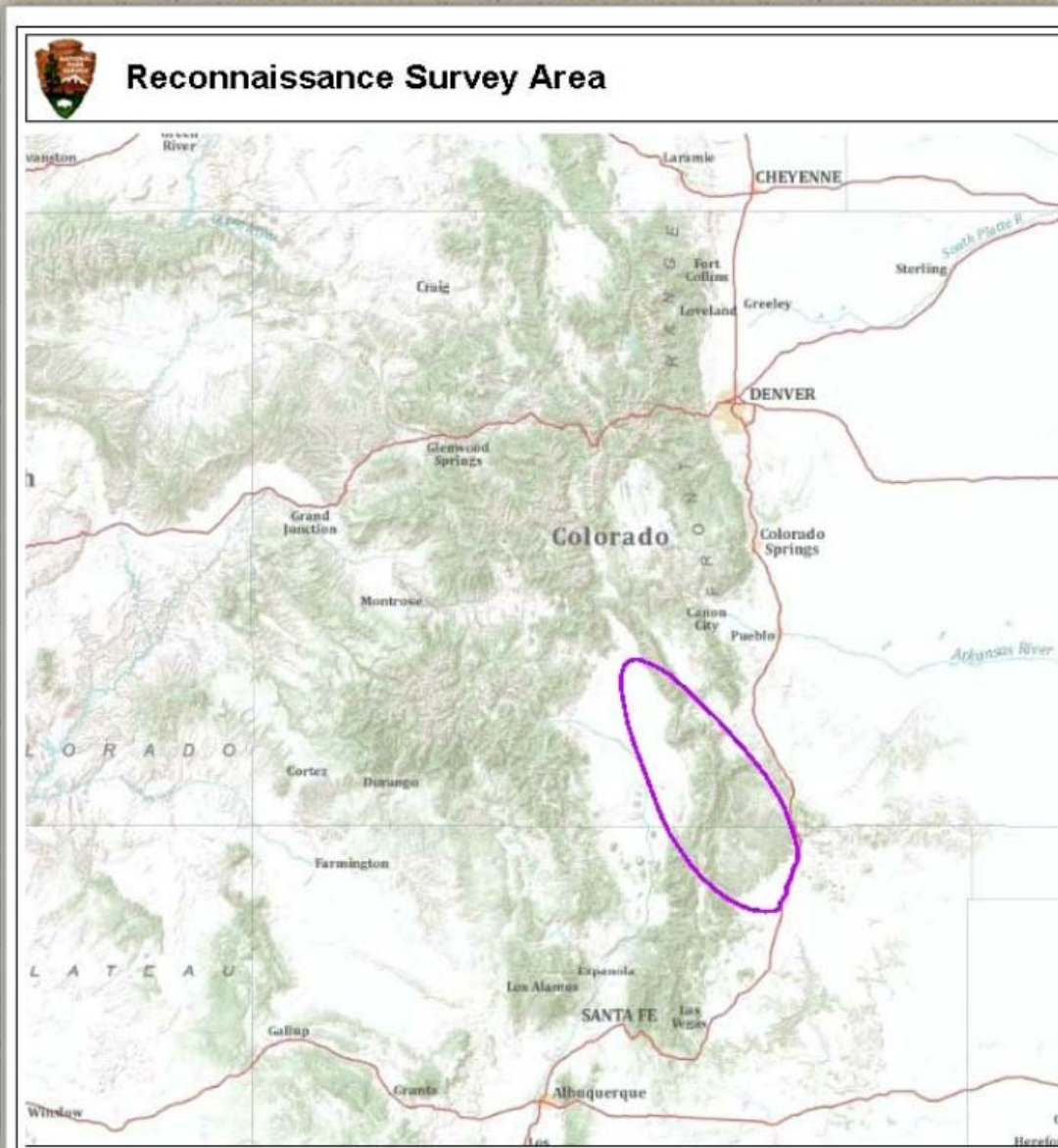




Reconnaissance Survey San Luis Valley and Central Sangre de Cristo Mountains

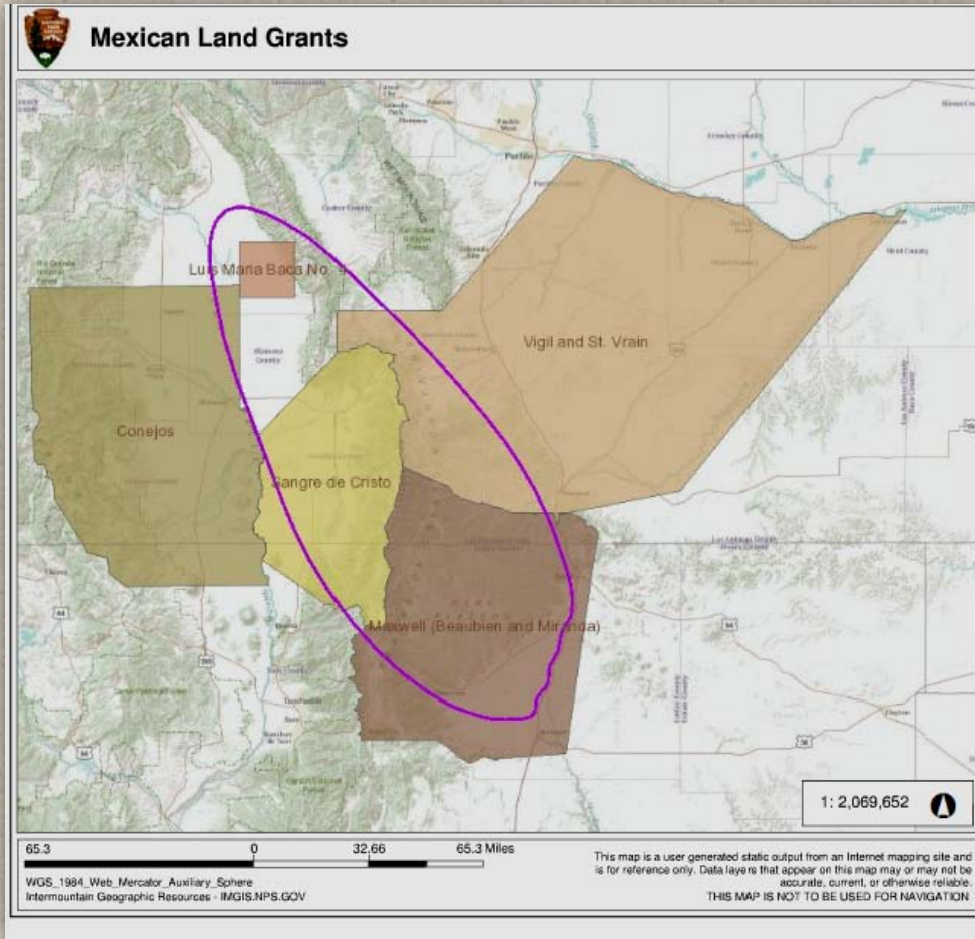


Reconnaissance Survey Area



Congress and the Department of Interior have long recognized that there are exceptional natural and cultural resources and recreational opportunities in the San Luis Valley and the Central Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

