

# T92 Perk Ridge Trail

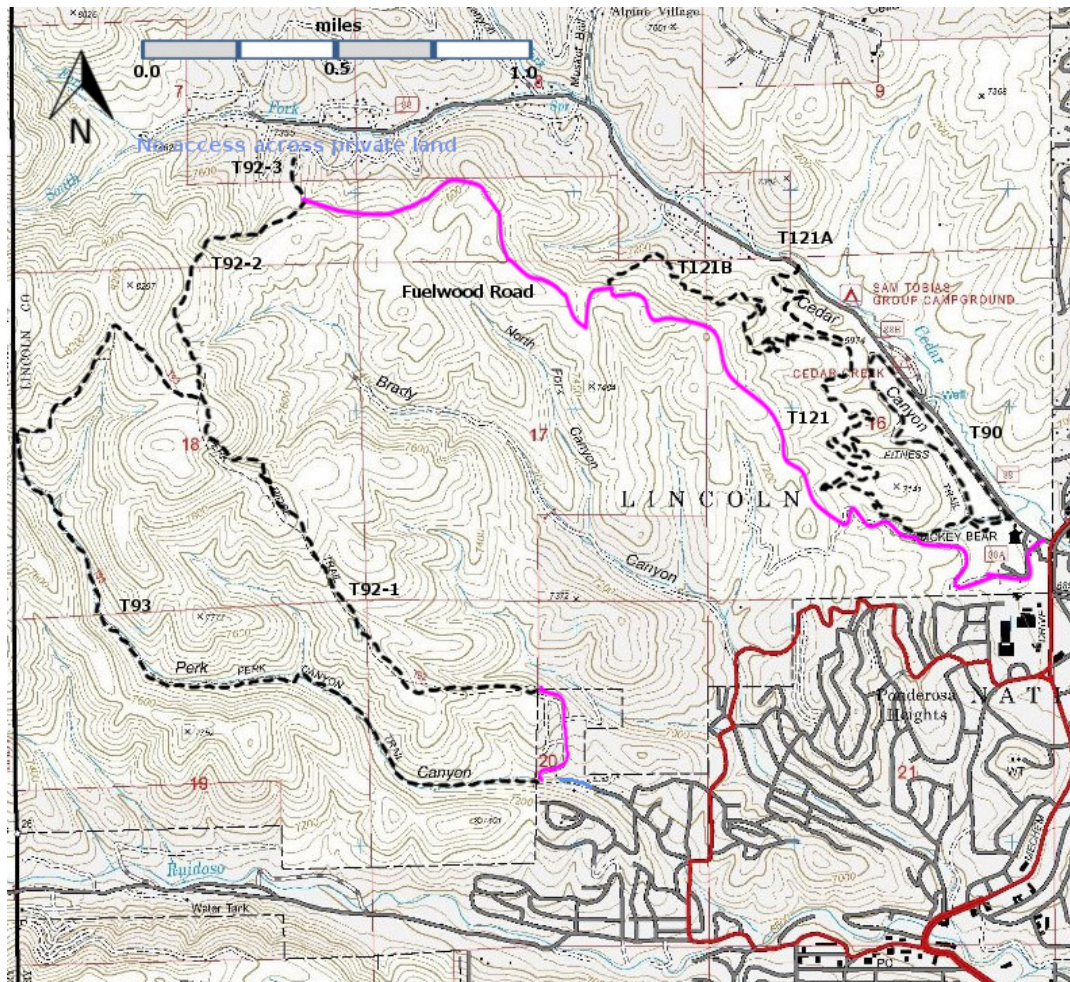
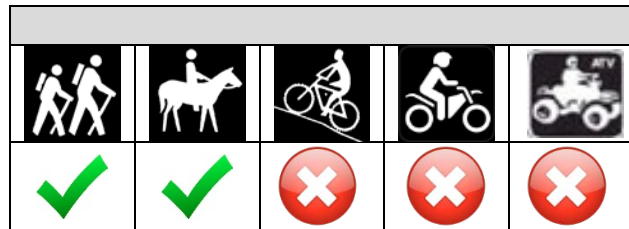
Smokey Bear Ranger District



**T92**  
GPS Track (as .GPX)

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

LENGTH	ELEVATION	DIFFICULTY	SCENERY
2.5 miles See Text	7040-7580 ft 540 ft difference	Moderate	2



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

T90, T92, T93, T121, T121A, and T121B are shown as black dashed lines on the map.

