



Prescott National Forest

Bradshaw Ranger District

928 443-8000

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



HORSETHIEF CANYON TRAIL #30

GENERAL INFORMATION: Horsethief Canyon Trail #30 acquired its name from historic Horsethief Ranch, where several noted outlaws set up a headquarters for trafficking in stolen horses. The trail is situated in the southern end of the Bradshaw Mountains, which are named after William D. Bradshaw, an early miner. The mountains in this area are walled by dark metamorphic rock, over 1.8 billion years old, intruded by younger granite. These granites have eroded into the large boulders now seen throughout the Castle Creek Wilderness.

TR 30 starts at an elevation of roughly 6,000 feet and descends to 5,000 feet where it ends at its junction with Algonquin Trail #225. Although the descent into Horsethief Canyon is steep and difficult, the trip through this rugged wilderness is an exciting experience.

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

ACCESS AND TRAILHEAD LOCATION: The best route from Prescott is by way of Mayer, especially in winter. From the Hwy 69/89 intersection, travel 15 miles on Hwy 69S to Hwy 169N. Continue on Hwy 69S 11.3 miles to Main Street, on the right. Turn onto Main Street and proceed to the junction with Antelope Creek Road (also CO 74). Turn left onto Antelope Creek Road and go approximately 7.2 miles to the community of Cordes. Continue straight as the road becomes FR 259. Continue on FR 259 for 20.4 miles, through Cleator, to Crown King. Travel another 0.6 miles to the junction with FR 52. Keep left and take FR 52 for 6 miles to the Horsethief Recreation Area. Continue 1.5 miles to FR 52F. Turn left and go 0.25 miles past the Turney Gulch Campground. Low clearance vehicles should park here. The trailhead is another 0.5 miles down FR 52F. Parking is fair.

TRAVEL TIME: 2 hours from Prescott

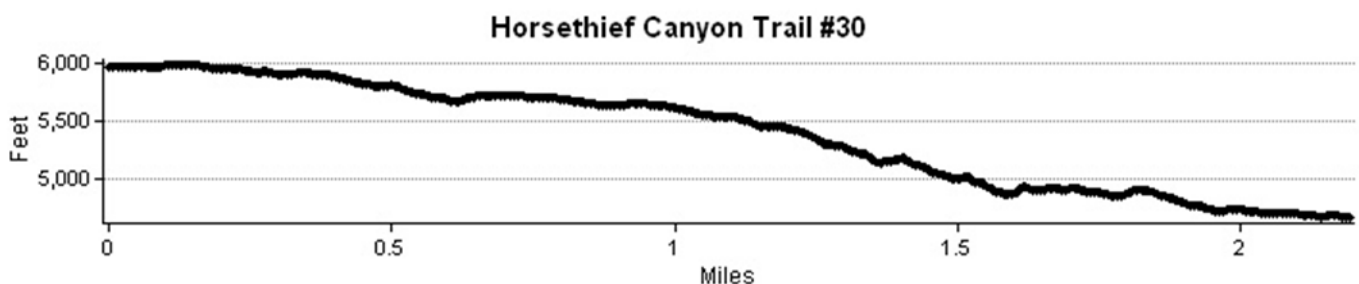
ROAD CONDITIONS: Dirt after leaving Hwy 69. High clearance is recommended for FR 52F.

