

RÍO GRANDE del NORTE National Monument

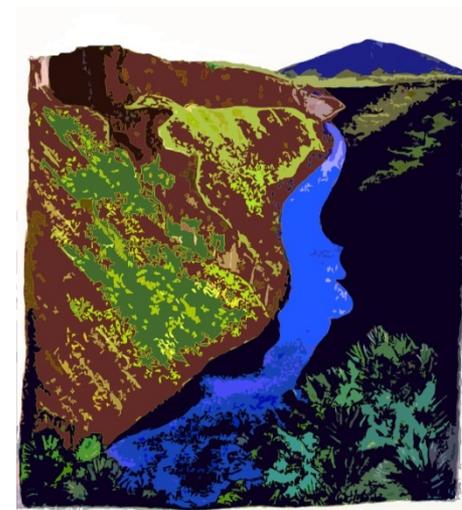
What is the Monument?

What's Changed?

What Might Change?

Initial Steps

Planning



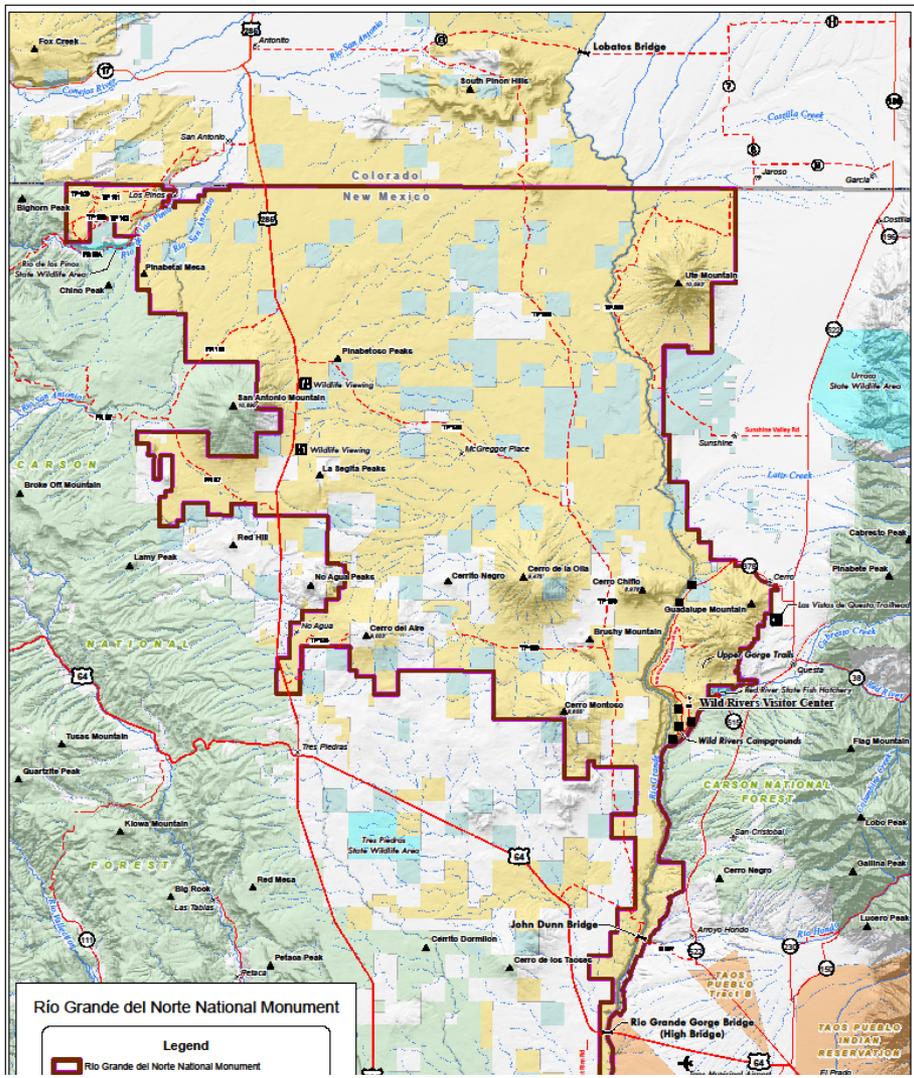
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Rio Grande del Norte National Monument

