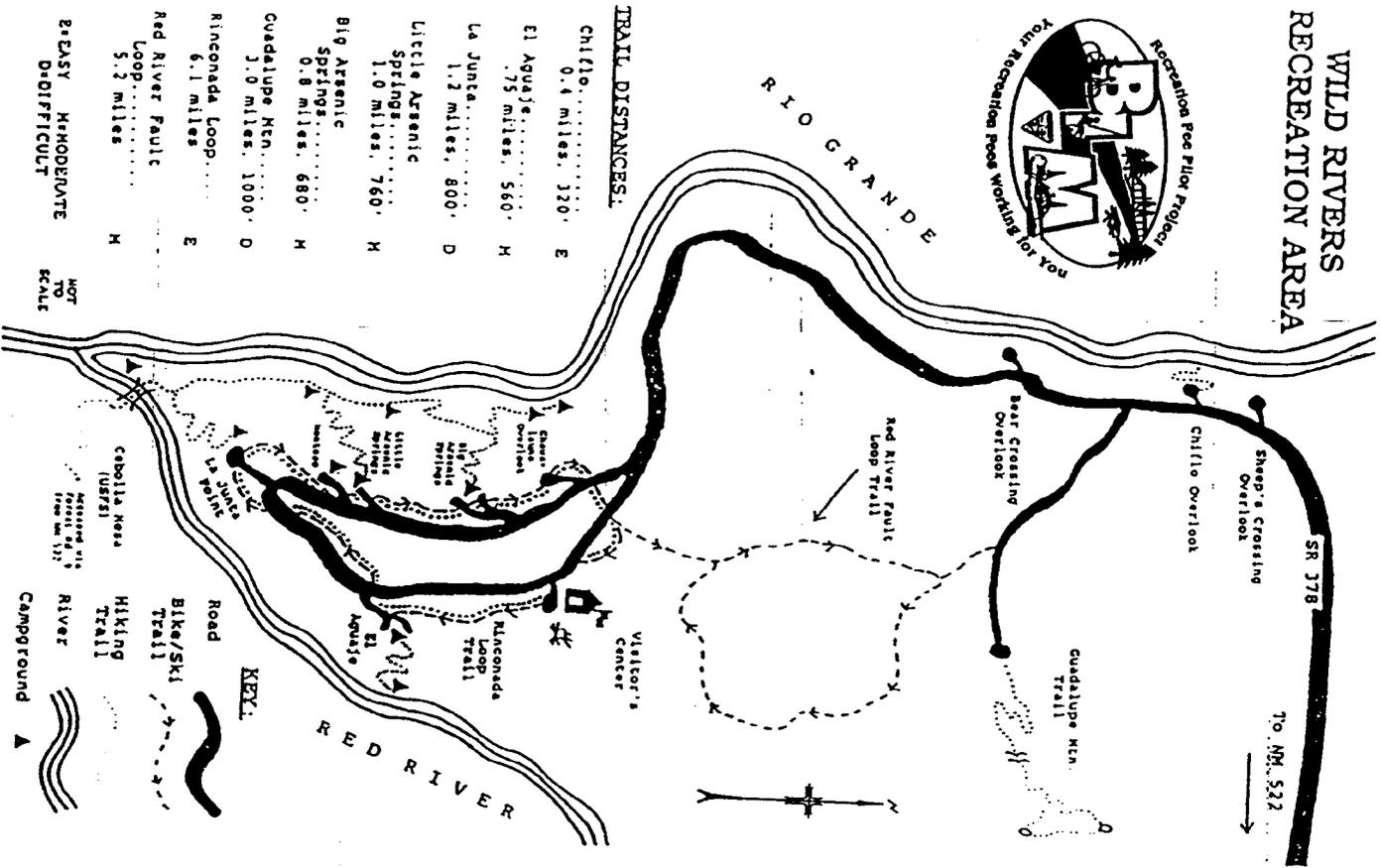


WILD RIVERS RECREATION AREA



BLM

New Mexico

Wild Rivers Recreation Area

Wild Rivers Recreation Area, located 35 miles north of Taos, New Mexico has been set aside to help you experience the beauty of two national Wild and Scenic Rivers protected by Congress. Here the Rio Grande and Red River are preserved in their natural, free-flowing state for present and future generations to enjoy and appreciate. This area is Public Land, administered by the Bureau of Land Management. It Belongs to You. We ask YOU to help take care of it.

The Rio Grande or "Great River" has sliced an 800-foot deep volcanic canyon through the high plains of northern New Mexico, rich with history, rugged beauty and exciting recreational opportunities. Here the Wild Rivers Backcountry Byway, winds its way along the rim of the Rio Grande gorge offers access to spectacular overlooks including the confluence of the Red River and the Rio Grande at La Junta Point. Information on other activities is available at the Visitor Center.

The canyon ecosystem descends 800 feet from rim to river, creating a unique diversity in plant and animal life. Ancient pinyon and juniper forests are home to 500 year-old trees. Watchable wildlife opportunities include mule deer, red-tailed hawk, mountain blue-bird and prairie dog.

The climate is semi-arid with summer thunderstorms common in July and August, and snow possible from November through March. Summer temperatures range from 45° to 90°F, and in winter from -15° to 45°F.

The area is open year-round, however winter access may be difficult.



Taos Field Office





The Visitor Center is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and additional hours as staffing permits. Outside displays are available.

