



## WELCOME TO HORSETHIEF BASIN

### Access

Horsethief Basin is located in the Bradshaw Mountains, six miles from the small town of Crown King. High-clearance vehicles are recommended.

### Camping

Hazlett Hollow is a first come, first served campground. Turney Gulch Group site has tables, a ramada with a grill and vault toilet. Reservations can be made through [Recreation.gov](http://www.Recreation.gov) at <http://www.recreation.gov>

### Cabin

Horsethief Cabin is a self catering cabin with full amenities. It can be reserved through [Recreation.gov](http://www.Recreation.gov) at <http://www.recreation.gov>

### Boating

Horsethief Basin Lake is a small lake open to non-motorized boating and fishing.

### Fishing

Horsethief Basin Lake offers patient anglers a chance to catch bass, catfish, channel catfish, and sunfish.

### Wilderness

Castle Creek Wilderness offers spectacular hiking and horseback riding on maintained trails with rugged and diverse terrain.

### Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs)

Lane Mountain and designated Forest Service roads are open to OHVs. For additional opportunities, check the current forest MVUM. All off-highway vehicles need to stay on designated system roads and trails.



**Your Recreation Fee  
pays for this brochure.  
Thank you very much  
for your support!**

For More Information, Contact  
Prescott National Forest  
344 S. Cortez Street  
Prescott, AZ 86303  
Phone: (928) 443-8000  
Fax: (928) 443-8008  
Fire Information: (928) 777-5799  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/prescott/>



