



SIDE TRIPS

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**

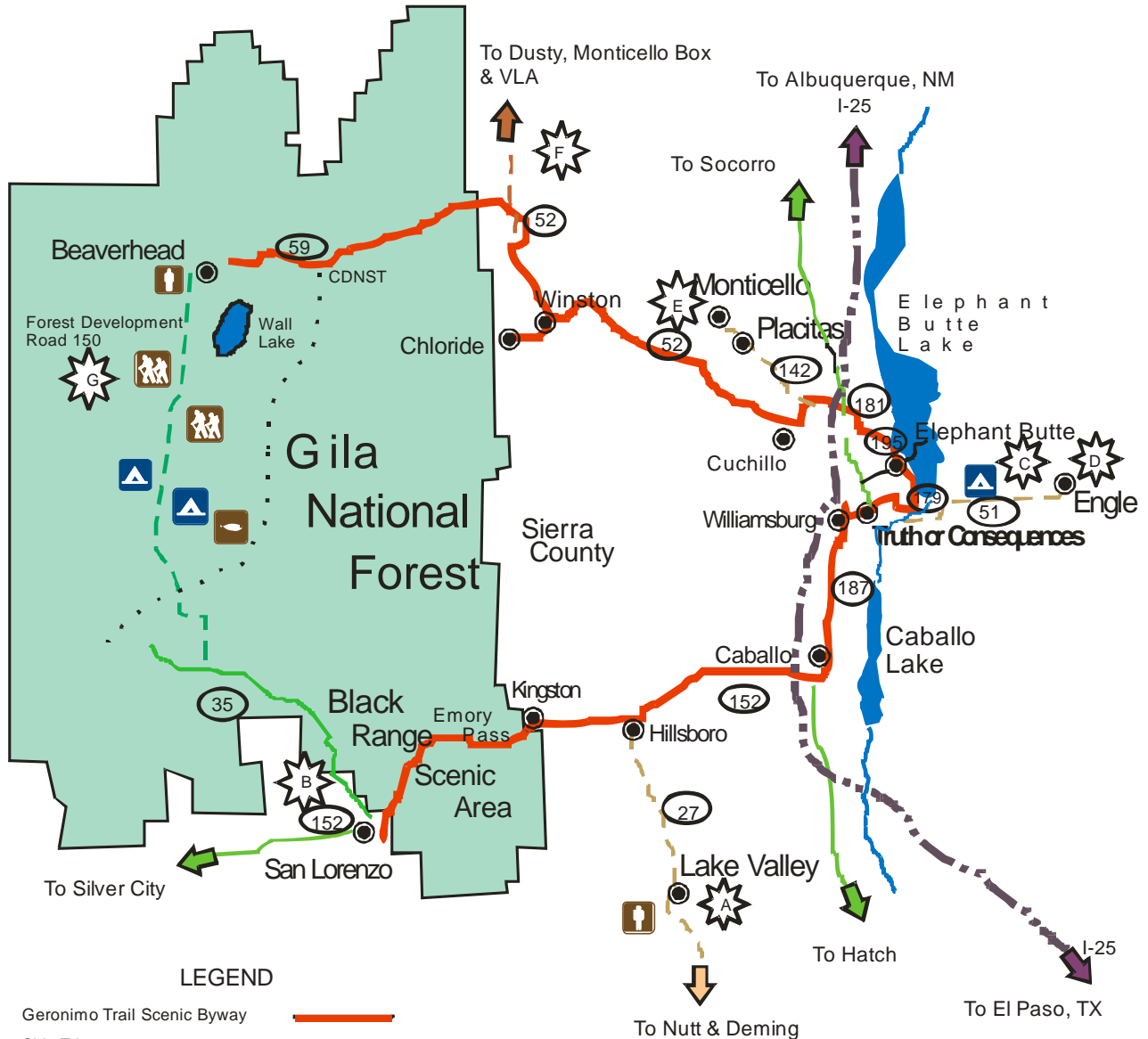
The primitive road of FDR 150 ends at the paved road of Hwy 35. At this point the visitor is traveling the Trail of the Mountain Spirits National Scenic Byway. Taking Hwy 35 south will bring the traveler back to junction Hwy 152.



Elk on the way to Beaverhead

Side Trips

Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway



LEGEND

- Geronimo Trail Scenic Byway ———
- Side Trips - - - - -
- Secondary Roads ———
- Gravel Roads - · - · -
- Interstate - · - · -
- 4-wheel Drive / High Clearance - - - - -

- SIDE TRIPS**
- A Lake Valley
 - B Mimbres River Valley
 - C Rio de Paseo CG
 - D Engle
 - E Monticello
 - F Monticello Bx & Ojo Caliente
 - G Forest Dev. Road 150

- Legend**
- Hiking
 - Camping
 - Fishing
 - Restrooms