



Red Rock Country - Coconino National Forest - Sedona, Arizona

Recreation Guide to Your National Forest

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Leave no trace

Important Phone Numbers

Red Rock Ranger District (928) 282-4119	Coconino County Sheriff Department 1-800-338-7888
Coconino National Forest Supervisor's Office (Flagstaff) (928) 527-3600	Grand Canyon National Park (928) 638-7888
Verde Ranger District (928) 567-4121	Arizona Game and Fish Department (602) 942-3000
Sedona Chamber of Commerce (928) 282-7722 or 1-800-288-7336	Sedona Medical Center (928) 204-3000
Sedona Parks and Recreation (928) 282-7098	ARIZONA STATE PARKS AZ State Parks www.azstateparks.com
Oak Creek Visitor Center (928) 203-0624	Red Rock State Park (928) 282-6907
Road Conditions 1-888-511-ROAD	Dead Horse Ranch State Park (928) 634-5283
Highway Patrol (928) 773-3600	Slide Rock State Park (928) 282-3034
Weather Forecast N. Arizona (928) 774-3301	TO REPORT A WILDLIFE INCIDENT OR VIOLATION, CALL Operation Game Thief: 1-800-352-0700
Sedona Police Department (928) 282-3100	
Yavapai County Sheriff Department (928) 567-7710	TO REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING, CALL (928) 771-3430

FOR EMERGENCIES, CALL 911

Visitor Centers Help Make the Most of Your Visit

For convenient, accurate information about Red Rock Country, four visitor centers have been established in a partnership between the Forest Service, Sedona Chamber of Commerce, Recreation Resource Management, and the Arizona Natural History Association. Three of these visitor centers are called "Gateway" visitor centers because they are at the main entrances into Sedona.

Visitor centers offer a variety of visitor services:

- Restrooms and recreation information
- Chamber of Commerce information
- Arizona Natural History Association maps and guidebooks
- Federal Pass information and sales

LOCATIONS AND HOURS

Red Rock Visitor Center — (928) 282-4119 or (928) 203-2900. Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Located off Hwy. 179 at mile marker 304.7, 6 miles north of the junction with I-17.

Sedona Chamber of Commerce — (928) 282-7722. Open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays. Highway 89A and Forest Road mile marker 374.1 in Uptown Sedona in the Sedona Chamber of Commerce.

Oak Creek Vista — Open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Closed in winter. Located on 89A North at the Oak Creek Vista Overlook, mile marker 390. American Indian crafts market and Arizona Natural History Association bookstore.

Oak Creek Visitor Center — (928) 203-0624. Open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, at Indian Gardens in Oak Creek Canyon, mile marker 378.2. Closed in winter. Fishing licenses and supplies available.

www.redrockcountry.org • www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino

General Information

Camping: National forest camping is limited in Red Rock Country. Campfires are prohibited outside of campgrounds. See page 5.

Commercial Tours: A variety of tour companies, authorized by the Forest Service, provide guided trips on the national forest. For information, contact a visitor center.

Fishing: Oak Creek is stocked with trout during summer months. Fishing licenses are required and are available at most grocery stores.

Nature Study: Red Rock State Park Nature Center offers interpretive programs year round. Location: Lower Red Rock Loop Road off west Hwy. 89A.

Off-Road Driving: Driving a vehicle off of designated roads is prohibited in Red Rock Country. However, many primitive dirt roads offer recreation for 4x4 or high-clearance vehicles. See page 4.

Recreation Pass, Interagency Passes (Annual, Senior and Access): See page 3 for details.

Woodcutting: Woodcutting is prohibited in Red Rock Country except in designated areas. Contact the ranger station for information and to purchase permits.

Wildfire: Fire restrictions and closures may be imposed to reduce the likelihood of wildfire. Always make sure your campfire is completely out and never throw cigarettes on the ground. If you spot a fire or unattended campfire, call

911 to report it. For fire restriction information, call toll free 1-877-864-6985 or visit www.azfireinfo.com.

Collecting: Collection of most natural objects (rocks and branches) from national forest lands in Red Rock Country is very limited and, if allowed, requires a permit from the Forest Service. To protect the area's beauty, please leave all natural objects in place. Collection of cultural artifacts is illegal.

Fishing, Hunting, and Firearm Use: Fishing and hunting on the national forest in Red Rock Country are allowed under Arizona Game and Fish regulations. Pick up a copy of the regulations at any visitor center or go to www.azgfd.com for more information. Shooting is prohibited within 150 yards of any residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site, or occupied area and shooting across roads, trails, or bodies of water is prohibited. Hunting is prohibited within the city limits of Sedona. Fishing licenses are available at most grocery stores and through the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

DID YOU KNOW?

Litter lasts this long in the desert

Cigarette butts	5 years
Aluminum cans	100 years
Orange and banana peels	2 years
Plastic bottles	indefinitely



Tread on the trail

CAMPING/PICNICKING

Picnicking

An outdoor picnic is one of the best ways to enjoy Red Rock Country. There are many day-use areas with picnic tables and trash receptacles, or you can hike up to a vista with a picnic in your pack. Whatever you pack in, please pack it out. Even crumbs can make a difference, so be careful not to leave traces of food. Don't forget to bring lots of water. Picnic sites are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Picnicking is also allowed in campgrounds from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a day-use fee (\$8). After 1 p.m., the full campground fee is charged (\$15 to \$20 depending on the campground).

Parking is very limited at most day-use sites. RVs, trailers and buses are not recommended.

Tell Us How We're Doing!

If you have comments for the Forest Service, please log on at:
www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/contact



A Message from the District Ranger

"It seemed to me to be the oldest country I had ever seen, the real antique land, first cousin to the moon."
 —J.B. Priestly

On behalf of the Red Rock Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest, I welcome you to this 160,000-acre Red Rock Country. Despite its rugged appearance, Red Rock Country is a sensitive and limited living system in need of your help to sustain and enhance it. In this fragile desert, plants grow slowly and are easily trampled, and soils wash away from the impact of thousands of human footprints. New forest management policies are in place, but we need your help.

People have lived here for at least 8,000 years, and until recently, the human impact on the ecosystem was small. Now the area attracts 4 million visitors annually, as many as visit Grand Canyon National Park. Because of this popularity and greater Sedona's growth, Red Rock Country, with its scenic landscapes, hiking trails, and prehistoric ruins is in danger of being loved to death.

Powerful natural forces, that began their work 350 million years ago, have created a unique mosaic of plant and animal habitats. I encourage you to take the time to experience and observe the beauties and marvels of nature.

I hope you enjoy your stay. Please take to heart the leave-no-trace commitment described in these pages. Your children's children will thank you.

Sincerely,

Heather

Heather Provencio, District Ranger
 Red Rock Ranger District



Visitors explore Munds Wagon Trail.

Weather or Not?

Average Temperature (degrees Fahrenheit)			Average Total Precipitation	Sunrise/Sunset	
Month	High	Low	Inches		
January	55	30	1.7	7:35	5:39
February	59	32	1.5	7:13	6:10
March	63	35	1.7	6:37	6:36
April	72	42	1.2	5:55	7:00
May	81	49	0.6	5:23	7:24
June	91	57	0.5	5:13	7:43
July	95	65	1.9	5:25	7:41
August	92	64	2.4	5:48	7:15
September	88	58	1.5	6:10	6:33
October	78	48	1.1	6:33	5:52
November	65	37	1.3	7:02	5:22
December	56	30	1.7	7:27	5:18

Total Average Yearly Precipitation: 17.1"

Volunteers Increase Our Caring Capacity

In Red Rock Country you will meet many people who help maintain and protect the national forest. Citizens from near and far provide the Red Rock Ranger District with more than 55,000 hours of volunteer service every year. To help offset inadequate Federal funding, these volunteers assist the Forest Service with maintaining and building trails, informing visitors, and restoring damaged areas. For more information contact the Friends of the Forest, Inc., P.O. Box 2391, Sedona, AZ 86339; Trail Resource Access Coalition of Sedona (TRACS) at 50 Yucca St., Sedona, AZ 86351; Keep Sedona Beautiful (KSB) at P.O. Box 1066, Sedona, AZ 86339; or the Sedona Chamber of Commerce at (928) 282-7722.

JAVELINA

If you are lucky, you may meet a herd of javelina in Red Rock Country. Javelina (hah-vel-EEN-a), live in desert scrub and feed mainly on prickly pear cactus. Javelina usually feed at night during hot summer months but are active in the day during cooler months. Javelina do not see well but have a great sense of smell which helps them find tubers deep underground. While not aggressive, they have sharp canines that can inflict a nasty bite, so keep your dog leashed when in the forest.



Sketch by Susan Kliever

WELCOME TO A NATIONAL FOREST RECREATION FEE AREA

DO I NEED A PASS?
 If you leave your car unattended while recreating on national forest land around Sedona/Oak Creek Canyon, you must display a pass on your vehicle dashboard or rearview mirror.

WHAT PASS IS VALID?

Federal Interagency Passes

Red Rock Passes

OR

WHERE CAN I GET A PASS?
 Federal Interagency Passes are available at the Red Rock Visitor Center on State Rt. 179, the Sedona Chamber of Commerce, or any national park or monument.
 Red Rock Passes are available at the Red Rock Visitor Center on State Rt. 179, the Sedona Chamber of Commerce, Oak Creek Canyon Visitor Center, Oak Creek Vista, and Palatki and V-Bar-V Heritage Sites. Red Rock Passes are also available at many trailhead fee machines and local stores.

Red Rock Pass supports road and trail maintenance in Red Rock Country.

WHAT IS THE MONEY USED FOR?

Your money is used right here in Red Rock Country to inform visitors, staff visitor centers, maintain trails, clean toilets, and enforce laws to protect the area.

Thank you for supporting Red Rock Country!

Get information and passes at national forest and chamber visitor centers.

Red Rock Passes can be purchased at trailhead fee machines.

