

# Hiking/Backpacking Super-Guide to the Cabin Loop On the Mogollon Rim

## History:

See [http://www.sharlot.org/archives/history/dayspast/text/2007\\_01\\_21.shtml](http://www.sharlot.org/archives/history/dayspast/text/2007_01_21.shtml) This reads like a book you can't put down and will provide insight into the history of the General Crook trail and Rim Road FR300. You probably will want to visit the area after reading this. Be sure to continue reading part 2 after reading this first part.

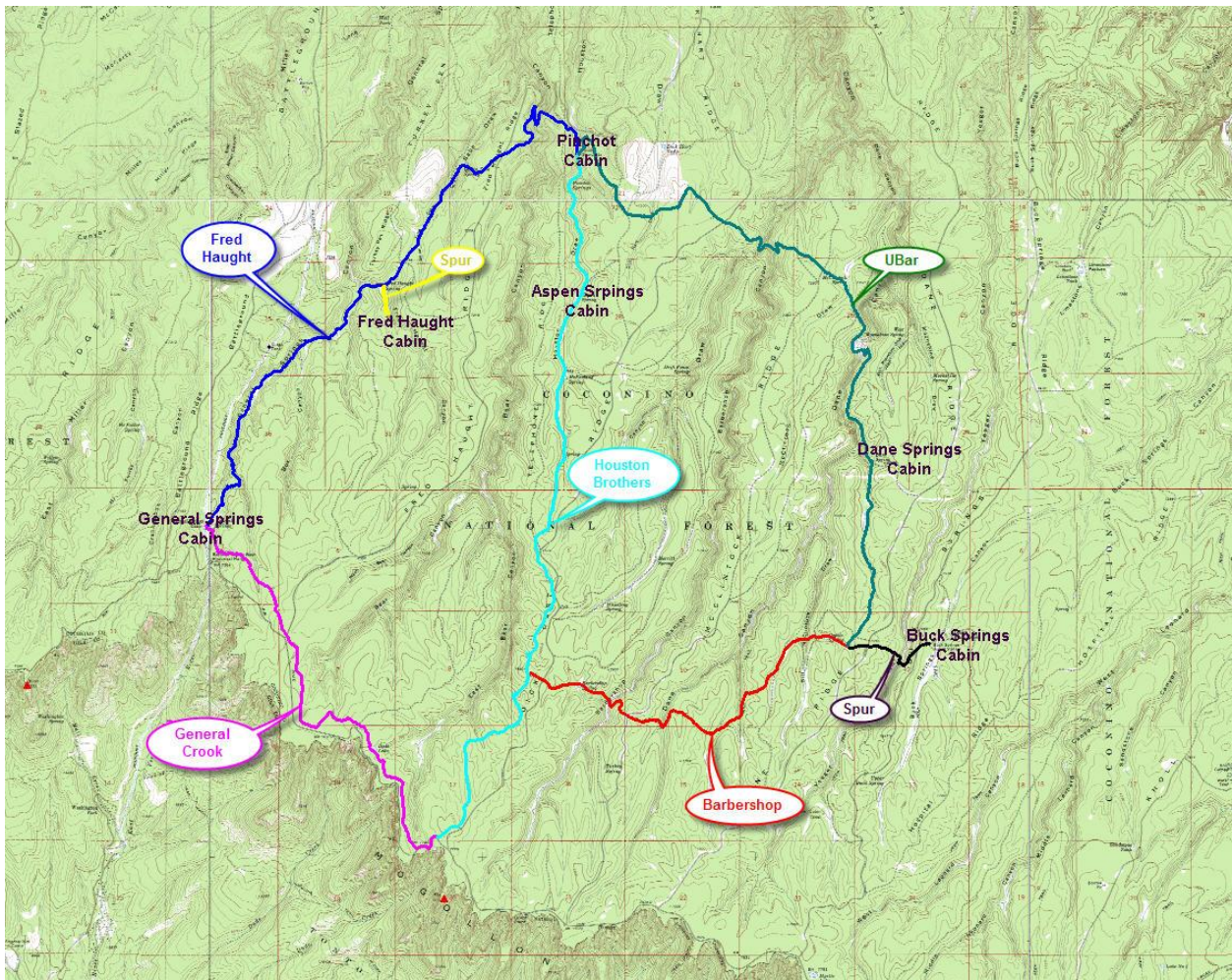
## Other Informative Sites:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/recreation/mog\\_rim/rec\\_mogollon.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/recreation/mog_rim/rec_mogollon.shtml)

<http://www.azcentral.com/travel/parks/articles/2006/06/15/20060615mogollonguide-CR.html>

## The Trails:

Fred Haught Trail -6.8 miles Houston Brothers Trail – 7.7 miles (5.5 + 2.2 split at Barbershop intersection) Barbershop Trail – 4.0 miles UBAR Trail – 7.7 miles Spur Trail to Fred Haught Cabin – 0.3 miles Spur Trail to Buck Springs Cabin – 1.0 miles General Crook Trail (Freestyle) – 4.6 miles



Unless you know these trails use of a GPS is highly recommended. And that means you should actually follow the track you download to your GPS. If you don't and this is your first time up there, I would wage good money that you will find yourself off the trail and not complete the hike as planned especially on a trail like the Barbershop that has more confusion points than I have seen on most trails I have hiked. And that is in spite of the fact that there are cairns, tree blazes, and some signs to follow along the way. They help but they won't get you there.

