

PUBLIC LANDS
INTERPRETIVE
ASSOCIATION

Friends of Sandia Mountains July 1, 2025

PRESENTED BY:
Aryn LaBrake, Executive Director





PUBLIC LANDS
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ASSOCIATION

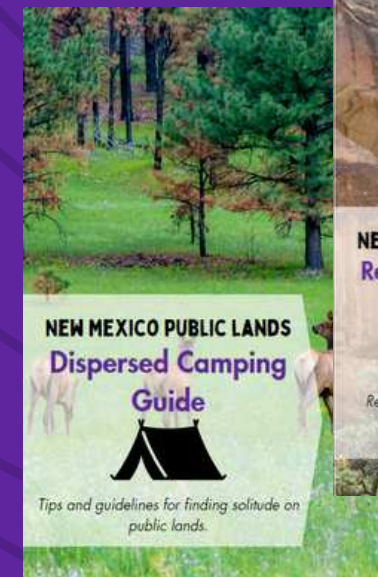
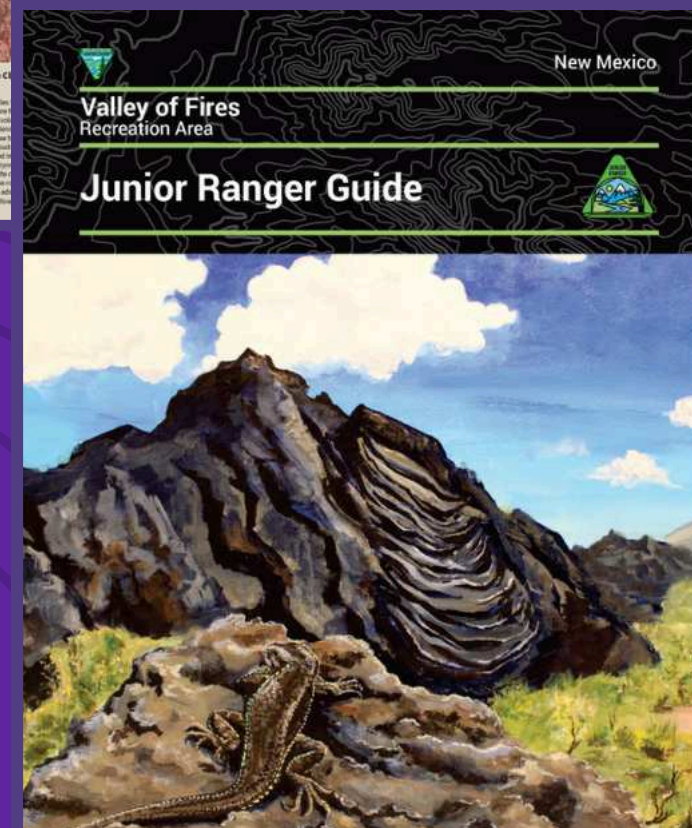
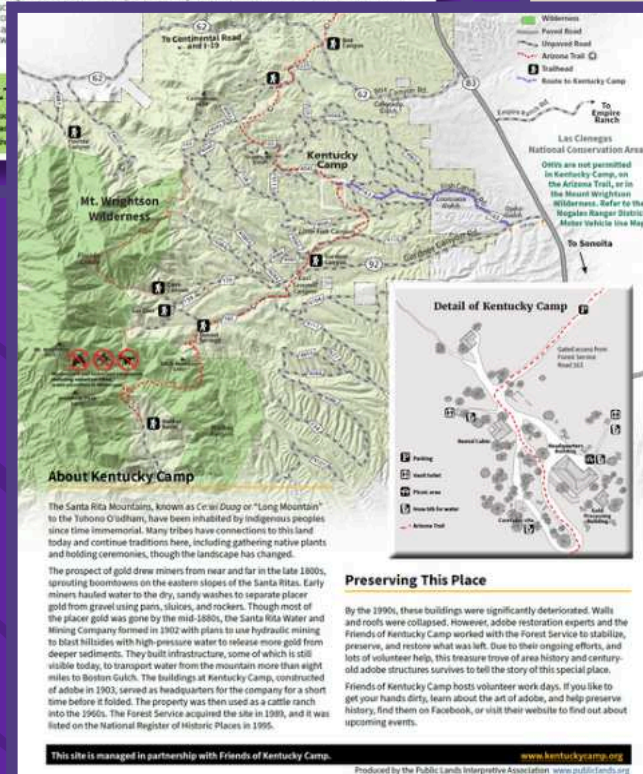
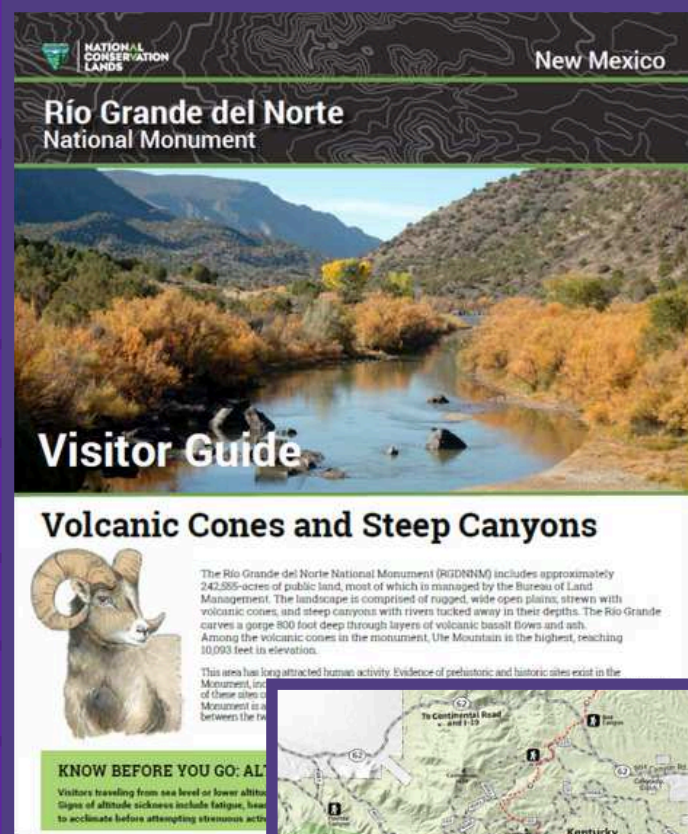
SINCE 1981, THE PUBLIC LANDS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION (PLIA) HAS BEEN A STEADFAST PRESENCE IN THE SOUTHWEST, WITH A MISSION OF EDUCATING AND INSPIRING USERS OF PUBLIC LANDS.

PLIA PROVIDES INFORMATION AND RESOURCES TO VISITORS

- STAFF VISITOR CENTERS AND CAMPGROUNDS
- SELL INTERPRETIVE RESOURCES AND SAFETY SUPPLIES AT ONSITE BOOKSTORES
- ANSWERING QUESTIONS ON BEHALF OF AGENCIES, ESPECIALLY AS AGENCIES CAPACITY TO SERVE VISITORS DECREASES.



GRANTS, DONATIONS, & PROCEEDS FROM RETAIL SALES ALLOW PLIA TO DEVELOP CUSTOM INTERPRETIVE RESOURCES FOR PARTNERS INCLUDING: MAPS, PUBLICATIONS, KIOSKS AND DISPLAYS, MEDIA, AND INTERPRETIVE PLANS FOR PUBLIC LANDS SITES AS WELL AS....



Fort Craig Virtual Reconstruction Project

Mobile Visitor Center

... HIGH QUALITY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES



El Malpais Sculpture & Community Art Program



Rio Grande del Norte National Monument
Adventure Safety Video Series



Caver Quest Academy Project



Whiptail Trails Club



ARYN LABRAKE

Executive Director

Public Lands Interpretive Association

BACKGROUND & EXPERTISE

- **PRESCOTT COLLEGE: BA in Conservation Biology, MA Coursework in Organizational Development**
 - Focus: Conservation Biology, community-driven conservation, public lands, environmental justice
- **Equity-Centered & Servant Leadership**
 - Champion access for all
- **Community Engagement**
 - Build lifelong stewards of our forests and public lands
- **Capacity Building**
 - Growing capacity through fundraising & partnerships

QUALIFICATIONS



PUBLIC LANDS
INTERPRETIVE
ASSOCIATION

PLIA Leadership

- Board of Directors (May '23 - Jan '25)
- Interim ED (Jan - Jun '25) → permanent ED
- Stabilized operations, integrated stronger fundraising focus, deepened partnerships (including Sandia Ranger District)

Past Leadership Experience

- ED, Friends of Valle de Oro NWR (2016–2021)
 - Launched new educational programs & community engagement initiatives



FRIENDS OF
VALLE DE ORO
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

National & Local Reach

- Consultant for local and national Public Lands and Environmental Nonprofits and Agencies
- Contractor for Public Lands Alliance since 2021
 - Design signature programs for NWRS
 - Establish partnerships & inclusive fundraising & outreach strategies through the America's Wildlife Refuges initiative



NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE SYSTEM



PUBLIC
LANDS
ALLIANCE



AMERICA'S
WILDLIFE
REFUGES

PUBLICATIONS

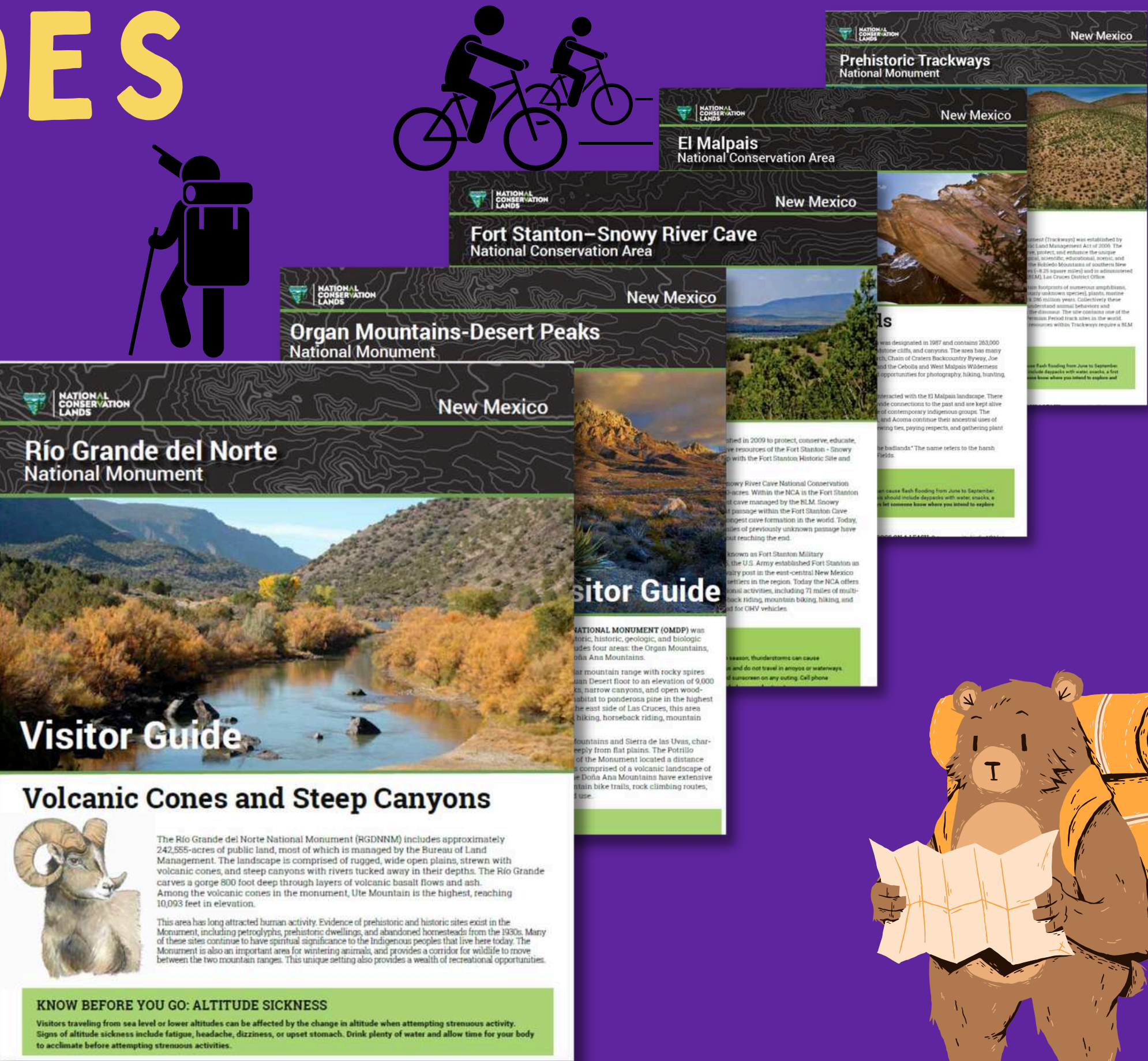


& RETAIL



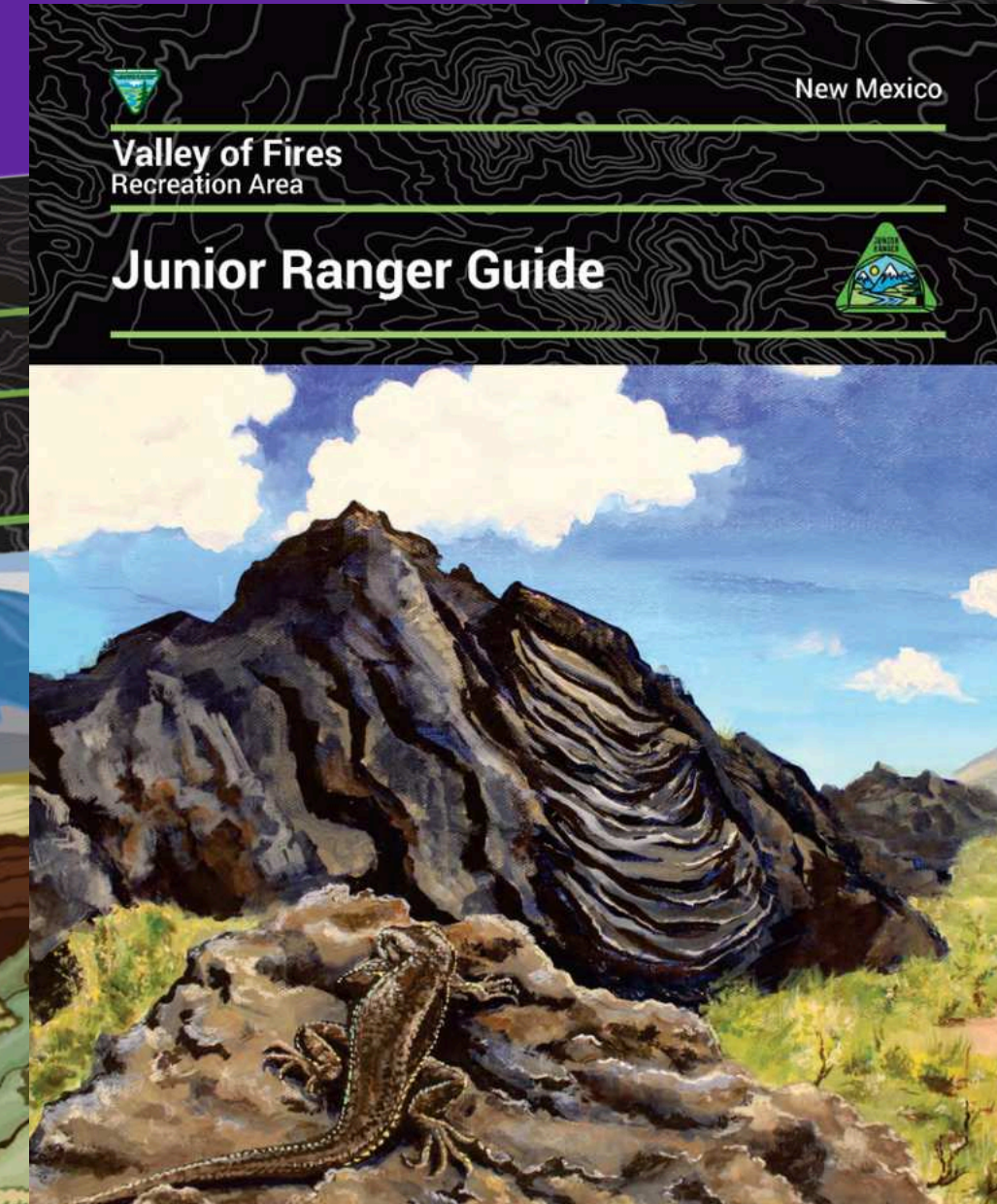
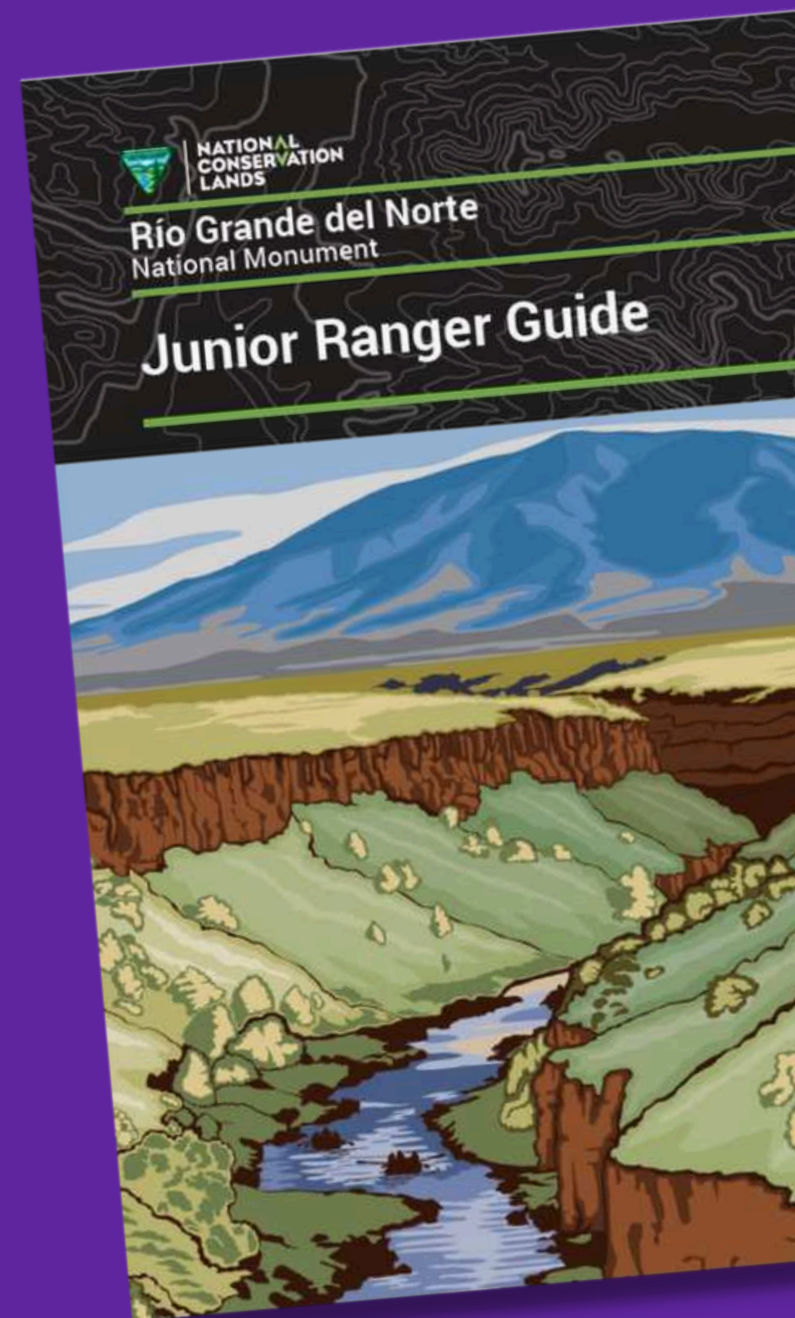
VISITOR GUIDES

PLIA has partnered with the BLM to develop and produce visitor guides for several Monuments and National Conservation Areas in New Mexico. These guides will help inform visitors of recreational opportunities, as well as unique flora and fauna and geological features of the area.

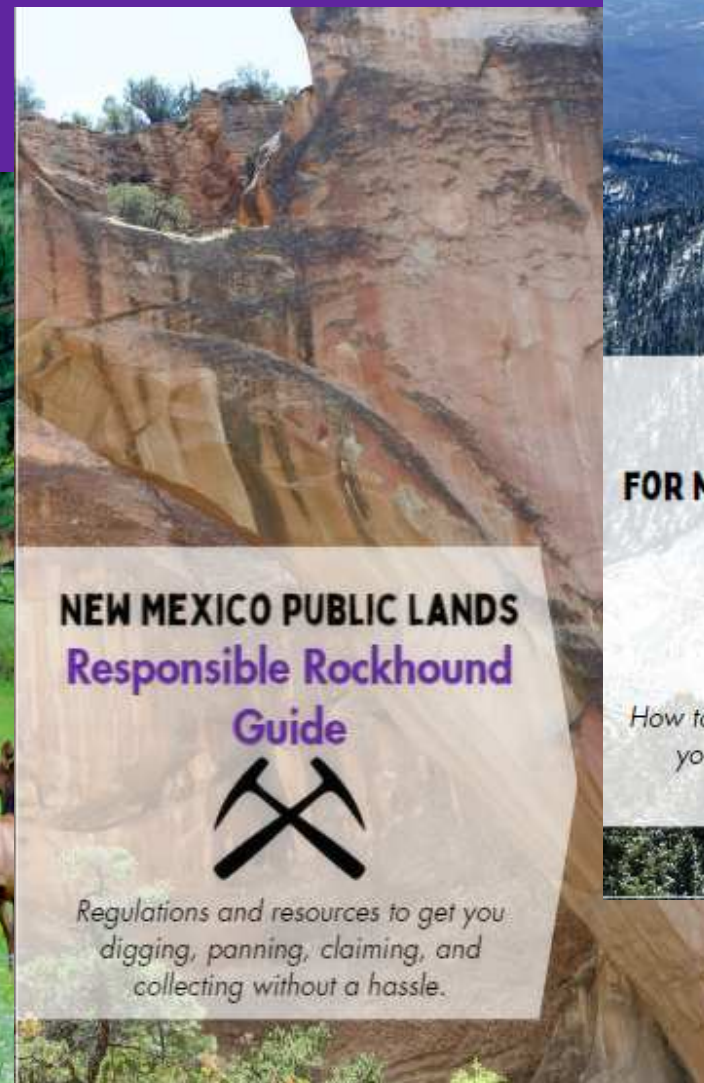
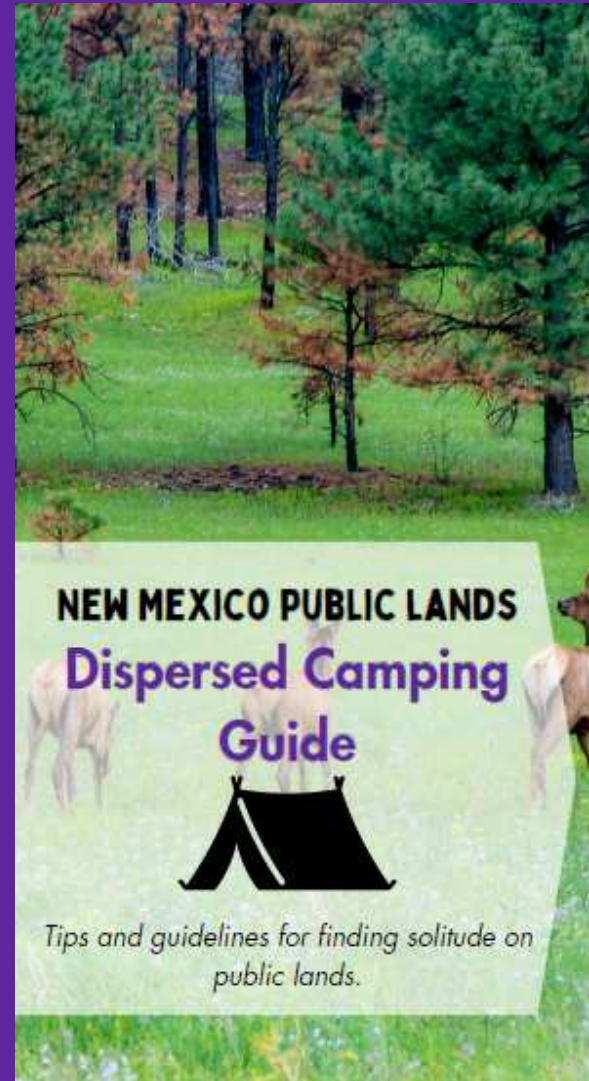


JUNIOR RANGER GUIDES

The Junior Ranger booklets are focused on helping kids of all ages explore the outdoors in a safe, fun, and responsible way.



