

# Federal Lands

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)

## Access to Public Lands

New Mexico contains nine million acres of National Forest and approximately 13 million acres of BLM lands. Many of New Mexico's public lands are interspersed with privately owned property. A private landowner has the right to control the use of his/her private land. Where no public access exists, sportsmen/women must obtain written permission from the landowner or leaseholder to cross private land for access to public land. It is unlawful for persons to post or restrict lawful use of public land.

## National Parks and Monuments

National parks and national monuments are closed to hunting, except the following BLM managed national monuments that are open to hunting, trapping and fishing.

Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument . . . . . (575) 751-4899

Prehistoric Trackways National Monument . . . . . (575) 525-4300

and Organ Mountains–Desert Peaks National Monument

## Valles Caldera National Preserve

All of Unit 6B is closed to hunting and trapping, except elk and turkey (see pages 29, 71, 76, 80 and 110). All hunters and participants in any firearm hunt on the Valles Caldera National Preserve, with the exception of hunters using a shotgun during the turkey hunt, must wear a minimum of 244 square inches of blaze orange. A 7-day Vehicle Pass (\$20) or an NPS Senior/All America Pass is required. A hunter orientation also is required before scouting areas of VCNP. For information:

[www.nps.gov/vall](http://www.nps.gov/vall) or (575) 829-4100.

## National Wildlife Refuges (NWR)

NWRs are closed to hunting unless specified open by federal refuge regulations for the hunting of particular species. If specified open, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service approved nontoxic shot (listed on page 129) is required for hunting on all national wildlife refuges.

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge: . . . (575) 835-1828

Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge: . . . . . (575) 622-6755

Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge: . . . . . (505) 425-3581

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge: . . . . . (505) 864-4021

## Forest Service Lands

Most national forests in New Mexico are open to public hunting. Outfitters and guides providing services in national forests must possess a permit issued by the Forest Service that authorizes provision of such services on Forest Service lands. Vehicle-use restrictions may apply on many Forest Service properties. Specific roads are closed in some national forests to protect natural resources.

It is unlawful to use vehicles in areas closed under the Habitat Protection Act. Prescribed burns also may be encountered in national forests. Prescribed fires maintain a diverse and healthy forest ecosystem and improve wildlife habitat. **Late Season Road Closures:** If intending to utilize roads through Forest Service or BLM property, it is advisable to contact the appropriate land management field office (page 30) beforehand for late season or winter closures and other access restrictions.

**Gila Travel Management Restrictions:** For open roads and off-road restrictions contact the Gila National Forest, page 30.

## Sandia Ranger District: Cibola National Forest

The Sandia Ranger District is open to all big-game hunting, but restricted to archery only during established seasons.

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## **Valle Vidal (including Greenwood Area): Carson National Forest**

The Valle Vidal in the Carson National Forest is closed seasonally to public access: West Side is closed May 1–June 30; and East Side is closed Jan. 1–March 31. The Valle Vidal Unit is open to big-game hunting by draw only and is closed to all small-game and nongame hunting and trapping. Off-road travel is prohibited, and camping is allowed only in designated campgrounds or beyond one-half mile from the road. Other restrictions may apply. For more information, contact the U.S. Forest Service office in Questa: (575) 586-0520.

## **For More Information about Forest Service Lands**

For information visit [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us) or contact the national forest of interest.

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (928) 333-4301; Carson National Forest (575) 758-6200; Cibola National Forest (505) 346-3900; Coronado National Forest (520) 388-8300; Gila National Forest (575) 388-8201; Lincoln National Forest (575) 257-4095; or Santa Fe National Forest (505) 438-5300.

## **Bureau of Land Management Lands**

Most land under Bureau of Land Management jurisdiction, including Wilderness Study Areas, is open to public hunting. However, it is the responsibility of each hunter to know what restrictions apply and where. Off-road vehicle travel may be restricted or prohibited on BLM lands, depending on location. Obey all posted rules and check with local BLM offices for regulatory changes that may occur in Special Management Units.

