

# WELCOME to the Apache-Sitgreaves NATIONAL FORESTS



## RATTLESNAKE GAP OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE TRAIL

MOTORCYCLES ■ FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES ■ DUNE BUGGIES ■ SAND RAILS ■ ATVS ■ QUADS ■ TRUCKS ■ SPORT UTILITY VEHICLES

### OPPORTUNITY

With more than 25 miles designated for off-highway vehicles, the Rattlesnake Gap OHV Trail is one of Greenlee County's most popular routes. Located on the southernmost portion of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, the area is well known by hunters, anglers, photographers, campers, and those just out for an adventurous drive.

Beware! This trail is not for the faint of heart! It may seem like a relaxing drive in the country at first, but can quickly turn treacherous if the weather gets rough. Make sure you are prepared and follow the safety tips listed below.

### ROUTES

**FR212** SAN FRANCISCO RIVER (Clifton - Martinez Ranch)  
22 miles/4 hours

Spanning more river crossings than miles, this route is non-navigable when the water is high, usually three or four months out of the year. Many users recommend this route only if driving dune buggies or sand rails.

**FR212** FOREST ROAD 212 (AZ 78 - Martinez Ranch)  
18 miles/2 hours

From this approach, the trail winds through rolling hills covered in wildflowers, Gambel's oak, and prickly pear cactus, with vistas spanning miles of rangeland and the western edge of New Mexico's Gila Wilderness.

### KNOW THE RULES!

#### HORIZONTALLY NUMBERED ROADS,

**249E** including state highways and county roads that are within the boundaries of the National Forest, require that the vehicle and its operator meet all State licensing, registration, and equipment requirements, briefly summarized as follows:

- All motor vehicles, including ATVs, must be registered with the registration plate properly displayed. Title and registration are two different things. The title is proof of ownership, while registration is necessary if you want to operate your OHV on roads requiring motor vehicle registration. The State's mandatory insurance provisions are also required for all motor vehicles to operate on horizontally numbered roads.
- All motor vehicles, including ATVs, must meet State operating equipment requirements. Check with your local Motor Vehicle Department office for current information.
- All motor vehicles, including ATVs, can only be operated by a licensed operator. Three-wheeled ATVs require a Class M (motorcycle) endorsement on your State motor vehicle operator's license. Operators that are younger than 18 years of age are required to wear a protective helmet. All operators are required to wear eye protection or have an approved windshield.

#### VERTICALLY NUMBERED ROADS,

**249E** including un-numbered roads within the National Forest. DO NOT require any motor vehicles, including ATVs, or their operator to meet any State licensing, registration, or equipment standards.

**FR215** FOREST ROAD 215 (Loma Linda - FR212)

14 miles/3 hours

Located between the two previous routes, this middle spur, recommended as a descent, includes a bumpy trip through Pleasant Valley and a knuckle-bleaching, breathtaking trip down a set of steep (25% grade) switchbacks into Rattlesnake Canyon. The route, after passing through the small community of Loma Linda, connects with U.S. 191.

### CAMPS

Two campgrounds, with tables and fire rings, have been installed in the Rattlesnake Gap area to provide for an extended stay. Bear Track Camp is located just several miles in from AZ 78, while Frisco Camp is nestled next to the San Francisco River, near the Martinez Ranch.

### SAFETY

This is a remote area - quite a few miles to the nearest highway or house. Be sure to let someone know where you are going, and when you plan to return. Cell phone coverage in this area is spotty, at best. The Rattlesnake Gap was named for a reason. Keep an eye out for snakes, scorpions, and other critters that could be disturbed by your vehicle.



Clifton Ranger District ■ Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests  
HC1 Box 733 ■ Duncan ■ Arizona ■ 85534 ■ 928.687.1301

### A FEW TIPS TO KEEP YOU OUT OF TROUBLE

- Respect the rights of others! You will encounter other users sharing the same trails. Please be courteous, respect their right to be there, and be aware of the potential of your vehicle to frighten or endanger pets and horses.
- Stay on existing roads and trails!
- Protect our environment!
- Pack it in, pack it out! There is no garbage service to this area.
- Wear the right gear!
- Always supervise children on ATVs and dirt bikes.
- Carry a basic first aid kit, extra food and water, and tools.
- Leave all gates as you found them, either open or closed.