Red Rock Country Vicinity Map

Leave No Trace

FEE BASICS FOR RED ROCK COUNTRY

A valid recreation pass is required within the recreation fee area. The pass must be displayed in the windshield of the vehicle. Revenue from the pass helps provide information, education and natural resource protection. See “Federal Interagency Passes” section below.

Daily Red Rock Pass..... \$5
Valid for one calendar day.

Weekly Red Rock Pass..... \$15
Valid for 7 consecutive days.

Annual Pass \$20
Valid for 12 consecutive months.

Grand Annual Pass \$40
Valid for 12 consecutive months.

Red Rock Passes are valid for Palatki, Honanki and V Bar V cultural sites. They are **not valid** for Forest Service campgrounds, state parks (Slide Rock, Red Rock), national monuments (Montezuma Castle, Montezuma Well (free) or Tuzigoot), or concessionaire operated sites at Crescent Moon, Call O’ the Canyon, and Grasshopper Point.

Where to Get a Red Rock Pass

Red Rock Passes are available at all four Gateway Visitor Centers. Daily and weekly passes are available at the following national forest locations (credit card or cash machines, \$1, \$5, \$10 only).

- Baldwin Trailhead
- Banjo Bill
- Bear Doe Trailhead
- Bell Rock Pathway Parking
- Bootlegger
- Boynton Canyon Trailhead
- Cathedral Rock Trailhead
- Encinoso Picnic Area
- Halfway Picnic Area
- Huckaby Trailhead
- Indian Gardens Parking
- Jim Thompson Trailhead
- Jordan Trailhead
- Little Horse Trailhead
- Midgely Bridge Parking

Daily and weekly passes can be purchased at many local stores and hotels.

Other Local Passes

AZ State Parks Passes\$10 - \$125
Available at all Arizona State Parks for the use of Arizona State Parks only. For information call: (602) 542-4174 or visit www.azstateparks.com or 800-285-3703.

Recreation Resource Management the Big “3” Pass \$8 - \$40
Available at Crescent Moon, Grasshopper Point, Call O’ the Canyon and the Recreation Resource Management Visitor Center (seasonal).

Federal Interagency Passes

The following passes are valid in place of the Red Rock Pass and are available at all Forest Service Gateway Visitor Centers and the Red Rock Ranger Station. Federal Interagency Senior and Access Passes allow 50 percent discount at national forest campgrounds.

Federal Interagency Senior Pass.....\$10
A Federal Interagency Senior Pass may be purchased by any U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the United States who is at least 62 years old. It is valid for the life-

time of the pass holder. It is valid for the pass holder and accompanying passengers in a private vehicle. Federal Interagency Senior Pass holders are also eligible for free entrance to most Federal recreation fee areas.

Federal Interagency Access Pass.....Free
A Federal Interagency Access Pass may be issued to any U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the United States who is permanently disabled and eligible for disability benefits. It is valid for the lifetime of the pass holder. It is valid for the pass holder and accompanying passengers in a private vehicle. Federal Interagency Access Pass holders are also eligible for free entrance to most Federal recreation fee areas.

Federal Interagency Annual Pass \$80
A Federal Interagency Annual Pass may be purchased by anyone (age 17-61), is valid for 12 consecutive months, and is accepted at most national forest fee areas and many other Federal fee sites.



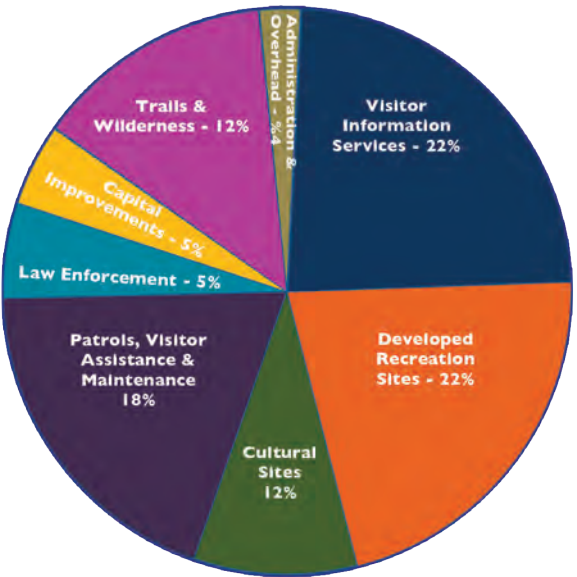
Forest ranger shares information with visitors near Schnebley Hill

Buying A Red Rock Pass Protects Red Rock Country

The mission of the Red Rock Pass Program is to conserve, protect, and restore the natural and cultural resources on national forest in Red Rock Country. This program was authorized by Congress as the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) in 2004 (P.L. 108-447). The program authorizes fees to be collected to pay for the care and maintenance of recreation areas like Sedona’s Red Rock Country.

Are Fees Really Needed?

For every dollar in the Federal budget, only .00018 of a penny goes to national forest recreation, heritage and wilderness programs nationwide which is a fraction of the funds needed to care for the increasingly popular Red Rock Country.



Recreation Guide to Your National Forest
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Leave no trace

How are the fees used?

Ninety-five percent of the fees collected from the Red Rock Pass Program stay in Red Rock Country.

Red Rock Pass funds help to achieve important tasks on the Red Rock Ranger District to help care for the land and serve visitors. These include:

- visitor contacts made at the visitor center and in the field
- thousands of pounds of trash removed from the forest
- graffiti removed
- fallen trees removed from trails
- abandoned vehicles removed from the forest
- numerous public assists
- interpretive signs installed
- roads and trails maintained
- trash picked up and recycling service
- resource protection and visitor exhibits at three unique archaeology sites
- law enforcement and safety

RED ROCK PASS

PASS ON YOUR PUBLIC LAND LEGACY

Public Lands - Our National Treasure

Public lands are one of America’s great treasures. Nearly one-third of the country belongs to its citizens—a national inheritance unrivaled in the world. Public lands are celebrated for their recreation and spiritual values, for economic benefits, for what they preserve of pristine America, and for their role as a vast recreational playground and classroom for all Americans and foreign visitors.



One of America's national treasures



Leave no trace

Scenic Drives

Red Rock Country has spectacular scenery and driving is one way to see a lot of country. Here are some recommended scenic drives.

Two Hours or Less:

Red Rock Loop Road

Magnificent views of Cathedral Rock, access to Red Rock Crossing/Crescent Moon Ranch, and Red Rock State Park. Paved, with one gravel section.

From Sedona, drive west on Hwy. 89A. Turn left on Upper Red Rock Loop Road. This winding road has several scenic pullouts. At the bottom of the hill, turn left on Chavez Ranch Road to Crescent Moon Recreation Area or bear right and continue on to Red Rock State Park. Part of the road is gravel, and then becomes Lower Red Rock Loop Road 5 miles back to Hwy. 89A. Turn right to return to Sedona on Hwy. 89A.



Boynton Pass Loop

Stupendous views of Boynton Canyon and Dry Creek and numerous trail access points. Mostly paved, with unpaved and bumpy sections.

From Sedona continue 3 miles west on Hwy. 89A to Dry Creek Road. Turn right onto Dry Creek Road and go 5 miles. Turn left on Boynton Pass Road. Continue to Forest Road 525. Turn left and continue 8 miles to Hwy. 89A. A left onto the highway will return you to Sedona.

Page Springs Loop

Red rock views, fish hatchery, visitor center, desert grassland and return past Bell Rock and trailheads.

From Sedona, drive 12 miles west on Hwy. 89A to Page Springs Road. Travel 3 miles to the entrance to Page Springs Fish Hatchery. Continue to Cornville Road. Turn left and travel 4 miles to FR 120 (Beaverhead Flat Road). Turn left onto Beaverhead Flat Road and travel 7 miles to Hwy. 179. Turn left at Hwy. 179 and find the Village of Oak Creek, Bell Rock and trailheads. Total Trip: About 1 hour, 45 minutes and 40 miles.

Half Day:

Oak Creek – Interstate 17 Loop

Scenic Oak Creek Canyon and breathtaking Verde Valley views.

From Sedona, go north 15 miles on Hwy. 89A to the top of Oak Creek Canyon, where there is a scenic viewpoint. Continue north 8 miles to the I-17 junction. Turn left onto I-17 to visit Flagstaff, or right onto I-17 to return to Sedona. Travel south on I-17 for 38 miles to the Hwy. 179 junction. Exit and go on Hwy. 179 14 miles

back to Sedona. Total trip: About 3 hours and 75 miles.

Desert Canyon Loop

This is a drive through scenic desert country where you'll see colorful canyons, cultural sites, lush oasis, picturesque ranches, and out-of-the-way Indian ruins. The route skirts the lower elevations of Arizona's rim country where red rock canyons spill out from under thick basalt flows. The road cuts two of these canyons and offers access to a third along the way. Roadside signs point the way to a number of hiking trails and a few spur roads leading off into the back country. Keep an eye out for roadrunners, coyotes and javelinas as you drive. The road is a bit rough, requiring slow speeds. FR 618 is graveled and suitable for passenger cars; however, it can become soft and slippery when wet.

From Sedona take Hwy. 179 to the junction with I-17, continue southeast under the highway onto FR 618. Follow this road along the base of the Mogollon Rim 13 miles to Hwy. 260 (General Crook Highway) and turn west (right) 9 miles back to I-17.

One Day:

National Monuments Loop

Ancient ruins at three national monuments (Montezuma Castle, Montezuma Well, and Tuzigoot) and rock art at the V Bar V (Vee Bar Vee) Cultural Site.

