Sheep-19_31_17-NMAC.pdf

I don't see why we need an archery specific license allocation when existing hunt dates for most hunts already allow enough time for bow hunters, much less 3 of them.

Sent from my iPad

Ruhl, Caitlin, DGF

From: Brent Taft [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 8:04 PM
To: DGF-Bighorn-Rules
Subject: Bighorn Proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

It isn't in the current proposal, but I'd love to see the archery only ewe hunt return.

Thanks,
Brent

Ruhl, Caitlin, DGF

From: Brent Taft [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2018 6:42 PM
To: DGF-Bighorn-Rules
Subject: Bighorn Sheep Rules Changes

Hello,

I'd like to express my support for the addition of archery ewe hunts in the Pecos, Rio Grande Gorge, Latir, and Wheeler. I'd also love to see an archery ram hunt.

Thanks,
Brent Taft

Ruhl, Caitlin, DGF

From: shari kestenbaum ubeche [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 7:24 PM
To: DGF-Bighorn-Rules
Subject: Big Horn Sheep

There is a huge community against this senseless killing of Bighorn sheep in order to "save them". Domesticated sheep should be kept off of public lands instead. Shari Ubechel, Taos



COMMENT CARD

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Jim Welles

Officially Representing:

(Organization(s))

Your Title:

Do you wish to be heard?

Yes

No

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)

Please ~~require~~ change
the leashed reg on
highhorn, barbery, ibex, &
oryx -
Require a dog be used
to track wounded sheep
before hunter allowed to
take another Ram !!

Ruhl, Caitlin, DGF

From: Darrel Weybright [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 11:48 PM
To: DGF-Bighorn-Rules
Subject: YO hunts ??

Greetings, after reporting my unsuccessful JAV-1-102 hunt, I thought I'd peruse the Web re SGC items, ya know, jes checking what y'all were up to!!

I saw the following open-ended sentence in the BHS Summary of Proposed changes:

"Added new Youth Only hunts for ewes in "

About let it go then thought, naw, can't do it!! Just curious.

I'm impressed w/popn. estimates for both Rockies n deserts... well done!

A big howdy to everyone, cheers

DW

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device



MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

New Mexico State Game Commission

(Sign-in to be in the official record as having attended this meeting. Mark the box if you wish to be added to the meeting notifications mailing list.)

PLEASE PRINT

Hearing - Bighorn
5/22/18 1 A

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*NO public comments
AJF*

EXHIBIT

7

tabbles

**MEETING MINUTES
NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION**

Holiday Inn Express
60 Entrada Drive
Los Alamos, NM 87544
Tuesday May 22, 2018

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

APPEARANCES

Chairman Paul Kienzle

Vice Chairman Bill Montoya

Game Commissioner Thomas Salopek

Game Commissioner Craig Peterson

Game Commissioner Ralph Ramos

Game Commissioner Bob Ricklefs

Game Commissioner Elizabeth Ryan

ABSENT

None

[Audio in progress-Roll call]

COMMISSIONER: Here.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ryan.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Present.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ricklefs.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Here.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Salopek.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Present.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Vice Chairman Montoya.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Here.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Chairman Kienzle.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Present.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Chairman Kienzle, I believe we have a quorum.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: I'm going to screw this up so my apologies in advance. Hearing Officer's opening statement. This hearing will please come to order. My name is Paul Kienzle. I am Chairman of the State Game Commission. I will be serving as the hearing officer and may be advised by the Commission and its counsel from the Office of the Attorney General. The purpose of this hearing is for consideration of the Commission for final adoption of the following proposed rules. There are four in front of us today. I will read a summary of the four and then we will take them in order. We will vote at the end of each particular final rule. First hearing item is

number 1 for the Commission to receive public comment on proposed new bighorn sheep rule Title 19, Chapter 31, Part 17 of the New Mexico Administrative Code which will become effective April 1, 2019. The current bighorn sheep rule is set to expire on March 31, 2019. Second hearing item is number 2 for the Commission to receive public comment on proposed new Javelina rule Title 19, Chapter 31, Part 21 of the New Mexico Administrative Code which will become effective on April 1, 2019. Current Javelina rule is set to expire on March 31, 2019. Third hearing item is number 3, for the Commission to receive public comment on proposed new pronghorn antelope rule Title 19, Chapter 31, Part 15 of the New Mexico Administrative Code which will become effective on April 1, 2019. Current pronghorn antelope rule is set to expire on March 31, 2019. Fourth hearing item is number 4, for the Commission to receive public comment on the proposed repeal of the pronghorn allocation system rule Title 19, Chapter 30, Part 12 of the New Mexico Administrative Code which the repeal will become effective on March 31, 2019. The new pronghorn antelope rule Title 19, Chapter 31, Part 15 will replace the current pronghorn licensing allocation systems rule. These sets of hearings are being conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Game and Fish Act and the State Rules Act. The hearing is being audiotape recorded. Anyone interested in a copy of the audio tape record should contact Sandra with the Department of Game and Fish. Public notice of this hearing was advertised in the New Mexico Register, the Albuquerque Journal and the Santa Fe New Mexican, the New Mexico sunshine portal and on the Department's website. Copies of the proposed new rule have been available on the Department's website and at the Department office. Those that are speaking today, I need you to sign an attendance sheet and we will deal with that again to make sure we get that into the record. The attendance sheet while not exactly at the back of the room is at the side of the room and we will later enter that into the record as an exhibit. Now, let's see,

