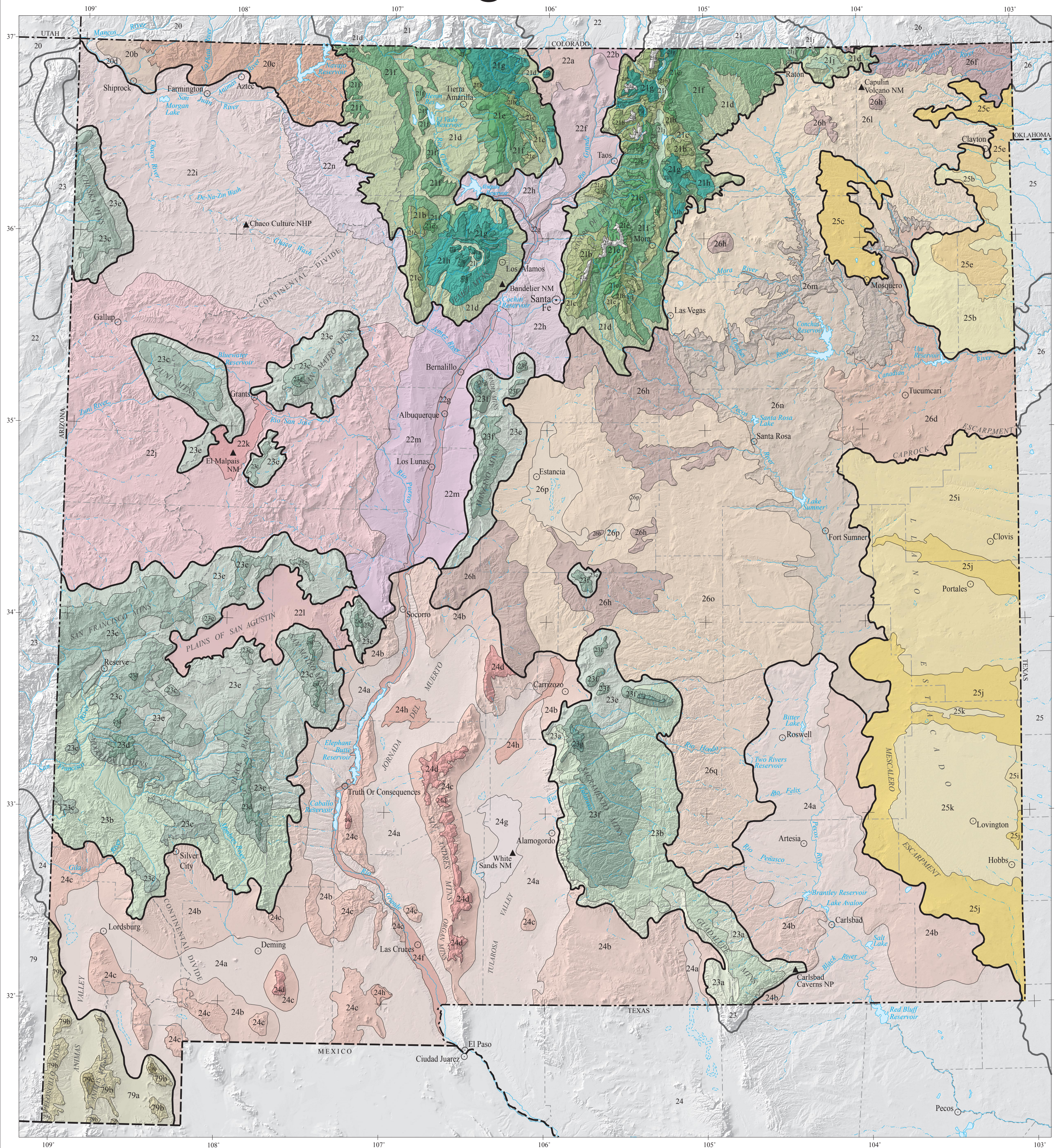


Ecoregions of New Mexico



- 20 Colorado Plateaus**
 - 20b Shale Deserts and Sedimentary Basins
 - 20c Semiarid Benchlands and Canyonlands
 - 20d Arid Canyonlands
 - 21 Southern Rockies**
 - 21a Alpine Zone
 - 21b Crystalline Subalpine Forests
 - 21c Crystalline Mid-Elevation Forests
 - 21d Foothill Woodlands and Shrublands
 - 21e Sedimentary Subalpine Forests
 - 21f Sedimentary Mid-Elevation Forests
 - 21g Volcanic Subalpine Forests
 - 21h Volcanic Mid-Elevation Forests
 - 21j Grassland Parks
 - 22 Arizona/New Mexico Plateau**
 - 22a San Luis Shrublands and Hills
 - 22b San Luis Alluvial Flats and Wetlands
 - 22f Taos Plateau
 - 22g Rio Grande Floodplain
 - 22h North Central New Mexico Valleys and Mesas
 - 22i San Juan/Chaco Tablelands and Mesas
 - 22j Semiarid Tablelands
 - 22k Lava Malpais
 - 22l Plains of San Agustin
 - 22m Albuquerque Basin
 - 22n Near-Rockies Valleys and Mesas
 - 23 Arizona/New Mexico Mountains**
 - 23a Chihuahuan Desert Slopes
 - 23b Madrean Lower Montane Woodlands
 - 23c Montane Conifer Forests
 - 23d Arizona/New Mexico Subalpine Forests
 - 23e Conifer Woodlands and Savannas
 - 23f Rocky Mountain Conifer Forests
 - 23g Rocky Mountain Subalpine Forests
 - 24 Chihuahuan Deserts**
 - 24a Chihuahuan Basins and Playas
 - 24b Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands
 - 24c Low Mountains and Bajadas
 - 24d Chihuahuan Montane Woodlands
 - 24f Rio Grande Floodplain
 - 24g Gypsiferous Dunes
 - 24h Lava Malpais
 - 25 High Plains**
 - 25b Rolling Sand Plains
 - 25c Moderate Relief Plains
 - 25e Canadian/Cimarron High Plains
 - 25i Llano Estacado
 - 25j Shinnery Sands
 - 25k Arid Llano Estacado
 - 26 Southwestern Tablelands**
 - 26d Semiarid Canadian Breaks
 - 26f Mesa de Maya/Black Mesa
 - 26h Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands and Savannas
 - 26i Upper Canadian Plateau
 - 26m Canadian Canyons
 - 26n Conchas/Pecos Plains
 - 26o Central New Mexico Plains
 - 26p Pluvial Lake Basins
 - 26q Southern New Mexico Dissected Plains
 - 79 Madrean Archipelago**
 - 79a Apachian Valleys and Low Hills
 - 79b Lower Madrean Woodlands
 - 79c Madrean Pine-Oak and Mixed Conifer Forests
- Level III ecoregion
 - - - Level IV ecoregion
 - - - County boundary
 - - - State boundary
 - - - International boundary
 - - - Continental divide

Ecoregions denote areas of general similarity in ecosystems and in the type, quality, and quantity of environmental resources; they are designed to serve as a spatial framework for the research, assessment, management, and monitoring of ecosystems and ecosystem components. By recognizing the spatial differences in the capacities and potentials of ecosystems, ecoregions stratify the environment by its probable response to disturbance. These general purpose regions are critical for structuring and implementing ecosystem management strategies across federal agencies, state agencies, and nongovernment organizations that are responsible for different types of resources within the same geographical areas.

