

Federal, Tribal and State Lands

Federal Lands

General Information

New Mexico has 9 million acres of National Forest lands and about 13 million acres of BLM lands. Much of New Mexico's public land is mixed with privately-owned property. The private landowner has the right to control the use of private land. Sportsmen must get written landowner permission to cross private land where no public access exists to get to the public land. It is unlawful to post or otherwise restrict lawful uses of public land.

National Wildlife Refuges

Most are closed to hunting. Others allow hunting in limited areas. Contact each refuge for more information.

National Parks and Monuments

New Mexico has 17 national parks, monuments, trails, historical parks, and heritage parks. Hunting is not allowed within any national park or monument unless expressly allowed. Visitors must obey all federal, state, and local laws appropriate to the park they are visiting.

U.S. Forest Service Lands

General Information

New Mexico has 9 million acres of National Forest lands, most are open to public hunting. There are vehicle use restrictions on some USFS property. The USFS has closed various roads to vehicular traffic in the National Forests to protect natural resources. It is unlawful to use vehicles in areas that are closed under agreements executed under the Habitat Protection Act. Outfitters and guides providing services in the National Forests must have a permit issued to them by the USFS authorizing them to provide such services on forest lands. Hunters may encounter prescribed burns while hunting in National Forests. The fires are tools to keep forest fuels at safe levels; to provide a diverse, healthy forest ecosystem; and to improve wildlife habitat.

Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest
No firearm hunting is allowed.

Valle Vidal of the Carson National Forest
The Valle Vidal is seasonally closed to public entry, off-road travel is strictly prohibited and camping is restricted. Dates of closure are: West Side-May 1 through June 30, East Side-Jan. 1 through March 31. Other restrictions may apply. Contact the USFS Office in Questa at (575) 586-0520 for more information.

Valles Caldera National Preserve
All of Unit 6B is closed to hunting and trapping, except elk and turkey. See page 31 and 48.

If you wish to know more about USFS lands, contact one of the following USFS offices: **Carson National Forest** (575) 785-6200, **Cibola National Forest** (505) 346-3900, **Gila National Forest** (575) 388-8201, **Lincoln National Forest** (575) 257-4095, or **Santa Fe National Forest** (505) 438-5300. Visit the USFS website at www.fs.fed.us.

Bureau of Land Management Lands

General Information

Most lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are open to public hunting. Off-road

vehicle travel may be restricted or prohibited on BLM lands depending on location. Check with the local BLM office. Obey all posted rules. It is your responsibility to know the restrictions and where they apply.

Wild Rivers Recreation Area, Taos Overlook and Orilla Verde
These areas may have restrictions on hunting and trapping. Please contact the **Taos BLM Office** at (575) 758-8851 for more information.

Santa Cruz Lake Recreation Area
A portion of land extending 1/4 mile from the shoreline of Santa Cruz Lake and on either side of Rio Medio upstream is closed to hunting and trapping.

If you wish to know more about BLM lands, contact one of the following BLM offices: **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. Visit the BLM website at: www.blm.gov/nm/st/en.html.

Military Reservations

Hunting is allowed on some military reservations through cooperation of the U.S. Department of Defense, which controls access to these areas. Hunters must obtain permission and conditions of access to these military reservations directly from each reservation. Due to security concerns, the Director of the Department may change or cancel all hunts on such lands.

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

Native American Lands

Permission to hunt or fish must be obtained from tribal officials before going on any tribal lands. A New Mexico license is not required to hunt or fish on Reservation Trust Lands. Game or fish taken on or from a reservation must be accompanied by an official tribal document, such as a license or receipt, showing lawful possession. Tribal reservations and pueblos may have firearms, ammunition and travel restrictions. It is advisable to completely separate any firearm from its ammunition when traveling across these lands. Hunters should contact tribes directly for specific information on hunting and fishing season dates, transporting firearms, permits and travel restrictions. **Acoma** (505) 552-9866, **Jicarilla Apache** (575) 759-3255, **Mescalero Apache** (575) 464-7448 or (575) 464-9770, **Navajo** (928) 871-6450, **Taos** (575) 758-3883, **Zuni** (505) 782-5851.

