

# 2018 Gila and Aldo Wilderness Trails Cleared

## Listed By Trail Number

*Due to tree fall, floods or other environmental conditions, the trails may become impassible at any moment. **Travel at your own risk.** To learn about more current trail conditions and water sources, call your local Forest Service office. In areas of recent fires, the grass and weeds grow very fast. Despite recent maintenance, dense vegetation and fallen burnt logs are likely on the trail.*

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

Trail #	Trail	Miles	Trail Work	Trail Description
29	Chicken Coop Trail	4.6	Logged	<i>This trail travels through open ponderosa forest and pinon/juniper mesas. It provides access to Prior Cabin, Lilley Mountain and Clear Creek.</i>
30	Trotter Trail	8.5	Logged	<i>This is an access trail from the north side of the Gila Wilderness. It crosses Aeroplane Mesa which offers great views of the Gila Wilderness. Then it drops into the Middle Fork with its amazing canyon walls. Clear Creek, Lilley Park, and White Creek Flats are some destinations along this trail.</i>
40	Diamond Creek Trail from 1 mile below Running Water Canyon to Diamond Peak	11	Logged	<i>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 4 miles to Diamond Peak.</i>
41	Gold Dust Trail	2.4	Logged	<i>Quick access to Whitewater Canyon.</i>
42	Caledonia Trail from Turkey Run Road (# 500) to Diamond Creek	.75	Logged	<i>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 .75 of a mile 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. CDT access trail.</i>

48	<b>Fisherman's Canyon</b>	1	Logged	<i>Intense hike with unique geological features and multiple caves. It is a short access to the CDT and potential for being part of a loop hike. CDT access trail.</i>
74 CDT	<b>CDT Trail from Highway 35 to Brannon Springs</b>	8	Logged	<i>Brannon Spring is in a wonderful ponderosa forest with the nearby rock formations in Rocky Canyon.</i>
	<b>CDT Trail from Brannon Springs to trail #700</b>	3	Logged	<i>The trail passes by Brannon Springs.</i>
	<b>CDT from junction with trail #700 to Forest Road 150</b>		Logged	<i>This trail passes through ponderosa and juniper.</i>
	<b>CDT from Forest Road 150 to Sign Board Saddle. (Old Rocky Point Trail #76)</b>	4	Logged	<i>Trail has scenic and expansive views.</i>
	<b>CDT from Diamond Peak to Northern Wilderness Boundary of Aldo Leopold Wilderness</b>	7	Logged	<i>Trails has expansive views and passes interesting rock formations. It travels through a variety of forest types.</i>
77	<b>Mimbres River Trail from CDT Access Trail (# 741) to Mimbres</b>	2	Logged	<i>Great trail for an out and back hike.</i>
79	<b>Black Range Crest Trail from Hwy 152 to Hillsboro Peak Lookout</b>	5	Logged	<i>This trail follows the ridge and offers expansive views. Despite that portions of the vegetation are burned from the Silver Fire, there are still many good campsites along the way. Because of recent fire in this area, the grass and weeds grow very fast. Despite recent maintenance, dense vegetation on the trail is likely.</i>
128	<b>Railroad Canyon Trail from junction with Gallinas Canyon Trail (# 129) to Holding Prong Saddle</b>	4.5	Logged	<i>Delightful creek walk that is mostly unburned which climbs up to an unburned 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</i>

