

Blue Springs Site Guide:

Updated 3/24/21 ds

YOU MUST BE AN SSA MEMBER TO FLY THIS SITE. Go to flysandia.com and complete the steps on the membership page.

Site Guide

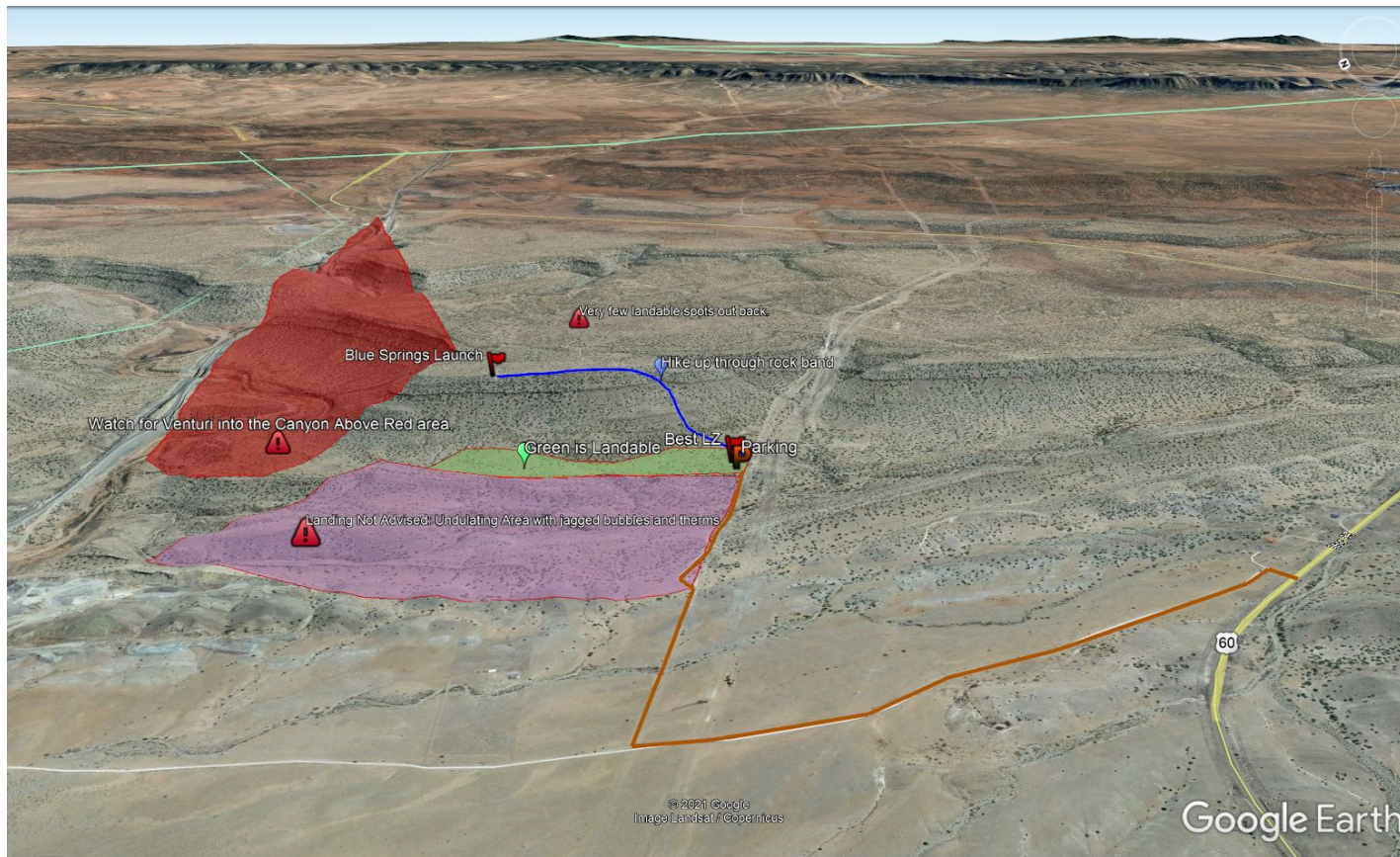


Diagram shows view from west looking east toward launch. LZ is on the south side, launch is middle top accessed by the blue hiking route. Landable terrain in green. Possible venturi in red. Undulating terrain in pink.

Season: year-round, summer is often too active.

Rating Required: P2/H2

Wind Direction: WNW - WSW

Wind Speed: 0-25

Wind Preferred Range: 8 - 16

Min Req Rating	Wing Type	Wind Strength (MPH)			
		Min	Ideal	Max	Gust
H2 ▾	HG	0	15	25	7
P2 ▾	PG	0	10	18	5
M1 ▾	Mini-Wing	0	15	25	7

Site Type: Thermic, Ridge Soaring

Site Approach: Hike n' Fly from Parking. See blue route on map.

Access: Private land, accessed by dirt road and pipeline right-of-way.

