

# 34 examples of where the Rio Grande Trail Proposed Alignments connecting Santa Fe and Taos have used the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike's GPX files

The proposed RGT alignments don't just use the route of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike; they replicate its recorded GPX files.

This document presents 34 examples where proposed Rio Grande Trail alignments match the GPS tracks of the Santa Fe to Taos Trail route. In these examples—and others not documented here—the RGT alignments include distinctive GPS artifacts such as backtracking, campsite exploration loops, and spur detours that appear only in the original recorded tracks.

## Primary Example #1: Lake Katherine.

The left image is the Rio Grande Trail's Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3 (orange). The right image is a track I recorded in the Gaia app on August 13, 2018.

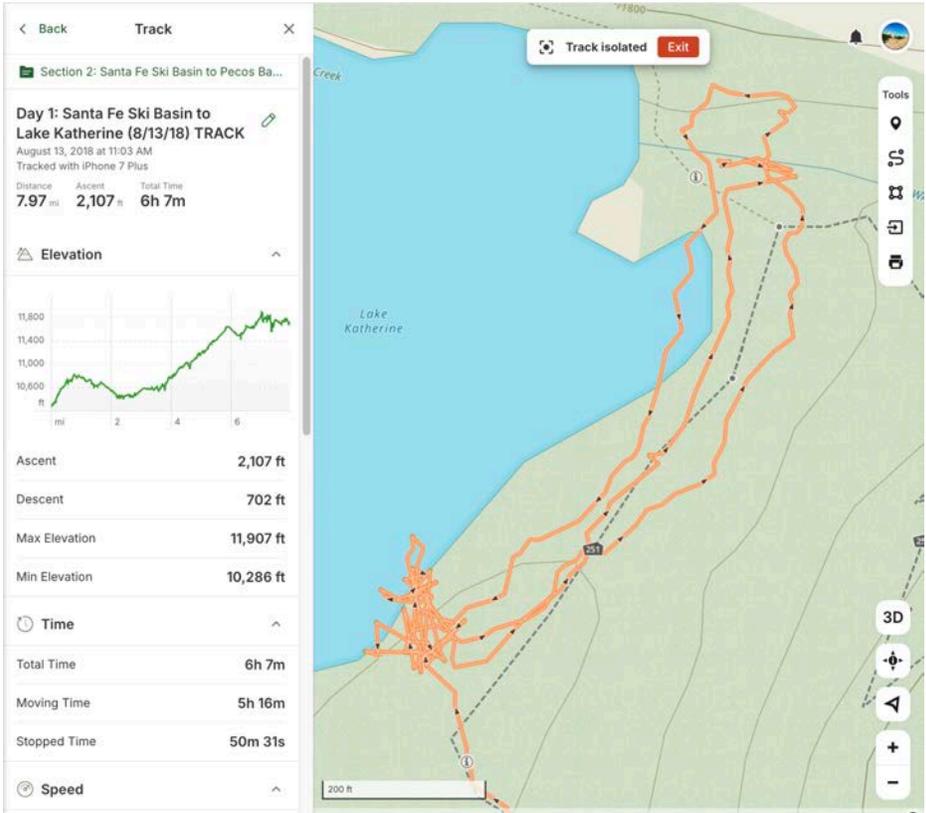
**Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials <http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>**



PROPOSED: Rio Grande Trail, Santa Fe to Taos Interactive Map

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**This is the track I recorded in the Gaia app on August 13, 2018 when I first did the thru-hike all the way through. I was just taking in the view, then wandering around to find a campsite. SF2T Sections 2-3 and 2-4.**



Track

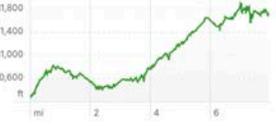
Section 2: Santa Fe Ski Basin to Pecos Ba...

**Day 1: Santa Fe Ski Basin to Lake Katherine (8/13/18) TRACK**

August 13, 2018 at 11:03 AM  
Tracked with iPhone 7 Plus

Distance	Ascent	Total Time
7.97 mi	2,107 ft	6h 7m

**Elevation**



Ascent: 2,107 ft  
Descent: 702 ft  
Max Elevation: 11,907 ft  
Min Elevation: 10,286 ft

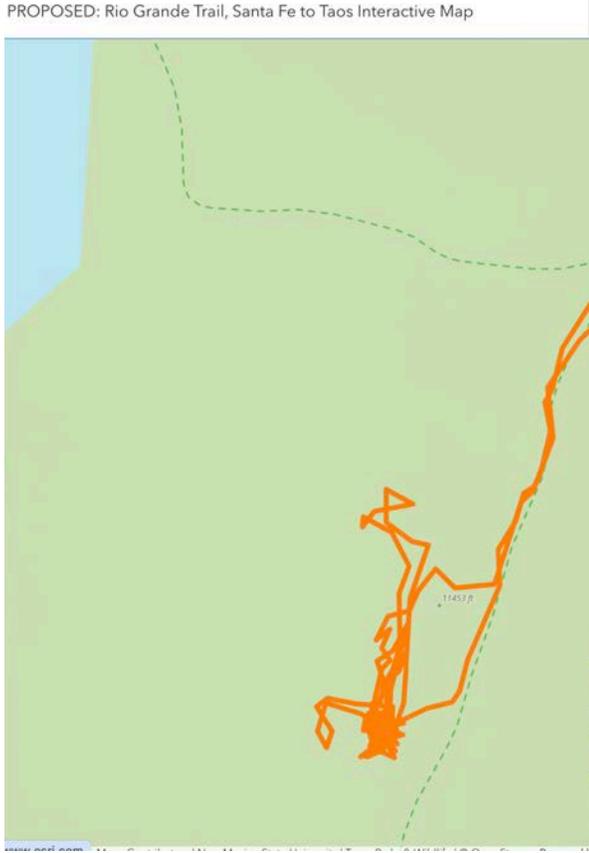
**Time**

Total Time	6h 7m
Moving Time	5h 16m
Stopped Time	50m 31s

**Speed**

# Primary Example #2: Pecos Baldy Lake

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials <http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>



Pecos Baldy Lake. End of Section 2, beginning of Section 3, Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike. This is my original recorded GPS track from 2019.

Track summary:

Distance	Ascent	Total Time
7.99 mi	2,674 ft	6h 30m

Elevation graph showing a steady increase from approximately 8,200 ft to 11,500 ft over the 7.99 mile distance.

Track details:

Ascent	Descent	Max Elevation	Min Elevation
2,674 ft	63 ft	11,505 ft	8,209 ft

Time breakdown:

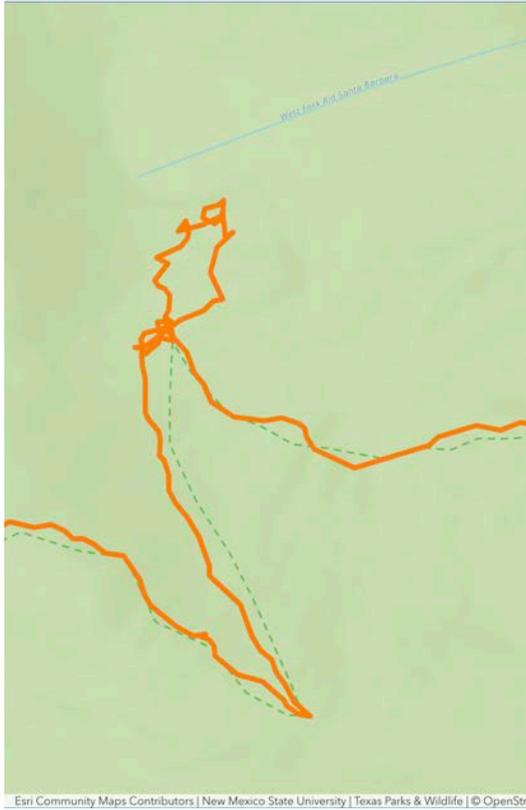
Total Time	Moving Time	Stopped Time
6h 30m	4h 39m	1h 50m

Speed section is also visible but not fully detailed in the image.

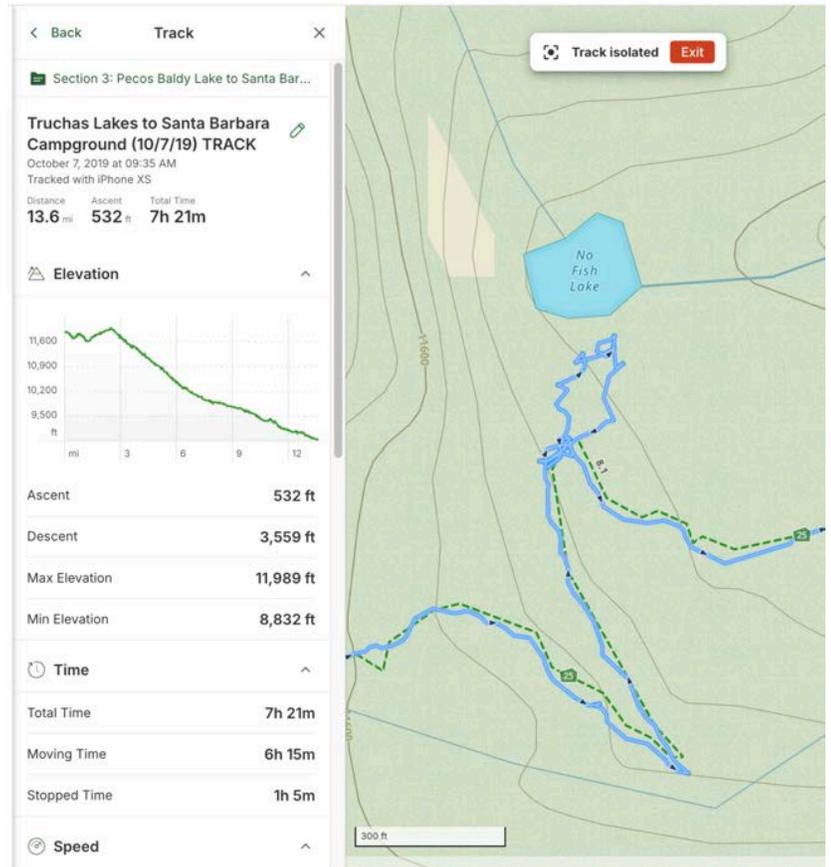
# Primary Example #3: At No Fish Lake

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials <http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>

PROPOSED: Rio Grande Trail, Santa Fe to Taos Interactive Map



No Fish Lake. In Section 3-4, Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike. My original GPS track from 2019. Recorded with Gaia. This was me checking out No Fish Lake. I forgot to turn the app's GPS recording off.



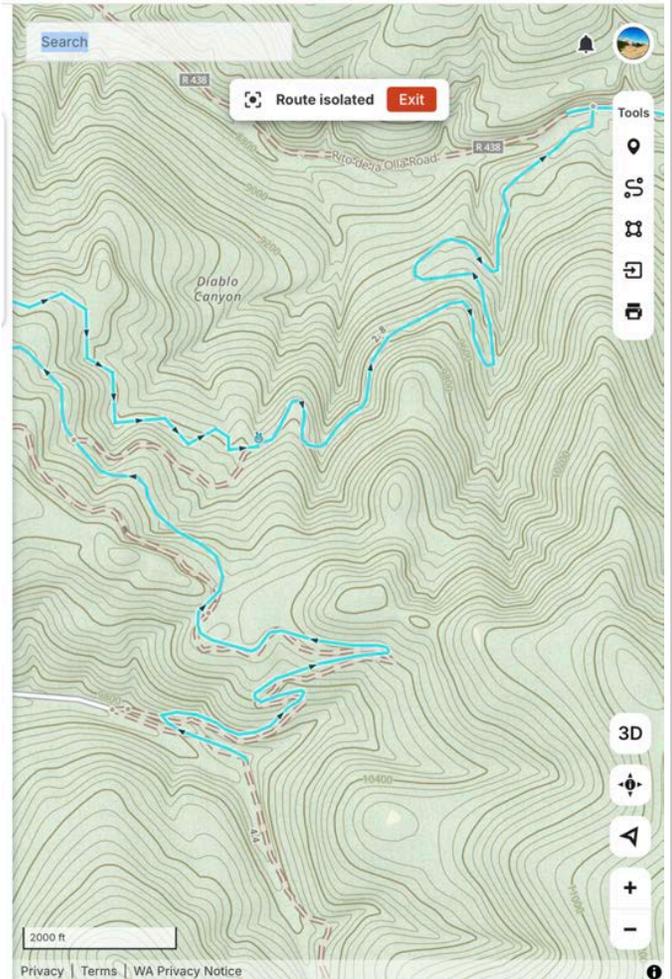
## Primary Example #4: The Connector.

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials  
<http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>

PROPOSED: Rio Grande Trail, Santa Fe to Taos Interactive M



The Connector. Section 5-4 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike. The Connector exists on no other hiking map besides the SF2T route. Also note that it is not recognized as a trail by the Forest Service.



# Primary Example #5: The spur to Bernardin Lake.

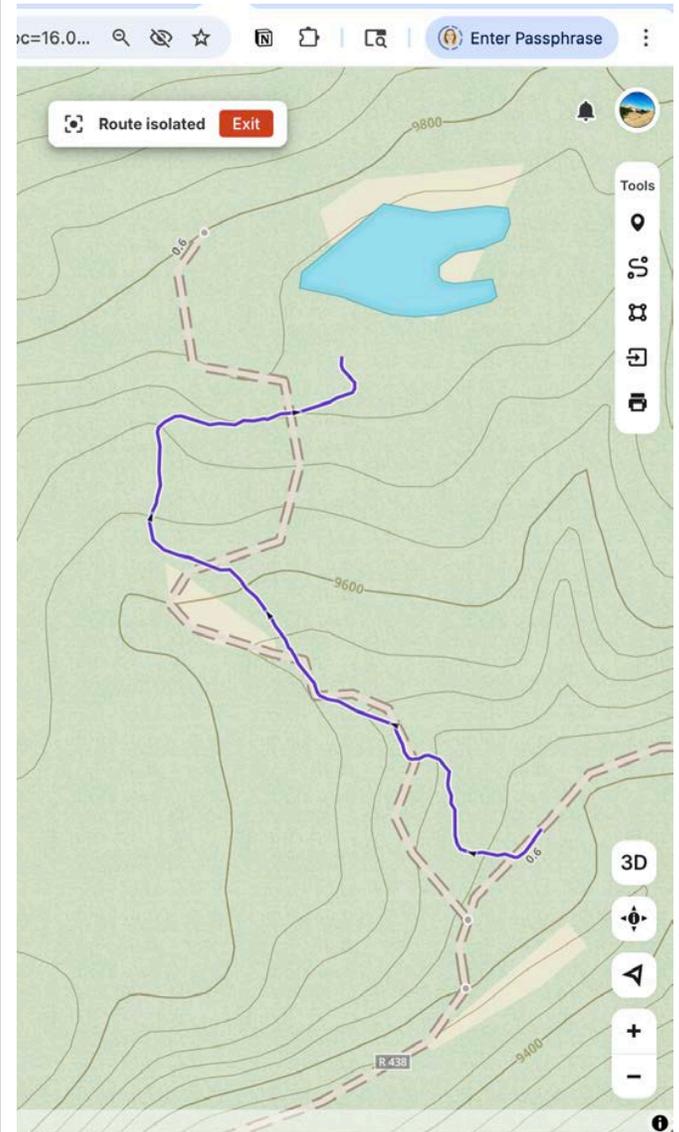
Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials <http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>

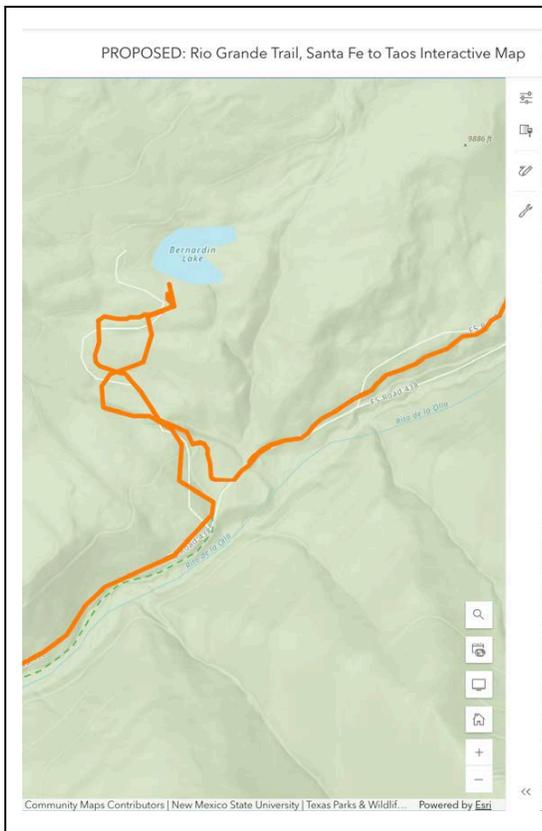
PROPOSED: Rio Grande Trail, Santa Fe to Taos Interactive M



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The spur to Bernardin Lake. Section 5-5 and 5-6. There is no directional reason to go to Bernardin Lake. It doesn't get you any closer to Taos - it's a spur off the trail. But it was a lake, and I thought it was a good place to camp or rest, so I included it in the route of the thru-hike. The RGT mirrors the SF2T route exactly. Most thru-hikers skipped it last year, though. They were more interested in just getting to Taos.





## Additional Examples

[From Section 1 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike](#)

Page 6

[From Section 2 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike](#)

Page 18

[From Section 3 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike](#)

Page 26

[From Section 4 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike](#)

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[From Section 5 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike](#)

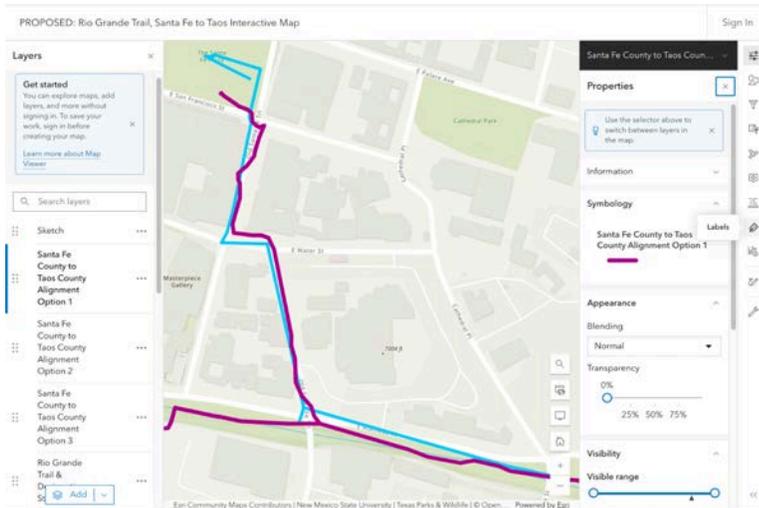
Page 36

[From Section 6 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike](#)