From Sedona, travel west on Hwy. 89A to Cottonwood. Tuzigoot Road to Tuzigoot National Monument is 2 miles past Old Town on the right. To get to Montezuma Castle National Monument, get back on Hwy. 89A to Hwy. 260 to I-17. Go north on I-17 to the Middle Verde exit. Turn right (east). The Montezuma Castle access road is one-quarter mile on the left. Get back on I-17 and go north 11 miles to exit 293. Go straight (north) from the ramp and follow the signs 5 miles to Montezuma Well. From there continue north on Forest Road 119 about 2.5 miles, and turn right on Forest Road 618. Follow it about 1.5 miles to the turnoff for V Bar V Cultural Site (open Friday through Monday). Follow signs to the site. Return to Sedona via Hwy. 179.

Fire Lookouts and Wilderness Vistas

Enjoy views of West Fork, Oak Creek Canyon and Sycamore Canyon from three vantage points. To reach Harding Point, which overlooks West Fork, from Sedona take Hwy. 89A to 1 mile north of Oak Creek Vista. Turn left onto Forest Road 535 (gravel). Follow Forest Road 535 to 535A for approximately 4.5 miles for terrific views.

To go to the Turkey Butte and East Pocket fire lookouts, from Sedona go north on Hwy. 89A to Flagstaff. Turn west onto Hwy. 66 and travel several miles to Forest Road 231, also known as Woody Mountain Road (gravel). Follow Woody Mountain Road for approximately 13 miles to the junction of Forest Road 231A. East Pocket Lookout is another 6 miles down Forest Road 231. Turkey Butte Lookout is about 3 miles down FR 231A, a recommended high-clearance road. You will need to walk the last quarter mile to get to Turkey Butte



Oak Creek canyon view from vista

Fire Lookout. When staffed, both lookouts are open to the public.

Red Rocks Sycamore Canyon Loop

This route hugs the foot of colorful cliffs in the heart of Red Rock Country and offers scenic side trips. This drive takes you out to Robber's Roost, where horse thieves once hid their contraband, and to Sycamore Pass, the gateway to Sycamore Canyon Wilderness and finally back to Red Rock Crossing on Oak Creek.

Take Hwy. 89A through West Sedona to Dry Creek Road (FR 152C). Turn north and proceed along FR 152C for 2 miles to Vultee Arch Road and another 2.5 miles to the intersection with Boynton Canyon Road. FR 152C continues southwest (left) onto an unpaved road (at some places this road is a rocky, washboard, uneven surface). In about 4 miles, FR 152C intersects FR 525. From here you turn north (right) to the Loy Butte spur or south (left) to continue the drive. In another 4 miles FR 525 intersects FR 525C (Sycamore Pass Spur). This road will take you to the east side of Sycamore Canyon. Continue south 5.5 miles to Hwy. 89A and another 5.3 miles on pavement back to Sedona. The Red Rock Loop Road, which accesses Red Rock Crossing is located off Hwy. 89A about 1 mile south of Sedona.

FR152C is paved to Doe Mountain Trailhead, and Red Rock Loop Road is paved except for the last mile or so. The rest of this route is unpaved and can become muddy and slippery when wet.

Red Rocks and Volcanoes

This route includes views of Oak Creek Canyon, the San Francisco Peaks, cool ponderosa pine forests, many hiking trails, picturesque picnic and camp spots, fall aspen color, and views of elk and mule deer.

Drive north along Oak Creek Canyon on Hwy. 89A from Sedona to Flagstaff. From Flagstaff drive north on Hwy. 180 about 2 miles. Just beyond the Museum of Northern Arizona, turn east on FR 420. Follow this route up and over Shultz Pass to Hwy. 89 where you'll turn right for the return trip to Flagstaff. Shultz Pass Road may be closed during winter.

4x4 and All-Terrain Vehicle Travel

Cross-country (off-road) motor vehicle travel is prohibited in Red Rock Country. The Red Rock Ranger District has some primitive, minimally maintained routes that are available for off-highway vehicle use—including ATVs and non-highway licensed vehicles. However, most primary forest roads and campgrounds are maintained for passenger vehicles and are off limits to ATVs and non-highway licensed vehicles. Contact the Red Rock Ranger Station or any visitor information center for more information about routes for 4x4 and ATV travel, or call:

Arizona State Parks OHV Program Coordinator:
1-800-285-3703; www.azstateparks.com/OHV

Arizona State Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs (ASA4WDC): (520) 682-0273; www.asa4wdc.org/

Arizona Lands Information Center: 1-602-417-9300; www.pr.state.az.us

Arizona Game and Fish Department: (602) 942-3000; www.azgfd.gov/



High-clearance vehicles are recommended for primitive roads in Red Rock Country

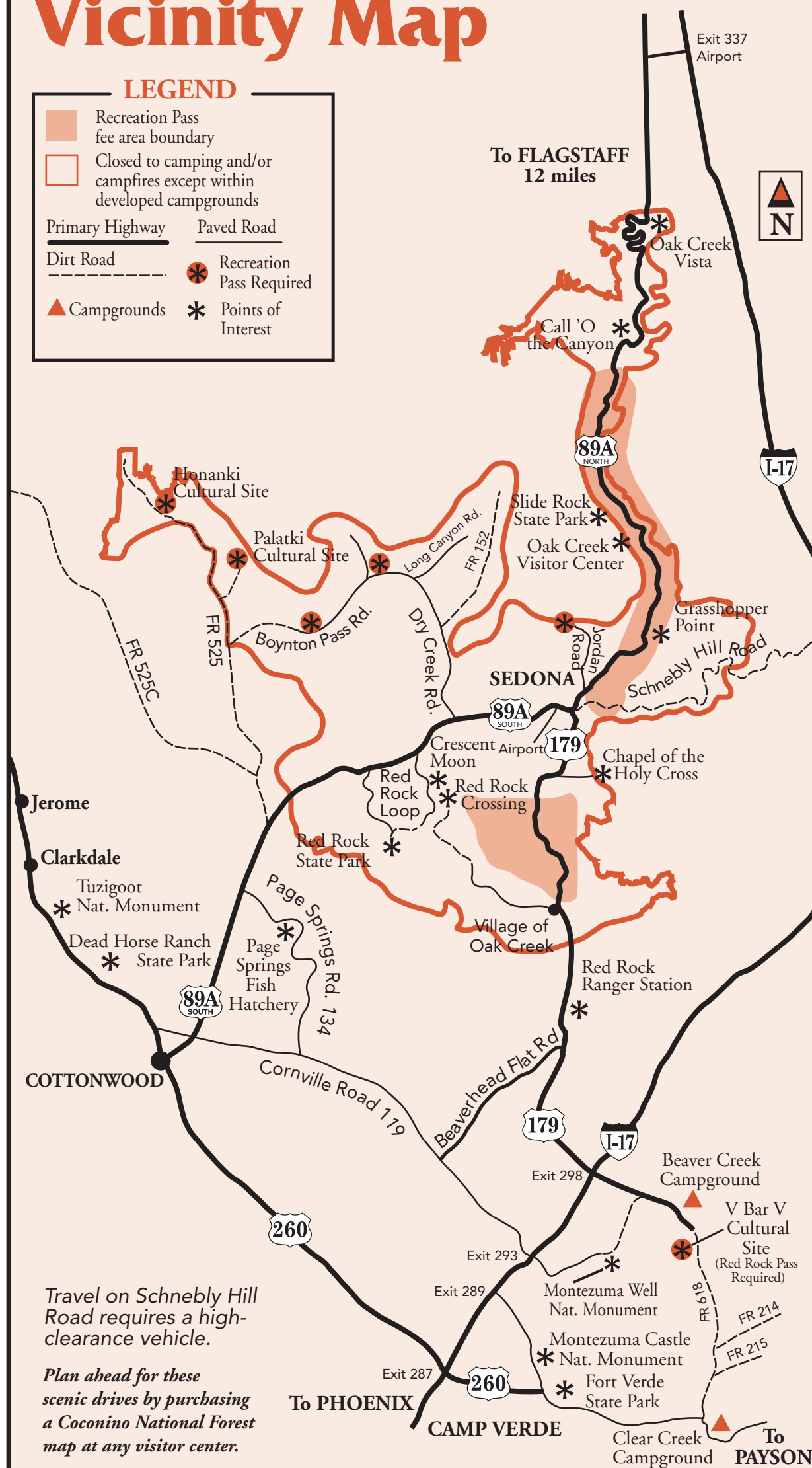
BE A SAFE AND COURTEOUS DRIVER

- Please don't litter
- Unpaved roads require slower speeds
- Bicycles and pedestrians have the right-of-way
- Stay on the road to minimize vehicle impacts on desert plants
- Avoid unsurfaced roads during wet weather
- During periods of inclement weather, some roads may be temporarily closed for public safety and resource protection. Please respect all posted closures and remember to "Tread Lightly."

Red Rock Country Vicinity Map

LEGEND

- Recreation Pass fee area boundary
- Closed to camping and/or campfires except within developed campgrounds
- Primary Highway
- Paved Road
- Dirt Road
- Recreation Pass Required
- Campgrounds
- Points of Interest



Leave no trace



Dispersed Camping

Because of intense use of Red Rock Country, the area around Sedona is closed to camping except in developed campgrounds (see chart, page 2). Specific boundaries for dispersed camping are shown on the map on pages 6 and 7.

Backpacking is permitted in wilderness areas. In **Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness** and **Munds Mountain Wilderness**, hikers must be in at least 1 mile from the trailhead before camping. In **Sycamore Canyon Wilderness**, camping and campfires are prohibited at and downstream of Parsons Springs. On the West Fork Trail, camping is allowed only after 6 miles in from the Hwy. 89A trailhead.

No services are available at dispersed sites. Pack out all trash and put fires out, cold to the touch.

Other areas available for camping:

South of Sedona

Beaver Creek Area: East of I-17. Dispersed campers must be 1 mile away from Beaver Creek Campground. Camping and/or campfires are prohibited in the Bell Trail area. No Red Rock Pass required.

West of Sedona

Travel 3 miles west of Lower Red Rock Loop Road on Hwy. 89A to Forest Road 525. The first 5 miles of FR 525 and all of FR 525C are open for dispersed camping.