## Horsethief Basin

Bradshaw Ranger District  
Prescott National Forest

Southwestern Region

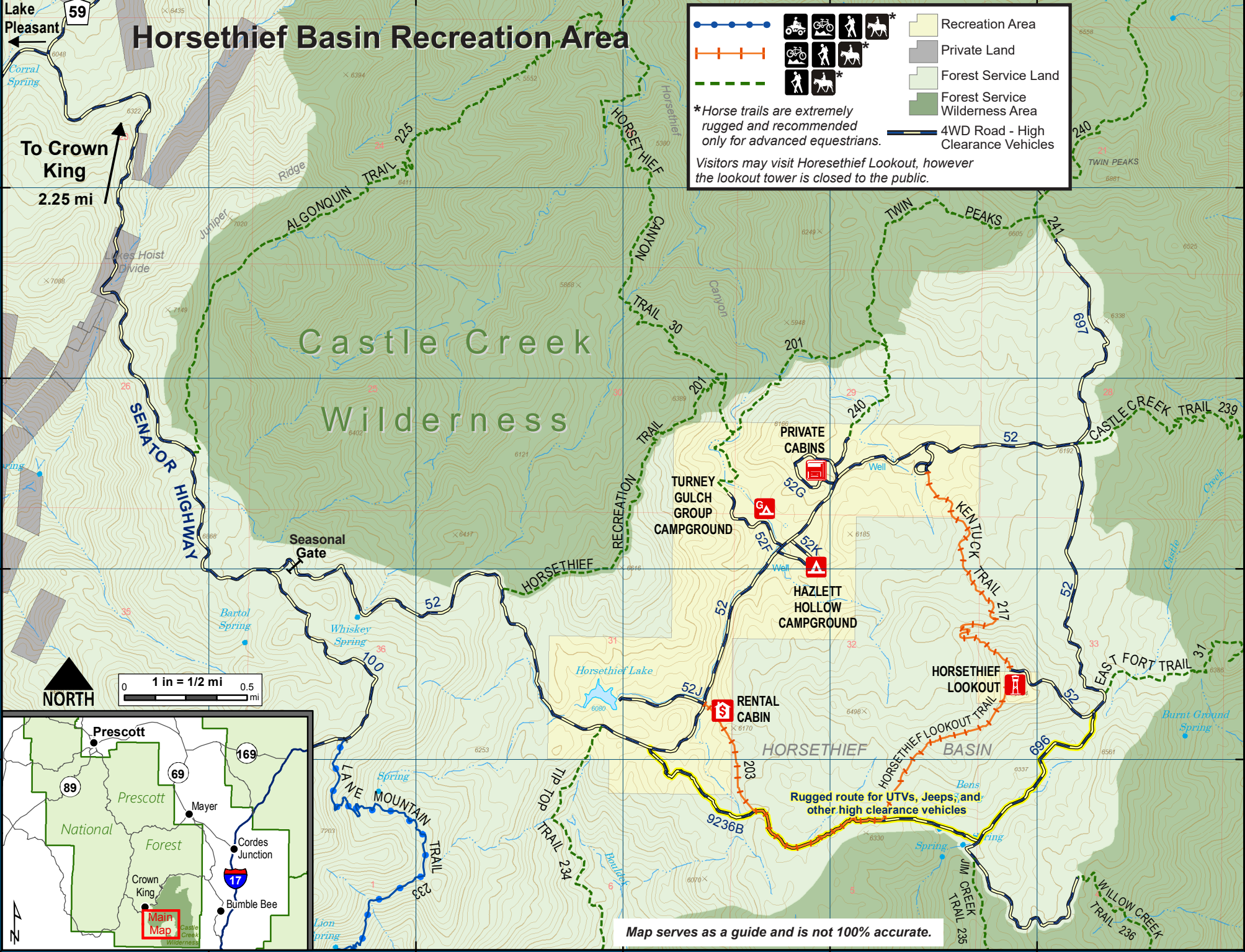


# Horsethief Basin Recreation Area

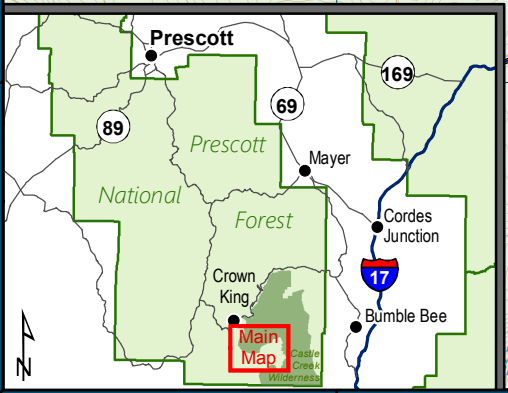
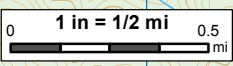
			Recreation Area
			Private Land
			Forest Service Land
			Forest Service Wilderness Area
			4WD Road - High Clearance Vehicles

*\*Horse trails are extremely rugged and recommended only for advanced equestrians.*

Visitors may visit Horesethief Lookout, however the lookout tower is closed to the public.











To Crown King  
2.25 mi



Map serves as a guide and is not 100% accurate.



 **Trails**

Number and Name	Map Grid	Length (in miles)	Vertical Gain (in ft)	Access	Activities	Comments
030 – Horsethief Canyon	C4	2.5	~1000'	FR 52F		Difficult with light use.
201 – Horsethief Recreation	D3	3.2	600'	FS52		Moderate to difficult with light use.
203 – Horsethief Lookout	D5	2.1	600'	FR 92		Moderate to difficult for hiking with light use.
217– Kentuck	C5	1.2	600'	FR 52		Moderate to difficult for hiking with light use.
225 – Algonquin	C1	5.9	2300'	CR 59		Difficult with light use.
233 – Lane Mountain	D2	6.7	3000'	FR 100		Difficult with light use, rugged terrain!
234 – Tip Top	D3	2.3	200'	FR 52		Moderate to difficult for hiking with light use.
240 – Twin Peaks	C5	9.1	2800'	FR 52		Difficult with light use.

Please visit the [Prescott National Forest](https://www.fs.usda.gov/prescott/) web site for current trail and road restrictions, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/prescott/>

 **Camping, Cabins, and Day Use**

Facility	Type	Water	Toilet	Trash	Power	Rate	Sites	1st Come 1st Serve	Reservations
<b>Hazlett Hallow</b>	Family	-	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		\$10	15	05/01-10/31	
<b>Turney Gulch</b>	Group	-	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>					05/01-10/31
100 people max		Combination lock on gate				≤50 pp @ \$75/Night; 51-100 pp @ \$150/Night			
<b>Horsethief Lake</b>	Day Use					6:00 AM - 10:00 PM			
								<b>Cost</b>	
<b>Horsethief</b>	Cabin	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	2 BR, Propane	≤ 6 pp => \$100		05/01-11/29

