



EPLUS Habitat Incentive Program
Application and Agreement
April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025 License Year



EPLUS RANCH INFORMATION:

 Authorized Ranch Contact Name

 GMU-Ranch Number

 Mailing Address

 Telephone number

 City State Zip Code

 Alternate telephone number

 Email

The Habitat Incentive Program Application and Agreement must be signed by the Authorized Ranch Contact listed on file for the EPLUS Ranch.

If multiple properties are owned or managed by the same Authorized Ranch Contact a separate application must be submitted for each property.

INTRODUCTION:

- The EPLUS Habitat Incentive Program is designed to incentivize and recognize participating EPLUS landowners for improving elk habitat on their private deeded property by awarding elk incentive authorizations.
- Applications are evaluated and ranked annually by the Department through a competitive process.
- Applications are evaluated based on the scale of the improvements and their benefit to elk on the landscape.
- Elk incentive authorizations are awarded based on the Department's annual application rankings.
- Elk incentive authorizations are subject to annual availability for each GMU. Some GMUs have low potential for elk incentive authorizations.
- Elk incentive authorizations awarded (number and type) to each ranch are subject to change from year to year based on availability and application ranking.
- Elk incentive authorizations are NOT guaranteed from year to year.
- The Habitat Incentive program is not a compensation program for efforts or funds expended.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Properties must be currently enrolled in EPLUS with up-to-date ownership records on file.
- First year ranches are not eligible for the incentive program.
- Projects used to qualify for EPLUS are not eligible for incentive consideration.
- Only projects on private deeded lands are eligible for the incentive program. Projects on State or Federal leased lands are not eligible.

DEADLINES AND IMPORTANT DATES:

- Elk incentive applications must be submitted or postmarked, with supporting documentation, by **January 5, 2024**.
- Late applications will be rejected.
- Confirmation of receipt emails will go out by January 31.
- Elk incentive authorizations will be awarded to successful applications in June along with the general EPLUS allocations.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- **A new application must be submitted each year for consideration.**
- Only information provided in the current application will be considered.
- The department will not retrieve, copy, or review information from previous applications to supplement the current application.
- The application is divided into six project categories: 1) Water Systems, 2) Forest Management, 3) Range and Stock Management, 4) Agriculture, 5) Fencing, and 6) Stream/Spring improvements.

- Complete the parts of the application for projects you want considered.
- **Each project must be well documented with photographs of the work and map(s) illustrating its location. In some cases, GPS coordinates, project plans, and other supporting documentation are also required. Please read all parts carefully.**
- Photographs, maps, and other supporting documentation must be labeled and dated in a manner to easily identify the corresponding project.
- The Department will not evaluate unclear or insufficiently documented projects.
- DO NOT send videos, pictures or trail camera photos of elk, elk tracks/droppings, or elk damage.
- Do not send slide shows, CD's, thumb drives or any alternate media in place of this application.
- Work must be completed to be considered. Planned work will not be considered.

READ THE FOLLOWING TERMS OF AGREEMENT CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

APPLICATION AGREEMENT:

- I have read this Habitat Incentive Application form and understand that participation is voluntary.
- I accept that this application is contingent upon my participation in EPLUS and is subject to the terms and conditions of my signed EPLUS agreement.
- I am the legal owner or have been assigned by the legal owner(s) as Authorized Ranch Contact to handle this application.
- I attest that the ranch information provided with this application is true and correct.
- I understand that habitat work initiated or completed does not guarantee application approval.
- I understand that incentives are not guaranteed each year and are subject to availability and ranking against other projects.
- I understand that participating properties are not guaranteed to receive the same number and/or type of authorizations each year.
- I agree to allow access to the property for the purpose of on-site evaluations of habitat projects if necessary.
- I understand that habitat projects completed on the ranch and reflected in this application may not qualify for the habitat program.
- I agree that application approval and any incentive awards are at the sole discretion of the Department.
- Types and/or number of incentives authorized will be determined by the Department based on application ranking, priority of the project, and availability of incentive authorizations.
- I understand that information and photos from previous applications will not be considered for this current incentive application.
- I understand that the application deadline is **January 5, 2024**, and that all required information and supporting documentation must be submitted before this deadline.