North of Sedona

Off Hwy. 89A north of Oak Creek Vista.

East of Sedona

Camping is allowed along Schnebly Hill Road east of Schnebly Hill Vista, 6 miles from Sedona.

Campfire Safety

"Nine out of 10 wildfires are caused by people. Do your part, don't let one start."



Drown! Drown the fire with water and dirt.



Stir! Stir the remains. Be sure all burnable materials are extinguished.



Feel! Feel all materials with your bare hands. Make sure your fire is out cold!



Take responsibility . . .

If you have a campfire, remember to never leave it unattended. If it is too hot to touch, it is too hot to leave!

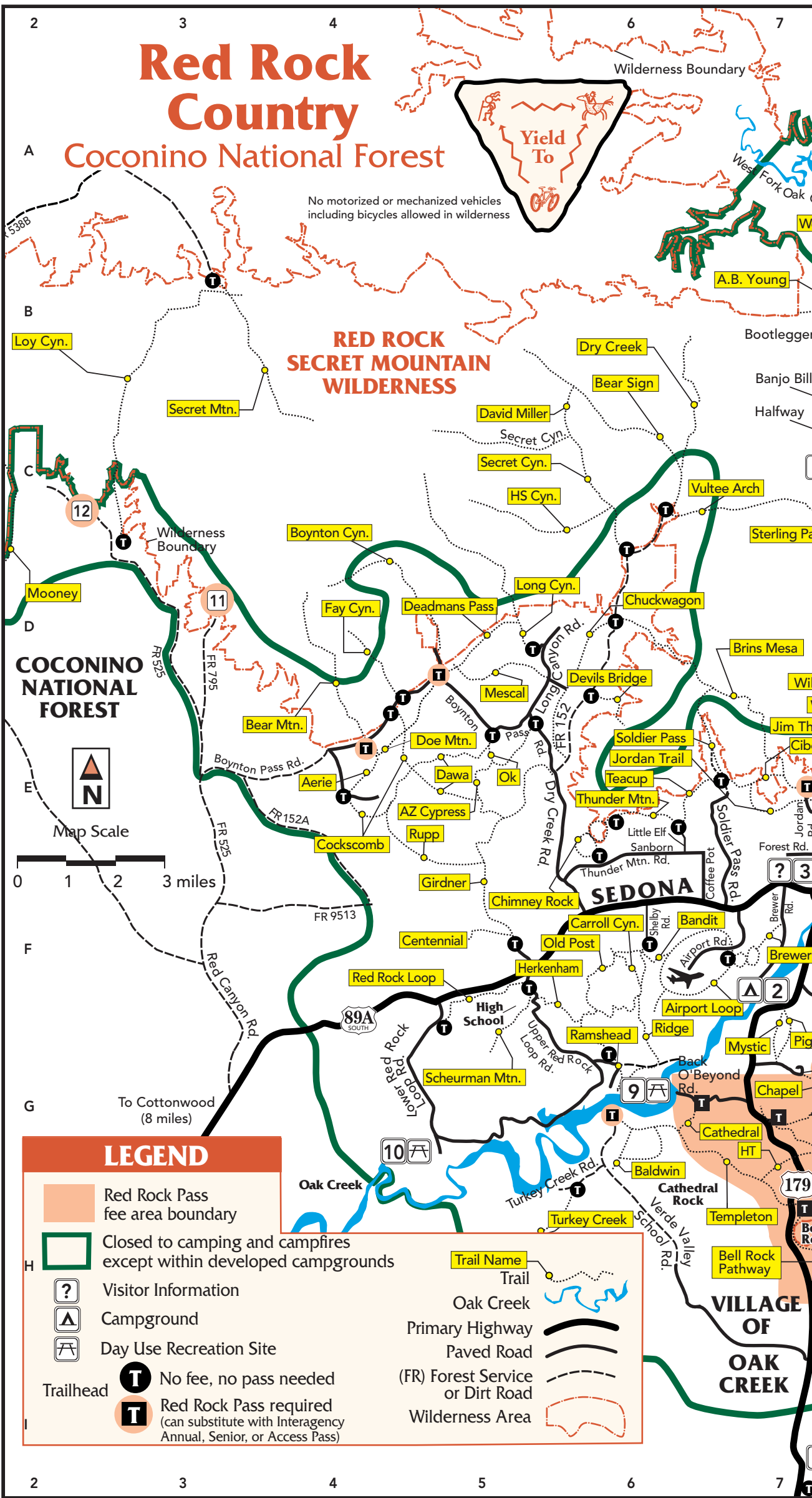
Only YOU can prevent wildfires.

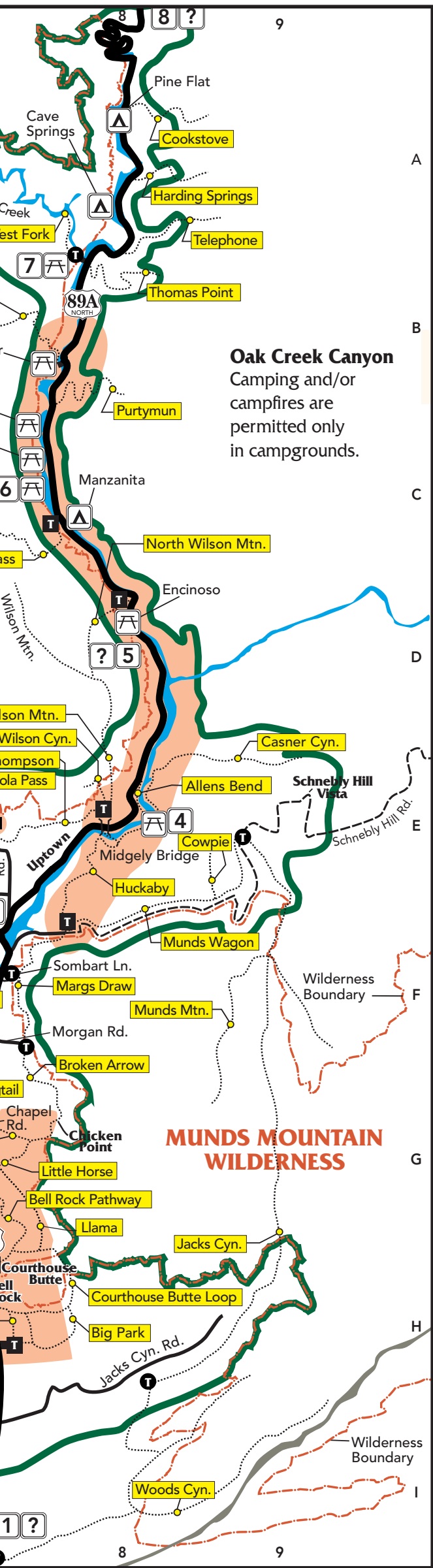


TRAIL INFORMATION

W = wilderness

Trail Name	W	Miles One Way	Elevation Gain	Map Coordinates
SEDONA AREA				
Airport Loop		3.3	200	F7
Bandit		0.5		F6
Brins Mesa	W	3.5	600	E7
Broken Arrow Road		2.1	300	F8
Broken Arrow Trail		1.7	300	F8
Brewer		0.6		F7
Carroll Canyon		1.8		E6
Sedona Centennial		0.3	50	F5
Chapel		1	50	G7
Chimney Rock Pass	W	1.1	150	E5
Cibola Pass	W	0.8	250	E7
Girdner		4.6	200	F5
Jim Thompson		2.7	200	E7
Jordan		1.2	200	E6
Little Horse		1.5	300	G7
Lower Chimney Rock		1.2	100	E5
Margs Draw	W	1.9	150	F8
Mystic		1.7	190	F7
Old Post		2.6		F6
Pigtail		.6		F7
Ridge		2		F6
Soldier Pass	W	1.9	500	E7
Sugarloaf Loop		0.5	200	E6
Teacup		1.6	200	E6
Thunder Mountain		1.6	50	E5
RED ROCK ROAD AREA				
Herkenham		1		F6
Ramshead		1.5		G6
Red Rock Loop		1.4	175	F5
Red Rock State Park		6 short easy trails		G4
Scheurman Mountain		0.9	350	F5
VILLAGE OF OAK CREEK AND BELL ROCK				
Baldwin		2.1	100	G6
Bell Rock Pathway		3.7	50	G7
Big Park		1	50	H8
Cathedral Rock		0.7	600	G6
Courthouse Butte Loop	W	3.6	250	H8
Hot Loop	W	12.4	1,000	H9
HT		0.8	100	G7
Jacks Canyon	W	6.8	2,000	H9
Templeton		3.4	200	G6
Turkey Creek		3.4	600	H5
Woods Canyon	W	5.3	400	I8
DRY CREEK BASIN AND POINTS WEST				
Aerie		2.8		E3
Arizona Cypress		1.7		E4
Bear Mountain	W	2.4	1,800	D4
Bear Sign	W	3	600	C6
Boynton Canyon	W	3.2	400	D4
Casner Mountain		7	2,100	C1
Cockscomb		3.3		E4
Dawa		1.7		E4
David Miller	W	.9	800	C5
Deadmans Pass		1.2	150	D5
Devils Bridge	W	0.7	400	D6
Doe Mountain		0.6	400	E4
Dogie	W	5.4	400	C1
Dry Creek	W	3	450	C6
Fay Canyon	W	1	95	D4
HS Canyon	W	1.5	800	C5
Long Canyon	W	3.7	580	C4
Loy Canyon	W	5	1,680	B2
Mooney	W	6	2,000	D2
Secret Canyon	W	5.1	660	C5
Secret Mountain	W	5.5	400	C3
Vultree Arch	W	1.5	400	C7
OAK CREEK CANYON AND SCHNEBLY HILL				
A. B. Young		2.3	2,000	B7
Allens Bend		1	50	E8
Casner Canyon		2.6	1,500	E9
Cookstove		0.7	800	A8
Cowpie		0.5		E8
Harding Springs		0.7	700	A8
Huckaby		2.5	150	E8
Munds Mountain	W	2.8	400	F8
Munds Wagon Trail		3.8	1,100	F8
Oak Creek Vista		0.2	0	A8
Purtymun		0.9	1,000	B8
Schnebly Hill		1.7	400	E9
Sterling Pass	W	2.1	1,120	C7
Telephone		1.1	1,000	A8
Thomas Point		1	800	B8
West Fork	W	3.3	100	A7
Wilson Canyon	W	1.2	500	D7
Wilson Mountain	W	5.5	2,300	D7
N. Wilson Mountain	W	2	1,900	D8





