



**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

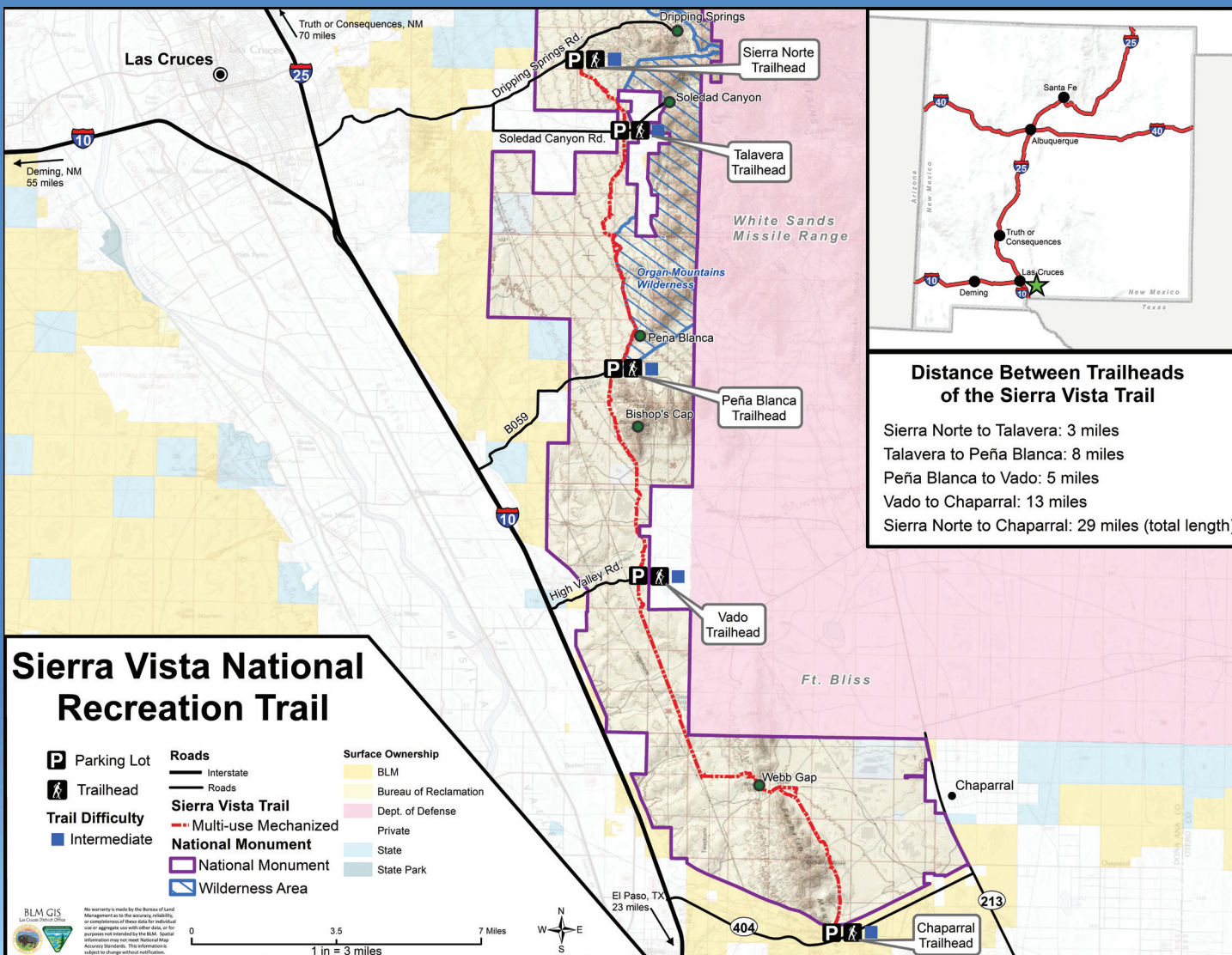
Sierra Vista Trail

Organ Mountains–Desert Peaks
National Monument



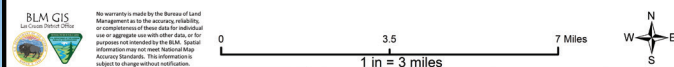
Distance Between Trailheads of the Sierra Vista Trail

Sierra Norte to Talavera: 3 miles
 Talavera to Peña Blanca: 8 miles
 Peña Blanca to Vado: 5 miles
 Vado to Chaparral: 13 miles
 Sierra Norte to Chaparral: 29 miles (total length)



Sierra Vista National Recreation Trail

- Parking Lot
 - Trailhead
 - Trail Difficulty: Intermediate
 - Multi-use Mechanized
 - National Monument
 - Wilderness Area
- Roads**
- Interstate
 - Roads
- Surface Ownership**
- BLM
 - Bureau of Reclamation
 - Dept. of Defense
 - Private
 - State
 - State Park



Directions

The trail is east and southeast of Las Cruces, and is accessible at several trailheads. The newest trailhead is located 7 miles up University Avenue/ Dripping Springs Road (Exit 1) east of Interstate 25.

Another option is to travel 4.5 miles up this road and turn south on Soledad Canyon Road. This road turns east in one mile; follow it until you come to a parking area on your right. The other trailheads are located to the east of Interstate 10 at the Mesquite exit, Vado exit, and NM 404 at Anthony Gap.

Bureau of Land Management
 Las Cruces District Office
 1800 Marquess Street
 Las Cruces, NM 88005-3371
 575-525-4300
 or
www.blm.gov/new-mexico

In case of emergency:
 Immediate Emergency – 911
 BLM 24-hour Dispatch – 1-800-637-9152



Welcome to the Sierra Vista Trail. The Sierra Vista Trail is a 29-mile National Recreation Trail. It is a nonmotorized recreation trail along the western flank of the Organ Mountains and the eastern side of the Franklin Mountains. The trail provides spectacular views of the mountains, which jut majestically above the desert floor. It is also possible to see wildlife, including mule deer, coyotes, horny toads, and red-tailed hawks along the trail. The trail connects to the Franklin Mountains

State Park Trail system in Texas, and it is used primarily by mountain bikers. While most of the trail is on gravelly uplands, some of the middle sections near Vado are very sandy and difficult for mountain bikes. There are also rugged rocky sections where suspension is desirable on mountain bikes. Always stay on the trail and paved roads because in some areas the trail runs adjacent to sensitive areas that need to be protected. Please always follow Leave No Trace principles and help protect our public land.

Know Before You Go

While the Sierra Vista Trail is known for its fascinating topography and beautiful views, it is also known for being a dry, arid, desert landscape. When visitors plan their travels they should make sure they are prepared for any circumstance. Here are a few tips to help you become an expert planner!

- Let someone know where you are going. Make sure they know your plans, the route you will take, and what time you are expected to return.
- Wear proper clothing. A good pair of walking or hiking shoes is recommended. Carry a jacket even in the summer.
- Bring proper gear. If staying out overnight, bring a warm enough sleeping bag.
- Check the weather. Be prepared for drastic changes in the weather. Summer days can bring intense heat, while summer night temperatures can dip to freezing. There could even be flash floods in the low-lying areas.
- Know your limits. Don't attempt hikes or rides that are beyond your ability. If possible, avoid exploring alone.
- Drink plenty of water. Since the body loses fluids quickly in a desert environment, carry plenty of water and high energy snacks.
- Leave wildlife alone. Be alert and observe all snakes and wildlife from a safe distance.



North segment of the Sierra Vista Trail



Center for Outdoor Ethics | LNT.org