

2017 Gila and Aldo Wilderness Trails Cleared

Listed by Trail Location

Trails may become impassible at any moment due to tree fall, flooding or other environmental conditions. **Travel at your own risk.** To learn about current trail conditions and water sources, call your local Forest Service ranger station. In areas of more recent fires, the grass and weeds grow very fast which can account for dense vegetation and logs on the trails.

Note: Please help maintain the tread on the trails by hiking the trails we have opened. Thank you!

Close to Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument Visitor Center

Cleared this year

- **West Fork shortcut (# 151A) (.5 mile) – logged.** *Horse access trail from Woody's Corral to Cliff Dwellings.*
- **West Fork Bypass Trail (# 151) (1.5 miles) - logged.** *Trail leaves from TJ Corral Trailhead and connects with the West Fork Trail (# 151) at the Wilderness Boundary. It can also be part of a short loop hike. To make a loop, return to TJ Corral Trailhead by hiking back the West Fork Trail to the Cliff Dwellings parking lot and then walk a short distance on the road to the TJ Corral Trailhead.*
- **West Fork Trail (# 151) 4.5 miles up West Fork Trail from Cliff Dwellings Trailhead (4.5 miles) - logged.** *Wonderful walk along the river, with impressive rock formations along the way.*
- **Little Bear Trail (# 729) to Middle Fork (4 miles) – logged.** *Little Bear Canyon is a short beautiful slot canyon that starts 3.5 miles from the trailhead. There are interesting rock formations where it junctions with the Middle Fork Trail. Great out and back hike, or access to the Middle Fork.*
- **Woody's Corral Trail (aka Granny Mountain trail # 160) to Little Creek Trail (# 161) (7.75 miles) – logged.** *Can be part of a variety of loop hike options, or as access to the larger wilderness.*
- **EE Canyon (# 163) (3 miles) – logged.** *Can be part of a variety of loop hike options or as access to the larger wilderness.*
- **Little Creek / Thousand Mile Ridge connector (# 789) (1 mile) – logged and lopped.** *Efficient trail for traveling from the creek to the ridge top. It can be used as a part of a loop hike.*
- **Thousand Mile Ridge Trail (Ring Canyon Trail # 162) from Woody's Corral Trail (# 160) to Trail #789 (6.5 mile) - logged.** *Can be used as a variety of loop hike options or as access to the larger wilderness.*

- **Little Creek Trail (# 161) from junction with # 160 to junction with # 155 (8 miles) – logged.** *Can be part of a variety of loop hike options or as access to other parts of the wilderness.*
- **Alum Camp Trail (# 788) (1.5 miles) – logged.** *Quick but steep access to the Gila River.*
- **Gila River Trail (# 724) (3 miles) – logged.** *Walk along the river near Grapevine Campground.*

Cleared Recently

- **Lilley Park Trail (# 164) from Little Bear Trail (# 729) to Big Bear Trail (# 28) (4 miles) - logged.** *This trail provides access into the wilderness when the Middle and West Fork are flooding or river crossings are undesirable. The trail travels through piñon/juniper and some ponderosa. This provides access to key areas such as Prior Cabin, Lily Mountain, Woodland Park, and Chicken Coop.*
- **Big Bear Trail (# 28) from West Fork Trail # 151 to Lilley Park Trail # 164 (2.75 miles) – logged.** *Access trail to Woodland Park, Lilley Park, Meadows, and Prior Cabin. It can also be an alternate route for accessing Hells Hole and White Creek Cabin while avoiding the many river crossings on the West Fork Trail.*
- **White Rocks Trail (# 27) from Middle Fork Trail to Junction with # 771 (4 miles) – logged.** *A nice day hike from the Gila Visitor Center with expansive views.*
- **White Rock Loop Trail - White Rocks turn off on the Middle Fork to White Rocks to East Fork to Adobe Canyon and back to Middle Fork (# 27, # 771, # 804) (16 miles) – logged.** *This loop is in pinon/juniper country with expansive views. White Rocks is a key feature along the way. As it drops down to the East Fork, it winds through impressive rock formations. The trail along the East Fork is a pleasant river walk which is especially beautiful in the fall when there are flowers everywhere.*
- **West Fork Trail (# 151) from Cliff Dwellings to 1 mile before Hells Hole (13 miles) - logged, lopped and retreaded.** *A wonderful walk along the river with impressive rock formations along the way.*
- **Brushy Mountain Trail (# 403) from junction with trail # 160 to beginning of switchback descent down to the Gila River (6.5 miles) – logged and retreaded.**

