

New Mexico Register / Volume XXXVI, Issue 18 /September 23, 2025
STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING AND RULE MAKING NOTICE

The New Mexico State Game Commission (“Commission”) will be hosting a virtual and in-person meeting and rule hearing on Friday November 7th beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Fuller Lodge, 2132 Central Ave., Los Alamos, NM 87544. Please check the Department’s website at: www.wildlife.dgf.nm.gov for any changes to the venue. The purpose of this meeting is to hear and consider action as appropriate on the presentation of proposed changes to the Upland Game rule.

Synopsis:

The proposal is to amend the Upland Game rule, 19.31.5 NMAC, which will become effective April 1, 2026. The current Upland Game rule will expire on March 31, 2026. The proposed new rule includes:

- 1) Adjust hunt dates based on calendar dates;
- 2) Divide Dusky Grouse into a North and South Zone using I-40 as the dividing line;
- 3) Set Bag Limits for Dusky Grouse Zones:
 - a. North Zone- 3 Birds/Day; 6 in possession;
 - b. South Zone- 1 Bird/Day; 2 in possession;
- 4) Add an additional special youth pheasant draw hunt on Jackson Lake WMA;
- 5) Open Bluebird and Pine River WMAs for upland hunting during squirrel and dusky grouse season;
- 6) Open Double E, LBar, Navajo and River Ranch WMAs for upland hunting during quail season.

A full text of changes for both rules will be available on the Department’s website at: www.wildlife.dgf.nm.gov.

Interested persons may submit comments on the proposed changes to the Upland Game rule DGF-Gamebird@dgf.nm.gov; individuals may also submit written comments to the physical address below. Comments are due by 8:00 a.m. on November 5, 2025. The final proposed rules will be voted on by the Commission during a public meeting on November 7, 2025. Interested persons may also provide data, views or arguments, orally or in writing, at the public rule hearing to be held on November 7, 2025.

Full copies of text of the proposed new rules, 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 <https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov/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.dgf.nm.gov 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.

TITLE 19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE
CHAPTER 31 HUNTING AND FISHING
PART 5 UPLAND GAME

19.31.5.1 ISSUING AGENCY: New Mexico department of **game and fish wildlife**.
[19.31.5.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.1 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

19.31.5.2 SCOPE: Sportspersons interested in upland game management and hunting. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and Title 19 NMAC.
[19.31.5.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.2 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

19.31.5.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Sections 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state **gamewildlife** 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.
[19.31.5.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.3 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

19.31.5.4 DURATION: April 1, **20222026** through March 31, **20262030**.
[19.31.5.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.4 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

19.31.5.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, **20222026** unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.31.5.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.5 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

19.31.5.6 OBJECTIVE: Establishing seasons on dusky grouse, Eurasian collared-dove, pheasant, Gambel's quail, Montezuma quail, northern bobwhite, scaled quail, tree squirrels, and setting falconry seasons.
[19.31.5.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.6 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

19.31.5.7 DEFINITIONS:

- A. “Department”** shall mean the New Mexico department of **game and fish wildlife**.
 - B. “Falconry”** shall mean hunting game mammals or game birds using raptors.
 - C. “North zone”** shall mean north of Interstate 40.
 - CD. “Possession limit”** shall mean the number of game mammals or game birds in a person’s possession regardless of the location stored.
 - E. “South zone”** shall mean south of Interstate 40.
 - DE. “Tree squirrels”** shall mean squirrels in the genera *Sciurus* and *Tamiasciurus*, including Abert's squirrel, red squirrel, Arizona gray squirrel, fox squirrel and eastern gray squirrel.
 - EG. “Wildlife management areas” or “WMAs”** shall mean those areas as described in 19.34.5 NMAC, Wildlife Management Areas.
- [19.31.5.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.7 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

19.31.5.8 MANNER AND METHODS FOR UPLAND GAME:

- A. Season and hours:** Upland game may be hunted or taken only during open seasons and only during the period from one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset, unless otherwise allowed or restricted by rule.
 - (1)** On Bernardo, Casa Colorada, La Joya, and W.S. Huey WMAs, hunting hours shall be from one half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m.
 - (2)** For the special permit pheasant hunts on W.S. Huey WMA, hunting hours shall be from one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset.
- B. State WMAs open, species that can be hunted, and days open for hunting:**
 - (1)** The W.S. Huey WMA shall be open for quail hunting on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays during established quail seasons.
 - (2)** Bernardo, Casa Colorada, La Joya, and W.S. Huey WMAs shall be open to pheasant hunting by special draw permit only.
 - (3)** The Edward Sargent, W. A. Humphries, Rio Chama, Urraca, Colin Neblett, and Elliot S. Barker WMAs shall be open for upland game hunting during established tree squirrel and dusky grouse seasons.

(4) The Water canyon, Marquez, prairie chicken areas, and Socorro Escondida WMAs shall be open for upland game hunting during established quail seasons.

(5) Eurasian collared dove hunting shall be open during established mourning and white-winged dove seasons as defined in 19.31.6 NMAC Migratory Game Bird, and during established quail, tree squirrel, and dusky grouse seasons.

C. All Eurasian collared dove must have an identifiable feathered wing attached until the bird has arrived at the person's residence, processor, or place of final storage.

A. Upland game may be hunted or taken only during open seasons and only during the period from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, unless otherwise allowed or restricted by rule.

B. Double E, Water canyon, LBar/Marquez, Navajo, prairie-chicken areas, River ranch and Socorro-Escondida WMAs shall be open for upland game hunting during established quail seasons.

C. Bluebird, Edward Sargent, W.A. Humphries, Pine River, Rio Chama, Urraca, Colin Neblett and Elliot Barker WMAs shall be open for upland game hunting during established tree squirrel and dusky grouse seasons.

D. Bernardo, Casa Colorada, La Joya, Jackson Lake and W.S. Huey WMAs shall be open to pheasant hunting by special permit.

E. Hunting hours for special permit pheasant hunts on Bernardo, Casa Colorada and La Joya WMAs shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m.

F. The W.S. Huey WMA shall be open for quail hunting on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays during established quail seasons. Hunting hours for quail shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m.

G. Eurasian collared-dove

(1) Eurasian collared-dove hunting shall be allowed on WMAs open during established mourning and white-winged dove seasons as defined in 19.31.6 NMAC Migratory Game Bird, and on those WMAs that are open during established quail, tree squirrel and dusky grouse seasons as listed above.

(2) All Eurasian collared-dove must have an identifiable feathered wing attached until the bird has arrived at the person's residence, processor or place of final storage.

[19.31.5.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.9 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

19.31.5.9 UPLAND GAME HUNTING SEASONS: Hunting seasons shall be as indicated below.

SPECIES	OPEN AREAS	DATES	DAILY BAG (POSSESSION) LIMITS
Eurasian collared-dove	Statewide	April 1 - March 31	no bag or possession limit
dusky grouse	StatewideNorth Zone	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31 annually	3 (6 in possession)
dusky grouse	South Zone	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31 annually	1 (2 in possession)
pheasant	Statewide	Dec. 8-11, 2022 Dec. 7-10, 2023 Dec. 12-15, 2024 Dec. 11-14, 2025 Dec. 10-13, 2026 Dec. 9-12, 2027 Dec. 7-10, 2028 Dec. 6-9, 2029	3 males (6 in possession)
quail	Statewide	Nov. 15 - Feb. 15 annually	15, singly or in aggregate; no more than 5 shall be Montezuma quail (possession shall be 30 singly or in aggregate - no more than 10 shall be Montezuma quail)

tree squirrel	Statewide	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31 annually	8, singly or in aggregate (possession shall be 16 singly or in aggregate)
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[19.31.5.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.10 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

19.31.5.10 HUNT CODES AND PERMIT NUMBERS FOR SPECIAL DRAW PHEASANT HUNTS:

HUNT LOCATION	2022 SEASON	2023 SEASON	2024 SEASON	2025 SEASON	HUNT CODE	NO. OF PERMITS	BAG LIMIT
youth-only Bernardo, Casa Colorado, and La Joya WMAs	Oct. 15	Oct. 21	Oct. 19	Oct. 18	PHE-0-001	20	3 males
youth-only W.S. Huey WMA	Dec. 3	Dec. 2	Dec. 7	Dec. 6	PHE-0-002	40	3 males
W.S. Huey WMA	Dec. 10	Dec. 9	Dec. 14	Dec. 13	PHE-0-003	40	3 males

HUNT LOCATION	2026 SEASON	2027 SEASON	2028 SEASON	2029 SEASON	HUNT CODE	NO. OF PERMITS	BAG LIMIT
youth-only Bernardo, Casa Colorado and La Joya WMAs	Oct. 17	Oct. 16	Oct. 21	Oct. 20	PHE-0-001	20	3 males
youth-only W.S. Huey WMA	Dec. 5	Dec. 4	Dec. 2	Dec. 1	PHE-0-002	40	3 males
W.S. Huey WMA	Dec. 12	Dec. 11	Dec. 9	Dec. 8	PHE-0-003	40	3 males
youth-only Jackson Lake WMA	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	PHE-0-004	10	3 males

[19.31.5.10 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.12 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

19.31.5.11 FALCONRY SEASONS:

A. Open areas and season dates: The season for dusky grouse, pheasants, quail and tree squirrels shall be statewide and shall be open September 1 through February 28 annually. For Eurasian collared-dove, all areas statewide are open year-round, except as prohibited by rule.

B. Daily bag and possession limits: Daily bag limits for dusky grouse, pheasant, and quail shall be three birds (in the aggregate) and three tree squirrels (in the aggregate). Possession limits shall be: dusky grouse-six; pheasant-six; quail-30 (singly or in the aggregate); tree squirrels-16 (singly or in the aggregate). There is no bag or possession limit for Eurasian collared-dove.

[19.31.5.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.13 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

HISTORY OF 19.31.5 NMAC:

Pre-NMAC Regulatory Filing History: The material in this Part was derived from that previously filed with the State Records Center & Archives under: Regulation No. 482, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, and Barbary Sheep, filed 5/31/1967; Regulation No. 486, Establishing 1967 Seasons On Quail, Pheasants, Prairie Chickens, and Lesser Sandhill (Little Brown) Crane And Additional Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 9/22/1967; Regulation No. 492, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 6/6/1968; Regulation No. 493, Establishing 1968 Seasons On Mourning And White-Winged Doves, Band-Tailed Pigeons, And Sora And Virginia Rails, filed 8/9/1968; Regulation No. 494, Establishing 1968 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Wilson's Snipe, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Scaled, Gambel's, And Bobwhite Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 10/2/1968; Regulation 504, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 6/4/1969; Regulation No. 505, Establishing 1969 Seasons On Teal, Band-Tailed Pigeons, Sora And Virginia Rails, Mourning And White-Winged Doves, And Wilson's Snipe, filed 8/26/1969; Regulation No. 508, Establishing 1969 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Scaled, Gambel's And Bobwhite Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/19/1969; Regulation No. 514, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/9/1970; Regulation No. 516 Establishing 1970 Seasons On Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/24/1970; Regulation No. 523, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep

And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/9/1971; Regulation No. 524, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Band-Tailed Pigeons And Mourning And White-winged Doves, filed 8/13/1971; Regulation No. 526, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged And Cinnamon Teal, filed 8/13/71; Regulation No. 527, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl And Lesser Sandhill Cranes, filed 9/10/71; Regulation No 529, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/24/1971; Regulation No. 536, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/26/1972; Regulation No. 538, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal And On Band-tailed Pigeons And Mourning And White-winged Doves, filed 8/15/1972; Regulation No. 540, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, And Wilson's Swipec, filed 9/26/1972; Regulation No. 541, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/26/72; filed; Regulation No. 547, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, And Javelina, filed 5/31/1973; Regulation No. 548, Establishing 1973 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons And Mourning And White-winged Doves, filed 8/20/1973; Regulation No. 549, Establishing 1973 Seasons On Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/20/1973; Regulation No. 551, Establishing 1973 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl And Lesser Sandhill Crane, filed 8/20/73; Regulation No. 558, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex, filed 5/29/1974; Regulation No. 559, Establishing 1974 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, And Mourning And White-winged Doves, filed 7/2/1974; Regulation No. 560, Establishing 1974 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/21/1974; Regulation No. 568, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 6/25/1975; Regulation No. 569, Establishing 1975 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, And Mourning And White-winged Doves, filed 7/31/1975; Regulation No. 570, Establishing 1975 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/5/1975; Regulation No. 573, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/23/1976; Regulation No. 577, Establishing 1976 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning and White-winged Doves, filed 8/3/1976; Regulation No. 578, Establishing 1976 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/31/1976; Regulation No. 587, Establishing 1977 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, And Mourning And White-winged Doves, Squirrel And Grouse, filed 7/29/1977; Regulation No. 588, Establishing 1977 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/6/1977; Regulation No. 593, Establishing 1978 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, And Mourning And White-winged Doves, Squirrel, Grouse, Rail, Snipe And Falconry Seasons, filed 8/30/1978; Regulation No. 594, Establishing 1978 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/11/1978; Regulation No. 600, Establishing 1979 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, Mourning And White-winged Doves, Squirrel, Grouse, Rail, Snipe, And Falconry Seasons, filed 7/27/1979; Regulation No. 601, Establishing 1979 Seasons on Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens Regulation No. 605, Establishing 1980 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, Mourning And White-winged Doves, Squirrel, Grouse, Rail, Snipe, And Falconry Seasons, filed 7/29/1980; Regulation No. 606, Establishing 1980 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/3/80; Regulation No. 610, Establishing 1981 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, And Mourning And White-winged Doves, Squirrel, Grouse, Rail, Snipe, And Falconry Seasons, filed 8/19/81; Regulation No. 611, Establishing 1981 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/4/1981; Regulation No. 615, Establishing 1982 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, Mourning And White-winged Doves, Squirrel, Grouse, Rail, Snipe, Sandhill Crane, And Falconry Seasons, filed 7/28/82; Regulation No. 616, Establishing 1982 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/3/1982; Regulation No. 625, Establishing 1983 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, Mourning And White-winged Doves, Squirrel, Grouse, Rail, Snipe, Sandhill Crane, And Falconry Seasons, filed 7/29/1983; Regulation No. 630, Establishing 1984 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, Mourning And White-winged Doves, Squirrel, Grouse, Rail, Snipe, Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasant, Prairie Chicken, And Falconry Seasons, filed 8/2/1984; Regulation No. 637, Establishing 1985 Seasons On Blue-winged,

Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, Mourning And White-winged Doves, Squirrel, Grouse, Rail, Snipe, Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasant, Prairie Chicken, And Falconry Seasons, filed 8/26/1985; Regulation No. 642, Establishing 1986-87 Seasons On Grouse, Squirrel, Quail, Pheasant, Prairie Chicken, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/1/1986; Regulation No. 652, Establishing 1987-88 Seasons On Blue Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasants (And All Other Races Of Pheasants), Lesser Prairie Chickens, Montezuma Quail, Northern Bobwhite, Scaled Quail, Gambel's Quail, Abert's Squirrels, Red Squirrels And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/24/1987; Regulation No. 661, Establishing 1988-1989 Seasons On Blue Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasants (And All Other Races Of Pheasants), Lesser Prairie Chickens, Montezuma Quail, Northern Bobwhite, Scaled Quail, Gambel's Quail, Abert's Squirrels, Red Squirrels And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 6/28/1988; Regulation No. 668, Establishing 1989-1990 Seasons On Pheasants..., Blue Grouse, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Quail (... Shall Mean Montezuma Quail, Northern Bobwhite, Scaled Quail, And Gambel's Quail), Abert's Squirrel, Red Squirrel And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 9/1/1989; Regulation No. 678, Establishing 1990-1991 Seasons On Pheasants..., Blue Grouse, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Quail..., Dove..., Band-tailed Pigeon, Sandhill Crane, Albert's And Red Squirrel And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 7/26/1990; Regulation No. 686, Establishing 1991-92 Seasons On Pheasants..., Blue Grouse, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Quail..., Dove..., Band-tailed Pigeon, Sandhill Crane, Abert's And Red Squirrel And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/6/1991; Regulation No. 699, Establishing 1992-1993 Seasons On Teal..., Pheasants..., Blue Grouse, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Quail..., Dove..., Band-tailed Pigeon, Sandhill Crane, Abert's And Red Squirrel And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/19/1992; Regulation No. 703, Establishing 1993-1994 Seasons On Teal..., Pheasants..., Blue Grouse, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Quail..., Dove..., Band-tailed Pigeon, Sandhill Crane, Abert's And Red Squirrel And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 3/11/1993; Regulation No. 706, Establishing 1994-1995, 1995-1996, 1996-1997 Seasons On Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Pheasants, Blue Grouse, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Montezuma Quail, and Northern Bobwhite, filed 7/28/1994.

