

# TRAIL NAME: CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL VIA BEAR MOUNTAIN

Trail Rating: 2 = dirt roads or double track (surface conditions & traffic could be factors)

Distance is determined by how far you want to go.

Directions:

Drive on U.S. 180 to Silver City and turn north (right-hand turn if you're coming from Silver City) on Alabama St. (third street west of traffic signal at Little Walnut).



Alabama St. jigs and jogs through four-way stops and a misaligned intersection and travels over speed bumps, then eventually (about 0.36 miles after you turn from 180) bears left and magically becomes Cottage San Rd. →→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→

Drive on Cottage San Rd. about 2.84 miles to Bear Mtn. Rd., where the pavement ends (don't confuse with Bear Mtn. Lodge Rd.).



Bear left onto Bear Mtn. Rd.



Drive about 2.62 miles to a parking area on the left side of the road. This is the trailhead for the Continental Divide Trail, but there are no visible signs to tell you so.

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The parking area has room for two or three rigs.



This is the trailhead for the Continental Divide Trail, but there are no visible signs to tell you so. (The trail does have a sign, but it's hidden behind a tree and you can't see it from the parking area.) The image at right shows how to find the trail



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If you walk back there, shown at left is what you'll see (you might have to take off your sunglasses):

The CDT is easy to follow from here (no competing tracks or trails), but is mostly unsigned. After about 0.94 miles, you'll come to a fence line and a barbed wire gate. The CDT passes through this gate. Please close it behind you.



In about 0.45 mi., the CDT meets up with Forest Rd. 858 (unsigned) at a big cattle guard and stock gate, which you'll see on your right. Cross the cattle guard (take your horse through the gate and close it behind you) to continue on the CDT, which trends southeast immediately through the gate.

From here, watch for prominent cairns to find your way, but don't expect signage. The trail eventually (about 1.56 mi.) arrives at a pedestrian gate. If you proceed through the gate, the CDT doubles back to Forest Road 858 (a.k.a. Walnut Creek Rd.) and continues west to parts currently unknown. If you remain outside the gate and bear to the right, the CDT meanders east, toward Gomez Peak and NM Hwy 15 near Piños Altos, destinations that are topics for other trail descriptions.

Note: The CDT has been rerouted through this area, which is crisscrossed with numerous trails and dirt roads. If you're not familiar with the terrain, plan to explore—but take a GPS with you. Maps probably won't help unless they are of recent production.