



**Saturday  
September 30, 2017**

**Kelsey-Dorsey Loop Upper Sycamore Canyon,**

Approximately 165 Miles and 4.0 Hours from Central Phoenix "stack".

Type: DH	Max Rtg/Pts: 3 / 1	Elev. Change: 511 ft	Length: 7.3 or GPS
Start Time: 9:00	Duration: 5-6 hrs	Max No. of Part: 15/USFS	Last Scouted: N/A

Check all that apply  
(give details in Desc.)

**Contact Information**

	Coordinator	Alternate
Major Hike: <input type="checkbox"/>	Name: <b>Bob Whiting</b>	<b>Randy Lungren</b>
Cross-country: <input type="checkbox"/>	Work Ph	
Exploratory: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Station	
Individual Effort: <input type="checkbox"/>	Home Ph: <b>928-592-9336</b>	<b>928-526-7004</b>
Options: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Email: <b>corabob@hotmail.com</b>	<b>S.lunghome@yahoo.com</b>
Pass/Fees Rqd: <input type="checkbox"/>	Cell Ph: <b>928-274-4761 or Text</b>	<b>602-290-0577</b>

Required Equipment: Wide Brim Hat, Trail Snack, 80 oz. Water, Lugged Sole Boots/Shoes

Recommended Equip.: Trekking Poles, Bug Repellent, Sun Screen, wicking outer ware, Rain Jacket, GPS, Camera, Radio tuned to Channel 6.0.

Cautions & Special Preparations: Typical AZ trail tread/rocks, wet crossings, Wild life sightings

Description: **\*\* Last Scouted\*\***, Trail Head Only (by Bob Whiting, not Randy Lungren).  
<https://www.arizonahighways.com/explore/hiking/kelsey-dorsey-loop>  
[https://data.fs.usda.gov/geodata/rastergateway/data/35111/fstopo/350011152\\_Sycamore\\_Point\\_FSTopo.pdf](https://data.fs.usda.gov/geodata/rastergateway/data/35111/fstopo/350011152_Sycamore_Point_FSTopo.pdf)  
 Over the years, we have done many trails in and around Sycamore Canyon but to my knowledge not this one. This hike will take us into the northern end of the Canyon. For a good description of the hike, open the attached link from Arizona Highways. For a good TOPO map, see the attached link from the Forest Service.

Text taken in part from the Coconino NF write-up. "From the Kelsey Trailhead, you immediately descend into a shady forested canyon of ponderosa pine mixed with Douglas fir, Gambel oak, and Juniper trees. Most of the length of the trail is gradual up and down with only a few short steep areas. Along the trail water can be obtained, usually year-round, at Kelsey Spring, Babes Hole Spring, Dorsey Spring, and Winter Cabin Spring. There are many spectacular panoramic views of Sycamore Canyon & the mountain ranges to the south as you hike along the trail." We will return on the Dorsey Spring Trail. The Kelsey Trail terminates at the junction of Winter Cabin Trail.

If the road is really bad, we do have the option of pulling over and hiking to the trailhead. We also have the option of starting at the Dorsey trailhead which is closer to the road than Kelsey. We also have the option of doing only part of the trail, depending on road & weather conditions. There are three different loops we could do, again depending on conditions.

For additional information and well-defined pictures go the Coconino NF web site for the Kelsey and Dorsey Trails.

Note, Kelsey Trail is often referred to as Kelsey Spring Trail, Kelsey Winter Trail, or Kelsey-Winter Cabin Trail.

Driving Directions: North on I-17, then west on I-40 for 3.0 miles to the Flag Ranch Rd Exit (Exit #192). Turn right (north) to Route 66 and turn right one mile to Woody Mountain Rd. Turn right on Woody Mtn. Rd. & travel 1.9 miles to the end of pavement onto FS 231 and continue for 12.8 miles from end of pavement to FR 538. Turn right onto FR 538 and continue 5.4 miles (staying to the left at the junction with FR 527) to an intersection with FR 538G (some maps say 538E). We will meet here to evaluate road conditions and which route we will take to do the hike. It is 1.9 miles from here to the Kelsey trailhead. FS roads 527, 527A and 538G require high clearance vehicles. Total mileage from end of pavement to trailhead is about 18.7 miles. Allow a minimum 40 minutes to drive this section of FS roads. There are no restroom facilities at the trailhead. I talked to the fire tower lookout and he said FR 538 is in good condition as it was recently worked on. He recommended we park at a small parking lot near the Dorsey Trailhead and start the hike from there. We will decide when we meet at the 538, 538G (some maps say 538E) intersection.

If you need a pit stop or gas when you get to Flagstaff, an alternate route to Woody Mountain Rd. is as follows: Continue on I-17 onto Milton Rd. There are several gas stations along Milton. From the end of I-17, it is approximately 1.3 Miles to Route 66. Turn left onto Route 66 and travel 1.9 miles to Woody Mountain Rd. and turn left. Follow above instructions from this point.

Note: All mileages are approximate.