

Turquoise Trail Corridor Management Plan

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5.0 Intrinsic Qualities

The SBAC is in the process of creating an asset inventory database. It is scheduled for completion in April, 2000. Although all of the nationally significant intrinsic qualities described in this chapter are available for visitors to enjoy today, many of the regionally significant qualities are still being discovered, preserved, and interpreted for the public and are not shown. Nevertheless, we believe the following pages give the reader a true feeling of the depth and quality of the Turquoise Trail and the intriguing story those qualities tell.

The SBAC wanted to illustrate the intrinsic qualities Turquoise Trail visually, so that both stakeholders and visitors could “see” the richness of the byway. Descriptions of the intrinsic qualities are also included. The type and significance placed on each intrinsic quality is shown directly below most of the images.

5.1 NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT QUALITIES

The Turquoise Trail has nationally significant qualities in four of the six intrinsic quality categories: archeological, natural, recreational, and scenic. Some intrinsic quality categories have more than one asset with national significance. The Turquoise Trail may have nationally significant cultural and historic qualities, but, as of this writing, they are not developed enough for public access, responsible preservation, or interpretation to place them in the national category.

5.2 REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT QUALITIES

The Turquoise Trail has regionally significant qualities in all six intrinsic quality categories. Some intrinsic quality categories have more than one asset with regional significance.

5.3 INTRINSIC QUALITY IMAGES AND TEXT

National qualities (archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic) are followed by the regional qualities. Some intrinsic qualities have more than one area of significance, such as having both natural and scenic significance.

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Sandia Cave

(National Archeological Quality)

On January 20, 1961, the National Parks Service designated Sandia Cave a National Historic Landmark for its national significance as a paleoamerican site. The Park Service statement of significance reads: "Excavations here have yielded information on three distinct prehistoric groups. Situated in Cibola National Forest, the site represents one of the earliest known occupations of the Americas."

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Controversy surrounds the site. Is Sandia Cave the oldest site in North America where evidence of man's presence more than 25,000 years ago was found or is it a less significant finding where man was found less than 14,000 years ago? It depends on which professional's interpretation you believe.

In 1936, Wesley Bliss and Chester Stock found evidence of man's existence at Sandia Cave. Dr. Frank C. Hibben, the principle investigator of the site, later interpreted the evidence and concluded that it was older than that found at Folsom, making it at least 25,000 years old.

Armed with new methods, new technology, and decades of additional knowledge, other investigators later disputed Hibben's findings. In their abstract published by the Smithsonian Institution Press in 1986 after two decades of study, C. Vance Haynes, Jr. and George A. Agogino state, "We conclude that Sandia points are definitely less than 14,000 years old and suggest they may be specialized Clovis or Folsom artifacts used for mining ocher." In the Forward to that same publication, Dennis Stanford, Curator North American Archaeology, Smithsonian Institution said, "cultural questions remain very much enigmatic."

So what is the answer? When will the mystery be solved? No matter the result, the secrets of Sandia Cave continue to have a profound impact on the archeological community. Sandia Cave is either very old or very, very, old.

First strip mine in the United States

(National Archeological Quality)

The Cerrillos Hills contains the first strip mine in North America. It is currently on private property and access is restricted. The SBAC has determined that this asset is nationally significant, but until total access is provided to the public, we can only interpret the site. For further details about the Cerrillos Hills areas which do have access, please read the the regionally significant intrinsic quality section.

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(National Cultural Quality)

There are no intrinsic qualities of national cultural quality available to the public at this time. Although there are actors, dancers, singers, professional sports figures, writers, artists, and musicians of national stature living along the byway, their privacy is respected by the local population--a major reason people choose to live in the region. There are several unique cultural and religious activities such as Fiestas and Matachinas, as well as, regional sports competitions such as hang gliding. The SBAC believes it to be in the best interest of the stakeholders to preserve privacy rights, therefore, there are no known nationally significant cultural intrinsic qualities on the Turquoise Trail at this time. Please read in later portions of this chapter about the Regionally Significant Cultural Intrinsic Qualities.

(National Historic Quality)

There are no intrinsic qualities of national historic significance available to the public at this time. The SBAC has determined that the Civilian Conservation Corps ruins are potentially a nationally significant historic intrinsic quality; however, until this asset is more developed for the public, the SBAC considers this historic intrinsic quality to be only regionally significant at this time. Please see the CCC description under Regionally Significant Historic Intrinsic Qualities section.

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MADRID COAL

(National Natural Quality)

Madrid, New Mexico is the only known spot in the United States where veins of both bituminous (soft) and anthracite (hard) coal can be found. It may be the only place in the world too. Both types of coal were mined extensively from the same tunnel decades ago. Tailings from the now closed coal mines can easily be seen from the byway as you enter Madrid from the south. In Madrid, visitors can see a bit of history at the Old Coal Mining Museum located in the center of town.

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The Great Unconformity

(National Natural Quality)

**The Sandia Mountains grew up as the Rio Grande Valley dropped.
The granite base is topped with limestone.**

Sandia Mountains Wilderness

(National Natural and Scenic Qualities)

(Text courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service) The Sandia Mountains are an uplifted block formation formed about 62 million years ago. The base of the mountain lies at an elevation of 6,100 feet while the crest is 10,600 feet high. The top of the mountain is a limestone formation. The corresponding limestone layer lies 20,000 feet below the Rio Grande.

The Sandia Mountains are considered a "Sky Island", a diverse isolated ecosystem containing life zones from the Upper Sonoran Desert to Hudsonian mixed conifer based on elevation, surrounded by the lower elevation desert around the mountain. The Sandia Mountains are the closest forested area for the 570,000 people living in the greater Albuquerque area. The Sandia Mountain lies within a one-hour commute of one-third the population of the state of New Mexico.