The New Mexico ecoregion map was compiled at a scale of 1:250,000. It revises and subdivides an earlier national ecoregion map that was originally compiled at a smaller scale. The approach used to compile this map is based on the premise that ecological regions can be identified through the analysis of the spatial patterns and the composition of biotic and abiotic phenomena that affect or reflect differences in ecosystem quality and integrity. These phenomena include geology, physiography, vegetation, climate, soils, land use, wildlife, and hydrology. The relative importance of each characteristic varies from one ecological region to another regardless of the hierarchical level.

New Mexico contains semiarid shrub- and grass-covered plains, forested mountains, glaciated peaks, woodland- and shrubland-covered hills, lava fields and volcanic plateaus, river floodplains, and arid deserts. Ecological diversity is enormous. There are 8 level III ecoregions and 55 level IV ecoregions in New Mexico and many continue into ecologically similar parts of adjacent states.

This map is part of a collaborative project primarily between USEPA Region VI, USEPA National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (Corvallis, Oregon), New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)-National Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS). The project is associated with an interagency effort to develop a common framework of ecological regions. Reaching that objective requires recognition of the differences in the conceptual approaches and mapping methodologies applied to develop the most common ecoregion-type frameworks, including those developed by the USDA-Forest Service, the US EPA, and the NRCS. As each of these frameworks is further refined, their differences are becoming less discernible. Collaborative ecoregion projects, such as this one in New Mexico, are a step toward attaining consensus and consistency in ecoregion frameworks for the entire nation.

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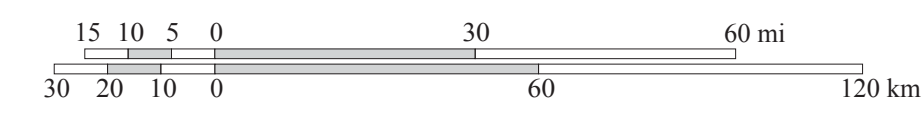
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Ecoregion maps, publications, GIS files, and contact information are available at www.epa.gov/wed/pages/ecoregions.htm.

SCALE 1:1 400 000



Albers equal area projection
Standard parallels 33° N and 36° N