

**Upper Rio Grande Basin Water Operations Review and EIS
ARCHIVE FORM (6/18/01)**

No.	RIP-116	Keep Confidential?	
-----	----------------	--------------------	--

Author: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Date: 2003

Title: Fact Sheets (from web) for Belen, Bernardo, and La Joya Waterfowl Areas; and for Rio Chama Wildlife and Fishing Area.

Publication: _____

Organization: N.M. Department of Game and Fish

Organization Location: Santa Fe, NM

Document Location: SWCA Library; Online at:

http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/conservation/wildlife_management_areas/documents/

Type of Document (Check One):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Published Document | <input type="checkbox"/> GIS Data (Complete metadata form) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agency Report or Document | <input type="checkbox"/> Contact Report (Complete next page) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memo/Correspondence | <input type="checkbox"/> Internal Data |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Map | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): <u>Online website</u> |

Relevant Topics (Check All Applicable):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Purpose and Need | <input type="checkbox"/> Earth Resources (Geology, Soils) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseline Data | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternatives | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Riparian and Wetlands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climate | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Operations | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> URGWOM | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geomorphology | <input type="checkbox"/> Socioeconomics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sedimentation | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Justice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydraulics | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Involvement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): <u>NM State Wildlife Areas</u> |

Key Words: Wildlife, fishing

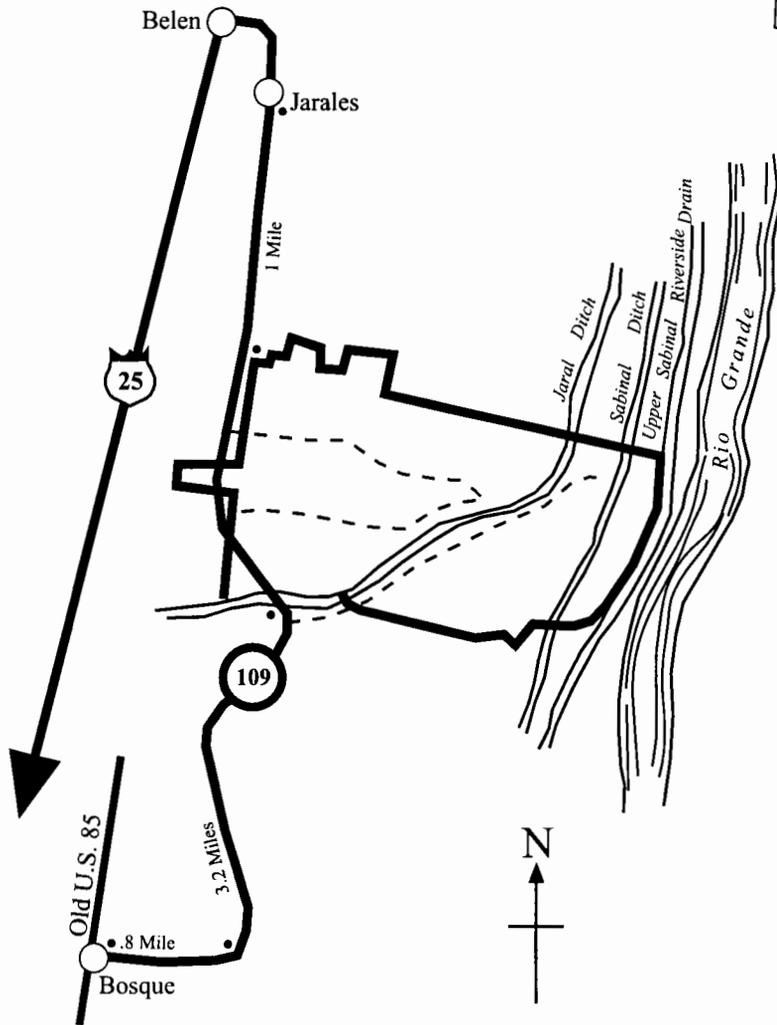
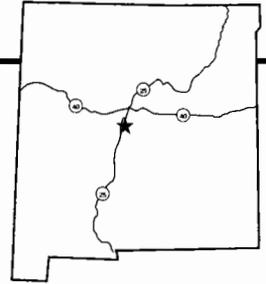
Completed By (Name): Janelle Harden; SWCA Albuquerque **Date:** 7 Nov., 2004

Address: 7001 Prospect Place NE, Ste. 100, Albq. NM 87110 **Phone:** (505) 254-1115



State Wildlife Areas

Belen Waterfowl Area



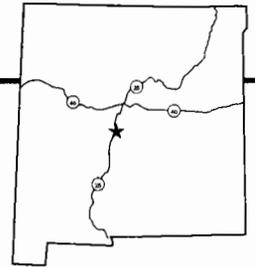
The gabblings and honkings of geese, and of smaller birds, carry far through the icy air of an early winter morning. The Belen Waterfowl Area is situated along the Rio Grande river bottom and farmed to provide feed for wintering waterfowl. Crops here include corn and grain sorghum, with winter wheat and alfalfa for green feed.