Vital Statistics

- **Created : March 25, 2013**
- **By : Presidential Proclamation, under authority of the 1906 Antiquities Act**
- **Size : 242,500 acres (about ¼ million acres)**
- **15% of Taos County land is in the Monument**

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Río Grande del Norte National Monument

Legend

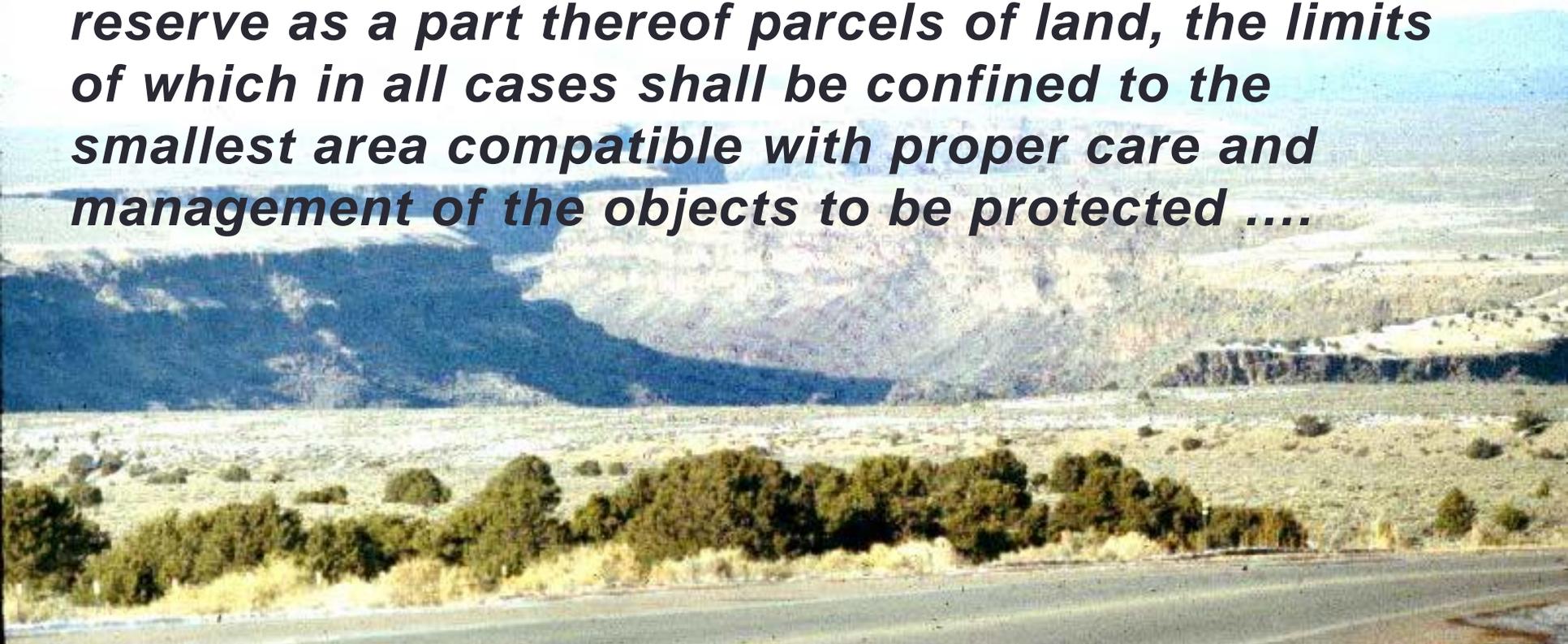
- Río Grande del Norte National Monument

American Antiquities Act of 1906

Río Grande del Norte
National Monument



*Sec. 2. That the President of the United States is hereby authorized, in his discretion, **to declare by public proclamation** historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other **objects of historic or scientific interest** that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States **to be national monuments**, and may reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected*



Río Grande del Norte objects of value...

Cultural

“imprints of human passage through the landscape over the past 10,000 years”



Río Grande del Norte objects of value...

