

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE • SPEAKERS • DINING GUIDE • MAPS



MONTE VISTA
CRANE FESTIVAL

— where the cranes meet the mountains —



2025 PROGRAM



MONTE VISTA CRANE FESTIVAL

— where the cranes meet the mountains —



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**Photography provided for use
by the Monte Vista Crane Festival:**

Arrow Myers, Ray Esparza, Christine Franzen,
Phillip Rubino, Sally Thurston

COVER PHOTO: ARROW MYERS

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

	5am	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm
Crane Viewing			7am - 9am Morning Crane Viewing					
Free Workshop					9am - 10am Optics 101		10:30am - 11:30am The Art of Natural Travel Photography	
Special Tour						10am - 2pm Blanca Wetlands		
						10:30am - 2:30pm Trinchera Ranch Tour & Lunch		
						10:45am - 2pm J.W. Mumma Native Aquatic Species Research Facility		
						10:30am - 12pm Home Lake Guided Birding		
Special Event	5:30am - 6:30pm In Light of Nature Photography Workshop							
Talk						10am - 11am Crane Basics	11:30am - 12:30pm Arts and Advocacy for Conservation	
Expo					9am - 5pm Craft & Nature Fair			

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm
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4pm - 6pm
Evening Crane Viewing



MONTE VISTA CRANE FESTIVAL

- where the cranes meet the mountains -

1pm - 3pm
Celebrating Cranes:
Brush Painting Workshop

4pm - 6pm
Sip 'n Paint at the
Historic Windsor Hotel

6:30pm - 8:30pm
Migration Mini Film Festival

1pm - 2pm
Crane
Basics

2:30pm - 3:30pm
Wildlife Detection
Dogs: Conservation's
Canine Heroes

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

	5am	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm
Crane Viewing			7am - 9am Morning Crane Viewing					
Free Workshop					9am - 10am Optics 101	10:30am - 11:30am The Art of Natural Travel Photography		
Special Tour				8:30am - 11:30am History, Fishies, and Elk? Tour the Baca National Wildlife Refuge		10am - 2pm Elephant Rocks		
Special Event	5:30am - 6:30pm In Light of Nature Photography Workshop					10am - 12pm Gel Printing Workshop		
Talk					9:30am - 10:30am Raptors of the Rocky Mountain West	11am - 12pm Birds and Jaguars of the Pantanal, Brazil		
Expo					9am - 5pm Craft & Nature Fair			

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

4pm - 6pm
Evening Crane Viewing



MONTE VISTA CRANE FESTIVAL

– where the cranes meet the mountains –

1pm - 4pm
MVNWR Spring Creek
Archeological Site Tour

2pm - 4pm
Plein Air Painting Workshop

7pm - 9pm
Keynote:
A World on the Wing

1pm - 2pm
Crane
Basics

1pm - 2pm
White-Faced Ibis
and Wetland
Conservation

3pm - 4pm
Understanding
and Protecting
the Migratory
Monarch in
Colorado

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm
Crane Viewing		7am - 9am Morning Crane Viewing						
Free Workshop					10:30am - 12:30pm Editing Photographs			
Special Tour				9am - 11am Behind the Scenes Tour of Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge		10:30am - 12:30pm RiGHT Tour of Bee's Preserve		
Special Event	6:30am - 6:30pm In Light of Nature Photography Workshop					11am - 1pm Celebrating Cranes: Brush Painting Workshop		
Talk				10am - 11am All About Owls				
Expo				9am - 2pm Craft & Nature Fair				



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2025 CRANE FEST SPECIAL TALKS

EVERY YEAR, the Monte Vista Crane Festival brings together bird enthusiasts, nature lovers, and conservationists to celebrate the awe-inspiring Sandhill Crane migration. This year's festival promises to soar to new heights with a lineup of engaging talks and renowned speakers who will inspire and educate attendees.



