EPLUS Habitat Incentive Program Application and Agreement

April 1, 2027 – March 31, 2028 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 ranches are owned or managed by the same Authorized Ranch Contact a separate application must be submitted for each ranch.

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.
- The number of authorizations available to the EPLUS program is set by rule and is determined by the proportion of private land within the GMU. Within each GMU, the number of authorizations available for incentives is derived from the portion of the allocation earmarked for unenrolled private land and the two-year average of unconverted authorizations.
- Some units have low potential for incentives because there are few EPLUS authorizations available, there is little unenrolled private land and/or the conversion rate is high.
- Examples of low potential units include GMUs 5B, 6A, 6C, 7, 16A, 16B/22, 16C, 16D, 17, 21A, 23, 24, 45, 49, 52.
- Contact EPLUS program for more information regarding low potential GMUs.
- 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:

- Ranches must have qualified and be currently participating in EPLUS, with up-to-date ownership records on file.
- First-year ranches, including those under new ownership or resulting from a split, 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, fully contained within the participating ranch boundary are eligible for the incentive program.
- Projects on State or Federal leased land are not eligible.
- Only completed work will be considered. Planned work will not be considered.

DEADLINES AND IMPORTANT DATES:

- Elk incentive applications must be submitted or postmarked, with supporting documentation, by **January 5, 2027**.
- Late applications will be rejected.
- A confirmation of receipt email will be sent to the ARC with a general timeline about the review process.
- 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 the project's location.**
- **Photographs, maps, and other supporting documentation must be labeled and dated in a manner to easily identify the corresponding project.**
- **The Department will only evaluate projects that include full documentation and clear details. Incomplete submissions will not be reviewed.**
- DO NOT send videos or flash drives.
- Photos of elk, elk tracks and elk droppings are not needed.
- Submit your Habitat Incentive Application, supporting documentation and photos together as a single file.

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 the habitat incentive program is not intended as compensation and does not serve to offset any incurred expenses.
- I understand that habitat work initiated or completed on the ranch and reflected in this application may not qualify for the habitat incentive program.
- I understand that habitat work initiated or completed does not guarantee the award of elk incentive authorizations.
- I understand that the number and type of incentive authorizations issued is subject to annual availability and application rankings.
- I understand that successful applications are not guaranteed to receive the same number and/or type of incentive authorizations from year to year.
- I agree that application approval and any incentive authorization awards are final and 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 agree to allow access to the property for the purpose of on-site evaluations of habitat projects.
- 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, 2027**, and that all required information and supporting documentation must be submitted before this deadline.

Signature of ARC: _____ **Date:** _____

Mail Completed Packet to:
EPLUS Program
NM Dept. of Wildlife
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 and fully contained 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.
- Application must include photos proving the project reliably supplies water.
- Water projects may be considered for up to three years after completion.
- Water projects filled by hauling water, or hydrants utilizing an exposed, temporary, or manual (on/off) systems 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 any other existing water sources (on or off the EPLUS ranch) will only be considered if the project provides a clear benefit that the other water sources do not.
- Detailed photos and maps 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 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. New well drinker, how is the water regulated?**	**4. New dirt tank, fill in blanks below.**
☐ Yes	☐ New well drinker	☐ Must have automatic on/off from float, timer, etc.	Depth:
☐ No*	☐ New Dirt Tank	*Hydrants or wells utilizing exposed, temporary, or manual (on/off) systems are ineligible.	Diameter:
*If No skip the rest of section	☐ New Catchment Guzzler		Type of sealing:
	☐ Repair/upgrade to existing water system.		
5. New rain catchment guzzler, fill in the blanks below.	**6. Repairs/upgrade, was the system providing water prior to work?**	**7. What year was the project completed?**	**8. Nearest distance to other water sources?**
Collection/Apron Size (min 960 sq ft):	☐ Yes	☐ 2024	☐ Less than 1/2 Mile
	☐ No	☐ 2025	☐ 1/2 to 1 Mile
Storage Size (min 3,100 gal):	Type of repair:	☐ 2026	☐ Greater than 1 Mile
9. How often is water available?	**10. Photos and maps attached?**	**11. Additional details (water source, specs, materials, etc.)**	
☐ 1 to 3 Months	☐ Yes		
☐ 4 to 11 Months	☐ No*		
☐ Year Round	***Photos and maps required.**		