State Trust Lands

The State Game Commission has an easement lease for hunting, fishing and trapping ONLY on State Trust Lands. Certain State Trust lands are under a business lease and may be withdrawn by the Commissioner of Public Lands. As such, they are not available for hunting, fishing or trapping. For specific locations, contact the State Land Office in Santa Fe at (505) 827-5760, or visit: nmstatelands.org.

To assure access and create larger, definable hunting areas, hunting and trapping privileges on some State Trust lands have

State Trust Lands continued

been exchanged for the same privileges on private land. These ranches are posted with signs advising that the private land has been unitized. Watch for these signs and contact the landowner if you have any question about the location of the land open to public use.

If you are allowed access to State Trust Lands:

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 unprotected species on State Trust Lands only during the period in which your license is valid for protected species on those lands.
- Camp with the agricultural lessee's permission 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, if required, a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license and upon demand present it to an employee of either the State Land Office or the Department.
- Respect other uses, such as surface or mineral leases.
- Drive ONLY on established roads.
- Close gates.
- Pack out trash.

You Must Not:

- Drive off-road for any reason.
- Enter at any time other than to scout for big game before open season and during open season and hunting hours for species for which you are licensed.
- Use private roads or cross private lands without prior written permission of the landowner.
- Remove wood, sand or gravel or conduct other commercial or personal activities.
- Harass or injure livestock or wildlife or damage private property such as dwellings or range improvements.

If You Are Denied Access

The right of entry to 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 you are denied access, contact the State Land Office in Santa Fe at (505) 827-5760, giving complete details, including location, date, time and the name(s) of the person(s) denying access.

State Game Commission-Owned Lands

All Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) are closed unless specifically open.

- Only New Mexico residents are allowed to apply for hunts held exclusively on WMA. Nonresidents may still apply for hunts that occur concurrently on both WMA and public land.
- Camping, parking, travel, fire, horse, burro and pet restrictions apply on Department lands. Check for rules that may be posted in each area. Trash barrels will not be provided.
- Vehicle traffic is restricted on some WMA. Closed roads are

conspicuously posted. Hunting and retrieving kills must be by foot or horseback on all WMA.

- No hunting is allowed for rabbits, coyotes, prairie dogs, etc unless specifically allowed.

Visit the Department's website at www.wildlife.state.nm.us/conservation/wildlife_management_areas/index.htm for more information on each WMA.

Other State Areas

Jornada Experimental Station in Doña Ana County is closed to all unescorted public access. **New Mexico State University Chihuahuan Desert Rangeland Research Center (College Ranch)** in Doña Ana County is closed to public access. For more information visit: <http://chihuahuansc.nm.su.edu/index.htm>.

Vehicle Travel on Public or Private Lands

It is illegal to drive a motor-driven vehicle off established roads or two-track roads in a hunting, trapping or angling area if the vehicle bears a person licensed to hunt, trap or fish for species on which season is open in that area. It is illegal for a person so licensed to ride in or upon such a vehicle. The Department defines an "established road". See page 6.

It is also illegal to use motor-driven vehicles on any roads or areas closed to vehicular traffic under the Habitat Protection Act or other state or federal regulations, including anywhere within the boundaries of any designated U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management wilderness area or National Monument including Tent Rocks National Monument. Obey all postings and know the regulations of the appropriate land management agency.

The U.S. Forest Service is considering new regulations that will prohibit cross-country motorized vehicle travel on many U.S. Forest Service lands, once routes are designated. The Southwest Regional Office (505) 842-3292 can direct you to the appropriate Ranger District for current information regarding the GMU you wish to hunt. Currently, off-road vehicle travel, for any reason, is not permitted in the Lincoln and portions of other National Forests. You may not take vehicles more than 100 yards off established roads in areas protected under the Habitat Protection Act.

You may take vehicles off established roads on certain public lands (except State Land) and private lands to retrieve legally taken and tagged big-game carcasses, provided that state or federal regulations do not prohibit such use. These regulations do not restrict landowners, lessees or their employees from driving off-road on private or leased State Trust Land while in connection with legitimate agricultural activities.

For More Information About Off-highway Vehicle Laws and Requirements, See Page 61.