



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations



Open Gate
Hunting and Fishing Access Program

Landowner Benefits:

Landowners receive monetary compensation for allowing public access. This is accomplished through a flexible agreement negotiated between the landowner and the Department. The program also offers liability protection under the terms of 17-4-7 NMSA 1978. Signs will be installed to manage public access and inform users of property specific rules. The property will also be patrolled by NMDGF Conservation Officers (Game Wardens) to help ensure compliance.

Participation Requirements:

Lands or waters eligible for enrollment in the Open Gate program must provide suitable fish or wildlife habitat or access to quality habitat to support the recreational uses designated through an open gate agreement, and meet, at minimum, one of the following conditions: (1) enrollment will result in increased hunting, fishing or trapping access on private land; (2) enrollment will provide a meaningful access corridor to significant, otherwise inaccessible blocks of state or federal lands for hunting, fishing or trapping; (3) enrollment will improve regional wildlife or fisheries management goals of the Department.

Enrollment Process:

Persons interested in enrolling in the Open Gate program must submit a completed application and provide proof of ownership, or if leasing the property, a copy of the lease with a notarized and signed statement from the landowner authorizing program participation. All applications are subject to a Department evaluation to determine if the lands or waters proposed for enrollment satisfy the requirements found in 19.34.7.11 NMAC. If the property meets requirements, the department and landowner may negotiate an open gate access agreement.

Properties Desired:

The Department is seeking high quality properties that will offer sustained public hunting and fishing opportunities or access to such opportunities on public land. For properties to be considered for the Open Gate program, they must offer hunting or fishing directly on the property or enhance public land access in an area of the state where access is limited. Additionally, if a property is located in a part of the state where other land is available for outdoor activities, it must allow for a significant increase in hunting or fishing opportunities.

Application Instructions:

Please complete all relevant sections of the form below. Print and return this application along with all supplemental materials to the address below. If you would like to submit by e-mail or have any questions, please contact the Open Gate Program Coordinator at (505) 476-8043.

Return Application to: **Open Gate Program Coordinator**
Wildlife Management Division
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
P.O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504



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Open Gate
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Name:		
Address:		City:
State:	Zip:	Phone:
E-Mail:		

Total Deeded Acres: _____ Property County: _____ Property GMU: _____

Directions to Property:

I would like to open my gate for hunting or trapping.

Dove

Sandhill Crane

Furbearer

Bobcat

Quail

Waterfowl

Javelina

Bear

Turkey

Pheasant

Deer

Mountain Lion

Other _____

I would like to open my gate for fishing.

Name of River or Pond/Lake: _____

Access to Stream/River Miles: _____ Pond/Lake Acres: _____

I would like to open my gate and allow right-of-way access to public lands.

Approximate Acres Accessed: _____

Land Ownership Accessed (ie. State/BLM): _____

Supplemental Materials: These items will be necessary to enter into an Open Gate agreement.

Copy of the recorded property deed(s).

Legal Description for the property including acreage (Property tax records or deed(s)).

Legible map showing property boundary. (i.e. 1:100,000 Scale BLM land status map, USGS map, aerial photo map (Google Maps)).

If a lessee, a copy of the lease is required with a notarized and signed statement from the landowner that authorizes Open Gate participation (Authorized Ranch Contact form).

Signature _____

Date _____