

Federal Lands

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: **1-888-248-6866**

Access to Public Lands

New Mexico contains approximately nine million acres of National Forest and 13 million acres of BLM lands. NMDGF recommends contacting the appropriate land management agency prior to hunting. Many public lands in New Mexico are also 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 and Organ Mountains–Desert Peaks National Monument (575) 525-4300

Valles Caldera National Preserve

All of Unit 6B is closed to hunting and trapping, except elk and turkey draw hunts. All hunters and participants in any firearm hunt on Valles Caldera National Preserve (VCNP), except turkey hunters using shotguns, must wear a minimum of 244 square inches of blaze orange. A special-use permit fee (\$35) and 7-day entrance fee (\$20) or a National Park Service Senior/All America Pass are required. A hunter orientation also is required before hunting on VCNP. Hunters should review all information regarding VCNP hunting rules and regulations at: www.nps.gov/vall. For more information telephone: (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 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

Sevillaleta 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 on national forest lands must possess a permit issued by that forest. 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. **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 (pages 42–44) beforehand for late season or winter closures and other access restrictions.

Stay Informed about Controlled Burns

The U.S. Forest Service and other public land-management agencies routinely conduct controlled burns in forested areas during the fall months. Prescribed fires maintain a diverse and healthy forest ecosystem and improve wildlife habitat. Hunters are encouraged to be aware before their hunt and check nrmfireinfo.com for burn advisories.

Sandia Ranger District: Cibola National Forest

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

Valle Vidal: Carson National Forest

Greenwood Area is private property and no longer included in the Valle Vidal hunt area. The Valle Vidal 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 and turkey hunting by draw only and is closed to all small-game 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 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. Outfitters and guides providing services on BLM lands must possess a permit issued by that district. 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: Closed to hunting.

Rio Bonito Acquired Lands: Contact Roswell BLM office, (575) 627-0272.

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.

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For More Information about BLM Lands

For more information visit: 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. Hunters may be required to sign-in and sign-out at check stations for some hunts. The U.S. military may delay or cancel hunts (see closures below).

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

Lake Holloman Wildlife Refuge: Closed to big-game hunting.

Fort Bliss / McGregor Range: 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. Hunters are required to wear a blaze-orange hat and vest and are subject to security searches. McGregor Range in Unit 28 is open for big-game hunting by draw (see specific species and season listings). Hunters may be required to visit El Paso, TX to acquire an access pass. For access information, contact Fort Bliss: david.j.black46.civ@mail.mil. or Fort Bliss Security Office: (915) 568-3215.

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. For access information contact the Fort Bliss Security Office: (915) 568-3215.

White Sands Missile Range: Open for bighorn sheep, deer, elk, oryx and youth-pronghorn 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.

U.S. Forest Service & 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 U.S. 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).

New Mexico State Lands

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

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.

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 48). Observe these signs and contact NMDGF 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) or the local conservation officer 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 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.

You must:

- Have in your possession all required and valid fishing, trapping and hunting licenses with tags 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.

It is illegal to:

- 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 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 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 or nmparks.com.

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.

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

Bringing firewood from one state to another has become the principal method by which damaging insect pests and diseases are introduced to forests. Emerald ash borer, Sirex woodwasps, gypsy moth, Asian longhorn beetle, and oak wilt disease can be transported in firewood and are the cause of significant damage to forests in other states. These pests are almost always fatal to trees and will decimate forested areas as well as riparian areas if allowed to get established. **If you inadvertently bring firewood from another state, please burn all of it immediately.**

Purchase or collect firewood within New Mexico.

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



Wildlife Management Areas

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

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 and Turkey Hunting on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

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

- WMAs open for big-game and turkey hunting are listed in this booklet for each big-game species by GMU. All other WMAs are closed to big-game and turkey hunting.
- Only New Mexico residents may apply for big-game hunts held exclusively on WMAs. Non-residents may only apply for hunts open concurrently on both a WMA and other public lands.
- Legal big-game and turkey shooting hours are listed on page 40.
- 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.

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 for big-game hunters only).
- 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 for nongame animals, protected furbearers, unprotected furbearers (coyotes and skunks) or unprotected species (feral hogs) is not allowed on WMAs, except Water Canyon WMA where nongame hunting is allowed January 1–March 31, 2019

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

Private Lands

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Hunting on Private Land

Hunters must possess written permission before entering private lands, including streambeds (see *Criminal Trespass*, pages 26, 27). 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 private 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.

For maps and information on ranches that have entered into unitization agreements visit: <http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/hunting/maps/unitized-ranch/>. 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. Hunters must have permission from the lessee to hunt on BLM/State lands that have been closed through a unitization agreement. Game animals taken in violation of the above may be seized.

Native American Lands

Contact individual pueblos, tribes and nations for more information.

Hunting on Native American lands is outside the jurisdiction of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Permission must be obtained from 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 native lands must be accompanied by an official document, such as a license or receipt from tribal authorities, which demonstrates lawful possession.