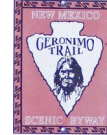


Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan

Located in Southwest New Mexico

Updated April 2008



Prepared by Pathways Consulting Services – Aspen Doan
Support and assistance provided by Geronimo Springs Museum and the Geronimo Trail
Scenic Byway Advisory Board, U.S. Forest Service, New Mexico Department of
Transportation, Sierra County Historical Society, Sierra County Economic Development
Organization, and the Sierra County Recreation and Tourism Advisory Board

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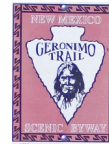
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Executive Summary



Informational display board near Hwy junctions 52 & 59

I. *Executive Summary*

Overview

Ten years have passed since the first Corridor Management Plan was published for the Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway, (hereby referred to as GTNSB). Since 1997 The GTNSB has become a well traveled and much appreciated resource for Sierra County. The restoration of historic buildings, the development of hiking trails and walkways, the building of rest areas and pullouts and an increase in accommodations and tourist destinations have added richness to the GTNSB over the past ten years.

The Corridor Management Plan of 2008 will reflect the improvements and changes since 1997. This Plan will discuss proposed projects and plans for the next five years. Projects will include more restorations of historic buildings, increased and improved signage and interpretive areas, the development and updating of brochures and the linking of two major trail projects to the GTNSB.

Collaborations in the maintenance and continued improvement of the GTNSB include the following entities:

- New Mexico Department of Transportation
- U.S Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Elephant Butte Lake State Park
- Geronimo Springs Museum & Geronimo Trail Visitor Interpretive Center
- National Park Service
- Sierra County Recreation & Tourism Advisory Board
- Sierra County Historical Society
- Sierra County Economic Development Organization
- Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District
- City of Truth or Consequences
- City of Elephant Butte
- Sierra County
- Towns & Villages along Byway

The Geronimo Trail Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee was organized in 1996 and continues to define the direction for the Byway, stressing preservation and economic development.

Byway Inventory

The Byway Inventory describes the rich assets and resources found along the Geronimo Trail. The GTNSB covers terrain from dry deserts to forests, spanning many distinct life zones. Several significant changes will be noted in the Byway Inventory since 1997. One of these changes is that the GTNSB only goes to San Lorenzo in the south and only as far as Beaverhead in the north. The U.S. Forest Service Road 150, once a part of the GTNSB, is now listed as a side trip due to the need for high clearance vehicles and the unpredictability of the road conditions. Hwy 35 through the Mimbres and to the Gila Cliff Dwellings has been taken on by Grant County and is now part of the Trail of the Mountain Spirits National Scenic Byway. An addition to the GTNSB is the mining town of Chloride. Chloride was previously considered a side trip but the development of a rest area with restrooms, sheltered picnic tables now provides visitors with a place to bring their lunch and spend more time.

Beginning at the Geronimo Springs Museum in Truth or Consequences (T or C), New Mexico, the GTNSB travels west through Williamsburg and south on NM 187 following the Rio Grande. The barren peaks of the Caballo Mountains stand sentinel over the valley below, and the shimmering waters of Caballo Lake can be seen at the junction with NM 152.



***View of Caballo Mountains and Lake
from Hwy 187 near junction NM 152***

This portion of the Trail overlaps the Lake Valley Back Country Byway along NM 152 as it climbs out of the river valley and through the foothills toward Hillsboro, a mining town of the 1880's, and former County seat.

Byway Inventory (continued)

Hillsboro today is a picturesque blend of stately old homes, shady tree-lined streets, and remnants of a former glory.

As NM 152 winds into the mountains, it passes Kingston, another 1880's mining town, with a reputation for wild and wooly ways and sleepless nights. From here the climb becomes much steeper, gaining nearly 3000 feet in altitude in the next nine miles, where it crests at Emory Pass. Visitors stopping here will be treated to a panoramic view of mountain peaks and the tiny winding road they just traveled before continuing their journey down the other side. The terrain changes from towering pines on the mountains and cliffs overshadowing the road to gentle slopes, with juniper, cedar and scrub oak, until it reaches the Mimbres River Valley at San Lorenzo where the GTNSB ends and the Trail of the Mountain Spirits National Scenic Byway begins.

The northwestern route of the Byway starts from the Geronimo Springs Museum, circling back through downtown Truth or Consequences. The Byway goes north on Date Street then east on Third Street (Hwy 51) along the Rio Grande at Hwy 179 north. The Byway joins Hwy 195 and travels the southern end of Elephant Butte Lake, past the Elephant Butte Lake State Park entrance and into the city of Elephant Butte. The Byway then travels Hwy 195 due west and heads north on Hwy 181 to Hwy 52 west. Hwy 52 travels through Cuchillo, the location of an old stage coach stop and home to the Annual Pecan Festival. The Byway continues on Hwy 52 to the historic mining town of Winston. The road comes to a "T" and at this point the GTNSB goes either left to the second historic mining town of Chloride or right, to continue on to the junction of Highways 52 and 59. The Byway continues on Hwy 59, crossing vast mountain meadows, shifting into beautiful forest terrain, intersecting the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and ending in Beaverhead.



Mileage from Truth or Consequences to San Lorenzo is approximately 56 miles or 112 miles round trip. Mileage from Truth or Consequences to Beaverhead is approximately 82 miles or 164 miles round trip.

Several side trips can be taken from different areas of the Geronimo Trail in either direction.

Windmill off of Hwy 59

Corridor Management Plan Elements

The Corridor Management Plan (CMP) was written as a means of charting the National Scenic Byway's future direction. The Plan describes the activities and tasks that are needed to achieve the goals and objectives defined by the stakeholders. The cooperation of all the stakeholders is vital to the accomplishments of the Plan.

The Geronimo Trail Byway Advisory Committee is the primary group directing the maintenance and improvement of the Scenic Byway. Partnerships with other organizations include: the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico Tourism Department, New Mexico Department of Transportation, town/cities along the Byway and private sector firms (banks, etc.).

The Geronimo Trail Scenic Byway Advisory Committee was formed in May of 1996. The Committee is chaired by Albert Lyon and represents principle stakeholders (communities and organizations) located along the route. The Advisory Committee plays an important role in all preservation and economic development projects planned along the GTNSB.

Vision Statement, Goals and Objectives

The Geronimo Trail Advisory Committee has defined a direction for the Byway for the years 2008 – 2013 which stresses preservation and economic development. The statements listed below have shaped major elements of the plan adopted by the route stakeholders.

Primary Vision

The GTNSB has been established to showcase and preserve the Corridor area for its historic multi-cultural heritage and outstanding natural resources.

Goals

- A. Increase awareness of the historic significance of the GTNSB region, thus enhancing public education, enjoyment and appreciation of the natural and cultural heritage of the area.
- B. Market the GTNSB as a unique tourism opportunity in New Mexico for local residents, out-of-state visitors and international travelers.

Goals (continued)

- C. Develop information and interpretive services along the byway that will encourage and promote stewardship to ensure the preservation of the land by the byway users.
- D. Ensure that services provided by local communities be authentic and of high quality, as well as tailored to the traveler's needs and desires.
- E. Increase volunteer participation in the support and maintenance of the Trail.
- F. Preserve the GTNSB's resources, while developing the route as a sustainable tourist and recreation attraction, and provide area residents – particularly the youth – with employment and meaningful careers.

Objectives

- A. Improve information on mileage or Byway signs to let tourists know if services such as restrooms, gas and food are available. This would be completed by the end of 2010.
- B. Improve directional signage along the GTNSB by 2010. This would include a sign at Winston on Hwy 52 pointing in the direction of Chloride; a sign directing visitors to cemeteries; better signage on Hwy 59, (such as identifying Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, the Forest Service Roads and rest areas); signage off of Hwy 52 pointing to restrooms at Cuchillo and a sign off Hwy 152 in Hillsboro directing visitors to the old Court House site.
- C. By 2010 create educational signage in Kingston identifying historic locations and building around the town.
- D. By 2009 add signage along winding Hwy 152 between Kingston and Emory Pass warning drivers of bicyclists on the road.
- E. Collaborate with the Healing Waters Trail Committee, the Rio Grande Trail Project and Elephant Butte Lake State Park in designing and constructing hiking / biking / walking trails along the Byway.
- F. By 2013 expand print, radio and other media coverage of the GTNSB by 10% or more.

Objectives (continued)

- G. Create a visitor map giving directions to the cemeteries of Sierra County and point out burial sites of well known characters such as Sadie Orchard, Cassie Hobbs and Raymond Schmidt. This will be completed by late 2010.
- H. Increase travel expenditures along the Byway by 5% annually over the next five years.
- I. Inventory the current Trail visitor tour products and conduct a needs assessment by January 2009.
- J. By late 2009, collaborate with the Sierra County Recreation & Tourism Advisory Board to host two hospitality training programs in communities along the Byway.
- K. Develop training programs for volunteers who will assist in the education and maintenance of the GTNSB by 2010.
- L. Support the development of additional museums in Sierra County including an Airplane Museum (replacing Callahan's Car Museum), a museum at the Vietnam War Memorial Park and space port museum, a Game Show Museum and any other proposed museums.

Strategies

The following strategies have been adopted by the Advisory Committee and the communities located along the route. Region-wide efforts and considerable resources will be utilized to implement these strategies in the years to come.

Strategy on Development

Continue development of the GTNSB including signage to better direct visitors to places of interest and to inform travelers of the location of rest areas and services. There will be an expansion of hiking / biking / walking trails and further landscaping of pullout and rest areas. Interpretive areas will be developed to increase visitor awareness of cultural and historical occurrences along the Trail. Partnerships will be developed with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico Department of Transportation, Elephant Butte Lake State Park, the Rio Grande Trail Project and the Healing Waters Trail Committee.

Strategies (continued)

A Strategy for Maintaining Intrinsic Qualities

The GTNSB is a long beautiful drive through rural New Mexico, allowing all the people living along this Byway to maintain traditional lifestyles with sensitivity to the view-shed and impacts to the Byway.

All City, State and Federal agencies with management responsibilities along the GTNSB are working in concert to enhance this project. All are committed to maintaining the intrinsic quality of the Byway. There is no threat to the intrinsic quality known at present. The current County Plan discusses land development in the future. The Geronimo Trail Advisory Board will make sure that the County remains sensitive to the protection and preservation of the GTNSB.

Plans and Projects

The following plans and projects have been adopted by the Geronimo Trail Advisory Committee and communities located along the route. Region-wide efforts and considerable resources will be utilized to implement these plans and projects in the years to come.

Plan for Public Participation as Volunteers

Since the completion of the first Corridor Management Plan in 1997 the Geronimo Trail Advisory Committee has continued to work with the public and to collaborate with local groups in planning and carrying out improvements to the GTNSB. There is a desire to increase public participation to assist with education and support of the Byway. The Geronimo Trail Advisory Board will collaborate with the Sierra County Recreation & Tourism Advisory Board to provide training for volunteers to ensure that the GTNSB will be sustained by strong support at the local community level.

Byway Signage Plan

The Geronimo Trail Advisory Committee in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the New Mexico Department of Transportation have installed Geronimo Trail marker signs along the entire length of the Byway and informational signs at rest areas and pullouts along the route. Visitor response to this signage has been positive.

Plans and Projects (continued)

Current public input has requested that the Advisory Committee plan to improve signage by adding information about distances to rest areas and services such as gas and food and to let the traveler know that services such as gas and food may not be available for some miles. Further signage is needed to direct visitors to communities such as Chloride and to historic sites such as cemeteries and the ruins of the old court house in Hillsboro. Another public request is to post signs along the winding road between Kingston and Emory Pass to let drivers know that bicyclists may be on the road. Continued collaboration with the above mentioned entities will ensure that improved signage will be completed within the next five years.

Byway Marketing Plan

The advent of the Internet age has increased marketability of the GTNSB tremendously over the last ten years. Stakeholder websites in addition to the National Scenic Byway website, <http://www.byways.org> include information and links that visitors can follow to learn more about the GTNSB. In 2004 the Sierra County Recreation & Tourism Advisory Board was created to focus entirely on promoting tourism in Sierra County. Members of the Geronimo Trail Advisory Committee have become very active with this group. The website, <http://www.sierracountynewmexico.info> includes a link to the GTNSB in addition to providing visitors with contact information to accommodations and destinations along the Byway. Continuing efforts over the next five years will keep the GTNSB website information current.

Byway Interpretive Plan

Driving for pleasure is the most popular outdoor recreational experience for the American public. Visitors to the GTNSB include residents of Southwestern New Mexico, visitors from across the nation, and international tourists. A large number of visitors are repeat visitors who are returning to the region.

Southwestern New Mexico is geographically isolated from major population areas. As a result, while most visitors have visited larger cities in the Southwest (Albuquerque, Santa Fe, El Paso, Tucson), they know very little about the recreational opportunities in this part of New Mexico. They are eager to receive additional information to help orient them to the land and learn about the local and regional history. Most visitors are very appreciative of information, as it allows them to relate to the people and places that make southwestern New Mexico so special. In addition to informational signage that can be found at rest areas and pullouts,
(continued)

signage about Sierra County's relationship with the Apache have been added at ten different sites along the Trail. The Geronimo Spring Museum now has an interpretive center dedicated to the GTNSB and will be adding a representation of an Apache campsite. The historic mining town of Chloride is in the process of restoring an original mining cabin and developing a walk-through interpretive gallery honoring the mining history of the area. Elephant Butte Lake State Park will be enhancing a popular birding campground with the addition of interpretive signage and programs.

Projects along the Geronimo Trail

- Truth or Consequences
 - Healing Waters Trail Project
 - Cemetery Brochure
 - Completion of Apache campsite at the Visitor & Interpretive Center.
- Elephant Butte
 - Continued Landscaping
 - Collaborate with Elephant Butte Lake State Park in the establishment of a CCC statue & Plaque at Damsite Recreation Area
- Elephant Butte Lake State Park
 - Create Interpretive Program for Paseo del Rio Campground
 - Restore Fish Hatchery
 - Improving Existing Hiking Trails
 - Upgrade Visitor's Center
 - Rio Grande Trail Project
- Hillsboro
 - Court House Restoration
- Monticello
 - Restoration of old school house
 - Restoration of Plaza
 - Informational signage for plaza buildings
- Cuchillo
 - Plan & develop a rest area
 - Restoration of Cuchillo Store / Bar
- Chloride
 - Completion of Mining Interpretive Gallery
 - Food Service in Chloride
 - Restoration of Cassie Hobbs house

Plans and Projects (continued)

- Hwy 152
 - Wright's Cabin
 - Railroad Trailhead
 - Lower Gallinas Canyon Campground
- Hwy 59
 - Development of Trailhead near Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.

