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j **THINGS TO TAKE ALONG:**

Even on short hikes a canteen of potable water makes the outing more fun. There are many high energy foods on the market. They are generally packed in small light weight containers, and consist of dried fruit, nuts and seeds. High carbohydrate food is best. These items, while not lifesavers can make hiking more fun.

HIKERS PACK CHECKLIST:

Spare socks
Rain gear
Waterproof matches
Water
First Aid Kit
Food (high energy type)
Whistle (for emergency use only)
Lip balm
Sun screen
Space blanket
Tent or other shelter
Good clothing and shoes that support ankles
Map and compass
Flashlight
Sun^glasses

For additional information on backpacking the book "The Sierra Club to Backpacking" has excellent information. Also sponsored by the Sierra Club is "Walk Softly in the Wilderness" by John Hart, a backpackers guide.

Always take enough supplies on hikes, even short ones, to enable you to get through at lease one night if necessary.

ALWAYS BIKE WITH SOMEONE ELSE

ABOVE ALL: TELL SOMEONE WHERE YOU ARE GONG AND GO THERE!!

Wilderness and Visitor maps are available at Forest Service offices for \$5.00 and \$4.00 respectively. it is recommended that EVERYONE have a map for the safety and information they contain.

Need more information? Call the Magdalena Ranger District at (505) 854-2281.

OPPORTUNITY
GUIDE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
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FOREST SERVICE
CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST
MAGDALENA RANGER DISTRICT

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT HIKING

Magdalena Mountains

The Magdalena Mountains are a small mountain range approximately 18 miles long, just west of Socorro above the Rio Grande Valley. The National Forest portion of this range encompasses nearly 92,000 acres. These mountains rise from 6,000 feet on the surrounding plains, to over 10,700 feet at South Baldy Peak. The ridge between South and North Baldy is the most dominate feature of the range.

The northern portion of these mountains was a major mineral producing area in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Many small prospects and mines dot the landscape. Many old cabins and other structures can be found by hikers.

In 1980, Public Law 96-550 established Langmuir Research Site in the Magdalena Mountains. Congress found the mountains uniquely suited for atmospheric and astronomical research which has been conducted at Langmuir Laboratory near South Baldy since the mid 1960's. The Act designated a 31,000 acre portion of the mountain as essentially roadless, but not wilderness. Ovdr half of the trails are in this area.

The Magdalena Mountains contain 62.6 miles of trail. For the most part, due to lack of water and loop trails, these trails are best suited for day hiking.

As per PL 96-550 and the Forest Land Management Plan, Trails #8, #14, #17, #19, #21, #22, #70, and #93 are closed to all motorized travel.

FIRES

Backpack stoves are highly recommended for all cooking in the back country. Open fires, of dead wood, are allowed but extreme care should be followed when using one. Select a place that is safe, preferably in an existing fire ring. Clear a small circle to bare dirt, being sure to remove all burnable material. Keep your fire small. Build the fire on level ground away from steep slopes, rotten logs, stumps, dry grass, and litter. **DO NOT BUILD ANY FIRE ON A WINDY DAY. DO NOT** leave a fire unattended at ANY time. To do so violates State and Federal laws. Let the fire burn down, separate the embers, mix and stir the coals with dirt and water. Make certain the fire is out by feeling it with your hands. **NEVER** bury hot coals.

SAFETY

It is important to be in good health before starting to hike long distances.

High elevation trails are demanding and will quickly aggravate any weakness.

STAY ON THE TRAILS AND DO NOT TAKE SHORTCUTS WHERE NO TRAILS EXIST. Do not roll rocks. Many of the trails contain switchbacks, and other hikers might be on the trail below.

TREE CUTTING

No live trees may be cut. The exception is in designated "permit" areas which require a permit from the District Ranger. Removal of any plants requires a permit.

FOOD

Food attracts wildlife. Food should be stored in a place inaccessible to animals, especially at night when you are sleeping. **DO NOT** feed wildlife. Birds and other animals, when fed, will come to depend on this source of food. When it is removed, they may well starve, not having learned to forage for themselves.

TRASH

All trash **MUST** be packed out. It is unsightly and poses a threat to wildlife. Trash also attracts wildlife, sometimes the ones that you would not invite! **DO NOT BURY TRASH.** Wildlife 'dig it up.

WATER

Make sure you take plenty of water. Water is available on some trails, but do not depend on these sources. Water sources dry up depending on past precipitation and many sources are contaminated by the Protozoan Giardia. **ALWAYS** treat mountain water with tablets prescribed for Giardia or use a water filter specially made for this very small protozoan.

PRECAUTIONS

Proper and adequate clothing and especially footwear are essential when hiking in the mountains. Blisters on the feet can become infected, and sprains, as well as broken limbs can result from improper footwear. Sudden cold winds rushing up the high canyons can quickly reduce body temperature and cause Hypothermia in a short time. Always carry a sweater or jacket in the event of winds or rain. It is better to take them and not need them, than to need them and not have them. High Altitude sickness is little known, but highly dangerous. Symptoms are headache, nausea, aching joints and in advanced cases spitting up of pink sputum. If these symptoms occur it is imperative to move down the mountain to lower elevations as quickly as possible. High altitude sickness can and does kill! Remember the hazards of lightning by staying off ridges and out from under tall trees during storms_ Poison ivy and oak is present in varying quantities.