Historic

“More recent artifacts and images mark the passage of settlers and Hispanic explorers dating back to the early 18th century.”



Río Grande del Norte objects of value...

Geological

“one of the world’s major rift systems”



Río Grande del Norte objects of value...

Wildlife

“Large mammals, including the Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer, pronghorn and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, find their winter homes on the plateau...”



Río Grande del Norte objects of value...

Ecological Diversity



“...from the cottonwood and willows...to the expansive sagebrush plains...the piñons at the base of Ute Mountain...”

Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River

- Outstandingly Remarkable Values
 - **Scenic Quality**
 - **Geology**
 - **Wildlife**
 - **Fish habitat**
 - **Recreation**
 - **Riparian**
 - **Cultural**

The Coalition

Río Grande del Norte National Monument



The 'Coalition'

- About 40 individuals or organizations that worked for the protection of the Río Grande del Norte
- Organizations include a mix of conservation groups and eco-tourism interests
- Individuals include elected local leaders, business owners, conservation leaders and land grant board members

What changed?

- Higher level of protection
- More uses are now off limits – all mining, oil and gas development, geothermal leasing
- Public lands in the Monument can't be sold or traded
- Motorized travel limited to designated roads
- BLM is required to prepare a Monument Plan, “and shall provide for maximum public involvement in the development of that plan...including consultation with tribal, State and local governments as well as community land grant and acequia associations.”

What didn't change

- **“Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to alter or affect the Rio Grande Compact..., or to create any reservation of water in the monument.”**
- Firewood collection, pine nut collection allowed
- Grazing will continue, “consistent with the purposes of this proclamation”
- No change to current guidance for boating, camping, target shooting, hunting – if you could do it last year, you can still do it this year

Getting Started

- Signing



Getting Started

- Special Events



- August 31-Sat 8:30 am** **Petaca Point Trail 2hr**
Hike starts at the trailhead on NM567, near the West Rim Road turnoff. An easy 2½ mile roundtrip walk along the west rim of the Rio Grande Gorge—spectacular views, settlement history, and one of the best petroglyph panels in the Monument.
- Sept 1-Sun 9 am** **Las Vistas de Questa Trail 4hr**
Meet at the trailhead parking lot off Don Martinez Road in Questa for this moderate 3.7 mile round trip hike offers great views of the Questa Area and Sangre de Cristo mountains; focus is on wildlife, history and geology. Led by volunteers Steve Horton and Lynn Hood.
- Sept 7-Sat 9 am** **Pescado Trail Hike 2hr**
Meet at the Red River Fish Hatchery (take NM 522 north to NM 515), a few miles south of Questa. Beautiful hike in the Red River Canyon, through a Ponderosa woodland up to the rim and back. Led by volunteers Steve Horton and Lynn Hood.
- Sept 7-Sat 9 am** **La Vista Verde Hike 2hr**
Hike starts at the trailhead ½ mile west of Taos Junction Bridge on NM 567 for this easy 2½ mile roundtrip hike in the Lower Gorge. Wonderful views in the Gorge and petroglyphs on our most popular trail, led by park ranger Robert Fernandez.
- Sept 14-Sat 9 am** **Rinconada Loop Trail 3hr**
Meet at the Wild Rivers Visitor Center for this easy 6-mile round-trip loop hike, led by volunteers Steve Horton and Lynn Hood.
- Sept 14-Sat 9:30 am** **Chiflo Trail + ice cream 4hr**
Meet at the Chiflo Trailhead for this gentle stroll through an edible, medicinal landscape. Herbalist Cathy Hope will introduce you to the abundance under our feet. Cathy of Iris Herbs has been practicing since 1977 and is passionate about sharing her knowledge to give us a new perspective on the Monument.
- Please join us after this easy family friendly hike at the Wild Rivers Visitor Center to eat lunch (not provided) and make locally flavored ice cream. RSVP -info@tastydinersclub.com. For more information please visit www.icecreamolympics.com.
- Sept 15-Sun 9 am** **Picuris/Slide Trail Loop 2hr**
Meet at the trailhead at Taos Junction Bridge on NM 570 for this moderate 2-mile round trip hike in the Lower Gorge. Beautiful views, dynamic history, and extraordinary geology highlight one of our newest trails. Led by park ranger Art Torres.
- Sept 21-Sat 9 am** **Homestead Tour 4hr**
Tour of several homesteads on the west side of the Rio Grande with BLM archaeologist Merrill Dicks. Meet at the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge rest area. High clearance vehicles recommended; limited space available in a BLM vehicle for those without.
- Sept 21-Sat 9 am** **Little Arsenic Trail 3hr**
A special hike to commemorate Aron Rael, Questa resident and former park ranger at Wild Rivers, led by his widow, Maggie Evans Rael. Meet at the Wild Rivers Visitor Center for this moderate 3-mile round-trip hike into the gorge.
- Sept 21-Sat 9 am** **Miners' Trail 2hr**
Meet at the kiosk on the west side of John Dunn Bridge—we'll drive 6 miles to the trail head for this moderate 2 1/2 mile roundtrip hike down to the Rio Grande. Sensational views of the wild river and history highlight this excursion into a remote part of the Monument, led by park ranger Seth Jennings.
- Sept 28-Sat National Public Land Day—Wild Rivers ~ The Ice Cream Olympics! ~**
2 pm: Artist's Lecture at Wild Rivers Visitor Center
3 pm: The Olympics! - Have you got what it takes to create an award winning ice cream flavor? Develop your own unique blend of local flavors and ingredients—once you've perfected your recipe, register at www.icecreamolympics.com. Judging by local chefs.
6 pm: Tastes of the Monument at Montoso Campground
Music by Michael Rael and Tim Long & special guests, Delicious dinner, Reading by NeoRio Featured Writer, Kyce Bello. Bring your own drinks & chairs and dessert to share.
- Sept 29-Sat 9 am** **Mountain Biking 101 3hr**
Meet at the Taos Valley Overlook trailhead on NM 68 for this easy to moderate 8-mile ride. Learn safe riding techniques, rules of the road, and a bit about the Monument. Rentals at Cottam's Ski Shop are 10% off for participants.



