



2026 Gila Trail Projects

All trail users welcome
No trail work experience necessary

Little Whitewater #214 **Holt Apache Trail # 181** **South Fork Whitewater # 212**

Date: Sept 24 – 29, 2026

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

Project Difficulty: difficult due to elevation changes.

Map of project: <https://caltopo.com/m/010TD0J>

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

Distances:

- **to basecamp 1:** 6.7 miles but it is a lot of elevation gain – 3200 ft elevation gain.
- **to basecamp 2:** 4.4 miles
- **during the day:** up to 7 miles.
- **of hike out to Whitewater Trailhead:** 7.5 miles.

Meeting time and place: 7:30 am at the corrals just before the Sheridan Corral trailhead. See directions below.

Note: We will walk through poison ivy on the way to the first basecamp. There may be some poison ivy at Tennessee Meadows but not likely anywhere we will be doing trail work.



Plan for Trail work: Log the Holt Apache Trail to Holt Springs and maybe beyond ahead of time. The night before the project we will leave a few vehicles at the Little Whitewater Trailhead

- **Day 1:** Packers take us to the ridge camp about 1-mile past Holt Springs. We start hiking early so that we can log the 1 mile from Holt Spring to camp 1, if it isn't already logged. Hopefully we will have time to log past camp on the first day.
- **Day 2:** Log to Tennessee Meadows and up to the camp on Holt Apache – past camp Creek Saddle. Packers could pack themselves in Tennessee Meadows on this day. If possible, packers will also move our camp on that day also.
- **Day 3:** If the packers don't have time to move our camp on day 2, then they will move our camp to Tennessee Meadows. Hikers will work on Little Whitewater Trail
- **Day 4-5:** Little Whitewater trail work. If the packers are not already in camp with us, then they would ride in Day 5
- **Day 6** – Packers take our stuff out of Tennessee Meadows to the Sheridan Corral Trailhead while the crew hikes and works out the Little Whitewater Trail. Once at the Little Whitewater Trailhead, the crews carpool back to Sheridan Corral Trailhead

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.
 - o Everyone will need to provide their own lunches and snacks.
- **Water:** Please bring your own drinking water for the first day. For basecamp 1, we will have water packed in. For basecamp 2, we will filter water from the creek. There is no water available on the section of the Holt Apache Trail where we are working for the first few days, so be prepared to carry all your water for the day – 3 to 4 quart minimum depending on the temperature.

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 cell service at the trailhead. There is intermittent service along where we will be working and likely at our first basecamp. But no cell once we drop into South Fork Whitewater.

Vehicle Requirement: 2wd. This is a good dirt road. Most vehicles should be fine. There are some steep sections but nothing that has washouts.

Elevation: 5900 – 9500 ft

Nearest Town: Glenwood and Cliff have limited amenities, and a small HMS medical center open from 8 to 5. 15 Highway 211, Gila, NM 88038
Silver City is the nearest town with a hospital.

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

Why This Trail: These trails link in with work the FS and Gila BCH have done in the past year. It improves loop and out and back options.

Directions: From Silver City, at the junction of HWY 15 and 180, take HWY 180 west about 54 miles. You will drive through Cliff and Buckhorn. You will pass Little Dry and Big Dry Drainages. Turn right onto Forest Road 146, which is signed for hiking trail 181. There is also a green road sign that reads Sheridan Ridge Rd. Travel about 3.9 miles on this improved gravel road to the trailhead. Packers will park at the corrals for ease of parking and packing. So, we will stop there first to drop off gear. This is a short distance before 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.

Wednesday, September 23rd

Optional to camp the night before. Please bring your own food and water. See map for camp option. 33.23565, -108.82156

Thursday, September 24th

7:30 am - Meet at the trailhead for introductions, work objectives, safety talk and turn in gear to packers

8:30 am – 12:00 pm –work towards basecamp 1

12 -12:30 - Lunch

12:30pm- 5 pm – work past basecamp and set up camp

Friday, September 25th to Monday, September 28th

7:00 – 7:30 am - Breakfast

8 am - Work Objectives/Safety Talk

8 am – 12 pm - Trail maintenance

12 - 12:30 pm - Lunch

12:30 - 3:30 pm - Trail maintenance

5 – return to camp

Tuesday, September 29th

7:00 – 7:30 am - Breakfast

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

8:30 am – Trail work to Little Whitewater trailhead

4:30 pm – Drive home

RSVP required - Melissa Green – 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
- ___ 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