



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

**2023–2024 NEW MEXICO**

# **UPLAND GAME HUNTING RULES & INFO**



Bobwhite quail, Eurasian collared-dove,  
grouse, pheasant and squirrel

[wildlife.state.nm.us](https://wildlife.state.nm.us)

*Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations*

## A Message from the Director



Hunting is a time-honored tradition in New Mexico that has brought our friends and families together to enjoy the great outdoors for generations. Thoughts of hunt camp bring memories of great times to our minds. Slow walks in the woods connect us on a deeper level with the diverse landscapes of this place we call home. In the end, we all hope for the chance to put a healthy, delicious meal on the table to share the experience and memories of our hunt with those closest to us.

But there are many other benefits that come from this annual tradition. By purchasing a hunting or fishing license, you're helping to ensure the future of outdoor recreation in the Land of Enchantment for years to come. Funds from license purchases, as well as from the sale of related stamps, allow the department to take on projects such as big game surveys, wildlife management area enhancement and maintenance, hatchery operations and fish stocking, and the conservation of species of greatest conservation need as listed in the State Wildlife Action Plan, to name a few. Education programs, habitat enhancement projects and conservation and law enforcement efforts also wouldn't be possible if it weren't for the sportsmen and sportswomen of New Mexico.

Nearly one-quarter of the department's funding to support wildlife conservation comes from the Game Protection Fund supported by your license purchase. Your purchase of validations like the Habitat Management and Access Validation (HMAV) and habitat stamp provide additional funding for special conservation projects. The remaining conservation efforts are largely supported by your purchase of firearms, ammunition and fishing equipment through the Wildlife Restoration Program, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Your contributions allow the department to invest in conservation efforts that ensure the future of wildlife, hunting and outdoor recreation in New Mexico.

Thank you for your support of wildlife conservation and the department's efforts to preserve both game and non-game species and their habitats for generations to come. It is because of you that we are able to do what we do.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Michael B. Sloane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael B. Sloane, Director – New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

# Contents

<b>General Information</b> . . . . .	4
<b>Important Reminders</b> . . . . .	5
<b>License Requirements &amp; Fees</b> . . . . .	6
<b>License Information</b> . . . . .	7–8
<b>Operation Game Thief: 1-800-432-4263</b> . . . . .	9
<b>General Regulations</b> . . . . .	10–11
<b>Rabbits and Other Nongame</b> . . . . .	10
<b>Open Gate Program</b> . . . . .	11
<b>Upland-game Rules</b> . . . . .	12
<b>Regulated Areas</b> . . . . .	13–15
<b>Shooting Hours</b> . . . . .	15
<b>Upland-game Seasons</b> . . . . .	16–18
Eurasian collared-doves, grouse, pheasant, quail and squirrel	
<b>Falconry Upland-game Seasons</b> . . . . .	18
<b>Possession Certificate</b> . . . . .	19

# General Information

## Our Mission

To conserve, regulate, propagate and protect the wildlife and fish within the State of New Mexico, using a flexible management system that ensures sustainable use for public food supply, recreation and safety – and to provide for off-highway motor vehicle recreation that recognizes cultural, historic and resource values while ensuring public safety.

## New Mexico State Game Commissioners

One Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, NM 87507;

Commissioner emails available online: [www.state.wildlife.nm.us](http://www.state.wildlife.nm.us)

Tirzio J. Lopez, Vice Chair, Cebolla

Fernando Clemente, Jr., Sunland Park

Gregg Fulfer, Jal

Edward T. Garcia, Albuquerque

Sharon Salazar Hickey, Santa Fe

## New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

One Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, NM 87507 . . . . . 1-888-248-6866

Michael B. Sloane, Director

## Regional Offices

**Northwest Office:** 7816 Alamo Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120 . . . 505-222-4700

**Southwest Office:** 2715 Northrise Drive, Las Cruces, NM 88011 . . . 575-532-2100

**Northeast Office:** 215 York Canyon Road, Raton, NM 87740 . . . . . 575-445-2311  
P.O. Box 1145, Raton, NM 87740

**Southeast Office:** 1615 West College Boulevard, . . . . . 575-624-6135  
Roswell, NM 88201

## Conservation Officer Contact Information

<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/enforcement/law-enforcement-contact-information/>