NMAC History:

19 NMAC 31.5, Upland Game, filed 7/18/1995.
 19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 8/15/2000.
 19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 7/24/2002.
 19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 8/12/2003.
 19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 7/30/2004.
 19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 8/8/2005.
 19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 7/18/2006.
 19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 7/26/2007.
 19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 7/30/2008.

History of Repealed Material:

19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 8/15/2000 - duration expired 3/31/2002.
 19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 7/24/2002 - duration expired 3/31/2003.
 19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 8/12/2003 - duration expired 3/31/2004.
 19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 7/30/2004 - duration expired 3/31/2005.
 19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 8/8/2005 - duration expired 3/31/2006.
 19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 7/18/2006 - duration expired 3/31/2007.
 19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 7/26/2007 - duration expired 3/31/2008.
 19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 7/30/2008 - duration expired 3/31/2010.
 19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 8/2/2010 - duration expired 3/31/2014.
 19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 4/1/2014 - duration expired 3/31/2018.
 19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 8/15/2017 - duration expired 3/31/2022.
 19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 10/27/2021 - duration expired 3/31/2026.

NMAC**Transmittal Form**

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

Issuing agency name and address:

Agency DFA code:

Contact person's name:

Phone number:

E-mail address:

Type of rule action:

(ALD Use) Recent filing date:

New ☒ Amendment ☐ Repeal ☐ Emergency ☐ Renumber ☐

Title number:

Title name:

Chapter number:

Chapter name:

Part number:

Part name:

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

☐**Specific statutory or other authority authorizing rulemaking:**

Notice date(s):

Hearing date(s):

Rule adoption date:

Rule effective date:

Concise Explanatory Statement For Rulemaking Adoption:

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Findings required for rulemaking adoption:

2025 NOV 13 PM 1:48

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 rulemaking was undertaken to adopt a new Upland Game Rule 19.31.5 NMAC which will become effective April 1, 2026. The current version of the rule will expire on March 31, 2026.

The new rule will include:

- Adjusting hunt dates based on calendar dates
- Dividing Dusky Grouse into a North and South Zone using I-40 as the dividing line
- Setting Bag Limits for Dusky Grouse Zones
 - ☐ North Zone- 3 Birds/Day; 6 in possession
 - ☐ South Zone- 1 Bird/Day; 2 in possession
- Adding an additional special youth pheasant draw hunt on Jackson Lake WMA
- Opening Bluebird and Pine River WMAs for upland hunting during squirrel season
- Opening Double E, LBar, Navajo and River Ranch WMAs for upland hunting during quail season

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, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Signature: (BLACK ink only OR Digital Signature)

Date signed:

Michael B. Sloane

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TITLE 19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE
CHAPTER 31 HUNTING AND FISHING
PART 5 UPLAND GAME

19.31.5.1 ISSUING AGENCY: New Mexico department of wildlife.
[19.31.5.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.1 NMAC, 4/1/2026]

19.31.5.2 SCOPE: Sportspersons interested in upland game management and hunting. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and Title 19 NMAC.
[19.31.5.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.2 NMAC, 4/1/2026]

19.31.5.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Sections 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state wildlife 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.
[19.31.5.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.3 NMAC, 4/1/2026]

19.31.5.4 DURATION: April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2030.
[19.31.5.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.4 NMAC, 4/1/2026]

19.31.5.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2026 unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.31.5.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.5 NMAC, 4/1/2026]

19.31.5.6 OBJECTIVE: Establishing seasons on dusky grouse, Eurasian collared-dove, pheasant, Gambel's quail, Montezuma quail, northern bobwhite, scaled quail, tree squirrels and setting falconry seasons.
[19.31.5.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.6 NMAC, 4/1/2026]

19.31.5.7 DEFINITIONS:

- A.** "Department" shall mean the New Mexico department of wildlife.
 - B.** "Falconry" shall mean hunting game mammals or game birds using raptors.
 - C.** "North zone" shall mean north of Interstate 40.
 - D.** "Possession limit" shall mean the number of game mammals or game birds in a person's possession regardless of the location stored.
 - E.** "South zone" shall mean south of Interstate 40.
 - F.** "Tree squirrels" shall mean squirrels in the genera *Sciurus* and *Tamiasciurus*, including Abert's squirrel, red squirrel, Arizona gray squirrel, fox squirrel and eastern gray squirrel.
 - G.** "Wildlife management areas" or "WMAs" shall mean those areas as described in 19.34.5 NMAC Wildlife Management Areas.
- [19.31.5.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.7 NMAC, 4/1/2026]

19.31.5.8 MANNER AND METHODS FOR UPLAND GAME:

- A.** Upland game may be hunted or taken only during open seasons and only during the period from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, unless otherwise allowed or restricted by rule.
- B.** Double E, Water canyon, LBar/Marquez, Navajo, prairie-chicken areas, River ranch and Socorro-Escondida WMAs shall be open for upland game hunting during established quail seasons.
- C.** Bluebird, Edward Sargent, W.A. Humphries, Pine River, Rio Chama, Urraca, Colin Neblett and Elliot Barker WMAs shall be open for upland game hunting during established tree squirrel and dusky grouse seasons.
- D.** Bernardo, Casa Colorada, La Joya, Jackson Lake and W.S. Huey WMAs shall be open to pheasant hunting by special permit.
- E.** Hunting hours for special permit pheasant hunts on Bernardo, Casa Colorada and La Joya WMAs shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m.
- F.** The W.S. Huey WMA shall be open for quail hunting on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays during established quail seasons. Hunting hours for quail shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m.
- G.** Eurasian collared-dove

(1) Eurasian collared-dove hunting shall be allowed on WMAs open during established mourning and white-winged dove seasons as defined in 19.31.6 NMAC, and on those WMAs that are open during established quail, tree squirrel and dusky grouse seasons as listed above.

(2) All Eurasian collared-dove must have an identifiable feathered wing attached until the bird has arrived at the person's residence, processor or place of final storage.
[19.31.5.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.9 NMAC, 4/1/2026]

19.31.5.9 UPLAND GAME HUNTING SEASONS: Hunting seasons shall be as indicated below.

SPECIES	OPEN AREAS	DATES	DAILY BAG (POSSESSION) LIMITS
Eurasian collared-dove	Statewide	April 1 - March 31	no bag or possession limit
dusky grouse	North Zone	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31 annually	3 (6 in possession)
dusky grouse	South Zone	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31 annually	1 (2 in possession)
pheasant	Statewide	Dec. 10-13, 2026 Dec. 9-12, 2027 Dec. 7-10, 2028 Dec. 6-9, 2029	3 males (6 in possession)
quail	Statewide	Nov. 15 - Feb. 15 annually	15, singly or in aggregate; no more than 5 shall be Montezuma quail (possession shall be 30 singly or in aggregate - no more than 10 shall be Montezuma quail)
tree squirrel	Statewide	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31 annually	8, singly or in aggregate (possession shall be 16 singly or in aggregate)

[19.31.5.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.10 NMAC, 4/1/2026]

19.31.5.10 HUNT CODES AND PERMIT NUMBERS FOR SPECIAL DRAW PHEASANT HUNTS:

HUNT LOCATION	2026 SEASON	2027 SEASON	2028 SEASON	2029 SEASON	HUNT CODE	NO. OF PERMITS	BAG LIMIT
youth-only Bernardo, Casa Colorada and La Joya WMAs	Oct. 17	Oct. 16	Oct. 21	Oct. 20	PHE-0-001	20	3 males
youth-only W.S. Huey WMA	Dec. 5	Dec. 4	Dec. 2	Dec. 1	PHE-0-002	40	3 males
W.S. Huey WMA	Dec. 12	Dec. 11	Dec. 9	Dec. 8	PHE-0-003	40	3 males
youth-only Jackson Lake WMA	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	PHE-0-004	10	3 males

[19.31.5.10 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.12 NMAC, 4/1/2026]

19.31.5.11 FALCONRY SEASONS:

A. Open areas and season dates: The season for dusky grouse, pheasants, quail and tree squirrels shall be statewide and shall be open September 1 through February 28 annually. For Eurasian collared-dove, all areas statewide are open year-round, except as prohibited by rule.

B. Daily bag and possession limits: Daily bag limits for dusky grouse, pheasant and quail shall be three birds (in the aggregate) and three tree squirrels (in the aggregate). Possession limits shall be: dusky grouse-six; pheasant-six; quail-30 (singly or in the aggregate); tree squirrels-16 (singly or in the aggregate). There is no bag or possession limit for Eurasian collared-dove.

[19.31.5.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.13 NMAC, 4/1/2026]

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HISTORY OF 19.31.5 NMAC:

Pre-NMAC Regulatory Filing History: The material in this Part was derived from that previously filed with the State Records Center & Archives under: Regulation No. 482, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, and Barbary Sheep, filed 5/31/1967; Regulation No. 486, Establishing 1967 Seasons On Quail, Pheasants, Prairie Chickens, and Lesser Sandhill (Little Brown) Crane And Additional Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 9/22/1967; Regulation No. 492, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 6/6/1968; Regulation No. 493, Establishing 1968 Seasons On Mourning And White-Winged Doves, Band-Tailed Pigeons, And Sora And Virginia Rails, filed 8/9/1968; Regulation No. 494, Establishing 1968 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Wilson's Snipe, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Scaled, Gambel's, And Bobwhite Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 10/2/1968; Regulation 504, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 6/4/1969; Regulation No. 505, Establishing 1969 Seasons On Teal, Band-Tailed Pigeons, Sora And Virginia Rails, Mourning And White-Winged Doves, And Wilson's Snipe, filed 8/26/1969; Regulation No. 508, Establishing 1969 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Scaled, Gambel's And Bobwhite Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/19/1969; Regulation No. 514, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/9/1970; Regulation No. 516 Establishing 1970 Seasons On Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/24/1970; Regulation No. 523, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/9/1971; Regulation No. 524, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Band-Tailed Pigeons And Mourning And White-winged Doves, filed 8/13/1971; Regulation No. 526, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Blue-Winged, Green-winged And Cinnamon Teal, filed 8/13/71; Regulation No. 527, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl And Lesser Sandhill Cranes, filed 9/10/71; Regulation No 529, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/24/1971; Regulation No. 536, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/26/1972; Regulation No. 538, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal And On Band-tailed Pigeons And Mourning And White-winged Doves, filed 8/15/1972; Regulation No. 540, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, And Wilson's Swipe, filed 9/26/1972; Regulation No. 541, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/26/72; filed; Regulation No. 547, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, And Javelina, filed 5/31/1973; Regulation No. 548, Establishing 1973 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons And Mourning And White-winged Doves, filed 8/20/1973; Regulation No. 549, Establishing 1973 Seasons On Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/20/1973; Regulation No. 551, Establishing 1973 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl And Lesser Sandhill Crane, filed 8/20/73; Regulation No. 558, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex, filed 5/29/1974; Regulation No. 559, Establishing 1974 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, And Mourning And White-winged Doves, filed 7/2/1974; Regulation No. 560, Establishing 1974 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/21/1974; Regulation No. 568, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 6/25/1975; Regulation No. 569, Establishing 1975 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, And Mourning And White-winged Doves, filed 7/31/1975; Regulation No. 570, Establishing 1975 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/5/1975; Regulation No. 573, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/23/1976; Regulation No. 577, Establishing 1976 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning and White-winged Doves, filed 8/3/1976; Regulation No. 578, Establishing 1976 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/31/1976; Regulation No. 587, Establishing 1977 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, And Mourning And White-winged Doves, Squirrel And Grouse, filed 7/29/1977; Regulation No. 588, Establishing 1977 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/6/1977; Regulation No. 593, Establishing 1978 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, And Mourning And White-

