



Spring 2025 Gila Trail Projects

**All trail users welcome
No trail work experience necessary**

Packsaddle Area & West Fork Corral Trail #814 Clearing remote trails in the Gila Wilderness

Date: April 28th - May 3rd, 2025

Trail Work Description: Brushing, Logging, tread and trail marking

Project Difficulty: Moderate: trail work
Difficult: length of backpacking during the trail project

Map of Project: <https://caltopo.com/m/6S0DQ1E>

Backpack/Ride to Base Camp: 2 base camps: 12 miles to the first base camp. 5.5 miles to the second base camp. See map.

Hiking/Riding during the day: up to 7 miles

Plan for Trail work: We will travel to camp 1 on the first day. Day 2, we work on the West Fork Corral Trail # 814. Day 3, we will move camp to Camp 2 and work from there. Day 4, we will continue work on the West Fork Trail. Day 5, we will do a partial day of trail work and then move our camp back to camp 1. Day 6 we will travel back to the trailhead.

Meeting time and place: Aeroplane Mesa at 8:30 am on April 28th. See direction below

Project contact: Melissa Green – groundworktrails@gmail.com

Food and Water:

- **Food:** Gila BCH homemade vacuum sealed meals (breakfasts and dinners) will be available for this project. We can accommodate meat eaters, vegetarians, and some gluten free diets. But you can also bring your own breakfast and dinners if you prefer. Everyone will need to provide their own lunches and snacks.



- **Water:** Please bring water for the hike to base camp. There are options to refill and filter water at mile 4, 7 and 10. At basecamp 1, we will filter water from Stove Spring. Please bring 4 quart water capacity since some days we will not be near water.

What you will need to bring: see packing list below – last page

We will provide: Tools, hard hats, trail and safety training, project supervision, daily pack support, and a first aid kit with Wilderness First Responder-trained personnel.

Phone service: No cell service at trailhead but there is spotty cell service at the first saddle. There is no cell service during the trail project.

Vehicle Requirement: 2wd - part of the drive is on dirt roads which can be washboard if it has not been maintained.

Elevation: 7600 - 8000

Nearest Town: Reserve – but nearest Hospital is Springville, AZ

Weather: Come prepared with layers. Rain is possible. Mornings and evenings may be cool. Days will likely be warm.

Why These Trails: This is a continuation of last year's trail work. And it will connect up with the Forest Service Trail work creating more loop options. Also, due to the washout in Turkey Feather Creek making it impassable to equine users, this trail work will provide access to equine users.

Directions to Aeroplane Mesa Campground

Important Notes for driving:

- Do NOT use google maps to get here. It may send you on bad roads.
- Traveling through the town of Mogollon to Willow Creek is NOT recommended. This road is often closed (locked gate) until mid-May due to snow. The road looks shorter, but it suffered significantly after the Whitewater Baldy Fire. It is a very narrow road (one lane in places) with blind curves.
- There is some washboard gravel road and potholes on the road between Reserve and camp but you can still drive it in a 2wd vehicle.
- It is recommended you fill up with gas in Reserve or other small towns since there is no other gas stations once you are on the dirt roads.

Directions from Albuquerque: Take I25 south to exit 150 (Highway 60). Head west on highway 60 for 61 miles and then at Datil turn left onto NM highway 12. Stay on highway 12 for 55 miles then turn left (south) on Forest Service Road 94 that passes by Apache Creek Campground. This road is narrower and a bit more washboard than if you drive the Reserve directions below. But it is still passable in a regular vehicle. Generally, you follow signs to Snow Lake. Stay on fs road #94. Stay right at junction around 8.6 miles. At Collins Park (about 23.8 miles) stay right again. At 35.2 miles, turn left on to fs road #28. Stay on the main road until you come to a 3-way intersection.

Take the Snow Lake Rd (left), 6.1 miles, following sign to Snow Lake and Dipping Vat Campground. This road travels across a wide-open mesa top and then drop down into the valley.

You will see Snow Lake and the campground to the south. There is a junction just before Snow Lake - turn left here. It is labeled Snow Lake Road with a green road sign.

You will travel on this road. In 4.2 miles, you will arrive at Areoplane Mesa Campground.

Silver City: Take Highway 180 west out of Silver City to the junction with Highway 12. Turn right on Highway 12 to Reserve NM. At **Reserve** turn right on Highway 435 which turns into Forest Road 141. From here on out, follow signs to Snow Lake. Follow Forest Road 141 to Forest Road 159 (also Labeled Bursum Rd) where you will turn right (south). Do NOT turn off on the 153 road which turns into forest road 180. Do NOT take a sharp left on to Loco Mtn road even if google maps tells you to. Stay on the main road until you come to a 3-way intersection.

