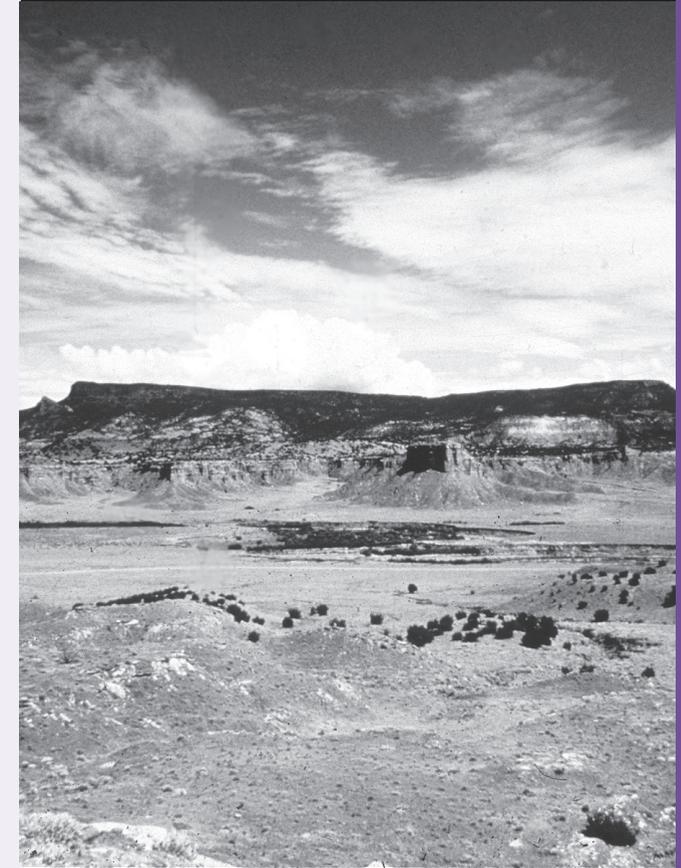
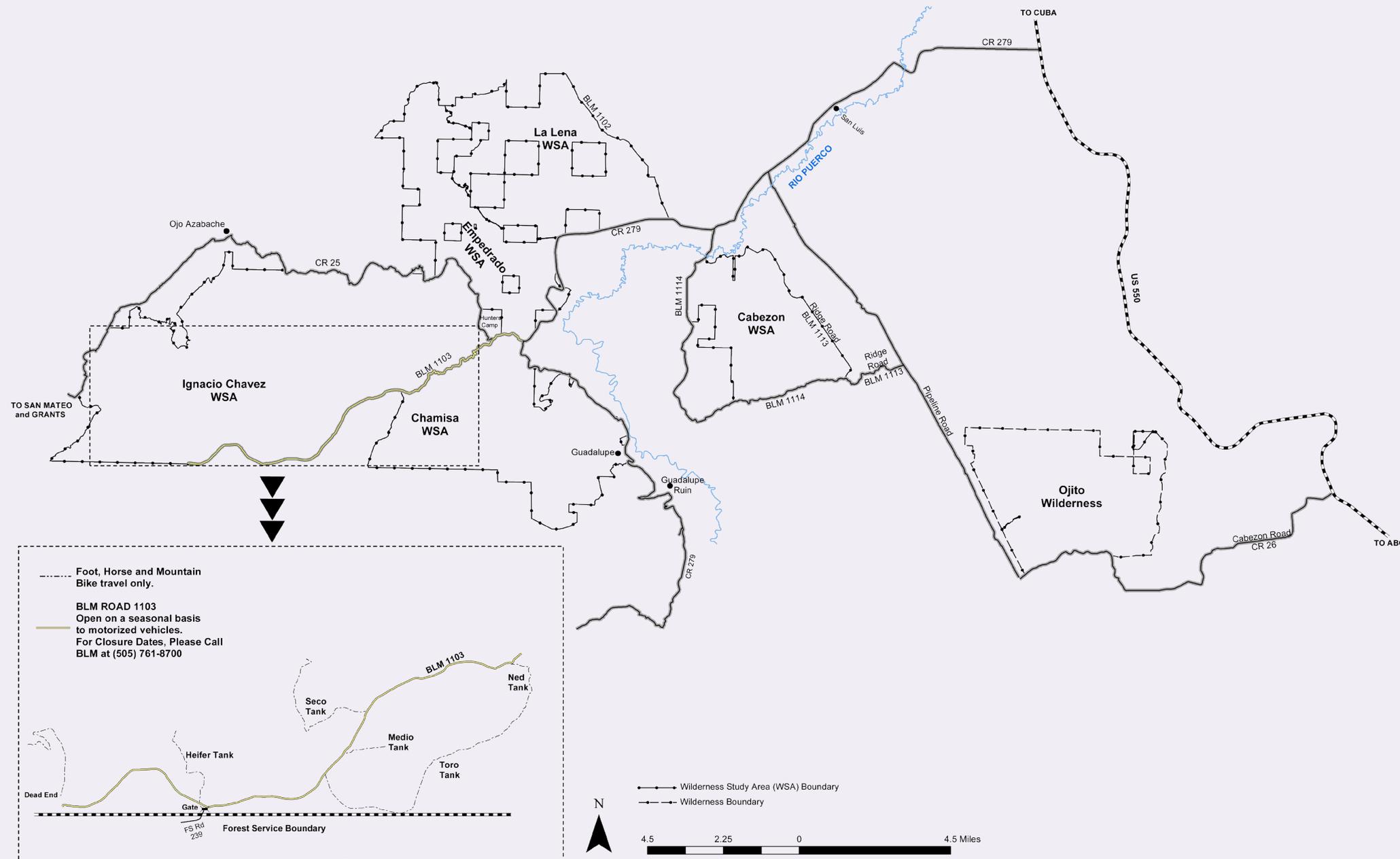


Ignacio Chavez Special Management Area



“In every walk with Nature
one receives far more than
he seeks.”

