

Prescott National Forest

Bradshaw Ranger District 928 443-8000

http://www.fs.fed.usda.gov/prescott/



CAYUSE LOOP #351,348,347 & 346

GENERAL INFORMATION: The Cayuse Loop begins at the Cayuse Equestrian Trailhead within the Granite Basin Recreation Area. The trail offers impressive views of Granite Mountain and the surrounding forested area. Although there is little elevation change along the loop, it travels through both ponderosa forest and chaparral. Due in part to this combination of habitats, the area is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including snakes, lizards, coyotes, foxes, mountain lions, and others.

The Cayuse Loop starts out on West Lake Trail #351, which passes through stands of ponderosa pine and alligator juniper as it travels toward Granite Basin Lake. The loop continues on Chimbley Water Trail #348, which climbs gently over exposed granite for a short distance through chaparral before joining up with Willow Trail #347. This section of TR 347 is fairly level and travels south past large granite boulders, some of which stand at unusual, seemingly precarious angles. Farther along, the trail narrows as it traverses an exposed hillside where it meets Willow Connector Trail #346. TR 346 proceeds downhill and passes through a series of gates before turning north to return to the Cayuse Equestrian Trailhead.

CAUTION: This trail is open to hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bicyclists. Please be considerate of others—slow down and know when to yield the trail.

ACCESS AND TRAILHEAD LOCATION: From its intersection with Willow Creek Road, travel northwest on Iron Springs Road for 3 miles. Turn right onto Granite Basin Road (FR 374) and proceed 2.4 miles to the Cayuse Equestrian Trailhead on the right. Continue 0.1 miles to the parking area. There is ample parking for horse trailers and regular vehicles. \$5 fee; free on Wednesdays.

TRAVEL TIME: 20 minutes from Prescott

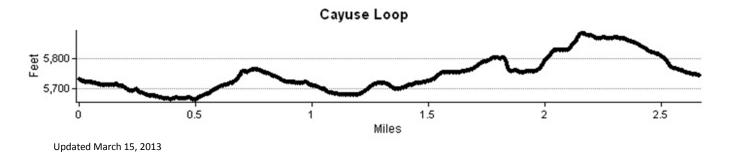
ROAD CONDITIONS: Paved

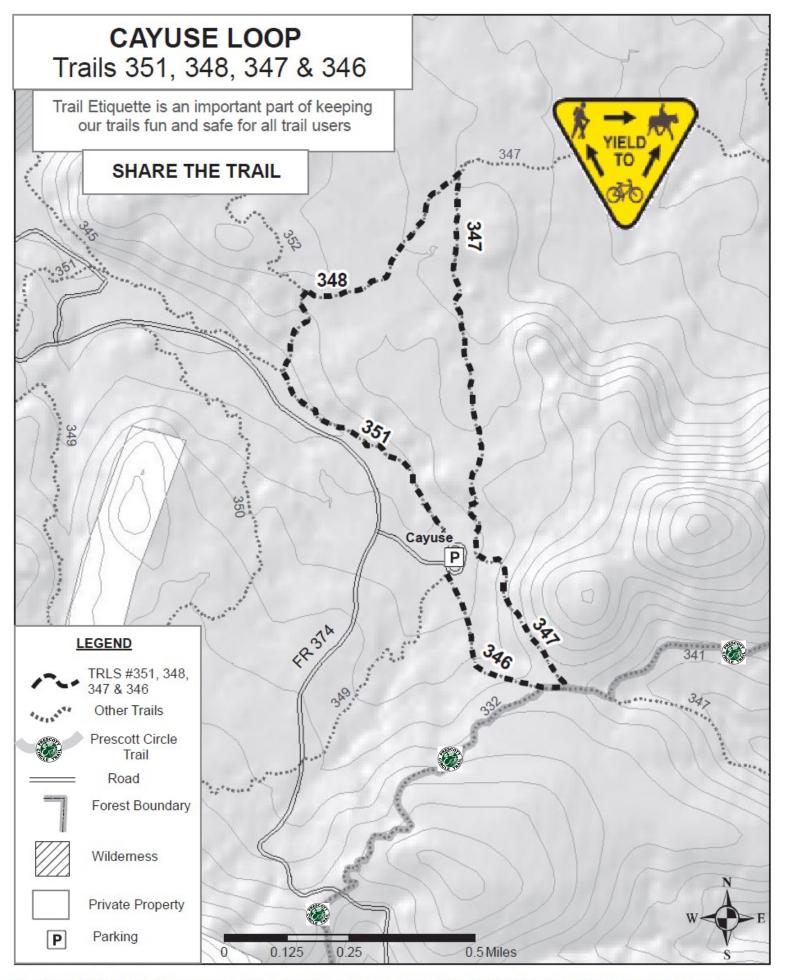
HIKING TIME: 1.5 hours, round-trip LENGTH: 2.8 miles DIFFICULTY: Easy USE: Moderate

NOTES: Dogs must be on leashes; please clean up after pets. Rest rooms and drinking water are available at the parking area, but not on trail. Other amenities at the trailhead include water for horses, hitching posts, and picnic tables. Less than a quarter mile of TR 346 is a section of the Prescott Circle Trail.

RECOMMENDED SEASONS OF USE: Spring, summer, fall, winter

MAPS, OTHER RESOURCES: Prescott National Forest Map, west half; U.S.G.S. topographic 7.5' quad for Iron Springs, National Geographic Trails Illustrated Map, Bradshaw Mountains, City of Prescott Trails and Outdoor Recreation Map.





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