

# **GOLD GULCH-THOMPSON CANYON-TRAIL LOOP (ABOUT 12 MILES)**

## **FEBRUARY 2020**

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

Relevant USGS quad maps: 1999 Burro Peak, 1999 Eagle Eye Peak

Directions:

From Silver City, set your trip meter at the intersection of US Hwy 180 (Silver Heights Blvd.) and NM Hwy 90 (Hudson St.): Drive south on NM Hwy 90 (a.k.a. Lordsburg Road).

Continue on Hwy 90 for about 23.5 miles to Gold Gulch Road. Turn right and continue about 4.2 miles (past Jack's Peak Road) to a sandy parking area on left.



The parking area has a U driveway, a couple of camping spots, and room for 3-4 rigs. (For reference, a trail sign "4245Q" marks a short 4WD road up the slope on the left.)

From the parking spot, turn left and follow Gold Gulch Rd. (a.k.a. Tyrone Rd) over a cattleguard (at about 0.81 miles from parking). Continue for about 2.9 miles (keep the "dead end" and "entering private land" signs on your left) to another cattleguard at the intersection with Thompson Canyon Rd. (a.k.a. Tyrone-Thompson Canyon Rd.)



Turn right after crossing the Thompson Canyon cattleguard.



Continue about 1.18 miles until you see yet another cattleguard. Before you cross it, look for a wire gate behind the bushes on your right. This is the gate (unmarked) onto trail 4089H.

4089H is not well-traveled and the tread isn't apparent. However, it follows a mostly unobstructed drainage (occasional snags from flooding occur; be prepared to get around them), so head for it and proceed alongside or down it as conditions dictate.

The trail is narrow and ditchlike at first, but soon opens into a wide and sandy streambed that proceeds gently downslope and back to Gold Gulch Road.

***If the weather portends rain, your safest bet is to return by way of Thompson Canyon Rd. You'll see evidence of past flooding all along 4089H and it's not hard to imagine that a flash flood there can have gruesome consequences.***

A pipe gate with a broken hinge exits 4089H, with Gold Gulch Rd in sight. Turn left at the road and proceed back to the trailer.

See next page for the big picture.

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