

Red Rock Country - Coconino National Forest - Sedona, Arizona Recreation Guide to Your National Forest

What's Inside?

Picnic/Camping Information
Weather 2
Fee and Pass Information
Scenic Drives4
Red Rock Country Map 6, 7
Hiking Trails
Mountain Biking 8
Historic Photos9
Wildlife and Plants10
Geology 11
Wilderness Sedona's Wild Backyard 12
Rock Art and Ruins 12

Leave no trace

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

Important Phone Numbers

Red Rock District Ranger Station 928-282-4119

South Gateway Visitor Center 928-284-5323

Coconino National Forest Supervisor's Office (Flagstaff) 928-527-3600

Verde Ranger District 928-567-4121

Sedona-Oak Creek Canyon Chamber of Commerce 928-282-7722 or 1-800-288-7336

Sedona Parks and Recreation 928-282-7098

Oak Creek Visitor Center 928-203-0624

Road Conditions 1-888-411-ROAD

Highway Patrol 928-773-3600

Weather Forecast N. Arizona 928-774-3301

Sedona Police Department 928-282-3100 Yavapai County Sheriff Department 928-567-7710

Coconino County Sheriff Department 1-800-338-7888

Grand Canyon National Park 928-638-7888

Sedona Medical Center 928-204-3000

ARIZONA STATE PARKS:

AZ State Parks www.pr.state.az.us

Red Rock State Park 928-282-6907

Dead Horse State Park 928-634-5283

Slide Rock State Park 928-282-3034

TO REPORT A WILDLIFE INCIDENT OR VIOLATION, CALL:

Arizona State Game and Fish Department: 1-800-352-0700

TO REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING, CALL: 928-771-3430

Visitor Centers Help Make The Most of Your Visit

or convenient, accurate information about Red Rock Country, five visitor centers have been established in a partnership between the Forest Service, Sedona-Oak Creek Canyon 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
- Red Rock Pass information



LOCATIONS AND HOURS

South Gateway Visitor Center (928-284-5323) – Open 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily, Highway 179 in the Village of Oak Creek in Tequa Plaza. TTY: 928-284-5323.

Uptown Gateway Visitor Center (928-282-7722) Open 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mon. – Sat. and 9 a.m. – 3 pm on Sun. Highway 89A and Forest Road in Uptown Sedona in the Sedona-Oak Creek Canyon Chamber of Commerce.

North Gateway Visitor Center – Open from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily. Winter hours subject to weather. Located on 89A north at the Oak Creek Vista Overlook. American Indian crafts market available.

Oak Creek Visitor Center (928-203-0624) – Open 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. daily, at Indian Gardens in Oak Creek Canyon. Fishing licenses and supplies available.

Sedona Ranger Station (928-282-4119) Open 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Mon. – Fri. Located at 250 Brewer Road; turn at the Burger King.

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 Indian Gardens and most sporting goods stores.

Nature Study: Red Rock State Park Nature Center offers interpretive programs year-round. Location: Lower Red Rock Loop Road off W. 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.

Red Rock Pass, Golden Eagle, Golden Age or Golden Access: Required on national forest land in Red Rock Country, a high-impact recreation area. The pass must be displayed in the windshield of the vehicle. Revenue from the pass helps provide information, education and natural resource protection.

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

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: Collecting of most natural objects (snakes, animals, rocks, 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. Collecting of cultural artifacts is illegal.

Fishing, Hunting, and Firearm Use: Fishing and hunting on the national forest in Red Rock Country is allowed under Arizona State 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 the Oak Creek Visitor Center.

Litter lasts this long in the desert	
Cigarette butts	5 years
Aluminum cans	100 years
Orange and banana peels	2 years
Plastic bottles	indefinitely



CAMPING/PICNICKING Picnicking

n 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 (\$7). After 1 p.m., the full campground fee is charged (\$14 to \$18 depending on the campground).

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

Volunteers Increase Our Caring Capacity

n 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 38,000 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-Oak Creek Canyon Chamber of Commerce at 928-282-7722.

Tell Us How We're Doing!

f you have comments for the Forest Service please pick up an official comment card at any, gateway visitor center or log on at www.srs.fs.fed.us/customer/commentcard_r3.htm

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.