**Kashe Katuwe–Tent Rocks National Monument:** Kashe Katuwe–Tent Rocks National Monument is closed to hunting.

**Santa Cruz Lake Recreation Area:** Land extending one-quarter mile from the shoreline of Santa Cruz Lake and upstream on either side of the Rio Medio is closed to hunting and trapping.

**Rio Grande Recreation Area: Wild Rivers Zone** is open to hunting and trapping with the exception of the closed area: beginning from the fence at the pay station; east following the southern boundary of State Land Section 32 to where it intersects the power line; south following the Red River to its confluence with the Rio Grande; north following the Rio Grande to Sheep's Crossing; east to the right of way fence of the Backcountry Byway; and south following this right of way fence to the pay station. **Taos Valley Overlook Zone** and **Orilla Verde Zone** are closed to hunting and trapping.

For more information about BLM lands, visit: [www.blm.gov/nm/st/en.html](http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en.html) or contact: Albuquerque: (505) 761-8700; Carlsbad: (575) 887-6544; Farmington: (505) 599-8900; Las Cruces: (575) 525-4300; Roswell: (575) 627-0272; Socorro: (575) 835-0412, Taos: (575) 758-8851, or Santa Fe: (505) 954-2000.

## **Military Reservations**

With the cooperation of the U.S. Department of Defense, hunting is allowed on some military reservations that control access to these areas. Hunters must obtain permission and conditions of access directly from the military reservation. Due to security concerns, the director of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish may change or cancel hunts on such lands.

**Kirtland Air Force Base:** No access is allowed within the fenced area.

**Lake Holloman Wildlife Refuge:** Closed to big and upland game hunting.

**Fort Bliss:** All hunters on Fort Bliss, including McGregor Range, are required to have proof of passing a state-certified hunter education course. Mentored-Youth Hunters are not eligible.

**McGregor Range in Unit 28:** Open for big-game hunting by draw (see specific species and season listings). For access information, contact the Fort Bliss Security Office: (915) 741-5251.

**GMU 34: Grapevine Canyon (McGregor Range Buffer Zone):** Subject to closure by the Forest Service and/or the military during missile firings. This area in GMU 34 is accessible with military permission only, contact the Fort Bliss security office at (915)-741-5251.

**White Sands Missile Range:** Open for bighorn sheep and oryx hunting by draw (see specific species and season listings). For access information, contact the White Sands Missile Range at: (575) 678-7909 or (575) 678-7095.

## Military Closures

In the interest of public safety, the Forest Service and U.S. military may delay or cancel hunts in portions of GMUs 10, 13, 18, 19, 20, 28 and 34. Closures usually occur between 3 p.m.–8 a.m., during which time roadblocks leading into closed areas will be placed and evacuation required of all persons in these areas. The area subject to closure in Unit 34 is located in Grapevine Canyon (McGregor Range Buffer Zone) and is subject to closure by the Forest Service and/or the military during missile firings. Closures of these areas can occur throughout the year and may effect a number of hunts listed in this booklet. The area subject to closure in GMU 10 includes approximately 29 square miles of the Mount Taylor Ranger District, Cibola National Forest—located in the Zuni Mountains, directly south and east of the Fort Wingate Launch Complex and south of U.S. Hwy. I-40. The area subject to closure in GMU 13 includes approximately 200 square miles of the western portion of the Magdalena Ranger District, Cibola National Forest—located in the Datil Mountains, north of U.S. Hwy. 60 and northeast of Datil, N.M. Authority for the closures is 36 CFR 261.53 (E) and 36 CFR 261.54 (e).

