

ARIZONA RIVERS

Lifeblood of the Desert

A CITIZENS PROPOSAL FOR THE PROTECTION OF
RIVERS IN ARIZONA



ARIZONA RIVERS COALITION

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MARCH 1991

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Arizona State Map.....	ii
	Proposal Summary.....	vi
	Introduction.....	ix
	Acknowledgments.....	xiv
1.	SALT RIVER BASIN	1
	Black River.....	2
	Salt River Canyon.....	7
	Cherry Creek.....	12
	Coon Creek.....	16
	Pinto Creek.....	20
	Campaign Creek.....	24
	Salome Creek.....	27
	Tonto Creek.....	31
	Lower Salt River.....	35
2.	LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BASIN	39
	Headwaters.....	40
	Chevelon Creek.....	43
	East Clear Creek.....	47
3.	UPPER GILA RIVER BASIN	51
	Blue River.....	52
	San Francisco River.....	57
	Gila River, Upper (Box area).....	61
	Ash Creek.....	65
	Gila River, Middle.....	69
4.	YAQUI RIVER BASIN	73
	Cave Creek.....	74
5.	SAN PEDRO RIVER BASIN	78
	San Pedro River.....	79
	Cienega Creek.....	83
	Bass Canyon/Hot Springs.....	86
	Beuhman Creek.....	90
	Redfield Canyon/Swamp Springs.....	94
6.	LOWER GILA RIVER BASIN	97
	Hassayampa River.....	98
7.	AGUA FRIA RIVER BASIN	102
	Agua Fria River.....	103
8.	VERDE RIVER BASIN	107
	Verde River, Lower.....	108
	East Verde River.....	111
	West Clear Creek.....	115
	Beaver Creek.....	119
	Oak Creek and West Fork.....	123
	Verde River, Upper.....	128
9.	BILL WILLIAMS RIVER BASIN	132
	Burro Creek.....	133
	Santa Maria River.....	138
	Bill Williams River.....	143
10.	VIRGIN RIVER BASIN	148
	Virgin River.....	149
11.	COLORADO RIVER BASIN	152
	Kanab Creek.....	153
	Paria River/Buckskin Gulch.....	156
	Little Colorado River.....	160
	Colorado River, Glen Canyon.....	163
	Colorado River, Grand Canyon.....	166
Appendix 1:	Alphabetical Index to Rivers.....	173
Appendix 2:	The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.....	177
Appendix 3:	Questions and Answers on the Act.....	191

March 11, 1991

Dear fellow Arizonan,

To those not familiar with our state, Arizona conjures up images of cactus, deserts, canyons and mountains largely barren of vegetation. We ourselves use the rhetoric of dryness and scarcity when it comes to allocating water between cities, industry and agriculture. Let me suggest that we take a closer view.

In fact, Arizona is laced with ribbons of life-giving streams and rivers if we but look in the right places. Between those dry canyon walls and stark mountain ranges flow streams which provide the moisture and habitat for wildlife and recreation in otherwise forbidding country. The water we drink and use for economic pursuits flows down to us through this precious network of waterways. The fact that Arizona can sustain a vibrant society as well as a remarkable variety of wildlife species underscores the significance of our natural water flows.

It is also desperately important that we understand that we could lose the last of these streams if we do not act now to protect them in their natural state. Even in our brief history as a territory and then as a state we have lost nearly 90 percent of our free-flowing streams to dams, diversions and other developed uses. Our remaining waters could go the same way -- never to return to their original condition -- if we don't step forward to save them while we still have the chance.

While Governor, I established a Task Force on Recreation on Federal Lands, chaired by Scottsdale Mayor Herb Drinkwater, to make recommendations on maintaining the health of our natural resources for the enjoyment and use of Arizonans into the future. Among the programs advocated by the Task Force was support for federal Wild and Scenic river designation for deserving stretches of many of our remaining free-flowing streams. I'm personally delighted that proposals are now beginning to come forward, including this one, to do just that through Congressional action.

I would like to sound a call-to-action to all of us who care about preserving Arizona's natural heritage to move vigorously ahead with Wild and Scenic river legislation right now. The argument is compelling that protecting our natural flowing streams makes good economic sense for tourism, for water quality, for water management and for outdoor recreation. Also, from my perspective and I hope from yours as well, protecting these special places for our children is simply the right thing to do.

Please join me in roundly endorsing river protection for Arizona and working towards that goal with our elected officials while the opportunities are before us.

Sincerely,



Bruce Babbitt

ARIZONA WILD & SCENIC RIVERS PROPOSAL

River Name	Segment Description	Length in miles	Primary Mgt. Agency (s)	County (s)	Basin *
Agua Fria River	Sycamore Cr to Larry Creek	18	BLM	Yavapai	7
Ash Creek (Pinaleno Mts)	Trail #303 to Trail #307	11.7	FS	Graham	3
Bass Canyon/Hot Springs	Bass Cyn/Hot Spr within the TNC Preserve	8	FS/BLM/TNC	Cochise/Graham	5
Beaver Creek	Brady Canyon to Verde River	33	FS	Coconino/Yavapai	8
Beuhman Creek (Santa Catalinas)	Headwaters to FR #801	8	FS	Pima	5
Black River	East & West Fk/Fish Cr/Black to Ind Res	60	FS	Apache	1
Blue River	Campbell Blue to San Francisco River	66	FS	Greenlee	3
Bill Williams River	Alamo Dam to Planet Ranch	22	BLM	La Paz/Mohave	9
Burro Creek	Scratch Cyn to Big Sandy River & Francis Cr	62	BLM	Mohave/Yavapai	9
Campaign Creek	Headwaters to Cross P Ranch	11	FS	Maricopa/Gila	1
Cave Creek (Chiricahua Mts)	Middle, North & South Forks	12.75	FS	Cochise	4
Cherry Creek	Cherry Creek Spring to Salt River	33	FS	Gila	1
Chevelon Creek	Woods Cyn/Willow Spr to FS boundary	38	FS	Coconino	2
Cienega Creek	Headwaters to Narrows	10.3	BLM	Pima	**
Colorado River	Through Glen Canyon	16	NPS	Coconino	11
Colorado River & Tributaries	Through Grand Canyon	272	NPS	Coconino/Mohave	11
Coon Creek	Headwaters to Salt River	9.5	FS	Gila	1
East Clear Creek	Headwaters of Barbershop Cr to Clear Cr Res	79	FS/ASLD	Coconino	2
East Verde River	Headwaters to Verde River	56	FS	Coconino	8
Gila River--Gila Box	US 666 to Spring Cr & San Francisco River	34	BLM	Graham/Greenlee	3
Gila River--middle	Coolidge Dam to Winkelman	27.5	BLM/San Carlos	Gila/Pima	3
Hassayampa River	Headwaters to below TNC Preserve	60	FS/BLM	Yavapai/Maricopa	6
Kanab Creek	Indian Res boundary to Colorado River	80	BLM/FS/NPS	Mohave/Coconino	11
Little Colorado River--West Fork	Headwaters to South Fork	18	FS	Apache	2
Little Colorado River	Cameron to Colorado River	54	NPS/Navajo	Coconino	11
Oak Creek/West Fork Oak Cr	Sterling Spr Hatchery to Midgely Bridge	25	FS	Coconino	8
Paria River/Buckskin Gulch	Whitehouse Trailhead to Colorado River	45	BLM	Coconino	11
Pinto Creek	N of Miami to Hwy 88	9	FS	Gila	1
Redfield Canyon/Swamp Spring	Headwaters to FS boundary	17	FS/BLM/TNC	Graham/Pima	5
Salome Creek	Headwaters to FR #60	20	FS	Gila	1
Salt River Canyon	Hwy Bridge 60 to Hwy Bridge 288	52	FS/Ind Res	Gila	1
Salt River--lower	Stewart Mtn Dam to Verde River	9	FS	Maricopa	1
San Francisco River	Luna Lake to Martinez Ranch near Clifton	126	FS	Greenlee	3
San Pedro River	National Riparian Cons. Area (Mex Border)	34	BLM	Cochise	5
Santa Maria River	Headwaters to Alamo Lake	80.5	FS/BLM	Yavapai/La Paz	9
Tonto Creek	State Fish Hatchery to Gun Creek	55	FS	Gila	1
Verde River--lower	Red Cr to Horse Cr Cyn at Sheep Bridge	9	FS	Yavapai/Gila	8
Verde River--upper	Paulden to N of Clarkdale & Sycamore Cr	33	FS	Yavapai	8
Virgin River	Utah border to Nevada border	35	BLM	Mohave	10
West Clear Creek	Headwaters to Verde River	60	FS	Coconino/Yavapai	8

***River Basins**

1--Salt
2--Little Colorado
3--Upper Gila
4--Yaqui

5--San Pedro
6--Lower Gila
7--Agua Fria
8--Verde

9--Bill Williams
10--Virgin
11--Colorado

**Cienega Creek is described as flowing into the San Pedro River Basin elsewhere in this proposal. It actually flows into the Santa Cruz River Basin. We apologize for the error.

INTRODUCTION

The Wild & Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 was a far-sighted expression by Congress of national policy to protect, "for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations," selected "rivers . . . and their immediate environments [that] possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values." (16 U.S.C. 1271)

Over the last twenty-three years, Congress has implemented this policy by designating over one hundred river segments and 9,000 river miles as part of the national Wild & Scenic Rivers system. This activity has, however, largely bypassed the Southwest, and particularly Arizona. Only one portion of one Arizona river, the Verde, has been included, designated as part of statewide wilderness legislation enacted in 1984. As the supporting material in this volume demonstrates, many other Arizona rivers and streams qualify for national Wild & Scenic River designation.

