



Name of Trial Loop: Sunflower Loops

Passage and location: Pine Mountain Passage 21 at Bushnell Tank Road locked gate

Length of loop trail: Option 1: 5.25 miles
Option 2: 7.55 miles
Option 3: 3.9 miles

Loop trails description:

Option 1. From locked gate head south on road which will cross Sycamore Creek in about a half mile. Continue on (FS22) road for a total of 1.6 miles. Just after passing a corral there is a jeep road branching to the south up a steep hill. After about a gain of 240' and 0.5 mile, there is road junction. The road to the left continuing further up the ridge is part of Option 2. The 0.3 mile straight downhill road leads to the Arizona Trail. Once on the Arizona Trail, head right/westerly for 0.8 mile to Sycamore creek. Either

- Continue on the Arizona Trail 1.6 miles to cross over Sycamore Creek on an ATA Connector Trail or
- Turn right, following the creek area to the northwest. There are paths/old roads, which lead back in 0.45 mile to (FS22). Head left/northwest for 1.3 miles back to the locked gate, crossing Sycamore Creek twice.

Option 2. From locked gate head south on road which will cross Sycamore Creek in about a half mile. Continue on (FS22) road for a total of 1.6 miles. Just after passing a corral there is a jeep road branching to the south up a steep hill. After about a gain of 260' and 0.5 mile, there is road junction. The 0.3 mile straight downhill road leading to the Arizona Trail is part of Option 2. Turn left/east, continuing on the ridge for another 1.1 mile.

Turn right/southwest on old jeep road heading downhill. Continue on jeep road to east until meeting the Arizona Trail just before Boulder Creek. Turn right/west on the Arizona Trail, reaching the old jeep road mentioned in Option 2 in 1.5 miles. Continue northwesterly for 0.8 mile to Sycamore creek. Either:

- Continue on the Arizona Trail 1.6 miles to cross over Sycamore Creek on an ATA Connector Trail or
- Turn right, following the creek area to the northwest. There are paths/old roads, which lead back in 0.45 mile to (FS22). Head left/northwest for 1.3 miles back to the locked gate, crossing Sycamore Creek twice.

Option 3. From locked gate head south on road about a half mile. Then left/east on an ATA Connector Trail to the Arizona Trail. Turn left/west and follow trail for 1.6 miles then cross Sycamore Creek. Turn left, following the creek area to the northwest. There are paths/old roads, which lead back in 0.45 mile to (FS22) road shown on map. Head left/northwest for 1.3 miles to locked gate, crossing Sycamore Creek twice.

Recommended seasons of use: Spring, Fall, Winter

Elevation Start: 3446'

Elevation Gain/Loss: Option 1: 681'
Option 2: 1,112'
Option 3: 534'

Access point: Sunflower (now private property) is about 37 miles northeast on AZ 87 or about 30 miles south of Payson at approximately milepost 217. Turn off at sign saying Bushnell Tank TH. There is a locked gate on Bushnell Tank road, which has a gap to the right of the gate that can be used to access this area.

Water: Sycamore Creek generally has water. Boulder Creek has seasonal water at the furthest point on Loop 2. For up to date details on water sources please visit the Arizona Trail Water sources at <https://aztrail.org/explore/water-sources/> and even use the Arizona Trail App

<https://aztrail.org/explore/maps/mobile-app/> which has user comments about the status of water sources.

Notes: There are multiple two-track roads in the Sycamore Creek drainage. Loops are not suitable for equestrians because there is a locked gate unless a horse can fit between a rock and steel post at the locked gate. Mountain bikers can easily fit through the right side of the locked gate. For specific turn by turn information on the Arizona Trail visit the Arizona Trail databook <https://aztrail.org/explore/databooks/> and even use the Arizona Trail App <https://aztrail.org/explore/maps/mobile-app/>

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