



ELK – PRIVATE LANDS USE SYSTEM (E-PLUS)



As of 4-2-07

E-PLUS – HUNTER INFO

Under the Private Land Elk License Allocation rule 19.30.5 NMAC, effective October 17, 2005, the objective of the Elk - Private Lands Use System (E-PLUS) is to establish an equitable and flexible system that recognizes the contributions of private lands and landowners to the management of elk and their habitats, while providing for economic benefit and an appropriate, biologically sound, and effective harvest through sport hunting.

Qualified landowners who sign elk agreements with the department each year are issued elk landowner authorizations in April and can barter, sell or trade them.

Hunters wishing to purchase a private land elk license must first obtain Authorization Information from one of the participating landowners. The hunter can then take this information into a NM Department of Game and Fish office (Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Raton or Roswell) to purchase their license. If they wish to purchase the license by mail, they can download a PLUS License Request Form from the web site, fill it in and mail it in with the required license and stamp fees to the Santa Fe office.

No license will be issued unless the Authorization Information provided by the hunter matches the data for that particular authorization, so the hunter needs to ensure it is correct and readable.

In order to ensure that the hunter is eligible for the desired hunt or that the correct license and stamp fees are being submitted, the hunter needs to read the 2007-08 Big Game Rules and Information Booklet (found at all department offices, in-state vendors and on our web site at www.wildlife.state.nm.us under Hunting). The following are references to pages in the booklet that may be helpful:

- Pages 5-6 Definitions
- Pages 8-17 General Rules, Hunting Information and Big Game Map
- Page 31 Private Land – Elk and Private Land License Fees
- Pages 32 – 38 Public Land – Elk – for Unit Wide hunting
- Back page Mandatory Harvest Reporting – for all deer hunters, elk hunters and trappers

How to Convert Authorization Information to a Private Land Elk License:

From the authorized ranch contact, get the following required Authorization Information:

- **Unit – Ranch ID Number** Example Only: 02-12345
- **PIN** Example Only: 1234
- **Authorization Number** Example Only: B34-P7-123C
- **Applicable bag limit, Unit** (where the hunt will occur), **Hunt Code**, **Season Date** and **Fee Type** for that specific authorization

Examples Only:

	<u>Bag Limit</u>	<u>Hunt Unit</u>	<u>Hunt Code</u>	<u>Season Date</u>	<u>Fee Type</u>	<u>Ranch Status</u>
For Elk	MB	06C	ELK-1-123	Oct 1 – 5, 2007	Quality	Unit wide
For Pronghorn	F-IM	02	ANT-1-234	Sept 2 – 3, 2007	Standard	Ranch Only

- Complete a PLUS License Request Form and check the current season's NMDGF Big Game Rules and Information Booklet for the appropriate license and stamp fees. PLUS License Request forms are available at all Game and Fish Offices or downloadable from our web site at www.wildlife.state.nm.us under Apps & Permits.
- Submit the PLUS License Request Form and the correct fee amount by mail to the Santa Fe Office or in person to any NM Dept of Game and Fish office (Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Raton, Las Cruces or Roswell). Offices are open Monday through Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm.
- **The hunter needs to ensure they know if the ranch is signed up as Ranch Only or Unit-Wide.**
- Once a license has been issued, there are no refunds, exchanges or transfers to another person.

Important Notes:

- The hunter may not possess both a **draw** (public) license and a **private land** license for the same species in the same license year.
- Once a license has been issued, there are no refunds, exchanges or transfers to another person.
- If the hunter draws a public elk hunt, he **may not** purchase a private land license too.
- The hunter needs to make sure they purchase the correct hunt they desire.
 - Please check bag limit, GMU, ranch only or unit-wide status of the ranch, hunting season.
 - The authorizations are issued according to regulation and changes to bag limits and hunt seasons will not be permitted.
- Please note whether the ranch is signed up as Ranch Only or Unit Wide.
 - **Ranch Only** – Private land elk hunters are restricted to private deeded acres of the ranch and cannot hunt any public lands, including any public leases that the ranch may have. Public elk hunters may hunt Ranch Only E-PLUS ranches if written permission is obtained from the landowner.
 - **Unit Wide** – Public and private land elk hunters may hunt public lands and Unit Wide ranches in the GMU specified on their license.
 - It is important to remember that participation in E-PLUS and the option to be unit-wide is voluntary on the part of the landowner. Their experience with elk hunters will directly affect the access to private land that hunters may have in future years. Although not required, as a matter of courtesy, NMDGF encourages all elk hunters to contact the participating unit-wide property's contact person before accessing the property.
 - Camping is not permitted on these private lands unless the hunter makes arrangements to do so with approval by the landowner.
 - **Private land elk licenses issued in Units 4, 5A and 46:** Issued as ranch only (valid for use on that specific ranch's deeded property) except they may be used on other deeded properties within the same unit if the license holder is in possession of valid written permission from the appropriate landowner of the other deeded property.
- For the most current information on private land hunting for elk, please see the current Big Game Rules and Information booklet.

