



Gaining Access Into Nature



GAIN Program

Gaining Access Into Nature (GAIN) is a program offered by the Department of Game and Fish. Many Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are being opened to additional wildlife-associated recreation activities beyond traditional uses of hunting and fishing. Depending on the WMA, these new activities are wildlife viewing and wildlife photography, opportunities that are accessible by hiking, bicycling, skiing, snowshoeing, and horseback riding. These activities are designed to offer new incentives to recreate and to draw attention to the conservation of public trust wildlife and the habitats they depend on.

Wildlife Management Areas Open To GAIN Activities

Pecos River Complex, Charette Lakes, Colin Neblett, Elliott Barker, McAllister Lake, Rio de los Pinos, Urraca, Wagon Mound, Bluebird Mesa, Edward Sargent, Jackson Lake, Ladd S. Gordon Waterfowl Complex, Rio Chama, Water Canyon, William Humphries, Bear Canyon, Bill Evans, Heart Bar, Lake Roberts, Mimbres, Red Rock, Socorro-Escondida, Brantley, Lesser Prairie Chicken Areas, Sandhills Prairie Conservation Area, Seven Rivers, and William Huey WMAs.

Permits and Fees

● Individual GAIN Permits

To participate, each person 18 years or older, must purchase a GAIN Permit and a Habitat Management and Access Validation (HMAV). Those younger than 18 may recreate without a permit at allowed places and times. A statewide Annual GAIN Permit with HMAV is \$20 and a Temporary 5-Day GAIN Permit with HMAV is \$9. Both include a \$1 vendor fee.

● Special Opportunity GAIN Permits

These GAIN Permits allow participants to be involved in unique, Department-sponsored wildlife tours, bighorn sheep and turkey trapping and relocation efforts, prairie chicken and electro-fishing surveys, etc. These special permits are available through a drawing. Visit the Department's Web site for more information.

● Site-based Shelter Use Permit

Applications for the Jamie Koch Wildlife Area Community Shelter (north of Pecos) are accepted at the Santa Fe office only. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis for up to 4 consecutive days. The cost is \$25/day. For reservations, contact the Santa Fe office at (505) 476-8101.

● Commercial Use Permits

A commercial permit is required by any person or business conducting any activity for pay on any WMA. Exceptions are hunting activities conducted by Department registered outfitters. No commercial activity is allowed until the applicant obtains approval of a completed application from the Department. Please visit the Department's Web site for more information on rules and fees.

Availability

Individual GAIN Permits are available from Department offices and license vendors. Other GAIN Permits are available from the Department's Santa Fe office.

Hunting and Fishing On WMAs

A current New Mexico hunting or fishing license with a HMAV allows holders to hunt or fish on WMAs during any seasons for which they are legally licensed.

GAIN Permit Year

April 1-March 31. Closures may occur during certain hunting seasons and elk calving.

For More Information

Please visit the Department's Web site at www.wildlife.state.nm.us or call (505) 476-8101.