Wheeler Peak Trail #90

Type: Out & Back
Length: 7.3 miles
Difficulty: Intermediate to Expert
Elevation Gain: 3,761 ft.
Trail Beginning: 9,400 ft.
Trail Ending: 13,161 ft.

Access:

Travel approximately 4 miles north on US Hwy 64 from Taos to the junction of NM State Highway 150, then head east on NM State Highway 150 to Taos Ski Valley. Continue through the ski area parking lot to the Twining Campground. Parking is available adjacent to the campground. There is no parking permitted beyond this point. At the trailhead there is a map of the wilderness including trails.

Trail Description:

The trail starts at the Twining Campground and heads uphill along Long Canyon Creek toward the Bull-of-the-Woods Pasture. The first section crosses Long Canyon Creek and follows the forest boundary until you reach Bull-of-the-Woods Pasture, a distance of 2.25 miles. Near the pasture, the trail intersects Gold Hill Trail (#64). Stay on the road that ascends southeast toward Bull-of-the-Woods Mountain. Please be courteous, you are on private land. From Bull-of-the-Woods Mountain, you will be traveling above timberline. The trail is very well defined. You will pass through the La Cal Basin which offers some camping areas and an opportunity to rest before you start your final ascent up Wheeler Peak, the highest point in New Mexico, elevation 13,161 feet. No technical climbing gear is needed. On the Wheeler Peak summit, you are “at the top of the world” on a clear day the view in all directions is spectacular. You can also can also descend the Wheeler Peak Summit Trail #67 to Williams Lake.