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 MAGDALENA RANGER DISTRICT
Trail #8 - North Baldy Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena go 11 miles east on U.S. 60 to Forest Road 235. From here the trail head is 1.2 miles south on FR 235. Beyond Water Canyon Campground the road is somewhat rough, requiring a high clearance vehicle or slow, careful driving of a sedan. There is space for five cars at the trail head. The elevation at this location is 10,320 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: From Magdalena take the street on the west side of the District Office south for 2 miles. Then take the east fork to the church at the old town of Kelly. Just south of the church take the first left fork. This road is private and at times has a locked gate. For further information contact the Magdalena Ranger Office. This road then climbs quite steeply to the main ridge of the mountain, and all forks leading south, and/or uphill, should be taken. This is a rough, steep, and narrow road requiring private landowner authorization and a 4-wheel drive. The trail head is located on the north side of North Baldy and is well signed. There is space for ten vehicles at the trail head. The elevation is 9,420 feet.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This trail follows the main ridge of the Magdalena Mountains between South Baldy and North Baldy Peaks. Views of distant peaks such as Sierra Blanca, Mt. Taylor, the Sandias, Manzano, and Jemez Mountains are plentiful along the route. There are limited places to camp, and no water is available. The trail leaves Forest Road 235 on the east slope of South Baldy Peak. The first .1 mile lacks tread, and cairns must be followed to a small saddle. This is one of the steepest climbs on the trail. It then contours on the north side of South Baldy through a dense stand of mixed conifer for almost .5 mile. The main ridge is reached in a small clearing. From here the trail turns north on the west side of the ridge, passing through some aspen stands. After another .4 mile, the trail enters a clearing and meets the Copper Canyon trail. It continues another .9 mile and enters a small clearing to a road crossing. At this point the trail continues on the east side of the main ridge just north of the road. After .8 mile the trail enters a large grassy area where Trails 25 and 26 junction. An area suitable for camping is located near the junction of Trails 8 and 25. Past this junction the trail becomes rougher and continues on the west side of the ridge. About 1.5 mile past the Trail #8 and #25 junction, the trail climbs onto a sloping bench with some rather scenic gray-white rock formations. From here the trail contours the south side of North Baldy Peak through a dense stand of oak brush and junctions the North Baldy jeep road. Follow the old jeep road north about 0.7 mile to the trail head. This trail is closed to motorized vehicle travel.

Trail #8 - North Brady Trail (Con't)

LENGTH 5.8 Miles or 9.3 Km.

USE: Moderate

DIFFICULTY: This trail is given a moderate difficulty, even though it is nearly level due to the long stretches of semi-primitive tread. The round trip distance of 10.2 miles makes this a long one-day hike.

USGS MAP (S): Magdalena SW and South Baldy

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to Early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 2194



Need more information? Call the Magdalena Ranger District at (505) 854-2281

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Trail #10 - Copper Canyon Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena take U.S. 60 east 11 miles to Forest Road 235. Drive 4.5 miles to the entrance of Water Canyon Campground and turn west on Forest Road 406. Follow this road 1.25 mile to a parking area near a sign marked "Copper Canyon". Park here and walk on the road to a gate. The trail starts immediately to the south of the gate and is marked by a sign. Parking for five cars is available. FR-406 is a Level 2 road and only high clearance vehicles are recommended. The elevation at this area is 7,120 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: Trail #8 at 10,200 feet elevation.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This trail begins where Forest Road 406 enters a parcel of private land in Copper Canyon". After passing house, the trail continues on an old roadbed built about 80 years ago for wagons. The canyon becomes narrower about .75 mile above the house; the roadbed disappears; and a trail tread becomes visible. Flowing water becomes more frequent, and cooler temperatures are evident traveling further up this canyon. The ruins of an old prospector's cabin are found at the 3.2 mile mark. Copper Canyon usually has a flow of water in the vicinity of the cabin, even in dry years. Due to this water flow, a variety of interesting trees such as walnut, boxelder, cottonwood, and alder grow in the bottom of the canyon. There are some places to camp in the canyon near where the water flows. The trail turns south and climbs continuously from here, with many switchbacks and a narrow tread. It stays in mixed conifer most of the way. Fine views of South Baldy Peak and Copper canyon are found in openings along the trail. The tread disappears a few hundred feet from the top upon entering a large grassy area where the junction with Trail #8 is found.

LENGTH: 4.3 Miles or 6.9 Km.

USE: Moderate

DIFHCULTY: The trail is given a "more difficult" rating because of the steep (30% grade) climb to the ridge above the old cabin.

