

Wilderness Stewardship Program

Apache Creek Wilderness Tamarix Removal

September 12—14, 2014 (Friday afternoon - Sunday)

Difficulty:  3/5 [read more](#)

Camping: n/a

Mileage: 13 miles *Total Mileage*

Time: Start 2:00 am Friday
End 4:00 pm Sunday

About Apache Creek Wilderness Area

Apache Creek Wilderness, 5,628 acres, is one of the least visited wilderness areas on the Prescott National Forest and offers beautiful vistas, remote recreation, and abundant wildlife. Designated in 1984 by the Arizona Wilderness Act, Apache Creek Wilderness protects important and increasingly rare perennial springs that have drawn wildlife and people to the area for over a thousand years. The wilderness is characterized by rugged outcrops of granite, stands of old growth trees, and an abundance of pre-historic cultural sites. Elevations range from 5,200 to 6,900 feet and water is perennial in the creek.



Apache Creek Wilderness, Tamarix removal © AWC

Trip Description

This will be a two night, three day event in the heart of Apache Creek Wilderness to seek out and eradicate Tamarix, either plants missed on previous trips or regrowth on previously treated plants. Participants will be backpacking in on Friday afternoon for approximately 4 miles to a base camp. Saturday we will hike upstream approximately 2-2.5 miles going beyond 'The Narrows' looking for and eradicating Tamarix along the way. Saturday evening we return to base camp. Sunday will consist of packing up supplies and then backpacking out along the creek back to the vehicles (approx. 4+ miles) while again eradicating Tamarix along the way.

Participants should be prepared to hike on unmaintained dirt roads, Forest Service trails, and bushwhacking along the creek (slippery and uneven surfaces) and WILL get their feet wet. Horse support, provided by Back Country Horsemen of Central Arizona, will carry in a back country kitchen.

We will be using a certified herbicide to treat the cut Tamarix plants. Most necessary protective equipment will be provided by the Prescott National Forest, but volunteers should bring eye protection (sunglasses are appropriate).

REGISTRATION REQUIRED



for Apache Creek Wilderness, September 12-14, 2014
Questions? (928) 350-2204

Itinerary

Friday, September 12th (4 miles backpacking on roads and trails)
2:00pm Arrive at Rendezvous/Parking (*directions below*)
2:20pm **Briefing and Safety Talk**
Volunteers should arrive with enough time to prepare their gear *before* the safety briefing.
2:45pm **Depart Parking area** (backpack to basecamp)
Hike Forest Road (FR) 95A to Trail 9906 trailhead (3 miles)
Hike Trail 9906 north into Apache Creek Wilderness (1 mile)



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5:00pm *approximate* **Arrive at basecamp**
5:45pm **Dinner** provided by AWC

Saturday, September 13th (5 miles *maximum*, with day packs along the creek bed)

7:30am Breakfast
8:00am **Begin Hike** upstream with daypacks to treat Tamarix
Hiking will be mostly in the creek bed with water. We will hike around 'The Narrows' rather than through it and continue upstream for a maximum of 2.5 miles.
12:00pm **Lunch** along the trail
4:00pm **Return** to basecamp (2.5 miles)
5:30pm **Dinner** provided by AWC

Sunday, September 14th (4 miles backpacking along the creek bed and trails)

7:30am Breakfast
8:00am **Begin Hike** downstream with backpacks to treat Tamarix
Hiking will be along the creek bed for ~2 miles.
12:00pm **Lunch** along the trail
Hike out Trail 9904 (1+ mile)
Hike FR 95A back to vehicles (1 mile)
4:00pm **Arrive** at vehicles

Gear List

- Overnight backpack to carry all camping gear, food, and water
- Day Pack to carry supplies each day (water, food, camera, etc.)
- Water — 2-3 liters/day. *Water can be refilled at the creek with filtration.*
- Food — Breakfast, lunch, snacks. *AWC will provide dinner Friday & Saturday night.*
- Sturdy, closed-toe shoes (NO SANDALS).
 - Under our volunteer agreement with the Forest Service, *you must wear closed-toe shoes or you will not be able to join us.*
- Appropriate clothing. *See weather link below to plan appropriately.*
- Sun protection (sun screen, sunglasses, hat, etc.)
- Car 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

Weather

As the event gets closer, please check the weather to ensure you are properly prepared. We will be camping in a drainage, so expect temperatures to be slightly cooler than indicated. The weather forecast nearby: [Apache Creek Wilderness, Sept 12-14th.](#)

Driving Directions

Drive time from Prescott is approximately 75 minutes. The driving route is passable by 2WD vehicles. Williamson Valley Road is paved and turns into a well-maintained dirt road. Forest Road 95 and 95A get a bit bumpy, but are passable by passenger vehicles.

From downtown Prescott

1. From Courthouse Square (the center of Prescott), go west on Gurley St toward Thumb Butte
2. At ~ ½-mile, turn north (right) onto Grove Ave
3. Take Grove Ave for ~2.5 miles to Iron Springs Rd



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- Grove Ave becomes Miller Valley Rd
- 4. Turn west (left) onto Iron Springs Rd
- 5. Take Iron Springs Rd for ~2.5 miles to Williamson Valley Rd
- 6. Turn north (right) onto Williamson Valley Rd
- 7. Follow Williamson Valley Rd for approximately 33 miles
 - Williamson Valley Rd turns to dirt near the Camp Wood area and will remain dirt for the rest of the trip (good dirt roads)
- 8. At the junction of County Road 5 (Williamson Valley) and County Road 125, veer to the left on County Road 125.
- 9. Follow County Road 125 for ~2 miles to FR 95 on your left (south)
 - you'll pass the historic Walnut Creek station (house on left)
- 10. Take FR 95 for ~1.5 – 2 miles (slightly rough dirt road) to FR 95A on your right (west)
- 11. Take FR 95A for $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and look for the parking area on the right
 - the parking lot is under a grove of large Ponderosa Pine trees just past a sharp right hand turn on FR 95A

From the Phoenix Area (this route goes around Prescott/Prescott Valley)

1. Take I-17 North to Exit 262/AZ-69 toward Prescott
2. Stay on AZ-69 for 21 miles to Fain Rd
 - you'll pass through the towns of Mayer, Dewey, and Humboldt
3. Turn right (northeast) onto Fain Rd
 - an intersection with a traffic light
4. Follow Fain Rd for 13.5 miles to AZ-89
 - NOTE: After 7 miles, Fain Rd runs into AZ-89A – continue on Fain Rd for another 6.5 miles until it intersects AZ-89.
5. Turn right (north) onto AZ-89 N toward Chino Valley
6. Follow AZ-89 for 6 miles to Outer Loop Rd
7. Turn left (west) onto Outer Loop Rd
8. Follow Outer Loop Rd for 6 miles to Williamson Valley Rd
 - Outer Loop Rd intersects Williamson Valley Rd at a stop sign.
9. Turn right (north) on Williamson Valley Rd
10. Follow Williamson Valley Rd for ~23 miles to County Road 125
11. At the junction of County Road 5 (Williamson Valley) and County Road 125, veer to the left on County Road 125.
12. Follow County Road 125 for ~2 miles to FR 95 on your left (south)
 - you'll pass the historic Walnut Creek station (house on left)
13. Take FR 95 for ~1.5 – 2 miles (slightly rough dirt road) to FR 95A on your right (west)
14. Take FR 95A for $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and look for the parking area on the right
 - the parking lot is under a grove of large Ponderosa Pine trees just past a sharp right hand turn on FR 95A

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

