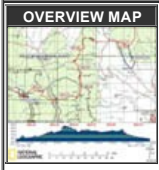



G.E.T. Guidebook

Segment 26: Dolan Peak 19.3 miles

Segment Length	Segment Status	Season
19.3 mi.	finalized & accessible	spring, summer, fall
Resources		
		Additional maps: Gila National Forest (USFS) Land management agencies: Gila NF Black Range Ranger District
G.E.T. Topo Maps 67-69 Town Guide: Winston Water Chart Image Gallery: Album 7		

Beginning access point

NM 59 at CDT (Trail 74). 5 miles north of Truth or Consequences NM take exit 83 off Interstate 25 onto paved NM 181 North, then turn left onto paved NM 52 (west). In ~31 mi. from I-25, reach community of [Winston](#) (last gas station). Continue ~10 more mi. and turn left onto paved NM 59. Follow ~13 miles to signed crossing of Continental Divide. Continue 0.5 mi. to CDT trailhead and parking.

Ending access point

FR 913 at Trail 60. 5 miles north of Truth or Consequences NM take exit 83 off Interstate 25 onto paved NM 181 North, then turn left onto paved NM 52 (west). In ~31 mi. from I-25, reach community of [Winston](#) (last gas station). In ~10 more mi. pass junction with NM 59, remaining on NM 52 which becomes a graded dirt road. In ~4 mi. turn left (west) onto lesser dirt road signed for National Forest access. High-clearance 4WD recommended beyond this point. In ~2 more miles turn right at a junction, following road out of Silver Creek wash up to mesa, reaching Gila NF boundary in ~3 miles. Trailhead access is approx. 5 road miles beyond this point in Duck Canyon, south of waypoint 27010 as indicated on topo mapset. To navigate confusing road network, GPS (esp. with satellite imagery) recommended. Contact USFS for current road conditions and status of private inholdings en route. (Please note: No vehicle access to trailhead from Dusty area due to locked gates.)

PLEASE NOTE: THIS CHAPTER REMAINS UNFINISHED. SEGMENT OVERVIEW AND ROUTE DETAILS INFO BELOW ARE IN DRAFT FORM AND HIGHLIGHT ONLY THE ESSENTIALS NEEDED FOR NAVIGATING THIS SEGMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TOPO MAP SET.

SEGMENT OVERVIEW

The GET's 40+ mile tour of the Continental Divide Trail across the Black Range reaches its conclusion in this segment, as the two routes part ways, bound for different destinations. The CDT nearly reaches the northern limit of the Black Range here and, running out of both mountain and Forest Service land, is soon forced westward where it remains with an increasingly arid Divide - BLM country - skirting the southern bounds of the vast Plains of San Agustin. Instead, the GET ventures easterly out of the Black Range, journeying by and by toward more well-watered country along Alamosa Creek and the San Mateo Mountains ahead along our route. That initial descent from the Continental Divide serves to conclude this segment; it also represents one of the more sustained descents in a number of miles (or rather, sustained climbs, more to the point for westbound hikers in search of the Divide). Otherwise, this segment is a mostly mellow walk, on par with the latter portion of Segment 24.

Eastbound hikers, trending north of late, will find more good tread along the CDT in this segment contouring at or near the physical Divide, more peek-a-boo far-flung views through the ponderosa pines, more remote walking and solitude, and yes... more potential drinking water concerns as well. Adobe Spring - 11 miles in from the trailhead, and upwards of a half mile off-route - is a fine source in a bedrock drainage but is not reliable in drier times. It's certainly a better option than Dry Time Tank farther along, which wasn't named for its resiliency so much as its Achilles' heel: it sometimes goes dry*. And as a former stock impoundment of sorts, now watering more elk than cows, it's typically quite silty whenever it does happen to be wet. (*The author, hiking in the fall, has actually never seen either of these two sources dry, but a trio of reports from spring '09 indicated no water at either location by late April, so perhaps summer rains are more beneficial than melting snowpack in this area.) The good news for thirsty hikers is that a solar well feeding a large metal tank is located just beyond segment's end. (This is in addition to several likely developed sources ahead in Segment 27.) Westbounders: check the weather. If it's been dry for some time, consider camping within reach of one of Segment 27's sources, then tanking up; it's a long uphill push to the Divide and the walking may well prove droughty up there.