Site Name	Fee	Drinking Water	Toilets/ Showers	No. of Sites	Max. Vehicle Size	Open Season
1 Red Rock Ranger Station and Visitor Center	0	N	Flush Toilet	1	45'	All Year
2 Chavez Group Campground ^	\$65-200	Y	Vault Toilets	3	40' limited	All Year
3 Sedona Chamber of Commerce	0	N	Flush Toilet	1	15'	All Year
4 Grasshopper Point Picnic Area	\$8	N	Vault Toilet	3	30'	All Year
5 Oak Creek Visitor Center	0	N	Flush Toilet	1	45'	Mid-April to Mid-November
6 Slide Rock State Park (Historic, Picnic, Creek Access)	\$10-20	Y	Compost Toilet	15 Picnic 2 Group	36'	All Year (Day Use Only)
7 Call of the Canyon (West Fork Trailhead)	\$9	N	Vault Toilet	6	30'	All Year
8 Oak Creek Vista	0	Y	Compost Toilet	2	30'	All Year, Weather Permitting (Day Use Only)
9 Crescent Moon Picnic Area ^	\$9	Y	Compost Toilet	14 Picnic 1 Group	30'	All Year (Day Use Only)
10 Red Rock State Park (Picnic, Visitor Center and Hiking Trails)	\$10	Y	Toilet	3 Group	36'	All Year (Day Use Only)
11 Palatki Heritage Site (reservation required, call 928-282-3854)	RRP *	N	Vault Toilet	1	30'	All Year, Weather Permitting (Day Use Only)
12 Honanki Heritage Site	RRP *	N	Vault Toilet	1	15'	All Year, Weather Permitting (Day Use Only)
V Bar V Rock Art Site (see map on page 5) (open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday only)	RRP *	N	Vault Toilet	1	45'	All Year, Weather Permitting (Day Use Only)
Halfway Picnic Area	RRP *	N	Vault Toilet	8	15'	All Year (Day Use Only)
Banjo Bill Picnic Area	RRP *	Y	Vault Toilet	12	15'	All Year (Day Use Only)
Bootlegger Picnic Area	RRP *	N	Vault Toilet	10	15'	All Year (Day Use Only)
Encinoso Picnic	RRP *	N	Compost Toilet	12	15'	All Year (Day Use Only)
Cave Springs Campground ^ (some sites are reservation only)	\$18	Y	Vault Toilet/ Showers	82	36'	Mid-April to Mid-October
Pine Flat Campground ^ (some sites are reservation only)	\$18	Y	Vault Toilet	58	36'	Mid-March to Mid-October
Manzanita Campground ^ (tents only) (some sites are reservation only)	\$18	Y	Vault Toilet	18	None	All Year
Beaver Creek Campground (see map on page 5)	\$16	Y	Vault Toilet	13	22'	All Year
Clear Creek Campground (see map on page 5)	\$16	Y	Vault Toilet	18	32'	All Year
Clear Creek Group Campground (reservation only)	\$65-110	Y	Vault Toilet	1	32'	
Dead Horse Ranch State Park (camping, cabins, hiking/biking trails, fishing)	Varies by Site	Y	Flush Toilet/ Showers	160 Camp 8 Cabins 12 Picnic	45'	All Year

Key: RRP - Red Rock Pass

^ Reservations accepted. Call the National Recreation Reservation Service at (877) 444-6777 or visit www.recreation.gov

* Interagency National passes, annual, senior and access passes are accepted as a substitute with the Red Rock Pass.

Note: Red Rock Pass is not valid for other fee areas or developed campgrounds.



Leave no trace

RED ROCK COUNTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP

Many popular areas have become crowded and show signs of damage to vegetation, cryptobiotic soil, water, archaeological sites and wildlife habitat. It is important for each of us to “Leave No Trace” when traveling through this unique ecosystem. There are seven actions you can take to Leave No Trace:

Be considerate of others

Remember to share the trail, be a safe and courteous driver and keep noise to a minimum in the forest where people seek to experience the sounds of nature.

Leave what you find

Plants, flowers, animals, rocks, pottery shards and other natural and cultural treasures need to stay where you find them. Take nothing but photos and memories.

Respect Wildlife — This is their home

Watch wildlife from a distance. Never approach, feed or follow a wild animal. Do not remove lizards, tarantulas, snakes or other animals from the forest. Do not leave any food on the ground. Dogs can fatally frighten wild animals—leash your dog.

Dispose of waste properly

Pack out what you bring into the forest. If you see trash left by others, please pick it up too. Dispose of human waste responsibly—bury it 6 inches deep at least 200 feet from water and trails. Pack out toilet paper. Cigarette butts are trash, too!

Travel and camp on durable surfaces

Always walk on the main trail—creating new trails destroys the fragile cryptobiotic soil crust, desert vegetation and animal habitat. If you must travel off the trail, choose rock, gravel or sand surfaces.

Minimize campfire impacts

When camping in arid country, a stove is better than a fire. Trees and shrubs grow slowly in arid lands, and dead wood is vital to the desert ecosystem. Minimizing campfires keeps the area more natural, the air cleaner and the risk of wildfires to a minimum. Wildfires have been started by campfires thought to be completely out.

Oak Creek has exceptional recreational and ecological significance and is designated an “Outstanding Arizona Water.” Even with this special protection, Oak Creek water contains a bacteria and too much of this bacteria poses a health concern. We can all do our part in keeping Oak Creek pristine and healthy by disposing of waste, using designated restroom facilities, packing out trash (especially baby diapers!), and cleaning up after our pets. Thank you for doing your part.



Designated as an “Outstanding Arizona Water,” Oak Creek offers recreation enjoyment

Plan ahead and prepare

Check with a Forest Service visitor center for updates and information. Use maps, stay on the trails, and be prepared for extreme weather, hazards and emergencies.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

The Red Rock Country offers great mountain biking for all skill levels, with most trails being moderately to very challenging. To protect the fragile cryptobiotic soil, it's important for bicyclists to stay on the trail and not create new tracks. While bicycles are prohibited in wilderness, there are many excellent trails outside wilderness open to bicycles.

Here are a few trails recommended for mountain biking. For more trail information, contact a local bike shop.

Bell Rock Pathway (Easy) This wide, flat to rolling pathway wraps around the base of Bell Rock and parallels the Munds Mountain Wilderness boundary. It offers closeup views of Bell Rock and Courthouse Butte, and links up to the more narrow Big Park Loop and Little Horse Trail.

Distance: 3.5 miles one way.

Directions: Hwy. 179 to Little Horse Trailhead or Bell Rock Vista just north of the Village of Oak Creek.

Big Park Loop (Easy to Moderate)

This single-track trail loops south of Bell

Rock and Courthouse Butte

and links up with Bell Rock Pathway for a longer ride.

Distance: 4 miles.

Directions: Hwy. 179 to Bell Rock Vista just north of the Village of Oak Creek. This trail starts a quarter mile north on Bell Rock Pathway.

North Urban Trail System (Easy to Moderate)

Access from Jordan Road Trailhead, Soldier Pass Road Trailhead, and Andante Drive Trailhead.

Dead Horse Ranch State Park (Easy to Strenuous)

Trails wind along the Verde River and in the grasslands of this state park. Lime Kiln Trail, Thumper Trail, Bones Trail and Raptor Hill Trail offer easy to strenuous bicycling, much of it single track.

Distance: Varies.

Directions: South on Hwy. 89A to Cottonwood.

Follow signs to state park.

Baldwin Trail (Moderate) 1.5 miles one way. Trail loops around a large butte and then follows Oak Creek for a short stretch. Constantly changing grade with fast, curvy single track and sections of rocky dry wash. Access across from end of Verde Valley School Road parking area.

HT/Templeton Trails (Moderate) 6 miles round trip. Ride includes two highway underpasses, rocky wash crossings, curvy single track, slick rock, Oak Creek and views of Cathedral Rock. Can be connected with Baldwin Trail for extended ride. Access from Little Horse Trailhead on Hwy. 179. Follow Bell Rock Pathway to junction with HT just past the foot bridge.

Little Horse Trail (Moderate to Strenuous) 1.6 miles one way. Single track climbs to Chicken Point through pinyon and cypress forest. Some steep, rocky climbs. Access from Little Horse Trailhead on Hwy. 179. Links with Broken Arrow and Mystic Trails for extended loop.

Bicyclists:

Yield to all other trail users. Thank you for sharing the trail!



Hiking

No matter what time of year, **hikers must carry water.** One gallon per person per day is recommended. Dehydration is one of the biggest dangers of hiking in Red Rock Country. Bring trail mix or snacks, even for short hikes. Also:

- Wear a hat and sunscreen.
- Wear hiking boots or good walking shoes.
- In your pack, carry: first aid kit, map, flashlight, toilet paper and plastic bag, rescue whistle, compass, pocket knife, extra food.
- Keep dogs on a leash and clean up after your pet.
- Use toilets before you hit the trail. If nature calls, leave no trace. Choose a spot at least 200 feet from water or trails. Bury waste 6 inches deep. Pack out toilet paper.
- Trailheads are targets of theft. Never leave valuables in your car.
- Get a weather report.
- Tell someone where you are going. Hike with a friend.