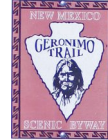


Lake Valley Informational Kiosk at Lake Valley



**Paseo del Rio Campground off of
Hwy 51 to Engle**

II. Geronimo Trail Scenic Byway Advisory Committee



Planning Meeting, Geronimo Trail Advisory Committee

II. Geronimo Trail Scenic Byway Advisory Committee

The Geronimo Trail Advisory Committee remains a critical element in maintaining the GTNSB and assuring the accuracy and relevance of information described in the Corridor Management Plan. Since the publication of the CMP in 1997 the Geronimo Trail Advisory Committee has continued to meet to discuss plans for the Geronimo Trail, to evaluate projects completed and to review the progress of current projects. The Advisory Committee continues to:

- Ensure that the community has input and plays a role in the decision making process, and
- Brings together the technical expertise needed to carry on the long term development of the Geronimo Trail that is preservation oriented, economically efficient and achieves the current goals and objective adopted by Byway stakeholders.

The Geronimo Trail Advisory Committee meets quarterly and on an as needed basis and includes representatives from communities along the Byway.

GERONIMO TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

| <u>Official</u> | <u>Title, Organization</u> |
|-----------------|--|
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GERONIMO TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (continued)

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GERONIMO TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (continued)

In addition to the above Advisory Board members, the Geronimo Trail Advisory Committee includes the following members:

Jason Lamb – Sierra County Extension Agent
Bettie Brannon – T or C Chamber of Commerce
Dona Edmund – Chloride, Pioneer Store Museum
Mindy Ybarra – Sierra County Economic Dev. Org.
Lydia Torres – Cuchillo, Cuchillo Creek Café
Merideth Hildreth – Hillsboro, Cuna Cueva Gallery
Oz Gomez – Bureau of Land Management
Maria Hinijos – NM Dept of Transportation

Advisory Committee members each serve on one or more subcommittees and are available to answer questions, seek information, and assist with the compilation of data needed to carry out GTNSB projects.



Public Input Meeting at Geronimo Springs Museum

BYWAY INVENTORY



Sitting places along sidewalk, downtown Hillsboro

III. Byway Inventory

Overview

The GTNSB covers terrain from dry deserts to the forests, spanning many distinct life zones. Beginning at the Geronimo Springs Museum in Truth or Consequences (T or C), New Mexico, it travels west through Williamsburg and south on NM 187 following the Rio Grande. The barren peaks of the Caballo Mountains stand sentinel over the valley below, and the shimmering waters of Caballo Lake can be seen at the junction with NM 152. This portion of the Geronimo Trail overlaps the Lake Valley Back Country Byway along NM 152 as it climbs out of the river valley and through the foothills toward Hillsboro, a mining town of the 1880's, and former county seat. Hillsboro today is a picturesque blend of stately old homes, shady tree lined streets, and remnants of a former glory.



View of shops along Hwy 152, downtown Hillsboro

Hillsboro has seen an influx of new residents in the last ten years. The community has restored the old school house and created a Community Center, providing the community and Sierra County with a space for meetings, dances, art shows and monthly music events. Artists have opened up studio space and galleries in the downtown area.

Byway Inventory (continued)

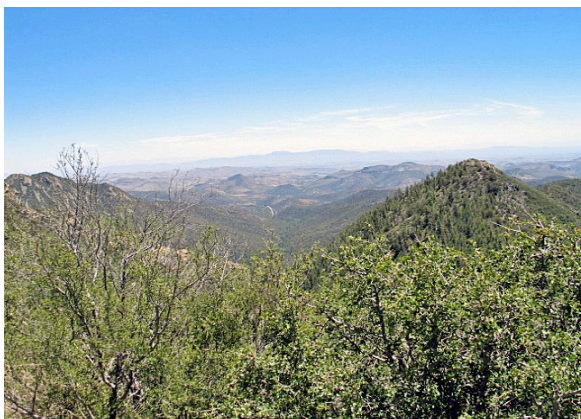
As NM 152 winds up into the mountains, it passes Kingston, another mining town of the 1880's, with a reputation for wild and wooly ways and never going to sleep.



Kingston, like Hillsboro has seen an increase of new residents who are dedicated to the preservation of the community. The Percha Bank has been restored and is now a museum. It is open to the public by appointment only. Information about the history of Kingston and a walking tour map is now available online at <http://www.perchabank.com> The historic Black Range Lodge, <http://www.BlackRangeLodge.com> continues to offer a delightful stay as a bed and breakfast and hosts workshops on straw bale construction.

Percha Bank Museum, Kingston

From here the climb becomes much steeper, gaining nearly 3000 feet in altitude in the next nine miles, where it crests at Emory Pass and starts down the other side. The terrain changes from towering pines on the mountains and cliffs overshadowing the road to gentle slopes, with juniper, cedar and scrub oak, until it reaches the Mimbres River Valley at San Lorenzo where the Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway ends and the Trail of the Mountain Spirits National Scenic Byway begins.



***View from Emory Pass
looking east***

Byway Inventory (continued)

The northwestern route of the GTNSB will again start you from the Geronimo Springs Museum where you circle back through downtown Truth or Consequences, north on Date Street then east on Third Street (Hwy 51) crossing over the Rio Grande. Heading north on Hwy 179 the Byway joins Hwy 195 and travels the southern end of Elephant Butte Lake, past the Elephant Butte State Park entrance and into the city of Elephant Butte.



Elephant Butte became an incorporated city in 1998 and has been showing steady growth and development. Landscaping and walkways have been added to enhance the visitor's experience.

Elephant Butte Lake State Park has increased visitor use by taking advantage of those years with more beach and less water.

Elephant Butte Lake above Damsite Marina

The Byway travels Hwy 195 due west and heads north on Hwy 181 to Hwy 52 west. Hwy 52 travels through Cuchillo, the location of an old stage coach stop and home to the Annual Pecan Festival.

New residents in Cuchillo have acquired older buildings and restored them. The historic Cuchillo Store & Bar experienced a fire in 2000 that closed down the store. The Bar remained open until 2003 before shutting down. The new owner has plans to preserve the history of the area by restoring the building and opening a museum, a micro-brewery and a small gallery space.

The GTNSB continues on Hwy 52 to the historic mining town of Winston. The road comes to a "T" and at this point the Byway goes either left to the second historic mining town of Chloride, or right to continue on to the junction of Highways 52 and 59. The Byway continues on Hwy 59 across vast mountain meadows, shifting into beautiful forest terrain, crossing the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) and ending in Beaverhead. *Hwy 52 and 59 have added three rest areas that include informational signs and restrooms.*

Byway Inventory (continued)



Rest Area in Chloride

Chloride is now an official part of the Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway. An informational sign, restrooms and a picnic area encourage visitors to stay awhile. The Pioneer Store Museum, <http://www.pioneerstoremuseum.com> continues to draw visitors. The Monte Cristo Saloon & Dance Hall next door has been restored and is a beautiful gallery and gift store.



Historic Monte Cristo Saloon & Dance Hall is now a Gift Store & Gallery

Scenic Highlights & Natural Features of The Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway

The drive across the Black Range from Kingston to San Lorenzo contains some of the most beautiful scenery in New Mexico. The road curves around the mountains between the tall pines and tops out at more than 8200 feet at Emory Pass. The view from Emory Pass Vista is unparalleled for its breathtaking expanse of scenery towards the east. Visibility is usually very good, and one can see the panorama of the road below, Kingston nestled in the valley, Hillsboro further in the distance and the Caballo Mountains towering over Caballo Lake 35 miles away.

Another beautiful view towards the west is the Kneeling Nun Vista at mile marker 22.5. Rising in the middle of the tableau of mountains is the landmark Kneeling Nun, so named because of its resemblance to a nun kneeling before the cathedral in atonement. This formation was a major landmark for Native American tribes, early explorers and settlers.

Other highlights of the drive include the massive rock walls of the Hillsboro box canyon west of Hillsboro. The visitor should take time to drive out to the parking area and walk on the old suspension bridge which was used for so many years to span the gorge. Looking down into the canyon, the visitor can imagine riding in a stagecoach at the bottom. One will again feel dwarfed looking up at the towering cliffs in the Devil's Backbone area, a short distance west of Iron Creek Campground. (Letters A – H correspond to the map on page 30).

The many and varied scenic and natural attractions to be enjoyed by the visitor include the following:

❖ **Emory Pass Vista (A)**

Magnificent view of mountains to the east for more than 40 miles.

❖ **Kneeling Nun Vista (B)**

Spectacular view of mountains to the west for several miles

❖ **Gila National Forest (C)**

The tree-covered peaks, including Hillsboro Peak and Sawyer's Peak, also encompass the Aldo Leopold Wilderness, the Gila Wilderness and numerous camping and hiking trails.

❖ **Hillsboro Box (D)**

Massive canyon walls with cacti and desert plants growing out of vertical cliffs.

Scenic Highlights and Natural Features (continued)

❖ **Turtleback Mountain (E)**

A peak resembling a turtle on top of the mountain overlooking the City of Truth or Consequences and the Rio Grande. This landmark was used to mark the location of the hot mineral springs. The peak is a favorite hiking destination.

❖ **Rio Grande (F)**

The fourth longest river in the U.S., the Rio Grande meanders around the town built on its banks as it moves from Elephant Butte Dam to the Caballo Reservoir.

❖ **Elephant Butte Lake (G)**

A man-made irrigation reservoir created as a result of the construction of Elephant Butte Dam. The lake is approximately 40 miles long. Summer brings a vision of boats dotting the water and campers along the shoreline. Winter features visits from migrating birds stopping for a drink on their way to their winter feeding grounds.

❖ **Caballo Lake and Mountains (H)**

Man-made reservoir created by Caballo Dam to hold water released from Elephant Butte Lake for use in generating electricity and for irrigation purposes. Barren rocky desert mountains arise on the east side of the lake. Legends speak about treasures hidden in these mountains by outlaws of bygone days.



The Rio Grande looking east

Historic Highlights & Archeological Sites of The Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway

Geronimo Trail encompasses centuries of history in the Southwest, from Prehistoric Native American cultures through Spanish rule to the “wild west”. The Black Range Mountains of the Gila National Forest were home to many prehistoric settlements of the Mimbres-Mogollon. When the Spaniards first explored the area, it was inhabited by several tribes of Apache, including Chiricahua and Ojo Caliente. One of the most well-known early Apache leaders were Mangas Coloradas, Victorio, Cochise, Mangas and Geronimo.

The first new settlements in the area were small farming communities settled by Hispanics as early as 1850. These included Cuchillo, Monticello, Las Palomas and Chiz. These early farming settlements traded with the Apache and lived in near-harmony with them as neighbors.

Miners were the next wave of immigration into the area after gold and silver was discovered in the Black Range in the 1880's. The communities of Hillsboro, Kingston, Lake Valley, Chloride and Winston sprang up along with several smaller towns that flourished for a few years then were abandoned when the silver market died. The population grew and a new county was formed in 1884, named Sierra. Hillsboro had the honor of being chosen as the county seat. This beautiful little town still boasts some stately old homes along the tree-lined main street, and other historic buildings. The ruins of the original county courthouse sits on the hill above the town.



***Ruins of old Sierra County
Courthouse***

Historic Highlights and Archeological Sites (continued)

Because so much of the land was good grazing, cattle were brought in and ranches started. Ranching communities sprang up. Engle became a railroad stop and shipping point for cattle. Truth or Consequences began as a town called Hot Springs in the early 1900's as people began to come to the area to bathe in the hot mineral springs. It grew in size and population, and became the county seat in 1937, over the vehement protests of the residents of Hillsboro. (Numbers 1 – 9 correspond to the map on page 30).

Some places to visit to learn more about the early history of the area include:

- ❖ **Geronimo Springs Museum & (1)
Geronimo Trail Visitor & Interpretive Center**
Displays of early Mimbres-Mogollon pottery, Apache artifacts and culture. Hispanic heritage, ranching, mining, military, history of town and county. Fossils, rocks, geology of area, log cabin, art displays, Ralph Edwards room and memorabilia. Informational displays and brochures about the communities along the Geronimo Trail.
- ❖ **Las Palomas Plaza at Geronimo Springs (2)**
Site of original spring used by Apaches. Referred to as Sacred Healing Waters. Also used by soldiers from Ft. McRae and by early settlers to the area.
- ❖ **Black Range Museum (3)**
Displays of early mining days in Sierra County, especially early days of Hillsboro and Kingston area. History of many early, famous mines of the area. Open by appointment only.
- ❖ **Hillsboro Historic District (4)**
Self-guided walking tour of Hillsboro with map of old town, including ruins of courthouse and jail, businesses located in historic buildings and cemetery on nearby hill.
- ❖ **Kingston Historic District (5)**
Interesting old buildings from 1880s to 1890s heyday, plus town bell cast from the ore of local mines. The old cemetery in the forested area is still in use today.
- ❖ **Percha Bank Museum (6)**
Old bank building in Kingston. Open by appointment only.
- ❖ **Winston Historic District (7)**
Old mining town from boom days with buildings dating to 1880s. Originally a mining town, it became a ranching community as well.

Historic Highlights and Archeological Sites (continued)

❖ **Pioneer Store Museum (8)**

Old ghost town of Chloride and history of days when it was a booming mining town. The “Hanging Tree” is in center of main street of town. Museum displays early mining artifacts and memorabilia.

