



**Stephanie Garcia Richard,  
Commissioner of Public Lands  
State of New Mexico**

**RECREATIONAL ACCESS PERMIT CONTRACT**

To apply for a Recreational Access Permit READ CAREFULLY the CONTRACT form below, complete the CONTRACT in ink or by typewriter, sign the CONTRACT, attach your check or money order (NO CASH PLEASE) in the amount of \$35 made out to the Commissioner of Public Lands, and mail the completed CONTRACT form with the accompanying fee to Commissioner of Public Lands, P.O. Box 1148, Santa Fe, NM 87504-1148 or deliver to the State Land Office, 310 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, NM. Upon approval of your application, the Commissioner will execute CONTRACT and mail or deliver to you a copy of the executed CONTRACT and a RECREATIONAL ACCESS PERMIT.

**THE CONTRACT YOU SIGN IS A LEGALLY BINDING DOCUMENT.  
READ CAREFULLY**

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS  
GRANT OF INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY PERMIT**

The State of New Mexico by and through the Commissioner of Public Lands (hereinafter Commissioner) for and in consideration of the sum of THIRTY-FIVE DOLLARS, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, hereby grants to:

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CITY, STATE, ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER & STATE OF ISSUANCE:** \_\_\_\_\_

(hereinafter Permittee) and NO MORE THAN TEN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS in the company of the Permittee, the right to enter upon state lands that are identified by the State Land Office surface tract books as in the care, custody, and control of the Commissioner, that have not been withdrawn from recreational access by the Commissioner, that are not subject to a State Land Office Business Lease and on which no oil and gas operations or mining operations are being conducted, FOR THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING THEREON RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES. For the purposes of this Recreational Access Permit, IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS are deemed not to include COUSINS, AUNTS, UNCLES, NIECES, NEPHEWS or more distant family members.

Please list the family members that will be in the company of the Permittee and their relationship to the Permittee below:

FAMILY MEMBER:	RELATIONSHIP TO PERMITTEE:
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____

This grant is made upon the following terms and conditions:

1. This grant shall become effective upon the date of its execution by the Commissioner and shall terminate one year from date of issuance, unless terminated earlier pursuant to Paragraph 4.
2. Permittee is solely responsible for correctly identifying the lands on which Permittee conducts recreational activities as state lands open to recreational access and subject to this easement.  
THIS GRANT DOES NOT AUTHORIZE THE PERMITTEE TO ENTER PRIVATE LANDS AND THE PERMITTEE'S ENTRY UPON LANDS THAT ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THE RECREATIONAL ACCESS PERMIT MAY RESULT IN THE PROSECUTION FOR TRESPASS OF PERMITTEE AND THOSE IN PERMITTEE'S COMPANY.
3. A recreational access permit does not grant a right to enter upon or cross lands not under the control of the commissioner. Also, a recreational access permit does not grant a right to access lands by motorized vehicle. The use of motorized vehicles or any mechanical form of transportation for recreational access is restricted to public highways and roads, as defined by Section 67-2-1 NMSA 1978, and to established roads that cross the lands to which access is granted under the recreational access permit. When lands open to recreational access are fenced, vehicle access is allowed only where there is an unlocked gate that can be accessed from an immediately adjacent public highway or road, or from an immediately adjacent established road that crosses the lands to which access is granted. When a recreational access permittee opens an unlocked gate to gain access to lands by motorized vehicle, the permittee must close the gate after passing through. Where there is no such access through an unlocked gate in the fence, recreational access beyond the fence shall be limited to travel by foot.
4. The Recreational Access Permit shall be valid only in the possession of Permittee and shall become invalid upon its transfer to one other than the Permittee. The Permit shall also be rendered invalid by the commission of a prohibited activity by Permittee or one accompanying Permittee. The Commissioner may at any time cancel this grant and the Permit by providing oral notice of the cancellation to Permittee or by mailing notice of cancellation to Permittee at the above address.
5. Permittee hereby agrees that neither Permittee nor those persons in Permittee's company shall conduct activities on state trust lands that are not recreational activities including, but not limited to, the following PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES: Those activities that are not allowed on lands open to recreational access include, but are not limited to:
  - 1) disturbing, harassing, injuring, destroying or removing wildlife, livestock, or any other animal life;
  - 2) disturbing, dislodging, damaging, destroying or removing native plants, standing timber wood products, flowers, growing crops, or any other plant life other than pinon nuts gathered non-commercially;
  - 3) disturbing, dislodging, damaging, defacing, destroying or removing historical, archaeological, paleontological or cultural sites, or artifacts;
  - 4) disturbing, dislodging, defacing, damaging or destroying any improvement, fixture, item, object, or thing placed or located in, under, or upon the land;
  - 5) crossing lands not open to recreational access under this rule, without permission, to gain access to state trust lands that are open to recreational access;
  - 6) conducting off-road vehicle activities;
  - 7) bringing unrestrained (unleashed) animals to state trust lands;
  - 8) discarding refuse, waste, or litter of any kind;
  - 9) building open fires, igniting fireworks, or conducting any other activity that increases the risk of range, brush, or forest fires;
  - 10) conducting any type of commercial operation;
  - 11) discharging firearms, camping overnight, opening (without closing) gates;

