

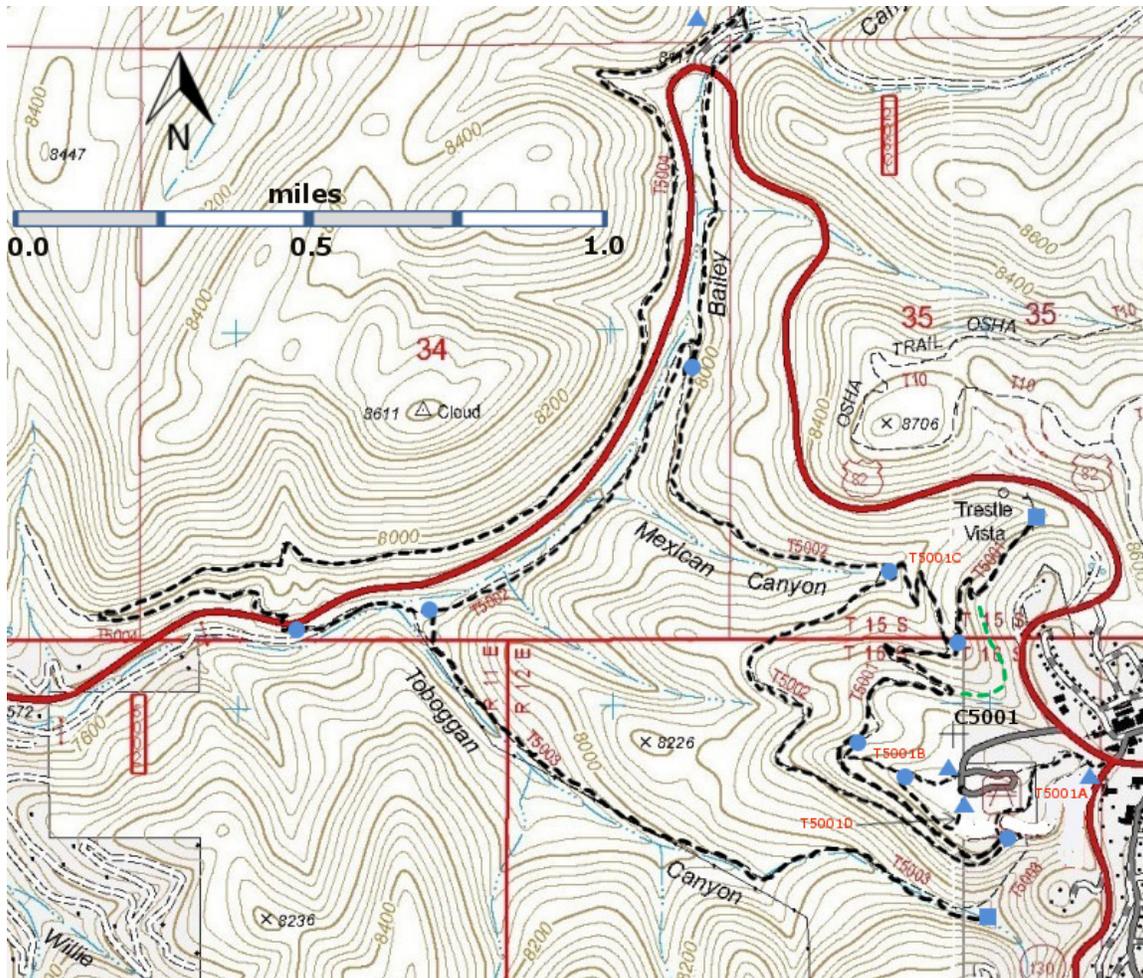
T5002
Old Cloudfcroft Highway Trail
Sacramento Ranger District



T5002
 GPS Track (as .GPX)
 Left click to open in your browser; then save from browser.

