



TRACKS TRAIL CREW (TC) NEWS

TRACKS Receives Grant for New Equipment - *By Jim Snitzer*

TRACKS recently received grant money from our application to Clean Trails and has used the grant money to procure four (4) heavy duty trash grabbers, four (4) trash pick-up sticks and four (4) over the shoulder trash bags.

The equipment is being stored in the TRACKS shed at the White Mountain Nature Center. TRACKS will be using the equipment to maintain our trail systems and our Adopt-a-Highway mile at markers 347 to 348 on HWY 260 and will also make the equipment available to other volunteer organizations for use in clean-ups along Hwy 260 and in our local White Mountain Community areas. To request use of the equipment, please email TRACKS President, Jim Snitzer, at jim@snitzer.org.



Trail Crew with new grant equipment.

New Moonridge Trail is in Progress! - *By Tom Jernigan*

Moonridge trail is new and still being worked on. But it is walkable now and this is a good time to check it out while Billy Creek is still making music.

A few years ago the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside leased one mile of land from Navajo County along Billy Creek through Moonridge subdivision (roughly from the Billy Creek bridge, west to the high school fence). One of the lease terms was that a trail would be developed. Well, it IS being developed and Tracks has led the effort with the help of the Town's public works department and the People's Voice Committee.

There is hope that this section of trail will one day be a part of a trail running from the far east side of the town near the Game and Fish Department through town to the

SPOTLIGHT – What's Your Favorite Hike?

By Jim Meeker

One thing you often hear hikers talk about is their favorite trail. Two years ago the Up The Hill Gang public opinion poll and found that Mt. Baldy was by far the favorite hiking venue. Some preferred the West face, and others preferred the East, but the love of Mt. Baldy was pretty clear.

Like lots of people, Mt. Baldy is the venue I have chosen for a hike with friends and family who came to visit in the summer. But many of us have a list of what could be considered 'favorite hikes.' One trail on my list is the Four Springs Trail, which meanders northward from its connection with the Los Burros trail until it connects with Land of the Pioneers Trail. I love this trail because it gives you the sense of being away from everything except the woods and hills which make up our White Mountains.

There are lots of ways to access this trail – my favorite is from Los Burros Trailhead No. 2. Follow the trail a short distance to the well-marked intersection of Los Burros and Four Springs. Going another short distance, and you can choose between following Four Springs, or making the scenic climb to the Lake Mountain Lookout Tower. The Forest Service accords Four Springs a rating as difficult because of the climbs near the Lake Mountain Lookout. The remainder of the trail is mostly rolling hills, which makes it a good trail for most hikers. 🇺🇸

WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER

Hooray! The WMNC has reopened and the 1st day of operation to the general public was Monday, June 15th. The WMNC will be open Monday-Wednesday-Friday; from 10 am to 2 pm. Please note that due to COVID-19 we have cancelled all of our Discovery Learning Camps for 2020 and hope to reintroduce them next year.

Donations are gratefully accepted. For more information, or to get our latest news, call (928) 358-3069, visit our website at: <https://whitemountainnaturecenter.org/> or Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/WhiteMountainNatureCenter/> 🇺🇸

TRACKS BIKING

By Nick Lund

TRACKS mountain bikers have started group rides and participants are notified via TRACKS weekly emails.

We ask all to wear masks in the parking area and to maintain social distance during the rides. Riders must wear helmets, have their bike in good riding condition, and bring ample water.

On our first ride we saw 35-40 elk crossing Forest Road 271. Awesome! The weather was great.

TRACKS rides are moderate paced, non-competitive, on forest service roads to familiarize riders with the forest, with stops at major turns so all riders can regroup, and sometimes on single track trails of the 200+ mile White Mountains Trail System (WMTS).

Kudos to TRACKS Trail Crew for maintaining the WMTS!

Other local group mountain bike options include: a) Pinetop Bike Shop (928-756-9060) evening rides at 430pm on Mondays from their shop going into Woodland Lake Park; and b) Show Low Cycle Mania (928-537-8812) has intermediate level single track rides on Saturday mornings at 7am, with place/route announced on Strava Cyclemaniacs group and Cyclemaniacs listserv. 🗣️

UP THE HILL GANG (UTHG)

By Jim Meeker

For the present, rather than having organized hikes, the Up The Hill Gang is still encouraging small groups of family, friends and neighbors to plan outdoor hikes that will allow everyone to easily maintain the social distancing guidelines given us by medical professionals while we enjoy the out of doors. You're not limited to Wednesdays.

There are lots of resources that will help you in planning hikes this summer. Start with the Tracks online maps (www.trackswitemountains.org) as your first stop. You will find detailed maps of all the trails that are within the White Mountain Trail System. You can print your map, and put it in your pocket. There is almost a summer's worth of hikes right there.

Another resource is the U.S. Forest Service. For a few dollars, they sell a detailed map of Apache Sitgreaves National Forest. You can also visit their website (fs.usda.gov/asnf) and poke around for information, or go directly to their hiking list on the web (fs.usda.gov/activity/asnf/recreation/hiking).

