



EIK

19.31.14 NMAC

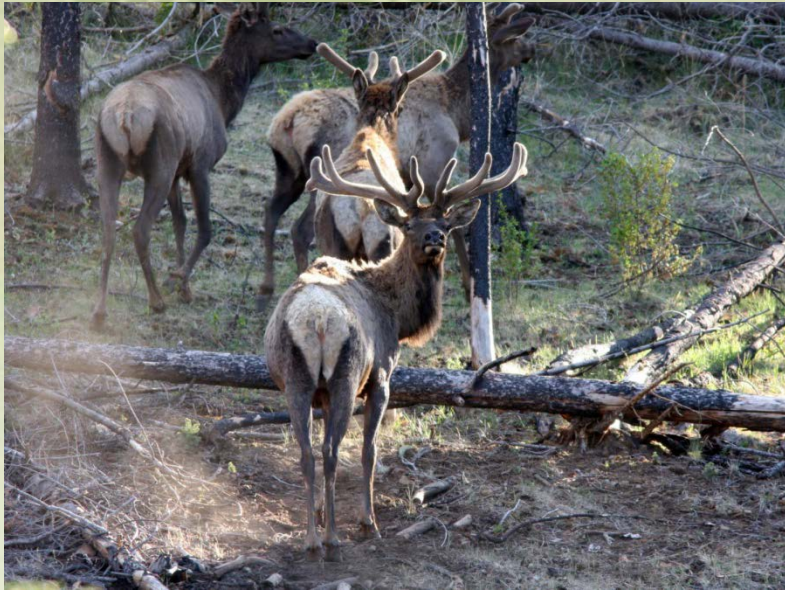
August 28, 2014

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

Santa Fe, NM

2013 Harvest Data

- Statewide 35,982 licenses sold/converted
- 82% of hunters reported
- 40% successful in harvesting
- Estimated statewide harvest
 - Bulls = 7,881, Cows = 6,238
- Satisfaction rating = 3.62



Public Comment

- **328** public comments specific to elk (as of 8/18/14)
 - Decrease GMU 9 licenses
 - Increase nonresident opportunity (specifically A, some comments against this also)
 - Restructure overlapping hunts (deer/elk)
 - Point system/Draw structure
 - Allow seniors to hunt w/crossbow

