

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

The San Mateo Mountains are similar to the Magdalena Mountains in that they rise from plains of 5,000 to 6,000 Feet, to over 10,000 Feet. They are different in that they encompass a much larger area. They form a mountain chain approximately 32 *miles* long. Due to their size, the discussion of the trails in these mountains will be in two sections.

This first section will cover the trails south of Grassy Lookout. This portion of the San Mateos is quite rugged, beautiful, and for the most part unroaded. The Apache Kid Wilderness, which contains 44,650 acres, encompasses the higher portions of this roadless country. It was designated by Congress in 1980. Over 105 miles of trail are located here. Many loop trips can be made, and the area can easily accommodate a 1-week backpack trip.

The second section, which begins on page 30, covers the trails located north of Grassy Lookout in the San Mateo Mountains. The topography here is more gentle than in the south, and is accessible by more roads. Hikes are shorter; loop trips are generally not available; and water along the trails is more scarce. Therefore, this area is more suited for day hikes.

The Withington Wilderness, in this northern portion was designated in 1980, and includes 19,110 acres on the eastern and northern portions of the mountain. Three trails provide access to areas within this Wilderness.

FIRES

Backpack stoves are highly recommended for all cooking in the back country. Open fires, of dead wood, are allowed but extreme care should be followed when using one. Select a place that is safe. Clear a small circle to bare dirt, being sure to remove all burnable material. Keep your fire small. Build the fire on level ground away from steep slopes, rotten logs, stumps, dry grass and litter. **DO NOT BUILD ANY FIRE ON A WINDY DAY. DO NOT** leave a fire unattended at ANY time. To do so violates State and Federal laws. Let the fire burn down, separate the embers, mix and stir the coals with dirt and water and scatter any rocks used for a fire ring.

SAFETY

It is important to be in good health before starting to hike long distances. High elevation trails are demanding and will quickly aggravate any weakness. **STAY ON THE TRAILS AND DO NOT TAKE SHORTCUTS WHERE NO TRAILS EXIST.** Do not roll rocks. Many of the trails contain switchbacks, and other hikers might be on the trail below.

TREE CUTTING

No live trees may be cut. The exception is in designated "permit" areas which require a permit From the District Ranger. Removal of any plants requires a permit.



FOOD

Food attracts wildlife. Food should be stored in a place inaccessible to animals, especially at night when you are sleeping. **DO NOT** feed wildlife. Bears and other animals, when fed, will lose their fear of man, and become nuisances or a threat to health and safety of hikers.

TRASH

All trash **MUST** be packed out. It is unsightly and poses a threat to wildlife. Trash also attracts wildlife, sometimes the ones that you would not invite! **DO NOT BURY TRASH**. Wildlife digs it up.

WATER

Make sure you take plenty of water. Water is available on some trails, but do not depend on these sources. Water sources dry up depending on past precipitation, and many sources are contaminated by the Protozoan Giardia. **ALWAYS** treat mountain water with tablets prescribed for Giardia or use a water filter specially made for this very small protozoan.

PRECAUTIONS

Proper and adequate clothing and especially footwear are essential when hiking in the mountains. Blisters on *the* feet can become infected, and sprains, as well as broken limbs can result from improper footwear. Sudden cold winds rushing up the high canyons can quickly reduce body temperature and cause Hypothermia in a short time. Always carry a sweater or jacket in the event of winds or rain. It is better to take them and not need them, than to need them and not have them. High altitude sickness is little known, but highly dangerous. Symptoms are headache, nausea, aching joints and in advanced cases spitting up of pink sputum. If these symptoms occur it is imperative to move down the mountain to lower elevations as quickly as possible. High altitude sickness can and does kill! Remember the hazards of lightning by staying off ridges and out from under tall trees during storms. Poison ivy and oak are present in varying quantities.

THINGS TO TAKE ALONG:

Even on short hikes a canteen of potable water is recommended. There are many high energy foods on the market. They are generally packed in small light weight containers, and consist of dried fruit, nuts and seeds. High carbohydrate food is best. These items may save your life in an emergency situation.

HIKERS PACK CHECKLIST:

Spare socks	First Aid Kit	Sun screen
Rain gear	Food (high energy type)	Space blanket
Waterproof matches	Tent or other shelter	Map and compass
Lip balm	Sunglasses	Flashlight
Water	Whistle (for emergency use only)	
Good clothing and shoes that support ankles		

For additional information on backpacking, the book "The Sierra Club to Backpacking" has excellent information. Also sponsored by the Sierra Club is "Walk Sofily in the Wilderness" by John Hart,"A Backpackers Guide".

Always take enough supplies on hikers, even short ones, to enable you to get through at least one night if necessary.

ALWAYS HIKE WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

ABOVE ALL: TELL SOMEONE WHERE YOU ARE GOING AND GO THERE! !

Wilderness and Visitor maps are available at Forest Service offices for \$5.00 and \$4.00 respectively. It is recommended that EVERYONE have a map for safety and the information they contain.

Need more information? Call the Magdalena Ranger District at (505)854-2281.

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Trail #28 - Drift Fence Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: On the west side of Magdalena turn south on State Highway 107 for 26 miles to Forest Road 478. Turn right and proceed approximately 1.5 miles to the junction with Forest Road 86. Take Forest Road 86 for 1.5 miles to the junction of Forest Road 331. Proceed 4.5 miles on FR 331 to the trail head at Drift Fence Well, which is marked with a sign. There is parking for 20 or more vehicles in the area of the trail head. This route is not recommended for passenger cars, especially the last 3 miles or so on Forest Road 331. The trail head elevation is 6,360 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: 8,000 feet elevation in Water Canyon on Trail #43.

ROS CLASS: Semi-Primitive motorized for the first .5 mile, about 4.5 miles of Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized and the last .5 mile of Primitive.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This is a very dry trail. Obvious tread is lacking on nearly 90 percent of the route, making navigation somewhat difficult. As a result, this trail has been rated "most difficult", even though the elevation change is not that great. This trail is not particularly attractive but can certainly offer solitude, as the only users are ranchers hauling salt for cattle by horseback about once a year. The entire route lacks water. Hardscrabble Spring, which is shown on the Forest Visitors Map, does not flow.

The trail begins where Drift Fence Canyon meets East Red Canyon. The trail follows the bottom of the canyon, which is wide and gentle at this point. Vegetation is sparse, with a scattering of ponderosa pine in the canyon bottom and pinyon juniper on the slopes. The canyon becomes narrower and deeper as you travel up it. About one-halfway up the canyon, the trail climbs up the canyon wall to bypass a narrow, rocky, and steep section in the trail. After a quarter mile the trail returns to the canyon bottom once again.

At about 4.5 miles the remains of Hardscrabble Spring are found, which consists of an old wooden box and pieces of pipe. From here the trail leaves the canyon bottom and climbs up onto the north and west side of the canyon. Tread is lacking here, and blazes are far apart. Be careful to look for signs of the trail; i.e., blazes pruned trees, and cut downfall. After a short climb, the trail enters a saddle on the ridge separating Drift Fence and Water Canyon. The trail crosses through a gate and then descends the west side of the ridge by using several steep switchbacks. It joins the Apache Kid Trail at the bottom of the ridge in Water Canyon.

Trail #28 - Drift Fence Trail (Coned)

LENGTH: 5.7 Miles or 9.2 Km.

USE: Very low

DIFFICULTY: Most Difficult

USGS MAP(S): Blue Mountain

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 4/94

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TRAIL BEGINNING: On the west side of Magdalena turn south on State Highway 107 for 26 miles to Forest Road 478. Turn right and proceed about 1.5 miles to the junction with FR 86. Take FR 86 for 1.5 miles to the junction of FR 331. Proceed about 7.5 miles on FR 331 and then 331 A to the trail head at the end of the road, which is at Turkey Spring. The trail head is well signed. There is parking for 10 vehicles here. This route is not recommended for passenger cars, especially the last 4 miles on FR 331 and 331 A. The elevation at this trail head is 6,680 feet.

TRAIL. ENDING: 8,920 feet elevation on Trail #43, .75 mile from Grassy Lookout.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: The first 0.25 mile of the trail has a good tread which is easy to follow. After this the canyon becomes noticeably wider and the trail fainter, with few trees to put blazes on. A sharp lookout must be kept to follow the trail. After 0.4 mile the Allen Spring Trail continues in the bottom of the canyon. The canyon narrows at 1.3 miles and passes two springs which usually flow only in the spring or in very wet years. The trees begin to change at this point, with more and more ponderosa pine and a few fir growing in the canyon bottom. Spectacular rock formations are located at 2.4 miles, where the trail begins to turn to the north and climb more steeply. Watch the ground carefully for bear droppings. Many nearby trees show claw marks inflicted by bears. These signs along with the frequent occurrence of trail sign damage indicate heavy use by bears in this portion of the canyon. Forest begins to change to mixed conifer with occasional stands of aspen. A small flow of water may be found at New Lava Spring. At Lava Spring the trail turns sharply and climbs to the crest of the San Mateos, where it ends joining the Apache Kid Trail. There are no dependable water sources along the trail.

