Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge

Big Game, Migratory Bird, Upland Game, and Predatory and Fur-bearing Mammal Hunt Plan

April 2020

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge
1611 N Second Ave
Ajo, AZ 85321

Submitted By:
Project Leader

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Signature                Date

Concurrence:
Refuge Supervisor

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Signature                Date

Approved:
Regional Chief,
National Wildlife
Refuge System

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Signature                Date
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CABEZA PRIETA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
BIG GAME, MIGRATORY BIRD, UPLAND GAME, AND PREDATORY
AND FUR-BEARING MAMMAL HUNT PLAN

I. Introduction

National wildlife refuges are guided by the mission and goals of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), the purposes of an individual refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) policy, and laws and international treaties. Relevant guidance includes the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, Refuge Recreation Act of 1962, and selected portions of the Code of Federal Regulations and Fish and Wildlife Service Manual.

Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge (NWR/refuge) was established pursuant to Executive Order 8038 on January 25, 1939, to be:

“reserved and set apart for the conservation and development of natural wildlife resources, and for the protection and improvement of public grazing lands and natural forage resources… Provided, however, that all the forage resources in excess of that required to maintain a balanced wildlife population within this range or preserve should be available for livestock… Under this Executive Order, the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall have power jointly to make such rules and regulations for its [Cabeza Prieta Game Range’s] protection, administration, regulation, and improvement, and for the removal and disposition of surplus game animals as they may deem necessary to accomplish its purposes and not inconsistent with State law.”

On March 31, 1975, Public Land Order 5493 changed the name from the Cabeza Prieta Game Range to the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge and gave sole jurisdiction to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Title III of the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 supplemented the refuge purposes with an additional refuge purpose, the protection of the wilderness resource on 325,270 hectares (803,418 acres) in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Cabeza Prieta NWR encompasses 860,000 acres, a portion of which are open to the public for wildlife-related activities, including wildlife observation and photography, primitive camping, limited hunting, and environmental education and interpretation. The refuge has limited vehicle access for public recreation. Most of the refuge can be accessed by foot, but this is limited due to the extreme environmental conditions, lack of water availability, and sheer size of the refuge.
The mission of the NWRS, as outlined by the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (NWRSAA), as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.), is:

“... to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management and, where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.”

The NWRSAA mandates the Secretary of the Interior in administering the System to (16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)(4):

- Provide for the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants, and their habitats within the NWRS;
- Ensure that the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of the NWRS are maintained for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans;
- Ensure that the mission of the NWRS described at 16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)(2) and the purposes of each refuge are carried out;
- Ensure effective coordination, interaction, and cooperation with owners of land adjoining refuges and the fish and wildlife agency of the States in which the units of the NWRS are located;
- Assist in the maintenance of adequate water quantity and water quality to fulfill the mission of the NWRS and the purposes of each refuge;
- Recognize compatible wildlife-dependent recreational uses as the priority general public uses of the NWRS through which the American public can develop an appreciation for fish and wildlife;
- Ensure that opportunities are provided within the NWRS for compatible wildlife-dependent recreational uses; and
- Monitor the status and trends of fish, wildlife, and plants in each refuge.

Secretarial Order 3356 continues the Department of the Interior's efforts to enhance conservation stewardship; increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, including opportunities to hunt and fish; and improve the management of game species and their habitats for this generation and beyond. It directs several components of the Department to assess past and ongoing implementation of the recommendations set forth in Executive Order 13443, "Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation," to inform how best to enhance and expand public access to lands and waters administered by the Department-lands and waters owned by all Americans-for hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, and other forms of outdoor recreation.

Secretarial Order 3366 mandates all Bureaus to ensure public lands and waters under the management and administration of the U.S. Department of the Interior (Department) are open and accessible for recreational pursuits by all Americans and visitors to the United States.

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Therefore, it is a priority of the Service to provide for wildlife-dependent recreation opportunities, including hunting and fishing, when those opportunities are compatible with the purposes for which the refuge was established and the mission of the NWRS.

The refuge, in cooperation the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), has allowed limited desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) hunts through AZGFD hunt permit-tags and refuge special use permits (SUPs) since 1968. The SUP lists specific rules on Cabeza Prieta NWR, including the use of stock animals and guide service and coordinates of campsite locations. Over the past decade or so, the tag limit for desert bighorn sheep has generally ranged between six and twelve permits per year (nine in 2018).