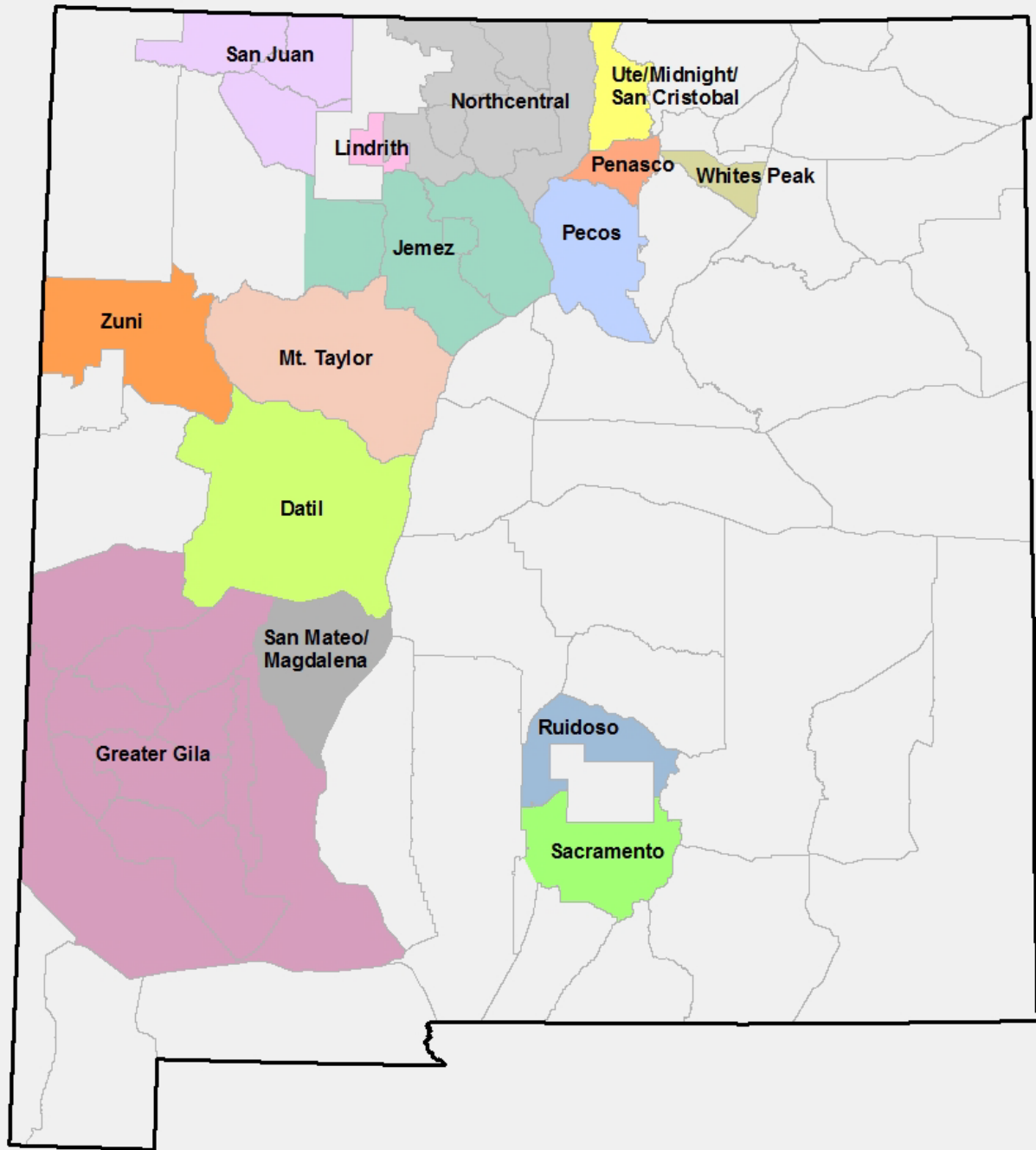



Public Comment Continued

- Decrease female harvest in Jemez
- Restructure archery hunts
- Add archery hunt in GMU 56
- More hunts in rut
- GMU 34/36: antler point restrictions for bulls, no license increases



**NMDGF
elk
herd
units**



The logo for Gamma Beta Sigma is a circular emblem featuring a bear's head in the center. The words "GAMMA BETA SIGMA" are written around the perimeter of the circle.


Proposed Amendments: Elk 19.31.14 NMAC

- Adjust seasons for calendar dates
- Address overlapping deer/elk hunts
- Standardize archery hunts
 - 2-hunt period (Sept. 1-15 & Sept. 16-24 statewide)
 - Excluding GMU's that currently have one hunt
 - *Public comments **for** 2 hunt period = 19*
 - *Public comment **against** 2 hunt period = 18*
 - *(7 specific to Gila)*

Proposed Amendments: EIk 19.31.14 NMAC

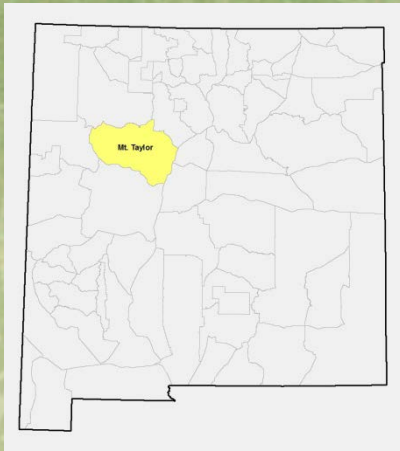
- Transferrable & non transferrable units
 - Include GMU 55B as transferable
 - Remove GMU's 54, 55A, 57, 58





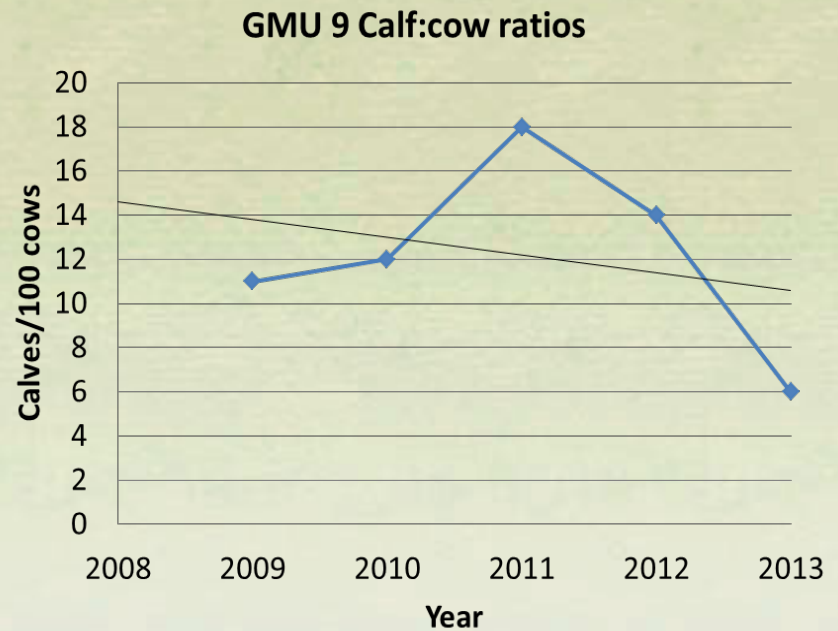
Proposed Amendments: Elk 19.31.14 NMAC

- COER changes (better reflect elk use in Northeast and Southeast)
 - GMU's 45, 49, 50, 53, 34



