

Santa Fe County is considering the acquisition the Bobcat Crossing Ranch, the largest unfragmented parcel of land between Eldorado and Santa Fe, as wildlife habitat, recreational open space, and an archeological preserve. The process is moving along quickly, and supporters have not had much time to get the word out to engender critical support from the community. There will be opportunities for public comment in several meetings, but what is needed immediately are letters of support from individuals and from interested organizations, these to accompany the application when it is submitted to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Location: 116 Apache Plume Dr
Size/Price: 2650 acres/\$3,900,000
Listing Link: <https://bobcatcrossing.cve.io/>

STATUS as of 11/19:

- The County Open Lands, Trails and Parks Advisory Committee (COLTPAC) has filled out an application and, in a meeting on 11/6, approved exploration of the purchase
- COLTPAC members will tour the property before the end of November
- COLTPAC members will vote on submitting the application and recommending the purchase to the BCC in a special meeting on 12/4 at 5:30 pm. **(Opportunity for public comment)**
- If COLTPAC votes to proceed, they will submit the purchase application and letters of support to the BCC, to be discussed in one of the BCC meetings in December or January. **(Opportunity for public comment)**

SOME TALKING POINTS FOR LETTERS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Acquisition of the Bobcat Crossing Ranch would provide protection for archeological resources of confirmed significance, including Chamisa Locita:
<https://galisteo.nmarchaeology.org/sites/chamisa-locita.html>
- The property contains and is adjacent to historic roads and trails, including the Santa Fe Trail and the Santa Fe-Fort Union Military Road
- The acquisition would preserve the property from development, thereby providing a vital link in a regional wildlife migratory corridor between the Galisteo Basin and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains
- For wildlife habitat, there are two functioning wells on the property, one historic
- The property is close to Santa Fe and provides easy access off Old Las Vegas Highway and from the Rail Trail, which is its western boundary. It already is connected to existing county trail systems
- The property can support new trail construction, extending the county trail network
- The property provides high educational and interpretive value, with environmental, historic, and pre-historic stories to tell
- The property is undeveloped and generally free of disturbance
- The property contains a small seasonal watershed, Cañon Ancho, with restoration potential
- There is potential for scenic vista/overlook sites
- The property embodies every goal of the Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan adopted in 2010. <https://www.santafecountynm.gov/userfiles/SGMP.pdf>

Letters of support should be addressed to Santa Fe County Open Lands, Trails, and Parks Advisory Committee (COLTPAC) and can be emailed to Adeline Murthy amurthy@santafecountynm.gov

If you'd like to be added to an email list alerting you to updates and opportunities to comment, please email Nancy Gilkyson nancygilkyson@gmail.com