Hunters Paradise...
The 80,000 acre RCCLA Ranch is located in Game Management Unit 55 Region D, part of a trio of jewels that includes Vermejo Park and Valle Vidal. The RCCLA Ranch is a unique hunter’s paradise and is easily accessible. Vast herds of Rocky Mountain Elk and Mule Deer are nestled within our mountains. Black Bear, Mountain Lions and wild Turkey are also plentiful.

With the RCCLA Ranch, there is never a question of whether a computer will select your name to receive an Elk Hunt. Once your booking is confirmed, you can count on an awesome and exciting Elk Hunt to start opening day! We restrict the number of hunts to make sure the park maintains its reputation of a high quality experience. The RCCLA Ranch stands committed and ready to provide every client the hunt of a lifetime.

Few areas in America can boast of finer Big Game Hunting experiences than those found within our very own majestic mountains.

Hunt Contact...
The RCCLA Ranch prides itself on its skilled Outfitters/Guides. We encourage you to contact the Rio Outdoor Adventurers if you are looking for an unforgettable hunting experience. If you have any questions regarding...

- Success Rate and Guide Ratio
- Services, Accommodations and Fees
  - References

Contact Elias Vigil at:
Phone: (505) 927-1415
E-Mail: info@utecreekoutfitters.net
Website: utecreekoutfitters.net
Or call the RCCLA Office

Owned and Operated By:
Rio Costilla Cooperative Livestock Association (RCCLA)
Located in Northern Taos County
Costilla-Amalia, New Mexico
Rio Costilla Park consists of 10,000 acres within the 80,000 acre ranch filled with vast mountain ranges, lush wilderness, calming streams and natural lakes. The park itself is nestled within thousands of acres that mark the boundary of northern New Mexico. Rio Costilla Park offers a great opportunity for camping, hiking, bike riding, fishing and good old-fashioned relaxation.

The time between May and September is ideal for experiencing the park in its full splendor. Temperatures are mild, wildflowers bloom in an array of colors and wildlife is most active. Vast herds of Rocky Mountain Elk and Mule Deer inhabit the park as well as Bear, Cougar and Bighorn Sheep. Visitors may catch a glimpse of Wild Turkeys, Ruffed Grouse and Golden Eagles.

**Rio Costilla Park Pledge...**

- To continually promote the proper and thorough management of deer, elk and other wildlife and their habitats; ensuring their continued healthy future in Rio Costilla Park.
- To keep our waters clean and our mountains in the same condition as our forefathers passed it down to us, we hope to do the same for future generations.
- To encourage, support and implement scientific research directed at furthering these goals so future generations may enjoy the game-rich wilderness that is the Rio Costilla Park.

**A Little History...**

Native Americans lived in the surrounding Rio Costilla Park area, they recognized it as a special place. Ute, Jicarilla Apaches, Navajo, Comanche and Anasazi Pueblo Indians left evidence of arrowheads, pottery, tools and many petroglyphs that can be visited.

The early Europeans included Coronado in 1540, Oñate in 1598, Diego de Vargas in 1692 and Juan Bautista De Anza in 1779 were the first to explore the Rio Costilla.

The New Mexico farming communities of Costilla and Amalia (Pina as it was first named) were founded in 1830. Costilla is the Spanish word meaning "rib", describing the resemblance of the Costilla Creek as it enters into Colorado and then re-enters New Mexico and into the Rio Grande (Rio del Norte as it was first known). Legends tell that Amalia was named after a beautiful girl who once lived among the people in the community. Pina is Spanish for pine.

As years went by, the majority of the property from Forbes Ranch in Northern Costilla County, Colorado to the Red River south of Questa, NM and west to the Rio Grande then east to the summit of the Sangre de Cristo mountains became the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant.

The Grant made to Narciso Beaubien and Luis Stephen Lee in 1847 by the Republic of Mexico. This grant was over a million acres and initiated by Charles Beaubien father of Narciso Beaubien who was only 15 years of age. A previous land grant east of the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant was issued to Charles Beaubien in 1842, known later as the Maxwell Land Grant, also over a million acres, was confirmed by the Congress of the United States in favor of Charles Beaubien on June 21, 1880, by an act entitled, "An Act to confirm certain private land claims in the territory of New Mexico." Today it is known as the Vencesio Park and it is owned by Ted Turner.

Unfortunately the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant did not gain legitimacy in the same act. After the Taos Pueblo conflict in the 1840s Narciso and Luis Stephens were killed and Charles Beaubien petitioned for ownership of the Grant, which he was granted. In 1882 he sold the Grant to the first Governor of Colorado, William Gilpin. He sold the Grant with the understanding that the people would gain ownership of the lands they were using. After changing hands and became smaller and smaller. The people living in Costilla and Amalia were given a loan in 1942 by the FSA for the purpose of purchasing the Land Grant for the nonpayment of taxes.

