






















<p><b>T105</b>  <b>Rim Trail</b></p> <p><b>Sacramento Ranger District</b></p>		<p><b>T105</b>  GPS Track(as .GPX)</p> <p>Left click to open in your browser; then save from browser.</p>
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LENGTH	ELEVATION	DIFFICULTY	SCENERY
30.7 miles	8740 - 7620 ft 1120 ft difference	Difficult	3

Allowed Usage				
				
				

Cloudcroft to Slide CG

Allowed Usage				
				
				

Slide CG to Sacramento River Road

T105 and trails that intersect it are shown as black dashed lines on the maps. T105 has a solid green line over it.

**NOTE:** The trailhead for the North Segment is located on FR24B, across NM130 from the Deerhead Campground. However, a 0.75 miles long portion of T105 runs northwest from this trailhead to a green gate at the end of Spur Landing. No public parking is available on this narrow road. Indeed, it is difficult to turn a car around without going onto private property.

**DESCRIPTION:** [See also RIM TRAIL SAMPLER at end of DESCRIPTION Section]

As the name **Rim Trail** implies, T105 Rim Trail generally follows the crest of the Sacramento Mountains from Cloudcroft to beyond Hornbuckle Hill. It is shown on the maps as a black dashed line overlaid with green. Infrequent views from T105 toward the Tularosa Basin and the distant San Andres Mountains to the west are normally best during morning hours when the weather is often good -- usually the earlier the better. Along this route you can experience cool summer days and enjoy a variety of forest environments, such as scattered meadows and mountain ridge topography, consisting of many types of landforms, without having to ascend or descend significantly.

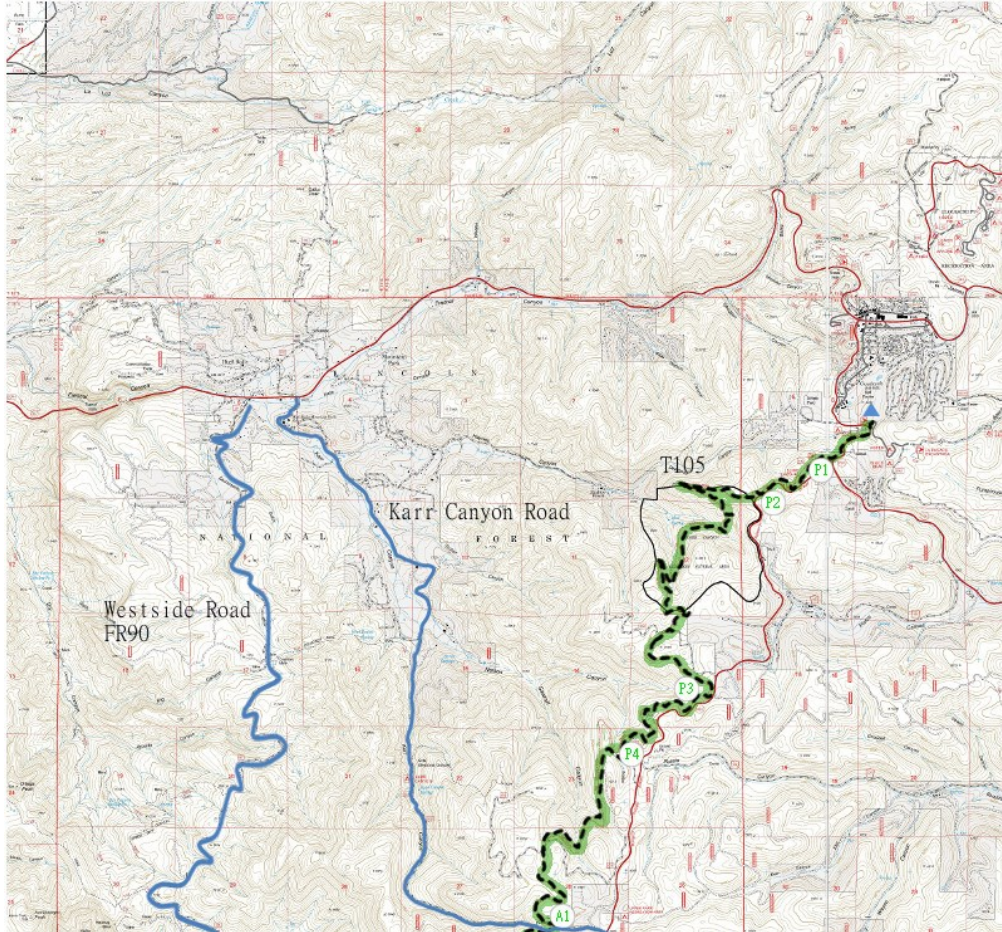
Because of the complexity and length of this very long trail, the Rim Trail is best described in terms of **three segments**. The North Segment begins at the southern edge of Cloudcroft, and ends where T105 intersects Karr Canyon Road. The middle segment begins at that intersection and ends at the intersection of T105 and the entrance road to the Sunspot Solar Observatory. The South Segment begins at that intersection and ends at the South Trailhead along Sacramento Canyon Road.