Arizona is one of the most arid states in the Union. Its streams and wetlands have never, since the dawn of man, occupied more than a tiny fraction of the state's land area. Because of their comparative rarity and their contrast with surrounding lands, Arizona's free-flowing streams and their riparian environments are a treasure, ribbons of water and greenery laid across earth-toned landscapes. Depictions of Arizona's natural heritage, as conveyed to the world through photographs such as appear in Arizona Highways, frequently portray the state's surprisingly sylvan streams and rivers.

These riparian zones have outstanding ecological significance, disproportionate to that of other states. Over 75% of Arizona's native wildlife species depend upon them, including more than half of the threatened and endangered species. Cottonwood-willow riparian communities in the southwest are home to more bird species than any other ecosystem in the country, and Arizona is famed world-wide for the diversity of its bird populations.

Many of these streams also offer outstanding recreational opportunities. A half-million Arizonans fish, and the number of people engaged in hiking, birdwatching, river-running, and other activities dependent upon these areas has grown exponentially in recent years.

In Arizona, as in other parts of the country, human settlements and activities have concentrated along waterways. As a result, many of the state's most significant archeological and historic sites are located along waterways.

In June 1989, Governor Mofford issued an executive order (No. 89-16) calling for a series of steps to improve protection of riparian areas, including creating a Riparian Habitat Task Force. Its October 1990 report called for, among other things, support for "efforts to designate qualified rivers and streams in Arizona to the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System." (Final Report, p. 19). Governor Mofford responded by issuing an executive order (No. 91-6) on February 14, 1991, that directed state agencies to "assist in the identification and evaluation of rivers and streams that might be designated as National Wild & Scenic Rivers."

An interagency team headed by the Arizona State Parks Board in 1989 published a milestone "Arizona Rivers, Streams & Wetlands Study" as part of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). It contained a wealth of information about the ecological and economic importance of streams and riparian areas, documented threats to these resources, and identified strategies for their protection, one of which was adding Arizona rivers to the national Wild & Scenic Rivers System. (p. 216)

Perhaps the strongest, albeit indirect, indicator of public sentiment for more protection can be found in the overwhelming statewide support for the so-called "Heritage Fund" initiative at the November 1990 general election. This proposal to direct \$20 million of state lottery funds annually for natural area protection, outdoor recreation, and related projects, passed by a margin of better than 60-40. Significantly, it carried all but two of the state's smallest of Arizona's fifteen counties, at a time when most other ballot propositions, especially those dealing with fiscal matters, were going down to overwhelming defeat.

As in the rest of the arid west, more than a century of dam-building and development projects have taken their toll on Arizona's streams. The recent SCORP report estimated that only 5-10% of the state's original riparian areas in the lower elevations remains today. (p. ES-3) Arizona rivers are dotted with impoundments, constructed with federal, state, local government and private funds. Most of these developments were built at a time when no policy existed to mitigate their adverse effects on streams and riparian ecosystems, and a number of them have entirely dewatered significant stretches of formerly free-flowing streams.

In the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, Congress explicitly recognized the need to redress this historic one-sidedness. The Act was intended to correct the imbalance with a new "policy that would preserve . . . selected rivers . . . in their free-flowing condition to protect the[ir] water quality . . . and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes." (16 U.S.C. 1271)

A variety of activities - proposed new dams, indiscriminate off-road vehicle use, mining activities, and others - threaten a

Another important feature of qualifying rivers in Arizona helps facilitate congressional consideration. Most of the rivers proposed for designation in the state are in the upper reaches of the watersheds in which they are found, and are thus upstream from the vast bulk of present or projected water uses in the state, and from nearly all present or projected dams and diversion works. A basic protection the Act provides is to preserve and conserve the river water (subject, of course, to valid existing water rights) through the designated reach. This operates, in effect, to ensure that water as it emerges from the designated reach is not diminished in quantity, and is protected in quality, so that it remains available to support the range of conventional uses of water. The happy circumstance of the location of most of the Arizona rivers proposed for designation means that serious conflicts over water, like conflicts over land use, are minimized.

So far we have addressed mostly the conserving and protective virtues of Wild & Scenic River designation in Arizona. But it would be a mistake to conceive of these designations solely in those terms. Experience in many other parts of the country shows that designations can provide a significant boost to land values and to increasingly recreation-dependent rural economies. More broadly, new designations in Arizona would be a highly visible symbol of Arizona's growing recognition of the economic value of sensibly managing the state's marvelous natural heritage.

In short, the ultimate value of Wild & Scenic River designation is not only in the protection it affords, though this may be critical in the nearer term. Additionally, it is in the positive statement designation makes - that good resource management makes economic and cultural sense. It promotes the kind of economy and helps sustain the quality of life that have together made Arizona such a desirable place to live.

In recent years the state's congressional delegation has taken several important steps to advance that progressive vision of Arizona's future. It has reached a bipartisan consensus on such important natural resource management issues as protecting significant tracts of federal land as wilderness in 1984 and 1990, safeguarding the Grand Canyon from intrusive airplane overflights, finding suitable alternatives to Orme and Cliff Dams in the Salt/Verde watershed, and establishing the nation's first National Riparian Conservation Area in the upper San Pedro River.

Adding qualifying Arizona rivers to the national Wild & Scenic River System is a logical next step, fully consistent with the vision that has sustained these other initiatives. It is a missing piece in our continuing quest to show the nation and the world that we possess, and recognize the value of, a priceless natural heritage. It is, in short, an idea whose time has come.

Salt River Basin



- Black River
- Cherry Creek
- Coon Creek
- Pinto Creek
- Lower Salt River - Tubing Run
- Tonto Creek
- Salome Creek
- Campaign Creek
- Salt River Canyon

RIVER NAME: **THE BLACK RIVER SYSTEM**
PROPOSED SEGMENTS: 18 miles of the East Fork from the reservoir below Crosby Crossing to confluence.
14 miles of the West Fork from the National Forest boundary to the confluence.
12 miles of Fish Creek from Forest Road #24 to the confluence.
16 miles of the mainstem of the Black River from the confluence of the East and West Forks downstream to the National Forest Boundary.

MANAGING AGENCIES: Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest; Arizona Game and Fish Department.
PRIVATE LAND: Approximately 1.2 river miles.

The Black River System headwaters are in the White Mountains of eastern Arizona and the system is a major tributary of the Salt River. The Black flows in a tortuous channel through a number of narrow gorges and below magnificent rock formations and cliffs. The Black River was included in the National Rivers Inventory (NRI) conducted by the National Park Service. The NRI Summary Report concludes that "the Black River is considered one of the wildest rivers in Arizona." It also listed scenic and recreation values as "best in the State," and confirmed the trout fishery and wildlife for the East Fork as outstandingly remarkable features. The Forest Service has recommended 30 miles of the Black River System for Wild and Scenic River designation.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: This is a highly scenic and pristine river corridor. The scenery varies from timbered knolls and large open meadows to a number of narrow gorges and steep cliffs with exposed and colorful rock formations. The diversity in vegetative cover ranges from sagebrush and pinyon-juniper to ponderosa pine and oak. The linear corridor represents the longest continuous stand of virgin timber and old growth in the Southwest. There are few man-made intrusions.

Recreation: The Black River represents one of the most popular destinations for developed and dispersed recreation in the White Mountains. Trails along Fish Creek and the mainstem of the Black River provide backcountry access for hikers, campers and anglers. Typical spring run-off along the mainstem of Black River provides an outstanding and challenging boating opportunity for low-water crafts. This is also a popular area for hunting elk, deer, bear, and turkey.

ARC Recommendation:

East Fork from Crosby Crossing down to Three Forks.....Scenic
East Fork from Three Forks to Diamond Rock Campground.....Wild
East Fork from Diamond Rock Campground to
confluence.....Recreational
West Fork from Forest boundary down to Thompson
Ranch (adjacent to FS Road #116).....Scenic
West Fork from Thompson Ranch to West Fork Campground.....Wild
West Fork from West Fork Campground to confluence...Recreational
Black River mainstem from confluence with East and
West Forks of Black River to Black River Bridge.....Wild
Fish Creek up to Forest Road #24.....Wild
Black River mainstem from Black River Bridge
to the Forest boundary.....Wild

It is also recommended that the 97 miles of the Black River on Indian Reservation lands (from the National Forest boundary down to the confluence with White River) be identified as a Wild and Scenic River Study Area to be conducted by the tribal governments. This would encourage the San Carlos Apache and Fort Apache tribal governments to evaluate the value of designation. The eventual designation of the entire Black River System would offer complete protection to one of the wildest rivers in the Southwest.

The outstandingly remarkable values of the Black River are many and beyond question. It is obvious that recreational values will rightfully drive the future management along the Black River. However, there is such a high demand for all the resources along this corridor that there is a very real danger of this area being over-developed and loved to death. The segment designations included in this recommendation will allow for a full range of recreational opportunities while preserving the most scenic and wild portions of the corridor.

RIVER NAME: **SALT RIVER CANYON**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 52 miles from Hwy. 60 bridge to Hwy. 288
bridge through the Salt River Canyon.
MANAGING AGENCY: Tonto National Forest.
PRIVATE LAND: Fort Apache and San Carlos Reservations.

