

Smokey Bear Ranger District













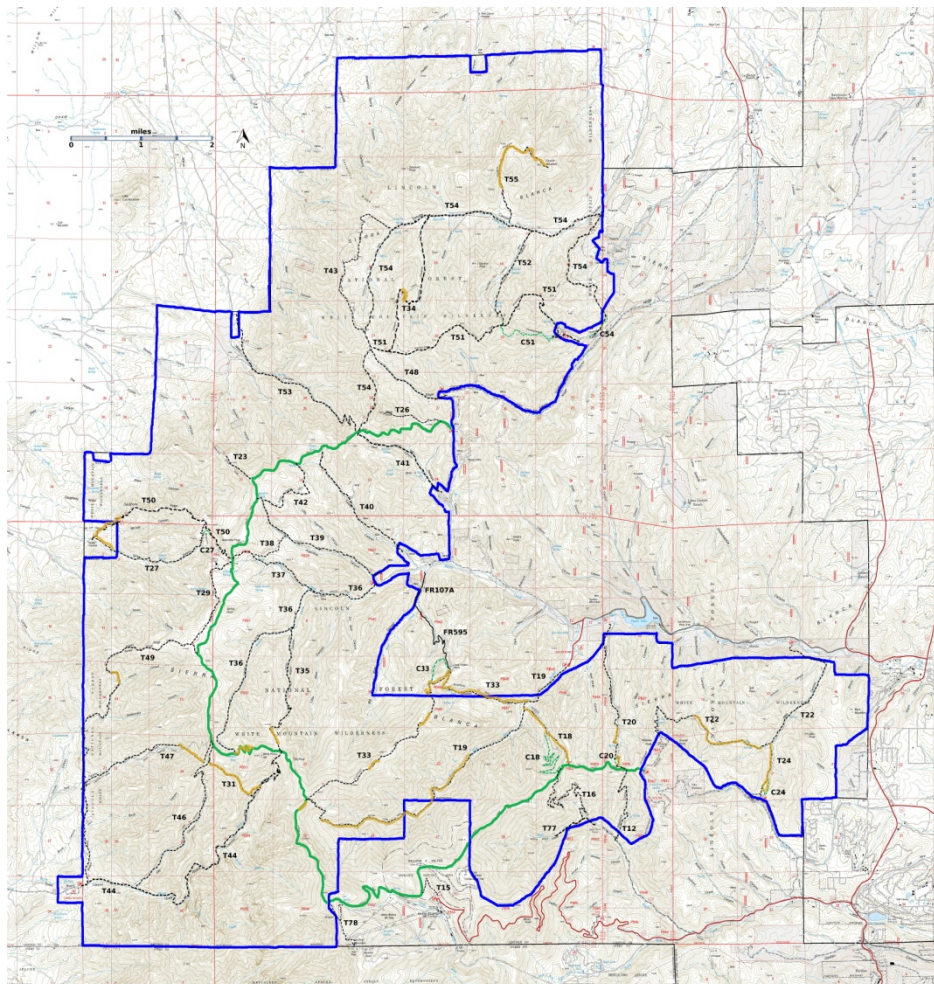
T25

GPS Track (as .GPX)

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

LENGTH	ELEVATION	DIFFICULTY	SCENERY
20.1 miles	8700 - 11200 ft 2500 ft difference	Difficult	5

Allowed Usage				
				
				



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

In the map, trails 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: T25 is the most scenic trail in Smokey Bear Ranger District. Forming the backbone of the White Mountain Wilderness Trail System, the lengthy, somewhat winding, yet broad G-shaped trail generally hugs or parallels a series of three connected ridges. It provides scores of possibilities for incredible panoramic vistas of the White Mountain Wilderness, Capitan Mountains, Tularosa Basin, Organ Mountains, White Sands, Malpais Lava Beds, and the High Plains, plus spectacular views down numerous side canyons. Indeed, distant views could include the Aldo Leopold Wilderness 110 miles to the west in Gila National Forest, and the Santa Fe Mountains, over 150 miles to the north. However, haze or smog normally blocks these views except on rare, very clear days. In addition to steep subalpine meadows, the trail passes through mixed conifer and aspen stands, and grassy oak savannas. Excellent wilderness camping possibilities exist at many locations. The 1.5 mile section of T25 between the upper trail heads for T19 Southfork Trail and T44 Three Rivers Trail offers particularly nice views.