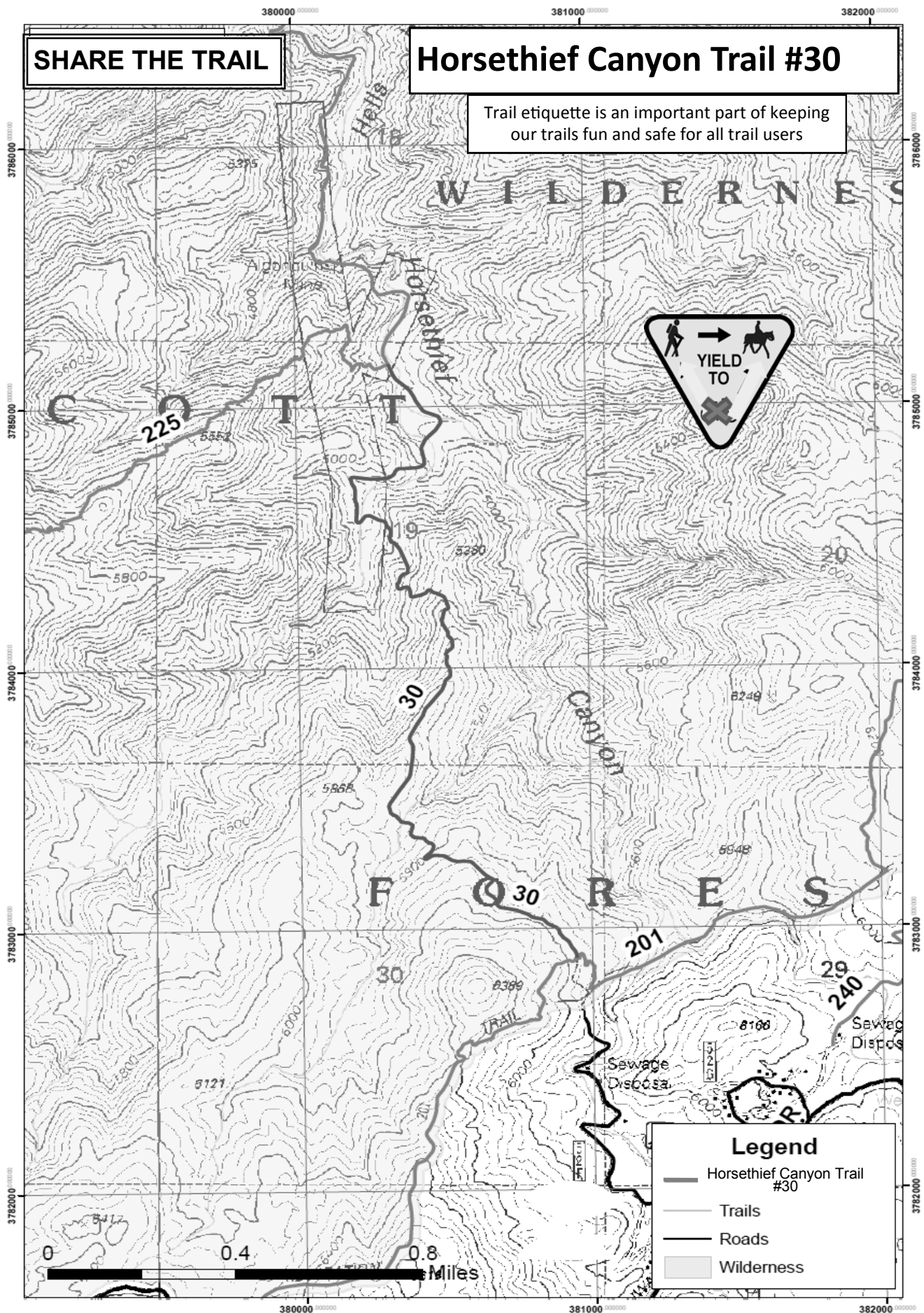
HIKING TIME: 1.5 hours, one-way **LENGTH:** 2.5 miles **DIFFICULTY:** Moderate **USE:** Light

NOTES: This trail lies within the Castle Creek Wilderness. Motor vehicles and the use of any mechanized equipment, including bicycles, are prohibited. Wilderness is an important resource and national heritage—please, leave no trace.

RECOMMENDED SEASONS OF USE: Spring, summer, fall

MAPS, OTHER RESOURCES: Prescott National Forest Map, west half; U.S.G.S. topographic 7.5' quad for Crown King. National Geographic Trails Illustrated Map, Bradshaw Mountains.





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