USGS MAP(S): Magdalena SW and South Baldy

SEASON OF USE: Late spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 2194

Need more information? Call the Magdalena Ranger District at (505) 854-2281

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Trail #11 - South Baldy Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena, go 11 miles east on U.S. 60 to Forest Road 235. Go south on FR 235, 6.6 miles to the trail head, which is well signed. Beyond Water Canyon Campground, FR 235 is somewhat rough; but the trail head is located before the steep climb to South Baldy begins. A sedan can be driven to the trail head with care. Parking space for 4 vehicles is available. The elevation at this trail head is 7,520 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: One mile east of South Baldy Peak on FR 235 at an elevation of 9,920 feet.

ATTRactions AND CONSIDERATIONS: This trail begins in Water Canyon on FR 235 and ends on the same road higher in the Magdalena Mountains. It climbs a tributary of Water Canyon to a ridge between Water and Copper Canyons. The first half mile follows the canyon bottom, where the tread has been washed away in a few spots. The trail then begins to climb the ridge to the south, utilizing a few switchbacks, and then a long gradual pitch of almost .75 mile. It then crosses the head of two drainages and ends in a saddle between Copper and Sawmill Canyons. Approximately .25 mile from the top, the trail crosses an area where a 1977 wildfire burned 25 acres. When winter snow closes FR 235, this trail can serve as a good route to South Baldy.

LENGTH: 2.9 Miles or 4.7 Km.

USE: Moderate

DIFFICULTY: The trail was given a "more difficult" rating due to the sustained climb of 15%, but due to its short length it is no as difficult as many other trails of this rating.

USGS MAP(S): Magdalena SW and South Baldy

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 2/94

Need more information? Call the Magdalena Ranger District at (505) 854-2281

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Trail #12 - Dead Horse Trail

There are no vehicle trail heads on this trail. It can be reached in the following locations: on Trail #13, 1.6 mile from its northern trail head; on Trail #14, .3 mile from the end of Forest Road 38; and on Trail #15, 1.7 and 2.1 miles from the end of FR 37. The elevation at Trail #12 on Water Canyon Mesa is 8,040 feet.

TRAIL, ENDING: Trail #14 in Sixrnil Canyon at an elevation of 6,960 feet.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This trail could begin in four locations, but for purposes of discussion the beginning will be considered the junction of Trail #12 and #13. This junction is located where Trail #13 reaches the top of a ridge of Water Canyon Mesa. It makes several switchbacks on the west side of a side drainage to South Canyon before crossing the drainage and following its east side down to the South Canyon. The southern segment of this trail begins .4 mile down Trail #15 from the northern segment. It begins by making a long gradual switchback, and then contours around a side drainage of South Canyon to a broad saddle. On this portion of the route, it passes through a mixture of pinyon juniper and ponderosa pine. Passing south through the saddle onto more southerly-facing slopes, fewer ponderosa pines are encountered. The trail becomes primitive (tread not evident) and blazes and cairns must be used to follow the route. The trail enters a side drainage of Sixmile Canyon for the last 1.2 mile, and it is quite rough. Trail #14 is finally joined at the mouth of this side canyon in a large, flat, grassy, and treeless area.

LENGTH: .8 Mile or 1.3 Km. For northern segment, 1.9 Mile or 3.1 Km. For the southern segment.

USE: Low

DIFFICULTY: The northern segment averages 17% grades, with portions exceeding 50%. Tread is nonexistent. The southern segment is not quite as steep. These trails are rated as more difficult.

USGS MAP(S): Magdalena SE and Molino Peak

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 2/94

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Trail #13 - Mesa Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING AND ENDING: Go 11 miles east of Magdalena on U.S. 60 to the signed junction with FR 235. Go 4.5 miles to Water Canyon Campground and the end of the pavement. Cross the creek, (dry except during spring snow melt and seasonal rains) and follow the gravel road .5 mile to the gravel parking area with handicap accessible vault toilet. There is parking space for several vehicles and a limited number of vehicles with trailers. This parking lot is NOT designated for overnight camping with motor homes, trailers, or tents.

The trail head is located across the road from the parking lot and is signed both at the trail head and at the parking lot. The 4.75 miles long trail begins the ascent of Water Canyon Mesa from an elevation of 6,800 feet at the trail head, traverses the east and west rims on the top of the mesa at an elevation of 8,200 feet, and then retraces 2.5 miles of its original route back to the trail head.

ROS CLASS: Roaded Natural, Semi-Primitive Motorized and Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: From the trail head the trail begins a moderate ascent, (blazed trees, a prominent tread, and intermittent T-13 signs mark this part of the trail) to a level bench above FR 235. The trail follows the bench in a southerly direction crossing several drainages before it intersects an old trail from the west. The old trail is closed and blocked with debris. Trail - 13 turns east at this signed junction and begins a moderate ascent to another level bench. Walking is easy for approximately 1.25 mile on the bench then the trail enters a rock arroyo and begins a long moderate ascent as it winds in and out of the arroyo.

Near the upper end of the arroyo the trail makes a sharp left turn and begins a short but steep ascent with switchbacks. The tread surface consists of loose small rock fragments in this area and caution should be used when descending this part of the trail when carrying a heavy pack.