Signature of ARC: _____ Date: _____

MAIL APPLICATION PACKET TO:

EPLUS Program
 NM Dept. of Game and Fish – WMD
 One Wildlife Way
 Santa Fe NM 87507

Or Email to: DGF-EPLUS@dgf.nm.gov

**Submit ONLY one copy of your application.
 Via either mail or email – DO NOT send multiple copies.**



Department Use Only – Date Received

WATER SYSTEM PROJECTS

General information and Eligibility

- Complete this section only if you are claiming a new water project or have repaired or upgraded an existing system.
- Projects must be completed on private land within the boundary of the EPLUS ranch.
- Projects conducted on Forest Service, BLM, State Trust or on private land outside of the boundary of the EPLUS ranch are ineligible.
- Projects must be completed prior to the application deadline to be considered. Incomplete or planned projects will not be considered.
- Only projects completed within the past three years will be considered. Projects completed over three years ago will not be considered.
- Water projects may be considered for up to three years after completion.
- Water hydrants or wells utilizing an exposed, temporary, or manual (on/off) hose system are ineligible.
- General maintenance and cleaning projects are ineligible. Repairs and upgrades to existing water systems will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Water projects within ½ mile of existing water (on or off the EPLUS ranch) will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Photos, maps, and GPS coordinates must be supplied for water projects. The Department will not evaluate projects that are insufficiently documented.

Evaluations

- Projects will be scored by a committee consisting of regional Department staff during the months of April and May.
- The Department reserves the right to verify all projects. Department staff will require access to the EPLUS ranch for onsite verification.
- Priority for water system projects will be determined by considering the availability of other nearby water sources on or off the EPLUS ranch. Projects where water is sparse or inaccessible to elk will constitute a higher consideration.
- Seasonal duration of available water will affect consideration of the project. Projects that provide water year-round will constitute a higher consideration.
- Projects that distribute water resources across a large area will constitute a higher consideration.

WATER SYSTEM PROJECTS

Water Wells, Dirt Tanks and Catchment Guzzlers

- All work done to develop, repair or upgrade a water source should be described as a single project. For additional projects make copies of this page and relabel project numbers, continuing in sequence.

1. Project 1: Was the project completed within past three years?	2. Purpose of project?	3. Was the system supplying water prior to repair or upgrade?	4. If this is a Guzzler fill in the blanks below.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> New well	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Apron Size:
<input type="checkbox"/> No*	<input type="checkbox"/> New Dirt Tank	<input type="checkbox"/> No*	
*If No skip the rest of section	<input type="checkbox"/> New Catchment Guzzler	*Skip question if new water development.	Storage Gallons:
	<input type="checkbox"/> Repair or upgrade existing water system. <u>*Must answer following question.</u>		
5. If this is for a water well, how is the water regulated	6. What year was the project completed?	7. Nearest distance to other water sources?	8. How often is water available?
<input type="checkbox"/> Turned on/off manually	<input type="checkbox"/> 2021	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1/2 Mile	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 3 Months
<input type="checkbox"/> Turned on/off automatically with float, timer, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2022	<input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 to 1 Mile	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 to 6 Months
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2023	<input type="checkbox"/> Greater than 1 Mile	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 to 11 Months
			<input type="checkbox"/> Year Round
9. Photos, maps, and GPS coordinates attached?	10. Additional details: (describe water source and general specifications/materials for entire system)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes			
<input type="checkbox"/> No*			
*Photos, map/s, and GPS coordinates required for water projects.			

