



# Prescott National Forest

Bradshaw Ranger District

928 443-8000

<http://www.fs.fed.usda.gov/prescott>



## WEST SPRUCE TRAIL #264

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** West Spruce Trail #264 follows the ridge line of the Sierra Prieta Mountains, located west of Prescott, and presents the outdoor enthusiast with two very distinct trails in one. The east, or upper half, gently gains elevation on the approach to West Spruce Mountain, and is a cool forest hike offering panoramic views ranging from Skull Valley to the San Francisco Peaks. Old alligator juniper trees dot the surrounding landscape, along with Douglas Fir, Gambel Oak and Pinyon Pine. Spruce is non-existent here; the early settlers mistakenly identified Douglas Fir as Spruce, which remains the namesake of the mountain. The west half of the trail narrows and descends into rockier terrain, leaving the shade of the forest far behind. Manzanita and hackberries initially dominate the vegetation, gradually giving way to high desert chaparral. The west half of TR264 is the more challenging portion of West Spruce Trail #264 as it winds downward toward Iron Springs Wash and Doce Pit Road (FR 9271A).

**CAUTION:** This trail is open to hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bicyclists. Please be considerate of others—slow down and know when to yield the trail

**ACCESS AND TRAILHEAD LOCATION:** From downtown Prescott take Gurley St. west toward Thumb Butte (about 3.2 miles). You are now on Thumb Butte Rd. (CO 65). Go left on FR 373 where the road divides to Deering Park (right) and Sierra Prieta overlook (left). Go for about 3.5 miles to the trailhead, located on the right side of the road. To access TR 264 from Iron Springs Rd., take Iron Springs Rd. west to mile post 8. Turn left on Doce Pit Rd. and travel approximately 2.7 miles to the trailhead marker on the left side of the road

**TRAVEL TIME:** 25 minutes from Prescott

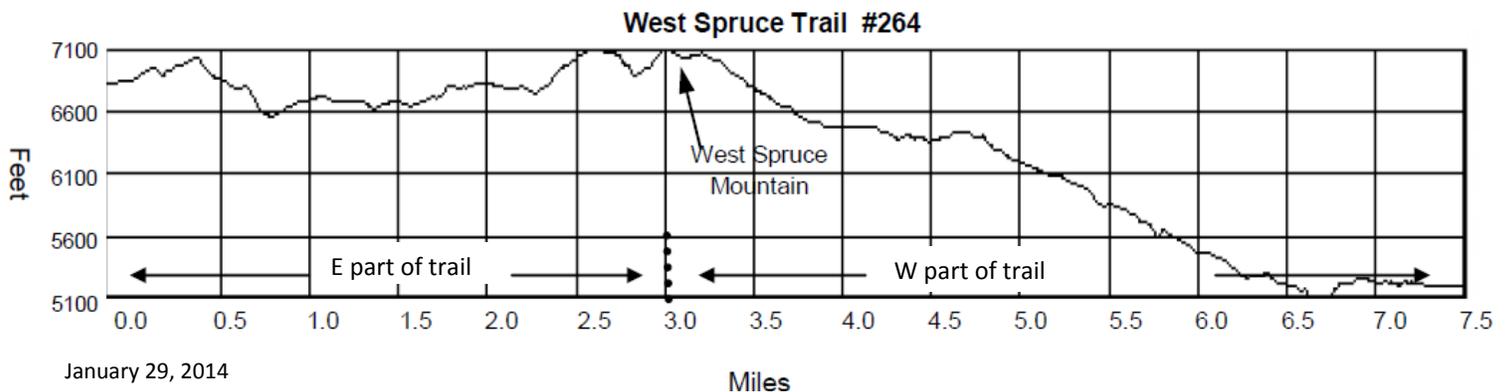
**ROAD CONDITIONS:** Suitable for all vehicles, although the ride can be bumpy at times

**HIKING TIME:** 5 hours, one way    **LENGTH:** 7.5 miles    **DIFFICULTY:** east half: moderate, west half: moderate to strenuous    **USE:** east half: moderate to heavy , west half: light to moderate

**NOTES:** FR373 is not recommended for use during winter months during rain or snow; use caution during monsoon season. Remember that this trail has 2 very distinct parts; be prepared for the rocky descent on the west portion

