



TRACKS TRAIL CREW (TC) – *Trail Crew is Back to Work!*

By Jerry Good

Regular Trail Crew work commenced the first Monday in April and has been going well. Two weeks have been spent on Los Caballos as it is getting a lot more use and needed some extra work.

WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS! There was increased traffic on all the trails in 2020 and trail work was done accordingly. We are always in need of volunteers! If you are not yet signed up for Trail Crew please check box on website for “Trail Crew” on “Join” form and/or email Nick Lund at lundaz@cablone.net. We could always use the extra help!

In other Trail Crew news, Cathy Purvis, one of our general board members, spent many hours last year inventorying all our equipment and supplies so that TRACKS makes sure that we have the necessary equipment for all our trail work and improvements. Cathy updated the listing for 2021 too. A huge thank you to Cathy for all your hard work! 🙌

WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER

The WMNC is open Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 10am – 12pm. The WMNC holds special programs throughout the summer to provide family-oriented fun with a discovery focus on increasing awareness, understanding and responsible action towards nature. The May schedule is (please contact the WMNC to confirm events):

May

- 1st Forest Ecology Walk
- 27th – 31st Spring Carnival
- 31st – July 1st Discovery Learning Programs

The WMNC is a non-profit organization and most programs are free of charge. Donations are also gratefully accepted. For more information, call (928) 358-3069. Visit our website at:

<https://whitemountainnaturecenter.org/>

or Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/WhiteMountainNatureCenter/>

SPOTLIGHT – New Recreation Staff Officer for Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest Lakeside Ranger Station

By Josh Miller, USFS Lakeside District Ranger

Please join me in welcoming Joyce to the Apache-Sitgreaves USFS Team! Colloquially known across the federal landscape as “Joya” (pronounced Hoya) since her earliest beginnings in fed service with the NPS at Saguaro National Monument. She is excited to start with the team at the Lakeside Ranger District as the Recreation Staff Officer.

Joyce has been a uniformed park ranger for much of her career. She enjoys talking with visitors, giving presentations, on-the-spot interpretive talks of fascinating wildlife, vistas, geology, etc. She has worked in a variety of locations with diverse landscapes and environments. Most recently with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Lost Creek Lake (Oregon), Joyce was the Interpretive Park Ranger for the last 3+ years – responsible for patrol and enforcement, interpretation, special event permits, outreach, etc.

Previous park ranger stints have taken her from the wild freedom of Denali National Park & Preserve, AK (fee supervisor) to the urban interface of Phoenix Mountain Parks and Preserves, AZ (patrol ranger). Joyce has been a fee supervisor for Zion National Park (UT), collected fees at Saguaro National Park, AZ; provided EMS and recreation and interpretive programming as a park ranger for the busiest Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreation area in the continental United States – the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (Glamis), CA. Joyce was the Park Ranger/Volunteer Coordinator at the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, MN – managing recreation programs, designing displays and teaching Leave No Trace Trainer Courses on the Mississippi River while finding the right fit for volunteers.

With the vast breadth of experience these postings have afforded her, Joyce will prove to be a huge asset to moving the recreation program forward here on Lakeside. “Four federal agencies and one municipality later, I’m about to Get My Smokey On!” 🙌

TRACKS BIKING

By Nick Lund

TRACKS mountain bike rides will resume soon!

To be added to the email notification list, send an email to Nick lundaz@cablone.net. Rides are non-competitive and are primarily on forest service roads, with some single track included.

Make certain your bike is in rideable condition (tune ups are well done at Cycle Mania in Show Low and Pinetop Bike Shop in Pinetop (of course). Bring ample water. Wear a mask in the parking area and maintain social distance during the ride. 🙏

TRACKS Apparel is Still Available!

Order in May and Take 5% OFF!

It is first come, first serve! T-Shirts are available! A few short sleeve large, unfortunately the rest are XL and XXL. Hoodies are available in XL.