## Online Licenses, Applications and Harvest Reporting

<https://onlinesales.wildlife.state.nm.us>

## Important Telephone Numbers

General Information, License Sales and Harvest Reporting . . . . . 1-888-248-6866

Hunter Education Program Information . . . . . (505) 222-4731

Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Information . . . . . (505) 222-4712

**Operation Game Thief (OGT)** . . . . . **1-800-432-4263**

24-hour Depredation Hotline . . . . . 1-888-727-4883

TDD (number for hearing impaired) . . . . . (505) 476-8143

The *2023-24 New Mexico Upland Game Hunting Rules and Information* includes seasons for upland game. Information about seasons, hunting regulations, licenses requirements and fees for other hunts can be found online as follows:

- **Migratory game birds:** *2023-24 New Mexico Migratory Game Bird Hunting Rules and Information*
- **Big game and turkey:** *2023-24 New Mexico Hunting Rules and Information*
- **Furbearer:** *2023-24 New Mexico Furbearer Rules and Information*

Cover: *New Mexico Department of Game and Fish* photo.



# Important Reminders

## **Pheasant Application Deadline: August 16, 2022**

Deadline for all special permit pheasant hunts is August 16, 2022 before 5 p.m. MDT. No more than four people may apply per application. No more than two youths may apply per youth hunt application.

## **Upland-game Species Include:**

Eurasian collared-doves, grouse, pheasant, quail and squirrel.

## **Game-hunting Licenses (see page 6)**

Licenses and permits can be purchased online: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us) or by calling: **1-888-248-6866**. Licenses and permits may also be purchased over the counter (OTC) at New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) offices or at local vendors.

## **Print Your Own Licenses and Permits**

NMDGF Game-hunting Licenses and permits are available online and may be printed on standard paper. Licenses and permits will be mailed only upon request by telephone: **1-888-248-6866**. Successful pheasant applicants must purchase a Game-hunting License to validate their draw permit.

## **Information Center Assistance: 1-888-248-6866**

The NMDGF Information Center is open year-round Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (except holidays) to answer questions and assist with license issues or harvest reports.

## **Free Online Maps and Mobile app**

BLM-New Mexico has partnered with the NMDGF to provide free maps of big-game hunting units and recreational areas on public lands. Download the CarryMap app to your mobile device, then download New Mexico maps at:

<https://www.blm.gov/maps/frequently-requested/new-mexico/hunting-maps>.



# License Requirements & Fees

## While in The Field You Must Have All of the Following

1. Game-Hunting or Game-Hunting & Fishing License: required for all Upland-game hunters.
2. Habitat Management & Access Validation: required for all hunters, trappers or anglers. See exceptions on page 7.
3. Habitat Stamp: required for all hunters or anglers on U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management lands. See exceptions on page 7.
4. Written Permission: all hunters on private lands must possess written permission from the landowner or person authorized to grant permission.

License Type	Resident	Nonresident
Game-hunting License Squirrel and game birds	\$15	\$65
Game Hunting & Fishing License Squirrel, game birds and fishing	\$30	Not Issued
Junior Game-hunting License Squirrel and game birds	\$10	\$15
Junior Game-hunting & Fishing License Squirrel and game birds	\$15	Not Issued
Senior and Handicapped Game-hunting License Squirrel and game birds	\$15	Not Issued
Senior and Handicapped Game-hunting & Fishing License Squirrel and game birds	\$20	Not Issued
Disabled Veteran (less than 100%) Game Hunting & Fishing License Squirrel, game birds and fishing	\$10	Not Issued
Temporary (4 days) Game-hunting License Squirrel and game birds (other than turkey)	Not Issued	\$33
Nongame-hunting License (Nongame species, see page 10)	Not Issued	\$65
Habitat Improvement Stamp (Mandatory on all U.S. Forest Service and BLM properties. For age requirements and exceptions, see page 7)	\$10	\$10
Habitat Management & Access Validation (HMAV) (This validation does not replace the Habitat Stamp. For age requirements and exceptions, see page 7)	\$4	\$4

Licenses, stamps and validations may be purchased online: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us), by telephone: **1-888-248-6866**, and over the counter at all NMDGF offices and at local vendors (\$1 vendor fee applies).

