



## ANGEL PEAK SCENIC AREA

**Activities:** Hiking, photography, watchable wildlife, camping, picnicking.  
*Note: While formal hiking trails in the area are limited, dispersed hiking opportunities abound along the rim.*

**Facilities:** No electrical hookups or water is available.  
Three picnic areas and a campground are located along the canyon rim overlooking Angel Peak. Three picnic areas (Sage, Castle Rock, and Cliffs), containing seven developed sites, are located along the rim road. Each site has a shelter, tables, gravel pathway, and a fire grate. Trash cans are located in all three picnic areas. Accessible vault toilets are available at both Sage and Cliffs picnic areas.  
Angel Peak Campground has nine sites available for tent camping; each with picnic tables, gravel pathways, and fire grates. Picnic shelters are located at three campsites; two with single shelters and one with a double shelter suitable for larger groups. Two accessible vault toilets and trash receptacles are conveniently located in the campground. A short nature trail winds among the plants that have found a niche along the desolate rim and leads to an overlook of the canyon view.

**Season / Hours:** Open year-round.

**Description:** Angel Peak Scenic Area offers more than 10,000 acres of rugged terrain recognized for its scenic and scientific wonders. The nearly 7,000-foot Angel Peak, a landmark composed of river deposited sandstone from the San Jose Formation, is visible for miles in any direction. However, the banded colors of the badlands and the deep sculpted fingers of the canyon at the base of Angel Peak are only fully revealed to those who make the short journey along the rim.

The panoramic view of the canyon offers the visitor a spectacular glimpse into the earth's past. This landscape etched by time, has been more than 60 million years in the making, and the geology of the area is as important to understanding the evolution of mammals, as it is spectacular to view. Deeply eroded sandstone-capped mesas and slope-forming mudstones of the Nacimiento Formation tell a story of a past where high-energy rivers deposited hundreds of meters of rock material shed from the Rocky Mountains to the north, across the San Juan Basin. These rivers carved their way through a landscape of large grasslands, marshes, lakes, and forests.

Remnants of mammals' fossils, as well as wood petrified over the ages, can be found eroding out of the sandstone, siltstone, and mudstone visible in the canyon today. Collection and study of these important fossils by permitted paleontologists helps document the evolution of many mammal species and contributes to our knowledge of the earth's history.

**Access:** Access to the Angel Peak Scenic Area is off US Highway 550, 15 miles south of Bloomfield on CR 7175. Follow the gravel road along the canyon rim to reach the main campground or stop at one of three developed picnic areas along the way. The gravel road may become impassible in bad weather.

- Special Rules:**
- All motorized vehicles and mountain bikes are required to stay on maintained roads.
  - Trees in the area are scarce and firewood gathering is prohibited. Please bring your own wood if you plan on having a fire.
  - Shooting is prohibited.
  - Collection of vertebrate fossils is prohibited except for scientific studies under permit by the BLM.
  - Permits are required for commercial, competitive and organized group events.

- Safety:**
- The area is subject to seasonal extremes and visitors should be prepared for changing weather; it can get cold in the winter, hot in the summer, and is prone to strong spring breezes. Always plan ahead, be prepared for weather changes and carry plenty of water.
  - The stark, barren landscape at Angel Peak provides the perfect home for a variety of desert inhabitants including rattlesnakes. Be aware of your surroundings and watch where you walk!
  - Active gas wells exist in the Angel Peak Scenic Area. 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.