The magnificent Salt River through the Salt River Canyon is an easy three hour drive through Globe from both Phoenix and Tucson. It is rare for such a wild rugged free-flowing river to be readily accessible for recreationists from two major metropolitan areas. The headwaters for the Salt are in the White Mountains where the Black and White Rivers join. The Salt flows down through the Fort Apache Indian Reservation to the Tonto National Forest, where the river is known nationally for its white water boating opportunities.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: A wide variety of terrain and scenery is found on this segment of the Salt, often referred to as a "mini-Grand Canyon." Scenic features include 2,000 feet deep steep-walled canyons, exceptional riparian habitat dominated by cottonwood, sycamore, and mesquite trees, saguaro cactus, and bald eagle soaring overhead. The river leaves the Salt River Canyon and flows through interesting desert terrain before entering Jump-off Canyon with its dramatic towering walls and Quartzite Falls. There is little indication of man's intrusion.

Recreation: Over ten thousand people each year raft this section of the Salt River. Some say it exceeds even the Grand Canyon as Arizona's most technically challenging white water run. The rapids are complex and exciting, ranging in difficulty from Class II to IV. The big-water rafting season lasts from January to May, but commercial trips run the river in small inflatable boats at low level water, and enjoy nearly year round boating. The Salt also receives steady use for fishing, picnicking, camping, hiking, hunting, general sight-seeing, and photography by thousands more visitors each year. Tourism and recreation on the Salt contribute significantly to the economy of the towns of Globe and Miami, and to the White Mountain Apache Tribe. The entrance at Hwy. 60 is a fee-use area managed by the river rangers of the White Mountain Tribe.

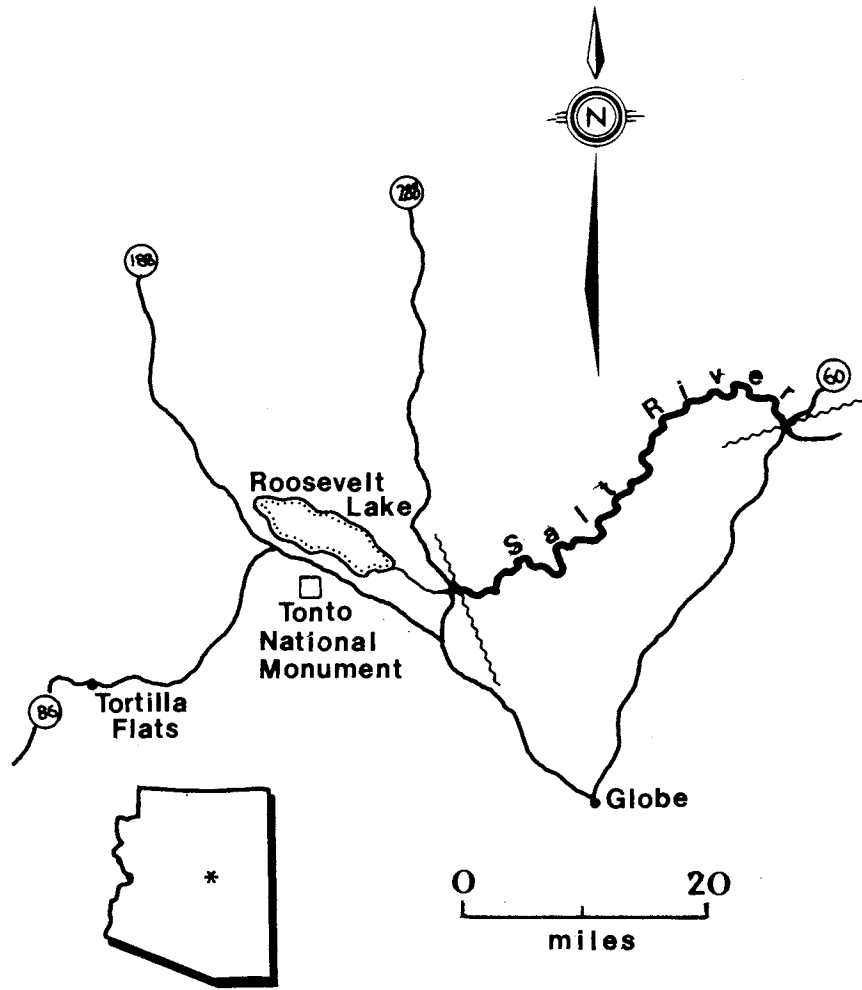
Geologic: As the Salt River cuts through the arid mountains of Arizona, a great variety of formations are exposed. Layers of limestone, diabase, basalt, granite, and sandstone are easily observed. There are also examples of faulting and folding which are very unique, such as a formation called the Devil's Postpile. The marvelous Salt Banks are about seven miles below the Hwy. 60 bridge.

Fish and Wildlife: The riparian values of desert rivers have been well documented in uncounted studies. The Salt is home to several threatened and/or endangered species such as the bald eagle, Gila roundtail chub, and the narrow-headed garter snake. The Salt River and its adjacent areas are composed of both extremely rare, as well as common vegetative communities. More important, is the juxtaposition and intimate associations between the desert and riparian communities. The Salt is the central corridor for dozens of species of fish and wildlife. Ecologically, its perennial flow unites the central basins of Arizona to the White Mountains and the eastern half of Arizona.

Cultural: Two excellent cliff dwellings are located near the river and are regularly visited by raft trips. A complete inventory has never been done along the Salt, although the river has played a significant role in both the cultural and historic development of Arizona. The prehistoric culture that inhabited the corridor has been given its own name - the Salado. Unfortunately, many of the remains of this culture were lost when Roosevelt Dam and Lake flooded many prehistoric sites.

Comments: The Salt River has always been one of the most important rivers in Arizona. This section of the Salt shows what an undammed, free-flowing, wild, desert river is like. Although there is federally designated wilderness surrounding most of the proposed segment, added protection is necessary to keep this part of the Salt River the way it is. Federal Wild & Scenic River designation here will preserve a river whose likes are found nowhere else in the Southwest, or the world.

SALT RIVER-UPPER



RIVER NAME: **CHERRY CREEK**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 33 miles. Cherry Creek Springs to the Salt River.
MANAGING AGENCY: Tonto National Forest.
PRIVATE LAND: Several ranches.

The upper reaches of this segment flow through relatively flat terrain through mixed conifer vegetation. Cherry Creek then enters a steep canyon adjacent to the Sierra Ancha Wilderness. This area is remote and access is difficult. It is dominated by pinyon-juniper/chaparral type vegetation which is good deer habitat. The lower reaches of Cherry Creek enter into a flat plain with desert scrub before entering the Salt River Canyon Wilderness and flowing into the Salt River. The entire length of the creek supports a rich riparian habitat.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

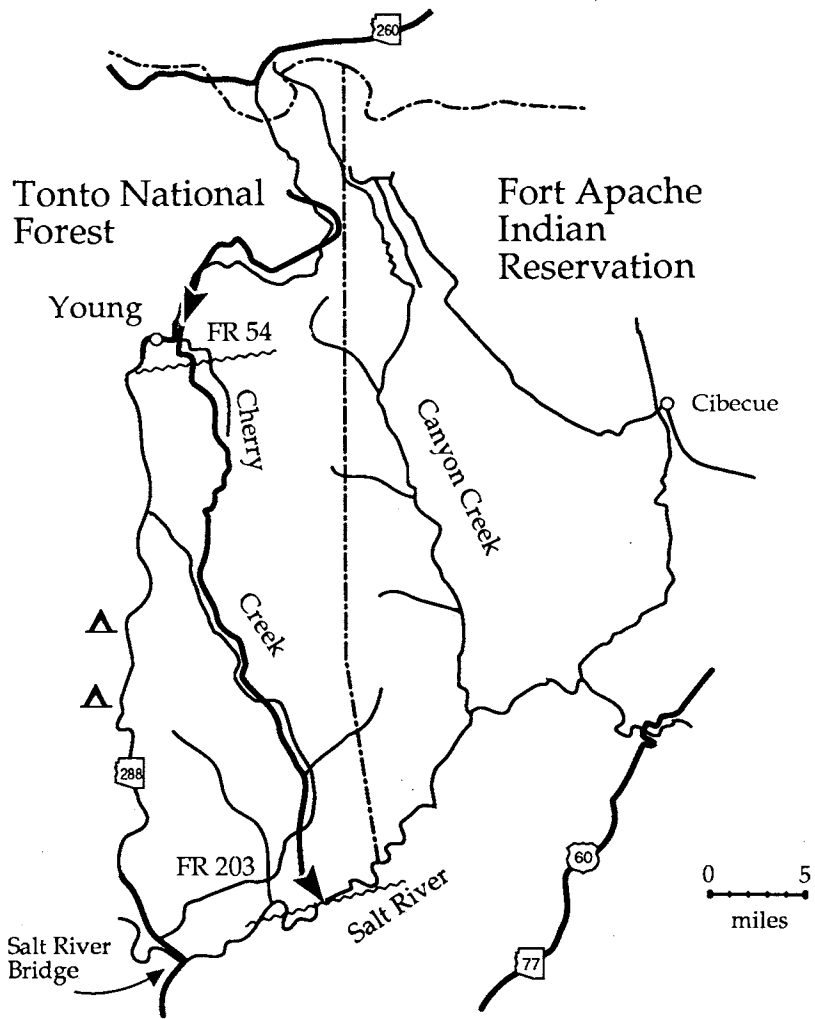
Scenic: The scenery in the mid-section of the watershed is spectacular with towering cliffs from the Sierra Ancha Wilderness dominating the view. At creek level, bluffs and rock outcroppings occur at almost every bend in the river. This section of the creek is completely undeveloped, providing superior visual quality with no man-made intrusions.