1. Project 2: Was the project completed within past three years?	**2. Purpose of project?**	**3. New water well drinker, how is the water regulated?**	**4. New dirt tank, fill in blanks below.**
☐ Yes	☐ New well drinker	☐ Must have automatic on/off from float, timer, etc.	Depth:
☐ No*	☐ New Dirt Tank	*Hydrants or wells utilizing exposed, temporary, or manual (on/off) systems are ineligible.	Diameter:
*If No skip the rest of section	☐ New Catchment Guzzler		Type of sealing:
	☐ Repair/upgrade to existing water system.		
5. New rain catchment guzzler, fill in the blanks below.	**6. Repairs/upgrade, was the system providing water prior to work?**	**7. What year was the project completed?**	**8. Nearest distance to other water sources?**
Collection/Apron Size (min 960 sq ft):	☐ Yes	☐ 2024	☐ Less than 1/2 Mile
	☐ No	☐ 2025	☐ 1/2 to 1 Mile
Storage Size (min 3,100 gal):	Type of repair:	☐ 2026	☐ Greater than 1 Mile
9. How often is water available?	**10. Photos and maps attached?**	**11. Additional details (water source, specs, materials, etc.)**	
☐ 1 to 3 Months	☐ Yes		
☐ 4 to 11 Months	☐ No*		
☐ Year Round	***Photos and maps required.**		

FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

IMPORTANT NOTE: This category relates to higher-elevation forest and timber management. Thinning or clearing projects in lower-elevation grasslands, shrublands, and Pinon-Juniper woodlands should be submitted in the Range and Stock Management Projects section not in this section.

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.
- General maintenance and cleaning projects such as removing deadfall, pruning, and cutting firewood are ineligible.
- Forest management projects will be considered based on the total acres improved over the past three years.
- Most qualifying projects in the category will have either a USDA or a New Mexico Forestry Division timber management plan. A copy of the project plan or summary should be supplied if available.
- Detailed 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 total acres will constitute higher consideration.

FOREST MANGEMENT PROJECTS

Fuel Load Reduction, Timber 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 in lower-elevation grasslands, shrublands, and Pinon-Juniper woodlands should be submitted in the Range and Stock Management Projects section, not in this section.*

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?**
☐ Yes	☐ Fuel load reduction	☐ Yes	☐ Yes
☐ No*	☐ Overstory or Mid-story timber thinning	☐ No	☐ No
*If No skip the rest of section	☐ Tree planting	☐ 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**
☐ Mechanical	☐ 2024	2024:	☐ 0 to 25%
☐ Chemical	☐ 2025	2025:	☐ 26 to 75%
☐ Prescribed Fire	☐ 2026	2026:	☐ 100 % clear cut
☐ Tree planting. What species:			
9. Photos and maps attached?	**10. Additional details:**		
☐ Yes			
☐ No*			
***Photos and maps 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?**
☐ Yes	☐ Fuel load reduction	☐ Yes	☐ Yes
☐ No*	☐ Overstory or Mid-story timber thinning	☐ No	☐ No
*If No skip the rest of section	☐ Tree planting	☐ 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**
☐ Mechanical	☐ 2024	2024:	☐ 0 to 25%
☐ Chemical	☐ 2025	2025:	☐ 26 to 75%
☐ Prescribed Fire	☐ 2026	2026:	☐ 100 % clear cut
☐ Tree planting. What species:			
9. Photos and maps attached?	**10. Additional details:**		
☐ Yes			
☐ No*			
***Photos and maps required**.			

RANGE AND STOCK MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

***IMPORTANT NOTE**: Projects involving irrigated and mechanically harvested (cut and baled) agricultural field crops should be submitted in the Agriculture Projects section (below) not this section.*

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.
- Brush/Woody plant control (*grasslands, shrublands, and Pinon-Juniper woodlands*), herbaceous invasive plant control, improved pasture planting, and deferred grazing systems will be considered based on the total acreage improved.
- Short term grazing deferments that rest deeded acres 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.
- Detailed 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 total acres will constitute higher consideration.
- Consideration increases based on the number of consecutive years of deferred grazing, up to a maximum of three years. Continuing to provide water in deferred pastures will also result in increased consideration.

RANGE AND STOCK MANGEMENT PROJECTS

Brush/Woody Plant Control, Invasive Plant Control, Pasture Planting, Deferred Grazing

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?	
☐ Yes	☐ 2024	2024:	
☐ No	☐ 2025	2025:	
*If No skip the rest of Part A.	☐ 2026	2026:	
4. Acres treated?	**5. Type of treatments used?**	**6. Did you over-seed disturbed areas?**	**7. Photos and maps attached?**
2024:	☐ Mechanical	☐ Yes. What type of seeding?	☐ Yes
2025:	☐ Chemical		☐ No*
2026:	☐ Prescribed Fire		***Photos and maps required**.
		☐ No	
8. Additional details:			

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?	
☐ Yes	☐ 2024	2024:	
☐ No	☐ 2025	2025:	
*If No skip the rest of Part B.	☐ 2026	2026:	
12. Acres treated?	**13. Type of treatments used?**	**14. Did you over-seed disturbed areas?**	**15. Photos and maps attached?**
2024:	☐ Mechanical	☐ Yes. What type of seeding?	☐ Yes
2025:	☐ Chemical		☐ No*
2026:	☐ Prescribed Fire		***Photos and maps required.**
		☐ No	
16. Additional details:			