# License Information

## Habitat Management & Access Validation

A Habitat Management & Access Validation (HMAV) must be purchased and possessed by all hunters, trappers and anglers, except individuals 17 years of age and younger, resident anglers 70 years and older (free fishing license) and 100% Disabled-Veteran card holders. Only one stamp each license year is required. Fees 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 Game Commission property for fish and wildlife habitat management. The HMAV will automatically be added to the shopping cart with your first purchase of a hunting, fishing or trapper license if required.

## Habitat Improvement Stamp

Hunters and anglers must purchase and possess a current Habitat Stamp to use U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in New Mexico, except anglers 11 years of age and younger and 100% disabled resident veterans in conjunction with privileges covered by the Disabled-Veteran card. Only one stamp is required each license year for these lands. The stamp is not required on other public property or on private property. The stamp is not required in Unit 28 which is predominately BLM property under military withdrawal. Funds from the sale of Habitat Stamps are used to improve wildlife habitat. All hunters, trappers and anglers are encouraged to purchase a Habitat Stamp.

## Reduced-Fee Licenses for Juniors

Reduced-fee licenses for resident junior game-hunting & fishing and junior game-hunting (resident and nonresident) are available to individuals 17 years of age and younger at the time of purchase, on or after April 1, 2023.

## Hunter Education or Mentor-Youth Hunter Number Required

Individuals younger than 18 years of age must either: 1) possess a Hunter Education number from New Mexico or another state; or 2) possess a New Mexico Mentor-Youth Hunter number. Certification and/or registration numbers will be printed on all hunters' Game-hunting Licenses once completed.

## New Mexico Residency Requirements

To qualify for New Mexico resident license(s), an individual must meet one of the following criteria:

1. A United States citizen who has resided in N.M. for a period of not less than 90 days immediately preceding the date of application (or purchase) for the license, has been domiciled in N.M. and has not claimed residency elsewhere for any purpose. Temporary or seasonal residents and home owners or P.O. box holders, who maintain a primary residence outside of N.M., do not qualify for resident licenses.
2. A citizen of another country who is legally in the United States and has actually lived in N.M. for at least 90 days immediately preceding his/her license application (or purchase).
3. A student, not otherwise entitled to claim residence, who is attending any educational institution in N.M., has attended and actually has lived in the state for at least one full semester immediately preceding the application (or purchase) for a license. Students must present a certificate or letter verifying their enrollment and attendance from the proper authorities of the educational institution.
4. A member of the U.S. military, not otherwise entitled to claim residence, who is permanently assigned to a military installation located within N.M. and who presents with his/her application a certificate or letter that verifies the military assignment and is signed by the commanding officer. The spouse or dependent of such person, living within the same household and similarly certified by the person's commanding officer may also purchase resident licenses.

## **Military and Veteran Licenses**

### **Free Licenses for 100% Disabled Resident Veterans**

New Mexico residents who are 100% disabled veterans of the armed services are eligible for a free lifetime Game-hunting & Fishing License. Disabled veterans may apply to NMDGF for a Disabled American Veteran card which allows the holder to hunt small game (migratory game birds and upland game), fish and obtain a free deer license. Card holders do not need to buy or possess a Habitat Stamp when fishing or hunting small game.

### **Disabled Veterans Game-hunting & Fishing Licenses**

Residents who are disabled veterans of the armed services, but do not meet the 100% disabled qualification, are eligible for a \$10 Game-hunting & Fishing License (\$20 savings). All other license requirements apply (page 6).

### **50% Discount for Resident Active Military and Veterans**

50% discounts on all licenses, permits and stamps are available to New Mexico residents who are active duty military or veterans. The discount may be claimed by applying for or purchasing any license, permit or stamp online, by telephone or at any license vendor. Residents claiming this discount must be able to provide proof of active duty military or veteran status upon request. Discount does not apply to: application fees, license vendor fees, administrative fees, the federal Duck Stamp or the Resident Disabled Veteran Game-hunting & Fishing License.