The easiest access to **outstanding distant views** is in the South Segment. Take Westside Road (FR90) from Sacramento Canyon Road (County C002) to its highest point, Hornbuckle Hill, where signed T105 crosses the road. Hike 0.5 mile north along T105. On *very clear days*, vistas extend 75 miles toward the southeast to Guadalupe Peak (Texas' highest point) and El Capitan; to the Franklin Mountains near El Paso, Texas; and to the Organ Mountains (east of Las Cruces, NM) .

There are **multiple access points** for T105, particularly for the North and Middle Segments. The Forest Service has developed six Rim Trail Parking access points (designated P1 - P6 on the maps ) and, in addition, four good access points (designated A1 - A4) are shown on the maps. The locations of these ten points, as well as the two trailheads, are described in detail below. Many hikes of portions of the segments are possible, and the table *Choosing Loop Hikes* lists distances along T105, along the paved roads, and between the two so that users can determine the lengths of various loop hikes.

**North Segment:** The North Segment is a combination of old Indian paths, homestead trails, roads, and railroad grades, all linked together in the 1960s and 2000. Trail composition varies from forest litter to baseball size rocks. Gradients are normally 5% or less, 20% maximum. This segment became the first National Forest route in New Mexico to be designated a National Recreational Trail under the National Trail System Act of 1968. The path often threads along the upper edges of deep, timbered canyons. It offers a few good views of the Tularosa Basin and White Sands. However, such distant views are restricted to less than 10% of trail length, because the forest is quite dense. The North Segment is relatively close to NM130 and NM6563 (Sunspot Highway), and there are multiple access points to T105.