RANGE AND STOCK MANGEMENT PROJECTS

Brush/Woody Plant Control, Invasive Plant Control, Pasture Planting, Deferred Grazing (continued)

Part C. Improved Pasture Planting

I*MPORTANT NOTE*: *Projects involving irrigated and mechanically harvested (cut and baled) agricultural field crops should be submitted in the Agriculture Projects section not this section.*

17. Did you complete improved pasture planting projects in 2026?	**18. Purpose of project?**	**19. Acres planted?**
☐ Yes	☐ Planting to convert non-native pasture to native species	☐ Less than 3 acres
☐ No*	☐ Planting improved grasses, forbs, legumes, etc.	☐ 4 - 9 acres
*If No skip the rest of Part C.		☐ 10 + acres
		Total Number:

20. What seed mix/species did you plant?	**21. Did you disc/till to prepare soil?**	**22. Is the area fertilized?**
	☐ Yes	☐ Yes
	☐ No	☐ No

23. Is the area irrigated?	**24. If irrigated, what type of irrigation system?**	**25. Average number of elk present during growing and hunting season?**	**26. Photos and maps attached?**
☐ Yes	☐ Sub-Irrigated	☐ 1 to 5 per day	☐ Yes
☐ No	☐ Flood Irrigated	☐ 6 to 15 per day	☐ No
	☐ Sprinkler System	☐ 16 to 30 per day	***Photos and maps required.**
		☐ 30 + per day	

27. Additional details:

Part D. Deferred Grazing System

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

28. Did you maintain a long-term and/or permanent grazing deferment?	**29. What type of deferred grazing system did you use?**	**30. Acres deferred from grazing?**	**31. When was the last time pasture(s) were grazed?**
☐ Yes	☐ Deferred Grazing: Pasture(s) must be rested for 12+ consecutive months.	2024:	Month and Year:
☐ No		2025:	
*If No skip the rest of Part A.	☐ Permanent Deferment: Livestock must be excluded from pasture(s) indefinitely.	2026:	**Grazing deferments that have not been in operation for at least the past 12+ consecutive months are ineligible.*

32. Is water available for elk in rested pasture(s)?	**33. Photos and maps of deferred pasture(s) attached?**	**34. Additional details:**
☐ Yes	☐ Yes	
☐ No	☐ No	
	***Photos and maps required.**	

AGRICULTURE PROJECT

Important Note: Projects involving improved pasture planting that are not mechanically harvested (cut and baled) should be claimed in the rangeland or improved pasture section not this section.

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 baled 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.
- 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 Baled for Commercial Sale or Personal Use on Ranch

Crops must be accessible to elk.

1. Are you claiming production crops for 2026?	**2. Is the crop mechanically harvested?**	**3. Total acres in production?**	**4. Primary use of crop?**
☐ Yes	☐ Yes	☐ Less than 3 acres	☐ Commercial Sale
☐ No*	☐ No*	☐ 4 - 9 acres	☐ Personal Farm Use
*If No skip the rest of this section.	*If No, skip this section and see Improved Pasture Planting.	☐ 10 + acres	
		Total Number:	
5. Primary crop in production?	**6. Frequency of harvest?**	**6. Did you disc/till to prepare soil?**	**7. Is the crop fertilized?**
☐ Alfalfa	☐ Once per year	☐ Yes	☐ Yes
☐ Improved Grasses	☐ Twice per year	☐ No	☐ No
	☐ 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?**
☐ Yes	☐ Sub-Irrigated	☐ Yes. What months:	☐ 1 to 5 per day
☐ No	☐ Flood Irrigated		☐ 6 to 15 per day
	☐ Sprinkler System		☐ 16 to 30 per day
		☐ No	☐ 30 + per day
12. Photos and maps attached?	**13. Additional details:**		
☐ Yes			
☐ No*			
***Photos and maps required.**			

FENCING PROJECTS

General information and Eligibility

- Complete this section only if you are claiming construction of new wildlife friendly fencing, crossings, laydown fencing, or removing standard fencing.

- 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 total length of fence materials modified over the past three years.

- Laydown fencing is considered an annual practice. Laydown fencing consists of wire fencing that can be laid down to the ground, as a unit, to allow wildlife movement.

- Projects incorporating new fencing and crossings must meet the Department's wildlife friendly standards. To be considered wildlife friendly the height of the bottom wire/rail must be ≥ 18" and the top wire/rail must be ≤ 40" from the ground.

- The following reference provides more comprehensive details on building wildlife friendly fences.

