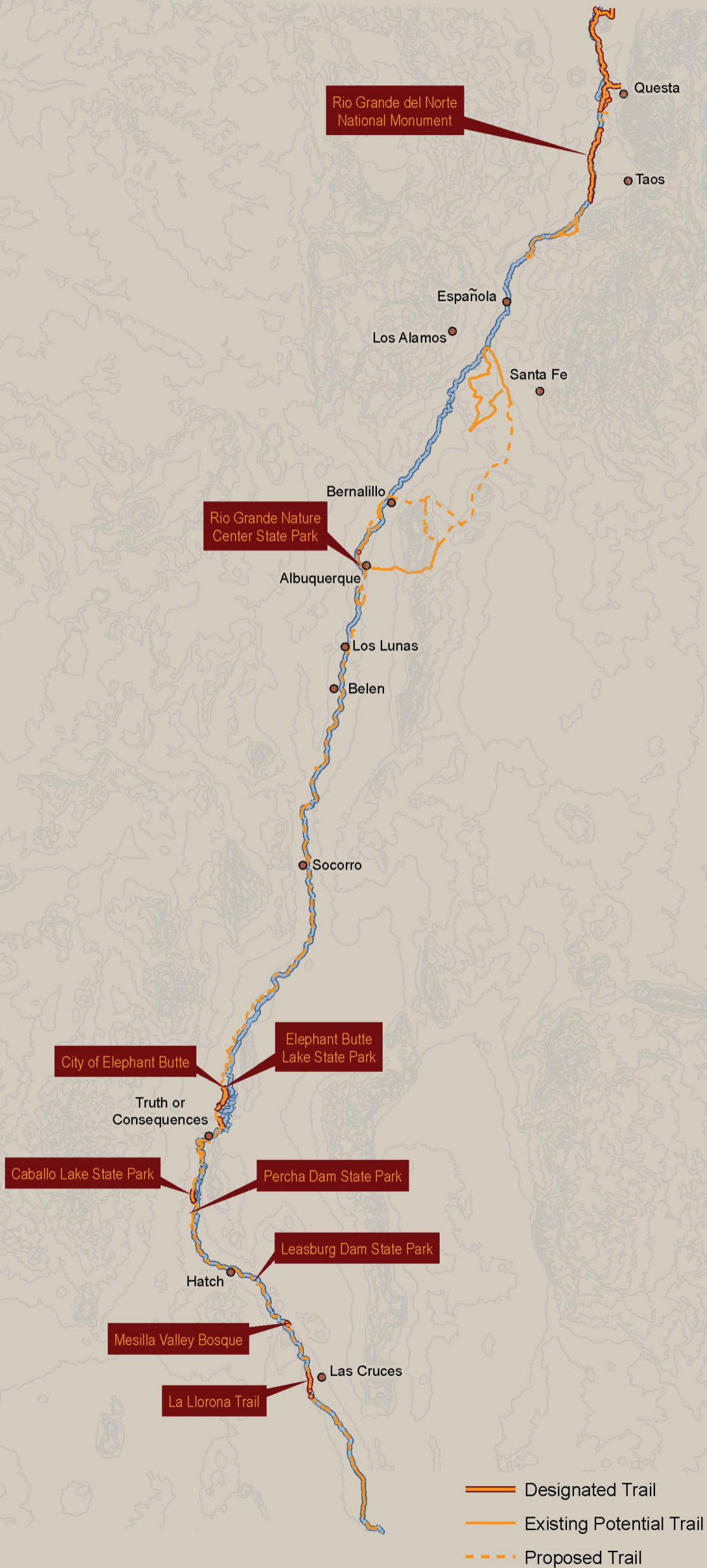


Rio Grande Trail



THE VISION

In 2015, state legislation (HB 563) solidified New Mexico's vision of a 500-mile cross-state recreational trail and established the Rio Grande Trail Commission to oversee its development. As part of this master planning process, the Commission adopted the following vision statement:

"The Rio Grande Trail is New Mexico's cross-state, recreational trail for hiking, biking, and horseback riding along the Rio Grande. Trail users explore, learn about, and connect with a tapestry of diverse natural habitats, rich history, striking landscapes, and vibrant communities. The trail contributes to cultural and environmental awareness, healthy lifestyles, spiritual growth, and economic prosperity for New Mexico and its visitors."