Sandia Mountain Wilderness was created in February 1978. In November 1978, 6,243 acres were added to the Sandia Mountain Wilderness when a land exchange was completed. In 1984 the final boundary modification of 20 acres was made which Currently gives the Sandia Mountain Wilderness a total of 37,200 acres.

While the top of the mountain may be covered by as much as eight feet of snow, just a few miles away the lower western slopes are snow free. A recreationist may choose to mountain bike in the morning and cross-country ski in the afternoon. This gives the recreationists of central New Mexico a wide range of activities year round but does not allow the ecosystem a rest period from the people who love to use the mountain.

The Sandia Mountains have 155 miles of recreation trails with 111 miles within the Wilderness boundary. All but a few miles are open to equestrian use and one-third of the miles is available for mountain bike use. There are three handicap accessible loop trails on the mountain.

The Sandia Tram, splitting it into the north and south portions, bisects the Sandia Mountain Wilderness.

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Flying above the clouds

Sandia Peak Tramway (National Recreational Quality)

Built in 1966, the Sandia Peak Tramway is the longest continuous jigback tram in the world with a length of 2.7 miles. A jigback is a tram that has a car going up, while another is coming down. The Sandia Peak Tramway has the third longest, 7,720 feet, clear span in the world. That alone would make a ride on the tram a world class activity. Yet, that is only the beginning. The tram is a significant transportation system bringing more than 275,000 people each year from Albuquerque to its 2 mile high destination on the Turquoise Trail. Most significant, the tramway passes through a corridor dividing the Sandia Wilderness Area. It is the only place in the United States where visitors are virtually surrounded by a nationally designated wilderness area. It is the only place in the nation that offers persons with disabilities an inside look at a wilderness area that they would probably never otherwise see.

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Winter gold mining on the Turquoise Trail

(National Recreational Quality)

The tram is both an engineering and social accomplishment . It is probably the best example in the United States of how millions of people can enjoy a pristine visit with nature and not even leave a footprint behind--a true accomplishment in preservation.

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Tram for two

Stealing from Norway's, "Norway in a Nutshell", a visitor can "Loop the Turquoise Trail" in less than a day by riding the tram to the top of Sandia Peak from Tramway Road in Albuquerque. From there the options are many and varied. Visitors can make a 1.5 mile hike to the top of Sandia Crest, the terminus of NM 536, or take a chairlift, hike or ride a mountain bike down to NM 536 at the base of Sandia Peak Ski area. In winter, visitors have the option of reaching NM 536 on the chairlift, on alpine skis, Nordic skis, or snowboards. Some even enjoy snowshoeing down the mountain. From NM 536, visitors can continue their journey on the Turquoise Trail heading either north to Santa Fe or south to Albuquerque by car, tour bus, or bicycle.

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Rock climbing

In 1998, an excellent book, [Sandia Peak](#), was written by Pamela Salmon. It describes the history of the tram in great detail and has wonderful photos of what can be seen on the Turquoise Trail. The book is available from:

Sandia Peak Ski and Tramway
#10 Tramway Loop NE
Albuquerque, NM 87122-2017
Phone 505-856-6419
ISBN 0-9654054-1-9

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The morning sky on the Turquoise Trail

(National Scenic Quality)

Photo taken on a fall morning in the San Marcos area.

We could say the views from the Turquoise Trail are breathtaking, awesome, inspirational, religious, historic, extraordinary, natural, incredible, and unique. We do, and they are. Yet images pale when compared to being there for the moment. The moment you see that sunrise or sunset on the mountains, the coyote calling out to the rising moon, the darkness of night shattered by flashes of lightning during our summer thunderstorms or shooting stars whizzing by as you view the Milky Way. Nor can images compare with being there alone or sharing those moments with the special person or persons in your life. The previous and following images are just a few scenic images showing what the Turquoise Trail is made of. The only element missing is you.

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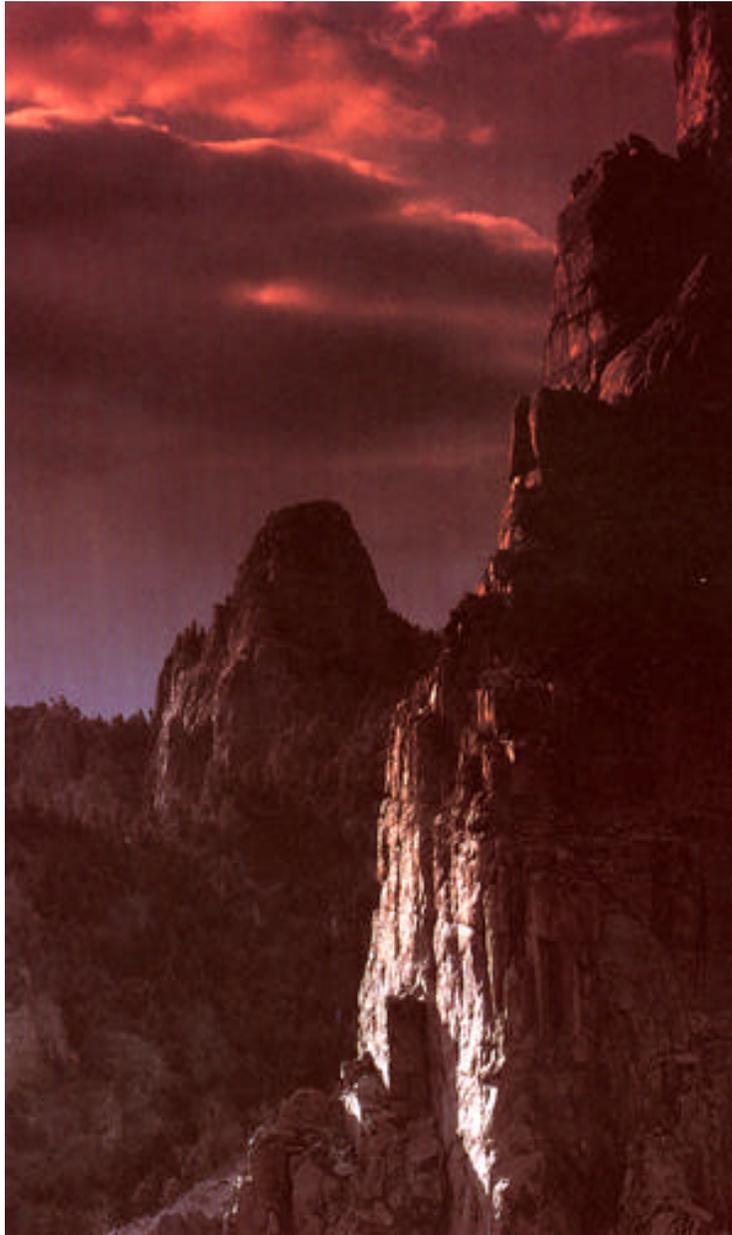


