STANSBURY FRONT TRAIL

Type: Point-to-Point. Hike, horseback, mountain bike and dirt bike. All other ATV/ OHVs prohibited. Distance: 23.3 miles. Elevation gain: 7,941 feet. Rating: Moderate to advanced with extreme technical sections. Trail time: up to 10 hours (on mountain bike). Signage: yes. Season: May to October. Water: Perennial streams at Davenport, North Willow and South Willow Canyons; springs and livestock watering troughs. Purification highly advised. Water availability may be limited to non-existent late summer through fall. Services: Groceries, fuel and general services available at Grantsville City USGS 7.5" topo maps: North Willow, Deseret Peak East, and Johnson Pass. How to get there: From Grantsville City Cemetery, go west and northwest on SR-138 for 0.92 mile to West Canyon sign. Turn left onto Mack Canyon Trail Road. Proceed west for 5.82 miles to West Canyon Trailhead.

Trail Description: At 24 miles long, the Stansbury Front Trail is Tooele County’s “Queen of Trails.” It climbs and descends 10 west-to-east trending canyons and mountain passes for nearly 8,000 vertical feet of climbing. The north trailhead is in West Canyon; the south trailhead is in Big Hollow. Additional trail access points are in Davenport, North Willow, South Willow and Hickman Canyons. To experience the entire trail, the recommended route is to go north to south: Begin six miles west of Grantsville at the West Canyon Trailhead parking lot (Waypoint #1). The front trail’s northernmost trailhead (Waypoint #2) is 0.72 of a mile west of the parking lot on West Canyon Trail in West Canyon. A wooden sign on the left marks the start of the Stansbury Front Trail. From the parking lot to the Stansbury Front Trailhead is mostly 10 percent grade on smooth to rocky double-track; it’s open to hikers, horses, mountain bikes, dirt bikes and ATVs/OHVs. Trucks are prohibited. Except for dirt bikes, ATVs/OHVs are prohibited on the Stansbury Front Trail. From the Stansbury Front Trailhead, proceed south for 0.87 mile on single-track trail to Cow Pie Flat in Magpie Canyon (Waypoint #3); 0.92 mile to Pepe Canyon Summit (Waypoint #4); 1.02 miles to Baker Canyon Ridge overlook (Waypoint #5); 1.15 miles to Baker Canyon/Davenport Canyon saddle (Waypoint #6); 1.3 miles to North Willow Canyon (Waypoint #8); 1.31 miles to North Willow Canyon/Mining Fork Saddle (Waypoint #9); 0.89 mile to White Rock Point (Waypoint #10); 0.07 mile to Mining Fork of South Willow Creek (Waypoint #11); and another 0.07 mile to Medina Flat (Waypoint #12) in South Willow Canyon. From West Canyon to Medina Flat, the Stansbury Front Trail is clearly marked with either carsonite or wooden signs. However, after descending into North Willow Canyon from the north, the trail isn’t clearly accessible after merging onto North Willow Canyon Road. To reconnect with the trail, proceed up North Willow Canyon Road for 0.2 mile. A wooden sign on the left marks the trail. At nearly 11 miles in, Medina Flat can be considered the Stansbury Front Trail’s halfway point. To finish the trail, descend Medina Flat, cross South Willow Canyon Road and go into the Boy Scout Campground (Waypoint #13) where the Stansbury Front Trail resumes after 0.04 mile and heads south and up for 1.28 miles to Martin’s Fork Pass (Waypoint #14); and continues down for 1.96 miles into Martin’s Fork (Waypoint #15), up 0.85 mile to White Pine Fork Pass (Waypoint #16), and down and up 1.72 miles to the trail’s highest point at Box Elder Pass (Waypoint #17); down and across the broad expanse of Hickman Canyon for 1.32 miles to a trail intersection (Waypoint #18); 3.80 miles to the last climb up Hickman Pass (Waypoint #19); and down for 2.11 miles to the Stansbury Front Trail’s southern trailhead in Big Hollow (Waypoint #20). Whether climbing, descending or crossing level areas on the trail, anticipate sections littered with rocks. Also expect gradients to exceed 25 percent at times with loose rocks. For a lot of mountain bikers, this means walking the bike uphill at times. Whether you walk or ride the entire distance, you’ll score nearly 8,000 vertical feet of climbing. Although the Stansbury Front Trail is exceptionally challenging, it’s one of the most accessible trails in Tooele County. Camping is available in Davenport, North Willow and South Willow Canyons, along with Big Hollow, and at Grantsville Reservoir. The Stansbury Front Trail’s entire length doesn’t have to be ridden in one day; it can be broken down into two or more legs. A popular approach is to walk or ride from the northern trailhead in West Canyon to Medina Flat in South Willow Canyon for day one. Day two is from Medina Flat to Big Hollow.