

# Wildlife Management Division Rule Development

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## Group B

Elk, Exotics, Bighorn Sheep, Migratory Bird,  
Open Gate

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July 8, 2010

NM State Game Commission Meeting

Silver City

# Public Comment and Meetings

## WEB

- Proposed changes posted to web April 2010
- 121 written comments (e-mail and letter) received to date

## MEETINGS

- Sergeant Districts and Area offices
- NWTF
- DACAS
- Guides and Outfitters
- 12 Public meetings
- 2 Tribal meetings
- NM Cattle Growers and NM Farm Bureau
- Total of 226 public participants

# Elk Rule Proposals

- Adopt a 4-year rule (2011-14 seasons)
- Establish legal shooting hours as ½ hour before sunrise through ½ hour after sunset
- Include crossbows in the definition of “legal weapon types”
- Option 4: No change to current (2010) hunt season structure and adjust seasons due to calendar shift

# Elk Rule Proposals

- Incorporate sustainable web cow hunt opportunity into traditional hunt structure. Private land licenses will be adjusted proportionately
- Round license numbers to multiples of 5 (e.g., 161 to 165). Private land licenses will be adjusted proportionately
- Increase flexibility for the Department to adjust license numbers for unforeseen circumstances
- Create an option on public draw elk applications for hunters wishing to participate in elk population management hunts if unsuccessful in the draw (5<sup>th</sup> Option)

# Elk Rule Proposals

## GMU 4

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- Reduce private land Mature Bull licenses to 990
- Increase Antlerless licenses to 600

## GMU 6

- Move 6A-6C boundary to pre-2009 boundary and increase herd quality and quantity in 6C
  - Reduce 6C Either Sex bow licenses (341 to 300)
  - Reduce 6C Mature Bull licenses (488 to 429)
  - Reduce 6C Antlerless licenses (522 to 306)

# Elk Rule Proposals

## GMU 13

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- Create an additional 100 license Antlerless muzzleloader hunt

## GMU 16A, C & D

- Split cow hunts to run concurrent with 16E cow hunts

## GMU 17

- Establish a new hunt with 25 Mature Bull and 25 Antlerless muzzleloader licenses

# Elk Rule Proposals

## GMU 23

- Increase Mature Bull licenses from 50 to 75

## GMU 24

- Establish Fort Bayard hunting opportunity as Youth Only- reduce licenses to 5
- Create new hunt with 25 Either Sex archery licenses
- Create new hunt with 15 Mature Bull muzzleloader licenses
- Create new hunt with 15 Mature Bull rifle licenses

# Elk Rule Proposals

## GMU 30

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- Create new hunt with 30 Either Sex rifle licenses

## GMU 34

- Split 150 youth Either Sex hunt licenses to 75 Either Sex and 75 Antlerless to reduce overall herd
- Move Mobility Impaired rifle hunt to begin the week following the Youth Only hunt



# Elk Rule Proposals

## GMU 36

- Increase all hunts except muzzleloader (archery 100 each from 82; rifle Mature Bull 100 each from 85 and 86; Antlerless 100 each from 75)
- Separate Antlerless hunts from Mature Bull hunts

## GMU 37

- Increase bow licenses from 45 to 75; increase Mature Bull licenses from 25 to 30; increase Antlerless licenses from 25 to 45
- Combine archery hunts into one hunt (Sept. 1-22) and change other season dates to run concurrent with GMU 36 hunts

## GMU 52

- Increase youth Antlerless hunt by 50 licenses (100 total); increase mobility impaired hunt by 25 licenses (75 total); increase second to last Antlerless hunt by 15 licenses (75 total)

# Unaddressed Issues

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- McGregor Range permits (8 to 10 each)
- Unit 10 – Bow hunting typo error
- Unit 13 – Double H Ranch
- Unit 48 – Adjust private/public split based on Stanley land swap with SLO (increases private land by 5%)

