

PRONGHORN PROPOSED RULE CHANGES SUMMARY

Date of update: 6/10/2026

**The Department remains actively engaged in reviewing biological data and considering public input as the rule development process progresses. Please check back regularly for updates and additional information as decisions are finalized.*

PRONGHORN BIOLOGY

Pronghorn population growth is driven by both adult female and fawn survival and is typically not greatly affected by male harvest. Except for in a few very specific instances to address nuisance issues, the Department allows male harvest only. Population trajectories are driven by adult female and fawn survival; both adult female and fawn survival rates need to be adequate for stable populations. Weather, disease, predation and human induced mortality can all impact adult female and fawn survival; however, availability of forage and concealment cover can lessen or intensify the effect of these individual factors. Pronghorn have a polygamous breeding strategy where a single male will breed many females within a season. Because of this breeding strategy, almost all (>95%) breeding age females become pregnant each year even though there are generally fewer males than females in a population. Studies have shown that when the number of bucks stays above 10 bucks per 100 does, pregnancy rates are consistent and high. As such, buck mortality, including mortality from harvest, does not negatively impact population growth because females carry pregnancies and almost all of them are pregnant each year.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO PRONGHORN HUNTING

- 1) Require the purchase of a license at least one day prior to hunting. For hunts where published season dates are less than 6 days, hunters will no longer be able to buy a license once the hunt starts.
- 2) Implement a ranch registration process for purchase of private land OTC pronghorn licenses, similar to the current registration process used for private land elk licenses in Secondary management zones.
- 3) Implement a cap on private land OTC licenses and consider a more even distribution in hunts, similar to the public draw. If license distribution within a GMU is disproportionately skewed toward a particular hunt due to private land sales patterns, licenses will be redistributed to reduce that skew, though not necessarily distributed equally across all hunts. See table in Appendix 1 for details.
- 4) Shift GMU 4/50/52 rifle hunt to muzzleloader hunt
- 5) Adjust season dates where necessary. For example, shifting start dates to maintain hunts beginning on Saturday or adjusting calendar day starts for consistency.
- 6) Based on discussions with McGregor and White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) staff, we recommended the following:
 - McGregor: Decrease from 2 hunts of 7 licenses down to 2 hunts of 2 licenses
 - WSMR: Decrease from 1 hunt of 5 down to 1 hunt of 3, and adjusting the bag limit from ES to MB
- 7) Include GMU 48 alongside GMU 47 to allow hunters to access both GMUs during their draw hunt. Licenses will remain the same.
- 8) Similar to bighorn sheep and ibex, shift all F-IM license numbers to be “up to,” allowing the Department to adjust draw licenses up or down depending on population surveys.
- 9) Decrease license numbers in GMUs 41, 47, 56, 57, 58, and 59 to match current hunting levels. Specifically, the 20% license reduction implemented in 2025 will be retained as the baseline for the 2027-2030 seasons, rather than reverting to pre-2025 license numbers.
- 10) Public draw hunt license numbers will remain unchanged from the 2023-2026 rule cycle, except those outlined in point 9 above.
- 11) Shift season dates in SW later to address a later breeding and fawning period, with hunts beginning mid-September.

PUBLIC INVOLVMENT

The Department continues to receive public comment. If you would like to comment on the proposals, please send an email to: DGF-Pronghorn-Rule@dgf.nm.gov

APPENDIX 1: Proposed caps on private land licenses by GMU and hunt period

Open GMUs or areas	2027-2028 hunt dates	2028-2029 hunt dates	2029-2030 hunt dates	2030-2031 hunt dates	Licenses	Bag limit
2, 7, 9, 10	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	3	MB
2, 7, 9, 10: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	2	ES
2, 7, 9, 10	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	5	MB
4, 50, 52 youth only	8/7-8/9	8/5-8/7	8/4-8/6	8/3-8/5	5	ES
4, 50, 52	8/10-8/18	8/8-8/16	8/7-8/15	8/6-8/14	15	MB
4, 50, 52	8/21-8/23	8/19-8/21	8/18-8/20	8/17-8/19	20	MB
4, 50, 52	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	39	MB
12	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
12: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	2	ES
12	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	13	MB
12: mobility impaired only	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	2	MB
12	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	13	MB
13	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
13: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	5	ES
13	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	7	MB
13: mobility impaired only	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	5	MB
13	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	10	MB
14	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
14	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	20	MB
14	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	13	MB
14	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	9	MB
15	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	2	MB
15: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	2	ES
15	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	14	MB
15: mobility impaired only	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	2	MB
15	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	13	MB
16	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
16: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	5	ES
16	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	22	MB
16: mobility impaired only	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	5	MB
16	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	22	MB
17	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
17: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	5	ES
17	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	10	MB
17	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	10	MB
17: mobility impaired only	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	5	MB

