

Carson National Forest
Recreational Activities: Trails



Williams Lake Trail - #62

Location: Questa Ranger District – Twining/Taos Ski Valley

Trail Beginning: 10,200 feet

Trail Ending: 11,100 feet

Access:

Travel approximately 4 miles north on U.S. Hwy. 64 from Taos to the junction of NM State Highway 150, then east on NM State Highway 150 to Taos Ski Valley. Continue through the ski area parking lot to the Twining Campground. Turn right onto Twining Rd. You will switchback twice onto Kachina Rd. The hiker's parking lot is near the Kachina chairlift and the Bavarian lodge (approximately 3 miles).

Attractions and Considerations:

From the parking lot the trail passes the Bavarian Lodge at the bottom of the Kachina Chairlift, Lift No. 4, and follows the east side of Lake Fork Creek for approximately ¼ mile. Follow the old road along the east side of the creek. You are on private land for approximately another ¼ mile, please stay on the trail. The Wilderness boundary is within half a mile. The trail begins in Engelmann spruce stands and near the upper end opens up into meadowland and scattered rock fields. Williams Lake is a natural lake which does not have fish because it freezes in winter. Camping and campfires are not permitted along the lake shore to prevent damage to soil and water quality. Please select a campsite at least 300 feet from streams, springs, or lakes. Wheeler Peak is on the ridge line east of the lake and can be reached by climbing the talus slope. Technical rock climbing gear is not needed, but the slope is very steep and very rocky and the trail is unmaintained. Several avalanche chutes are apparent along the trail, winter travelers should be alert to these hazards, and debris may be present in the spring and summer.

Length: 2 miles

Difficulty: Novice to Intermediate

Elevation Gain: 900 feet

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- Roads
- - - Other Trails

