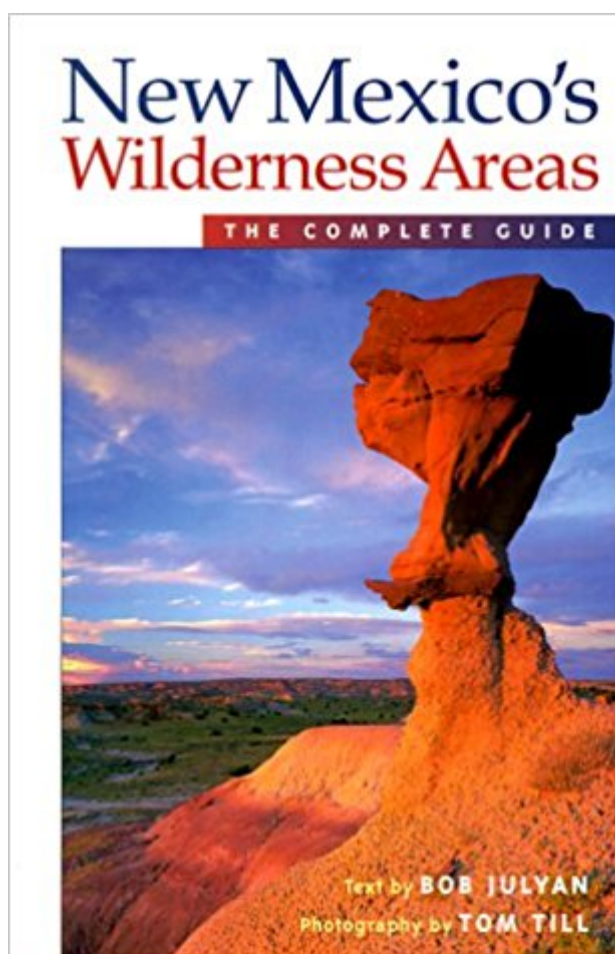


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New Mexico's Wilderness Areas: The Complete Guide (Wilderness Guidebooks)



Synopsis

A comprehensive guide to New Mexico's wildlands including such well-known areas as the Gila and Pecos wildernesses, and the lesser-known areas such as Latir Peaks, Apache Kid, and De-na-zhin wildernesses.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A comprehensive guide to New Mexico's wildlands including such well-known areas as the Gila and Pecos wildernesses, and the lesser-known areas such as Latir Peaks, Apache Kid, and De-na-zhin wildernesses.

Published in 1998, this guidebook is no longer at all "The Complete Guide" that it claims to be. It took minutes to find missing Wilderness Study Areas, including the Empedrado Wilderness Study Area, the Ignacio Chavez W. S. A., and the Chamisa W. S. A., in the area of the Cabezon W. S. A.. The book is well conceived and nicely illustrated. Bob Julyan writes wonderfully readable summary articles on each area covered, and Tom Hills photographs give a superb sense of the landscape. This would be a five-star book if it were updated.

This book is good at what it is intended to be: an introduction and overview of the different wilderness and wilderness study areas in New Mexico. No hiker/backpacker should rely solely on this book however, so if that is what you're expecting to be able to do, you will be disappointed.

Each section describes the wilderness area, lists the basics (elevations, best season, map references) and lists a couple of hikes, and has a very basic map of the area with the trails, access roads, and campgrounds. Once you've found the area you're interested in based on the author's fantastic descriptions, you'll need to get a topo map of that area in order to actually do the hike (but personally, I'd rather carry a topo map in my pack that is specific to my hike than lug a book around). And no, the overall map in the front doesn't have cities/towns, but really, how hard is it to tell what part of the state you'll be in?

