

RAPTOR TAKE POLICY



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME & FISH
LE FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION
SPECIAL USE PERMITS PROGRAM
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This policy allows for the taking of certain species of raptors from the wild for the use in falconry with the appropriate New Mexico state falconry license pursuant to regulation 19.35.8 NMAC.

I. RAPTOR TAKE – General Provisions

The categories to be taken may include eyas, passage and adult raptors as specified within.

EYASES may be taken from April 1 through January 15 of the subsequent year, and only by holders of general or master falconer permits, except peregrine falcons (see page 3).

PASSAGE raptors may be taken from April 1 through January 15 of the subsequent year, except peregrine falcons (see page 3).

- No apprentice falconer shall take more than one replacement raptor during the calendar year.
- No general or master falconer shall take more than two replacement raptors during the calendar year.
- Specific species may be taken by a draw permit available to permitted falconers (see pages 2 and 3).
- Raptor take shall not be construed to allow any falconer to exceed the number of birds or acquire a species other than indicated by the falconry permit class held by that person.
- Any raptor taken shall be reported to the department within 10 days and filed through the USFWS 3186-A electronic reporting system, unless otherwise required or approved by the department.
- No raptor may be taken on private land without written permission from the landowner or on any public land where take is prohibited.
- Resident falconers do not need a take permit for the following raptor species listed in TABLE 1.
- Nonresidents must apply for a nonresident raptor take permit for the species listed in TABLE 1. Only nonresidents who hold a valid falconry permit from a state that allows reciprocal take may apply. Proof of reciprocal take must be submitted with the application.
- A raptor may be taken from the wild by traps or nets that minimize the potential of physical injury and unnecessary stress to the raptor. Examples of acceptable devices are the bal-chatri, dho-gazza, harness-type, phi trap, bow net traps, or other trapping devices that are humane and acceptable as commonly used in falconry trapping procedures. The permitted falconer must continually attend trapping devices while in use.

TABLE 1. Raptors Available for Take by Residents and Permitted Non-residents

Species to be Taken	Take Areas	Categories to be Taken
American Kestrel	Statewide	Eyas, Passage and Adult raptors
Great Horned Owl	Statewide	Eyas, Passage and Adult raptors
Cooper's Hawk	Statewide	Eyas and Passage raptors
Prairie Falcon	Statewide	Eyas and Passage raptors
Red-tailed Hawk	Statewide	Eyas and Passage raptors
Sharp Shinned Hawk	Statewide	Eyas and Passage raptors
Ferruginous Hawk	Statewide	Passage raptors
Merlin	Statewide	Passage raptors

II. RAPTOR TAKE – Harris’s Hawk & Northern Goshawk Draw

Species to be Taken	Take Areas	Total Number of Available Permits	Take Limit/Conditions
Harris’s Hawk	South of I-40	Up to six (6) permits	A single passage raptor or a single eyas Harris’s Hawk per permit holder. Eyas shall be taken only from nests with at least 3 eyases.
Northern Goshawk	North and East of US 180 - I-10	Up to six (6) permits	A single passage raptor or a single eyas Northern Goshawk per permit holder. Eyas shall be taken only from nests with at least 3 eyases.

- The draw is held annually.
- Applications must be submitted to the departments Special Use Permits Program by the deadline stated on the Raptor Take Application.
- The draw will be conducted within 10 days from submittal deadline and results will be available within 5 days of the draw.
- Applications for raptor take permits shall be submitted on the appropriate Raptor Take Application form. Applications are available at the department website www.wildlife.state.nm.us
- An application fee shall be required from each applicant per application submitted, no refunds.
- Applications for permits may be rejected if such applications are not on the proper Raptor Take Application form or do not supply adequate fee and information.
- All applications must be mailed to the Santa Fe office, NMDGF, Attn: Special Use Permits Program, PO Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504. Applications that have been mailed and postmarked but not delivered by the deadline date will be accepted up to 5 working days after that deadline.
- No person shall submit more than one application per species per year except as allowed herein. Those submitting more than one application per species will result in the rejection of all previous applications.
- Eligible resident and non-resident falconers may apply for the take of Harris’s Hawk and Northern Goshawk.
- If applications for permits exceed the number of available permits, as herein established, the available permits shall be allotted by means of a random public drawing in the Santa Fe office in the order of: Peregrine, Harris’s Hawk then Northern Goshawk.
- Applicants who successfully applied but did not draw may accept an undrawn permit for a different species. However if the number of unsuccessful applicants exceeds the number of leftover permits per species, then a second draw will be conducted. If any leftover permits remain, they may be awarded on a first come, first serve basis at any time within the take season.
- No one may transfer, barter, sell or trade a raptor take permit; the permit shall only be valid for the person in whose name it is issued.
- All raptor take permits expire at the end of the respective season regardless of success.
- No raptor may be taken on private land without written permission from the landowner or on any public land where take is prohibited.
- A non-reusable numbered band must be attached to every wild Harris’s Hawk and Northern Goshawk; bands may be obtained by submitting the Raptor Take Permit results to the Special Use Permits Program.