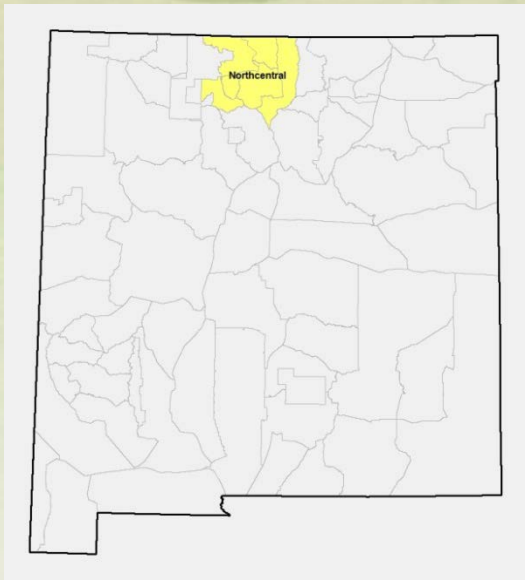
Mt. Taylor herd unit

- **GMU 9: 60%** reduction in A licenses (and make muzzleloader hunts instead of rifle)
 - Low calf:cow ratios and decreasing population



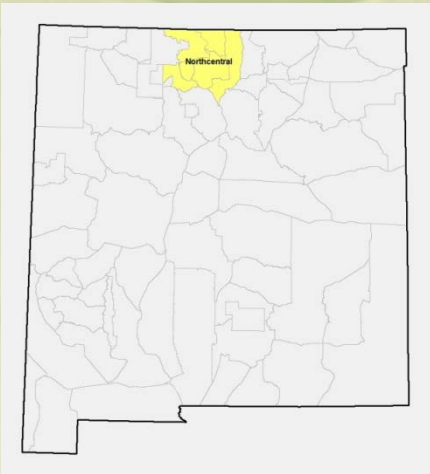
North central herd unit

- Move GMU 50 A hunts out of MB hunts
- Redistribute antlerless licenses to account for elk distribution across Northcentral landscape
 - Increase A licenses in GMU 51 by 15%
 - Decrease GMU 5B by 12% & GMU 52 by 17%



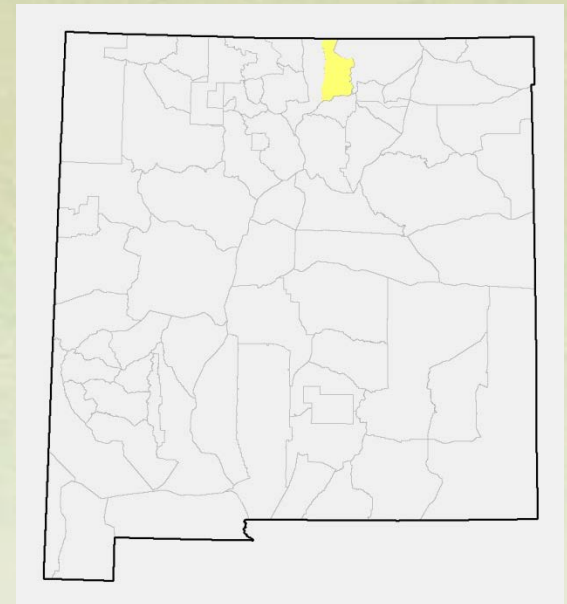
North central herd unit

- Add new MB hunts in GMU 5B
 - Total of 4 hunts, 2 in Oct., 1 in Nov., 1 in Dec.
- Add new A hunt in GMU 5B
 - Total of 3 hunts, 2 in Oct., 1 in Nov.
 - Move 25 A licenses to GMU 51 to account for elk distribution
 - Decrease of 12% in A



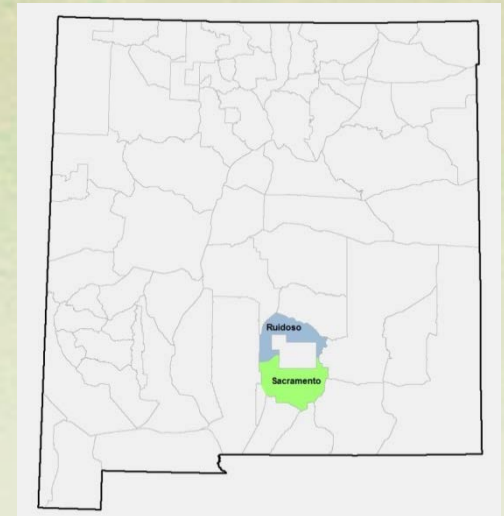
Ute / Midnight / San Cristobal herd unit

- GMU 53: Develop new hunt of 40 licenses in Northern portions to address elk movement and use.
 - Long season → 16 days (3 weekends) starting 1st week of Jan.

