

T78 Lookout Trail

Smokey Bear Ranger District

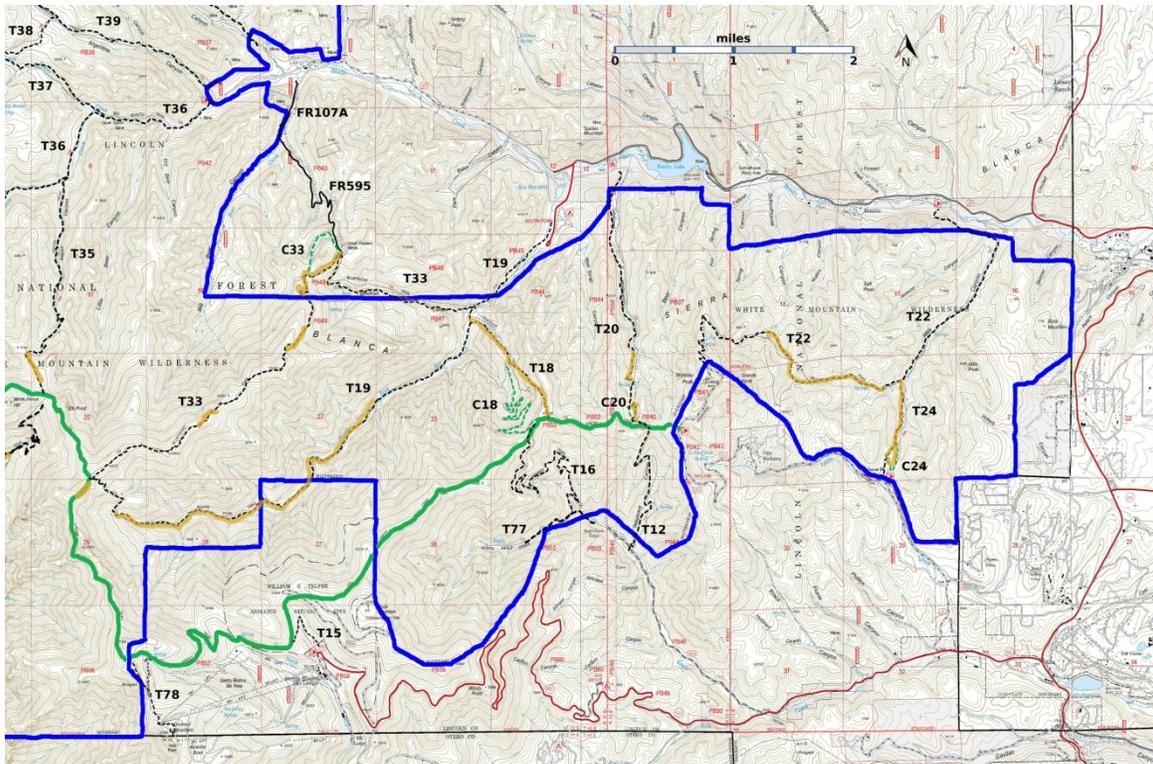


T78

GPS Track (as .GPX)

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

LENGTH	ELEVATION	DIFFICULTY	SCENERY
0.8 miles See Text	11220 - 11520 ft 300 ft difference	Easy	4



[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.

NOTE: T78 is outside the White Mountain Wilderness Area. All land south of the crest of Lookout Mountain is on Mescalero Apache Reservation and belongs to that tribe. This includes Sierra Blanca Peak. Access to Sierra Blanca is currently restricted.

DESCRIPTION: T78 leads from T25 to the summit of Lookout Mountain, the highest point on Lincoln National Forest! It is an easy grade and threads through a beautiful corridor of tall, mixed conifers just prior to entering the Ski Apache Ski Area. For the next 0.3 mile, the grade increases to 30%, ascending progressively steeper meadows where the route becomes somewhat vague. After passing the west side of Gondola Station, the trail follows a road past the Zip Line Station and then angles up to a constructed viewing area on the summit of Lookout Mountain. This last section of path is above tree line and traverses tundra!

From the top of Lookout Mountain is a splendid 360-degree vista, including an impressive view of Sierra Blanca Peak, the highest point in southern New Mexico. This peak, at over 12,000 feet, can also be seen from Emory Pass in Gila National Forest, 120 miles to the SW, on clear afternoons when snow covers the mountain. Sierra Blanca also overlooks the famous White Sands area, part of which is 8,100 feet lower in elevation than the peak. This is the greatest elevation difference found along line of sight anywhere within New Mexico or Arizona!

ACCESS: To reach T78, take T15 from a small parking area at the Ski Apache Ski Area entrance gate for 0.6 mile, to where it ends on T25, Crest Trail. Turn left and hike T25 for 2.0 miles to its junction with T78. At this point, continue straight ahead and the trail becomes T78. (T25 turns right.) To reach the small parking area, see the write-up for T15. The result is that one hikes 2.6 miles to reach the 0.8 mile long T78. In the Summer, one may also take the Gondola (\$\$) to the top for an easy hike along T78.

GPS Coordinates for Key Points

NAD83	Lat/Lon hddd mm ss.s	UTM (13 S)
Junction of T78 and T25	N33 23 56.3 W105 49 05.9	423903 3695817
Trail End (Lookout Mountain)	N33 23 27.5 W105 48 42.6	424498 3694926

Links to Other Resources

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

[Angus Topo Map](#)

[WMW Forest Service Resource](#)

[Scenic Trailhead](#) [1996 Information]

[My Life Outdoors-Sierra Blanca](#)

Last Hiked: 6/22/2016

2/7/2021