				<i>maintenance, dense vegetation on the trail is likely.</i>
151A	<b>West Fork Shortcut</b>	.5	Logged	<i>Horse access trail from Woody's Corral to Cliff Dwellings</i>
151	<b>(alternate) West Fork Bypass Trail</b>	1.5	Logged	<i>Trail leaves from TJ Corral Trailhead and connects with the West Fork Trail (# 151) at the Wilderness Boundary. It is also can 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.</i>
151	<b>4.5 miles up West Fork Trail from Cliff Dwellings Trailhead</b>	4.5	Logged	<i>Wonderful river walk with impressive rock formations along the way.</i>
	<b>West Fork Trailhead at Cliff Dwellings to junction with Hell's Hole Trail #268</b>		Logged	<i>Leafy vegetation such as clover grows very quickly and quite tall during the summer season. It can hide cairns and tread. As a result, special attention is needed to stay on the trail near where it crosses the river.</i>
151	<b>West Fork Trail from Hells Hole to White Creek Cabin</b>	8.5	Logged	<i>Additional 4.5 miles cleared July 2018. Pleasant river walk with impressive rock formations along the way. Parts of the trail climb high above the river to avoid narrower sections of the river.</i>
	<b>West Fork Trail from Willow Creek to Iron Creek</b>	2.5	Logged	<i>This is a scenic way to enter the Gila Wilderness from the north.</i>
157	<b>Gilita Creek Trail – first 2 miles</b>	2	Logged	<i>Splendid canyon walk</i>
160	<b>Granny Mountain Trail from Woody's Corral to Granny Mountain</b>	17.5	Logged	<i>Can be part of a variety of loop hike options or as access to the larger wilderness. The trail goes through Little Turkey Park and passes by Miller Springs Cabin. The climb up to Granny Mountain offers great views in all directions. There is a section of trail about 1.5 miles before Granny Mountain that is not recommended for horses.</i>

161	Little Creek Trail from junction with # 160 to junction with # 155	8	Logged	<i>Can be part of a variety of loop hike options or as access to the larger wilderness.</i>
162	Thousand Mile Ridge Trail (Ring Canyon Trail) from Woody's Corral Trail (# 160) to trail # 789	6.5	Logged	<i>Can be part of a variety of loop hike options or as access to the larger wilderness. Expansive views.</i>
163	EE canyon	3	Logged	<i>Can be part of a variety of loop hike options or as access to the larger wilderness.</i>
172	Whitewater Baldy Trail from West Fork Trail near Willow Creek	3.5	Logged	<i>The trail was cleared July 2018. It is not open from junction to junction, but was in a previously prized hunting area, so is open to hike or ride a portion of it.</i>
180	Little Dry Trail from Trailhead to Windy Gap	4.5	Logged	
181	Holt-Apache Trail from Trailhead to Camp Creek Saddle	7	Logged	<i>Creek hike up to expansive views. Because of recent fire in this area, the grass and weeds grow very fast. Dense vegetation on the trail is likely.</i>
201	Mineral Creek – first 7 miles	7	Logged	<i>Dynamic canyon hike</i>
206	Redstone Trail from Trailhead to Whitewater Creek	5	Logged	<i>One of the few remaining ways to access Whitewater Canyon since the recent fires and floods.</i>
207	Whitewater Trail from Hummingbird Saddle to 1.5 miles	1.5	Logged	<i>Provides access to Hummingbird Spring.</i>
212	South Fork Whitewater Trail from Camp Creek to Tennessee Meadows	2.2	Logged	<i>Creek walk that passes in and out of old growth mixed conifer and the burn scar from the Whitewater-Baldy Complex Fire</i>
268	Hells Hole Trail	2	Logged	<i>This trail connects the West Fork Trail and the mesa containing Woodland Park, Lilley Park and Prior Cabin.</i>

705	<b>Aeroplane Mesa</b>	3.8	Logged	<i>Access trail into the wilderness from the north side of the wilderness. Trail passes through pinon/juniper and is likely to be mostly clear due to the vegetation.</i>
724	<b>Gila River Trail</b>	3	Logged	<i>River walk near Grapevine Campground.</i>
729	<b>Little Bear Trail</b>	4	Logged	<i>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</i>
741	<b>CDT Access Trail to Signboard Saddle</b>	4	Logged	<i>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 Forest Road 150 where there are signs for Mimbres River Trail and CDT. High clearance vehicles may be able continue up the side road to the trailhead. The trail is mainly in pinon/juniper that graduates into ponderosa forests.</i>
773	<b>Wolf Hollow Trail from FS Road 141 to Black Mountain Lookout</b>	5	Logged	<i>Good day hike to see the views from Black Mountain.</i>
788	<b>Alum Camp</b>	1.5	Logged	<i>Quick but steep access to the Gila River.</i>
789	<b>Little Creek / Thousand Mile Ridge connector</b>	1	Logged	<i>Efficient trail for traveling from the creek to the ridge top. Can be used as a part of a loop hike.</i>
798	<b>South Fork Mineral Creek - first 2 miles</b>	2	Logged	<i>Provides access to Mineral Creek</i>
808	<b>Log Canyon</b>		Logged	<i>Provides access to Mineral Creek</i>

