

## **Van Deren Cabin from Dry Creek Rd TH - 2011**

### **Dry Creek Road TH**

**7 Miles**

**Minimal Elevation Change**

**3 hr**

The unpaved portion of Dry Creek Road, sometimes called Vultee Arch Road, is poorly maintained and often closed. The biking community however has built a network of trails into the splendid Dry Creek drainage area. One of these begins at the Dry Creek TH just off the paved portion and leads to the historic Van Deren Cabin. But the cabin need not be the final destination; the route rewards the hiker wishing a shorter hike with splendid views in gently rolling Dry Creek valley.

Park your car along the paved road or near the entrance to Vultee Arch road. Walk along the road a few hundred feet until you see a well-work bike trail leading off to the left. Take this trail which starts off paralleling the road until you get to a heavily used jeep viewpoint. Cross the jeep road and find the continuation of your trail at the far right edge of the road ahead of you. The trail will soon turn left to get further from the road and then travel in the Dry Creek drainage providing spectacular views and long vistas. You will encounter several side trails that branch off your path as you proceed, but you want to continue to make your way up the drainage always heading in basically the same direction parallel to the Vultee Arch road. The trail travels up and down small hills, but is basically level and easily travelled. Eventually you will approach the Seven Canyons development and some houses will come into view. Soon after that you will come to a heavily used jeep road. Follow this road up to see the Van Deren cabin built between 1924 and 1930 out of Arizona cypress.

The bike trail continues past this point. To learn about the next leg, look up H.S. Overlook from Long Canyon TH in the hiking guide.

The Van Deren cabin makes for a good objective, but the trail provides a lot of interest all along its path and can easily be shortened as needed to accommodate another time frame.