**Title VI Funding:** Certain programs of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish receive federal funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior. These programs are therefore subject to requirements of the New Mexico Human Rights Act and Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which prohibit discrimination because of ancestry, sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age or physical or mental handicap. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, please send a detailed description of the incident by certified mail to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. If you desire further information on Title VI, write: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504 or Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20240. The Department of Game and Fish will schedule public meetings and operate facilities that are accessible to physically impaired persons. Reasonable accommodations will be made for other impairments, including hearing and sight. If special aids are required, call (505) 476-8027 or write to P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504 at least three working days prior to the meeting date. To initiate a complaint, write to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

**Fondos de Título VI:** Ciertos programas del New Mexico Department of Game and Fish reciben fondos federales del U.S. Department of the Interior. Estos programas son subyugados a requisitos de la ley de New Mexico Human Rights Act and Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, que prohíben la discriminación por razones de ascendencia, sexo, raza, color, religión origen nacional, edad o impedimento físico o mental. Si usted cree que ha sufrido discriminación en cualquier programa, actividad o comodidades, por favor envíe por correo certificado una descripción detallada al Department of Game and Fish. Si desea más información sobre Título VI, por favor escriba a: Department of Game and Fish, ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504 or Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20240. Al programar sus reuniones públicas, el Department of Game and Fish operará en facilidades que proveen acceso para personas con incapacidades físicas. Las personas con otras incapacidades, inclusive del oído y de la vista, recibirán acceso razonable a las reuniones. Si usted necesita algún auxiliar o ayuda especial, por favor llame al número (505) 476-8027 o escriba a P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504, por lo menos tres días antes de la reunión. Para iniciar una queja, escriba a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

# Native American Lands

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Before entering to hunt or fish on Native American land(s), permission must be obtained from the tribal official(s) of the pueblo, tribe or nation where that land is located.

A New Mexico license is not required, however, game and/or fish taken on/or from a native lands must be accompanied by an official document, such as a license or receipt, which demonstrates lawful possession.

Pueblos, tribes and nations may have firearm, ammunition and travel restrictions. It is advisable to separate completely any firearm from its ammunition when traveling across these lands. Specific information about hunting and fishing, season dates, transporting firearms, permits and travel restrictions is available from each pueblo, tribe or nation.

A list with contact information for New Mexico pueblos, tribes and nations is available at the New Mexico Department of Indian Affairs' website, <http://www.iad.state.nm.us/> or by telephone: (505) 476-1600.



# New Mexico State Lands

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## New Mexico State Trust Land

The New Mexico State Game Commission has purchased a lease for **hunting, fishing and trapping of protected species** on State Trust Land. Certain State Trust Land may be under business lease and withdrawn by the Commissioner of Public Lands and unavailable for hunting, fishing or trapping. For specific locations, contact the New Mexico State Land Office: (505) 827-5842 or [www.nmstatelands.org/Recreational\\_Access.aspx#SportsmanAccess](http://www.nmstatelands.org/Recreational_Access.aspx#SportsmanAccess).

To ensure access and create larger and better defined hunting areas, hunting and trapping privileges for some State Trust Land have been exchanged for similar privileges on private lands. These private-land areas have signs posted with notices that the land has been unitized (page 36). Observe these signs and contact landowners if you have questions about the location of land open for public use. Though not required, trappers are encouraged to notify the appropriate lessee when trapping on State Trust Lands.

### If Denied Access

The right to enter State Trust Land is assured if access is available by public road (defined in Section 67-2-1, NMSA 1978) or across other public lands or trails. If denied access, contact the New Mexico State Land Office (above) to provide complete details, including the location, date, time and name(s) of person(s) denying access.

### If Allowed Access

**If you have been allowed access to State Trust Land, you may:**

- Scout for big game seven days prior to the open season.
- Hunt big game and upland game or take protected furbearers during open hours and seasons.
- Hunt or trap unprotected species on State Trust Land, but only during the period in which your license is valid for protected species on those lands.
- Camp with the permission of the agricultural lessee, unless otherwise authorized by the Commissioner of Public Lands.
- Take up to three guests per license holder on your hunt.

**However you must:**

- Have in your possession all required and valid hunting, fishing or trapping licenses which must be available on demand by employees of either the State Land Office or NMDGF.
- Respect other land uses, such as surface or mineral leases.
- Drive **only** on established roads and close gates.
- Pack out trash.