Charles Beaubien was married to Maria Paula Lovato. daughter of Catarina Lovato who was sister to Marcello and Francisco Lovato, some of the first inhabitants of Costilla, listed in the U.S. Census of 1850, when New Mexico became part of the U.S. Population 3000


Camping and Fishing
Rio Costilla Park is the ideal location whether you are planning a getaway for two people or for a family vacations. The park opens May 1st and runs through Labor Day weekend in September each year. We recommend you confirm dates as days of operation are subject to change.

Park Fees...
Entrance fees to the Rio Costilla apply, whether you choose to take a brief tour or stay the night. Daily fees allow visitors Park access up to a maximum of 24 hours, omits Day Fishing fee.

Overnight Camping
$20.00 per vehicle per day
plus $7.00 per person per day for fishing
Day Entrance & Fishing Fee
$10.00 per person per day
Daily permits entitle visitors to camp, picnic, hike or bicycling at the designated areas throughout the park. Fishing along Costilla Creek is regulated by the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish. Camping along the Costilla Creek is regulated by the RPCA. Prices are subject to change. We reserve the right to refuse entrance to the Rio Costilla Park.

Park Rules...
Rules and Regulations for Rio Costilla park are set forth by park owners. Fire restrictions are observed and apply as per the New Mexico Department of Forestry. We encourage visitors to come prepared. Campsites are available on a first-come first-serve basis. Reservations are a possibility for large groups, please call us to make your reservation.
4x4 vehicles are recommended for lake access.
NO OFF-ROAD VEHICLES,
MOTORIZED BOATS, 4-WHEELERS
OR MOTORCYCLES ALLOWED!
ATV tours are available, please inquire at office.
Rio Costilla Park prides itself on remaining as nature intended. We kindly ask visitors to pack in and pack out all trash. For safety, please ensure that all trash is kept in closed containers during your stay. It is wise to keep all food in sealed containers within your vehicle and/or camper. This reduces the probability of wild animals entering your camp.
Fish Limit for Latir Lakes and Little Blue is two (2) per angler. Please fill out a private park and lake invoice for fish taken out of the park. Invoice found at the visitor center.
Fish limit on Costilla Creek is regulated by the NM Dept. of Game & Fish.
Rio Costilla Cooperative Livestock Association, owners of Rio Costilla Park, is not responsible for injuries, accidents, death or other liabilities that may occur on its property.

Contact Us...
Main Office is located at:
State Road 196 House #72
Costilla, NM 87524

Write to us:
Rio Costilla Park
P.O. Box 111
Costilla, NM 87524

Fax #
(575) 586-1565

E-mail us at:
rccla42@amol.com

Call us at:
(575) 586-0542
1-800-RI0-PARK
(1-800-746-7275)

Visit our website at:
www.riocostillapark.com
Directions to Rio Costilla Park...

Located in northern Taos County, New Mexico, Rio Costilla Park is an experience you do not want to miss. From Colorado, drive south from Fort Garland on Hwy 159 until you enter the town of Costilla, NM. From Taos, NM drive north on Hwy 522, until you enter the town of Costilla, NM. In Costilla turn east onto State Road 196 and continue along it for nearly 15 miles. The pavement will end and you will continue along the gravel road to the Box Canyon, there you find yourself at the entrance of Rio Costilla Park, continue about 4 miles to the Visitor Center and the entrance to Latir Lakes, Little Blue Lake and also a canopy for group gatherings.

We appreciate all our visitors and are always interested in what you have to say. Feel free to contact us or stop in the Park office and share your experience. The office is located approximately 3/4 miles from Hwy 522 onto State Road 196.

Our local communities are rich in culture and tradition. We invite you to visit the Annual Rio Costilla Studio Tour held in September. Just 45 miles from Taos, NM, consider visiting Historic Taos Plaza and Taos Indian Pueblo.

"Funding was provided by the Taos County Lodger's Tax"

Designated Camp sites along Costilla River and throughout Rio Costilla Park.

Portable Restrooms, Picnic Tables, Small Canopies, BBQ Grills and designated Camp Fire areas.

ATV tours are available, please call the Office for dates and prices of tours.

Sorry, no RV hook-up's

Stop by our Visitor Center to pick up a T-shirt, cap or items you may have forgotten for your camping trip. We have 10 of the most beautiful lakes in New Mexico, also a small waterfall. For hikers, one of the best view is hiking from the 3rd Latir lake to the 9th Latir Lake. If you really want a challenge, hike from the 9th Latir Lake to Little Blue Lake.