- (12) bringing onto state trust lands or consuming thereon any type of alcoholic beverage;
- (13) violating any applicable law, statute, regulation, ordinance, or rule enacted by a governmental entity;
- (14) fishing, trapping, or hunting without a valid New Mexico license;
- (15) mineral exploration, development, or mining, or collecting valuable rocks or minerals;
- (16) interfering with the authorized activities of other land users; or,
- (17) entering, climbing, or accessing in any way structures, buildings, fixtures, or improvements other than fences located on state trust lands.

- 6. Recreational access shall not be exercised in a manner that materially interferes with other authorized uses of state trust lands or valid existing rights, such as agricultural leases or rights-of-way, or in a manner that prevents or limits the commissioner's exercise of his/her constitutional, statutory, or regulatory responsibilities.
- 7. The commission of a prohibited activity by one who gained access to state trust lands pursuant to a recreational access permit shall render the permit invalid, and shall constitute grounds for the commissioner to deny recreational access to, and to reject permit applications by, any person who gained recreational access pursuant to the invalid permit.
- 8. Permittee has identified the area(s) of state trust land which Permittee plans on accessing, on the provided map, which is attached and incorporated by reference herein. Permittee further agrees to update and re-submit the attached map to the state land office should Permittee decide to access areas not previously indicated at least two weeks prior to accessing newly identified state trust land.
- 9. PERMITTEE HEREBY AGREES THAT THE ENTRY ON STATE LANDS OF PERMITTEE AND THOSE IN THE COMPANY OF PERMITTEE SHALL BE SOLELY AT THE RISK OF PERMITTEE. Neither Commissioner, nor Commissioner's other grantees, extends to Permittee any assurance that state lands are safe for recreational access or assumes responsibility or liability for any injury or damage to Permittee or those in Permittee's company incurred while on state lands. Permittee agrees to assume all liability for claims, losses or damages arising out of, alleged to arise out of, or indirectly connected with, the activities on state lands of Permittee and those in the company of Permittee and further agrees to save, hold harmless, indemnify and defend from liability for all such claims, losses or damages lessees of state land, Commissioner and Commissioner's agents and employee in their official and individual capacities.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PERMITTEE

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 STEPHANIE GARCIA RICHARD  
 COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

PERMIT EFFECTIVE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PERMIT EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**RECREATIONAL ACCESS PERMIT SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:**

Please list the locations on New Mexico State Lands that you intend to visit using your Recreational Access Permit. Listing the section, township, and range of the location is preferred but listing the locations name and nearby landmarks or major roads is also acceptable:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_

Please list activities that you will be doing on New Mexico State Lands (ex. all day hiking, horseback riding, taking photos, etc.):

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_

When do you expect to be visiting State Lands, and how often do you plan on visiting? Please try to list a specific date for your visit. If you cannot list specific dates please list how often you typically visit State Lands (ex. Every other weekend, a few weeks a year during the summer, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**TITLE 19       NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE**  
**CHAPTER 2     STATE TRUST LANDS**  
**PART 19       RELATING TO RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACCESS TO STATE TRUST**  
**LANDS**

**19.2.19.1       ISSUING AGENCY:** Commissioner of Public Lands, New Mexico State Land Office, 310 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501; or, P. O. Box 1148, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1148, Phone: (505) 827-5713.

