



Desert Mountain Four Wheel Drive Club

Local Trail Information



All trail ratings are subjective, and will vary based on weather conditions. Extra caution should be taken when in the arroyos during the summer monsoon season and in the mountains during the winter snow season.

Some trails have videos on You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/@desertmountain4wdclub> We also have trail descriptions and pictures on our web site: <https://desertmountain4wdclub.com/> If you are a Club Member you will have access to the GPS routes on the web site.

Trail Name	Area	Directions	Rating	Trail Description
Coyote Canyon	Coyote Canyon	Take Hwy 54 north of Tularosa turn right on Coyote Canyon Road before the over pass, follow Coyote Canyon Road for 3 miles and you will drop into the arroyo	2 to 10	This area has a lot to choose from, sandy bottom arroyo to extreme rock crawling.
And Then Some	Coyote Canyon	Directions here would not be detailed enough to get you to the trail. If you are a Club Member you will have access to the GPS map on the web site.	9	This one has gotten harder over the years and the exit will be really hard. Winch Required.
Greg's Gulch	Coyote Canyon	Directions here would not be detailed enough to get you to the trail. If you are a Club Member you will have access to the GPS map on the web site.	5	Nice medium trail. Rock gardens and ledges.
Jack and Willey	Coyote Canyon	Directions here would not be detailed enough to get you to the trail. If you are a Club Member you will have access to the GPS map on the web site.	5 to 6	If rocks are washed out from ledges it will be much harder.
Round-a-bout	Coyote Canyon	Directions here would not be detailed enough to get you to the trail. If you are a Club Member you will have access to the GPS map on the web site.	4	Nice trail has some deep washed-out areas and some ledges. Need good approach angle.
The Gauntlet	Coyote Canyon	Directions here would not be detailed enough to get you to the trail. If you are a Club Member you will have access to the GPS map on the web site.	10	Currently Closed. Needs lots of work before running.
The Joker	Coyote Canyon	Directions here would not be detailed enough to get you to the trail. If you are a Club Member you will have access to the GPS map on the web site.	10	Winch required, vehicle stationed at top as winch point recommended, plan for full day.
Upper Coyote Canyon	Coyote Canyon	Directions here would not be detailed enough to get you to the trail. If you are a Club Member you will have access to the GPS map on the web site.	5 to 6	Some good rocky areas and a few nice climbs and descents.
Power Line Road	Goes into Coyote Canyon	Take Highway 70 East towards Ruidoso go about 3.17 miles up and turn left on River Front Road then turn right on Helms Road go thru the creek and follow road and go straight up the big hill...	4	The first hill is probably the hardest part; it's loose rocks at the top with a couple of small ledges.
Tecolote Canyon	Tecolote Canyon	Take Hwy 54 north of Tularosa turn right on Coyote Canyon Road before the over pass, go up Coyote Canyon Road 2.7 miles and make a right then go about another mile and you will drop into Tecolote Canyon	2 to 7	Lockers need at times and sometimes a winch
Upper Tecolote Canyon	Tecolote Canyon	Take Hwy 54 north of Tularosa turn right on Coyote Canyon Road before the over pass, go up Coyote Canyon Road 2.7 miles and make a right then go about another mile and you will drop into Tecolote Canyon	7	Lockers need at times and sometimes a winch

