

STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING AND RULE MAKING NOTICE

The New Mexico State Game Commission ("Commission") has scheduled a regular meeting and rule hearing for Friday, November 30, 2018, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Roswell Convention and Civic Center, 912 N. Main St, Roswell, NM 88201, to hear and consider action as appropriate on the following: Presentation of proposed changes to the Private Land Elk Allocation rule.

Synopsis:

The proposal is to adopt a new Private Land Elk Allocation rule, 19.30.5 NMAC, which will become effective April 1, 2019. The current Private Land Elk Allocation rule is a permanent rule.

The proposed new rule creates commission approved guidelines to evaluate properties currently participating in or applying for the Elk Private Land Use System (EPLUS). Properties that do not meet minimum participation requirements based on the guidelines would be removed from the EPLUS program and any property submitting acre changes would be re-evaluated by the guidelines. The proposed new rule also changes the current distribution of private land elk authorizations by running the bonus and 2 year unconverted allocations through the small contributing ranch (SCR) pool first. Further proposed rule changes include removing the draw history system for SCRs and creating a random, weighted draw. It is also being proposed that properties in the secondary management zone will be able to purchase private land elk licenses over-the-counter with an assigned ranch code.

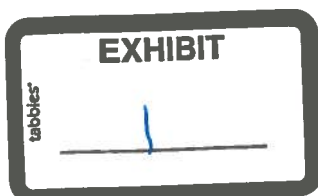
A more detailed summary, and the full text of changes, is available on the Department's website at: www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

Interested persons may submit comments on the proposed changes to the Private Land Elk Allocation rule at DGF-EPLUS-Rules@state.nm.us or individuals may submit written comments to the physical address below. Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on November 28, 2018. The final proposed rule will be voted on by the Commission during a public meeting on November 30, 2018. Interested persons may also provide data, views or arguments, orally or in writing, at the public rule hearing to be held on November 30, 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.



Clean Copy-Initial Proposed Rule

**TITLE 19
CHAPTER 30
PART 5**

**NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE ADMINISTRATION
PRIVATE LAND ELK LICENSE ALLOCATION**

19.30.5.1 ISSUING AGENCY: New Mexico department of game and fish.
[19.30.5.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.1 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.2 SCOPE: To acknowledge landowners who provide meaningful benefit to elk and accept elk on their properties and to provide hunting opportunities on private and public land to all elk hunters who wish to recreate within New Mexico's exterior boundaries. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and Chapters 30, 31, 32 and 33 of Title 19 NMAC.
[19.30.5.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.2 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Section 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. Statute 17-3-14.1 NMSA 1978 authorizes the director to issue landowner permits for the lawful taking of elk.
[19.30.5.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.3 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.4 DURATION: Permanent.
[19.30.5.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.4 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2019, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.30.5.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.5 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.6 OBJECTIVE: Establish an equitable and flexible system that recognizes the contributions of private lands and landowners to the management of elk and their habitats, while providing hunting opportunities on private lands, and to support appropriate, biologically sound, and effective harvest goals set by the department for elk.
[19.30.5.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.6 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.7 DEFINITIONS:

A. "Annual agreement" or "Agreement" shall mean the document that contains the specific ranch information, sets forth the terms and conditions of the agreement, special instructions, requirements and regulations concerning participation in this program and affirms a signatory understanding of such.

B. "Authorization number" or "Authorization" shall mean a multi-digit number which allows the holder to purchase a private land elk license specifying sex and sporting arm type. May also collectively refer to types and numbers of private land elk hunting opportunities available in a game management unit or assigned to a recipient pool of elk hunting opportunities.

C. "Authorization statement" shall mean the document generated by the department and issued to an authorized ranch contact that contains the authorization numbers, which allows the holder to purchase a specified license to hunt elk.

D. "Authorized Ranch Contact" or "ARC" shall mean the person designated in writing by the landowner(s) to act as the liaison between the ranch and the department. ARC is responsible for acting in the landowner(s) best interest and has the authority to sign an elk private lands use system agreement and receive authorization statements. All persons listed on the recorded deed(s) must sign and notarize an authorization of ranch contact form provided by the department authorizing the same individual as the authorized ranch contact.

E. "Base allocation" shall mean the number and authorization types issued to base ranches through the allocation formula.

F. "Base ranch" shall mean a ranch in the primary management zone able to receive at least one whole authorization through the allocation formula based on weighted acreage and ranch score.

G. "Bonus allocation" shall mean the number and authorization types represented by private lands not participating in the elk private lands use system in the primary management zone, through the allocation formula.

H. "Co-op" shall mean more than one ranch enrolled by separate landowners and combined together as a single ranch and naming a single ARC.

EXHIBIT

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- I. **"Deeded acres"** shall mean privately owned acres that can be verified by the department.
- J. **"Department"** shall mean the New Mexico department of game and fish.
- K. **"Director"** shall mean the director of the New Mexico department of game and fish.
- L. **"Elk Contribution Rating" or "ECR"** shall mean the rating assigned to a ranch by appropriate department staff based on the following: occasional elk presence shall receive an ECR of 1, frequent elk presence shall receive an ECR of 1.25, continuous elk presence shall receive an ECR of 1.5.
- M. **"EPLUS"** shall mean the elk private lands use system.
- N. **"Game Management Unit" or "GMU"** shall mean those areas as described in 19.30.4 NMAC Boundary Descriptions for Game Management Units.
- O. **"Inactivation"** shall mean the procedure that immediately stops all issuance of authorizations and suspends participation in the program.
- P. **"In review"** shall mean a period of time during which an active ranch may be placed into temporary suspension, stopping agreements and authorization statements from being issued to the ARC, until the department review concludes that all participation requirements have been met.
- Q. **"Landowner"** shall mean the person(s) listed on the most current recorded deed(s) being considered as a ranch for participation, is responsible for signing the initial application, and is responsible for assigning a single authorized ranch contact.
- R. **"Meaningful benefit"** shall mean a variety of elk habitat components that are known to be beneficial to elk throughout at least one season and further determined by state game commission adopted participation guidelines.
- S. **"Participation guidelines"** shall mean the written requirements for enrollment and participation in the program that department staff use to evaluate ranches and approved by the state game commission.
- T. **"Percent weighted acres"** shall mean the quotient of a ranch's weighted acres divided by the total private acres in the primary management zone within a GMU.
- U. **"Primary management zone"** shall mean areas of the state designated by the department upon which elk management goals and subsequent harvest objectives are based.
- V. **"Public land"** shall mean those lands held by state, federal, or public land use agencies.
- W. **"Ranch"** shall mean any deeded acres included in an agreement and treated as a single property.
- X. **"Ranch-only"** shall mean a ranch whose ARC has selected the ranch-only hunting option as defined on their agreement or whose ranch is located in a GMU designated as ranch-only.
- Y. **"Ranch-only authorization number"** shall mean a private land authorization that allows a person to purchase an elk license only valid on the designated ranch except as otherwise allowed by rule.
- Z. **"Ranch score"** shall mean the score resulting from the ranches evaluation as defined in participation guidelines.
- AA. **"Secondary management zone"** shall mean areas of the state that are not part of the primary management zone or special management zone.
- AB. **"Small Contributing Ranch" or "SCR"** shall mean those ranches that meet the minimum qualifications to participate, but are unable to receive at least one whole authorization pursuant to the allocation formula based on weighted acreage alone.
- AC. **"SCR pool"** shall mean the number and authorization types that result from the fractional consolidation of authorizations awarded to small contributing ranches through the allocation formula.
- AD. **"Special management zone"** shall mean areas of the state not within the primary management zone or secondary management zone and where private land authorization issuance includes eligibility requirements or restrictions.
- AE. **"Two year unconverted"** shall mean the number and authorization types initially allocated to participating properties but not converted to licenses averaged over the previous two license years.
- AF. **"Unit-wide"** shall mean a ranch whose ARC has selected the unit-wide hunting option as defined on their agreement and received a unit-wide authorization(s) for the current license year. The unit-wide selection allows hunters who have a unit-wide license from the ranch to hunt any legally accessible public lands, other unit-wide ranches, and other private land with written permission within the GMU as well as allows any other licensed elk hunter with either a public draw license or a unit-wide elk license access to the unit-wide ranch.
- AG. **"Unit-wide authorization number"** shall mean an authorization that allows a person to purchase an elk license valid on any legally accessible public lands, other unit-wide ranches, and other private land with written permission within the GMU.
- AH. **"Weighted acres"** shall mean the product of a ranch's deeded acres multiplied by the elk contribution rating assigned to that ranch.

[19.30.5.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.7 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.8 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZATION DISTRIBUTION IN THE PRIMARY MANAGEMENT ZONE:

A. Minimum requirements:

- (1) Private lands that lie within the primary management zone.
- (2) Private lands that demonstrate regular elk use and provide meaningful benefits to elk as determined by appropriate department staff and in accordance with commission approved guidelines.
- (3) Only landowners and ARCs who agree in writing to accept elk on their property will be considered for participation in EPLUS.
- (4) Landowner and ARC must agree that participation is voluntary. Number of authorizations may vary annually and are based on GMU harvest objectives found in 19.31.14 NMAC. There is no guarantee of a specific number of authorizations issued each year.
- (5) Any property which is part of a subdivision, village or town that does not allow hunting or restricts the discharge of all sporting arm types will be disqualified from participation in EPLUS. All other properties within a subdivision, village or town will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- (6) The department encourages landowners whose properties do not qualify to cooperate with other landowners to create co-ops to meet minimum participation requirements.

B. Enrollment and initial application:

- (1) Landowners who wish to participate in EPLUS must submit a completed application provided by the department. Applications must include all required documentation as determined by the department and name a single ARC. Only the property owner(s) listed on the recorded deed(s) may submit an initial EPLUS application and assign an ARC. If there are multiple owners listed on the property deed(s), all co-owners must sign an affidavit authorizing one of the owners to be responsible for the initial application.
- (2) The application must include the most recent recorded property ownership records including property legal descriptions and maps or surveys sufficient to establish the legal landowner(s) and property boundaries.
- (3) Application must be submitted to the department, hand delivered or post marked, no later than January 5 of each year. Applications received without all required documentation or hand delivered or postmarked after January 5 shall be rejected. Applications rejected as a result of missing documents may be corrected and resubmitted through February 1 to be included that year if the original application was submitted by the January 5 deadline. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.
- (4) Applications will be reviewed by appropriate department staff so a determination can be made as to the application satisfying the requirements set forth in Subsection A of 19.30.5.8 NMAC.
- (5) Ranches meeting the requirements set forth in Subsection A of 19.30.5.8 NMAC will be assigned an elk contribution rating and must meet a minimum ranch score to be eligible for authorizations pursuant to the processes set forth in Subsection D of 19.30.5.8 NMAC.
- (6) ARCs with ranches that do not meet the requirements set forth in Subsection A of 19.30.5.8 NMAC will be advised and provided options including the right to request a review of the department's decision as outlined in 19.30.5.12 NMAC.

C. Participating ranches:

- (1) All ARCs for participating ranches will receive an agreement annually.
- (2) The annual agreement will list the name, address, and phone number of the authorized ranch contact, the number of deeded acres considered, the ranch score and the elk contribution rating assigned. It will provide the opportunity to request a review of the listed acreage, the ranch score and the assigned elk contribution rating. The agreement will set out the terms for participation and provide the ability to elect the ranch-only option. The annual agreement will require the ARC to notify the department of any changes affecting the ranch's enrollment or participation eligibility. The annual agreement must be signed and initialed by the ARC where designated and returned to the department via hand delivery or post marked no later than January 5 each year. Failure to meet these requirements will result in the agreement not being activated for the current license year. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

(3) Any ranch for which rightful ownership or legal representation cannot be determined shall be placed in review until such time as rightful ownership or legal representation is verified. If after one year, adequate documentation of ownership is not provided, the ranch will be inactivated.

(4) Landowners requesting to split their separately deeded properties currently under one ranch into separate ranches shall be required to submit a new application for each property. Ranches whose property is entirely contained on one deed may not be split.

(5) Upon the second consecutive year of non-receipt of the annual agreement, the department will inactivate the respective ranch until a new initial application has been submitted.

(6) Ranches that are sold or transferred to new ownership must apply as required for initial participation.

(a) The department may make reasonable accommodations in circumstances where transfer of ownership occurs after the January 5 deadline.

(7) Participating ranches that the department determines no longer qualify for participation shall be sent written notice of inactivation for the following license year.

(8) Appropriate department staff may adjust the elk contribution rating or ranch score for any participating ranch annually. In the case an adjustment is warranted, the ARC will be contacted and notified of the rating change.

(9) Any landowner who requests interventions to eliminate the presence of elk on their participating acreage in accordance with 19.30.2 NMAC shall be placed in review. If the depredation only applies to a portion of the ranch and the remaining acreage continues to provide meaningful benefit to elk, only the acreage where depredation response actions are to occur will be inactivated. Exceptions to this may be considered by appropriate department staff on a case-by-case basis.

(10) Should any landowner or ARC take action pursuant to Section 17-2-7.2 NMSA 1978 the ranch upon which the action occurred shall immediately be inactivated from EPLUS for a period of three years and all unconverted authorizations may be voided.

(11) All participating ranches will be subject to the requirements found in this section on an annual basis. Any change affecting a ranch's qualifications for this program will result in that ranch being re-evaluated to determine if the ranch meets the minimum requirements.

D. Determination of authorizations:

(1) In each GMU, the pool of private land elk authorizations shall be comprised of the base allocation, bonus allocation, two year unconverted and SCR pool.

(2) A portion of the bonus allocations or two year unconverted, should they be available, may be distributed to specific ranches in the form of incentive authorizations issued in recognition of significant contributions to elk management.

(3) The base allocation per ranch will be set as follows:

(a) A ranch's deeded acres multiplied by that ranch's elk contribution rating equals ranch weighted acres.

(b) A ranch's weighted acres divided by the total private deeded acres in the GMUs primary management zone equals that ranches percent ranch weighted acres.

(c) Percent ranch weighted acres multiplied by the number of available private land elk authorizations for the GMU equals the number of authorizations per ranch.

(d) All ranches receiving at least one whole authorization through the allocation formula will be considered a base ranch and will receive a base allocation.

(e) When a ranch is unable to receive at least one whole authorization through the allocation formula, the ranch will become a SCR.

(f) The combined fractional authorizations from SCRs will comprise the allocations available in the SCR pool.

(4) Distribution of the SCR pool will be as follows:

(a) SCRs will compete in a yearly, random, drawing weighted on the ranches ranch score for authorizations.

(b) SCRs may receive not more than one authorization through the yearly, random drawing.

(c) Bonus allocations and two year unconverted authorizations remaining after the issuance of incentive authorizations will be added into the pool for the SCR drawing.

(5) Authorizations not distributed in the SCR draw will be redistributed to base ranches pursuant to the allocation formula.

- (6) All authorizations issued to a ranch pursuant to this section will be:
 - (a) Considered unit-wide unless otherwise requested by the ARC, or
 - (b) In GMUs 4 and 5A, authorizations will be ranch-only but transferrable to other private lands within the specific GMU with written landowner permission.
- E. Inactivation:
 - (1) A landowner or ARC, along with the ranch shall be inactivated for:
 - (a) providing or permitting misrepresentation of the ranch's participating deeded acreage, ranch ownership or designated ARC;
 - (b) prohibiting access to other unit-wide license holders or public draw hunting license holders; or
 - (c) the landowner or ARC violating Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 or state game commission rules involving licenses converted with the ranches' authorization(s), or being an accessory to the same, regardless of whether the violation occurred on or off the ranch, resulting in a violation(s) that accumulates 20 or more revocation points pursuant to 19.31.2 NMAC on any single individual.
 - (2) A landowner or ARC, along with the ranch may be inactivated for breaching or violating any other condition of the EPLUS agreement.
 - (3) Upon determination that a violation or breach of Paragraph 1 or Paragraph 2 of this Subsection or any other inactivation provision in 19.30.5.8 NMAC has occurred, the landowner and ARC shall be notified explaining the determination for the inactivation.
 - (4) Should the landowner or ARC have multiple properties in EPLUS, all properties may be inactivated from EPLUS and disqualified from participation in department sponsored programs.
 - (5) If a ranch is signed up in a co-op, inactivation action(s) may be taken against the co-op in its entirety or individual properties participating that form the co-op and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - (6) If the inactivated ranch(s) changes ownership during the disqualification period, the department may consider the ranch for future participation.
 - (7) Inactivation from EPLUS and disqualification from department sponsored programs may be for a period up to three years.
 - (8) The landowner may request a review that shall be held in accordance with the processes set forth in 19.30.5.12 NMAC. The standard of proof in cases where no conviction is involved shall be the preponderance of evidence. If a conviction has been rendered, a certified copy or a filed copy of the conviction from any court of competent jurisdiction shall be conclusive evidence of a violation.

[19.30.5.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.8 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.9 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZATION DISTRIBUTION IN THE SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONE:

- A. Minimum requirements:
 - (1) Private lands that lie within the special management zone.
 - (2) Private lands must provide demonstrated occasional elk use to be eligible.
 - (3) Only landowners and ARCs who agree in writing to accept elk on their property will be considered for participation in EPLUS.
 - (4) Landowner and ARC must agree that participation is voluntary. Number of authorizations may vary annually and are based on elk management objectives found in 19.31.14 NMAC. There is no guarantee of a specific number of authorizations issued each year.
 - (5) Any property which is part of a subdivision, village or town that does not allow hunting or restricts the discharge of all sporting arm types will be disqualified from participation in EPLUS. All other properties within a subdivision, village or town will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- B. Enrollment and initial application:
 - (1) Landowners who wish to participate in EPLUS must submit a completed application provided by the department. Applications must include all required documentation as determined by the department and name a single ARC. Only the property owner(s) listed on the recorded deed(s) may submit an initial EPLUS application and assign an ARC. If there are multiple owners listed on the property deed(s), all co-owners must sign an affidavit authorizing one of the owners to be responsible for the initial application.

(2) The application must include the most recent recorded property ownership records including property legal descriptions and maps or surveys sufficient to establish the legal landowner(s) and property boundaries.

(3) Applications may be submitted at any time.

(4) Applications will be reviewed by appropriate department staff so a determination can be made as to the application satisfying the requirements set forth in Subsection A of 19.30.5.9 NMAC. Applications received without all required documentation shall be rejected. Rejected applications may be corrected and resubmitted.

C. Participating ranches:

(1) All ARCs for participating ranches will receive an agreement annually.

(2) The annual agreement will list the name, address and phone number of the ARC and the number of deeded acres considered. It will provide the opportunity to request a review of the listed acreage. The agreement will set out the terms for participation. The annual agreement will require the ARC to notify the department of any changes affecting the ranch's enrollment or participation eligibility. The annual agreement must be signed and initialed by the ARC where designated and returned to the department each year. Failure to return the agreement will result in the agreement not being activated for the current license year.

(3) Any ranch for which rightful ownership or legal representation cannot be determined shall be placed in review until such time as rightful ownership or legal representation is verified. If after one year, adequate documentation of ownership is not provided the ranch will be inactivated.

(4) Ranches that are sold or transferred to new ownership must apply as required for initial participation.

(5) Any landowner who requests interventions to eliminate the presence of elk on their participating acreage in accordance with 19.30.2 NMAC shall be placed in review. Should the landowner enter into a depredation agreement with the department, the acreage where depredation response actions are to occur will be inactivated from EPLUS. Exceptions to this may be considered by appropriate department staff on a case-by-case basis.

(6) Should any landowner or ARC take action pursuant to Section 17-2-7.2 NMSA 1978 the ranch upon which the action occurred shall immediately be inactivated from EPLUS for a period of three years and all unconverted authorizations may be voided.

(7) All participating ranches will be subject to the requirements found in this section on an annual basis. Any change affecting a ranch's qualifications for this program will result in that ranch being re-evaluated to determine if the ranch meets the minimum requirements.

D. Determination of authorizations:

(1) Authorizations within the special management zone will be determined on a ranch-by-ranch basis and negotiated between the department and the ARC.

(2) Bag limits, sporting arm type, and season dates will follow the provisions found in 19.31.14 NMAC in the special management zone. Season dates requested outside those found in 19.31.14 NMAC shall be considered on a ranch-by-ranch basis and not conflict with department management goals.

(3) All authorizations shall be ranch-only and transferrable to other private lands within the specified GMU with written landowner permission. Written permission requirements for access on private property will follow the provisions found in 19.31.10 NMAC.

E. Inactivation:

(1) A landowner or ARC, along with the ranch shall be inactivated for:

(a) providing or permitting misrepresentation of the ranch's participating deeded acreage, ranch ownership or designated ARC; or

(b) the landowner or ARC violating Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 or state game commission rules involving licenses converted with the ranch's authorization(s), or being an accessory to the same, regardless of whether the violation occurred on or off the ranch, resulting in a violation(s) that accumulates 20 or more revocation points pursuant to 19.31.2 NMAC on any single individual.

(2) A landowner or ARC, along with the ranch may be inactivated for breaching or violating any other condition of the EPLUS agreement.

(3) Upon determination that a violation or breach of Paragraph 1 or Paragraph 2 of this Subsection or any other inactivation provision in 19.30.5.9 NMAC has occurred, the landowner and ARC shall be notified explaining the determination for the inactivation.

(4) Should the landowner or ARC have multiple properties in EPLUS, all properties may be inactivated from EPLUS and disqualified from participation in department sponsored programs.

(5) If a ranch is signed up in a co-op, inactivation action(s) may be taken against the co-op in its entirety or individual properties participating that form the co-op and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

(6) If the inactivated ranch(s) changes ownership during the disqualification period, the department may consider the ranch for future participation.

(7) Inactivation from EPLUS and disqualification from department sponsored programs may be for a period up to three years.

(8) The landowner may request a review that shall be held in accordance with the processes set forth in 19.30.5.12 NMAC. The standard of proof in cases where no conviction is involved shall be the preponderance of the evidence. If a conviction has been rendered, a certified copy or a filed copy of the conviction from any court of competent jurisdiction shall be conclusive evidence of a violation.

[19.30.5.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.9 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.10 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS IN THE SECONDARY MANAGEMENT ZONE:

A. Minimum requirements:

(1) Private lands that lie within a secondary management zone.

B. Enrollment process:

(1) Land ownership documentation will be required that will verify the ranch lies within a secondary management zone.

(2) Requests for a ranch code may be submitted to the department at any time.

(3) Ranch ownership must be affirmed on an annual basis.

C. Bag limits, sporting arm type, and season dates will follow the provisions found in 19.31.14 NMAC in the secondary management zone. Season dates requested outside those found in 19.31.14 NMAC shall be considered on a ranch-by-ranch basis.

D. Ranches within the secondary management zone will be issued a ranch code annually to identify individual ownership.

(1) Ranch code will be required to purchase a private land elk license for a specific ranch.

E. All licenses require written permission and shall be valid only on the specified property and transferrable with written permission to other private lands within the specified GMU. Written permission requirements for access on private property will follow the provisions found in 19.31.10 NMAC.

[19.30.5.10 NMAC - N, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.11 SPECIAL MANAGEMENT RANCH:

A. In the primary or special management zones, the department may identify unique ranches of any size as a special management ranch.

B. A department approved conservation plan will be required and developed in conjunction with the landowner and will include habitat improvement, population management, and harvest management goals as a minimum.

(1) Alternative season dates, bag limits, sporting arm types, and additional authorizations may be considered for these ranches.

(2) Authorizations issued pursuant to these management plans:

(a) Shall be ranch only and not transferrable to other private lands;

(b) Will be considered based on documented habitat improvements or maintenance of habitat enhancement projects or existing habitat quality;

(c) May be as a result of working directly with the department on special projects related to population management or research needs in the GMU; and

(d) Shall be allocated to assure elk management goals as stated in 19.31.14 NMAC are sustainable and appropriate within the GMU and on the participating ranch.

(3) The conservation plan must be updated and submitted by January 5 on an annual basis to be approved by the department.

[19.30.5.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.11 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.12 LANDOWNER RIGHT TO REVIEW:

A. Landowners or ARCs for participating ranches shall have the right to request a review of the following:

- (1) The number of deeded acres.
- (2) The elk contribution rating assigned to the ranch.
- (3) The ranch score.
- (4) A decision by the department that a ranch does not meet the minimum requirements to participate.
- (5) Other inactivation provisions within 19.30.5 NMAC.

B. Requests to review deeded acres, ranch score, or the elk contribution rating shall be submitted on the annual agreement.

C. ARCs for newly applying ranches or existing ranches that the department determines do not meet the minimum requirements to participate per commission approved guidelines will be given the opportunity to request a review of the department's finding.

D. All review requests will be submitted to the EPLUS manager and handled in accordance below:

(1) All ranches that the department determines do not meet the minimum participation requirements or have been inactivated for other provisions within 19.30.5 NMAC will be sent a letter explaining the determination along with an objection form explaining documentation requirements.

(2) ARCs who wish to request a review of the department's determination must complete and return the objection form along with all requested documentation within 30 days of the date on the department's letter.

(3) Upon receipt of the requested documentation the department will assign staff to re-evaluate the ranch in question. The department shall have 45 days to complete this evaluation.

(4) If the second evaluation shows the ranch meets the minimum participation requirements or if the inactivation was not warranted the ARC will be sent a follow up letter and the ranch will be allowed to participate in the program.

(5) If, after a second evaluation, it is determined that the ranch still does not meet participation requirements the ARC will be sent a follow up letter explaining the determination.

(6) The ARC may submit a letter to the EPLUS manager requesting a division evaluation should they feel the second decision is in error. The ARC may submit any additional documents or a written statement along with the request for the evaluation. This request and any additional documents must be received by the department within 30 days of the date on the department's second evaluation letter.

(7) A division evaluation will be conducted by the division chief of the wildlife management division or his or her designee(s) and will be designed to ensure that commission approved guidelines and the intent of this rule have been appropriately applied to the ranch in question. A recommendation as to the ranch's participation eligibility will be sent to the director.

(8) The ARC will be notified in writing of the determination made by the director within 45 days of the submission of the ARC letter.

(9) The ARC may submit a letter within 30 days of the date on the department's letter regarding the director's decision to the EPLUS manager requesting a commission evaluation should they feel the director's decision is in error.

(10) The commission shall review the director's determination during a scheduled commission meeting. Within 20 days after the commission's decision is rendered and signed by the chairperson of the commission, the department shall provide the ARC with the written determination which will stand as the final decision of the department.

[19.30.5.13 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.12 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.13 DEPARTMENT RIGHT TO REQUEST UPDATED DOCUMENTATION AND CONDUCT AUDITS:

A. The department reserves the right to request the submission of complete ownership documentation at any time during the year should an audit determine that documents are missing or participation requirements are in question.

(1) Should necessary documentation be found missing resulting from any audit, the ranch will be placed in review and documents will be requested.

(2) The department request for updated documents may include but is not limited to the most recent recorded property ownership records showing clear ownership and include property legal descriptions and maps or surveys that will establish the legal landowner(s) and property boundaries.

B. Failure to respond to the initial document request shall result in the ranch remaining in review until:

- (1) The requested documents are received and verified; and
- (2) Authorizations can be issued without affecting the allocation of other participating ranches.

C. If after one year, adequate documentation of ownership is not provided, the ranch will be inactivated.

[19.30.5.14 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.13 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

HISTORY OF 19.30.5 NMAC:

Pre-NMAC History:

Regulation No. 658, Establishing A System For Allocating Elk Licenses On Private And Public Lands Within Game Management Units, 6-1-88.

Regulation No. 667, Establishing A System For Allocating Elk Licenses On Private And Public Lands Within Game Management Units, 9-1-89.

NMAC History:

19.30.5 NMAC, Elk Private Land Use System - Replaced 4-1-2019

History of Repealed Material:

19.30.5 NMAC, Private Land Elk License Allocation, filed January 4, 2001 is hereby repealed and replaced by

19.30.5 NMAC, Private Land Elk License Allocation, effective 10-17-2005.

19.30.5 NMAC, Private Land Elk License Allocation - Repealed 4-1-2019

Initial Proposed Rule

TITLE 19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE
CHAPTER 30 WILDLIFE ADMINISTRATION
PART 5 PRIVATE LAND ELK LICENSE ALLOCATION

19.30.5.1 ISSUING AGENCY: New Mexico [~~Department of Game and Fish~~] department of game and fish.
[19.30.5.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.1 NMAC, [10-17-2005] 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.2 SCOPE: [~~Landowners~~] To acknowledge landowners who provide meaningful benefit to elk and accept elk on their properties and to provide hunting opportunities on private and public land to all elk hunters who wish to recreate [~~on deeded lands or public lands~~] within New Mexico's exterior boundaries. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and Chapters 30, 31, 32 and 33 of Title 19 NMAC.
[19.30.5.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.2 NMAC, [10-17-2005] 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Section 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state game commission [~~with the~~] 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. Statute 17-3-14.1 NMSA 1978 authorizes the director to issue landowner permits for the lawful taking of elk.
[19.30.5.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.3 NMAC, [10-17-2005] 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.4 DURATION: Permanent.
[19.30.5.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.4 NMAC, [10-17-2005] 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: [~~October 17, 2005~~] April 1, 2019, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.30.5.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.5 NMAC, [10-17-2005] 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.6 OBJECTIVE: Establish an equitable and flexible system that recognizes the contributions of private lands and landowners to the management of elk and their habitats, while providing [~~for economic benefit, and an~~] hunting opportunities on private lands, and to support appropriate, biologically sound, and effective harvest [~~through sport hunting~~] goals set by the department for elk.
[19.30.5.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.6 NMAC, [10-17-2005] 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.7 DEFINITIONS:

A. "Annual agreement" or "Agreement" shall mean the document that contains the specific ranch information, sets forth the terms and conditions of the agreement, special instructions, requirements and regulations concerning participation in this program and affirms a signatory understanding of such.

B. "Authorization number" or "Authorization" shall mean a multi-digit number which allows the holder to purchase a private land elk license specifying sex and sporting arm type. May also collectively refer to types and numbers of private land elk hunting opportunities available in a game management unit or assigned to a recipient pool of elk hunting opportunities.

~~[H.]~~ **C. "[~~Private land authorization certificate~~] Authorization statement"** [~~will~~] shall mean the document generated by the department and issued to [~~a private landowner~~] an authorized ranch contact that [~~authorizes~~] contains the authorization numbers, which allows the holder to purchase a specified license to hunt elk.

D. "Authorized Ranch Contact" or "ARC" shall mean the person designated in writing by the landowner(s) to act as the liaison between the ranch and the department. ARC is responsible for acting in the landowner(s) best interest and has the authority to sign an elk private lands use system agreement and receive authorization statements. All persons listed on the recorded deed(s) must sign and notarize an authorization of ranch contact form provided by the department authorizing the same individual as the authorized ranch contact.

E. "Base allocation" shall mean the number and authorization types issued to base ranches through the allocation formula.

F. "Base ranch" shall mean a ranch in the primary management zone able to receive at least one whole authorization through the allocation formula based on weighted acreage and ranch score.

G. "Bonus allocation" shall mean the number and authorization types represented by private lands not participating in the elk private lands use system in the primary management zone, through the allocation formula.

H. “Co-op” shall mean more than one ranch enrolled by separate landowners and combined together to form a single ranch and naming a single ARC.

I. “Percent public land” shall mean the percentage of the area within a game management unit designated as core occupied elk range that is public land.]

[E.] I. “[Occupied ~~deeded~~] Deeded acres” shall mean privately owned acres that [are within the designated core occupied elk range and occupied by elk] can be verified by the department.

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

K. “Percent private land” shall mean the percentage of the area within a game management unit designated as core occupied elk range that is private land.]

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

L. “Private land elk opportunity” shall mean the portion of the unit’s harvest objective translated to private land authorizations.]

[T.] L. “Elk [contribution rating] Contribution Rating” or “ECR” shall mean the rating assigned to [each] a ranch [based on the contribution a ranch is making to elk as determined by the level and frequency of elk presence on the ranch. The district officer or area game manager shall assign each ranch an elk contribution rating] by appropriate department staff based on the following: occasional elk presence shall receive an ECR of 1, frequent elk presence shall receive an ECR of 1.25, continuous elk presence shall receive an ECR of 1.5.

M. “Elk harvest success rate” shall mean the success rate of elk hunters who hunted pursuant to licenses issued through the conversion of private land authorizations and public draw licenses in each game management unit as determined by hunter harvest surveys.]

M. “EPLUS” shall mean the elk private lands use system.

[V.] N. “Game [management unit] Management Unit” or “GMU” shall mean those areas as described in [the state game commission’s rule] 19.30.4 NMAC Boundary Descriptions for [Wildlife] Game Management [Areas] Units.

[G.] O. “Inactivation” [is the New Mexico department of game and fish (department)] shall mean the procedure that immediately stops all issuance of authorizations and [eligibility for] suspends participation in the program.

[A.] P. “[Review] In review” [is] shall mean a period of time during which [a landowner, or] an active ranch may be placed into temporary suspension, stopping agreements and authorization statements from being issued to the ARC, until the department review concludes that all participation requirements have been met.

[B.] Q. “Landowner” [is] shall mean the [person] person(s) listed on the most current recorded deed(s) being considered as a ranch for participation, is responsible for signing the initial application, and is responsible for assigning a single authorized ranch contact. [responsible for initial enrollment, signing and forwarding documents, and providing information and reporting changes to the property.]

[W.] R. “Meaningful benefit [to elk]” shall mean [properties that lie within the area designated as a core occupied elk range and contain various elk habitat components that are known to be beneficial to elk during some time of the year. Properties that provide “meaningful benefit” to elk must also exhibit physical evidence that elk are present at least occasionally throughout one or more seasons of the year.] a variety of elk habitat components that are known to be beneficial to elk throughout at least one season and further determined by state game commission adopted participation guidelines.

S. “Participation guidelines” shall mean the written requirements for enrollment and participation in the program that department staff use to evaluate ranches and approved by the state game commission.

[G.] T. “Percent [occupied] weighted acres” shall mean the quotient of a [specific property’s private] ranch’s weighted acres divided by the total private [weighted] acres in the primary management zone within a GMU.

[D.] U. “[Core occupied elk range] Primary management zone” [“COER”] shall mean [the portion of land within the boundaries of a game management unit (GMU) that is] areas of the state designated by the department [as containing the majority of routine and substantial elk use. This shall be the area that] upon which elk management goals and subsequent harvest objectives are based [on].

[N.] V. “Public land” shall mean those lands held by state, federal, or public land use agencies.

[O.] W. “Ranch” shall mean [those deeded lands as enrolled in the program:] any deeded acres included in an agreement and treated as a single property.

X. “Bull Authorization” shall mean any authorization (except either sex bow only) that authorizes the taking of a bull elk as the bag limit.]

[S.] **X.** “Ranch-only [ranch]” shall mean a ranch whose [owner] ARC has selected the ranch-only hunting option as defined on their agreement [with the department] or whose ranch is located in a [unit] GMU designated as ranch-only.

[Y.] “Temporary suspension” shall allow the participating ranch to remain in E-PLUS but stops authorizations from being issued to the landowner until the participating ranch is no longer in review.]

[P.] **Y.** “Ranch-only authorization [certificate] number” shall mean a [type of] private land authorization that allows a person to purchase [a] an elk license [to hunt those deeded lands within] only valid on the designated ranch [exterior boundaries] except as otherwise allowed by rule.

Z. “Ranch score” shall mean the score resulting from the ranches evaluation as defined in participation guidelines.

AA. “Secondary management zone” shall mean areas of the state that are not part of the primary management zone or special management zone.

[U.] **AB.** “Small [contributing ranch] Contributing Ranch” or “SCR” shall mean those ranches that meet the minimum qualifications to participate, but are unable to [qualify for authorizations] receive at least one whole authorization pursuant to the allocation formula based on weighted acreage alone.

AC. “SCR pool” shall mean the number and authorization types that result from the fractional consolidation of authorizations awarded to small contributing ranches through the allocation formula.

AD. “Special management zone” shall mean areas of the state not within the primary management zone or secondary management zone and where private land authorization issuance includes eligibility requirements or restrictions.

AE. “Two year unconverted” shall mean the number and authorization types initially allocated to participating properties but not converted to licenses averaged over the previous two license years.

[R.] **AF.** “Unit-wide [ranch]” shall mean a ranch whose [owner] ARC has selected the unit-wide hunting option as defined on their [hunting] agreement [with the department] and received a unit-wide authorization(s) for the current license year. The unit-wide selection allows hunters who have a unit-wide license from the ranch to hunt any legally accessible public lands, other unit-wide ranches, and other private land with written permission within the GMU as well as allows any other licensed elk hunter with either a public draw license or a unit-wide elk license access to the unit-wide ranch.

[Q.] **AG.** “Unit-wide authorization [certificate] number” shall mean [a type of private land] an authorization that allows a person to purchase [a] an elk license [to hunt] valid on any legally accessible public lands, [and] other unit-wide ranches, and other private land with written permission within the [unit] GMU.

[F.] **AH.** “[Private weighted acres] Weighted acres” shall mean the product of a [specific property’s occupied] ranch’s deeded acres multiplied by the elk contribution rating assigned to that [specific property] ranch. [19.30.5.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.7 NMAC, [10-17-2005; A, 2-13-2009] 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.8 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZATION DISTRIBUTION IN THE PRIMARY MANAGEMENT ZONE:

A. Minimum [qualifications] requirements:

(1) Private lands that lie within [core occupied elk range] the primary management zone.

(2) Private lands that demonstrate regular elk use and provide meaningful benefits to elk[, at least occasionally,] as determined by [the] appropriate [district officer or game manager] department staff and in accordance with commission approved guidelines.

(3) Only landowners [or lessees] and ARCs who agree in writing to accept elk on their property will be considered for participation in EPLUS. [Any landowner who accepts interventions to reduce or eliminate the presence of elk on their enrolled acreage in accordance with 19.30.2 NMAC in writing by signing a form approved by the department or takes action pursuant to Section 17-2-7.2 NMSA 1978 shall have automatically elected to become ineligible for continued participation in this program. The participating ranch will immediately be inactivated from E-PLUS and all unconverted authorizations will be voided. If the depredation only applies to a portion of the property and the remaining acreage continues to provide meaningful benefit to elk, only the acreage where depredation response actions are to occur will be inactivated. Exceptions to this may be allowed when short-term or unusual circumstances that are typically not associated with the normal presence of elk using land and forage on the property exist. In these instances, if the landowner desires to continue contributing to elk, the department may allow the landowner to continue participating in this system while seeking resolution to the short-term or unusual damage pursuant to the depredation program. Evidence of depredation may be used as documentation of elk presence to ensure the appropriate ECR has been assigned.]

(4) Landowner and ARC must agree that participation is voluntary. ~~[is based on annual variation in habitat and elk populations, and there]~~ Number of authorizations may vary annually and are based on GMU harvest objectives found in 19.31.14 NMAC. There is no guarantee of a specific number of authorizations issued each year.

~~[(5) All participating properties annually will be subject to the requirements found in this section.]~~

(5) Any property which is part of a subdivision, village or town that does not allow hunting or restricts the discharge of all sporting arm types will be disqualified from participation in EPLUS. All other properties within a subdivision, village or town will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

~~[(6) Private lands that lie within villages, towns or recorded subdivisions with covenants or ordinances that prohibit hunting or the discharge of firearms will be ineligible to participate unless part of a department approved combined property choice under Paragraph (8) of Subsection E of 19.30.5.9 NMAC.]~~

(6) The department encourages landowners whose properties do not qualify to cooperate with other landowners to create co-ops to meet minimum participation requirements.

~~[(7) Private lands that if hunted, would result in safety concerns as determined by the district officer will be ineligible to participate unless allowed pursuant to a specific agreement containing provisions for minimizing safety concerns.]~~

~~[(8) Landowners requesting to split their separately deeded contiguous properties currently under one sign up into smaller separate signups are required to submit their request on an approved form and provide required documentation and justification to support the request. Such requests will be reviewed by the director who will determine if reasonable justification exists to grant approval.]~~

B. Enrollment ~~[process]~~ and initial application:

~~[(1) Initial application:]~~

~~[(a)]~~ (1) Landowners who ~~[choose to enroll]~~ wish to participate in ~~[the system]~~ EPLUS must submit a completed application ~~[form approved]~~ provided by the department. ~~[Application]~~ Applications must include all required documentation as determined by the department and name a single ARC. Only the property ~~[owner]~~ owner(s) listed on the recorded ~~[deed]~~ deed(s) may submit an initial EPLUS application and assign an ARC. If there are multiple owners listed on the property ~~[deed]~~ deed(s), all co-owners must sign an affidavit authorizing one of the owners to be responsible for the initial ~~[enrollment and all paperwork associated with the enrolled property]~~ application.

(2) The application must include the most recent recorded property ownership records including property legal descriptions and maps or surveys sufficient to establish the legal landowner(s) and property boundaries.

~~[(b)]~~ (3) Application must be submitted to the department, hand delivered or post marked, no later than ~~[February 1]~~ January 5 of each year. Applications received without all required documentation or hand delivered or postmarked after ~~[February 1]~~ January 5 shall be rejected. ~~[Rejected applications]~~ Applications rejected as a result of missing documents may be corrected and resubmitted through ~~[March]~~ February 1 to be included that year if the original application was submitted by the ~~[February 1]~~ January 5 deadline. ~~[but the applicant mistakenly omitted necessary documentation or a documented family emergency, sickness or death resulted in the application deadline being missed.]~~ Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

~~[(c)]~~ (4) ~~[Accepted applications]~~ Applications will be ~~[forwarded]~~ reviewed by ~~[the]~~ appropriate department ~~[to the appropriate area game manager and district officer]~~ staff so ~~[that]~~ a determination can be made as to the application satisfying the requirements set forth in Subsection A of 19.30.5.8 NMAC.

~~[(d)]~~ (5) ~~[Properties]~~ Ranches meeting the requirements set forth in Subsection A of 19.30.5.8 NMAC will be assigned an elk contribution rating and must meet a minimum ranch score to be eligible for ~~[authorization certificates]~~ authorizations pursuant to the processes set forth in ~~[Sections 9 and 12 of 19.30.5]~~ Subsection D of 19.30.5.8 NMAC.

~~[(e)]~~ (6) ~~[Landowners]~~ ARCs with ~~[properties]~~ ranches that do not meet the requirements set forth in Subsection A of 19.30.5.8 NMAC will be advised and provided options ~~[and alternatives]~~ including the right to ~~[appeal]~~ request a review of the department's decision as outlined in 19.30.5.12 NMAC ~~[with regard to meeting the minimum requirements for participation].~~

~~[(f)]~~ Area game managers and district officers may place newly enrolling properties on review for a period of time not to exceed 12 months to allow sufficient time to determine if the minimum requirements have been met and assign the proper elk contribution rating.]

~~[(2)]~~ C. Participating ranches:

(a) (1) All [authorized ranch contacts] ARCs for participating ranches will receive an agreement [and affidavit of ownership form] annually.

(b) (2) The annual agreement [and affidavit of ownership form] will list the name, address, and phone number of the authorized ranch contact, the number of deeded acres considered, the ranch score and the elk contribution rating assigned. It will provide the opportunity to [appeal] request a review of the listed acreage, the ranch score and the assigned elk contribution rating. [and allow for the authorized ranch contact to notify the department of appropriate changes. If changes include the addition or reduction of deeded acreage, a new property boundary map and deed for the added acreage must be submitted with the agreement.] The agreement [portion of the form] will set out the terms for participation and provide the ability to elect the ["ranch only"] ranch-only option. The annual agreement will require the ARC to notify the department of any changes affecting the ranch's enrollment or participation eligibility. The annual agreement must be signed and initialed by the ARC where designated and returned to the department via hand delivery or post marked no later than January 5 each year. Failure to meet these requirements will result in the agreement not being activated for the current license year. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

(c) — The agreement and affidavit of ownership form must be signed and initialed where designated and returned to the department via hand delivery or post marked no later than February 1 each year. Failure to meet these requirements will result in the ranch being placed on review until the following year when the process begins again. If circumstances beyond the control of the authorized ranch contact or a documented family emergency, sickness or death, resulted in this deadline being missed, the department may accept completed agreement and affidavit of ownership forms through March 1.

(d) — If a landowner represents or permits the false representation of the property's enrolled private acreage, or breaches or violates the conditions of any EPLUS hunting agreement, entered into with the department, the landowner will be inactivated from further participation in EPLUS and any other department sponsored private land program for a period of up to 3 years. Upon the department's determination that a violation or breach has occurred, the landowner shall be notified via certified mail. The landowner may request a hearing that shall be held in accordance with the processes set forth in 19.31.2.13 NMAC (without reference to points) through Subsection A of 19.31.2.22 NMAC.]

(e) (3) Any [property in which the landowner does not hold] ranch for which rightful ownership or legal representation [of a property contrary to representation in an E-PLUS application or E-PLUS active agreement] cannot be determined shall be placed in review until such time as rightful [claimed] ownership or legal representation [contrary to representation in an E-PLUS application] is [determined and] verified [to the reasonable satisfaction of the department]. If after one year, adequate documentation of ownership is not provided, the ranch will be inactivated.

(4) Landowners requesting to split their separately deeded properties currently under one ranch into separate ranches shall be required to submit a new application for each property. Ranches whose property is entirely contained on one deed may not be split.

(f) (5) [After 2 years] Upon the second consecutive year of non-receipt of [affidavits] the annual agreement, the department will inactivate the respective ranch until a new initial application has been submitted [by the following February 1 deadline].

(g) — Requests to add occupied deeded acreage for the upcoming season must include a map showing the new property boundary and be included with the agreement and affidavit of ownership form submitted by the February 1 deadline.]

(h) (6) [Properties] Ranches that are sold or transferred to new ownership must [re-apply] apply as required for initial [enrollment] participation [by the February 1 deadline. The previous owner must report any reduction in acreage resulting from sale or transfer, on their annual affidavit of ownership and provide an updated map documenting the acreage reduction. Properties, or portions of properties, that have been reported by the previous owner as sold or transferred will be considered un-enrolled until the new owners apply as an initial signup].

(i) (a) The department may make reasonable accommodations in circumstances where transfer of ownership occurs after the [February 1] January 5 deadline.

(j) (7) [All participating] Participating ranches that the department determines [do not meet minimum requirements] no longer qualify for participation shall be sent written notice of inactivation [in the system] for the following license year.

~~[(4)]~~ (8) District officers and game managers. Appropriate department staff may adjust the elk contribution rating or ranch score for any participating ranch annually. In the case an adjustment is warranted, the landowner ARC will be contacted and notified of the rating change.

(9) Any landowner who requests interventions to eliminate the presence of elk on their participating acreage in accordance with 19.30.2 NMAC shall be placed in review. If the depredation only applies to a portion of the ranch and the remaining acreage continues to provide meaningful benefit to elk, only the acreage where depredation response actions are to occur will be inactivated. Exceptions to this may be considered by appropriate department staff on a case-by-case basis.

(10) Should any landowner or ARC take action pursuant to Section 17-2-7.2 NMSA 1978 the ranch upon which the action occurred shall immediately be inactivated from EPLUS for a period of three years and all unconverted authorizations may be voided.

(11) All participating ranches will be subject to the requirements found in this section on an annual basis. Any change affecting a ranch's qualifications for this program will result in that ranch being re-evaluated to determine if the ranch meets the minimum requirements.

(f) Participating landowners in GMU 51 may receive modified agreements for the 2009 license year that provide 2 options for participation. Landowner selection of option I shall result in the property participating as identified in 19.30.5.9 NMAC. Landowner selection of option II shall require that landowner submit a director approved "Ranch Only - Non-Transferrable" request form identifying the number of either sex only authorizations and season dates requested. Only requests deemed to be reasonable and appropriate shall be approved by the director. Allowable season dates shall be as identified on the request form and shall not include any dates from May 15 through July 15 annually. Licenses that result from the conversion of these authorizations shall be valid only on the deeded private property of the ranch for which they were issued. All participating landowners in GMU 51 will be required to participate pursuant to the option they select for both the 2009-2010 and the 2010-2011 license years. Small contributing ranches that elect option II in the 2009-2010 license year, and select option I in the 2011-2012 license year, will be ineligible to participate in drawings for bull authorization certificates in that GMU until such time as all small contributing ranches in that GMU have successfully drawn a bull authorization certificate. The department shall present an evaluation of this trial program to the state game commission by June 2010 with recommendation to continue, modify, or eliminate.]

D. Determination of authorizations:

(1) In each GMU, the pool of private land elk authorizations shall be comprised of the base allocation, bonus allocation, two year unconverted and SCR pool.

(2) A portion of the bonus allocations or two year unconverted, should they be available, may be distributed to specific ranches in the form of incentive authorizations issued in recognition of significant contributions to elk management.

(3) The base allocation per ranch will be set as follows:

(a) A ranch's deeded acres multiplied by that ranch's elk contribution rating equals ranch weighted acres.

(b) A ranch's weighted acres divided by the total private deeded acres in the GMUs primary management zone equals that ranches percent ranch weighted acres.

(c) Percent ranch weighted acres multiplied by the number of available private land elk authorizations for the GMU equals the number of authorizations per ranch.

(d) All ranches receiving at least one whole authorization through the allocation formula will be considered a base ranch and will receive a base allocation.

(e) When a ranch is unable to receive at least one whole authorization through the allocation formula, the ranch will become a SCR.

(f) The combined fractional authorizations from SCRs will comprise the allocations available in the SCR pool.

(4) Distribution of the SCR pool will be as follows:

(a) SCRs will compete in a yearly, random, drawing weighted on the ranches ranch score for authorizations.

(b) SCRs may receive not more than one authorization through the yearly, random drawing.

(c) Bonus allocations and two year unconverted authorizations remaining after the issuance of incentive authorizations will be added into the pool for the SCR drawing.

(5) Authorizations not distributed in the SCR draw will be redistributed to base ranches pursuant to the allocation formula.

(6) All authorizations issued to a ranch pursuant to this section will be:

(a) Considered unit-wide unless otherwise requested by the ARC, or

(b) In GMUs 4 and 5A, authorizations will be ranch-only but transferrable to other private lands within the specific GMU with written landowner permission.

E. Inactivation:

(1) A landowner or ARC, along with the ranch shall be inactivated for:

(a) providing or permitting misrepresentation of the ranch's participating deeded acreage, ranch ownership or designated ARC;

(b) prohibiting access to other unit-wide license holders or public draw hunting license holders; or

(c) the landowner or ARC violating Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 or state game commission rules involving licenses converted with the ranches' authorization(s), or being an accessory to the same, regardless of whether the violation occurred on or off the ranch, resulting in a violation(s) that accumulates 20 or more revocation points pursuant to 19.31.2 NMAC on any single individual.

(2) A landowner or ARC, along with the ranch may be inactivated for breaching or violating any other condition of the EPLUS agreement.

(3) Upon determination that a violation or breach of Paragraph 1 or Paragraph 2 of this Subsection or any other inactivation provision in 19.30.5.8 NMAC has occurred, the landowner and ARC shall be notified explaining the determination for the inactivation.

(4) Should the landowner or ARC have multiple properties in EPLUS, all properties may be inactivated from EPLUS and disqualified from participation in department sponsored programs.

(5) If a ranch is signed up in a co-op, inactivation action(s) may be taken against the co-op in its entirety or individual properties participating that form the co-op and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

(6) If the inactivated ranch(s) changes ownership during the disqualification period, the department may consider the ranch for future participation.

(7) Inactivation from EPLUS and disqualification from department sponsored programs may be for a period up to three years.

(8) The landowner may request a review that shall be held in accordance with the processes set forth in 19.30.5.12 NMAC. The standard of proof in cases where no conviction is involved shall be the preponderance of evidence. If a conviction has been rendered, a certified copy or a filed copy of the conviction from any court of competent jurisdiction shall be conclusive evidence of a violation.

[19.30.5.8 NMAC - [N, 10-17-2005; A, 12-14-2006; A, 2-13-2009] Rp, 19.30.5.8 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

[19.30.5.9 DETERMINATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF PRIVATE LAND AUTHORIZATIONS AND PUBLIC LAND LICENSES:

A. The department will determine the area considered core occupied elk range within each GMU and will determine the number and kind of hunting opportunities by bag limit and weapon type available in each GMU based on harvest objectives and harvest success rates for that GMU.

B. Public land elk licenses will be set for each unit as follows:

(1) The elk harvest objective for the core occupied elk range of the GMU is divided by the average harvest success rate to derive the total number of elk hunting opportunities.

(2) The total number of elk hunting opportunities multiplied by the proportion of the core occupied elk range that is public land equals the number of public draw elk hunting licenses.

C. Private land elk authorization certificates will be set for each unit as follows: The total number of elk hunting opportunities multiplied by the proportion of the core occupied elk range that is private land equals the number of private land elk authorization certificates.

D. The base number and type of elk authorization certificates per ranch will be set as follows:

(1) A ranch's occupied deeded acres multiplied by that ranch's elk contribution rating equals ranch weighted acres.

(2) A ranch's weighted acres divided by total private land weighted acres in the unit's core occupied elk range equals percent occupied ranch weighted acres.

(3) Percent occupied ranch weighted acres multiplied by the number of available private land authorization certificates of each type for the unit equal the number of authorization certificates per ranch. E. In each GMU, a pool of authorization certificates] will be identified as follows:

(1) The number and type of authorization certificates allocated to private lands not enrolled in the system.

(2) The number and type of private land authorization certificates allocated to enrolled properties in the base allocation but not converted to licenses (based on the previous 2 years average if permit levels were similar).

(3) The number and type of authorization certificates that result from the consolidation of the weighted acres of all small contributing properties

(4) A portion of this pool of authorization certificates may be distributed to small contributing properties pursuant to voluntary participation in a drawing or other equitable distribution process each year.

(5) A portion of this pool of authorization certificates may be distributed to qualifying properties in the form of "bonus" authorization certificates issued pursuant to the allocation formula.

(6) A portion of this pool of authorization certificates may be distributed to specific properties in the form of "incentive" authorization certificates issued in recognition of significant habitat enhancement for elk.

(7) Small contributing ranches that are unable to compete for authorization certificates pursuant to the allocation formula in 19.30.5.9 NMAC will be enrolled in a drawing for "unit wide" authorization certificates available pursuant to that unit's pool of authorization certificates as described above, enrolled in a drawing for "unit wide" authorization certificates from other specified GMUs when such are available, or cooperate with other properties per Paragraph (8) of Subsection E below. Once a small contributing ranch has been successful in drawing a bull authorization certificate for the GMU in which the property participates, it will be ineligible for bull authorization certificates in that GMU until such time as all small contributing ranches in that GMU have successfully drawn a bull authorization certificate. This shall also apply to antlerless and either sex archery bag limits and any other bag limit that is established in the 19.31.14 NMAC.

(8) Throughout this allocation process, the department will encourage landowners to cooperate and combine acreage to the extent possible on a willing basis to help them qualify for the most beneficial or useful issuance of authorization certificates.

F. All authorization certificates issued to private lands pursuant to this section will be considered "unit wide" unless otherwise requested by the landowner.]

[19.30.5.9 NMAC—N, 10-17-2005; A, 2-13-2009]

19.30.5.10 PRIVATE LAND ONLY UNITS:

A. In GMUs 41, 42, 43, 46, 47, 54, 55A, 55B, 56A, 57, 58, and 59, the department will use input from landowners to develop appropriate numbers and bag limits for ranch-only authorization certificates needed to achieve the desired and proper harvest within the exterior boundaries of participating ranches.

B. In GMUs 4 and 5A, the department will allocate authorizations pursuant to 19.30.5.9 NMAC.

C. All authorizations issued to private lands in GMUs 4, 5A, 46, 54, 55A, 56, 57, and 58 will be transferable with written permission. Licenses resulting from converting these authorizations will be valid only on the deeded property for which the authorization was issued or other private land in the unit if the license holder has written permission from the landowner, or person in control of the land to hunt the private property except "ranch only" authorizations issued pursuant to Sections 11 and 12 of 19.30.5 NMAC below.]

[19.30.5.10 NMAC—N, 10-17-2005; A, 2-13-2009]

19.30.5.11 19.30.5.9 [LANDS OUTSIDE THE CORE OCCUPIED ELK RANGE:] PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZATION DISTRIBUTION IN THE SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONE:

A. For private lands that are not within core occupied elk range or private lands that lay within GMUs with no designated core occupied elk range, the department may work with interested landowners to develop appropriate bag limits, weapon types, season dates and authorization numbers for private land hunting needed to achieve the desired and proper elk harvest within the exterior boundaries of participating ranches. Private lands that are not within the [COER] may enroll any time with no application deadlines.

B. For public lands in GMUs with no designated core occupied elk range, the department may determine public hunting opportunities through the processes set forth in 19.31.8 NMAC.]

A. Minimum requirements:

- (1) Private lands that lie within the special management zone.
- (2) Private lands must provide demonstrated occasional elk use to be eligible.
- (3) Only landowners and ARCs who agree in writing to accept elk on their property will be considered for participation in EPLUS.
- (4) Landowner and ARC must agree that participation is voluntary. Number of authorizations may vary annually and are based on elk management objectives found in 19.31.14 NMAC. There is no guarantee of a specific number of authorizations issued each year.

(5) Any property which is part of a subdivision, village or town that does not allow hunting or restricts the discharge of all sporting arm types will be disqualified from participation in EPLUS. All other properties within a subdivision, village or town will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

B. Enrollment and initial application:

(1) Landowners who wish to participate in EPLUS must submit a completed application provided by the department. Applications must include all required documentation as determined by the department and name a single ARC. Only the property owner(s) listed on the recorded deed(s) may submit an initial EPLUS application and assign an ARC. If there are multiple owners listed on the property deed(s), all co-owners must sign an affidavit authorizing one of the owners to be responsible for the initial application.

(2) The application must include the most recent recorded property ownership records including property legal descriptions and maps or surveys sufficient to establish the legal landowner(s) and property boundaries.

(3) Applications may be submitted at any time.

(4) Applications will be reviewed by appropriate department staff so a determination can be made as to the application satisfying the requirements set forth in Subsection A of 19.30.5.9 NMAC. Applications received without all required documentation shall be rejected. Rejected applications may be corrected and resubmitted.

C. Participating ranches:

(1) All ARCs for participating ranches will receive an agreement annually.

(2) The annual agreement will list the name, address and phone number of the ARC and the number of deeded acres considered. It will provide the opportunity to request a review of the listed acreage. The agreement will set out the terms for participation. The annual agreement will require the ARC to notify the department of any changes affecting the ranch's enrollment or participation eligibility. The annual agreement must be signed and initialed by the ARC where designated and returned to the department each year. Failure to return the agreement will result in the agreement not being activated for the current license year.

(3) Any ranch for which rightful ownership or legal representation cannot be determined shall be placed in review until such time as rightful ownership or legal representation is verified. If after one year, adequate documentation of ownership is not provided the ranch will be inactivated.

(4) Ranches that are sold or transferred to new ownership must apply as required for initial participation.

(5) Any landowner who requests interventions to eliminate the presence of elk on their participating acreage in accordance with 19.30.2 NMAC shall be placed in review. Should the landowner enter into a depredation agreement with the department, the acreage where depredation response actions are to occur will be inactivated from EPLUS. Exceptions to this may be considered by appropriate department staff on a case-by-case basis.

(6) Should any landowner or ARC take action pursuant to Section 17-2-7.2 NMSA 1978 the ranch upon which the action occurred shall immediately be inactivated from EPLUS for a period of three years and all unconverted authorizations may be voided.

(7) All participating ranches will be subject to the requirements found in this section on an annual basis. Any change affecting a ranch's qualifications for this program will result in that ranch being re-evaluated to determine if the ranch meets the minimum requirements.

D. Determination of authorizations:

(1) Authorizations within the special management zone will be determined on a ranch-by-ranch basis and negotiated between the department and the ARC.

(2) Bag limits, sporting arm type, and season dates will follow the provisions found in 19.31.14 NMAC in the special management zone. Season dates requested outside those found in 19.31.14 NMAC shall be considered on a ranch-by-ranch basis and not conflict with department management goals.

(3) All authorizations shall be ranch-only and transferrable to other private lands within the specified GMU with written landowner permission. Written permission requirements for access on private property will follow the provisions found in 19.31.10 NMAC.

E. Inactivation:

(1) A landowner or ARC, along with the ranch shall be inactivated for:

(a) providing or permitting misrepresentation of the ranch's participating deeded acreage, ranch ownership or designated ARC; or

(b) the landowner or ARC violating Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 or state game commission rules involving licenses converted with the ranches' authorization(s), or being an accessory to the same, regardless of whether the violation occurred on or off the ranch, resulting in a violation(s) that accumulates 20 or more revocation points pursuant to 19.31.2 NMAC on any single individual.

(2) A landowner or ARC, along with the ranch may be inactivated for breaching or violating any other condition of the EPLUS agreement.

(3) Upon determination that a violation or breach of Paragraph 1 or Paragraph 2 of this Subsection or any other inactivation provision in 19.30.5.9 NMAC has occurred, the landowner and ARC shall be notified explaining the determination for the inactivation.

(4) Should the landowner or ARC have multiple properties in EPLUS, all properties may be inactivated from EPLUS and disqualified from participation in department sponsored programs.

(5) If a ranch is signed up in a co-op, inactivation action(s) may be taken against the co-op in its entirety or individual properties participating that form the co-op and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

(6) If the inactivated ranch(s) changes ownership during the disqualification period, the department may consider the ranch for future participation.

(7) Inactivation from EPLUS and disqualification from department sponsored programs may be for a period up to three years.

(8) The landowner may request a review that shall be held in accordance with the processes set forth in 19.30.5.12 NMAC. The standard of proof in cases where no conviction is involved shall be the preponderance of the evidence. If a conviction has been rendered, a certified copy or a filed copy of the conviction from any court of competent jurisdiction shall be conclusive evidence of a violation.

[19.30.5.11 NMAC - [N, 10-17-2005; A, 6-15-2006; A, 2-13-2009] Rp, 19.30.5.9 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.10 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS IN THE SECONDARY MANAGEMENT ZONE:

A. Minimum requirements:

(1) Private lands that lie within a secondary management zone.

B. Enrollment process:

(1) Land ownership documentation will be required that will verify the ranch lies within a secondary management zone.

(2) Requests for a ranch code may be submitted to the department at any time.

(3) Ranch ownership must be affirmed on an annual basis.

C. Bag limits, sporting arm type, and season dates will follow the provisions found in 19.31.14 NMAC in the secondary management zone. Season dates requested outside those found in 19.31.14 NMAC shall be considered on a ranch-by-ranch basis.

D. Ranches within the secondary management zone will be issued a ranch code annually to identify individual ownership.

(1) Ranch code will be required to purchase a private land elk license for a specific ranch.

E. All licenses require written permission and shall be valid only on the specified property and transferrable with written permission to other private lands within the specified GMU. Written permission requirements for access on private property will follow the provisions found in 19.31.10 NMAC.

[19.30.5.10 NMAC - N, 4-1-2019]

[19.30.5.12] 19.30.5.11 SPECIAL MANAGEMENT [PROPERTIES] RANCH:

A. In [all GMUs] the primary or special management zones, the department may [treat specifically identified or] identify unique [properties] ranches of any [practical] size as a special management [properties] ranch. [and consider alternative season dates, bag limits and additional authorization certificates based on a required elk conservation ranch management plan developed in conjunction with the landowner and approved by the department. Authorization certificates issued pursuant to these management plans shall be ranch only authorization certificates, will be calculated based on habitat benefits and associated elk opportunity accrued, and will be in addition to those allocated for public and private hunters in the GMU. Properties that enter into a special management property agreement are required to update and submit the required elk conservation ranch management plan on an annual basis for review and approval by the department to receive consideration for continued participation as a special management property. Properties that elect to participate pursuant to this section shall be ineligible for any appeal process.]

B. A department approved conservation plan will be required and developed in conjunction with the landowner and will include habitat improvement, population management, and harvest management goals as a minimum.

(1) Alternative season dates, bag limits, sporting arm types, and additional authorizations may be considered for these ranches.

(2) Authorizations issued pursuant to these management plans:

(a) Shall be ranch only and not transferrable to other private lands;

(b) Will be considered based on documented habitat improvements or maintenance of habitat enhancement projects or existing habitat quality;

(c) May be as a result of working directly with the department on special projects related to population management or research needs in the GMU; and

(d) Shall be allocated to assure elk management goals as stated in 19.31.14 NMAC are sustainable and appropriate within the GMU and on the participating ranch.

(3) The conservation plan must be updated and submitted by January 5 on an annual basis to be approved by the department.

[19.30.5.12 NMAC - [N, 10-17-2005; A, 2-13-2009] Rp, 19.30.5.11 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

[19.30.5.13] 19.30.5.12 LANDOWNER RIGHT TO [APPEAL] REVIEW:

A. Landowners or ARCs for participating ranches shall have the right to [appeal] request a review of [only] the following:

(1) The number of deeded acres [of elk occupied range].

(2) The elk contribution rating assigned to the [property] ranch.

(3) The ranch score.

[(3)] (4) A decision by the department that a [property] ranch does not meet the minimum requirements to participate.

(5) Other inactivation provisions within 19.30.5 NMAC.

B. [Appeals based on] Requests to review deeded acres, ranch score, or the elk contribution rating shall be submitted [with] on the annual [affidavit] agreement.

C. [Written appeals] ARCs for newly [enrolling properties] applying ranches or existing ranches that [are based on failure to] the department determines do not meet the minimum requirements to participate [may be submitted to the department at any time] per commission approved guidelines will be given the opportunity to request a review of the department's finding.

[D. — The department may take the necessary amount of time needed to properly consider any appeals, but no more than 12 months.]

D. All review requests will be submitted to the EPLUS manager and handled in accordance below:

(1) All ranches that the department determines do not meet the minimum participation requirements or have been inactivated for other provisions within 19.30.5 NMAC will be sent a letter explaining the determination along with an objection form explaining documentation requirements.

(2) ARCs who wish to request a review of the department's determination must complete and return the objection form along with all requested documentation within 30 days of the date on the department's letter.

(3) Upon receipt of the requested documentation the department will assign staff to re-evaluate the ranch in question. The department shall have 45 days to complete this evaluation.

(4) If the second evaluation shows the ranch meets the minimum participation requirements or if the inactivation was not warranted the ARC will be sent a follow up letter and the ranch will be allowed to participate in the program.

(5) If, after a second evaluation, it is determined that the ranch still does not meet participation requirements the ARC will be sent a follow up letter explaining the determination.

(6) The ARC may submit a letter to the EPLUS manager requesting a division evaluation should they feel the second decision is in error. The ARC may submit any additional documents or a written statement along with the request for the evaluation. This request and any additional documents must be received by the department within 30 days of the date on the department's second evaluation letter.

(7) A division evaluation will be conducted by the division chief of the wildlife management division or his or her designee(s) and will be designed to ensure that commission approved guidelines and the intent of this rule have been appropriately applied to the ranch in question. A recommendation as to the ranch's participation eligibility will be sent to the director.

(8) The ARC will be notified in writing of the determination made by the director within 45 days of the submission of the ARC letter.

(9) The ARC may submit a letter within 30 days of the date on the department's letter regarding the director's decision to the EPLUS manager requesting a commission evaluation should they feel the director's decision is in error.

(10) The commission shall review the director's determination during a scheduled commission meeting. Within 20 days after the commission's decision is rendered and signed by the chairperson of the commission, the department shall provide the ARC with the written determination which will stand as the final decision of the department.

[E. In all cases of appeal, the landowner shall be responsible for providing the appropriate documentation, photographic or physical proof required substantiating the claim.

F. All participating ranches that the department determines do not meet minimum requirements for participation shall be sent written notice of inactivation in the system for the following license year. These ranches shall be afforded the opportunity to appeal this decision by submission of documentation, photographic or physical evidence proving the minimum requirements have been met. The department must receive these appeals post marked or hand delivered no later than August 1 each year. Properties that appeal a decision by the department that their property does not meet the minimum requirements will be afforded the necessary amount of time needed to provide the department with photographic or physical confirmation of their property's contribution to elk, but no more than 12 months.

G. All appeals will be made to the respective area chief. If an appeal is not resolved at the area chief level, the landowner may request a hearing conducted by a panel consisting of the director and 3 game commissioners, appointed by the chairman of the state game commission. The commission representatives on the panel should reflect commissioner districts and geographic areas of elk range. Recommendations of this panel shall be provided to the director, whose decision shall be based on the panel's recommendation. The decision of the director shall be final pursuant to 17-3-14.1 NMSA 1978. All requests for hearings must be made no later than April 1 of each year.]

[19.30.5.13 NMAC - [N, 10-17-2005; A, 2-13-2009] Rp, 19.30.5.12 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

[19.30.5.14] 19.30.5.13 DEPARTMENT RIGHT TO REQUEST UPDATED DOCUMENTATION AND CONDUCT AUDITS:

A. The department reserves the right to request the submission of complete ownership documentation [including but not limited to deeds and tax valuation and legal description,] at any time during the year should an audit determine that documents are missing or participation requirements are in question. [Each request shall consist of a telephone notification and a written request. Each notification shall include a reasonable deadline for compliance and any failure to comply shall result in the property being placed on review until such time as the department receives the requested documentation and the property can be issued authorizations without affecting allocations to other participating properties. If the landowner fails to comply with the update requirement within six months from the original request date, the property will then be inactivated and removed from participation in EPLUS. If the landowner wishes to participate again, they will be required to reapply as a new participating ranch pursuant to the enrollment process outlined under 19.30.5.8 NMAC and provide the required update documents with the initial application.]

(1) Should necessary documentation be found missing resulting from any audit, the ranch will be placed in review and documents will be requested.

(2) The department request for updated documents may include but is not limited to the most recent recorded property ownership records showing clear ownership and include property legal descriptions and maps or surveys that will establish the legal landowner(s) and property boundaries.

B. Failure to respond to the initial document request shall result in the ranch remaining in review until:

(1) The requested documents are received and verified; and

(2) Authorizations can be issued without affecting the allocation of other participating ranches.

C. If after one year, adequate documentation of ownership is not provided, the ranch will be inactivated.

[19.30.5.14 NMAC - ~~N, 10-17-2005; A, 2-13-2009~~] Rp, 19.30.5.13 NMAC, 4-1-2019

HISTORY OF 19.30.5 NMAC:

Pre-NMAC History:

Regulation No. 658, Establishing A System For Allocating Elk Licenses On Private And Public Lands Within Game Management Units, 6-1-88.

Regulation No. 667, Establishing A System For Allocating Elk Licenses On Private And Public Lands Within Game Management Units, 9-1-89.

NMAC History:

19.30.5 NMAC, Elk Private Land Use System - Replaced 4-1-2019

History of Repealed Material:

19.30.5 NMAC, Private Land Elk License Allocation, filed January 4, 2001 is hereby repealed and replaced by 19.30.5 NMAC, Private Land Elk License Allocation, effective 10-17-2005.

19.30.5 NMAC, Private Land Elk License Allocation - Repealed 4-1-2019

Copy of State Record Corrections

TITLE 19
CHAPTER 30
PART 5

NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE ADMINISTRATION
PRIVATE LAND ELK LICENSE ALLOCATION

19.30.5.1 **ISSUING AGENCY:** New Mexico department of game and fish.
[19.30.5.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.1 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.2 **SCOPE:** To acknowledge landowners who provide meaningful benefit to elk and accept elk on their properties and to provide hunting opportunities on private and public land to all elk hunters who wish to recreate within New Mexico's exterior boundaries. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and Chapters 30, 31, 32 and 33 of Title 19 NMAC.
[19.30.5.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.2 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.3 **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** Section 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. Statute 17-3-14.1 NMSA 1978 authorizes the director to issue landowner permits for the lawful taking of elk.
[19.30.5.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.3 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.4 **DURATION:** Permanent.
[19.30.5.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.4 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.5 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 2019, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.30.5.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.5 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.6 **OBJECTIVE:** Establish an equitable and flexible system that recognizes the contributions of private lands and landowners to the management of elk and their habitats, while providing hunting opportunities on private lands, and to support appropriate, biologically sound, and effective harvest goals set by the department for elk.
[19.30.5.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.6 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.7 **DEFINITIONS:**

A. **"Annual agreement" or "Agreement"** shall mean the document that contains the specific ranch information, sets forth the terms and conditions of the agreement, special instructions, requirements and regulations concerning participation in this program and affirms a signatory understanding of such.

B. **"Authorization number" or "Authorization"** shall mean a multi-digit number which allows the holder to purchase a private land elk license specifying sex and sporting arm type. May also collectively refer to types and numbers of private land elk hunting opportunities available in a game management unit or assigned to a recipient pool of elk hunting opportunities.

C. **"Authorization statement"** shall mean the document generated by the department and issued to an authorized ranch contact that contains the authorization numbers, which allows the holder to purchase a specified license to hunt elk.

D. **"Authorized Ranch Contact" or "ARC"** shall mean the person designated in writing by the landowner(s) to act as the liaison between the ranch and the department. ARC is responsible for acting in the landowner(s) best interest and has the authority to sign an elk private lands use system agreement and receive authorization statements. All persons listed on the recorded deed(s) must sign and notarize an authorization of ranch contact form provided by the department authorizing the same individual as the authorized ranch contact.

E. **"Base allocation"** shall mean the number and authorization types issued to base ranches through the allocation formula.

F. **"Base ranch"** shall mean a ranch in the primary management zone able to receive at least one whole authorization through the allocation formula based on weighted acreage and ranch score.

G. **"Bonus allocation"** shall mean the number and authorization types represented by private lands not participating in the elk private lands use system in the primary management zone, through the allocation formula.

H. **"Co-op"** shall mean more than one ranch enrolled by separate landowners and combined together to form a single ranch and naming a single ARC.

- I. **"Deeded acres"** shall mean privately owned acres that can be verified by the department.
- J. **"Department"** shall mean the New Mexico department of game and fish.
- K. **"Director"** shall mean the director of the New Mexico department of game and fish.
- L. **"Elk Contribution Rating" or "ECR"** shall mean the rating assigned to a ranch by appropriate department staff based on the following: occasional elk presence shall receive an ECR of 1, frequent elk presence shall receive an ECR of 1.25, continuous elk presence shall receive an ECR of 1.5.
- M. **"EPLUS"** shall mean the elk private lands use system.
- N. **"Game Management Unit" or "GMU"** shall mean those areas as described in 19.30.4 NMAC Boundary Descriptions for Game Management Units.
- O. **"Inactivation"** shall mean the procedure that immediately stops all issuance of authorizations and suspends participation in the program.
- P. **"In review"** shall mean a period of time during which an active ranch may be placed into temporary suspension, stopping agreements and authorization statements from being issued to the ARC, until the department review concludes that all participation requirements have been met.
- Q. **"Landowner"** shall mean the person(s) listed on the most current recorded deed(s) being considered as a ranch for participation, is responsible for signing the initial application, and is responsible for assigning a single authorized ranch contact.
- R. **"Meaningful benefit"** shall mean a variety of elk habitat components that are known to be beneficial to elk throughout at least one season and further determined by state game commission adopted participation guidelines.
- S. **"Participation guidelines"** shall mean the written requirements for enrollment and participation in the program that department staff use to evaluate ranches and approved by the state game commission.
- T. **"Percent weighted acres"** shall mean the quotient of a ranch's weighted acres divided by the total private acres in the primary management zone within a GMU.
- U. **"Primary management zone"** shall mean areas of the state designated by the department upon which elk management goals and subsequent harvest objectives are based.
- V. **"Public land"** shall mean those lands held by state, federal, or public land use agencies.
- W. **"Ranch"** shall mean any deeded acres included in an agreement and treated as a single property.
- X. **"Ranch-only"** shall mean a ranch whose ARC has selected the ranch-only hunting option as defined on their agreement or whose ranch is located in a GMU designated as ranch-only.
- Y. **"Ranch-only authorization number"** shall mean a private land authorization that allows a person to purchase an elk license only valid on the designated ranch except as otherwise allowed by rule.
- Z. **"Ranch score"** shall mean the score resulting from the ranches evaluation as defined in participation guidelines.
- AA. **"Secondary management zone"** shall mean areas of the state that are not part of the primary management zone or special management zone.
- AB. **"Small Contributing Ranch" or "SCR"** shall mean those ranches that meet the minimum qualifications to participate, but are unable to receive at least one whole authorization pursuant to the allocation formula based on weighted acreage alone.
- AC. **"SCR pool"** shall mean the number and authorization types that result from the fractional consolidation of authorizations awarded to small contributing ranches through the allocation formula.
- AD. **"Special management zone"** shall mean areas of the state not within the primary management zone or secondary management zone and where private land authorization issuance includes eligibility requirements or restrictions.
- AE. **"Two year unconverted"** shall mean the number and authorization types initially allocated to participating properties but not converted to licenses averaged over the previous two license years.
- AF. **"Unit-wide"** shall mean a ranch whose ARC has selected the unit-wide hunting option as defined on their agreement and received a unit-wide authorization(s) for the current license year. The unit-wide selection allows hunters who have a unit-wide license from the ranch to hunt any legally accessible public lands, other unit-wide ranches, and other private land with written permission within the GMU as well as allows any other licensed elk hunter with either a public draw license or a unit-wide elk license access to the unit-wide ranch.
- AG. **"Unit-wide authorization number"** shall mean an authorization that allows a person to purchase an elk license valid on any legally accessible public lands, other unit-wide ranches, and other private land with written permission within the GMU.
- AH. **"Weighted acres"** shall mean the product of a ranch's deeded acres multiplied by the elk contribution rating assigned to that ranch.

19.30.5.8 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZATION DISTRIBUTION IN THE PRIMARY MANAGEMENT ZONE:

- A. Minimum requirements:
- (1) Private lands that lie within the primary management zone.
 - (2) Private lands that demonstrate regular elk use and provide meaningful benefits to elk as determined by appropriate department staff and in accordance with commission approved guidelines.
 - (3) Only landowners and ARCs who agree in writing to accept elk on their property will be considered for participation in EPLUS.
 - (4) Landowner and ARC must agree that participation is voluntary. Number of authorizations may vary annually and are based on GMU harvest objectives found in 19.31.14 NMAC. There is no guarantee of a specific number of authorizations issued each year.
 - (5) Any property which is part of a subdivision, village or town that does not allow hunting or restricts the discharge of all sporting arm types will be disqualified from participation in EPLUS. All other properties within a subdivision, village or town will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - (6) The department encourages landowners whose properties do not qualify to cooperate with other landowners to create co-ops to meet minimum participation requirements.
- B. Enrollment and initial application:
- (1) Landowners who wish to participate in EPLUS must submit a completed application provided by the department. Applications must include all required documentation as determined by the department and name a single ARC. Only the property owner(s) listed on the recorded deed(s) may submit an initial EPLUS application and assign an ARC. If there are multiple owners listed on the property deed(s), all co-owners must sign an affidavit authorizing one of the owners to be responsible for the initial application.
 - (2) The application must include the most recent recorded property ownership records including property legal descriptions and maps or surveys sufficient to establish the legal landowner(s) and property boundaries.
 - (3) Application must be submitted to the department, hand delivered or post marked, no later than January 5 of each year. Applications received without all required documentation or hand delivered or postmarked after January 5 shall be rejected. Applications rejected as a result of missing documents may be corrected and resubmitted through February 1 to be included that year if the original application was submitted by the January 5 deadline. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.
 - (4) Applications will be reviewed by appropriate department staff so a determination can be made as to the application satisfying the requirements set forth in Subsection A of 19.30.5.8 NMAC.
 - (5) Ranches meeting the requirements set forth in Subsection A of 19.30.5.8 NMAC will be assigned an elk contribution rating and must meet a minimum ranch score to be eligible for authorizations pursuant to the processes set forth in Subsection D of 19.30.5.8 NMAC.
 - (6) ARCs with ranches that do not meet the requirements set forth in Subsection A of 19.30.5.8 NMAC will be advised and provided options including the right to request a review of the department's decision as outlined in 19.30.5.12 NMAC.
- C. Participating ranches:
- (1) All ARCs for participating ranches will receive an agreement annually.
 - (2) The annual agreement will list the name, address, and phone number of the authorized ranch contact, the number of deeded acres considered, the ranch score and the elk contribution rating assigned. It will provide the opportunity to request a review of the listed acreage, the ranch score and the assigned elk contribution rating. The agreement will set out the terms for participation and provide the ability to elect the ranch-only option. The annual agreement will require the ARC to notify the department of any changes affecting the ranch's enrollment or participation eligibility. The annual agreement must be signed and initialed by the ARC where designated and returned to the department via hand delivery or post marked no later than January 5 each year. Failure to meet these requirements will result in the agreement not being activated for the current license year. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.
 - (3) Any ranch for which rightful ownership or legal representation cannot be determined shall be placed in review until such time as rightful ownership or legal representation is verified. If after one year, adequate documentation of ownership is not provided, the ranch will be inactivated.

(4) Landowners requesting to split their separately deeded properties currently under one ranch into separate ranches shall be required to submit a new application for each property. Ranches whose property is entirely contained on one deed may not be split.

(5) Upon the second consecutive year of non-receipt of the annual agreement, the department will inactivate the respective ranch until a new initial application has been submitted.

(6) Ranches that are sold or transferred to new ownership must apply as required for initial participation. (a) The department may make reasonable accommodations in circumstances where transfer of ownership occurs after the January 5 deadline.

(7) Participating ranches that the department determines no longer qualify for participation shall be sent written notice of inactivation for the following license year.

(8) Appropriate department staff may adjust the elk contribution rating or ranch score for any participating ranch annually. In the case an adjustment is warranted, the ARC will be contacted and notified of the rating change.

(9) Any landowner who requests interventions to eliminate the presence of elk on their participating acreage in accordance with 19.30.2 NMAC shall be placed in review. If the depredation only applies to a portion of the ranch and the remaining acreage continues to provide meaningful benefit to elk, only the acreage where depredation response actions are to occur will be inactivated. Exceptions to this may be considered by appropriate department staff on a case-by-case basis.

(10) Should any landowner or ARC take action pursuant to Section 17-2-7.2 NMSA 1978 the ranch upon which the action occurred shall immediately be inactivated from EPLUS for a period of three years and all unconverted authorizations may be voided.

(11) All participating ranches will be subject to the requirements found in this section on an annual basis. Any change affecting a ranches qualifications for this program will result in that ranch being re-evaluated to determine if the ranch meets the minimum requirements.

D. Determination of authorizations:

(1) In each GMU, the pool of private land elk authorizations shall be comprised of the base allocation, bonus allocation, two year unconverted and SCR pool.

(2) A portion of the bonus allocations or two year unconverted, should they be available, may be distributed to specific ranches in the form of incentive authorizations issued in recognition of significant contributions to elk management.

(3) The base allocation per ranch will be set as follows:

(a) A ranch's deeded acres multiplied by that ranch's elk contribution rating equals ranch weighted acres.

(b) A ranch's weighted acres divided by the total private deeded acres in the GMUs primary management zone equals that ranches percent ranch weighted acres.

(c) Percent ranch weighted acres multiplied by the number of available private land elk authorizations for the GMU equals the number of authorizations per ranch.

(d) All ranches receiving at least one whole authorization through the allocation formula will be considered a base ranch and will receive a base allocation.

(e) When a ranch is unable to receive at least one whole authorization through the allocation formula, the ranch will become a SCR.

(f) The combined fractional authorizations from SCRs will comprise the allocations available in the SCR pool.

(4) Distribution of the SCR pool will be as follows:

(a) SCRs will compete in a yearly, random, drawing weighted on the ranches ranch score for authorizations.

(b) SCRs may receive not more than one authorization through the yearly, random drawing.

(c) Bonus allocations and two year unconverted authorizations remaining after the issuance of incentive authorizations will be added into the pool for the SCR drawing.

(5) Authorizations not distributed in the SCR draw will be redistributed to base ranches pursuant to the allocation formula.

(6) All authorizations issued to a ranch pursuant to this section will be:

(a) Considered unit-wide unless otherwise requested by the ARC, or

(b) In GMUs 4 and 5A, authorizations will be ranch-only but transferrable to other private lands within the specific GMU with written landowner permission.

E. Inactivation:

- (1) A landowner or ARC, along with the ranch shall be inactivated for:
 - (a) providing or permitting misrepresentation of the ranch's participating deeded acreage, ranch ownership or designated ARC;
 - (b) prohibiting access to other unit-wide license holders or public draw hunting license holders; or
 - (c) the landowner or ARC violating Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 or state game commission rules involving licenses converted with the ranches' authorization(s), or being an accessory to the same, regardless of whether the violation occurred on or off the ranch, resulting in a violation(s) that accumulates 20 or more revocation points pursuant to 19.31.2 NMAC on any single individual.
 - (2) A landowner or ARC, along with the ranch may be inactivated for breaching or violating any other condition of the EPLUS agreement.
 - (3) Upon determination that a violation or breach of Paragraph 1 or Paragraph 2 of this Subsection or any other inactivation provision in 19.30.5.8 NMAC has occurred, the landowner and ARC shall be notified explaining the determination for the inactivation.
 - (4) Should the landowner or ARC have multiple properties in EPLUS, all properties may be inactivated from EPLUS and disqualified from participation in department sponsored programs.
 - (5) If a ranch is signed up in a co-op, inactivation action(s) may be taken against the co-op in its entirety or individual properties participating that form the co-op and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - (6) If the inactivated ranch(s) changes ownership during the disqualification period, the department may consider the ranch for future participation.
 - (7) Inactivation from EPLUS and disqualification from department sponsored programs may be for a period up to three years.
 - (8) The landowner may request a review that shall be held in accordance with the processes set forth in 19.30.5.12 NMAC. The standard of proof in cases where no conviction is involved shall be the preponderance of evidence. If a conviction has been rendered, a certified copy or a filed copy of the conviction from any court of competent jurisdiction shall be conclusive evidence of a violation.
- [19.30.5.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.8 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.9 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZATION DISTRIBUTION IN THE SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONE:

A. Minimum requirements:

- (1) Private lands that lie within the special management zone.
- (2) Private lands must provide demonstrated occasional elk use to be eligible.
- (3) Only landowners and ARCs who agree in writing to accept elk on their property will be considered for participation in EPLUS.
- (4) Landowner and ARC must agree that participation is voluntary. Number of authorizations may vary annually and are based on elk management objectives found in 19.31.14 NMAC. There is no guarantee of a specific number of authorizations issued each year.
- (5) Any property which is part of a subdivision, village or town that does not allow hunting or restricts the discharge of all sporting arm types will be disqualified from participation in EPLUS. All other properties within a subdivision, village or town will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

B. Enrollment and initial application:

- (1) Landowners who wish to participate in EPLUS must submit a completed application provided by the department. Applications must include all required documentation as determined by the department and name a single ARC. Only the property owner(s) listed on the recorded deed(s) may submit an initial EPLUS application and assign an ARC. If there are multiple owners listed on the property deed(s), all co-owners must sign an affidavit authorizing one of the owners to be responsible for the initial application.
- (2) The application must include the most recent recorded property ownership records including property legal descriptions and maps or surveys sufficient to establish the legal landowner(s) and property boundaries.
- (3) Applications may be submitted at any time.
- (4) Applications will be reviewed by appropriate department staff so a determination can be made as to the application satisfying the requirements set forth in Subsection A of 19.30.5.9 NMAC. Applications received without all required documentation shall be rejected. Rejected applications may be corrected and resubmitted.

C. Participating ranches:

- (1) All ARCs for participating ranches will receive an agreement annually.
- (2) The annual agreement will list the name, address and phone number of the ARC and the number of deeded acres considered. It will provide the opportunity to request a review of the listed acreage. The agreement will set out the terms for participation. The annual agreement will require the ARC to notify the department of any changes affecting the ranch's enrollment or participation eligibility. The annual agreement must be signed and initialed by the ARC where designated and returned to the department each year. Failure to return the agreement will result in the agreement not being activated for the current license year.
- (3) Any ranch for which rightful ownership or legal representation cannot be determined shall be placed in review until such time as rightful ownership or legal representation is verified. If after one year, adequate documentation of ownership is not provided the ranch will be inactivated.
- (4) Ranches that are sold or transferred to new ownership must apply as required for initial participation.
- (5) Any landowner who requests interventions to eliminate the presence of elk on their participating acreage in accordance with 19.30.2 NMAC shall be placed in review. Should the landowner enter into a depredation agreement with the department, the acreage where depredation response actions are to occur will be inactivated from EPLUS. Exceptions to this may be considered by appropriate department staff on a case-by-case basis.
- (6) Should any landowner or ARC take action pursuant to Section 17-2-7.2 NMSA 1978 the ranch upon which the action occurred shall immediately be inactivated from EPLUS for a period of three years and all unconverted authorizations may be voided.
- (7) All participating ranches will be subject to the requirements found in this section on an annual basis. Any change affecting a ranch's qualifications for this program will result in that ranch being re-evaluated to determine if the ranch meets the minimum requirements.

D. Determination of authorizations:

- (1) Authorizations within the special management zone will be determined on a ranch-by-ranch basis and negotiated between the department and the ARC.
- (2) Bag limits, sporting arm type, and season dates will follow the provisions found in 19.31.14 NMAC in the special management zone. Season dates requested outside those found in 19.31.14 NMAC shall be considered on a ranch-by-ranch basis and not conflict with department management goals.
- (3) All authorizations shall be ranch-only and transferrable to other private lands within the specified GMU with written landowner permission. Written permission requirements for access on private property will follow the provisions found in 19.31.10 NMAC.

E. Inactivation:

- (1) A landowner or ARC, along with the ranch shall be inactivated for:
 - (a) providing or permitting misrepresentation of the ranch's participating deeded acreage, ranch ownership or designated ARC; or
 - (b) the landowner or ARC violating Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 or state game commission rules involving licenses converted with the ranch's authorization(s), or being an accessory to the same, regardless of whether the violation occurred on or off the ranch, resulting in a violation(s) that accumulates 20 or more revocation points pursuant to 19.31.2 NMAC on any single individual.
- (2) A landowner or ARC, along with the ranch may be inactivated for breaching or violating any other condition of the EPLUS agreement.
- (3) Upon determination that a violation or breach of Paragraph 1 or Paragraph 2 of this Subsection or any other inactivation provision in 19.30.5.9 NMAC has occurred, the landowner and ARC shall be notified explaining the determination for the inactivation.
- (4) Should the landowner or ARC have multiple properties in EPLUS, all properties may be inactivated from EPLUS and disqualified from participation in department sponsored programs.
- (5) If a ranch is signed up in a co-op, inactivation action(s) may be taken against the co-op in its entirety or individual properties participating that form the co-op and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- (6) If the inactivated ranch(s) changes ownership during the disqualification period, the department may consider the ranch for future participation.
- (7) Inactivation from EPLUS and disqualification from department sponsored programs may be for a period up to three years.
- (8) The landowner may request a review that shall be held in accordance with the processes set forth in 19.30.5.12 NMAC. The standard of proof in cases where no conviction is involved shall be the

preponderance of the evidence. If a conviction has been rendered, a certified copy or a filed copy of the conviction from any court of competent jurisdiction shall be conclusive evidence of a violation.

[19.30.5.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.9 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.10 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS IN THE SECONDARY MANAGEMENT ZONE:

- A. Minimum requirements:
 - (1) Private lands that lie within a secondary management zone.
- B. Enrollment process:
 - (1) Land ownership documentation will be required that will verify the ranch lies within a secondary management zone.
 - (2) Requests for a ranch code may be submitted to the department at any time.
 - (3) Ranch ownership must be affirmed on an annual basis.
- C. Bag limits, sporting arm type, and season dates will follow the provisions found in 19.31.14 NMAC in the secondary management zone. Season dates requested outside those found in 19.31.14 NMAC shall be considered on a ranch-by-ranch basis.

D. Ranches within the secondary management zone will be issued a ranch code annually to identify individual ownership. (1) Ranch code will be required to purchase a private land elk license for a specific ranch.

E. All licenses require written permission and shall be valid only on the specified property and transferrable with written permission to other private lands within the specified GMU. Written permission requirements for access on private property will follow the provisions found in 19.31.10 NMAC.

[19.30.5.10 NMAC - N, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.11 SPECIAL MANAGEMENT RANCH:

A. In the primary or special management zones, the department may identify unique ranches of any size as a special management ranch.

B. A department approved conservation plan will be required and developed in conjunction with the landowner and will include habitat improvement, population management, and harvest management goals as a minimum.

(1) Alternative season dates, bag limits, sporting arm types, and additional authorizations may be considered for these ranches.

- (2) Authorizations issued pursuant to these management plans:
 - (a) Shall be ranch only and not transferrable to other private lands;
 - (b) Will be considered based on documented habitat improvements or maintenance of habitat enhancement projects or existing habitat quality;
 - (c) May be as a result of working directly with the department on special projects related to population management or research needs in the GMU; and
 - (d) Shall be allocated to assure elk management goals as stated in 19.31.14 NMAC are sustainable and appropriate within the GMU and on the participating ranch.

(3) The conservation plan must be updated and submitted by January 5 on an annual basis to be approved by the department.

[19.30.5.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.11 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.12 LANDOWNER RIGHT TO REVIEW:

A. Landowners or ARCs for participating ranches shall have the right to request a review of the following:

- (1) The number of deeded acres.
- (2) The elk contribution rating assigned to the ranch.
- (3) The ranch score.
- (4) A decision by the department that a ranch does not meet the minimum requirements to participate.
- (5) Other inactivation provisions within 19.30.5 NMAC.

B. Requests to review deeded acres, ranch score, or the elk contribution rating shall be submitted on the annual agreement.

C. ARCs for newly applying ranches or existing ranches that the department determines do not meet the minimum requirements to participate per commission approved guidelines will be given the opportunity to request a review of the department's finding.

- D. All review requests will be submitted to the EPLUS manager and handled in accordance below:
- (1) All ranches that the department determines do not meet the minimum participation requirements or have been inactivated for other provisions within 19.30.5 NMAC will be sent a letter explaining the determination along with an objection form explaining documentation requirements.
 - (2) ARCs who wish to request a review of the department's determination must complete and return the objection form along with all requested documentation within 30 days of the date on the department's letter.
 - (3) Upon receipt of the requested documentation the department will assign staff to re-evaluate the ranch in question. The department shall have 45 days to complete this evaluation.
 - (4) If the second evaluation shows the ranch meets the minimum participation requirements or if the inactivation was not warranted the ARC will be sent a follow up letter and the ranch will be allowed to participate in the program.
 - (5) If, after a second evaluation, it is determined that the ranch still does not meet participation requirements the ARC will be sent a follow up letter explaining the determination.
 - (6) The ARC may submit a letter to the EPLUS manager requesting a division evaluation should they feel the second decision is in error. The ARC may submit any additional documents or a written statement along with the request for the evaluation. This request and any additional documents must be received by the department within 30 days of the date on the department's second evaluation letter.
 - (7) A division evaluation will be conducted by the division chief of the wildlife management division or his or her designee(s) and will be designed to ensure that commission approved guidelines and the intent of this rule have been appropriately applied to the ranch in question. A recommendation as to ranch's participation eligibility will be sent to the director.
 - (8) The ARC will be notified in writing of the determination made by the director within 45 days of the submission of the ARC letter.
 - (9) The ARC may submit a letter within 30 days of the date on the department's letter regarding the director's decision to the EPLUS manager requesting a commission evaluation should they feel the director's decision is in error.
 - (10) The commission shall review the director's determination during a scheduled commission meeting. Within 20 days after the commission's decision is rendered and signed by the chairperson of the commission, the department shall provide the ARC with the written determination which will stand as the final decision of the department.
- [19.30.5.13 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.12 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.13 DEPARTMENT RIGHT TO REQUEST UPDATED DOCUMENTATION AND CONDUCT AUDITS:

A. The department reserves the right to request the submission of complete ownership documentation at any time during the year should an audit determine that documents are missing or participation requirements are in question.

- (1) Should necessary documentation be found missing resulting from any audit, the ranch will be placed in review and documents will be requested.
- (2) The department request for updated documents may include but is not limited to the most recent recorded property ownership records showing clear ownership and include property legal descriptions and maps or surveys that will establish the legal landowner(s) and property boundaries.

B. Failure to respond to the initial document request shall result in the ranch remaining in review until:

- (1) The requested documents are received and verified; and
- (2) Authorizations can be issued without affecting the allocation of other participating ranches.

C. If after one year, adequate documentation of ownership is not provided, the ranch will be inactivated.

[19.30.5.14 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.13 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

HISTORY OF 19.30.5 NMAC:

Pre-NMAC History:

Regulation No. 658, Establishing A System For Allocating Elk Licenses On Private And Public Lands Within Game Management Units, 6-1-88.

Regulation No. 667, Establishing A System For Allocating Elk Licenses On Private And Public Lands Within Game Management Units, 9-1-89.

NMAC History:

19.30.5 NMAC, Elk Private Land Use System - Replaced 4-1-2019

History of Repealed Material:

19.30.5 NMAC, Private Land Elk License Allocation, filed January 4, 2001 is hereby repealed and replaced by

19.30.5 NMAC, Private Land Elk License Allocation, effective 10-17-2005.

19.30.5 NMAC, Private Land Elk License Allocation - Repealed 4-1-2019

Final Adopted Rule

TITLE 19 CHAPTER 30 PART 5

NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE WILDLIFE ADMINISTRATION PRIVATE LAND ELK LICENSE ALLOCATION

19.30.5.1 **ISSUING AGENCY:** New Mexico department of game and fish.
[19.30.5.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.1 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.2 **SCOPE:** To acknowledge landowners who provide meaningful benefit to elk and accept elk on their properties and to provide hunting opportunities on private and public land to all elk hunters who wish to recreate within New Mexico's exterior boundaries. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and Chapters 30, 31, 32 and 33 of Title 19 NMAC.
[19.30.5.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.2 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.3 **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** Section 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. Statute 17-3-14.1 NMSA 1978 authorizes the director to issue landowner permits for the lawful taking of elk.
[19.30.5.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.3 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.4 **DURATION:** Permanent.
[19.30.5.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.4 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.5 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 2019, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.30.5.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.5 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.6 **OBJECTIVE:** Establish an equitable and flexible system that recognizes the contributions of private lands and landowners to the management of elk and their habitats, while providing hunting opportunities on private lands, and to support appropriate, biologically sound, and effective harvest goals set by the department for elk.
[19.30.5.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.6 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.7 **DEFINITIONS:**

A. **"Annual agreement" or "Agreement"** shall mean the document that contains the specific ranch information, sets forth the terms and conditions of the agreement, special instructions, requirements and regulations concerning participation in this program and affirms a signatory understanding of such.

B. **"Authorization number" or "Authorization"** shall mean a multi-digit number which allows the holder to purchase a private land elk license specifying sex and sporting arm type. May also collectively refer to types and numbers of private land elk hunting opportunities available in a game management unit or assigned to a recipient pool of elk hunting opportunities.

C. **"Authorization statement"** shall mean the document generated by the department and issued to an authorized ranch contact that contains the authorization numbers, which allows the holder to purchase a specified license to hunt elk.

D. **"Authorized Ranch Contact" or "ARC"** shall mean the person designated in writing by the landowner(s) to act as the liaison between the ranch and the department. ARC is responsible for acting in the landowner(s) best interest and has the authority to sign an elk private lands use system agreement and receive authorization statements. All persons listed on the recorded deed(s) must sign and notarize an authorization of ranch contact form provided by the department authorizing the same individual as the authorized ranch contact.

E. **"Base allocation"** shall mean the number and authorization types issued to base ranches through the allocation formula.

F. **"Base ranch"** shall mean a ranch in the primary management zone able to receive at least one whole authorization through the allocation formula based on weighted acreage and ranch score.

G. **"Bonus allocation"** shall mean the number and authorization types represented by private lands not participating in the elk private lands use system in the primary management zone, through the allocation formula.

H. **"Co-op"** shall mean more than one ranch enrolled by separate landowners and combined together to form a single ranch and naming a single ARC.

- I. **“Deeded acres”** shall mean privately owned acres that can be verified by the department.
- J. **“Department”** shall mean the New Mexico department of game and fish.
- K. **“Director”** shall mean the director of the New Mexico department of game and fish.
- L. **“Elk Contribution Rating” or “ECR”** shall mean the rating assigned to a ranch by appropriate department staff based on the following: occasional elk presence shall receive an ECR of 1, frequent elk presence shall receive an ECR of 1.25, continuous elk presence shall receive an ECR of 1.5.
- M. **“EPLUS”** shall mean the elk private lands use system.
- N. **“Game Management Unit” or “GMU”** shall mean those areas as described in 19.30.4 NMAC Boundary Descriptions for Game Management Units.
- O. **“Inactivation”** shall mean the procedure that immediately stops all issuance of authorizations and suspends participation in the program.
- P. **“In review”** shall mean a period of time during which an active ranch may be placed into temporary suspension, stopping agreements and authorization statements from being issued to the ARC, until the department review concludes that all participation requirements have been met.
- Q. **“Landowner”** shall mean the person(s) listed on the most current recorded deed(s) being considered as a ranch for participation, is responsible for signing the initial application, and is responsible for assigning a single authorized ranch contact.
- R. **“Meaningful benefit”** shall mean a variety of elk habitat components that are known to be beneficial to elk throughout at least one season and further determined by state game commission adopted participation guidelines.
- S. **“Participation guidelines”** shall mean the written requirements for enrollment and participation in the program that department staff use to evaluate ranches and approved by the state game commission.
- T. **“Percent weighted acres”** shall mean the quotient of a ranch’s weighted acres divided by the total private acres in the primary management zone within a GMU.
- U. **“Primary management zone”** shall mean areas of the state designated by the department upon which elk management goals and subsequent harvest objectives are based.
- V. **“Public land”** shall mean those lands held by state, federal, or public land use agencies.
- W. **“Ranch”** shall mean any deeded acres included in an agreement and treated as a single property.
- X. **“Ranch-only”** shall mean a ranch whose ARC has selected the ranch-only hunting option as defined on their agreement or whose ranch is located in a GMU designated as ranch-only.
- Y. **“Ranch-only authorization number”** shall mean a private land authorization that allows a person to purchase an elk license only valid on the designated ranch except as otherwise allowed by rule.
- Z. **“Ranch score”** shall mean the score resulting from the ranches evaluation as defined in participation guidelines.
- AA. **“Secondary management zone”** shall mean areas of the state that are not part of the primary management zone or special management zone.
- AB. **“Small Contributing Ranch” or “SCR”** shall mean those ranches that meet the minimum qualifications to participate, but are unable to receive at least one whole authorization pursuant to the allocation formula based on weighted acreage alone.
- AC. **“SCR pool”** shall mean the number and authorization types that result from the fractional consolidation of authorizations awarded to small contributing ranches through the allocation formula.
- AD. **“Special management zone”** shall mean areas of the state not within the primary management zone or secondary management zone and where private land authorization issuance includes eligibility requirements or restrictions.
- AE. **“Two year unconverted”** shall mean the number and authorization types initially allocated to participating properties but not converted to licenses averaged over the previous two license years.
- AF. **“Unit-wide”** shall mean a ranch whose ARC has selected the unit-wide hunting option as defined on their agreement and received a unit-wide authorization(s) for the current license year. The unit-wide selection allows hunters who have a unit-wide license from the ranch to hunt any legally accessible public lands, other unit-wide ranches, and other private land with written permission within the GMU as well as allows any other licensed elk hunter with either a public draw license or a unit-wide elk license access to the unit-wide ranch.
- AG. **“Unit-wide authorization number”** shall mean an authorization that allows a person to purchase an elk license valid on any legally accessible public lands, other unit-wide ranches, and other private land with written permission within the GMU.
- AH. **“Weighted acres”** shall mean the product of a ranch’s deeded acres multiplied by the elk contribution rating assigned to that ranch.

19.30.5.8 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZATION DISTRIBUTION IN THE PRIMARY MANAGEMENT ZONE:

- A. Minimum requirements:
- (1) Private lands that lie within the primary management zone.
 - (2) Private lands that demonstrate regular elk use and provide meaningful benefits to elk as determined by appropriate department staff and in accordance with commission approved guidelines.
 - (3) Only landowners and ARCs who agree in writing to accept elk on their property will be considered for participation in EPLUS.
 - (4) Landowner and ARC must agree that participation is voluntary. Number of authorizations may vary annually and are based on GMU harvest objectives found in 19.31.14 NMAC. There is no guarantee of a specific number of authorizations issued each year.
 - (5) Any property which is part of a subdivision, village or town that does not allow hunting or restricts the discharge of all sporting arm types will be disqualified from participation in EPLUS. All other properties within a subdivision, village or town will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - (6) The department encourages landowners whose properties do not qualify to cooperate with other landowners to create co-ops to meet minimum participation requirements.
- B. Enrollment and initial application:
- (1) Landowners who wish to participate in EPLUS must submit a completed application provided by the department. Applications must include all required documentation as determined by the department and name a single ARC. Only the property owner(s) listed on the recorded deed(s) may submit an initial EPLUS application and assign an ARC. If there are multiple owners listed on the property deed(s), all co-owners must sign an affidavit authorizing one of the owners to be responsible for the initial application.
 - (2) The application must include the most recent recorded property ownership records including property legal descriptions and maps or surveys sufficient to establish the legal landowner(s) and property boundaries.
 - (3) Application must be submitted to the department, hand delivered or post marked, no later than January 5 of each year. Applications received without all required documentation or hand delivered or postmarked after January 5 shall be rejected. Applications rejected as a result of missing documents may be corrected and resubmitted through February 1 to be included that year if the original application was submitted by the January 5 deadline. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.
 - (4) Applications will be reviewed by appropriate department staff so a determination can be made as to the application satisfying the requirements set forth in Subsection A of 19.30.5.8 NMAC.
 - (5) Ranches meeting the requirements set forth in Subsection A of 19.30.5.8 NMAC will be assigned an elk contribution rating and must meet a minimum ranch score to be eligible for authorizations pursuant to the processes set forth in Subsection D of 19.30.5.8 NMAC.
 - (6) ARCs with ranches that do not meet the requirements set forth in Subsection A of 19.30.5.8 NMAC will be advised and provided options including the right to request a review of the department's decision as outlined in 19.30.5.12 NMAC.
- C. Participating ranches:
- (1) All ARCs for participating ranches will receive an agreement annually.
 - (2) The annual agreement will list the name, address, and phone number of the authorized ranch contact, the number of deeded acres considered, the ranch score and the elk contribution rating assigned. It will provide the opportunity to request a review of the listed acreage, the ranch score and the assigned elk contribution rating. The agreement will set out the terms for participation and provide the ability to elect the ranch-only option. The annual agreement will require the ARC to notify the department of any changes affecting the ranch's enrollment or participation eligibility. The annual agreement must be signed and initialed by the ARC where designated and returned to the department via hand delivery or post marked no later than January 5 each year. Failure to meet these requirements will result in the agreement not being activated for the current license year. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.
 - (3) Any ranch for which rightful ownership or legal representation cannot be determined shall be placed in review until such time as rightful ownership or legal representation is verified. If after one year, adequate documentation of ownership is not provided, the ranch will be inactivated.

(4) Landowners requesting to split their separately deeded properties currently under one ranch into separate ranches shall be required to submit a new application for each property. Ranches whose property is entirely contained on one deed may not be split.

(5) Upon the second consecutive year of non-receipt of the annual agreement, the department will inactivate the respective ranch until a new initial application has been submitted.

(6) Ranches that are sold or transferred to new ownership must apply as required for initial participation. The department may make reasonable accommodations in circumstances where transfer of ownership occurs after the January 5 deadline.

(7) Participating ranches that the department determines no longer qualify for participation shall be sent written notice of inactivation for the following license year.

(8) Appropriate department staff may adjust the elk contribution rating or ranch score for any participating ranch annually. In the case an adjustment is warranted, the ARC will be contacted and notified of the rating change.

(9) Any landowner who requests interventions to eliminate the presence of elk on their participating acreage in accordance with 19.30.2 NMAC shall be placed in review. If the depredation only applies to a portion of the ranch and the remaining acreage continues to provide meaningful benefit to elk, only the acreage where depredation response actions are to occur will be inactivated. Exceptions to this may be considered by appropriate department staff on a case-by-case basis.

(10) Should any landowner or ARC take action pursuant to Section 17-2-7.2 NMSA 1978 the ranch upon which the action occurred shall immediately be inactivated from EPLUS for a period of three years and all unconverted authorizations may be voided.

(11) All participating ranches will be subject to the requirements found in this section on an annual basis. Any change affecting a ranches qualifications for this program will result in that ranch being re-evaluated to determine if the ranch meets the minimum requirements.

D. Determination of authorizations:

(1) In each GMU, the pool of private land elk authorizations shall be comprised of the base allocation, bonus allocation, two year unconverted and SCR pool.

(2) A portion of the bonus allocations or two year unconverted, should they be available, may be distributed to specific ranches in the form of incentive authorizations issued in recognition of significant contributions to elk management.

(3) The base allocation per ranch will be set as follows:

(a) A ranch's deeded acres multiplied by that ranch's elk contribution rating equals ranch weighted acres.