### **Rim Trail – North Segment (11.3 miles)**

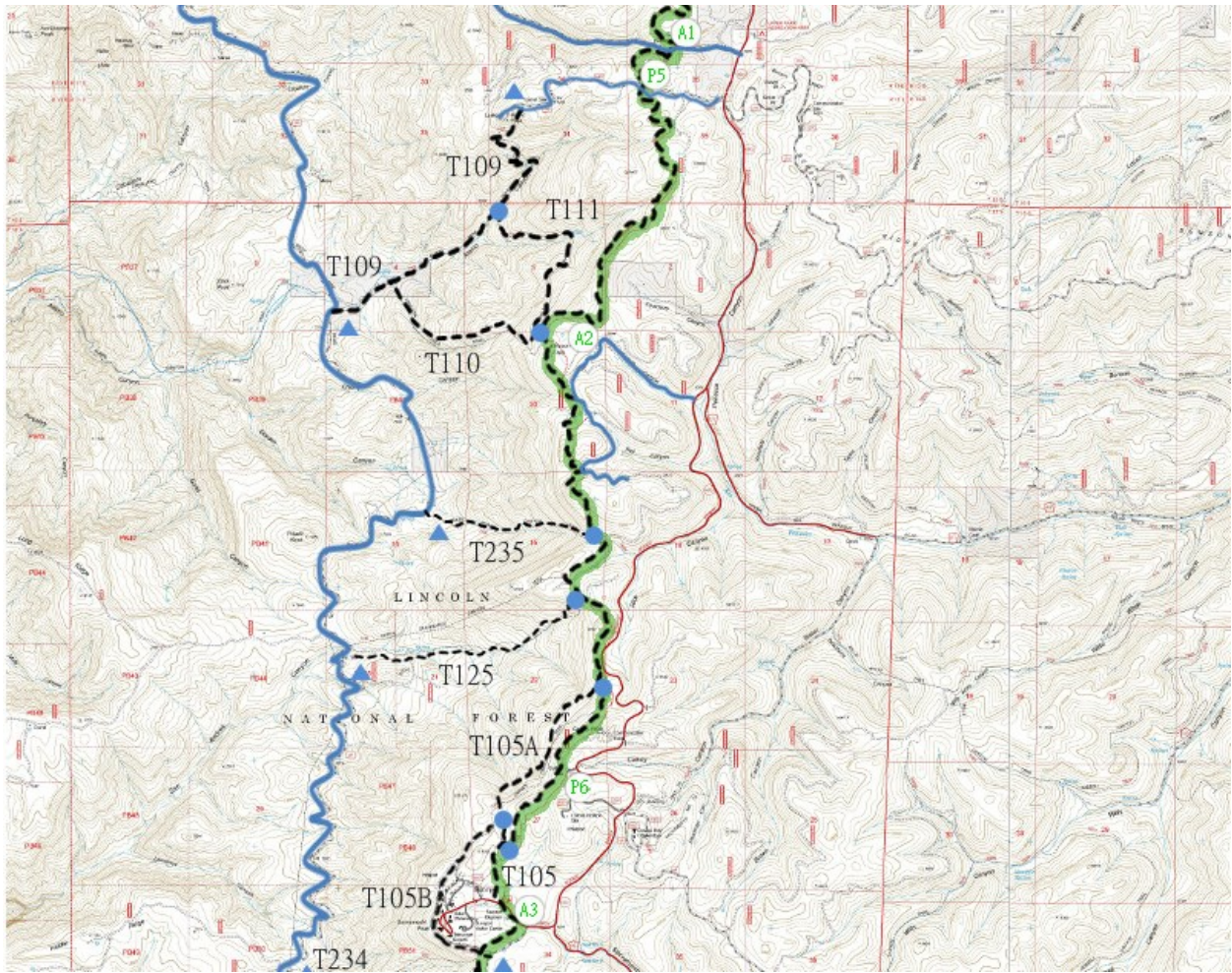


[Link to map color/symbol codes](#)

**.Middle Segment:** Trail conditions along the Middle Segment may not be as good as they are on the North Segment. This segment follows sides of shallow canyons and crosses a few wooded crests. Distant views are available at four locations, less than 1% of its total length. The middle Segment has some access to NM6563 and provides access to multiple (steep) trails that descend from the rim to Westside Road

At mile 3.5 from the beginning of the Middle Segment, the trailheads for T110 and T111 appear. 2.0 miles further, the path crosses a low saddle on the main divide that serves as the upper trailhead for T235. For the next 0.7 mile, between this junction and the trailhead for T125, T105 follows FR640 for 0.7 mile. Just 250 feet after T105 leaves FR640, the upper terminus for T125 is passed. After another 0.8 mile T105 angles left at an old fence corner on the right, and T105A begins on the right. In another 0.5 mile, T105 follows FR 5011, Cathey Peak Road, for 0.3 mile to Cathey Canyon Vista parking. After another 1.3 miles, the Middle Segment ends at a T105 sign at Sunspot Road, within view of the stone entrance sign at Sunspot.

