



## Hiking Spree Tips 2009

These tips are intended to help you understand the various Spree documents.

- **ABBREVIATIONS:** The following abbreviations are used in various Spree documents, including the maps.
  - **MP = Mile Post:** those small green signs along various highways. Where a MP is given as 222.4 in the Spree documents, that means 0.4 miles past MP 222.
  - **TH = Trail Head:** the start of a trail, usually with parking there or close by.
  - **FR = Forest Road:** for example, “FR 52” is forest road 52, which is also the Senator Highway.
  - **YC = Yavapai County:** for example, “YC 5” is county road 5, which is also Williamson Valley Road.
  - **GPS = Global Positioning System:** this year, we have included GPS grids on the maps. If you are an expert, all you need to know is that the datum is UTM NAD 83. If you are a relative novice or don't even own a GPS unit, read the GPS information that follows these tips to find out how GPS can help you on your hikes.
- **MAPS:** The Prescott National Forest website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott> has a map for each Spree trail to help you find your way on the hike. These maps also give directions for driving to the trail head, and show where you will be driving on dirt roads. Although the maps are in color, they have been designed to be printed in black and white without loss of information. These maps can be printed on standard paper on your home printer. If you print them in black & white, you can use a highlighter to accentuate the Spree route, copying the route from your colored computer screen.
  - Note that not all forest roads shown on the maps are open to vehicles.
- **PARKING & PARKING FEES:** On the maps, the “P” parking symbol shows where to park. Each trail head will be marked with a Hiking Spree Logo sign. Some trail heads in the Prescott National Forest require a Day Pass of \$5 to be paid when you park (this is noted on the maps). This fee can be waived as follows.
  - Place your HIKING SPREE 2009 trails brochure on your dashboard, with the PARKING PASS text facing upward. This only applies for SPREE hikes during the SPREE period from September 26 to November 28. The blue original brochure must be used – copies are invalid!
  - Spree Parking Passes are only good for LYNX RUIN PARKING AREA and THUMB BUTTE DAY USE AREA please display these in your car when parking.
  - Hike on a Wednesday (there is no fee on this day).
  - If you have purchased one of the following cards: Annual or Four Month Prescott National Forest Pass, Interagency Annual Pass (e.g., Golden Eagle), Interagency Senior Pass (e.g., Golden Age Passport for over 62) or Access Pass (e.g., Golden Access Passport for disabled), put the card on your dashboard. For more details go to [www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott/passes/passes.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott/passes/passes.shtml) or stop at a forest office.

*\*\*Some of the access roads to a trail head may be confusing, in this case an additional driving map has been provided as well as red/orange ribbon tied to a bush or tree along the correct road or junction.*

- **DISTANCES:** The length of each Spree trail, or part of a trail, is given in various places in the Spree documents in miles. When you are hiking, it is difficult to judge how far you have walked, so try the following tip. Most people average about 2 miles per hour for a normal hike, not including long rest stops. On the flat, you may walk a little faster. If it's a steep climb, or if you stop frequently for photos or to catch your breath, maybe a little slower. Based on the 2 mph speed, this translates into 3 minutes for .1 mile, 15 minutes for .5 mile and 30 minutes for 1 mile. So, if you note the time when you start from the TH or a trail junction, you can estimate where you should turn around on an out & back trail, or when you should reach the next junction. (GPS can help you locate a turn around point or a junction too.) Try timing yourself on a forest trail where you know the mileage so you can judge your average hiking speed.
- **TYPES OF TRAILS:** For the Spree, trails are either Loop Trails or Out & Back. For Out & Back Trails, a turn around point has been defined with two white flagging ribbons. Feel free to continue farther if you want a longer hike, or even turn around earlier if you are tired on any Out & Back. Most Spree routes are on "non-motorized" trails; which means they are not open to ATVs and dirt bikes. Short segments of some Spree routes are on motorized trails or forest roads, so be prepared to encounter motorized vehicles on these segments even though motorized traffic is usually quite low. The maps show where a route segment is on a motorized trail or a forest road.
- **DIFFICULTY:** The difficulty in hiking a Spree trail (not in finding the route) has been categorized as Easy, Moderate or Strenuous. These categories are subjective, based roughly on the following factors.
  - Easy trails are less than 3 miles in length and have less than 200 feet difference in elevation between the highest and lowest points on the trail.
  - Moderate trails are 2 to 5 miles in length and have up to 500 feet difference in elevation between the highest and lowest points on the trail, often with a few steep sections.
  - Strenuous trails are over 4 miles in length and have up to 1000 feet difference in elevation between the highest and lowest points on the trail, with many steep sections.
- **Trail Markers:** Each trail head will be marked with a Hiking Spree Logo sign attached close to the trail head marker (Forest Service carsonite sign). At some points along a trail the path may be indistinct. In this case look for stone cairns (a pile of stones) which indicate the general direction of the trail.