**RECOMMENDED SEASONS OF USE:** Spring, summer ( use caution during monsoon season), Fall, Winter

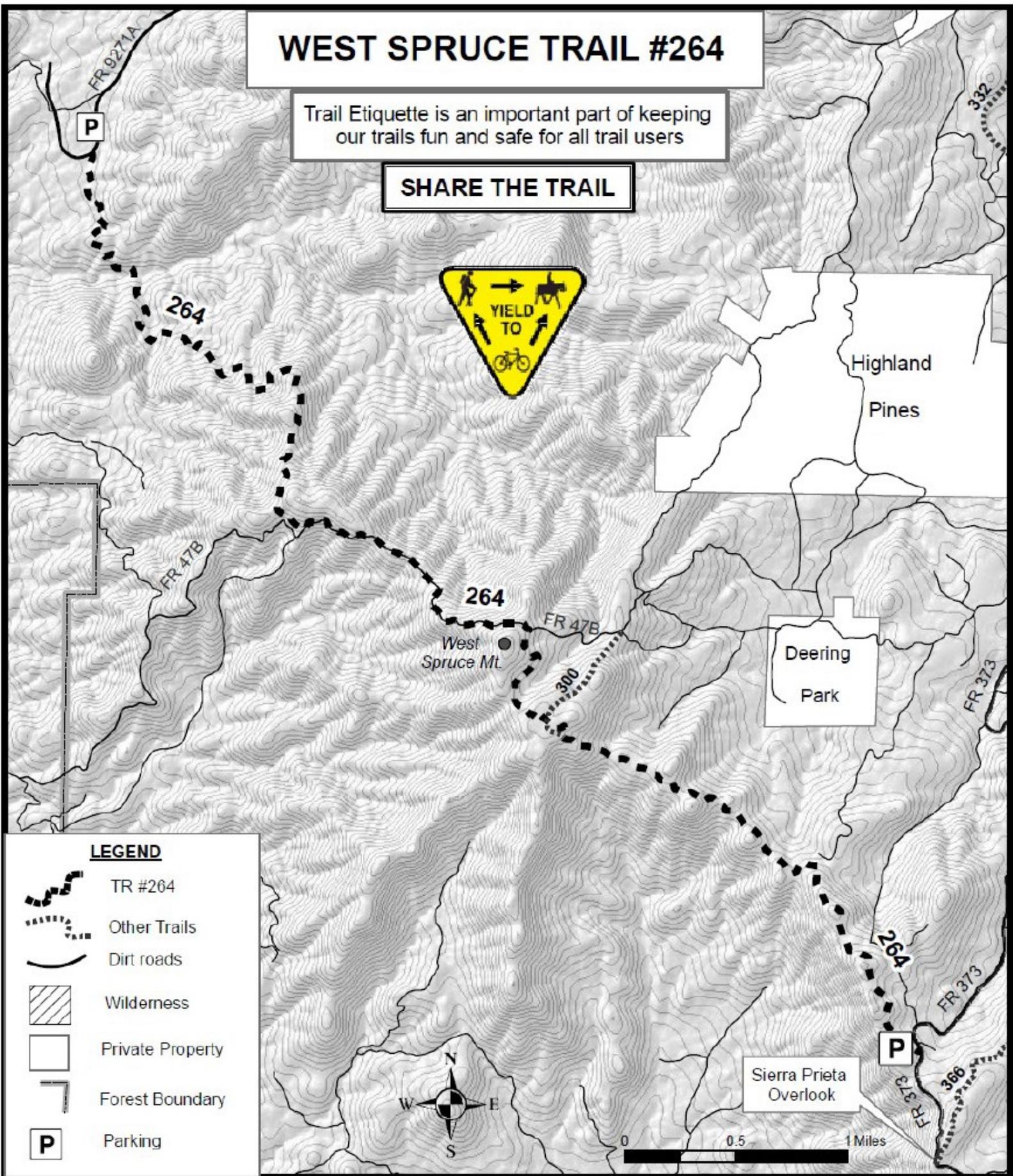
**MAPS, OTHER RESOURCES:** Prescott National Forest Map, west half; U.S.G.S. topographic 7.5" quad for Iron Springs, National Geographic Trails Illustrated Map, Bradshaw Mountains, City of Prescott Trails and Outdoor Recreation Map



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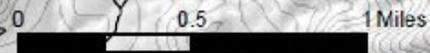
Trail Etiquette is an important part of keeping our trails fun and safe for all trail users

**SHARE THE TRAIL**



## LEGEND

- TR #264
- Other Trails
- Dirt roads
- Wilderness
- Private Property
- Forest Boundary
- Parking



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