

Carson National Forest

Manzanita Canyon Trail 58

Location: **Questa Ranger District**

Trail Beginning: 8,400 feet

Trail Ending: 12,000 feet

Access:

Two miles northwest (up the road) from Upper Cuchilla Campground, located on State Highway 150, the road to Taos Ski Valley. Very limited parking available at the trailhead.

Attractions and Considerations:

Mixed conifers characterize this 4.2 mile trail located on the south facing slope of the Rio Hondo Canyon. The trail, which follows the Manzanita Canyon bottom most of the way climbs steadily, gaining 3,600 feet in elevation. For this reason, avalanche hazard during the winter and early spring is a special consideration. Water is available for the entire length of the canyon, but is not recommended for drinking without proper treatment. For short trips, take a supply of water from home or domestic source. Day hiking, backpacking, pack and saddle as well as back country camping is permitted along the entire length of the trail. If you pack it in, please pack it out. Motorized vehicle use is not permitted.

This trail provides access to Lobo Peak, Flag Mountain, Gold Hill and to the proposed Columbine/Hondo Wilderness Study Area. Trail 58 and Trail 61 come to a junction at the ridge and leads right into Lobo Peak Trail 57. Lobo Peak, elevation 12,115 feet, provides the visitor a magnificent view of the Wheeler Peak Area and the expansive valleys below.

Length: 4.2 Miles (6.8km)

Use: light

Recommended Season: Summer and early Fall

Difficulty: Expert

Elevation: gains 3,600 feet

USGS QUADS: Arroyo Seco