



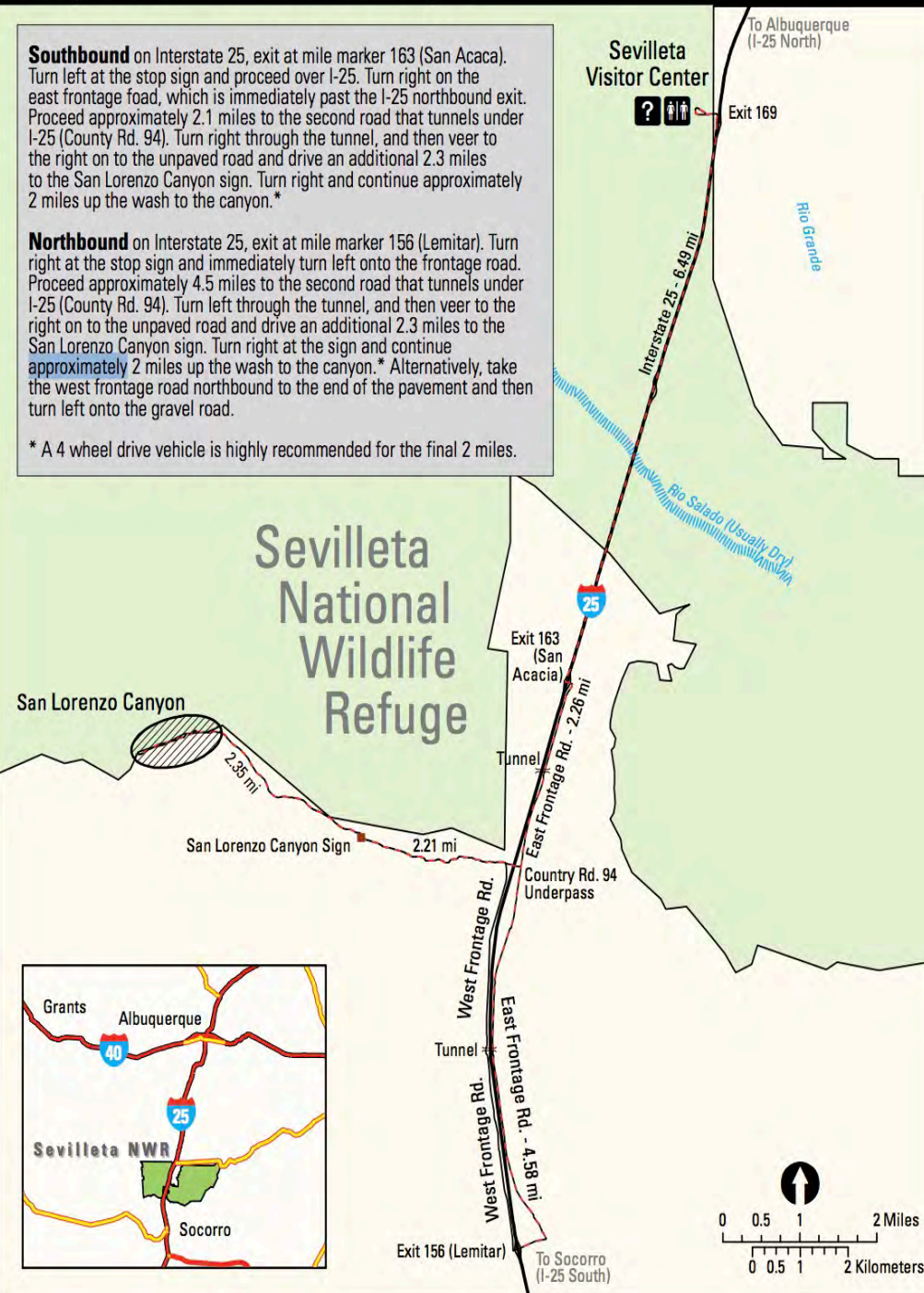
# SAN LORENZO CANYON

## Map to San Lorenzo Canyon

**Southbound** on Interstate 25, exit at mile marker 163 (San Acacia). Turn left at the stop sign and proceed over I-25. Turn right on the east frontage road, which is immediately past the I-25 northbound exit. Proceed approximately 2.1 miles to the second road that tunnels under I-25 (County Rd. 94). Turn right through the tunnel, and then veer to the right on to the unpaved road and drive an additional 2.3 miles to the San Lorenzo Canyon sign. Turn right and continue approximately 2 miles up the wash to the canyon.\*

**Northbound** on Interstate 25, exit at mile marker 156 (Lemitar). Turn right at the stop sign and immediately turn left onto the frontage road. Proceed approximately 4.5 miles to the second road that tunnels under I-25 (County Rd. 94). Turn left through the tunnel, and then veer to the right on to the unpaved road and drive an additional 2.3 miles to the San Lorenzo Canyon sign. Turn right at the sign and continue approximately 2 miles up the wash to the canyon.\* Alternatively, take the west frontage road northbound to the end of the pavement and then turn left onto the gravel road.

\* A 4 wheel drive vehicle is highly recommended for the final 2 miles.



## San Lorenzo Canyon

A scenic area of sheltered caves, sandstone cliffs, arches and hoodoos, San Lorenzo Canyon is rich in history and natural beauty. The geological formations make it an excellent spot for hiking and photography. Due to its mild climate and close proximity to Socorro, the area can be used both year round and on a daily basis.

## Plants and Animals

The canyon is home to Chihuahuan Desert plant and animal life. You will notice a variety of grasses, four-wing saltbush, sage and cacti. You may see several kinds of lizards, snakes, rabbits, and birds including hawks, quail, roadrunners, sparrows and cliff swallows whose mud-daub nests you can see on the canyon walls near the western end. Deer, coyote, bobcat, bighorn sheep and mountain lion have also been sighted in the canyon although you are more likely to see their tracks.



### Please Note

- Stay on existing roads and trails
- Digging, tampering with, or removal of any artifact, plant, animal or mineral is strictly prohibited.
- Do not litter
- Public access is not allowed into

the Sevilleta National Wildlife refuge. Signs are posted

## History

San Lorenzo Canyon, itself less than a million years old, reflects millions of years of earth history in a complex landscape formed by the interplay of tectonic plate movements and erosion. The area of San Lorenzo Canyon contains fences and other remnants of old ranches and homesteads. There is evidence that the area was used long before these residents arrived. The Lemitar Shelter, visible in the north wall of the lower canyon, has been the subject of archeological research over the past 50 years. All evidence of prior exploration has been removed and what one sees today is simply a shallow cave with carbon deposits on the roof.



**All photos courtesy of:**

M. Colleen Gino

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