

T5660

Zinker Canyon Trail

Sacramento Ranger District



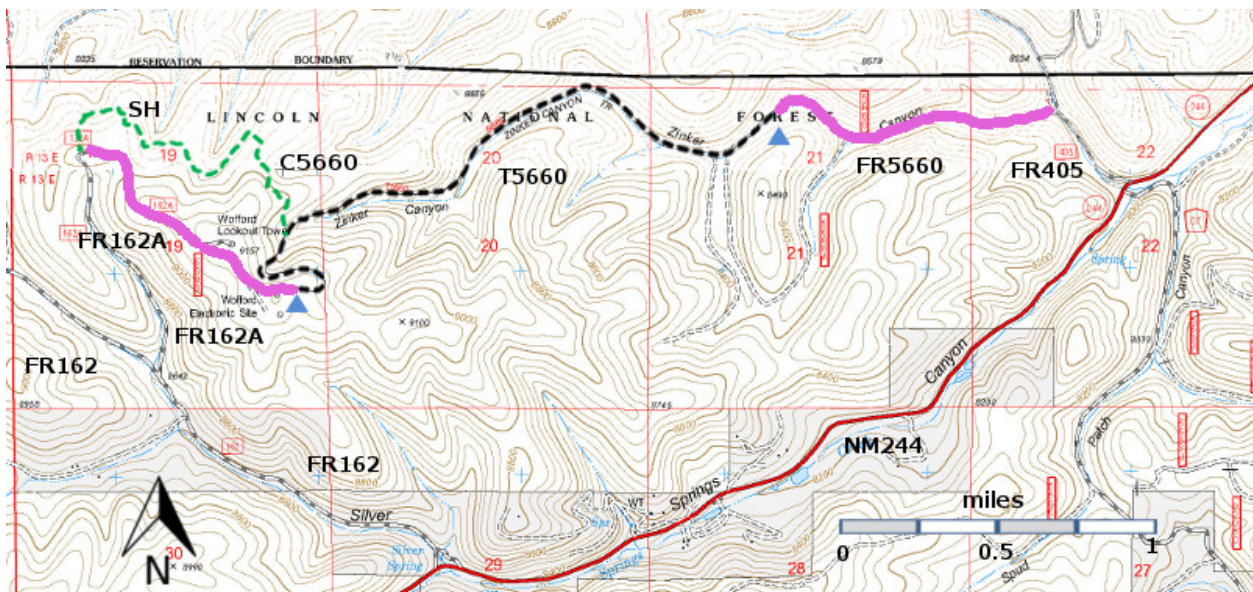
T5660

GPS Track (as .GPX)

Left click to open in your browser; then save from browser.

LENGTH	ELEVATION	DIFFICULTY	SCENERY
4.1 miles See Text	8280 - 9120 ft 840 ft difference	Moderate	2

Allowed Usage				
✓	✓	✓	✓	✗



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

T5660 is shown as a black dashed line on the map. C5660 is shown as a green dashed line on the map.

NOTE: Neither trailhead can be accessed by car; additional hiking is required. The official trail is 2.2 miles long. However, if one hikes from closed Forest service gate to closed Forest Service gate, the one way distance is $0.9 + 2.2 + 1.0 = 4.1$ miles. The gpx track provided for T5660 is for the full 4.1 mile hike.

DESCRIPTION: The path is a former narrow road that varies from obvious to obscure. From its upper end, the trail follows an essentially level, abandoned road for its first 0.1 mile before turning left and heading downhill. The route becomes moderately steep, passing severely eroded, rutted tracks. Maximum gradient is 30%, with average grades between 10% - 20%.

The eroded portion of the trail soon ceases and the route becomes a beautifully grass-covered, six foot wide, former timber road through a corridor of trees. An inactive water tank with its collecting basin becomes visible on the right before the lower trail is reached. The gradient decreases and the old road skirts multiple beautiful grassy meadows as it continues down slope and ends at an "End of Trail" sign.

If the trail is hiked from the lower trailhead, about 200 yards before the water tank, the old road forks. Take the right fork and go up slope to the wide old road.

C5660 provides an interesting alternate to the upper portion of T5660. It avoids about 150 feet of climb and passes by a sinkhole. [Many local people refer to this feature as a meteor crater, but a geologist friend stated that it has all the distinctive features of a sinkhole and few characteristics of a meteor crater.] You need to be able to download and follow a GPX track since C5660 is a combination of old road, animal trails, and no trail at all.

ACCESS: To reach the upper T5660 trailhead, a high clearance vehicle is recommended. Beginning in Cloudcroft at the NM130 and US82 junction, drive US82 east 1.3 miles to its junction with NM244. Turn left and go 3.5 miles to FR162, (same as La Luz Road and County Road A068). Turn left and drive 1.1 miles through Silver Springs Canyon to FR162A, Wofford Lookout Road. Turn right and go 0.9 miles to a locked forest service gate. Park in the grassy area 0.1 miles before this gate. Hike 0.9 miles to the upper trail head. FR5593 branches off FR162A, just prior to the lookout tower complex. Take the right fork and follow FR5593, bearing left at an unsigned junction in 0.1 mile. Go to the end of the road at the second radio tower and the signed beginning of T5660.

To reach the lower trailhead, drive NM244 6.2 miles from US82 to the junction with FR405, just after a sign that says "You are now leaving Lincoln National Forest", and just prior to entering Mescalero Apache Reservation. Turn left and follow FR405 about 0.5 miles to the unsigned junction with FR5660 on the left, within sight of the end of FR405 at the closed Mescalero Apache Reservation boundary. Park here near the locked forest service gate, and follow (closed) FR5660 1.0 mile to the T5660 trailhead. This road passes through an attractive narrow canyon to a large open area.

GPS Coordinates for Key Points

NAD83	Lat/Lon hddd mm ss.s	UTM (13 S)
Forest Gate (South, FR162A)	N33 00 03.1 W105 43 05.8	432902 3651613
Upper Trailhead	N32 59 41.3 W105 42 26.9	433908 3650932
Lower Trailhead	N33 00 08.3 W105 40 57.6	436229 3651749
Forest Gate (North, FR405)	N33 00 14.0 W105 40 03.3	437640 3651916
Junction FR162A And C5660	N33 00 01.9 W105 43 08.7	432825 3651575
Sinkhole (SH)	N33 00 05.1 W105 42 59.7	433061 3651673
Junction T5660 And C5660	N32 59 51.8 W105 42 27.5	433894 3651258

Links to Other Resources

[Area Map](#)

[Cloudcroft Topo Map](#)

[C5660-LM.gpx](#)

Last Hiked: 7/11/2013

Updated: 1/5/2019