(b) A ranch's weighted acres divided by the total private deeded acres in the GMUs primary management zone equals that ranches percent ranch weighted acres.

(c) Percent ranch weighted acres multiplied by the number of available private land elk authorizations for the GMU equals the number of authorizations per ranch.

(d) All ranches receiving at least one whole authorization through the allocation formula will be considered a base ranch and will receive a base allocation.

(e) When a ranch is unable to receive at least one whole authorization through the allocation formula, the ranch will become a SCR.

(f) The combined fractional authorizations from SCRs will comprise the allocations available in the SCR pool.

(4) Distribution of the SCR pool will be as follows:

(a) SCRs will compete in a yearly, random, drawing weighted on the ranches ranch score for authorizations.

(b) SCRs may receive not more than one authorization through the yearly, random drawing.

(c) Bonus allocations and two year unconverted authorizations remaining after the issuance of incentive authorizations will be added into the pool for the SCR drawing.

(5) Authorizations not distributed in the SCR draw will be redistributed to base ranches pursuant to the allocation formula.

(6) All authorizations issued to a ranch pursuant to this section will be:

(a) Considered unit-wide unless otherwise requested by the ARC, or

(b) In GMUs 4 and 5A, authorizations will be ranch-only but transferrable to other private lands within the specific GMU with written landowner permission.

- E. Inactivation:
- (1) A landowner or ARC, along with the ranch shall be inactivated for:
 - (a) providing or permitting misrepresentation of the ranch's participating deeded acreage, ranch ownership or designated ARC;
 - (b) prohibiting access to other unit-wide license holders or public draw hunting license holders; or
 - (c) the landowner or ARC violating Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 or state game commission rules involving licenses converted with the ranches' authorization(s), or being an accessory to the same, regardless of whether the violation occurred on or off the ranch, resulting in a violation(s) that accumulates 20 or more revocation points pursuant to 19.31.2 NMAC on any single individual.
 - (2) A landowner or ARC, along with the ranch may be inactivated for breaching or violating any other condition of the EPLUS agreement.
 - (3) Upon determination that a violation or breach of Paragraph 1 or Paragraph 2 of this Subsection or any other inactivation provision in 19.30.5.8 NMAC has occurred, the landowner and ARC shall be notified explaining the determination for the inactivation.
 - (4) Should the landowner or ARC have multiple properties in EPLUS, all properties may be inactivated from EPLUS and disqualified from participation in department sponsored programs.
 - (5) If a ranch is signed up in a co-op, inactivation action(s) may be taken against the co-op in its entirety or individual properties participating that form the co-op and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - (6) If the inactivated ranch(s) changes ownership during the disqualification period, the department may consider the ranch for future participation.
 - (7) Inactivation from EPLUS and disqualification from department sponsored programs may be for a period up to three years.
 - (8) The landowner may request a review that shall be held in accordance with the processes set forth in 19.30.5.12 NMAC. The standard of proof in cases where no conviction is involved shall be the preponderance of evidence. If a conviction has been rendered, a certified copy or a filed copy of the conviction from any court of competent jurisdiction shall be conclusive evidence of a violation.
- [19.30.5.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.30.5.8 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.9 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZATION DISTRIBUTION IN THE SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONE:

- A. Minimum requirements:
- (1) Private lands that lie within the special management zone.
 - (2) Private lands must provide demonstrated occasional elk use to be eligible.
 - (3) Only landowners and ARCs who agree in writing to accept elk on their property will be considered for participation in EPLUS.
 - (4) Landowner and ARC must agree that participation is voluntary. Number of authorizations may vary annually and are based on elk management objectives found in 19.31.14 NMAC. There is no guarantee of a specific number of authorizations issued each year.
 - (5) Any property which is part of a subdivision, village or town that does not allow hunting or restricts the discharge of all sporting arm types will be disqualified from participation in EPLUS. All other properties within a subdivision, village or town will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- B. Enrollment and initial application:
- (1) Landowners who wish to participate in EPLUS must submit a completed application provided by the department. Applications must include all required documentation as determined by the department and name a single ARC. Only the property owner(s) listed on the recorded deed(s) may submit an initial EPLUS application and assign an ARC. If there are multiple owners listed on the property deed(s), all co-owners must sign an affidavit authorizing one of the owners to be responsible for the initial application.
 - (2) The application must include the most recent recorded property ownership records including property legal descriptions and maps or surveys sufficient to establish the legal landowner(s) and property boundaries.
 - (3) Applications may be submitted at any time.
 - (4) Applications will be reviewed by appropriate department staff so a determination can be made as to the application satisfying the requirements set forth in Subsection A of 19.30.5.9 NMAC. Applications received without all required documentation shall be rejected. Rejected applications may be corrected and resubmitted.

C. Participating ranches:

- (1) All ARCs for participating ranches will receive an agreement annually.
- (2) The annual agreement will list the name, address and phone number of the ARC and the number of deeded acres considered. It will provide the opportunity to request a review of the listed acreage. The agreement will set out the terms for participation. The annual agreement will require the ARC to notify the department of any changes affecting the ranch's enrollment or participation eligibility. The annual agreement must be signed and initialed by the ARC where designated and returned to the department each year. Failure to return the agreement will result in the agreement not being activated for the current license year.
- (3) Any ranch for which rightful ownership or legal representation cannot be determined shall be placed in review until such time as rightful ownership or legal representation is verified. If after one year, adequate documentation of ownership is not provided the ranch will be inactivated.
- (4) Ranches that are sold or transferred to new ownership must apply as required for initial participation.
- (5) Any landowner who requests interventions to eliminate the presence of elk on their participating acreage in accordance with 19.30.2 NMAC shall be placed in review. Should the landowner enter into a depredation agreement with the department, the acreage where depredation response actions are to occur will be inactivated from EPLUS. Exceptions to this may be considered by appropriate department staff on a case-by-case basis.
- (6) Should any landowner or ARC take action pursuant to Section 17-2-7.2 NMSA 1978 the ranch upon which the action occurred shall immediately be inactivated from EPLUS for a period of three years and all unconverted authorizations may be voided.
- (7) All participating ranches will be subject to the requirements found in this section on an annual basis. Any change affecting a ranches qualifications for this program will result in that ranch being re-evaluated to determine if the ranch meets the minimum requirements.

D. Determination of authorizations:

- (1) Authorizations within the special management zone will be determined on a ranch-by-ranch basis and negotiated between the department and the ARC.
- (2) Bag limits, sporting arm type, and season dates will follow the provisions found in 19.31.14 NMAC in the special management zone. Season dates requested outside those found in 19.31.14 NMAC shall be considered on a ranch-by-ranch basis and not conflict with department management goals.
- (3) All authorizations shall be ranch-only and transferrable to other private lands within the specified GMU with written landowner permission. Written permission requirements for access on private property will follow the provisions found in 19.31.10 NMAC.

E. Inactivation:

- (1) A landowner or ARC, along with the ranch shall be inactivated for:
 - (a) providing or permitting misrepresentation of the ranch's participating deeded acreage, ranch ownership or designated ARC; or
 - (b) the landowner or ARC violating Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 or state game commission rules involving licenses converted with the ranch's authorization(s), or being an accessory to the same, regardless of whether the violation occurred on or off the ranch, resulting in a violation(s) that accumulates 20 or more revocation points pursuant to 19.31.2 NMAC on any single individual.
- (2) A landowner or ARC, along with the ranch may be inactivated for breaching or violating any other condition of the EPLUS agreement.
- (3) Upon determination that a violation or breach of Paragraph 1 or Paragraph 2 of this Subsection or any other inactivation provision in 19.30.5.9 NMAC has occurred, the landowner and ARC shall be notified explaining the determination for the inactivation.
- (4) Should the landowner or ARC have multiple properties in EPLUS, all properties may be inactivated from EPLUS and disqualified from participation in department sponsored programs.
- (5) If a ranch is signed up in a co-op, inactivation action(s) may be taken against the co-op in its entirety or individual properties participating that form the co-op and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- (6) If the inactivated ranch(s) changes ownership during the disqualification period, the department may consider the ranch for future participation.
- (7) Inactivation from EPLUS and disqualification from department sponsored programs may be for a period up to three years.
- (8) The landowner may request a review that shall be held in accordance with the processes set forth in 19.30.5.12 NMAC. The standard of proof in cases where no conviction is involved shall be the

preponderance of the evidence. If a conviction has been rendered, a certified copy or a filed copy of the conviction from any court of competent jurisdiction shall be conclusive evidence of a violation.

[19.30.5.11 NMAC - Rp. 19.30.5.9 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.10 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS IN THE SECONDARY MANAGEMENT ZONE:

- A. Minimum requirements:
 - (1) Private lands that lie within a secondary management zone.
- B. Enrollment process:
 - (1) Land ownership documentation will be required that will verify the ranch lies within a secondary management zone.
 - (2) Requests for a ranch code may be submitted to the department at any time.
 - (3) Ranch ownership must be affirmed on an annual basis.
- C. Bag limits, sporting arm type, and season dates will follow the provisions found in 19.31.14 NMAC in the secondary management zone. Season dates requested outside those found in 19.31.14 NMAC shall be considered on a ranch-by-ranch basis.
- D. Ranches within the secondary management zone will be issued a ranch code annually to identify individual ownership.
- E. A ranch code will be required to purchase a private land elk license for a specific ranch.
- F. All licenses require written permission and shall be valid only on the specified property and transferrable with written permission to other private lands within the specified GMU. Written permission requirements for access on private property will follow the provisions found in 19.31.10 NMAC.

[19.30.5.10 NMAC - N, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.11 SPECIAL MANAGEMENT RANCH:

- A. In the primary or special management zones, the department may identify unique ranches of any size as a special management ranch.
- B. A department approved conservation plan will be required and developed in conjunction with the landowner and will include habitat improvement, population management, and harvest management goals as a minimum.
 - (1) Alternative season dates, bag limits, sporting arm types, and additional authorizations may be considered for these ranches.
 - (2) Authorizations issued pursuant to these management plans:
 - (a) Shall be ranch only and not transferrable to other private lands;
 - (b) Will be considered based on documented habitat improvements or maintenance of habitat enhancement projects or existing habitat quality;
 - (c) May be as a result of working directly with the department on special projects related to population management or research needs in the GMU; and
 - (d) Shall be allocated to assure elk management goals as stated in 19.31.14 NMAC are sustainable and appropriate within the GMU and on the participating ranch.
 - (3) The conservation plan must be updated and submitted by January 5 on an annual basis to be approved by the department.

[19.30.5.12 NMAC - Rp. 19.30.5.11 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.12 LANDOWNER RIGHT TO REVIEW:

- A. Landowners or ARCs for participating ranches shall have the right to request a review of the following:
 - (1) The number of deeded acres.
 - (2) The elk contribution rating assigned to the ranch.
 - (3) The ranch score.
 - (4) A decision by the department that a ranch does not meet the minimum requirements to participate.
 - (5) Other inactivation provisions within 19.30.5 NMAC.
- B. Requests to review deeded acres, ranch score, or the elk contribution rating shall be submitted on the annual agreement.

C. ARCs for newly applying ranches or existing ranches that the department determines do not meet the minimum requirements to participate per commission approved guidelines will be given the opportunity to request a review of the department's finding.

D. All review requests will be submitted to the EPLUS manager and handled in accordance below:

(1) All ranches that the department determines do not meet the minimum participation requirements or have been inactivated for other provisions within 19.30.5 NMAC will be sent a letter explaining the determination along with an objection form explaining documentation requirements.

(2) ARCs who wish to request a review of the department's determination must complete and return the objection form along with all requested documentation within 30 days of the date on the department's letter.

(3) Upon receipt of the requested documentation the department will assign staff to re-evaluate the ranch in question. The department shall have 45 days to complete this evaluation.

(4) If the second evaluation shows the ranch meets the minimum participation requirements or if the inactivation was not warranted the ARC will be sent a follow up letter and the ranch will be allowed to participate in the program.

(5) If, after a second evaluation, it is determined that the ranch still does not meet participation requirements the ARC will be sent a follow up letter explaining the determination.

(6) The ARC may submit a letter to the EPLUS manager requesting a division evaluation should they feel the second decision is in error. The ARC may submit any additional documents or a written statement along with the request for the evaluation. This request and any additional documents must be received by the department within 30 days of the date on the department's second evaluation letter.

(7) A division evaluation will be conducted by the division chief of the wildlife management division or his or her designee(s) and will be designed to ensure that commission approved guidelines and the intent of this rule have been appropriately applied to the ranch in question. A recommendation as to ranch's participation eligibility will be sent to the director.

(8) The ARC will be notified in writing of the determination made by the director within 45 days of the submission of the ARC letter.

(9) The ARC may submit a letter within 30 days of the date on the department's letter regarding the director's decision to the EPLUS manager requesting a commission evaluation should they feel the director's decision is in error.

(10) The commission shall review the director's determination during a scheduled commission meeting. Within 20 days after the commission's decision is rendered and signed by the chairperson of the commission, the department shall provide the ARC with the written determination which will stand as the final decision of the department.

[19.30.5.13 NMAC - Rp. 19.30.5.12 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

19.30.5.13 DEPARTMENT RIGHT TO REQUEST UPDATED DOCUMENTATION AND CONDUCT AUDITS:

A. The department reserves the right to request the submission of complete ownership documentation at any time during the year should an audit determine that documents are missing or participation requirements are in question.

(1) Should necessary documentation be found missing resulting from any audit, the ranch will be placed in review and documents will be requested.

(2) The department request for updated documents may include but is not limited to the most recent recorded property ownership records showing clear ownership and include property legal descriptions and maps or surveys that will establish the legal landowner(s) and property boundaries.

B. Failure to respond to the initial document request shall result in the ranch remaining in review until:

(1) The requested documents are received and verified; and

(2) Authorizations can be issued without affecting the allocation of other participating ranches.

C. If after one year, adequate documentation of ownership is not provided, the ranch will be inactivated.

[19.30.5.14 NMAC - Rp. 19.30.5.13 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

HISTORY OF 19.30.5 NMAC:

Pre-NMAC History:

Regulation No. 658, Establishing A System For Allocating Elk Licenses On Private And Public Lands Within Game Management Units, 6-1-88.

Regulation No. 667, Establishing A System For Allocating Elk Licenses On Private And Public Lands Within Game Management Units, 9-1-89.

NMAC History:

19.30.5 NMAC, Elk Private Land Use System - Replaced 4-1-2019

History of Repealed Material:

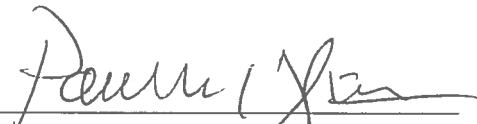
19.30.5 NMAC, Private Land Elk License Allocation, filed January 4, 2001 is hereby repealed and replaced by

19.30.5 NMAC, Private Land Elk License Allocation, effective 10-17-2005.


19.30.5 NMAC, Private Land Elk License Allocation - Repealed 4-1-2019

Dated at Roswell, this 30th day of November, 2018.

STATE GAME COMMISSION


Paul M. Kienzle III, Chairman

ATTEST:

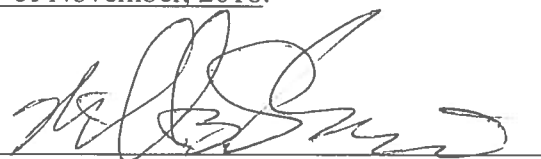

Michael B. Sloane, Secretary

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION

State of New Mexico)
) ss
County of Chaves)

I, Michael B. Sloane, Director of the Department of Game and Fish of the State of New Mexico, do hereby certify that the foregoing amendment or rule 19.30.5 NMAC Private Land Elk License Allocation rule is a true copy of said amendment of the State Game Commission of the State of New Mexico; that said amendment has been adopted, signed, and filed in the office of the Director in accordance with Section 17-2-5, New Mexico Statutes Annotated, 1978 Compilation, and in the office of the State Records Center of the State of New Mexico in accordance with Section 14-4-1, New Mexico Statutes Annotated, 1978 Compilation.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Director at Roswell, New Mexico, this 30th day of November, 2018.


Michael B. Sloane, Director



NMAC

Transmittal Form

NEW MEXICO
Commission of Public Records

Your Access to Public Information

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

Issuing agency name and address:

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Agency DFA code:

516

Contact person's name:

Elise Goldstein

Phone number:

505-476-8032

E-mail address:

Elise.Goldstein@state.nm.us

Type of rule action:

New ☒ Amendment ☐ Repeal ☐ Emergency ☐ Renumber ☐

(ALD Use Only)
Most Recent Filing Date:

Title number:

19

Title name:

Natural Resources and Wildlife

Chapter number:

30

Chapter name:

Wildlife Administration

Part number:

5

Part name:

Private Land Elk License Allocation

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:

Section 17-1-14, et seq. NMSA 1978; Section 17-1-26, et seq. NMSA 1978

Notice date(s):

Oct. 16, 2018

Hearing date(s):

Nov. 30, 2018

Rule Adoption date:

Nov. 30, 2018

Rule Effective date:

April 1, 2019

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 proposal is to adopt a new Private Land Elk License Allocation rule, 19.30.5 NMAC, which will become effective April 1, 2019. The current Private Land Elk License Allocation rule is a permanent rule.

The new rule creates commission approved guidelines to evaluate properties currently participating in or applying for the Elk Private Land Use System (EPLUS). Properties that do not meet minimum participation requirements based on the guidelines will be removed from the EPLUS program and any property submitting acre changes will be re-evaluated by the guidelines. The new rule also changes the current distribution of private land elk authorizations by running the bonus and 2 year unconverted allocations through the small

Continued on reverse side

4/10/2018

**Findings required for rulemaking adoption
continued**

NEW MEXICO
Commission of Public Records

contributing ranch (SCR) pool first. Further rule changes include removing the draw history system for SCRs and creating a random, weighted draw. It also allows properties in the secondary management zone to purchase private land elk licenses over-the-counter with an assigned ranch code. A more detailed summary, and the full text of changes, is available on the Department's website at: www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

There have been no changes between the published proposed rule and the final rule. A wide array of public comments were submitted. To view public comments, please visit www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/meeting-agendas/ and click on the Hearing Archive tab. It was not possible to incorporate all of the comments into the final rule as many of the comments were mutually exclusive. 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:

Michael B. Sloane

Check if authority has been delegated

☐

Title:

Director, NMDGF

Signature: (BLACK ink only)



Date signed:

12/5/18

NMAC

Transmittal Form

NEW MEXICO
Commission of Public Records

Your Access to Public Information

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

Issuing agency name and address:

Agency DFA code:

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

516

Contact person's name:

Phone number:

E-mail address:

Elise Goldstein

505-476-8032

Elise.Goldstein@state.nm.us

Type of rule action:

(ALD Use Only)
Most Recent Filing Date:

New ☐ Amendment ☐ Repeal ☒ Emergency ☐ Renumber ☐

Title number:

Title name:

19

Natural Resources and Wildlife

Chapter number:

Chapter name:

30

Wildlife Administration

Part number:

Part name:

5

Private Land Elk Allocation

Amendment Description (If filing an Amendment):

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

Are there any materials incorporated by reference?

Please list attachments or Internet sites if applicable.

Yes ☐ No ☒

If materials are attached, has copyright permission been received?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Public domain ☐

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Specific statutory or other authority authorizing rulemaking:

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Notice date(s):

Hearing date(s):

Rule Adoption date:

Rule Effective date:

Oct. 16, 2018

Nov. 30, 2018

Nov. 30, 2018

April 1, 2019

Findings required for rulemaking adoption.

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- Reasons for any change between the published proposed rule and the final rule; and
- Reasons for not accepting substantive arguments made through public comment.

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The new rule creates commission approved guidelines to evaluate properties currently participating in or applying for the Elk Private Land Use System (EPLUS). Properties that do not meet minimum participation requirements based on the guidelines will be removed from the EPLUS program and any property submitting acre changes will be re-evaluated by the guidelines. The new rule also changes the current distribution of private land elk authorizations by running the bonus and 2 year unconverted allocations through the small

Continued on reverse side

4/10/2018

**Findings required for rulemaking adoption
continued**

contributing ranch (SCR) pool first. Further rule changes include removing the draw history system for SCRs and creating a random, weighted draw. It also allows properties in the secondary management zone to purchase private land elk licenses over-the-counter with an assigned ranch code. A more detailed summary, and the full text of changes, is available on the Department's website at: www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

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:

Michael B. Sloane

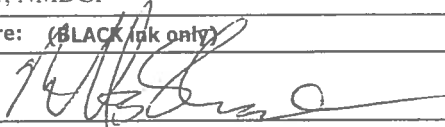
Check if authority has been delegated

☐

Title:

Director, NMDGF

Signature: (BLACK ink only)



Date signed:

12/5/18

The New Mexico State Game Commission (Department of Game and Fish) approved, at its 11/30/2018 hearing, to repeal its rule 19.30.5 NMAC, Private Land Elk License Allocation, filed 10/3/2005, and to replace it with a new rule 19.30.5 NMAC, of the same name. On November 30, 2018, the Chairman of the State Game Commission adopted the new 19.30.5 NMAC, effective April 1, 2019.



Wildlife Management Division

E-PLUS 19.30.5 NMAC

State Game Commission Meeting

November 30, 2018

Roswell, NM

Wildlife Management Division

EXHIBIT

3

tabbles®

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nine Public Meetings

- Raton, Socorro, Ruidoso, Espanola, Quemado, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Roswell and Las Cruces
- 455 attendees signed up

Written Comments

- 263 submissions

Major Comments

- Overall Support of Proposal (60)
- Oppose Proposal (5)
- Oppose OTC (9)
- Minimum Acres (4)
- GMU 12 COER (32)
- Unit Wide Maps (11)
- No E-PLUS (3)
- Not related (29)

INTRODUCTION TO EPLUS

□ E-PLUS was developed in 2005 to:

□ Recognize, “Landowners who provide meaningful benefit to elk and accept elk on their properties and all elk hunters who wish to recreate on deeded lands or public lands within New Mexico’s exterior boundaries.” (19.30.5.2 NMAC)

Propose to Define MEANINGFUL BENEFIT (Inside COER):

- Guidelines developed by the Department and adopted by the Commission
- Properties will be evaluated to ensure they make a Meaningful Benefit according to guidelines

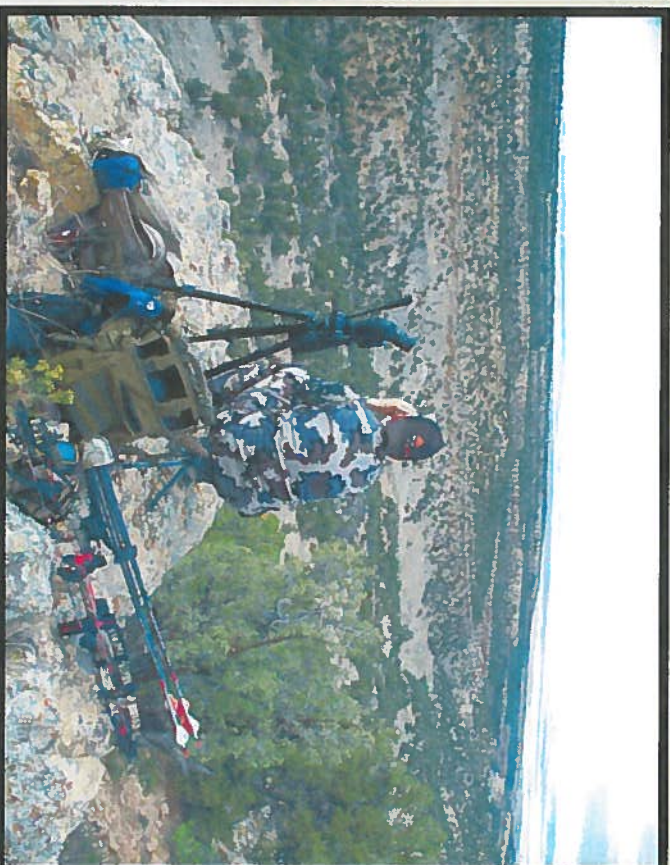


Wildlife Management Division

Propose to Define MEANINGFUL BENEFIT (Inside COER):

Determining “meaningful benefit”

- Biologically founded
- Simple/Consistent
- Defendable
- Captures intent of the rule
- Recordable (create form)



SCORING SYSTEM

Forage: (Including agriculture)

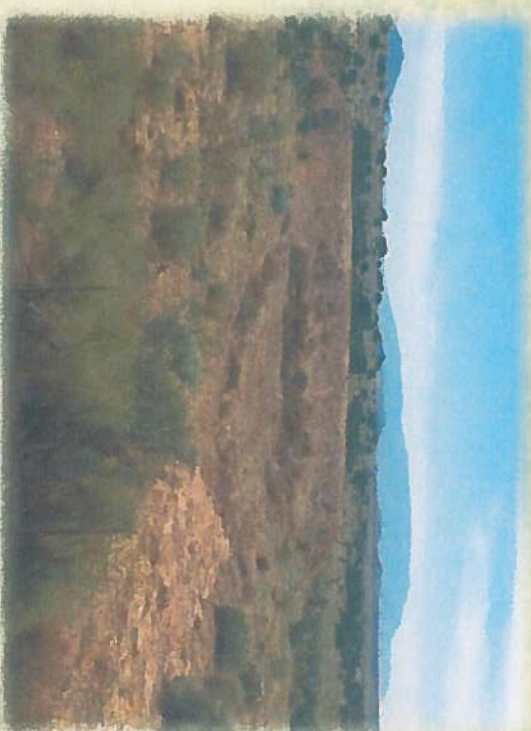
- 0 = No meaningful forage is available or forage is in the form of a lawn or lawn shrubs, gardens, flowers or other ornamental plantings. (Extremely rocky terrain; sandy, bare soils; thick timber with no understory)
 - 1 = Marginal forage is available. (Sparse bunchgrasses, scrub habitat, moderately timbered areas with some forage potential)
 - 2 = Moderate forage is available. (Open upland grasslands or open savanna-like forest/woodland, dense bunch grass)
 - 3 = Substantial forage is available. (Grass meadows, bottomlands and riparian areas)
- Forage Score: ____



SCORING SYSTEM

Water: (Water should be located on a property where it is readily available for use by elk.)

- 0 = No water is available for elk use. (Includes a water hydrant near or attached to a building or utilization of an exposed or manual hose system)
- 1 = Some water is available throughout at least one season by natural sources or by an established system that can be turned on or off.
- 2 = Water is available throughout at least any two seasons on a consistent basis.
- 3 = Permanent, year round water is available.
- Water Score: _____



SCORING SYSTEM

Cover:

- 0 = No meaningful cover is provided on the property. (Or cover is compromised by houses, buildings, driveways and/or other disturbances)
- 1 = Poor cover components are provided on the property. (Thin cover or small areas of cover)
- 2 = Good cover components are provided on the property.
- Cover Score: ____

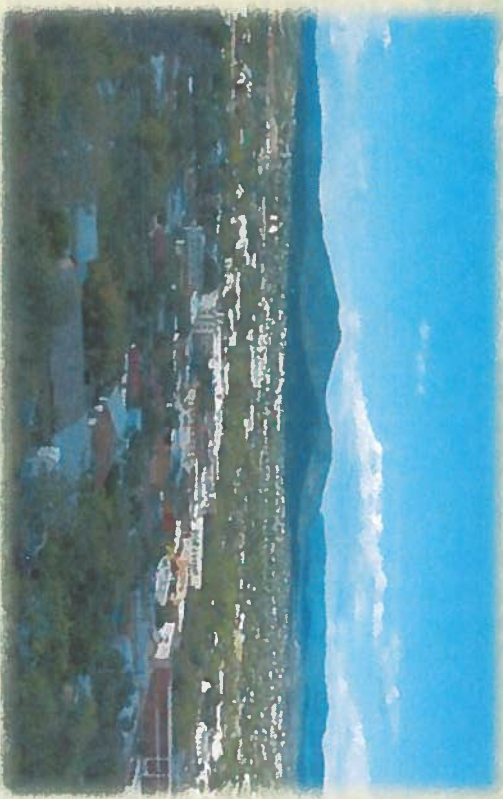


Wildlife Management Division

SCORING SYSTEM

Surrounding Area:

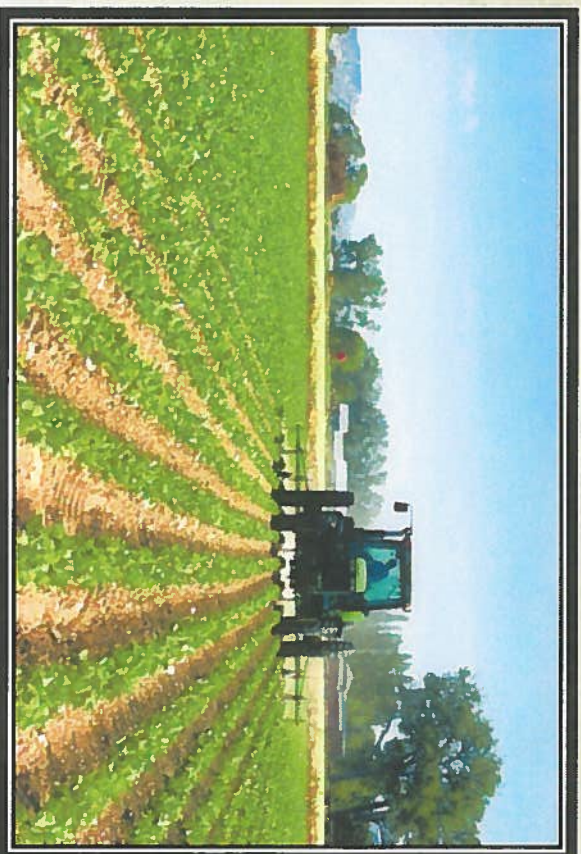
- 0 = Surrounding area is encumbered with human activity, highly developed with houses/buildings and vehicular byways seriously altering or inhibiting elk use and/or travel.
- 1 = Surrounding area has low human activity with low numbers of buildings or vehicular byways and having some impact on elk use and travel.
- 2 = Surrounding area is remote and unencumbered by human activity having no impact on elk use and travel.
- Surrounding Area Score: ____



SCORING SYSTEM

Agriculture: (Bonus)

- 0 = No agriculture - Native grasses; unimproved pasture grasses; routinely unharvested or un-grazed with minimal harvest opportunity.
- 1 = Agriculture – Marginally productive, dry/unirrigated type or routinely harvested crop.
- 2 = Agriculture – Productive, maintained (irrigated, cultivated, fertilized, etc.), yearly harvestable crop.



- Agriculture Score: ____

SCORING SYSTEM

Added Bonus: (For considerations not captured elsewhere.)

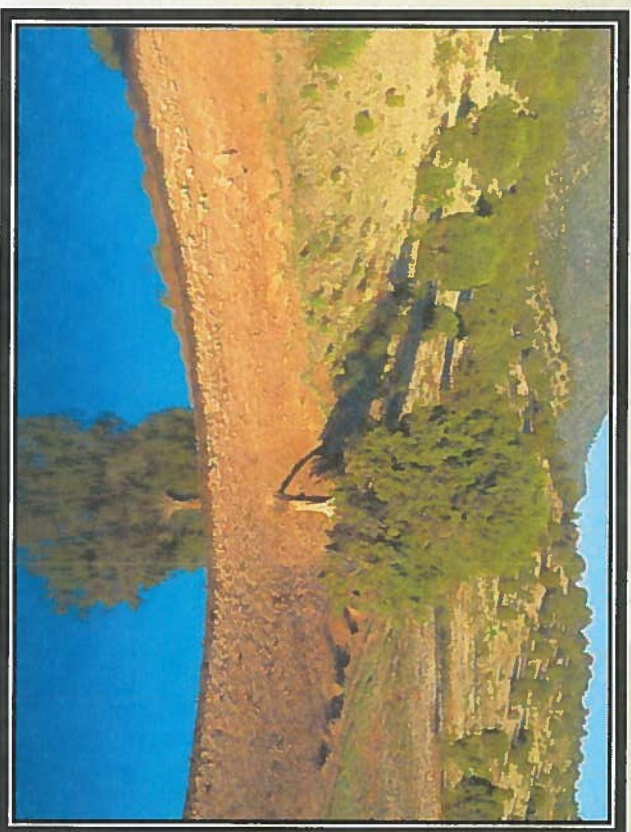
- 0 = No special considerations.
- 1 = Special consideration exists.

(The “Added Bonus” category may also be awarded for a property’s proximity to habitat features nearby [generally within ½ mile] but not actually on the property being evaluated. A combination of considerations may be utilized including increasing an area’s ability to be accessed and hunted.)

- 1 = Additional considerations exist.

An additional bonus point for other meaningful benefits. This may include large blocks of contiguous habitat that may be important for seasonal elk use or population management (i.e. winter range, calving areas, migration routes, etc.). This point may also be awarded for increased access for hunting.

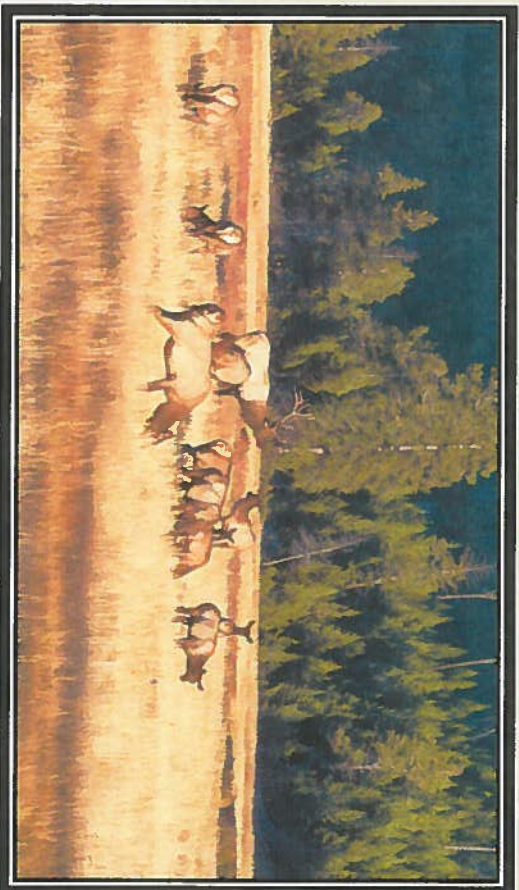
- Added Bonus Score: ____ (not to exceed two)



Wildlife Management Division

RECOMMENDED SCORE

Department
recommends to the
Commission a
property habitat score
of 7 as a minimum
score for participation
in E-PLUS.



Wildlife Management Division

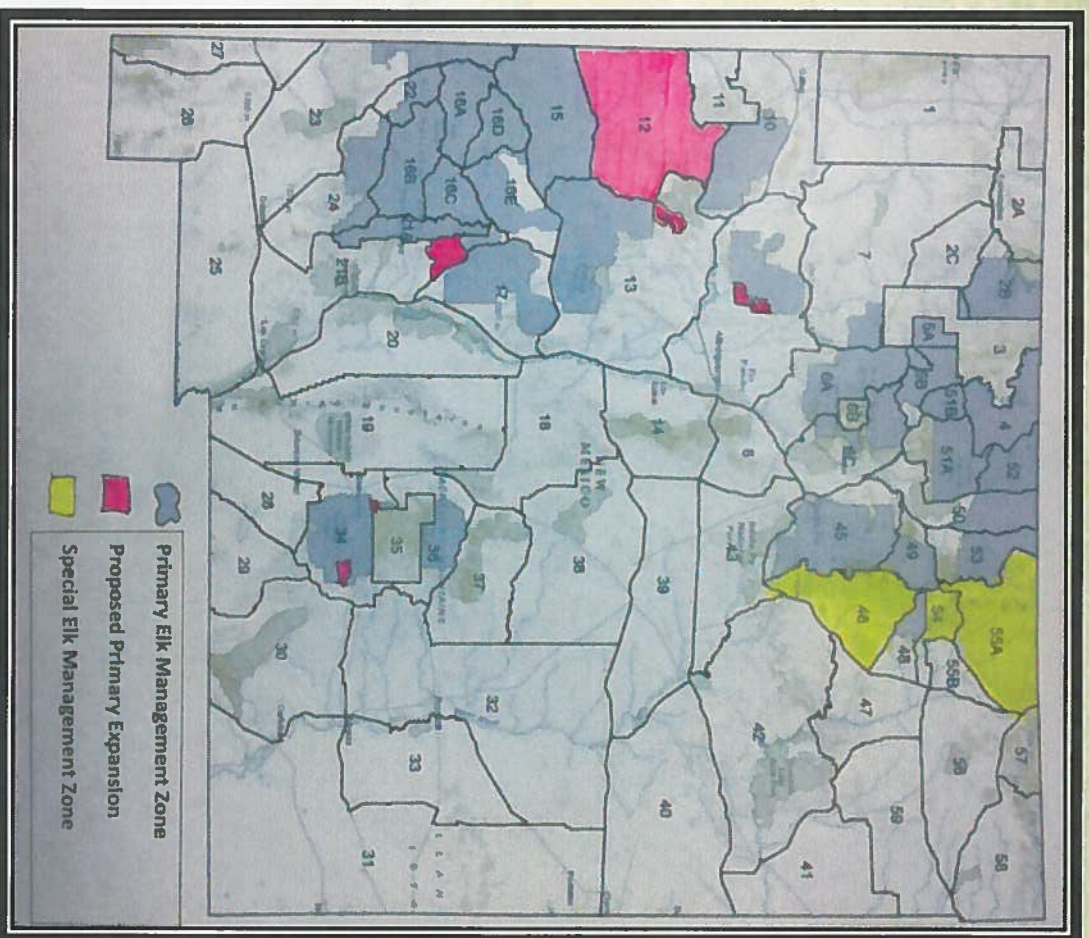
APPEAL/REVIEW PROCESS

- Landowner receives DNO letter and Objection Form
- E-PLUS Manager reviews objection
- Officer/Biologists makes on-site visit

- Landowner requests Division review
 - WMD Chief/Asst. Chief reviews to assure guidelines were properly followed and applied
- Director makes determination on Division review.
- Landowner can appeal final Department decision to Commission.

Proposed Elk Management Zones

- **Primary Elk Management Zone:**
 - Where license numbers are set by Commission
 - Harvest objectives are biologically determined
 - Distribution of tags strictly regulated
- **Special Management Zone:**
 - Largely or completely private.
 - Don't fit into the formula based license allocation process
 - Other special management considerations may exist
 - Managed on a Ranch-to-Ranch basis
- **Secondary Elk Management Zone:**
 - License numbers not set on private land



Wildlife Management Division

Proposed Changes for Primary Zone (Currently defined as “inside COER”)

- Utilize habitat scoring tool to screen properties
- Implement scoring process retroactively
- Allocate Unconverted Rate and Bonus through SCR properties first



- Eliminate draw history system
- Weight SCR draw based on property habitat score
- All acre alterations are subject to re-evaluation
- Expand Primary (COER) Zone boundaries in Units 9, 13, 21B and 34
- Include GMU 12 as Primary (COER) Zone

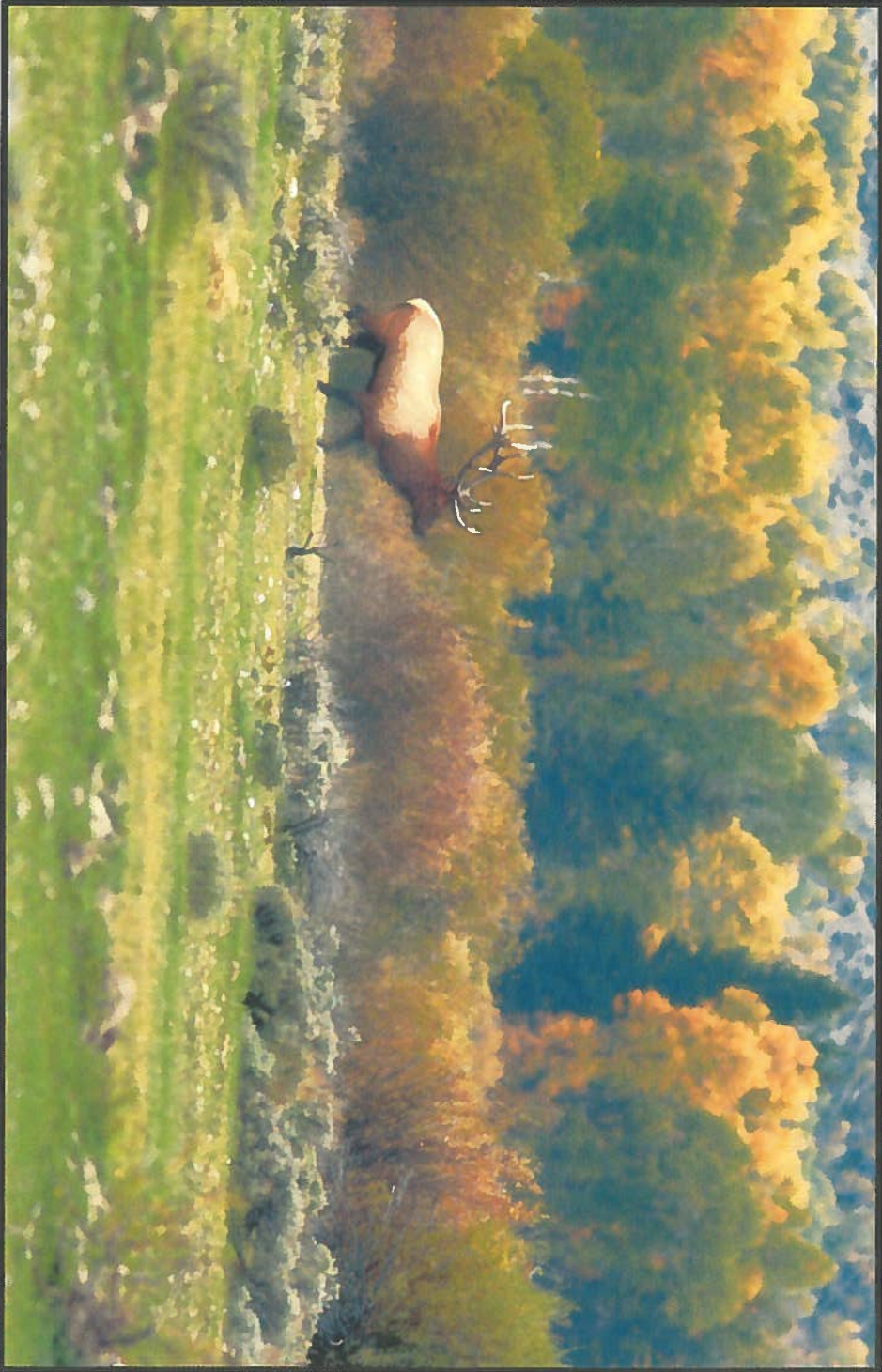
Proposed Changes Secondary Zone

(Currently defined as “outside COER”)

- Make tags available OTC for private land through registered landowners
- Private land tags transferrable with written permission
- All tags either-sex or antlerless

- Consistent season dates and weapon type across the Secondary Zone
 - Sept. 1-24 Archery
 - Oct. 1-Dec. 31 Rifle
 - Any 5 days
- Exceptions on a case by case basis

Questions?



Wildlife Management Division

EPLUS PROPOSED CHANGES **(UPDATED 8-27-18)**

At the June 21, 2018 State Game Commission meeting the commission opened the EPLUS rule to allow for changes to portions of the program.

The Elk Private Land Use System (EPLUS) was developed in 2005 to recognize, **“Landowners who provide meaningful benefit to elk and accept elk on their properties and all elk hunters who wish to recreate on deeded lands or public lands within New Mexico’s exterior boundaries.”** (19.30.5.2 NMAC)

The Department of Game and Fish has identified the following areas that need to be reviewed.

- Enrolled properties that do not provide a “meaningful benefit”
- No definition of meaningful benefit
- Properties splitting into smaller acreages
- Allocation process for unconverted rate and bonus
- Small Contributing Ranch (SCR) draw system
- Outside Core Occupied Elk Range (COER) process
- Rule language needs updates
-

Suggested improvements:

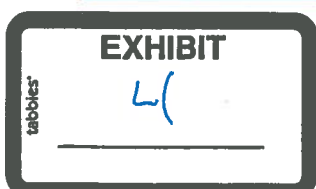
- Develop Commission approved Guidelines for program administration
- Define “meaningful benefit” based on biological criteria
- Use habitat based evaluation to screen all properties currently in EPLUS
- Re-evaluate any properties with acreage changes
- Remove properties that don’t provide meaningful benefit
- Route Bonus and Unconverted authorizations through the SCRs first
- Eliminate SCR draw history system
- Develop a weighted draw for SCR properties
- Make outside COER private land tags available over-the-counter
- Draft new rule language

Amendments as of 8-27-2018:

- Included COER boundary proposals from the Elk Rule Development to the EPLUS presentation
- Added Antlerless as a tag option for outside COER (Secondary Mgt. Zone)
- Added proposed hunt dates for outside COER (Secondary Mgt. Zone) in the presentation
- Allowed for a specific ranch code to be required before a hunter could buy an elk license Over-The-Counter
- Added public comments to presentation as of 8/20/18
- Recommend a property habitat score of seven for program participation
- Outlined appeal process for properties not meeting minimum criteria in presentation

If you would like to comment on the proposal, please send an email to:

DGF-EPLUS-Rules@state.nm.us





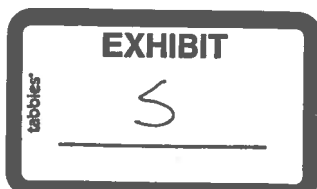
Technical Information for Elk Rule and E-PLUS Rule Development



Overview of Elk Management & Data Collection

Elk in New Mexico are managed by **Herd Units** within designated **Primary Management Zones** (formerly **Core Occupied Elk Range** or COER). Each Herd Unit consists of 1 or more **Game Management Units** (GMU's), roughly equivalent to an elk population. These Primary Management Zones usually have higher numbers of elk and are monitored and managed more intensely compared to **Secondary Management Zones** (formerly **Outside-COER**). In Secondary Management Zones, the Department monitors harvest, success, and satisfaction but does not typically fly routine surveys to estimate population sizes. The Secondary Management Zones' elk populations are more heavily influenced by elk presence and hunting on private lands. The number of private land tags issued in Secondary Management Zones is currently determined through negotiations between the landowners and the Regional Wildlife Biologist (proposed over-the-counter for private lands this rule cycle) while public and private tags in Primary Management Zones are determined through a set allocation.

Statewide mandatory elk harvest reporting was implemented in 2006, and allows data compilation on total harvest and success rates. A measure of hunter satisfaction was also added to the report in 2009. Composition surveys are flown annually throughout the state with a focus on Primary Management Zones' Herd Units to obtain ratio data (bull:cow, calf:cow, etc.). In 2006, the Department changed the elk survey protocol from winter to fall helicopter surveys. This change has resulted in improved population estimates and a better understanding of annual recruitment and mortality rates. Utilizing a consistent survey methodology since 2006 also allows the Department to track composition and population changes through time.



Section 1: Harvest Data 2014 to 2017

Table 1: Harvest Data 2014

NORTHWEST REGION				Licenses Sold or	No. of		%	Success	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction
GMU	Weapon	Hunt dates	Converted	Bag Limit	Reported	Reprtd	Rate		Bulls	Cows	Rating
GMU 2	2	Archery	Sept 1-15	121	ES	110	92%	13%	8	8	3.37
	2	Archery	Sept 16-22	120	ES	116	93%	9%	11	0	3.16
	2	Muzzleloader	Oct 4-8	125	MB	118	94%	29%	35	0	3.33
	2	Rifle	Oct 11-15	75	MB	72	96%	28%	20	0	3.17
	2	Rifle	Dec 6-10	100	A	95	95%	63%	2	57	3.92
	2 Youth	Rifle	Dec 6-10	50	A	47	94%	71%	0	34	4.11
	2 private			43	MB	36	84%	69%	30	0	4.28
	2 private			35	A	29	83%	79%	4	24	4.14
	2 private archery			64	ES	54	84%	28%	12	6	2.92
	2 total			733		677	92%	35%	121	129	3.60
GMU 5A	5A	Archery	Sept 1-22	10	ES	9	90%	0%	0	0	3.33
	5A	Rifle	Oct 4-8	10	MB	8	80%	38%	4	0	3.75
	5A	Rifle	Oct 4-8	10	A	10	100%	0%	0	0	1.57
	5A	Rifle	Oct 11-15	10	MB	10	100%	29%	2	0	2.14
	5A	Rifle	Oct 11-15	10	A	9	90%	0%	0	0	2.33
	5A	Rifle	Oct 18-22	10	MB	9	90%	11%	1	0	2.78
	5A	Rifle	Oct 18-22	10	A	6	60%	0%	0	0	2.60
	5A	Rifle	Oct 25-29	10	MB	8	80%	38%	4	0	3.75
	5A	Rifle	Oct 25-29	10	A	9	90%	29%	0	2	2.14
	5A private			207	MB	137	66%	61%	121	0	4.08
	5A private			216	A	163	75%	76%	1	162	4.42
	5A private archery			37	ES	25	68%	26%	9	0	3.65
	5A total			550		403	73%	58%	142	164	3.05
GMU 9	9 Marquez	Archery	Sept 1-10	5	ES	4	80%	33%	1	0	3.67
	9 Marquez	Archery	Sept 16-22	5	ES	5	100%	60%	3	0	4.40
	9 Marquez	Muzzleloader	Oct 4-8	5	MB	5	100%	60%	3	0	3.80
	9 Marquez	Muzzleloader	Oct 11-15	5	MB	3	60%	67%	3	0	4.00
	9 Marquez	Muzzleloader	Oct 18-22	5	MB	5	100%	33%	1	0	3.33
	9 Marquez	Muzzleloader	Oct 25-29	5	A	5	100%	50%	0	1	5.00
	9 Marquez	Muzzleloader	Nov 2-6	5	A	5	100%	60%	0	3	3.80
	9 Marquez	Muzzleloader	Nov 16-20	5	A	5	100%	100%	0	4	5.00
	9	Archery	Sept 1-15	160	ES	147	92%	11%	13	4	2.81
	9	Archery	Sept 16-22	160	ES	150	94%	9%	12	1	2.49
	9	Mobility Impaired	Oct 4-8	40	ES	33	83%	3%	1	0	2.20
	9	Muzzleloader	Oct 11-15	71	MB	65	92%	23%	15	0	2.95
	9	Muzzleloader	Oct 18-22	70	MB	69	99%	14%	9	0	2.56
	9	Muzzleloader	Oct 25-29	40	MB	38	95%	18%	6	0	2.85
	9	Rifle	Nov 2-6	121	A	108	89%	9%	1	9	2.37
	9	Rifle	Nov 16-20	121	A	106	88%	22%	1	24	3.22
	9	Rifle	Dec 6-10	122	A	102	84%	9%	1	8	2.56
	9 YE	Muzzleloader	Nov 28-Dec 2	22	A	21	95%	39%	0	7	3.06
	9 YE	Muzzleloader	Dec 26-30	12	A	12	100%	27%	0	3	3.27
	9 private			92	MB	59	64%	58%	51	0	3.98
	9 private			104	A	82	79%	53%	1	52	3.46
	9 private archery			87	ES	54	62%	37%	32	0	3.65
	9 total			1262		1083	86%	22%	157	117	3.38
GMU 10	10	Archery	Sept 1-22	252	ES	234	93%	15%	30	5	3.35
	10	Muzzleloader	Oct 4-8	70	MB	65	93%	22%	15	0	3.24
	10	Rifle	Oct 11-15	70	MB	61	87%	22%	14	0	2.95
	10 Youth	Rifle	Nov 9-13	120	A	109	91%	27%	0	29	3.40
	10	Rifle	Dec 6-10	100	A	96	96%	20%	3	16	3.34
	10 YE	Rifle	Nov 28-Dec 2	35	A	33	94%	33%	0	11	3.33
	10 private			76	MB	47	62%	36%	26	0	3.71
	10 private			82	A	64	78%	48%	1	37	3.65
	10 private archery			101	ES	69	68%	19%	18	1	3.12
	10 total			906		778	86%	24%	107	99	3.34
REGION TOTALS				3451		2941	85%	30%	526	508	3.34

NORTHCENTRAL REGION				Licenses Sold or	Bag Limit	No. of Hunters	%	Success	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction
GMU	Weapon	Hunt dates	Converted			Reported	Reprtd	Rate	Bulls	Cows	Rating
GMU 4	4 Sargent	Archery	Sept. 1-15	10	ES	10	100%	60%	6	0	4.50
	4 Sargent	Archery	Sept. 16-22	10	ES	10	100%	70%	7	0	4.40
	4 Sargent	Rifle	Oct. 4-8	10	MB	9	90%	100%	10	0	4.67
	4 Sargent	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	10	MB	10	100%	90%	9	0	4.70
	4 Sargent	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	10	MB	10	100%	67%	6	0	4.22
	4 Sargent	Rifle	Oct. 25-29	10	MB	10	100%	67%	6	0	4.22
	4 Sargent	Rifle	Nov 2-6	10	A	9	90%	75%	0	7	4.38
	4 Srgt Youth	Rifle	Nov 2-6	10	A	9	90%	38%	0	3	4.50
	4 Hum only	Archery	Sept. 1-15	10	ES	9	90%	11%	1	0	3.56
	4 Hum only	Archery	Sept. 16-22	10	ES	10	100%	22%	2	0	2.89
	4 Hum RC	Rifle	Oct. 4-8	15	MB	13	87%	42%	6	0	4.00
	4 Hum RC	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	15	MB	15	100%	50%	7	0	3.79
	4 Hum RC	Rifle	Nov 2-6	10	A	7	70%	0%	0	0	4.14
	4 Hum RC Youth	Rifle	Nov 2-6	15	A	15	100%	23%	0	3	3.29
	4 private			1017	MB	568	56%	56%	564	0	4.20
	4 private			563	A	412	73%	69%	3	383	4.29
	4 private archery			427	ES	251	59%	38%	122	32	4.08
	4 total			2162		1377	64%	57%	749	428	4.11
GMU 5B	5B	Archery	Sept 1-15	75	ES	71	95%	36%	23	3	3.86
	5B	Archery	Sept 16-22	75	ES	68	91%	11%	8	0	3.76
	5B	Rifle	Oct. 4-8	165	MB	140	85%	20%	31	0	2.99
	5B	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	100	A	88	88%	13%	0	11	2.68
	5B	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	165	MB	151	92%	10%	15	0	2.75
	5B	Rifle	Oct. 25-29	100	A	85	85%	19%	0	18	3.07
	5B	Rifle	Dec. 13-17	15	MB	15	100%	50%	7	0	3.79
	5B YE	Rifle	Nov. 28-Dec. 2	20	A	19	95%	78%	0	15	4.11
	5B private			20	MB	14	70%	71%	14	0	3.86
	5B private			13	A	12	92%	33%	0	4	3.17
	5B private archery			6	ES	6	100%	50%	1	2	3.00
	5B total			754		669	89%	22%	99	53	3.37
GMU 50	50	Archery	Sept. 1-22	120	ES	112	93%	24%	18	8	2.97
	50	Rifle	Oct. 4-8	130	MB	117	90%	35%	41	0	3.42
	50	Rifle	Oct. 4-8	45	A	34	76%	27%	0	11	3.37
	50	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	125	MB	106	85%	17%	20	0	2.92
	50	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	45	A	42	93%	22%	0	9	2.89
	50 YE	Rifle	Dec. 26-30	60	A	57	95%	86%	0	51	4.07
	50 private			82	MB	45	55%	43%	33	0	3.55
	50 private			36	A	24	67%	67%	0	24	4.00
	50 private archery			65	ES	43	66%	32%	14	6	3.54
	50 total			708		580	82%	35%	126	107	3.41
GMU 51	51	Archery	Sept 1-15	180	ES	164	91%	30%	37	14	3.67
	51	Archery	Sept 16-22	180	ES	173	96%	25%	31	10	3.71
	51	Rifle	Oct. 4-8	218	MB	190	87%	40%	80	0	3.76
	51	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	220	MB	204	93%	23%	46	0	3.47
	51	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	220	MB	199	90%	25%	53	0	3.34
	51	Rifle	Nov 2-6	240	A	220	92%	35%	0	75	3.54
	51	Rifle	Nov. 9-13	241	A	219	91%	23%	0	51	3.21
	51	Rifle	Nov. 15-19	175	A	152	87%	44%	2	71	3.41
	51	Muzzleloader	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	145	ES	134	92%	32%	18	24	3.39
	51 YE	Rifle	Nov. 28-Dec. 2	75	A	68	91%	38%	0	26	3.43
	51 YE	Rifle	Dec. 26-30	75	A	68	91%	69%	1	49	3.77
	51 private			153	MB/ES	87	57%	55%	83	0	4.16
	51 private			146	A	120	82%	59%	0	84	3.80
	51 private archery			74	ES	59	80%	41%	23	8	3.74
	51 total			2342		2057	88%	35%	375	412	3.60
GMU 52	52	Archery	Sept. 1-15	230	ES	209	91%	24%	32	18	3.27
	52	Archery	Sept. 16-22	230	ES	214	93%	20%	26	16	3.64
	52	Mobility Impaired	Oct. 4-8	50	MB	49	98%	34%	16	0	3.26
	52	Muzzleloader	Oct. 4-8	120	MB	113	94%	27%	30	0	3.45
	52	Muzzleloader	Oct. 4-8	50	A	49	98%	38%	0	18	3.72
	52	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	229	MB	209	91%	36%	79	0	3.63
	52	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	230	MB	213	93%	24%	50	0	3.51
	52 Youth	Rifle	Nov. 9-13	100	A	89	89%	52%	1	49	3.73
	52 MI	Mobility Impaired	Nov. 15-19	75	A	74	99%	52%	1	31	3.53
	52	Rifle	Nov. 15-19	75	A	73	97%	48%	0	33	3.31
	52	Rifle	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	150	A	142	95%	55%	0	78	3.92
	52 YE	Rifle	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	50	A	48	96%	70%	1	33	4.32
	52 private			57	MB	46	81%	49%	27	0	3.98
	52 private			40	A	31	78%	74%	0	30	4.39
	52 private archery			42	ES	38	90%	39%	13	3	3.66
	52 total			1728		1597	92%	36%	276	310	3.69
	Chama San Antonio Herd Unit Totals			7694		6280	82%	39%	1625	1311	3.63

JEMEZ REGION				Licenses Sold or		No. of Hunters	%	Success	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction
	GMU	Weapon	Hunt dates	Converted	Bag Limit	Reported	Reprtd	Rate	Bulls	Cows	Rating
GMU 6A	6A	Archery	Sept. 1-15	150	ES	141	94%	29%	32	10	3.71
	6A	Archery	Sept. 16-22	106	ES	104	98%	27%	28	0	3.98
	6A	Muzzleloader	Oct. 4-8	110	MB	102	93%	43%	46	0	3.85
	6A	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	100	MB	87	87%	34%	31	0	3.49
	6A	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	100	MB	93	93%	17%	16	0	3.40
	6A	Rifle	Oct. 25-29	100	A	90	90%	26%	1	23	3.22
	6A YE	Rifle	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	50	A	50	100%	49%	0	22	3.82
	6A YE	Rifle	Dec. 26-30	50	A	48	96%	54%	1	25	3.76
	6A private			49	MB	37	76%	30%	28	0	4.00
	6A private			12	A	11	92%	91%	0	11	4.18
	6A private archery			39	ES	35	90%	44%	17	0	4.56
	6A total			866		798	92%	34%	200	91	3.82
GMU 6B	6B	Archery	Sept. 6-12	15	ES	14	93%	43%	5	1	4.50
	6B	Archery	Sept. 16-20	16	ES	16	100%	60%	9	0	4.93
	6B	Muzzleloader	Oct. 1-5	15	MB	14	93%	100%	15	0	4.86
	6B	Muzzleloader	Oct. 1-5	8	A	8	100%	50%	0	4	4.38
	6B	Rifle	Oct. 8-10	15	MB	14	93%	79%	12	0	4.71
	6B	Rifle	Oct. 8-10	8	A	8	100%	50%	0	4	4.13
	6B	Rifle	Oct. 15-19	16	MB	13	81%	75%	11	0	4.62
	6B	Rifle	Oct. 15-19	9	A	8	89%	50%	0	5	4.13
	6B	Mobility Impaired	Oct. 22-24	13	A	11	85%	40%	0	5	3.70
	6B YO-Mentor	Rifle	Oct. 29-31	18	A	17	94%	18%	0	3	3.06
	6B Vetrans	Rifle	Nov. 5-7	20	A	19	95%	29%	1	4	4.24
	6B	Rifle	Nov. 12-14	19	A	18	95%	39%	0	7	4.28
	6B	Rifle	Nov. 19-21	18	A	17	94%	56%	0	10	4.75
	6B 2-persons	Rifle	Nov. 26-28	26	A	25	96%	56%	0	15	4.40
	6B total			216		202	94%	53%	53	57	4.33
GMU 6C	6C	Archery	Sept. 1-15	150	ES	138	92%	24%	28	5	3.68
	6C	Archery	Sept. 16-22	105	ES	100	95%	20%	18	1	3.52
	6C	Muzzleloader	Oct. 4-8	155	MB	147	95%	26%	37	0	3.34
	6C	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	105	MB	95	90%	24%	23	0	3.26
	6C	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	105	MB	88	84%	23%	23	0	3.18
	6C	Rifle	Oct. 25-29	130	A	110	85%	12%	0	14	2.77
	6C	Rifle	Nov. 22-26	129	A	120	93%	33%	1	38	3.22
	6C private			53	MB	35	66%	34%	18	0	3.77
	6C private			34	A	31	91%	69%	0	22	4.24
	6C private archery			34	ES	29	85%	28%	9	0	3.52
	6C total			1000		893	89%	26%	158	80	3.45
GMU 7	7	Archery	Sept 1-15	15	ES	14	93%	31%	4	0	4.00
	7	Archery	Sept. 16-22	15	ES	15	100%	13%	1	1	2.93
	7	Muzzleloader	Oct. 4-8	25	MB	24	96%	25%	6	0	3.63
	7	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	30	MB	30	100%	21%	6	0	3.50
	7	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	50	A	46	92%	15%	1	7	2.96
	7 private			86	MB	53	62%	83%	70	0	4.48
	7 private			70	A	45	64%	74%	0	50	4.53
	7 private archery			9	ES	7	78%	29%	1	1	3.00
	7 total			300		234	78%	45%	90	59	3.63
	Jemez Mountains Herd Unit Totals			2382		2127	89%	33%	500	287	3.81

SOUTHWEST REGION					Licenses Sold or		No. of Hunters Reported	% Reprtd	Success Rate	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction Rating
GMU	Weapon	Hunt dates	Converted	Bag Limit						Bulls	Cows	
GMU 13	13	Archery	Sept. 1-10	125	ES	117	94%	20%	20	2		3.50
	13	Archery	Sept-11-18	100	ES	96	96%	22%	19	2		3.55
	13	Archery	Sept. 19-24	76	ES	71	93%	21%	15	0		3.96
	13 Youth	Muzzleloader	Oct. 4-8	25	ES	19	76%	68%	16	1		4.37
	13	Muzzleloader	Oct. 11-15	75	MB	71	95%	27%	19	0		3.58
	13	Muzzleloader	Oct. 18-22	115	MB	102	89%	22%	24	0		3.48
	13	Muzzleloader	Nov. 15-19	100	MB	96	96%	10%	9	0		3.01
	13	Muzzleloader	Nov. 22-26	100	A	90	90%	31%	1	27		3.44
	13	Muzzleloader	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	100	A	99	99%	28%	1	24		3.30
	13 YE	Muzzleloader	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	57	A	51	89%	21%	0	11		3.15
	13 YE	Muzzleloader	Dec. 26-30	39	A	35	90%	94%	35	2		3.61
	13 private			142	MB	101	71%	50%	70	0		3.98
	13 private			103	A	83	81%	69%	2	65		3.68
	13 private archery			145	ES	103	71%	21%	28	0		3.81
	13 total			1302		1134	87%	31%	259	134		3.60
GMU 15	15	Archery	Sept. 11-18	200	ES	186	93%	23%	38	6		3.87
	15	Archery	Sept. 19-24	150	ES	143	95%	20%	24	4		3.89
	15 Youth	Muzzleloader	Oct. 4-8	25	ES	24	96%	78%	17	2		4.22
	15	Muzzleloader	Oct. 11-15	200	MB	189	95%	38%	71	0		3.88
	15	Muzzleloader	Oct. 18-22	245	MB	234	96%	20%	45	0		3.67
	15	Muzzleloader	Nov. 15-19	251	MB	237	94%	26%	60	0		3.63
	15	Muzzleloader	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	250	A	232	93%	45%	3	101		3.93
	15	Muzzleloader	Dec. 6-10	250	A	233	93%	39%	3	85		3.72
	15 YE	Muzzleloader	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	75	A	72	96%	55%	1	35		3.83
	15 YE	Muzzleloader	Dec. 26-30	75	A	69	92%	48%	0	33		3.39
	15 private			191	MB	141	74%	52%	98	0		3.80
	15 private			137	A	113	82%	64%	1	82		4.11
	15 private archery			174	ES	129	74%	38%	65	0		3.81
	15 total			2223		2002	90%	37%	426	349		3.83
GMU 16A	16A	Archery	Sept. 1-10	150	ES	139	93%	20%	24	5		3.81
	16A	Archery	Sept. 11-18	150	ES	141	94%	29%	40	1		3.92
	16A	Archery	Sept. 19-24	100	ES	95	95%	30%	27	1		4.03
	16A MI	Mobility Impaired	Oct. 4-8	25	MB	24	96%	78%	19	0		4.61
	16A	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	75	MB	71	95%	50%	37	0		4.10
	16A	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	125	MB	112	90%	45%	54	1		3.85
	16A	Rifle	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	75	A	65	87%	47%	0	31		3.60
	16A	Rifle	Dec. 6-10	75	A	72	96%	45%	0	30		3.42
	16A YE	Rifle	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	75	A	70	93%	60%	0	40		4.02
	16A YE	Rifle	Dec. 26-30	75	A	70	93%	43%	2	27		3.49
	16A private			8	MB	7	88%	71%	6	0		3.71
	16A private			2	A	2	100%	50%	0	1		4.50
	16A private archery			13	ES	12	92%	33%	4	0		3.67
	16A total			948		880	93%	39%	213	137		3.90
GMU 16B	16B/22	Archery	Sept. 1-10	130	ES	118	91%	19%	20	1		3.55
	16B/22	Archery	Sept. 11-18	130	ES	122	94%	25%	30	0		3.73
	16B/22	Archery	Sept. 19-24	130	ES	116	89%	21%	26	0		3.59
	16B/22	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	160	MB	146	91%	38%	54	0		3.63
	16B/22	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	160	MB	146	91%	21%	28	1		3.45
	16B/22 private			2	MB	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA
	16B/22 private			0	A	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA
	16B/22 private archery			2	ES	1	50%	100%	2	0		4.00
	16B total			714		649	91%	25%	160	2		3.66
GMU 16C	16C	Archery	Sept. 1-10	100	ES	97	97%	14%	10	3		3.74
	16C	Archery	Sept. 11-18	75	ES	71	95%	21%	15	0		3.71
	16C	Archery	Sept. 19-24	75	ES	70	93%	19%	14	0		3.75
	16C Youth	Rifle	Oct. 4-8	25	ES	24	96%	61%	14	1		4.22
	16C	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	50	MB	41	82%	21%	10	0		3.51
	16C	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	95	MB	91	96%	15%	14	0		3.08
	16C	Rifle	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	50	A	48	96%	39%	0	18		3.18
	16C	Rifle	Dec. 6-10	50	A	45	90%	37%	0	16		3.34
	16C YE	Rifle	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	75	A	73	97%	47%	1	32		3.53
	16C YE	Rifle	Dec. 26-30	75	A	69	92%	55%	2	35		3.58
	16C private			32	MB	15	47%	53%	17	0		4.27
	16C private			21	A	19	90%	72%	0	14		3.89
	16C private archery			55	ES	49	89%	32%	16	0		4.20
	16C total			778		712	92%	31%	112	118		3.69
GMU 16D	16D	Archery	Sept. 1-10	60	ES	57	95%	31%	15	2		3.85
	16D	Archery	Sept. 11-18	50	ES	49	98%	30%	14	0		4.07
	16D	Archery	Sept. 19-24	40	ES	38	95%	31%	11	1		4.14
	16D MI	Mobility Impaired	Oct. 4-8	25	MB	24	96%	75%	19	0		4.25
	16D	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	55	MB	51	93%	57%	30	0		4.06
	16D	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	50	MB	41	82%	49%	23	0		3.95
	16D	Rifle	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	50	A	48	96%	49%	0	21		3.73
	16D	Rifle	Dec. 6-10	50	A	48	96%	55%	1	24		3.43
	16D YE	Rifle	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	75	A	71	95%	52%	0	36		3.80
	16D YE	Rifle	Dec. 26-30	75	A	69	92%	48%	1	30		3.67
	16D private			16	MB	16	100%	81%	13	0		4.31
	16D private			14	A	10	71%	60%	0	8		4.10
	16D private archery			27	ES	24	89%	29%	8	0		4.08
	16D total			587		546	93%	47%	135	123		3.96

	GMU	Weapon	Hunt dates	Licenses Sold or		No. of Hunters Reported	%	Success Rate	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction Rating
				Converted	Bag Limit				Bulls	Cows	
GMU 16E	16E	Archery	Sept. 1-10	50	ES	48	96%	11%	4	1	3.25
	16E	Archery	Sept. 11-18	50	ES	47	94%	7%	3	0	3.31
	16E	Archery	Sept. 19-24	50	ES	47	94%	19%	9	0	3.37
	16E Youth	Rifle	Oct. 4-8	25	ES	24	96%	65%	13	3	3.65
	16E	Muzzleloader	Oct. 11-15	70	MB	66	94%	23%	16	0	3.48
	16E	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	70	MB	67	96%	43%	28	0	3.57
	16E	Rifle	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	75	A	69	92%	53%	1	32	3.61
	16E	Rifle	Dec. 6-10	75	A	64	85%	37%	0	23	3.74
	16 E YE	Rifle	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	75	A	64	85%	54%	2	33	3.75
	16E YE	Rifle	Dec. 26-30	67	A	54	81%	28%	0	16	3.36
	16E private			61	MB/ES	47	77%	66%	40	0	4.15
	16E private			46	A	33	72%	70%	0	32	3.91
	16E private archery			67	ES	50	75%	22%	15	0	4.40
	16E total			781		680	87%	37%	131	140	3.66
	Greater Gila Herd Unit Totals			6031		5469	91%	36%	1176	870	3.78
GMU 17	17	Archery	Sept. 1-10	75	ES	69	69%	22%	13	3	3.67
	17	Archery	Sept. 11-18	75	ES	72	96%	32%	21	2	3.90
	17	Archery	Sept. 19-24	50	ES	47	94%	19%	9	0	3.62
	17 Youth	Muzzleloader	Oct. 4-8	25	ES	25	100%	52%	12	0	3.30
	17	Muzzleloader	Oct. 11-15	100	MB	91	91%	28%	25	0	3.51
	17	Muzzleloader	Oct. 18-22	100	MB	89	89%	25%	21	1	3.40
	17	Muzzleloader	Nov. 15-19	25	MB	24	96%	32%	7	0	3.18
	17	Muzzleloader	Nov. 15-19	25	A	24	96%	15%	0	3	3.15
	17	Muzzleloader	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	100	A	93	93%	17%	0	15	3.37
	17	Muzzleloader	Dec. 6-10	100	A	88	88%	28%	0	24	3.35
	17 YE	Muzzleloader	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	35	A	31	89%	3%	0	1	2.69
	17 YE	Muzzleloader	Dec. 26-30	13	A	12	92%	60%	3	3	3.00
	17 private			38	MB/ES	26	68%	65%	25	0	4.58
	17 private			35	A	27	77%	56%	0	18	3.92
	17 private archery			33	ES	27	82%	52%	17	0	4.48
	17 total			829		745	90%	29%	154	71	3.54
GMU 21A	21A	Archery	Sept. 1-15	50	ES	48	96%	17%	7	1	3.87
	21A	Archery	Sept. 16-24	50	ES	49	98%	30%	13	0	3.72
	21A	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	50	MB	47	94%	32%	14	0	3.63
	21A	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	50	MB	50	100%	30%	14	0	3.09
	21A private			1	MB	1	100%	100%	1	0	5.00
	21A private			0	A	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	21A private archery			2	ES	2	100%	100%	2	0	5.00
	21A total			203		197	97%	28%	51	1	4.05
GMU 21B	21B	Archery	Sept. 1-15	25	ES	20	80%	29%	6	0	3.06
	21B	Archery	Sept. 16-24	25	ES	23	92%	53%	11	0	3.63
	21B	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	25	MB	21	84%	29%	6	0	3.24
	21B	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	25	MB	22	88%	35%	8	0	3.25
	21B	Rifle	Nov. 9-13	15	A	12	80%	60%	1	6	4.20
	21B	Rifle	Nov. 15-19	15	A	13	87%	64%	0	8	3.55
	21B	Rifle	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	15	A	13	87%	60%	0	7	3.80
	21B	Rifle	Dec. 6-10	15	A	12	80%	18%	0	3	2.82
	21B private			69	MB	52	75%	68%	45	0	4.58
	21B private			56	A	41	73%	77%	0	41	4.41
	21B private archery			50	ES	43	86%	25%	9	2	3.95
	21B total			335		272	81%	50%	87	67	3.68
GMU 23	23	Archery	Sept. 1-10	75	ES	69	92%	21%	9	4	3.12
	23	Archery	Sept. 11-18	75	ES	69	92%	3%	2	0	2.87
	23	Archery	Sept. 19-24	50	ES	44	88%	26%	8	5	2.95
	23 Youth	Rifle	Oct. 4-8	25	MB	24	96%	67%	14	3	3.75
	23	Muzzleloader	Oct. 11-15	75	MB	74	99%	12%	8	0	2.65
	23	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	75	MB	72	96%	30%	20	0	3.06
	23 private			15	MB	7	47%	57%	9	0	4.29
	23 private			6	A	3	50%	33%	0	2	3.33
	23 private archery			12	ES	10	83%	22%	2	0	3.89
	23 total			408		372	91%	22%	71	14	3.32
GMU 24	24	Archery	Sept. 1-22	25	ES	21	84%	6%	1	0	2.88
	24	Muzzleloader	Oct. 11-15	15	MB	14	93%	9%	1	0	1.82
	24	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	15	MB	12	80%	17%	3	0	3.08
	24 YO Ft. Bayard	Rifle	Oct. 4-8	5	A	5	100%	50%	2	0	3.50
	24 private			10	MB	4	40%	0%	0	0	2.75
	24 private			3	A	3	100%	33%	0	1	2.33
	24 private archery			2	ES	2	100%	0%	0	0	1.00
	24 total			75		61	81%	13%	7	1	2.48
	Lesser Gila Herd Unit Totals			1021		902	88%	32%	216	83	3.38
	SOUTHWEST REGION TOTALS			9183		8250	90%	34%	1805	1159	3.61

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION				Licenses Sold or	Bag Limit	No. of Hunters Reported	%	Success Rate	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction	
	GMU	Weapon	Hunt dates	Converted			Reprtd		Bulls	Cows	Rating	
GMU 34	34	Archery	Sept. 1-10	200	ES	187	94%	31%	47	11	3.93	
	34	Archery	Sept 13-22	200	ES	189	95%	27%	49	2	3.97	
	34 Youth	Rifle	Oct. 4-8	75	ES	69	92%	77%	53	4	4.55	
	34 Youth	Rifle	Oct. 4-8	75	A	70	93%	413%	0	35	3.79	
	34	Mobility Impaired	Oct. 11-15	50	ES	46	92%	53%	23	2	3.53	
	34	Muzzleloader	Oct. 11-15	250	MB	235	94%	45%	103	0	4.00	
	34	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	150	MB	137	91%	40%	56	0	3.72	
	34	Rifle	Nov. 22-26	250	A	231	92%	42%	1	100	3.76	
	34	Rifle	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	250	A	237	95%	49%	3	109	3.69	
	34	Rifle	Dec. 6-10	150	A	137	91%	43%	4	53	3.88	
	34	Archery	Dec. 13-17	199	APRE/6	192	96%	9%	15	0	3.33	
	34 YE	Rifle	Dec. 26-30	80	A	78	98%	58%	0	46	3.95	
	34 private			184	MB/ES	118	64%	65%	117	0	4.34	
	34 private			173	A	149	86%	59%	1	98	3.78	
34 private archery			159	ES	116	73%	50%	70	5	3.84		
34 total				2445		2191	90%	45%	542	465	3.87	
GMU 36	36	Archery	Sept. 1-10	100	ES	90	90%	32%	27	2	3.77	
	36	Archery	Sept 13-22	100	ES	94	94%	31%	26	3	3.90	
	36	Muzzleloader	Oct. 4-8	135	MB	127	94%	53%	69	0	4.06	
	36	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	100	MB	95	95%	50%	48	0	3.92	
	36	Rifle	Oct. 25-29	100	MB	91	91%	49%	45	0	3.94	
	36	Rifle	Nov. 22-26	100	A	90	90%	43%	1	37	3.70	
	36	Rifle	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	100	A	91	91%	28%	0	25	3.33	
	36 YE	Rifle	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	60	A	54	90%	45%	0	23	3.77	
	36 YE	Rifle	Dec. 26-30	60	A	56	93%	48%	2	24	3.92	
	36 private			183	MB/ES	115	63%	68%	119	3	4.12	
	36 private			196	A	123	63%	67%	2	127	3.95	
	36 private archery			113	ES	77	68%	55%	56	4	4.07	
	36 total				1347		1103	82%	49%	395	249	3.87
	REGION TOTALS				3792		3294	87%	46%	937	714	3.87
NORTHEAST REGION				Licenses Sold or	Bag Limit	No. of Hunters Reported	%	Success Rate	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction	
	GMU	Weapon	Hunt dates	Converted			Reprtd		Bulls	Cows	Rating	
GMU 45	45	Archery	Sept. 1-22	150	ES	142	95%	17%	21	3	3.27	
	45	Muzzleloader	Oct. 4-8	140	MB	131	94%	21%	29	0	3.13	
	45	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	140	MB	123	88%	26%	34	0	3.06	
	45	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	142	MB	125	88%	20%	26	0	2.96	
	45	Muzzleloader	Nov. 9-13	50	A	44	88%	8%	0	3	2.66	
	45 private			45	MB	33	73%	41%	18	0	3.56	
	45 private			31	A	28	90%	50%	0	16	3.57	
	45 private archery			63	ES	46	73%	30%	18	1	3.30	
	45 total				761		672	88%	23%	146	23	3.19
GMU 48	48	Archery	Sept. 1-15	85	ES	79	93%	34%	19	9	3.20	
	48	Archery	Sept. 16-22	85	ES	77	91%	19%	11	3	3.36	
	48	Muzzleloader	Oct. 4-8	35	MB	33	94%	34%	12	0	3.63	
	48	Muzzleloader	Oct. 11-15	65	MB	62	95%	34%	20	0	3.57	
	48	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	30	MB	26	87%	21%	6	0	3.08	
	48	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	45	A	43	96%	34%	0	15	3.20	
	48	Rifle	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	30	MB	27	90%	43%	11	0	3.35	
	48	Rifle	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	50	A	42	84%	61%	0	26	3.31	
	48 private			72	MB	45	63%	56%	38	0	4.21	
	48 private			56	A	40	71%	59%	0	32	4.00	
	48 private archery			49	ES	36	73%	31%	12	3	3.54	
	48 total				602		510	85%	38%	130	88	3.49
GMU 49	49	Archery	Sept. 1-22	120	ES	110	92%	40%	37	9	3.60	
	49	Rifle	Oct. 4-8	80	MB	72	90%	40%	30	0	3.70	
	49	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	75	MB	61	81%	30%	22	0	3.31	
	49	Rifle	Nov. 1-5	80	A	69	86%	23%	0	17	3.09	
	49	Rifle	Nov. 9-13	75	A	64	85%	45%	2	29	3.33	
	49 YE	Rifle	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	50	A	44	88%	43%	0	20	3.31	
	49 private			5	MB	5	100%	60%	3	0	4.80	
	49 private			9	A	6	67%	0%	0	0	3.00	
	49 private archery			9	ES	5	56%	60%	2	4	3.20	
	49 total				503		436	87%	37%	96	79	3.48
GMU 53	53	Archery	Sept. 1-22	119	ES	109	92%	19%	17	3	3.37	
	53 ex Cerro	Muzzleloader	Oct. 4-8	50	MB	49	98%	30%	13	1	3.65	
	53 ex Cerro	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	75	MB	66	88%	18%	11	0	3.14	
	53 ex Cerro	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	125	MB	109	87%	12%	14	0	2.86	
	53 ex Cerro	Rifle	Nov. 1-5	90	A	76	84%	34%	0	27	3.24	
	53 ex Cerro	Rifle	Nov. 9-13	90	A	87	97%	33%	0	27	2.99	
	53YE	Rifle	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	60	A	57	95%	86%	0	51	4.07	
	53YE	Rifle	Dec. 26-30	75	A	68	91%	38%	0	26	3.43	
	53 private			62	MB	40	65%	37%	20	2	3.61	
	53 private			63	A	42	67%	54%	2	30	3.31	
	53 private archery			74	ES	56	76%	24%	15	1	3.33	
	53 total				883		759	86%	32%	92	168	3.36
REGION TOTALS				2749		2377	86%	32%	464	359	3.38	

Hunts in GMU's Where No Core Occupied Elk Range (COER) is Established

	GMU	Weapon	Hunt dates	Licenses Sold or		No. of Hunters	%	Success Rate	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction Rating
				Converted	Bag Limit				Bulls	Cows	
GMU 12	12	Archery	Sept. 1-22	30	ES	26	87%	23%	7	0	3.81
	12	Rifle	Oct. 4-8	30	MB	27	90%	69%	20	0	4.27
	12	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	30	A	30	100%	52%	1	14	3.38
	12	Archery	Nov. 15-19	25	APRE/6	25	100%	0%	0	0	2.71
	12 private			349	MB	183	52%	69%	231	0	4.18
	12 private			275	A	162	59%	58%	5	151	3.88
	12 private archery			135	ES	77	57%	43%	56	2	3.96
	12 total			874		530	61%	55%	320	167	3.74
GMU 18	18	Archery	Sept. 1-22	50	ES	46	92%	15%	7	0	2.55
	18 private rifle			10	ES	7	70%	43%	4	0	3.14
	18 private			4	A	4	100%	25%	0	1	3.25
	18 private archery			15	ES	12	80%	75%	6	5	3.92
	18 total			79		69	87%	30%	17	6	3.21
GMU 28	28 Military	Rifle	Dec. 6-10	10	ES	9	90%	78%	4	3	4.00
	28	Rifle	Dec. 6-10	10	ES	10	100%	90%	9	0	4.40
	28 total			20		19	95%	84%	13	3	4.20
GMU 30	30	Rifle	Oct. 4-8	30	ES	27	90%	38%	10	0	2.83
	30 private archery			5	ES	4	80%	25%	1	0	3.25
	30 total			35		31	89%	36%	11	0	3.04
GMU 37	37	Archery	Sept. 1-22	30	ES	27	90%	38%	10	0	2.83
	37	Muzzleloader	Oct. 4-8	30	MB	29	97%	33%	9	0	3.59
	37	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	30	MB	28	93%	41%	12	0	3.96
	37	Rifle	Nov. 22-26	45	A	42	93%	32%	0	13	3.21
	37	Archery	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	50	APRE/6	49	98%	0%	0	0	2.29
	37 private			74	MB/ES	42	57%	36%	26	0	3.19
	37 private			44	A	34	77%	56%	0	25	3.15
	37 private archery			57	ES	38	67%	33%	15	3	3.94
	37 total			360		289	80%	32%	73	40	3.27
	37	Archery	Sept. 1-22	30	ES	27	90%	38%	10	0	2.83
GMU 38	38	Rifle	Oct. 4-8	15	ES	14	93%	31%	4	0	3.38
	38 private			9	MB	6	67%	20%	2	0	3.00
	38 private			1	A	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	38 private archery			2	ES	2	100%	50%	0	1	4.50
	38 Total			27		22	81%	30%	6	1	3.63
GMU 42	42 private			10	A	7	70%	0%	0	0	1.83
	42 private archery			36	ES	22	61%	76%	25	2	3.95
	42 total			46		29	63%	59%	25	2	2.89
GMU 43	43	Rifle	Sept. 21-25	60	ES	54	90%	17%	8	1	2.65
	43 total			60		54	90%	17%	8	1	2.65
GMU 46	46 private			594	ES	340	57%	52%	246	51	3.85
	46 private			469	A	303	65%	61%	8	268	3.66
	46 total			1063		643	60%	56%	254	318	3.76
GMU 47	47 private			21	ES	10	48%	70%	15	0	4.60
	47 private			15	A	8	53%	71%	0	9	3.86
	46 total			36		18	50%	71%	15	9	4.23
GMU 54	54 Colin N. WMA South	Muzzleloader	Oct. 4-8	20	MB	18	90%	24%	4	0	2.94
	54 Colin N. WMA South	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	20	MB	19	95%	39%	7	0	3.11
	54 Colin N. WMA South	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	20	MB	19	95%	5%	1	0	3.53
	54 Colin N. WMA South	Rifle	Oct. 25-29	21	MB	18	86%	25%	5	0	3.25
	54 Colin N. WMA South	Rifle	Nov. 1-5	20	A	20	100%	28%	0	5	3.44
	54 private Rifle										
	54 private			62	A	33	53%	58%	0	36	4.21
	54 private archery			89	ES	35	39%	77%	64	5	4.46
	54 total			252		162	64%	43%	81	46	3.56
	54	Archery	Sept. 1-22	30	ES	26	87%	23%	7	0	3.81

	GMU	Weapon	Hunt dates	Licenses Sold or		No. of Hunters Reported	% Reprtd	Success Rate	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction Rating
				Converted	Bag Limit				Bulls	Cows	
GMU 55	55 Valle Vidal/Greenwood	Archery	Sept 16-22	20	ES	19	95%	42%	8	0	4.42
	55 Valle Vidal/Greenwood	Muzzleloader	Oct. 4-8	35	MB	33	94%	68%	22	0	4.39
	55 Valle Vidal/Greenwood	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	15	MB	12	80%	58%	9	0	3.83
	55 Valle Vidal/Greenwood YO	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	20	MB	18	90%	65%	12	0	4.29
	55 Valle Vidal/Greenwood	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	35	MB	34	97%	50%	18	0	3.68
	55 Valle Vidal/Greenwood YO	Rifle	Nov. 1-5	35	A	33	94%	35%	1	11	3.90
	55 Valle Vidal/Greenwood	Rifle	Nov. 1-5	35	A	32	91%	53%	1	16	3.87
	55 Valle Vidal/Greenwood	Rifle	Nov. 15-19	50	A	49	98%	65%	0	31	4.24
	55 Colin N. WMA North	Muzzleloader	Oct. 4-8	20	MB	18	90%	29%	6	0	3.12
	55 Colin N. WMA North	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	19	MB	17	89%	19%	3	0	2.81
	55 Colin N. WMA North	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	20	MB	18	90%	6%	1	0	1.63
	55 Colin N. WMA North	Rifle	Oct. 25-29	20	MB	18	90%	13%	2	0	2.07
	55 Colin N. WMA North	Rifle	Nov. 1-5	18	A	16	89%	9%	0	1	1.91
	55 ES Barker WMA	Archery	Sept. 1-22	10	ES	9	90%	38%	3	0	3.00
	55 ES Barker WMA	Muzzleloader	Oct. 4-8	10	MB	10	100%	25%	2	0	3.13
	55 Urraca WMA	Rifle	Oct. 4-8	10	MB	10	100%	63%	5	0	3.63
	55 Urraca WMA	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	10	MB	7	70%	33%	3	0	4.33
	55 Urraca WMA	Rifle	Oct. 18-22	10	MB	10	100%	33%	3	0	3.22
	55 Urraca WMA	Rifle	Oct. 25-29	10	MB	8	80%	43%	4	0	2.14
	55 Urraca WMA	Rifle	Nov. 1-5	15	A	14	93%	0%	0	0	1.45
	55 Urraca WMA	Rifle	Nov. 9-13	15	A	15	100%	25%	0	3	2.00
	55 private Rifle			581	ES	248	43%	82%	438	30	4.58
	55 private			1202	A	768	64%	79%	19	916	4.33
	55 private archery			309	ES	116	38%	63%	162	29	4.30
	55 total			2524		1532	61%	69%	723	1037	3.34

GMU 56	56	Rifle	Oct. 4-8	10	MB	9	90%	100%	10	0	4.67
	56	Rifle	Oct. 11-15	10	A	8	80%	50%	0	4	3.67
	56 private Rifle			108	ES	55	51%	87%	90	4	4.53
	56 private			126	A	78	62%	81%	2	99	4.66
	56 private archery			125	ES	63	50%	86%	101	6	4.56
	56 total			379		213	56%	84%	203	112	4.42

GMU 57/58	57 Sugarite State Park	Archery	Sept. 1-22	5	ES	5	100%	25%	1	0	3.50
	57/58	Rifle	Oct. 4-8	10	MB	10	100%	56%	5	0	4.00
	57/58	Rifle	Nov. 29-Dec. 3	10	A	8	80%	17%	0	1	2.67
	57/58 private Rifle			248	ES	128	52%	70%	163	8	4.18
	57/58 private			231	A	142	61%	66%	5	145	4.08
	57/58 private archery			77	ES	47	61%	33%	23	2	3.88
	57 total			581		340	59%	61%	197	155	3.72

GMU 59	59 private			38	ES	21	55%	0%	27	0	4.05
	59 private			12	A	8	67%	50%	0	6	4.25
	59 total			50		29	58%	66%	27	6	4.15
Outside COER Totals				6386		3980	62%	60%	1972	1905	3.59

Pop Mgmt	Bosque del Apache			26	A/ES	21	81%	60%	14	1	4.20
	Bernardo/La Joya			6	A	6	100%	33%	0	2	3.17
	X bar X			14	ES	10	71%	56%	4	3	3.78
	GMU 51			296	A	241	81%	50%	5	135	3.66

STATEWIDE TOTALS				Licenses Sold or		No. Hunters	% Reprtd	Success Rate	Estimated		Satisfaction Rating
				Converted	Bag Limit				Bulls	Cows	
				36582		30022	82%	39%	7851	6383	3.66

STATEWIDE SUCCESS					
		Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader	Satisfaction
Public		37%	22%	32%	3.51
Private		65%	35%	58%	4.03

Table 2: Harvest Data 2015

NORTHWEST REGION													
	GMU	Hunt code	Weapon	Hunt dates	Licenses Sold or Converted	Bag Limit	No. of Hunters Reported	% Reprtd	Success Rate	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction Rating	Number of days Hunted
										Bulls	Cows		
GMU 2	2	2-100	Archery	Sept 1-14	120	ES	111	93%	17%	16	3	3.30	7.56
	2	2-101	Archery	Sept 15-24	120	ES	104	87%	21%	19	6	3.59	5.62
	2	3-102	Muzzleloader	Oct 10-14	126	MB	119	94%	28%	33	0	3.59	3.39
	2	1-103	Rifle	Oct 17-21	76	MB	65	86%	23%	18	0	3.10	3.87
	2	1-104	Rifle	Dec. 12-16	100	A	93	93%	50%	1	45	3.70	2.88
	2 Youth	1-105	Rifle	Dec. 12-16	50	A	44	88%	61%	0	31	4.18	2.23
	2 private				62	MB/ES	45	73%	64%	33	4	4.19	6.29
	2 private				30	A	22	73%	73%	0	22	4.55	2.77
	2 private archery				43	ES	36	84%	35%	14	0	3.71	6.74
	2 total				727		639	88%	34%	134	111	3.77	4.60
GMU 5A	5A	2-106	Archery	Sept 1-14	5	ES	2	40%	50%	0	3	2.50	9.00
	5A	2-107	Archery	Sept 15-24	5	ES	2	40%	0%	0	0	2.00	1.00
	5A	1-108	Rifle	Oct 10-14	11	MB	10	91%	38%	3	0	3.38	2.88
	5A	1-109	Rifle	Oct 10-14	10	A	5	50%	20%	0	2	1.60	4.00
	5A	1-110	Rifle	Oct 17-21	10	MB	10	100%	13%	1	0	3.50	4.50
	5A	1-111	Rifle	Oct 17-21	10	A	10	100%	11%	0	1	2.00	3.78
	5A	1-112	Rifle	Oct 24-28	10	MB	7	70%	43%	4	0	3.14	4.14
	5A	1-113	Rifle	Oct 24-28	10	A	8	80%	14%	0	1	3.57	3.43
	5A	1-114	Rifle	Oct 31-Nov. 4	10	MB	7	70%	14%	1	0	2.29	3.71
	5A	1-115	Rifle	Oct 31-Nov. 4	10	A	10	100%	13%	0	1	3.38	4.25
	5A private				207	MB	128	62%	45%	91	0	4.01	4.01
	5A private				220	A	155	70%	87%	6	183	4.49	2.55
	5A private archery				31	ES	19	61%	32%	5	5	3.84	5.53
	5A total				549		373	68%	58%	111	196	3.05	4.06
GMU 9	9 Marquez	2-116	Archery	Sept 1-14	5	ES	4	80%	0%	0	0	2.25	6.00
	9 Marquez	2-117	Archery	Sept 15-24	5	ES	5	100%	60%	3	0	4.80	3.40
	9 Marquez	3-118	Muzzleloader	Oct 10-14	6	MB	5	83%	0%	0	0	2.60	3.80
	9 Marquez	3-119	Muzzleloader	Oct 17-21	6	MB	5	83%	60%	4	0	5.00	2.80
	9 Marquez	3-120	Muzzleloader	Oct 24-28	6	MB	6	100%	0%	0	0	1.50	2.25
	9 Marquez	3-121	Muzzleloader	Oct 31-Nov. 4	5	A	5	100%	0%	0	0	3.00	3.80
	9 Marquez	3-122	Muzzleloader	Nov. 7-11	5	A	5	100%	50%	0	2	3.50	2.50
	9 Marquez	3-123	Muzzleloader	Nov 21-25	5	A	4	80%	50%	0	3	4.25	2.50
	9	2-124	Archery	Sept 1-14	160	ES	134	84%	9%	11	2	2.69	7.34
	9	2-125	Archery	Sept 15-24	160	ES	142	89%	8%	12	0	2.38	5.85
	9	3-126	Mobility Impaired	Oct 10-14	39	ES	35	90%	18%	2	4	2.12	4.00
	9	3-127	Muzzleloader	Oct 17-21	70	MB	65	93%	13%	9	0	2.28	3.95
	9	3-128	Muzzleloader	Oct 24-28	70	MB	63	90%	16%	10	0	2.67	4.05
	9	3-129	Muzzleloader	Oct 31-Nov. 4	40	MB	33	83%	10%	4	0	2.40	3.93
	9	3-130	Muzzleloader	Nov 7-11	80	A	73	91%	5%	1	2	2.20	3.70
	9	3-131	Muzzleloader	Nov 21-25	80	A	72	90%	9%	0	6	2.60	3.70
	9	3-132	Muzzleloader	Dec 12-16	78	A	69	88%	12%	0	8	2.73	3.23
	9 private				137	MB	88	64%	73%	98	0	3.88	2.97
	9 private				95	A	78	82%	53%	1	48	3.55	3.07
	9 private archery				114	ES	74	65%	56%	59	3	3.69	5.26
	9 total				1166		965	83%	24%	213	78	3.01	3.91
GMU 10	10	2-133	Archery	Sept 1-14	125	ES	116	93%	10%	11	1	3.09	7.39
	10	2-134	Archery	Sept 15-24	125	ES	111	89%	11%	12	0	3.36	6.52
	10	3-135	Muzzleloader	Oct 10-14	70	MB	62	89%	13%	9	0	2.92	4.00
	10	1-136	Rifle	Oct 17-21	70	MB	60	86%	22%	15	0	3.48	4.28
	10 Youth	1-137	Rifle	Nov. 14-18	120	A	108	90%	27%	0	30	3.35	3.05
	10	1-138	Rifle	Dec. 19-23	100	A	90	90%	17%	1	13	2.77	3.38
	10 YE	1-508	Rifle	Nov. 27-Dec. 1	35	A	30	86%	28%	0	9	3.38	3.45
	10 private				82	MB	53	65%	37%	29	0	3.45	3.90
	10 private				104	A	77	74%	47%	3	43	3.47	3.10
	10 private archery				102	ES	71	70%	24%	22	3	2.90	5.67
	10 total				933		778	83%	22%	102	100	3.22	4.47
REGION TOTALS					3375		2755	82%	31%	561	484	3.26	4.26

NORTHCENTRAL REGION				Licenses Sold or	Bag Limit	No. of Hunters	%	Success	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction	Number of days	
	GMU	Hunt code	Weapon	Hunt dates	Converted		Reported	Reprtd	Rate	Bulls	Cows	Rating	Hunted
GMU 4	4 Sargent	2-139	Archery	Sept. 1-14	10	ES	10	100%	30%	3	0	4.80	6.50
	4 Sargent	2-140	Archery	Sept 15-24	10	ES	10	100%	40%	4	0	4.60	4.90
	4 Sargent	1-141	Rifle	Oct. 10-14	10	MB	10	100%	70%	7	0	4.00	2.70
	4 Sargent	1-142	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	10	MB	9	90%	44%	4	0	4.33	3.11
	4 Sargent	1-143	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	10	MB	10	100%	70%	7	0	4.40	2.70
	4 Sargent	1-144	Rifle	Oct 31 - Nov 4	10	MB	10	100%	40%	4	0	3.60	3.60
	4 Sargent	1-145	Rifle	Nov. 7-11	10	A	9	90%	38%	0	3	2.63	2.00
	4 Sgt Youth	1-146	Rifle	Nov. 7-11	10	A	10	100%	33%	0	3	3.67	2.44
	4 Hum only	2-147	Archery	Sept 1-14	10	ES	10	100%	30%	3	0	3.60	5.10
	4 Hum only	2-148	Archery	Sept 15-24	10	ES	8	80%	25%	3	0	3.75	6.13
	4 Hum RC	1-149	Rifle	Oct 10-14	15	MB	13	87%	67%	9	0	4.00	3.08
	4 Hum RC	1-150	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	15	MB	14	93%	54%	8	0	3.92	3.38
	4 Hum RC	1-151	Rifle	Nov 7-11	10	A	8	80%	50%	0	4	4.50	1.67
	4 Hum RC Youth	1-152	Rifle	Nov. 7-11	15	A	12	80%	55%	1	6	4.18	2.55
4 private				931	MB	484	52%	64%	581	2	4.22	3.68	
4 private				561	A	352	63%	74%	6	400	4.35	2.74	
4 private archery				402	ES	204	51%	47%	156	28	4.33	6.57	
4 total				2049		1183	58%	62%	796	446	4.05	3.70	
GMU 5B	5B	2-153	Archery	Sept 1-14	75	ES	70	93%	23%	10	5	3.84	7.45
	5B	2-154	Archery	Sept 15-24	75	ES	67	89%	30%	20	0	3.54	5.61
	5B	1-155	Rifle	Oct 10-14	86	MB	80	93%	16%	12	1	2.96	1.88
	5B	1-156	Rifle	Oct 17-21	59	A	50	85%	2%	0	1	2.50	3.64
	5B	1-157	Rifle	Oct 24-28	86	MB	78	91%	30%	25	0	3.29	3.3
	5B	1-158	Rifle	Oct 31 - Nov 4	59	A	56	95%	25%	0	14	3.37	3.92
	5B	1-159	Rifle	Nov 7-11	87	MB	79	91%	19%	14	0	3.09	3.81
	5B	1-160	Rifle	Nov 14-18	59	A	55	93%	41%	0	23	3.90	3.14
	5B	1-161	Rifle	Dec 12-16	88	MB	77	88%	26%	22	0	3.21	1.0
	5B YE	1-501	Rifle	Nov 27-Dec 1	20	A	19	95%	67%	0	13	4.11	2.89
	5B private				21	MB	9	43%	67%	14	0	3.22	3.89
	5B private				7	A	7	100%	40%	0	2	3.00	2.20
	5B private archery				7	ES	5	71%	40%	3	0	3.20	9.80
	5B total				729		652	89%	26%	120	58	3.32	4.43
GMU 50	50	2-162	Archery	Sept 1-14	60	ES	54	90%	29%	11	4	2.86	6.45
	50	2-163	Archery	Sept 15-24	55	ES	49	89%	21%	7	3	2.69	6.21
	50	1-164	Rifle	Oct 10-14	120	MB	104	87%	14%	15	0	2.57	3.94
	50	1-165	Rifle	Nov. 7-11	41	A	39	95%	42%	0	16	3.78	3.25
	50	1-166	Rifle	Oct 17-21	123	MB	95	77%	15%	17	0	2.98	3.98
	50	1-167	Rifle	Nov 21-25	45	A	42	93%	86%	0	39	4.12	3.36
	50 YE	1-527	Rifle	Dec 26-30	60	A	56	93%	83%	0	46	4.21	1.88
	50 private				117	MB/ES	59	50%	41%	36	12	3.24	3.71
	50 private				46	A	37	80%	64%	1	27	4.28	2.50
	50 private archery				39	ES	29	74%	31%	8	4	2.48	6.31
	50 total				706		564	80%	38%	95	152	3.32	4.16
GMU 51	51	2-168	Archery	Sept 1-14	180	ES	158	88%	33%	43	13	3.69	7.22
	51	2-169	Archery	Sept 15-24	181	ES	168	93%	24%	34	9	3.68	5.70
	51	1-170	Rifle	Oct 10-14	220	MB	189	86%	26%	54	0	3.49	3.82
	51	1-171	Rifle	Oct 17-21	220	MB	176	80%	16%	33	0	3.20	3.90
	51	1-172	Rifle	Oct 24-28	220	MB	180	82%	22%	44	0	3.36	3.89
	51	1-173	Rifle	Nov 7-11	251	A	226	90%	32%	2	73	3.51	3.47
	51	1-174	Rifle	Nov 14-18	251	A	228	91%	38%	2	87	3.49	3.70
	51	1-175	Rifle	Nov 21-25	253	A	229	91%	29%	1	68	3.26	3.80
	51	3-176	Muzzleloader	Dec 5-9	145	ES	121	83%	24%	17	14	3.08	3.97
	51 YE	1-528	Rifle	Nov 27-Dec 1	75	A	68	91%	37%	1	23	3.08	2.75
	51 YE	1-529	Rifle	Dec 26-30	75	A	72	96%	67%	1	46	3.94	2.71
	51 private				166	MB ES	98	59%	51%	76	3	3.95	3.65
	51 private				150	A	113	75%	55%	1	78	3.80	3.01
	51 private archery				72	ES	61	85%	57%	35	5	4.07	6.22
	51 total				2459		2087	85%	33%	345	420	3.54	4.13
GMU 52	52	2-177	Archery	Sept 1-14	231	ES	208	90%	25%	38	14	3.51	6.33
	52	2-178	Archery	Sept 15-24	231	ES	211	91%	21%	34	10	3.57	6.18
	52	3-179	Mobility Impaired	Oct 10-14	49	MB	47	96%	38%	17	0	3.12	3.52
	52	3-180	Muzzleloader	Oct 10-14	120	MB	110	92%	32%	36	0	3.63	3.73
	52	3-181	Muzzleloader	Oct 10-14	50	A	46	92%	32%	0	15	3.57	3.11
	52	1-182	Rifle	Oct 17-21	231	MB	201	87%	25%	55	0	3.48	3.91
	52	1-183	Rifle	Oct 24-28	231	MB	201	87%	20%	44	0	3.48	3.85
	52 Youth	1-184	Rifle	Nov 14-18	80	A	74	93%	54%	0	40	3.94	2.46
	52 MI	1-185	Mobility Impaired	Nov 21-25	56	A	51	91%	49%	1	23	3.98	2.93
	52	1-186	Rifle	Nov 21-25	70	A	69	99%	54%	0	33	3.80	2.98
	52	1-187	Rifle	Dec 5-9	115	A	102	89%	66%	0	73	4.08	2.76
	52 YE	1-530	Rifle	Nov 27-Dec 1	50	A	48	96%	69%	0	32	4.27	2.49
	52 private				56	MB	39	70%	46%	26	0	3.54	3.72
	52 private				33	A	23	70%	74%	0	24	3.91	2.91
	52 private archery				36	ES	29	81%	55%	17	2	4.00	5.31
	52 total				1639		1459	89%	35%	268	268	3.72	3.75
Chama San Antonio Herd Unit Totals				7582		5945	78%	39%	1623	1344	3.59	4.03	

JEMEZ REGION					Licenses Sold or	Bag Limit	No. of Hunters	%	Success	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction	Number of
					Converted		Reported	Reprtd	Rate	Bulls	Cows	Rating	days Hunted
GMU	Hunt code	Weapon	Hunt dates										
GMU 6A	6A	2-188	Archery	Sept. 1-14	150	ES	133	89%	34%	35	11	3.99	6.57
	6A	2-189	Archery	Sept. 15-24	100	ES	94	94%	30%	24	5	4.10	5.40
	6A	3-190	Muzzleloader	Oct. 10-14	104	MB	88	85%	33%	31	0	3.83	3.55
	6A	1-191	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	100	MB	88	88%	33%	31	0	3.34	3.77
	6A	1-192	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	100	MB	84	84%	20%	18	0	3.27	3.73
	6A	1-193	Rifle	Oct. 31 - Nov. 4	99	A	86	87%	29%	1	26	3.80	3.50
	6A YE	1-502	Rifle	Nov. 27-Dec. 1	50	A	47	94%	47%	1	20	3.33	2.95
	6A YE	1-503	Rifle	Dec. 26-30	49	A	46	94%	60%	0	28	4.23	2.42
	6A private				48	MB	31	65%	80%	37	0	4.27	3.23
	6A private				14	A	14	100%	62%	0	8	3.85	2.69
	6A private archery				43	ES	37	86%	49%	21	0	4.19	5.76
	6A total				857		748	87%	37%	199	99	3.84	3.96
GMU 6B	6B	2-194	Archery	Sept. 2-8	14	ES	13	93%	69%	10	0	3.69	4.54
	6B	2-195	Archery	Sept. 12-18	15	ES	11	73%	55%	8	0	4.64	5.00
	6B	3-196	Muzzleloader	Oct. 3-7	15	MB	15	100%	73%	11	0	4.40	2.67
	6B	3-197	Muzzleloader	Oct. 3-7	10	A	10	100%	60%	0	6	4.20	3.00
	6B	1-198	Rifle	Oct. 10-14	13	MB	13	100%	92%	12	0	4.38	2.23
	6B Youth	1-199	Rifle	Oct. 10-14	9	A	9	100%	56%	0	5	4.11	4.33
	6B	1-200	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	15	MB	15	100%	53%	8	0	4.20	2.93
	6B	1-201	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	5	A	5	100%	60%	0	3	3.80	3.40
	6B	1-202	Mobility Impaired	Oct. 23-26	15	A	12	80%	20%	0	3	1.20	2.80
	6B YO-Mentor	1-203	Rifle	Oct. 30-Nov. 2	20	A	19	95%	37%	1	6	3.89	3.00
	6B Veterans	1-204	Rifle	Nov. 6-9	19	A	16	84%	31%	0	6	2.56	3.13
	6B	1-205	Rifle	Nov. 13-16	18	A	16	89%	19%	0	3	2.63	2.88
	6B	1-206	Rifle	Nov. 20-23	19	A	17	89%	31%	0	6	2.38	3.19
	6B	1-207	Rifle	Nov. 27-30	23	A	22	96%	25%	1	4	2.80	2.80
	6B	1-208	Rifle	Dec. 4-7	19	A	17	89%	53%	0	10	4.12	2.88
	6B total				229		210	92%	47%	51	52	3.53	3.25
GMU 6C	6C	2-209	Archery	Sept. 1-14	150	ES	139	93%	25%	32	2	3.57	7.10
	6C	2-210	Archery	Sept. 15-24	108	ES	99	92%	27%	24	3	3.62	5.65
	6C	3-211	Muzzleloader	Oct. 10-14	156	MB	148	95%	21%	27	1	3.44	3.73
	6C	1-212	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	110	MB	101	92%	22%	23	0	3.30	3.89
	6C	1-213	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	109	MB	101	93%	21%	21	0	3.15	3.61
	6C	1-214	Rifle	Oct. 31 - Nov. 4	110	A	91	83%	19%	0	19	3.12	3.24
	6C	1-215	Rifle	Nov. 21-25	115	A	103	90%	26%	1	26	3.08	3.33
	6C private				49	MB	28	57%	43%	21	0	3.50	3.64
	6C private				35	A	31	89%	40%	1	12	3.40	3.00
	6C private archery				32	ES	25	78%	21%	5	1	3.63	7.67
	6C total				974		866	89%	24%	156	65	3.38	4.49
GMU 7	7	2-216	Archery	Sept. 1-14	15	ES	14	93%	50%	8	0	4.29	6.07
	7	2-217	Archery	Sept. 15-24	15	ES	15	100%	15%	1	1	3.38	5.00
	7	3-218	Muzzleloader	Oct. 10-14	25	MB	23	92%	43%	10	0	3.90	3.52
	7	1-219	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	30	MB	29	97%	35%	9	0	3.19	2.96
	7	1-220	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	50	A	42	84%	18%	0	8	3.42	3.68
	7 private				50	MB	21	42%	62%	31	0	4.14	3.57
	7 private				50	A	25	50%	63%	0	30	4.21	3.08
	7 private archery				16	ES	10	63%	30%	5	0	4.00	5.30
	7 total				251		179	71%	39%	63	39	3.82	4.15
Jemez Mountains Herd Unit Totals					2311		2003	87%	33%	469	255	3.64	3.96

SOUTHWEST REGION																			
						Licenses Sold or		No. of Hunters		%		Success		Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction		Number of days	
GMU		Hunt code	Weapon	Hunt dates	Converted	Bag Limit	Reported	Reprtd	Rate	Bulls	Cows	Rating							Hunted
GMU 13	13	2-221	Archery	Sept. 1-14	177	ES	163	92%	25%	35	5	3.85						7.16	
	13	2-222	Archery	Sept. 15-24	126	ES	114	90%	21%	21	3	3.80						6.24	
	13 Youth	3-223	Muzzleloader	Oct. 10-14	26	ES	23	88%	52%	11	1	3.90						3.00	
	13	3-224	Muzzleloader	Oct. 17-21	76	MB	63	83%	31%	22	0	3.79						3.43	
	13	3-225	Muzzleloader	Oct. 24-28	116	MB	98	84%	22%	24	0	3.54						3.68	
	13	3-226	Muzzleloader	Nov. 21-25	100	MB	91	91%	26%	23	0	3.35						3.9	
	13	3-227	Muzzleloader	Dec. 5-9	100	A	95	95%	34%	1	32	3.66						3.53	
	13	3-228	Muzzleloader	Dec. 12-16	100	A	88	88%	36%	2	28	3.65						3.26	
	13 YE	3-509	Muzzleloader	Nov. 27-Dec. 1	29	A	25	86%	60%	0	17	3.92						2.84	
	13 YE	3-510	Muzzleloader	Dec. 26-30	28	A	26	93%	55%	1	12	4.05						2.68	
	13 private				132	MB	82	62%	56%	72	0	4.16						3.60	
	13 private				89	A	67	75%	67%	3	53	4.03						3.38	
13 private archery				136	ES	84	62%	52%	68	0	4.22						6.30		
13 total					1235		1019	83%	36%	283	152	3.84						4.07	
GMU 15	15	2-229	Archery	Sept. 1-14	350	ES	323	92%	21%	53	13	3.70						7.64	
	15	2-230	Archery	Sept. 15-24	250	ES	233	93%	25%	50	9	3.99						6.33	
	15 Youth	3-231	Muzzleloader	Oct. 10-14	26	ES	25	96%	78%	15	4	4.17						3.09	
	15	3-232	Muzzleloader	Oct. 17-21	200	MB	191	96%	29%	53	0	3.48						3.90	
	15	3-233	Muzzleloader	Oct. 24-28	246	MB	221	90%	25%	58	0	3.45						4.05	
	15	3-234	Muzzleloader	Nov. 21-25	250	MB	239	96%	17%	40	0	3.33						4.06	
	15	3-235	Muzzleloader	Dec. 5-9	250	A	232	93%	49%	6	101	4.07						3.50	
	15	3-236	Muzzleloader	Dec. 12-16	250	A	232	93%	31%	3	65	3.33						3.24	
	15 YE	3-511	Muzzleloader	Nov. 27-Dec. 1	75	A	72	96%	50%	0	33	3.92						2.66	
	15 YE	3-512	Muzzleloader	Dec. 26-30	74	A	68	92%	50%	1	32	3.72						3.08	
	15 private				194	MB/ES	127	65%	51%	95	2	3.56						4.14	
	15 private				126	A	91	72%	58%	1	69	4.13						3.32	
	15 private archery				157	ES	119	76%	35%	51	0	3.87						5.77	
	15 total					2448		2173	89%	33%	427	327	3.75						4.21
	GMU 16A	16A	2-237	Archery	Sept. 1-14	250	ES	234	94%	23%	50	5	3.57						7.68
16A		2-238	Archery	Sept. 15-24	150	ES	139	93%	42%	58	2	4.25						5.88	
16A MI		1-239	Mobility Impaired	Oct. 10-14	27	MB	25	93%	72%	19	0	4.16						3.08	
16A		1-240	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	76	MB	70	92%	49%	36	0	4.04						3.34	
16A		1-241	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	126	MB	117	93%	40%	47	0	3.88						3.58	
16A		1-242	Rifle	Dec. 5-9	75	A	70	93%	58%	0	39	4.03						2.92	
16A		1-243	Rifle	Dec. 12-16	75	A	66	88%	43%	2	27	3.75						2.98	
16A YE		1-513	Rifle	Nov. 27-Dec. 1	75	A	70	93%	63%	0	40	4.08						2.37	
16A YE		1-514	Rifle	Dec. 26-30	75	A	67	89%	39%	0	25	3.38						2.45	
16A private					8	MB	5	63%	100%	8	0	3.80						2.80	
16A private					5	A	5	100%	60%	0	3	4.40						2.40	
16A private archery					14	ES	10	71%	60%	8	0	4.40						4.30	
16A total					956		878	92%	41%	230	141	3.98						3.65	
GMU 16B	16B/22	2-244	Archery	Sept. 1-14	226	ES	202	89%	20%	38	2	3.50						7.21	
	16B/22	2-245	Archery	Sept. 15-24	166	ES	148	89%	26%	39	0	3.72						6.13	
	16B/22	1-246	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	161	MB	141	88%	41%	61	0	3.51						3.41	
	16B/22	1-247	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	161	MB	145	90%	24%	34	0	3.38						3.82	
	16B/22 private				15	MB	11	73%	36%	5	0	3.20						4.5	
	16B/22 private				2	A	0	0%	NA	NA	NA	NA						NA	
16B/22 private archery				12	ES	6	50%	50%	6	NA	4.33						6.00		
16B total					743		653	88%	27%	184	2	3.61						5.22	
GMU 16C	16C	2-248	Archery	Sept. 1-14	149	ES	136	91%	17%	21	2	3.41						7.27	
	16C	2-249	Archery	Sept. 15-24	100	ES	87	87%	25%	21	3	3.87						6.37	
	16C Youth	1-250	Rifle	Oct. 10-14	26	ES	25	96%	67%	16	1	4.29						2.83	
	16C	1-251	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	50	MB	45	90%	38%	18	0	3.79						3.93	
	16C	1-252	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	96	MB	85	89%	10%	9	0	3.00						3.92	
	16C	1-253	Rifle	Dec. 5-9	50	A	47	94%	51%	0	23	3.91						3.44	
	16C	1-254	Rifle	Dec. 12-16	50	A	41	82%	30%	0	15	3.40						3.28	
	16C YE	1-515	Rifle	Nov. 27-Dec. 1	75	A	68	91%	43%	1	26	3.36						3.09	
	16C YE	1-516	Rifle	Dec. 26-30	75	A	66	88%	38%	2	20	3.19						2.77	
	16C private				35	MB	27	77%	59%	21	0	4.44						4.04	
	16C private				19	A	8	42%	88%	0	17	4.38						3.13	
	16C private archery				51	ES	42	82%	23%	11	0	4.10						6.23	
16C total					776		677	87%	31%	119	108	3.76						4.19	
GMU 16D	16D	2-255	Archery	Sept. 1-14	90	ES	84	93%	35%	1	27	4.24						4.59	
	16D	2-256	Archery	Sept. 15-24	61	ES	58	95%	34%	21	0	4.14						5.57	
	16D MI	1-257	Mobility Impaired	Oct. 10-14	26	MB	25	96%	82%	19	0	4.27						2.91	
	16D	1-258	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	56	MB	52	93%	57%	27	0	4.23						2.89	
	16D	1-259	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	50	MB	47	94%	36%	17	0	3.53						3.71	
	16D	1-260	Rifle	Dec. 5-9	50	A	45	90%	45%	0	20	3.53						3.33	
	16D	1-261	Rifle	Dec. 12-16	50	A	46	92%	49%	1	23	3.87						2.89	
	16D YE	1-517	Rifle	Nov. 27-Dec. 1	75	A	73	97%	48%	0	31	3.44						3.17	
	16D YE	1-518	Rifle	Dec. 26-30	75	A	67	89%	31%	1	19	3.08						3.12	
	16D private				16	MB	12	75%	75%	12	0	4.17						2.41	
	16D private				13	A	11	85%	91%	0	12	4.28						3.18	
	16D private archery				26	ES	25	96%	46%	11	0	4.42						5.88	
16D total					588		545	93%	45%	110	131	3.93						3.64	

	GMU		Weapon	Hunt dates	Licenses Sold or		No. of Hunters Reported	% Reprtd	Success Rate	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction Rating	Number of days Hunted
					Converted	Bag Limit				Bulls	Cows		
GMU 16E	16E	2-262	Archery	Sept. 1-14	90	ES	84	93%	14%	12	0	3.26	6.56
	16E	2-263	Archery	Sept. 15-24	61	ES	55	90%	33%	14	3	3.59	5.20
	16E Youth	1-264	Rifle	Oct. 10-14	26	ES	22	85%	52%	11	2	4.24	2.67
	16E	3-265	Muzzleloader	Oct. 17-21	70	MB	63	90%	28%	19	0	3.15	3.62
	16E	1-266	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	70	MB	66	94%	33%	22	0	3.09	3.78
	16E	1-267	Rifle	Dec. 5-9	75	A	65	87%	22%	0	15	3.02	3.31
	16E	1-268	Rifle	Dec. 12-16	75	A	67	89%	20%	0	13	2.63	3.05
	16 E YE	1-519	Rifle	Nov. 27-Dec. 1	74	A	68	92%	24%	1	15	2.90	3.35
	16E YE	1-520	Rifle	Dec. 26-30	52	A	44	85%	18%	0	8	2.79	3.15
	16E private				53	MB/ES	38	72%	70%	36	0	4.00	3.65
	16E private				48	A	32	67%	50%	0	24	3.81	3.25
	16E private archery				58	ES	40	69%	50%	28	0	4.13	4.66
	16E total				752		644	86%	31%	143	82	3.38	3.85
Greater Gila Herd Unit Totals					6263		5570	89%	34%	1213	791	3.74	4.13
GMU 17	17	2-269	Archery	Sept. 1-14	126	ES	107	69%	26%	27	2	4.03	7.40
	17	2-270	Archery	Sept. 15-24	76	ES	67	88%	35%	25	1	4.05	5.42
	17 Youth	3-271	Muzzleloader	Oct. 10-14	26	ES	26	100%	46%	10	1	3.63	3.46
	17	3-272	Muzzleloader	Oct. 17-21	100	MB	89	89%	28%	26	0	3.60	3.37
	17	3-273	Muzzleloader	Oct. 24-28	100	MB	86	86%	18%	17	0	3.11	4.00
	17	3-274	Muzzleloader	Nov. 21-25	26	MB	23	88%	29%	7	0	3.52	4.10
	17	3-275	Muzzleloader	Nov. 21-25	25	A	23	92%	14%	0	3	2.73	3.41
	17	3-276	Muzzleloader	Dec. 5-9	100	A	90	90%	16%	0	14	3.05	3.76
	17	3-277	Muzzleloader	Dec. 12-16	100	A	93	93%	23%	0	19	3.30	3.25
	17 YE	3-521	Muzzleloader	Nov. 27-Dec. 1	30	A	23	77%	5%	0	1	2.81	2.86
	17 YE	3-522	Muzzleloader	Dec. 26-30	17	A	14	82%	33%	0	5	3.17	2.75
	17 private				42	MB/ES	30	71%	57%	24	0	4.10	4.00
	17 private				32	A	26	81%	28%	1	7	3.64	3.48
	17 private archery				34	ES	28	82%	64%	22	0	4.11	5.21
	17 total				834		725	87%	27%	159	55	3.49	4.03
GMU 21A	21A	2-278	Archery	Sept. 1-14	50	ES	42	84%	16%	7	0	3.61	7.05
	21A	2-279	Archery	Sept. 15-24	50	ES	47	94%	34%	16	0	3.77	5.11
	21A	1-280	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	50	MB	43	86%	40%	20	0	4.00	3.17
	21A	1-281	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	50	MB	42	84%	45%	20	0	3.61	3.18
	21A	1-282	Rifle	Dec. 5-9	30	A	23	77%	53%	0	12	3.56	2.82
	21A private				3	MB	3	100%	100%	3	0	5.00	2.67
	21A private				1	A	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	21A private archery				2	ES	2	100%	100%	2	0	5.00	6.50
	21A total				236		202	86%	38%	68	12	4.08	4.36
GMU 21B	21B	2-283	Archery	Sept. 1-14	26	ES	25	96%	35%	8	0	3.13	5.65
	21B	2-284	Archery	Sept. 15-24	25	ES	24	96%	29%	6	0	3.76	5.19
	21B	1-285	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	26	MB	22	85%	38%	9	0	3.90	2.90
	21B	1-286	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	26	MB	24	92%	36%	9	0	3.55	2.64
	21B	1-287	Rifle	Nov. 21-25	15	A	14	93%	62%	0	9	4.08	2.69
	21B	1-288	Rifle	Dec. 19-23	20	A	20	100%	36%	0	4	2.91	2.45
	21B	1-289	Rifle	Dec. 5-9	15	A	14	93%	75%	0	10	3.83	2.75
	21B	1-290	Rifle	Dec. 12-16	15	A	12	80%	25%	0	3	3.00	3.25
	21B private				72	MB	44	61%	63%	44	0	3.40	3.95
	21B private				47	A	30	64%	57%	0	25	4.00	3.32
	21B private archery				58	ES	46	79%	38%	21	0	4.38	5.40
	21B total				345		275	80%	46%	98	50	3.63	3.65
GMU 23	23	2-291	Archery	Sept. 1-14	126	ES	116	92%	16%	16	2	2.76	7.84
	23	2-292	Archery	Sept. 15-24	76	ES	75	99%	23%	14	1	3.06	6.40
	23 Youth	1-293	Rifle	Oct. 10-14	26	ES	24	92%	63%	14	2	3.29	3.38
	23	3-294	Muzzleloader	Oct. 17-21	76	MB	67	88%	12%	9	0	2.72	4.25
	23	1-295	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	76	MB	69	91%	25%	18	0	2.92	3.98
	23	1-296	Rifle	Dec. 5-9	20	A	17	85%	65%	0	13	3.76	3.06
	23 private				14	MB	9	64%	44%	6	0	3.33	3.89
	23 private				3	A	2	67%	100%	0	2	3.00	2.00
	23 private archery				11	ES	5	45%	20%	2	0	4.20	6.80
	23 total				428		384	90%	25%	80	20	3.23	4.62
GMU 24	24	2-297	Archery	Sept. 1-14	15	ES	14	93%	0%	0	0	2.75	6.33
	24	2-298	Archery	Sept. 15-24	10	ES	8	80%	14%	1	0	3.43	5.14
	24	3-299	Muzzleloader	Oct. 17-21	15	MB	10	67%	0%	0	0	2.40	4.00
	24	1-300	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	15	MB	12	80%	27%	4	0	3.27	3.36
	24 YO Ft. Bayard	1-301	Rifle	Oct. 10-14	6	ES	5	83%	80%	5	0	4.20	2.00
	24 YO Ft. Bayard	1-302	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	5	A	5	100%	100%	0	4	4.25	2.25
	24 private				9	MB	6	67%	83%	8	0	4.33	2.50
	24 private				1	A	1	100%	100%	0	1	3.00	3.00
	24 private archery				2	ES	2	100%	0%	0	0	2.50	4.00
	24 total				78		63	81%	31%	17	5	3.35	3.62
Lesser Gila Herd Unit Totals					1087		924	85%	34%	263	86	3.57	4.06
REGION TOTALS					9419		8238	87%	34%	1919	1085	3.67	4.09

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION				Licenses	No. of	%	Success	Estimated	Satisfaction	Number of			
GMU	Hunt code	Weapon	Hunt dates	Sold or	Hunters	Reported	Reprtd	Rate	Bulls	Cows	Rating	days	
				Converted	Bag Limit							Hunted	
GMU 34	34	2-303	Archery	Sept. 1-14	200	ES	181	91%	39%	64	10	4.13	6.64
	34	2-304	Archery	Sept 15-24	200	ES	190	95%	45%	81	5	4.36	5.19
	34 Youth	1-305	Rifle	Oct. 10-14	75	ES	69	92%	79%	51	8	4.25	2.82
	34 Youth	1-306	Rifle	Oct. 10-14	100	A	90	90%	54%	1	51	3.92	2.67
	34 MI	1-307	Mobility Impaired	Oct 10-14	50	ES	49	98%	61%	23	5	4.26	3.13
	34	3-308	Muzzleloader	Oct 17-21	251	MB	251	100%	28%	65	1	3.74	3.79
	34	1-309	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	150	MB	128	85%	48%	68	0	3.99	3.64
	34	1-310	Rifle	Nov. 21-25	250	A	224	90%	46%	0	109	3.92	3.12
	34	1-311	Rifle	Dec. 5-9	250	A	218	87%	55%	2	123	3.96	2.96
	34	1-312	Rifle	Dec. 12-16	250	A	211	84%	43%	4	95	3.61	3.06
	34	2-534	Archery	Dec. 19-23	200	APRE/6	193	97%	9%	15	0	3.42	3.44
	34 YE	1-523	Rifle	Dec. 26-30	80	A	78	98%	45%	1	29	3.45	2.26
	34 private				267	MB/ES	164	61%	65%	164	5	4.12	3.19
	34 private				183	A	143	78%	69%	0	116	4.19	2.89
34 private archery				95	ES	65	68%	68%	60	1	4.37	5.89	
34 total				2601		2254	87%	47%	600	558	3.98	3.65	
GMU 36	36	2-313	Archery	Sept. 1-14	131	ES	117	89%	40%	41	8	4.03	6.97
	36	2-314	Archery	Sept 15-24	112	ES	105	94%	33%	30	4	3.96	5.84
	36	3-315	Muzzleloader	Oct. 10-14	136	MB	136	100%	49%	62	0	3.90	3.44
	36	1-316	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	123	MB	104	85%	43%	51	0	3.99	3.31
	36	1-317	Rifle	Oct. 31 - Nov. 4	124	MB	110	89%	41%	46	0	3.68	3.51
	36	1-318	Rifle	Nov. 21-25	105	A	91	87%	49%	1	46	3.71	2.88
	36	1-319	Rifle	Dec. 5-9	105	A	88	84%	46%	0	45	3.66	3.06
	36 YE	1-524	Rifle	Nov. 27-Dec. 1	60	A	57	95%	35%	1	18	3.21	2.79
	36 YE	1-525	Rifle	Dec. 26-30	59	A	54	92%	45%	1	20	3.19	2.40
	36 private				241	MB/ES	127	53%	63%	142	4	4.04	3.81
	36 private				209	A	143	68%	70%	1	137	3.93	2.82
	36 private archery				75	ES	54	72%	36%	26	0	3.60	4.58
	36 total				1480		1186	80%	48%	404	282	3.74	3.78
	REGION TOTALS				4081		3440	84%	47%	1003	841	3.86	3.71
NORTHEAST REGION				Licenses	No. of	%	Success	Estimated	Satisfaction	Number of			
GMU	Hunt code	Weapon	Hunt dates	Sold or	Hunters	Reported	Reprtd	Rate	Bulls	Cows	Rating	days	
				Converted	Bag Limit							Hunted	
GMU 45	45	2-320	Archery	Sept. 1-14	75	ES	66	88%	23%	15	1	3.42	6.43
	45	2-321	Archery	Sept. 15-24	76	ES	72	95%	28%	16	4	3.47	6.13
	45	3-322	Muzzleloader	Oct. 10-14	140	MB	121	86%	29%	37	0	3.12	3.96
	45	1-323	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	140	MB	123	88%	17%	22	0	3.05	3.46
	45	1-324	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	140	MB	114	81%	15%	18	0	2.86	3.75
	45	3-325	Muzzleloader	Nov. 14-18	50	A	42	84%	23%	0	11	2.97	3.49
	45 private				66	MB	40	61%	36%	15	7	3.22	3.97
	45 private				26	A	20	77%	42%	0	10	3.26	3.63
	45 private archery				19	ES	13	68%	38%	7	0	3.62	5.23
45 total				732		611	83%	24%	130	33	3.22	4.45	
GMU 48	48	2-326	Archery	Sept. 1-14	92	ES	80	87%	30%	20	5	3.32	7.46
	48	2-327	Archery	Sept. 15-24	92	ES	77	84%	24%	14	6	3.36	6.47
	48	3-328	Muzzleloader	Oct. 10-14	80	MB	76	95%	30%	23	0	3.34	3.61
	48	1-329	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	60	MB	52	87%	24%	14	0	3.29	3.51
	48	1-330	Rifle	Nov. 7-11	50	A	45	90%	66%	0	30	3.98	3.05
	48	1-331	Rifle	Dec. 5-9	33	MB	33	100%	33%	10	0	3.97	3.83
	48	1-332	Rifle	Dec. 5-9	53	A	49	92%	53%	1	24	3.63	2.42
	48 private				91	MB	43	47%	57%	49	2	3.93	3.57
	48 private				81	A	56	69%	74%	0	58	4.33	2.67
48 private archery				73	ES	35	48%	23%	15	2	3.46	5.63	
48 total				705		546	77%	40%	145	126	3.66	4.22	
GMU 49	49	2-333	Archery	Sept. 1-14	62	ES	57	92%	22%	7	7	3.39	7.11
	49	2-334	Archery	Sept. 15-24	61	ES	56	92%	43%	22	3	3.92	5.96
	49	1-335	Rifle	Oct. 10-14	80	MB	76	95%	17%	13	0	3.39	3.80
	49	1-336	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	76	MB	64	84%	24%	17	0	3.24	3.67
	49	1-337	Rifle	Nov. 7-11	80	A	74	93%	35%	0	26	3.41	3.41
	49	1-338	Rifle	Nov. 14-18	77	A	70	91%	38%	0	29	3.28	3.23
	49 YE	1-526	Rifle	Nov. 27-Dec. 1	50	A	47	94%	37%	1	15	3.44	3.32
	49 private				11	MB/ES	9	82%	38%	2	1	4.13	3.88
	49 private				16	A	12	75%	67%	0	11	4.00	3.00
49 private archery				7	ES	7	100%	57%	4	0	4.29	7.86	
49 total				520		472	91%	32%	65	91	3.65	4.52	
GMU 53	53	2-339	Archery	Sept. 1-14	60	ES	56	93%	29%	16	1	3.32	6.61
	53	2-340	Archery	Sept. 15-24	61	ES	60	98%	37%	19	0	3.61	6.14
	53 ex Cerro	3-341	Muzzleloader	Oct. 10-14	50	MB	47	94%	22%	10	1	3.31	3.93
	53 ex Cerro	1-342	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	76	MB	61	80%	20%	14	0	3.09	3.79
	53 ex Cerro	1-343	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	125	MB	105	84%	25%	31	0	3.03	3.57
	53 ex Cerro	1-344	Rifle	Nov. 21-25	90	A	76	84%	68%	1	54	3.77	2.94
	53 ex Cerro	1-345	Rifle	Nov. 14-18	90	A	79	88%	37%	0	28	3.32	3.53
	53 (N Sunshine Valley Rd.)	1-346	Rifle	Jan. 2-17, 2017	40	A	34	85%	76%	0	26	4.21	3.93
	53YE	1-531	Rifle	Nov. 27-Dec. 1	35	A	33	94%	46%	1	12	3.58	2.58
	53YE	1-532	Rifle	Dec. 26-30	47	A	40	85%	56%	0	24	3.92	2.81
	53 private				104	MB	53	51%	38%	39	0	3.34	4.21
	53 private				84	A	57	68%	65%	1	52	3.95	2.69
	53 private archery				50	ES	36	72%	25%	11	0	3.24	6.58
	53 total				912		737	81%	40%	144	198	3.51	4.10
REGION TOTALS				2869		2366	82%	34%	484	448	3.51	4.32	

Hunts in GMU's Where No Core Occupied Elk Range (COER) is Established

				Licenses		No. of		Success		Estimated		Satisfaction	Number of
GMU				Weapon	Hunt dates	Sold or	Bag Limit	Hunters	%	Rate	Harvest	Rating	days
						Converted		Reported	Reprtd		Bulls	Cows	Hunted
GMU 12	12	2-347	Archery	Sept. 1-14	16	ES	16	100%	14%	2	0	3.07	7.00
	12	2-348	Archery	Sept. 15-24	16	ES	15	94%	40%	6	0	4.20	6.40
	12	1-349	Rifle	Oct. 1-5	20	MB	20	100%	65%	13	0	4.00	3.40
	12	1-350	Rifle	Oct. 10-14	20	MB	19	95%	53%	11	0	3.89	3.37
	12	1-351	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	20	MB	13	65%	58%	11	0	3.58	2.83
	12	1-352	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	20	A	16	80%	42%	0	6	3.75	3.25
	12	1-353	Rifle	Nov. 7-11	20	A	16	80%	40%	0	8	3.40	3.53
	12	1-354	Rifle	Nov. 14-18	20	A	16	80%	13%	0	3	3.60	2.67
	12	2-533	Archery	Nov. 21-25	25	APRE/6	25	100%	5%	1	0	2.50	3.45
	12 private				372	MB	185	50%	63%	225	0	3.92	3.55
	12 private				284	A	182	64%	65%	3	173	4.01	2.90
12 private archery				133	ES	84	63%	37%	44	3	3.73	6.37	
12 total					966		607	63%	53%	316	193	3.64	4.06
GMU 18	18	2-355	Archery	Sept. 1-14	25	ES	21	84%	25%	5	1	2.65	5.90
	18	2-356	Archery	Sept. 15-24	25	ES	24	96%	13%	3	0	2.88	5.90
	18 private rifle				19	ES	15	79%	45%	6	0	3.45	7.54
	18 private				4	A	0	0%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	18 private archery				4	ES	2	50%	50%	2	0	3.50	5.50
18 total					77		62	81%	25%	16	1	3.12	6.21
GMU 28	28 Military	1-357	Rifle	Dec. 12-16	11	ES	10	91%	70%	4	3	4.10	2.40
	28	1-358	Rifle	Dec. 12-16	11	ES	9	82%	38%	1	2	3.75	3.88
28 total					22		19	86%	56%	6	6	3.93	3.14
GMU 30	30	2-360	Archery	Sept. 1-14	11	ES	10	91%	33%	3	0	4.11	5.67
	30	2-361	Archery	Sept. 15-24	11	ES	8	73%	29%	3	0	3.86	6.14
	30	1-359	Rifle	Oct. 10-14	20	ES	18	90%	43%	7	0	3.86	4.00
	30 private archery				1	ES	1	100%	0%	0	0	1.00	5.00
30 total					43		37	86%	35%	13	0	3.21	5.20
GMU 37	37	2-362	Archery	Sept. 1-14	40	ES	38	95%	23%	6	2	3.80	6.49
	37	2-363	Archery	Sept. 15-24	31	ES	27	87%	44%	13	0	3.52	4.64
	37	3-364	Muzzleloader	Oct. 10-14	31	MB	29	94%	34%	11	0	3.59	3.55
	37	1-365	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	31	MB	26	84%	41%	11	0	3.82	3.77
	37	1-366	Rifle	Nov. 28-Dec. 2	45	A	38	84%	21%	0	8	3.42	2.48
	37	2-535	Archery	Dec. 5-9	50	APRE/6	46	92%	0%	0	0	2.56	3.53
	37 private				80	MB/ES	45	56%	52%	34	7	4.02	3.36
	37 private				45	A	27	60%	76%	0	32	4.28	2.68
37 private archery				34	ES	14	41%	29%	10	0	3.71	4.79	
37 total					387		290	75%	35%	84	49	3.64	3.92
GMU 38	38	1-367	Rifle	Oct. 10-14	15	ES	14	93%	14%	2	0	2.50	3.50
	38 private				16	MB	9	56%	56%	9	0	4.22	2.56
	38 private				11	A	8	73%	25%	0	3	2.63	2.38
	38 private archery				2	ES	2	100%	0%	0	0	3.50	4.50
38 Total					44		33	75%	27%	11	3	3.21	3.24
GMU 42	42 private				39	MB/ES	22	56%	76%	27	2	3.95	3.38
	42 private				11	A	7	64%	71%	0	8	4.29	3.86
	42 private archery				5	ES	4	80%	25%	1	0	2.75	7.50
42 total					55		33	60%	69%	28	10	3.66	4.91
GMU 43	43	1-358	Rifle	Sept. 27-Oct. 4	30	ES	26	87%	38%	8	3	2.81	4.15
	43 total					30		26	87%	38%	8	3	2.81
GMU 46	46 private				488	ES	253	52%	61%	214	75	3.83	3.35
	46 private				462	A	297	64%	60%	5	266	3.84	2.80
	46 private archery				120	ES	56	47%	42%	47	2	3.84	7.36
	46 total					1070		606	57%	59%	266	343	3.84
GMU 47	47 private				23	ES	14	61%	85%	16	2	4.38	1.92
	47 private				9	A	4	44%	100%	2	7	3.00	2.00
	47 private archery				2	ES	2	100%	50%	1	0	4.00	2.00
	47 total					34		20	59%	84%	16	8	3.79
GMU 54	54 Colin N. WMA South	2-372	Archery	Sept. 1-14	10	ES	10	100%	0%	0	0	3.11	6.56
	54 Colin N. WMA South	2-373	Archery	Sept. 15-24	10	ES	9	90%	50%	2	2	3.13	4.88
	54 Colin N. WMA South	3-369	Muzzleloader	Oct. 10-14	20	MB	19	95%	21%	4	0	3.11	4.05
	54 Colin N. WMA South	1-370	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	20	MB	17	85%	47%	8	0	2.93	3.60
	54 Colin N. WMA South	1-371	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	20	MB	18	90%	6%	1	0	2.82	3.47
	54 Colin N. WMA South	1-374	Rifle	Nov. 7-11	20	A	19	95%	57%	0	8	3.93	2.57
	54 private Rifle				62	ES	13	21%	85%	48	5	4.62	2.85
	54 private				68	A	45	66%	51%	2	33	3.44	3.47
	54 private archery				21	ES	7	33%	33%	6	0	4.00	5.67
54 total					251		157	63%	41%	71	49	3.45	4.12

GMU	GMU	Weapon	Hunt dates	Licenses		No. of Hunters	% Reprtd	Success Rate	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction Rating	Number of days Hunted	
				Sold or Converted	Bag Limit				Bulls	Cows			
GMU 55	55 Valle Vidal Greenwood	2-391	Archery	Sept 1-14	26	ES	23	88%	36%	9	0	4.32	8.50
	55 Valle Vidal Greenwood	2-392	Archery	Sept. 15-22	26	ES	24	92%	39%	9	1	4.43	6.09
	55 Valle Vidal Greenwood	3-393	Muzzleloader	Oct. 10-14	40	MB	39	98%	54%	22	0	4.05	3.69
	55 Valle Vidal Greenwood	1-394	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	20	MB	20	100%	78%	14	0	3.94	2.94
	55 Valle Vidal Greenwood YO	1-395	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	20	MB	17	85%	50%	9	0	4.06	3.38
	55 Valle Vidal Greenwood	1-396	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	36	MB	30	83%	69%	24	0	4.28	3.17
	55 Valle Vidal Greenwood YO	1-397	Rifle	Nov. 7-11	35	A	28	80%	56%	0	19	3.89	3.11
	55 Valle Vidal Greenwood	1-398	Rifle	Nov. 7-11	15	A	15	100%	64%	0	7	4.00	2.45
	55 Valle Vidal Greenwood	1-399	Rifle	Nov. 14-18	70	A	57	81%	40%	0	27	3.80	3.11
	55 Colin N. WMA North	3-375	Muzzleloader	Oct. 10-14	20	MB	19	95%	7%	1	0	2.80	3.87
	55 Colin N. WMA North	1-376	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	20	MB	16	80%	15%	3	0	2.00	3.00
	55 Colin N. WMA North	1-371	Rifle	Oct. 24-28	20	MB	18	90%	20%	3	0	3.00	3.40
	55 Colin N. WMA North	2-378	Archery	Sept. 1-14	10	ES	9	90%	0%	0	0	2.40	7.20
	55 Colin N. WMA North	2-379	Archery	Sept. 15-24	10	ES	10	100%	14%	1	0	2.57	5.14
	55 Colin N. WMA North	1-380	Rifle	Nov. 7-11	20	A	14	70%	13%	0	1	2.50	3.63
	55 ES Barker WMA	2-381	Archery	Sept. 1-14	5	MB	5	100%	20%	0	1	3.00	7.40
	55 ES Barker WMA	2-382	Archery	Sept. 15-24	5	MB	5	100%	20%	1	0	3.80	5.00
	55 ES Barker WMA	1-383	Rifle	Oct. 10-14	10	MB	10	100%	40%	4	0	3.40	3.10
	55 Urraca WMA	2-384	Archery	Sept. 1-14	5	ES	4	80%	33%	0	1	3.00	10.67
	55 Urraca WMA	2-385	Archery	Sept. 15-24	5	ES	5	100%	60%	3	0	4.20	3.60
	55 Urraca WMA	3-386	Muzzleloader	Oct. 10-14	10	MB	9	90%	22%	2	0	3.11	3.11
	55 Urraca WMA	1-387	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	10	MB	8	80%	33%	3	0	2.83	3.17
	55 Urraca WMA	1-388	Rifle	Nov. 7-11	10	MB	9	90%	44%	4	0	3.67	2.78
	55 Urraca WMA	1-389	Rifle	Nov. 14-18	15	A	9	60%	38%	0	5	3.50	4.38
	55 Urraca WMA	1-390	Rifle	Nov. 28-Dec. 2	15	A	12	80%	89%	0	10	4.00	2.67
	55 private Rifle				678	ES	272	40%	83%	504	50	4.58	3.20
	55 private				1174	A	673	57%	81%	35	900	4.52	2.25
	55 private archery				185	ES	62	34%	48%	90	0	4.34	4.78
	55 total				2515		1422	57%	70%	740	1023	3.57	4.24

GMU 56	56	2-400	Archery	Sept. 1-14	5	ES	5	100%	20%	1	0	4.00	6.40
	56	2-401	Archery	Sept. 15-24	6	ES	5	83%	75%	4	0	3.50	3.75
	56	1-402	Rifle	Oct. 10-14	11	MB	10	91%	90%	10	0	4.20	1.30
	56	1-403	Rifle	Oct. 17-21	10	A	8	80%	63%	0	6	4.13	1.63
	56 private Rifle				157	ES	78	50%	87%	129	6	4.77	3.25
	56 private				151	A	93	62%	87%	0	128	4.48	1.89
	56 private archery				20	ES	10	50%	30%	4	2	4.70	4.40
	56 total				360		209	58%	81%	147	143	4.25	3.23

GMU 57/58	57 Sugarte State Park	2-404	Archery	Sept. 1-14	3	ES	3	100%	33%	1	0	4.00	11.33
	57 Sugarte State Park	2-405	Archery	Sept. 15-24	2	ES	2	100%	0%	0	0	2.00	3.00
	57/58	1-406	Rifle	Oct. 10-14	11	MB	10	91%	88%	8	0	4.00	2.13
	57/58	1-407	Rifle	Dec. 12-16	10	A	7	70%	50%	0	4	4.33	3.33
	57/58 private Rifle				249	ES	113	45%	65%	137	22	4.25	3.44
	57/58 private				195	A	104	53%	59%	2	105	3.89	2.95
	57/58 private archery				77	ES	41	53%	50%	34	0	4.19	6.50
	57 total				547		280	51%	60%	181	131	3.81	4.67

GMU 59	59 private				34	ES	17	50%	0%	28	0	3.65	2.65
	59 private				9	A	9	100%	25%	0	2	3.25	2.63
	59 private archery				2	ES	2	100%	100%	2	0	5.00	3.00
	59 total				45		28	62%	67%	30	2	3.97	2.76
Outside COER Totals					6446		3829	59%	60%	1933	1963	3.59	4.02

Pop Mgmt	Bosque del Apache				11	A/ES	8	73%	63%	4	3	4.38	2.00
	Bernardo La Joya				12	A/ES	12	100%	33%	1	3	3.50	2.80
	GMU 53/55A				38	A	27	71%	48%	1	15	3.52	3.24
	GMU 51				230	A	197	86%	51%	4	111	3.60	2.40
Pop Mgmt total					291		244	84%	50%	10	132	3.75	2.61

STATEWIDE TOTALS					Licenses Sold or Converted	No. Hunters	% Reprtd	Success Rate	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction Rating	Number of days
									Bulls	Cows		
					36374	28820	79%	37%	8002	6553	3.60	4.04

STATEWIDE SUCCESS	
Public	
Private	

Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader	Satisfaction
37%	25%	29%	3.51
66%	43%	54%	4.04

Table 3: Harvest Data 2016

NORTHWEST REGION											Estimated Harvest			
	Type	Hunt Code	Weapon	Hunt Dates	Bag Limit	Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate		Bulls	Cows	Satisfaction Rating	Days Hur
GMU 2	public	ELK-2-100	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	120	114	95%	22%		20	4	3.69	7.68
	public	ELK-2-101	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	120	112	93%	22%		16	9	3.72	5.92
	public	ELK-3-102	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	126	118	94%	41%		50	0	3.84	3.61
	public	ELK-1-103	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	76	67	88%	49%		36	0	3.83	3.63
	public	ELK-1-104	Rifle	Dec 10-14	A	99	90	91%	58%		0	54	4.00	2.92
	public YO	ELK-1-105	Rifle	Dec 10-14	A	50	49	98%	80%		3	35	4.24	2.46
	private				MB	44	31	70%	45%		18	0	3.72	3.83
	private				A	33	27	82%	74%		2	22	4.41	3.15
	private				ES	57	47	82%	35%		18	1	3.37	8.72
	Jicarilla/San Juan Herd Unit (GMU 2) Totals					725	655	90%	42%		165	125	3.83	4.87
GMU 5A	public	ELK-2-106	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	5	4	80%	25%		1	0	3.50	3.50
	public	ELK-2-107	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	5	3	60%	33%		2	0	2.67	6.33
	public	ELK-1-108	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	10	10	100%	11%		1	0	3.22	3.56
	public	ELK-1-109	Rifle	Oct 8-12	A	10	10	100%	20%		0	2	2.60	3.00
	public	ELK-1-110	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	10	5	50%	40%		4	0	3.60	2.80
	public	ELK-1-111	Rifle	Oct 15-19	A	10	9	90%	0%		0	0	3.44	3.67
	public	ELK-1-112	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	10	10	100%	75%		6	0	4.50	3.88
	public	ELK-1-113	Rifle	Oct 22-26	A	10	8	80%	43%		0	4	3.57	2.57
	public	ELK-1-114	Rifle	Oct 29-Nov 2	MB	10	10	100%	22%		2	0	2.89	3.67
	public	ELK-1-115	Rifle	Oct 29-Nov 2	A	10	7	70%	80%		0	6	3.80	3.20
	private				MB	201	119	59%	63%		127	0	4.26	3.55
	private				A	209	153	73%	80%		3	164	4.28	2.48
	private				ES	32	20	63%	25%		6	2	3.65	4.00
	Lindrith Herd Unit (GMU 5A) Totals					532	368	69%	62%		152	177	4.06	3.11
GMU 9	public MARQUEZ	ELK-2-116	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	5	5	100%	25%		1	0	4.50	9.00
	public MARQUEZ	ELK-2-117	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	5	3	60%	0%		0	0	4.67	6.33
	public	ELK-2-124	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	160	146	91%	6%		7	3	2.56	7.42
	public	ELK-2-125	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	159	138	87%	6%		3	5	2.22	6.75
	public MARQUEZ	ELK-3-118	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	6	6	100%	60%		3	0	4.60	3.00
	public MARQUEZ	ELK-3-119	Muzzleloader	Oct 15-19	MB	5	5	100%	40%		2	0	4.20	3.20
	public MARQUEZ	ELK-3-120	Muzzleloader	Oct 22-26	MB	5	5	100%	20%		1	0	2.80	3.00
	public MARQUEZ	ELK-3-121	Muzzleloader	Oct 29-Nov 2	A	5	4	80%	0%		0	0	1.75	3.00
	public MARQUEZ	ELK-3-122	Muzzleloader	Nov 5-9	A	5	5	100%	50%		0	2	4.50	3.25
	public MARQUEZ	ELK-3-123	Muzzleloader	Nov 19-23	A	5	5	100%	80%		0	4	4.00	3.00
	public MI	ELK-3-126	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	ES	26	24	92%	22%		3	2	2.22	4.00
	public	ELK-3-127	Muzzleloader	Oct 15-19	MB	70	58	83%	10%		6	0	2.41	3.86
	public	ELK-3-128	Muzzleloader	Oct 22-26	MB	70	62	89%	9%		6	0	2.38	3.78
	public	ELK-3-129	Muzzleloader	Oct 29-Nov 2	MB	23	18	78%	29%		6	0	2.35	4.24
	public	ELK-3-130	Muzzleloader	Nov 5-9	A	76	71	93%	5%		0	3	2.31	3.42
	public	ELK-3-131	Muzzleloader	Nov 19-23	A	45	43	96%	10%		0	4	2.17	3.66
	public	ELK-3-132	Muzzleloader	Dec 10-14	A	42	37	88%	6%		0	2	2.50	3.44
	public YE	ELK-3-506	Muzzleloader	Nov 25-29	A	6	6	100%	17%		0	1	3.83	3.00
	public YE	ELK-3-507	Muzzleloader	Dec 26-30	A	4	4	100%	75%		0	3	3.75	2.75
	private				MB	119	79	66%	82%		95	0	4.29	2.71
	private				A	82	55	67%	48%		0	37	3.19	2.83
	private				ES	101	53	52%	56%		50	4	4.08	4.92
	Mt. Taylor Herd Unit (GMU 9) Totals					1024	832	81%	24%		183	71	2.82	4.78
GMU 10	public	ELK-2-133	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	125	117	94%	7%		9	0	3.13	7.65
	public	ELK-2-134	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	126	120	95%	16%		15	4	3.20	6.57
	public	ELK-3-135	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	70	63	90%	16%		11	0	3.30	3.98
	public	ELK-1-136	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	71	67	94%	15%		10	0	3.58	3.87
	public YO	ELK-1-137	Rifle	Nov 12-16	A	120	111	93%	33%		2	31	3.35	3.38
	public	ELK-1-138	Rifle	Dec 17-21	A	100	88	88%	38%		0	35	3.74	3.62
	public YE	ELK-1-508	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	35	34	97%	31%		0	10	3.16	2.97
	private				MB	81	60	74%	47%		36	0	3.62	3.86
	private				A	98	77	79%	34%		0	32	3.50	3.11
	private				ES	126	81	64%	18%		22	0	3.23	6.52
Zuni Herd Unit (GMU 10) Totals						952	818	86%	24%		104	113	3.37	4.90
Northwest Region Totals						3233	2673	83%	34%		604	485	3.42	4.60

NORTH CENTRAL REGION											Estimated Harvest			
GMU	Type	Hunt Code	Weapon	Hunt Dates	Bag Limit	Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate		Bulls	Cows	Satisfaction Rating	Days Hur
GMU 4	public SARGENT	ELK-2-139	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	10	10	100%	70%		7	0	3.80	6.20
	public SARGENT	ELK-2-140	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	10	10	100%	70%		7	0	4.80	5.40
	public HUMPHRIES	ELK-2-147	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	10	9	90%	22%		2	0	3.89	6.22
	public HUMPHRIES	ELK-2-148	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	10	10	100%	50%		5	0	4.00	5.80
	public SARGENT	ELK-1-141	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	10	10	100%	100%		10	0	5.00	1.80
	public SARGENT	ELK-1-142	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	10	10	100%	70%		7	0	3.90	3.20
	public SARGENT	ELK-1-143	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	10	9	90%	50%		4	0	4.13	2.00
	public SARGENT	ELK-1-144	Rifle	Oct 29-Nov 2	MB	10	10	100%	90%		9	0	4.70	2.10
	public SARGENT	ELK-1-145	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	10	10	100%	67%		0	6	4.22	3.22
	public SRGNT YO	ELK-1-146	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	10	8	80%	38%		0	4	4.38	2.88
	public HUM/RC	ELK-1-149	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	15	14	93%	86%		13	0	4.21	2.50
	public HUM/RC	ELK-1-150	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	15	14	93%	83%		11	0	3.46	3.38
	public HUM/RC	ELK-1-151	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	10	10	100%	33%		0	3	4.00	2.78
	public HUM/RC	ELK-1-152	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	15	13	87%	50%		0	6	3.60	3.30
	private				MB	908	462	51%	59%		521	0	4.06	3.65
	private				A	537	319	59%	71%		5	365	4.15	2.93
	private				ES	410	198	48%	33%		99	29	3.97	5.08
GMU 4 Totals						2010	1126	56%	58%		701	413	4.08	3.69
GMU 5B	public	ELK-2-153	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	75	70	93%	17%		9	3	3.56	8.09
	public	ELK-2-154	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	75	73	97%	17%		11	1	3.35	6.39
	public	ELK-1-155	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	86	73	85%	22%		18	0	3.30	4.07
	public	ELK-1-156	Rifle	Oct 15-19	A	59	56	95%	25%		1	13	3.58	3.94
	public	ELK-1-157	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	86	81	94%	25%		20	0	3.51	3.87
	public	ELK-1-158	Rifle	Oct 29-Nov 2	A	59	53	90%	26%		2	11	3.15	3.83
	public	ELK-1-159	Rifle	Nov 5-9	MB	86	75	87%	31%		25	0	3.31	3.83
	public	ELK-1-160	Rifle	Nov 12-16	A	59	49	83%	47%		0	25	3.71	3.78
	public	ELK-1-161	Rifle	Dec 17-21	MB	88	80	91%	25%		21	0	3.31	3.85
	public YE	ELK-1-501	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	20	18	90%	61%		0	12	3.61	2.56
	private				MB	19	15	79%	67%		13	0	3.33	3.67
	private				A	10	10	100%	78%		0	7	3.56	2.11
	private				ES	7	5	71%	40%		3	0	3.40	9.00
GMU 5B Totals						729	658	90%	28%		123	73	3.42	4.60
GMU 50	public	ELK-2-162	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	60	54	90%	12%		2	4	2.88	6.57
	public	ELK-2-163	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	55	51	93%	18%		9	0	2.84	6.27
	public	ELK-1-164	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	120	99	83%	28%		33	0	3.24	3.77
	public	ELK-1-165	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	41	36	88%	47%		0	18	3.47	3.38
	public	ELK-1-166	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	123	111	90%	19%		22	0	2.94	4.01
	public	ELK-1-167	Rifle	Nov 19-23	A	45	43	96%	36%		0	15	3.54	3.33
	public YE	ELK-1-527	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	60	56	93%	85%		0	49	4.46	1.57
	private				MB	97	50	52%	45%		43	0	3.37	4.08
	private				A	42	35	83%	75%		0	29	4.16	2.16
	private				ES	63	42	67%	48%		18	11	3.33	4.85
GMU 50 Totals						706	577	82%	37%		126	126	3.35	4.01
GMU 51	public	ELK-2-168	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	181	167	92%	28%		35	12	3.54	6.51
	public	ELK-2-169	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	181	166	92%	36%		49	10	3.85	6.03
	public	ELK-3-176	Muzzleloader	Dec 3-7	ES	145	137	94%	44%		31	29	3.50	3.44
	public	ELK-1-170	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	220	200	91%	27%		57	0	3.75	3.85
	public	ELK-1-171	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	220	193	88%	31%		60	1	3.48	3.71
	public	ELK-1-172	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	220	196	89%	22%		44	0	3.14	3.85
	public	ELK-1-173	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	251	221	88%	27%		1	61	3.28	3.72
	public	ELK-1-174	Rifle	Nov 12-16	A	250	227	91%	33%		2	74	3.05	3.49
	public	ELK-1-175	Rifle	Nov 19-23	A	252	230	91%	33%		3	73	3.40	3.60
	public YE	ELK-1-528	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	75	73	97%	56%		0	38	3.79	2.71
	public YE	ELK-1-529	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	75	70	93%	64%		0	45	3.94	2.83
	private				MB	146	98	67%	54%		77	0	3.98	3.78
	private				A	170	132	78%	55%		4	86	3.76	3.02
	private				ES	78	58	74%	47%		32	4	3.81	6.78
GMU 51 Totals						2464	2168	88%	36%		396	433	3.51	4.06
GMU 52	public	ELK-2-177	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	231	222	96%	27%		40	19	3.53	6.40
	public	ELK-2-178	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	231	217	94%	19%		28	14	3.56	6.04
	public Ml	ELK-3-179	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	50	48	96%	27%		13	0	3.05	3.55
	public	ELK-3-180	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	120	108	90%	37%		41	0	3.61	3.63
	public	ELK-3-181	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	A	50	46	92%	13%		0	5	3.37	3.97
	public	ELK-1-182	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	231	211	91%	30%		62	0	3.48	3.61
	public	ELK-1-183	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	230	206	90%	19%		41	0	3.29	3.72
	public YO	ELK-1-184	Rifle	Nov 12-16	A	80	74	93%	35%		0	26	3.32	3.03
	public Ml	ELK-1-185	Rifle	Nov 19-23	A	56	56	100%	31%		0	15	3.44	3.15
	public	ELK-1-186	Rifle	Nov 19-23	A	70	64	91%	38%		0	25	3.34	3.41
	public	ELK-1-187	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	115	111	97%	54%		2	57	3.74	2.87
	public YE	ELK-1-530	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	50	50	100%	66%		0	33	4.38	2.40
	private				MB	50	38	76%	41%		20	0	3.59	3.73
	private				A	29	25	86%	72%		0	21	4.16	2.44
	private				ES	37	29	78%	50%		11	6	3.75	6.89
GMU 52 Totals						1630	1505	92%	32%		258	221	3.52	4.29
North Central Region (Chama San Antonio Herd Unit) Totals						7539	6034	80%	38%		1604	1266	3.60	4.10

JEMEZ REGION											Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction Rating	Days Hunted
GMU	Type	Hunt Code	Weapon	Hunt Dates	Bag Limit	Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate		Bulls	Cows		
GMU 6A	public	ELK-2-188	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	150	139	93%	20%		24	5	3.75	6.81
	public	ELK-2-189	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	100	96	96%	31%		29	1	4.04	5.74
	public	ELK-3-190	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	104	98	94%	41%		41	0	3.97	3.72
	public	ELK-1-191	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	100	92	92%	28%		26	0	3.39	3.54
	public	ELK-1-192	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	100	86	86%	27%		26	0	3.51	3.90
	public	ELK-1-193	Rifle	Oct 29-Nov 2	A	99	92	93%	29%		1	25	3.37	3.46
	public YE	ELK-1-502	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	50	46	92%	51%		1	24	3.93	2.53
	public YE	ELK-1-503	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	50	48	96%	64%		2	27	4.05	2.50
	private				MB	52	39	75%	69%		36	0	4.31	3.41
	private				A	10	9	90%	67%		0	7	3.56	1.78
GMU 6A Totals						857	782	91%	36%		207	89	3.79	4.39
GMU 6B	public	ELK-2-194	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	20	19	95%	42%		8	0	4.05	6.63
	public	ELK-2-195	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	20	20	100%	70%		13	1	4.75	6.20
	public	ELK-3-196	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	16	15	94%	80%		13	0	4.73	2.47
	public	ELK-1-197	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	16	12	75%	83%		13	0	4.67	2.67
	public	ELK-1-198	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	20	18	90%	67%		13	0	4.61	2.67
	public MI	ELK-1-199	Rifle	Oct 29-Nov 2	A	15	15	100%	29%		0	4	2.79	3.14
	public	ELK-1-200	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	35	33	94%	25%		0	8	2.72	3.56
	public	ELK-1-201	Rifle	Nov 19-23	A	35	31	89%	27%		0	9	3.93	3.23
	public YO	ELK-1-202	Rifle	Nov 26-30	A	35	34	97%	24%		0	8	2.85	3.15
	public	ELK-1-203	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	35	34	97%	47%		0	15	3.38	3.06
GMU 6B Totals						247	231	94%	44%		61	46	3.68	3.66
GMU 6C	public	ELK-2-209	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	150	133	89%	16%		12	9	3.46	7.23
	public	ELK-2-210	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	108	99	92%	15%		15	0	3.37	5.73
	public	ELK-3-211	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	156	147	94%	27%		41	0	3.47	3.79
	public	ELK-1-212	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	110	100	91%	26%		28	0	3.39	3.85
	public	ELK-1-213	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	110	102	93%	26%		27	0	3.27	3.73
	public	ELK-1-214	Rifle	Oct 29-Nov 2	A	110	98	89%	16%		0	16	3.28	3.48
	public	ELK-1-215	Rifle	Nov 26-30	A	116	106	91%	21%		0	23	3.10	3.36
	public YE	ELK-1-504	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	50	47	94%	23%		0	10	2.98	3.25
	public YE	ELK-1-505	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	50	49	98%	64%		1	30	3.87	2.45
	private				MB	52	41	79%	66%		34	0	3.93	3.59
GMU 6C Totals						1085	984	91%	27%		176	98	3.39	4.36
GMU 7	public	ELK-2-216	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	15	13	87%	54%		8	0	4.31	6.08
	public	ELK-2-217	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	15	12	80%	17%		3	0	3.75	5.50
	public	ELK-3-218	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	25	24	96%	26%		6	0	3.13	3.83
	public	ELK-1-219	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	30	24	80%	48%		13	0	3.29	3.14
	public	ELK-1-220	Rifle	Oct 22-26	A	50	46	92%	27%		0	12	2.95	3.98
	private				MB	51	19	37%	68%		35	0	4.32	3.00
	private				A	39	18	46%	53%		0	20	3.88	2.94
	private				ES	11	9	82%	11%		0	1	3.78	6.56
GMU 7 Totals						236	165	70%	38%		64	33	3.52	4.05
Jemez Region (Jemez Mountains Herd Unit) Totals						2425	2162	89%	33%		508	266	3.57	4.27

SOUTHWEST REGION											Estimated Harvest			
GMU	Type	Hunt Code	Weapon	Hunt Dates	Bag Limit	Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate		Bulls	Cows	Satisfaction Rating	Days Hur
GMU 13	public	ELK-2-221	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	176	169	96%	17%		20	8	3.41	7.39
	public	ELK-2-222	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	126	117	93%	17%		19	1	3.50	6.38
	public YO	ELK-3-223	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	ES	26	25	96%	63%		14	2	4.17	2.92
	public	ELK-3-224	Muzzleloader	Oct 15-19	MB	76	68	89%	34%		22	0	3.28	3.66
	public	ELK-3-225	Muzzleloader	Oct 22-26	MB	116	104	90%	22%		23	0	3.30	4.03
	public	ELK-3-226	Muzzleloader	Nov 19-23	MB	101	92	91%	16%		15	0	3.28	3.83
	public	ELK-3-227	Muzzleloader	Dec 3-7	A	100	90	90%	39%		1	34	3.44	3.42
	public	ELK-3-228	Muzzleloader	Dec 10-14	A	100	87	87%	33%		2	29	3.47	3.78
	public YE	ELK-3-509	Muzzleloader	Nov 25-29	A	38	36	95%	67%		0	25	4.22	2.69
	public YE	ELK-3-510	Muzzleloader	Dec 26-30	A	27	27	100%	78%		1	17	4.17	2.74
	private				MB	153	94	61%	44%		67	0	3.75	4.02
	private				A	82	58	71%	68%		0	55	4.19	3.11
	private				ES	159	109	69%	30%		47	0	3.43	6.82
Datil Herd Unit (GMU 13) Totals						1280	1076	84%	32%		232	172	3.54	4.84
GMU 15	public	ELK-2-229	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	350	328	94%	24%		53	23	3.73	7.43
	public	ELK-2-230	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	250	234	94%	28%		53	13	4.01	6.86
	public YO	ELK-3-231	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	ES	26	25	96%	83%		19	2	4.46	2.96
	public	ELK-3-232	Muzzleloader	Oct 15-19	MB	199	183	92%	38%		67	1	3.84	3.91
	public	ELK-3-233	Muzzleloader	Oct 22-26	MB	246	227	92%	35%		81	0	3.79	4.20
	public	ELK-3-234	Muzzleloader	Nov 19-23	MB	250	238	95%	27%		62	0	3.52	4.02
	public	ELK-3-235	Muzzleloader	Dec 3-7	A	250	232	93%	34%		1	78	3.54	3.69
	public	ELK-3-236	Muzzleloader	Dec 10-14	A	250	241	96%	34%		2	77	3.65	3.74
	public YE	ELK-3-511	Muzzleloader	Nov 25-29	A	75	74	99%	53%		0	35	4.09	2.76
	public YE	ELK-3-512	Muzzleloader	Dec 26-30	A	63	57	90%	73%		1	41	4.21	2.79
	private				MB	170	110	65%	49%		83	0	3.55	4.13
	private				A	124	86	69%	66%		3	79	4.16	3.42
	private				ES	180	127	71%	39%		65	3	3.92	6.10
GMU 15 Totals						2433	2162	89%	36%		492	352	3.78	4.81
GMU 16A	public	ELK-2-237	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	250	235	94%	35%		67	13	3.88	7.58
	public	ELK-2-238	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	150	144	96%	34%		45	4	3.99	6.33
	public MI	ELK-1-239	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	26	25	96%	64%		17	0	4.04	3.20
	public	ELK-1-240	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	76	73	96%	56%		41	0	3.87	3.17
	public	ELK-1-241	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	126	123	98%	37%		43	0	3.74	3.56
	public	ELK-1-242	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	75	67	89%	65%		2	34	4.04	2.67
	public	ELK-1-243	Rifle	Dec 10-14	A	75	73	97%	57%		1	39	4.13	2.43
	public YE	ELK-1-513	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	75	75	100%	70%		0	50	4.32	2.01
	public YE	ELK-1-514	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	75	70	93%	65%		0	45	4.03	2.54
	private				MB	7	4	57%	100%		7	0	4.25	3.00
	private				A	4	4	100%	75%		0	3	4.50	3.00
	private				ES	12	10	83%	50%		6	0	4.60	5.70
	GMU 16A Totals					951	903	95%	47%		228	188	3.97	4.68
GMU 16B/22	public	ELK-2-244	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	226	210	93%	19%		36	4	3.58	7.34
	public	ELK-2-245	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	165	153	93%	29%		40	2	3.83	5.79
	public	ELK-1-246	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	161	147	91%	29%		43	0	3.30	3.70
	public	ELK-1-247	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	161	143	89%	18%		27	0	3.12	3.84
	private 22				MB	14	8	57%	25%		4	0	3.38	4.25
	private 22				A	3	2	67%	0%		0	0	2.00	4.00
	private 22				ES	7	3	43%	33%		2	0	3.00	5.00
	private 16B				MB	3	1	33%	100%		3	0	4.00	4.00
	private 16B				ES	4	2	50%	50%		2	0	5.00	7.00
	GMU 16B/22 Totals					744	669	90%	23%		156	6	3.47	5.39
GMU 16C	public	ELK-2-248	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	150	136	91%	15%		17	4	3.11	7.74
	public	ELK-2-249	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	100	93	93%	16%		13	2	3.72	6.60
	public YO	ELK-1-250	Rifle	Oct 8-12	ES	26	25	96%	79%		17	3	4.25	2.75
	public	ELK-1-251	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	50	46	92%	23%		10	1	3.57	3.75
	public	ELK-1-252	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	96	90	94%	21%		17	0	3.00	3.76
	public	ELK-1-253	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	50	44	88%	38%		0	15	3.18	3.26
	public	ELK-1-254	Rifle	Dec 10-14	A	50	48	96%	58%		0	26	3.61	2.98
	public YE	ELK-1-515	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	75	72	96%	50%		0	34	3.91	2.92
	public YE	ELK-1-516	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	74	71	96%	45%		0	29	3.55	2.92
	private				MB	36	20	56%	40%		14	0	3.60	4.60
	private				A	19	13	68%	85%		0	16	4.46	1.85
	private				ES	52	41	79%	39%		19	0	4.18	5.61
	GMU 16C Totals					778	699	90%	33%		106	131	3.52	4.77
GMU 16D	public	ELK-2-255	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	90	85	94%	35%		29	1	3.99	7.64
	public	ELK-2-256	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	61	59	97%	42%		24	1	4.12	6.39
	public MI	ELK-1-257	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	26	26	100%	60%		15	0	3.84	3.00
	public	ELK-1-258	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	56	54	96%	57%		30	0	4.04	3.75
	public	ELK-1-259	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	50	39	78%	63%		31	0	4.26	3.21
	public	ELK-1-260	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	50	44	88%	40%		0	19	3.31	3.21
	public	ELK-1-261	Rifle	Dec 10-14	A	50	50	100%	48%		0	20	3.62	2.98
	public YE	ELK-1-517	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	75	69	92%	57%		1	38	3.90	2.70
	public YE	ELK-1-518	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	75	69	92%	47%		0	32	3.61	3.69
	private				MB	18	17	94%	71%		13	0	3.94	4.06
	private				A	12	7	58%	86%		0	10	4.43	2.71
	private				ES	28	20	71%	42%		11	0	4.26	6.11
	GMU 16D Totals					591	539	91%	49%		153	121	3.89	4.43

GMU 16E	public	ELK-2-262	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	91	84	92%	11%	9	1	3.33	7.62
	public	ELK-2-263	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	61	57	93%	17%	10	0	3.08	6.25
	public	ELK-3-265	Muzzleloader	Oct 15-19	MB	70	63	90%	21%	14	0	3.28	3.67
	public YO	ELK-1-264	Rifle	Oct 8-12	ES	26	24	92%	70%	14	3	3.96	2.65
	public	ELK-1-266	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	70	60	86%	17%	12	0	3.36	3.47
	public	ELK-1-267	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	75	66	88%	35%	0	22	3.40	3.20
	public	ELK-1-268	Rifle	Dec 10-14	A	75	67	89%	38%	0	27	3.46	3.11
	public YE	ELK-1-519	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	65	60	92%	44%	1	24	3.87	2.38
	public YE	ELK-1-520	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	24	19	79%	63%	0	15	3.79	2.68
	private				MB	50	34	68%	39%	19	0	3.94	4.21
	private				A	53	44	83%	79%	1	39	3.93	2.50
	private				ES	56	40	71%	35%	20	0	4.53	5.78
	GMU 16E Totals						716	618	86%	34%	99	130	3.58
Greater Gila Herd Unit Totals						6213	5590	90%	37%	1235	929	3.73	4.75
GMU 17	public	ELK-2-269	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	126	111	88%	18%	17	3	3.73	7.73
	public	ELK-2-270	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	76	71	93%	27%	18	1	3.76	6.18
	public YO	ELK-3-271	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	ES	26	24	92%	62%	13	1	4.05	3.29
	public	ELK-3-272	Muzzleloader	Oct 15-19	MB	100	92	92%	26%	24	0	3.44	3.92
	public	ELK-3-273	Muzzleloader	Oct 22-26	MB	100	89	89%	23%	21	0	3.08	3.99
	public	ELK-3-274	Muzzleloader	Nov 19-23	MB	26	24	92%	48%	11	0	4.05	3.52
	public	ELK-3-275	Muzzleloader	Nov 19-23	A	25	25	100%	17%	0	4	2.91	3.17
	public	ELK-3-276	Muzzleloader	Dec 3-7	A	100	94	94%	18%	0	15	3.26	3.78
	public	ELK-3-277	Muzzleloader	Dec 10-14	A	100	95	95%	30%	0	26	3.33	3.25
	public YE	ELK-3-521	Muzzleloader	Nov 25-29	A	27	27	100%	45%	0	10	3.39	2.96
	public YE	ELK-3-522	Muzzleloader	Dec 26-30	A	13	11	85%	56%	0	6	3.78	3.11
	private				MB	43	34	79%	62%	27	0	4.15	3.44
	private				A	37	29	78%	44%	0	14	3.80	2.84
private				ES	36	30	83%	60%	22	0	4.63	5.27	
San Mateo Herd Unit (GMU 17) Totals						835	756	91%	30%	152	81	3.56	4.51
GMU 21A	public	ELK-2-278	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	50	47	94%	19%	7	1	3.44	6.23
	public	ELK-2-279	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	50	47	94%	27%	12	1	3.64	5.82
	public	ELK-1-280	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	50	48	96%	48%	22	0	3.64	3.27
	public	ELK-1-281	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	50	46	92%	27%	13	0	3.39	3.39
	public	ELK-1-282	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	30	28	93%	42%	1	11	3.35	2.81
	private				MB	2	1	50%	100%	2	0	5.00	1.00
	private				ES	2	1	50%	0%	0	0	5.00	5.00
GMU 21A Totals						234	218	93%	32%	57	13	3.52	4.42
GMU 21B	public	ELK-2-283	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	25	22	88%	15%	2	1	3.05	6.90
	public	ELK-2-284	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	26	25	96%	9%	2	0	2.74	5.35
	public	ELK-1-285	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	26	25	96%	52%	12	0	3.39	3.35
	public	ELK-1-286	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	26	22	85%	24%	5	0	3.18	3.41
	public	ELK-1-287	Rifle	Nov 19-23	A	15	15	100%	83%	0	10	3.75	3.58
	public	ELK-1-288	Rifle	Dec 17-21	A	20	20	100%	61%	0	11	3.39	2.56
	public	ELK-1-289	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	15	15	100%	69%	0	9	4.00	2.23
	public	ELK-1-290	Rifle	Dec 10-14	A	15	15	100%	38%	0	5	2.92	3.54
	private				MB	71	41	58%	71%	48	2	4.12	3.29
	private				A	66	51	77%	73%	3	44	4.22	2.20
	private				ES	58	35	60%	16%	8	0	4.09	5.00
GMU 21 B Totals						363	286	79%	48%	81	82	3.67	3.69
GMU 23	public	ELK-2-291	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	126	121	96%	17%	18	2	2.95	7.59
	public	ELK-2-292	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	76	72	95%	13%	6	2	3.28	6.61
	public	ELK-3-294	Muzzleloader	Oct 15-19	MB	76	66	87%	20%	14	0	2.97	4.00
	public YO	ELK-1-293	Rifle	Oct 8-12	ES	26	26	100%	61%	14	0	3.78	3.39
	public	ELK-1-295	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	76	71	93%	22%	15	0	3.00	3.75
	public	ELK-1-296	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	20	16	80%	38%	0	8	3.44	2.69
	private				MB	12	7	58%	57%	7	0	3.43	3.86
	private				A	9	7	78%	71%	0	6	4.00	2.29
	private				ES	11	4	36%	33%	3	0	3.33	6.67
GMU 23 Totals						432	390	90%	24%	76	18	3.13	5.42
GMU 24	public	ELK-2-297	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	15	14	93%	8%	1	0	2.75	5.75
	public	ELK-2-298	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	10	9	90%	13%	0	1	3.13	4.25
	public	ELK-3-299	Muzzleloader	Oct 15-19	MB	15	12	80%	18%	3	0	3.00	4.18
	public	ELK-1-300	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	16	10	63%	13%	2	0	3.00	3.38
	public YO FT BAYARD	ELK-1-301	Rifle	Oct 8-12	ES	6	6	100%	83%	5	0	3.50	3.17
	public YO FT BAYARD	ELK-1-302	Rifle	Oct 22-26	A	5	4	80%	75%	0	4	4.00	2.75
	private				MB	15	11	73%	67%	8	0	3.44	3.22
	private				A	3	3	100%	67%	0	2	3.33	2.33
	private				ES	4	4	100%	50%	2	0	3.75	5.75
GMU 24 Totals						89	73	82%	35%	20	7	3.20	4.08
Lesser Gila Herd Unit Totals						1118	967	86%	34%	235	120	3.39	4.58
Southwest Region Totals						9446	8389	89%	35%	1854	1302	3.65	4.72

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

GMU	Type	Hunt Code	Weapon	Hunt Dates	Bag Limit	Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction Rating	Days Hu
										Bulls	Cows		
GMU 34	public	ELK-2-303	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	200	179	90%	25%	41	9	3.95	6.84
	public	ELK-2-304	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	200	192	96%	43%	75	7	4.13	5.53
	public	ELK-2-534	Archery	Dec 17-21	APRE/6	201	194	97%	12%	22	0	3.36	3.57
	public	ELK-3-308	Muzzleloader	Oct 15-19	MB	249	226	91%	44%	106	0	3.88	3.53
	public YO	ELK-1-305	Rifle	Oct 8-12	ES	76	67	88%	73%	50	6	4.57	2.51
	public YO	ELK-1-306	Rifle	Oct 8-12	A	100	95	95%	48%	2	41	4.06	2.58
	public MI	ELK-1-307	Rifle	Oct 8-12	ES	50	47	94%	69%	30	3	3.93	3.16
	public	ELK-1-309	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	150	143	95%	49%	66	2	4.04	3.28
	public	ELK-1-310	Rifle	Nov 26-30	A	250	223	89%	53%	2	118	4.04	3.02
	public	ELK-1-311	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	250	220	88%	49%	0	107	3.68	3.16
	public	ELK-1-312	Rifle	Dec 10-14	A	250	229	92%	53%	4	114	4.12	3.05
	public YE	ELK-1-523	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	80	77	96%	61%	1	42	4.01	2.54
	private				MB	193	107	55%	78%	150	0	4.21	3.30
	private				A	176	131	74%	67%	15	99	4.09	2.98
	private				ES	176	117	66%	64%	99	9	4.21	4.73
Sacramento Herd Unit (GMU 34) Totals						2601	2247	86%	49%	663	556	3.98	3.74
GMU 36	public	ELK-2-313	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	131	126	96%	37%	40	7	3.59	6.38
	public	ELK-2-314	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	112	106	95%	42%	43	1	3.98	6.12
	public	ELK-3-315	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	136	127	93%	43%	55	0	3.81	3.45
	public	ELK-1-316	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	123	117	95%	47%	56	0	3.89	3.25
	public	ELK-1-317	Rifle	Oct 29-Nov 2	MB	124	113	91%	43%	53	0	3.80	3.56
	public	ELK-1-318	Rifle	Nov 26-30	A	105	91	87%	46%	2	43	3.81	3.26
	public	ELK-1-319	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	105	92	88%	43%	0	41	3.72	3.11
	public YE	ELK-1-524	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	60	58	97%	54%	2	29	3.93	2.48
	public YE	ELK-1-525	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	60	55	92%	71%	2	35	3.92	2.40
	private				MB	176	91	52%	63%	110	0	3.56	3.90
	private				A	185	118	64%	78%	2	140	4.14	2.95
	private				ES	137	87	64%	47%	60	3	3.59	5.05
Ruidoso Herd Unit (GMU 36) Totals						1454	1181	81%	50%	424	299	3.81	3.97
South Central Region Totals						4055	3428	85%	49%	1087	855	3.92	3.82

NORTHEAST REGION

GMU	Type	Hunt Code	Weapon	Hunt Dates	Bag Limit	Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction Rating	Days Hur
										Bulls	Cows		
GMU 45	public	ELK-2-320	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	76	67	88%	27%	17	2	3.58	7.48
	public	ELK-2-321	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	76	65	86%	25%	15	2	3.32	6.50
	public	ELK-3-322	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	140	129	92%	19%	25	0	3.08	4.11
	public	ELK-3-325	Muzzleloader	Nov 12-16	A	50	45	90%	35%	0	16	3.13	3.53
	public	ELK-1-323	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	140	118	84%	7%	8	0	2.90	3.74
	public	ELK-1-324	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	140	127	91%	13%	17	0	2.80	3.73
	private				MB	38	22	58%	27%	10	0	3.32	4.14
	private				A	35	26	74%	25%	0	8	3.21	3.58
	private				ES	48	31	65%	45%	20	2	3.94	6.45
Pecos Herd Unit (GMU 45) Totals						743	630	85%	20%	113	30	3.13	4.65
GMU 48	public	ELK-2-326	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	92	83	90%	16%	9	4	2.91	7.89
	public	ELK-2-327	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	92	83	90%	20%	13	3	3.05	6.50
	public	ELK-3-328	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	80	75	94%	10%	7	0	3.03	3.89
	public	ELK-1-329	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	60	56	93%	25%	14	0	2.94	3.65
	public	ELK-1-330	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	50	48	96%	45%	1	20	3.64	2.98
	public	ELK-1-331	Rifle	Dec 3-7	MB	33	31	94%	35%	12	0	3.48	3.48
	public	ELK-1-332	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	53	50	94%	50%	0	25	3.63	2.79
	private				MB	71	27	38%	48%	34	0	3.59	3.67
	private				A	60	38	63%	83%	3	44	4.39	2.42
	private				ES	80	33	41%	30%	24	0	3.48	5.52
Whites Peak Herd Unit (GMU 48) Totals						671	524	78%	32%	118	97	3.31	4.65
GMU 49	public	ELK-2-333	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	62	60	97%	38%	18	5	3.78	7.95
	public	ELK-2-334	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	61	57	93%	24%	9	5	3.87	6.76
	public	ELK-1-335	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	81	70	86%	28%	20	0	3.55	3.93
	public	ELK-1-336	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	77	68	88%	23%	17	0	3.45	3.95
	public	ELK-1-337	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	80	72	90%	35%	0	26	3.31	3.34
	public	ELK-1-338	Rifle	Nov 12-16	A	77	68	88%	28%	0	19	2.78	3.65
	public YE	ELK-1-526	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	50	49	98%	49%	0	21	3.81	2.91
	private				MB	4	3	75%	33%	1	0	2.67	4.33
	private				A	17	13	76%	62%	0	10	3.85	2.85
	private				ES	15	9	60%	44%	7	0	4.11	4.33
Penasco Herd Unit (GMU 49) Totals						524	469	90%	33%	71	87	3.50	4.59
GMU 53	public	ELK-2-339	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	61	51	84%	19%	8	2	3.09	6.68
	public	ELK-2-340	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	61	56	92%	16%	9	0	3.26	6.52
	public	ELK-3-341	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	ES	50	46	92%	33%	14	1	3.45	3.52
	public	ELK-1-342	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	76	71	93%	22%	15	0	2.97	3.94
	public	ELK-1-343	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	125	108	86%	11%	13	0	2.12	3.95
	public	ELK-1-344	Rifle	Nov 19-23	A	90	85	94%	20%	0	17	2.73	3.74
	public	ELK-1-345	Rifle	Nov 12-16	A	90	81	90%	19%	0	16	3.04	3.38
	public SUNSHNE RD N	ELK-1-346	Rifle	Jan 7-22 '17	A	40	35	88%	53%	0	21	3.24	3.62
	public YE	ELK-1-531	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	41	38	93%	22%	0	9	3.28	3.08
	public YE	ELK-1-532	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	26	20	77%	53%	0	13	3.42	2.42
	private				MB	64	35	55%	49%	31	0	3.34	3.51
	private				A	77	53	69%	33%	1	23	2.94	3.54
	private				ES	57	38	67%	16%	9	0	3.08	6.92
Ute Herd Unit (GMU 53) Totals						858	717	84%	24%	100	101	3.10	4.22
Northeast Region Totals						2796	2340	84%	26%	402	316	2.23	4.50

Hunts in GMUs Where No Core Occupied Elk Range (COER) is Established

Hunts in GMUs Where No Core Occupied Elk Range (COER) is Established										Estimated Harvest			
GMU	Type	Hunt Code	Weapon	Hunt Dates	Bag Limit	Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate	Bulls	Cows	Satisfaction Rating	Days Hunted
GMU 3	private				ES	2	2	100%	100%	1	1	5.00	5.00
						2	2	100%	100%	1	1	5.00	5.00
GMU 12	public	ELK-2-347	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	16	15	94%	29%	2	2	3.00	8.57
	public	ELK-2-348	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	16	16	100%	13%	2	0	3.13	6.20
	public	ELK-2-533	Archery	Nov 19-23	APRE/6	25	24	96%	10%	2	0	2.80	3.30
	public	ELK-1-349	Rifle	Oct 1-5	MB	20	20	100%	58%	11	0	3.89	3.47
	public	ELK-1-350	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	20	19	95%	32%	6	0	3.26	3.53
	public	ELK-1-351	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	20	19	95%	50%	9	0	3.56	3.61
	public	ELK-1-352	Rifle	Oct 22-26	A	20	20	100%	26%	1	4	3.32	3.11
	public	ELK-1-353	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	20	19	95%	28%	1	4	3.72	3.39
	public	ELK-1-354	Rifle	Nov 12-16	A	20	20	100%	18%	0	3	3.35	4.29
	private				MB	382	193	51%	62%	232	0	3.56	3.86
	private				A	311	171	55%	61%	2	184	3.94	2.90
	private				ES	144	106	74%	21%	24	4	3.01	6.80
GMU 12 Totals						1014	642	63%	47%	293	201	3.52	4.17
GMU 18	public	ELK-2-355	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	25	24	96%	10%	2	0	3.00	6.95
	public	ELK-2-356	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	25	23	92%	9%	2	0	2.95	6.45
	private				MB	13	7	54%	40%	4	0	2.80	4.40
	private				A	5	4	80%	25%	0	1	2.50	3.00
	private				ES	20	18	90%	39%	7	1	3.28	9.83
GMU 18 Totals						88	76	86%	20%	15	2	3.01	7.13
GMU 28	public MILITARY	ELK-1-357	Rifle	Dec 10-14	ES	11	11	100%	60%	5	1	3.80	2.50
	public	ELK-1-358	Rifle	Dec 10-14	ES	11	11	100%	73%	8	0	3.55	2.64
GMU 28 Totals						22	22	100%	67%	13	1	3.67	2.57
GMU 30	public	ELK-2-360	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	11	11	100%	36%	3	1	3.18	6.91
	public	ELK-2-361	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	11	11	100%	18%	2	0	3.09	7.73
	public	ELK-1-359	Rifle	Oct 8-12	ES	20	19	95%	53%	9	0	3.88	3.12
	private				MB	3	3	100%	100%	3	0	4.00	4.00
	private				A	3	0	0%	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
	private				ES	5	1	20%	NaN	0	0	NaN	NaN
GMU 30 Totals						53	45	85%	43%	17	1	3.50	5.38
GMU 32	private				MB	3	1	33%	100%	3	0	5.00	3.00
	private				A	1	0	0%	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
	private				ES	4	2	50%	100%	4	0	4.50	6.50
	GMU 32 Totals					8	3	38%	100%	7	0	4.67	5.33
GMU 37	public	ELK-2-362	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	40	37	93%	9%	2	1	3.35	7.85
	public	ELK-2-363	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	31	30	97%	34%	10	0	3.83	6.14
	public	ELK-2-535	Archery	Dec 3-7	APRE/6	49	49	100%	5%	2	0	3.05	3.63
	public	ELK-3-364	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	31	31	100%	33%	10	0	3.67	3.97
	public	ELK-1-365	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	31	29	94%	32%	9	0	3.32	4.08
	public	ELK-1-366	Rifle	Nov 26-30	A	45	43	96%	22%	0	9	2.85	3.05
	private				MB	73	52	71%	66%	46	0	3.96	3.12
	private				A	60	46	77%	66%	0	38	3.91	2.45
	private				ES	69	39	57%	36%	16	9	3.87	4.46
	GMU 37 Totals					429	356	83%	36%	95	57	3.55	4.14
GMU 38	public	ELK-1-367	Rifle	Oct 8-12	ES	16	16	100%	47%	7	0	3.47	3.40
	private				MB	19	11	58%	55%	10	0	4.36	3.45
	private				A	9	4	44%	50%	0	5	3.25	2.75
	private				ES	7	6	86%	0%	0	0	4.00	9.25
GMU 38 Totals						51	37	73%	44%	17	5	3.79	4.03
GMU 42	private				ES	49	18	37%	78%	35	3	4.56	2.50
	private				A	18	9	50%	75%	0	12	3.88	2.00
GMU 42 Totals						67	27	40%	77%	35	15	4.35	2.35
GMU 43	public	ELK-1-368	Rifle	Sept 27-Oct 4	ES	30	29	97%	32%	9	0	2.89	4.25
	private				A	1	1	100%	0%	0	0	4.00	4.00
	private				ES	1	1	100%	0%	0	0	4.00	4.00
GMU 43 Totals						32	31	97%	30%	9	0	2.97	4.23
GMU 46	private				A	526	349	66%	48%	5	237	3.60	2.90
	private				ES	633	294	46%	48%	250	45	3.63	3.96
GMU 46 Totals						1159	643	55%	48%	254	282	3.62	3.39
GMU 47	private				A	7	3	43%	100%	0	7	4.67	2.00
	private				ES	35	17	49%	71%	21	4	4.41	3.06
GMU 47 Totals						42	20	48%	75%	21	11	4.45	2.90
GMU 54	public COLIN NEBLETT S	ELK-2-372	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	10	10	100%	0%	0	0	2.78	5.78
	public COLIN NEBLETT S	ELK-2-373	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	10	9	90%	22%	2	0	2.22	5.00
	public COLIN NEBLETT S	ELK-3-369	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	20	13	65%	55%	9	0	4.18	3.55
	public COLIN NEBLETT S	ELK-1-370	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	20	17	85%	19%	4	0	3.69	3.38
	public COLIN NEBLETT S	ELK-1-371	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	20	18	90%	11%	2	0	2.83	3.61
	public COLIN NEBLETT S	ELK-1-374	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	20	18	90%	29%	0	6	3.18	4.00
	private				A	43	17	40%	94%	0	40	4.53	2.00
	private				ES	53	15	28%	79%	39	0	4.43	4.29
GMU 54 Totals						196	117	60%	41%	56	46	3.55	3.76

GMU 55	public COLIN NEBLETT N ELK-2-378	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	10	9	90%	0%	0	0	1.89	4.56
	public COLIN NEBLETT N ELK-2-379	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	10	9	90%	22%	1	1	3.22	6.22
	public ES BARKER ELK-2-381	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	5	5	100%	20%	0	1	3.00	5.40
	public ES BARKER ELK-2-382	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	5	5	100%	0%	0	0	3.00	7.20
	public URRACA ELK-2-384	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	5	5	100%	40%	1	1	3.00	8.40
	public URRACA ELK-2-385	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	5	5	100%	40%	2	0	3.80	4.40
	public VVIDAL/GRNWD ELK-2-391	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	26	25	96%	35%	7	1	3.70	9.57
	public VVIDAL/GRNWD ELK-2-392	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	26	24	92%	54%	14	0	4.08	6.50
	public COLIN NEBLETT N ELK-3-375	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	20	17	85%	19%	4	0	2.50	3.81
	public URRACA ELK-3-386	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	10	10	100%	33%	3	0	3.22	3.67
	public VVIDAL/GRNWD ELK-3-393	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	40	36	90%	67%	24	0	4.12	3.58
	public COLIN NEBLETT N ELK-1-376	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	20	17	85%	0%	0	0	2.00	3.31
	public COLIN NEBLETT N ELK-1-377	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	20	17	85%	13%	2	0	2.13	3.87
	public COLIN NEBLETT N ELK-1-380	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	20	13	65%	0%	0	0	2.44	3.11
	public ES BARKER ELK-1-383	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	10	6	60%	17%	2	0	3.33	3.83
	public URRACA ELK-1-387	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	10	8	80%	13%	1	0	3.38	4.13
	public URRACA ELK-1-388	Rifle	Nov 5-9	MB	10	9	90%	50%	4	0	2.88	2.63
	public URRACA ELK-1-389	Rifle	Nov 12-16	A	15	14	93%	78%	0	8	3.78	3.44
	public URRACA ELK-1-390	Rifle	Nov 26-30	A	15	15	100%	36%	0	5	3.21	3.00
	public VVIDAL/GRNWD ELK-1-394	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	20	20	100%	60%	12	0	3.90	3.35
	public VVIDAL/GRNWD ELK-1-395	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	20	19	95%	37%	7	0	3.63	3.16
	public VVIDAL/GRNWD ELK-1-396	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	36	31	86%	48%	17	0	3.97	3.55
	public VVIDAL/GRNWD ELK-1-397	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	35	33	94%	53%	1	17	4.03	3.09
	public VVIDAL/GRNWD ELK-1-398	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	15	14	93%	73%	0	9	4.27	2.91
	public VVIDAL/GRNWD ELK-1-399	Rifle	Nov 12-16	A	70	66	94%	40%	0	24	3.68	3.30
	private 55A			A	1200	694	58%	68%	17	783	4.18	2.53
	private 55A			ES	789	286	36%	65%	455	47	4.24	3.85
	private 55B			A	156	83	53%	85%	2	122	4.51	2.36
	private 55B			ES	123	52	42%	76%	69	24	4.31	3.25
	GMU 55 Totals					2746	1547	56%	61%	647	1043	4.03

GMU 56	public	ELK-2-400	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	5	5	100%	25%	1	0	3.00	7.75
	public	ELK-2-401	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	6	6	100%	60%	3	0	2.60	4.20
	public	ELK-1-402	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	11	11	100%	100%	11	0	4.18	1.91
	public	ELK-1-403	Rifle	Oct 15-19	A	10	10	100%	80%	0	8	4.60	2.20
	private				A	154	96	62%	77%	5	111	4.45	2.80
	private				ES	180	76	42%	75%	126	7	4.43	3.19
GMU 56 Totals						366	204	56%	76%	145	126	4.36	3.00

GMU 57/58	public 57/SUGARITE	ELK-2-404	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	3	3	100%	33%	1	0	3.33	5.33
	public 57/SUGARITE	ELK-2-405	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	2	2	100%	0%	0	0	4.00	5.00
	public 57/58	ELK-1-406	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	11	10	91%	80%	9	0	4.00	2.60
	public 57/58	ELK-1-407	Rifle	Dec 10-14	A	10	10	100%	50%	0	4	3.75	2.75
	private 57				A	186	91	49%	56%	0	102	3.98	2.80
	private 57				ES	233	96	41%	75%	158	15	4.43	4.23
	private 58				A	41	24	59%	63%	0	26	4.29	3.75
	private 58				ES	101	37	37%	46%	46	0	3.54	4.00
	GMU 57/58 Totals					587	273	47%	62%	214	146	4.09	3.59

GMU 59	private	A	12	9	75%	33%	0	4	3.78	2.78	
	private	ES	33	19	58%	58%	19	0	3.58	3.16	
	GMU 59 Totals			45	28	62%	50%	19	4	3.64	3.04
	Outside COER Totals			6907	4073	59%	54%	1860	1941	3.82	3.61

Special Authorizations										Estimated Harvest			
GMU	Type	Hunt Code	Weapon	Hunt Dates	Bag Limit	Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate	Bulls	Cows	Satisfaction Rating	Days Hun
Enhancement Auctions/Raffle		ELK-1-5010	Rifle	TBD	MB	4	2	50%	100%	4	0	4.00	20.00
NonProfit		ELK-1-510	Rifle	TBD	ES	2	0	0%	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
Governor's Auction		ELK-1-601	Rifle	TBD	ES	2	2	100%	50%	1	0	4.00	5.00
Governor's Auction		ELK-1-602	Rifle	TBD	ES	1	1	100%	100%	1	0	4.00	13.00
Special Authorizations Totals						9	5	56%	80%	6	0	4.00	12.60

Population Management Hunts										Estimated Harvest			
GMU	Type	Hunt Code	Weapon	Hunt Dates	Bag Limit	Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate	Bulls	Cows	Satisfaction Rating	Days Hun
Bernardo/La Joya				TBD	A	7	7	100%	14%	0	1	2.71	2.29
GMU 34				TBD	A	278	264	95%	49%	3	128	3.72	2.31
GMU 51				TBD	A	241	200	83%	51%	11	108	3.79	2.41
Population Management Hunt Totals						526	471	90%	49%	14	238	3.74	2.35

STATEWIDE TOTALS						Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction Rating	Days Hun
										Bulls	Cows		
						36936	29575	80%	39%	7938	6668	3.64	4.23

STATEWIDE SUCCESS & SATISFACTION			
	Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader
PUBLIC:			
Success	38%	23%	33%
Satisfaction	3.54	3.53	3.48
PRIVATE:			
Success	62%	36%	55%
Satisfaction	3.97	3.77	3.81

Table 4: Harvest Data 2017

NORTHWEST REGION											Estimated Harvest			
	Type	Hunt Code	Weapon	Hunt Dates	Bag Limit	Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate		Bulls	Cows	Satisfaction Rating	Days Hur
GMU 2	public	ELK-2-100	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	120	112	93%	19%		15	6	3.55	8.19
	public	ELK-2-101	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	119	109	92%	19%		19	2	3.53	6.02
	public	ELK-3-102	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	124	112	90%	45%		53	1	3.81	3.64
	public	ELK-1-103	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	76	68	89%	41%		29	0	3.95	3.60
	public	ELK-1-104	Rifle	Dec 10-14	A	100	88	88%	62%		0	60	4.23	2.69
	public YO	ELK-1-105	Rifle	Dec 10-14	A	50	48	96%	72%		2	32	4.17	2.04
	private				MB	49	39	80%	74%		35	0	4.21	3.50
	private				A	31	27	87%	88%		0	26	4.35	2.31
	private				ES	71	61	86%	35%		16	7	3.49	9.61
Jicarilla/San Juan Herd Unit (GMU 2) Totals						740	664	90%	43%		169	136	3.84	5.00
GMU 5A	public	ELK-2-106	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	5	5	100%	20%		1	0	3.80	7.00
	public	ELK-2-107	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	5	5	100%	20%		1	0	3.60	7.20
	public	ELK-1-108	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	10	8	80%	25%		3	0	2.88	3.63
	public	ELK-1-109	Rifle	Oct 8-12	A	10	9	90%	11%		0	1	3.56	4.56
	public	ELK-1-110	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	10	7	70%	17%		1	0	3.67	2.83
	public	ELK-1-111	Rifle	Oct 15-19	A	10	9	90%	13%		0	1	2.38	2.88
	public	ELK-1-112	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	11	11	100%	45%		5	0	3.55	3.18
	public	ELK-1-113	Rifle	Oct 22-26	A	10	9	90%	0%		0	0	2.29	3.57
	public	ELK-1-114	Rifle	Oct 29-Nov 2	MB	10	10	100%	40%		4	0	3.40	3.20
	public	ELK-1-115	Rifle	Oct 29-Nov 2	A	10	9	90%	38%		0	3	3.38	2.88
	private				MB	189	125	66%	70%		133	0	4.46	3.50
	private				A	198	162	82%	81%		6	154	4.41	2.56
	private				ES	25	18	72%	24%		6	0	3.76	4.82
	Lindrieth Herd Unit (GMU 5A) Totals					503	387	77%	64%		160	160	4.16	3.23
GMU 9	public MARQUEZ	ELK-2-116	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	5	5	100%	20%		0	1	3.80	6.40
	public MARQUEZ	ELK-2-117	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	5	5	100%	0%		0	0	1.80	6.80
	public	ELK-2-124	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	159	147	92%	15%		16	5	2.67	6.51
	public	ELK-2-125	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	159	142	89%	3%		3	1	1.94	5.94
	public MARQUEZ	ELK-3-118	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	5	3	60%	0%		0	0	2.00	4.50
	public MARQUEZ	ELK-3-119	Muzzleloader	Oct 15-19	MB	5	3	60%	67%		3	0	3.67	4.67
	public MARQUEZ	ELK-3-120	Muzzleloader	Oct 22-26	MB	5	4	80%	25%		1	0	3.00	2.25
	public MARQUEZ	ELK-3-121	Muzzleloader	Oct 29-Nov 2	A	3	2	67%	0%		0	0	4.00	5.00
	public MARQUEZ	ELK-3-122	Muzzleloader	Nov 5-9	A	3	2	67%	0%		0	0	1.00	5.00
	public MARQUEZ	ELK-3-123	Muzzleloader	Nov 19-23	A	3	3	100%	33%		0	1	3.00	2.33
	public MI	ELK-3-126	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	ES	23	22	96%	18%		3	0	2.41	3.88
	public	ELK-3-127	Muzzleloader	Oct 15-19	MB	70	57	81%	16%		11	0	2.13	3.80
	public	ELK-3-128	Muzzleloader	Oct 22-26	MB	70	58	83%	6%		4	0	2.33	4.12
	public	ELK-3-129	Muzzleloader	Oct 29-Nov 2	MB	39	37	95%	19%		6	0	2.03	4.03
	public	ELK-3-130	Muzzleloader	Nov 5-9	A	27	27	100%	9%		0	2	2.23	3.18
	public	ELK-3-131	Muzzleloader	Nov 19-23	A	26	24	92%	28%		0	5	3.61	3.44
	public	ELK-3-132	Muzzleloader	Dec 10-14	A	27	22	81%	19%		0	4	3.06	3.12
	private				MB	119	86	72%	67%		76	1	3.96	3.17
	private				A	51	37	73%	32%		0	17	2.84	3.22
	private				ES	86	44	51%	48%		39	2	3.43	5.55
	Mt. Taylor Herd Unit (GMU 9) Totals					890	730	82%	23%		163	40	2.67	4.78
GMU 10	public	ELK-2-133	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	126	114	90%	13%		14	1	3.16	7.72
	public	ELK-2-134	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	126	113	90%	19%		22	1	3.27	6.07
	public	ELK-3-135	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	70	66	94%	9%		6	0	2.73	4.08
	public	ELK-1-136	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	70	66	94%	26%		17	0	3.56	3.74
	public YO	ELK-1-137	Rifle	Nov 12-16	A	120	112	93%	26%		2	27	3.48	3.48
	public	ELK-1-138	Rifle	Dec 17-21	A	100	95	95%	14%		0	13	2.92	3.92
	public YE	ELK-1-508	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	35	33	94%	23%		0	7	2.90	3.42
	private				MB	80	51	64%	54%		41	0	3.71	3.71
	private				A	77	67	87%	50%		2	33	3.77	3.16
	private				ES	120	68	57%	38%		42	4	3.85	5.97
Zuni Herd Unit (GMU 10) Totals						924	785	85%	25%		148	86	3.33	4.82
Northwest Region Totals						3057	2566	84%	33%		640	421	3.41	4.60

NORTH CENTRAL REGION											Estimated Harvest			
GMU	Type	Hunt Code	Weapon	Hunt Dates	Bag Limit	Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate		Bulls	Cows	Satisfaction Rating	Days Hun
GMU 4	public SARGENT	ELK-2-139	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	10	10	100%	56%		5	0	4.44	6.33
	public SARGENT	ELK-2-140	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	10	10	100%	60%		5	1	4.50	5.10
	public HUMPHRIES	ELK-2-147	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	10	10	100%	33%		3	0	3.78	5.56
	public HUMPHRIES	ELK-2-148	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	10	10	100%	11%		1	0	4.44	5.78
	public SARGENT	ELK-1-141	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	10	10	100%	100%		10	0	4.70	1.80
	public SARGENT	ELK-1-142	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	10	10	100%	100%		9	0	4.22	2.11
	public SARGENT	ELK-1-143	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	10	10	100%	60%		6	0	3.70	3.90
	public SARGENT	ELK-1-144	Rifle	Oct 29-Nov 2	MB	10	9	90%	67%		7	0	4.22	2.67
	public SARGENT	ELK-1-145	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	10	10	100%	43%		0	3	3.43	3.29
	public SRGNT YO	ELK-1-146	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	10	10	100%	50%		0	5	3.70	2.10
	public HUM/RC	ELK-1-149	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	15	15	100%	50%		7	0	4.14	2.71
	public HUM/RC	ELK-1-150	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	15	15	100%	46%		6	0	4.08	2.62
	public HUM/RC	ELK-1-151	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	10	7	70%	0%		0	0	3.14	2.86
	public HUM/RC	ELK-1-152	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	15	15	100%	43%		0	6	3.71	2.93
	private				MB	931	506	54%	60%		556	0	4.11	3.78
	private				A	520	364	70%	65%		4	333	3.98	2.92
	private				ES	395	216	55%	36%		119	15	4.10	5.16
GMU 4 Totals						2001	1237	62%	57%		737	362	4.06	3.72
GMU 58	public	ELK-2-153	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	75	74	99%	25%		14	3	3.74	7.13
	public	ELK-2-154	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	75	74	99%	24%		16	1	3.69	6.26
	public	ELK-1-155	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	86	83	97%	32%		25	1	3.26	3.49
	public	ELK-1-156	Rifle	Oct 15-19	A	59	57	97%	14%		0	7	2.98	3.53
	public	ELK-1-157	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	86	77	90%	33%		27	0	3.47	3.72
	public	ELK-1-158	Rifle	Oct 29-Nov 2	A	59	55	93%	12%		0	6	2.79	3.67
	public	ELK-1-159	Rifle	Nov 5-9	MB	86	72	84%	23%		18	0	3.26	3.91
	public	ELK-1-160	Rifle	Nov 12-16	A	59	51	86%	30%		0	16	3.43	3.47
	public	ELK-1-161	Rifle	Dec 17-21	MB	88	81	92%	24%		20	0	2.91	3.50
	public YE	ELK-1-501	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	20	19	95%	47%		1	7	3.76	3.12
	private				MB	20	15	75%	73%		15	0	3.93	3.60
	private				A	9	8	89%	63%		0	6	3.50	2.63
	private				ES	7	7	100%	29%		2	0	3.29	8.29
	GMU 58 Totals					729	673	92%	27%		137	48	3.33	4.33
GMU 50	public	ELK-2-162	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	60	55	92%	22%		5	7	3.18	6.94
	public	ELK-2-163	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	55	48	87%	24%		9	3	3.26	5.22
	public	ELK-1-164	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	120	106	88%	15%		17	0	2.99	3.79
	public	ELK-1-165	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	41	40	98%	28%		0	11	3.38	3.58
	public	ELK-1-166	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	123	112	91%	16%		19	0	2.86	3.79
	public	ELK-1-167	Rifle	Nov 19-23	A	45	40	89%	47%		0	19	3.39	3.25
	public YE	ELK-1-527	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	60	60	100%	76%		0	44	3.66	2.00
	private				MB	76	47	62%	48%		36	0	3.41	4.04
	private				A	54	48	89%	66%		1	34	3.74	2.57
	private				ES	67	52	78%	28%		10	8	3.52	4.94
GMU 50 Totals						701	608	87%	34%		97	126	3.27	3.97
GMU 51	public	ELK-2-168	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	181	162	90%	31%		38	13	3.70	6.75
	public	ELK-2-169	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	181	179	99%	28%		40	7	3.86	6.00
	public	ELK-3-176	Muzzleloader	Dec 3-7	ES	146	133	91%	29%		18	20	3.43	3.71
	public	ELK-1-170	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	220	188	85%	29%		60	0	3.57	3.74
	public	ELK-1-171	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	219	188	86%	27%		55	1	3.44	3.87
	public	ELK-1-172	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	220	189	86%	18%		38	0	3.34	3.99
	public	ELK-1-173	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	251	230	92%	21%		0	48	3.35	3.58
	public	ELK-1-174	Rifle	Nov 12-16	A	251	232	92%	28%		3	63	3.14	3.61
	public	ELK-1-175	Rifle	Nov 19-23	A	252	228	90%	25%		1	56	3.22	3.74
	public YE	ELK-1-528	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	75	71	95%	31%		0	22	3.22	3.28
	public YE	ELK-1-529	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	75	71	95%	44%		0	31	3.62	3.39
	private				MB	163	110	67%	60%		96	0	3.94	3.68
	private				A	168	131	78%	48%		1	77	3.56	3.41
	private				ES	72	60	83%	43%		25	5	3.90	6.86
GMU 51 Totals						2474	2172	88%	30%		376	343	3.48	4.18
GMU 52	public	ELK-2-177	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	231	206	89%	27%		46	15	3.67	6.79
	public	ELK-2-178	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	230	213	93%	21%		26	18	3.72	6.18
	public M	ELK-3-179	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	50	48	96%	19%		8	0	3.40	3.84
	public	ELK-3-180	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	120	116	97%	41%		46	0	3.66	3.74
	public	ELK-3-181	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	A	50	49	98%	26%		0	11	3.48	3.29
	public	ELK-1-182	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	231	206	89%	30%		63	0	3.48	3.55
	public	ELK-1-183	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	231	203	88%	18%		39	0	3.05	3.86
	public YO	ELK-1-184	Rifle	Nov 12-16	A	80	76	95%	28%		1	19	2.91	3.12
	public M	ELK-1-185	Rifle	Nov 19-23	A	55	48	87%	26%		0	13	3.05	3.35
	public	ELK-1-186	Rifle	Nov 19-23	A	70	64	91%	34%		0	22	3.20	3.37
	public	ELK-1-187	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	115	105	91%	25%		0	25	2.84	3.48
	public YE	ELK-1-530	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	50	49	98%	45%		0	19	3.57	2.98
	private				MB	54	44	81%	44%		23	0	3.35	3.81
	private				A	31	25	81%	56%		0	17	3.56	3.04
	private				ES	42	36	86%	49%		19	1	3.89	6.60
GMU 52 Totals						1640	1488	91%	28%		270	161	3.41	4.48
North Central Region (Chama San Antonio Herd Unit) Totals						7545	6178	82%	35%		1618	1040	3.54	4.15

JEMEZ REGION											Estimated Harvest			
GMU	Type	Hunt Code	Weapon	Hunt Dates	Bag Limit	Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate		Bulls	Cows	Satisfaction Rating	Days Hui
GMU 6A	public	ELK-2-188	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	150	146	97%	27%		32	7	4.01	6.99
	public	ELK-2-189	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	100	94	94%	35%		30	3	4.14	5.43
	public	ELK-3-190	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	104	97	93%	34%		33	0	3.54	3.39
	public	ELK-1-191	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	100	87	87%	28%		26	0	3.67	3.70
	public	ELK-1-192	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	100	94	94%	24%		22	0	3.63	3.95
	public	ELK-1-193	Rifle	Oct 29-Nov 2	A	99	92	93%	24%		1	20	3.34	3.55
	public YE	ELK-1-502	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	50	47	94%	22%		0	11	3.04	3.36
	public YE	ELK-1-503	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	50	50	100%	56%		0	25	4.13	2.71
	private				MB	51	34	67%	58%		29	0	4.15	3.42
	private				A	14	9	64%	44%		0	6	3.56	2.56
	private				ES	44	37	84%	30%		13	0	4.24	6.19
GMU 6A Totals						862	787	91%	32%		186	73	3.77	4.52
GMU 6B	public	ELK-2-194	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	20	18	90%	41%		8	0	4.12	7.94
	public	ELK-2-195	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	20	20	100%	40%		8	0	4.75	6.15
	public	ELK-3-196	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	16	15	94%	87%		14	0	4.93	2.33
	public	ELK-1-197	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	16	16	100%	100%		16	0	4.88	2.06
	public	ELK-1-198	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	20	19	95%	83%		16	0	4.44	2.72
	public MI	ELK-1-199	Rifle	Oct 29-Nov 2	A	15	14	93%	25%		0	3	2.58	3.08
	public	ELK-1-200	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	35	30	86%	33%		1	9	4.07	3.11
	public	ELK-1-201	Rifle	Nov 19-23	A	35	33	94%	45%		0	15	4.16	3.16
	public YO	ELK-1-202	Rifle	Nov 26-30	A	35	34	97%	33%		0	11	3.76	2.85
	public	ELK-1-203	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	35	33	94%	54%		1	15	3.71	2.89
GMU 6B Totals						247	232	94%	51%		64	54	4.12	3.54
GMU 6C	public	ELK-2-209	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	150	143	95%	26%		28	7	3.59	6.53
	public	ELK-2-210	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	108	104	96%	35%		29	6	3.97	5.52
	public	ELK-3-211	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	157	144	92%	30%		45	0	3.57	3.70
	public	ELK-1-212	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	110	99	90%	37%		39	0	3.51	3.34
	public	ELK-1-213	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	110	97	88%	24%		24	0	3.47	3.86
	public	ELK-1-214	Rifle	Oct 29-Nov 2	A	110	96	87%	18%		2	14	3.22	3.33
	public	ELK-1-215	Rifle	Nov 26-30	A	115	109	95%	30%		1	32	3.34	3.26
	public YE	ELK-1-504	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	50	47	94%	33%		0	15	3.18	3.07
	public YE	ELK-1-505	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	50	46	92%	56%		2	23	3.24	2.71
	private				MB	58	37	64%	43%		24	0	4.09	3.91
	private				A	30	26	87%	42%		1	12	3.81	3.50
	private				ES	42	27	64%	30%		12	0	3.81	6.67
GMU 6C Totals						1090	975	89%	31%		207	108	3.54	4.22
GMU 7	public	ELK-2-216	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	15	15	100%	20%		3	0	2.53	5.53
	public	ELK-2-217	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	15	15	100%	14%		2	0	3.50	6.14
	public	ELK-3-218	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	25	24	96%	18%		4	0	3.41	3.41
	public	ELK-1-219	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	30	29	97%	14%		4	0	3.11	3.43
	public	ELK-1-220	Rifle	Oct 22-26	A	50	42	84%	18%		0	7	3.37	4.11
	private				MB	43	16	37%	63%		27	0	3.94	3.25
	private				A	46	31	67%	59%		0	24	3.70	2.63
	private				ES	7	5	71%	0%		0	0	3.60	5.60
GMU 7 Totals						231	177	77%	28%		40	31	3.38	3.92
Jemez Region Totals						2430	2171	89%	33%		498	265	3.68	4.23

