

## Wilderness Stewardship Program

### Fossil Springs Wilderness Earth Day! Trash Removal

April 26-27, 2014 (Saturday - Sunday)

**Difficulty:**  4/5 [read more](#)

**Mileage:** ~ 2.5 miles Day 1 - *very steep, off-trail route*  
< 5.0 miles Day 2

**Camping:** Car Camping, dispersed

**Time:** Start 8:00 am Saturday  
End 4:00 pm Saturday

#### About Fossil Springs Wilderness Area

Described as the most diverse riparian area in Arizona, Fossil Springs Wilderness is 11,550 acres of a lush ecosystem that supports over 30 species of trees and shrubs and over 100 species of birds. The stream seems to appear out of nowhere, gushing 20,000 gallons a minute out of a series of springs at the bottom of a 1,600 foot deep canyon. Over the years these calcium-laden waters have laid down huge deposits of a material called travertine. That rock-like substance encases whatever happens to fall into the streambed - forming the fossils for which the area is named.



Calf Pen Canyon, Fossil Springs Wilderness  
© Elias Butler

#### Trip Description

Several years ago the Forest Service became aware of a handful of marijuana grows in the Calf Pen area of Fossil Creek Wilderness. The grows have since been obliterated and most of the trash removed by helicopter and work crews; however there is some remaining trash that needs to be hauled out. This weekend event will include a day of steep, off-trail hiking and trash removal (bulky more than heavy), followed on Sunday by a guided exploration of the Calf Pen area. Sunday's exploration will be of the 'Pocket', a mesa that juts out between Calf Pen and Sand Rock Canyons, which form Fossil Creek.

**On Saturday - while a short distance from our camp to the trash site (~1.25 miles one-way), we will be hiking off-trail along a steep route. Participants should be prepared for loose-footing, using your hands for balance, and some bushwhacking.** Please plan to bring a large backpack with you to carry not only your water, lunch, and day hiking gear, but also has room to carry/attach trash for the steep hike out (**approximately 800-900' elevation change in less than 0.75 miles**, of the 1.25 mile route). *See page 2 for photo examples of route.*

Camping will be near our vehicles at a dispersed backcountry site (water/toilet/services not available). AWC will provide a vegetarian dinner on Saturday.

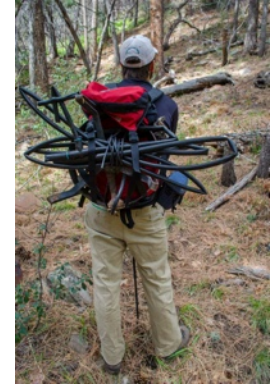
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**



**for Fossil Springs Wilderness, April 26-27th**  
**Questions? (928) 350-2204**



## Wilderness Stewardship Program



Photos show example of route conditions. Trash will be strapped to your pack, and we will carry it out along a steep, uphill route. Photos courtesy Elias Butler.

### Itinerary

- Saturday, April 26th (~2.5 miles hiking, *very steep*)  
8:00am **Briefing and Safety Talk** (FR 9936R “base camp”, *directions below*)
- 8:30am Depart parking area  
Hike off-trail, steep route to the garbage haul site (1.25 miles)  
Lunch on the trail  
Re-pack and haul out garbage (1.25 miles)
- 4:00pm Set up camp  
**Dinner** *provided by AWC (vegetarian)*
- Sunday, April 27th (<5 miles hiking)  
7:30 am Breakfast and breakdown camp
- 8:30 am Explore the Pocket  
Lunch on the trail
- 4:00 pm Arrive back at trailhead

### Gear List

- A large backpack with space to carry your water, snacks, and gear for the day - this will also be used to haul out trash.
- A day pack to carry your water, snacks, and gear for the day for Sunday’s exploration
- Water — 3-4 liters/day. During the day, water can be refilled at the creek (filtration needed). Additional water for camp can be left at the vehicles.
- Food — Breakfast, Lunches/snacks. AWC will provide dinner on Saturday.
- Sturdy, closed-toe shoes (NO SANDALS FOR HIKING) - this is **very rugged, steep, off-trail** terrain.
  - Under our volunteer agreement with the Forest Service, *you must wear closed-toe shoes or you will not be able to join us.*
  - Sandals are okay in camp.
- Appropriate clothing. Warm layers for the evenings. *See weather link below to plan appropriately.*
- Sun protection (sun screen, sunglasses, hat, etc.)
- Camping equipment: sleeping bag, sleeping pad, tent/shelter, flashlight (batteries), plate/bowl, utensils, toiletries/toothbrush, first aid kit, other? **Camping equipment will be left at the vehicles.**

#### Optional items

- Camera/Binoculars
- Hiking pole(s) or stick
- Swimsuit

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## Weather

As the event gets closer, please check the weather to ensure you are properly prepared. We will be camping at approximately 5,200-foot elevation. The weather forecast near where we will camp: [Fossil Springs Wilderness](#)

## Driving Directions

The roads to FR 9936R are suitable for passenger vehicles. High-clearance vehicles are recommended to drive to our base camp (deep ruts in the road). A shuttle is available from AZ 260 and FR 9936R if needed — **you must [contact us](#) by Wednesday, April 23rd if you will need a shuttle.**

## Coming from Camp Verde:

1. From the intersection with I-17, follow AZ 260/General Crook Trail east for ~35 miles.
2. Just past mile mark 250, turn right on FR 9366R.
  - look for the “Do Not Litter/Put Out Campfires” sign on your right
3. Follow FR 9366R for ~1.9-2.0 mile to our base camp (small parking area/ATV route).
  - look for AWC signs/Trip Leader

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## Trip Leader:

Sam Frank (928) 830-8499 (cell)