

MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

July 11, 2011

To: Leon Redman

From: George Farmer

Subject: State Land Unitization on the Pajarito Ranch

The Pajarito Ranch lies in Lincoln County off of County road E028 west of Picacho and highway 70. The ranch contains approximately 3.5 sections of State Lease land.

The ranch is also split by a county road (E030) which is also the boundary splitting game management 32 and 36. The 2.5 sections of huntable State Lease is also cut in half by the county road and game management boundary. It leaves a fragmented area to hunt lessening hunter satisfaction and increases trespass issues. A unitization would solve these problems.

Hunters would be able to hunt both the State Lease and private property within the fenced portions of Sections 24 and 25 in game management unit 36. And section 25 and 36 in game management unit 32. **Hunters are NOT allowed to hunt both game management units 32 and 36.** Hunters may only hunt in the game management unit that they were drawn for. The Pajarito Ranch will allow hunters to hunt deer and Barbary sheep in the fenced pasture located within these three sections. In addition the public will be allowed to hunt the current State Lease within the fenced portion of the three sections. This will turn the area into a pasture surrounded by fence and county road and easily defined. The Pajarito Ranch will also allow hunters to drive onto or across the open gate property on the existing two track roads through this agreement.

The Pajarito Ranch Unitization for game management unit 36 the hunters will be able to hunt approximately 184 acres of private land. The new total of huntable land is approximately 2 sections. The trade off is the hunters will loose access to approximately 371 accessible acres of State Lease property within the Pajarito Ranch.

The Pajarito Ranch Unitization for game management unit in 32 the hunters will be able to hunt approximately 388 acres of private land. This unitization closes no state land in game management unit 32.

This unitization would provide the deer/sheep hunters with a better opportunity to harvest a deer or Barbary sheep due to the consolidation of land into bigger parcels. It would also help alleviate trespass conflicts and thus create a healthier sportsman/landowner

relationship. The majority of the State Lease land lost is near a ranch hand's home thus alleviating a safety issue. This unitization agreement is not only important to help the Pajarito ranch from trespass hunters, but also provides for a more enjoyable hunt experience for New Mexico's public deer/Barbary sheep hunters as they are gaining approximately 300 more acres of huntable property. The deeded property borders both State Trust Land making a large contiguous block of property for the public hunter to use.

**NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH
STATE CAPITOL
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504**

**AGREEMENT FOR UNITIZING STATE LEASE AND PRIVATELY OWNED OR LEASED
LANDS.**

It is the desire of the Department of Game and Fish to optimize hunting and fishing opportunities consistent with good management. Since the Easement between the State Land Office and Department of Game and Fish provides for surface use agreements for the purpose of setting aside a contiguous block of land open to hunting and/or fishing, to provide a minimum of interference to the grazing lessee or holders of other rights, the following agreement between the Department of Game and Fish and the lessee is hereby entered into.

The following private land shall be deemed **OPEN** to public hunting and/or fishing which consists of **570** acres described as follows: In the North Pasture T12N R17E, E1/2 of Section 25; SE1/4 of Section 24; SE1/4 NE1/4 of Section 24; SW1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 24; and the portion of the SE1/4 of Section 35 which is located SE of County Road E030;

USE PASTURE FENCES FOR BOUNDARIES. PLEASE SEE ATTACHED MAP

In exchange for the privilege of **CLOSING**, to hunting and/or fishing, state lands consisting of **304** acres described as following: In T12S R17E, SE1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 14; NE1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 23, N1/2 of the N1/2 North of the fence line in Section 24; W1/2 of SW1/4 W of the pasture fence of Section 24; the NE1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 26; the portion of the S1/2 of the SW1/4 of Section 25 that lies west of County Road E030, W1/2 of the NW1/4 of Section 36 which is located west of County Road E030 and the portion of SW1/4 of the NW1/4 of Section 36 which is located west of County Road E030;

USE PASTURE FENCES FOR BOUNDARIES. PLEASE SEE ATTACHED MAP

It is mutually understood that both the Department of Game and Fish and the lessee of state lands, or their representative will furnish information regarding the tract of land open to hunting or fishing upon request. Also, the Department of Game and Fish may place signs, in conspicuous places, by which licensed hunters and anglers will be notified that the state lands have been unitized and an area has been set aside for hunting and/or fishing purposes.

Under this agreement, it is understood that the state trust land for which the unitized area is substituted shall not be subject to the terms of the Department of Game and Fish Easement with the State Land Office and is subject to posting. Enforcement of trespass upon state trust lands for which the unitized area is substituted shall not be the responsibility of the Department of Game and Fish.

It is further understood that the private land involved in this agreement shall be treated as if it were easement lands pursuant to the terms of the Department of Game and Fish Easement with the State Land Office and shall be subject to all relevant rules and regulations governing hunting and fishing on state trust land.

This agreement shall be effective on the date of its approval by the Commissioner of Public Lands and shall expire one year from that date.

Unitization Agreement

page 2

Ranch Management Practices on the State Lands Covered by this Agreement that Benefit Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat:

For the purpose of Deer hunts

Special provisions:

For the purpose of Deer hunts

Ranch Name: Pajarito

Foreman or Representative: Coy Dictson

Ranch Owner: Sam Donaldson

Foreman's Address: Po Box 24
Hondo, NM 88336

Owner's Address: Po Box 24
Hondo, NM 88336

Phone: 575.653.4526


Phone Number: 575.653.4526



Ranch Owner



Director, Department of Game and Fish



Commissioner of Public Lands

Approval Date: 9/20/11

Department of Game and Fish Contact:

Phone Number: (575)624-6135