❖ **Elephant Butte Lake State Park Visitor Center (9)**

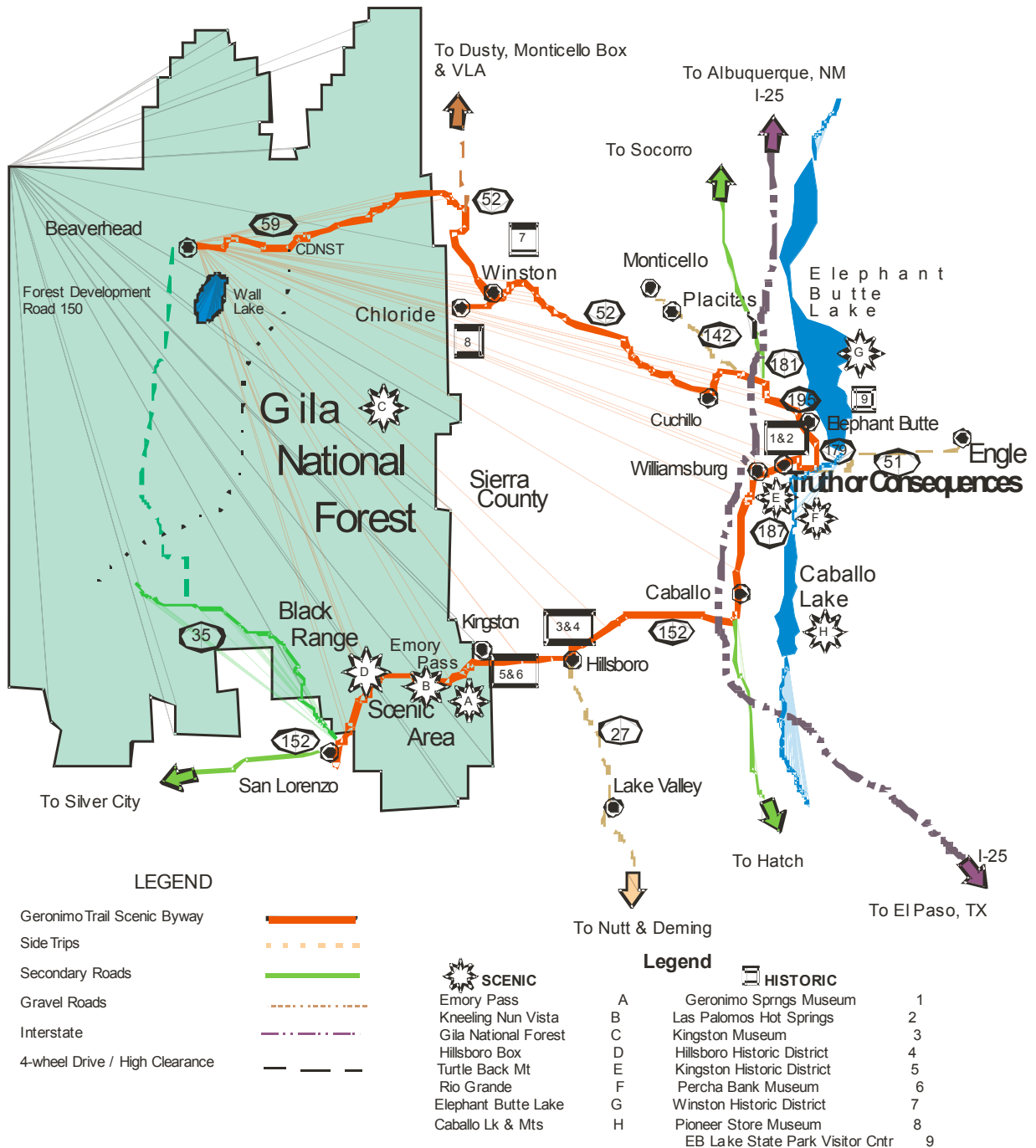
Museum displays fossils and geology of area as well as history of the area covered by the lake.



Monticello Box Canyon

Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway

Scenic & Historic Features



Side Trips

On The Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway

The GTNSB offers a variety of side trips that provide the visitor with additional day-trip options. The following describes these side trips and their scenic, historic and recreational features. (Letters A – G correspond to map on page 35.)

Off Highway 152

❖ Lake Valley Back Country Byway / Lake Valley Town Site (A)

Hwy 27 takes visitors on a drive through mountain foothills to a ghost town that was once a mining town, ranching center and railroad depot. Managed by BLM, the school house has been restored and acts as a museum. A BLM Volunteer is on site most days to open up the school house. Informational signs about the history of Lake Valley are located at various locations throughout the town site providing visitors with a self-guided walking tour.

❖ Mimbres River Valley (B)

The Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway meets the Trail of the Mountain Spirits National Scenic Byway at the junction where Hwy 35 heads north taking visitors through orchards and farmlands to follow the Mimbres River on its journey down the valley. Grassy hillsides arise from the sides, punctuated with wind-etched cliffs of sandstone.



***Restored Classroom inside School House
at Lake Valley town-site***

Side Trips (continued)

Hwy 51

❖ **Paseo del Rio Campground (C)**

Part of the Elephant Butte Lake State Park system located on Hwy 51 adjacent to the Rio Grande. The 17-site campground is ADA accessible and complete with shelters, tables, and grills. There are no sewer or electric services offered in this area, however there is a comfort station with showers located near the entrance and a toilet near the east end of the park. The campground provides a more remote and less crowded atmosphere conducive to day use and tent camping. There are also opportunities to enjoy river fishing, bird watching, and hiking on an interpretive loop trail nearby.

❖ **Engle (D)**

Only three buildings remain in this old cattle ranching town of the late 1800's. Engle was once a large shipping center for cattle driven in from the Tularosa Basin and surrounding ranches of the Jornada. Engle was the early home of Eugene Manlove Rhodes, a well-known writer of western novels in the early 1900's. Railroad tracks parallel the El Camino Real, the early Spanish road from Mexico City to Santa Fe. This area of the road was called the "Jornada del Muerto" or "Journey of the Dead Man", for many lives were lost in the crossing due to lack of water and from attacks by hostile Apache.



Train coming through Engle

Side Trips (continued)

Off Hwy 52

❖ Monticello (E)

Typical New Mexico Hispanic village with a plaza in the center of town, a church on the north side and businesses surrounding the central area. Many of the original buildings on and beyond the plaza remain and have been restored as private residences. The remains of a WPA constructed school stands as a reminder to visitors of the extensive 1933-42 New Deal projects in rural New Mexico.

❖ Ojo Caliente & Monticello Box (F)

Hwy 52 continues north becoming a dirt road. Approximately 9 miles later is the site of the army camp for the Warm Springs Apache Reservation and the location where Geronimo was captured in 1877 and removed to the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. Located on private property the site is visible from the dirt road. High clearance vehicles are recommended and a respect for No Trespassing signs.

Off Hwy 59

❖ Forest Development Road (FDR) 150 (High Clearance Vehicles Needed) (G)

This road is no longer a part of the GTNSB but remains an important side trip as it creates a loop that can take the adventurous visitor from the north part of the GTNSB at Hwy 59 to the south portion of the GTNSB at Hwy 152. F.S. 150 travels through the Aldo Leopold Wilderness, named for the early naturalist who encouraged the preservation of wilderness areas. The Gila National Forest was the first wilderness declared a National Wilderness in the nation. As the largest primitive area still maintained, visitors travel through a vast land of beautiful healthy forest and can choose to stop to hike or camp along the way.

○ Wall Lake (not currently open to the public)

Privately owned mountain lake located off of Forest Service Road 150, nestled in a valley along a creek. Had been very popular with fishermen as well as campers and hikers. Some cliff dwellings face the lake and other prehistoric sites are found in the area. Wall Lake has been closed for some time but the owner has plans to coordinate with the U.S. Forest Service and the Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District to develop the lake and re-open in the next year or so.

Side Trips (continued)

- **Trail #40 Diamond Creek Trail**

A 16 mile trail to Diamond Peak rated “most difficult”. Follows the bottom of the canyon with water flowing during the wet season. Good camping spots among Douglas and Aspen trees. Creek is closed to fishing.

- **Trail #72 Black Canyon Trail**

Rated “very difficult” this trail is 12 miles south of Diamond Creek but can be accessed at Black Canyon off of FDR 150. Trail takes one 12 miles to Reeds Meadow. Follows the creek to a large canyon.

- **Upper & Lower Black Canyon Campground**

5 Campsites, restrooms, fishing

- **Rocky Canyon Campground**

2 campsites, restrooms

❖ FDR 150 & The CDNST

At this point the Forest Development Road 150 meets up with the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.

❖ FDR 150 & Hwy 35

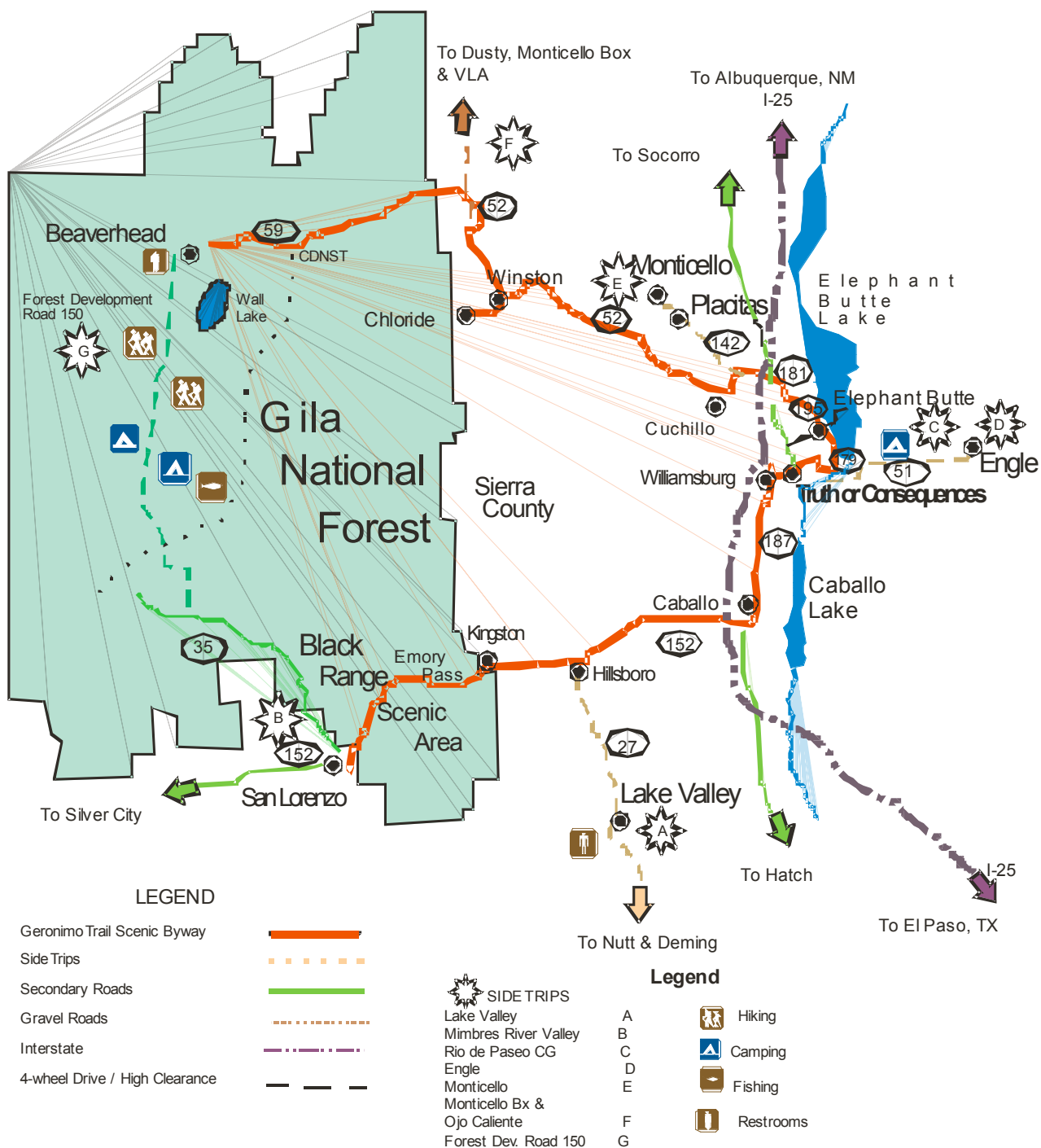
The primitive road of FDR 150 ends at the paved road of Hwy 35. At this point the visitor is traveling the Trail of the Mountain Spirits National Scenic Byway. Taking Hwy 35 south will bring the traveler back to junction Hwy 152.



Elk on the way to Beaverhead

Side Trips

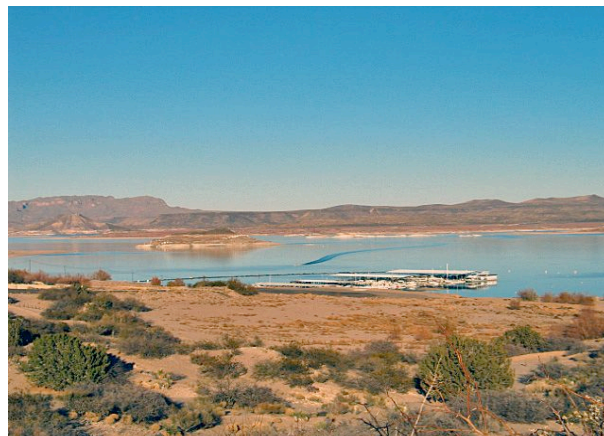
Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway



Recreational Sites & Facilities on the Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway

The Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway has many varied recreational opportunities for the enjoyment of those who visit. The lakes: Elephant Butte, Caballo and Percha, provide water sports, fishing and camping. Elephant Butte Lake is the largest lake in the State of New Mexico, and one of the largest man-made lakes in the nation. Extending 40 miles when full, the lake offers world-class bass fishing and stocks many warm water fish. The three marinas offer a variety of services. Caballo Lake, at the base of the Caballo Mountains is smaller but is preferred by those who desire a quieter recreational experience.

The mountains of the Geronimo Trail area abound with hiking trails, mountain campgrounds and small lakes. (Numbers 1 – 14 correspond to map on page 39).



Marina del Sur, Elephant Butte Lake

❖ Elephant Butte Lake State Park (1)

Camping, boating, water skiing, swimming, fishing can be had at Elephant Butte Lake State Park. Sites with full hook-ups, picnic facilities, group sites and primitive areas are available. Also available are nature trails, a playground area and a visitor's center with museum. Three marinas offer equipment storage and rental, food and camping supplies.

❖ Caballo Lake State Park (2)

South of Truth or Consequences off of Hwy 187 Caballo Lake State Park provides camping, boating, water skiing, swimming and fishing. Playground area and nature trails.

❖ Percha Dam State Park (3)

Listed as one of the top 5 birding spots in New Mexico, Percha Dam State Park is located 21 miles south of Truth or Consequences off of Hwy 187. Features camping, picnicking, fishing and bird watching in the shade of Cottonwoods on the Rio Grande.

Recreational Sites and Facilities (continued)

❖ Kingston Campground (4)

Primitive camping along a creek within walking distance to the historic buildings of Kingston. Tables, trash and toilets.

❖ Emory Pass Picnic Area (5)

Picnic tables overlooking a magnificent view of mountains to the east, south and north. Toilets, trash, grill, trailhead and parking.

❖ Trail 747 and 794 (6)

Trailhead off of Hwy 152 near Emory Pass Vista turnoff, overnight pull-off, no facilities

❖ Wright's Cabin Campground (7)

Camping and picnic area on side of hill overlooking Hwy 152. Accessible only by a climb from the parking area. Tables, toilet, grill.

❖ Iron Creek Campground (8)

Off of Hwy 152. Provides camping and picnic area near a creek. Hiking trails on the mountainside. Tables, toilets and grills.

❖ Gallinas Campground (9)

Off of Hwy 152. Provides camping area down in canyon with hiking trail following creek down stream. Trash, toilets.

❖ Railroad Trailhead (10)

Off of Hwy 152. Primitive camping area along a stream. Parking, trash, toilets.

❖ Truth or Consequences Municipal Golf Course (11)

City owned and maintained. 9-hole course. Ratings: Men 70.7 and Women 60.0

❖ Sierra del Rio Golf Course (12)

Privately owned / public 18 hole course near Elephant Butte Lake State Park. Club House restaurant, pro shop. Golf packages available. Several rating options available for men and women depending on chosen course.

❖ Trail 79 (13)

Trailhead for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Restrooms.

