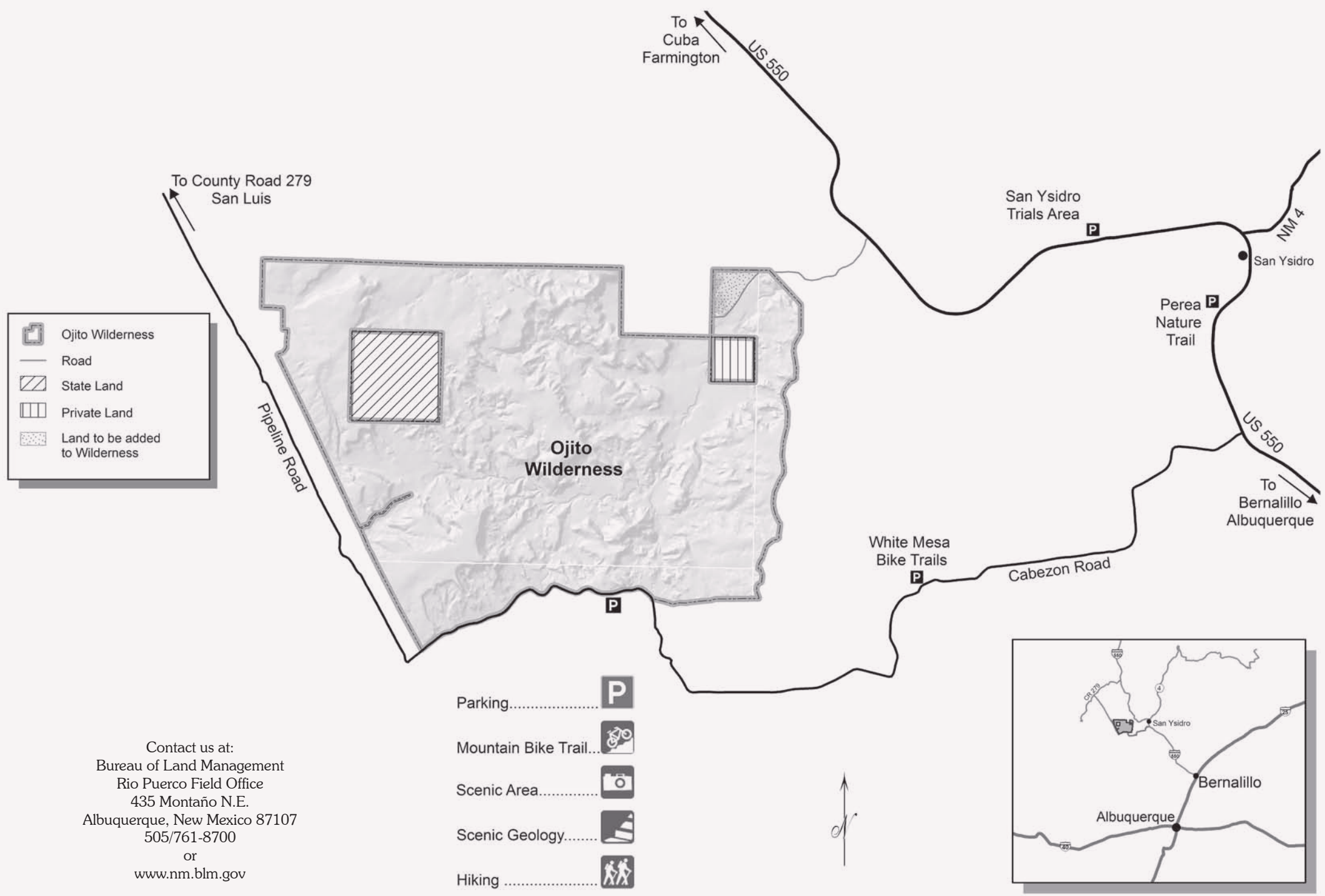


Ojito Wilderness



Contact us at:
 Bureau of Land Management
 Rio Puerco Field Office
 435 Montano N.E.
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107
 505/761-8700
 or
 www.nm.blm.gov

In case of emergency:
 BLM Rio Puerco Law Enforcement – 505/761-8700
 Immediate Emergency – 911
 BLM 24-hour Santa Fe Law Enforcement – 505/827-9377



prehistoric . rugged . beautiful



Ojito Wilderness

The United States Congress designated the Ojito Wilderness in October, 2005. The 11,183 acre Ojito Wilderness, administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), is located in south-central Sandoval County, New Mexico.

