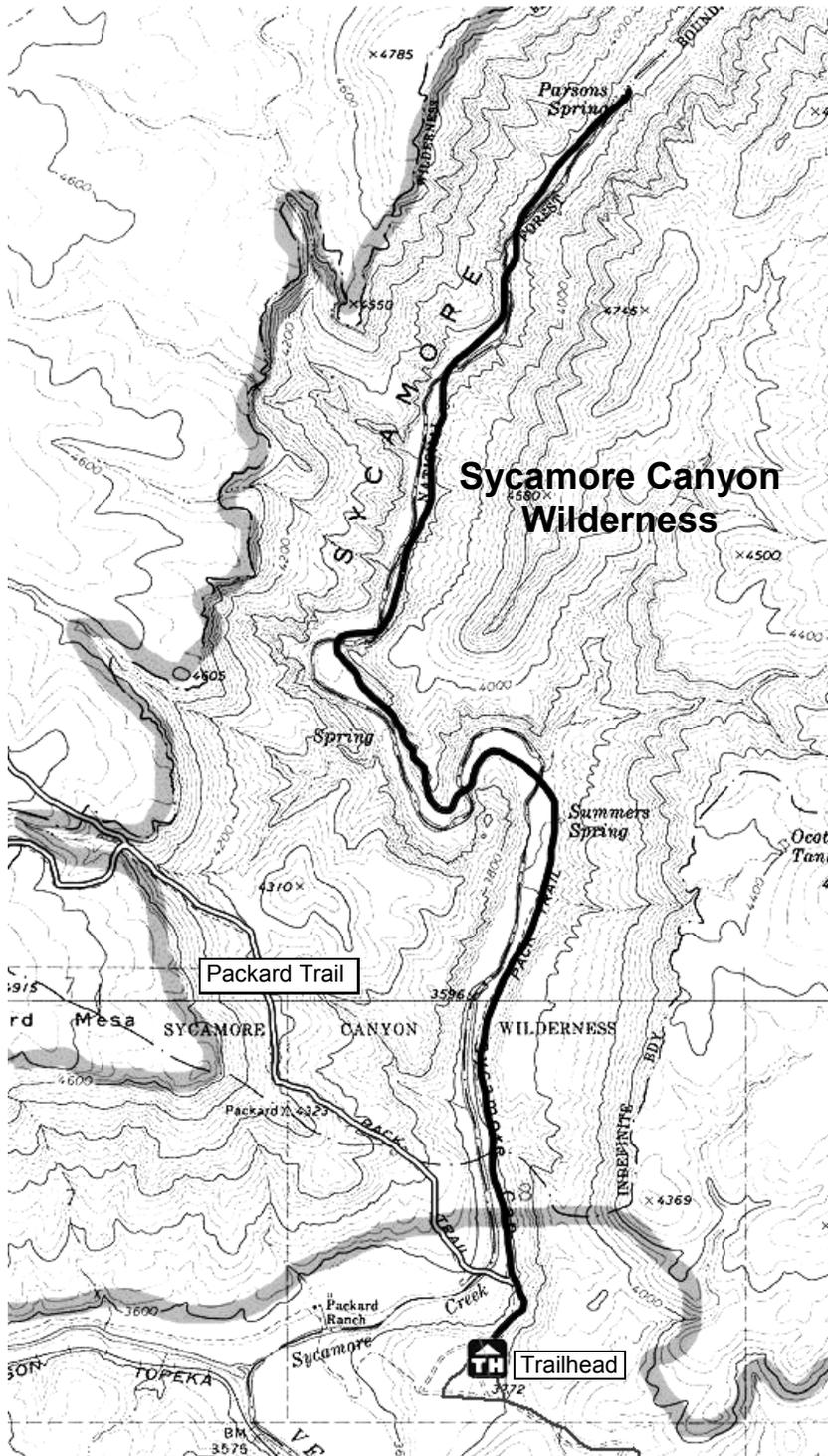


Coconino National Forest Trail Guides - Parson Springs Trail #144



Length: 2.5 miles to Summer Springs (roundtrip), 8 miles to Parson Springs (roundtrip)

Rating: Easy/Moderate

Use: Heavy

Season: All year

Hiking time: 2 hours to Summer Springs (roundtrip), 5 hours to Parson Springs (roundtrip)

Cumulative Elevation: 250 ft

USGS Maps: Clarkdale SE, Sycamore Basin

Notes: No mechanized vehicles in Wilderness. No camping is permitted in the first 4 miles of the canyon. Camping is allowed 200 feet north of Parson Springs. The trail to Parson Springs can be difficult to follow in some places and a few washed out sections require some boulder hopping.

For more information contact: Red Rock Ranger District, P.O. Box 20429, Sedona AZ 86341, (928) 203-2900

The hike up the Parsons Trail is a pleasant stroll along a cool, clear desert stream set in a magnificent red rock canyon. Sycamore Canyon is a place sufficiently unique to have been one of the first areas protected as wilderness in Arizona. The trail leads through the lower reaches of this wilderness through a riparian area rich in plant and animal life. Colorful cliffs that are a unique mix of dark columnar basalt, red sandstone, and buff colored limestone enclose the lush green of the oasis. The trail leads 4 miles to a large pool called Parson Springs where this considerable stream springs to the surface from the underground course it has followed through the majority of the canyon. Up canyon from this point surface flow only occurs during snowmelt and after summer monsoons.

Access: Drive 65 miles south from Flagstaff on US 89A through Sedona and Cottonwood to the turnoff to Tuzigoot National Monument. Turn north across the Verde River, then left on FR 131. It's about 11 miles to the trailhead.

High clearance vehicles are recommended on Parson Springs Road (FR131).

