



# LCpl. Steven Chavez, Hondo, OG.125



**Information:** The LCpl. Steven Chavez Fishing Area is dedicated to the memory of Marine Lance Corporal Steven Chavez, who at 20 years of age, was killed on March 14, 2007 while serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom. A native of Hondo, NM, LCpl. Chavez was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force from Camp Pendleton, CA.

The property is located in Hondo, NM off Highway 70 along the Rio Ruidoso and provides access to 0.4 miles of shoreline on both sides of the river. The Rio Ruidoso is a high elevation, spring-fed, cold-water fishery with its headwaters near Sierra Blanca Peak in the Sacramento Mountains. The river holds water year-round in the Hondo area and it has excellent habitat for trout. NM Game and Fish presently stocks rainbow trout near this property to enhance fishing opportunities.

**Permitted Activities:** Fishing is only permitted on this property during the seasons and dates specified in the Open Gate lease agreement between the Department of Game and Fish and the landowner. Access to the property is subject to the terms and conditions in the Open Gate lease agreement and is restricted to the following permitted activities:

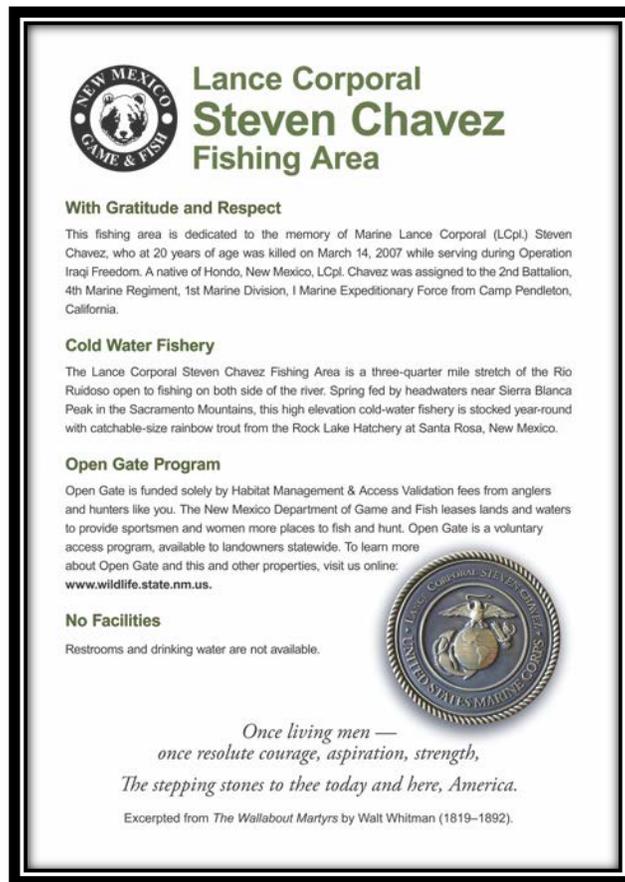
Permitted Activity	Available Dates	Remarks
Fishing	Open year round.	<p>Anglers 11 years of age and younger are not required to hold a fishing license. You may fish without a license on free fishing days.</p> <p>See posted property rules for special use restrictions.</p>

**Open Gate** is a program that leases private lands to improve public access for hunting, fishing, and trapping. Open Gate leases are funded exclusively by hunters, anglers, and trappers through the purchase of the Habitat Management and Access Validation (HMAV).

# LCpl Steven Chavez Fishing Area

**Property Rules:** The following rules will be posted on this property and enforced at the discretion of the Department of Game and Fish.

- Use of this Open Gate property is restricted to properly licensed sportspersons for the following activities: **Fishing**.
- No trespassing unless you are a properly licensed sportsperson, are accompanied by a properly licensed sportsperson or are license-exempt.
- Each properly licensed sportsperson or license-exempt person is allowed to be accompanied by no more than two guests.
- Any legal tackle or bait.
- Bag limit of 5 trout of any length per day.
- No motor vehicle travel off designated roads or on closed roads.
- No destructive acts, including vandalism, graffiti, theft, removal or defacing natural features, resources or signs.
- No camping.
- No fires.
- No littering.
- Access allowed from 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.



The sign is a rectangular poster with a black border. At the top left is the New Mexico Game & Fish logo, a circular seal with a bison head. To its right, the text reads "Lance Corporal Steven Chavez Fishing Area" in green. Below this is the heading "With Gratitude and Respect" followed by a paragraph about the area's dedication to LCpl Steven Chavez. The next section is "Cold Water Fishery" with a paragraph describing the fishing area. This is followed by "Open Gate Program" and a paragraph about the program. Below that is "No Facilities" with a short paragraph. To the right of this text is a circular seal of the United States Marine Corps. At the bottom, there is a quote in italics: "Once living men — once resolute courage, aspiration, strength, The stepping stones to thee today and here, America." and a small line of text below it: "Excerpted from *The Wallabout Martyrs* by Walt Whitman (1819–1892)."