Recreation: Due to the rugged terrain and dirt road access, the Cherry Creek watershed remains largely undeveloped and is excellent for dispersed recreation. Users swim, hike, hunt, fish, and birdwatch in this remote setting. Hunters can hunt for deer, quail, or javelina. Hikers can hike along the creek or along the canyon slopes to ancient Indian ruins.

Fish and Wildlife: Common wildlife found within the Cherry Creek watershed include: javelina, coatimundi, Gila monster, bobcat, mule deer, mountain lion, hooded oriole, cottontail, vermilion flycatcher, yellow warbler, whitetail deer, black bear, and turkey. Bald eagles have been sighted in lower Cherry Creek and nest in the Salt River Canyon. An ongoing study of peregrine falcon habitat is occurring in the mid-section of the creek. Cherry Creek may provide a good smallmouth bass and channel catfish fishery.

Many species found in the Cherry Creek watershed have special status. The Colorado roundtail chub, which occurs in good numbers in Cherry Creek, is a state threatened species. The razorback sucker and the Colorado squawfish are also state threatened species, and are currently being reintroduced into Cherry Creek. The Chiricahua leopard frog and narrow-headed garter snake are also found along the creek. The common black hawk, peregrine falcon, spotted owl, California leaf-nosed bat, red bat, and the occult bat all have special species status and are known to live in the Cherry Creek area. The southwestern river otter was found historically in Cherry Creek.

CHERRY CREEK



RIVER NAME: **COON CREEK**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 9.5 miles from headwaters to Salt River
MANAGING AGENCY: Tonto National Forest
PRIVATE LAND: 10% of mileage by Charles Armer

Coon Creek begins at 6100 feet in the Sierra Ancha Wilderness, draining south to the confluence with the Salt River at about 2400 feet. The steep elevation drop in a relatively short run has created a boxed-in canyon along the upper two-thirds of the drainage, while the lower third is surrounded by foothills. The creek begins in a coniferous forest life zone and winds its way through communities of deciduous trees, pinyon-juniper zones, chaparral, and ends in the Sonoran desert life zone. The last mile of drainage falls within the Salt River Wilderness.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

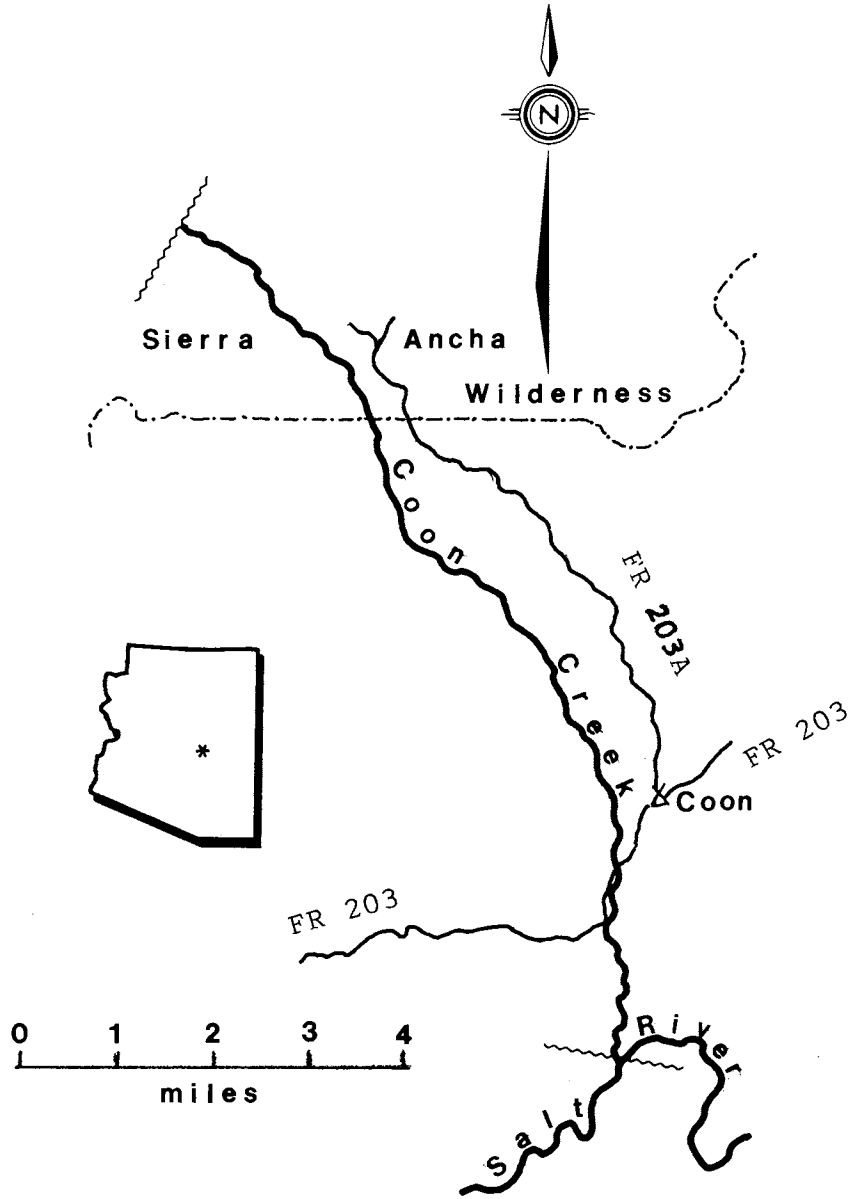
Scenic: Combining the many life zones along the creek with the fact that this area has not yet been severely impacted by man, creates a pleasant visual experience. The steep canyons create breathtaking views and the mature stands of cottonwood, sycamore, ash, willow, and walnut trees are a joy to see in this arid country.

Fish and Wildlife: Varied micro-climes clustered within the canyon allow for a diversity of wildlife not expected to be found in the same area. Animal species vary from desert adapted types to riparian dependent species. No extensive study has been performed in this area, however, it is believed that the Colorado roundtail chub and the narrow-headed garter snake both reside in the creek area.

Ecological: Low impact on the drainage has allowed for established varieties of riparian habitats to maintain growth. These varieties, along with the surrounding life zones mentioned above, provide for a unique area where intermingling of species dependent on different life zones is common. This is best seen among the bird populations. Many desert adapted types of birds use the drainage to travel to higher elevations, while upper elevation birds are spotted along the creek.

Cultural: There are 14 recorded sites along the creek, ranging in size from one to sixty-five rooms including a cliff dwelling.

COON CREEK



RIVER NAME: PINTO CREEK
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 9 miles from north of mining area
northwest of Miami to Hwy. 88 near
Roosevelt Lake.
MANAGING AGENCY: Tonto National Forest.
PRIVATE LAND: 7% of river mileage.

Pinto Creek is a perennial stream flowing north through the Sonoran Desert, ranging in elevation from 2,900 to 2,399 feet. Above the floodplain the dominant plant community is the mixed palo verde-cacti. As described in a report published in the Journal of the Arizona Academy of Science, this area "is a particularly rich community of desert plants exhibiting highly varied life forms." The stream's flow is perennial due to the impermeable nature of the bedrock that the drainage cuts through. This drainage is so rugged that impact by vehicles is virtually nonexistent and very few people have ventured into this area.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Fish and Wildlife: No extensive study has been performed in this area, however, the riparian habitat and perennial water indicate the possibility for many species. It is believed that the lowland leopard frog, a state candidate species, depends on this area. Common black hawks have been sighted and it is believed that there is a nesting pair.

Ecological: The area under consideration is a small free flowing stream surrounded by Sonoran desert habitat. It is estimated that less than 10% of the originally occurring desert riparian habitat remains statewide. These figures alone make Pinto Creek unique. The dominant riparian dependent trees are the sycamore, cottonwood, ash, willow, and walnut. The variety of wildlife and vegetation that is dependent on this stream make it a valuable resource.

Cultural: There are four recorded sites in the proposed segment ranging from artifacts to a four room site.

ARC Recommendation

9 miles from the northern boundary of the
Layton Ranch down to Hwy. 88 crossing.....Wild

Pinto Creek is threatened by mining immediately upstream of the proposed segment. Currently the Pinto Valley Mine operations draw water from a well adjacent to the Layton Ranch. This well could pose a threat to the riparian zone immediately downstream along the creek. This area of Pinto Creek is one of the few remaining streams with perennial water that flows through desert habitat. The Forest Service has recognized the value of the stream, calling it "the single best riparian habitat in the Tonto Basin." The importance of maintaining the water flow is reflected by the Tonto National Forest's application for a permit for instream water rights with the Arizona Department of Water Resources. To maintain this valuable ecosystem there must be guarantees for the amount and quality of water in Pinto Creek to remain at current levels.

RIVER NAME: CAMPAIGN CREEK
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 11 miles from headwaters in the Superstition Wilderness north to Cross P Ranch, about 3 miles from Hwy. 88 on Forest Road #449.
MANAGING AGENCY: Tonto National Forest
PRIVATE LAND: Approximately 5% by Reeves Mountain School

The headwaters of Campaign Creek are in the Superstition Wilderness at an elevation of 5600 feet. The creek flows northeast until crossing under Hwy. 88 at an elevation of 2300 feet. About half of the length of the creek is in the wilderness area, with the lower half paralleling the wilderness boundary until reaching the end of Forest Road #449. The upper half of the drainage is in a pinyon-juniper community while the lower half runs through chaparral, and eventually desert life zones.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: Upstream of Forest Road #449, Campaign Creek is a roadless, cliff dominated canyon, with waterfalls and plunge pools. Good riparian habitat still exists in stretches with perennial flow. For a short section in the lower reaches the creek cuts a narrow canyon through granite hills. This area is referred to by local residents as "Deep Creek Canyon" and provides a chance to experience a steep-walled, deep pooled desert canyon just a few hundred feet away from Forest Road #449.

