

National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Superintendent's Compendium
Of Designations, Closures, Permit
Requirements and Other
Restrictions
Imposed Under Discretionary
Authority



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EI Malpais National Monument

Approved:

_____ Date: _____

Kayci Cook Collins, Superintendent

In accordance with regulations and the delegated authority provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations ("36 CFR"), Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, authorized by Title 16 United States Code, Section 3, the following regulatory provisions are established for the proper management, protection, and public use of those portions of EI Malpais National Monument under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service (NPS). Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7.

In addition to these regulations, the following are also provided:

Written determinations, which explain the reasoning behind the Superintendent's use of discretionary authority, are required by Section 1.5(c) and appear in this document. This document is available for review in the Chief Ranger's Office at EI Malpais National Monument, 123 East Roosevelt Avenue, Grants, New Mexico.

Section 1.6(f) states that a list of those activities that require a permit must be maintained. That list appears in this document under Section 1.6.

As required by 1.7(b), these regulations, permit requirements, and written determinations shall be updated annually and made available to the public upon request.

PART 1 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1.4, Definitions

Camping - the erecting of a tent or shelter of natural, or synthetic material, preparing a sleeping bag or other bedding material for use, parking of a motor vehicle, motor home or trailer for the apparent purpose of overnight occupancy

Cave(s) - Any naturally occurring void, cavity, recess, or system of interconnected passages which occurs beneath the surface of the earth or within a cliff or ledge (including any cave resource therein, but not including any dug, mine, tunnel, aqueduct, or other man-made excavation) and which is large enough to permit an individual to enter, whether or not the entrance is naturally formed or man-made. This will also include any natural pit, sinkhole, trench, collapsed lava tube, or other feature that is an extension of the entrance.

Climbing - Ascending or descending rocks or boulders with or without the aid of any equipment including, but not limited to, ropes, anchors, bolts, and picks, pitons, and related equipment.

Contained Fire - A fire kindled in an established fire grate or in a portable fire/cooking container that serves to contain all flame, fuel, ash and debris from all contact with the ground or other materials outside the container. This includes propane cook stoves, barbeque grills, sterno stoves, and other such approved devices.

Hitchhike- To travel by soliciting and securing free rides along roads from passing vehicles.

El Malpais Information Center Complex - All of the buildings, supplies, materials and infrastructure in the general location of the Information Center located at 11,000 Ice Caves Rd, Grants, NM, which is located on the southwest side of NM Hwy 53 at about mile post 64. This includes the parking lot, fire cache, fire storage buildings, maintenance shed, pump-house, the Fire Operations Center, and all other associated infrastructure.

Memorialization: The placement of a monument, memorial, tablet, structure, other commemorative installation, or the scattering of human remains.

Northwest New Mexico Visitor Center Complex - All of the buildings, supplies, materials and infrastructure in the general location of the Northwest New Mexico Visitor Center located at 1900 E. Santa Fe Ave, Grants, NM. This includes the entrance road, parking areas, the NPS "bone yard" of excess supplies and materials, and all other associated infrastructure.

Northwest Tracts - The "Northwest Tracts" are tracts of real property that the National Park Service has purchased. The tracts contain physical improvements such as residences, storage sheds, and other physical improvements. These tracts are located north of New Mexico Highway 53, (T9N, R12W, Sections 14 & 15), in the northwest portion of the Monument.

The following Northwest Tracts are identified by the El Malpais Land Protection Plan tract numbers:

102-10	102-21	102-26	102-28	102-29
102-30	102-31	102-32	102-33	102-34
102-35	102-72	102-73	102-74	

Pack animal - Horses, burros, mules, other hoofed mammals, and llamas.

Park Road - Park road means the main-traveled surface of a roadway open to motor vehicles, owned, controlled, or otherwise administered by the National Park Service. This also includes two-track roads that are further defined and described in this section.