**DESCRIPTION:** From its southeastern trailhead, T92 initially follows an old road along the ridge. The trail threads through a mostly mixed conifer and oak corridor to the trail's high point at mile 1.7 from the lower trailhead, close to the junction with trail T93. The route descends through an abundant stand of young white fir to the picturesque head of a small canyon at mile 2.0. The trail reaches its northern terminus at large, privately owned water tanks. There is no access across private land to Cedar Creek Road.

Maximum gradients vary from 25% to 50% between the southeastern trailhead and the high point; commonly up to 30% for the remainder of the trail. Trail condition ranges from poor to excellent. It passes through scattered open areas and small meadows. Distant vistas are sparse and usually filtered. The best view is at mile 1.8, if one ventures to the east about 300 feet to the edge of a cliff for a 100 degree vista that includes East Mountain in the Capitans, and much of forest-obscured Ruidoso.

**ACCESS:** The upper trail end cannot be reached by car; no access is allowed across private land. It can be accessed on foot. From the Smokey Bear Ranger District office in Ruidoso, hike along Fuelwood Road (immediately behind the building), 3.2 miles (altitude gain = 700 feet) to the poorly signed junction with T92-2.

To access the lower trailhead, in Ruidoso, go 1.3 miles south from Smokey Bear Ranger District Office along New Mexico NM48 to where it turns left at a traffic light. This is the intersection of Mechem and Sudderth Drive. *Zero your trip odometer here. Turn right* and head west on Sudderth. At mile 0.2 from the traffic light, turn right at a complicated intersection on unsigned Main Road, within view of a 1st National Bank office. At mile 0.5, continue following Main Road as it angles right. At mile 0.7, at the Story Book Cabins sign, turn right on signed, paved Ebarb Drive. At mile 1.0, turn left on signed paved Perk Canyon Drive. At mile 1.5, the road and pavement ends, and there is modest parking and the carsonite sign for T93 (not this trail). It is recommended that hikers park here and hike 0.4 miles up (badly eroded) Thunderbird Lane to the signed T92 trailhead, which is located at the Forest boundary. *In order to drive up Thunderbird Lane, an unmaintained dirt road, to the T92 trailhead, a 4 WD high-clearance vehicle is strongly recommended.* There is a carsonite T92 sign at the gate where T92 starts.

Hikers should think of T92 as having three segments, T92-1, T92-2, and T92-3. [These are not official Forest Service designations, but they are useful in thinking about how to plan hikes.] T92-1 (1.5 miles) starts at the Forest boundary on the southeast and ends at its signed junction with T93. T92-2 (0.9 miles) starts at the junction of T92-1 and T93 and ends at a junction with Fuelwood Road (no sign for Fuelwood Road but there is a T92 sign). T92-3 starts at the junction of T92-2 and Fuelwood Road and ends at the large, privately owned water tanks.

Hike #1 Starting at the lower trailhead for T93 Perk Canyon Trail (3.0 miles) and returning to the lower T93 trailhead by T92-1 (1.7 miles) and Thunderbird Drive (0.4 miles) make a nice 5.1 mile loop hike.

Hike#2. A hike along Thunderbird Road (0.4 miles), T92-1 (1.5 miles), T92-2 (0.9 miles), and Fuelwood Road (3.2 miles) is 6.0 miles. This hike ends at the Forest Service headquarters at Mechem and Cedar Creek Road.

T92-3 is a vestige of the earlier trail alignment in which there was access across private land to Cedar Creek Road. There is no access allowed across these private lands. Advice: Skip T92-3.

The one way distance for T92 itself is 2.5 miles, with a net altitude change of 270 feet. However, hikers will probably make more use of the following data: Thunderbird Drive, 0.4 miles, ascends 220 feet, not passable for normal vehicles; T92-1, 1.5 miles, ascends 740 feet; T92-2, 0.9 miles, descends 390 feet; and T92-3, 0.1 miles, descends 80 feet.

### GPS Coordinates for Key Points

NAD83	Lat/Lon hddd mm ss.s	UTM (13 S)
Trailhead-Southeast	N33 20 39.7 W105 42 01.2	434832 3689683
Junction of T93 and T92	N33 21 24.0 W105 43 01.9	433276 3691042
Junction of T92-2 and Fuelwood Road	N33 21 49.6 W105 42 43.1	433764 3691844

### Links to Other Resources

[Ruidoso Area Trails Map](#)  
[Forest Service Resource](#)

Last Hiked: 10/8/2013

2/7/2017