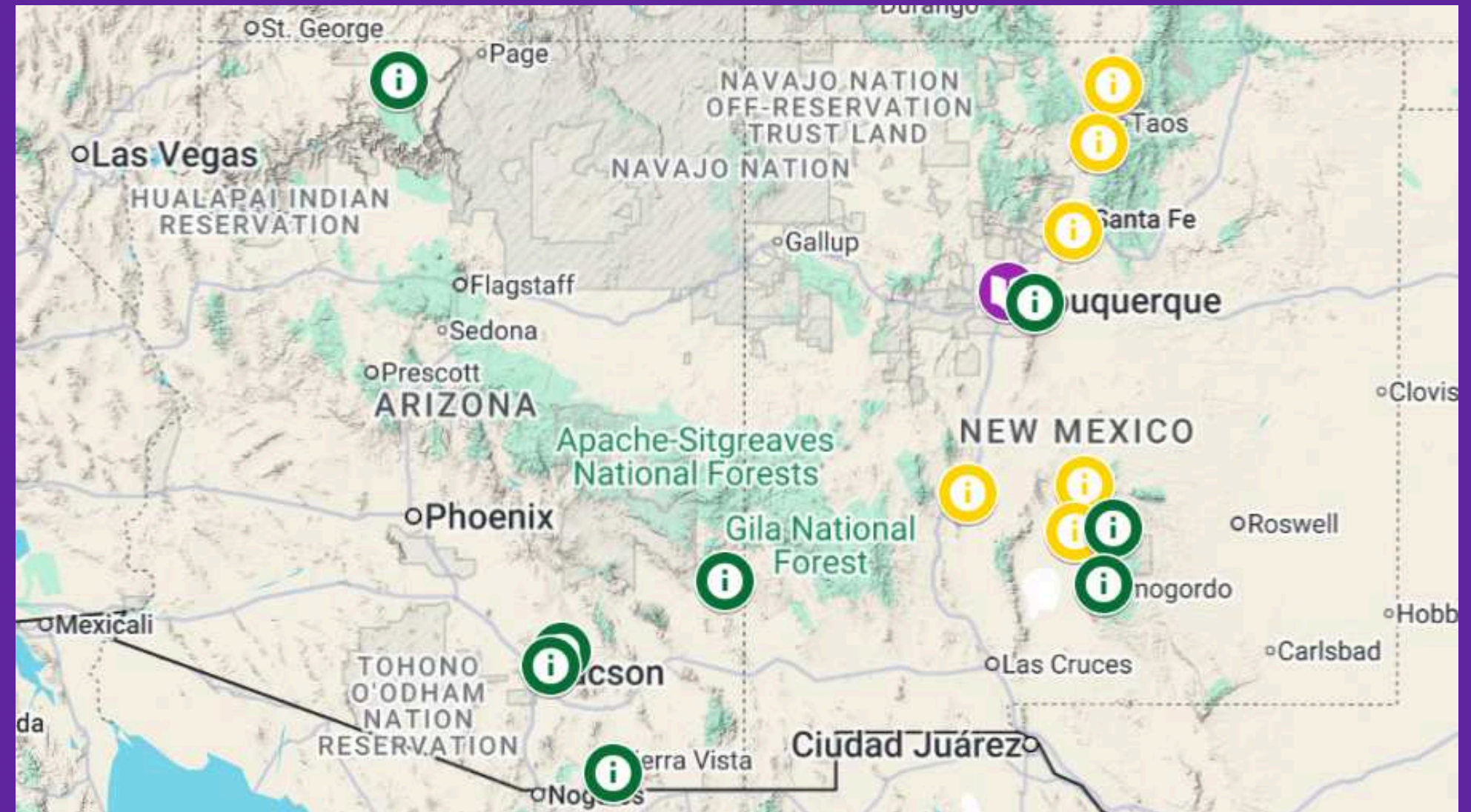
NM PUBLIC LANDS DIRECTORIES/RESOURCES



RETAIL OPERATIONS

- Operate sales outlets and visitor centers across Arizona and New Mexico public lands
- Deliver high-quality customer service, interpretive programs, and visitor safety information
- Create exceptional experiences that connect people with public lands
- Inspire every visitor to care for and become a steward of these special places

**18 STORES AND COUNTING!
INCLUDING AT SANDIA DISTRICT RANGER STATION**



NM PUBLIC LANDS INFORMATION CENTER

- Since 1997, the New Mexico Public Lands Information Center has served as a one-stop source for recreational and facility information on New Mexico public lands
- Explain rules, regulations, access procedures, and available recreation opportunities
- Provide brochures, guidebooks, and maps for sale to help you explore
- Partner with federal, state, and local agencies to deliver verified, up-to-date information
- Support you in planning your next public lands adventure
- Contact & Hours:
 - 301 Dinosaur Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87508
 - (505) 954-2002
 - Monday–Friday, 8:00 am–4:15 pm MT



Our Mobile Visitor Center program allows our staff to travel to events across the state to share public lands resources, like free public lands passes, or our series of public land guides for different kinds of recreation.

MOBILE VISITOR CENTER



THE MVC PROVIDES:

- Free maps and guides to public lands.
- Free public land passes to qualifying individuals.
- In-person guidance for finding official public lands information.
- Hands-on help with learning map skills and using digital maps.
- Presentations covering the public lands system and nearby public lands.





IN 2024, THE MVC TRAVELED TO:

- Rio Rancho Public Library
- Smokey Bear Historic Park - Capitan
- Farmington 4x4 Week
- Bitter Lake NWR Dragonfly Festival - Roswell
- SocorroFest
- Los Luceros Historic Site Fall Festival
- Las Vegas NWR Concert for the Birds
- National Public Lands Day at Bandelier
- Ruidoso Aspenfest
- Valles Caldera Fall Festival

PLIA
DISTRIBUTED
OVER
800
PUBLIC LAND
SIDES IN 2024.



EDUCATIONAL



El Malpais Sculpture & Community Art Program



Fort Craig Virtual Reconstruction Project



Whiptail Trails Club



Adventure Safety Video Series

PROGRAMS



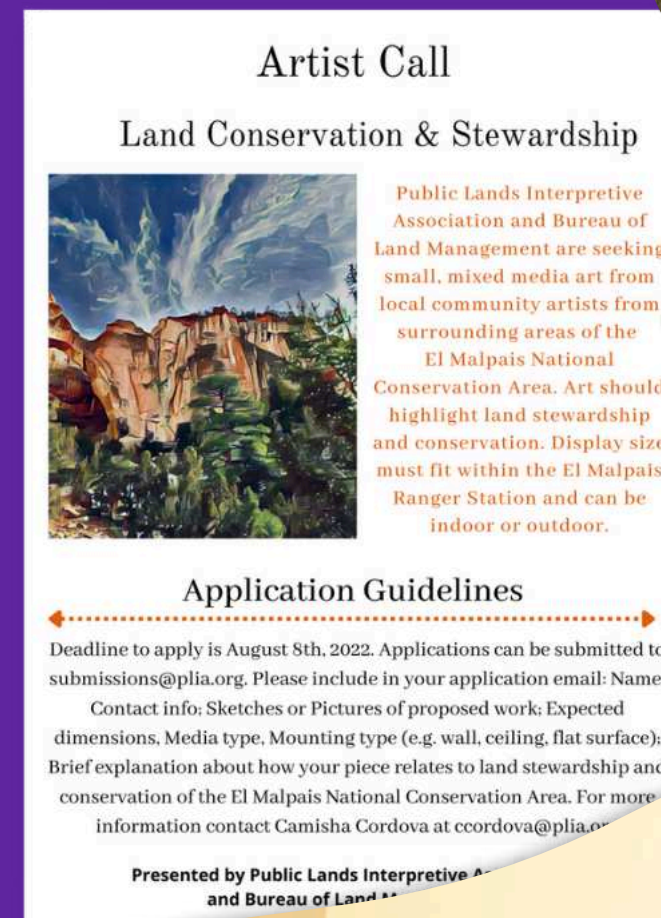
Caver Quest Academy Project

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Create curated art exhibition and a large-scale sculpture honoring land stewardship, conservation, history, and culture, and featuring local Pueblo artists.

An art committee and individual interviews were used to select artist finalists based on design, theme, and experience. Selected artwork was utilized for mixed media shows at the El Malpais Ranger Station, over three years, through rotating exhibits in order to enrich visitors' understanding of New Mexico's landscape and culture through art.



IMPACT

- Facilitated an exchange of ideas, art, history, to grow community engagement.
- Fostered a new appreciation and enhanced stewardship of this significant public land.
- Over 20 works of art have been permanently installed at the site.
- We are hoping to replicate this program at other BLM sites.