  Paige, C. 2012. *A Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Friendly Fences.* Second Edition. Private land Technical Assistance Program, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Helena, MT. 56 pp. https://fwp.mt.gov/binaries/content/assets/fwp/conservation/land-owner-wildlife-resources/a_landowners_guide_to_wildlife_friendly_fences.pdf

- Routine maintenance such as tightening wire, replacing posts, and clearing debris, vegetation, or soil and sand buildup is ineligible.

- 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 of elk traffic, and fence density within the area. Removing woven or net wire is also a high priority.

- Projects that modify a longer length of fence will result in increased consideration.

- Laydown fence will be considered based on the timing and duration of the fence being down in relationship to elk movement and/or migration through the ranch.

FENCING PROJECTS

Wildlife Friendly Fence, Crossings, Laydown Fence Construction and Fence Removal

Part A. Fence Removal

1. Did you remove fencing?	2. Purpose of removing fence?	3. Location of fence removed?	4. Type of fence removed?
☐ Yes	☐ Replace with new wildlife friendly fencing (complete Part B)	☐ Interior	☐ Multi strand wire
☐ No*	☐ No longer used to delineate boundary or pastures	☐ Exterior	☐ Woven or Net wire
*If No skip the rest of Part A.	☐ Old, leaning, broken or loose wire		☐ Other:
5. What year(s) did you complete your project?	**6. Length of fence removed?**	**7. Photos and maps attached?**	
☐ 2024	2024:	☐ Yes	
☐ 2025	2025:	☐ No*	
☐ 2026	2026:	*Photos and map/s **required**.	
8. Additional details:			

Part B. Wildlife Friendly Fence Construction

9. Are you claiming Wildlife Friendly Fence construction?	10. Purpose of project?	11. Location of fence?	12. Fence type?
☐ Yes (see definition on pg. 12)	☐ Replace old fence	☐ Interior	☐ 3-Wire
☐ No*	☐ Modify existing fence	☐ Exterior	☐ 4-Wire
*If No skip the rest of Part A.	☐ New fence build		☐ Other:
13. Does the construction utilize smooth wire or rail?	**14. Distance to ground from top and bottom?**	**15. Does the wildlife friendly fence border an agriculture crop field?**	**16. Does the fence border fields used for livestock grazing?**
☐ Yes, top wire or rail	☐ Top ≤ 40" and bottom ≥ 18"	☐ Yes*	☐ Yes
☐ Yes, bottom wire or rail	☐ Other:	☐ No	☐ No
☐ Yes, all strands		☐ *If yes, type of crop and acres:	
☐ No			
17. What year(s) did you complete your project?	**18. Length of new or modified wildlife friendly fencing?**	**19. Photos and maps attached?**	
☐ 2024	2024:	☐ Yes	
☐ 2025	2025:	☐ No*	
☐ 2026	2026:	*Photos and map/s **required**. Must include photo of measurements for distance to ground for top and bottom.	
20. Additional details:			

Part C. Wildlife crossings and laydown fence

21. Are you claiming Laydown Fencing or Wildlife Crossing?	22. Purpose of project?	23. If laydown fence?	24. If wildlife crossing, what type?
☐ Yes, Laydown Fencing	☐ Allow improved passage during seasonal migration	☐ Total number of sections of laydown fence:	☐ Adjustable height passage
☐ Yes, Wildlife Crossing	☐ Allow improved passage during calving season		☐ Permanent passage
☐ No*	☐ Allow improved year-round passage	☐ Total linear distance in miles:	☐ Total number:
*If No skip the rest of Part C.			
		☐ What months is the fence down?	☐ Total linear distance of crossing:
			☐ Height of top and bottom:
25. Does the passage border an agriculture crop field?	**28. Photos and maps attached?**		
☐ Yes*	☐ Yes		
☐ No	☐ No*		
☐ *If yes, type of crop and acres:	*Photos and map/s required.		
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 developing water catchments and rehabilitation to restore flow.
- Photos and maps 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.
- Larger scale projects that exclude livestock from the project area with wildlife friendly fencing will constitute higher consideration.

STREAM AND SPRING IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Stream/Spring Rehabilitation and Spring 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?**
☐ Yes	☐ Stream/Spring rehabilitation	☐ Yes	☐ Yes
☐ No	☐ Develop Spring water catchment	☐ No	☐ No
*If No skip this section			
4. If cattle are excluded does fencing meet basic wildlife friendly standards?	**5. Does the improvement channel or collect water (spring box, trough, bank stabilization, etc.)**	**6. What year(s) did you complete your project?**	**7. Photos and maps attached?**
☐ Yes, 3 to 4-Wire; Bottom wire ≥ 18” and Top wire ≤ 40” from ground	☐ Yes. Type of design:	☐ 2024	☐ Yes
		☐ 2025	☐ No
		☐ 2026	*Photos and maps required.
☐ No	☐ No		
8. Additional details:			