**And you must not:**

- Attach blinds to private property, such as windmills, tanks, etc.
- Drive off-road for any reason.
- Enter during seasons for which you are not licensed or before the hours and allowed scouting periods for which you are licensed.
- Use private roads or cross private lands without prior written permission from the landowner.
- Remove wood, sand or gravel or conduct commercial or unrelated personal activities.
- Harass or injure livestock or wildlife or damage private property, such as dwellings or range improvements.
- Use a Private-land Only Deer License to hunt on state land, even if the state land is leased by a landowner whose property you have permission to hunt.

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## New Mexico State Trust Land: Commercial or Other Uses

### A Message from the State Trust Land Office

The New Mexico State Game Commission easement providing licensed sportsmen the use of State Trust Land is subject to the rules and regulations of the New Mexico State Land Office. Persons seeking to use State Trust Land for uses other than the taking of protected species must secure the specific approval of the State Land Office. For more information, contact the State Land Office: (505) 827-5842; or <http://www.nmstatelands.org>.

## New Mexico State Game Commission Lands

The State Game Commission owns and manages lands across New Mexico for the benefit of fish, wildlife and their habitats. These lands include New Mexico's Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Select WMAs are open to provide additional public hunting opportunities. See below for special WMA rules.

### Big Game Hunting on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

All WMAs are closed, unless specifically open. If designated open:

- WMAs open for big-game hunting are listed in this booklet for each big game species by GMU. All other WMAs are closed to big-game hunting.
- Only New Mexico residents may apply for big-game hunts held exclusively on WMAs. Non-residents only may apply for hunts open concurrently on both a WMA and other public lands.
- Legal big-game shooting hours are listed on page 27. USFWS-approved nontoxic shot is required for turkey hunting on WMAs; see page 108.
- Scouting is allowed by each properly-licensed, big-game hunter with up to three guests during a seven-day period prior to the published start date of his/her hunt.

### Upland Game Hunting on Wildlife Management Areas

- WMAs open for upland-game hunting are listed in this booklet on pages 132–133. All other WMAs are closed to upland-game hunting.
- Legal upland-game shooting hours are listed on page 27. USFWS-approved non-toxic shot is required for upland game on all WMAs (page 130).

### General Rules for Hunting on Wildlife Management Areas

- WMA access is allowed by each properly-licensed hunter with up to three guests, concurrent with his/her published hunt period and scouting period.
- Individuals may not enter closed areas as posted on site.
- Vehicles may not be operated off established roads or on closed roads.
- Camping is restricted to designated areas. Individuals may not camp more than 14 consecutive days, unless concurrent with their published hunt period (and scouting period for big-game hunters only).
- Campfires must be safely contained.
- Dogs must remain on leash, except when being used for hunting purposes as allowed by rule.
- Domestic livestock feed, other than pelleted, grain feed or hay certified as weed free, is prohibited.
- Individuals may not deface or remove rocks, minerals, plants (including fruits, nuts, and berries), animals, firewood, or man-made features (including artifacts).

- Individuals may not violate access rules for specific WMAs posted on site or otherwise published by NMDGF.

Hunting and trapping on WMAs are not allowed for nongame animals (page 137), protected furbearers, unprotected furbearers (coyotes and skunks) or unprotected species (feral hogs), unless specifically designated otherwise.

For further rules and specific information about each WMA, visit Conservation/State Game Commission Lands at [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us).

## New Mexico State Parks

All New Mexico State Parks are closed to hunting, unless specified open in a designated area. For information contact the New Mexico State Parks Division at: 1-888-667-2757. Contact state park superintendents for designated hunting areas and directions, or telephone: (505) 827-7173.

## Other State Lands

**Chihuahuan Desert Research Center:** The Chihuahuan Desert Rangeland Research Center (College Ranch) is closed to unescorted public access. For information, telephone: (575) 646-2554 or visit: <http://chihuahuansc.nmsu.edu/index.html>.

**Jornada Experimental Range:** Jornada Experimental Range in Doña Ana County is closed to unescorted public access.

**Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District:** For information or to obtain access, telephone: (505) 864-7466.