PHOTO: ARROW MYERS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Saturday, March 8, 2025, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

SCOTT WEIDENSAUL

Ornithologist and author Scott Weidensaul celebrates the natural world—particularly birds and bird migration—in his research, his writing and his public speaking.

Weidensaul spearheads a number of major research projects focusing on bird migration. He has written more than 30



books on natural history, including *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*, a Pulitzer Prize finalist; *The Ghost with Trembling Wings*, about the search for species that may or may not be extinct; *Mountains of the Heart: A Natural History of the Appalachians*; *Of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding*; *The First Frontier: The Forgotten History of Struggle, Savagery and Endurance in Early America*; and the Peterson Reference Guide to Owls.



CRANE BASICS

Friday, March 7, 2025, 10:00 am - 11:00 am, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Saturday, March 8, 2025, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm



ERV NICHOLS AND SANDRA NOLL

Erv Nichols and Sandra Noll travel extensively as lecturers and guides sharing their skills as naturalists, photographers and interpretive guides in a wide variety of Fish and Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, Forest Service Heritage Sites, Audubon Centers and other NGO's. Whether from a viewing deck, lecture hall or leading bird walks, their passion connects people with our nation's special landscapes and wildlife. They have a special interest in Sandhill Cranes and have been featured speakers and guides at Crane Festivals in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Nebraska.



JENNY NEHRING

Jenny Nehring has 26 years of experience in the San Luis Valley (SLV) and co-founded Wetland Dynamics, LLC in 2012 with fellow biologist Cary Aloia. Their environmental consulting work spans Colorado, collaborating with agencies, land trusts, and nonprofits on biological projects. Specializing in avian research, Jenny has provided technical expertise to the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, NRCS, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Since 1998, she has worked on conservation efforts for the small Gunnison Sage-grouse population at Poncha Pass. As an active member of the Friends of the SLV National Wildlife Refuges, Jenny has presented at national conferences and attended training sessions with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She also partnered with the National Wildlife Refuge Association to advocate for full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund in Washington, D.C.

Jenny holds a B.A. in Environmental, Population, and Organismic Biology from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and an M.S. from Middle Tennessee State University.

ARTS AND ADVOCACY FOR CONSERVATION

Friday, March 7, 2025, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

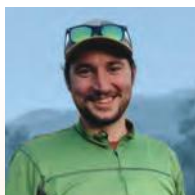
JOCELYN CATTERSON

Jocelyn Catterson, Community Engagement Director at RIGHT, is passionate about connecting art, science, and community to address environmental challenges. A Colorado native, she brings a decade of experience with conservation nonprofits and was the 2023 Colorado Art, Science + Environment Fellow. Jocelyn uses her artistic talents to educate and engage on critical water and environmental issues in the San Luis Valley.



BEN KATZ

Ben Katz, Southwest Associate Program Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation, has a deep appreciation for public lands gained through years as a Wilderness Ranger and conservation advocate. With a background in environmental science and a love for exploring BLM lands, Ben supports community-driven conservation efforts across the western U.S.



WILDLIFE DETECTION DOGS: CONSERVATION'S CANINE HEROES

Friday, March 7, 2025, 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

JAKE LAMMI & SUZIE MARLOW

We are Jake Lammi & Suzie Marlow, and together we have more than 15 years of detection dog experience. We live in Southern Colorado with our four detection dogs: Zilly, Ranger, Skye & Nelson. Our teams are true veterans of conservation detection dog work. We have spent many years and many miles searching the deserts, mountains and jungles across the world in the name of conservation. All of our dogs were rescued from various shelters across the U.S. and had one thing in common - an undying desire to play ball. Once deemed tuff-to-adopt, these diamonds in the ruff have truly been able to shine for conservation.



We started our careers at the University of Washington's Conservation Canines program, where we were some of the first dog teams consistently searching for bird and bat mortalities at major wind facilities. Later, we co-founded Rogue Detection Teams, where we continued to conduct field work across the U.S. This included an intensive backpacking project sniffing for Sierra Nevada red fox throughout Yosemite National Park.