The ascent is moderate after the last switchback and continues on to a ridge where T-12, (route into South and Six Mile Canyons) joins T-13. This is a signed junction and offers a view into South Canyon. T-13 continues its moderate ascent along the contour of the ridge beyond the junction until it reaches a saddle where the trail makes a sharp right turn and begins a gentle descent. From this point to Water Canyon Mesa, (.75 mile) the trail neither loses nor gains significant elevation. Blazed trees and occasional T- L3 signs mark the trail from the T-12 junction to Water Canyon Mesa.

Trail 413 - **Mesa Trail** (Con't)

On Water Canyon Mesa a large, mostly dead, juniper tree and two T-13 signs spaced a few feet apart mark the point where the two legs of the T-13 loop merge. The loop part of the trail is approximately 2.25 mile long.

The east side of the loop traverses the east rim of the mesa. A signed scenic viewpoint spurtrail is located .33 mile from the loop junction. From T-13 to the rim overlook the distance is less than .25 mile. The view is east toward Socorro, NM and beyond to the Manzano Mtns.

The west side of the loop traverses along the west rim of the mesa and a second scenic viewpoint is located adjacent to the trail approximately .75 mile from the loop junction. The view is northwest to Water Canyon, the Ladrone Mountains and Mt. Taylor.

Be alert to blaze marks on trees when hiking the loop trail. The tread is almost nonexistent in places, however, cairns also mark part of the trail between loop junction and the east viewpoint. Part of the trail between loop junction and the west viewpoint has been cut through a dense pinyon juniper stand. A few cairns are also located there, however, it is easy to lose the route on this part of the trail.

VEGETATION: Vegetation along the lower part of the trail consists primarily of ponderosa pine mixed with pinyon juniper, and gray oak. Along the remainder of the trail in addition to the vegetation types previously listed the following can also be seen at intermittent locations, douglas fir, white fir, gambel oak, and mountain mahogany.

LENGTH: 4.75 MILES

DIFFICULTY: Moderate - the climb to the mesa is an 11% grade in the switchbacks.

USGS MAP(S): Magdalena SW and Magdalena SE

SEASON OF USE - Year long - depending on snowpack

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 3/3/98

Need more information? Call the Magdalena Ranger District at (505) 854-2281

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Trail #14 - Sixmile Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena go 11 miles east on U.S. 60 to Forest Road 235. Go south on FR 235 10.25 miles to the trail head, which is well signed. Beyond Water Canyon Campground, FR 235 is somewhat rough, requiring a high clearance vehicle or slow, careful driving of a sedan. Parking space for three vehicles is available at the trail head which is at 9,560 foot elevation.

TRAIL ENDING: RECOMMENDED FOR HIGH CLEARANCE VEHICLES ONLY. From Magdalena, go 18 miles east on U.S. 60 to the bottom of a long down grade off the highway, Sedillo Hill. On the west, or right side, of the highway, look for a chain link gate and paved turn-in with an FR 38 sign. Follow this road approximately 3 miles to the trail head. The road is very rough and the last half mile or so is extremely rocky. This rock portion is almost impassable, and leaving vehicles almost .5 mile from the end is probably a good idea. Parking for five vehicles is available (if you make it)!

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This trail begins on Forest Road 235 about 2 miles east of South Baldy Peak. It begins with a short, steep climb from the road before contouring on the north slopes of Timber Peak. These slopes are quite steep on either side of the trail, which passes through alternating clearings, stands of aspen, and stands of mixed conifer. One mile from the trail head, the trail enters a clearing and turns south to begin a steep descent into Sixmile Canyon. About 1.5 mile from the trail head, the trail crosses a water flow which is fairly dependable, and alternately surfaces and goes underground for the next .4 mile or so. After crossing the water the trail loses any sign of tread for the remainder of the route. After crossing Trail #17, the pinyon juniper becomes more plentiful and pine trees more scarce progressing down the canyon. Located near the junction of Trails #14 and #17 are the ruins of three old cabins which were probably built by prospectors near the turn of the century. The canyon becomes more narrow *further* down. Many scenic rock formations form the canyon walls along the way. About .25 mile from the end, the junction of Trail #12 is encountered in a very wide portion of the canyon. The last few hundred feet enters a narrow box canyon which *opens* up again where the road ends. A number of camp sites are located on the lower 3.5 miles, with a dependable spring located .5 mile above the Trail #17 and Trail #14 junction on Trail #14. This trail is closed to motorized vehicle travel.

Trail 1415 - Sixmile Trail (Con't)

LENGTH: 5.5 Miles or 8.9 Km.

USE: Low

DIFFICULTY: The trail is given a most difficult rating due to the steep climb on the upper part (28% for 1.1 mile).

USGS MAP(S): South Baldy and Molino Peak

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 2/94

Need more information? Call the Magdalena Ranger District at (505) 854-2281.