**Rim Trail – Middle Segment (9.3 miles)**

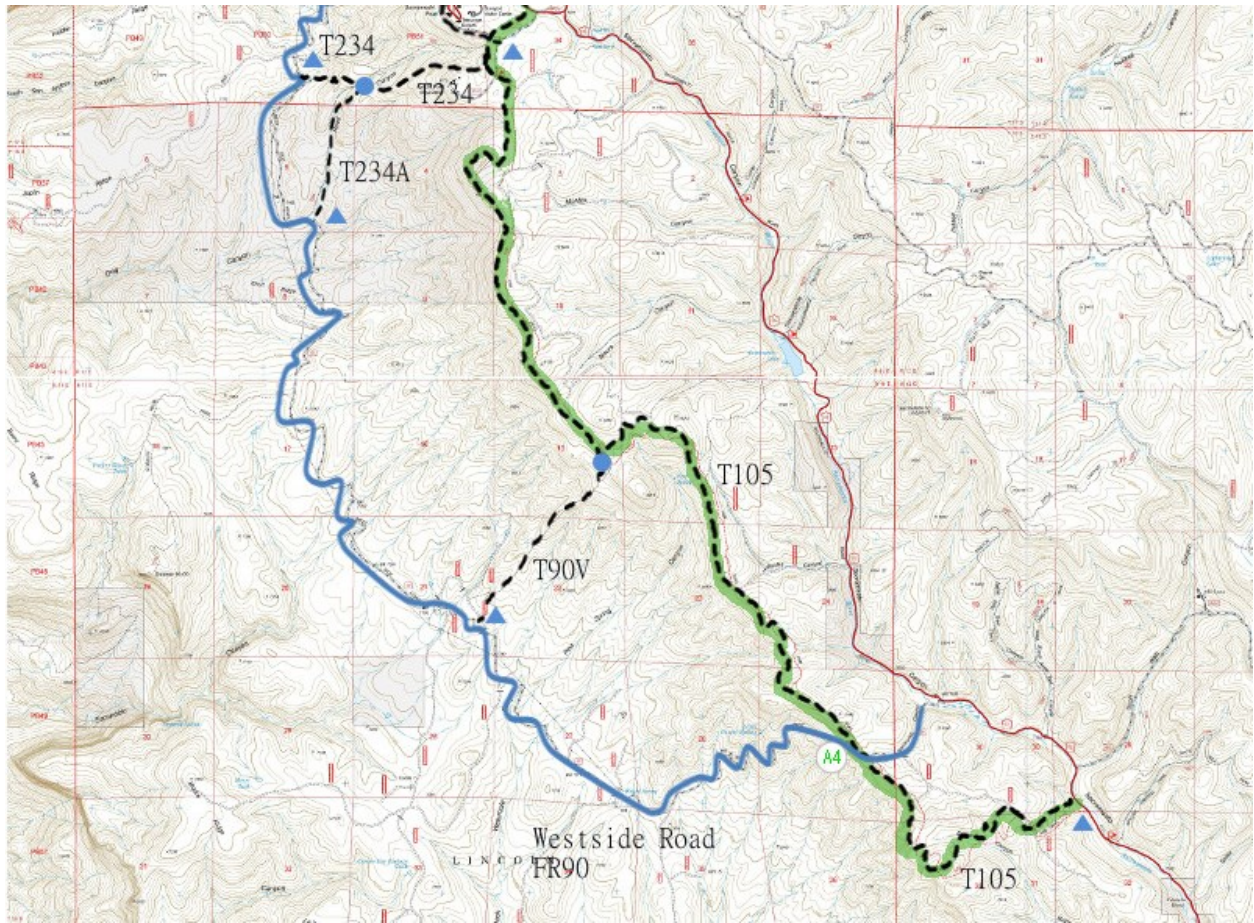


[Link to map color/symbol codes](#)

**South Segment:** The South Segment includes some features common to both the North and Middle Segments, in addition to following an impressive series of five hogbacks. On the whole, this sometimes rocky trail stays closer to the crest than either of the first two segments. This segment also has the longest and steepest climbs and descents (maximum 30%). The South Segment has little access to Sacramento Canyon Road and provides rugged, scenic hikes.