Take the Snow Lake Rd (left), 6.1 miles, following sign to Snow Lake and Dipping Vat Campground. This road travels across a wide-open mesa top and then drop down into the valley. You will see Snow Lake and the campground to the south. There is a junction just before Snow Lake - turn left here. It is labeled Snow Lake Road with a green road sign.

You will travel on this road. In 4.2 miles, you will arrive at Areoplane Mesa Campground.

From T or C via Winston: This route is only for medium to high clearance vehicles. It will be slower travel but less mileage for some. Directions from T or C. Take Interstate 25 north from T or C. Take exit 83 and turn left to pass under the interstate onto NM-181 N/NM-52 N then Turn left onto NM-52 N towards Winston. After Winston the road takes a curve to the right but remains NM-52. Then turn left on to NM 59 and travel towards Beaverhead. Just before Beaverhead Work Station, take a sharp left (stay on NM 59).

In 0.65 miles stay on NM 59 by bearing right before the road in front (FR 150) climbs out of the valley. Stay on NM 59 for 10 miles. At the 4-way junction, turn left on CR 21. Follow CR21 for about 16 miles you arrive at Areoplane Mesa Campground/Trailhead.

Schedule:

Schedules are flexible and dependent on the volunteers' condition and energy level. Frequent breaks are encouraged. GBCH encourages volunteers to work within their limitations and take care of themselves during the project. Please check the weather in your project area prior to leaving for the project and pack accordingly.

Sunday, April 27th

Camping at Aeroplane Mesa Campground the night before is recommended due to the length of the drive. Please bring your own food and water.

Monday, April 28th

8:30 am – 9:00 am – Introductions, work objectives, safety talk, and gear check. Turn in food and some gear to horse packers.

9:00 am - Begin backpack to basecamp 1

3 - 4 pm – Set up camp

Tuesday, April 29th

7:30 -8 am - Breakfast

8:30 – 12 pm – Trail maintenance

12 - 12:30 pm - Lunch

12:30 - 4 pm - Trail maintenance

4:00 – Return to camp

Wednesday, April 30th

7:30 -8 am - Breakfast

8:30 - 12 pm – Pack up camp and backpack to Camp 2

12 - 1 pm – Lunch and camp set up

1 - 4 pm - Trail maintenance

4:00 – Return to camp

Thursday, May 1st

7:30 -8 am - Breakfast

8:30 – 9 am - Work Objectives/Safety Talk

9 am – 12 pm - Trail maintenance

12 - 12:30 pm - Lunch

12:30 - 4:00 pm - Trail maintenance

4:00 – Return to camp

Friday, May 2nd

7:30 -8 am - Breakfast

8:30 am – 12 pm – Trail Maintenance

12 - 1 pm – Lunch and pack up camp

1 – 3 pm – Backpack to camp 1

3 - 4 pm – Set up camp

Saturday, Sept 28th

7:30 -8 am - Breakfast

8:00 am - 9 am - Pack up camp and personal gear

9:00 am - Begin backpack to trailhead

4 pm – Drive home

Packing List: last page

RSVP required - Melissa Green – groundworktrails@gmail.com

Pack List

Camping

- Waterproofing for all gear (trash bags & ziplocks)
- Tent &/or tarp
- Ground cloth
- Sleeping pad
- Warm Sleeping bag
- Headlamp
- Extra headlamp batteries
- Backpacking Backpack

Clothing

- Long underwear top and bottom
- Warm hat or buff
- Warm gloves (for cool mornings)
- Socks & underwear
- Sleep socks (always stay dry)
- Short sleeve shirt
- 2 pairs work pants (must be long pants) (extra is in case other is wet or ripped)
- 2 Long sleeve work shirts (for thick brush, sun protection & sudden temperature drops)
- Warm top and bottom layers – **No Cotton** – Wool or synthetic only
- Warm Jacket
- Camp shoes/sandals
- Durable Raincoat
- Rain pants
- Sleep clothes (especially if we are working in poison ivy)

Personal

- Personal toiletry items & TP
- Knife / Leatherman
- Lighter
- Sunscreen
- Hand sanitizer
- Personal drink cup/coffee mug
- Lunches and snacks
- Food (see project description above)

Work

- Sturdy boots or trail work appropriate shoes
- 4-quart water capacity minimum
- Heavy-duty work gloves
- Eye protection/sunglasses

Optional

- Bowl and utensil
- Book
- Shorts (for camp)
- Chapstick
- Whistle
- Maps and GPS
- 1st aid kit
- Bandana
- Alarm clock
- Camp chair
- Soap (Biodegradable)
- Hiking Poles
- Backpacking pillow

Please let us know if you don't have something on the list or ask questions if you are unsure what you have is adequate.