**Portions of the Rio Grande in Valencia County:** In the interest of public safety, areas posted along the Rio Grande in Valencia County may be closed to hunting. For further information regarding closures contact the NMDGF Northwest Office: (505) 222-4700, extension 0.

## Don't Bring Firewood into New Mexico from Other States!

Firewood from other states is how damaging insect pests and diseases are most often introduced to New Mexico's forests and riparian habitats. Emerald ash borer, Sirex woodwasps, gypsy moth, Asian longhorn beetle and oak wilt disease can be transported in firewood and have caused significant damage to forests in other states. If allowed to become established, these pests and diseases are usually fatal to trees and will decimate forests and riparian areas.

**If you inadvertently transport firewood from another state, please burn it immediately and completely and purchase or collect firewood in New Mexico.**

For more information, contact the New Mexico Department of Agriculture: (505) 646-3207 or the U.S. Department of Agriculture—Plant Protection and Quarantine: (575) 527-6985.



# Private Lands

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## Hunting on Private Land

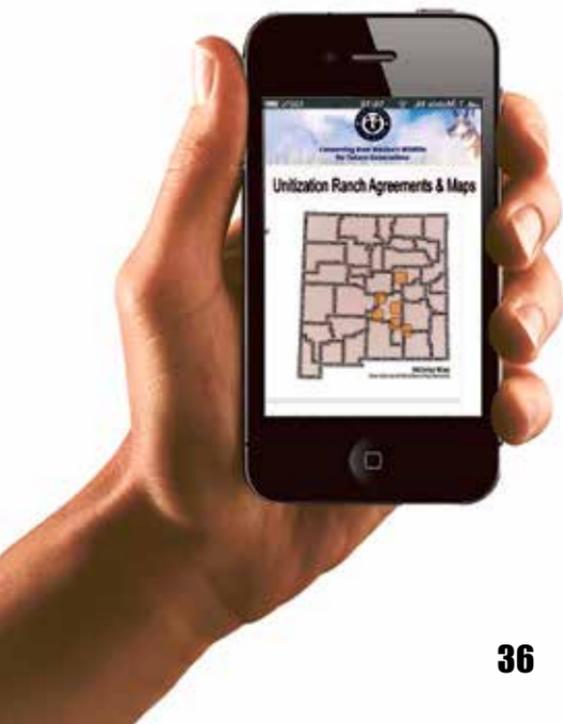
Hunters must obtain written permission before entering private lands, including streambeds (see *Criminal Trespass*, page 37). It is unlawful to knowingly enter any private property to hunt, capture, take, attempt to take or kill any protected species on posted private property without written permission from the landowner or person in control of the land. It also is unlawful to remain on property if consent has been denied or withdrawn. Any game taken in violation of the above, shall be subject to seizure.

## Unitization Agreements Provide Access

Unitization agreements are cooperative temporary agreements between landowners and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, the State Land Office and/or the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). These agreements consolidate areas to benefit sportsmen and landowners alike by increasing public hunting access during the hunting season to previously inaccessible areas, while at the same time diminishing trespass issues for landowners and enabling them to better manage ranching operations. Each agreement is reviewed annually, and the public is welcome to provide comments.

## How Hunters Can Use Unitization

To take advantage of the hunting opportunities unitized ranches provide, hunters must have a valid license for the season and species identified in each agreement. Each agreement specifies the hunting season(s) and species which apply.



To locate ranches that have entered into unitization agreements visit: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us).

Under "Hunting" is listed "Hunting Lands & Maps" with a link to "State Lands & Unitization" where maps and information for each unitized ranch can be found.

Also, to assist and inform hunters in the field, signs will be posted on public and private property where unitization agreements are in effect.

Hunters may hunt on private lands that have been opened through a unitization agreement (see website for maps). Hunters must have permission from the lessee to hunt on BLM/State lands that have been closed through a unitization agreement. Game animals taken contrary to the above may be seized.