



RIO GRANDE TRAIL

PRESENTATION TO THE WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES INTERIM COMMITTEE

August 12, 2021

Todd Leahy, Chair, Rio Grande Trail Commission



VISION

The Rio Grande Trail is New Mexico's cross-state, recreational trail along Rio Grande. Trail users explore, learn about, and connect with a tapestry of diverse natural habitats, rich history, striking landscapes, and vibrant communities.



HISTORY OF RIO GRANDE TRAIL

2004 – Planning for Rio Grande Trail commences

2005 – EMNRD entered into agreement with Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) to develop/ implement a Rio Grande Trail plan for Bernalillo to Belen

2007 – Rio Grande Trail Coordinating Committee was created and drafted Charter.

2007 to 2009 – Regional stakeholder meetings were held to garner local support for the trail and plan for pilot projects

2008 - Trail Alignment Study from Belen to Sunland Park completed

2009 – BLM, Taos Field Office strongly supported installing Rio Grande Trail signs along existing trail in Northern NM on BLM lands (NM-CO border to Pilar)



NMSA 9-5C-1 creates Rio Grande Trail Commission (2015)

The commission shall:

- define and recommend viable path routes of the Rio Grande Trail,
- mitigate challenges related to its establishment and
- define and recommend other features, facilities and enhancements needed on the trail.





RIO GRANDE TRAIL MASTER PLAN

Plan completed in December 2018 includes:

- *Vision and planning framework*
- *Context*
- *Partnerships*
- *Maintenance, management, and infrastructure*
- *Alignment Maps*
- <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/riograndetrailcommission/rgtcmaps/>

GET INVOLVED: PROCESS FOR DESIGNATION

REQUESTS MUST INCLUDE:

