



# News Release

Public Affairs Office  
PO Box 1306  
Albuquerque, NM 87103  
505/248-6911  
505/248-6915 (Fax)

**Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas) <http://southwest.fws.gov>**

Media Contact: Nicole Haskett Osborn at: 505-248-6599

## **Wildlife Refuge Seeks Public Input on Proposed Desert Bighorn Sheep Hunt**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Andres National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) on a proposal to hunt desert bighorn sheep rams on the Refuge. In coordination with White Sands Missile Range (Range) and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department), this hunt will provide a high quality hunting experience in a rugged desert setting that requires long hikes just to arrive at the base of the San Andres Mountain Range. Some of the best big game hunting can be found in the Southwest where the National Wildlife Refuge System offers a chance for any hunter to participate. Desert bighorn sheep hunting will begin on the Range in fall 2012.

The primary purpose of this project is to initiate a hunting program for desert bighorn sheep on the Refuge through the Department's public draw hunting program, Dona Ana County, New Mexico.

Through this scoping process, the Refuge is seeking public input to facilitate early identification of issues and concerns. Comments will be considered during alternative development to the extent practicable. A draft EA and Hunt Plan will be developed and provided to the public for review and comment following the scoping period.

The Refuge will collect input through September 26, 2012. The public is encouraged to provide input to refuge management by writing to:

Refuge Biologist  
San Andres National Wildlife Refuge  
5686 Santa Gertrudis Dr.  
Las Cruces, NM 88012

Or may e-mail the Refuge at the following address: [mara\\_weisenberger@fws.gov](mailto:mara_weisenberger@fws.gov)

\*Please put "Scoping Public Input – Desert Bighorn Sheep Hunt" in the *subject* heading.

The San Andres National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1941 and for the conservation and development of natural wildlife resources. The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).