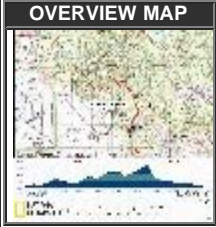



G.E.T. Guidebook

Segment 2: Reavis Canyon 18.0 miles

Segment Length	Segment Status	Season
18.0 mi.	finalized & accessible	fall, winter, spring
Resources		
 <p>OVERVIEW MAP</p>	 <p>ELEVATION PROFILE</p>	<p>Additional maps: Tonto National Forest (USFS)</p> <p>Land managing agency: Tonto N.F. Mesa Ranger District Tonto N.F. Globe Ranger District</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ G.E.T. Topo Maps 4-6 ▶ Town Guide: Superior ▶ Water Chart ▶ Image Gallery: Album 1 		

Beginning access point

Trail #109 at Forest Route 172A. Rogers Trough Trailhead is accessible by 2WD high-clearance vehicles in dry weather, otherwise 4WD required. Two miles east of Florence Junction, turn north off US 60 onto FR 357, to FR 172, then right on FR 172A. Bear left at jct with FR 650 and continue short distance to trailhead, appx. 14 mi. from US 60.

Ending access point

Picketpost Trailhead at Forest Route 310. Picketpost Trailhead is accessible by passenger car. ~4.5 miles west of the town of Superior, or 0.4 mi east of marked highway milepoint 221, turn south off US 60 onto FR 231. (Formerly obscure, the turnoff has now been signed "Picketpost Trailhead" by the Forest Service.) Follow dirt FR 231 0.3 mi., passing Picketpost Windmill, to a junction and turn left, now on FR 310. Take this road 0.7 mi. to its end at Picketpost Trailhead, with ample parking.

SEGMENT OVERVIEW

Although not located within officially-designated Wilderness, this segment nonetheless makes for a scenic, interesting, and remote extension southward from Segment 1 toward the very edge of the Superstition Mountains. Section hikers and very strong weekend hikers may find it convenient to traverse both of these segments in one go, rather than accessing either via the remote, rough-access trailhead at Rogers Trough. Segment 2 begins near the upper elevation threshold of the Sonoran desert, climbs a bit higher, but soon descends rapidly to the low country, touring among lush desert foothills and canyons holding seasonal water. Our route here follows the Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZT) exclusively, most of which is located on singletrack trail, much of it in good condition yet fairly little-used, although you may encounter other hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians in the second half of this segment, especially on weekends.

ROUTE DETAILS

Spring 2018 update: A recent relo of the Arizona Trail off of roads and onto singletrack trail will replace the first mile of the original description below (shown in italics), but has not yet been included on the GET Topo Mapset. From the dirt parking area at Rogers Trough Trailhead, signed Arizona Trail should now exit the southeast side of the parking lot and climb, via trail, for around a half mile, where it then joins FR 650 left (southeast), here at mile 1.0 in the description below (thus the relo is around a half mile shorter than the original route from Rogers Trough Trailhead, all on roads).

From the dirt parking area at Rogers Trough Trailhead, our GET/AZT route begins by heading south on FR 172A. Brown, carsonite posts branded with Arizona Trail decals may appear sporadically at roadside, a common blazing convention along the entire AZT portion of our route. At 0.3, reach a 3-way road junction and turn left. (FR 172A

continues right here.) Our new road (FR 650) becomes steep and rough as it climbs, soon reaching good outlooks toward the west. The road then descends slightly to cross a shallow drainage in lightly forested terrain (mile 1.0), before climbing toward a remarkable outlook, with Weaver's Needle visible below among the complex ridges of the western Superstitions. Farther left in the scene, the waters of the distant Gila River often refract the late afternoon sun. Picketpost Mountain, approached in Segment 3, is visible beyond Montana Mountain, our near objective.

At **2.3** (waypoint 02040), by a cairn, just before a road sign for Trail 509 (facing the other way), our route turns right off the road onto foot trail. This is Reavis Canyon Trail, which is numbered as Trail 580 on a nearby wooden trail sign, rather than 509 as elsewhere. The trail traverses uphill toward a saddle near the top of Montana Mountain (5,557'), then turns east to pass through a gate. The town of Superior can be seen in the valley of Queen Creek to the south. Picketpost Mountain and the rugged peaks of the White Canyon Wilderness are also in view, and beyond them, lone Antelope Peak, which is approached in Segment 5, as well as the distant Santa Catalina Mountains near Tucson.