SOUTHWEST REGION

GMU	Type	Hunt Code	Weapon	Hunt Dates	Bag Limit	Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate	Estimated Harvest			
										Bulls	Cows	Satisfaction Rating	Days Hur
GMU 13	public	ELK-2-221	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	176	160	91%	30%	42	8	3.87	7.49
	public	ELK-2-222	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	126	117	93%	27%	31	1	4.01	6.21
	public YO	ELK-3-223	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	ES	26	24	92%	33%	9	0	3.71	3.33
	public	ELK-3-224	Muzzleloader	Oct 15-19	MB	76	71	93%	40%	30	0	3.80	3.70
	public	ELK-3-225	Muzzleloader	Oct 22-26	MB	116	103	89%	22%	24	0	3.52	3.91
	public	ELK-3-226	Muzzleloader	Nov 19-23	MB	100	98	98%	22%	19	0	3.22	3.92
	public	ELK-3-227	Muzzleloader	Dec 3-7	A	100	94	94%	32%	0	31	3.32	3.42
	public	ELK-3-228	Muzzleloader	Dec 10-14	A	100	96	96%	37%	4	28	3.43	3.50
	public YE	ELK-3-509	Muzzleloader	Nov 25-29	A	49	43	88%	52%	1	24	4.19	2.86
	public YE	ELK-3-510	Muzzleloader	Dec 26-30	A	39	36	92%	52%	0	18	3.82	2.82
	private				MB	146	87	60%	50%	72	0	4.10	4.19
	private				A	99	71	72%	57%	0	56	3.74	2.79
	private				ES	141	101	72%	46%	59	1	3.95	6.55
Datiil Herd Unit (GMU 13) Totals						1294	1101	85%	36%	291	167	3.73	4.68
GMU 15	public	ELK-2-229	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	349	323	93%	26%	77	10	3.91	7.51
	public	ELK-2-230	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	250	231	92%	35%	76	8	4.20	6.28
	public YO	ELK-3-231	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	ES	26	24	92%	85%	18	0	4.25	3.10
	public	ELK-3-232	Muzzleloader	Oct 15-19	MB	200	192	96%	36%	67	0	3.94	3.85
	public	ELK-3-233	Muzzleloader	Oct 22-26	MB	246	222	90%	29%	66	0	3.64	3.96
	public	ELK-3-234	Muzzleloader	Nov 19-23	MB	250	223	89%	20%	48	0	3.33	4.08
	public	ELK-3-235	Muzzleloader	Dec 3-7	A	250	241	96%	35%	1	78	3.85	3.45
	public	ELK-3-236	Muzzleloader	Dec 10-14	A	250	243	97%	45%	0	106	3.99	3.37
	public YE	ELK-3-511	Muzzleloader	Nov 25-29	A	75	74	99%	65%	1	43	4.05	2.18
	public YE	ELK-3-512	Muzzleloader	Dec 26-30	A	75	66	88%	67%	0	44	4.09	2.98
	private				MB	172	115	67%	58%	99	0	3.93	3.87
	private				A	126	93	74%	67%	1	81	4.23	2.70
	private				ES	195	137	70%	48%	90	1	3.92	5.93
GMU 15 Totals						2464	2184	89%	39%	544	371	3.89	4.60
GMU 16A	public	ELK-2-237	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	250	228	91%	29%	58	10	3.74	7.77
	public	ELK-2-238	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	150	145	97%	37%	49	3	4.04	6.71
	public MI	ELK-1-239	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	26	26	100%	69%	18	0	4.12	3.19
	public	ELK-1-240	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	76	72	95%	54%	39	0	3.93	3.67
	public	ELK-1-241	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	126	113	90%	57%	70	0	4.04	3.66
	public	ELK-1-242	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	75	69	92%	56%	0	38	4.22	3.24
	public	ELK-1-243	Rifle	Dec 10-14	A	75	70	93%	66%	0	45	4.22	2.39
	public YE	ELK-1-513	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	75	75	100%	75%	1	53	4.40	2.26
	public YE	ELK-1-514	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	75	74	99%	83%	0	58	4.29	2.23
	private				MB	6	6	100%	67%	4	0	4.17	3.33
	private				A	5	4	80%	100%	0	5	4.75	3.25
	private				ES	11	9	82%	44%	5	0	3.67	6.33
GMU 16A Totals						950	891	94%	51%	244	212	4.03	4.83
GMU 16B/22	public	ELK-2-244	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	224	199	89%	26%	48	6	3.58	6.78
	public	ELK-2-245	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	166	155	93%	24%	36	1	3.88	6.54
	public	ELK-1-246	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	161	133	83%	28%	41	0	3.22	3.65
	public	ELK-1-247	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	161	141	88%	20%	29	0	3.05	3.72
	private 22				MB	11	5	45%	50%	4	0	4.25	4.50
	private 22				ES	5	3	60%	50%	2	0	3.00	5.50
	private 16B				MB	3	1	33%	0%	0	0	4.00	5.00
	private 16B				ES	4	3	75%	0%	0	0	4.33	7.33
GMU 16B/22 Totals						735	640	87%	25%	161	7	3.48	5.40
GMU 16C	public	ELK-2-248	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	150	137	91%	19%	22	4	3.23	7.67
	public	ELK-2-249	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	101	89	88%	16%	12	3	3.61	6.68
	public YO	ELK-1-250	Rifle	Oct 8-12	ES	27	26	96%	52%	8	5	3.60	3.40
	public	ELK-1-251	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	50	46	92%	29%	13	0	3.67	3.36
	public	ELK-1-252	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	96	91	95%	15%	13	0	2.78	4.23
	public	ELK-1-253	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	50	42	84%	43%	0	19	3.57	3.54
	public	ELK-1-254	Rifle	Dec 10-14	A	50	47	94%	39%	0	17	3.85	3.17
	public YE	ELK-1-515	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	75	70	93%	54%	0	36	3.38	3.29
	public YE	ELK-1-516	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	75	67	89%	46%	0	31	3.51	3.25
	private				MB	34	21	62%	62%	21	0	4.29	4.00
	private				A	20	16	80%	87%	0	16	4.60	2.20
	private				ES	52	39	75%	41%	19	1	3.95	6.43
GMU 16C Totals						780	691	89%	33%	108	134	3.48	4.92
GMU 16D	public	ELK-2-255	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	90	86	96%	41%	35	1	4.24	7.95
	public	ELK-2-256	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	61	59	97%	57%	31	2	4.46	6.18
	public MI	ELK-1-257	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	26	26	100%	84%	21	0	4.48	2.28
	public	ELK-1-258	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	56	52	93%	61%	31	1	4.18	3.45
	public	ELK-1-259	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	50	48	96%	58%	27	0	4.40	3.20
	public	ELK-1-260	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	50	48	96%	58%	0	27	4.07	2.42
	public	ELK-1-261	Rifle	Dec 10-14	A	50	46	92%	62%	0	26	4.08	3.00
	public YE	ELK-1-517	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	75	71	95%	73%	0	52	4.22	2.52
	public YE	ELK-1-518	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	75	69	92%	60%	1	39	4.13	2.63
	private				MB	19	15	79%	93%	18	0	4.47	3.47
	private				A	13	12	92%	58%	0	8	4.00	2.17
	private				ES	26	23	88%	52%	14	0	4.78	6.39
GMU 16D Totals						591	555	94%	60%	177	156	4.27	4.14

GMU 16E	public	ELK-2-262	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	90	86	96%	14%	12	0	2.64	6.99
	public	ELK-2-263	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	61	57	93%	19%	11	0	3.25	6.40
	public	ELK-3-265	Muzzleloader	Oct 15-19	MB	70	64	91%	20%	13	0	3.28	4.02
	public YO	ELK-1-264	Rifle	Oct 8-12	ES	26	26	100%	79%	16	3	4.13	2.75
	public	ELK-1-266	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	70	63	90%	32%	21	0	3.67	3.77
	public	ELK-1-267	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	75	69	92%	32%	0	23	3.55	3.09
	public	ELK-1-268	Rifle	Dec 10-14	A	75	69	92%	46%	0	30	3.48	3.30
	public YE	ELK-1-519	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	75	68	91%	36%	0	24	3.52	2.70
	public YE	ELK-1-520	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	39	33	85%	35%	0	11	3.23	2.92
	private				MB	52	37	71%	65%	34	0	3.86	3.57
	private				A	42	27	64%	54%	0	22	3.85	2.54
	private				ES	60	46	77%	37%	22	0	4.00	4.91
GMU 16E Totals						735	645	88%	35%	128	113	3.46	4.16
Greater Gila Herd Unit Totals						6255	5606	90%	40%	1362	992	3.80	4.67
GMU 17	public	ELK-2-269	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	126	114	90%	32%	38	1	3.95	7.15
	public	ELK-2-270	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	76	71	93%	13%	9	1	3.71	6.35
	public YO	ELK-3-271	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	ES	26	25	96%	45%	10	0	3.59	2.82
	public	ELK-3-272	Muzzleloader	Oct 15-19	MB	100	97	97%	29%	26	0	3.66	3.64
	public	ELK-3-273	Muzzleloader	Oct 22-26	MB	100	96	96%	31%	27	0	3.35	3.55
	public	ELK-3-274	Muzzleloader	Nov 19-23	MB	26	24	92%	48%	12	0	3.52	3.70
	public	ELK-3-275	Muzzleloader	Nov 19-23	A	25	24	96%	17%	0	4	3.13	2.96
	public	ELK-3-276	Muzzleloader	Dec 3-7	A	101	94	93%	17%	0	16	3.41	3.63
	public	ELK-3-277	Muzzleloader	Dec 10-14	A	100	97	97%	17%	0	14	3.24	3.37
	public YE	ELK-3-521	Muzzleloader	Nov 25-29	A	31	29	94%	30%	0	7	3.13	2.83
	public YE	ELK-3-522	Muzzleloader	Dec 26-30	A	10	9	90%	22%	0	2	3.44	3.33
	private				MB	54	40	74%	43%	23	0	4.10	3.90
	private				A	36	28	78%	30%	0	10	3.15	3.15
	private				ES	39	34	87%	48%	17	1	4.27	5.91
San Mateo Herd Unit (GMU 17) Totals						850	782	92%	28%	161	58	3.58	4.42
GMU 21A	public	ELK-2-278	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	50	45	90%	26%	11	1	3.63	6.02
	public	ELK-2-279	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	50	48	96%	27%	10	2	3.49	6.18
	public	ELK-1-280	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	50	45	90%	28%	12	0	3.87	3.59
	public	ELK-1-281	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	49	47	96%	24%	11	0	3.53	3.87
	public	ELK-1-282	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	30	29	97%	31%	0	9	2.66	3.14
	private				MB	2	2	100%	100%	2	0	5.00	3.50
	private				A	1	1	100%	100%	0	1	5.00	1.00
	private				ES	2	2	100%	0%	0	0	5.00	5.00
GMU 21A Totals						234	219	94%	28%	47	14	3.52	4.66
GMU 21B	public	ELK-2-283	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	26	23	88%	22%	5	1	2.65	5.61
	public	ELK-2-284	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	26	26	100%	24%	6	0	3.04	5.52
	public	ELK-1-285	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	26	24	92%	43%	10	0	3.38	3.43
	public	ELK-1-286	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	25	22	88%	35%	8	0	2.70	2.80
	public	ELK-1-287	Rifle	Nov 19-23	A	15	15	100%	30%	0	3	3.30	3.70
	public	ELK-1-288	Rifle	Dec 17-21	A	20	18	90%	50%	0	9	3.25	2.44
	public	ELK-1-289	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	15	12	80%	36%	0	5	3.45	2.82
	public	ELK-1-290	Rifle	Dec 10-14	A	15	15	100%	46%	0	6	3.54	2.85
	private				MB	66	36	55%	63%	40	0	4.19	3.22
	private				A	69	52	75%	75%	1	50	4.27	2.15
	private				ES	58	32	55%	32%	18	0	4.00	5.42
GMU 21 B Totals						361	275	76%	46%	88	74	3.60	3.62
GMU 23	public	ELK-2-291	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	126	117	93%	15%	17	0	3.30	6.83
	public	ELK-2-292	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	76	71	93%	25%	17	1	3.45	6.36
	public	ELK-3-294	Muzzleloader	Oct 15-19	MB	76	70	92%	17%	12	0	3.28	3.95
	public YO	ELK-1-293	Rifle	Oct 8-12	ES	26	24	92%	54%	13	1	3.54	2.92
	public	ELK-1-295	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	76	74	97%	39%	28	0	3.03	3.68
	public	ELK-1-296	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	20	20	100%	32%	1	5	3.37	2.63
	private				MB	8	2	25%	50%	4	0	3.50	3.50
	private				A	3	3	100%	67%	0	2	3.33	2.00
	private				ES	13	8	62%	38%	5	0	3.25	6.50
GMU 23 Totals						424	389	92%	26%	97	9	3.29	5.10
GMU 24	public	ELK-2-297	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	15	12	80%	27%	4	0	3.27	6.00
	public	ELK-2-298	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	10	8	80%	38%	3	1	3.00	5.38
	public	ELK-3-299	Muzzleloader	Oct 15-19	MB	16	16	100%	8%	1	0	3.25	3.50
	public	ELK-1-300	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	16	13	81%	15%	2	0	2.85	3.69
	public YO FT BAYARD	ELK-1-301	Rifle	Oct 8-12	ES	6	5	83%	60%	4	0	3.60	3.00
	public YO FT BAYARD	ELK-1-302	Rifle	Oct 22-26	A	6	6	100%	83%	0	5	4.00	2.17
	private				MB	9	6	67%	40%	3	0	2.80	3.80
	private				A	2	2	100%	50%	0	1	3.00	4.00
	private				ES	3	3	100%	33%	1	0	3.33	7.00
GMU 24 Totals						83	71	86%	32%	17	7	3.20	4.23
Lesser Gila Herd Unit Totals						1102	954	87%	33%	249	104	3.43	4.51
Southwest Region Totals						9501	8443	89%	38%	2064	1322	3.73	4.63

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION											Estimated Harvest			
GMU	Type	Hunt Code	Weapon	Hunt Dates	Bag Limit	Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate		Bulls	Cows	Satisfaction Rating	Days Hun
GMU 34	public	ELK-2-303	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	200	192	96%	34%		55	9	4.28	7.00
	public	ELK-2-304	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	200	188	94%	48%		82	9	4.32	5.67
	public	ELK-2-534	Archery	Dec 17-21	APRE/6	200	188	94%	8%		14	0	3.41	3.67
	public	ELK-3-308	Muzzleloader	Oct 15-19	MB	250	238	95%	33%		79	0	3.80	3.65
	public YO	ELK-1-305	Rifle	Oct 8-12	ES	76	73	96%	68%		46	4	4.27	2.76
	public YO	ELK-1-306	Rifle	Oct 8-12	A	120	115	96%	68%		2	72	4.27	2.58
	public M	ELK-1-307	Rifle	Oct 8-12	ES	50	46	92%	72%		27	9	4.35	2.98
	public	ELK-1-309	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	150	138	92%	50%		71	0	3.98	3.34
	public	ELK-1-310	Rifle	Nov 26-30	A	400	353	88%	47%		0	177	3.79	3.09
	public	ELK-1-311	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	400	372	93%	42%		3	151	3.52	3.11
	public	ELK-1-312	Rifle	Dec 10-14	A	401	359	90%	45%		4	155	3.64	3.02
	public YE	ELK-1-523	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	80	80	100%	75%		3	54	4.25	2.53
	private				MB	191	107	56%	73%		134	0	4.17	3.38
	private				A	235	187	80%	62%		3	138	4.08	2.81
	private				ES	183	118	64%	59%		101	3	4.10	5.18
Sacramento Herd Unit (GMU 34) Totals						3136	2754	88%	47%		623	781	3.90	3.68
GMU 36	public	ELK-2-313	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	131	125	95%	30%		31	7	3.84	6.93
	public	ELK-2-314	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	112	107	96%	40%		37	5	4.12	6.03
	public	ELK-3-315	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	136	123	90%	37%		49	0	3.77	3.63
	public	ELK-1-316	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	125	113	90%	54%		65	0	4.23	3.45
	public	ELK-1-317	Rifle	Oct 29-Nov 2	MB	124	118	95%	53%		64	0	3.89	3.17
	public	ELK-1-318	Rifle	Nov 26-30	A	105	93	89%	53%		1	51	3.81	2.90
	public	ELK-1-319	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	105	100	95%	46%		0	43	3.57	2.61
	public YE	ELK-1-524	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	60	60	100%	60%		0	34	3.89	2.89
	public YE	ELK-1-525	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	60	60	100%	55%		0	27	3.82	2.80
	private				MB	195	112	57%	71%		138	0	4.15	3.51
	private				A	192	120	63%	79%		3	149	4.26	2.81
	private				ES	151	99	66%	56%		82	2	4.05	4.67
Ruidoso Herd Unit (GMU 36) Totals						1496	1230	82%	53%		470	318	3.97	3.91
South Central Region Totals						4632	3984	86%	49%		1094	1098	3.92	3.75
NORTHEAST REGION											Estimated Harvest			
GMU	Type	Hunt Code	Weapon	Hunt Dates	Bag Limit	Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate		Bulls	Cows	Satisfaction Rating	Days Hun
GMU 45	public	ELK-2-320	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	77	68	88%	27%		18	1	3.46	6.68
	public	ELK-2-321	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	76	73	96%	23%		15	2	3.45	5.61
	public	ELK-3-322	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	140	124	89%	19%		25	0	3.10	4.15
	public	ELK-3-325	Muzzleloader	Nov 12-16	A	50	46	92%	17%		0	8	2.93	3.71
	public	ELK-1-323	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	140	127	91%	16%		20	0	3.04	3.80
	public	ELK-1-324	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	140	124	89%	15%		19	0	3.15	3.74
	private				MB	41	27	66%	38%		15	0	3.27	3.62
	private				A	40	33	83%	58%		1	21	3.74	3.42
	private				ES	57	37	65%	38%		20	2	3.54	4.54
Pecos Herd Unit (GMU 45) Totals						761	659	87%	23%		133	33	3.23	4.37
GMU 48	public	ELK-2-326	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	93	81	87%	24%		16	3	3.11	7.63
	public	ELK-2-327	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	92	79	86%	19%		13	2	3.34	6.50
	public	ELK-3-328	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	79	76	96%	17%		12	0	3.07	3.69
	public	ELK-1-329	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	61	51	84%	35%		20	0	3.29	3.06
	public	ELK-1-330	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	50	44	88%	41%		0	18	3.23	3.26
	public	ELK-1-331	Rifle	Dec 3-7	MB	33	31	94%	38%		12	0	3.38	3.14
	public	ELK-1-332	Rifle	Dec 3-7	A	53	47	89%	41%		1	20	3.20	3.24
	private				MB	76	31	41%	52%		39	0	4.00	3.65
	private				A	56	30	54%	60%		0	34	3.97	2.73
	private				ES	68	43	63%	40%		27	0	3.45	5.17
Whites Peak Herd Unit (GMU 48) Totals						661	513	78%	33%		141	78	3.33	4.58
GMU 49	public	ELK-2-333	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	62	58	94%	38%		18	3	3.62	9.96
	public	ELK-2-334	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	60	54	90%	37%		19	2	4.00	6.29
	public	ELK-1-335	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	81	74	91%	37%		28	0	3.79	3.55
	public	ELK-1-336	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	76	67	88%	28%		19	0	3.41	3.85
	public	ELK-1-337	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	80	74	93%	36%		1	26	3.33	3.70
	public	ELK-1-338	Rifle	Nov 12-16	A	77	67	87%	28%		0	21	2.98	3.55
	public YE	ELK-1-526	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	50	48	96%	40%		0	20	3.77	2.98
	private				MB	6	6	100%	17%		1	0	3.50	3.83
	private				A	18	11	61%	45%		0	8	3.55	3.55
	private				ES	14	11	79%	27%		3	1	3.36	7.45
Penasco Herd Unit (GMU 49) Totals						524	470	90%	34%		89	81	3.53	4.72
GMU 53	public	ELK-2-339	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	61	50	82%	21%		12	0	3.27	7.10
	public	ELK-2-340	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	60	58	97%	19%		9	1	3.54	6.87
	public	ELK-3-341	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	ES	50	48	96%	24%		10	1	3.49	3.96
	public	ELK-1-342	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	75	64	85%	17%		12	0	2.85	3.64
	public	ELK-1-343	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	125	114	91%	13%		14	0	3.08	3.90
	public	ELK-1-344	Rifle	Nov 19-23	A	90	78	87%	25%		1	20	3.11	3.72
	public	ELK-1-345	Rifle	Nov 12-16	A	90	75	83%	13%		0	10	2.72	3.59
	public SUNSHINE RD N	ELK-1-346	Rifle	Jan 7-22 '17	A	40	30	75%	15%		0	5	1.88	4.00
	public YE	ELK-1-531	Rifle	Nov 25-29	A	26	25	96%	9%		0	2	2.64	2.91
	public YE	ELK-1-532	Rifle	Dec 26-30	A	36	32	89%	19%		1	5	2.41	3.48
	private				MB	60	25	42%	36%		22	0	3.72	3.64
	private				A	70	48	69%	37%		0	25	3.28	3.87
	private				ES	57	39	68%	34%		18	1	3.34	6.34
Ute Herd Unit (GMU 53) Totals						840	686	82%	21%		99	69	3.07	4.42
Northeast Region Totals						2786	2328	84%	27%		462	262	3.27	4.50

Hunts in GMUs Where No Core Occupied Elk Range (COER) is Established

Hunts in GMUs Where No Core Occupied Elk Range (COER) Is Established											Estimated Harvest			
GMU	Type	Hunt Code	Weapon	Hunt Dates	Bag Limit	Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate	Bulls	Cows	Satisfaction Rating	Days Hunted	
GMU 3	private				ES	3	2	67%	50%	0	2	5.00	5.00	
						3	2	67%	50%	0	2	5.00	5.00	
GMU 12	public	ELK-2-347	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	16	16	100%	23%	2	1	3.46	8.31	
	public	ELK-2-348	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	16	14	88%	33%	5	0	3.50	5.58	
	public	ELK-2-533	Archery	Nov 19-23	APRE/6	25	23	92%	0%	0	0	2.80	3.60	
	public	ELK-1-349	Rifle	Oct 1-5	MB	20	19	95%	53%	11	0	3.68	3.16	
	public	ELK-1-350	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	20	20	100%	65%	13	0	3.70	3.40	
	public	ELK-1-351	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	20	17	85%	41%	8	0	3.88	3.65	
	public	ELK-1-352	Rifle	Oct 22-26	A	20	16	80%	47%	0	9	3.53	3.20	
	public	ELK-1-353	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	20	20	100%	42%	0	8	3.84	3.79	
	public	ELK-1-354	Rifle	Nov 12-16	A	20	20	100%	41%	2	5	3.59	3.06	
	private				MB	414	216	52%	62%	245	2	3.79	3.75	
	private				A	329	206	63%	55%	5	174	3.78	2.86	
	private				ES	149	84	56%	43%	55	4	3.70	6.70	
GMU 12 Totals						1069	671	63%	52%	345	202	3.72	3.88	
GMU 18	public	ELK-2-355	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	26	24	92%	32%	4	3	3.05	7.45	
	public	ELK-2-356	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	26	26	100%	9%	2	0	2.91	6.18	
	private				MB	15	3	20%	100%	10	0	3.50	2.50	
	private				A	8	6	75%	60%	0	4	3.40	3.20	
	private				ES	22	17	77%	53%	9	3	3.71	9.47	
GMU 18 Totals						97	76	78%	34%	25	10	3.21	7.09	
GMU 28	public	MILITARY	ELK-1-357	Rifle	Dec 10-14	ES	11	9	82%	67%	5	2	3.67	2.44
	public		ELK-1-358	Rifle	Dec 10-14	ES	11	11	100%	64%	7	0	3.45	2.36
GMU 28 Totals						22	20	91%	65%	12	2	3.55	2.40	
GMU 30	public	ELK-2-360	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	10	7	70%	43%	3	1	4.57	7.43	
	public	ELK-2-361	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	11	11	100%	70%	7	0	3.50	6.10	
	public	ELK-1-359	Rifle	Oct 8-12	ES	20	19	95%	58%	12	0	4.11	3.63	
	private				MB	3	3	100%	67%	2	0	4.33	2.33	
	private				A	2	1	50%	100%	0	2	4.00	1.00	
	private				ES	5	5	100%	60%	1	2	4.00	2.60	
GMU 30 Totals						51	46	90%	60%	24	5	4.04	4.51	
GMU 32	private				MB	5	2	40%	100%	5	0	3.50	2.00	
	private				A	2	2	100%	100%	0	2	5.00	1.00	
	private				ES	3	1	33%	0%	0	0	5.00	6.00	
GMU 32 Totals						10	5	50%	80%	5	2	4.40	2.40	
GMU 37	public	ELK-2-362	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	40	39	98%	26%	7	2	3.60	6.83	
	public	ELK-2-363	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	31	31	100%	29%	5	4	3.32	6.26	
	public	ELK-2-535	Archery	Dec 3-7	APRE/6	50	49	98%	5%	2	0	2.90	3.28	
	public	ELK-3-364	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	31	28	90%	15%	4	0	3.07	4.30	
	public	ELK-1-365	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	31	30	97%	41%	12	0	3.45	2.97	
	public	ELK-1-366	Rifle	Nov 26-30	A	45	41	91%	18%	0	7	2.82	3.12	
	private				MB	80	51	64%	69%	52	0	4.08	3.46	
	private				A	54	38	70%	76%	0	40	4.08	2.59	
	private				ES	76	41	54%	23%	11	6	3.69	4.46	
	GMU 37 Totals						438	348	79%	35%	94	58	3.48	4.09
GMU 38	public	ELK-1-367	Rifle	Oct 8-12	ES	16	12	75%	67%	9	1	3.42	2.83	
	private				MB	21	9	43%	56%	12	0	4.56	3.33	
	private				A	6	4	67%	33%	0	2	4.00	4.33	
	private				ES	13	9	69%	56%	7	0	3.89	6.33	
GMU 38 Totals						56	34	61%	58%	28	3	3.91	4.06	
GMU 42	private				ES	49	21	43%	48%	23	0	3.90	3.81	
	private				A	20	16	80%	53%	0	10	3.40	2.20	
GMU 42 Totals						69	37	54%	50%	23	10	3.69	3.14	
GMU 43	public	ELK-1-368	Rifle	Sept 27-Oct 4	ES	30	29	97%	21%	6	0	2.86	3.93	
	GMU 43 Totals					30	29	97%	21%	6	0	2.86	3.93	
GMU 46	private				A	462	289	63%	42%	2	185	3.44	3.28	
	private				ES	677	350	52%	50%	271	62	3.59	3.97	
GMU 46 Totals						1139	639	56%	47%	272	247	3.52	3.66	
GMU 47	private				A	11	10	91%	63%	0	6	4.13	2.25	
	private				ES	43	21	49%	76%	33	0	4.76	2.52	
GMU 47 Totals						54	31	57%	72%	33	6	4.59	2.45	
GMU 54	public	COLIN NEBLETT S	ELK-2-372	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	10	8	80%	17%	1	0	2.83	6.33
	public	COLIN NEBLETT S	ELK-2-373	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	10	10	100%	30%	3	0	4.00	5.80
	public	COLIN NEBLETT S	ELK-3-369	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	20	16	80%	38%	8	0	3.94	3.44
	public	COLIN NEBLETT S	ELK-1-370	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	20	20	100%	11%	2	0	3.00	3.72
	public	COLIN NEBLETT S	ELK-1-371	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	20	19	95%	19%	3	0	3.31	3.81
	public	COLIN NEBLETT S	ELK-1-374	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	20	19	95%	0%	0	0	1.93	3.29
	private				A	53	29	55%	83%	0	44	4.69	2.14	
	private				ES	102	32	31%	87%	67	19	4.45	3.39	
GMU 54 Totals						255	153	60%	47%	84	63	3.77	3.51	

GMU 55	public COLIN NEBLETT N ELK-2-378	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	10	8	80%	17%	1	0	2.50	3.83
	public COLIN NEBLETT N ELK-2-379	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	10	10	100%	14%	1	0	2.43	4.29
	public ES BARKER ELK-2-381	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	5	5	100%	50%	2	0	4.25	4.75
	public ES BARKER ELK-2-382	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	5	5	100%	0%	0	0	2.00	7.75
	public URRACA ELK-2-384	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	5	5	100%	50%	2	0	4.25	8.50
	public URRACA ELK-2-385	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	5	5	100%	20%	1	0	2.80	7.20
	public VVIDAL/GRNWD ELK-2-391	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	26	25	96%	35%	8	0	3.91	6.00
	public VVIDAL/GRNWD ELK-2-392	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	26	25	96%	56%	15	0	4.44	5.40
	public COLIN NEBLETT N ELK-3-375	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	20	19	95%	7%	1	0	2.33	3.60
	public URRACA ELK-3-386	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	10	8	80%	25%	3	0	2.50	3.38
	public VVIDAL/GRNWD ELK-3-393	Muzzleloader	Oct 8-12	MB	40	38	95%	39%	15	0	3.58	3.28
	public COLIN NEBLETT N ELK-1-376	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	20	17	85%	0%	0	0	1.69	3.92
	public COLIN NEBLETT N ELK-1-377	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	20	19	95%	14%	2	0	2.36	3.57
	public COLIN NEBLETT N ELK-1-380	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	20	18	90%	0%	0	0	1.75	3.88
	public ES BARKER ELK-1-383	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	10	10	100%	44%	4	0	3.22	2.89
	public URRACA ELK-1-387	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	10	10	100%	0%	0	0	2.70	4.10
	public URRACA ELK-1-388	Rifle	Nov 5-9	MB	10	10	100%	0%	0	0	1.78	3.56
	public URRACA ELK-1-389	Rifle	Nov 12-16	A	15	14	93%	0%	0	0	2.54	3.62
	public URRACA ELK-1-390	Rifle	Nov 26-30	A	15	12	80%	9%	0	1	2.09	3.09
	public VVIDAL/GRNWD ELK-1-394	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	20	19	95%	63%	13	0	4.00	2.74
	public VVIDAL/GRNWD ELK-1-395	Rifle	Oct 15-19	MB	20	19	95%	67%	13	0	3.89	3.00
	public VVIDAL/GRNWD ELK-1-396	Rifle	Oct 22-26	MB	36	34	94%	53%	19	0	3.97	3.56
	public VVIDAL/GRNWD ELK-1-397	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	35	29	83%	39%	0	13	3.50	3.18
	public VVIDAL/GRNWD ELK-1-398	Rifle	Nov 5-9	A	15	14	93%	27%	0	3	2.82	3.55
	public VVIDAL/GRNWD ELK-1-399	Rifle	Nov 12-16	A	70	62	89%	40%	0	24	3.53	3.13
	CWD Incentive VVIDAL ELK-1-605	Rifle	TBD	MB	1	1	100%	100%	1	0	5.00	1.00
	private 55A			A	1016	649	64%	61%	9	596	4.13	2.74
	private 55A			ES	751	344	46%	70%	498	22	4.42	3.62
	private 55B			A	116	67	58%	79%	3	87	4.52	1.89
	private 55B			ES	122	52	43%	84%	89	9	4.38	3.36
	GMU 55 Totals				2484	1553	63%	57%	700	756	4.00	3.21

GMU 56	public ELK-2-400	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	5	5	100%	40%	2	0	3.80	6.40
	public ELK-2-401	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	6	5	83%	25%	1	0	3.00	5.50
	public ELK-1-402	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	11	10	91%	50%	6	0	4.10	2.90
	public ELK-1-403	Rifle	Oct 15-19	A	10	8	80%	57%	0	5	3.86	3.14
	private			A	153	97	63%	78%	3	114	4.40	2.37
	private			ES	188	99	53%	73%	133	4	4.34	3.46
GMU 56 Totals					373	224	60%	72%	145	122	4.30	3.05

GMU 57/58	public 57/SUGARITE ELK-2-404	Archery	Sept 1-14	ES	3	3	100%	0%	0	0	3.67	9.00
	public 57/SUGARITE ELK-2-405	Archery	Sept 15-24	ES	2	2	100%	0%	0	0	3.00	7.50
	public 57/58 ELK-1-406	Rifle	Oct 8-12	MB	11	11	100%	45%	5	0	2.82	3.36
	public 57/58 ELK-1-407	Rifle	Dec 10-14	A	10	10	100%	22%	0	2	4.22	2.44
	private 57			A	164	93	57%	46%	0	74	3.97	3.40
	private 57			ES	217	79	36%	57%	113	5	3.96	3.99
	private 58			A	36	16	44%	69%	0	25	4.63	2.88
GMU 57/58 Totals					531	255	48%	50%	165	106	3.92	3.63

GMU 59	private	A	13	6	46%	100%	0	13	4.17	1.83
	private	ES	40	25	63%	56%	19	3	3.00	2.84
	GMU 59 Totals		53	31	58%	65%	19	16	3.23	2.65
Outside COER Totals			6734	4154	62%	53%	1981	1611	3.81	3.57

Special Authorizations											Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction Rating	Days Hun
GMU	Type	Hunt Code	Weapon	Hunt Dates	Bag Limit	Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate		Bulls	Cows		
Enhancement Auctions/Raffle		ELK-1-5010	Rifle	TBD	MB	4	2	50%	50%		2	0	3.00	4.50
NonProfit		ELK-1-510	Rifle	TBD	ES	2	2	100%	100%		2	0	5.00	2.50
Governor's Auction		ELK-1-602	Rifle	TBD	ES	3	2	67%	50%		2	0	2.50	3.50
Premium Statewide Draw Elk		ELK-1-700	Rifle	TBD	MB	1	1	100%	100%		1	0	1.00	10.00
Special Authorizations Totals						10	7	70%	71%		7	0	3.14	4.43

Population Management Hunts											Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction Rating	Days Hun
GMU	Type	Hunt Code	Weapon	Hunt Dates	Bag Limit	Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate		Bulls	Cows		
Bosque del Apache				TBD	MB	3	3	100%	67%		2	0	4.33	1.33
Bosque del Apache				TBD	A	3	3	100%	33%		0	1	3.00	2.00
Bernardo/La Joya				TBD	AA	3	2	67%	50%		0	2	3.50	2.00
Population Management Hunt Totals						9	8	89%	50%		2	3	3.63	1.75

STATEWIDE TOTALS						Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction Rating	Days Hun
						36704	29839	81%	39%	8366	6021	3.66	4.22

STATEWIDE SUCCESS & SATISFACTION			
	Rifle	Archery	Muzzleloader
PUBLIC:			
Success	37%	26%	31%
Satisfaction	3.49	3.65	3.51
PRIVATE:			
Success	62%	39%	53%
Satisfaction	4.01	3.90	3.83

Section 2: Aerial Survey Data 2014 to 2017

Table 1: Aerial Survey Data 2014

GMU / HERD	GROUP TOTAL	MB	RAG	YM	UF	JUV	M	F	JUV
4	753	42	75	47	426	162	38	: 100 :	38
9	374	40	20	2	280	32	22	: 100 :	11
12	134	14	8	9	65	37	48	: 100 :	57
13	751	100	33	30	451	137	36	: 100 :	30
15	291	22	14	11	179	65	26	: 100 :	36
16A	436	36	23	16	253	108	30	: 100 :	43
16B	202	27	10	9	112	44	41	: 100 :	39
16C	360	41	8	13	203	95	31	: 100 :	47
16D	515	58	33	32	283	109	43	: 100 :	39
16E	473	50	37	20	253	113	42	: 100 :	45
17	209	25	13	11	109	51	45	: 100 :	47
24	10	2	0	0	6	2	33	: 100 :	33
34	982	111	90	88	471	219	61	: 100 :	46
36	841	106	70	120	409	202	72	: 100 :	49
51/52	354	18	21	13	230	72	23	: 100 :	31
53	192	22	18	5	120	27	38	: 100 :	23
55A	740	71	60	25	454	130	34	: 100 :	29
Jemez	458	35	43	21	257	104	39	: 100 :	40
Gila	2,277	234	125	101	1,283	534	36	: 100 :	42
Northcentral	1107	60	96	60	656	234	33	: 100 :	36

Table 2: Aerial Survey Data 2015

GMU	Calf:Cow	Bull:Cow	Spike:Cow	# of Animals Observed
15	34 +/- 3.8	31 +/- 3.5	11 +/- 1.7	989
16A	37 +/- 3.6	29 +/- 3.0	13 +/- 1.7	957
16B	18 +/- 4.1	32 +/- 6.0	11 +/- 2.9	355
16C	32 +/- 3.9	41 +/- 4.7	10 +/- 1.8	665
16D	35 +/- 4.6	22 +/- 3.3	4 +/- 1.2	707
16E	34 +/- 5.1	31 +/- 4.8	9 +/- 2.1	510
17	42 +/- 6.8	41 +/- 6.8	14 +/- 3.2	372
13	33 +/- 3.2	29 +/- 2.9	11 +/- 1.5	1029
Gila (16A-E and 15)	33 +/- 1.7	30 +/- 1.6	10 +/- 0.7	4183
SW (15,16A-E,17,13)	34 +/- 1.5	31 +/- 1.4	10 +/- 0.8	5584
34	56 +/- 6.0	45 +/- 5.0	16 +/- 2.4	879
36	56 +/- 6.9	88 +/- 10.3	35 +/- 4.7	584
SE (34 and 36)	56 +/- 4.5	60 +/- 4.8	22 +/- 2.3	1463
6B**	38	46	14	788
Jemez (GMU 6 A-C)	38	46	14	788
4	41 +/- 4.2	42 +/- 4.3	14 +/- 2.0	1098
51/52	31 +/- 5.5	32 +/- 5.7	13 +/- 3.1	441
NC (4,51,52)	38 +/- 3.4	39 +/- 3.5	14 +/- 1.7	1539
Mount Taylor (GMU 9)	27 +/- 8.0	21 +/- 6.8	1 +/- 1.1	187
Ute-Midnite (53)	30 +/- 16.6	52 +/- 26.0	19 +/- 11.9	49
Valle Vidal (55A)	30 +/- 4.5	32 +/- 4.7	4 +/- 1.4	657
Statewide Total:***				10267

Table 3: Aerial Survey Data 2016

Herd	2016 Elk Survey Data							Totals	Calf:Cow	Bull:Cow	Spike:Cow
	MB	RAG	YM	UF	JUV	UNK					
Greater Gila Herd (GMUs 15, 16A-E)		385	179	191	2023	696	8	3482	34	37	
Datil Herd (GMU 13)		70	26	29	493	137	274	1029	28	25	
San Mateo-Magdalena Herd (GMU 17)		56	21	32	218	87	1	415	40	50	
Sacramento Herd (GMU 34)		48	65	76	466	182	16	853	39	41	
Ruidoso Herd (GMU 36)		59	108	131	477	207	0	982	43	62	
Jemez Herd (GMUs 6A-C, 7)		147	144	92	722	229	0	1334	32	53	
Mt. Taylor Herd (GMU 9)		35	12	7	233	57	0	344	24	23	
North Central Herd (GMUs 4, 5B, 50, 51, 52)		111	149	99	910	426	2	1697	47	39	
Valle Vidal Herd (GMU 55A)		75	20	17	308	96	0	516	31	36	
Ute-Midnite-San Cristobal Herd (GMU 53)		7	1	3	39	16	0	66	41	28	
Pecos Herd (GMU 45)*		3	3	4	60	26	0	96	43	17	
San Juan Herd (GMU 2)**		1	1	1	3	1	0	7	33	100	
TOTAL STATEWIDE		997	729	682	5952	2160	301	10821	36	40	

Table 4: Aerial Survey Data 2017

Herd Unit (GMUs flown)	2017 Elk Survey Data							Total	Calf:Cow	Bull:Cow	Spike:Cow
	Mature Bull	Rag horns	Spikes	Cows	Calves	Unknowns					
Greater Gila Herd (GMUs 15, 16A-E)	339	164	234	2300	757	1	3795	33	32	10	
Datil Herd (GMU 13)	48	21	57	257	99	0	482	39	49	22	
San Mateo-Magdalena Herd (GMU 17)	48	24	35	208	86	0	401	41	51	17	
Mt. Taylor Herd (GMU 9)	20	24	16	299	56	0	415	19	20	5	
Jemez Herd (GMU 6A 2017; GMUs 6A-C, 7)	150	150	99	520	169	0	1088	33	77	19	
North Central Herd (GMUs 4, 50, 51, 52)	165	145	149	1079	470	5	2013	44	43	14	
Ute-Midnite-San Cristobal Herd (GMU 53)	14	4	6	99	25	0	148	25	24	6	
Valle Vidal Herd (GMU 55A)	57	23	25	387	85	0	577	22	27	6	
Ruidoso Herd (GMU 36)	81	110	103	446	239	1	980	54	66	23	
Sacramento Herd (GMU 34)	93	92	70	479	246	0	980	51	53	15	
Lesser Gila Herd (GMU 21A-B, 23, 24)	160	73	55	674	256	0	1218	38	43	8	
Unit 12 (GMU 12)	8	6	7	62	29	0	112	47	34	11	
Zuni Herd (GMU 10)	15	9	6	65	35	0	130	54	46	9	
Monzanos (GMU 14)*	3	8	2	6	4	0	23	67	217	33	
STATEWIDE TOTALS							12214	37	43	13	

Section 3: E-PLUS Participation Guidelines

PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

The following habitat scoring system will be used to evaluate a property's meaningful benefit to elk for newly applying properties or participating ranches as outlined in 19.30.5 NMAC and is approved by the state game commission.

Scoring is based on five specific components, including Agriculture, and an "Added Bonus" category. A separate score is given to the property in each of these categories. These scores are then totaled and the total score for the property determines its overall "meaningful benefit to elk" and ability to participate in the EPLUS program. A total score of 7 or more is required.

Forage: (Including agriculture)

0 = No meaningful forage is available or forage is in the form of a lawn or lawn shrubs, gardens, flowers or other ornamental plantings. (Extremely rocky terrain; sandy, bare soils; thick timber with no understory forage.)

1 = Marginal forage is available. (Sparse bunchgrasses; scrub habitat; moderately timbered areas with some forage potential)

2 = Moderate forage is available. (Open upland grasslands or open savanna-like forest/woodland with dense bunchgrasses.)

3 = Substantial forage is available. (Grass meadows, bottomlands and riparian areas)

Forage Score: ____

Water: (Water should be located on a property where it is readily available for use by elk.)

0 = No water is available for elk use. (Includes a water hydrant near or attached to a building, or utilization of an exposed, temporary, or manual hose system)

1 = Some water is available throughout at least one season by natural sources or by an established system that can be turned on or off.

2 = Water is available throughout at least any two seasons on a consistent basis.

3 = Permanent, year round water is available.

Water Score: ____

Cover:

0 = No meaningful cover is provided on the property. (Or cover is compromised by houses, buildings, driveways and/or other disturbances.)

1 = Poor cover components are provided on the property. (Thin cover or small areas of cover.)

2 = Good cover components are provided on the property.

Cover Score: ____

Surrounding Area:

0 = Surrounding area is encumbered with human activity, highly developed with houses/buildings and vehicular byways seriously altering or inhibiting elk use and/or travel.

1 = Surrounding area has low human activity with low numbers of buildings or vehicular byways and having some impact on elk use and travel.

2 = Surrounding area is remote and unencumbered by human activity, having no impact on elk use and travel.

Surrounding Area Score: ____

Agriculture: (Bonus)

0 = No agriculture - Native grasses or unimproved pasture grasses; routinely unharvested or ungrazed.

1 = Agriculture – Marginally productive, dry/unirrigated, occasionally to routinely harvested crop.

2 = Agriculture – Productive, maintained (irrigated, cultivated, fertilized, etc.), yearly harvestable crop.

Agriculture Score: ____

Added Bonus: The “Added Bonus” category is intended for any unique contribution that may not be captured or adequately recognized in the other specific categories. Up to two bonus points may be awarded to a ranch. A combination of considerations may be utilized including increasing an area’s ability to be accessed and hunted.

One added bonus point may be awarded for a ranch's proximity to habitat features nearby [generally within ½ mile] but not actually on the property being evaluated.

0 = No special considerations.

1 = Special consideration exists.

Added Bonus Score: _____

An additional added bonus point may be awarded for other meaningful benefits. This may include large blocks of contiguous habitat that may be important for seasonal elk use or population management (i.e. winter range, calving areas, migration routes, etc.). This point may also be awarded for increased access for hunting.

0 = No additional considerations exist.

1 = Additional considerations exist.

Additional Added Bonus Score: _____

Total Added Bonus Score: _____ (not to exceed two)

DESCRIBE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION:

Forage Score: _____

Water Score: _____

Cover Score: _____

Surrounding Area Score: _____

Agriculture Score: _____

Added Bonus Score: _____

***TOTAL:** _____

(Total score must be 7 or more to qualify)

Does the property meet the minimum requirements for meaningful benefit?

YES: ____ NO: ____

***Total ranch score may not exceed 13 points.**



Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Vi Garcia
Sent: Wednesday, July 04, 2018 12:46 PM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: Re: EPLUS Landowner Meeting Invitation

Categories: Red Category

Hi Rex

Please advise if there will be other meetings scheduled. I live in Cuba area, Unit 6A, have concerns about the number of cow elk. Am unable to attend to Espanola meeting, which would be the closest to me. Appreciate a reply.

Vi Garcia
505 249-7597

On Wed, Jun 27, 2018 at 3:55 PM, Martensen, Rex, DGF <Rex.Martensen@state.nm.us> wrote:

Dear E-PLUS Participant,

At the June 21, 2018 State Game Commission meeting the commission opened the EPLUS rule to allow for changes to portions of the program.

The Elk Private Land Use System (EPLUS) was developed in 2005 to recognize, **“Landowners who provide meaningful benefit to elk and accept elk on their properties and all elk hunters who wish to recreate on deeded lands or public lands within New Mexico’s exterior boundaries.”** (19.30.5.2 NMAC)

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- **Espanola:** July 13, 6:00pm – 7:30pm at the Northern New Mexico College, 921 Paseo De Onate, Room AD 104, Espanola, NM

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend one of these meetings.

Comments on the proposed changes may also be provided by mail: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Attn: Rex Martensen, PO Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504; or by email at DGF-EPLUS-Rules@state.nm.us.

Thank you for your interest in elk management and the E-PLUS program and I look forward to your participation throughout the rule proposal process.

Rex Martensen

Private Land Program Manager

New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish

One Wildlife Way

Santa Fe, NM 87507

505-476-8044

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Travis
Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2018 8:49 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Proposed Elk Rules

Categories: Reviewed

Hello,
I wanted to give a couple of comments on the proposed Elk rules.

I am really in favor and excited about the 65 and older idea for incentive tags. My Dad is 70 and having more special opportunities for people that might not have much longer to hunt I think is a great idea. In fact, I would really like to see that expanded to Bull hunts not just cow, especially the OIL. My Dad has been applying for Valle Vidal Elk for 30+ years and never drawn. Giving a special pool of tags for 65+ for guys that never drew their OIL hunts I think would be awesome.

I also like that you are going to eliminate Cow hunts in Mt Taylor to bring up the herd.

I'm a little nervous about increasing tags in Unit 34. Seems like we already give lots of cow tags.

Thanks!
Travis

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: MARC TAUBMAN
Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2018 2:32 AM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: Re: EPLUS Landowner Meeting Invitation

Categories: Red Category

Rex,

I would very much like to be a part of this process. My name is Marc Taubman and am a landowner in Section 13. I have made many improvements to support the elk. including water and plantings etc. the past 3 years I have only received Cow tags. I ma very appreciative, but, would love to let you know about my improvements and show pictures from our game cameras etc. of how much the elk love what we have done!

Unfortunately, I cannot make the July 11 meeting in Socorro as I am out of the state. Can you let me know how best I can participate otherwise?

Thanks very much,
Marc Taubman
Datil, NM (Sec. 13)

> On Jun 28, 2018, at 1:46 AM, Martensen, Rex, DGF <Rex.Martensen@state.nm.us> wrote:
>
> <EPLUS RULE PROPOSAL SUMMARY.docx>

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Michael Adams <
Sent: Monday, July 02, 2018 8:21 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: E-PLUS

Categories: Rex

To Whom It May Concern:

I had seen Jason Cline with NMDGF a couple of weeks ago and he had mentioned there would be a chance comment on the EPLUS. I wanted to say thank you for the invitation to be a part of this to try and continue to improve the system.

I've always said September was my favorite time of year for a few reasons. My beloved Denver Broncos are back on the football field. My Texas Rangers are towards the tail end of another fairly rough season, and the elk are bugling. I was born and raised in the small town of Cloudcroft, and had the opportunity to purchase my property in 2013. I have 17.29 acres 2 miles from Cloudcroft, adjacent to Ski Cloudcroft. I have always tried to be a good steward of my land, which is why in the last few years I underwent a large thinning project, reseeded it, and put out a couple of water troughs. I began growing a lot more grass once the sun could reach the forest floor, and have seen wildlife behavior increase even more on my property. On any given day, I have elk, mule deer, whitetail, turkey and bears on my property. I've had a small resident herd of cows 6-8 on my property daily, and in later September have had a group of close to 30.

I think the current EPLUS system is a pretty good overall, but could use a few tweaks. I got a tag the first three years I owned my property, but none the last two. I don't EXPECT a tag, but am happy when I do get one. I get a little frustrated seeing the tag distribution with so many small properties getting tags or some properties I know have very few elk or have never had one in history. My personal opinion is that there are too many small properties included which don't justify an elk tag. 5 or 6 acres with a house on it, doesn't leave a lot of room for a guy with a high powered rifle to safely hunt in my mind (having to stay a minimum of 300 feet away from a house, and a rifle shooting a bullet a few thousand FPS). To be perfectly honest, the 17.29 acres I own is borderline big enough to hunt on. I would like to see the minimum size for parcels in the EPLUS system go up, even if it knocked my property out. There are a lot of elk in GMU 34, but not that much land resulting in a lot of guys shooting really big, fast rifles in a somewhat confined space. I also see a LOT of bad hunters who aren't necessarily hunting as much as driving around in their pickup, and drinking beer with their buddies, but I digress. I would think if you limited the EPLUS tags to Ranch Only instead of the option being Unit Wide, this would cut down on a lot of these guys burning up the roads. If the landowners have the elk they say, or are actively managing their properties for wildlife management (which they should as part of the EPLUS), they shouldn't make a big deal out of this. Most are not though.

In a perfect world, I would like to see NM change to a system more like Montana or Wyoming where the landowners cannot sell their tags. I think people would raise wholly hell with this, but that's what I personally would like to see happen. Glyn Griffin in Reserve getting 4-6 bull tags, or Dale Ritchie getting 4 Unit Wide bull tags this year on a property that is so steep and thick, elk occasionally pass through it, but definitely don't inhabit it frequently. Lane Preslar generally gets a tag every year in habitat far more suitable for snakes or lizards than elk. By being able to sell these tags, a lot of these guys have come to rely on the income of selling their elk tags, rather than working as they once did.

The people who complain about the Coleman Ranch getting so many tags drives me nuts. Why shouldn't they? They have ~9,000 acres of deeded land, in prime elk habitat, and actively manage it. They don't fill or sell a lot of their tags each year, but that's their management plan they have in place and it's working! Mike Coleman is a nice guy who keeps a close eye on his ranch. He regularly is dealing with people sneaking in from the adjacent USFS, and they're because he

has a lot of elk. Mike is also making a portion of his living from his cattle operation, but has managed to find balance between land for cattle and elk.

These are my thoughts and opinions, but I know this wouldn't be popular with a lot of the small acreage guys, or the lazy ones just making their living selling their tags. Overall I think the current EPLUS system is pretty good, but could use a few tweaks.

Best Regards,

Michael Adams

PURSUANT
LAND SERVICES

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: greensgap
Sent: Sunday, July 01, 2018 10:27 AM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: Re: EPLUS Landowner Meeting Invitation

Categories: Rex

Awesome stuff Rex!

I wish I could be there!!!

Make things happen and thanks for all your hard work you all do for us!

Jon

On Wed, Jun 27, 2018 at 4:47 PM Martensen, Rex, DGF <Rex.Martensen@state.nm.us> wrote:

Dear E-PLUS Participant,

At the June 21, 2018 State Game Commission meeting the commission opened the EPLUS rule to allow for changes to portions of the program.

The Elk Private Land Use System (EPLUS) was developed in 2005 to recognize, **“Landowners who provide meaningful benefit to elk and accept elk on their properties and all elk hunters who wish to recreate on deeded lands or public lands within New Mexico’s exterior boundaries.”** (19.30.5.2 NMAC)

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Thank you for your interest in elk management and the E-PLUS program and I look forward to your participation throughout the rule proposal process.

Rex Martensen

Private Land Program Manager

New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish

One Wildlife Way

Santa Fe, NM 87507

505-476-8044

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: gary hegg
Sent: Saturday, June 30, 2018 11:54 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Changes

Categories: Rex

We are looking foreword to your new changes and hope that these rules will make the process of the draw more successful for the SCR. We have continued to apply for a tag and have not been drawn for the last 8-10yrs. We acquired a 160 lease on the south end of our place some yrs ago, dropped our fence in one area, and have a 400 gallon stock tank all ways filled with water for both elk and deer. We have no cattle here, but do have excellent grass for the wildlife.

Thanks for letting us know about what is happening, and we will try and attend the meeting in Socorro.

Sincerely,
Gary Hegg
TLP Ranch

Sent from my iPad

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From:
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2018 4:59 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Cc:
Subject: E-PLUS Proposed Changes

Categories: Rex

I'm Ranch Owner 12-40117. I agree with the changes Proposed. I feel that the smaller than 160 acerages like the 80 acer parcels should be weeded out of the program. The 160 Acreage owners and above must have improvements for elk habitat. Guaranteed water supply- water is always an issue for wildlife survival especially during drought periods. If you have 160 acers and guaranteed water for example a well, then you would qualify. If your water supply no matter the land size is by run-off then you would not qualify. Some of the larger ranches even put guards over their water supply so the bulls can't water but their cattle can. They should not get tags they are not helping the elk population for them the elk are competing for grass. If you want tags you must prove your improvements benefit the elk population. thx Rick Getz

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: BRYAN GEORGE
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2018 3:57 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: EPLUS PROPOSED CHANGES

Categories: Rex

Rex,

Thanks for the invite to your meetings. Will try to make it to one. The suggested improvements seem reasonable. I would like to know exactly what " SCR draw history system" & "weighted draw for SCR properties" mean.

Thanks, Bryan George

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Helen Schruf
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2018 1:20 PM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: Re: EPLUS Landowner Meeting Invitation

Categories: Rex

I have read the complete proposal on NMDGF website and must say this is the most outstanding progress in 13 years. It addresses my top concerns of people splitting properties and people getting tags when elk may walk across their land twice a year. I don't know if I can make one of the meetings but I will try. My only concern is that I would like to be present when my property is evaluated. I feel conservatively that it rates a 7. Elk are literally present on the property 300 days a year and in drought years like this some are down by the river all day long for months until the rain comes. I personally appreciate your efforts no matter my outcome as this little program has been horribly abused these last several years. Keep up the good work!

Chuck Gray

On Wed, 6/27/18, Martensen, Rex, DGF <Rex.Martensen@state.nm.us> wrote:

Subject: EPLUS Landowner Meeting Invitation
To: "Martensen, Rex, DGF" <Rex.Martensen@state.nm.us>
Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2018, 4:46 PM

Dear E-PLUS

Participant,

At

the June 21, 2018 State Game Commission meeting the commission opened the EPLUS rule to allow for changes to portions of the program.

The

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NMAC)

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draw system and the outside Core Occupied Elk Range process.

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313 Cree

Meadows, in the council chambers, Ruidoso NM.

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Paseo De Oate, Room AD 104, Espanola, NM

Please

mark your calendar and plan to attend one of these meetings.

Comments

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Thank

you for your interest in elk management and the E-PLUS program and I look forward to your participation throughout the rule proposal process.

Rex Martensen

Private Land Program
Manager

New Mexico Dept. of Game and
Fish
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
505-476-8044

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Robinson, Jared
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2018 9:55 AM
To: Pitman, James, DGF
Subject: Elk Rule 2019-2022

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reviewed

Mr. Pitman

I am an outfitter conducting hunts on private land in units 4 and 51. For several years now we have experienced a decline in elk numbers and quality of bulls in unit 4. I have discussed many ideas with fellow outfitters in unit 4 and the best solution we have been able to agree on so far was proposed by Lee Weis of Fishtail Ranch. We have come to the consensus that if mature rifle bull elk tags were changed to either sex tags we would encourage our clients to pass on younger bulls and harvest a cow for meat if they did not have an opportunity on a mature bull. We are aware that the success of this proposition would depend on the cooperation of outfitters and so far most of us have agreed to do so given the opportunity. In Unit 4 I believe there are many cow elk tags that are not being used and the department's cow elk harvest is not being met. I believe that this change could help us take more cows out of the herd while allowing bulls to age and grow. I hope the department will consider this change.

Thanks,
Trifecta Outdoors
Jared Robinson

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Cheryl Wells
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2018 9:50 AM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: Re: EPLUS Landowner Meeting Invitation

Categories: Red Category

Please clarify the suggested improvement to allow over the counter purchases of outside the COER private landowner tags. I am thinking it means that tags can be purchased over the internet or over the counter but must have landowner approval. The way the suggested change reads isn't clear.

Thank you for the information. I am a landowner outside the COER and hope to make one of the meetings.

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Rex Martensen

Private Land Program Manager

New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish

One Wildlife Way

Santa Fe, NM 87507

505-476-8044

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: MARGARET MARSHALL
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 9:58 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: EPlus reform

Categories: Rex

As a scr contact who has not been drawn for any tag since 2007, and who is in the coer with grazing and water and a little over 200 acres, I appreciate that you are taking a look at the inequities that have seeped into the program since it was begun. I will be unable to attend any of the meetings but am confident others have experienced the same frustrations and will contribute to the discussion.

Margaret Marshall
Ranch Contact
Sombra Del Gallo

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Lee Scholes
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 4:28 PM
To: Pitman, James, DGF
Subject: Public Input for Unit 13 and Unit 17 CORE Areas

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reviewed

Hi James,

Thank you for the time at the NM Council of Outfitters and Guides meeting.

I agree with you that the first cut for designating a CORE area is the biology of the area and not the convenience of a Forest border or a roadway.

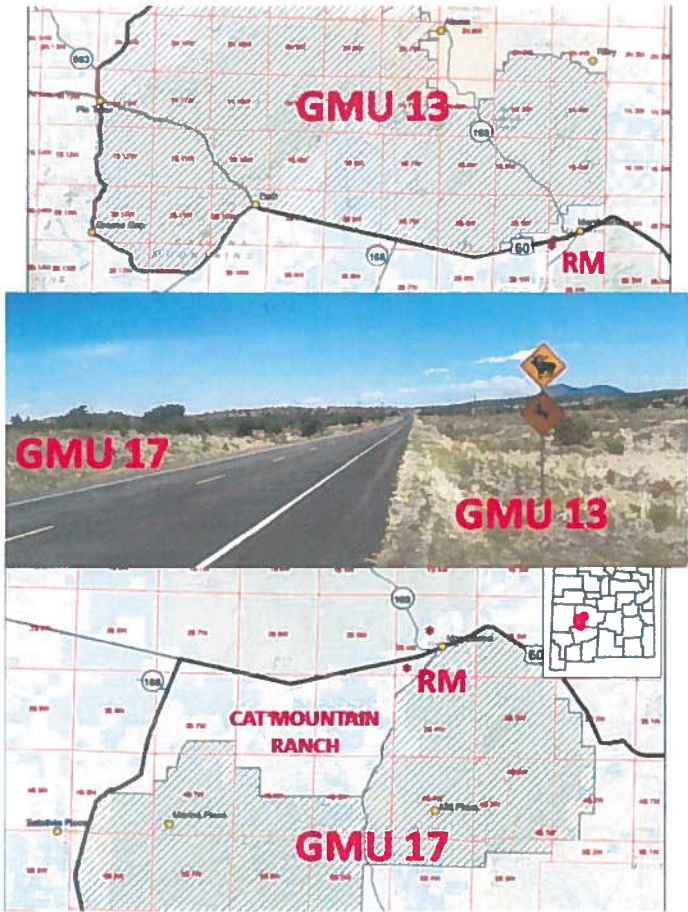
The chart below depicts the boundary and CORE boundaries of GMU 13 and GMU 17. The picture between them was taken facing Westbound on US Hwy 60 (the boundary between the two units). The RM stands for "Rancho Magdalen". That place and the Cat Mountain Ranch have historically hunted their tags as ranch only.

When the CORE is redrawn I believe the biology will dictate making both places CORE, because of the land and the population of elk present. The two properties lie in the historic crossing between the Bear Mountains to the North and the San Mateo and Magdalena Mountains to the South.

The Highway Department recognized the population of both deer and elk with caution signs from MM 110 to MM 98 on US Hwy 60. North of US 60 just North of Cat Mountain is all CORE and it seems reasonable that the elk move freely throughout this region.

I hope you will consider my thoughts and will keep me posted on your progress. Please call with questions, if I have not made my thoughts clear.

Thank you again!



Lee

--

Lee Scholes, Qualifying Broker

New Mexico Outdoor Properties

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Kent Schauer
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 1:59 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules

Categories: Rex

As a SCR ranch owner, I have been saying for years that the system needs to be changed because there are too many owners who are abusing the current system. I had a piece in GMU 17 long before the system was introduced. I had a 640 ft well drilled to keep elk and other wildlife supplied with water. And I fenced the cattle out to keep good grass available. I then obtained a piece in GMU13. I had that well converted to solar which keeps a big tire drinker full year round and actually started a little pasture. The elk use both of those regularly. I have had 4 pumps and 3 control boxes replaced in 7 years. I have a new place in GMU 15 on the N side of Mangus Mt, It has elk on it year round already. At some point, I will put a well in for habitat improvement.

The point is that I am spending money to improve habitat, while others are buying pieces and subdividing to get more permits. Some of those owners can pay for that land in a few years. I would encourage the Commission to seriously consider setting a minimum acreage requirement for SCR owners in order to curb such practices by greedy people..

Sincerely,

Kent Schauer

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Steve Brugman
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 1:37 PM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: Elk

Categories: Red Category

Rex
My name is Steve Brugman I'm the ranch contact for the Thomas Ranch in unit 36 near Lincoln. We border the forest on our west boundary this is also the core and outside core (east) boundary id like to see if there's a possibility in all of the discussions to include us in the core.
I'd like to see the entire unit as a core unit because basically it is all elk habitat now.
I am an outfitter and i purchase a number of UW tags each year from landowners on there behalf I'd also like to learn more about how the decisions are made to determine what and how many tags a property receives and what landowners can provide to maintain or increase there tags.
Also i have questions about how some properties show up on both the SCR list and the EPLUS list is something everyone can apply for or is it an oversight

I'd also like to put my two cents in on ranches that are ranch only that border significant amount of public land. Myself and many others I've talked to would like to see them be required to become UW to receive tags and or at the very least have to follow the same hunt dates as the public. They are killing elk that reside a large portion of the year on public lands and they provide no benefit to the public hunter. Not to mention some are really small properties that receive an insane number of tags but under the current system with the 3-4 months to use the tag and they're ability to do things to entice elk to their property they can have an impact. I realize i receive these such tags and have been talking to the Roswell office for years about being allowed to be a UW ranch with no success. We also typically only convert 6 of the 11 tags issued to the ranch the allotment was set before i took over and I discussed it with the landowners and convinced them that for long term sustainability we shouldn't use all the tags

Please give me a call at your convenience

Thanks
Steve
Brugman

Sent from my iPhone

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: monroe langley
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 10:34 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: elk

Categories: Red Category

get rid of the wolfs in nm as they kill more elk than the hunters they allso kill many cattel whichv is why they were distroyed in rhe first place

monmoe

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Don Voss
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 9:17 AM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: RE: EPLUS Landowner Meeting Invitation

Categories: Red Category

Dear sir,

I see no reason for me to come to the meeting I have not received a landowners permit in somany years now I can't remember when I got one. Have a nice day! Don

From: Martensen, Rex, DGF [mailto:Rex.Martensen@state.nm.us]
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 4:47 PM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: EPLUS Landowner Meeting Invitation

Dear E-PLUS Participant,

At the June 21, 2018 State Game Commission meeting the commission opened the EPLUS rule to allow for changes to portions of the program.

The Elk Private Land Use System (EPLUS) was developed in 2005 to recognize, **“Landowners who provide meaningful benefit to elk and accept elk on their properties and all elk hunters who wish to recreate on deeded lands or public lands within New Mexico’s exterior boundaries.”** (19.30.5.2 NMAC)

The Department of Game and Fish is proposing to develop biologically based criteria to define meaningful benefit and apply it to all current properties, and any future properties wishing to enroll, in E-PLUS. Additionally the Department is proposing to address the current allocation process for bonus and unconverted authorizations, the Small Contributing Ranch draw system and the outside Core Occupied Elk Range process.

Included with this email is a more detailed summary of potential changes. A full proposal is posted on the Department’s website at www.wildlife.state.us/commission/proposals-under-consideration. At this website you will be able to follow progress and changes made during the rule making process, provide comments and locate public meetings.

The Department further encourages your participation by attending one or more meetings specially organized for participating E-PLUS landowners and/or ranch contacts.

To present the Department’s proposals and gather your comments, landowner specific meetings have been organized for the following dates, times and locations across New Mexico:

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- **Espanola:** July 13, 6:00pm – 7:30pm at the Northern New Mexico College, 921 Paseo De Onate, Room AD 104, Espanola, NM

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend one of these meetings.

Comments on the proposed changes may also be provided by mail: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Attn: Rex Martensen, PO Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504; or by email at DGF-EPLUS-Rules@state.nm.us.

Thank you for your interest in elk management and the E-PLUS program and I look forward to your participation throughout the rule proposal process.

Rex Martensen
Private Land Program Manager

New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
505-476-8044

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Randy Shaffer >
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 9:05 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Comment on proposed rules

Categories: Red Category

This message was sent securely using TLS: Login is not required.

Good morning,

I have a small contributing ranch, 272 acres. On my ranch I have the only water around with springs that have to be developed and maintained, I also plant winter oats to assist with forging. I have a very large amount of Elk on my property due to the water and a large stand of oak trees that produce acorns that they eat. When I bought the ranch I was not just given an elk tag, I had to provide proof that I was being a good steward of the habitat. I do not mind proving that I provide needed habitat for the elk population. I would just ask that the new rules do not dismiss smaller ranches due to size alone. Even though my 272 acres is small by New Mexico standards I maintain a very healthy elk population due to forest management (keeping oak trees healthy) winter food plots and most importantly water. My ranch also backs up to a wilderness study area (40,000 acres) and elk come in from that area to drink and eat. Thank you for allowing me to comment on the proposed rules.

Randy Shaffer

HCSC Company Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication is confidential, private, proprietary, or otherwise privileged and is intended only for the use of the addressee. Unauthorized use, disclosure, distribution or copying is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately at (312) 653-6000 in Illinois; (800) 447-7828 in Montana; (800)835-8699 in New Mexico; (918)560-3500 in Oklahoma; or (972)766-6900 in Texas.

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: gary ross
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 8:55 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Request for information on current E-PLUS rules and regulations

Categories: Red Category

Greetings, My name is Gary Ross and I am a current participant in the E-Plus program. I own a small property in unit 52 by the name of the Tio Grande Ranch. I have been receiving a single elk permit for the past two years i have participated and have been very pleased with having been given the opportunity to hunt in the unit in which I own property. I do not allow cattle on my property and therefore the grass is available for the local wildlife to graze on year around. The video survailence cameras and game cameras that my neighbor and I place around our properties confirm that the elk and deer do frequent our properties year around, and occasionally they break our fences when attempting to jump over them in order to gain access to the grazing. We are more than glad to do the repairs as we enjoy seeing the wildlife. Though I have yet to harvest an elk, I do enjoy having the opportunity to hunt. I do not sell my permit to outfitters. I am hopeful that I can continue to participate in the program, allowing other hunters to access the unit through our properties which otherwise would preclude access from forest road 87AD. Would you please email me the current guidelines used to determine which ranches/properties are considered beneficial and therefore awarded land owner permits. I want to be able to evaluate with some authority as to just how valuable and to what extent these new proposed changes will be and how they will affect my current status. Thank you, Gary M. Ross

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Robert Eichenoui
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 6:05 AM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: RE: EPLUS Landowner Meeting Invitation

Categories: Rex

GOOD MORNING ..
IN MY OPINION .
THERE IS A LOT MORE THAT COULD BE DONE OUTSIDE OR INSIDE THE CORE AREA.

GO TO AN ACREAGE BASED PERMITTED SYSTEM..
IT APPEARS THAT ANY LAND OUTSIDE THE CORE AREA ,,,JUST GETS AS MANY TAGS AS ASK FOR
FOR EXAMPLE
A PROPERTY VERY CLOSE TO ME IS LESS THAN 400 ACRES
THEY GOT 15 TAGSSO I AM TOLD.....
I HAVE 5000 ACRES AND ONLY ASK FOR 12 ??????????
THEY SALE THE TAGS TO AN OUTFITTER THAT WILL HUNT SAME GROUND THAT THE ELK THAT IS BEING RAISED ON MY
ACREAGE FEEDS ON LATER IN THE YEAR AFTER THE RUT
THAT WILL MAKE IT PRETTY HARD FOR ME TO UPGRADE THE GROUP THAT IS CURRENTLY ON MY PLACE.....
I GOT TO MANY TAGS ALSO ..
BUT AS DESCRIBED TO YOU I WONT USE ALL OF THEM ANYWAY
PLUS IT WILL ALLOY ME TO HARVEST MORE COWS.....
THE BULL TO COW RATIO IS ALSO MESSED UP IN MY AREA IN MY OPINION.....

IF YOU WENT TO AN ACREAGE BASED SYSTEM IT WOULD BE FAIR TO EVERYONE.....
FOR EAXMPLE ((ONLY AN EXAMPLE))
300 ACRES ONE COW TAG
450 ACRES ONE COW TAG ONE BULL TAG .. COW WOULD HAVE TO BE HARVESTED BEFORE THE BULL COULD BE
AFTER 3 OR 4 YEARS THE BULL TO COW RATIO WOULD BE MORE EVEN AND THAT RESTRICTION COULD THEN BE MADE
INTO AN ANTLER RESTRICTION . MUCH MORE QUALITY BULLS IN THE OUTSIDE CORE AREA WOULD THEN BE
ACHIEVED..PLUS THE ELEVATED NUMBER OF COWS AND BULLS IN A SPECIFIC AREA ...
IF THE OUTSIDE CORE AREA TAGS ARE ALLOWED TO BE PURCHASED OVER THE COUNTER THE GAME AND FISH
DEPARTMENT
WOULD THEN LOOSE 100% OF THE ABILITY TO HELP THE LAND OWNER ACHIEVE A BETTER QUALITY ELK HERD ..
THE ELK GROUPS ARE ALREADY NOT BEING MANAGED PROPERLY IN MOST IF NOT ALL AREAS OUTSIDE THE CORE
AREA.....
ALSO STOP THE SALE OF TAGS TO OUTFITTERS THAT ACTUALLY DON'T OWN THE PROPERTY
ANOTHER EXAMPLE THE 400 ACRES DESCRIBED ABOVE
THOSE TAGS ARE NOT USED ON THAT PIECE OF PROPERTY
THEY ARE USED IN THE AREA BUT MILES AWAY FROM WHERE THEY WERE INTENDED TO BE USED.....
I AM BEING TOLD MY TAGS ARE WORTH 1500.00 TO 2000.00 A PIECE ??????????????????
IT IS INSANITY TO THINK THAT A PIECE OF PROPERTY THAT GETS 500 PERCENT MORE TAGS THAN I GET IS ALLOWED TO
TURN AROUND AND SALE THE TAGS TO AN OUTFITTER ONLY TO BE USED IN AN AREA THAT MY BULLS ARE FORCED TO
GO TO WHEN THE WEATHER TURN BAD.....OR BECAUSE I HAVE NOTHING TO EAT

I WANT THE ELK ON MY PROPERTY
THAT IS WHY I BOUGHT MY PROPERTY

WE ARE CURRENTLY TIMBERING AND WILL TIMBER ABOUT 500 TO 600 ACRES THIS YEAR BEFORE HUNTING SEASON.. WE CURRENTLY HAVE 2 BULLDOZERS IN THERE NOCKING TREES DOWN AND MAKING LARGE OPENINGS FOR THE ELK TO HAVE MORE GRASS TO CONSUME ALL YEAR LONG

I KNOW THAT THIS YEAR WILL NOT BE THE OPTIMUM YEAR FOR ALL OF THIS TO HAPPEN BUT AS YEARS GO BY AND THE MANAGEMENT OF THE TIMBER AND GRASSES THAT GETS ACHIEVED WILL BE BETTER AND BETTER ELK HABITAT ,,,,THUS PROVIDING A MUCH BETTER HABITAT FOR THEM TO SURVIVE ON AND ACHIEVE BETTER ANTLER GROWTH AND BETTER AGE AND BETTER COW TO CALF SURVIVAL ...

THUS KEEPING MORE ELK ON ME TO KEEP THEM FROM GOING OUTSIDE MY AREA TO BE OVER HARVESTED AND NOT HARVESTED ENOUGH..

WHICH GETS US BACK TO THE BULL TO COW RATIO.....?????????

I AM BEING TOLD THAT THE CHACON SIDE OF MY PROPERTY GETS HUNTED EXTREMELY HARD!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

2 OR 3 OUTFITTERS HUNT THAT GROUND BECAUSE OF TAGS THAT ARE BOUGHT FROM LAND OWNERS THAT DON'T WANT THAT MANY TAGS OR NEED THAT MANY TAGS

THOSE ELK THAT ARE BEING HARVESTED ON THAT SIDE COMES FROM MY PLACE

AGAIN

I WILL HARVEST ABOUT 6 TO 8 HEAD

THE GRASS FIELDS NEAR CHACON WILL HARVEST 100 HEAD AND IN MY OPINION IT IS AN IMPOSSIBILITY TO HAVE THAT MANY ANIMALS KILLED ON SUCH A SMALL AREA OF ACREAGE COMPARED TO THE 5000 I OWN DIRECTLY ABOVE THOSE FIELDS

I KNOW THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO HOLD THE ELK ON MY PLACE BUT IN THE FUTURE IF THE MANAGEMENT SCHEMES COULD BE LOOKED AT AND POSSIBLY CHANGED IN THE OUTSIDE CORE AREA I TRULY BELIEVE THAT A MUCH BETTER ELK HERD COULD BE ACHIEVED AND IT WOULDN'T TAKE BUT ABOUT 3 OR 4 YEARS TO ACHIEVE IT ...

MAYBE NEXT WEEK YOU COULD COME FOR A VISIT . ???

I HAVE RAISED ELK FOR 30 YEARS AND BASICALLY KNOW HOW TO MANAGE AN ELK HERD..AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED . I WILL NOT BE READY TO SHOW YOU THE PLACE THAT WILL BE A PERFECTLY MANAGED PLACE THIS YEAR BUT IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS IF EVERYTHING GOES TO PLAN WE WILL HAVE A PLACE THAT WILL BE MANAGED AND CARED FOR,,, NOTHING BUT THE BETTERMENT OF ELK !!

LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

AND IF YOU WANT TO LOOK AT THE PROPERTY

AT THIS TIME I THINK I WILL BE THERE ALL NEXT WEEK ...

BUT NEED TO CONFIRM IT WHEN YOU HAVE AN OPENING

AS YOU KNOW I AM VERY BUSY TRYING TO GET STUFF DONE BEFORE THE RAINY SEASON AND BEFORE HUNTING SEASON.....

SORRY TO BE SO WINDED

BUT MY OPINION ON ELK IS PRETTY ONE SIDED.....

ROBERT

From: Martensen, Rex, DGF [mailto:Rex.Martensen@state.nm.us]
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 5:55 PM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF <Rex.Martensen@state.nm.us>
Subject: EPLUS Landowner Meeting Invitation

Dear E-PLUS Participant,

At the June 21, 2018 State Game Commission meeting the commission opened the EPLUS rule to allow for changes to portions of the program.

The Elk Private Land Use System (EPLUS) was developed in 2005 to recognize, **“Landowners who provide meaningful benefit to elk and accept elk on their properties and all elk hunters who wish to recreate on deeded lands or public lands within New Mexico’s exterior boundaries.”** (19.30.5.2 NMAC)

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Rex Martensen
Private Land Program Manager

New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
505-476-8044

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Tom Polito
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 7:05 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: E-PLUS Program Changes

Categories: Red Category

Rex,

As I'm sure you know by now, the website address for the e-plus program rule change is not correct in today's email. It is missing a "nm" between "state" and "us". When I used the correct address, there was no proposal for the e-plus program changes listed. How can I view the complete text of the proposal?

Thanks,
Tom Polito

Sent from my iPad

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Rick Getz
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 6:25 PM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: Re: EPLUS Landowner Meeting Invitation

Categories: Red Category

Thank you for getting back to me. I live in Canada so attending the meetings will be impossible. The piece Im getting at for my land which is only 160 acers is the water supply. I have drilled a well, it is on a timer to supply water to a drinker and small

Dugout. This may seem small but I am the only guaranteed water in a large area. There are others with dugouts but if the rain doesnt fill them there is no water. This is why I drilled a well. I was hoping to keep my current agreement which was 2 archery tags. These are not give me hunts as you know. Can I call you to discuss this . Thx
Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 27, 2018, at 4:55 PM, Martensen, Rex, DGF <Rex.Martensen@state.nm.us> wrote:

Dear E-PLUS Participant,

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Rex Martensen
Private Land Program Manager

New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
505-476-8044

<EPLUS RULE PROPOSAL SUMMARY.docx>

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Trish Dunagan
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 5:21 PM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: Re: Proposed Changes to EPLUS

Categories: Red Category

No worries! I didn't realize it was attached as a Word File. I was able to open and read the file.

Thanks soooo much for the quick response!

trish

From: Martensen, Rex, DGF <Rex.Martensen@state.nm.us>
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 5:08:08 PM
To: Trish Dunagan
Subject: RE: Proposed Changes to EPLUS

I apologize. Our staff will have that information up on our website tomorrow.

Rex Martensen
Private Land Program Manager

New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
505-476-8044

From: Trish Dunagan [mailto:
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 5:04 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Proposed Changes to EPLUS

I have not been able to reach the website or page referenced in your message regarding the proposed changes to the EPLUS Rule Proposals. ie: <http://www.wildlife.state.us/commission/proposals-under-consideration>

Might you be able to provide an alternate method of obtaining the information. I would greatly like to review these changes before attending one of the scheduled meetings.

Thank you,

Patricia Dunagan
Dunagan Farms LLC

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Trish Dunagan
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 5:04 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Proposed Changes to EPLUS

Categories: Red Category

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Thank you,

Patricia Dunagan
Dunagan Farms LLC

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Larry Johnson
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 3:47 PM
To: Pitman, James, DGF
Subject: Elk units

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Reviewed, Rule Development

Hi James,

Great to talk to you at the Expo in SLC last weekend. An unsolicited opinion from a regular guy:

The department should offer elk tags in units 59, 47, and 42. There are (respectively) 472, 284, and 429 square miles of public lands (state and federal) in those units. There are public deer tags in all those units, I see no reason why there should not be elk tags. I would bet that most hunters couldn't cover half the accessible public lands in those units in a lifetime. There are elk in there and they need to be hunted!

If you need any more opinions from the general public just hit me up, I am always up for offering my 2 cents.

Thanks, Larry.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Ray Milligan <
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 11:35 AM
To: STEWART LILEY; Quintana, Nicole, DGF; Duvuvuei, Orrin, DGF; Pitman, James, DGF; BILL MONTOYA; DICK SALOPEK; PAUL KIENZLE; RALPH RAMOS; BOB RICKLEFS; BETH RYAN; ROBEI ESPINOSA; Taylor, Bill G., DGF; Kuck, Lyle, DGF
Cc: Kerrie Romero
Subject: CHANGES TO CONSIDER FOR ELK and DEER ON PRIVATE LAND HUNTS IN UNIT 4
Attachments: CHANGES FOR UNIT 4.docx

Categories: Reviewed, Rule Development

To all of you that care about our Wildlife and New Mexico,

Please read my attached brief letter suggesting changes to the hunting of Mule deer and Elk here on Private Land in Unit 4.

Ray Milligan



Premium Quality
Elk, Mule Deer and
Antelope Hunts
in New Mexico

E-Mail:
Web Site: www.milliganbrand.com

OUTFITTING AND GUIDE SERVICE, INC.

New Mexico Outfitter License # 6

3-16-2018

Dear New Mexico Game and Fish,

I am Ray Milligan a private land outfitter here in **Unit 4** for the past 32 seasons. Additionally I have served on the Board of Directors for the New Mexico Council of Outfitters and Guides for the past 16 years.

I would like to make some suggestions pertaining to **Private Land hunts**, for the upcoming four year seasons. So I will get straight to it.

- 1) It would be beneficial to change the rifle hunts bag limit from Mature Bull to a Mature Bull/Anterless tag. Most of my clients like to bring home elk meat and currently they have to shoot a small bull in order to complete that objective if we cannot find a larger bull. In conversations with other outfitters here in Unit 4 we all agree that we could save many young bulls to put some age on if our clients could take a cow towards the end of the hunt rather than a small bull.
- 2) Currently the private land bow hunts have been lumped together with the public land's stratified seasons- 2 hunts. This change forced the private land outfitters to hunt the same amount of clients in 3 bow hunt rather the traditional 4- five day hunts we did previously. Thus we had to put more hunters in our camps and in some cases giving our clients a lesser experience. I request that the private land areas get one elk bow season from September 1-24th (just like the Deer bow hunts) to give us more flexibility and offer a better experience to our hunters.
- 3) I believe the Deer seasons for Bow and Muzzleloader are fine. As for the Rifle Deer I would like to see these 2- 5 days seasons changed to permanent dates. The first hunt would begin last Saturday in October and the second hunt would start on the first Saturday in November. From living here in the Chama valley for 30 years I know that the biological migration of deer occurs around the 25th of October and the peak of the Rut is in the first week of December. These dates while not in the rut would give us better deer hunts for our clients as we would get the benefit of the biological migration and possibly a little pre-rut hunting. That's my 2 cents, please consider these valid changes - Thanks

Sincerely, Ray Milligan President

Milligan Brand Outfitting and Guide Service, INC

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Fishtail Ranch
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 12:08 PM
To: Pitman, James, DGF
Subject: elk unit 4

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reviewed, Rule Development

Mr. Pitman

This in regards to upcoming opening of the elk rule. I am both a landowner and an outfitter in unit 4 at this time. It is my feeling that the herd in the north central region has the numbers to support an either sex rifle permit (which I would like to see define as antlerless or mature bull) . The numbers are as high as I have seen them in the years that I have lived and hunted in this area.

My objective is to perhaps be able to get the hunters who would normally shoot a young barely legal bull to harvest a cow elk when just looking for meat. I feel as if this would give the younger bulls just one more year to grow and thereby increasing the average size and age of the bulls harvested in our area.

I would be glad to further discuss my thoughts or observations as an outfitter being in the area year around and hunting for the entire archery and rifle season each year. Please feel free to contact me at [redacted] or email at [redacted]

Thanks for your consideration in this matter
Lee Weiss
Fishtail Ranch
Fishtail Ranch Outfitters

Pitman, James, DGF

From: ken russell
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 12:29 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: changes to elk and deer rules

Categories: Reviewed

I think it would be nice if New Mexico started a preference point system so that if you didn't get drawn for a few years you could use points to improve your chances.

An option might be that if you get drawn you wouldn't be eligible to apply next year. That would give better odds to those of us who haven't drawn in over 5 years. This might be especially applicable for quality hunt areas.

Thanks
Ken Russell

Pitman, James, DGF

From: dave kaprocki
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 10:29 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk comments from a NON-Resident

Categories: Reviewed

Thank you for allowing me to provide feedback on NM elk hunting from a Non-resident's perspective.

1) Hunting elk in NM is a wonderful adventure. However, not so much for non-residents like myself. Why? Because successfully drawing a non-res elk tag is extremely difficult. I'm not one to complain but I need to say that issuing only 6% of available tags to non-res's is doing all sportsmen/women a disservice. It's as if NM doesn't value a non-res hunter in your great state. Yes, I understand that I'm not paying state/local taxes, etc, but the NM Fish & Game IS receiving monies from the Pittman/Robertson Fund; a fund in which I do contribute to. So, I feel cheated in not being given a fair chance to draw a non-res tag. Furthermore, I also understand that by utilizing an outfitter that my odds increase in drawing a tag. Great, but I don't want to spend a fortune to secure an outfitter so have enjoyed my DIY hunts.

Bottom line: if I want to elk hunt on my own in NM.....good luck drawing a tag!

Solution: Increase non-res elk tags making the draw process more fair for everyone. Consider moving towards a lottery process if that warrants. Be more NON-RES friendly. If you welcomed more non-res hunters into the state, a lot more dollars (into your coffers) will follow. Money talks.....and non-residents are willing to lay down the money if given a fair chance to purchase an elk tag. One last thing, don't preach to me that the NM residents would then feel that Non-residents are coming in and killing all THEIR elk. News alert, NM doesn't own the elk.....we all do. They just happen to live in NM but are a national treasure to be shared by all, not just residents of NM.

Thanks for listening.....I don't mind if you want to call me to follow up with any questions about my comments above.

Dave Kaprocki

Pitman, James, DGF

From:
Sent: Saturday, August 11, 2018 8:16 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Fwd: Senior Preference and Luck of the Draw !
Attachments: DGF-Elk-Rules@state.nm.us.mailto; ATT00001.htm

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reviewed

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kenneth Teis · _____
Subject: Senior Preference and Luck of the Draw !
Date: August 6

, 2018 at 7:29:51 AM MDT

To: DGF-Elk-Rules@state.nm.us

NM Game and Fish â€¦.. Glad to have the chance to offer my input for the elk hunts in our great state !! I am 70 years old and have been putting in and trying to get an elk hunting license for many years , actually once in the last 10 . I am not sure why so many hunters seem to draw a license every year and others canâ€™t ? Guess itâ€™s the luck of the draw !

I think there should be a preference for the applicants that didnâ€™t draw one year for the next year and those that did draw this year not to have that preference ! Giving those that have little luck a better opportunity for a hunt. As usual this year I drew no licenses ! I also believe there should be a preference for our senior hunters to get a tag to hunt ; maybe 65 to 70 years old. That might give those of us a hunt, as each year it becomes more difficult just to draw bow and physically make a hunt ! Anyway I would just like a chance to harvest an elk or just enjoy the excitement of the hunt â€¦.. I have never taken an elk in our enchanting state ! Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to offer my input on the hunting draw in our state !

Ken Teis

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Drew Stout
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2018 2:06 PM
To: DGF-Deer-Rules; DGF-Elk-Rules; DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Proposed Game/Fish Rules

Categories: Rex

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to offer my support for the recent proposed rule changes. I am an avid hunter, but I also greatly support conservation/habitat protection efforts. I do not believe those two are mutually exclusive.

I am all for increased hunting tags and opportunities so long as the science/game management studies back up the proposed increases. Also, should the science/game management data support a decrease in tags and hunting opportunities, then I support that suggestion.

I appreciate the work you all do, and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Drew Stout

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Maggie Hubbell
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2018 7:48 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Changing status of unit 12

Categories: Reviewed

Dear Sirs,

I am asking that the Unit 12 status be left as is, it seems to be working well why change it? I would suggest leaving the status of Unit 12 alone for the next four years.

The proposal to make tags available over the counter would not be advantageous to anyone involved.

Sincerely,

Rick Hubbell

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Robert Clumpner
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2018 3:22 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk and deer tags

Categories: Reviewed

As a nonresident hunter I wish there was some way you could provide more tags or opportunities for the nonresident hunters to enjoy your state during hunting season. I guess I should feel fortunate to have been able to elk twice in the last ten years. As I get older I can see my chances of being able to hunt New Mexico again slipping away. What ever you can do would help. Thanks

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Sam Campbell
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2018 7:47 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Comments to and for GMU 12 Special Meeting

Categories: Rex

Rex Martensen
Private Land Program Manager

Sam Campbell
Unit-Ranch No: 12-40317

Subject: Personnel Comments on Proposed Changes to GMU 12

1. Leave GMU 12 as it is and make no changes.
2. or convert GMU 12 to "Outside-the-COER" (Secondary Management Zone) and making licenses over-the-counter.

As I understand the proposal, either of the above is acceptable.

Mr. Martensen thank you for your consideration and professionalism at the meeting in meeting at Quemado.

Sam Campbell

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Duvuvuei, Orrin, DGF
Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2018 8:07 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: FW: Hunting Rules and Regulations

Categories: Reviewed

An elk comment at the bottom

Orrin Duvuvuei
Deer and Pronghorn Biologist
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
Office: (505) 476-8040

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations

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From: Dixie & Travis Johnson
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 6:35 PM
To: DGF-Deer-Rules
Subject: Hunting Rules and Regulations

I have some comments on drawings for the hunts. I know of several people, who have put in for ten to fifteen years, and have never been successful for a cow or bull tag draw. On the other hand, I know of people, who have drawn out almost every year. I believe there should be more of a balance, so that everyone will have a better chance of drawing out. I believe if you draw out one year, then you should not be allowed to draw out the following year, especially in the high demand units. We should either go to an every other year drawing or a point system.

I also believe that the youth hunters should be at least 15 years of age. I have heard of too many instances where dads go out and actually shoot the animal for the child.

I also believe that a private ranch receiving New Mexico elk tags should be required to allow a percentage of public tags. This should apply to all the large game animals.

Thanks for your consideration in these matters.

Travis Johnson

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Michael Zimmermann
Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2018 4:40 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Cc: Michael Zimmermann
Subject: GMU 12 Special Meeting / EPLUS Participant Unit - Ranch No: 12 - 40094 Ranch Name: Bent Tree Ranch

Categories: Rex

Mike Zimmermann

Unit - Ranch No: 12 - 40094
Ranch Name: Bent Tree Ranch

RE: GMU 12 Special Meeting / EPLUS Participant

Attn: Rex Martensen

Good afternoon Rex and thank you again for visiting with me and providing details on the proposals. As I mentioned, I purchased this property for two reasons: family hunting and retirement. I use one of the archery tags and my dad uses the other one. During the 2016 season, my Dad harvested a magnificent 6X6 bull elk on my ranch while I was there with him. It's an experience of a lifetime for both of us. The 2017 season was basically non-existent for me as we had to rush back from New Mexico to Houston to deal with the flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey. In the upcoming years my wife will likely use the rifle tag. I am honored to have this ranch in New Mexico and we truly love it. As a further example of my commitment to elk and their habitat, I am a long time RMEF Life Member and an active committee member for many, many years. My wife this year served as co-chairman and will be co-chairman again next year.

We have done a lot in the short time we have owned the ranch to benefit elk and all other wildlife. The ranch was already in pretty good shape when we purchased it. Thanks to grants and assistance from the USDA / NRCS, brush management (including small areas of rabbit brush control) and tree thinning were done in 2017, as prescribed by the NM State Forestry Service, to benefit wildlife. The forbs / grass production will therefore increase in the coming years, making more food available for the elk. In addition, a water drinker was installed in 2015, again with assistance from the USDA/NRCS, providing critical year round water for the elk and all wildlife.

We are blessed to have numerous elk, some days 2 or 3 herds. We have a small but increasing number of resident mule deer. In the last few years, the number of antelope has increased significantly. We have 2 flocks of turkeys. We have seen both bear and cougar tracks several times. Mexican Grey Wolves have also been observed on the ranch and we love to watch the small red kit foxes.

I purchased this ranch over many other ranches that I looked at specifically because of the quality of the topography (great tree coverage and grass, no sage brush) and because of the 3 elk tags that my family uses as part of the EPlus outside the COER program. I therefore strongly prefer to have the same 3 elk tags next year and all future years. Based on the number of elk, cow to bull ratio, age diversity and the quality of the bulls we have seen year after year, I am extremely confident we can manage the elk herd with the current allocation of 3 tags with no long term impact to the elk herd.

In summary, I want to keep the current designation of “Outside the COER” and the current allocation of elk tags under the EPlus system.

Thank you for your dedicated research and time spent analyzing these proposals and for your consideration of my comments above.

If you have any questions or would like to visit more, please contact me at
or call me at

Thank you
Mike

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Lisa Bastian
Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2018 1:24 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk license

Categories: Reviewed

I have put in for elk both bull and cow for at least 10 years without drawing once .. how is this possible?

Thank you, Lisa Bastian
Sent from my iPad

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Robert Nordstrum
Sent: Monday, August 06, 2018 5:14 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Comments on 19.30.5 NMAC

Categories: Rex

Basically your suggested method of improving the E-Plus system is right on. To define "provide meaningful benefit to elk" is a basic need for the system.

I have a little concern in the forage wording between scoring 2 and 3. I'm not sure what the difference between grasslands in 2 and grass meadows in 3. Maybe you should remove grass meadows. It also looks like you allow doubling up on forage and bonus agriculture, with 3 points for substantial forage and 2 points for what could be the same type forage. I think giving 5 points is out of line to the rest of the evaluating items.

thanks for your efforts,

Bob Nordstrum

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Kenneth Teis
Sent: Monday, August 06, 2018 7:30 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Senior Preference and Luck of the Draw !

Categories: Reviewed

NM Game and Fish Glad to have the chance to offer my input for the elk hunts in our great state !! I am 70 years old and have been putting in and trying to get an elk hunting license for many years , actually once in the last 10 . I am not sure why so many hunters seem to draw a license every year and others can't ? Guess it's the luck of the draw !

I think there should be a preference for the applicants that didn't draw one year for the next year and those that did draw this year not to have that preference ! Giving those that have little luck a better opportunity for a hunt As usual this year I drew no licenses ! I also believe there should be a preference for our senior hunters to get a tag to hunt ; maybe 65 to 70 years old. That might give those of us a hunt, as each year it becomes more difficult just to draw bow and physically make a hunt ! Anyway I would just like a chance to harvest an elk or just enjoy the excitement of the hunt I have never taken an elk in our enchanting state ! Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to offer my input on the hunting draw in our state ! Ken Teis

Pitman, James, DGF

From: LEON F. SMALLEY, CPA
Sent: Sunday, August 05, 2018 10:46 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules; DGF-Deer-Rules
Subject: Elk and Deer Tag Comments

Categories: Reviewed

Dear Sir / Mam:

For over the past 50+ years I have been an avid outdoorsman. I started hunting and fishing back when the majority of all licenses were over the counter. I do understand that times have changed and more and more people are applying for Elk and Deer tags along with the commercialization of hunting via Outfitters and Landowners. I have faithfully put in every year for Elk and Deer and have been unsuccessful. I have a few suggestions for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to consider.

First, it is time for New Mexico to update it's drawing system by implementing a preference point system. The majority of all states do this.

Secondly, now that professional outfitters have come on board, in significant numbers, to capitalize on New Mexico's wildlife populations, which is maintained at the cost of all New Mexico taxpayers, an additional tax or surcharge should be charged to all outfitters, which they can pass on to their clients, so that they help carry more of that burden (i.e. Something similar to the New Mexico Gross Receipts Tax). This money would go directly to the NM Department of Game and Fish.

Third, the majority of landowners in New Mexico, due to the farming and ranching property reduced tax basis, do not have to pay their fair share in property taxes. However, they too reap the benefits at the cost of all New Mexico taxpayers by being allowed to sell landowner tags. If they want to sell landowner tags that's fine, however, they should be assessed an additional tax if they elect to sell their tags. This money would also go directly to the NM Department of Game and Fish.

Fourth, since it has become almost impossible to draw a New Mexico elk tag I have resorted to applying for out of state licenses in Colorado and Wyoming. **They both have preference point systems.** I particularly like Wyoming's system. In a nutshell they have various draw pools and if an applicant is willing to pay more to get into a better pool he or she can do so. You may want to consider something similar for both in state and out of state applicants whom are willing to pay extra to be placed into another drawing pool with better drawing odds. One negative comment people make about having various pools is that it is not fair to those who cannot afford to pay into a higher pool. However, this is already occurring due to outfitter tag allocations and landowner tax allocations those same people cannot afford to purchase those tags either.

I thank you for your time and consideration in regards to this matter.

Leon F. Smalley

Pitman, James, DGF

From: William Bramble <
Sent: Saturday, August 04, 2018 3:19 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk Tags

Categories: Reviewed

Regarding your current efforts to revise the E-plus system for distributing elk licenses: Please undo and replace some of the grossly unfair rules that have been passed in the past several decades providing such a large portion of licenses to landowners and guides so they can make money off selling the licenses to non residents. When this whole effort started (decades ago) - land owners were given a few licenses to compensate for allowing the public to hunt game (a public resource) on their lands. Now - the public is largely excluded from hunting on private property so that a preferred group has exclusive access to the game and the money they can generate from it. This has greatly disadvantaged NM residents who must now compete in the public draw for an ever-shrinking percentage of the permits. The greed exhibited by these groups is offensive to residents of the state and flies in face of the U.S Constitution. The private license group also allows thousands of licenses lapse unused each year rather than share with the public. Let's get big game hunting out of the business for profit sector and manage it scientifically. Let's place the vast majority of the elk tags with tax paying and license buying members of the NM public.
Bill Bramble, Albuquerque

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Dylan Frentzel
Sent: Saturday, August 04, 2018 1:35 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk rules

Categories: Reviewed

Managing large animals like elk is challenging, and complex, for both private land owners and game agencies. Elk are very hard on fences, crops and trees on private lands. I believe that landowners should have incentives, and flexible options for managing elk on their own private properties. On the other hand I believe that landowners receiving unit wide authorizations can be disheartening for public land hunters, that struggle to draw tags, and can not afford to pay for an authorization. My opinion is that the system used for mule deer in NM is a more fair approach. Under this system landowners could issue as many authorizations as they like to meet their management goals for elk on their property during set seasons. Elk would only be hunted on private lands and public land tags would all be issued by drawing. If landowners have high quality habitat, then the elk will be on their property for hunting and landowners can charge hunters for access. If they do not hold high numbers of elk, then the damage their property sustains from elk will be minimal and their chances of taking elk will also be lower. Since outside the core ranches are already restricted to property that they own, these ranches would benefit from the increased flexibility. Ranches found within the core would lose the ability to hunt private lands, and hunters would lose the ability to hunt these properties. However public land hunters would gain more tags, and ranchers would have more flexibility in managing their own lands. If these ranches don't have enough elk to hunt on their property, then why are they receiving unit wide tags in the first place?

Thanks for your time.

Dylan Frentzel

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: gene moya
Sent: Saturday, August 04, 2018 1:14 PM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: Further recommendations

Categories: Rex

In addition to the suggestions I've submitted already, I'd like to add a couple more .

- If the COER is expanded in unit 21 the number of public and private tags will increase. Typically this is a good thing , but the way the the percentage is figured it wouldn't be beneficial to the public land hunters due to the fact the public land that is used in the figures is at least %90 land locked. Without any type of access for us it's only going to benefit the private land owner. It will ultimately pile more hunters in the few accessible public lands available. This unit in particular has become a perfect example of landowner welfare. I CAN NOT STRESS ENOUGH THAT THE LANDOWNERS ENROLLED IN UW TAGS NEED TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE DOR ANSWERING AND RETURNING PHONE CALLS TO THE PUBLIC. THEY DELIBERATELY "HIDE" SO WE CAN NOT FIND THEIR PROPERTY. THEY VOLUNTARILY ENROLL IN THE PROGRAM AND ITS A TWO WAY STREET. UNTIL THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES FOR IGNORING THE PUBLIC TGEY WILL CONTINUE TOO REAP THE BENEFITS

- Youth deer hunt dates should NOT be altered. The later they can be in the year the better the hunt is for the new hunters. They are the future and seeing animals aprk they interest even if they're ultimately unsuccessful.

The unit 8 archery deer hunt should be in December. The kids have Christmas break, and that country is hard enough. Give these children better opportunities to be successful with archery equipment!

Unit 14 really needs a January hunt! The herd is stronger than it's been in my lifetime. I would like to suggest along with that ,a youth archery hunt run there with the regular January archery hunt like it does in 2b.

On Mon, Jul 30, 2018, 7:59 AM Martensen, Rex, DGF <Rex.Martensen@state.nm.us> wrote:

Thanks for your comments Gene. Most of the suggestions you make are being addressed through the current proposal. Others will certainly be considered as we process through the public comments.

Thanks again,

Rex Martensen

Private Land Program Manager

New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish

One Wildlife Way

Santa Fe, NM 87507

505-476-8044

From: gene moya [mailto:gene.moya@dgf-eplus.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 29, 2018 8:26 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Re: Eplus

On Sun, Jul 29, 2018, 8:23 PM gene moya

wrote:

I am an avid hunter , outdoors man ,and guide in New Mexico. I appreciate this opportunity to have my input heard (if this email gets read). It's my understanding that there is an idea on the table to invent a 65+ hunt by cutting into youth tags. I feel that this is a good idea to give older people the opportunity to apply for these special hunts, but not at the expense of youth tags. These tags should be pulled from the UNIT WIDE land owner tags. Which brings me to my next topic.

- In order for landowners to be eligible for tags through the E-plus system there should be a minimum number of acres to contribute to be granted tags.

Example- (One of many) a lot of 40 private acres in 16b is given a unit wide trophy bull tag, which sells for \$15,000. In no way do properties like that benefit the public land hunter.

- All landowners given UW tags need to provide gps coordinates to any properties enrolled in the program. Simply list them on the same page the landowner list is posted.

- Landowners now mostly provide a p.o. box instead of physical address along with a phone number. In 20 years I've made hundreds of calls to these numbers listed and have never got a call returned. They simply do NOT hold up their end of the bargain. Making it almost impossible to find the land. There need to be consequences for this.

- Maps for unit wide ranches are simply unacceptable and need be updated and made more clear with gps coordinates right on the map. Hunters should be able to easily access these on the website FOR FREE!

- Landowners are taking it upon themselves to post PUBLIC land as private, and decommissioning roads in the process. They need to be held accountable for these actions. Public land hunters have enough trouble accessing public land as it is.

- Hunt dates on Ranch Only tags can begin as early as October 1 for rifle hunts. I believe that is one of the most crucial times for the elk herds breeding season and was the reason the public land hunter has to wait until the middle of month to rifle hunt. These rules should also apply to private land elk hunters.

- Altercations with landowners not uncommon. I've personally had them lie to me about which ranch I was on to try and convince me to leave so their hunters who paid the premium can be undisturbed. They should be penalized for harassment for conducting themselves in such a way.

Overall the system has evolved into a huge payday for landowners. I understand they should be compensated for the animals using their property as habitat, at the same time they should be forced to uphold their duties to confirm location of the properties enrolled. No one is forcing them to sign up, but they should be forced to make it CRYSTAL CLEAR where their unit wide properties are for those who are interested in hunting them . Landowners should NOT get away with falsely post public properties as private, and blocking access roads either.

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Kevin Patterson
Sent: Saturday, August 04, 2018 11:57 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: 8-2-18 presentation

Categories: Rex

I think the changes you are suggesting are a good idea. The current program has had a lot of time to identify any problems of which you seem to be addressing. I think the ranch owners in attendance made some good points. It appears they don't have many problems with hunters, except for the few bad apples, but are more concerned with their peers who are not playing fair. I hope you can rewrite the rules to correct the concerns.

On a different note I would like to offer a new suggestion for a different day. In order to increase the possibility of a hunter drawing a tag, I suggest that if a person draws a tag one year they be exempt the next year for that species. They can then apply a year after that. This would reduce the number of applicants and increase the odds for others. Nothing is more frustrating than to go many years of not drawing then run into people who have drawn a number of years in a row. I have run into many people who have given up on hunting or go out of state for this reason. And on a different note I do NOT support any type of point/bonus system. Overall I think the Game & Fish are doing a good job on what you have.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Kevin Patterson
Sent: Saturday, August 04, 2018 11:46 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: 8-2-18 presentation

Categories: Reviewed

I think the changes you are suggesting are a good idea. The current program has had a lot of time to identify any problems of which you seem to be addressing. I think the ranch owners in attendance made some good points. It appears they don't have many problems with hunters, except for the few bad apples, but are more concerned with their peers who are not playing fair. I hope you can rewrite the rules to correct the concerns.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



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Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: cowboyclint142
Sent: Saturday, August 04, 2018 9:10 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Tags

Categories: Rex

Keep the tags to the public. Not everyone can afford to buy one from a land owner!! Especially with in state hunters. It's not all about the money from out of staters.

Sent from my Verizon Smartphone

Pitman, James, DGF

From:
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 4:20 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Public comment on elk rules

Categories: Reviewed

Elk Rule:

I feel that the E-Plus rule should be just like the deer rule. No unit wide tags. Unlimited private land licenses valid for deeded land only and they must use the same weapon type and pick a current season.

I think from a law enforcement end of it, you should have a mandatory harvest report within 10 days after your last day of hunting or something like bear harvest where you report what private land it was killed on, proof of written permission from the landowner and gps coordinates of the kill site.

I would also like to be able to possess a Mature Bull and Cow tag in the same license year. Since currently residents are the only ones allowed to put in for the cow hunts anyway it is a way to target populations like 34 and 36.

I would like to see some earlier cow hunts before December, sometimes weather conditions limit access and reduce success rates just due to access.

Also, I do not support putting the late season bull tags (December bull hunts) in the draw, if anything I would like to see more of those hunts expanded into more units. Limiting yourself to an archery tag with a point restriction in the middle of winter means these are hunting opportunity hunts. I wouldn't change them to either sex hunts. If you want to improve harvest rates increase the any legal weapon or muzzleloader cow hunt numbers.

Lastly, I do not support taking tags from the public hunts to create senior citizen hunts. Those licenses are already available through the current draw, they will just have to compete with every other public hunter trying to get a tag.

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Ryan McBee
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 3:11 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: E-PLUS Rule

Categories: Rex

I recommend that the E-PLUS rule is done away with. All private land elk hunting should be over the counter on private property, concurrent with the established hunt codes. So private land hunts will have the same bag limit, weapon type, and hunt dates that the public land draw hunters use. This would be hunting the same way we hunt deer in this state.

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Martinez, Chuck
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 1:56 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Preferential point

Categories: Reviewed

Please consider preferential point system.
Another suggestion,
Is there a way to keep the environmentalist from applying for BG hunts?
They draw tags and don't even hunt.
It's frustrating..

Sent from my iPhone

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Duvuvuei, Orrin, DGF
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 1:43 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: FW: Changes to deer hunting

Categories: Reviewed

Some elk related rule suggestions below.

Orrin Duvuvuei

Deer and Pronghorn Biologist
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
Office: (505) 476-8040

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations

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From: Gerard Silva
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 11:06 AM
To: DGF-Deer-Rules
Subject: Changes to deer hunting

I am a New Mexico resident and have been for 51 years. I started archery hunting in Game Unit 34 in 1987. I can recall bow hunting for deer in New Mexico when Elk tags were automatic draw. If a hunter put in for the elk tag for September he could hunt for either sex for 20 some days of the elk hunt! A hunter could also hunt deer and harvest a buck or doe during that time (September or January). I attended the Las Cruces meeting and the biologist that gave the spill on deer archery secession was incorrect when he said that's they way the deer archery season was 10 years ago. Not in Game Unit 34.

1). I would recommend leaving the deer archery session the way it is. We have tried to hunt deer archery in September but its almost impossible when everyone that is not hunting is riding ATV's in the Lincoln National Forrest during Labor Day weekend. We also have the opening day of small game and people are randomly firing rifles during the elk/deer archery season in September. I enjoy the Deer season in September which runs along with the Elk Archery season. We are out there hunting for meat not for trophies. If the hunt is ruined by other non hunters, I can rest assured that I can try again in January.

2). I also disagree where WE HUNTERS have to purchase a small game license (\$15) when the people I hunt with never hunt small game animals. This is another tactic for the State of New Mexico to gain revenue from us.

3). The elk archery season being split into two seasons for game units (34). Now you all want to split up the deer archery seasons. We are being over run with elk in Unit 34. Put it back the way it was! Elk archery September 1- 22 either sex. Just look ; all the game fences we have to pay for to keep them off private property/land.

4). If a hunter fails to draw an archery tag for September, he should automatically be given a chance to accept a license for the late season elk archery hunt in December. Or let the applicant apply it as his fourth choice. The way the system is now is ridiculous. How can the tags be sold out in seconds when it takes at least 15-30 minutes to enter all your credit card info. THIS IS A SCAM! Shame on you New Mexico.

Thanks,
Martin Silva

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Emily Hohman
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 12:38 PM
To: DGF-Deer-Rules; DGF-Elk-Rules; DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Comments on proposed rule changes: deer, elk and EPLUS system
Attachments: CPLA Comments on proposed private land rules_August 1 2018.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Categories: Rex

Hello,

Please find attached a comment letter from the Chama Peak Land Alliance. This letter contains comments on proposed rule changes in deer, elk, and the elk private lands use system. A print copy has also been mailed to the address provided in the public announcement.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes. Please contact me if the Alliance can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Emily Hohman, Executive Director
CHAMA PEAK LAND ALLIANCE

www.chamapeak.org



RESPONSIBLE LAND STEWARDSHIP

1 August 2018

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Attn: Big Game Rule Development
P.O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Re: Proposed changes in deer, elk, and the elk private lands use system (E-PLUS)

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in regards to the recently announced proposed changes to the deer, elk and the elk private lands use system (E-PLUS) across the state, including the proposal to split the deer archery season into two distinct seasons, adjusting licenses, adding new hunts, increasing elk harvest in some areas, and establishing different criteria to administer the E-PLUS system.

The Chama Peak Land Alliance is a diverse group of conservation-minded landowners committed to embracing and practicing responsible land, water and wildlife stewardship in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico for the benefit of our tri-cultural heritage and for generations to come. In northern New Mexico, the private landowners represented by the Alliance own and manage ecologically important private lands, including primary migration corridors for mule deer and elk from high elevation summer ranges to lower elevation winter habitats. These landowners are invested in practicing good land and wildlife management to ensure the long-term viability of deer and elk populations in this landscape, as well as overall ecosystem health. Additionally, our rural communities are dependent on the tourism and hunting economy supported by healthy wildlife populations.

We would like to offer the following comments regarding the changes proposed by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish:

- 1) It is unnecessary to split the archery season into two distinct seasons. Instead, landowners should be allowed to hunt the entire archery season from Sept. 1-24. We seek no increase in available licenses for private lands, but simply the option to hunt the full season.
- 2) Provide either sex archery tags for elk on private land to reduce the number of bulls harvested solely for meat. Cow harvest objectives could remain the same, with proper monitoring to prevent over-harvest, or reduced proportionally.

- 3) In theory we support the distribution of authorizations to those private properties that can show meaningful benefit. However, we acknowledge the difficulty the Department is likely to face in implementation of this rule due to lack of funding and manpower, as well as the difficulty inherent in defining “meaningful benefit” and determining the process by which such benefit is recognized. If an accurate and implementable process could be established we recommend that the authorizations removed from those properties that cannot show benefit be reallocated to the properties that provide the greatest benefit to wildlife regardless of size.
- 4) Unconverted authorizations should not be reallocated. Each landowner should be afforded the right to make harvest decisions on their own property and set objectives. The department has pushed the idea that all landowners have the ability to effectively manage the elk herd through their use, or non-use, of their elk tags. Additionally, landowners should not be pressured into converting the authorizations; pressure that results from the current system reallocating unconverted authorizations the following year to random landowners. Redistributing unconverted authorizations takes control away from landowners and contributes to chronic over-harvest.
- 5) We support Department actions to encourage harvest of older age class bulls. Point restrictions have worked well in the past, however this action alone is unlikely to achieve harvest objectives without a concurrent decrease in the overall bull harvest. Unit 4 was designated as an “opportunity” elk hunt in the past based solely on high bull harvest levels. We recommend that this unit be re-designated as a “quality” unit, which would trigger a decrease in bull tags and an emphasis on harvesting older age class bulls.
- 6) We believe the current E-PLUS season is too long and begins during the peak of the rut when bulls are most vulnerable. We propose a shorter two-month season from October 5th to December 1st, which would allow some bulls to escape harvest at the start and end of the rut. Public land rifle bull hunts do not start as early as the current E-PLUS season, for exactly this purpose. We believe that two months of bull elk hunting is sufficient to satisfy hunter demand while also protecting the elk resource.
- 7) We do not support the over-the-counter sale of elk tags outside the COER areas. The definition of COER is not sufficiently precise; issuing over-the-counter sales for these areas could result in the severe reduction or outright loss of some elk populations and restrict herd expansion in those areas. We do not support maximizing license sales at the expense of these populations.
- 8) We fully support the call for habitat based evaluations in the E-PLUS system, however the details of such evaluations must be disclosed. Such an initiative must also receive specific and sufficient funding in order to be implemented properly; we do not support simply adding such evaluations to the responsibilities of existing and already busy staff.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the Department’s proposed changes to the deer, elk and the elk private lands use system (E-PLUS) across the state. Our Board, staff, and members are deeply committed to working with each other, our communities, and our agency partners to practice and promote responsible land and wildlife management in New Mexico.