perfect

I honestly don't see why anyone found this book useful. I was totally fooled into buying it by the positive reviews here! The first thing that happened was that I looked at the front page map of the entire state to find out what areas were near the town I will be in for an upcoming trip. The map had lots of highways marked with NO TOWNS OR CITIES. Now maybe New Mexicans all memorized the highway map of their state, but for a visitor the lack of any towns or cities made this key map pretty much useless. The book has lots of nice photos on glossy pages, and gives tons of information on history and ecology of the various wilderness areas. It mentions some hikes and climbs and gives sketchy verbal directions, but if you are looking for a climbing or hiking guide to New Mexico this book is pretty much useless. The "maps" it has for the different areas are not topo maps, but just line maps of some surrounding roads and trails. I bought this book to help me plan some hikes and maybe easy peak climbs while I was in northern New Mexico. If I could return it I would, it will not be useful at all. If you are looking for a climbing guide, or even a guide to serious hiking in New Mexico don't get this book or you will be just as disappointed as I was!

Really not much information provided in the book that you can't get quickly 'online'. That's probably why this book hasn't been updated since it's printing in 1998. Save money and go online for the same info.

This is a guide that the hikers, desert rats, and general wilderness aficionados of New Mexico have long been in need of. It is the first truly comprehensive guide to both the known and "desperately need to be known about and protected" areas in the land of enchantment. Not only does it offer good general info about the areas but their historical significance, why they qualify as wilderness, and how people can access the areas. The more major areas all have some additional text, which is

clear and intriguing. Also nice are the authors "favorite hikes" for some areas - they are an excellent starting point for the hiker with a limited schedule. The photos which accompany some areas are also spectacular. I have but a few gripes with the book and they are as follows: Some areas could use a little more description - especially about why they are so ecologically important. It would also be nice if the maps were a little better, but they are quite adequate. However my most major complaint lies not with the book itself, It is such a good guide that my "secret" areas will scarce remain secrets...

The subject line clearly implies my strong bias towards the wilderness areas of New Mexico as being one of the best reasons to live in the "Land of Enchantment." Bob Julyan coupled his writing talent with photographer Tom Till to produce this unique guide. The authors identified 77 total wilderness areas, and placed them in nine different areas of the state that they seemed to have defined. A fourth, or so of the state has no wilderness areas: that is the vast llano (the high plains) to the east of Albuquerque, that should realistically also include the southeastern desert area east of US 285. Still, what is available would take a life time to savor. There is a 30 page introduction, covering the knowledge needed, generally for "newbies", to enjoy these areas. As should be expected in a quality guide, it is color-coded and color coordinated. Each wilderness area is identified by location, with standard data elements, such as the size, the range in elevation, the location, the miles of trails, etc. This is accompanied by a two to four page narrative on the significance, and historical development of the area. Each area has its own map, with schematics of the trails and other elements of interest. Julyan highlights a couple of his favorite hikes in each area. The quality of the pictures is truly stunning, and most inspirational, particularly for a guide book. It is difficult to single out only a few, but the one on the cover, as well as the one of Rose Crown, with Mt. Wheeler in the background, and the aerial view of Cabezón in early light are a few of my favorites. There are some useful appendix, including a glossary of key Spanish words, and a listing of all the areas, by acres, and the year they achieved their "wilderness" designation. The book was published in 1998, and that has been a "rap" against buying the book now, but, how often does a wilderness area need "updated."? Isn't that the whole idea of going there... the timelessness. And, in general, I did not agree with the other "raps" given by fellow reviewers. Clearly, this is not a hiking guide, and I see no reason to have had the cities of NM listed on the master map at the beginning of the book... and nearby towns ARE listed on the individual area maps. So... I sure wouldn't carry this guide on a hike. I sit at home, maybe on a cold winter evening, and use it to determine where I wanted to go, and then carry my GPS on the actual hike. And I fact-checked the

information against my experience in my favorite area: the Gila Wilderness. Indeed, they identified my favorite hike, along the Crest Trail, to Mogollon Baldy (all of which was devastated by a forest fire in the summer of 2012). Thus, as one other reviewer said: my "rap" is that they gave away too many of our "secret" places, which, is in the nature of the guide-book beast. Pleased to give this book its first 5-star rating.

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