

Grouse Hunting for Beginners

by John Martsh
R-3 Program Manager



Credit: J. Martsh

Why Hunt Grouse?

- Opportunity for a rigorous, cardio workout
- Amazing views and vistas of the high country
- Challenging to find and shoot
- Lots of lean, mild tasting meat

Blue Grouse



Credit: J. Martsh



Alternate Names

- Dusky Grouse
- Mountain Grouse
- Pine Grouse
- Pine Hen
- Fool Hen

Definitions

- Male grouse - cock
- Female grouse - hen
- Baby grouse - cheeper
- Group of grouse - covey or pack

Preseason Scouting



Hunting Methods

- Flushing - a hunter tries to sneak up on a sighted grouse or flush an unseen one from behind or within cover. A dog can assist the hunter in pointing to a single bird or covey.

Flushing



Credit: S. Usrey

Clothing

- Make sure it is weather appropriate.
- Wear comfortable footwear.
- Use a hat or cap to keep the sun out of your eyes.
- Avoid bright colors, stick to: black, gray, brown, dark green and dark blue.

Essential Gear: Sporting Arm



Essential Gear: Ammunition



Essential Gear: Binoculars



Essential Gear: Upland Hunting Vest




GPS Unit



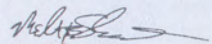
Essential Gear: Hearing Protection



Essential Gear: Hunting License and Stamps


 New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations

License 2019 - 2020
04/01/2019 - 03/31/2020


Michael B. Sloane
Director and Secretary to the Commission



License No: 299€ 0321 1619

License: 2999615 sold: 03/21/19 16:19
70 - 2nd Rod
28 - HMAV
63 - Habitat Stamp
36 - Game Hunt/Fish
License: 2999618 sold: 03/21/19 16:19
00 - HIP - 2999618
License: 3363388 sold: 10/17/19 11:11
89 - Band-Tailed Pigeon Permit
License: 337691 sold: 11/09/19 8:17
97 - Federal Duck Stamp



Name: [REDACTED]
Residence: NM since 08/10/1989

(505) 867-
CIN: 070
Gender: M
Height: 5' 11"
Weight: 185
Hair Color: Brown
Eye Color: Brown
HE #: [REDACTED] / State: NM
Active Duty/veteran: No
Legal firearm possession: Yes


Signature: 

Equipment inside Vehicle: Fillet Knife and Game Shears



Equipment inside Vehicle: Cooler and Gallon Freezer Bag



Rules and Regulations

Top 10

1. Grouse can be hunted ½ hour before sunrise to ½ an hour after sunset.
2. Grouse may be taken with shotguns firing shot, muzzleloading shotguns, rim-fire and muzzleloading firearms, bows, crossbows and compressed air guns firing a pellet .177 or larger.
3. Grouse and other upland game may be hunted with an unplugged shotgun.
4. The bag limit for Dusky Grouse is three per day. The possession limit is six Dusky Grouse.***
5. The grouse season is three months long, from Sept. 1 through Nov. 30.***

***Bag limits and season dates are subject to change, please consult the latest Upland Game Hunting Rules & Information booklet for the most up-to-date information.

Rules and Regulations

Top 10

It is unlawful to:

6. Hunt protected species without a license and all applicable permits, stamps or validations.
7. Exceed the daily bag limit or have more than the legal possession limit of any species.
8. Hunt any protected species outside of established season for that species.
9. Leave a fire unattended or improperly handle fire.
10. Park any motor vehicle or camp within 300 yards of any man-made water hole, water well or watering tank used by wildlife or domestic stock, without the prior consent of the land-owner, private-land lessee, public-land lessee or public-land management agency.

Conclusion

- A hunter education class is highly recommended for a beginner of any age.
- Find a good mentor and have fun.
- Teach a non-hunter how to grouse hunt.