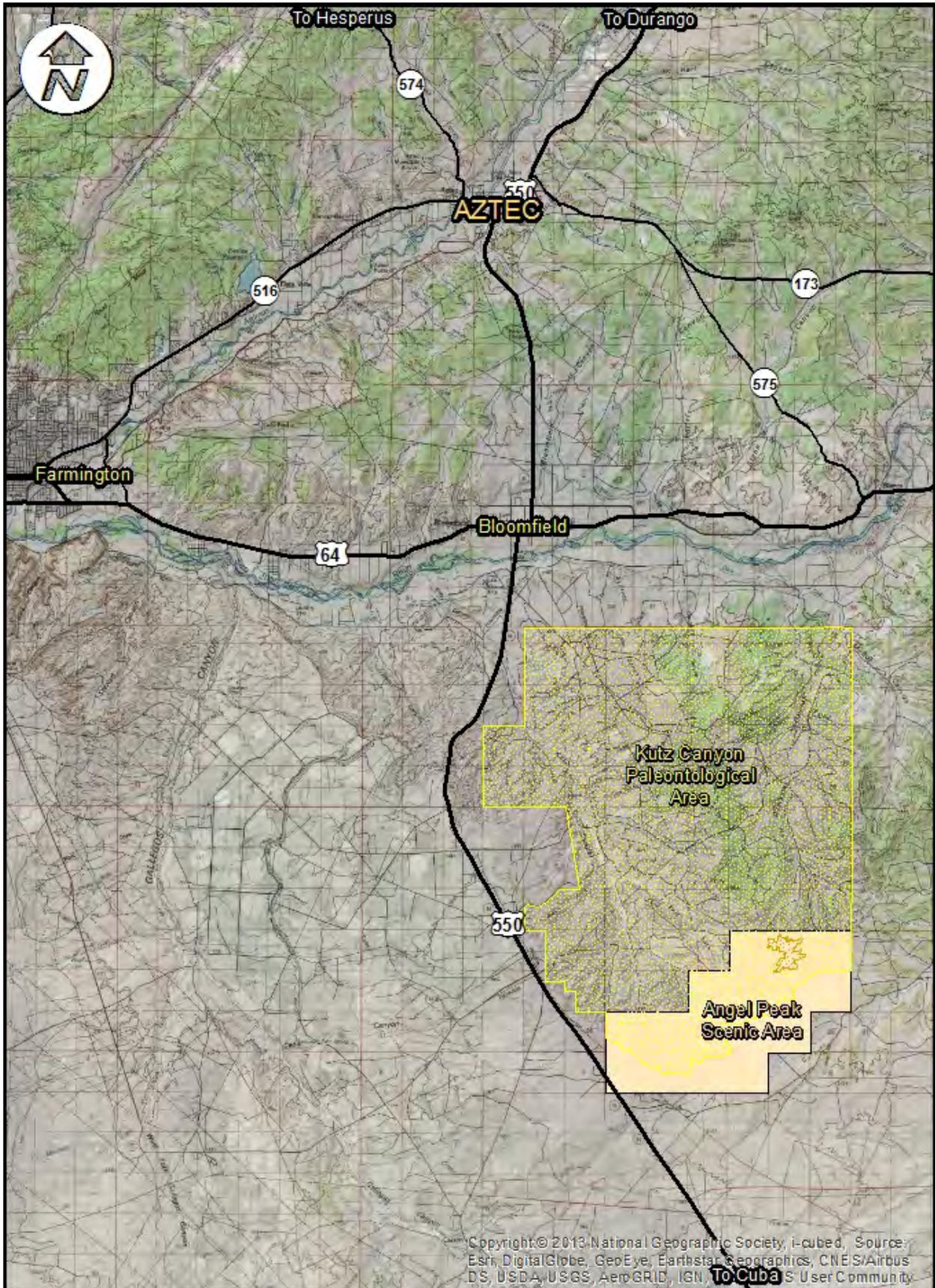
**D** Drive and travel responsibly.

