

**Changes to Bear and Cougar Hunting Rules:
Current Rule (2010/11) versus Proposed for (2011/12 – 2014/15), rev. 7-28-2010**

BOTH SPECIES:

	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.
4.	No penalty for reporting fraudulent harvest information.	20 point violation for false reporting on harvest	The Dept. requires accurate harvest information to make informed management decisions.
5.	Mechanical calls illegal for black bear hunting.	Mechanical calls legal for both cougar and black bear hunting.	Allowing mechanical calls for bear hunting will increase opportunity for bear hunters with an anticipated negligible impact on the resource.
6.	Closed zones preclude some department management actions	Department management actions for management of populations or to address critical situations are independent of closures	Necessary department management actions should not be precluded by zone closures
7.	Hunting in the USFS Sandia Ranger District is bow only	Bows and crossbows are legal for hunting in the USFS Sandia Ranger District	Requested change to increase hunter opportunity with negligible affect on populations
8.	No restriction on the time of release of dogs for pursuit during hunts	Release of dogs to pursue bears and cougars shall occur only during legal shooting hours	A law enforcement issue to curtail illegal activity.

BLACK BEAR:

	Current Rule (2010/11)	Proposed Rule (2011/12 – 2014/15)	Justification of change
1.	Bear Management Zone (BMZ) 1, 87 total harvest and/or 35 females.	Maximum harvest zone wide of 124 total harvest and no more than 50 females.	Increasing harvest from 7 to 10% of the estimated population with 40% females is sustainable and provides additional opportunity.
2.	BMZ 2, 166 total harvest and/or 66 females.	Create BMZ 2A (GMUs 41-44, 47-50 and 53-59) with maximum harvest zone wide, 182 total and no more than 73 females.	Increasing harvest from 7 to 10% of the estimated population with 40% females is sustainable and provides additional opportunity.
3.	BMZ 2, 166 total harvest and/or 66 females.	Create BMZ 2B (GMUs 45 and 46) with a 15% maximum harvest of 97 and 50% female harvest of 49. Add spring hunt (4/1-4/14).	Management objective of decreasing population in GMUs 45 and 46 due to high levels of nuisance and human safety risks.
4.	BMZ 2, 166 total harvest and/or 66 females.	Create BMZ 2C (GMUs 54 and 55) with a 15% maximum harvest of 105 and 50% female harvest of 53. Also add 10 bear entry permits for Valle Vidal during spring (4/1-4/14) and 10 for fall.	Management objective of decreasing population in GMUs 54 and 55 due to high levels of nuisance, human safety risks and ungulate management issues (poor elk calf recruitment).
5.	BMZ 3, 18 total harvest and/or 7 females	Maximum harvest zone wide of 25 total and no more than 10 females.	Increasing harvest to 10% of the estimated population with 40% females is sustainable and provides additional opportunity.
6.	BMZ 4, 12 total harvest and/or 5 females.	Create BMZ 4A (GMU 8) with a 15% maximum harvest of 7 with 50% female harvest of 4 zone-wide. Add spring hunt (4/1-4/14).	Management objective of decreasing population in GMU 8 due to high levels of nuisance and human safety risks.
7.	BMZ 4, 12 total harvest and/or 5 females.	Create BMZ 4B (GMU 14) with a 15% maximum harvest of 18 with 50% female harvest of 9 zone-wide. Add spring hunt (4/1-4/14).	Management objective of decreasing population in GMU 14 due to high levels of nuisance and human safety risks.
8.	BMZ 5, 77 total harvest and/or 31 females.	Maximum harvest zone wide of 110 total and no more than 44 females.	Increasing harvest from 7 to 10% of the estimated population with 40% females is sustainable and provides additional opportunity.
9.	BMZ 6, 46 total harvest and/or 18 females.	Maximum harvest zone wide of 65 total and no more than 26 females.	Increasing harvest from 7 to 10% of the estimated population with 40% females is sustainable and provides additional opportunity.
10.	BMZ 6, subunit 34 - 22 total harvest and/or 9 females.	GMU 34 subunit - Maximum harvest of 31 total and no more than 12 females.	Increasing harvest from 7 to 10% of the estimated population with 40% females is sustainable and

			provides additional opportunity while spreading harvest equitably throughout BMZ 6.
11.	BMZ 6, 46 total harvest and/or 18 females.	Create sub-limit for GMU 36 with a 15% maximum harvest of 28 and 50% female harvest of 14. Add spring hunt (4/1-4/14).	Management objective of decreasing population in GMU 36 due to high levels of nuisance and human safety risks.
12.	No spring bear season.	Create a spring bear season (4/1-4/14) in all BMZs where the population management objective is to decrease the population. No dogs shall be allowed during the spring season. All mortalities shall count toward the sustainable mortality limits.	Increase opportunity in BMZs that have a management objective of decreasing populations. The timing of the hunt will target male bears while avoiding females and cubs.