### **Nongame-hunting License**

Nonresidents must purchase a Nonresident Nongame License or a New Mexico Nonresident Game-hunting License to take nongame species. Residents are not required to have a license to take nongame species. See page 10, Rabbits and Other Nongame Species.

### **License Refunds and Transfers**

New Mexico Game-hunting Licenses are nontransferable and nonrefundable. For more information, call the NMDGF Information Center: **1-888-248-6866**.

### **License Information Is Public Record**

Pursuant to the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act, Sections 14-2-1 et. seq. NMSA 1978, information provided when applying for licenses and permits is public record and must be disclosed to anyone when properly requested except as provided by law.

### **Penalties for Hunting without a License**

Hunters cited for hunting upland game without a license may pay a penalty assessment instead of appearing in court. The penalty assessment is \$125 for residents, \$175 for nonresidents and includes the cost of a hunting license, permits, stamps and fees related to the citation (page 6). A license will be mailed upon payment of the assessment. A hunter cited will be assessed 10 points against a potential 20 points which may result in license revocation. **License Revocation:** hunting and fishing privileges may be revoked for three years or more, if accumulated game law violations equal 20+ points within a three year period. For further information, please contact any NMDGF office.

### **Parental Responsibility Act**

The Parental Responsibility Act requires the New Mexico State Game Commission to suspend the recreational and professional licenses of anyone who does not comply with court-ordered child support obligations. The purpose is to discourage parental neglect of children by suspending hunting and fishing privileges until failure to pay court-ordered child support has been corrected and a \$25 reinstatement fee has been paid. For more information, telephone NMDGF Field Operations: **(505) 476-8065** or **1-888-248-6866**.



# Operation Game Thief (OGT)

OGT is an anonymous tip line for reporting wildlife crimes anywhere in the state. Rewards are paid for any case in which charges have been filed; a conviction is not required. OGT is funded solely through donations from individuals and organizations and not from tax or license fees. Rewards range from \$50–\$750.

**OGT Hotline** (24 hours, 7 days a week):

**1-800-432-4263** or **[www.wildlife.state.nm.us/ogt](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/ogt)**



**Operation Game Thief**  
**1-800-432-4263**

# General Regulations

## It is unlawful to:

- Hunt protected species without a license and all applicable permits, stamps and validations.
- Hunt any protected species outside of established season for that species.
- Hunt protected species using licenses, permits, stamps or validations belonging to another individual or take or attempt to take a protected species for another person.
- Take or attempt to take game species by the aid of baiting. An area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait.
- Use live protected species as decoys to take or attempt to take game species.
- Exceed the daily bag limit or have more than the legal possession limit of any species.
- Use electronically or mechanically recorded calling devices, except as permitted for non-game species and during the Light Goose Conservation Order.
- Shoot at protected species or artificial wildlife from a motor vehicle.
- Discharge a firearm within 150 yards of a dwelling or building (not including abandoned or vacated buildings on public land) without the permission of the owner or lessee.
- Hunt while under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicants, including marijuana.
- Litter and/or pollute streams, lakes and other waters.
- Leave a fire unattended or improperly handle fire.
- Shine spotlights or other artificial lights into areas where big game or livestock may be present, while in possession of any sporting arm.
- Park any motor vehicle or camp within 300 yards of any man-made water hole, water well or watering tank used by wildlife or domestic stock, without the prior consent of the private landowner, private-land lessee, public-land lessee or public-land management agency.
- Shoot at game on, from or across any paved, graded or maintained public road or within the fenced right-of-way of any paved, graded or maintained public road.
- Use motor-driven vehicles on roads closed under the Habitat Protection Act or other federal regulation.
- Hunt or shoot at any animal from an aircraft or drone or fly an aircraft in any manner which causes any non-domesticated animal to move from its place of rest or change its direction of travel.
- Hunt from, signal locations of protected species to hunters from or harass game with aircraft; hunt protected species observed from aircraft within 48 hours of observation; or hunt protected species the same day of air travel, except by commercial airline or direct flight to a landing strip.
- Take any animal that is protected by law but not listed as a game species and/or any animal that is listed as an endangered or threatened species.
- Recklessly or carelessly handle a firearm.

