



TRACKS TRAIL CREW (TC)

By Jerry Good

Not much new after our long winter but hope to open trail work the 1st week in April. Work will begin west of Show Low probably on the Chihuahua Pine connector. If this happens Tracks people will receive emails about it so be prepared. Thank you

THE TRAIL CREW. 🐾

WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER

(WMNC) -- The WMNC is open Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10am – 12pm each week. 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 Spring schedule is (please contact the WMNC to confirm events):

- April 2 9 AM Forest Ecology Hike
- April 16 9 AM Nature Hike
- April 23 6 PM Bats of the White Mountains
- May 7 9 AM Forest Ecology Hike
- May 14 10 AM Kite Festival
- May 14 6 PM Forest for Monarchs
- May 21 9 AM Nature Hike
- June 4 9 AM Forest Ecology Hike
- June 11 10 AM Birding Identify & Photograph
- June 17 6 PM Nature
- June 18 9 AM Nature Hike

The WMNC is a non-profit organization and donations are also gratefully accepted. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with our center and programs and for board members! Please contact us if you are interested at: (928) 358-3069. For more information, please visit our website at: <https://whitemountainnaturecenter.org/> or Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/WhiteMountainNatureCenter/>. 🐾

SPOTLIGHT – Supporting TRACKS

By Nick Lund

Both grants that TRACKS applied for have been approved for funding. One of \$45,000 from Navajo County is to construct a 3.5-mile short cut route to give users distance options on the 9.4-mile Blue Ridge trail, which is the rockiest trail in the White Mountains Trail System and will require considerable effort. The other grant of \$59,125 from Arizona State Parks and Trails is to purchase and install 43 ramp gates in the fence line next to existing gates on the WMTS. The second grant enables hikers and mountain bikers to cross fence lines without having to open/close a gate and, since grazing cattle do not use the ramp gate (designed like a curved cattle guard) and existing gates sometimes are left open, the ramp gates help keep cattle more secure. Trail users who do not choose to use the ramp gate can still use the gate that must be opened/closed. The USFS needs to approve both projects before work can begin.

HELP WANTED: Volunteer(s) to represent TRACKS at 2022 Halloween Trunk or Treat event hosted by the town of Pinetop Lakeside. The town and TRACKS provide the candy so it will only take 4 to 5 hours of your time with an assistant. Kay Alderton is retiring from this position but will help you get started and will donate the car decorations. Contact Kay Alderton at 928 367-7003.

Volunteer to coordinate refreshments and supply beverages for trail crew, schedule volunteers to bring snacks during trail crew season, remind volunteers weekly of their turn, and deliver the snacks and beverages to the crew. Contact Kathryn Melsted at kmelsted@yahoo.com or Nick at nplundaz@gmail.com.



TRACKS BIKING

By Nick Lund

Group bike rides will likely resume in April. If you wish to be on the email notification list, send an email to Nick nplundaz@gmail.com. TRACKS rides are social, non-competitive, and often on forest roads. Routes are determined primarily according to who shows up for the ride. Helmets are required. Make certain your bike and tires are in good rideable condition. Bring ample water.

White Mountain Happenings

APRIL

- 6th White Mountain Audubon Society
- 9th Tillman Honor Run, Mountain Meadow
- 9th Egg-Cellent Hunt & Dinosaur Adventure

MAY

- 4nd White Mountain Audubon Society
- 6th Wild land Steak Cook off, Show Low
- 7th BBQ Throwdown, Show Low
- 28th Dutch Oven Cook off, Taylor

June

- 1st White Mountain Audubon Society
- 8th Sacred Circle Workshop, Unity of White Mountains

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:

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/>

White Mountain Apache Tribe:
<http://whitemountainapache.org/>

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

UP THE HILL GANG (UTHG) And Tuesday Trekkers

By Susan High and Jim Meeker Respectively

Warm greetings, hikers! The Wednesday morning "Up the Hill" hiking group will be meeting at the end of March to plan the schedule for Summer 2022. We hope you will join us to explore some of the beautiful hikes in the White Mountains. Most of the Wednesday morning hikes are approximately 3-5 miles and are considered "easy" or "moderate." While you are waiting for the schedule to be announced, here are a few trail etiquette reminders:

- Leave no trace; pack it in, pack it out.
- Stay on the trail-no shortcuts.
- Yield to uphill traffic.
- Hikers and bikers always yield to horses.
- Leave gates as you found them.
- Safety first! Be prepared and let someone know your plans