The South Segment includes some features common to both the North and Middle Segments, in addition to following five impressive hogbacks. On the whole, this sometimes rocky trail stays closer to the crest than either of the first two segments. However, distant views are often highly filtered through forest growth. On the other hand, excellent views within several hundred feet of the trail are the rule, due to the terrain and the open understory. This segment also has the longest and steepest climbs and descents (maximum 30%) compared to the other segments. Additional vistas are available by crossing FR90, continuing along T105 for 2.8 miles further, following and generally paralleling the rim for another 1.2 miles, where occasional breaks in the forest allow distant views. T105 the heads down Bridge Canyon, and eventually passes through an area that was severely burned in the 1994 Bridge Canyon Fire. The final portion of the trail then bears left and heads downhill 0.4 mile, up to 30% gradient, to its terminus at Sacramento River Road (County Road C002).

**Rim Trail – South Segment (10.4 miles)**



[Link to map color/symbol codes](#)

## **RIM TRAIL SAMPLER**

You do not have to hike all 31 miles of the Rim Trail to enjoy it. Below I have listed four short hikes that show off parts of the Rim Trail:

Sampler 1: Start at Rim Trail Parking 2. Hike out to the overlook and back. Round trip distance is 1.6 miles. You will go down about 175 feet and will have to climb back up on the way back. Beautiful View!

Sampler 2: Start at Rim Trail Parking 3. Hike counterclockwise around a 2.0 mile loop that starts by following FR 636 northwest from the RTP 3 sign to the signed junction with T105 (up about 200 feet) The middle segment (south bound) is T105 Rim trail, and the last segment is the access trail from T105 back to the RTP 3 sign. The T105 segment shows how T105 can follow very steep slopes.

Sampler 3: Start at Rim Trail parking 4. Hike counterclockwise around a 0.9 mile loop that starts by following an access trail down to a signed junction with T105. Follow T105 south to the signed junction with an access trail that returns to the RTP 4 sign. Total up and down is about 100 feet. The T105 segment shows off gentler slopes.

Sampler 4: Start at Rim Trail Parking 6. Hike T105 south to its intersection with Sunspot Road. This 1.5 mile trail climbs about 70 feet in the first quarter mile and then rambles downhill. This easy hike shows off an interior portion of T105. Even flatlanders newly arrived in the mountains enjoy this hike!

**ACCESS:** Twelve access points are described: North Trailhead, Rim Trail Parking (P1-P6), Access Points (A1-A4), and the South Trailhead. The GPS coordinates for all twelve access points are given at the end of the ACCESS section.

**Roads and Intersections:** NM130 (Cox Canyon Highway) and NM6563 (Sunspot Highway) are clearly labeled at their end points. Sacramento River Road (County C002) is easy to find and follow, but is poorly labeled. To reach Sacramento River Road, follow NM 6563 Sunspot Highway to its end at the entrance road to Sunspot. Sacramento Canyon Road is the only other paved road at this intersection. Continue more or less straight south, and you are on Sacramento River Road. After 50 yards, you will see a blue County C002 sign. To reach the intersection of Sacramento Canyon Road and Westside Road (FR90), drive 6.4 miles south along Sacramento River Road from the intersection of NM6563 and the turnoff to Sunspot. Westside Road is signed as FR90 and County D003.

**North Trailhead** (elevation 8760 ft): Beginning in Cloudcroft at the New Mexico NM130 and US82 intersection, drive NM130 south 1.2 miles to just beyond the large Deerhead Campground sign. Note the small Sleepy Grass Campground sign on the right just beyond the large sign. Angle left on Sleepy Grass Campground Road, FR24B. Follow the road 50 yards to the parking area at the signed trailhead, the beginning of the North Segment.

