DIRECTIONS TO SOUTHWESTERN RESEARCH STATION

(Note that coming from Tucson you may be routed to Portal by your GPS or Google via a mostly unpaved route (Foothills Road) out of San Simon rather than driving on to the Road Forks exit in New Mexico. Foothills Road is notorious for causing flat tires and during wet weather may have low water crossings that could be impassable. The paved highway described below is about 20 miles longer and takes about 10 more minutes, but it is highly recommended, especially in adverse conditions.)

From Interstate 10, exit at Road Forks, New Mexico (Exit 5, Highway 80).

Take Highway 80 south approximately 31 miles to Route 533 on your right (the Desert Museum will be on your immediate left). If you reach Rodeo, New Mexico, you've gone too far and must backtrack 2 miles.

Turn right onto Route 533 to Portal, Arizona, approximately 7 miles. Keep going up the paved road to the entrance of the Coronado National Forest, being sure to stay on the pavement when it makes a sharp left—do not continue straight at this bend or you will enter Paradise, Arizona.

The road changes numbers and becomes Forest Road 42. Keep going up that winding road approximately 5 miles (along this stretch you will pass campgrounds and South Fork). Right after you cross a bridge you will run out of pavement, leaving about 3/4 of a mile before you arrive at the Station. There is good gravel for that 3/4 mile.

You will see a swimming pool and a series of buildings on your left. That is the Southwestern Research Station. Continue past these buildings until you see road 42A on your left. Turn left, cross a small wash and the Station entrance is on your left.

Park in the main parking lot and walk down the dirt road to the Office, the first two-story building on your right.

APPROXIMATE DRIVING TIMES:

Albuquerque, NM: 5hr 19 min/353 miles

Bisbee, AZ: 1hr 33min/86.3 miles

Las Cruces, NM: 2hr 58min/ 177 miles

Sierra Vista, AZ: 2hr 20min/115 miles

Benson, AZ: 2hr 13min/131 miles

Deming, NM: 2hr 5min/117 miles

Phoenix, AZ: 4hr 32min/292 miles

Tucson, AZ: 2hr 56min/177 miles



 \searrow A star indicates your last chance for dependable gas! If arriving via I-10 from Tucson/Phoenix, you will want to fill up in San Simon, AZ. If arriving from Albuquerque/Las Cruces/Deming via I-10, you will want to fill up in Lordsburg, New Mexico. If arriving from Douglas, Arizona via Highway 80, you will want to fill up before you leave!