



New Mexico Public Lands in Eight Charts and Graphs

FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A new poll we just conducted shows that 84% of New Mexicans are concerned about protecting public lands. We thought it might provide a bit of relief from the ongoing challenges to protect these lands to share some data that puts into perspective what we have today and what we are fighting to save.

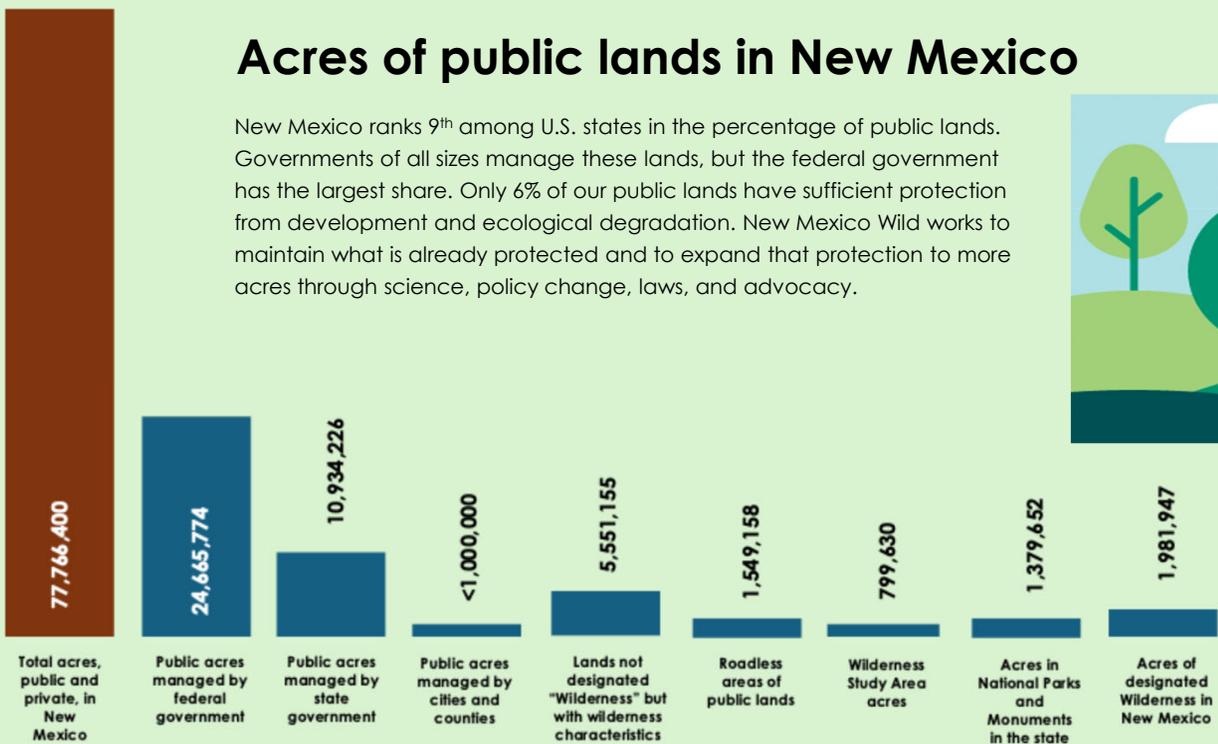
Your support as a member allows us to continue our protection work for our wilderness, wildlife, and water, and to expand our outreach efforts to engage more public land advocates, which we need now more than ever. Thank you!



Mark Allison
Executive Director
New Mexico Wild

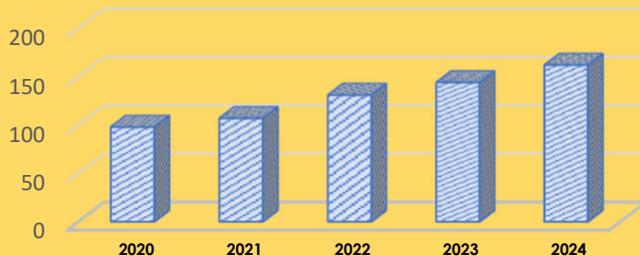
Acres of public lands in New Mexico

New Mexico ranks 9th among U.S. states in the percentage of public lands. Governments of all sizes manage these lands, but the federal government has the largest share. Only 6% of our public lands have sufficient protection from development and ecological degradation. New Mexico Wild works to maintain what is already protected and to expand that protection to more acres through science, policy change, laws, and advocacy.



One-third of our state is forested. (We rank 5th in the nation.) There are 2,945 trees per person in New Mexico.

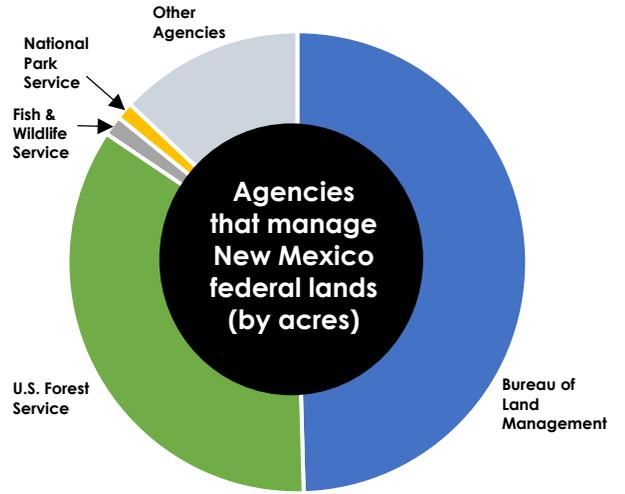
New Mexican gray wolf population



New Mexico Wild has championed the Mexican gray wolf since it was reintroduced to the state in 1998 with the release of six wolves into the wild. The population has steadily grown over the past eight years. Today, there are 33 wolf packs in New Mexico and the packs had 66 pups this past year. About half of the pups survive to adulthood.