1. Project 2: Was the project completed within past three years?	2. Purpose of project?	3. Was the system supplying water prior to repair or upgrade?	4. If this is a Guzzler fill in the blanks below.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> New well	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Apron Size:
<input type="checkbox"/> No*	<input type="checkbox"/> New Dirt Tank	<input type="checkbox"/> No*	
*If No skip the rest of section	<input type="checkbox"/> New Catchment Guzzler	*Skip question if new water development.	Storage Gallons:
	<input type="checkbox"/> Repair or upgrade existing water system. <u>*Must answer following question.</u>		
5. If this is for a water well, how is the water regulated	6. What year was the project completed?	7. Nearest distance to other water sources?	8. How often is water available?
<input type="checkbox"/> Turned on/off manually	<input type="checkbox"/> 2021	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1/2 Mile	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 3 Months
<input type="checkbox"/> Turned on/off automatically with float, timer, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2022	<input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 to 1 Mile	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 to 6 Months
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2023	<input type="checkbox"/> Greater than 1 Mile	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 to 11 Months
			<input type="checkbox"/> Year Round
9. Photos, maps, and GPS coordinates attached?	10. Additional details: (describe water source and general specifications/materials for entire system)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes			
<input type="checkbox"/> No*			
*Photos, map/s, and GPS coordinates required for water projects.			

FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

General information and Eligibility

- Complete this section only if you are claiming forest management projects.
- Projects must be completed on private land within the boundary of the EPLUS ranch.
- Projects conducted on Forest Service, BLM, State Trust or on private land outside of the boundary of the EPLUS ranch are ineligible.
- Projects must be completed prior to the application deadline to be considered. Incomplete or planned projects will not be considered.
- Forest management projects will be considered based on the cumulative acreage improved over the past three years.
- **Note:** Thinning or clearing projects for the primary purpose of improving pasture forage production should be submitted under the Rangeland or Improved Pasture section not this section.
- General maintenance and cleaning projects such as removing deadfall, pruning, and cutting firewood are ineligible.
- Most qualifying projects in the category will have either a USDA or a New Mexico Forestry Division management plan. A copy of the project plan or summary should be supplied for forestry projects.
- Photos and maps must be supplied for forestry projects. The Department will not evaluate projects that are insufficiently documented.

Evaluations

- Projects will be scored by a committee consisting of regional Department staff during the months of April and May.
- The Department reserves the right to verify all projects. Department staff will require access to the EPLUS ranch for onsite verification.
- Projects that improve forest management health by thinning to reduce canopy cover and create a mosaic of openings in overgrown forests will constitute a higher consideration.
- Projects that improve a larger number of acres will constitute a higher consideration.

FOREST MANGEMENT PROJECTS

Fuel Load Reduction, Forest Thinning, Tree Planting

- All work done for a specific purpose should be described as the same project. For additional projects make copies of this page and relabel project numbers, continuing in sequence.
- Thinning or clearing projects to improve pasture forage production should be submitted under “Rangeland or Improved Pasture Permanent Forage Production, Part A. Brush/Woody Plant Control”.

1. Project 1: Was the project completed within the past three years?	2. Purpose of project?	3. Did you work with an organization or agency to develop a project plan?	4. Was the forest structure overgrown prior to treatment?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Fuel load reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> No*	<input type="checkbox"/> Overstory or Mid-story thinning	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> No
*If No skip the rest of section	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree planting	<input type="checkbox"/> If yes, what org/agency:	
5. Type of treatments used?	6. What year(s) did you complete your project(s)?	7. Acres treated?	8. For thinning, what percent of existing trees were removed
<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical	<input type="checkbox"/> 2021	2021:	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 to 25%
<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical	<input type="checkbox"/> 2022	2022:	<input type="checkbox"/> 26 to 75%
<input type="checkbox"/> Prescribed Fire	<input type="checkbox"/> 2023	2023:	<input type="checkbox"/> 100 % clear cut
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree planting. <u>What species:</u>			
9. Photos, project plan, and maps attached?	10. Additional details:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes			
<input type="checkbox"/> No*			
*Photos, project plan, and map/s required.			

1. Project 2: Was the project completed within the past three years?	2. Purpose of project?	3. Did you work with an organization or agency to develop a project plan?	2. Was the forest structure overgrown prior to treatment?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Fuel load reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> No*	<input type="checkbox"/> Overstory or Mid-story thinning	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> No
*If No skip the rest of section	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree planting	<input type="checkbox"/> If yes, what org/agency:	
5. Type of treatments used?	6. What year(s) did you complete your project(s)?	7. Acres treated?	8. For thinning, what percent of existing trees were removed
<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical	<input type="checkbox"/> 2021	2021:	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 to 25%
<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical	<input type="checkbox"/> 2022	2022:	<input type="checkbox"/> 26 to 75%
<input type="checkbox"/> Prescribed Fire	<input type="checkbox"/> 2023	2023:	<input type="checkbox"/> 100 % clear cut
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree planting. <u>What species:</u>			
9. Photos, project plan, and maps attached?	10. Additional details:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes			
<input type="checkbox"/> No*			
*Photos, project plan, and map/s required.			