Other Gila Wilderness

Cleared this Year

- **Hells Hole Trail (# 268) (2 miles) – logged.** *This trail connects the West Fork Trail and the mesa containing Woodland Park, Lilley Park and Prior Cabin.*
- **West Fork Trail (# 151) from Hells Hole to White Creek Cabin (4 miles) - logged.** *A wonderful walk along the river with impressive rock formations along the way. Parts of the trail climb high above the river to avoid narrow sections of the river.*
- **Trail # 155 from White Creek Cabin to junction with Trail # 153 (2.5 miles) – logged.** *A good trail for traversing the wilderness.*

Cleared Recently

- **Sam Martin Trail (# 23) from Double Springs to Black Mountain (6 miles) – logged and lopped.** *This trail is in a gentle canyon that passes through ponderosa forests. It also includes Sam Martin Springs and spectacular views from the top of Black Mountain.*
- **West Fork Trail (# 151) on Cub Mesa from White Creek Cabin to Junction with Turkey Feather Creek (7.5 miles) - logged.** *This is an access trail to White Creek Cabin that passes through rolling hills of ponderosa forests.*
- **Stove Springs Trail (# 814) from West Fork to top of climb out (.75 mile) - logged.** *The trail leads to Lilley Park and Clear Creek.*
- **Trotter Trail (# 30) from White Creek Cabin to Lilley Park (3 miles) – logged.** *Lilley Park is a beautiful destination. This trail is one way to access this area. Please note that the tread on the switchbacks leaving White Creek Cabin have very narrow tread.*
- **Horse Springs Trail (# 187) from junction with # 153 to junction with # 155 (2 miles) – logged.** *This trail travels through the ponderosa park and an open canyon bottom.*
- **Trail # 153 in Rawmeat Creek from junction with # 155, to junction with Langstroth Trail (# 302) (1 mile)- logged.** *Beautiful creek to travel through.*
- **Meadows Trail (# 53) from the Meadows Trail Trailhead off of forest road 142a to the Meadows (8 miles) – logged.** *The trail to the Meadows follows Indian Creek from the mesa top and travels mostly through piñon/juniper country.*
- **Jordan Canyon (# 20) to Black Mountain (5 miles) – logged.** *From Black Mountain, one can venture further into the wilderness via a five mile trail through*

the Jordan Canyon. In fact, it is the start of a loop option that continues to Green Fly Tank to Sam Martin Spring and back to Christie Tank.

- **Lilley Park Trail (# 164) from junction with Little Bear Trail (# 729) to Lilley Park (11 miles) – logged.** *This trail passes through ponderosa forest while also offering some great views to the southwest.*
- **Prior Canyon Trail (# 156) from Prior Cabin to Trail # 164 (2.25 miles) – logged.** *This trail traverses the mesa connecting the West Fork and the Middle Fork.*
- **Woodland Park (# 12) from trail # 164 to Prior Cabin (2.75 miles) – logged.** *This trail is in an open old growth ponderosa park. It can be used as a part of a loop hike.*
- **74 Mountain Trail (# 153) from trailhead to junction with Trail Canyon Trailhead (9 miles) – logged.** *This trail has great access to the wilderness from Gila/Cliff region. It provides access to Mogollon Baldy. Despite some flooding in the past, Mogollon Creek is still a beautiful lush place to hike.*
- **Trail # 301 from trail # 153 to junction with Turnbo Trail (# 158) (2.75 miles) – logged.**

Accessed by Forest Road 150

Aldo Leopold Wilderness

Cleared This Year

- **Mimbres River Trail (# 77) from CDT Access Trail (# 741) to Mimbres River (2 miles) – logged.** *Great trail for an out and back hike.*

CDT access trails:

- **CDT Access Trail (# 741) to Signboard Saddle (4 miles) - logged.** *This trail allows access to the CDT and Black Canyon without the need for a high clearance vehicle. For a low clearance vehicle, park at the large gravel parking area just off of Forest Road 150 where there are signs for Mimbres River Trail and CDT. High clearance vehicles may be able to continue up the side road to the trailhead. The trail is predominantly in piñon/juniper that graduates into ponderosa forests.*
- **CDT (# 74) from Forest Road 150 to Sign Board Saddle. (Old Rocky Point Trail #76) (4 miles) - logged.** *Trail has expansive views.*
- **CDT (# 74) from Diamond Peak to North Aldo Leopold Wilderness Boundary (7 miles) – logged.** *Trails have expansive views and passes interesting rock formations.*