No current hunt plan exists for Cabeza Prieta NWR. This document will establish a plan for the refuge to manage hunting for the future.

**II. Statement of Objectives**

The objective of a hunting program on Cabeza Prieta NWR is to increase opportunities for public recreational and wildlife-dependent experiences on refuge lands. Including species currently hunted on the refuge, 16 species are covered under the hunting program (Table 1).

Table 1. Common and scientific names of species included in the Cabeza Prieta NWR Hunt Plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Desert Bighorn Sheep</td>
<td><em>Ovis canadensis nelsoni</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mule Deer</td>
<td><em>Odocoileus hemionis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Lion</td>
<td><em>Puma concolor</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambel's Quail</td>
<td><em>Callipepla gambelii</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mourning Dove</td>
<td><em>Zenaida macroura</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian Collared-Dove</td>
<td><em>Zenaida asiatica</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottontail Rabbit</td>
<td><em>Sylvilagus audubonii</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antelope Jackrabbit</td>
<td><em>Lepus alleni</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-tailed Jackrabbit</td>
<td><em>Lepus californicus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coyote</td>
<td><em>Canis latrans</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted Skunk</td>
<td><em>Spilogale gracilis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobcat</td>
<td><em>Lynx rufus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ringtail</td>
<td><em>Bassariscus astutus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badger</td>
<td><em>Taxidea taxus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kit Fox</td>
<td><em>Vulpes macrotis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray Fox</td>
<td><em>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hunting is consistent with the four goals and guiding principles of the refuge’s combined Comprehensive Conservation Plan, Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (CCP):

1. “Protect, maintain, enhance, and/or restore the diversity and abundance of wildlife species and ecological communities of the Sonoran desert represented at Cabeza Prieta NWR.”
2. “Protect and conserve refuge wilderness employing strategies of wildlife and plant conservation that will conserve, maintain, and where possible, restore the wilderness character of Cabeza Prieta NWR.”
3. “Provide visitors with compatible, wildlife-dependent recreational and educational experiences designed to foster better appreciation, understanding, and protection of the plant, animal and wilderness resources.”
4. “Protect, maintain, and interpret cultural and historic resources on Cabeza Prieta NWR, in cooperation with Tribal governments and the State of Arizona to benefit present and future generations” (USFWS 2007).

III. Description of Hunting Program

A. Areas to be Opened to Hunting

The refuge is broken into two State game management units (GMUs), 46A and 46B, corresponding to Pima and Yuma Counties, respectively (Figure 1). For desert bighorn sheep hunts, the GMUs were further divided into four sub hunt units (46A East, 46A West, 46B East, and 46B West) in 2015 to better disperse hunters. The open hunt area encompasses 852,935 acres (Table 2). The entire refuge is open to hunting with the exception of ¼-mile no shooting/hunting buffer zones surrounding each of the following sites (Figure 1; affected acreage in parenthesis):

- Sonoran Pronghorn Captive Breeding Pen (1,440 acres)
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) – Camp Grip (230 acres)
- CBP – Boundary Camp Forward Operating Base (156 acres)
- Papago Well (370 acres), Tule Well (240 acres), and Christmas Pass (190 acres) campgrounds

The CBP Boundary Camp Forward Operating Base lies within Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument on the boundary of Cabeza Prieta NWR. Therefore, a no shooting/hunting zone extends approximately ¼ mile onto the refuge. These no shooting/hunting zones would prevent endangerment of the endangered Sonoran pronghorn and personnel at the semi-captive breeding facility, prevent endangerment of CBP personnel at their facilities on and adjacent to the refuge (in accordance with A.R.S. 17-309 A 4), and provide a safe zone for visitors at the refuge campsites. The total affected acreage is 2,626 acres.
Figure 1. Cabeza Prieta NWR boundary, designated wilderness, no hunting/shooting zones, and State GMUs.
Table 2. Access and acreage to the sub GMUs on the refuge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub GMU</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
<th>Access Roads</th>
<th>Primitive Campsites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46A EAST</td>
<td>189,973</td>
<td>Charlie Bell Road, Childs Mountain Road, BLM access roads</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46A WEST</td>
<td>208,530</td>
<td>El Camino del Diablo</td>
<td>Papago Well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46B EAST</td>
<td>248,938</td>
<td>Christmas Pass Road, El Camino del Diablo</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46B WEST</td>
<td>205,494</td>
<td>Christmas Pass Road, El Camino del Diablo, BMGR access roads</td>
<td>Tule Well, Christmas Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Species to be Taken, Hunting Periods, Hunting Access

