

License Vendor Bulletin 2026-2027

NEW FOR 2026-27 LICENSE YEAR

Department Name Change

The NM Department of Game & Fish has been changed to the NM Department of Wildlife (NMDOW).

Fee Changes

License fees have changed this year. Please see pages 16-17 of the 2026-2027 NM Hunting Rules & Info booklet for more information.

Other fees changes that you will find in the 2026-2027 NM Fishing Rules & Info booklet include:

Resident, (Annual) Fishing License; (Age 18-64)	\$ 35.00
Nonresident, (Annual) Fishing License; (Age 18-64)	\$ 90.00
Nonresident, (Annual) Junior Fishing License; (Age 12-17)	\$ 20.00
Temporary, Five Days License	\$ 30.00
Second Rod Validation	\$ 10.00

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

NM Residents who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are eligible to receive a 25% discount on all license fees after qualifying with NMDOW. Vendors who accept cash should be aware that this new discount could result in fee increments in nickels and dimes if combined with the military/veteran discount.

Vendor Fee Increase

A license vendor fee of \$2 per transaction will apply to all over-the-counter license sales. An additional \$1 fee will apply per carcass tag issued at non-NMDOW vendors.

License Vendor Bulletin 2026-2027

2026-2027 Vendor Agreements

Please return the fillable vendor agreement by February 27, 2026, to continue your vendor privileges for the 2026-2027 license year. Vendor agreements may be e-mailed to DGF-Vendor@dgf.nm.gov or mailed to the attention of Vendor Licensing at 1 Wildlife Way Santa Fe, NM 87507 or faxed to (505) 476-8180.

2026-2027 Consignment/Delivery of New Carcass Tags

NMDOW Vendor Licensing will be consigning 2026-2027 carcass tags before March 25, 2026. Each license vendor will be required to sign a consignment agreement before the carcass tags are issued. NMDOW personnel will NOT take the 2025-2026 (pink) carcass tags when the 2026-27 (lime green) carcass tags are delivered.

2026-2027 New Mexico Hunting Rules & Info Booklets

The 2026-2027 hunting rules and information booklet is now available online at <https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov/home/publications>. The printed copies will be available and distributed to all license vendors by the end of December.

2025-2026 Carcass Tags Must Be Returned

Beginning April 1, 2026, license vendors can start returning all their blank/unissued (unused) carcass tags to the attention of Vendor Licensing at 1 Wildlife Way Santa Fe, NM 87507.

If a carcass tag tracking sheet was maintained to document the carcass tags that were issued to customers, please include copies of them with the unused carcass tags. This will help resolve any issues with carcass tags that are not accounted for.

The carcass tags must be returned postmarked by May 10, 2026. UPS return labels will be provided by the Department upon request. Please contact Melody Gonzales at (505) 476-8164 or email vendor licensing at DGF-Vendor@dgf.nm.gov to request a return label before the May 10th deadline.

Failure to return all blank, unissued carcass tags by the specified deadline will result in a penalty fee of \$100.00 per carcass tag. Penalty fees will not be waived.

License Vendor Bulletin 2026-2027

Early License Sales

Beginning March 25, 2026, you'll need to choose the year (2025 or 2026) you wish to vend licenses for. All 2025 licenses expire March 31, 2025. All 2026 licenses become valid April 1, 2026. Be sure to ask customers when they plan to fish, hunt or trap before choosing the license year.

Free Fishing Weekends – Save The Dates

June 6-7, 2026 - New Mexico Free Fishing Day. No license required (do not vend one-day fishing licenses for these dates)

September 26-27, 2026 - National Hunting and Fishing Day. No license required (do not vend one-day fishing licenses for these dates)

Important Reminders

Do Not Create Another Account

If you see a message that an account already exists for the customer, please contact Vendor Licensing or the Information Call Center. If the customer has a notification on their account, their license privileges are revoked, and they will need to call (505) 476-8065 or login to their account online. DO NOT create another account. If a duplicate account is knowingly created to complete a sale, vendors must notify the Department at their earliest opportunity during normal business hours.

Residency Changes

During the Big Game Draw application period, January 14, 2026 – April 22, 2026, the Department does not allow residency changes to be made by license vendors. This function will be unavailable until after the draw results are released. Please have customers contact Vendor Licensing or the Information Call Center if their residency or address needs to be changed.

Gila Trout Permit – Only Add If Requested

Please DO NOT add the Gila Trout Permit to any fishing license purchase unless the customer asks for it specifically.

Electronic Tagging (E-Tag) Available for Big Game & Turkey Licenses

Customers purchasing big game or turkey licenses will be able to select the E-Tag option. License vendors must print the e-tag instructions for the customer by clicking print license. Once the license is issued, customers may only opt out of the e-tag option by purchasing a duplicate carcass tag from a NMDOW office, license vendor or by phone. If the e-tag option was used previously for the 2025-2026 license year, customers must uninstall/reinstall the NM E-Tag App for the 2026-2027 license year.

License Vendor Bulletin 2026-2027

Mandatory Harvest Reporting

The system will block the sale of a license for customers that have failed to file their mandatory harvest report. If you receive a hunter harvest notification for a customer you are selling the license to, please advise them they must file a harvest report by calling the Information Call Center at 1-888-248-6866 M-F 8am-5pm (closed weekends). License vendors do not have access to file harvest reports.

Handicapped Licenses

It is not the Department's policy to request proof of disability from customers who purchase handicapped hunting and fishing licenses.