<b>Trail #</b>	<b>Trail</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Trail Work</b>	<b>Trail Description</b>
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12	<b>Woodland Park from trail # 164 to Prior Cabin</b>	2.75	Logged	<i>This trail is in an open old growth ponderosa park. It can be used as a part of a loop hike.</i>
20	<b>Jordan Canyon Trail to Black Mountain</b>	5	Logged	<i>From Black Mountain, one can venture further into the wilderness via the Jordan Canyon Trail, a 5 mile trail. 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.</i>
23	<b>Double Springs to Black Mountain</b>	6	Logged	<i>This trail passes through ponderosa forests and a gentle canyon. It also includes Sam Martin Springs and spectacular views from the top of Black Mountain.</i>
26	<b>Greenfly Trail</b>	12.3	Generally regarded at open	<i>A lot of the trail passes through pinon/juniper country and is likely to be mostly clear. The trail is travels in and out of the drainages that come off Black Mountain.</i>
27	<b>White Rocks Trail from Middle Fork to Junction with # 771</b>	4	Logged	<i>Nice day hike from the Gila Visitor Center. It has expansive views.</i>
28	<b>Big Bear Trail (aka: Zig Zag Trail) from West Fork Trail # 151 to Lilley Park Trail # 164</b>	2.75	Logged	<i>Access trail to Woodland Park, Lilley Park, Meadows, and Prior Cabin. It also is an alternate route for accessing Hells Hole and White Creek Cabin while avoiding the many river crossings on the West Fork Trail.</i>
29	<b>Chicken Coop Trail from Trotter Trail (# 30) to Prior Creek</b>	8	Logged	<i>Prior Cabin is a beautiful place to camp. The trail passes through impressive old growth ponderosa forests.</i>
30	<b>Trotter Trail from White Creek Cabin to Chicken Coop Trail</b>	6	Logged	<i>Lilley Park is a lovely destination. This trail is one way to access this area. Please note that the tread on the switch backs leaving White Creek Cabin is very narrow.</i>
40	<b>Diamond Creek from FS Road 150 to Diamond Peak</b>	19	Logged & Lopped	<i>Beautiful canyon with big trees, nice rock formations, and impressive old growth ponderosa and mix conifer forests. The trail is a gentle climb until the last 4 miles to Diamond Peak.</i>

42	<b>Caledonia Trail / CDT (# 74) from junction with Forest Road # 226 to Forest Road # 500</b>	4.75	Logged	<i>Starts in a canyon bottom and climbs to a hilltop with views.</i>
53	<b>Meadows Trail from the Meadows Trail Trailhead off forest road 142a to the Meadows</b>	8	Logged	<i>The trail to the Meadows follows Indian Creek from the mesa top and travels mostly through pinon/juniper country.</i>
68	<b>South Diamond Trail from Me Own Trail #707 to Spring Mountain Trail (# 67)</b>	12	Logged	<i>The trail up South Diamond to Diamond Peak is not burned and is an enchanting place to hike and camp along a stream. It passes through a wide variety of forest types such as pinon/juniper, ponderosa, mixed conifer and aspen. CDT access trail.</i>
69	<b>Burnt Canyon Trail to Diamond Peak</b>	4	Logged	<i>Burnt Canyon may have water. CDT access trail.</i>
72	<b>Black Canyon Trail from Aspen Canyon to Reed's Meadow - New part of the CDT (# 74)</b>	7	Logged	<i>The trail is in a wonderful canyon with a mellow grade and interesting rock formations throughout the hike. Reeds Meadow is lush area during most parts of the year.</i>
	<b>Black Canyon Trail from west side of private property to Aspen Canyon Trail (# 75 / # 74)</b>	4	Logged	<i>Trail is in an open canyon bottom with rock cliffs. The trailhead for the Black Canyon trail has changed and is no longer in Black Canyon. Follow signs to the new trailhead or call a Gila National Forest ranger station for information. Be advised that the new trailhead extends the trail 1.5 miles and includes an elevation change. CDT access trail.</i>
74 CDT	<b>CDT from Hwy 59 south to junction with Forest Road # 226</b>	14	Logged, Lopped & Major Retread	<i>This trail winds through ponderosa and some pinon/ 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.</i>
	<b>CDT from Junction with Forest Road #226 south to the boundary of the Aldo Leopold Wilderness</b>	4.5	Logged	<i>Starts in a canyon bottom and climbs to a hilltop with views.</i>