Recreational Sites and Facilities (continued)

❖ Beaverhead Work Center (14)

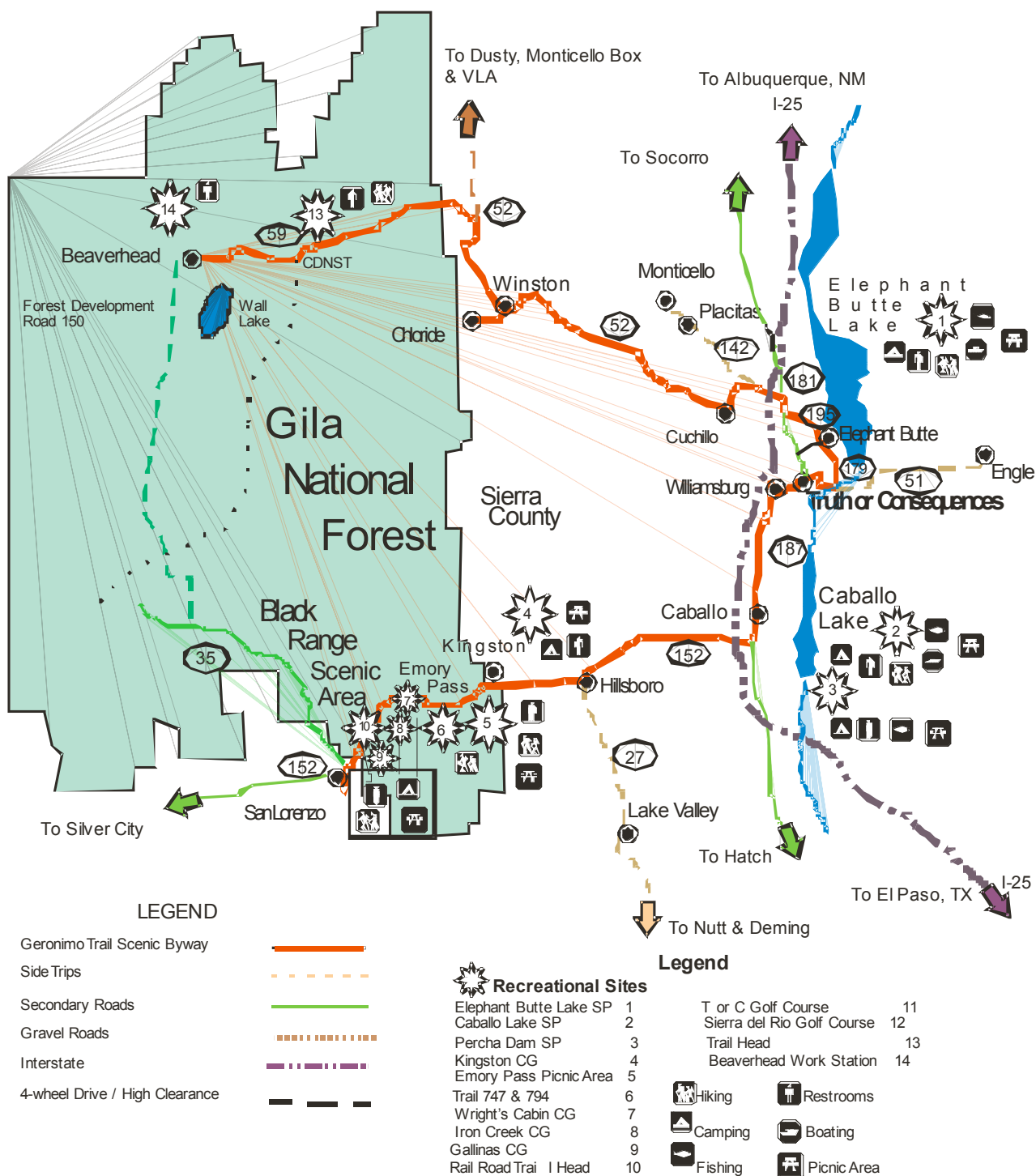
Beaverhead Work Center is located immediately to the west of the end of pavement of NM 59. This Work Center is a part of the Black Range Ranger District of the Gila National Forest. Both fire and trail crew personnel are stationed here. Location of an outside public telephone and information station. When staff is available in the office, Forest Service maps and other information can be obtained. Potable water is also available. There is no camping allowed in the administrative site, but this is an important information point and a place to re-supply water.



***Sign at Continental
Divide National Scenic
Trail off Hwy 59***

Recreational Sites & Facilities

Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway



Cultural Attractions Along The Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway

There are several popular seasonal events, festivals and other cultural attractions in communities along the Geronimo Trail. Parades, entertainers, crafts and good food provide excitement for the local citizen as well as the visitor.

SPRING

- **Truth or Consequences Ralph Edward's Fiesta**
1st Weekend in **May**. Celebrates changing name of Hot Springs, NM to Truth or Consequences. Parade, races, fiddler's competition, golf tournament, rodeo.
- **Hillsboro Heritage Day**
3rd Saturday in **May**. Home and garden tours. Music Festival fundraiser to support the restoration of the old court house.
- **Fly Freedom's Flag Parade**
Memorial Weekend Saturday in Elephant Butte. Boat parade, ceremonies, honoring veterans and troops.

SUMMER

- **Winston Fiesta**
1st Saturday in **June**. Parade, food, cow-chip poker, games, BBQ, dance
- **Elephant Butte Chile Cook-off**
2nd Saturday in **June** at Elephant Butte Lake State Park. Best Red or Green.
- **4th of July Fireworks**
4th of **July** Weekend at Elephant Butte Lake State Park. Display begins at dusk from Rattlesnake Island, reflecting over the water. Lake visitors can enjoy the fireworks from surround camp sites or surround the island with their boats and enjoy the fireworks close up.

FALL

- **Balloon Regatta**
1st Weekend in **September** in Elephant Butte. Ascension of hot-air balloons with splash-n-dash over water, other balloon events
- **Destination Sierra County**
3rd Weekend in **September** throughout Sierra County. Local & regional arts event and workshops in different areas of Sierra County. Dinners, BBQs, book signings by famous authors.

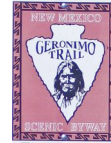
Cultural Attractions (continued)

- **Sierra County Fair**
2nd Weekend in **October** at County Fair Barn in Truth or Consequences. Livestock shows and sale. Food vendors and arts & crafts.
- **New Mexico Old Time Fiddler's State Contest**
3rd or 4th Weekend in **October** in Truth or Consequences. Contestants from all over New Mexico compete in various age categories for the title of State Champion Fiddler. Competition, jam sessions and dances.
- **Elephant Butte Days**
3rd or 4th Weekend in **October** in Elephant Butte. Golf Tournament, rodeo quilt and woodworking show, buffalo BBQ.
- **Run for the Wall**
Veteran's Day Weekend at Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall. Bike run, bike rodeo, car show. Supports the Veteran's Memorial Wall.

WINTER

- **Christmas in the Foothills**
1st Saturday of **December** in Hillsboro. Pre-Christmas celebration, open houses and studios, silent auction and arts and crafts show at the Hillsboro Community Center.
- **Luminaria Festival & Floating Lights Parade**
2nd Saturday in **December** at Elephant Butte Lake State Park. Luminaria-lined paths. Lighted boat parade, campfires, Christmas carols. Involves many Sierra County citizens and organizations.
- **Sierra County Longhorn Show**
President's Day Weekend in **February**. Held at County Fair Barn in Truth or Consequences.
- **Gathering of Quilts**
4th Saturday of **February** in Truth or Consequences. Display of local quilts with raffle and door prizes.
- **Cuchillo Pecan Festival**
4th Saturday of **February** in Cuchillo. Celebration of pecan harvest with pecan pies, pecan candy, food vendors, arts and crafts and entertainment.

Corridor Management Plan: Critical Elements



Road signs on Hwy 51 near Elephant Butte Lake State Park

IV. Corridor Management Plan:

Critical Elements and Assumptions

Introduction

The Corridor Management Plan was created as a means to chart the Byway's direction. The Plan describes the activities and tasks that need to be carried out to achieve the goals and objectives adopted by the stakeholders along the byway. Collaboration and support by all the stakeholders is essential to accomplish the intent of the plan.

Involved Agencies, Organizations and Individuals

The Geronimo Trail Advisory Committee is the primary group overseeing the byway. Partnerships with other groups include: the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico Tourism Department, New Mexico Department of Transportation, Elephant Butte State Park, Sierra County Recreation and Tourism Advisory Board, Sierra County Economic Development Organization, Geronimo Springs Museum, towns / cities (T or C, Elephant Butte, Hillsboro, Cuchillo, Chloride, etc.) and private sector firms (banks, etc.)

The Geronimo Trail Scenic Byway Advisory Committee was formed in May 1996 and continues to represent the principle stakeholders (communities, businesses and organizations) located along the route. The Advisory Committee will continue to play an important role in all preservation and economic development projects planned along the Trail for the next five years.

Road Sections and Areas

The Geronimo Trail Scenic Byways in Southwest and South Central New Mexico is composed of several State maintained paved roads. The State maintained paved roads consist of two 12-foot paved driving lanes with intermittent shoulders. Within the more urban area of T or C, the roadway consists of four 11-to-12 foot paved driving lanes, 2-to-4 foot shoulders, a median, sidewalks, curb and gutter, and a signalized intersection. Third Street or Hwy 51 has acquired a walking sidewalk within the City limits.

CMP: Critical Elements and Assumptions (continued)

The Volume of Capacity Ratio is generally good for the majority of the GTNSB. The only areas considered congested are NM 187 going down to Caballo Lake, and NM 51 and NM 195 in and around Elephant Butte Lake. These areas experience significant congestion during summer weekends and holidays.



Hwy 152 from Hillsboro to Caballo Lake

Road Safety – Hazards and Possible Corrections

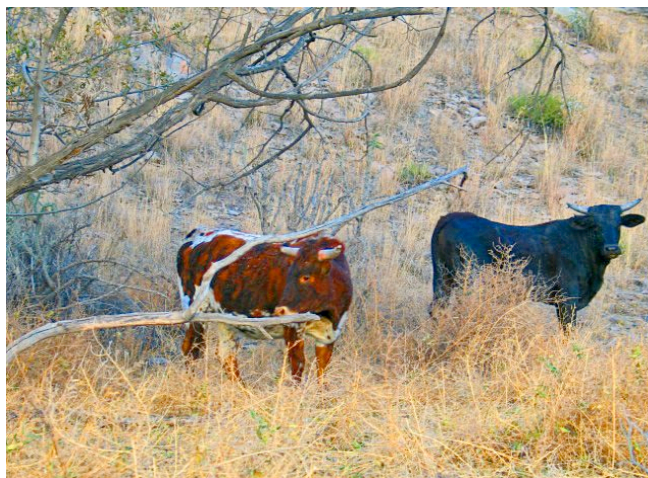
There are numerous sharp curves and the road is fairly steep and narrow from Hillsboro over Emory Pass and down from Iron Creek campground to San Lorenzo. This segment is paved, in good repair and is plowed except nights and weekends. However, there are many places where the road runs along a very deep canyon with no guard rail. There are sharp curves and narrow roads on NM Highway 59 from Beaverhead to NM Highway 52. From Winston to T or C, NM Highway 52 is in good repair but has small sections with very tight curves and winding roads. Safety conditions for the GTNSB are generally good for the posted speed limit.

There is continuous maintenance of the roads as well as minor maintenance projects which are scheduled as the need arises. Construction and maintenance work is performed in compliance with the NM Department of Transportation's (NMDOT) design and construction standards. All work is implemented with minimal impact to the traveling public and maximum safety to all.

CMP: Critical Elements and Assumptions (continued)

Since the previous CMP was written Hwy 152 from Exit 63 on Interstate 25 to Hillsboro has had road shoulders widened to allow for safer passing. In addition more signage has been added or replaced throughout the county. A few locations continue to be identified by the NMDOT as having hazards ranging from safety issues to design complications due to topography. These locations are:

- NM 152 needs slow traffic pullouts and additional guardrails to improve safety. .
- NM 152, 52 and 59 may be closed during severe weather as they are not plowed or salted at night or on weekends.
- NM 27 side trip is over open range areas, therefore livestock on the road may be a hazard. Livestock have the right-of-way, and can cause vehicle damage if hit. During heavy mountain rainfall, care must be taken as washouts may occur where arroyos cross the road.
- NM 142, 52 and 59 have open range areas where livestock may be on the roadway and pose a hazard.
- Sections of NM 52 and 59 need additional slow traffic pullouts and more guardrails to improve safety.
- NM 195 has one-way traffic going south for about two (2) miles around the Elephant Butte Dam area. *This road was closed after 9-11 and has remained closed for homeland security reasons. Possible plans in the future are to open this road to bike and foot traffic only.*



Free Range Cattle off of Hwy 52

CMP: Critical Elements and Assumptions (continued)

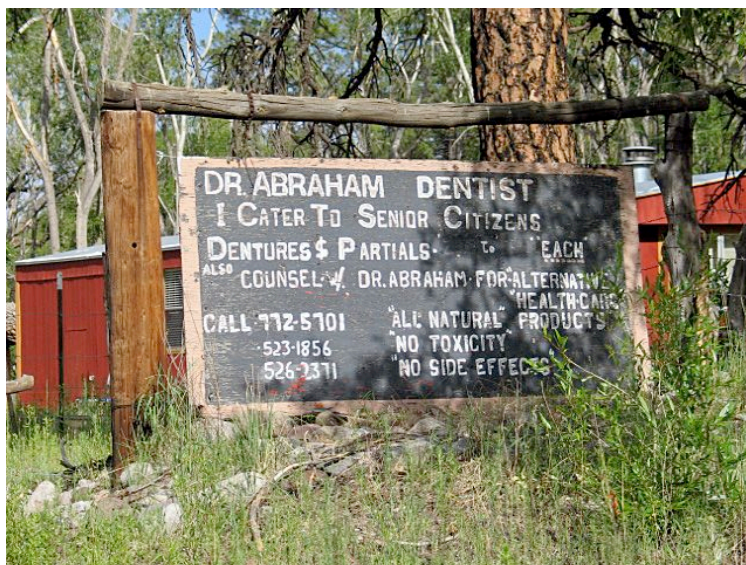
Outdoor Advertising

Since so much of the Trail crosses government controlled lands, outdoor advertising is not a problem. The Gila National Forest will not allow any outdoor advertising on National Forest System lands thus limiting outdoor advertising to areas of the Byway outside of the Gila National Forest.

The Bureau of Land Management also has stringent guidelines regarding outdoor advertising. Much of the land along the Trail that is not National Forest lands is under jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

The Geronimo Trail communities support the NMDOT's policy, as approved by the Highway Commission, regarding billboards on scenic byways as follows:

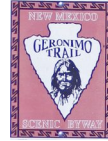
“Erecting new billboards on a designated scenic byway is prohibited except in legitimate commercial and industrial areas. Areas identified as lacking the unusual or distinctive features (intrinsic values), included in the New Mexico State Scenic and Historic Byways Program criteria, may be excluded or segmented from existing or future Byways designation, in accordance with the intent of Public Law 102-240 (ISTEA), sections 1046 and 1047. These segmented areas of the Byway would not be eligible for Scenic Byway funds.”



