U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Las Cruces District Office
1800 Marquess St., Las Cruces, NM 88005
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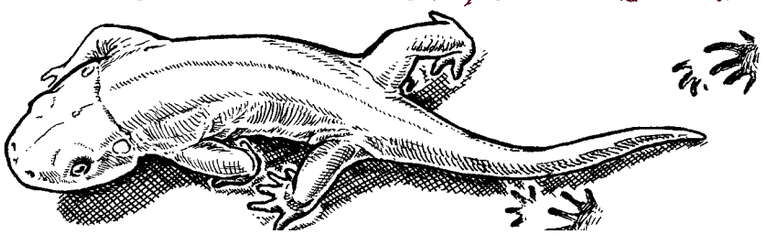
BLM

Prehistoric Trackways National Monument



Take a hike back to life 280 million years ago (with a park ranger).

List of Hikes for October, November and December
October 1 starting at 8:00 am, October 29th starting at 9:00 am
November 12 starting at 9:00 am, December 10th starting at 10:00 am
December 17th starting at 10 am

Come on a couple mile guided hike out to the Discovery Site, where 2500 slabs of trackways were excavated by citizen scientist Jerry MacDonald and now make up the Jerry MacDonald Paleozoic Trackways collection at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science. Learn about the fossils, ancient environment, geology, and other qualities that made this area special enough to be designated a national monument. Large reptile to small amphibians to conifer leaf imprint fossils are still visible at the site.

Meet the park ranger at the wayside exhibits off of Permian Track Road. There is not a developed trail out to the site, and the hike is over uneven surfaces. Be aware of the challenging physical environment, strenuous hiking conditions, and lack of any facilities or shade shelters out there. Be prepared with water, closed toed shoes, snacks, sunscreen, cameras and whatever else you need for a healthy, happy hike. The duration of the hike will last approximately 3 hours.

Directions to the Monument:

Coming from the North (I-25): At the Dona Ana Exit: From NM320 (Thorpe Road) in Doña Ana, go west to US 85, then go north about a half a mile to Shalem Colony Road. Turn west on Shalem Colony Trail, which curves to the south. Go about 1.5 miles until you cross over the Rio Grande then take a right onto county road, Rocky Acres Trail. After turning on Rocky Acres Trail go approximately ¼ mile and then turn left onto Permian Tracks Rd.

Coming from the South (Las Cruces): Travel on Picacho Ave./ Hwy. 70, at the stop light with Shalem Colony Trail, go north on Shalem Colony Trail for approximately 5.5 miles. Prior to reaching the Rio Grande River, you will reach a county road, Rocky Acres Trail. Turn west on Rocky Acres Trail. Go west approximately ¼ mile PermianTracks Rd. entrance on the left-hand side.

Cross over a cattleguard and continue to the west. Permian Track road is an unmaintained dirt road and is a little rough. It is best suited for high clearance vehicles.

Questions? Contact McKinney Briske 575-525-4334, or
Mike Downs 575-525-4351