



Sandia Ranger District

Recreation Program Updates

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Manager

An overview



Recreation program consists of:

- Trails, wilderness, cave, and eligible wild and scenic river management
- Developed and dispersed recreation
- Special use program management
- Scenic management
- Interpretation
- Volunteer program management

Recreation Staff

- New trails program manager, foreman and crew lead this year and two permanent seasonal positions.
- New developed recreation program manager, who will oversee 5 permanent positions and 4 permanent seasonal positions.



Recreation Project Updates

- Nine Mile Picnic Area
- Sandia Crest Recreation Area
- Juan Tabo and La Cueva Picnic Areas
- Sandia Cave Improvements
- New Fee Implementation
- Public Information
- Crews here this year: TTYL/Historicorps/RMYC





Nine Mile Picnic Area

- A beautiful site nestled in the aspen trees
- Construction to continue this summer
- Fully accessible site
- Trail Head parking to access the Challenge Trail
- New picnic tables, restrooms and amenities
- Awarded \$850,000 through the Great American Outdoors Act



Sandia Crest Recreation Area

- Construction anticipated next summer
- Awarded a total of \$3.6 through the Great American Outdoors Act
- Updating all Amenities

Juan Tabo and La Cueva Picnic Areas

- Completed a design package to 80% completion with Sandia Pueblo that would:
 - update aging infrastructure
 - protect the site from vandalism
 - increase accessibility
- Looking for funding opportunities to complete design and implementation



Sandia Cave Improvement Project

Project includes four main components:

1. Parking Lot Redesign
2. Trail and Trail Features
3. Replacement of spiral staircase
4. Site interpretation

Project will likely be phased and partial funding has been awarded



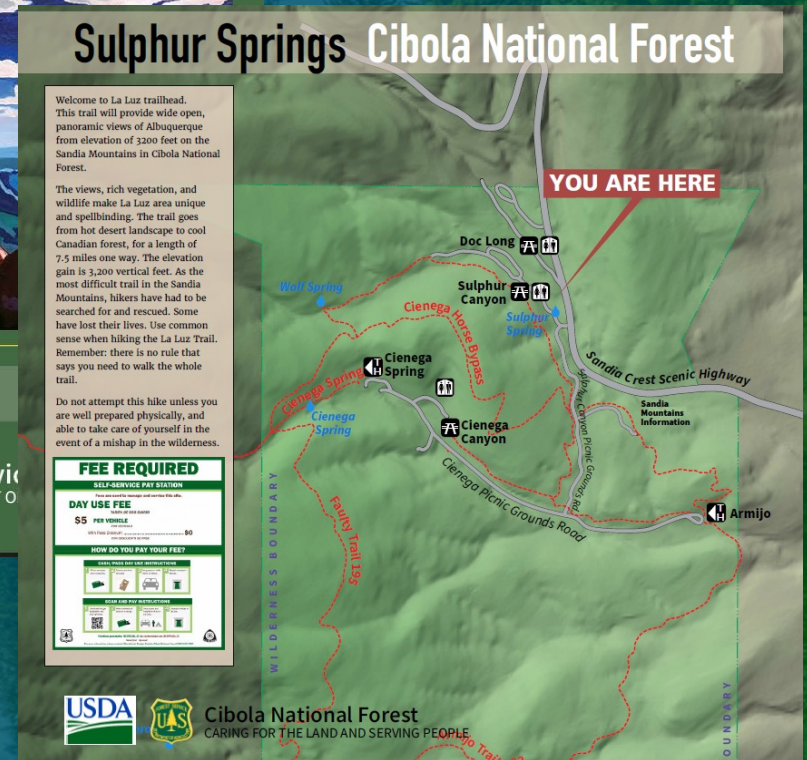
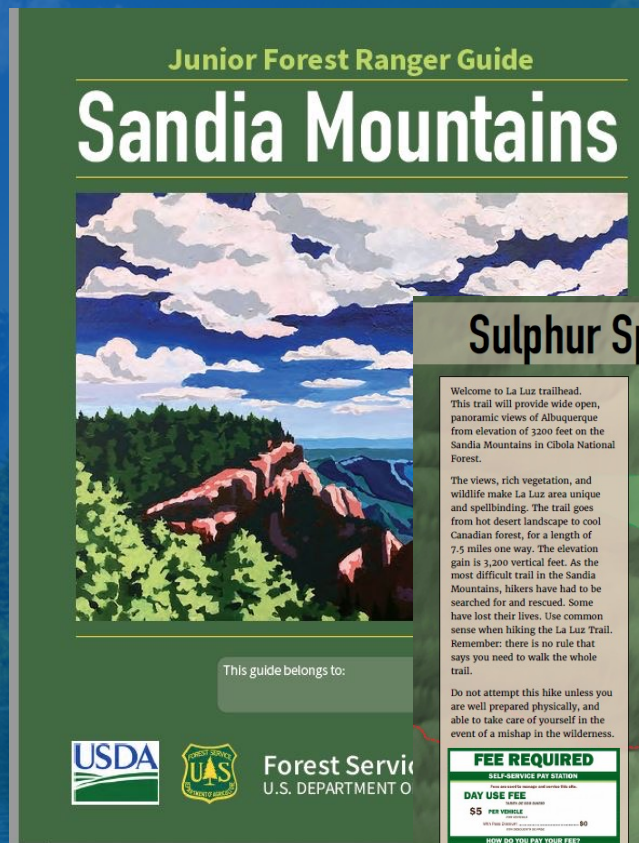
New Recreation Fee this Summer

