



EPLUS Special Management Ranch Program Application



The Special Management Ranch (SMR) Program is designed to recognize unique ranches that are conducting significant contributions toward elk management in New Mexico. Those contributions may include highly significant, current and on-going habitat improvement projects and/or ranches that are working directly with the Department on special projects related to population management or research needs in a Game Management Unit (GMU).

Ranches given SMR status may be recognized for their contributions to elk management through alternative season dates, bag limits, sporting arm types, and additional authorizations. Ranches not fitting the SMR profile but that are conducting habitat improvement projects may be directed to apply for the **Habitat Incentive Program** instead (see bottom of page 2).

SMRs must have a Department approved conservation plan for the ranch. This conservation plan must include current habitat improvement projects and, population management and harvest management goals as a minimum. This plan must be updated and submitted by January 5 on an annual basis to be approved by the department. SMRs are also required to submit a detailed harvest report each year.

All applications are evaluated by regional staff as well as EPLUS administrative staff. Applications will be evaluated based on the scope of the habitat project/s or management projects being conducted, added benefit to elk on the landscape and other practices that make significant contributions to elk management.

Application Deadlines:

- Special Management Ranch Applications must be submitted or postmarked by **January 5** to be considered for the next license year.
- Participation standards and reporting requirements for the SMR program are high. It is recommended that you contact your local Regional Wildlife Biologist at least 30 days in advance to allow time to meet all compliance requirements prior to the January 5 deadline.
- **Late or incomplete applications will be rejected.**

If you need help completing this application call toll-free 1-888-248-6866. Hours: Monday through Friday 8 AM – 5 PM

***AUTHORIZED RANCH CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Name (First, M.I., Last)

GMU - Ranch Number

Mailing Address

Telephone number

City State Zip Code

Alternate telephone number

Email

***Application must be submitted by the Authorized Ranch Contact listed on file for the EPLUS Ranch.**

APPLICATION AGREEMENT:

- I have read this Special Management Ranch Application form and understand that participation is voluntary;
- I accept that this application is contingent upon my participation in EPLUS and is subject to the terms and conditions of my signed EPLUS agreement;
- I am the legal owner or have been assigned by the legal owner(s) as Authorized Ranch Contact to handle this signup;
- I attest that the ranch information provided with this application is true and correct;
- I understand that habitat work or management projects initiated or completed does not guarantee application approval;
- I agree to allow prearranged access to the property for the purpose of on-site evaluations of elk management projects if necessary;
- I understand that, in addition to this application, I must submit a ranch management plan in cooperation with the Department;
- I understand that I must submit an update to my ranch conservation plan and harvest report each year to remain eligible;
- I understand that authorizations issued through the SMR program are Ranch-only and are not transferrable to any other property.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

MAIL APPLICATION PACKET TO:
**EPLUS Coordinator
NM Dept. of Game and Fish – WMD
Post Office Box 25112
Santa Fe NM 87504**

STREET ADDRESS FOR OVERNIGHT DELIVERY:
**EPLUS Coordinator
NM Dept. of Game and Fish – WMD
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe NM 87507**

Agreements may be faxed to (505) 476-8127 ATTN: EPLUS Coordinator or Emailed to: DPF-EPLUS@state.nm.us

HABITAT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Your Special Management Ranch application will be reviewed by appropriate Department staff. If it is determined through the review process that your ranch does not meet the criteria to be considered for a SMR but habitat improvement projects are being conducted your ranch may be a better fit for the Habitat Improvement Program.

The EPLUS Habitat Incentive Program is an annual, competitive process which evaluates your most recent habitat improvement projects, ranked against other applications in the same GMU and competing for a limited number of incentive authorizations. In order to participate you will need to complete the habitat incentive application and return it before the January 5th deadline. For more information about this program visit our website at <http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/hunting/maps/elk-private-lands/>.

GENERAL RANCH INFORMATION

Ranch Name: _____ Unit-Ranch #: _____

Authorized Ranch Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Total Ranch Deeded Acreage: _____

<p>Acreage in Cover: _____</p> <p>Description of Cover (timber, pinion/juniper, etc.):</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Acreage of ungrazed Open Space (non-agriculture): _____</p> <p>Composition of Open Space:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Acreage being grazed by livestock: _____</p> <p>Type and number of livestock on ranch, forage composition:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Acreage in agricultural crop production: _____</p> <p>Description of Crop:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Existing Water Distribution on Ranch (i.e. Streams, Ponds, Wells, Stock Tanks):</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Current Conservation practices being implemented:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Describe Elk Use on Your Ranch (what seasons or months are elk regularly present; numbers of elk present):</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Describe Your Elk Management Goals for the Ranch (maintain herd; increase herd; decrease herd; how many and type of elk currently harvested on your ranch each year):</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

CURRENT PROJECTS BEING CONDUCTED ON THE RANCH

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Water

Type of project/s: _____
Number of projects: _____
Distance from existing water: _____
Details: _____

Date project/s started: _____
Date project/s completed: _____

Forest Management

Type of improvement: _____

Acres improved: _____
Date improvement started: _____
Date improvement completed: _____

Rangeland Improvement/Grazing Management

Describe rangeland improvements: _____

Acres affected: _____
Date project started: _____
Date project completed: _____

Describe grazing management: (Include historical and current grazing practices, with dates, if stock reduction or grazing deferments are being claimed.)

Agricultural Crop Production (Accessible to elk)

Describe type of crop/s. Include approximate numbers of elk present and months utilized by elk: _____

Is Agriculture irrigated? Describe: _____
Acres in production: _____
Frequency of harvest: _____

Wildlife Friendly Fence Modifications (Including fence removal)

Type of modifications: _____

Number of modifications: _____

Distance of modifications: _____

Date modifications started/completed: _____

Laydown Fencing on or along deeded acres: Yes / No

Total linear measure of laydown fencing: _____

Describe or include a map showing the location or locations where laydown fencing occurs on your deeded acres:

Specific months or timing of when fence is down:

Riparian Development/Protection

Describe project: _____

Specific area affected: _____

Date project started/completed: _____

Other

Describe other projects beneficial to elk not included above: _____

Photographs Included

Please provide one or two pictures of each habitat project with complete descriptions and dates. Include before and after photographs if possible. Submitting labeled maps showing locations of projects can also be helpful. **Do not send video, pictures of elk, elk droppings, elk tracks or elk damage.**