John Muir

Bureau of Land Management
Rio Puerco Field Office
435 Montañito N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107
505/761-8700
www.blm.gov/nm

In case of emergency:
BLM Rio Puerco Law Enforcement – 505/761-8700
Immediate Emergency – 911



Leave No Trace: Plan ahead and prepare - Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly - Leave what you find - Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife - Be considerate of other visitors.



The Ignacio Chavez (IC) Special Management Area (SMA) consists primarily of two Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), the Ignacio Chavez WSA (33,300 acres) and the Chamisa WSA (13,700 acres).

HISTORY

The SMA lies amid the remains of a wide range of cultural periods. Chacoan ruins have been uncovered, and evidence of Spanish habitation during the 18th and 19th century can be found in the adobe rancheros that dot the area.



Azabache Station

The majority of the SMA was awarded to settlers in 1768 as a grant by the Spanish government. The purpose of the Ignacio Chavez Grant was to establish communities.

Representing the Anglo-European end of the historical spectrum is the old stage station at Ojo Azabache on the route from Santa Fe to old Fort Wingate. During the 1870s, this route ran through the area just north of the Ignacio Chavez Land Grant along County Road (CR) 25. Stagecoach drivers and passengers no doubt used Cabezon Peak and other nearby volcanic plugs as landmarks.

DIRECTIONS

Travel northwest on US 550 from Bernalillo past San Ysidro (23 miles from Bernalillo). Continue northwest along US 550 about 20 more miles to the junction with

CR 279 to the west (left). A green highway sign (labeled “San Luis - Cabezon”) marks the CR 279 turnoff. This paved road passes through the small village of San Luis, after which the road turns to gravel and dirt. Travel on this dirt road for approximately 18 miles, crossing the bridge over the Chico Arroyo, until the road splits - the left fork is the continuation of CR 279 and goes south to Guadalupe. Stay on the right fork (which is actually straight) and the road becomes BLM 1103. Travel on 1103 for about one mile, until CR 25 splits to the north. BLM Road 1103 continues to the mesa top of the IC. If you wish to continue on to Grants, CR 25 extends for many miles until it eventually reaches the town of San Mateo.

SEASONAL ROAD CLOSURE

The sensitivity of the resources in the area make it necessary for the BLM to close Road 1103 to motorized vehicles at certain times of the year. Check with the Albuquerque BLM office at (505) 761-8700 before leaving home. The road always remains open to foot, horse, and bike use. During the road closure, large vehicles and horse trailers are encouraged to use the area signed “Hunters Camp,” located at the junction of CR 25 and BLM Road 1103. **Road closure dates are July 1st – September 14th & November 30th – April 15th.**

PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Piñon pine, oneseed juniper, and ponderosa pine grow on the mesa tops in shallow soils. Nature enthusiasts will love the color blooms of the Rocky Mountain bee plant,



Chamisa Wilderness Study Area

sunflower, prickly pear and Indian paintbrush that thrive in the higher elevations.

For the wildlife enthusiast, deer, elk, bear, cougar, and turkey are abundant. For more information on big game and trapper rules, contact the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish at (505) 222-4700 or www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

Reptiles of the area include both the prairie and the Western diamondback rattlesnakes, garter snakes, and several lizards, the most impressive being the large-collared lizard. The cliffs located in the southeast corner of the SMA harbor large colonies of cliff swallows.

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL

This spectacular backcountry hiking trail stretches 3,100 miles, from Mexico to Canada. The idea for a national trail began in the 1960s. It is referred to as “America’s Backbone.” The trail was first called the “Blue Can Trail” because it was marked with blue cans nailed onto trees. This was done so the U.S. Forest Service could see and approve the trail layout. Through the years it has evolved into what it is today. Of the 3,100 miles, only 1,900 miles of trail and primitive roads are actually marked. Work continues with cooperating federal and state agencies. The portion of the Continental Divide Trail (CDT) within the SMA is easy to follow, thanks to numerous dedicated volunteers who have completed trail construction and placement of trail markers.



Continental Divide Trail marked with rock cairns. “Bear’s Mouth” in background.

For more information about the CDT contact the Bureau of Land Management or U.S. Forest Service.

TRAVEL TIPS

- ◆ Services and conveniences are a considerable distance away - Cuba and San Ysidro are both 20 miles from the intersection of CR 279 and US 550.
- ◆ Always know where you are traveling and where you have been, as it is easy to get lost in the hundreds of miles of dirt roads.
- ◆ Water is a rare commodity in this dry land. In addition to what you would normally bring, add an extra gallon!
- ◆ The dirt roads are passable during dry conditions but can get slippery and rutted during wet seasons, which normally are spring, late summer and winter.
- ◆ BLM 1:100,000 land status map (Chaco Mesa) available at local

BLM offices provide more detail than the map in this brochure. U.S.G.S. 1:24,000 maps (Guadalupe, Cerro Parido, Mesa Cortada) provide even greater detail.

- ◆ Fire restrictions are sometimes placed on BLM lands; call the BLM Albuquerque office for information. Camp stoves are recommended.



*Ignacio Chavez Wilderness Study Area—
Los Indios Canyon*