



### Burned Mountain Bike Trails

Trail Name	Miles	Kilometers	Trail Difficulty	Rating	MTB Project Ranking		
					System	New Mexico	National
Burned Mountain Trail (Forest Road 91B)	12.2	19.6	Easy / Intermediate	3.0	2	343	13,129
Continental Divide Trail Segment #29	16.6	26.7	Intermediate	4.5	1	100	3,995
Hopewell Gold Loop	11.8	19.0	Intermediate	4.5	1	33	1,496

#### Trail Difficulty Key

- Easy                    5% grade; 2 inch obstacles
- Intermediate            10% grade; 8 inch obstacles
- Difficult                    15% grade; 15 inch obstacles, occasional harder sections
- Extreme Difficulty    20% grade, 15+ inch obstacles, many harder sections

Trail Difficulty, Rating, and Ranking based on the MTB Project ([www.mtbproject.com](http://www.mtbproject.com))

#### Land Manager

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## MTB Project Trail Comments

### **Burned Mountain Trail (FS 91B)**

This is a mountain road which traverses the high terrain between Tres Piedras and Tierra Amarillo. It begins at Hopewell Lake and winds through mixed conifer forests and open valley meadows for several miles until it ends at the junction with NM 111. Most of the road is accessible for high clearance 4x4 vehicles and is an important route to access the many side trails and forest roads in the region. It can get pretty fast in places so watch for oncoming traffic around some of the turns.

### **Continental Divide Trail Segment #29**

This is a scenic and fun trail through rolling high elevation terrain, utilizing old forest roads as well as singletrack. Much of the established Continental Divide Trail route through New Mexico is primitive; the Hopewell Trail's singletrack sections were built a few years ago. While most of the trail is recognizable, signage is minimal so look closely for the CDT markers along the way or use the MTB Project mobile app. There are a couple trail junctions that can be confusing but are marked. The Tres Piedras Ranger District has area maps, and they always seem enthusiastic to share information.

This trail begins at the southwest corner of the Hopewell Lake Campground off of US 64 between Tres Piedras and Tierra Amarillo. The easiest access point is where the CDT crosses the Burned Mountain Trail (Forest Road 91B), 0.9 miles from the highway (due to old surveys, the first half mile of 91B is also shown as 42B on some maps). There are dispersed campsites and plenty of parking if you don't want to use the fee areas, and you can ride back to the campground and loop onto the trail if you don't want to bypass the first section.

In the campground, there is a signpost with a CDT marker. The trail crosses a meadow then winds through the forest as it climbs to 91B. Cross onto a spur road and follow the markers past the dispersed campsites for 0.2 miles - the singletrack begins here.

The next section is a gradual climb where scattered rocks and some roots require a bit of technical maneuvering, then a brief sprint along a doubletrack before transitioning to singletrack for the descent - smooth and flowing in places, rocky and bumpy in others. With a couple flat sections where the trail is sunk into the earth, the trail meanders through old mining prospects, grazing meadows and forest roads before dropping into an aspen grove.

Eight curvy switchbacks precede a fast descending traverse across an open meadow with rolling drainages before dropping onto the Burned Mountain Trail (Forest Road 91B) above the junction where FR 450 heads northwest, this is the end of the Hopewell Trail segment.

## **Hopewell Gold Loop**

This is a loop trail which uses part of CDT #29 and FS 91B. Ridden as a loop, this is a moderate ride with some eloquent climbs, a few short, rocky sections and a couple miles of flowing singletrack leading to a fast sprint on a downhill traverse.

From US 64, turn west onto Forest Road 42B at Hopewell Lake. Drive a mile (passing the entrance to the lake and then the campground on the right) and continue to the left onto Burned Mountain Trail (Forest Road 91B) for 5.3 miles to the junction with FR 450. There is space for a few vehicles to park here, and also below the junction where 450 leads to an open meadow.

Ride back up Burned Mountain Trail (Forest Road 91B) for three miles, enjoy the mile long descent then climb 1.4 miles to where the CDT crosses the road. Turn right and follow the trail markers along doubletrack for 0.2 miles, the singletrack begins here.

The first section is a gradual climb where scattered rocks and some roots require a bit of technical maneuvering, leading to a brief sprint along a doubletrack road before transitioning to singletrack for the descent. Smooth and flowing in places, rocky and bumpy in others, and with a couple flat sections where the trail is sunk into the earth, the trail meanders through old mining prospects and grazing meadows before dropping into an aspen grove.

Eight curvy switchbacks precede a fast descent across an open meadow and through rolling drainages leading back to the road. This last section is fun, yet because it's not a heavily used trail it can be bumpy where animals have burrowed into the ground and plants have grown over the trail. Look for the CDT markers if you can't see where the trail crosses some of the forest roads, they're strategically placed along the route.