

Current Rule (2010/11) versus Proposed Changes to Game Hunting Rules for (2011/12 – 2014/15)
GROUP B RULES: Bighorn sheep, Exotics (Oryx, ibex, and Barbary sheep), Waterfowl, Open Gate (changes to elk found in separate document).

All Rules:

	Current Rule (2010/11)	Proposed Rule (2011/12 – 2014/15)	Justification of change
1.	Covers 2 hunting seasons	Covers 4 hunting seasons	Allows sufficient time to monitor impacts of any rule change (3yr vs. 1yr), public may plan ahead and reduces time to developing/evaluating rules.
2.	Legal hunting hours ends @ sunset	Legal hours extended to ½ hr after sunset	Most states have adopted these hunting hours and allows increased hunting opportunity.
3.	Crossbow legal only for mobility impaired hunters	Crossbows legal for all hunters during the firearm seasons.	This legal weapon should be available to all hunters.

BIGHORN SHEEP:

	Current Rule (2010/11)	Proposed Rule (2011/12 – 2014/15)	Justification of change
1.	No hunting in Culebra mountains	1 ram license available	Herd has increased and can support this harvest. Hunt contingent upon access agreement between the Department and private landowners.
2.	No ewe hunting in Latir & Wheeler Peak	Add ewe hunts for youth (5) and general hunters (17).	Herds have increased and can support this harvest.
3.	Ewe hunting legal in Pecos Wilderness, no current hunt.	Ewe hunting limits increased, up to 5 youth and 17 general hunters.	This provides an additional tool to control populations when herd reductions are needed.
4.	Hunt 10 rams in Pecos (1 youth and 9 general hunters)	Hunt 6 rams in Pecos (1 youth and 5 general hunters)	Reduced ram harvest due to reduced herd size.
5.	Wheeler hunt dates: 9/5 – 9/15 San Francisco River & Turkey Creek hunt dates: 1/8 -1/16/2011	Wheeler hunt dates: 9/10 – 9/16 San Francisco River & Turkey Creek hunt dates: 1/7 -1/16/2012	Hunt season length in Wheeler to be consistent with other Alpine herds; a 10 day San Francisco River & Turkey Creek hunt established with consistent Saturday start date.
6.	Desert bighorn sheep hunt only in the Peloncillos	Establish desert bighorn hunts in the Hatchet (4), San Andres (TBD), Caballo (2), Fra Cristobal (2), and Ladron (1) mountains <u>only</u> if desert bighorn are removed from the state threatened and endangered species list.	Desert bighorn herds have increased and can sustain hunter harvest once they are no longer classified as a threatened animal. Private land hunts contingent upon access agreement between the Department and private landowners.

EXOTICS - Oryx:

	Current Rule (2010/11)	Proposed Rule (2011/12 – 2014/15)	Justification of change
1.	On range hunts available in August.	Cancel August hunts - move to other months.	Too hot to hunt – meat spoilage is a problem.
2.	Hunt season 2 days.	Hunt season 3 days.	Provide a better hunting experience, may increase success rates.
3.	Hunts on Small Missile Range and Red Canyon.	Cancel hunts on Small Missile Range and Red Canyon.	Oryx population decline in those areas.
4.	Separate youth only and mobility impaired hunts.	Combine youth only and mobility impaired hunts and increase licenses for both.	Allows more complete facilitation of these hunts due to personnel limitations.
5.	No military only (under deployment) hunt.	Move one WSMR security badge hunt to the military only (under deployment) hunt.	Increases opportunity for military personnel.

EXOTICS - Ibex:

	Current Rule (2010/11)	Proposed Rule (2011/12 – 2014/15)	Justification of change
1.	Single 2-week bow hunt w/100 lic.	Adds bow hunt 1/16 – 1/31 w/100 licenses.	Ibex herd has increased, more licenses available.
2.	20 muzzle loader licenses	Increase to 50 muzzle loader licenses	Ibex herd has increased, more licenses available.
3.	50 female/immature licenses, hunt season Oct 9-17	Add 50 licenses & expand season to Oct 1-31.	Ibex herd has increased, more licenses available.

4.	15 once-in-a-lifetime hunts	Increase to 30 once-in-a-lifetime hunts	Doubles opportunity in response to population increase -50% above target pop. size
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EXOTICS - Barbary Sheep:

	Current Rule (2010/11)	Proposed Rule (2011/12 – 2014/15)	Justification of change
1.	GMU 29 and 30 hunted separately.	Combine GMU 29 and 30	These adjacent units are better hunted together.
2.	GMU 33 is a draw hunt	Convert GMU 33 to over-the-counter, year long hunting.	GMU 33 is outside the core Barbary sheep management area.
3.	Hunt season for BBY-1-100 is Feb.1 – March 15.	Change hunt season to Feb. 1-28.	Changing all hunts in the core Barbary sheep area to consistent seasons reduces complexity of hunt rules for both public and private lands.
4	Military only hunt on McGregor Range.	Creates a 5 license general draw hunt on McGregor range	Provide general hunt opportunity on McGregor.
5	Draw hunts limited to SE units.	Draw licenses would be valid for statewide, year-long hunts.	Management goals are to reduce Barbary sheep populations outside core area.
6	Private land hunts in units 29,31-34,36 and 37 – hunt date – Feb.1-March 15	Private landowners may sign up as a special management property – license numbers and dates will be negotiated with the Department.	Give private land owners more flexible hunting structure to manage sheep herd.

WATERFOWL:

	Current Rule (2010/11)	Proposed Rule (2011/12)	Justification of change
1.	Defines current seasons.	Defines proposed seasons for 2011-12.	Shift seasons as per calendar change and subject to approval by USFWS.
2.	Central Flyway pintail bag limit is 1	Central Flyway pintail bag limit is 2	Population can sustain increased harvest.
3.	Hunting not allowed on Tuesdays in portions of Bernardo and La Joya WMA	Allow hunting on Tuesdays in portions of Bernardo and La Joya WMA	Increase opportunity.
4.	75 permits available for each of SCR-0-103, -104, and -106 MRGV sandhill crane hunts.	These hunts are decreased to 70 permits each.	Harvest may exceed permitted take.

OPEN GATE:

	Current Rule (2010/11)	Proposed Rule (2011/12 – 2014/15)	Description of change
1.	Poorly defined participation rules and requirements	Clarify participation requirements	Describes requirements for lands and water eligible for enrollment and establishes standard enrollment procedure.
2.	Does not contain adequate rule and incentive language in access agreements.	Adds a list of property rules to be posted on signs and provides incentives for landowners for habitat improvement.	Designed to increase the hunting, fishing and trapping experience on these private lands.
3.	Rules not well established for uses of Open Gate properties.	Clarifies proper use of Open Gate properties.	Defines that a person using Open Gate properties shall have valid licenses and comply with the posted property rules.