

Bear (877) 950-5466-Zone Closure and Harvest Hotline

Draw Permits and Over-the-Counter Licenses

General Information

The state has been divided into 11 Bear Management Zones. This allows the Department to better manage bear populations on a regional basis. All zones have two different harvest limits. One is the total number of bears that may be harvested. The other limit is the number of female bears that may be harvested.

Harvest Limits for All Zones

The harvest limit for each Bear Management Zone is listed in the chart on the next page. The first number indicates the total number of bears that may be harvested in each zone followed by the number of female bears that may be harvested. **Most Bear Management Zones will close when the harvest is within 10% of either the sustainable mortality limit or female sub-limit, whichever comes first. This measure is taken to avoid exceeding sustainable harvest of the resource.** Bears taken from the Sargent WMA and Humphries WMA in Zone 1 or the Barker/Neblett WMAs or Valle Vidal in Zone 2C and the Marquez WMA in Zone 3 shall count toward the harvest limit in those zones.

Zone Closure

BEFORE HUNTING, hunters **MUST** call (877) 950-5466 toll-free or check our website www.wildlife.state.nm.us to ensure that they do not hunt in a zone that has been closed.

Over-The-Counter License

An over-the-counter (OTC) license with valid carcass tag may be purchased from license vendors, Department offices, online or by mail using Form 3. One carcass tag comes with each license. **You must purchase a bear hunting license AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE HUNTING.**

Draw Permit

Draw permits for bear hunting are available for Unit 2 Youth Only hunt and the Sargent, Humphries, Marquez, Barker and Colin Neblett WMAs and the Valle Vidal/Greenwood area. Application for these draw permits must be made by **Feb. 2, 2011**, using Form 2011 or online at www.wildlife.state.nm.us submitting a nonrefundable application fee of \$8 for residents and \$20 for nonresidents. Only one hunter may apply per Form 2011. A hunter who receives a permit must then purchase an OTC bear license at least two days before hunting. Hunters who draw a permit for a WMA or Valle Vidal hunt also may hunt during the OTC season if they possess an unused tag and have not taken a bear.

Seasons For Draw Permit Hunts

Area	Date	Hunt Code	Permits
Unit 2 Youth Only	Aug. 1-31	BER-1-100	5
Sargent WMA	Aug. 1-31	BER-1-101	10
Humphries WMA	Aug. 1-31	BER-1-102	5
Marquez WMA	Aug. 1-31	BER-1-103	5
Barker and Colin Neblett WMAs	Aug. 1-31	BER-1-104	12
Valle Vidal/Greenwood	Aug. 1-31	BER-1-105	20
Valle Vidal/Greenwood	April 1-14	BER-1-106	20

License Fees

License fee type is Standard (S)

Resident \$47 Nonresident \$260

Fees include the Depredation Damage Stamp fee. Habitat Stamps are required for hunting, fishing and trapping on U.S. Forest Service and BLM lands and must be purchased separately. A Habitat Management and Access Validation must be purchased separately.

Legal Sporting Arms

Centerfire rifle or handgun; shotgun no smaller than 28 gauge, firing a single slug; muzzle-loading rifle; bow and arrows or crossbow and bolts. In the Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest, only bows and crossbows may be used.

Baiting and Trapping

Baiting or trapping is not a legal method of taking bear. Anyone who accidentally traps a bear must either release it or call the Department for assistance in its release.

Bag Limit

The bag limit is one bear. A hunter may not take any cub younger than a year old or any female accompanied by a cub(s). State law does not require bear meat to be taken from the field.

Tagging of Bear Hides

Bears must be tagged with both a carcass and pelt tag. The carcass tag, which is received with the purchase of the license, must be attached immediately after the animal is taken by the hunter. The hunter then must present the license and hide for pelt tagging to any District Conservation Officer or any Department office within five days of taking the bear or before taking the hide out of New Mexico, whichever comes first. **A hunter who takes any bear IS REQUIRED to present the unfrozen skull with the mouth fixed open, to any Department office for removal of a premolar tooth.** The pelt tag must remain attached to the hide until the hide is processed. Improperly tagged hides may be seized by the Department.

Proof of Sex

The male bear's testicles, penis or baculum, or the female bear's vulva must remain attached to the hide of any bear taken and remain visible to the Department's tagging official. **The Department will only pelt tag a harvested bear if proof of sex is attached to the hide and readily visible to the tagging official. Bears presented to the Department for tagging without proof of sex attached may be seized.**

Use of Dogs

Dog use is **NOT** allowed on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Dog use is **NOT ALLOWED** from Sept. 1-22 in ANY unit. Dog use is **NOT ALLOWED** on Sept. 23 and 24 in Zone 5 (Units 12, 13, 15-18, 20-24, 26 and 27).

