

T18 Peacock Trail

Smokey Bear Ranger District



T18

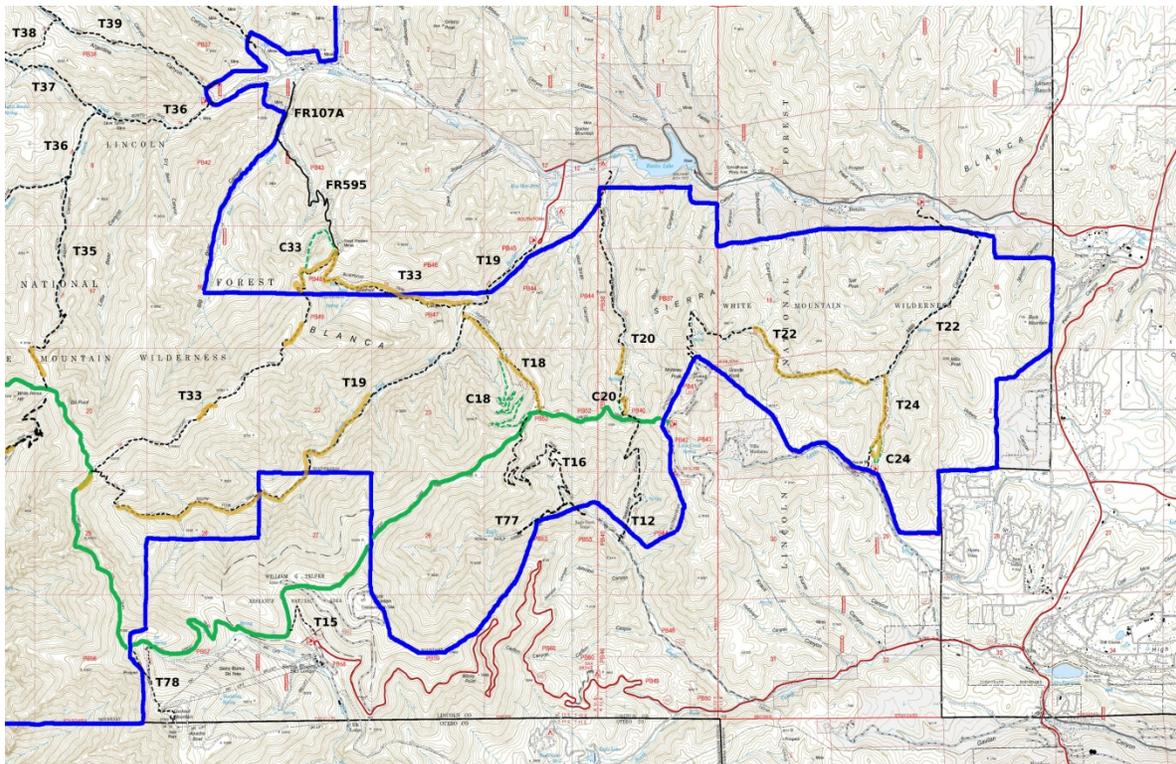
GPS Track (as .GPX)

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

T18 is now open,

LENGTH	ELEVATION	DIFFICULTY	SCENERY
1.5 miles	7840 - 9280 ft 1440 ft difference	Difficult	2

Allowed Usage				



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

T12, T15, T16, T18, T19, T20, T22, T24, T33, T35, T36 (partial), T37 (partial), T38, T39 (partial), T77, and T78 are shown as black dashed lines on the map. The solid blue line is the border of the White Mountain Wilderness. The solid green line is T25 Crest Trail. Yellow over

a trail indicates that that portion of the trail is intermittent or hard to follow. The map image may be downloaded through the White Mountain Wilderness link below. The image can then be expanded and/or manipulated at high resolution.

DESCRIPTION: Named after a Peacock family, T18 provides a short, steep connection with T25.

T18 is shown incorrectly on the Forest Service maps. The upper trailhead is incorrect on the Forest Service maps and, the switchbacks have disappeared as a result of fire, rain erosion, and scrub growth. The (unsigned) upper trailhead is marked by two low cairns approximately 400 feet east of the junction of T25 and T16.. Hike up for the first 240 feet to a ridge (ignore a third cairn off to the right). Cross the clear area on the ridge and enter the scrub growth on the west side of the ridge. Look for a single path with good tread and follow it to its end in the scrub. From this point, sight on the saddle to the north and work downhill, cross country through the scrub. From the saddle (and its cairn), hike on the east side of the saddle towards the drainage and look for a faint trail. Follow it above the drainage to its intersection with T19, just east of a nice meadow. It is strongly suggested that one download the GPS track from the website and use it as a guide. The GPS track T18-LM.gpx shows a viable path, but it is not the original path of T18.

There is an alternate route from the T16/T25 junction to the lower T18 trailhead [route C18-LM.gpx below} shown as a green dashed line on the map. The old mining road that T16 follows extends across T25 and down the other side. It is not maintained and has lots of brush, but it can be followed. Hike down the old road for 2.3 miles. When you reach the northernmost switchback on this old road, look up to the saddle and scramble up to it (240 feet). From this saddle, you can follow T18 as described above. It is tempting to continue down on this old road, in the same drainage, but I advise you not to do so. The drainage that leads to T19 becomes steep-sided, and you will probably find yourself on an unpleasant walk down the creek bed, where water and slick rocks make for a difficult hike.

ACCESS: To reach the lower trailhead from Smokey Bear Ranger District Office in Ruidoso, drive NM48 north 8.3 miles to the junction of NM37. Turn left and follow the paved road 1.3 miles to FR107, Rio Bonito Road. Turn left (signed Bonito Lake) and follow the narrow pavement 4.8 miles (past Bonito Lake) to a main road junction at a sign indicating Southfork Campground. Turn left and park near the entrance to Southfork Campground (now closed). Hike 0.5 mile through Southfork Campground to the T19 trailhead. To reach the lower T18 trailhead, follow T19 for 1.0 mile to the signed intersection on the left for the lower T18 trailhead.

To reach the upper T18 trailhead from Smokey Bear Ranger District Office, drive NM48 north 4.2 miles to NM532, Ski Run Highway. Turn left and follow paved NM 532 0.9 mile to the junction of FR117, Monjeau Lookout Road. Turn right and follow the partly graveled road 5.6 miles to the signed beginning of T25, Crest Trail. Turn left and park. Follow T25 for 1.4 miles to the (unsigned) T18 trailhead, 400 feet east of the (unsigned) T25/T16 junction.

GPS Coordinates for Key Points

NAD83	Lat/Lon hddd mm ss.s	UTM (13 S)
Junction of T18 and T25	N33 25 36.7 W105 45 18.1	429810 3698866
Saddle	N33 26 00.3 W105 45 38.0	429301 3699595
Lower Trailhead	N33 26 17.6 W105 45 58.5	428776 3700134

Links to Other Resources

[C18-LM.gpx](#)

[White Mountain Wilderness Trails-p1 \(11 MB\)](#)

[Burned Trails Map \(34 MB\)](#)

[Nogal Topo Map](#)

[WMW Forest Service Resource](#)

Last Hiked: 7/16/2016

1/4/2018