“Dental Health” sign on Hwy 59 at Poverty Creek

Vision Statement

Goals and Objectives



Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) heading south from Hwy 59

V. Vision Statement, Goals and Objectives

The Geronimo Trail Advisory Committee has defined a direction for the byway for the years 2008 – 2013 which stresses preservation and economic development. The statements listed below have shaped major elements of the plan adopted by the route stakeholders.

Primary Vision

The Geronimo Trail Scenic Byway has been established to showcase and preserve the Corridor area for its historic multi-cultural heritage and outstanding natural resources.

Goals

- A. Increase awareness of the historic significance of the GTNSB region, thus enhancing public education, enjoyment and appreciation of the natural and cultural heritage of the area.
- B. Market the Trail as a unique tourism opportunity in New Mexico for local residents, out-of-state visitors and international travelers.
- C. Develop information and interpretive services along the Byway that will encourage and promote stewardship to ensure the preservation of the land by the byway users.
- D. Insure that services provided by local communities be authentic and of high quality, as well as tailored to the traveler's needs and desires.
- E. Increase volunteer participation in the support and maintenance of the Trail.
- F. Preserve the GTNSB's resources, while developing the route as a sustainable tourist and recreation attraction, and provide area residents – particularly the youth – with employment and meaningful careers.

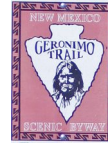
Objectives

- A. Improve information on mileage or Byway signs to let tourists know if services such as restrooms, gas or food are or are not available. This would be completed by the end of 2010.

Objectives (continued)

- B. Improve directional signage along the GTNSB by 2010. This would include a sign at Winston on Hwy 52 pointing to the direction of Chloride, a sign directing visitors to cemeteries, better signage on Hwy 59 pointing out the Continental Divide, the Forest Service Roads and rest areas, signage off of Hwy 52 pointing to restrooms in Cuchillo and a sign off of Hwy 152 in Hillsboro directing visitors to the old Court House site.
- C. Create educational signage in Kingston at historic locations and building around the town by early 2010.
- D. Add signage along the winding road at Hwy 152 between Kingston and Emory Pass to warn drivers of the possibility of bicyclists on the road. This will be completed by 2009.
- E. Collaborate with the Healing Waters Trail Committee, the Rio Grande Trail Project and Elephant Butte Lake State Park in designing and constructing hiking / biking / walking trails along the Byway.
- F. Expand print, radio and other media coverage of the Trail by 10% or more during 2008-2013.
- G. Create a visitor map giving directions to the cemeteries of Sierra County and point out burial sites of well known characters such as Sadie Orchard, Cassie Hobbs and Raymond Schmidt.
- H. Increase travel expenditures along the Byway by 5% annually over the next five years.
- I. Inventory the current Trail visitor tour products and conduct a needs assessment by January 2009.
- J. Collaborate with the Sierra County Recreation & Tourism Advisory Board to host two hospitality training programs in communities along the Byway by late 2010.
- K. Develop training programs for volunteers who would like to assist in the education and maintenance of the GTNSB.
- L. Support the development of more museums in Sierra County, including an Airplane Museum (replacing Callahan's Car Museum), space museum, a museum at the Vietnam War Memorial Park and a Game Show Museum.

Strategies



Signs posted in Monticello Box Canyon

VI. Strategies

The following strategies have been adopted by the Advisory Committee and the communities located along the route. Region-wide efforts and considerable resources will be utilized to implement these strategies in the years to come.

Strategy on Development

Continuing development on the GTNSB to include signage to better direct visitors to places of interest and to inform travelers of the location of rest areas and services. There will be an expansion of hiking / biking / walking trails and further landscaping of pullout and rest areas. Interpretive areas will be developed to increase visitor awareness of when and where cultural and historical periods occurred along the Trail. Collaboration in this development will be made with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico Department of Transportation, Elephant Butte State Park, the Rio Grande Trail Project and the Healing Waters Trail Committee.

A Strategy for Maintaining Intrinsic Qualities

Approximately two thirds of the GTNSB is on public owned land. Parts of the Byway pass through U.S. Forest Service land, Bureau of Land Management land, and State of New Mexico land. Maintaining the visual quality along this route will require coordination with these agencies.

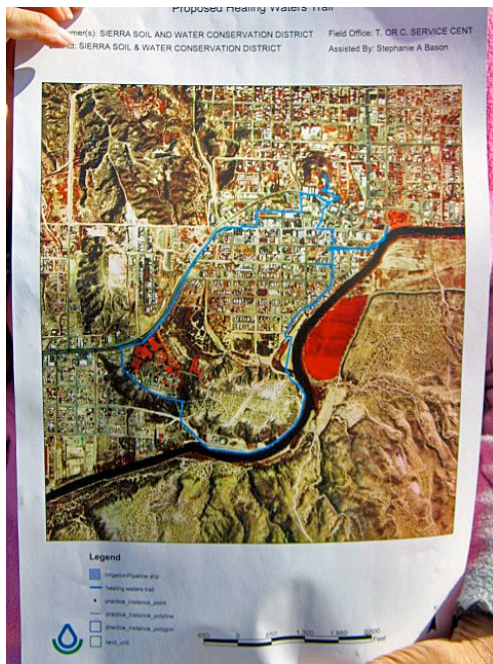
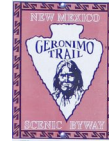
This Byway is a long, beautiful drive through rural New Mexico. The GTNSB allows all the people affected by this trail to maintain traditional lifestyles with sensitivity to the view-shed and impacts to the Byway.

All City, State and Federal agencies with management responsibilities along the GTNSB are committed to maintaining the intrinsic quality of the Trail. There is no threat to the intrinsic quality known at present. The current County Plan discusses land development in the future. The Geronimo Trail Advisory Board will make sure that the County remains sensitive to the protection and preservation of the GTNSB.

A Strategy and Efforts to Minimize Anomalous Intrusions on the Visitors Experience

The Geronimo Trail Scenic Byway Advisory Committee, in conjunction with the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, coordinate efforts to monitor and inspect road areas to minimize intrusions which would detract from the visitor's experience.

Plans and Projects



Healing Waters Trail Project, Truth or Consequences

Grafton Cabin in Chloride



VII. Plans and Projects

Plans

Plan for Public Participation

Since the completion of the first Corridor Management Plan in 1997 the Advisory Committee has continued to work with the public and to collaborate with local groups in planning and carrying out improvements to the Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway. Currently there is a desire to increase public participation to assist with education and support of the Byway. Collaboration with the Sierra County Recreation & Tourism Advisory Board to provide training for volunteers will ensure that the GTNSB will be sustained by strong support at the local community level.

The Geronimo Trail Interpretive Center, located next to the Geronimo Springs Museum, is staffed by volunteers and open every week day for questions and comments from visitors. Information about projects along the GTNSB are carried in the press and on the local radio to encourage local involvement and to keep the public informed.

Byway Signage Plan

The Geronimo Trail Advisory Committee in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the New Mexico Department of Transportation have installed Geronimo Trail marker signs along the entire length of the Byway and informational signs at rest areas and pullouts along the route. Visitor response to this signage has been positive.

Current public input has requested that the Advisory Committee plan to improve signage by adding information about distances to rest areas and services such as gas and food or to let the traveler know that services such as gas and food may not be available for some miles. Further signage is needed to direct visitors to communities such as Chloride and to historic sites such as cemeteries and the ruins of the old court house in Hillsboro. Another public request is to post signs along the winding road between Kingston and Emory Pass to let drivers know that bicyclists may be on the road. Collaboration with the above mentioned entities will ensure that improved signage will be completed within the next five years.

Plans and Projects (continued)

Byway Marketing Plan

The advent of the Internet age has increased marketability of the Byway tremendously over the last ten years. Stakeholder websites in addition to the National Scenic Byway website, <http://www.byways.org> include information and links that visitors can follow to learn more about the GTNSB. In 2004 the Sierra County Recreation & Tourism Advisory Board was created to focus entirely on promoting tourism in Sierra County. Members of the Geronimo Trail Advisory Committee have become very active with this group. The website, <http://www.sierracountynewmexico.info> includes a link to the GTNSB in addition to providing visitors with contact information to accommodations and destinations along the Byway. Continuing efforts over the next five years will be to keep Byway information linked to this website up to date.

The Geronimo Trail Advisory Committee will keep updated brochures and maps available in the Geronimo Trail Interpretive Center and continue to participate in and distribute brochures about the GTNSB at trade shows and local community events. Familiarization Tours will be offered to local, national and international media in collaboration with the Sierra County Recreation & Tourism Advisory Board.

Byway Interpretive Plan

Driving for pleasure is the most popular outdoor recreational experience for the American public. Visitors to the GTNSB include residents of Southwestern New Mexico, visitors from across the nation, and international tourists. A large number of visitors are repeat visitors who are returning to the region.

Southwestern New Mexico is geographically isolated from major population areas. As a result, while most visitors have visited larger cities in the Southwest (Albuquerque, Santa Fe, El Paso, Tucson), they know very little about the recreational opportunities in this part of New Mexico. They are eager to receive additional information to help orient them to the land and learn about the local and regional history. Most visitors are very appreciative of information, as it allows them to relate to the people and places that make southwestern New Mexico so special. In addition to informational signage that can be found at rest areas and pullouts, signage about Sierra County's relationship with the Apache have been added at ten different sites along the Trail. The Geronimo Springs Museum now has an interpretive center dedicated to the Geronimo Trail and will be adding a representation of an Apache campsite. The historic

Plans and Projects (continued)

mining town of Chloride is currently restoring an old miner's cabin and developing a walk-through interpretive gallery honoring the mining history of the area. Elephant Butte Lake State Park is enhancing a popular birding campground with the addition of interpretive signage and programs.

Interpretive Goals and Management Objectives are:

- To provide information to visitors about the natural and cultural resources on the GTNSB so that they might use this information to better understand and appreciate the land and the resources.
- To increase the public awareness of management activities of the National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, and the State Parks as major providers of outdoor recreation in the American southwest.
- To develop barrier-free facilities to accommodate all people to the GTNSB.
- To utilize a variety of media, including the Geronimo Trail Interpretive Center, wayside exhibits, and brochures to accommodate all visitors.
- To stimulate the economy of Sierra County and surrounding communities in southwest New Mexico.

As sites are identified and interpretive opportunities develop, the Geronimo Trail Advisory Committee would like the public to:

- Enjoy southwest New Mexico, but leave natural and historic sites undisturbed.
- Gain a greater appreciation for the natural and cultural resources of southwest New Mexico.
- Experience a safe stay throughout their trip to southwest New Mexico.

Plans and Projects (continued)

At the present time, thirteen interpretive sites are located along the GTNSB. Several of these have been improved over the last ten years and have become more inviting to visitors.

| Location / Description | Adequate Parking | Interpretive Signs | Barrier Free | Amenities |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Black Range Ranger Station | Yes | Yes | Yes | Visitor contact facility, Restroom |
| Lake Valley Town-site | Yes | Yes | Yes | None |
| Percha Creek pull-off | Yes | Yes | Yes | Trash cans |
| Hillsboro | No | Yes | Yes | Restroom |
| Kingston campground | No | Yes | No | Restroom, trash cans, tables |
| Emory Pass Vista | Yes | Yes | No | Restroom, trash cans, tables, grill, trailhead |
| Emory Pass pull-off | No | Yes | Yes | Trailhead |
| Wright's Cabin | Yes | Yes | No | Covered picnic tables, grills, restroom |
| Iron Creek Campground | Yes | Yes | No | Campsites, tables, restroom, trailhead |
| Kneeling Nun Vista | No | Missing | No | None |
| Chloride | Yes | Yes | Yes | Restroom, covered Picnic tables, trash cans |
| Hwy 59 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Restroom |
| Continental Divide (CDNST) | Yes | No | Yes | Restroom |
| Beaverhead Work Station | Yes | Yes | No | Visitor contact facility, Restroom |

The interpretive theme for the GTNSB can be stated as:

Geologic and climatic processes, some millions of years old, have determined where people settled, traveled, explored, sought their fortune, raised their families, grew crops, built railroads, roads and trails. These have shaped the recreational experiences in southwest New Mexico for the past 10,000 years. The Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway provides the link to explore this outstanding scenic area through the events and the people that have created the history of this region.

Plan for Accommodating Commercial Traffic

The majority of the GTNSB is on rural roads with little commercial traffic. The St. Cloud Mine in Winston presently runs nine tractor-trailer trucks a day on the Byway from Winston to I-25. There is some commercial traffic between Cuchillo and Truth or Consequences, and between Truth or Consequences and the Hillsboro area. However, the volume of

Plans and Projects (continued)

commercial traffic is very light and the potential for conflicts is minimal. Heavier commercial traffic runs between Truth or Consequences and Elephant Butte. There are many safe places to pull off and enjoy the GTNSB that are safe from other traffic.

Projects

Truth or Consequences

Healing Waters Trail Project

The health and wellness of people and the river corridor inspired a project that will encompass a 3 mile loop in and around the City of Truth or Consequences. Called the Healing Waters Trail this route will include the historic bathhouse district, restored wetlands along the Rio Grande and the Veterans Memorial Park. Project leader is the Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District who is working in collaboration with the City of Truth or Consequences, Sierra County, the Bureau of Reclamation, the City of Elephant Butte and Elephant Butte Lake State Park and the National Park Service. There are also plans to link this project with the Rio Grande Trail.

Cemetery Brochure

A brochure will be created for GTNSB visitors that will include a map showing the location of cemeteries off of the Byway, location of the gravesites of infamous persons and their stories.

Completion of Apache Campsite at Geronimo Trail Visitor & Interpretive Center

An area of the patio behind the Geronimo Trail Visitor & Interpretive Center will be dedicated to a representation of an Apache campsite. Research of what this will include is ongoing. At this time there will be an Apache style wickiup, some tools and items which would have been used in an Apache "home".

Elephant Butte

Continued Landscaping

The City of Elephant Butte has begun a Beautification program that has established a walking path along Hwy 195 and several

Plans and Projects (continued)

areas of natural landscaping. Further plans include continued landscaping along the walking path as well as the intersection of Hwy 195 and Warm Springs Rd. (Hwy 171) and south on Hwy 171 to the entrance of the Turtle Mountain Resort and Sierra del Rio Golf Course.

CCC Statue & Plaque at Damsite Recreation Area

Located off of Hwy 51, the Damsite Recreation area provides visitors with boating access to Elephant Butte Lake, a picnic area called Winding Roads and a restaurant. Damsite has recently received a facelift and further plans include the addition of a 6' bronze statue honoring the CCC enrollees who built the Dam Site Recreation Area. The statue will be located in the parking lot island with an informational plaque.

