

Federal Lands

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: **1-888-248-6866**

Access to Public Lands

There are approximately nine million acres of national forest and 13 million acres of BLM lands in New Mexico. NMDGF recommends contacting the appropriate land management agency prior to hunting. Many public lands in New Mexico are interspersed with privately owned property and private landowners have the right to control the use of their private lands. Where no public access exists, sportsmen/women must obtain written permission from the landowner or leaseholder to cross private land for access to public land. It is unlawful for anyone to post or restrict lawful use of public land. Trapping is prohibited on all public lands (see page 128-130 for details and exceptions)

National Parks and Monuments

National parks and national monuments are closed to hunting, except the following BLM managed national monuments:

Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument	575-751-4899
Prehistoric Trackways National Monument and Organ Mountains– Desert Peaks National Monument	575-525-4300

Valles Caldera National Preserve

All of unit 6B is closed to hunting and trapping, except elk and turkey draw hunts. All hunters and participants in any firearm hunt on Valles Caldera National Preserve (VCNP), except turkey hunters using shotguns, must wear a minimum of 244 square inches of blaze orange. A special-use permit fee (\$35) and 7-day entrance fee (\$25) must be paid. The VCNP honors any NPS pass to waive the \$25 entrance fee. This includes NPS Annual, Lifetime, Senior, Military, Volunteer and Access passes in addition to the America the Beautiful Pass. Hunters must obtain a special-use permit and are required to attend an orientation before hunting on VCNP. Hunters should review all information regarding VCNP hunting rules and regulations at: **www.nps.gov/vall**. For more information call: **575-829-4100**.

National Wildlife Refuges (NWR)

NWRs are closed to hunting unless specified open by federal refuge regulations for hunting particular species. If specified open, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service-approved, nontoxic shot is required for hunting on all NWRs.

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge:	575-835-1828
Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge:	575-622-6755
Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge:	505-425-3581
Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge:	505-864-4021

Forest Service Lands

Most national forest lands in New Mexico are open to public hunting and fishing. Each national forest requires outfitters and guides to obtain a permit to provide services. Vehicle-use restrictions may apply on Forest Service properties. Specific roads are closed in some national forests to protect natural resources. It is unlawful to use vehicles in areas closed under the Habitat Protection Act. **Late Season Road Closures:** If intending to utilize roads through Forest Service or BLM property, it is advisable to contact the appropriate land management field office beforehand for late-season or winter closures and other access restrictions.

Stay Informed about Controlled Burns

The U.S. Forest Service and other public-land management agencies routinely conduct controlled burns in forested areas during the fall months. Prescribed fires maintain a diverse and healthy forest ecosystem and improve wildlife habitat. Hunters are encouraged to be aware before their hunt and check nrmfireinfo.com for burn advisories. No refunds will be offered if a controlled burn is conducted in your hunt area.

Sandia Ranger District: Cibola National Forest

The Sandia Ranger District is restricted to bow and crossbow only during established seasons.

Valle Vidal: Carson National Forest

The Valle Vidal is closed seasonally to public access: the west side is closed May 1–June 30, and the east side is closed Jan. 1–March 31. The Valle Vidal unit is open to deer, elk, bear and turkey hunting by draw only and is closed to all small-game hunting. Off-road travel is prohibited, and camping is allowed only in designated campgrounds or more than one-half mile from the road. Other restrictions may apply. For more information, contact the U.S. Forest Service office in Questa: **575-586-0520**.

For More Information about Forest Service Lands

For information visit www.fs.fed.us or contact the national forest of interest.

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest **928-333-4301**;

Carson National Forest **575-758-6200**; Cibola National Forest **505-346-3900**;

Coronado National Forest **520-388-8300**; Gila National Forest **575-388-8201**;

Lincoln National Forest **575-257-4095**; or Santa Fe National Forest **505-438-5300**.

Bureau of Land Management Lands

Most land under Bureau of Land Management jurisdiction, including Wilderness Study Areas, is open to public hunting and fishing. However, it is the responsibility of each hunter and angler to know what restrictions apply. Outfitters and guides providing services on BLM lands must possess a permit issued by each specific BLM district. Off-road vehicle travel may be restricted or prohibited on BLM lands, depending on location. Obey all posted rules and check with local BLM offices for regulatory changes that may occur in special management units.