Fish and Wildlife: Varied micro-climes clustered within the canyon allow for a diversity of wildlife not expected to be found in the same area. Animal species vary from desert adapted types to riparian dependent types. The Forest Service lists high wildlife habitat values for deer, javelina, lion, and coatimundi in this area. Special species include the Gila topminnow, lowland leopard frog, black hawk and ferruginous pygmy owl, among others.

Cultural: The middle section of the creek has three recorded sites, including one large 16 room site. The lower area also has recorded sites.

ARC Recommendation:

Headwaters to Reeves Mountain School.....Wild
 Reeves Mountain School to Cross P Ranch.....Scenic

Any water projects or dam along Campaign Creek would severely impact a federally endangered species of fish that lives in the stream. The Gila topminnow population here is considered the most viable in the Tonto Basin. The National Forest Service says the habitat is excellent for this species, and has been involved in a reintroduction program for many years. Any degradation in water levels or quality would have a negative effect on the population. In recognizing the importance of this species we must also recognize the importance of its habitat.

RIVER NAME: **SALOME CREEK**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: From headwaters of Turkey Creek
(northeast of McFadden Peak) and the
Salome Creek mainstem down to
Tonto Forest Road #60.
MANAGING AGENCY: Tonto National Forest.
PRIVATE LAND: 0.75 river miles, undeveloped.

The proposed segment of Salome Creek, including its headwaters in Turkey Creek, flows 20 miles from its origin near McFadden Peak in the Sierra Ancha down to forest road #60. The end of the proposed segment is above Tin Hat Ranch, north of the creek's mouth at Roosevelt Lake. Except for a small, three-quarter mile segment of private land already contained within the existing Salome Wilderness Area, the entire proposed segment is held by the Tonto National Forest. A few fences for control of cattle are the only man-made structures on the proposed segment. The creek flows perennially through much of the wilderness, and intermittently in the remainder.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: A magnificent, deep, wild canyon is cut by the creek as it tumbles from its origin at 7,000 feet to the desert floor at 2,500 feet. The upper portion of the proposed segment consists of ponderosa pine, scrub oak, pinon, and juniper forests. As it exits the wilderness area the creek has carved an outstanding, mile-long, granite gorge. Other notable scenery include a canyon named The Jug, the colorful Dutchwoman Butte, and the marvelous contrast of a cottonwood riparian zone immediately flanked by saguaro cacti.

Recreation: Opportunities include hiking, backpacking, birding and nature watching, and hunting. The creek is not navigable, but there are numerous pools that draw many enthusiasts for a refreshing swim or skinny-dip. Only three trails cross the stream; these are above the wilderness boundary, in the upper segment. The creek corridor is remote and offers excellent opportunities for solitude and quiet.

Geologic: Eons of flash floods have carved and polished a one mile long, 200-foot deep, narrow gorge of pink granite at the segment exiting the wilderness area. This labyrinthine channel with its clear pools is a popular destination for an increasing number of visitors.

Fish and Wildlife: Pools and runs of dependable water on Salome Creek provide one of the important ecological corridors for wildlife near the Tonto/Salt River basin. This wildlife includes deer, bear, javelina, mountain lion, great blue heron, hawks, the state-protected Gila monster, minnows, frogs and toads. Detailed biological surveys have not been performed, but it is likely that the isolated riparian zone fosters special species.

Cultural: The area supported prehistoric cultures. Intact cliff dwellings of the Salado Culture still exist on the tributaries.

ARC Recommendation:

20 miles of Salome Creek from headwaters to Forest Road #60..... Wild

Wild & Scenic River designation of Salome Creek is recommended to ensure permanent protection of all its outstandingly remarkable riparian qualities. The increasing recreational pressures on the north side of Roosevelt Lake require the special management that accompanies W&SR designation. No conflicts for designation are known. Designation will complement the existing wilderness designation and give a strong legislative mandate for management of the creek. It is highly deserving of placement into the national W&SR system.

RIVER NAME: **TONTO CREEK**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: Approximately 55 miles from State Fish Hatchery to Gun Creek.
MANAGING AGENCY: Tonto National Forest
PRIVATE LAND: Recreational sites in upper reaches, Gisela, and 76 Ranch at Rye Creek.

Draining a large expanse of the sub-Mogollon Rim region, primarily the Sierra Anchas to the east and the Mazatzals to the west, Tonto Creek is a major tributary of the Salt River. Originating in the ponderosa-clad country east of Payson, Tonto Creek courses through one of Arizona's most heavily recreated areas, from the State Fish Hatchery, past Kohl's Ranch, to Bear Flat. Below Bear Flat, the surrounding canyon dramatically heightens to 1500 feet as Tonto Creek swiftly traverses the Hell's Gate Wilderness Area. On its journey through Hell's Gate, the stream is transformed from its coniferous origin to a Sonoran desert artery. Exiting Hell's Gate, Tonto Creek slows as it meanders past the ranching/retirement community of Gisela, before plunging into a final constricted canyon.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: Although Tonto Creek is a relatively short stream it represents a stunning contrast from its origins in thick, cool, ponderosa forest, through the imposing chaparral-juniper Hell's Gate Canyon toward its conclusion in the Sonoran Desert. The sheer ruggedness of its mid-course enclosure has long made this one of the more formidable and least-visited areas in Arizona. The lower stretch below Gisela provides spectacular panoramas of the Mazatzals and Sierra Anchas within its lush riparian ribbon of wildlife.

Recreation: The upper segment, centered around Kohl's Ranch, has long been a prime and heavily used recreation area for Phoenix vacationers. Camping, hiking, fishing from the well stocked stream, and swimming are the principal activities. Primitive and rugged hiking, plus unspoiled fishing are the compelling rewards within the Hell's Gate Wilderness. Kayaking and rafting are possible, but sporadic, from Gisela to Gun Creek.

Geological: Designation of the Hell's Gate Wilderness in 1984 recognized the incredible canyon wilderness created by Tonto Creek and its tributaries. The muted cliffs, jumbled streambeds, and tortuous gorges were primary assets for its listing on the National Rivers Inventory by the National Park Service as qualified for Wild & Scenic River status.

Fish and Wildlife: Brook, rainbow and German brown trout have always been a draw, since the days when Zane Grey called this area his home. He was also drawn to the area by the wealth of big game: mountain lion, bear, and several species of deer, which remain today in healthy numbers. Tonto Creek is also a substantial flyway for migratory waterfowl, and for the bald eagle which is known to nest along Tonto Creek. There are also records of the federally listed Gila chub and Gila topminnow, as well as the state listed Gila roundtail chub in Tonto Creek.

Cultural: For centuries Tonto Creek below Gisela was a major route and habitation area for the Hohokam and Salado cultures. Numerous sites are scattered all along this stretch and have scarcely been surveyed by archaeologists.

Comments: Tonto Creek is faced with several threats, notably, water and streamside degradation in the upper reaches, and water diversions and sand and gravel operations in the lower stretch. In its 1985 Forest Plan, Tonto National Forest concluded that Tonto Creek was sufficiently protected by the Hell's Gate Wilderness and did not warrant further study as a potential Wild & Scenic River. Since that time, sand and gravel operations have destroyed the river's character below Gun Creek and the continued growth near Kohl's Ranch and Gisela have placed more demands on the creek. These threats to the integrity of Tonto Creek, when weighed against the proven recreational value of an unfettered and pristine Tonto Creek, deserve to be resolved. Wild & Scenic River designation offers that opportunity and Tonto Creek clearly befits that recognition.

ARC Recommendation

State Fish Hatchery to Bear Flat.....Recreational
Bear Flat to Gisela.....Wild
Gisela to Gun Creek.....Wild

Since the 1920's when Zane Grey resided along Tonto Creek it has been a favored recreational destination for Phoenix area residents. The recreational attributes of Tonto Creek near Payson and Gisela have also enticed many new residents who demand more water and related amenities. This growth needs to be balanced with the strongest possible measures to ensure the long term recreational quality of the stream and environs. Much of the lower reaches of Tonto Creek have already been scarred and ravaged by gravel operations, but there is still time to protect, through Wild & Scenic River designation, this Arizona favorite.

RIVER NAME: **SALT RIVER (LOWER)**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: From Stewart Mountain Dam to the confluence
with the Verde River, about 9 miles
MANAGING AGENCY: Tonto National Forest
PRIVATE LAND: Salt River Indian Reservation

The Salt River traverses a wide range of terrain from high cliffs to low areas of mesquite forest to Sonoran Desert foothills. This area of the river is heavily used for recreational purposes in the summer months by residents of Phoenix and surrounding Maricopa County. Despite its recreational use, it is home to a variety of animals and plants including stands of old-growth cottonwoods, saguaros, numerous amphibians, reptiles, bats, and the endangered bald eagle. The Stewart Mountain dam was built on the river in 1928-1930. The amount of flow is controlled by the Salt River Project and is decreased in the winter months. In the summer it is essentially free-flowing.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: This stretch of the river passes through the Goldfield and Usery Mountains. The vegetation is typical of Sonoran desert and Sonoran foothills type life zones. The riparian area is composed of communities of cottonwood and willow, salt cedar, arrow weed, and mesquite. The Salt River in this section is one of the last examples of a live river running through a desert community that remains in the state.