Short sleeve T-shirts \$15
Long sleeve T-shirts \$20
Hoodies \$40
Patches \$5

Contact Arlene Nelson at: (928) 368-6810 or (928) 242-4639 **for your special discount today!**

UP THE HILL GANG (UTHG)

By Susan High

TRACKS is excited to announce that the Up the Hill Gang hiking will start Wednesday, May 5, 2021 and continue through October 2021. Hikers will be emailed on a monthly basis by TRACKS using MailChimp. There will no complete schedule given out for the entire time – it will only be provided on a monthly basis. Since the hikes are now “official” hikes, affiliated directly through TRACKS, there will be a required signature on a waiver at each hike. The leaders will provide the waivers. If anyone chooses not to sign, that person will not be allowed to hike with the group. Since summer hikes usually number thirty (30) or more, it would be preferred to leave dogs at home, or keep on leashes (which is a US Forest Service requirement). We are looking forward to many great summer hikes! Hikes start in May and here’s our **May 2021** Schedule (note the Golden Dragon Express [GDE] is the old KFC location in Pinetop next to McDonalds):

- 5/5 Springs Trail (from AZGF)
Meet at GDE (Golden Dragon Express) 7:45 AM
5 Miles (Rating 1.5) Rideshare \$2
- 5/12 Country Club
Meet at (Golden Dragon Express) 7:45 AM
4.5 Miles (Rating 2) Rideshare \$2
- 5/19 Springer Mountain
Meet at (Golden Dragon Express) 7:45 AM
6 Miles (Rating 2.5) Rideshare \$0
- 5/26 Timber Mesa to Osprey Connector
Meet at (Golden Dragon Express) 7:45 AM
5 Miles (Rating 2.5) Rideshare \$2 🙏

White Mountain Happenings

MAY

- 1st 8th Annual Show Low BBQ Throwdown – Frontier Park Show Low (928) 532-4140
- 5th Cinco De Mayo Drive-In: Nacho Libre – Show Low (928) 532-4140
- 8th Chili Cookoff – Pinetop/Lakeside (928) 368-8696 ext. 240
- 22nd Show Low Mainstreet Farmers Market and Art Walk (623) 340-4131
- 23th Hogs and Hot Rods – Mountain Meadows Recreation Complex: <https://hogsandhotrodsaz.com/>
Earth Day Herb Gardening – Show Low White Mountain Community Garden (928) 532-4070
- 27th– 31st Annual White Mountain Spring Carnival – Pinetop/Lakeside (928) 358-3069
- 29th Show Low Mainstreet Farmers Market and Art Walk (623) 340-4131
- 31st Show Low Men’s Memorial Day Softball Tournament – Show Low (928) 532-4140

For more information on the above events and other events that are happening in the White Mountains, please visit the respective website and/or Visitor Center for more information:

Pinetop/Lakeside Chamber of Commerce: <https://www.pinetoplakesidechamber.com/calendar/>

Pinetop/Lakeside Visitor: <https://www.visitpinetoplakeside.com/>

Show Low Chamber of Commerce: www.showlowchamber.com/

Snowflake/Taylor Chamber of Commerce: <https://snowflaketaylorchamber.org/calendar/>

White Mountain Audubon Society: <http://www.whitemountainaudubon.org/>

Sunrise Ski Resort: <https://www.sunriseskipark.com/> 🙏

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest – Lakeside Ranger District News – More Trail Work How To's

By Lorna McNeil-Cox

Moving into the field and trail maintenance season, the Forest Service firstly wants to thank all the weekly TRACKS Trail Crew for the hard work they will be putting in this summer.

Since the Lakeside District has limited staff and resources to complete trail work on the District, we rely on the devoted hard work from TRACKS to accomplish safe and effective trail work. The trail users continue to express their thanks and appreciation as well. THANK YOU for your hard work, support and continued stewardship of your public lands!!

To continue sharing agency wisdom on trail maintenance (the last installment was about brushing), these are the esthetic guidelines from the Forest Service Trail Construction and Maintenance Notebook. “Well-designed trails take advantage of natural drainage features, reducing maintenance that might be needed, while meeting the needs of the users. The trail might pitch around trees and rocks, follow natural benches and otherwise take advantage of natural land features.

