

Coyote Creek--New Mexico State Park series

Anonymous

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New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources
New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology
801 Leroy Place
Socorro, NM 87801-4796

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Coyote Creek State Park is located 18 mi north of Mora on NM-38. Situated in the eastern foothills of the Sangre de Cristo (Blood of Christ) Mountains, the park is at an altitude of 7,700 ft. The average annual temperature here is 46°F, the average precipitation, approximately 18 inches. During the summer, daytime temperatures rarely reach 90°F. Winters can be quite severe, with temperatures commonly falling well below 0°F. Heavy snows limit the use of the park in the winter.

Coyote Creek, flowing south through the park, drains a small area of 71 mi². The total annual discharge near Guadalupita averages 7,750 acre-ft (an acre-foot is approximately 325,000 gallons); some water is withdrawn upstream from this gaging station for irrigation. The actual flow at the park is greater, probably approximately 10,000 acre-ft.

The creek is normally quite low. Although the creek is stocked with rainbow trout (and some native trout) by the State Department of Game and Fish, fishing is somewhat limited. To increase the fishing potential, ponds have been created behind small dams constructed of natural rock. The area contains a variety of game including deer and bear.

The main attraction of the park is the opportunity to camp or picnic in pleasant surroundings, in a beautiful mountain setting well away from the beaten track. An additional attraction is the spectacular variety of wild flowers both in the park and the adjacent areas. No other area in New Mexico exhibits a more colorful floral display.

Park facilities include three-walled log camping units, each equipped with a table and fireplace, rest rooms, picnic tables, and a playground.



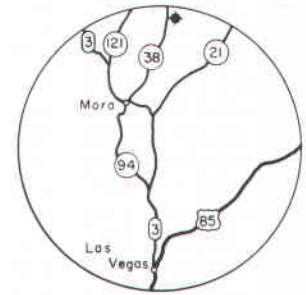
Geologic setting

This park is situated in the eastern foothills of the Rocky Mountains. To the east, just over the ridge, are the Great Plains. To the west, the Rincon Range of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains rises above 11,000 ft.

The rock formations in the valley of Coyote Creek and in the low hills on the west side of the park are sandstone, shale, and limestone of Pennsylvanian age. The source of the materials in the sandstone and shale was an ancient mountain range to the north and west. Streams flowing out of the former range carried this material and deposited it along the shore and coastal plain of the great sea bordering the mountains, while the limestones were formed in the sea itself. A variety of fossils can be seen in these limestones. Coarse conglomerates, also derived from the former mountains, occur beneath the rubble-covered slope east of Coyote Creek. These rocks date from Late Pennsylvanian to Early Permian time—between 320 and 250 m.y. ago. Originally, the rocks were deposited in almost horizontal layers. However, about 70 m.y. ago, long after the ancient mountains had eroded away, the present mountains were uplifted and the layers of sediments were steeply tilted downward to the east. From NM-38 and continuing into the Rincon Range, the former sediments were removed by erosion, exposing the old Precambrian rocks that formed more than a billion years ago.

During latest Tertiary time, a few million years ago, gravels and sands from the mountains spread east, filling canyons and covering low hills and leaving a generally featureless east- and south-sloping plain extending over much of eastern New Mexico. At about this time nearby volcanic eruptions spread out vast sheets of lava to cover part of this surface. Prior to the more recent erosion that carved the canyon of Coyote Creek, these flows covered a surface some 1,000 ft higher than the present canyon bottom at the park. The eroded cliff edge of this surface can be seen high on the valley wall to the east. This capping of basalt is called La Mesa because of its generally flat upper surface.

The carving of Coyote Creek Canyon began during Pleistocene time when small glaciers occupied valleys high in the Sangre de

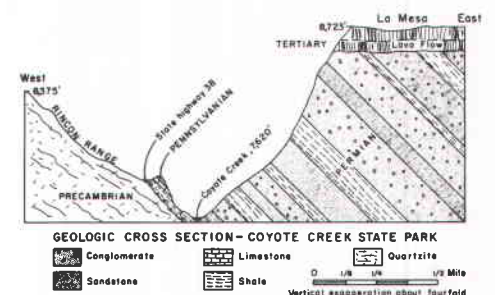


Cristo Mountains to the west. Headward erosion of the lava flows slowly cut away the cliff, so that the cliff edge retreated east. Upon reaching the softer tilted beds of the Pennsylvanian rocks, Coyote Creek then began to cut downward, rather than laterally. The canyon is oriented almost due north-south paralleling the uplift of the mountains as well as the strike of the inclined Pennsylvanian rocks. Valleys of this type are called strike valleys.