winged Doves, Squirrel, Grouse, Rail, Snipe And Falconry Seasons, filed 8/30/1978; Regulation No. 594, Establishing 1978 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/11/1978; Regulation No. 600, Establishing 1979 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, Mourning And White-winged Doves, Squirrel, Grouse, Rail, Snipe, And Falconry Seasons, filed 7/27/1979; Regulation No. 601, Establishing 1979 Seasons on Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens Regulation No. 605, Establishing 1980 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, Mourning And White-winged Doves, Squirrel, Grouse, Rail, Snipe, And Falconry Seasons, filed 7/29/1980; Regulation No. 606, Establishing 1980 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/3/80; Regulation No. 610, Establishing 1981 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, And Mourning And White-winged Doves, Squirrel, Grouse, Rail, Snipe, And Falconry Seasons, filed 8/19/81; Regulation No. 611, Establishing 1981 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/4/1981; Regulation No. 615, Establishing 1982 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, Mourning And White-winged Doves, Squirrel, Grouse, Rail, Snipe, Sandhill Crane, And Falconry Seasons, filed 7/28/82; Regulation No. 616, Establishing 1982 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/3/1982; Regulation No. 625, Establishing 1983 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, Mourning And White-winged Doves, Squirrel, Grouse, Rail, Snipe, Sandhill Crane, And Falconry Seasons, filed 7/29/1983; Regulation No. 630, Establishing 1984 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, Mourning And White-winged Doves, Squirrel, Grouse, Rail, Snipe, Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasant, Prairie Chicken, And Falconry Seasons, filed 8/2/1984; Regulation No. 637, Establishing 1985 Seasons On Blue-winged, Green-winged, And Cinnamon Teal, Band-tailed Pigeons, Mourning And White-winged Doves, Squirrel, Grouse, Rail, Snipe, Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasant, Prairie Chicken, And Falconry Seasons, filed 8/26/1985; Regulation No. 642, Establishing 1986-87 Seasons On Grouse, Squirrel, Quail, Pheasant, Prairie Chicken, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/1/1986; Regulation No. 652, Establishing 1987-88 Seasons On Blue Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasants (And All Other Races Of Pheasants), Lesser Prairie Chickens, Montezuma Quail, Northern Bobwhite, Scaled Quail, Gambel's Quail, Abert's Squirrels, Red Squirrels And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/24/1987; Regulation No. 661, Establishing 1988-1989 Seasons On Blue Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasants (And All Other Races Of Pheasants), Lesser Prairie Chickens, Montezuma Quail, Northern Bobwhite, Scaled Quail, Gambel's Quail, Abert's Squirrels, Red Squirrels And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 6/28/1988; Regulation No. 668, Establishing 1989-1990 Seasons On Pheasants..., Blue Grouse, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Quail (...Shall Mean Montezuma Quail, Northern Bobwhite, Scaled Quail, And Gambel's Quail), Abert's Squirrel, Red Squirrel And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 9/1/1989; Regulation No. 678, Establishing 1990-1991 Seasons On Pheasants..., Blue Grouse, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Quail..., Dove..., Band-tailed Pigeon, Sandhill Crane, Albert's And Red Squirrel And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 7/26/1990; Regulation No. 686, Establishing 1991-92 Seasons On Pheasants..., Blue Grouse, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Quail..., Dove..., Band-tailed Pigeon, Sandhill Crane, Abert's And Red Squirrel And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/6/1991; Regulation No. 699, Establishing 1992-1993 Seasons On Teal..., Pheasants..., Blue Grouse, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Quail..., Dove..., Band-tailed Pigeon, Sandhill Crane, Abert's And Red Squirrel And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/19/1992; Regulation No. 703, Establishing 1993-1994 Seasons On Teal..., Pheasants..., Blue Grouse, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Quail..., Dove..., Band-tailed Pigeon, Sandhill Crane, Abert's And Red Squirrel And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 3/11/1993; Regulation No. 706, Establishing 1994-1995, 1995-1996, 1996-1997 Seasons On Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Pheasants, Blue Grouse, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Montezuma Quail, and Northern Bobwhite, filed 7/28/1994.

NMAC History:

19 NMAC 31.5, Upland Game, filed 7/18/1995.
19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 8/15/2000.
19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 7/24/2002.
19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 8/12/2003.
19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 7/30/2004.
19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 8/8/2005.
19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 7/18/2006.
19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 7/26/2007.
19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 7/30/2008.

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History of Repealed Material:

19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 8/15/2000 - duration expired 3/31/2002.
19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 7/24/2002 - duration expired 3/31/2003.
19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 8/12/2003 - duration expired 3/31/2004.
19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 7/30/2004 - duration expired 3/31/2005.
19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 8/8/2005 - duration expired 3/31/2006.
19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 7/18/2006 - duration expired 3/31/2007.
19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 7/26/2007 - duration expired 3/31/2008.
19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 7/30/2008 - duration expired 3/31/2010.
19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 8/2/2010 - duration expired 3/31/2014.
19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 4/1/2014 - duration expired 3/31/2018.
19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 8/15/2017 - duration expired 3/31/2022.
19.31.5 NMAC, Upland Game, filed 10/27/2021 - duration expired 3/31/2026.

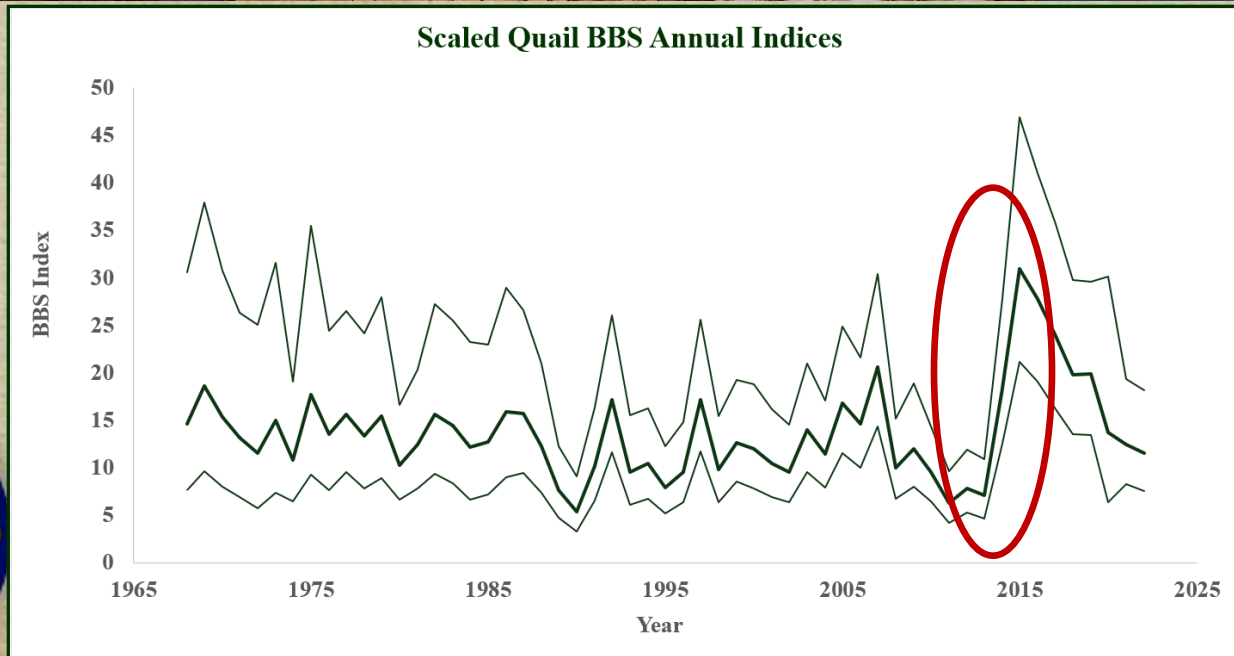
Upland Game 19.31.5 NMAC

November 7, 2025

**New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting
Los Alamos, NM**

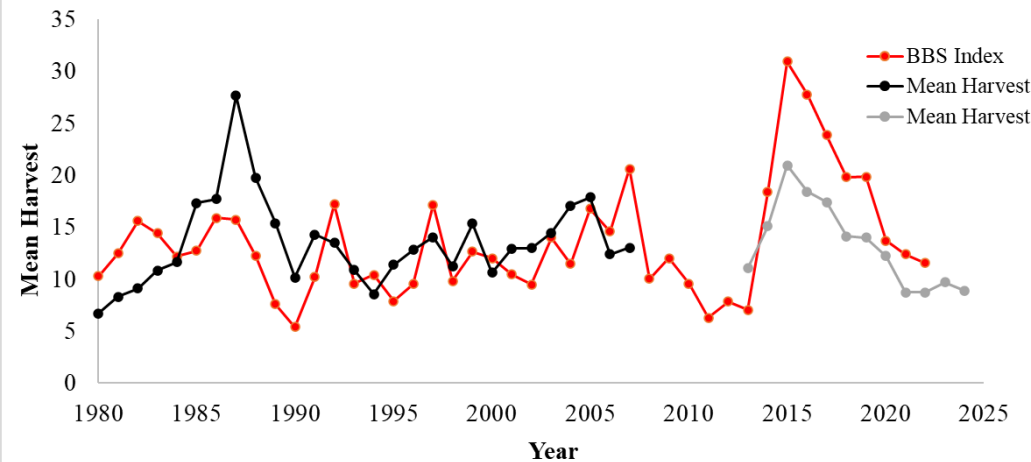


Background Upland Game Population Fluctuations

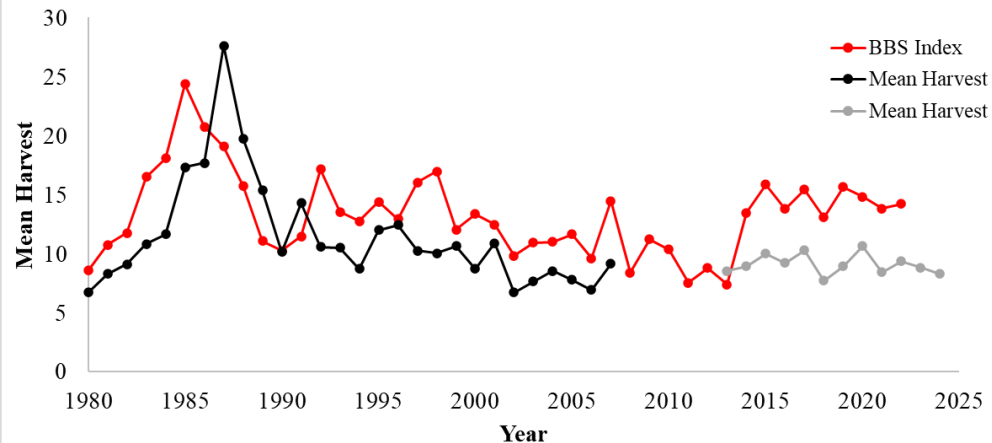


Harvest Trends Compared to Population Fluctuations

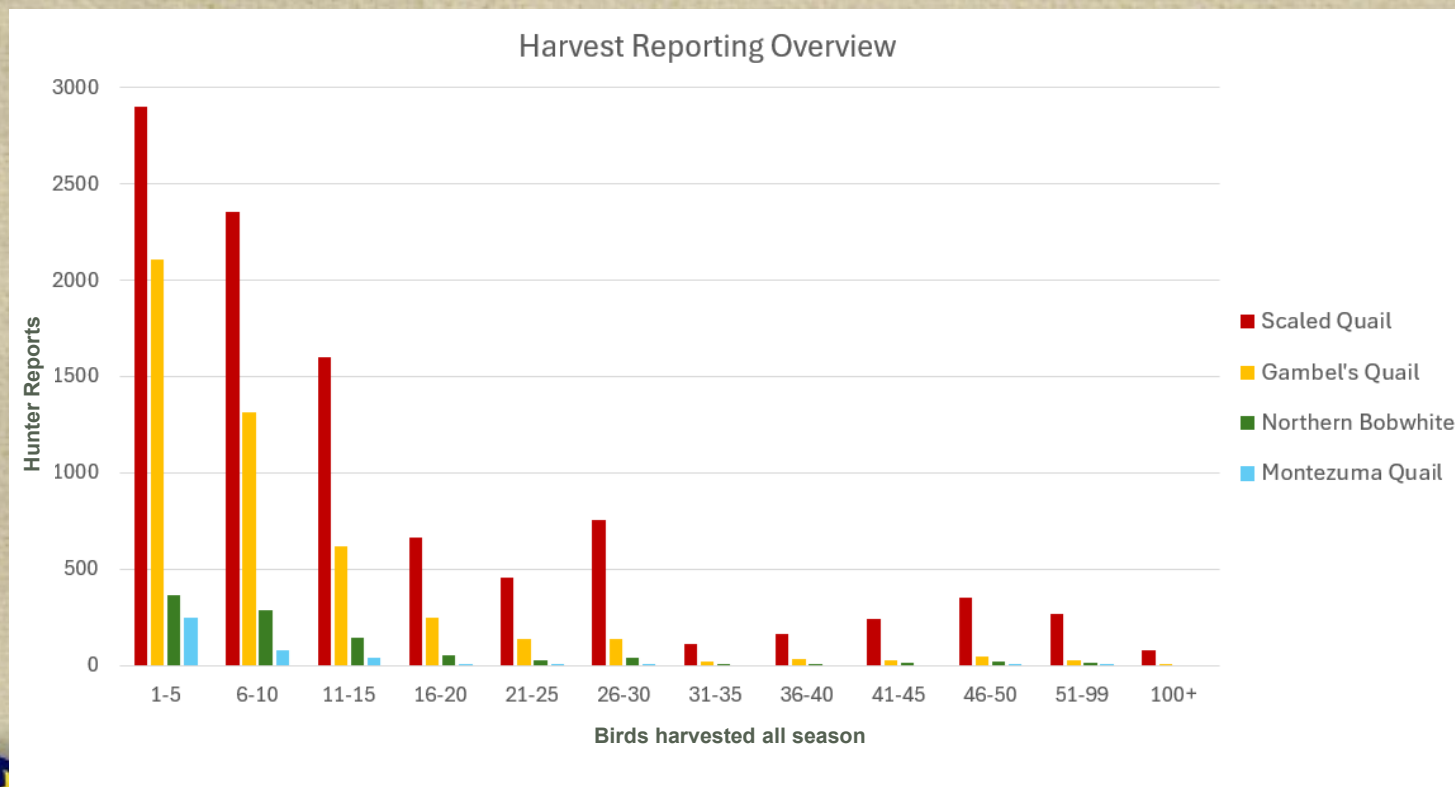
Scaled Quail Population Trends compared to Mean Harvest



Gambel's Quail Population Trends compared to Mean Harvest



Reported Quail Harvested During Season (2014-2024)



Gambel's - 85% harvested 15 or less
Scaled - 70% harvested 15 or less
Bobwhite - 80% harvested 15 or less
Montezuma - 63% harvest 5 or less