Hunters may take any in-season species with any legal method of take for which a tag (nonpermit or permit) is not required, even when hunting for a different species requiring a tag. Scouting is allowed year-round. Seasons and legal methods of take are specified for each species below (Table 3). Bag limits are consistent with State regulations. No night hunting is permitted on the refuge due to concerns with border security operations. No wheeled carts are allowed in designated Wilderness (Figure 1). The use of dogs for hunting is prohibited for any legal take of game except pointing and retrieving of quail and retrieving of dove.
Table 3. Hunts proposed on Cabeza Prieta NWR, including additional hunter requirements. If applicable, the number of tags issued per year is provided in parentheses. Unless otherwise specified, this refers to the total number of tags issued for the refuge. Codes for legal methods of take are given in Table 4. If migratory game birds, including mourning dove, are taken by shotguns shooting shot, the shotgun must be 10-gauge or smaller and capable of holding no more than three shells.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Hunt Season Dates</th>
<th>Legal Methods of Take</th>
<th>Legal Wildlife</th>
<th>Tag/Stamp Required (#)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Desert Bighorn Sheep</td>
<td>31 days in December</td>
<td>CR, CH, MZ, BR, BH, CB, AR, SL, PN</td>
<td>Any ram</td>
<td>Permit-tag (~6-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert Bighorn Sheep</td>
<td>Year-round (365 days)</td>
<td>CR, CH, MZ, BR, BH, CB, AR, SL, PN</td>
<td>Any ram</td>
<td>Commissioner’s tag (1 issued for southern Arizona)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mule Deer</td>
<td>~10 days in November</td>
<td>CR, CH, MZ, BR, BH, CB, AR, SL, PN</td>
<td>Any antlered deer</td>
<td>Permit-tag (up to 50)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mule Deer</td>
<td>31 days in January</td>
<td>AR</td>
<td>Any antlered deer</td>
<td>Over-the-counter nonpermit-tag (unlimited number issued state-wide; expect 0-10 on the refuge)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mule Deer</td>
<td>Year-round (365 days)</td>
<td>CR, CH, MZ, BR, BH, CB, AR, SL, PN</td>
<td>Any antlered deer</td>
<td>Commissioner’s tag (3 issued state-wide; start second year of hunt)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Lion</td>
<td>~281 days from August through May</td>
<td>CR, CH, MZ, BR, BH, CB, AR, SL, SS, PN</td>
<td>Any lion except spotted kittens or females accompanied by spotted kittens</td>
<td>Over-the-counter nonpermit-tag (up to 2 issued for the zone including the refuge)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambel’s Quail</td>
<td>~115 days from October to February</td>
<td>CB, AR, HS, SS, PW, SN, HP</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td>Hunt Season Dates</td>
<td>Legal Methods of Take</td>
<td>Legal Wildlife</td>
<td>Tag/Stamp Required (#)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mourning Dove</td>
<td>~44 days in November, December, and January</td>
<td>CB, AR, SS</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>AZ Migratory Bird Stamp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian Collared-Dove</td>
<td>Year-round (365 days)</td>
<td>CB, AR, HS, SS, PW, SN, HP</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottontail Rabbit</td>
<td>Year-round (365 days)</td>
<td>CR, CH, MZ, BR, BH, CB, AR, HS, SL, MG, MR, SS, PW, SN, HP</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antelope and Black-tailed Jackrabbit</td>
<td>Year-round (365 days)</td>
<td>CR, CH, MZ, BR, BH, CB, AR, HS, SL, MG, MR, SS, PW, SN, HP</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coyote and Spotted Skunk</td>
<td>Year-round (365 days)</td>
<td>CR, CH, MZ, BR, BH, CB, AR, HS, SL, MG, MR, SS, PW, SN, HP</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobcat, Ringtail, Badger, and Kit and Gray Fox</td>
<td>~243 days from August through March</td>
<td>CR, CH, MZ, BR, BH, CB, AR, HS, SL, MG, MR, SS, PW, SN, HP</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4. Codes for legal methods of take in Arizona.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Method of Take</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CR</td>
<td>Centerfire Rifle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH</td>
<td>Centerfire Handgun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MZ</td>
<td>Muzzleloading Rifle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BR</td>
<td>Other Rifle Shooting Black Power or Synthetic Black Powder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BH</td>
<td>Black Powder Handgun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Method of Take</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CB</td>
<td>Crossbow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AR</td>
<td>Archery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS</td>
<td>Handgun Shooting Shot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL</td>
<td>Shotgun Shooting Slugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MG</td>
<td>5 millimeter or .22 Magnum Rimfire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MR</td>
<td>.17 Magnum and .22 Rimfire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS</td>
<td>Shotgun Shooting Shot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PN</td>
<td>Pre-charged Pneumatics .35 and Larger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PW</td>
<td>Pneumatic Weapons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SN</td>
<td>Slingshots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HP</td>
<td>Hand-held Projectiles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Access to the refuge’s hunt units is via three public access roads (Charlie Bell Road, Christmas Pass Road, and El Camino del Diablo; Figure 1), the Childs Mountain Road entry, seven entry points on the west and northwest boundary of the refuge accessed through the Barry M. Goldwater Range (BMGR), and five entry points accessed through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands on the east side of the refuge (Table 2). No facilities are available on the refuge, but three designated primitive campsites can be accessed from either El Camino del Diablo or Christmas Pass Road (Figure 1). Pack and saddle stock are allowed only by SUP. As described in the refuge CCP (Section 2.2.3.1), restrictions of the SUP for pack and saddle stock include a maximum of four horses, burros or mules per party; travel only on the administrative trails, dry washes, and along the base of the mountain ranges; no grazing on the refuge or use of refuge water holes, tinajas, etc., to water stock; feed pellets or processed and pelletized feed only while on the refuge and for three days prior to entry; long-term stock camps (more than 2 nights) are permitted only in designated areas; all surface disturbance at campsites must be restored; and all trash and animal waste must be removed from base camps. No potable water is available anywhere on the refuge.

