


Wilderness Stewardship Program

Cedar Bench Wilderness Trail Work

February 14* -16, 2014 (Friday* - Sunday)

Difficulty:  3/5 [read more](#)
Please read over the Trip Description carefully – hiking with tools and trail work may be arduous for some.

Mileage: ≤ 6 miles *Total Mileage*

Camping: Dispersed Camping

Time: Start 3:00 pm *Friday
End 4:00 pm Sunday

About Cedar Bench Wilderness Area

Cedar Bench Wilderness was established in 1984 and has a total of 14,950 acres with over 30 miles of trail allowing solitude and wildlife observation. Cedar Bench falls along a broad northwest-southeast trending ridge or "bench," and from this elevated perch visitors can glimpse stunning views of the desert's vivid colors. The Wilderness occupies the dividing line between the Verde River and the Agua Fria River drainages, with the *Wild & Scenic* Verde River forming a portion of its eastern boundary. The Verde supports many species of wildlife that are endangered or of special interest to biologists. Elevations in the area range between 4,500 feet and 6,700 feet with a primary vegetative cover of chaparral and lesser amounts of pinion pine and Utah juniper. In the lower reaches along the river, saguaro cactus can be found hiding on south facing hillsides.



Trail Work, Cedar Bench Wilderness

Trip Description

For the love of wilderness! Grab your valentine and join us as we head to the southern portion of Cedar Bench Wilderness to perform 2-days of trail maintenance near Cold Water Spring. Be sure to bring your camera! This event positions us for spectacular views of the designated *Wild & Scenic* Verde River.

On Friday afternoon, we will rendezvous in Dugas, AZ where we will park our vehicles in a secure location. We will meet up with rangers from the Prescott NF here and transfer to their vehicles for the remaining drive to the Cold Water Trailhead. Access is difficult and will require 4WD - so sit back and enjoy the bouncy ride as the Forest Service chauffeurs you and your gear. AWC will then provide you dinner before settling in for the night and enjoying this rare-visited section of Cedar Bench Wilderness.

On Saturday morning, we will pack up our daypacks and divvy trail maintenance tools, and head out Cold Water Spring – about 1.75 miles of easy-moderate hiking. We'll then work our way back to camp while performing various trail maintenance tasks – trail brushing, tread/bench repair, and some rock work to reinforce some hilly sections (estimated hiking 3.5 miles).

On Sunday, we'll pick up where we left off – hiking back to where we finished on Saturday, we'll continue performing trail maintenance until we return to camp (estimated hiking 2.5 miles). High fives all around,

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we'll then load up the tools, camping gear, and tired bodies back into the Forest Service vehicles for the drive back to the parking area in Dugas.

Participants should be prepared to hike a total of 6 miles (≤ 3 miles per day) on rugged Forest Service trails with daypacks and carrying tools. All necessary training for trail work techniques will be provided on site. Camping will be at the trailhead. AWC will provide dinner Friday and Saturday night.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED



for Cedar Bench Wilderness, February 14-16th
Questions? (928) 350-2204

Itinerary

Friday, February 14th

- 3:00 pm **Arrive at parking area** (Sycamore Cabin near Dugas, *directions below*)
- 3:30 pm Forest Service shuttle to Basecamp (Cold Water Trailhead)
- 4:30 pm Arrive at trailhead/camp
Dinner *provided by AWC (vegetarian)*

Saturday, February 8th (≤ 3.5 miles hiking with daypack and tools)

- 8:00 am **Briefing and Safety Talk**
- 8:45 am Hike Cold Water Trail (#27) to Cold Water Springs (1.75 miles)
carrying daypack and tools
Perform trail maintenance
Lunch on the trail
Return the same route
- 4:00 pm Arrive at camp
Dinner *provided by AWC (vegetarian)*

Sunday, February 9th (≤ 2.5 miles hiking with daypack and tools)

- 7:30 am Breakfast & break down camp
- 8:30 am Hike Cold Water Trail (#27) to where we left off (~1.25 mile)
Continue with trail maintenance
Lunch on the trail
Return the same route
- 3:00 pm Depart Camp
- 4:00 pm Arrive at parking area/Sycamore Cabin, Dugas



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Gear List

- A daypack large enough to carry water, food, and other gear for a full day hike.
- Water — 3-4 liters/day.
- Food — Breakfast, Lunches/snacks. AWC will provide dinner on Friday and Saturday.
- Sturdy, closed-toe shoes (NO SANDALS FOR HIKING).
 - Under our volunteer agreement with the Forest Service, *you must wear closed-toe shoes for trail work or you will not be able to join us.*
 - Sandals are okay in camp.
- Appropriate clothing. Warm layers for the evenings. *See weather link below to plan appropriately.*
- Sun protection (sun screen, sunglasses, hat, etc.)
- Camping equipment: sleeping bag, sleeping pad, tent/shelter, flashlight (batteries), plate/bowl, utensils, toiletries/toothbrush, first aid kit, other?

Optional items

- Camera/Binoculars
- Hiking pole(s) or stick
- Swimsuit

Weather

As the event gets closer, please check the weather to ensure you are properly prepared. The weather forecast near where we will camp: [Cold Water Trailhead/Cedar Bench Wilderness](#)

We will be camping at approximately 3,200-foot elevation.

Driving Directions

We will rendezvous at the USFS Sycamore Cabin in Dugas, AZ. A portion of the driving route is dirt road, but passable by passenger car.

From I-17 North of Phoenix/South of Camp Verde:

1. From I-17, take exit 268 Dugas/Orme Road exit
2. Turn right onto Dugas Rd (FR 68), and continue east for 8 miles.
3. A half-mile past Dugas, turn right at the Sycamore AS (FR 68F)
4. Continue south 1 mile to the Sycamore Cabin - our parking area/rendezvous

Approximate driving time from the junction of I-17 and Dugas Rd to the the parking areas is 30 minutes.

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Trip Leader:

Sam Frank (928) 830-8499 (cell)

