



Jemez Mountains Mountain Bike Trails

Trail Name	Miles	Kilometers	Trail Difficulty	Rating	MTB Project Ranking		
					System	New Mexico	National
<b>Jemez Mountains</b>							
Cerro Pelado (Bald Hill)	5.7	9.1	Intermediate	4.0	2	52	2,005
East Fork Trail	8.7	13.9	Difficult	4.0	2	177	6,492
Fish Hatchery Trail	4.9	7.9	Easy	4.0	1	141	5,593
Geothermal Trail	7.1	11.5	Intermediate	3.0	4	382	13,997
Las Conchas Peak Trail	2.4	3.9	Intermediate / Difficult	3.0	5	408	14,637
Los Griegos Pass Trail	2.8	4.6	Easy / Intermediate	3.0	7	432	15,113
Thompson Ridge Trail	5.9	9.6	Intermediate / Difficult	2.0	10	543	19,734
Los Conchas – Las Griegos Traverse Loop	22.3	35.8	Intermediate	4.0	2	177	6,492
<b>Valles Caldera National Preserve</b>							
Backcountry Access	19.9	32.1	Easy / Intermediate	2.0	12	560	20,235
Redondo-Jemez Falls Trl	3.5	5.7	Easy / Intermediate	2.7	2	517	18,970
Valles Grand View Trail	5.5	8.8	Intermediate	3.0	1	400	14,444

## 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

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

### Land Manager

Santa Fe National Forest Headquarters  
11 Forest Lane  
Santa Fe, NM 87508  
(505) 438-5300  
[www.fs.usda.gov/santafe](http://www.fs.usda.gov/santafe)

### Trail Maintenance

Tuff Riders (aka Los Alamos SingleTrack Association)  
PO Box 1422  
Los Alamos, NM 87544  
<http://tuffriders.losalamos.com>

## Jemez Mountains

### Cerro Pelado (Bald Hill)

Park past the cattle guard on FR 10 and start biking up the first road heading east. This is Forest Road 10Q, but is probably not marked. After an easy 3/4 mile climb the road dips and then crosses a low area before climbing again at mile 1. After a couple of dips and then steep climbs the road levels out at mile 2. At mile 3 the road becomes rutted and drops steeply down to FR 270, but you can bypass this by following the Forest Service property line to the left through the trees and finding a better route down to FR 270. FR 270 now climbs steadily to the top of Cerro Pelado where you can enjoy the views.

### East Fork Trail

The ride is best done as a shuttle from the top down, or half way from the Jemez Falls campground. You enter the old access road to the pumice mine and follow the singletrack across the top to the north side. From here it becomes fast and wide singletrack for a mile, then crosses over onto the narrow singletrack on the right for the descent down to the middle parking area on highway 4 at the second crossing of the East Fork of the Jemez River.

Stay to the right at all trail forks for the best ride to the falls. When you cross Hwy 4 the trail resumes on the opposite side and becomes more technical as it descends to the river. There is a new bridge across the river as of 2014. After this you climb up to the parking lot for Jemez Falls, and the trail resumes on the other side of the parking lot. There are bathrooms here.

Once on the other side the trail has a short steep climb, then begins descending. The trail will become a black diamond-expert only ride from this point down to Battleship Rock picnic area on Highway 4. About half way down this section you'll come to the Macaulay warm springs. Overall, this is a nice and challenging ride that covers several climate zones on the way down.

This trail is often ridden downhill with a shuttle. However, it is quite practical to ride as an up-and-back from Battleship Rock. Parts will need to be hiked, but it is a great opportunity to scope out the tough sections that will be ridden on the way back down.

**Fish Hatchery Trail** An easy doubletrack along the valley bottom to a small lake about a mile up. The flat area on the east is the old ruins of the Lazy Ray Ranch. There is a small waterfall just up from the flat area that is worth a look. The trail continues another 4 miles up the canyon as a singletrack and intersects FR 144 at the top. From here you can climb the road to the left and come back down Calaveras Canyon to the fish hatchery, or go right on FR 144 to the trails up top and make a long loop back to Fenton Lake via Barley Canyon.

**Geothermal Trail** This singletrack was created by motorcycles, as many in the Jemez are. It is fun but can have some steep sections that are short and hard. Overall it's a good ride that follows the ridgeline at over 9000' up to the entrance to the Valle San Antonio. The views are great along most of the trail, and you can connect to several other trails for a bigger loop.