Elephant Butte Lake State Park

Create Interpretive Program at Paseo del Rio

Paseo del Rio is located off of Hwy 51 heading east toward Engle. Elephant Butte Lake State Park has applied for funds to enhance the Paseo del Rio Campground with more adequate parking and an Interpretive Center. This center would provide a space for hosting interpretive events and educational programs about the Rio Grande and about the area's history and natural resources. The Center will include informational displays and a space for observing birds and local wildlife. The Center would incorporate the history of the fish hatchery and the adjacent hatchery ponds.

Restoration of fish hatchery

The old fish hatchery located at the end of Paseo del Rio Campground is part of the National Register Historic District. Elephant Butte Lake State Park has plans to restore the building to its original appearance and create an educational center about the purpose of the hatchery in the past. A Park Ranger would assist with interpreting this area through programming and trail signs.

Improving Existing Hiking Trails

Trails at Elephant Butte Lake State Park provide visitors with educational and interpretive opportunities. Two trails are

Plans and Projects (continued)

accessible from the GTNSB. The Luchini Trail is located just off Hwy 195 and runs 1.6 miles. Plans for this trail include an amphitheater that is ADA compliant, self-guided interpretive signs and an improved trailhead. A second trail accessible to the GTNSB is located at the Paseo del Rio Campground. This trail is .75 miles long and runs along the Rio Grande. Future plans to develop this trail include biking, hiking, horseback riding and ADA-accessibility.

Upgrade Visitor's Center

The Elephant Butte Lake Visitor Center is located at the entrance gate off Hwy 195. The current visitor center is too small to accommodate the large amount of visitors that come to the Lake. The displays and informational boards are old and outdated. A new visitor center is planned and will include the following services:

- new and updated interpretive displays and information;
- an educational classroom area;
- a trailhead for a new integrated trail system;
- an amphitheater;
- a combination bookstore and gift shop;
- expand internet connectivity access for the public; and
- administrative facilities for park management and staff.

The Visitor Center plan will be incorporated with a larger development plan to include the construction of a better entrance station, designed to ease the flow of traffic into the Lake.

Rio Grande Trail Project

The National Park Service is in the process of developing a state-long trail that will run along the Rio Grande Corridor. The southern portion of this trail will run through Sierra County will be accessible from the GTNSB. Signage will be planned to guide interested visitors to trailheads. The Rio Grande Trail Project is still in the planning and development stage but will be well along within the next five years.

Hillsboro

Court House Restoration

Hillsboro was the original county seat for Sierra County until 1937 when the county seat was moved to Hot Springs (Truth or

Plans and Projects (continued)

Consequences). The remains of the old court house and jail sit on private property and has been victim to vandalism and time. In 2007 the site was classified as one of 10 most endangered sites in New Mexico. When the owner expressed interest in selling the property the community of Hillsboro established an Historical Society and started raising funds to purchase the site. The Historical Society has recently applied for 501c3 status and plans to continue fundraising. Purchasing the property is the first step toward protecting this precious piece of Sierra County's history.

Monticello (side trip destination)

The community of Monticello is an important side trip of the GTNSB as a beautiful example of an historic Hispanic village. Members of the community are dedicated to its preservation and have established a non-profit organization called the Monticello Canyon Association. This Association provides the means to apply for funds for preservation projects and to provide a more powerful voice when fighting for the protection of their land and water issues. There are several projects in progress at this time. They include:

- Refurbish the Plaza, create a sign board showing the map of the town and telling the history and use of the buildings.
- Upgrade the water system
- Clean up the old cemetery and document gravesites
- Restore the Old School House and create a community center
- Oral history project documenting the stories of the village elders

Cuchillo

Planning & Development of Rest Area

There is a need for a rest area in the community of Cuchillo, to include restrooms. The Geronimo Trail Advisory Committee will support future plans for a rest area.

Restoration of Cuchillo Store / Bar

The historic Cuchillo Store & Bar experienced a fire in 2000 that closed down the store. The Bar remained open until 2003. The new owner has plans to preserve the history of the area by restoring the building and opening a museum, a micro brewery and a small gallery space.

Plans and Projects (continued)

Chloride

Completion of Mining Interpretive Gallery

In 2006 an old miner's cabin was returned to Sierra County after residing for years in Las Cruces. The cabin was originally from Grafton but as that mining town no longer exists, Chloride asked to make the cabin a part of their community. The exterior has been restored and plans are underway to involve Sierra County students in researching the history of the seven little mining towns that had existed when silver was actively being mined. Informational displays will be developed around the students' research and the cabin will become an additional visitor destination as a museum to the mining district.

Food Service in Chloride

At this time, unless visitors bring up their own picnic lunch, the only place to purchase food this far on Hwy 52 is the Winston Store. The old bank building in Chloride is being restored and will be completed late 2008. Plans for the building will make it available to someone who is interested in providing a type of small café or bakery. Food service in Chloride would provide a boost to visitor numbers and the amount of travelers on the GTNSB.

Restoration of Cassie Hobbs House

Cassie Hobbs was a long-time resident of Chloride and a pioneer woman who made everything she and her family needed to exist. Her home and workshop still stand, full of many of her handmade treasures. There is a desire to set up a museum to honor her memory, her skills and her beautiful work. One idea is to invite a Women's organization to help sponsor this project and to assist with raising funds toward restoration of the buildings.

Hwy 152

Wright's Cabin

Wright's Cabin is a small picnic area with restrooms and covered tables. There are no longer any plans to phase out this picnic site. A new toilet is planned and possibly a sign board explaining the history of the area and how it got its name.

Plans and Projects (continued)

Railroad Trailhead

Railroad Trailhead provides an important trail access point into the Aldo Leopold Wilderness. The site currently has a toilet and one picnic table. There are plans to improve the current signage.

Lower Gallinas Canyon Campground

There are two separate sites: Upper Gallinas and Lower Gallinas. Both are semi-developed camping areas with three toilets and a few scattered picnic tables. Lower Gallinas will receive a face lift in 2008 with a few new tables and fire rings / grills.

Hwy 59

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST)

The CDNST crosses NM 59. Just past this junction a turnout and restroom have been established as a trailhead. A small campground is planned at this site as a collaborative effort between the Forest Service, the New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors and the Continental Divide Trail Alliance. Plans include parking for horse trailers, campsites and three tent / car campsites.



Restoration of old bank building, Chloride.

Appendix



View of Caballo Mountains, east side of Caballo Lake

Appendix A

MARKET ANALYSIS

Appendix A

MARKET ANALYSIS

Forward

Marketing Overview

There have been several important factors put into play with relation to the tourism market in the last ten years. The impact of 9/11 in 2001 was one factor, reflecting in low visitor numbers to the Museum for several years. The Geronimo Springs Museum participated in a state-wide survey in 2005 to determine recovery effects since 9/11. Results of this survey indicated that recovery was just starting to be seen in 2005.

Another important factor has been the increased participation in Internet use. Visitors can now search the World Wide Web for vacation destinations, study the community profiles of an area, book reservations online and even take e-tours of interesting destinations. The Internet has increased the visibility of the Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway through links to the National Byways Website and through many local and state websites as well. The challenge now is to make sure information about the GTNSB is kept up-to-date with the continuous growth in Sierra County.

A third factor influencing tourism is that Southern New Mexico is now on the radar, not only as a hot tourist destination but also as an exceptional place to live. This can be attributed to increased Internet usage as well as to increased media interest by well known magazines and newspapers. The Sierra County Recreation and Tourism Advisory Committee has been working diligently since its beginning in 2004 to make sure that Sierra County is well represented at trade shows and that its website is kept current with visitor information. The GTNSB is linked to this website and has reaped the benefits.

The goals of the Geronimo Trail Advisory Board is to continue expanding their levels of domestic and international tourism and to improve their visitor tracking tools in order to have more comprehensive local data.

Marketing Partnerships

Since 1997, partnerships within the community toward tourism has grown stronger. The Rural Economic Development Through Tourism (REDTT) Board brought together many important players to focus specifically on marketing Sierra County. Event planners, organizational leaders, business owners and government representatives sat at the same table each month to discuss marketing tools; to schedule familiarization (FAM) tours and develop plans for better supporting the tourist trade. The GTNSB grew from the relationships formed in REDTT. Many FAM Tours were conducted to educate local businesses and the media about the Byway. REDTT dissolved in 2005. The Sierra County Recreation & Tourism Advisory Committee is made up of those who participated in REDTT plus more representatives from communities along the Byway and these partnerships are helping to strengthen the tourist trade.

Product Development

Increasing expenditures by visitors to the GTNSB communities is an important goal of the Corridor Management Plan. Developing products to encourage tourists to stay awhile and spend money is also an important goal of the Sierra County Recreation & Tourism Advisory Committee. Such products might include:

- Tour Packages
- Hotel room discounts
- Discounted meals
- Package including hot baths
- Retail Goods
- Coupon Books
- Attraction Entrance Fees
- Car Rentals
- Transportation Tickets – air, train, etc.

Access to the Internet can provide potential visitors more ease in planning their trip and buying into some of these products, thus ensuring their visit and alerting businesses along the Byway of incoming tourists and their spending potential.

Executive Summary

The following summary was based on findings taken from the TravelScope study for New Mexico Visitors in 2005.

State of Origin

- The leading state of origin was New Mexico, accounting for 70.7% of day trips and 35.6% of overnights.
- New Mexicans made up 58.2% of visitors who drove, 53.3% of leisure visitors and 59.1% of business travelers.

The GTNSB may create a business product that would encourage business travelers to stay in Sierra County and take time to visit the GTNSB.

- The top state for visitors who fly to New Mexico is California

Transportation

- 86% of all trips were taken in a car/truck/RV. *As most visitors to NM are driving a private and/or recreational vehicle, a drive along the GTNSB is a definite vacation choice.*
- 12.8% of out of state trips and 13.3% of business trips were taken by airplane.

As gas prices continue to climb and if the economy declines, visitors from out-of-state may rethink their vacation destination and stay closer to home. The GTNSB may see more in-state visitors than out-of-state visitors in the future.

Party Size

- Average party size was 2.1 persons
- 45.5% of overnight trips consisted of 2 persons, and another 36.8% consisted of 1 person.

Accommodations

- 57.2% of overnight visitors stayed in hotels, 26.8% stayed in private homes or condos and 7.1% camped or stayed in an RV.

The GTNSB would benefit by marketing products that include hotel discounts and /or discount meals, baths and retail products available in communities along the Byway.

Trip Activities

- For overnight visitors, the most common trip activities were touring / sightseeing, shopping, nature/ culture, historic sites, museums or art exhibits and national or state parks.
- Day-trippers were most likely to shop and attend festivals or craft fairs.

All of these most common activities for overnight visitors and for day trippers can be done along the GTNSB.

Trip Purpose

- The most common trip purpose for overnight visitors was to visit friends or relatives (30.8%)
- 20.6% of those surveyed were taking a vacation and 19.7% were visiting for other leisure purposes.

Demographics

- Average age of head-of-household was 55.8 years old.
- 31.7% of visitors had a child present in the household
- Average income was \$58.930, slightly higher than the national average for all travelers.
- 19.9% of overnight visitors and 17.5% out of state visitors were retired.
- 26.2% of New Mexico visitors were Hispanic.

Baby boomers and their children are the primary travelers visiting the GTNSB. Marketing to both the maturing audience and to their families is important. The retiree audience will be making a comeback in the near future with different expectations for accommodations and entertainment. The GTNSB needs to keep these factors in mind.

Geronimo Springs Museum Visitors

Visitors to Geronimo Springs Museum and Geronimo Trail Information & Visitor Center pick up brochures and learn about the GTNSB. They often become the visitors to communities along the GTNSB. The following numbers show the total number of visitors in a year and reflect a 38% increase in visitors since 9/11.

| Year | Total Visitors |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| 2002 | 4096 |
| 2003 | 4844 |
| 2004 | 5436 |
| 2005 | 7126 |
| 2006 | 8775 |
| 2007 | 8589 |

The following chart shows the number of visitors to the Geronimo Springs Museum from New Mexico, from Out-of-State (OS) and from a Foreign Country (FC) during the months of May 2007 to March 2008. These numbers also reflect those who Did Not Say (DNS) where they were from.

| MONTH | NM | OS | FC | DNS | TOTAL |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| MAY 2007 | 261 | 328 | 28 | 202 | 819 |
| JUN 2007 | 210 | 309 | 15 | 192 | 726 |
| JUL 2007 | 201 | 304 | 32 | 115 | 652 |
| AUG 2007 | 198 | 232 | 38 | 164 | 632 |
| SEP 2007 | 222 | 323 | 37 | 139 | 721 |
| OCT 2007 | 208 | 448 | 56 | 208 | 763 |
| NOV 2007 | 193 | 283 | 57 | 39 | 572 |
| DEC 2007 | 162 | 275 | 31 | 27 | 495 |
| JAN 2008 | 231 | 325 | 55 | 42 | 653 |
| FEB 2008 | 248 | 394 | 55 | 137 | 834 |
| MAR 2008 | 345 | 524 | 54 | 50 | 973 |

Most out-of-state visitors were consistently from New Mexico's border states of Texas, Arizona, California and Colorado. Canada showed the highest foreign visitor numbers during this period of time.

Appendix B

TOURISM ASSET INVENTORY

Appendix B

TOURISM ASSET INVENTORY

INTRODUCTION

The last Geronimo Trail Tourism Asset Inventory was conducted for the 1997 Corridor Management Plan. Ten years later Sierra County has seen businesses come and go, and changes occur in the demographics. This Tourism Asset Inventory is updated as currently as possible. This inventory remains critical for the following reasons:

1. Ensures that all actual and potential attractions / assets within the communities along the GTNSB are identified and evaluated;
2. Provides travel trade and other officials with comprehensive information about the tourism offerings within this region of New Mexico;
3. Identifies assets along the Byway which need to be preserved both at present and in the future;
4. Is useful in efforts to prepare tourism development programs; and
5. Can be utilized for educational purposes and as a tourism consumer information resource.

Lesser known events and attractions along the GTNSB are also identified in the Geronimo Trail Tourism Asset Inventory. Visitor stays can be increased if additional events and attractions are promoted. Additional revenue and jobs in these areas of interest can help to generate funds needed for the restoration and preservation of the traditional New Mexico way of life.

This Geronimo Trail Tourism Asset Inventory can be used as a stand-alone document for agencies and organizations needing tourism information for purposes of reports and grants. The Internet has increased accessibility and visibility in many areas of this Tourism Asset Inventory. Whenever possible, website addresses have been provided.

