



Grants - Continental Divide Mountain Bike Trails

Trail Name	Miles	Kilometers	Trail Difficulty	Rating	MTB Project Ranking		
					System	New Mexico	National
FR 193 - FR 453	2.9	4.7	Intermediate	2.0	5	568	20,643
Gooseberry Trail	3.9	6.3	Difficult	4.0	2	186	7,077
Lobo Canyon	12.3	19.9	Intermediate / Difficult	2.0	4	550	19,992

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)

Land Manager

Cibola National Forest & National Grasslands
 Mt. Taylor Ranger District
 Mt Taylor Ranger District, 1800 Lobo Canyon Rd.; Grants, NM 87020
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MTB Project Trail Comments

This section of the Continental Divide Trail begins north of Grants and climbs the flank of Mount Taylor. It is a nice day ride for anybody seeking a good workout with a bit of chunkiness at the beginning and end.

FR 193 - FR 453 This is a short section of the Continental Divide Trail (CDT) continuing north from CDT: Grants Canyon to FR193 and around the flank of Mount Taylor. Most of this section is reclaimed logging roads with the obligatory bulldozed drainage berms. The section just before 02419 is blessed singletrack amid the aspens. The trail continues beyond 02419 to FR453, but it is mostly doubletrack. Pop back over the hill to FR193 and you are warmed up for the serious grade and good singletrack of Gooseberry Trail.

Gooseberry Trail



Snowy during winter months. Note that this is primarily a pedestrian trail. The USFS does not actively encourage MTB, but it is a permitted activity. Please be extra-courteous to hikers on this narrow trail.

This trail is a great out-and-back that is a lung-buster on the way up and quite a ride down: 2000 vertical feet in 3 miles. The trail has lots of volcanic chunks but is in good condition. If you have the capacity, about 99.9% of it is rideable on the way up. Watch for angular rocks that can catch a pedal or wheel, especially coming down.

Leaving the parking area, the trail gradually climbs on narrow singletrack (instead of the old two track) and crosses a wooded valley. Emerging into alpine meadow, the trail heads straight uphill with about a 20% grade. Eventually you'll reach a saddle and then contour along a wide valley. Crossing another saddle, it's time for the real grind. Turning north the trail curves across a broad slope and then up a series of switchbacks. The namesake Gooseberry bush is encountered along this section. Eventually, the peak appears with its register box and panoramic views. The north section descends switchbacks through big trees, past a loose gravelly section and then down a meadow to another trailhead.

Lobo Canyon

This section of the CDT can be divided into three unequal and very different pieces. The first 1.75 miles climbs steeply out of the canyon into pinon-juniper. The grade is sustained and the trail is littered with chunks of rock to the point where most will do some walking. Abruptly, the trail emerges onto a broad basalt plateau. Flat to rolling, this middle section includes singletrack and various fragments of old two-track and cow trails. Gradually rising into bigger trees, the middle section reaches FR 193. The final two miles are in the big trees. From FR 193 you drop down into a canyon then follow an old logging road to another old logging road and yet another which heads straight uphill. The bulldozed drainage berms get a bit monotonous, but the last section is real singletrack with a couple of rocky ledges thrown in. You'll then finish up back on the western section of FR 193.

Parking is abundant at the lower trailhead and there is space for about three cars on FR 193. This trail is a good up-and-back workout that will take most of a day. Use care on the final section down: there are some tire grabbers. Another option is to ride FR 193 over to Gooseberry Trail which will give you an extra dose of vertical gain.