



Spring 2026 Gila Trail Projects

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

McKnight Canyon Trail #92

Date: May 27th – 30th, 2026

Trail Work Description: brushing, logging, spot tread, and trail markers

Project Difficulty: Moderate

Map of project: <https://caltopo.com/m/T297FU4>

Backpack/Ride to Base Camp: 3 miles

Hike/ riding during the day: up to 6.5 miles round trip

Meeting time and place: 8:30 on May 27th at Kelly Tank. Then we will proceed to McKnight Canyon Trailhead after dropping off our gear to be packed in. 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 breakfasts 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. Once at basecamp we will filter water from the creek. Please bring 4-quart water capacity or a way to filter water during the day.

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

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

Phone service: Spotty cell service at the trailhead. No cell service where we are doing trail work.

Vehicle Requirement: 2wd medium clearance unless the road is muddy. 4WD recommended if the road is wet



Elevation: 7100 - 8300

Nearest Town: Silver City- has a hospital. Mimbres/San Lorenzo is closer, but only has a small urgent care with limited hours.

Weather: Be prepared with layers. Mornings and evenings may be chilly. Days will likely be warm.

Why These Trails: This trail was affected by the 2022 Black Fire. It is a great canyon walk with multiple ecosystems and large old oaks.

Directions: From Silver City: Take 180 east about 7.5 miles to Hwy 152. Take a left onto Hwy 152 and travel about 14 miles to Hwy 35. Take a left onto Hwy 35. Stay on Hwy 35 past the Mimbres Ranger FS Station about 1.22 miles. Turn Right. There are multiple roads that split off as soon as you turn. Make sure you take the correct one. You are heading up to Kelly Tank via the Powderhorn Ridge Rd, so you want the middle road. Do not drive up the Mimbres River, and do not take the McKnight Canyon Rd. Stay on the Powderhorn Ridge Road for about 6.34 miles. There you will see Kelly Tank. This is where we are meeting initially. After we drop off our gear with the packers, we will continue for less than a mile to the trailhead. It is just after a cattle guard, with a huge cairn marking it. Note that the worst part of the road is after Kelly Tank. If you have a low clearance vehicle, you will want to carpool from here.

Schedule:

Schedules are flexible and dependent on the condition and energy level of the volunteers. Frequent breaks are encouraged. Gila BCH 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.

Tuesday, May 26th

Camping at Kelly Tank is an option if you want to arrive a day early. Please bring your own food and water.

Wednesday, May 27th

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

9:00 am – Drive to McKnight Canyon Trailhead and begin backpacking to basecamp

11 am – 12 pm – set up camp and eat lunch

12 - 4 pm – Trail maintenance

Thursday, May 28th – Friday, May 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

Saturday, May 30th

7:30 -8 am - Breakfast

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

9:00 am - Begin backpacking to the trailhead

1 pm – Drive home

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/water shoes
- 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
- 3-quart water capacity minimum (or 1 quart and a water purification device)
- 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.