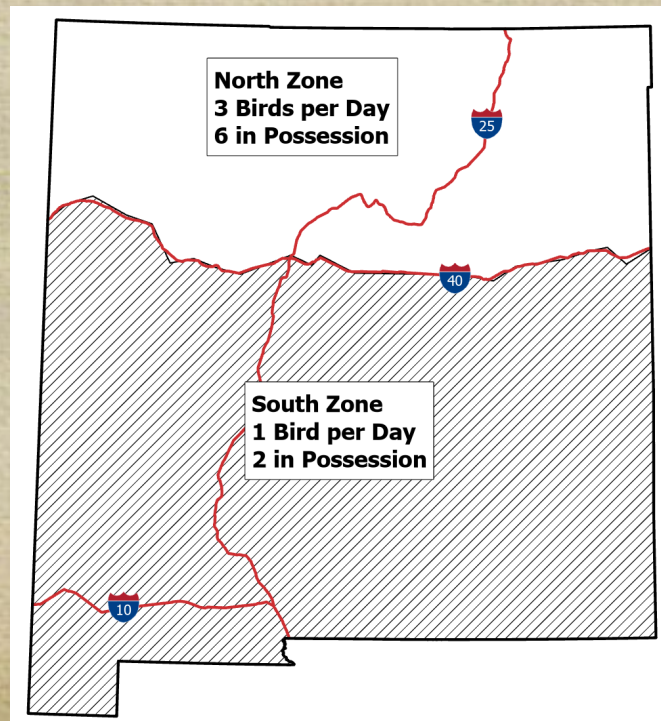
Amend: Upland Game 19.31.5 NMAC

- **Divide Dusky Grouse into a North and South Zone**
 - Use I-40 as the dividing line
- **Set Bag Limits for Dusky Grouse Zones**
 - North- 3 Birds/Day; 6 in possession
 - South- 1 Bird/Day; 2 in possession



Amend: Upland Game 19.31.5 NMAC

Divide Dusky Grouse into two zones and set harvest limits for zones



Amend: Upland Game 19.31.5 NMAC (continued)

- **Adjust hunt dates according to calendar**
- **Add additional special youth pheasant draw hunt on Jackson Lake WMA**
- **Open Bluebird and Pine River WMAs for upland hunting during Squirrel Season/Grouse**
- **Open Double E, LBar, Navajo and River Ranch WMAs for upland hunting during Quail Season**



Amend: Upland Game 19.31.5 NMAC

Update Seasons based on Calendar

Species	2026	2027	2028	2029	Licenses
Middle Rio Grande Valley WMAs Youth-only Pheasant Hunt	Oct. 17	Oct. 16	Oct. 21	Oct. 20	20
W.S. Huey WMA Youth-only Pheasant Hunt	Dec. 5	Dec. 4	Dec. 2	Dec. 1	40
W.S. Huey WMA Pheasant Hunt	Dec. 12	Dec. 11	Dec. 9	Dec. 8	40
Jackson Lake WMA Youth-only Pheasant Hunt (New)	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	10



Public Comment Upland Game 19.31.5 NMAC

- **Hybrid meetings**
 - Albuquerque- May 21- 3 in person, 8 online
 - Las Cruces- May 28- 1 in person, 4 online
- **Virtual Meeting**
 - Quail Forever Virtual Meeting- July 24- 9 online
- **11 Comments received**



Public Comment

Upland Game

19.31.5 NMAC

- Comments received as of November 6, 2025
 - Make harvest reporting mandatory for small game hunters (10)
 - Create an Upland HIP # or Stamp to track upland hunters/harvest (6)
 - Support lower southern grouse harvest limits (6)
 - Change SE quail opener date so doesn't overlap with SE deer (2)
 - Reduce the quail harvest limits in the state (2)
 - 8-10 per day for Scaled, Gambel's and Bobwhite
 - 2-3 per day for Montezuma
 - Delineate southern Grouse zone by I-40 on north and I-25 on east (2)
 - Reduce northern zone grouse harvest limits and limits near Pecos, NM (2)



Public Comment Upland Game 19.31.5 NMAC

- **Comments received as of November 6, 2025**
 - **Change southern grouse limit to zero (1)**
 - **Open grouse season Tuesday after Labor Day (1)**
 - **End shooting hours at sunset (1)**
 - **Establish season for American Crow (1)**
 - **Change quail seasons from statewide to regions and set harvest limits by region (1)**
 - **Restrict nonresidents to two 5-day hunt periods (1)**
 - **Do not move dates for Bernardo youth pheasant hunt (1)**
 - **Increase the length of the pheasant season to 30 days and require eTag to regulate harvest (1)**
 - **Stock pheasants on public lands (1)**
 - **Do not release non-natives on public lands (1)**



Questions?



Casey Cardinal



“Move to repeal and replace 19.31.5 NMAC, as presented by the Department and allow the Department to make minor corrections to comply with filing this rule with State Records and Archives.”



Background

New Mexico Quail Seasons

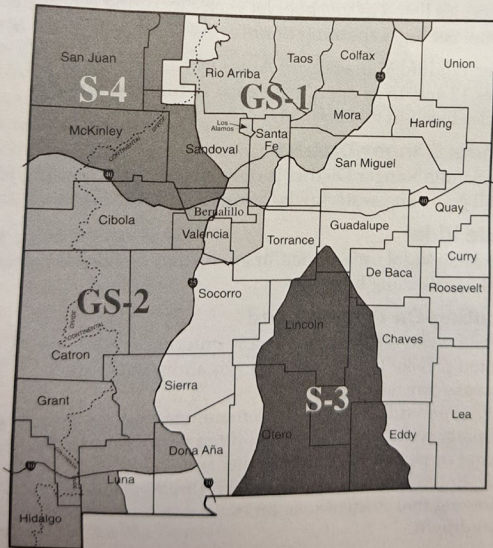
Year	Area	Season Length (days)	Bag Limit	Possession Limit
1977-80	Statewide	60	15	30
1980-82	Statewide	65	15	30
1982-83	Statewide	76	15	30
1983-84	Statewide	79	15	30
1984-85	Statewide	65	10	20
1985-86	Statewide	79	15	30
1986-87	Statewide	92	15	30
1987-88	Statewide	93	15	30
1988-89	Statewide	93	15	45
1989-90	Statewide	93	15	30
1990-92	Statewide	93	10	20
1992-95	Statewide	93	15	30
1995-97	Statewide	93	10 (start of 5 MOQU)	20
1997-2024	Statewide	93	15	30



Background

New Mexico Grouse Seasons

Grouse and Squirrel Hunt Areas

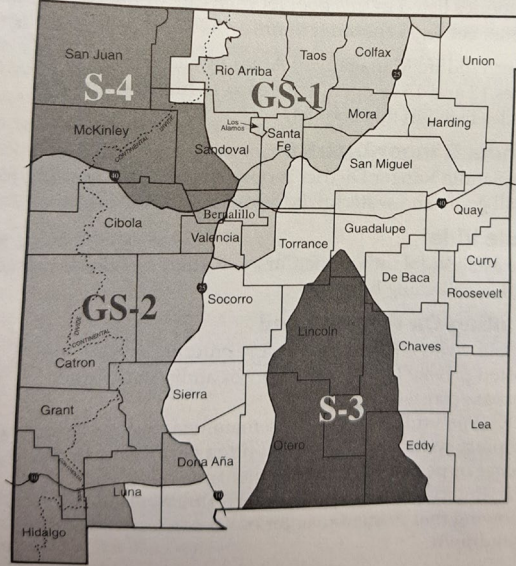


Year	Area	Season Length (days)	Bag Limit	Possession Limit
1973-2004	GS-1	30	3	6
1973-77	GS-2	16	3	3
1977-79	GS-2	20	3	3
1979-83	GS-2	20	3	6
1983-84	GS-2	26	3	6
1984-85	GS-2	28	3	6
1985-2004	GS-2	31	3	6
2004-2012	GS-1	45	3	6
2004-2012	GS-2	31	3	6
2012-2014	Statewide	61	3	6
2012-2014	Statewide	31	3	6
2014-2022	Statewide	91	3	6
2022-2026	Statewide	122	3	6

Background

New Mexico Squirrel Seasons

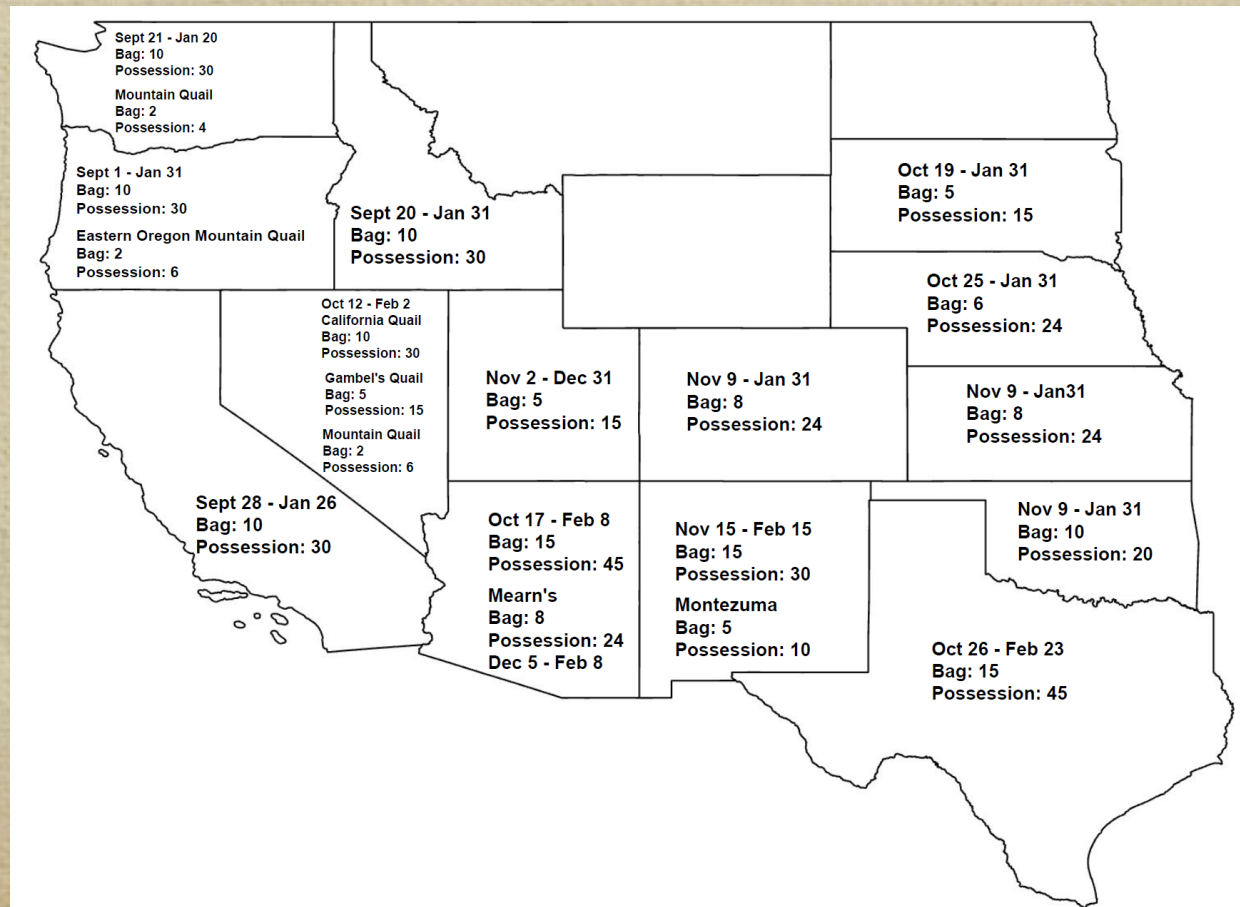
Grouse and Squirrel Hunt Areas



Year	Area	Season Length (days)	Bag Limit	Possession Limit
1985-95	GS-1 & S-3	30	7	14
1985-95	GS-2	31	7	14
1995-2000	GS-1, S-3 & S-4	30	8	16
1995-2000	GS-2	31	8	16
2000-2014	GS-1, S-3 & S-4	61	8	16
2000-2014	GS-2	61	8	16
2014-2022	Statewide	91	8	16
2022-2026	Statewide	122	8	16



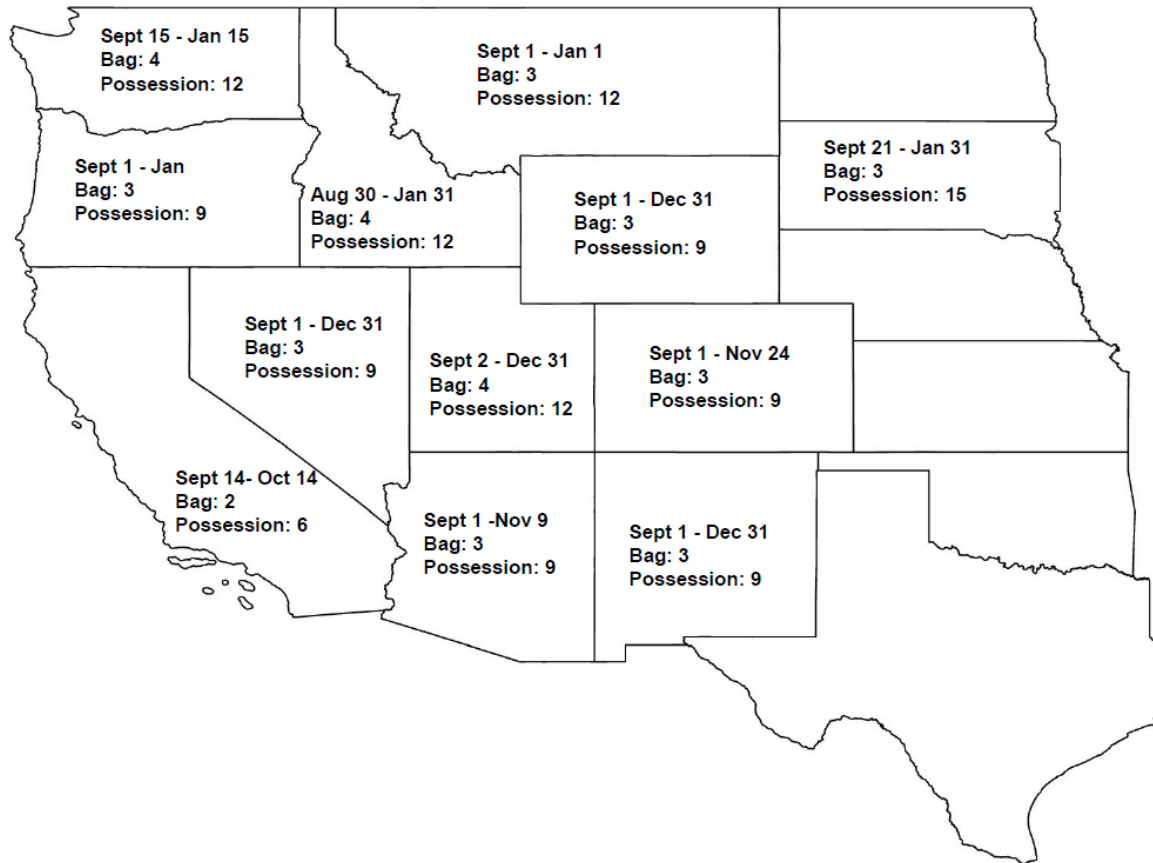
Background Western State Quail Dates and Limits



Background

Western State Forest Grouse

Dates and Limits



Background

Upland Game Management Theory

- **Modern Understandings**
 - Upland harvest is a combination of compensatory and additive mortality
 - Harvest later in the season is more additive than early season harvest
 - Hunters self-regulate... mostly
 - Fewer hunters hunt in low population years
 - Though these hunters are often more dedicated and efficient



**Amend:
Upland Game
19.31.5 NMAC**

**Update Seasons based
on Calendar**

Species	Zone	Open	Close
Pheasant	Statewide	Dec. 10, 2026	Dec. 13, 2026
		Dec. 9, 2027	Dec. 12, 2027
		Dec. 7, 2028	Dec. 10, 2028
		Dec. 6, 2029	Dec. 9, 2029



Background

Upland Game Management Theory

■ **Modern Understandings (continued)**

- Changing regulations annually does not appear to increase populations
- Harvest may impact populations locally, but it does not appear to negatively impact populations at a statewide level
- There are harvest refuges across the landscape
 - Areas where hunting pressure is low or non-existent (i.e. increased distances from road, hostile hunting habitats, closed private lands, etc.)



