

Arizona Backroads & 4-Wheel-Drive Trails

















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GUARANTEE OF SATISFACTION

We guarantee you will enjoy the trails in this book. If not, or if you are dissatisfied with the book in any other way, return it to us for a full refund. Or, call our toll-free number during business hours at 1-877-222-7623. We promise to do whatever it takes to make you happy.

DISCLAIMER

Travel in Arizona's backcountry is, by its very nature, potentially dangerous and could result in property damage, injury or even death. The scope of this book cannot predict every possible hazard you may encounter. If you drive any of the trails in this book, you acknowledge these risks and assume full responsibility. You are the final judge as to whether a trail is safe to drive on any given day, whether your vehicle is capable of the journey and what supplies you should carry. The information contained herein cannot replace good judgment and proper preparation on your part. The publisher and authors of this book disclaim any and all liability for bodily injury, death or property damage that could occur to you or any of your passengers.

We have made every effort to update trails to match U.S. Forest Service Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUMs) that were available at the time of this writing. We cannot match maps that have not yet been issued or keep up with annual changes to existing maps. We will attempt to report changes on our website, but make no guarantee of accuracy. You are ultimately responsible for following the latest and correct MVUM. In addition, OHV laws described in this book change constantly. We do our best to keep up with them: however, you are ultimately responsible to know the correct and latest laws. The publisher and authors of this book disclaim any and all liability for fines or other punishment that could result from being on the wrong trail or breaking the law.

Note: Telephone numbers and websites that appear in this book were verified May 2012.



Page	Topic
4 5 6 6	Trail List Trail Finder Trail Ratings Defined Author's Vehicles
7 8 8 8 8 10 11 11 12 12 14 15 16 16	INTRODUCTION Fun Trails – Our Promise to You What's New in This 2nd Edition Website Updates and Downloads Explanation of Vehicle Symbols About Arizona Trail Rules and Etiquette Motor Vehicle Use Maps- MVUMs Safety Tips GPS Settings Backcountry Driving Tips Checklist Winching Special Permits, Laws, Situations OHV Licensing Requirements
17 18 44 80 116 156 180 206	THE TRAILS (Individual trails listed on next page) Area 1 – Grand Canyon, Jacob Lake, Canyon De Chelly Area 2 – Flagstaff, Sedona, Cottonwood, Jerome Area 3 – North Phoenix, Prescott, Crown King, Carefree, Wickenburg Area 4 – East Phoenix, Payson, Apache Junction, Florence Area 5 – Oracle, Tucson, Nogales Area 6 – Kingman, Lake Havasu City, Parker, Peach Springs Area 7 – Quartzsite, Yuma, Ajo, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument Map Legend
232	Author Bios