Please contact me with any questions regarding our comments in this letter or if we can be of further assistance.
Thank you.

Sincerely,



Emily Hohman, Executive Director

Pitman, James, DGF

From: RONALD L HAMMOND
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 1:11 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules

Categories: Reviewed

Giving half of the elk tags to land owners is not right. Giving 70% of the antelope tags is not right either. No other state in the US does this for either species. I have to go to Wyoming to hunt antelope. I am able occasionally to get a cow elk hunt for muzzle loader since all cow elk licenses are now restricted to residents of NM. The NM Game Commission has been dominated for years by the fat cats who pay to play by giving donations to candidates running for office. The

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Mike Collins
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 11:42 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk tags

Categories: Reviewed

Why can't we have more over the counter Elk tags like most states have?
There are too many landowner tags in NM and not enough draw tags Mike

Sent from my iPhone

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Chuck Rodriguez
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 11:22 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: ELK Rules

Categories: Reviewed

I am a lifelong resident of New Mexico and have been hunting since I was 12 years old and I will be 69 this coming October. I believe this State need to incorporate the Point system as we are one of only 2 states that do not have is system. Since I became a Senior citizen at 65 I have not been able to draw a Elk tag. This year makes 4 straight year not being select for a hunt yet I hear of outfitters who are having record out of state hunters coming in and getting hunts. What will it take to change this so that local hunters can be awarded tags? I'm not the only one in this situation, and know of 8 other hunters that we usually hunt with and they are in the same situation.
Charles Rodriguez

Pitman, James, DGF

From:
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 11:07 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Ranch Tags

Categories: Reviewed

Why does the ranch owners in NM receive so many Elk Tags ?

This only effects the amount of tags that are available to the hunters that live in NM and participate in the Draw process.

Also when there is NF or BLM land in areas for hunting that are land locked by a ranch owners property there should be access for hunters thru a set passage for hunting in these areas.

If i'm not mistaken this land belongs to everyone in the state of NM and the United States and I don't understand how a rancher can keep hunters out of this property.

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Noe Duarte
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 11:01 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Draw Recommendation

Categories: Reviewed

I would love to see NMGF implement a draw process similar to AZGF. At minimum, only charge credit cards the app fee(s) and then if successful in draw then charge credit card on file for tag fee(s). This would eliminate added labor to staff in processing refunds and would also not burden budget-minded hunters with large amount of tag fees for those that apply for several hunts.

I like how AZ has isolated draw for elk and antelope only. This allows hunters to know if they are successful or not prior to applying for deer and other species hunts so they can apply and plan accordingly.

Respectfully,

Noé Duarte

Pitman, James, DGF

From: isaiah gonzales
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 10:15 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: E Plus Rule Change Concern

Categories: Reviewed

NMDGF,

My Name Is Isaiah Gonzales and here is my concern/comment for the E Plus rule Changes.

To tell You a little about myself I live in Nogal, NM and have lived in the area my hole life. Most of my time, in the pas 10 years, has been dedicated in and around the elk in my area. I spend 200+ days a year hiking, glassing, scouting and learning the elk mostly in units 36 and 37 but also various other units around the state. I know these elk very well, may be better than anyone in the area. I follow them from summer grounds to wintering grounds and also have a lot of bulls named that I see year after year.

My concern is with unit 37 and other units like it in the state.

Unit 37 does have an established herd in most of the unit from the most southern parts to the most northern. I am in favor of adding 37 to the core. Ive looked at the proposed core area and most of it makes sense but I do believe some lines are flawed. In my opinion the proposed area has left out some core areas. Both sides of the capitan mountains all the way nearly Arebela to the east have core herds as well as the Jicarillas on the northern part of the unit, definitely has an established herd. Now for Carrizo mt this should definetly be outside the core. Very few elk actually live in there full time.

Outside the core Private Land over the counter

I am completely Not in favor of this rule, here is why.

-Yes it has worked with the deer, but elk are different. Elk home ranges are much larger than deer

-Ranch country is 95% in the low country where elk like to breed. These bulls only visit the ranches sept through mid oct. They actually live up higher in the public land the rest of the year. The ranch hunts would dramatically decrease the amount of bulls from the public side. They have no right to kill a majority of there bulls that are actually the publics property.

Private Ranch Only Elk hunts Oct 1 - Dec 31

-I Don't agree with this rule

- I don't understand why the deer hunts on private land are on specific season dates (same as public hunts), but the proposal states Elk hunts would be oct 1-dec 31. Why would it not be like the deer?

- I would be in favor of the ranch only hunts being Oct 15- dec 31. This would be a fair compromise, insuring Ranch hunts would not be killing so many bulls that just come to the ranch to breed

- Another compromise would be for ranch only elk hunts to be on the same dates as public land hunts

Thank you for your time!

Isaiah

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Rusty Johnson
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 8:56 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: elk

Categories: Reviewed

I am asking please change the rule that allows nm ranchers to shoot ELK DAY OR NIGHT just because they claim crop damage one rancher I know BACA RANCH IN MANGAS NM IS STILL ALLOWED TO TAKE MY AND YOUR ELK EVERY YEAR by the tons he goes out at night and uses a spot light and shots them he should at least not be allowed to shoot them at night the game and fish offered a fence he said no offered a lot more elk tags he said no then at that point he should not be able to take the states property ALL FOR NOTHING he does not raise crops where he is doing this the grass there is natural SOME STATES give no tags or nothing WYOMING you as a land owner even have to apply for a tag if you want to hunt your own ranch what can we do to stop this senceless taking our game? I am a hunter and this really really makes me mad

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Moore, Levi B.
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 8:14 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk & Deer Suggestions

Categories: Reviewed

I would like to see more tags for the youth hunters, specifically either sex elk tags. Most of these kids will only draw a youth hunt once in their life if that. For deer I would suggest going back to the point restriction for certain units like you did years back. I believe that was in effect for 2 years and I noticed a considerable difference in the quality of deer for several years after. We need to do a better job of managing our deer. Thank you

Levi Moore

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Pitman, James, DGF

From: Kent Wright
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 7:38 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: LUCK OF THE DRAW

Categories: Reviewed

Please change the draw rules, luck should have nothing to do with it, it should be fair for all. i have not drawn out for the area i want in 15 years now im 65 and have been robbed of some of my best hunting years. There are many ways to make it fair, other states have done it, its not rocket science. Think of the hunters for once you know the ones that send you more and more money every year, fix the draw, make it fair please ...

Kent Wright

Purvis Industries/The Mine Supply Co.
Inside Sales
Phone No.
Fax No.

	
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Pitman, James, DGF

From: James Gallimore
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 7:33 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk Regulations

Categories: Reviewed

To whom it may concern,

As a lifelong hunter, I would like to express my feelings on the current New Mexico elk hunting regulations. First of all, I want to make sure to express how grateful I feel to have the opportunity to participate in the system that this state and this country has created around wildlife management. The outdoor activities that I feel privileged to participate in have shaped my life and will continue to be a passion into the future.

With all that being said, I have felt very frustrated with the lack of opportunity that I have seen to hunt elk in my home state. I will start here by giving my input into the current system and changes, then I will give my long story as to what has brought me to feel this way. Without direct experience in the process of allocating tags and setting regulations, I am not sure what the best solution is. As I have participated in other states with preference points and seeing the 'creep', I do not know how that would work here. My one thought is we need to make this fair for all to use this resource on the land. I think it would level the playing field if we had a bonus point to give those that have not been able to hunt recently a better shot at drawing a tag. If I have not drawn an elk tag in 7 years, I would think my name should be in the hat more than the guy that drew unit 15 last year. In this system, everyone would still have a chance every year, but would help to give tags to those who have not drawn recently. My other frustrations stem around the information that I got recently that demonstrated how many of the tags in this state are landowner permits. I am definitely not against hunting on private land, and have done it myself, but this seems outrageous to have this many of them going to high paying clients and taking away from the opportunity of the public. My overall thoughts are that the tags need to be allocated in a more 'fair' way and we need to increase opportunity for the public that is applying through the state draw. Below, I will outline my personal experiences that have led me to these conclusions.

I believe I drew a unit 6c first archery hunt in 2008 or 2009 and I drew a 16b early archery tag in 2011 or 2012. These are the only two elk hunts that I can even recall drawing in the last 20 years. These are definitely two tags that are some of the easier to draw tags for archery. I have dedicated the last handful of years to creating databases of draw odds and harvest reports for every hunt in the state. I have used this to try to apply for hunts that should be fairly easy to draw, yet I still have seen no success. This year, I put in for an early archery hunt that shows close to 75% success rate of drawing, and was still not successful. My strategy for years has been to just put in for hunts that I feel will give me a good chance of drawing so that I can at least get out.

I have continued to hunt over the years by purchasing leftover deer licenses, purchasing one of the unit 34 late season trophy archery elk hunts, and traveling out of state. I understand that our system is random, and there is no guarantee that I will be given a tag any year, but my frustrations with drawing have grown the past few years while I am putting so much effort into researching hunting for 12 months out of the year and then being let down year after year. This would make sense to me if I was continuing to put in for units 15, 16a, 16d, 6b, but that is not the case, I have put in for 6c every year (which should not be that difficult to draw) and 53, which is very easy to draw. My real frustrations have come in recently after speaking to numerous other sportsmen at the range and other gathering. My most recent interaction with a fellow hunter left me confused at best. He informed me that he has drawn the second archery hunt in unit 16a 4 out of the past 6 years on top of some premium deer and antelope hunts along with hunting oryx for a third time this winter. Looking at the draw odds for these hunts, I feel like I would have a better shot at winning the New Mexico Lottery than to draw hunts consecutive like this. This information has left me bitter and thinking there has to be a more 'fair' way to allocate these tags.

Thank you for reading my story and considerations,
James Gallimore

Pitman, James, DGF

From:
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 5:52 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: out of state Elk permits

Categories: Reviewed

Dear NMWildlife Federation,

I would like to see more Elk permits issued to out of state applicants. Since most of the Elk live on land designated as National Forest it seems it should be open to more of the population out of state. Here in Texas you are welcome to come hunt and fish and we do not put restrictions on the number of out of state licenses issued. Thank you for your consideration.

Don Duprie

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Larry Lemke
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 5:46 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk Tags

Categories: Reviewed

To Whom It May Concern,

Thanks for listening. I have had many potential hunters who have given up applying for an Elk Tag in NM because they never draw. I personally hunt in other states where there are preference points given when you don't draw a tag. I was born and raised in Iowa and hunt there every year on the Lemke Farm and draw a Deer Buck tag every two years as a result of a preference point.

I own property in NM Unit 34 (just off Russia Canyon Rd) that backs up to Lincoln National Forest which has more Elk than you can count and it goes without hunters who I could have a my clients if they could draw a tag.

So, my suggestions are:

- 1) Implement Preference Points
- 2) Increase the Number of Tags Issued

Thanks for considering these suggestions.

Happy Hunting,
Larry

Larry A. Lemke

Owner & Outfitter
www.lchunts.com

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Chad Williams
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 9:19 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Comment

Categories: Reviewed

Thanks for allowing public comment.

1. I am opposed to reducing the youth encouragement hunts in favor of senior citizens. Hunter recruitment is vital. Seniors are not that demographic.
2. In reference to the presentation on increasing opportunity, I would like to see the department work with Bosque Del Apache and or Sevilleta to hunt the elk herds there. Make it a once in a lifetime, youth only or MI hunt.
3. Regarding O-plus, I am in favor of otc elk licenses, but opposed to making them transferable.

This is similar to the way otc deer tags are administered now, which creates many problems. OTC licenses will be purchased, then hunted on public land.

An alternative suggestion would be to transfer an unfilled otc tag to another ranch in person at a G&F office with written permission.

Thank you, Chad

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Bob Grier
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 8:02 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: New Mexico hunting rules

Categories: Reviewed

Hello,

I am currently an out-of-state resident, who enjoyed 7+ years as a resident of Albuquerque and Santa Fe. I was (and still am) an avid hunter and fisherman. I roamed the State in my pursuits. I have continued to hunt and fish N.M. when I can. Having seen both sides of your hunting regulations, I feel confident in commenting on changes that would benefit your State, its economy and its resources.

First, the number of tags, esp., elk, need to be reduced for outfitters/guides and increased to out-of-state hunters. All of the positive reasons apply. Since not all of the outfitter tags are allocated, on first draw, let out-of-state hunters contribute to your hunting program.

Next, all in-state license fees need to increase. I have heard all of the arguments against, and they don't hold water. Your Department and the flora and fauna need the financial resources, for residents to enjoy, so up the fees and do more positive programs. I don't remember how long it has been since in-state fees were raised, but some time. Take the heat and do the right thing – for both the people and the resources.

Finally, please be forward looking. Take time to look at the big picture for your State. I observed too much inward, partisan, self-serving actions and decisions with wildlife in N.M. Look to neighboring states and their programs (not their fee structure). Move N.M. into the 21st century and prepare for the future.

Thank you for listening,

Robert E. Grier, Ph.D., FACMG

Pitman, James, DGF

From:
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 5:47 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Too Many Tags to Private Land Owners

Categories: Reviewed

New Mexico's E-PLUS system is out of touch with the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and requires far more than small reforms. Here in New Mexico we have the most liberal allocation of elk tags to private landowners in the Western US, with roughly half of all elk hunting opportunity allocated outside of the public draw. Please consider the fact that it is the hard earned dollars of the men and women who put in for public land elk tags through the lottery system year after year that supply the funding for conservation of all the wonderful elk habitat our state has to offer. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chris Gardner

Sent from my iPhone

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Albert Leroy Holguin
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 5:28 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk Tag Comments Unit 16B Primitive Weapons Only

Categories: Reviewed

I personally would like to see Elk Unit 16B be converted to a primitive weapons only unit. The majority of the unit is accessible by primitive means anyway, foot or horseback. I think there are quality animals in the unit. This may increase the number of quality animals and increase the quality of the experience in the unit. Thank you for considering my suggestion.

Leroy Holguin

Pitman, James, DGF

From: John Alex
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 4:33 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules

Categories: Reviewed

We need the people of New Mexico to get more tags. Not let land owners and outfitters and guide's have control of them. If they receive tags to sell for private lands they pay for them and also allow the same amount of public hunters on that property. They should also buy a private land stamp for the land they are exclusive to hunt and land owners agree to allow public access to public lands they have locked us out of.

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Andrew Luikens <
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2018 2:43 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: suggestions for Elk

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reviewed

I feel that ranches that are outside of the COER should not get to start hunting before the public draw tag holders can start hunting with that specific weapon. I am fine with them having an extended season, but they shouldn't be allowed to start hunting elk before anyone else. I know that there are Ranch Only hunters that will hunt on public land and it is very difficult to stop that. So the only way the public hunter has a chance is to be able to at least start hunting when the ranch only tag holders can start hunting. Even if they aren't hunting public land and there is a bull that goes back and forth between private and public they have an unfair advantage at that elk over the public hunter.

There is a grading system to see if a property qualifies for landowner tags and currently the magic number is 6, but they have talked about going up to 7. I am in favor of making the magic number 7.

Also, private landowners receiving unit wide tags shouldn't have a choice on letting hunters drive through their property. It should be automatic, if you get unit wide tags then you need to provide vehicle access to it. Currently it states that if they let their hunters drive to it then the public hunter can also. The problem with this is that there is no current system to let the public hunters know if the private landowner allows access or not. If the landowners don't want that then they can choose to get ranch only tags.

Thanks for your time. Please feel free to contact me if you need anything else or any clarifications.

Andy Luikens

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Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Conrad
Sent: Sunday, August 19, 2018 6:57 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules; DGF-Elk-Rules; DGF-Deer-Rules
Subject: Public Comment Regarding Proposed Changes to Rules 19.30.5, 19.31.14, and 19.31.13
Attachments: Comment-to-Rule-Changes_8-17-2018-CWNELSON.pdf

To Whom it may Concern,

Please see the attached PDF document regarding my personal comment to current proposals--specifically rules 19.30.5, 19.31.14, and 19.31.13--under consideration. In case of any technical malfunction, I have included the content of the attached PDF below, in the body of this e-mail. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Conrad Nelson

08-17-2018

To: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) Commissioners and Regulatory Board Members

Re: Proposed Changes to Rules 19.30.5, 19.31.14, and 19.31.13

I am writing this letter in regards to potential rule and practice changes the NMDGF is considering regarding tag allocation, E-PLUS, SCR's, and elk COER units. Firstly, it is my belief, and the, declared law of New Mexico and in the interest of managing wildlife within the North American Model, that the game animals of New Mexico are managed and protected for the citizenry—public and private—of New Mexico. Secondly, I believe, and am supported by federal and state law that certain designated land owned by the federal and state government are open to use by public citizens. Lastly, and most importantly, I urge the NMDGF to manage tag assignment, land use partnerships, and E-PLUS and SCR appropriations with a critical, scientific based, ecologically driven framework. Partnerships with local research organizations like New Mexico State University, The University of New Mexico, USDA, and NRCS should be considered and pursued. Proactive NMDGF management and policy could result in a New Mexico that leads the Nation in game and fish management and offers both public and private individuals and landowners world-class outdoor, hunting, fishing, and other recreational activity. Such adjustments are critically needed to ensure the sustainability of both private and public hunting in New Mexico.

The expansion of elk COER units is a positive and needed management decision that complies with scientific data and should be implemented by the NMDGF. Enlargement of COER areas will not only improve and enhance elk herd dynamics, but also enhance the public land hunter's opportunity for quality elk hunting. This is one positive agenda, for both public and private hunters, I have heard described in the last public meetings. I am in full support of elk COER unit expansion and consider it the most positive, forward thinking, conservation minded and pro-public hunter agenda item the NMDGF is openly considering. Other positives, include offering distinct tags for Couers or White Tail Deer, where they exist, increasing tag amount in unit 28 (Fort Bliss) and increased tag allotment and access to areas where herd health and population has increased. It is unfortunate and dismaying to learn of potential decreases in youth hunt allotments. I trust that the NMDGF believes in its mission and purpose and goal of such allotments. If decreases in in any tag allotment should be made, it should be based upon scientific data, not tag scarcity or, potentially, profitability. In the case of reduction of tags within units, for youth, public, or private hunts, tags awarded to private land—E-PLUS or SCR—should be cut, or cut in proportion with public land or youth tags. Additionally, the proposal to—in some units—allow over the counter elk tags is misguided. This policy may be sustainable in some units, but sets a negative and non-sustainable trend for the rest of New Mexico. The rest that I hear, or rather don't hear enough of in public meetings, is the situation with SCR and E-PLUS properties.

The public land hunter should be very concerned over how tags are allocated to and managed by private land owners. These landowners have rights and a voice in the conversation, as they should. But, in many situations, that right and the weight that landowners hold results inequitable assignment of the public's resource, game animals. Not only is there a misappropriation of tags allotted to these individuals, but also a misallocation of funds. Many of these individuals receive funds from the state the federal government and/or NMDGF for habitat improvement, but still feel that their land is private. There needs to be equity between public and private hunters. Not only is there an inequitable allocation of tags available to land owners in some units, but in all cases, private land hunters are able to hunt before any public land hunter. If a private land authorization allows for a hunter to pursue bull elk during the rut, IE, October 1st with a rifle. How can the NMDGF in good conscious say that it is acceptable to manage public draw hunters to only hunt with a rifle beginning in the middle of October? If the NMDGF believes that harvest rates would be too high if public draw hunters were allowed to hunt the peak of the rut with firearms, why are they allowing private land authorizations during this time frame? The elk are not easily persuaded by fences. Inside the COER elk move outside the COER. That is dispersion. A basic biological principal that your management proposals are blatantly disregarding. Hunting seasons should, and must, be uniform between public and private land hunters. The location and coordinates of private landowners that enroll in these programs should be available to the public. If NMDGF has visited and coordinated with these properties to receive public benefit, the public hunter should be able to have the access and knowledge of where or where not they can hunt. If a private land owner enters an agreement with the NMDGF they must comply by said agreement. At current, there are few and far between ways the NMDGF can ensure those private lands are complying with conditions and near to no ways for citizens to report non-compliance.

In that vein, NMDGF should be more discerning when it comes to assigning and approving SCR and E-PLUS lands and tags. I take issue with how many tags are allotted to E-PLUS and SCR lands and the unfair allowances those landowners receive. The boundaries and locations of these private lands that public land hunters are allowed to enter and cross through—via agreements made with the NMDGF—are not made public. In some units, private tags outnumber public tags 3 to 1. In some cases, landowners with as little as 100 acres through the E-PLUS program receive multiple tags per year. Other, much larger ranches, receive far more tags.

In many cases they should. The profitability of game tags has become a needed crutch to many New Mexico ranchers and private landowners. Although this crutch may be needed for those individuals, and the allotment and sale of those may benefit the local economy, policy should not be directed to subsidize these individuals. Instead, there must be a balance to private—E-PLUS and SCR—and public land tag allotments—in and outside COER units. In return of the benefit of receiving sustained and recurring tag allotments—along with potential other land and improvements subsidized or enhanced by the NMDGF, private-and-tag-holders should be held account for 1) access to their land if originally agreed upon area 2) the same hunting season as public land hunters and 3) proactive, sustained, and scientifically recommended land use practices. I have addressed some issues with points 1 and 2 above; point three is just as important.

Through mandate, the NMDGF, BLM, DOI and other organizations utilize a large amount of public—and in the case of the NMDGF sportsman's—money to manage and care for public resources. Private landowners that receive benefits from the state—tag allocations, land or habitat improvements—should be encouraged and required to manage their land in a way that maintains, supports, and enhances the public resource they are benefiting from. In a way, tags allotted to private landowners are lands and tags allotted in public trust that they will be managed correctly for the collective good. Additionally, using such criteria to assign E-PLUS or SCR tags could weed out private land owners blatantly using minor land ownership as a way to accrue tags.

Thank you for reading this letter. I write this letter as a Native New Mexican, Biologist, Public Land Hunter, and person with private land ties. I hope you consider the points I have raised. The future of New Mexico's hunting opportunities, land and game species lies in your hands.

Sincerely,

Conrad Nelson

08-17-2018

To: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) Commissioners and Regulatory Board Members

Re: Proposed Changes to Rules 19.30.5, 19.31.14, and 19.31.13

I am writing this letter in regards to potential rule and practice changes the NMDGF is considering regarding tag allocation, E-PLUS, SCR, and elk COER units. Firstly, it is my belief, and the declared law of New Mexico and in the interest of managing wildlife within the North American Model, that the game animals of New Mexico are managed and protected for the citizenry—public and private—of New Mexico. Secondly, I believe, and am supported by federal and state law that certain designated land owned by the federal and state government are open to use by public citizens. Lastly, and most importantly, I urge the NMDGF to manage tag assignment, land use partnerships, and E-PLUS and SCR appropriations with a critical, scientific based, ecologically driven framework. Partnerships with local research organizations like New Mexico State University, The University of New Mexico, USDA, and NRCS should be considered and pursued. Proactive NMDGF management and policy could result in a New Mexico that leads the Nation in game and fish management and offers both public and private individuals and landowners world-class outdoor, hunting, fishing, and other recreational activity. Such adjustments are critically needed to ensure the sustainability of both private and public hunting in New Mexico.

The expansion of elk COER units is a positive and needed management decision that complies with scientific data and should be implemented by the NMDGF. Enlargement of COER areas will not only improve and enhance elk herd dynamics, but also enhance the public land hunter's opportunity for quality elk hunting. This is one positive agenda, for both public and private hunters, I have heard described in the last public meetings. I am in full support of elk COER unit expansion and consider it the most positive, forward thinking, conservation minded and pro-public hunter agenda item the NMDGF is openly considering. Other positives, include offering distinct tags for Couers or White Tail Deer, where they exist, increasing tag amount in unit 28 (Fort Bliss) and increased tag allotment and access to areas where herd health and population has increased. It is unfortunate and dismaying to learn of potential decreases in youth hunt allotments. I trust that the NMDGF believes in its mission and purpose and goal of such allotments. If decreases in in any tag allotment should be made, it should be based upon scientific data, not tag scarcity or, potentially, profitability. In the case of reduction of tags within units, for youth, public, or private hunts, tags awarded to private land—E-PLUS or SCR—should be cut, or cut in proportion with public land or youth tags. Additionally, the proposal to—in some units—allow over the counter elk tags is misguided. This policy may be sustainable in some units, but sets a negative and non-sustainable trend for the rest of New Mexico. The rest that I hear, or rather don't hear enough of in public meetings, is the situation with SCR and E-PLUS properties.

The public land hunter should be very concerned over how tags are allocated to and managed by private land owners. These landowners have rights and a voice in the conversation, as they should.

But, in many situations, that right and the weight that landowners hold results inequitable assignment of the public's resource, game animals. Not only is there a misappropriation of tags allotted to these individuals, but also a misallocation of funds. Many of these individuals receive funds from the state the federal government and/or NMDGF for habitat improvement, but still feel that their land is private. There needs to be equity between public and private hunters. Not only is there an inequitable allocation of tags available to land owners in some units, but in all cases, private land hunters are able to hunt before any public land hunter. If a private land authorization allows for a hunter to pursue bull elk during the rut, IE, October 1st with a rifle. How can the NMDGF in good conscious say that it is acceptable to manage public draw hunters to only hunt with a rifle beginning in the middle of October? If the NMDGF believes that harvest rates would be too high if public draw hunters were allowed to hunt the peak of the rut with firearms, why are they allowing private land authorizations during this time frame? The elk are not easily persuaded by fences. Inside the COER elk move outside the COER. That is dispersion. A basic biological principal that your management proposals are blatantly disregarding. Hunting seasons should, and must, be uniform between public and private land hunters. The location and coordinates of private landowners that enroll in these programs should be available to the public. If NMDGF has visited and coordinated with these properties to receive public benefit, the public hunter should be able to have the access and knowledge of where or where not they can hunt. If a private land owner enters an agreement with the NMDGF they must comply by said agreement. At current, there are few and far between ways the NMDGF can ensure those private lands are complying with conditions and near to no ways for citizens to report non-compliance.

In that vein, NMDGF should be more discerning when it comes to assigning and approving SCR and E-PLUS lands and tags. I take issue with how many tags are allotted to E-PLUS and SCR lands and the unfair allowances those landowners receive. The boundaries and locations of these private lands that public land hunters are allowed to enter and cross through—via agreements made with the NMDGF—are not made public. In some units, private tags outnumber public tags 3 to 1. In some cases, landowners with as little as 100 acres through the E-PLUS program receive multiple tags per year. Other, much larger ranches, receive far more tags. In many cases they should. The profitability of game tags has become a needed crutch to many New Mexico ranchers and private landowners. Although this crutch may be needed for those individuals, and the allotment and sale of those may benefit the local economy, policy should not directed to subsidize these individuals. Instead, there must be a balance to private—E-PLUS and SCR—and public land tag allotments—in and outside COER units. In return of the benefit of receiving sustained and recurring tag allotments—along with potential other land and improvements subsidized or enhanced by the NMDGF, private-and-tag-holders should be held account for 1) access to their land if originally agreed upon area 2) the same hunting season as public land hunters and 3) proactive, sustained, and scientifically recommended land use practices. I have addressed some issues with points 1 and 2 above; point three is just as important.

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Sincerely,

Conrad Nelson

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Wesley Owen ·
Sent: Saturday, August 18, 2018 5:01 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Comments on elk rule included
Attachments: E-PLUS W-PLUS.docx; WOLF ELK CONSUMED.docx; WRIGHT_et_al-2006-Elk and hunter harvest Yellowstone.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reviewed

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

E – PLUS PROPOSED CHANGES MUST INCLUDE

W – PLUS (WOLF MANAGEMENT ON PRIVATE LAND)

THE DESIGNATION OF CORE IS NO LONGER VALID

INSIDE THE WOLF RECOVERY AREA AND OUTSIDE THE WOLF RECOVERY AREA ARE VALID

THE LANDSCAPE HAS CHANGED, IT IS FENCED AND CROSS FENCED

THE DEPREDATION ON PREY IS ENHANCED BY FENCING, ESPECIALLY WOVEN FIELD FENCING

IS IT THE BURDEN OF PRIVATE LAND TO REAR PREY FOR THE WOLF?

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE WOLF RUNNING ELK INTO FENCING?

EVERY GMU WILL NEED SPECIAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

TRIGGERS AND THRESHOLDS NEED TO BE IN PLACE NOW

WOLF RECOVERY PLAN

USING PUBLISHED DATA FROM PUBLIC PERSS RELEASES

THE PRESENT WOLF POPULATION AT A RECRUITMENT RATE OF % 0.15

THE WOLF POPULATION WILL EXCEED 100 IN 5 YEARS IN NEW MEXICO

WOLF PREDATION ON ELK AT 2.4 PER MONTH

THE WOLF WILL CONSUME 2894 ELK PER YEAR

IN PERSPECTIVE THE DATIL HERD ESTIMATE IS 2939 – 3313 ELK

THE SUSTAINABLE HARVEST FOR (GMU 15, 16A-E) IS 3559 ELK

THE DELISTING CRITERIA OF 160 NEW MEXICO WOLVES (1/2 OF THE 320 PROPOSED US POPULATION)

160 WOLVES CONSUMING 4,608 ELK PER YEAR

WITH THE 4 YEAR CYCLE OF OPENING E-PLUS FOR REVIEW

THIS IS A CRITICAL JUNCTURE IN ELK MANAGEMENT

DELISTING OF THE WOLF WILL TRANSFER THE FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT BURDEN TO THE STATE

NEW MEXICO HAD A TIMBER INDUSTRY

NEW MEXICO HAD A MINING INDUSTRY

NEW MEXICO HAD A RANCHING INDUSTRY

NEW MEXICO HAD A HUNTING INDUSTRY

MANAGEMENT

Game Department / Landowner Meeting July – 11-2018

My take away is the Options were:

Unlimited over the counter license for unit 12

Placing all or part of unit 12 under the CORE management system

Scoring all private properties inside the CORE for meaningful Elk habitat contribution

Outside CORE Elk tags are unlimited and negotiated for with the regional biologist

The negotiations with the regional biologist have become exhaustive for the Department and are driving these proposed changes

Unit 12 is unique in that there is no National Forest land and limited BLM land. Access is limited due to few interior county roads and very few secondary roads. Camping restrictions on State Land leave few camping options for an unlimited public hunt. The public land in 12 cannot support an unlimited Elk hunt. Trespass is of major concern.

The wolf recovery area includes unit 12. Elk population management is a large concern of the wolf recovery project. An unlimited over the counter elk hunt will decimate this elk population.

WOLF / ELK

WOLF POPULATION	ELK CONSUMED	YEAR
51	1428	2018
61	1713	2019
73	2044	2020
87	2452	2021
104	2923	2022
124	3494	2023
148	4166	2024
177	4956	2025
212	5947	2026

Selection of Northern Yellowstone Elk by Gray Wolves and Hunters

GREGORY J. WRIGHT,^{1,2} School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI 49931, USA
ROLF O. PETERSON, School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI 49931, USA
DOUGLAS W. SMITH, Yellowstone Wolf Project, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190, USA
THOMAS O. LEMKE, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Livingston, MT 59047, USA

Abstract

We compared selection of northern Yellowstone elk (*Cervus elaphus*) by hunters in the Gardiner Late Hunt and northern Yellowstone wolves (*Canis lupus*) with regard to sex, age, and impacts to recruitment. We compared harvest data from 1996–2001 with wolf-killed elk data from 1995–2001. We assessed the effects of hunting and wolf predation on reproductive female elk by constructing a life table and calculating reproductive values for females in the northern Yellowstone herd. We devised an index of total reproductive impact to measure impacts to calf production due to hunting and wolf predation. The age classes of female elk selected by wolves and hunters were significantly different. Hunters selected a large proportion of female elk with the greatest reproductive values, whereas wolves selected a large proportion of elk calves and older females with low reproductive values. The mean age of adult females killed by hunters throughout the study period was 6.5 years, whereas the mean age of adult females killed by wolves was 13.9 years. Hunting exerted a greater total reproductive impact on the herd than wolf predation. The combined effects of hunters killing prime-aged females (2–9 yr old), wolves killing calves, and predation by other predators has the potential to limit the elk population in the future. Yellowstone is unique in this regard because multiple predators that occur sympatrically, including hunters, wolves, grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*), black bears (*Ursus americanus*), cougars (*Felis concolor*), and coyotes (*Canis latrans*), all prey on elk. Using an Adaptive Harvest Management process the known female elk harvest during the Gardiner Late Hunt has been reduced by 72% from 2,221 elk in 1997 to 620 elk in 2004. In the future, hunting harvest levels may be reduced further to partially offset elk losses to wolves, other predators, and environmental factors. (JOURNAL OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT 70(4):1070–1078; 2006)

Key words

age structure, *Canis lupus*, *Cervus elaphus*, elk, Gardiner Late Hunt, gray wolf, predation, recruitment, reproductive value.

The growth rate of Yellowstone National Park's (YNP) northern elk (*Cervus elaphus*) herd has been shaped by many factors, which fall into 2 broad categories—wildlife management and natural ecological processes. Wildlife management activities include the extensive culling and removal of YNP elk that occurred from the 1930s until 1968, as well as the annual harvests of northern Yellowstone elk that occur outside the park during Montana's general (autumn) elk hunt and the Gardiner Late Hunt (Coughenour and Singer 1996, Lemke et al. 1998, Singer et al. 1998). Natural ecological processes that influence herd population dynamics include predation (Singer et al. 1997, Mech et al. 2001, Smith and Guernsey 2002), density-dependent mechanisms (Houston 1982, Singer et al. 1997, Taper and Gogan 2002), and weather effects. Historically, precipitation levels and winter severity have had the greatest impact on northern herd abundance through large reductions from winter-kill (Lemke et al. 1998, National Research Council [NRC] 2002).

Although a policy of natural regulation was instituted in YNP in 1969, harvest of northern Yellowstone elk during the 2 annual hunts continues to influence sex-age structure as well as elk abundance (Lemke et al. 1998). An average 1,590 elk, mostly females, were removed annually in the Gardiner Late Hunt from 1995–2001. During this same period, an average 333 elk, mostly males, were harvested annually in the autumn hunt (Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, unpublished data).

We examined and compared characteristics of female northern Yellowstone elk killed by gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) and harvested in the Gardiner Late Hunt. Key questions we examined included: 1) How does predation differ between humans and wolves with regard to elk sex and age?, 2) Is the reproductive segment of the female elk population differentially affected by wolf predation and human harvest?, and 3) Has the age structure of the female segment of the elk population changed from 1995–2001 since the reintroduction of wolves in 1995–1996?

Background

Thirty-one gray wolves from Canada were reintroduced into YNP in 1995 and 1996. By the end of 2001, the YNP population was estimated at 132 wolves, including 77 wolves in the northern range of the park (Smith and Guernsey 2002). As the wolf population increases on YNP's northern range, it becomes increasingly important to understand differences in elk predation patterns between humans and wolves (Boyd et al. 1994). Local sport hunters and citizen's groups have expressed concern about wolf predation levels on ungulates, as well as impacts on elk-calf recruitment (Herring 2000, Zumbo 2000a,b).

Human attitudes toward wolves are one of the key factors influencing the success or failure of wolf restoration efforts (Paquet et al. 2001). This creates a critical demand for analysis of the effects of wolves and humans on the northern Yellowstone elk herd. This information is important for management decisions, policy making, public education, and other wolf restoration efforts. The United States Congress recently charged the NRC with the task of forming a committee on ungulate management to

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review information on the population ecology and natural regulation of YNP's northern range ungulates. The NRC committee recommended an adaptive-management approach to northern range issues and continued monitoring of wolf-prey interactions based on the dynamic nature of ungulate population fluctuations and insufficient scientific knowledge to predict outcomes of different management approaches (NRC 2002). The committee acknowledged a need for additional research related to northern Yellowstone elk dynamics.

The effects of gray wolf predation on ungulate prey have been studied extensively. Biologists recognize the ability of wolves to influence sex and age composition, recruitment and death rates, and rates of population change in ungulate prey species (Pimlott et al. 1969, Mech 1970, Peterson 1977, Seip 1995, Mech and Peterson 2003). The selectivity of wolf predation and its role in predator-prey systems have illustrated that wolves generally cull the most vulnerable (e.g., young, old, weak, or diseased) individuals from a prey base (Peterson 1977, Fuller and Keith 1980, Carbyn 1983, Mech et al. 1995, Smith 1998, Mech et al. 2001). Selection of prey by wolves is likely governed by Temple's (1987) assertion that predator selectivity increases as the difficulty of capturing prey increases. In some instances, wolves are capable of regulating or limiting the population growth of a prey species (Fuller and Keith 1980, Gasaway et al. 1992, Bergerud and Elliot 1998).

Harvest of ungulates by humans can also strongly affect the population characteristics of hunted populations (McCullough 1979, Ginsberg and Milner-Gulland 1994, Bender et al. 1999, Bender 2002). In areas of North America where elk hunting occurs, it is the major source of elk mortality, and a stronger limiting factor than predation, habitat quality, disease, winter severity, or accidents (Ballard et al. 2000).

Montana's Gardiner Late Hunt has a rich and colorful history dating back to the early 1900s when most hunters arrived by train to harvest migrant Yellowstone elk (Lemke 1995a). Over time the Gardiner Late Hunt has evolved from a largely unrestricted elk hunting season to one of the most popular, closely regulated, and successful elk hunts in North America. The Late Hunt now begins the first week of January and runs until mid-February each year. In recent years 6,500 to 8,500 hunters have applied for Gardiner Late Hunt elk permits. The average annual hunter success rate since 1976 is 63%, compared to a 15–20% success rate during general autumn elk hunting seasons elsewhere in Montana.

Following an 8-year moratorium from 1968–1975, the Gardiner Hunt became a limited entry, permit-only hunting season with several management regulations. These changes included closing hunting on an important elk staging area immediately adjacent to YNP, designating specific numbers of antlerless or either-sex elk permits, assigning specific 2- or 4-day hunting periods for each hunter, dividing the hunting area into 5 units with the ability to open or close units depending on elk distribution, and requiring mandatory check-in and check-out for all hunters (Lemke 1995a,b).

The Gardiner Late Hunt has 2 primary objectives: 1) to ensure winter-range forage for migrant Yellowstone elk on a sustainable basis by using hunters to help manage the number of elk wintering

north of YNP, and 2) to harvest elk in ways that will minimize the effect of hunting on migratory behavior, allowing winter elk use to be distributed over the winter range in proportion to forage availability (Lemke 1995b). Because the Gardiner Late Hunt is a population management tool, the harvest is directed primarily toward females, with 90+% of all permits issued for antlerless elk.

The combination of human hunting and wolf predation, or predation from multiple large predators may offset or exceed recruitment, leading to a decline in the prey population (Bjorge and Gunson 1989, Dekker et al. 1995, Kunkel and Pletscher 1999). The potential of predation as a limiting factor on ungulate populations is greater in areas where multiple predators occur sympatrically (Kunkel et al. 1999, Kunkel and Pletscher 1999). Yellowstone's northern range is unique in this regard compared to most ecosystems in the contiguous United States because all of the large predators that occurred historically are present today. This includes humans (*Homo sapiens*), wolves, cougars (*Felis concolor*), coyotes (*Canis latrans*), black bears (*Ursus americanus*), and grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*).

Study Area

Yellowstone National Park is an 8,991-km² preserve of diverse habitats situated mostly in the northwestern corner of Wyoming, USA, but it extends into southwestern Montana and southeastern Idaho, USA. We focused on the northern Yellowstone winter range (1,531 km²) as described by Houston (1982) and Lemke et al. (1998). Sixty-five percent of the northern range was within YNP and 35% was located north of the park boundary on public and private lands. Our study area was the winter range of the northern Yellowstone elk herd. The northern range encompassed areas of lower elevations, 1,500–2,500 m, generally along the Yellowstone, Lamar, and Gardner river drainages. Most of the northern range was steppe or shrub-steppe (55%), dominated by Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), and big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*). Conifer forest covered 41% of the northern range, with small amounts of aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and willow (*Salix* spp.; Coughenour and Singer 1996). The climate was characterized by long, cold winters and short, cool summers, with average monthly temperatures ranging from –12°C–13°C. Annual precipitation within the range of the northern elk herd varied between 50–125 cm (Houston 1982). The climate, vegetation, and geology of the area were described in detail by Houston (1982) and Despain (1991).

Methods

We collected wolf-kill and wolf abundance data during 2 field studies that occurred annually for 30-day periods from March 1995–May 2001 (Smith et al. 2004). These studies focused on wolf predation and other ecological relationships related to wolves on the northern range of YNP. The early study ran from 15 November–14 December annually, and the late study was 1 March–30 March annually. Outside of winter study periods, we recorded kills during weekly telemetry flights over the study area, and we collected them when possible.

We collected elk-harvest data at Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) hunter check stations from the 1995–2001

Table 1. Life table for female northern Yellowstone elk constructed using Gardiner Late Hunt harvest data from 1996–2001 in the $s(x)$ column.

Elk age x	No. in population $S(x)$	Average pregnancy rate $b(x)$	Survivorship $l(x)$	Survival probability			Initial estimate		Corrected estimate $e^{-rx} l(x)b(x)$
				$g(x)$	$l(x)b(x)$	$l(x)b(x)x$	e^{-rx}	$l(x)b(x)$	
0	6528	0.0000	1.0000	0.8712	0.0000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000
1	5687	0.0735	0.8712	0.8943	0.0640	0.0640	0.052	0.050	0.050
2	5086	0.5142	0.7791	0.9194	0.4006	0.8012	0.268	0.244	0.244
3	4676	0.7137	0.7163	0.8687	0.5112	1.5336	0.279	0.243	0.243
4	4062	0.6960	0.6222	0.8476	0.4331	1.7323	0.194	0.160	0.160
5	3443	0.7193	0.5274	0.8281	0.3794	1.8970	0.139	0.110	0.110
6	2851	0.7193	0.4367	0.8137	0.3142	1.8849	0.094	0.071	0.071
7	2320	0.7553	0.3554	0.8151	0.2684	1.8791	0.066	0.047	0.047
8	1891	0.7433	0.2897	0.8186	0.2153	1.7226	0.043	0.030	0.030
9	1548	0.7092	0.2371	0.8243	0.1682	1.5135	0.027	0.018	0.018
10	1276	0.6597	0.1955	0.8213	0.1289	1.2894	0.017	0.011	0.011
11	1048	0.7363	0.1605	0.7872	0.1182	1.3003	0.013	0.008	0.008
12	825	0.6853	0.1264	0.7952	0.0866	1.0393	0.008	0.004	0.004
13	656	0.6377	0.1005	0.7530	0.0641	0.8330	0.005	0.003	0.003
14	494	0.6262	0.0757	0.7065	0.0474	0.6634	0.003	0.001	0.001
15	349	0.5343	0.0535	0.6734	0.0286	0.4285	0.001	0.001	0.001
16	235	0.5240	0.0360	0.5787	0.0189	0.3018	0.001	0.000	0.000
17	136	0.5220	0.0208	0.5074	0.0109	0.1849	0.000	0.000	0.000
18	69	0.4462	0.0106	0.4928	0.0047	0.0849	0.000	0.000	0.000
19	34	0.2388	0.0052	0.4706	0.0012	0.0236	0.000	0.000	0.000
20	16	0.0000	0.0025	0.3125	0.0000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000
21	5	0.0000	0.0008	0.8000	0.0000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000
22	4	0.0000	0.0006	0.2500	0.0000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000
23	1	0.0000	0.0002	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Net reproductive rate				Ro =	3.26	19.18	1.21		0.9998
Generation time				G =	5.876				
				r (est) =	0.201				
				r (Euler) =	0.2484				

Gardiner Late Hunts. The Late Hunt ran from the first week of January until mid-February during these years. All adult elk included in age class analysis (wolf- and hunter-killed) were aged by counting cementum annuli (Mattson's Lab, Milltown, Montana; Hamlin et al. 2000). Elk harvested during the autumn hunt could not be included in age-specific analysis because all information gathered for this hunt was based on a sample of hunter phone surveys (e.g., elk were not aged accurately). We describe data analysis methods below.

Age Comparison of Wolf- and Hunter-Killed Elk

We tested for a significant difference in the mean age of adult (yearlings and older) female elk killed by wolves and hunters using ANOVA. For this test, we compared pooled data on wolf-killed elk from 1995–2001 against pooled data on elk harvested in the Gardiner Late Hunt from 1996–2001.

We compared sex and age classes of female elk killed by wolves from 1995–2001 and in the Gardiner Late Hunt from 1996–2001 using Pearson's chi-square analysis. It was not possible to accurately compare male elk harvest with wolf predation of male elk because over 90% of the permits issued in the Late Hunt were for antlerless elk, and there were recognized biases for harvesting older, large-antlered bulls. Furthermore, females were much more important than males in a polygamous species in terms of species fecundity.

Life Table and Reproductive Values

We created a life table (Caughley 1966, Gotelli 2001) for northern Yellowstone female elk (Table 1) using pooled harvest data from 1996–2001 to represent frequencies of ages $s(x)$ in the living

population (Caughley 1966). The life table allowed age-specific reproductive values, $v(x)$, to be calculated (Table 2). We defined reproductive value as the *relative* number of offspring yet to be born of a female at a given age, and we used reproductive values to determine which ages were most valuable to future population growth (Gotelli 2001). Reproductive value did not represent the total expected offspring to be produced because future production of offspring was discounted by the survival probability while in the current age class. A reproductive value of <1.0 means that the female will not contribute to any population growth while in her current age class.

We gathered pregnancy data from cooperating hunters during the Gardiner Late Hunts. Hunters are asked to check and report the presence or absence of a fetus after harvesting a female elk. We derived age-specific pregnancy rates from a sample of 5,367 reports by hunters ($>50\%$ of hunters) from 1996–2001. We used average pregnancy rates within each age class over the period 1996–2001 for life table and reproductive value calculations. We determined age classes by counting cementum annulations. We plotted age-specific reproductive values against the female age distributions of adult wolf-killed and hunter-killed elk to assess impacts to calf production.

Index of Total Reproductive Impact

We created an index of total reproductive impact to compare removal of potentially reproductive elk by wolves and hunters in 2001. We created this index only for 2001 because wolf abundance was greatest in that year. The index provided a single number that represented the relative impact on females with reproductive

Table 2. Calculation of reproductive values, $v(x)$, for female northern Yellowstone elk using Gardiner Late Hunt harvest data from 1996–2001.

Elk age x	Survivorship $l(x)$	Pregnancy rate $b(x)$	Stable age distribution			Reproductive value distribution		
			$l(x)e^{-rx}$	$c(x)$	$e^{rx}/l(x)$	$e^{-ry}/l(y)b(y)$	Sum $e^{-ry}/l(y)b(y)$	$v(x)$
0	1.000	0.0000	1.000	0.318	1.000	0.000	1.000	1.000
1	0.871	0.0735	0.680	0.216	1.472	0.050	1.000	1.471
2	0.779	0.5142	0.474	0.151	2.109	0.244	0.950	2.004
3	0.716	0.7137	0.340	0.108	2.941	0.243	0.706	2.077
4	0.622	0.6960	0.230	0.073	4.341	0.160	0.463	2.012
5	0.527	0.7193	0.152	0.048	6.565	0.110	0.303	1.990
6	0.437	0.7193	0.098	0.031	10.164	0.071	0.194	1.967
7	0.355	0.7553	0.062	0.020	16.012	0.047	0.123	1.966
8	0.290	0.7433	0.040	0.013	25.184	0.030	0.076	1.904
9	0.237	0.7092	0.025	0.008	39.438	0.018	0.046	1.818
10	0.195	0.6597	0.016	0.005	61.336	0.011	0.028	1.724
11	0.161	0.7363	0.010	0.003	95.738	0.008	0.017	1.661
12	0.126	0.6853	0.006	0.002	155.909	0.004	0.010	1.507
13	0.100	0.6377	0.004	0.001	251.362	0.003	0.005	1.324
14	0.076	0.6262	0.002	0.001	427.913	0.001	0.003	1.168
15	0.053	0.5343	0.001	0.000	776.490	0.001	0.001	0.984
16	0.036	0.5240	0.001	0.000	1478.333	0.000	0.001	0.856
17	0.021	0.5220	0.000	0.000	3274.764	0.000	0.000	0.735
18	0.011	0.4462	0.000	0.000	8274.629	0.000	0.000	0.538
19	0.005	0.2388	0.000	0.000	21527.692	0.000	0.000	0.239
20	0.002	0.0000	0.000	0.000	58645.562	0.000	0.000	0.000
21	0.001	0.0000	0.000	0.000	240582.413	0.000	0.000	0.000
22	0.001	0.0000	0.000	0.000	385525.083	0.000	0.000	0.000
23	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	1976930.400	0.000	0.000	0.000
Sum $l(x)e^{-rx}$			3.144					

values >0.0 . This index may be valuable for comparing long-term trends in the impacts of wolves and humans to herd recruitment. We calculated the index by multiplying the number of elk in age classes with reproductive values >0.0 (calves through age 19) by the reproductive value for that age class. For hunters, we used Gardiner Late Hunt data. For wolves, our data were only a sample of the annual number of elk killed by wolves, so we first estimated annual off-take of elk due to wolves using Keith's (1983) method. We apportioned this off-take among sex and age classes based on the sex and age distribution of the wolf-killed elk sample. This is the least-conservative method of estimating annual wolf predation from winter kill rates, so the true total reproductive impact due to wolves is most likely lower than we reported in our analysis.

Wolf-Killed Elk Extrapolation

We estimated per capita kill rates for northern Yellowstone wolves in winter at 1.83 kills/wolf/month (Smith et al. 2004). Because this kill rate was based only on winter study periods, there was a problem in extrapolating to a year-round rate of 22 kills/wolf/year. There are several approaches reported in wolf-moose literature to estimate summer predation rates from winter predation studies. Keith (1983) used the same rate year-round under the assumption that lower overall predation rates in summer are offset by a pulse of calf-kills by wolves in summer. Messier (1994) applied a correction factor of 0.71 to winter-kill rates to estimate year-round predation levels. In our study, Messier's approach would have resulted in an estimate of $22 \text{ elk/wolf/year} \times 0.71 = 15.3 \text{ elk/wolf/year}$.

We used Keith's approach to estimate annual wolf predation by multiplying the winter-kill rate of 22 elk/wolf/year by the northern Yellowstone wolf abundance estimate for 2001. We recognize that extrapolating kill rates from winter study periods to

annual kill rates is problematic (Smith et al. 2004) because it likely overestimates annual predation rates, but this was a necessary concession to calculate and compare total reproductive impact on female elk by hunters and wolves.

Analysis of Elk Age Structure

To assess whether wolf predation has altered the age structure of northern Yellowstone elk since wolf reintroduction in 1995, we tested for differences in the proportions of female elk in each age class from 1996–2001 (calf, yearling, 2–9, and 10+), one age class at a time, using Pearson's chi-square analysis. Because Late Hunt age distributions for harvested females were representative of the female elk population (Lemke 2001), we used Late Hunt harvest data from 1996–2001. Although hunters may select against harvesting a calf or yearling due to the greater amount of meat provided by an adult female elk, this bias is carried through year to year. Therefore, any bias in hunter selection against calves or yearlings should not affect our analysis of wolf effects on elk age structure from year to year.

Results

Wolf Predation Overview

We examined 1,415 wolf-killed elk during March 1995–May 2001, including 526 females (37%), 294 males (21%), and 595 elk (42%) of unknown gender, which were mostly calves ($n = 414$). We determined gender for only 53 of 467 wolf-killed calves because calf carcasses were usually fully consumed by wolves and scavengers. Therefore, we assigned gender to the 414 calves of unknown sex based on the sex ratio of calves harvested in the Gardiner Late Hunt from 1996–2001 (841 females and 518 males; 62% females). Because hunters cannot visually determine the sex

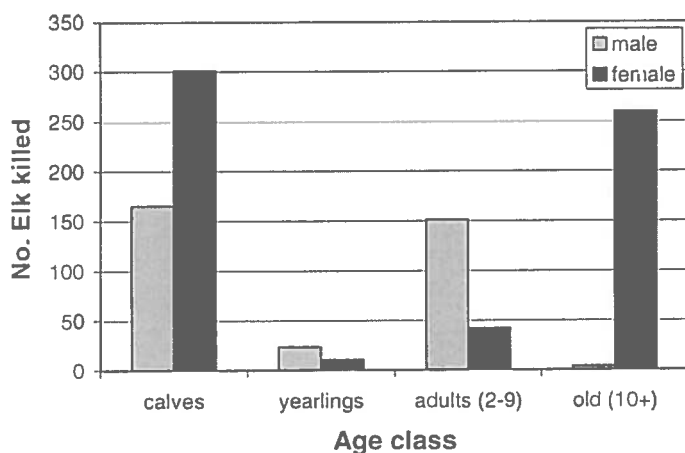


Figure 1. Sex and age class of 959 wolf-killed northern Yellowstone elk from Mar 1995–May 2001. Calf age class included 414 wolf-killed calves of unknown gender, which were assigned gender based on the sex ratio of calves harvested in the Gardiner Late Hunt from 1996–2001 (841 F and 518 M = 62% F).

of a calf before shooting it, we assume there were no other sex-related biases among hunter-killed calves, and that the harvest ratio reasonably reflects the calf sex-ratio in the population. We also assumed no sex-related biases when wolves kill calves, but this has not been studied in Yellowstone. After assigning the wolf-killed calf sex ratio for calves of unknown gender, the composition of wolf-killed elk was 783 females (55%), 451 males (32%), and 181 elk of unknown gender (13%).

We excluded 456 wolf-killed elk from further analysis because of unknown gender ($n = 181$), unknown age class ($n = 145$), or age estimated only by tooth wear ($n = 130$). The remaining 959 elk in the wolf-killed sample were aged accurately, either by tooth eruption for calves and yearlings, or by counting cementum annuli for adult elk (Hamlin et al. 2000). The wolf-killed sample contained 467 calves (49% of all kills), 35 yearlings (4%), 193 adults (2–9 yr old; 20%), and 264 old elk (≥ 10 yr old; 27%; Fig. 1). Females comprised 64% of all known-sex elk killed, with 91% of females from the calf and old (≥ 10 yr old) age classes. Overall, calves of both sexes and old female elk (≥ 10 yr old) were most heavily utilized by wolves.

Age Comparison of Wolf- and Hunter-Killed Elk

The mean age of adult female elk killed by wolves (13.9 yr) was significantly older ($F = 31.65$, $P < 0.0001$) than the mean age of adult female elk killed by hunters (6.5 yr). The age classes of female elk selected by wolves ($n = 615$) and hunters ($n = 6,528$) in the Gardiner Late Hunt differed significantly ($P < 0.0001$, $\chi^2 = 908.8$, 3 df; Fig. 2). Fifty-eight percent of female elk killed by hunters were adult females of prime breeding age (ages 2–9 yr), whereas wolves selected only 6.8% of elk from this age class. Wolves killed proportionally more calves (49.1%) than hunters (12.9%), and more old females (42.3%) than hunters (19.5%). Yearlings comprised a small proportion of both hunter and wolf-kills (9.2% and 1.8%, respectively).

Reproductive Values and Total Reproductive Impact

Reproductive values, $v(x)$, began at 1.0 for calves, peaked at values near or exceeding 2.0 for ages 2–9 years, and then gradually

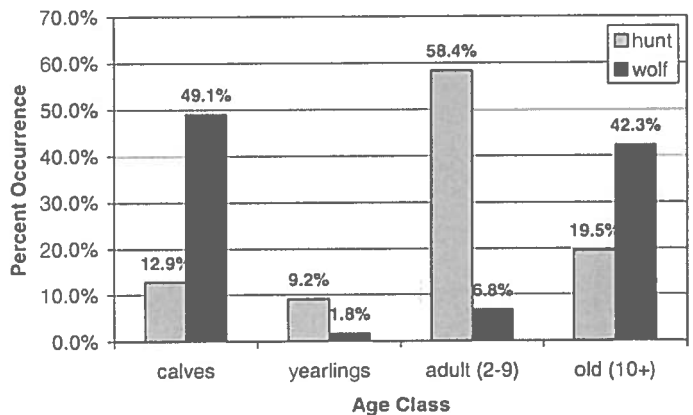


Figure 2. Age distributions of female northern Yellowstone elk killed by hunters in the Gardiner Late Hunt (1996–2001) and by wolves (1995–2001).

declined, reaching values < 1.0 beginning at age 15 (Table 2). The majority of adult hunter-killed females (ages 1–9 yr) had the greatest reproductive values (Fig. 3). In sharp contrast, the majority of wolf-killed females (calves and ages 14–20 yr) had reproductive values near or < 1.0 .

For year 2001, the total reproductive impact of the Gardiner Late Hunt and northern range wolves was 1,394 and 1,055, respectively (Table 3). The wolf impact was probably over-estimated due to using winter kill rates for an annual kill estimate (see Methods).

Analysis of Elk Age Structure

There was significant annual variation ($P < 0.0001$, $\chi^2 = 99.71$, 15 df) in the age composition of female elk ($n = 6,528$) harvested in the Gardiner Late Hunt from 1996–2001 (Table 4). The largest variation in annual proportions occurred in the yearling ($P < 0.0001$, $\chi^2 = 59.80$, 5 df), 2–9 year-old ($P < 0.0001$, $\chi^2 = 55.75$, 5 df), and calf ($P = 0.0010$, $\chi^2 = 20.62$, 5 df) age classes, respectively. There was not a significant difference in the proportion of female elk aged ≥ 10 years ($P = 0.3829$, $\chi^2 = 5.28$, 5 df). Calves comprised 11–13% of the female harvest from 1996–2000, and 18% in 2001 (Table 4). The large calf harvest in 2001 explained most of the variation in the calf proportions over our study period. The yearling age class had the greatest variation from year to year, and it comprised from 5–14% of the female harvest. Adult females comprised from 50–64% of the female harvest from 1996–2001.

Discussion

Selection of Female Elk by Wolves and Hunters

Wolves and hunters selected female elk very differently (Figs. 2, 3). Although prime reproductive-aged females (2–9 yr old) are most abundant in the population, wolves selected and killed the vast majority of female elk from the more vulnerable calf and old (≥ 10 yr) age classes. Wolf predation on the more vulnerable members of a prey species has been documented extensively (Mech 1970, Peterson 1977, Fuller and Keith 1980, Huggard 1993, Mech et al. 2001, Smith et al. 2004). The majority of hunter-killed females were adults from the largest age class present, 2–9-year-old females. When given the opportunity, hunters clearly selected for harvesting adult cow elk over calves

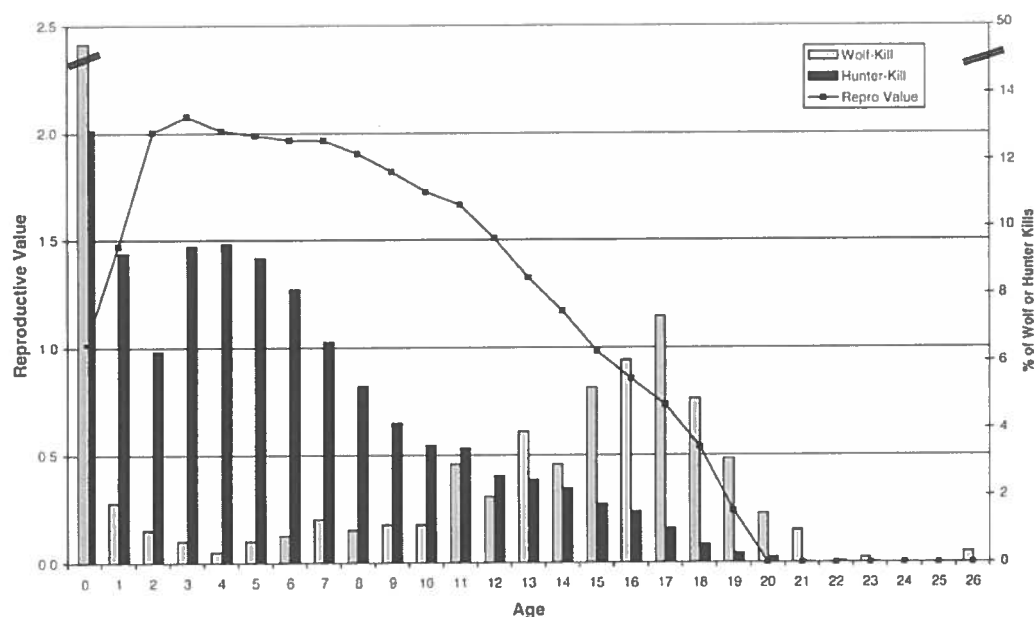


Figure 3. Reproductive values of female northern Yellowstone elk and age distributions of hunter (Gardiner Late Hunt, 1996–2001) and wolf-killed females (1995–2001). Note the scale change for the Y axis on the right side of the chart for wolf-killed calves (49% of total wolf-kills).

due to the larger amount of meat a cow provides. Most hunters can easily distinguish adult cow elk from calves based on size.

The selection pattern of wolves preying more heavily on calves and older elk than hunters is supported by other research in Canada (Carbyn 1983) and the northern Rockies (Boyd et al. 1994, Kunkel et al. 1999). Calves were over-represented in our wolf-kill data (49%) because we excluded adult elk that were not aged by counting cementum annulations. Calves comprised 43% of total kills during a study of Yellowstone wolf kill rates in winter from 1995–2000 (Smith et al. 2004). This number (43%) more accurately reflects the calf proportion of total wolf-killed elk.

Reproductive Value and Total Reproductive Impact

Because we used a life table for female northern Yellowstone elk in the calculation of reproductive values, all the assumptions of life table analysis must apply. We assumed a stationary age distribution, constant $l(x)$ and $b(x)$ schedules and a closed population (Gotelli 2001). The age distributions of female elk in the northern Yellowstone population have remained relatively stable from 1996–2001 (Table 4). In reality, elk may immigrate or emigrate and $l(x)$ and $b(x)$ schedules are likely affected by density-dependent mechanisms. Pregnancy rates derived from blood tests of captured northern Yellowstone elk ($n = 96$) were considerably higher (82% mean pregnancy rate) than the pregnancy rates used in our life table (62% mean pregnancy rate; L. D. Mech, United States Geological Survey, unpublished data). We used the Late Hunt-derived pregnancy rates because the sample sizes were considerably larger and encompassed more age classes than the captured sample. However, this may indicate that average pregnancy rates and, therefore, reproductive values for northern Yellowstone elk are higher than we reported.

The majority of hunter-killed elk (58.4%) were cows from the 2–9-year age class. By removing large numbers of female elk with reproductive values >1.0 , the Gardiner Late Hunt exerts a much

greater total reproductive impact on the elk population than do wolves (Fig. 3; Table 3). Because most prime-age females are pregnant when harvested, the net effect is the immediate removal of 2 elk (the harvested cow and her calf) from the population, as well as the loss of the cow's future reproductive contribution to the population. Additionally, we estimated annual 2001 wolf predation for this index using winter kill rates, which are likely

Table 3. Index of total reproductive impact on female northern Yellowstone elk by the Gardiner Late Hunt and wolves in 2001.

Age	Reproductive value	Late hunt elk harvest	Hunt impact	Wolf-killed elk	Wolf impact
0	1.000	152	152	508	508
1	1.471	100	147	19	27
2	2.004	43	86	10	20
3	2.077	54	112	7	14
4	2.012	36	72	3	7
5	1.990	55	109	7	13
6	1.967	77	151	8	17
7	1.966	65	128	13	26
8	1.904	50	95	10	19
9	1.818	55	100	12	21
10	1.724	51	88	12	20
11	1.661	25	42	30	50
12	1.507	16	24	20	30
13	1.324	25	33	40	53
14	1.168	19	22	30	35
15	0.984	18	18	51	50
16	0.856	13	11	63	54
17	0.735	3	2	77	56
18	0.538	4	2	51	27
19	0.239	1	0	32	8
Total elk:		862		1,003	
Total reproductive impact:			1,394		1,055

^a Reproductive values for elk ≥ 20 yr are 0.0, so they are not included in this calculation.

Table 4. Age distribution of female elk harvested in the Gardiner Late Hunt, 1996–2001.

	Year	Calf	Yearling	Adult (2–9)	Old (10+)
Number harvested	1996	111	134	504	201
% of female harvest		11.68	14.11	53.05	21.16
Number harvested	1997	242	152	1,193	367
% of female harvest		12.38	7.78	61.05	18.78
Number harvested	1998	105	46	586	180
% of female harvest		11.45	5.02	63.90	19.63
Number harvested	1999	158	104	753	224
% of female harvest		12.75	8.39	60.77	18.08
Number harvested	2000	73	65	339	126
% of female harvest		12.11	10.78	56.22	20.90
Number harvested	2001	152	100	435	178
% of female harvest		17.57	11.56	50.29	20.58
Total		841	601	3,810	1,276

greater than year-round kill rates due to elk vulnerability and snow depth in winter (Huggard 1993, Mech et al. 2001, Smith et al. 2004). As a result, the total reproductive impact due to wolves is probably lower than we reported.

The harvest of female elk with the greatest reproductive values in the Gardiner Late Hunt may have negative implications for calf production and recruitment in the future. Survival of adult females is vital to sustaining populations of long-lived vertebrate species, including elk (Eberhardt 2002). Adult female survival is likely to be ≥ 0.95 in populations that are not subject to human impact by hunting or other forms of lethal control (Eberhardt 2002). Houston (1982) estimated adult female elk survival for the northern Yellowstone herd at ~ 0.99 . Garrott et al. (2003) estimated adult female survival of 0.97 for the Madison-Firehole herd in Yellowstone. We estimated survival probability at ~ 0.82 – 0.92 for prime-age adult females in the northern Yellowstone herd (Table 1). This lower survival probability was due to heavy selection of these age classes in the Gardiner Late Hunt.

The proportion of calves harvested by hunters increased from levels of 11–13% of the harvest from 1996–2000 to 18% of the harvest in 2001. Because the Late Hunt harvest reasonably represented the female elk population (or at the very least, the migratory females), there is no apparent calf decline in the population available to hunters. If wolf predation on calves is additive, the combination of hunters removing cows with high reproductive values and wolves preying heavily on calves may negatively affect recruitment.

Although a large proportion of wolf-kills are calves, this is not as important as one may intuitively think, in terms of future calf production. Female calves have a low reproductive value because newborns, by default, are assigned a reproductive value of 1.0. The reproductive value of newborns is discounted by the fact that a newborn may not achieve its maximum lifespan, and therefore will not produce its maximum potential offspring (Gotelli 2001). Therefore, it is likely that removal of females with the highest reproductive values has more of an impact on elk herd sustainability than removal of calves. This is especially true if wolf predation on calves mostly compensates for calf mortality by other factors. It remains unknown if calf mortality is additive or compensatory in the northern Yellowstone elk population.

Analysis of Female Elk Age Structure

The age structure of female elk harvested in the Gardiner Late Hunt was relatively stable over our study (Table 4). Although there were significant differences in the proportion of yearlings and adults harvested from 1996–2001, we did not detect major instabilities in cow elk age distributions or undue impacts to particular year classes. Adult females made up the bulk of the hunter harvest each year. However, the proportion of adult females in the Gardiner Late Hunt harvest has fallen slightly each year since 1998; from 64% in 1998, to 61% in 1999, 56% in 2000, and 50% in 2001 (Table 4). Only long-term observation of elk population dynamics will reveal if this trend reflects fewer adult females in the population.

If wolves were affecting recruitment in a significant manner due to heavy calf predation, it should be observable in largely reduced cohorts in the youngest age classes, especially in the later years of the study period when wolf populations were higher. We did not observe this.

Wolf Impact on Elk Abundance

Northern Yellowstone elk abundance did not decline markedly during our study period of 1995–1996 through 2001–2002 (Fig. 4). Since 1994 (pre-wolf reintroduction), elk population counts have declined at an overall average of approximately 6% per year (P. J. White, National Park Service, personal communication). Unadjusted aerial counts from 1976–2001 ranged from a low of 8,980 elk in winter 1976–1977 to a high of 19,045 in winter 1993–1994 (Lemke et al. 1998). That said, the elk population throughout the 1970s and early 1980s was probably artificially low because the elk herd was still recovering from the culling that occurred prior to implementing natural regulation in 1969.

In the last 2 decades, the greatest declines in elk abundance occurred in the winters of 1988–1989 and 1996–1997 (NRC 2002). These declines are attributed to a combination of harsh weather events and harvest in the Gardiner Late Hunt. There was a severe drought in the summer of 1988 followed by the 1988 fires and a harsh winter. More than 4,000 elk died from winter malnutrition in 1988–1989, with an additional 2,409 harvested in the Gardiner Late Hunt, for a population reduction of around 40% (Singer et al. 1989, Lemke et al. 1998). There was heavy elk mortality due to winter malnutrition again in 1996–1997 (Smith

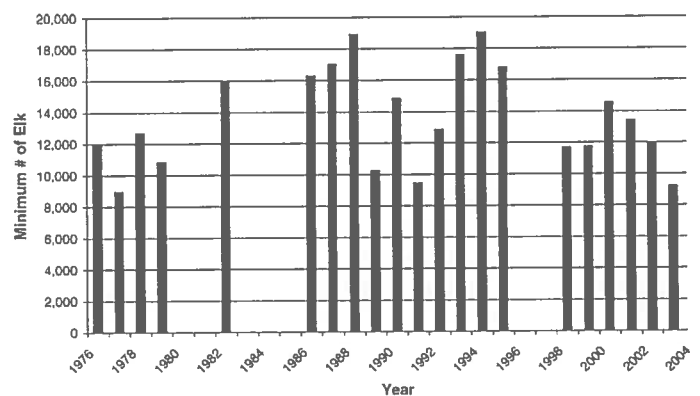


Figure 4. Estimated minimum elk populations from Northern Yellowstone Cooperative Wildlife Working Group aerial surveys. Source data from Lemke et al. (1998) and Late Hunt Annual Harvest Reports (Lemke 1996–2001). No survey occurred in years with no bar. 1976 = winter of 1975–1976.

1998, NRC 2002), as well as a larger than average Late Hunt harvest ($n = 2,465$) in early 1997 (Lemke 1997).

Unfortunately, no aerial counts were conducted in the winters of 1995–1996 or 1996–1997. The lack of elk counts for these years is problematic for 2 reasons. First, it is difficult to measure the extent of winter mortality in 1996–1997 without minimum population estimates immediately prior to this winter-kill event. Second, and arguably more important, there is no minimum count of northern Yellowstone elk for the first 2 years following wolf reintroduction.

The first post-wolf recovery count of northern Yellowstone elk occurred in winter 1997–1998 and estimated 11,692 elk (Fig. 4). The count increased in the presence of wolves to an estimated 14,538 elk in the winter of 1999–2000, and stood at 11,969 in the winter 2001–2002 count. Since that time, elk counts have declined to 9,215 elk in 2002–2003 and 8,335 elk in the 2003–2004 winter count. This is likely due to a combination of a 6-year drought, predation by wolves and other large carnivores, and human harvest (P. J. White, personal communication).

Limitation of the northern Yellowstone elk population by predation and hunting may reduce the potential for large winter die-offs such as those that occurred in 1988–1989 and 1996–1997. However, severe winters increase elk vulnerability to hunting and predation, so a reduction in elk numbers is a continuing possibility during harsh winters. As Boyce (1995) predicted, the most likely long-term biological effect of wolf predation on the elk herd is to hold the population at lower levels (5–25% lower), thereby reducing the impact of weather and other stochastic events on elk abundance. The most likely long-term social effect of lower elk populations is reduced hunter opportunity and a decline in the economic benefits associated with the Gardiner Late Hunt. Economic gains associated with opportunity for tourists to observe wolves in YNP are predicted to exceed those lost in reduced hunting opportunities (Duffield 1992).

Management Implications

We recommend that future monitoring of northern Yellowstone elk should focus on calf recruitment and potential changes in age structure, especially among the females. A study of wolf-kill rates during summer months would help clarify whether the kill rates used in this analysis are accurate.

Because YNP has a large assemblage of predators (including humans), and cougars in Yellowstone kill elk at higher per capita rates than wolves (Murphy 1998, Smith and Guernsey 2002), managers should anticipate a drop in elk numbers and reduce the human harvest of elk outside the park to minimize the decline (Smith et al. 2004). A recent study in Glacier National Park documented a decline in elk due to the presence of multiple predators (Kunkel and Pletscher 1999). Cougars, humans, wolves, and bears were the largest causes of female elk mortality, respectively. The Nelchina caribou herd in Alaska declined from

80,000 to under 10,000 animals over a 13-year period due to constant subsistence hunting and wolf predation pressure (Eberhardt and Pitcher 1992). Eberhardt et al. (2003) suggest that human harvest of elk outside Yellowstone may drive wolf-elk population trends. This reinforces the importance of monitoring Late Hunt harvests along with wolf-elk abundance in the future.

Since the mid-1990s elk permit levels have been set using an Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) approach that uses consistently collected biological and harvest information and established “management triggers” to move from “liberal” to “standard” to “conservative” hunting-season types, which are defined by the number of elk permits issued (T. Lemke, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, unpublished report). Triggers that help direct hunting-season decisions include estimated elk abundance, number of elk that winter north of YNP, and number of elk that winter on or adjacent to the state-owned Dome Mountain Wildlife Management Area. Additional factors that are used to set season types include annual elk recruitment estimates, Late Season elk harvest rates, and environmental factors such as significant winter-kill events or drought.

Since 1997, based on the AHM process, the Gardiner Late Hunt has gone from a liberal to a standard to a conservative hunting season type. Antlerless elk permits were incrementally reduced by 51% from 2,880 permits in 1997 to 1,400 permits in 2004. As a result of these hunting season changes the antlerless elk harvest decreased by 72% from 2,221 elk in 1997 to 620 elk in 2004. Based on an AHM process, the number of antlerless permits will be reduced further as needed to partially offset elk losses to wolves, other predators, and environmental factors. Continued use of the AHM process will be important in maintaining a healthy population of northern Yellowstone elk.

Based on recent trends in total elk abundance, elk migration size, elk distribution, and calf recruitment, the Gardiner Late Hunt will likely remain in a conservative hunting season type for the next several years. Cooperation between NPS, MFWP, and other management agencies is critical to effectively monitor predation and hunting effects on the northern Yellowstone elk population.

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Associate Editor: Strickland.

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Other Things
Sent: Friday, August 17, 2018 2:41 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Comment on proposed elk licensing changes

I am a lifelong New Mexican and own 62 acres in section 12

My comment is that I approve of the changes you are proposing and would like to add a couple of suggestions

1. The land being evaluated should not be given special accommodations if the land owner feeds the elk throughout the year (mostly alfalfa, oat wheat ect) to get the elk to come in. That is not natural for the elk and should be given negative evaluation numbers
2. People in the area that want free elk tags for their property should live on the property at least half the time and it needs to be documented not just an address, but with permanent shelter, voting, and NM drivers license and ect. Most around my area are from other states and only purchased the land to get Free tags and live elsewhere. They only come for 2 or 3 weeks to hunt. They plow up the land to plant rye, wheat or other "crop" to entice the elk. That is not right they should be New Mexicans to get free land owner tags.

It needs to be watched closer as the guides I have seen will do anything. The rules for private land hunts needs to be very plain they cannot hunt anywhere they want and have to hunt only on specified private land not encroaching on land next to specified

Thank you for allowing a comment

Good job keep it up preserve our elk and wildlife for future New Mexican children

Linda

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: A.S. 'Sid' Goodloe
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2018 3:56 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: COER/Unit 37
Attachments: COER_ltrhd aug2018.doc

Categories: Red Category

Please see attached letter regarding Unit 37 COER increase.
Thanks,

Sid Goodloe

Carrizo Valley Ranch910



Healthy Land for Animals and People

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Attn: Rex Martensen
PO Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504

August 14, 2018

DGF-E Plus Rule: Comment on Unit 37 COER increase

Dear Mr. Martensen,

Consideration must be given to the fact that adjustments have been and are being made to private land management that enhance elk habitat. Riparian areas have been fenced to exclude cattle grazing at least through the growing season. During April, May and June, our driest months, elk have unlimited access to the water and green forage found within those protected riparian zones.

Fee hunting is a major source of net income for many private land owners. Limiting this income by including private riparian areas in the COER area will encourage the return of year-long grazing and the demise of protected riparian zones. This loss of attractive habitat will result in lower elk populations and dramatically change the attitude of those private land owners that have protected and enhanced riparian zones.

In addition to riparian rehabilitation, brush control, re-seeding and water development, combined with reducing cattle numbers have also contributed to an increase in the elk population. The economic benefit that this affords insures sustained elk numbers and quality.

Management of the elk herd on Carrizo Valley Ranch has proven extraordinarily successful. We do not want to be included in the COER Area of Unit 37.

Sincerely,

Sid Goodloe
Owner, Carrizo Valley Ranch

Sid & Cheryl Goodloe

Range-Raised Angus Beef

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Brian and Kelly < >
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2018 4:55 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: unit 37 COER expansion

Categories: Red Category

Commissioners

My name is Brian Newell owner of Top Notch Outfitters from Capitan.

It is my opinion that you should not expand the COER into unit 37. Your people in Santa Fe seem to think that there is a huge fluctuation in elk moving back and forth between unit 36 and unit 37. Although there are a few that do cross the boundary, I believe it is a small number. I have spoke to both Ben Byrd and Curtis Coleburn who are local game wardens and their recommendation to you is to leave unit 37 outside the COER. They and I are out in the field for a large part of the year and see the patterns of the animals and it is not what your people in Santa Fe believe.

There is no biological proof of large numbers of elk in unit 36 are moving across the boundary in to unit 37. Your local game wardens recommend leaving unit 37 out of the COER. This COER expansion will not be beneficial to anyone.

Therefore I am asking you to not except the proposal to expand the COER into unit 37

Thank you for your consideration
Brian Newell

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Randell Major
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 9:49 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Comments for E Plus changes
Attachments: Elk PLaN Comments 2.odt

Categories: Rex

To whom it may concern,

Attached are my comments. Thank you for your consideration.

Thanks,
Randell



Randell Major
Major Land and Cattle Company

Email: randell@majorranches.com
Website: www.majorranches.com

Randall Major

Under the current E- Plus system I am a 640 acre private land and public land lease holder in UNIT 13 that provides water, cover, and grass off of the public lands I lease. I have felt that the current E-Plus system has not been fair to the Small contributing land owner. I am having to compete with the smaller land holders that receive tags that do not provide water, cover, and open elk habitat.

Private land owners may have the adjoining public lands leased for grazing, so they provide benefit to elk by water and grazing from their leases and private land. I for one have had my leased public land pastures that I was saving for my cattle completely grazed out by herds of elk. The NM State Game and Fish and the Board should recognize that if a Unit is 50% deeded and 50% public that the tag allocations should lean more heavily towards the private land owner because they provide more of the meaningful benefit to the elk through, most important, water and forage, as well as pay for the grazing on the public land.

In order to control large number of elk, I believe that they should increase the number of cow hunts later in the fall and maybe consider rifle for cows only.

The larger base land owner elk allocations are based on their acreage. The acreage within those larger base units that are not a benefit to elk should not receive allocations for those particular acres. An assessment of actual Elk habitat land should be completed.

I do like the scoring system that they are proposing for the small contributing land owner. It's the best plan I have seen so far. Through the proposed SRC plan it will recognize the landowners who provide meaningful benefit to elk. By making more units core, it will provide better management and quality hunts.

I appreciate the NM Game and Fish and the Board for considering these changes.

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: joesturdevant26
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 2:10 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Proposed changes to EPLUS

Categories: Rex

I would like to comment on the proposed changes to EPLUS.

Landowner elk permits should only be given to landowners whose ranches provide habitat for elk. Permits should not be awarded for ranches which, owing to the landscape, do not provide useful habitat.

A minimum size should be determined for the number of acres a ranch should contain to provide useful habitat. Landowners with ranches smaller than the determined acreage should not receive permits. For example, ranches containing just a few acres, because of homes, barns, outbuildings, fences, corrals etc., provide little or no habitat for elk and should not be awarded permits.

Only landowners whose ranches meet the size requirements and provide useful habitat should be awarded permits, and the number of permits awarded to a specific landowner should be based on the actual amount of habitat the ranch provides.

Thank you for your time.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Tab E, an AT&T 4G LTE tablet

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From:
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 10:51 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Proposed rules changes for E-Plus landowners in GMU12

Categories: Rex

Dear Sirs,

On August 8, 2018 I attended a meeting in Quemado, NM regarding proposed changes in the E-Plus system for GMU12. Game and Fish presented a proposal with only two choices for Unit 12; putting GMU12 within the Coer Management Program, with total oversight of elk and elk habitat by the Game and Fish Department, or total absence of management by the Game and Fish Dept., with unlimited over-the-counter tag sales.

The following are reasons why neither one of these approaches are viable for GMU12:

- Allowing for unlimited OTC tags would create huge problems for private landowners as well as for the elk population. Policing hunters on private land would be virtually impossible. Landowners cannot be everywhere on their land at once therefore will be unable to monitor trespassing by unwanted hunters. Also allowing for unlimited OTC tags could result in over hunting in certain areas thus damaging the herd.
- Many of the landowners in GMU12 have made considerable improvements to their land in order to create meaningful habitat for the elk population; water sources, food plots, and clearing deadfall for increased native forage growth. These improvements are a considerable monetary investment by private landowners. These improvements need to be weighed heavily when considering percentages of tag allotment between public vs private land. As far as I know, public land is not improved on to increase "Meaningful elk habitat."
- Local businesses will suffer with both of these proposals. Many landowners rely on fees from elk hunting on their property for income. With the lower allotment of tags for private landowners under both proposals, the money will not be there for landowner income. Much of this income is used to maintain as well as improve elk habitat.
- The proposed COER policy of splitting the allotted tags according to percentages of public and private lands is not logical. Much of the public land in Unit 12 is landlocked by private land and therefore unusable by public hunters. To allot so many public tags would result in many wasted tags.

- The proposed COER policy of allocating tags to private landowners based on acreage owned is inequitable. There are two (2) huge ranches in Unit 12. Much of the land on those ranches is not viable elk habitat. Therefore it would not be reasonable to allot tags based on those acres.

The E-Plus management system currently in place is working well. You stated in the meeting on August 8, 2018 in Quemado that due to the growth of the elk population in GMU12 the Game Commission believes that the management system should change. If the elk population is thriving under the current system, WHY CHANGE IT? Changing the management system in GMU12 would only create problems for landowners as well as state officials, as stated above.

As a viable alternative, I and other landowners would recommend GMU12 be designated a "SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONE" thus maintaining the existing integrity of Unit 12.

David Davis
Landowner GMU 12

Sent from Surface

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Todd Leahy
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 9:58 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk Rule recommendations
Attachments: Cover Letter for E-PLUS Rule 19.30.5-NMAC and Elk Rule 19.31.14-NMAC.docx; Elk Rule 19.31.14.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Reviewed

Dear Governor, State Game Commissioners and Department of Game and Fish Staff

The attached documents are the New Mexico Wildlife Federation's recommendations for inclusion in the Elk rules that are currently being revised. As you will see, NMWF's over-riding recommendation is that public draw hunters receive share of what are now private-land elk hunting authorizations that would be reassigned to other private properties under the Game and Fish Department's draft proposals. NMWF's proposed changes are relatively modest given the context and depth of the long-standing controversy surrounding these apportionments.

You have before you a rare opportunity to alleviate your resident constituents' and customers' concerns. We hope that you will give these suggestions your fair and positive consideration.

Sincerely

Todd Leahy, Acting Executive Director
New Mexico Wildlife Federation



nmwildlife@nmwildlife.org

August 13, 2018

TO: Paul Kienzle, Chairman, NM State Game Commission
Michael Sloane, Director, NM Department of Game and Fish
Susana Martinez, Governor

CC: State Game Commissioners William "Bill" Montoya, Ralph Ramos, Dick Salopek, Robert Ricklefs, Craig Peterson; Stewart Liley, Chief of Game Management, NMDGF

FROM: New Mexico Wildlife Federation

SUBJECT: Amendments to E-PLUS Rule 19.30.5-NMAC and Elk Rule 19.31.14-NMAC

The attached documents detail the New Mexico Wildlife Federation's recommendations regarding the E-PLUS rule, 19.30.5-NMAC and four-year Elk rule, 19.31.14-NMAC. While this organization is generally supportive of the Game and Fish Department (NMDGF) staff's proposed amendments to the E-PLUS and Elk rules, the proposals fall significantly short in one way: They do nothing to address the long-standing issue of inadequate license distribution to New Mexico residents through the public draw.

NMWF recommends that the Commission and Department seize this opportunity to increase the number of elk hunting licenses issued to New Mexico's wildlife trustees – its residents – and suggests two paths to achieve that in the attached documents.

Here's why NMWF and a substantial number of New Mexico residents believe the residents are getting short-changed and have been for years:

New Mexico is a stark outlier among the public-land Western states. Here, half of the approximately 42,600 elk licenses authorized by the State Game Commission for the 2016-2017 seasons, a typical year, went into the private landowner system. About 9,000 of those 21,000 private-land authorizations were never used, defeating the Department's elk management goals for population size and makeup, increasing the potential for elk damages to private property, and depriving thousands of hunters of the opportunity to hunt a public trust resource.

And, despite the 1996 New Mexico law directing the State Game Commission to "... develop a state-wide system for hunting activities that increases participation by New Mexico residents," New Mexico's system has since skewed ever more sharply toward non-resident hunters, who acquire approximately 85 percent of the private-land licenses for mature bull and either-sex hunts, and more than half the antlerless permits. Meanwhile, more than 32,500 of nearly 53,000 residents – 63 percent – who applied for a public draw license went empty-handed. Ninety percent of the non-residents who applied through the draw were unsuccessful: however, many of them then paid substantial prices to acquire a private-land license, while residents were financially shut out because of a system-enabled means bias.

As the Commission and Department staff well know, New Mexico resident elk hunters have long and deeply resented this current system as seriously biased against them in favor of landowners and wealthy non-residents. While NMWF has often noted that the current Commission inherited this arcane, imbalanced jumble of a system that has devolved over some 45 years, we were repeatedly rebuffed when we petitioned you to correct it. With the E-PLUS and Elk Rules both now open for amendment, you have an opportunity to do so. The attached recommendations are relatively moderate when viewed in the full context of the issue, but they would surely be a start.

The New Mexico Wildlife Federation urges you to make that start.

Sincerely,

John Crenshaw, President, New Mexico Wildlife Federation

Todd Leahy, Acting Executive Director, New Mexico Wildlife Federation



nmwildlife@nmwildlife.org

Elk rule 19.31.14

August 13, 2018

Below are the NM Wildlife Federation's recommended changes to the proposed four-year Elk rule, 19.31.14-NMAC

As with the E-PLUS rule, NMWF commends the Game and Fish Department staff for its thoughtful proposals and efforts to adopt biologically based rules governing elk hunting. We feel these proposed changes in season dates could help bring equity between public- and private-land hunters. Consistent signage on unit-wide ranch entrances would alleviate public hunters' complaints that those ranches are difficult to locate and utilize; dependable GPS mapping would benefit all hunters, landowners and Game and Fish personnel.

NMWF recommends the following:

1) Set concurrent seasons within COER areas for public and private hunts of the same type, and in secondary management GMUs or partial GMUs where coded public-draw hunts and unlimited, over-the-counter Ranch-only licenses would be available under the revised rule. Limit extended, open-ended seasons to Special Management Zones and Secondary Management Zones where no coded public draw hunts are established, or establish them only after the coded public hunts are finished.

2) Set simultaneous elk season opening dates on contiguous COER and Secondary Management Zones where No. 1 above would not apply.

The current proposal would give OTC, private-land hunters an unnecessary and unfair head start, too often allowing one group first chance at un-hunted animals from the same herds and adjacent or intermingled public lands.

3) Require, by rule and/or hunt agreement, that all ranches signing unit-wide elk hunt agreements post signs, at the entrances to their property, that the ranches are open to public-draw licensees.

We recommend that the Department of Game and Fish produce and distribute the signs to the unit-wide ranch contacts, or at minimum adopt standards as to size, design and wording of the signs.

4) Continue to press ahead in developing GPS mapping of game management unit boundaries, land ownership status, unit-wide-elk hunt ranch boundaries and other data that are, for example, critical to hunter-angler access to public lands, and would prevent inadvertent trespass onto private property by public-land hunters or inadvertent straying of ranch-only license holders onto public lands.

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Todd Leahy
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 9:56 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: E-PLUS recommendations
Attachments: Cover Letter for E-PLUS Rule 19.30.5-NMAC and Elk Rule 19.31.14-NMAC.docx; E-PLUS RULE 19.30.5-NMAC.docx

Dear Governor, State Game Commissioners and Department of Game and Fish Staff

The attached documents are the New Mexico Wildlife Federation's recommendations for inclusion in the E-PLUS that are currently being revised. As you will see, NMWF's over-riding recommendation is that public draw hunters receive a share of what are now private-land elk hunting authorizations that would be reassigned to other private properties under the Game and Fish Department's draft proposals. NMWF's proposed changes are relatively modest given the context and depth of the long-standing controversy surrounding these apportionments.

You have before you a rare opportunity to alleviate your resident constituents' and customers' concerns. We hope that you will give these suggestions your fair and positive consideration.

Sincerely

Todd Leahy, Acting Executive Director
New Mexico Wildlife Federation



nmwildlife@nmwildlife.org

August 13, 2018

E-PLUS RULE 19.30.5-NMAC

Here are the New Mexico Wildlife Federation's suggested changes to the currently proposed amendments to E-PLUS Rule 19.30.5-NMAC. We hope the Game and Fish Department staff can see the value in sharing some to-be-reassigned landowner licenses among public draw hunters and include these suggestions in your recommendations to the Commission.

Thank you for a thoroughly researched and thoughtful set of proposals.

SUMMARY:

1. Dedicate a share of unconverted private-land elk hunt authorizations to the public draw, making additional elk hunting opportunity available to New Mexico's wildlife trustees – its residents.
2. Require, as part of E-PLUS contracts with property owners hunting Ranch-Only in COER areas, that one of every four – approximately 25 percent – Either-Sex and/or Mature Bull authorizations converted to licenses be issued to New Mexico resident hunters selected by the property owners.
3. Use a score of seven as the minimum "meaningful benefit" standard for property enrollment in the E-PLUS system; adopt the proposed E-PLUS rule with amendments detailed below

ADDITIONAL DETAIL

1) Reassign "bonus" authorizations to the public draw

Specifically, NMWF recommends that unconverted "bonus" authorizations issued to base properties in mixed public-private land GMUs be redistributed to the draw – 100 percent of them in all GMUs where the public land elk herds and acreage can absorb the influx of hunters without risking over-harvest or too-high hunter densities. Any unconverted base-property authorizations beyond those needed to meet the criteria of being biologically responsible and maintaining reasonable hunter satisfaction in other units could go into the SCR system, in keeping with the current Game and Fish staff proposal.

The number assigned to each enrolled base property could be determined annually, based on the current rolling two-year average of its number of converted

authorizations. This would make allowance, as the current system is designed to do, for anomalies such as an extra-hard winter or a shift in elk migration patterns.

The NMWF recommendation would not modify NMDGF's current proposal to reassign authorizations from Small Contributing Ranch (SCR) properties that do not meet "meaningful benefit" standards under the proposed revisions to properties that do. SCR properties meeting the standards would, in fairness, receive more authorizations more frequently from the SCR pool. The public-draw hunters' share would come from the pool of consistently unconverted authorizations from base properties, at no detriment to those properties' hunting opportunities.

2) Assure that NM residents receive up to 25% of private-land Either-Sex and Mature Bull licenses

A property within a COER area that gets three or fewer ES and/or MB authorizations could issue them all to non-residents if desired. Beginning with receipt of the 4th authorization, it would be required to provide at least one to a New Mexico resident of the property owner's choosing. This would apply to all authorizations allowing for taking of bull elk, both ES and MB, separately or in aggregate, provided to each such property owner.

This requirement would result in a slight, but still significant, increase of total private RO bull hunting licenses going to New Mexico residents compared to present, based on state-wide totals tallied from 2016-17 NMDGF data. NMWF estimates this would increase the resident percentage of total bull licenses on RO properties from about 14% of MB and 18% of ES licenses now to about 22% each.

3) Adopt the core NMDGF amendments to the E-PLUS system, with a score of seven as minimum for receiving private land elk authorizations

The proposal to establish standardized, biologically driven measures to establish a property's "meaningful benefit" to elk is a marked improvement over the current process. NMWF supports the proposal to strengthen the system by establishing it under rule and making it retroactive.

NMWF recommends that the minimum standard be a score of seven under the proposed rating system, based on agency staff's assessment that very few marginal properties would meet the criteria. Establishing this minimum standard would also increase the size of the pool of SCR authorizations available for reassignment to properties that in fact provide "meaningful benefit" to elk populations.



nmwildlife@nmwildlife.org

August 13, 2018

TO: Paul Kienzle, Chairman, NM State Game Commission
Michael Sloane, Director, NM Department of Game and Fish
Susana Martinez, Governor

CC: State Game Commissioners William "Bill" Montoya, Ralph Ramos, Dick Salopek, Robert Ricklefs, Craig Peterson; Stewart Liley, Chief of Game Management, NMDGF

FROM: New Mexico Wildlife Federation

SUBJECT: Amendments to E-PLUS Rule 19.30.5-NMAC and Elk Rule 19.31.14-NMAC

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New Mexico is a stark outlier among the public-land Western states. Here, half of the approximately 42,600 elk licenses authorized by the State Game Commission for the 2016-2017 seasons, a typical year, went into the private landowner system. About 9,000 of those 21,000 private-land authorizations were never used, defeating the Department's elk management goals for population size and makeup, increasing the potential for elk damages to private property, and depriving thousands of hunters of the opportunity to hunt a public trust resource.

And, despite the 1996 New Mexico law directing the State Game Commission to "... develop a state-wide system for hunting activities that increases participation by New Mexico residents," New Mexico's system has since skewed ever more sharply toward non-resident hunters, who acquire approximately 85 percent of the private-land licenses for mature bull and either-sex hunts, and more than half the antlerless permits. Meanwhile, more than 32,500 of nearly 53,000 residents – 63 percent – who applied for a public draw license went empty-handed. Ninety percent of the non-residents who applied through the draw were unsuccessful: however, many of them then paid substantial prices to acquire a private-land license, while residents were financially shut out because of a system-enabled means bias.

As the Commission and Department staff well know, New Mexico resident elk hunters have long and deeply resented this current system as seriously biased against them in favor of landowners and wealthy non-residents. While NMWF has often noted that the current Commission inherited this arcane, imbalanced jumble of a system that has devolved over some 45 years, we were repeatedly rebuffed when we petitioned you to correct it. With the E-PLUS and Elk Rules both now open for amendment, you have an opportunity to do so. The attached recommendations are relatively moderate when viewed in the full context of the issue, but they would surely be a start.

The New Mexico Wildlife Federation urges you to make that start.

Sincerely,

John Crenshaw, President, New Mexico Wildlife Federation

Todd Leahy, Acting Executive Director, New Mexico Wildlife Federation

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Frances Frazier
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 7:23 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules; Gabriel Lopez
Subject: Elk Rule Change/Proposal
Attachments: Elk Rules Changes - 2018 GL.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reviewed

Dear Sirs:

Attached please find my letter to you proposing what I had stated at the meeting in Espanola on Friday, July 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Please see attachment.

Gabriel J. Lopez

--

Frances Frazier

August 13, 2018

Mr. Paul M. Kienzle, III
Chairman
P.O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504

RE: Department of Game and Fish – Proposed Elk Rule Changes

Dear Mr. Kienzle:

I am submitting a Second Proposal for your consideration on the changes proposed by the Game Department. Their change to the E-PLUS SYSTEM seems to take a long way around in fixing a simple problem.

In Unit 6, where my concerns lay, it seems you can address the problem with a simple solution:

1. **The problem being a shortage of authorizations** within the **COER Area of Unit 6C**.
2. They keep shuffling **authorizations** every year because they say more people are trying to **acquire authorizations**. In OTHER WORDS, **“ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL”**. THEY managed to split Unit 6 into 3 areas; the Baca ranch, if my memory serves me, they used to get **144 authorizations**. Are they all being used **TODAY**, or is recreation going to take precedence over the hunting program in the Valles Caldera? What will happen to those authorizations?
3. Our authorization numbers were already decided upon by the department personal going out in the field and by using the weighted acre formulas at that time, that were used dating back to the Director, Dan Suttacliff, and Program Manager, Santiago Gonzales. Our authorization numbers that we are issued date back to when the program began. My father and I were instrumental in working to have a viable system.
4. Now, here we are, wanting to **“reinvent the wheel”** again for the third time, and start again from scratch.

I am proposing a **GRANDFATHER CLAUSE** for the private ranches within the COER Area in Unit 6C that dates back to the start of the program with our original number of authorizations. Why should we have to be evaluated again when we have already been through various vetting processes?

REMEMBER, this program was started to help ranchers in Unit 6 with the depredation that the elk were causing on private agricultural lands. We did not have this problem with the elk in Unit 6 because there were no elk in Unit 6. They were planted in the 60's by the NMDGF. If I recall there were 32 head released that came from Wyoming:

1. I propose that COER lines expand and be redrawn as to encompass BLM, and State lands that are out of the COER Area and adjacent to Unit 6C.
2. We were told at the meeting in Espanola, that authorizations are unlimited outside the COER areas.
3. This would add authorizations to the COER by expanding it and would solve the problem of "Robbing Peter to Pay Paul".
4. While **NOT** adding more private land lots to the system, which is the **REAL PROBLEM TRYING TO GET RESOLVED AT OUR EXPENSE!**
5. USFS Permittees should get two (2) authorizations on their US Forest Grazing Permits to be able to offset the cost of fixing fencing on the allotments that the elk tear down.
6. Replace the cost of 2 pallets of salt blocks that the elk help the cows eat.
7. The cost of repairing and making water developments that the elk use.

I, therefore, submit this second proposal for your consideration and review as an alternate to what the Game and Fish Department is currently proposing. I would like for this second proposal to be reviewed at length before any decision is taken on the Elk Rule Changes. I eagerly await for your response.

Sincerely,

Gabriel J. Lopez

Cc: Mr. William Bill Montoya, Vice Chairman
Mr. Craig Peterson, Commissioner
Mr. Ralph Ramos, Commissioner
Mr. Bob Ricklefs, Commissioner
Mr. Thomas "Dick" Salopek

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Claudia
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 5:12 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: E-Plus Proposal

Categories: Rex

To Whom it May Concern,

We would like to provide input on the proposed changes in the EPlus program. As small land owners, we are aware of how the large land owners get preferential treatment, time, and time again, while the smaller land owners get their rights cut. This proposal is at least a small improvement in the system. We believe the larger land owners should not reap more benefits at the expense of smaller land owners and a more equitable system should be pursued. We fully support it as at least a small improvement in the current system.

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to give input.

Bob Bird and
Dr. Claudia Sturdevant Bird

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Brian Alexander
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 12:33 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Phil Alexander
Attachments: Scan.pdf

Categories: Rex

Gentlemen:

I am a private land owner and farmer in the Rio Grande Corridor Game Unit 13 in the Alamillo/San Acacia area. I am presently losing approximately 1/3 of my Alfalfa crop to Elk coming off the Sevilleta Game Refuge.

I support the outside core over the counter and transferability of Tags on Private Property with written permission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thelma M. Alvarado 3/2/18

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Kenneth Monday
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 1:35 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Comment

Good afternoon,

My name is Kenny Monday and I live in Fence Lake, NM in Unit 12. I would like to give my input into the proposed changes and say that it seems to me that putting us inside the COER is the only viable option being proposed. Leaving Unit 12 outside the COER and selling over the counter tags would be detrimental to us not only as land owners but it would devastate the existing elk herd. Therefore I am in favor of us being put inside the COER rather than the other two options being considered.

Thank you,
Kenny Monday

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Robert T
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 12:05 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Comment: E-Plus Proposal

As a sportsman hunter, I fully support the E-Plus proposals put forward by the NM Wildlife Federation. They go a long way to making the system more encouraging and fair for the "public land" hunter which is the backbone of the sport of hunting. Considering the diminishing number of licensed hunters, the E-Plus proposed change will improve access to hunt-able land and unit tags which will support the future of the sport.

Robert Truncellito

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Kuck, Lyle, DGF on behalf of Hunts, Special, DGF
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 11:53 AM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: FW: Unit 12

From: Lawana Haynes
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 11:45 AM
To: Hunts, Special, DGF
Subject: Unit 12

July 22, 2018

Dear Sirs,

I am a land owner in unit 12. I was unable to attend the meeting held in Quemado, but appreciate the time you spent talking with the attendees, and your patience with the ones that became heated.

I would appreciate you noting my objections to the changes that are being considered, for splitting unit 12 into part inside CORE and outside CORE and to make outside CORE private landowner tags available over the counter.

1. There are liability issues to land owners letting the general public hunt, with over the counter license. While there are laws in place, I am wondering how hunters will be policed when they cross over to private lands without permission. Even with posting "no hunting" signs, this does not seem to deter some individuals, and the threat of injury for reckless individuals could mean that family land could be at risk in any lawsuit.

2. There is no limit of over the counter tags sold. This could impact the Elk population in years to come. While most rancher's would appreciate less elk eating valuable food supplies, for cattle, animal rights activist will not.

3. Unit 12 is for the most part private land, and there is really no reason to change the way it is operated for the private land owners, some of whom have owned the land for generations.

4. Lastly, would it be possible to just deem Unit 12 as a Special Management Zone, and maintain the unit as is?

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate all that you do for the state, and individuals that call it home.

Have a blessed day,

Lawana Haynes-Butler

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Micheal Hand
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 10:52 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Comments on EPLUS rule change

Honorable people who protect our wildlife,

I am extremely disappointed with the proposed changes to EPLUS. The system continues to place wildlife management responsibilities on private landowners which is in direct violation of the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation and there is no plan to add any additional tags to the draw. The fact that the commission still allows the system to exist is an embarrassment to every conservationist in NM.

Here are some things I believe should be addressed:

- * Regardless of G&F's recommended harvest numbers private landowners are given the freedom manage their own herds.
- * Every year approx 7K private land elk tags go unused
- * We have constant complaints from resident hunters going 5-10 years without drawing an elk tag.

Michael Hand
Hunter

Pitman, James, DGF

From: James B.
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 7:25 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk Rules

Categories: Reviewed

To Whom It May Concern,

I want to thank the NM Department of Game and Fish for soliciting public comments regarding the elk tag rule. The current rules are overly lopsided and changes need to be made. Below are some issues I have with the current rules. I would appreciate it if my concerns and the others you receive will be discussed and changed for the greater good of the hunting community.

I do not believe it is right that private ranches outside of the COER are allowed to hunt with a specific weapon before the public draw hunters are allowed. For example, in the Southeast area it is extremely unfair to allow a private land tag to hunt with a rifle starting October 1st when the public draw rifle season doesn't begin until almost 2 weeks later. The rut is likely still going on and being able to call in a bull from public lands like it's a bow hunt, then shooting it with a rifle is ridiculous. The private tag hunter is currently allowed 4 days to hunt during the prime conditions of elk season without any other hunts taking place. This causes another conflict because Ranch Only hunters have a tendency to hunt on public land & I understand this is difficult to stop. However, the private land hunters in 2018 have up to 5 days before any public hunts are taking place and the accountability factor is non-existent. If the private & public start dates coincide, this unfair advantage will be removed and the private tag hunters will be hesitant to wander onto public lands. I am not opposed to extending the number of days that a hunter is able to hunt on private land as long as the private tag hunts are required to hunt with the same weapon as the public draw. For example, this year the private tags should be able to bow hunt during the bow seasons, offer muzzleloader tags starting Oct. 6th and offer any legal sporting arm starting Oct. 13th. Allowing any legal sporting arm to start October 1st must be changed.

My second concern is regarding the large number of unit wide tags being given to landowners. The grading system needs to be scrutinized and graded at a higher level. Landowners should only be rewarded unit wide tags if they are offering a substantial benefit to the public. I am in favor of increasing the grading number from 6 to 7.

Lastly, the rule needs to be changed regarding private landowners receiving unit wide tags for their private property, but not allowing access to drive through the property. Currently the public hunter is only allowed to drive into the landowners property if the landowner lets his or her hunters drive into it. This cannot be tracked and the landowner is not going to let public hunters know they can drive into their property. The gate will be simply locked after access is allowed by the landowner to his or her hunters then the public hunter cannot enter. This should be part of the requirement to get a unit wide tag. Vehicle access should be allowed to the property/properties getting the unit wide tag(s). If the landowner does not want to allow vehicle access, they can choose to receive their ranch only tags and keep the gate locked.

I appreciate your time. Should you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

James Brown

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Pitman, James, DGF
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 1:42 PM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: FW: Input from Cabin Springs Ranch, Fence Lake, NM
Attachments: coer final note 2018.docx

Categories: Red Category

From:
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 9:15 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Cc:
Subject: Input from Cabin Springs Ranch, Fence Lake, NM

Dear Commissioners,

Please consider these comments when you consider the future of unit 12. We believe the land owners, with the governance of the unit 12 biologist has been significant factors in the herd growth and harvest quality in our area. Thanks Charlie Johnson, Cabin Springs Ranch

CABIN SPRINGS RANCH COMMENTS TO GAME AND FISH AUGUST 23, 2018:

- We are currently in a coop with several neighboring ranches managed by Wilson Bruton. In 2017, the coop had 66% success on archery bulls and 80% on rifle bulls. In the coop containing 6769 acres, there are 16 permanent drink sites.
- In 1998 evidence of elk on Cabin Springs Ranch was sparse, and when seen, it was one or two, or just occasional tracks. The area was considered by Game and Fish as a write off area and permits sold for 150 each. For the next 20 years, Cabin Springs, neighboring ranchers, Ed Wagner, and Ed Bawolek have also proceeded to increase watering locations and habitat. Current assessments suggest the elk count in unit 12 is 4000 and the cow calf ratio is 50 out of 100. We believe this is due to our unit 12 biologist matching permits to improvements. Hunts now sell for 10 to \$15k. That information strongly suggests the reputation of the area hunt value has improved exponentially the past 12 years. Credit goes to Game and Fish biology guidance and local people carrying out the suggestions.
- By 2018, on Cabin Springs, four, deep well fed, permanent drinkers are facilitated. One hand dug well is recovered feeding a permanent drinker. One permanent spring drinker is recovered. A storage remote tank is installed. All these are distributed across the ranch. At 3 of the drinkers and at 1 pool, nearby wallows are maintained. Two other ponds are used as wallows at the edges.
- Cabin Springs has dog lake, state section line pond, bogart line pond, and Mudd pond that all of these, most years, hold water. There are 3 other ponds that hold water for a short time due to bottom seepage.
- Cabin Springs takes no government money for these improvements.
- At Cabin Springs, the money made selling hunts is re-invested into habitat improvement in the form of water increases and clearings. The elk permits given to us by the state, has provided the financial "fuel" that led to water and habitat improvements. It is probable, that these improvements, combined across the co-op, has helped add to the documented increase in herd size.
- In July on Cabin Springs, 80 acres of rye, turnips, and radishes are planted in plots around the ranch. It is not uncommon to see 20 or so elk cows and calves grazing in these fields on a daily basis.
- Some clearings have been made to increase grass availability. The 2/3 majority of the ranch is virgin pinion and shaggy bark juniper which provides ample bedding grounds for elk. Hunting is not allowed where the elk choose to bed.
- Game and Fish matching permit allotments, to individual ranch parameters in unit 12, has demonstrated to be a good system. For the past three years we have been harvesting higher scoring bulls.
- Our hunts are 100% guided which enhances the hunt success rate and hunter safety.

