

Who Was Ladd. S. Gordon?

Ladd Gordon was the Director of the Department of Game and Fish from 1963 through 1975.

He was a graduate of the University of New Mexico. He served the Department as a biologist, conservation officer, area supervisor, Chief of Law Enforcement, and Chief of Special Services.

Gordon was a leading conservationist in his time.

Conservation Through Cooperation

The Department of Game and Fish works cooperatively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to feed and harbor migrating waterfowl.

In conjunction with the service's Bosque del Apace National Wildlife Refuge to the south, these refuges feed one-half of the wintering waterfowl in the Middle Rio Grande Valley.

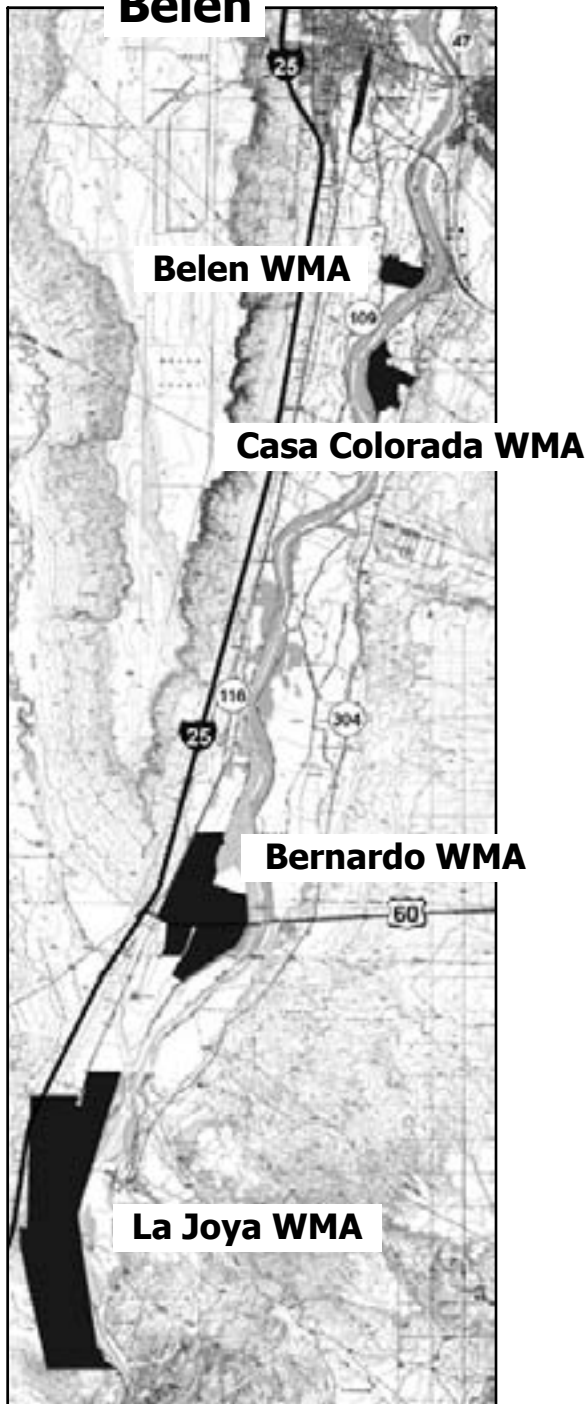
Feeding programs at both areas lessen the impacts on private farms throughout the valley.

The Department's farms and management areas enhance waterfowl populations for present and future generations of Americans.

Management areas are supported through the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses, equipment purchases, and the Habitat Management and Access Validation.



Belen



Ladd S. Gordon Waterfowl Complex



Conserving Today's Waterfowl For Future Generations

Ladd S. Gordon Waterfowl Complex

Migrating birds and other wildlife find food and shelter in the Middle Rio Grande Valley. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has three working farms, a series of bosques, and pond complexes designed to accommodate them.

Four Waterfowl Management Areas

The State Game Commission owns and manages the Casa Colorada, Belen, Bernardo, and La Joya waterfowl areas. Together they form the Ladd S. Gordon Waterfowl Complex, providing critical wintering habitat.

Casa Colorada Waterfowl Area is 6 miles south of Belen on N.M. 304. The farm contains 420 acres. Cultivated crops include corn and alfalfa. To provide a secure habitat for resting waterfowl, Casa Colorada is generally closed to the public.

Belen Waterfowl Area is 4 miles south of the town of Belen on N.M. 109. This 230-acre farm grows corn and alfalfa for migrating waterfowl and provides a winter resting area for cranes.

La Joya Waterfowl Area is 22 miles south of Belen, just east of I-25. It consists of 3,500 acres containing 600 acres of man-made ponds. The ponds are managed to provide winter feed and resting areas. Limited-access waterfowl hunting occurs in the fall and winter. Fishing is allowed along the Rio Grande during spring and summer months.

Bernardo Waterfowl Area is 17 miles south of Belen near Bernardo and straddles U.S. 60. It contains more than 1,700 acres. Approximately 450 acres are cultivated annually. Crops consist of corn, alfalfa, winter wheat and milo. Several fields are flooded in the fall to provide resting areas for waterfowl.

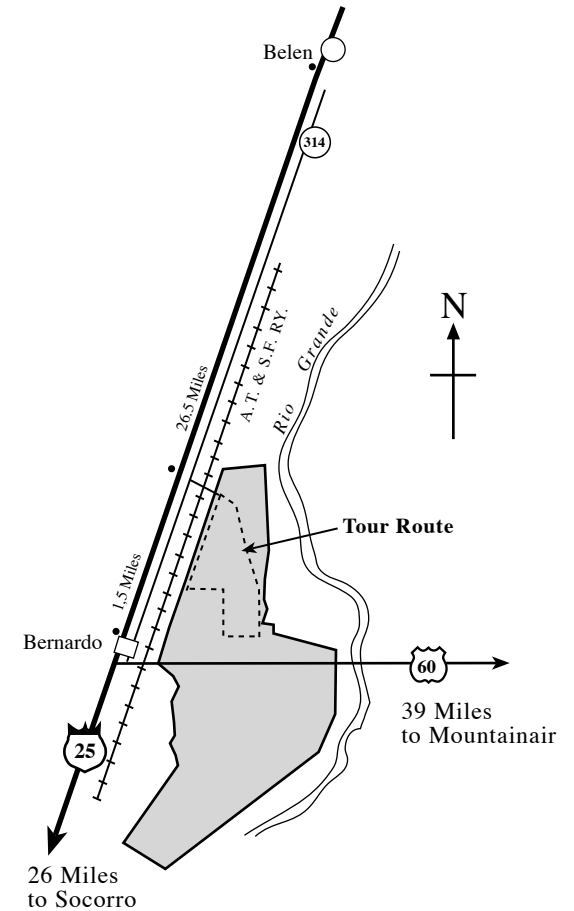
Bernardo is open to the public on most days. It has a 3-mile vehicle tour loop with three elevated viewing and photography platforms. One platform is handicapped accessible.

Mule deer, coyotes, raccoons, pheasants, hawks, owls, quail, and songbirds are among the wildlife common to the area.

During the fall and winter, observers may see more than 25,000 snow geese and 12,000 sandhill cranes that winter in the Middle Rio Grande Valley. Many species of ducks and the occasional bald eagle may be found at Bernardo.

Fishing is allowed in drains and canals off the Rio Grande outside of hunting seasons.

Bernardo Waterfowl Management Area



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