

# PATS–Houston Trail & Houston Loop

## Houston Trail (4.2 miles from Horse Camp Access to the Chaparral Ranch Trail Access)

Level of Difficulty – Moderate



**Houston Trail:** The main access to the Houston Trail begins at the Houston Mesa Trailhead, which is approximately 1 mile east of Highway 87 on Houston Mesa Road. There are two other main access points for the Houston Trail: Horse Camp (for campers only) and the Chaparral Ranch Trail Access at the end of Chaparral Pines Drive. There is very limited parking at the Chaparral Ranch Trail Access and it goes through the private residences, so for big groups and horse trailers, the best starting point is the Houston Mesa Trailhead. This route is extremely popular with mountain bikers and ATV users, and contains occasional loose rocks and curves for speed.

## Houston Loop - (3.8 miles around entire Loop alone)

Level of Difficulty – Moderate

Heading east from the Houston Trail is the Houston Loop Trail, which is 3 miles east of the Houston Mesa Trailhead. Trail users who want to just hike the Houston Loop can access it more directly from the Chaparral Ranch Trail Access or Mayfield Canyon Road, which is off of Highway 260 in east Star Valley, just opposite from Steve Coury Ford. The Houston Loop passes by the base of the beginning hills of the Mogollon Rim, and includes abandoned surveillance sites originally installed by the US Government back in the Cold War Era. The entire “Loop” portion of the Houston Loop Trail also provides excellent views of Payson.

Trail Users: The Houston Trail and Houston Loop Trail are open to all trail users at this time per the US Forest Service Payson Ranger District.

### Driving Directions:

#### From 87 N (Beeline Highway) to Houston Mesa Trailhead starting point

- From the Highway 87 & Highway 260 intersection in Payson, head north 1.7 miles to Houston Mesa Road.
- Turn right (east) and proceed 0.8 miles to the signed turnoff of the trailhead on the right.
- From 87 N (Beeline Highway) to Chaparral Ranch Trail Access

#### From Highway 87 & Highway 260 intersection in Payson, turn right (east) and head approximately 2.4 miles to Chaparral Pines Drive.

- Turn left (north) and proceed 1.2 miles until it ends at the Chaparral Ranch Trail Access.
- There is extremely limited parking at this trail access point. Utilize Houston Mesa Trailhead for ample parking of cars and trailers.