- Four New Mexico Forests sought input on increasing fees in 2021 and 2022
- Fee Proposal went before the Resource Advisory Council and was recently approved
- Fees will be increased in group areas Picnic Areas and Trail Heads will increase from \$3 to \$5
- New Enchantment Pass this year for \$40 or 24 volunteer hours

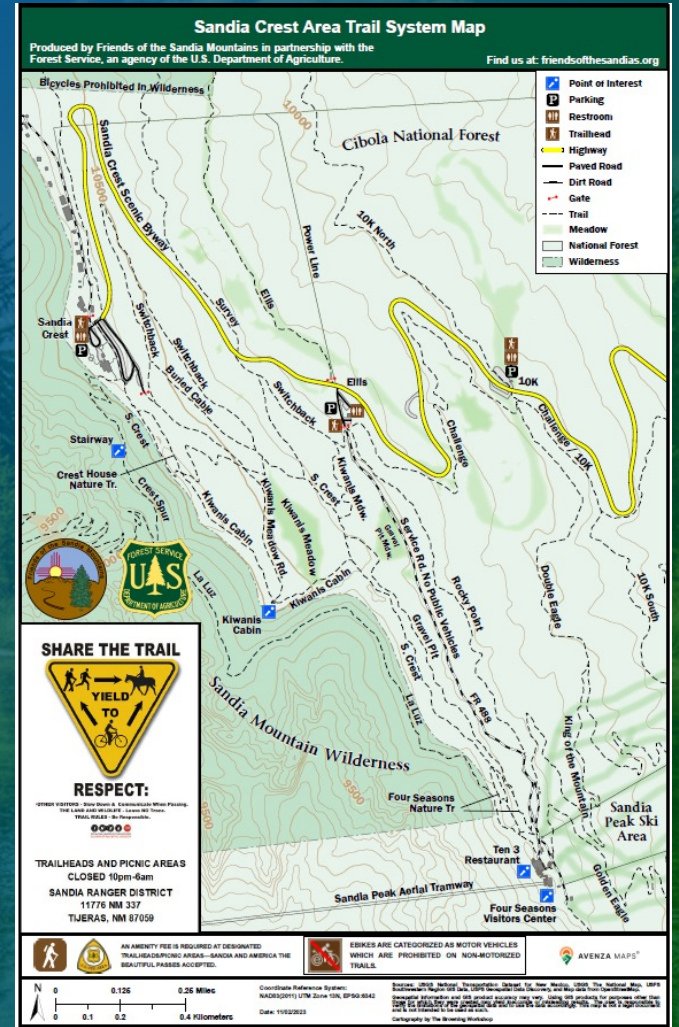
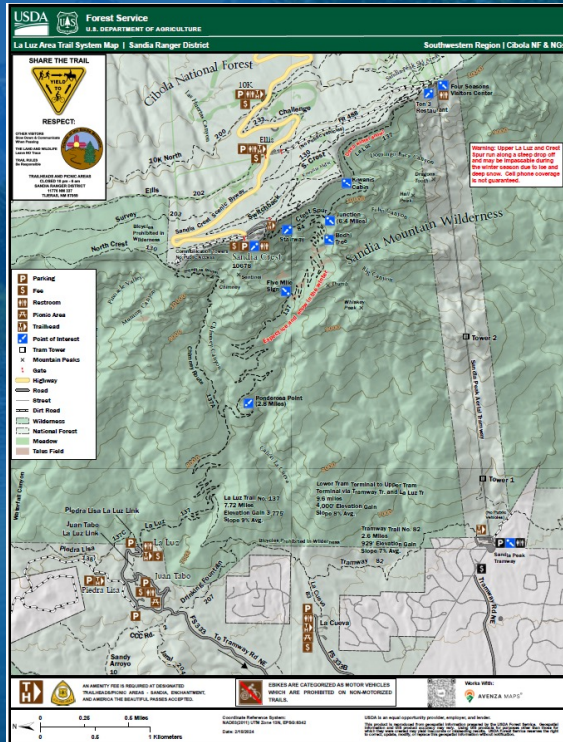
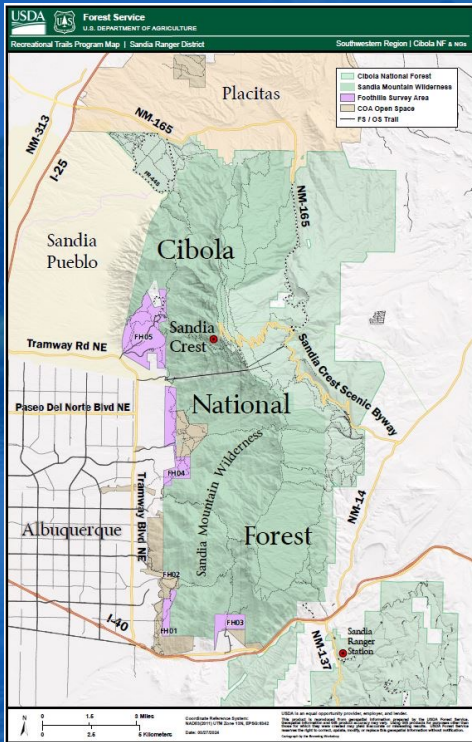