There are no recreational sites, as picnicking and camping are not allowed.

<u>Hunting</u>	<u>Fishing</u>	<u>Boat Ramp</u>	<u>Camp Sites</u>	<u>Picnic Tables</u>	<u>Toilets</u>
No	No	No	No	No	No



State Wildlife Areas



Bernardo Waterfowl Area

Pheasants flatten, disappearing into the stubble, and waterfowl wing into flight. Cranes lift off. Doves, too, whistle away from the unwary walker. But the patient and the quiet can spend hours watching these game birds and other colorful avians at the Bernardo Waterfowl Area. A wildlife trail complete with viewing and photographic towers are open to the public.

The Bernardo area first came under Department of Game and Fish control through a lease made in 1961 with the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District.

Its 1,573 acres include about 450 acres of crops cultivated to provide winter feed for migratory and upland birds that share corn, grain sorghum and green feed raised here. Widely scattered cottonwoods, growths of tamarisk (salt cedar), a pond and a small marsh signal the fact that the area lies along a river bottom: The Rio Grande flows nearby.

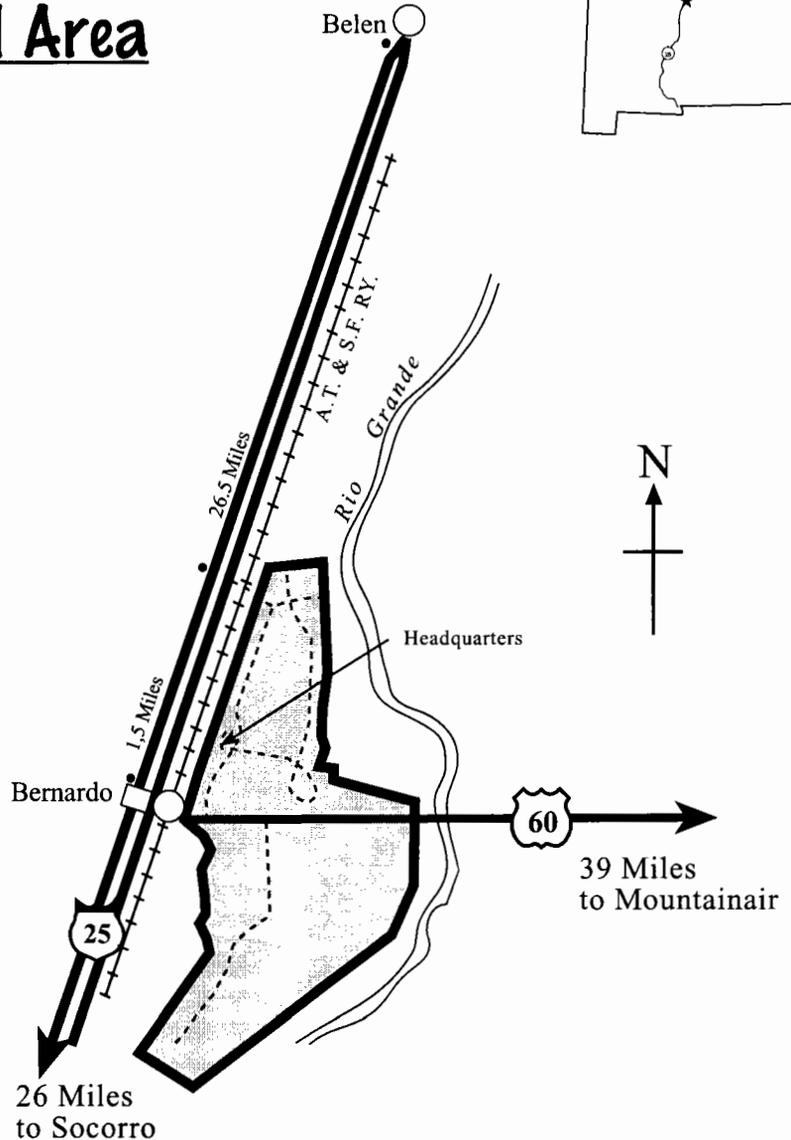
In recent years, Hi-Line Canada geese have been raised here to augment a dwindling population that mostly winters in Colorado.

Hunting is permitted on the management area; fair to good hunting is had in the general

vicinity. Especially welcome is the population of snow geese in this part of the Rio Grande Valley. For those who enjoy bird watching, this is a fine place to

observe waterfowl, cranes and some upland birds during the fall and winter months.