LENGTH: 4.9 Miles or 7.9 km.

USE: Very low

DIFFICULTY: More difficult

USGS MAP(S): Grassy Lookout and Blue Mountain

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 2/94

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Trail #43 - Apache Kid Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: On the west side of Magdalena, turn south on State Highway 107 and proceed 42 miles to Interstate 25, at Interchange # 115. Cross over the Interstate and proceed south on the frontage road, State Highway #1, which parallels the interstate. Do not get on the Interstate. Proceed about 12 miles south to the junction of Forest Road 225. Turn west and drive about 12 miles to the junction of FR 225A. Take FR 225A to its end (about ½ mile). Parking is available for 20 cars at the trail head at Springtime Campground. No potable water is available at the campground. A public corral is located nearby. The elevation at this campground is 7,360 feet.

TRAIL, ENDING: On the west side of Magdalena, turn south on State Highway 107 for about 23 miles to Forest Road 330. Turn west on FR 330 and go about 16 miles. This is a rough, narrow road which climbs steeply up the east side of the San Mateos 16 miles to the crest and junction with FR-138. Turn west on FR 138 and go past a seasonal closure gate to a point just short of Grassy Lookout to the trail head, which is well signed. The last 1/4 mile for FR-138 is closed annually from 10/1 to 5/15. The trail head has parking for 10 cars and has public corrals. The elevation at this point is 9,640 feet.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This is the longest and best maintained trail on the Magdalena Ranger District. It follows the crest of the San Mateo Mountains from Springtime Campground to Grassy Lookout, passing through a variety of vegetation and topography. Along this route, water is generally available at San Mateo Spring, Twentyfive Yard Spring, Water Canyon, Pothole Spring, Tool Box, and Indian Springs. Both wilderness and roaded country are crossed along this trail, and solitude is certainly to be found. This trail provides access to the heart and crest of the Apache Kid Wilderness. The trail begins in a canyon bottom with ponderosa pine and scenic rock formations at Springtime Campground, a small site built by the CCC in the middle 1930's. The trail follows the bottom of the upper reaches of Nogal Canyon for the first mile, with many large white and douglas firs contrasting with the drier country encountered on the drive to the trail head. A series of switchbacks climbing through a sunny, brushy slope begin at the 1 mile point. The trail continues for another 1.25 miles before entering a grassy saddle with a clearing. Just beyond this clearing, at the 2.3 mile mark, the Trail #50 junction is found. For the next 0.5 mile the trail contours a slope on the side of Milo Canyon, and several views of the rugged country around Whitetail Ridge and San Mateo Mountain can be found. After passing the junction to one of the legs of Trail #49, the trail begins to climb, passes an old log cabin, and reaches San Mateo Spring.

Trail 1#-13 - Apache Kid Trail (Cont'd)

This spring normally flows from late summer to early spring only. At times, following a light snow winter, it does not flow at all. Past the spring the trail continues to climb, utilizing two or three long switchbacks to a small saddle where the Trail #44 junction is located. To continue on Trail #43, take the trail to the north thru an aspen stand. The trail to the west, or Trail #44, goes up to San Mateo Lookout and is more heavily used, creating the impression that it is the main trail rather than a spur. Past this junction the trail crosses through a very dense forest and begins to descend into the Smith Canyon drainage. At the 3.8 mile mark, the junction to the other end of the Trail #44 is found. The trail climbs a small ridge beyond this and then levels off. Behind and to the west are good views of Smith Canyon. The trail then descends into the head of Smith Canyon. At the 5 mile mark it junctions T-61, Smith Canyon Trail. At 5.3 miles there is a short spur trail down to Twenty-five Yard Spring. About 1 /4 mile past this, the junction to Trail #48 is found. Beyond this junction the trail climbs a ridge, passes Trail #46, and then descends to Cyclone Saddle, where the junction to Trail #45 and Trail #87 is found. The trail now climbs up the south side of Blue Mountain, passing the site where an Apache once thought to be the Apache Kid, a renegade who-angered ranchers with his raids, allegedly was killed. At 9.5 miles, the trail tops Blue Mountain in a large open meadow. This is a beautiful place to camp due to the views of the Rio Grande Valley and the lights of Truth or Consequences at night. Water may be found at Alexander Spring. The trail down to the Spring is 0.7 mile and junctions T-43 on the westside about 100 feet north of the clearing. It is signed, but watch for the blazes on the aspen trees. Beyond Blue Mountain T-43 descends the north side of the mountain into Water canyon, passing the junctions to Trail #90 and Trail #81 along the way. The descent takes you through a very thick forest of blue spruce which grows in a nearly pure stand. After reaching the bottom of Water Canyon, a stream which flows intermittently down the canyon is found. The junction to Trail #28 is 13.2 miles from springtime Campground. Just down the canyon from this junction, evidence of a road becomes more frequent. After passing Pothole Spring, and leaving the wilderness, the trail follows an old road past a closure gate to the junction with FR-478A in West Red Canyon. At this junction the trail turns east on FR-478A and goes up the canyon about 1.0 mile where it leaves West Red Canyon on the north side of the road and proceeds up Indian Creek Canyon. These junctions are well signed. After leaving the road, the trail is somewhat faint for about 3/4 mile as it follows the bottom of Indian Creek Canyon. After passing Indian Spring, the trail becomes easier to follow and begins to climb towards Grassy Lookout. The feeling of wilderness becomes stronger past the spring as you leave the roaded country of West Red Canyon. Trees consist of a mixture of ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, and scattered junipers. A series of switchbacks and ridge tops are encountered climbing to the lookout. Occasional views of Blue Mountain, and both East and West Red Canyons can be found. The trail ends on Forest Road 138 within a few hundred feet of Grassy Lookout.

LENGTH: 21.1 Miles or 33 Km.

USE: Moderate

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

USGS MAP(S): Blue Mountain, Grassy Lookout and Vicks Peak

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 4/97

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Trail #44 - Cowboy Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: There is no road access to this trail, however, it can be reached via Trail #43. On the west side of Magdalena turn south on State Highway 107 and proceed 42 miles to interstate 25, Interchange #115. Cross over the Interstate and proceed south on the frontage road, State highway #1, which parallels the Interstate. Do not get on the Interstate. Proceed about 12 miles south to the junction of Forest Road 225. Turn west and drive about 12 miles to the junction of FR 225A. Take FR 225A to its end, about 0.5 mile. There is parking for 20 cars at the trail head of Trail #43 at Springtime Campground: Hike up Trail #43 for 3.4 miles and the beginning of Trail #44 will be on your left. This junction is well signed and is at an elevation of 9,600 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: 9,400 feet elevation on Trail #43, 3.8 miles above Springtime.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: The south half of this trail combined with the first 3.4 miles of Trail #43, which constitutes the route from Springtime Campground to San Mateo Lookout, is the most heavily used trail in the San Mateos, although when compared with other wilderness in New Mexico, it is lightly used. The trail passes through dense mixed conifer and aspen stands and a large park like grassy meadow.

The trail begins in a saddle southeast of San Mateo Lookout. At the junction where the trail begins, Trail #44 is more evident and easier to follow due to the traffic to the Lookout. The trail climbs steadily for the first 0.5 mile through several dense aspen stands, then levels somewhat and passes through a widely spaced stand of large fir trees with knee high grass. The trail nearly gains the ridge top and turns north to the Lookout. A short spur connects the main trail with the Lookout. A cabin and corrals are located at the lookout tower. The tower is 70 feet *high* and unmanned. The tower has no ladder and climbing the tower is not recommended. The trail continues on past the short Lookout spur, and after 0.4 miles enters an aspen stand where Cowboy Spring, which rarely runs, is located. From the spring down to Trail #43 the trail descends steeply, utilizing a series of switchbacks. One large open area just past the spring affords a good view east to Sierra Blanca.

LENGTH: 1.6 Miles or 2.6 Km.

