



SIMON CANYON AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC)

- Activities:** Hiking, backpacking, fishing, picnicking, watchable wildlife.
- Facilities:** A graveled parking area, group shelter, large grill, fire ring, picnic table and vault toilet are located at the mouth of Simon Canyon. No electrical hookups or drinking water is available.
- Season / Hours:** Open year-round.
The road may become impassible in bad weather.
- Description:** Simon Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) is about 3,900 acres in size and is managed for semi-primitive forms of recreation including fishing, hiking, backpacking, and wildlife watching.

The sandstone canyon is characterized by moderately steep, to very steep, rough and broken terrain. Water from the small intermittent stream that flows down the canyon provides for areas of riparian plant communities. The diverse canyon landscape provides habitat for a variety of bird and mammal species such as the golden eagle, prairie falcon, great horned owl, porcupine, beaver, and deer. Local sportsmen and fishing enthusiasts from across the United States come to fish the Quality Waters of the San Juan River, including the stretch that flows past the mouth of Simon Canyon. Narrow trails winding along the river's edge will lead you to your favorite fishing spot.

The canyon also contains remnants of an earlier human occupation. Simon Canyon Ruin, a Navajo Pueblito, sits on a bench overlooking the canyon drainage. It is the only classic "boulder type" defensive site built north of the San Juan River and dates back to 1754. It consists of a well-preserved one-room structure built on top of a large boulder. Simon Ruin can be reached by taking a short hike up a steep dirt road past an active well location, then continuing on a foot path located along the bench overlooking the canyon drainage.

- Access:** Simon Canyon ACEC is north of the San Juan River, about 3 miles west of Navajo Reservoir. It is about 20 miles east of Aztec and Bloomfield, NM, and is generally accessible via US Highways 550 and 64 and State roads 173, 511, and 539. It can also be reached from the Colorado state line by taking NM 511 and NM 173. To reach the parking lot, turn north from NM 173 onto non-maintained County Road 4280. Follow the road about 3 miles from the turnoff to reach the parking lot. The road has been surfaced with sandstone material; however, it is important to note it may become impassible in bad weather.

- Special Rules:**
- In order to protect the important riparian habitat in the canyon, please keep all motorized vehicles and mountain bikes on maintained roads and out of the canyon drainage. No motor vehicles are allowed beyond the parking lot.
 - Camping is allowed nearby at the Cottonwood Campgrounds.
 - The San Juan River, downstream of Navajo Dam, is designated as trout fishing Quality Waters. These waters have reduced bag limits or are catch-and-release. Follow all NM Game and Fish licensing requirements when fishing in this area. A Habitat Improvement Stamp is required by all anglers between the ages of 13 and 69 to fish on BLM lands in New Mexico.
 - Wood gathering is prohibited. Campfires are allowed in the provided fire rings and grills while following current guidelines for established fires restrictions..
 - Shooting is prohibited in the canyon and the developed recreation site.
 - Permits are required for commercial, competitive and organized group events.

- Play Safely:**
- Always plan ahead, be prepared for changing weather and carry plenty of water.

- Active natural gas wells exist in Simon Canyon ACEC. Be safe and stay away from well pads, pipelines, and other oilfield equipment. Watch for traffic and heavy trucks.

Have a positive influence on the area and those around you, practice the **Tread** Lightly!