these sets of rule hearings will be conducted in the following manner. Staff will present pre-filed exhibits. Exhibits admitted into evidence are available for view by the public but exhibits may not be removed from this room. Colonel Griego will enforce that rule I'm sure. After all exhibits are entered, we will proceed to the presentation of the proposed rule after which testimony will be taken from anyone who has signed in in accordance with what I said earlier. I will place a time limit, typically I think we've had 2 minutes per speaker. For good cause or at discretion of the chair that time limit can be waived. In order to ensure that the hearing is accurately recorded, only one person at a time shall be allowed to speak. Any person recognized to speak is asked to (1) identify themselves by name and who they are affiliated with for the record each time you are recognized or each time you speak at the microphone which is to say, speak at the microphone not from your seat. And (2) speak loud and clear so the audio record is accurate and contains all of your comments. After a person has offered comment, they may be questioned by the hearing officer or other members of the Commission. The audience may direct questions to the Commission which may or may not then be answered by the Commission or by members of the Department subject to how that is handled by the Chair. This hearing is not subject to judicial rules of evidence. However, in the interest of efficiency, I do reserve the right to limit any testimony or comment deemed irrelevant, redundant or unduly repetitious. The Commission may discuss the proposed rules after public comment portion of the hearing. Final Commission action including adoption of the rules may occur after the conclusion of the presentation and public comment period of the hearing. If members of the Department recall, we do an informational portion, we close the record and then we actually go to a final action vote on the agenda item that's before us. As I said at the outset, we will vote on each agenda item as the record is closed on that rather than rolling them all up in one big vote at the end. I think the better practice is to

take things individually rather than lumping them all together under the circumstances today.

Okay, all of that having been said, I think I did the throat clearing part.

Hearing item number 1, the informational portion, rule making hearing on bighorn sheep rule 19.31.17 NMAC for the 2019-2023 seasons. This hearing is now open. Are there any exhibits for the proposed new part in rule to 19.31.17 for the record?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, there are 6 records: Exhibit 1, notice of the rulemaking; Exhibit 2, the initial proposed rule; Exhibit 3, presentation that's to be given to the Commission today; Exhibit 4, the summary of the proposed changes; Exhibit 5, the technical info that was relied upon to develop the rule; and Exhibit 6, ten public comments received for the record.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Do you have all those marked with numbers?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, that is correct.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Exhibits, you said six?

STEWART LILEY: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Exhibits 1 through 6 are admitted into the record. The public will have the opportunity to enter additional exhibits into the record but does the public have any letters or any other written documentary evidence they want to enter at this point in time? As I said before, I'll give you the opportunity to do it again if there is anything that you may wish to submit.

Stewart, would you please introduce the proposed new rule for 19.31.17.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, for bighorn a real quick background. Last year we had a high harvest success rate like we have on normal years. Again, we only had three unsuccessful hunters. One hunter couldn't go. And the other two, they

wounded an animal and decided to call off their hunt after they wounded the animal. So everyone had the opportunity that went hunting and took rams. Ewe harvest was about 50 percent. We did harvest a later season Rio Grande Gorge hunt and you'll see there a pretty high success and is trying to accomplish our goals for that population management. The Commission has seen this graph before but I just want to highlight again why the proposed rule is coming up is we have a high success and are continuing to see this strong success at growing bighorn sheep populations which is allowing us to increase hunting opportunities for bighorn sheep across both deserts and Rockies. The Department held public meetings in Albuquerque and Las Cruces. We had 17 attendees. We had just a few minor comments, allowing tracking dogs for wounded game that would be in Manner and Method which you will see later this year. Also some archery (indiscernible) opportunities which we did include in this proposed rule, and some changes to our enhancement program which we included in this rule as well to better manage how those enhancement hunters choose the units in which they'll hunt. So like all rules, we adjusted the season dates for calendar shifts. We increased, the proposal in front of you today is to increase the Rocky ram and the Rocky, excuse me, desert ram hunts up to 60 Rocky ram licenses and 60 desert ram licenses throughout the state. So, fairly significant. You'll see there in the last year, we had 29 Rockies and I believe 29 deserts so we're expecting in the next four years to where we can get it up to 120 desert and Rocky sheep ram hunters up on the ground, so a high success. We're really excited about it. Some of the things to accommodate that: we're including the Manzanos and the Jemez [phonetic] so right behind us we're going to include that in this rule. If the population gets there before 2023 when the season ends, we'll open it up to hunting. So there's the potential. We put it in this rule in case it gets there. And then also, the Manzanos, we haven't hunted the Manzanos yet but it's almost at that state where we could hunt that

