

LATIR PEAK WILDERNESS

Relatively unknown and untraveled, the Latir Peak Wilderness is classic southern Rocky Mountain high country—emerald meadows; alpine grasslands and tundra; small, clear lakes; spruce-fir forest; and some of New Mexico’s highest peaks.



Heart Lake, Latir Peak Wilderness

WILD EARTH LLAMA ADVENTURES

Location: In the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, northeast of Questa

Size: 20,420 acres; Wilderness Alliance recommendation: 3,570-acre addition

Elevation range: 8,400 to 12,734 feet at Venado Peak

Miles of trails: 24

Ecosystems: Spruce-fir, bristlecone pine, aspen, alpine tundra, high-altitude grassland

Administration: Carson National Forest, Questa Ranger District

Topographic maps: Carson National Forest—Latir Peak and Wheeler Peak Wildernesses; Cerro, Questa, and Red River USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles

Best seasons: Summer, early fall

Getting there: Most people reach the Latir Peak Wilderness from the village of Questa by taking Highway 38 east briefly before taking Highway 563 northeast to packed dirt Forest Road 134, which parallels the wilderness’s southern boundary.

Hiking: Several maintained and marked trails take hikers through the wilderness, with the sections above timberline especially appealing.