## Timeline

Humans have inhabited the area now known as Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge for thousands of years. Ancient ruins and pottery shards provide evidence of their presence.

10,000 yrs. ago Mexico.

> The Navajo and Apache tribes also had a presence in the Rio Grande Valley for decades trading with and raiding the Pueblos and in later years, the Spanish.

> > 1400-1500's.

The Piro Indians resided in pueblos or small communities in this area and lived off of the land. They cultivated crops, such as corn, beans, and squash.

1300

Spanish explorer, Don Juan de Onate traversed this rugged landscape, trail-blazing El Camino Real. This brought new religion, food, and lifestyles to the Piro Indians.

1598

The Pueblo Revolt was the culmination of eighty years of cruelty and mistreatment by the Spanish. It caused great upheaval including the abandonment of the four major Piro Pueblos. These encompassed the Sevilleta Mission, Alamillo Mission, Socorro Mission, and the Senecu Mission. The Pueblo people drove the Spanish out of New Mexico and into

1680

In the eighteenth century the Spanish Land Grant System was put into effect in New Mexico and four square leagues were granted to ten married men who promised to establish a town.

1700's

Occupants of the

Under the resettlement agreement with the Pueblo Indians, the Spanish returned and reoccupied New Mexico. As part of the resettlement. they began to distribute several types of land grants.

1693

land now known as Sevilleta NWR were given a land grant and their Fort Craig was established area became

**June 1819** 

known as the

Sevilleta de la

Joya Land Grant.

in 1854 to defend local citizens against Native American raids. Later its purpose was converted to repel the small amount of Confederate raids that occurred. One such was in 1862, when Confederates retreated right through the Sevilleta de la Joya Land Grant.

1854-1865

The first National Wildlife Refuge was established by President Theodore Roosevelt. He established fifty-one refuges and became known as the father of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

1903

Mexico declared independence from Spain. The Spanish land grants that had been established were allowed to continue on through Mexican rule.

1821

The Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad comes through the Sevilleta de la Joya Land Grant, thus bringing more industry to the

1881

communities.

1891-1904

The U.S. Court of Private Land Claims was created by Congress to decide which land grants could be proven. Less than ten percent of the land grants were confirmed, and most of the land grants in New Mexico were dissolved.

The Sevilleta de la Joya Land Grant was acquired by General Thomas D. Campbell with assistance from the Raskob Family. The Campbell Family ranched these lands for the next several decades and also leased land to other ranchers.

1936

New Mexico gained statehood into the United States of America. Due to New Mexico being under American government policies, many land grants were taken away from their residents because they were unable to pay taxes on the land.

1912

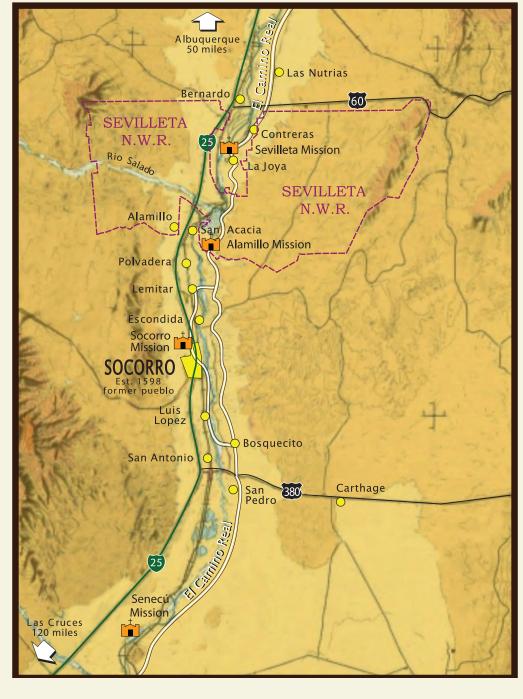
The United States Fish and Wildlife Service was established as an agency under the Department of the Interior. The Wildlife Refuge System was then managed by this department.

1939

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The Campbell Family Foundation donated the Sevilleta land to the Service through The Nature Conservancy with the assistance of Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust. The land was established as a refuge. The purpose of Sevilleta NWR is "...to preserve and enhance the integrity and natural character of the ecosystem of the property by creating a wildlife refuge manages as nearly as possible in its natural state, employing only those management tools and techniques that are consistent with the maintenance of natural ecological processes...not to be subjected to commercial exploitation...and the land and the plants and animals supported by it to be managed to permit the natural ecological succession and processes typical of the area to prevail...and that portions of the property be made available to educational institutions and conservation organizations for scientific research and study."

**December 28th, 1973** 



## Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge

 $Reflections\ of$   $our\ Past$ 



## For more information, visit these nearby sites

From Sevilleta NWR:

Fort Craig 10.8 miles

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail Site 60 miles

Old Mission in Socorro, NM 21 miles

Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monuments 36 miles