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

n 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. Here you can find elk, deer, coyote, mountain lion and more than 550 types of seed plants and 80 kinds of fish, amphibians, and reptiles, over 180 birds, and over 55 mammals. Within 10 miles of Sedona you can visit 7 distinct biological communities.

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, Kee Ken Anderson, District Ranger

Red Rock Ranger District

RED ROCK COUNTRY FOREST SERVICE DAY-USE SITES								
SITE NAME	PICNIC TABLES	DRINKING WATER	toilets Available	FEE PER CA R	LENGTH OF SEASON			
Banjo Bill Picnic Area	12	Yas	Yes	\$7	Year Round			
Call of the Canyon (West Fork Trailhead)	6	No	Yes	\$7	Year Round			
Crescent Moon Red Rock Crossing	14	Yes	Yes	\$7	Year Round			
Covered Group rar	Covered Group ramada available, call National Recreation Service at 1-877-444-6777							
Encinoso Pionio Area	12	Yes	Yes	Red Rock Pass	Year Round			
Grasshopper Point	3	Na	Yes	\$7	Year Round			
Halfway Picnic Area	8	Na	Yes	Red Rock Pass	Year Round			
ARIZONA STATE PARKS DAY-USE SITES								
Red Rock State Park	Covered Ramada/tables	Yas	Yes	\$6	Year Round			
Silde Rock State Park	Covered Ramada/tables	Yes	Yes	\$10	Year Round			

RED ROCK COUNTRY FOREST SERVICE CAMPGROUNDS							
CAMPGROUND NAME/ FEE	NUMBER OF	WATER	TOILETS	RV/TRAILER	LENGTH OF		
	CAMPSITES	AVAILABLE	AVAILABLE		SEASON		
Bootlegger / \$18	10	No	Yas	Na	Apr 15-Oct 31		
Cave Springs /\$18	82*	Yes	Yes + Showers	Yes, 36'	Apr 15-Oct 15		
Chevez Crossing / \$55-150	3 Group*	Yas	Yas	Yes, 40'	Year Round		
Manzanita /\$18	18	YEs	Yes	No	Year Round		
Pine Flat East /\$18	21	Yes	Yes	Yes, 36'	Apr 1-Nov 15		
Pine Flat West / \$18	37*	Yes	Yes	Yes, 36'	Mar 1 - Nov 15		
OTHER VERDE VALLEY PUBLIC LAND CAMPGROUNDS							
Beaver Creek / \$14	13	Yes	Yés	Yes, 22'	Year Round		
Weet Clear Creek / \$14-80	18/1 Group Site*	Yes	Yes	Yes, 32'	Year Round		
Dead Horse State Park / \$12-19	103	Yas	Yes + Showars	Yas, 45'	Year Round		
*Reservations accepted. Cali the National Recreation Reservation Service: (877) 444-6777.							
*Reservations accepted. Cali the National Recreation Reservation Service: (877) 444-6777.							

All developed campgrounds are excluded from the Red Rock Pass Program: a separate site use fee is required.



Campers in Oak Creek Canyon

Leave no trace

Weather or Not?

Average Temperatu			Average Total Precipitation		
Month	High	Low	Inches		
JANUARY	55	30	1.70		
FEBRUARY	59	32	1.54		
MARCH	63	35	1.67		
APRIL	72	42	1.17		
MAY	81	49	1.17		
JUNE	91	57	0.49		
JULY	95	65	1.89		
AUGUST	92	64	2.42		
SEPTEMBER	88	58	1.51		
OCTOBER	78	48	1.16		
NOVEMBER	65	37	1.32		
DECEMBER	56	30	1.72		
Total Average Yearly: 17.76					

FEE BASICS FOR RED ROCK COUNTRY

Red Rock Pass, Golden Eagle,
Golden Age or Golden Access

Required on national forest land in Red Rock Country, a high-impact recreation 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 "National Passes" section below.

Daily Red Rock Pass Valid for one calendar day.	\$5
Weekly Red Rock Pass Valid for 7 consecutive days.	\$15
Annual Pass Valid for 12 consecutive months.	\$20
Grand Annual Pass	\$40

Valid for 12 consecutive months plus unlimited access to RRM sites: Banjo Bill, Crescent Moon, Call O' The Canyon, and Grasshopper Point.