Rattle Snake Canyon	Rattle Snake Canyon	Go north out of Alamogordo on Hwy 54/70 turn right on Sun Valley Road next to Hughes Farm and Ranch Supply go 1.4 miles to the end of the road. This is the parking and air down spot. You will follow the trail 1.3 miles and drop into the arroyo. You will pass thru two gates please close them behind you.	Varies 2 to 6	Everything from sandy bottom arroyo to large rocks and ledges.
Baby Rattler	Rattle Snake Canyon	Directions here would not be detailed enough to get you to the trail. If you are a Club Member you will have access to the GPS map on the web site.	5 to 7	Take a right at the tree need to run this one. Optional trail to the left is harder as is the exit up the canyon to the right of the other exit.
Diamond Black	Rattle Snake Canyon	Directions here would not be detailed enough to get you to the trail. If you are a Club Member you will have access to the GPS map on the web site.	7	Short hard trail, continuous climb. Winch may be needed.
Sidewinder	Rattle Snake Canyon	Directions here would not be detailed enough to get you to the trail. If you are a Club Member you will have access to the GPS map on the web site.	6	Nice trail with lots of small ledges to climb and a few moderate ones as well.
Spider Monkey	Rattle Snake Canyon	Directions here would not be detailed enough to get you to the trail. If you are a Club Member you will have access to the GPS map on the web site.	4	Nice rock crawling with harder options on the trail.
Red Sands	Red Sands OHV Area	Take Hwy 54 south 19.7 miles from the intersection of HWY 54 and 70 towards Oro Grande Turn Right into the Red Sands OHV area before the County Landfill and Border patrol station.	2 to 4	Mostly sand trails with some rocky spots and small climbs. Good for high-speed fun.
Oro Grande area	North of Oro Grande	Take Hwy 54 south 26 miles towards Oro Grande go past the Border Patrol then turn right on AO11, or go further 32.2 miles south just past the radio towers and turn right, plenty of parking for trailers	2 to 5	Many dirt and rocky roads some harder than others. Some interesting sights to see.
Carnage Canyon	North of Oro Grande	Directions here would not be detailed enough to get you to the trail. If you are a Club Member you will have access to the GPS map on the web site.	6	This is an easy hard trail with a good climb at the end to get out of the arroyo.
Cotton Wood Trail	Cotton Wood / La Luz	Area can be accessed off of Rock Cliff Road and Laborcita Canyon Road	2 to 7	There are a lot of trails in this area, and a cool water fall if you can find it
Body Damage	Cotton Wood / La Luz	Directions here would not be detailed enough to get you to the trail. If you are a Club Member you will have access to the GPS map on the web site.	7	Short trail with a couple good obstacles to climb. Could use a little trimming you will get pin stripes.
One Way	Cotton Wood / La Luz	Directions here would not be detailed enough to get you to the trail. If you are a Club Member you will have access to the GPS map on the web site.	7	There are at least three pretty tough obstacles on this trail. The entrance to the trail is a little intimidating.
Triple Ledges	Cotton Wood / La Luz	Directions here would not be detailed enough to get you to the trail. If you are a Club Member you will have access to the GPS map on the web site.	6	This is on the main trail in; there is a bypass. Sometimes you can get right up them and sometimes you fight them for a while. The ledges are about 3 foot tall.

Hang Glider Hill	Dry Canyon Area Shooting area	Take Hwy 82 towards Cloudcroft turn right into Dry canyon (before the tunnel) then right again towards the shooting area and follow the road up the hill	4	Nice view looking over the Mesa. Condition of the road varies with erosion.
Lincoln National Forest	Lincoln National Forest	This is a large area with plenty of dirt roads to explore, all trails are either hiking, motorcycle or limited to 54-inch ATV or small SxS.	1 to 3	If you stay on the Forest Roads, you should have a pretty easy time of it. If there is snow all bets are off.
Alamo Peak	Lincoln National Forest	Can be accessed off of Sun Spot Highway to Forest Road 64D	2	Nice camping area and you can get to a great look out over the Basin
Bailey Canyon	Lincoln National Forest	Can be accessed off of Highway 82 or you can go up La Luz Canyon Road to Forest Road 162 to Bail Canyon Road	1	Nice well maintained forest road, would be tuff with snow on it.
Benson Ridge	Lincoln National Forest	Can be accessed off of Sun Spot Highway to Forest Road 223	1	Can be a little rocky if you go all the way to the end.
Burleson Ridge	Lincoln National Forest	Off of West Side Road to Forest Road 90A	1 to 5	Easy forest road with an optional harder route towards the end
Curtis Canyon	Lincoln National Forest	Curtis Canyon Road is off of the Rio Penasco Road	1	Looks like it may take you up into some of the area that burned some years ago based on Google Maps
Forest Road 64	Lincoln National Forest	Can be accessed off of Sun Spot Highway	1	There are many options off of this trail, it's a nice loop but can be very dusty
Forest Road 570	Lincoln National Forest	Can be accessed off of West Side Road, it's a ways in if you come in from High Rolls	2	Has some optional 4+ routes
Joplin Ridge	Lincoln National Forest	Can be accessed off of West Side Road	3+	This is an out and back trail off of West Side Road
Long Ridge	Lincoln National Forest	Off of West Side Road to Forest Road 90A to Forest Road 93	2	Takes you to the ridge with all the antennas some rocky spots, great view of the Basin
Russia Canyon	Lincoln National Forest	Can be accessed off of Sun Spot Highway to Russia Canyon Road	1	2 separate routes, one is an out and back and the other connects to Sun Spot Highway to Cox Canyon
16 Springs	Lincoln National Forest	Take Highway 82 thru Cloud Croft And then tur left onto 16 Springs Canyon Road	1 to 3	Bell Canyon extension is the 2 to 3 rated area, plenty of options in this area
Potato Ridge	Lincoln National Forest	Turn Right off of Highway 70 onto Virden Road and take it to B016	1	Nice trail up through the mountains and back into La Luz
West Side Road	Lincoln National Forest	Is off of Highway 82 in High Rolls	1	Very long road can be very dusty of muddy depending on weather conditions
506 to Timberon and Back	Ft Bliss Range	Head south on Highway 54, 23.8 miles from the intersection of Hwy 54 and 70 Turn left onto 506 in between the border patrol and the truck weigh station	2	This is about a 60-mile trip from the desert to the mountains and back, it does go thru the Ft. Bliss Range

