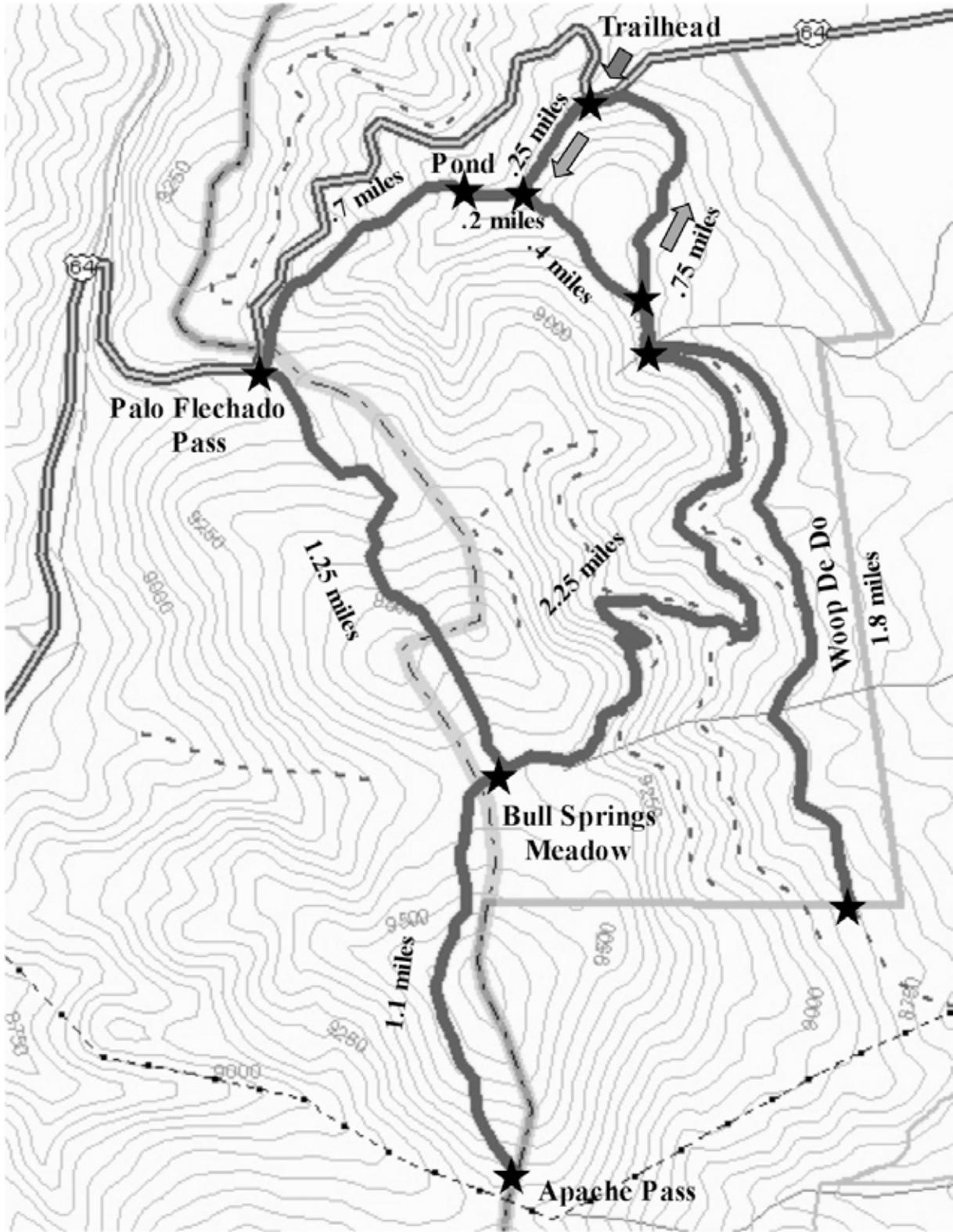


**Hiking Trail:** Elliott Barker Trail Complex



  
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## **Hiking Trail:** Elliott Barker Trail Complex

The Elliott Barker trail complex has a variety of routes to explore. The trailhead is located on Hwy. 64 at a sharp turn at the bottom of Palo Flechado Pass and the blinking light on Hwy. 434. It is well marked and has an improved parking area. The trails are open four seasons and support many activities including hiking, biking, equestrian, snowshoe, x-country skiing, snowmobiles and wildlife viewing.

The views are constantly changing but always spectacular. Depending on the selected route, views of Valle Escondido, Wheeler Peak Wilderness area, Angel Fire, Eagle Nest and Eagle Nest Lake and the entire Moreno Valley are always present. The forest is fir, spruce, pine and aspen. Wildflowers abound in late June and early July, with cinquefoil and iris covering the meadows. Wildlife and their tracks and scat are easily spotted. Be sure to pick up an identification key at the Angel Fire Visitor Center.

**Short Loop Trail** has an elevation gain of approximately 280 feet and is 1.4 miles in length. From the parking area, walk through the gate and continue straight ahead on the dirt road. At the rustic fence (.25 mile) turn left and cross the small stream using the wooden bridge. Continue up the road until reaching the intersection with a trail (.4 mile). The trail to the right (going south) leads to the Woop De Do trail, Bull Spring and Apache Pass. The trail to the left (going north) returns to the parking area (.75 mile).

**Palo Flechado Pass Loop Trail** has an elevation gain of approximately 1,000 feet and is 5.5 miles in length. From the parking area, walk through the gate and continue straight ahead on the dirt road. Pass through the rustic fence (.25 mile) and continue straight to a small pond (.2 mile) and follow the trail into the forest. The trail continues to the southwest, gaining elevation and generally follows a small stream until reaching the top of the pass at Hwy. 64 very close on your right (.7 mile). Pass through the “people gate” and turn left heading southeast with a large valley meadow on your right. Follow the trail over rolling terrain until intersecting with a logging road (1.25 miles). The trail going to your right (south) leads to Bull Spring meadow and Apache Pass. The trail going to the left (north) returns you to the trailhead. Take the trail going north, generally going downhill, to another trail intersection (2.25 miles). Continue going northeast (.75 mile) to the trailhead.



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## **Hiking Trail:** Elliott Barker Trail Complex

**Woop De Do Extension Trail** is a 3.6 mile round trip. From the trail intersection at the southern end of the Short Loop trail, turn right and continue south to the intersection with the Woop De Do trail (.1 mile). Ignore the arrow pointing to the right and take the trail to the left. Continue south over rolling terrain to a “people gate” (1.8 miles). The property south of the fence is private as is all the property on the south and east sides of the National Forest boundaries. There is no exit to Angel Fire Village from the National Forest, so you must return to the original trailhead.

**Bull Spring / Apache Pass Extension Trail** is a round trip length of 2.2 miles and has an elevation gain of 250 feet. From the Palo Flechado Pass loop intersection, turn right and continue south through Bull Spring meadow, through the “people gate,” left into the forest to the power lines at Apache Pass. The property under the power lines is private property as is all the property on the south and east sides of the National Forest boundaries. There is no exit to Angel Fire Village from the National Forest, so you must return to the original trailhead.