Recreation: The prime recreational use is tubing. In 1989 an estimated 118,000 people used the tubing service operated under permit by the Forest Service. Countless more used the river by bringing their own tubes and transportation. The district ranger's report estimated more than half a million recreational visitor days for use other than tubing. These uses include fishing, bird watching, archaeological exploration, backpacking, and nature study.

Geologic: The floodplain and terraces that surround the river are primarily of igneous Precambrian rock, sedimentary Precambrian rock and volcanic tertiary rock. The most common minerals found among these layers are orthoquartzite and rhyolite.

Fish and Wildlife: Both wintering and nesting bald eagles have been sighted along this stretch. The abundant water, desert plains and surrounding mountains allow for a diversity of wildlife that is seldom seen. This area is home to many large mammals including mule deer, coyote, javelina, bobcat and fox. Small mammals such as jackrabbit, cottontail, packrat, kangaroo rat, and at least 12 different types of bat depend on the river. Bird species are abundant, including the Harris hawk, Cooper's hawk, great horned owl, and the great blue heron. The endangered Yuma clapper rail lives among the remaining marsh areas of the river, which is important habitat. Fish life includes sport fish like trout, bass and bluegill, but also includes native species such as minnows and suckers.

Cultural: Many prehistoric sites have been identified along the Salt River in this region. They are mainly associated with the Hohokam-Salado occupation from around 300 B.C.

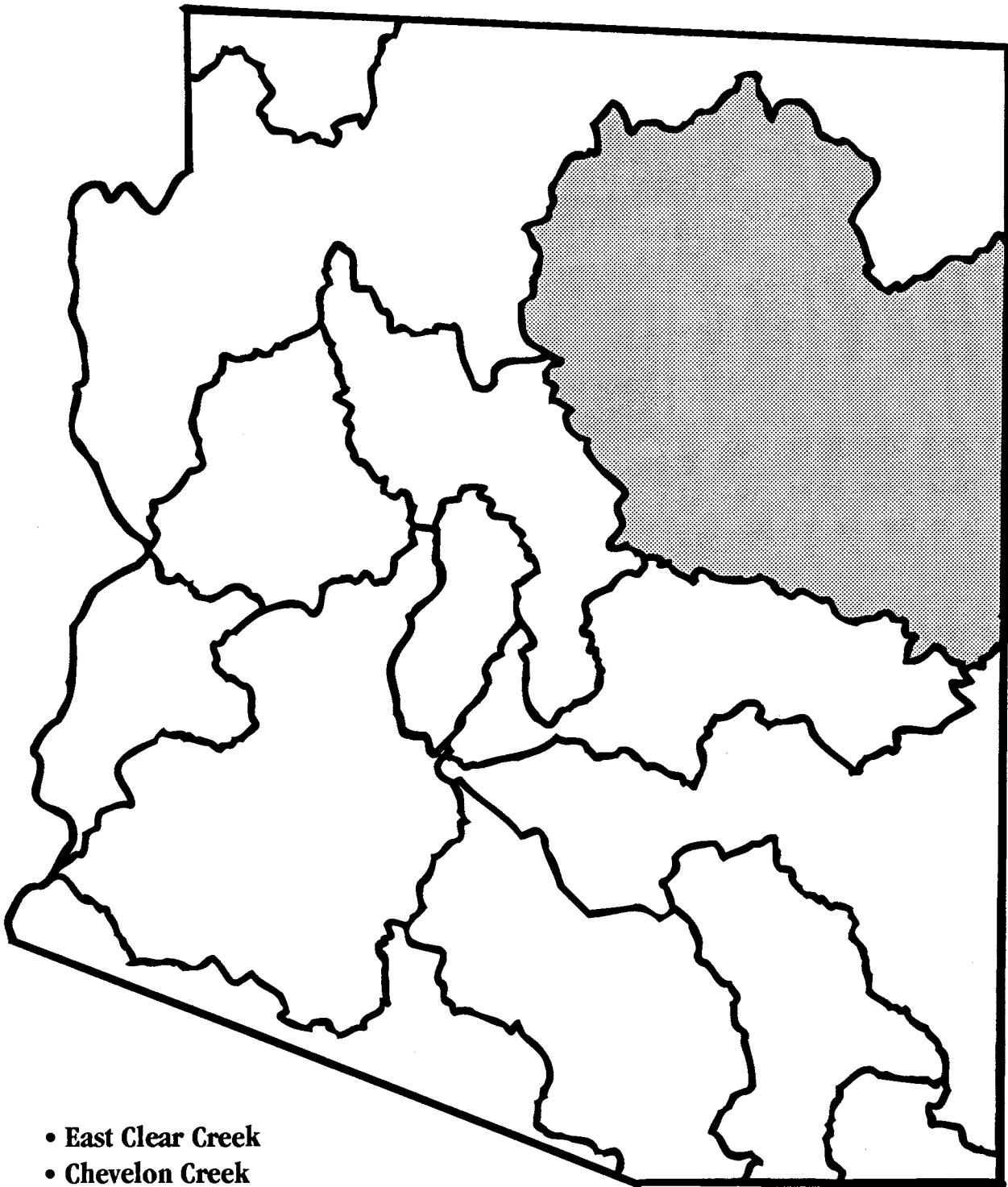
Comments: In recognizing the importance of this riparian area negotiations are currently under way with Salt River Project, which controls the flow out of Stewart Mountain Dam, to maintain adequate flow in the winter months so that downstream riparian habit is maintained in a somewhat stable condition. Besides the outstanding recreational value, this segment of the river also has educational value. It is in proximity to Arizona State University and is used for both biology and geology classes. Several Maricopa County Community Colleges also study the flora and fauna of the area, both those along the river and those species dependent on the river for water.

ARC Recommendation:

Entire stretch from Stewart Mt. Dam to Verde.....Recreational

This free-flowing segment of the Salt River, known locally as the "Salt tubing run," is one of the most popular recreational spots in the state for the local population. It is also as close as many urban Phoenicians will ever get to a desert riparian area. Designating this segment as recreational would guarantee the continual recreational access to this area. Designation will put aside all threats of inundating the area with new dams. This is a stretch of river that can be enjoyed by all of Arizona's families.

Little Colorado River Basin



- East Clear Creek
- Chevelon Creek
- Little Colorado Headwaters

RIVER NAME: **LITTLE COLORADO RIVER, WEST FORK**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: Little Colorado River - from headwaters
to confluence with South Fork
MANAGING AGENCY: Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest
PRIVATE LAND: Less than 20%

The headwaters for the Little Colorado River are in the White Mountains in eastern Arizona in the Mt. Baldy Wilderness, one of the smallest but most pristine wilderness areas. From headwaters near 12,000 feet this pretty creek flows through forests of Colorado blue spruce, white fir, corkbark fir, ponderosa pine, white pine, and quaking aspen, and cuts through hundreds of feet of volcanic rock formations. Near Sheep Crossing the creek flows through lush meadows laced with many wildflowers. The forks and the beginning of the Little Colorado River provide a high quality semi-primitive non-motorized water based recreation area adjacent to the popular resort community of Greer.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: This delightful creek flows through one of the few true Hudsonian life zones in Arizona. The Little Colorado passes through some of the highest elevations in Arizona. The resulting vistas offer alpine meadows, mixed conifer forests and deep rugged canyons. The traveler could well imagine that he were in the Cascades of Oregon or the Rockies of Colorado. This stream is an example of the vast diversity that Arizona has to offer.

Recreation: Anglers will delight with the excellent variety of rainbow, brook, and cutthroat trout. The trail from Sheep Crossing to the Baldy summit is one of the most popular summer hikes in Arizona. The hike takes you from lovely alpine meadows, through spruce forests to Baldy Peak, where on a clear day you can see halfway across the state.

Geologic: Mt. Baldy itself is an extinct volcano, a remnant of a broad lava dome formed by a series of eruptions that ceased some 8 or 9 million years ago. Most of this ancient dome has since been eroded away, both by water and by glaciers. The area has many lovely meadows typical of glaciated areas.

Fish and Wildlife: The spotted owl is thought to use the drainage as a nesting area. Bald eagles are known to use the area to winter, while in the summer months osprey are often seen. The river is a popular trout fishery. The lower elevation is home to Rocky Mountain elk, black bear, mule deer, porcupine, wild turkey, blue grouse, and a few colonies of beaver.

RIVER NAME: CHEVELON CREEK
PROPOSED SEGMENT: From below Woods Canyon Dam and Willow Springs Canyon Dam to north boundary of Apache Sitgreaves National Forest excluding Chevelon Lake.
MANAGING AGENCY: Sitgreaves National Forest
PRIVATE LAND: None

Chevelon Creek begins as two separate streams, Woods Canyon Creek and Willow Springs Canyon Creek. These two streams are dammed in their upper reaches to form recreational lakes. Downstream of these dams, the streams run free and join to form Chevelon Creek. Chevelon is a very wild and scenic stream running through a steep, narrow, twisting canyon. The canyon bottom contains a riparian area virtually undisturbed by human activity. The upper reaches of the canyon contain mixed conifer and ponderosa pine forests; the lower reaches contain pinyon-juniper type forest. The creek is dammed at one point, forming Chevelon Lake. There is only one road crossing, at Chevelon Crossing. Below this point the creek is intermittent. The elevation ranges from 7500 feet to 6000 feet.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: The creek has carved a deep, narrow, twisting canyon into the landscape. The steep terrain and limited access into the canyon have kept human intrusion to a minimum. The primary scenic features are located in the primitive, steep-walled and twisting canyon, with cliffs rising as much as 300 feet above deep pools in the stream channel.