Rio Bonito Acquired Lands: Contact Roswell BLM office, **575-627-0272**.

Santa Cruz Lake Recreation Area: Contact Taos BLM office, **575-758-8851**.

Rio Grande Recreation Area: Wild Rivers Zone is open to hunting with the exception of the closed area: beginning from the fence at the pay station; east following the southern boundary of State Land section 32 to where it intersects the power line; south following the Red River to its confluence with the Rio Grande; north following the Rio Grande to Sheep's Crossing; east to the right-of-way fence of the Backcountry Byway; and south following this right-of-way fence to the pay station. **Taos Valley Overlook Zone** and **Orilla Verde Zone** are closed to hunting.

For More Information about BLM Lands

For more information visit: www.blm.gov/new-mexico or contact:

Albuquerque: **505-761-8700**; Carlsbad: **575-887-6544**;

Farmington: **505-599-8900**; Las Cruces: **575-525-4300**; Roswell: **575-627-0272**;

Socorro: **575-835-0412**, Taos: **575-758-8851**, or Santa Fe: **505-954-2000**.

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Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

Areas owned and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation are open unless otherwise posted. Additional restrictions may apply. For information: **505-462-3540**.

Military Reservations

With the cooperation of the U.S. Department of Defense, hunting is allowed on some military reservations. Hunters must obtain permission and conditions of access directly from the military reservation. Hunters may be required to sign-in and sign-out at check stations for some hunts. The U.S. military may delay or cancel hunts (see closures below).

Kirtland Air Force Base: Contact: **505-846-7420**.

Lake Holloman Wildlife Refuge: Contact: **575-572-7381**.

Fort Bliss / McGregor Range: All hunters on Fort Bliss, including all of Unit 28 and portions of Unit 19 and Unit 34, are required to obtain an access pass and have proof of passing a state-certified hunter education course. Mentor-youth hunters are not eligible. Hunters are required to wear a blaze-orange vest and are subject to security searches. McGregor Range (Unit 28) is open for big-game hunting by draw only (see species and season listings) and is considered on range. Hunters are required to visit

<https://ftbliss.isportsman.net/> to acquire an access pass and obtain access information, or email christopher.a.taylor154.civ@army.mil

GMU 34: Grapevine Canyon (McGregor Range Buffer Zone): All hunters on Fort Bliss are required to obtain an access pass and have proof of passing a state-certified hunter education course. Mentor-youth hunters are not eligible. Hunters are required to wear a blaze-orange vest and are subject to security searches. This area is subject to closure by the Forest Service and/or Fort Bliss during military training events, and is accessible with military permission only. Hunters are required to visit <https://ftbliss.isportsman.net/> or email christopher.a.taylor154.civ@army.mil to acquire an access pass and obtain access information.

White Sands Missile Range: For access information, contact White Sands Missile Range at: **575-678-7909** or **575-678-2993**.

U.S. Forest Service & Military Closures: In the interest of public safety, the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. military may delay or cancel hunts in portions of GMUs 10, 13, 18, 19, 20, 28 and 34. Closures usually occur between 3 p.m. and 8 a.m., during which time roadblocks leading into closed areas will be placed and evacuation required of all people in these areas. The area subject to closure by the U.S. Forest Service and/or the military during missile firings in Unit 34 is located in Grapevine Canyon (McGregor Range Buffer Zone). Closures of these areas can occur throughout the year and may affect a number of hunts listed in this booklet. The area subject to closure in GMU 10 includes approximately 29 square miles of the Mount Taylor Ranger District, Cibola National Forest—located in the Zuni Mountains, directly south and east of the Fort Wingate Launch Complex and south of Interstate 40. The area subject to closure in GMU 13 includes approximately 200 square miles of the western portion of the Magdalena Ranger District, Cibola National Forest—located in the Datil Mountains, north of U.S. Hwy. 60 and northeast of Datil, N.M. Authority for the closures is 36 CFR 261.53 (e) and 36 CFR 261.54 (e).

New Mexico State Lands

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

New Mexico State Trust Land

The New Mexico State Game Commission and the Commissioner of Public Lands have an agreement that provides access for hunting and fishing of protected species on State Trust Land by NMDGF licensees during the seasons for which their licenses are valid. Trapping is not allowed on State Trust Lands. A copy of this agreement and other information about hunting access on State Trust Land can be found at:

www.nmstatelands.org/resources/hunting-access-information/. People seeking to use State Trust Land for uses not addressed under this agreement must secure separate approval from the New Mexico State Land Office (NMSLO). For more information, contact NMSLO at: **505-827-5760** or visit: www.nmstatelands.org.

