

Wheeler Peak Trail #90

Type: Out & Back

Length: 7.3 miles

Difficulty Level: Intermediate to Difficult

Elevation Gain: 3,761 ft.

Trail Beginning: 9,400 ft.

Trail Ending: 13,161 ft.

Access:

The Wheeler Peak Trail (USFS Trail #90) (sometimes called Bull of the Woods Trail) trailhead is accessed from the Twining Campground in the Village of Taos Ski Valley. Parking is available below the campground, at the upper end of the ski resort parking lot. At the trailhead there is a map of the wilderness including trails.

Trail Description:

The trail follows the North Fork of the Hondo Creek for approx. 2 miles to Bull of the Woods Pasture. At approximately .6 miles the junction with Long Canyon Trail (USFS Trail #63) is on the left. Not far from this point the trail becomes wide enough for 4x4 vehicle use, this section is a seldom used USFS access road.

Approximately 2 miles up, the trail turns right and crosses the head of the Hondo Creek at Bull of the Woods Pasture. From here to Frazer Mountain the trail passes through private land. Please be courteous, do not camp, and do not stray off the trail/road. Half a mile past the creek lies a beautiful overlook. The road portion of the trail ends at a saddle below Bull of the Woods Mountain summit, at approximately 3.2 miles.

USFS trail signs are at the saddle. This is not yet halfway to Wheeler Peak. The trail is very well-defined heading south on the saddle. At Frazer Mountain, the trail enters Wheeler Peak Wilderness and descends into La Cal Basin, which offers camping and an opportunity to rest before starting the final ascent to Wheeler Peak. The Peak is the highest point in New Mexico, elevation 13,161 feet. No technical climbing gear is needed. The summit of Wheeler Peak is "the top of the world" and on a clear day the view in all directions is spectacular.

Descend by way of the Wheeler Peak Summit Trail (USFS Trail #67) to Williams Lake Trail (USFS Trail #62) which is 4.2 miles. From the Phoenix Grill at Chair 4, descend along Rubezahl return ski trail to the base area which is 2 miles. Total trip distance on this loop is 13.5 miles. Allow at least 9 hours for the complete loop.

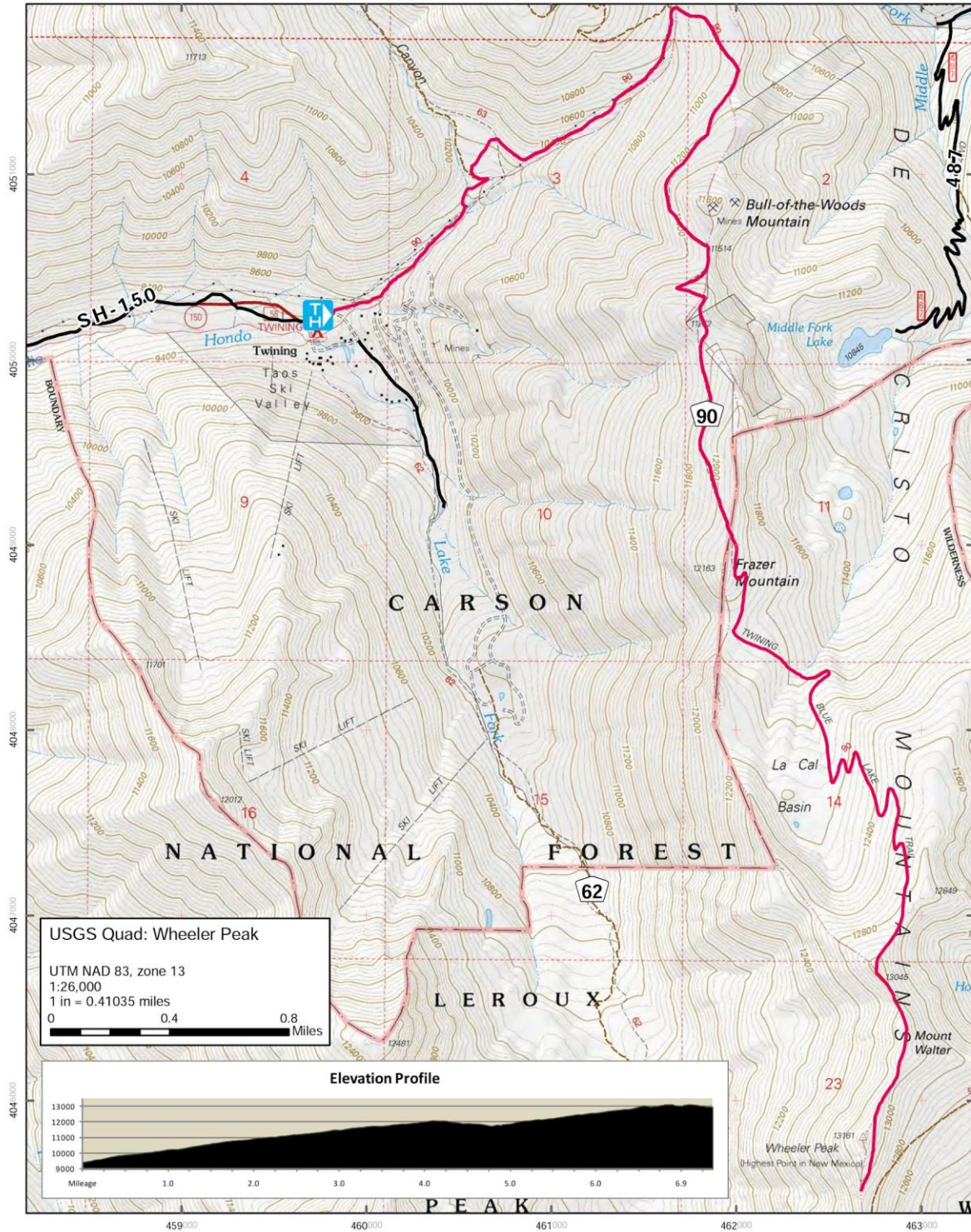
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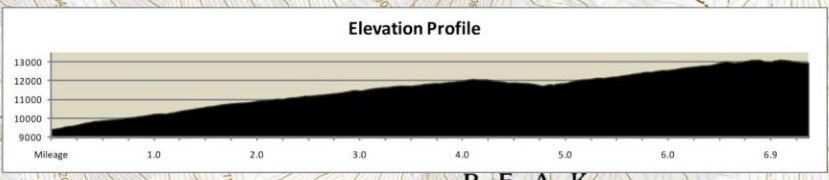
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— Roads
 - - - Other Trails

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USGS Quad: Wheeler Peak
 UTM NAD 83, zone 13
 1:26,000
 1 in = 0.41035 miles
 0 0.4 0.8 Miles



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