Recreation: The creek area offers a primarily primitive recreation experience due to the remoteness of the canyon. Duck hunting, swimming, picnicking and fishing are all available to the adventurous. Flows generally are not sufficient to support boating or floating as recreation pursuits, although the creek is occasionally boated when water levels allow. Access is through hiking or horseback.

Geologic: The main geologic feature is the stream canyon which cuts a twisting and steep-walled course through a relatively gentle overall landfall.

Fish and Wildlife: The canyon is home to a number of threatened and endangered species including the Little Colorado spinedace, the Mexican spotted owl, wintering bald eagles, and the peregrine falcon. Other rare bird species that live here are the osprey and the belted kingfisher. Overall the canyon contains almost 200 known vertebrate species, with more than 50 percent dependent for at least part of their life cycle on riparian associations.

Cultural: There are a number of archaeological sites in Chevelon Canyon. The area saw fairly continuous use from 4000 years ago up to 800 years ago. The Eastern Sinagua people inhabited the canyon as long as 2000 years ago. Corn and other crops were grown in the canyon. Evidence of these people remains in the canyon in the form of rock art and rock shelters. A very large rabbit net, 140 feet long, woven out of human hair was recently found in the canyon.

ARC Recommendation:

Section above Chevelon Lake.....Wild

Section below Chevelon Dam.....Scenic

The U.S. Forest Service recognizes the importance of Chevelon Canyon and supports its inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System. Except for Chevelon Lake and limited development in the area of Chevelon Crossing, the canyon remains a highly primitive and remote area. This development consists of a road crossing, a small campground, a pump and pipeline, and a power line crossing. Since it is lightly used, the canyon provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and escape from the crowds that pass by on the way to better known recreational areas.

RIVER NAME: EAST CLEAR CREEK/BARBERSHOP CREEK
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 14 miles of Barbershop Creek.
65 miles of East Clear Creek from Barbershop Creek to the reservoir near Winslow.
MANAGING AGENCY: Coconino/Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, Arizona State Land Department.
PRIVATE LAND: 2 land-owners plus Phelps Dodge.

East Clear Creek flows north off the Mogollon Rim through a steep, rocky channel lined with pine-covered forests. Barbershop Creek is the free-flowing, 14 mile southern fork and headwaters of East Clear Creek, meeting the main creek near Forest Road #95. East Clear Creek continues through a scenic, deep canyon dropping into a pinyon-juniper woodland. Deep, clear pools abound as the creek makes its way northward to the Little Colorado River through a tortuous and colorful rocky canyon.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: East Clear Creek is a wild, deep canyon with incredible rocky cliffs towering over a free-flowing stream. Riparian vegetation snakes alongside the stream confined to the tight canyon bottom. Beginning in the high elevations of the Mogollon Rim with pines, firs, and maples, East Clear Creek eventually winds its way through the wide open spaces of the Great Basin Desert before dropping off into the Little Colorado River.

Barbershop Creek begins at the edge of the Mogollon Rim at 7000 feet and is a pristine deep canyon free from intrusions. Mixed conifer and ponderosa pine forests dominate with aspen and oak mixed in. The canyon becomes quite steep within a mile of its beginning, exhibiting spectacular layered rock formations. Being as the canyon is quite steep and narrow, there has been no logging or cattle grazing in the riparian corridor, leaving it in a highly primitive and pristine condition.

Recreation: Recreational activities include hiking, backpacking, fishing, trail riding, and nature study. Because of the remote, inaccessible nature of the area, recreational opportunities are mostly a primitive, backcountry experience.

Geologic: The East Clear Creek channel, 500 to 800 feet deep, is a spectacular layered formation composed primarily of sandstones and limestones that has the appearance of solidified sand dunes.

Fish and Wildlife: The area is home to many forest species including black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, elk, turkey, mule deer, and osprey. Species found in the area that are on the Federal threatened and endangered species list include the Little Colorado Spinedace, Mexican spotted owl, and Arizona southwestern toad. East Clear Creek supports populations of two popular trout species, the rainbow and German brown.

Ecological: The narrow, steep canyons that flow north from the Mogollon Rim are important ecological systems to the wildlife that inhabits the region. Those with perennial streams are of critical importance, especially to native fish species. Barbershop Creek and East Clear Creek are streams that are relatively undisturbed and still retain good stands of riparian vegetation.

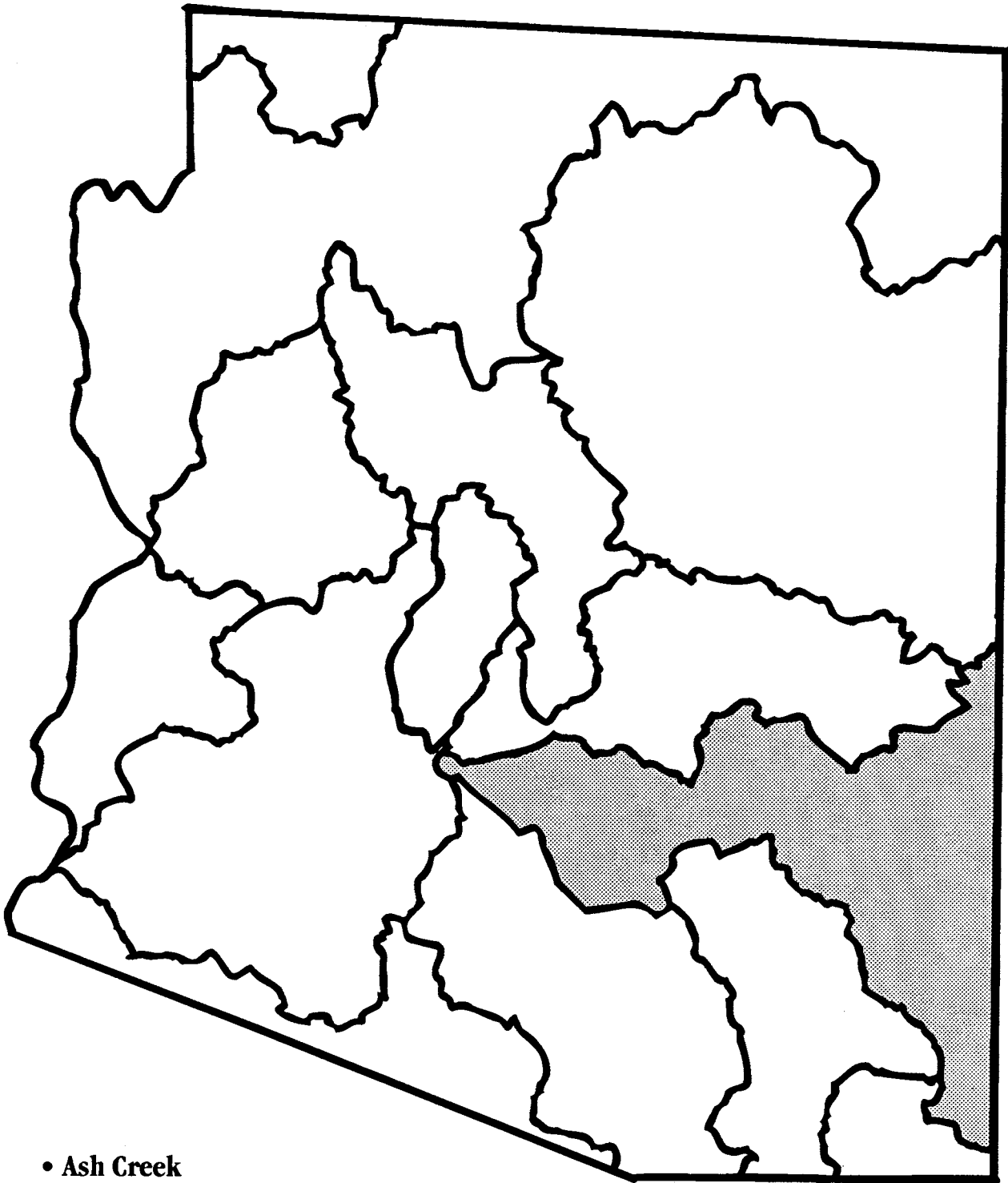
Comments: This rugged, steep canyon has not been heavily logged or grazed due to its severe topography. This has left the riparian corridor in a pristine condition.

ARC Recommendation:

14 miles of Barbershop Creek.....Wild
East Clear Creek from Barbershop Creek down to
Mac's Crossing.....Wild
Mac's Crossing to forest boundary.....Scenic
Forest boundary to Clear Creek Reservoir.....Recreational

East Clear/Barbershop Creeks are unique even among Arizona's free-flowing rivers. Rim country climate, ecology, and topography result in outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, and ecological values as the creeks flow from the pine, aspen, spruce, and fir covered headwaters above 7000 feet to the desert grasslands near Winslow. The low base flow of these creeks make them susceptible to upstream water development or impoundment, as demonstrated on East Clear Creek above the Barbershop confluence by the impacts of the dam at Blue Ridge Reservoir. Wild & Scenic designation will guarantee the protection and management necessary to protect the unique, free-flowing character of this watershed, and fulfill the intention of the Act by offsetting the impacts of existing dams in the area.

Upper Gila River Basin



- Ash Creek
- Blue River
- San Francisco River
- Gila Box
- Gila River - Middle

RIVER NAME: **BLUE RIVER**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 66 miles from the intersection of Campbell Blue River and Hwy. 666, to confluence with Dry Blue Creek continuing down the Blue to the San Francisco River.
MANAGING AGENCY: Apache Sitgreaves National Forest.
PRIVATE LAND: Approximately 10 river miles consisting of scattered ranches and private inholdings.

