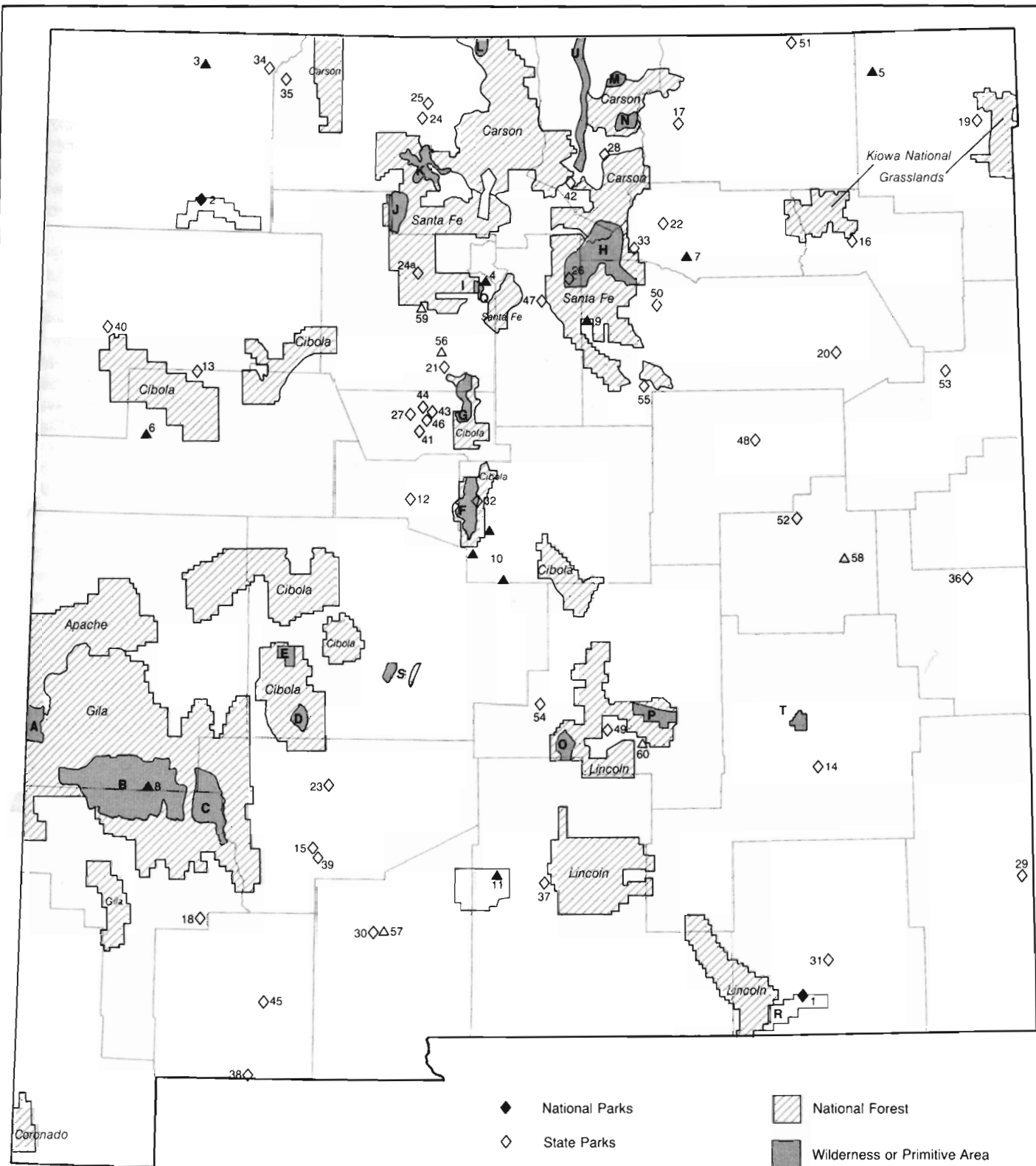


Public Lands and Facilities



- ◆ National Parks
 - ◇ State Parks
 - ▲ National Monuments
 - △ State Monuments
 - ▨ National Forest
 - Wilderness or Primitive Area
- Map keyed to table in text.