## Protected Bird Species

Unless otherwise designated, all birds are protected by law. In addition to the game birds listed in this booklet, protected birds include eagles, hawks, falcons, owls, vultures, crows, ravens and all songbirds. Unprotected birds are starlings, rock doves (common pigeons) and house sparrows (English sparrows).

## Rabbits and Other Nongame Species

Common nongame species include coyotes, skunks, rabbits and rock squirrels. New Mexico residents are not required to have a license to take nongame species. Nonresidents must possess either a Nonresident Nongame License or a current New Mexico Nonresident Game-hunting license. Nongame species may be taken on U.S. Forest Service and BLM lands open to hunting. Nongame species may also be taken on State Trust Lands which are opened by easement, provided the hunter holds a valid license for protected species on those lands and he/she is hunting during the season(s) designated for that license. White-sided jackrabbits, found primarily in Hidalgo County, are protected under the New Mexico Wildlife Conservation Act and may not be hunted.

## Vehicle Use: Driving Off-road or on a Closed Road

1. During the seasons established for any protected species, it is unlawful to drive or ride in a motor vehicle which is driven off an established road on **public land** or on a closed road on public land when the vehicle bears a licensed hunter or angler.
2. During the seasons established for any protected species, it is unlawful to drive or ride in a motor vehicle which is driven off an established road on **private land**, without written permission from the landowner, when the vehicle bears a licensed hunter, angler or trapper.
3. It is unlawful to drive or ride in a motor vehicle which is being driven off an established road or on a closed road when gathering or searching for shed antlers on public land.
4. EXCEPTION: Snowmobiles may be driven off established roads and lawfully taken game may be retrieved in areas not closed to vehicular traffic.
5. Public land as used in this section shall mean any federally owned or managed property, any state owned or managed property, any private property which is part of a unitization hunting agreement, ranch wide agreement or unit wide agreement for the species being hunted, any private property which the Department has paid for public access for the species being hunted or any New Mexico State Game Commission owned or managed property.

### Established road means:

1. A road, built or maintained by equipment, which shows no evidence of ever being closed to vehicular traffic by such means as berms, ripping, scarification, reseeding, fencing, gates, barricades or posted closures;
2. A two-track road which shows use prior to hunting seasons for other purposes such as recreation, mining, logging and ranching and which shows no evidence of ever being closed to vehicular traffic by such means as berms, ripping, scarification, reseeding, fencing, gates, barricades or posted closures.

### Hunting on Private Land

Hunters must obtain written permission before entering private lands (*see Criminal Trespass*). It is unlawful to hunt, capture, take, attempt to take or kill any game on posted private property without written permission of the landowner or person in control of the land, or if consent to remain on the property has been denied or withdrawn. Any game taken in violation of the above, shall be subject to seizure.

### Criminal Trespass

Any person entering private property without written permission from the landowner, manager or leasee may be charged with criminal trespass under Chapter 30-14-1, NMSA 1978. Criminal trespass is a misdemeanor and punishable by fines up to \$1,000 and 364 days in jail. For complete descriptions of *what is* and *what is not* criminal trespass and the penalties involved, see page 25–26 of the *2023–24 New Mexico Hunting Rules and Information*, available online: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us). Any person convicted of criminal trespass shall be revoked for at least three years.

## Open Gate Program

Open Gate is a voluntary access program available to landowners statewide. The purpose of the program is to provide outdoor users more opportunities to hunt, fish and trap. To accomplish this, lands and waters are leased from private landowners.

Each participating Open Gate property has special rules for permitted activities agreed upon by the landowner and NMDGF. These rules will be posted on the property and are also available on the NMDGF website:

[www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us). Hunters, anglers and trappers can use online information to locate and learn about properties that match their interests. It is the responsibility of the individual using the property to know and obey posted rules. Citations may be issued for violation of any rules or regulations.



# Upland-game Rules

## Legal Sporting Arms

### **Upland Game: Eurasian collared-doves, grouse, pheasant, quail and squirrel.**

Quail and pheasant may be taken with shotguns and muzzle-loading shotguns firing shot, bows and crossbows. Eurasian collared-dove, grouse and squirrels may be taken with shotguns firing shot, muzzle-loading shotguns, rim-fire and muzzle-loading firearms, bows, crossbows and compressed air guns firing a pellet .177 or larger.