- A few cattle are run but are taken off when rye is planted and the elk "own" the place until they migrate to winter browse in December. We keep no cattle through the winter.
- Most of our clients are out of state. We do not advertise or attend shows. Our clients come to us word of mouth. In 2013 the co-op was given permits from the state. In 2018, the co-op was given 17 bull and 8 bow permits from the state.
- The Co-op is active in predator control. We believe that the coyote harvest results in a higher elk calf survival rate. 42 coyotes were taken after the 2017 season. This is compared to insufficient predator management is Mount Taylor, where the cow calf is ratio is 12 per 100.
- Regarding proximity, we border Atarque on the North 200sq miles, Rincon ranch on the west 33 sq. miles, within a few miles of Great Western on the south and East 500sq miles.
- The small acreages in the coop that offer water, forage and cover, are valuable to the coop by reserving them for fall back locations in the last days of a client's hunt. If the need arises, they are likely make a kill. We have not calculated the success rate per acre on the small acreages. Intuitively, we believe it would be an order better than the large ranches with no cover and poor forage due to heavy cattle use. We will get this data.
- The coop is in a micro climate. Some years all get rain, other years it can be lush on portions of the coop and dry on others. Being in a coop helps smooth out the overall harvest for all in the coop.

QUESTIONS:

- Is hunt success rate a consideration since that is the bottom line to the quality of management.
- 43 per cent of the permits now go to state land. How was this number determined? Considering lack of access, lack of permanent water, no agriculture. Why not just make more tags for the state land to facilitate the experiment and leave time honored successes alone until the true value of the increase in state hunts is fully understood?
- Could a person be given a fully functional formula that includes an acreage multiplier to better understand the future and fairness?

GAME AND FISH SCORING METHOD COPIED FROM ONLINE:

Forage: (Including agriculture)

- ? 0 = No meaningful forage is available or forage is in the form of a lawn or lawn shrubs, gardens, flowers or other ornamental plantings. (Extremely rocky terrain; sandy, bare soils; thick timber with no understory)
- ? 1 = Marginal forage is available. (Sparse bunchgrasses, scrub habitat, moderately timbered areas with some forage potential)
- ? 2 = Moderate forage is available. (Open upland grasslands or open savanna-like forest/woodland, dense bunch grass)
- ? 3 = Substantial forage is available. (Grass meadows, bottomlands and riparian areas)

? Forage Score: ____

Water: (Water should be located on a property where it is readily available for use by elk.)

- ? 0 = No water is available for elk use. (Includes a water hydrant near or attached to a building or utilization of an exposed or manual hose system)
- ? 1 = Some water is available throughout at least one season by natural sources or by an established system that can be turned on or off.
- ? 2 = Water is available throughout at least any two seasons on a consistent basis.
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Cover:

- ? 0 = No meaningful cover is provided on the property. (Or cover is compromised by houses, buildings, driveways and/or other disturbances)
- ? 1 = Poor cover components are provided on the property. (Thin cover or small areas of cover)
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? Cover Score: ____

Surrounding Area:

- ? 0 = Surrounding area is encumbered with human activity, highly developed with houses/buildings and vehicular byways seriously altering or inhibiting elk use and/or travel.
- ? 1 = Surrounding area has low human activity with low numbers of buildings or vehicular byways and having some impact on elk use and travel.
- ? 2 = Surrounding area is remote and unencumbered by human activity having no impact on elk use and travel.

? Surrounding Area Score: ____

Agriculture: (Bonus)

? 0 = No agriculture - Native grasses; unimproved pasture grasses; routinely unharvested or un-grazed with minimal harvest opportunity.

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Added Bonus: (For considerations not captured elsewhere.)

? 0 = No special considerations.

? 1 = Special consideration exists.

? Added Bonus Score: ____

(The “Added Bonus” category may also be awarded for a property’s proximity to habitat features nearby [generally within ½ mile] but not actually on the property being evaluated. A combination of considerations may be utilized including increasing an area’s ability to be accessed and hunted.)

scoring:

? Habitat Score of 6 ? All properties have some habitat components ? Properties provide some meaningful benefit ? Some marginal properties qualify

Habitat Score of 7 ? All properties consistently have most habitat components ? Properties provide significant meaningful benefit ? Very few marginal properties identified

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meaningful benefit ? Very few marginal properties identified

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Ray Cumbie
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 1:37 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: re-evaluate base on habitat

Re- evaluate amount of tags according to habitat ,food & water, Acres should not play a part for final amount of tags.

U are over hunting cows in unit 15 . could end up like Mt Taylor ,which U ruined .

Unit 12 has excel because you have had limited control ,that should register with you.

Co ops are taking to many trophy concentrated bulls, Need to address this in future, or gene pool will be altered .

Like the idea of tags over the counter , land owner controls their own destiny ,

your late bow hunt in unit 12 produces, lots of trespassing ,

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Pitman, James, DGF
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 1:35 PM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: FW: Comments on elk rule included
Attachments: E-PLUS W-PLUS.docx; WOLF ELK CONSUMED.docx; WRIGHT_et_al-2006-Elk and hunter harvest Yellowstone.pdf

From: Wesley Owen [mailto:[mailto:](#)]
Sent: Saturday, August 18, 2018 5:01 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Comments on elk rule included

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

E – PLUS PROPOSED CHANGES MUST INCLUDE

W – PLUS (WOLF MANAGEMENT ON PRIVATE LAND)

THE DESIGNATION OF CORE IS NO LONGER VALID

INSIDE THE WOLF RECOVERY AREA AND OUTSIDE THE WOLF RECOVERY AREA ARE VALID

THE LANDSCAPE HAS CHANGED, IT IS FENCED AND CROSS FENCED

THE DEPREDATION ON PREY IS ENHANCED BY FENCING, ESPECIALLY WOVEN FIELD FENCING

IS IT THE BURDEN OF PRIVATE LAND TO REAR PREY FOR THE WOLF?

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE WOLF RUNNING ELK INTO FENCING?

EVERY GMU WILL NEED SPECIAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

TRIGGERS AND THRESHOLDS NEED TO BE IN PLACE NOW

WOLF RECOVERY PLAN

USING PUBLISHED DATA FROM PUBLIC PERSS RELEASES

THE PRESENT WOLF POPULATION AT A RECRUITMENT RATE OF % 0.15

THE WOLF POPULATION WILL EXCEED 100 IN 5 YEARS IN NEW MEXICO

WOLF PREDATION ON ELK AT 2.4 PER MONTH

THE WOLF WILL CONSUME 2894 ELK PER YEAR

IN PERSPECTIVE THE DATIL HERD ESTIMATE IS 2939 – 3313 ELK

THE SUSTAINABLE HARVEST FOR (GMU 15, 16A-E) IS 3559 ELK

THE DELISTING CRITERIA OF 160 NEW MEXICO WOLVES (1/2 OF THE 320 PROPOSED US POPULATION)

160 WOLVES CONSUMING 4,608 ELK PER YEAR

WITH THE 4 YEAR CYCLE OF OPENING E-PLUS FOR REVIEW

THIS IS A CRITICAL JUNCTURE IN ELK MANAGEMENT

DELISTING OF THE WOLF WILL TRANSFER THE FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT BURDEN TO THE STATE

NEW MEXICO HAD A TIMBER INDUSTRY

NEW MEXICO HAD A MINING INDUSTRY

NEW MEXICO HAD A RANCHING INDUSTRY

NEW MEXICO HAD A HUNTING INDUSTRY

MANAGEMENT

Game Department / Landowner Meeting July -- 11-2018

My take away is the Options were:

Unlimited over the counter license for unit 12

Placing all or part of unit 12 under the CORE management system

Scoring all private properties inside the CORE for meaningful Elk habitat contribution

Outside CORE Elk tags are unlimited and negotiated for with the regional biologist

The negotiations with the regional biologist have become exhaustive for the Department and are driving these proposed changes

Unit 12 is unique in that there is no National Forest land and limited BLM land. Access is limited due to few interior county roads and very few secondary roads. Camping restrictions on State Land leave few camping options for an unlimited public hunt. The public land in 12 cannot support an unlimited Elk hunt. Trespass is of major concern.

The wolf recovery area includes unit 12. Elk population management is a large concern of the wolf recovery project. An unlimited over the counter elk hunt will decimate this elk population.

Selection of Northern Yellowstone Elk by Gray Wolves and Hunters

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Abstract

We compared selection of northern Yellowstone elk (*Cervus elaphus*) by hunters in the Gardiner Late Hunt and northern Yellowstone wolves (*Canis lupus*) with regard to sex, age, and impacts to recruitment. We compared harvest data from 1996–2001 with wolf-killed elk data from 1995–2001. We assessed the effects of hunting and wolf predation on reproductive female elk by constructing a life table and calculating reproductive values for females in the northern Yellowstone herd. We devised an index of total reproductive impact to measure impacts to calf production due to hunting and wolf predation. The age classes of female elk selected by wolves and hunters were significantly different. Hunters selected a large proportion of female elk with the greatest reproductive values, whereas wolves selected a large proportion of elk calves and older females with low reproductive values. The mean age of adult females killed by hunters throughout the study period was 6.5 years, whereas the mean age of adult females killed by wolves was 13.9 years. Hunting exerted a greater total reproductive impact on the herd than wolf predation. The combined effects of hunters killing prime-aged females (2–9 yr old), wolves killing calves, and predation by other predators has the potential to limit the elk population in the future. Yellowstone is unique in this regard because multiple predators that occur sympatrically, including hunters, wolves, grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*), black bears (*Ursus americanus*), cougars (*Felis concolor*), and coyotes (*Canis latrans*), all prey on elk. Using an Adaptive Harvest Management process the known female elk harvest during the Gardiner Late Hunt has been reduced by 72% from 2,221 elk in 1997 to 620 elk in 2004. In the future, hunting harvest levels may be reduced further to partially offset elk losses to wolves, other predators, and environmental factors. (JOURNAL OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT 70(4):1070–1078; 2006)

Key words

age structure, *Canis lupus*, *Cervus elaphus*, elk, Gardiner Late Hunt, gray wolf, predation, recruitment, reproductive value.

The growth rate of Yellowstone National Park's (YNP) northern elk (*Cervus elaphus*) herd has been shaped by many factors, which fall into 2 broad categories—wildlife management and natural ecological processes. Wildlife management activities include the extensive culling and removal of YNP elk that occurred from the 1930s until 1968, as well as the annual harvests of northern Yellowstone elk that occur outside the park during Montana's general (autumn) elk hunt and the Gardiner Late Hunt (Coughenour and Singer 1996, Lemke et al. 1998, Singer et al. 1998). Natural ecological processes that influence herd population dynamics include predation (Singer et al. 1997, Mech et al. 2001, Smith and Guernsey 2002), density-dependent mechanisms (Houston 1982, Singer et al. 1997, Taper and Gogan 2002), and weather effects. Historically, precipitation levels and winter severity have had the greatest impact on northern herd abundance through large reductions from winter-kill (Lemke et al. 1998, National Research Council [NRC] 2002).

Although a policy of natural regulation was instituted in YNP in 1969, harvest of northern Yellowstone elk during the 2 annual hunts continues to influence sex–age structure as well as elk abundance (Lemke et al. 1998). An average 1,590 elk, mostly females, were removed annually in the Gardiner Late Hunt from 1995–2001. During this same period, an average 333 elk, mostly males, were harvested annually in the autumn hunt (Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, unpublished data).

We examined and compared characteristics of female northern Yellowstone elk killed by gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) and harvested in the Gardiner Late Hunt. Key questions we examined included: 1) How does predation differ between humans and wolves with regard to elk sex and age?, 2) Is the reproductive segment of the female elk population differentially affected by wolf predation and human harvest?, and 3) Has the age structure of the female segment of the elk population changed from 1995–2001 since the reintroduction of wolves in 1995–1996?

Background

Thirty-one gray wolves from Canada were reintroduced into YNP in 1995 and 1996. By the end of 2001, the YNP population was estimated at 132 wolves, including 77 wolves in the northern range of the park (Smith and Guernsey 2002). As the wolf population increases on YNP's northern range, it becomes increasingly important to understand differences in elk predation patterns between humans and wolves (Boyd et al. 1994). Local sport hunters and citizen's groups have expressed concern about wolf predation levels on ungulates, as well as impacts on elk–calf recruitment (Herring 2000, Zumbo 2000a,b).

Human attitudes toward wolves are one of the key factors influencing the success or failure of wolf restoration efforts (Paquet et al. 2001). This creates a critical demand for analysis of the effects of wolves and humans on the northern Yellowstone elk herd. This information is important for management decisions, policy making, public education, and other wolf restoration efforts. The United States Congress recently charged the NRC with the task of forming a committee on ungulate management to

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review information on the population ecology and natural regulation of YNP's northern range ungulates. The NRC committee recommended an adaptive-management approach to northern range issues and continued monitoring of wolf-prey interactions based on the dynamic nature of ungulate population fluctuations and insufficient scientific knowledge to predict outcomes of different management approaches (NRC 2002). The committee acknowledged a need for additional research related to northern Yellowstone elk dynamics.

The effects of gray wolf predation on ungulate prey have been studied extensively. Biologists recognize the ability of wolves to influence sex and age composition, recruitment and death rates, and rates of population change in ungulate prey species (Pimlott et al. 1969, Mech 1970, Peterson 1977, Seip 1995, Mech and Peterson 2003). The selectivity of wolf predation and its role in predator-prey systems have illustrated that wolves generally cull the most vulnerable (e.g., young, old, weak, or diseased) individuals from a prey base (Peterson 1977, Fuller and Keith 1980, Carbyn 1983, Mech et al. 1995, Smith 1998, Mech et al. 2001). Selection of prey by wolves is likely governed by Temple's (1987) assertion that predator selectivity increases as the difficulty of capturing prey increases. In some instances, wolves are capable of regulating or limiting the population growth of a prey species (Fuller and Keith 1980, Gasaway et al. 1992, Bergerud and Elliot 1998).

Harvest of ungulates by humans can also strongly affect the population characteristics of hunted populations (McCullough 1979, Ginsberg and Milner-Gulland 1994, Bender et al. 1999, Bender 2002). In areas of North America where elk hunting occurs, it is the major source of elk mortality, and a stronger limiting factor than predation, habitat quality, disease, winter severity, or accidents (Ballard et al. 2000).

Montana's Gardiner Late Hunt has a rich and colorful history dating back to the early 1900s when most hunters arrived by train to harvest migrant Yellowstone elk (Lemke 1995a). Over time the Gardiner Late Hunt has evolved from a largely unrestricted elk hunting season to one of the most popular, closely regulated, and successful elk hunts in North America. The Late Hunt now begins the first week of January and runs until mid-February each year. In recent years 6,500 to 8,500 hunters have applied for Gardiner Late Hunt elk permits. The average annual hunter success rate since 1976 is 63%, compared to a 15–20% success rate during general autumn elk hunting seasons elsewhere in Montana.

Following an 8-year moratorium from 1968–1975, the Gardiner Hunt became a limited entry, permit-only hunting season with several management regulations. These changes included closing hunting on an important elk staging area immediately adjacent to YNP, designating specific numbers of antlerless or either-sex elk permits, assigning specific 2- or 4-day hunting periods for each hunter, dividing the hunting area into 5 units with the ability to open or close units depending on elk distribution, and requiring mandatory check-in and check-out for all hunters (Lemke 1995a,b).

The Gardiner Late Hunt has 2 primary objectives: 1) to ensure winter-range forage for migrant Yellowstone elk on a sustainable basis by using hunters to help manage the number of elk wintering

north of YNP, and 2) to harvest elk in ways that will minimize the effect of hunting on migratory behavior, allowing winter elk use to be distributed over the winter range in proportion to forage availability (Lemke 1995b). Because the Gardiner Late Hunt is a population management tool, the harvest is directed primarily toward females, with 90+% of all permits issued for antlerless elk.

The combination of human hunting and wolf predation, or predation from multiple large predators may offset or exceed recruitment, leading to a decline in the prey population (Bjorge and Gunson 1989, Dekker et al. 1995, Kunkel and Pletscher 1999). The potential of predation as a limiting factor on ungulate populations is greater in areas where multiple predators occur sympatrically (Kunkel et al. 1999, Kunkel and Pletscher 1999). Yellowstone's northern range is unique in this regard compared to most ecosystems in the contiguous United States because all of the large predators that occurred historically are present today. This includes humans (*Homo sapiens*), wolves, cougars (*Felis concolor*), coyotes (*Canis latrans*), black bears (*Ursus americanus*), and grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*).

Study Area

Yellowstone National Park is an 8,991-km² preserve of diverse habitats situated mostly in the northwestern corner of Wyoming, USA, but it extends into southwestern Montana and southeastern Idaho, USA. We focused on the northern Yellowstone winter range (1,531 km²) as described by Houston (1982) and Lemke et al. (1998). Sixty-five percent of the northern range was within YNP and 35% was located north of the park boundary on public and private lands. Our study area was the winter range of the northern Yellowstone elk herd. The northern range encompassed areas of lower elevations, 1,500–2,500 m, generally along the Yellowstone, Lamar, and Gardner river drainages. Most of the northern range was steppe or shrub-steppe (55%), dominated by Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), and big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*). Conifer forest covered 41% of the northern range, with small amounts of aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and willow (*Salix* spp.; Coughenour and Singer 1996). The climate was characterized by long, cold winters and short, cool summers, with average monthly temperatures ranging from –12°C–13°C. Annual precipitation within the range of the northern elk herd varied between 50–125 cm (Houston 1982). The climate, vegetation, and geology of the area were described in detail by Houston (1982) and Despain (1991).

Methods

We collected wolf-kill and wolf abundance data during 2 field studies that occurred annually for 30-day periods from March 1995–May 2001 (Smith et al. 2004). These studies focused on wolf predation and other ecological relationships related to wolves on the northern range of YNP. The early study ran from 15 November–14 December annually, and the late study was 1 March–30 March annually. Outside of winter study periods, we recorded kills during weekly telemetry flights over the study area, and we collected them when possible.

We collected elk-harvest data at Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) hunter check stations from the 1995–2001

Table 1. Life table for female northern Yellowstone elk constructed using Gardiner Late Hunt harvest data from 1996–2001 in the $s(x)$ column.

Elk age x	No. in population $S(x)$	Average pregnancy rate $b(x)$	Survivorship $l(x)$	Survival probability			Initial estimate e^{-rx}	Corrected estimate $e^{-rx} l(x)b(x)$
				$g(x)$	$l(x)b(x)$	$l(x)b(x)x$		
0	6528	0.0000	1.0000	0.8712	0.0000	0.0000	0.000	0.000
1	5687	0.0735	0.8712	0.8943	0.0640	0.0640	0.052	0.050
2	5086	0.5142	0.7791	0.9194	0.4006	0.8012	0.268	0.244
3	4676	0.7137	0.7163	0.8687	0.5112	1.5336	0.279	0.243
4	4062	0.6960	0.6222	0.8476	0.4331	1.7323	0.194	0.160
5	3443	0.7193	0.5274	0.8281	0.3794	1.8970	0.139	0.110
6	2851	0.7193	0.4367	0.8137	0.3142	1.8849	0.094	0.071
7	2320	0.7553	0.3554	0.8151	0.2684	1.8791	0.066	0.047
8	1891	0.7433	0.2897	0.8186	0.2153	1.7226	0.043	0.030
9	1548	0.7092	0.2371	0.8243	0.1682	1.5135	0.027	0.018
10	1276	0.6597	0.1955	0.8213	0.1289	1.2894	0.017	0.011
11	1048	0.7363	0.1605	0.7872	0.1182	1.3003	0.013	0.008
12	825	0.6853	0.1264	0.7952	0.0866	1.0393	0.008	0.004
13	656	0.6377	0.1005	0.7530	0.0641	0.8330	0.005	0.003
14	494	0.6262	0.0757	0.7065	0.0474	0.6634	0.003	0.001
15	349	0.5343	0.0535	0.6734	0.0286	0.4285	0.001	0.001
16	235	0.5240	0.0360	0.5787	0.0189	0.3018	0.001	0.000
17	136	0.5220	0.0208	0.5074	0.0109	0.1849	0.000	0.000
18	69	0.4462	0.0106	0.4928	0.0047	0.0849	0.000	0.000
19	34	0.2388	0.0052	0.4706	0.0012	0.0236	0.000	0.000
20	16	0.0000	0.0025	0.3125	0.0000	0.0000	0.000	0.000
21	5	0.0000	0.0008	0.8000	0.0000	0.0000	0.000	0.000
22	4	0.0000	0.0006	0.2500	0.0000	0.0000	0.000	0.000
23	1	0.0000	0.0002	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.000	0.000
Net reproductive rate $R_0 =$				3.26	19.18		1.21	0.9998
Generation time $G =$				5.876				
r (est) =				0.201				
r (Euler) =				0.2484				

Gardiner Late Hunts. The Late Hunt ran from the first week of January until mid-February during these years. All adult elk included in age class analysis (wolf- and hunter-killed) were aged by counting cementum annuli (Mattson's Lab, Milltown, Montana; Hamlin et al. 2000). Elk harvested during the autumn hunt could not be included in age-specific analysis because all information gathered for this hunt was based on a sample of hunter phone surveys (e.g., elk were not aged accurately). We describe data analysis methods below.

Age Comparison of Wolf- and Hunter-Killed Elk

We tested for a significant difference in the mean age of adult (yearlings and older) female elk killed by wolves and hunters using ANOVA. For this test, we compared pooled data on wolf-killed elk from 1995–2001 against pooled data on elk harvested in the Gardiner Late Hunt from 1996–2001.

We compared sex and age classes of female elk killed by wolves from 1995–2001 and in the Gardiner Late Hunt from 1996–2001 using Pearson's chi-square analysis. It was not possible to accurately compare male elk harvest with wolf predation of male elk because over 90% of the permits issued in the Late Hunt were for antlerless elk, and there were recognized biases for harvesting older, large-antlered bulls. Furthermore, females were much more important than males in a polygamous species in terms of species fecundity.

Life Table and Reproductive Values

We created a life table (Caughley 1966, Gotelli 2001) for northern Yellowstone female elk (Table 1) using pooled harvest data from 1996–2001 to represent frequencies of ages $[s(x)]$ in the living

population (Caughley 1966). The life table allowed age-specific reproductive values, $v(x)$, to be calculated (Table 2). We defined reproductive value as the *relative* number of offspring yet to be born of a female at a given age, and we used reproductive values to determine which ages were most valuable to future population growth (Gotelli 2001). Reproductive value did not represent the total expected offspring to be produced because future production of offspring was discounted by the survival probability while in the current age class. A reproductive value of <1.0 means that the female will not contribute to any population growth while in her current age class.

We gathered pregnancy data from cooperating hunters during the Gardiner Late Hunts. Hunters are asked to check and report the presence or absence of a fetus after harvesting a female elk. We derived age-specific pregnancy rates from a sample of 5,367 reports by hunters ($>50\%$ of hunters) from 1996–2001. We used average pregnancy rates within each age class over the period 1996–2001 for life table and reproductive value calculations. We determined age classes by counting cementum annulations. We plotted age-specific reproductive values against the female age distributions of adult wolf-killed and hunter-killed elk to assess impacts to calf production.

Index of Total Reproductive Impact

We created an index of total reproductive impact to compare removal of potentially reproductive elk by wolves and hunters in 2001. We created this index only for 2001 because wolf abundance was greatest in that year. The index provided a single number that represented the relative impact on females with reproductive

Table 2. Calculation of reproductive values, $v(x)$, for female northern Yellowstone elk using Gardiner Late Hunt harvest data from 1996–2001.

Elk age x	Survivorship $l(x)$	Pregnancy rate $b(x)$	Stable age distribution			Reproductive value distribution		
			$l(x)e^{-rx}$	$c(x)$	$e^{rx}/l(x)$	$e^{-ry}/l(y)b(y)$	Sum $e^{-ry}/l(y)b(y)$	$v(x)$
0	1.000	0.0000	1.000	0.318	1.000	0.000	1.000	1.000
1	0.871	0.0735	0.680	0.216	1.472	0.050	1.000	1.471
2	0.779	0.5142	0.474	0.151	2.109	0.244	0.950	2.004
3	0.716	0.7137	0.340	0.108	2.941	0.243	0.706	2.077
4	0.622	0.6960	0.230	0.073	4.341	0.160	0.463	2.012
5	0.527	0.7193	0.152	0.048	6.565	0.110	0.303	1.990
6	0.437	0.7193	0.098	0.031	10.164	0.071	0.194	1.967
7	0.355	0.7553	0.062	0.020	16.012	0.047	0.123	1.966
8	0.290	0.7433	0.040	0.013	25.184	0.030	0.076	1.904
9	0.237	0.7092	0.025	0.008	39.438	0.018	0.046	1.818
10	0.195	0.6597	0.016	0.005	61.336	0.011	0.028	1.724
11	0.161	0.7363	0.010	0.003	95.738	0.008	0.017	1.661
12	0.126	0.6853	0.006	0.002	155.909	0.004	0.010	1.507
13	0.100	0.6377	0.004	0.001	251.362	0.003	0.005	1.324
14	0.076	0.6262	0.002	0.001	427.913	0.001	0.003	1.168
15	0.053	0.5343	0.001	0.000	776.490	0.001	0.001	0.984
16	0.036	0.5240	0.001	0.000	1478.333	0.000	0.001	0.856
17	0.021	0.5220	0.000	0.000	3274.764	0.000	0.000	0.735
18	0.011	0.4462	0.000	0.000	8274.629	0.000	0.000	0.538
19	0.005	0.2388	0.000	0.000	21527.692	0.000	0.000	0.239
20	0.002	0.0000	0.000	0.000	58645.562	0.000	0.000	0.000
21	0.001	0.0000	0.000	0.000	240582.413	0.000	0.000	0.000
22	0.001	0.0000	0.000	0.000	385525.083	0.000	0.000	0.000
23	0.000	0.0000	0.000	0.000	1976930.400	0.000	0.000	0.000
Sum $l(x)e^{-rx}$			3.144					

values >0.0 . This index may be valuable for comparing long-term trends in the impacts of wolves and humans to herd recruitment. We calculated the index by multiplying the number of elk in age classes with reproductive values >0.0 (calves through age 19) by the reproductive value for that age class. For hunters, we used Gardiner Late Hunt data. For wolves, our data were only a sample of the annual number of elk killed by wolves, so we first estimated annual off-take of elk due to wolves using Keith's (1983) method. We apportioned this off-take among sex and age classes based on the sex and age distribution of the wolf-killed elk sample. This is the least-conservative method of estimating annual wolf predation from winter kill rates, so the true total reproductive impact due to wolves is most likely lower than we reported in our analysis.

Wolf-Killed Elk Extrapolation

We estimated per capita kill rates for northern Yellowstone wolves in winter at 1.83 kills/wolf/month (Smith et al. 2004). Because this kill rate was based only on winter study periods, there was a problem in extrapolating to a year-round rate of 22 kills/wolf/year. There are several approaches reported in wolf-moose literature to estimate summer predation rates from winter predation studies. Keith (1983) used the same rate year-round under the assumption that lower overall predation rates in summer are offset by a pulse of calf-kills by wolves in summer. Messier (1994) applied a correction factor of 0.71 to winter-kill rates to estimate year-round predation levels. In our study, Messier's approach would have resulted in an estimate of 22 elk/wolf/year \times 0.71 = 15.3 elk/wolf/year.

We used Keith's approach to estimate annual wolf predation by multiplying the winter-kill rate of 22 elk/wolf/year by the northern Yellowstone wolf abundance estimate for 2001. We recognize that extrapolating kill rates from winter study periods to

annual kill rates is problematic (Smith et al. 2004) because it likely overestimates annual predation rates, but this was a necessary concession to calculate and compare total reproductive impact on female elk by hunters and wolves.

Analysis of Elk Age Structure

To assess whether wolf predation has altered the age structure of northern Yellowstone elk since wolf reintroduction in 1995, we tested for differences in the proportions of female elk in each age class from 1996–2001 (calf, yearling, 2–9, and 10+), one age class at a time, using Pearson's chi-square analysis. Because Late Hunt age distributions for harvested females were representative of the female elk population (Lemke 2001), we used Late Hunt harvest data from 1996–2001. Although hunters may select against harvesting a calf or yearling due to the greater amount of meat provided by an adult female elk, this bias is carried through year to year. Therefore, any bias in hunter selection against calves or yearlings should not affect our analysis of wolf effects on elk age structure from year to year.

Results

Wolf Predation Overview

We examined 1,415 wolf-killed elk during March 1995–May 2001, including 526 females (37%), 294 males (21%), and 595 elk (42%) of unknown gender, which were mostly calves ($n = 414$). We determined gender for only 53 of 467 wolf-killed calves because calf carcasses were usually fully consumed by wolves and scavengers. Therefore, we assigned gender to the 414 calves of unknown sex based on the sex ratio of calves harvested in the Gardiner Late Hunt from 1996–2001 (841 females and 518 males; 62% females). Because hunters cannot visually determine the sex

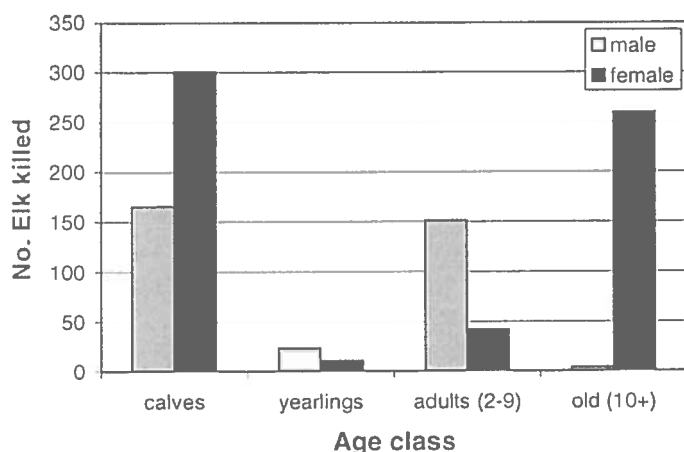


Figure 1. Sex and age class of 959 wolf-killed northern Yellowstone elk from Mar 1995–May 2001. Calf age class included 414 wolf-killed calves of unknown gender, which were assigned gender based on the sex ratio of calves harvested in the Gardiner Late Hunt from 1996–2001 (841 F and 518 M = 62% F).

of a calf before shooting it, we assume there were no other sex-related biases among hunter-killed calves, and that the harvest ratio reasonably reflects the calf sex-ratio in the population. We also assumed no sex-related biases when wolves kill calves, but this has not been studied in Yellowstone. After assigning the wolf-killed calf sex ratio for calves of unknown gender, the composition of wolf-killed elk was 783 females (55%), 451 males (32%), and 181 elk of unknown gender (13%).

We excluded 456 wolf-killed elk from further analysis because of unknown gender ($n = 181$), unknown age class ($n = 145$), or age estimated only by tooth wear ($n = 130$). The remaining 959 elk in the wolf-killed sample were aged accurately, either by tooth eruption for calves and yearlings, or by counting cementum annuli for adult elk (Hamlin et al. 2000). The wolf-killed sample contained 467 calves (49% of all kills), 35 yearlings (4%), 193 adults (2–9 yr old; 20%), and 264 old elk (≥ 10 yr old; 27%; Fig. 1). Females comprised 64% of all known-sex elk killed, with 91% of females from the calf and old (≥ 10 yr old) age classes. Overall, calves of both sexes and old female elk (≥ 10 yr old) were most heavily utilized by wolves.

Age Comparison of Wolf- and Hunter-Killed Elk

The mean age of adult female elk killed by wolves (13.9 yr) was significantly older ($F = 31.65$, $P < 0.0001$) than the mean age of adult female elk killed by hunters (6.5 yr). The age classes of female elk selected by wolves ($n = 615$) and hunters ($n = 6,528$) in the Gardiner Late Hunt differed significantly ($P < 0.0001$, $\chi^2 = 908.8$, 3 df; Fig. 2). Fifty-eight percent of female elk killed by hunters were adult females of prime breeding age (ages 2–9 yr), whereas wolves selected only 6.8% of elk from this age class. Wolves killed proportionally more calves (49.1%) than hunters (12.9%), and more old females (42.3%) than hunters (19.5%). Yearlings comprised a small proportion of both hunter and wolf-kills (9.2% and 1.8%, respectively).

Reproductive Values and Total Reproductive Impact

Reproductive values, $v(x)$, began at 1.0 for calves, peaked at values near or exceeding 2.0 for ages 2–9 years, and then gradually

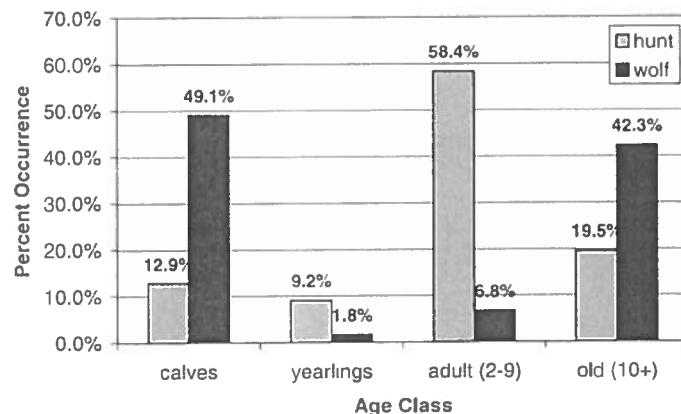


Figure 2. Age distributions of female northern Yellowstone elk killed by hunters in the Gardiner Late Hunt (1996–2001) and by wolves (1995–2001).

declined, reaching values < 1.0 beginning at age 15 (Table 2). The majority of adult hunter-killed females (ages 1–9 yr) had the greatest reproductive values (Fig. 3). In sharp contrast, the majority of wolf-killed females (calves and ages 14–20 yr) had reproductive values near or < 1.0 .

For year 2001, the total reproductive impact of the Gardiner Late Hunt and northern range wolves was 1,394 and 1,055, respectively (Table 3). The wolf impact was probably over-estimated due to using winter kill rates for an annual kill estimate (see Methods).

Analysis of Elk Age Structure

There was significant annual variation ($P < 0.0001$, $\chi^2 = 99.71$, 15 df) in the age composition of female elk ($n = 6,528$) harvested in the Gardiner Late Hunt from 1996–2001 (Table 4). The largest variation in annual proportions occurred in the yearling ($P < 0.0001$, $\chi^2 = 59.80$, 5 df), 2–9 year-old ($P < 0.0001$, $\chi^2 = 55.75$, 5 df), and calf ($P = 0.0010$, $\chi^2 = 20.62$, 5 df) age classes, respectively. There was not a significant difference in the proportion of female elk aged ≥ 10 years ($P = 0.3829$, $\chi^2 = 5.28$, 5 df). Calves comprised 11–13% of the female harvest from 1996–2000, and 18% in 2001 (Table 4). The large calf harvest in 2001 explained most of the variation in the calf proportions over our study period. The yearling age class had the greatest variation from year to year, and it comprised from 5–14% of the female harvest. Adult females comprised from 50–64% of the female harvest from 1996–2001.

Discussion

Selection of Female Elk by Wolves and Hunters

Wolves and hunters selected female elk very differently (Figs. 2, 3). Although prime reproductive-aged females (2–9 yr old) are most abundant in the population, wolves selected and killed the vast majority of female elk from the more vulnerable calf and old (≥ 10 yr) age classes. Wolf predation on the more vulnerable members of a prey species has been documented extensively (Mech 1970, Peterson 1977, Fuller and Keith 1980, Huggard 1993, Mech et al. 2001, Smith et al. 2004). The majority of hunter-killed females were adults from the largest age class present, 2–9-year-old females. When given the opportunity, hunters clearly selected for harvesting adult cow elk over calves

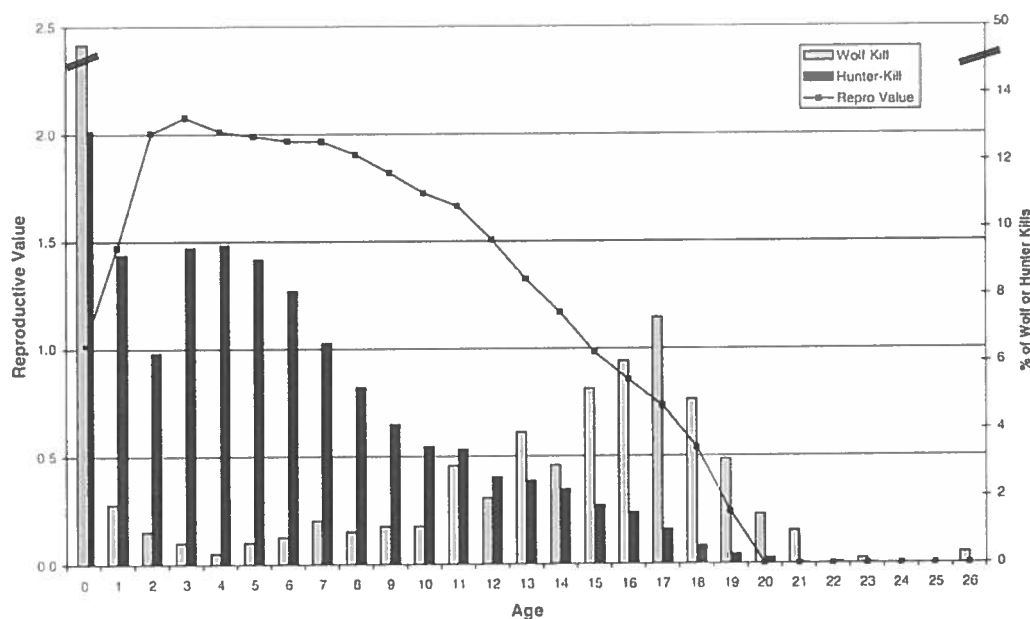


Figure 3. Reproductive values of female northern Yellowstone elk and age distributions of hunter (Gardiner Late Hunt, 1996–2001) and wolf-killed females (1995–2001). Note the scale change for the Y axis on the right side of the chart for wolf-killed calves (49% of total wolf-kills).

due to the larger amount of meat a cow provides. Most hunters can easily distinguish adult cow elk from calves based on size.

The selection pattern of wolves preying more heavily on calves and older elk than hunters is supported by other research in Canada (Carbyn 1983) and the northern Rockies (Boyd et al. 1994, Kunkel et al. 1999). Calves were over-represented in our wolf-kill data (49%) because we excluded adult elk that were not aged by counting cementum annulations. Calves comprised 43% of total kills during a study of Yellowstone wolf kill rates in winter from 1995–2000 (Smith et al. 2004). This number (43%) more accurately reflects the calf proportion of total wolf-killed elk.

Reproductive Value and Total Reproductive Impact

Because we used a life table for female northern Yellowstone elk in the calculation of reproductive values, all the assumptions of life table analysis must apply. We assumed a stationary age distribution, constant $l(x)$ and $b(x)$ schedules and a closed population (Gotelli 2001). The age distributions of female elk in the northern Yellowstone population have remained relatively stable from 1996–2001 (Table 4). In reality, elk may immigrate or emigrate and $l(x)$ and $b(x)$ schedules are likely affected by density-dependent mechanisms. Pregnancy rates derived from blood tests of captured northern Yellowstone elk ($n = 96$) were considerably higher (82% mean pregnancy rate) than the pregnancy rates used in our life table (62% mean pregnancy rate; L. D. Mech, United States Geological Survey, unpublished data). We used the Late Hunt-derived pregnancy rates because the sample sizes were considerably larger and encompassed more age classes than the captured sample. However, this may indicate that average pregnancy rates and, therefore, reproductive values for northern Yellowstone elk are higher than we reported.

The majority of hunter-killed elk (58.4%) were cows from the 2–9-year age class. By removing large numbers of female elk with reproductive values >1.0 , the Gardiner Late Hunt exerts a much

greater total reproductive impact on the elk population than do wolves (Fig. 3; Table 3). Because most prime-age females are pregnant when harvested, the net effect is the immediate removal of 2 elk (the harvested cow and her calf) from the population, as well as the loss of the cow's future reproductive contribution to the population. Additionally, we estimated annual 2001 wolf predation for this index using winter kill rates, which are likely

Table 3. Index of total reproductive impact on female northern Yellowstone elk by the Gardiner Late Hunt and wolves in 2001.

Age	Reproductive value	Late hunt elk harvest	Hunt impact	Wolf-killed elk	Wolf impact
0	1.000	152	152	508	508
1	1.471	100	147	19	27
2	2.004	43	86	10	20
3	2.077	54	112	7	14
4	2.012	36	72	3	7
5	1.990	55	109	7	13
6	1.967	77	151	8	17
7	1.966	65	128	13	26
8	1.904	50	95	10	19
9	1.818	55	100	12	21
10	1.724	51	88	12	20
11	1.661	25	42	30	50
12	1.507	16	24	20	30
13	1.324	25	33	40	53
14	1.168	19	22	30	35
15	0.984	18	18	51	50
16	0.856	13	11	63	54
17	0.735	3	2	77	56
18	0.538	4	2	51	27
19	0.239	1	0	32	8
Total elk:		862		1,003	
Total reproductive impact:			1,394		1,055

^a Reproductive values for elk ≥ 20 yr are 0.0, so they are not included in this calculation.

Table 4. Age distribution of female elk harvested in the Gardiner Late Hunt, 1996–2001.

	Year	Calf	Yearling	Adult (2–9)	Old (10+)
Number harvested	1996	111	134	504	201
% of female harvest		11.68	14.11	53.05	21.16
Number harvested	1997	242	152	1,193	367
% of female harvest		12.38	7.78	61.05	18.78
Number harvested	1998	105	46	586	180
% of female harvest		11.45	5.02	63.90	19.63
Number harvested	1999	158	104	753	224
% of female harvest		12.75	8.39	60.77	18.08
Number harvested	2000	73	65	339	126
% of female harvest		12.11	10.78	56.22	20.90
Number harvested	2001	152	100	435	178
% of female harvest		17.57	11.56	50.29	20.58
Total		841	601	3,810	1,276

greater than year-round kill rates due to elk vulnerability and snow depth in winter (Huggard 1993, Mech et al. 2001, Smith et al. 2004). As a result, the total reproductive impact due to wolves is probably lower than we reported.

The harvest of female elk with the greatest reproductive values in the Gardiner Late Hunt may have negative implications for calf production and recruitment in the future. Survival of adult females is vital to sustaining populations of long-lived vertebrate species, including elk (Eberhardt 2002). Adult female survival is likely to be ≥ 0.95 in populations that are not subject to human impact by hunting or other forms of lethal control (Eberhardt 2002). Houston (1982) estimated adult female elk survival for the northern Yellowstone herd at ~ 0.99 . Garrott et al. (2003) estimated adult female survival of 0.97 for the Madison-Firehole herd in Yellowstone. We estimated survival probability at ~ 0.82 – 0.92 for prime-age adult females in the northern Yellowstone herd (Table 1). This lower survival probability was due to heavy selection of these age classes in the Gardiner Late Hunt.

The proportion of calves harvested by hunters increased from levels of 11–13% of the harvest from 1996–2000 to 18% of the harvest in 2001. Because the Late Hunt harvest reasonably represented the female elk population (or at the very least, the migratory females), there is no apparent calf decline in the population available to hunters. If wolf predation on calves is additive, the combination of hunters removing cows with high reproductive values and wolves preying heavily on calves may negatively affect recruitment.

Although a large proportion of wolf-kills are calves, this is not as important as one may intuitively think, in terms of future calf production. Female calves have a low reproductive value because newborns, by default, are assigned a reproductive value of 1.0. The reproductive value of newborns is discounted by the fact that a newborn may not achieve its maximum lifespan, and therefore will not produce its maximum potential offspring (Gotelli 2001). Therefore, it is likely that removal of females with the highest reproductive values has more of an impact on elk herd sustainability than removal of calves. This is especially true if wolf predation on calves mostly compensates for calf mortality by other factors. It remains unknown if calf mortality is additive or compensatory in the northern Yellowstone elk population.

Analysis of Female Elk Age Structure

The age structure of female elk harvested in the Gardiner Late Hunt was relatively stable over our study (Table 4). Although there were significant differences in the proportion of yearlings and adults harvested from 1996–2001, we did not detect major instabilities in cow elk age distributions or undue impacts to particular year classes. Adult females made up the bulk of the hunter harvest each year. However, the proportion of adult females in the Gardiner Late Hunt harvest has fallen slightly each year since 1998; from 64% in 1998, to 61% in 1999, 56% in 2000, and 50% in 2001 (Table 4). Only long-term observation of elk population dynamics will reveal if this trend reflects fewer adult females in the population.

If wolves were affecting recruitment in a significant manner due to heavy calf predation, it should be observable in largely reduced cohorts in the youngest age classes, especially in the later years of the study period when wolf populations were higher. We did not observe this.

Wolf Impact on Elk Abundance

Northern Yellowstone elk abundance did not decline markedly during our study period of 1995–1996 through 2001–2002 (Fig. 4). Since 1994 (pre-wolf reintroduction), elk population counts have declined at an overall average of approximately 6% per year (P. J. White, National Park Service, personal communication). Unadjusted aerial counts from 1976–2001 ranged from a low of 8,980 elk in winter 1976–1977 to a high of 19,045 in winter 1993–1994 (Lemke et al. 1998). That said, the elk population throughout the 1970s and early 1980s was probably artificially low because the elk herd was still recovering from the culling that occurred prior to implementing natural regulation in 1969.

In the last 2 decades, the greatest declines in elk abundance occurred in the winters of 1988–1989 and 1996–1997 (NRC 2002). These declines are attributed to a combination of harsh weather events and harvest in the Gardiner Late Hunt. There was a severe drought in the summer of 1988 followed by the 1988 fires and a harsh winter. More than 4,000 elk died from winter malnutrition in 1988–1989, with an additional 2,409 harvested in the Gardiner Late Hunt, for a population reduction of around 40% (Singer et al. 1989, Lemke et al. 1998). There was heavy elk mortality due to winter malnutrition again in 1996–1997 (Smith

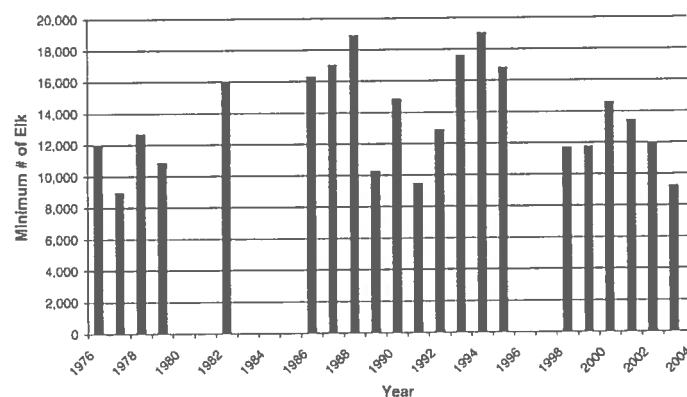


Figure 4. Estimated minimum elk populations from Northern Yellowstone Cooperative Wildlife Working Group aerial surveys. Source data from Lemke et al. (1998) and Late Hunt Annual Harvest Reports (Lemke 1996–2001). No survey occurred in years with no bar. 1976 = winter of 1975–1976.

1998, NRC 2002), as well as a larger than average Late Hunt harvest ($n = 2,465$) in early 1997 (Lemke 1997).

Unfortunately, no aerial counts were conducted in the winters of 1995–1996 or 1996–1997. The lack of elk counts for these years is problematic for 2 reasons. First, it is difficult to measure the extent of winter mortality in 1996–1997 without minimum population estimates immediately prior to this winter-kill event. Second, and arguably more important, there is no minimum count of northern Yellowstone elk for the first 2 years following wolf reintroduction.

The first post-wolf recovery count of northern Yellowstone elk occurred in winter 1997–1998 and estimated 11,692 elk (Fig. 4). The count increased in the presence of wolves to an estimated 14,538 elk in the winter of 1999–2000, and stood at 11,969 in the winter 2001–2002 count. Since that time, elk counts have declined to 9,215 elk in 2002–2003 and 8,335 elk in the 2003–2004 winter count. This is likely due to a combination of a 6-year drought, predation by wolves and other large carnivores, and human harvest (P. J. White, personal communication).

Limitation of the northern Yellowstone elk population by predation and hunting may reduce the potential for large winter die-offs such as those that occurred in 1988–1989 and 1996–1997. However, severe winters increase elk vulnerability to hunting and predation, so a reduction in elk numbers is a continuing possibility during harsh winters. As Boyce (1995) predicted, the most likely long-term biological effect of wolf predation on the elk herd is to hold the population at lower levels (5–25% lower), thereby reducing the impact of weather and other stochastic events on elk abundance. The most likely long-term social effect of lower elk populations is reduced hunter opportunity and a decline in the economic benefits associated with the Gardiner Late Hunt. Economic gains associated with opportunity for tourists to observe wolves in YNP are predicted to exceed those lost in reduced hunting opportunities (Duffield 1992).

Management Implications

We recommend that future monitoring of northern Yellowstone elk should focus on calf recruitment and potential changes in age structure, especially among the females. A study of wolf-kill rates during summer months would help clarify whether the kill rates used in this analysis are accurate.

Because YNP has a large assemblage of predators (including humans), and cougars in Yellowstone kill elk at higher per capita rates than wolves (Murphy 1998, Smith and Guernsey 2002), managers should anticipate a drop in elk numbers and reduce the human harvest of elk outside the park to minimize the decline (Smith et al. 2004). A recent study in Glacier National Park documented a decline in elk due to the presence of multiple predators (Kunkel and Pletscher 1999). Cougars, humans, wolves, and bears were the largest causes of female elk mortality, respectively. The Nelchina caribou herd in Alaska declined from

80,000 to under 10,000 animals over a 13-year period due to constant subsistence hunting and wolf predation pressure (Eberhardt and Pitcher 1992). Eberhardt et al. (2003) suggest that human harvest of elk outside Yellowstone may drive wolf-elk population trends. This reinforces the importance of monitoring Late Hunt harvests along with wolf-elk abundance in the future.

Since the mid-1990s elk permit levels have been set using an Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) approach that uses consistently collected biological and harvest information and established “management triggers” to move from “liberal” to “standard” to “conservative” hunting-season types, which are defined by the number of elk permits issued (T. Lemke, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, unpublished report). Triggers that help direct hunting-season decisions include estimated elk abundance, number of elk that winter north of YNP, and number of elk that winter on or adjacent to the state-owned Dome Mountain Wildlife Management Area. Additional factors that are used to set season types include annual elk recruitment estimates, Late Season elk harvest rates, and environmental factors such as significant winter-kill events or drought.

Since 1997, based on the AHM process, the Gardiner Late Hunt has gone from a liberal to a standard to a conservative hunting season type. Antlerless elk permits were incrementally reduced by 51% from 2,880 permits in 1997 to 1,400 permits in 2004. As a result of these hunting season changes the antlerless elk harvest decreased by 72% from 2,221 elk in 1997 to 620 elk in 2004. Based on an AHM process, the number of antlerless permits will be reduced further as needed to partially offset elk losses to wolves, other predators, and environmental factors. Continued use of the AHM process will be important in maintaining a healthy population of northern Yellowstone elk.

Based on recent trends in total elk abundance, elk migration size, elk distribution, and calf recruitment, the Gardiner Late Hunt will likely remain in a conservative hunting season type for the next several years. Cooperation between NPS, MFWP, and other management agencies is critical to effectively monitor predation and hunting effects on the northern Yellowstone elk population.

Acknowledgments

Our study was supported by the Yellowstone Park Foundation through the Mollie Beattie Scholarship Fund and Michigan Technological University. We are grateful to the wolf project volunteers and pilots who worked diligently to gather data during study periods. We acknowledge the thousands of hunters, who over the years have voluntarily provided a unique and invaluable data base for northern Yellowstone elk. We also thank all of the dedicated Fish, Wildlife and Parks check station employees who collected elk harvest information, often working under very difficult field conditions. P. J. White, J. Vucetich, and T. Drummer provided helpful feedback during early reviews of the manuscript.

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Associate Editor: Strickland.

WOLF / ELK

WOLF POPULATION	ELK CONSUMED	YEAR
51	1428	2018
61	1713	2019
73	2044	2020
87	2452	2021
104	2923	2022
124	3494	2023
148	4166	2024
177	4956	2025
212	5947	2026

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Pitman, James, DGF
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 1:19 PM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: FW: Elk Rule Change/Proposal
Attachments: Elk Rules Changes - 2018 GL.docx

Categories: Red Category

From: Frances Frazier [mailto:
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 7:23 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules; Gabriel Lopez
Subject: Elk Rule Change/Proposal

Dear Sirs:

Attached please find my letter to you proposing what I had stated at the meeting in Espanola on Friday, July 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Please see attachment.

Gabriel J. Lopez

--

Frances Frazier

August 13, 2018

Mr. Paul M. Kienzle, III

Chairman

P.O. Box 25112

Santa Fe, NM 87504

RE: Department of Game and Fish – Proposed Elk Rule Changes

Dear Mr. Kienzle:

I am submitting a Second Proposal for your consideration on the changes proposed by the Game Department. Their change to the E-PLUS SYSTEM seems to take a long way around in fixing a simple problem.

In Unit 6, where my concerns lay, it seems you can address the problem with a simple solution:

1. The problem being a shortage of authorizations within the **COER Area of Unit 6C**.
2. They keep shuffling authorizations every year because they say more people are trying to acquire authorizations. In OTHER WORDS, “ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL”. THEY managed to split Unit 6 into 3 areas; the Baca ranch, if my memory serves me, they used to get **144 authorizations**. Are they all being used TODAY, or is recreation going to take precedence over the hunting program in the Valles Caldera? What will happen to those authorizations?
3. Our authorization numbers were already decided upon by the department personal going out in the field and by using the weighted acre formulas at that time, that were used dating back to the Director, Dan Suttacliff, and Program Manager, Santiago Gonzales. Our authorization numbers that we are issued date back to when the program began. My father and I were instrumental in working to have a viable system.
4. Now, here we are, wanting to “reinvent the wheel” again for the third time, and start again from scratch.

I am proposing a GRANDFATHER CLAUSE for the private ranches within the COER Area in Unit 6C that dates back to the start of the program with our original number of authorizations. Why should we have to be evaluated again when we have already been through various vetting processes?

REMEMBER, this program was started to help ranchers in Unit 6 with the depredation that the elk were causing on private agricultural lands. We did not have this problem with the elk in Unit 6 because there were no elk in Unit 6. They were planted in the 60's by the NMDGF. If I recall there were 32 head released that came from Wyoming:

1. I propose that COER lines expand and be redrawn as to encompass BLM, and State lands that are out of the COER Area and adjacent to Unit 6C.
2. We were told at the meeting in Espanola, that authorizations are unlimited outside the COER areas.
3. This would add authorizations to the COER by expanding it and would solve the problem of "Robbing Peter to Pay Paul".
4. While NOT adding more private land lots to the system, which is the **REAL PROBLEM TRYING TO GET RESOLVED AT OUR EXPENSE!**
5. USFS Permittees should get two (2) authorizations on their US Forest Grazing Permits to be able to offset the cost of fixing fencing on the allotments that the elk tear down.
6. Replace the cost of 2 pallets of salt blocks that the elk help the cows eat.
7. The cost of repairing and making water developments that the elk use.

I, therefore, submit this second proposal for your consideration and review as an alternate to what the Game and Fish Department is currently proposing. I would like for this second proposal to be reviewed at length before any decision is taken on the Elk Rule Changes. I eagerly await for your response.

Sincerely,

Gabriel J. Lopez

Cc: Mr. William Bill Montoya, Vice Chairman
Mr. Craig Peterson, Commissioner
Mr. Ralph Ramos, Commissioner
Mr. Bob Ricklefs, Commissioner
Mr. Thomas "Dick" Salopek

Pitman, James, DGF

From: David Thurman
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 11:17 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk rule suggestion

Categories: Reviewed

I suggest that if a hunter is successful in drawing an elk tag, that hunter must sit out for the elk draw the following year, to allow an equal dispersement of tags across the state, I know hunters that have been drawn for an elk tag more than a hand full of times and I also know hunters that have not been drawn for an elk tag their entire hunting career, including myself

Sent from my iPhone

Pitman, James, DGF

From: David Thurman
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 11:14 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk rule suggestion

Categories: Reviewed

I suggest that if a hunter is successful in drawing an elk tag, that hunter must sit out for the elk draw the following year, to allow an equal dispersement of tags across the state, I know hunters that have been drawn for an elk tag more than a hand full of times and I also know hunters that have not been drawn for an elk tag their entire hunting career, including myself

Sent from my iPhone

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Michael Dalton
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 10:47 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: E-Plus Rule 19.30.5-NMAC

I agree with the NM Wildlife Federation's suggested changes to the currently proposed amendments to E-PLUS Rule 19.30.5-NMAC. 1) Dedicate a share of unconverted private-land elk hunt authorizations to the public draw. 2) Require, as part of E-PLUS contracts with property owners hunting Ranch Only in COER areas, that one of every four - approximately 25 percent either Sex and or Mature Bull authorizations converted to licenses be issued to new Mexico resident hunters with a price cap of what most New Mexicans can afford. 3) Use a score of seven as the minimum "meaningful benefit" standard for property enrollment in the E-PLUS system.

I especially request that 1) "Bonus" authorizations be reassigned to the public draw. 2) Assure that NM residents receive at the least 25 percent of private land either sex and mature bull licenses with a cap with what most New Mexicans can afford.

I recently tried to purchase an authorization. Everyone that was willing to speak with me about licenses simply let me know all their tags are sold in advance to either outfitters, brokers or company owners in other states. Pretty much the outfitters charge set rates but you must let them guide you and feed you (this is not what NM hunters can afford and want). Most New Mexicans just want to pay trespass fees. That is unheard of in this state. Why can't the state require 25 percent of private tags be sold to unlucky NM hunters at a price we can afford.

Mike Dalton
Unlucky New Mexico Hunter

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From:
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 10:42 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Elk & Elk-Plus Rules

I agree with the previously submitted comments by the NM Wildlife Federation to allow more tags for private hunting.

Further, I am a resident and ex-military 71 years old, and have not been drawn past few years. I would also favor a point system that gives advantage to us older hunters who may have only a few years left to hunt.

Thanks you,

Sam Fry

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Steve Aguirre
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 10:39 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reviewed

I have read the new rules and agree with the requested rules. This will provide fairness to the resident hunter.

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: M. Pautz
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 9:49 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: E Plus proposed changes - comments

I now have 200+ acres in area 4(Chama). For the last 8 years I had 155 acres which was in the SCR category. I have reviewed the proposed changes and wish to make the following comments: The new habitat score proposal is an excellent idea but should be combined with the number of acres enrolled to arrive at a COMBINED SCORE for permit awards. Example: 100 acres with a habitat score of 7= 700 points and 10 acres with score of 7= 70 points. This would be a fair way to allocate permits. The minimum acreage amount for SCRs should also be increased.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Pitman, James, DGF

From:
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 9:15 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Cc:
Subject: Input from Cabin Springs Ranch, Fence Lake, NM
Attachments: coer final note 2018.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reviewed

Dear Commissioners,

Please consider these comments when you consider the future of unit 12. We believe the land owners, with the governance of the unit 12 biologist has been significant factors in the herd growth and harvest quality in our area. Thanks Charlie Johnson, Cabin Springs Ranch

CABIN SPRINGS RANCH COMMENTS TO GAME AND FISH AUGUST 23, 2018:

- We are currently in a coop with several neighboring ranches managed by Wilson Bruton. In 2017, the coop had 66% success on archery bulls and 80% on rifle bulls. In the coop containing 6769 acres, there are 16 permanent drink sites.
- In 1998 evidence of elk on Cabin Springs Ranch was sparse, and when seen, it was one or two, or just occasional tracks. The area was considered by Game and Fish as a write off area and permits sold for 150 each. For the next 20 years, Cabin Springs, neighboring ranchers, Ed Wagner, and Ed Bawolek have also proceeded to increase watering locations and habitat. Current assessments suggest the elk count in unit 12 is 4000 and the cow calf ratio is 50 out of 100. We believe this is due to our unit 12 biologist matching permits to improvements. Hunts now sell for 10 to \$15k. That information strongly suggests the reputation of the area hunt value has improved exponentially the past 12 years. Credit goes to Game and Fish biology guidance and local people carrying out the suggestions.
- By 2018, on Cabin Springs, four, deep well fed, permanent drinkers are facilitated. One hand dug well is recovered feeding a permanent drinker. One permanent spring drinker is recovered. A storage remote tank is installed. All these are distributed across the ranch. At 3 of the drinkers and at 1 pool, nearby wallows are maintained. Two other ponds are used as wallows at the edges.
- Cabin Springs has dog lake, state section line pond, bogart line pond, and Mudd pond that all of these, most years, hold water. There are 3 other ponds that hold water for a short time due to bottom seepage.
- Cabin Springs takes no government money for these improvements.
- At Cabin Springs, the money made selling hunts is re-invested into habitat improvement in the form of water increases and clearings. The elk permits given to us by the state, has provided the financial "fuel" that led to water and habitat improvements. It is probable, that these improvements, combined across the co-op, has helped add to the documented increase in herd size.
- In July on Cabin Springs, 80 acres of rye, turnips, and radishes are planted in plots around the ranch. It is not uncommon to see 20 or so elk cows and calves grazing in these fields on a daily basis.
- Some clearings have been made to increase grass availability. The 2/3 majority of the ranch is virgin pinion and shaggy bark juniper which provides ample bedding grounds for elk. Hunting is not allowed where the elk choose to bed.
- Game and Fish matching permit allotments, to individual ranch parameters in unit 12, has demonstrated to be a good system. For the past three years we have been harvesting higher scoring bulls.
- Our hunts are 100% guided which enhances the hunt success rate and hunter safety.
- A few cattle are run but are taken off when rye is planted and the elk "own" the place until they migrate to winter browse in December. We keep no cattle through the winter.
- Most of our clients are out of state. We do not advertise or attend shows. Our clients come to us word of mouth. In 2013 the co-op was given permits from the state. In 2018, the co-op was given 17 bull and 8 bow permits from the state.
- The Co-op is active in predator control. We believe that the coyote harvest results in a higher elk calf survival rate. 42 coyotes were taken after the 2017 season. This is compared to insufficient predator management is Mount Taylor, where the cow calf ratio is 12 per 100.

- Regarding proximity, we border Atarque on the North 200sq miles, Rincon ranch on the west 33 sq. miles, within a few miles of Great Western on the south and East 500sq miles.
- The small acreages in the coop that offer water, forage and cover, are valuable to the coop by reserving them for fall back locations in the last days of a client's hunt. If the need arises, they are likely make a kill. We have not calculated the success rate per acre on the small acreages. Intuitively, we believe it would be an order better than the large ranches with no cover and poor forage due to heavy cattle use. We will get this data.
- The coop is in a micro climate. Some years all get rain, other years it can be lush on portions of the coop and dry on others. Being in a coop helps smooth out the overall harvest for all in the coop.

QUESTIONS:

- Is hunt success rate a consideration since that is the bottom line to the quality of management.
- 43 per cent of the permits now go to state land. How was this number determined? Considering lack of access, lack of permanent water, no agriculture. Why not just make more tags for the state land to facilitate the experiment and leave time honored successes alone until the true value of the increase in state hunts is fully understood?
- Could a person be given a fully functional formula that includes an acreage multiplier to better understand the future and fairness?

----- GAME AND FISH SCORING METHOD COPIED FROM ONLINE:

Forage: (Including agriculture)

- ? 0 = No meaningful forage is available or forage is in the form of a lawn or lawn shrubs, gardens, flowers or other ornamental plantings. (Extremely rocky terrain; sandy, bare soils; thick timber with no understory)
- ? 1 = Marginal forage is available. (Sparse bunchgrasses, scrub habitat, moderately timbered areas with some forage potential)
- ? 2 = Moderate forage is available. (Open upland grasslands or open savanna-like forest/woodland, dense bunch grass)
- ? 3 = Substantial forage is available. (Grass meadows, bottomlands and riparian areas)

? Forage Score: ____

Water: (Water should be located on a property where it is readily available for use by elk.)

- ? 0 = No water is available for elk use. (Includes a water hydrant near or attached to a building or utilization of an exposed or manual hose system)
- ? 1 = Some water is available throughout at least one season by natural sources or by an established system that can be turned on or off.
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Cover:

- ? 0 = No meaningful cover is provided on the property. (Or cover is compromised by houses, buildings, driveways and/or other disturbances)
- ? 1 = Poor cover components are provided on the property. (Thin cover or small areas of cover)
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? Cover Score: ____

Surrounding Area:

- ? 0 = Surrounding area is encumbered with human activity, highly developed with houses/buildings and vehicular byways seriously altering or inhibiting elk use and/or travel.
- ? 1 = Surrounding area has low human activity with low numbers of buildings or vehicular byways and having some impact on elk use and travel.
- ? 2 = Surrounding area is remote and unencumbered by human activity having no impact on elk use and travel.

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Agriculture: (Bonus)

- ? 0 = No agriculture - Native grasses; unimproved pasture grasses; routinely unharvested or un-grazed with minimal harvest opportunity.
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Added Bonus: (For considerations not captured elsewhere.)

- ? 0 = No special considerations.
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(The “Added Bonus” category may also be awarded for a property’s proximity to habitat features nearby [generally within ½ mile] but not actually on the property being evaluated. A combination of considerations may be utilized including increasing an area’s ability to be accessed and hunted.)

scoring:
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Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Pamela Vega
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 7:30 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: EPLUSruleChanges Unit 12

To Whom It May Concern:

I recently attended your meeting regarding changes to Unit 12 E-PLUS system and would like to comment. We were informed that we are facing an "all or nothing" scenario, and that either we will become a COER area or licenses will go over the counter. Either way, small contributing ranches will be hurt. We cannot expect the tags we currently receive, or they will become worthless in an over-the-counter system.

I have a small ranch; 960 deeded acres and 640 acres under state lease in Cibola and Catron counties. Your officials told us that you lease all public lands for hunting, and that you will receive all of the public tags, but many do not find that fair. We hold grazing leases on those same lands, and WE are providing ALL of the improvements (such as water). You expect to reap the benefits while sharing none of the responsibilities. I depend on those grazing leases to feed my cattle, and I pay for them. Your elk eat the grass I pay for, and water at the wells I provide and maintain both on public and private land. Your system needs to account for the fact that we small land holders are doing all of your maintenance on those state lands. I provide, and maintain a well on state land, but you seem to think that it is yours because you also lease the land. A larger portion of tags need to be allotted to the small ranches to account for this, or you need to cost share in the wells and maintenance, since you also hold leases for them.

I raise cattle, and this is to be my retirement income. I have had to cut herd numbers because your elk are eating my grass and drinking my water. I depended on the tags I receive each year to buy supplemental feed to make up for that loss. I also lease state lands for grazing that you now claim are yours. You are trying to run myself, and other small ranches out of business by taking what should be ours. You once gave us tags to compensate, but now you are threatening to take them, and our livelihoods, away. When we accept those tags, we see compensation for our agricultural losses. When you take them away, we feel cheated. You are using us, and you seem to believe that your elk are more important than those of us who care for the lands and try to make a living with our cattle. Before the elk came, my father planted rye each year, harvested tons of grain and baled the straw. We can keep our cattle off of it, but we cannot keep your elk off of it, and since they were introduced, we cannot harvest winter feed for our herds. Many of us experience economic loss due to the elk, and your proposed system is demeaning and degrading to us.

I, personally, believe that the tag system should include not only our deeded lands, but also give credit for our state leases, because WE maintain those lands. I also believe that there should be something included regarding economic loss. Those people who own 40 acres, are NOT raising cattle, and suffer NO ECONOMIC LOSS. They should be at the end of the line for receiving tags. If you are going to take away the tags we currently receive and not include state leases, then YOU need to contribute to the maintenance and improvement of those state lands you claim are yours!

Sincerely,

Pamela Vega

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From:
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2018 10:46 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Eplus changes

I am all for making the outside the COER management area tags over the counter with a ranch authorization number...I am also all for making them all either sex tags....but please don't tie our hands with cow only tags..let the landowners regulate the numbers of tags they give out and we will see who and if they are conserving their resources.

Thanks
Jeff Holder

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Joe Harvey
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2018 7:21 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Comments about the rule change

I attended the meeting in Ruidoso and it was very informative. I believe that the proposed changes will be good for the elk. The changes should also bring some fairness into the SCR program. I am also for continuing the incentive based program and feel that program really benefits the elk.

Joe Harvey

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Liley, Stewart, DGF
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2018 3:45 PM
To: Pitman, James, DGF
Subject: FW: Response to COER proposal for GMU 37
Attachments: COER-Letter-Signed.pdf

Categories: Reviewed

Stewart Liley, Chief
Wildlife Management Division
New Mexico Game and Fish
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
Ph: 505-476-8038
stewart.liley@state.nm.us

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations

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-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Dodson [<mailto:>]
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2018 11:27 AM
Subject: Response to COER proposal for GMU 37

The following email and letter is a multi-pronged response from both individual hunters and landowners to the proposal before the Game Commission to incorporate GMU 37 into the COER elk project. With a limited amount of time, we have gathered signatures against the proposal from over 200,000 acres of deeded elk country in GMU 37. More signatures are expected today as time allows for their collection. We are sending this letter to each commissioner individually in hopes you will take some time to read our thoughts before the meeting this Thursday in Gallup. Feel free to call any of the people listed on the signature page with your questions or thoughts.

Regards,

Bob Dodson

This letter is a summary of thoughts and ideas from the group of people personally signing at the end of this document below. This group represents a sizable cross-section of landholders and elk and deer hunters that reside, make their living and/or hunt in Unit 37 of southeastern New Mexico. We want to state at the beginning of this document that we are strongly against bringing Unit 37 into the Elk COER range and we will detail our reasons in the bullet points below:

1. The History of Unit 37 as it relates to the COER Elk Project: When the COER program was originally established, Unit 37 was purposely left out of the project for a specific reason. Game and Fish chose to manage this unit for deer, not elk. As we have so often seen, when elk densities increase, deer populations decline and this has been the case for much of New Mexico's deer herds this past twenty years. We need some areas where deer have a chance to hold their own and not be a forgotten species. Why is this still not a great plan for Unit 37? Let deer continue to be the important species in this area instead of making it another unit that is targeted for increasing numbers of elk.
2. Unit 37 has outperformed unit 36: If the information we have is correct, Unit 37 has done very well outside of the COER designation and is outperforming Unit 36 for both elk and deer. At least two or three of the Governor's Tag Elk have been taken out of Unit 37. The desired bull to cow ratio are very good in Unit 37 and quality is definitely stronger across the board than 36. Unit 37 is doing just fine without the COER restrictions and management. In fact, one could argue it is doing better for elk than the other COER units. Why take the risk of changing things up when the unit is doing just fine without COER designation? If it is not broken, why try to mess with it?
3. Small acreage owners gain an unfair advantage under COER: Small-acreage hobby farms and ranches will benefit from this system because of the financial incentives. These small landowners can now offer an any-season public land tag to the highest bidder. However, because their land holdings are so small, they receive this income without doing anything to benefit the elk herd. In contrast, the large ranchers are providing and constantly improving forage, water, and riparian habitat for the animals. Many of the ranchers in Unit 37 have made adjustments to their private land management that enhances elk habitat. Riparian areas have been fenced to exclude cattle and give elk unlimited access to the water and green grass found in these zones. They have engaged in brush control, reseeding, water development, and reduced cattle numbers to enhance their elk habitat. They also have to contend with fence, grazing, and water problems created by elk coexisting on their property with their livestock. Because the COER rules prohibit the landowner from having input into cow and bull elk tag numbers on their property, their incentive to effectively manage their land for elk is now significantly reduced. Also, the price of a bull tag will likely decrease because of their loss of control over the hunt dates they can offer their paid hunters. They will have lost their ability to offer a first season option to their clients and they now have to hunt at the same time as the public hunters.

4. Ranchers will lose their ability to manage hunts and herds: Switching to the COER rules will hamstring all the ranches that have existing elk hunting partnerships in place. They are currently able to spread out their tags to not put too much pressure on the elk on their property. They also have the ability now to hunt a few days earlier in October, which is a big consideration to their paying hunters. Under the new rules, they would have to wait an additional two weeks to rifle hunt on the same private property. This will definitely reduce the compensation they currently receive. Another issue in Unit 37 is there are no cow elk available to hunt during the late season hunt in November that they would be required to sell their tags in. Most landowners hunt their cow right after the bull hunts because by late October, the elk have drifted off the property and back to the forest. For example, last year, one of our ranches sold a cow tag to be used in conjunction with a late season, trophy deer hunt. No cows were seen during the five day hunt where scores of elk were present only a month prior. This is just a good example of how the changes will take away the rancher's ability to control his herd and maintain a quality hunt for his paying customers. It is a fact of life that the revenue from elk tags is a big incentive for the local ranchers to maintain and enhance their elk and deer herds. Doing anything to reduce their returns and make managing the wildlife more complicated will definitely lead to more problems and issues and less cooperation from the land owners.
5. Landowner tags will disproportionately be used in the early (prime) season: Because the small hobby farm / ranches will now be able to sell their tags for any dates, unit-wide, the choice early hunt dates will start receiving a lot more pressure. Historically, only approximately 30 tags have been issued for each hunting season in 37. The first hunts could now possibly see double or triple that number of tags in the field during that season. This would hurt the units delicate balance of elk versus tags, and would greatly reduce the quality of the elk hunt experience for all tag holders.
6. Elk migrating between units: The reason we have been given for this massive increase in the size of the Elk COER is that some of the elk travel back-and-forth between Units 36 and 37. We can see that as a possibility in the Bonita Valley where the dividing line currently runs. But, the proposed area goes several miles north to the base of the Capitans, then several more miles over the Capitans all the way to Pine Lodge road. This boundary seems to be more just an arbitrary, easy-to-draw, line to encompass all the National Forest in the area, than an attempt to include those elk that might migrate back-and-forth. Also, what happens when this boundary splits a ranch, which from the maps we have definitely looks like will be the case? Ranchers we have spoken to say maps showing the forest service boundary are historically inaccurate and often cut corners into private lands. In both cases, we can see a nightmare scenario developing between the GPS-using, but law-abiding public hunters and the rancher trying to decide what is and isn't the COER vs private land. For convenience, Game and Fish has made the area way too large and unnecessarily included land not needed to manage migrating elk.

Hopefully, these are some points you will take into serious consideration before you make a big decision like this that will last for four years or more and affect a lot of people's livelihood. We are respectfully requesting that you not make the choice to change a great Unit 37 at this time. We don't think you will find one major landowner that will be in favor of this proposal. No one is anxious to see these changes and have the additional restrictions that the COER brings with it.

If it is a foregone conclusion that all or most of Unit 37 will now be in the COER, we respectfully request you consider the creation of a special management zone for the private landowners in this unit. A large portion of Unit 37 is privately held acreage with landowners who are already heavily invested in their own elk management programs.

We are all signing this letter as a group, as we have all given input and have given a lot of thought to what the outcome will be, should you try to make a change. You may contact any of us for further questions or thoughts.

Sincerely,

Signature <i>Art Goodloe</i>	Printed Name Art Goodloe	Phone	Rancher / Individual Rancher	Acreage Owned 3402
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Signature <i>Steven A Jones</i>	Printed Name STEVE JONES	Phone	Rancher / Individual Individual	Acreage Owned 0
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Signature <i>Garrett Goodloe</i>	Printed Name Garrett Goodloe	Phone	Rancher / Individual Individual	Acreage Owned 0
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Signature <i>Troy Stone</i>	Printed Name Troy Stone	Phone	Rancher / Individual Rancher	Acreage Owned 16,000
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Signature <i>Tom Edwards</i>	Printed Name Tom Edwards	Phone	Rancher / Individual Rancher	Acreage Owned 48,894
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Signature <i>Cindy Smith</i>	Printed Name CINDY SMITH	Phone	Rancher / Individual Rancher	Acreage Owned 14,000
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Signature <i>Oliver Smith</i>	Printed Name OLIVER SMITH	Phone	Rancher / Individual Rancher	Acreage Owned 646
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Signature	Printed Name	Phone	Rancher / Individual	Acreage Owned
<i>Paul Turney</i>	Paul Turney		<u>Rancher / Individual</u>	Ronderosa Springs

Signature	Printed Name	Phone	Rancher / Individual	Acreage Owned
<i>Josh Bannon</i>	Josh Bannon		<u>Rancher / Individual</u>	

Signature	Printed Name	Phone	Rancher / Individual	Acreage Owned

Signature	Printed Name	Phone	Rancher / Individual	Acreage Owned

Signature	Printed Name	Phone	Rancher / Individual	Acreage Owned

Signature	Printed Name	Phone	Rancher / Individual	Acreage Owned

Signature	Printed Name	Phone	Rancher / Individual	Acreage Owned

Signature <i>Tommy Dinwiddie</i>	Printed Name Tommy Dinwiddie	Phone	Rancher / Individual Rancher	Acreage Owned 70,000 acres
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Signature <i>Constance Hanley</i>	Printed Name Constance Hanley	Phone	Rancher / Individual Rancher	Acreage Owned 28,000
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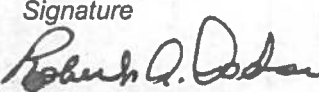
Signature <i>Floyd Goodloe</i>	Printed Name Floyd Goodloe	Phone	Rancher / Individual Rancher	Acreage Owned 5,000
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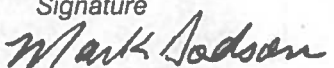
Signature	Printed Name	Phone	Rancher / Individual	Acreage Owned
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Signature	Printed Name	Phone	Rancher / Individual	Acreage Owned
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Signature	Printed Name	Phone	Rancher / Individual	Acreage Owned
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Signature	Printed Name	Phone	Rancher / Individual	Acreage Owned
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Signature	Printed Name	Phone	Rancher / Individual	Acreage Owned
	Robert A. Dodson			

	STEVE DODSON			
	MARK DODSON			

Signature	Printed Name	Phone	Rancher / Individual	Acreage Owned

Signature	Printed Name	Phone	Rancher / Individual	Acreage Owned

Signature	Printed Name	Phone	Rancher / Individual	Acreage Owned

Signature	Printed Name	Phone	Rancher / Individual	Acreage Owned

Signature	Printed Name	Phone	Rancher / Individual	Acreage Owned

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Pitman, James, DGF
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 10:25 AM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: FW: Update after Gallup Meeting
Attachments: coer final note 2018.docx

Categories: EPLUS, Red Category

From:
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2018 8:30 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Cc:
Subject: Update after Gallup Meeting

The only change are in the questions. I thought the meeting had a lot of quality dialogue. Looks like at this point, by going COER in 12, some co-ops with excellent success rates will be out of business. Regards Charlie

CABIN SPRINGS RANCH COMMENTS TO GAME AND FISH AUGUST 23, 2018:

- We are currently in a coop with several neighboring ranches managed by Wilson Bruton. In 2017, the coop had 66% success on archery bulls and 80% on rifle bulls. In the coop containing 6769 acres, there are 16 permanent drink sites.
- In 1998 evidence of elk on Cabin Springs Ranch was sparse, and when seen, it was one or two, or just occasional tracks. The area was considered by Game and Fish as a write off area and permits sold for 150 each. For the next 20 years, Cabin Springs, neighboring ranchers, Ed Wagner, and Ed Bawolek have also proceeded to increase watering locations and habitat. Current assessments suggest the elk count in unit 12 is 4000 and the cow calf ratio is 50 out of 100. We believe this is due to our unit 12 biologist matching permits to improvements. Hunts now sell for 10 to \$15k. That information strongly suggests the reputation of the area hunt value has improved exponentially the past 12 years. Credit goes to Game and Fish biology guidance with Wilson and locals carrying out the plan. In unit 12, the Game and Fish Biologist has had plenty of boots on the ground to provide the guidance and ultimate results.
- By 2018, on Cabin Springs, four, deep well fed, permanent rubber tire drinkers are facilitated. One hand dug well is recovered feeding a permanent drinker. One permanent spring drinker is recovered. A storage remote tank is installed. All these are distributed across the ranch. At 3 of the drinkers and at 1 pool, nearby wallows are maintained. Two other ponds are used as wallows at the edges. The well, fed drinkers serve through the winter.
- Cabin Springs has dog lake, state section line pond, bogart line pond, and Mudd pond that all of these, most years, hold water. There are 3 other ponds that hold water for a short time due to bottom seepage.
- Cabin Springs takes no government money for these improvements.
- At Cabin Springs, the money made selling hunts is re-invested into habitat improvement in the form of water increases and clearings. The elk permits given to us by the state, has provided the financial "fuel" that led to water and habitat improvements. It is probable, that these improvements, combined across the co-op, has helped add to the documented increase in herd size.
- In July on Cabin Springs, 80 acres of rye, turnips, and radishes are planted in plots around the ranch. It is not uncommon to see 20 or so elk cows and calves grazing in these fields on a daily basis.
- Some clearings have been made to increase grass availability. The 2/3 majority of the ranch is virgin pinion and shaggy bark juniper which provides ample bedding grounds for elk. Hunting is not allowed where the elk choose to bed.
- Game and Fish matching permit allotments, to individual ranch parameters in unit 12, has demonstrated to be a good system. For the past three years we have been harvesting higher scoring bulls.
- Our hunts are 100% guided which enhances the hunt success rate and hunter safety.
- A few cattle are run but are taken off when rye is planted and the elk "own" the place until they migrate to winter browse in December. We keep no cattle through the winter.
- Most of our clients are out of state. We do not advertise or attend shows. Our clients come to us word of mouth. In 2013 the co-op was given permits from the state. In 2018, the co-op was given 17 bull and 8 bow permits from the state.
- The Co-op is active in predator control. We believe that the coyote harvest results in a higher elk calf survival rate. 42 coyotes were taken after the 2017 season. This is compared to insufficient predator management is Mount Taylor, where the cow calf is ratio is 12 per 100.
- Regarding proximity, we border Atarque on the North 200sq miles, Rincon ranch on the west 33 sq. miles, within a few miles of Great Western on the south and East 500sq miles.
- The small acreages in the coop that offer water, forage and cover, are valuable to the coop by reserving them for fall back locations in the last days of a client's hunt. If the need arises, they are likely make a kill. We have not calculated

the success rate per acre on the small acreages. Intuitively, we believe it would be an order better than the large ranches with no cover and poor forage due to heavy cattle use. We will get this data.

- The coop is in a micro climate. Some years all get rain, other years it can be lush on portions of the coop and dry on others. Being in a coop helps smooth out the overall harvest for all in the coop.

QUESTIONS:

- Is hunt success rate a consideration since that is the bottom line to the quality of management.

- 43 per cent of the permits now go to state land. How was this number determined? Considering lack of access, lack of permanent water, no agriculture. Why not just make more tags for the state land to facilitate the experiment and leave time honored successes alone until the true value of the increase in state hunts is fully understood?

- COULD A PERSON BE GIVEN A FULLY FUNCTIONAL FORMULA THAT INCLUDES AN ACREAGE MULTIPLIER TO HELP UNDERSTAND THE FUTURE AND FAIRNESS?

- How does the unit 12 herd increase compare to the overall coe average.

- It seems fair to use success rate per acre across the board. Get to a pure merit system. Especially on private land.

- In the re-characterization of private land, would it save time and money to use current biologist data?

GAME AND FISH SCORING METHOD COPIED FROM ONLINE:

Forage: (Including agriculture)

? 0 = No meaningful forage is available or forage is in the form of a lawn or lawn shrubs, gardens, flowers or other ornamental plantings. (Extremely rocky terrain; sandy, bare soils; thick timber with no understory)

? 1 = Marginal forage is available. (Sparse bunchgrasses, scrub habitat, moderately timbered areas with some forage potential)

? 2 = Moderate forage is available. (Open upland grasslands or open savanna-like forest/woodland, dense bunch grass)

? 3 = Substantial forage is available. (Grass meadows, bottomlands and riparian areas)

? Forage Score: ____

Water: (Water should be located on a property where it is readily available for use by elk.)

? 0 = No water is available for elk use. (Includes a water hydrant near or attached to a building or utilization of an exposed or manual hose system)

? 1 = Some water is available throughout at least one season by natural sources or by an established system that can be turned on or off.

? 2 = Water is available throughout at least any two seasons on a consistent basis.

? 3 = Permanent, year round water is available.

? Water Score: ____

Cover:

? 0 = No meaningful cover is provided on the property. (Or cover is compromised by houses, buildings, driveways and/or other disturbances)

? 1 = Poor cover components are provided on the property. (Thin cover or small areas of cover)

? 2 = Good cover components are provided on the property.

? Cover Score: _____

Surrounding Area:

? 0 = Surrounding area is encumbered with human activity, highly developed with houses/buildings and vehicular byways seriously altering or inhibiting elk use and/or travel.

? 1 = Surrounding area has low human activity with low numbers of buildings or vehicular byways and having some impact on elk use and travel.

? 2 = Surrounding area is remote and unencumbered by human activity having no impact on elk use and travel.

? Surrounding Area Score: _____

Agriculture: (Bonus)

? 0 = No agriculture - Native grasses; unimproved pasture grasses; routinely unharvested or un-grazed with minimal harvest opportunity.

? 1 = Agriculture – Marginally productive, dry/unirrigated type or routinely harvested crop.

? 2 = Agriculture – Productive, maintained (irrigated, cultivated, fertilized, etc.), yearly harvestable crop.

? Agriculture Score: _____

Added Bonus: (For considerations not captured elsewhere.)

? 0 = No special considerations.

? 1 = Special consideration exists.

? Added Bonus Score: _____

(The “Added Bonus” category may also be awarded for a property’s proximity to habitat features nearby [generally within ½ mile] but not actually on the property being evaluated. A combination of considerations may be utilized including increasing an area’s ability to be accessed and hunted.)

scoring:

? Habitat Score of 6 ? All properties have some habitat components ? Properties provide some meaningful benefit ? Some marginal properties qualify

Habitat Score of 7 ? All properties consistently have most habitat components ? Properties provide significant meaningful benefit ? Very few marginal properties identified

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Pitman, James, DGF
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 10:25 AM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: FW: Elk rule comments

Categories: EPLUS, Red Category

From: Jamie White
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2018 2:04 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules; DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk rule comments

I know very little of my comments are under consideration, but I wanted to share them anyway.

RO tags should ONLY be for deeded ground. That would put a lot more tags into the draw pool. It's ridiculous to only have 600 deeded acres and get tags that are allotted for a 5000 acre ranch. That's a lot of tags that aren't going into the draw (and most likely NOT going to residents).

Ranches that are UW ranches should be required to put signage up saying so, or at least make that information more accessible for the general public.

NR should be able to draw cow tags. This would bring the cost of cow tags back down to reasonable prices. And now that only residents can draw cow tags, they've gotten harder to draw than some bull tags.

No 10% outfitters pool. Make it a straight 84/16 split. Outfitters are shooting themselves in the foot on this one because of the number of folks that won't apply here solely on the principal of the screwed up tag allotment. If they opened the NR pool to 16%, there would be a lot more NR clients to go after.

I also think there should be an acreage restriction for private tags. I feel like an 80 acre ranch getting 3 tags is a little excessive.

Jamie White

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Pitman, James, DGF
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 10:24 AM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: FW: Elk Rules

Categories: EPLUS, Red Category

From: James B.
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 7:25 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk Rules

To Whom It May Concern,

I want to thank the NM Department of Game and Fish for soliciting public comments regarding the elk tag rule. The current rules are overly lopsided and changes need to be made. Below are some issues I have with the current rules. I would appreciate it if my concerns and the others you receive will be discussed and changed for the greater good of the hunting community.

I do not believe it is right that private ranches outside of the COER are allowed to hunt with a specific weapon before the public draw hunters are allowed. For example, in the Southeast area it is extremely unfair to allow a private land tag to hunt with a rifle starting October 1st when the public draw rifle season doesn't begin until almost 2 weeks later. The rut is likely still going on and being able to call in a bull from public lands like it's a bow hunt, then shooting it with a rifle is ridiculous. The private tag hunter is currently allowed 4 days to hunt during the prime conditions of elk season without any other hunts taking place. This causes another conflict because Ranch Only hunters have a tendency to hunt on public land & I understand this is difficult to stop. However, the private land hunters in 2018 have up to 5 days before any public hunts are taking place and the accountability factor is non-existent. If the private & public start dates coincide, this unfair advantage will be removed and the private tag hunters will be hesitant to wander onto public lands. I am not opposed to extending the number of days that a hunter is able hunt on private land as long as the private tag hunts are required to hunt with the same weapon as the public draw. For example, this year the private tags should be able to bow hunt during the bow seasons, offer muzzleloader tags starting Oct. 6th and offer any legal sporting arm starting Oct. 13th. Allowing any legal sporting arm to start October 1st must be changed.

My second concern is regarding the large number of unit wide tags being given to landowners. The grading system needs to be scrutinized and graded at a higher level. Landowners should only be rewarded unit wide tags if they are offering a substantial benefit to the public. I am in favor of increasing the grading number from 6 to 7.

Lastly, the rule needs to be changed regarding private landowners receiving unit wide tags for their private property, but not allowing access to drive through the property. Currently the public hunter is only allowed to drive into the landowners property if the landowner lets his or her hunters drive into it. This cannot be tracked and the landowner is not going to let public hunters know they can drive into their property. The gate will be simply locked after access is allowed by the landowner to his or

her hunters then the public hunter cannot enter. This should be part of the requirement to get a unit wide tag. Vehicle access should be allowed to the property/properties getting the unit wide tag(s). If the landowner does not want to allow vehicle access, they can choose to receive their ranch only tags and keep the gate locked.

I appreciate your time. Should you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

James Brown

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Martin FRENTZEL
Sent: Thursday, September 06, 2018 8:34 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Senior opportunities

Categories: Reviewed

I want to support your incentive elk hunt proposal to allow seniors older than 65 a chance to purchase one of the remaining licenses not purchased during the first two weeks of availability.

That could give old-timers like me a chance to hunt with my grandson or granddaughter.

I support the reduction of licenses in Unit 9. The changes in 34, 36 and 37 also seem reasonable.

Good luck.

Marty Frentzel

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: pat jones
Sent: Thursday, September 06, 2018 8:20 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: E plus elk .I vote no the rancher has to much control over hunting in nm.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE Tablet

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Kelly
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2018 8:59 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Eplus license allocation rule

Dear NM Department of Game & Fish:

I would recommend and like to see the NM Department of Game and fish get out of managing private land elk.

Adopt a system similar to what is done for Deer:

- 1.Private land seasons should coincide with public land seasons.
- 2.Landowners should have to sign up(into) the system so that NM G & F can easily monitor the license numbers and the mandatory harvest reports.
- 3.Landowners that opt into the system should be allowed as many elk licenses as they wish during season regardless of acreage or COER.
- 4.Hammer any license holder public or private that hunts where they do not have the legal right too.
- 5.Done.

The current system is inherently political and no matter how it is redefined there will always be inequalities.

Make it simple. If you have land you can hunt.

If you have enough land and give elk a reason to be on it you will have a good place to hunt.

NM Game & Fish needs to get out of this mode of declaring certain habitats good or bad(inside or outside COER). Let wildlife decide.

Sincerely,

Kelly Dow

33 years Professional Guide & Outfitter.

Past President and past board member of the NM Council of Outfitters & Guides.

Dad who cares about what the youth of today will have tomorrow.

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Lawrence McDaniel
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2018 2:39 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk Rule Change Comments

Categories: Reviewed

I would ask that the commission consider the following changes to the Elk Rule.

Four-year Elk Rule, 19.31.14-NMAC:

Establish concurrent seasons and season opening dates on public and private lands
Require that all ranches signing unit-wide elk hunt agreements post easy-to identify, standardized signs at the entrances to their property, notifying the public the ranches are open to public-draw licensees.
Adopt the proposed new COER boundaries as recommended by the Department. They are biologically justified by the elk herd population expansions.

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Lawrence McDaniel
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2018 2:38 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: E Plus Rule Comment

I would ask the commission to implement the following changes to the e-plus program.

Private land license elk allocation (E-PLUS) rule 19.30.5:

- Reassign unconverted (unused) elk hunt authorizations from larger ranches in mixed public-private land GMUS to the public draw.
- Require, as part of E-PLUS contracts with property owners hunting Ranch-Only in COER areas, that one of every four or multiple of four Either-Sex and/or Mature Bull authorizations converted to licenses be issued to New Mexico resident hunters, to be selected by the property owners under mutually agreed-upon terms.
- Establish a score of seven as the minimum “meaningful benefit” standard for property enrollment in the E-PLUS system
- Adopt the E-PLUS rule, incorporating the above recommendations.
-

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Michael Wiegel
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2018 11:08 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: EPLUS Rule Change Considerations

I am pleased to see the scoring process under review and am in favor of the proposed scoring process of 7 minimum points.

Also to consider; under the current rules, landowners who are allocated Unit-Wide designated tags are subject to allow public hunting of the respective game species. Although the landowner name list is published on the department's website, is there currently a map that delineates and identifies the ranches open to public hunting? It is currently difficult to determine which ranches benefit from unit-wide tags versus ranch-only. A published map could be helpful.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,
Michael Wiegel

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Zamora, Anastacic
Sent: Monday, September 03, 2018 8:18 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk Rule Proposal 19.31.14 NMAC

Categories: Reviewed

Hello, I would like to comment on the proposal for the Jemez ELK Herd (GMUs 6A-C,7).

According to the side presentation, the elk herd in JEMEZ is STABLE, but yet it is being proposed that the youth license hunts double from 35 to 60 and change the bag limit from MB to ES. Doubling the amount of license and to change the bag limit to ES does not make any sense, because the elk herd is STABLE AND NOT INCREASING.

Because of this, I propose increasing the amount to 40-45 and keeping the bag limit either as MB or Antlerless.

Making the initial proposed changes may DECLINE the herd; thus, requiring the available licenses to be reduced. If licenses are reduced, are they going to be reduced from the youth hunts that were DOUBLED?

Thank you for consideration.

Anastacio Zamora

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: CRAIG FREDRICKSON
Sent: Friday, August 31, 2018 10:25 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Fwd: GMU 12 Proposed COER Creation

----- Original Message -----

From: CRAIG FREDRICKSON <
To: DGF-Elk-Rules@state.nm.us
Date: August 31, 2018 at 10:04 PM
Subject: GMU 12 Proposed COER Creation

The proposal to designate GMU 12 as a COER unit would reduce the number of MB and A authorizations in the unit and allocate the remainder based solely on deeded acreage. This would unfairly squeeze owners of small ranches out of their historic authorizations and force them into a SCR draw with other small ranches for a reduced number of tags or none at all in some years. Small ranches have come to rely on authorizations as a source of income and/or food for their families. In contrast, large ranches would be allocated the bulk of authorizations without having to draw for what will become a more valuable resource, elk tags. Moreover, a significant amount of the deeded acreage in GMU 12 is owned by out-of-state individuals and businesses. Allocation of authorizations to such entities would not benefit NM resident property owners.

There is merit to ensuring that GMU 12 ranches currently in the E-PLUS system support elk habitat. Those that do not provide a meaningful benefit to the elk population should be phased out. However, the designation of GMU 12 as a COER unit with the proposed deeded acreage weighted allocation system is inherently biased against small ranches. For example, a small ranch with a high property habitat score would be forced into a lottery with other SCRs while a large ranch providing lessor or marginal benefit to elk would still receive authorization tags solely on the basis of deeded acreage. In fact, it is quite conceivable that a small ranch could contain more acreage and attributes of benefit to elk than a large ranch yet receive fewer or no authorizations in any given year. This is inherently unfair.

In whole, the proposed action as currently conceived would be contrary to the stated mission of the NMGFD, is inherently unfair and should be revised or rejected outright.

Craig Fredrickson

Unit-Ranch No. 12-40719

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Clara Foshee
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 9:39 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Request

Please consider going to the point system for elk. That way you are able to hunt at least every five years.

Thanks

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Micheal Hand
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2018 3:56 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Colin Neblett rule change

Categories: Reviewed

Hello,

I am very concerned with combining the N&S areas esp. for elk. If the areas are combined does that mean the number of tags will be combined as well? If so, I fear every elk hunter will head to Tolby Meadows in the S. area and the N. area will no longer be hunted much. Nether area has the capability of supporting 40 hunters at one time should everyone decide to head out whatever spot is most attractive that season.

Thank you for your time.
Mike

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Tom Klumker
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2018 1:00 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules; Liley, Stewart, DGF
Subject: Deer proposed Changes

Categories: Reviewed

Dear Game Dept.,

Having lived here in unit 23 for almost 45 years our mule deer herds are in terrible shape. The proposed 13% decrease in tags is not nearly enough to turn around our low buck doe ratio. Most hunters whom hunt unit 23 either see no bucks or very few. We just do not have the bucks and enough of a robust deer herd to support the heavy hunting pressure. Unit 23 has been an opportunity unit for many years but if there are only a minimal amount of bucks to hunt it become a poor opportunity hunt. Coyotes take a huge toll on our fawn crop so our recruitment is very low also.

Coues Whitetail deer numbers have fallen dramatically in much of the heavier hunted parts of unit 23 along the San Francisco River Canyon. It has had extremely heavy hunting pressure the last several years and the quality of the hunts have dramatically declined irregardless of what your statistics tell you. You can hunt from the old Kenneth Hollimon Cow Camp down along Goat Basin and where we used to see multiple bucks and many does every time, you will be lucky to see one or two does now. That whole area including Table Top, Pine Canyon and Lightening Mesa have only fraction of Coues whitetail deer it used to have.

Unit 23 has taken a beating the last many years for both our Mule Deer and Coues Deer and for the Dept. to continually ignore the truly horrible hunting for both species is a crying shame.

Other parts of the state seem to be turning around and have healthy deer herds. Why can't we make this once deer hunting area of choice, good again? Opportunity and demand seem to be the main driver of the Game Dept. management. It is time to take care of our Mulies and Coues deer here in what used to be one of the greatest deer hunting areas in the state and the Southwest.

As many of you in the Game Dept. know I have lived here and hunted unit 23 for 45 years and spend a considerable amount of time in this unit and am not just blowing smoke at you. Our deer numbers don't justify the 2250 tags less 13%. I would bet good money that that number will not turn around the terrible shape both the mulie herds are in and the Coues numbers need to be cut also. Since the drawing separate for Coues all of the AZ hotshot Coues hunters are coming to NM and have put tremendous pressure on our Coues.

Thank you,

Tom Klumker

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Conrad Ley
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2018 10:36 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Elk Rule Change

Hello,

I would not like any changes to the current elk rule.

Thank you,

Conrad Ley

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Jackson, Ty J., DGF
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2018 8:46 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: FW: Comments on elk private land permits

Comment on E-Plus that came to our comment email.

Ty Jackson
Captain - Field operations
#1 Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
O-(505)-476-8062
C-(575)-643-8012

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations

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-----Original Message-----

From: Gerry & Jean [\[mailto: \]](#)
Sent: Friday, August 24, 2018 4:16 PM
To: DGF-FieldOpsComments
Subject: Comments on elk private land permits

I would like to see the commission adopt the NM Wildlife Federations suggestions on how to manage the E-PLUS program.

Also, I like your proposed change to the youth program where Seniors would be able to get any excess permits. Seniors have a long history of supporting the NM Department of Game and Fish, and we do not know how many years we have left to hunt. I would encourage an even more vigorous system where seniors get a preference for permits.

Gerry Engel

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

Pitman, James, DGF

From:
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2018 8:30 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Cc:
Subject: Update after Gallup Meeting
Attachments: coer final note 2018.docx

Categories: Reviewed

The only change are in the questions. I thought the meeting had a lot of quality dialogue. Looks like at this point, by going COEI in 12, some co-ops with excellent success rates will be out of business. Regards Charlie

CABIN SPRINGS RANCH COMMENTS TO GAME AND FISH AUGUST 23, 2018:

- We are currently in a coop with several neighboring ranches managed by Wilson Bruton. In 2017, the coop had 66% success on archery bulls and 80% on rifle bulls. In the coop containing 6769 acres, there are 16 permanent drink sites.
- In 1998 evidence of elk on Cabin Springs Ranch was sparse, and when seen, it was one or two, or just occasional tracks. The area was considered by Game and Fish as a write off area and permits sold for 150 each. For the next 20 years, Cabin Springs, neighboring ranchers, Ed Wagner, and Ed Bawolek have also proceeded to increase watering locations and habitat. Current assessments suggest the elk count in unit 12 is 4000 and the cow calf ratio is 50 out of 100. We believe this is due to our unit 12 biologist matching permits to improvements. Hunts now sell for 10 to \$15k. That information strongly suggests the reputation of the area hunt value has improved exponentially the past 12 years. Credit goes to Game and Fish biology guidance with Wilson and locals carrying out the plan. In unit 12, the Game and Fish Biologist has had plenty of boots on the ground to provide the guidance and ultimate results.
- By 2018, on Cabin Springs, four, deep well fed, permanent rubber tire drinkers are facilitated. One hand dug well is recovered feeding a permanent drinker. One permanent spring drinker is recovered. A storage remote tank is installed. All these are distributed across the ranch. At 3 of the drinkers and at 1 pool, nearby wallows are maintained. Two other ponds are used as wallows at the edges. The well, fed drinkers serve through the winter.
- Cabin Springs has dog lake, state section line pond, bogart line pond, and Mudd pond that all of these, most years, hold water. There are 3 other ponds that hold water for a short time due to bottom seepage.
- Cabin Springs takes no government money for these improvements.
- At Cabin Springs, the money made selling hunts is re-invested into habitat improvement in the form of water increases and clearings. The elk permits given to us by the state, has provided the financial "fuel" that led to water and habitat improvements. It is probable, that these improvements, combined across the co-op, has helped add to the documented increase in herd size.
- In July on Cabin Springs, 80 acres of rye, turnips, and radishes are planted in plots around the ranch. It is not uncommon to see 20 or so elk cows and calves grazing in these fields on a daily basis.
- Some clearings have been made to increase grass availability. The 2/3 majority of the ranch is virgin pinion and shaggy bark juniper which provides ample bedding grounds for elk. Hunting is not allowed where the elk choose to bed.
- Game and Fish matching permit allotments, to individual ranch parameters in unit 12, has demonstrated to be a good system. For the past three years we have been harvesting higher scoring bulls.
- Our hunts are 100% guided which enhances the hunt success rate and hunter safety.
- A few cattle are run but are taken off when rye is planted and the elk "own" the place until they migrate to winter browse in December. We keep no cattle through the winter.
- Most of our clients are out of state. We do not advertise or attend shows. Our clients come to us word of mouth. In 2013 the co-op was given permits from the state. In 2018, the co-op was given 17 bull and 8 bow permits from the state.
- The Co-op is active in predator control. We believe that the coyote harvest results in a higher elk calf survival rate. 42 coyotes were taken after the 2017 season. This is compared to insufficient predator management is Mount Taylor, where the cow calf is ratio is 12 per 100.
- Regarding proximity, we border Atarque on the North 200sq miles, Rincon ranch on the west 33 sq. miles, within a few miles of Great Western on the south and East 500sq miles.
- The small acreages in the coop that offer water, forage and cover, are valuable to the coop by reserving them for fall back locations in the last days of a client's hunt. If the need arises, they are likely make a kill. We have not calculated

the success rate per acre on the small acreages. Intuitively, we believe it would be an order better than the large ranches with no cover and poor forage due to heavy cattle use. We will get this data.

- The coop is in a micro climate. Some years all get rain, other years it can be lush on portions of the coop and dry on others. Being in a coop helps smooth out the overall harvest for all in the coop.

QUESTIONS:

- Is hunt success rate a consideration since that is the bottom line to the quality of management.

- 43 per cent of the permits now go to state land. How was this number determined? Considering lack of access, lack of permanent water, no agriculture. Why not just make more tags for the state land to facilitate the experiment and leave time honored successes alone until the true value of the increase in state hunts is fully understood?

- COULD A PERSON BE GIVEN A FULLY FUNCTIONAL FORMULA THAT INCLUDES AN ACREAGE MULTIPLIER TO HELP UNDERSTAND THE FUTURE AND FAIRNESS?

- How does the unit 12 herd increase compare to the overall coe average.

- It seems fair to use success rate per acre across the board. Get to a pure merit system. Especially on private land.

- In the re-characterization of private land, would it save time and money to use current biologist data?

GAME AND FISH SCORING METHOD COPIED FROM ONLINE:

Forage: (Including agriculture)

? 0 = No meaningful forage is available or forage is in the form of a lawn or lawn shrubs, gardens, flowers or other ornamental plantings. (Extremely rocky terrain; sandy, bare soils; thick timber with no understory)

? 1 = Marginal forage is available. (Sparse bunchgrasses, scrub habitat, moderately timbered areas with some forage potential)

? 2 = Moderate forage is available. (Open upland grasslands or open savanna-like forest/woodland, dense bunch grass)

? 3 = Substantial forage is available. (Grass meadows, bottomlands and riparian areas)

? Forage Score: ____

Water: (Water should be located on a property where it is readily available for use by elk.)

? 0 = No water is available for elk use. (Includes a water hydrant near or attached to a building or utilization of an exposed or manual hose system)

? 1 = Some water is available throughout at least one season by natural sources or by an established system that can be turned on or off.

? 2 = Water is available throughout at least any two seasons on a consistent basis.

? 3 = Permanent, year round water is available.

? Water Score: ____

Cover:

? 0 = No meaningful cover is provided on the property. (Or cover is compromised by houses, buildings, driveways and/or other disturbances)

? 1 = Poor cover components are provided on the property. (Thin cover or small areas of cover)

? 2 = Good cover components are provided on the property.

? Cover Score: ____

Surrounding Area:

? 0 = Surrounding area is encumbered with human activity, highly developed with houses/buildings and vehicular byways seriously altering or inhibiting elk use and/or travel.

? 1 = Surrounding area has low human activity with low numbers of buildings or vehicular byways and having some impact on elk use and travel.

? 2 = Surrounding area is remote and unencumbered by human activity having no impact on elk use and travel.

? Surrounding Area Score: ____

Agriculture: (Bonus)

? 0 = No agriculture - Native grasses; unimproved pasture grasses; routinely unharvested or un-grazed with minimal harvest opportunity.

? 1 = Agriculture – Marginally productive, dry/unirrigated type or routinely harvested crop.

? 2 = Agriculture – Productive, maintained (irrigated, cultivated, fertilized, etc.), yearly harvestable crop.

? Agriculture Score: ____

Added Bonus: (For considerations not captured elsewhere.)

? 0 = No special considerations.

? 1 = Special consideration exists.

? Added Bonus Score: ____

(The “Added Bonus” category may also be awarded for a property’s proximity to habitat features nearby [generally within ½ mile] but not actually on the property being evaluated. A combination of considerations may be utilized including increasing an area’s ability to be accessed and hunted.)

scoring:

? Habitat Score of 6 ? All properties have some habitat components ? Properties provide some meaningful benefit ? Some marginal properties qualify

Habitat Score of 7 ? All properties consistently have most habitat components ? Properties provide significant meaningful benefit ? Very few marginal properties identified

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Ray Cumbie
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2018 4:53 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Fwd: re-valuate base on habitat

addendum: left something out ; I suggest we have a shorter elk season,by leaving out the month of December .

The animals are under stress & weak. 90 plus day are plenty of time to hunt.

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:re-valuate base on habitat
Date:Tue, 21 Aug 2018 13:36:54 -0600
From:Ray Cumbie
To:DGF-EPLUS-Rules@state.nm.us

Re- valuate amount of tags according to habitat , food & water, Acres
should not play a part for final amount of tags.

U are over hunting cows in unit 15 , could end up like Mt Taylor , which
U ruined .

Unit 12 has excel because you have had limited control ,that should
register with you.

Co ops are taking to many trophy concentrated bulls, Need to address
this in future, or gene pool will be altered .

Like the idea of tags over the counter , land owner controls their own
destiny ,

your late bow hunt in unit 12 produces, lots of trespassing ,

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Jamie White
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2018 2:04 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules; DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk rule comments

I know very little of my comments are under consideration, but I wanted to share them anyway.

RO tags should ONLY be for deeded ground. That would put a lot more tags into the draw pool. It's ridiculous to only have 600 deeded acres and get tags that are allotted for a 5000 acre ranch. That's a lot of tags that aren't going into the draw (and most likely NOT going to residents).

Ranches that are UW ranches should be required to put signage up saying so, or at least make that information more accessible for the general public.

NR should be able to draw cow tags. This would bring the cost of cow tags back down to reasonable prices. And now that only residents can draw cow tags, they've gotten harder to draw than some bull tags.

No 10% outfitters pool. Make it a straight 84/16 split. Outfitters are shooting themselves in the foot on this one because of the number of folks that won't apply here solely on the principal of the screwed up tag allotment. If they opened the NR pool to 16%, there would be a lot more NR clients to go after.

I also think there should be an acreage restriction for private tags. I feel like an 80 acre ranch getting 3 tags is a little excessive.