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Trail #1am - South Canyon Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena go 11 miles east on U.S. 60 to Forest Road 235 then go south 6.5 miles to the trail head, which is well signed. Beyond Water Canyon Campground, FR 235 is somewhat rough, but this trail head is located before the steep climb to South Baldy begins. A sedan can be driven to the trail head with care. There is space for 5 cars. The elevation at this area is 7,480 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: RECOMMENDED FOR HIGH CLEARANCE VEHICLES ONLY! From Magdalena go 15 miles east on U.S. 60 to Forest Road 37. Watch for a gate in the fence on the right or south side of the road, with a Forest Service "Primitive Road" sign. Follow this road approximately 3.5 miles to the end where the trail head is located. About 250 feet from the end of the road there is a steep, short downgrade into a rough drainage crossing which some vehicles may not be able to negotiate. If this is the case, park just north of this obstruction and walk the remainder of the road. There is parking space for 5 cars. The elevation at this area is 6,800 feet.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This trail begins by paralleling (down canyon) a portion of Water Canyon which often runs water. After several hundred yards, the trail turns right and follows a tributary up canyon. After a quarter mile the trail crosses the drainage and begins to climb. It utilizes a series of switchbacks to climb to a saddle on the ridge separating South Canyon from Water Canyon. This climb averages greater than 15%. After gaining the saddle, the trail makes a gradual descent into South Canyon. A flow of water can sometimes be found where the trail meets the canyon bottom. To this point the trail tread is in excellent shape; below this point the trail is almost nonexistent. A flood (nearly 5.5 inches of rain in 50 hours) destroyed most of the tread, removing many of the blazed trees, and planted a great deal of debris in the trail. The remainder of the trail follows the canyon bottom almost to its mouth. Vegetation changes from boxelder, walnut, and firs, to ponderosa pine, and eventually pinyon juniper in the last mile. No dependable water exists along this route.

LENGTH: 5.1 Miles or 8.2 Km

USE: Low

DIFFICULTY: The storm of 1980 washed out the lower 2.8 miles of the trail, making walkin^g quite rough in the absence of a tread surface. For this reason, this trail has been given a "most difficult" rating.

USGS IVIAP(S): Magdalena SW, Magdalena SE, South Baldy, and Molino Peak

SEASON OF USE: Almost all year depending on snow pack

Trail #15 - South Canyon Trail (Con't)

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open
DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 2/94

Need more information? Call the Magdalena Ranger District at (505) 854-2281.

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TRAIL #17 - Ryan Hill Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena go 11 miles east on U.S. 60 to Forest Road 235, then south for 7.75 miles to FR 235B. Continue south on FR 235B and go about .3 miles to a ridge. The road is closed by a locked gate. Park here and walk. The road beyond here is rough and narrow; and it is cut into the side of a cliff. Beyond Water Canyon Campground, FR 235 is rough and climbs steeply, but a sedan can be driven with care. FR 235B is rough and side sloped so a sedan is not advised here. There is space for 4 vehicles at the trail head. No parking space is available where FR 235 junctions with FR 235B. The elevation at the trail head is 8,240 feet.

TRAIL, ENDING: The trail ends in Caronita Canyon, which is reached by traveling west from Socorro, NM, on U.S. 60 about 7 miles to the Pound Ranch Road, County Road 85, turn south on 85 and travel about 10.5 miles to FR-233, turn northwest on 233 and go 0.5 mile to junction FR-244, take left fork on 244 and go up the drainage about 1.25 mile to a signed trail head near the end of the road. This trail head requires a high clearance vehicle and has parking for 5 vehicles. The elevation at the mouth of canyon is 6,500.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: The trail begins on a ridge between South and Water Canyons. It begins on an old road, which passes through an old mining operation, and a number of old cabin sites. It contours first on the north side of South Canyon, then crosses it, contouring the south side. Just before the old mine workings, the road splits, one fork going left and downhill, the other going right and uphill. Take the right fork and continue along the road. There are no signs at this junction.

The road continues through the middle of an old mine operation with several holes and ruins of a few structures next to the trail. The road ends, and a distinctive trail with tread and blazes begins. The trail climbs over a small ridge and into a tributary of South Canyon, passing by the ruins of an old cabin. Climb again from this canyon to gain a couple of ridge tops from which fine views of Buck Peak to the south can be seen.

Trail #17 - **Ryan Hill** Trail(Con't)

The trail then makes its descent into Sixmile Canyon, crosses a couple of small drainages in its upper portion, then meets Trail #14 at the 1.5 mile mark. This junction is well signed. From here the trail crosses a small ridge, climbs a short distance up a small drainage, and then begins to climb the ridge dividing Sixmile Canyon from Ryan Hill Canyon: The climb is rather steep in places, with a few switchbacks to ease the grade. After .2 mile in the canyon bottom, the trail passes *the ruins of a cabin* and a side drainage just ahead which should have running water. Notice many flat places to camp near the cabin. This is probably the best place in the canyon to camp, as flat places with water are rare in this canyon.

The trail in the canyon bottom is classified as semi-primitive and primitive, and it makes several crossings of the canyon on the way south. A mixture of vegetation is encountered along the canyon bottom. An Arizona Alder, *Alnus oblongifolia*, a National Champion Big Tree is found near Italian Spring. As the canyon widens, dries up, and loses elevation, the hardwoods give way to pinyon-juniper and gray oak. Occasional areas of water flow may be found from the cabin down to a point about .5 mile above Italian Canyon in most years. In dry years the only dependable water is at the cabin. Just below Ryan Hill Spring the canyon narrows again and then it leaves the Forest at a signed wiregate. About 0.2 mile below the Forest Boundary the trail turns east, you must watch carefully to find the blazes for this turn, and climbs steadily out of Ryan Hill Canyon through a low saddle to the trail head in upper Caronita Canyon and junction with FR-244. This trail is closed to motorized vehicle travel.