- **Diamond Creek Trail (# 40) from Diamond Peak to 1 mile below Running Water Canyon (11 miles) - logged and lopped.** *Beautiful canyon with big trees, nice rock formations, and impressive old growth ponderosa and mixed conifer forests. The trail is a gentle climb until the last four miles to Diamond Peak.*
- **Caledonia Trail (# 42) from Turkey Run Road (# 500) to Diamond Creek (¾ mile) – logged.** *The beginning of the trail is a moderate incline through ponderosa forests to a saddle. As the trail drops down to Diamond Creek, it passes a waterfall and interesting rock formations. After approximately .75 miles the trail arrives at Diamond Creek which supports a lush mixed conifer forest ecosystem. It is a part of the shortest hike to Diamond Peak.*
- **Fisherman's Canyon (# 48) (1 mile) – logged and lopped.** *This is a challenging hike with unique geological features and multiple caves. It is a short access to the CDT and has the potential for being part of a loop hike.*

Cleared Recently

- **CDT access trails:**
 - **Black Canyon Trail (# 72) from west side of private property to Aspen Canyon (4 miles) – logged lopped and retreaded.** *The trail is in an open canyon bottom with rock cliffs. The trailhead for the Black Canyon trail has changed and is not in Black Canyon. Follow signs to the new trailhead or call the Wilderness Ranger District for information. Be advised the new trailhead extends the trail 1.5 miles and includes an elevation change.*
 - **Me Own Trail (# 707) (4 miles) - logged.** *This is an access trail to South Diamond and Diamond Peak.*
 - **South Diamond Creek Trail (# 68) from Me Own Trail (# 707) to junction with Spring Mountain Trail (#67) (12 miles) - logged.** *The trail through South Diamond to Diamond Peak is a beautiful place to hike and camp along a stream. It passes through a wide variety of forest types such as piñon/juniper, ponderosa, mixed conifer, and aspen.*
 - **Burnt Canyon Trail (# 69) to Diamond Peak (4 miles) - logged and lopped.** *Water may be available in Burnt Canyon.*
 - **Diamond Creek from FS Road 150 to Diamond Peak (19 miles) - logged and lopped.** *Beautiful canyon with big trees, nice rock formations, and impressive old growth ponderosa and mixed conifer forests. The trail is a gentle climb until the last four miles to Diamond Peak.*
 - **Mimbres Trail (# 77) from CDT Access Trail (# 741) to Mimbres River (2 miles) – logged.** *Great trail for an out and back hike.*
 - **CDT (# 74) from Reeds Meadow to Diamond Peak (4 ¾ miles) - logged and lopped.** *Although historic fires have removed patches of the trees*

along the CDT trail from Reeds Mountain to Diamond Peak, the openness allows for amazing panoramic views far to the east and north.

- **CDT from Forest Road 150 to Sign Board Saddle (# 74). (Old Rocky Point Trail # 76) (4 miles) - logged, lopped and retreaded.** *Trail has beautiful expansive views.*
- **Aspen Canyon (# 75 / # 74) - New part of the CDT (5 miles) – logged.** *This trail is a good connector trail for the other trails cleared this year. It completes a loop hiking option which leaves from Forest Road 150, up the CDT to Signboard Saddle to Reeds Meadow and then down Black Canyon trail to Aspen Canyon trail, finishing back up to Signboard Saddle and to Forest Road 150.*
- **Black Canyon Trail (# 72 / # 74) from Aspen Canyon to Reed's Meadow - New part of the CDT (7 miles) – logged, lopped and retreaded.** *The trail is in a beautiful canyon with a mellow grade and interesting rock formations throughout the hike. Reeds Meadow is lush area during most parts of the year.*

Gila Wilderness

Cleared This Year

- **CDT (# 74) from Highway 35 to Brannon Springs (8 miles) – logged.** *Brannon Spring is in a beautiful ponderosa forest with nearby rock formations in Rocky Canyon.*
- **CDT (# 74) from Brannon Springs to trail #700 (3 miles) – logged.** *The trail passes by Brannon Springs and is in a beautiful ponderosa forest with nearby rock formations in Rocky Canyon.*
- **CDT (# 74) from junction with trail #700 to Forest Road 150 – logged.** *This trail passes through ponderosa and juniper.*

Cleared Recently

- **Tom Moore Canyon Trail (# 708) from Forest Road 150 to junction with trail # 716 and # 713 (6 miles) – logged and lopped and retreaded.** *The trail gently winds through a wide and open canyon of imposing old ponderosa trees. It also passes by spring-fed tank.*

