

Liability protection

State law provides liability protection to landowners and lessees participating in the Open Gate Program under the terms of 17-4-7 NMSA 1978. Please contact the Department for more information.

How to enroll

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is accepting applications for the Open Gate program. Almost anyone who owns or leases lands or waters good for hunting, fishing, or trapping can qualify. Open Gate applications are accepted each year. Agreements are offered to landowners annually until all available funds for the current year are expended.

Open Gate Program Wildlife Management Division NM Department of Game and Fish

P.O. Box 25112 • Santa Fe, NM 87504
(505) 476-8043 • (505) 476-8038



NW Area Office
3841 Midway Place, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
(505) 222-4700

NE Area Office
215 York Canyon Road
Raton, NM 87740
(575) 445-2311

SW Area Office
2715 Northrise Drive
Las Cruces, NM 88011
(575) 532-2100

SE Area Office
1912 W. Second Street
Roswell, NM 88201
(575) 624-6135



Hunting & Fishing Access Program



Open Gate Program

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has long recognized the important role private landowners play in wildlife conservation and recreation. In 2005, the Department created the Open Gate program to offer incentives to landowners working to improve the state's wildlife resources and recreational opportunities. Open Gate's main objectives:

- Work with private landowners to provide sportsmen and women access for hunting, fishing, and trapping.
- Work with private landowners who participate in Open Gate to enhance wildlife habitats for quality hunting, fishing, or trapping experiences.

How the Program Works

Landowners who voluntarily enroll and participate in Open Gate receive payment and other benefits in exchange for signing a flexible hunting or fishing lease with the Department. Payments are based on various criteria including location, acreage, habitat, and hunting or fishing opportunities. Payments are issued at the end of the leased hunting, fishing, or trapping seasons.

The Department works with participants to choose the best way to mark enrolled areas with Open Gate signs provided by the Department. The signs help manage traffic, mark off-limit areas, and display ranch rules for hunters and anglers. Conservation officers patrol Open Gate properties during leased seasons.

Each year, Open Gate updates and publishes a list of participating properties on the Department website, www.wildlife.state.nm.us. Hunters and anglers can use the list to locate and learn about participating farms and ranches that match their interests, and print out property maps. Hunting and fishing are allowed only during the seasons specified in the Open Gate lease agreement between the Department and participating landowners.

Benefits to landowners

- Earn additional income by offering a hunting, fishing, or trapping lease.
- Landowners can lease some or all of their property.
- Access for hunters and anglers is allowed during leased seasons only.
- Additional payments and cost shares are available for habitat projects that improve hunting and fishing on long-term enrollments.
- Landowners can withdraw from the program at any time, but payments may be prorated.
- Travel is restricted to foot traffic except on roads designated by the landowner as open to vehicle traffic.
- Safety Zone signs are available to keep hunter and angler traffic out of off-limit areas.
- Properties are not open for camping.

The State of New Mexico is an Equal Opportunity Employer dedicated to the policy of non-discrimination in employment. Any qualified applicant shall have the opportunity to compete for vacant positions open for recruitment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, marital or veteran status, gender identity, sexual orientation or the presence of a mental or physical disability or any other legally protected status.



For more information call (505) 476-8043 or (505) 476-8038

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or visit www.wildlife.state.nm.us

HUNTING ACCESS RATES

Small Game, Waterfowl, Turkey, & Javelina Hunting					
	Grassland	Woodland	Cropland	Wetland	Riparian
High Rate	\$1.00/acre	\$2.00/acre	\$2.50/acre	\$8.00/acre	\$10.00/acre
Mid Rate	\$0.50/acre	\$1.60/acre	\$2.00/acre	\$6.40/acre	\$8.00/acre
Low Rate	\$0.25/acre	\$1.20/acre	\$1.50/acre	\$4.80/acre	\$6.00/acre

Small Game, Waterfowl, Turkey, & Javelina Hunting: Access is provided to private land for hunting during open seasons and dates. **High Rates** must meet 3 of the following conditions; **Mid Rates** must meet 2 of the following conditions; **Low Rates** must meet 1 of the following conditions.