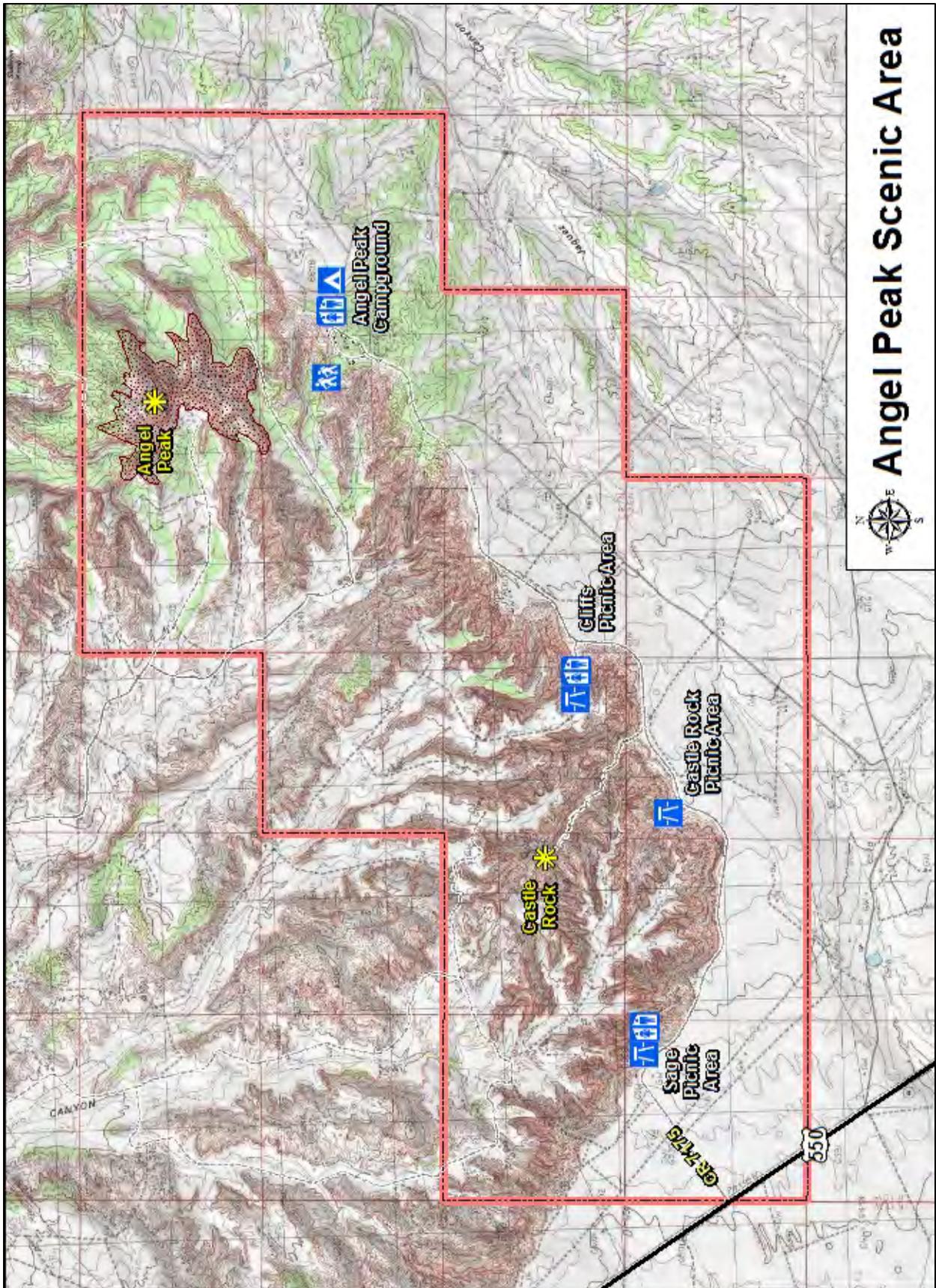
**Comments:** The Angel Peak Scenic Area is ideal for those who wish to do some hiking in some rugged terrain or simply sit and enjoy the view to the north over a simple family picnic or barbeque. The colors of the valley and ridges are most colorful at sunset. Remember the following if you attempt to go hiking:

- Water
- Cell phone
- Map
- First Aid
- Compass and/or GPS unit
- Appropriate clothing
- Walking/hiking shoes
- Sun screen

Also remember, take plenty of photos and leave behind only footsteps. The land is managed by the Bureau of Land Management and it is a federal crime to vandalize facilities. Have respect for the natural surroundings and leave it pristine for others.

**Directions:** Angel Peak Scenic Area is located approximately 23 miles south of Aztec on New Mexico State Highway 550. There is a sign present on the highway which identifies the turn off to Angel Peak Scenic Area. Mileage to the various facilities is based from the turn off from Highway 550.





## FACILITIES

### Sage Picnic Area

1. Pavilion with one picnic table & BBQ pit.
2. Pavilion with two picnic tables & BBQ pit.
3. Vault restroom.



### Castle Rock Overlook

1. Pavilion with two picnic tables & BBQ pit.



### Cliffs Picnic Area

1. Vault restroom.
2. Pavilion with one picnic table & BBQ pit.
3. Pavilion with one picnic table & BBQ pit.
4. Pavilion with two picnic tables & BBQ pit.
5. Pavilion with two picnic tables & BBQ pit.



## Angel Peak Campground

1. Campsite with picnic table & BBQ pit.
2. Campsite with picnic table & BBQ pit.
3. Campsite with picnic table & BBQ pit.
4. Pavilion with two picnic tables & BBQ pit.
5. Campsite with picnic table & BBQ pit.
6. Campsite with picnic table & BBQ pit.
7. Vault restroom.
8. Pavilion with one picnic table & BBQ pit.
9. Vault restroom.
10. Pavilion with one picnic table & BBQ pit.
11. Campsite with picnic table & BBQ pit.