III. RAPTOR TAKE – Peregrine Falcon Draw

Species	Take Area	Total Number of Available Permits	Take Limit/Conditions
Peregrine Falcon	Eyas Take - West of I-25, North of I-10	Up to two (2) permits	A single passage raptor or a single eyas Peregrine Falcon per permit holder. Eyas shall be taken only from nests with at least 2 eyases.
	Passage Take - Statewide		
	Passage Take - Statewide	Up to two (2) permits	A single passage Peregrine Falcon per permit holder.

PEREGRINE FALCON TAKE:

- Applicants must be a licensed general or master falconer.
- Eligible nonresidents may apply for the peregrine take, but will only be awarded if there are permits left over from the resident draw and to those who have met the application deadline and requirements.
- **EYAS SEASON:** shall be from April 1 through July 31 and at least one eyas must remain in the nest.
- **PASSAGE SEASON:** shall be from April 1 through August 31.
- All raptor take permits expire at the end of the respective season regardless of success.
- No one may transfer, barter, sell or trade a raptor take permit; the permit shall only be valid for the person in whose name it is issued.
- The permitted peregrine falconer must be present at the time of capture or any attempted take. Another person may assist during any take attempt.
- No raptor may be taken on private land without written permission from the landowner or on any public land where take is prohibited.
- A non-reusable numbered band must be attached to every wild Peregrine Falcon captured; bands may be obtained by submitting the Raptor Take Permit results to the Special Use Permits Program.
- A peregrine falcon that is marked with a research band such as a colored band with alphanumeric codes or some other research marking attached must be reported to the Federal Bird Banding Laboratory (1-800-327-2263) and the Special Use Permits Program (505-476-8064) within 5 business days of the date of capture. The permittee must document and report the research band numbers, location and date of capture, followed by the immediate release of such peregrine falcon.
- **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** Upon successful take of a peregrine falcon, the permitted falconer must provide the following to the department’s Special Use Permits Program within 10 days of capture:
 - On the Permit to Take Raptor report form, provide the capture date, sex, approximate age, GPS coordinates of take site [Map Datum NAD83 preferred] and a photographic image of the peregrine falcon.
 - Provide the second secondary feather from each wing, cut above the superior umbilicus, or 5 breast feathers, feathers must be stored in dry envelopes and labeled with collection date and permit number.
- **PASSAGE CAPTURE:** A passage peregrine may be taken from the wild by traps or nets that minimize the potential of physical injury and unnecessary stress to the raptor. The permitted falconer must continually attend trapping devices while in use. Examples of acceptable devices are the bal-chatri, dho-gazza, harness-type, phi trap, bow net traps, or other trapping devices that are humane and acceptable as commonly used in falconry trapping procedures.
- **EYAS CAPTURE:** In advance of attempt to take, the falconer awarded the peregrine permit must submit an Observation Report Form to the Special Use Permits Program with 3 eyrie locations, identified to at least a quarter section or by providing GPS coordinates [Map Datum NAD83 preferred].
- Each eyrie location shall be reviewed by the department and approval must be obtained prior to a take or attempt to take. The department will respond within 10 business days of submittal and either approve or deny the locations for the take. If all 3 sites are rejected, or if one or more sites prove to be unoccupied, the applicant may submit additional sites for consideration within the confines of the permitted season.
- Potential capture sites may be denied by the department based on appropriate biological data.

Peregrine Falcon – Eyas Capture continued...

- While scouting for peregrine nests/eyries, the permit holder will be required to provide the department approximate GPS coordinates [Map Datum NAD83 preferred]. The permit holder shall also provide long distance, panoramic photographic images of all peregrine nest sites that were observed.
- While scouting for eyries as potential capture locations, observations must be conducted without causing disturbance to the nesting birds and shall be conducted at a distance of 1/4 mile or greater.
- For each nest site location where a take is either attempted or is successful, the following must be submitted:
 1. Exact GPS coordinates [Map Datum NAD83 preferred]
 2. Photographic images to include a panoramic view of the nest site and surrounding geographic features
 3. Photographic images of the nest that depict the exact number of eyases that are in the nest before and after removal or attempted removal.
- The permitted falconer shall submit a final Observation Report Form and may be required to provide additional information to ensure department staff can conduct a follow-up examination on any eyrie(s) visited and the eyrie from which the eyas is taken. This information may be used to determine reproductive outcome in the year of the take and in the following nesting season.

IV. POLICY MODIFICATION & REPORTING REQUIRMENTS FOR ALL RAPTOR TAKE

- The take by permitted falconers as described herein may be withheld or modified for any species whose wild populations in New Mexico may be adversely affected by such harvest.
- The director may modify this policy at any time.
- Any raptor taken shall be reported on the proper form(s) and database to the department within 10 days. The database notification shall be filed through the USFWS 3186-A electronic reporting system unless otherwise required or approved by the department.

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH



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Michael B. Sloane, Director

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November 13, 2018
Effective Date

This document was revised October 2022 to update the NMDGF Permits Program address and email contact only. The language in the policy did not change from the previously approved 2018 version.