Access

Certain areas may be unavailable for hunting or fishing. For specific locations, view the interactive map at: mapservice.nmstatelands.org/HuntingInformation or contact NMSLO at **505-827-5760**. The right to enter State Trust Land via vehicle is allowed if access is available by public road (defined in Section 67-2-1, NMSA 1978) or on other established roads on State Trust Land that have not been closed to vehicular traffic. Access is also allowed on foot from roads mentioned above or from adjacent public and private lands that have been lawfully accessed. NMDGF and NMSLO have identified specific hunting access points on State Trust Land that must be unlocked during any open season. These access points are shown on NMSLO's interactive map.

To ensure access and create larger and better-defined hunting areas, hunting privileges for some State Trust Land have been exchanged for similar privileges on private lands. The private-land areas have signs posted with notices that the land has been unitized (page 46). Observe these signs and contact NMDGF if you have questions about which lands are open for public use.

On legally accessible State Trust Land, you may:

- Scout for big game, small game or turkey 14 days prior to the open season.
- Hunt big game, small game, turkey, or protected furbearers during open hours and seasons.
- Hunt nongame species on State Trust Land, but only during the period in which your license is valid for protected species on those lands.
- Camp, in campsites designated under this agreement and shown on NMSLO's interactive map, with the permission of the State Trust Land agricultural lessee or as otherwise authorized by the Commissioner.
- Have campfires with a valid hunting license in designated or dispersed camping areas and only if currently permitted by the New Mexico State Forester. It is the hunter's responsibility to know current conditions and restrictions. Information is available at <https://www.nmstatelands.org/resources/hunting-access-information/> and <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/>
- Take up to three guests per license holder on your hunt.

If you have problems or questions about gaining access to State Trust Land, record complete details including the location, date, time, and names of parties involved, and contact one of the following:

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- The local NMDGF Conservation Officer or NMDGF Operation Game Thief: **1-800-432-4263**.
- NMSLO in Santa Fe at: **505-827-5760** or the appropriate local NMSLO Field Office, using the directory at: www.nmstatelands.org/divisions/surface-resources/district-offices.
- Submit a Multiple Use Incident Reporting Form, found at: www.nmstatelands.org/resources/hunting-access-information/.

New Mexico State Parks

All New Mexico State Parks are closed to hunting, unless specified open in a designated area. For information contact the New Mexico State Parks Division at: **1-888-667-2757** or <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/spd/>.

Other State Lands

Chihuahuan Desert Research Center: The Chihuahuan Desert Rangeland Research Center (College Ranch) is closed to unescorted public access. For information, call: **575-646-2554** or visit: <http://chihuahuansc.nmsu.edu/index.html>.

Jornada Experimental Range: Jornada Experimental Range in Doña Ana County is closed to unescorted public access.

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District: For information or to obtain access, call: **505-864-7466**.

Portions of the Rio Grande in Valencia County: In the interest of public safety, areas posted along the Rio Grande in Valencia County may be closed to hunting. For further information regarding closures contact the NMDGF Northwest Area Office: **505-222-4700, ext. 0**.

On State Trust Land, you must:

- Have in your possession all required and valid fishing and hunting licenses with applicable tags which must be available on demand by employees of NMSLO or NMDGF.
- Respect other permitted or leased uses of State Trust Land, including agriculture, mineral activities and recreation.
- Drive only on established roads, complying with any posted signage and respect private property boundaries.
- Close all gates that you pass through.
- Respect private property.
- Pack out trash.

It is illegal to:

- Attach blinds to agricultural improvements as they are private property on State Trust Land. This includes property such as windmills, fences, tanks, etc.
- Drive off-road for any reason.
- Enter during seasons for which you are not licensed or before the hours and allowed scouting periods for which you are licensed.
- Use private roads or cross private lands without prior written permission from the landowner.
- Remove wood, sand or gravel or conduct commercial activities.
- Harass or injure livestock or wildlife or damage private property, such as dwellings, stock tanks or fences.
- Use a Private-Land Only License to hunt on state land, even if the state land is leased by a landowner whose property you have permission to hunt.