EVENTS

- Summer 2023 Art Show
- Fall/Winter 2023 Art Show
- Final Art Show Fall 2024



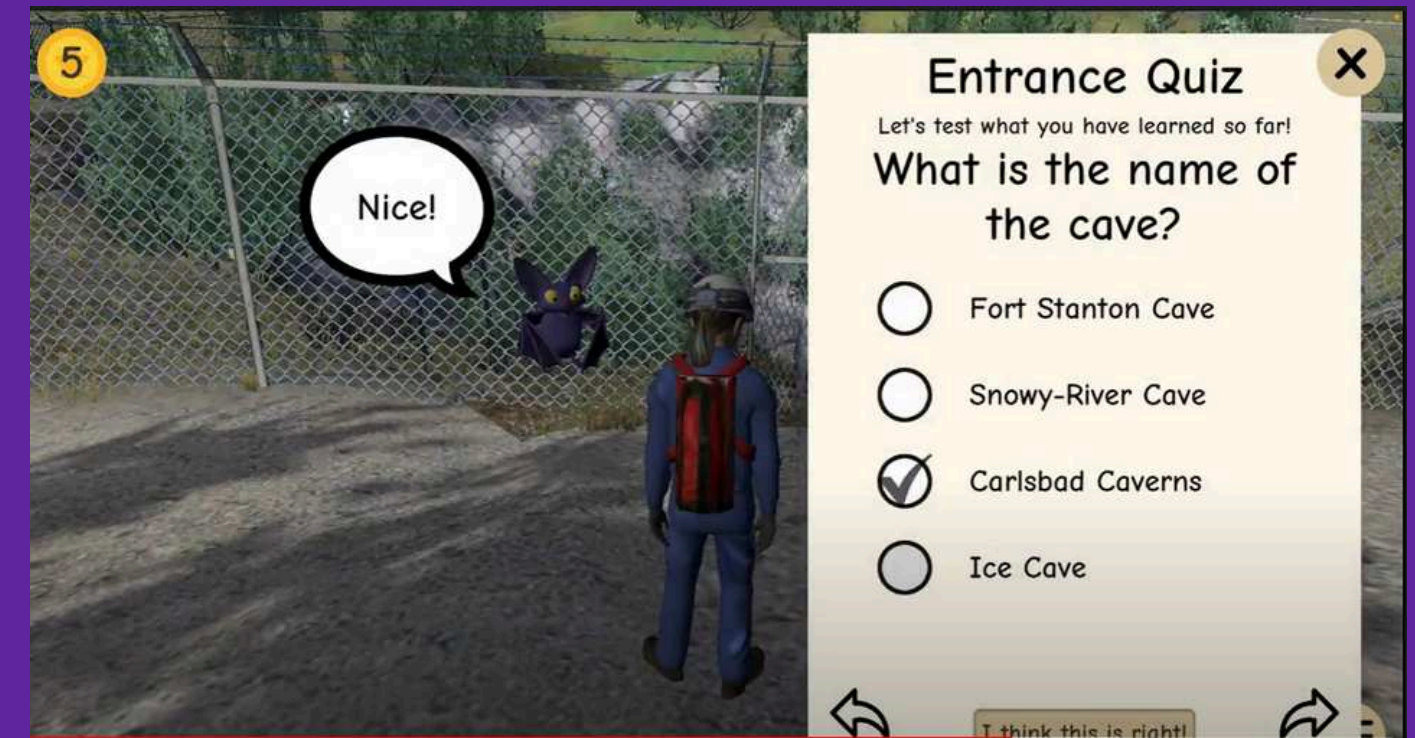
CAVER QUEST ACADEMY

The Caver Quest Academy program seeks to educate 7th grade students in Lincoln County, New Mexico. Students participate in classroom activities that involve an interactive cave simulation video game. Select students who complete the program are invited to a specialized field trip of the cave system led by Bureau of Land Management staff and volunteers.



GAME DEVELOPMENT

The original Caver Quest video game was created by Ron Lipinski and the Fort Stanton Cave Study Project. The original vision of the game was to promote exploration, public education, scientific research, and environmentally sound management of the cave system. Based on these same principles, the game was modified and adapted for a younger audience and the new edition is called Caver Quest Academy!



<https://apps.microsoft.com/detail/9pgnvhv5xpcm?hl=en-US&gl=US>

OUTREACH TO MIDDLE SCHOOLS



In 2022 Caver Quest Academy was introduced to over **150** students in the Lincoln County School District and **70** students were given the opportunity to explore the cave on a specialized tour with a BLM professional.



The program wrapped up in 2024 reaching over **500** students in the area and **210** students got to experience the cave first hand!

FIELDTRIP TO FORT STANTON CAVE



MORE FIELDTRIP PHOTOS!



FORT CRAIG VIRTUAL RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

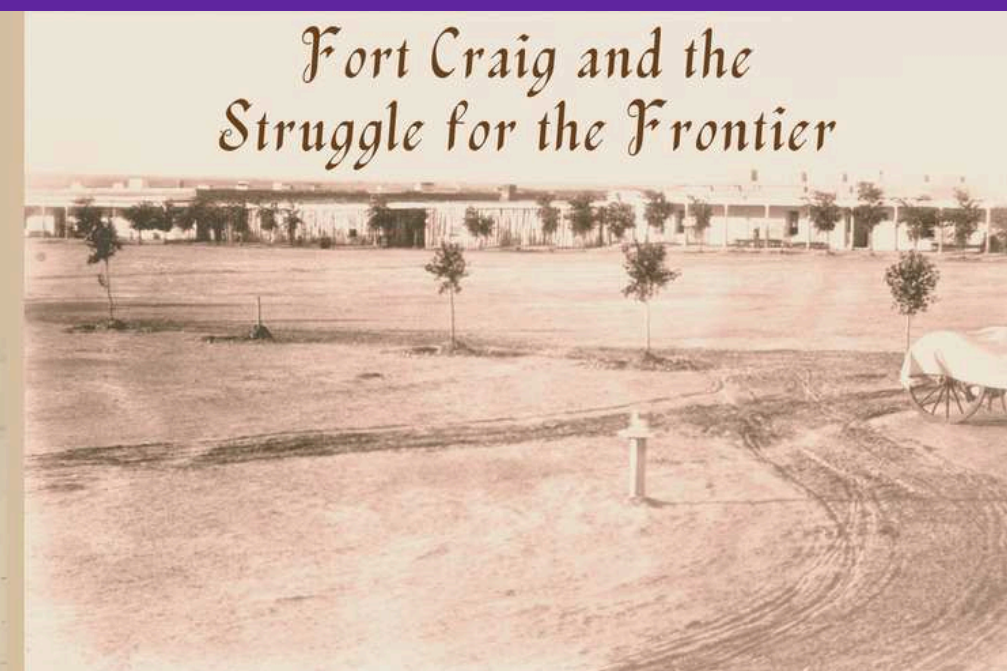
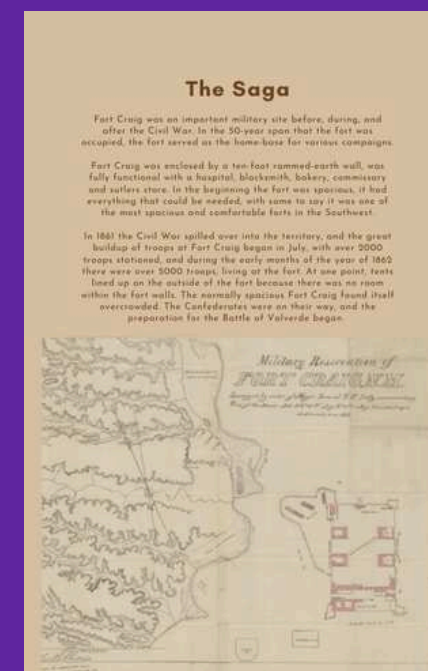
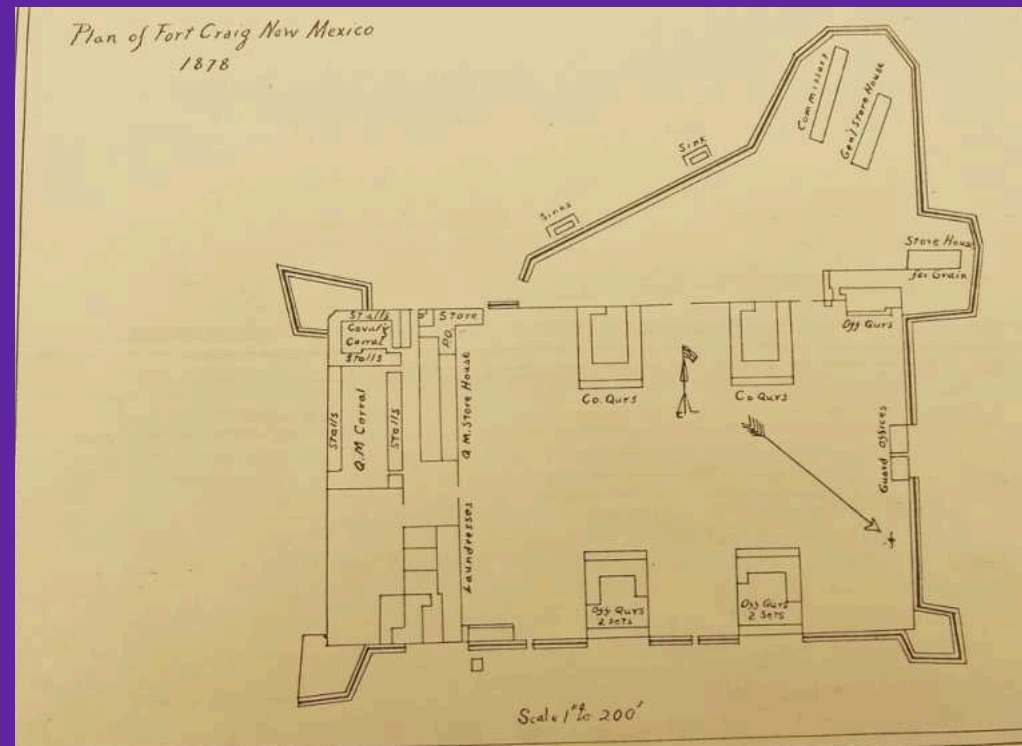
Fort Craig's importance to New Mexico's entanglement in the Civil War is an important story to tell. With the help of historians, archaeologists, archives, libraries, and modern technology, PLIA has worked to create a virtual rebuild of the Fort. Three mini documentary films accompany a new mural and interpretive display. This project has breathed new life and appreciation into this barren landscape that is filled with immense importance to New Mexico.



VIRTUAL RECONSTRUCTION

Goals of the Virtual Reconstruction Project:

- Rebuild the Fort virtually to what it looked like during the Civil War era.
- Give a humanistic perspective on how life was at the Fort.
- Incorporated all perspectives and voices during this turbulent time in history.