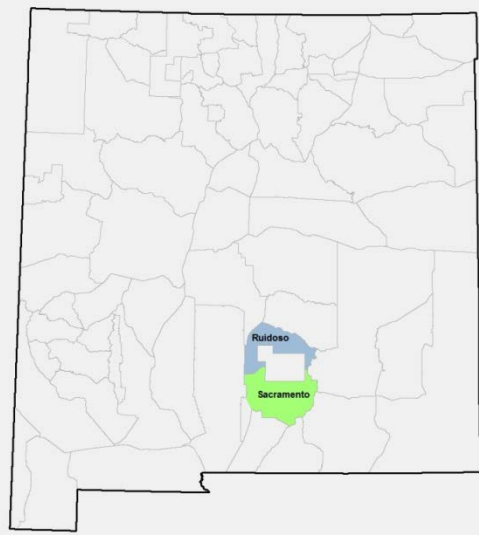


Ruidoso / Sacramento herd unit

- GMU 34: increase A licenses by 17%
 - High & increasing calf:cow ratios (4-yr avg = 47:100)
 - Increasing population size



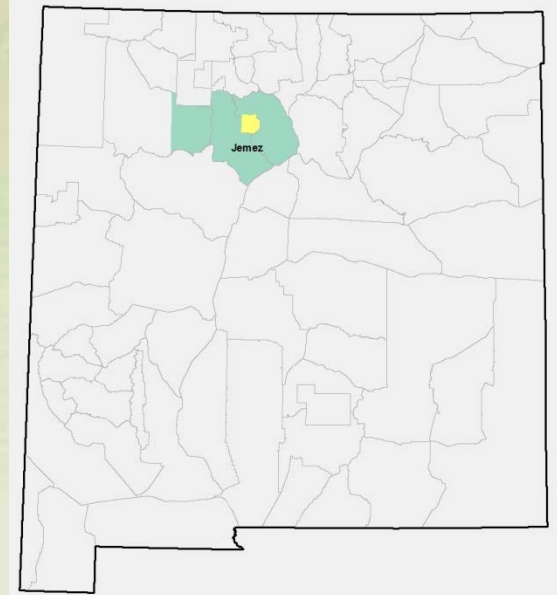
Ruidoso / Sacramento herd unit



- GMU 36: increase archery licenses by 15% and MB licenses by 9%
 - High calf:cow (48:100) & bull: cow (60:100) ratios
 - Percent of MB in survey increasing (43% to 57%)
 - Bull mortality rate \leq 31%

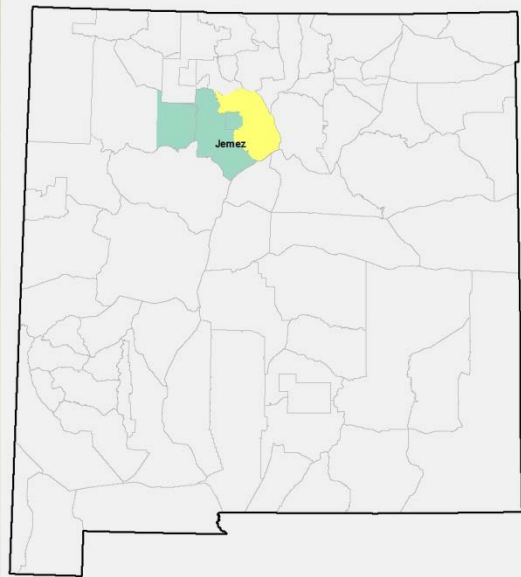
Jemez herd unit (Valles Caldera)

- Increase 2nd archery ES hunt from 5 to 7 days
- Increase all any-weapon Antlerless hunts from 3 to 4 days
- Change 2-person hunt to 1-person hunt with Antlerless licenses
- Change 1st any-weapon Antlerless hunt to Youth Only
- Remove 2nd antlerless hunt overlapping with MB hunt and redistribute licenses
- Archery: No Change; Mature Bull 11% increase; Antlerless 3% increase