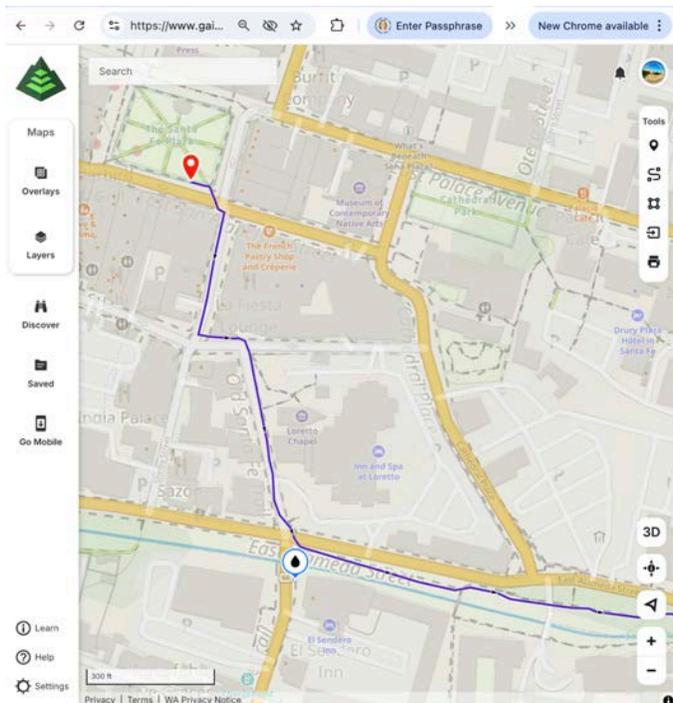
Page 41

# Section 1 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike/Trail

1. Leaving directly from the granite memorial in the Santa Fe Plaza that marks where the Old Santa Fe trail ends.

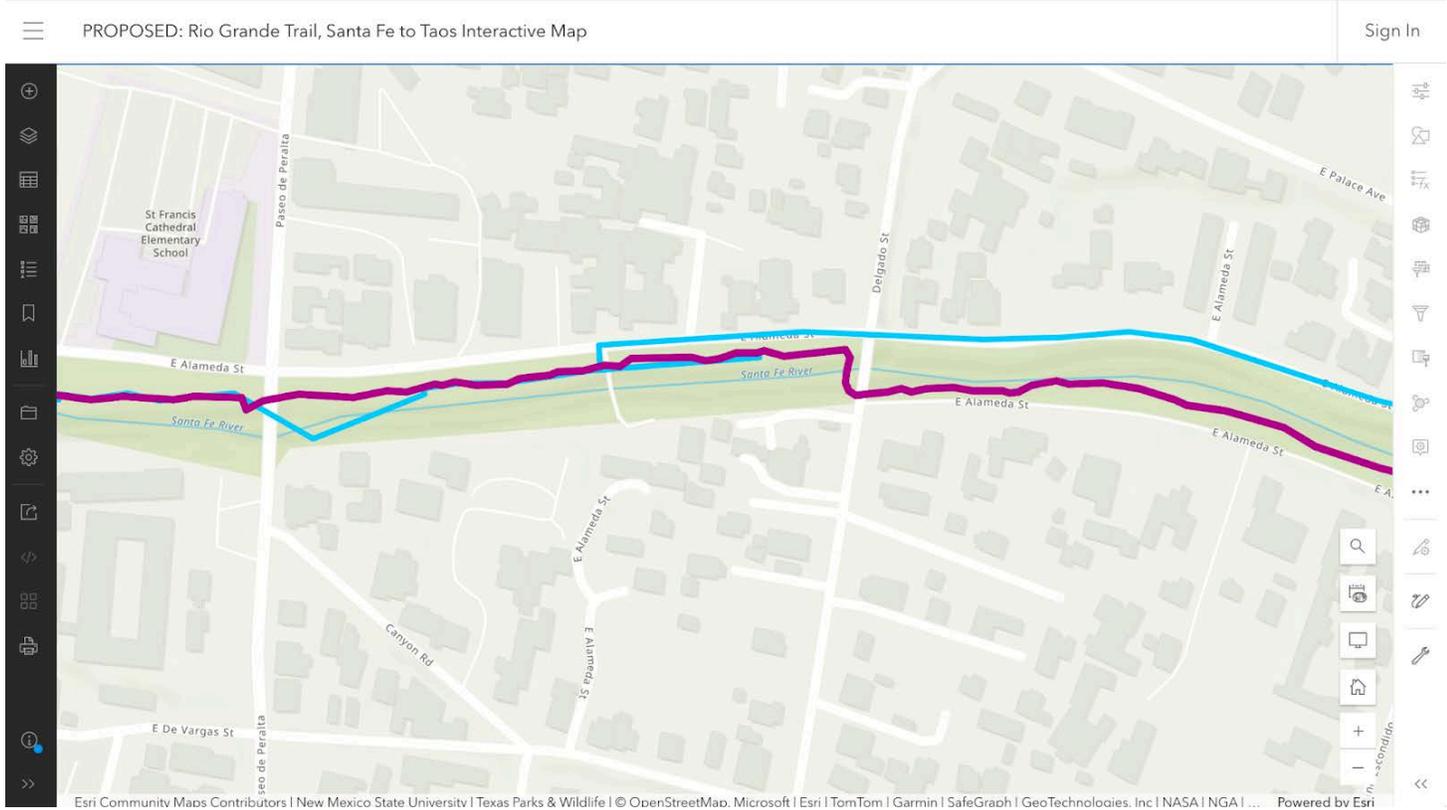


Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike, Section 1-1:

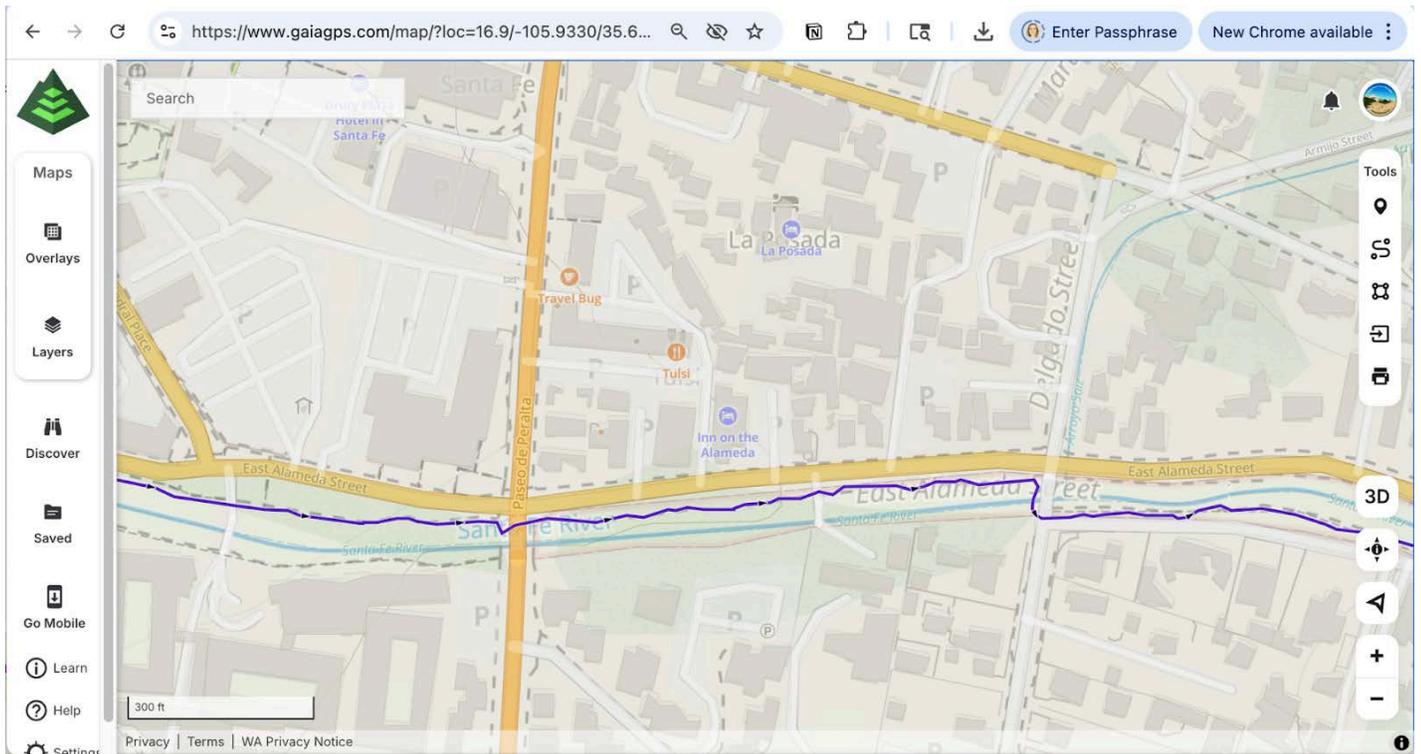


## 2. Walking along Alameda

Purple line; Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 1:

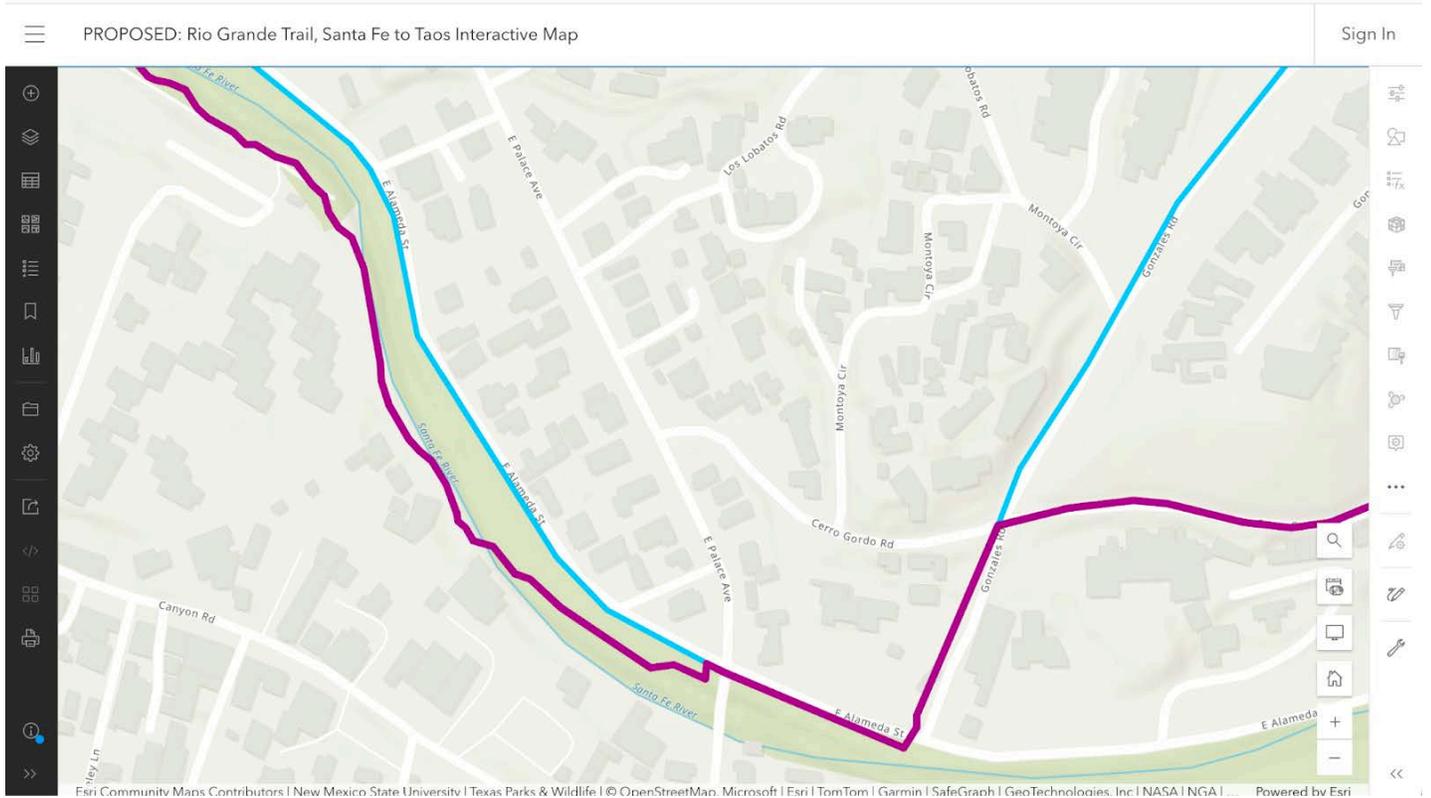


Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike, Section 1-1:

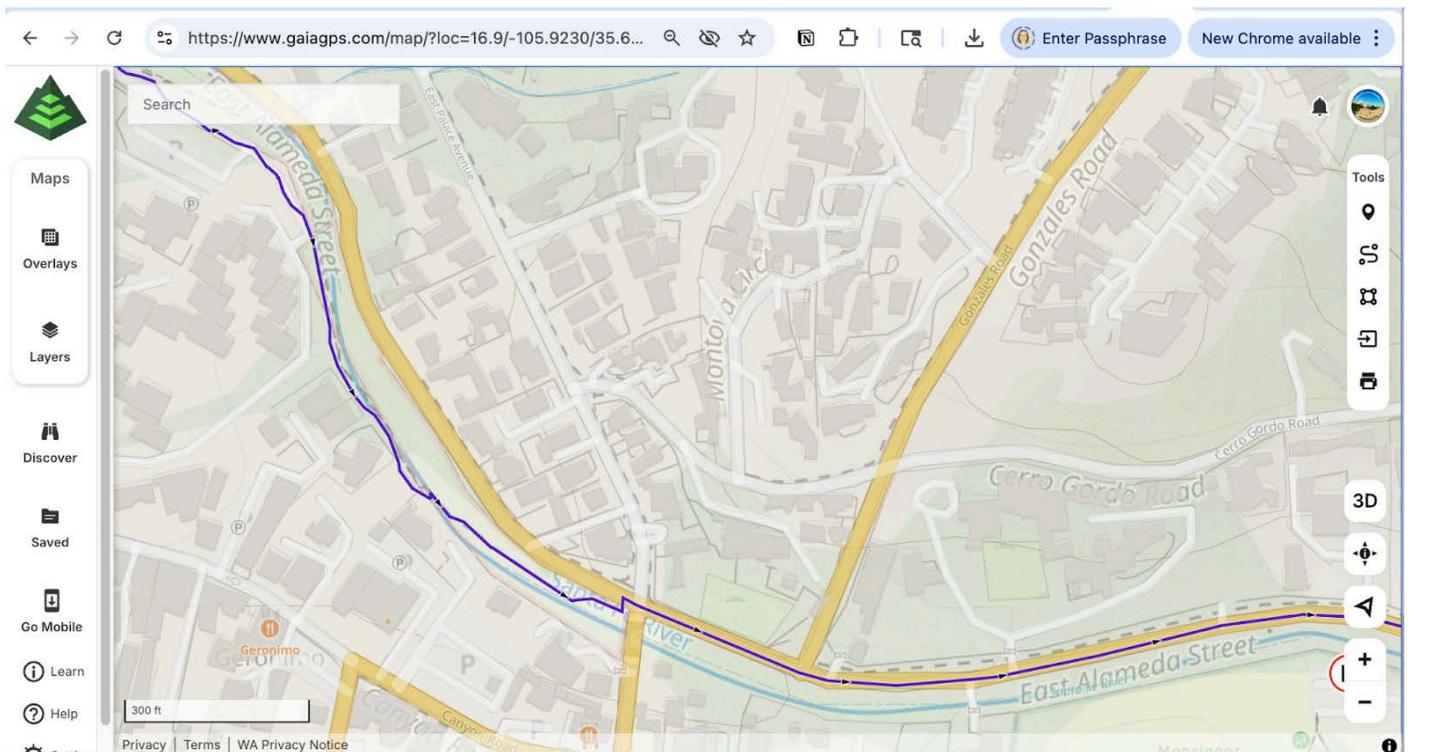


### 3. The routes separate at Cerro Gordo Road

Purple line; Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 1:



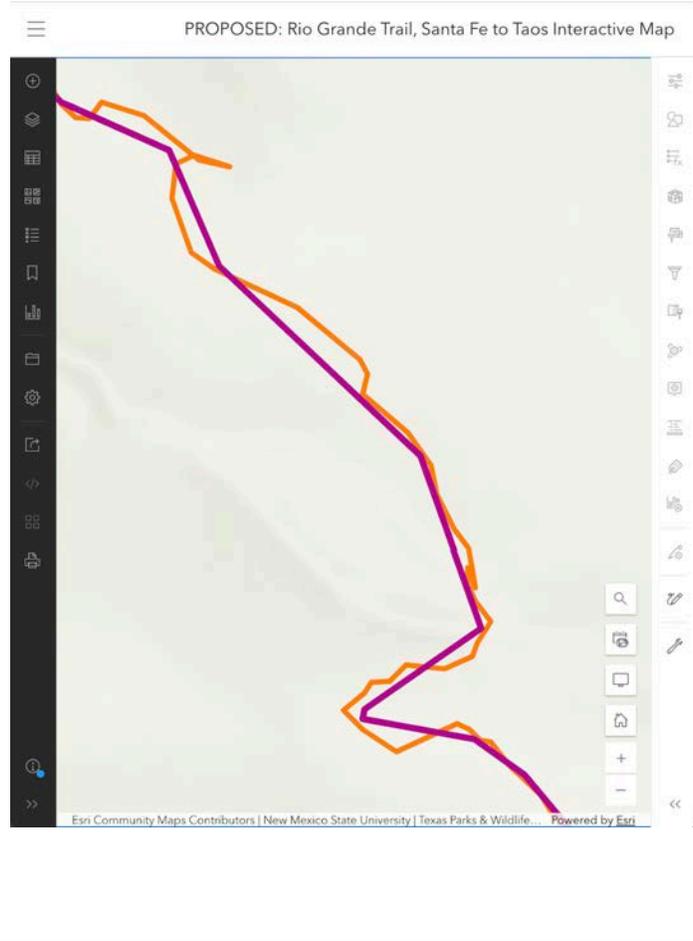
### Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike, Section 1-1 and 1-2.



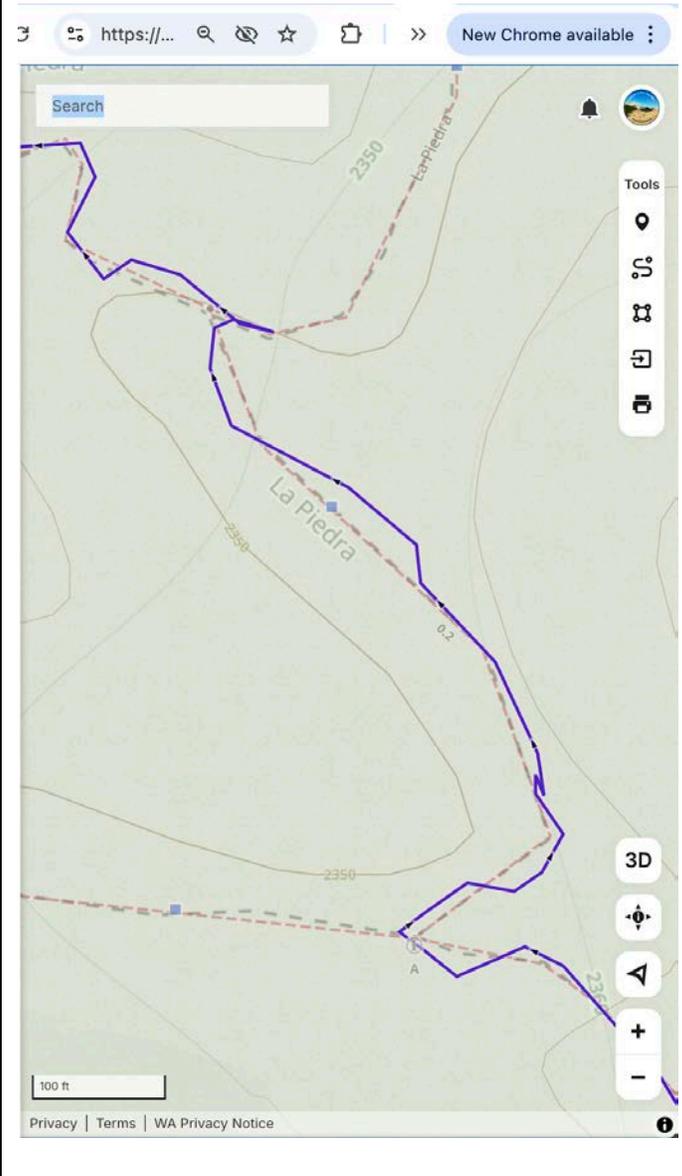
#### 4. On La Piedra Trail on the Dale Ball Trails

**Purple line; Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 1: This is not a recorded track here; the line is too straight.**

**Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. The Orange line has the same backtracks as the SF2T gpx file.**



#### Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike, Section 1-3



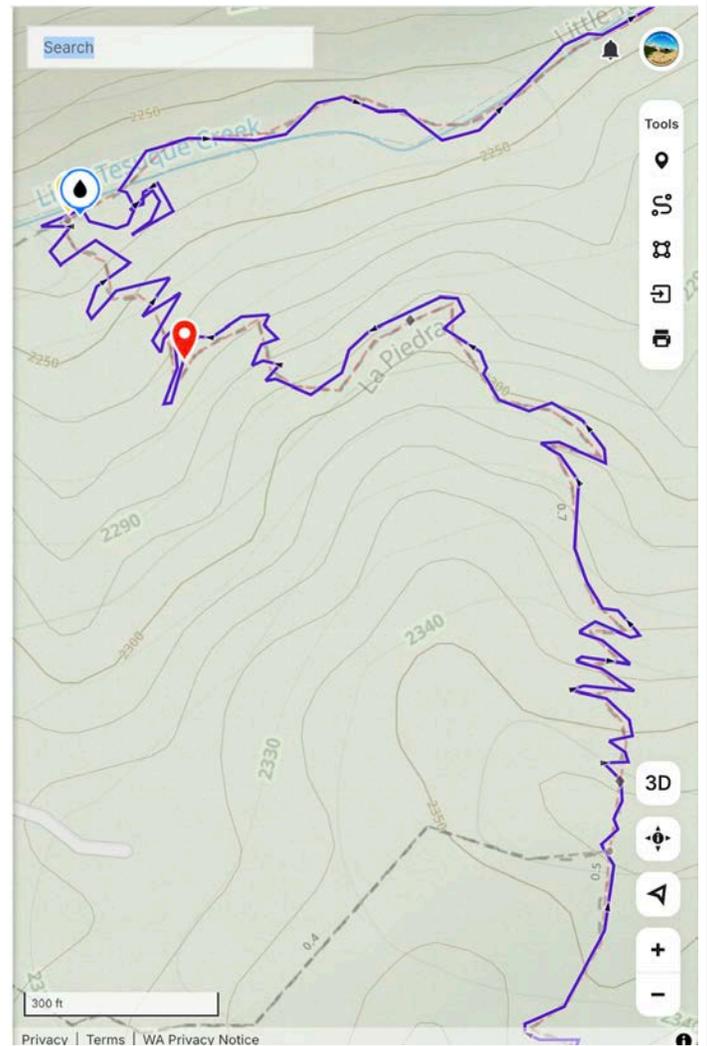
## 5. Continued on Dale Ball Trails

**Purple line; Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 1: This is not a recorded track here; the line is too straight.**

**Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. The Orange line has the same backtracks as the SF2T gpx file.**

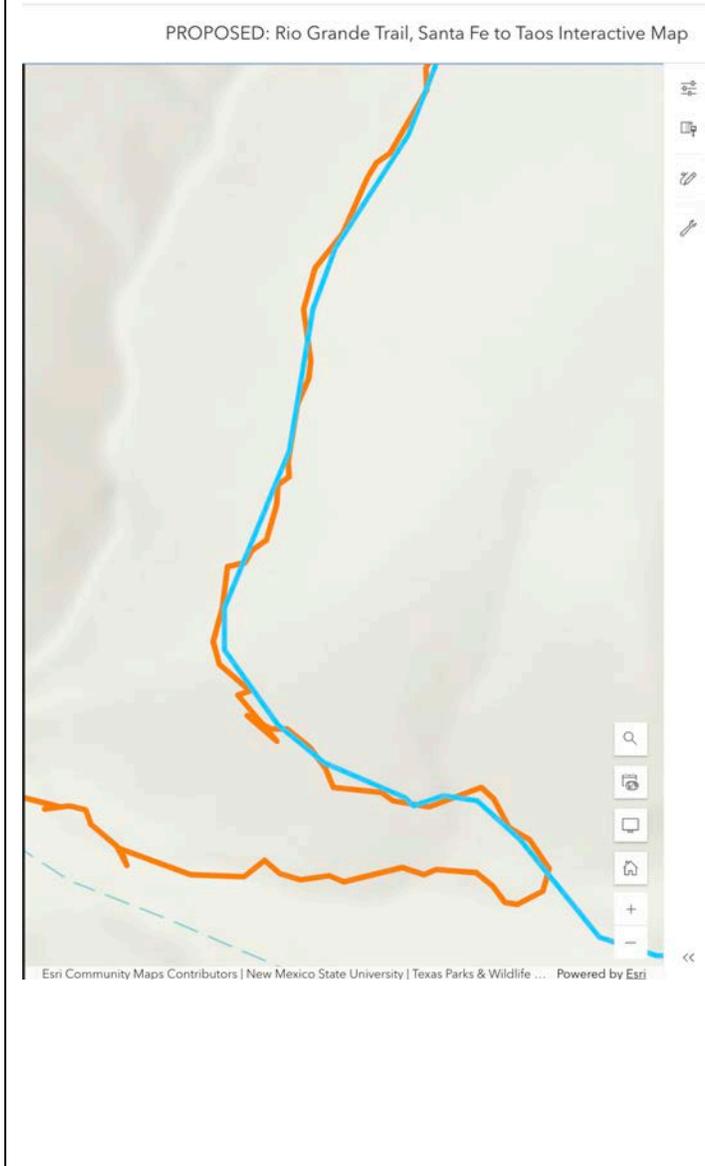


### Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike, Section 1-4

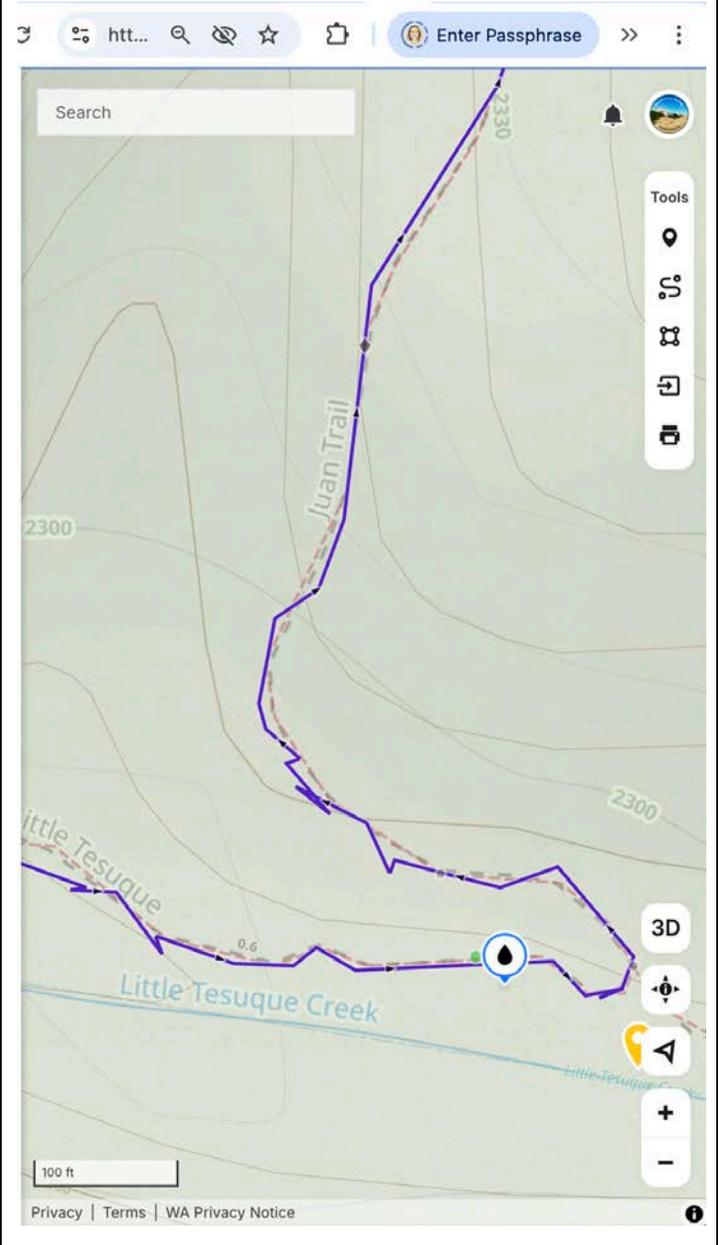


## 6. Near Junction F of the Dale Ball Trails (and near the Little Tesuque Trailhead)

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3.



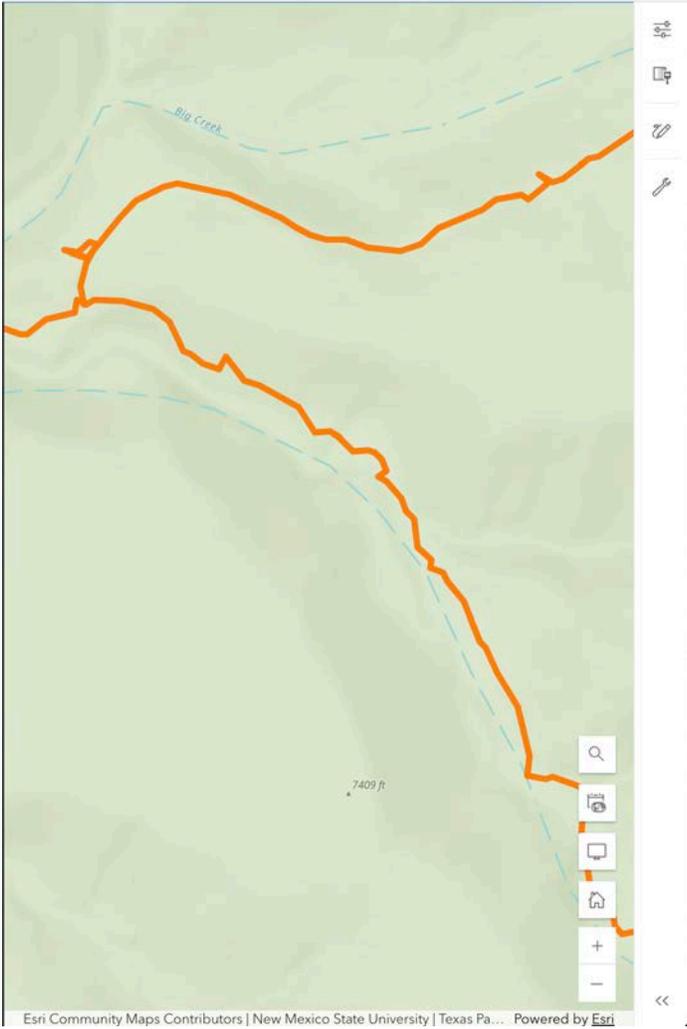
Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike, Section 1-4:



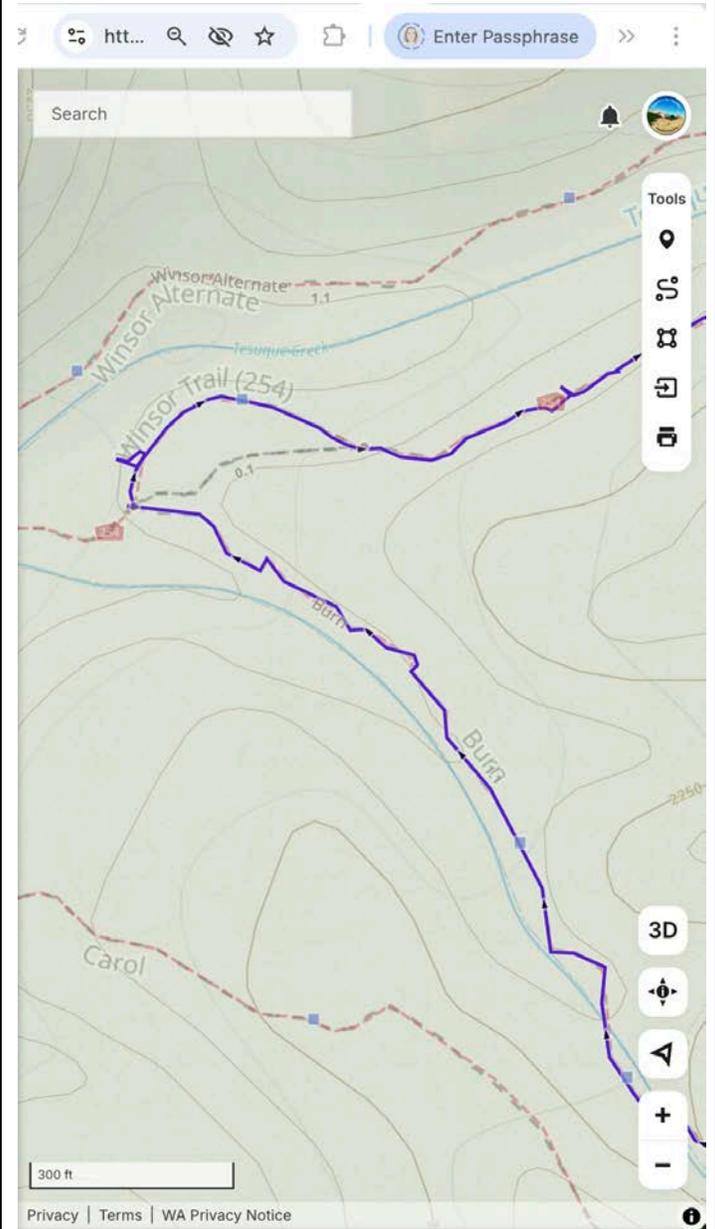
## 7. Continued at Juan and Winsor Intersection

### Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3.

PROPOSED: Rio Grande Trail, Santa Fe to Taos Interactive Map



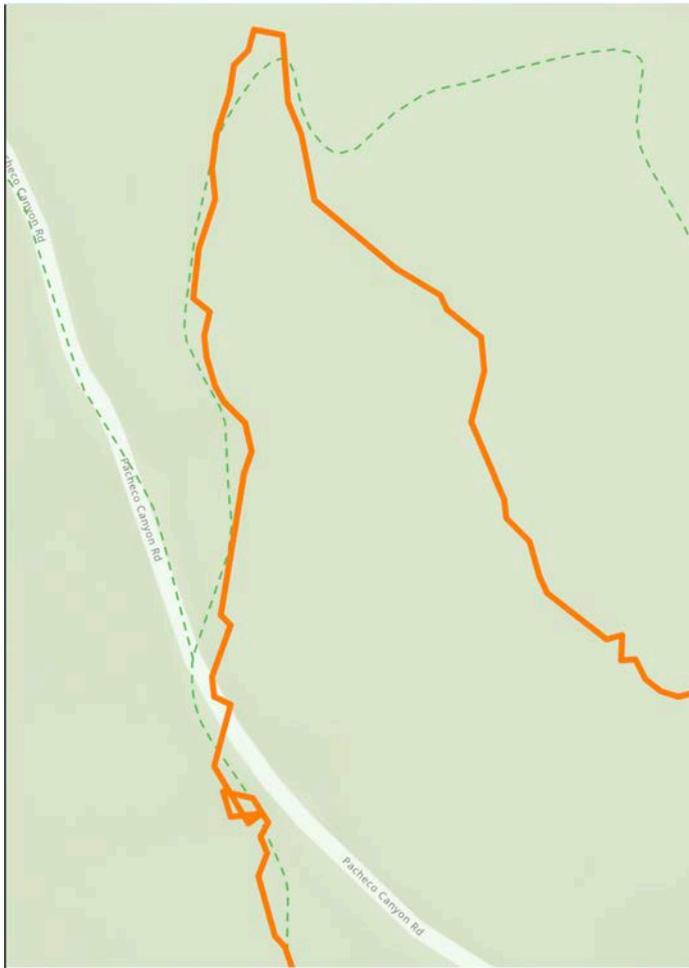
### Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike, Section 1-6:



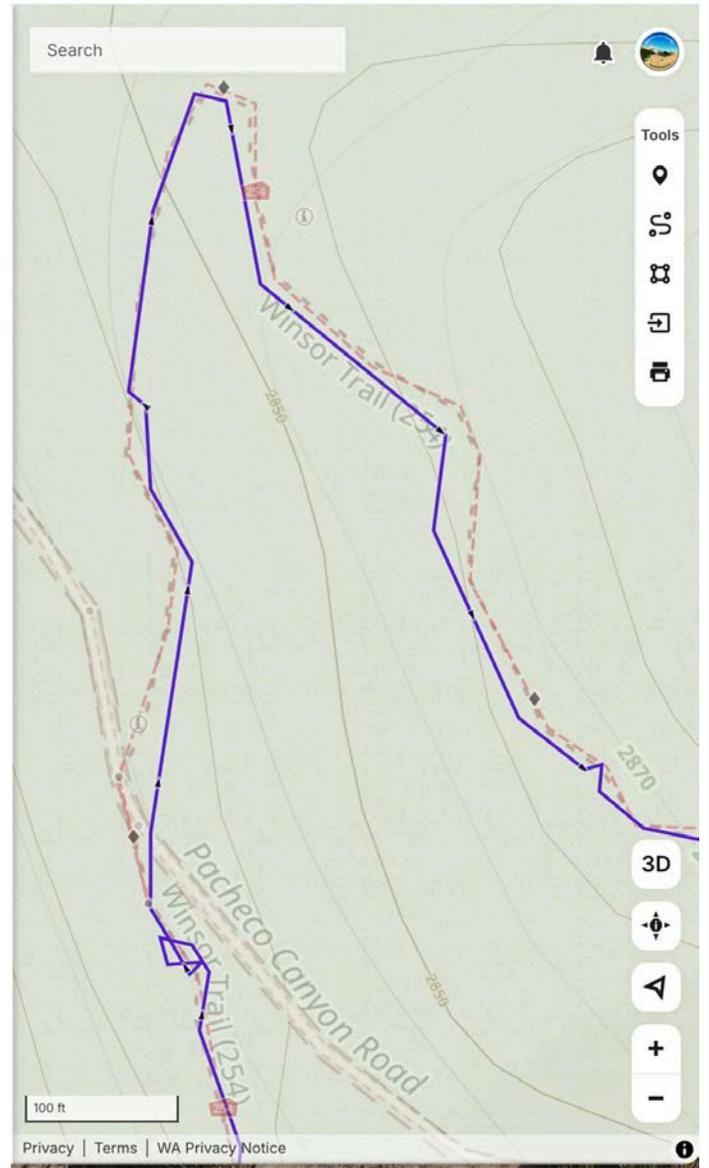
## 8. Continued at intersection of Pacheco Canyon Road

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3.

PROPOSED: Rio Grande Trail, Santa Fe to Taos Interactive Map



From Section 1-8 and 1-9 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike.



# 9. Further up Winsor Trail (254)

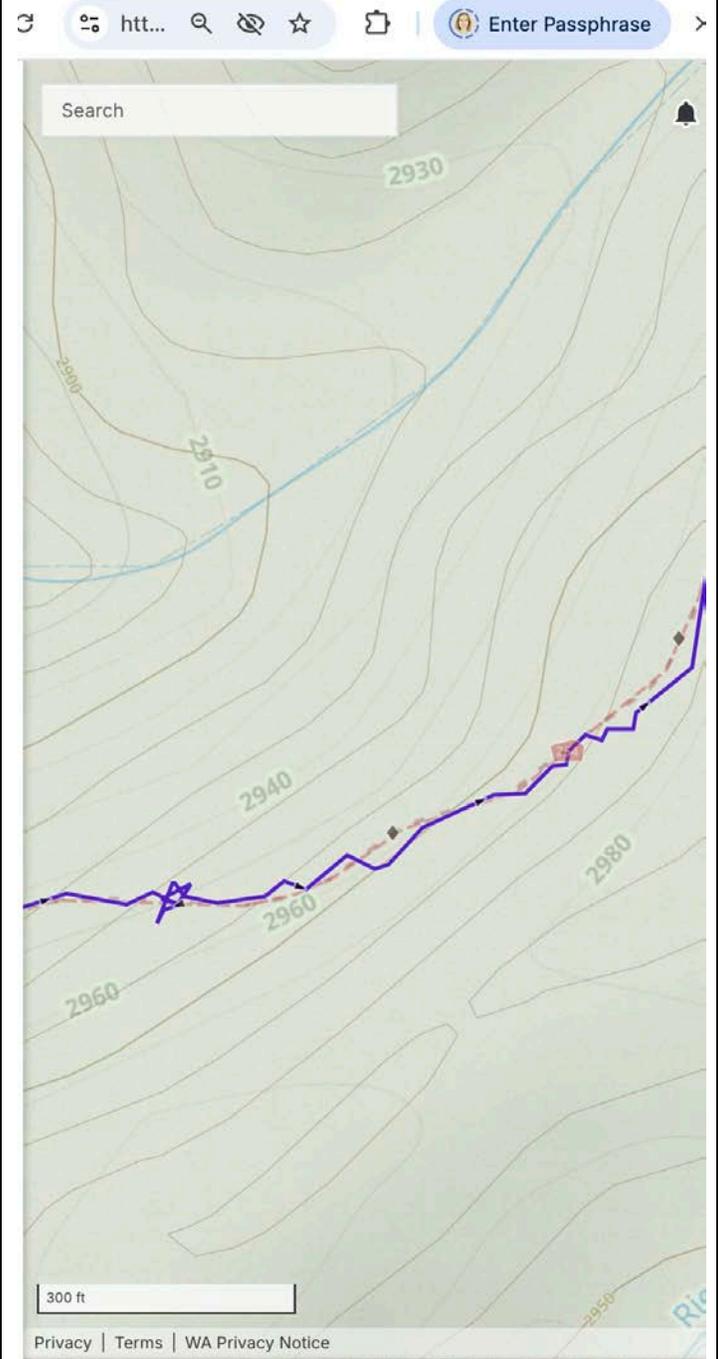
Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3.