I use the word "freestyle" for the part of the General Crook trail from the intersection of the Houston Brothers trail with FR300 (Rim Road) which is also the General Crook in parts. From there you hike a few hundred feet NW on Rim Road and you will see a couple of chevrons on the trees there. The chevrons mark the real General Crook trail but are difficult to follow completely. I hiked back to General Springs Cabin trail here where the Fred Haight trail begins. It is easy to navigate because it follows the well defined Rim Road. So you have choices on how to hike this part. You can wander out to the rim for the spectacular views there or you can hike on rim road which is the easiest and most boring or you can try to follow the chevrons which take you slightly east of rim road but follow the road closely. You will find traces of old routes there as well as campsites and water tanks. All other trails on the loop should be hiked as they are mapped.



**Loops:**

East Loop -Ubar, Barbershop and Part of the Houston Brothers trails (17.2 miles) West Loop -Fred Haught, Houston Brothers and part of the General Crook trails (19.1 miles) Perimeter Loop – All of the above except 5.5 miles of the Houston Brothers trail (25.3 miles) Add to the indicated mileage if you do the spur trails.

**Out and Back Hikes:**

As many as you can imagine. Start anywhere, hike as long as you want, turn around and go back.

**Cabins:**

Buck Springs Cabin -Awesome General Springs Cabin – Very Nice Pinchot Cabin -Nice Aspen Springs Cabin ruins – Nice and a superb campsite Dane Springs Cabin ruins (a pile of logs) but also a good campsite Fred Haught Cabin ruins (a rock chimney with a sign post and a few logs)



**Buck Springs Cabin**



**General Springs Cabin**



**Pinchot Cabin**



**Aspen Springs Cabin**



**Dane Springs Cabin**



**Fred Haught Cabin**

**Popular Starting Places:**

Near Pinchot Cabin -Route 87 to FR95 for 11.2 miles and turn left on FR139A for 1/4<sup>th</sup> mile.  
At General Springs Cabin – Route 87 to FR300 for 12.5 miles to left ½ mile to the cabin.

**Not so popular starting places:**

Buck Springs Cabin FR139 at the Barbershop Trail sign and just about any place on the loop including lesser dirt roads.

**Backpacking:**

Definitely but water availability is seasonal so BYOW. You can car camp or backpack. Water is probably available during the spring season at Aspen and Dane Springs and a few other places like Barbershop and UBAR trails that have stream crossings.

**Temperature Rule of Thumb:**

Phoenix temperatures -20 degrees which makes this area quite desirable when it gets warm in Phoenix.

**Best hiking seasons:**

Spring and fall are the best hiking times. When Phoenix is 110 degrees it can be 90 degrees on the rim which is OK if you are not doing a lot of physical work. In winter the rim gets snow covered and the Forest Service closes the access roads. In early spring you should check with the Coconino National Forest Service website or call the ranger there to make sure the access roads are open before making the trip.

**The Hiking:**

Most of the trails are easy or moderate level of difficulty and may fairly be called a very pleasant walk in the forest. Hiking is between 7,000 and 7,800 feet elevation but you will accumulate some elevation while hiking hills that drop into canyons and then come back up and out again. You will do this several times if you do the Perimeter loop.

**GPS Tracks:**

Downloadable GPS files in Garmin .gdb and Topografix .gpx formats are attached to this pdf. The .gpx format has emerged as an almost universal format. Most GPS mapping software programs can import and export to this format. Right click on the files and select “save attachment as” to save it somewhere on your hard drive. You can also run the file by double clicking on it if you have a program installed (like Mapsource or ExpertGPS) that opens a .gdb or.gpx file directly.

It may be necessary to have the latest version of the Acrobat Reader to access the attached GPS files. It is a free download available at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

**Warning**

The author has personally mapped each and every waypoint and trail in this file, and has strived to ensure its accuracy and quality. Nevertheless, it is not unforeseeable that some errors have cropped into this database. The user of these files accepts all responsibility for his/her actions. If errors are discovered, please contact the author at [gpsjoe@cox.net](mailto:gpsjoe@cox.net).

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