BIRDS AND JAGUARS OF THE PANTANAL, BRAZIL

Saturday, March 8, 2025, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

JOHN J. RAWINSKI

John J. Rawinski is a retired U.S. Forest Service scientist and lifelong birder with a passion for the Rocky Mountains. He has worked in Wyoming and Colorado, serving on the Colorado Field Ornithologists Board of Directors and the Colorado Bird Records Committee. His contributions to Colorado Birds Journal and his birding blog highlight key avian issues in the San Luis Valley.

In 2009, John published Birding Hotspots of South-Central Colorado, a guide detailing the region's best birding locations, complete with maps and occurrence charts. A dedicated wildlife photographer, he specializes in owls, documenting the first Boreal Owl records in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado and in New Mexico. His research has been presented at international symposiums.

John has been an integral part of the



Monte Vista Crane Festival for many seasons, leading birding trips and sharing his knowledge through environmental education programs. He presents to schools, civic groups, and organizations, advocating for bird conservation in an ever-changing world.

WHITE-FACED IBIS AND WETLAND CONSERVATION

Saturday, March 8, 2025, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

DAN COLLINS

Dan Collins is a seasoned migratory bird biologist with over a decade of experience in research and conservation across the Central and Pacific Flyways. From studying badgers in Texas to managing sandhill cranes in the Rocky Mountain region, Dan has contributed to the monitoring and conservation of diverse species, including teal, ibis, and band-tailed pigeons. He has trapped and marked over 1,000 cranes and plays a vital role in western greater sandhill crane management.

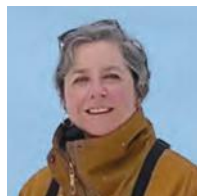


UNDERSTANDING AND PROTECTING THE MIGRATORY MONARCH IN COLORADO

Saturday, March 8, 2025, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

LIZ GOEHRING

Liz Goehring is an ecologist, educator, and program developer passionate about monarch conservation. Her research focuses on monarch ecology, and she has co-authored educational curricula like Monarchs in the Classroom. Based in Denver, Liz trains community science volunteers and serves on the boards of the Monarch Butterfly Fund and Monarch Joint Venture, working to protect monarchs, pollinators, and their habitats.



RAPTORS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST

Saturday, March 8, 2025, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

ALL ABOUT OWLS

Sunday, March 9, 2025, 10:00 am - 11:00 am



GAIL GARBER

Gail Garber's path to raptor conservation has been anything but traditional. She began volunteering with a nonprofit in 1988, quickly developing a passion for raptor conservation. Soon after, she joined the staff, contributing to training manuals, grant writing, and newsletters. However, her true passions lie in education and field research.

Since 1994, Gail has served as the executive director of Hawks Aloft, leading efforts in conservation education, avian

research, raptor rescue, and collaborative partnerships. She also guides international birding and nature tours to destinations such as Ecuador, Brazil's Pantanal, Costa Rica, and Cuba.

A respected author, Gail has written and co-authored several peer-reviewed papers and articles on birds and nature for both scientific and general audiences. Beyond her conservation work, she is an internationally recognized quilt maker, author, judge, and instructor.



OPTICS 101

Friday & Saturday, March 7-8, 2025, 9:00 am - 10:00 am

CHIP CLOUSE

Chip Clouse is a Naturalist Guide for Reefs to Rockies LLC and ProStaff, US-based Customer Service, and Sales rep for Opticron optics. He is the former General Manager of Front Range Birding & Optics. Originally enamored with tooth and claw predators, his fascination with birds started by volunteering with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission to monitor Peregrine Falcon nest sites while an undergraduate and was cemented once he saw his first Western Tanager while working for the Peregrine Fund in Oregon. With 20+ years of bird

research and project management experience in 9 states and the Caribbean nation of Grenada, a Masters in Conservation Biology from Colorado State, 5 years with the American Birding Association, 7 years as a rep with Opticron optics and Novagrade Digiscoping adapters and stints guiding at 15+ different US birding festivals, Chip is excited to share his love of birds and optics with anyone who will listen.