USE: Moderate

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

USGS MAP(S): Vicks Peak

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 4197

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Trail #45 - San Mateo Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena turn south on State Highway 107 and drive 42 miles to Interstate 25, Interchange #115. Drive south on Interstate for about 14.5 miles to the Red Rock exit, Interchange #100. Turn right off the exit ramp; then turn left at the first intersection onto State highway #1. Proceed south 4.5 miles to Forest Road 139, which is well signed. Turn west and drive about 12 miles, to the intersection of FR 377. **FR 377** is rough with steep canyon crossings, and a high clearance vehicle is recommended. Take FR 377 to where it meets FR 76, a distance of almost 20 miles, the last mile of which is quite rough but 2-wheel drive passable. Continue to the end of the road, where the trail head is located. Parking for 10 cars is available. The elevation is 7,400 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: 9,480 foot elevation in cyclone Saddle on Trail #43.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: this trail begins on a flat, broad ridge top at the end of Forest Road 76 among pinyon juniper. The trail stays nearly level for the first 0.3 mile and then descends from a saddle into San Mateo Canyon. This descend is extremely steep in one portion, exceeding 60 percent. When the trail reaches the canyon bottom it loses its tread surface, and for the next 5.25 miles it must be followed using blazes. At 1.3 Miles the trail passes Cook's Cabin, which is not recommended for use. The trail continues up the canyon bottom, which is side and flat and filled with a variety of tree species. After passing the mouth of Milo Canyon, you enter the Apache Kid Wilderness shortly after the junction with Trail #49 at 1.6 miles. From here on the canyon begins to narrow, and the walking gets more difficult. Occasional flows of water may be found along the way. At 2.8 miles, the junction to Trail #61 is found on a small bench on the west side of the canyon bottom. Continuing on, the canyon becomes narrower, and more conifers and aspens are seen as you move up the canyon. At 6.1 miles the trail crosses to the north side of the canyon and becomes more evident as it climbs up to Cyclone Saddle via several switchbacks. Solitude is the most attractive feature of this trail.

LENGTH: 6.7 Miles or 10.8 Km.

USE: Low

DIFFICULTY: This is a very remote and very rough trail. Most of the trail is located in the bottom of San Mateo Canyon, and there is a great deal of boulder hopping required. For this reason, the majority of the trail is called primitive and given the rating of "most difficult".

USGS MAP(S): Blue Mountain and Vicks Peak

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED 2/94

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Trail #46 - Skeleton Ridge Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: On the west side of Magdalena turn south on State Highway 107 for 26 miles to Forest Road 478. Turn south and proceed about 1.5 miles to the junction with FR 86. Take FR 86 about 4.5 miles to the junction of FR 332. Proceed on FR 332 and ~~332A~~ about 6 miles to the end of road which is the trail head. A high clearance vehicle is recommended beyond FR-476. There is parking for 5 vehicles at the trail head which is at 7,360 foot elevation.

TRAIL ENDING: 9,720 foot elevation on Trail #43 near Apache Kid Peak.

ATTRactions AND CONSIDERATIONS: The trail begins by climbing a small ridge between the end of the road and San Juan Saddle. This ridge has sparse ponderosa pine on the north slope and pinyon juniper on the south. On San Juan saddle the trail passes through a gate and then begins to climb to the south. On the south side of the saddle the trail is faint and easily missed. Go almost due south, paralleling the fence on your left. An evident tread will be seen within 150 feet. The trail makes a number of switchbacks, one of which is in thick oak brush. Do not lose the trail here! The trail contours the drainage east of a line between San Juan Saddle and Pinon Mountain. Past the switchbacks the trail is much easier to find as it contours *the* upper slopes of a drainage. The trail then crosses this same drainage and makes a gradual climb to the ridge top and a saddle. It descends on the south side of the saddle and then climbs to the west on the south side of a prominent rock formation. From here on the trail switches between both sides of the ridge top and ridge top itself. The best views of the country on both sides of the ridge are obtained on this lower portion of the trail after gaining the ridge top. The extreme ruggedness of the country seen is worth the trip. About 4.0 miles look for the junction of a short spur trail on the north side. This spur trail is signed and blazed, and goes down and over the ridge on the westside. It is 1/2 mile from the junction to the Spring. This Spring is developed and normally has water. At 4.5 miles, the trail turns north along a ridge situated on the west side of the Tonto Basin. The ponderosa pine forest begins to thicken at this point, offering much needed shade. The trail turns around and heads south again on a seemingly arbitrary point on this side of the ridge. About 0.3 mile past this turn the trail joins the main views to the south are of San Mateo Peak and upper Indian Creek. The series of switchbacks on the east side of Apache Kid Peak. The trail skirts the south side of this "peak", which is actually a broad knob with dense tree cover on the top, eliminating the views common to most peaks. Past the peak the trail descends gradually for about 0.3 mile to the junction with Trail #43.

LENGTH: 7.2 Miles or 11.6 Km.

USE: Very low

DIFFICULTY: Due to a very steep climb, lack of shade, water, and trail tread, this is probably the most difficult trail on the Magdalena District. For these reasons, it is not recommended for summer travel unless done with about 1 gallon of water per person in addition to what is needed to camp. It is recommended that you *carefully* study the trail route on the Wilderness Map before setting out

Trail #46 - Skeleton Ridge Trail (Cont'd)

to hike this trail. The trail can be somewhat faint along the route, and a mistake in this country could have serious consequences.

USGS MAP(S): Blue Mountain and San Juan Peak

SEASON OF USES: Spring or Fall but call Ranger Office for conditions on ground.

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 4/97

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Trail #48 - Indian Creek Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: On the west side of Magdalena turn south on State Highway 107 and proceed 42 miles to Interstate 25, Interchange #115. Cross over the Interstate and proceed south on the frontage road, State highway #1, which parallels the Interstate. Do not get on the Interstate. Proceed about 12 miles south to the junction of Forest Road 225. Turn west and drive about 10 miles to the trail head, which is well signed at Windmill Well, tank, and corral. There is parking for 15 cars and the elevation here is 6,400 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: 8,760 foot elevation on Trail #43 near Twentyfive Yard Spring.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: The trail begins at a windmill, tank, and corral on Forest Road 225. The sparse pinyon juniper does not allow the placement of many blazes, so the beginning of the trail is faint. From the large tank, look for a drainage to the north. The trail is located in the vicinity of this drainage and parallels the fence to the north for a short distance. After 1.14 mile it moves away from the fence out into a flat where the trail can be lost again. Head for the saddle to the north in case the trail is lost. The trail crosses through the saddle and descends into a tributary of Springtime Canyon. The view of the north side of this saddle is quite different from the south side and is totally unexpected. The descent into the canyon is made via a number of switchbacks and one rather steep grade near the bottom. After a short distance the trail passes the remains of an old stone cabin, indicating that water probably flowed in this canyon in the past. After 0.5 mile the trail meets the main Springtime Canyon, where an old roadbed is located which the trail follows nearly a half mile down canyon. The trail leaves the roadbed and turns north near the confluence of Springtime and Indian Creek Canyons. It then follows an old two-track road nearly to Roberts Canyon through boxelder, pinyon and juniper trees. Above Roberts Canyon, Indian Creek Canyon begins to narrow considerably, and a water flow can normally be found here. Nearly all of the trees found in this part of the state, from fir to hardwoods, to pinyon juniper are found here. Past Roberts Canyon, 0.75 mile, the trail intersects the confluence of two canyons, and then takes the canyon to the west. This junction is confusing, and the trail is easily lost. Watch very carefully for this junction and the blazes marking the trail. After the junction the trail alternates between the drainage bottom and adjacent benches. The canyon begins to widen after about 1 mile. A 300 acre fire burned in this area in 1974, and its effects can be seen on both sides of the trail.

The canyon becomes wider past this fire area and splits. The trail begins a steep climb via a number of switchbacks to a point near the south side of the canyon. The trail is somewhat faint through mountain mahogany brush and must be followed closely. After reaching the rim of the canyon the trail crosses over a small ridge, turns west, and parallels a side drainage of Smith Canyon to the junction with Trail #43. Tree cover changes to mixed conifer above the rim of the canyon.

Trail 448 - Indian Creek Trail (Cont'd)

LENGTH: 7.9 Miles or 12.7 Km.

USE Low

DIFFICULTY: Most difficult. The majority of the route follows the bottom of Indian Creek Canyon, a rugged and beautiful canyon. Like other canyon bottom trails, the majority of this trail is in primitive condition. For this reason, the trail has been given a "most difficult" rating.

USGS MAP(S): Blue Mountain, Steel Hill, and Vicks Peak

SEASON OF USE: Spring or Fall but call Ranger Office for conditions on ground.