Location

Vision

Public Support

Accessibility

Ease of incorporation

Environmental/Cultural resource protection

Capacity of landowner

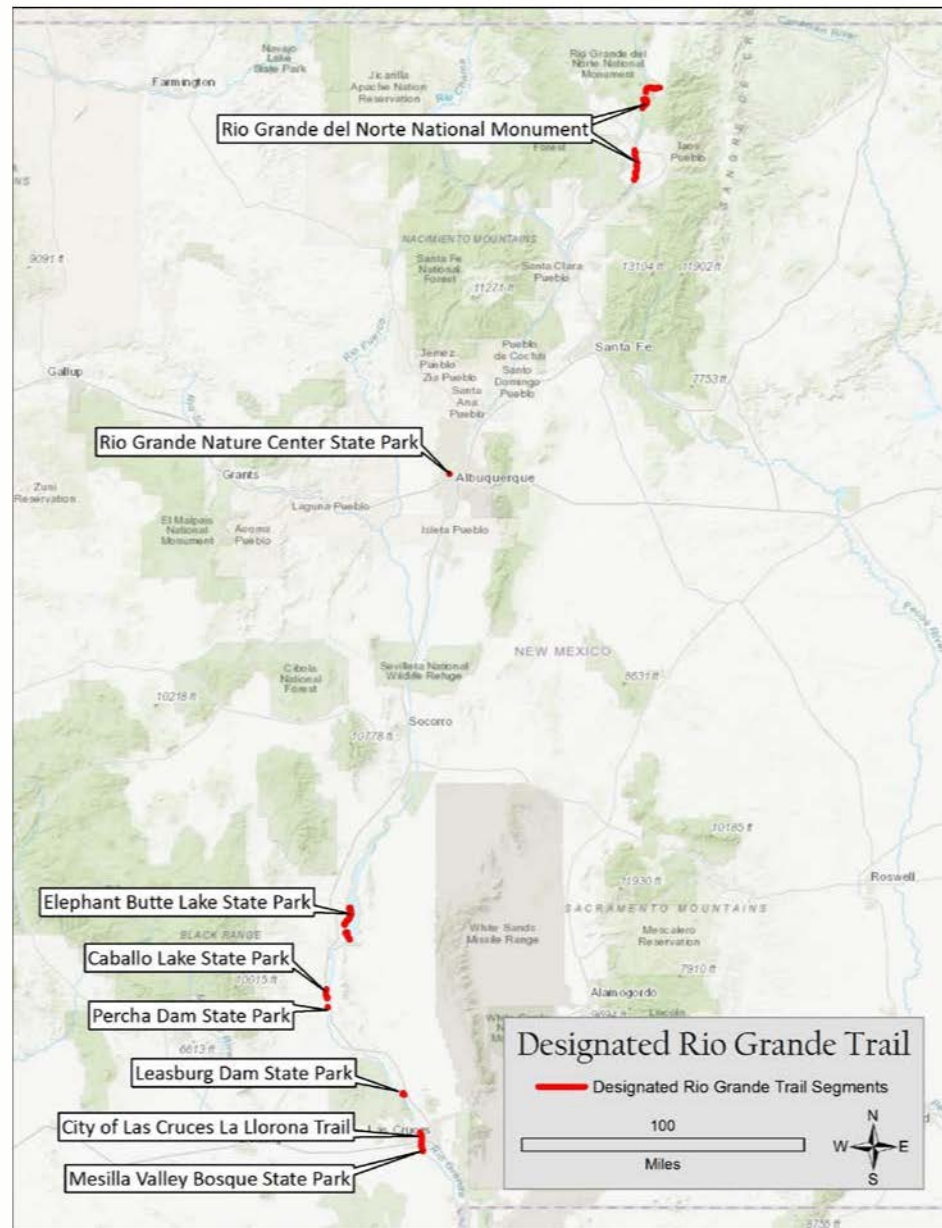
Public safety

Minimal environmental impacts

****NEXT MEETING AUG 18 9am (virtual)**



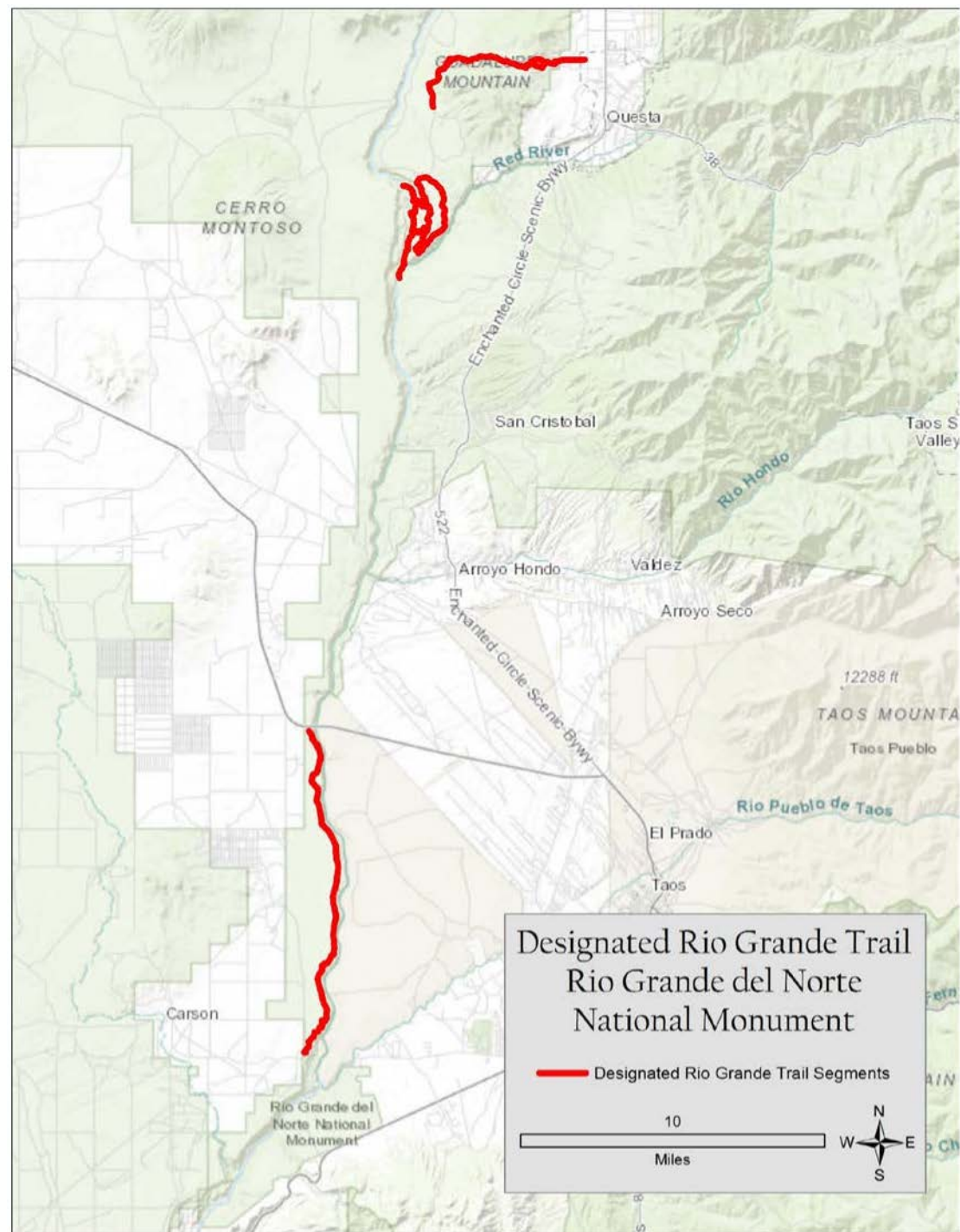
RIO GRANDE TRAIL DESIGNATIONS



Location	Miles
Rio Grande Nature Center	0.28
Leasburg Dam	2.66
City of Las Cruces	4.69
Mesilla Valley Bosque	1.62
Percha Dam	0.07
Elephant Butte Lake	15.69
Caballo Lake	4.91
Rio Grande del Norte	58.63
Total	88.55

