

## **A Place for Everyone and Everyone In Their Place**

I got my digital shovel  
out of the virtual shed  
and I started digging.  
Digging into the puzzle that is San Miguel County.

Ready? Here we go ...

9 Airports  
25 Basins  
2 Bridges  
23 Canals

3 Cemeteries  
6 Cliffs  
14 Dams  
3 Falls

14 Flats  
5 Gaps  
19 Lakes  
26 Locales

1 Military something  
607 Mines

7 Parks  
2 Pillars  
23 Populated Places  
4 Post Offices

1 Range  
1 Reserve  
49 Reservoirs

3 Ridges  
33 Springs  
73 Streams  
70 Summits  
88 Valleys

There you have it.  
All the USGS-certified Places  
—with a capital P—  
of San Miguel County, unearthed.  
The manmade and the natural,  
the maintained and the free range.  
All Tetris'd into this wide-from-side-to-side enigma of sand and snow.

Not sure why not listed are the number of mesas ...  
where the snow drifts into windspits and the sky is as big as life itself.  
Or canyons, which we blind-drive in blizzards  
    or shimmy into for shade and rock art.  
No matter, less advertising less sharing, right?

If you ski, climb, or kayak here, you are a Placeholder.  
When you hunt or gather or fill your canteen at a high desert seep,  
    you tend the garden,  
and when you pick up your mail, or mourn at a gravestone,  
    you relish connection and feel the loss.

What's *your* Place  
—with the capital P—  
between Bridal Veil Falls and the Utah border?  
The Place that you vote for,  
the Place you call home.

*By Daiva Chesonis • San Miguel Poet Laureate 2019-2021*