RANGE AND STOCK MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

General information and Eligibility

- Complete this section only if you are claiming rangeland or improved pasture projects or are utilizing a deferred grazing system.
- Projects must be completed on private land within the boundary of the EPLUS ranch.
- Projects conducted on Forest Service, BLM, State Trust or on private land outside of the boundary of the EPLUS ranch are ineligible.
- Projects must be completed prior to the application deadline to be considered. Incomplete or planned projects will not be considered.
- Food plots are considered an annual practice.
- Brush/Woody plant control, herbaceous invasive plant control, improved pasture planting, and deferred grazing systems will be considered based on the cumulative acreage improved over the past three years.
- **Note:** Projects involving harvested crops should be claimed in the agriculture section not this section.
- Short term grazing deferments that rest deeded acres for less than 12+ consecutive months are ineligible. A grazing deferment must be the total removal of cattle from deeded acres for a period of at least 12+ consecutive months.
- General maintenance and cleaning projects such as removing deadfall, pruning, cutting firewood, and removing equipment, materials, junk, or trash are ineligible.
- Photos and maps must be supplied for range and stock management projects. The Department will not evaluate projects that are insufficiently documented.

Evaluations

- Projects will be scored by a committee consisting of regional Department staff during the months of April and May.
- The Department reserves the right to verify all projects. Department staff will require access to the EPLUS ranch for onsite verification.
- Priority for range and stock management projects will be determined by considering the range of projects completed over the past three years. A wide range of projects over time will constitute a higher consideration.
- Projects that improve a larger number of acres will constitute a higher consideration.
- The more years cattle are deferred will result in increased consideration. Continuing to provide water in deferred pastures will also result in increased consideration.

RANGE AND STOCK MANGEMENT PROJECTS

Food Plot - Annual Planting

- Projects involving harvested crops should be claimed in the agriculture section.

1. Claiming food plot planting?	2. Did you plant in 2023?	3. Acres planted?	4. Time of year planted?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 3 acres	<input type="checkbox"/> Spring
<input type="checkbox"/> No*	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 - 9 acres	<input type="checkbox"/> Late Summer
*If No skip the rest of this section.		<input type="checkbox"/> 10 + acres	
5. What seed mix/species did you plant?		6. Did you disc/till to prepare soil?	7. Is the food plot fertilized?
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> No
8. Is the food plot irrigated?	9. If irrigated, what type of irrigation system?	10. Did cattle graze food plot?	11. Photos and maps attached?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-Irrigated	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes*. What months?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Flood Irrigated		<input type="checkbox"/> No*
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sprinkler System	<input type="checkbox"/> No	*Photos and map/s required.
		*Grazing during growing/hunting season may lower score.	
12. Additional details:			

Rangeland or Improved Pasture - Permanent Forage Production

Part A. Brush/Woody Plant Control

1. Did you work on brush and woody plant control?	2. What year(s) did you complete your project(s)?	3. What species of brush and woody vegetation were removed?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> 2021	2021:	
<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> 2022	2022:	
*If No skip the rest of Part A.		2023:	
4. Acres treated?	5. Type of treatments used?	6. Did you over-seed disturbed areas?	7. Photos and maps attached?
2021:	<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. What type of seeding?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
2022:	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical		<input type="checkbox"/> No*
2023:	<input type="checkbox"/> Prescribed Fire		*Photos and map/s required.
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	
8. Additional details:			

RANGE AND STOCK MANGEMENT PROJECTS

Rangeland or Improved Pasture - Permanent Forage Production (continued)