FEES - Wild Rivers Recreation Area is a U.S. Fee Area. All fees collected at Wild Rivers are returned to the recreation area for enhancements.

Day Use: \$3,000/day per vehicle. An annual day use pass, good for all the recreation areas within Taos Field Office is available for \$20.00. Self-services pay stations are located at developed camping, picnic and trailhead areas. **DAY USE HOURS:** 6 AM to 10 PM. When dry-hiking or fishing, please do not occupy a campsite. Park in designated day use parking areas only.

Camping: \$7,000/night for one vehicle, \$10,000/night for two vehicles per site. Maximum 2 vehicles and 15 people per site. (Additional vehicles may park in dry use parking areas at \$3,000/day.) Pay stations are located at each campground, and change is available at the Visitor Center or from a Park Ranger. Annual dry use passes do not apply to camping fees. **River Campsites:** \$5,000/night. These sites require a hike in. Camping is permitted in designated sites only and fires must be contained in grills or firepans. Park in a designated day-use parking area located at each trailhead.

Golden Age/Golden Access Passport Holders pay half price. These cards may be purchased at the Visitor Center by eligible persons.

La Junta and El Aguaje Group Shelters are available by reservation only. Each shelter accommodates up to 50 people. Fees for the group shelters are \$30,00 day-use and \$40,00 overnight. For reservations call (505)758-8851.



CAMPING/PICNICKING - Wild Rivers has five developed campgrounds and a picnic area, each with tables, grills, drinking water and restroom facilities. Camping is permitted in designated sites only. To protect vegetation, please use hardened tent sites.

Please observe Quiet Hours from 10 PM to 6 AM. No motor vehicle fireplay allowed. **CAMPFIRES -** Campfires are allowed in GRILLS or FIREPANS only. Campstoves are recommended. Firewood collection is prohibited. Firewood is available for purchase at the Visitor Center or from a Camp Host. Please do not leave your fire unattended.



PETS - Pets must be kept under control AND on a leash at all times. Pets are not permitted on Big Arsenic Trail or in freshwater springs. Please be considerate of others and clean up after your pet.



FIREWORKS AND FIREARMS - Discharge of fireworks is prohibited within the Recreation Area. Discharge of firearms is prohibited within one mile of a recreation site. Most of the Recreation Area is CLOSED to hunting; hunters are responsible for knowing where and when they are permitted to hunt.



RECYCLE - Trash receptacles are located at all campgrounds and picnic areas along the rim; please use them. Please use the recycle cans provided throughout the recreation area for aluminum and glass. Pack Out What You Pack In.



SWIMMING - Swimming is dangerous and not recommended due to swift currents and cold temperatures. To protect water quality, swimming is not allowed in freshwater springs.



HIKING - Twenty two miles of rim and river trails offer a variety of hiking options. Most trails begin from campgrounds where dry use parking areas are available. **CAUTION:** Trails are steep and hiking can be strenuous. Good physical condition, sturdy shoes, and plenty of drinking water are required.

La Junta Point Nature Trail - (easy) .5 mile interpretive loop along canyon rims.
Rinconada Loop Trail - (easy) 6.1 mile multi-use rim trail connects the campgrounds and Visitor Center (can be hiked in shorter segments).

Chilio Trail - (moderate) .3 mile, 400 ft. descent to the Rio Grande.

Big Arsenic Trail - (strenuous) .6 mile, 640 ft. descent to the Rio Grande.

Guadalupe Mtn. Trail - (strenuous) 3 mile, 900 ft. ascent of an ancient volcano.

For more information on Wild Rivers trails, please stop by the Visitor Center or talk with a Park Ranger.

BIKING - Mountain bike trails include: Rinconada Loop Trail - 6.1 mile multi-use rim trail and Red River Fault Loop - 5.0 mile two track trail. Please stay on roads or designated trails. Yield to hikers. **Tread Lightly!**



FISHING - Rio Grande anglers are challenged by northern pike, native brown and German brown trout. The Red River supports a fishery of rainbow trout stocked by the Red River Fish Hatchery located upstream of the Recreation Area. **FISHING REGULATIONS -** All anglers must have a valid New Mexico fishing license and a Wildlife Habitat Improvement Validation in their possession. Fishing Licenses are sold in Questa. To improve trout fisheries, Special Trout Waters have been designated on all river sections within the Recreation Area. The daily bag limit and possession limit is 4 fish per license holder.



BOATING - Boating within the Recreation Area can be hazardous, requiring superior whitewater skills and specialized equipment. All boaters must register or obtain a permit at the Visitor Center or Little Arsenic Trailhead prior to launching.



CULTURAL RESOURCES - Sites and artifacts dating back many centuries have been found within the Recreation Area. Please protect these valuable resources of the past. Removal or disturbance of these artifacts destroys valuable information and is punishable by fines and/or imprisonment.

For public health and safety - bathing, washing dishes or clothes is prohibited at water spigots. Please do not hook RVs up to water spigots.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY - CALL 911. An emergency phone is located at the visitor center. When the visitor center is closed, the nearest phone is located at the Phillip's 66 Station In Questa, located 13 miles from the visitor center on NM 522.

Taos Field Office - (505)758-8851

Wild Rivers Visitor Center (505)770-1600

Rio Grande Gorge Visitor Center (505)751-4899