Although the trail name suggests that it follows the crest of the White Mountains, it actually traverses the ridge line infrequently, less than 5% of the total length of the trail.

Side trails allow access to segments of T25, and thus hikers can have access to the marvelous views without hiking the entire trail. Those who wish to hike the entire length of T25 should allot three days for the hike, be in excellent physical condition, and plan not only for food and water but also for bad weather such as cold and thunder storms.

The eastern section of T25 (between Monjeau and T78) was damaged in the 2012 Little Bear Fire. It has been restored, but the damage to the forest caused by the fire is still evident.

A side trip to Ice Spring is a nice diversion. Hike T15 Scenic Trail from the Ski area to T25. Go west on T25 for 1.9 miles. At a T25 switchback to the right, follow the unsigned trail 250 feet west to Ice Spring. If desired, follow the Ice Spring trail 0.3 miles further to its signed intersection with T78 Lookout Trail.

ACCESS: To reach the southeastern T25 trailhead from Smokey Bear Ranger District Office in Ruidoso, drive NM48 north 4.2 miles to NM532, Ski Run Highway. Turn left on NM532 and follow the pavement 0.9 mile to Forest Road FR117, Monjeau Lookout Road. Turn right on FR117 and drive this partly graveled route 5.0 miles to a signed junction on the left for a short road leading to the T25 trailhead.

To reach the northeastern T25 trailhead, a high clearance vehicle is strongly recommended, and 4-wheel drive may be useful. Drive NM48 north 8.3 miles from Smokey Bear Ranger District Office to NM37. Turn left and follow NM37 for 1.3 miles to FR107, Rio Bonito Road (signed

Bonito Lake). Turn left and follow the narrow, paved and sometimes rough road 7.1 miles past Bonito Lake, and beyond the end of pavement to the junction of FR108, Tanbark Canyon Road. Turn right and follow the increasingly rough road 3.2 miles to its highest point, site of the T25 trailhead.

CAUTION: FR108 should not be attempted if wet.

The northeastern T25 trailhead can also be reached via FR400, up Nogal Canyon. A high clearance vehicle is strongly recommended; 4-wheel drive may be useful. Drive NM37, noted above, from its junction with NM48 for 9 miles to milepost 9. Go another 0.5 mile, turn left on FR400, Nogal Canyon Road, also known as County Road C015, and follow the graveled, then rough dirt road 7.2 miles to a sharp left curve. This marks the end of FR400 and the beginning of FR108 at T48, the Nogal trailhead. Continue up FR108 for 1.1 miles over a winding, steep, rough dirt road to its highest point, site of the T25 trailhead on the right.

GPS Coordinates for Key Points

NAD83	Lat/Lon hddd mm ss.s	UTM (13 S)
Trailhead (North-Nogal)	N33 29 40.0 W105 47 02.3	427176 3706379
Trailhead (South-Monjeau)	N33 25 37.5 W105 44 05.2	431692 3698876

GPS coordinates for access from other trails are listed with those trails.

Links to Other Resources

[C25-LM-IceSpring.gpx](#)

[White Mountain Wilderness Trails \(20 MB\)](#)

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

[Angus Topo Map](#)

[Nogal Peak Topo Map](#)

[WMW Forest Service Resource](#)

[Crest-Monjeau Peak Trailhead](#) [1996 Information]

[Scenic Trailhead](#) [1996 Information]

[Three Rivers Trailhead](#) [1996 Information]

[Argentina Trailhead](#) [1996 information]

[Crest Nogal Peak Trailhead](#) [1996 Information]

[My Life Outdoors-Crest Trail](#)

Last Hiked: 2014-2017

1/3/2020