

Recreation Site Improvements

Fort Craig Accessibility Improvements

Fort Craig played a significant role in 19th-century New Mexico history. The fort is situated on El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (the Royal Road to the Interior Lands) – the 1,200-mile Spanish colonial trail from Mexico City to Santa Fe. This road served as New Mexico’s lifeline with Mexico for 223 years. Fort Craig was central to the Battle of Valverde, the largest U.S. Civil War battle in the Southwest and involved thousands of Union and Confederate troops, many of them New Mexico volunteers under the command of Kit Carson. Troops from Fort Craig included companies of Buffalo Soldiers who were garrisoned here while involved in struggles with Native Americans deemed at the time to be hostile. To make the rich history of Fort Craig accessible to all visitors, including those with mobility issues, the Bureau of Land Management will improve accessibility at the recreation site through development of interpretation materials and displays within the Fort Craig Visitors Center compound. This will include the development and installation of an accessible, tactile outdoor diorama of Fort Craig and the Battle of Valverde battlefield. The new displays will build upon interpretation display improvements that are currently being implemented in cooperation with the Public Lands Interpretive Association (PLIA). The project will also involve the improved accessibility of the trail that traverses through the historic ruins. This will include construction of an accessible ramp leading up to the South Bastion Wall Overlook. This ramp will complement the trail resurfacing efforts that were completed in 2019 through the statewide youth agreement with the Conservation Corp New Mexico which resurfaced 1/2 mile of trail with an all-natural material.



The Fort Craig Visitor Center, located near Socorro, NM.

- Reduce impacts of people on the lands by better managing activities
- Improve access to public lands and facilities

- Work with cooperators and communities to support economic growth
- Improve the health of both natural systems and people

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