Roadway- roadway means that portion of a street or highway improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the berm or shoulder, and in the event a highway includes two or more separate roadways, the term "roadway" refers to any such roadway separately but not to all such roadways collectively

Special Park Uses - As defined by Director's Order 53 a "special park use" is:

A short-term activity that takes place in a park area and:

- Provides a benefit to an individual, group, or organization, rather than the public at large.
- Requires written authorization and some degree of management control from the NPS in order to protect park resources and the public interest.
- Is not prohibited by law or regulation.
- And is neither initiated, sponsored, nor conducted by the NPS.

Two-track road - An un-maintained park road, which is completely void of vegetation in the tracks, which shows use, and shows no evidence of ever having been closed to vehicular traffic by such means as berms, ripping, scarification, re-seeding, fencing, gates, barricades, or posted closures.

Vehicles: Every device in, upon, or by which a person or property is or may be transported or drawn on land, except snowmobiles and devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or track. This includes all-terrain-vehicles (ATVs), utility terrain vehicles, and motorcycles,

Section 1.5 Closures and Public Use Limits

The following public use limits are established for all or for the listed portions of the monument, and the following closures are established for all or a portion of the park to all public use or to a certain use or activity:

General Public Access

El Malpais Information Center Complex: Visiting hours for public use of the Information Center Complex are daily between 0830-1630 hours, unless otherwise authorized by a permit from the Superintendent or by authorized special postings. This area will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Day.

Determination: The U.S. Government has substantial interest in buildings, materials, equipment and supplies in the structures and work areas of the Information Center Complex, consequently, it is necessary to limit public use of this area to ensure the protection of the public and government interests. Therefore, public access to these buildings and areas is hereby limited to those days and hours where NPS personnel are available to staff the Information Center and thereby provide necessary security and oversight of these facilities.

Northwest New Mexico Visitor Center (NWNMVC) Complex: Visiting hours for public use of the Northwest New Mexico Visitor Center Complex are seasonal in nature and dependent upon available staffing. However, hours of visitation will be between 0800-1800 hours. Specific hours for a season or day will be posted on the NWNMVC entrance sign and will be confirmed by the open or closed and locked gate at the entrance from Santa Fe Ave. A permit from the Superintendent may authorize other public uses of this facility and area. This area will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years day.

Determination: The U.S. Government has substantial interest in buildings, materials, equipment and supplies in the structures and work areas of this location, consequently, it is necessary to limit public use of this area to ensure the protection of the public and government interests. Therefore, public access to these buildings and areas are hereby limited to those days and hours where government employees are available to staff the Northwest New Mexico Visitor Center and thereby provide necessary security and oversight of these facilities.

Sandstone Bluffs Overlook and Parking Area: Visiting hours for the Sandstone Bluffs Area is from sunrise to dusk, unless otherwise authorized by permit from the Superintendent.

Determination: When El Malpais National Monument was established, Sandstone Bluffs was locally known and popular as a party spot. There were frequent parties where large quantities of alcohol were consumed resulting in trash and debris thrown around the area and over the cliffs, fire scars were left on the rocks, and other resource damaging activities occurred. Closure of the area after dark is necessary to protect natural & cultural resources, development, and the visiting public.

Zuni-Acoma Trailhead Parking Area: Visiting hours for the Zuni-Acoma Trailhead Parking Area is from sunrise to dusk, unless otherwise authorized by permit from the Superintendent.

Determination: The Zuni-Acoma Trailhead Parking Area has become an area that is frequented at night by individuals that cause harm to our structures and resources. Therefore, closure of the area after dark is necessary to protect natural & cultural resources, development, and the visiting public.

Closures and use limits:

Caves: Entry into all caves is prohibited unless authorized by permit from the Superintendent. The exception to this closure will be the lava bridge that is directly in front of the main entrance to Junction Cave.

Determination: The Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988 requires that caves in land managed by the Department of Interior shall be periodically reviewed for inclusion on the list of significant caves. The National Park Service has determined that all caves within the jurisdictional boundaries are significant caves. Entry into all caves is regulated by a permit system. Caves in the monument are in process of being surveyed to determine what resources they contain, how delicate those resources may be, and/or if the cave is safe for public use. These surveys will help to determine the extent of the permit system.

