

Gaining Access Into Nature

Program Review and Revision



Background

- SB 145 passed by the Legislature in 2005
- Rule 19 NMAC 34.3.1 revision approved Feb 2008
- Activity Authorizations developed 2008
- WMA Signs installed March 2009
- Program review initiated 28 May 2009



Public Outreach

- Press Release, Radio, News Story
- Public Meetings (and attendance)
 - 1 July: Heron Lake State Park (12)
 - 6 July: Farmington (4)
 - 7 July: Cimarron (10)
 - 9 July: Silver City (5)
 - 22 & 23 August: Albuquerque Outdoor Expo
 - August: Carlsbad (planned)

Meeting Questionnaire

1. What does GAIN mean to you?
2. Are you (hunter, fisher, wildlife watcher, other)?
3. What factors would influence your participation in GAIN activities?
4. Do you support this type of activity?
5. Is there any part or concept of GAIN you do not understand?
6. What improvements would you suggest?
7. Why did you attend this meeting?
8. Did you accomplish your purpose in attending?

Summary of responses

- New or additional fee; should not be applicable to sportsmen with hunting licenses
- People had already been using the WMAs
- Belief that non consumptive users do not impact the land
- Confusion about “public” and Commission owned land
- Concern about the difficulty of purchasing permits at remote WMAs.



Comments continued

- There was a lot of confusion about GAIN, how it operated, and what is permitted.
- Some respondents felt that it is just another attempt by the Department to make more money.



Proposed Rule Changes

- Clean up language to achieve correctness, clarity, and consistency
- Eliminate specific GAIN activities including general viewing and horseback riding to special wildlife viewing activities organized by the Department
- Added a per vehicle fee for specific activities
- Eliminated the requirement for people to have a GAIN “Permit” when visiting state parks established on Commission lands
- Establish that a current hunting, fishing, trapping, or limited use license, or valid park permit qualifies as a Permit



Proposed Changes Cont.

- Establish that camping on SGC lands conforms to requirements of the State Parks Division on established state parks
- Establish requirements for weed free livestock feed
- Clarifying rules for possession of dogs on WMAs
- Provide for denial of commercial permits
- Increase the liability bond for commercial operators
- Provide that Commission approved concessionaires with contracts with the State Parks Division are not required to have a commercial GAIN Permit
- Specify that the Director can establish fees for individual commercial permits