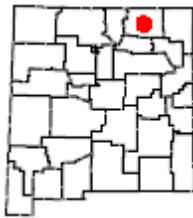




Laguna Madre/Stubblefield, Maxwell, OG.147



Access Type: Hunting, Fishing.

GMU: 55B

Information: This Open Gate lease opens public hunting and fishing access to Laguna Madre and Stubblefield Reservoirs. The property provides over 1300 acres of fishing and waterfowl hunting potential and an additional 1000 acres for dove hunting opportunities. Camping is available on adjacent BLM lands. Restrooms are not available.

Permitted Activities: Hunting and fishing are only permitted on this property during the seasons and dates specified in the Open Gate lease agreement between the Department of Game and Fish and the landowner. Access to the property is subject to the terms and conditions in the Open Gate lease agreement and is restricted to the following permitted activities:

Permitted Activities	Available Dates	Remarks
Dove Hunting (Mourning, White-winged and Eurasian Collared Doves, and Band-tailed Pigeon)	 Please see the 2025-2026 Hunting Rules and Information. <i>Page 138: Upland Game</i> <i>Page 141: Migratory Game Birds</i>	Eurasian Collared Doves may only be hunted during open seasons for Mourning and White-winged doves. Refer to <i>Migratory Game Bird Supplement.</i>
Waterfowl Hunting	 Please see the 2025-2026 Hunting Rules and Information. <i>Page 141: Migratory Game Birds</i>	Refer to <i>Migratory Game Bird Supplement.</i>
Fishing	 Open year round - Ice fishing or accessing any portion of the lakes with surface ice is prohibited. Please see the 2025-2026 Fishing Rules and Information.	Anglers 11 years of age and younger are not required to hold a fishing license. You may fish without a license on free fishing days. See property rules for special use restrictions.

Open Gate is a program that leases private lands to improve public access for hunting, fishing, and trapping. Open Gate leases are funded exclusively by hunters, anglers, and trappers through the purchase of the Habitat Management and Access Validation (HMAV).

Laguna Madre/Stubblefield

Property Rules: The following rules will be posted on this property and enforced at the discretion of the Department of Game and Fish.

- Public use of this Open Gate private property is restricted to angling or hunting during open seasons for the following game animals: **Dove Hunting, Waterfowl Hunting and Fishing.**
- No trespassing unless you have in your possession a valid fishing license, a valid hunting license, or you are accompanied by a properly licensed angler or hunter.
- Each properly licensed hunter or angler is allowed to be accompanied by no more than two guests.
- Scouting is only permitted during the two days immediately preceding the commencement of open seasons.
- No fishing within 150 feet of the lake outlets.
- Blinds must be removed by the end of the day.
- No target practice.
- No destructive acts, including vandalism, graffiti, theft, removal or defacing natural features, resources or signs.
- No motor vehicle travel is permitted off of designated roads or on closed roads.
- No littering.
- **New Mexico Statute prohibits discharge of a firearm within 150 yards of a dwelling or building without permission of the structure's owner or lessee.**

 Welcome to
Stubblefield Lake
Fishing and Hunting Area

Open year-round, Stubblefield (911 acres) and Laguna Madre (340 acres) Reservoirs were constructed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in the 1950's. The reservoirs hold channel catfish, largemouth bass, sunfish, perch, and walleye. The current New Mexico state record for channel catfish (36 lb. 8 oz. / 38 inches) was caught at Stubblefield in 1999.

A Checkered Past

Originally inhabited by the Moache Utes and later the Jicarilla Apache, Spain claimed the plains of northern New Mexico in 1524. The Coronado expedition explored this area in 1540, but it remained mostly unsettled until 1821 as the Santa Fe Trail became the major southern trade route west from Missouri and Mexico declared independence from Spain. The Republic of Mexico adopted the Spanish land grant system, and in 1841 Charles Beaubien, a French-Canadian trapper, and Guadalupe Miranda, secretary to the Governor in Santa Fe, were awarded the largest land grant in New Mexico history—2,700,000 acres. The grant passed to Beaubien's son in law, Lucien Bonaparte Maxwell, who sold it in 1869. For twenty years after the 1869 sale of the Maxwell Land Grant, homesteaders, ranchers and miners fought the new owners and their hired gunslingers for control. The bloody conflict became known as the Colfax County War, in which an estimated 200 people lost their lives. The settlers were outnumbered and outgunned, and the conflict ended when the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Maxwell Land Grant Company in 1887.