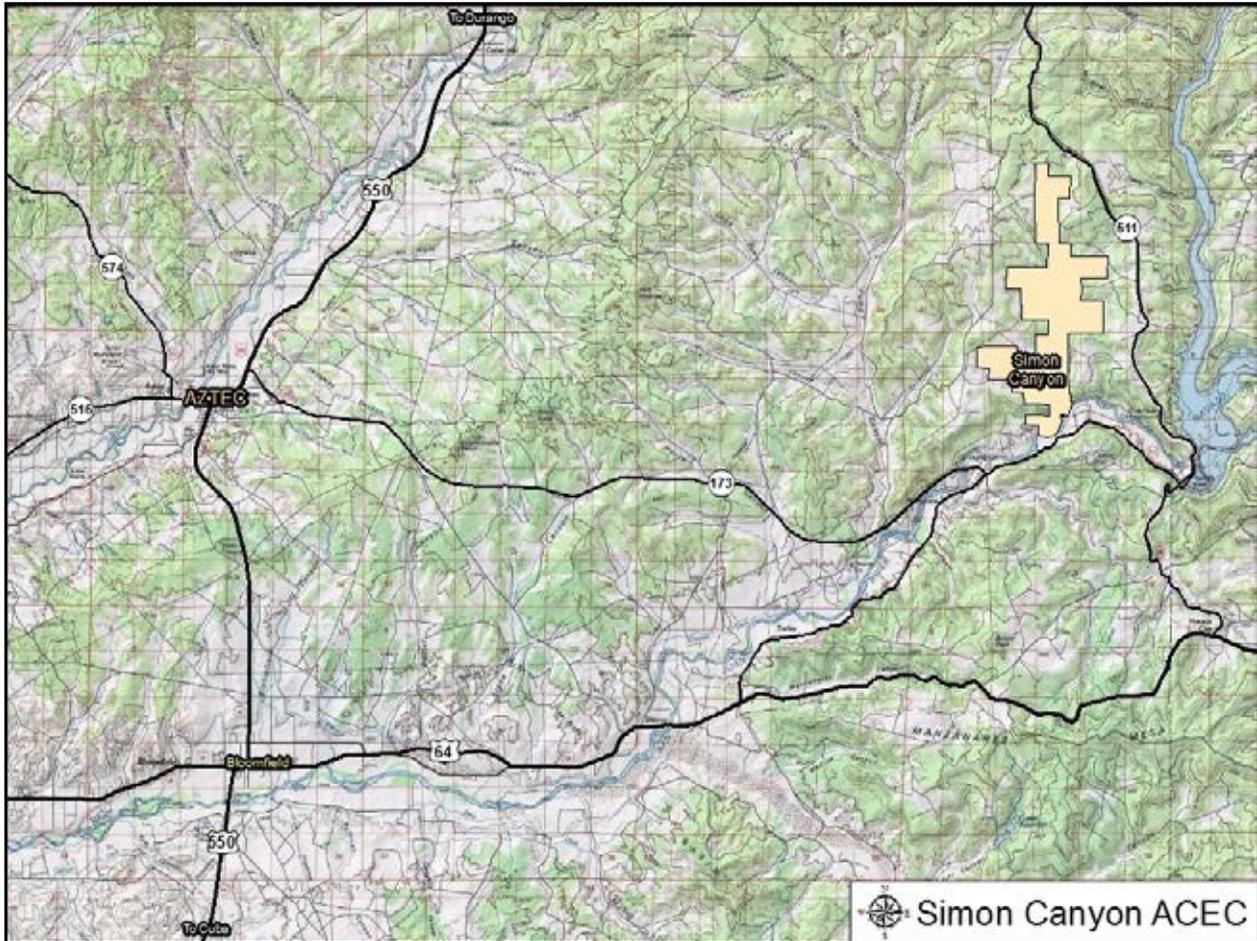
T Travel only where permitted.

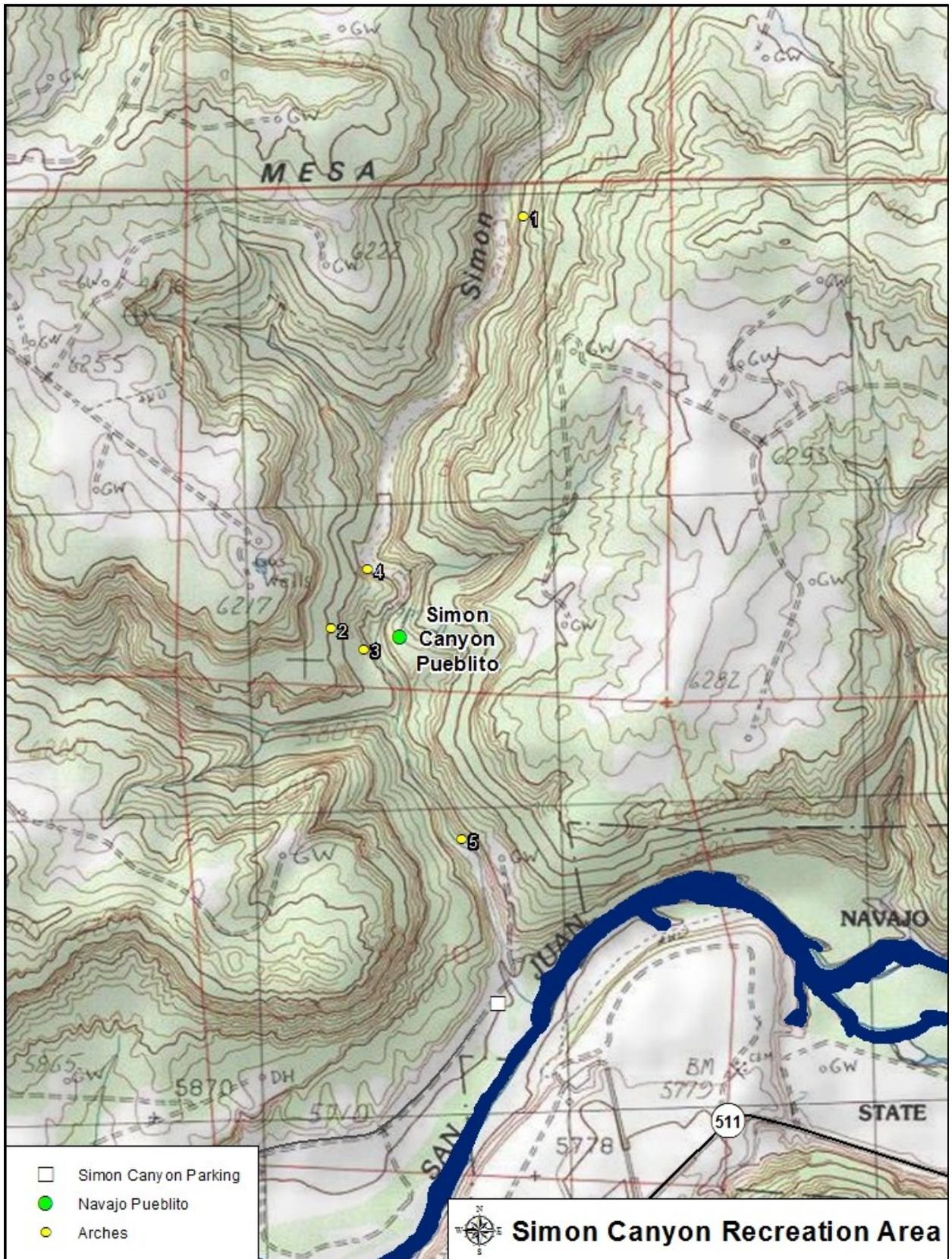
R Respect the rights of others.