population. In order to accommodate more hunts, we had to split some of these hunts out. You'll see some of those mountain ranges where we said no change, so the one hunt is fine. But in some we had to go into more hunts, like the Pecos, Wheeler, Latir and Rio Grande Gorge in order to accommodate those hunts. The rest of the mountain ranges that we're currently hunting, we are proposing continuing hunting but just sometimes more hunters. Other thing for deserts is really just a new hunt in the Fra Cristobals in February to spread out hunter density across the mountain range on that. That's our strongest desert sheep population right now but we are soon approaching other populations like the Caballos that are almost at the point of the Fra's, so again successful. With success comes more opportunity and also management of ewe populations as well because given that we are not able, we're filling all historical range of Rockies, we're at the point of harvesting ewes to manage populations. The proposal on that rule in front of you today is to up to 150 ewe licenses across all the different mountain ranges. What that really is, is the Pecos, Rio Grande Gorge, Wheeler and Latir. You'll see there that we have different hunts, multiple hunts for some of those like Rio Grande Gorge 3 hunts, Pecos 2. We also are creating some new archery ewe hunts for Rockies. That would be in Rio Grande Gorge and Wheeler where we're creating those. We currently have one in—and Pecos, excuse me—we currently have an archery ewe hunt in the Latir but this would open those 3 areas to some archery hunting to help meet our harvest management goals. One of the other things we would like to do is in our population management that takes concurrence by the Chairman is to make some ram hunts not once-in-a-lifetime. So what we're not looking for is a trophy ram but if we have to have a management hunt for disease issues or something like that and someone, we want them to harvest yearling rams or 2-year-old rams, we don't want to make that their once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. So that's a modification. And then like I said we proposed some changes to our

enhancement program on when the hunters have to make their declaration on which units they're going to hunt. And what there are changes. It moves it back a little bit later. Right now it's June first and now it's a month later. But then what it allows, when the hunters, when they get that one unit they declare but they can hunt other units that (indiscernible/cough) been declared is what this proposed change would do. (Indiscernible/cough) we heard the most comments on in the bighorn rules. With that I would take any questions.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: You're doing too good a job, so . . .

COMMISSIONER: (Indiscernible) an opportunity.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: No, I don't have any questions, just congratulations to you. Any questions or comments from Commissioners?

COMMISSIONER: Just keep our fingers crossed.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any public comment cards? No? Anyone from the public wish to comment on this? Going to make that number 7? We'll make the attendance sheet number 7. And I don't think there's any further exhibits from anybody? Okay. The last one, Exhibit 7, is entered into the record, or admitted into the record as well the attendance sheet. At this point in time, I am going to close the hearing on agenda item number 1a, I think is what we're calling it. And then we'll move to the action portion of this action item number 1b.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: I move to adopt the proposed changes to 19.31.17 NMAC as presented by the Department and allow the Department to make minor corrections to comply with filing this rule with state records and archives.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any questions or comments? Discussion? All in favor.

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: The ayes have it. Good job, Stewart. Thank you. That's a big deal.

CERTIFICATE

I, Rose Leonard and I, Cheryl Melgarejo,
DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the
above captioned transcription was prepared by me;
that the RECORDING was reduced to typewritten
transcript by me; that I listened to the entire
RECORDING; that the foregoing transcript is a
complete record of all material included thereon,
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transcription of the recorded proceedings, to the
best of my knowledge and hearing ability. The
recording was good.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed
by nor related to nor contracted with (unless
excepted by the rules) any of the parties or
attorneys in this matter, and that I have no
interest whatsoever in the final disposition of this
matter.

Rose Leonard

(Name of Transcriptionist)

Cheryl Melgarejo

(Name of Transcriptionist)

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**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION
Tuesday May 22, 2018
Holiday Inn Express (Meeting Room)
60 Entrada Dr. Los Alamos, NM 87544
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Alexandra Sandoval, Director and Secretary

Date

**Paul M. Kienzle III, Chairman
New Mexico State Game Commission**

Date

AS/scd