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 4197

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Trail #49 and #49A - Milo Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena turn south on State Highway 107 and drive 42 miles to Interstate 25, Interchange #115. Drive south on Interstate 25 for about 14.5 miles to the Red Rock exit, Interchange #100. Turn west off the exit ramp; then turn south at the first intersection onto State Highway #1. Proceed 4.5 miles to Forest Road 139 which is well signed. Turn west and drive about 12 miles to the intersection of FR 377. FR 377 is rough with steep canyon crossings, and a high clearance vehicle is recommended. Take FR 377 to where it meets FR 76, a distance of 20 miles. Turn right, or north, and drive 2.5 miles, the last mile of which is quite rough but 2-wheel drive passable. Continue to the end of the road, where the trail head for Trail #45 and Trail #68 are located. Parking for 10 cars is available. The elevation here is 7,000 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: 9,160 feet elevation on Trail #43 near San Mateo Spring, or 8,600 feet elevation on Trail #50, 0.75 mile south of Trail #43.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This trail follows Milo Canyon for its entire length. Milo canyon is a deep canyon south of San Mateo Peak. The overall grade is not steep; however, there are several short, steep grades where the trail climbs the canyon's slopes to bypass the canyon bottom in places. A wide variety of trees are encountered from pinyon juniper to mixed conifer. A flow of water can be found in several places along the canyon bottom. This flow is not dependable.

The trail begins in San Mateo Canyon just up canyon from its confluence with Milo Canyon. begins by climbing out of the San Mateo Canyon onto a level bench of scattered ponderosa pines. After several hundred feet, a switchback to the south is encountered, after which the trail contours the side of Milo Canyon in steep, gravelly terrain. After a short distance, the trail descends to the canyon bottom and begins up canyon.

The trail is rough and sometimes difficult to follow in the canyon bottom, and blazes must be followed closely. Between Nave Canyon and this point, the trail bypasses the canyon bottom by climbing the slopes and then contouring a few hundred feet above the canyon bottom. If these bypasses are missed, you may expect a very rough walk as the vegetation off the trail is quite thick and difficult to pass through.

A variety of trees are encountered including hardwoods, pinyon juniper, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer. Above the junction of Trail #86 at the Nave-Milo Canyon confluence the trail becomes somewhat more developed and easier to follow. The trees change to predominantly mixed conifer above this point. About 1.25 miles above Trail #86, the trail splits into two legs. Trail #49 ends on Trail #43 near San Mateo Spring, and the other #49A goes 0.5 mile and then joins Trail #50 about 0.75 mile south of Trail #43.

Trail 349 and 49A - Milo Trail (Cont'd)

LENGTH: 4.8 Miles or 7.7 Km.

USE: *Low*

DIFFICULTY: More difficult

USGS MAP(S): Vicks Peak

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 4/94

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Trail #50 - **Shipman** Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena turn south on State Highway 107 and drive 42 miles to Interstate 25. Drive south on Interstate 25 for about 14.5 miles to the Red Rock exit, Interchange #100. Turn west off the exit ramp; then turn south at the first intersection onto State Highway # t . Proceed 4.5 miles to Forest Road 139 which is well signed. Turn west and drive about 12 miles to the intersection of FR 377. FR 377 is rough with steep canyon crossings, and a high clearance vehicle is recommended. Take FR 3 77 about 10 miles to the trail head, which is well signed. The first 0.5 mile of the trail is on a two-track road. FR 907, which can be driven. This road ends at a private land gate and the trail begins by walking the private land road to the eastside of the private land fence gate and thence onto the Forest. Parking is nearly unlimited at the trail head which is at an elevation of 7,080 feet.

TRAIL ENDING 9,040 feet elevation on Trail #43, 2.3 miles above Springtime Campground.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: Probably the most scenic place in the San Mateo Mountains is the southern end of these mountains, which includes the southern faces of Vicks Peak and San Mateo Mountain_ This trail passes over a saddle between these two formations and, like many other trails, passes through four vegetative zones. There are two dependable sources of water along the length and several beautiful places to camp_

The trail begins on a relatively flat area of pinyonjuniper and gray oak. It passes around the toe of a ridge and descends into a canyon. At the top of this descent the trail enters the Apache Kid Wilderness.

The trail parallels Shipman Canyon for about 0.5 mile before climbing up a side canyon and then up a ridge. The trail stays on the ridge top for a short distance before descending into Shipman Canyon once again where water from Myers Spring is often still flowing. More hardwoods and fir are encountered from this point. Myers Spring is located in a grassy meadow ringed by trees. Beyond the spring the trail climbs steeply and passes through a large rock slide where the surrounding scenery is spectacular.

At the saddle the trail passes close to Myers cabin which, due to the large picture window facing south, is quite unique compared with other cabins in the San Mateo Mountains.

Trail #50 - Shipman Trail (Cont'd)

Beyond the saddle the trail descends into one canyon and climbs one ridge before descending into Nave Canyon. Nave Spring is located 1.1 miles past Myers Cabin at the Nave Canyon crossing. Beyond Nave Canyon the trail climbs and descends a number of ridges which divide the many upper forks of Nave and Milo Canyons. A scenic meadow is crossed in the vicinity of the Trail #49A junction, which is located 6.1 miles from the beginning. Beyond this junction it is 3.14 mile to the Trail #43 junction.

LENGTH: 5.8 Miles or 9.3 Km.

USE: Low

DIFFICULTY: Moderate. The trail is classified good for its entire length, and due to its constant up-down nature was rated "modern" in difficulty.

USGS MAP(S): Vicks Peak

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED 4/94

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Trail #61 - Smith Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena turn south on State Highway 107 and drive 42 miles to Interstate 25. Drive south on Interstate 25 for about 14.5 miles to the Red Rock exit Interchange #100. Turn west off the exit ramp; then turn south at the first intersection onto State Highway #1. Proceed 4.5 miles to Forest Road 139 which is well signed. Turn west and drive about 12 miles to the intersection of FR 377. FR 377 is rough with steep canyon crossings, and a high clearance vehicle is recommended. Take FR 377 to where it meets FR 76, a distance of 20 miles. Turn right, or north, and drive 2.5 miles, the last mile of which is quite rough but 2-wheel passable. Continue to the end of the road, where the trail heads for Trail #45 and T-68 are located. There is parking for 10 cars at the trail head. Hike trail #45 for 2.5 miles up San Mateo Canyon to the trail head with T-61 at Smith Canyon. The elevation here is 7,240 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: 8,680 foot elevation on Trail #43 about .4 mile south of Twentyfive Yard Spring.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This trail begins in San Mateo Canyon on a small bench on the west side of the drainage among boxelders, walnuts, and ponderosa pines. This first 0.6 mile can be difficult to find as it follows the bottom of Smith Canyon where there are few trees to blaze, and tread is totally absent. Follow the canyon bottom and look for the first large drainage on the north or left 0.6 mile from Trail #45. The trail climbs out of Smith Canyon on the west side of this drainage.

The trail is extremely steep for the next 1.8 miles and is faint in many places. It follows the drainage previously mentioned early to the top of the ridge, then turns east and skirts the south edge of a knob on the ridge separating Smith Canyon from San Mateo Canyon. The trail does not follow the top of this ridge, but contours the heads of several side drainages of Smith Canyon. Tree cover is predominantly ponderosa pine, with mixed conifer and aspen scattered about. On the third major side ridge, the trail becomes evident as it descends to a drainage and makes a gentle descent beyond that into Smith Canyon. Mixed conifer replaces the ponderosa pine, and a few aspen groves are passed through. At the point where the trail crosses Smith Canyon, there is usually a small flow of water in the canyon coming from Twentyfive Yard Spring located about 0.5 mile upstream. A camping area is located here. It is a moderate climb of 0.2 mile to the junction of Trail #43 where the trail ends.

Trail #61 - Smith Trail (Cont'd)

LENGTH: 4.1 Miles or 6.7 Km.

USE: Very low

DIFFICULTY: Most difficult. This is a very rough and steep trail. Up from San Mateo Canyon 0.6 miles, the trail climbs extremely steep (30% plus) for 1.8 miles. The climb lacks shade or a source of water, and with the steepness, makes an extremely rough, dehydrating experience. It is recommended that this trail be walked from east (Trail #43) to west (Trail #45) to avoid an uphill climb on this portion of the route.

USGS MAP(S): Blue Mountain and Vicks Peak

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to late Fall

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 2194

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Trail #63 - Whitewater Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: There are several ways to reach this trail: via Mt. Withington and the San Mateo Crest: via State Highway 52 and up West Red Canyon on FR 478 to FR 96; or down State Highway 107, up Forest Road 330 along the crest on FR 138, and down into Hudson Canyon on FR 96. The last will be described here as it is the most direct.