E Educate yourself.

A Avoid streams, meadows, and wildlife areas.

D Drive and travel responsibly.





SIMON PUEBLITO

Information from BLM Site Plaque

The Simon Canyon Site is the most northwestern of the structures attributed to the Gobernador Phase of Navajo History (1700-1775). The site consists of a single room on a large boulder. The room is rather well preserved with the greater part of the roof intact. Of all the remaining structures of this period in Navajo history, it appears to have been the most vulnerable to Ute raiding which has frequently been named as one of the causes for the abandonment of the area. There are no other sites in its vicinity which have been attributed to the Navajo. The site position north of the San Juan River separates it from the major contemporary Navajo populations in Gobernador and Largo Canyons. Simon Canyon Ruin was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. The site was stabilized by the BLM stabilization team in 1975.

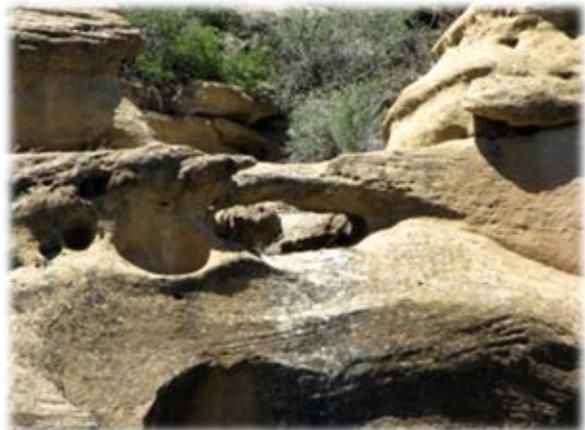


ARCHES

Map #: 1
Name: NM-238
Classification: Minor, Alcove Arch (12 ft span)
Recorder: Larry Beck, 2010 May
Latitude: 36.846357
Longitude: -107.659179



Map #: 2
Name: NM-308
Classification: Minor, Pothole Arch (6ft span)
Recorder: Peter Jamieson, 2012 May
Latitude: 36.834244
Longitude: -107.666274



Map #: 3
Name: NM-653
Classification: Minor, Pillar Arch (4ft x 2ft)
Recorder: Edward Kotyk, 2013 May
Latitude: 36.833634
Longitude: -107.665065



Map #: 4
Name: NM-654
Classification: Minor, Pothole Arch (1.8ft x 2ft)
Recorder: Edward Kotyk, 2013 May
Latitude: 36.835975
Longitude: -107.664916



Map #: 5
Name: NM-655
Classification: Minor, Irregular Arch (3ft x 2.5ft)
Recorder: Edward Kotyk, 2013 May
Latitude: 36.828031
Longitude: -107.661491



PETROGLYPHS

Along the road to Simon Canyon near Bollack's Point, there is an Ancestral Petroglyph panel located on the north side of the road.