**NEW MEXICO GAME & FISH**

**Lance Corporal Steven Chavez Fishing Area**

**With Gratitude and Respect**

This fishing area is dedicated to the memory of Marine Lance Corporal (LCpl) Steven Chavez, who at 20 years of age was killed on March 14, 2007 while serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom. A native of Hondo, New Mexico, LCpl. Chavez was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force from Camp Pendleton, California.

**Cold Water Fishery**

The Lance Corporal Steven Chavez Fishing Area is a three-quarter mile stretch of the Rio Ruidoso open to fishing on both side of the river. Spring fed by headwaters near Sierra Blanca Peak in the Sacramento Mountains, this high elevation cold-water fishery is stocked year-round with catchable-size rainbow trout from the Rock Lake Hatchery at Santa Rosa, New Mexico.

**Open Gate Program**

Open Gate is funded solely by Habitat Management & Access Validation fees from anglers and hunters like you. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish leases lands and waters to provide sportsmen and women more places to fish and hunt. Open Gate is a voluntary access program, available to landowners statewide. To learn more about Open Gate and this and other properties, visit us online: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us).

**No Facilities**

Restrooms and drinking water are not available.

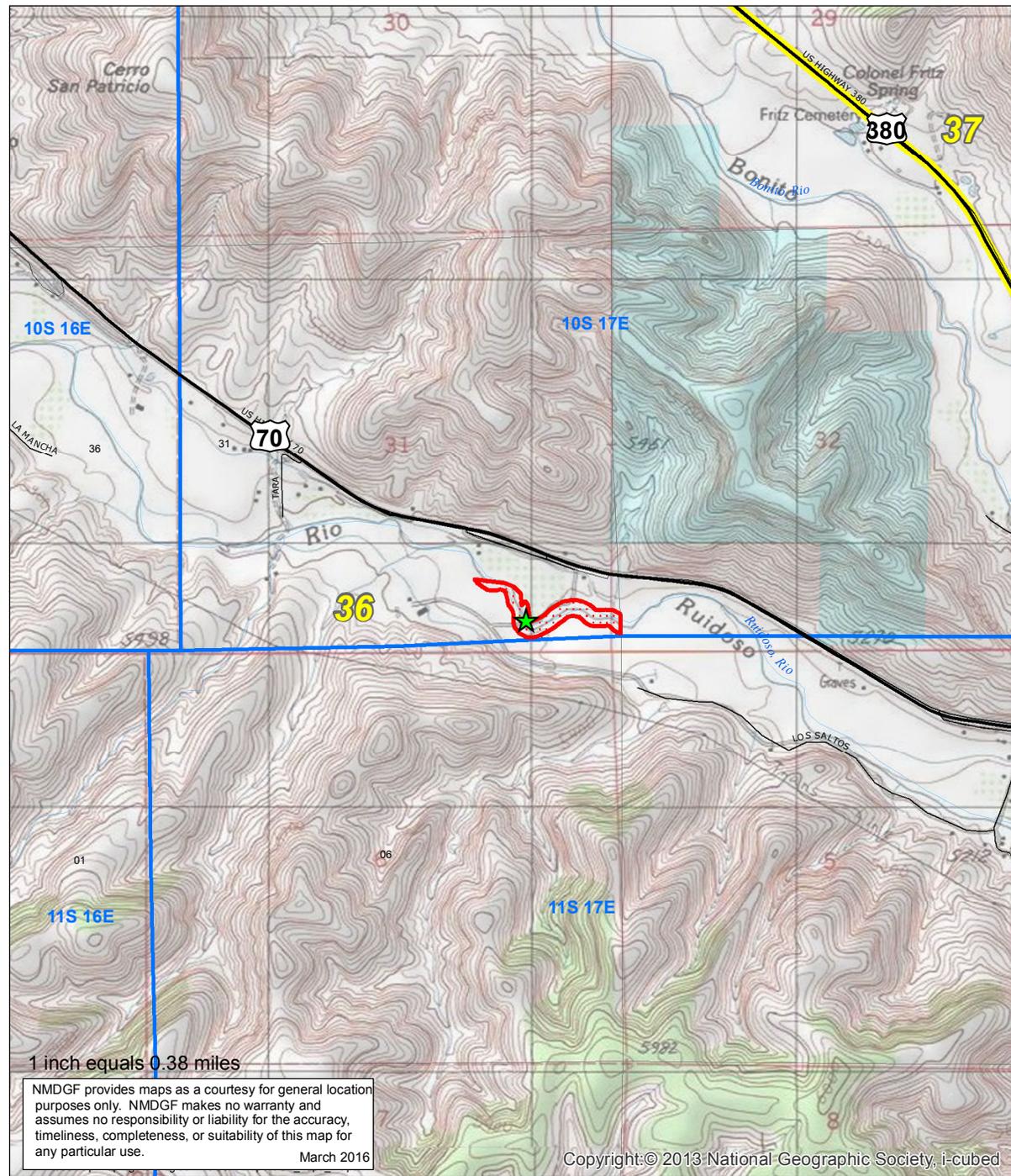
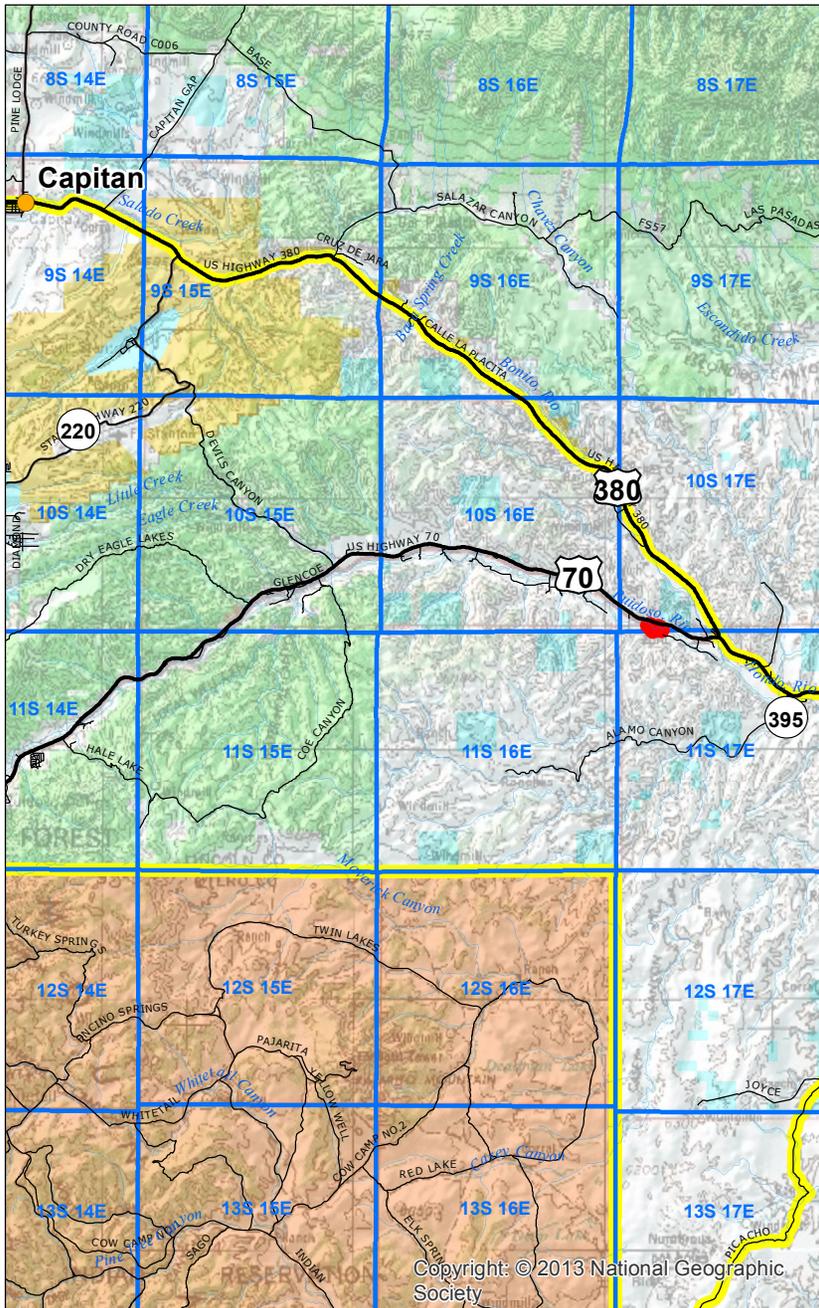
*Once living men —  
once resolute courage, aspiration, strength,  
The stepping stones to thee today and here, America.*

Excerpted from *The Wallabout Martyrs* by Walt Whitman (1819–1892).

**Rate this Property** - NMDGF wants your feedback to ensure that this property is providing an enjoyable outdoor experience. Please take a moment to anonymously rate this property. We know your experience can differ each time you go afield, so be sure to provide a separate review each time you visit this Open Gate property. *After each visit you can quickly provide a review by clicking the **Rate a Property** tab on the [Open Gate homepage](#)*



**2021-22 OPEN  
GATE Hunting and  
Fishing Access  
Program**  
**Property OG.125**



1 inch equals 0.38 miles  
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**>>> Be Ethical, Courteous, and Safe <<<**  
**All New Mexico Department of Game and Fish regulations and seasons apply.**

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|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Property Rules Sign | <b>Roads</b>       | <b>Surface Ownership</b> |
| PLSS Township       | Secondary Road     | BLM                      |
| Open Gate Property  | State Highway      | USFS                     |
| GMU Boundaries      | Interstate Highway | Tribal                   |
|                     | US Highway         | Private                  |
|                     |                    | State                    |