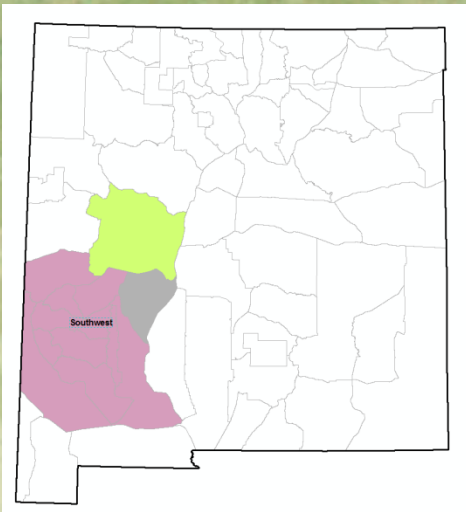
Jemez herd unit

- Reduce A in GMU 6C by 15%
 - Low satisfaction & public comment in favor



Southwest herd units

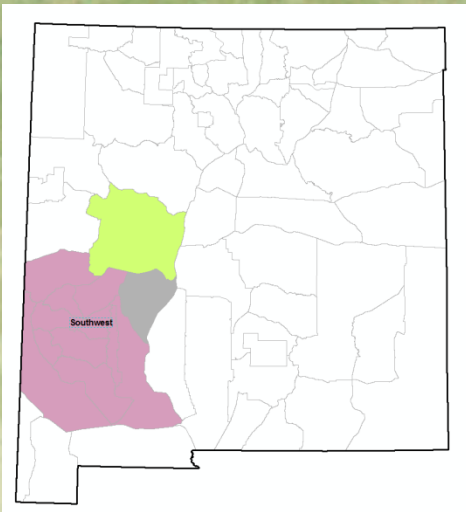
(Gila \ San Mateo-Magdalena \ Datil)



- New A hunt in GMU 21A of 30 licenses
- New A hunt in GMU 23 of 20 licenses

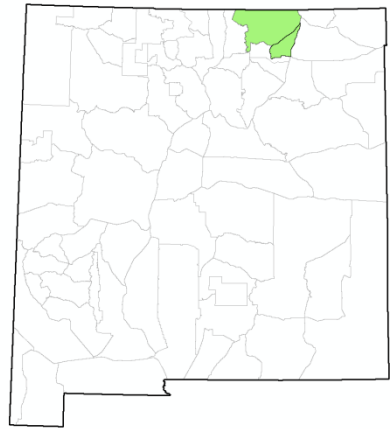


Southwest herd units (Gila \ San Mateo-Magdalena \ Datil)



- New late A YO hunt in GMU 24 (including Ft. Bayard) of 5 licenses
- Allow **all** youth hunters in 24 to hunt Ft. Bayard

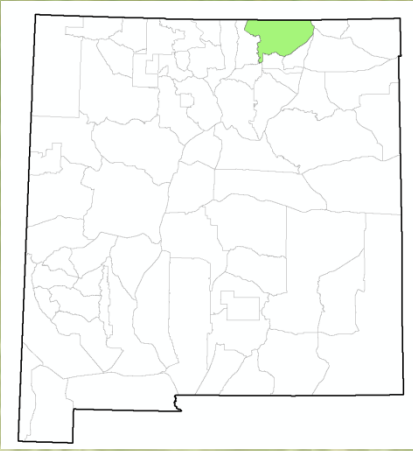




Northeast area

- Urraca (GMU 55)
 - Move 3rd MB rifle hunt (10 licenses) to new Sept. archery hunt
- GMU 56
 - Add new Sept. 1-24 archery hunt (10 licenses)





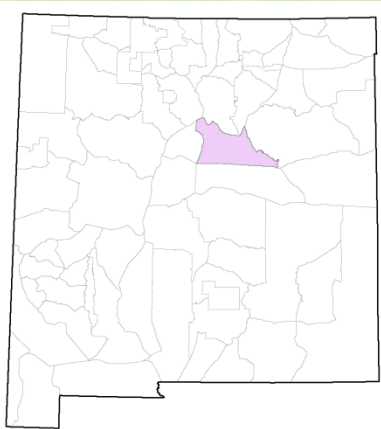
Northeast area (Valle Vidal)

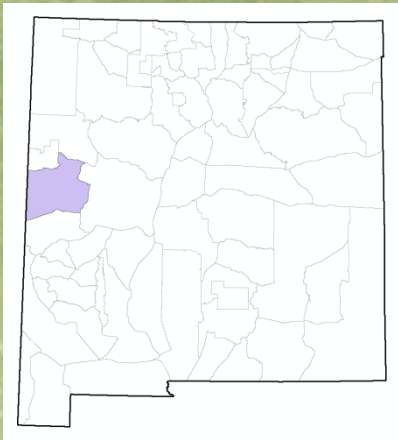
- GMU 55 (Valle Vidal):
increase MB by 10%,
and archery by 25%
 - increased recruitment.
- Move 20 A hunts out of
YO period and into later
Nov. hunt



Northeast area

- Decrease GMU 43 ES rifle licenses by 50% (60 to 30)
 - Limited opportunity to encounter elk
 - Lengthen hunt to 10-days late-Sept.