On the west side of Magdalena turn south on State Highway 107 for about 23 miles to Forest Road 330. Turn west and follow FR 330 for 15.5 miles to FR 138. Take FR 138 north for 2.5 miles to FR 96. Follow FR 96 for 6.5 miles to the trail head, which is well signed. As there are 24.5 miles of dirt road to travel after State Highway 107, a pickup is recommended. FR 330 climbs steeply up the east side of the San Mateos and is not recommended for those unfamiliar with mountain driving. Parking for five cars is available. The elevation at this area is 8,200 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: 9,280 foot elevation on Trail #43 0.5 mile south of Grassy Lookout.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This trail makes a short but sustained climb from Hudson Canyon up to the Apache Kid Trail #43. It stays in mixed conifer the entire way. It is not particularly scenic, and its main attribute is to serve as an alternate trail head for those wishing to hike south on the Apache Kid Trail.

This trail begins on Forest Road 96 and climbs steeply up the east side of Hudson Canyon. It reaches a small saddle and turns back to the north to Hudson Canyon. It reaches a small saddle and turns back to the north to cross a minor drainage. It then crosses the toe of another ridge and parallels another side drainage of Hudson Canyon. After crossing this drainage, the trail parallels the drainage again and begins to climb quite steeply. About 0.2 mile from the end the trail switches back and turns south, then levels and turns east and ends at Trail #43.

LENGTH: 1.3 Miles or 2.1 Km.

USE: Low

DIFFICULTY: More difficult

USGS MAP(S): Grassy Lookout

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 4197

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Trail #68 and #68A - Maverick Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena turn south on State Highway 107 and drive 42 miles to Interstate 25. Drive south on Interstate 25 for about 14.5 miles to the Red Rock exit, Interchange #100. Turn west off the exit ramp; then turn south at the first intersection onto State Highway #1. Proceed 4.5 miles to Forest Road 139 which is well signed. Turn west and drive about 12 miles to the intersection of FR 377. FR 377 is rough with steep canyon crossings, and a high clearance vehicle is recommended. Take FR 377 to where it meets FR 76, a distance of 20 miles. Turn right, or north, and drive 2.5 miles, the last mile of which is quite rough but 2-wheel drive passable. Continue to the end of the road to the trail heads of T-68 and T-45. There is parking for 10 cars. The elevation here is 7,400 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: 9,920 feet elevation on Trail #90 near Cub Spring, or 10,160 feet elevation on Trail #90 near Blue Mountain.

ATTRactions AND CONSIDERATIONS: This trail begins among pinyon juniper and gray oak, and ends among aspen and mixed conifer near the highest point in the San Mateo Mountains. It is a long, steep, and dry climb. The trail is very seldom used and can offer a great deal of solitude. Due to the great elevation change (3,600 feet minimum) it is suggested that in order to have a more pleasurable trip, it should be traveled from Blue Mountain to the road, rather than the reverse. The steepest part of the climb is located between Maverick Canyon and Blue Mountain.

This trail begins at the end of Forest Road 76 in pinyon juniper on the west rim of San Mateo Canyon. The first 2.1 miles follow a rough and little used two-track road through pinyon juniper and scattered ponderosa pine. After 2.1 miles, the road makes a turn to the right, or east, and then continues almost due north. Evidence of vehicle use is still present but is much less obvious than the road which turned east.

The trail continues generally northward on a broad ridge separating Holdup and Maverick Canyons. The views to the north and east of the rugged Milo Canyon, San Mateo Canyon, and San Mateo Peak areas are excellent. The ridge begins to turn northeast toward Holdup Mountain, which is a distinctive pyramid shaped, pine covered peak. Near the base of this peak the trail leaves the ridge and descends into Maverick Canyon via a side drainage. Tread exists on this portion of the trail. After a couple of switchbacks, the trail reaches the canyon bottom, loses its tread surface, and begins up canyon. Ponderosa pine with scattered mixed conifer and an occasional hardwood are present. The climb up the canyon bottom is gradual.

Trail #68 and #68A - Maverick Trail (Cont'd)

After 3/4 mile, Maverick Canyon forks and the trail takes the left fork, which begins to climb more steeply. After a mile the trail leaves the bottom of left fork of maverick Canyon on the east side and the steepest climb of the trail begins. Only 15% of the route is ahead of you, but you must make over 40% of the elevation, or nearly 1,500 feet. The trail lacks tread over most of this climb, which passes through a large stand of big trees with widely spaced blazes. Upon reaching the junction of the two legs of this trail, most of the climb is over. The left, or west, fork contours via a semi-primitive trail #68A to Cub Spring about 0.5 mile. The right, or east, fork climbs nearly to the summit of West Blue Mountain via the main trail #68. it meets Trail #90 about 200 feet west of the Apache Kid Trail #43.

LENGTH: 9.3 Miles or 14.9 Km. Plus 0.6 mile on #43 to Blue Mountain or 0.5 mile on #68 to Cub Spring.

USE: Very low

DIFFICULTY: Most difficult

USGS MAP(S): Blue Mountain and Vicks Peak

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to late Fall

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 4/97

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Trail #69 - Coffee Pot Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena drive 20 miles west on US 60 to State Highway 52 where you turn left or south. This road turns to dirt and pavement is not encountered on the remainder of the route. Approximately 21 miles south of US 60 is the junction with SH-163. Continue south on SH 52, which is marked "Dusty and Winston" for 15.5 miles to the junction of Forest Road 478. Turn east, or left, onto FR 478 and then 478A, and proceed 12 miles to Coffee Pot Canyon, which is signed. Turn right, or south, on a secondary road 478B up canyon to a closure gate. The trail starts here. Parking for 3 cars is available. A high clearance vehicle is recommended from the Forest Boundary to the gate. The elevation in West Red Canyon at Coffee Pot Canyon is 7,280 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: 9,520 feet elevation on Trail #90 0.6 mile west of Cub Spring.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This trail climbs a ridge between Coffee Pot and Sim Yaten Canyons. It is a steady but not extremely steep climb, which reaches Trail #90 0.6 miles west of Cub Spring and 2.8 miles east of Forest Road 140. Trees consist of ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, and aspen. There is no water available along the trail.

Past the gate, the trail follows an old road about 1 mile. At the end of the road this trail follows the canyon bottom for about 0.2 mile. The trail then turns to the right and climbs the west side of Coffee Pot Canyon. The climb utilizes a number of switchbacks and passes through a stand of scattered ponderosa pine. After gaining the ridge top it turns and heads southeast along the top of the ridge top, where blazes and pruned branches must be followed due to the lack of tread. After following the ridge top in a southeasterly direction for about mile, the trail turns west and contours the head of a drainage. After gaining the ridge top on the west side of this drainage, the trail turns sharply right, or south, again. This sharp turn is easily missed. After taking this turn, the trail is evident for a while and then disappears in several places along the remainder of the route. Ponderosa pine gradually gives way to mixed conifer and aspen along the way. Views to the south of West Blue Mountain, to the east of the Magdalena Mountains, and to the north of Grassy Lookout are found before the trail ends on a long, narrow knob on a ridge running west from West Blue Mountain on Trail #90.

LENGTH: 3.7 Miles or 5.9 Km. from the gate in Coffee Pot Canyon.

USE: Moderate

DIFFICULTY: More difficult

Trail #69 - Coffee Pot Trail (Cont'd)

USGS MAP(S): Blue Mountain

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 4197

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Trail #81 - Teepee Peak Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: There is no road access to this trail. The closest road to the beginning of this trail is 1.7 miles away via Trail #87. Follow the road directions to get to Trail #87 then the beginning of Trail #81 is 1.7 miles up Trail #87. The elevation at the beginning of Trail #81 is 6,680 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: 9,880 feet elevation of Trail #43 near Blue Mountain.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This is a very steep and rough trail which climbs up the east side of the San Mateo Mountains via Teepee Ridge. Views to the north include the Magdalena Mountains and points in between. Views to the south include Skeleton Ridge and Cold Spring Canyon. There is no water on the entire route, and little shade is available on the lower half of this trail. In warm weather it can be a very dehydrating trip. A minimum of one gallon of water per person is needed in the summer to walk this trail in an uphill direction. For a more pleasurable trip, walk it downhill.

This trail begins on Trail #87 among large cottonwood trees, and quickly climbs up the south facing slope of Cold Spring Canyon. This trail is primitive and very steep, with many switchbacks through scattered brush country which typifies the first 0.8 mile of this trail. Upon reaching the top of the initial climb, the tread ends and blazes are hard to find in the scattered pinyon juniper. The trail turns left, or southeast, to follow the main ridge. Past the gate 0.6 mile, the trail enters a saddle where the view to the south of the north side of the ridge and begins to climb above a side drainage of Deep Canyon. The trail is faint in this section and must be followed carefully. The trail climbs the head of this drainage to a saddle between Teepee Ridge and one of its side ridges. Beyond this saddle, trees offering much needed shade become more numerous. There are several good views to the north of the Magdalena Mountains and the rugged Deep Canyon watershed. The trail crosses a rock slide and then begins to climb the north side of Teepee Peak through the Apache Wildfire which occurred in 7190. At the top of the switchbacks, the trail levels out and passes the low, broad, and somewhat indistinct summit of Teepee Peak. About 0.6 mile past the top of the switchbacks, along a nearly level route, the trail ends at its junction with Trail #43.

LENGTH: 5.9 Miles or 9.5 Km.

USE: Very low

DIFFICULTY: Most difficult

USGS MAP(S): Blue Mountain and San Juan Peak

Trail 48 1 - Teepee Peak Trail (Coned)

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to late Fall

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 4/97

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Trail #86 - Nave Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: The trail begins at the confluence of Milo and Nave Canyons at an elevation of 7,800 feet. There is no road access to this trail.

TRAIL ENDING: On Trail #50 at Nave Spring at an elevation 8,680 feet.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This trail connects the Shipman Trail #50 with the Milo Trail #49 via a 1.5 mile route down the bottom of Nave Canyon. There is a dependable flow of water at Nave Spring located at the junction of Trail #50 and #86. It is usually only 1 to 2 inches deep, making it difficult to utilize. A flow of water exists in many sections of the canyon, but it is undependable from year to year. There are a couple of places to camp at the upper end of the trail near Trail #50.

About half way along route the trail passes a scenic rock formation, the lower end of which has a waterfall when water is flowing.

LENGTH: 1.5 Miles or 2.4 Km.

USE: Low

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

USGS MAP(S): Vicks Peak

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to late Fall

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

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Trail #87 - Cold Spring Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: On the west side of Magdalena turn south on State Highway 107 for 26 miles to Forest Road 478. Take FR-478 and proceed about 1.5 miles to the junction with FR 86. Take FR 86 about 4.5 miles to the junction of FR 332. Proceed about 4 miles on FR 332 to the trail head, which is well signed. A high clearance vehicle is recommended for travel beyond FR-487. There is parking for 3 vehicles at the trail head which is at an elevation of 6,840 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: 9,480 feet elevation on Trail #43 at Cyclone Saddle.

ATTRactions AND CONSIDERATIONS: This is one of the most attractive trails in the San Mateo Mountains. It follows the bottom of Cold Spring and west fork of Cold Spring Canyon, both of which contain scenic rock formations and views of the high country around Blue Mountain and Apache Kid Peak. The west fork of Cold Spring Canyon contains a stream about 3 miles in length. Water is present near the junction of Trails #87 and #81, but cattle use this lower canyon bottom leaving the water unappetizing. There is only one good place to camp in the west fork.

This trail begins on the top of the White Mule Ridge overlooking Cold Spring Canyon. The trail begins descending into the canyon on a wide but very rocky tread which appears to have been originally constructed as a wagon road. *Pinyon* juniper, with an occasional ponderosa pine, covers the canyon slopes. Just before the trail reaches the canyon bottom, there is a steep, rocky place which could be dangerous for horses. After reaching the canyon bottom the trail tread is light in places and blazes must be followed closely. The trail continues up canyon under large cottonwoods, boxelders, chokecherry, and walnuts. Up the canyon 0.2 mile, the trail passes by an old corral and then continues up the canyon on the right. The canyon on the left is Basin Canyon, which is connected with the rugged and seldom traveled Tonto Basin. The trail continues up Cold Spring Canyon, and short stretches of obvious tread are found here and there. At 1.7 miles, the junction with Trail #81 is passed, and within 1/4 mile above that, Cold Spring is usually running. This is the area of heavy livestock use. Beyond this spring, the hardwoods disappear, replaced by widely spaced ponderosa pine. Tread is lacking here, so watch carefully for blazes as there are two major forks in the canyon which are passed. Traveling up the correct one is quite necessary. At 3.5 miles the trail enters the right-hand, or west, fork of Cold Spring Canyon. Trees begin to change to mixed conifer and hardwoods. The mouth of West Fork is quite narrow, and a couple of rocky areas must be passed through. Just above these narrow places, the stream should appear, and the trail gains a tread surface. The walk up this narrow canyon with a nearby stream is quite pleasant. At 5.4 miles the trail leaves the canyon bottom; the tread improves; and the steepest part of the trail begins. A continuing

Trail #87 - Cold Spring Trail (Cont'd)

series of switchbacks through mixed conifer and aspen typify the remainder of the trail: The trail passes through a couple of rock slides, where the trail is constructed from a lot of carefully packed rock. The *views of* the high, steep country around Blue Mountain and upper Cold Spring Canyon look *very* much like mountain country in other higher mountain ranges. A long switchback through a thick mixed conifer forest ends in Cyclone Saddle, where it junctions with Trail #43.

LENGTH: 6.4 Miles or 10.3 Km.

USE: Low

DIFFICULTY: Difficult

USGS MAP(S): Blue Mountain and San Juan Peak

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to late Fall

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 2/94

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Trail #90 - Post Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena drive 20 miles west on US 60 to State Route 52 where you turn left or south. This road turns to dirt and pavement is not encountered on the remainder of the route. Approximately 21 miles south of US 60 is the junction of State Highway #163. Stay on SH 52, which is marked "Dusty and Winston" and continue south for 19 miles to the junction of Forest Road 140. Turn east, or left, and after 1.14 mile the road will turn left, or north. Make sure not to miss this turn. The road will pass several junctions, but the route to reach Trail #90 follows Forest Road 140 to its end, a distance of 12.75 miles. One of two miles before the end, the road has a rough section. A high clearance vehicle is essential! A rough, rocky, and steep turn to the right marks the beginning of this section. After this turn the road makes another sharp turn to the left in some loose gravel. After these two spots the road becomes relatively smooth again. Parking for 10 vehicles exists at the trail head. The elevation here is 8,280 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: 10,200 feet elevation on Trail #43 near Blue Mountain

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This is the easiest route to the top of the San Mateo Mountains, because Forest Road, 140 has done most of the climbing.

This trail has a good tread and an average grade of only 9%. Tree cover consists mainly of mixed conifer and aspen along the entire route. Dependable water and a place to camp is located at Cub Spring.

This trail begins at the end of Forest Road 140 among large ponderosa pines on a ridge which connects with Blue Mountain. Within 0.5 mile the trail leaves the thick vegetation as it crosses a south-facing slope where the views of upper Kelly Canyon and West Blue Mountain are excellent.

At about 0.7 mile you enter the Apache Kid Wilderness. The trail enters thick vegetation again, and continues the climb, mostly without switchbacks. At 2.3 miles the trail passes through a saddle. About 1/2 mile beyond this junction the trail climbs onto a long, narrow knob where the junction to Trail #69, Coffeepot, is located. The trail descends the east side of the knob and then continues its climb. After a series of switchbacks through a large aspen stand, the trail enters a clearing where Cub Spring is located. The trail beyond the spring is hard to find due to the growth of the brush and grass around the spring. Head in a southwesterly direction past the spring, or parallel to the contours of the slope. About 50 feet past the spring the trail turns left, south, and-climbs uphill. Past the spring about 200 feet the junction of Trail #68A is passed, and a couple of signs are located here. Beyond this, the trail is quite easy to follow as it *crosses the* north side of West Blue Mountain through a rather dense forest of spruce and aspen. About 200 feet from the trail's end, the junction of Trail #68 good campsites may be found.

Trail #90 - Post Trail (Cont'd)

LENGTH: 4.1 Miles or 6.6 Km.

USE: Low

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

USGS MAP(S): Blue Mountain

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to Iate Fall

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 4197

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SOUTHERN SAN NIATEO MOUNTAINS
LOOPTRIPS

There are a number of loop trip possibilities in the southern San Mateo mountains. Many would require car shuttles to put vehicles at each end of the hike. Only a few of these loop trips will be discussed, as these are considered the most attractive trips. Please refer to the individual trail descriptions for specific information of these trails.

Trail #43 - Trail #48

There is a distance of 4 miles between the Trail #48 trail head and the Trail #43 Trail head at Springtime Campground, which passes through pinyon juniper country. This can be hot in the summer. The loop is best done by leaving one vehicle at Trail #48 and then driving one to Trail #43 to avoid this road hiking. By starting on Trail #43, there is good camping at Twentyfive Yard Spring, 5.3 miles up the trail. Beyond this it is 0.2 mile to the Trail #48 junction, and 7.9 miles down Trail #48 to the road. By traveling the loop this way the climb is done in more dense and a cooler forest on better trail than climbing up Trail #48.

LENGTH: 13.4 Miles or 21.6 Km. of trail and 4 miles or 6.4 Km. of road

Trail #45 - Trail #68

By going up Trail #45, the climb is done on better trail than climbing Trail #68. It is 8.2 miles up Trail #68. It is 8.2 miles up Trail #45 and Trail #43 to Blue Mountain, where camping is available. It is then 10.1 miles along Trails #43, #90, and #68 to return to the trail head. Both Trail #45 and Trail #68 are rated "most difficult", and the lower ends of both of these trails can be quite hot in the summer. This loop is only recommended for experienced hikers.

LENGTH: 18.3 Miles or 29.9 Km.

Trail #87 - Trail #81

It is recommended that Trail #87 be used to climb the mountain, and Trail #81 be used to descend. Trail #81 is primitive, steep, and harder to climb. It is 7.9 miles to Blue Mountain from Forest Road 332 via Trail #87 and Trail #43. It is 8.1 miles back to the trail head via Trails #43, #81, and #87.

LENGTH: 16 Miles or 25.7 Km.

Trail #87 - Trail #46

It is best to use Trail #87 to climb the mountain, and Trail #46 to descend due to the primitive and steep condition of Trail #46.

It is 6.4 miles to Trail #43 from Forest Road 332. It is 1 mile between Trail #87 and Trail #46 along Trail #43. It is then 7.2 miles down Trail #46 to the road, about 2 miles along the road to the trail head of Trail #87. There are not many good places to camp between the west fork of Cold Spring Canyon and Trail #46 along this route. The first day mileage into camp would be about 4.6 miles, leaving the climb to Cyclone Saddle, the descend of Trail #46, and return along the road for the second day. This would total 10 miles of trail and 2 miles of road for the second day. This is the only way to accomplish this route without carrying water.

LENGTH: 14.6 Miles or 23.5 Km. of trails and 2 miles or 3.2 Km. of road.

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Trail 436 - Big Rosa Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: On the west side of Magdalena, turn onto State Highway 107 for about 18 miles to Forest Road 52. Turn right or west for 3 miles to junction of Forest Road 56, turn south and go to the end of FR 56 at a closure gate, which is the trail head. Forest Road 56 is often washed badly in Big Rosa Canyon, and a high clearance vehicle is recommended. There is a sign marking the trail. In the meadow just west of the gate is the beginning of Trail #37. Parking for 15 vehicles is available there. The elevation is 7,200 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: Forest Road #138 on the crest of the San Mateo Mountains at an elevation of 9,860 feet.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: From the trail head at the closure gate in Big Rosa Canyon, the trail is an old logging road. Head up the canyon and at 3.4 miles it junctions with Trail #92. . At this junction Trail #36 turns west and climbs on an old skid trail about 200 feet parallel to a tributary of Big Rosa Canyon. At 4.3 miles the trail enters the Withington Wilderness. The canyon here sometimes runs water after a wet winter-or during a rainy summer. At 2 miles the trail turns left, leaves the canyon bottom, and the Withington Wilderness.

ft then climbs in a mixed conifer forest for the next 0.4 mile before entering a large clearing. The trail climbs on the south edge of this clearing for a short distance and meets a logging road in a saddle. It then turns left. The trail follows this logging road for 0.1 mile before leaving it on the right side. The trail is easy to follow through the *dense* forest for the next 0.3 mile. Within 350 feet of Forest Road 138 the trail enters a logging area, and blazes must be followed to the end of the trail.

LENGTH: 4.9 Miles or 7.8 Km.

USE: Low

DIFFICULTY: More difficult

USGS MAP(S): Grassy Lookout

SEASON OF USE: Mid-Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 4/97

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Trail 437 - Water Canyon Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena turn south on State Highway 107 for about 18 miles. Turn right, or west, on Forest Road 52. Proceed 3.0 miles on FR 52 to FR 56 and turn left, or south. Follow FR 56 for 6.5 miles to its end. The trail head is located a few hundred feet before closure gate at the end of the road. For the best place to park, turn right on the unnumbered road located beyond the trail head and before the end of the road. After a couple hundred feet this road will enter a large meadow. The trail begins to the west through a break in the trees. A high clearance vehicle is recommended for SH 107 to the trail head. There is space for about 15 vehicles at the trail head. The elevation here is 7,200 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: 9,400 feet elevation on Forest Road 138 at the crest of the San Mateo Mountains.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This trail follows the entire length of Water Canyon from Big Rosa Canyon to the crest of the San Mateo Mountains. Trees consist of hardwoods mainly on the lower half; and mixed conifer on the upper half. The steepest portion of the trail is located on the upper mile of trail after leaving the main canyon bottom. There is an undependable flow of water in three places along the trail: 1 mile from the end where the trail leaves the main canyon bottom; and on the two springs (Leke and Water) shown on the Forest Visitor's Map.

The first 1.25 miles of this trail follows an old logging road to Water Spring. *The* first 1.25 miles passes through cottonwood, walnuts, and boxelders. The trail is not well defined, as it follows the roadbed and crosses the drainage several times. Blazes must be carefully watched to stay on the trail, which is the best route in the canyon bottom. About 0.3 mile past the last evidence of the road, the canyon narrows and a number of large side canyons meet the main canyon.

Leke Spring is located in this area and is usually flowing.

Above here the trail becomes more evident, and it has been classified as semi-primitive for the remainder of the route. Fewer and fewer hardwoods are seen, and mixed conifer trees dominate. The grade begins to increase.

At 3.4 miles the trail leaves the main canyon bottom, where a small area for camping and water flow (undependable) are located.

The trail is now located on a south-facing slope, and ponderosa pines become more numerous. This more open vegetation allows for good views to the south of the upper Water Canyon watershed and the San Mateo Crest. The climb ends at the head of a drainage in a saddle where Forest Road 138 is located.

Trail 437 - Water Canyon Trail (Cont'd)

LENGTH: 4.4 Miles or 7.1 Km.

USE: Low

DIFFICULTY: More Difficult

USGS MAP(S): Grassy Lookout

SEASON OF USE: Mid-Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

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Trail #37A - Water Canyon and Potato Canyon Connecting Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: This trail may be accessed by either Trail #37 or Trail #38. There is no vehicle access. Follow directions for access to Trails 37 and 38, as described elsewhere in the Recreation Opportunity Guide.

TRAIL ENDING: This trail ends on Trail #37 or on Trail #38, depending on which trail you begin on.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This trail connects Trail #37 and Trail #38, and provides an opportunity to hike a loop, instead of hiking the entire length of either Trail #37 or Trail #38. This trail intersects Trail 37 approximately 2.5 miles from the eastern trail head, or 1.75 miles from the western trail head. The other end of the trail intersects Trail #38 approximately 3.25 miles from the eastern trail head, or 2.25 miles from the western trail head. The trail ascends a canyon bottom from either end, and crosses a ridge between Water Canyon and Potato Canyon. There is approximately 1,000 feet elevation change between the ridge top and the bottom of Water Canyon on this trail. The trail is heavily wooded on the north slope between the ridge and Potato Canyon, and is slightly more open on the south slope between the ridge and Water Canyon. The entire length of the connecting trail is through mixed conifer forest.

LENGTH: 1.8 Miles or 3 Km.

USE: Low

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

USGS MAP(S): Grassy Lookout and Mount Withington

SEASON OF USE: Mid-Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 4/97

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Trail #38 - Potato Canyon Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena turn south on State Highway 107 for about 18 miles. Turn right, or west, on Forest Road 52. Proceed 3.0 miles on FR 52 to FR 56 and turn left, or south. Follow FR 56 for 2.5 miles to the trail head, which is well signed. For travel off State Highway 107 a high clearance vehicle is recommended. There is parking for about 15 cars at the trail head which is at an elevation of 6,720 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: From Magdalena drive west on US 60 for 12 miles and turn left, or south, on FR 549. Proceed south for 13.25 miles to Monica Saddle where the junction to Forest Road 138 is located. Turn left and proceed south on FR 138 for 4.3 miles to the trail head, which is well signed. It is best to have a pickup for these roads as they are rough. There is parking for 5 vehicles at the trail head, which is shared with Trail #64 on the opposite side of the road. The elevation at this trail head is 9,760 feet.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: The main portion of this trail's climb is located on the upper 2 miles.. The canyon has no dependable water, but often has a flow in a spring located 2.2 miles from the trail head and at a waterfall 3.2 miles from the lower trail head. The trail passes through pinyon juniper, hardwood, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer.

This trail begins among pinyon juniper just north of the Potato Canyon drainage on a primitive or two-track road. After 1.4 mile the trail goes into the wash bottom, and blazes must be followed closely to stay on the trail which offers the easiest walking.

At 0.3 mile the trail enters the Withington Wilderness. At 1.3 miles the trail enters a narrow area in the canyon, and the number of large hardwoods increase. At 1.8 miles a large canyon on the right is passed, and Potato Canyon narrows. At 2.2 miles, you may notice a concrete slab in the drainage. A flow of water sometimes exists, and up canyon within 114 mile is an area to camp.

The trail continues to follow the canyon bottom in predominately ponderosa pine. At 2.9 miles the trail passes the remains of an old cabin, and past this 1.4 mile the trail leaves the canyon bottom on the left.

A large rock fall is located just ahead in the canyon bottom. When water is flowing here, a waterfall may be found here. If you reach this rock fall, you missed the place where the trail climbs out of the canyon to bypass the waterfall. The trail on this bypass section goes through *sparse* ponderosa pine. *Good views of* upper Potato Canyon and Mt. Withington are found along this stretch. The bypass climbs and descends very steeply with little tread, so watch carefully for blazes.

Trail 438 - Potato Canyon Trail (Cont'd)

Returning to the canyon bottom, the trail briefly passes through an area of large hardwood trees. One mile past the bypass a good view of Potato Rock, a large columnar rock, can be found. The rock is located on the south side of the canyon. About 1.5 miles from the top, the trail leaves the canyon bottom, begins to have a tread, enters mixed conifer trees, and starts a steep climb. The climb is somewhat eased by many switchbacks. The trail ends in a saddle just south of Mt. Withington Lookout.

LENGTH: 6.2 Miles or 10 Km.

USE: LQw•-

DIFFICULTY: Most difficult. The grade is not as steep as other trails of lesser difficulty ratings. The main reason for the "most difficult" rating is that three-fourths of the trail is in primitive condition. The majority of the primitive portion follows a gravelly wash bottom which is hard on the ankles for walking.

USGS MAP(S): Mount Withington

SEASON OF USE: Mid- Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 4/97

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Trail #64 - Chimney Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena drive west on US 60, 12 miles and turn left, or south, on Forest Road 549. Proceed south for 13.25 miles to Monica Saddle where the junction to Forest Road 138 is located. Turn left and proceed south on FR 138 for 4.3 miles to the trail head, which is well signed. It is best to have a pickup for these roads, they are rather rough. There is parking for 5 vehicles at the trail head, which is shared with Trail #38, on the opposite side of the road. The elevation here is 9,760 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: 8,200 feet elevation in Chimney Canyon at the junction with Trail #65.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: Driving south from Mt. Withington along the crest of the San Mateo Mountains, a large rock formation called Chimney Rock which can be seen from the road looking to the west down the mountain. This trail passes near the base of this rock, and if water is flowing a small 20 feet waterfall may be found by making a short, steep descent off the trail. Trail #64 meets Trail #65 at Sanchez Trough Spring, which is developed and has water.

This trail begins on the west side of the Crest Road, FR 138, on the north fork of Chimney Canyon in mixed coniferous timber. It descends gently on a fork of Chimney Canyon in mixed coniferous timber. It descends' gently on a southerly contour with good tread into the canyon bottom. The trail starts down the canyon on the east side then crosses to the west side of the canyon and continues on down the canyon. It crosses back to the east side of the canyon and then under Chimney Rock at 0.9 mile. At 1 mile you may hear the waterfalls. If so, it might be worth walking down to see it. The trail continues on down canyon on the east side another 0.2 mile and ends at the junction with Trail #65 at Sanchez Trough Spring.

LENGTH: 1.2 Miles or 2 Km.

USE: Low

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

USGS MAP(S): Grassy Lookout and Mount Withington

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE- INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 2194

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Trail #65 - Hughes Mill Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena drive west on US 60, 12 miles, and turn left or south on Forest Road 549. Proceed south on FR 549 for 17.5 miles to Hughes Mill Campground. The trail head *is across the* road and is well signed. There is parking for 20+ vehicles at Hughes Mill Campground. The elevation here is 8,250.

TRAIL ENDING: From Magdalena drive west on US 60, 12 miles, and turn left, *or* south, on FR 549. Proceed south for 13.5 miles to Monica Saddle where the junction to Forest Road 138 is located. Turn left and proceed south on Forest Road 138 for 6.3 miles to the trail head, which is well signed. It is best to have a pickup for these roads as they are a little rough. There is parking for 5 vehicles at the trail head, which is shared with Trail #37. The elevation here is 9,400 feet.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This is probably the easiest trail on the Magdalena District. Lack of tread surface, and the navigational problems associated with that, have caused this trail to be rated "moderate" instead of "easy". The trail is not particularly scenic.

The trail begins across the road from the campground. It climbs a small drainage to a logging road. It follows this road to where it makes a hard right turn. The trail leaves the road immediately after this turn on the left side of the road and climbs up to the south. After leveling off, the trail passes back and forth over generally flat terrain through thinning and logging roads. You must watch carefully for blazes. The trail then descends into Burnt Canyon where it leaves evidence of logging behind. The trail continues on down Burnt Canyon in the drainage bottom. At 1.2 miles Burnt Canyon joins the big Chimney Canyon. The trail turns left or east up Chimney Canyon on an old road. The trail is on the old road for about 0.8 mile to the junction with Panther Canyon, a major tributary on the north side of Chimney Canyon. Here the trail turns right or more easterly and continues on up Chimney Canyon to junction with Trail #64 at Sanchez Trough Spring about 4.1 miles. This spring is developed and has water. The trail junctions are well signed. Trail #65 goes south from the spring and Trail #64 junction, side hills around the north side of the south fork of Chimney Canyon. T-65 continues southeasterly up the canyon about 1 mile to junction with FR-138. Trail #37 also joins the road on the east side here

LENGTH: 5.1 Miles or 8.2 Km.

USE: Low

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

USGS MAP(S): Grassy Lookout and Bay Buck Peaks

SEASON OF USE: Mid Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 2194

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Trail #91 - Monica Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena drive west on US 60, 12 miles, and turn left or south on Forest Road 549. Proceed south for 8.75 miles on the junction of Forest Road 4. Take FR-4, which requires a high clearance vehicle, to the dead-end sign and gate at Switch Spring which has water. There is parking for 5 vehicles at the trail head. Walk up the road from the gate about 1,200 feet, where the road turns sharply right, and the trail can be found continuing up the canyon to the left. The trail head here is signed. The elevation here is about 8,360 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: From Magdalena drive west on US 60, 12 miles, and turn left or south, on FR 549. Proceed south for 13.75 miles to Monica Saddle where the junction to FR-138 is located. Turn on FR-138 and drive about 1.7 miles to a place where the road turns right through a narrow saddle. The trail is on the left and can be seen going downhill past a wire gate. The trail head is signed here. There is parking for 3 vehicles at the trail head which is at an elevation of 9,480 feet.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This trail climbs up the Monica canyon drainage to a point near the crest of the San Mateo Mountains. It is the northern piece of trail which originally ran the length of the San Mateo Mountains from Monica Canyon to Shipman Canyon. When Forest Road 138 was constructed, that portion of this trail from Grassy Lookout to the upper end of this trail. was no longer needed. This trail begins by following an old narrow roadbed up the bottom of Monica Canyon. Trees consist of mixed conifer, aspen, and hardwoods. The climb up this canyon bottom is gentle. At 0.7 mile the canyon forks and the trail heads up the right fork. Within a couple hundred feet the trail turns uphill to the left, and begins the steepest part of the climb. The trail parallels the drainage bottom and stays high above it by utilizing a number of switchbacks. Within 500 feet of Forest Road 138 the trail crosses the head of this drainage, then passes through a gate and ends on the road.

LENGTH: 1.7 Miles or 2.7 Km.

USE: Low

DIFFICULTY: More difficult

USGS MAP(S): Monica Saddle and Mount Withington

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to late Fall

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 4/97

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Trail #92 - Rosedale Tail

TRAIL BEGINNING: On the west side of Magdalena turn south on State Highway 107 for 23 miles to junction of Forest Road 330. Turn right, or west, and go 8 miles to trail junction, which is signed. About 100 feet uphill from the sign is parking for 2 vehicles. The elevation here is 8,040 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: The trail goes north from Rosedale Canyon to Big Rosa Canyon where it ends at the junction with Trail #36.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: From Forest Road 330 the trail climbs northwesterly on an old wagon road which presumably connected some old prospectors or miners cabins in Big Rosa Canyon with the now abandoned mining town of Rosedale. The trail climbs steeply on this road for 0.4 mile to a saddle, where it passes through a wire gate and descends into Big Rosa Canyon. At 0.7 mile the trail begins to follow a logging road downhill to junction with Trail #36.

LENGTH: 0.8 mile or 1.3 Km.

USE: Low

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

USGS MAP(S): Grassy Lookout

SEASON OF USE: Mid Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 2.194

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