THE ART OF NATURAL TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

Friday & Saturday, March 7-8, 2025, 10:30am - 11:30am

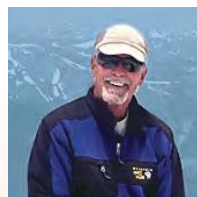
EDITING PHOTOGRAPHS

Sunday, March 9, 2025, 11:30am - 12:30pm

MIKE ENDRES

Mike runs Little Wing Photo and has been doing photography for over 50 years with a focus on the great outdoors of the world. His work has been published in numerous scientific journals and books around the world and he recently published a guide to the National Monuments

of the West. His 37-year career in the Army has provided him with opportunities & experiences few can equal, all with camera in hand. He remains active in rock and ice climbing, backcountry skiing, and seeking out the more isolated parts of our great country and the world.



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PHOTOS BY ARROW MYERS

CRANE VIEWING GUIDE

PHOTO CHRISTINE FRANZEN



Migratory Stopover for Sandhill Cranes

About 23,000 - 27,000 Sandhill Cranes migrate through the San Luis Valley (SLV) in the spring and fall. The length of their stay in the SLV depends on habitat conditions along the migratory route.

The Rocky Mountain population of Greater Sandhill Cranes spend more time in the SLV than at their wintering and breeding grounds. In spring, cranes typically arrive mid-February and leave by early April. Peak migration usually occurs in early March. In fall, cranes typically arrive in mid September and leave by mid November. Peak migration occurs in early October.



PHOTO PHILLIP RUBINO

Best Crane Viewing Sites

Food availability is a large factor in the distribution of cranes in the SLV. During migration cranes primarily feed on small grains such as barley and wheat, but they will also supplement their diet with roots, seeds, invertebrates, and small vertebrates found in wetlands. After early fall when the barley has been harvested on privately-owned fields, cranes and waterfowl spread throughout the Valley taking advantage of this food source. After months of foraging on private fields little food is left for the subsequent spring. Grain fields on the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge are mowed in the spring to provide food for birds when it is more limited on private lands.

The Alamosa Refuge receives less crane use than the Monte Vista Refuge because of the lack of farming nearby. Still, the Bluff Overlook offers beautiful views of wetlands and the surrounding mountains. In the spring, look for bald eagles and many ducks. In March, Alamosa Refuge's wetlands along the main wildlife drive are dry because of the timing of the irrigation season. But look for porcupines, raptors and coyotes.

Best Time to View

Cranes are fairly habitual and predictable.

Visitors aware of their daily patterns can find good places to observe these birds throughout the day.



PHOTO: ARROW MYERS

Feeding

Cranes feed in agricultural fields from sunrise to mid-morning and again in the late afternoon to sunset. In spring, most cranes forage on the Monte Vista NWR. The refuge farm fields can be viewed from:

🦢 **Wildlife viewing pull-outs south of the Monte Vista NWR Office and county road 8S**

🦢 **County roads 2E and 7S**

Loafing

During mid-day (10 am to 4 pm) cranes can be found in wet meadows and other uplands on and near the Monte Vista NWR, where they loaf and occasionally feed on roots, tubers, invertebrates, and other food. Cranes will loaf in a variety of habitat types and do not always use areas with water.