[19.2.19.1 NMAC – Rp, 19.2.19.1 NMAC, 12/13/13]

**19.2.19.2       SCOPE:** This rule governs recreational and educational access to state trust lands open to such access and assures that recreational and educational access are conducted in a manner consistent with the purposes of the trust.

[19.2.19.2 NMAC – Rp, 19.2.19.2 NMAC, 12/13/13]

**19.2.19.3       STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The commissioner's authority to manage the state trust lands is found in N.M. Const., Art. XIII, Section 2, and in Section 19-1-1 NMSA 1978. The authority to promulgate this rule is found in Section 19-1-2 NMSA 1978.

[19.2.19.3 NMAC – Rp, 19.2.19.3 NMAC, 12/13/13]

**19.2.19.4       DURATION:** Permanent.

[19.2.19.4 NMAC – Rp, 19.2.19.4 NMAC, 12/13/13]

**19.2.19.5       EFFECTIVE DATE:** December 13, 2013 unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.

[19.2.19.5 NMAC – Rp, 19.2.19.5 NMAC, 12/13/13]

**19.2.19.6       OBJECTIVE:** The objective of 19.2.19 NMAC is to provide for the orderly and lawful use of state trust lands open to recreational and educational access.

[19.2.19.6 NMAC – Rp, 19.2.19.6 NMAC, 12/13/13]

**19.2.19.7       DEFINITIONS:** As used in this rule, the following terms shall have the meaning here indicated:

**A.** “Commissioner” - the commissioner of public lands or any agent or employee of the commissioner who is authorized to act in the commissioner's stead.

**B.** “Recreational access” - access to state trust lands open to recreational and educational access described in Subsection D of 19.2.19.7 NMAC for the purpose of conducting non-commercial permitted activities thereon.

**C.** “Permitted activities” - those activities on lands open to recreational access that are authorized by the issuance of a recreational access permit and are not prohibited under 19.2.19.18 NMAC. Permitted activities include, but are not limited to, such activities as hiking, sightseeing, picnicking, observing wildlife, non-commercial pinon nut gathering, photographing, and cross country skiing.

**D.** “Lands open to recreational access” - those lands, other than lands leased under a New Mexico state land office business lease, that are identified by the surface tract books of the New Mexico state land office as in the care, custody, and control of the commissioner, that have not been withdrawn from recreational access by the commissioner, and on which no oil and gas operations or mining operations are being conducted.

**E.** “Recreational access permit” - an instrument issued by the commissioner that authorizes recreational access by the recreational access permittee and a certain number of persons accompanying the permittee. A recreational access permit shall be valid only in the possession of the recreational access permittee and shall be rendered invalid by its transfer to another. Recreational access permits shall be of two types:

**(1)** “Individual/family permit” - a recreational access permit issued to a recreational access permittee that authorizes recreational access by the permittee and all family members (not to exceed 10 other persons) in the company of the permittee. The permit shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance, such term to apply

retroactively to any individual/family permit issued during the 12-month period prior to the effective date of this rule.

(2) “School/educational permit” - a recreational access permit issued to a recreational access permittee who is the teacher, leader, or sponsor of a school class or educational group, that authorizes recreational access by the permittee and no more than 50 members of the permittee's school class or educational group for up to three days. The permit shall be valid from sunrise to sunset for one to three consecutive calendar days.

F. “Recreational access permittee” - any person 18 years old or older to whom or in whose name a recreational access permit is issued.

G. “Established road” - A road built or maintained by equipment, and which shows no evidence of being closed to vehicular traffic by such means as berms, ripping, scarification, reseeding, fencing, gates, barricades, or posted closures. In addition, this includes observable two-track roads. A two-track road is one which shows use for purposes such as recreation, mining, logging, or ranching, and which shows no evidence of being closed to vehicular traffic by such means as berms, ripping, scarification, reseeding, fencing, gates, barricades, or posted closures.

