

Wilderness Stewardship Program

Strawberry Crater Wilderness Monitoring Weekend

May 31st - June 1st, 2014 (Saturday - Sunday)

Difficulty:  2/5 [read more](#)

Mileage: 5 miles Total
Hiking with daypacks, easy to moderate trails with minor off trail, minimal elevation change.

Camping: Car Camping, dispersed site

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



About Strawberry Crater Wilderness Area

Part of the huge San Francisco volcanic field, Strawberry Crater is one of its roughly 600 craters and cones, all 50,000 to 100,000 years old. The crater once sent lava flowing across the northwestern corner of Strawberry Crater Wilderness (est. 1984, 10,743 acres), and low cinder cones dominate the southern end. Here are gently rolling hills covered in pinion and juniper, cinder-strewn terrain ranging in elevation from 5,500 feet to 6,000 feet. From the tops of many of the cinder cones you can see the Painted Desert, Hopi Buttes, and mesas of the valley of the Little Colorado River. Game animals and smaller mammals may be seen throughout the area. At dawn and dusk the area's fascinating geology and twisted junipers offer excellent subjects for photographers. Solitude awaits amid limitless horizons. The region has an eerie sense of timelessness.

Trip Description

This Wild Stew volunteer weekend will be a car camping trip with day hikes on both Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday, we will drive to the northeast boundary of the wilderness and hike along a 1+ mile closed road towards a drainage that eventually leads into the Little Colorado River. The Coconino National Forest is concerned there might be some recreation impacts or non-native plants in this sensitive upper watershed area. After that, we will drive back down the southeast boundary of the wilderness to the Painted Desert Vista picnic area which is a likely place for social trails and non-native plants to creep into the wilderness. Camping Saturday night will be car camping at a dispersed site near the trailhead. On Sunday morning we will hike the loop around Strawberry Crater (the one official trail in the wilderness at 1.2 miles in length) and likely take a short side trip up to the rim while monitoring.

Participants should be prepared to hike a total of 5-6 miles (2+ miles per day) rugged and at times steep Forest Service trails and off-trail with daypacks. All necessary training for monitoring recreation impacts and non-native plants will be given at the event. We will be car camping in a dispersed area, with no amenities. AWC will provide a vegetarian dinner on Saturday.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED



for Strawberry Crater Wilderness, May 31st - June 1st
Questions? (928) 350-2204



Wilderness Stewardship Program

Itinerary

<u>Saturday, May 31st</u>	(2+ miles hiking - easy-moderate hiking with daypacks, lots of sun exposure)
8:00am	Briefing and Safety Talk (Strawberry Trailhead, <i>directions below</i>)
8:45am	Depart parking area (Carpool) Drive to northeast boundary of wilderness (11 mi.) Hike closed FR 9156E while monitoring (1.5 mi) Return Hike FR 9156E or off trail back to vehicles (1.5 mi) Drive southwest to Painted Desert Vista picnic area (7.5 mi.)
12:00 pm	Lunch at the picnic area Monitor picnic area for non-native plants (<0.5 mi.) Drive north to Strawberry Crater trailhead (6.5 mi.)
3:45 pm	Select dispersed car campsite and set up camp Dinner <i>provided by AWC (vegetarian)</i> please contact us with any special dietary needs.
<u>Sunday, June 1st</u>	(2.5 miles hiking - easy-moderate hiking with daypacks, lots of sun exposure)
7:30 am	Breakfast and breakdown camp
8:30 am	Depart camp Hike Strawberry Crater Trail (#9156B) (1.7 mi.) Possible side hike off trail to crater rim (~0.5 mi.) Lunch on the trail
2:00 pm	Arrive back at trailhead/vehicles

Gear List

- A daypack large enough to carry water, food, and other gear for a full day hike.
- Water — 3-4 liters/day. **Water is not available at the trailhead on along the trail.**
- Food — Breakfast, Lunches/snacks. AWC will provide dinner on Saturday.
- Sturdy, closed-toe shoes (NO SANDALS FOR HIKING)
 - 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?

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 6,000-foot elevation. The weather forecast near where we will camp: [Strawberry Crater Wilderness, May 2014](#)

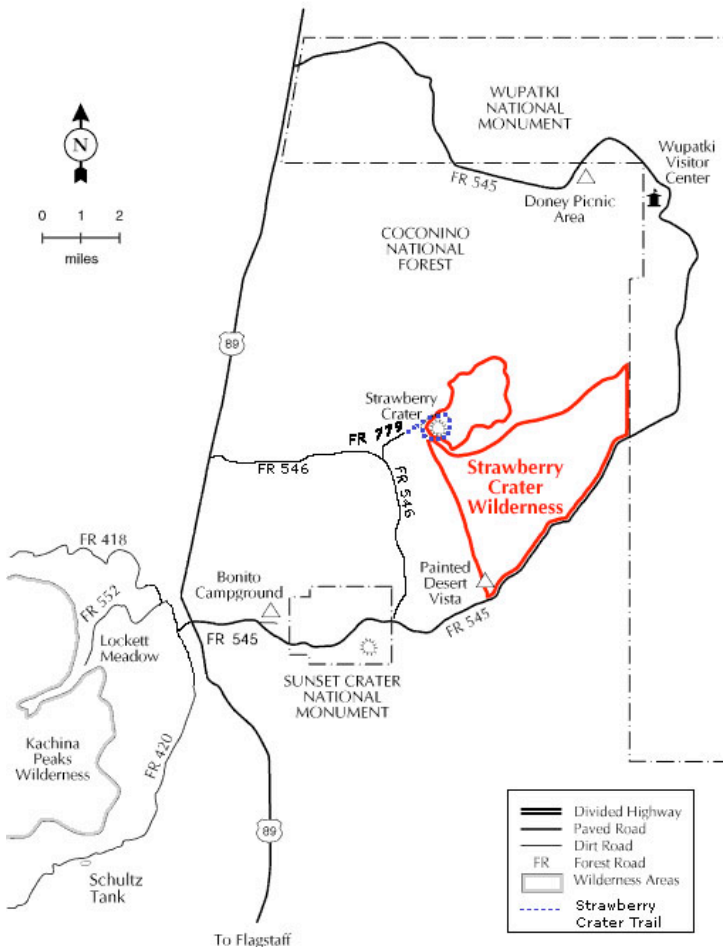
Driving Directions

We will rendezvous at the Strawberry Crater Trailhead on Saturday, May 31st. The roads to the trailhead are cinders but suitable for passenger vehicles. We will carpool to the hiking locations on Saturday due to rougher roads.

Coming from Flagstaff:

1. Drive north on AZ-89 to Mile Marker (MM) 434.
2. Just past MM 434, turn right (east) onto FR 546
3. Stay on FR 546 for 3.5 miles until the road takes an abrupt turn to the south.
4. At the turn, go straight onto FR 779.
5. Follow FR 779 for 2 miles to Strawberry Crater trailhead.

STRAWBERRY CRATER WILDERNESS



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**Trip Leader:
Sam Frank (928) 830-8499 (cell)**