### **Nontoxic Shot Mandatory**

Anyone hunting upland game on Bernardo, LaJoya or Huey WMAs must use and possess only USFWS-approved nontoxic shot. Nontoxic shot is not required for any species of upland game on other State Game Commission owned or managed properties.

Nontoxic shot includes: bismuth-tin, iron (steel), copper-clad iron, iron-tungsten, iron-tungsten-nickel, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, tungsten matrix, tungsten polymer, tungsten-tin-iron, tungsten-tin-bismuth, tungsten-tin-iron-nickel and tungsten-iron-polymer.

### **Possession, Transportation and Storage**

It is unlawful to possess game birds or squirrels without a proper license or possession certificate demonstrating the game was taken legally.

No game of any kind may be transported or possessed by another person, unless that game is accompanied by a possession certificate (sample possession certificate, page 19 and online: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)).

### **Proof of Species, Sex and Bag Limit**

The head or leg of each pheasant, one foot of each quail and one fully feathered wing of each Eurasian collared-dove (other species of dove and band-tailed pigeons are exempt) must remain attached to the bird until it is at a residence, taxidermist, meat processing facility or place of final cold storage.

### **Wanton Waste**

Wanton waste is illegal. Anyone taking upland game must transport the edible portions of the meat from the field for human consumption.

# Regulated Areas

## Access to Public Lands

New Mexico contains approximately nine million acres of National Forest and 13 million acres of BLM lands. NMDGF recommends contacting the appropriate land management agency prior to hunting. Many public lands in New Mexico are also interspersed with privately owned property. A private landowner has the right to control the use of his/her private land. Where no public access exists, sportsmen/women must obtain written permission from the landowner or leaseholder to cross private land for access to public land. It is unlawful for persons to post or restrict lawful use of public land.

## Forest Service and BLM Lands

Most BLM and U.S. Forest Service lands, including Wilderness Study Areas, are open to public hunters. It is the responsibility of each hunter to know what restrictions apply and where. Vehicle use and off-road vehicle travel may be restricted or prohibited on these lands. For more information: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/> or <https://www.blm.gov/new-mexico>

## State Trust Lands

The New Mexico State Game Commission has purchased a lease for hunting, fishing and trapping of protected species on State Trust Land. Certain State Trust Land may be under business lease and withdrawn by the Commissioner of Public Lands, and therefore unavailable for hunting and fishing. For specific locations, contact the New Mexico State Land Office: **(505) 827-5760** or <https://www.nmstatelands.org/resources/hunting-access-information/>.

## National Parks and Monuments

National parks and national monuments are closed to hunting, except the following BLM managed national monuments: Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument, Prehistoric Trackways National Monument and Organ Mountains–Desert Peaks National Monument.

## National Wildlife Refuges

Contact individual federal refuges for hunting regulations.

## Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

Areas owned and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation are open unless otherwise posted. Additional restrictions may apply. For information contact the BOR: **(505) 462-3540**.

## Native American Tribal Lands

Contact tribal officials about hunting on tribal lands.

## McGregor Range in Unit 28

For access information, email [christopher.a.taylor154.civ@army.mil](mailto:christopher.a.taylor154.civ@army.mil).

## Jornada Experimental Station

Contact the Jornada Experimental Station in Doña Ana County for public access and restrictions: **(575) 646-4842**.

## Chihuahuan Desert Research Center

The Chihuahuan Desert Rangeland Research Center (College Ranch) is closed to public access. Call: **(575) 646-3125** or visit: <http://chihuahuansc.nmsu.edu/index.html>.

### **Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District**

For more information and to obtain access along the Rio Grande call: **(505) 864-7466**.

### **Sandia Ranger District**

The Sandia Ranger District is open only to bow and crossbow hunting for upland game during established seasons.

### **Valle Vidal**

Valle Vidal is closed to all upland-game hunting.

### **New Mexico State Parks**

New Mexico State Parks are closed to all hunting except in designated areas.

Contact state park superintendents for designated hunting areas and directions or call: **1-888-667-2757**.

