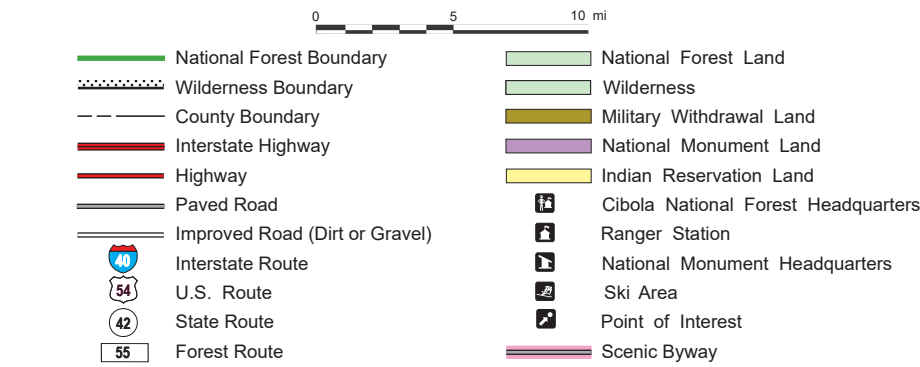


Recreation Opportunity Table

No.	Site Name	Loc	Elev Ft.	Family Units	Group Units	Season of Use	Stay Limit	Facilities	Special Information
1	Tunnel Spring	B1	6,400			All Year	D	TH	
2	Strip Mine	B1	5,600			All Year	D	TH	
3	Piedra Lisa North	B1	5,800		1	All Year	D	TH	
4	Placitas	B1	5,600			All Year	D		
5	La Luz	B2	7,150	1		All Year	D	TH	
6	Juan Tabo	B2	6,800	22	1	All Year	D		
7	La Cueva	B2	6,600	36	1	All Year	D		
8	Las Huertas	B2	7,600	34	1	Apr-Oct	D		
9	Sandia Crest	B2	10,678	1		All Year	D	TH	Nature Trail
10	Ellis	B2	10,260	1		All Year	D	TH	
11	10 K	B2	10,000			All Year	D	TH	
12	Nine Mile	B2	9,200	13	1	May-Oct	D		
13	Capulin Spring	B2	8,800	33	1	All Year	D		
14	Dry Camp	C2	8,000			All Year	D	TH	
15	Balsam Glade	C2	8,620	19	1	May-Oct	D		Nature Trail
16	Tree Spring	B2	8,500			All Year	D	TH	
17	Doc Long	C2	6,800	25	2	Apr-Oct	D	TH	
18	Sulphur Canyon	C2	6,800	37		May-Oct	D	TH	
19	Cienega Canyon	C2	7,600	72	1	May-Oct	D	TH	Nature Trail
20	Canyon Estates	C3	6,550			All Year	D		Trailhead Parking
21	Three Gun Spring	B3	6,320			All Year	D		Trailhead Parking
22	Chamisoso / Coyote	C3	6,550			All Year	D	TH	Trailhead Parking
23	Cedro Peak	C3	7,800		2	May-Oct	14	TH	Reservation only
24	Tunnel / Otero Canyon	C3	7,600			All Year	D		Nature Trail 05236B
25	Pine Flat	C3	7,200	30	2	Apr-Nov	D		
26	Oak Flat	C3	7,500		6	May-Oct			Reservation Only
27	Fourth of July	C4	7,400	24	1	Apr-Oct	14	TH	
28	Tajique	C5	6,800	4		All Year			
29	Capilla Peak	C5	9,600	8		May-Oct	14	TH	Pop-ups OK
30	New Canyon	C5	7,800	3		All Year	14	TH	
31	Red Canyon	B5	7,600	38		Apr-Oct	14	TH	Lower campground closed for winter. Upper CG and TH remain open for winter
32	Red Cloud	E8	7,000			All Year	14		
33	Gallinas Group	F8	6,880			All Year	D		

SANDIA AND MOUNTAINAIR RANGER DISTRICTS LEGEND



Recreation Opportunity Table Legend



¡Bienvenidos! Welcome to the Sandia and Mountainair Ranger Districts

Mountainair Ranger District encompasses two mountain ranges. The Gallinas Mountains are a small isolated range west of Corona, with an elevation of 8,637 feet at Gallinas Peak, the highest point. The Manzano Mountains are a long, narrow range running north and south with elevations ranging from 6,000 to 10,098 feet at Manzano Peak. The area slopes gently up from the Estancia Valley to about 8,000 feet and then rises abruptly to the peak. The west side drops sharply into the uplands of the Rio Grande Valley.