PROPOSED: Rio Grande Trail, Santa Fe to Taos Interactive Map



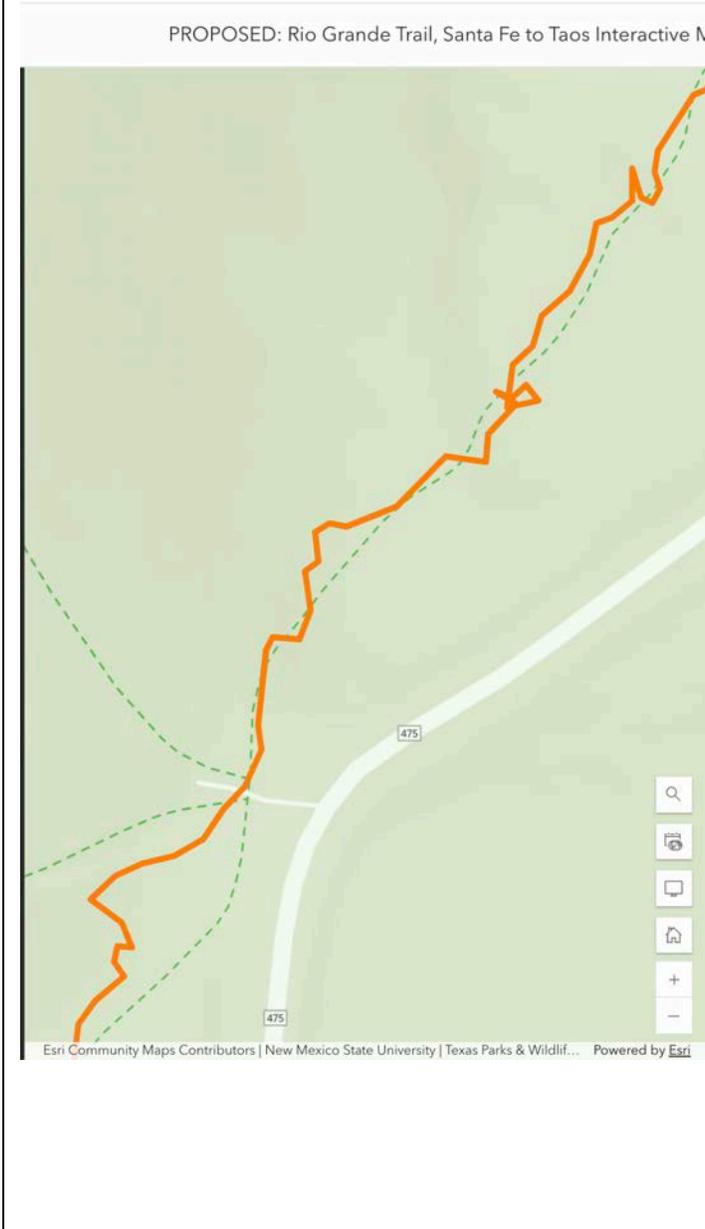
Esri Community Maps Contributors | New Mexico State University | Texas Parks & Wildlife | © Open... Powerec

Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike, Section 1-7:

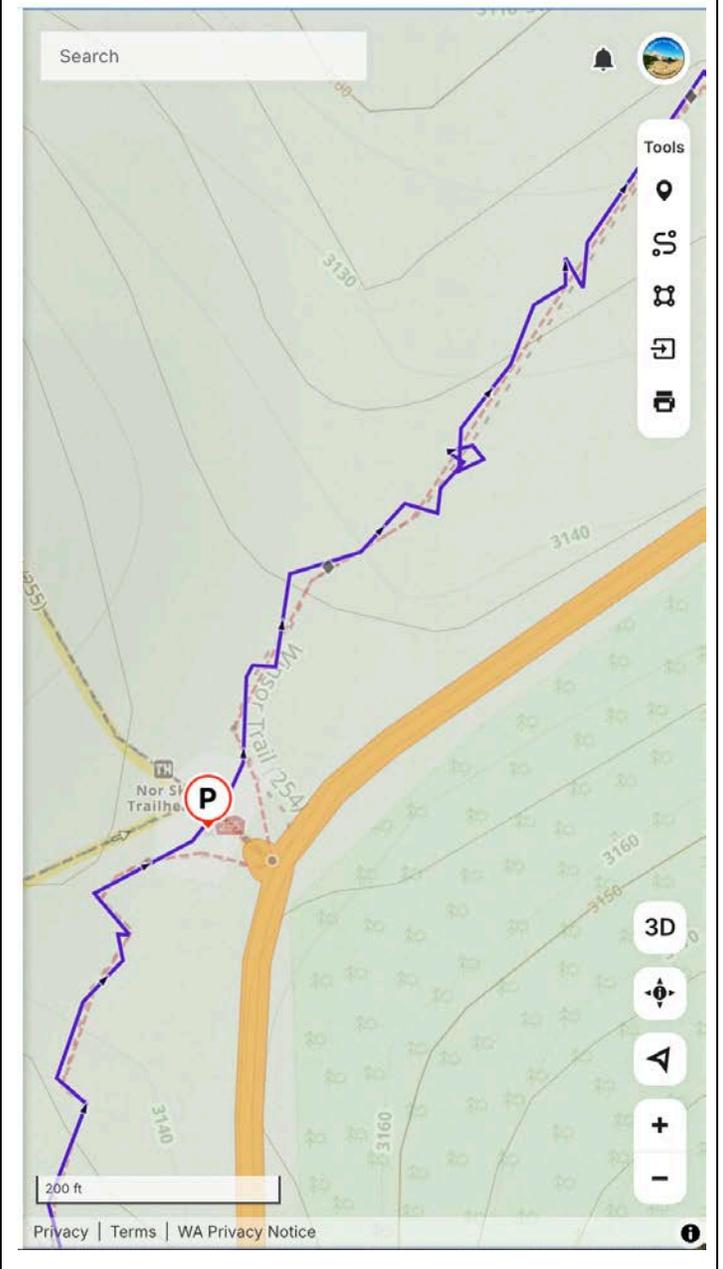


# 10. Near Norski Trails on Winsor

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3.



Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike, Section 1-9:



# Section 2 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike/Trail

## 11. At Lake Katherine

The left image is the Rio Grande Trail's Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3 (orange). The right image is a track I recorded in the Gaia app on August 13, 2018.

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials <http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>

This is the track I recorded in the Gaia app on August 13, 2018 when I first did the thru-hike all the way through. I was just taking in the view, then wandering around to find a campsite. SF2T Sections 2-3 and 2-4.

PROPOSED: Rio Grande Trail, Santa Fe to Taos Interactive Map

Community Maps Contributors | New Mexico State University | Texas Pa... Powered by Esri

Track

Section 2: Santa Fe Ski Basin to Pecos Ba...

Day 1: Santa Fe Ski Basin to Lake Katherine (8/13/18) TRACK

August 13, 2018 at 11:03 AM  
Tracked with iPhone 7 Plus

Distance	7.97 mi	Ascent	2,107 ft	Total Time	6h 7m
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Elevation

Ascent	2,107 ft
Descent	702 ft
Max Elevation	11,907 ft
Min Elevation	10,286 ft

Time

Total Time	6h 7m
Moving Time	5h 16m
Stopped Time	50m 31s

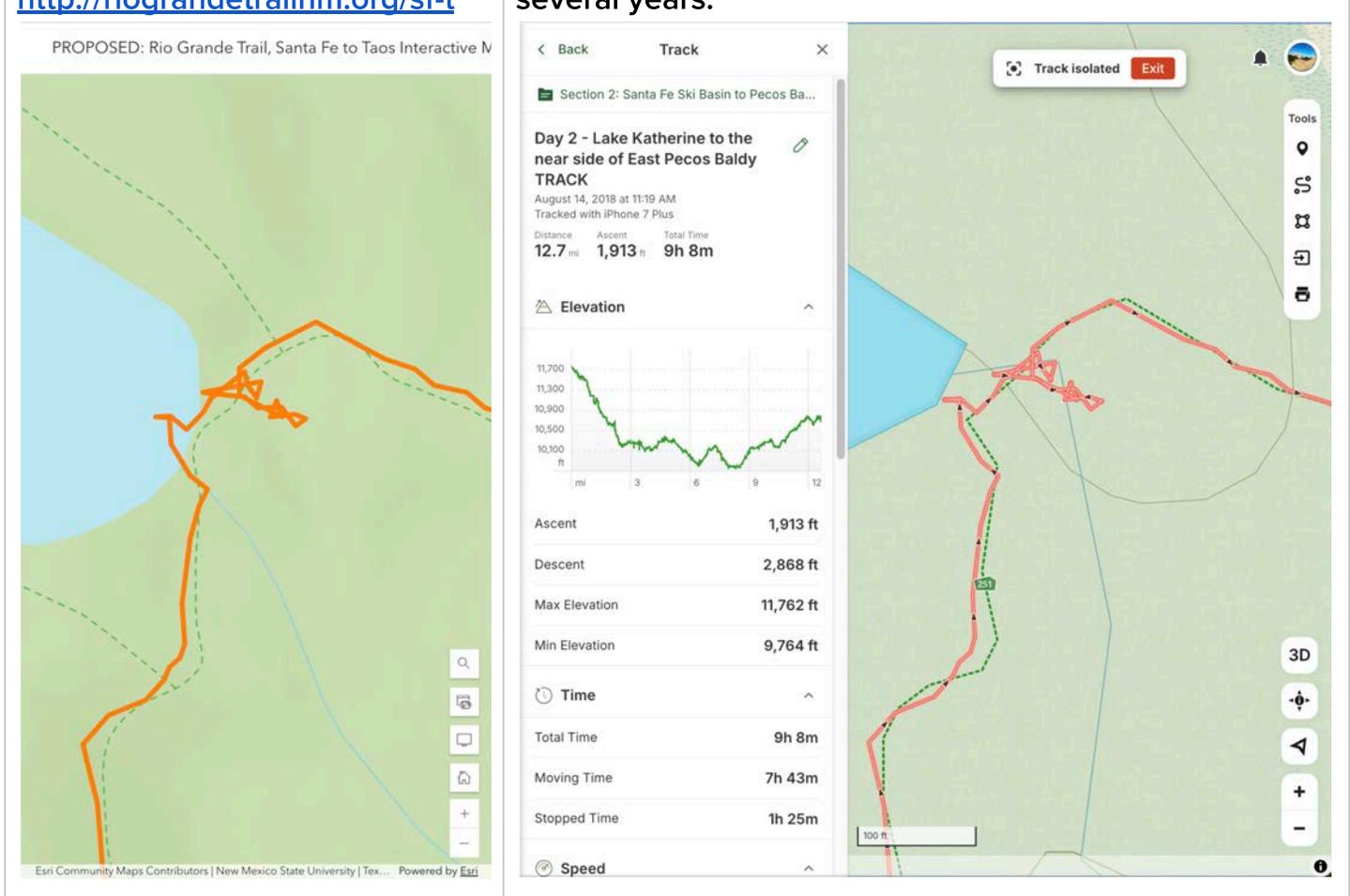
Speed

## 12. Stewart Lake

The track on the right was recorded by me during my first full trip in 2018. The Rio Grande Alignment mirrors it exactly.

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials <http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>

Stewart Lake, in Section 2-4 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike. This is the original track I recorded when I first did the route all the way through in 2018. The GPX file for this has been available from the SF2T website for several years.

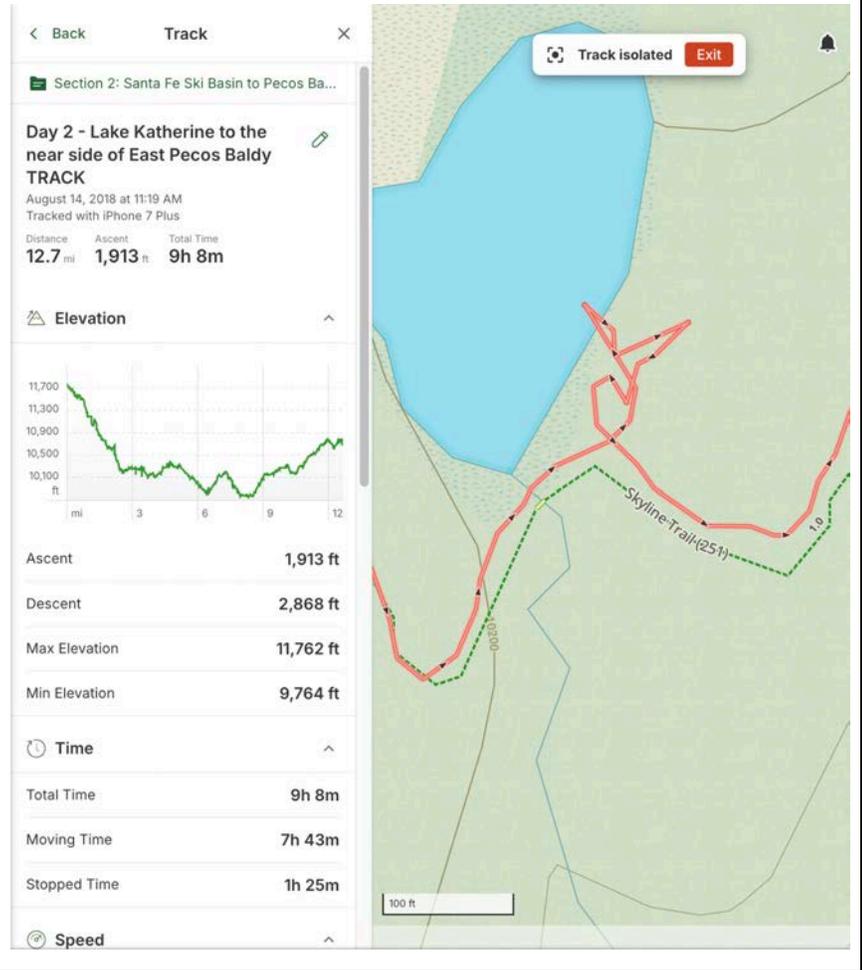


# 13. At Stewart Pond

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3.

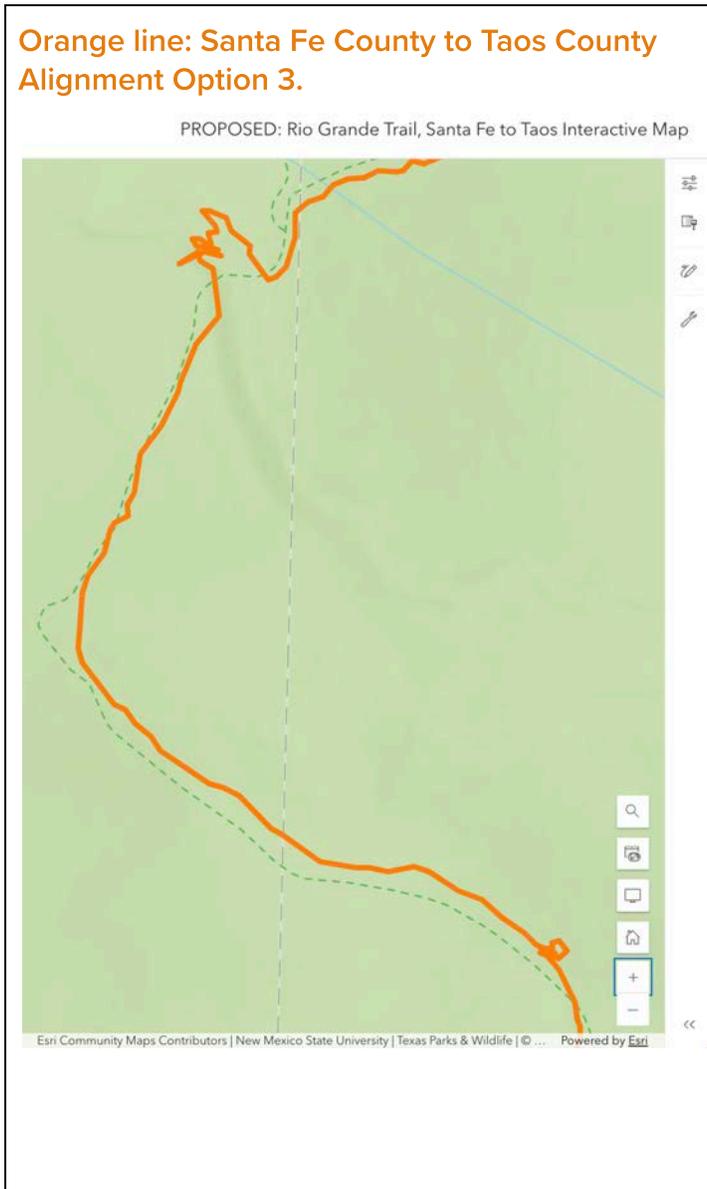


Section 2-4 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike.

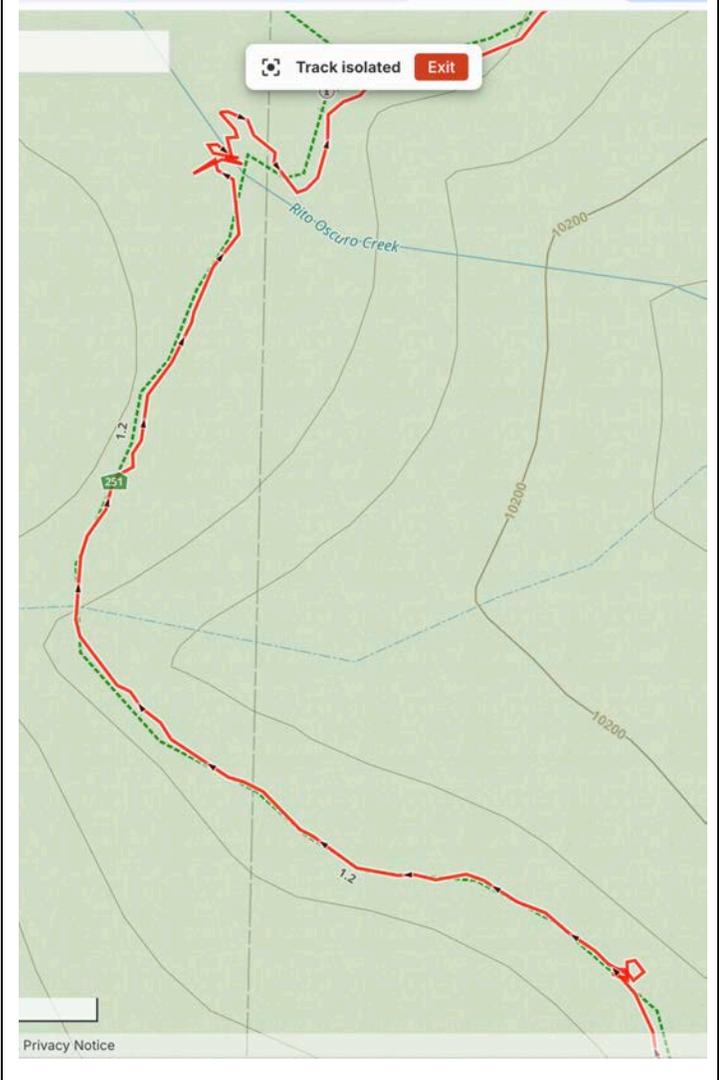


## 14. Near Rito Oscuro Creek

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3.



