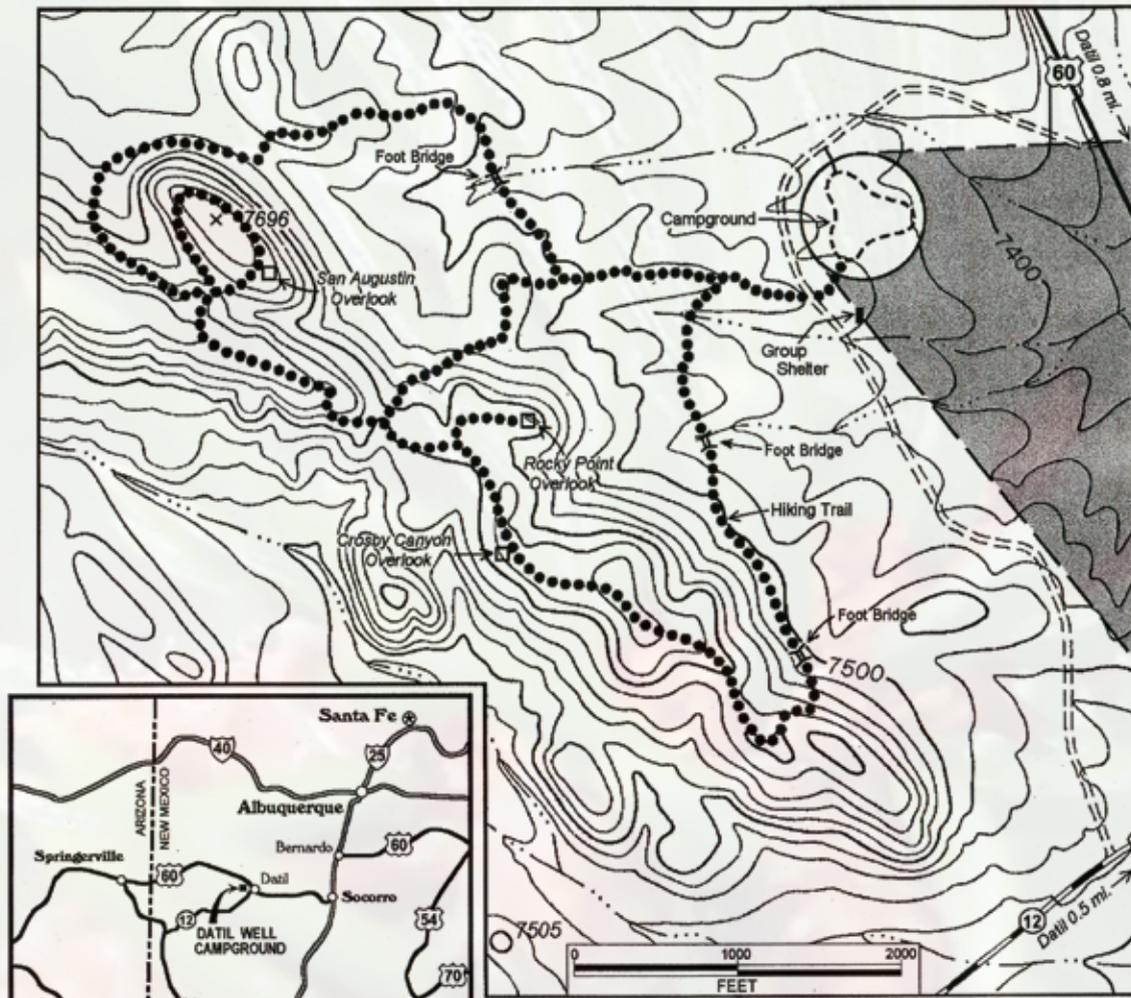
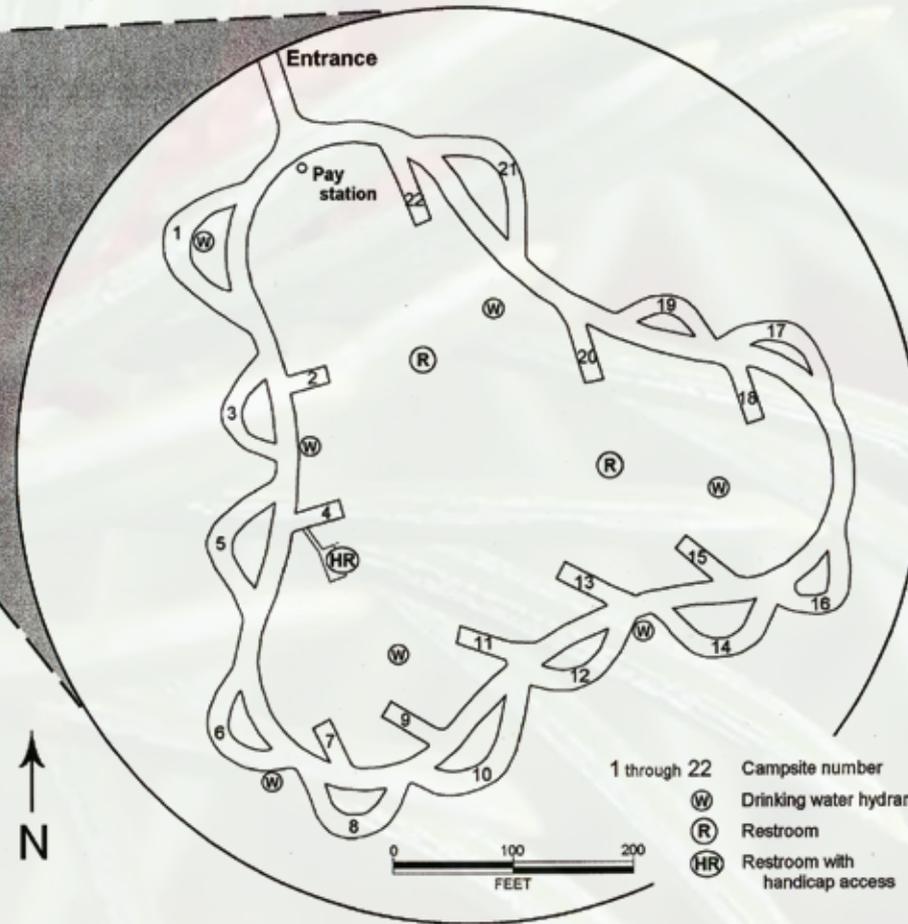


