



High Desert Mountain Bike Trails

Trail Name	Miles	Kilometers	Trail Difficulty	Rating	MTB Project Ranking		
					System	New Mexico	National
1st Mesa Loop	2.1	3.4	Intermediate	3.8	4	248	10,424
Connector	0.7	1.2	Intermediate	2.0	6	573	20,785
The Stem	2.9	4.6	Intermediate	2.0	5	559	20,194
High Desert Loop							
2nd Mesa Loop	5.8	9.3	Intermediate	4.0	3	212	8,052
3rd Mesa Loop	2.5	4.1	Intermediate	4.5	1	104	4,093
Connector	0.6	0.9	Intermediate	NR	NR	NR	NR
Middle Mesa Loop	3.5	5.6	Easy / Intermediate	4.0	2	211	7,924

NR = Not Rated

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

McKinley County Government

Trails Manager

Gallup Trails
 PO Box 4095
 Gallup, New Mexico 87305
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MTB Project Trail Comments

The Stem



Watch for hikers as this is a popular access route.

This trail known simply as the "Stem" provides access from the east parking area to the "6 Flags" intersection. From here you can go directly to High Desert Trail System First Mesa or take High Desert Trail System Connector to High Desert Trail System, 3rd and 2nd Mesa Loop. Climbs gradually through high desert terrain and vegetation, crossing a broad arroyo along the way.

1st Mesa Loop



From High Desert Trail System Stem or High Desert Trail System Connector you'll reach the "6 Flags" intersection. The first mesa trail heads to the south in a loop typically ridden counter-clockwise. The trail is moderate, twisting through sagebrush and along the canyon rim. There are some nice overlooks of canyons and Gallup.

Connector

This trail simply connects the "Six Flags" intersection and High Desert Trail System Stem to the rest of the system: High Desert Trail System, 3rd and 2nd Mesa Loop.

High Desert Loop

2nd Mesa Loop

The 2nd Mesa is generally fast and smooth riding. There are the occasional sand traps to deal with but they tend to be quite short. There are some fun sections riding near the mesa edge on the southwestern side of the loop, while the northern side has some nice rock features, exposed bedrock and steps. This is a great option to make rides longer from either the 3rd or 1st Mesa's. Trail Junctions #6 and #5 are at either end of this loop.

Middle Mesa Loop

This is the middle loop section of the high desert trail system. It's a rolling singletrack loop with great views and tight trail. This is an easier part of the whole trail, without too much elevation change.

3rd Mesa Loop

This loop has a bit of everything - smooth fast sections, open bedrock, switchbacks, ledges and ramps, and a little exposure here and there all with great scenery. Riding the north side of the loop first allows for more gradual climbing though there are still a few rock steps that must be tackled. The southern half of the loop has fast descents and ramps with the occasional exposed section. It doesn't get much better than this. The west end of the loop is Junction #8 while the east end is Junction #7.

Connector

Access to the High Desert Loop from the west parking lot.