Mexican Land Grants in Study Area



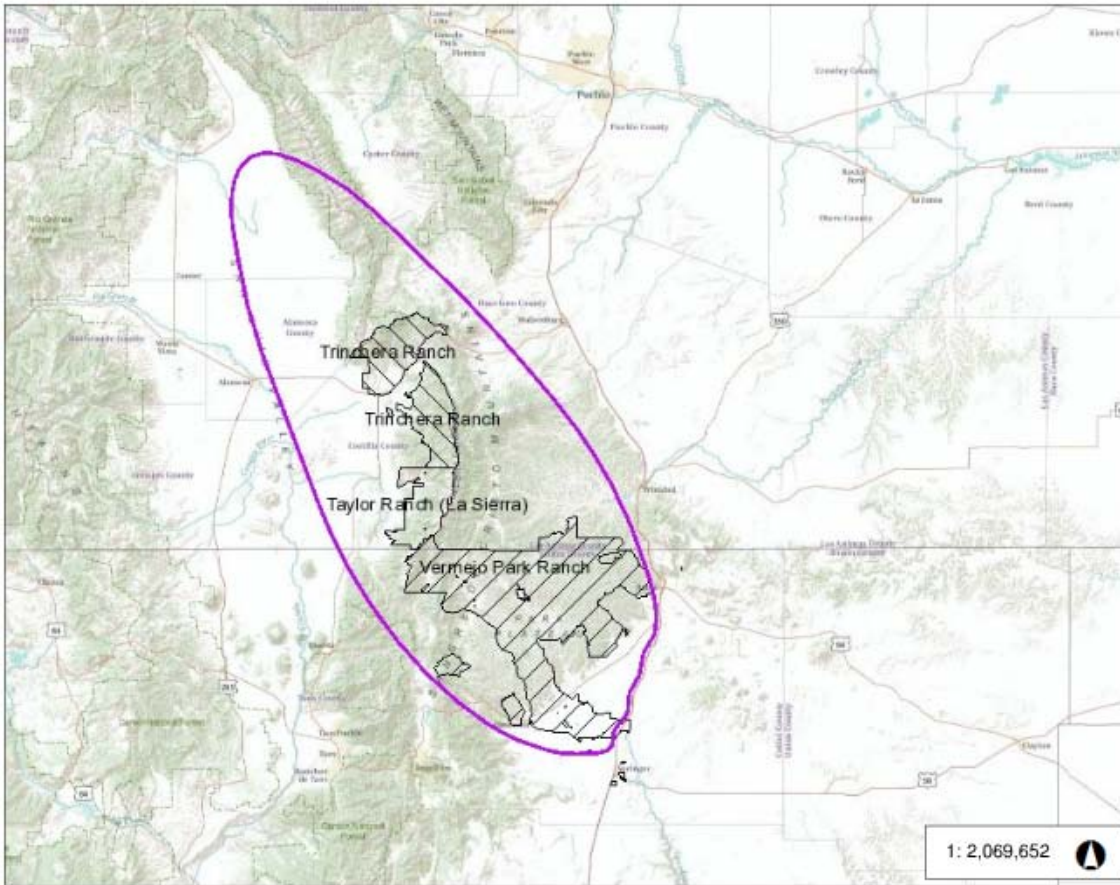
The study area includes five Mexican land grants – which played a major role in the settlement of the American Southwest and are a significant chapter in U.S. history. The land grants, which covered millions of acres of land, provide outstanding opportunities for the conservation of natural resources.

Baca No. 4 Grant-100,000 acres
Conejos Grant-2.5 million acres
Sangre de Cristo Grant-1 million acres
Vigil-St. Vrain Grant-4 million acres
Beaubien-Miranda (Maxwell) Grant-1.7 million acres

Vermejo Park Ranch, Trinchera Ranch, and La Sierra/Cielo Vista Ranch



Major Ranch Lands



These three privately owned ranches are vestiges of the original Mexican land grants and reflect their massive size and scale.

