



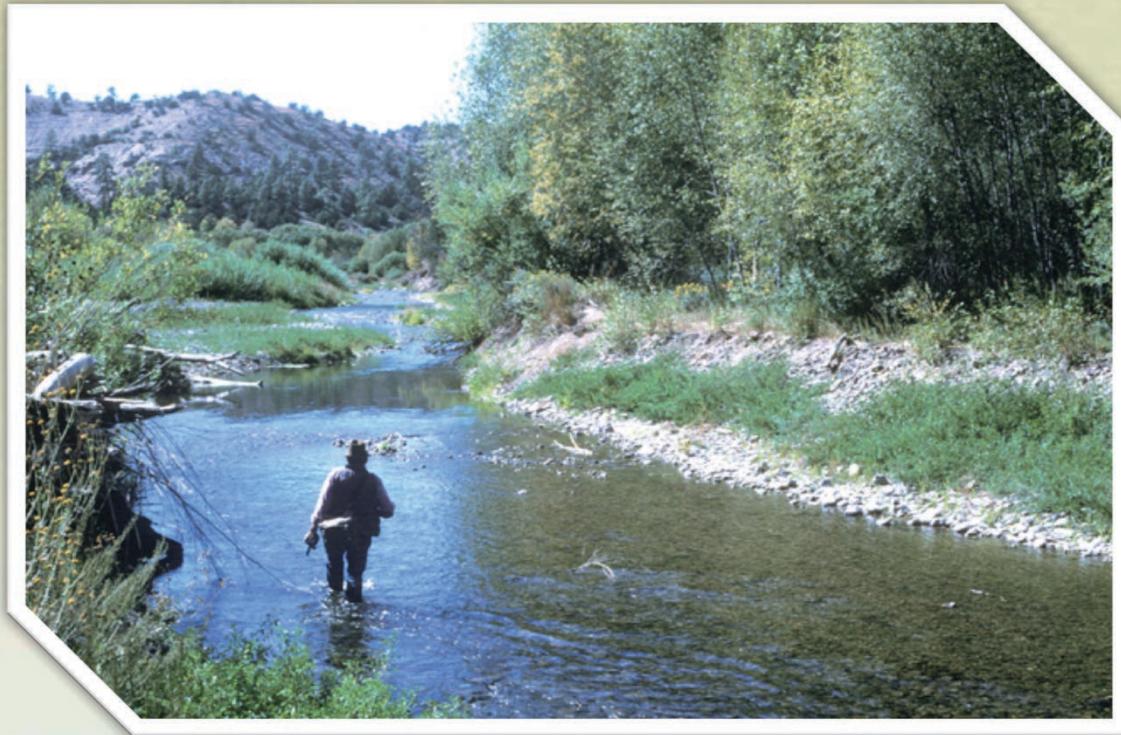
**Proposed amendments to
Use of State Game
Commission Lands (GAIN)
Rule 19.34.3**

**April 14, 2016
New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting
Las Cruces, NM**



19.34.3 Rule Change History

- **Current rule adopted in 2009**
- **Committee review of GAIN program**



19.34.3 Rule Change History

- **Committee Goal: Adapt GAIN program/Rule to:**
 - Facilitate the public going outdoors
 - Simplify and standardize Wildlife Management Area (WMA) access rules
 - Assist in economic development of communities near WMAs
 - Make sure access doesn't:
 - Negatively impact wildlife resources
 - Violate purpose of the property

Current Access of WMAs



- Fishing or hunting license, or GAIN permit is required to access WMAs
- GAIN allows non-consumptive users to access WMAs for outdoor recreation
- Access is very restricted and Department has taken the “WMAs are closed unless otherwise open” approach
- Only a few activities are allowed and access is not consistent between WMAs

Proposed Rule Changes



- WMAs are open unless otherwise closed
- Eliminate GAIN permit
- Individual access with hunting, fishing, trapping and/or HMAV
- No license or stamp is required for youth to access (younger than 18 years of age)
- **Group Access:**
 - Group = up to 4 adults
 - One hunting, fishing or trapping license, and/or HMAV required per group

Proposed Rule Changes

- **Lands closed to general access during designated big game hunting seasons**
- **Scouting allowed 7 days prior to hunt period**
- **Hunter and up to 3 guests exempt from closures during hunt and scouting period**
- **Camping limit increased to 14 days**



Proposed Rule Changes

Add rules for specific Properties to 19.34.3

- **Rules for specific lands can include:**
 - **Camping prohibitions**
 - **Closure dates to protect wildlife and meet designated property purpose (*elk calving, deer fawning, wintering dates*)**
 - **Special activity allowance (*snowmobile area on Edward Sargent WMA*)**

Public Comment

Public meetings (*attendance*): Abiquiu(8), Taos(1), Roswell(3), Silver City(5)