Additionally, flames and other heat producing devices in caves are destructive to fragile biological and geological resources, therefore, items such as gas lanterns, candles, torches, and all similar products and devices are prohibited. Only battery powered light sources 50,000 Candlepower or less or other fully enclosed and sealed light producing items such as glow-sticks are authorized for use in caves.

Northwest Tracts: This area will remain closed to public use and access until the government is able to clean up or mitigate the safety issues in the area.

Determination: The portions of the Monument, which comprise the "Northwest Tracts", are tracts of once private property, which the government has acquired, and include physical improvements to the land. Physical improvements range from residences, barns, storage sheds, wells, etc. These improvements are unsafe for public access as they are rodent infested, of sub-standard construction, and often contain hazardous materials. Therefore, they are all slated for destruction.

Operation of Vehicles: Vehicle traffic is restricted to maintained and designated park roads, including two-track roads.

Driving and parking more than 10 feet off any park road or two-track is prohibited.

Determination: Operation of vehicles, off Park Roads and two-tracks, destroys delicate natural and cultural resources, which the Monument was established to protect.

Picnicking: The following areas are closed to picnicking:

- all caves
- all lava tubes
- all archeological sites or structures
- all historical sites and structures.

Determination: Trash receptacles are not provided at the above listed locations. Food and other trash not properly disposed of will mar the landscape, change the natural environs, and may encourage nuisance or possibly hazardous wildlife behavior.

Rock Climbing: Climbing is prohibited anywhere within the monument, including caves and lava tubes, unless otherwise authorized by a permit from the Superintendent.

Determination: The management of the Monument recognizes many of the areas where climbing could occur have significant cultural value to neighboring Native American Tribes and climbing activities may conflict with cultural activities and sacred sites which the Monument was, in part, established to protect. The cliff areas are composed primarily of sandstone, which by its nature is extremely fragile, brittle, highly fractured, and is not considered compatible with public climbing activities. Climbing activities would place those involved (as well as those using the trails directly below the cliff faces) at high risk of personal injury or death since vertical surfaces of sandstone could fail under the weight of a climber. Climbing will also damage the rock surfaces and potentially threaten the irreplaceable cultural resources.

Segway or Similar Device Use: The use of Segway or similar personal transportation devices by mobility impaired persons will be permitted under the following conditions:

A. The operation of the Segway will be limited to the following locations:

- The interior spaces of El Malpais National Monument headquarters and visitor centers normally accessible to the public.
- El Malpais National Monument visitor center restroom facilities.
- The Zuni Acoma Trailhead parking area and paved surface trail up to the interpretive display board and back along the same route.
- The El Calderon parking lot and interpretive trail to the entrance to Junction Cave and back along the same route.
- Publicly accessible paved roads, parking lots, established dirt roads or graveled campsite and picnic areas
- The Sandstone Bluffs interpretive paved walkway to the interpretive display board and back along the same route.

B. The operator of the Segway will:

- Provide authenticated documentation to staff upon initial entry at the visitor center, such as, a note from physician, handicap vehicle registration, or National Park Service Golden Access Card to help verify the operator's status as mobility impaired.
- Wear an approved safety helmet. Segway recommends that riders wear a multi-impact helmet and there is a specific ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) standard for Segway helmets. A commonly manufactured bicycle-style helmet will meet this requirement.
- Yield the right of way to all pedestrians at all times.
- Maintain their Segway on the maintained trail or roadway surfaces at all times, in the areas indicated in the above section.
- Not be operated at a speed exceeding 4 miles per hour (the speed of a brisk walking pace) at any time.
- Utilize extreme caution at all times, particularly while traversing areas involving slopes, irregular surfaces, or steep drop-offs.
- Prominently display a blue handicap placard on the Segway.

Determination: Due to concentrated public visitation, varied topography and potentially congested or confined trail conditions encountered at El Malpais National Monument Segway use is limited to certain areas of the monument, generally those accessible to regular and motorized wheelchairs.

Use of the Segway is specifically prohibited from use on any portion of the El Malpais National Monument where

manually or powered wheel chairs cannot safely maneuver due to the presence of highly uneven and rough topography, narrow trail surfaces, and steep cliffs.