LENGTH: 7.9 Miles or 12.7 Km.

USE: Low

DIFFICULTY: More difficult

USGS MAP(S): South Baldy and Molino Peak

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE Information: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 2194

Need more information? Call the Magdalena Ranger District at (505) 854-2281.

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Trail #19 - West Fork Sawmill Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena go 11 miles east on U.S. 60 to Forest Road 235 then south about 8 miles past Water Canyon Campground, to the Langmuir Laboratory gate. From this point walk or drive if gate is open about 1.2 mile. Notice a road running west from the main road. This road, #235E, is somewhat rough, and persons driving a sedan may wish to park here. Persons driving *a high* clearance vehicle can drive this 0.5 mile to the signed trail head. FR 235 beyond Water Canyon Campground is somewhat rough, requiring a high clearance vehicle or slow careful driving of a sedan. There is space for 20 or more cars at the trail head. The elevation at this area is 10,480 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: From Socorro take Interstate 25 south about 24 miles to the San Marcial exit. No legal right of way exists through these private lands, and a private land gate is locked at Section 23 blocking access. Contact the Magdalena Ranger Office for further information. The elevation here is 6,840 feet.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This trail begins on FR 235E just northwest of Langmuir Laboratory. The trail leaves the road on the south, and begins its descent into Sawmill Canyon. The trail makes this descent via a number of switchbacks through both mixed conifer and ponderosa pine vegetation. The canyon bottom is reached at .9 mile, and shortly thereafter the junction to Trail 421 is found. About .3 miles past this junction, the tread disappears, and the flood damage becomes quite evident. Many drainage crossings and sections of boulder-hopping are encountered on the remainder of the route. Although the trail loses nearly 2,000 feet between here and the end, it barely seems noticeable in the bottom of the canyon. The canyon is quite narrow in several places, and there are interesting rock formation on both sides of the trail. The vegetation gradually changes from mixed conifer to pinyon juniper as one travels down canyon. The trail becomes an old *jeep* road at the junction of West and East Forks of Sawmill Canyon.

LENGTH: 7.2 Miles or 11.5 Km.

USE: Low

DIFFICULTY: Most difficult

USGS MAP(S): South Baldy

SEASON OF USE: Early Summer to late summer

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Higher elevations still snowed in

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 2194

Need more information? Call the Magdalena Ranger District at (505) 854-2281

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Trail #21 - Hardy Spring Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: On the west side of Magdalena, turn south on State Road 107. Drive 7.5 miles on Road 107 to Forest Road 234. This intersection is well signed for the Muleshoe Ranch. Drive about 825 miles on FR 234 to FR 47. A high clearance vehicle is recommended for traveling on FR 47, which ends about 0.5 mile past a large white water storage tank at Arrowhead Tank. Parking for five vehicles is available. An old unmaintained road continues across private land for 0.25 mile too Hardy Spring where the hiking trail begins by going up the north side of the drainage. The elevation at this area is 8,080 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: 9,000 feet elevation at Trail #19 in West Fork of Sawmill Canyon.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: After .5 mile, the trail crosses the canyon and climbs the ridge to the south, utilizing several switchbacks. Once on the ridge top, the trail climbs steeply again. In a little less than .25 mile it crosses under the power line which supplies power to Langmuir Laboratory located to the northeast. Be careful to watch where the trail picks up on the other side of the power line clearing, as the trail meets it at a shallow angle. There are views to the west of the San Mateo Mountains on this section of the trail. Due to the absence of ground water, the vegetation on this ridge consists of small, stunted ponderosa pines. Past the power line, the trail contours around the head of a drainage and meets Trail #22 on top of Hardy Ridge. This junction is well signed and is located at 1.1 mile. From here the trail descends into the West Fork of Sawmill Canyon and meets Trail #19. Tree cover along this trail consists of ponderosa pine, scattered Douglas and white firs, and occasional aspens.

This trail is closed to motorized vehicle travel.

LENGTH: 1.4 Mile or 2.3 Km.

USE: Low

DIFFICULTY: More difficult. The climb does not look steep, but it is greater than 15% and is steady with a few short, steep pitches.

USGS MAP(S): South Baldy

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open.

