

# Staff Ride

## Resources



Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program

### Dude Fire – Travel Directions

The Dude Fire Staff Ride site is located approximately 18 miles northeast of Payson, Arizona. Payson is located 85 miles north of Phoenix, Arizona. The town of Payson has adequate lodging and meal accommodations for any group size.

For information on road conditions and weather in Arizona, go to: <https://www.azdps.gov/safety/roads>.

From Payson, proceed north on Highway 87 through town, past the Highway 260 junction. Continue north approximately 1.8 miles and take Forest Road (FR) 199 (also known as Houston Mesa Road) heading east. Stay on FR 199 approximately 8 miles to the FR 64 junction (the Whispering Pines community is located here) and take a right at the junction on FR 64 (also known as the Control Road) heading east. You will continue on FR 64 approximately 2.8 miles to the Stand 1 parking area.

The alternate route from Payson is to take Highway 260 east from Payson (about 15.2 miles). Turn left on FR 64 (Control Road) and follow FR 64 past Tonto Village turnoff and past FR 29 turnoff (approx. 8 miles) to Stand 1 (past Bonita Creek Estates).

#### Directions to Dude Fire Memorial (Bonita Creek Estates):

Bonita Creek Estates is located off FR 64 (Control Road). Take the entrance road to the subdivision and proceed north, the memorial site will be on the west side of the road just before reaching the developed area of the subdivision.

#### ROAD WARNING:

FR 64 and FR 29 are not suited to low-clearance vehicles and become very slick and rutted when wet. Both Forest Roads are also narrow dirt roads with local traffic. Please keep to the right and drive at a safe speed. These roads are not designed or maintained for high speeds and your vehicle cannot stop as quickly on gravel or dirt surfaces as on paved streets.

Parking is limited along FR 64 (Control Road) with room for approximately 10 vehicles in the parking area at Stand 1 and parking area for Stands 2-4. The Dude Fire Memorial Site also has very limited parking capacity (3-4 vehicles) on the side of the road. The area is in Bonita Creek Subdivision with local homeowner traffic.