Section 1.6(f), Permits

In compliance with 36 CFR 1.6(f), the following are activities requiring a special use permit through the Superintendent:

- After hours visitation or use, Section 1.5
- Gathering of plant products, Section 2.1 (c)(1)
- Carry or possess weapons in a federal facility, including the Headquarters Building and Complex, Northwest New Mexico Interagency Visitor Center, and the Information Center and Fire Operations Complex, Section 2.4 (d)
- Specimen collection, Section 2.5
- Audio disturbances, Section 2.12
- Aircraft and Air Delivery, Section 2.17
- Special recreation activities, Section 2.23
- Explosives, Section 2.38
- Special Events, Section (i.e. weddings, baptisms) Section 2.50
- Public Assemblies, Meetings (except small groups of less than 20 people), Section 2.51
- Sale or Distribution of Printed Matter, Section 2.52
- Livestock use , Section 2.60(b)
- Residing on federal lands, Section 2.61(a)
- Use of a vessel, Section 3.3
- Operating a motor vehicle off designated roads, Section 4.10(a)
- Driving or parking more than 10 feet off a designated road, Section 4.10(a)
- Commercial filming or photography Section 5.5(a) and (b)
- Use of commercial vehicles on park area roads Section 5.6 (c)
- Construction of buildings, facilities, trails, roads, path, structure, etc., Section 5.7
- Operation of a solid waste disposal site, Section 6.9(a)

PART 2 – RESOURCE PROTECTION, PUBLIC USE AND RECREATION

Section 2.1 Preservation of Natural, Cultural and Archeological Resources

Subsection 2.1 (a)(4): The collection of dead and down wood is prohibited anywhere in the Monument

Subsection 2.1 (c)(1) Visitors may collect by hand edible nuts and berries for personal consumption as listed below:

- Ten (10) pounds of piñon pine nuts, per person per day
- One-quarter (1/4) pound of berries, per person per day.

A permit is required for Native Americans to collect plant products for tribal use.

Determination: Nominal quantities of these resources are available in the Monument and therefore public gathering of the above-specified quantities will not affect the propagation of the species nor deprive the natural wildlife of sustainable browse.

Section 2.2 Wildlife Protection

Subsection 2.1 (d): Lawfully taken wildlife may be transported through El Malpais National Monument under the following conditions:

- Transportation may only be by a vehicle on existing roads;
- A direct route is taken to public or private roads, or private property;
- Appropriate New Mexico State licenses must be in possession of the hunter and the required tags filled in and attached to the animal.

Subsection 2.1 (e): The use of artificial light sources (such as spotlighting) to deliberately illuminate or view wildlife including night vision, infrared, thermal imaging, or ultra-violet (black light) devices of any kind are prohibited, unless the Superintendent has issued a permit to specifically engage in such activities.

Determination: Hunting or taking of any wildlife is prohibited by 36 CFR. Activities such as spotlighting or intentionally illuminating wildlife represent deliberate actions that cause significant disturbance to wildlife and are often associated with the illegal taking (poaching) of wildlife.

Section 2.10 Camping and Food Storage

Subsection 2.10 (a): The following establish conditions for camping:

- Primitive, leave-no-trace, ethics are followed;
- Camping is limited to a maximum of seven consecutive days in any one area, and no more than 14 days in a calendar year;
- The maximum size of any one group of campers is 15 people in any one area;
- Camps must be at least one-quarter (1/4) of a mile from any of the following:
 - A road to a trailhead or parking area;
 - Trailhead parking areas;
 - Picnic areas;
 - County Road 42
 - A building
 - In any cave or lava tube;
 - Archeological or historical sites and/or structure;

Determination: Unrestricted camping activities hold the potential to damage sensitive soil, archeological, cave, and other associated natural resources. Camping is also not appropriate or esthetically suitable in areas subject to high public use and transit such as trailheads, picnic areas, parking areas, and visitor center complexes.

Subsection 2.10 (d): Food, dishes, items with a scent, and trash will be stored in vehicles unless they are being actively used to prepare a meal.