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 2/94

Need more information? Call the Magdalena Ranger District at (505) 854-2281

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MAGDALENA RANGER DISTRICT**Trail #22 - Hardy Ridge Trail**

TRAIL BEGINNING: There is no road access to this trail. The shortest distance from a road to the trail is via Trail #21, with 1.1 mile of travel required on the trail to reach the beginning of Trail #22. To reach Trail #21, drive 7.5 miles south on State Road 107 from U.S. 60 to Forest Road 234. Drive about 8.25 miles on *FR 234* to *FR 47*. A high clearance vehicle is recommended for traveling on *FR 47*, which ends at a dead-end sign. See Trail 21 description. The elevation at the beginning of Trail #22 on Hardy Ridge is 9,040 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: 8,360 Foot elevation on a side ridge of Hardy Ridge.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This trail follows the top of Hardy Ridge. Excellent views of the San Matao Mountains to the west and Sawmill Canyon and Timber Ridge to the east can be found all along this trail. Due to the undeveloped nature of the trail itself, and its remote location, the trail imparts quite a feeling of solitude. The trail begins in a gentle saddle on Hardy Ridge at the junction of Trail #21. It begins by climbing and then dropping off a couple of knobs on the ridge top. A saddle is reached at around .6 miles. Then the trail descends slightly to follow a gentle drainage on the south side of this saddle. Vegetation at this point consists of a mixture of ponderosa pine and fir trees. After climbing out of this drainage, the trail follows the top of the ridge nearly all the way to the end. Two helispots, built to bring firefighters into this rugged country, will be encountered along the way. At around 3.2 miles, the trail leaves the main ridge and descends onto a side ridge to the west, where the trail follows a fence line clearing. Blazes and cairns must be closely followed on this last .9 mile of trail. It ends somewhat arbitrarily on this side ridge amongst pinyon-juniper vegetation. There is no sign marking the end of this trail. There is no water available anywhere along the route.

This trail is closed to motorized vehicle travel.

LENGTH: 4.1 Miles or 6.6 Km.

USE: *Low*

DIFFICULTY: Although the elevation change on this trail is quite moderate, the trail is rated "more difficult" due to the lack of tread on the majority of the distance.

USGS MAP(S): South Baidy

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 2194

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Trail #26 - Mill Canyon Trail

TRAIL. BEGINNING: From Magdalena, take State Highway 107, which is located on the extreme western side of town, south for 7.5 miles. Turn left, or east, on Forest Road 234 at the Muleshoe Ranch sign and continue 1.6 mile to FR 45. Continue on FR 45 for 7.5 miles to a couple of old cabins at the trail head which is signed. The first part of the trail is an old road between the cabins. Water is usually flowing here. The road continues on the north side of Mill Canyon a short distance. FR 45 is rough and requires careful driving of a high clearance vehicle. It is not passable with a sedan. Parking for 5 vehicles is available at the trail head which is at an elevations of 8,720 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: Trail #8 on the main ridge of the Magdalena Mountains at an elevation of 9,760 feet.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This trail climbs up a small canyon on the west side of the Magdalena Mountains. Vegetation consists of fir, pine, and aspen. The route is not particularly scenic, and views to the west are limited by the trees. The trail remains in the bottom of the canyon for .75 mile before making one rather long switchback, climbing out of the canyon for .2 mile before meeting the ridge top and Trail O.

LENGTH: .9 Mile or 1.4 Km.

USE: Low

DIFFICULTY: More difficult. This rating results from its 19% overall grade and the lack of tread over much of the route.

USGS MAP(S): Magdalena SW

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 2/94

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MAGDALENA RANGER DISTRICT**Trail #70 - Timber Peak Trail**

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena, go 11 miles east on U.S. 60 to Forest Road 235. Go south on FR 235, 10.5 miles to the trail head, which is well signed. Beyond Water Canyon Campground, the road is somewhat rough, requiring a high clearance vehicle or slow careful driving of a sedan. There is parking for only one vehicle at the trail head. Five more cars can be parked up the road .3 mile at the trail head for Trail #93 and Trail 41 I.

TRAIL ENDING: 8,680 foot elevation in a saddle north of Italian Peak on Timber Ridge.

ATTRactions AND CONSIDERATIONS: This trail follows the highest ridge in the southern portion of the Magdalena Mountains and has some of the best views available in the mountain range. The Sacramento Mountains, Sierra Blanca, the Black Range, and the Jemez Mountains are some of the more distant vistas. The trail begins by climbing a couple of bare, grassy knobs, on which the trail is difficult to find, follow the rock cairns. The trail stays on the east, or left-hand side, of the ridge for about 500 feet, enters a small saddle, and then crosses over to the west, or right-hand, side of the ridge: From this point the trail becomes easier to follow. Be especially watchful for blazes and cairns, as an evident tread surface is not visible along most of the route. The trail now contours the western slopes of Timber Peak. After 1.75 mile, the trail enters a saddle with a large clearing where the tread is completely lost. Straight across the clearing and to *the* left blazes can be seen where the trail enters the trees again. If the grass is not too high, rock cairns can be seen all the way across the meadow. Beyond this point the trail is easier to follow, as it stays in the trees just to the east of the main ridge. South of the meadow almost a mile, the trail follows the main ridge top for a short distance' before crossing a large rock slide, where views to the west of Hardy Ridge and Sawmill Canyon are found. After the rock slide, the trail turns to the east briefly, and then descends into and crosses the head of a small drainage. The trail heads southwesterly across this drainage, and gains the main ridge top again and heads nearly due south. Ponderosa pine and pinyon juniper vegetation becomes more prominent southward along this ridge. After .3 miles the trail enters a large grassy meadow with a helispot. Where the trail across the treeless meadow it is not well marked, the trail enters the trees a little to the southeast or left of where it comes into the meadow. Beyond this helispot the trail ends after .3 mile by making a rather steep descent into a saddle just north of Italian Peak. The vegetation on *this* slope is mostly brush, with few trees available for blazes. As a result, the trail is difficult to find here. If the trail is lost, just head straight downhill to this saddle, where a trail sign marks the end of the route.

