

## Wilderness Stewardship Program

# Mazatzal Wilderness Trail Upkeep Trip November 8 – 9, 2014 (Saturday – Sunday)

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

**Camping:** Car Camping

**Mileage:** Saturday Approx. 4 miles  
Sunday Approx. 4 miles

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

### About Mazatzal Wilderness Area

The 250,517-acre Mazatzal Wilderness is as unique as it is expansive. The northernmost edges skirt up against the Mogollon Rim and the largest contiguous ponderosa pine stand in the world.

This area provides unique contrasts between the stream-side environments and surrounding high desert as well as desert grassland and chaparral vegetation. The watersheds have carved out a deep rugged canyon with attendant riparian habitat and supporting a wealth of wildlife and vegetation. A 23.5-mile segment of the Verde River is within the Mazatzals and is designated as "Wild."



### Trip Description

This Wild Stew trip will be an overnight event into Mazatzal Wilderness. The purpose of this trip is to perform light trail upkeep on Trail #91 and Trail #244 starting from the Mormon Grove Trailhead. The recent monsoons have washed out the trail in some areas; our plan to repair sections of the trail by filling in low spots on the surface of the trail itself, erosion control measures to help redirect the flow of water away from the trail, and minimal brushing of small vegetation (branches) obstructing the path.

On Saturday we will set up a base camp approx. 200 feet into the wilderness area from the parking area at Mormon Grove trailhead. Participants will then day hike from base camp heading north on Trail #91 (**approx. 2 miles**) completing light trail work as needed; directed by the Tonto Forest Wilderness Ranger. On Sunday we will continue our trail rehabilitation efforts on Trail #244, heading SSE from base camp (**approx. 2 miles**).

Participants should be prepared to day-hike on maintained Forest Service trails and uneven terrain, carrying an assortment of tools such as, shovels, picks, rock bars, loppers, and/or hand saws. Activities will consist of car camping, day hiking, construction of water bars, and light brushing. Participants will need close toed shoes and long pants during work activities. I would recommend a change of clothes for the evening.

All necessary training for water erosion techniques, use and transportation of tools, and cutting of brush will be given at the event. Camping will be at a dispersed backcountry site with water available in large, 5gal containers (be sure to bring small bottles to fill for your own use during the day), provided by Tonto FS and AWC. AWC will provide a vegetarian dinner on Saturday.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
For Mazatzal Wilderness, November 8-9<sup>th</sup>



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Questions? [Wildstew@azwild.org](mailto:Wildstew@azwild.org)



## Itinerary

Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>

Approx. 4 miles **Day hiking with light trail work (Tr. #91)**

- 8:00 am **Rendezvous** Sycamore Canyon Rd. and Hwy 87 (west side of Highway), *directions below*
- 8:30 am **Carpool** to Mormon Grove trail head (if necessary due to road conditions)
- 9:30 am **Arrive** Mormon Grove Trailhead
- 9:45 am **Briefing & Safety Talk**  
Walk approx. 200 yards into wilderness area, drop gear and supplies for base camp. Hike north on Trail #91 (**approx. 4 miles round trip**) with day packs (lunch, snacks, water sunscreen, etc.), and tools; prepare to conduct light trail work as necessary.
- 12:00 pm **Lunch** along the trail  
Hike back to base camp via Trail #91
- 4:00 pm **Return** to base camp
- 5:30 pm **Dinner** provided by AWC (vegetarian)

Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>

Approx. 4 miles **Day hiking with light trail work (Tr. #244)**

- 7:30 am **Breakfast & break down camp**
- 8:00 am **Day Hike** SSE along Trail #244 conducting light trail work as needed (**Approx. 4 miles round trip**).
- 12:00 pm **Lunch** along the trail  
Hike back to base camp at Mormon Grove
- 2:30 pm **Arrive** at Mormon Grove Trailhead. Load gear and supplies and shuttle back to cars if needed.
- 4:00 pm **Arrive** at Hwy 87 parking area. *Thanks for participating!*

## 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 from jugs at base camp.*
- 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,



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utensils, toiletries/toothbrush, and 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: [Mazatzal Wilderness November 8 – 9<sup>th</sup>](#).

## Driving Directions

AWC and Forest Service will rendezvous at the intersection of Sycamore Creek Rd and Highway 87 (directions below). From here we will shuttle participants to Mormon Grove (the road conditions may require a 4 wheel drive).

### To the Rendezvous From Mesa

From the intersection of Hwy 87 and Hwy 202:

- Drive north (towards Payson) on Hwy 87 for ~45 miles.
- Between Milepost 222 and 223, look for a direction sign showing Sycamore Creek to the left (west).
- This is our rendezvous at Forest Road (FR) 627/Sycamore Creek Rd.

### To the Rendezvous From Payson

From the intersection of State Hwy 188 and State Hwy 87:

- Drive south on Hwy 87 for ~11.8 miles.
- Between Milepost 222 and 223, look for a direction sign showing Sycamore Creek to the right (west).
- This is our rendezvous at Forest Road (FR) 627/Sycamore Creek Rd.

### From the Rendezvous to the Mormon Grove Trailhead

1. Drive west on FR 627 (paved road) for 1.2 miles to the junction of FR 201 (gravel road).
2. Turn right onto FR 201 and go 1.2 miles to the junction of FR 25 (Slate Creek Divide).
3. Follow FR 201 as it turns left and begin climbing.
  - Go ~7 miles to the end of FR 201 at the trailhead.
  - This road gets progressively rougher, and may require 4WD; it is not recommended for horse trailers or sedans.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**



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**Questions? [Wildstew@azwild.org](mailto:Wildstew@azwild.org)**

**Trip Leader: Brian Stultz (775) 340 - 9154 (cell)**