PROPOSED UPLAND GAME RULE SUMMARY, 2026-2030

The upland game rule is amended every four years as part of the upland game rule development cycle. The current 4-year rule expires April 1, 2026. Proposed changes to the rule are made based on findings in scientific literature, data collected by Department staff, and public observations and recommendations.

Proposed amendments include:

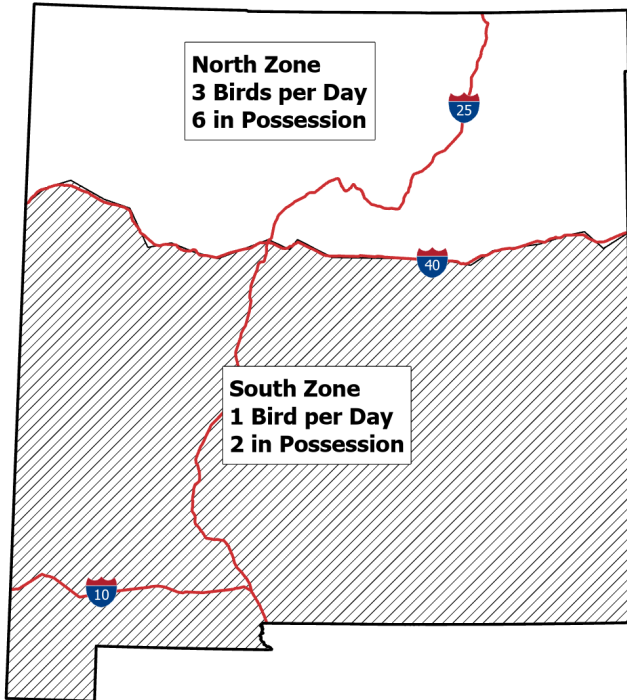
- Adjust hunt dates based on calendar dates
- Divide Dusky Grouse into a North and South Zone using I-40 as the dividing line
- Set Bag Limits for Dusky Grouse Zones
 - North Zone- 3 Birds/Day; 6 in possession
 - South Zone- 1 Bird/Day; 2 in possession
- Add an additional special youth pheasant draw hunt on Jackson Lake WMA
- Open Bluebird and Pine River WMAs for upland hunting during squirrel season
- Open Double E, LBar, Navajo and River Ranch WMAs for upland hunting during quail season

Proposed Dates for 2026-2030:

Species	Zone	Open	Close
Pheasant	Statewide	Dec. 10, 2026	Dec. 13, 2026
		Dec. 9, 2027	Dec. 12, 2027
		Dec. 7, 2028	Dec. 10, 2028
		Dec. 6, 2029	Dec. 9, 2029

Species	2026	2027	2028	2029
Middle Rio Grande Valley WMAs Youth-only Pheasant Hunt	Oct.17	Oct. 16	Oct. 21	Oct. 20
W.S. Huey WMA Youth-only Pheasant Hunt	Dec. 5	Dec. 4	Dec. 2	Dec. 1
W.S. Huey WMA Pheasant Hunt	Dec. 12	Dec. 11	Dec. 9	Dec. 8
Jackson Lake WMA Youth-only Pheasant Hunt	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

Proposed Changes to Dusky Grouse Zones and Bag Limits:



If you would like to comment on the proposals, send email to: DGF-Gamebird@dgf.nm.gov



Technical Information for Upland Game Rule Development



Survey and Harvest Data

Upland game management in New Mexico is centered on monitoring harvest and population trends, and status reports from hunters and field staff.

Population Monitoring

Upland species population trends often follow weather patterns, with populations increasing in years with good environmental conditions and declining during bad years (Campbell et al 1973).

The Department does not have a long-term monitoring data set for upland species in the state. For quail, call count and fall breeding productivity surveys have been initiated by the Department. Call counts and roadside surveys are common methods used for assessing quail population trends (Rollins et al. 2005). These techniques can be used to monitor trends at ecoregional scales. Data from the Department's spring call count survey can be found in Table 1. Data from fall roadside brood surveys can be found in Table 2.

Table 1. Data from the Department's spring call count survey.

	Plains and great basin grasslands					Semi-desert grasslands					Chihuahuan desert scrub				
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Total Stops	146	161	166	128	128	309	318	340	320	280	187	190	186	189	189
Stops with Birds	66	77	53	40	76	126	190	97	139	159	66	98	40	37	86
Total Calls	1,246	1,481	787	139	909	1,619	3,504	1,301	938	2,219	701	1,609	314	233	925
Avg Calls @ stops w/Birds	18.9	19.2	14.8	3.5	12.0	12.8	18.4	13.4	6.7	14.0	10.6	16.4	7.9	6.3	10.8
Total Birds	211	217	188	61	196	301	493	247	238	410	126	236	59	58	211
Avg. Calls/bird	5.9	6.8	4.2	2.3	4.6	5.4	7.1	5.3	3.9	5.4	5.6	16.4	7.9	4.0	4.4

Table 2. Data from the Department's fall roadside quail brood survey.

Habitat Type	Quail Detections							Quail Per Mile						
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Plains and great basin grasslands	20	22	33	16	20	34	44	1.5	2.9	1.6	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.2
Semi-desert grasslands	44	45	24	29	86	33	37	0.8	1.5	0.7	0.6	3.2	1.2	1.0
Chihuahuan desert scrub	12	52	13	15	25	19	25	0.3	1.2	0.7	0.4	2.0	0.8	0.4

The Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) can be used to understand statewide changes in bird populations and distribution. The BBS is an annual survey, where surveyors collect bird observation data along established roadside routes during June when birds are vocalizing breeding calls (Sauer et al. 2013). BBS data can be used to summarize population change and relative species abundance (Sauer et al. 2013). BBS population trends for northern bobwhite, scaled quail, and Gambel's quail in New Mexico can be found in Figure 1. Because routes are lacking in Montezuma quail and dusky grouse range, these species populations trends cannot be modeled with BBS data.

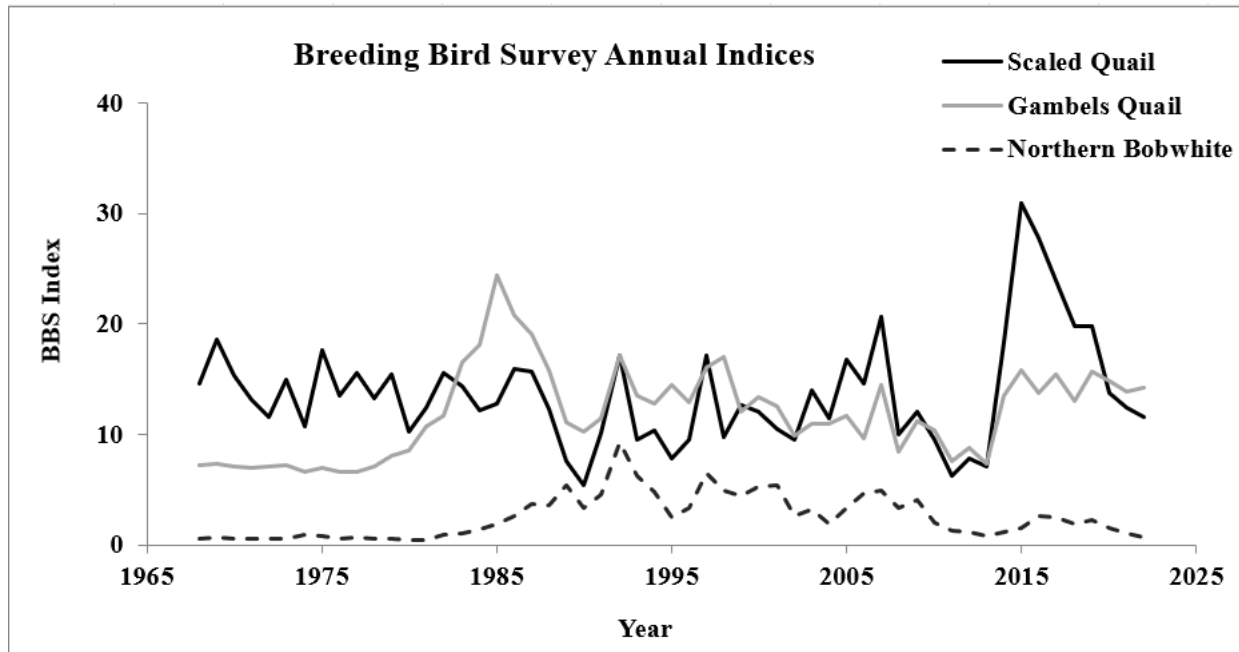


Figure 1. BBS trend data for northern bobwhite, scaled quail, and Gambel's quail in New Mexico.

There is not a similar monitoring program for tree squirrels. In New Mexico, tree squirrel monitoring centers on harvest monitoring and field reports from hunters, citizens, and Department personnel.

Harvest monitoring

Upland game harvest management focuses on harvest limits that provide sufficient opportunity while leaving ample individuals on the landscape for the following breeding season (Peterson 2001). Previous research on small game suggested harvest has little to no effect on annual population survival (Errington and Hamerstrom 1935), but more recent studies have shown that hunting mortality can increase local population mortality rates but likely does not impact numbers at a statewide level (Pollock et al. 1989, Brennan et al. 2014). It is unlikely that harvest mortality brings about significant reduction in statewide small game numbers due to their high reproductive potential and large areas of inaccessible and refuge habitat in New Mexico. In addition, small game hunters will regulate themselves to a degree. New Mexico hunter effort follows this trend (Figures 2 and 3). When upland populations are higher reported hunter participation and harvest rates are higher. Conversely when upland populations are lower, fewer hunters report hunting, though hunters that do go during these times are likely more skilled in upland hunting (Guthery et al. 2004).

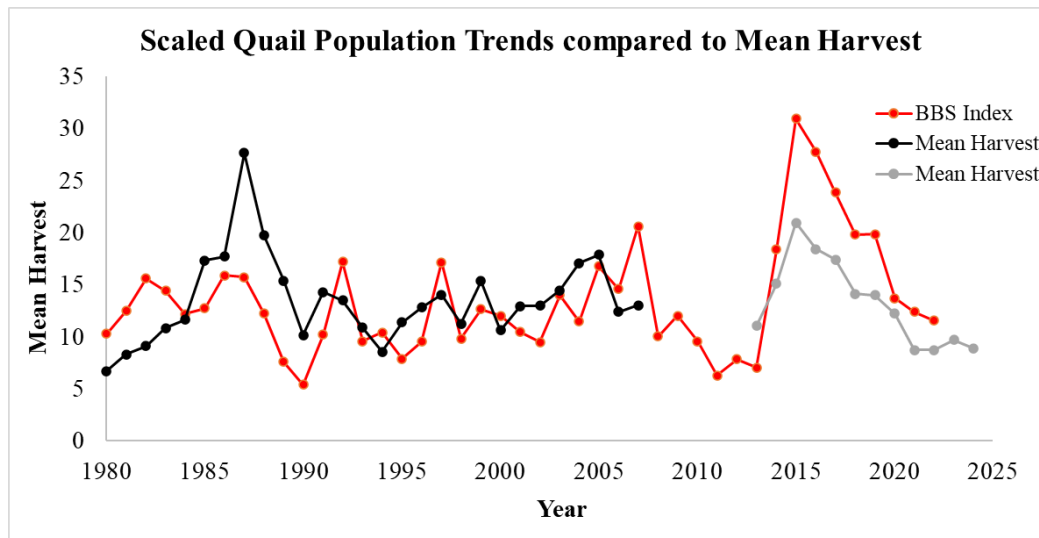


Figure 2. BBS population trends for scaled quail compared to the mean reported harvest. All quail harvest was combined until 1991-92. After that, harvest reporting was separated out by species. Mean harvest in black is data from paper mail harvest surveys. Mean harvest in gray is data from voluntary online harvest reporting.

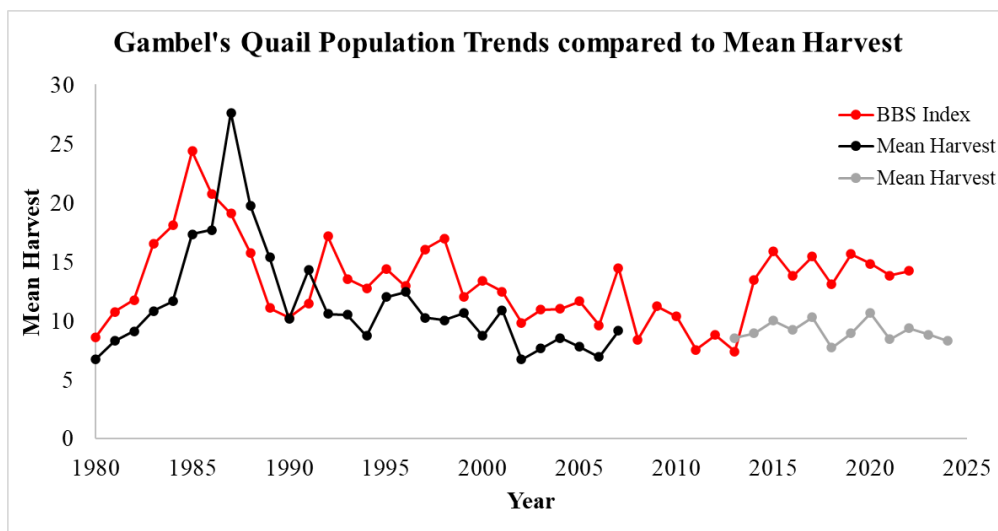


Figure 3. BBS population trends for Gambel's quail compared to the mean reported harvest. All quail harvest was combined until 1991-92. After that, harvest reporting was separated out by species. Mean harvest in black is data from paper mail harvest surveys. Mean harvest in gray is data from voluntary online harvest reporting.