**Thompson Ridge Trail** A mix of faint doubletrack and singletrack, and winds through meadows and forest on the way to the top of the canyon. At the north end of the trail you'll cross the West fork of the Jemez River before joining the San Antonio Canyon Trail.

**Las Conchas Peak Trail** This trail starts on the north side of the Peralta Canyon Pass and climb steadily up to the top of Las Conchas Peak. It is motorcycle created singletrack, so it can be rough in spots, but the views are great. Once on top of Las Conchas, the trail continues along a fence before reaching a cattle guard on the ridgeline. Cross the cattle guard and descend down the trail on the west side of the ridge to the upper valley and Keddy Lake.

**Los Griegos Pass Trail** This trail is an old forest road that is now a singletrack. It begins on the old road to Keddy Lake and climbs steadily up to the pass between Cerro Pelado lookout and Los Griegos peak. Once you summit the pass, the descent is steeper and lush on the west side as it descends to the Cerro Pelado road. There are great views of the Valle Caldera from the top.

**Thompson Ridge Trail** This trail starts about a mile up FR 106 on the right side just past the fork in the road. You can park down by Highway 4 at the start of FR106 to make a loop ride using the San Antonio Trail as a return. It's a mix of faint doubletrack and singletrack, and winds through meadows and forest on the way to the top of the canyon. At the north end of the trail you'll cross the West fork of the Jemez River before joining the San Antonio Canyon Trail.

**Los Conchas – Las Griegos Traverse Loop**

This trail loop is composed of several other trail segments to form a 22 mile loop. This trail begins as singletrack at a parking area on Highway 4 just after the Valle Grande. You climb up a meadow next to a stream for the first mile and then the trail gets rough because of the Las Conchas fire. The singletrack continues up to the top of Las Conchas peak and crosses the road at a cattle guard. From there it drops down into a valley by a small lake on a rough doubletrack. The trail then climbs up the opposite side on a doubletrack that becomes singletrack again to the top of Los Griegos peak. From here, the singletrack drops down the other side of Los Griegos by another small creek until it joins the Cerro Pelado lookout tower road for 50' or so. The trail continues as a doubletrack from here to Forest Road 10 where it ends by a cattle guard. Continue on FR 269 to the west along the mesa rim, then drop down to the right along the tent rocks on a singletrack. Cross the creek at the bottom and climb a short way until the trail joins into the Jemez Falls Trail. From here go right to the east and cross Hwy 4, then continue until the next highway crossing at east fork. Follow the highway around the cliff to the fishing access and join the trail to the north along the river. After a mile the trail climbs up to the right and across a meadow, then drops back to the highway where you started.

**Valles Caldera National Preserve**

**Backcountry Access**

Located on the Valles Caldera National Preserve, this is an easy forest road of gravel with much of the road suitable for passenger cars (though you'd need a backcountry permit from the visitor center for vehicles, but not for bikes). You can use this road to make big loops both within and outside the preserve or to access some of the trails and camping areas within the preserve.

There is a great view of the Valle Grande and sometimes elk can be seen in the valley. North of Valle Grande, the road winds in the grassy valleys among several peaks to the north side of the Preserve. West of Valle Grande, the road passes through forested areas and is generally more hilly.

**Redondo-Jemez Falls**

Mostly a rough dirt road that connects Redondo Campground to Jemez Falls. The last mile is singletrack where it intersects TR 137. From here one can access the East Fork and the trails that come off it. Not a bad trail to teach a beginner on, as it has easy access on both ends from the highway.

**Valles Grand View Trail**

You'll have an intermittent but commanding view of the Valle Grande through the tree trunks as you pass through a Douglas fir forest. It makes a good loop with Backcountry Access Road from the visitor center. This is a little-used doubletrack that is already becoming a singletrack in places and is on the way there along the rest of the route. The initial climb is a little difficult, especially considering the overall altitude, but after that, it's a gentle descent before you plunge down to the valley level. The trail is suffering from the effects of a forest fire in 2013. Although the NPS has cleared a lot of fallen trees, new ones seem to have fallen and there are a number of dead trees yet to fall. Expect to find a number of fallen trees for the foreseeable future. Also, there are a couple creek crossings that have been washed out that will have to be hiked.