Public Lands and Facilities

New Mexico's dramatic physical features and sweeping landscapes provide many opportunities for outdoor recreation. In almost every part of the state, residents and out-of-state visitors alike are able to sight-see, fish, hunt, camp, and explore on foot or by vehicle. The scenery and openness of the land, whether in the southern deserts or the northern mountains, provide vistas and activities of many sorts, and the whole is varied by opportunities to visit historic sites, ghost towns, community fiestas, and Indian ceremonies.

Many of the recreational opportunities are on public lands of the federal and state governments, especially in National Forest and National Park areas, and at state parks and monuments.

The seven national forests in the state include most of the mountainous areas, totaling about 4 million acres of high-elevation timberland and more than 6 million acres of low-elevation noncommercial woodland, mostly piñon-juniper and scrub oak woodland. For the most part the national forests are under

"multiple use" management—involving timbering, fuelwood cutting, grazing, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and recreation—and the greater part of the forests are open for recreational uses, such as camping, picnicking, hunting, and fishing. There are numerous developed campgrounds and picnic areas as well as many trails, scenic viewpoints, and other facilities.

Also within the national forests are more than 1.3 million acres of designated wilderness and primitive areas—remote, roadless areas where the main purpose is to preserve unspoiled natural environments and where visitors are limited to nonmechanized travel. The first wilderness area created by the federal government in the United States was established in 1924 in the Gila National Forest of southwestern New Mexico. Fifteen other wilderness areas are also within the national forests, including one adjacent to Albuquerque.

There are 11 national parks and monuments in New Mexico, each of which preserves for present and future

National and State Parks and Monuments

Map Key	Name	Facilities
National Parks		
1	Carlsbad Caverns	a, c, d
2	Chaco Culture National Historic Park	a, b, c, d
National Monuments		
3	Aztec Ruins	a, c, d
4	Bandelier	a, b, c, d
5	Capulin Mountain	a, c, d
6	El Morro	a, b, c, d
7	Fort Union	a, c, d
8	Gila Cliff Dwellings	a, b, c, d
9	Pecos	a, c, d
10	Salinas	a, c, d
11	White Sands	a, c, d
State Parks		
12	Belen Valley	a, c, d
13	Bluewater Lake	(all)
14	Bottomless Lakes	(all)
15	Caballo Lake	(all)
16	Chicosa Lake	a, b, c, d, j
17	Cimarron Canyon	b, c, d, h
18	City of Rocks	a, b, c, d, j
19	Clayton Lake	a, b, c, d, f, g, h, j
20	Conchas Lake	(all)
21	Coronado	a, b, c, d, f, j
22	Coyote Creek	a, b, c, d, h, j
23	Elephant Butte Lake	(all)
24	El Vado Lake	a, b, c, d, g, h, i, j
24a	Fenton Lake	a, b, c, d, h
25	Heron Lake	a, b, c, g, h
26	Hyde Memorial	a, b, c, d, j
27	Indian Petroglyph	a, c, d
28	Kit Carson Memorial	a, c, d, j
29	Lea County	a, c, d, j
30	Leasburg Dam	a, b, c, d, f, g, h, j
31	Living Desert	a, c, d
32	Manzano Mountains	a, b, c, d
33	Morphy Lake	a, b, c, g, h
34	Navajo Lake (Pine Site)	(all)
35	Navajo Lake (Sims Site)	a, b, c, d, g, h, j
36	Oasis	a, b, c, d, e, f, h, j
37	Oliver Lee	a, b, c, d
38	Pancho Villa	a, b, c, d, j
39	Percha Dam	a, b, c, d, f, h, j
40	Red Rock	a, b, c, d, e, f, j
41	Rio Bravo	a, c, d, j
42	Rio Grande Gorge	a, b, c, d, h, j
43	Rio Grande Nature Center	c, d
44	Rio Grande Valley	a
45	Rock Hound	a, b, c, d, e, f, j
46	San Gabriel	a, b, c, d, j
47	Santa Fe River	a, d
48	Santa Rosa Lake	a, b, c, d, g, h
49	Smokey Bear Historical	a, c, d
50	Storrie Lake	a, b, c, d, f, g, h, j
51	Sugarite Canyon	a, b, d, h
52	Sumner Lake	a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i
53	Ute Lake	a, b, c, d, f, g, h, i
54	Valley of Fires	a, b, c, d, j
55	Villanueva	a, b, c, d, f, h, j
State Monuments		
56	Coronado	a, c, d
57	Fort Seldon	c, d
58	Fort Sumner	a, c, d
59	Jemez	c, d
60	Lincoln	c, d

a	picnicking	f	showers
b	camping	g	boating
c	toilets	h	fishing
d	drinking water	i	swimming
e	electricity	j	playgrounds

