

Luera Mountains

Catron County

Township 6 South / Range 10 West

The Luera Mountains feature stunning landscapes and offer opportunities for wildlife viewing, hiking, mountain biking, and photography. The expanse of the Luera Mountains consists of thousands of acres of grasslands, woodlands, and dense forest. These ecosystems are home to elk, antelope and deer. The area also provides habitat for black bear, mountain lion, wild turkey and many other species.

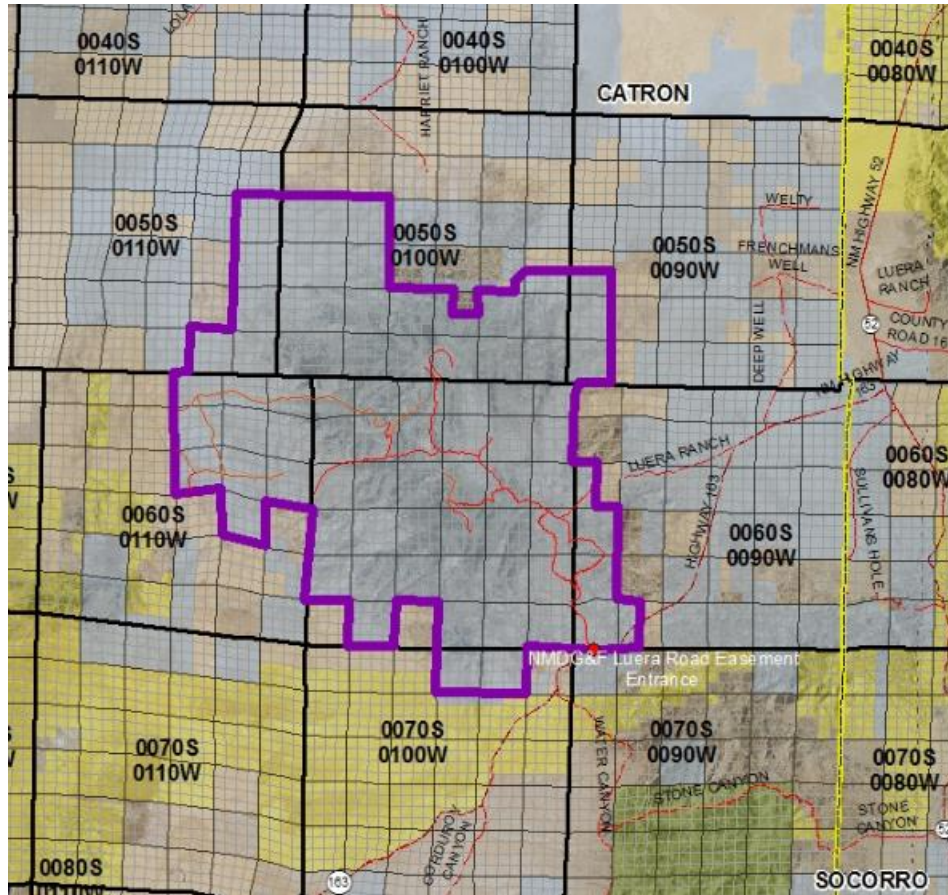
The Luera Mountains include a portion of the Continental Divide and its namesake National Scenic Trail. The Continental Divide is in the southern foothills of the range. In addition to the Continental Divide Trail, Luera Peak (33.826449°N 107.877548°W), in the center-north, stands out at 9,480 feet.

The vastness of the Lueras allows for solitude and the opportunity to explore new ground. Visitors should be mindful that, while there are no established trail systems, a network of dirt and two-track roads offers many contiguous miles to explore. Typical hiking gear is recommended for hikers traveling the two-track road network or the adventurous bushwhackers seeking a more organic and primal hike off the beaten path. Mountain bikers seeking a new challenge can traverse the harsh two-tracks and cover mile after mile of new turf on their adventure.

Getting There:

From I-25: Head west from Socorro on US-60 until NM-52. Turn left (head south) about 21.5 miles on NM-52 until NM-163. Head southwest on NM-163 for about 9.6 miles (virtual mile marker 9.6). Read the signage at the entry gate and follow any instructions regarding parking.

BE AWARE: The NMSLO worked with the NM Department of Game and Fish to increase access to the Lueras by vastly improving the first section of road north of the access gate off of NM-163. However there still remain “roads” in deeper parts of the Luera Mountains that are rough and rocky. Safe travel may require an OHV or a 4x4 vehicle with high ground clearance and off-road suspension.



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.
- * Vehicles may not be driven off of established roads.
- * 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