The Manzanos are deceptive. When viewed from highways and roads surrounding them, they exhibit little outstanding scenery. Their real natural beauty is best appreciated at close range. Forest Road 245 from the community of Manzano provides the only vehicle access to the crest, Capilla Peak. People are surprised when they arrive at the summit and view the spectacular scenery in all directions.

Autumn Colors

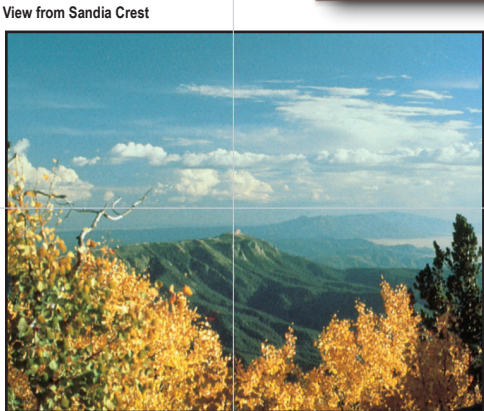


Rocky Mountain maple

The yellows of aspen, reds of maple, and oranges of oak create a visual feast from mid-September through mid-October. The brilliant red maples of Fourth of July Canyon in the Manzano Mountains create an ideal place for fall picnics. Patches of aspen interspersed with maple render surrounding mountainsides outstanding. Sandia Crest Scenic Byway offers aspen views and access to trails winding among the aspens. A 2-mile hike on Crest Trail 130 north from the crest area takes you to one of the most beautiful aspen stands. In Las Huertas Canyon, the scarlet of Virginia creeper, maples and sumac mix with the gold of aspen and box elder along a sparkling creek whose banks are filled with asters and other fall-blooming wildflowers.



Fall in the Manzano Mountains



View from Sandia Crest

Wilderness

Sandia Mountain Wilderness, established through the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978,

comprises 30,981 acres of the Sandia Ranger District's 100,555 acres. Acquisition of the Elena Gallegos Grant in 1981 increased it to 37,232 acres.

Hikers, horseback riders, backpackers and campers are all welcome in the wilderness.

Maximum allowable group size is 15—a limit of 10 is recommended. These limits help preserve the wilderness solitude for everyone. There are more than 217 miles of hiking trails with an implicit promise of unique sights and sounds. As a designated wilderness, motorized and/or mechanized equipment, including bicycles, are prohibited.

Manzano Mountain Wilderness, created by the same act, encompasses 36,970 acres. The word “Manzano” is Spanish for “apple tree.” In the 1700s, explorers visiting a small village on the mountains' eastern edge noted apple trees growing in the village. The trees appeared to be very old but no one knew how or when they arrived; apple trees are not native to New Mexico. Both the village and the mountains became known as Manzano.

Elevations in the wilderness range from 6,000 feet to 10,098 feet at Manzano Peak. You start in piñon-juniper woodlands, gradually moving into ponderosa pine stands and end up in a mixed conifer forest. Terrain is steep and rugged, cut with canyons and rock outcrops. A well-developed trail system is little used, though road access to trailheads is good. Camping is somewhat limited by a lack of reliable water sources.

Recreation Fees and Passes

If you're ready to recreate on your national forest the activity you want to do may require a recreation fee. Many places on the forest are free of charge, however certain sites that offer amenities require a day use fee. To make the best choice on which pass to purchase, you need to know a bit about your recreation plans for the next year. Your best value may be a single-day pass, these may be purchased at the site you visit or on line through www.recreation.gov. If you're a frequent visitor to one or more sites, an annual pass that covers a forest or region may be the best buy. An Interagency Annual Pass may be your best value if you plan to visit many different federal lands across the nation that include lands managed by other federal agencies. You may also qualify for the Interagency Senior passes or Interagency Access Pass. Fourth grade students qualify for a free Every Kid Outdoors Pass. Inquire which pass is right for you at your local Forest Service office.

Sandia Ranger District

Just east of Albuquerque is the most visited mountain range within New Mexico. More than 2 million people journey to the Sandias each year. The reasons are fairly obvious: summer air is refreshingly cool in contrast to the warmer climate at lower elevations and the possibilities for fun and relaxation are abundant during each of the four seasons. Over ¼ million visitors ride Sandia Peak Tram to the mountaintop to see a dazzling sunset and the glittering carpet of Albuquerque lights below. Four Seasons Visitor Center at the upper tram terminal offers brochures, books, and seasonally scheduled tours describing the natural and cultural history of the mountain. The crest observation deck hosts over ½ million visitors annually, providing magnificent panoramas, nature trails and the Sandia Crest House.