Remember to take lots of water, and wear sunscreen and proper footwear so that you can enjoy your hiking experience. If you are hiking in unfamiliar surroundings, use a GPS device, and create waypoints along the way. If you have questions about a trail when you are planning a hike, send a question to upthehillgang@gmail.com, and we will try to answer it. Happy hiking! 🗣️

White Mountain Happenings – July 2020

- 3-6th Sunrise Ski Resort 3D Shootout Archery Event – Sunrise Ski Resort
- 4th July Mutt Strutt @ PLAC&S Pinetop/Lakeside (928) 367-4290
- 4th of July Parade – Show Low (928) 532-4140
- 4th of July Fireworks and Freedomfest– Show Low (928) 532-4140
- 18th Silver Creek State Fish Hatchery Field Trip – White Mountain Audubon Society
(Call Rob Bettaso to RSVP at (928) 368-8481)
- 9th Annual Derby Down the Deuce @ Deuce of Clubs – Show Low (928) 537-2326
- 24-25th Snowflake Pioneer Days – Snowflake/Taylor (928) 536-4331

Due to current changing COVID-19 circumstances, events may be cancelled and/or delayed. Please call or contact the respective organization or town websites to confirm that events are still being held in July as scheduled.

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/>

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

By Kacy Ellsworth

As Arizona lifts the shelter-at-home order, and as recreation sites begin to reopen, the [Leave No Trace](#) principles are more important than ever to ensure an enjoyable experience for everyone. Preparation and planning are key to reducing waste and minimizing natural resource damage. Respect wildlife and be considerate of other visitors. Leave what you find and take home with you what you brought.

Before visiting a national forest, [Know Before Your Go](#). It will keep you and wildlife safe and the forests clean. For information such as road closures, trail conditions, wildland fires, fire restrictions, and animal dangers, visit the [Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests webpage](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or contact the district office for the area visiting. An [interactive visitor map](#) is also available and displays campsite and trail status.

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests [campfire ban order](#) is still in effect and prohibits igniting, building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, and applies to all charcoal grills, barbecues, and coal and wood burning stoves. Pressurized liquid or gas devices (stoves, grills or lanterns) with shut-off valves are exempt from the campfire ban in an area at least three feet from any flammable materials.

Big thanks to Dave McCullough and his team for helping with trash cleanup on the forest!

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>. ❗

Arizona Game and Fish (AZGF) NEWS

By Jackie Follmuth

Do you follow the Arizona Game and Fish Department Region I on Facebook and Instagram? Like us at [Facebook.com/AZGFDPinetop](https://www.facebook.com/AZGFDPinetop) or follow us on Instagram at [@AZGFDPinetop](https://www.instagram.com/AZGFDPinetop) today!

The Arizona Game & Fish Department has started a tagging study in the Pinetop region in order to assess population numbers, harvest, and movement of wild Brown Trout. Currently, Brown Trout in River Reservoir and the Lower Colorado River above River Reservoir are being tagged with floy tags, a small plastic tag inserted in the back by the dorsal fin of the fish. The Arizona Game & Fish Department's tags are an orange color. Each tag says "AZ Game & Fish" and has a tag number of 1-500 and then "Please call 928-532-3860".

Anglers are allowed to harvest these tagged fish as usual. However, the Arizona Game & Fish Department is hoping to get some information from anglers who catch and keep or release these fish. If you catch a tagged fish please call the Arizona Game & Fish Department Region I front office at 928-532-3860 with the number on the tag to report that it was caught, regardless of whether or not you kept the catch. The front desk can take the necessary information to record that data over the phone. We appreciate your support in helping the Department study wild Brown Trout!

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 RESERVATION FIRE MANAGEMENT NEWS

The mission of the BIA and Tribal wildfire management program is to reduce the incidents of unwanted and useless human caused wildfires on the Fort Apache Indian Reservations and to provide leadership, training and guidance to develop strategies to reduce the number of human caused wildfires.

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 – July

Legend for calendar is as follows. **Blue** – Trail Crew (TC), **Green** - Up the Hill Gang (UTHG), **Purple** – Biking (Summer) and Cross Country Skiing (Winter), and **Red** – TRACKS meetings and events.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION / DETAILS
Mondays Trail Crew work has been reinstated and emails are sent each week for volunteers.	Trail Crew (TC): Beautify the Trails	To volunteer please check box on website for “Trail Crew” on “Join” form and/or email Jerry Good at: jgood6@cox.net . See page one of newsletter for more information about trail crew news.
Monday through Friday – has resumed and emails are being sent accordingly. <i>Days and times will vary due to leader availability and weather conditions.</i>	Biking: (weather permitting)	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.
No official hiking is being scheduled for July due to COVID-19.	Up the Hill Gang (UTHG) Hiking:	To get UTHG information please check box on the website for “Hiking” on “Join” form and/or email Jim Meeker at jmeeker@azsunshine.us .
July 11 – 4pm – 6pm	TRACKS General Meeting	Amphitheater at Pinetop Lakes Activity Center and Stables. TRACKS will provide soft drinks. Bring your own food and utensils. Members can sit at a social distance, but still get together and catch up with friends!
July 9 -- 1pm	TRACKS Board Meeting	White Mountain Nature Center 425 Woodland Lake Rd, Lakeside

DON'T forget! You can support TRACKS by ordering on smile.amazon.com. Log onto that website, use the same username and password as for your Amazon account, select TRACKS as your non-profit of choice. A portion of each purchase through Amazon Smile will be donated to TRACKS. Amazon Smile is the Amazon Foundation which supports non-profits.

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958 S. Woodland Road
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www.trackswhitmountains.org

TRACKS still has 100% cotton t-shirts, sweatshirts and caps for sale with our great TRACKS design!

T-SHIRTS: Long sleeve in light blue or light gray and short sleeve in teal or charcoal gray. Sizes large, xlarge and xxlarge only. Dark brown sweatshirts with zippers and pockets in many sizes. Caps are available too! **Call Arlene 928 368-6810 or 928 242-4629.**

T-shirts: Long Sleeve \$20 and Short Sleeve \$15
Sweatshirts \$40 and Caps \$20