



Fall 2026 Gila Trail Projects

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

Turkeyfeather Spring and #172

Back up plan if there is no water

Date: Oct 3-9, 2026

Trail Work: Logging, trail markers, tread and brushing

Project Difficulty: Moderate

Map of project: <https://caltopo.com/m/J0N0A4M#>

Backpack to Basecamp 1: 6.25 miles

Backpack to Basecamp 2: 8 miles

Meeting time and place: Willow Creek at 8:00 am on Oct 3rd. See directions below.



Day by day plan:

Day 1- Meet at Willow Creek Trailhead. Backpack to Turkeyfeather Pass – basecamp 1. If time, start working from basecamp 1 towards Turkeyfeather Spring

Day 2 – Trail work to Turkeyfeather Spring

Day 3 – Move to #172 basecamp 2 – 8 miles

Day 4 – Work on #172

Day 5 - Work on #172

Day 6 - Work on #172

Day 7 - Back to trailhead and drive home

Horse packers:

For Basecamp 1: The amount of our personal gear they are able to carry is determined by if there is water at Turkeyfeather Pass. If there is not water, they will need to pack us in water for a few days, which will mean less room for them to take our personal gear. They will pack in as much as our personal gear as possible so there we can save our energy for trail work.

For Basecamp 2: The packers will be able to take all of our personal gear (up to 30 lbs) from basecamp 1 to basecamp 2. We will carry daypacks.

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 water for the backpack to base camp. There will be the option to filter water along the way. At basecamps, we will be filtering from the creek or get water packed in. We will not always have water during the trail workdays, so please bring a 4-quart water capacity.

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: No cell service at trailhead. Occasional cell service throughout the project but not at either basecamp

Vehicle Requirement: 2wd

Elevation: 5500 - 8100

Nearest Town: Silver City

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

Why These Trails: These trails have all been worked in in the past few years. We want to keep them open.

Directions:

Important Notes for driving:

- Be careful about google maps to get here. It may send you on bad roads.
- Traveling through the town of Mogollon to Willow Creek is NOT recommended. 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 reportedly a big rock on the road that is challenging to get around.
- There is some washboard gravel road and potholes 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 are 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, which passes by Apache Creek Campground. This road is narrower and has 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 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 a 3-way intersection. Take a right at the 3-way and proceed downhill (you will no longer be following signs to snow lake at this point). Before heading uphill again, there is a left turn-off to Willow Creek Campgrounds. Stay on this road until you see a corral and a pit toilet on your right.

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 onto 153 Road, which turns into forest road 180. Do NOT take a sharp left onto Loco Mtn road even if google maps tells you to. Stay on the main road until you come to a 3-way intersection. Take a right at the 3-way and proceed downhill. Before heading uphill again, there is a left turn-off to Willow Creek Campgrounds. Stay on this road until you see a corral and a pit toilet on your right.

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 curves to the right but remains NM-52. Then turn left onto NM 59 and travel towards Beaverhead. Take a sharp left before Beaverhead Work Station (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 20 miles. You arrive at Snow Lake / Dripping Vat Campground.

Turn right (away from Snow Lake). Continue for another 6.15 miles. At this point, you will come to a 3-way intersection. Take a left at the 3-way and proceed downhill (steep downhill). Before heading uphill again, there is a left turn-off to Willow Creek Campgrounds. Stay on this road until you see a corral and a pit toilet on your right.

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.

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/water shoes ___ Durable Raincoat ___ Rain pants ___ Sleep clothes	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
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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.