BIG, BIG, REALLY BIG ROCKS

(National Scenic Quality)

View of the Sandias from NM 536

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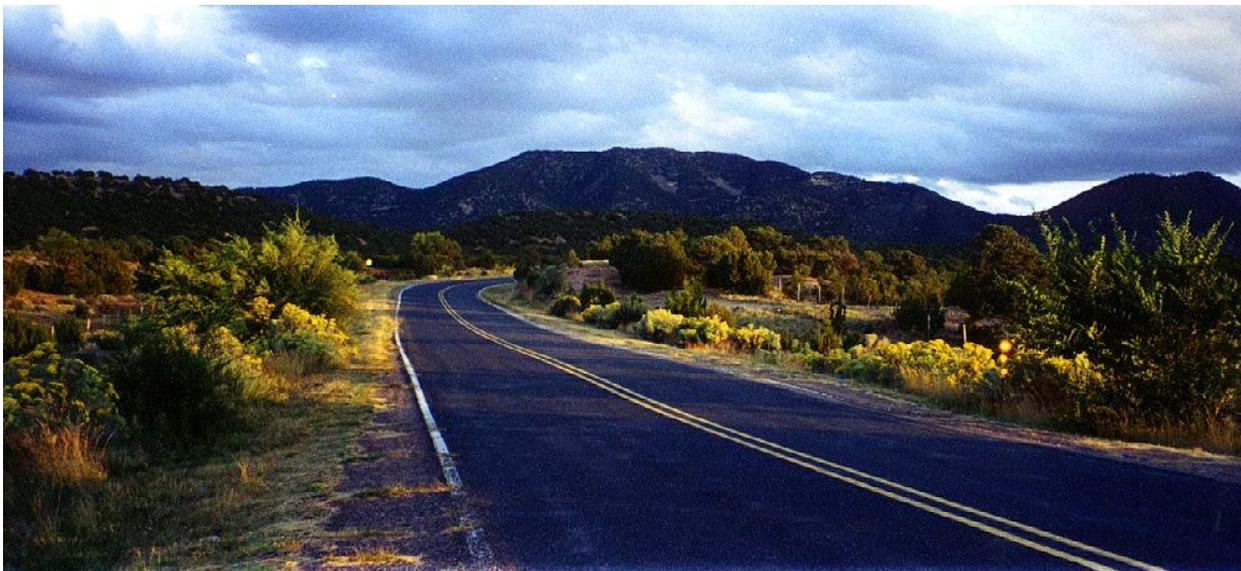
Inspirational
(National Scenic Quality)

The pristine Sandia Mountain Wilderness is a natural wonder. It is the only U. S. Forest Service designated wilderness area in the United States adjacent to a metropolitan area inhabited by over a half million people.

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The Turquoise Trail is straight as an arrow.
(National Scenic Quality)



And curvy too.
(National Scenic Quality)

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Home on the range, where the antelope play
(National Scenic Quality)

Grasslands and wildlife abound on NM 14 just a few miles north of Golden.



And the skies are not cloudy all day.
(National Scenic Quality)

San Pedro Mountains to the east of NM 14 on a nearly cloudless day.

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Winter watching in the Sandias
(National Scenic Quality)



Winter driving in the Sandias
(National Scenic Quality)

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Just another sunset in paradise
(National Scenic Quality)

Western ski view from New Mexico Highway 14



And another to savor the next day
(National Scenic and Natural Qualities)

West view to Cabezon Peak from a few miles north of Golden. We hope you enjoyed your brief tour of the nationally significant qualities found on the Turquoise Trail. Moreover, we believe you appreciate how important it is to preserve and protect our national assets for current and future generations to enjoy. Please keep that in mind when you visit the Turquoise Trail or any of the wonderful byways located across the USA.

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Tijeras Pueblo: A Canyon Community (Regional Archeological Quality)

(Text courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service) Hands caked with adobe began to shape, smooth and pat the walls of Tijeras Pueblo about A.D. 1313. A thick slurry of mud, sand and clay was layered horizontally, dried, then layered again. Did the first builders realize that these "puddled adobe walls" would eventually house as many as 400 people?

The village grew rapidly as families in tiny settlements up and down the canyon chose to leave their homes and join together at Tijeras. Long-term drought throughout the region was forcing movement, change and relocation. People from the Rio Grande valley may also have been attracted to this new upland community. Abundant local rainfall favored the village as it grew.