Jamie White

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: daneandshari lambson
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2018 8:19 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Unit 12

Concerning the change proposals for unit 12. It was working just fine for me the way it was. If it isn't broke don't fix it just for the sake of making some sort of change. If you can't leave well enough alone and have to make a change then put it into a coer unit. Taking it out and letting it be a free for all will shoot the unit out in two years except along the northern boundary. Being able to make some money off permits has offset the damage done by the drought and the pressure put on the grazing and water by elk due to the drought. We aren't making any money of ranching and the elk permits are helping some. I think the current coer allocation proposals will not be fair. Access to public lands in 12 is very limited. I heard the man tell us at Quemado that the public lands were accessible to people if you were willing to walk a ways, several mile a lot of the time. that is OK until you kill something and have to pack it back out several miles. Make it a coer unit, lower the required acreage for a permit with better attention to incentive work. I have done alot of work on my places and have planted and watered fields knowing that the only benefit will be for the elk. I don't know the answers but do know that changing things all the time don't work either.
Dane Lambson.

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From:
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2018 7:37 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Unit 30

Add cow only tags to help reduce or maintain herd size.

In this unit as well as other units in our dry state, elk numbers grow significantly due to the water made available by grazing lease holders.

This is a double edge sword. More elk makes the public happy but can be devastating to the lease holder. We all see the constant fence damage done by elk but “we all” don’t fix the fence, the lease holder does. A bigger issue that goes unnoticed is the graze off of grass by elk. The lease holder rotates livestock from one pasture to another allowing pasture recovery but when the livestock are moved out the elk move in disrupting the recovery. A management plan needs to include cooperative practices between Game and Fish / public land managers and the Grazing lease holders including holders of significant deeded lands.

Wayne Byers

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Robert T
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 12:16 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: I Support the proposed Elk Rule

Categories: Reviewed

I, a resident hunter of NM, fully support the change to Elk Rule as proposed by the NM Wilderness Federation.

If enacted, this rule will give the "Public Land" hunter a fairer access to unit tags and access to our Elk that traverse our public and private lands.

Robert Truncellito

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Bruce Waggoner
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 4:26 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Waggoner Comments on New Elk Hunting Regulations for Unit 12
Attachments: NMDGF Letter 2018-08-22.pdf

Hello Rex (et. al.) -

Please see my (PDF) letter attached.

Regards...

Bruce Waggoner
Waggoner Ranch

August 22, 2018

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF)
Attn: Rex Martinson
<DGF-EPLUS-Rules@state.nm.us>

re: Comments on Proposed New Elk Hunting Regulations for Unit 12

I (and about 150 other citizens) attended your 8/8/2018 meeting at Quemado High School regarding proposed changes to the Unit 12 elk hunting regulations. Here are my comments in no particular order:

- x) The fact that about 150 people, being about 5% of the total population of Catron County, showed up at this meeting, should impress you. I know that if you held a meeting in Santa Fe, and 7,000 people (5% of the population) showed up, or if you held a meeting in Albuquerque, and 33,000 people (5% of the population) showed up, you would be very impressed. Elk hunting is a very big deal in Catron County.
- x) One reason I attended the meeting is that I was under the impression that my 2,823 acre Unit 12 property would become "COER" property. On occasions we have herds of up to 50 elk on our property for days at a time, but we are not elk occupied year round by any means. Your proposal to do away with the "COER" designation, and replace it with "Primary Elk Management Zone" (with other properties being designated "Secondary Elk Management Zone") appears to be better terminology.
- x) Your proposal to use a scientific based scoring system for evaluating all Unit 12 properties for their elk growing potential appears to be excellent. The process is public, easy to understand, and provides strong incentives to landowners to improve their properties for elk raising (and hunting) purposes. Please adopt this proposal.
- x) During the 8/8 meeting, you mentioned that some large landowners receive more elk hunting permits than they ever use. For example, I have a neighbor who consistently (based on his acreage) receives about 10 permits per year, but only uses about 5 permits per year. No doubt there are 5 other small landowners who would be thrilled to get a permit. And this is just one small example, no doubt repeated many times (on a much larger scale) within Unit 12. You need to adopt a system which allows landowners to request "x" permits, even if they would otherwise qualify for many more permits. A landowner who consistently has many unused permits should have his/her number of permits restricted in future years, unless there is some special occasion to justify otherwise. Find a way to give qualified "small landowners" significant elk hunting opportunities, not just the big guys.

- x) Not mentioned at the 8/8 meeting was how permits would be granted to small landowners who do not qualify for 1 or more permits every year. Perhaps you already have a great solution to this topic, I just didn't hear it. I would envision a "fair" system as one which uses the scientific scoring system mentioned above, plus the landowner's acreage, to allocate a "fractional permit" every year. If for example a landowner qualifies for "0.20 permits", they could expect on average 1 permit every 5 years. If for example a landowner qualifies for "0.80 permits", they could expect on average 4 permits every 5 years. In other words, unused fractional permits get applied to subsequent years. Computers have very good memories, this should be easy to implement.
- x) Please recognize the fact that the citizens of Catron County tend to distrust government at all levels (due to bad experiences, and our abilities to take care of ourselves). As soon as you propose increasing the regulation of our area, our natural reaction is to say "NO", even if your proposals end up being good ones in the long run.
- x) Many landowners within Unit 12 depend on elk hunting for significant income and/or meat on the table. Whatever decision(s) you make can have a huge effect on people's lives. Please proceed carefully.
- x) I have one near and dear neighbor who purchased 1,000 acres in Unit 12 many years ago just so that he could go elk hunting with his friends and relatives every year. He has invested approximately \$1,000,000 to that end. I have invested approximately \$2,000,000 in my property. If your proposed elk hunting regulatory changes increase the values of our respective properties, that's great. If the changes eventually reduce our ability to hunt elk on our properties, you are taking wheelbarrows full of money out of our pockets every year. And we are just 2 landowners. Proceed carefully with your proposed changes, and pay close attention the very large economic impact those changes may have on all Unit 12 residents.
- x) Because of the large amount of money at stake, especially in relatively poor Catron County, please be willing to revisit this issue 4 years from now, and roll it back to the existing status if it isn't working well in the opinion of Unit 12 landowners.

Thanks for listening, and please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bruce Waggoner
Waggoner Ranch

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Susan Poe
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 3:12 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules; DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Cc: Roberts, Aaron, DGF
Subject: E-Plus Program
Attachments: New Mexico Game Commission.pdf

August 22, 2018

New Mexico State Game Commission

RE: E-Plus Program
Unit-Ranch# 34-27676

Dear Commission:

My Family purchased the Skyline Ranch of 160 acres in 2004 which is located in the Sacramento Mountain Range in High Rolls, Mountain Park, New Mexico. This historic ranch was was called Camp Mescalero in 1908 to Skyline Ranch of the YMCA to the later 1980's becoming a privately owned ranch. We support your new potential E-Plus guidelines as we are good stewards of our land. A 100% of our land is surrounded by National Forest and we maintain it for the natural habitat. We have no livestock on the property and have enhanced our property specifically for the wildlife. We feel confident that through employees under our management and dollars spent on maintaining our property we would score in all categories at your highest marks. We have year around ponds and seasonal streams that provide a constant natural water source. We use all best practices in maintaining our pastures for the wild life with fertilizer and seeding. We have maintained all the natural cover for animals as well as through the assistance of the Forestry Service in practice for promoting more natural forest growth. The ability to care for your land as a conscientious hunter is foremost on our property. We provide a unique hunting opportunity to our family and friends that are primarily out of state tag owners.

I believe with the implementation of this program that Skyline Ranch will be a recipient to more hunting tag opportunities.

Sincerely,

Susan Poe

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Reagan Horton
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 2:54 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Proposed Changes to EPLUS program

To whom it may concern,

My name is Reagan Horton. I am Vice President of DR Horton Great Western Ranch LLC, which owns 211,845 acres within Unit 12 and 4,080 acres within Unit 13. The total acres that we control through deeded, state and BLM leases exceeds 500,000 acres within these 2 units and another 250,000 acres in the north and eastern portions of the state. I have been in contact with my regional manager Jason Saulan as well as Tom McReynolds with Black Mountain Outfitters, who leases all of our land for hunting, to discuss the proposed changes to the EPLUS program. After talking with them, I would like it to be known that our organization is in favor of making Unit 12 part of the COER. We feel like your method of evaluating the ranches based on a set of criteria that will be beneficial to the elk herd, fits very well into our organization's mission. We believe that a diverse, healthy ecosystem is the best way to improve both wildlife habitat as well as habitat for our cattle. I will just mention a few items that will help illustrate our commitment to improve the habitat for all species of flora and fauna.

1. We hired Kirk Gadzia, an internationally known holistic management specialist, to come out to all of our ranches on a semi annual basis to consult with our managers as to how to continually improve our forage base through rotational grazing practices, timing of grazing and proper rest for the land. We are having Kirk put on a 2 day seminar for all of our employees in NM and Texas in September, so that everyone will have the proper tools they will need to accurately judge the health of the land and forage and then communicate that information to our managers.

2. We have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in the last 2 years improving the water infrastructure on the half million acres. We recognize that the wildlife need access to good water sources year round, not just when the cattle are in the pasture and have made a commitment to treat the Elk, deer and antelope habitat with as much care as we do for our cattle.

3. We have reduced our cattle stocking density by 25% in an effort to always have a drought reserve for not only our cattle, but also for the elk. This reduction in herd size will allow for more rotational grazing, therefore more rest on each pasture, which should in turn result in a significant improvement of the ecosystem.

4. We have spent the last year putting together the best crew in New Mexico, from top to bottom, which I believe is the cornerstone to having a successful partnership with the state and federal agencies. Our people are great at cattle ranching, but they are also thoughtful conservationist that understand balancing profits versus conserving and improving the land. My regional manager Jason is the best there is and is in full support of this program and will be a vital source of information for you going forward as we hopefully implement this new program.

I would like to offer one suggestion for making this elk herd one of if not the finest in North America. Please consider making the rifle mature bull tags either sex. I know that , as a trophy hunter myself, I would rather shoot a cow for meat versus a marginal bull, but right now killing the marginal bull is the only option in that scenario. I know that the more females you have in a herd in relation to the males, no matter what species, the more inferior genetics you end up with being introduced into the herd. We want to let only the best genetics make it to the next generation and will therefore have the healthiest herd possible.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Reagan Horton
Vice President
DR Horton Great Western Ranch LLC

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Sandoval, Gilbert
Sent: Monday, November 26, 2018 9:51 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: [EXT] 6A and 6C Hunts

Would like to see 6A antlerless in late November and 6C antlerless hunts increased by 2 days.

Gilbert M. Sandoval
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Diacrode Lab
Cell Ph.
E-mail

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Chris Guikema
Sent: Friday, November 23, 2018 9:01 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: [EXT] Bow seasons

I'm sure it's too late but with average hunters spending 7 days or less on bow hunts, how about bumping us back to 3 7 days seasons. We will have better odds of drawing a tag and 7 full days to hunt.

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Jensen, Scott C
Sent: Wednesday, November 21, 2018 10:45 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: [EXT] Combining Colin Neblett north and south
Attachments: Colin-Neblett-GAIN-WMA-NMDGF.pdf

Combining the Colin Neblett North and South units is a **BAD** idea.

I hunted the Colin Neblett south muzzleloader hunt this year and it was over crowded with 14 of the 20 Tag holders focusing on Tolby meadow and not hunting any of the other areas. This pressure pushed the elk herd on to private property to the south the first morning.

If the north and south units are combined it will just put more pressure on the tolby meadow area because this is the only prime area hunters focus on and will pressure the elk herd onto the private land.

I have friends that have hunted the North in the past and because of the access limitations and the difficulty of the hunt they will not apply for it again.

I think this area has great potential and I would even recommend cutting the number of tags so that the opportunity for harvest increase for the tag holders.

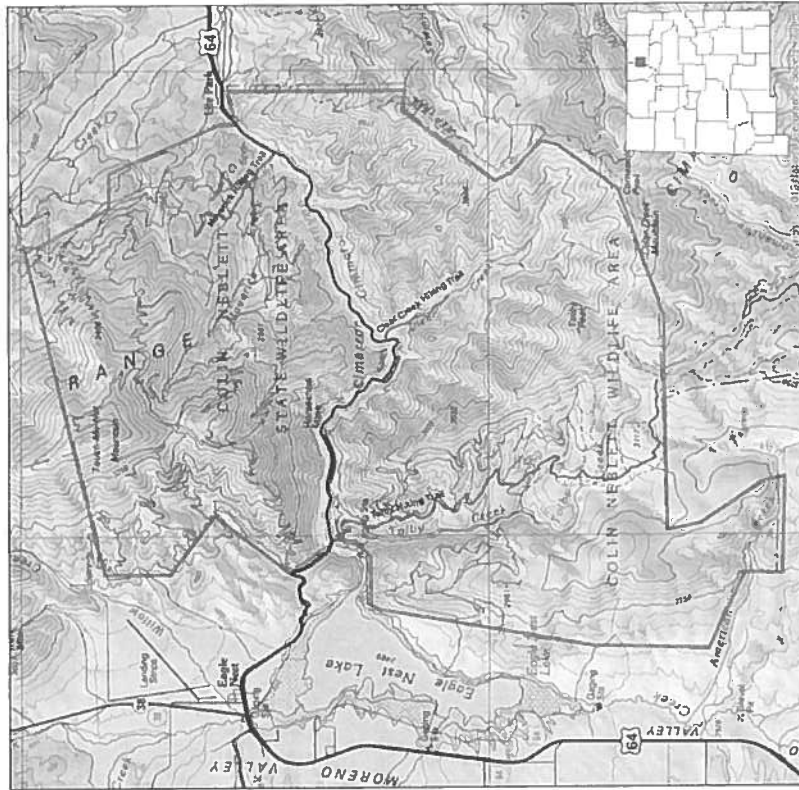
The only way that I would support combining these units would be to Limit the tags to a to a combined number equal to what is offered for the south only, Or even issue less tags so that there are fewer hunters in the unit. Even though this lessens the odds of drawing a tag.

I am afraid that combining the units will just put twice as many hunters in one spot and will ruin the hunting for everyone. If you really want this to be quality unit then you should look at lessening the hunting pressure not increasing it.

Scott Jensen



Colin Neblett Wildlife Area



Trails
Colin Neblett Wildlife Management Area

Location: The Colin Neblett Wildlife Management Area lies east of the village of Eagle Nest and Eagle Nest Lake in Colfax County. This WMA straddles both the north and south sides of US 64.

Total Acreage: 33,116 acres.

Purchase: The Colin Neblett was purchased in 1950-1951.

Description: This property provides hunting and fishing access and habitat for deer, elk, and other wildlife species. It is one of the largest properties owned by the Department. The Colin Neblett consists of tree covered mountains bisected by the Cimarron River canyon.

For More information: More information about hunting, fishing and other activities, may be found on the Department's website: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/.

GAIN Activities

✓ Wildlife Viewing

✓ Photography

Access

✓ Hiking

✓ Skiing/Snowshoeing

✓ Horseback Riding

✓ Camping

Hunting and Fishing

✓ Hunting

✓ Fishing

Closures

✓ Yes

Facilities

✓ Rest rooms

✓ Drinking water

✓ Developed camp sites

✓ Interpretive exhibits

Fees

✓ Yes

Motorized Vehicles

✓ Not allowed beyond the roadway and parking area

For more information on hunting and fishing rules and seasons, please read current hunting or fishing Rules and Information Booklets available on the Department's website, at Department offices, or from license vendors statewide.

What to See, Do, and Learn

Wildlife Viewing-Wildlife watchers may see deer, elk, turkey, grouse, bear, and other wildlife. Good binoculars are important. The best time to view wildlife is at dawn or dusk.

Photographing-The Colin Neblett WMA is quite photogenic, with palisade cliffs, streams and forests. The best time to photograph wildlife is at dawn or dusk. A telephoto lens is important.

Hiking-Hiking is the best way to see wildlife on the Colin Neblett or other wildlife management areas. Tolby and Maverick trails are open year-round except May 15-July 31. Clear Creek Trail is open year-round.

Bicycling-Not allowed.

Skiing/Snowshoeing-These are wonderful ways to see winter wildlife on the Colin Neblett.

Horseback Riding-Tolby and Maverick trails are open year-round except May 15-July 31. Clear Creek Trail is closed to horses.

Camping-Camping is allowed on the Colin Neblett. There are developed campsites managed by NM State Parks Division in the Cimarron Canyon State Park and adjacent Eagle Nest Lake. Only licensed deer and elk hunters may camp in a designated area in the back country, and only during their deer or elk hunt.

Rock Climbing-STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

Hunting-Hunting is allowed for deer, elk, bear, turkey and small game during open seasons and to hunters with valid licenses and permits.

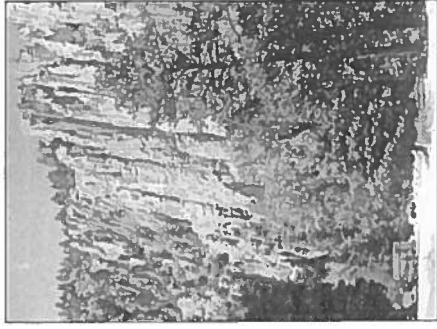
Fishing-Year-round fishing is allowed in the Cimarron River for browns and stocked rainbow trout.

Closures-The Colin Neblett back country is closed to all entry during deer fawning and elk calving May 15-July 31.

Facilities-The Colin Neblett has rest rooms, drinking water, developed camp sites, and interpretive exhibits available in the Cimarron Canyon

Fees-Hunters and fishermen must have appropriate licenses and permits to take part in these activities. Wildlife viewers, photographers, hikers, bicyclists, horseback riders, and skiers must have a valid permit or validation with them while in the back country of the Colin Neblett. Individuals may also access this WMA with a valid Cimarron State Park entrance permit.

Motorized Vehicles-Not allowed beyond the roadway and parking area.



Pitman, James, DGF

From: Daniel Tepley
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2018 10:08 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: [EXT] Comments on Proposed Changes to Elk Rule

Comment on Elk 19.31.14 NMAC NE Area "Colin Neblett: Combine north and south hunt zones".

I have drawn and hunted both the Colin Neblett north and south. The north hunt is in very difficult terrain. The year that I drew, out of 20 tags issued there was only one bull harvested with a muzzleloader. The south unit has one area for camping and it is very crowded now, with only 20 tags issued. My concern is that if the north and south units are combined and the number of tags includes the current numbers from both the north and the south (20 tags each for most hunts), the one small camp area in the south will be overcrowded resulting in a less enjoyable hunt. I would suggest making the Colin Neblett north elk hunts either sex in order to get more hunters to apply and leave the Neblett south with the same number of tags that it currently has.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dan Tepley

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Stefani Fichtel
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2018 4:42 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: [EXT] Proposed elk rule change

Hello,

I'm writing in reference to the proposed elk rule change which would combine the Colin Neblett north and south units. I have hunted both the north and south units within the past 3 years and my concern with this is that most of the hunters would end up in the southern half as it's far more productive for elk.

If by combining the units the number of tags doubles (20 each) then the southern unit would be even more crowded then it already is and the limited back country camping would be a circus. If the total number of tags were left at 20 then this wouldn't be a problem.

I ask that you please reconsider this change or consider the number of tags allotted.

Thank you,
Mike Fichtel

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From:
Sent: Saturday, November 17, 2018 9:30 AM
To: 'Dr. Edward J. Bawolek'; DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Cc: 'Suzan Bawolek' Taylor, Bill G., DGF
Subject: [EXT] RE: Bawolek Comments on Proposed changes to the private land elk license allocation (GMU12)

Well done. Best Charlie

From: Dr. Edward J. Bawolek
Sent: Thursday, November 15, 2018 8:07 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules@state.nm.us
Cc: Suzan Bawolek
Subject: Bawolek Comments on Proposed changes to the private land elk license allocation (GMU12)

*) The Bawolek Ranch comprises 2240 deeded acres in Game Unit 12. The ranch surrounds a "landlocked" New Mexico grazing lease (S2 T5N R17W) on three sides.

***) We OPPOSE the proposal to place Game Unit 12 inside the COER**

*) We agree with the position advocated by Mr. Charlie Johnson (Cabin Springs Ranch) that a ranch scoring system for elk habitat should comprehend and include past measures of elk hunt success and consideration of changes in those trends over time. In particular, a steady or improving harvest of quality animals over time is a strong indicator of a favorable ecosystem and sound management practice.

*) All ranches within GMU 12 should have been scored, and proposed tag allocations enumerated PRIOR to drafting the proposal to place the unit to inside the COER. Otherwise, the NMDGF is requesting ranchers to agree to a change with unknown consequence.

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Edward J. Bawolek, PE, PhD

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Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Pitman, James, DGF
Sent: Thursday, November 15, 2018 1:53 PM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: FW: [EXT] Update after Gallup Meeting
Attachments: coer final note 2018.docx

This one should be in the Elk and EPLUS folders.

James W. Pitman

Elk Program Manager
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
Work Phone: 505-476-8039
james.pitman@state.nm.us

CONSERVING NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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From: Henry Johnson
Sent: Thursday, November 08, 2018 6:55 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Cc: Henry Johnson
Subject: [EXT] Update after Gallup Meeting

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Charlie

CABIN SPRINGS RANCH COMMENTS TO GAME AND FISH AUGUST 23, 2018:

- We are currently in a coop with several neighboring ranches managed by Wilson Bruton. In 2017, the coop had 66% success on archery bulls and 80% on rifle bulls. In the coop containing 6769 acres, there are 16 permanent drink sites.
- In 1998 evidence of elk on Cabin Springs Ranch was sparse, and when seen, it was one or two, or just occasional tracks. The area was considered by Game and Fish as a write off area and permits sold for 150 each. For the next 20 years, Cabin Springs, neighboring ranchers, Ed Wagner, and Ed Bawolek have also proceeded to increase watering locations and habitat. Current assessments suggest the elk count in unit 12 is 4000 and the cow calf ratio is 50 out of 100. We believe this is due to our unit 12 biologist matching permits to improvements. Hunts now sell for 10 to \$15k. That information strongly suggests the reputation of the area hunt value has improved exponentially the past 12 years. Credit goes to Game and Fish biology guidance with Wilson and locals carrying out the plan. In unit 12, the Game and Fish Biologist has had plenty of boots on the ground to provide the guidance and ultimate results.
- By 2018, on Cabin Springs, four, deep well fed, permanent rubber tire drinkers are facilitated. One hand dug well is recovered feeding a permanent drinker. One permanent spring drinker is recovered. A storage remote tank is installed. All these are distributed across the ranch. At 3 of the drinkers and at 1 pool, nearby wallows are maintained. Two other ponds are used as wallows at the edges. The well, fed drinkers serve through the winter.
- Cabin Springs has dog lake, state section line pond, bogart line pond, and Mudd pond that all of these, most years, hold water. There are 3 other ponds that hold water for a short time due to bottom seepage.
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- At Cabin Springs, the money made selling hunts is re-invested into habitat improvement in the form of water increases and clearings. The elk permits given to us by the state, has provided the financial "fuel" that led to water and habitat improvements. It is probable, that these improvements, combined across the co-op, has helped add to the documented increase in herd size.
- In July on Cabin Springs, 80 acres of rye, turnips, and radishes are planted in plots around the ranch. It is not uncommon to see 20 or so elk cows and calves grazing in these fields on a daily basis.
- Some clearings have been made to increase grass availability. The 2/3 majority of the ranch is virgin pinion and shaggy bark juniper which provides ample bedding grounds for elk. Hunting is not allowed where the elk choose to bed.
- Game and Fish matching permit allotments, to individual ranch parameters in unit 12, has demonstrated to be a good system. For the past three years we have been harvesting higher scoring bulls.
- Our hunts are 100% guided which enhances the hunt success rate and hunter safety.
- A few cattle are run but are taken off when rye is planted and the elk "own" the place until they migrate to winter browse in December. We keep no cattle through the winter.
- Most of our clients are out of state. We do not advertise or attend shows. Our clients come to us word of mouth. In 2013 the co-op was given permits from the state. In 2018, the co-op was given 17 bull and 8 bow permits from the state.
- The Co-op is active in predator control. We believe that the coyote harvest results in a higher elk calf survival rate. 42 coyotes were taken after the 2017 season. This is compared to insufficient predator management is Mount Taylor, where the cow calf is ratio is 12 per 100.
- Regarding proximity, we border Atarque on the North 200sq miles, Rincon ranch on the west 33 sq. miles, within a few miles of Great Western on the south and East 500sq miles.
- The small acreages in the coop that offer water, forage and cover, are valuable to the coop by reserving them for fall back locations in the last days of a client's hunt. If the need arises, they are likely make a kill. We have not calculated

the success rate per acre on the small acreages. Intuitively, we believe it would be an order better than the large ranches with no cover and poor forage due to heavy cattle use. We will get this data.

- The coop is in a micro climate. Some years all get rain, other years it can be lush on portions of the coop and dry on others. Being in a coop helps smooth out the overall harvest for all in the coop.

QUESTIONS:

- Is hunt success rate a consideration since that is the bottom line to the quality of management.

- 43 per cent of the permits now go to state land. How was this number determined? Considering lack of access, lack of permanent water, no agriculture. Why not just make more tags for the state land to facilitate the experiment and leave time honored successes alone until the true value of the increase in state hunts is fully understood?

- COULD A PERSON BE GIVEN A FULLY FUNCTIONAL FORMULA THAT INCLUDES AN ACREAGE MULTIPLIER TO HELP UNDERSTAND THE FUTURE AND FAIRNESS?

- How does the unit 12 herd increase compare to the overall coe average.

- It seems fair to use success rate per acre across the board. Get to a pure merit system. Especially on private land.

- In the re-characterization of private land, would it save time and money to use current biologist data?

GAME AND FISH SCORING METHOD COPIED FROM ONLINE:

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? 0 = Surrounding area is encumbered with human activity, highly developed with houses/buildings and vehicular byways seriously altering or inhibiting elk use and/or travel.

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Habitat Score of 7 ? All properties consistently have most habitat components ? Properties provide significant meaningful benefit ? Very few marginal properties identified

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Sent: Thursday, November 15, 2018 8:07 AM
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Pitman, James, DGF

From: Bernard Quinones
Sent: Monday, November 12, 2018 9:57 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: [EXT] Elk Tags

Categories: Reviewed

Make elk tags available over the counter, we can buy landowner tags , but they are becoming very expensive. Reduce the landowner tags and provide them over the counter for hunters.

Bernard Quinones

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Frank Martinez
Sent: Friday, November 09, 2018 6:24 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: [EXT] Comments to Proposed EPLUS Rule Changes
Attachments: Comments.docx

Frank Martinez 

Frank Martinez

Comments

10/9/2018

Proposed Changes to the Private Land Elk License Allocation E-Plus Rule

I am in support of the proposed changes to the Private Land Elk License Allocation E-Plus Rule if the Meaningful Benefit scoring process is used fairly. **If this scoring process is not going to be applied fairly and across the board then do not support changes. There cannot be any favoritism used!**

There are many private properties that are currently getting private land elk permits and hardly if ever elk visit the property due to there being lack of forage or cover . Some properties are surrounded by development that are not desirable for big game to visit. Then there are others that are so over grazed and lack water that are not providing any benefit for elk.

Simply qualifying because of acres should not be the qualifying criteria.

My property is located in unit 51 and I am surrounded by land owners that either have over grazed property or covered with trees and lack forage and water. My property has irrigated land which I like to harvest hay from. My property has water in stock tanks that I maintained and are in excellent condition. I graze part of my property that is not irrigated lightly from Mid-May to end of July. I graze my irrigated property from late September to time it snows unless use dictates that cattle be removed. I do not over graze my property. I treat noxious weeds every year and work my fields every year. I also seed as needed.

I irrigate my meadows every spring.

My property possesses a mosaic of openings and wooded areas very attractive to big game. So Elk prefer to graze my property due to desirable forage and hiding cover. There have been several years that cow elk have calved in my property.

Yet the surrounding properties get base permits based on acreage because there is no way that those properties offer any forage or cover. I have been reduced base permits in the past, yet those around me don't get reduced. I asked for incentive permits and have a couple which require me to perform improvements and or maintain improvements that benefit elk. I also am required to submit a report annually to show what improvement work I have completed.

The surrounding properties do neither of this and they keep getting the same base permits every year. I do not especially like to have elk grazing my property but I am willing to cooperate with NMDGF, if I can see that I am treated equitably and that I am recognized, for maintaining my property to a standard that I can benefit and as a result elk benefit as well.

I would like to see NMDGF recognize those individuals that work their property resulting in benefits for elk and reward those individuals with increased permits and reduce permits to those individuals that are qualifying basically because of acres.

If I have had my property inspected by your department why haven't the neighboring properties been inspected?

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Henry Johnson
Sent: Thursday, November 08, 2018 6:55 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Cc: Henry Johnson
Subject: [EXT] Update after Gallup Meeting
Attachments: coer final note 2018.docx

Categories: Reviewed

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Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Mary E. Greiert
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2018 1:31 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: [EXT] Proposed Changes to E-PLUS Rule 19.30.5

COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PRIVATE LAND ELK ALLOCATION (E-PLUS) RULE 19.30.5 NMAC

Scoring System does have merit as presented at the public meeting held in Socorro, NM on July 11, 2018. However, the system needs to take into consideration:

1. Subdivisions that have restricting covenants that include no use of firearms within the subdivision and/or no hunting should not be allowed into the E-PLUS system.

The County Clerks all have lists of the subdivisions in their counties and copies of the covenants or restrictions. It would be easy for the NMGF to get a list of those with covenants or restrictions on hunting & firearm use.

2. Elk proof fences put more elk pressure on all other property owners without elk proof fences, especially along water sources, e.g. rivers.

The amount of acres behind elk proof fences should be kept in the % of private lands -vs- public and actually their % should be weighted higher because they exert **extra pressure** on all other private lands.

3. Properties inside of a congested town should not be allowed into the program. It's against the laws and logic.
4. Properties that are intentionally maintained for elk should be given higher priority.
5. The NMGF should put the burden onto the landowner to prove meaningful benefit before the NMGF evaluation.

6. In addition to the NMGF proposed scoring system there should be a minimum acreage for the COER properties and for the SCR properties.

7. Splitting of properties: The owner of the new parcel should have to show proof of purchase. The division should be transacted according to the subdivision laws of State of New Mexico and of each county.

8. There shouldn't be any "Grandfathering" in of the current E-PLUS participants. They should all be re-evaluated.

9. **MOST IMPORTANTLY:** Number of acres should be weighted. For instance, a property of 1 acre scoring 7 points -vs- a property of 100 acres scoring 7 points in the same GMU . . . The 100 acre property would be worth 100 times more as to meaningful benefit to elk. **That is simple logic.**

ISSUES IN THE PAST:

A. Many parcels of land located in subdivisions that restrict hunting and/or discharge of firearms have received tags through the SCR draw

“t

B. The "tracking system" as to when a parcel of land received a tag through the SCR draw . . . therefore dropping them to the bottom of the draw was a failure. There were numerous properties that I've been involved with as a Qualifying Real Estate Broker that have received numerous consecutive tags under the former owner and the new owner.

Example is a 40 acre in-holding at the top of Slaughter Mesa (GMU 15). It was sold in 2017. The former owners received a MB tag in 2015 and an Archery tag in 2016. The new owners who purchased in 2017 received a MB tag in 2018.

C1C. A 120 acre in-holding in 16D with close to 1 mile of river has not received a tag in 5 years.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Greiert

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Pat Barncastle
Sent: Wednesday, October 31, 2018 12:17 PM
To: DGF-Deer-Rules; DGF-Elk-Rules
Cc: andy.gray@state.nm.us; Teague, Austin, DGF; Sloane, Michael B., DGF
Subject: [EXT] Proposed amendment to the Big Game Rule for Deer & Elk
Attachments: 10-26-2018Deer Final Lever Action Rifle Hunt Proposals bill.doc; 10-26-2018Elk Final Lever Action Rifle Hunt Proposals bill.doc

Categories: Reviewed

Thank you for your consideration concerning this proposal.
Pat

October 31, 2018

Pat R. Barncastle

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Mike Sloane, Director
Big Game Rule Development (Deer)
#1 Wildlife Way
P.O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507

Attn; Big Game Rule Development;

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comments for proposals to the Big Game Rule for deer. With the fact that the Department is continually seeking additional hunting opportunities for hunters, I would like for the Department to consider an amendment to the Rule. The proposed rule would allow a restricted hunt in which only lever action firearms would be legal. Specifically, the proposed rule would allow lever action centerfire firearms with only metallic sights.

These proposed hunts would be specific to Units 32, 36 and 37. These proposed 5 day hunts would commence on the Saturday immediately following Thanksgiving and run through the following Wednesday.

After visiting with several hunters that have expressed interest in this amendment, we would greatly appreciate your consideration to allow additional hunting opportunities for these types of firearms.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this proposal. Should you need to contact me regarding this matter, please feel free to call me at ,

Thank you.

Sincerely;
Pat R. Barncastle,

October 31, 2018

Pat R. Barncastle

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Mike Sloane, Director
Big Game Rule Development (Elk)
#1 Wildlife Way
P.O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507

Attn: Big Game Rule Development;

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comments for proposals to the Big Game Rule for elk. With the fact that the Department is continually seeking additional hunting opportunities for hunters, I would like for the Department to consider an amendment to the Rule. The proposed rule would allow a restricted hunt in which only lever action firearms would be legal. Specifically, the proposed rule would allow lever action centerfire firearms with only metallic sights.

These proposed hunts would be specific to Units 36 and 37. These proposed 5 day hunts would commence on the Saturday immediately following the muzzleloader elk hunt and run through the following Wednesday.

After visiting with several hunters that have expressed interest in this amendment, we would greatly appreciate your consideration to allow additional hunting opportunities for these types of firearms.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this proposal. Should you need to contact me regarding this matter, please feel free to call me at 505-824-2222.

Thank you.

Sincerely;
Pat R. Barncastle,

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Branch, Kenneth - NRCS, Albuquerque, NM
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 9:26 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: [EXT] Comments on EPLUS Rule Changes
Attachments: EPLUS RULE CHANGES.DOCX

Attached you will find my comments to the upcoming EPLUS rule changes.

Thank you

Kenneth J. Branch

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EPLUS PROPOSED CHANGES

06-21-2018

Comments/Suggestions to the Suggested improvements:

The first suggestion I have is for the department to be careful with comments coming from public individuals who are not landowners. I feel that the general public views private landowner tags as a negative when in all reality private landowners provide some of the best elk habitat in the state. The public feels that private land tags and taking away from the number of licenses available in the draw when in fact they are not. Some public hunters see private land as a barrier to them but they don't understand that we (private landowners) simply ask that they respect the land, we ask that they seek permission or inform us that they wish to access the property.

- Define “meaningful benefit” based on biological criteria
 - I agree with defining meaningful benefit. The criteria should be based on the property's ability to provide water (for at least a part of the year as we are in a drought), food, cover/shelter.
 - Other factors that should be considered is providing safety corridors between habitats, migration routes, as well as management practices such as deferring grazing during the nesting/fawning period.
- Use habitat-based evaluation to screen all properties currently in EPLUS
 - Properties should provide water, cover/shelter and food. The properties that provide all three should not be considered an SCR and should receive a landowner authorization on a yearly basis.
 - Properties should not be screened based on size as they currently are. By screening properties based on acres is discrimination against small landowners. In the GMU where our land is located there are small tracts of land that provide more benefit in terms of habitat than the larger ranches. There are properties that are less than 100 acres that provide food, water and cover and they are considered a SCR and have to apply and most of the time do not “draw” a tag each year but at the same time there are large tracts that are only woodlands and do not provide water or much food (based on the density of the trees) yet these ranches receive tag(s) each year and do not have to go through a draw simply because they have more acres.
 - Tracts of land that do not provide any type of habitat (just trees) should not qualify for the program or should be rated on a lower scale than properties that provide food, water, cover etc.. For all ranches to be rated the same is unfair to the ranches that do manage the property.
- Re-evaluate any properties with acreage changes
 - Acres changes should only be allowed if you are adding property or reducing acres. Acre changes to “split” property to have multiple SCRs should not be allowed regardless of land being contiguous or non-contiguous
 - A landowner should only be able to have one SCR with all the property he/she/or the entity owns. If landowner has multiple tracts of land that contribute to a meaningful benefit they should not be considered a SCR and should be given and authorization each year.
- Remove properties that don't provide meaningful benefit

- Instead of removing the properties that don't provide a meaningful benefit the department should consider those properties SCRs and have a draw for those properties. Other properties that provide a meaningful benefit should not be considered a SCR and should receive a landowner authorization each year.
- Route Bonus and Unconverted authorizations through the SCRs first
 - If changes are made to the definition of meaningful benefit only the ranches that do not meet the definition should be considered a SCR, if that was the case any bonus or Unconverted authorizations should go to properties that meet the definition of meaningful benefit.
- Eliminate SCR draw history system
 - I feel changes should be made to the definition of properties that are considered a SCR instead of the draw system. As mentioned above, the properties that don't provide a meaningful benefit the department should consider those properties SCRs and have a draw for those properties. Other properties that provide a meaningful benefit should not be considered a SCR and should receive a landowner authorization each year.
 - If the department is not willing to consider the above proposal, then I feel the draw history system needs to be eliminated. Often landowners have to wait years before they can receive a tag. The wait is so all landowners have a chance to receive a tag. Though the department was trying to be "fair" to all who participate it is actually unfair to those ranchers that provide a meaningful benefit.
- Develop a weighted draw for SCR properties
 - Properties that meet the definition of meaningful benefit should not have to go through a draw. When land provides meaningful benefit, it provides it each year, therefore properties that meet the definition should not have to go through a draw but should be awarded an authorization each year. The Elk don't draw names of properties they use, they continue to use the properties that provide the habitat, with that why should properties that provide this habitat be in a draw.
 - Only the properties that do not provide a meaningful benefit should be in a draw. Since it will be determined they do not provide a meaningful benefit there would be no reason/need for a weighted draw system.
 - If a weighted system is implemented I feel the properties that have food, water, cover, crops (irrigated or dryland) should receive the most points. As mentioned in a meeting, the dept is going to determine these factors by looking at a map. I understand the amount of time it would take to review all properties, but I don't feel you get the entire picture by looking at a map. Landowners should be given the opportunity to appeal the score they receive. This appeal process should require at site visit.
- Make outside COER private land tags available over-the-counter
 - If feel this would be a mistake. Landowners that are only looking at money are going to sell as many tags as possible which can have a negative outcome on the elk. I feel the department should continue to control the amount of tags given to outside COER landowners. The amount of the tags should be based on meaningful benefit.

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Gerard Silva
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2018 2:37 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: [EXT] Fw: CHANGES TO OUR HUNTING PRIVILEGES

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reviewed

I am a New Mexico resident and have been for 51 years. I started archery hunting in Game Unit 34 in 1987. I can recall bow hunting for deer in New Mexico when Elk tags were automatic draw. If a hunter put in for the elk tag for September he could hunt for either sex for 20 some days of the elk hunt! A hunter could also hunt deer and harvest a buck or doe during that time (September or January). I attended the Las Cruces meeting and the biologist that gave the spill on deer archery secession was incorrect when he said that's they way the deer archery season was 10 years ago. Not in Game Unit 34.

1). I would recommend leaving the deer archery session the way it is. We have tried to hunt deer archery in September but its almost impossible when everyone that is not hunting is riding ATV's in the Lincoln National Forrest during Labor Day weekend. We also have the opening day of small game and people are randomly firing rifles during the elk/deer archery season in September. I enjoy the Deer season in September which runs along with the Elk Archery season. We are out there hunting for meat not for trophies. If the hunt is ruined by other non hunters, I can rest assured that I can try again in January.

2). I also disagree where WE HUNTERS have to purchase a small game license (\$15) when the people I hunt with never hunt small game animals. This is another tactic for the State of New Mexico to gain revenue from us.

3). The elk archery season being split into two seasons for game units (34). Now you all want to split up the deer archery seasons. We are being over run with elk in Unit 34. Put it back the way it was! Elk archery September 1- 22 either sex. Just look at all the game fences we have to pay for to keep them off private property/land.

4). If a hunter fails to draw an archery tag for September, he should automatically be given a chance to accept a license for the late season elk archery hunt in December. Or let the applicant apply it as his fourth choice. The way the system is now is ridiculous. How can the tags be sold out in seconds when it takes at least 15-30 minutes to enter all your credit card info. THIS IS A SCAM! Shame on you New Mexico.

Thanks,
Martin Silva

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Joel Gay --
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2018 9:10 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: [EXT] EPLUS comments
Attachments: NM BHA comments on EPLUS.docx

At the Commission's October meeting in Albuquerque, I delivered a comments regarding the proposed EPLUS regulations on behalf of the board and members of the New Mexico Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers. I would like to submit our written comments for the record. The comments are also attached in a separate file.

BHA NM Position Statement on New Mexico's Landowner Incentive Programs

BHA New Mexico recognizes the value of private land management to the future of healthy habitat and wildlife. Many landowners provide a tremendous service to our wildlife and hunters through good stewardship of their lands. That requires significant investment of time and money. Many landowners also open their gates to public draw, creating access that would not otherwise exist.

We believe that landowners who actively manage their lands for the betterment of wildlife and habitat should be incentivized or compensated for their efforts.

But we also believe that allocating elk tags through EPLUS as compensation for private land habitat work and hunter access violates many aspects of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. EPLUS will need far more than small reforms before it actually works in the best, long-term interest of wildlife, hunters and landowners. Therefore, we do not support E-PLUS as it currently exists or as revised.

Over the last century, the North American Model has become the gold standard and the envy of the world in wildlife conservation, fishing and hunting management. One of its primary tenets is that wildlife is a public resource that belongs to all and is open to all, with no special priority given to status, income or occupation. The privatization of big game and hunting opportunity is the European model, not ours.

Because of EPLUS, New Mexico has the most liberal allocation of elk tags to private landowners in the Western US, with roughly half of all elk hunting opportunity allocated outside of the public draw.

New Mexico BHA believes that landowners should be able to sell access to their deeded land, but there is no defensible reason they should be given a valuable public resource – tags -- to monetize.

Arizona, Montana and other western states have successful landowner incentive programs that increase draw hunter access on private land, improve habitat and support healthy big game herds, and they accomplish those objectives without using tags as compensation.

We strongly believe that the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is the best system in the world and that we must fight back against efforts to erode it. Our objective is to work toward new systems of incentivizing, or compensating, landowners in New Mexico that do not include the privatization of tags and hunting opportunity, and therefore more closely align with the North American Model.

Jarrett Babincsak, Chairman
New Mexico Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

--

Joel Gay

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Pitman, James, DGF

From: Liley, Stewart, DGF
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2018 7:17 AM
To: Pitman, James, DGF
Subject: Fwd: [EXT] Fwd: Agency Rulemaking: State Game Commission
Attachments: Notice of Rule Making - Private Land Elk Allocation rule - 19.30.5 NMAC.pdf; ATT00001.htm; Notice of Rule Making - Elk rule - 19.31.14 NMAC.pdf; ATT00002.htm; Notice of Rule Making - Deer rule - 19.31.13 NMAC.pdf; ATT00003.htm

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reviewed

For comment folder

Stewart Liley, Chief
Wildlife Management Division
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Griego, Robert, DGF" <robert.griego@state.nm.us>
Date: 10/16/18 9:29 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: "Liley, Stewart, DGF" <Stewart.Liley@state.nm.us>
Subject: Fwd: [EXT] Fwd: Agency Rulemaking: State Game Commission

FYI

Thanks.....145

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robert Griego
Date: October 16, 2018 at 8:23:41 PM MDT
To: "Robert Griego, DGF" <robert.griego@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] Fwd: Agency Rulemaking: State Game Commission

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Bill Rehm
Date: Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 3:17 PM
Subject: Fwd: Agency Rulemaking: State Game Commission
To: Griego, Robert <

Robert,

Please forward to the person seeking input on these rules that I would request later hunt dates for elk in unit 5B. About 10 years ago we had hunts that went into December when the elk actually migrate into the 5B. The current hunt dates are for resident elk and not the larger migrating population.

FYI I have hunted this unit for the last 40 years.

Thank you,

Bill

----- Original Message -----

From: "Casebier, Shawna" <Shawna.Casebier@nmlegis.gov>

To: "Casebier, Shawna" <Shawna.Casebier@nmlegis.gov>

Cc: "Chavez-Romero, Amy" <Amy.Chavez-Romero@nmlegis.gov>, "Boller, Jon" <Jon.Boller@nmlegis.gov>

Date: October 16, 2018 at 3:04 PM

Subject: Agency Rulemaking: State Game Commission



Dear Members of the Water and Natural Resources Committee:

Pursuant to Laws 2017, Chapter 137, which became effective on July 1, 2017, the Legislative Council is required to distribute agency rulemaking information to the appropriate interim and standing committees. Thus, attached please find rulemaking information from the State Game Commission regarding 19.30.5 NMAC concerning a new Private Land Elk Allocation rule, 19.31.14 NMAC concerning a new Elk rule and 19.31.13 NMAC concerning a new Deer rule.

A binder containing a hard copy of these rulemaking documents will be made available for review by the Water and Natural Resources Committee at its next meeting November 29-30 in Santa Fe.

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Goldstein, Elise J., DGF
Sent: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 12:29 PM
To: Pitman, James, DGF
Subject: FW: [EXT] CHANGES TO OUR HUNTING PRIVILEGES

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reviewed

There is elk comment in here. Looks like he is already on the email list so maybe you have seen this.

Elise Goldstein
Assistant Chief - Wildlife
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
1 Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
(505)-476-8032 -- office
(505) 231-1972--cell

CONSERVING NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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From: Jackson, Ty J., DGF
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 10:19 AM
To: Liley, Stewart, DGF; Duvuvuei, Orrin, DGF; Goldstein, Elise J., DGF; Tatman, Nicole, DGF
Subject: FW: [EXT] CHANGES TO OUR HUNTING PRIVILEGES

Looks like a deer rule comment.

TY JACKSON

CAPTAIN - FIELD OPERATIONS
#1 WILDLIFE WAY
SANTA FE, NM 87507
O-(505)-476-8062
C-(575)-643-8012



CONSERVING NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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From: Gerard Silva |
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 10:13 AM
To: DGF-FieldOpsComments
Subject: [EXT] CHANGES TO OUR HUNTING PRIVILEGES

I am a New Mexico resident and have been for 51 years. I started archery hunting in Game Unit 34 in 1987. I can recall bow hunting for deer in New Mexico when Elk tags were automatic draw. If a hunter put in for the elk tag for September he could hunt for either sex for 20 some days of the elk hunt! A hunter could also hunt deer and harvest a buck or doe during that time (September or January). I attended the Las Cruces meeting and the biologist that gave the spill on deer archery secession was incorrect when he said that's they way the deer archery season was 10 years ago. Not in Game Unit 34.

1). I would recommend leaving the deer archery session the way it is. We have tried to hunt deer archery in September but its almost impossible when everyone that is not hunting is riding ATV's in the Lincoln National Forrest during Labor Day weekend. We also have the opening day of small game and people are randomly firing rifles during the elk/deer archery season in September. I enjoy the Deer season in September which runs along with the Elk Archery season. We are out there hunting for meat not for trophies. If the hunt is ruined by other non hunters, I can rest assured that I can try again in January.

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4). If a hunter fails to draw an archery tag for September, he should automatically be given a chance to accept a license for the late season elk archery hunt in December. Or let the applicant apply it as his fourth choice. The way the system is now is ridiculous. How can the tags be sold out in seconds when it takes at least 15-30 minutes to enter all your credit card info. THIS IS A SCAM! Shame on you New Mexico. PRIVLEEGGS

Thanks,
Martin Silva

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Best,

Shawna

Shawna Casebier

Staff Attorney

NM Legislative Council Service

411 State Capitol

Santa Fe, NM 87501

(505) 986-4644

shawna.casebier@nmlegis.gov



NEW MEXICO
LEGISLATURE

*Legislative Council Service
Legislative Education Study Committee
Legislative Finance Committee
House Chief Clerk
Senate Chief Clerk*

STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING AND RULE MAKING NOTICE

The New Mexico State Game Commission ("Commission") has scheduled a regular meeting and rule hearing for Friday, November 30, 2018, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Roswell Convention and Civic Center, 912 N. Main St, Roswell, NM 88201, to hear and consider action as appropriate on the following: Presentation of proposed changes to the Private Land Elk Allocation rule.

Synopsis:

The proposal is to adopt a new Private Land Elk Allocation rule, 19.30.5 NMAC, which will become effective April 1, 2019. The current Private Land Elk Allocation rule is a permanent rule.

The proposed new rule creates commission approved guidelines to evaluate properties currently participating in or applying for the Elk Private Land Use System (EPLUS). Properties that do not meet minimum participation requirements based on the guidelines would be removed from the EPLUS program and any property submitting acre changes would be re-evaluated by the guidelines. The proposed new rule also changes the current distribution of private land elk authorizations by running the bonus and 2 year unconverted allocations through the small contributing ranch (SCR) pool first. Further proposed rule changes include removing the draw history system for SCRs and creating a random, weighted draw. It is also being proposed that properties in the secondary management zone will be able to purchase private land elk licenses over-the-counter with an assigned ranch code.

A more detailed summary, and the full text of changes, is available on the Department's website at: www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

Interested persons may submit comments on the proposed changes to the Private Land Elk Allocation rule at DGF-EPLUS-Rules@state.nm.us; or individuals may submit written comments to the physical address below. Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on November 28, 2018. The final proposed rule will be voted on by the Commission during a public meeting on November 30, 2018. Interested persons may also provide data, views or arguments, orally or in writing, at the public rule hearing to be held on November 30, 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.

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Synopsis:

The proposal is to adopt a new Deer rule, 19.31.13 NMAC, which will become effective April 1, 2019. The current Deer rule is set to expire on March 31, 2019.

The proposed new rule adjusts seasons for calendar date shifts. It also adjusts draw license numbers based on biological data and management goals. Archery season is divided into a separate September and a separate January season when a split September and/or January season currently exists. Several new hunting opportunities have been created, including additional archery hunts in the Northeast and Northwest Areas. Most youth hunts are standardized to a nine day hunt surrounding Thanksgiving week. A more detailed summary, and the full text of changes, is available on the Department's website at: www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

Interested persons may submit comments on the proposed changes to the Deer rule at DGF-Deer-Rules@state.nm.us; or individuals may submit written comments to the physical address below. Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on November 28, 2018. The final proposed rule will be voted on by the Commission during a public meeting on November 30, 2018. Interested persons may also provide data, views or arguments, orally or in writing, at the public rule hearing to be held on November 30, 2018.

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Synopsis:

The proposal is to adopt a new Elk rule, 19.31.14 NMAC, which will become effective April 1, 2019. The current Elk rule is set to expire on March 31, 2019.

The proposed new rule adjusts seasons for calendar date shifts. Youth Encouragement hunts are limited to resident youth who put in for the draw but were unsuccessful. If hunts are undersubscribed after 14 days, licenses will also become available to resident seniors (65 years and older) who put in for the draw but were unsuccessful. Antler Point Restriction (APR) hunts are moved into the big game draw (Game Management Units (GMUs) 12, 34, 37). Boundaries in the Core Occupied Elk Range (COER)/primary management zone are being adjusted. Primary management zone is defined as that portion of land within the boundaries of a GMU, as designated by the department, upon which elk management goals and subsequent harvest objectives are based. License numbers allocated to the public-private split are being adjusted where COER boundary modifications occur and in situations where land ownership has changed. A more detailed summary, and the full text of changes, is available on the Department's website at: www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

Interested persons may submit comments on the proposed changes to the Elk rule at DGF-Elk-Rules@state.nm.us; or individuals may submit written comments to the physical address below. Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on November 28, 2018. The final proposed rule will be voted on by the Commission during a public meeting on November 30, 2018. Interested persons may also provide data, views or arguments, orally or in writing, at the public rule hearing to be held on November 30, 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.

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Karlen Ward
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2018 3:00 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: [EXT] Elk rules

Categories: Reviewed

Hello, My name is Karlen Ward I live in Reserve NM. First off I want to say lower the cow tags in all units in the southwest especially 16c and 16a. 2nd I would like to see no more flying looking for elk by end of August and no more trail cams.. yea it's all fun finding what's out there but that's why there are boots and Binos just seems to me there is bounty on big animals and all the advantages go to humans. it is not fair to the animals n regular people without a lot of money. 3rd I would like to see 13,15,17 primitive only- no long range muzzleloader OR maybe make a 15A primitive only and let these bulls live to get bigger. Thanks for your time have a good day

Sent from my iPhone

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Scott <
Sent: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 3:44 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: [EXT] SCR- Property Habitat Score

I am the owner/contact person for an SCR in the COER. I feel the Property Habitat Score of seven is too high. The use of this system will give larger land owners a great advantage over the smaller ranches. I have elk on my property often and with this scoring system I feel I may be eliminated. My property is located in Dark Canyon, MM 11 ,on Highway 130. There is great habitat and water nearby. There are numerous trails and fresh Elk scat all over the property. I feel a score of 6 would be more reasonable for the smaller acreage ranches.

Thank You,

Scott Douglass

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Kaye Diamond
Sent: Saturday, October 06, 2018 3:34 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: [EXT]

Categories: Reviewed

NO range finders on BOW sights
Decrease number of Cow tags in unit 16c
Decrease youth hunts in gila
3 season bow hunt consisting of 8 days with a day in-between
No impaired Bow crossbow licenses
To easy to qualify for impaired hunts
Game cameras taken down prior to hunts
No flying after Sept1st
Cut back cow hunts in 16c if needed redistribute
Quality is declining in Gila
Monitor Wolf numbers and hold fish and wildlife accountable for numbers
Cut out Sept Deer hunts during Elk hunts
Comments by Jack Diamond

Pitman, James, DGF

From: RONALD L HAMMOND
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2018 5:31 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: [EXT]

Categories: Reviewed

Giving half of the elk tags to land owners is not right. Giving 70% of the antelope tags is not right either. No other state in the US does this for either species. I have to go to Wyoming to hunt antelope. I am able occasionally to get a cow elk hunt for muzzle loader since all cow elk licenses are now restricted to residents of NM. The NM Game Commission has been dominated for years by the fat cats who pay to play be giving donations to candidates running for office. The

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Nancy/Greg Nash
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2018 7:31 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: [EXT] EPLUS

The New Mexico State Game and Fish should determine the distribution of elk permits to land owners on an individual basis. The elk activity on each land owner's property should be used to determine the distribution of elk permits.

Gregory A. Nash

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Kent Hendley
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2018 9:46 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Current drawing rules

Categories: Reviewed

Hey folks don't you think it's about time you changed the way permits are handed out? I have lots of friends including myself who have applied for elk and other big game and never get drawn. How about going to a point system for drawing that way older folks like myself my get a chance to draw out before we are too old to hunt!! Come on folks let's make this drawing permits a little more fair to the hunters of New Mexico before people just quit applying all together and take our money somewhere else. I realize the out of state folks pay more money but give us residents a fair shake please.

Thanks Kent



S8 Engineering, Inc., Part of the Tessengerlo Group
Kent Hendley
Design Lead

S8 | ENGINEERING

www.s8engineering.com

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Phyllis Bustamante
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2018 1:13 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: land owners permits

I would like to suggest that when changing the rules; they should apply to everyone. No such thing as being grandfathered in. Why should someone with 1 acre or a front yard get a permit because they have been in the system before. Everyone should have to start with a clean slate. I know people who get the permits that don't do anything to help the elk or have very little land. Make it fair for everyone please.

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Pitman, James, DGF
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 10:26 AM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: FW: Elk Rule Change Comments

Categories: EPLUS, Red Category

From: Lawrence McDaniel [[mailto:](#)]
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2018 2:39 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk Rule Change Comments

I would ask that the commission consider the following changes to the Elk Rule.

Four-year Elk Rule, 19.31.14-NMAC:

- Establish concurrent seasons and season opening dates on public and private lands
- Require that all ranches signing unit-wide elk hunt agreements post easy-to identify, standardized signs at the entrances to their property, notifying the public the ranches are open to public-draw licensees.
- Adopt the proposed new COER boundaries as recommended by the Department. They are biologically justified by the elk herd population expansions.
-

Added to physical ~~x~~
list

August 21, 2018

Dear Mr. Martensen,
Game & Fish
Santa Fe, NM 87504

I've been pondering the
best way to share my
concerns regarding the
possible proposal changes.

~~* Pictures *~~

Our home sits right on
the banks of the Gila
National Forest. It's a
beautiful location and
many often describe our
home "as a little of heaven
here on earth".

We have a ojo the runs
all year long 365 days,
24 hours a day. With
the beautiful water from
the creek also come the
animals; bear, wild turkey,
deer, elk, coyotes, wolves,
javalinas etc.

Our home site is on 4.5 acres
and next to our home is
my son's and son-in-law
2.5 acres.

Please take into consideration
those of us that don't own a
huge amount of land but
throughout the year are a
home to many animals.

This summer our acreage
was home to over 100 to 200
Elk and other wildlife; Unit 15 & 16.

For more information, please
feel free to call us at
_____ or _____.

Speak to our local game
fish rangers. They are capable
of sharing more information
with you.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Korotki V. Gania
HC-

0

P.S. Please send the photos back
for completion.

Lincoln National Forest Allotment Owners Association
3350 Thunder Road
Alamogordo, NM 88310
October 19, 2018

*Letter Only
No Email*

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Rex Martensen
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Dear Mr. Martensen,

The Lincoln National Forest Allotment Owners Association is an organized group of ranchers with grazing allotments in the Lincoln National Forest. We recently met on October 6, 2018, and the following concerns for our members were brought up at the meeting.

Because we all own some private land as part of the requirement in owning an allotment in the national forest, many of us are awarded some elk authorizations each year based on our private property. However, if the elk authorizations are to help compensate for agricultural crop or forage loss and damage to improvements, then a major stakeholder is omitted from those in the current system of eligible landowners. The new points system proposed by NMDGF includes Agriculture as a category so it must be important.

Major holders of an agricultural crop are the Forest Grazing Permit Holders (also known as grazing allotment owners) who own the forage and water on their forest allotments by law. They are not leaseholders; a grazing fee—not a lease or rent—is paid yearly. The laws establishing this ownership are clear. The 1916 Stock Raising Homestead Act amended in 1929 grants ranchers' ownership of forage on their grazing allotment. Later the United States Supreme Court in 1978 ruled that the rancher owns the water rights on their allotment in the National Forest. Therefore, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish should recognize these laws and award elk authorizations to grazing allotment owners based on their contribution to meaningful benefit for the large elk herds in Lincoln National Forest. The acreage for these ranches constitutes an actual ranch; and these ranchers provide the majority of salt, mineral, grass, browse, water, and sometimes protein supplements for the elk. These allotment owners are not compensated for their losses due to consumption by elk, which can be considerable. It is time for a change to the current policy by recognizing this ownership.

The E-PLUS program also needs other changes because the process of awarding elk authorizations is not transparent for either landowners or for small contributing ranchers (SCR), and the data suggests favoritism of the awards in many cases. Furthermore, because the current award system does not seem to have uniform criteria, we support having guidelines for program administration. We have the following concerns that must be addressed:

1. Defining “meaningful benefit” based on biological criteria is certainly important, and we agree that properties that do not provide meaningful benefit should be removed from the list.
2. The scoring system seems inadequate for several reasons.
 - a. It is not clear in looking over the scoring system how the important consideration of elk being present and their prevalence will be weighted. This should be clear to the public.
 - b. The current acreage formula could not be found on the website for landowners or for small contributing ranchers (SCR), and it should be available. As few as 3 acres has qualified as a SCR. This is absurd. We propose that a minimum of 40 acres be considered as providing meaningful benefit.
 - c. Including agriculture as a “Bonus” scoring criteria seems questionable. A land that has totally an agricultural crop will not provide cover for elk. However, in the Power Point example presented on your website, it gives high points to agriculture in both the agriculture and bonus categories, which seems contradictory. Therefore, Agriculture should not be one of the major scoring criteria, but it should be included in the Bonus category as a more appropriate placement.
 - d. The Added Bonus category for scoring a property may be politically motivated and show favoritism. To avoid this, the criteria for this category needs to be more specific and transparent. It is not clear if there are other considerations that will be awarded additional points in this category resulting in higher points awarded here.
 - e. The scoring category of Surrounding Area has the highest rating of 2 if the area is remote and unencumbered by human activity; however in the Added Bonus category, points are awarded if the area is easily accessed and hunted. This seems contradictory.
 - f. Committees and not individuals should make the decisions in determining property scoring and awarding of elk authorizations.
 - g. Bonus and Unconverted authorizations should be routed through the Landowner List first because they have a greater contribution for elk benefit due to their larger acreage.

Additionally, the criteria used to differentiate between Landowners and Small Contributing Ranchers is not clear, and apparently, there is little difference as the same acreages occasionally are listed on both lists. The same properties should not be used twice--for both landowner and small contributing ranches. Double dipping has been allowed for some properties. There are several examples in Unit 34 which is in the Lincoln National Forest. If incentives are awarded for the property, that property should only be listed as a landowner property. Furthermore, the definition of “ranch” is ambiguous and not clearly defined. It should be. Many properties are not ranches. They are simply just small parcels of land. Allotment owners operate a true ranch.

Please carefully consider these comments to be fair to all those who provide meaningful benefit for the elk herds in New Mexico.

Lincoln National Forest Allotment Owners Association



Judyann Medeiros, President



Holcomb Family Ranch LLC

*Letter only
No email*

October 19, 2018

COMMENTS: E-PLUS PROPOSED CHANGES

The E-PLUS program needs changes because the process of awarding elk authorizations is not transparent for either landowners or for small contributing ranchers (SCR), and the awards listed for many years on the NMDGF website suggests favoritism in many cases. Furthermore, because the current award system does not seem to have uniform criteria, we support having guidelines for program administration which you are proposing and having the process transparent. However, we have the following concerns as you are developing the guidelines:

1. Defining “meaningful benefit” based on biological criteria is certainly important, and we agree that land properties that do not provide meaningful benefit be removed from the list.
2. The scoring system in the example power point on your website seems inadequate for several reasons.
 - a. The important consideration of the presence of elk and their prevalence needs to be clear, and the applicants and the public should be able to see how this will be weighted.
 - b. We could not find the current acreage formula on the website for landowners or for SCRs, and it should be available as part of being transparent. We found as few as 3 acres can qualify as a SCR. We propose that a minimum of 40 acres be considered logical as providing meaningful benefit.
 - c. Including agriculture as a “Bonus” scoring criteria seems questionable with no justification for including it as a separate category outside of the “Bonus” category. There will be no coverage for elk on land that has a totally agricultural crop. However, in your example, it gave high points to both categories for a row crop. This seems contradictory. Therefore, Agriculture should be included in the Added Bonus category along with other factors and not given its own category. Having it as a separate category suggests favoritism to lands that are totally farmed.
 - d. The Added Bonus category for scoring a property hints that it may be politically motivated and show favoritism. To avoid this appearance of favoritism, criteria for this category must be more specific and transparent. It is not clear if there are other considerations that will be awarded additional points in this category or if the maximum points would be greater than one.

- e. The scoring category of Surrounding Area has the highest rating of 2 if the area is remote and unencumbered by human activity; however in the Added Bonus category, points are awarded if the area is easily accessed and hunted. These two factors seem contradictory.
3. The same properties should not be used twice—once for Landowners and once for SCRs. The criteria used to differentiate between these two is not clear. Our ranch is located in Unit 34 so we are most familiar with this unit, and we noticed that some of the same properties with the same acreage are used twice. Some examples of double dipping that we noted in Unit 34 are for Logan Canyon Ranch and Welch Lodge. If incentives are awarded for a given property, that property should only be listed as a landowner property. Otherwise, perhaps everybody should consider applying to both categories and take advantage of the current system.
 4. The definition of “ranch” is ambiguous and not clearly defined. It should be. Many listed properties are not ranches; they are simply just small parcels of land.
 5. Landowners should not be able to list their properties separately in the same GMU. These should all be lumped together. Since several ranchers’ properties are listed separately in the same unit, it suggests that there is a distinct advantage for separating the private land parcels; if this is the case, everybody should be aware of the advantage.
 6. The draw history of the SCR needs to be maintained to be fair to all qualified ranchers until all qualified SCRs have received one. The new proposed system could appear to show favoritism. We found no justification given to change the system. Without justification, there is no need for a change.
 7. To keep the process transparent and unbiased, committees and not individuals should make the decisions in determining property scoring and awarding of elk authorizations.
 8. Private property owners should not be restricted as to whom they can sell the awarded authorization.
 9. If elk authorizations are to compensate for agricultural crop loss and damage caused by the elk population (especially given the Bonus category of Agriculture), then a major stakeholder is omitted from those eligible. Forest Grazing Permit Holders (also known as grazing allotment owners) own the forage and water on their forest allotments. Permit holders for grazing allotments are **not** lease-holders; a grazing fee—not a lease nor a rental—is paid yearly. This ownership was given by law. The Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916 amended in 1929 granted to ranchers ownership of the forage on their grazing allotments. Later the United States Supreme Court in 1978 ruled that the rancher owns the water rights on their allotment in the National Forest. Therefore, NM Department of Game and Fish should recognize these laws and award elk authorizations to grazing allotment owners. The larger acreages for these ranches constitutes an actual ranch; and these ranchers provide the majority of grass, browse, water, salt, mineral, and sometimes protein supplements for the elk. While, private land for the base property is always a required part of a grazing allotment, the allotment generally constitutes the largest area of grazing for

the ranch. Allotment owners are not compensated for their losses due to consumption by elk and their damage to fences, which can be considerable. Damage to fences leads to economic loss by comingling of herds which contributes to spreading of disease—Trichomoniasis. It is time for a change to the current policy by recognizing this ownership and by awarding authorizations to them. At a recent meeting in Ruidoso, when NMGDF personnel were asked about awarding elk authorizations to allotment owners, no justification was given for ignoring these stakeholders.

10. Bonus and Unconverted authorizations should be routed through the Landowner List first because they have a greater contribution for elk benefit due to their larger acreage.

Thank you for considering these comments.



Judyann Medeiros



Rosemary Ford

July 17, 2018

I've been in the S.C.R. program for a long time. Currently I don't feel it's working equitably for some of us. In my particular case, I have 40 acres that offers year round water with a windmill and pond, an intermittent stream, an elk wallow off the creek, a variety of grasses, salt, elk jumps on fences, and it's used daily as a migrating route.

I'm also the permittee on the adjoining State land base. I maintain the water, salt, and fences there.

During this time of drought the elk are utilizing the whole place. They are also coming into my yard to drink water nightly from the horse trough.

I don't overgraze this place, I make adjustments for elk use. I feel the S.C.R. lottery is not fair because condition change from year to year. It would be wise to evaluate properties regularly and make decisions based on current conditions. Not just Google Earth, but on the ground observations. Meet with the landowner if necessary.

Sincerely,
Barbara McHimman

RECEIVED
8-9-18
WMD

Mr. Martensen

First off the web site DGF-EPLUS-Rules@state.nm.us as listed on the proposals under consideration does not work.

I would like to make one comment on the topics of meaningful benefit and SCR properties. My ranch comes under the SCR, 13 acres, most of which is grass land. There is some cover toward the back of my property but the thing of interest is the fact that I have a water for the elk and manage to give them 1500 to 2500 gallons of water every year. That is especially true in years like this where rain down here has been minimal. I think this needs to be taken into consideration when evaluating property.


Jeff Terrell

Added

✓
Consider water
- Doing that already

To: Rex Martensen

7-6-2018

From: Augustine Ortiz

Unit-Ranch # 51-21639

RECEIVED
7-16-18
WMD

This in regard to the State Game Commission meeting on The E-PLUS

1. Meaningful Benefit is already defined. See Attachment (A) letter W
2. I could not find any information on biological criteria concerning elk
3. Habitat based evaluation I think could be covered under the Elk contribution rating .See Attachment (A) letter T
4. As far as I know the E-PLUS has always been a good system and If it is not broken why fix it.

Sincerely

Augustine Ortiz

Augustine Ortiz

✓
No change

New Mexico Register / Volume XX, Number 3 / February 13, 2009

A

This is an amendment to 19.30.5 NMAC, Sections 7 through 14, effective 2-13-2009.

19.30.5.7 DEFINITIONS:

- A. **"Review"** is a period of time during which ~~[an applicant]~~ a landowner, or active ranch, may be ~~[suspended from participation]~~ placed into temporary suspension until the department review concludes that all participation requirements have been met.
- B. ~~["Authorized ranch contact" is the person designated by the landowner to be responsible for following procedures including forwarding documents, making changes and updates to the property.]~~ **"Landowner"** is the person responsible for initial enrollment, signing and forwarding documents, and providing information and reporting changes to the property.
- C. **"Inactivation"** is the New Mexico department of game and fish (department) procedure that immediately stops all issuance of authorizations and eligibility for participation in the program.
- D. **"Core occupied elk range" or "COER"** shall mean the portion of land within the boundaries of a game management unit (GMU) that is designated by the department as containing the majority of routine and substantial elk use. This shall be the area that elk management goals and subsequent harvest objectives are based on.
- E. **"Occupied deeded acres"** will mean privately owned acres that are within the designated core occupied elk range and occupied by elk.
- F. **"Private weighted acres"** will mean the product of a specific property's occupied deeded acres multiplied by the elk contribution rating assigned to that specific property.
- G. **"Percent occupied weighted acres"** will mean the quotient of a specific property's private weighted acres divided by the total private weighted acres.
- H. **"Private land authorization certificate"** will mean the document generated by the department and issued to a private landowner that authorizes the holder to purchase a specified license to hunt elk.
- I. **"Percent public land"** will mean the percentage of the area within a game management unit designated as core occupied elk range that is public land.
- J. **"Public land elk opportunity"** will mean the portion of the unit's harvest objective translated to public draw licenses.
- K. **"Percent private land"** will mean the percentage of the area within a game management unit designated as core occupied elk range that is private land.
- L. **"Private land elk opportunity"** will mean the portion of the unit's harvest objective translated to private land authorizations.
- M. **"Elk harvest success rate"** will mean the success rate of elk hunters who hunted pursuant to licenses issued through the conversion of private land authorizations and public draw licenses in each game management unit as determined by hunter harvest surveys.
- N. **"Public land"** will mean those lands held by state or public land use agencies.
- O. **"Ranch"** will mean those deeded lands as enrolled in the program.
- P. **"Ranch-only authorization certificate"** will mean a type of private land authorization that allows a person to purchase a license to hunt those deeded lands within the designated ranch exterior boundaries.
- Q. **"Unit-wide authorization certificate"** will mean a type of private land authorization that allows a person to purchase a license to hunt legally accessible public lands and "unit-wide ranches" within the unit.
- R. **"Unit-wide ranch"** will mean a ranch whose owner has selected the unit-wide hunting option on their hunting agreement with the department.
- S. **"Ranch only ranch"** will mean a ranch whose owner has selected the ranch only hunting option on their agreement with the department or whose ranch is located in a unit designated as ranch only.
- T. **"Elk contribution rating (ECR)"** will mean the rating assigned to each ranch based on the contribution a ranch is making to elk as determined by the level and frequency of elk presence on the ranch. The district officer or area game manager shall assign each ranch an "elk contribution rating" based on the following: "occasional elk presence" - ECR of 1, "frequent elk presence" - ECR of 1.25, "continuous elk presence" - ECR of 1.5.
- U. **"Small contributing [property] ranch" ("SCR")** will mean those ranches that meet the minimum qualifications to participate, but are unable to qualify for authorizations pursuant to the allocation formula based on weighted acreage alone.
- V. **"Game management unit or GMU"** shall mean those areas as described in the state game commission's rule 19.30.4 NMAC Boundary Descriptions for Wildlife Management Areas.
- W. **"Meaningful benefit to elk"** shall mean properties that lie within the area designated as a core occupied elk range and contain various elk habitat components that are known to be beneficial to elk during some time of the year. Properties that provide "meaningful benefit" to elk must also exhibit physical evidence that elk are present at least occasionally throughout one or more seasons of the year.
- X. **"Bull authorization"** shall mean any authorization (except either sex bow only) that authorizes the taking of a bull elk as the bag limit.

David Davis

August 14, 2018

- added

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
1 Wildlife Way
P.O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Attn: E-Plus Rule Development

Dear Sirs,

On August 8, 2018 I attended a meeting in Quemado, NM regarding proposed changes in the E-Plus system for GMU 12. Game and Fish representatives presented two (2) choices for Unit 12 elk management; putting GMU 12 within the COER Management Program, with total oversight of elk and elk habitat by the Game and Fish Department, or total absence of management by the Game and Fish Dept., with unlimited over-the-counter tag sales.

The following are reasons why neither one of these approaches are viable for GMU 12:

1. Allowing for unlimited over-the-counter tags would create huge problems for private landowners as well as for the elk population. Policing hunters on private land would be virtually impossible. Landowners cannot be everywhere on their land at once therefore will be unable to monitor trespassing by unwanted hunters. Also allowing for unlimited OTC tags could result in over hunting in certain areas thus damaging the herd.
2. Many of the landowners in GMU 12 have made considerable improvements to their land in order to create "meaningful benefit" habitat for the elk population; water sources, food plots, and clearing deadfall for increased native forage growth. These improvements are a considerable monetary investment by private landowners. These improvements need to be weighed heavily in favor of private landowners when considering percentages of tag allotment between public vs private land. As far as I know, public land is not improved on to increase habitat that is beneficial to the elk population.
3. Local businesses will suffer with both of these proposals. Many landowners rely on fees from elk hunting on their property for income. With the lower allotment of tags for private landowners under both proposals, the money will not be there for landowner income. Much of this income is used to maintain as well as improve elk habitat.
4. The proposed COER policy of splitting the allotted tags according to percentages of public and private lands is not logical. Much of the public land in Unit 12 is landlocked by private land and therefore unusable by public hunters. To allot so many public tags would result in wasted tags and less revenue for the State.

5. The proposed COER policy of allocating tags to private landowners based on acreage owned is inequitable. There are two (2) huge ranches in GMU 12. Much of the land on these ranches is not viable elk habitat. Therefore it would not be reasonable to allot tags based on those acres.

The E-Plus management system currently in place is working well. Game and Fish representatives at the meeting on August 8, 2018 in Quemado stated that due to the growth of the elk population in GMU 12 the Game Commission believes that the management system should be changed. If the elk population is thriving under the current system, WHY CHANGE IT? Changing the management system in GMU 12 would only create problems for landowners as well as state officials, as stated above.

As a viable alternative, I and other landowners would recommend GMU 12 be designated a "SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONE" thus maintaining the existing integrity of Unit 12.

David Davis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Davis', with a stylized, flowing script.

Landowner GMU 12

Richard & Laura Roybal

Unit Ranch 45-21402
Ranch Name: Emerson
Deed coer acreage 147
Ranch phone

— added

June 30, 2018

New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
Atten: Rex Martensen
PO Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Dear Sir:

Concerning the existing E-Plus system: around our neighborhood, if you own an acre of barren land, you are treated the same as owning 147 acres of grazing land. Our acreage has a great deal of *vega*, which means wet grassland. During every drought we've had, including the present one, we have literally hundreds of elk and deer grazing our land, and we are not even allotted one elk permit and are on a draw system along with the guy who owns only one acre. I have seriously considered, if you don't change the system, of fencing all the elk and deer out and allotting only one acre, like some of our neighbors.

I hope you can come up with a more fair system for allotting permits to landowners.

Thank you.

✓ support ↑

Richard Roybal

Richard Roybal

Laura Roybal

Laura Roybal

RECEIVED
7-16-18
WMD

7/11/18

NM Dept. of Game & Fish
Mr. Rex Martensen
P. O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Dear Mr. Martensen,

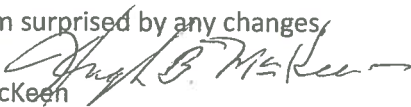
I have enclosed a copy of my comments of changes needed to the EPLUS Landowner System. A copy has been E Mailed as well.

The beginning of this system was appreciated and in my opinion a fair and equitable process. I had 30-60 elk on my farm at this time and I later was given incentive elk permits. As the elk numbers & huge bulls developed in Unit 23A it became a desirable hunt unit. Certainly your agency increased your licenses and subsequent income from the expansion of elk.

As the elk increased to 70-100 in my fields it was unbearable and I never received any additional elk permits. Your latest episode however reduced my landowner permit by one and gave me the feeling I was to lose more. The present system certainly is not equitable and there seems to be favoritism. The Game & Fish being a government bureaucracy doesn't change easily. You can't make everybody happy, but you can change things to truly benefit elk by rewarding those who help the most.

I hope I am surprised by any changes.

Hugh B McKee



added

✓
No comment

7/10/18

Kevin Rodden

Dear Mr. Rodden,

I certainly was not impressed or encouraged after meeting with you on the 11 of June in Las Cruces. I wanted to know why my elk land owner permit was taken away from me. It was disappointing to be told that somebody signed up somewhere and the decision was also made somewhere else.

It is encouraging that the land owner system is going to be analyzed and changed to help those who have property that truly benefit elk. I want to know who got my landowner permit and their complete qualifications that benefit elk more than I do.

You are administering a system that gives landowners permits based just on private land acreage or personalities and not on how much the elk benefit from the land. A case in point (Brian Davis), he gets 4 bull permits for his range land, he didn't lose any permits. How much does his range land benefit elk compared to my irrigated farm. My family used to own his place, 650 acres up Deep Creek is the poorest land around, I know because I have a forest permit just across the fence. In the past, my dad disked up a large portion of this land and dry farmed it. It is basically fallow land that doesn't produce much forage.

I commonly have 70 to 100 elk + babies on my irrigated permanent pasture, they gorge themselves every night and lounge in the field until morning and then come back the next night and do it again. For 5 months + I am providing 90 % of the elk diet, the rest of the time they are on my other private land and forest grazing permit. You could say that I am providing 99% of the elk forage, quite an impressive benefit for elk and deer. I have to put up with pressed down lounge areas, fence repairs and pawed pits in the field when I irrigate.

I am asking you give me the complete details in comparison of the Brian Davis land and the reasons for his 4 bull permits. What % of the elk diet comes from Brian Davis private land? How many elk are on his land? How often are elk on his land?

I lost my incentive permit in 23A, a 200 acre parcel burned & cleared of PJ & mesquite and one of the most productive pastures in the area. I have been told I have to maintain the area clear of woody growth, --and I have-- but there is no guarantee of ever having another elk permit. In fact, I asked you if another permit could be taken from me next year. You said it could happen.

I applied for another incentive elk permit a few years ago after I cleared some more very productive land of PJ & mesquite and was told there are no permits available. However I believe Tom Klumker asked and got an elk permit for the Spurgeon place he has leased. I want you to look at the Spurgeon & Klumker fields, I see fields that are 75% weeds, mainly telegraph weeds and his horses graze the other growth down to nothing. Where is the elk benefit?

The incentive system was really encouraging however it has turned out to be a sham. I am in favor of the system, it simply is not maintained as it was planned. I challenge you to come and we will look at these various areas, I hope you can truly look at the areas and analyze where the true elk benefits are.

Sincerely,


Hugh B McKeen

cc to Santa Fe Office

ELK HUNTING PROGRAM ON THE LADDER RANCH CABALLO, NM

It has been brought to my attention that the S/W Region elk hunting season dates may be reviewed for the future. I can only speak to our unique situation in the Black Range Foothills of Sierra County. Since the Ladder Ranch was purchased in 1992 by Turner Enterprises, we have continually learned to manage the ranch for the available annual forage. We have a great sense of responsibility for our ranch habitat and the cooperation for the management of our state's wildlife, which we are so happy to host. Realizing that it is a partnership, I am very loyal to the wildlife in my special position as the company's Sr. Wildlife Manager. With a 20 year heritage on my part, we have developed a very important business component with commercial hunting on many of the TEI Properties. State by state we have demonstrated quality and respectful programs with our agency partners and our clientele. We have always welcomed biological and law enforcement activity when needed. We are proud that the neighboring land's wildlife is also positively affected by our practices.

From the beginning of the NMDGF designation of Core Management for the State's elk herd, we have had great flexibility for quality hunt management. The Ladder Ranch is "outside" the Core and we were given an opportunity for an October 1st opening date for firearm bull elk hunting. This was very important as a percentage of the bulls traveled to the ranch during the summer and spend the early fall on the ranch during the breeding season. By mid- October, these visiting bulls vacate. With this early firearm season, our clientele has participated in one of the finest elk hunting experiences in the Western U.S. We have been very conservative with our harvest, targeting only 6 trophy bulls during early October. (But, have committed to using all of our antlerless authorizations during later months, in the spirit of my understanding of managing outside the "Core") I am confident that the majority of visiting bulls return to public land. We have never utilized all of our mature bull license authorizations for that reason. We have surveyed the elk population since 1996 for trend data and justification of the hunting program to the ranch owner. The herd is estimated to be stable and at 500-600 animals, with the seasonal movement accounted for in this total. I supply this information for our bison management program, to help determine habitat requirements for all of our concerns. It is interesting to note that we had observed an increase of resident bulls on the ranch prior to the nearby Silver Fire, and fewer mature bull elk have been returning since that event.

Having built a successful hunt management and business plan for the ranch, I respectfully request our ability to continue the current firearm season structure. October 1 –December 31. This has allowed for us to complete all aspects of our program, including the current September archery season date.

We strive to support our varied ranching business while being able to prioritize wildlife resources. These resources are valuable, so we have established great value in them. With the loss of an early October season, it would challenge us to replace that traditional hunt income. The value of our hunt would be reduced without doubt. When wildlife is a priority on a ranch, and not taken for granted, I am hopeful that NMDGF can find ways to recognize those properties with flexible season structuring.

The Ladder Ranch can be counted on for elk management cooperation as a standard for trend surveys. The scheduled activity in 2017 was greatly appreciated and encouraged going forward. For the benefit of our elk resource, informative data for the agency, and private managers, I hope this continues! Please don't allow un-appreciative recipients of authorizations to de-rail such a positive program.

Very best regards, Neil Lawson



AGENDA ITEM 12 ~~13~~ PLEASE PRINT

Do you wish to be heard? ☐ Yes ☐ No

[illegible]



SPEAKER'S CARD

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

(Please Place Form in Appropriate Agenda Slot)

AGENDA ITEM

12 + 13

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Cara Strickland		
Address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
City: _____	State: _____	Zip: _____
Phone: _____		
Email: _____		
Officially Representing: Galletta Ranch Outfitters (Organization(s))		
Your Title: _____		
Do you wish to be heard? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)		
• Speaking against EPLUS		
item #12 + 13		
• Hurts not only population		
of animals but also affects		
business owners affect		
• Will negatively affect		
ability sustain & draw		
new hunters.		
• Will cause population		
decrease (ex: Mt. Taylor)		
• We provide food, shelter,		
drinkers		

SPEAKER'S CARD

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

(Please Place Form in Appropriate Agenda Slot)

AGENDA ITEM

12

PLEASE PRINT

Name: ED WAGNER

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Officially Representing: SELF^U
(Organization(s))

Your Title: _____

Do you wish to be heard? ☒ Yes ☐ No

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)

UNIT 12 changed to
make it COER, UNIT WIDE,
& EITHER SEX



AGENDA ITEM

Name: Tom McReynolds

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Email:

@

Officially Representing: Back Mountain Outfitters
(Organization(s))

Your Title: Owner Kincon Ranch

Do you wish to be heard? ☒ Yes ☐ No

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is a vertical margin line on the left side, creating a narrow left margin. The paper appears to be from a notebook or a standard ruled sheet of paper.



SPEAKER'S CARD

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

(Please Place Form in Appropriate Agenda Slot)

AGENDA ITEM

12

PLEASE PRINT

Name: <u>Charles Arnold</u>		
Address: <u>[REDACTED]</u>		
City: <u>[REDACTED]</u>	State: <u>[REDACTED]</u>	Zip: <u>[REDACTED]</u>
Phone: <u>[REDACTED]</u>		
Email: <u>[REDACTED]</u> @ <u>[REDACTED]</u>		
Officially Representing: <u>[REDACTED]</u> (Organization(s))		
Your Title: <u>[REDACTED]</u>		
Do you wish to be heard? <u>Yes</u> <u>No</u>		
WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)		
<u>Consider working</u>		
<u>with the State</u>		
<u>Taxation Dept to</u>		
<u>allow land owners</u>		
<u>to dedicate their</u>		
<u>property to</u>		
<u>wildlife and still</u>		
<u>maintain their</u>		
<u>"grazing Tax rate"</u>		
<u>Thanks</u>		

8/23/18



SPEAKER'S CARD

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

(Please Place Form in Appropriate Agenda Slot)

AGENDA ITEM 12 + 13

PLEASE PRINT

Name: **GAIL SILVA**

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Officially Representing: **Linda Brown**
(Organization(s))

Your Title: _____

Do you wish to be heard? ☒ Yes ☐ No

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)

re: numbers + codes
for member's contact
info please

(Please Place Form in Appropriate Agenda Slot)

12/13

Name: _____

Charles Lohner

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Email:

@

Officially Representing:

(Organization(s))

Your Title:

Do you wish to be heard?

Yes

No

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)

Уч. Т 12

1229

8/23/18



SPEAKER'S CARD

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

(Please Place Form in Appropriate Agenda Slot)

HEARING

~~12~~ 12

PLEASE PRINT

Name:

JE Shickline

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Email:

@

Officially Representing:

Galleta Ranch out

(Organization(s))

Your Title:

Land owner

Do you wish to be heard?

☒ Yes

☐ No

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)

~~12~~ Against
unit 12 core unit



13

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Jason Sawlan

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Officially Representing: DR Horton
Great Western Ranch
(Organization(s))

Your Title: Ranch Manager

Do you wish to be heard? X Yes ✓ No

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)



PLEASE PRINT

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)



PLEASE PRINT

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)



PLEASE PRINT

Name: GABRIEL J. Lopez

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ @ _____

Officially Representing: _____
(Organization(s))

Your Title: _____

Do you wish to be heard? ☐ Yes ☐ No

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)

Documents were
sent to Santa Fe.



PLEASE PRINT

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

AGENDA ITEM

Name: _____

City

State

Zip: _____

Email:

@

(Organization(s))

Do you wish to be heard?

☒ Yes

 No

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)

[illegible]



COMMENT CARD

PLEASE PRINT

Name:

Address:

BARBADA MCCRIMMON

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Email:

NONE @

Officially Representing:

(Organization(s))

Your Title:

LAND OWNER

Do you wish to be heard?

Yes

No

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)

I ATTENDED THE
JULY 11 2018 S.C.R.
MEETING IN SOCORRO.
ENCLOSED IS MY
COMMENT.

Pitman, James, DGF

From: jasonblotter
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 4:33 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk

Categories: Reviewed

No more unit wide landowner tags. If they take a license they should open their gates to everyone. These properties should be required to post at gates. If they are not willing to, they must not have a problem.

Jason

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Young, Jeffrey T
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 4:23 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Cc: Carroll, Charles W; Martinez, Israel; Knight, Christopher L; Harding, John
Subject: E Plus Feedback

Categories: Rex

I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on proposed changes to E Plus. And am encouraged that perhaps it's heading in the right direction.

However, I am in opposition to one suggested change. The number of tags available for a particular landscape should be based on biological and harvest data. Landowners cannot be relied upon to manage their own populations. Thus, I am totally against allowing unlimited over the counter tags for elk to private landowners.

Wildlife according to the public trust doctrine and the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is a public resource and should be treated as such. This is a step away from the doctrine and the model.

My encouragement is to move towards a model like that of the Montana Block Management program that allows public hunters to hunt private land. After all, it is a public resource and should be managed as such. So by using habitat access funds and if allowed, Pittman Robertson funds, the state can pay for this trespass via those programs.

I also was totally against allowing over the counter tags for antelope for the same reason. Now they have eliminated the ranch only tags from the public draw. Thus, the landowners control the wildlife.

A case in point, the last two years, I have asked a rancher who is an acquaintance for a doe antelope tag thinking I could pay him a small trespass fee for the tags. Both years, he has chosen to give his tags to family members. His antelope buck tags are sold to wealthy Texans for a substantial amount.

I will continue to voice my opinion against the privatization of wildlife and the privatization of our public lands. And in this case, do not believe we should allow landowners to manage OUR wildlife populations.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Jeff Young

Proudly Serving Fleet Services since 2010

Proudly Serving Sandia since 1992

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Dale Laman
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 4:12 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Public comment on Elk rules

Categories: Reviewed

I would like to comment on some Elk rules.

1. Change up the rule that allow hunters to be able to draw for the same unit year after year. If a hunter draws a unit one year, they should not be able to draw that same unit again the following year. Maybe this would allow someone that did not draw that unit a better chance of drawing.
2. Do not allow anyone that purchases landowner tags to co-op their tags together and use them on multiple ranches until they have used all of their tags. If a landowner is allowed to have for example a bull tag and 2 cow tags. Then that is all that should be allowed to be taking off of that ranch. I was told that some outfitters are buying up numerous tags and are able to take their hunters on all of the ranches that they have purchased tags and hunt whatever ranch they please until they have filled their tags. That is not fair for individuals trying to purchase a landowner tag when they do not have the same options as an outfitter does.

Thanks

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This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived.

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Gllall
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 4:01 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: ELK HUNTS

Categories: Reviewed

I see the same hunters get picked year after (6 to 10) years in a row. I suggest to make draws fair that a hunter not be eligible for two years for the same hunt they are picked.
This gives other hunters a chance to hunt instead of (LUCK OF THE DRAW) which seems to be the same hunters and looks ver suspicious, that drawing are whom you may know in the Game and Fish department.

Garry Lally

Pitman, James, DGF

From:
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 3:42 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Rules

Categories: Reviewed

I'm not sure what's going on with our residence draw odds but I haven't drawn a tag for 5 years now for elk and I've been putting in for big horn sheep sense I was 18 years old I'm 57 now, and you all want to keep our youth hunters to continue our heritage and this is twice my grandkids haven't drawn a elk tag ether, I just don't get it how are we supposed to keep up the sport of enjoying the fare chase and possibly harvest an animal when 14 & 15 year olds can't draw a tag... Manuel Blea

Sent from my iPhone

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Daniel Cottle
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 3:29 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Hunts on unit 9 north of Mt Taylor on the mesa!

Categories: Reviewed

I and my family have hunted for years in this area. We have notice some strange things! Cars or trucks with an older man and woman driving slow, get to a good meadow and wait to dawn and shoot into the air. Loud dirt bikes and 4 wheelers not hunting just making noise to scare the Elk. Makes you wonder if they are doing it for the ranchers who sell their permits! We like to hunt but this does make it harder for a successful hunt. We are careful and clean up after ourselves, like to leave it better than when we found it. Wish others were the same!

Hope this helps some!

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Pete Golder
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 3:27 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk License Draw

Categories: Reviewed

I would like to see a return to the 3 year rule, whereby ,if you do not draw out in the 3year period, you do receive a permit in th 4th year.

Last year I drew out for the first time in 15 years, .

This year I did not draw out.

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Carroll, Charles W
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 3:19 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: elk hunt comments

Categories: Reviewed

To whom It may concern.

I just received the email for you and saw that you are looking into the hunting rules in New Mexico. I have lived here since 1984 and love this state. I would like to submit my comments on the New Mexico elk hunt draw system. I feel that the system should give out every tag that it has to local hunters. Not have tags for sell after the results come out. I also know that this is a form of revenue to New Mexico. With that being said. I also feel that every land owner permit should be taken from the out of state tags. The reason I say this is only out of state outfitters and hunters can afford the exuberant prices the land owners charge. Therefor only out of state hunters get them. You already fixed the cow elk draw by making it in state only. Why not fix land owner permits as well?

I would also like to see the tag system go back to over the counter tags like it used to be. You say you want to encourage more youth involvement in hunting. If you don't put it back to over the counter sales then allow any youth under 17 Join a parent for free if the parent draws a tag.

Sincerely
Charles Carroll
Avid hunter and fisherman.

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Cone Underwood
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 3:05 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk Hunting Rules

Categories: Reviewed

I would like to see a change that would make out-of-state veterans eligible to participate in the tag draw for refuges such as Colin Neblett.

Cone S. Underwood, LTC (R), USA

CSU, GBUSA, IGWT

Join the NRA

"Those ignorant of history are doomed to wander a wilderness without a compass."

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Gerald Cook
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 2:56 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: elk rules

Categories: Reviewed

I have hunted elk in New Mexico for 30 years (when lucky enough to draw a tag). Please consider improving odds for out of sta hunters or at least implementing a preference point system. I am 60 years old and probably only have 20 elk hunts left in me a would rather not waste any of them hunting in other states.
Thank You.

Gerald G. Cook
Finance Manager
ROMCO Equipment Company

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Billy's Emai
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 2:53 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk hunting seasons

Categories: Reviewed

A few years ago the bear hunt with dogs was moved away from the archery elk season because the dogs ruined the archery hu (I guess that was the reason). So the bear hunt was moved to the muzzleloader season and now the dogs are ruining that season. As bear hunting is a yearlong thing, the dog hunts should be moved away from all the elk and deer hunts. I paid a lot of money two falls ago for a muzzleloader elk hunt only to have it ruined by several packs of dogs running amuck throughout my unit.

Sent from my iPhone

Pitman, James, DGF

From: abran torres
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 11:38 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: taylor

Categories: Reviewed

I love the idea of trying to get the population back in MT Taylor (unit9) by cutting the tags down for some years. I have been going up there since I was a child and I remember when use to run into heard of hundreds instead of five to ten now a days. be very amazing to see those heard get back to their formal glory. one thing I would ask is to get the automatic feeders off private lands cause that also keeps elk on their lands and less of a chance to go onto public lands another thing I see every time I go up there during hunting season is a helicopter that leaves a private ranch house and fly's right on top of the tree line that has messed me up from harvesting during my hunts multiple times. so having a ranger out there watching for that would be amazing. since every time I reported nothing could be done since unable to get a tail number.

thank you,

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Paul Curry
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 9:18 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Cc:
Subject: Paul Curry's Comments on E Plus

Categories: Rex

I would like to submit my comments on the proposed system. I am a landowner in Unit 15 and a very long time participant in the E Plus System.

I would propose that the density of the elk use on the property be the basis of the number of elk permits issued, not the number of total acres a landowner has. The properties in Unit 15 are mostly small because they were homesteaded. For example, the unique and best land with the best water was homesteaded. My ranch has 6 live year round springs with permanent water tanks, subirrigated meadows, and marshes surrounded by hundreds of thousands of dry mountains so of course the wildlife all come in and have a very high density use 360 days a year compared to wide open plains and mesas and mountain tops with no water. The density of use on this tract of land is very very high.

I also propose that you recognize that some of the landowners (like myself) have very expensive deeded water rights that we purchased on the open market in order to improve our own pastures with ponds and irrigated fields. Our water rights are valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars on the market and if I SOLD them off of the land then the state engineer would require us to abandon the water tanks, irrigation fields, and lakes that they so carefully monitor. If that happened then wildlife would suffer. Reward the rancher for keeping the water on the land. For example, when I put in my lake I had to hire a civil engineer and a surveyor and have a design submitted to the state engineer. Once approved I hired a licensed contractor to build the lake and the ditch. After it was done the state engineer required a survey of the ditch, the spillway, the bottom of the lake and the shores of the lake, and finally certified it. This lake is used daily by all types of wildlife and I maintain it and take care of it. I hope to be rewarded for that effort with a bull elk permit.

The third comment is that the rancher wants the comfort and assurance of knowing that he had the opportunity to submit his photos, surveys, and supporting evidence to the committee and that they actually reviewed it and that his property was fairly evaluated.

I would applaud your efforts to revise and update the existing system and thank you for your efforts.

Paul and Mary Curry

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: T. A. Ragsdale
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 9:00 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Questions--55A Landowner

Categories: Rex

Thank you for the opportunity to ask questions about proposed elk hunting/tag allocation rules changes!

I am a 55A landowner and new E-PLUS applicant for this year (RMR Ranch--currently in review) and have some questions about the proposed changes:

- 1) "Special Management Zone" (includes 55) -- It's pretty vague in the presentation. How would it be different from regular outside-the-COER ranch-by-ranch basis?
- 2) Over-the-counter tags-- Would this be done like deer are now? Just buy it for the specified area and you are good as long as you have private land to hunt? Would it require E-Plus allocations first (ranch-by-ranch)? That sounds like the current system. If it is the former, and possible for 55A, it would be a dream come true for us and remove the need for me to even apply to E-Plus. My family just wants to hunt our land. We aren't out for tag sales, etc.
- 3) If part of the motivation for the changes is to "reset" the properties that are part of E-Plus. That is, get back to the intent... those properties that really have beneficial elk habitat, that is commendable and I support the changes. As I mentioned, I have a property that is virtual elk heaven that I'm certain would rank at the top of each of your categories except agriculture (none). I believe ranches like mine will have a better chance if you start scoring outside-the-COER properties the same as inside. Here's a 30 sec video of a herd on one of our elk superhighway trails: <https://youtu.be/6Xf7mhwFLBM>
- 4) Please tell me anything I need to know specific to 55A

I'll be at the ABQ meeting tonight and look forward to meeting you. (Is this you Rex?--Ha)

Tim Ragsdale

★ ★ ★

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Todd Welch
Sent: Wednesday, August 01, 2018 11:08 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk rules

Categories: Reviewed

My public comment on the proposed changes are not to reduce youth licenses. We need to bring new hunters in and reducing those tags are counter productive. What I would like you to look at is you want to increase tags in Unit 34 is treat them like an outfitter pool, 10% go to resident hunters over 65. You could even do this statewide pretty easily and maybe change to 4% of the 84% resident tags.

On youth encouragement hunts and youth hunts you should change to residents only. My daughter when she was a youth never drew a youth only hunt but did draw general hunts.

In unit 34:
Instead of changing MB hunts to ES hunts add more antler less tags.
Change the late season APR archery hunt to a late season ES hunt.

In unit 36:
Instead of increasing bull tags over all weapon choices add more antler less or ES archery hunts.

In unit 23:
Add a late season archery hunt but make it ES rather than MB.

Increasing hunting opportunities and managing the herds should be number one for conservation. I love bow hunting and having an ES tag as the first legal animal is what I am taking. I am not interested in the antlers but the meat and will gladly kill a cow elk if given the opportunity.

Thank You, Todd Welch

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Gonzales, Joseph S
Sent: Wednesday, August 01, 2018 3:49 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Proposed changes

Categories: Reviewed

GMU 9: do these reductions also apply to the landowner tags? What's the purpose of the coer addition? If you cut public tags and increase landowner tags that would be really unfair. The unit was mismanaged for so long by giving too many cow tags. Public and landowner tags should be proportionate to each other. Seems like the public is getting screwed.

GMU 13: what does the coer addition mean?

Steve Gonzales
Rotating Equipment Engineer
Andeavor – Gallup Refinery



Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Pantuso, Mark A
Sent: Wednesday, August 01, 2018 11:55 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: E-Plus changes

Categories: Rex

I attended the meeting in Roswell that pertained to the changes on deer and the E-Plus program. I don't agree with splitting unit 32 to help with hunting pressure. If that's the concern why not make 3 rifle deer hunts instead of 2 that would cure that problem. I have hunted 32 all my life and I would hate to see it split. I am all for making the E-Plus program fair for the public land hunter and land owners. I drew 36 this year and on the NMDGF website it show 44 small land owners with property less than 225 acres one as small as 3 acres that are able to get unit wide tags this is not a fair system. They get to hunt the entire unit and we can't find their property and there is not maps on website to tell us where their property is. This needs corrected I hope before hunting season starts this year so we are able to find their property. I do believe with the changes that are being proposed for E-Plus its better than nothing maybe it should be done like deer and do away with E-Plus all together. I would like to thank Nichole and the other biologists that come down here to take our comments I know there jobs are not easy.

Mark Pantuso | Bio Med Tech | Eastern New Mexico Medical Center ,

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Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Chris Nixon ~
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 6:22 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Cc: Mike Nixon
Subject: EPlus Program ranch # 41969 Upper West Fork of the Rio Brazos, LLC

Categories: Rex

Hi Wildlife Managers,

I like what you are proposing for the E Plus program. I am rather new to your program, yet I see the merits of the new guidelines you are proposing.

You scoring system is definitely a step in the right direction. The scoring system has some subjectivity, but it is much more aligned to the properties that provide the critical elements that benefit elk. The number of acres is only one factor. Adding forage, water, cover, surrounding areas and ag make so much sense in assessing the real value of the property in its totality. The scoring system that rewards properties that have the feed, water, cover and isolation for spring calving, summer foraging and fall development to prepare the elk for winter is fantastic. Common sense is a virtue seldom used these days.

I think you did a great service to the wildlife in defining these elements the way you did and in the future distribution of tags. Well done. Yes, there will be winners and losers if this is implemented. The large landowners that provide thousands of primarily useless wildlife acres will have most likely make the most noise against this change. But defining meaningful benefit with this scoring system is just brilliant.

Both thumbs up for this proposal. You have my vote in favor of this change. The only other element I would like to see changed is the flexibility of private landowners to be able to move a few of their allocated tags from bull elk to archery tags. Since the harvest rate is usually lower for archery hunters, it seems like a fair exchange from a biological stand point.

Thanks again for your smart proposal.

Chris Nixon, CIC, CPCU
Nixon Insurance Agency

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Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Brejcha, Lisa, DGF on behalf of ISPA, DGF
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 4:13 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS
Subject: FW: E-Plus rule changes

From: Wes Frazier [mailto:
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 4:08 PM
To: ISPA, DGF
Subject: E-Plus rule changes

Game Commissioners, now is the time to change the E-Plus system for good. The first step is to clearly define "meaningful benefit" That would not include "an elk occasionally can be seen walking through my 10 acres." The abuse of the E-Plus system has gotten out of hand. Unit wide tags need to be a thing of the past. If a landowner has elk on HIS property then by all means he should be allowed to hunt them, ON HIS PROPERTY! All of the unit wide tags should be made available to the public land hunts through the draw. All private land tags should be just that, ranch only. Changing that one rule would eliminate all of the SCR issues.

The deer proposals seem to be justified. The only issue I see is the private land only system. The abuse of that system is egregious! The "on your honor" system isn't working. People are buying private land only deer tags and hunting the public. Especially in the units that have premium youth hunts, or are difficult to draw. I suggest using the unit 2 models, where you have to get that number prior to the draw from the landowner. Make it someones choice in the draw. At least make it harder to obtain, than just printing one at home.

I like the idea of more opportunity for exotics across the board.
Thank you for listing to our concerns. Wes

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From:
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 3:31 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Changes

Categories: Rex

Sirs:

We are Pete and Regina Naumnik, and we are currently enrolled in the SCR program. Our ranch is on FR 478 in Unit 17. We have the following comments to consider when changes are made to the program:

1. Our ranch is extremely small, only three acres, but it sure does draw the elk. We believe it's because it's lightly forested, and typically provides a very good crop of blue gramma grass. This is because we fertilize the grass once a year, and because we also provide water in the periods of the year that we are living there. The local rancher provides water year round, and his tub lies directly across the road. So, we hope that we can continue to participate in the SCR program in spite of the small size of our ranch.
2. Though we have participated in the program for many years, we have not quite understood why the Department has allowed ranches to sub-divide their land, and double, and sometime triple their participation in the program. We feel there should be a lengthy time limit restriction after initial participation so that this subdivision does not take place.
3. We know that after initial participation, ranches were awarded a tag for each of the first three years. But we never understood exactly how the "lottery" worked for the award of subsequent tags after those first three. This should be clarified.

Thanks for any consideration of these three areas of concern.

Regards,

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Ephraim Ford
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 12:06 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Comments on Rule Changes

Categories: Rex

I am a relatively new hunter that is trying to learn and improve on my skill so that I may pass this interest and heritage to my two young children. As I do this, I recognize that it is becoming more and more expensive to hunt and harder for youth to learn how to hunt.

Therefore, I disagree with any changes that reduce the number of hunts available for youth encouragement hunts. My son will get to do his first hunt this year because of these hunts and we must not reduce the odds for kids like him who failed to draw. I also strongly oppose the idea of allowing landowner hunts outside of COER areas to not match the draw hunt dates. This will create a perverse incentive for early hunts, penalizing the general public that can only afford to hunt through the draw. Do not let them hunt 2 weeks earlier than the general rifle or ML season!

Regards,

Ephraim Ford
Hunter & Father in Socorro, NM

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From:
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 10:58 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Questions and suggestions

Categories: Rex

Again, thank you for setting up several meetings and at a time a 9-5'er could attend.

Increasing COER's:

How does increasing COER's effect tag distribution public vs LO, in general, I know it will be unit by unit, but in general? Also how does the G&F account for areas where public land is not accessible? Unit 21b for example has the majority of public land cut off due to a land swap, so having land based distribution of tags while half of that land is inaccessible creates crowding on what little public land is accessible. I would like to see this (and any other similar) swap reversed, or require the LO to allow access where access exists.

E-plus:

Land swaps designed to land lock public land has to stop! All public land should have access. For starters if you participate in the E-plus you must allow access especially if established access exists, furthermore a LO cannot decommission established roads. If a property has been manipulated to cut off the public it should be reversed or reconciled, either way ACCESS is an issue. B/c this issue lies within other institutions, I propose an all or nothing e-plus. If you participate in E-plus and you have public land beyond your gate, your gate must be open for the public to pass. Too many LO's lock up gates and create sanctuaries for their profit, profit that is not utilized to increase "meaningful benefit". We have created a system of LO welfare, E-plus tags should be purchased by LO's, not handed to them.

Speaking of profit, I would like to see a Tax & Revenue agency assigned with brokering LO tags. G&F is losing too much capital, instead of increasing the public tag prices G&F should receive a % of E-plus sales

I'm not in favor of an OTC secondary zone, but I must ask, what kind of harvest numbers have you seen outside of the COER's? The easier these tags are to obtain, the more likely their numbers will increase, the more likely they will impact the COER.

I don't understand how the G&F have allowed LO's to sell their tags at obscene prices and not capitalize from those sales, instead G&F increases the cost of tags which again excuses any LO monetary contribution. The whole system is in favor of the LO's. Should tags be issued to the public free of charge until we decide to convert our tag? Sure would be nice for the Non residents.

Maps or locations of E-plus participants must be available free of charge or at the LO's expense. They should be made conveniently available to everyone, and they should be readable. The LO must not reserve the right to separate their land, again, participation should be all or nothing. The current maps are pathetic at best. Too much revenue is changing hands to have such an archaic mapping system, it seems to protect the LO's more than anything. Carry map should easily be able to add an additional identifier to their legend for these ranches.

There was some talk about increasing youth hunting opportunities, if the land access changes continue to fall in the LO's favor there will be less and less opportunity for all hunters. Studies have shown hunter numbers are declining, increasing license fees and less accessible land will ensure the decline continues. Bottom line end the tax free LO welfare and make ALL public land publicly accessible.

Sincerely, Public Landowner James Spears

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Aaron Wolfley
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 8:13 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Reducing Youth Tags

Categories: Reviewed

To whom it may concern,

I wanted to voice my opposition to the proposed idea of reducing the youth tags and creating a 65 and older hunt. We have all seen the data on hunter participation. We know that we are losing thousands of hunters every year due to them getting too old to participate. We need to continue to encourage the new generation of hunters with more access. As a father of young children, almost at hunting age I dislike the idea reducing youth tags. We all know how difficult is to draw elk tag in this state, why will we make it all that more difficult when we are trying to recruit the new generation.

I want to encourage you to NOT to adopt this proposal. The older generation has had a chance to hunt elk in this state they can continue to have the exact same chance as everyone else.

Thank you for your concern,

Aaron Wolfley
Roswell, NM

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Joel Gay
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 7:50 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: EPLUS comments

Categories: Rex

There are several proposed changes in the EPLUS rule that I support -- specifically the language about "meaningful benefit."

But I don't think the proposal goes far enough. Here are some suggestions that I think would improve elk hunting in New Mexico, while having no impact on elk habitat or conservation:

1. Add language to the "objectives" part of the regulation that says *EPLUS should discourage the harboring of elk on private lands during public hunting seasons.*
2. Set a minimum ranch size of 160 contiguous acres to participate in EPLUS, in addition to proposal to ensure "meaningful benefit."
3. Require all EPLUS participants to be ranch-only -- eliminate unit wide tags.
4. Give either a percentage or fixed number of tags on ranches outside COER to the public draw.
5. Revise the formula that determines the percentage of public draw hunting tags in a GMU:
The total number of elk hunting opportunities multiplied by the proportion of the core occupied elk range that is public land *plus private land that does not qualify or does not participate in E-PLUS* equals the number of public draw elk hunting licenses.
6. Require concurrent seasons on public and private land for all EPLUS hunts. If there must be additional hunting outside the normal seasons on private land, a certain percentage of those tags should be allocated through an online tag sale.

In closing, I believe the EPLUS program has driven a wedge through the hunting community. Draw hunters have seen their share of elk hunting opportunity decline. Landowners have discovered the value in elk tags, and the cost of tags has put them out of reach of the very hunters this program is supposed to help. I believe EPLUS needs a major overhaul, not a cosmetic one, which is what the current NMDGF proposal is.