# Datil Well Campground



Location Map

Length of outer (longest) trail loop is 3.0 miles  
 Length of each of the two partial trail loops is 2.0 miles



- 1 through 22 Campsite number
- (W) Drinking water hydrant
- (R) Restroom
- (HR) Restroom with handicap access



Contact us at:  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 Socorro Field Office  
 901 South Highway 85  
 Socorro, New Mexico 87801  
 505/835.0412

or  
 visit our web page at [www.nm.blm.gov](http://www.nm.blm.gov)



Leave No Trace: Plan ahead and prepare - Travel and camp on durable surfaces - Dispose of waste properly - Leave what you find - Minimize campfire impacts - Respect wildlife - Be considerate of other visitors.



# Welcome to Datil Well Campground!

The Datil Well Campground is located about 1 mile west of Datil, New Mexico and is accessible from both Highway 60 and Highway 12. Managed by the Bureau of Land Management, it includes one of 15 former water wells spaced every ten miles along the historic Magdalena Livestock Driveway. The old cattle trail, established in the 1800's, stretched 120 miles from Springerville, Arizona, to Magdalena, New Mexico.

The Magdalena Stock Driveway was born in January of 1885, when the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway completed its branch line from Socorro to Magdalena, and ranchers from the surrounding area began driving their livestock there for shipping. The Driveway was formally set aside in 1918 in response to a petition to the United States Secretary of the Interior following the passage of the Endangered Grazing Homestead Act. The peak trailing year for the driveway was 1919, when 150,000 sheep and 21,677 cattle made the journey.



A scenic and popular picnicking and camping area, this campground has 22 individual campsites as well as a group shelter for large gatherings. The group shelter and several campsites are covered for shade. All sites have picnic tables, grills and fire pits. Drinking water, firewood and restrooms are provided. An overnight camping fee is charged.



The Datil Well Campground area has 3 miles of scenic hiking trails.

There are 3 miles of hiking trails in piñon-juniper and ponderosa pine woodlands, with scenic views of the San Augustin Plains. The trail and vistas also offer an occasional glimpse of wildlife in a setting of quiet and solitude.

## Very Large Array

The Very Large Array (VLA), located 15 miles east of Datil, comprises 27 radio telescopes in a "Y" pattern spread across the plains of San Augustin 50 miles west of Socorro. The VLA has been used by more astronomers and has been mentioned in more scientific papers than any other radio telescope in the world.



Radio telescopes use radio waves instead of light waves to make images of the sky.

## Weather Conditions

Temperatures at the campground vary greatly. During the summer, daytime highs in the 80s are normal, dropping to cool 50s in the evening. Refreshing summer rainstorms occur frequently in the area; however, use caution since lightning often accompanies the rain. For the more adventurous, the camp-

ground is open all winter. Snow accumulations of up to a foot of snow may be possible with temperatures in the 40s during the day to a low of zero at night.

## Safety Rules

- The use of weapons is prohibited within and adjacent to the campground.
- Observe speed limits within the campground and keep vehicles on established roadways.
- Nature trails are for hiking. Motorized vehicles, horses, and mountain bikes are prohibited.
- Keep pets on a leash.



Photograph by Susan Olin

Hiker rests in the cool shade.

## Other Important Information

- Firewood is not provided. Please bring your own. The cutting of live trees is prohibited by law.
- Use grills, fire pits, and trash cans provided at each camp site.
- Please respect the quiet setting of the campground, especially at night. Do not run generators from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- Camping limit is seven days.

Be courteous to other campers and enjoy your stay at Datil Well Campground!

Photographs by Mike Bilbo



Datil Well Campground



Photograph courtesy of Washington University



Collard lizards

Photograph by Mike Bilbo



Crosby Canyon Overlook

Photograph by Jim Bailey



Mule Deer