Federal Duck Stamps

The Federal Duck Stamp is available in the system from July 1 through March 10 and is required for hunting ducks and geese for anyone 16 and older. The Department honors duck stamps that are purchased in another state.

Proof of purchase of the duck stamp will be included on the game hunting license, and the physical stamp will be mailed after March 10 each year.

Private Land Elk/Pronghorn Antelope Licenses

Customers must provide an authorization number which will start with EM-123456 (mature bull), EE-123456 (either sex), EA-123456 (antlerless/cow), AM-123456 (mature buck) or SMZ-1234567 (special management zone) to purchase these licenses. They must contact the landowners who issued them the authorization numbers if the system indicates the authorization number has been sold or issued to a different customer.

Who Needs A Stamp? – Stamp Requirements

By law, notice of the requirement to possess such stamps shall be displayed prominently in all places where hunting, trapping, or fishing licenses are sold. New signs will be included with the 2026-2027 carcass tags.

The Habitat Management & Access Validation (HMAV) is required for anyone 18 and older for fishing, hunting, and trapping. It will automatically be added to the first purchase of any hunting, fishing or trapper license.

It is not required in conjunction with any free license or privilege (fishing licenses for residents 70 yrs. & older, 100% disabled veterans who carry a DAV card)

Funds from the sale are used to lease access to private lands for public use, provide public access to landlocked public land, and provide improvement, maintenance, development and operation of State Wildlife Commission property for fish and wildlife habitat management.

License Vendor Bulletin 2026-2027

The Habitat Stamp is required for fishing, hunting, and trapping ONLY on U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management Lands (public land). It is required for anyone over 12 yrs. old in conjunction with any purchase of a game hunting license and/or big game/turkey licenses.

It is not required in conjunction with any free license or privilege (fishing licenses for residents 70 yrs. & older, 100% disabled veterans who carry a DAV card)

Funds from the sale of habitat stamps are used to improve wildlife habitat.

Deactivation of Username Logins

The system will automatically deactivate username logins for all personnel that have not logged-in or had any sale activity in 90 consecutive days. Usernames with manager credentials will continue to have the ability to reinstate users for those individuals that need to regain access.

If employees leave your business, you must deactivate their account as soon as possible. This is very important for the security of your vendor account. If you need help with this, please contact Vendor Licensing.

Do Not Share Usernames or Passwords

Manager/User Login usernames must be unique for security purposes. The system requires a first and last name to be entered when a new username is created. Store level managers must set up store users and contact Vendor Licensing to change the user to a manager. DO NOT share usernames or passwords.

Notes For Personnel Authorized To Vend Licenses

1. Before processing a transaction:

a. Review the customers' information in their account profile and make sure it is up to date, specifically their address and residency. To claim residency, the date of residency must be at least 90 days in the past.

b. Whenever possible, update the customer's information so that we are providing accurate information in the customer account and on their license; this is very important for conservation officers as well.

c. Repeat the order to the customer and make sure everything that they want to purchase is correct, this will leave little room for error and confusion.

d. Inform the customer of the price for the license (this is important, to minimize voided sales/transactions).

e. Make sure the customer wants to continue with their purchase before clicking on the payment icons (Cash, Credit Card).

License Vendor Bulletin 2026-2027

- f. If the customer does not want to continue with the transaction—CLEAR CART.
2. If the transaction has been completed and it needs to be voided a manager MUST login and VOID the sale within an (8) hour period. If the (8) time limit has elapsed, please call Vendor Licensing and we will void the transaction. Remember: If the customer paid with cash the vendor must refund the cash back to them; if they paid with a credit card, the card will automatically be refunded after the void.
3. If a customer has incorrect information in their account (wrong last four of SSN/DOB, last name is misspelled) have the customer contact Vendor Licensing or the Information Call Center and we will correct their existing account. DO NOT CREATE ANOTHER ACCOUNT for the customer.
4. WHEN IN DOUBT call vendor licensing. We will be more than happy to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have. DO NOT TURN CUSTOMERS AWAY! Vendor Licensing and the Information Call Center are available Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

Vendor Training Resources Are Available

Vendor training is available year-round and can be conducted remotely through Zoom. Please contact Melody Gonzales at (505) 476-8164 or by e-mail Melody.Gonzales@dgf.nm.gov to schedule training for new or existing personnel.

The license vendor manual and all other training resources are accessible through the Vendor Licensing System and on the NMDOW website. <https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov/home/contact/license-vendors/>

License Vendor Bulletin 2026-2027

Department Contacts & Offices

Website: wildlife.dgf.nm.gov E-mail: dgf-vendor@dgf.nm.gov

Melody Gonzales, Vendor Licensing Specialist Melody.Gonzales@dgf.nm.gov (505) 476-8164	Northwest Office 7816 Alamo Road NW Albuquerque, NM 87120 (505) 222-4700
Lisa Brejcha, Special Hunts Supervisor Lisa.Brejcha@dgf.nm.gov (505) 476-8093	Southwest Office 2715 Northrise Drive Las Cruces, NM 88011 (575) 532-2100
Chad Nelson, Assistant Chief, ASD Licensing Operations Chad.Nelson@dgf.nm.gov (505) 412-9652	Northeast Office 215 York Canyon Road Raton, NM 87740 (575) 445-2311
NM Department of Wildlife 1 Wildlife Way Santa Fe, NM 87507 Information Call Center 1-888-248-6866	Southeast Office 1615 West College Blvd Roswell, NM 88201 (575) 624-6135