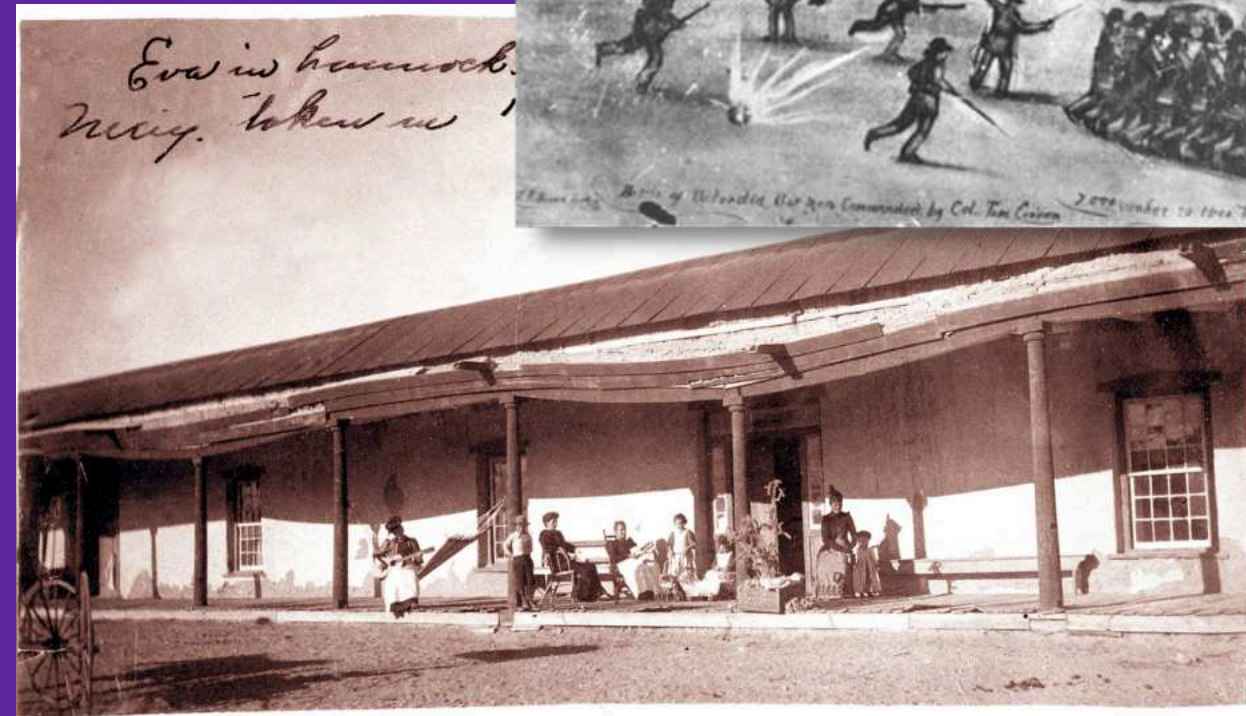
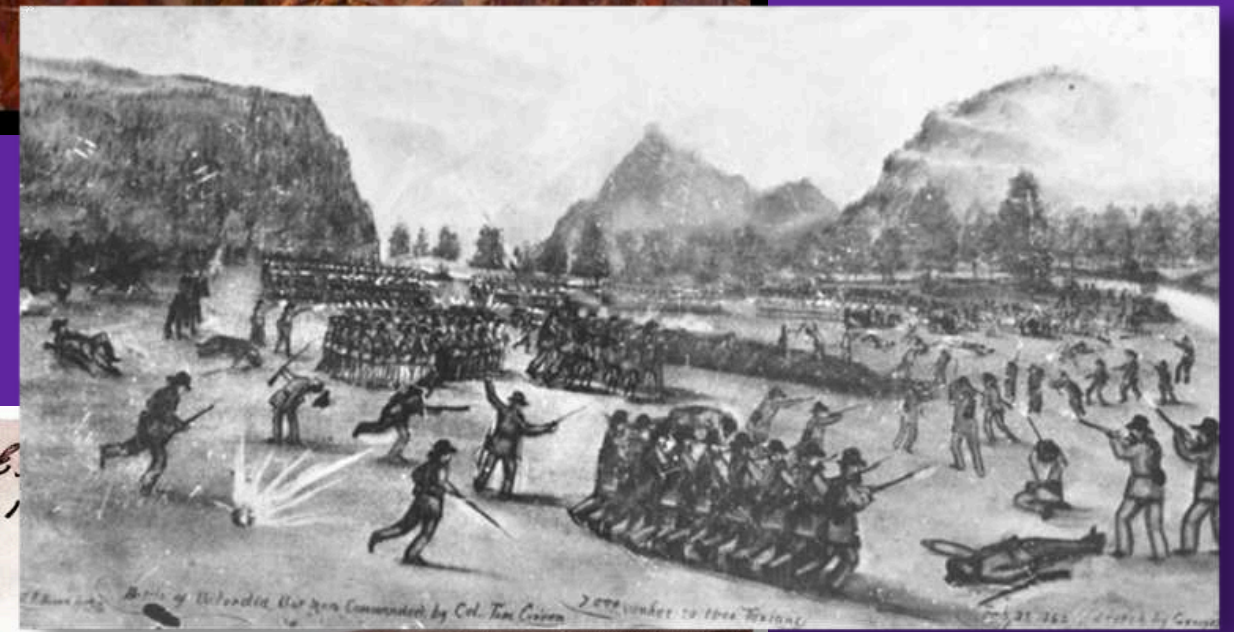
This project is a one-of-kind experience that enhances the visitor's understanding of the fort. With the help of historians, archeologists and modern technology, PLIA and the BLM have worked to uncover the lost stories of this important site.

Verde Battlefield

VIDEOS:

The mini documentary series focused on the stories of:

- Frontier Wars before the Civil War
- The Battle of Valverde in 1862
- Frontier Wars throughout the Forts abandonment in 1889



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completion of virtual Fort based on military site plans from 1878.
- Retelling the history of Fort Craig to include multiple perspectives and create impartial educational videos, and relevant preservation of the history of New Mexico's great frontier.
- Ribbon cutting December 2023 to celebrate the new kiosk and mural installation.
- Completion of Genealogy Project video in Fall 2024.
- Presented educational session “Fort Craig; Seeing the Invisible: How to Visualize what Time has Stolen” at Public Lands Alliance Convention, February 2025.





ADVENTURE SAFETY VIDEO SERIES



This project focused on developing and filming informative safety videos relating to recreating safely in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. This project was in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management Taos Field Office and the University of New Mexico Taos Digital Film and Media Program in northern, New Mexico. The project features five videos in the series. These videos will help to educate visitors on important safety information before they head out on an adventure.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Collaboration with BLM staff to determine important safety information while recreating in the monument. The topics of Water, Land, & Wildlife along with aspects of Cultural, Historical, and Environmental preservation will also be featured in this series.

PLIA and the BLM are also working with the Taos Pueblo tribe in an effort to have tribal perspectives and traditional knowledge represented in this series.



NEXT STEPS

Five of the six videos were completed in 2024 with a public viewing event held in Taos, NM. The videos are available on our website

<https://publiclands.org/pages/rio-grande-del-norte-adventure-safety-project>

Secure funding to complete the last video in the series.



WHIPTAIL TRAILS CLUB



A program of PLIA, supported by partnerships with the Bureau of Land Management, Conservation Corps NM, and Foundation for America's Public Lands

Aims to empower 7th grade students to learn about public lands in New Mexico.

Serves students from rural communities in Southern NM and in Urban Albuquerque



PUBLIC LANDS
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OUTREACH TO MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Students explore STEAM and land stewardship through classroom activities and field trips, gaining insight into public lands management, history, culture, and equity.

GIRLS OUTDOOR CAMP

A weeklong camp for 7th grade girls:

- Builds outdoor confidence through field trips and overnight camping.
- Provides hands-on training in survival skills, wayfinding, backpacking, camping, and First Aid.
- Fosters self-reliance and preparedness.
- Provides a stepping stone for young girls to engage in opportunities and careers in public lands and the outdoors.



IMPACT

Since 2022, PLIA has reached over **800 students** with in-class programs and field trips.

Provided over **30 middle school girls** with valuable outdoors experiences and connections.

Facilitated **access to over a dozen different public land sites** in both northern and southern New Mexico



CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

VISITOR INFORMATION PROGRAM



PURPOSE

Assist the Coronado National Forest with a variety of interpretive products and publications to:

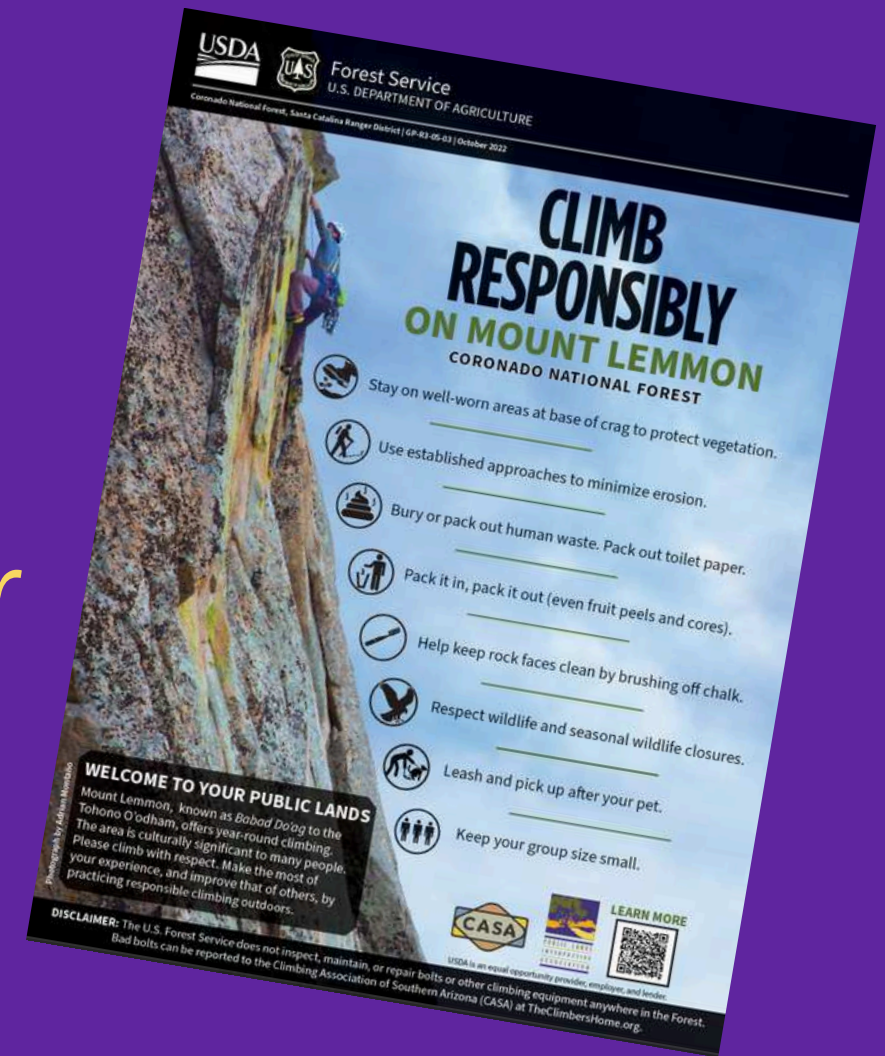
- Enhance the visitor experience
- Promote certain underused areas of the Forest
- Educate visitors about the recreation opportunities at these sites and how to recreate responsibly

PROJECTS

Visitor Guides



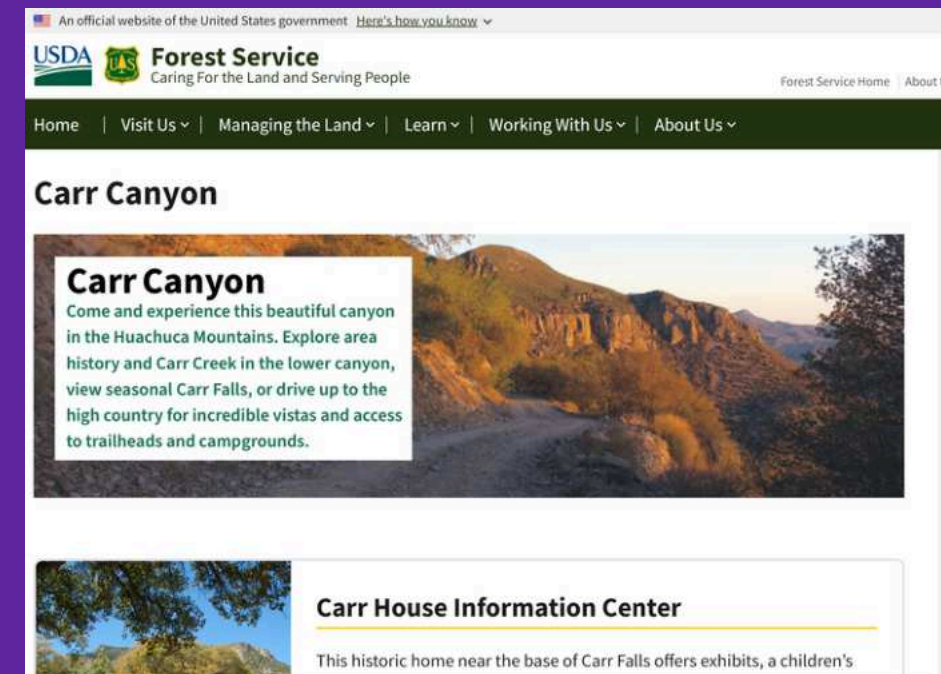
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Interpretive Exhibits