COUGAR:

	Current Rule (2010/11)	Proposed Rule (2011/12 – 2014/15)	Justification of change
1.	Cougar Management Zone (CMZ) A, 27 total harvest and/or 7 females.	Manage for a stable population with a maximum harvest of 73 with no more than 22 females.	Increasing harvest to 25% of the estimated population with 30% females is sustainable and provides additional opportunity.
2.	CMZ B, 15 total harvest and/or 4 females.	Manage for a stable population, maximum harvest of 50 with no more than 15 females.	Increasing harvest to 25% of the estimated population with 30% females is sustainable and provides additional opportunity.
3.	CMZ C, 53 total harvest and/or 13 females.	Manage for a reduced population, maximum harvest of 121 with a female harvest limit of 61. And split off GMUs 54 and 55 to form CMZ R.	Increasing the harvest in CMZ C to address depredation complaints and human safety issues and increase opportunity.
4.	CMZ D, 13 total harvest and/or 3 females.	Manage for a reduced population, maximum harvest of 32 with a female harvest limit of 16.	Increasing the harvest in CMZ D to address depredation complaints and increase opportunity.
5.	CMZ E, 30 total harvest and/or 8 females.	Manage for a stable population with a maximum harvest of 88 with no more than 26 females.	Increasing harvest to 25% of the estimated population with 30% females is sustainable and provides additional opportunity.
6.	CMZ F, 19 total harvest and/or 5 females.	Manage for a reduced population, maximum harvest of 65 with a female harvest limit of 33. Split off GMU 8 to form CMZ S with GMU 14.	Increasing the harvest in CMZ F to address lion predation on desert bighorn sheep and increase opportunity.
7.	CMZ G, 46 total harvest and/or 12 females.	Manage for a reduced population, maximum harvest of 104 with a female harvest limit of 52. Separate GMU 14 to form CMZ S with GMU 8.	Increasing the harvest in CMZ G to address depredation complaints and human safety issues and increase opportunity.
8.	CMZ H, 22 total harvest and/or 6 females.	Manage for a reduced population, maximum harvest of 33 with a female harvest limit of 17.	Increasing the harvest in CMZ H to address lion predation on desert bighorn sheep and increase opportunity.
9.	CMZ I, 34 total harvest and/or 9 females.	Manage for a stable population, maximum harvest of 64 with no more than 19 females.	Increasing harvest to 25% of the estimated population with 30% females is sustainable and provides additional opportunity.
10.	CMZ J, 69 total harvest and/or 17 females.	Manage for a stable population, maximum harvest of 156 with no more than 47 females.	Increasing harvest to 25% of the estimated population with 30% females is sustainable and provides additional opportunity.
11.	CMZ K, 38 total harvest and/or 10 females.	Manage for a reduced population, maximum harvest of 95 with a female harvest limit of 47.	Increasing the harvest in CMZ K to address lion predation on desert bighorn sheep herds and increase opportunity.
12.	CMZ L, 13 total harvest and/or 3 females.	Manage for a reduced population, maximum harvest of 27, with a female harvest limit of 13.	Increasing the harvest in CMZ L to address lion predation on desert bighorn sheep and increase opportunity.
13.	CMZ M, 35 total harvest and/or 9 females.	Manage for a stable population, maximum harvest of 51 with no more than 15 females.	Increasing harvest to 25% of the estimated population with 30% females is sustainable and provides additional opportunity.
14.	CMZ N, 10 total harvest and/or 3 females.	Manage for a stable population, maximum harvest of 27 with no more than 8 females.	Increasing harvest to 25% of the estimated population with 30% females is sustainable and provides additional opportunity.
15.	CMZ O, 6 total harvest and/or 2	Manage for a stable population, maximum	Increasing harvest to 25% of the estimated

	females.	harvest of 36 with no more than 11 females.	population with 30% females is sustainable and provides additional opportunity.
16.	CMZ P, 11 total harvest and/or 3 females.	Manage for a stable population, maximum harvest of 17 with no more than 5 females.	Increasing harvest to 25% of the estimated population with 30% females is sustainable and provides additional opportunity.
17.	CMZ Q, 46 total harvest and/or 12 females.	Manage for a stable population, maximum harvest of 60 with no more than 18 females.	Increasing harvest to 25% of the estimated population with 30% females is sustainable and provides additional opportunity.
18.	CMZ R (does not exist)	New Zone, removed GMUs 54 and 55 from Zone C to form this new zone. Manage for a stable population, max. harvest of 46 with no more than 14 females.	Increasing harvest to 25% of the estimated population with 30% females is sustainable and provides additional opportunity.
19.	CMZ S (does not exist)	New Zone, removed GMU 8 from zone F and GMU 14 from zone G to form this new zone. Manage to reduce population, max. harvest of 36 with a female harvest limit of 18.	Increasing the harvest to address lion depredation and high human safety problems while increasing opportunity.
20.	Cougar season is closed in the Florida Mountains during Persian ibex seasons	Cougar season is open in the Florida Mountains during Persian ibex seasons by legally licensed ibex hunters	Increase hunter opportunity.