

New Mexico Section
American Institute of Professional Geologists
Fall Field Trip 2024
Golden Open Space
Golden, New Mexico
8/28/2024

Hello,

We are planning on hosting our annual Fall Field Trip 2024 (Saturday, October 5th) at Golden Open Space. The area is located in the Sandia Mountain Area, not far from Golden, New Mexico (see attached map). The geology is phenomenal. We have adjusted our Hagan Basin Field Trip, to overlap with this location. As in previous field trips, mountain biking and hiking is encouraged. Bring friends, co-workers, geologists, or anyone who loves the outdoors and rocks.

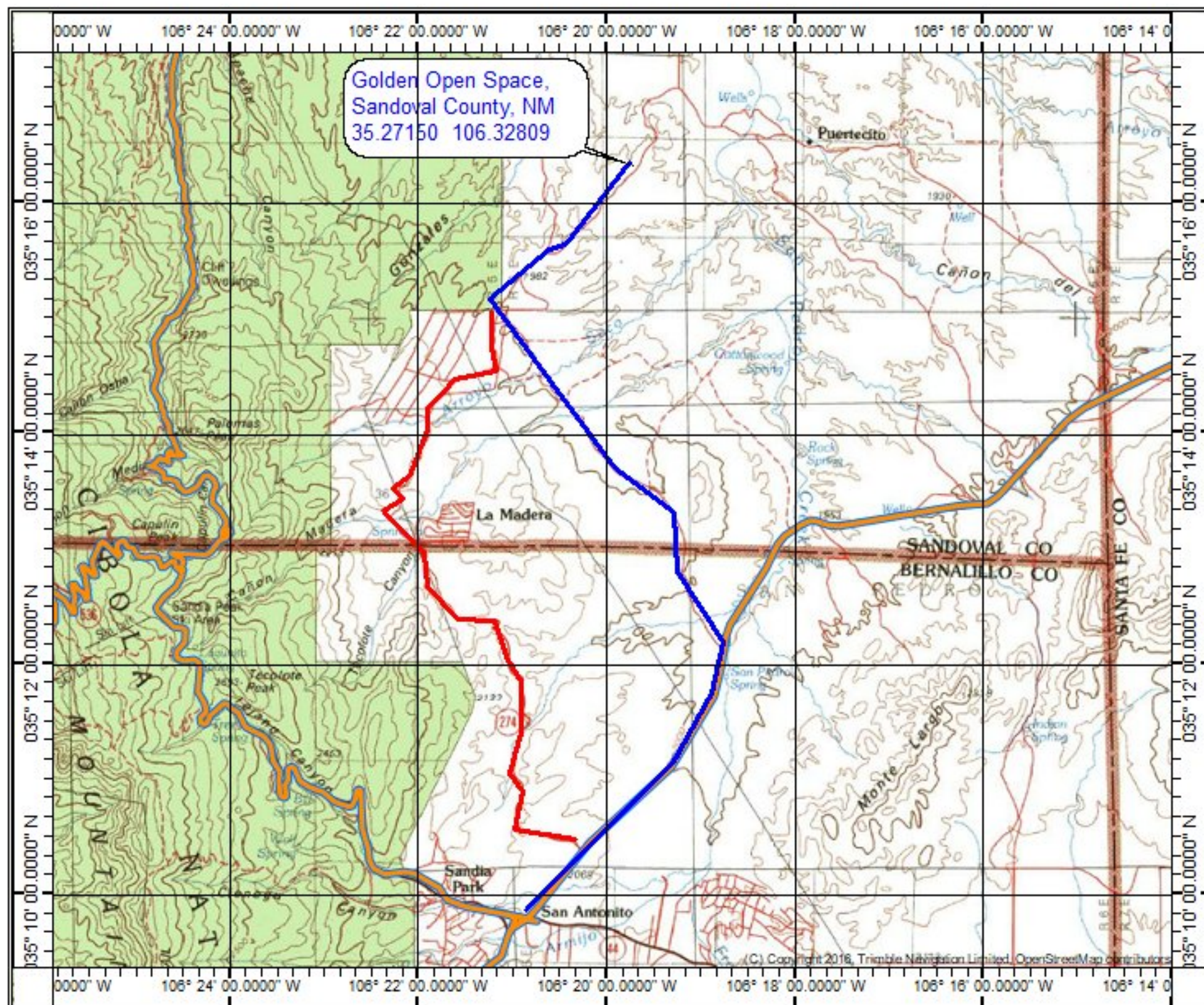
We will begin our day by meeting for a cup of coffee and discussion of the days events, at Cabra Coffee, located along N-Hwy 14, in Cedar Crest, NM (see map). NMAIPG will offer free breakfast burritos, and Cabra also offers nice scones, pastries, and coffee. We will meet there at 8:00 am. We'll have a brief geology and history of area discussion, and leave that parking lot around 9:30 am, headed towards Golden Open Space. You will need a high clearance 2WD or 4WD vehicle. We'll need to stay together as we drive to the location. The turnoff west off N-Hwy 14, is a small road sign: Puertocito, and easy to miss. The journey will be along the "Old Turquoise Trail" which has been an ancient mining route for centuries. The first placer gold mining in the US (1829) happened along Tuerto Creek, near Golden, New Mexico, 20 years ahead of the California gold rush. The oldest Gold Mine in the USA, is another 15 miles up N-Hwy 14, and recently operated by Goldfields.