Part B. Herbaceous Invasive Plant Control

9. Did you work on herbaceous invasive plant control?	10. What year(s) did you complete your project(s)?	11. What species of invasive plants were treated?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> 2021	2021:	
<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> 2022	2022:	
*If No skip the rest of Part B.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2023	2023:	
12. Acres treated?	13. Type of treatments used?	14. Did you over-seed disturbed areas?	15. Photos and maps attached?
2021:	<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. What type of seeding?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
2022:	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical		<input type="checkbox"/> No*
2023:	<input type="checkbox"/> Prescribed Fire		*Photos and map/s required.
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	
16. Additional details:			

Part C. Improved Pasture Planting

17. Did you work on improved pasture planting?	18. Purpose of project?	19. What year(s) did you complete your project(s)?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Seeding to convert non-native pasture to native grasses	<input type="checkbox"/> 2021	
<input type="checkbox"/> No*	<input type="checkbox"/> Reseeding improved grasses	<input type="checkbox"/> 2022	
*If No skip the rest of Part C.		<input type="checkbox"/> 2023	
20. What seed mix/species did you plant?		21. Acres planted?	22. Is the area fertilized?
2021:		2021:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
2022:		2022:	<input type="checkbox"/> No
2023:		2023:	
23. Is the area irrigated?	24. If irrigated, what type of irrigation system?	23. Photos and maps attached?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-Irrigated	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Flood Irrigated	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sprinkler System	*Photos and map/s required.	
24. Additional details:			

RANGE AND STOCK MANGEMENT PROJECTS

Deferred Grazing

- Deferred grazing systems require adequate fencing to rest pasture(s) long-term and/or exclude livestock indefinitely.

1. Did you maintain a long-term and/or permanent grazing deferment?	2. What type of deferred grazing system did you use?	3. Acres deferred from grazing?	4. When was the last time pasture(s) were grazed?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Deferred Grazing: Pasture(s) must be rested for 12+ consecutive months.	2021:	Month and Year:
<input type="checkbox"/> No		2022:	
*If No skip the rest of Part A.		2023:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Deferment: Livestock must be excluded from pasture(s) indefinitely.		
5. Is water available for elk in rested pasture(s)?	6. Photos and maps of deferred pasture(s) attached?	7. Additional details:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
	*Photos and map/s required.		

AGRICULTURE PROJECTS

General information and Eligibility

- Complete this section only if you are claiming agriculture projects.
- Projects must be completed on private land within the boundary of the EPLUS ranch.
- Projects conducted on Forest Service, BLM, State Trust or on private land outside of the boundary of the EPLUS ranch are ineligible.
- Projects must be completed prior to the application deadline to be considered. Incomplete or planned projects will not be considered.
- Agriculture is considered an annual practice.
- Agriculture must be irrigated and mechanically harvested to be considered. This means cut and bailed or otherwise harvested for commercial purposes or direct use on ranch.
- Agriculture fenced to exclude elk from access is ineligible.
- Orchards are not considered agriculture for the purpose of this program and are ineligible.
- **Note:** Projects involving food plots or improved pasture that is not mechanically harvested should be claimed in the rangeland or improved pasture section not this section.
- Photos and maps must be supplied for agriculture projects. The Department will not evaluate projects that are insufficiently documented.

Evaluations

- Projects will be scored by a committee consisting of regional Department staff during the months of April and May.
- The Department reserves the right to verify all projects. Department staff will require access to the EPLUS ranch for onsite verification.
- Priority for agriculture projects will be determined by considering the frequency of elk use during the growing season.
- Productive, well-maintained, irrigated, high yielding crops will constitute a higher consideration.

AGRICULTURE PROJECTS

Production Crops – Cut and Bailed for Commercial Sale or Personal Use on Ranch

- Crops must be accessible to elk.

