

## COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA BRIEFING

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**Meeting Date:** January 9, 2026

**Agenda Number:** 10

**Presenter:** Tim Cimbal

**Corroborator:**

**Agenda Title:** Rule Hearing: Manner and Method Rule 19.31.10 NMAC Shed Hunting License

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### 1. Summary of Agenda Item

The purpose of this Rule Hearing is to adopt proposed changes in the Manner and Method Rule 19.31.10 NMAC related to shed hunting to take effect on April 1, 2026.

### 2. Background Information

Section 8 of SB 5 passed during the 2025 Legislative Session created a new shed hunter license for non-residents, 17-3-2 NMSA (1978) and set a license fee of \$200.00 for non-resident shed hunters, 17-3-13 NMSA (1978). To implement this section, the Department proposes to amend the Manner and Method Rule as follows:

- Non-residents must possess a shed hunting license to possess more than two obviously shed antlers found in the field
- All shed antlers collected in violation of Game Commission Rule remain property of the State and shall be seized
- A shed hunter license is not required for residents of New Mexico

### 3. Strategic Plan References and Possible Impacts of Agenda Item

The process as presented to the Commission meets the Conservation Services Program Objective 4 of the Departments Strategic Plan: FY2019 to FY2023.

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

None.

### 5. Description and Summary of Public Involvement Process and Results

#### Public Meeting Comments

Public meetings for the shed hunting rule were held in Albuquerque on July 17, 2025, and in Las Cruces on July 24, 2025. The Department also received 38 public comments via e-mail. Based upon comments received and Commission input, the Department did not change the proposal based upon public comment, although additional language was added to the proposed rule for clarification.

#### Rule Hearing Comments

The Department received one additional comment during the formal comment period on the shed hunting rule which was opposed to changing the rule.

## **6. Suggested Motion**

The Department respectfully recommends the following motion to ensure clarity of administrative action by the Commission:

- 1) Move to adopt amendments to the Manner and Method Rule, 19.31.10 NMAC, related to shed hunting as presented by the Department with an effective date of April 1, 2026, including potential minor edits as required by State Records and Archives