Launch: Rocky grass slope on west facing rim. 6200ft, 400ft above LZ

LZ: Preferred near the Parking/access, but anywhere directly in front of Launch can work -- see green area in photo. (too far west and ground is undulating, and not clean --see pink area in photo)

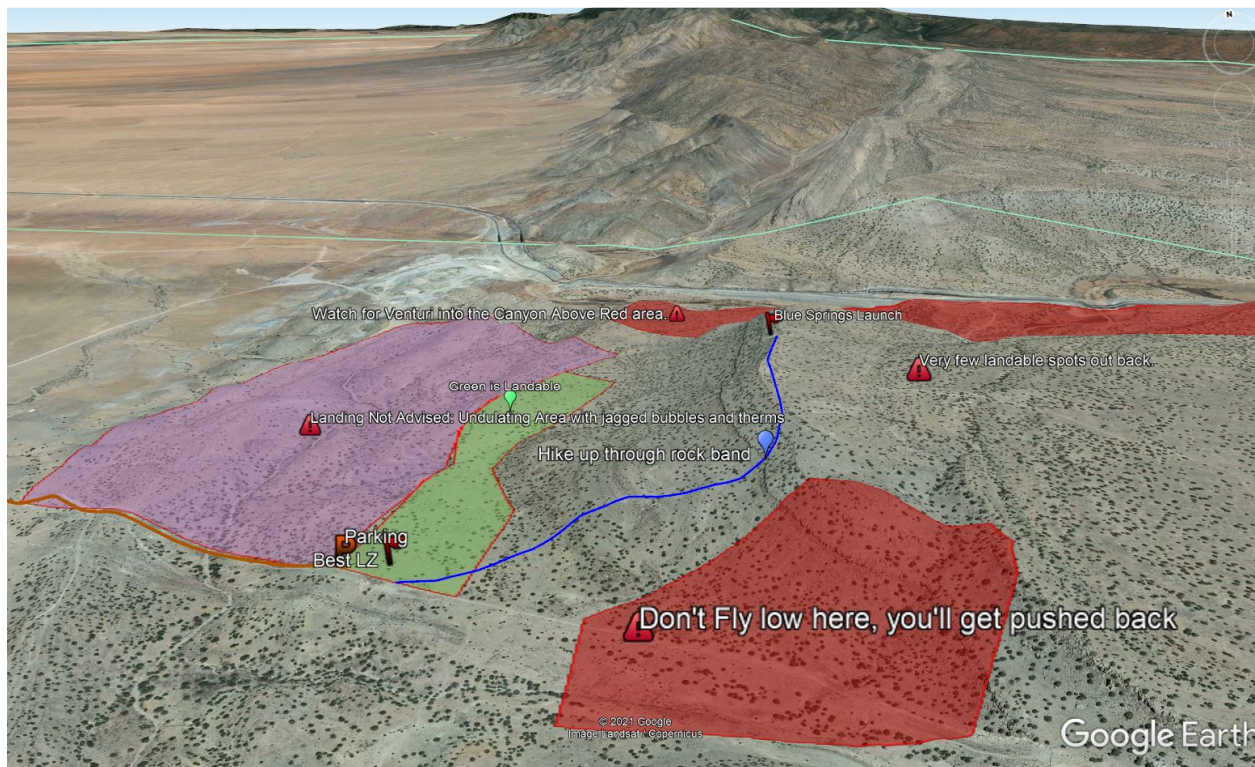
Hazards: No special hazards, some venturi effect on north side, and south side, depending on speed.

General Description:

Blue Springs is a remote hike and fly site. Launch (34.43807, -106.50029) is currently accessed through hiking only. The site is mostly used for ridge soaring flights, but can also be very thermic during the day.

The site does not feature unusual flying risks. The launch is nicely angled and clear of obstacles. The landing area is large spaces between bushes. Pilots should pay attention to low-level turbulence from terrain and bushes on landing. As for all New Mexico sites, thermal conditions can get very active during the spring and summer. Pilots flying the site should make sure they understand that aspect of New Mexico weather.

Blue Springs is a USHPA-insured site.



(Above) Blue Spring from the south.

Directions for Access:

Take an unnamed road off US-60 just prior to heading up the hill from the flats. This road has a metal ranch arch over it. There is a dirt two-track going up towards the gas canalizations and the ridge at (34.44002, -106.51913). At this point a high clearance 4WD vehicle is Preferred, but the site has recently been graded by the gas company. Continue through two drainages, and up onto the LZ plateau, where you park next to the road. Landing and parking area is at (34.43353, -106.50708). Easy hike to launch (475 ft vertical, 1.4 mi) is up through the rock band at its , then across the ridge.

Pilot requirements

- Pilots flying Blue Springs should be current USHPA/SSA members with a P2/H2 rating.
- Speed wings are allowed.

- Tandems are allowed. Tandems need to comply with USHPA's tandem exception.
- Instruction is allowed. Instructors need to comply with USHPA rules for instruction at USHPA-insured sites and notify SSA officers of their activities annually.