1. Are you claiming production crops for 2023?	2. Is the crop mechanically harvested?	3. Total acres in production?	4. Primary use of crop?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 3 acres	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Sale
<input type="checkbox"/> No*	<input type="checkbox"/> No*	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 - 9 acres	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Farm Use
*If No skip the rest of this section.	*If No, skip this section and see Food Plots.	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 + acres	
5. Primary crop in production?	6. Frequency of harvest?	6. Did you disc/till to prepare soil?	7. Is the crop fertilized?
<input type="checkbox"/> Alfalfa	<input type="checkbox"/> Once per year	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> Improved Grasses	<input type="checkbox"/> Twice per year	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/> Three + times per year		
8. Is the crop irrigated?	9. If irrigated, what type of irrigation system?	10. Do elk have access to crop during growing and hunting season?	11. Average number of elk present during growing and hunting season?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-Irrigated	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. What months:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 5 per day
<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Flood Irrigated		<input type="checkbox"/> 6 to 15 per day
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sprinkler System		<input type="checkbox"/> 16 to 30 per day
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> 30 + per day
11. Photos and maps attached?	12. Additional details:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes			
<input type="checkbox"/> No*			
*Photos and map/s required.			

FENCING PROJECTS

General information and Eligibility

- Complete this section only if you are claiming construction of new wildlife friendly fencing, removing standard fencing, or utilizing laydown fencing or gate manipulation.
- Projects must be completed on private land within the boundary of the EPLUS ranch.
- Projects conducted on Forest Service, BLM, State Trust or on private land outside of the boundary of the EPLUS ranch are ineligible.
- Projects must be completed prior to the application deadline to be considered. Incomplete or planned projects will not be considered.
- Construction of wildlife friendly fencing and removal of standard fencing will be considered based on the cumulative length of fence materials modified over the past three years.
- Laydown fencing and gate manipulation are considered annual practices. Laydown fencing consists of wire fencing that can be laid down to the ground, as a unit, to allow wildlife movement.
- Routine maintenance such as tightening wire, replacing posts, and clearing debris, vegetation, or soil and sand buildup is ineligible.
- Constructing new fencing that does not meet the Department's wildlife friendly standards is ineligible. To be considered wildlife friendly the height of the bottom wire/rail must be $\geq 18''$ and the top wire/rail must be $\leq 40''$ from the ground.
- Photos and maps must be supplied for fencing projects. The Department will not evaluate projects that are insufficiently documented.

Evaluations

- Projects will be scored by a committee consisting of regional Department staff during the months of April and May.
- The Department reserves the right to verify all projects. Department staff will require access to the EPLUS ranch for onsite verification.
- Priority for fencing projects will be determined by considering the land-use, amount elk use, and fence density within the area.
- Projects removing woven or net wire no longer in use are a high consideration.
- Projects that modify a larger scale of fence will result in increased consideration.
- Laydown fence will be considered based on the timing and duration of the fence being down, and the frequency of elk presence, movement and/or migration through the ranch.
- Projects that involve removing standard fencing and replacing it with wildlife friendly fencing are a high consideration.

FENCING PROJECTS

Wildlife Friendly Fences, Standard Fence Removal, and Openings/Passes

Part A. New or Modified Wildlife Friendly Fence

1. Are you claiming Wildlife Friendly Fencing?	2. Purpose of project?	3. Location of fence?	4. Fence type?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> New fence installation	<input type="checkbox"/> Interior	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-Wire
<input type="checkbox"/> No*	<input type="checkbox"/> Modify existing fence	<input type="checkbox"/> Exterior	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-Wire
*If No skip the rest of Part A.			<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
5. Does the construction utilize smooth wire or rail?	6. Distance to ground from top and bottom?	7. Does the wildlife friendly fence border an agriculture crop field?	8. Does the fence border fields used for livestock grazing?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, top wire or rail	<input type="checkbox"/> Top less than 40"	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes*	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, bottom wire or rail	<input type="checkbox"/> Bottom greater than 18"	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, all strands	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> *If yes, type of crop and acres:	
<input type="checkbox"/> No			
9. What year(s) did you complete your project?	10. Length of new or modified wildlife friendly fencing?	11. Photos and maps attached?	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2021	2021:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2022	2022:	<input type="checkbox"/> No*	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2023	2023:	*Photos and map/s required . Must include photo of measurements for distance to ground for top and bottom.	
12. Additional details:			