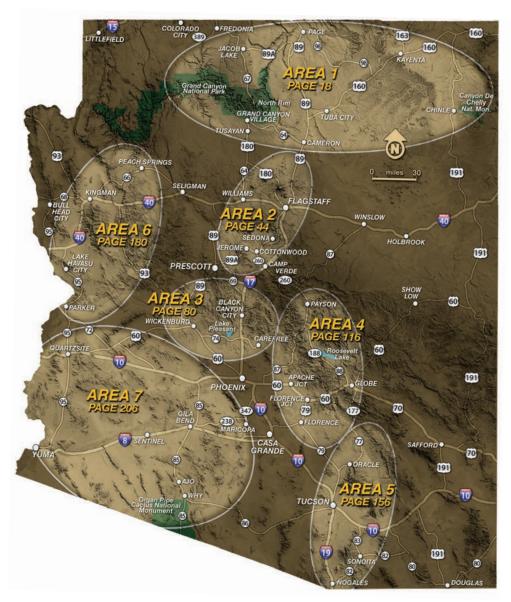


# Name	Pa.	
AREA 1 MAP Grand Canyon, Jacob	18	
Lake, Canyon De Che	lly	
1. Toroweap Overlook	20	
2. Jumpup Point*	22	
3. Three Fire Towers* 4. Fire Point,	24	
Timp Point	26	
5. Point Sublime	28	
6. Buffalo Ranch*	30	
7. Orderville Canyon* 8. Tater Ridge*	32 34	
9. Saddle Mtn. Road	36	
10. Hull Cabin	38	
11. Monument Valley*	40	
12. Canyon De Chelly*	42	
AREA 2 MAP	44	
Flagstaff, Sedona,		
Cottonwood, Jerome		
13. Elden Mountain, Schultz Pass	46	
14. O'Leary Peak Loop*	46 48	
15. Cinder Hills	40	
OHV Area	50	
16. Smiley Rock	52	
17. Horseshoe Canyon*		
18. Woodchute Trail* 19. Mingus Mountain	56 58	
20. Red Rock	30	
Powerline*	60	
21. Outlaw Trail*	62	
22. Greasy Spoon	64	
23. Devil's Bridge, Van Deren Cabin	ee	
24. Soldier Pass	66 68	
25. Schnebly Hill Road	70	
26. Broken Arrow	72	
27. Oak Creek		
Homestead	74	
28. House Mountain* 29. Blue Monster*	76 78	
23. Dide Worlster	10	
AREA 3 MAP	80	
North Phoenix, Presc	ott,	
Crown King, Carefree, Wickenburg		
30. Senator Highway,		
Crown King Road	82	
31. Desoto Mine	84	
32. Turkey Creek*	86	
33. Bloody Basin Road*	88	

Name Pg.
34. Backway to
Crown King 90
35. Black Canyon Creek*92
36. Black Canyon City
Overlook* 94
37. China Dam, Ft. Tule* 96
38. Tip Top Mine* 98 39. Terminator* 100
40. Crapshoot* 102
41. New River 104
42. Big Maggie May
Creek* 106
43. Box Canyon at
Hassayampa River*108
44. Wickenburg Mtns. 110
45. Vulture Mine* 112
46. Hieroglyphic
Mountains Loop* 114
Modificants Loop 114
AREA 4 MAP 116
East Phoenix, Payson,
Apache Junction,
Florence
47. Pyeatt Draw* 118
48. Mt. Ord Lookout* 120
49. Four Peaks 122
50. Sycamore Creek* 124
51. Rolls OHV Area,
West Side* 126
52. Saguaro Lake Cove* 128
53. Rolls OHV Area,
East Side* 130
54. Bulldog Canyon 132
55. Apache Trail 134
56. Montana Mountain 136
57. Hackberry Creek 138
58. Walnut Canyon 140
59. Reymert Mine* 142
60. Woodpecker Trail,
Ajax Mine 144
61. Elvis Trail* 146
62. Box Canyon 148
63. Jack Handle 150
64. Coke Ovens 152
65. Gila River Loop* 154
ADEA E MAD
AREA 5 MAP 156
Oracle, Tucson, Nogales
66. Tucson Wash* 158
67. Wild Burro Canyon*160

* New Trails		
# Name	Pg.	
69. Backway to	404	
Mount Lemmon	164	
70. Rice Peak	166	
71. Chimney Rock	168	
72. Chivo Falls	170	
73. Gunsight Pass	172	
74. Gardner Canyon	174	
75. Bull Springs Road	176	
76. Patagonia	470	
Mountains	178	
AREA 6 MAP	180	
Kingman,	100	
Lake Havasu City,		
Parker, Peach Spring	as	
77. Chloride Mines	182	
78. Diamond Creek Rd.		
79. Secret Pass	186	
80. Pass Canyon	188	
81. Hualapai Mountain		
82. Moss Wash	192	
83 Bison Falls*	194	
84. Mohave Wash	196	
85. Cattail Cove	198	
86. Backway to	130	
Desert Bar	200	
87. Vampire Mine	202	
88. Swansea Townsite	204	
oo. owanisca rownishe	204	
AREA 7 MAP	206	
Quartzsite, Yuma, Aj	0,	
Organ Pipe Cactus		
National Monument		
89. Plomosa Mountain	s 208	
90. Sand Bowl		
OHV Area	210	
91. Dripping Springs	212	
92. Harquahala Peak	214	
93. Belmont Mountain	216	
94. Kofa Queen		
Canyon*	218	
95. Castle Dome		
Mountains	220	
96. Laguna Mountain		
Ridge	222	
97. Fortuna Mine*	224	
98. El Camino Del		
Diablo, East Side*	226	
99. El Camino Del		
Diablo, West Side*	228	
100. Organ Pipe		
Cactus N.M.	230	

To find a trail, use list at left and map below to determine in which area a trail is located, then turn to the page indicated. Detailed area maps will direct you to individual trails.