# Barbary Sheep, Oryx, and Persian Ibex Rule Proposals

- Adopt a 4-year rule (2011-14 seasons)
- Establish legal shooting hours as ½ hour before sunrise through ½ hour after sunset
- Include crossbows in the definition of “legal weapon types”
- Add BLM and other public lands as eligible for enrollment in unitization agreements

# Exotics Rule Proposals

## Barbary sheep

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- Combine GMUs 29 and 30 for BBY-1-101 draw
- Change GMU 33 from BBY-1-100 draw hunt to over-the-counter licenses
- Change hunt dates for BBY-1-100 to Feb. 1-28
- Create a 5 license general draw hunt on McGregor range
- Modify draw licenses to be valid for statewide hunt
- Create Special Management Property option for private lands

# Exotics Rule Proposals

## Oryx

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- Reduce total licenses on WSMR from 1201 to 985
- Eliminate August hunts on White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) and offer hunter opportunity in cooler months
- Modify all hunts from 2 to 3 days
- Eliminate the Small Missile Range and Red Canyon specific hunts
- Combine the youth only and mobility impaired hunts and increase hunting opportunities for both
- Modify one WSMR security badge hunt from general draw to military only (under deployment)

# Exotics Rule Proposals

## Persian Ibex

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- Create a new hunt for 100 bow licenses – Jan. 16 – 31
- Increase muzzleloader hunt from 20 to 50 licenses
- Increase F-IM hunt from 50 to 100 licenses and modify hunt dates to October 1-31
- Increase once-in-a-lifetime hunt licenses from 15 to 30

# Bighorn Sheep Rule Proposals

- Adopt a 4-year rule (2011-14 seasons)
- Establish legal shooting hours as ½ hour before sunrise through ½ hour after sunset
- Include crossbows in the definition of “legal weapon types”
- Decrease ram licenses in the Pecos in response to a population decline
- Addition of 1 ram license in the Culebras, hunt dates Aug. 1 – Sept. 30 – Contingent upon an access agreement between the Dept. and private landowners

# Bighorn Sheep Rule Proposals

- Addition of 6 ewe licenses (1 youth, 5 general) in the Latirs, 16 ewe licenses (4 youth, 12 general) in Wheeler Peak, and increase to 22 ewe licenses in the Pecos (5 youth, 17 general) to use as a population control tool if herd exceeds desired population objectives
- Adjust hunt dates in Wheeler Peak and San Francisco River ram hunts to establish consistent Saturday to Friday hunt seasons
- Increase flexibility for the Department to adjust license numbers for unforeseen circumstances
- Proposed desert bighorn ram hunts contingent upon successful delisting. Some hunts contingent upon access agreements between the Dept. and private landowner(s)



# Open Gate Rule Proposals

- Clarify and define participation requirements
  - Define minimum qualifications for enrollment in the Open Gate program
  - Establish a standard enrollment procedure
- Amend Open Gate Access Agreements
  - Provide a list of property rules to be posted on signs
  - Provide incentives for wildlife habitat improvements
- Define use of Open Gate properties
  - Any person accessing Open Gate properties to hunt, fish or trap must
    - Possess a valid hunting, fishing, or trapper's license
    - Comply with posted property rules

# Migratory Game Bird Rule Proposals

- All seasons shifted for calendar change - Subject to approval by the US Fish & Wildlife Service in August
- Pintail bag limit in Central Flyway portion of NM increase to two - Subject to approval by the US Fish & Wildlife Service in August
- Portions of Bernardo and La Joya WMAs – Allow hunting on Tuesdays
- Decrease three MRGV sandhill crane hunts from 75 to 70 permits each

# Unaddressed Issues

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- Request for mandatory harvest reporting for all big game species

# Path Forward

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>RULES</b>	<b>TO WEB</b>	<b>TO SGC</b>	<b>SGC DECISION</b>
<b>A</b>	Turkey, Upland Game, Javelina	February	April 8	June 3
<b>B</b>	Bighorn, Exotics, Elk, Waterfowl, Open Gate	April 16	June 3	Today
<b>C</b>	Bear & Cougar, Pronghorn, A-PLUS, Deer	By July 28	August 28	September 30