

## Wilderness Stewardship Program

# Four Peaks Wilderness Backpack Light Trail Upkeep December 6-7, 2014 (Saturday – Sunday)

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

**Mileage:** 10+ miles *Total Mileage*

**Camping:** Dispersed backcountry site

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

### About Four Peaks Wilderness Area

Located at the southern end of the Mazatzal Mountains in the Tonto National Forest, Four Peaks Wilderness encompasses 60,740 acres and was designated by the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984. The tallest of the 'four peaks' is Brown's Peak (7,657') which is also the tallest peak in Maricopa County. Elevations within the wilderness can differ by as much as 5,000' feet making for very diverse flora, fauna and weather. Four Peaks Wilderness is also notable for the high-grade amethyst quartz found within the 1.5 billion year old granite comprising the upper elevations.



### Trip Description

This Wild Stew trip will be an overnight backpacking event into the Four Peaks Wilderness. The purpose of this trip is to perform light trail upkeep on Solider Trail (#83), starting from the Mud Springs Trailhead. The recent monsoons have washed out the trail in some areas. Our plan is to repair the trail in these areas by filling in low spots on the trail itself, implement erosion control measures to help redirect the flow of water away from the trail, and minimal brushing of small vegetation (branches) obstructing the path.

On Saturday, participants will need to be prepared to hike approximately 2.5 miles along Trail #83 with overnight backpacks to our base camp location, Solider Camp. We will then continue to hike with day packs along Trail #83 (approx. 3 miles) completing light trail work as needed and directed by the Tonto Wilderness Ranger. On Sunday we will continue our rehabilitation efforts on Trail #83.

Participants should be prepared to day-hike on maintained Forest Service trails and uneven terrain, carrying an assortment of tools such as shovels, picks, rock bars, loppers, and/or handsaws. Participants must wear close-toed shoes and long pants during work activities.

All necessary training for water erosion techniques, use and transportation of tools, and cutting of brush will be given at the event. AWC will provide gloves and safety glasses. Camping will be at a dispersed backcountry site. ***There will be no water available on the trail - you must carry enough water to for drinking and camp, both Saturday and Sunday.*** AWC will provide a vegetarian dinner on Saturday night.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**



For Four Peaks Wilderness, December 6 & 7<sup>th</sup>  
Questions? [brian@azwild.org](mailto:brian@azwild.org)



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## Itinerary

**Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** ~2.5 miles with Backpacks, ~3 miles with day packs and tools

- 8:00 am**      **Rendezvous** at Mud Spring Trailhead, *directions below*
- 8:30 am**      **Briefing and Safety Talk**  
Backpack *approx. 2.5 miles* on trail #83 to Soldier Camp  
Drop overnight packs  
Continue hiking along Trail #83 *approx. 3 miles* with daypacks and tools performing trail upkeep along the way
- 12:00 pm**      **Lunch** along the trail
- 4:00 pm**      **Return** to base camp
- 5:30 pm**      **Dinner** provided by AWC (vegetarian)

**Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** ~2.5 miles with Backpacks, ~3 miles with day packs and tools

- 7:30 am**      **Breakfast** & break down camp
- 8:00 am**      **Day hike** continue unfinished trail work along Trail #83 *approx. 3 miles*
- 12:00 pm**      **Lunch** along the trail  
Hike back to trail head with back packs *approx. 2.5 miles*
- 4:00 pm**      **Arrive** at back at Mud Spring Trailhead. *Thanks for participating!*

## Gear List – *This is a dry camp you must bring enough water for drinking & camp, both Saturday and Sunday*

- Overnight backpack to carry all camping gear, food, water, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, tent/shelter, flashlight (batteries), plate/bowl, utensils, toiletries/toothbrush, first aid kit, other?
- Day Pack to carry supplies on day hike (water, food, camera, etc.)
- Water — 5-6 liters/day. *Water will not be available*
- Food — Breakfast, lunch, snacks. *AWC will provide dinner Saturday night.*
- Sturdy, closed-toe shoes (NO SANDALS). Under our volunteer agreement with the Forest Service, *you must wear closed-toe shoes or you will not be able to join us.*
- Appropriate clothing. Warm layers for the evening. *See weather link below to plan appropriately.*
- Sun protection (sun screen, sunglasses, hat, etc.)

### Optional items

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

## Weather

As the event gets closer, please check the weather to ensure you are properly prepared. We will be camping between 5,000 – 6,000ft. elevation. The weather forecast nearby: [Four Peaks Wilderness 12/6-7/2014](#)



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## Driving Directions

### From Payson

1. From the junction of Hwy 260 and Hwy 87, head South on Hwy 87
2. At the junction of Hwy 87 and Hwy 188, turn left (east) on Hwy 188
3. Go East on Hwy 188 for ~20.5 miles to El Oso Road, turn right
4. Follow El Oso Road for ~36 miles to the "T" at FR 401/Pigeon Springs Rd
5. Turn left onto FR 401 for ~1.1 miles – stay right at the fork
6. Continue on FR 401 for 17 miles to Mud Springs Trailhead (on your left)

**This is a rough road 4-wheel drive with high clearance recommended**

### From Phoenix metro area (AZ-87 / Beeline Highway)

1. Follow Hwy 87 north towards Payson
2. At the Bush Highway exit, continue on Hwy 87 for ~ 22.8 miles to FR 143 (Four Peaks Rd)
3. Turn Right onto FR 143/Four Peaks Road
4. About two miles on FR 143, the road "Ts": turn left.
5. Continue for ~13 miles to the Mud Springs Trailhead, (on your right) you'll see an old beat-up sign.  
This is the same road to Cline Cabin

**This is a rough road 4-wheel drive with high clearance recommended**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**



**For Four Peaks Wilderness, December 6 & 7**  
**Questions? [brian@azwild.org](mailto:brian@azwild.org)**

**Trip Leader: Brian Stultz 775-340-9154 (cell)**