

# Wildlife Management Division Rule Development

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Private Land Antelope License Allocation  
Proposed New Rule

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December 9, 2010

NM State Game Commission Meeting

Clovis, NM

# The Challenge...

- “The [tragedy of the commons] becomes a management dilemma when wildlife are found on private land, which is protected by a different set of rights – property rights. Private property rights in the United States include the rights to possess, enjoy, use, and dispose of economic goods, including one’s land... Therefore, the public owns wildlife in theory but not in practice since most wildlife are under the control of private landowners. Unless private landowners are willing to provide habitat for wildlife and grant access to the public, the public does not benefit from this resource.

The conclusion is clear: Without productive collaboration with private land managers, governments cannot exercise effective responsibility for wildlife and the public cannot benefit from the wildlife it owns.”

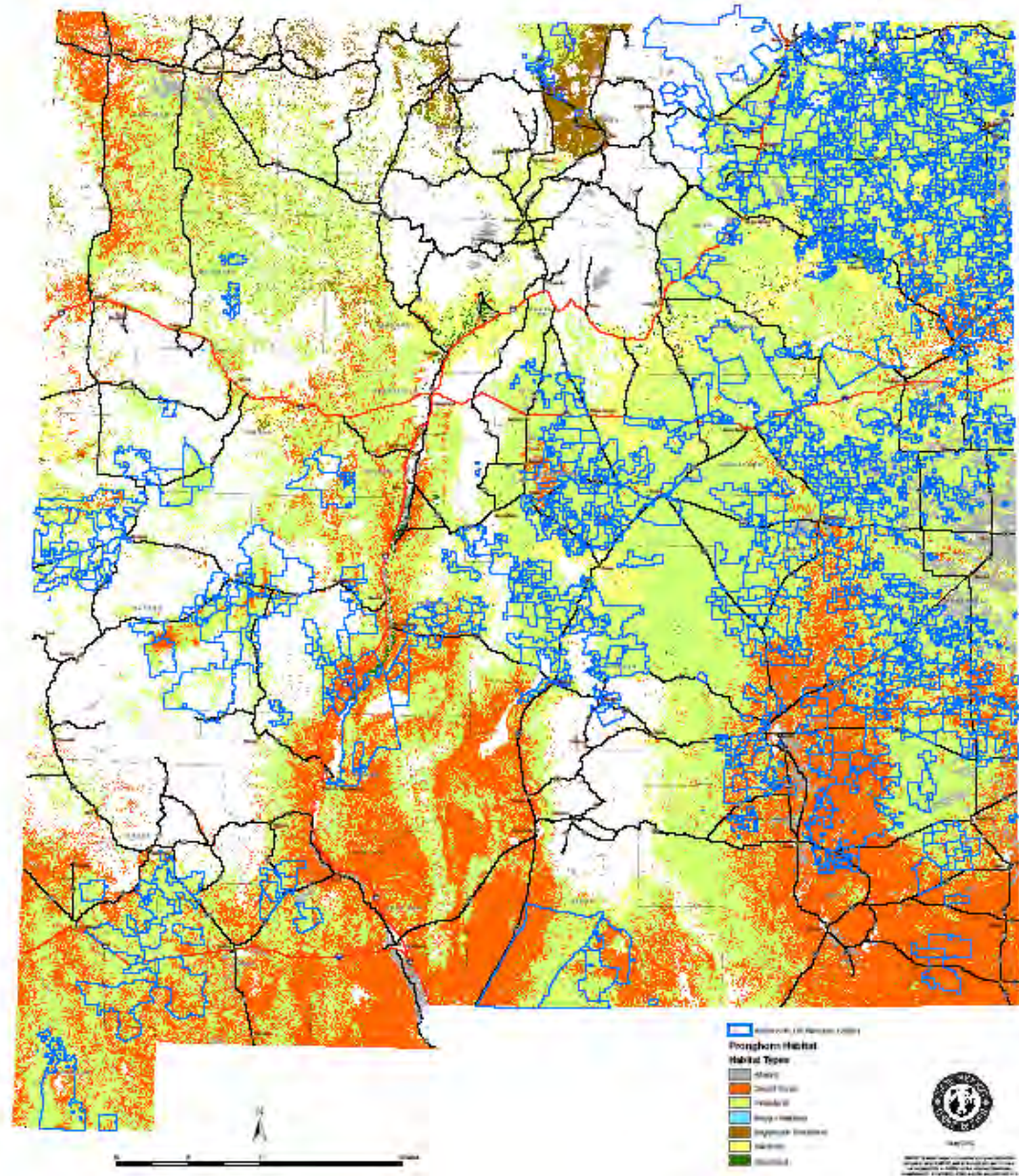
- Quote from Wildlife Stewardship and Recreation on Private Lands

# A-PLUS

- Adjusts management of pronghorn from Antelope Management Units to Game Management Units (GMU)
- Up to 10% of the harvest limit will be removed for allocation under the Special Management Property provision

# New Mexico Pronghorn Habitat and Enrolled A-PLUS Ranches

New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish  
A-PLUS Ranches and Pronghorn Habitat Types



# A-PLUS

## Enrollment - Minimum Qualifications

1. The number of rifle and muzzleloader authorizations/licenses within each GMU will be divided by the enrolled acres of pronghorn habitat
2. The resulting ratio of 1 buck per X acres of pronghorn habitat will be the minimum number of acres of pronghorn habitat a ranch must have to participate

# A-PLUS

## License Allocation

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- Ranch A – 100% private deeded land
  - All authorizations issued are transferable private land authorizations
- Ranch B – Split land status ranch
  - Authorizations and public draw licenses allocated based on the ratio of pronghorn habitat within that ranch that is on 1. private deeded land and 2. state leased or federal land and
- Ranch C – 100% state leased or federal land
  - All licenses allocated through the public draw

# A-PLUS

## Public Draw Ranches

- The Department has identified and will enroll state leased and federal lands as Public Draw Ranches that:
  - Are not currently enrolled in A-PLUS
  - Are legally accessible
  - Provide ~ 5 square miles to hunt pronghorn
- These ranches will be assigned public draw hunters
- Current estimate of an additional 100-150 public draw licenses statewide

# A-PLUS

## Special Management Properties (SMP)

- Ranches that provide unique contributions to the Department's pronghorn management goals of a GMU may qualify as a SMP
- SMP landowners must develop a pronghorn management plan in cooperation with the Department to determine hunting opportunities based on land status and unique contributions to pronghorn



# A-PLUS

## Other Lands

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- Lands outside identified pronghorn habitat or within closed GMUs that provide sustainable hunting opportunities may enroll
- Licenses and authorizations will be issued at a ratio equal to the private deeded and public land acreage of that ranch

# A-PLUS

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- Ranch Assignments
    - Muzzleloader and rifle licenses and authorizations are assigned to specific ranches
    - No movement of hunters during the hunt period
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# A-PLUS Summary

- Establishes a regulatory framework to allocate pronghorn hunting opportunity between private landowners and public draw hunters
- Increases public draw hunting opportunity through enrollment of some state leased and federal lands as ranches and YO hunts
- Relies on sustainable harvest objectives as outlined in the Department's Pronghorn Management Plan