--

Joel Gay

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Dr. Scott Beard
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2018 1:15 PM
To: Rules@state.nm.us; DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: new proposed rules

Categories: Reviewed

It seems quite sufficient that landowners get easy tags while the rest of us struggle to get one at all. Now the idea of giving the preferential hunting privileges on top of that?

Allowing them to start rifle hunting at earlier dates is genuinely not fair. Particularly since they are not restricted to just hunting on their own land and the fact that most are selling these tags to Texans and other out of staters anyway.

There is no easy way to find the open land that some of these guys hunting unit wide are supposed to have available anyway. Additionally this will create further challenges for game enforcement. People will be reporting others using rifles in Muzzleloader season and then there will be significant diversion of resources going to sort that out when the officers could be on patrol instead.

Most of the youth hunts filled up quite early this year. I'm all for the seniors getting opportunities – Please consider 2 days for instate unsuccessful youth, 14 days open to all youth, then opens up to seniors. Don't rob the future of hunting to recreate a few more glory moments for seniors

*Scott Beard MD
FACOG, FPMRS
Nor-Lea Hospital District*

United in Service. Trusted for Life.

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: gene moya
Sent: Sunday, July 29, 2018 8:26 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Re: Eplus

Categories: Rex

On Sun, Jul 29, 2018, 8:23 PM gene moya <[REDACTED]> wrote:

I am an avid hunter , outdoors man ,and guide in New Mexico. I appreciate this opportunity to have my input heard (if this email gets read). It's my understanding that there is an idea on the table to invent a 65+ hunt by cutting into youth tags. I feel that this is a good idea to give older people the opportunity to apply for these special hunts, but not at the expense of youth tags. These tags should be pulled from the UNIT WIDE land owner tags. Which brings me to my next topic.

- In order for landowners to be eligible for tags through the E-plus system there should be a minimum number of acres to contribute to be granted tags.

Example- (One of many) a lot of 40 private acres in 16b is given a unit wide trophy bull tag, which sells for \$15,000. In no way do properties like that benefit the public land hunter.

- All landowners given UW tags need to provide gps coordinates to any properties enrolled in the program. Simply list them on the same page the landowner list is posted.

- Landowners now mostly provide a p.o. box instead of physical address along with a phone number. In 20 years I've made hundreds of calls to these numbers listed and have never got a call returned. They simply do NOT hold up their end of the bargain. Making it almost impossible to find the land. There need to be consequences for this.

- Maps for unit wide ranches are simply unacceptable and need be updated and made more clear with gps coordinates right on the map. Hunters should be able to easily access these on the website FOR FREE!

- Landowners are taking it upon themselves to post PUBLIC land as private, and decommissioning roads in the process. They need to be held accountable for these actions. Public land hunters have enough trouble accessing public land as it is.

- Hunt dates on Ranch Only tags can begin as early as October 1 for rifle hunts. I believe that is one of the most crucial times for the elk herds breeding season and was the reason the public land hunter has to wait until the middle of month to rifle hunt. These rules should also apply to private land elk hunters.

- Altercations with landowners not uncommon. I've personally had them lie to me about which ranch I was on to try and convince me to leave so their hunters who paid the premium can be undisturbed. They should be penalized for harassment for conducting themselves in such a way.

Overall the system has evolved into a huge payday for landowners. I understand they should be compensated for the animals using their property as habitat, at the same time they should be forced to uphold their duties to confirm location of the properties enrolled. No one is forcing them to sign up, but they should be forced to make it CRYSTAL CLEAR where their unit wide properties are for those who are interested in hunting them . Landowners should NOT get away with falsely post public properties as private, and blocking access roads either.

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Randy Herrin
Sent: Saturday, July 28, 2018 5:24 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules; 'Randy Herrin'
Subject: Comment on Rule 19.30.5 NMAC

Categories: Rex

This is a comment on rule 19.30.5 NMAC. Please let me know if I need to rewrite the below so it can be considered a legitimate comment. I first provide some background info and then narrative that's specifically meant to be a comment. This narrative starts with Can this modified program include 'credit' for the following in the composite 'score' for the property:" I'm hoping the rule isn't modified such that small acreages have such low scores that they'll almost never receive a permit.

I've been in the NM e-plus small contributing ranch program for about six years. I have three small parcels with two being in unit 16A and one in 16D. From numbers I've been told, under the current program, we'll receive a bull elk permit about every 6-7 years for parcels in 16A and a bull permit about every 15 years for my parcel in 16D. All three parcels are between 13 and 27 acres.

We've been developing our 16A parcel that's 15 acres for all six years and have spent about \$220,000 on habitat improvements. We're setting up this parcel for Make a Wish Foundation children and Wounded Warriors/Disabled vets.

We've developed a pond that's about 505,000 thousand gallons and line with 12-15" with calcium and sodium bentonite. We've installed a watering/irrigation system that includes over 2,000' of 2" PVC underground, 6,000 gallons of storage, and about .75 acres of alfalfa and clover. We've planted 30 aspen, ash, willow, maple, and misc other trees for shade for fish around the pond and shade for elk, deer, turkey and other wildlife. We build a small cabin that's setup for wheel chairs. The perimeter around the top of the pond includes a road with fly fishing stations that can be used by individuals in wheel chairs.

Twenty to 40 elk come to eat, drink, walk in the pond, lay in the shade. It's an ideal setup for handicapped people to fish while watching wildlife.

Can this modified program include "credit" for the following in the composite "score" for the property:

- Property includes provisions for handicapped individuals (wheelchair ramps, fishing and shooting platforms, handicapped friendly housing, shooting distance for wildlife without walking is less than 100 yards).
- Property includes significant year round water with developed, man-made ponds over 250,000 gallons of water.
- Property includes watered agriculture for elk, deer, and other wildlife.
- Property includes wildlife friendly fence crossings.
- Property includes stocked pond including fish that small wildlife can eat (fox, turkeys, raccoons, mountain lions, coyotes, and other).
- Property includes a pond over 250,000 gallons that can be used by helicopters to bucket from to fight fires.
- Property includes multiple (at least five) year round water sources.
- Property includes wallows for elk.

Regards,

Best phone to reach m
Email address:

cell phone

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: ~,
Sent: Friday, July 27, 2018 8:48 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: e-plus comments
Attachments: 2018 comments E-Plus rule.odt

Categories: Rex

Comments on proposed E-Plus rule attached.

David Heft

Comments on 2018 E-Plus proposal: David L. Heft,

I generally support and commend the Department for a well thought out proposal. Recommend adopting minimum score of 7 for program participation.

Only negative comments I have concern Secondary Zone proposals. Opportunity on public lands in secondary zone units need to match opportunity on private lands. If unlimited on private then unlimited on public with this designated as one and only choice in draw as was done before. Weapons types also should be standardized (not different as currently exist in unit 18 for example where public is limited to archery and private permits allow any legal weapon) Hunt structure also should be consistent, same time frames (not 5 day hunts on public with private given 3 month option) If private given 3 month option then public should have option each week of same 3 month period. Easiest way is to restrict private to same hunt time frames as public. If private ranch is entered into special management program then more flexibility can be given for verified habitat enhancement work.

David L. Heft, CWB

Pitman, James, DGF

From:
Sent: Friday, July 27, 2018 8:50 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: elk rule comments
Attachments: 2018 comments Elk Rule.odt

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Comments on proposed elk rule attached.

David Heft

COMMENTS ON 2018 ELK RULE PROPOSAL: David L. Heft, P.O. Box 13, Mayhill, N.M. 88339

I support expansion of the COER in unit 9. I do not support elimination or reduction in public permits. In 2002 the Department's goal for the Mt. Taylor herd (units 9 and 10 combined) was 4,000 elk. Current estimated population for Unit 9 alone is 3500-4500 (harvest report info, NMGF website) Unit has long history of under harvest of antlerless elk and of public access to unit which is only approximately 30% public land (including state trust lands). Current estimated harvest last year was only 40 cows with a minimum sustainable harvest of 114. Low calf recruitment most likely reflects degraded habitat conditions due to years of over population. Due to extended private land hunt structure elk routinely seek refuge on private lands during public hunts and become inaccessible to public hunters. I recommend management experimental reduction of 50% in herd and then evaluate 3 year response in age/sex ratios. Department seems unable to understand inter-relationship between species and habitat and interactions between species on landscape.

I support removing unit 2 from the COER. This unit should be prioritized for deer management and not elk management.

I support expanding the COER in unit 13 and in unit 21.

I oppose splitting unit 15 into sub-units. No biological justification. Hunters can spread themselves out across unit.

I support expanding the COER in unit 34. This elk herd is completely out of control. 2002 population objective (NMGF) was 1,000 animals (estimated population was 3,000) Current estimate is over 6,000 which is low as harvest currently exceeds maximum sustainable levels for both bulls and cows and herd continues to increase. Published research from 2004-2006 study showed elk had primarily switched diet in this unit to browse further increasing competition with the deer herd. Recent ESA listings and critical habitat designations for small species and local extirpation is primarily attributed to lack of herbaceous cover. Significant conflicts have arisen over grazing with elk population being core cause of conflict. I support a bag limit for all current MB hunts to MB/A not ES. Should continue to protect spike bulls. I would note that in the late 90's we did this in unit 16-E in response to an increasing elk population and the commercial hunting industry and trophy hunters objected. The commission reversed the decision after one hunting season.

I support the proposal for a hunt in unit 14 but note that this was done before. The hunt was discontinued due to strong objections from small landowners along the eastern slopes of the Manzano mountains. If the Department has not reached out to the local community in that area regarding this proposal the same situation will probably arise again.

I support the Department's proposal for a hunt on WSMR.

I recommend that the Department's proposal to utilize any historically unused Youth Encouragement tags be distributed through the general draw and not allocated to a separate hunt for Senior Citizens. I also support the Department's proposal to reduce the wait period before opening Youth Encouragement hunts to non-resident youth.

I support moving the APRE hunts to draw hunts.

I support and recommend standardizing hunt dates statewide as much as possible.

Currently 29 of 31 GMUs in COER areas are below the minimum sustainable level for cow harvest. (NMDGF harvest report 2017-18) Hunt success is often low on the later hunts due to the large number of hunts for elk, deer and other species before antlerless elk hunts are held. Up until the mid-90s cow hunts were prioritized in the Gila units and cow hunts occurred before bull hunts. This changed after lobbying by the commercial hunting industry when the so called Quality and High Demand hunt structures were created. I recommend that in any COER unit in which the minimum sustainable cow elk harvest has not been met for 3 of the previous 4 years that cow hunts be moved before bull hunts to allow maximum harvest opportunity. It is time to prioritize herd management over trophy hunting.

Units with elk outside COER should be managed for maximum hunting opportunity. Private and Public land hunt structure and weapons types should be uniform across the board. If unlimited on private then unlimited on public. 3 month hunt period for private then 3 month hunt period for public even with 5 day limitation on any legal weapon hunts. Previous use of unlimited hunt structure for elk by NDGF allowed for hunt to be one and only choice thereby avoiding over saturation of unit. These units should be managed for minimal elk numbers. Private land authorizations should be ranch specific and not multiple ranch with permission as enforcement issues could become issue.

David L. Heft, CWB

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Joe Giglia
Sent: Friday, July 27, 2018 12:01 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: NM GMU 48 - Why are there no public elk hunts?

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reviewed

I have long wondered why there are no public elk hunts in unit 48. There is a lot of State land with elk there.

Joe Giglia

"Where there is a will, there is a way"

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Robert Barber
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 6:53 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Proposed COER Changes

Categories: Reviewed

During the recent public meetings, it wasn't clear the proposed changes in GMU 36 and 37 COER were being developed.

I request/recommend the DGF develop a process similar to one being proposed for evaluating EPLUS participant lands. I know any process will be subject to a large degree, but the DGF needs a way to be able to explain COER additions and change other than "we say so". A process would also help the public to understand what and why the DGF are making changes, and submit useful comments versus emotion comments.

Robert Barber, KG5MHM

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Robert Barber
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 6:44 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: EPLUS Rule Change

Categories: Rex

With the information presented during the Ruidoso public hearing, the proposed changes seem reasonable. The scoring system is still pretty subjective but a good start to documenting the process. With the first evaluations being accomplished with satellite photos it's even more subjective. Satellite photos don't change that often, and environmental conditions and elk habitat patterns change a lot more frequently.

With the scoring system be new and not all property owners understand how it will affect them, I request/suggest DGF provide every owner with the information on how their property was scored. You should provide the property owner with copies of the documentation used to support DGF's score with a detailed explanation how it was determined..

Robert Barber, KG5MHM

Pitman, James, DGF

From: KC ·
Sent: Tuesday, July 24, 2018 7:24 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Unit 36 coer boundary

Categories: Reviewed

Hello my name is Kc Hendricks with the Stephenson ranch on the west side of unit 36. We are totally against any movement in the core elk area and we wish to remain outside of this line. We have had a good working relationship with the game and fish since we've been outside the core and we believe everything is working fine as is. Our ranch provides vital habitat for the elk herd, especially in March April for large numbers of non resident cows before they calve. This year being extremely dry there h been a big surge of elk coming off the wilderness that we are providing water for also. I feel that we do a good job managing these elk herds and try to find a good balance in how many elk we harvest.

Thank you for taking the time to read,
Kc Hendricks

Sent from my iPhone

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From:
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2018 3:20 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules; DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Cc:
Subject: Proposed COER expansion

Categories: Red Category

I am the Treasurer for Three Rivers Cattle Ltd., Co. I understand that there is talk of expanding the western portion of Unit36 to include the elk into the COER. Currently our permits are not part of the COER.

Three Rivers and our neighbor, the I-X, do not want to be part of the COER. We want the current COER boundary to remain as is, excluding Thee Rivers and the I-X.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Brainerd
Treasurer

Sam Regan
Manager

Three Rivers Cattle Ltd., Co.

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: John Yeager <JohnYeager@eplus.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2018 9:11 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Pending changes to EPLUS System
Attachments: Area12-GF-letter.jpg

Categories: Rex

Please see attachment:

18 July 2018

To whom it may concern,

This letter is in response to the proposed changes to the EPLUS rule in effect with-in the State, but specifically in Unit 12.

I am the owner of a small property within Unit 12 and do not participate in the program, but my property is surrounded by private landowners who do participate, and are friends whom I have helped with their cattle operations, not to mention fence repairs, and feel I need to speak to their concerns over this proposal and pending changes.

One particularly disturbing aspect of the proposed change is that of eliminating landowner permits and reverting them to "Over the counter" sales which will create many more problems for the Ranchers in Area12 than it will fix. A large portion of Unit 12 is privately owned and the current system allows the landowners in the area to control access to their property thru outfitters, family members and friends, in turn allowing the ranchers to attend to their businesses rather than having to adjust their schedules to accommodate strangers hunting in an adjacent area while the ranchers are trying to make a living.

Other issues that would be created that don't exist currently are increased liability issues, over hunting of certain areas, unwanted or unauthorized hunters and little to no control of how many tags would be sold over the counter. The current system is working well and making change for the sake of change would only place more of the burden on the landowners in Unit 12, who already deal with reduced capacity of their property for their cattle to accommodate the herds of elk that compete for habitat and the sometimes very limited natural feed available.

Should it become necessary to change the current system, I would like to recommend that Unit 12 be designated a "SPECIAL MANAGMENT ZONE" thus maintaining the integrity of the unit.



John S. Yeager

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Mike & Linda Tays
Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2018 8:54 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Eplus changes

Categories: Rex

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to express our opinion on the proposed changes! I did attend the meeting in Ruidoso. A very well handled presentation—very clear. I am a private land owner in units 36 and 37. I receive authorizations in both units under the SCR program. I have always been an avid hunter and enjoy our public lands as well as my private land. The biggest issue up for change to me is the proposed OTC rule in the non-core areas. My understanding is this means unlimited authorization in these areas. True, these areas have already been basically unlimited in the past. The problem is that all land owners aren't completely honest when it comes to the almighty dollar! The last two times I was lucky enough to draw a public elk tag I caught Ranch only hunters on the forest hunting (one had killed a bull). I was scouting the week before my MZ hunt started. It is the pits to wait 6-10 years for a tag and catch hunters hunting before you can legally hunt! I am not saying that all land owners in RO areas are encouraging their hunters to go out in the forest to hunt. I can tell you that I have had land owners mention that no one else is hunting at that time. A lot of the forest is adjacent to private land and very inaccessible to any one else except by private road through the private ranch. I realize that you don't have the resources and man power to patrol these areas every time a land owner decides to have a 5 day hunt. It appears to me that an awful lot of these RO authorization are getting converted in a 5 day period when there is not a state hunt going on. HMMMM-seems suspicious to me.

So what is the answer? I believe unlimited authorization adds to the problem of trespassing - i.e. RO hunters hunting on the forest. Non-core ranches should be graded just like core area properties and authorizations issued accordingly. Current non-core ranches should be reassessed. The hunting dates for core and non-core areas should be the same as state set seasons until the last state rifle hunt in that area and then give the land owner a 5 day choice until December 31.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Mike Tays

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Levi Levi <
Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2018 8:23 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: elk comment

Categories: Rex

Hello,

I think one of the largest problems with eplus is not mentioned in your presentation. Concerning landowner participation: landowners should give a clear and concise map that is readily available to the public, which includes marked boundaries (gps). If landowners wish to participate and make money on the public's animals, the above should be a requirement. I have had to go through lengthy processes to gain such maps, and the end result (most of the time) is a horribly drawn, not clearly marked map....not cool at all.

Levi

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Martin Mosimann
Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2018 4:58 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: FW: Scanned document from HP ePrint user
Attachments: filename-1.pdf; filename-1.pdf

Categories: Rex

Please find attached to this email comments and suggestions after attending the meeting in Raton on July 10, 2018.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From:
Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2018 4:37 PM
To:
Subject: Scanned document from HP ePrint user

This email and attachment are sent on behalf of

If you do not want to receive this email in future, you may contact [HP](#) directly or you may consult your email application for spam or junk email filtering options.

Regards,
HP Team

Mosimann Ranch

Martin & Beckie Mosimann

July 19, 2018

NMDGF

Game Management Staff:

The following are some of our thoughts and concerns about the new proposal to sell unlimited over the counter licenses for the E Plus elk permits outside the COER elk management area:

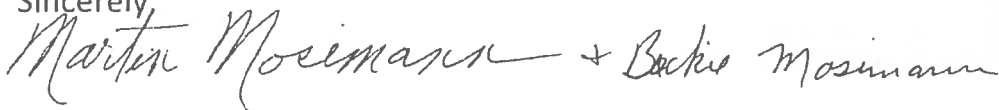
1. We think the system in place now is working fine, if it's not broke, don't fix it.
2. We thought that part of the job of the game department is to manage the game. Why manage them inside the COER area only to make it a free for all outside of it, seems like a cop out on your part, wanting the private land owners outside the COER area to fight the battle with the public instead of you. If the proposal goes through as is, you are putting every landowner who might confront an elk hunting trespasser in danger. The whole trespassing scenario becomes a real liability issue for landowners.
3. If a landowner posts his/her property with no trespassing signs they are either torn down or shot full of holes. If you have livestock in that area while they are shooting holes in the signs it becomes dangerous for the livestock.
4. As one of your game wardens stated, there aren't enough law enforcement game officers to begin to keep any kind of handle on the situation. It may work somewhat for deer, but you are talking about 2 five day hunts, NOT 5 MONTHS, as it would be with this elk proposal.
5. The proposal to sell unlimited elk licenses over the counter is a terrible idea. It is nothing more than a license to poach. It does not matter that you say they need written permission from a landowner to hunt private land. A lot of public hunters have zero respect for private land or the land owners. I think that the elk are doing well outside the COER area partly due

to the fact that the private land owners provide for the elk and manage them in a way that benefits the elk. All the public hunter needs is for some friend or relative with 5 acres to give them permission and all of a sudden they are loose on anyone that they can trespass on to hunt elk. It was reported in the New Mexico Stockman that public hunters were complaining about the number of unused private elk tags, and thought that the game department should let them have the unused tags. I don't know if that is where this proposal came from, but it is a BAD idea.

6. At the very least, if you want to let out unlimited tags and sell them over the counter, you need to come up with a system of landowner authorization numbers for every landowner as we have now with our limited tags and the over the counter license buyer would have to have that number from the landowner with them to purchase the license. They should still have to have written permission from the landowner to hunt.
7. As some gentleman at the Raton Public meeting pointed out, you tried something like this in the 1970's. It didn't work then and it won't work now.
8. This has nothing to do with this proposal because it is already in place, but I think opening the September hunt to rifle hunters is a terrible idea. It is unfair to the elk in rut and unfair to the bow hunter who has to work harder to get close enough to the elk to get a shot. Leave September for bow hunters only. Four months of rifle hunting should be plenty.

Thank you for the opportunity to make our concerns heard and considered, and thank you for the job you do managing this important resource, our game.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Martin Mosimann + Beckie Mosimann". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed names.

Martin & Beckie Mosimann

Mosimann Ranch

...
Martin & Beckie Mosimann

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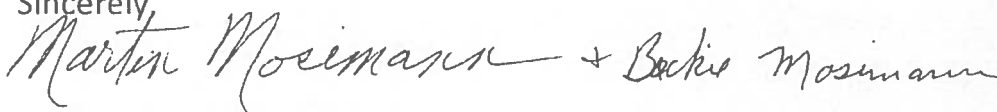
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Martin & Beckie Mosimann

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Lazy J T Cattle Co.
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2018 1:37 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Public Comment
Attachments: G&F Letter.docx

Categories: Rex

Please review these comments for proposed elk changes.

Thank you!

--
Jimbo Williams
Ag Country Propane

www.agcountrypropane.com
877-LPG-4-YOU

July 20, 2018

NEW MEXICO GAME AND FISH

Dear Sirs:

On July 11, 2018 I attended a meeting in Socorro, New Mexico regarding proposed changes in the E-Plus System. Regarding Unit 12, Game & Fish presented a proposal to split Unit 12 into part inside COER and outside COER and made outside COER private land tags available over-the-counter with no control over the amount of tags to be sold.

The following reasons represent why this or similar approaches are not viable for unit 12:

- No possible control of the process.
- Liability issues.
- Unit 12 is primary private land and it will be hard to police trespass issues.
- Much of Unit 12 public land is not accessible.
- An over the counter tag will basically destroy the populations of elk.
- Land values will decrease because private land tags or trespass fees will not have any value due to the lack of quality elk to hunt.
- Unwanted hunter performing nefarious acts.
- An increase in cost to NMGFD to remove and fence private land that will not want any elk on their property should these proposals be put into effect.
- Over hunting of certain areas thus damaging herd
- Management system currently in place is working well, change would lose all control and chaos will ensue.
- Vetting of proposed hunters cannot be accomplished.

As a viable alternative I and other land owners see no other option other than Unit 12 be designated a "SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONE" thus maintain the existing integrity of Unit 12.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

James "Jimbo" Williams

Land Owner Unit 12

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Brent Taft
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2018 9:33 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: E-Plus Comments

Categories: Rex

Hello,

I generally support the E-Plus changes recommended by the department; however, I do believe there is one critical addition. The current E-Plus system provides almost no real access for public land hunters to find and utilize "unit-wide" ranches enrolled in the program.

At a minimum, my recommendation is to require every enrolled property to provide a legible electronic copy map showing enrolled property boundaries. The paper copy maps currently provided to the Department are clearly inadequate and are not readily accessible by the public. In some cases a FOIA request is needed to obtain access to these documents. If electronic copy maps were provided to the Department it would be quite simple to host them on the Department website for public viewing.

My hope is that the Department can push past the minimum requirement, and incorporate unit-wide E-Plus land maps into Carry Map or the Department's Pocket Ranger App. I do, however, understand that these additions would require Department manpower/funds.

Thanks,
Brent Taft

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Paul Turney
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2018 6:25 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Unit 37 Expanded COER

Categories: Reviewed

Mr. Pittman,

I am emailing to let you know that I am strongly opposed to pulling Unit 37 into the COER. I feel as if we have done an excellent job of managing the elk and building the herd. At this time, the herd needs to continue to be protected and as a landowner I feel it would be detrimental to the elk to put it into the COER.

On numerous occasions I have seen smaller land owners sell their permits to outfitters who have no consideration for the herd other than to get their hunter killed out as quickly as possible. I respect NM Game & Fish but I feel some decisions are made based upon what the public wants and not what the elk really need. I think the quality of elk has declined in Unit 36 under COER supervision.

I realize the smaller land owners by far outnumber the larger landowners and they would benefit financially from the unit wide permits. However, in Unit 37 in particular, these smaller landowners are not the true gamekeepers. The elk are relying on the larger landowners for their habitat, food, water, and calving grounds. I am speaking specifically about the Capitan mountain area that you are considering putting into the COER.

I would encourage you to come out and visit my property in person and also consult with your own law enforcement personnel who have first hand experience with my area to understand our situation better. I feel you would arrive at the same conclusion.

Sincerely,
Paul Turney
Owner

Ponderosa Springs Ranch

Sent from my iPad

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Larry Johnson
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2018 5:57 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Public comment

Categories: Reviewed

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide my opinions on the proposals. Here they are:

GMU 48-Had a buddy who drew the Dec hunt. We loved it. I think keep it in Dec, unless there is a biologically based reason not to have it in Dec.

GMU 56-Totally onboard with an increase in tags and agree with creating new hunts.

GMU 57/58- Totally onboard with an increase in tags and agree with creating new hunts.

GMU 42/47/59-Two thumbs up!! Great work, this needs to happen!

COER in 37-overdue

GMU 19-100% in agreement that there should be a season there.

GMU 12-COER boundary...absolutely!

GMU 14-Possible draw hunts...exactly what is needed!

In the hunts listed above where new or additional seasons are being discussed it should be noted that I totally support additional tags/new hunts in those units. The tag allocation should be at a number where it isn't restricted to resident hunters only. If new seasons are created and the tag numbers are below the threshold that allow NR/Outfitter opportunity (less than 10?) I would be hesitant to support.

Thank you for the chance to submit comments.

Sincerely,
L.E. Johnson

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Kendall Fische
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2018 3:01 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules; Martensen, Rex, DGF; james.pittman@state.nm.us
Cc: Fischer, Doug
Subject: Comments On Proposed E-PLUS Rule Changes

Categories: Rex

Attention: Rex Martensen, Private Lands Program Manager
James Pittman, Elk Program Manager

Gentlemen:

My Brother and I own and run the Fischer Ranch in Unit 12. We oppose the proposed changes to the current elk regulations that seek to authorize over-the-counter sales of elk hunting permits to the general public, thereby effectively eliminating Outfitter-guided hunts in Unit 12. We favor making Unit 12 a Special Management Zone, which would preserve the current system of safe, prudent, and controlled elk hunting.

Although there are a number of valid reasons for opposing the proposed changes, we think the following reasons are most compelling to us:

1. Requiring ranchers to deal directly with hunters is impractical, inefficient, and potentially hazardous. We are ranchers, not outfitters or guides. We are not in a position to negotiate and direct hunts on our ranch with persons we do not know and have no way to check out. We prefer all hunts to be conducted through a licensed outfitter that has the experience and resources to screen, select, oversee, and insure the activities of the hunters. This is particularly important to us, as I'm sure it is important to other Unit 12 ranchers, because we are not just land owners, but also have homes on our ranches, extensive infrastructure, and expensive ranch equipment, all of which are highly vulnerable to the possible negligence of unscreened and unsupervised hunters. All it takes is one careless hunter with a match, and we have another Buzzard Fire.
2. Small ranchers need the income from Outfitter-guided elk hunting to defray the costs in running a ranch today. Ranching is a spiritually rewarding way of life, but running cattle alone does not make ends meet. We rely on the income from Outfitter-guided hunts to offset the expenses of ranching, which includes maintaining infrastructure and paying taxes. We can't expect a hunter, who obtains his permit over-the-counter at Walmart, to pay us for our permits what an Outfitter pays us. Considering the hazards in allowing unscreened and unsupervised hunters to hunt on our ranch together with the low compensation we can expect under the proposed new rules, we would prefer not to have any hunting on our land. In this event, without culling the elk herd every year, the elk population on our ranch will grow unchecked and compete with our cattle for scarce grazing.
3. Outfitter-guided elk hunting is critical to the economies of Unit 12 Communities. Outfitters pump significant money into the local economies during elk season. Not only do they pay state gross receipts taxes, but they also buy food, provisions, motel accommodations, and gas locally during hunting season. "Over-the-counter" non-resident hunters would have little incentive to pump this

much money in the local economies. Without the yearly infusion of cash by Outfitters, small community economies that are already under stress, such as Quemado's, could be devastated.

For these reasons, and for other good reasons best discussed by other affected parties, we strongly oppose the identified portions of the proposed regulations. We prefer that Unit 12 be designated a Special Management Zone in which the current elk management practices continue unchanged.

Thank you.

Kendall Fischer
Fischer Ranch

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Garry Nichols <Garry.Nichols@dnr.wa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2018 2:17 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Unit 12 Special Management Zone

Categories: Rex

After serious thought I and my neighbors in Unit 12 think neither Inside nor Outside the COER work for Unit 12. The only reasonable alternative is a SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONE. I and many others request you to consider the aforementioned Special Management Zone.

Garry Nichols

Land Owner

Important Disclosure Information:

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Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Abel Ortega
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2018 12:52 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Fwd: E-PLUS system change
Attachments: CCF07192018_0001.jpg; CCF07192018_0002.jpg; CCF07192018_0003.jpg; CCF07192018_0004.jpg; CCF07192018_0005.jpg; CCF07192018_0006.jpg; CCF07192018_0007.jpg; CCF07192018_0008.jpg; CCF07192018_0009.jpg; CCF07192018_0010.jpg

Categories: Rex

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Abel Ortega <Abel.Ortega@state.nm.us>
Date: Thu, Jul 19, 2018 at 12:46 PM
Subject: E-PLUS system change
To: DFG-EPLUS-Rules@state.nm.us

July 12, 2018

NEW MEXICO GAME AND FISH

Dear Sirs:

On July 11, 2018 I attended a meeting in Socorro New Mexico regarding proposed changes in the E-Plus system. Regarding Unit 12, Game & Fish presented a proposal to split unit 12 into part Inside COER and outside COER and make outside COER private land tags available over- the- counter.

The following reasons represent why this or similar approaches are not viable for unit 12:

- No possible control of the process
- Liability issues
- Unit 12 is primarily private land
- Much of unit 12 public land is not accessible
- State revenues will decrease because hunters will have few options to hunt
- Local business will suffer
- Land values will decrease
- Unwanted hunters performing nefarious acts
- Over hunting of certain areas thus damaging herd
- Management system currently in place is working well, change would lose all control and chaos will ensue
- Vetting of proposed hunters cannot be accomplished

As a viable alternative I and other land owners would recommend unit 12 be designated a "SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONE" thus maintain the existing integrity of unit 12.

ANTHONY VALENCIA
Land Owner Unit 12

July 12, 2018

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JOHN & TERESA LOPEZ
Land Owner Unit 12

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CHRIS LOPEZ
Land Owner Unit 12

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BRYAN D. SPECK
Land Owner Unit 12

July 12, 2018

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Land Owner Unit 12

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DR. MIRANDA S. LOPEZ
Land Owner Unit 12

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EDDIE LOPEZ

Land Owner Unit 12

July 12, 2018

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ABEL & GLORIA ORTEGA
Land Owner Unit 12

July 12, 2018

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TONY ORTEGA
Land Owner Unit 12

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As a viable alternative I and other land owners would recommend unit 12 be designated a "SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONE" thus maintain the existing integrity of unit 12.



Land Owner Unit 12

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: F.K. Benbow
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2018 10:27 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Unit 12 Proposed Changes to E-PLUS Rule

Categories: Rex

Dear Sirs:

I am a land owner in unit 12.

The following are reasons I am NOT in favor of the proposal to split unit 12 into part inside Core and outside Core, and make outside Core private land owner tags available over the counter:

1. There would be no control over the number of over the counter tags sold
2. Liability issues
3. Over hunting of certain land
4. Unit 12 is primarily private land
5. Unwanted hunters
6. The management system currently in place is working well. There is no need to "fix" a system that is working

I recommend unit 12 be designated a SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONE thus, maintaining the integrity of the unit.

Thank You,
Fredrick K. Benbow
South of Star Fire Ranch

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Chad Chapman
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2018 9:17 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: EPLUS Proposed Rule Changes Comment

Categories: Rex

We are against the outside COER private land tags being made available over the counter.

Thank you,

Chad S. Chapman
Flying Y Ranch
Ten Canyons Ranch

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Justin Medina ·
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2018 6:43 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Justin's thoughts

Categories: Reviewed

I think its about time you guys change the COER of alot of units, as an outfitter in 34, we really need this. When you have ranches that can hunt starting Oct 1 cause suppose ably they are outside the COER, its totally unfair and the elk get hammered in areas that are now their main habitat. For 34 I think you need to extend that COER at minimum eas to Pinion NM. I also think that you need change that outside the COER ranches must hunt same dates as whats posted in proclamation or at least not let them start hunting till Oct 6 when the rifle hunts start up in most units. Also a point restriction would be great, 34 has great potential to be a better trophy unit if managed better, I say 5 point on one side or better. Also we do not need to put more cow hunters in unit 34, I am seeing less and less cows in field each year, this is a dumb move and what I think will screw unit 34 up in the long run, before you realize what you have done and then it will suck like most of the deer hunting in NM. If you are thinking of making all tags ES fine but do not add an more cow hunts at end of year. Not that any of this matters as you will do whatever you want but had to put some input.

--

Justin Medina
JMS Consulting LLC
NM Arrowhead Outfitters
Affordable Taxidermy
www.arrowheadoutfitters.net



Pitman, James, DGF

From: James Cain
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 11:50 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Elk rule change

Categories: Reviewed

I strongly disagree with reducing youth encouragement tags in order to provide special tags for seniors. The proportion of Americans that participate in hunting is decreasing. Given that NMDGF relies on hunter spending (on tags, P&R funds, etc...) for its entire budget, I would think that the department would be doing everything it could to maintain or increase the number of hunters in NM. The smartest way to do this is to get kids involved. A kid that we can get excited about hunting is going to contribute more money for wildlife management in NM and for a longer period of time than seniors.

Frankly, many seniors are probably not going to be able to hunt for many more years, thus their contribution towards wildlife management is going to diminish rather quickly over time. If we are going to have special tags based on age, let's invest those in the youth. They are a better investment for the future of wildlife management.

Besides, old people have already screwed up this country enough for young people, and now they want to take their elk tags? Personally, I think we should put them all in retirement homes where they can't cause any more trouble.

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Kevin Snider
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2018 8:52 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Unit 12 Proposal Changes

Categories: Rex

Gentlemen,

I purchased a ranch in unit 12 this past October 4 the express purpose of quality trophy elk hunting. I have since made many improvements 2 enhance the habitat & provide the best possible environment 4 a healthy elk heard. Now I can state positively that I'm NOT a wealthy man, however in my advancing state of maturity I have invested most of my life's savings into this project & I would put my little 269 acres up against anybodies low fence operation acre 4 acre. The purpose of this email is 2 respectfully request that Fish N Game leave unit 12 alone. It's not broke, so please don't fix it!

Respectfullv. Paul Kevin Snider (Snider Ranch)

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Garry Nichols
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2018 8:17 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: New Mexico Game and Fish

Categories: Rex

RE: Socorro New Mexico meeting regarding proposed changes in the E-Plus System (July 11,2018). I am a land owner in Unit 12 and would like to document my disagreement with the proposed changes COER would make for private Land Tags. I think this proposal is untenable for me. I would loose all control over people hunting my land and still face Liability for their so doing. These changes in my opinion will lead to unwanted hunters performing nefarious acts as I will have lost all control. Vetting of proposed hunters would be impossible. Not to mention the detrimental effect this will have upon Real Estate Values in my immediate area. Please reconsider the proposed changes the current system may be flawed; but, it has continued to work for many years and in my opinion will continue to do so.

Garry Nichols

Land Owner Unit 12

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Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Burl Adams
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2018 7:36 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Fw: Proposed changes in E-Plus system
Attachments: Scan_0056.pdf

Categories: Rex

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Burl Adams

Sent: Monday, July 16, 2018 7:05 PM
Subject: Proposed changes in E-Plus system

Thank you for your consideration.

July 16, 2018

New Mexico Game and Fish Dept.

Dear Sirs,

I am a land owner in unit 12. The following are reasons I am not in favor of the proposal to split unit 12 into part inside CORE and outside CORE and to make outside CORE private landowner tags available over the counter.

1. There would be no control over the number of over the counter tags sold.
2. Liability issues
3. Over hunting of certain areas.
4. Unit 12 is primarily private land.
5. Unwanted hunters.
6. The management system currently in place is working well. There is no need to "fix" a system that is working.

I recommend unit 12 be designated a SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONE thus maintaining the integrity of the unit.


Burl Adams

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Chavez, Miguel (IHS/ALB/MSU)
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2018 12:19 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Eplus rules unit 34

Categories: Rex

To Whom this May Concern,

I am a landowner in unit 34 (near Mile Marker 239 on hwy 70 Bent,NM) and wasn't able to attend the meeting held in Ruidoso because of work. I did apply for Small Ranch Land owner tag for my Ranch and was not selected this year and I will continue to put in every year. I did receive a letter, stating that I need to provide proof that there is elk on my property, which will not be hard at all.

The reason why I feel that this area is needing management, is because last year alone, over 80 elk were hit on the highway 70 from Round Mountain to the Bent Church in NM . This is a corridor for elk to cross, especially from my property because there is a valley that the elk like to travel. Lot of elk travel from the north end (unit 36 dry side) and cross the Hwy 70 to get water from the Tularosa Creek (south end unit 34) and vice versa. To me this is a big waste of our elk herds because of all the elk getting hit within that 3 mile stretch and majority were pushed off the roads and left to rot. I was hoping to get a landowner tag(s), so that I could sell it and purchase fencing material to funnel the elk through a big culvert under the hwy. I could also get my neighbors landowners involved as well, we all can try and construct a game fence along both sides of the hwy and try to channel the elk. My Question is, do you think this would work? And is there other funding that us landowners can apply for to build a game fence to help prevent so many elk from getting hit on highway 70 (Round mountain, just past the Bent, NM church)?

Thank you for listening to the landowner and a avid NM hunter. I DO agree with you all and trying to change the rules for next year, not letting all the Big Ranches get majority of the private tags first, because there are a lot of smaller ranches that should have an opportunity to get tags as well. I believe you all are doing a great job and my hats off to you for Keeping NM hunting and wildlife thriving for our Future.

Yours Truly ,

Miguel Chavez

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: CenturyLink Customer
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2018 11:41 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Cc: ADM, Mike; andy arnold; Arnold [NM], Charlie
Subject: Changes to e-plus

Categories: Rex

The purpose of this e-mail is to provide comment on proposed changes to the E-plus program. I am a participant in the program in GMU 12. I have attended several meetings over the years which were conducted by NM Game and Fish to address concerns of persons who were concerned with the management of our wildlife. Due to rapid changes in the amount of vegetation on habitat I think it is very important to make adjustments to the amount of animals that are harvested each year. I think that if the Game Commission would petition our state legislators to offer a favorable land tax rate to landowners who dedicate their land to wildlife we could increase the amount of habitat available. At the present time land owners must utilize their land for domestic livestock in order to get the lowest possible tax assessment. The state owned and BLM land is leased for use by livestock growers. our wildlife suffers the most during drought conditions. I think if the voting citizens were polled they would prefer some of the priority be given to our wildlife. I have approximately 900 deeded acres of land. I do not own enough land to support a livestock business, The size of my acreage fits a profile of many landowners who are not ranchers but are forced to find a way to run cattle on the land for tax purposes. I would much prefer to save my habitat for our wildlife if the difference in the taxation rates between "recreational" and "livestock were equal.

I do applaud the efforts of the Dept to manage our wildlife and am optimistic they will do what is best for our wildlife and not bend to any special interest group such as Outfitters or radical conservationist.

Sincerely: Charles Arnold

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: CARLOS RIVERA <
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2018 9:12 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: E-PLUS Proposed Changes.

Categories: Rex

Mr Martensen:

Thank you for the email on the E-Plus proposed changes. We are glad to be in the E-PLUS that provides meaningful benefits to the elk. Every summer we have a heard of Cows & Calves that graze our ranch. A beautiful sight to see.

With that being said I want to let you know that we support the suggested improvements outlined in your email. I will follow the updates on the website provided.

Thank You,

Carlos Rivera

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Pamela Harkness
Sent: Sunday, July 15, 2018 10:45 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Cc: Kirk Kennedy; Colby Kennedy; Dan Harkness
Subject: Comment E-Plus Proposed changes

Categories: Rex

July 15, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

As a landowner, I oppose the proposed over the counter elk tag sales for private land.

With the proposed OTC sales I feel like we would have increased trespassing and safety issues to contend with that would not be in the best interest to the wildlife but also to our cattle, horses, people, infrastructure and over all business.

My family and outfitters have worked consistently for many decades to manage our wildlife in a healthy, holistic way providing ample forage, water and safety for the wildlife to live and flourish.

With increased gun violence in our culture, I trust that the Department of Game and Fish will be at the forefront of passing rules to help make **safety for all** a priority.

Thank-you for respecting our values and helping us to maintain healthy boundaries.

Sincerely,

Pamela S. Harkness
McAuliffe Ranch Co.

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Gary Blum
Sent: Sunday, July 15, 2018 7:42 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Land Owner Comment

Categories: Rex

Sirs: This comment concurs with that of Gary Blum, another land owner.

>
> My name is Rick Getz also a land owner in unit 12. I agree with what Gary and the other land owners are saying. Gary please forward my comments for me thx. Please leave our unit as it exists.
>
> Sent from my iPad
>
>>
>>>
>>

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Gary Blum
Sent: Sunday, July 15, 2018 2:39 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: July 12.pdf
Attachments: July 12.pdf; ATT00001.txt

Categories: Red Category

Ladies & Gentlemen, as a land owner in GMU 12 I submit the following letter regarding the proposed changes for the unit. Needless to say your proposed changes will have an extremely detrimental affect on land owners, elk habitat and the overall economy of the area.

Additionally at the Socorro meeting it was brought up by G& F staff that a significant reason for the proposed change was that " G& F staff was spending too much time negotiating with landowners. There can be many reasons why this situation has occurred in the eyes of G& F but to even think up totally changing the status quo for this reason is an insult to all of us in the unit who have worked for many years to live up to our end of the bargain. The elk population and the hard work as landowners should not and cannot be subject to an internal problem at G& F. Please be reminded of who you actually work for.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary & Sally Blum, Landowners

July 12, 2018

NEW MEXICO GAME AND FISH

Dear Sirs:

On July 11, 2018 I attended a meeting in Socorro New Mexico regarding proposed changes in the E-Plus system. Regarding Unit 12, Game & Fish presented a proposal to split unit 12 into part Inside COER and outside COER and make outside COER private land tags available over- the- counter.

The following reasons represent why this or similar approaches are not viable for unit 12:

- No possible control of the process
- Liability issues
- Unit 12 is primarily private land
- Much of unit 12 public land is not accessible
- State revenues will decrease because hunters will have few options to hunt
- Local business will suffer
- Land values will decrease
- Unwanted hunters performing nefarious acts
- Over hunting of certain areas thus damaging herd
- Management system currently in place is working well, change would lose all control and chaos will ensue
- Vetting of proposed hunters cannot be accomplished

As a viable alternative I and other land owners would recommend unit 12 be designated a "SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONE" thus maintain the existing integrity of unit 12.

Gary Blum
Land Owner Unit 12

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From:
Sent: Saturday, July 14, 2018 2:11 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Meaningful Benefits for Elk
Attachments: State Game Commission.doc

Categories: Red Category

Gentlemen,

I attended the July 12th EPLUS meeting at the Ruidoso Village Hall in Ruidoso, New Mexico and have prepared the attached document with the "meaningful befits for elk" I provide on my property. I am hoping that after you have developed the new guide lines for determining which properties will be kept in the system that you will use what I have listed to continue keeping my property in the system.

Thank you,
George A. Sanchez

Pase por aqui, George

The Elk Private Land Use System (EPLUS) wants to know "what meaningful benefits for elk" I provide at the ranch in Nogal Canyon:

- (1) The Lincoln National Forest is behind my ranch and I leave the fence there down so that the elk can easily go to drink water from the Nogal Creek which is on my property along the Nogal Canyon Road. (All the private properties around me have high fences with "No Trespassing" signs!)
- (2) I remove all debris from the Nogal Creek so that the water easily flows from the south end to the North end of my property.
- (3) In the smaller pasture areas, I plant alfalfa and grass seeds to grow for the elk to eat. (The seeds can be bought at Curtis + Curtis Seed in Clovis, NM.)

George A. Sanchez, Owner
Nogal Canyon Ranch (at 211 Nogal Canyon Road)

Home Address:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

E Mail:

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Brad Norman
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2018 10:46 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: Coer Areas

Categories: Reviewed

I appreciate the proposed comments regarding core area designations! The following are units that I would like to see added to the Core areas to help increase the elk management in the area!! Thanks!!

1. I support bringing any areas with resident elk into the CORE area. Even if the resident herds are small, it should be made CORE area to help promote herd establishment!
2. Consider moving 5a (Unites the land that herds use between CORE 5b/jic and 6)
3. Consider added unit 38 to CORE since more elk are killed on private than on the public land. Manage it as prime elk habitat to get the herd going. There is a permanent herd in 38!
4. Consider adding the eastern part of 34 to the core since it contains a resident elk herd and elk migrate in from CORE areas.
5. Add 37 to CORE to unite the region
6. Add all of 36 to CORE.
7. Move the boundary of 13 to include the Rio grande river on the eastern side of I-25.
8. Conduct a survey to see if there are any elk to add unit 14 to core to expand the unit 13 CORE area. There are a lot of elk in there that never get a hunting season!

Thanks again for hearing my comments regarding units to add to CORE!!! Also you should establish metrics to define core— To me CORE means that there are elk in an area on an annual basis!!! Like a resident or migration herd that uses the land at least annually.

Thanks

Brad Norman
Albuquerque,

Sent from my iPhone

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Martin Reynolds
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2018 5:13 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Proposed rules
Attachments: EPLUS RULE PROPOSAL SUMMARY.docx

Categories: EPLUS

My name is Martin Reynolds and I own approximately 1500 acres of the Tierra Amarilla Grant in Northern New Mexico. There has been large herds of elk on my property all summer. Last Saturday I counted 117 elk in just one of my fields. I am an rancher and I own this land for grazing my cattle. My family has owned TA Grant Land since 1914 and we have always used this land for grazing cattle. Because of neighboring properties now emphasizing hunting, my property is affected by the increasing number of elk in the area. These elk cause over grazing on my property and limit the amount of cattle that I can graze. This problem gets worse every year. Hunters will not kill doe elk so that they can increase the number of elk in the area. Only killing bull elk does nothing to control the herd numbers and in fact, allows the elk herd to increase every year. These limited amount of land owner elk permits issued each year are not effective in actually controlling the elk herd numbers.

These elk cause damage to my fences, my grazing land and my ability to maintain the amount of cattle to make a living. I request that you implement some meaningful measures to control the elk herd and decrease the numbers to manageable and historical values.

In the mean time I request that you send me all information relative to the laws pertaining to depredation.

Thank you
Martin Reynolds

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Osborn, Robert, DGF
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2018 8:08 AM
To: Pitman, James, DGF
Cc: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: FW: Comment (ELK RULE)

See below. These comments pertain to the Elk rule rather than the E-PLUS rule.

Bob Osborn
Assistant Chief - Private Land Programs
New Mexico Dept of Game & Fish
1 Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, NM 87507
Phone: 505-476-8098
Fax: 505-476-8127
E-mail: robert.osborn@state.nm.us

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations

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-----Original Message-----

From: Nettie Carrejo [mailto:nettie.carrejo@state.nm.us]
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2018 7:54 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Comment

The unit 15 change to 15A and 15B, will not work, the hunters are still going to be hunting where they see the most elk and as for the boundary it will make more work for the Game Wardens patrolling the boundary. We are short on Wardens as it is. The study of the Wolf on the elk population is a waist of money. I live right in the middle of Unit 15. A few years back (not sure of date) there were some students here doing a SURVEY and catching baby elk , for what I don't know. I was documenting when the moma Elk were having their babies , when and how many , the survival rate. I have around 89 to 127 elk in meadow year round I have a front seat row to watch everything , I used to have a 98% calf crop. Then when the wolfs started coming in, they started to decrease, now my calf crop is about 65% sometimes less. The year we had the dry winter the cows didn't have milk so they would leave their babies and not go back to get because no milk, the wolfs and coyotes got them. I have actually watched the wolfs kill babies. I know when the FIRST baby is born, the wolfs and coyotes start howling then in about a week the ones who survive start coming down to the field. I started counting and keeping track of how many from week to week , only because I like watching them. I have a cabin here that I rent out to people from all over the world, and they love to see the elk and babies, I worry every day and hope that they do NOT watch a wolf kill a calf in front of the cabin. I do not think this is money spent wisely , it should be spent hiring more Wardens to help the few we have now. Everyone knows the what the wolfs are doing to the Elk populations, what good is the study going to do.

Unit 12, is the ATARQUE RANCH going to be in the are of the over counter tags.

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Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Nettie Carrejo
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2018 7:54 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Comment

Categories: Rex

The unit 15 change to 15A and 15B, will not work, the hunters are still going to be hunting where they see the most elk and as for the boundary it will make more work for the Game Wardens patrolling the boundary. We are short on Wardens as it is. The study of the Wolf on the elk population is a waist of money. I live right in the middle of Unit 15. A few years back (not sure of date) there were some students here doing a SURVEY and catching baby elk , for what I don't know. I was documenting when the moma Elk were having their babies , when and how many , the survival rate. I have around 89 to 127 elk in meadow year round I have a front seat row to watch everything , I used to have a 98% calf crop. Then when the wolfs started coming in, they started to decrease, now my calf crop is about 65% sometimes less. The year we had the dry winter the cows didn't have milk so they would leave their babies and not go back to get because no milk, the wolfs and coyotes got them. I have actually watched the wolfs kill babies. I know when the FIRST baby is born, the wolfs and coyotes start howling then in about a week the ones who survive start coming down to the field. I started counting and keeping track of how many from week to week , only because I like watching them. I have a cabin here that I rent out to people from all over the world, and they love to see the elk and babies, I worry every day and hope that they do NOT watch a wolf kill a calf in front of the cabin. I do not think this is money spent wisely , it should be spent hiring more Wardens to help the few we have now. Everyone knows the what the wolfs are doing to the Elk populations, what good is the study going to do.

Unit 12, is the ATARQUE RANCH going to be in the are of the over counter tags.

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Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Brad Norman
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2018 10:33 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Great elk rule meeting in Roswell

Categories: Rex

Thank you for streaming the elk meeting in Roswell. I just watched the entire thing on Facebook.

Comments that I have:

1. I fully support the proposed land quality rating system.
- 2 I fully support expanding the land quality rating system to all properties after the trial period.
3. I do not support the ranchers being given the right to hunt hundreds of thousands of acres of public land just because they own a ranch!!! All of the unit wide elk tags steal resources from the public of N.M. please consider removing all UW tags!
4. I would like for N.M. to follow the Colorado rule on ranch tag sales. The Colorado rule limits the tag's exchange a single transaction (rancher to the hunter). As an example of the currently abused system, Marc and his wife at The archery shop in Albuquerque calls every rancher with an elk tag and buys them at lowball prices and then resells them for a huge profit. This resale of landowner tags does not benefit the ranchers or the general public! I've heard that Marc called a SCR landowner that had a UW 15 tag and offered him \$500 then up-to \$1500 for the tag!!! Give me a break! Get these shady non-landowners out of the tag resale business!!

Items #3 and #4 are the topics that I am the most passionate about. They are perhaps the easiest issues to quickly resolve with a new rule!!

Thank you!

Brad Norman

Sent from my iPhone

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Norman Maisel
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2018 8:15 PM
Subject: E-Plus system

Categories: Rex

Dear Sirs:

I am a land owner in unit -12. I feel that the proposed changes to the landowner system now in use in Unit-12 will be a failure. Due to the lack of available ingress to the public lands, the hunters coming onto this unit will have a very difficult time locating places to hunt.

The last time that a large number of over-the-counter tags were sold, I had out of state hunters coming to the ranch headquarters every day asking "Can we hunt here? Where can we hunt?". After spending a large sum of money for the out of state tag and travel, they had no place to hunt. This was very bad for the reputation of NMG&F but also for the State of NM as well.

That summer, we had a meeting with the director of NMG&F. I asked him how many over the counter tags were being sold for the coming years hunt. I don't remember the amount, but he replied a goodly number. I then asked him, "Where will all of these hunters be able to hunt?" to which he replied with a shrug, "I don't know".

I understand that most of the land-owner permits go to out of state hunters, and I understand also the pressure that is brought on to the NMG&F by the instate hunters, but your proposed changes will be detrimental to both the revenue of the NMG&F and to Catron County.

I urge you to reconsider your proposed changes, and retain Unit-12 as a Special Management Zone.

Norman M. Maisel

Rancher

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Demecio Duran
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2018 7:55 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Proposed E-plus Changes

Categories: Rex

July 12, 2018

Dear Mr. Martensen,

I am in agreement that properties that do not provide meaningful benefit should not be allowed to participate in the program. I'm also in agreement with all the suggested improvements listed by the NM Game and Fish Department. A concern that I would like to address is that some outfitters and guides are hunting on private lands without the landowners permission, abusing boundary lines and not being familiar with surrounding structures and privately owned domestic livestock. I feel that all outfitters, guides and hunters using an e-plus permit should have on their possession a current list signed by the land owners allowing them to hunt on their properties.

Sincerely,

Demecio Duran

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Rodden, Kevin, DGF
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2018 11:29 AM
To: Pitman, James, DGF; Martensen, Rex, DGF; Osborn, Robert, DGF
Subject: E-PLUS Rule Comment from Landowner
Attachments: David Salopek Comment on E-PLUS Rule.pdf

Categories: Rex

Please see attached comment from David Salopek, owner of O=PLUS property in 21B north of Hillsboro. These landowners currently are allowed to hunt beginning October 1.

Kevin W. Rodden
SW Regional Wildlife Biologist
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
2715 Northrise Drive
Las Cruces, NM 88011
575-532-2111 - Office
kevin.rodgen@state.nm.us

CONSERVING NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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July 12, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

I recently received a letter from the NMDGF stating the State Game Commission opened the Eplus rule for proposed changes to the program. It is my understanding that some of the proposed changes include making private land elk tags over the counter, as well as "consistent season dates across the secondary zone".

Since the purchase of my first property in the Black Range foothills in 1993, I have been striving to make improvements that create a better environment for elk. Projects have included improving game friendly fences, reduced cattle numbers, and implementing a strict rotational grazing program which greatly benefits the elk during breeding and calving. I have also drastically improved the waters on the property. I added many more permanent waters as well as converting windmills to solar for a more reliable and constant water source. Through addition of those permanent waters I have witnessed an exciting increase in elk calving activity which not only benefits the elk herds on our ranch, but also all the neighboring lands.

The October 1st start date for rifle elk is critical for us to continue to manage the elk in a selective and conservative manner. For example, being in the rut the October 1 start date allows us to focus on harvesting mature bulls, while purposely passing younger bulls to grow up as future breeders. This hunt structure is beneficial to all the elk in the area within or outside my boundaries. If this start date were to be moved back it would be a huge disincentive for me to continue making elk beneficial improvements as it would be much more difficult for me to continue my selective hunting program. I strongly encourage you to keep the October 1st start date for out of the COER participants.

The other proposal to changing the private land tags to over the counter tags greatly concerns me. I foresee many issues deriving from an OTC system such as increased fraud and dishonesty as well as a rise in conflicts for landowners and law enforcement. The current system of issuing landowner tags is an effective and proven way of controlling the hunter numbers. I attended the Socorro meeting and I heard several comments wanting to keep the current system in place. I would strongly encourage you to continue the current system as well.

In conclusion, I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to continue our current program. I feel strongly that the current system combined with the management techniques has and will continue to benefit the elk on all the private and public lands in the region. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Very Best Regards,

David Salopek

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Tim Barraclough
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 5:03 PM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: Re: EPLUS Landowner Meeting Invitation

Categories: Rex

I just wanted to make a few comments on the Raton meeting. Your presentation was good, concise and informative. The discussion about trespass, got out of hand and mainly by a few ranchers, that always will feel that people walk all over them. I believe that the trespass problem, at least in this meeting, was that the rancher did not understand, accept or figure out that when you were talking about OTC permits, they were for out of the COER areas. The locals that were complaining, are almost all in the COER areas and will not be affected at all by the change. That was my take on it.

In regard to the meeting, I would like you to consider the following. I have several Out of COER ranches so this will affect me.

I would make, and I believe that you will do this, is that the over the counter licenses will be unit specific and not be able to be changed between units.

I would allow the out of COER ranches to sell either sex permits or cow only tags. This would eliminate the potential hunter from being able to legally kill a bull, when they pay for a cow hunt. This happened many years ago on Vermejo in the 55B area. Five hunters bought cow hunts, killed bulls and the ranch was forced to sue them for a bull hunt. This would eliminate this problem.

Another facet of this, is that the cost of the non-resident elk license goes from \$625 (approximately) for a either sex license and \$425.00 for a cow license. If we stick to totally either sex licenses, then there will be less non resident cow hunters, due to the cost, and you may not achieve your harvest goals.

I do believe that the SCR permits need to be looked at hard. It is difficult to consider a person getting a permit for one to five acres. If I had my way I would give the SCR permittees over the counter licenses, make them hunt ranch only, and eliminate all of the paperwork, but that won't happen because there is no value in a ranch only SCR permit.

Other than that good luck with it all. You are headed in the right direction, but not sure you will get there, when the ranchers get confused and start complaining. Tim Barraclough



Tim Barraclough

From: "Martensen, Rex, DGF" <Rex.Martensen@state.nm.us>
Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at 4:55 PM
To: "Martensen, Rex, DGF" <Rex.Martensen@state.nm.us>
Subject: EPLUS Landowner Meeting Invitation

Dear E-PLUS Participant,

At the June 21, 2018 State Game Commission meeting the commission opened the EPLUS rule to allow for changes to portions of the program.

The Elk Private Land Use System (EPLUS) was developed in 2005 to recognize, **“Landowners who provide meaningful benefit to elk and accept elk on their properties and all elk hunters who wish to recreate on deeded lands or public lands within New Mexico’s exterior boundaries.”** (19.30.5.2 NMAC)

The Department of Game and Fish is proposing to develop biologically based criteria to define meaningful benefit and apply it to all current properties, and any future properties wishing to enroll, in E-PLUS. Additionally the Department is proposing to address the current allocation process for bonus and unconverted authorizations, the Small Contributing Ranch draw system and the outside Core Occupied Elk Range process.

Included with this email is a more detailed summary of potential changes. A full proposal is posted on the Department’s website at www.wildlife.state.us/commission/proposals-under-consideration. At this website you will be able to follow progress and changes made during the rule making process, provide comments and locate public meetings.

The Department further encourages your participation by attending one or more meetings specially organized for participating E-PLUS landowners and/or ranch contacts.

To present the Department’s proposals and gather your comments, landowner specific meetings have been organized for the following dates, times and locations across New Mexico:

- **Raton:** July 10, 6:00pm – 7:30pm at the Department of Game and Fish office, 215 York Canyon Road, Raton NM.
- **Socorro:** July 11, 6:00pm – 7:30pm at the Socorro County Annex Building, 198 Neal Ave., Socorro NM.

- **Ruidoso:** July 12, 6:00pm – 7:30pm at the Ruidoso Village Hall, 313 Cree Meadows, in the council chambers, Ruidoso NM.
- **Espanola:** July 13, 6:00pm – 7:30pm at the Northern New Mexico College, 921 Paseo De Oate, Room AD 104, Espanola, NM

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend one of these meetings.

Comments on the proposed changes may also be provided by mail: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Attn: Rex Martensen, PO Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504; or by email at DGF-EPLUS-Rules@state.nm.us.

Thank you for your interest in elk management and the E-PLUS program and I look forward to your participation throughout the rule proposal process.

Rex Martensen
Private Land Program Manager

New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
505-476-8044

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Hugh McKeen
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 4:17 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Comments on landowner proposal
Attachments: 7-11-18 NMDGF issues response.docx

Categories: Rex

7/11/18

RESPONSE & CHANGES NEEDED FOR THE EPLUS LANDOWNER SYSTEM

It is gratifying to know, somebody has finally recognized the unfairness of the EPLUS landowner system. The basic premises has been to allow permits to those who benefit elk on their private land. There has been no criteria for those who benefit elk the most. Your small acreage draw allows a one acre piece to compete equally with larger parcels, this is totally unfair. The amount of forage provided for elk on all landowner permits is not considered. Equally important is a policy that lets landowners divide their land into a family name to allow another draw for an elk permit. Again allowing this process gives more permits but the benefit to elk stays the same.

As a large landowner I am truly aggravated, I have been allowed 3 any elk & 1 bull in 23A for many years, this year I was shorted 1 any elk. Who got my elk permit? Do they provide more benefit to elk than me –I doubt it-? I was told by Kevin Rodden that I could lose another elk permit next year. The least you might do is give me the reasoning for the decrease.

The most important thing you can change; recognize those who truly benefit elk the most. I have 75 acres of prime weed free irrigated permanent pasture. Part of my living income is based on my hay sales & pasture. For 5+ months I have 70-100 concentrated elk plus babies continually every night on my fields. They get their fill and lounge in my fields, tear up fences, kill my prime cow dog, eat my garden plants and the bulls paw huge holes in my fields when I am irrigating. I am providing 100 % of the elk forage during this time, 95% in my irrigated fields and 5% on my private and forest grazing area. They are also on my fields in less numbers for the rest of the year.

Most years the elk cost me \$16,000, I sold my elk permits this year for \$14,000. I believe almost everybody, except for me, gain income from elk landowner permits. I know what the game & fish answer is and they say it with pride, (we don't compensate for losses). Maybe you should take another look at just how much I benefit elk, my loss of 2000 bales went into their paunch.

Compare this to my neighbor who gets 3 any elk & 1 bull permit in 16 A for his 1000 acre non irrigated range pasture. Elk probably use it at most 10% of the time. I lose \$16,000 which isn't even a break even, while my neighbor loses almost nothing and receives at least \$28,000 + in permit sales. Where does the elk benefit provision play into this scenario? Now you know why I am aggravated. They didn't take any permits away from him. I know the game and fish answer, he was in a different game area. This is just another reason to make the landowner permit system equal no matter what area you are in.

It gets old listening to the game and fish answers. We don't have any more permits. We are controlled by the core area. It all happened at a higher level. You don't have to take the permits. These are just canned answers to get rid of meaningful complaints. Don't give me these answers anymore, the game and fish are in total control and can change anything they want to, let's hope they are serious about doing it.

My 1 any elk permit was taken from the incentive program, I cleared 200 acres of pinon, Juniper (PJ) and mesquite and have one of the most productive pastures in the area. I cleared another similar piece of private land the same way and applied for another elk permit. I was told there were no permits available, however my neighbor got a bull permit. I was also told that I have to maintain these areas of woody growth, which I have done. For why, I don't believe I will ever get my elk permit back.

This just makes the incentive system a sham, they entice you to improve your pastures and then take the permit away.

In my forest grazing allotment, I have also removed many acres of PJ & mesquite through the RAC, NRCS programs and at my expense. This is truly a benefit to elk, the Game and Fish have an easy answer, "we don't do forest land". Seems to me if you are to reward for elk benefits and make your statements plausible you should consider everything a person does to benefit elk.

I am not one to kill or even hunt elk, I detest the fact that my anger under the present system is leaving me no choice. **"You", need to do the right thing and make the system equitable, very simple, change your system & motto to reward those who benefit elk the most.**

Yearly I have about 12 large bulls grazing next to my house & some were looking in my bedroom window. Last year I knew of 4 huge bulls that were killed in or near my fields, my neighbor who use to be an outfitter told me there were many more. Next year, I will not get my elk permit back & may lose another.

I am really mad now, I should start by killing the biggest bulls next year, and they will be the easiest. I could then advertise and write letters to the editor to warn prospective hunters & outfitters to not buy a license in 23A because there is a decline of prize bulls in the unit.

Next year, when I am asked to sign an EPLUS commitment, it only makes sense that a commitment is made to inform me of what elk permits I am to receive, this is just good business sense, and otherwise there will be no signature. I request a detailed copy of any proposed changes in the Landowner system.

Submitted by,
Hugh B. McKeen

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Kathy Butt
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 3:11 PM
To: Pitman, James, DGF
Subject: Elk Rule

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Reviewed

Mr. Pitman,

I wanted to offer my insight and thoughts on the upcoming opening of the elk rule, as an outfitter and as a landowner in unit 4. With the abundant population of elk we've been seeing in Unit 4 over the last few years, I believe our elk population numbers would support an either sex rifle permit "defined as antlerless or mature bull"). I do believe defining the either sex rifle permit "antlerless or mature bull" would give the younger bulls an extra year to grow and thus increase the average size and age of the bulls harvested in our area.

Please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED], if you would like to discuss this further.

Thank you for allowing me to offer my insight into this matter.

Foster Butt
Gavilan Creek Outfitters
#:

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Ron Parrish 1>
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 1:15 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: E-PLUS rule comment - lay-down fence

Categories: Rex

E-PLUS Rule Development;

One item to consider adding to the scoring is lay-down fencing for elk migration. The east and south sides of my property (over a mile) have a lay-down fence that allows easy elk migration to the creek and meadows during spring, fall, and winter. It is a real effort and expense to put the fence up, and take it down for the summer. I consider the elk tag I get compensation for the lay-down fence expense, as well as the expense of other fence damage caused by elk, and salt and grass for the cattle consumed by the elk.

Thanks;
Ron Parrish

Ranch 52-40749

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Shuter Construction Company
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 9:15 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: e-plus

Categories: Rex

Dear Sir or Madam,

With the OTC proposal trespass would seem to be the issue. I think some type of ranch access authorization should be required prior to and as a requirement for the over OTC purchase.

Respectfully,

Brian Shuter

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: RON HYDEN
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 7:07 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Comments on proposed changes to the EPLUS Program

Categories: Rex

DGF

Unfortunately I can not attend the July 12th, 2018 Landowner Meeting in Ruidoso so I would like to submit comments by email. As a Landowner in Unit 34 I would like to see the following:

--Prioritize Safety as a major concern (if not first) when approving Small Contributing Ranches as part of the E Plus Program. This means the proximity to golf courses, are they part of a 5 or 10 acre lot subdivision with neighbors, etc.

--Prioritize "Meaningful Benefit" as a must qualification when approving Small Contributing Ranches . A majority of the SCR's are simply in the program for the one tag for money when they sell the tag. It is acceptable for an SCR to sell the tag when true need arises or last minute plans change; however a very large percentage sell the tag each and every year . Many landowners are imply money motivated with no "Meaningful Benefit" to the elk herd. What are those ranches physically doing to make it more elk friendly? The Department needs to reevaluate and remove those SCR's that need to be removed from a Safety or Meaningful Benefit criteria.

--Incentive Tags should always have priority over SCR tags with the Incentive Tags allotted first. Simply the Incentive Tags have meet the Meaningful Benefit criteria so should have first priority over SCR Tags

As a landowner in the E Plus program I have made major financial commitments to enhance the elk herd. Those include masticating many acres creating beautiful elk grazing, installing waterers, spraying annually for noxious weeds , removing cross fences and more. I truly appreciate the Department of Game and Fish efforts with the E Plus Program and your attempt to make it even better .

Thank you

Ron Hyden
Logan Canyon Ranch

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Jack Dilts
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2018 7:41 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Fwd: Rules Changes

Categories: Rex

Dear Dept. of G&F,

These changes seem to make sense to me, I'm sure that your criteria for meaningful benefit will be based on the true contribution of each property.

It will be interesting to see what you come up with.

Thanks for taking up this difficult issue.

Jack Dilts

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Duvuvuei, Orrin, DGF
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2018 11:52 AM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: FW: Deer Proposal
Attachments: Deer-Proposed-Rule-Changes-19_31_13-NMAC-Summary.pdf; ATT00001.txt
Categories: Reviewed

Forwarding a comment about elk hunting in the Valle Vidal.

Orrin Duvuvuei
Deer and Pronghorn Biologist
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
Office: (505) 476-8040

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations

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-----Original Message-----

From: Richard Romero]
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2018 4:58 PM
To: DGF-Deer-Rules
Subject: Deer Proposal

Do NOT increase number of deer permits in Unit 2B. Manage it more strictly as a trophy unit. Largest percentage of deer harvested there are immature 2 and 3 point deer.

Maintain Unit 4 El Vado for youth deer as five day hunts and not expand to nine days.
Deer are more susceptible during the rut at this time period. Five day hunts should be sufficient.

As an aside, and not considered during this request for feedback, the Valle Vidal youth elk hunts Should also be structured as OIL! know of several youth who drew this as a youth and then at 18 years of age.

Thank-you.

DEER RULE PROPOSED CHANGES, 2019-2023

General Statewide Proposed Changes

- Adjust some seasons for calendar dates
- Adjust draw license numbers based on biological data and management goals
- Separate archery season into September and January (2 different seasons and draws) when a split September and/or January season currently exists
- Create some new opportunities
- Standardize most youth hunts to a 9 day hunt surrounding Thanksgiving week

Region Specific Proposed Changes

Northeast

- Allow Either Sex white-tailed deer hunting for all white-tailed deer hunts in the northeast
- GMU 55: consider options to open Valle Vidal to limited archery deer hunting
- Create new archery hunt in Colin Neblett
- Create January archery hunt in GMU 41 and possibly other areas in the northeast
- License increases based on biological data (~5% overall)
 - o GMUs: 41, 42, 43, 45, 47, 48, 57, 58, 59

Southeast

- GMU 30: split rifle hunts evenly (800/hunt)
- GMU 31/33: Decrease youth licenses on Huey WMA
- Split GMUs 31 & 32
 - o 31 North of US 380 / 31 South of US 380
 - o 32 East of Pecos River / 32 West of Pecos River
- License increases based on biological data (~2% overall)
 - o GMUs: 28*, 30, 31, 32, 36
- 3% license decreases based on biological data
 - o GMU: 33

Southwest

- GMU 19: create limited any-legal-weapon draw opportunity on White Sands Missile Range; move off-range hunt later
- GMUs 23 & 24: Consider reduction in licenses (~6% to 9%)
- GMU 23 (Burros): Consider reducing licenses (~20%) and lengthening hunts to 9 days.
- Allow Burros Archery hunters to hunt Silver City Management Area
- License decreases based on biological data (~6-8%)
 - o GMUs: 26, 27

Northwest

- GMU 4: Create limited public and private hunt in late November (10 licenses each); Include Sargent in draw for WMAs; Create archery hunt for WMAs
- GMU 5A: Create late September muzzleloader hunt
- GMU 5B: Create archery hunt and late September muzzleloader hunt
- GMU 14: Create January archery hunt
- License increases based on biological data (~5% overall)
 - o GMUs: 2B, 2C, 5A, 5B, 6A/C, 7, 8, 14
- Minor license decreases based on biological data (~4-7%)
 - o GMUs 10, 12

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

ATT00001

Sent from my iPad

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Jerome Grence <
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2018 4:53 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Ruidoso Meeting

Categories: Rex

I won't be able to attend the up coming meetig, but I would like to provide input, at least from a local perspective.

I've been in the program for almst 10 years. The frustrating part is that a few of us have improved our habitat , in particular providing water catchments and tanks, thinning etc. And yet have ajacent properties with no improvements aand significantly less acreage with the same permit count. Other propertiesare claiming multiple parcels which are widely seperated within the National Forest receiving multiple permits and then providing a map to hunters showing the whole area as huntable. There are many other examples including very questionable "Ranch Manager" signatures. There is a lot more to tell. We are at the end of the road and have watched the abuses for years. Calls to your Roswell office, while not ignored were'nt responded to.

If change is really in the future and there is a desire to "clean up and make the system accountable" , then please start here.

Thank You
JerryGrence

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: John Edward
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2018 11:48 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Comments for Elk EPlus System Rules

Categories: Rex

Dear NM Game and Fish (Rex):

Here are some comments about rules making for the elk EPlus system.

My comments may be state wide, but certainly they are based upon experience on a property we have since 1968 of about 3400 acres in GMU 4.

1. Transfer of tags from one property to another should be limited by distance. There has been and is some micro-area over hunting by too many tags being transferred in from other parts of the GMU. Tags should not be able to transfer outside a distance from property line to property line. Example. In order help small properties that have elk "burden" and need a tag to trim the herd....providing to an outfitter on a ranch 25 miles away does no good to solve the problem....it only creates a micro over hunted area that has negative long term affects of herd health, genetics, etc. Tags bought and sold cannot migrate more than 1-2 miles from property location. Over micro hunting also leads to over elk pressure else where in the GMU and forces people to experience negative affects of too many elk.
2. Min property sizes are encouraging more and more subdividing of property for which if it continues no more land or habitat will be available to hunt. (in my opinion) Min property sizes should be over 150 acres if not more (250 acres). If properties are subdivided then the subdivision gets tags (bow only, non transferable to other property) to distribute internally for bow only experiences on site. Allowing small properties to get elk tags further encourages more and more subdividing and at a smaller and smaller scale. This compounds the problems.
3. 4 point min on one side on animals taken GMU-wide or Statewide .
4. Quality Elk and animals need quality habitat. Don't just reward this by more elk tags but create grants to further enhance the land and habitat. Example might be funds to put in new fencing that does not have barbs and help clean up old barb wire. Water sources,
5. New Subdivisions should get some comments from NMGF before being approved and reviewed by P&Z and County Commissions. Comments should be where is the land to be set aside for animals, layout for migration, should some roads be closed for part of the year due to calves dropping, migration or rutting.

6. Love the meaningful benefit to be biologically based. Too dam much political/social elk tags have been granted over the years. High quality elk habitat is all good animal habitat. Great habitat and large tracts of land yield great things for the state and the economy and if we don't do a better job of protecting the land/animals then tourism jobs dry up and small towns die...and then there are no places for the animals of all kinds.
7. Work with the Tax and Rev and NM Ag in that land is getting overgrazed in drought years because there are burdensome requirements for land to be grazed virtually every year. Very costly grazing management plans are required otherwise and don't get completed and then overgrazing, then no grass, then erosion, then soil and water problems then flooding problems.
8. Allow GMU to have assessment districts that if more resources are wanted to have a specific item like pay for more game officers, buy out/retire tags for a season to help grow the herd, buy conservation easement for wintering range, then the unit can assess a fee based upon the average number of tags from the prior 3 years to pay for the GMU wide benefit.
9. Due to climate change hunting season should start 1-2 weeks later than historically.
10. Muzzle loader is no longer a primitive weapon as it rivals rifles' capabilities and should be managed differently. Muzzleloaders are no longer in the same league as muskets.

These are just a few comments for hopefully the long term benefits and GMU wide and State wide benefits.

John B. Edward

"If the world were perfect, it wouldn't be." Yogi Berra

"Kindness trumps everything..." Tom Giaquinto

"Courage is being scared to death, but saddling up anyway" John Wayne

"Things do not get better by being left alone." Winston Churchill

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world" Gandhi

"Priviledge to work is a gift, power to work a blessing, and the love of work is sucess." David O McCay

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: Dean Guthery <
Sent: Sunday, July 08, 2018 12:17 PM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Subject: Comments on the proposed changes

Categories: Rex

I agree with the need to require and "verify" real proof of benefiting elk on private land. I currently see ranch parcels with bare land that have only tumbleweeds and rabbit brush, no real food source, and they are receiving unit wide tags.

I would also like to point out that some like myself, have crops and a water source which greatly benefit the elk, but since I live on my property, I cannot justify allowing every hunter in the woods to enter. It would be reasonable to be able to receive unit wide tags without having to allow every hunter to enter the property when there is good reason not to, such as an occupied residence, livestock and crops that could be damaged.

I have been forced to call law enforcement multiple times, due to people shooting at my home, and near my family and livestock.

I currently receive land owner tags, which help compensate for the loss of my crop, but it is difficult to sell the tags when the size of the ranch is only 160 acres.

Please consider the land owners right to receive unit wide tags and still prevent access to a privately owned ranch when the owner can justify a good reason not to allow entry.

I am willing to allow the purchaser of the tags to enter of course, but I cannot open my property to all hunters.

Thank you,
Dean Guthery Gu3 ranch.

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From: William Faust ·
Sent: Sunday, July 08, 2018 9:39 AM
To: DGF-EPLUS-Rules
Cc: Nick Faust; Jandro; Joe Faust
Subject: E-Plus in Alma near Glenwood

Categories: Rex

Dear Mr. Martensen,

I welcome changes to the E-Plus system that gives some relief to landowners like me(over 200 acres in units 16A &23, 20 irrigated for hay crop, 10 for winter wheat, and the rest river bottom and grassy mesas) who are experiencing a dramatic increase in elk foraging in my irrigated fields and substantially decreasing the yield of hay especially in dry years such as this. Given this backdrop it has been years since I have received any compensation in the form of elk tags while watching Reserve city residents with a small yard or others who provide no forage to speak of game the system and being granted cow and bull elk tags.

This year for example we routinely see herds of elk in the field numbering in the 40s and coming from both sides of the San Francisco River from herds in units 22, 23, and 16A since we are located near the boundaries of all three units.

We would welcome the grading assessment that is proposed and further an elimination to the quota system that penalizes someone like me even though year after year the elk pressure is increasing.

I will not be able to make it to any of the meetings next week by I thank you for your consideration.

Thanks,

Bill Faust

Martensen, Rex, DGF

From:
Sent: Friday, July 06, 2018 10:02 AM
To: Martensen, Rex, DGF
Subject: Fwd: EPLUS CHANGES

Categories: Rex

-----Original Message-----

From: ronsisty
To: www.dgf-eplus-rules <www.dgf-eplus-rules@state.nm.us>
Sent: Fri, Jul 6, 2018 9:26 am
Subject: EPLUS CHANGES

The identified areas & suggested improvements listed in your email of 6/27/2018 address most of the problems that I have complained about over the years . If you indeed follow and implement the suggested improvements , it will be a marked improvement in both the eplus & scr programs .

Prior to receiving the above email , I requested a list of the incentive & bonus permits issued for unit 15. I am repeating the request for that list .

Charles Roberts

Pitman, James, DGF

From: Nelson, Chad, DGF
Sent: Thursday, July 05, 2018 3:37 PM
To: DGF-Elk-Rules
Subject: comment

Categories: Reviewed

Would prefer creation of senior-only draw hunts for antlerless elk, as opposed to "senior encouragement" hunts by online secondary sale. Secondary sales require a degree of technological savvy that many seniors don't possess.

Chad Nelson

Assistant Chief, ASD - Licensing Operations
New Mexico Game & Fish
PO Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504
505-476-8072

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations

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MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

HEARING 3A-PRIVATE LAND ELK RULE

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.)

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EXHIBIT

7



PLEASE PRINT

Name: SESSE DEUBEL

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Officially Representing: NM Wildlife Federation
(Organization(s))

Your Title: Executive Director

Do you wish to be heard? ☒ Yes ☐ No

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)

Private
Land Rules



SPEAKER'S CARD

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

(Please Place Form in Appropriate Hearing Slot)

HEARING 3/A

PLEASE PRINT

Name:	Tanner Mitchell	
Address:		
City:	26	State: 12
Pho		
Email:		
Officially Representing:	(Organization(s))	
Your Title:		
Do you wish to be heard?	Yes	No

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)

Withdraw
Question



PLEASE PRINT

Name: Chris Birkman

Address: 1

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ @ _____

Officially Representing: _____
(Organization(s))

Your Title: _____

Do you wish to be heard? ☐ Yes ☐ No

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)

Private Role



HEARING

Name: John Bell

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Officially Representing: Wild Community
(Organization(s))

Your Title: Wild Community Pres

Do you wish to be heard? ☒ Yes ☐ No

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)



SPEAKER'S CARD

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

(Please Place Form in Appropriate Agenda Slot)

AGENDA ITEM

3A

PLEASE PRINT

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Officially Representing:

(Organization(s))

Your Title:

Do you wish to be heard?

☒ Yes

☐ No

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)

SPEAKER'S CARD

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

(Please Place Form in Appropriate Hearing Slot)

HEARING

3A

PLEASE PRINT

Name: John Crenshaw

Address:

City:

Phone:

Email: @

Officially Representing: (Organization(s))

Your Title: NW Wild: Federation

Do you wish to be heard? Yes No

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)

NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING
ROSWELL CONVENTION AND CIVIC CENTER
EXHIBIT HALL
912 N. MAIN ST., ROSWELL, NM 88201

PUBLIC RULE HEARING
NOVEMBER 30, 2018

** This is an expedited portion of New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting.

Public Rule Hearing 3a and 3b. Audio [3:12:00 to 3:47:43] **

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1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 Chairman Paul Kienzle

3 Vice Chairman William Montoya

4 Game Commissioner Thomas Salopek

5 Game Commissioner Robert Ricklefs

6 Game Commissioner Ralph Ramos

7 Game Commissioner Craig Peterson

8 Game Commissioner Chance Chase

11 A B S E N T

None

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CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Hearing Item No. 3. Informational Rulemaking Hearing on the Private Land Elk License Allocation System, Rule 19.30.5 NMAC. The hearing is now open. Are there any exhibits on the new rule 19.30.5 for the record?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to enter six exhibits into the record. Exhibit No. 1 the notice of the rule making. Exhibit No. 2, the initial proposed rule. Exhibit No. 3, the presentation as being given today. Exhibit No. 4, the summary of the proposed changes. Exhibit 5, the technical information we used -- relied upon to develop the rule. And Exhibit 6, the 263 public comments we received.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: How many?

STEWART LILEY: 263.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: That's Exhibits 1 through 6. I will admit Exhibits 1 through 6 into the record. You can go ahead and introduce the proposed new rule.

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, as stated, before you is the proposed change to the E-PLUS rule 19.30.5. We went kind of more on an extensive public comment on this rule than we have on a lot of others. We actually hosted nine public meetings across the state. We sent letters to all landowners that are currently enrolled in E-PLUS to ask them to participate and we had the greatest participation that I think we've ever seen, at least in my time with the Department. We had 455 attendees at all of our meetings, so really strong attendance. And comment wise, you'll see 263 comments submitted, you'll see the same for the elk rule because they tie together. So the comments a lot of times overlap for both rules, but they tie together we presented both those comments, too. The majority of the comments were in support of our proposed changes. The majority of that -- the majority of the comments we received is that. We do have -- had some opposed, not as many as we would have expected. Some of the opposition was opposed to the over-the-counter and outside

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1 what we're going to call the primary zone now, or outside the core. That was kind of
2 worried about elk populations declining in there. Our goal in some of those areas is
3 to reduce those populations. So our management goals outside those primary zones
4 is to kind of to reduce them. Some people would like to see the elk populations grow
5 to more places in the state and we kind of think where we are at right now is a pretty
6 good spot.

7 One of the big changes that you will see, both in the elk rule and the E-PLUS,
8 is GMU 12 going inside the core. You'll see there was a lot of comments on that, 32
9 comments. We hosted two different public meetings specifically just for that GMU 12.
10 I think we worked around some of the issues, not everyone's completely in favor of it,
11 not everyone is complete opposed. I think we found a middle ground that we feel
12 that we met there. Some other ones, unit wide maps was a big one we're
13 commenting on. We are in the process right now of digitizing all of the ranches
14 across the state with the hope within a year to have them all posted online and
15 maybe on our carry maps application, too, so a hunter will know where unit wide
16 ranches are across the state. So with that, we'll get into that proposed changes. The
17 E-PLUS rule is a permanent rule as developed in 2005. In all earnesty, it hadn't been
18 opened until now and for massive amendments or really a hard look at what's
19 working and what's not working. And I think the biggest thing that we saw in the
20 current rule is there's no definition of meaningful benefit to elk. Everyone in this room
21 has a different definition of what a meaningful benefit to elk is, but we really wanted
22 to define it so when we enroll a property into E-PLUS, we want to ensure that it was,
23 in fact, making a meaningful benefit to elk and that it made some kind of benefit
24 throughout the season to that elk herd. What we ended up doing, and what we're
25 proposing, is some guidelines where we look at habitat characteristics that are

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1 necessary for elk to survive and we score those properties based upon either having
2 those characteristics or having them right in proximity to that. We then have those
3 guidelines that would be in rule. We are presenting them today and it would be
4 signed and adopted by the Commission as part of the rule, too. So the guidelines
5 could be changed through time without having to open the rule, but it would be the
6 guidelines that the Commission approves.

7 The other thing every property in the state that would fall inside what is
8 currently called the core, we're proposing changing that to primary management zone
9 as being evaluated to see its meaningful benefit to elk. What we are evaluating and
10 what we determined to do is we wanted something that was biologically founded, like
11 I said, habitat characteristics. We want something that was simple and consistent, so
12 everyone understood what we were doing, and people could understand what we are
13 scoring, and it wasn't complex, but also defensible and biologically relevant.
14 Captures the intent of the rule. We want it to be that those properties making
15 meaningful benefit to elk and recordable. So landowners who get scored can see
16 what we are scoring on, how we're scoring, and they understand why their property is
17 in or why it's not, out, or how we scored and that we can work with on habitat
18 characteristics that could improve that. So the score system allows a property to
19 score up to 13 potential points. What we're scoring on is, again, like I said, habitat
20 components. Those components are forage, water, cover, the surrounding area. Is it
21 a subdivision in the mountains, is it remote? And then bonus points for things such
22 as agriculture. Do you have an agricultural field on there that's not a fence that
23 you're allowing elk to come in and eat? Or other bonuses, if, let's say, you have an
24 allotment right next door to your deeded property where you've made a lot of water
25 improvements, you're allowing that water to run year-round, allowing elk to come in

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1 on it, and we're going to bonus that as well to account for those actions that maybe
2 weren't made on your deeded property but adjacent to it that has a benefit to elk. I'm
3 not going to go through each one of these exactly what a score is because we've
4 seen these multiple times. But you'll see forage has a score of zero to three
5 depending on the quality of the habitat. Water, again, zero to three. The two most
6 important components, we think, for elk is water and forage and so that's why they
7 have the most potential for score; three being permanent year-round water, or two,
8 kind of at least two seasons. Then cover, cover is important for elk but it's not as
9 critical as forage and water and that's what you see a lower score potential on that.
10 And then the surrounding area. Are you in a subdivision close to a town or are you
11 kind of more remote outside of that, a better elk habitat, maybe it's part of a migration
12 corridor or part of winter range or some of those cabin grounds, et cetera? And then
13 like I stated, we do bonus properties based upon things that wasn't captured by those
14 previous components. For example, if your alfalfa field that has a lot of elk use, we
15 want to give you a bonus, we want to talk about a productive agricultural field that
16 you're allowing elk to make a meaningful benefit there. And then those added
17 bonuses. There is always special cases where we can't consider. It may be, again,
18 like I said, right off your property is -- within a half-mile is a water well you put on an
19 allotment. We're going to credit that because you're putting it in, the elk are using it,
20 and we want to make sure we bonus that even though it's not on your deeded
21 property. Or maybe it's something like you've converted all of your fence to wildlife
22 friendly fence or it's something to where your property, by allowing it -- if you sign it
23 up as a unit wide ranch, allows access to the public land behind there that wasn't elk
24 available before. So there's bonuses in there to account for other attributes those
25 properties are making for the benefit of the elk. So moving through this, we went

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1 through the public comment and after looking at it for the last few months the
2 Department is recommending the Commission adopt a minimum habitat score of
3 seven for the properties to participate or to enroll. So any property that receives
4 above a seven is -- or a seven or greater would remain in the system. Those
5 properties that are lower, maybe there are no water, or their forage is poor or they're
6 scoring in the five, they would be removed from the current E-PLUS system. One of
7 the other things that the E-PLUS rule currently does not have is a clear appeal
8 process. So when a land owner does not agree with the Department's assessment,
9 we want to have something clear-cut in rule that allows them to appeal our decision.
10 Something that allows them a step path forward on how they can appeal that. The
11 biggest would be if a landowner receives 'does not qualify' because of they're a score
12 of a six, they get an objection form, they can see why we scored, they can come to
13 us immediately. Maybe we missed a water source that we didn't know about that
14 they turn on that wasn't there. That can be reviewed by the E-PLUS manager or an
15 officer visit or a Department biologist making a site visit and overturn that objection.
16 If, after that, they still uphold it, it comes to the divisional review at the Wildlife
17 Management Division and that's a recommendation from the division to the director.
18 The director then makes that decision based upon the division review. And finally, if
19 the landowner doesn't agree with that departmental decision, they can appeal to the
20 Commission as the last on that. So in front of you today or right there in that map is -
21 - again, we used to be core or outside of the core. Core occupied elk range is what
22 we used to call it. We really wanted to define really what the core is where we limit
23 license numbers, license numbers are set by the Game Commission in the next rule
24 hearing you'll hear that license numbers. It's where we're managing for harvest
25 objectives, either optimal opportunity we are trying to get -- not may be an older age

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1 class bull, but we want to get people out there on the ground or quality management
2 but that's where it's going to be -- it's our now what's called primary management
3 zones. It's where the distribution of those tags are strictly regulated by Commission
4 rule. Those three GMUs where you see in yellow are what we are proposing as
5 special management zones. Why we're considering those as special management
6 zones is those are 99 percent private land or greater. And so it's going to work -- the
7 formula doesn't work. In the primary zone it's a split between public land and private
8 land in those areas where it's almost entirely -- either it is entirely or almost entirely,
9 we want to still work on a ranch by ranch bases with those landowners to determine
10 appropriate harvest limits within there. Everywhere else on that map, outside of --
11 the pink is expansion of the primary zone. Everything else in white would be our
12 secondary management zone. On those lands, on private land, would be over the
13 counter hunting for elk from October 1st to December 31st. And then special
14 circumstances where we feel there might be a winter concentration, we need to deal
15 with it and we would allow for extensions into the January season. But that's the
16 three zone proposals for that. So again, the biggest proposed changes is utilizing
17 that habitat score to screen properties for participation in the program. And then one
18 of the other ones is allocating that unconverted rate. So there's a large percentage of
19 tags that go unconverted every year, up to 25 percent. Some GMUs have up to 40
20 percent. But over the course of the state, it's about 24 percent of the licenses are
21 unconverted. We want to get those back in the hands of people that will convert
22 them to meet our management goals. We want to run that through our small
23 contributing ranches first. Those ranches that are making a meaningful contribution
24 to elk and continue to make it and we want to get those back in those hands. We
25 also eliminate in our small contributing ranch what we would call the draw history.

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1 Currently, the way it works. I have to wait in my GMU until every small contributing
2 landowner has received a bull tag before I can get mine. Now, I might be an alfalfa
3 field that's a hundred acres and the one I'm competing against is a 5-acre piece of
4 property in a subdivision and some of these GMUs the wait time is 10 years. And so
5 what we're doing here is saying no, we're going to weight it by the quality of the
6 habitat you provide for elk. You may not even make it in the system if you're that 5-
7 acre in a subdivision that's not making meaningful benefit or elk. But those ones that
8 are, we're going to weight it by how much of a benefit you are. The other thing that's
9 been kind of -- I won't call it played but has been happening in the last five years
10 more is because of that wait time, people are splitting their properties purposefully
11 and separate deeding them out so it looks like it's a new property. So if I have a 50-
12 acre parcel, I deed 25 acres to my wife, I keep 25 and the deed -- when my wife
13 comes in as a new owner in the E-PLUS system, moves to the top of the list and gets
14 the bull tag and then they split the property again to the kids. So what we're
15 proposing is anytime a property is split they're subjected to a whole evaluation of
16 what that acreage is. So if I split off the 25 acres, I only can look at those 25 acres
17 for the evaluation, the water might be on the other 25, so that new 25 split doesn't
18 qualify. It encourages landowners that aren't participating to group together to form
19 larger pieces of property. And then, like we just showed, there was the expansion of
20 the cores in those select units where those pink were and then including GMU 12
21 inside the core. Like I discussed in the secondary management zone, those areas
22 that weren't colored, is to allow tags over the counter for private landowners on their
23 deeded land that register their property ensure their outside of it. They would be
24 transferable, and they would all either be either sex or antlerless. Consistency
25 season dates being September 1 through 24 and then October 1 to December 35th --

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1 excuse me, 31st with any five days. And then again, that exception on a case by
2 case is like if there's like a winter range or something like that where we need to deal
3 with elk in January or February on those. With that, I would take any questions.

4 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Well, let's do some public comment first and then we'll get to
5 Commission questions. Gabe Lopez [phonetic].

6 GABE LOPEZ: Mr. Chairman and Commission Members. My name is Gabe Lopez,
7 I'm Lopez ranch in Alba queue [phonetic] in Unit 6C. And I represent Santa Fe
8 [indiscernible] National Forest permittees. I'm a permittee myself. I was just wanting
9 to – me and Stewart have talked about this and the last meeting we had in Gallup we
10 came to a little bit of common ground, I think, and approved some of the proposals
11 that was – that he's putting forth. But what I wanted to state today was the points for
12 the permits, you know, the permits on U.S. Forest Service land such as Acosta
13 National Forest [phonetic] like my private land sits in the middle of the core land and I
14 got, I'm going to say 20 sections of forest land within the core land, so I would like to
15 see that, you know, that we get bonus points for that because we are enhancing the
16 game management unit on the forest land. Plus, you know, I'm putting out a lot of salt
17 and for the cattle, but the elk have a lot of access to that, too, within those 20
18 sections of permit -- a lot of permit on the Santa Fe National Forest which is in the
19 middle of the core unit. So that was my major point today that we have at least two
20 or three points in that for -- added to the formula on the national forest permits that
21 we have. That was my point today, sir. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. Jesse Deubel.

23 JESSE DEUBEL: Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, thank you so much for allowing
24 me to speak. My name is Jesse Deubel and I'm with the New Mexico Wildlife
25 Federation. This proposed rule change, I think, is definitely an improvement to the

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1 current private land owner system. I think we, especially, appreciate the meaningful
2 benefit component, I think that's a really strong improvement. We are also glad to
3 see that some of the previously unused tags, tags that have not been used by
4 hunters in the past, are getting redistributed and are getting into the hands of
5 hunters. We really appreciate the increased hunter opportunity. I think under the
6 proposed changes will make the system more administratively viable, but we would
7 really like to see those additional tags put into the public draw process. We'd like to
8 see some type of system to address the privatization of wildlife and, you know,
9 increase the public draw tags so that we can provide those tags or hunters in the
10 general population an opportunity to that public resource.

11 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. Toner Mitchell. Chris Guikema. You're the big
12 winner today, I think. Three for three.

13 CHRIS GUIKEMA: [indiscernible].

14 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Right. Five act play, I said.

15 CHRIS GUIKEMA: I'm Chris Guikema, Compass West Outfitters. Really, my basis
16 more comes probably questions directed to Stewart. I love all the changes, I think it's
17 great. I think it's a super deal. My question for you kind of is a little bit more along
18 the lines of I saw in there there's a statement on the outside the core properties will
19 be a ranch number required in order to get a private land over the counter tag,
20 correct?

21 STEWART LILEY: That is correct.

22 CHRIS GUIKEMA: What are the requirements in order to get that number, like what
23 are the owners going to have to do?

24 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Go ahead.

25 STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, so the requirements on that is just to prove the

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1 deed that they have land outside of the core. We would just want to ensure that that
2 land parcel is outside that primary zone.

3 CHRIS GUIKEMA: Okay. Thank you. My only other statement would be towards
4 the utilization of leftover tags going to the private landowners. I think that's the way it
5 should stay, that's the way it should go. As far as -- I don't see it as privatization. I
6 mean, I'm bummed I don't get to draw tags as much as I'd like to in the state of New
7 Mexico but without the cattle ranchers and private landowners that supply water, salt,
8 resources, these animals don't stand a chance anyways. You know, to take away
9 the ability from these guys to support what they are giving back to the elk in the form
10 of salt and water from wells and electric bills and everything else I think is wrong, so
11 that's it.

12 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Understood. Thank you. John Bell [phonetic].

13 JOHN BELL: I'm John Bell, I'm a rancher up at Reed [phonetic]. I'm also in the Farm
14 Bureau and [indiscernible] Cattlemen's Association so I wear a lot of hats. I
15 appreciate -- I came to learn today and I appreciate the opportunity to visit and learn
16 so I really don't have as much direction. I think we're moving the right direction, it
17 sounds like to me, and I appreciate the conversation with Stewart. This morning on
18 the way down here I counted 14 pretty nice elk, bull elk, on the way down here this
19 morning. It was a pretty good -- the herd has grown so large that we are going -- the
20 herd is just expanded in some ways or may be being pushed, I guess, we were
21 talking a while ago down to El Piñon [phonetic]. I've got a ranch at Piñon that I've
22 never included in the core, I haven't hunted on that ranch, I haven't let deer hunters
23 on the ranch because the deer herd had gotten so small that I felt like they needed a
24 place to hide and it's over 4,000 acres, so there was enough room for them to come
25 in there and we've seen some really nice bulls in there now. But I think we need to

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1 manage the herd, we certainly need to continue to harvest some of those animals. I
2 hope we will figure out ways to do that. I agree with Chris' comments that he just
3 made. We provide -- in Piñon there is no water. The only water that's there is what
4 we provide. My well -- I've got a well at Piñon that's 1,320 feet deep, makes 10
5 gallons a minute. My uncle put the water well in at Bull Water Canyon, piped it to
6 Piñon, it distributed to a lot of ranches down there. So it's a pretty amazing property
7 and my family's been there for over a hundred years. There's more elk than there
8 ever was. There weren't any elk there when I was a kid.

9 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: What unit is this?

10 STEWART LILEY: GMU 34.

11 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Is this the one where we have elk pouring off of the
12 reservation?

13 STEWART LILEY: That's correct.

14 JOHN BELL: We're far enough that the elk herd just in the southern Sacramento
15 Mountains has just gotten extremely large and I've gone out and seen areas where
16 you couldn't walk in the spring without stepping in elk poop. I mean, this is those big
17 mountain [indiscernible] --

18 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Sometimes that's a good problem.

19 JOHN BELL: So there's a lot of things that going on there at the same time. Down at
20 Piñon there used to be never be -- I used to see elk up high but never down low.
21 They're everywhere now. They've just grown and expanded so we certainly need to
22 harvest more elk. We need to be able to do some things that enhance that and allow
23 those tags, so I appreciate the changes that are being made. It sounds like to me
24 we're headed the right direction. So thank you, very much [indiscernible] --

25 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. Do you know Sylvia Bell?

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1 JOHN BELL: [indiscernible]

2 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: She's next.

3 JOHN BELL: Oh. Well, I'm glad. Most of the time she's pretty good to me if I say,
4 "Yes ma'am. What's next, honey?"

5 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Sylvia, it's your turn.

6 SYLVIA BELL: I'm Sylvia Bell [phonetic], I represent, I guess, the Silver Bell Ranch.
7 And I'm so grateful to see these changes come. When we first bought our branch --
8 we have two ranches, one that's in the core and one that's on the peripheral there in
9 Piñon. And it has been so frustrating to make a lot of effort to try to comply and help
10 and support where you are. We put in game friendly fences with [indiscernible] on
11 the top where they can crawl underneath, we put in a whole lot of different waterings,
12 we've done a whole lot of things with that and absolutely received no response back
13 about. We had -- first year we were there we had no permits at all on our core area
14 and from then on, for years, we got one cow elk is what we were getting the whole
15 time, including and taking into no consideration of the amount of money that was
16 spent again for the salt, the water. The fences cost us quite a bit to have
17 [indiscernible] them. I'm very grateful to see this coming in and to see that being
18 addressed with it. One of the issues that I feel really needs to be taken even further
19 is in pushing it in with cooperation with the Forest Service on that. It seems -- I was
20 in a meeting in Santa Fe with the Assistant Regional Director of the Forest Service
21 and the Director from the Fish and Wildlife Service, we said when we have
22 complaints we take them to you, being Fish and Wildlife [indiscernible] and he said,
23 "Well, that's the Forest Service to decide how many elk or what we're going to be
24 running." In the same way the Forest Service says back, "We can't determine what
25 the Fish and Game or the Fish and Wildlife do on it." And it's just a zero on that. I

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1 worked on the -- my background is I have a degree in forestry, I worked on five
2 different districts with that. When I was in the Sacramento's in 1974 there was a herd
3 of possibly 250 elk on the area that I worked, that were the native elk, and now they
4 are exponential. I asked the supervisor, the Forest supervisor, what could be done to
5 number the amount so that how can you manage them? How can you manage a
6 property if you're only taking into consideration half of the animals that are on it or
7 even more than that? And he says, "Well, I'm not in the elk counting -- I'm not in the
8 elk counting business." But he is in the cow counting business and we keep getting
9 cut back further and further and further. So I would wish that we would even do more
10 with that and getting this connection made, getting a cooperation, and giving us a fair
11 chance on that. Thank you, sir.

12 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you. Mr. Crenshaw, you get the last word. Well,
13 actually I may get the last word but, in the public, you get you get the last word.

14 JOHN CRENSHAW: Thank you. John Crenshaw with the New Mexico Wildlife
15 Federation. I support, of course, what [indiscernible] just said. But I did want to go
16 into one other little thing or two. Yes, administratively, this is a great improvement
17 and the small contributing ranches who are actually contributing are going to benefit.
18 Those are good things. Again, we certainly would have liked to have seen some of
19 those larger landowners unused licenses go into the draw system, but that's been
20 said several times. I do know that over on the west side of the state that there was
21 some controversy about adding Unit 12 into the core area. I would like to say that we
22 support the Department's position on that. That is one case where actually there it
23 will increase the number of public draw licenses in that unit, if I understood Mr. Liley
24 correctly, and we like that idea and the elk population definitely supports that
25 designation. It's moved in and grown, and it should be in the core. Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Quick question.

3 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Stewart, in Unit 34 to offset those numbers, did I miss it
5 somewhere where we were going to include -- I know your archery hunts are already
6 either sex, but your muzzleloader and rifle bull elk hunts are now going to be either
7 sex as well?

8 STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos. That's correct, that's our
9 proposal and that's through the Elk Rule, that's where they intertwine this is, but in
10 the next presentation we'll get to that [indiscernible] --

11 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Thank you. I knew it was happening somewhere, but I
12 know they were specifically talking about Unit 34, so I thought I would mention that.
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any other exhibits?

15 STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, no I do not.

16 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Okay. Exhibits 1 through --

17 COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Could you go back to the map with the [indiscernible]

18 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Let me finish this part and then you can ask him some
19 questions. So Exhibits 1 through 6 are entered into the record. I'll close the hearing
20 in a moment with the attendance sheet but now you can ask your question.

21 COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: I forgot it. So 54 and 55 and 46 are special
22 management zones and ranches in those units have to provide a conservation plan
23 by January 5th every year?

24 STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ricklefs. No, it won't be like a
25 special management property, per se. What it will be is -- how we are administering

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1 it right now, we work on a ranch by ranch basis within an interested landowner in any
2 one of those special management properties to determine appropriate harvest. It
3 won't have to be something where they submit a plan every single year. It may be
4 that we, because of our surveys of elk, we know what our total harvest is, where
5 we're looking at harvest, where we're saying it. But it won't be something specific to
6 where they have to set a management plan every single year. It's just they have to
7 sign an agreement saying they want to participate.

8 COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Okay, so then those licenses are going to be over the
9 counter or --

10 STEWART LILEY: In those three GMUs it will still be authorizations. Like it currently
11 exists today in those GMUs.

12 COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: I see.

13 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: I got a question. So as properties are enrolled in this system
14 and you get special bonus point for this, that, and the other thing, how do I make sure
15 that your front-line staff are actually doing this correctly, number one, and then
16 number two, that I'll just be blunt that nobody's cheating or it's corrupt or something
17 else. So how can we give the public confidence that the information going into the
18 system is correct? Who is auditing these ranches as they are enrolled?

19 STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, so there's a group, and we're doing it throughout
20 the state with we have an E-PLUS manager and their super supervisor, who is a
21 private lands program supervisor. We then go to each district sergeant that knows
22 that area really well and their officers and we analyze each one of those properties
23 on an individual one. Once we give a score to those properties, every single year
24 that landowner will get that scoresheet that says here is how we scored your
25 properties on these criteria. Do you agree, or do you not agree? So we want to

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1 make sure that, one, that we did take into account everyone that knows that area
2 score and then, two, we want to make sure the landowner sees how we score that
3 property. So if there's discrepancies between there we can fix that right away on the
4 upfront. That way it can be a conversation with the regional biologist or a district
5 officer that say, "Look, you missed this piece of water over here, come out and take a
6 look at it." And we will come out and take a look at it. So the abuse should not be
7 there because we're going to have to physically see it. If that person wants to get the
8 score for it. If we don't physically see it, we can't give that [indiscernible] --

9 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: So that -- I understand that part of it. What if, instead of a
10 one, a two is entered inadvertently, to, in fact, they get their scorecard and they're
11 like, "Well, I just won the lottery. Clearly, I'm a six but you've enrolled me as an eight."
12 So how are you guarding against [indiscernible] --

13 STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, in the agreement they're going to have to agree to
14 this is actually what is on my property. So in the agreement -- like right now, on the
15 agreement you're saying the deeds are accurate and correct. I'm not falsifying a
16 deed to show that these properties are actually not mine. The other things can be the
17 score that I receive is accurate and correct.

18 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: So all of that paperwork would be subject to a [indiscernible]

19 STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, that is correct.

20 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: In some respects so you are your brother's keeper if you are
21 a neighbor or something and you're like, this looks fishy. Okay. I guess you're just
22 going to have to put the most honest people possible in these spots and make sure
23 the numbers are good. I am concerned about -- it's probably run by database or
24 spreadsheet or something else, and it's easy ignoring the intentional part of it, it's
25 easy to transpose numbers and get it wrong. So I'd encourage you to figure out a

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1 way to audit or double check that, if you will. Because, as sure as the sun rises and
2 sets, somebody's going to complain, I can feel it coming.

3 STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, it's not one individual at any time entering that
4 number. It is multiples at the screen up so hopefully that will be covered
5 [indiscernible] --

6 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: I trust your judgment. I'm just saying make sure you've got
7 some procedure in place to account for that because sooner or later somebody's
8 going to ask. I don't know who, what, why, when, or where, but it's coming. All right,
9 I've taken up enough time. Who else has any questions or comments on this?

10 COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: I have one more. Your scoring system is not in here.
11 So is that because it's going to be --

12 STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ricklefs. So we wanted to make
13 that be a flexible -- we want the Commission to approve it. So what you will see is
14 those attributes I went through in that presentation and that were online, and we've
15 looked at before, that's what we're proposing for. The Commission by approving the
16 rule and approving these guidelines, you are approving those guidelines. Those
17 guidelines can come back to the Commission at any time without having to open the
18 rule. Our purpose of that was if there's something that we didn't capture from a
19 habitat component or if we didn't score properly, we didn't want to have to go through
20 the whole rulemaking process again, but we want the Commission to give oversight
21 on what we are looking at for scoring those properties. So what the Chairman will do
22 today, if you approve the rule, and what we propose for how to score it, he will sign
23 those guidelines that would be approved as how we score. If there's ever a time
24 when we want to bring it back to the Commission to change those guidelines how we
25 score, we can do that at any time necessary.

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1 COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Okay. And at the moment a seven is going to be your
2 number but that may change to.

3 STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman and Commissioner Ricklefs. Yes, our proposal is a
4 seven.

5 COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Okay.

6 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: And you'll start those assessments immediately if it's
7 passed?

8 STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ramos. We've already started
9 them in anticipation.

10 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: What's the highest score you can get?

11 STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, 13.

12 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: I was told you that's bad luck, man. I leave it to your good
13 judgment on that.

14 [CROSSTALK]

15 Your good judgment on that as well. All right. I've got to enter the attendance sheet
16 and comment cards, which I will do as Exhibit No. 7. Are there any other questions
17 or comments from Commissioners? Hold on a second. Comments submitted, and
18 testimony heard during this rule hearing will be reviewed by the Commission and
19 discussed during the open session of today's meeting. The Commission will vote on
20 the proposed rule at that time. Thank you, again, for your participation. This
21 particular rulemaking hearing closed as -- adjourned as of 12:52 p.m. I will entertain
22 a motion should somebody choose to make a motion [indiscernible]

23 COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Move to adopt the proposed changes to 19.30.5
24 NMAC as presented by the Department and allow the Department to make minor
25 corrections to comply with filing this rule with state records and archives.

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1 COMMISSIONER PETERSON: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any further discussion, question, or comment? All in favor?

3 COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

4 CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any opposed? None opposed. Good work. That was a
5 heavy lift. Definitely a heavy lift.

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