Videos



Website Updates

~~~ VISITOR GUIDES ~~~

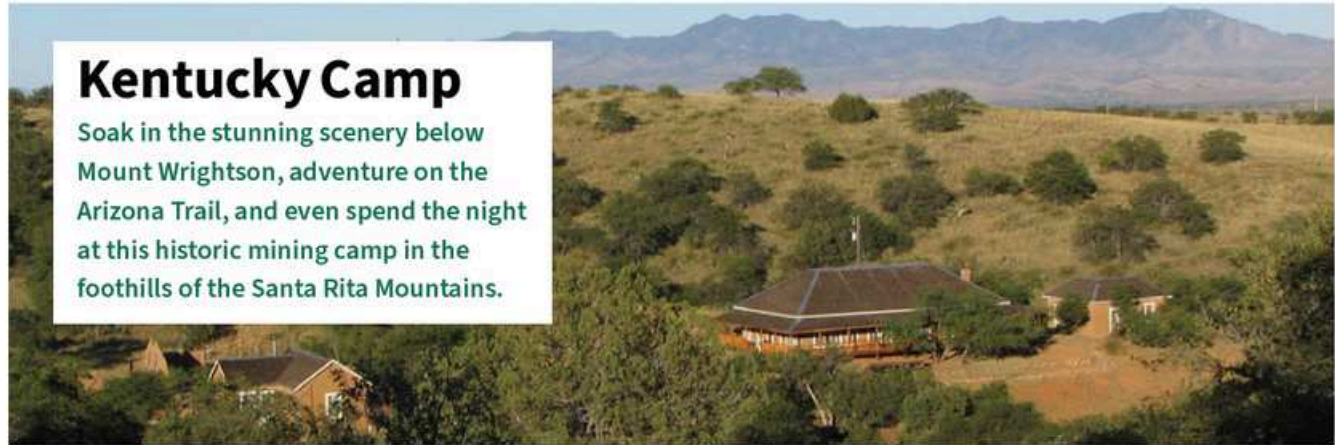
Each guide in this new series:

- ~ Conveys the essential information visitors need to have a successful trip to the site
- ~ Describes the recreation opportunities that are available at the site
- ~ Highlights the natural and cultural history of the area
 - ~ Includes color photographs, illustrations, and custom maps
 - ~ Is available for download from the CNF website



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Coronado National Forest, Nogales Ranger District | RG-R3-05-25 | July 2022



Kentucky Camp

Soak in the stunning scenery below Mount Wrightson, adventure on the Arizona Trail, and even spend the night at this historic mining camp in the foothills of the Santa Rita Mountains.

Know before you go

- SEASONS:** Year-round. Be aware of extreme heat, venomous wildlife, and monsoon storms during the summer.
- CAMPING:** Dispersed camping is available outside of the historic district boundary.
- CABIN RENTAL:** Rent the restored, three-room adobe cabin. Advanced reservations required at www.recreation.gov.
- PARKING:** Parking area is 3/8 mile from Kentucky Camp. Call (520) 281-2296 if you need vehicular access due to disability.
- AMENITIES:** Picnic tables, propane grill, vault toilets, and stall for solar showers. Please carry trash out with you.
- WATER:** Drinking water is available from four hose bibs on site. Cabin is equipped with an outdoor sink.
- PETS:** Pets are permitted on leash. Please pick up pet waste.
- ROAD SAFETY:** Heavy OHV use on Forest Service roads outside of Kentucky Camp. All drivers and vehicles must be licensed and remain on designated motor vehicle routes.

Attractions



KENTUCKY CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

Step back in time to days when a mining engineer, backed by a California businessman, designed an elaborate system to use hydraulic mining here to reach deeper deposits of gold after the

placer gold was gone. Check out exhibits in the restored headquarters building, relax on the sprawling porch, and rent the historic cabin to extend your stay and marvel at the star-filled night sky. Find cabin amenities and make reservations at www.recreation.gov. The headquarters building is also available to reserve for events.



THE ARIZONA TRAIL

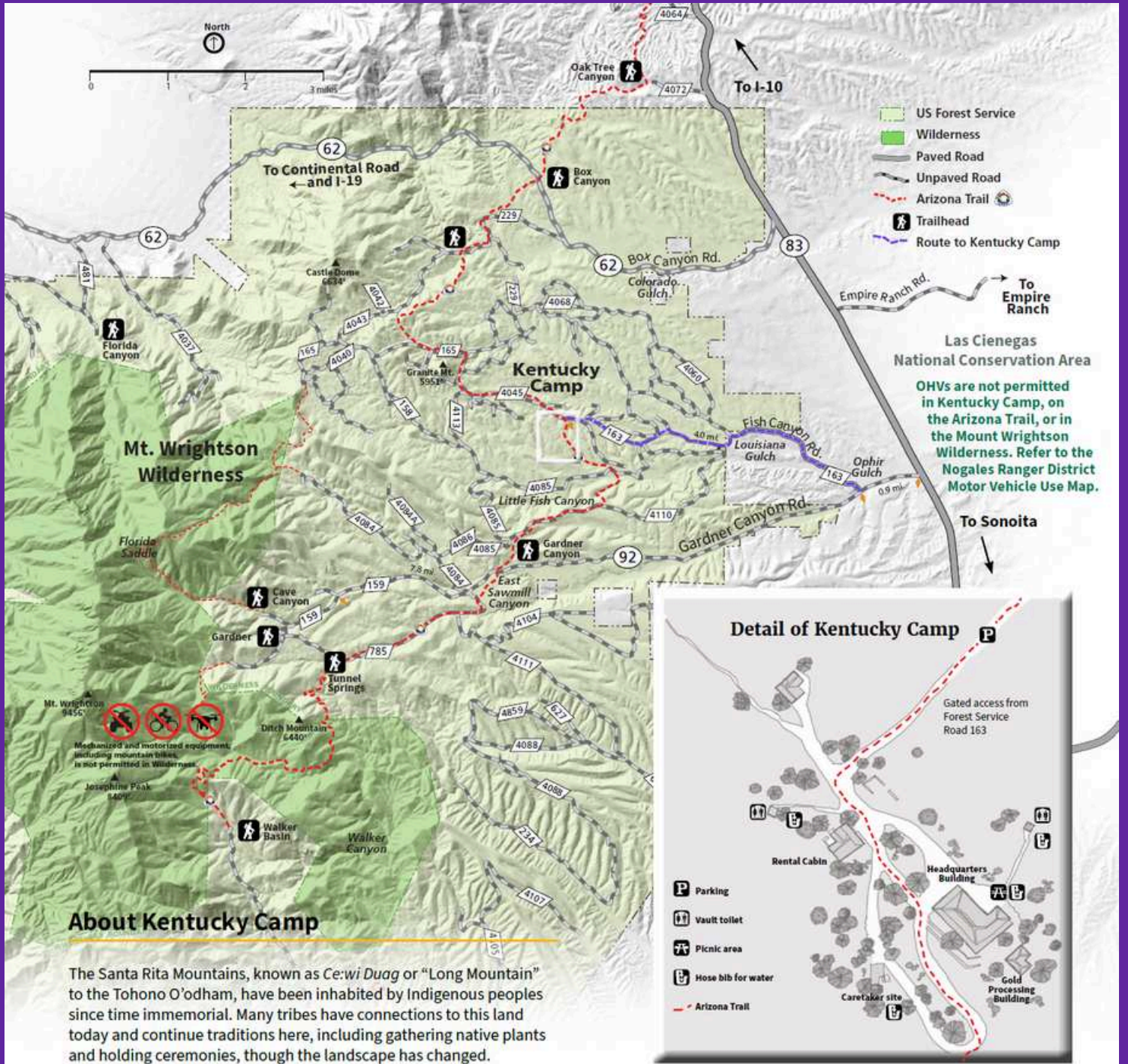
The 13.8-mile Santa Rita Mountains segment (Passage 5) of the 800-mile Arizona National Scenic Trail passes through Kentucky Camp. Beyond the historic district, the trail winds through grassy hills studded with oak, juniper, agave, and other unique plant life. Mining

relics and some interpretive signs line the trail south of Kentucky Camp. White-tailed deer, javelina, black bear, mountain lions, and many species of migratory and resident birds frequent this area. Visit www.aztrail.org for up-to-date route status and information.

Multiuse Routes		H - Hike B - Bike E - Equestrian OHV - Off-highway vehicle
		Share the trail. Communicate and be courteous with other users.
Arizona Trail Passage 5 (H, B, E)	This rolling section of the Arizona Trail stretches 13.8 miles between the Gardner and Oak Tree Canyon Trailheads. The trail reaches Kentucky Camp 3.7 miles north of Gardner Canyon. Distance: Any Difficulty: Moderate Use: Light	
Fish Canyon Road FS 163 (H, B, E, OHV)	This dirt road leads to Kentucky Camp and provides access to a network of two-track trails open to motorized vehicles. Primitive campsites available along road. Distance: 5.7 miles (one way) Difficulty: Moderate Use: Heavy	
Gardner Canyon Road FR 92 (H, B, E, OHV)	This dirt road leads to a parking area for the Arizona Trail, many primitive campsites, and the Cave Canyon and Gardner Canyon Trailheads. High-clearance required to reach trailheads. Distance: 8.7 miles (one way) Difficulty: Moderate Use: Heavy	
EMERGENCY OR FIRE: DIAL 911		NOGALES RANGER STATION: (520) 281-2296

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Front



About Kentucky Camp

The Santa Rita Mountains, known as *Ce:wi Duag* or "Long Mountain" to the Tohono O'odham, have been inhabited by Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. Many tribes have connections to this land today and continue traditions here, including gathering native plants and holding ceremonies, though the landscape has changed.

The prospect of gold drew miners from near and far in the late 1800s, sprouting boomtowns on the eastern slopes of the Santa Ritas. Early miners hauled water to the dry, sandy washes to separate placer gold from gravel using pans, sluices, and rockers. Though most of the placer gold was gone by the mid-1880s, the Santa Rita Water and Mining Company formed in 1902 with plans to use hydraulic mining to blast hillsides with high-pressure water to release more gold from deeper sediments. They built infrastructure, some of which is still visible today, to transport water from the mountain more than eight miles to Boston Gulch. The buildings at Kentucky Camp, constructed of adobe in 1903, served as headquarters for the company for a short time before it folded. The property was then used as a cattle ranch into the 1960s. The Forest Service acquired the site in 1989, and it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995.

Preserving This Place

By the 1990s, these buildings were significantly deteriorated. Walls and roofs were collapsed. However, adobe restoration experts and the Friends of Kentucky Camp worked with the Forest Service to stabilize, preserve, and restore what was left. Due to their ongoing efforts, and lots of volunteer help, this treasure trove of area history and century-old adobe structures survives to tell the story of this special place.

Friends of Kentucky Camp hosts volunteer work days. If you like to get your hands dirty, learn about the art of adobe, and help preserve history, find them on Facebook, or visit their website to find out about upcoming events.

This site is managed in partnership with Friends of Kentucky Camp.

www.kentuckycamp.org

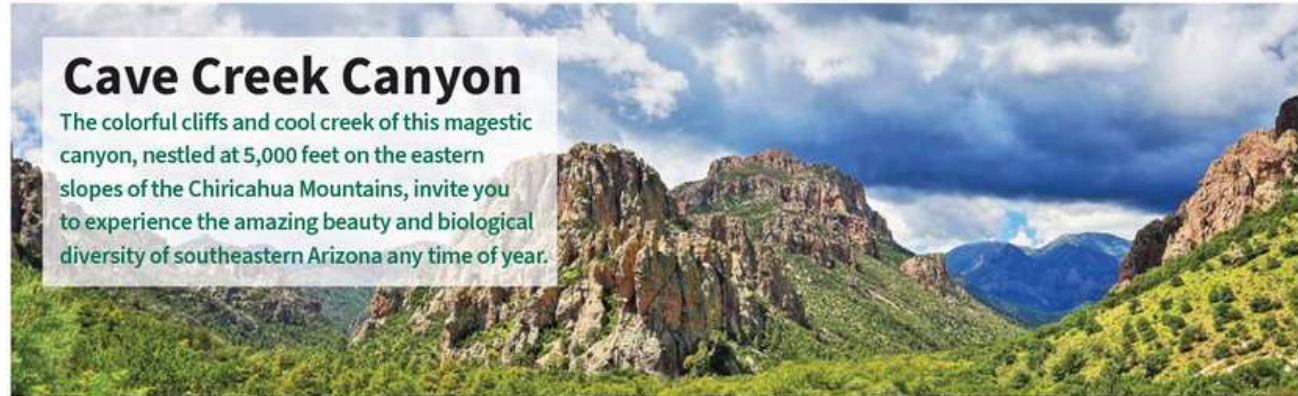
Produced by the Public Lands Interpretive Association www.publiclands.org

Back



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Coronado National Forest, Douglas Ranger District | RG-R3-05-27 | December 2022



Know before you go

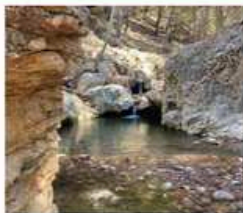
- SEASONS:** Year-round. FR 42 and 42B close for snow, floods, or fire danger. Contact ranger station for current conditions.
- CAMPING:** First come, first served. Pay with cash or check on site. Campgrounds fill quickly on weekends in spring and fall.
- CABIN RENTALS:** Rent the historic Portal Bunkhouse or Portal CCC House up to six months in advance at www.recreation.gov.
- ROAD INFO:** Vehicles are limited to 41 feet in length on FR 42. There are no gas stations in Portal, AZ or Rodeo, NM.
- WILDLIFE:** Enjoy watching wildlife from a distance for their safety and yours. Please keep pets on a leash.
- WATER:** Drinking water is available at Idlewilde and Stewart from May through October and at Sunny Flat year-round.

Attractions



CAVE CREEK VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER

Formerly a ranger residence, the Visitor Center offers exhibits, books, brochures, and maps about the area. Sitting areas and a native plant garden grace the grounds. Open year-round. For more information, current hours, and event schedule, visit www.friendsofcavecreekcanyon.com.

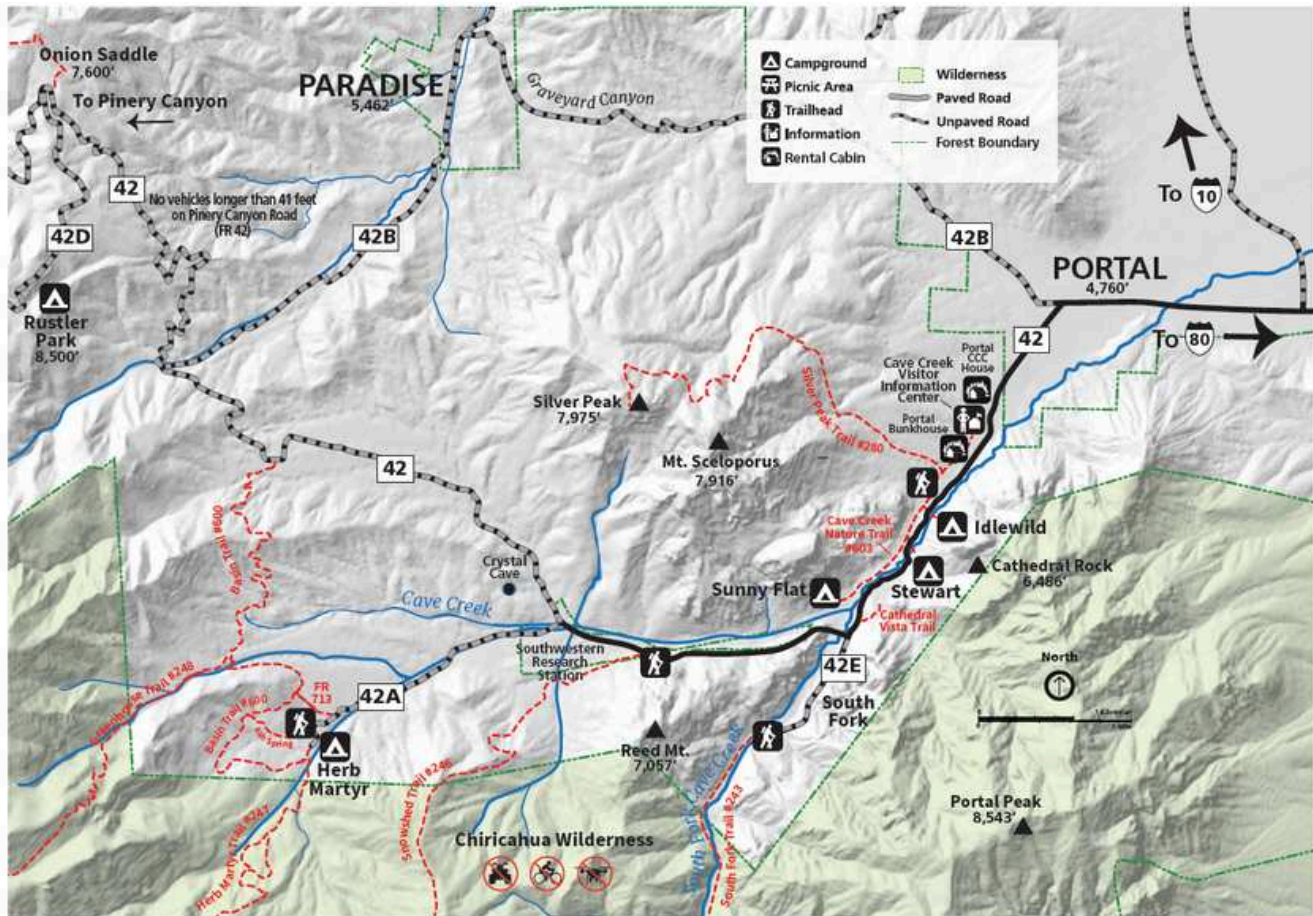


CAVE CREEK

Cave Creek drains the largest watershed in the Chiricahua Mountains. Springs, snowmelt, and rain feed this perennial creek that supports riparian habitat for myriad wildlife. Creekside trails, waterfalls, and swimming holes make it a fantastic year-round recreation destination.

Activities	
Hiking	Hiking is one of the best ways to experience the wonders of the canyon. Map and trail descriptions on next page.
Camping	Four first-come, first-served campgrounds offer shaded sites along Cave Creek. Please practice Leave No Trace principles. Idlewilde: Tent sites only. No trailers. Pay with cash or check on site. Water is available May-Oct. Closed Nov. 1 through Apr. 1. Stewart: Pull-in sites. No hookups. Trailers limited to 16 ft. Pay with cash or check on site. Water available May-Oct. Can close for flood risk. Sunny Flat: Trailers up to 28 ft. are permitted. No hookups. Pay with cash or check on site. Water available May-Oct. Can close for flood risk. Herb Martyr: Tent sites only. No water. Vault toilet. Pay with cash or check on site. High-clearance recommended.