If you drove NM-3 north from Las Vegas, you followed another strike valley between Sapello and the Mora River. This one is carved in soft red shales of Triassic age (deposited 200 m.y. ago). In this area the dip of the beds is much steeper than at Coyote Creek, with the once nearly horizontal strata turned up to a near-vertical position (in places, actually overturned). The ridges bordering both sides of the valley are resistant sandstone, called hogbacks when steeply tilted.

Places to visit

West from Mora, NM-3 ascends to the high country via Holman Hill. Excellent exposures of the Pennsylvanian sandstones and shales are in the roadcuts. From the divide, the road follows the Rio Pueblo for some distance, then continues northwest to Taos. The mountain scenery is spectacular, the fishing good in the Rio Pueblo, and cabins are available. Morphy Lake State Park, a short distance south of Mora, is even more remote than Coyote Creek. To the east are the Great Plains; a visit to Chicosa Lake State Park near Roy will afford the visitor an opportunity to experience the contrast in landscapes that is New Mexico.



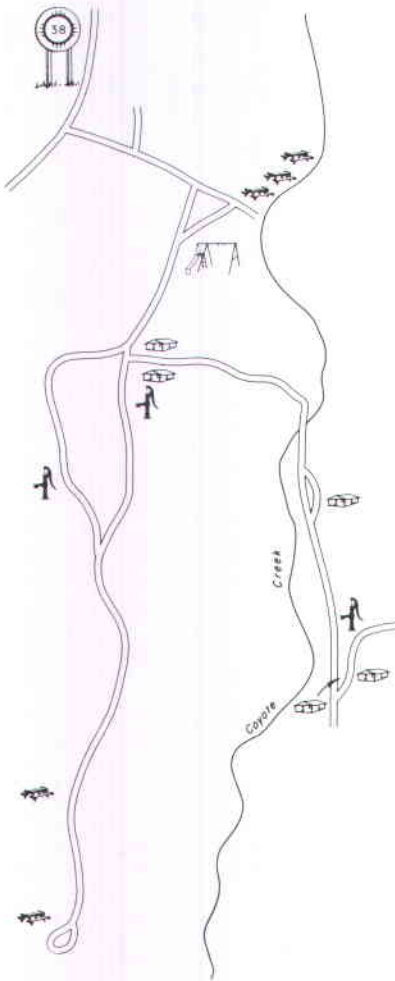
MINING REGISTRATIONS
(SEPT. 8, 1982 THROUGH JAN. 26, 1983)

State Mine Inspector

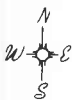
2340 Menaul N.E.

