

BLM

Continental Divide WSA



New Mexico • Socorro Field Office

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



A Wilderness Study Area

Welcome to the Continental Divide WSA!

About 68,761 acres have been designated as the Continental Divide Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The steep drop to the Plains of San Agustin from mountains in the north side of the area offers unique views of vast, undeveloped space, and geologic time. The diverse terrain of rolling grasslands and pine filled canyons makes it an outstanding place to experience the quiet and solitude of the WSA.

Historical and archaeological sites have been recorded within the Continental Divide unit, including historical homesteads and associated features, and a cave used by Native Americans at a time when tribes of the Mogollon Culture lived on the shores of an ancient lake that filled the nearby Plains of San Agustin.

BLM is directed to prevent impairment of the wilderness character of the WSA. We need your help in maintaining the area's special features and qualities. Please use the area in a manner that protects the wilderness environment.

Geology

Located within the Datil-Mogollon Volcanic Plateau, this area is transitional between the Basin and Range province to the south and the Colorado Plateau to the north. At 9,212 feet, Pelona Mountain is the high point of one of ten volcanic mountain formations surrounding the Plains of San Agustin, the remnants of a Pleistocene lake. These volcanic mountains surround the Plains similar to islands of an atoll.

Recreation

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail within the WSA provides for high quality, scenic, primitive hiking, and horseback-riding experiences. The wonderful New Mexico night skies provide star gazers with stunning views of the heavens. This WSA provides excellent opportunities for hunting. While on an outing, you might see mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, and wild turkey. There might even be a rare appearance by a mountain lion or the Mexican grey wolf.

Camping

Camping is limited to 14 days in any one location. Please practice Leave No Trace Principles. Clean up your campsite before leaving. Be aware of fire condi-



tions. Check the New Mexico Fire Info Website at: <http://nmfireinfo.com/>.

Vehicles

Vehicles and ATVs must remain on existing vehicle routes within the area. Motor vehicle use of closed routes and cross-country vehicle use is not allowed in the WSA, even to retrieve game.

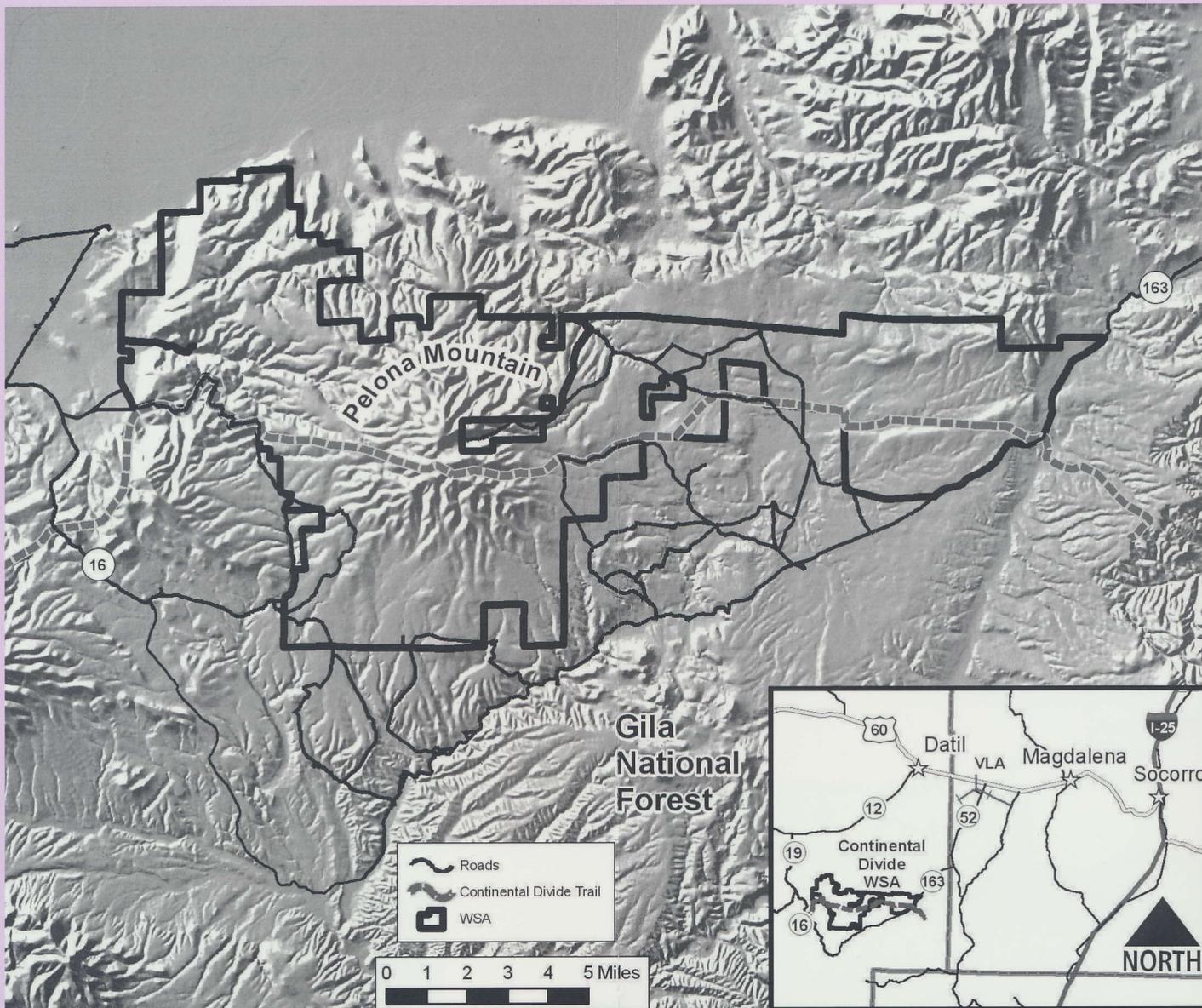
Access

To access the WSA, head south from State Highway 60 to State Highway 52, and then southwest to State Highway 163. From State Highway 12, take County Road B019 and CO16 travel on the maintained and unmaintained two-track routes to the WSA.

Tips

Always be prepared and watch out for rattlesnakes. Carry plenty of food and water. If hiking with a dog, be sure to pack enough water for the dog as well. Make sure that the dog does not harass wildlife or livestock. Cell phone coverage is minimal in the area. GPS units are helpful for navigation. Always inform someone of your travel plans.





Bureau of Land Management
 Socorro Field Office
 901 South Highway 85
 Socorro, New Mexico 87801
 575/835.0412
 or
www.blm.gov/nm