When dogs are used in hunting bears, the licensed hunter intending to harvest the bear must be present continuously once any dog is released. **Dogs may only be released during legal hunting hours.** There is no "pursuit" or "training" season outside the regular open season.

Valle Vidal

It is unlawful to hunt bears in the Valle Vidal, except by successful applicants who draw a Bear Draw Permit (BER-1-105 or BER-1-106) and purchase a Bear License.

Elk hunters may hunt bears in the Valle Vidal/Greenwood area if they:

1. Possess a Valle Vidal rifle, muzzleloader or bow elk license,
2. Use the sporting arm type specified for their elk hunt,
3. Hunt only during the dates of their elk hunt and
4. The harvest quota in Bear Zone 2C has not been met and the season is still open.

Livestock Damage

Landowners, lessees or their regular employees may, without a license, kill any bear that has killed domestic livestock or presents an immediate threat to human life or property. The person taking such action **MUST** report it to the Department of Game and Fish within 24 hours. Pelts, claws and other parts of depredating animals taken under the provisions listed above are the property of the State of New Mexico and must be turned in to the Department.

Draw Permits and Over-the-Counter Licenses

Seasons For Over-the-Counter Hunts

Zone	Open Units	Hunt Dates	Sporting Arm Type	Dog Use	Total Limit <u>or</u> Female Limit
Zone 1	Units 2, 4-7, 51 and 52	Sept. 1-22 Sept. 23-Nov. 15	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	139 <u>or</u> 56 Unit 2 sub-limit 15 <u>or</u> 6
Zone 2A	Units 41-43, 47-50 and 53 and 56-59	Sept. 1-22 Aug. 16-31 and Sept. 23-Nov. 15	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	85 <u>or</u> 34
Zone 2B	Units 45 and 46	Sept. 1-22 Aug. 16-31 and Sept. 23-Nov. 15	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	122 <u>or</u> 61
Zone 2C	Units 54 and 55	Sept. 1-22 Aug. 16-31 and Sept. 23-Nov. 15	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	106 <u>or</u> 53
Zone 3	Units 9 (except Marquez WMA) and 10	Sept. 1-22 Aug. 16-31 and Sept. 23-Nov. 15	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	25 <u>or</u> 10
Zone 4A	Unit 8	Sept. 1-22 Oct. 15-Nov. 15	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	5 <u>or</u> 2
Zone 4B	Unit 14	Sept. 1-22 Oct. 15-Nov. 15	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	12 <u>or</u> 5
Zone 5	Units 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20-24, 26 and 27	Sept. 1-24 Aug. 16-31 and Sept. 25-Nov. 30	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	109 <u>or</u> 44
Zone 6A	Units 37 and 38	Sept. 1-22 Aug. 16-31 and Sept. 23-Nov. 30	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	16 <u>or</u> 6
Zone 6B	Unit 34	Sept. 1-22 Aug. 16-31 and Sept. 23-Nov. 30	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	31 <u>or</u> 12
Zone 6C	Unit 36	Sept. 1-22 Aug. 16-31 and Sept. 23-Nov. 30	Bow Only Any Legal	Not Allowed Allowed	28 <u>or</u> 14

What You Must Know Before You Hunt

Closed Areas: The following units are closed to bear hunting: Units 2 (except by permit), 19, 25, 28-33, 39 and 40. All state Wildlife Management Areas are closed unless specifically open to hunting. See additional closures listed below. **Blaze Orange Clothing:** Hunters must wear at least 244 square inches of blaze orange while hunting on military property. **Restricted Areas:** It is unlawful to hunt bears in the Valle Vidal except as noted on page 52. Grapevine Canyon and McGregor Range Buffer Zone area in Unit 34 of Zone 6 are accessible by permit and military permission only. **Unit 10 of Zone 3 and Units 13, 18 and 20 of Zone 5:** These units are subject to closure by the U.S. Forest Service and/or the military during missile firings.

Zone 4: Hunters may use only bow or crossbows to hunt bear in the Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest. During the Sept. 1-22 and Sept. 1-24 bow seasons, dog use is not allowed and hunters may harvest a female bear. **No female bears or cubs younger than a year old may be taken.**