National Forests and National Grasslands

National Forest	Acreage*	Headquarters
Apache	616,336**	Springerville, Arizona
Carson	1,400,000	Taos
Cibola	1,616,496	Albuquerque
Coronado	71,541	Tucson, Arizona
Gila	2,704,724	Silver City
Kiowa	143,492	Clayton
Lincoln	1,086,296	Alamogordo
Santa Fe	1,580,969	Santa Fe

*Acreage in New Mexico only

**The New Mexico portion of Apache National Forest is administered by Gila National Forest

Source: U.S. Forest Service, Southwest Region

Wilderness Areas

Map Key	Wilderness Area	Date Established	Acreage
In National Forests			
A	Blue Range	1980	29,304
B	Gila	1924	558,065
C	Aldo Leopold	1980	202,016
D	Apache Kid	1980	44,650
E	Withington	1980	18,869
F	Manzano Mountain	1978	36,970
G	Sandia Mountain	1978	30,930
H	Pecos	1933	223,333
I	Dome	1980	5,200
J	San Pedro Parks	1931	41,132
K	Chama River Canyon	1978	50,300
L	Cruces Basin	1980	18,000
M	Latir Peak	1980	20,000
N	Wheeler Peak	1960	19,663
O	White Mountain	1933	48,873
P	Capitan Mountains	1980	35,822
In National Parks			
Q	Bandelier	1976	23,267
R	Carlsbad	1978	33,125
In National Wildlife Refuges			
S	Bosque del Apache	1976	30,287
T	Salt Creek	1976	9,621
U	Rio Grande Gorge	1970	16,880

All areas are units of the "National Wilderness Preservation System"

Source: U.S. Forest Service, "Wildernesses and Primitive Areas in Southwestern National Forests," 1983

Public Lands and Facilities

generations an outstanding scenic, historic, or prehistoric area. Carlsbad Caverns National Park features one of the world's largest and most impressive caverns. Chaco Culture National Historical Park includes numerous remarkable ruins of prehistoric Indian communities—one of the most outstanding remains of prehistoric civilization in the United States. White Sands National Monument embraces a vast area of gypsum dunes, and Capulin Mountain National Monument features a very symmetrical volcanic cinder cone. Ruined structures of the prehistoric and historic past are preserved at Aztec Ruins, Bandelier, El Morro, Fort Union, Gila Cliff Dwellings, Pecos, and Salinas national monuments.

Most of the federal lands in the state are administered by the Bureau of Land Management, and most areas are open to dispersed recreational use, with some restrictions on off-road vehicles. Several

developed campgrounds and other facilities are available, and several wilderness areas have been proposed. The bureau also administers the state's only designated Wild and Scenic River, a 53-mile length of the Rio Grande extending downstream from the Colorado border, where the famous river flows undammed and unregulated within a deep gorge.

Six national wildlife refuges are in New Mexico, affording opportunities for bird hunting and wildlife observation. Again, wilderness areas have been designated within two of the refuges.

Of the 43 state parks in New Mexico, 10 include sizable reservoirs where boating and fishing are the dominant uses. Most of these parks are at federal dam and reservoir projects, including Elephant Butte Lake State Park, the most-visited park in the system. The other state parks include a wide variety of scenic and historic places, including

rocky desert terrain, forested mountain areas, and landscaped parks at Taos, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Hobbs.

The five state monuments are all historic or prehistoric places—ruined Indian pueblos at Coronado and Jemez, frontier forts at Fort Selden and Fort Sumner, and a charming nineteenth-century community at Lincoln, which is particularly noted as the scene of the last escape of Billy the Kid.

In addition to the above, there are a number of outdoor recreation facilities at Corps of Engineers dams and on Indian lands in the state, the latter chiefly in mountain areas. Noteworthy are campgrounds and fishing lakes and streams on the Jicarilla and Mescalero Apache reservations, on the Navajo reservation, and on the Santa Clara reservation.

Jerold G. Widdison