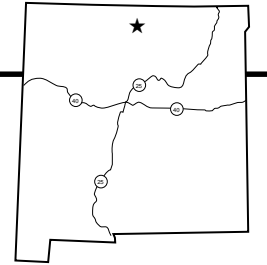




# State Wildlife Areas

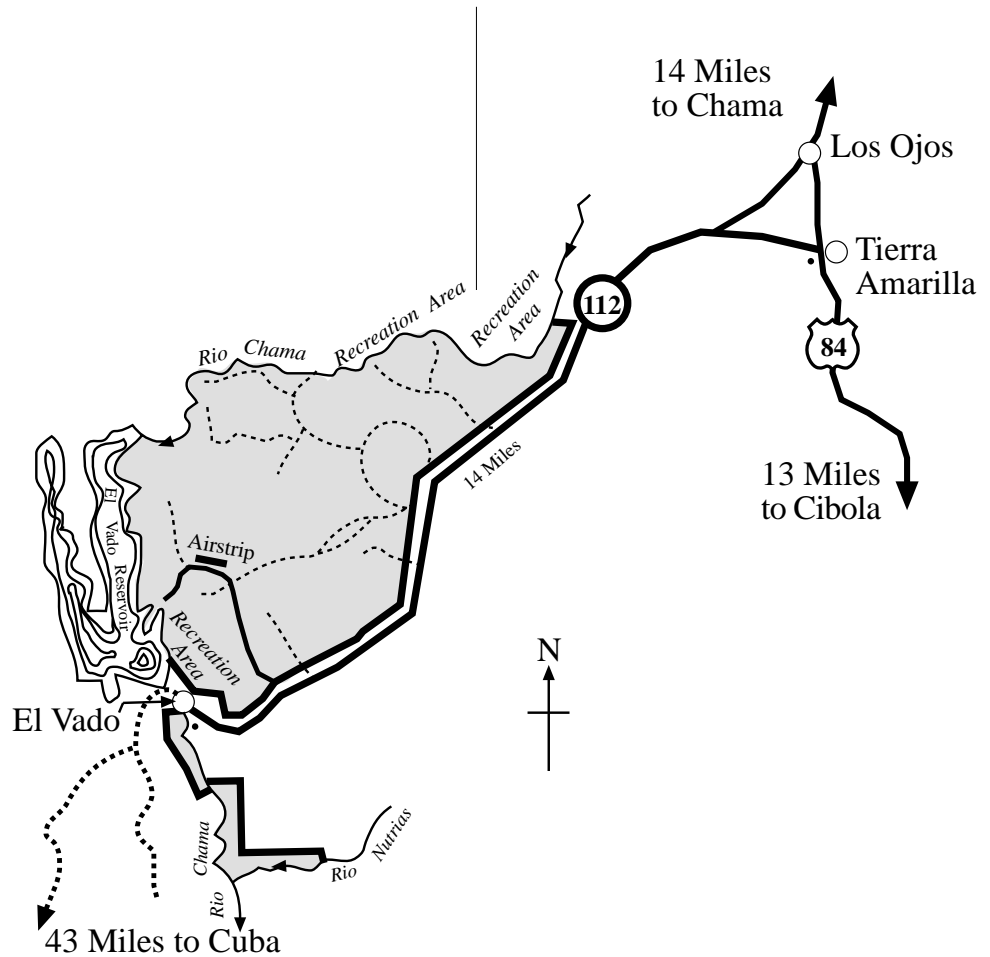
## Rio Chama Wildlife & Fishing Area



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

Deer, Elk,  
Spring Turkey, Small game

### Fishing

Trout

### Boat Ramp

No

### Camp Sites

Designated Areas Only

### Picnic Tables

No

### Toilets

No