

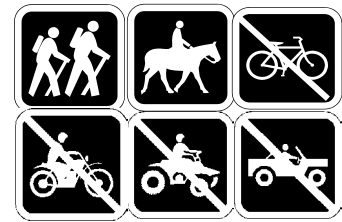


Prescott National Forest

Verde Ranger District

928 567-4121

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



NELSON TRAIL #159

GENERAL INFORMATION: Nelson Trail #159 was originally a service trail for the livestock industry. It now serves as one in a network of trails traversing the Pine Mountain Wilderness. It connects with Willow Springs Trail #12, Pine Mountain Trail #14, Verde Rim Trail #161, and Pine Flat Trail #165, providing excellent opportunities for extended backpacking trips within this remote area. The lowest portions of TR 159 stay mainly in chaparral vegetation, but ponderosa pine forest characterizes the area between the trailhead and Bishop Spring. There is ample shade where TR 159 passes alongside Sycamore Creek. Yellow columbine and wild roses grow along the banks, blooming in the spring and summer. From the creek, the trail turns southeast, climbing steadily to its intersection with TR 14, known as the Cloverleaf. Pine Mountain Wilderness, designated by Congress in 1972, boasts a diversity of animal inhabitants. It is not unusual to encounter white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, and javelina. Though seldom seen, black bear are also common in this area.

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: Beginning at I-17, take Dugas Exit #268. Turn right onto Dugas Road (also FR 68) and travel 6.7 miles to the Dugas homestead. Continue on FR 68 for another 2.3 miles to a fork in the road. Bear right to remain on FR 68 and go 1.8 miles to the junction with FR 68G. Turn right to remain on FR 68 and continue 6.9 miles to Salt Flat Campground and the trailhead for TR 71 and TR 159. There is parking for 5-10 vehicles.

TRAVEL TIME: 1 hour from I-17

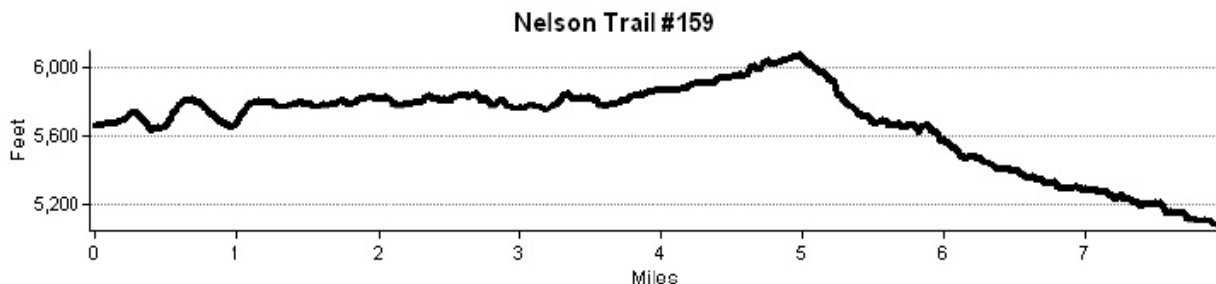
ROAD CONDITIONS: FR 68 is graded dirt. A high clearance vehicle is recommended. As of May 2011, FR 68 was recently maintained and in good condition. 4WD may be necessary when the road is wet.

HIKING TIME: 5 hours, one-way **LENGTH:** 8.7 miles **DIFFICULTY:** Moderate **USE:** Moderate

NOTES: This trail lies within the Pine Mountain 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. Although there may be water present along the trail, it has not been tested for quality.

