

Wilderness Stewardship Program

Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness Monitoring Backpack Trip

May 10-11, 2014 (Saturday - Sunday)

Difficulty:  3+/5 [read more](#)

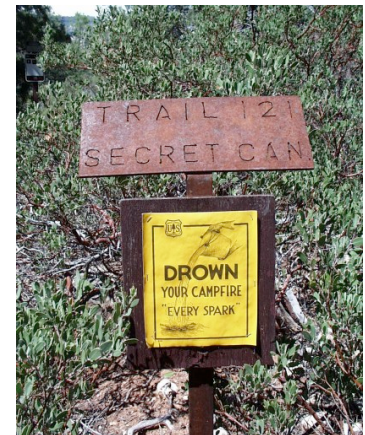
Mileage: 14 miles Total
4 miles with backpacks; 10 miles with daypacks over easy to moderate trails, minimal elevation change, and beautiful red rock scenery.

Camping: Dispersed

Time: Start 8:00 am Saturday
End 4:00 pm Saturday

About Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness Area

Tan, buff, and predominantly red-rock cliffs mark the edge of the Colorado Plateau across Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness (est. 1984), just east of Sycamore Canyon Wilderness. With 47,194 acres, it is here the high mesas of Secret Mountain and Wilson Mountain jut out into the lower country, and outstanding canyons as deep as 1,500 feet drain into beautiful Oak Creek and the Verde River. The high rims are rather cool and moist compared with the lower desert land, and a wide variety of vegetation supports plentiful wildlife, including elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, javelinas, coyotes, rabbits, mountain lions, and black bears. A close look at the canyon walls may reveal ancient rock art and long-abandoned cliff dwellings.



Trip Description

This *Wild Stew* trip will be an overnight backpack trip into Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness. The Forest Service has requested we monitor for recreation impacts and invasive plant species on two specific trails (Secret Canyon #121, and HS Canyon #50). This will allow us to mix carrying our backpacks and carrying only daypacks (temporarily leaving our backpacks behind while we monitor each canyon). Please read the itinerary for more details.

Participants should be prepared to hike a total of 14 miles — of which approximately 4 miles will be with full backpacks, and 10 miles with daypacks — on relatively level Forest Service trails with overnight gear on their backs. All necessary training for monitoring recreation impacts and non-native plants will be given at the event. Camping will be at a dispersed backcountry site. Participants should be prepared to carry all of their water for the entire weekend; we will send out an update on water availability the week of the event. AWC will provide a vegetarian dinner on Saturday.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED



for Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness, May 10-11th
Questions? (928) 350-2204

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Itinerary

<u>Saturday, May 10th</u>	(6+ miles hiking, easy to moderate difficulty; mostly with day packs)
8:00am	Briefing and Safety Talk (Secret Canyon Trailhead, <i>directions below</i>)
8:45am	Depart parking area <i>Backpack:</i> Hike Secret Canyon Trail (#121) to HS Canyon Trail (#50) (~ 2/3 mile) <i>Daypack:</i> Hike Trail #50 west to end of trail. (2 miles) Lunch on the trail <i>Daypack:</i> Return on Trail #50 to Trail #121. Retrieve overnight packs. (2 miles) Refill water from drainage/pool <i>Backpack:</i> Continue hiking Trail #121 north to mouth of Secret Canyon (1.5 miles)
4:00pm	Set up camp Dinner <i>provided by AWC (vegetarian)</i>
<u>Sunday, May 11th</u>	(8+ miles hiking, easy to moderate difficulty; mostly with day packs)
7:30 am	Breakfast and breakdown camp
8:30 am	Depart camp <i>Daypack:</i> Hike Trail #121 west to the end of the official trail. (3 miles) <i>Daypack:</i> Return on Trail #121. Retrieve overnight packs. (3 miles) Lunch on the trail <i>Backpack:</i> Hike Trail #121 back to the trailhead. (2+ miles)
4:00 pm	Arrive back at trailhead

Gear List

- A large overnight backpack that holds all of your gear.
- A daypack large enough to carry water, food, and other gear for a full day hike.
- Water — 3-4 liters/day. *Water is available along the trail in select pools/drainages near HS Canyon. Please bring enough capacity/vessels so that you have enough for the night's camp and the second day.*
Water is available ~15 minute walk from camp.
- Food — Breakfast, Lunches/snacks. AWC will provide dinner on Saturday.
- Sturdy, closed-toe shoes (NO SANDALS FOR HIKING)
 - Under our volunteer agreement with the Forest Service, *you must wear closed-toe shoes 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?
 - **Camping space is limited - please bring your smallest tent.**

Optional items

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



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Weather

As the event gets closer, please check the weather to ensure you are properly prepared. We will be camping at approximately 4,500-foot elevation. The weather forecast near where we will camp: [Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness](#)

Driving Directions

We will rendezvous at Secret Canyon Trailhead at 8:00am on Saturday, May 10. *The last few miles of roads are rough and require high clearance.*

If you need to carpool from the junction of Dry Creek Rd and FR 152, **you must [contact](#) AWC no later than May 8th.**

Coming from Phoenix:

1. Take I-17 north to Exit 298/Highway 179.
2. Turn left onto Highway 179 and drive west into Sedona.
3. At the "Y" intersection, turn left onto Highway 89A.
4. Take Highway 89A for 3.1 miles to Dry Creek Rd/Vultee Arch (stoplight)
5. Turn right onto Dry Creek Rd and drive for 2 miles to Forest Road (FR) 152
6. Turn right onto FR 152 (unpaved)
 - look for the Vultee Arch sign
 - **HIGH CLEARANCE VEHICLES ARE REQUIRED** on FR 152 - if you need to carpool from this junction to the trailhead, **you must [contact](#) AWC no later than May 8th.**
 - a parking lot is available at the junction of Dry Creek Rd and FR 152
7. Drive ~3.4 miles to the signed Secret Canyon parking area on your left. *We recommend you allocate 30 minutes.*

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Trip Leader:

Sam Frank (928) 830-8499 (cell)