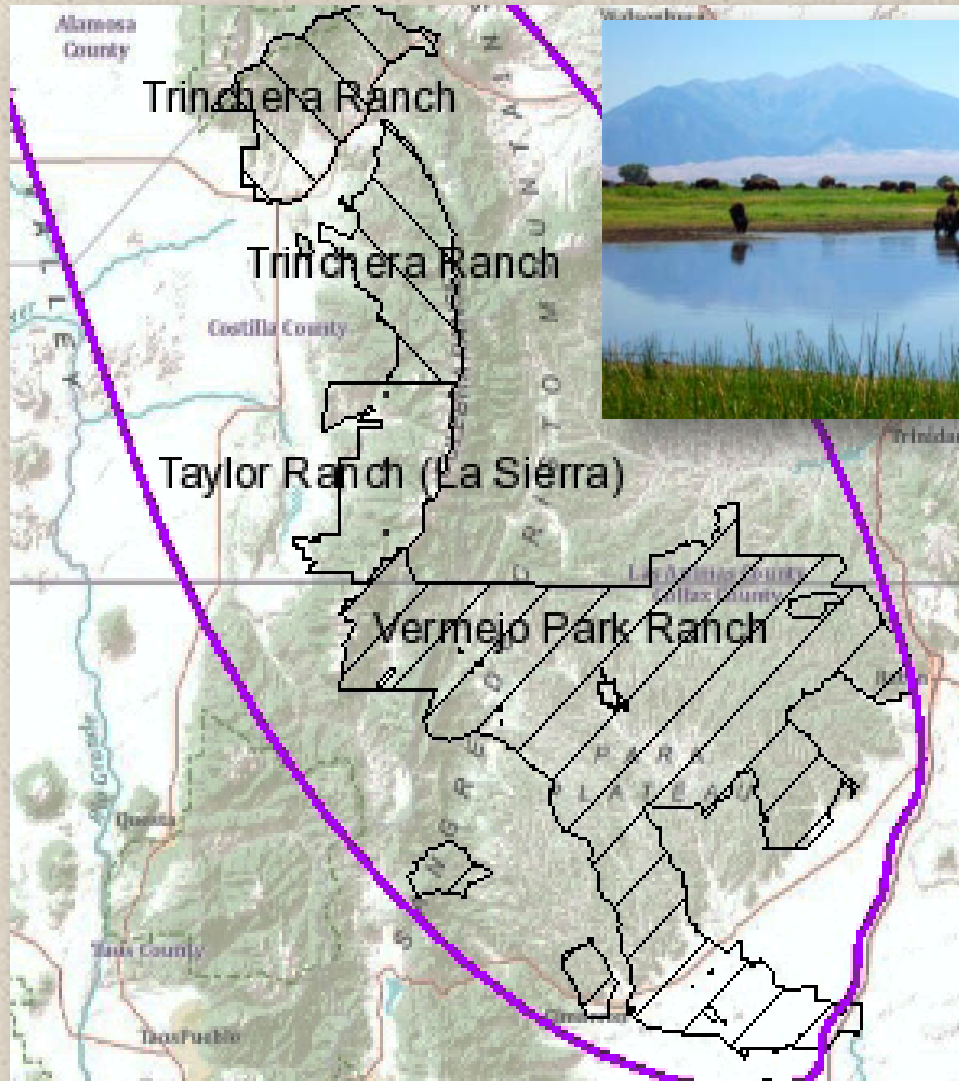
65.3 0 32.66 65.3 Miles

WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere
Intermountain Geographic Resources - IMGIS.NPS.GOV

This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

Wildlife Corridor



The study area, including the three large ranches, forms one of the few open corridors for wildlife migration between northern New Mexico and southern Colorado.

In a period of climate change, these open passages will be crucial to the survival of many species.

Vermejo Park Ranch: Nearly 600,000 Acres

1979 Federal study found the Ranch to be nationally significant for its natural and cultural resources and recreational opportunities.



Casa Grande was built in 1908 as a grand lodge for Hollywood moguls and other wealthy guests. The ranch is now owned by philanthropist Robert Edward "Ted" Turner III.





Vermejo Park Ranch

According to the 1979 Study, the Ranch is a dramatic landscape transition from the Great Plains to the Southern Rocky Mountains, and includes:

- shortgrass prairie
- alpine tundra
- 60 species of mammals
- 200 species of birds
- 33 species of reptiles and amphibians
- 15 species of fish
- sizeable elk and bison population

Trinchera Ranch



In 2004, the Forbes family donated the largest conservation easement in Colorado history (50% of their land) to protect rich diverse ecosystems. Current owner Louis Bacon plans a conservation easement on the remainder of the ranch.

La Sierra/Cielo Vista Ranch (Taylor Ranch)



Originally part of the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant, the 77,000-acre ranch contains outstanding natural resources and 14,000-foot Culebra Peak. Descendants of the original Latino settlers recently won a long legal battle to regain their communal rights to hunt, graze livestock and collect firewood.

