



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
New Mexico State Office  
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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508  
[www.blm.gov/new-mexico](http://www.blm.gov/new-mexico)

## EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDER BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT – NEW MEXICO

### EMERGENCY CLOSURE OF SELECTED PUBLIC LANDS IN NEW MEXICO

**Action:** Pursuant to 43 CFR 9268.3 and 43 CFR 8364.1, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hereby provides notice that effective immediately, the public lands described below are closed to all forms of public access. This action follows guidance received from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and recommendations from Federal, State, and local public health authorities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The BLM is temporarily closing the public lands identified here to assist in limiting the spread of COVID -19. The health and safety of visitors and staff in our facilities is our number one priority.

**Affected Area:** The public lands affected by this closure are described as follows:

**Albuquerque District:** Datil Well Campground, Joe Skeen Campground, Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument, and La Ventana and Narrows Trailhead vault toilets within the El Malpais National Conservation Area.

**Farmington District:** Arroyo Hondo Campground, Big Arsenic Campground, Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness Parking Area (limited to day-use only, with no overnight camping or parking allowed), Brown Springs Campground, Chiflo Campground, El Aguaje Campground, La Junta Campground, Little Arsenic Campground, Lone Juniper Campground, Pilar Campground, Rio Bravo Campground, Rio Pueblo Campground, Santa Cruz Lake Recreation Area and North Shore Campground, and Simon Campground (limited to day-use only, with no overnight camping or parking allowed).

**Las Cruces District:** Aguirre Spring Recreation Area (including campsites and restrooms), Dripping Springs Natural Area/La Cueva picnic area and restrooms, Lake Valley Historic Townsite and restroom, Soledad Canyon Day Use Area, and Three Rivers Petroglyph Site (including camping facilities and restroom).

**Pecos District:** Valley of Fires Recreation Area. The following campgrounds will not be maintained or serviced by BLM personnel or volunteers, and the bathrooms will be closed: Cave Campground, Haystack Off-highway Vehicle Area and Campground, Mescalero Sands Off-highway Vehicle Area and Campground, and Rob Jagers Campground.

**Prohibitions:** The public must not enter the closure area. All uses within the closure area are prohibited. Exceptions to these prohibitions are noted below under Supplemental Information.

**Dates:** This closure is effective immediately and will remain in effect until such time as conditions allow for safe use of the public lands.

**Supplemental Information:** The following persons are exempt from the provisions of this Order:

- a. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized medical, rescue, or firefighting force engaged in fire, emergency, or law enforcement activities, or public utility employees engaged in emergency repairs.
- b. BLM employees, contractors, or agents engaged in official duties.
- c. Individuals operating within the scope of their official and legitimate governmental duties.
- d. Parties who carry written approval signed by the BLM Authorized Officer allowing access to the described public lands.

**Penalties:** Any person who violates this may be tried before a United States Magistrate and fined in accordance with 18 U.S.C. 3571 and 43 CFR 8360.07, imprisoned for no more than 12 months, or both.

**Effective:** This Order is effective immediately upon signature.

Signed by:

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Timothy R. Spisak  
BLM New Mexico State Director