The mesquite and grass-lined trail now descends in a long series of switchbacks on the southern flank of Montana Mountain. The switchbacks number over 30 in total, and are hard to pick out on the map set, despite what should be an accurate mileage assessment. Finally, and with potentially sore knees, reach the drainage of **Reavis Trail Canyon** at **4.6**. The trail meanders back and forth across the rocky drainage, which may be flowing in springtime or have pools at other times (especially around 33 22.763 N 111 08.435 W as well as at **Mud Spring: 6.3**, waypoint 02070). Short sections of 2009-constructed trail now keep the trail from following the drainage itself for any length. The trail contours more decisively away from the drainage near **7.2**, passing through a green metal gate, then continues descending through the mouth of the canyon, eventually reaching an old stone-wall corral where a camp could be made. A small dirt trailhead appears not far beyond, where our trail reaches Whitford Canyon and a 4WD road crossing at **8.0**.

Arizona Trail singletrack tread continues across FR 650, first climbing north and east, then contouring easily southward in and out of saguaro, cholla, and ocotillo-dotted gullies. Pass through a wire gate at **9.6**. The public corral and windmill visible downhill to the west were rehabilitated in 2011; water may be available from a pair of **cement troughs**, and there are benches and a makeshift table beneath a shade tree, albeit it's a popular spot for vehicle enthusiasts and so might not lend itself to quiet camping prospects. To visit the corral, leave the GET / AZT at a 2-track crossing (**10.1**, 33 20.399 N 111 07.885 W) and follow the road for 0.16 mile. Continuing on, the trail itself crosses FR 650 again at **11.1**, here at a well-signed junction.

Our singletrack trail now follows near the drainage of **Whitford Canyon**, first on its eastern embankment, then through a small but colorful box canyon section where you may find water in wetter times. Beyond, the trail proceeds near the wash, crosses it a couple of times, and leaves it briefly near a rocky bend at about **12.3**. Pools of water may persist down in the drainage near this bend.

At **12.9** the GET/AZT crosses a 4WD road and then winds up a low ridge, passing through a pair of gates in wire fencing near **13.7**. Picketpost Mountain looms ahead as the trail proceeds south along the open, rocky ridgeline, descends beneath a pair of powerlines, and then reaches a 2-track road at **15.7** (waypoint 02140).

Hikers bound for Superior may prefer to leave the route here (rather than ahead at busy US 60 where the trail crosses it 4.5 miles west of town) and instead follow the quiet 2-track road east toward town. (2016 hikers please note: The following route into town may be closed in part while a Hwy 60 expansion project is ongoing. Use at your own risk... Keeping right as the road forks, you'll reach a defunct railroad grade in 0.8 mile. Join it until another dirt road parallels it on the right. This becomes a gas pipeline utility road, which you'll follow until a gate near the highway. Pass through the gate and join US 60, following its generally ample shoulder (or dirt shoulder beyond) about 1.5 miles into Superior. Another option from the gate at US 60 is to continue into town via the Legends of Superior Trail, a 2011-completed recreation trail (signed with carsonite posts) designed to link the Arizona Trail with the Superior area. However, while the Legends Trail, or LOST trail as it's nicknamed, avoids part of the final 1.5 miles of pavement walking as described above, the trail is more roundabout and so adds time and distance to the "commute." The Legends Trail ends on the west at the Hewitt Station Rd trailhead for the Arizona Trail (see below), offering a modest shortcut option on the return trip. (Westbound GET'ers could depart for Superior here and return to the main trail at MP15.7.)

From the 2-track crossing at **15.7** on our route, continue south through a camp-friendly flat, walking beneath another powerline, then crossing the defunct Magma railroad line to reach gravel FR 357 (Hewitt Station Rd) near **16.2** at a small trail parking area. This trailhead also serves as the west terminus of the Legends of Superior Trail - see the previous paragraph. Beyond, walk through a gate - here entering a parcel of not-well-signed private land where you shouldn't camp - and turn sharply right, following beside a fenceline for 0.1 mile. Confront another gate, exiting private land, just before crossing the wide, sandy wash of Queen Creek. Look for a cairn or flagging where the trail continues beyond.

Pleasant trail continues in the direction of Picketpost Mountain, crossing beneath US 60 by way of a pair of culverts in

a wash at **17.4**. Arizona Trail tread resumes a short ways beyond, ascending a bit to reach FR 310. **Picketpost Windmill**, a possible source, is located about 0.9 mile west via FR 310 and FR 231 (or a quarter mile via the wash south of the highway culvert). Our trail instead crosses FR 310 to reach Picketpost Trailhead, a large dirt parking lot with vault toilet facilities but no water (**18.0**, waypoint 03010). (During business hours, water is available at the **Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum**, located on US 60 about 1.5 miles east of the GET/AZT crossing. US 60 is now a four-lane, high-speed divided highway most of the way toward the Arboretum, but offers a wide shoulder and should still be open to pedestrians in this stretch.)