The Rio Grande Trail corridor includes three national wildlife refuges, six national monuments, one national heritage area, and six state parks, touching nearly 10 counties and more than 22 cities or towns.

From an evening walk to a month-long expedition, the Rio Grande Trail offers a window into the heart and soul of New Mexico and a journey through its exceptional natural and cultural heritage.

WHY DOES THE RIO GRANDE TRAIL MATTER?

★ ADVENTURE



65%

OF NEW MEXICAN RESIDENTS PARTICIPATE IN OUTDOOR RECREATION EACH YEAR.¹

THE RIO GRANDE TRAIL WILL PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOUSANDS OF NEW MEXICANS. WITH BACKCOUNTRY SINGLE TRACK AND URBAN PATHWAYS, THE RIO GRANDE TRAIL WILL ENTICE ADVENTURE ENTHUSIASTS AND RESIDENTS LOOKING TO TRY AN OUTDOOR ACTIVITY FOR THE FIRST TIME.

🎓 EDUCATION



AS THE RIO GRANDE TRAIL WEAVES THROUGH MANY NEW MEXICAN COMMUNITIES, EDUCATORS WILL USE THE RIVER PATH AS AN OUTDOOR CLASSROOM. STUDENTS WILL TAKE FIELD TRIPS TO LEARN ABOUT LOCAL HISTORY, CULTURE, ECOLOGY, AND GEOLOGY.

👛 EMPLOYMENT

99,000

DIRECT JOBS



THE RIO GRANDE TRAIL WILL BE THE LATEST ADDITION TO NEW MEXICO'S THRIVING OUTDOOR INDUSTRY, WHICH, AS OF 2017, ACCOUNTS FOR 99,000 DIRECT JOBS AND \$2.8 BILLION IN WAGES AND SALARIES.²

🔒 ACCESS



THOUGH THE RIVER RUNS THROUGH SOME OF THE LARGEST CITIES IN THE STATE, MANY NEW MEXICANS HAVE NEVER VISITED THE RIO GRANDE.

THE RIO GRANDE TRAIL WILL IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE RIO GRANDE, WHICH WILL INCREASE THE CONNECTION NEW MEXICANS HAVE TO THE RIVER AND CULTIVATE RIVER STEWARDSHIP.³

❤️ HEALTH



THE RIO GRANDE TRAIL WILL PROVIDE AN ACCESSIBLE OPTION FOR ACTIVE RECREATION AND TRANSPORTATION FOR ALL NEW MEXICANS. COMMUNITIES THAT ENCOURAGE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY BY BUILDING TRAILS SEE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE EXERCISING, WHICH BENEFITS PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS.⁴

📷 TOURISM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

\$623 MILLION
IN STATE & LOCAL TAX REVENUE



\$9.9 BILLION
IN CONSUMER SPENDING

IN 2017, OUTDOOR RECREATION IN NEW MEXICO ACCOUNTED FOR \$9.9 BILLION IN CONSUMER SPENDING, \$623 MILLION IN STATE AND LOCAL TAX REVENUE, AND MORE THAN TWICE AS MANY JOBS DEPEND ON OUTDOOR RECREATION THAN ON THE ENERGY AND MINING SECTORS COMBINED.⁵ THE RIO GRANDE TRAIL WILL PROVIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL TRANSLATE TO ECONOMIC BENEFITS BY BRINGING INCREASED TOURISM, JOBS, CONSUMER SPENDING, AND TAX REVENUE.



🌳 SUSTAINABILITY

THE RIO GRANDE TRAIL WILL HELP PRESERVE IMPORTANT NATURAL LANDSCAPES, LINK FRAGMENTED HABITAT, PROTECT PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES, AND IMPROVE AIR AND WATER QUALITY.⁶

¹ 2017 New Mexico Report. Outdoor Recreation Association. https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/OIA_RecEcoState_NM.pdf

² 2017 New Mexico Report. Outdoor Recreation Association. https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/OIA_RecEcoState_NM.pdf

³ Rumpfer, John. "Rio Grande Trail to Benefit New Mexico's Economy, Environment, and Health." Environment America. January 9, 2008.

⁴ Benefits of Trails. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. 2018. <https://www.railstotrails.org/experience-trails/benefits-of-trails/>

⁵ 2017 New Mexico Report. Outdoor Recreation Association. https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/OIA_RecEcoState_NM.pdf

⁶ Benefits of Trails. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. 2018. <https://www.railstotrails.org/experience-trails/benefits-of-trails/>