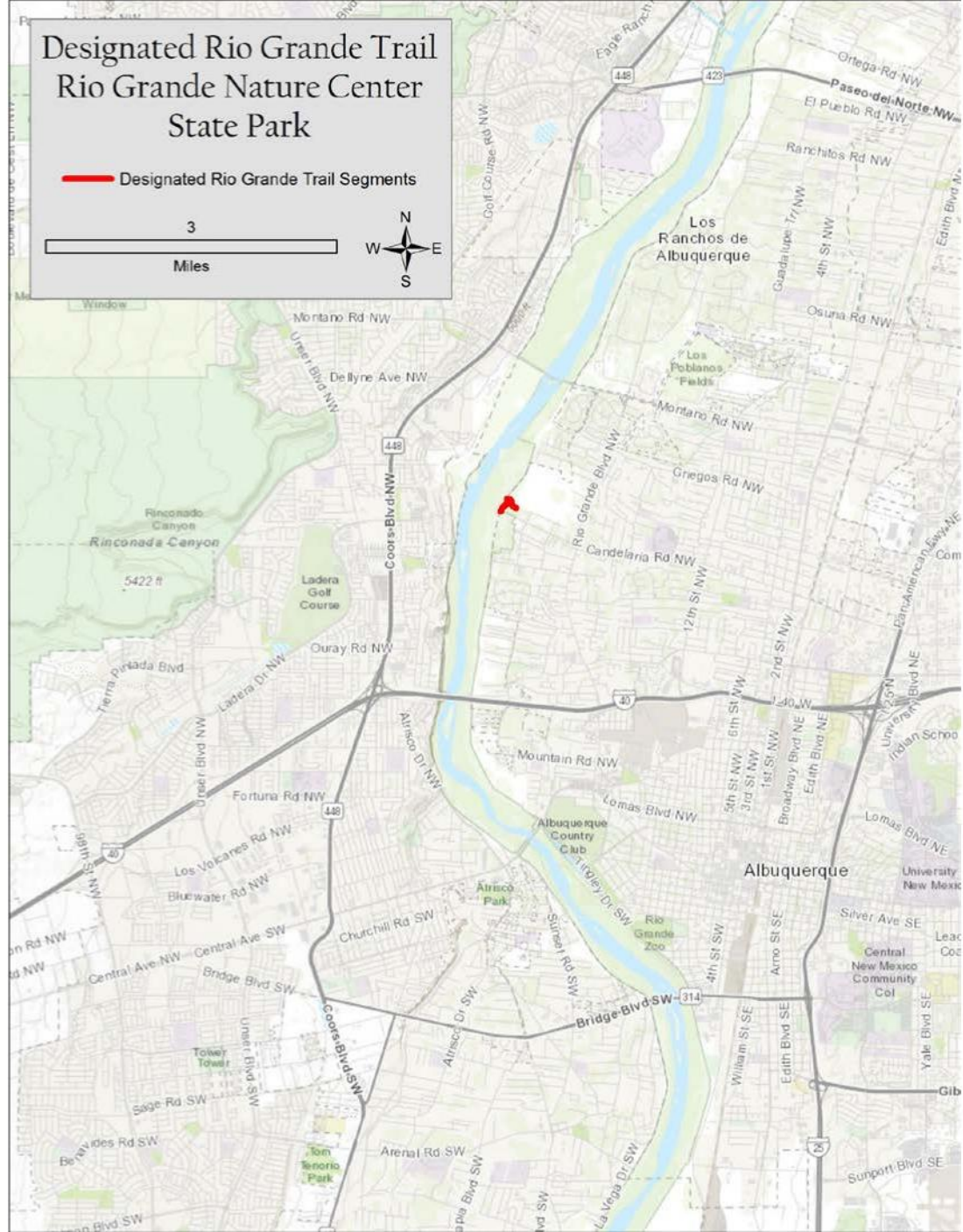


Rio Grande del Norte Monument - BLM



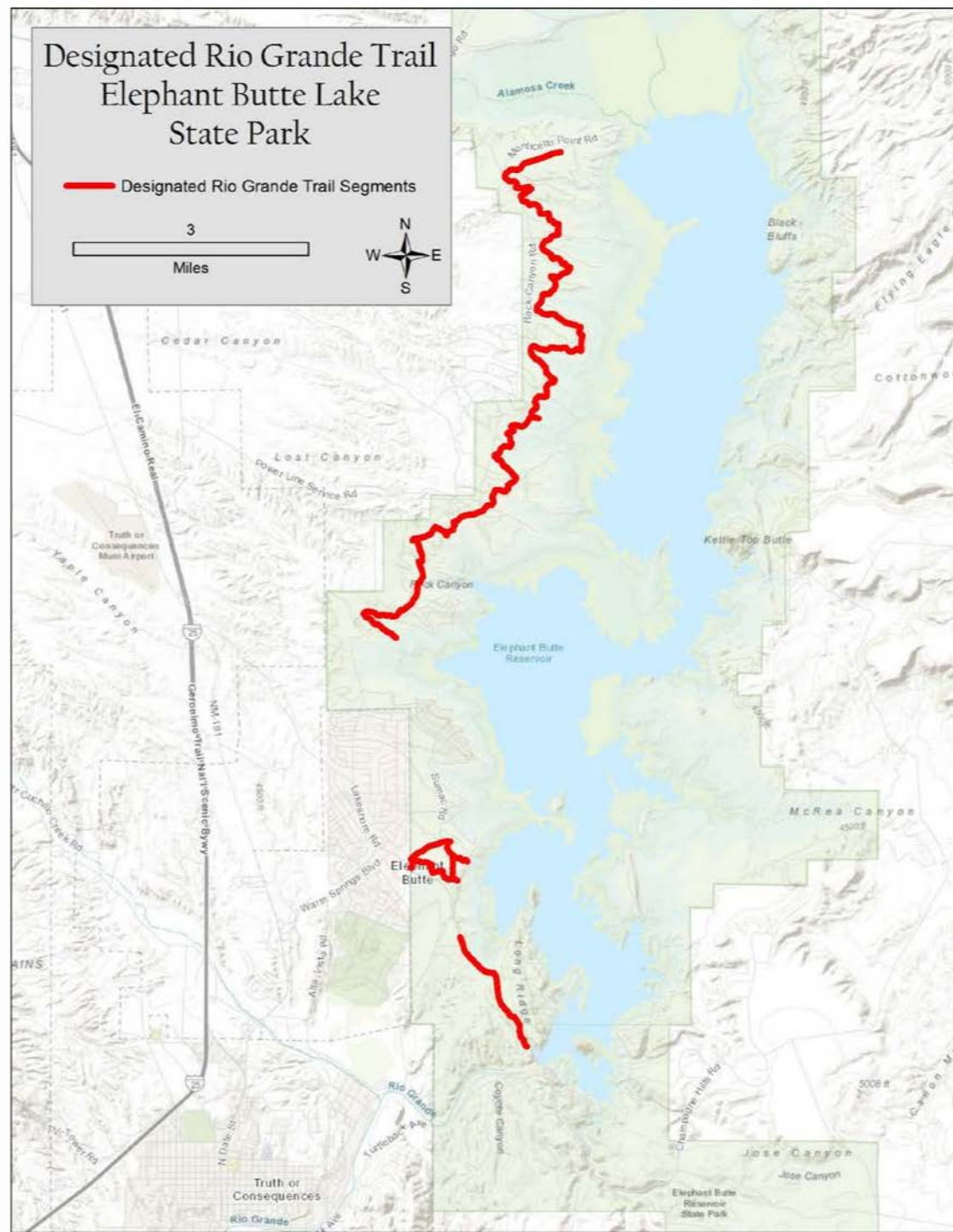


Rio Grande Nature Center State Park