Determination: Wildlife will seek food and scented items as food if left out in the campsites and picnic areas. This

disrupts the foraging abilities of wildlife, trains wildlife to be depended on this food source, and can make the wildlife ill. Wildlife that becomes dependant on human food can become very aggressive in order to get the food and thus is a danger to visitors.

Section 2.13 Fires

Subsection 2.13 (a)(1): All fires must be contained inside contained fire grills or other container suitable for confining the fire from contact with the ground or other resources. Ground fires are prohibited.

Determination: El Malpais National Monument is mandated to manage resources to minimize human impacts and protect natural and cultural resources. Unplanned and managed ground fires have been determined to adversely affect the resources of the area through the gathering of rare old wood which is valuable for study, the damage and destruction of cultural/archeological resources, the damage and destruction of pristine geological and sensitive biological resources, in addition to increasing the potential of catastrophic wildfire. Therefore, non-National Park Service planned and managed ground fires are prohibited. Only those fires that are contained in established grills or similar containerized devices are permitted.

Subsection 2.13 (c): During periods of Very High or Extreme Fire Danger, as determined by El Malpais National Monument Fire Management Officer, any open fires, wood or otherwise, and the use of charcoal are prohibited. Under conditions of Very High or Extreme fire danger, self-contained gas grills, or stoves may be allowed for use.

Determination: El Malpais National Monument contains seasonally flammable plant communities such as grasslands, dense stands of pinyon/juniper trees and ponderosa pines. Ground fires and open fires create an undue risk of wildfire that would put the visiting public, park neighbors, staff, and resources in jeopardy.

Section 2.14 Sanitation and Refuse

Subsection 2.14(b): The following conditions exist concerning the disposal of human body waste:

- Where possible, small holes will be dug 6-8 inches deep in organic soil;
- Toilet paper will be buried along with the excrement or carried out.

Determination: Due to recurring public use, all human waste will be properly disposed of as detailed above, otherwise highly unsanitary conditions would prevail that would potentially detract from a safe, healthy, and positive visitor experience. Such conditions are not considered compatible with proper backcountry ethics or the recreational activities and opportunities available at El Malpais National Monument.

Section 2.15 Pets

Subsection 2.15 (a)(1): Pets are not allowed in the following areas:

- all caves
- all lava tubes
- all lava trenches
- all archeological sites
- all historical sites
- all government buildings, (excepting service animals)
- all government vehicles

Subsection 2.15 (a)(3): Pets are not to be left unattended, in a vehicle or tied to an object, at any time.

Subsection 2.15 (a)(5): Owners or persons having custody or control of any animal(s) will immediately remove and dispose of excrement voided by an animal(s) under their control. Excrement will be disposed of in trash containers.

Determination: Pets are likely to cause resource damage or also possibly threaten other visitors when encountered within the relatively close confines of the Monument's caves and lave tube systems or buildings. Pets can cause harm to sensitive natural and culture resources.

Section 2.16 Horses and Pack Animals

Subsection 2.16 (a): The following are "pack animals":

- Horses
- Other hoofed mammals
- Llamas
- Burros and Mules

Subsection 2.16 (b): Horses or pack animals may use the following area:

- Established two-track roads, and Park roads

Determination: Horses and other pack animals may cause long-term resource damage during their passage off-road on soft soils or while grazing on native plants. Manure from these animals may contain seeds from exotic plant species and noxious weeds that will spread, causing changes to the natural ecosystem. Horses and other pack animals travelling in closed areas may also potentially trample and damage sensitive archeological resources.

Section 2.20, Skating, Skateboards and Similar Devices

The use of roller-skates, in-line skates, skateboards, and similar devices is prohibited.

Determination: The terrain encountered at El Malpais National Monument precludes the safe use of roller-skates, in-line skates, skateboards, and similar devices.

Section 2.21, Smoking

Smoking is prohibited on all monument trails and in government buildings. During periods of Very High or Extreme fire danger, as determined by El Malpais National Monument Fire Management Officer, smoking will be prohibited throughout the monument, however, smoking may be allowed inside a private vehicle.