Snow-covered Needle and Shield

The Turquoise Trail also winds its way around the Sandia Mountains.

One portion includes Sandia Crest National Scenic Byway while the other portion leads to Santa Fe. The Turquoise Trail is an adventure in itself as it passes through “old west” towns like Golden, Madrid, and Cerrillos. Take time to enjoy the views and nostalgia along this historic route.

Recreation Opportunities



Sledding at the Capulin Snowplay Area

The Sandia Ranger District welcomes recreationalists of multiple kinds. Although Cedro Group Reservation Campground is the only developed campground on Sandia Ranger District, the Sandias are a treasure trove for backpack campers, birdwatchers, wildflower enthusiasts and photographers. Sandia Peak Tram, at 2.7 miles, is the world's longest double jig-back tram. It carries visitors, hang gliders and skiers to the mountaintop year-round. There are two launch sites for hang gliding in the Sandias. All hang glider pilots must be fully rated to launch from either site—watching hang gliders launch is a spectacular sight.

When winter snows cover the Sandias, the area provides downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and snow sledding opportunities. Sandia Peak Ski Area offers a variety of downhill ski runs ranging from beginner to expert. Capulin Snow Play Area near Capulin Picnic Site is a unique winter recreation site with two inner tube runs.

With the rapid population growth of the Rio Grande and Estancia Valleys, the Manzanos are being recognized for their developed and dispersed recreation opportunities. There are six developed recreation sites in the Manzanos ranging in elevation from 6,200 feet to 9,200 feet and over 100 miles of trails. See the web sites listed on the back cover of this map for trail maps.

Wildlife

Although the many wildflowers (including some very unique alpine ones) and trees attract visitors to the Sandia Mountains, many come just to watch raptors or birds of prey. Majestic hunters of the sky, raptors are found in most of the western United States and include hawks, eagles and falcons.

Each spring and fall thousands migrate along the crest of the Manzano and Sandia Mountains. These predatory birds nest in areas as far away as Canada and winter in Mexico and Central America.



Rocky Mountain bee plant

Daily counts of migrating birds are conducted each March, April, September and October by Hawk Watch International to determine the number and kind of raptors that migrate through the area. These counts are valuable for assessing raptor population trends and overall ecosystem health.

There is a veritable treasure trove of birds, both common and rare, residing in the Sandias. Other wildlife you may encounter include mule deer, black bear, tassel-eared squirrels and cottontail rabbits. Snakes (including rattlesnakes) are common.



Rough-legged Hawk (courtesy Hawk Watch International)

Cultural Resources



Quari Ruins ca. 1630 Mission Church

Those who came before us usually left some evidence of their presence: trails, rock art, camps, houses, fields, tools and decorations. These may well be the only record we have of prehistoric people. Significant events and periods of specific cultural development are recorded by artifactual remains. All artifacts—pottery sherds, bone fragments—are cherished traces of our ancestors AND protected by law.

Some sites you may wish to visit are: Sandia Cave near Placitas, Tijeras Pueblo behind Sandia Ranger

Station, and Jaral Cabin near La Cueva Picnic Site. These sites were occupied from 9,500 years ago (Sandia Cave) to 50 years ago (Jaral Cabin). Guided interpretive tours of Tijeras Pueblo are available. Call the Ranger Station at (505) 281-3304.

Immediately east and parallel to the Manzano and Sandia Mountains lies a series of basins which have been focal points of human activity and habitation for thousands of years. “Salinas Valley,” known today as Estancia Basin, was named by the Spanish in the 17th century for the important salt lakes used by Indians of the region. This basin and its environs are the backdrop for the evolving story of the original inhabitants and their encounter with Europeans as the old world met the new in the land of the Pueblo Indian.

Salinas National Monument, administered by the National Park Service, includes the ruins of three Indian Pueblos: Abo, Quarai, and Gran Quivira and their associated 17th century Spanish mission ruins.



Petroglyph near Sandia District

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Cibola National Forest
2113 Osuna Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001
Phone: (505) 346-3900
www.fs.usda.gov/cibola
Mountainair Ranger District
40 Ranger Station Road
P.O. Box 69
Mountainair, NM 87036
(505) 847-2990
Sandia Ranger District
11775 Hwy. 337 South
Tijeras, NM 87059
(505) 281-3304
For Group Recreation Reservations Call
1-877-444-6777 or visit
www.recreation.gov
RG-R3-03-14

For maps and other information, contact:



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New Mexico