LENGTH	ELEVATION	DIFFICULTY	SCENERY
2.5 miles	7680 - 8600 ft 920 ft difference	Moderate	4

Allowed Usage				
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



[Link to map color/symbol codes](#)

T5001, T5001A, T5001B, T5001C, T5001D, T5002, T5003, and T5004 are shown as black dashed lines on the map.

NOTE: Local members of the New Mexico Rails-to-Trails Association have volunteered many hours of labor to help open these trails. T5001 follows part of the original Alamogordo and Sacramento Mountains railroad that connected Alamogordo and Cloudcroft.

The upper portion of T5002 crosses private land and is, therefore, subject to closure at any time.

DESCRIPTION: T5002 is one of the most scenic and moderate hiking trails in the Cloudcroft area. The upper portion was the old Alamogordo to Cloudcroft highway, constructed on the side of a mountain as it neared Cloudcroft. Hence, from its upper trailhead, the path follows an easily accessible and incredibly beautiful bench with some of the best distant vistas available, if some trailside shrubbery is removed. Look toward the San Andres Mountains 50 miles to the west, the Tularosa Basin and White Sands, and the nearby lower canyons of the Sacramento Mountains. Gradients average below 8%, the greatest being 13%.

At mile 0.7 from its upper end, the trail crosses a saddle in a lovely forested area. Beyond here T5002 threads through hills with mature trees and open under stories. The junction to signed T5001C is passed on the right at mile 1.0. Remains of an old wooden bridge are at mile 1.3. Just about where the trail reaches the canyon floor at mile 1.7 is the junction with T 5004. Beginning here, T5002 leads down canyon along the bottom, which contains meadows and scattered wooded areas, until it ends 0.2 miles from the T5004 trail overpass on US82. Look closely on the south side of the trail, and you will be able to see an overgrown railbed, a remnant of an 1898 logging spur, that ran from near Toboggan Canyon to Bailey Canyon. Although the path here closely parallels US82, the highway is above and not part of the hiking experience.

SCENIC RATING: 4, due to the magnificent scenery and distant views from the upper section of this trail, if brush adjacent to the trail is partially removed.

ACCESS: To reach the upper T5002 trailhead in Cloudcroft, drive 150 feet west from the US82 and New Mexico NM30 intersection and turn left into the parking area for T5001A. From here follow T 5001A 0.3 mile via its several turns to where it tees into the T5001 and T5002 common trailhead. Instead of turning right and accessing the more commonly used T5001, turn left and follow signed T 5002, which soon makes a sharp right turn off an old railroad grade to the narrow, old Cloudcroft highway. The lower T5002 trailhead connects directly with the (west) lower trailhead for T5004 0.2 miles east of the Harkey Pedestrian bridge, which enables hikers on T5004 to cross over US82 safely. However, no parking is available along the curving US82, and vehicles are not allowed on the old road in the canyon bottom that approaches the lower T5002 trailhead. Hence, the canyon bottom portion of T5002 is often hiked as part of a loop with T5004 rather as part of a strictly T5002 hike. Similarly, the upper portion of T5002 is often hiked as part of a loop involving T5001, T5001C and the upper portion of T5002.

DISTANCES AND ALTITUDES:

T5002 upper trailhead to junction with T5001C: 1.0 miles, descend 480 feet; T5002 upper trailhead to junction with T5004 (east): 1.7 miles, descend 680 feet; T 5002 from junction with T5004 (east) to junction with T5004 (west): 0.8 miles, descend 240 feet.

GPS Coordinates for Key Points

NAD83	Lat/Lon hddd mm ss.s	UTM (13 S)
Junction of T5001 and T5002	N32 57 21.5 W105 44 53.5	430071 3646655
Junction of T5001C and T5002	N32 57 43.9 W105 45 06.3	429745 3647346
Junction of T5002 and T5004	N32 57 41.1 W105 46 00.8	428328 3647270

Links to Other Resources

[Link to map of Cloudcroft Area](#)

[High Rolls Topo Map](#)

[Cloudcroft Topo Map](#)

[Forest Service Resource](#)

Last Hiked 7/3/2014

Updated 1/17/2016