



Saturday - Sunday September 15-16, 2018

End of Summer Big Lake Car Camp and Day Hike

Approximately 235 Miles and 5.5 Hours from Central Phoenix "stack".

Type: See Desc.	Max Rating/Points: 3 / 1	Elev. Change: 400 ft	Length: Max 8 miles
Start Time: 8:00am	Duration: 5-7 hours	Max No. of Part: N/A	Last Scouted: Sept 2017

Check all that apply
(give details in Desc.)

- Major Hike:
- Cross-country:
- Exploratory:
- Individual Effort:
- Options :
- Pass/Fees Rqd:

Contact Information

	Coordinator	Alternate
Name	Tom Isham	
Work Ph		
Station		
Home Ph	602-943-6104	
Email	t_hiker@centurylink.net	tsishams@centurylink.net

Required Equipment: Lunch, trail snacks, enough water for 5 hours of hiking, sturdy boots, hiking poles, camera, layered clothing, sunscreen, moleskin and hat. Rain gear.

Recommended Equipment for the car camp: Whatever you want to camp in. Some stay in a tent, others in a RV and some stay in either the Show Low area, Greer or even Springerville in hotels. We will try and have a barbecue if anyone wants to on Friday (if you get there early) and/or Saturday. Should be great weather as this is usually near the end of the monsoon season. There is a local store at the lake you can buy a short-term license and rent a boat.

Cautions and Special Preparations: The altitude is around 8800 feet.

Description: I plan on going up to Big Lake on Friday and will stay in the Rainbow Campground. Due to the length of the drive, if you can get up there on Friday, you will have a much more relaxing weekend. However, I have gone up early on Saturday and returned late Sunday many times. You don't have to hike to enjoy this event. Just come on up and enjoy the scenery. This area of the White Mountains is one of my favorite areas in all of Arizona. Nearby Mount Baldy is the second highest peak in Arizona. The roads are paved in Rainbow Campground and the bathrooms have running water. Several campgrounds are located near Big Lake. See link below for a website for the area's campgrounds and things to do. Firewood is available. Drinking water will be available at the campgrounds. Shower facilities exist at several of the campgrounds. The camping fees vary per campground. The payment is either in cash or a check. Reservations are available for an additional fee at <http://www.camparizona.com/Campsites/WhiteMtnsCampsites/WhiteMtnsCampsites.htm>. I don't think that they will be necessary being this late in the season but you can if you want. There were a lot of vacancies last year and I think we can camp somewhat close to each other. **The hike will be on Sunday.** We will meet at 8:00 AM near the entrance to the Rainbow campground at the Visitor Center and carpool to the trailhead depending on what everyone wants to do. We will be hiking the Indian Spring Trail – 627. The trailhead is located near the Rainbow campground. We can start earlier if everyone wants. Better chance of seeing critters that way and it will be cooler. Hikers have the option of turning around at any point. Just hiking a mile or two is very enjoyable. It is approximately an 8-mile loop hike. The terrain is a heavily forested pine and aspen area at an elevation of 8,800 feet. Much literature about this hike and area is available on the internet. It is truly magnificent. There are just a few signs of the big fire in this area. This hike is at altitude for sure. Most if it is very flat.

Driving Directions: From central Phoenix, there are 2 ways to get to Show Low and are about the same driving time. Either through Payson or through Globe. From Show Low, follow SR 260 through Pinetop and Lakeside for about 35 miles to its junction with SR 273. This is the turnoff to Sunrise Ski Resort. Turn right and drive about 17 miles to the Big Lake turnoff on the right. The campgrounds are marked. You will be driving past the West Baldy Trail #94 and #95 trailheads and Sheep's Crossing which is also marked. Carpooling can be arranged. Texting is available at Big Lake but cell phone coverage is spotty at best. If there are questions, call and leave a message and I will try and return your phone calls during the day sometime. I will be fishing out at the lake.