

TONTO National Forest



Recreation
Opportunity
Guide

www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto



GATHERING FOREST PRODUCTS

TREASURE TROVES

Exploring for lost treasures -- like the elusive, if not imaginary, Lost Dutchman mine in the Superstition Mountains -- is not prohibited as long as the exploration does not alter natural features of the environment. Digging or otherwise disturbing the environment is prohibited in all designated Wilderness (see Wilderness section) areas. In general, areas that have been withdrawn from material entry also prohibit treasure troving. Such areas include: National parks, national monuments, Indian reservations, military reservations, wildlife areas, areas designated or under study as a Wild and Scenic River and corridors along rivers and lakes that have been withdrawn for water reclamation purposes.

Searching for treasures under the guise of prospecting or minerals exploration using mining authority is prohibited.

Contact the district ranger who is responsible for the area of suspected lost treasure before conducting any troving activity.

Any treasure found does not automatically become the property of the finder. Law requires that items of value that are located must be placed in a federal repository for a period of time to allow the owner to reclaim them. At the end of the required time period, an administrative law judge will determine the disposition of the treasure.