

## Mogollon Discovery Tour

On State Route 260 East at miles 261-262 you will come to Preacher Canyon. In the 1880's, during the Pleasant Valley War, a preacher lived in this canyon. He carried a double-barreled shotgun and sang to warn of his approach. It is rumored that he rustled cattle during the week and preached the Good Word on Sundays. Diamond Point and the lookout tower to the north, dominate the view as you drive through Preacher Canyon.

MP 263. Little Green Valley is a luxuriant meadow surrounded by brush and tall timber and frequently visited by deer and elk. The Haught family settled in this valley in 1876. Cattle roamed the land and shepherders brought their sheep down from the Rim to winter. This area was the setting for several of Zane Grey's novels, including "The Code of the West" and "To the Last Man". This is privately owned land.

MP 265. Ponderosa Campground, a 61 unit National Forest Campground offering cool, roomy campsites, lodged in beautiful Ponderosa Pines.

MP 267. Diamond Point Lookout Tower: Take the Control Road north 4 miles, turn left and follow the signs for 5 miles to Diamond Point. It is about 9 miles from Highway 260. The area is famous for its Arizona Diamonds (quartz crystals) that can be found on the ground.

MP 267-271. For the serious geologist: From Payson on Highway 260 the route begins in Precambrian granitic rocks just below their contact with Paleozoic rocks near the 5000 foot level. Tilted and folded Paleozoic rocks can be seen between mileposts 267 and 271. The highway ascends the Plateau through the red beds of the Pennsylvanian/Permian Supal Formation near Christopher Creek. It is capped by Permian Coconino Sandstone which forms the Rim near an elevation of 7500 feet.

MP 268-269. Kohl's Ranch Lodge, located on Tonto Creek, is a popular vacation resort with fishing, horseback riding, cabins, restaurant and bar.

Forest Road #289. 17.1 miles from Payson. Turn left for access to National Forest Upper Tonto Creek Campground The union of Tonto and Horton Creeks is at the north end of the Upper Tonto Creek campground. Fishing in both creeks is a popular sport. The trailheads for Horton Creek Trail 285 and Derrick Trail 33 are located in the Upper Tonto Creek campground. Both of these trails access the Highline National Recreation Trail (#31). Tonto Fish Hatchery is four miles north of Highway 260 on Forest Road 289. The Arizona Game & Fish Department welcomes visitors and has a self-guided tour of the hatchery.

MP 269-270 is Camp Tontozona, the home of the Arizona State University Sun Devils football training camp, open to the public in August and September.

MP 272-270. Christopher Creek Campground is located on beautiful Christopher Creek.

MP 273-274. Turn left onto Christopher Creek Loop to access the village of Christopher Creek. Food, Lodging, cabins, and trout fishing in the creek. And ERA Young Realty Christopher Creek Office on 1389 E Christopher Creek Loop.

Promontory Butte: This prominent point along the Mogollon Rim received recognition through the writings of Zane Grey. Located north of Christopher Creek, the point can be seen for miles.

MP 278-279. Two Sixty Trailhead is the east end of the 51 mile Highline National Recreation Trail with winds under the Mogollon Rim with several trails ascending to the top of the Rim.

MP 282 and 283 is Al Fulton Point with Visitor Center (open seasonally) and perfect for Panoramic views.