



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

National Wildlife Refuges

Conserving Wildlife in New Mexico

National Wildlife Refuges in New Mexico

Supporting abundant wildlife and plants, the seven National Wildlife Refuges in New Mexico provide visitors the opportunity to explore the natural world and experience New Mexico's scenic beauty. Across the country, more and more people are discovering national wildlife refuges and enjoying wildlife viewing, hiking, fishing, boating, and hunting. Refuge visitors generate more than \$700 million in local economies throughout the nation.

The National Wildlife Refuge System consists of 548 refuges and encompasses more than 97 million acres of lands and waters managed specifically for wildlife. Units of the Refuge System stretch across the continent, from the icy north shore of Alaska to the balmy Florida Keys and beyond to tropical islands in the Caribbean and the South Pacific.



Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge

4065 Bitter Lakes Road
Roswell, NM 88201

575/622-6755

Fax 575/625-4004

Size:

24,593 acres

Established:

1937

Website: <http://www.fws.gov/southwest>

E-mail: fw2_rw_bitterlake@fws.gov

Located where the Chihuahuan Desert meets the southern plains, Bitter Lake NWR protects some of the rarest creatures in New Mexico. Established in 1937 to provide habitat for thousands of migrating sandhill cranes and waterfowl, the Refuge supports a wide variety of plants and wildlife. Straddling the Pecos River, the Refuge contains an assortment of water habitats surrounded by native grasslands, sand dunes, brushy bottomlands, and plateaus. The waters support unique wildlife, such as the Pecos pupfish, Roswell spring snail, green throat darter, Noel's amphipod, and over 100 species of dragonflies

and damselflies. Roadrunners, scaled quail, and horned lizards are commonly seen in the drier uplands of the Refuge.



Pecos sunflower

Photograph by William R. Raabe

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 1246

Socorro, NM 87801

575/835-1828

Fax 575/835-0314

Size:

57,191 acres

Established:

1939

Website: <http://www.fws.gov/southwest>

E-mail: fw2_rw_bosquedelapache@fws.gov

Bosque del Apache, which means "woods of the Apache," was named for the people who often camped in the riverside forest. Today it is known as one of the most spectacular Refuges in North America. Each autumn, tens of thousands of birds, including sandhill cranes, geese and ducks, make the Refuge their winter home. The air fills with the honking of geese and the guttural calls of cranes. Snow geese blanket the feeding grounds. In summer, the Refuge attracts hummingbirds, songbirds, and wading birds.



The Chupadera Mountains at Bosque del Apache NWR.

Photograph by Larry Ditto

Las Vegas

National Wildlife Refuge

Route 1, Box 399

Las Vegas, NM 87701

505/425-3581

Fax 505/454-8510

Size:

8,672 acres

Established:

1965

Website:

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest>

E-mail:

fw2_rw_lasvegas@fws.gov

With the Rocky Mountains to the west, the Great Plains to the east, and the Chihuahuan Desert to the south, Las Vegas NWR encompasses a diversity of wildlife habitats. Located along the Central Flyway, the Refuge provides an important resting and feeding area for migrating geese, ducks, and cranes. The Refuge supports more than 256 species of birds, along with a variety of other wildlife. A scenic auto drive is open year-round. Visitors can enjoy wildlife viewing and photography at Crane Lake observation platform, along the Gallinas Nature Trail and also the Prairie Trail near the refuge headquarters.



The Great Plains meet the Rocky Mountains at Las Vegas NWR.

Photograph by John and Karen Hollingsworth

Maxwell

National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 276

Maxwell, NM 87728

575/375-2331

Fax 575/375-2332

Size:

3700 acres

Established:

1965

Website:

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest>

E-mail:

fw2_rw_maxwell@fws.gov

Located in the great plains of northeastern New Mexico, Maxwell NWR is a mix of habitats including shortgrass prairie, playa lakes, woodlots, wetlands, and agricultural lands. Established in 1965 as a feeding and



View from Lake 13 at Maxwell NWR.

Photograph by Patty Hoban

resting area for migratory birds, the Refuge hosts several thousand ducks, geese, swans and sandhill cranes from September to March. Shortgrass prairie attracts numerous grassland birds, including some that are unique to the area. Visitors may also see bald and golden eagles, falcons, hawks, burrowing and great horned owls, mule deer, white-tailed deer, and black-tailed prairie dogs. The Refuge is open year-round. Fishing is permitted in Lakes 13 and 14 from March 1 through October 31.

