White Ridge Bike Trails Area!

Welcome to the White Ridge Bike Trails Area!

Tucked away in rugged and scenic country southwest of the community of San Ysidro, New Mexico, is the White Ridge Bike Trails Area. To the west is the designated Ojito Wilderness. Both sites are a short distance from U.S. 550. This region is known for its geological, cultural, and paleontological resources, as well as for its scenic qualities. The bike trail crosses a landscape of spectacular beauty and exceptional geology, meandering through the Pueblo of Zia, State of New Mexico, and public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). BLM has obtained rights-of-way from the Pueblo and the State to provide this biking experience. Although the Trails have been developed primarily for mountain biking, hikers are welcome on the entire trail system, and one segment is also open to equestrian use.

The trail system is labeled with numbered “Junction” signs. For more experienced riders, there are several segments of narrow trails with steep drop-offs and numerous obstacles that provide challenges. In particular, the following segments require advanced riding skills and endurance:

- Junction 3 to Junction 4 to Junction 6 (known as the “Dragons Back”)
- Junction 4 to Junction 6 (the portion of the Dragon’s Back called “Hike a Bike”)
- Trailhead at Cabezon Road to Junction 17

The remaining trail segments can be enjoyed by relatively inexperienced riders. While characterized by easier terrain than the trails listed above, these trails still provide a scenic and challenging ride. Equestrian use is allowed only along Junction 24 to Junction 6 because this segment does not cross the gypsum. Unlike the tracks made by mountain bikes and hikers, horses’ hooves break down the gypsum, thereby increasing erosion.

Of Other Interest

Fossil remains of rare dinosaurs, plants, and trees from the Jurassic period are located in the Morrison Formation. Natural erosion processes have exposed the bones of huge dinosaurs and large segments of petrified trees. These fossils are approximately 150 million years old! The longest dinosaur ever recovered, Seismosaurus, was discovered only a few miles west of the bike trails area in what is now the Ojito Wilderness. Paleontologists and geologists use this great variety of life to construct geologic timelines and interpret climate changes over the earth’s history.

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Please leave these objects in place.
All trails are for mountain bikes and hikers. Equestrians may use double track trail from marker post 24 to 6.

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83) Projection UTM Zone 13N

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