Submission of a harvest report is voluntary. License holders are able to make submissions through the Department's online Harvest Reporting System or by phone. For license holders who submit a report, information is collected on if they hunted, what species was harvested, the number harvested, and the county of harvest. Hunters may report hunting in multiple counties. Harvest information of upland game in New Mexico from 2017 to the present can be found in Table 3.

Table 3. Voluntary harvest report information for upland game in New Mexico from 2017-18 to the present.

Species	Reports 17-18	Harvest 17-18	Reports 18-19	Harvest 18-19	Reports 19-20	Harvest 19-20	Reports 20-21	Harvest 20-21	Reports 21-22	Harvest 21-22	Reports 22-23	Harvest 22-23	Reports 23-24	Harvest 23-24	Reports 24-25	Harvest 24-25
Scaled Quail	1,431	24,911	988	13,943	1,013	14,161	1,087	13,271	388	3,383	559	4,879	688	6,658	524	4,651
Gambel's Quail	487	5,014	324	2,505	370	3,306	637	6,782	382	3,220	465	4,351	540	4,763	409	3,394
Northern Bobwhite	151	1,894	100	1039	104	1,392	88	790	30	194	31	290	62	554	45	370
Montezuma Quail	28	117	22	99	34	164	26	144	12	77	33	121	51	257	30	147
Unknown Quail*	159	2,177	106	1,315	103	1,336	102	974	40	299	57	460	73	679	63	474
Pheasant	41	89	28	57	33	58	29	53	20	53	28	52	14	29	21	42
Dusky Grouse	273	805	235	652	249	724	373	1,100	266	734	262	771	370	1,252	335	1,104
Collared-Dove	451	10,915	397	8,179	337	5,177	381	5,594	303	3,961	290	4,406	241	3,808	222	2,870
Abert's Squirrel	148	723	81	361	103	476	144	534	89	358	87	325	106	454	156	629
Red Squirrel	37	153	20	136	41	208	71	533	46	197	42	481	34	184	43	256
Gray Squirrel	26	101	11	26	14	35	28	107	8	15	20	67	25	63	18	42
Fox Squirrel	3	8	1	4	1	2	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	2	1	1
Unknown Squirrel*	84	275	64	189	97	347	100	372	79	226	64	225	113	499	78	264
TOTAL	3,319	47,182	2,377	28,505	2,499	27,386	3,067	30,255	1,166	12,721	1,939	16,429	2,318	19,202	1,945	14,244

*Some harvest reports were made outside of species ranges. These reports are categorized as unknown species

Most hunters do not harvest bag limits. The majority of New Mexico hunters report harvesting less than a bag limit of quail over the course of the season.

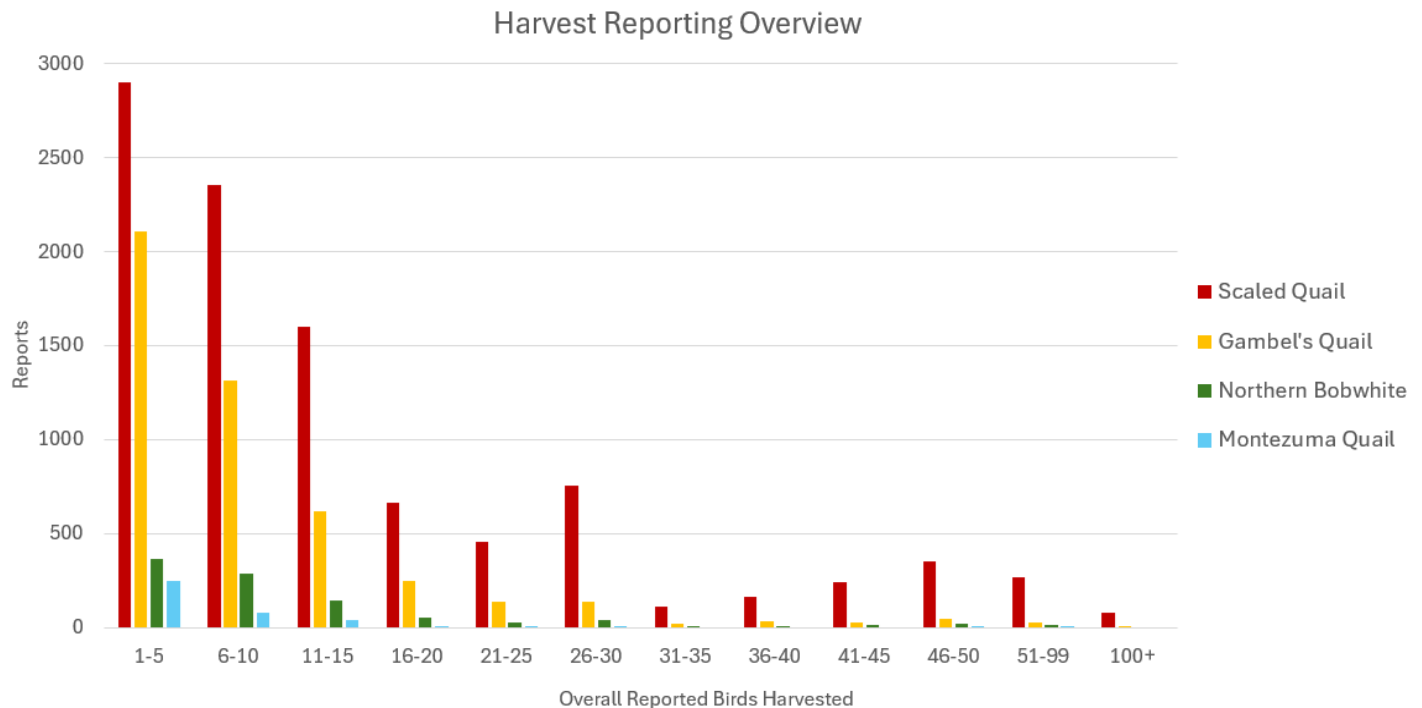


Figure 3. Reported quail harvested during the entire season by individual hunters (combined from 2014-2024). Annual harvest for Gambel's Quail - 85% harvested 15 or less; Scaled Quail - 70% harvested 15 or less; Northern Bobwhite - 80% harvested 15 or less; Montezuma Quail - 63% harvest 5 or less

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- Peterson, M. J. 2001. Northern bobwhite and scaled quail abundance and hunting regulation: A Texas example. Journal of Wildlife Management 65: 825-837.
- Pollock, K. H., C. T. Moor, W. R. Davidson, F. E. Kellogg, and G. L. Doster. 1989. Survival rates of bobwhite quail based on band recovery analyses. Journal of Wildlife Management. 53:1-6.
- Rollins, D., J. Brooks, N. Wilkins, and D. Ranson, Jr. 2005. Counting Quail. AgriLife Communications. B-6173.



[EXTERNAL] Upland Bird Hunting

From john west <westjb300@me.com>

Date Thu 5/1/2025 4:57 PM

To DGF-Gamebird <DGF-Gamebird@dgf.nm.gov>

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from westjb300@me.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear DGF

As a non-resident quail hunter I do have a comment, but I do not have a solution. There has not been a huntable quail population in southeast New Mexico for five plus years. Therefore I will not be purchasing a hunting license. My family lived in Jal for a number of years and is well connected with several of the largest ranch owners, access is not a problem. It seems lack of water, feed and predator control are primarily to blame. Bird population have always cycled over 5-10 year periods, but do not think I have ever seen fewer quail on those ranches. It is truly sad and a loss of revenue to DGF as well as area businesses. As I said i don't have a solution to increase quail numbers but appreciate the opportunity to share what I have witnessed first hand the last few years. FYI, I also gave up on ever drawing non-resident big game tags. Last tag I had was for "Mature Bull" landowner permit, it was a very successful hunt. I think that was about twenty years ago

Yes I'm a frustrated hunter

John West

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Recommendations for 2025 Upland Game Rule

1) Change shooting hours to end at sunset for upland game species. Current rule allows for non-native Eurasian collared doves to be taken ½ hour after sunset potentially resulting in the illegal take of native dove species (whose shooting hours by federal framework are sunset) through misidentification. Sunset would also allow opportunity for quail species, especially on public lands, to covey up before dark which is a critical component of coping with predation and weather risks. This would also allow grouse species to go to roost before dark with significantly reduced chance of disturbance, potentially reducing predation and weather risks. Would align hours with those of migratory birds.

2) Establish season for American crows. Suggested season would mirror neighboring state of Arizona season (September 1-December 31 with no bag limit). Would provide opportunity for new hunting in face of continuing big game opportunities and could potentially avert conflicts with agricultural operations. Populations have shown growth in parts of the state in recent years. Make shooting hours end at sunset to minimize risk of misidentification of ravens and align with shooting hours for migratory birds.

David L. Heft, CWB
PO Box 13
Mayhill, NM 88339




[EXTERNAL] Upland Game proposal

From Maresa Luzier <mpluzier@gmail.com>

Date Mon 5/19/2025 1:56 PM

To DGF-Gamebird <DGF-Gamebird@dgf.nm.gov>

 2 attachments (6 KB)

ATT00001.txt; Maresa-Pryor-Luzier-black-email.png;

Dear NMDGF:

After reading your proposal, I'm concerned about the " Explore changes to the Bernardo Youth Pheasant Hunt to increase R3 opportunities."

Since it doesn't mention dates, I would like to advise the hunts not happen during the First and second week of December. A large number of wildlife photographers descend onto Bernardo WMA during that time to photograph from dawn to dusk, and a number of photo tours run the second week or after the Festival of the Cranes held at Bosque del Apache NWR. We noticed last year there was a day closed at the north pond of Bernardo due to a youth hunt. These photographers are responsible for bringing in a tourist dollars to Socorro county. Many businesses survive due to the Festival and many of these participants also visit Bernardo WMA due to the large Sandhill Crane population. I would also like to see if some guards or warning system could be installed to some of the electric wires that criss-cross the WMA certainly from the main gate to the first tower. Many birds die each year due to collisions.

I appreciate your time and hope you will take this into consideration.



Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Upland Game Proposal Comment

From Aaron Cline <cline2190@gmail.com>**Date** Tue 5/20/2025 6:23 PM**To** DGF-Gamebird <DGF-Gamebird@dgf.nm.gov>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from cline2190@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I agree 100% with the amendments stated in the proposal. Especially dividing the Dusky Grouse up into North / South zones. Bag limit is fair and gives opportunities to more people.

Regards,

- Aaron Cline -



Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Upland game update

From Alan <spanky5092@aol.com>**Date** Tue 5/20/2025 4:03 PM**To** DGF-Gamebird <DGF-Gamebird@dgf.nm.gov>

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Please send details for 5/21/25 meeting.

Thank you.

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)



Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Upland Game Bird Rule 1

From Stormy Storms <dad_stormy@yahoo.com>**Date** Wed 5/21/2025 5:44 AM**To** DGF-Gamebird <DGF-Gamebird@dgf.nm.gov>

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Please email me the proposed rule change for Upland Game Birds in New Mexico.

Sincerely,

Robert Storms

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)



[EXTERNAL] Feedback on proposed changes to upland game rule

From Larry Kincaid <lwkinca@gmail.com>

Date Thu 7/24/2025 7:30 PM

To DGF-Gamebird <DGF-Gamebird@dgf.nm.gov>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lwkinca@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Casey-

Just following on your presentation at the July 24 QF meeting. I have a couple of comments I'd like to share.

- I know you said no states require harvest reporting for upland game, and there's nothing about this in the proposed changes to the upland game rule, but it seems like it might be worth considering adding a free upland game stamp to facilitate harvest reporting to support data collection. This would be similar to some of the other free stamps such as the one for Gila trout. I'm sure I don't have all the perspective for what something like this would take, but we did talk about it this evening and, on the surface, it seems like a good idea.
- As far as dusky grouse bag limits in the northern zone (assuming the zone change gets approved)—my perspective in the Pecos Wilderness is entirely from the south side, coming in either from Jack's Creek or Iron Gate. It seems like since the early 2000's, the number of grouse has diminished considerably, to the point I don't even go anymore. If NMDGF has data that shows the dusky grouse population in that range is generally healthy, then ignore this suggestion, but it seems like the bag limit should be reduced from the proposed 3 per day to, at most, 2 per day. Even if the population in the northern half of the Pecos is in good shape, the southern part still gets hammered hard.

Those are my thoughts, perhaps not fully informed, but.... I'll echo a comment I made in the chat during the Zoom meeting, thank you so much for your presentation this evening. I think everyone would agree we always appreciate hearing what you have to share with us.

Larry Kincaid
lwkinca@gmail.com
(505) 604-6936



[EXTERNAL] Fw: Game Bird Regulation Changes

From Casey Cardinal <cardinalcaseyjo@yahoo.com>

Date Fri 7/25/2025 7:06 AM

To Cardinal, Casey, DGF <Casey.Cardinal@dgf.nm.gov>

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[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Joe Schneider" <jmpnjo@outlook.com>

To: "Cardinal Casey" <cardinalcaseyjo@yahoo.com>

Sent: Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 7:22 PM

Subject: Game Bird Regulation Changes

Thanks for the presentation this evening.

I generally think you professionals should be responsible for providing changes and regulations, just FYI.

But per this evenings discussions I think the upland stamp is an excellent idea and recommend its adoption.

I'm all for the mandatory reporting requirements but I don't think the general population will support this 'additional intrusion' into our lives. IE I'd expect political backlash making actual reporting rather unreliable. In contrast to that comment, it would help me and maybe others document their hunting.

Thanks for all you do,
Joe Schneider



New Mexico Wildlife Federation
3620 Wyoming Blvd NE Suite 222
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87111
(505)299-5404
nmwildlife@nmwildlife.org

1

July 15, 2025

Mr. Richard Stump
Chairman, NM State Game Commission
And NM State Game Commissioners

Dear Chairman Stump and Commissioners,

Please accept the following comments from the New Mexico Wildlife Federation on the Upland Game Rule:

The NMWF represents the interests of resident New Mexico public land hunters and anglers. Since its creation in 1914 by pioneering conservationist Aldo Leopold, the NMWF has played an important role in the evolution of wildlife management in the state.

In commenting on the Upland Game Rule, the NMWF submits that proper wildlife management goes beyond biology. It also must recognize social and political reality and must also consider the quality of the experience for participating hunters and anglers. Ultimately, wildlife management must also recognize and respect the principles of good sportsmanship.

That said, the NMWF calls on the game commission to reduce the harvest limit for quail hunting in the state and also calls on the commission to limit nonresident hunters to a shorter quail season.