C. Hunter Permit Requirements (if applicable)

All hunters must obtain a valid AZGFD hunting license to hunt on Cabeza Prieta NWR. If hunting desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, or mountain lion, hunters must also obtain a valid hunt tag. If hunting mourning dove, hunters must possess an Arizona migratory bird stamp. All visitors, including hunters, are required to obtain a Barry M. Goldwater Range Entry Permit (Department of Defense form/requirement) for Cabeza Prieta NWR prior to accessing the refuge. This permit is valid from July 1 through June 30. As a condition to obtaining the entry permit, a Hold Harmless Agreement must be agreed to and signed by the applicant. At the boundary kiosks located at all refuge entrances, visitors must complete Self-Clearing Visitor Registration via a modified version of FWS Form 3-2405, providing the date, vehicle make/model, party size, number of days on the refuge, activity, and destination. The perforated stub is removed and placed on the dash or attached to the rear-view mirror, and the Self-Clearing Visitor Registration form is placed in the designated box. At the end of a bighorn sheep or mule deer hunt, hunters must complete a Big Game Harvest Report (a modified version of FWS Form 3-2359) available online, at the refuge visitor center, and in bighorn sheep hunt SUP packets. The completed Form
3-2359 may be submitted online or delivered to the refuge visitor center. Because bighorn sheep hunters may use access routes not open to the public, all bighorn sheep hunters must also obtain a SUP. As described above, hunters must obtain a SUP to use stock animals.

D. Consultation and Coordination with the State

Cabeza Prieta NWR first met with representatives from Region IV, AZGFD on June 28, 2018 in Yuma, AZ to discuss potential hunting opportunities on the refuge. On February 19, 2019, the refuge initiated formal discussion of the Hunt Plan with the State. Throughout the development of the Hunt Plan, the refuge has had a number of phone conversations with AZGFD staff, including local wildlife managers and the regional game biologist, to discuss specific aspects of these documents.

E. Law Enforcement

Enforcement of refuge regulations normally associated with management of a national wildlife refuge is the responsibility of commissioned federal wildlife officers (FWOs). Cabeza Prieta NWR has five FWOs on staff. Special agents, State game wardens (wildlife managers), and the local Sheriff’s Department may also provide law enforcement functions on the refuge. Agents from CBP often assist the refuge FWOs by reporting potential violations of refuge regulations.