Tijeras Pueblo rested in a canyon crossroads that connected it to other villages near and far. Springs and running water, plentiful game and wild plants had supported small groups of canyon dwellers for thousands of years. The people of Tijeras Pueblo depended on these natural resources too. They also planted bright green fields of corn among the native stands of piñon and juniper. The canyon and surrounding mountains were called upon to sustain a large population concentrated in a small area.

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By the mid 1300s the largest structure at Tijeras consisted of about 200 rooms. A dozen smaller buildings, each with 5 to 25 rooms, stood nearby. Centrally located in the village was the Great Kiva, a large circular room 45 feet in diameter. This partly underground, stone masonry structure probably served as a ceremonial center for the people of Tijeras.

Archaeological evidence indicates that Tijeras Pueblo was partially abandoned after A.D. 1368. Many families left the community and for about 20 years the pueblo lay relatively silent. Then a second phase of construction and growth began in 1390. New activity was concentrated in the largest structure at Tijeras. It was remodeled, forming a U-shape, which surrounded an east-facing plaza. This final occupation lasted about 35 years. By A.D. 1425 the people of Tijeras had moved on.

Rediscovering Tijeras Pueblo

Tijeras Pueblo first captured the attention of archaeologists in 1930, when H.P. Mera collected ceramics for study and made the first map of the ruins. A year later, W.S. Stallings began collecting tree ring samples from the main mound. These samples helped date the site to the 1300s.

In 1948, the University of New Mexico investigated the main mound. Twenty six student notebooks document the work carried out under the direction of Stanley Stubbs and Fred Wendorf.

Other pieces of the Tijeras Pueblo "puzzle" were solved during excavations conducted over the years by the State of New Mexico and the Albuquerque Archaeological Society.

The University of New Mexico Archaeological Field School returned to Tijeras Pueblo to conduct extensive excavations from 1971 to 1976. Led by James Judge and Linda Cordell, the focus of research went far beyond finding out what was beneath the mounds of rubble. An archaeological survey of Tijeras Canyon was conducted. Using new research techniques, archaeologists were able to describe the climate and other environmental conditions of the 14th century.

Tijeras Pueblo Today

Today a large, grass-covered mound is the only visible evidence of the 200-room pueblo that once dominated the landscape. After excavation the ruins were reburied, or back-filled to protect the site from destruction from wind, rain and other forces. Illustrated trail signs, scale models, and your imagination bring the-pueblo to life. The Education Center features hands-on activities and programs related to pueblo culture.

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Protecting Our Heritage

The U.S. Forest Service manages renewable resources and protects wilderness areas and historic sites on National Forest lands. Sites like Tijeras Pueblo are fragile and irreplaceable. If we all do our part to protect and care for them, our lives will continue to be enriched as we learn about our cultural heritage.

Respect Tijeras Pueblo

Please stay on the trail during your visit to Tijeras Pueblo. Do not remove potsherds and other artifacts from the site. Remember that every artifact contains important clues from the past. Without such clues, archaeologists would not be able to piece together the story of the people who lived here.

Visiting Tijeras Pueblo

You are invited to look through a "window on the past: and imagine what life was like at a time when people had a close relationship with, the land. The Tijeras Pueblo Archaeological Site is located at the Sandia Ranger Station, 11776 Hwy 337, 1/2 mile south of 1-40 in Tijeras, New Mexico.

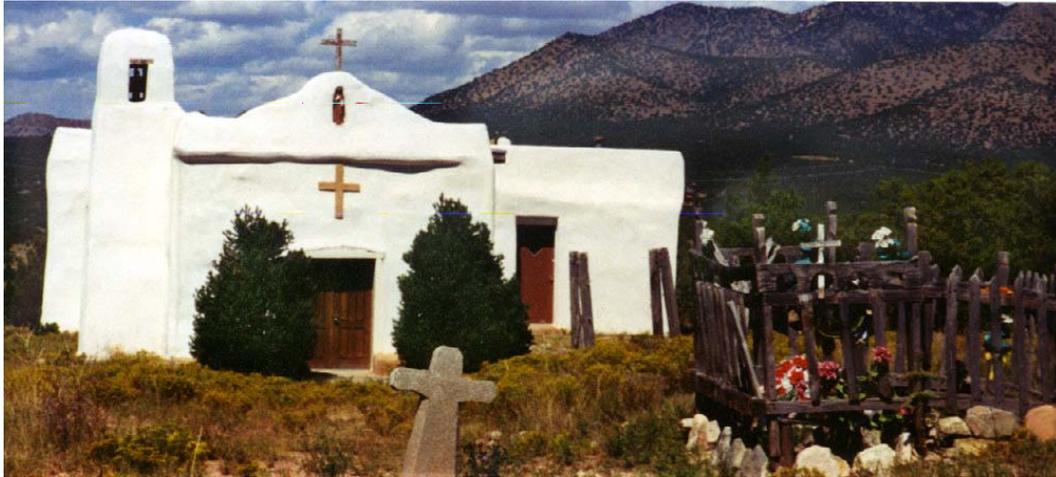
The self-guided trail is open to the public from 8am to 5pm on weekdays and from 8:30am to 5 pm on weekends. Begin your visit at the Ranger Station, where the lobby exhibit introduces you to Tijeras Pueblo. You will also find information, books and maps there. The trail is approximately 1/3 mile long and begins behind the Ranger Station. It is an easy trail, which is moderately accessible to wheelchairs. Before you visit in winter, call the Ranger Station since the trail may be closed during inclement weather.

For information on special tours and programs call the Sandia Ranger District at (505) 281-3304. Those using a Text Telephone (TDD) can reach the office at the same number.