For access to the eleven other access points described here, *zero your odometer at this point.*

**Rim Trail Parking 1 (P1)** (elevation 8840 ft): Drive NM130 south 0.6 miles to the NM6563 junction. Turn right and follow NM6563 just 0.1 mile further. There is ample parking on the right.

**Rim Trail Parking 2 (P2)** (elevation 8800 ft): Continue along NM6563 to mile 1.5. There is ample parking on the right. Note: There is a 600 ft dip between P2 and P3.

**Rim Trail Parking 3 (P3)** (elevation 8840 ft): This one is a bit tricky. Continue along NM6563 to mile 3.8. The parking area is actually fifty yards up FR636, which turns off to the right, just after one leaves the private property area that contains the old snow sports/tubing facility. There are two paths that lead to T105, one of which begins between the parking area and NM6563.

**Rim Trail Parking 4 (P4)** (elevation 9000 ft): Continue along NM6563 to mile 4.9. There is ample parking on the right.

**Access Point 1 (A1)** (elevation 9060 ft): Continue along NM6563 to mile 6.8, and turn right onto Karr Canyon Road. In 0.5 miles T105 crosses Karr Canyon Road. Remember not to count this additional distance as part of the mileage from the North Trailhead. This is the end of the North Segment and the beginning of the Middle Segment.

**Rim Trail Parking 5 (P5)** (elevation 9280 ft): Continue along NM6563 to mile 7.2, and turn right onto Alamo Peak Road (FR64D). In 0.6 miles, T105 crosses Alamo Peak Road. Parking for 3-4 cars is available. Remember not to count this additional distance as part of the mileage from the North Trailhead.

**Access Point 2 (A2)** (elevation 9080 ft): Continue along NM6563 to mile 9.6, and turn right onto Atkinson Canyon Road (FR640). The signage is poor for this road, and it may be best to look for a road on the right 0.2 miles after the well-signed Upper Rio Penasco Road turns off of NM 6563 [to Bluff Springs] to the left. Follow Atkinson Canyon Road 1.5 miles to a carsonite "To T105" sign on the right. Park 30 yards past this sign at the primitive camping area on the left. Return to the carsonite sign and hike a short distance down from the sign to the junction with signed T105. To go south toward Sunspot along T105, turn left. . To reach the upper trailheads for T 110 and T 111, turn right and hike 0.5 miles along the edge of Atkinson Field to the trail heads. Remember not to count this additional distance as part of the mileage from the North Trailhead.

**Rim Trail Parking 6 (P6)** (elevation 9440 ft): Continue along NM6563 to mile 13.5, and turn right into the Cathey Peak Vista area. Ample parking is available.

**Access Point 3 (A3)** (elevation 9040 ft): Continue along NM6563 to mile 15.2, the intersection of NM6563 and the entrance road to Sunspot. Turn right toward Sunspot and drive 0.4 miles to a gate in the fence on the right, just prior to the roadside rock structure marking the entrance to the Sunspot community. The signed trailhead for T105 is on the right. Remember not to count this additional distance as part of the mileage from the North Trailhead. This point is the end of the Middle Segment and the beginning of the South Segment.

Note: To continue south on T105, hike or drive 0.2 mile back towards NM6563 to the Apache Point Road junction. Turn right and follow this road 0.5 mile to the signed T105 trailhead on the left.

**Access Point 4 (A4)** (elevation 8240 ft): At the turn off to Sunspot (mile 15.2), leave NM6563 and proceed 6.4 miles along Sacramento Canyon Road (County C002) and turn right onto Westside Road (FR90). Follow Westside Road 0.8 miles to the top of Hornbuckle Hill and the intersection with T105.