TUESDAY TREKKERS: The Tuesday Trekkers will start our summer program of easy hikes every Tuesday morning on May 10 with a trek along the Billy Creek Connector and hiking on to a section of the Blue Ridge Trail. We will plan hikes over the summer that are 2 miles or more long hikes, but we will seek to avoid difficult rocks and steep climbs. If we have a Monsoon season, we will also try to avoid mud. On May 10, please meet us on the south side of the Pinetop McDonalds, and we will go from there. Below is a list of the planned hikes for May and June, and we will post similar lists as the summer moves along. Here's what co-leader Ann Howard and I have planned so far:

- May 10 Billy Creek Connector and Blue Ridge Trails. 2.5 miles, easy.
- May 17 Country Club Trail #632. 3.25 miles, easy.
- May 24 Springs Trail #633. 3.6 miles, easy
- May 31 Chipmunk Connector #631A from the corral. 3.5 miles, easy
- June 7 West Fork #94 Meadow. 3 miles, easy
- June 14 Show Low Bluff Trail. 2.5 miles, easy
- June 21 Butler Canyon Trail. 1 mile, easy
- June 28 Chipmunk Connector # 631A from F.R. 224 to Los Burros Trail. 3 miles, easy.



Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest – Lakeside Ranger District News

By Lorna McNeil-Cox

No report at this time.

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>. ❗

Arizona Game and Fish (AZGF) News

By Aaron Hartzell

As spring approaches there is an increasing desire for people to get into the back country. This desire can be driven by a want to enjoy the warming weather and to see the country come alive as green begins to creep back into the landscape. For others there may be another draw. Typically beginning around March and spreading into April bull elk begin their annual cycle of losing their antlers and growing a new set for the upcoming year. This annual process can result in a scavenger hunt across the White Mountains. The motivation for finding these antlers can range from collecting them to earning a little extra income. Over the last few years fresh antlers have brought a pretty penny for those willing to spend the time to find them. As people hit the field to look for antlers, the Game and Fish Department reminds them to do so responsibly. The spring can bring wet soils that are easily damaged by driving off roads to look for antlers. If you are going to be out please follow the rules when it comes to driving off roads. It is unlawful to drive cross country on state land or across forests that are designated closed to such activities. When picking up shed antlers there are no restrictions on this activity in Arizona. However, if you find a dead animal, anything that is 'fresh' needs to be inspected by a Game and Fish law enforcement officer before a person can possess those parts. Please refer to Commission Rule R12-4-322 or call our department office for additional information on this rule.

WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE RESERVATION NEWS

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 – April through June

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / DETAILS
Trail Crew: No official schedule for Spring—some work will be done on dependent on weather and trail needs.	Trail Crew (TC): Beautify the Trails Weather Permitting	To volunteer please check box on website for “Trail Crew” on “Join” form and/or email Nick Lund at: nplundaz@gmail.com . See page one of newsletter for information about trail crew news.
Biking: Tuesday through Saturday Biking will begin in April	Biking: Weather Permitting	To get biking information please check box on the website for “Biking” on “Join” form and/or email Nick Lund at nplundaz@gmail.com . See page two of newsletter for more biking news.
WEDNESDAYS To be announced soon	Up the Hill Gang (UTHG) and Tuesday Trekkers Hiking: Weather Permitting	To get UTHG WEDNESDAY information please check box on the website for “Hiking” on “Join” form and/or email Susan High at shigh118@gmail.com . To get UTHG TUESDAY TREKKERS information please check box on the website for “Hiking” on “Join” form and/or email Jim Meeker at jimeeker@azsunshine.us .
TUESDAYS TREKKERS May 10 Billy Creek Connector May 17 Country Club Trail #632 May 24 Springs Trail #633 May 31 Chipmunk Connector #631A June 7 West Fork #94 Meadow June 14 Show Low Bluff June 21 Butler Canyon June 21 Chipmunk Connector #631A	See page two for specific hiking schedule information.	
BOARD MEETING: Thursdays Before General Meeting 1:00pm April 7th May 12th June 9th	TRACKS Board Meeting (members and visitors welcome)	White Mountain Nature Center (WMNC) 425 Woodland Lake Rd, Lakeside
GENERAL MEETING Second Saturday of the Month April 9 th – 8:00am - Darbis May 14 th – 8:00am - Darbis June 11 th – 8:00 am Darbis	TRACKS General Meeting (visitors welcome)	Summer meetings are potlucks held at the big ramada at Woodland Lake.

SUPPORT TRACKS: Use smile.amazon.com to select a charity of your choice (hopefully TRACKS) and the Amazon Foundation sends a donation to that charity that is a percentage of each of your purchases. Use the same user name and password as you do on Amazon.



958 S. Woodland Road
Lakeside, AZ 85929
www.trackswhitemountains.org