

CDT Trail No. 74 from Red Rock Road Trailhead north to Bullard Peak



9-miles roundtrip.

This segment of the Continental Divide Trail in the Burro Mountains begins at the CDT Trailhead on Red Rock Road and goes north toward Bullard Peak. It's popular with hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers. The new parking area can accommodate horse trailers. The trail is lightly used, and there is plenty of opportunity for solitude and enjoyment of this beautiful landscape.

There are two CDT trailheads here. One goes south towards Burro Peak, and one goes north towards Bullard Peak. The trail toward Bullard Peak begins at the northwest corner of the parking lot. A jeep road angles to the left, the CDT angles to the right, and is marked by a large cairn. The trail goes in the same direction as the jeep road but is out of view. It crosses the jeep road in a few places, so look for CDT markers on the trees, and you won't go off track.

The trail has a nice dirt tread through pinion and juniper woodlands with gentle undulations into clearings and shallow drainages. There are beautiful, long-distance views of Bear Mountain and the southwestern slopes of the Mogollon Mountains. At about 1.8 miles, there is a low saddle where the jeep road ends, and the CDT continues contouring along mountain slopes.

The trail gradually descends into a drainage where there is a watering tank created by a dirt levy. Halfway across the levy, the trail descends to the bottom of the drainage and continues down the canyon. In two-tenths of a mile, the trail leaves the bottom on the left. This is the 4.5-mile point and a good place to turn around.

If you want a longer hike, another 2.6 miles will take you around the west slopes of Bullard Peak to a jeep road at the upper end of Saddle Rock Canyon.

This is a good year-round hike, but mid-summer can be too hot because you'll be walking in the direct sun for most of the hike.

Getting to the trailhead. In Silver City at junction Hwy. 180 & 90, go west 13.2 miles, then turn left onto Mangas Valley Rd. Go 4.7 miles and turn right onto Red Rock Road. Go 7.2 miles and turn left into a large trailhead parking area. The last 4 miles of this road are sandy but passable by car.



Thanks to Jackie Blurton for this trail write-up.