

Charette Lakes Wildlife Area

Distance from Casa del Gavilan:

50 miles – 75 minutes

Trail length: 1½ miles each way, or 3½ miles around lake

Elevation change: 60 feet

Difficulty: Easy

Required documents: One Habitat Management and Access Validation (HMAV) per group of 4 adults

Points of interest: 1,900 acre remote wildlife area/recreational access

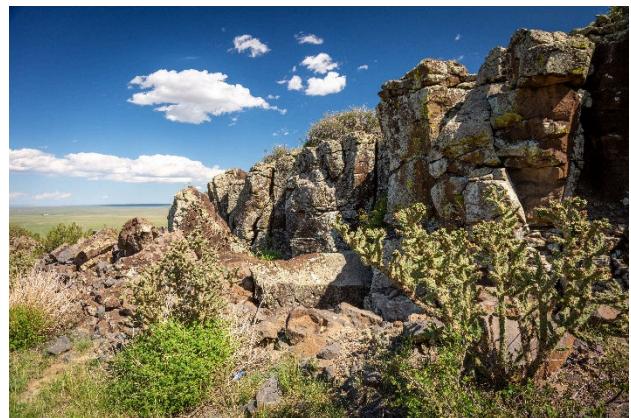
Administered by New Mexico Game and Fish.

Open March 1 – October 31 ONLY

CLOSED November 1 – February 28

For more information see: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/

Contact: 888-248-6866 or ispa@state.nm.us



Charette Lakes Wildlife Area is a deep lake high on a remote mesa south of the Casa del Gavilan. Antelope and a wide variety of waterfowl can often be found at the lakes. Fishing is also popular at Charette Lakes. While it's referred to as plural, there is one primary lake. Since the lakes are fed only by rainwater, the other "lakes" can come and go depending upon the amount of rain recently received. The road to the top of Charette Mesa passes through the rimrock giving the visitor perhaps one of the most up-close-and-personal views of the haunting jumble of enormous basalt boulders that make up the edge of a mesa. A \$5 permit is required for at least one person in a party of up to four people, excluding anyone under the age of 18. This is the same permit required for Elliott Barker Wildlife Area, so you can visit both Areas for the same price. Please see the information provided below to purchase the permit. It's a bit of a nuisance to go through the online application process but it's well worth it to visit this remote Wildlife Area. Picnic tables and toilets are located around the perimeter of the primary lake. No drinking water is available at Charette Lakes. Cell phone service is very spotty on top of the mesa. Please pack out all of your trash.

To reach the wildlife area proceed south from the Casa on Highway 21 toward Springer. In Springer, turn right and proceed south on Interstate 25. Take the first exit with the sign for Charette Lakes. Turn right onto NM 569. This road quickly becomes gravel but it's a good base so rain shouldn't be a significant problem. Follow NM 569 14 miles to the main entrance to Charette Lakes. The road is dirt and gravel but should be suitable for most vehicles up to the main entrance to the lake--though it does get a bit worse near the lake. There are a few parking areas near the rimrock at the edge of the mesa if you'd like to get out and explore the huge slabs of basalt (a lava) that have calved off the mesa over the several million years since the lava poured forth from the earth.

While the drive to the main entrance is reasonably well maintained, the drive around the lake is a different story. A four-wheel or other high-clearance vehicle is highly recommended for these very rough roads. Drive if you can and walk if you can't drive—1½ miles around the south side of the first lake (to the right—or counterclockwise) to the east side of the lake. A small turnout is located along the road with an overlook four hundred feet down into Ocate Creek, which cuts northeast through the mesa. The wildlife area extends to the bottom on the canyon and the edge of Ocate Creek but it's a long, difficult climb down--and more so climbing back up--so it's not recommended. From this overlook, the road gets worse as it continues north around the lake so unless you're really adventurous, return by the same road around the south side of the lake. There is also a very rough road that runs a half mile south to Upper Charette Lake, though it's not as impressive as Charette Lake.

If you're interested in fishing at Charette Lakes you'll need a New Mexico Fishing license which can be obtained online at: <https://onlinesales.wildlife.state.nm.us/>

For more information on Charette Lakes: : <https://karlmoffatt.blogspot.com/2013/07/charette-lakes-hilltop-hide-away-great.html>

To purchase your pass (or a fishing license) for the Charette Lakes Wildlife Area:

You may purchase a license or validation (HMAV) from any Department office, license vendor, by phone at 888-248-6866, or through the Department's Online License System at: <https://onlinesales.wildlife.state.nm.us/> This is the same website used to purchase hunting and fishing licenses so the form will ask for information which seems a bit intrusive such as gender, height, weight, etc. This may seem onerous, but it is to confirm the person carrying the license is the person to whom the license is registered. Some information, such as drivers license number, is asked but not required. Required items are marked with a red asterisk.