There are no recreational sites on the management area.



Hunting
Waterfowl

Fishing
No

Boat Ramp
No

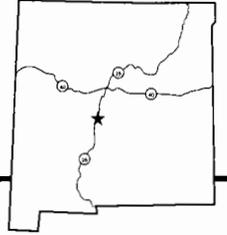
Camp Sites
No

Picnic Tables
No

Toilets
No



State Wildlife Areas



La Joya Waterfowl Area

The soft paddings of moccasined feet were hushed by the screechings of high-wheeled carretas and the baa-in" of sheep. These too were interrupted at times by the yips of los Comanches and the trot of unshod ponies, later by the jingle of bits and snappings of guidons, the cadences of infantry marching or retreating.

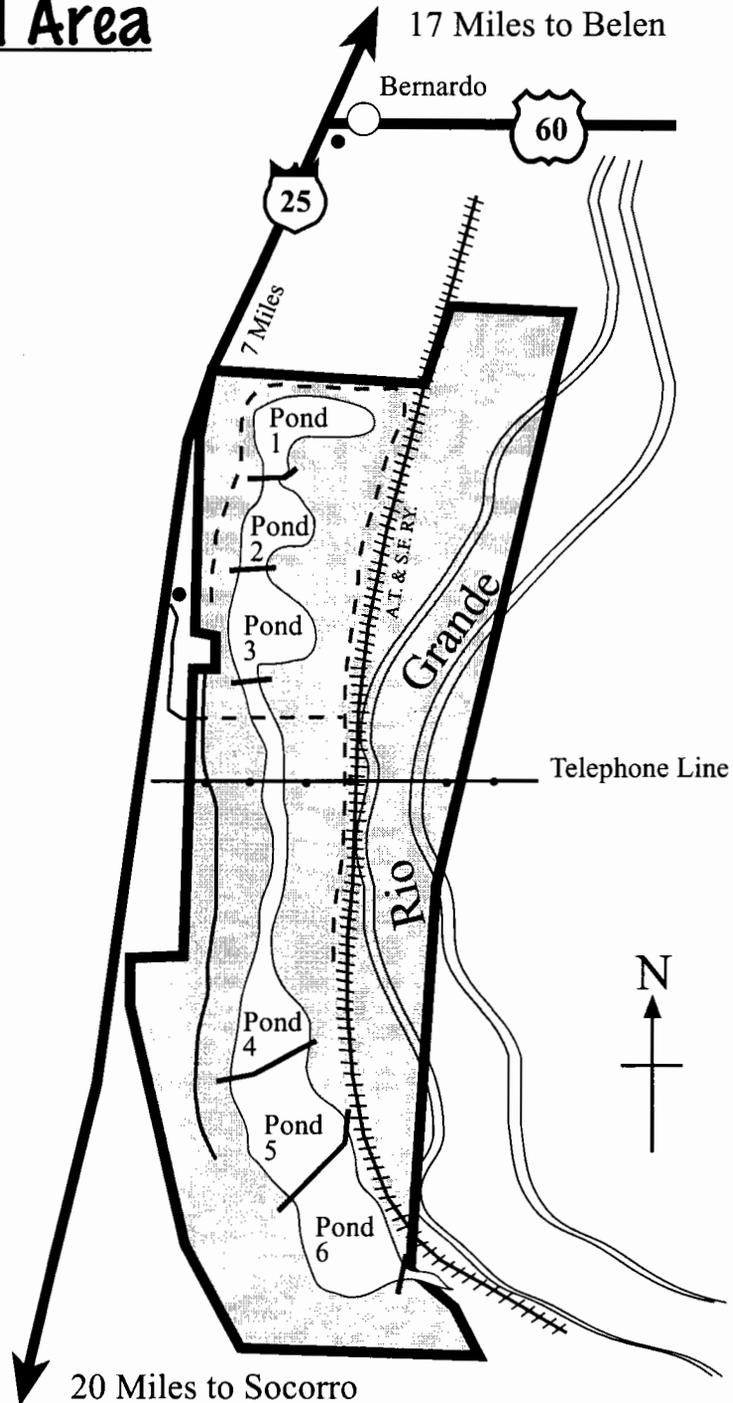
A stop on the ancient Camino Real, the king's highway, La Joya translates as jewel or basin. Either would apply, for Indian, Spaniard, Federal and Confederate stopped to rest in this bright green spot.

La Joya lies in the Central Rio Grande Valley and is a good place to see birds. There are ponds, canals and ditches here. Grass and brushy stands harbor quail, dove and songbirds.

Purchases began in 1928 and continued through 1940, bringing the total to 3,550 acres.