Good places to watch loafing Cranes on the Refuge are:

🦢 **At the pull-offs on the west side of Hwy. 15**

🦢 **On county roads 2E, 7S, and 3E**



Roosting

In the evenings and through the night, cranes use shallow open water to roost. Most roost sites are closed to the public. However, you can still see cranes fly in and out of roosts at sunrise and sunset. Good places to view these flights on the Monte Vista NWR are:

✈ **The Refuge auto-tour route. The tour route is open from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. Enjoy watching the cranes quietly so you don't disturb them.**

✈ **The wildlife viewing areas on 8S and on Hwy. 15**

✈ **The area near the intersection of county roads 7S and 2E**

Subspecies

Two subspecies of Sandhill Cranes visit the SLV: Greater, and Lesser. The subspecies look very similar and are difficult to differentiate. The Greater is larger than the Lesser.

The Rocky Mountain population of Greater Sandhill Cranes is estimated to be 18,000 to 23,000 birds. Ninety-five percent of these use the SLV in the spring and fall to refuel before moving on to the breeding or wintering grounds.

The majority of the Rocky Mountain population breeds in the greater Yellowstone area encompassing Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and northern Colorado. Most winter in the Rio Grande Valley at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge near Socorro, New Mexico or farther south.

Although Lesser Sandhill Cranes frequent the Valley, only about 3,000 - 5,000 of each subspecies normally migrate through.



Natural History

Cranes live from 20-30 years and breed at about 2-5 years old. Sandhill Cranes bond for life. Pair bonds are formed and reinforced with a “dancing” behavior (hopping and flapping the wings) that can be seen in the spring.

Sandhill Cranes build large ground nests primarily in wet meadow habitat and both sexes incubate eggs. As with most cranes, Sandhill Cranes lay two eggs but usually only one chick will leave the nest.

In the fall, crane family groups—two adults and one juvenile—leave the breeding grounds. The juvenile stays with the parents through the summer, fall, and winter and will accompany the parents on the northward migration. In route, breeding adults begin renewing pair bonds and the juvenile leaves (or is forced out of) the family group.

For more information contact:

San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex
7824 El Rancho Lane, Alamosa, CO 81101 • (719) 589-4021

FESTIVAL FAQ

Q: What are the best times of day to view the cranes?

A: The optimal times to observe the cranes are early morning around sunrise and late afternoon near sunset. During these periods, cranes are most active as they move between roosting and feeding areas.

Q: Where are the best places to view the cranes during the festival?

A: Prime viewing spots include the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, particularly along Highway 15 and County Roads 2E and 7S. These areas offer excellent opportunities to see cranes feeding and socializing.

Q: Are there any tips for photographing the cranes?

A: For the best photographs, use a telephoto lens to capture close-up shots without disturbing the birds. Early morning and late afternoon provide ideal lighting conditions. Remember to maintain a respectful distance to avoid disrupting the cranes' natural behaviors.

Q: Is the festival accessible for individuals with mobility challenges?

A: Yes, the festival strives to be inclusive. The Craft and Nature Fair at the Ski Hi Complex is wheelchair accessible. For crane viewing, certain areas of the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge have accessible facilities. Please check with festival organizers for specific accommodations.





Q: What kind of weather should I prepare for during the festival?


A: In early March, the San Luis Valley can experience variable weather, including cold temperatures, wind, and occasional snow. It's advisable to dress in layers, wear waterproof footwear, and bring accessories like hats and gloves to stay warm during outdoor activities.

Q: When is the Craft and Nature Fair open during the festival?

A: The Craft and Nature Fair takes place at the Outcalt Event and Conference Center at Ski Hi Complex and is open to festival attendees on the following days:

 **Friday, March 7: 9 AM - 5 PM**

 **Saturday, March 8: 9 AM - 5 PM**

 **Sunday, March 9: 9 AM - 2 PM**

Vendor setup is available on Thursday, March 6, from 3 PM - 6 PM or Friday, March 7, from 7 AM - 9 AM. Vendors can begin breakdown at 2 PM on Sunday, March 9.


Q: Are there dining options available nearby?


A: Yes! In fact, area businesses depend on revenue from Crane Fest visitors, and we highly recommend trying one of the many wonderful, locally owned restaurants in Monte Vista. If you're looking to escape the crowds, consider heading west to Del Norte (15 minutes away) or east to Alamosa (also 15 minutes away), where you'll find even more great dining options.