	<b>CDT / Aspen Canyon (# 75) - New part of the CDT</b>	5	Logged	<i>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 and back up to Signboard Saddle and to Forest Road 150.</i>
	<b>CDT / Black Canyon Trail (# 72) from Aspen Canyon to Reed's Meadow - New part of the CDT</b>	7	Logged	<i>The trail is in a splendid canyon with a mellow grade and interesting rock formations throughout the hike. Reeds Meadow is a lush area during most parts of the year.</i>
75	<b>Aspen Canyon - New part of the CDT</b>	5	Logged	<i>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 and back up to Signboard Saddle and to Forest Road 150.</i>
153	<b>74 Mountain Trail from trailhead to junction with Trail Canyon Trail</b>	9	Logged	<i>This trail is a great access to the wilderness from Gila/Cliff region. It provides access to Mogollon Baldy. Mogollon Creek is still a lush place to hike despite some flooding.</i>
155	<b>from White Creek Cabin to junction with Trail # 153</b>	2.5	Logged	<i>Good trail for traversing the wilderness.</i>
156	<b>Prior Canyon Trail from Prior Cabin to Trail # 164</b>	2.25	Logged	<i>This trail traverses the mesa to connect the West Fork and the Middle Fork.</i>
160	<b>Woody's Corral Trail (aka Granny Mountain trail) to Brushy Mountain Trail (# 403)</b>	7.75	Logged	<i>Can be part of a variety of loop hike options or as access to the larger wilderness.</i>
164	<b>Lilley Park Trail from junction with Little Bear Trail (# 729) to Lilley Park</b>	?	Logged	<i>This trail provides access into the wilderness when the Middle and West Fork are flooding or river crossings are undesirable. The trail travels through pinon/juniper and ponderosa. It is an access trail to key areas such as Prior Cabin, Lilley Mountain, Woodland Park, and Chicken Coop.</i>



	<b>Middle Fork – from the trailhead at Gila Center to one mile past the junction with Little Bear Trail #729</b>	7	Logged	<i>This trail has been reopened June 2018.</i>
<b>187</b>	<b>Horse Springs Trail from junction with # 153 to Junction with # 155</b>	2	Logged	<i>This trail travels through the enchanting ponderosa park and an open canyon bottom.</i>
<b>403</b>	<b>Brushy Mountain Trail from junction with trail #160 to beginning of switchback descent to the Gila River</b>	6.5	Logged & Retreaded	
<b>700</b>	<b>from Rocky Campground to CDT Trail</b>	1	Logged	<i>Access to Brannon Springs and Rocky Point from the Rocky Campground.</i>
<b>705</b>	<b>Aeroplane Mesa</b>	3.8	<i>Generally regarded as clear</i>	<i>Access trail into the wilderness from the north side of the wilderness. Trail passes through pinon/juniper and is likely to be mostly clear.</i>
<b>707</b>	<b>Me Own Trail</b>	4	Logged	<i>Access trail to South Diamond and Diamond Peak. CDT access trail.</i>
<b>708</b>	<b>Tom Moore Canyon Trail from Forest Road 150 to junction with trail # 716 and # 713</b>	6	Logged	<i>The trail gently winds through a wide and open canyon of amazing old ponderosa trees. It also passes by a spring fed tank.</i>
<b>716 &amp; 708</b>	<b>Middle Mesa to Tom Moore Canyon to Forest Road 150</b>	17	Logged	<i>The Middle Mesa trail winds though pinon/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 magnificent old ponderosa trees. Near the top of the canyon is a spring fed tank. There is a short section of walking on a paved road to return to the starting point.</i>
<b>771</b>	<b>Iron Trail</b>	5.2	Logged	<i>This trail is in pinon/juniper country with expansive views. White Rocks is a key feature along the way.</i>

				<i>As it drops down to the East Fork, it winds through impressive rock formations.</i>
<b>804</b>	<b>Adobe Springs</b>	4.8	Logged	<i>This trail is in pinon/juniper country with expansive views. The part along the East Fork is a pleasant river walk which is especially beautiful in the fall when there are flowers everywhere.</i>

**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.”