ROUTE DETAILS

From the large CDT trailhead half a mile west of the physical Divide along NM 59, walk north across the highway to find a continuation of CDT singletrack, which heads leisurely across a ponderosa-pine-dotted meadow. The trail then bends east, winding gently up along a shady north-facing slope, then leveling out as it crests the broad Divide. Singletrack ends at a junction with a 2-track road at **0.7** (waypoint 26020), onto which the CDT route turns left (northeast). (*Westbounders, following the 2-track, look carefully for a pair of small cairns flanking the trail where singletrack discretely diverges right off of the road. If you reach a car camping spot at right along the 2-track, you missed the turnout.*) At the Divide, a dirt road forms a loop on the north side of the highway.

The tree-blazed CDT continues northeast via 2-track initially. Within a half mile watch for where trail tread (more like a wide swath) splits from the 2-track at left, possibly not well marked or marked with flagging tape. The trail passes through an open area, burned of late. Before long the trail becomes better defined as it exits the burn. After dipping to cross a little flat at **1.7**, where a 2-track road may be visible heading south, the trail - itself somewhat wide at times - resumes a gradual northeast ascent along the broad forested ridge. The trail meets a fence corner at **2.7**, passing through a gate here. Then at **3.3** it meets another gate in a north-south oriented fence, and crosses it where this fence meets a corner, passing through both fences via gates.

Beyond yet another gate (waypoint 26060) the trail descends along the ridge, then runs near a little drainage for a short distance, leveling out here. Surprisingly this drainage sometimes holds **pools of water** for several weeks following a good rain. By all means plan to scout around (in the vicinity of waypoint 26065), but don't depend on this source in advance; should you find water you'll be that much better off in the event that Adobe Spring (MP 11.1) is dry. (*Westbounders approach the drainage after passing through a metal gate near 4.0.*)

Concluding the drainage scouting and back on trail, now pass through a green metal gate at **4.0** (waypoint 26068). Another one is at **5.2**, and a wire gate at **6.6**. Indeed, the north-south fenceline continues to be a frequent companion for the remaining at-Divide tour. The trail, which occasionally joins and leaves various 2-track roads as they come in and head away from the fence corridor, at intervals crosses this fence back and forth via gates, and never strays far from it. The CDT often runs along the Divide proper, ill-defined though the physical Divide here sometimes is. Other times, as at Dolan Peak and its northern cousin, the trail skirts an otherwise unnecessary climb via contouring tread. Following the trail - marked with i-blazes and metal markers on trees - through its various changes is not difficult.

As the trail descends northeast from point 8215 plan to drop into the next drainage, which the trail skirts the head of (**11.1**; waypoint 26100 or thereabouts), and detour west cross-country in search of **Adobe Spring**. The spring is located near the intersection with the next main drainage to the north; if no pools are noted in the bedrocky drainage just by the junction, head down-canyon a bit farther in search of any wet spots or flow (but probably none beyond a 10-foot pour-off you'll eventually encounter). To return to the CDT/GET, you can cut off a half mile of the main route, shortening the detour, by walking up the other drainage, then leaving it within a few tenths of a mile, x-c north to a paralleling 4WD road. Follow the road east to find the trail at our familiar fenceline atop the Divide. *(Westbounders, to visit Adobe Spring keep right (west) on the 4WD road where the CDT continues south as singletrack by the fenceline at 11.7. As the drainage just south draws nearer to the road, head x-c into it and continue west to the junction with the next drainage south. Look for pools here or below, then return to the Divide via the other drainage.)*