CDT access trails:

- **Trail # 700 from Rocky Campground to CDT Trail (1 mile) – logged.** *Access to Brannon Springs and CDT from the Rocky Campground.*

- **Middle Mesa to Tom Moore Canyon to Forest Road 150 (# 716, # 708) (17 mile loop)** *The Middle Mesa trail winds through piñon/juniper grasslands. From the mesa top there are great views stretching all the way to Mogollon Baldy and over to Black Mountain. In Tom Moore Canyon, the trail gently winds up a wide and open canyon of impressive old-growth ponderosa. Near the top of the canyon is a spring-fed tank. There is a short section of road walking to return to the starting point.*

Other - Gila National Forest - Cleared 2017

- **Wolf Hollow Trail (# 773) from FS Road 141 to Black Mountain Lookout (5 miles) - logged.** *Good day hike to see the views from Black Mountain.*
- **Railroad Canyon Trail (# 128) from junction with Gallinas Canyon Trail (# 129) to Holding Prong Saddle (4.5 miles) – logged, no tread or lopping.** *This beautiful walk along a creek climbs up to an unburnt saddle. Access trail to Hillsboro Peak and the Crest Trail (# 79). Because of recent fire in this area, the grass and weeds grow very fast. Despite recent maintenance, dense vegetation on the trail may be likely.*
- **Black Range Crest Trail (# 79) from Hwy 152 to Hillsboro Peak Lookout (5 miles) - logged.** *This trail follows the ridge and offers magnificently expansive views. Even though portions of the vegetation were burnt during the Silver Fire there are still a number of good campsites along the way. Due to fire in the area and despite recent maintenance, dense vegetation on the trail may be likely.*

Recently Cleared

- **Greenfly Trail (#26) (12.3 miles) – generally regarded as clear.** *A lot of the trail passes through piñon/juniper country. The trail travels in and out of the drainages that come off Black Mountain.*
- **Aeroplane Mesa (# 705) (3.8 miles) – generally regarded as clear.** *This is an access trail into the wilderness from the north side of the wilderness. Trail passes through piñon/juniper and is likely to be mostly clear due to the vegetation type.*
- **Caledonia Trail (#42) / CDT (# 74) from junction with Forest road #226 to Forest Road #500 (4.75 miles) – logged.** *Starts in a canyon bottom and climbs to a hilltop with splendid views.*
- **CDT (# 74) from junction with Forest Road #226 south to Aldo Leopold Wilderness boundary (4.5 miles) – logged.** *Starts in a canyon bottom and climbs to a hilltop with superior views.*
- **CDT (# 74) from Hwy 59 south to junction with Forest road # 226 (14 miles) - logging, lopping, and major trail reconstruction.** *This trail winds through ponderosa and some piñon/juniper. A shuttle vehicle could be a good option for*

this hike. The trail is not in the wilderness so you could mountain bike it.

- **Gallinas Canyon trail (# 129) from Hwy 152 at Railroad Campground to the Crest Trail (# 79) - logged.** *This trail starts off as a beautiful canyon hike. Due to past fire in the area and despite recent maintenance, dense vegetation on the trail may be likely.*

TRAIL TERMINOLOGY - When day hiking, you'll likely come across a number of terms referring to the type of trail you might set out on. Understanding what these different terms mean can help you better plan your hike and ultimately to best navigate it when in the wilderness.

Conifer – a tree that bears cones and evergreen needlelike or scale like leaves. This is a soft wood found in the Southwestern region of the United States.

Logged – The trees on the trail are cut into manageable sizes with a cross-cut saw and cleared.

Logged and lopped – The branches are cut, removed and small area along the trail has been trimmed back for ease of access.

Loop hike - Such a trail is circular, meaning that its start point is also its end point. A variation of this is the *stacked loop*, in which several loops share sides, allowing you to extend the distance of any loop by simply adding the next one in the set.

Out-and-back - This trail heads to a specific point but then has to be backtracked to the starting point. This sometimes is called an *in-and-out* or a *destination* trail, the latter because the main sight to see on the trail, such as a waterfall or a vista, also is the point where you turn back.

Park – a large open area with grass and trees.

Saddle – This is the lowest area between two peaks and has two wings which span the divide.

Switchbacks – A path with alternating sharp ascents and descents usually leading up the side of a mountain.

Tank – refers to stock tanks and the water is not potable. It would have to be purified/filtered in order to be drinkable.

Tread – a term used to describe the actual travel surface of the trail.

Wilderness – The FS refers to wilderness areas in compliance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 ... “A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”