

Wildlife Management Division Rule Development Plan

February 25, 2010

NM State Game Commission Meeting
Santa Fe

Rule Groupings and Timelines

GROUP	RULES	TO WEB	TO SGC	SGC DECISION
A	Turkey, Upland Game, Javelina	February	April	May/June
B	Bighorn, Exotics, Elk, Waterfowl, Open Gate	April	May/June	July
C	Bear & Cougar, Pronghorn, A-PLUS, Deer	June	July	September

General Proposal for all Species

- Change from 2-year rules to 4-year rules
 - Base management recommendations on three years of data instead of one
 - Improve consistency in management schemes for hunters and landowners
 - Decrease the amount of staff time spent on rule development while improving management recommendations to the Commission

General Proposals

- Change legal shooting hours to ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset
 - Increase hunter satisfaction and opportunity
 - Comparable hours to AZ, TX, CO, UT, WY and CA
 - Negligible impact on the resource
- Legalize crossbows for use during “any legal weapon” and muzzleloader hunts
 - Increase hunter opportunity with no conflict with traditional archery and compound bow seasons

Javelina Rule Proposals

- Establish a javelina rule separate from the current combination pronghorn/javelina rule
- Open the following WMAs to javelina hunting – Lesser Prairie Chicken Area Complex, La Joya, and Water Canyon

Upland Game Rule Proposals

- Add Arizona gray squirrel, fox squirrel, and eastern gray squirrel to the legal bag limit for squirrel hunters
- Prohibit hunting upland game over bait

Wild Turkey Rule Proposals

- Prohibit hunting turkeys over bait
- Increase the statewide spring bag limit to two turkeys except in the Valles Caldera
- Change the fall season to November 1 – 30
- Open GMUs 6A, 6C, 32, and 33 to fall hunting
- Open portions of GMUs 2A and 2C to spring and fall seasons