

TONTO National Forest



Recreation
Opportunity
Guide

www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto



HIKING AND TRAIL RIDING

FOSSIL SPRINGS TRAIL 18

RANGER DISTRICT

Payson Ranger Station
1009 East Highway 260
Payson, Arizona 85541
Phone (928) 474-7900 Fax (928) 474-7999

TRAILHEADS (TH)

Fossil Springs TH

TERMINI INFORMATION

South end: (5600 feet elevation): at Fossil Springs Trailhead

North end: (4320 feet elevation): at Fossil Springs

TRAIL INFORMATION

Trail use: Heavy

Trail difficulty: More difficult

Trail length: 3.1 miles

Estimated hiking time: 2 hours one-way

Season of Use: Spring - fall

USGS maps: Strawberry

Elevation change: 1280 feet

TRAIL NARRATIVE

The Fossil Springs Trail 18 was once a rough wagon road. It is now a steep trail and has little shade.

ATTRACTIONS

- Spectacular early morning and late afternoon views of the Mogollon Rim
- Fossil Springs is a riparian area with plenty of shade.
- There are limestone caves along the trail
- Trail's end is near a swimming hole
- This trail has been featured in *Arizona Highways* magazine.

CONSIDERATIONS

- No motorized vehicles are allowed
- Please observe Wilderness regulations; the springs lie within the Fossil Springs Wilderness Area.
- Caution should be taken when using this trail in the summer heat.
- Carry an adequate supply of drinking water. One gallon/per person/per day is recommended during hot periods.
- Do not drink untreated water. Giardia, protozoan, is in many water impoundments and streams.
- Portions of the trail are rough in places and should be traveled with caution.
- If you PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!!**