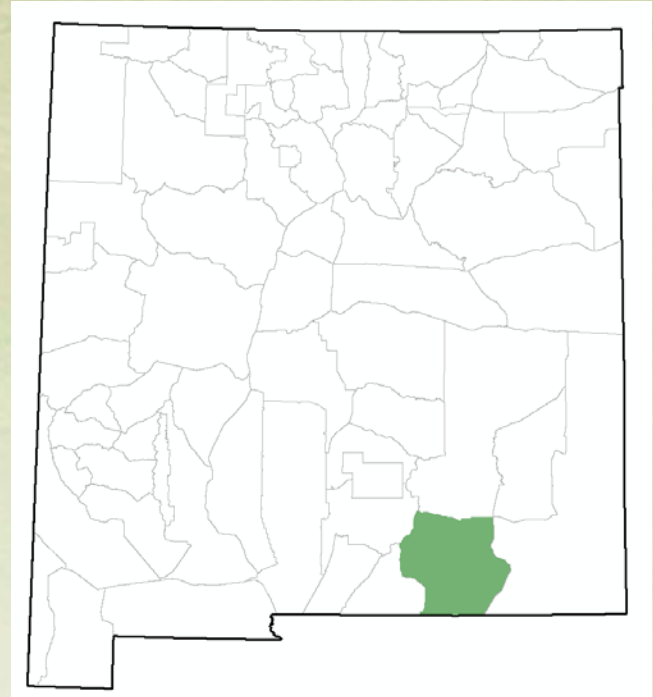
Northwest area

- GMU 12
 - Make GMU 12 public hunt start dates consistent w/private (Oct. 1)
 - Add more public opportunity in GMU 12 (add 30 more MB & 30 more A licenses)



Southeast area

- GMU 30
 - Currently at 30 ES rifle licenses
- Increase total public licenses 30 → 40
 - 20 archery licenses
 - 20 ES rifle licenses



Questions?



Proposed Amendments: Elk19.31.14 NMAC

- Antler point restrictions (APR)
 - Perceived Benefits
 - More mature bulls (but hunting pressure focused on this segment resulting in younger age structure)
 - Improves population productivity (may be true when bull:cow ratios are $< 10:100$)
 - More bulls in population (may occur if bull:cow ratios very low [$<10:100$] but no evidence of increase in MB in NM)

Proposed Amendments: Elk19.31.14 NMAC

■ APR Reality

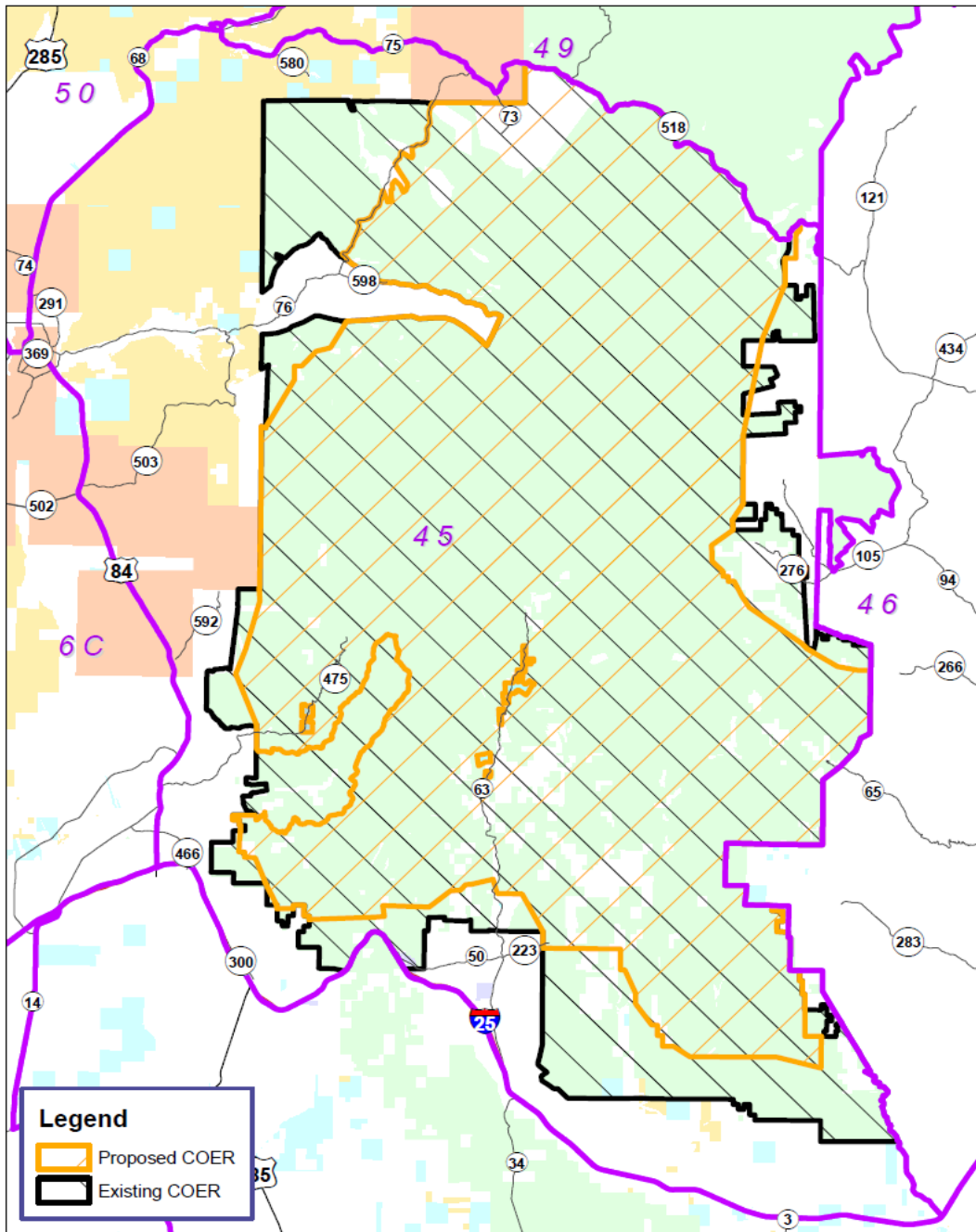
- Focus all hunting pressure on oldest age class, lowering average age of bulls in the population.
- Protects smaller antlered bulls (including those that will never become trophy animals)
- Most western states have discontinued the use of APR.