17	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	10	MB
18	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
18	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	23	MB
18	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	23	MB
20	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	1	MB
20: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	1	ES
20	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	4	MB
21, 24	9/11-9/19	9/9-9/17	9/8-9/16	9/14-9/22	2	MB
21, 24: youth only	9/25-9/27	9/23-9/25	9/22-9/24	9/28-9/30	2	ES
21, 24	9/25-9/27	9/23-9/25	9/22-9/24	9/28-9/30	4	MB
21, 24	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	3	MB
21, 24: mobility impaired only	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	2	MB
21, 24	10/9-10/11	10/14-10/16	10/13-10/15	10/12-10/14	4	MB
22, 23	9/11-9/19	9/9-9/17	9/8-9/16	9/14-9/22	5	MB
22, 23: youth only	9/25-9/27	9/23-9/25	9/22-9/24	9/28-9/30	5	ES
22, 23	9/25-9/27	9/23-9/25	9/22-9/24	9/28-9/30	12	MB
22, 23	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	11	MB
22, 23: mobility impaired only	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	5	MB
25, 26, 27	9/11-9/19	9/9-9/17	9/8-9/16	9/14-9/22	3	MB
25, 26, 27: youth only	9/25-9/27	9/23-9/25	9/22-9/24	9/28-9/30	3	ES
25, 26, 27	9/25-9/27	9/23-9/25	9/22-9/24	9/28-9/30	10	MB
25, 26, 27	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	9	MB
25, 26, 27: mobility impaired only	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	3	MB
29: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	2	ES
29	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	5	MB
29	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	5	MB
30	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	2	MB
31 north of US 380	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
31 north of US 380: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	5	ES
31 north of US 380	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	49	MB
31 north of US 380	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	43	MB
31 north of US 380: mobility impaired only	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	5	MB

31 north of US 380	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	43	MB
31 south of US 380	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
31 south of US 380: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	5	ES
31 south of US 380	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	34	MB
31 south of US 380	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	33	MB
31 south of US 380: mobility impaired only	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	5	MB
31 south of US 380	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	33	MB
32 east of Pecos River	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
32 east of Pecos River: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	5	ES
32 east of Pecos River	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	45	MB
32 east of Pecos River	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	38	MB
32 east of Pecos River: mobility impaired only	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	5	MB
32 east of Pecos River	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	38	MB
32 west of Pecos River	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
32 west of Pecos River	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	60	MB
32 west of Pecos River	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	59	MB
32 west of Pecos River: mobility impaired only	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	5	MB
32 west of Pecos River	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	59	MB
32 (Roswell, hunt area)	12/1-12/15	12/1-12/15	12/1-12/15	12/1-12/15	13	F/IM
33	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
33: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	5	ES
33	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	26	MB
33	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	26	MB

33: mobility impaired only	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	5	MB
33	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	25	MB
36, 37	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
36, 37: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	5	ES
36, 37	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	12	MB
36, 37	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	12	MB
36, 37: mobility impaired only	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	5	MB
36, 37	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	10	MB
38	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
38: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	5	ES
38	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	67	MB
38	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	56	MB
38: mobility impaired only	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	5	MB
38	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	56	MB
39	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	15	MB
39: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	5	ES
39	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	75	MB
39	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	54	MB
39: mobility impaired only	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	5	MB
39	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	54	MB
40	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	10	MB
40	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	174	MB
40: mobility impaired only	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	5	MB
40	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	173	MB
41	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
41: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	5	ES
41	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	76	MB
41	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	44	MB
41: mobility impaired only	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	5	MB
41	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	44	MB
41, youth only	10/9-10/11	10/14-10/16	10/13-10/15	10/12-10/14	up to 10	F/IM
42	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
42: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	5	ES
42	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	21	MB
42	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	21	MB
8, 43	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB

8, 43	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	38	MB
46	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
46, youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	5	ES
46	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	18	MB
46	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	13	MB
46	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	13	MB
47	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	3	MB
47: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	3	ES
47	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	20	MB
47	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	18	MB
47: mobility impaired only	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	3	MB
47	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	15	MB
47: youth only	10/9-10/11	10/14-10/16	10/13-10/15	10/12-10/14	up to 20	F/IM
48	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	3	MB
48: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	2	ES
48	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	8	MB
48	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	5	MB
48: mobility impaired only	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	2	MB
48	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	5	MB
48: youth only	10/9-10/11	10/14-10/16	10/13-10/15	10/12-10/14	up to 20	F/IM
54	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	2	MB
54, youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	2	ES
54	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	2	MB
54	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	2	MB
54	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	2	MB
55	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
55, youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	5	ES
55	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	15	MB
55	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	8	MB
55	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	6	MB
56	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
56: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	5	ES
56	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	182	MB
56	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	84	MB
56: mobility impaired only	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	5	MB
56	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	36	MB
56: youth only	10/9-10/11	10/14-10/16	10/13-10/15	10/12-10/14	up to 40	F/IM
57	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
57: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	22	ES
57	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	5	MB
57: youth only	10/9-10/11	10/14-10/16	10/13-	10/12-10/14	up to 15	F/IM

			10/15			
58	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
58: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	5	ES
58	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	65	MB
58	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	50	MB
58: mobility impaired only	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	5	MB
58	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	50	MB
58: youth only	10/9-10/11	10/14-10/16	10/13-10/15	10/12-10/14	up to 35	F/IM
59	8/14-8/22	8/12-8/20	8/11-8/19	8/10-8/18	5	MB
59: youth only	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	10	ES
59	8/28-8/31	8/26-8/28	8/25-8/27	8/24-8/26	89	MB
59	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	67	MB
59: mobility impaired only	9/25-9/27	9/30-10/2	9/29-10/1	9/28-9/30	5	MB
59	10/2-10/4	10/7-10/9	10/6-10/8	10/5-10/7	67	MB
59: youth only	10/9-10/11	10/14-10/16	10/13-10/15	10/12-10/14	up to 40	F/IM