Public Information

- New Sandia Visitor Map this year (printed coming soon)
- New resource guides for La Luz Trail Head and the Manzanita Mountains being finalized
- Should have a new fee sign and trail signs for La Luz soon
- New Junior Ranger Booklet almost complete
- Doc Long Interpretive Hut to open again this season



New Maps!



Trail Updates

Volunteers Make it Happen!

FOSM Thursday Crew > FOSM Monday Crew > NM Volunteers for the Outdoors > 505 Cycling > Placitas Area Trails Association > Sandia Nordic Ski Club > The National Interscholastic Cycling Association > Albuquerque Mountain Bike Association >

Accomplishments

- Placitas area trails mostly complete thanks to PATA and FOSM
- Nordic ski trails mostly complete

Future focus

- Complete leftover work cleared under Cedro EA, Sandia Trails Improvement Project CE, and Cienega-Armijo Trails Improvement Project CE, in preparation for future projects



Downhill Mountain Bike Trails Project

- Priority SRD trails project for 2024
- Part of the Sandia Trails Improvement Project
- Exclusively for downhill mountain biking
- Partnership with Albuquerque Mountain Biking Association
- Another awardee of the NM State Outdoor Recreation Division's Trails+ grant
- Part of work completed last year
- AMBA has applied for more grant money to continue work this year with Rocket Ramps (contractor)



Other Work in Focus for 2024

- Nordic Trails – Various fixes to improve grooming & skiing
- 10K North – Completion of reroute to pull trail up to connect better with Ellis
- North Faulty – Reroutes, brushing, and fixes for official designation
- Wagon – Extension to connect with Sulphur dirt
- Acequia – Extension to connect with Cienega dirt; prevent users from spilling out into road/rec site
- Armijo – Reroute to pull trail out of intermittent spring
- Placitas – Completion of leftover reroutes/fixes
- Lower Pine & Tablazon – Completion of reroutes, including one to pull trail terminus off private
- La Luz Safety Campaign – Signage & materials targeted to decrease SAR incidents
- And more...





THANK YOU!

Contact Information

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A photograph of a misty forest path, overlaid with a blue-to-green gradient. The path is dirt and leads into the distance, flanked by tall trees. The overall mood is serene and mysterious.

QUESTIONS?