Red Rock Passes are valid for Palatki and V-V cultural sites. They are not valid for Forest Service campgrounds or developed Forest Service day-use areas (Banjo Bill, Crescent Moon, Call O' The Canyon - West Fork Trail, and Grasshopper Point) or state parks (Slide Rock, Red Rock) or national monuments (Montezumas Castle, Montezumas Well (free) or Tuzigoot). These sites charge a separate day-use fee at the gate.

Where to get a Red Rock Pass

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

Halfway Picnic Area Encinoso Picnic Area Indian Gardens Midgley Bridge Parking Huckaby Trailhead Cathedral Rock Trailhead Little Horse Trailhead Bell Rock Trailhead Dry Creek/Boynton Pass Road Junction Boynton Canyon Trailhead Palatki Cultural Site Daily and weekly passes can be purchased at many local stores and hotels.

OTHER LOCAL PASSES

NATIONAL 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. Golden Age and Golden Access Passports allow 50 percent discount at national forest campgrounds and Red Rock District national forest day-use sites not covered by the Red Rock Pass.

Golden Access PassportFree A Golden Access Passport 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 passport holder. It is valid for the passport holder and accompanying passengers in a private vehicle. Golden Access Passport holders are also eligible for free entrance to most Federal recreation areas that collect "entry" and "use" fees, including national parks, national monuments and some national forest areas.

Golden Eagle Hologram\$15 A Golden Eagle Hologram may be added to the National Park Pass to upgrade it to the Golden Eagle Passport.



Visitors share information with a forest ranger

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 160,000 acres of 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, a fraction of the funds needed to care for the increasingly popular Red Rock Country.





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 helped achieve many important tasks on the Red Rock Ranger District during 2004:

- Provided information to over 423,198 visitors
- Contacted 14,214 visitors in the field
 - Removed over 71,137 pounds of trash
 - Cleaned up 178 dump sites
 - Cleaned and dismantled 485 fire rings
 - Removed 22 abandoned vehicles
 - Removed 30 fallen trees from hiking trails

Red Rock Pass funds helped achieve many important tasks on the Red Rock Ranger District in 2002

- Provided information to over 500,000 visitors
- Removed over 22,296 pounds of trash
- Cleaned up 52 dump sites and removed 19 abandoned vehicles
- Patroled over 600 miles of trail and repaired 144 signs



• Maintained 42 miles of trail

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.



The Red Rock Pass funds protection of Palatki and Honanki, two world-class rock art sites



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 Highway 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 Highway 89A. Turn right to return to Sedona on Highway 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 Highway 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 Highway 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 Highway 89A to Page Springs Road. Travel 3 miles to the entrance to the 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 Highway 179. Turn left at Highway 179 and find the Village of Oak Creek, Bell Rock and trailheads. Total Trip: About 1 hr, 45 min. 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 Highway 89A to the top of Oak Creek Canyon, where there is a scenic view-point. 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 38 miles to the Highway 179 junction. Exit and go on Highway 179 14 miles back to Sedona. Total trip: About 3 hours and 75 miles.



High-clearance vehicles are recommended for primitive roads in red rock country

Beaver Creek to Camp Verde Backroads Loop

Take this backroad drive for great Verde Valley scenery. From Sedona, take Hwy. 179 14 miles to I-17. Continue straight under the Interstate another 2.5 miles to Beaver Creek picnic and campground. Another tenth of a mile will take you to the entrance of V-V Cultural Site. Stay on Forest Road 618 (dirt) for 11 miles to the junction with State Route 260. Turn right on 260 for 5 miles to Camp Verde. Follow the signs to Cliff Castle Casino and I-17, 3 more miles. Take I-17 and Hwy. 179 20 miles back to Sedona. Total of 55 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 Highway 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 State Route 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-V (Vee Bar Vee) Cultural Site.

From Sedona, travel west on Highway 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. 200 to I-17. Go north on I-17 to the Middle Verde exit. Turn right (east). Visit the Yavapai-Apache Visitor Center. 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 116 approximately 2.5 miles, and turn right on Forest Road 618. Follow it approximately 1.5 unpaved miles to the turnoff for V-V Cultural Site. Follow signs to the site. Return to Sedona via Highway 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 State Route 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

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

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 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 one mile south of Sedona.