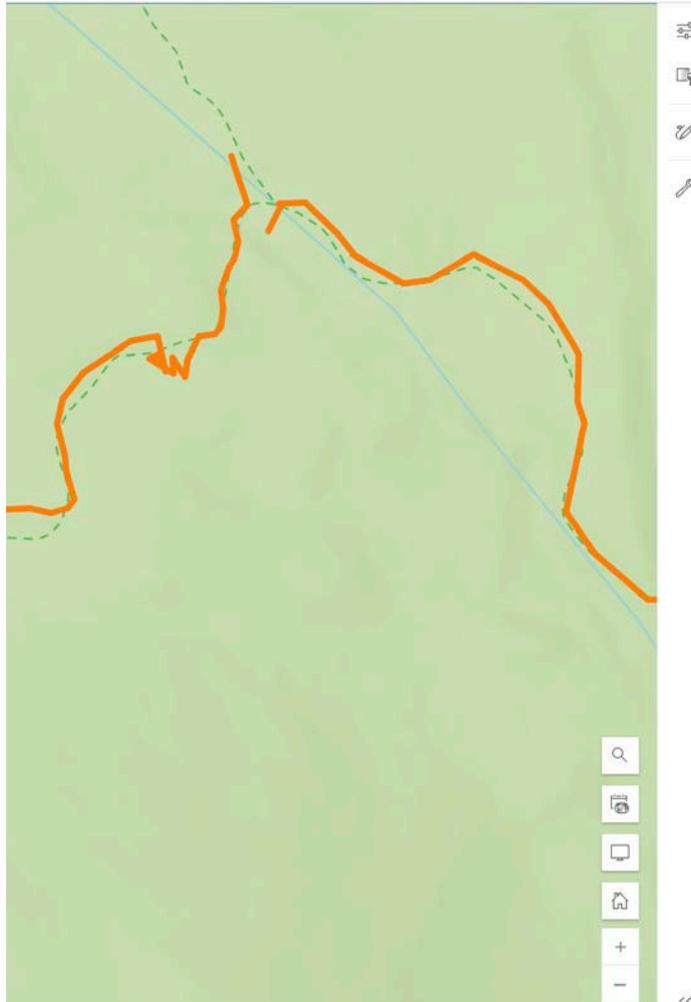
Section 2-5 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike.



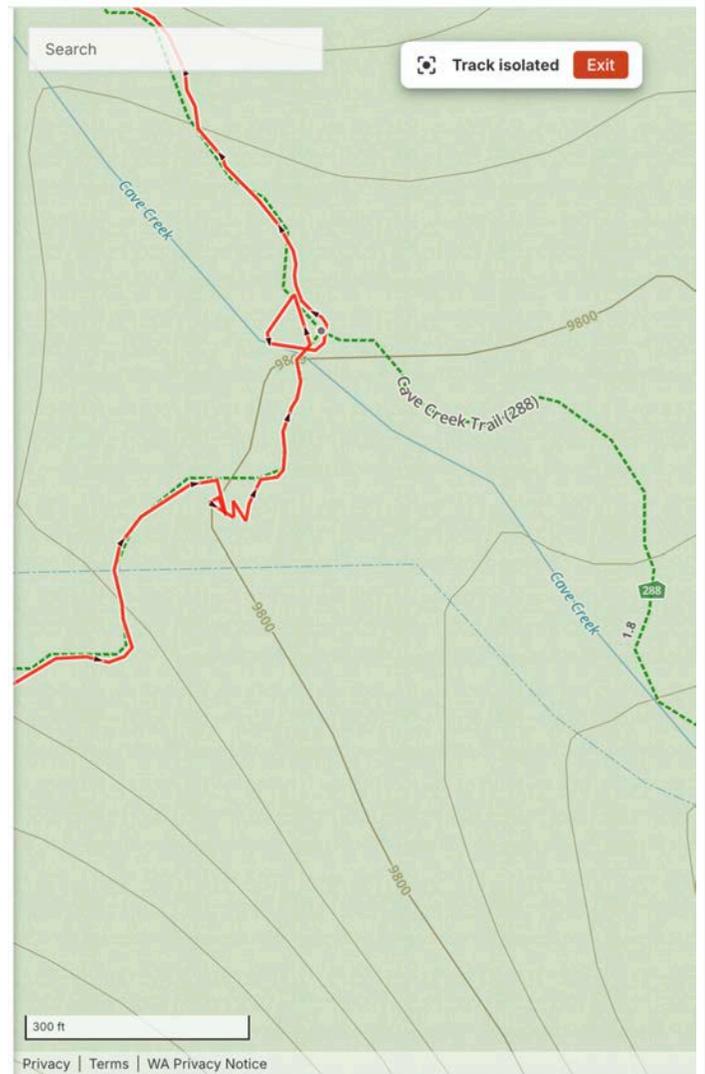
# 15. At Cave Creek

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3.

PROPOSED: Rio Grande Trail, Santa Fe to Taos Interactive Map

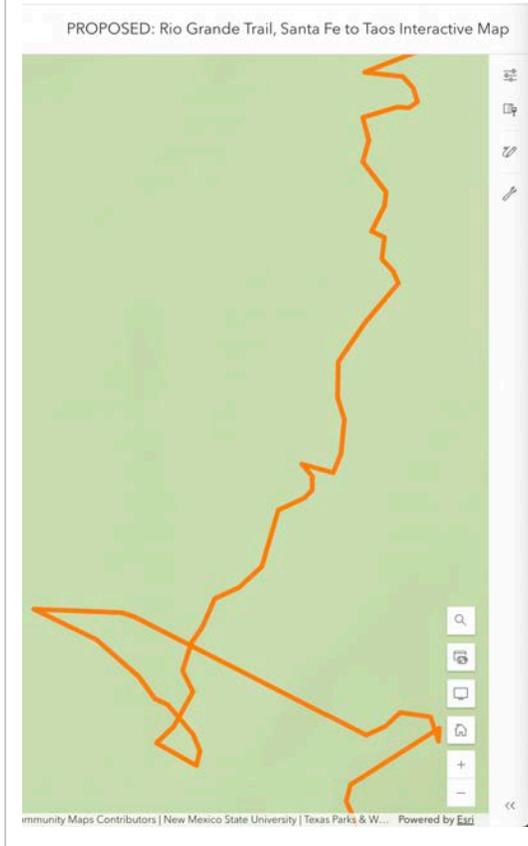


Section 2-5 and 2-6 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike.

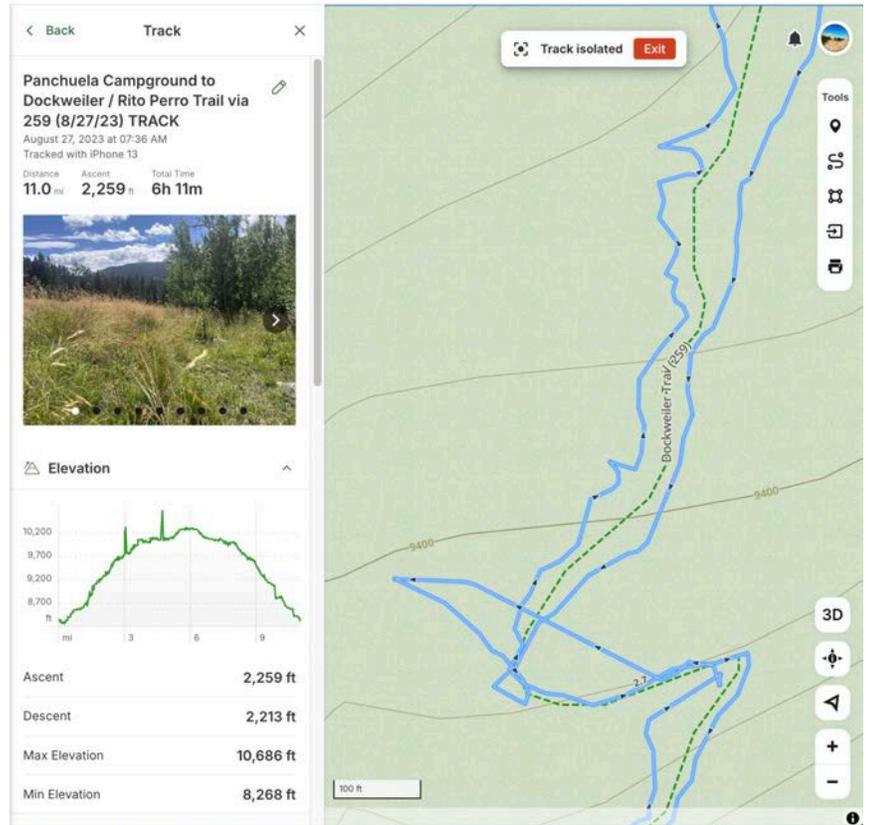


## 16. Along Dockweiler

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials <http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>

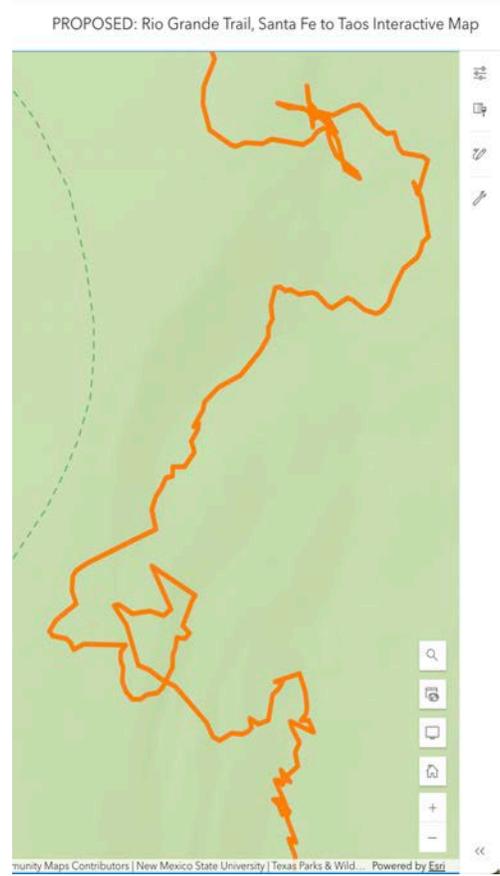


Dockweiler Trail, in Section 2-7 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike.

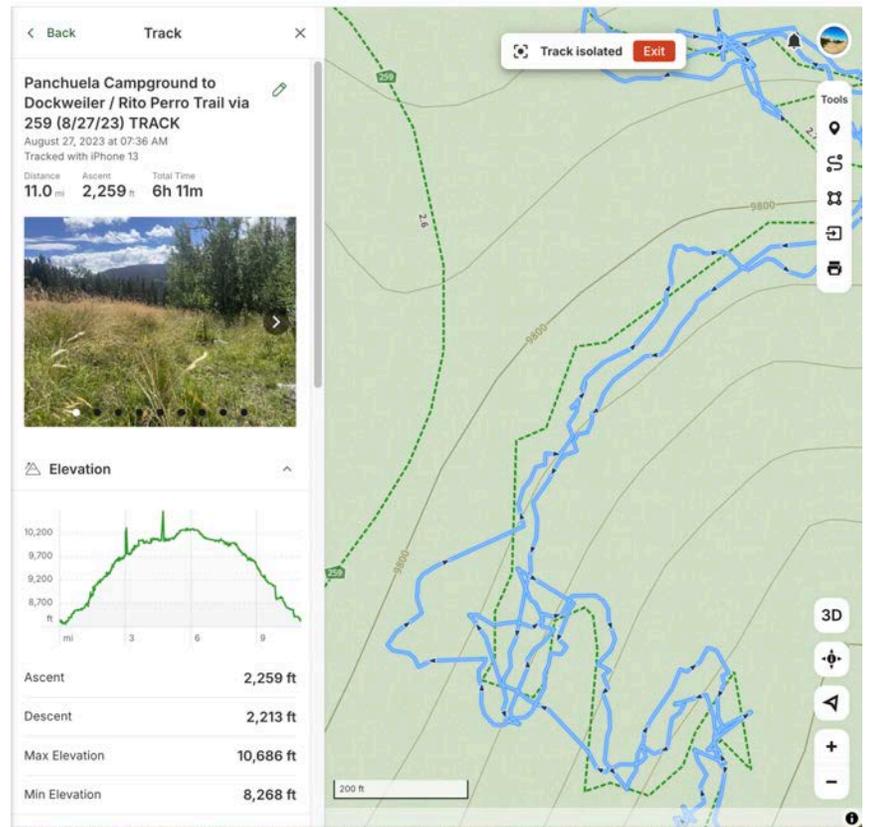


# 17. Further Along Dockweiler

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3.

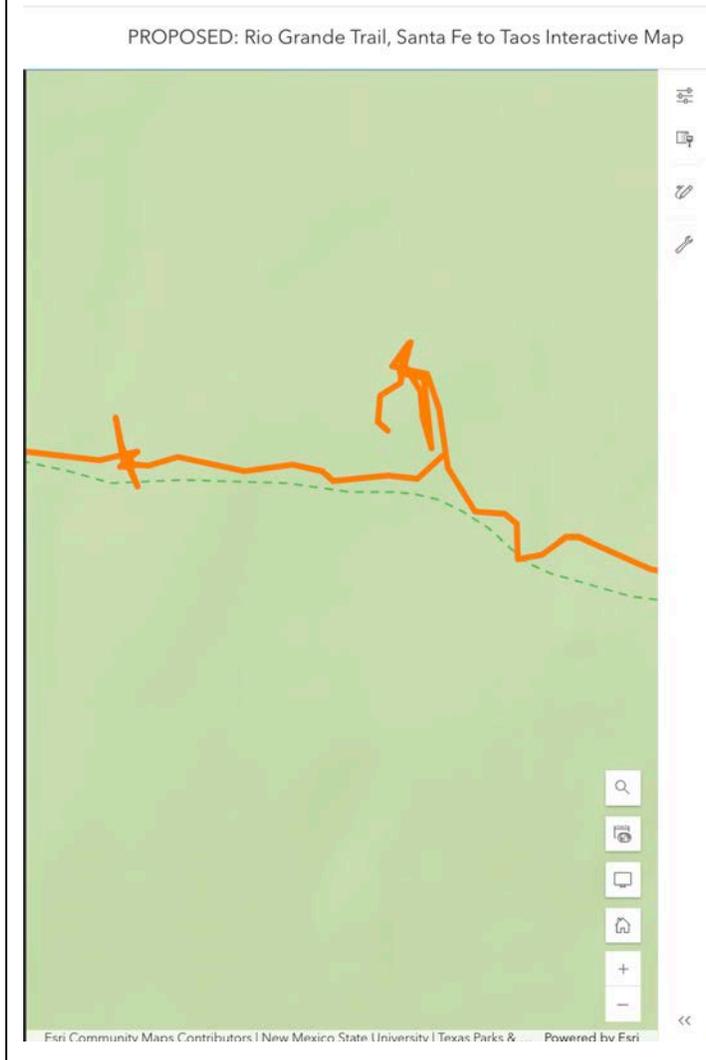


From Section 2-7 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike.



## 18. Further along Dockweiler

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials <http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>



From Section 2-8 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike.



# 19. At the intersection of Dockweiler and Jack's Creek Trail

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials <http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>

## Section 2-8 and 2-9 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike.

PROPOSED: Rio Grande Trail, Santa Fe to Taos Interactive Map

Jack's Creek Campground Parking to Pecos Baldy Lake (10/5/19) TRACK  
October 5, 2019 at 11:46 AM  
Tracked with iPhone XS

Distance	Ascent	Total Time
7.99 mi	2,674 ft	6h 30m

**Elevation**

Ascent	Descent	Max Elevation	Min Elevation
2,674 ft	63 ft	11,505 ft	8,209 ft

**Time**

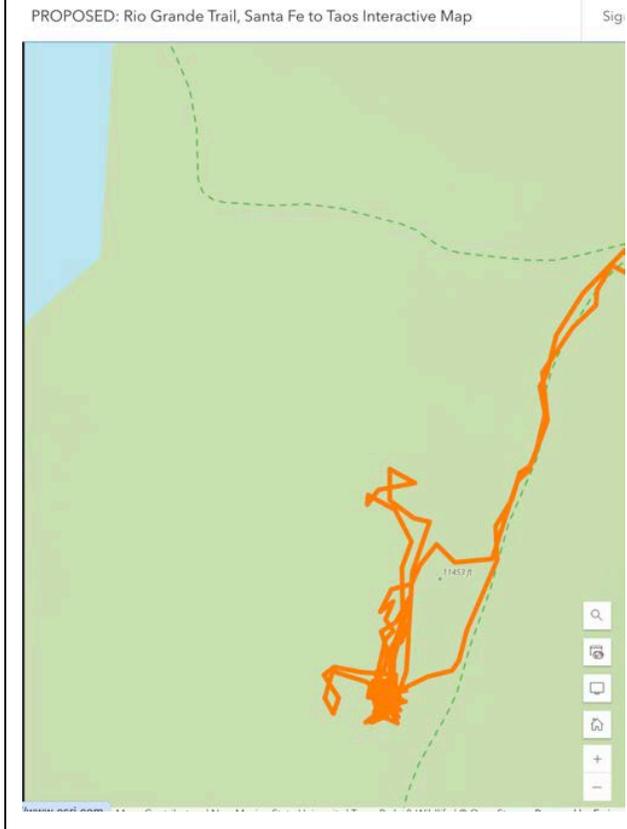
Total Time	Moving Time	Stopped Time
6h 30m	4h 39m	1h 50m

**Speed**

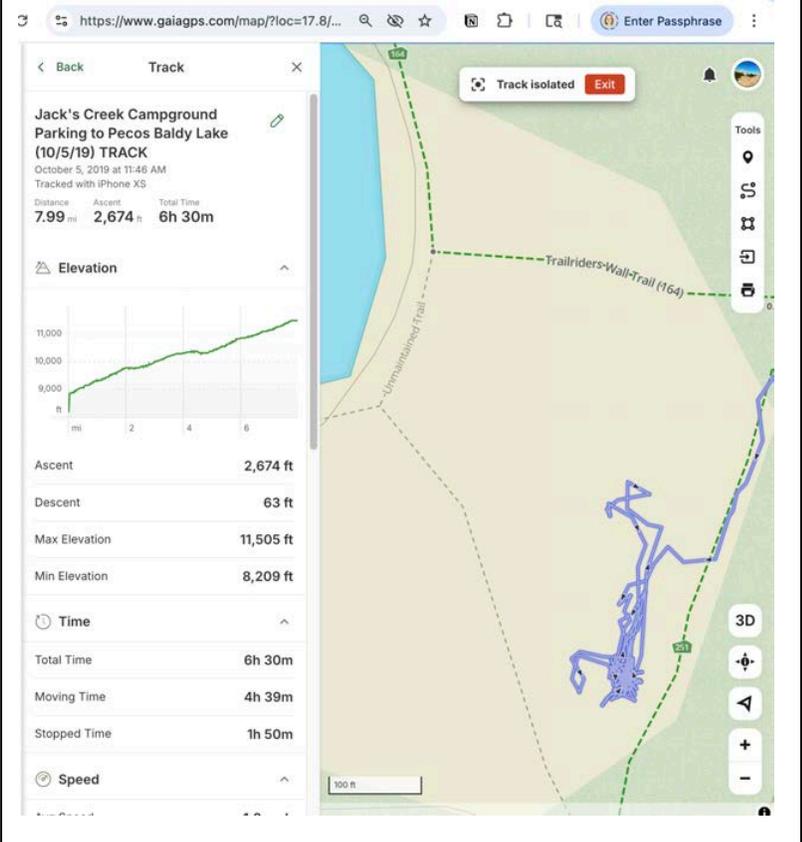
Community Maps Contributors | New Mexico State University | Texas Parks & Wildlife | Powered by Esri

## 20. At Pecos Baldy Lake

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials  
<http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>



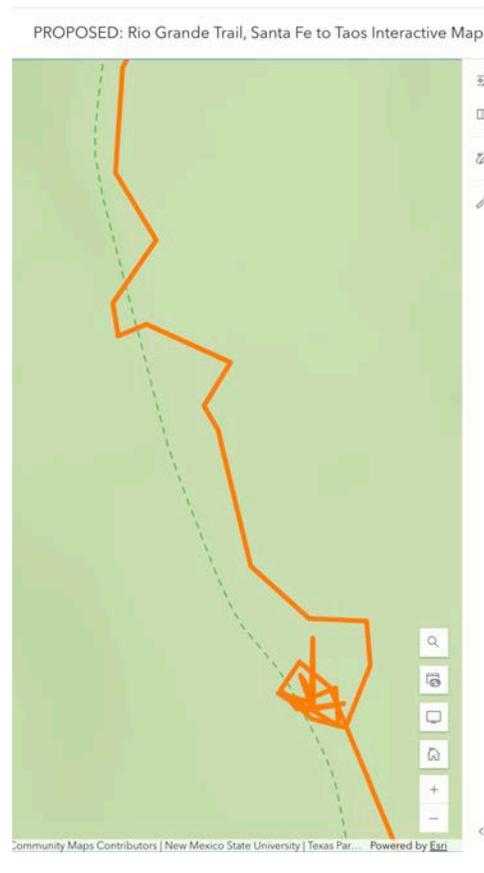
End Section 2 and beginning of Section 3 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike. Original recorded track.



