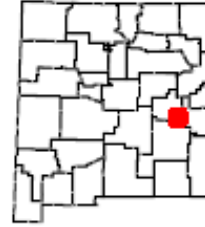




Howell Ranch, Fort Sumner/Elida, OG.154



Access Type: Hunting.

Access Hrs: 2 hrs before sunrise to 2 hrs after sunset.

GMU: 32

Directions: Online mapping applications do not provide valid directions to this property. To reach this property on the east side of Fort Sumner from Highway 60/84, turn South on Billy the Kid Rd. From there, continue on to Urton Lake Rd, County Rd 2-1 and Bojax Rd to San Patricio Rd in Chaves County. This will access the main part of the property.


Information and habitat: Howell Ranch consists of 4,684 deeded acres dominated by sandy soils with irregular outcrops of clay and gravel giving rise to mid-grass prairie and mesquite savanna vegetation communities. One large draw fed by multiple smaller drainages concentrate water and provide additional habitat, even during drought conditions. Multiple stock ponds and troughs on the property add to wildlife habitat and improve hunting opportunities on the property. Habitats on the ranch support populations of quail, dove, and mule deer.

Permitted Uses: Hunting only is 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 Collard Doves may only be hunted during open seasons for Mourning and White-winged doves. Refer to Migratory Game Bird Supplement |
| Quail Hunting |  Please see the 2025-2026 Hunting Rules and Information. <i>Page 138: Upland Game</i> | |

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).

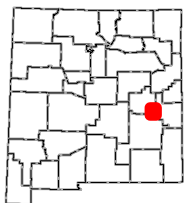
Howell Ranch

| | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| Deer Hunting* | <p>Any Legal Sporting Arm: Nov. 1 – 5, 2025 Nov. 8 – 12, 2025</p> <p>Archery Only: Sept. 1 – 24, 2025 Jan. 1 – 15, 2026</p> <p>Muzzleloader: Oct. 18 – 22, 2025</p> | <p>*Unit 32 Draw license hunters only for deer.</p>  <p>Please see the 2025-2026 Hunting Rules and Information. <i>Page 48: Deer</i></p> |
|---------------|---|---|