33 comments received as of April 11, 2016:

- Support proposed GAIN changes (11)
- Opposed to a ban on antler hunting (11) (*not currently proposed*)
- Opposed to any further restrictions/costs (2)
- Existing winter closure dates on Rio Chama WMA too long (6) (*critical deer winter range*)
- Support increased fishing access on Rio Chama WMA (3)

Proposed Rule Changes

Rules specific to the Rio Chama WMA:

- All portions outside designated area closed November 15 through May 10 (*Deer Wintering*)
(*currently Nov 15 – Memorial Day weekend*)
- Designated area will include Rio Chama (river) and a 100 yard buffer (*exempt from closure for fishing access*)
- Designated area will include river only access points

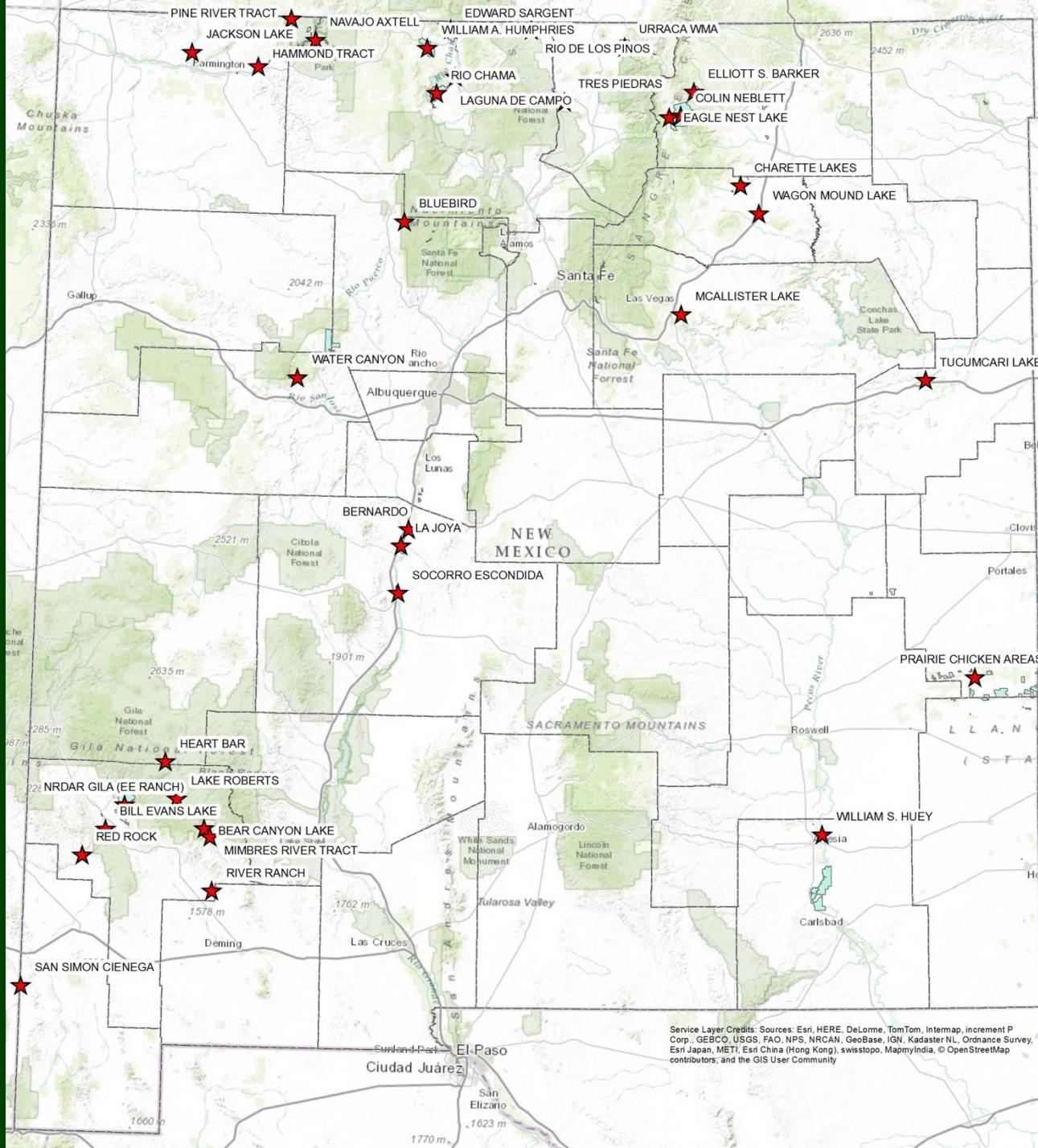


Questions

WMA Additions

- Add new WMAs
 - Double E
 - River Ranch
- Management plans to be completed before access is permitted





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