

Open Gate Program

Open Gate Properties

An Open Gate property is a tract of private land that the landowner has contracted with the Department to allow sportsmen access for wildlife associated activities and recreation.

Landowners receive payment for their participation in the program. Funding for the program comes from the sale of Habitat Management and Access Validations. A portion of these proceeds help Open Gate accomplish its objectives to increase hunting, fishing and trapping access on private lands, create access corridors to inaccessible state, federal or other lands and develop, manage and maintain wildlife habitat on participating private lands.

Access to an Open Gate property is limited to properly licensed sportsmen during the hunting, fishing or trapping season(s) for which the property is enrolled.

Unless the landowner specifies that they wish a courtesy call in advance, properly licensed sportsmen are welcome to hunt, fish or trap during open seasons.

Every Open Gate property has specific property rules posted at the entrance to the property. These rules vary from property to property and it is the sportsmen's responsibility to know the rules. All Open Gate properties have recognizable program signs posted on-site to help guide sportsmen. Portfolios and maps of participating properties are available on the Department's website at www.wildlife.state.nm.us. The farmers and ranchers that participate in this program are the key to its success.

Ethical, Courteous and Lawful Behavior Keeps Gates Open

The farmers and ranchers that participate in this program make this all possible. Do not forget to say thank you and always pick up any trash.

Landowners Can Contribute To New Mexico's Outdoor Heritage

The Department is looking to add new acreage in the Open Gate Program. If you own or lease land you consider attractive for hunting, fishing or trapping, you may qualify for enrollment. Landowners can:

- Earn payment for their participation.
- Receive incentives for wildlife habitat improvements.
- Retain private property rights.
- Enjoy State of New Mexico liability protection.

For more information, please contact the Open Gate Coordinator at (505) 476-8043.



Nice tom turkey harvested on an Open Gate property