Q: Are there any safety guidelines I should follow during the festival?

A: For your safety and the well-being of the wildlife:

 **Maintain a respectful distance from the cranes and other animals.**

 **Use binoculars or spotting scopes for better viewing.**

 **Stay on designated paths and follow posted guidelines.**

 **Be cautious when parking and walking along roads near viewing areas.**

By adhering to these guidelines, you help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all attendees and protect the natural habitat of the cranes.

PHOTO SALLY THURSTON

Festival FAQ



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MONTE VISTA CRANE FESTIVAL

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CRANE FESTIVAL BITES

Where to Eat

When you dine at these local restaurants, you're not just enjoying delicious food—you're also supporting the businesses that help make the Monte Vista Crane Festival possible. These eateries have shown their commitment to our community and conservation efforts by supporting the festival, and we encourage you to return the favor!

Whether you're craving a hearty breakfast, a quick bite, or a full sit-down meal, these local spots have something for everyone. Thank you for supporting the businesses that support the cranes!

Hunan Chinese Restaurant

A popular establishment offering a variety of authentic Chinese dishes, including Hunan, Szechuan, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Thai cuisines. They also feature a full sushi menu.

419 Main Street
Alamosa, CO 81101
(719) 589-9002
ehunans.com

Windsor Hotel & Restaurant

A historic hotel featuring a fine dining restaurant that serves gourmet meals with a focus on local ingredients.

605 Grand Avenue
Del Norte, CO 81132
(719) 657-9031
windsorhoteldelnorte.com

Baldo's Mexican Restaurant

A family-owned establishment serving authentic Mexican cuisine, known for its friendly atmosphere and generous portions.

1100 Park Avenue
Monte Vista, CO 81144
(719) 852-0222

Sunflour Cafe

A cozy cafe offering breakfast and lunch options, including freshly baked goods and sandwiches.

278 US Hwy 285
Monte Vista, CO 81144
(719) 852-6945

Worth the Drive Bakery

A local bakery known for its delicious pastries, breads, and custom cakes.

5475 E County Rd 8 S
Monte Vista, CO 81144
(719) 852-0967

The Polished Bean

A charming coffee shop serving a variety of specialty coffees, teas, and light snacks in a relaxed environment. Located inside the Polished Edge home improvement store.

1935 Grand Avenue
Monte Vista, CO 81144
(719) 628-2720
thepolishedbeanmv.com

Colorado Grille & Taphouse The 4th Street Grille

A community cornerstone restaurant offering a diverse menu featuring steaks, seafood, and local specialties in a casual setting.

590 Grand Avenue
Del Norte CO 81132
408 Fourth Street
Alamosa, CO 81101
(719) 657-1142 • (719) 937-2204
coloradogrille.com
alamosaeats4thstreet.com

Azteca de Oro

A Mexican restaurant in Center known for its authentic dishes, vibrant decor, friendly service, and excellent Friday evening buffet.

980 S Broadway Street
Center, CO 81125
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WHERE TO EAT

Ruby Rose Bakery

A home-operated micro bakery and cafe offering fresh, made-to-order organic baked goods, along with breakfast and lunch dishes made from local ingredients.

11704 CO-17
Hooper, CO 81136
(719) 850-3326
therubyrosebk.com

Sabor de Vida

A restaurant specializing in Latin American cuisine, offering a variety of flavorful dishes in a warm atmosphere.

159 Euclid Street
Monte Vista, CO 81144
(719) 852-4956
sabormontevista.com

Simple Foods

A natural foods store and cafe offering organic groceries, supplements, and a selection of healthy meals and snacks.

680 Grand Avenue
Del Norte, CO 81132
(719) 657-7303
simplefoodsmarket.com

Suavecito's Food Trucks

Mobile food trucks serving a variety of Mexican and American dishes, known for their flavorful tacos and burritos.