FR152C is paved to Boynton Canyon, and the 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 Highway 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 nonhighway 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

Arizona State Association of Four-Wheel Drive

Clubs: 1-602-258-4294

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

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.







Dispersed camping

Baround 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 one mile from the trailhead before camping. In Sycamore Canyon Wilderness, camping and campfires are prohibited at and downstream of Parsons Springs.

Other areas available for camping:

South of Sedona

Beaver Creek Area: East of I-17. Dispersed campers must be one mile away from Beaver Creek Campground. 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 camping with a Red Rock Pass.

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.



Highway 89A in Oak Creek Canyon



7775.4				COLU.		
THA	L		RMATI	UN		
Challengelaret E-EASY M-MCOERATE S-STRENUCUS W-Trailin allorpad in witherness						
TRAIL NAME	W		Challenge		L .'.	
SEDONA AREA		OneWe	Level	Gein	Coordinate	
Algoritacp		3.3	E-M	200	F7	
Berdi		D.6	E-M		F8	
Brins Meen Broken Arcus Road	₩	<u>82</u> 21		500 500	E7 F8	
Broken Arrow Trail		20	M	300	FB	
Brawer		0.6	M-S		P7 B\$	
Cercil Cenjon Secone Centennial	\vdash	1.6	E-M	50	R R	
Chepel		0.6	E	50	67	
Chimney Rock Page Choine Page	W	1.D 0.8		150 250	B E7	
Bidner		4.0	M	200	R	
JimThompson		24	E-M	200	87	
<u>Jacian</u> Lillia Horse	-	1.5 1.5	E	200 300	E5 07	
Lower Chimney Rock		1.0	E	100	85	
MargaDraw	₩	2.0	E	150	F8	
Mysic Did Rosi	-	D.9 2.7	E E-M	190	F7 F8	
Röge		2.0	E-M		FB	
Solder Pess	W	23	E-M	500	E7	
Sugerbei Loop Teetrup	-	0.6	E	200	86	
Thunder Mountain		1.0	E	50	8	
RED ROCK ROA	D					
Herkenhem Red Rock Loop	<u> </u>	1.1	E-M E	176	F8	
Red Rock Sale Park	-		hoi easytra		94	
Scheurmen Mountein		0.9	Ľ	350	F6	
A CONTRACT OF A	ιK	CREEK	CAND E	BELL A	~~~	
Baithein Beil Rock Paiheney	-	1.5 3.5	E	100	36 97	
Big Park		1.0	E	50	HB	
Calhedral Rock		0.6	8	600	36	
Courthouse Builte Loop Hol Loop	¥	4.2 9.9	۲ ۵	250 1000	HB	
H		0.6	Ň	100	67	
JacksCanjon	W	6.6	8	2000	HØ	
Tampidion Turkay Creek	┣	2.5	M	200 500	(36) HIS	
WoodsCaryon	w	4.8		400	16	
DRY CREEK BA	S	NAND	POINT	S WES	at in the second se	
Arizona Cipreis	w	1.7		(800	E4 D4	
Beer Mountain Beer Sign	W	2.8	3 M	1800 600	C6	
Boynton Canjon	₩	24	M	400	D4	
Cesner Mountain	┣	6.6	M	2100	C1	
Deksomb	⊢	2.6			E4 E4	
Devid Miller	W	1.0	8	800	C5	
Dealmans Pass Derlis Britge	w	1.4 D.6	E	150	D5 D5	
Doa Mountain	17	0.6		400	E4	
Dogle	W	5.4	8	400	C1	
Dry Creak Fay Canyon	W	27		450 95	C6 D4	
H S Canyon	1		E M	800	C5	
Long Cenyon	w	3.7	M	580	64	
Loy Canyon Mooney	W	4.6	5	1680	B2 D2	
Secret Canyon	W	5.2	N	560	C5	
Secret Mountain	W	8.6	8	400	CS	
Vulte Ach OAK CREEK CA	NN			400 NEBL		
A.B. Young		21	8	2000	87	
Allens Band		0.6	E	50	85	
Casher Canyon Cookatove		3.0 0.7	50	1520	B	
Harding Springs		0.7	۸ 99	700	<u> </u>	
Huckaby		29	LL I	150	85	
<u>Munda Mountein</u> Munda Wegan Trei	W	2.8	M-8-	400	R8	
Osk Creek Vide		4.0 D.2		Û	AS	
Puntymun		0.9	8	1000	88	
Schnebly Hill Starting Pass	w	1.7 24	de la	400	B9 C7	
Telephone		1.1	8	1000	A5	
Thomas Point		1.0	S	500	86	
Weil Fork Wilson Canyon	₩	3.0 1.5	E	100	A7 D7	
Wilson Mountain	w	5.2	93	2300	D7	
All billing on Delayant also	-		P	1 888	0.4	