Getting to the trail

Sedona has many trailheads that offer parking and trail information. Some trailheads are small and located within residential areas. Please:

- Respect private property rights.
- Don't park in front of a driveway or outside of the trailhead parking lot.
- Most trailheads do not have garbage cans, so please pack out your trash.

A FEW SUGGESTED HIKES:

Easy Trails

Lower Chimney Rock (1 mile round trip) From the junction of Hwys. 89A and 179, take 89A west 3.2 miles to Dry Creek Road on the right. Go north .5 mile to Thunder Mountain Road on the right. Go .6 mile east to the turnoff on the left for trailhead parking. A fun family hike!

Big Park (1 mile round trip) From the junction of Hwys. 89A and 179 in Sedona, take 179 south 6.5 miles to a short roadway on the left marked for Bell Rock Vista, milepost 307.1. An easy access trail for hiking or mountain bike riding with views of Bell Rock and Courthouse Butte.

Mystic (2 miles round trip) From the junction of Hwys. 89A and 179 in Sedona, take 179 south 3 miles and turn onto Chapel Road. The trailhead is located on the left at the intersection of Antelope Drive. This trail connects with Little Horse Trail and Bell Rock Pathway by a marked trail on residential streets. A great trail for hikers who want a less remote experience or mountain bike riders looking for a link from town to a variety of trails to the south.

Moderate Trails

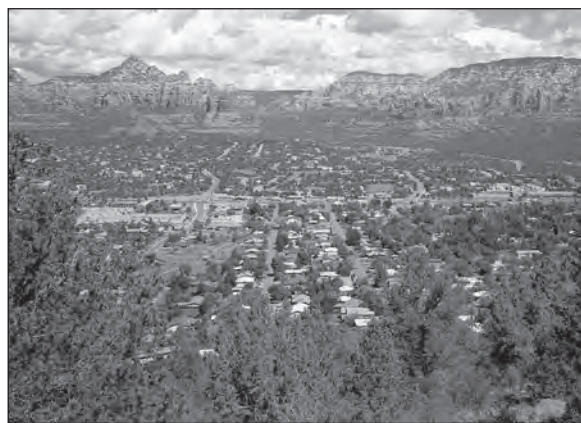
Dry Creek (6 miles round trip) From the junction of Hwys. 89A and 179, take 89A west 3.2 miles to Dry Creek Road on the right. Go 1.9 miles to Forest Road 152 on the right. Take this

hiking continued on page 9

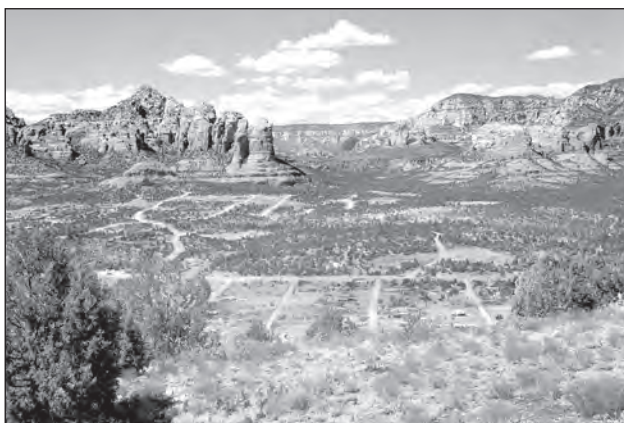
Red Rock Country Provides a Dramatic Setting for a Thriving Community

The City of Sedona was incorporated in 1987. What was once considered “out in the middle of nowhere” has become a thriving community. These historic photos evoke nostalgia for the past, while showing the dramatic changes brought by Red Rock Country’s popularity.

Sedona, Oak Creek Canyon, and the Village of Oak Creek are home to more than 11,000 people who treasure the awe-inspiring landscape that is their backyard. Please help them care for this special place in a loving and respectful manner. We hope your visit here is unforgettable. For more community information, contact the Sedona Chamber of Commerce at (928) 282-7722.



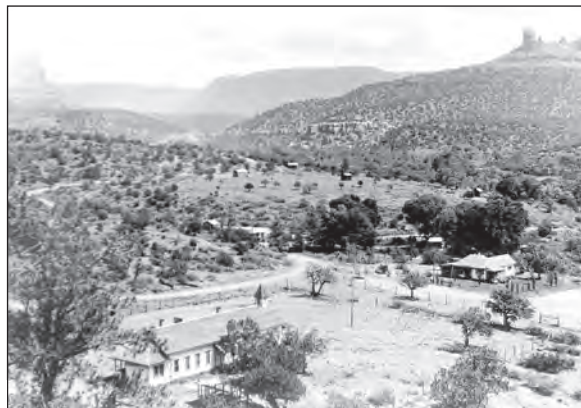
View of Sedona from Airport Mesa, 2001



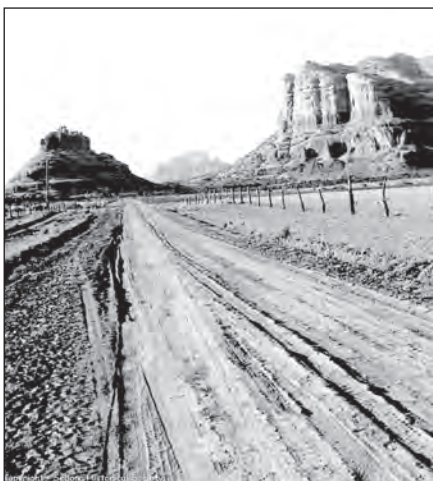
View of Sedona from Airport Mesa, 1962



Jordan Road in Uptown Sedona 1960



View in 1957 of the first Forest Service ranger station (still in this location on right), looking north toward present day Uptown Sedona and Oak Creek Canyon



View north from Village of Oak Creek on Highway 179 in 1935



Car crosses bridge in Oak Creek Canyon in 1925 near present day Slide Rock State Park

All images used by permission: Airport Mesa, 2001, copyright Tom Johnson; Airport Mesa, 1962, copyright Raymond Dorskocil; all others provided courtesy of Sedona Historical Society.



Don't bust the crust

hiking continued from page 8

miles to Forest Road 152 on the right. Take this unpaved road 4.4 miles to the trailhead parking at its end. FR 152 requires a high-clearance vehicle and should be avoided in wet weather. This is a more remote hiking trail into Red Rock/Secret Mountain Wilderness.

Cathedral Rock (1.5 miles round trip) From the junction of Hwys. 89A and 179, take 179 south 3.5 miles to Back O'Beyond Road on the right. Go .6 mile to the trailhead parking turnout on the left. Parking is limited and when the trailhead is full, parking is not permitted on Back O'Beyond Road. Alternate access points are Little Horse Trailhead on 179 (using Bell Rock Pathway to HT Trail to Templeton Trail to get to Cathedral Rock Trail) or Baldwin Trailhead on Verde Valley School Road. Consult a map for trail links. This is a challenging, slick rock hike where shoes with good soles and ankle support are a necessity.

Jack's Canyon (13 miles round trip) From the junction of Hwys. 89A and 179, drive south approximately 7 miles on 179 into the Village of Oak Creek. Turn left at the intersection onto Jacks Canyon Road. Jacks Canyon Road takes a sharp right less than a mile in and continues about another 2 miles. The trailhead is on the right on a small, somewhat hidden gravel road. This is one of the few trails providing a long distance hike in Munds Mountain Wilderness.

Loy Canyon (10 miles round trip) From the junction of Hwys. 89A and 179, drive west on 89A about 5 miles past Sedona and turn right (north) on FR 525. Follow the signs toward Loy Butte 9.3 miles to the trailhead. Watch for signs on your right and a parking area on your left just before crossing a cattle guard into Hancock Ranch. FR 525 past the junction with FR 795 is normally passable for any high-clearance vehicle but should be avoided in wet weather. This provides a more remote hike in Red Rock/Secret Mountain Wilderness.

Horseback Riding Trails

Cockscomb (multiple trails, mileage varies) From the junction of Hwys. 89A and 179, take 89A west 3.2 miles to Dry Creek Road on the right. Go 2.9 miles to a “T” and turn left on Boynton Pass Road. Go 1.6 miles to another “T” and turn left onto FR 152C. Continue for .8 mile to the Cockscomb and Fay Canyon Trails trailhead parking area on the left. Fay Canyon Trail is short and not appropriate for horseback riding, but Cockscomb Trail connects to **Dawa, Rupp, AZ Cypress, and Girdner Trails** increasing the distance and variety for a nice ride. This area features rolling terrain with picturesque old trees, views of red rock cliffs and the Cockscomb rock formation.

Bruce Brockett Trailhead (multiple trails, mileage varies) For access take I-17 to the Hwy. 179 junction. At this junction, take FR 618 east for 2 miles away from Sedona. At the top of the hill just before the Beaver Creek Ranger Station, turn left (north) and drive to the trailhead at the end of this small gravel road. This turn is marked by a sign indicating horse trailer parking. There is adequate room for up to 12 large trailers. There are toilets, and camping at the trailhead is allowed. A half-mile trail from the recently constructed Bruce Brockett Trailhead accesses Bell Trail which goes up Wet Beaver Creek and provides access to Wet Beaver Creek Wilderness. Once on **Bell Trail**, you have access to the **Apache Maid** and **White Mesa Trails**. All of these trails are good equestrian trails and allow long rides taking one day or more. No Red Rock Pass is required. Trails in this area feature sweeping vistas in limestone mesa country with hidden pockets of red rock.



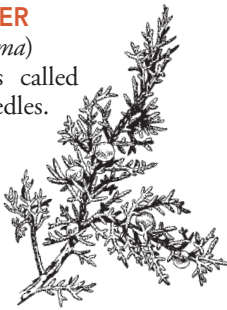
Pets on leash

ONE SEED JUNIPER

(*Juniperus monosperma*)

A tree with leaves called scales instead of needles.

Juniper berries are small, highly aromatic blue berries.