Various locations throughout
the San Luis Valley -
keep an eye out!

Sonic Drive-In

A fast-food chain offering a wide range of burgers, hot dogs, and signature drinks, all delivered to your car.

1820 Grand Avenue
Monte Vista, CO 81144
(719) 852-2620

Dairy Queen Grill & Chill

A classic fast-food chain known for its burgers, fries, and a variety of ice cream treats, including the famous Blizzard.

705 1st Avenue
Monte Vista, CO 81144
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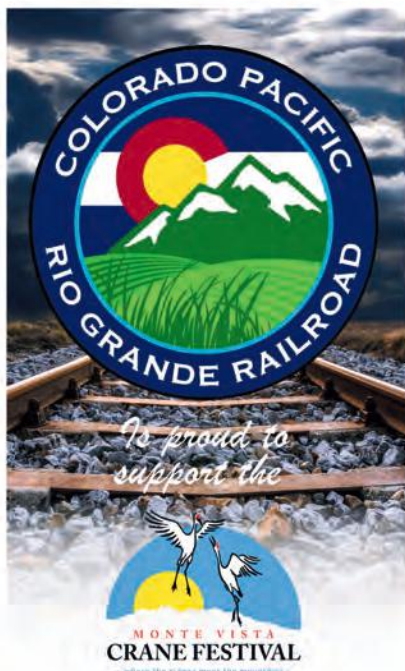
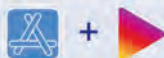
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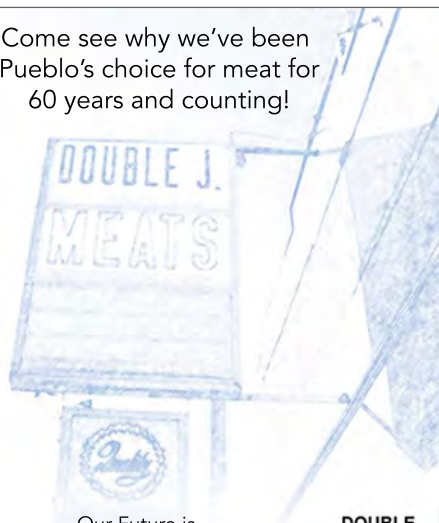
The **Monte Vista Crane Festival App** is your essential companion for exploring one of nature's most breathtaking migrations. Download it today from the The Apple App Store or Google Play Store!



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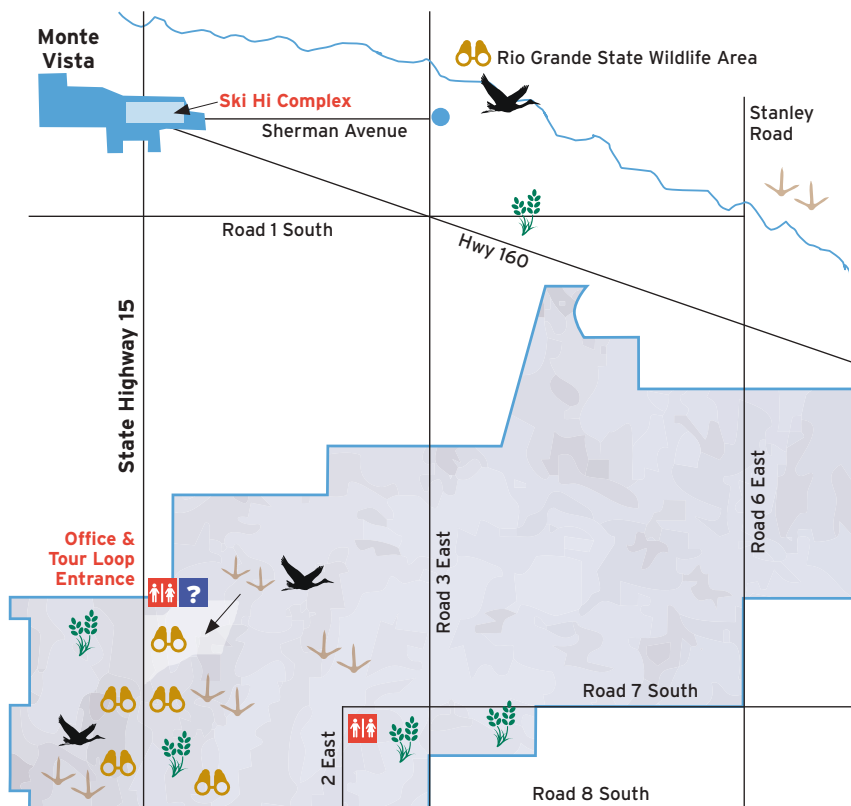
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Monte Vista Crane Festival Event Location Map



