

Wilderness Stewardship Program

Miller Peak Wilderness Monitoring Backpacking Trip

June 21-22, 2014 (Saturday - Sunday)

Difficulty:  4/5 [read more](#)

Mileage: ≤ 16 miles *Total Mileage*

Camping: Dispersed Camping

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

About Miller Peak Wilderness Area

Miller Peak Wilderness, 20,228 acres, lies between the city of Sierra Vista and the Mexican border in the southern half of the Huachuca Mountains. The Arizona Trail traverses this wilderness before reaching its southern terminus at the U.S./Mexican border.

More than 170 species of birds, 60 species of reptiles and 78 species of mammals inhabit the area. Elevations range from 5,200 feet to 9,466 feet atop Miller Peak, the highest and southernmost peak in the United States. Once cloaked in pine and fir, many recent fires have converted much of this area to predominantly oak, aspen and grass vegetation. Many sheer cliffs rise hundreds of feet above the canyon floors. At least 21 trails lead through the Wilderness from its eastern, western, and southern boundaries. Fort Huachuca borders this wilderness on the north-west making access difficult.



Miller Peak Wilderness

Trip Description

<<Rescheduled from March>> This will be a backpack trip up to the namesake Miller Peak and other sections along the Crest Trail/Arizona Trail. **Participants should be prepared to hike up to 8 miles a day on Forest Service trails which may have loose rocks and overgrown vegetation.** We will be hiking with large overnight packs for 4.5 miles each day and the remaining miles will be with daypacks (approximately 3 - 3.5 miles each day). *Participants should be aware that this area is known for illegal drug and human smuggling activity associated with the nearby international border. Actions will be taken to mitigate risks and local law enforcement will be made aware of our group's itinerary.*

All necessary training for monitoring recreation impacts and non-native plants will be provided on site. Camping will be at a disperse backcountry site with **water available from a nearby, reliable spring.** AWC will provide dinner Saturday night.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED



for Miller Peak Wilderness, June 21-22nd
Questions? (928) 350-2204



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Itinerary

<u>Saturday, June 21st</u>	(8 miles hiking – 2,200-ft elevation gain)
8:00am	Briefing and Safety Talk (Sawmill/Carr Peak Trailhead, <i>directions below</i>)
8:30am	Depart parking area Hike Sawmill Springs Trail (#126) to Carr Peak Trail (0.7 miles) Hike Carr Peak Trail (#107) to Crest Trail (3 miles) Lunch on the trail Drop backpacks at dispersed backcountry campsite (0.1 miles) <i>Water is available at Bathtub Spring, 0.2 miles from campsite</i> With daypacks, hike Crest Trail (#103) southeast to Miller Peak summit (1.8 miles)
4:00pm	Return to campsite (1.8 miles) Dinner <i>provided by AWC (vegetarian)</i>
<u>Sunday, June 22nd</u>	(~7.5 – 8 miles hiking – primarily downhill)
7:30 am	Breakfast & break down camp
8:30 am	With daypacks, hike Crest Trail (#103) northwest to Wisconsin/Ida Canyon Trails (1.7 miles) Retrace Crest Trail to Carr Peak Trail (1.7 miles) Lunch on the trail Return to basecamp and collect gear (0.1 miles) Return to trailhead via Carr Peak Trail (3.7 miles)
4:00 pm	Arrive at trailhead

Gear List

- A large overnight backpack that holds all of your gear.
- A daypack to carry water, food, and other gear.
- Water — 3-4 liters/day. Water is available at Bathtub Spring (*3.8 miles from trailhead, 0.2 miles from basecamp*)
- 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 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 — *highly recommended for this trip, we will have significant elevation gain*
- Swimsuit

Weather

As the event gets closer, please check the weather to ensure you are properly prepared. We will be camping at approximately 8,500-foot elevation. The weather forecast near where we will camp: [Miller Peak Wilderness](#)



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Driving Directions

We will rendezvous at the Sawmill Springs Trailhead (Reef Townsite Campground). A portion of the driving route is dirt road, but passable by higher-clearance passenger car (i.e., not ideal for low-clearance vehicles, but 4WD is not necessary).

Note: Bears and other animals live in the area; all food must be secured and trash properly disposed.

From Tucson:

1. Take I-10 East of Tucson
2. Take Exit 302, AZ-90 South (toward Sierra Vista)
3. Follow AZ-90 to Sierra Vista for ~27 miles
4. Continue onto E. Buffalo Soldier Trail
5. Follow E Buffalo Soldier Trail for ~6 miles to AZ-92
6. Turn right (south) and follow AZ-92 for 4 miles to Carr Canyon Rd (FR 368)
 - Look for Mesquite Tree Restaurant
7. Turn right (west) and follow Carr Canyon Rd (FR 368) for ~6.4 miles.
 - This road changes to dirt and ascends the Huachuca Mountains.
8. Follow the Forest Service sign for Reef Townsite Campground/Sawmill Springs Trailhead on the left.

Approximate driving time from the junction of I-10 and exit 302 is about 1 hour 20 minutes.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED



**for Miller Peak Wilderness
June 21-22nd**

Questions? (928) 350-2204

Trip Leader:

Sam Frank (928) 830-8499 (cell)