As you know, the current bag limit for quail is 15 per day, 30 in possession. Of that number, no more than five per day may be Montezuma Quail with no more than 10 Montezuma Quail in possession.

The NMWF calls on the commission to reduce the daily limit to 8 quail, with no more than 16 in possession. The daily limit for Montezuma Quail should be three birds, six in possession.

The NMWF recognizes that quail populations fluctuate annually with rainfall and rangeland conditions. Populations may rebound quickly, even from heavy hunting pressure. Even so, the current limit of 15 birds per day is excessive.

Upland bird hunting, and quail hunting in particular, should be about more than merely filling the cooler. Quail hunting enjoys a particular niche in the North American sporting tradition, and bird

hunting in particular. It's about good dog work, good shooting, good companionship and the pure appreciation of the hunt and respect for these marvelous birds.

As it stands, very few New Mexico hunters take daily limits of 15 quail, even if they're in terrain and conditions where that would be possible. Ethical restraint and an understanding of the importance of leaving coveys for the next hunter and for future breeding keeps most of us from ever approaching that limit. We at the NMWF believe that's as it should be. But for those few hunters who are most interested in bragging about their "tailgate photos" on social media, reducing the bag limit is an important and necessary step.

In addition to this bag limit reduction for all quail hunters, the NMWF calls on the commission to restrict nonresidents to two five-day quail hunting periods between Dec. 1 and Feb. 1. The nonresident hunters should specify which 10 days they want, just as anglers who buy a temporary fishing license may specify when they want to use it. The nonresident season should start two weeks after the resident season.

The NMWF recognizes that this limitation on non-resident hunters represents a significant change. Yet, we believe it's more than fair considering the restrictions that other states in the West impose on New Mexicans who would hunt in those states. Furthermore, we see this restriction as necessary to preserve the quality of the hunting experience for New Mexico resident hunters

We at the NMWF have seen a disturbing trend in recent years, as quail populations in other states have declined. Given our mild climate and vast public lands, New Mexico is drawing legions of nonresident quail hunters who bring RVs, ATVs, and large numbers of hunting dogs. They set up shop on our public lands and camp for weeks or months at a time. In some areas, they dominate the hunting opportunities at the expense of resident hunters.

This nonresident invasion is particularly heavy in areas that support Montezuma Quail, a species that exists only in a small area of the Southwest and in northern Mexico.

Aside from the question of whether New Mexico's quail populations may sustain the current level of hunting from a biological perspective, this invasion of "snowbird" hunters is detrimental to the quality of the hunting experience for New Mexico residents. It's time for us to rein in this abuse.

Many other states have already taken steps to give preference to their resident bird hunters to preserve the quality of the resident hunting experience. Many also have set far more restrictive daily bag limits than New Mexico has. For example:

_ South Dakota has a five-bird daily limit for quail. It limits nonresident hunters to two five-day hunting periods in the upland game season.

_ North Dakota has a three-bird daily limit for quail. It allows nonresident hunters to buy a license that's limited to 14 days or two two seven-day periods. Nonresidents may buy more than one such license per year at a cost of \$100 each.

_ The daily bag limit for quail in Nebraska is six birds.

_ The daily bag limit for quail in Colorado is eight birds.

_ Quail hunting in Texas often involves paying to lease private lands. The fact that public land hunting in Texas is extremely limited leads to many hunters from that state competing with New Mexico hunters in our state.

The draft rule proposed by the NMDGF staff recommends reducing the bag limit on grouse south of I-40. The NMWF supports this recommendation.

The NMWF calls for the commission to make hunter harvest reports mandatory for all species of upland game. The current system provides unreliable and almost certainly incomplete data.

In short, New Mexico needs to rein in nonresident quail hunters to preserve the quality of our hunting experience for resident hunters. New Mexico also needs to reduce quail bag limits to address those few hunters who take far more than necessary for a good hunt.

The NMWF respectfully requests the commission make the recommended changes in the upcoming Upland Game Rule.

Thanks for your consideration.

Ben Neary
Conservation Director
NMWF

Re: Proposed Changes Upland Game 19.31.5 NMAC

To Whom it May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to Upland Game regulations for the state of New Mexico. We are a team of researchers from New Mexico State University and the University of California-Santa Cruz who are interested in the conservation of Dusky Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*) within the Southwest. We appreciate that the department recognized our past research into the distribution of the species within Arizona and New Mexico (Youtz et al. 2022; <https://www.ace-eco.org/vol17/iss1/art35/>) and utilized our findings to designate two management zones and lower the annual bag limit for the proposed zones. While we agree that these proposed changes are important steps in the right direction, we have several concerns that remain unaddressed and challenge the persistence of the species within the state for future generations.

- 1) With respect to the designation of two management zones, we agree with the department's assessment that northern and southern populations should be managed separately, as southern populations are smaller, more fragmented and geographically isolated, likely do not experience reliable reproduction compared to more northern birds, and have been subject to extensive habitat loss due to recent wildfires. However, we believe that the southern management zone should exclude areas east of I-25 as there is no evidence that mountain ranges in this region (i.e., Manzano, Capitan, Gallinas, White, Sacramento, Guadalupe) have ever supported populations of Dusky Grouse (see Appendix 4; Youtz et al. 2022 for a map of all historical records of Dusky Grouse in New Mexico, below). Attempts at introducing Dusky Grouse into the White Mountains during the 1960s (NMDGF 1961, 1962, 1963, 1967) likely failed as evidenced by a lack of reliable observations in subsequent years (see Appendix 9; Youtz et al. 2022). Lastly, the White and Sacramento mountains have areas of subalpine coniferous forest, and our models predicted these areas as containing habitat for Dusky Grouse. However, the predictions for these areas were found to be unreliable because these mountain ranges have unique climatic characteristics that are not represented elsewhere within the distribution of Dusky Grouse in the American Southwest (see Appendix 6 Figure A6.2; Youtz et al. 2022). Specifically, these mountain ranges have a wider range in diurnal temperatures compared to areas where grouse currently persist. These differences may account for the historical absence of grouse within these mountain ranges and the presumed failure of attempted introductions, as grouse

utilize snow cover during winter and are thought to have a lower upper critical thermal limit than other montane wildlife (Zwickel and Bendell 2004).

- 2) With respect to the proposed take limits in the Southern Zone of 1 per day and 2 in possession, we recommend that the daily bag and possession limit be reduced to zero—at least temporarily until such time that scientific evidence demonstrates the population can sustain any level of harvest. There is no existing scientific research into the sustainability of grouse harvest for New Mexico or neighboring Arizona, which contain smaller and more isolated populations than more northern regions that support more robust populations of birds.

There is insufficient evidence to credibly defend any harvest on southern populations, as birds in this region are still recovering from past and ongoing wildfire activity and there have been no widespread attempts to document population status among remaining birds. Harvest pressures in this region likely constitute additive rather than compensatory mortality, as remaining birds are constrained by increasingly limited winter habitat and sub-adults are not able to disperse to new locations due to the fragmentation and loss of mixed conifer habitat. Wildfire activity in the proposed southern zone damaged/destroyed nearly 70% of suitable habitat between 2000-2017 (Figure A8.1, Table 4, Youtz et al. 2022), with an additional 17.9% loss of habitat in the most recent years(2018-2024), for a total loss of 88% of habitat in the past 25 years in the southern zone (Figure 1). Further, our assessment of suitable grouse habitat was conducted at the geographic range (first-order selection; Johnson 1980) and likely overestimates the amount of habitat that is available to support self-sustaining grouse populations. We did not assess the role of known finer-scale habitat requirements (e.g., dense conifer for winter roosts) in our models, such that our results should be viewed as liberal projections of possible grouse habitat. Additionally, as grouse are a prey species for many raptors and mammalian predators (Zwickel and Bendell 2004), the concentration of birds in smaller suitable habitat patches also likely increases their susceptibility to predation and may constitute an additional form of additive mortality. Without rigorous surveys, habitat assessment efforts, and population monitoring, it is unclear whether hunting pressures (even of limited numbers of birds) can be supported without imperiling these populations.

- 3) Further, at the time of our publication, northern populations were experiencing the effects of the Hermit's Peak-Calf Canyon Fire, which became the largest in the state's history and ~21% burned at high severity (Burned Area Emergency Response 2022). This event and associated fires have contributed to a 25.6% loss of suitable grouse habitat from the northern zone since the turn of the century (Figure 1), which

suggests that these pressures are rapidly consuming the highest quality grouse habitat within the state before management efforts can be attempted for the species. While the Sangre de Cristo range represented the most robust populations of grouse within the region, much of the high elevation mixed conifer forests that birds rely on was partially or completely consumed by this fire, further limiting critical winter habitat. Without baseline knowledge into the status of remaining northern grouse populations, it is unclear if birds from this region can support harvest, nor if the proposed 2 bird limit is appropriate. Therefore, we suggest that harvests in the northern zone should be postponed until population surveys and scientific research can be conducted to evaluate the sustainability of harvest in this region.

- 4) During the May 28, 2025 public meeting in Las Cruces, Upland Game Biologist Casey Cardinal mentioned the department was considering the possibility of supplemental introductions to bolster southern populations. We strongly advise against this action. Numerous prior introductions in Arizona and New Mexico region have failed, with our work suggesting that birds were often introduced to areas where conditions were not climatically suitable. These efforts waste critical resources and may introduce individuals into areas that do not have the necessary resources to support them (lending further credence to our argument that grouse are already habitat limited). Additionally, the authors of the publication that led to the split of the Blue Grouse complex into two distinct species (Dusky and Sooty Grouse; *Dendragapus fuliginosus*) noted that birds from northern New Mexico represented a separate evolutionary lineage and may be monophyletic and therefore could represent an undescribed taxonomic species or subspecies (Barrowclough et al. 2004). This is further supported by the unique tailfeather plumage found in birds from New Mexico compared to more northern areas. Without a thorough genetic assessment of birds within the state, the proposed actions jeopardize the possible unique genetics of New Mexico populations and may alter traits that allow grouse to persist in this semi-arid region.

In summary, we are encouraged by the recent attention Dusky Grouse has received by the department, yet we do not support continued harvest or the introduction of birds without additional research/monitoring efforts that can demonstrate these actions are feasible and necessary. We suggest that stratified random point count surveys should be conducted for both the northern and southern management zones to assess population status. We also recommend the implementation of a genetic study (using museum specimens and possibly wing clippings from captured or harvested individuals) to understand potential variation across the mountain ranges of the state and to clarify the grouse' phylogenetic

and taxonomic status. Additionally, there have been no studies on Dusky Grouse lower-order (second or third; Johnson 1980) habitat or resource selection within the state, which may be prudent as our forests are more arid and experience more frequent disturbance regimes than other areas of the species' range. Without a thorough understanding of the habitat and diet requirements of grouse for the region, potential management options to preserve existing habitat and enhance habitat features may not be appropriate and may be inadequate to prevent population declines. We provide these recommendations based on our knowledge of the species' natural history and the ongoing challenges caused by climatic changes, including severe wildfire activity and ecosystem loss and degradation, within high elevation conifer forests that continue to plague grouse and other species within our state.

We thank the department for the opportunity to listen to our concerns and we hope to continue this conversation in the near future.

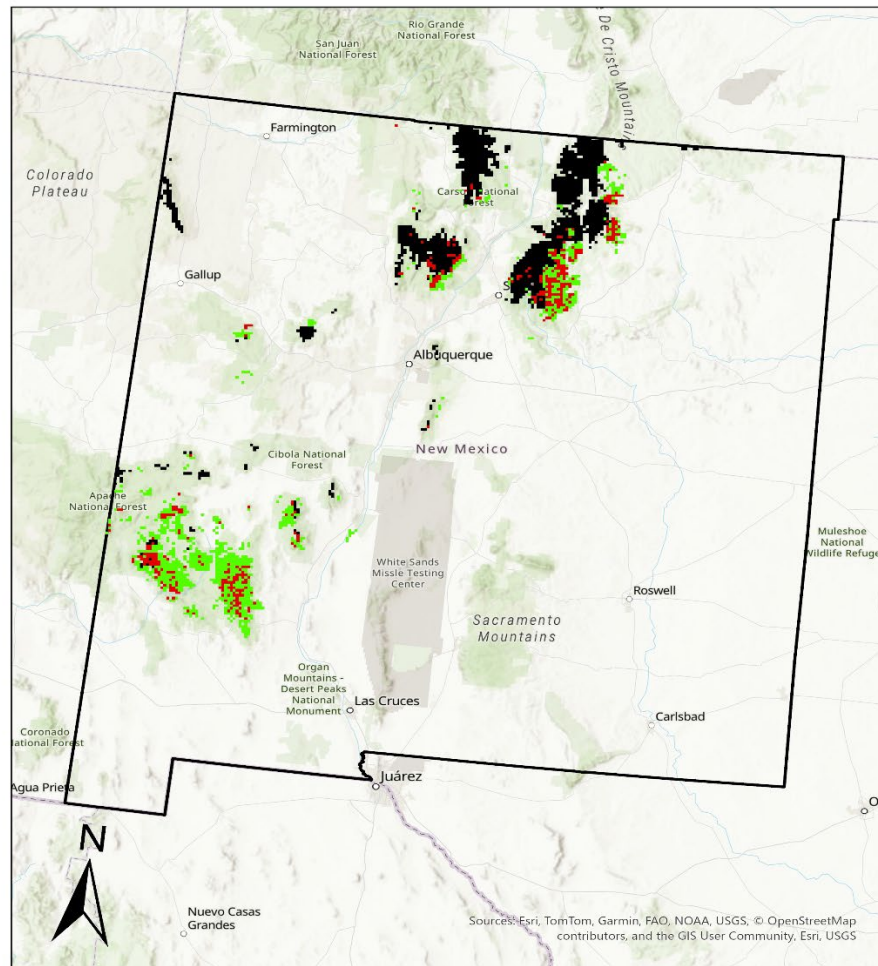
Sincerely,

Joseph Youtz, PhD Candidate, Dept. of Geography and Environmental Studies and Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM.

Reza Goljani Amirkhiz, PhD., Post-Doctoral Researcher, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department, University of California-Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA.

Jennifer K. Frey, PhD., Professor, Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM.

Figure 1. Recent (2000-2024) moderate to severe wildfire activity within predicted (Youtz et al. 2022) Dusky Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*) habitat within New Mexico, USA. Grouse habitat was defined as areas with likelihood of occurrence on logistic scale > 0.4.