We will drive to Golden Open Space trail head parking lot, should arrive around 10:00 am, and have a discussion and poster presentation from Dr. Bruce Black, CPG # 2392; a renowned oil and gas geologist "Wildcatter" from the Farmington, NM area, relative to an overview of the Hagan Basin.

After that, we'll walk, and take mountain bikes, across this beautiful trail. There will be two geologists, Corbin Carsrud ECP # 0634, (Bernalillo County Hydrogeologist), and Dr. Irwin Melis MEM # 0937, (John Shomaker Hydrogeologist), located along the trail at separate stations, giving poster presentations as to the geology associated with this region. The first loop is around 2 miles, and relatively flat. The bulk of the trail continues after the loop for another 4-5 miles one way, and explores some great canyons. The roundtrip loop hike should take around 2-3 hours, including plenty of break time and socializing. The longer stretch of the trail will take around 3-5 hours depending upon your hiking abilities. Give yourself plenty of time at each station, and various areas, to learn about the geology, and discuss with your friends. Bring your own water and snacks for along the trail. We'll meet back at the trail head at 3:00, and head over to the Mine Shaft Tavern in Madrid. We'll be in Madrid around 4:00 pm. The Mine Shaft Tavern is known for their green chili cheeseburgers, and ice cold beers. You might want to walk around this little town before you eat. Madrid was a coal mining town for years, known for their Christmas lights, and their local baseball team, who (information from a reliable local source?) hosted the White Sox back in the 1930's. They also filmed the movie "Wild Hogs" in Madrid. Lots of other western movies have been filmed in this area. There is also live music at the Mine Shaft Tavern.

Have fun!

NMAIPG Executive Committee



Golden Open Space, Sandoval County, NM

Part of Sec 16 / T12N / R6E

Just north of Cedar Crest, you'll find gorgeous views in all directions and fascinating rock formations to explore along the trails at Golden Open Space. The flat-top mesas of the area are separated by several red and yellow sandstone arroyos providing some of the more colorful views in Albuquerque's east mountains area.

Golden Open Space is managed by the City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Division. The property adjacent to Golden Open Space is owned by either private individuals, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or the State Land Office. **A Recreational Access Permit is required to access the State Land.** See the map below for guidance.

Golden Open Space is a great mountain biking area. Several miles of single track trail exists throughout the area and recreationists can enjoy loops or 'out and back' adventures as they see fit. The area is also perfect for hiking and trail running. Dogs are welcome too but must be kept on a leash. The trails offer changing grades and turns without being overly technical, but trails can be quite sandy in areas. Horseback riders also enjoy the area frequently and it is becoming increasingly popular for equestrian use.