Albuquerque, NM 87107

Date and operation	Operators and owners	Location
9-8-82	Operator—Gateway, Sunbelt Mining Company, Inc., P.O. Box 2106, Albuquerque, NM 87103; Div. Mgr.: Doug Ingram, Caller Service 101, Farmington, NM 87401, phone: 327-4975; Oper. Mgr.: Ron Crawford, same address and phone; Mine Supt.: Michael Dunstan, same address and phone; Vice President and Gen. Mgr.: C. E. Hunter, P.O. Box 2106, Albuquerque, NM; Vice President of Engr. and Oper.: T. D. Bauer, Albuquerque office; Property owner—State of New Mexico	San Juan Co.; sec. 32, T. 24 N., R. 13 W.; Shiprock mining district; surface-strip; state land; approximately 35 mi south of Farmington on NM-371
9-8-82 exhibit mine	Operator—Contention, Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, NM 87714; Gen. Mgr.: Paul D. Claussen, same address, phone: 376-2281; Person in charge: Gene Pompeo, same address and phone	Colfax Co.; sec. 10, T. 26 N., R. 17 E.; Cyphers mining district; drift exhibit only; private land; operation located at Cyphers mine camp area, 8 mi northwest of Philmont Ranch headquarters, but 21 mi by road travel
10-7-82 mill	Operator—Oro Plata mill, Stear Mining Co., P.O. Drawer 1470, Truth or Consequences, NM 87901; Gen. Mgr.: Cliff Gardner, 911 Grape, Truth or Consequences, NM 87901; Supt.: Arvil Higgenbotham, Elephant Butte Inn, P.O. Box E, Elephant Butte, NM 87935; Property owner—Bill Stear, 2049 Century Park East, Suite 1030, Los Angeles, CA 90067	Sierra Co.; sec. 4, T. 16 N., R. 7 W.; Las Animas mining district; first cattle guard crossing east of Hillsboro, 2 mi north on dirt road; ores milled—copper, silver; custom milling; capacity of mill—20 tons a day; mine having mill—Blackhawk mine; Federal land
10-7-82 copper, zinc	Operator—Pinos Altos exploration drift, Boliden Minerals, Inc., 2596 North Silver St., Silver City, NM 88061; Gen. Mgr.: Louis M. Bernard, Vice President, same address, phone 388-1519; Proj. Mine Engr.: George Scheppoff, same address and phone	Grant Co.; secs. 30, 25, T. 16 S., R. 13 W., 14 W.; underground exploration drift, cross-cut; private land, Federal land; NM-15 north, 3/4 mi within Gila National Forest boundary, left turn to project site access road
11-8-82 copper	Operator—Ivanhoe concentrator, Chino Mines Co., P.O. Box 7, Hurley, NM 88043; Gen. Mgr.: D. A. Kinneberg, same address, phone: 537-3381; Person in charge: R. J. Ramsey, same address and phone; Gen. Supt.: R. P. Schneider, same address and phone; Other official: R. L. Johnson, same address; Property owner—Kennecott Minerals Co., P.O. Box 11248, Salt Lake City, Utah 84147	Grant Co.; secs. 26, 27, 32, 33, 34, 35, 3, 4, T. 17 S., R. 12 W.; Central mining district; crushing, grinding, flotation; private land; approximately 5 mi northwest of Bayard
11-23-82 gold, silver	Operator—Iron King—Lone Star Group, NICOR Mineral Ventures, Inc., 2659 G Pan American Freeway, Albuquerque NM 87107; President: Dr. R. J. Miller, Suite 4949 S. Syracuse, Denver, CO 80237; phone: (303) 694-4936; District Geologist Regional Mgr.: Gary Parkison, 2659 G Pan American Freeway, Albuquerque, NM, phone: (505) 344-7803; Property owner—Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Jones, 7608 Osuna Rd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109	Sandoval Co.; sec. 25, T. 18 N., R. 4 E.; Cochiti mining district; private land; underground; go 12.6 mi along forest road 268 from Cochiti Lake turnoff on NM-22 to locked gate at Bland townsite; follow forest road 141 through Bland for 0.75 mi to side road up southwest side on canyon, 1,000 ft past old mill
11-24-82	Operator—Pinos Altos Project, Boliden Minerals, Inc., 2596 N. Silver St., Silver City, NM 88061; Gen. Mgr.: J. T. Hollimon, Box 85, Buckhorn, NM 88025, phone: (505) 535-4174; Gen. Supt.: Mark Atwood, Reserve, NM, phone: (505) 533-6570; Property owner—Boliden Minerals, Inc.	Grant Co.; federal land; 2 mi north Pinos Altos, NM, on paved hwy., left at Boliden Minerals' sign, continue for 1/2 mi
1-20-83 uranium	Operator—Mt. Taylor Project, Industrial Engineers & Constructors, Inc., P.O. Box 90, Grants, NM 87020; Gen. Mgr.: John Paslay, 1412 Doepp Dr., Carlsbad, NM, phone: (505) 885-4790; Gen. Supt.: Alan Grider, P.O. Box 575, Grants, NM, phone: (505) 287-8989; Multi-craft Supt.: T. J. McNeill, P.O. Box 296, Bluewater, NM 87005; Property owner—Gulf Mineral Resources, P.O. Box 1150, Grants, NM 87020	Cibola Co.; sec. 24, T. 13, R. 8; San Mateo mining district, private land, underground; directions to mine—27 mi northeast of Grants, 1/2 mi northeast of village of San Mateo, NM, gravel road
1-26-83 gypsum	Operator—ID No. 2901896, Medicine Man, Draco Gypsum, P.O. Box 974, Socorro, NM 87801; Gen. Mgr.: Donald F. Draka, P.O. Box 974, Socorro, NM 87801, phone: (505) 835-2316, 835-2610; Gen. Supt.: Ernest Trout, P.O. Box 393, Los Lunas, NM 87031; Property owner—Donald F. Draka & Jo M. Draka, same address as above	Socorro Co.; sec. 29, 20, 19; T. 6 S., R. 7 E.; open pit; federal property; directions to mine—north of NM-380, 47 mi east of San Antonio, east end of Taylor Bridge
1-26-83 mill	Operator—ID No. 2901897, Medicine Man, Draco Gypsum, P.O. Box 974, Socorro, NM 87801; Supt.: Ernest Trout, P.O. Box 393, Los Lunas, NM 87031; Gen. Mgr.: Donald F. Draka, P.O. Box 974, Socorro, NM 87801; Official: Jo M. Draka, P.O. Box 974, Socorro, NM 87801; Property owner—Donald F. Draka & Jo M. Draka, same address as above	Socorro Co.; sec. 31, T. 6 S., R. 1 E.; federal land; Draco Gypsum; custom milling of gypsum; capacity: 200T/wk; directions to mill—between I-25 and San Antonio, north side of NM-380



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—Roy Foster □

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE)