T217
White Oaks Trail
Guadalupe Ranger District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>ELEVATION</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY</th>
<th>SCENERY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.8 miles</td>
<td>4640 - 5520 ft</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>880 ft difference</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Map color/symbol codes are at the end.

T68, T68A, T68E, T212, T214, T215, T217, and T226 are shown as black dashed lines on the map. The trail junctions in the Sitting Bull Falls Area are identified with a letter (A-G), red letters on the map.
CAUTION: The Sitting Bull Falls area was badly burned in a fire in 2011. The area is recovering, but it may not be as lovely as John Stockert found it in 2001. His description follows (amended to include the Junctions and minor adjustments to the trails).

DESCRIPTION: From its northern end, Junction F with T226 at a perennial stream in Last Chance Canyon, the route soon enters White Oaks Canyon. At 0.6 mile, the trail ascends into a scenic and difficult to access, narrow inner canyon. After another 0.4 mile, the path winds through a fine stand of mature oaks, along with some alligator juniper and madrone. Shortly thereafter, the route passes over a 5-foot high rock wall built by CCC, the highest trail retaining wall known in the Sitting Bull Falls Recreation Site area. T217 soon follows a spur of FR525 for about 200 feet. After another 0.9 mile, T217 meets T215, Junction E, and then descends via switchbacks into Sitting Bull Canyon. Maximum gradient reaches 25%. Typical semi-desert vegetation includes red barked madrone that can be the size of a large shrub or small tree. NOTE: In 2012, a year after the 2011 fire, I hiked up to the stand of oaks near the end of the canyon in order to see the damage for myself. Much of the canyon walls and tableland have lost their trees. About half the trees in the stand of oaks are dead, but the others can grow and help to restore the area. I still recommend hiking T217.

CAUTION: Dead trees become “leaners”, and “leaners” become fallen (or falling!) trees. Be careful.

The elevation at Junction F is 4640 ft, the elevation at the top, not too far from Junction E, is 5520 ft, and the elevation at Junction D is 4960 ft.

ACCESS: To reach the lower trailhead, hike T226 for 2.2 miles from Junction G to Junction F, where T217 branches off. To reach the upper trailhead, hike T68, 0.9 miles to Junction B, and follow T214 0.1 mile to Junction D, the upper trailhead for T217.

Links to Other Resources
- Guadalupe Ranger District Trails
- Sitting Bull Falls Trail Junctions [T68 trailhead has been moved 0.3 miles north.]
- Area Topo Map (36 MB)
- Six Topo Maps
### GPS Coordinates for Key Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lat/Lon hddd mm ss.s</th>
<th>UTM (13 S)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Junction A</strong> (T68 and T226)</td>
<td>N32 14 48.8 W104 41 55.0</td>
<td>528392 3567841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Junction B</strong> (T68 and T214, north end)</td>
<td>N32 14 20.1 W104 42 06.2</td>
<td>528100 3566958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Junction C</strong> (T68 and T214, south end)</td>
<td>N32 13 28.6 W104 42 16.9</td>
<td>527825 3565371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Junction D</strong> (T214 and T217)</td>
<td>N32 14 18.6 W104 42 10.8</td>
<td>527981 3566911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Junction E</strong> (T215 and T217)</td>
<td>N32 14 15.2 W104 42 47.6</td>
<td>527019 3566802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Junction F</strong> (T217 and T226)</td>
<td>N32 15 16.9 W104 43 07.1</td>
<td>526503 3568702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Junction G</strong> (T226, parking for SBF trails)</td>
<td>N32 15 10.8 W104 41 45.4</td>
<td>528641 3568521</td>
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**Route Color Codes**

- **paved roads** (red)
- **FS roads open** (blue)
- **FS roads closed or impassable** (magenta)

**Main trails** (black dashes)

- **connector trails** (green dashes)
- **damaged or intermittent trails** (orange over black dashes)
- **closed trails** (red over black dashes)

**Symbols**

- **Trailhead** (blue triangle)
- **trail Junction** (blue dot)
- **trail end** (blue square)

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Last Hiked: 2009  
2/2/2015