Natural Resources



Studies show that the natural resources within the study area are of national significance

The Sangre de Cristo Mountains are said to be the longest, straightest and highest range in North America, rising to 14,000 feet. Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve lies at the base of these mountains.

National Natural Landmark

Spanish Peaks



Huerfano and Las Animas Counties, CO

Located in San Isabel National Forest, the peaks contain some of the best known examples of exposed igneous dikes, which are formed when molten material is forced into a fracture or fault before becoming solidified.

Potential National Natural Landmarks

Indian Springs



Within Great Sand Dunes National Park, Indian Springs provide useful habitat for a diversity of plants and animals.

Maxwell National Wildlife Refuge



The refuge is an excellent representation of shortgrass prairie, as well as playa lakes and woodlots.

Colfax County, NM

Blanca Peak (Sangre de Cristo Range)



Huerfano, Costilla and Alamosa Counties, CO

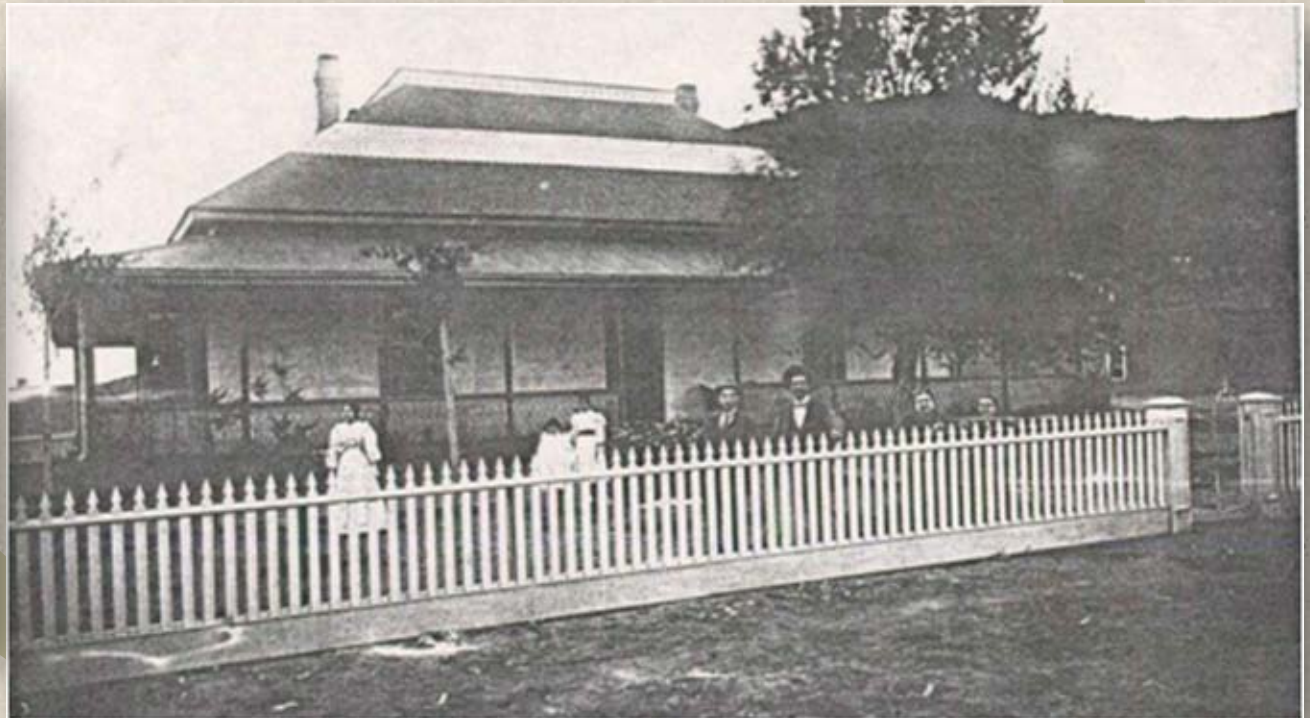
Blanca Peak is the third tallest mountain peak in Colorado, and includes semi-desert shrubland, alpine tundra ecoregions, fault-blocks, and glacial features such as cirques and aretes.