Go to: <https://onlinesales.wildlife.state.nm.us/>

Establish an account by providing the information requested. Re-log into your account once established.

Select "License Sales (year)" in the left column, then "OTC Licenses, Permits and Stamps"

Check the "Continue" button at the bottom of the "Terms of Agreement" box

List of various hunting and other licenses will show. Select "Habitat Management and Access Validation" in the

Left column second from bottom. You may also select a one-day fishing license for \$12, five day license for \$24, or an annual license for \$56

Click "Review Order" at bottom of page

A pop-up box appears stating "Additional Requirement may apply" indicating you may also need a 'Habitat Stamp'. The Habitat Stamp apparently applies only to hunting and fishing and not to wildlife viewing (as far as I know).

Click "OK" in bottom right corner of this pop up box. The box will close showing "Habitat Management and Access Validation" previously selected.

Click "Add to cart"

Your shopping cart will include \$4 for the license and a \$1 "vendor fee"

Click "Checkout" at bottom

Check both boxes on the "Terms of Agreement", then the "Credit Card" box to pay by credit card

Enter credit card information

The system will log you out, and ask you to go back into your account. Log in and go to "My Purchases"

The purchased "Habitat Management and Access Validation" license will be listed.

Click "Print License"--or save the PDF file to your phone

License is valid from April 1 through March 31 of the following year

Rules for State Game Commission land:

It is unlawful:

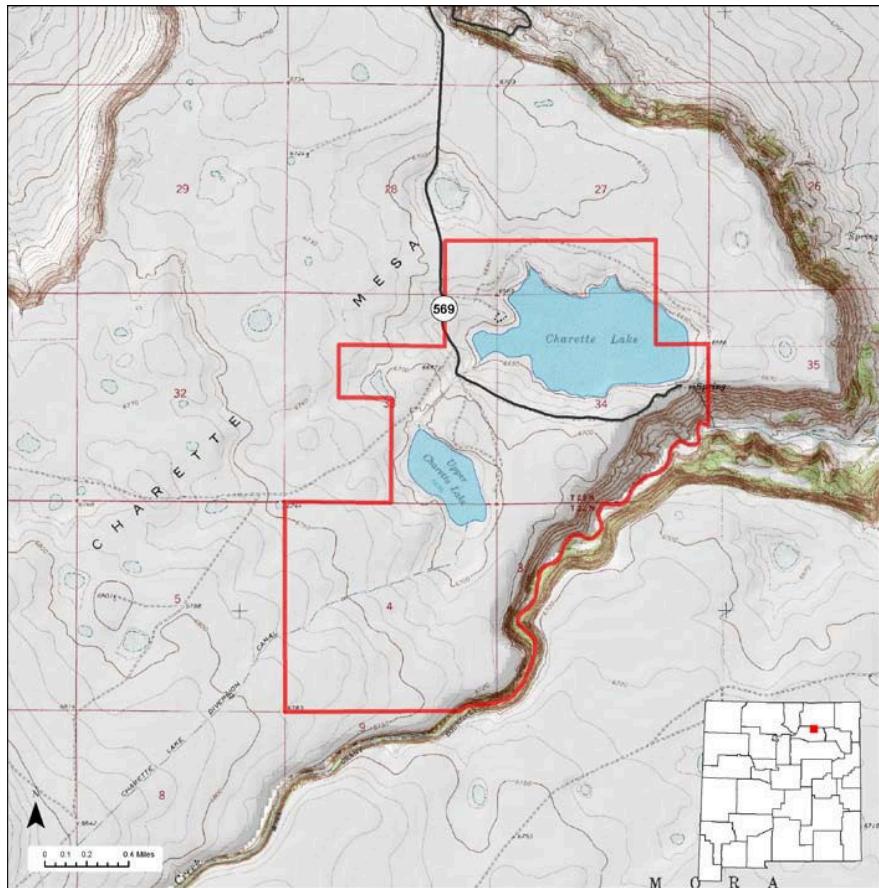
- For any individual to enter SGCL and not designated for access. SGC Lands designated for access are listed on the Department's website.
 - For any individual to enter closed SGC Land or closed areas of SGC Land. Closures will be posted on site or on the Department's website. Exceptions: Each properly-licensed hunter and up to three (3) guests are exempt from closures during their published hunt period. Each properly-licensed big game hunter and up to three (3) guests are exempt from closures during a seven (7) day scouting period prior to the published start of their hunt period.
 - For any individual to enter SGC Land during big game and waterfowl hunt dates published in the New Mexico Hunting Rules and Information. Designated areas on certain SGC Lands are exempt from this rule; see specific SGC Land information on the Department's website. Exceptions: Each properly-licensed hunter and up to three (3) guests are exempt from closures during their published hunt period. Each properly-licensed big game hunter and up to three (3) guests are exempt from closures during a seven (7) day scouting period prior to the published start of their hunt period.
 - To operate any vehicle off of established roads or on closed roads within SGC Land.
 - To deface or remove rocks, minerals, plants (including fruits, nuts, and berries), animals, firewood, or man-made features from SGC Land.
 - For any person to excavate, injure, destroy, or remove any cultural resource or artifact from any SGC Land.
 - To camp in excess of fourteen (14) consecutive days on SGC Land. Exceptions: licensed hunters and guests may camp in excess of 14 days concurrent with their hunt/scouting period.
 - To possess unleashed dogs or other pets on SGC Land. Exceptions: dogs may be unleashed for permitted field trial or hunting purposes during published hunt periods only on SGC Lands where use of dogs for hunting purposes is allowed by rule.
 - To have an open fire unless safely contained on SGC Land.
 - To use or possess any hay or feed for domestic livestock use on SGC Land other than pelleted or grain feed, or hay certified as weed free.
 - To conduct any commercial activity on SGC Land without first obtaining a commercial permit. Commercial activity is any activity for which a fee is charged or other compensation is received. Exception: Hunting activities conducted by an outfitter registered with the Department.
 - To violate any access rule specified by the Director for a specific SGC Land and disseminated by posting or notice provision by the Department (e.g. posted signs, New Mexico Hunting and Fishing Rules and Information, or the Department's website).[19.34.3.10 NMAC].
- For more information: Visit the Department's website (www.wildlife.state.nm.us) or call 888-248-6866