Determination: The potential of improper disposal of cigarette butts create negative impacts to the natural and cultural resources of the Monument as well as the visitor's experience. The presence of burning smoking materials of any type represents a fire risk during periods of elevated fire danger.

Section 2.38 (b), Explosives

Using or possessing fireworks, firecrackers or other explosives devices is prohibited.

Determination: Using or possessing fireworks, firecrackers or other explosives devices is inherently dangerous, constitutes a fire hazard, and is not appropriate within a heavily visited protected natural and cultural resource.

Section 2.51 Designated First Amendment/Public Assembly Location(s)

Subsection 2.51 (e): The following areas are available for public assemblies of large groups holding an approved permit (a map showing the location of these areas is attached in Appendix A.):

- Northwest New Mexico Visitor Center under the covered patio at the main entrance;
- El Malpais Information Center at the Southwest corner of the paved parking area.

Small groups consisting of 20 individuals or less do not need a permit to use the public assembly areas.

Section 2.52 Sale or distribution of printed matter

Subsection 2.52 (e): The superintendent hereby designates the following areas available for the sale or distribution of printed matter for groups holding an approved permit (a map showing the location of these areas is attached in Appendix A):

- Under the covered patio at the main entrance of the Northwest New Mexico Visitor Center;
- In the Southwest corner of the paved parking area of the Information Center located on NM Highway 53.

Small groups consisting of 20 individuals or less do not need a permit to use the public assembly areas.

Section 2.62, Memorialization

Subsection 2.62 (a): The placement of memorials is prohibited.

Determination: The placement of memorials poses the potential to cause damage to sensitive natural, archeological, and cultural resources. Increased human activity at such areas may promote adverse effects such as ground compaction, disruption to vehicle traffic flow, damage, or disturbance of archeological or historic heritage sites, and interference with normal patterns of wildlife behavior or movement.

Subsection 2.62 (b): The scattering of human ashes from cremation is prohibited, unless related to an authorized NAGPRA activity.

Determination: The scattering of human remains or ashes create profound and negative consequence within many traditional Native American cultures and belief systems. Numerous Native American tribes claim affiliation to the areas encompassed by El Malpais National Monument and will object to the placement of any type of human remains, regardless of condition within these lands. Scattered modern remains will affect El Malpais National Monument's ability to research, preserve and protect ancient remains.

PART 4 – VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

Section 4.21, Speed Limits

Speed limits on monument roads are as follows:

- 25 miles-per-hour on all NPS improved and maintained access roads and on all un-maintained two-track park roads.

Determination: Vehicle speed on monument roads is regulated to protect public safety and to enhance the visitor experience. Roads in the monument are narrow, rough, irregularly maintained, seasonally congested, and slower speeds ensure that drivers and pedestrians may safely negotiate these conditions.

Section 4.30, Bicycles

Subsection 4.30 (a): Bicycles are prohibited on trails. Bicycles may be used on all Park Roads, which are open to the public for vehicular use. This designation also includes all open two-track roads.

Determination: The steep terrain and volume of pedestrian traffic encountered on the trail system at El Morro National Monument precludes the safe use of bicycles and similar devices.

Subsection 4.30 (d)(3): The operation of a bicycle abreast of another is allowed on all designated two-track roads, providing the abreast operation does not interfere with other vehicle usage.

Determination: Bicycle use, is an environmentally friendly, fitness promoting activity and is welcomed at El Malpais National Monument. However, those wishing to do so are subject to the same laws and regulations governing the use of motorized vehicles. In order to mitigate potential resource damage or erosion, all bicycle activity is limited to established roadways and two-track roads.

Section 4.31, Hitchhiking

Hitchhiking is prohibited on all roadways within El Morro National Monument in accordance with applicable New Mexico State Law.

Determination: Compliance with New Mexico State Traffic Statute 66-7-340 – Pedestrians soliciting rides or business.

APPENDIX A

Map showing the sites designated under sections 2.51 Designated First Amendment/Public Assembly Location(s) and 2.52 Sale or distribution of printed matter.