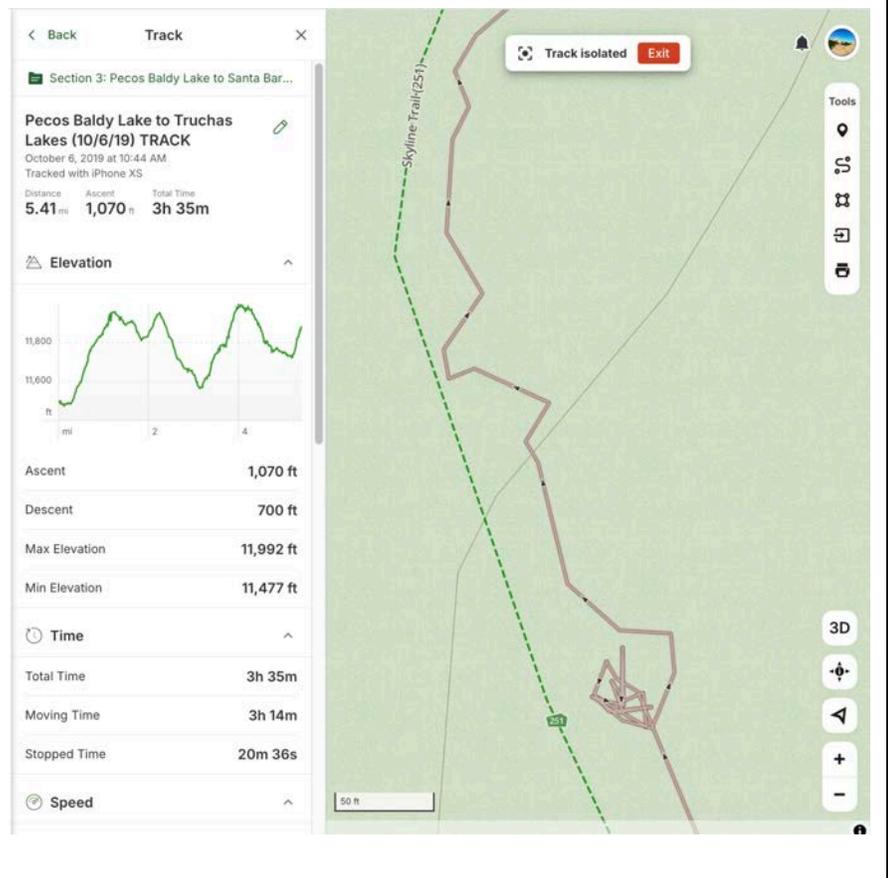
# Section 3 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike/Trail

## 21. Between Trailriders Wall and Truchas Lakes

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials <http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>

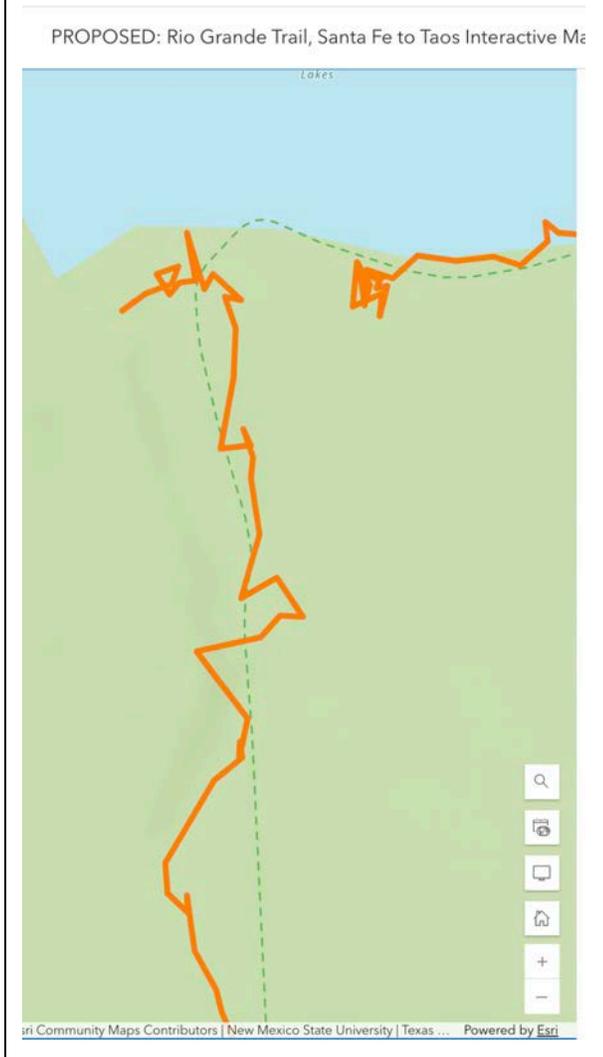


### Section 3-2 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike.

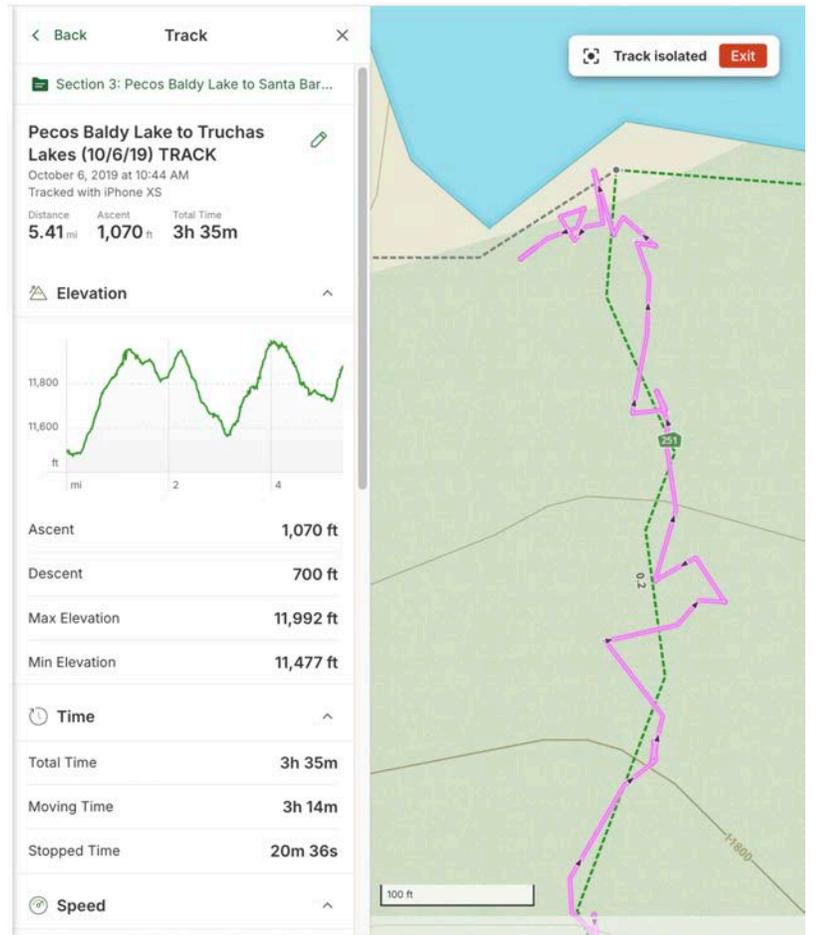


## 22. At Truchas Lakes

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials  
<http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>

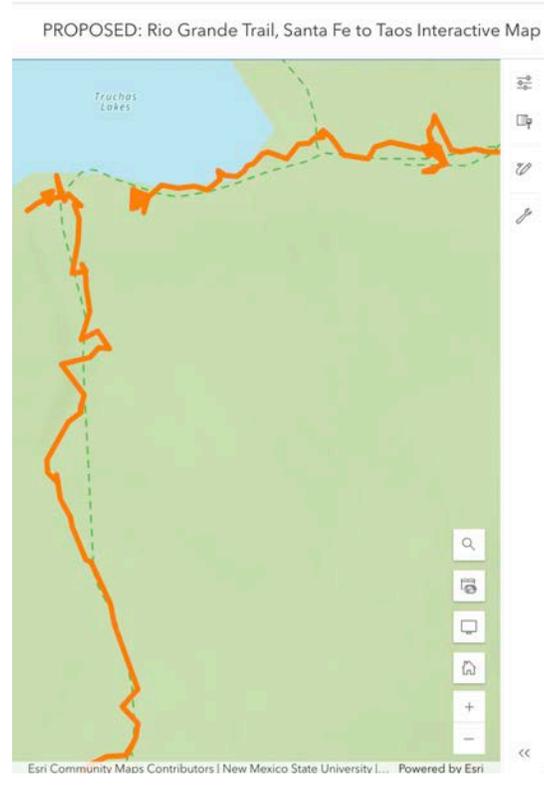


## Section 3-2 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike.

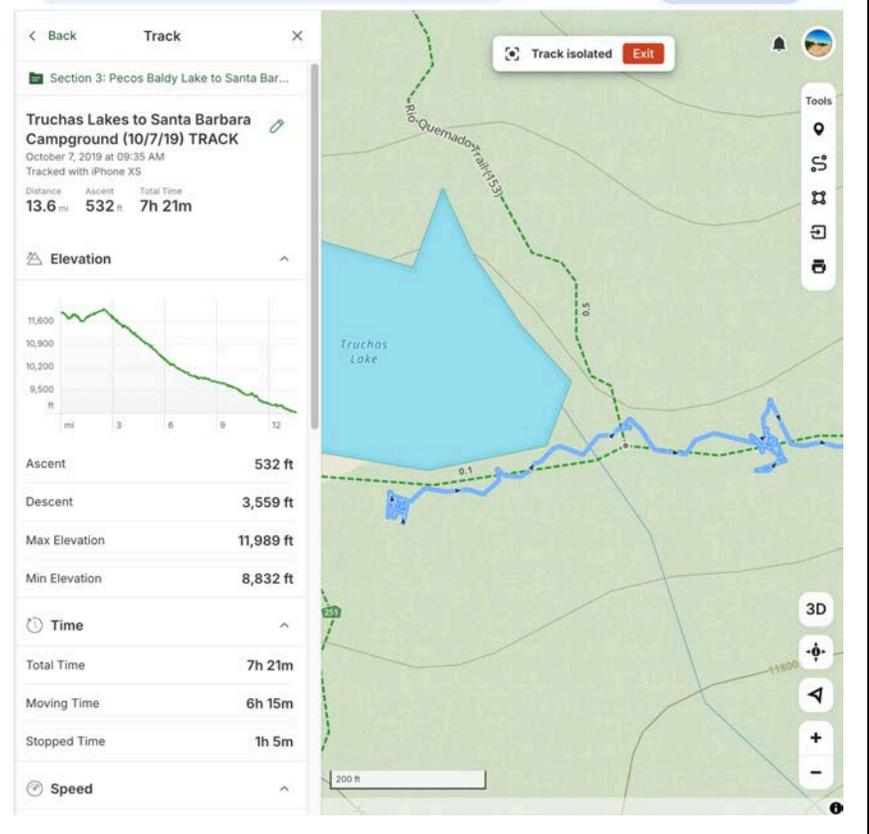


## 23. Also at Truchas Lakes

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials <http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>



## Section 3-2 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike.



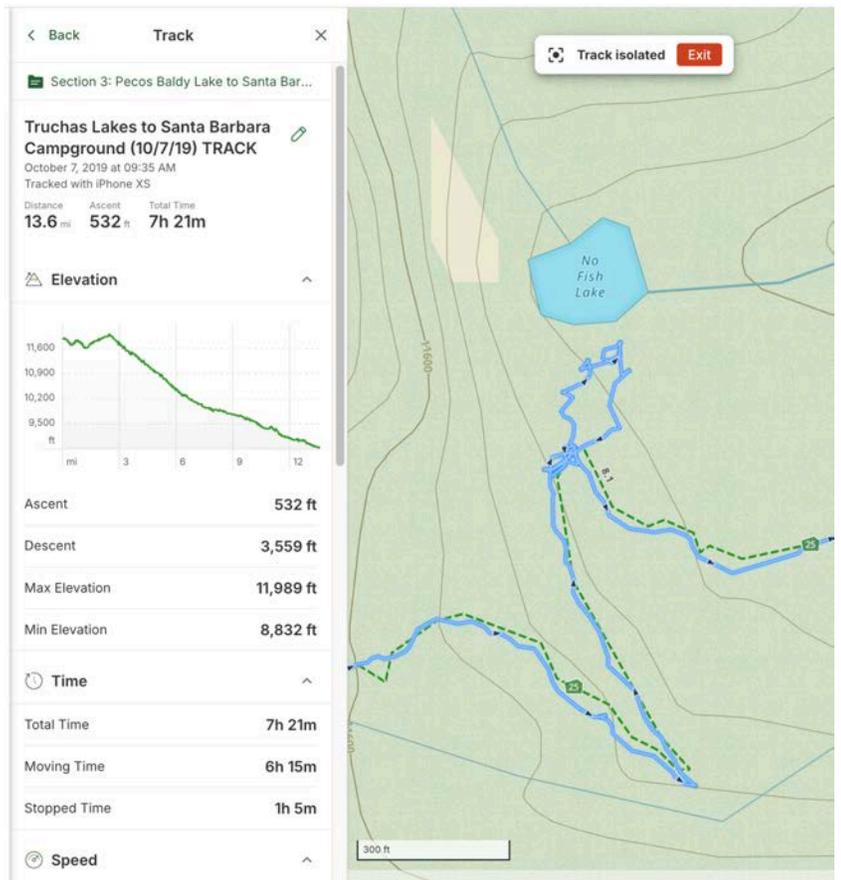
## 24. At No Fish Lake

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials <http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>

PROPOSED: Rio Grande Trail, Santa Fe to Taos Interactive Map

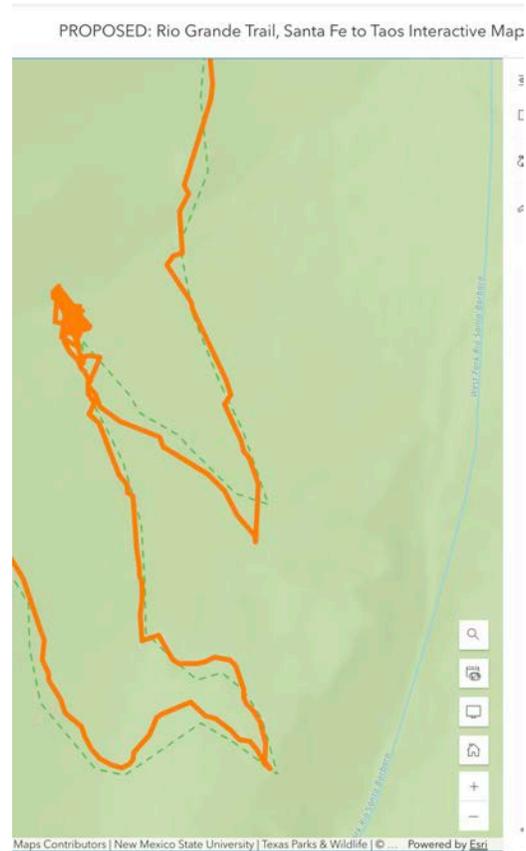


## Section 3-4 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike.

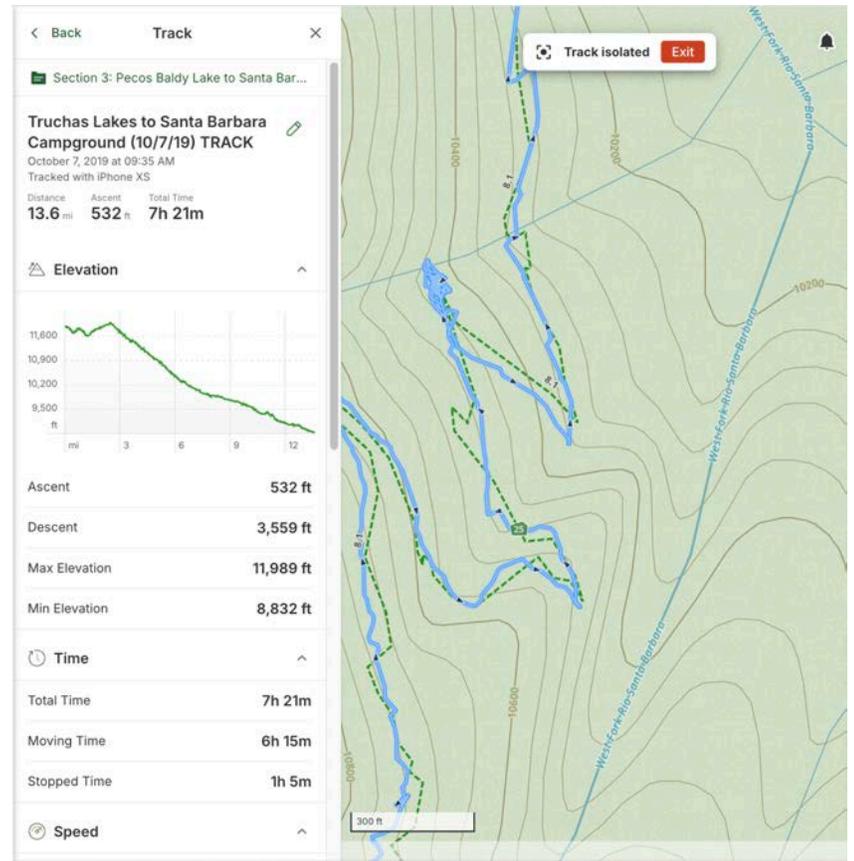


## 25. At Rio Santa Barbara

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials  
<http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>

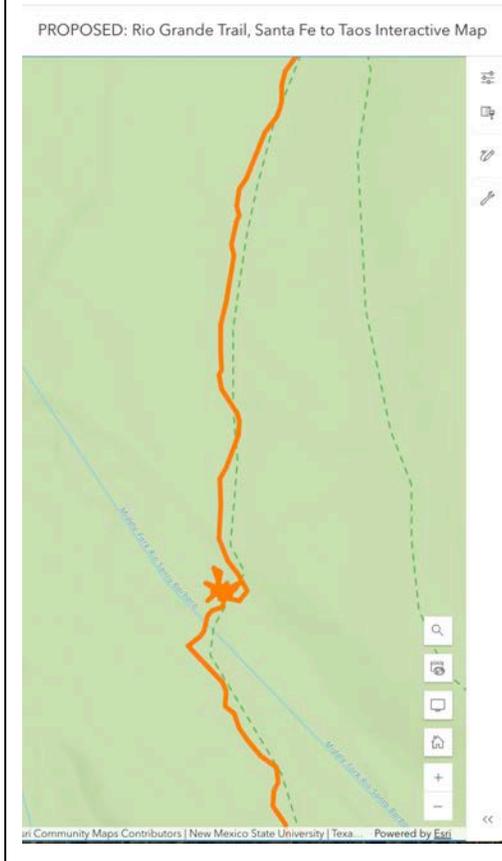


From Section 3-4 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike.

