


# Wilderness Stewardship Program

## Cedar Bench Wilderness Tamarix Removal

September 27 - 28, 2014 (Saturday - Sunday)

**Difficulty:**

 3+/5 [read more](#)

**Camping:**

dispersed backcountry site

**Mileage:**

6.5+ miles *Total Mileage*  
Day 1: 3.0+ miles *Backpack & Day Hike*  
Day 2: 3.5+ miles *Off-Trail Backpack*

**Time:**

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

### About Cedar Bench Wilderness Area

Cedar Bench Wilderness was established in 1984 and has a total of 14,950 acres with over 30 miles of trail allowing solitude and wildlife observation. Cedar Bench falls along a broad northwest-southeast trending ridge or "bench," and from this elevated perch visitors can glimpse stunning views of the Verde Valley. The wilderness occupies the dividing line between the Verde River and the Agua Fria River drainages, with the Wild & Scenic Verde River forming a portion of Cedar Bench's eastern boundary. Chasm Creek, the drainage we will be working in, is a tributary of the Verde River. Our efforts to eliminate Tamarix will help protect the well-being of the Verde River drainage. Elevations in Cedar Bench Wilderness range between 3,000 feet and 6,700 feet with a primary vegetative cover of chaparral and lesser amounts of pinion pine and Utah juniper. We will be hiking in elevations between 3,000-3,600 feet.



Cedar Bench Wilderness © AWC

### Trip Description

**Join us for National Public Lands Day!** This Wild Stew trip will be an overnight event into Cedar Bench Wilderness. Participants will be backpacking on Saturday for approximately ~1 mile to our base camp. We will then drop our overnight packs and take a short day hike (approx. 2 miles) off-trail with day packs. Sunday will consist of backpacking along the creek (no trail) back to the vehicles (approx. 3+ miles).



Participants should be prepared to hike on unmaintained Forest Service trails and bushwhacking along the creek and side drainages. Volunteers might get their feet wet and should be prepared to hike on uneven, slippery terrain while traveling along the creek. Activities will consist of backpacking, day hiking, visiting the riparian area and eradicating Tamarix (*Tamarix spp.*) in Chasm Creek.

All necessary training for non-native plant removal will be given at the event. Camping will be at a dispersed backcountry site with water available from the creek. AWC will provide a vegetarian dinner on Saturday.

### REGISTRATION REQUIRED



for Cedar Bench Wilderness, September 27-28, 2014  
Questions? (928) 350-2204

### Itinerary

Saturday, September 27th (1+ mile backpacking, 2 miles day hiking along drainage)  
8:00am **Rendezvous** at Chasm Creek Trailhead, *directions below*  
8:30am **Carpool** to Goat Springs Trailhead (some cars will be left at Chasm Creek TH)



# Wilderness Stewardship Program

9:00am	<b>Arrive</b> at Goat Springs TH
9:15am	<b>Briefing &amp; Safety Talk</b> Hike Goat Camp Springs Trail (#542) to base camp (~1 mile). Leave backpacking/overnight gear and switch to daypacks. Continue on Goat Camp Springs Trail to its end (~1 mile, daypack)
12:00pm	<b>Lunch</b> along the trail Hike back to base camp via Chasm Creek, eradicating Tamarix along the way (~1 mile, <i>off-trail</i> )
4:00pm	<b>Return</b> to base camp
5:30pm	<b>Dinner</b> provided by AWC

Sunday, September 28th (3.5+ miles backpacking along Chasm Creek, *off-trail*)

7:30am	Breakfast & breakdown camp
8:00am	<b>Backpack</b> along Chasm Creek to treat Tamarix (~2 miles, <i>off-trail</i> )
12:00pm	<b>Lunch</b> along the trail Meet with Chasm Creek Trail (#164) and hike back to carpool vehicles (~1 mile)
3:30pm	<b>Arrive</b> at Chasm Creek Trailhead. Carpool to Goat Springs Trailhead.
4:00pm	<b>Arrive</b> at Goat Springs Trailhead. <i>Thanks for participating!</i>

## Gear List

- Overnight backpack to carry all camping gear, food, and water
- Day Pack to carry supplies on day hike (water, food, camera, etc.)
- Water — 2-3 liters/day. *Water can be refilled as available at the creek.*
- Food — Breakfast, lunch, snacks. *AWC will provide dinner 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. Warm layers for the evening. *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

## 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. Elevation is 3,300 ft. The weather forecast nearby: [Cedar Bench Wilderness, 9/27-28/2014](#)

## Driving Directions

Drive time from the intersection of AZ-260 and Oasis Rd in Camp Verde is approximately 25 minutes. Salt Mine road turns to dirt and is maintained but will have some rougher spots. 2WD moderate clearance vehicles will be fine (Subaru Outback, Honda CRV, etc. for example)

## From Camp Verde off I-17

1. From I-17, head east on AZ-260 towards Payson
2. Go 1.8 miles to Oasis Rd
3. Turn right (south) onto Oasis Rd
4. Follow Oasis Rd for 0.5 miles to a stop sign at Salt Mine Rd
5. Turn right (south) onto Salt Mine Rd (Forest Road 574)
  - set your trip odometer to -0-



## Wilderness Stewardship Program

6. Follow Salt Mine Rd (FR 574) for ~10.6 miles
  - Look for Chasm Creek Trailhead sign on the right (west)
  - the sign may be missing so be sure to use odometer to get mileage from Oasis Rd
7. Turn right into the parking area and go approximately 100 yards off FR 574

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**



**for Cedar Bench Wilderness, September 27-28, 2014**  
**Questions? (928) 350-2204**

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