N. Wilson Mountain

W 20

1900

8

DØ

Recreation Guide to Your National Forest

even for short hikes. Also: • Use toilets before you hit the trail.

out toilet paper.

• Get a weather report.

Hike with a friend.

• Trailheads are targets of theft.

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,

If nature calls, leave no trace. Choose a spot at least 200 feet from water or

trails. Bury wastes 6 inches deep. Pack

Never leave valuables in your car.

• Tell someone where you are going.

<u>Hiking</u>

- 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, map, compass, flashlight, pocket knife, extra food.

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

Bell Rock Pathway (3.5 miles one way) Smooth, wide trail open to bicycles and hikers that parallels Hwy. 179. Two trailheads, milepost 309.4 (Little Horse Trailhead) and 307.5 (Bell Rock Vista Trailhead).

Margs Draw (2.0 miles one way) Easy access to Munds Mountain Wilderness. Trailhead on Sombart Lane, off Hwy. 179.

Baldwin Loop Two mile loop with access to Oak Creek, Templeton Trail and Cathedral Rock Trail. Starts 1/4 mile south of the Turkey Creek Trail turnoff on Verde Valley School Road. Trail terminates near the end of Verde Valley School Road, across from the parking lot.

Carruth and Sunset Trails (loops up to 2 miles) Gently rolling trail in pinyon pine forest with great views and native plant identification signs. Open to bicycles and hikers. Accessed from West Sedona School on Posse Grounds Road. On city property.

Sedona Centennial Trail (1/3 mile one way) Paved, wide trail through pinyon forest that leads to scenic vista. Views of Mingus Mountain, Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness and Sedona. Trail begins by the ramada at the back of the dirt parking lot at the end of Cultural Park Way.

Jim Thompson Trail (2.4 miles one way) An historic route with views of Sedona and Oak Creek. Access from end of Jordan Road in Uptown.

Moderate Trails

Jordan Trail (2-mile loop) Climbs 200 feet. Spectacular red rock views. Starts by the ramada at the back of the dirt parking lot at the end of Cultural Park Way.

Girdner (4 miles one way) Starts at Sedona Cultural Park, crosses creekbed several times. Shady creekside.

Courthouse Butte Loop (4.2-mile loop) Gentle 250-foot climb circles Bell Rock and Courthouse Butte, dips into wilderness area, dry wash, slick rock, and climbs out to level ground. Starts and ends at kiosk at Bell Rock Pathway on Highway 179.

Schuerman Mountain (1 mile one way) Trail climbs gently to base of the low mountain, then steeper climb to panoramic views. Allow 2 hours round trip. Trailhead on Upper Red Rock Loop Road past the high school.

Huckaby (2.9 miles one way) Overlooking Sedona and access to Oak Creek. Begins from Midgely Bridge or Schnebly Hill Road Trailhead.

Brins Mesa (3.2 miles one way) Trail climbs 600 feet to a mesa with fantastic views of Sedona and north to the red rocks. Partly in wilderness. Open to horse and foot use. Access from end of Jordan Road in Uptown. This trail links with Soldier Pass Trail, for a loop hike.

Turkey Creek (3.4 miles one way) Trail climbs 600 feet along dry Turkey Creek, past Turkey Creek Tank, and ultimately onto House Mountain with spectacular views. Very secluded and diverse area. Open to horse, bike, and foot use. Access from Verde Valley School Road and Turkey Creek Road.

Munds Wagon (4 miles one way) Trail climbs gradually 1,100 feet and parallels Bear Wallow Canyon and Schnebly Hill Road. Passes by large slick rock areas, cypress and cottonwood trees, and portions of the historic Munds Wagon Trail, the first road linking Sedona and Flagstaff. Open to horse, bike, and foot use. Park at Huckaby Trailhead approximately 1 mile up Schnebly Hill Road where the pavement ends.