The trail is mostly on 4WD road north to **12.7**. Here pass through a swinging metal gate by a powerline swath to find the continuation of trail tread, which parallels the 4WD on the east side of the fence, sometimes closely. Tread is occasionally vague or non-existent to **14.7**, but i-blazes, metal markers, and cairns are never far away for guidance. The trail runs well away from the 4WD when ascending the flanks of point 8365, where a careful eye is sometimes needed to spot trail markers. At length it descends to meet another 4WD/2-track (mapped "Trail 59"), with a CDT sign here (**14.7**). Continue across the road to find resumption of tread. **Dry Time Tank** (waypoint 26130) is just north along the east side of the 2-track, a smallish earthen impoundment with shallow murky water in the best of times (no cows noted). Good, bad, or ugly, this is the only potential source in this area, as the "former location" of Dry Time Tank impoundment as mapped must have been washed out by flooding a number of years ago. (The drainage heading south, via Trail 59, has also been verified dry.) Camping is possible in the vicinity.

The vague-ish trail continues east in wide open forest, but occasional cairns guide the way. Ascending a bit, the trail bends briefly south to begin a short section of switchbacks up a steeper slope, with better tread. The switchbacks terminate at another wire fenceline, where the CDT / GET turns left (east) along its swath, ascending the fall line gradient to the top of the rise. Here (**15.4**, waypoint 26140) a prominent cairn marks the point of eastbound hikers' departure from the CDT; the CDT turns left (north) while we continue east with the fenceline corridor, which is known here as Trail 60, though is unsigned throughout. *(Westbounders, from the cairned junction with the CDT at 15.4, continue west with the fenceline swath downhill and look for trail tread soon departing at right, where the CDT / GET begins a switchbacking descent toward Dry Time Tank environs.)*

Trail 60 is often virtually treadless, but easy going enough, as it follows the north side of the fenceline eastbound to a saddle then over another rise. Stay north of the fence, ignoring any openings in it, until you reach the next full-fledged saddle, at around **16.6**. Here the fenceline is offset to the left with an open gate at the jog; keep straight, such that the fenceline is now on your left as you follow its south side. *(Westbounders, continue straight at the fenceline jog at 16.6, such that the fenceline is now on your left instead of your right. Keep to the same side all the way to the CDT junction.)*

Climb to the south shoulder of 8800' Wahoo Peak at around **16.9**, ignoring an opening in the fence. Still the fence remains on your left as the trail now descends eastbound in earnest with only brief reprieves in the 15-20% gradient. *(Westbounders pause to catch their breath, and to take in the expansive views through the open forest, back toward the Apache Kid and Withington wilderness areas.)* This portion of Trail 60 was rebuilt in 2011, but only to make it more evident here and not, unfortunately, any less steep. The vegetation is predominantly pinyon-juniper by the time the fenceline-hugging trail reaches a flattish area along the ridge near **18.6** (waypoint 26160). **Do not continue with the fenceline beyond here.** Instead, follow the trail as it bears right (south-southeast) away from it, toward a prominent knoll along the ridge.

Trail 60 now countours along the north side of the prominent knoll on another section of 2011-constructed tread, well-designed in this case and all-but-non-existent prior to that time. Some interesting rock outcrops at left, where the trail heads over a little outlying ridge, frame views of Black Range foothills to the north, inviting pause. The trail rounds the knoll clockwise to another saddle, this one between our knoll and a lesser one immediately east. Segment 26 terminates here at the saddle (**19.3**, waypoint 27010, elev. 7340'). Segment 27 starts north along the adjacent fenceline swath, which is not a continuation of Trail 60. *(Trail 60 instead continues south, with occasional cairns, following near the fenceline and becoming more of an old road or swath before ending by an ad hoc parking area along a feeder road of FR 913. A **solar well and tank**, and adjacent stock pond, are located nearby this "trailhead" - refer to the topo mapset, water chart, and the Segment 27 guidebook chapter for more info.)*