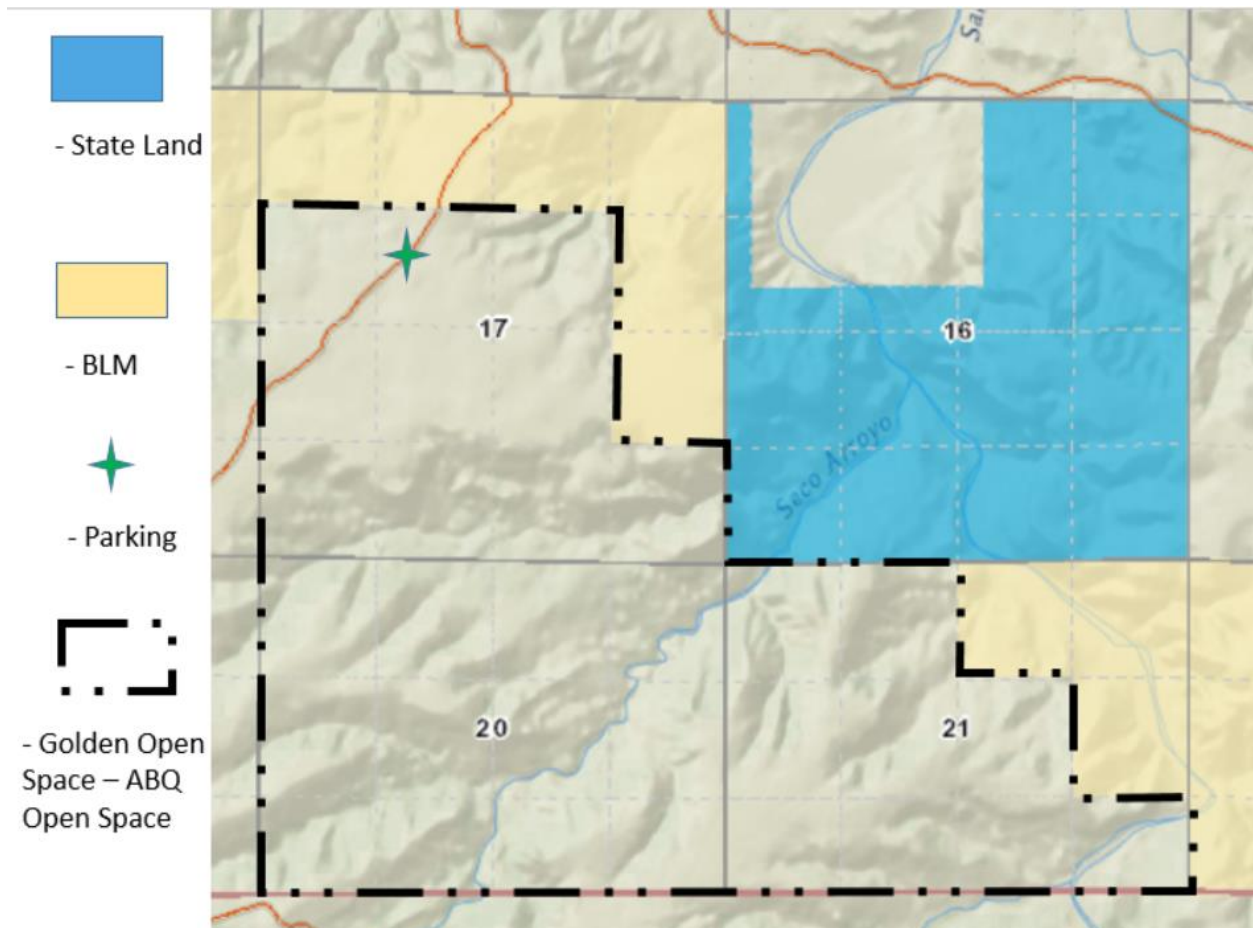
You may come across deer, antelope, rabbits, squirrels, snakes, birds, and other wildlife. Do not disturb wildlife or livestock and keep an eye out for evidence of their existence in the form of scat or even antler sheds. The area can get very hot in the summer; be sure to pack plenty of water.

Getting There:

Golden Open Space can be a great place for friends from Albuquerque and Santa Fe to get outside and 'meet in the middle'. A passenger vehicle with average clearance should be able to get to the parking area under dry road conditions.

From Albuquerque: Take I-40 east to exit 175/Cedar Crest. Follow NM-14 for 7.7 miles. Turn onto La Madera road and follow its turns for about 7 miles to the parking area.

From Santa Fe: Head south on NM-14 about 30 miles to Puercito Rd. Turn right onto Puercito Rd and go 6.1 miles to La Madera Road. Take La Madera Rd 1.1 miles to the 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 damaging, 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.
- * Please be aware of prohibited activities under the [Recreational Access Permit](#).

For more information, please call 505-827-5760

Golden

City of Albuquerque Open Space

