

**Sotano Ranch Inholding**  
Forest Road  
El Rito, NM 87530

**\$1,450,000**  
160± Acres  
Rio Arriba County



**Sotano Ranch Inholding**  
**El Rito, NM / Rio Arriba County**

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**SUMMARY**

**Address**

Forest Road

**City, State Zip**

El Rito, NM 87530

**County**

Rio Arriba County

**Type**

Recreational Land

**Latitude / Longitude**

36.448212 / -106.262861

**Dwelling Square Feet**

1200

**Bedrooms / Bathrooms**

4 / 2

**Acreage**

160

**Price**

\$1,450,000

**Property Website**

<https://brgranches.com/property/sotano-ranch-inholding-rio-arriba-new-mexico/104128/>



## Sotano Ranch Inholding El Rito, NM / Rio Arriba County

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### PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Nestled in the heart of northern New Mexico, this extraordinary 160± acre ranch is a true National Forest inholding-completely surrounded by pristine public land on all four sides--offering unmatched privacy, seclusion, and direct access to hundreds of thousands of acres of untouched wilderness.

The landscape is nothing short of breathtaking. From sweeping, unobstructed views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains--stretching from Santa Fe to the Colorado border--to the dramatic transition from pinon and juniper foothills into towering Ponderosa pine forest, the property showcases the very best of New Mexico's diverse terrain. Striking rock formations, a captivating slot canyon, and open grassy meadows woven through the timber create a setting that feels both wild and inviting.

Seasonal streams flow through the ranch during monsoon rains and spring snowmelt, enhancing the land's natural beauty and supporting abundant wildlife. Elk, mule deer, and turkey are frequent visitors, making this an exceptional property for nature lovers and sportsmen alike. With four distinct seasons, each brings its own unique charm--from snow-covered pines to vibrant summer greens. The ranch is located in New Mexico GMU 51A, a Secondary Management Zone (SMZ) designated by New Mexico Dept. of Wildlife. SMZ's allow for landowner hunting permits at the discretion of the landowner.

Improvements are solid and well-suited for year-round living. It's rare to find a true inholding this nicely improved. The property includes an original cabin currently occupied year-round, a large block-built garage and workshop built into a hillside for extra protection and insulation, and a 5-stall barn on a concrete slab complete with tack room, hay storage, and additional space. Two strong wells support the property, and a robust solar system provides reliable off-grid living.

The barn stalls have exterior turnouts and there is a large arena space adjacent, as well as a 60' solid-fenced round pen. A small paddock offers additional room for your horses to graze and roam. All of the fencing in the equestrian areas are of pipe construction, custom built and solidly constructed.

The property provides endless firewood and all mineral rights are included. For gardening and egg lovers, there are raised garden beds with hoop covers and a large chicken coupe built from adobe pillars. A rain catchment system built onto the barn fills two tanks with fresh rainwater for the gardening and chickens.

Access is via a 3.25-mile Forest Service road, with the rare advantage of an owner-held permit for road maintenance. The current owner, a former Forest Service firefighter, has thoughtfully implemented extensive fire mitigation measures, including a wide firebreak road and ongoing forest thinning to promote long-term health and safety.

Despite its peaceful seclusion, the ranch is conveniently located just 20 minutes from the charming town of El Rito and 25 minutes from the renowned Ojo Caliente hot springs. The surrounding area sees minimal public pressure, offering a quiet, uncrowded outdoor experience where you can ride horses, hike, or bike directly from your land into vast stretches of National Forest.

Previously offered in the summertime as a youth outdoor program, elements of that legacy remain including a ropes course, zip line, and rock climbing wall, adding character and potential for recreation or retreat use.

This is a rare opportunity to own a truly special piece of nature--where dramatic landscapes, thoughtful stewardship, and boundless access to wilderness come together.



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