Waterfowl hunting is permitted during open season, and fishing is open in the summer. Bird watching is yearlong entertainment. Relics of earlier times may be uncovered after strong winds blow sands from the dunes on the area's western edge.

La Joya has no recreational facilities.



Hunting

Waterfowl, Teal

Fishing

Yes

Boat Ramp

No

Camp Sites

No

Picnic Tables

No

Toilets

No



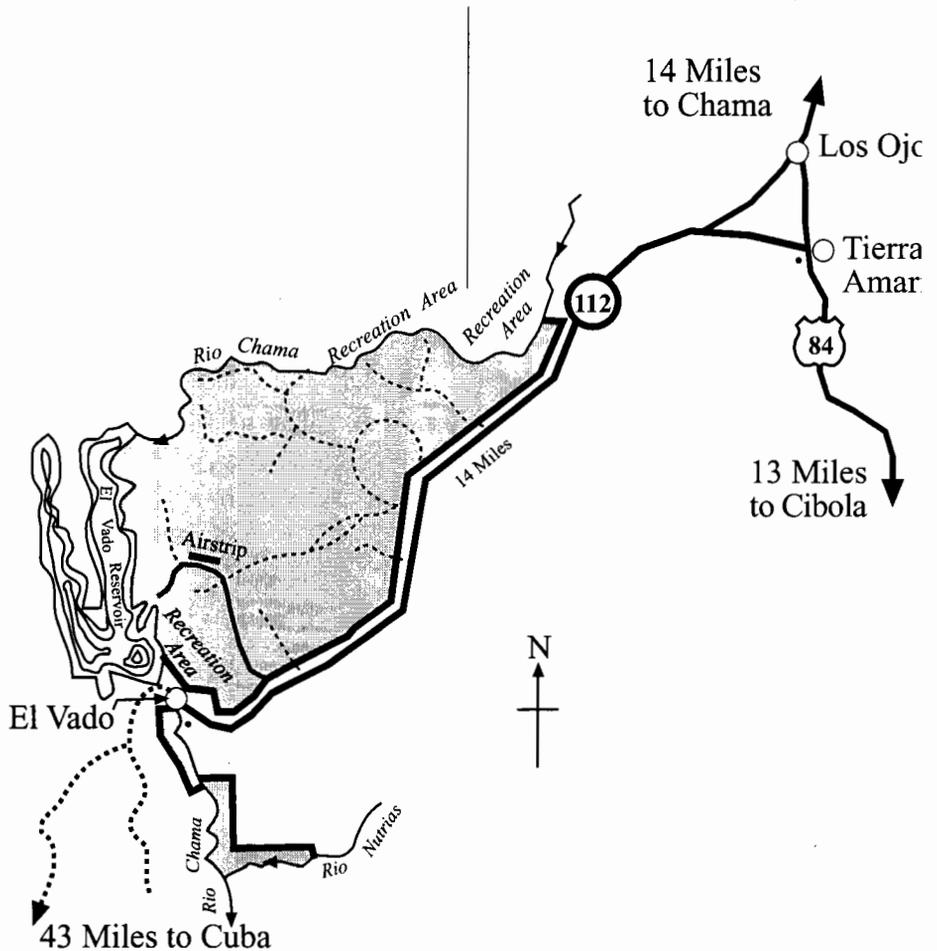
State Wildlife Areas

Rio Chama Wildlife & Fishing Area

Early in the morning, deer or elk may slip into the river bottom along the Rio Chama, startling a trout when they dip their muzzles to drink, then slip back into the shadows of the piñon-covered ridge or into the shelter of the canyon rims.

Anglers, as well as hunters, find this area much to their liking. The Rio Chama, one of the state's larger and better trout streams, borders its entire northern edge. Hatchery-stocked and stream-reared rainbows hold their stations in the protection of rocks, and good-sized browns hug the cutbanks and the bottoms of deep holes. The angler or hiker can take a footbridge across the stream to Heron Lake, or follow the river trail downstream to El Vado Reservoir, bordering the area's west end. He would do well not to overlook the stretch of the Rio Chama below El Vado Dam and to let fish find his lures in the Rio Nutrias.

In all, the area offers access to more than 12 miles of the Rio Chama and to 4.5 miles of El Vado Reservoir shore. A fairly large wildlife area, it was purchased during a three-year span beginning in 1953. Its 13,000 acres were acquired to provide



additional hunting and fishing in a part of the state where public lands are limited.

Camping is allowed on the site, and two campgrounds furnish

picnic tables. Horse pens are also available. The State Park and Recreation Division operates large boating and camping facilities at El Vado and Heron lakes.

Hunting	Fishing	Boat Ramp	Camp Sites	Picnic Tables	Toilets
Deer, Elk, Spring Turkey, Small game	Trout	No	Designated Areas Only	No	No