TRAIL RATINGS DEFINED

Trail ratings are very subjective. Conditions change for many reasons, including weather and time of year. An easy trail can quickly become difficult when washed out by a rainstorm or blocked by a fallen rock. You must be the final judge of a trail's condition on the day you drive it. If any part of a trail is difficult, the entire trail is rated difficult. You may be able to drive a significant portion of a trail before reaching the difficult spot. Read each trail description carefully for specific information.



Easy

Gravel, dirt, clay, sand, or mildly rocky road. Gentle grades. Water levels low except during periods of heavy runoff. Full-width single lane or wider with adequate

room to pass most of the time. Where shelf conditions exist, road is wide with minor sideways tilt. Clay roads, when wet, can significantly increase difficulty. Some trails can be driven in 2WD under ideal conditions. Others will need 4WD and, in some cases, low-range gearing.

Author's Vehicles: (See photos)

A. 2002 Grand Cherokee: Stock 4WD, skid plates and tow hooks, A/T tires and CB radio.

B. 2012 Jeep® Rubicon 4-DR: Standard equipment includes lockers front and rear and push-button, quick-disconnect sway bar. Added CB radio and front steel bumper with brackets to tow vehicle behind motorhome.

C. 2012 Jeep® Rubicon 2-DR: Standard equipment includes lockers front and rear and push-button, quick disconnect sway bar. Added 3-inch lift, front heavy-duty bumper

and CB radio. (We traded-in our 2001 white

Wrangler on this vehicle while in Arizona.)

® "Jeep" is a registered trademark of Chrysler Corporation



Moderate

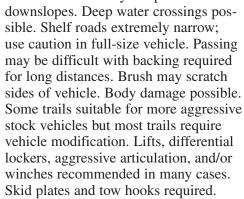
Rutted dirt or rocky road. Careful tire placement may be necessary. Some grades fairly steep but manageable if dry. Soft sand possible. Sideways tilt will

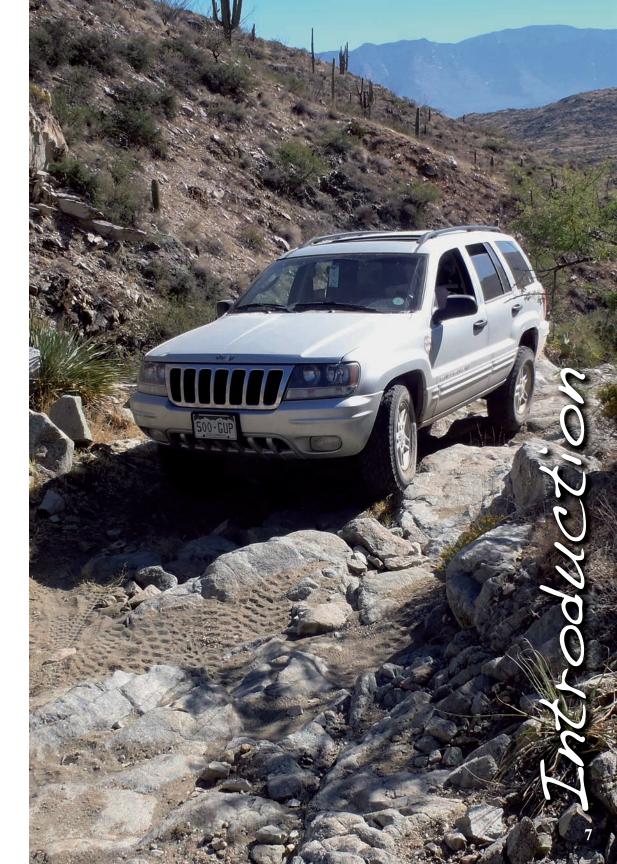
require caution. Narrow shelf roads possible. Backing may be necessary to pass. Water depths passable for stock high-clearance vehicles except during periods of heavy runoff. Mud holes may be present especially in the spring. Undercarriage may scrape occasionally depending on ground clearance. Rock-stacking may be necessary in some cases. Brush may touch vehicle. Four-wheel drive, low range, and higher ground clearance required in most cases. Standard factory skid plates and tow hooks recommended on many trails.