Additional Fees and Stamps:

In addition to the license fee, a hunter may be required to have one or more of the following validations:

- **Habitat Management and Access Validation** - \$4 validation for hunting, trapping or fishing licenses. Required once per year. This is a state requirement and does not replace the federal Habitat Stamp. Exceptions: Not charged to hunters, anglers or trappers younger than 18 years of age, 100 percent Disabled Resident Veterans or anglers 70 years of age and older.

- **Wildlife Habitat Validation (Habitat Stamp)** – Mandatory when hunting, trapping or fishing on US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management properties. Required once per year. This is a federal requirement. Exceptions: Not charged to anglers or trappers under age 12 or anglers over age 70 who have been issued free fishing licenses.

E-Plus Landowner List:

Currently the Department has approximately 2,700 elk landowners signed up and actively participating in E-PLUS. Each season, the E-PLUS Landowner List is published on the web site, and indicates the number of authorizations and bag limits issued for each active ranch for the current hunting season. It also indicates which ranches are signed up as ranch only or unit-wide for that season (subject to change each season when the landowner signs their elk agreement). Printed versions are also available through the department's Public Information & Outreach Office for a fee. The list is updated in June for the upcoming season.

Hunt Seasons:

For detailed information on the hunt season for private land ranch only elk hunts, see the current Big Game Rules and Information Booklet, under Elk – Private Land.

Elk -1 and Elk-3 Hunts – RANCH ONLY:

Private land ranch only elk hunts for all weapon type (Elk-1, commonly referred to as the rifle hunts) and muzzleloader (Elk-3) are given a period of time within which to pick 5 consecutive days. This is the period that the license will be issued for.

Elk-2 Bow Only Hunts – RANCH ONLY:

Do not pick 5 days – the hunt period will be for the entire hunt season listed for that hunt code.

Elk Hunts – UNIT-WIDE:

Unit-wide private land elk hunts are the same dates as for the public elk hunts. Please reference the current Big Game Rules and Information Booklet under the appropriate weapon type, GMU and bag limit for date(s) of the hunt.

If more than one hunt option is available, it is the responsibility of the hunter to ensure they are eligible for that particular hunt. Only certified mobility impaired hunters may purchase a license for a Mobility Impaired (MI) hunt. Only youths younger than 18 on the beginning date of the hunt are eligible for the Youth Only hunts.

Purchasing a Private Land Elk License:

There is no deadline to purchase a private land elk license. If purchasing the elk license through the mail, please send it to the Santa Fe Office and make sure to allow sufficient time for mail service or use an overnight service. Once the application and correct fee are received, the department will issue the license the same day and mail it back. The department cannot be responsible for delayed or misdirected mail.

Private land elk licenses must be purchased through a New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Office, either in person or by mail:

By Mail:

NM Dept of Game & Fish
Special Hunts Office
POB 25125

In Person or for Overnight Delivery:

NM Dept of Game & Fish
Special Hunts Office
One Wildlife Way

Santa Fe NM 87504-5125

Santa Fe NM 87507

In Person:

NM Dept of Game & Fish
NW Area Office
3841 Midway Place, NE
Albuquerque NM 87109

In Person:

NM Dept of Game & Fish
SW Area Office
2715 Northrise Dr
Las Cruces NM 88011

In Person:

NM Dept of Game & Fish
NE Area Office
215 York Canyon Rd
Raton NM 87740

In Person:

NM Dept of Game & Fish
SE Area Office
1912 W Second St
Roswell NM 88201

Lost or Incorrect Elk Authorization Information:

For the Hunter:

No license will be issued unless the Authorization Information provided by the hunter matches the data for that particular authorization. If this information is incorrect or has been misplaced by the hunter, they are required to contact the ranch contact directly for the correct information. The department **will not** release this information to the hunter.

For the Authorized Ranch Contact:

When the authorized ranch contact believes the security of the authorization numbers or Personal Identification Number (PIN) has been compromised, they need to call the E-PLUS manager at (505) 476-8033. A notarized Affidavit of Replacement will be required to be signed and submitted to the department.

Individual authorization numbers can be replaced as long as the 7-digit authorization number is reported on the Affidavit for Replacement and there is sufficient time to allow for the replacement. The old number will be voided so no one can use them and a new authorization number issued. The replacement information will **ONLY** be provided to the authorized ranch contact unless otherwise authorized on the Affidavit of Replacement by the ranch contact.

In cases where it is necessary to replace the PIN, the ranch contact will be responsible for contacting all of their hunters to ensure they have been given the new PIN number. Hunters who have the old PIN will not be able to convert their Authorization Information to a license because it will no longer match the department's authorization data.