BANANA YUCCA

(*Yucca baccata*)

A member of the agave family with rigid spine-tipped leaves up to 3 feet long. Creamy white, waxy flowers become the “banana” fruit.



PINYON PINE (*Pinus edulis*) A pinyon tree has needles that are about 1” long. The cones are sticky with pitch and produce pinyon nuts.



POINTLEAF MANZANITA (*Arctostaphylos pungens*) A common, beautiful shrub in this area is the pointleaf manzanita; it has very smooth, dark red-brown bark.



CENTURY PLANT

(*Agave parryi*)

Agave, or century plant, grow a tall stalk that sports bright yellow and orange flowers in the spring. Agaves are important habitat for birds and insects.

SYCAMORE

(*Platanus wrightii*)

Beautiful mottled green and white barked trees found along dry streambanks, with large palmate leaves and round fuzzy seed balls.



ARIZONA CYPRESS (*Cupressus arizonica*) The Arizona cypress tree is common in dry washes and has a curly, paper-like bark, blue color to the scales, and a round cone.



COTTONWOOD

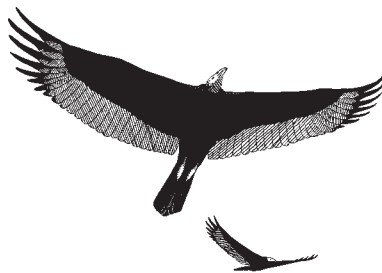
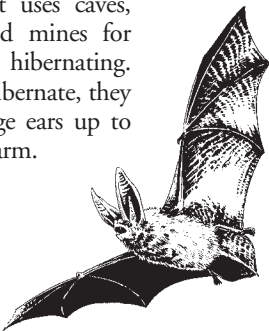
(*Populus fremontii*)

Cottonwood trees are found near water; they like to keep their roots wet. Gray bark is deeply furrowed and seeds disperse on cottony fluff.

TOWNSEND'S BIG EARED BAT

(*Corynorhinus townsendii*)

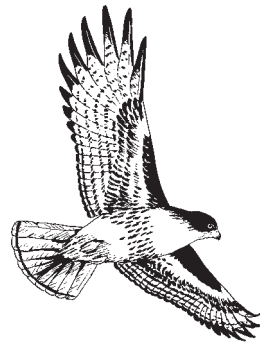
This rare bat uses caves, sinkholes, and mines for roosting and hibernating. When they hibernate, they curl their large ears up to keep them warm.



TURKEY VULTURE

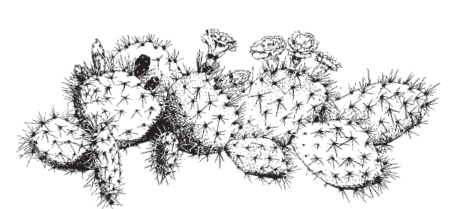
(*Cathartes aura*)

This large black soaring scavenger has white underwings and a red featherless head. A summer resident in Red Rock Country, it migrates south in winter.



RED TAIL HAWK

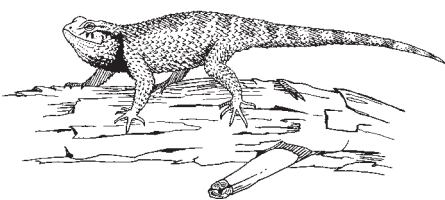
(*Buteo jamaicensis*) A large and common hawk with a red tail. The call is a distinctive “keer!”



PRICKLY PEAR

(*Opuntia engelmannii*)

Prickly pear cactus has bright yellow blossoms that turn to bright red fruit in late summer. Many wild animals eat the fruit, despite the tiny sharp spines called glochids.



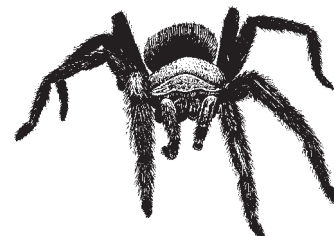
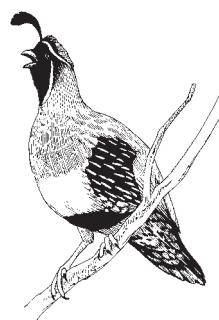
SPINY LIZARD

(*Sceloporus magister*) A stout lizard that can be 10 inches long. They are bold and actively defend their territories.

QUAIL

(*Callipepla gambelii*)

Gambel's quail are distinguished by the prominent tear-drop shaped feather plume on the top of the head. In spring they can be seen with their tiny chicks, sometimes numbering a dozen or more.



TARANTULA

(*Aphonopelma chalcodes*) This slow-moving, large hairy spider can be blonde or brown. Males are most common since females stay in burrows.



RAVEN

(*Corvus corax*) This large black bird has a distinctive croak, and makes a variety of other calls.

WILDLIFE SAFETY

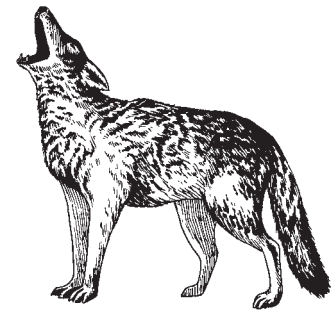
Observe animals from a distance.
Early morning and evening are the best times to observe wildlife.

SCORPIONS, though seldom seen, are found under rocks and in shady places, so never put your hands where you can't see them. Empty shoes and shake out clothes before putting them on.

NEVER FEED WILD ANIMALS. Wild animals who are fed will associate humans with food, and may become aggressive toward humans. Do not leave food scraps anywhere.

SNAKES and other small animals find shade under rocks. If you have to climb over a boulder on the trail, tap it with your boot before stepping down to alert anything that may be hiding under the rock.

CASES OF RABIES have been reported recently. Keep dogs leashed at all times.



COYOTE

(*Canis latrans*) Very adaptable mammal sometimes called a “songdog” because of their barks, howls and yips.

CANYON TREE FROG

(*Hyla arenicolor*)

A small frog with a loud mating call that sounds like short blasts of a rivet gun. Tree frogs rarely climb trees, but are found near or in water.

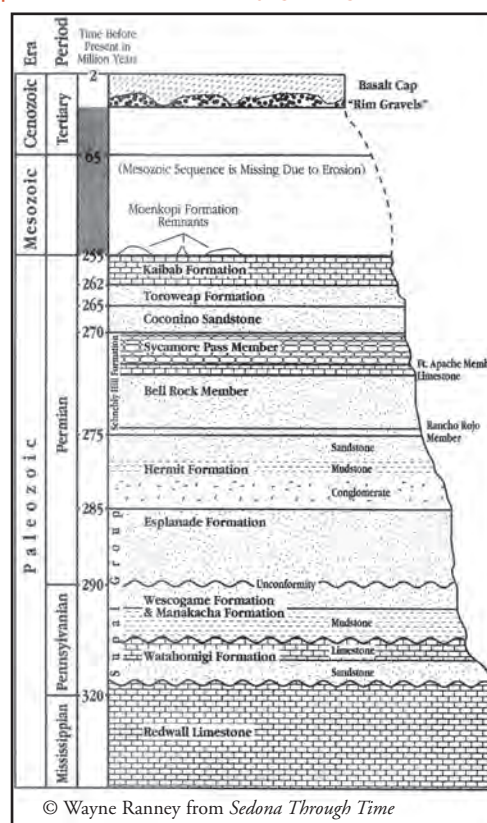


Solving the Mystery of the Red Rocks

Some 4 million people visit Red Rock Country annually, a large number considering that one of the prime attractions is rust! Many visitors ask why the red rocks are red. The answer is that the red color found in most of the layers is hematite, or iron oxide, a mineral found in great abundance in sedimentary rocks.

Rocks in Red Rock Country are old. From bottom to top layer, one can observe about 80 million years of sediment deposition! Picture a giant layer cake, each layer being its own type of rock (sandstone, limestone, siltstone). Each layer was deposited in its own geologic era. Some layers were deposited in shallow seas, some in river deltas and flood plains. Some layers are hardened sand dunes. All of these strata (except the basalt) were laid down, one atop another, during the Paleozoic Era. During this era, fishes dominated the oceans and plants and amphibians were just starting to live on land. T. Rex had not even evolved yet! Amazingly, these rocks haven't eroded away even though wind and water have been working on them for 275 million years.

Typical Red Rock Country geologic cross section



Vortex Sites are Popular

A Northern Arizona University study found that 64 percent of visitors in a recent year came to Red Rock Country seeking some kind of spiritual experience. Part of the attraction is the inspirational and regenerative nature of Sedona's scenic beauty, as well as a recreation destination.

Sedona is believed by some to be a vortex meditation site, places of power in the red rocks that enhance prayer, contemplation, and reflection for people of all faiths. Most Sedona bookstores have books on vortex beliefs and methods for experiencing these aspects of spiritual exploration. **Vortex sites are some of the most visited and impacted sites on the national forest.**

It is important to protect the spiritual beauty of this landscape. Here's how you can help:

- Treat the site and the trails to it as a fragile resource – Leave No Trace.
- Do not move rocks and sticks to create "medicine wheels." For many, this detracts from the area's natural beauty and leaves an impact on the site.
- Stay on the main trail to the site. Do not create side trails.
- When you depart, leave nothing behind – take with you only memories and wisdom.
- Preserve the natural quiet by chanting, drumming, singing, or praying quietly.

Because thousands visit these sites every year, each of us must help to keep the beauty of Sedona's inspirational landscape safe for many generations to come.

How About a Commercial Tour?

Many commercial tours are offered on the national forest. Visitors can choose a tour company which provides a safe and informative tour of Red Rock Country for those interested in hiking, mountain bicycling, jeeping, ballooning, fishing, and many other activities. Legal tour companies are carefully managed under permit to ensure they offer quality services and protect the environment. Fees generated by legal tour operators help maintain the national forest. A list of current, permitted guides can be found online at www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/projects/outfitter/permitted-o-g.shtml. If you are unsure about a commercial tour operator, you can ask to see their Forest Service permit.



