

Moon Mountain – Lincoln County

T 11 South / R 13 East / Secs. 23 & 26

Ruidoso's Moon Mountain – a 630-acre parcel in the scenic Sierra Blanca Mountains – provides top tier recreational opportunities to southcentral New Mexico and beyond. Over the years, the NMSLO has worked with area stakeholders on flood mitigation and fire prevention projects to improve the health of the ecosystems and watersheds surrounding Moon Mountain. The NMSLO has now leased the land to the [Village of Ruidoso](#) to protect and improve the hiking, biking, and other recreational opportunities available at Moon Mountain.

The diverse forest landscape features pinon-juniper, ponderosa pine, and Douglas fir and provides a spectacular backdrop for outdoor enthusiasts nearly year-round. There is a lot to explore in this forested area in the heart of Ruidoso with additional hiking and mountain biking trails planned for this developing trail network. While the site is currently best suited for more primitive adventures such as hiking, snowshoeing, biking, and wildlife viewing, the lease allows the community to explore a variety of recreational options including plans for events at an 18-hole frisbee golf course and stargazing at a community observatory.

Getting There

from the Village of Ruidoso Parks and Recreation Office, **535 Resort Drive:**

- * Turn east on **Resort Drive** and follow road for 300 feet
- * Take a slight right onto **Grindstone Canyon Road** and follow it for .4 miles
- * Turn left onto **Carrizozo Canyon Road** and follow for .8 miles
- * Turn right onto **Sudderth Drive** and follow for 1.5 miles
- * Turn left onto **N. Sutton Drive** and follow for .1 miles}
- * Turn left onto **Gavilan Canyon Road** and follow for 1.9 miles
- * Turn left into the **Moon Mountain Recreation Area, 501 Gavilan Canyon Road**



THINGS TO KNOW:

- * A Recreational Access Permit is not required to access Moon Mountain due to the recreation lease with the Village of Ruidoso. Recreational users of other 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 or collecting cultural artifacts.
- * SLO operates under a multiple-use concept therefore 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