Legend

Wildfire Burn Severity 2000-2024

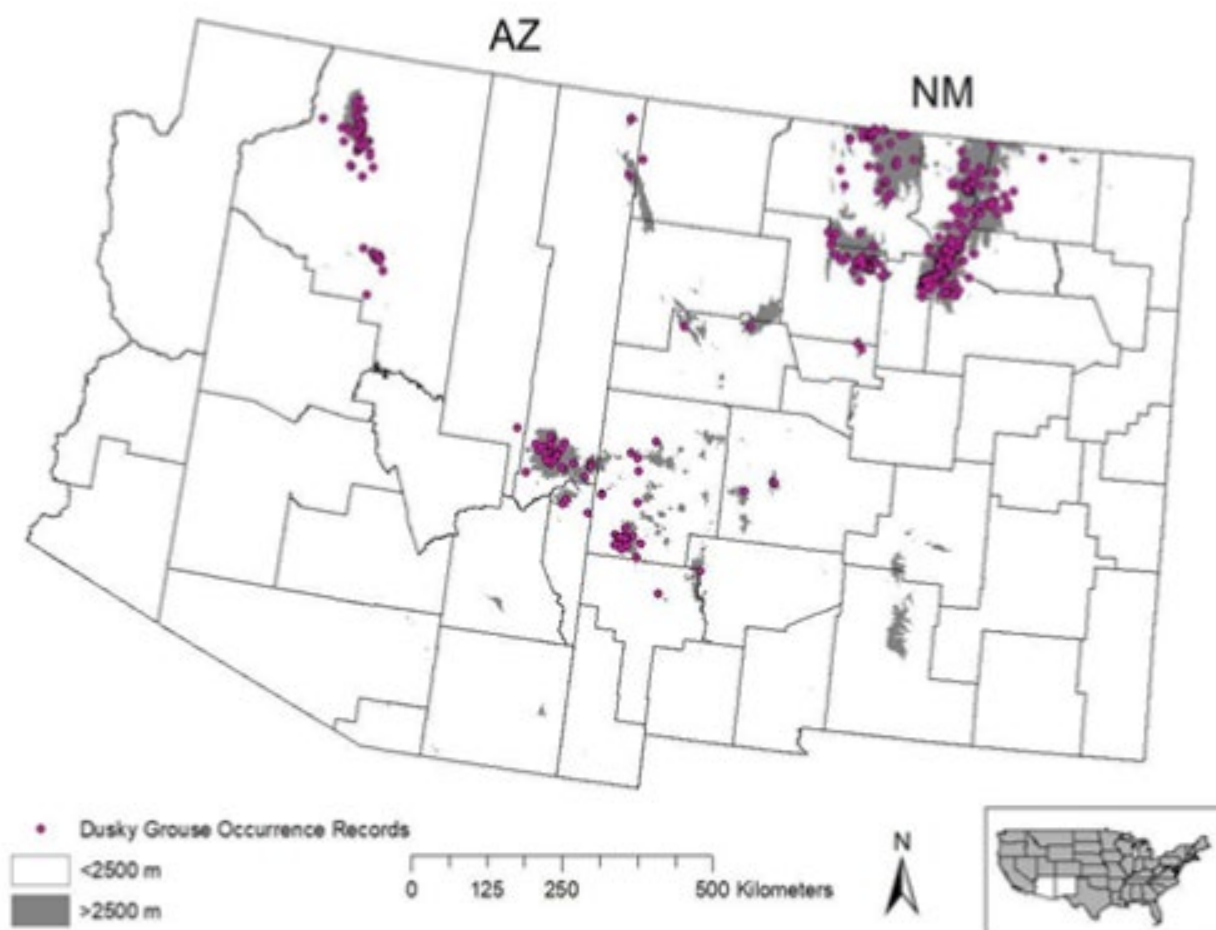
Low Severity

Med-High Severity

Suitable DUGR Habitat

0 75 150 300 Kilometers

Appendix 4. Map of all occurrence records for the Dusky Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*) in Arizona and New Mexico, excluding translocations (see Appendix 9 for details). Shaded areas are elevations > 2500 m. Black lines are state and county borders.



REFERENCES

Barrowclough, G. F., J. G. Groth, L. A. Mertz, and R. J. Guitérrez. 2004. Phylogeographic structure, gene flow and species status in Blue Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*). *Molecular Ecology* 13:1911-1922.

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Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Upland recommendation

From gabe maes <gmmaes112@gmail.com>**Date** Fri 8/29/2025 8:20 PM**To** DGF-Gamebird <DGF-Gamebird@dgf.nm.gov>

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please consider reducing the bag limit on quail to 10 per day. Given that NM is and has been in drought condition for an extended period of time, and given the 4 year regulation cycle, it is fitting to be more conservative relative to harvest.

Additionally, please consider reducing the mearns limit from 5 birds a day to 2 birds a day. Given that a Covey of Mearns typically averages 10 - 15 birds, a limit of 5 mearns can significantly affect a Covey especially with the use of dogs.

Name: DAVID HEFT

Email/Mailing Address: dsheft82@pvt.n.net

Comment on Rule: _____

Recommend that proposed southern grouse zone be delineated by I-25 on east. Designating all of NM south of I-40 would give hunting community false impression of where populations occur.

Strong opposition to any release of non-native species for hunting purposes given increasing negative impacts to native species from climate change and competition.

COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA BRIEFING

Meeting Date: November 7, 2025

Agenda Number: 7

Presenter: Stewart Liley

Corroborator: N/A

Agenda Title: Rule Making Hearing on Upland Game Rule (19.31.5 NMAC) for the 2026 – 2030 hunting seasons.

1. Summary of Agenda Item

The Department will present proposed changes to the Upland Game Rule (19.31.5 NMAC) based on public comment, survey information, and management goals.

Proposed changes include:

- Adjust hunts for calendar dates
- Divide Dusky Grouse into a North and South Zone- using I-40 as the dividing line
- Set Bag Limits for Dusky Grouse Zones
 - North- 3 Birds/Day; 6 in possession
 - South- 1 Bird/Day; 2 in possession
- Add special draw permit youth pheasant hunt on Jackson Lake WMA
- Open Bluebird and Pine River WMAs for upland hunting during grouse/squirrel season
- Open Double E, LBar, Navajo and River Ranch WMAs for upland hunting during quail season

2. Background Information

The upland game rule is amended every four years as part of the upland game rule development cycle. The current 4-year rule expires April 1, 2026. Proposed changes to the rule are made based on findings in scientific literature, data collected by Department staff, and public observations and recommendations.

3. Strategic Plan References and Possible Impacts of Agenda Item

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

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

None

5. Description and Summary of Public Involvement Process and Results

The Department has posted proposed changes to the upland game rule on the Department's website. Input has been gathered from mail and email. Hybrid public meetings were held May 21st in Albuquerque and May 28th in Las Cruces, and a

presentation was given at a virtual Quail Forever meeting to gather public comments on the proposed changes to the upland game rule.

Suggested Motion

The Department respectfully suggests the following motion unless Commission discretion indicates a different course of action:

“Move to repeal and replace 19.31.5 NMAC, as presented by the Department and allow the Department to make minor corrections to comply with filing this rule with State Records and Archives.”

TITLE 19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE
CHAPTER 31 HUNTING AND FISHING
PART 5 UPLAND GAME

19.31.5.1 ISSUING AGENCY: New Mexico department of **game and fish wildlife**.
[19.31.5.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.1 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

19.31.5.2 SCOPE: Sportspersons interested in upland game management and hunting. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and Title 19 NMAC.
[19.31.5.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.2 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

19.31.5.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Sections 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state **gamewildlife** 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.
[19.31.5.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.3 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

19.31.5.4 DURATION: April 1, **20222026** through March 31, **20262030**.
[19.31.5.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.4 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

19.31.5.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, **20222026** unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.31.5.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.5 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

19.31.5.6 OBJECTIVE: Establishing seasons on dusky grouse, Eurasian collared-dove, pheasant, Gambel's quail, Montezuma quail, northern bobwhite, scaled quail, tree squirrels, and setting falconry seasons.
[19.31.5.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.6 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

19.31.5.7 DEFINITIONS:

- A. “Department”** shall mean the New Mexico department of **game and fish wildlife**.
- B. “Falconry”** shall mean hunting game mammals or game birds using raptors.
- C. “North zone”** shall mean north of Interstate 40.
- CD. “Possession limit”** shall mean the number of game mammals or game birds in a person’s possession regardless of the location stored.
- E. “South zone”** shall mean south of Interstate 40.
- DE. “Tree squirrels”** shall mean squirrels in the genera *Sciurus* and *Tamiasciurus*, including Abert's squirrel, red squirrel, Arizona gray squirrel, fox squirrel and eastern gray squirrel.
- EG. “Wildlife management areas” or “WMAs”** shall mean those areas as described in 19.34.5 NMAC, Wildlife Management Areas.
[19.31.5.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.7 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

19.31.5.8 MANNER AND METHODS FOR UPLAND GAME:

- A. Season and hours:** Upland game may be hunted or taken only during open seasons and only during the period from one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset, unless otherwise allowed or restricted by rule.
 - (1)** On Bernardo, Casa Colorada, La Joya, and W.S. Huey WMAs, hunting hours shall be from one half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m.
 - (2)** For the special permit pheasant hunts on W.S. Huey WMA, hunting hours shall be from one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset.
- B. State WMAs open, species that can be hunted, and days open for hunting:**
 - (1)** The W.S. Huey WMA shall be open for quail hunting on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays during established quail seasons.
 - (2)** Bernardo, Casa Colorada, La Joya, and W.S. Huey WMAs shall be open to pheasant hunting by special draw permit only.
 - (3)** The Edward Sargent, W. A. Humphries, Rio Chama, Urraca, Colin Neblett, and Elliot S. Barker WMAs shall be open for upland game hunting during established tree squirrel and dusky grouse seasons.
 - (4)** The Water canyon, Marquez, prairie chicken areas, and Socorro Escondida WMAs shall be open for upland game hunting during established quail seasons.

(5) Eurasian collared dove hunting shall be open during established mourning and white-winged dove seasons as defined in 19.31.6 NMAC Migratory Game Bird, and during established quail, tree squirrel, and dusky grouse seasons.

C. All Eurasian collared dove must have an identifiable feathered wing attached until the bird has arrived at the person's residence, processor, or place of final storage.

A. Upland game may be hunted or taken only during open seasons and only during the period from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, unless otherwise allowed or restricted by rule.

B. Double E, Water canyon, LBar/Marquez, Navajo, prairie-chicken areas, River ranch and Socorro-Escondida WMAs shall be open for upland game hunting during established quail seasons.

C. Bluebird, Edward Sargent, W.A. Humphries, Pine River, Rio Chama, Urraca, Colin Neblett and Elliot Barker WMAs shall be open for upland game hunting during established tree squirrel and dusky grouse seasons.

D. Bernardo, Casa Colorada, La Joya, Jackson Lake and W.S. Huey WMAs shall be open to pheasant hunting by special permit.

E. Hunting hours for special permit pheasant hunts on Bernardo, Casa Colorada and La Joya WMAs shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m.

F. The W.S. Huey WMA shall be open for quail hunting on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays during established quail seasons. Hunting hours for quail shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m.

G. Eurasian collared-dove

(1) Eurasian collared-dove hunting shall be allowed on WMAs open during established mourning and white-winged dove seasons as defined in 19.31.6 NMAC Migratory Game Bird, and on those WMAs that are open during established quail, tree squirrel and dusky grouse seasons as listed above.

(2) All Eurasian collared-dove must have an identifiable feathered wing attached until the bird has arrived at the person's residence, processor or place of final storage.

[19.31.5.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.9 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

19.31.5.9 UPLAND GAME HUNTING SEASONS: Hunting seasons shall be as indicated below.

SPECIES	OPEN AREAS	DATES	DAILY BAG (POSSESSION) LIMITS
Eurasian collared-dove	Statewide	April 1 - March 31	no bag or possession limit
dusky grouse	Statewide North Zone	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31 annually	3 (6 in possession)
dusky grouse	South Zone	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31 annually	1 (2 in possession)
pheasant	Statewide	Dec. 8-11, 2022 Dec. 7-10, 2023 Dec. 12-15, 2024 Dec. 11-14, 2025 Dec. 10-13, 2026 Dec. 9-12, 2027 Dec. 7-10, 2028 Dec. 6-9, 2029	3 males (6 in possession)
quail	Statewide	Nov. 15 - Feb. 15 annually	15, singly or in aggregate; no more than 5 shall be Montezuma quail (possession shall be 30 singly or in aggregate - no more than 10 shall be Montezuma quail)
tree squirrel	Statewide	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31 annually	8, singly or in aggregate (possession shall be 16 singly or in aggregate)

[19.31.5.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.10 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

19.31.5.10 HUNT CODES AND PERMIT NUMBERS FOR SPECIAL DRAW PHEASANT HUNTS:

HUNT LOCATION	2022 SEASON	2023 SEASON	2024 SEASON	2025 SEASON	HUNT CODE	NO. OF PERMITS	BAG LIMIT
youth-only Bernardo, Casa Colorado, and La Joya WMAs	Oct. 15	Oct. 21	Oct. 19	Oct. 18	PHE-0-001	20	3 males
youth-only W.S. Huey WMA	Dec. 3	Dec. 2	Dec. 7	Dec. 6	PHE-0-002	40	3 males
W.S. Huey WMA	Dec. 10	Dec. 9	Dec. 14	Dec. 13	PHE-0-003	40	3 males

HUNT LOCATION	2026 SEASON	2027 SEASON	2028 SEASON	2029 SEASON	HUNT CODE	NO. OF PERMITS	BAG LIMIT
youth-only Bernardo, Casa Colorado and La Joya WMAs	Oct. 17	Oct. 16	Oct. 21	Oct. 20	PHE-0-001	20	3 males
youth-only W.S. Huey WMA	Dec. 5	Dec. 4	Dec. 2	Dec. 1	PHE-0-002	40	3 males
W.S. Huey WMA	Dec. 12	Dec. 11	Dec. 9	Dec. 8	PHE-0-003	40	3 males
youth-only Jackson Lake WMA	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	PHE-0-004	10	3 males

[19.31.5.10 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.12 NMAC, 4/1/2022]

19.31.5.11 FALCONRY SEASONS:

A. Open areas and season dates: The season for dusky grouse, pheasants, quail and tree squirrels shall be statewide and shall be open September 1 through February 28 annually. For Eurasian collared-dove, all areas statewide are open year-round, except as prohibited by rule.

B. Daily bag and possession limits: Daily bag limits for dusky grouse, pheasant, and quail shall be three birds (in the aggregate) and three tree squirrels (in the aggregate). Possession limits shall be: dusky grouse-six; pheasant-six; quail-30 (singly or in the aggregate); tree squirrels-16 (singly or in the aggregate). There is no bag or possession limit for Eurasian collared-dove.

[19.31.5.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.5.13 NMAC, 4/1/2022]