Palatki Heritage Site waterfall captured following local precipitation

Stay On The Trail



DON'T BUST THE CRUST

It's Alive

The large, black patches of dark, knobby, brittle crust are actually a cryptobiotic crust. The crust is made of lichen, moss, cyanobacteria, liverwort and fungi. The crust prevents erosion and retains water and minerals for plants. Without the cryptobiotic crust, the red rock landscape would become barren sand dunes. The crust is easily broken, especially when it is dry. A single footstep can erase decades of growth.

What can you do to preserve a healthy desert ecosystem?

Where trails do not exist, hike in washes or on rocks. Text excerpted from USGS Fact Sheet FS-065-01, July 2002, Reprinted April 2004.

Learn more at
www.soilcrust.org



BIOLOGICAL SOIL CRUSTS

Stop! Don't step on that soil. It's full of life.

Although the soil surface may look like dirt to you, it is full of living organisms that are a vital part of the desert ecosystem. This veneer of life is called a biological soil crust. These crusts are found throughout the world, from hot deserts to polar regions. Crusts generally cover all soil spaces not occupied by green plants. In many areas, they comprise over 70 percent of the living ground cover and are key in reducing erosion, increasing water retention, and increasing soil fertility. In most dry regions, these crusts are dominated by cyanobacteria (previously called blue-green algae), which are one of the oldest known life forms. Soil crusts also include lichens, mosses, microfungi, bacteria, and green algae.

These living organisms and their byproducts create a continuous crust on the soil surface. Immature crusts are generally flat and the color of the soil, which makes them difficult to distinguish from bare ground. Mature crusts, in contrast, are usually bumpy and dark colored due to the presence of lichens, mosses, and high densities of cyanobacteria and other organisms.

The crusts are important in the interception of rainfall, absorbing up to 10 times their volume of water. The roughened surface of the crusts slows runoff and increases water infiltration into the soil, which is especially important in arid areas with sporadic, heavy rainfall. In addition to stabilizing surfaces and increasing water harvesting, crustal organisms also contribute nitrogen and organic matter to ecosystems, especially important in desert ecosystems where nitrogen levels are low and often limit productivity.

Unfortunately the crusts are not a match for the stress caused by footprints or bike and car tires. Even small impacts can have profound consequences. Crushed crusts contribute less nitrogen and organic matter to the ecosystem and the soils are left highly susceptible to both wind and water erosion. Blowing sediment from disturbed areas can cover nearby healthy crusts. Burial can mean death because crustal organisms need sunlight to live.

A single footprint has a long lasting effect on desert ecosystems: nitrogen fixation stops and underlying soil connections are broken. Under good conditions, a thin veneer of cyanobacteria may return in 5 years. Recovery may take up to 20 years in places with higher rainfall and up to 250 years in places of lower rainfall (Red Rock Country).



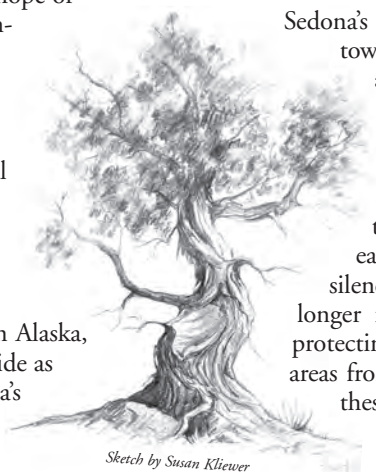
Don't bust the crust

Wilderness . . . Sedona's Wild Backyard

"Our wild lands are our most important endangered species."
—Former Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson

John Muir wrote, "wilderness is the hope of the world." Wilderness has traditionally served as a romantic metaphor for the American spirit. In 1964, the U.S. Congress passed the Wilderness Act, setting aside 91.2 million acres of national forests to remain in their natural state. Unlike other federal public lands, areas designated "wilderness" are protected forever from both development and motor vehicles.

Over half of all American wilderness is in Alaska, where 56.5 million acres have been set aside as wilderness. About 6 percent of Arizona's 72 million acres has been designated as wilderness, or 4.5 million acres. One



Sketch by Susan Kliever

third of Red Rock Country is in three Federally designated wilderness areas, totaling more than 140,000 acres:

- Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness
- Sycamore Canyon Wilderness
- Munds Mountain Wilderness

Colorful cliffs, soaring pinnacles, cactus, thick pinyon-juniper forests, and rich riparian areas flanked by crimson walls distinguish these special places. Black bear, mountain lion, white-tailed deer, rattlesnakes and canyon wrens are common to these wilderness areas. These species and many others depend on natural habitat where man is an occasional visitor.

Red Rock Country's wilderness areas are literally in Sedona's backyard. Most of the cliffs viewed from town and many of the trails around Sedona are in the Munds Mountain and Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness areas. Bell Rock is in wilderness, only steps from the highway. These wildernesses are some of the most heavily visited in the Nation with over 230,000 visitors each year. Wilderness qualities of solitude, silence, and a pristine environment are no longer found in some popular areas. Even so, protecting Red Rock Country's fragile wilderness areas from further impact depends on you. Using these areas with the care and respect they deserve, will ensure these fragile lands remain wild.

Verde Valley's History and Culture Lives

Prehistoric Indian cliff dwellings in Red Rock Country offer vivid evidence of habitation at least 1,500 years ago. According to archaeologists, the Sinagua (meaning "without water") culture flourished in the Verde Valley from around 600 AD to 1400 AD. Around 1400 or shortly thereafter, the Sinagua abandoned the Verde Valley. They migrated to the east and then north over the course of several generations, eventually becoming part of the Hopi and other puebloan tribes in eastern Arizona and western New Mexico. Sometime near the end of the Sinagua occupation, the Yavapai and Apache moved into the valley. Their descendants still live here today.

Rock art is one of the legacies left behind by the Sinagua. Petroglyphs (pecked or scratched images) and pictographs (painted images) are found on rock panels throughout Red Rock Country. The true meaning of the rock art is unknown, but various interpretations exist. The rock art could be clan signs, spiritual messages, calendars, commemorations of events, or a combination of these.

SITES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Montezuma Castle National Monument – Cliff dwelling by Wet Beaver Creek. Open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Memorial Day - Labor Day; Winter hours (after Labor Day) are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Take I-17 to Exit 289. Go past Cliff Castle Casino and turn north at sign. (928) 567-3322 • www.nps.gov/moca • Fee \$.

Montezuma Well National Monument – Limestone sinkhole, cliff dwellings, and lush oasis by Wet Beaver Creek. Take McGuireville/Rimrock Exit on I-17. Follow signs to monument. Open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Memorial Day-Labor Day; Winter hours (after Labor Day) are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. (928) 567-3322

Tuzigoot National Monument – Partially restored Indian pueblo and museum. Located in Cottonwood. Open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Memorial Day - Labor Day; Winter hours (after Labor Day) are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (928) 634-5564 • www.nps.gov/tuzi • Fee \$.

Walnut Canyon National Monument – Narrow, deep limestone canyon holds more than 80 cliff dwellings. Picnic areas, trails, and visitor center. Open 8

a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Go 9 miles east of Flagstaff on I-40, Exit 204. Fee. (928) 526-3367 • www.nps.gov/waca

Wupatki National Monument – Rock art, ruins, and scenery. Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. North of Flagstaff on Hwy. 89A. Fee. (928) 679-2365 • www.nps.gov/wupa

V bar V Cultural Site – Rock art site and visitor center on the banks of Wet Beaver Creek. Open 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday only. From Sedona take Exit 298 off I-17, then Forest Road 618 east and follow signs for 3 miles to entrance gate. No pets. Red Rock Pass required. Groups over 14 people must have reservations. (928) 282-3854 • www.redrockcountry.org/recreation/cultural/v-v

Palatki Cultural Site – Cliff dwelling, rock art, and visitor center. Open 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily. **Reservation required** – call (928) 282-3854. Take Hwy. 89A for 9 miles southwest of the intersection with Hwy. 179, to Forest Road 525. Follow signs north for 6 miles. Take Forest Road 795 for 1.5 miles to entrance gate. No pets. Red Rock Pass required • www.redrockcountry.org/recreation/culture/palatki

Honanki Cultural Site – Cliff dwelling and rock art. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Take Hwy. 89A southwest of Sedona to Forest Road 525. Follow signs north for about 10 miles (unpaved) on Forest Road 525. High-clearance vehicle recommended. Red Rock Pass required. (928) 282-4119 • www.redrockcountry.org/recreation/cultural/honanki

Museum of Northern Arizona – Indian culture and natural history museum, gift shop, exhibits, nature trail, art collection. Two miles north of Flagstaff on Hwy. 180. Fee. (928) 774-5213 • www.musnaz.org

Sedona Heritage Museum – Highlights the history of Sedona, its pioneers and settlers. Historic buildings, trails and views. Located in uptown Sedona at 735 Jordan Road. Fee. (928) 282-7038 • www.sedonamuseum.org

Fort Verde State Historic Park – Located in Camp Verde, this was a major fort for General George Crook during the Indian campaigns of the 1870s. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday-Monday. (928) 567-3275 • www.azstateparks.com/Parks/FOVE • Fee \$.

Recreation Guide to Your National Forest

Address any comments or questions about this publication to the Coconino National Forest Red Rock Ranger District at (928) 282-4119.

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In Partnership With: The Friends of the Forest, City of Sedona, Arizona Natural History Association, and Sedona Chamber of Commerce.



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Sitting, walking, pushing or climbing on ruin walls is unlawful.

Collecting or relocating archaeological artifacts is unlawful.



Defacing or destroying natural features or archaeological sites is unlawful.

The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 protects cultural resources for the benefit of all. Admire these sites, learn from them, but leave everything where it is. To do otherwise is not only disrespectful, it is against the law.