[19.2.19.7 NMAC – Rp, 19.2.19.7 NMAC, 12/13/13]

**19.2.19.8 WITHDRAWAL OF LANDS FROM RECREATIONAL ACCESS:** The commissioner, in his/her sole discretion, may at any time withdraw any state trust lands from recreational access if the commissioner determines that such withdrawal is in the best interests of the trust. Any lands so withdrawn shall remain unavailable for recreational access until the commissioner, in his/her sole discretion, determines that the availability of the lands for recreational access is in the best interests of the trust.

[19.2.19.8 NMAC – Rp, 19.2.19.8 NMAC, 12/13/13]

**19.2.19.9 RECREATIONAL ACCESS PROHIBITED WITHOUT A PERMIT:** Recreational access to state trust lands is prohibited in the absence of a recreational access permit issued pursuant to this rule or other express, written authorization from the commissioner. Access in accordance with an easement issued to the New Mexico state game commission does not require an additional recreational access permit or other express, written authorization. A person engaged in recreational access in accordance with this rule shall, upon request by a state land office employee or lessee, present his or her written authorization for inspection.

[19.2.19.9 NMAC – N, 12/13/13]

**19.2.19.10 INTERFERENCE WITH LAWFUL RECREATIONAL ACCESS:** No lessee or other person shall interfere with lawful recreational access permitted in accordance with this rule. The lessee of the subject state trust lands may, without such interference, make inquiry concerning the status of those using state lands.

[19.2.19.10 NMAC – N, 12/13/13]

**19.2.19.11 PERMIT APPLICATION AND FEES:** Applications for recreational access permits shall be written in ink upon forms prescribed by the commissioner and shall contain information the commissioner deems appropriate, or applications shall be submitted electronically if allowed by the commissioner's web site. Each application shall be accompanied by the appropriate fees as posted on the web site from time to time, which shall be non-refundable, and which are subject to change without notice. The commissioner reserves the right to reject any and all applications if the commissioner determines such rejection is in the best interests of the trust.

[19.2.19.11 NMAC – Rp, 19.2.19.9 NMAC, 12/13/13]

**19.2.19.12 PERMIT APPLICATION AVAILABILITY:** Applications for recreational access permits may be obtained: 1) by mailing a written request to the commissioner of public lands, New Mexico state land office, P. O. Box 1148, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1148; 2) by telephone, 505-827-5724; 3) on the web site, nmstatelands.org; or, 4) in person at the New Mexico state land office, 310 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501.

[19.2.19.12 NMAC – Rp, 19.2.19.10 NMAC, 12/13/13]

**19.2.19.13 IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION OF RECREATIONAL ACCESS LANDS:** Recreational access permittees are solely responsible for correctly identifying and locating the lands they seek to visit pursuant to a recreational access permit. Maps are available at the New Mexico state land office at a nominal fee, or they may be obtained from the web site, nmstatelands.org.

[19.2.19.13 NMAC – Rp, 19.2.19.11 NMAC, 12/13/13]

**19.2.19.14 TRAVEL:** A recreational access permit does not grant a right to enter upon or cross lands not under the control of the commissioner. Also, a recreational access permit does not grant a right to access lands by motorized vehicle. The use of motorized vehicles or any mechanical form of transportation for recreational access is restricted to public highways and roads, as defined by Section 67-2-1 NMSA 1978, and to established roads that cross the lands to which access is granted under the recreational access permit. When lands open to recreational access are fenced, vehicle access is allowed only where there is an unlocked gate that can be accessed from an immediately adjacent public highway or road, or from an immediately adjacent established road that crosses the lands to which access is granted. When a recreational access permittee opens an unlocked gate to gain access to lands by motorized vehicle, the permittee must close the gate after passing through. Where there is no such access through an unlocked gate in the fence, recreational access beyond the fence shall be limited to travel by foot.  
[19.2.19.14 NMAC – Rp, 19.2.19.12 NMAC, 12/13/13]