San Andres National Wildlife Refuge

5686 Santa Gertrudis Drive
Las Cruces, NM 88012

575/382-5047

Fax 575/382-5454

Size:

57,215 acres

Established:

1941

Website: <http://www.fws.gov/southwest>

E-mail: fw2_rw_sanandres@fws.gov

San Andres NWR is located in the southern San Andres Mountains of southcentral New Mexico. The mountain range, which lies in the northernmost extension of the Chihuahuan Desert, rises to 8,229 feet at San Andres peak. Habitats vary from creosote and Chihuahuan desert grasslands in the bajadas to pinyon-juniper woodlands on the mountaintops. Numerous springs, seeps and seasonal streams provide riparian areas throughout the Refuge. Established in 1941, the Refuge provides habitat for desert bighorn sheep, a State-listed endangered species. The Refuge also supports desert mule deer, javelina, mountain lions, and more than 150 species of birds. The entire Refuge lies within the 2.2 million-acre White Sands Missile Range, a testing facility of the U.S. Army.



Sunrise on the San Andres Mountains.

Photograph by Mara Weisenberger

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 1248
Socorro, NM 87801

505/864-4021

Fax 505/864-7761

Size:

228,770 acres

Established:

1973

Website: <http://www.fws.gov/southwest>

E-mail: fw2_rw_sevilleta@fws.gov

A vast landscape in the heart of New Mexico, Sevilleta NWR supports four ecological biomes, encompasses two mountain ranges, and embraces stretches of the largest river in the State. The Refuge is unforgettable in its magnitude and austere beauty, but is most significant in its function. Managed to maintain the natural processes of flood, fire, and succession that sustain this diverse ecosystem, the Refuge is vital to migrating birds and other wildlife.



View of the mountains at Sevilleta NWR.

Photograph by © Teri Kman

Other U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service programs in New Mexico work cooperatively with private landowners, protect endangered species, manage fisheries resources, regulate wildlife trade, and work in partnership with international, state, and tribal counterparts to conserve wildlife resources.

Fisheries

National Fish Hatcheries, a state-of-the-art Fish Health Center, and the New Mexico Fishery Resources Office complement fisheries management performed by the New Mexico Game & Fish Department, Indian tribes, and other agencies for the benefit and enjoyment of the public.

Contact:

NM Fishery Resources Office

505/342-9900

Dexter National Fish Hatchery

575/734-5910

Mora National Fish Hatchery

575/387-6022

Ecological Services Field Office

Contact:

505/346-2525

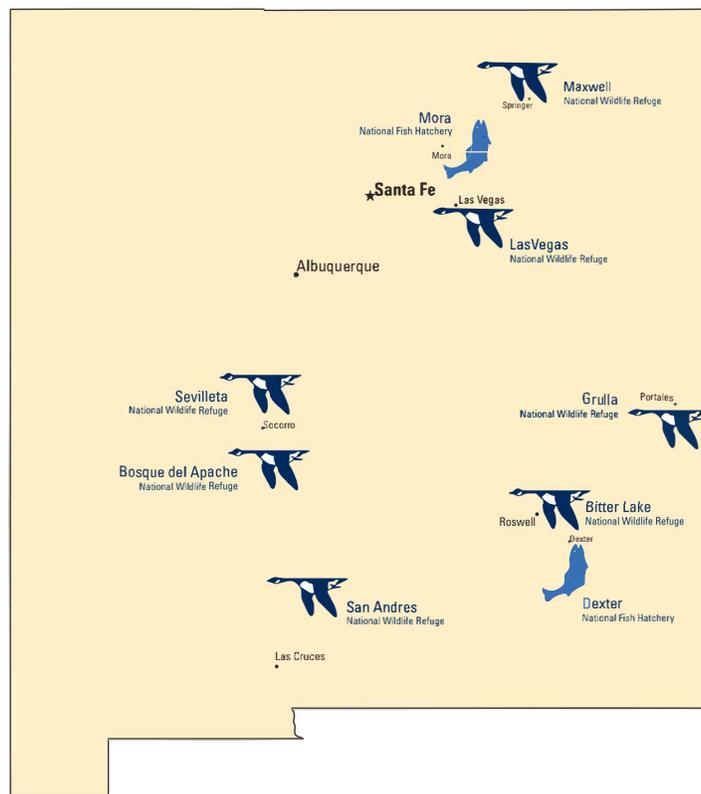
Ecological Services staff work with others to conserve fish, wildlife, and their habitats - including threatened and endangered animals and plants. They investigate the effects of contaminants on fish and wildlife, and help landowners improve fish and wildlife habitat.