Wildlife viewing	Owing to the location, perennial water, and varied topography, Cave Creek Canyon is home to an incredible diversity of wildlife. The canyon is also a world-class birding destination with 370 bird species, including migratory species at the northern end of their range. Spring, summer, and fall are the best seasons to see trogons and hummingbirds. Winter is good for nesting raptors. Other common wildlife in the canyon year-round include Coues white-tailed deer, Gould's turkey, black bear, coati, and numerous species of bats, lizards, snakes, ants, beetles, and butterflies. Best Birding Spots: All campgrounds, South Fork Road, the first mile of South Fork Trail, and the Nature Trail.
Scenic driving	Cave Creek Loop: This 17-mi. loop takes you around Silver Peak and through the old mining town of Paradise. Follow FR 42 for about 9 mi. to the Paradise Turnoff (FR 42B). Take FR 42B for 3 mi. to Paradise. Turn right again (still FR 42B) to return to Portal. Great views. Pinery Canyon Road (FR 42): This 23-mi. route (one way from the Visitor Center to SR 181) climbs out of Cave Creek Canyon and up to Onion Saddle (12 mi.) and the junction for Rustler Park. Narrow, rugged, dirt road with many switchbacks. High-clearance recommended.
EMERGENCY OR FIRE: DIAL 911	
DOUGLAS RANGER STATION: (520) 364-3468	

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About Cave Creek Canyon

The Chiricahua Mountains, known as *Dził Kawa* (or Great Mountain) to the Chiricahua Apache, have been home to Indigenous people for thousands of years. Pictographs, pottery, and other evidence suggest that more people might have lived near this canyon 1,000 years ago than do now. The Apache were forcibly removed from the region in 1886, but maintain connections to this landscape today. The late 1800s brought an influx of ranchers and miners. Place names in the canyon recall these early settlers.

This mountain range, one of southern Arizona's *sky islands*, rises steeply out of the surrounding grasslands like a forested island in a desert sea. Wetter and cooler conditions at higher elevations simulate the variations in habitat encountered when traveling from Mexico to Canada. The proximity to neotropical Mexico, the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts, the Great Plains, and the Rocky Mountains also contributes to the incredible diversity of plant and animal species found in the area.

The cliffs and pinnacles flanking the canyon are formed of rhyolite, a hardened volcanic ash that eroded over millennia into the unique shapes you see today. As the ash solidified, gas clouds created pockets, which turned into the caves that now give the canyon its name. Minerals in the rhyolite create the rosy hues of the rock. Colorful lichens colonize the surface.



Hiking Trails		Safety: Be prepared with plenty of water, sun protection, and extra layers. Watch for poison ivy. If it has leaves of three, let it be!	
Cave Creek Nature Trail #603	1.25 mi. one way	Access this easy trail from the Visitor Information Center, Silver Peak Parking Area, or Sunny Flat Campground. The trail winds along Cave Creek and passes through oak-juniper and riparian woodland. Benches along the way offer places to sit and soak in the sights and sounds of the canyon. Great for birding.	
Silver Peak Trail #280	4.5 mi. one way	This moderately difficult trail starts from the Visitor Information Center or the Silver Peak Parking Area. Experience stunning vistas as you climb through multiple habitat zones on the ascent to the summit. (3,000 ft. elevation gain)	
Cathedral Vista Trail	0.3 mi. one way	This short, easy trail starts at the trailhead on the south side of the road between Stewart Campground and South Fork Road. The wooded path ends at a vista with a bench, viewing scope, and spectacular view. Not to miss!	
South Fork Trail #243	7.2 mi. one way	Take this wooded trail along the South Fork of Cave Creek out and back any distance. Reach the Burro Trail junction at 2 mi. Stay right to continue on the South Fork Trail or turn left to take the Burro Trail 3 mi. to Horseshoe Saddle. Great for birding.	
Ash Spring Loop (FR 713, #600, #247A, #247)	2.3 mi. loop	From the upper parking area at Herb Martyr Campground, walk back on FR 42A for 0.35 mi. to the Greenhouse Trail (FR 713). Follow this for 0.3 mi. to the Basin Trail. Turn left and continue for 0.77 mi. to the Ash Spring Trail. Turn left and after about 1 mi. turn left again on the Herb Martyr Trail. Drop down to Cima Creek and then veer right to climb up to the campground.	
This site is managed in partnership with the Friends of Cave Creek Canyon.			www.friendsofcavecreekcanyon.com

Produced by the Public Lands Interpretive Association www.publiclands.org

Front

Back

2022 VISITOR GUIDES

- 1. CARR CANYON:** https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1042964.pdf
- 2. KENTUCKY CAMP:** https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1042962.pdf
- 3. PEÑA BLANCA LAKE:** https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1042963.pdf
- 4. PARKER CANYON:** https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1043436.pdf
- 5. CAVE CREEK CANYON:** Check your folder! To be available online in January 2022.
- 6. MOUNT GRAHAM:** To be available online in January 2022.
- 7. MOUNT LEMMON:** Check your folder! To be available online in January 2022.



2023 VISITOR GUIDES

~ COCHISE STRONGHOLD ~ MADERA CANYON ~ ARIZONA TRAIL TEMPORAL GULCH ~
~ TURKEY CREEK ~ RED SPRINGS TRAIL SYSTEM ~ SANTA CATALINA FRONT RANGE ~

CLIMBING POSTER


Developed in collaboration with the climbing community to educate new climbers about climbing responsibly on our public lands.

Available online and printed for distribution to local gyms and gear shops.











Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Coronado National Forest, Santa Catalina Ranger District | GP-R3-05-03 | October 2022





CLIMB RESPONSIBLY ON MOUNT LEMMON

CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST


-  Stay on well-worn areas at base of crag to protect vegetation.
-  Use established approaches to minimize erosion.
-  Bury or pack out human waste. Pack out toilet paper.
-  Pack it in, pack it out (even fruit peels and cores).
-  Help keep rock faces clean by brushing off chalk.
-  Respect wildlife and seasonal wildlife closures.
-  Leash and pick up after your pet.
-  Keep your group size small.

WELCOME TO YOUR PUBLIC LANDS

Mount Lemmon, known as *Babad Do'ag* to the Tohono O'odham, offers year-round climbing. The area is culturally significant to many people. Please climb with respect. Make the most of your experience, and improve that of others, by practicing responsible climbing outdoors.



LEARN MORE



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Forest Service does not inspect, maintain, or repair bolts or other climbing equipment anywhere in the Forest. Bad bolts can be reported to the Climbing Association of Southern Arizona (CASA) at TheClimbersHome.org.

Photograph by Adrian Montañño

~ WEBSITE UPDATES ~

The US Forest Service rolled out a new skin for its website in 2022. As I research and visit places on Coronado National Forest, I review the related web content and submit updates to improve information accuracy and consistency and to add pages for recreation areas that don't have web pages.

In 2022, this included creating a new "Activity" page for Rock Climbing, as well as new and updated pages for the sites with new visitor guides.



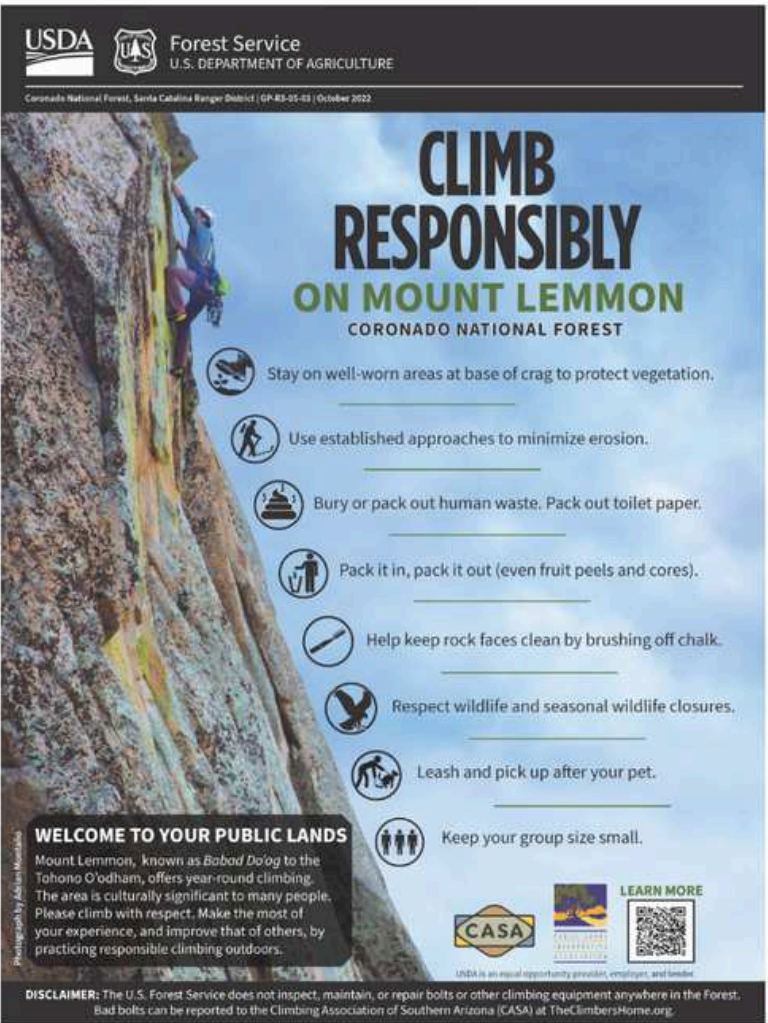
Forest Service

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Rock Climbing



The Coronado National Forest offers year-round climbing with sport and trad routes for all levels. Stunning granite rock faces punctuate the landscape, ranging from saguaro-studded Sonoran Desert at lower elevations to mixed-conifer forest at the top of the sky island mountain ranges. Be aware that many crags require difficult approaches over rugged terrain. Please visit and climb with respect; many areas are culturally significant to Indigenous people.

[Climbing Association of Southern Arizona](#) (CASA) is an official partner of the Coronado National Forest. Visit their website to learn more about climbing in the region, as well as opportunities to get involved in climbing stewardship.

DISCLAIMER: The Coronado National Forest does not inspect, maintain, or repair bolts and other climbing equipment anywhere in the Forest.

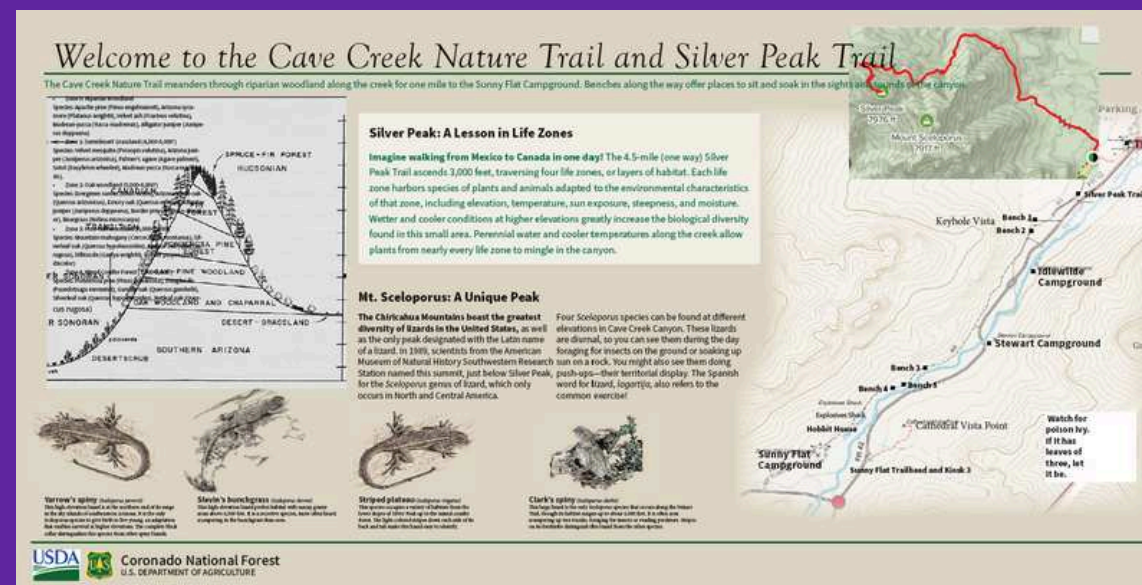
Rock Climbing Areas

- [Douglas Ranger District](#)
- [Draoon Mountains](#)

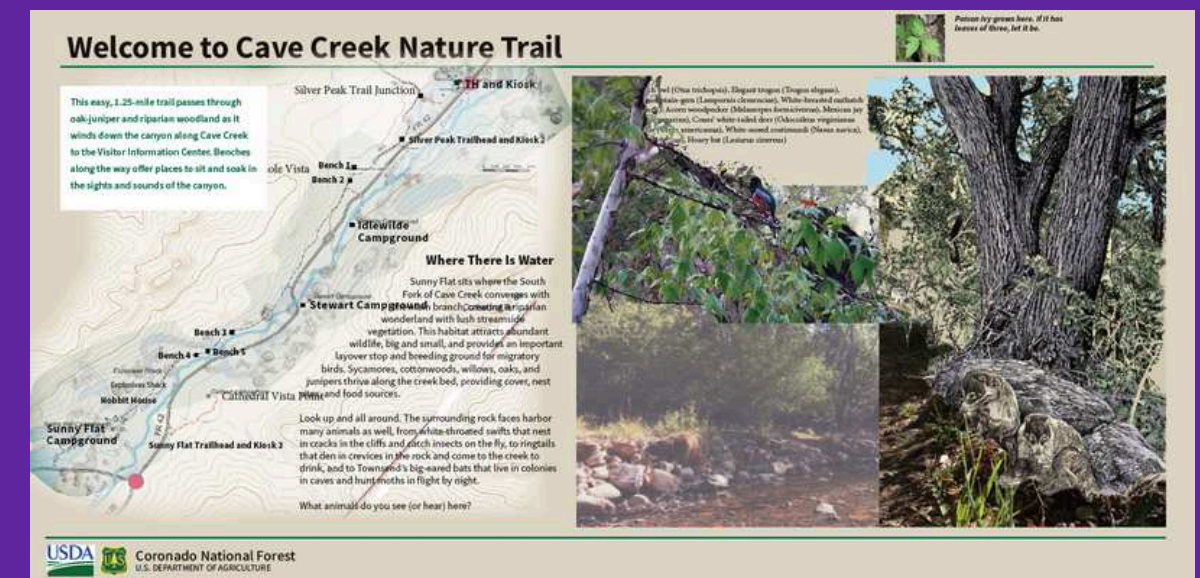


~ INTERPRETIVE EXHIBITS ~

Three signs for the Cave Creek Nature Trail in beautiful Cave Creek Canyon, Coronado National Forest.



Silver Peak Trailhead



Sunny Flat Campground Trailhead

Visitor Information Center Trailhead