**19.2.19.15 TRESPASS AND WASTE:** Prohibited activities as described in 19.2.19.18 NMAC, on lands open to recreational access are deemed to be in trespass, waste, or both.  
[19.2.19.15 NMAC – Rp, 19.2.19.13 NMAC, 12/13/13]

**19.2.19.16 LIABILITY:** Each recreational access permittee shall agree, as a condition of permit issuance, to assume all liability for claims, losses or damages arising out of, alleged to arise out of, or indirectly connected with activities conducted during recreational access by the permittee and any and all individuals accompanying the permittee. Each recreational access permittee shall further agree to save, hold harmless, indemnify, and defend from all such liability, claims, losses, or damages lessees of state trust land, the commissioner, and the commissioner's agents and employees in their official and individual capacities.  
[19.2.19.16 NMAC – Rp, 19.2.19.14 NMAC, 12/13/13]

**19.2.19.17 CANCELLATION:** The commissioner may cancel any recreational access permit by providing oral notice of cancellation to the permittee or by mailing written notice of cancellation to the permittee.  
[19.2.19.17 NMAC – Rp, 19.2.19.15 NMAC, 12/13/13]

**19.2.19.18 PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES:**

**A.** Those activities that are not allowed on lands open to recreational access include, but are not limited to:

- (1) disturbing, harassing, injuring, destroying or removing wildlife, livestock, or any other animal life;
- (2) disturbing, dislodging, damaging, destroying or removing native plants, standing timber, wood products, flowers, growing crops, or any other plant life other than pinon nuts gathered non-commercially;
- (3) disturbing, dislodging, damaging, defacing, destroying or removing historical, archaeological, paleontological or cultural sites, or artifacts;
- (4) disturbing, dislodging, defacing, damaging or destroying any improvement, fixture, item, object, or thing placed or located in, under, or upon the land;
- (5) crossing lands not open to recreational access under this rule, without permission, to gain access to state trust lands that are open to recreational access;
- (6) conducting off-road vehicle activities;
- (7) bringing unrestrained (unleashed) animals to state trust lands;
- (8) discarding refuse, waste, or litter of any kind;
- (9) building open fires, igniting fireworks, or conducting any other activity that increases the risk of range, brush, or forest fires;
- (10) conducting any type of commercial operation;
- (11) discharging firearms, camping overnight, opening (without closing) gates;
- (12) bringing onto state trust lands or consuming thereon any type of alcoholic beverage;
- (13) violating any applicable law, statute, regulation, ordinance, or rule enacted by a governmental entity;
- (14) fishing, trapping, or hunting without a valid New Mexico license;
- (15) mineral exploration, development, or mining, or collecting valuable rocks or minerals;
- (16) interfering with the authorized activities of other land users; or,
- (17) entering, climbing, or accessing in any way structures, buildings, fixtures, or improvements other than fences located on state trust lands.

**B.** Recreational access shall not be exercised in a manner that materially interferes with other authorized uses of state trust lands or valid existing rights, such as agricultural leases or rights-of-way, or in a manner that prevents or limits the commissioner's exercise of his/her constitutional, statutory, or regulatory responsibilities.

**C.** The commission of a prohibited activity by one who gained access to state trust lands pursuant to a recreational access permit shall render the permit invalid, and shall constitute grounds for the commissioner to deny recreational access to, and to reject permit applications by, any person who gained recreational access pursuant to the invalid permit.

[19.2.19.18 NMAC – Rp, 19.2.19.16 NMAC, 12/13/13]

**HISTORY OF 19.2.19 NMAC:**

**Pre-NMAC History:** The material in this part was derived from that previously filed with the State Records Center and Archives under:

SLO Rule 19, Relating to Recreational Access to State Trust Lands, filed 08/13/90.

SLO Rule 19, Amendment No. 1, filed 11/04/91.

**History of Repealed Material:** 19.2.19 NMAC, Relating to Recreational Access to State Trust Lands, filed 9/16/02 repealed effective 12/13/13 and replaced with 19.2.19 NMAC, Relating to Recreational and Educational Access to State Trust Lands effective 12/13/13.