**South Trailhead** (elevation 7620 ft): At the turn off to Sunspot (mile 15.2), leave NM6563 and proceed 7.9 miles along Sacramento Canyon Road (County C002) to the signed trailhead on the right.

**GPS Coordinates for Key Points**

NAD83	Lat/Lon hddd mm ss.s	UTM (13 S)
North Trailhead	N32 56 40.4 W105 44 37.0	430490 3645385
T105 - P1	N32 56 19.5 W105 45 06.7	429716 3644748
T105 - P2	N32 56 05.4 W105 45 38.0	428899 3644320
T105 - P3	N32 54 38.6 W105 46 01.0	428255 3641729
T105 - P4	N32 54 05.6 W105 46 40.6	427247 3640642
T105 - A1	N32 52 48.0 W105 47 27.6	426008 3638260
T105 - P5	N32 52 32. 1 W105 47 43.8	425583 3637774
T105 - A2	N32 50 39.9 W105 48 17.0	424695 3634326
T105 - P6	N32 48 14.1 W105 48 17.4	424650 3629835
T105 - A3	N32 47 24.2 W105 48 46.6	423878 3628305
T105 - A4	N32 42 39.4 W105 46 10.1	427884 3619506
South Trailhead	N32 42 21.4 W105 44 36.0	430331 3618933

**CHOOSING LOOP HIKES:** The following table summarizes the access point information and may help users choose loops. The three columns at the left of the table provide information about distances along T105. The three right columns provide information about distances along the paved roads. The middle column gives the distance between a point of access to T105 and the paved road that one drives.

**Abbreviations:** Incr. = increment; Cum. = cumulative

**Example of how to use the CHOOSING LOOP HIKES table:** Start at RTP5 row. Hike south along T105 to A2 [Increment = 2.8 miles]. Hike along Atkinson Field Road to NM6563 [Distance = 1.2 miles]. They turn north on NM6563, hike to Alamo Peak Road [Increment = 2.4 miles], and hike along Alamo Peak Road to RTP5 [Distance = 0.6 miles]. Total distance for the loop is 7.0 miles [2.8 + 1.2 + 2.4 + 0.6].



Choosing Loop Hikes						
T105	Distance along T105 (miles)		Road to T105 Distance (miles)	Distance along NM130-NM6563-C002 (miles)		Roads
	Cum.	Incr.		Incr.	Cum.	
North Trailhead	0.0		0.0		0.0	FR24B
		0.6		0.7		
RTP1 (P1)	0.6		0.0		0.7	NM6563
		0.9		0.8		
RTP2 (P2)	1.5		0.0		1.5	NM6563
		4.7		2.3		
RTP3 (P3)	6.2		0.3		3.8	NM6563
		1.2		1.1		
RTP4 (P4)	7.4		0.1		4.9	NM6563
		3.8		1.9		
Karr Canyon Road (A1)	11.2		0.5		6.8	NM6563 and Karr Canyon Road
		0.5		0.4		
RTP5 (P5)	11.7		0.6		7.2	NM6563 and Alamo Peak Road
		2.8		2.4		
Atkinson Field Road (A2)	14.5		1.2		9.6	NM6563 and Atkinson Field Road
		4.4		3.9		
RTP6 (P6)	18.9		0.1		13.5	NM6563 and Cathey Canyon Road
		1.2		1.7		
Sunspot (A3)	20.1		0.2		15.2	NM6563 and Sunspot Rd
		7.8		6.4		
Hornbuckle Hill (A4)	27.9		0.8		21.6	Sacramento River Road and Westside Road
		2.8		1.5		
South Trailhead	30.7		0.0		23.1	Sacramento River Road

### Links to Other Resources

[North Segment Map](#)

[Middle Segment Map](#)

[South Segment Map](#)

[Rim Trail and Associated Trails](#)

[Link to Full Topo Maps \(6 maps\)](#)

[Forest Service Resource](#)

Last Hiked: Spring 2014

2/17/2017