Difficult

Grades can be very steep with severe ground undulation and large boulders. Sideways tilt can be extreme. Sand hills very steep with soft



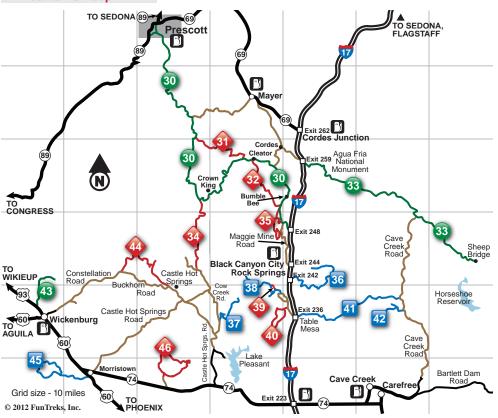




30. Senator Highway, **Crown King Road** 31. Desoto Mine 32. Turkey Creek 33. Bloody Basin Road 88 34. Backway to **Crown King** 35. Black Canyon Creek 92 36. Black Canyon City **Overlook** 37. China Dam, Ft. Tule 96 38. Tip Top Mine 39. Terminator 100 40. Crapshoot 41. New River 104 42. Big Maggie May Ck. 106 43. Box Canyon at Hassayampa River 108 44. Wickenburg Mtns. 110 45. Vulture Mine 46. Hieroglyphic **Mountains Loop**

North Phoenix, Prescott, Crown King, Carefree, Wickenburg

Just north of Phoenix and south of Prescott are some of the most popular trails in the state, many easily accessible from Interstate 17. Trails like the *Backway to Crown King* and *Wickenburg Mountains* are important historically, but are also great 4-wheeling adventures. Many new trails have been added to this area, including several around Black Canyon City and two more near Wickenburg. The Table Mesa area has now been recognized by the Bureau of Land Management as a legitimate 4-wheeling recreation area. Most importantly, they have legalized several popular extreme trails, which they call TV (technical vehicle) routes. We've included just one, *Terminator*.















neep Bridge is for foot traffic only. Note old concrete foundations on south side of existing bridge,







Overview: Much of this long trip passes through Agua Fria National Monument. Take time for side trips to see archaeological sites and petroglyphs shown on map. The highest point of the trip nears 5,000 feet, where you'll enjoy expansive views on a clear day. Unlicensed vehicles are allowed throughout the area. There are natural hot springs hidden in thick brush below and slightly north of the bridge on the west side.

Rating: Easy: A well-maintained road that gets a bit rockier as you descend to the bridge. Wet weather creates muddy



Historical Highlight: Most people drive this route to see the impressive Sheep Bridge at the end. The 476-ft. suspension footbridge was first built in 1943 and rebuilt in 1989. The old foundations remain in place. The 71,000-acre Agua Fria National Monument was reated in 2000 and contains over 400 archaeologiobey special rules for the area. "Bloody Basin" got its name from the Battle of Turret Peak in 1873, dur-ing which 26 Tonto-Apache Indians were killed in retaliation for earlier Indian atrocities.

conditions, especially on side trips.

Stats: Length: Almost 38 miles one way plus side trips. Time: Allow full day. Elevation: 2,069 to 4,954 ft. Open all year. Best March-November. Hot in summer. No fee to enter or camp.

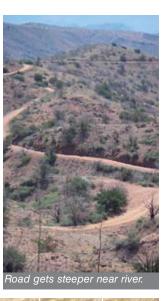
Current Conditions: Agua Fria N. M. BLM, Phoenix (623) 580-5500. Tonto N.F, Cave Creek R.D. (480) 595-3300.

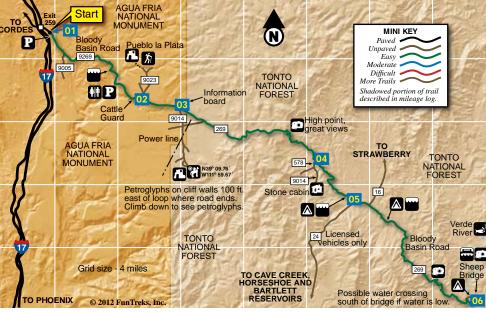
Getting There: Get off Interstate 17 at Exit 259. On east side, go past parking area and continue southeast on 9269.