KEY



Feeding Areas : Refuge farm fields. Sunrise to 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to sunset.



Loafing Areas: Wet meadows and a variety of other habitats. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Roost Sites: Places to view cranes entering (sunrise) and leaving the roosts (sunset).



Wildlife Viewing Areas



Rest Rooms



Information

EVENT LOCATIONS

Ski Hi Complex

2389 Sherman Avenue

Tour Loading, Craft & Nature Fair, Food, Information, Keynote and Talks

Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce

947 1st Avenue

Local Information

Vali 3 Theatre

139 Adams Street

Talks, Movie and Keynote Speaker

Monte Vista National Wildlife

Refuge Office & Tour Loop Entrance

6120 S. Hwy 15

Crane Viewing

DISTANCES

Ski Hi Complex to Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce - 1.3 miles

Ski Hi Complex to Vali 3 Theater
1.5 miles

Ski Hi Complex to Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge - 8.1 miles

Monte Vista to Alamosa - 17.4 miles

Monte Vista to Del Norte - 13.8 miles

Monte Vista to South Fork
32.4 miles

Denver to Monte Vista via 285
217 miles

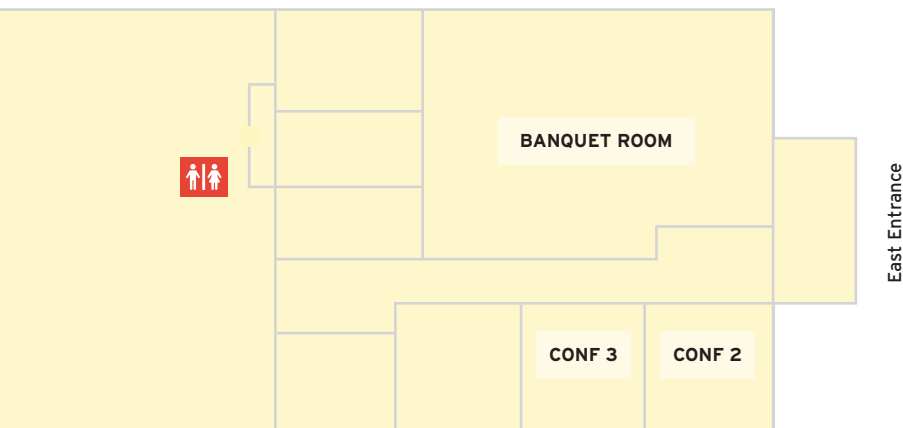




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	Weminuche Audubon Society

A large flock of cranes is captured in flight against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. In the foreground, a dense group of cranes stands on a dry, brownish field. The background features a range of rugged, snow-capped mountains under a clear sky. The overall scene conveys a sense of natural beauty and large-scale movement.

FABLE COMMUNICATIONS

Crafting Stories, Elevating Events

For four years, Fable Communications has helped bring the Monte Vista Crane Festival to life. From marketing and sponsorships to full event support, we create experiences that connect people, place, and purpose. Let's tell your story together.

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