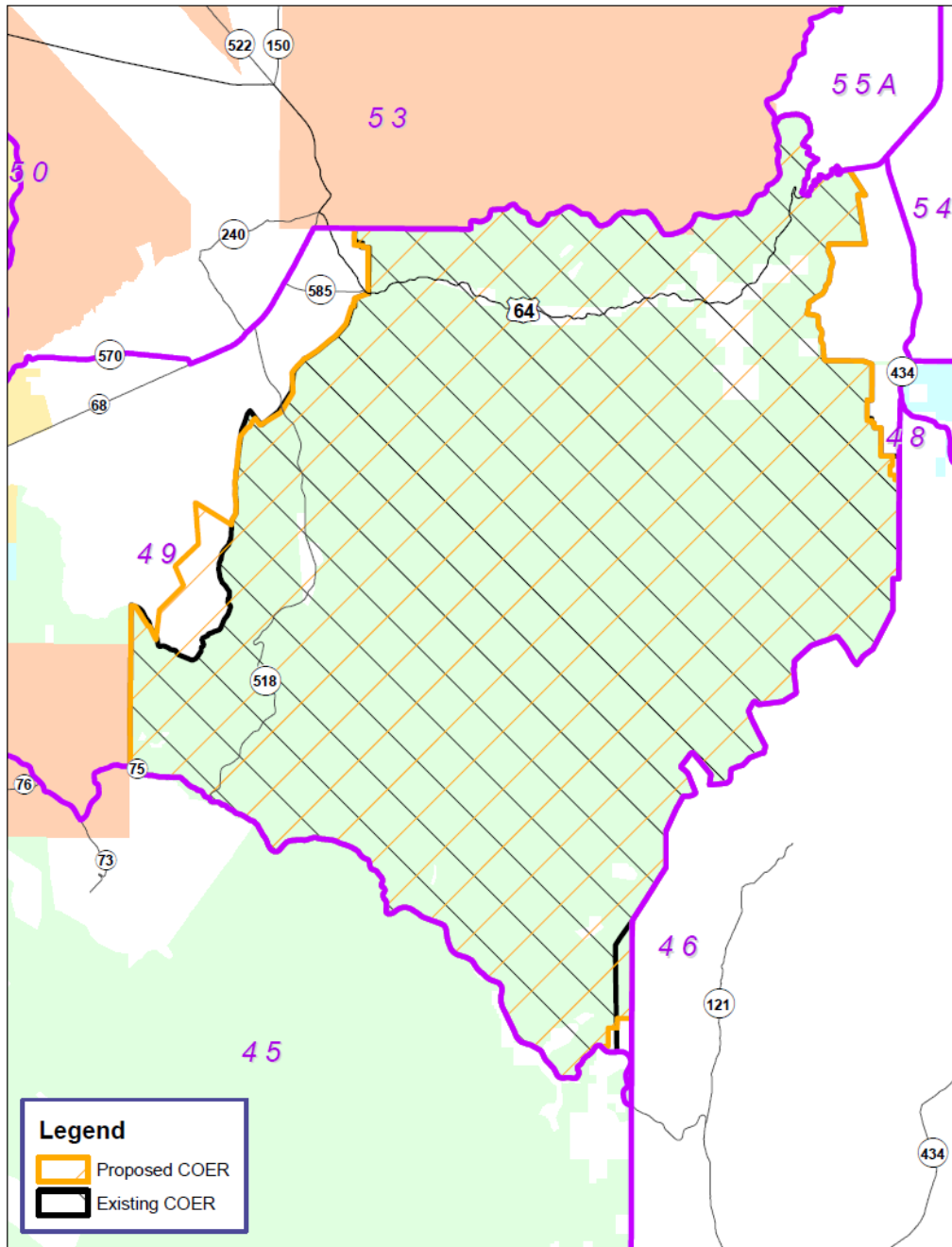
■ APR In NM

- Success 11% lower w/APR
- Bull:cow ratios did not differ w/APR

Proposed Amendments: Elk19.31.14 NMAC

- GMU 45