The following methods are used to control and enforce hunting regulations:

- Refuge boundaries will be clearly posted;
- The refuge will provide a brochure that shows hunt areas;
- Cabeza Prieta FWOs will check hunters for compliance with Federal and State Laws as well as refuge-specific regulations pertinent to hunting, including compatibility stipulations;
- Cabeza Prieta FWOs will coordinate with AZGFD and other law enforcement agencies; and
- Information will be made available at the Cabeza Prieta NWR headquarters and website.

Procedures for obtaining law enforcement assistance are based on legal jurisdiction, pending where the incident occurred. The Cabeza Prieta FWOs have met with local law enforcement agencies in the two counties that contain refuge hunt units, adjacent federal land management agency law enforcement officers, and CBP agents to develop good working relationships and coordinate appropriate strategies.
F. Funding and Staffing Requirements

Annual administration costs for the Cabeza Prieta NWR Hunt Plan, including salary, law enforcement, and collection and analysis of hunter use data, total approximately $30,000. One-time expenses for brochures and signage total about $5,000. Most hunt and population data are collected by AZGFD. Additional responsibilities can be absorbed by current refuge staff. This includes part-time work by the refuge Biological Technician to complete SUPs for hunters utilizing the refuge. Current staffing needs are not anticipated to significantly change as a result of additional hunting opportunities.

IV. Conduct of the Hunting Program

A. Hunter Permit Application, Selection, and/or Registration Procedures (if applicable)

All hunters must obtain a Barry M. Goldwater Range Entry Permit (Department of Defense form/requirement) online at luke.isportsman.net or at the refuge visitor center. When entering the refuge at the start of a hunt, hunters must complete Self-Clearing Visitor Registration via a modified version of FWS Form 3-2405 available at all boundary kiosks. At the end of a bighorn sheep or mule deer hunt, hunters must complete a modified version of FWS Form 3-2359 (Big Game Harvest Report) available online, at the refuge visitor center, and in bighorn sheep hunt SUP packets. The completed Form 3-2359 may be submitted online or delivered to the refuge visitor center. Depending on the species hunted, the license requirements and permit selection process varies among species as described below.

Big Game

All hunters must obtain a valid AZGFD hunting or combination license. Visit the State’s website for more information. If hunting desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, or mountain lion, hunters must also obtain a valid hunt tag. Valid tags for desert bighorn sheep are available through the State application and draw process. For mule deer, permit-tags for the general hunt are available through the State application and draw process whereas nonpermit-tags for the archery-only hunt are available over-the-counter from a license dealer. Additionally, one desert bighorn tag for southern Arizona and three mule deer tags are set aside as Special Big Game Permit-tags, also called Commissioners’ tags, for auction or raffle each year. The refuge GMUs would not be open to mule deer hunting by the Special Big-Game Permit-tag holder until the second year of the refuge mule deer hunt. Valid nonpermit-tags for mountain lion are available over-the-counter from a license dealer. Because bighorn sheep hunters may use access routes not open to the public, all bighorn sheep hunters must also obtain a SUP.
**Gambel’s Quail**

Quail hunters under the age of 10 must have a valid hunting or combination license or be accompanied by an adult who has one. Quail hunters 10 and older must have any valid hunting or combination license.

**Migratory Birds**

If hunting mourning dove, the only migratory bird species on the refuge, hunters 18 and older must possess a valid hunting or combination license and an Arizona migratory bird stamp. Youth ages 10 to 17 require only a valid youth combination license.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove**

If hunting Eurasian collared-dove, all hunters must possess a valid hunting or combination license; an Arizona migratory bird stamp is not required for take of this species.

**Cottontail Rabbit, Jackrabbit, Coyote, Skunk, Bobcat, Ringtail, and Fox**

Hunters under the age of 10 must have a valid hunting or combination license or be accompanied by an adult who has one. Hunters 10 and older must have any valid hunting or combination license.

## B. Refuge-Specific Hunting Regulations

(c) Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge.

(1) Migratory game bird hunting. We allow hunting of mourning dove on designated areas of the refuge subject to the following conditions:

(i) We require hunters to obtain a Barry M. Goldwater Range Entry Permit (Department of Defense form/requirement) from the refuge.

(ii) We do not allow falconry.

(iii) We only allow dogs for the pointing and retrieval of birds.

(iv) We only allow hunting during the late season dove hunt.