American Latino Cultural Resources

The study area represents the northernmost outpost of the Spanish Colonial and Mexican frontier and contains an exceptional concentration of resources associated with Latino settlement.



Dario Gallegos



Dario Gallegos Home

National Heritage Areas

Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area



Conejos, Costilla & Alamosa Counties, CO

The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area is a cradle of Latino culture, where the language, art, architecture, religion, tradition and folklore of Native Americans, early Spanish colonists, and Mexican settlers of the Southwest are alive and thriving.

Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area



Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and
Taos Counties, NM

Home to a mosaic of cultures, including eight Pueblos and the communities of descendants of Spanish people who settled the area in 1598, the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area includes 16 National Historic Landmarks and 270 listings on the National Register of Historic Places.

National Historic Landmark

Pike's Stockade



Costilla County, CO

In 1807, explorer Zebulon Pike raised the American flag here, on Spanish lands. Pike and his men were then arrested by Spanish troops and taken to Santa Fe.

Potential National Historic Landmarks

La Vega and Associated Sites

The NHL nomination consists of La Vega (a communal pasture), the San Luis People's Ditch (oldest water right in Colorado), the Gallegos Farm (an extension) and the Dario Gallegos home.



Dario Gallegos Home



Gallegos Farm



La Vega and San Luis People's Ditch

Trujillo Homesteads



Alamosa County, CO

Represents early Latino settlement in the San Luis Valley and the conflict between cattle and sheep ranchers over access to and control of the open range.

National Historic Trails

Old Spanish National Historic Trail



This route was first used by Mexican trader Antonio Armijo in 1829, who led the first commercial caravan from Abiquiú, NM, to Los Angeles. For the next 20 years, Mexican and American traders continued to follow the route.

Santa Fe National Historic Trail

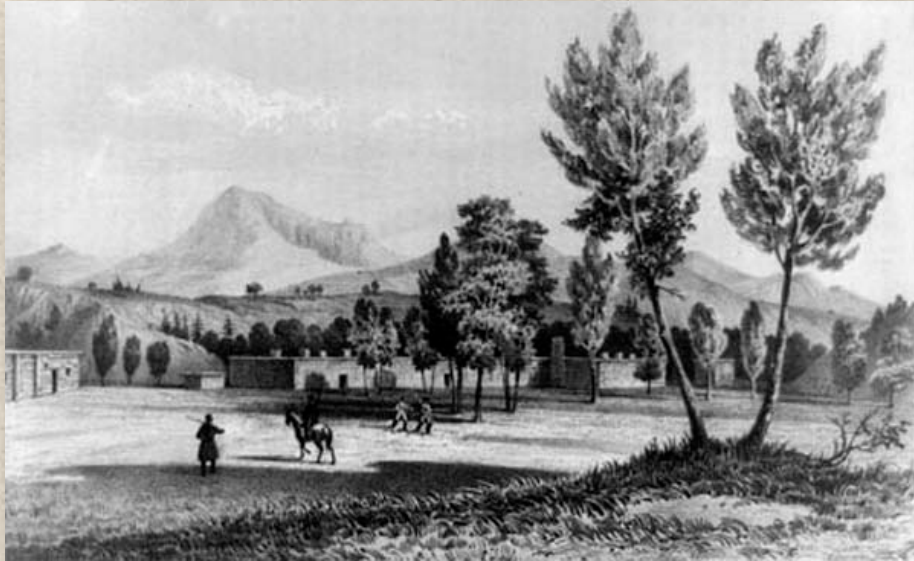


Between 1821-1880, the trail was a commercial highway connecting Missouri and Santa Fe. The 1,200-mile trail fostered an exchange of goods and cultures among Latino, Indian, and American people.