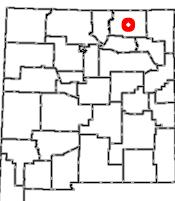
Open Gate Program

Privately owned by the Vermejo Conservancy District, public access is leased by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) through the Open Gate Program. Open Gate is funded solely by Habitat Management & Access Validation fees from anglers, hunters and trappers. NMDGF leases lands and waters to provide sportsmen and women more places to fish, hunt and trap. Open Gate is a voluntary access program, available to landowners statewide. To learn more about Open Gate and this and other properties, visit online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

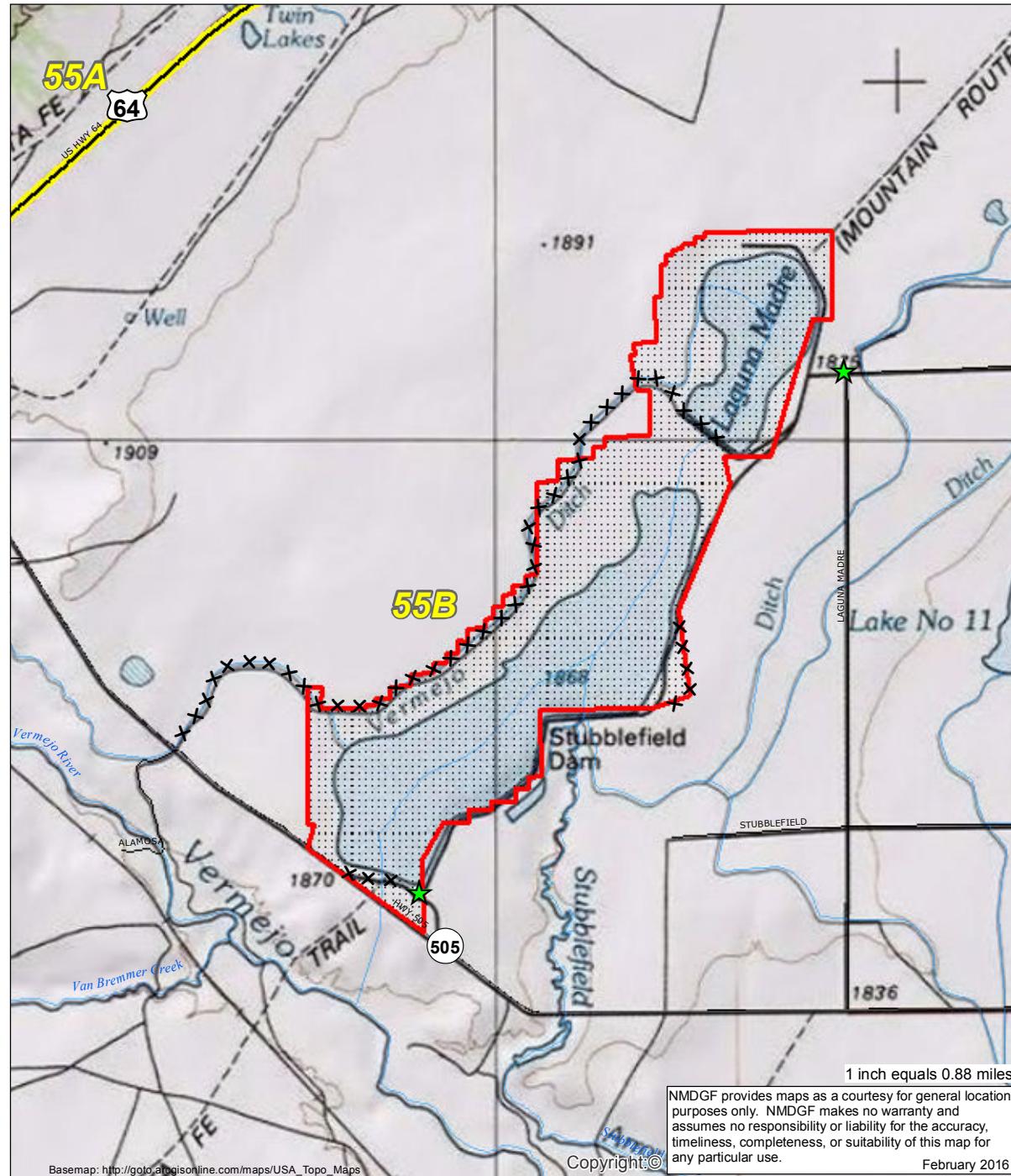
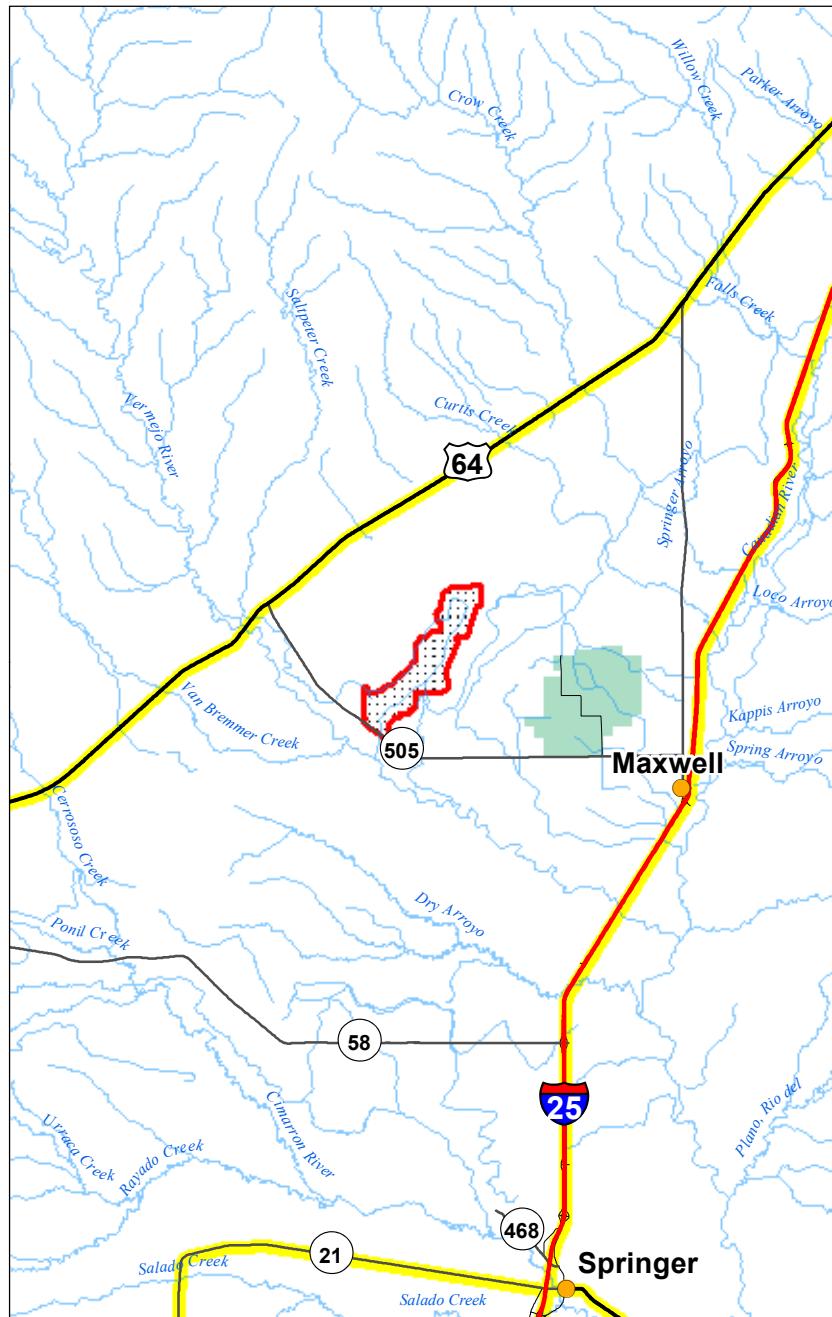
No Facilities

Restrooms and drinking water are not available.

Rate this Property - NMDGF wants your feedback to ensure that this property is providing an enjoyable outdoor experience. Please take a moment to anonymously rate this property. We know your experience can differ each time you go afield, so be sure to provide a separate review each time you visit this Open Gate property. *After each visit you can quickly provide a review by clicking the **Rate a Property** tab on the [Open Gate homepage](#).*



OPEN GATE
Hunting and Fishing
Access Program
Property OG.147



>>> Be Ethical, Courteous, and Safe <<<
All New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
regulations and seasons apply.

- ★ Property Rules Sign
- ✗ Closed Road
- Open Gate Property
- GMU Boundaries

- Secondary Road
- State Highway
- Interstate Highway
- US Highway

- Surface Ownership
- BLM
- USFS
- Tribal
- Private
- State



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