

# **OPEN GATE**

## **Hunting and Fishing Access Program**

### **LANDOWNERS**

Open Gate is a voluntary, incentive-based program that leases private property for hunting and fishing. Participants receive an annual payment per acre based on available hunting and or fishing opportunities, with additional incentives offered for wildlife habitat enhancements. Landowners are encouraged to offer those sporting opportunities that best suite their land. *If you own or lease attractive land for any of the following activities, you likely qualify for enrollment.*

#### **◆ Big game hunting**

Deer	Bear
Antelope	Cougar
Elk	Javelina
Turkey	Oryx
Ibex	Barbary Sheep
Furbearers	

#### **◆ Small game hunting**

Pheasant	Geese
Dove	Quail
Sandhill Crane	Waterfowl

#### **◆ Fishing**

Coldwater & Warmwater

#### **◆ Road access to isolated or landlocked public lands**

### **Benefits**

#### **◆ Monetary Rewards**

#### **◆ State Liability Coverage**

#### **◆ Law Enforcement**

#### **◆ Preservation of Private Property Rights**

#### **◆ Incentives for Wildlife Habitat Enhancements**

## **Landowner Responsibilities**

- ◆ Grant equal access to legally licensed hunters/anglers and NMDGF personnel for no additional charges.
- ◆ Ensure Open Gate program signs identifying the property are posted during open seasons.
- ◆ Submit an invoice to the Open Gate Coordinator for payment after the close of the pertinent hunting or fishing season.

## **Responsibilities of the NMDGF**

- ◆ Undertake all administrative details related to setting hunt dates, bag limits, and harvest goals; dispensing licenses; and providing hunt information to license holders
- ◆ Patrol properties as necessary to prevent and detect wildlife related crimes
- ◆ Post Open Gate Program signs regarding access to the Landowner's property

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

An application must be submitted to the Open Gate Coordinator. After the application is received, a district conservation officer will evaluate the property for suitability of inclusion in the program. Eligibility only has to be determined once unless there is a change in the property. The number of acres enrolled will be based on the availability of funds. Applications will be available at all NMDGF offices, by mail, or on the [NMDGF website](#). After the property has been accepted into the program and a fee has been negotiated, an agreement will be mailed for the landowner's signature.

**If you have any questions, please contact the Santa Fe office:**

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