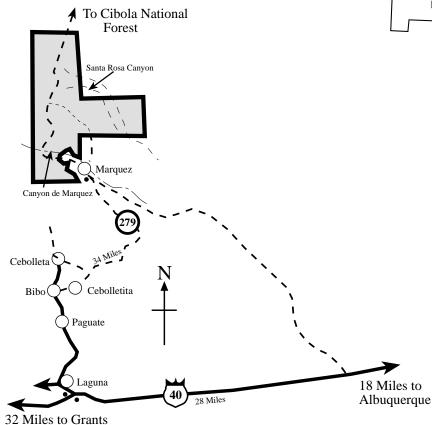


State Wildlife Areas

Marquez Wildlife Area





A rough dirt road twists through rolling piñon and juniper hills, climbs higher through oak and pine country, then follows canyons cut through rugged cliffs to stretch across an open mesa top of Gambel oaks and grass.

Topping out at some 8,500 feet, the Marquez Wildlife Area's topography and vegetation have made it home to some fine bucks. It covers some 15,000 acres straddling the McKinley-Sandoval County lines and was purchased in 1968 primarily as a big game hunting area.

Set as it is in the heart of New Mexico's uranium

mining country, this area has not been unaffected. Uranium exploration and recovery has occurred on and adjacent to the area. The department has worked closely with the companies involved to assure that wildlife losses are mitigated and that wildlife values will not be sacrificed.

To help prevent harassment of wildlife as much as possible, the department has closed most of the roads in the area, leaving one access road open to vehicles. Keep in mind when you hunt the Marquez: It is high, rough and lonely country.