San Marcos Pueblo **(Regional Archeological Quality)**

This important site was placed on the National Register of Historic Sites in 1982. Its reference number is 82003326. The location is restricted at this time. The San Marcos Pueblo potentially has national or regional significance; but public access is extremely limited and is usually available to students and professionals in the field; however, there have been guided public tours of the site in the past. This asset is so rich in potential that preservation must supersede promotion. For that reason, we do not mark it on our maps. It is listed here as an asset that must be preserved. Development of this asset will likely be in the form of off-site interpretation.

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Culture that can be seen

(Regional Cultural Quality)

View of the San Francisco church in Golden with the San Pedro Mountains in the background. The church was built in the 1820s. Except for Catholic services a few times each year, the building is not open to visitors. Nevertheless, it is easily accessible for photos a minutes walk from NM 14, near Milepost 17.4.



And heard

(Regional Cultural Quality)

The annual Blues Festival held each summer at Madrid's historic ballpark.

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San Antonito Church & Cemetery

(Regional Cultural Quality)

San Antonito was listed on the National Historic Register on January 16, 1997 as one of a number of Religious Properties of New Mexico. Its reference number is 96001607. The church is located on the west side of NM 14 at Milepost 6. San Antonito is also a Registered Cultural Property designated by the State of New Mexico. A quote from the plaque on the building:

“Built circa 1886. An archetypical Spanish Colonial village church with pitched roof adaptation and adjoining cemetery. Site No. 1644”

Cerrillos Hills

(Regional Archeological, Cultural, Historical, and Natural Qualities)

Although Cerrillos Hills is placed under cultural, the parks regional, and potentially national, intrinsic qualities extend to archeological, historic, and natural. The park is placed under cultural because of its unique mining story and its profound impact on three distinct cultures that exist to this day. The Cerrillos Mining District is listed on the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties and also is included in the US Department of Interior's National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings. Fayette Jones, Director of the New Mexico Bureau of Mines, said of the Cerrillos Mining District in 1905, "From a historical standpoint, no section in the United States is possessed of so much interest".

Geology (text courtesy of the CHPC): The hills or uplands of the Cerrillos rise 1000-1500 feet above the surface of the Santa Fe and Galisteo basins. Three peaks reach about 7000 feet. Cerro Bonanza [7088 ft.] is quite massive and dominates the northern end of the hills. The other two are more isolated and occur in the east-central portion; Cerro de la Cosena [6923 ft.] and Grand Central Mountain [6976 ft.].

Several major arroyos occur in the area. Skirting the southern edge of the hills is San Marcos arroyo, whose basin extends into the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo mountains and which is the major surface outlet for a large portion of the Galisteo basin. The San Marcos joins Galisteo Creek at the town of Cerrillos. The San Marcos arroyo also receives drainage from the Gallinas arroyo which borders the Park on the east. The Mina del Tiro Arroyo drains the south and west of the proposed park parcels and joins the San Marcos just above the town of Cerrillos.

Abundant geologic data are available concerning the Cerrillos area. The local geologic story begins in the early Mesozoic Era, perhaps 180 to 200 million years ago. The extensive history of mining in the Cerrillos area, dating from the earliest prehistoric Indian turquoise and lead mining prior to 1000 A.D., to Spanish mines of the 17th century, such as the Mino del Tiro, and to American mining of the 19th century, make this one of the oldest mining districts in North America. There is evidence of pre-Columbian vein workings and smelter sites which are of immense historical and archaeological value and indicate sources of metallic substances used by past cultures. Except for turquoise, mining in the area has been marginal and aimed at recovering low-grade sulfides, zinc, lead along with some silver, gold and copper.

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The nature of the mining to date has been benign with respect to toxic substances and all abandoned mines are being surveyed for fencing or other closures (appropriate grating will be placed at known bat habitats.) The Cerrillos Mining District was placed on the New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties in 1973.

Ecology (text courtesy of the CHPC): The Cerrillos Hills is representative of the piñon-juniper ecosystem, roughly from 4500' to 6500' in elevation. The widely spaced, mixed stands of piñon and juniper give this "belt" or life zone a distinctive individuality entirely different from that of any other place. It is often referred to as the Pygmy Forest. Grassland is the dominant vegetative type along with piñon, juniper, and occasional mountain mahogany. In the arroyo bottoms a shrub community of rabbit bush, oak, New Mexico olive, Apache plume, saltbush, wafer ash, and introduced Russian olive and salt cedar occur. Several significant permanent springs occur in the Cerrillos Hills which are focal points for a wealth of diverse plants and animals including some small valley cottonwoods and willows. As nearly all of these springs have been degraded by current grazing and land use practices, protection and restoration of riparian areas will be critical to maintaining the ecological integrity of the area.

The area supports a diverse population of wildlife. Vertebrate animals inhabiting the Cerrillos Hills are those one might expect in hilly grassland and woodland in central New Mexico: at least twenty-five species of wild mammals (including bobcats, porcupine, coyote and mule deer), four species of bats, numerous rodents, reptiles and amphibians, as well as innumerable invertebrates. More than thirty species of birds have been identified including great horned owls and golden eagles.

While there has been no systematic inventory of the area, it is likely that the abandoned mines and natural habitats of the Cerrillos Hills are home to several rare bat species. Ten species of concern that are tracked by the New Mexico Natural Heritage Program are known to occur in Santa Fe County and all have the potential to exist in this area. In general, bat populations are declining because they are highly sensitive to habitat disturbances. Protection of the hills would provide an important refuge for their future protection and study. In a natural area this large, it is also probable that a systematic biological survey would reveal additional rare, threatened or endangered species.

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A park that preserves county, BLM and State Trust Lands under a partnership arrangement could connect critical resources and habitats and protect riparian areas and springs for wildlife access. Setting aside this open space would preserve unique geological features and scenic vistas along the historic byway known as the Turquoise Trail, serving as a backdrop for colorful vertical sandstone out-croppings known as the “Garden of the Gods.” A four thousand acre undeveloped area would also relieve the county recharge/watershed areas from possible depletion of storage by domestic water use enabling sustainable population growth of both people and wildlife.