Strenuous Trails

Wilson Mountain (5.2 miles one way) Climbs 2,300 feet. An all-day climb that joins North Wilson Trail. Trailhead at Midgely Bridge on North 89A. Good views at all elevations.

Bear Mountain (2.8 miles one way) Climbs 1,800 feet. Take Boynton Pass Road 1.6 miles to FR 152C on left. Trailhead is 1.2 miles on the right. Great views the whole way.

Hot Loop (9.8 miles one way) Views of Bell Rock and Courthouse Butte, climbs up to Horse Mesa and the rim. Trailhead off Jacks Canyon Road.

HORSEBACK RIDING: Contact the ranger station or visitor center for information.

continued on page 8

Please stay on the designated trail, or travel only on durable ground such as rock or gravel surfaces or in washes. Leave no trace of your passage.





RED ROCK COUNTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP

any 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.

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 bikers challenge the narrow Teacup Trail Photo by Hilary Hutchinson

MOUNTAIN BIKING

he Red Rock Country offers great mountain biking for all skill levels, with most trails being moderately to very challenging. To protect the fragile cryptobi-otic 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: Highway 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: Highway 179 to Bell Rock Vista just north of the Village of Oak Creek. Trail starts a quarter mile north on the Bell Rock Pathway.

Carruth Trail (EASY) A wide pathway near Posse Grounds Park. Distance: 1 mile.

 Directions: From Highway 89A, turn north on

Posse Grounds Drive. Trail starts on Carruth Drive.

Red Rock State Park (EASY TO MODERATE)

A variety of trails wind through the state park along Oak Creek.

Distance: Varies.

HEALING IN PROGRESS

- Please stay on trail-

Directions: Lower Red Rock Loop Road to park entrance. Entrance fee.

Dead Horse 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.

Girdner Trail (MODERATE) See page 7 for hiking trail description.

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 Highway 179. Follow Bell Rock Pathway to junction with HT just past the foot bridge.

Munds Wagon Trail (MODERATE) See page 7 for hiking trail description.



Trails in Red Rock Country are supported by grant funds from the State of Arizona's Heritage Fund Trails Grant Program.



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

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 Highway 179. Links with Broken Arrow and Mystic Trails for extended loop.

hiking continued from page 7

toric Munds Wagon Trail, the first road linking Sedona and Flagstaff. Open to horse, bike, and foot use. Park at Huckaby Trailhead approximately 1 mile up Schnebly Hill Road where the pavement ends.

Strenuous Trails

Wilson Mountain (5.2 miles one way) Climbs 2,300 feet. An all-day climb that joins North Wilson Trail. Trailhead at Midgely Bridge on North 89A. Good views at all elevations.

Bear Mountain (2.8 miles one way) Climbs 1,800 feet. Take Boynton Pass Road 1.6 miles to FR 152C on left. Trailhead is 1.2 miles on the right. Great views the whole way.

Hot Loop (9.8 miles one way) Views of Bell Rock and Courthouse Butte, climbs up to Horse Mesa and the rim. Trailhead off Jacks Canyon Road.

HORSEBACK RIDING: Contact the ranger station or visitor center for information.



(Datura meteloides) The large fragrant white trumpet shaped flowers open in the evening and closed during the day. This poisonous plant is also called moonflower.



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-Oak Creek Canyon Chamber of Commerce at 928-282-7722.



View of Sedona from Airport Mesa, 2001



Jordan Road in Uptown Sedona 1960



View of Sedona from Airport Mesa, 1962



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 Doskocil; all others provided courtesy of Sedona Historical Society.



"banana" fruit.

SYCAMORE (Pla-

Beautiful mottled

trees

along

stream-

green and white

banks, with large

palmate leaves

and round fuzzy seed

tanus wrightii)

barked

found

dry

balls.

Common Plants and Wildlife of Red Rock Country

ONE SEED JUNIPER BANANA YUCCA (Juniperus monosperma) (Yucca baccata) A tree with leaves called A member of the scales instead of neeagave family with dles. Juniper berries rigid spine-tipped are small, highly aroleaves up to 3 feet matic blue berries. Creamy long. white, waxy flowers become the



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.

