

COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA BRIEFING

Meeting Date: January 10, 2025

Agenda Number: 12

Presenter: Stewart Liley

Corroborator: N/A

Agenda Title: Proposed changes to pronghorn hunts in northeastern New Mexico

1. Summary of Agenda Item

The Department will provide the Commission with information regarding a decrease in pronghorn licenses in some GMUs in the Northeast for the 2025-2026 license year.

2. Background Information

For many years, pronghorn populations in northeastern NM have been robust with healthy adult and fawn survival. However, the last 4 years of aerial surveys have suggested a trend in decreased fawn and adult female survival. Together, these two metrics drive population productivity for all big game species, including pronghorn. Beginning in the 2025-2026 license year, the Department will eliminate all female – immature male public draw and over the counter pronghorn licenses from GMUs 41, 47, 56, 57, 58, and 59 and reduce other hunts in GMUs 41, 42, 47, 56, 57, 58, and 59 by 20%. This includes instituting a limit on over-the-counter private land licenses. The license adjustment is allowed under 19.31.15.8: *“The director, with the verbal concurrence of the chairperson of the New Mexico state game commission or their designee, may adjust the number of licenses, or authorizations for pronghorn up or down to address significant changes in population levels or to address critical department management needs. This adjustment may be applied to any or all of the specific hunt codes for pronghorn, and may include a limit to the number of private land-only licenses by hunt code.”*

3. Strategic Plan References and Possible Impacts of Agenda Item

The process as presented to the Commission meets the Conservation Services Program Objectives 1, 2, and 5 of the Department’s Strategic Plan: FY 2019 – FY 2023.

4. Considerations Regarding Duplications and/or Conflicts with Existing Rules or Statutes

None

5. Description and Summary of Public Involvement Process and Results

Some members of the public, including landowners, have independently reached out to the Department with concerns over the pronghorn population in the Northeast. The Department has also included information in our Rules and Information booklet outlining changes and what they mean to both hunters and landowners. Additionally, the Commission meeting

itself will serve as a venue to share information about this change.

6. Suggested Motion

This is a discussion item, and no motion is necessary, unless Commission discretion dictates otherwise.