



# 2026 Gila Trail Projects

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

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## Hanging Rock Trail #220 into Big Dry

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**Date:** Nov 2-6, 2026

**Trail Work Description:** Brushing, logging, tread, and trail marking.

**Project Difficulty:** Difficult due to lack of pack support and elevation change and unstable trail tread.

**Map of project:** <https://caltopo.com/m/FK12S1C#>

**Who:** Invite only due to difficult terrain and limited pack support.

**Backpack to Base Camps:** 2.7 miles to basecamp 1 and 3.5 miles to basecamp 2. Lots of elevation change.

**Hiking during the day:** up to 4 miles round trip

**Meeting time and place:** 8:30 am at the Little Dry trailhead on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>. See directions below

**Plan for Trail work:** Have Little Dry logged ahead of time. If we can find packers, we will have packers bring in some gear to basecamp 1. We will carry the rest into basecamp 1 and then do trail work on the upper part of #220 that day. We will leave our tools where we stop. Based on progress, day 2 or 3 we will bump our camp to Big Dry. We will not have any pack support for this. If we finish early, we will move camp back to basecamp 1 and work on the #180 trail towards Simmons Saddle. On the last day, we will backpack out from basecamp 1.

### 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. We may also have some freeze dried meals.
  - o Everyone will need to provide their own lunches and snacks.
- **Water:** Please bring your own water for the hike to basecamp. We will have a water filter at basecamp for filtering water. Please bring at least 3-quart capacity for trail work during the day since we will not be working on the water.



**Other things to know:**

- **Poison Ivy:** There is poison ivy along Little Dry that is impossible to avoid. So, bring other pants to sleep in.
- **Basecamp 1:** There are very few flat spaces on Little Dry, so we will be a bit crowded at camp. Please don't bring a huge tent. The canyon is narrow so we won't get much sun warmth until we hike up to the trail work.

**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:** There is only some cell service on the project which can be found near Windy Gap and sections of the descent into Big Dry.

**Vehicle Requirement:** Medium clearance. 2wd unless the road is wet.

**Elevation:** 6400 – 9000 ft

**Nearest Town:** Glenwood and Cliff have limited amenities. Silver City is the nearest town with a hospital.

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

**Why This Trail:** It leads to a beautiful creek and impressive waterfalls. This is a well-loved area. It has significant deferred maintenance.

**Directions to Little Dry Trailhead From Silver City** - Often the west side of the Sacaton road is damaged from flooding in the summer and requires a 4 wd high clearance vehicle. So it may be wise to take the Moon Ranch option.

**Moon Ranch option:** At the junction of hwy 180 and hwy 90 in Silver City, take hwy 180 about 45 miles west. Turn at the big sign to the Moon Ranch sign. Take this road for about 5.7 miles and turn left onto Sacaton Rd. Take that another 3.3 miles and then turn right on FS Road # 196. Continue 3.3 miles to the end of the road (the trailhead).

**West side of Sacaton Road option:** At the junction of hwy 180 and hwy 90 in Silver City, take hwy 180 a little over 50 miles west. You will pass the big sign to the moon ranch along the way and soon after that is the Sacaton road on the right. It is in Little Dry Creek on the right when the hwy is taking a sharp turn to the left. Take the Sacaton road 2.8 miles and then turn left on fs road # 196. Continue 3.3 miles to the end of the road (the trailhead).

**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.*

**Sunday Nov 1<sup>st</sup>**

Optional camping at the trailhead the night before. Please bring your own water and food.

**Monday Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>**

8:30 am - Meet at the trailhead for introductions, work objectives, safety talk and to give some gear to the packers

9:30 am – 11:30 pm – backpack to basecamp.

11:30 to 12 – hike to trail work

12 -12:30 - Lunch

12:30 pm-4 pm – Trail maintenance and set up camp

**Tuesday, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> to Thursday Nov 5<sup>th</sup>**

See project plan.

**Wednesday Nov 6<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 – 7:30 am - Breakfast

7:30 am – 8:30 am - Pack up camp and personal gear

12:30 am - Drive home

**RSVP required** - Melissa Green – [groundworktrails@gmail.com](mailto:groundworktrails@gmail.com)

Packing List on the last page...

## 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
- \_\_\_ 3-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