The best trails show little evidence of the work that goes into them.” For both trail construction and maintenance, “A little extra effort spent limbing/brushing properly, scattering cut vegetation widely, blending backslopes, raking leaves back over the scattered dirt... pays off in a more natural looking trail. Be a master. Do artful trail work.”

For more information and to see if there are any changes, please visit the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/asnf>.

NOTE: Most forest roads are primitive roads that are not plowed or maintained in the winter. Please avoid rutting and damaging wet roads and respect road closures. Visit our website for more information at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/asnf>. ❗

“Nature is pleased with simplicity.
And nature is no dummy.”

– Isaac Newton –

Arizona Game and Fish (AZGF) NEWS

By Jamie Van Kirk

It's o-fish-al! The statewide trout bag limit has been reduced from six to four trout per person in the 2021-2022 Arizona Fishing Regulations. This change comes as AZGFD shifts towards stocking larger trout that are preferred in angler satisfaction surveys.

Surveys about angler satisfaction and catch rate preferences indicated most anglers would prefer to catch larger fish, as they are more fun to catch, are generally more aggressive and more likely to be caught, and will provide more meat on the table if you keep your fish.

The trout limit was reduced to four to accommodate this shift to larger fish. Larger trout take longer to grow and take up more raceway space in a hatchery system that is limited by cold, clean, well-oxygenated water. It is anticipated the average size of the trout will increase to about 13.5 inches. Studies in other western states have shown, and AZGFD expects, that stocking larger fish will result in a higher catch rate and improved angler satisfaction. Anglers who keep four of these larger trout are expected to be taking more meat home than when the regulations allowed for six trout to be kept.

This change does not affect bag limits on Community Fishing Program or special regulation waters. All anglers are responsible for checking and knowing the current regulations for each water they fish.

Should you come across someone exceeding the daily bag limit while recreating outdoors, you can report this poaching to Operation Game Thief at 1-800-352-0700. Please check the Arizona Game and Fish Pinetop Region facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/azgfd/> or for more information or call (928) 367-4281. For more information about news and events, visit the AZGF website at: <https://www.azgfd.com/>. ❗

WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE NEWS

WMAT camping and fishing is open to non-tribal members as weather conditions permit. Phase Two reopening plans and other pertinent information can be found at the WMAT website at: <http://whitemountainapache.org/>.

Current fire prevention, prescribed burns and other relevant information for the White Mountain Apache tribe can be found by visiting the WMA Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/BIAFAAFireMgt/> or by contacting Candy Lupe at (928) 338-5425. ❗

TRACKS MONTHLY SCHEDULE – May

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / DETAILS
Mondays – email is sent with information prior to Monday	Trail Crew (TC): Beautify the Trails	To volunteer please check box on website for “Trail Crew” on “Join” form and/or email Nick Lund at: lundaz@cableone.net . See page one of newsletter for information about trail crew news.
Tuesday through Saturday (weather permitting) <i>Days and times will vary due to leader availability and weather conditions.</i>	Biking:	To get biking information please check box on the website for “Biking” on “Join” form and/or email Nick Lund at lundaz@cableone.net . See page two of newsletter for more biking news.
Wednesdays 7:45am (weather permitting) May 5 Springs Trail (from AZGF) May 12 Country Club May 19 Springer Mountain May 26 Timber Mesa to Osprey Connector	Up the Hill Gang (UTHG) Hiking:	To get UTHG information please check box on the website for “Hiking” on “Join” form and/or email Susan High at shigh118@gmail.com . See page two of newsletter for more biking news.
2 nd Saturday of the Month	TRACKS General Meeting (visitors welcome)	June 5, 2021 Location: TBD Potluck from 11am – 1pm
May 6 -- 1pm Thursdays Before 2 nd Saturday of Month at 1pm	TRACKS Board Meeting (members and visitors welcome)	White Mountain Nature Center 425 Woodland Lake Rd, Lakeside

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