START MILEAGE LOG:

- **O.O** Zero trip odometer [Rev. Miles] Head south from parking area on wide Bloody Basin Road 9269. 01 N34 16.956 W112 07.113
- 1.4 Continue straight where 9005 goes right.
- 6.0 Vault toilet and parking [31.5] area on right.
- 8.4 Continue straight. Road 9023 on left goes 1.3 miles to Pueblo La Plata, large ruin of prehistoric Indian village. 02 N34 14.130 W112 01.760
- 10.7 Continue straight past kiosk. Road 9014 goes right about 5 miles to Indian petroglyphs and more ruins. [26.8] 03 N34 13.673 W111 59.504

- 11.2 Cross Tonto National Forest boundary.
- 17.9 High point with great views begins descent towards Verde River. [19.6]
- **21.5** Continue straight. Road 578 on right goes to old stone cabin. [16.0] 04 N34 11.105 W111 51.488
- **25.6** Continue straight where Cave Creek Road, F.S. 24, goes south. 05 N34 09.342 W111 49.317
- **37.5** Trail ends at Sheep Bridge, foot traffic only. Road continues south and crosses river. Water is seldom shallow enough to cross. Just before bridge, a rocky road goes left downhill to a sandbar next to river. [0.0] 06 N34 04.678 W111 42.494







Backway to Crown King



AREA 3 map on page 80





Overview: Popular and challenging 4-wheel-drive route with lots of history. We've driven this trail several times over many years, and each time conditions were dramatically different. Our last drive found the middle portion difficult and the upper portion easy, just the reverse of previous trips. Unlicensed vehicles are allowed on roads inside Prescott National Forest. You should be street legal (no kids) to ride on Cow Creek Road, but we saw several ATVs that were not. Fines are possible.

Rating: Difficult: Very steep and rocky in spots. Elevation gain over 4,600 ft. High clearance and 4WD required. In our stock 4-door Rubicon, we used our lockers several times. ATV riders should be very skilled.





Historical Highlight: Once you reach Forest Road omplete history, read: "Crown King and the Southern Bradshaws," by Bruce M. Wilson (ISBN: 0962757306)

Stats: Length: 25.3 miles as described. Time: Allow 3 to 5 hours. Elevation: 1,872 to 6,510 ft. Best time to go: June-September.

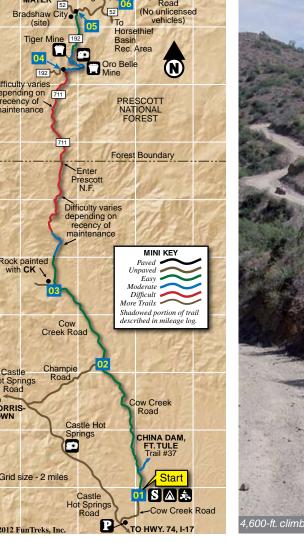
Current Conditions: Prescott N.F.. Bradshaw R.D. Call (928) 443-8000.

Getting There: From I-17, Exit 223 at Carefree, head west 11.2 miles on Highway 74. Turn right on paved Castle Hot Springs Road just after Mile Post 19. Go north 5.6 miles to "T" and turn left. Continue on wide gravel road another 2.9 miles and turn right on Cow Creek Road, Continue north another 1.5 miles to kiosk on right, which marks staging and dispersed camping area. No fee is required since you are north of Lake Pleasant Regional Park.

START MILEAGE LOG:

- 0.0 Zero trip odometer [Rev. Miles] Head north on Cow Creek Road from staging. [25.3] 01 N33 57.036 W112 18.781
- 1.1 Continue straight. Steep hill on right is Trail #37.
- **5.8** Stay right on Cow Creek. Left is Champie Rd. [19.5] 02 N34 01.183 W112 20.253
- **9.8** Turn right and continue north at large rock painted with "CK." [15.5] 03 N34 03.643 W112 21.937
- 16.0 Enter Prescott N.F. Road becomes 711.
- **16.8** Road swings right uphill and gets tougher.
- **19.8** Make a hard right up switchback. You are now on F.S. 192, where road gets easier. [5.5] 04 N34 10.349 W112 21.659
- 20.6 Just after Oro Belle Mine, make a hard left and begin climbing narrow shelf road.
- **22.5** Stay right on main road. Lesser road to left goes to interesting Tiger Mine. Watch for snakes.
- 23.6 Turn right on Senator Highway 52. Bradshaw City Townsite is short distance to left. [1.7] 05 N34 11.895 W112 21.185
- 24.7 At major "T" intersection, turn left. (Horsethief Basin is right.)
- 25.3 Small road on left goes to town of Crown King. Gas at C.K. General Store, Call 928-632-7911. [0.0] 06 N34 12.338 W112 20.260