RECOMMENDED SEASONS OF USE: Spring, summer, fall

MAPS, OTHER RESOURCES: Prescott National Forest Map, east half; U.S.G.S. topographic 7.5' quad for Tule Mesa, National Geographic Trails Illustrated Map Sycamore Canyon Verde Valley

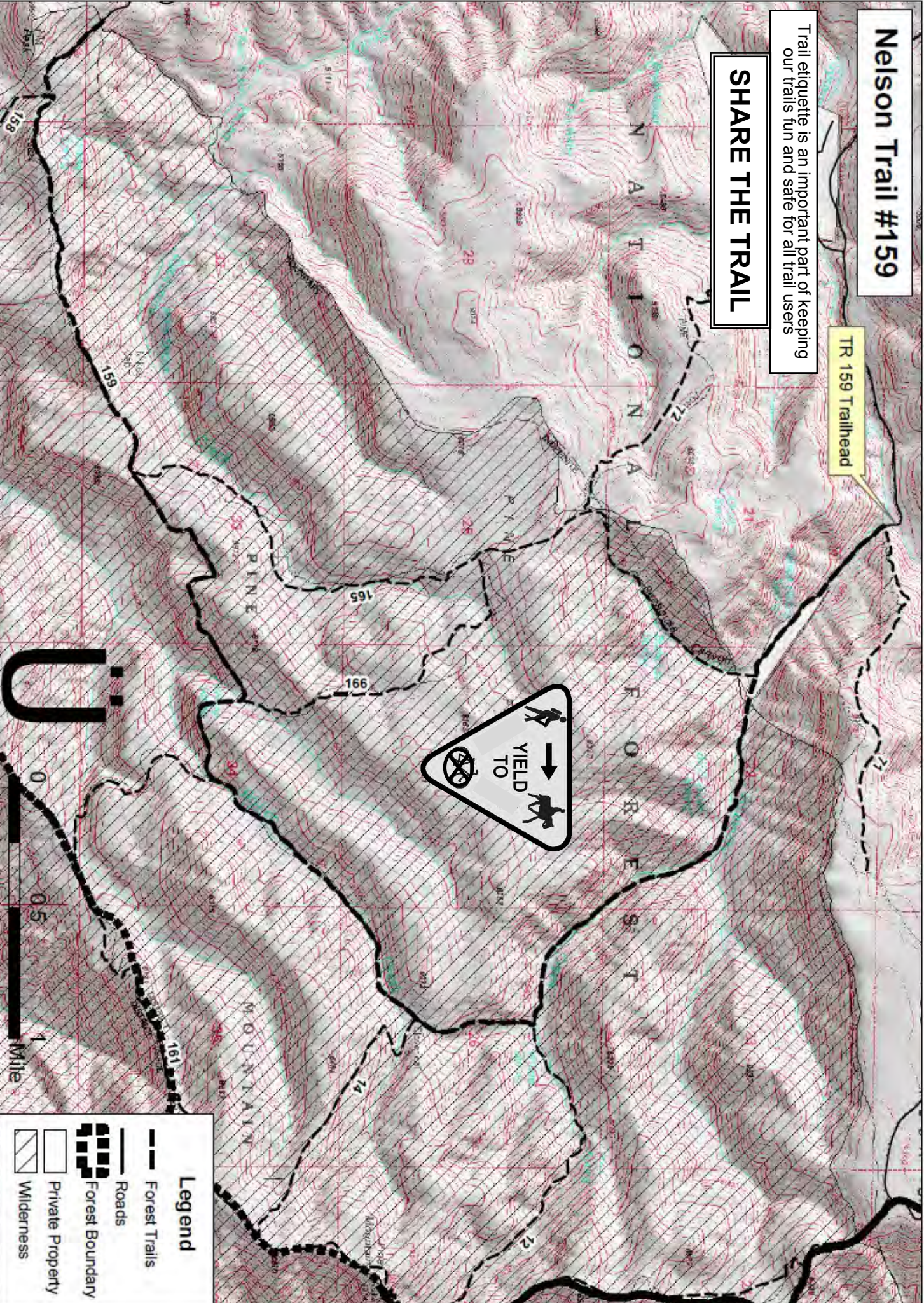


Nelson Trail #159

Trail etiquette is an important part of keeping our trails fun and safe for all trail users

SHARE THE TRAIL

TR 159 Trailhead



Legend	
	Forest Trails
	Roads
	Forest Boundary
	Private Property
	Wilderness

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