NeoRio 2013: The Ice Cream Olympics
September 28, 2013
RGDN Wild Rivers Area, Cerro, NM
Events are Free • Camping encouraged \$7/night

To register go to <http://icecreamolympics.com/get-involved/>

Or for more info contact Anita info@tastydinersclub.com
www.icecreamolympics.com



Photo Exhibit Rio Grande Gorge Visitor Center

Río Grande del Norte National Monument Lectures at the Harwood

BLM's Taos Field Office presents



Pat Pacheco, BLM-Taos' Fire Management Officer, will explain the science behind fire's role in the Monument, and how this affects decisions that have to be made when a fire starts in the area.

A gust of wind can change everything!

August 27 - 7-8 pm - no charge

Harwood Lecture Hall, Ledoux Street

An occasional series of lectures about the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument



Bring a snack, hat, sunscreen, water and sturdy footwear.

www.blm.gov/nm/riograndedelnorte

Taos Field Office: 575-758-8851

Getting Started

- Staffing plans – Monument Manager, GS-12
- Budget changes
- Partnerships – coalition members, non-profits, government sector
- Web site
- Inventory of what we know/don't know about objects of value
- Annual Report requirements
- 1:100,000 scale map with text on back - \$4 out early next year

The Plan...

- Will start this fall, and take about 18 months
- An amendment to our 2012 Resource Management Plan
- Will include several cooperators (having jurisdiction, or special expertise)
 - **Taos County, Rio Arriba County**
 - **Taos Pueblo (possibly Utes, Apache)**
 - **Village of Questa**
 - **NM Department of Fish and Game**
 - **State Land Office**
 - **Soil and Water Conservation District**

The Plan...

- We will also be collaborating / coordinating with -
 - **Carson National Forest**
 - **San Luis Field Office**
 - **Trout Unlimited**
 - **Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation**
 - **Taos Green Chamber of Commerce**
 - **Town of Taos**

The Plan...

- Scoping meetings will take place in January
 - Taos
 - Questa
 - Alamosa?
 - Santa Fe?



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