This trail is closed to motorized vehicle travel.

LENGTH: 5.2 Miles or 8.4 Km.

USE: Moderate

TRAIL #70 - Timber Peak Trail(Con't)

DIFFICULTY: Most difficult. The "most difficult" rating of this trail resulted from two factors. First, almost all of this trail has a very rough, primitive tread surface. Second, the elevation is almost constantly changing by utilizing many short, moderately steep climbs and descents. It is a very rough walk.

USGS MAP(S): South Baldy

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 2/94

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Trail #93 - East Fork Sawmill Trail

TRAIL BEGINNING: From Magdalena go 11 miles east on U.S. 60 to Forest Road 235. On FR 235 go 1.1 miles to the trail head, which is well signed. Beyond Water Canyon Campground, FR 235 is somewhat rough, requiring a high clearance vehicle or slow driving of a sedan. Parking for five cars is available. The elevation 1 mile east of South Baldy Peak on Forest Road 235 is 9,920 feet.

TRAIL ENDING: In west fork of Sawmill Canyon at an elevation of 7,440 feet.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: A perennial stream runs in the east fork of Sawmill Canyon which, due to its rarity, makes this hike quite unique in this part of New Mexico. In addition, the canyon bottom is vegetated with a thick stand of mixed conifer timber, making this a cool hike even on the hottest summer days. The trail begins at the head of the east fork of Sawmill Canyon, directly across from South Baldy Trail #11. It makes the descent into Sawmill Canyon by utilizing three or four long switchbacks. At the bottom of these switchbacks the trail crosses the canyon, which often has water flowing at this point. At 1.9 mile the trail passes a rock darn from which a pump and a small pipe supply the water to Langmuir Laboratory. The trail continues down the canyon, staying near the stream and crossing it several times. At the 4.3 mile mark the trail leaves the canyon bottom and climbs a small ridge separating the east and west forks of Sawmill Canyon. After leaving the canyon bottom, the vegetation changes to pinyon juniper and gray oak. After gaining the ridge top, the trail crosses a small meadow and then descends the west side of the ridge to meet Trail #19 in the West Fork Sawmill Canyon bottom. This descent is quite steep (70%), but is only a few hundred feet long.

This trail is closed to motorized vehicle travel.

LENGTH: 4.6 Miles or 7.4 Km

USE: Moderate

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

USGS MAP(S): South Baldy

SEASON OF USE: Late Spring to early Winter

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION: Open

DATE THIS INFORMATION UPDATED: 2/94

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MAGDALENA RANGER DISTRICT**LOOP TRIPS**

Very few loop trip possibilities exist in the Magdalena Mountains due to the one way nature of the trails. The following lists most of the possibilities. Please refer to the more detailed descriptions of these trails in the preceding pages for maps, season of use, and topographic information.

Trail #93 - Trail #19

There is a distance of about 2 miles of road between the trail heads of these trails. These road miles must be walked to make this loop, unless Langmuir Laboratory is open to the public, which is usually June 1 - Sept. 1. The west fork of Sawmill Canyon has no dependable water sources, and few places to camp. Persons planning an overnight trip should start on Trail #19 in order to be in the east fork for the night, where abundant water and a few camp sites exist.

LENGTH: 8.3 Miles or 13.4 Km. on the trail and 2 miles *or* 2.7 Km. on the road.

Trail #17 - Trail #14 - Trail #12 - Trail #15

This is a difficult day hike due to the elevation changes, rough conditions of Trail #15, and the final one-half mile of cross-country walking. After leaving a vehicle at the Trail #17 trail head, the above trails are walked in the order shown. Upon reaching a saddle on the ridge between South and Water Canyons, turn left or southwest and walk the ridge cross-country back to Trail #17 trail head.

LENGTH: 8.1 Miles or 13 Km. And .5 mile or .8 Km. of cross country travel.

Trail #70 - Italian Canyon - Trail #17 - Trail #14

This is a rugged loop due to the ruggedness of Trail #70, cross-country walking, extreme elevation gains, and lack of water. It should be started on the Trail #70 side in order to have water and a camping place in Ryan Hill Canyon. Walk the 5.2 miles of Trail #70 to its end. Turn east and walk down Italian Canyon cross-country about 1.7 mile to Ryan Hill Canyon and Trail #17. Walk 2.1 -miles up Trail #17 to a spring and camping spot for the night. The next day walk 1.5 mile to Trail #14 and turn west or left. Walk 2.1 miles up Trail #14 to Forest Road 235. Walk one-half mile up FR 235 to Trail #70 to the beginning point.

LOOP TRIPS(CON'T)

LENGTH: 10.9 Miles or 17.5 Km. of trail, 1.7 mile or 2.7 Km. of cross-country and .5 mile or .8 Km of road.

Need more information: Call the Magdalena Ranger District at (505) 854-2281.