~~~ HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WORK ~~~

- ~ Visiting and learning about special sites on the Forest
- ~ Meeting and collaborating with the people that work to help manage and protect these areas
- ~ Inspiring others to visit, appreciate, and help care for these places

~~~ CHALLENGE'S OF THE WORK ~~~

- ~ Need to take advantage of opportunities for collaboration.
- ~ Learning new skills to deliver engaging products for visitors

CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST & GRASSLANDS

SANDIA RANGER DISTRICT



~~~ HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WORK ~~~

- ~ Retail Operations at Ranger Station

(Portion of Net Proceeds Support our work together)

- ~ Staff support at Sandia Ranger office (2023-2024) helping at the front desk, answering phones, creating flyers, helping with the volunteer events

~~~ PAUSED WORK ~~~

- ~ Create Visitor Guides for La Luz and Manzanita Trails

- ~ Create Junior Ranger Booklet

- ~ Designs for new Kiosks across the District

~ NEW MOMENTUM ~

Currently Modifying Agreement to Better Meet the Needs and Challenges of the Sandia Ranger District

~ Public outreach and events

Coordinate an annual District Volunteer Event and at least two other outreach events per year, such as National Public Lands Day, National Get Outdoors Day, or National Trails Day

~ Development of interpretive products and plans

Developing designs for four (4) interpretive panels at the Sandia Crest Recreation Complex

~ Enhancement of visitor center services

PLIA services will enhance the informational and interpretive displays, as well as improve the retail area, at the Sandia Ranger Station and Visitor Center

EXTERNAL CHALLENGES

- Navigating the unprecedented dismantling of public land resources and reduced capacity of federal land agencies.
- Addressing significant funding losses from federal grants and agreements and securing sustainable support for our early-phase programs benefiting visitors and diverse communities.
- Adapting to agency directives prioritizing core resources and duties over visitor support, programs, and outreach.
- Expanding the cooperating association's role to sustain programming, engagement, and DEI initiatives on behalf of our partners.

WHERE THERE ARE CHALLENGES, THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES...

- **Let's build on this new energy and partnership momentum to support the Sandia Ranger District!**
 - Outreach Events and Volunteer Opportunities and Promotion
 - Support Interpretation Content and Development
 - Re-envisioning the Visitor Center (interpretation, layout, retail, resources)
 - Collaborative Fundraising Opportunities



Artist Sketch: Aaron Stromberg

Q&A

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