



Fall 2025 Gila Trail Projects

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

Clearing Trails from Clear Creek Clearing remote trails in the Gila Wilderness

Date: Oct 4th to 8th, 2025

Trail Work Description: Logging

Project Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Map of Project:

<https://caltopo.com/m/4UQ0UDD>

Who: Equine riders only

Ride to Base Camp: 7.6 miles

Riding during the day: multiple options

Plan for Trail work: Camp at Clear Creek and ride a different loop or out and back each day and log the trails.

Meeting time and place: [Aeroplane Mesa Campground](#) at 8:30 am on Oct 4th. See directions 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 ride to base camp. At basecamp, water will be filtered from Clear Creek. Please bring 3 quart water capacity since some days we will not be near water while riding.

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.

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 for trailers. 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.
- 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 Aeroplane Mesa Campground.

Silver City: Take Highway 180 west out of Silver City to the junction with Highway 12. Turn right on Highway 12 to Apache Creek Junction. Then turn right (south) on Forest Service Road 94, which passes by Apache Creek Campground. Generally, you follow the signs to Snow Lake. Stay on FS Road 94. Stay right at the junction, around 8.6 miles. At Collins Park (about 23.8 miles), stay right again. At 35.2 miles, turn left onto FS Road 28. Stay on the main road until you come to another 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.