



Name of Trial Loop: Sonoran Desert Bike Loops

Passage and location: Tortilla Mountains Passage 15; east of Florence

Length of loop trail: Freeman Road – Florence Kelvin Road Loop: 61.9 miles

Haydon Road is posted as Private Property with No Trespassing. Do not use Haydon Road for Loop rides. (Updated 2/23/12)

Loop trail description:

Freeman Road – Florence Kelvin Road Loop Starting at the Arizona Trail on Freeman Road, head northwest. The trail crosses several road, gates, and desert washes. After about 16 miles, the trail starts to drop towards Ripsey Wash. In about another three miles the trail starts to climb out of Ripsey Wash going up switchbacks to the top of the “Big Hill” after gaining 618’ in 1.3 miles. The trail then heads in a north direction eventually reaching the Florence Kelvin Road in another 5.3 miles for a total of 26 miles on the Arizona Trail. At the Florence Kelvin Road turn left/west. This sometimes busy dirt road drops down past Ripsey Wash then climbs back up for almost 8 miles. The next 9 miles are somewhat level and drop about 400’ at the junction with Barkerville Road for a total of 15.6 miles. Take Barkerville Road to the left/southeast gaining almost 1200’ as it reaches Freeman Road after 15.1 miles. Turn left/east onto Freeman Road. Its 5.2 miles to the Arizona Trail.

Recommended seasons of use: Spring, Fall, Winter

Elevation Starting: 4013’

Elevation Gain/Loss: Freeman Road – Florence Kelvin Road Loop 4536’

Access point: Freeman Road access: From the town of Florence, drive approx. 21 miles south on AZ 79 and turn left (east) onto Freeman Road. This is between MP 111 and 112. At about 14 miles from AZ 79, continue past Barkerville Road. At 15.5 miles, bear left at a fork. At 19.2 miles, the trailhead is on the north side of the road, which currently is not much more than a two track road.

Florence Kelvin Road access: From the town of Superior, take AZ 177 south 15.8 miles at 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 1.4 miles to a parking area on the south side of the road.

Water: There is a public cache at Freeman Road and the Arizona Trail which may have water. The 100 gallon stock tank at 17.2 miles north of Freeman Road is probable—this is about 90’ south of trail when passing three metal posts about 20’ south of trail. Ripsey Spring has seasonal water, 0.2 mile south of trail. The Pinal County Maintenance yard 0.1 mile north of the Gila River has a facet when it is open; Wilson Trailer Park another 0.5 mile further north also has outside facets. The Gila River is 1.1 mile north on the Florence Kelvin Road, but is often murky and muddy. 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: 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 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.

The Arizona Trail Association provides this information as a service to the community. The ATA cannot, and does not, guarantee the accuracy of any of the information. Water and trail reports are only accurate for a limited time. Some information will not be accurate. Trail conditions and water sources may change quickly. Trail conditions are also highly subjective. What is passable to some may not be passable to another. The user of this information is solely responsible for their own safety. Ride your own ride.