TOURISM ASSET INVENTORY

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

Scenic and Natural

- Turtleback Mountain
A peak resembling a turtle on top of the mountain overlooking the City of Truth or Consequences and the Rio Grande. This landmark was used to mark the location of the hot mineral springs in the area. It has been a favorite for hikers for years.
- Rio Grande
The fourth longest river in the U.S., the Rio Grande meanders around the town of Truth or Consequences as it moves from Elephant Butte Lake to Caballo Reservoir.
- Buffalo Cactus Ranch
Large greenhouse filled with a variety of exotic species of cacti and succulents from all over the world.
1600 S. Broadway, Truth or Consequences
575-894-0790

Historical and Archeological

- Geronimo Springs Museum &
Geronimo Trail Visitor & Information Center
Displays of early Mimbres-Mogollon pottery, Apache artifacts and culture. Hispanic heritage, ranching, mining, geology of area history of town and county.
Open Monday – Saturday 9AM – 5PM.
211 Main Street, Truth or Consequences
Director: LaRena Miller Phone: 575-894-6600
- Las Palomas Plaza at Geronimo Spring
Located west of the Geronimo Springs Museum, Las Palomas Plaza was the site of original spring used by Apaches, referred to as Sacred Healing Waters. Also used by soldiers from Ft. McRae and by early settlers to the area. In 2001 the Las Palomas Plaza was dedicated as one of the public art pieces along the Rio Grande corridor. Artist Shel Neymark designed and

created colorful ceramic mountains and streams that flow with the natural hot springs.

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES (continued)

➤ Nature Trail

Located near Ralph Edwards Park the trail leads one through rocks and native vegetation. There is evidence of an early Indian encampment where the rocks were used for grinding grain.

Cultural

➤ Truth or Consequences Ralph Edward's Fiesta

1st Weekend in May. Celebrates changing name of Hot Springs, NM to Truth or Consequences. Parade, races, fiddler's competition, golf tournament, rodeo.

➤ New Mexico Old Time Fiddler's State Contest

3rd or 4th Weekend in October in Truth or Consequences. Contestants from all over New Mexico compete in various age categories for the title of State Champion Fiddler. Competition, jam sessions and dances.

➤ Gathering of Quilts

4th Saturday of February at the Ralph Edward Civic Auditorium in Truth or Consequences. Display of local quilts with raffle and door prizes.

➤ Sierra County Longhorn Show

President's Day Weekend in February. Held at County Fair Barn in Williamsburg.

➤ Destination Sierra County

3rd Weekend in September throughout Sierra County. Local & regional arts events in different areas of the County. www.destinationsierracounty.com

➤ Sierra County Fair

2nd Weekend in October at County Fair Barn in Williamsburg. Livestock shows and sale. Food vendors and arts & crafts.

➤ Run for the Wall

Veteran's Day Weekend at Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall. Bike run, bike rodeo, car show. Supports the Veteran's Memorial Wall.

➤ ArtHop www.torcart.com

2nd Saturday of each month. Downtown T or C

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES (continued)

Hot Springs and Bath Houses

Facilities available for hot baths, massage, or just to see the water. Some have accommodations. All are located in Truth or Consequences and are part of the Downtown Historic Bath District. Website addresses or 1-800 numbers are provided if available.

| | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------|
| Artesian Bath House | 312 Marr | 575-894-2684 |
| Charles Bath House | 601 Broadway | 575-894-7154 |
| www.charlesspa.com | | |
| Fire Water Lodge | 309 Broadway | 575-894-0315 |
| www.firewaterlodge.com | | |
| Hey-Yo-Kay Hot Springs | 300 Austin | 575-894-2228 |
| www.hay-yo-kay.com | | |
| Indian Hot Springs | 200 Pershing | 575-894-3823 |
| La Paloma Hot Springs & Spa | 311 Marr | 575-894-3148 |
| www.lapalomahotsprings.com | | |
| Pelican Spa | 306 S. Pershing | 575-894-0055 |
| www.pelican-spa.com | | |
| Riverbend Hot Springs | 100 Austin | 575-894-7625 |
| www.nmhotsprings.com | | |
| Sierra Grande Lodge & Spa | 501 McAdoo | 575-894-6976 |
| www.sierragrandelodge.com | | |

Recreation

| | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------|
| City Tennis Courts | 200 W. Fourth | No Phone |
| Community Playhouse | 710 Elm Street | 575-894-7222 |
| Dances Thursday and Saturday nights to Old Time Fiddle Music | | |
| Louis Armijo Park | South Broadway Wmsburg | No Phone |
| Picnic shelters, softball and basketball areas | | |
| Ralph Edwards Park | E. Riverside Dr. | No Phone |
| Picnic shelters, horseshoes, playground, basketball, volleyball | | |
| Skateboard Park | | |
| Senior Recreation Center | 301 S. Foch | 575-894-6856 |
| Shuffleboard, Billards, Senior dances & community events | | |
| T or C Municipal Golf Course | 685 W. Marie | 575-894-2603 |
| City owned and maintained 9-hole course | | |

Accommodations

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Ace Lodge | 1302 N. Date | 575-894-2151 |
| The Belair Inn | 705 N. Date | 575-894-8977 |

www.thebelairinn.com

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES (continued)

| | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Comfort Inn | 2251 N. Date | 575-894-1660 |
| Desert View Inn | 906 Date St. | 575-894-2239 |
| www.desertviewinn.com | | |
| Hot Springs Inn | 2270 Date St | 575-894-6665 |
| Motor Manor Motel | 595 Main St | 575-894-3648 |
| Oasis Motel | 819 N. Date | 575-894-6629 |
| Red Haven Motel | 605 N. Date | 575-894-2964 |
| www.redhavenmotel.com | | |
| Super 8 Motel | 2151 N. Date | 575-894-7888 |
| Trail Motel | 619 Date St. | 575-894-3106 |

RV Parks

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Artesian Bathhouse & RV Park | 312 Marr Street | 575-894-2689 |
| Center Court | Hwy 181 & Warm Springs Blvd | 575-744-5453 |
| Cielo Vista RV Park | 501 S. Broadway | 575-894-3738 |
| www.cielovistarvpark.com | | |
| Cottonwood RV Park | 505 E. Third St. | 575-894-2181 |
| Desert Skies RV Park | 675 S. Foch | 575-894-1864 |
| Pershing St. RV Park | 675 S. Pershing | 575-744-4626 |
| Riverbend Hot Springs & RV Park | 100 Austin | 575-894-7625 |
| www.nmhotsprings.com | | |
| RJ RV Park | 2103 S. Broadway | 575-894-9777 |
| Sleepy Hollow RV Park | 806 Van Patten | 575-894-0037 |
| Sun or Shade RV Park | 618 Marr | 575-894-1822 |
| Winter Haven RV Park | 2335 S. Broadway | 575-894-7985 |

Restaurants

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| A & B Drive In | 211 Broadway | 575-894-9294 |
| BBQ on Broadway | 308 Broadway | 575-894-7047 |
| Café Bella Luca | 303 Jones St | 575-894-9866 |
| Dairy Queen | 1920 N. Date | 575-894-3044 |
| Denny's Restaurant | 2255 N. Date | 575-894-0333 |
| Domino's Pizza | 428 E. Third | 575-894-3434 |
| Hacienda Mexican Restaurant | 1615 S. Broadway | 575-894-1024 |
| Happy Belly Deli | 313 Broadway | 575-894-3354 |
| Hilltop Café | 1301 Date | 575-894-3407 |
| Kentucky Fried Chicken | 1908 Date | 575-894-2952 |
| Taco Bell | 1908 Date | 575-894-2952 |
| La Cocina | 1 Lakeview Dr | 575-894-6499 |

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES (continued)

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| La Pinata | 1990 Broadway | 575-894-9047 |
| Little Sprout Marketplace | 400 N. Broadway | 575-894-4114 |
| Los Arcos Steak & Lobster | 1400 N. Date | 575-894-6200 |
| McDonald's | 2109 N. Date | 575-894-6259 |
| Pacific Grill | 800 N. Date | 575-894-7687 |
| Pizza Hut | 1934 N. Date | 575-894-9001 |
| Sonic Drive In | 2000 N. Date | 575-894-3023 |
| Subway Sandwiches | 1900 N. Date | 575-894-4782 |
| Sunset Grill | 304 S. Pershing | 575-894-8904 |
| T-R-C Big A Burger | 719 W. Main St | 575-894-3099 |
| Turtleback Oasis Marketplace | 520 Broadway | 575-894-0179 |

Picnic Supplies

- 2 Grocery Stores
- 2 Dollar Stores
- 3 Convenient Stores

Gasoline Available

Engle (Side Trip) Hwy 51

Historic & Archeological

- Jornada del Muerto
Pullout and sign talking about this area of the road that crosses the "Jornada del Muerto", or "Journey of the Dead Man", named so for the many lives that were lost in the crossing due to lack of water and from attacks by hostile Apache.
- Engle
Only three buildings remain in this old cattle ranching town of the late 1800's. Engle was once a large shipping center for cattle driven in from the Tularosa Basin and surrounding ranches of the Jornada. Engle was the early home of Eugene Manlove Rhodes, a well-known writer of western novels in the early 1900's. Railroad tracks parallel the El Camino Real, the early Spanish road from Mexico City to Santa Fe. All are on private property.

Engle (Side Trip) Hwy 51 (continued)

Recreational

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------|--------------|
| Paseo del Rio Campground | Hwy 51 | 575-744-5421 |
|--------------------------|--------|--------------|

Part of the Elephant Butte Lake State Park system located on Hwy 51 adjacent to the Rio Grande. The 17-site campground is ADA accessible and complete with shelters, tables, and grills. There are no sewer or electric services offered in this area, however there is a comfort station with showers located near the entrance and a toilet near the east end of the park. The campground provides a more remote and less crowded atmosphere conducive to day use and tent camping. There are also opportunities to enjoy river fishing, bird watching, and hiking on an interpretive loop trail nearby.

Williamsburg

Recreational

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Williamsburg Roadside Park | Jct 187 & I-25 |
|----------------------------|----------------|

Accommodations

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Rio Grande Motel | 720 N. Date | 575-894-9769 |
|------------------|-------------|--------------|

RV Parks

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Desert Haven Campground & RV Park | | 575-894-2778 |
| | www.deserthavenanimalrescue.com | |
| Grande Rio Court | 524 Del Rio | 575-894-1933 |
| Shady Corner RV Park | 100 Rio Grande | 575-894-3685 |

Picnic Supplies

2 Convenience stores

Gasoline Available

Caballo

Scenic & Natural

➤ Caballo Lake & Mountains

Man-made lake created by Caballo Dam to hold water released from Elephant Butte Lake for use in electrical generating, and held for irrigation purposes as needed. Barren rocky desert mountains arise on east side of Lake.

Recreational

| | | |
|---|---------|--------------|
| Caballo Lake State Park | Hwy 187 | 575-743-3842 |
| Camping, boating, water-skiing, swimming, fishing, playground area and nature trails. | | |

| | | |
|---|---------|--------------|
| Percha Dam State Park | Hwy 187 | 575-743-3942 |
| Camping, picnicking, fishing along the river. Playground and nature trails among huge cottonwood trees. | | |

RV Parks

| | | |
|--|-------------------|--------------|
| Caballo Lake RV Park | Hwy 187 | 575-743-0502 |
| http://caballolakervpark.com | | |
| Caballo Lake State Park | Hwy 187 | 575-743-3942 |
| www.emnrd.state.nm.us/PRD/caballo | | |
| East View RV Park | Hwy 187 | 575-743-2904 |
| LakeView RV Park | Jct Hwy 187 & 152 | 575-743-2242 |
| Li'l Abners | Hwy 187 | 575-743-0153 |
| Percha Dam State Park | Hwy 187 | 575-743-3942 |
| Ricky Dee's Place | Hwy 187 | 575-743-0808 |

Restaurants

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Arrey Café | Hwy 187 | 575-267-4436 |
| Caballo View Store & Café | Hwy 187 | 575-743-0057 |
| J & M American & Italian Food | Hwy 187 | 575-743-0027 |

Picnic Supplies

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| LakeView RV Park | Jct Hwy 187 & 152 | 575-743-2242 |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------|

Gasoline Available

Hwy 152

Historic & Archaeological

- Lake Valley Back Road Byway Kiosk Mile Marker 55

NO Gasoline Available

Hillsboro

Scenic & Natural

- Hillsboro Box / Hwy 152
Massive canyon walls with cacti and desert plants growing out of vertical cliffs

Historic & Archeological

- Black Range Museum
Displays of early mining days in Sierra County, especially early days of Hillsboro and Kingston area. History of many early, famous mines of the area. Open by appointment only. 575-895-5233
- Hillsboro Historic District
Self-guided walking tour of Hillsboro with map of old town, including ruins of courthouse and jail, businesses located in historic buildings and cemetery on nearby hill. Maps available at the Geronimo Trail Information & Visitor Center and at participating businesses.
- Suspension Bridge
Built in 1927, this bridge was a pioneer in the construction of truss bridges of its type. It remained in use for nearly 70 years. The bridge can now be accessed from a parking lot and by foot.

Cultural

- Christmas in the Foothills
1st Saturday of December in Hillsboro. Pre-Christmas celebration, open houses and studios, silent auction and arts and crafts show at the Hillsboro Community Center.

Hillsboro (continued)

- Hillsboro Heritage Day
3rd Saturday in May. Home and garden tours. Music Festival fundraiser to toward the purchase and protection of the old court house.

Accommodations

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Enchanted Villa Bed / Breakfast | Main St. | 575-895-5686 |
| Barbershop Plaza Motel | Main Street | 575-895-5283 |
| Hillsboro Court & Market | Main Street | 575-895-5214 |

RV Parks

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Hillsboro RV Park | 200 W. Mattie | 575-895-3381 |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|

Restaurants

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Barbershop Café | Main Street | 575-895-5283 |
| General Store Café | Main Street | 575-895-5306 |
| Hillsboro Court, Market & BBQ | Main Street | 575-895-5214 |

Picnic Supplies

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| General Store | Main Street | 575-895-5306 |
| Hillsboro Court & Market | Main Street | 575-895-5214 |

NO Gasoline Available

Lake Valley (Side Trip) **Hwy 27**

Scenic & Natural

- Grassy mountain foothills make this a rich ranching country

Historical & Archeological

- Lake Valley Town-site
Self-guided walking tour of old ghost town. Restored school house is museum and open to visitors when volunteer is present. Maintained by Bureau of Land Management.

NO Gasoline Available

Kingston

Scenic & Natural

- Gila National Forest
The tree-covered peaks, including Hillsboro Peak and Sawyers Peak, also encompass the Aldo Leopold Wilderness, the Gila Wilderness and numerous camping and hiking facilities. The Aldo Leopold Wilderness, a vast area along a portion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, was named for the early naturalist who encouraged the preservation of wilderness areas. The Gila Wilderness area was the first declared National Wilderness area in the Nation and is the largest primitive area still maintained in its natural state.

Historical & Archeological

- Kingston Historic District
Interesting old buildings from 1880s to 1890s heyday, plus town bell cast from the ore of local mines. The old cemetery in the forested area is still in use today.
- Percha Bank Museum
Old bank building in Kingston. Open by appointment only.