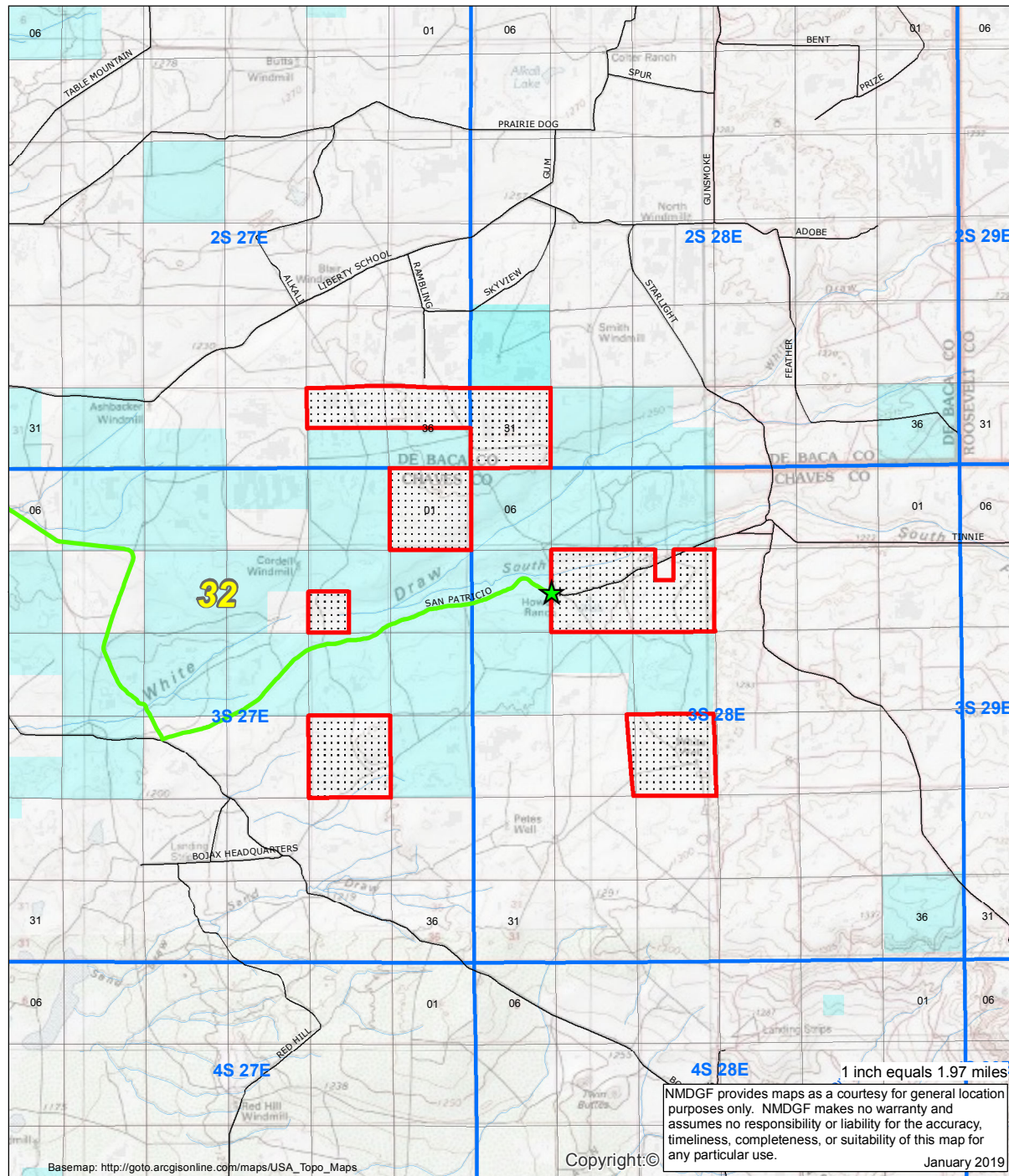
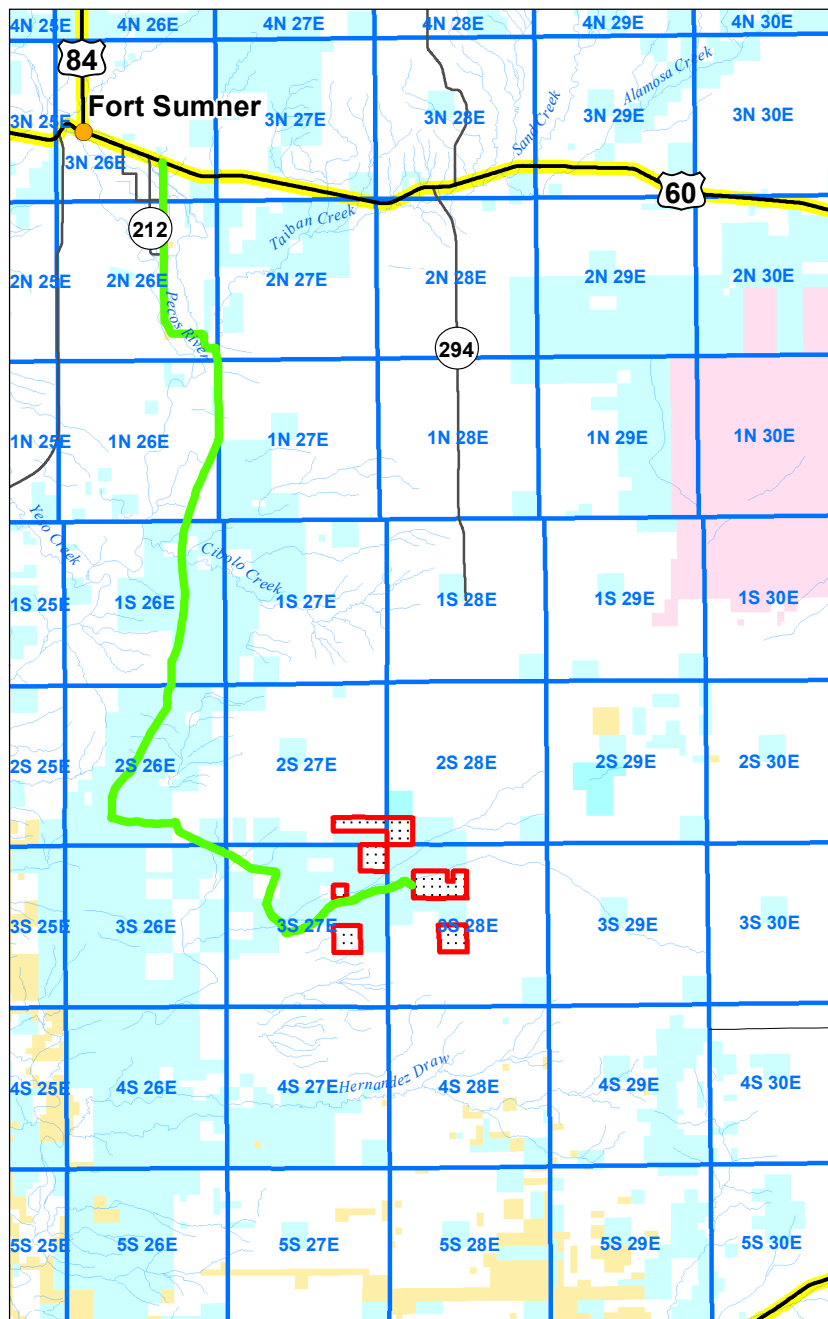
Property Rules: The following rules will be posted on this property and enforced at the discretion of the Department of Game and Fish.

- Use of this Open Gate Property is restricted to properly licensed hunters for the following activities: **Quail, Dove and Deer hunting (Draw license deer hunters only).**
- No access unless you are a properly licensed hunter.
- Each properly licensed hunter 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 season dates.
- No motor vehicle travel off designated roads or on closed roads.
- No destructive acts including: vandalism, graffiti, theft, removal or defacing natural features, resources or signs.
- No target practice.
- No consumption of alcoholic beverages.
- No camping.
- No fires.
- No littering.
- Access allowed from two hours before sunrise to two hours after sunset.
- **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.**

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.154



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

- Property Rules Sign
- PLSS Township
- Open Gate Property
- GDU Boundaries

- Roads**
- Access Road
 - Secondary Road
 - State Highway
 - Interstate Highway
 - US Highway

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