DESCRIPTIONS

Historically, several human cultures have tried to carve a living from Ojito's resources. Although there are several types of ruins within the area, including those of the prehistoric Puebloan, Navajo, and Hispanic cultures, few historic records exist concerning their lives here. The rugged terrain, rocky soils, and scarce water supply must have made their daily life very difficult. The ruins and artifacts left by these residents are the clues that archeologists use to tell the story of their existence here. They should be left undisturbed where you find them so future visitors can also enjoy them, and future archeologists can study them. Archeological remains are protected by the Archeological Resources Protection Act and other laws.

Fossil remains of rare dinosaurs, plants, and trees have been discovered in Ojito. They are found in the Jurassic-age Morrison Formation (about 150 million years old). The erosion process has exposed the bones of huge dinosaurs and large segments of petrified trees. Because these fossil remains of plants and animals provide important information about life during this period it is important that, like the archeological remains, they are left undisturbed until they can be collected and studied by professional paleontologists. Collection of these fossils is prohibited by law unless authorized by permit.

ACTIVITIES

Hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and wildlife observation to name a few, can all be enjoyed without a permit, as well as opportunities for solitude, adventure and spiritual renewal in remote secluded areas. Primitive camping is also allowed, but permits are required for some uses (e.g., outfitting/guiding, group activities). Steep canyons and high rugged cliffs, with elevations from 5,600 to 6,200 feet, provide rewarding challenges for the back-country hiker. Deep meandering arroyos also offer miles of terrain in which to wander. Rock layers in the canyon walls and cliffs enhance sightseeing and photography, especially when exposed to the sun's direct rays at dawn and dusk.

Hunting is permitted within the wilderness. Hunting and fishing regulations are written and enforced by the State. The Ojito Wilderness is located within New Mexico Big Game Management Unit 9.

FACILITIES

There are no facilities within or adjacent to the Ojito Wilderness.

San Ysidro, New Mexico offers the closest facilities and services – approximately 10 miles.

Water is a rare commodity in this dry land, in addition to what you would normally bring, add an extra gallon.

LOCATION/ACCESS

The Ojito is accessible from Albuquerque by traveling north on I-25 for approximately 16 miles and exiting on US 550. (From Santa Fe travel south approximately 40 miles.) Traveling northwest toward Cuba on US 550 from Bernalillo, the

distance is approximately 20 miles. Before San Ysidro (about 2 miles), turn left onto Cabezon Road (County Road 906). Follow the left fork.

The Ojito south and west boundaries are accessible by dirt road. 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.

Roads are passable during dry conditions but be aware they can get slippery and rutted during wet seasons, which normally are spring, late summer and winter.

Non-federal Lands: Some areas within and near the boundaries are private, state, and/or Pueblo of Zia lands. Remember to get permission before you enter or cross private lands. The State of New Mexico requires a recreation permit for access to state lands - more information may be found on their web site at www.nmstatelands.org.

MAPS

BLM: Albuquerque, Los Alamos

7.5 – minute US Geological Survey quadrangles: Ojito Spring, San Ysidro, Sky Village NE, Sky Village NW

RULES

Wilderness areas are closed to all motorized and mechanical forms of transportation, including mountain bikes.

Use of this area is regulated only to the extent needed for resource protection and your safety. Know and obey the rules. All visitors and users of public lands administered by

the BLM are subject to federal regulations. Violation of recreation orders and regulations are subject to punishment by fine and imprisonment according to the provisions of Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Federal Regulations: Title 43 CFR, Part 6300 and Part 8360.

Federal Register Notice: Vol. 61, No. 92/21479, Supplementary Rules for Designated Recreation Sites, Special Management Areas, and Other Public Lands in the Albuquerque Field Office, New Mexico.

Ojito Wilderness is a roadless and trailless area which visitors must accept on its own terms. Here visitors are responsible for their own safety and must be prepared to take care of themselves. Protecting land as wilderness is a promise to future generations and us that there will always be places to find beauty and spiritual renewal.

When you visit a wilderness you need to be aware of your impacts on the land and keep these impacts to a minimum. The Leave No Trace program was developed to provide guiding principles for backcountry users of all types to help them address these impacts. The Leave No Trace principles include:

- Plan Ahead and Prepare;
- Camp and Travel on Durable Surfaces;
- Pack It In, Pack It Out;
- Properly Dispose of What You Can't Pack Out;
- Leave What You Find;
- Minimize Use and Impacts of Campfires;
- Respect Wildlife; and
- Be Considerate to Other Visitors.