For reservations call Rec.gov at 1-877-444-6777 or visit [www.Recreation.gov](http://www.Recreation.gov)

- Campsite fee covers one vehicle per campsite.
- Maximum of 1 extra vehicle per site.
- Extra Vehicle Fees: \$5/night. Paid upon arrival at campground.
- Some campsites will not accommodate extra vehicles.
- 14-Day Stay Limit on the Prescott National Forest.
- Water for campers is available at a roadside spigot near the cabin.





## Camping and Cabin Use

- Horsethief Cabin has running water. However, water is not available in the campgrounds. Water for campers is available at a roadside spigot located near the cabin.
- Horsethief Basin is a remote area. Cell phone coverage may be spotty.
- Please keep fires within provided fire rings. Check for potential fire restrictions before you go.
- Don't leave fires unattended. Put fires out by pouring water over them and stirring; repeat until cool to the touch. Do not bury fires.
- Please use trash receptacles or pack out trash when you leave.



## Hiking

Horsethief Basin contains several trails for visitors to enjoy. Here are a few tips to ensure your hike is safe and pleasant.

- Before you go, check the difficulty level and terrain of the trail you plan to hike.
- Drink plenty of water both before and during your hike.
- Sturdy footwear is essential.
- Bring a small first aid kit.
- Check the weather forecast before you go.

## OHV Use

The Prescott National Forest has many roads that are open to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. These can be found on the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM), which can be obtained from a Forest Service office or online at the Forest's website. One trail within Horsethief Basin is designated for OHV use.

- Please stay on designated roads and trails while riding. This helps prevent damage to natural resources.
- Avoid wet or muddy areas.
- Avoid vegetation to prevent possible wildfires.



## Wilderness

Castle Creek Wilderness surrounds Horsethief Basin on three sides. Designated wilderness areas show minimal evidence of human presence. They are places where the natural processes dominate and human management is nominal. By using good wilderness practices, you can help keep these areas wild for present and future generations.

- Leave no Trace – “Take only photographs, leave only footprints” is a good phrase for a wilderness visit. Stay on trails and leave flowers, leaves, and rocks for future visitors to enjoy.
- Pack it in, Pack it out – If you bring it in, bring it out. This includes food, trash, and human waste. An alternative is to bury waste in catholes 6” deep and at least 200’ from water, camps, and trails.
- Motorized and mechanized equipment is prohibited in wilderness. This includes drones and mountain bikes.

## Heritage

Horsethief Basin gets its name from the rustlers who stole horses and cattle and drove them to holding corrals along the old Horse Thief Trail. There they would alter the stock's brands and sell the animals. Horsethief Basin provided perfect conditions for such activities. The seclusion was guarded by lookouts and the lake provided free grass and water for the livestock. The first cabin in the area was built by a rustler named Horse Thief Davis.

In 1924, the City of Phoenix made plans to develop the area into a summer resort. The construction depended on building a new “fast” road leading over the mountains from Phoenix into the basin, an expensive and challenging feat at the time. There was no funding for the road, and plans were pushed back. Ironically, the Great Depression saved the City's dream of a resort. The New Deal provided money and labor to begin developing the resort in 1936, starting with the Horsethief Dam. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built the campgrounds, cabins, a general store, and a dance pavilion. The resort opened in 1937 and was a popular summer retreat, but interest waned by the 1950s. The land was sold back to the Forest Service in the 1960s. Most resort facilities were removed in the 1990s. Hazlett Hollow campground, Turney Gulch group campground, and Horsethief Cabin remain, serving as a lasting legacy. The group site and cabin are available for overnight reservations via [www.Recreation.gov](http://www.Recreation.gov).

## Don't Erase America's Past

- Archaeological, historic, and sacred sites hold clues to America's past. If disturbed, a part of our heritage may be lost forever.
- Disturbing such sites on federal lands is illegal and can result in substantial penalties.
- Help us protect these sites and contact your nearest district ranger to report illegal activity.