- ✓ Potential Hunter Use: Acreage must be located within 60 miles of the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area, Las Cruces, Santa Fe, Roswell, Farmington, Clovis, Hobbs, and Alamogordo
- ✓ Potential Hunting Opportunities: Acreage must provide access to hunt three or more of the following game, Small Game, Quail, Dove, Waterfowl, Turkey, Pheasant, or Javelina.
- ✓ Habitat Quality: Acreage must have good supply of food, cover, water, and space for huntable game. Determined through NMDGF evaluation.

Deer Hunting: Enrollments that include access for deer hunting receive a 25% increase to per acre rates for Small Game, Waterfowl, Turkey, & Javelina Hunting. Enrollments that include restricted access for youth only deer hunting (if applicable) receive a 10% increase to per acre rates for Small Game, Waterfowl, Turkey, & Javelina Hunting.

Bear, Cougar & Furbearers		Access to Inaccessible Public Land	
	All Seasons		All Seasons
Single Rate	\$0.15/acre	Single Rate	\$0.50/acre

Bear, Cougar & Furbearers: Access is provided to private land for hunting and/or trapping during open seasons and dates. Property must contain at least 5 square miles of contiguous acreage.

Access to Inaccessible Public Land: Access is provided through an access corridor on private land to public land that is completely surrounded (landlocked) by private land, legally precluding public access. Acreage calculated for payment includes only the public land that is landlocked within the boundary of private ownership. Payment is for access fees only. Access must be provided year-round with no season or species restrictions.

FISHING ACCESS RATES

Warm & Cold Water Fishing			
	Pond Acreage	Stream Length (both sides)	Stream Length (one side)
High Rate	\$250.00/surface acre	\$2500.00/mile	\$1250.00/mile
Mid Rate	\$125.00/surface acre	\$1250.00/mile	\$625.00/mile
Low Rate	\$62.50/surface acre	\$625.00/mile	\$312.50/mile

Warm & Cold Water Fishing: Access is provided to private land for fishing during open seasons and dates. **High Rates** must meet 3 of the following conditions; **Mid Rates** must meet 2 of the following conditions; **Low Rates** must meet 1 of the following conditions.

- ✓ Potential Angler Use: Waters must be located within 60 miles of the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area, Las Cruces, Santa Fe, Roswell, Farmington, Clovis, Hobbs, and Alamogordo
- ✓ Accessibility: Waters must be reasonably accessible to as many people as possible.
- ✓ Fishery Quality: Waters must be able to support a recreational lease and have a self-sustaining fishery that will not require additional stocking. Determined through NMDGF evaluation.

To provide support for the development and maintenance of fish and game habitat and to promote quality recreational experiences, the Department provides technical guidance and incentives for habitat improvements on long-term (e.g. 5+ years) Open Gate enrollments.

*Please contact the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish at 505-476-8043 to sign up or learn more about these opportunities.

All rates are subject to change without notice. Participation in the Open Gate program is voluntary and enrollment is contingent on the annual availability of funds. Access agreements are subject to consideration for access rights granted by the landowner and payment is conditioned upon having granted access to licensed sportsmen during the designated hunting season in the year for which payment is claimed.



OPEN GATE Hunting & Fishing Access Program APPLICATION



Check it off:

- Please attach a copy of the recorded deeds with a legal description for the property.
- Please include a legible map showing the property boundary. Suggested maps include 1:100,000 scale BLM land status map (easily obtained from BLM offices) or USGS map.
- If you lease private land and want to enroll, you must provide a notarized and signed letter from the owner authorizing Open Gate participation.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Hunting

What hunting seasons would you like to include in the lease? (Example: dove, quail, & deer seasons)

Private Acreage: _____

Inaccessible State Trust of Federal lands Acreage: _____

Fishing

Name of Lake, Reservoir, Stream, or River: _____

Pond Acreage: _____

Stream Miles: _____



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