Archaeological & Cultural-Historic (text courtesy of the CHPC): The Cerrillos Hills, with its tricultural history, is an unusually important archaeological and cultural resource because of its significance in the history of the Southwest during the last thousand years. The Cerrillos Hills turquoise and lead mines played a central role in the commerce and economy of the prehistoric Indians of the Rio Grande Valley, and it is probable that the mines influenced the early Spanish explorations and settlement of New Mexico. The layers of lifeways in these hills, from pre-Columbian shrines and mining to Spanish and Anglo smelting, ranching, and commerce, give us our identity, define our cultural character, and constitute our heritage. To see the mines that were dug by prospectors a hundred years ago and the sites of their tents and the walls of their buildings is far more meaningful and memorable than simply reading about it in a book.

Pottery sherds found in the Cerrillos Hills date the use of the mineral resources from AD 900, and the Hills are the source of much of the lead that was used for glaze paint by Rio Grande Pueblo potters between AD 1300 and 1700. Analysis of the sherds in the Cerrillos Hills indicated a large portion of them came from the nearby San Marcos Pueblo, which between the middle 1300s and the middle 1400s was the major center of pottery making in the upper Middle Rio Grande Valley. Archaeological sites present today and associated with the Puebloan mining activities in the Hills include turquoise pits, quarries, lead or galena mines, refining areas, workshops, hearths, campsites, and sherd areas. The Mina del Tiro, adjacent to the proposed CHRP lands, is perhaps one of the most ancient lode mines in the New World. There are numerous sites on the proposed Park lands that are registered with the Museum of New Mexico’s Laboratory of Anthropology, including three prehistoric stone rings and a petroglyph at the summit of Grand Central Mountain.

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The arrival of the Spanish with the Coronado entrada of 1540-41 certainly passed within a few miles of the Cerrillos Hills, but for whatever reason – the Indians of the Galisteo Basin had suffered recent depredations by Teya raiders from the Plains and were particularly wary of these newcomers, or possibly the mines at the time were temporarily closed down – the Puebloans were reluctant to disclose the location of the mines. Subsequent entradas in the 1580s and 1590s were successful in visiting the Cerrillos Hills and obtaining ore specimens for assay.

In the mid 1600s a cattle ranch was established south of the Santa Fe River near Alamo Creek and the nearby hills were given the name Los Cerrillos. In 1695 Governor De Vargas appointed a mayor for El Real de los Cerrillos which makes it the oldest Western mining settlement for which we have a clear record.

Soon after the Reconquista, about 1700, the Rio Grande potters ceased to make glaze-decorated pottery, and presumably the mining of lead ore by the Puebloans ceased at the same time. But Puebloan turquoise mining in the Cerrillos Hills continued into the twentieth century, with historical records showing inhabitants of Santo Domingo, Cochiti, San Felipe, and San Ildefonso all making use of the mines.

Spanish activities in the Cerrillos Hills during the first hundred years are poorly documented. Spanish mining laws were strict, so whatever mining was carried out by the Spanish colonists was probably done without the benefit of official sanction and concomitant records. It was only in 1970 that the archaeological evidence confirming 17th century Spanish mining and smelting in the Cerrillos Hills was discovered by George O. Bachman, USGS.

In 1879, the year the Cerrillos Mining District was formed, there was a mining boom, and in a very short time over 1,000 claims were registered. Many towns sprang up in the Cerrillos Hills area, one of the first called Dimmick's Camp, later known as Carbonateville and possibly Turquoise City (which alternatively, may be nearby). Carbonateville's greatest claim to fame is that Governor Lew Wallace stayed in the Carbonateville Hotel while he was working on Ben Hur. The low stone wall ruins and the rutted stagecoach road of Carbonateville are within the proposed CHRP lands.

The Village of Cerrillos was established in 1879 as a tent camp between the lead and silver of the Cerrillos Hills to the north and the coal and gold mines in the hills to the south. It flourished as a natural point of access to both areas, but it was the arrival of the railroad in 1880 that assured the fate of the Village of Cerrillos would be different than that of Carbonateville.

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In the middle 1970s Occidental Minerals Corporation (Oxymin) pursued the creation of a large-scale acid-leach copper mine in the Cerrillos Hills but was unable to secure rights to sufficient water and the project was terminated. Community disapproval and the price of copper were also factors in this decision. Outside of but adjacent to the lands herein proposed for the Cerrillos Hills Regional Park there is a present-day gravel mining operation on the same site as the January 1977 Oxymin underground test detonation.

Contact information: The Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition (CHPC) is an outstanding example of preservation on the Turquoise Trail, displaying the commitment of the area stakeholders to protect the region's intrinsic qualities. The SBAC believes, that act of "local" preservation, makes the Cerrillos Hills a regionally significant intrinsic quality, because it shows the commitment to sharing local resources with others. The following is an excerpt from the CHPC's vision statement.

"For visitors from elsewhere in New Mexico and beyond: in addition to the benefits to county residents, a place to study and understand some of the ancient and more recent mining history of the Southwest United States."

The CHPC mission statement:

"The Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition works to provide broad-based educational and recreational opportunities for Santa Fe County through the acquisition, preservation and protection of the Cerrillos Hills and the establishment, enhancement and support of a regional park providing low-impact public access to the unique natural, historical, archaeological, cultural, and recreational resources of the Hills."