Charette Lakes





Charette Lakes Wildlife Area



Location: Charette Lakes Wildlife Area is located north of Wagon Mound in Mora County.

Total Acreage: 1,901 total acres. Upper Charette Lake is about 100 acres, Lower Charette Lake is about 300 acres.

Purchase: Charette Lakes was purchased in 1949 to provide fishing opportunities and waterfowl resting areas.

Description: The property sits on top of Charette Mesa at 6,500 feet in elevation and contains two lakes. It is ringed by grasslands.

For More Information: More information about hunting, fishing and other activities, may be found on the Department's website: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/.

GAIN Activities	What to See, Do, and Learn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wildlife Viewing ✓ Photographing 	Wildlife Viewing -Wildlife watchers are likely to see pronghorn antelope, hawks, prairie birds, and various species of waterfowl. Good binoculars are important. The best time to view wildlife is at dawn or dusk.
Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Hiking ✓ Bicycling ✓ Horseback Riding 	Photographing -The best time to photograph wildlife is at dawn or dusk. A telephoto lens is important. Hiking -Hiking is the best way to see wildlife at the Charette Lakes Wildlife Area or other wildlife management areas. Bicycling -Allowed only on established roads.
Hunting and Fishing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Hunting ✓ Fishing 	Horseback Riding -Horseback riding is allowed but opportunities are extremely limited. Camping -Primitive camping is allowed March 1- October 31. Hunting -Hunting is allowed by licensed and permitted hunters for waterfowl.
Closures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Yes 	Fishing -Fishing is allowed March 1-October 31. Closures -Charette Lakes Wildlife Area is open March 1-October 31. It is closed November 1 -February 28 except for waterfowl hunting.
Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Primitive camping ✓ Rest rooms ✓ No drinking water 	Facilities -Charette Lakes Wildlife Area has primitive camping and rest rooms but not drinking water. Fees -Hunters and fishermen must have appropriate licenses and permits. Wildlife viewers, photographers, hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders must have a valid license or permit. See the Department's website www.wildlife.state.nm.us for more information.
Fees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Yes 	
Motorized Vehicles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Not allowed beyond the roadway and parking area 	Motorized Vehicles -Not allowed beyond the roadway and parking area.
<p>For more information on hunting and fishing rules and seasons, please read current hunting or fishing Rules and Information Booklets available on the Department's website, at Department offices, or from license vendors state-wide.</p>	