Recreational

Kingston Campground Hwy 152
Primitive camping along Percha Creek. Tables, trash, toilets.

Accommodations

Black Range Lodge / Bed & Brkfst Main Street 575-895-5652
www.blackrangelodge.com

NO Gasoline Available

Black Range Scenic Drive Hwy 152

Scenic & Natural

- **Black Range Mountains**
Home to pre-historic Mogollon and Mimbres cultures, the Black Mountains were mentioned in journals of early explorers. They were a well-known hunting ground of many groups of Apache. The area is rich in ore and became a major mining area from the 1880s to the early 1900s.
- **Emory Pass Vista**
Magnificent view of mountains to the east for over forty mile. Visitors can see Hillsboro and Kingston and all the way to the Caballo Lake and Mountains.
- **Devil's Backbone**
Rugged, rocky cliffs towering above the roadway.
- **Kneeling Nun Vista**
Spectacular view of mountains to the west for several miles. The Kneeling Nun mountain was a landmark for both the Indians and early white explorers.

Recreational

Emory Pass Picnic Area

Picnic tables overlooking a magnificent view of mountains to the east, south and north. Toilets, trash, grill, trailhead and parking.

Trail 747 and 794

Trailhead off of Hwy 152 near Emory Pass Vista turnoff, overnight pull-off, no facilities

Wright's Cabin Campground

Camping and picnic area on side of hill overlooking Hwy 152. Accessible only by a climb from the parking area. Tables, toilet, grill.

Iron Creek Campground

Off of Hwy 152. Provides camping and picnic area near a creek. Hiking trails on the mountainside. Tables, toilets and grills.

Gallinas Campground

Off of Hwy 152. Provides camping area down in canyon with trail following creek down stream. Trash, toilets.

Black Range Scenic Drive Hwy 152 (continued)

Railroad Trailhead

Off of Hwy 152. Primitive camping area long a stream. Parking, trash, toilets.

NO Gasoline Available

Elephant Butte

Scenic & Natural

➤ Elephant Butte Lake

A man-made lake created as a result of the construction of Elephant Butte Dam. The lake is approximately 40 miles long. Summer brings a vision of boats dotting the water and campers along the shores. Winter features visits from migratory birds stopping for a drink and a rest before continuing on to their winter home.

➤ Kettle Top & Black Bluffs

Volcanic formations created the high mesa on the east side of the lake with the sharp cliffs descending to the water. Kettle Top Peak has long been a landmark.

➤ Luchini Nature Trail

A nature trail running between Elephant Butte Inn and the Elephant Butte Lake State Park Visitor's Center. Shows off the variety of native plants with identifying markers.

Historical & Archeological

➤ Elephant Butte Dam & Power Plant

Elephant Butte Dam was constructed between 1911 – 1916 for irrigation and flood control. The hydroelectric plant was added in the 1930s to provide electricity to the southwest. Both dam and electric plant were closed off to the public after 9-11. The dam can be viewed from above off of Hwy 51 and around the back road from Dam Site Recreation area.

➤ Dam Site Recreation Area

Constructed by the CCC in the 1930s, the rock walls were a home to rock squirrels until high water forced them higher up the hillside.

Elephant Butte (continued)

Cultural

- Elephant Butte Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament
Third Saturday in March. Held at Sierra del Rio Golf Course
- Fly Freedom's Flag Parade
Saturday of Memorial Weekend. Boat parade and ceremonies honoring all veterans and troops that have protected and are protecting our freedom. Held at Marina del Sur.
- Elephant Butte Chile Challenge Cook-off
Second Saturday in June. Enter the competition with your best batch of red or green, or come on out and vote in the People's Choice award. Held at Desert Cove Campground in Elephant Butte Lake State Park.
- Independence Day / 4th of July Fireworks
4th of July Weekend. Fireworks begin at dusk from Rattlesnake Island; watch the show in the sky or see it reflected on the surface of the lake.
- Elephant Butte Balloon Regatta
First weekend in September. Events include ascension of hot-air balloons, splash-n-dash over the water teamed with motorboat crews from Southwest Drag Boat Racing Association, Sky Dive New Mexico Water Boogie. Car and truck show from 10am-1pm. Elephant Butte Inn and Elephant Butte Lake State Park.
- City of Elephant Butte Anniversary Party
3rd or 4th Weekend in October. Events include a golf tournament, quilt show, woodworkers' show & sale; Rough Stock Rodeo, parade, & Buffalo Bar-B-Q. \ Elephant Butte Inn, community center and Sheriff Posse Arena.
- Beachwalk Luminaria Festival & Floating Lights Parade
2nd Saturday in December. Thousands of luminaries line paths on the beach that lead to bonfires with cocoa, posole, and caroling. The Floating Lights Parade begins at dusk. Sponsored by the Rotary Club and held at Elephant Butte Lake State Park.

Elephant Butte (continued)

Recreational

Dam Site Marina Off Hwy 51 575-894-2073
Marina adjoining the Dam Site parking lot and restaurant.
Impressive rock work was done by the CCC.

Winding Roads Park Off Hwy 51
Former housing area, the beautiful grounds and rock walls were
part of the CCC construction of the 1930s. Great view of the
Elephant Butte and the Lake. Picnic area, playground, trash,
restrooms.

Elephant Butte Lake State Park Hwy 195 575-744-5421
Camping, boating, water-skiing, swimming, fishing. Sites with full
hook ups, group sites, and primitive areas along the lake. Picnic
area, children's playground, visitor's center and nature trails.

Marina Del Sur Hwy 195 575-744-5567
Largest marina, located in Elephant Butte State Park, providing
full services.

Rock Canyon Marina Rock Cyn Road 575-744-5462
Full service marina north of main State Park area off of Rock
Canyon Road.

Sierra del Rio Golf Course 101 Clubhouse Drive 575-744-4653
Private 18-hole golf course. Golf packages available
www.sierradelrio.com

Accommodations

Elephant Butte Inn Hwy 195 575-744-5431
www.elephantbutteinn.com
Marina Suites Motel 200 Country Club Rd 575-744-5269
www.marinasuitesmotel.com

RV Parks

Agua Vista RV Park Hwy 195 505-250-2539
Cedar Cove RV Park Hwy 195 575-744-4472
Dam Site RV Park Hwy 51 575-894-2073
Elephant Butte S.P. Campground Hwy 195 575-744-5421
Enchanted View RV Park Off Hwy 195 575-744-5876
Lake Side RV Park Off Hwy 195 575-744-5996
Monticello RV Park North area of EB Lake 575-894-6468
Rio Lago RV Park Hwy 195 575-744-5427

Elephant Butte (continued)

Restaurants

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Big Food Express | 212 Warm Springs Rd | 575-744-4896 |
| Casa Taco | 704 Hwy 195 | 575-744-4859 |
| Dam Site Restaurant | Off of Hwy 51 | 575-894-2073 |
| Hodges Corner | 401 Hwy 195 | 575-744-5626 |
| Ivory Tusk Tavern | Elephant Butte Inn | 575-744-5431 |
| The Club Restaurant | Sierra del Rio Golf Course | 575-744-7106 |

Picnic Supplies

3 Convenience Stores

Gasoline Available

Monticello (Side Trip) Off Hwy 52

Historic & Archeological

- Monticello town and Plaza
Beautiful example of old Hispanic village. Settled in 1850 by early Hispanic colonists. Town has plaza in the center, with the church on the north and stores surrounding the central area. Plaza buildings are now privately owned and are being restored.

NO Gasoline Available

CUCHILLO

Scenic & Natural

- Ritch's Pecan Farm
Pecan orchard and candy shop with home-made pecan candy. Open seasonally.

Historic & Archeological

- San Jose Mission Church
Third church built in the village of Cuchillo as town was plagued by floods over the years which washed away sections of the town including the previous churches. Open tours. Check in at Cuchillo Creek Café.

CUCHILLO (continued)

- Cuchillo Store & Bar
Was stage coach stop-over an a place to change horses

when coaches ran from the railroad depot in Engle to Winston, Chloride and other mining towns of the region. The Store caught on fire in 2000 and was closed. The bar remained open until 2003. New owner plans to restore the building and open a micro-brewery with a museum and small gallery.

Cultural

- Cuchillo Pecan Festival
Last Saturday in February. A celebration of the pecan harvest, featuring pecan pie, music, pecan candy, arts and crafts, flavored pecans, a barbecue, pecans, and more pecans. Proceeds go to NM Boys' and Girls' ranches. Held at Ritch's Pecan Farm.

Recreational

NM Pack Trips & Trail Rides Box 35 575-743-2026
Hunting and backpacking guide services.

Restaurants

Cuchillo Creek Café Hwy 52 575-743-2233
www.cuchillocreekcafe.com

NO Gasoline Available

Hwy 52

Scenic & Natural

- Red Hill
Sharp curves and a beautiful view make this spot memorable. Not to mention the deep red color of the earth, thus the name, "Red" Hill.

Recreational

UJ Ranch Hwy 52 Mile Marker 19 & 21 575-740-1008
Horseback riding, RV Parking, Trail rides, BBQs, Dutch oven cooking. Sisters Old Museum.

NO Gasoline Available.

WINSTON

Scenic & Natural

- Surrounding Mountains
Mountains and grassy valleys were homeland to Warm Spring Apaches and at one time part of the Warm Spring Apache Reservation.
- Grasslands
Now used for good grazing for the cattle industry. Open range cattle are often seen walking on the road.

Historic & Archeological

- Winston Historic District
Old houses, stores, and buildings dating back from late 1800s during the boom days of silver mines in the area.

Picnic Supplies

| | | |
|---------------|--------|--------------|
| Winston Store | Hwy 52 | 575-743-6915 |
|---------------|--------|--------------|

Gasoline Available

CHLORIDE

Scenic & Natural

- Picturesque valley surrounded by rugged peaks

Historic & Archeological

- Downtown Chloride
Ghost town of Chloride, old buildings including the Pioneer Store Museum. "Hanging Tree" in center of town, recently restored bank building, bars and several old homes
- Pioneer Store Museum www.pioneerstoremuseum.com
Open year round. Displays of many items used back in Chloride's heyday as a rough and tumble mining town. There is a picnic area and restrooms.

CHLORIDE (continued)

Cultural

- Monte Cristo Gift Store & Gallery

Located next to the Pioneer Store Museum and open year round the restored Monte Cristo Dance Hall and Saloon is now a gift store and Co-op gallery. All arts and crafts are made locally. Gallery run by the artists. www.pioneerstoremuseum.com

RV Parks

Apache Kid RV Park Chloride 575-743-2736
www.pioneerstoremuseum.com

NO Gasoline Available

Monticello Box & Ojo Caliente (Side Trip) Hwy 52

Historic and Archeological

- Monticello Box Canyon
Drive north a few miles from the junction of NM 59 and NM 52 and view the terrain which was once part of the Warm Springs Apache Reservation. the site of the army camp and the location of the capture of Geronimo in 1877 for removal to the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. Located on private property, the site is visible from the dirt road where you can view the cut in the hill which is Monticello Box canyon. There are few remains of the old fort. High clearance vehicles are recommended and a respect for No Trespassing signs.

NO Gasoline Available

HWY 59

Scenic & Natural

- Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST)

High point on the road where the CDNST crosses Hwy 59. Natural division of watershed east and west. The area abounds with deer, elk, wild turkey, and birds plus mountain vegetation.

NO Gasoline Available

Beaverhead

Scenic & Natural

- Beaverhead
Beautiful mountain valley spread out in lush grassland. Old ranching country with cattle grazing. Deer, elk and other wildlife are frequently sighted.

Historical & Archeological

- Beaverhead Ranch
Old ranch house and out-buildings from late 1800s. Private property.

Recreational

Beaverhead Work Center

Located immediately to the west of the end of pavement of NM 59. This Work Center is a part of the Black Range Ranger District of the Gila National Forest. Both fire and trail crew personnel are stationed there. There is an outside public telephone and information station located here. When staff is available in the office, Forest Service maps and other information can be obtained. Potable water is also available at this location. There is no camping allowed in the administrative site, but it is an important information point and a place to re-supply water.

NO Gasoline Available

FOREST DEVELOPMENT ROAD 150 (Side Trip)

Scenic & Natural

- FDR 150
This road is no longer a part of the GTNSB but

remains an important side trip as it creates a loop that can take the adventurous visitor from the north part of the GTNSB at Hwy 59 to the south portion of the GTNSB at Hwy 152. F.S. 150 travels through the Aldo Leopold Wilderness, named for the early naturalist who encouraged the preservation of wilderness areas. The Gila National Forest was the first wilderness declared a National Wilderness in the nation. As the largest primitive area still maintained, visitors travel through a vast land of beautiful healthy forest and can choose to stop to hike or camp along the way.

Recreational

Wall Lake (not currently open to the public)

Privately owned mountain lake located off of Forest Service Road 150, nestled in a valley along a creek. Some cliff dwellings face the lake and other prehistoric sites are found in the area. Owner has plans to develop the lake and re-open in the next year or so.

Trail #40 Diamond Creek Trail

A 16 mile trail to Diamond Peak rated “most difficult”. Follows the bottom of the canyon with water flowing during the wet season. Good camping spots among Douglas and Aspen trees. Creek is closed to fishing.

Trail #72 Black Canyon Trail

Rated “very difficult” this trail is 12 miles south of Diamond Creek but can be accessed at Black Canyon off of FDR 150. Trail takes one 12 miles to Reeds Meadow. Follows the creek to a large canyon.

Upper & Lower Black Canyon Campground

5 Campsites, restrooms, fishing

Rocky Canyon Campground

2 campsites, restrooms

NO Gasoline Available

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TOWN

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Appendix C

RESOURCES

Appendix C

RESOURCES

The following resources were used as references to update the 2008 Corridor Management Plan.

WEB RESOURCES:

www.blm.gov: BLM website used for information on Lake Valley Back Country Byway and the Lake Valley town-site.

www.perchabank.com: Useful historical information on Kingston and Hillsboro. Includes a link to the Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway.

www.southernnewmexico.com: Information on the Jornada del Muerto and articles on Sierra County.

www.byways.org: Information on Scenic Byways.

www.sierracountynewmexico.info: Website of Sierra County Recreation and Tourism Advisory Committee. Use list of accommodations and County-wide events.

www.blackrangelodge.com: Information on Kingston and the Black Range Lodge. Links to other useful websites.

www.ghosttowns.com: Information on Sierra County.

www.pioneerstoremuseum.com: Excellent website all about Chloride.

www.oldwestcountry.com: Information on Sierra County.

www.truthorconsequencesnm.net: Information on Truth or Consequences and Sierra County.

www.stateparks.com: Information on Elephant Butte Lake State Park, Caballo and Percha Dam.

www.emnrd.state.nm.us: Information on Elephant Butte Lake State Park, Caballo and Percha Dam.

www.geronimotrail.com: Website for the Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway. This website is in the process of being updated.