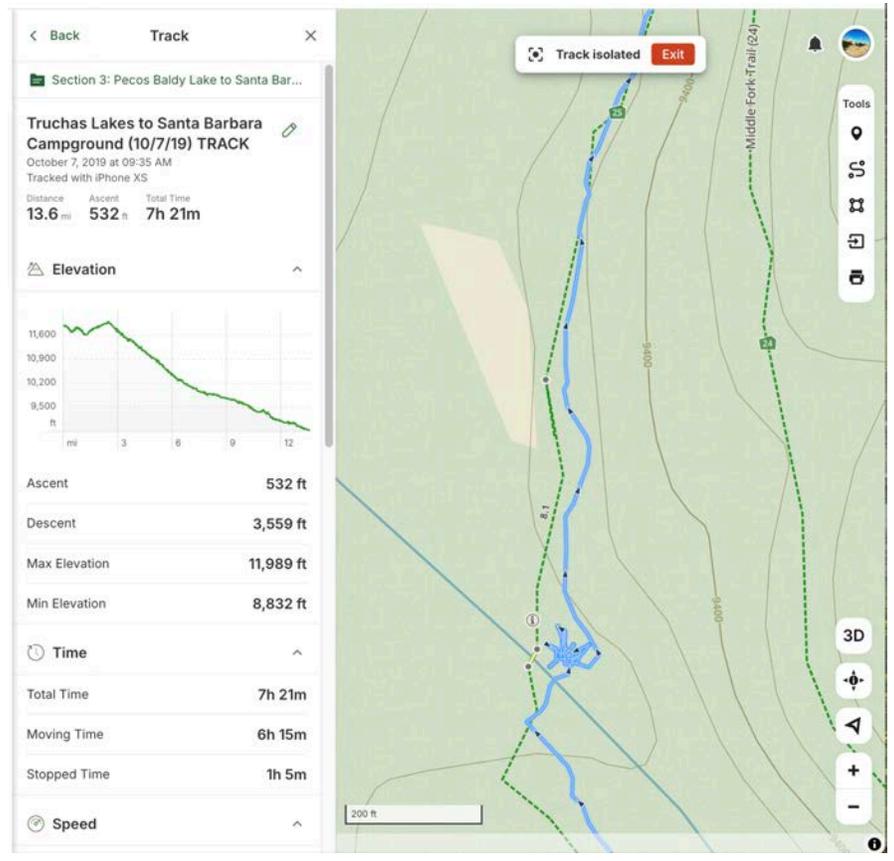


## 26. Before the merge of West Fork Trail and Middle Fork Trail

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials <http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>

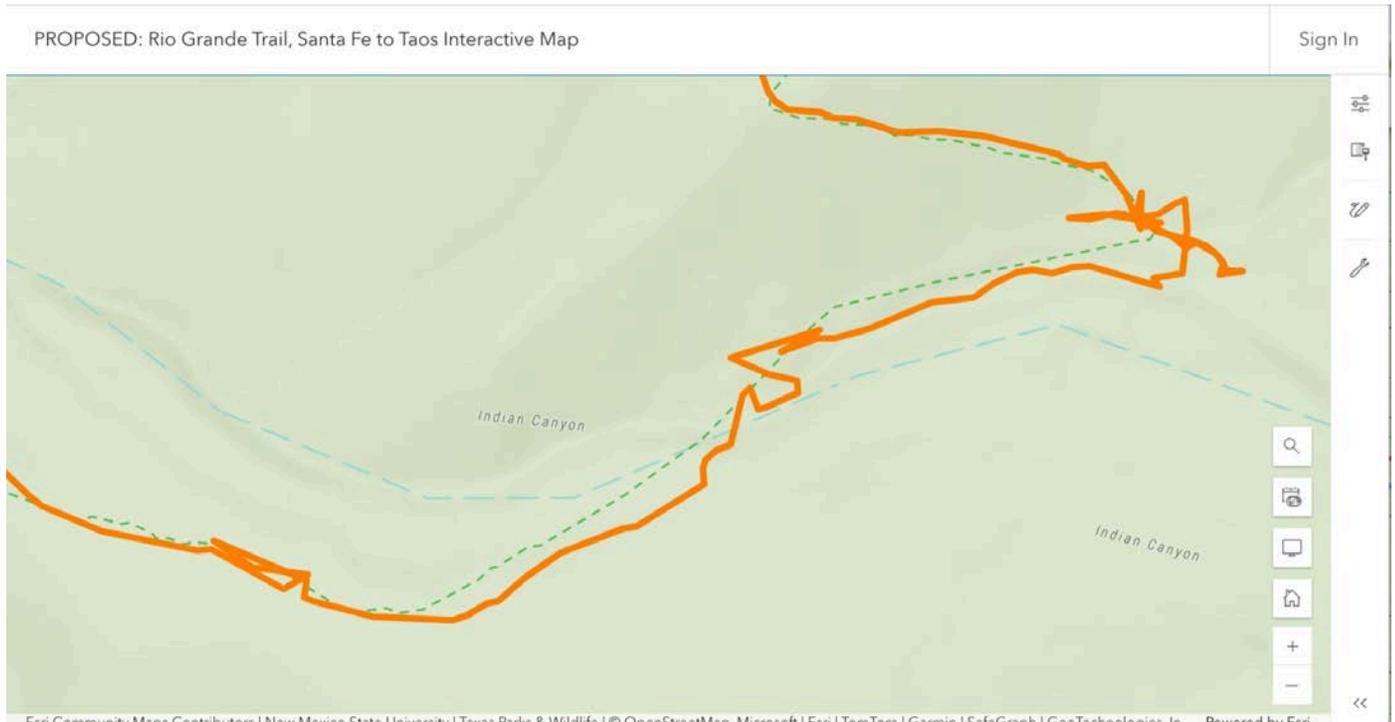


From Section 3-5 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike.

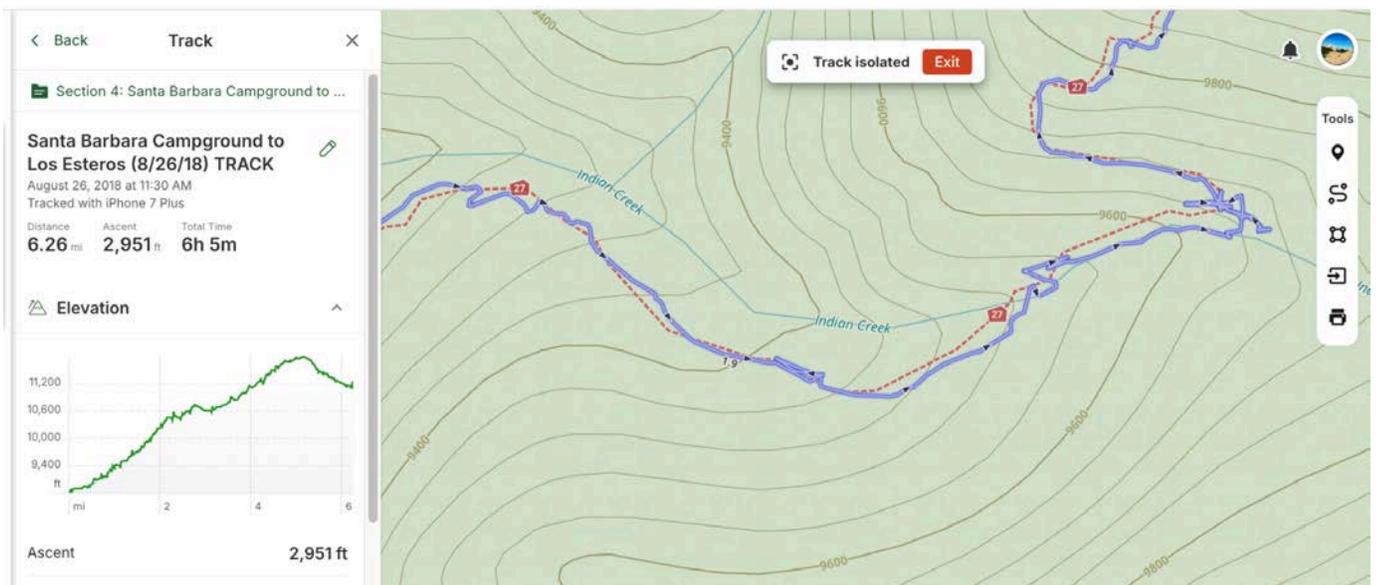


# Section 4 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike/Trail

## 27. Up Indian Creek Trail



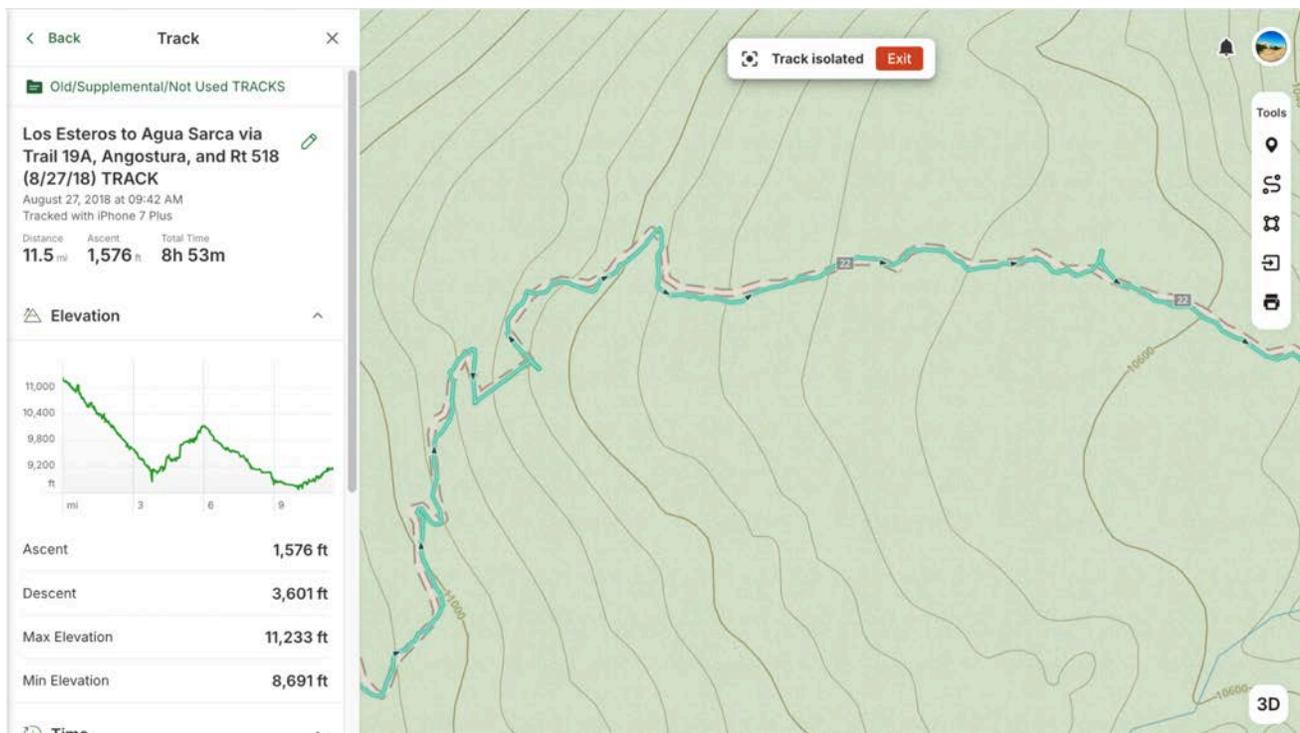
From Section 4-1 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike.



## 28. Down Comales Trail 22

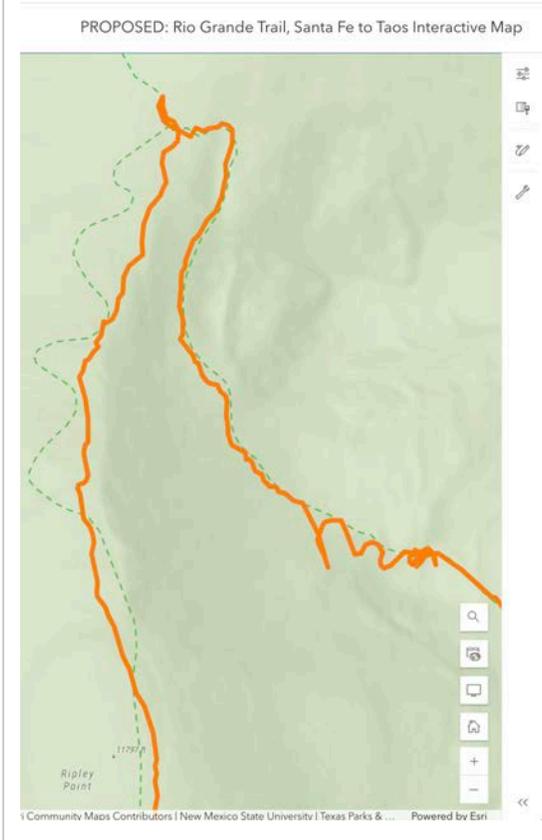


From Section 4-4 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike.

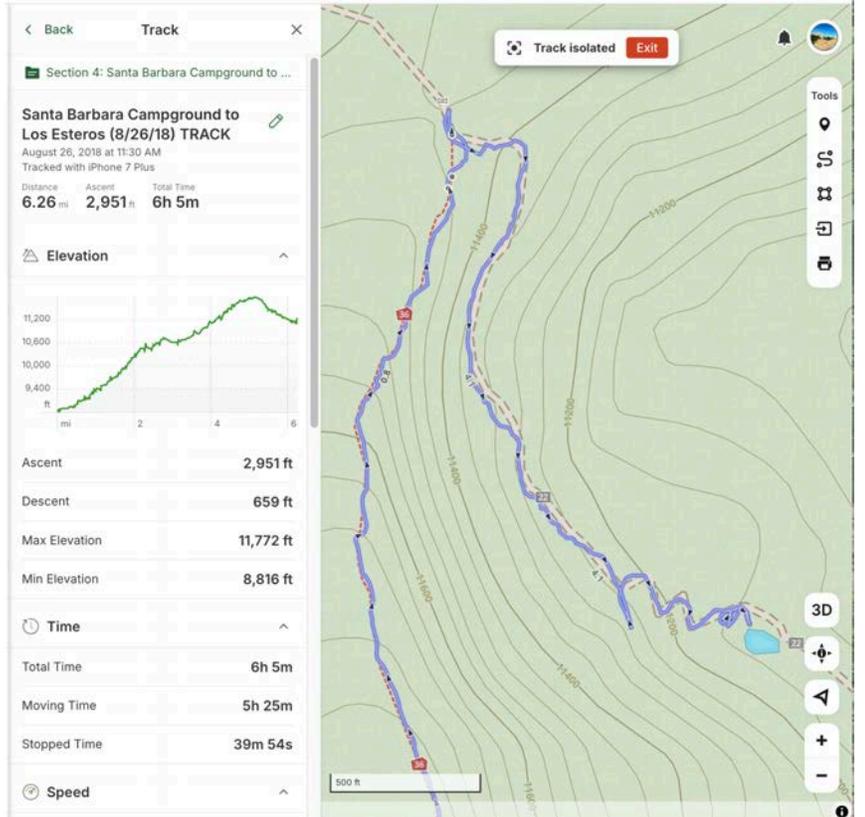


## 29. Near Ripley Point and Los Esteros

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials <http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>



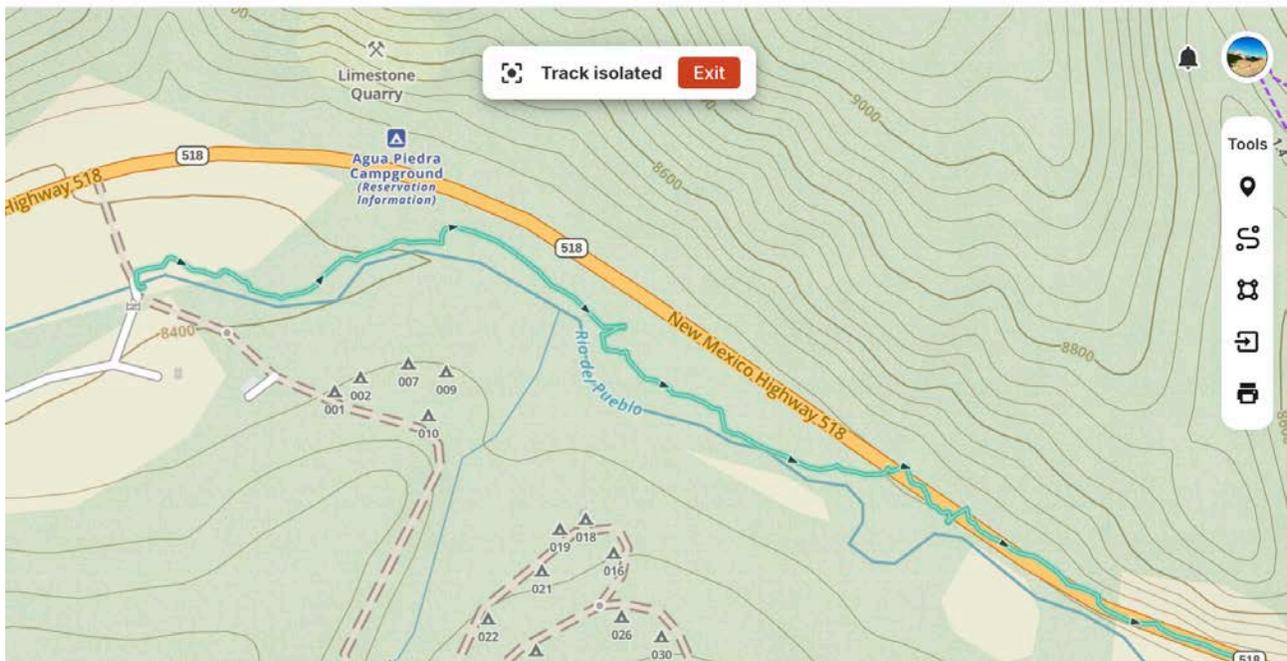
Ripley Point and Los Esteros. Section 4-3 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike. From my original track recorded when I first did the thru-hike in 2018. GPX file has been publicly available since about 2019.



30. At the entrance to Agua Piedra Campground and along the interpretive trail.



From Section 4-6 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike.



# Section 5 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike/Trail

## 31. The Connector.

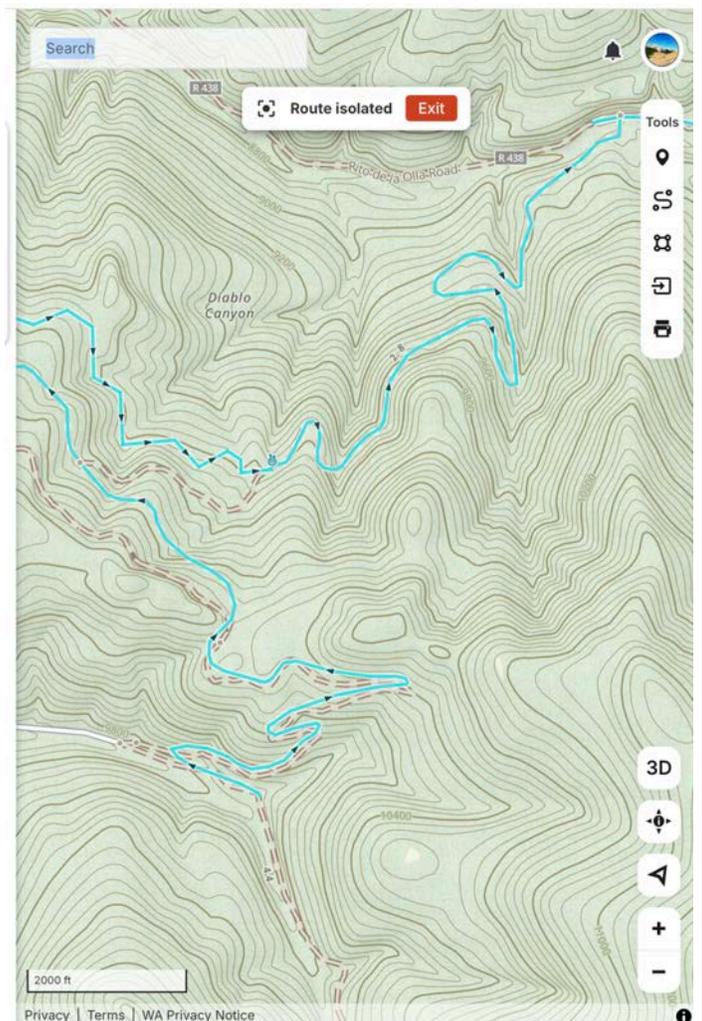
The Connector exists on no other hiking map besides the SF2T route. Also note that it is not recognized as a trail by the Forest Service.