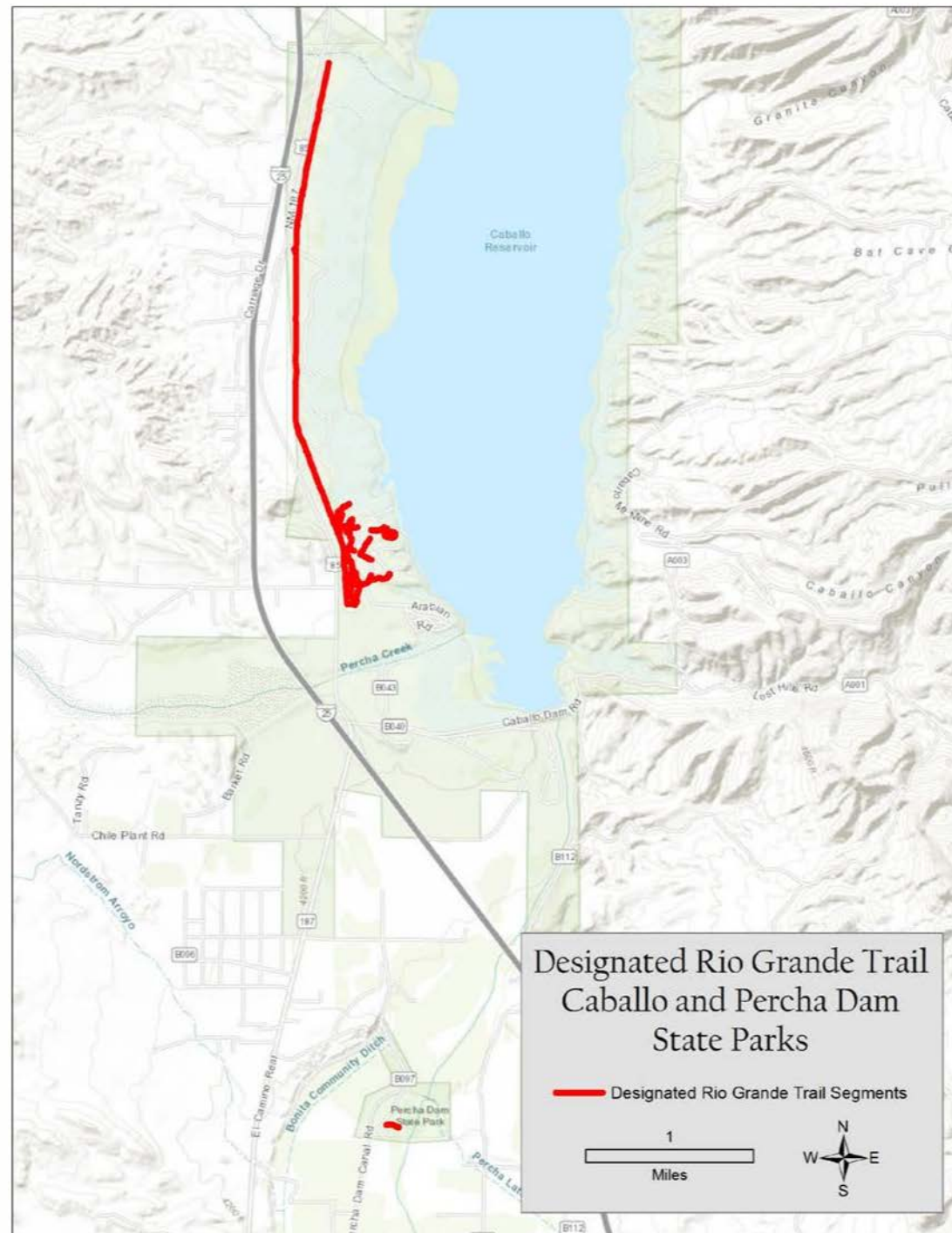


Elephant Butte Lake State Park



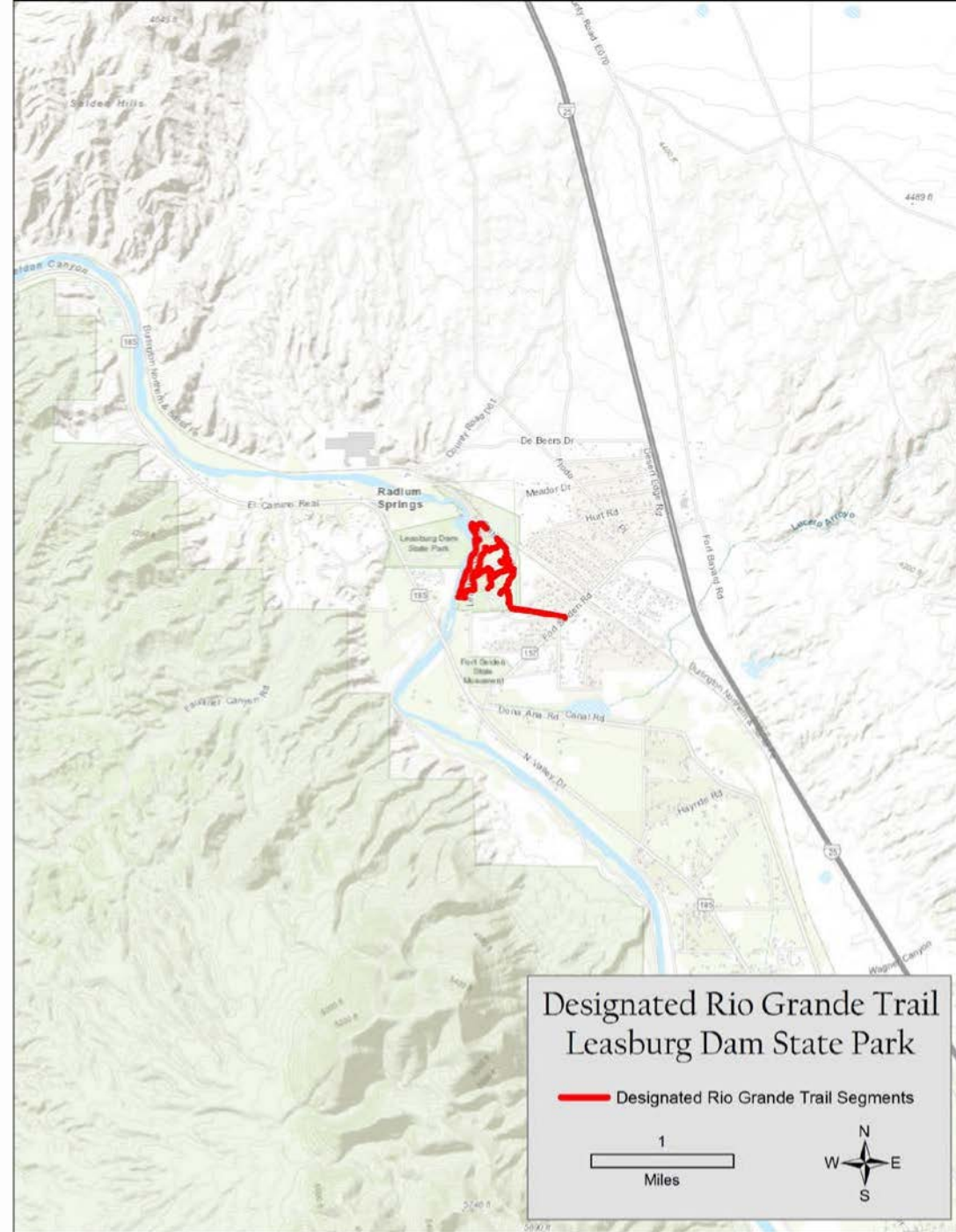


Caballo Lake and Percha Dam State Parks





Leasburg Dam State Park





La Llorona Trail, City of Las Cruces & Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park