Additional American Latino Resources

Fort Massachusetts

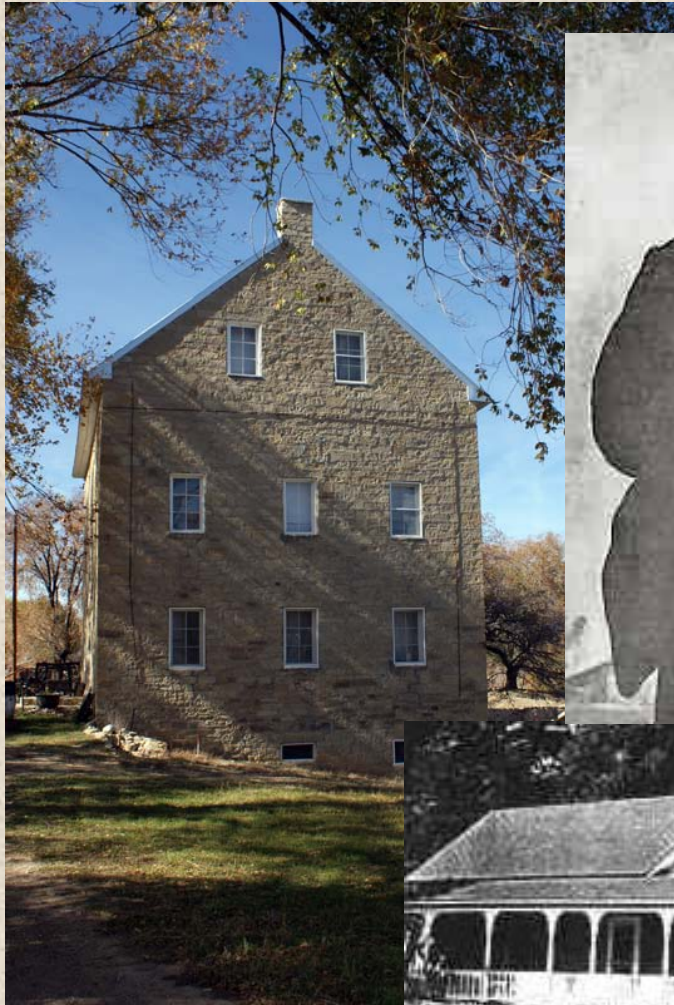
Fort Garland



Costilla County, CO

Fort Massachusetts (1852) and Fort Garland, which replaced it in 1858, helped secure the San Luis Valley for Latino settlement. Fort Garland is administered as a Colorado state museum.

Lucien Maxwell Ranch and Aztec Grist Mill



Lucien Maxwell built the grist mill and ranch house near Cimarron NM. These are some of the oldest structures directly associated with the Beaubien-Miranda (Maxwell) Land Grant, which encompassed over 1.7 million acres. Listed on the National Register.

Colfax County, NM

Sociedad de Nuestro Padre Jesus Nazareno (San Francisco Morada)



**Well-preserved
example of a
Penitentes meeting
house. Listed on
Colorado State
Register.**

Costilla County, CO

La Sociedad Proteccion Matua de Trabajadores Unidos (SPMDTU)



Costilla County, CO

**Excellent representation
of the mutual aid society,
or mutualistas
movement, in Colorado.
Listed on National
Register.**

Plaza de San Luis de la Culebra Historic District



Costilla County, CO

Founded in 1851, Plaza de San Luis is the oldest continuously inhabited town in Colorado. Listed on National Register.

Recommendations

- 1. Recommend that Congress authorize a Special Resource Study of American Latino sites within the San Luis Valley and central Sangre de Cristo Mountains, which would allow for a more complete evaluation of alternatives to protect these resources.**

Recommendations

- 2. Recommend that Congress authorize an update to the Vermejo Park Ranch Special Resource Study.**
- 3. Create a corridor of conservation easements on public and private lands.**

Recommendations

- 4. Identify and develop state heritage tour routes.**
- 5. Provide NPS technical assistance to state and local heritage sites.**