Part B. Removal of Standard Fencing

13. Did you remove standard fencing?	14. Purpose of removing fence?	15. Location of fence removed?	16. Type of fence removed?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Replace with new wildlife friendly fencing (Part A above)	<input type="checkbox"/> Interior	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi strand wire
<input type="checkbox"/> No*	<input type="checkbox"/> No longer used to delineate boundary or pastures	<input type="checkbox"/> Exterior	<input type="checkbox"/> Woven or Net wire
*If No skip the rest of Part B.			<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
17. What year(s) did you complete your project?	18. Length of fence removed?	19. Photos and maps attached?	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2021	2021:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2022	2022:	<input type="checkbox"/> No*	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2023	2023:	*Photos and map/s required .	
20. Additional details:			

Part C. Openings, Jumps and laydown fence

21. Are you claiming Laydown Fencing, Gate Manipulation, or Elk Jumps as a practice for 2023?	22. Purpose of project?	23. If laydown fence?	24. If gate manipulation, what type of gates?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Laydown Fencing	<input type="checkbox"/> Allow improved passage during seasonal migration	<input type="checkbox"/> Total number of sections of laydown fence:	<input type="checkbox"/> Single swing gate openings
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Gate Manipulation	<input type="checkbox"/> Allow improved passage during calving season		<input type="checkbox"/> Double swing gate openings
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Elk Jumps	<input type="checkbox"/> Allow improved year-round passage	<input type="checkbox"/> Total linear distance in miles:	<input type="checkbox"/> Total number of gates manipulated:
<input type="checkbox"/> No*			
*If No skip the rest of Part C.			
25. If elk jumps, what type?	26. Does the passage border an agriculture crop field?	27. What specific months are the gate(s) open or fence down?	28. Photos and maps attached?
<input type="checkbox"/> Adjustable height passage (lower top \leq 30" from ground)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes*	<input type="checkbox"/> List months:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> PVC pipe passage (top \leq 40" from ground)	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> No*
<input type="checkbox"/> Total number:	<input type="checkbox"/> *If yes, type of crop and acres:		*Photos and map/s required.
<input type="checkbox"/> Total linear distance of jumps:			
29. Additional details:			

STREAM AND SPRING IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

General information and Eligibility

- Complete this section only if you are claiming a stream or spring improvement project.
- Projects must be completed on private land within the boundary of the EPLUS ranch.
- Projects conducted on Forest Service, BLM, State Trust or on private land outside of the boundary of the EPLUS ranch are ineligible.
- Projects must be completed prior to the application deadline to be considered. Incomplete or planned projects will not be considered.
- Only projects completed within the past three years will be considered. Projects completed over three years ago will not be considered.
- Stream and spring projects may be considered for up to three years after completion.
- Stream and spring projects considered include exclusionary fencing for livestock, developing water catchments, and rehabilitation to restore flow.
- Photos, maps, and GPS coordinates must be supplied for stream/spring projects. The Department will not evaluate projects that are insufficiently documented.

Evaluations

- Projects will be scored by a committee consisting of regional Department staff during the months of April and May.
- The Department reserves the right to verify all projects. Department staff will require access to the EPLUS ranch for onsite verification.
- Priority for stream and spring projects will be determined by considering the previous condition of the stream/spring source. Sources that were in poor condition and have been improved to reliably provide water are a high consideration.
- Projects that exclude livestock from the project area will constitute a higher consideration. Use of wildlife friendly fencing will increase the consideration.

STREAM AND SPRING IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Rehabilitation, Livestock Exclusion, Catchments

1. Are you claiming stream/spring improvement?	2. Purpose of project?	3. Prior to project was the stream/spring supplying surface water?	3. Are cattle excluded from the project area?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Spring rehabilitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Exclusionary fencing for livestock	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> No
*If No skip this section	<input type="checkbox"/> Develop water catchment		
4. If cattle are excluded does fencing meet basic wildlife friendly standards?	5. Does the improvement channel or collect water (spring box, trough, etc.)	6. What year(s) did you complete your project?	7. Photos, maps, and GPS coordinates attached?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 3 to 4-Wire; Bottom wire $\geq 18''$ and Top wire $\leq 40''$ from ground	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Type of design:	<input type="checkbox"/> 2021	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> 2022	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> 2023	*Photos, map/s, and GPS coordinates required.
8. Additional details:			