Our annual wolf stamp competition had 192 submissions in 2025.

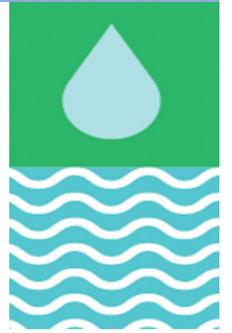


In 2023, the federal government created a 10-mile buffer zone to protect parts of Chaco Canyon from oil and gas drilling. Today, there are already 37,000 wells in the Greater Chaco Region, shown on this map with red circles. This buffer zone is currently being threatened to allow increased drilling on the sensitive and culturally important lands around the Chaco Culture National Historical Park...something New Mexico Wild is actively fighting.

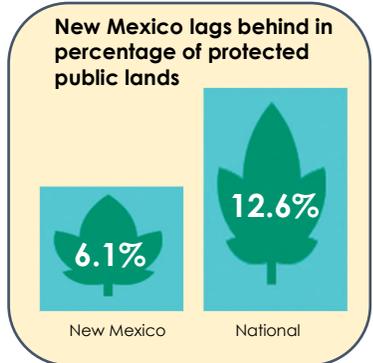
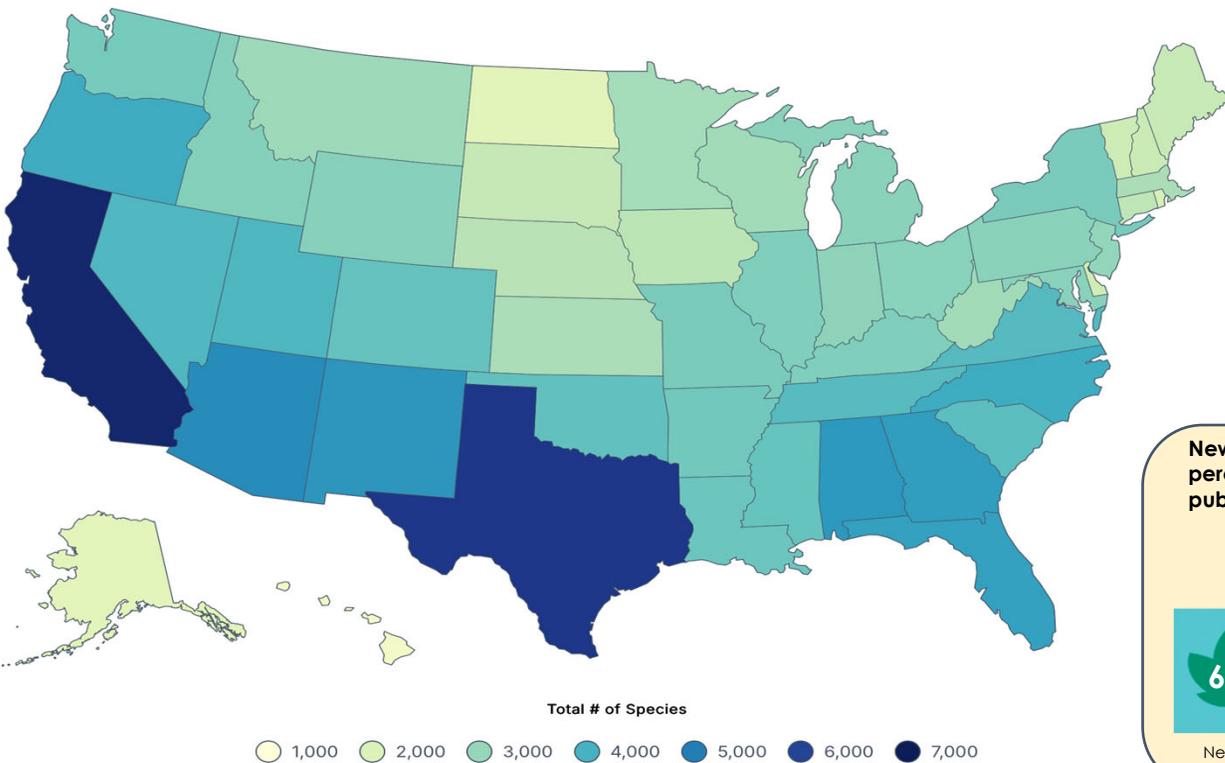


New Mexico is one of the most biodiverse states

New Mexico is home to a wide range of plants and animals due to its range of climates, elevations, and ecosystems. We rank 4th in overall diversity with 4,583 identified species. Our state ranks second in mammal and bird species and third in reptiles. 10% of those species are at risk. While biodiversity can be found both on public and private lands, protected public lands play a vital role in species protection. Large intact habitat, wildlife migration corridors, and access to water and elevation change that are available on protected lands help secure a future for the diverse plants and animals of New Mexico.



New Mexico has 108,000 miles of rivers, and just 120 of those miles have the federal Wild & Scenic designation, the highest form of river protection. Assuring clean and abundant water for both people and nature is a core part of the work of New Mexico Wild.



Your support matters. Help us protect our public lands. Please donate today.

nmwild.org

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