Law Enforcement

Contact:

505/248-7889

The Office of Law Enforcement consists of Special Agents and Wildlife Inspectors stationed throughout New Mexico who investigate violations of Federal wildlife laws.



For Further Information:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Refuge System
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, NM 87103
505/248-6804
505/248-6874 Fax
<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/>

August 2007

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

New Mexico

National Wildlife Refuges



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Region
National Wildlife Refuge System
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, NM 87103
505/248-6804
505/248-6874 FAX

<http://southwest.fws.gov>

New Mexico State Relay System
1 800/659-8331

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>

For Refuge Information
1 800/344 WILD

Roadrunner
Photograph by Aaron Drew

August 2007



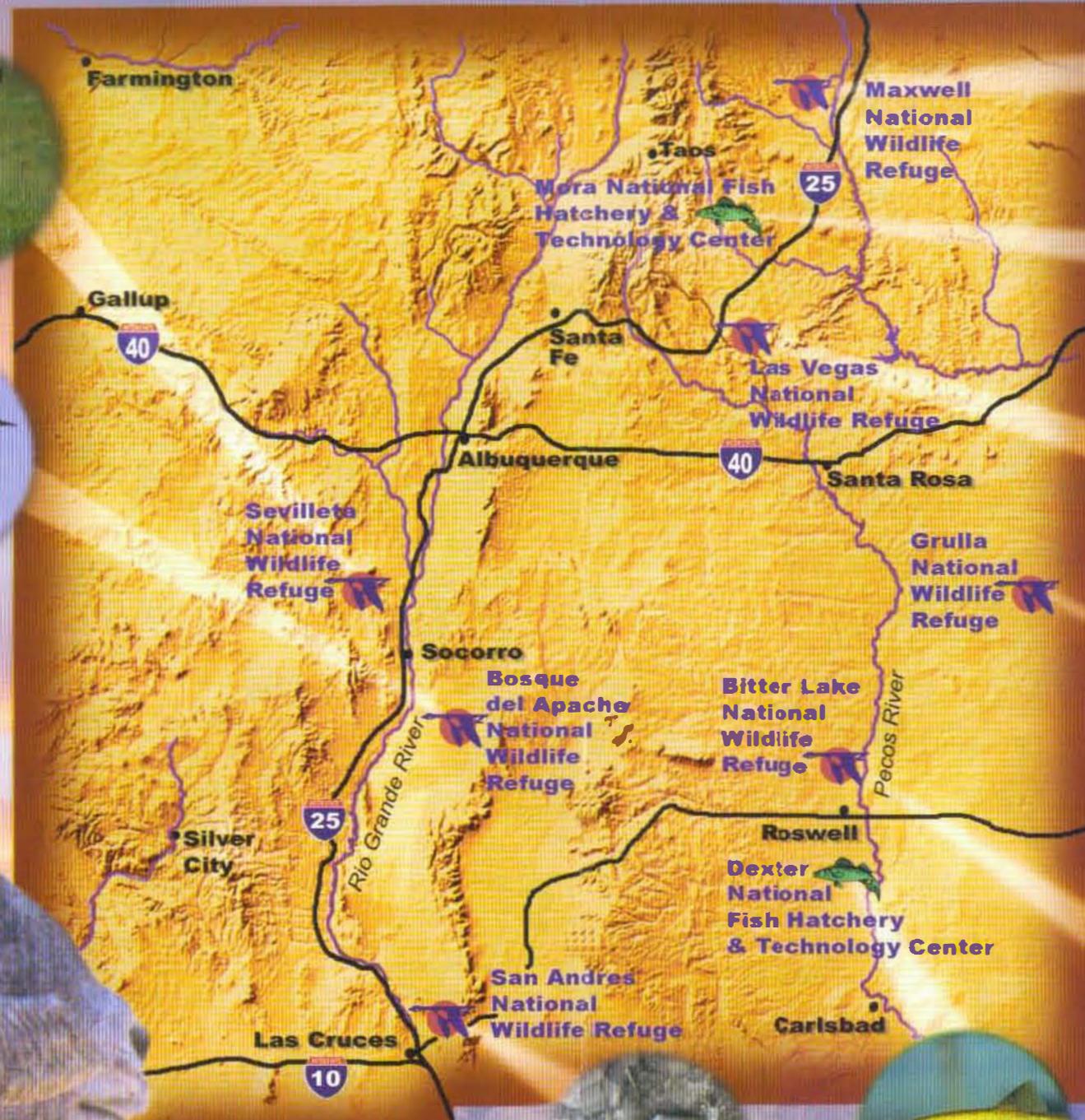
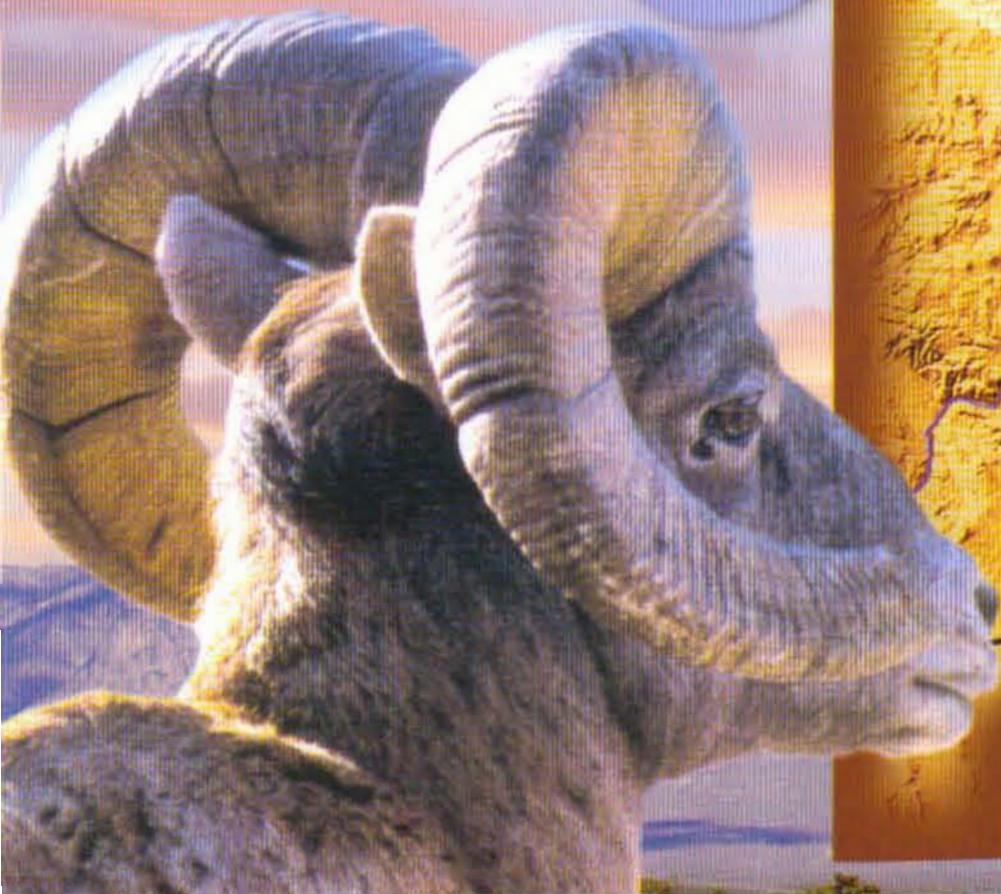
SEVILLETA