For more information, the CHPC has set up a web site at www.cerrillosHills.org

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Kiwanis Cabin: Civilian Conservation Corps (Regional Historic Quality)

The SBAC has determined that the CCC ruins are potentially a nationally significant historic intrinsic quality; however, the only visible site access and interpretation is at the Kiwanis Cabin. Therefore, the SBAC considers this intrinsic quality to be only regionally significant at this time. The Kiwanis Cabin is located seven tenths of a mile from NM 536 Milepost 13.6 (Sandia Crest). There is adequate parking, a visitor's center, and an improved path to the site. The U.S. Forest Service provides interpretation via rangers at the visitor center and interpretive signs at the site.

In the span of eight years, from 1933 to 1941, 54,585 Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees in New Mexico built hundreds of roads and rails, 795 bridges, 472 lookout towers large dams and reservoirs, installed millions of rods of fences and planted millions of trees for reforestation and to prevent gully erosion.

When these New Mexico men joined the corps, along with 3.5 million other Americans, the country was in desperate straits. Close to 25 percent of the population was unemployed. Hunger and despair had become a way of life.

A group of local corps alumni want to see a memorial CCC museum of national stature built on the site where CCC Camp 814 F-8-N Sandia Park once stood on a piece of land just off NM 536, the Sandia Crest Road. They want people to know what they accomplished in youthful days during the Great Depression. And they want today's youth to know that youth are a major asset to this country, just as the CCC men were when they were boys. The CCC was the greatest-ever conservation effort in American history.

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San Francisco Church in Golden

(Regional Historic Quality)

One of the most photographed buildings on the Turquoise Trail.

Golden: New gold placer deposits were discovered at the base of the San Pedro Mountains about 1840. Rich gold deposits referred to as old Placers had been found in the Ortiz Mountains some twelve years earlier, and now the prospectors and miners with their dry washers were coming to the new strike in search of wealth. Soon the community of El Real de San Francisco developed, along with the neighboring settlement of Tuerto to the north. The two villages and surrounding vicinity probably never contained more than a few hundred people and consisted almost entirely of Mexicans and Indians who lived in adobe dwellings and brought the crudely scraped ore on burros to the valley, where they used water to concentrate the gold.

Placing continued intermittently during the next forty years, interrupted by the Mexican War and the Civil War. About 1880, eastern capital and southwestern politicians formed several companies: the Canyon del Agua and San Pedro Mining Company, Mammoth Mining Company, and the Gold Bullion Company to develop the New placer mines. Gradually, the town site known as El Real de San Francisco had its name changed to Golden and had begun to expand its services to the incoming population. By 1882, Golden consisted of three general merchandise stores, a hotel, and the Madden & Maxwell Saloon. Two years later the town had expanded to claim about 400 people.

Intrinsic Qualities

5-30

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Covered wagon in Cerrillos (Regional Historic Quality)

The Cerrillos hills abound in legends of turquoise and silver, of ancient workings at Mount Chalchihuitl and Mina-del-Tierra, and of days when enslaved Indians mined the wealth for the greedy Spaniards. No doubt it was stories such as these that induced two empty-handed miners from Leadville, Colorado, to rediscover the Cerrillos wealth and produce a boom. In 1879, Frank Demote and an Englishman named Robert Hart headed for Cerrillos to try their luck. When they returned to Leadville, with a collection of samples, work spread rapidly of their ore content, and the inevitable stampede resulted. The once unlucky miners from Leadville rushed to Cerrillos and formed a quick tent town. This was the beginning of the village of Cerrillos or Los Cerrillos. By mid-summer of 1879, three hundred miners were at work gouging out the gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc from the Cerrillos. Then coal was discovered along the Galisteo River, adding another important find to the rich treasures.

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Cerrillos charm

Mining is no longer important to Cerrillos, and today the town functions as a tourist attraction. It is a charming place, claiming a few businesses, a Catholic church, and several families. One of its more interesting attractions is the stately Palace Hotel built by Richard Green, who came from Texas in the 1880s with his wife and children. The stone portion of the hotel was built first and consisted of a dozen rooms, including a bridal suite. Two years later, the adobe section was added to serve as a dining room. A later owners of the hotel, Mrs. Nellie Trigg, renamed it the Rock House Ranch.

Cerrillos' charm captivated Walt Disney, who used the main street as background for his Elfego Baca television series. Cerrillos was disguised as the town of Frisco, as is verified by the signs still faintly visible on the buildings.

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Madrid Row House

(Regional Historic Quality)

The entire town of Madrid was designated a historic area on the National Historic Register on November 9, 1977. Its reference number is 77000928. Madrid produced both anthracite and bituminous coal, a unique and unusual condition, believed to be at only this location in the world. It was recorded that coal was taken from the Madrid fields as early as 1835. The town dates from about 1869, when coal mining was being conducted there on a limited basis. In the 1880s, the Santa Fe Railroad became interested in the Madrid coal to supply their steam engines.

Madrid reached its peak coal production in 1928, with its best years ranging from 1920 to the end of the 1940s. It was a company-owned town controlled by the Albuquerque and Cerrillos Coal Company and geared toward supplying all the needs of the employees. There was a six-room hospital, a doctor available at all times, a garage and service station, hotel, company store, schools and churches. Madrid had a fine baseball park with an electric scoreboard and a field lighted for night games, a tennis court, golf course, and a shooting range.

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Christmas in Historic Madrid (Regional Historic Quality)

A view of NM 14 freshly covered with snow. Since the 1930's, Madrid has dressed itself up with lights during the holiday season

Madrid's social and civic activities were generally sponsored by the Madrid Employees Club, which was largely responsible for making Madrid an outstanding town. Everyone working at Madrid was an automatic member of the club, unless excluded by personal choice. Dues were seventy-five cents a month. The Employees Club sponsored the baseball team, the Madrid Miners; the annual Fourth of July celebration; the annual childrens' Easter egg hunt; the thirty-piece Madrid Band; and the most noted of all Madrid's activities, the famous Christmas celebrations.

