



**Name Of Trail Loop:** Big Hill Loops

**Passage And Location:** Tortilla Mountains Passage 15; south of Superior

**Length Of Loop Trail:** Big Hill – Ripsey Wash Loop 14.6 miles  
Big Hill – Florence Kelvin Road (Bike) Loop 17.5

### **Loop Trail Description:**

**Big Hill – Ripsey Wash Loop** Head south/left off the Florence Kelvin Road parking area on the Arizona Trail. The trail winds around upwards to the "Big Hill" which is reached in about 5.8 miles. The next 1.8 miles wind down switchbacks to Ripsey Wash. Turn right/north, following the jeep road that goes down the wash. After 3.1 miles, there is a gate and corral—please close the gate. In another 2.7 miles the Florence Kelvin Road is reached. Turn right/east, going uphill 1.2 miles to the parking area starting point.

**Big Hill – Florence Kelvin Road (Bike) Loop** Follow description for Big Hill–Ripsey Wash Loop until reaching Ripsey Wash. Continue west on the Arizona Trail across Ripsey Wash, gaining a ridge then dropping back down. You'll be on an old powerline road but will leave it shortly after crossing under the powerline. The trail gains elevation passing a 100 gallon water tank to the south about 1.5 miles after Ripsey Wash. The trail will climb to the top of a ridge, go thru a gate, and meet a jeep road. Turn right/northwest for 2.6 miles. Turn right/north onto Florence Kelvin Road. In 6.4 miles the road will cross Ripsey Wash. It is 1.2 miles up the hill to the parking area starting point.

**Recommended Seasons Of Use:** Spring, Fall, Winter

**Elevation Start:** 2080'

**Elevation Gain/Loss:** Big Hill – Ripsey Wash Loop 2348'  
Big Hill – Florence Kelvin Road (Bike) Loop 2922'

**Access Point:** From the town of Superior, take AZ177 south 15.8 miles to the railroad crossing and milepost 153.9, then turn right/south toward the area of Kelvin. It is 1.3 miles to the Gila River bridge, and another 1.5 miles to a parking/pull out area on the south side of the road as the road levels out. (It is 1.2 miles from the Gila River to a wash heading south which was the original Arizona Trail.)

**Water:** Ripsey Spring has seasonal water, 0.2 miles south of the trail. Sometimes the tanks at the corral in Ripsey Wash, 3.1 miles north of the Arizona Trail, have water. About 1.5 miles west of Ripsey Wash is a 100 gallon stock tank that probably has water. For up to date details on water sources please visit the Arizona Trail Water sources at <https://aztrail.org/explore/water-sources/> and even use the Arizona Trail App <https://aztrail.org/explore/maps/mobile-app/> which has user comments about the status of water sources.

**Notes/Warnings:** The Florence Kelvin Road can sometimes be busy. Walking/riding in the washes can be tiring. This passage lies on State Trust Lands (which are not public lands). If you are on the Arizona Trail, a permit is not required. The Arizona State Land Department requests that users secure a recreation permit in advance when using roads or camping on State Trust Lands. For specific turn by turn information on the Arizona Trail visit the Arizona Trail databook <https://aztrail.org/explore/databooks/> and even use the Arizona Trail App <https://aztrail.org/explore/maps/mobile-app/>

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