### **State Game Commission Owned or Managed Areas**

The State Game Commission owns and manages lands across New Mexico for the benefit of fish, wildlife and their habitats. These lands include New Mexico's Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Select WMAs are open to provide additional public hunting opportunities. See below for special WMA rules.

### **General Rules for Hunting on Wildlife Management Areas**

- WMA access is allowed by each properly-licensed hunter with up to three guests during his/her published hunt period.
- Individuals may not enter closed areas as posted on site.
- Vehicles may not be operated off established roads or on closed roads.
- Camping is restricted to designated areas. Individuals may not camp more than 14 consecutive days, except during their published hunt period.
- Campfires must be safely contained.
- Dogs must remain on leash, except when being used for hunting purposes as allowed by rule.
- Domestic livestock feed, other than pelleted feed, grain feed or hay certified as weed free, is prohibited.
- Individuals may not deface or remove rocks, minerals, plants (including fruits, nuts and berries), animals, firewood or man-made features (including artifacts).
- Individuals may not violate access rules for WMAs posted on site or otherwise published by NMDGF.

## State Game Commission Owned or Managed Areas—continued.

Hunting nongame animals, protected furbearers or unprotected species (feral hogs) is not allowed on WMAs, except Water Canyon WMA where nongame hunting is allowed January 1–March 31, 2024. For further rules and specific information about each WMA, visit Conservation/State Game Commission Lands at

<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/conservation/state-game-commission-lands/>

WMAs **not specifically** listed as open on page 16-17 are closed to hunting for species listed in this booklet.

Eurasian collared-dove hunting is open during seasons for mourning and white-winged dove and during open quail, squirrel and dusky grouse seasons on open WMAs.

## Shooting Hours

**Upland Game:** 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset, unless otherwise noted.\*

**\*Exceptions: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.**

**W.S. Huey (Quail, Collared-Dove)**

**Bernardo Pheasant Draw Hunt**

**Bottomless Lakes Overflow**



NMDGF photo.

**1-888-248-6866** NMDGF Information Center: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (except holidays)

# Upland-game Seasons

	Hunt Area	Season Dates	Bag / Possession
Quail (Scaled, Gambel's, Bobwhite, Montezuma)	Statewide	Nov. 15–Feb. 15, '24	15 per day, Singly or in aggregate (no more than 5 Montezuma Quail) / 30 in possession (no more than 10 Montezuma quail).
Dusky (Blue) Grouse	Statewide	Sept. 1–Dec. 31	3 per day / 6 in possession
Squirrel (Abert's, Red, Gray and Fox)	Statewide	Sept. 1–Dec. 31	8 per day singly or in aggregate/ 16 in possession
Pheasant	Statewide	Dec. 7-10	3 males per day / 6 in possession
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Statewide	April 1–March 31, '24	Unlimited

## State Game Commission WMAs

State Game Commission owned or managed areas listed below are open to upland-game hunting. No hunting is allowed outside of open seasons or for species not listed. Shooting hours are listed on page 15. Camping and vehicles are restricted to designated areas.

## Days Open to Upland-game Hunting ( • = Days Open)

WMAs	Species	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thr.	Fri.	Sat.
W.S. Huey	Quail, Collared Dove (during dove and quail season)		•		•			•
Marquez/LBar, Prairie Chicken Areas, Socorro-Escondida, Water Canyon	All Upland Game during Quail Seasons (Collared Dove open during Dove Season)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Colin Neblett, E.S. Barker, Humphries, Rio Chama, Sargent, and Urraca	All upland game during tree squirrel and dusky grouse seasons (Collared Dove open during dove season)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
La Joya (east of the railroad tracks), Double E, River Ranch, Charette lake, McAllister lake, Wagon Mound, Tucumcari, Hammond tract and Retherford	Collared Dove (during dove season)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•



## Upland-game Seasons—continued.

### Draw Permit Hunts (Resident Only)

#### Special Pheasant Permits

Permits (issued by drawing) are required for special permit pheasant hunts on W.S. Huey and for youth-only pheasant hunts on Bernardo WMA. To receive a permit, hunters may apply online: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us) or call: **1-888-248-6866**. Applications must be submitted by August 16 before 5 p.m. MDT.