During the Christmas season, Madrid played host to thousand's of visitors who came to view the town's fabulous Christmas display. Over forty thousand electric bulbs were used to light up Madrid. Main Street was decorated with garlands, each home had a lighted Christmas tree, on the mountains were life-size figures depicting biblical scenes, and the ball park held a fanciful toy land display. It is said, the Christmas in Madrid was the inspiration for Walt Disney in creating Disneyland.

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Garden of the Gods

(Regional Natural Quality)

This site is visible from NM 14 approximately three miles north of Cerrillos. There is a gravel roadside pulloff. According to a long lost New Mexico State Historical marker:

“Vertical beds of colorful sandstone and mudstone of the Galisteo Foundation were deposited in streams 70 million years ago. Deposited as horizontal sheets, they have been tilted to their present vertical position by mountain building forces beneath the earth surface. Elevation 6,000 feet.”

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Red Tail Hawk

(Regional Natural Quality)

Wildlife (text courtesy of the USFS): The scenic byway corridor on NM 536 provides a wide variety of habitat types that support diverse populations of wildlife, including over 59 species of mammals, more than 169 species of birds for at least part of the year, and many species of reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates.

Habitat types along the scenic byway are dispersed over the landscape in a patchwork pattern that provides areas of edge where one habitat type blends into another. The number and size of these edge areas in the unit adds to the habitat complexity and increases wildlife species diversity.

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The diverse habitats of the scenic byway support complex plant communities. A plant community is a unique combination of plants that reflects the environmental influences on a site, such as soil, temperature, elevation, slope, aspect, and rainfall as they influence vegetation.

Certain habitat types are especially important to wildlife because they are in limited supply, provide essential combinations of habitat factors during critical portions of a life cycle, or allow protected access to preferred habitats during seasonal migrations. These habitats are termed "special use areas". Travel corridors, foraging areas, special habitat features (rock outcrops, nests, snags, downed logs, openings, caves, old growth), watering areas and riparian habitat are types of special use areas. Riparian areas and critical habitat for special status species (TES, migratory birds, species of economic value) are special use areas that are priority habitats for protection, maintenance or enhancement actions along the scenic byway.

Some -recreation developments have already been placed in special use areas, reducing the value of the habitat to wildlife. Through development of specific actions and prescriptions associated with the scenic byway, some of those habitat areas can be enhanced, protected or improved.

The Forest Service lacks the information needed to set specific management prescriptions and actions for wildlife habitat along the scenic byway. Many areas have not been surveyed for wildlife habitat (except threatened, endangered or sensitive species) and are not in an area with a specific habitat management plan. Landsat data, previous planning documents and wildlife surveys are being used to guide wildlife habitat management along the scenic byway. Additional inventory will be used as available for more detailed analysis of certain wildlife species and habitats.

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(Regional Recreational Quality)

Some of the recreational activities along the byway are regionally significant, others are not; however, collectively the activities are regionally significant, especially since they are minutes away from a major city and available in all four seasons.



One ski or two? You decide.

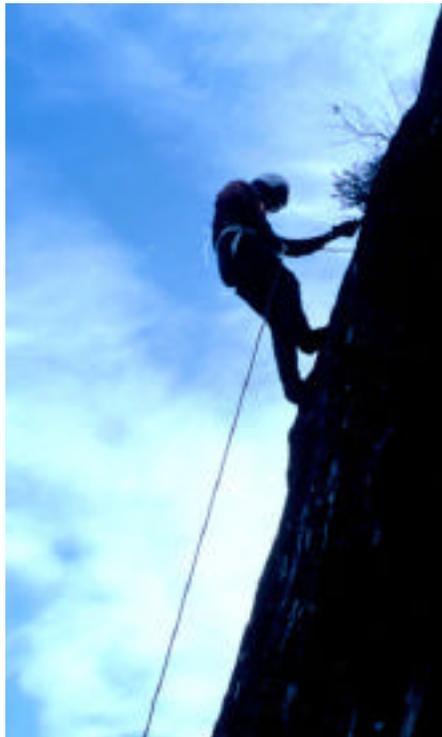


Downhill or cross-country?

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Stars and Stripes in winter and a little soft shoe



Climbing up and over in the Sandias

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Meet you at the club

The new public golf course at Paako will be fully open in early 2000. The adobe style clubhouse construction is well under way.



Biking in the summer sun

On road and off road biking on the Turquoise Trail. The ride up NM536 is rated in the top 10 of up hill climbs in the country by GreatOutdoors.com. Funding is in place to study adding more bike paths and to purchase right of ways for multi-use trails.

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It's all uphill from here

A regional run up NM 536 just north of the Sandia Peak Ski Area. There are more than 100 miles of improved trails for hiking too, but if you get tired of walking, try flying.



Taking off from the flight deck

The U. S. Forest service has provided special use permits in the Sandias to allow two jump off points for hang gliding. One is at the top of Sandia Peak Ski Area and the other is at the top of Sandia Crest.

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Regional Scenic Quality

Although there are many regionally significant scenic qualities, we have limited the images to those of national significance previously shown. Our asset inventory to be completed in April, 2000 will contain a comprehensive list of scenic vistas along the byway.

Visitor Services



Less than 20 miles to a gas station

The Turquoise Trail has five filling stations, more than 50 locations where food may be purchased, lodging for more than 200 visitors each night, several car repair facilities, an auto parts store, a hardware store, a towing company, at least four public rest rooms and dozens more in the shops, stores, and restaurants along the trail. Since the byway termini lie within minutes of Albuquerque or Santa Fe, assets of those major metropolitan areas may be reached in less than one hour. Police, fire, and emergency medical services are available on the byway by calling 911.