

Sierra Grande, Union County, NM

Sec 32 / T29N / R29E

Rising to over 8,700 feet, northeastern New Mexico's Sierra Grande is a geologically unique landscape borne of a violent past. Sierra Grande is an extinct shield volcano that climbs 2,200 feet above the plains. If you are looking for a new area of New Mexico to explore, if you enjoy vast open expanses, and if you enjoy a long hike with a steady modest incline, then Sierra Grande is the adventure for you.

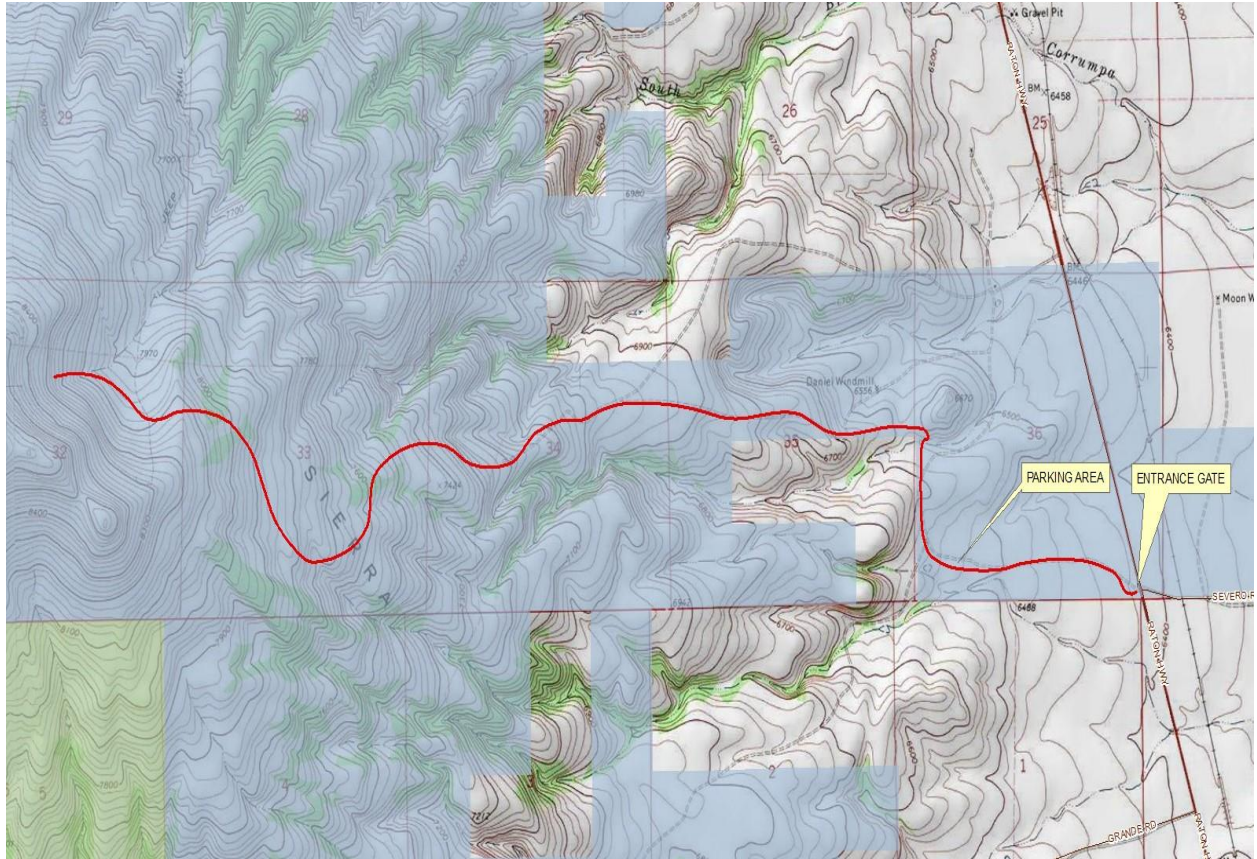
Sierra Grande offers opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, photography and studying geology and is the easternmost point in the United States with an elevation over 8,000 feet. Visitors who make the substantial trek up the ancient lava flows are treated to breathtaking 360-degree vistas of the surrounding high plains and the Raton-Clayton volcanic field including Capulin Mountain. Starting from the designated parking / hunter camping area on the east side of the mountain, expect a hike of between 8 and 9 miles to the top and back. The level of difficulty is entirely up to you... it gets more strenuous the higher up you go. Enjoy the views from the peak but don't enter any telecommunications sites or tamper with any on-site equipment.

You may come across elk, antelope, and deer and are almost sure to encounter evidence of their existence in the form of scat or even antler sheds. Along the way, you can scramble upon the volcanic boulder fields near the top. You'll traverse pockets of pinon and pine that line the slopes and see firsthand the results of recent SLO land stewardship projects, which have restored forest resiliency and enhanced habitat for the area's wildlife.

SLO, working in conjunction with the NM Department of Game and Fish, provides a campsite for sportspeople and parking area for recreationists on Sierra Grande's east side. Enjoy the serenity, fresh air, and openness of Sierra Grande.

Getting There:

Sierra Grande is near Des Moines, NM. Head south from Des Moines on Highway 87 about 4.2 miles from the point at which the Highway turns south. If you get to the Rest Area on Highway 87, you've gone too far. You will see a gate, with a cattle guard and an orange SLO sign. This is referred to as County road AO51 on some mapping services. Take this dirt road, open and close the gate, and head west towards the mountain. About a half mile down this road is the designated hunter camping area which serves as a good parking area.



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 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 close the gate after entering the site, even if you find it open, and ensure the gate remains closed.
- * Please be aware of prohibited activities under the [Recreational Access Permit](#).

For more information, please call 505-827-5760