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials <http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>

PROPOSED: Rio Grande Trail, Santa Fe to Taos Interactive Map



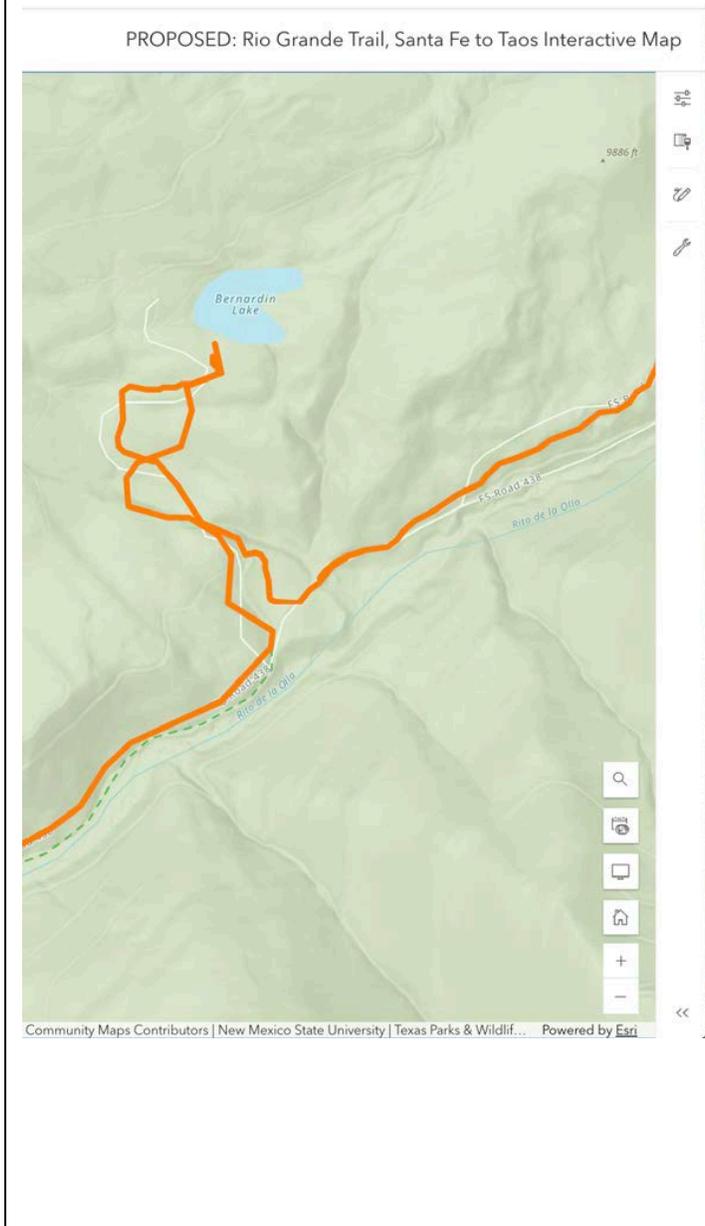
From Section 5-4 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike.



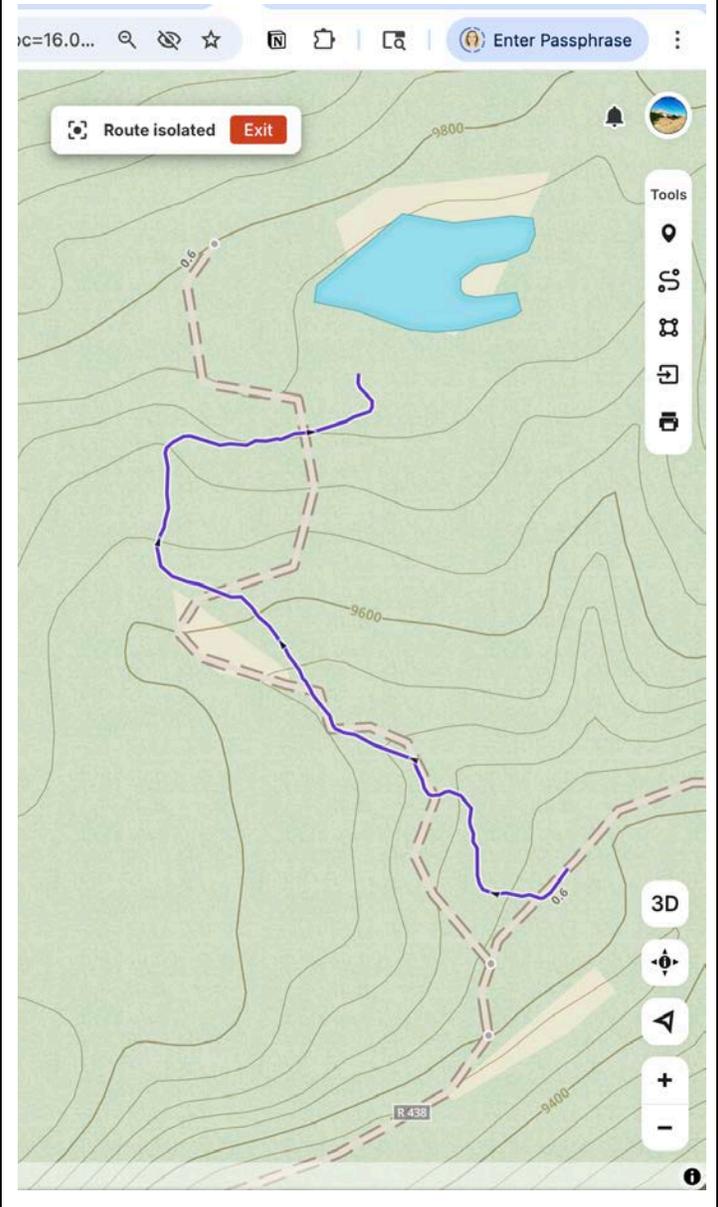
## 32. The spur to Bernardin Lake.

There is no directional reason to go to Bernardin Lake. It doesn't get you any closer to Taos - it's a spur off the trail. The RGT mirrors the SF2T route exactly.

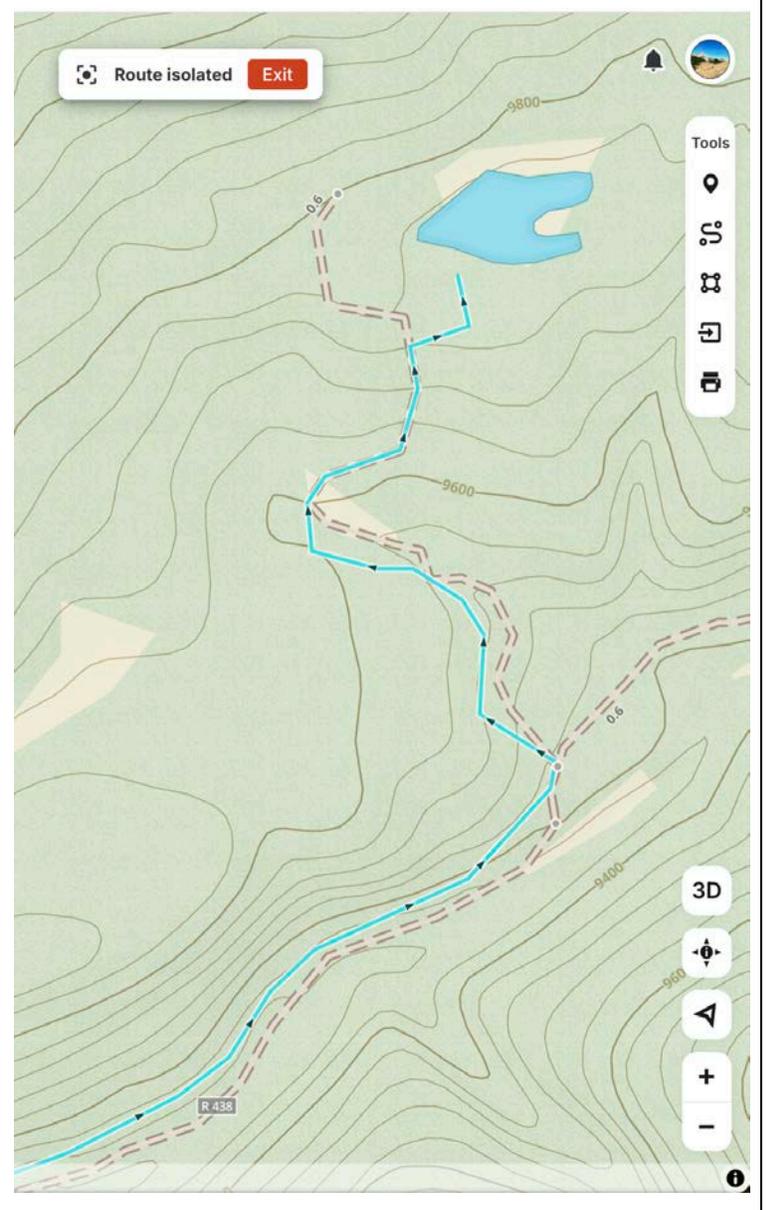
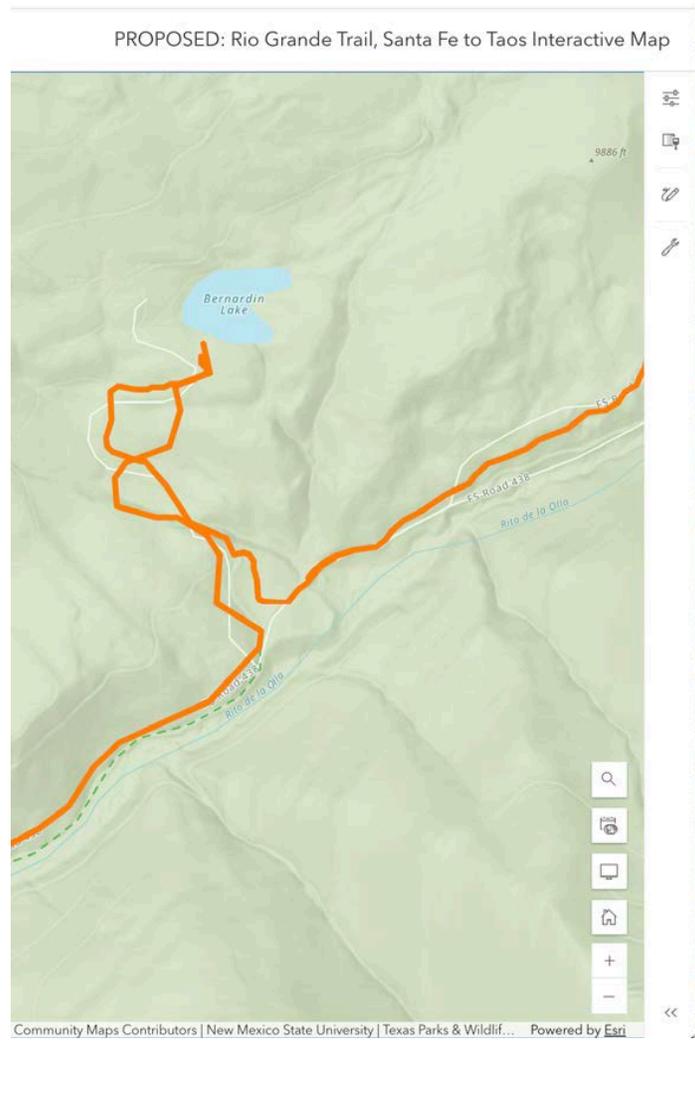
Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials <http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>



From Section 5-5 and 5-6 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike.



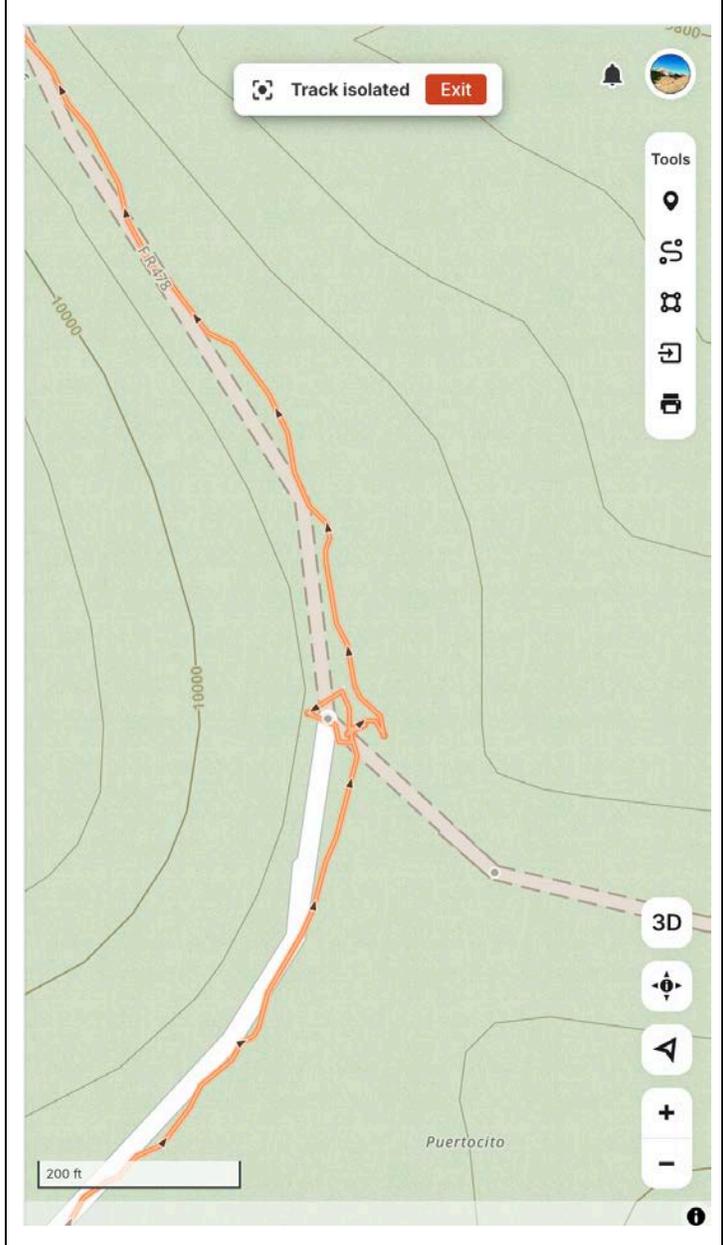
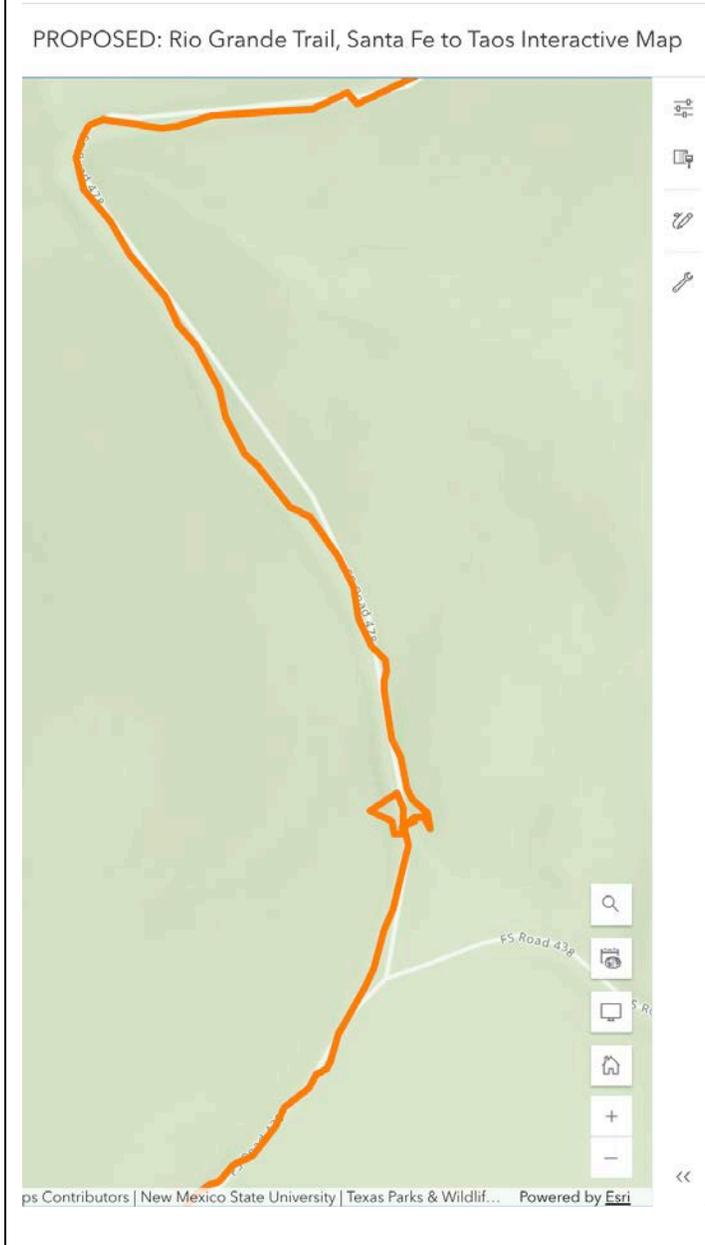
Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment  
Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey"  
materials <http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>



### 33. At Puertocito (the intersection of FR 478 and FR 438)

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials <http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>

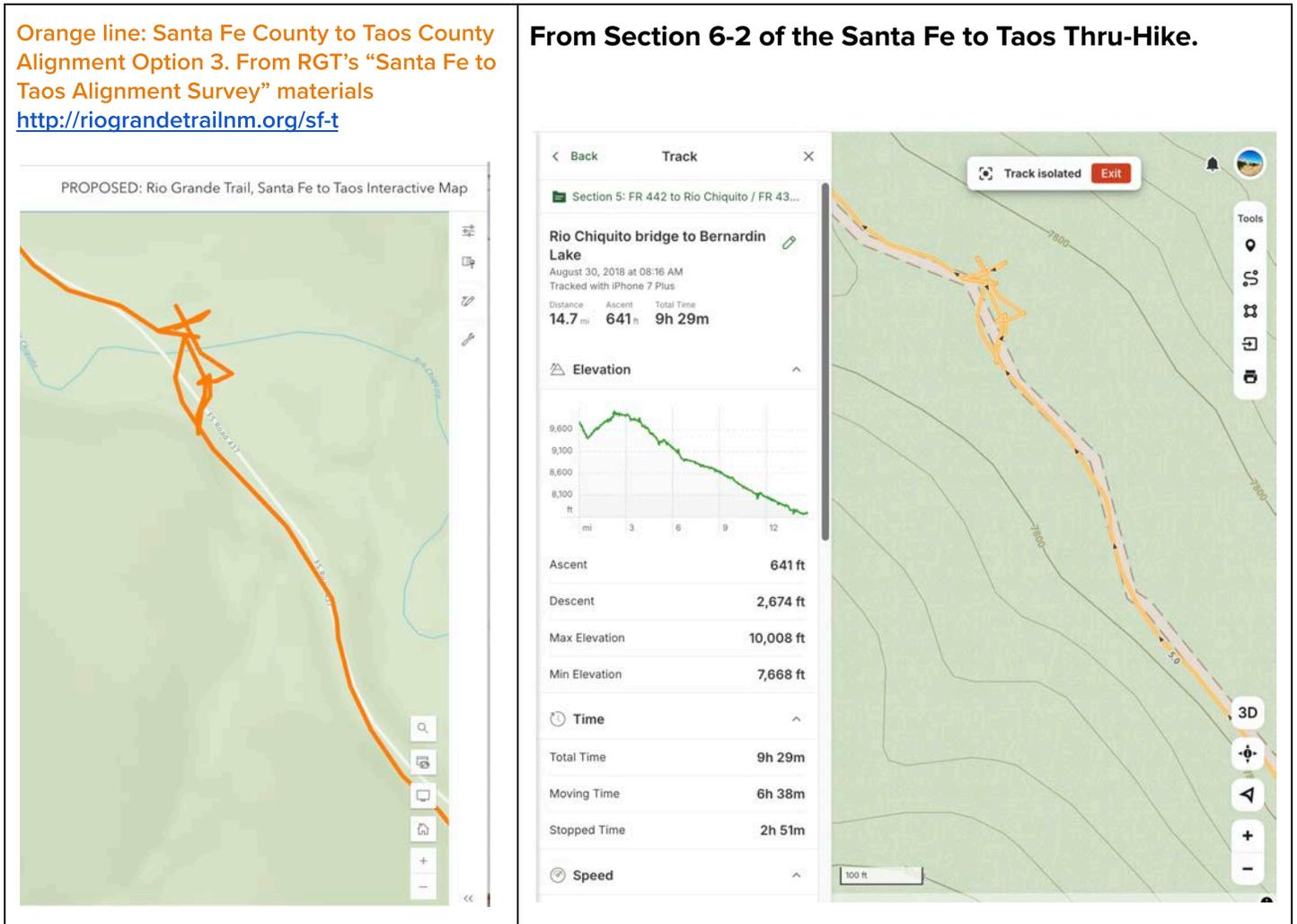
From Section 5-6 and 5-7 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike.



# Section 6 of the Santa Fe to Taos Thru-Hike/Trail

## 34. On Forest Road 437

Orange line: Santa Fe County to Taos County Alignment Option 3. From RGT's "Santa Fe to Taos Alignment Survey" materials  
<http://riograndetrailnm.org/sf-t>



The route of the RGT does split from the route of the SF2T at the intersection of Drake Canyon Loop Trail and Forest Road 437.