This refuge provides habitat for many native animals such as elk, coyote, mountain lions, bighorn sheep and an array of birds and reptiles.



BOSQUE DEL APACHE

This refuge serves as a major feeding and resting area for thousands of migratory sandhill cranes and other waterfowl. This site is known for spectacular fall color displays.



SAN ANDRES

This mountainous refuge supports state-endangered bighorn sheep as well as mule-deer, golden eagles and gray vireos.



MAXWELL

Gently rolling prairie, lakes and fields comprise this refuge. The lakes provide roosting and feeding habitat for waterfowl.



MORA

Addressing intensive fish culture needs of several imperiled species, Mora National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center cultures fish for reintroduction utilizing complex water re-use systems.

LAS VEGAS

Situated where the tallgrass prairies transition to the Rocky Mountains, this refuge provides a variety of habitats for a diverse range of birds, mammals and other wildlife. It also features a wide assortment of plant life.



GRULLA

Waterfowl, lesser sandhill cranes and other migratory birds overwinter at this remote wetland refuge.



BITTER LAKE

Established to protect migratory sandhill cranes and other waterfowl, this unique refuge is comprised of grasslands, sink-hole lakes, red-brimmed plateaus, brushy bottomlands and is home to some of New Mexico's rarest fish and invertebrate species.



DEXTER

The Dexter National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center is dedicated to the research and culture of many endangered and threatened fishes that will be used for reintroduction into historical habitats throughout the Southwest.