(2) Upland game hunting. We allow hunting of Gambel’s quail, Eurasian collared-dove, desert cottontail rabbit, antelope and black-tailed jackrabbit, coyote, spotted skunk, bobcat, ringtail, badger, and fox in designated areas of the refuge subject to the following conditions:

(i) The conditions set forth at paragraphs (c)(1)(i) through (c)(1)(iii) apply.

(ii) We do not allow wheeled carts in designated Wilderness.

(iii) We prohibit night hunting from 1/2 hour after legal sunset until 1/2 hour before legal sunrise the following day.
(3) Big game hunting. We allow hunting of desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, and mountain lion on designated areas of the refuge subject to the following conditions:

(i) The conditions set forth at paragraphs (c)(1)(i) and (c)(2)(ii) apply.

(ii) We require Special Use Permits for all desert bighorn sheep hunters (FWS Form 3-1383-G), guides (FWS Form 3-1383-C), and use of stock animals (FWS Form 3-1383-G).

(iii) We prohibit the use of dogs when hunting big game.

(iv) We require hunters of desert bighorn sheep and mule deer to complete FWS Form 3-2359 upon hunt completion.

C. Relevant State Regulations

Mountain Lion Special Regulations
Hunters are responsible for calling 1-877-438-0447 before hunting to determine if the desired hunt zone is still open. All hunters must contact an AZGFD officer in person or by telephone at 1-877-438-0447 within 48 hours of taking a mountain lion. The report shall include the hunter’s name, hunting license number, tag number, sex of the mountain lion taken, GMU where the mountain lion was taken, and telephone number at which the hunter can be reached to obtain additional information. Within 10 days of taking a mountain lion, the hunter (or their designee) must present the mountain lion’s skull and hide with attached proof of sex to a designated AZGFD employee for inspection.

D. Other Refuge Rules and Regulations for Hunting

All vehicles (including motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles) must stay on the public access roads. Vehicle travel on any other roads, trails, or off-road is prohibited. If a road is impassable due to flooding, mud, deep sand, or a lawful closure, off-road driving to circumvent such areas is prohibited.

Fires are permitted only at designated campsites. Hunters and visitors must bring their own wood and use established fire rings or fire grates. The collection of firewood or vegetation of any kind is prohibited in the refuge with the exception of backcountry hikers, who may use dead and down wood for campfires.
V. Public Engagement

A. Outreach for Announcing and Publicizing the Hunting Program

All public outreach for current and future hunts and related programs will be available at the Cabeza Prieta NWR headquarters and posted on the Cabeza Prieta NWR’s website. Public notices will be submitted to local newspapers and posted at the local post office and library announcing the availability of these documents for public input and review. The notices may also be posted at other government offices in southwest Arizona that have public information displays. The availability of these documents as well as a presentation on the goals and purposes of enhancing public hunting opportunities will be given during public forum sessions of inter-agency meetings such as the quarterly Barry M. Goldwater Range’s Intergovernmental Executive Committee meetings (of which the refuge is a member). Notice will also be sent to individuals and organizations on our public participation email list. Special announcements and articles may be released in conjunction with hunting seasons.

B. Anticipated Public Reaction to the Hunting Program

Cabeza Prieta NWR met with representatives from the Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club on June 28, 2018 in Yuma, AZ to discuss potential hunting opportunities on the refuge. On July 26, 2018, the refuge met with the Ajo Sportsman’s Club to discuss ideas on educating youth about conservation, including potential hunting opportunities on the refuge. During the public forum sessions of the quarterly Barry M. Goldwater Range’s Intergovernmental Executive Committee meetings (of which the refuge is the member), the refuge manager announced that Cabeza Prieta NWR was working on a hunt plan to expand hunting opportunities on the refuge. The public response on these occasions has been generally mixed. The negative response by some could be due to increased use of public access roads and a negative perception of hunting for any reason.

C. How Hunters Will Be Informed of Relevant Rules and Regulations

General information regarding hunting and other wildlife-dependent public uses can be obtained at Cabeza Prieta NWR headquarters at 1611 North Second Avenue, Ajo, AZ, 85321 or by calling 520-387-6483. Dates, forms, GMU directions, maps, applications, and permit requirements related to hunting will be available on the station website and at the refuge headquarters.

VI. Compatibility Determination

A draft compatibility determination has been completed in conjunction with this Hunt Plan and the Environmental Assessment. Hunting and all associated program activities proposed in this plan are expected to be found compatible with the purposes of the refuge.