



### Phil's World Mountain Bike Trail System

Trail Name	Miles	Kilometers	Trail Difficulty	Rating	MTB Project Ranking		
					System	Colorado	National
Main Loop	10.8	17.4	Intermediate	4.8	1	33	77
Stinking Springs Loop	5.5	8.9	Intermediate / Difficult	4.8	2	173	1,171
Ledges Loop	5	8	Intermediate / Difficult	4.7	3	277	3,291
Trust Loop	3.5	5.7	Easy / Intermediate	4	4	508	5,107
Hippie House	2.7	4.4	Easy / Intermediate	3.8	5	654	5,813
2-More Loop	2.1	3.4	Intermediate	3	6	1,322	12,645

Trail Difficulty, Rating, and Ranking based on the MTB Project ([www.mtbproject.com](http://www.mtbproject.com))

#### Trail Difficulty Key

- Easy      5% grade; 2 inch obstacles
- Intermediate      10% grade; 8 inch obstacles
- Difficult      15% grade; 15 inch obstacles, occasional harder sections
- Extreme Difficulty      20% grade, 15+ inch obstacles, many harder sections

**Land Manager**

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Dolores, CO 81323  
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**Trails Maintenance & Building**

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**MTB Project Trail Comments**

 Daily user fee is required.

**Main Loop**

Head North out of the parking lot through the gate to the trail intersection where you'll see the return route coming in from the right. Drop your daily user fee in the pay box if you don't have an annual membership and take a look at the trail map and kiosk.

The buff singletrack winds through pinion and juniper forest, gradually gaining just over 100 feet to the "saddle". Prepare for a super fun screaming descent down the Coco Race section. After this fast and twisty descent you'll cross through a big arroyo and grunt up a short but steep climb followed by some flat recovery spinning through the pinions. At the intersection on top of the next saddle, stay left again for the Lemonhead section unless you are short on time and want to go straight for the Rib Cage. Lemonhead drops off a couple of ledges, traverses the hillside and then climbs up to the top of mesa for some more fast cruising. After a few miles, you'll come to the Cortez overlook which is a good spot to regroup and look West to great views of Totten reservoir and the City of Cortez.

Following Lemonhead is a quick drop into the Maze section with an easy log jump and some tight corners. Prepare to get your climb on as you exit the Maze and climb back up to the Elbow section. Elbow takes you across some slickrock style riding with a couple of technical sections. With the right lines, you can make quick work of these tricky sections, but use caution as there have been a few unfortunate mishaps here. After the Elbow, the trail returns to smooth, hardpacked singletrack heading East with some terrific views of the LaPlata mountain range. Take a left at the Abajo junction (straight is a shortcut into the lower half of Ribcage) and climb up to the Abajo overlook. It is customary to stop here for a snack and regroup. On a clear day you'll see mountain ranges in all direction including the LaPlatas, the Wilson group, the Abajos near Monticello and even the LaSals near Moab.

From the Abajo overlook, traverse the ridge on excellent tread to the Ledges turnoff going left. For this description we'll stay right and skip Ledges but it is a great loop that you can add on if you have

time to tack on 30-60 minutes to your ride. Ledges will come back in to the main trail just down the way from where you left it. Shortly past the Ledges Turnoff, there is an intersection for the Stinking Springs Loop. If you want to avoid this and get straight to the top of the Rib Cage, go straight.

### **Stinking Springs Loop**

The Stinking Springs Loop goes left off of the main Phil's loop just before dropping into the Rib Cage and loops back in to the same spot so you don't miss anything. Stinking Springs starts with a very gradual climb through sagebrush on smooth singletrack with great views of the LaPlata mountains. Shortly after reaching the "Pinnacle" you'll drop into an extremely fun descent known as the Vertebrae. Vertebrae has big banked turns, jumps and some fast straights.

At the end of Vertebrae, you'll do a mildly technical descent of the Moki downhill followed by a short grind up the Moki climb which can feel pretty tough after all of the descending. After the climb, the trail rolls and drops slightly to a section of mixed singletrack and slickrock known as the Rim. The Rim is bumpy and rocky but doesn't have any extreme technical riding. This section eats tires and causes tons of pinch flats for those running tubed tires. Relief from the rim comes as you drop off the other side into flowing singletrack again that leads to Stoneaxe hill which is a tough but short climb.

Shortly after Stoneaxe there is a technical, ledgy drop that has gotten pretty ugly with multiple lines developing. Straight down the middle is still the line of choice. Some smooth, fast trail leads you slightly uphill back to the junction with the main Phil's trail just where you drop into the Ribcage.

### **Ledges Loop**

The Ledges loop is a nice, more technical loop that can be added on to the Phil's World ride. There is a well signed left turn just before you get to the Rib Cage. The singletrack winds through some sagebrush, then drops into some pinon and juniper trees with a few ledges and rocky sections.

The trail is easy to follow as it makes away up and down the shallow drainages. You'll eventually emerge out of the trees into a large open, burned area where the trail loops around and then does a short but very steep climb back to the top of the ridge. Just past the top of the climb there is an option to go left and shortcut over to the Stinking Springs loop where the trails meet up just past the Pinnacle. To continue with the Ledges loop, continue straight for some more semi-technical riding through trees and openings until the trail merges back in to the main Phil's loop just past where you left it.

### **Trust Loop**

Follow the signed trail straight East out of the main Phil's World parking lot. Stay on the left trail as the one on the right is the incoming route that you'll be coming back on. The trail weaves through sagebrush on mostly flat terrain for a bit before dropping into a drainage where you'll cross a wide wooden bridge and climb out the other side.

After another short flat, sagebrush section, the trail does a short, slightly rocky, switchback climb to the mesa top where it continues its flat route circling the front half of the mesa. Near the middle of

the mesa there is an intersection with the Hippy House loop. The shortest, easiest route is to stay right and continue around the mesa. Hippy House loop goes off to the left and extends the ride by a few miles and then comes back in at this same spot.

Eventually the singletrack drops back off the mesa, re-crosses the drainage over another wooden bridge, and back through the sagebrush to the parking lot.

### **Hippy House**

Hippy House loop is a stacked loop that comes off of the Trust Loop. At the intersection of Trust and Hippy House, stay left and descend slightly through the pinion and juniper forest. The trail then turns back up for a quick climb to the flat mesa top again. Weave through the forest and get to a high point on the East end of the mesa.

Get ready some real fun as you gradually descend through some fast bermed corners and small rock jumps. As the trail flattens back out, you'll wind through the forest and some sagebrush meadows on fast, smooth singletrack. Eventually, you'll do another small climb and reconnect with the Hippy House loop where you stay left to drop off of the mesa and ride through the sagebrush back to the parking lot.

### **2-More Loop**

Truly taking the "outer loop" of Phil's World, by continually turning left, catches this less-traveled trail which adds a couple more miles.

From Phil's World - Main Loop, a rough start over technical rock and eroded arroyo bottom yields to more typical singletrack for the area. The trail catches interesting threads through trees and open runs with an odd mix of flowing singletrack and rocky steps. Toward the end enjoy a fast section rolling off to the roadway, crossing east of Phil's World road crossing at the main trailhead and meeting up with Trust Loop. A right takes it back to the parking lot; a left kisses the parking lot goodbye and keeps the adventure rolling.