Grateful to find gas at any price at the Crown King General Store

AREA 3 map on page 80



Overview: Trail climbs through remote high Sonoran Desert into Tonto National Forest. A State Trust Land permit is required west of forest boundary (see page 16). Unlicensed ATVs, UTVs and dirt bikes are allowed on this trail, provided they have the above permit. At the end of the trail, licensed vehicles can head south on F.S. 24 to Carefree or north to Bloody Basin Road, Trail #33. Camping is allowed on state land (with permit) at the start of trail.

Rating: Moderate: Steep rocky climbs and rutted, washed-out conditions. River

is often dry, but can be deep after heavy rains. Most of the trail is easy.

Stats: Length: 19 miles. Time: About 3 hours. Elevation: 2,230 to 4,330 ft. Open all year. Best time to go: Mid Feb.-May, Sept.-Nov.

Current Conditions: Tonto National Forest, Cave Creek Ranger District. Call (480) 595-3300.

Getting There: Get off Interstate 17 at Table Mesa Road, Exit 236, and head east on wide dirt road.

START MILEAGE LOG:

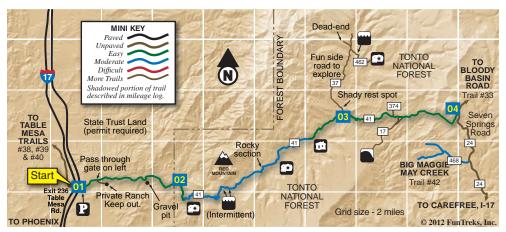
- O.O Zero trip odometer [Rev. Miles]
 Head east on Table Mesa
 Road. [19.0]
 O1 N33 58.119 W112 07.517
- Turn left through marked gate. (Right is private ranch. Stay out.) [18.0]
- **4.1** Cattle guard marks forest boundary. [14.9]

- **5.1** Follow rocky road uphill past clearing. [13.9]
- **7.4** Cross river. [11.6]
- 7.8 Cross river again. Driver's choice after you cross.
 Left side is more difficult.
- **11.5** Continue straight at water tank and old cabin foundation. [7.5]
- 13.4 Turn right on F.S. 41. Left is fun side trip on Forest Road 37. [5.6]

 03 N34 00.574 W111 57.276

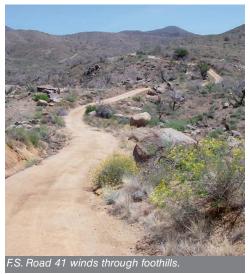
- **16.0** Continue straight where F.S. 17 goes right. [3.0]
- 19.0 End of trail at Čave Creek Road, F.S. 24. [0.0]
 N34 00.547 W111 52.794
 Turn right to get back to I-17 through town of Carefree. Left on 24 goes north to Bloody Basin Road, Trail #33.

Trail updates & GPS downloads at www.funtreks.com







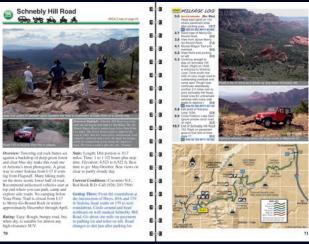




difficult after Waypoint 02. Turn left through this gate at start of train







The 100 trails in this book may be the best batch of Arizona 4x4 trails ever put together in one place. Whether you are a newcomer to 4-wheeling or an experienced veteran, you are sure to have fun. In fact, we guarantee it. (See page 2.)

The trails are grouped into seven key areas where we found the best 4-wheeling. Trails cover both mountain and desert terrain. Many are convenient to major cities. (See pages 4-5 for complete Trail List and Trail Finder.)

A color format makes planning your next adventure simpler than ever. Easy, moderate and difficult routes are color coded, while symbols quickly show kinds of vehicles allowed on each trail. This includes unlicensed UTVs, ATVs and dirt bikes. (See pages 8-9.)

A separate mileage log ties numbered locations along the route to a custom map featuring a relief background. GPS coordinates are provided for each numbered location. Included are reverse mileages for all trails and historical highlights.

All this is supported by an active website, which includes free trail updates, GPS downloads and an email newsletter.



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