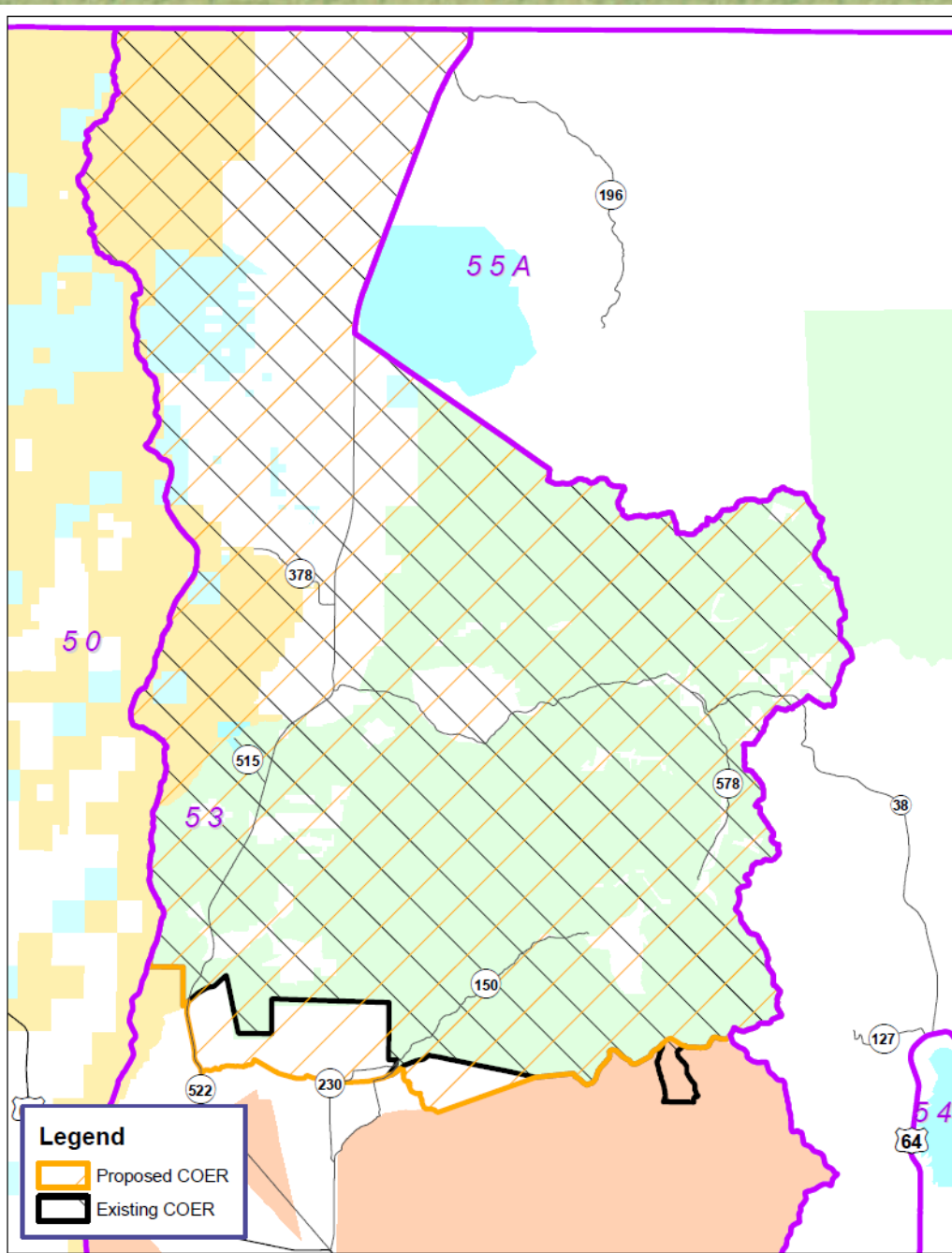


Proposed Amendments: Elk19.31.14 NMAC

- GMU 49

Proposed Amendments: Elk19.31.14 NMAC

- GMU 53



Proposed Amendments: Elk19.31.14 NMAC

- GMU 34