#### Bernardo and W.S. Huey Youth-only Pheasant Hunts

Two youth-only pheasant hunts are available by drawing. Using the hunt code listed below, apply online or by telephone (listed above). Youth hunters must have a Game-hunting License and be accompanied by a non-hunting adult. Up to two hunters may apply per application.

Hunt Area	Hunt Code	Season Dates	Bag Limit	Permits
Bernardo	PHE-0-001	Oct. 21	3 males	20
W.S. Huey	PHE-0-002	Dec. 2	3 males	40

#### W.S. Huey Pheasant Hunt

A draw-permit hunt open to all applicants will be held at W.S. Huey. Using the hunt code listed below, apply online or by telephone (listed above). This hunt is open to adult and youth hunters. A Game Hunting License is required. Up to four hunters may apply per application.

Hunt Area	Hunt Code	Season Dates	Bag Limit	Permits
W.S. Huey	PHE-0-003	Dec. 9	3 males	40

## *Upland-game Seasons—continued.*

### **Bitter Lake Youth-only Pheasant Hunt**

A youth-only pheasant hunt at Bitter Lake Refuge will be scheduled. Hunter Education and/or Mentor-Youth Hunter Program requirements are listed on page 7. For details contact the Bitter Lake Refuge: **(575) 622-6755** or **steve\_alvarez@fws.gov**

### **Dog Call-Pen and Field Trial Permits**

A \$15 permit is required for either a call-pen release or dog field trial. Contact NMDGF's Santa Fe Office for information: **(505) 476-8064** or **DGF.Permits@dgf.nm.gov**

### **Shooting Preserve Permits**

A shooting preserve permit fee is \$200. Contact NMDGF's Santa Fe office for information: **(505) 476-8064** or **DGF.Permits@dgf.nm.gov**.

### **Possession of Live Birds**

Wounded birds must be killed immediately. Possession of live birds without a permit is illegal.

### **Falconry Upland-game Seasons (Statewide)**

Grouse, pheasant, quail, squirrel and Eurasian collared-doves.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Season Dates</b>	<b>Bag / Possession</b>
Grouse and Pheasant	Sept. 1–Feb. 28 '24	3 singly or in aggregate / 6 in possession
Quail	Sept. 1–Feb. 28 '24	3 singly or in aggregate / 30 in possession
Squirrel	Sept. 1–Feb. 28 '24	3 singly or in aggregate / 16 in possession
Eurasian collared-dove	Apr. 1–Mar. 31 '24	No bag or possession limits



# Possession Certificate

Use this certificate if you give game animals or parts to a person or organization.

I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
Full name of license holder. Please print.

residing at: \_\_\_\_\_ tel.: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_,  
Address and telephone of license holder required. Please print.

on this day: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ at: \_\_\_\_\_,  
Date of transaction; Place of transaction.

hereby convey to: \_\_\_\_\_ the following game animal(s) or parts:  
Full name of person receiving game animal(s) of parts.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Detailed description of the kind and number of animals donated or the kind, approximate weight and specific parts donated.  
(Example: one scaled quail weighing approximately 1 lb.)

for the purpose of: \_\_\_\_\_,  
Donation, taxidermy and/or meat processing.

taken in GMU \_\_\_\_\_ under license number: \_\_\_\_\_ and taken on:  
\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_.

Donor: \_\_\_\_\_ Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of license holder) (Signature of recipient)

By signing we understand and acknowledge to postdate, predate or otherwise falsify a Possession Certificate is unlawful.



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New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

*Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations*

A young woman with blonde hair, wearing a grey baseball cap, a dark hoodie, and a bright orange safety vest, stands in a field of tall, golden-brown grass. She is holding a rifle and looking back over her shoulder towards the camera. The background shows a vast, open landscape under a clear sky.

**Will she remember the  
experiences of a lifetime or  
another online chat?**

**Mentor-Youth Hunting Program**

[www.wildlife.state.nm.us/education/hunter-education](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/education/hunter-education)

**(505) 222-4731**

**2023–2024 New Mexico Upland Game  
Hunting Rules and Information**

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