Trail Rating Criteria and Vehicle Recommendations:

1. County dirt road maintained for high clearance vehicles.
 - Stock vehicle ok
 - 2WD usually OK. 4WD required in adverse conditions
2. County dirt road with infrequent or light maintenance after inclement weather. Steps up to 6 inches.
 - Suitable for stock 4WD vehicles
3. Dirt road seldom maintained with dirt, sand and rock surfaces. No steps higher than 12".
 - 4WD required
 - Aggressive tires a plus
4. Road or trail surface consisting of loose rock and dirt with some rock surfaces. Heavy erosion, rock steps no higher than 18", small boulders up to 12".
 - At least 33" tires required
 - Some moderate grades and side hill
 - Not recommended for ATVs
5. Road or trail surfaces are rutted and rocky with ledges or boulders not exceeding 24".
 - At least 33" tires required
 - Traction added device (lockers, limited slips) recommended
 - Working winch recommended
 - Some moderate grades and off camber situations
 - Good vehicle approach and departure angels helpful
 - Not recommended for ATVs and 50" Side by Sides
6. Road or trail surfaces are difficult with considerable erosion. Steps not exceeding 36".
 - At least 35" tires required
 - Two traction adding devices (lockers, limited slips) required
 - Some steeper grades and steeper off camber situations
 - Working winch recommended
 - Enhanced suspension travel and ground clearance recommended
 - Not recommended for ATVs and 50" Side by Sides
7. Trail consists of loose rock with many ledges and boulders exceeding 24". Many steps exceeding 48". Steep inclines and declines are prevalent".
 - At least 35" tires required
 - Two traction adding devices (lockers, limited slips) required
 - Some steep off camber situations
 - Working winch recommended
 - Enhanced suspension travel and ground clearance recommended
 - Definitely not recommended for ATVs or Side by Sides

8. Extreme trail similar to a #7 rating, except a bit more extreme. Trail consists of loose rock with many ledges and boulders exceeding 36". Steep off camber inclines and declines are prevalent.
 - At least 37" tires required
 - Two solid lockers required
 - Working winch required
 - Enhanced suspension travel and ground clearance required
 - ATVs and Side by Sides don't even think about it

9. Extreme and beyond. The average well equipped trail rig may have great difficulty in completing this trail. Steps exceeding 60". Steep inclines and declines with off camber sections are prevalent. Vehicle mechanical or body damage is likely. Roll over is very common.
 - At least 37" tires required
 - Two solid lockers required
 - Working winch required
 - Enhanced suspension travel and ground clearance required
 - Minimum wheelbase 100" recommended
 - Spare parts and tools recommended
 - ATVs and Side by Sides don't even think about it

10. Let the carnage begin! Buggy territory. Street driven 4X4's should not attempt this trail. Modified factory vehicles will not be able to complete this trail. Vehicle requirements same as #9.