

Gila River, Lower Box

Grant County, NM

Section 16, T19S, R19W

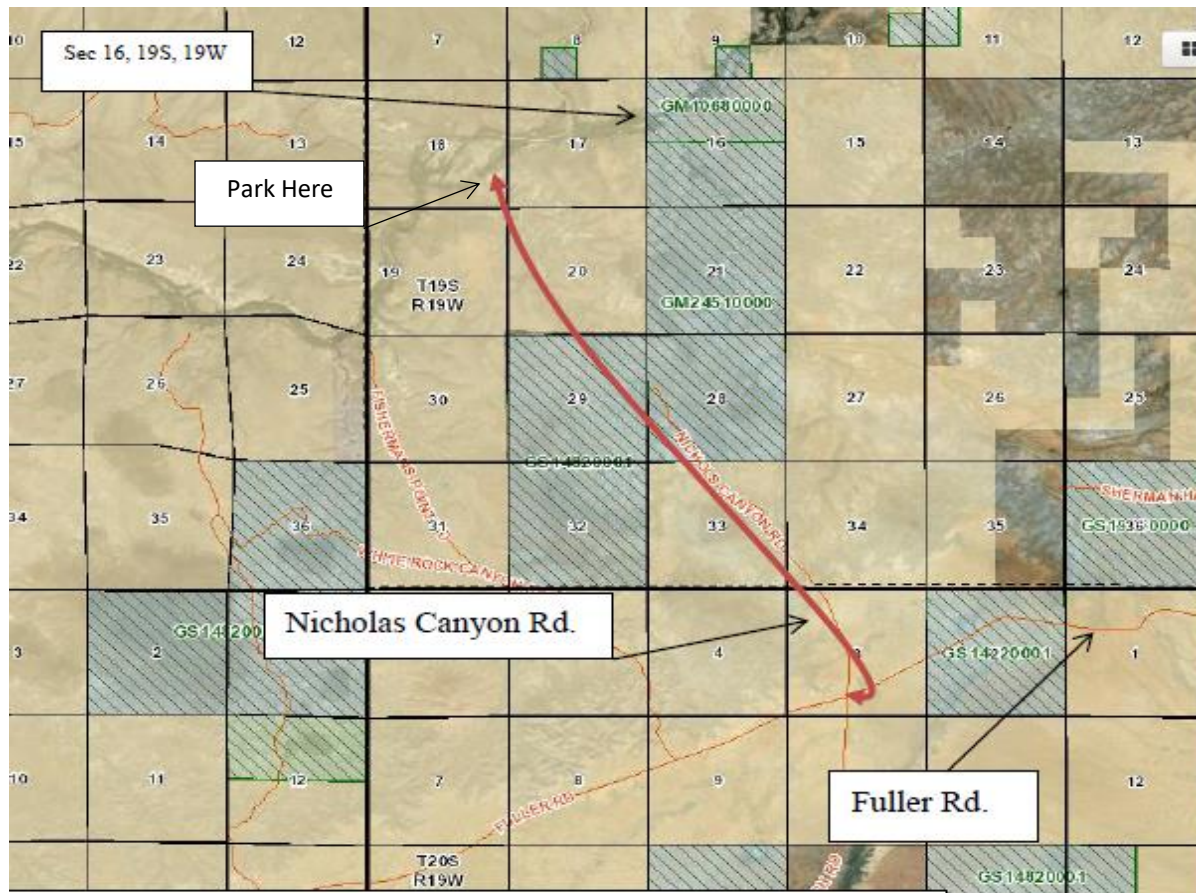
The Gila River's Lower Box provides the perfect opportunity to disconnect from the hustle & bustle of daily life and enjoy spectacular scenery and abundant recreational opportunities.

A robust riparian area surrounded by high desert terrain, the Gila Box is home to more than 200 species of birds and boasts one of the highest bird diversities in the Land of Enchantment. These factors combine to make it an ideal stop for birders and shutterbugs hoping to catch a glimpse of some of the region's scenery and wildlife.

If it's adventure you're after, the Gila Box offers plenty of physical activities. Year-round hiking opportunities abound and with the Gila River as its centerpiece, Fishing for smallmouth bass and several species of catfish is a must when visiting the area; angling opportunities are typically limited to short windows during the spring. Providing that Mother Nature cooperates, canoeists, kayakers and inner-tube floaters can get their fill during the spring months as well.

So whether you're looking for a leisurely outing or a strenuous adventure, the Gila Box has something for all outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

Getting There: From Lordsburg, NM take U.S. 70 (Duncan Highway) west 1.5 miles to NM 464 (Red Rock Road). A high-clearance, 4WD vehicle is strongly recommended to access this area. Head north for approximately 14.1 miles and turn left on Fuller Road (AO27 on trail/map apps). Head west on Fuller Road/AO27 for approximately 3.5 miles to an unnamed road (Nicholas Canyon Rd./also listed as Caprock Ranch Road and AO24 on trail/map apps) – a large, steel water storage tank serves as a decent landmark – take a right turn and head north and stay to the right at all intersections for approximately 5.4 miles to the Gila River. This is a rough road that follows an arroyo. At this point, you are on BLM land... hike about 1.25 miles easterly along the river to get to State Trust Land. There is also a side canyon that comes in from the south on this parcel of Trust land.



Things to Know:

- * Recreational users of State Trust Lands must have a recreational access permit to access these lands. You can apply for the permit here: <https://openforadventure.nmstatelands.org/>
- * Obey all postings/respect private property.
- * No digging for, collecting, or defacing cultural artifacts found anywhere on state trust land.
- * SLO operates under a multiple-use concept. Visitors may encounter other permitted users on-site.
- * We strongly recommend visitors to trust lands carry and utilize a GPS device to avoid trespassing on to lands not managed by the NMSLO.
- * Visitors are not allowed to manipulate any of the site's improvements and are prohibited from interfering with the ranching operations.
- * Please try to minimize your use footprint and pack out all trash. [Leave No Trace](#).
- * Please be attentive to weather reports. Storms can form quickly.
- * Pack appropriate clothing for the season. During spring, summer and fall, typical day-hiking gear is recommended.
- * Please be aware of prohibited activities under the [Recreational Access Permit](#).

For more information, please call 505-827-5760