Arizon

Histor

ARIZONA NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION (ANHA)

P.O. Box 1633, Flagstaff, AZ 86002, (928) 527-3450. Check out the exciting variety of

natural history books, posters, cards, CDs, maps, and other natural and cultural education material for sale from ANHA at most visitor centers. Founded in 1988, as a nonprofit organization, ANHA makes educational materials available to the public. Proceeds support programs that further the understanding and appreciation of the area's natural and cultural heritage.



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

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.

QUAIL (Callipepla gambelii)

shaped

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



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



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.



RED TAIL HAWK (Buteo jamaicensis) A large and common hawk with a red tail. The call is a distinctive "keeer!"



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



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



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



COTTONWOOD (Populous 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.



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.



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



or more.

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.

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.

Vortex Sites are Popular

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.



Typical Red Rock Country geologic cross section





Thousands visit Cathedral Rock each year. Please stay on designated trails.



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.





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

Ithough 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).

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



Wilderness... Sedona's Wild Backyard

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

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

- Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness
- Sycamore Canvon 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 wildernesses 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 130,000 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 1

these fragile lands remain wild.

Verde Valley's History and Culture Lives

rehistoric Indian cliff dwellings in Red Rock Country offer vivid evidence of habitation at least 1500 years ago. According to archaeologists, the Sinagua (meaning "without water") culture flourished in the Verde Valley from around 600 AD to 1400. Where did they go? This mystery has never been solved. For reasons still unknown, the last Sinagua disappeared from the archaeological record around AD 1425. Not long afterwards, the area became the home of the Yavapai people, and then later the Apache, whose descendents live here today.

Rock art is one of the legacies left behind by the Sinagua. Petroglyphs, stone carvings, and pictographs, figures and symbols painted on sandstone walls are found on rock panels throughout Red Rock Country. The true meaning of the rock art is unknown, but various theories exist. The rock art could be clan signs, spiritual messages, calendars, or hunting stories.

SITES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Montezuma Castle National Monument Cliff dwelling by Wet Beaver Creek. Open 8 a.m. -7 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. Fee. 928-567-3322

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 8-7, 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. - 5 p.m. daily. Entrance fee. 928-634-5564

Walnut Canyon National Monument - Narrow, deep limestone canyon holds more than 80 cliff dwellings. Picnic areas, trails, and visitor center. Open 8 a.m. -5 p.m. daily. Go 9 miles east of Flagstaff on I-40, Exit 204. \$5 entrance fee. 928-526-3367

Susan Kliew-

Wupatki National Monument - Rock art, ruins, and scenery. Open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily. North of Flagstaff on Hwy. 89A. \$3 entrance fee. 928-679-2365

V-V Cultural Site - Rock art site and visitor center on the banks of Wet Beaver Creek. Open 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Fri., Sat., Sun., and Mon. only. From Sedona exit (298) off I-17, take 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.

Palatki Cultural Site - Cliff dwelling, rock art, and visitor center. Open 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. daily. Reservation required - call 928-282-3854. Take Highway 89A 9 miles southwest of the intersection with Hwy. 17, 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.

Honanki - Cliff dwelling and rock art. Open 10 a.m. – 6p.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

Museum of Northern Arizona - Indian culture museum, gift shop, exhibits, nature trail, art collection. Two miles north of Flagstaff on Highway 180. Fee. 928-774-5213

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. Fee. Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Christmas. (928) 567-3275.

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.

Design: Douglas Smith Design, Chris Williamson Photography: Copyright ©Tom Johnson except as noted

Cover Illustration: Raven © 1999 Zachery Zdinak Supported by: The Friends of the Forest, City of Sedona, Arizona Natural History Association, Sedona-Oak Creek Canyon Chamber of Commerce.



The Friends of the Forest, Inc. P.O. Box 2391 Sedona, AZ 86339



City of Sedona 102 Roadrunner Drive Sedona, AZ 86336 (928) 282-3113



Arizona Natural History Association P.O. Box 1633 Flagstaff, AZ 86002 (928) 527-3450



Sedona-Oak Creek Canyon Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 478 Sedona, AZ 86336 (928) 282-7722



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.