The Blue River, on the eastern edge of the White Mountains, forms a rugged canyon as it cuts through the Mogollon Rim forming numerous narrow steep walled canyons. With elevations ranging from 4500 feet up to 9200 feet, the Blue Range watershed exhibits a very wide spectrum of vegetative life zones which is continually interspersed and visually overwhelmed by colorful and magnificent rock formations. The mainstem of the Blue flows through the heart of the Blue Range Primitive Area which is one of the most prized backcountry resources in the Southwest, if not the country.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: The Blue is a highly scenic river corridor. There are numerous named rock formations that visually dominate the landscape. Steep walled canyons, box canyons and cliffs are among the geologic features that are continuous along the Blue. Vegetation types range from dense stands of mixed conifer, a high elevation timber type, to a rugged desert chaparral. This constant variety of ecological communities, interspersed by colorful and dominating landforms, provides the eye with a visual feast.

Fish and Wildlife: The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest Land Management Plan has classified the entire Blue River as an important cold water fishery. The upper reaches of the fishery feature a naturalized population of German brown trout and outstanding potential habitat for the historically native Apache trout which is federally and state listed as a threatened species. In the future, Arizona Game and Fish will stock only Apache trout along the Blue in order to allow this historic native species to reestablish populations where habitat conditions allow. Arizona Game and Fish Department has identified the entire Blue as critical habitat for the loach minnow and spikedace which are both federally listed as threatened.

ARC Recommendation:

Downstream from Hwy. 666 to above the Luce Ranch.....Scenic
Above the Luce Ranch on the Campbell Blue to
the Smith Place.....Recreational
From the Smith Place and the end of the Blue River
Road to the XXX Ranch (Now USFS land).....Wild
XXX Ranch to road crossing of FS Rd #475C.....Scenic
FS Rd #475C to the confluence of the San Francisco.....Wild

The Forest Service has recommended the Blue Range Primitive Area to be designated as wilderness and is managed as such. The segment designations carefully drawn in this recommendation will certainly complement this management direction. The wild segments will be very compatible with such designation, while the recreational segments will integrate the rights of the ranchers and home owners who live along the canyon bottom with the wilderness that surrounds them. Any timber industry opposition is not valid as the entire timber resource within the proposed area has been classified as "unavailable" through the USFS Land Management Plan. Designation should not affect livestock management within the proposed area. Stocking levels and scheduling of livestock use will continue to be determined through the Allotment Management Planning Process.

Designation as a recreational segment will not affect the existing land use along the Blue including the present irrigation diversions, but will offer protection and management direction to the upper portion of the Blue. However, the Blue River community has historically reacted strongly against any special federal land classification. However, we feel that there are benefits that recreation and non-consumptive uses can bring to their economy. There is a mystique to the "Blue" that has attracted Indians, cowboys, hunters, hikers, ecologists, writers and artists throughout its history. This pristine canyon and rich heritage begs to be preserved for future generations of all species. The cultural, scenic, and biological values of this very rugged canyon all deserve the protection of the Wild & Scenic River Act.

RIVER NAME: **SAN FRANCISCO RIVER**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 126 miles from Luna Lake near Alpine in the White Mts. down to the Martinez Ranch above Clifton.
MANAGING AGENCIES: Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, Gila National Forest
PRIVATE LAND: Approximately 30%, mostly in New Mexico

A major tributary of the Gila River, the San Francisco River flows in a white sand and gravel floodplain through a number of limestone gorges and rock outcroppings. The river channel is meandering and becomes tortuous in the lower reaches. The Lower San Francisco Canyon, straddling the Arizona-New Mexico border embraces the largest undisturbed tract of remaining Lower Sonoran riparian woodland in the United States. Some 32 species of broad-leaved trees and shrubs, dominated by cottonwood, sycamore, willow, and walnut are found in the canyon - an exceptional number for the West! The upper reaches of the river, above 6000 feet, are bordered by alpine meadows and coniferous forests. Plants and wildlife converge on the Gila-San Francisco drainage from such diverse areas as the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts; from the Mexican Plateau and the Great Plains; from the Great Basin, the Sierra Madre Occidental, and the Rocky Mountains.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: The prime scenic features are located in the upper reaches where the river flows through forested meadows and a highly scenic canyon known as "The Box", and at the lower end of the segment which contains a highly primitive setting. The Box, a hot spring, and natural bridge have been identified as New Mexico significant natural areas.

Recreation: Many hot springs occur on the lower reaches and are popular recreation destinations. Primitive hiking, fishing, photography, and hunting are other popular activities. Rafting, kayaking, and canoeing are possible with suitable water flows. This use will increase as inflatable kayaks become more popular for low-water use. The river corridor is also suitable to horse-pack trips, although they are negligible at present.

Geologic: "The Box," several hot springs and the natural bridge are the main geological features. The lower San Francisco Canyon was determined by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, in their Wild & Scenic River Study of 1980, to have outstandingly remarkable scenic values as it courses below towering 1,500 foot cliffs.

Fish and Wildlife: The Arizona trout, a federally listed threatened species, is suspected to reside in the upper reaches. Lunker catfish, suckers, carp, chubs, and spokedace are all present. Additionally, the loach minnow has been listed as threatened and endangered within the lower San Francisco Canyon.

The canyon corridor hosts the largest, most viable herd of bighorn sheep in New Mexico. Mountain lion, bear, wild turkey, whitetail and mule deer also inhabit the river environment. Of the more than 140 species of bird found along the river, the bald eagle and peregrine falcon are on the federal endangered list, and the Mexican black hawk is on the New Mexico list.

Cultural: Prehistoric remains are evident in canyon walls, cliffs, and caves. Rock art is also evident. As more systematic surveys are conducted it is expected that many more Mogollon and Mimbres sites will be discovered.

Comments: The proposed stretch of the San Francisco River offers a magnificent opportunity to preserve a lengthy segment of a free-flowing southwestern river. Few, if any, other streams in the Southwest offer this unique combination without inclusion of Indian lands. Major opposition to any designation of the river has been led by various ORV groups. However, much of the Lower Canyon, which is the primary area of ORV use, has been closed to such use by the Forest Service. That trend will seemingly continue as the general public pursues and insists on protection of riparian areas.

Since neither the Apache or Gila National Forests recommended Wilderness designation for the surrounding wildlands in the respective state wilderness bills, designation of the San Francisco River as a Wild & Scenic River affords the most effective and viable alternative to protecting a unique and valuable resource and its environs. Significant side-canyons, most notably Mule Creek, should be included in the river corridor designation.

ARC Recommendation: 126 river miles with significant drainages included in Arizona and New Mexico.

The watershed of the San Francisco River, the White Mountains of Arizona and the Mogollon Mountains of New Mexico, inspired Aldo Leopold to envision and implement our present Federal "Wilderness System" through establishment of the Gila Wilderness in 1924. Almost seventy years later the San Francisco River remains little changed, slicing through some of the most dramatic and diverse wilderness left in the Southwest. Free-flowing for over 150 miles, the San Francisco may quite possibly represent the last best chance to preserve, intact, an entire remnant river of the primeval Southwest. Protective designation of the San Francisco River would be a fitting addition to the Wild & Scenic Rivers System and a tribute to the creator of the Wilderness System, Aldo Leopold.

RIVER NAME: THE GILA RIVER - Gila Box Segment
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 26 miles of the Gila River from public land boundary downstream of US 666 to Spring Creek.
8 miles of the San Francisco River from public land boundary 2.5 miles south of Clifton to its confluence with the Gila River.
MANAGING AGENCIES: Bureau of Land Management, Safford District.
PRIVATE LAND: 3.0 river miles

The Gila (pronounced Hee'-la) River originates in the mountains of New Mexico and enters Arizona near Duncan. As it traverses central Arizona, the Gila links with the Salt River near Phoenix and eventually merges with the Colorado River north of Yuma. The arid nature of this region combined with intensive agricultural diversions of both ground and surface water have combined to reduce the Gila to a dry wash in virtually all of its lower desert segments. The Gila Box segment of the upper Gila river remains in a free-flowing and near natural condition, an exception on a river which has been dramatically altered by the presence of man. The riparian growth found along the river is of significant value in a arid state where 90% of such habitat has been lost.

The Gila Box segment is located southwest of Clifton, Arizona and includes 26 miles of the upper Gila River and 8 miles of the San Francisco River above its confluence with the Gila. This segment has been noted by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as being the "last free-flowing stretch of the Gila River in Arizona". The BLM has designated parts of the Gila Box as a National Riparian Conservation Area.

The Gila Box segment has been identified as eligible for study as a potential wild, scenic, or recreational river in the 1982 National Rivers Inventory (NRI) conducted by the National Park Service. The BLM has studied this segment for designation as part of the Wild & Scenic Rivers System although the Resource Management Plan for the Safford District has not been finalized at this time.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: The Gila Box obtains its name from the steep cliffs which rise abruptly downstream from where the Gila River passes under U.S. Highway 666. The 1000 foot walls of the canyon possess highly eroded volcanic and conglomerate formations which impart an exceptional beauty to the gorge. The San Francisco River is a tributary which enters into the Gila Box from the north and possesses geologic features similar to that found along

the Gila River proper. Four major vegetation types are found along the river including riparian, mountain shrub, desert shrub, and grassland. The desert surrounding the Gila Box contains an overlap of both Sonoran and Chihuahuan desert vegetation.

Recreation: The natural qualities of the river, its riparian habitat, and its geologic features have made it an area of steadily increasing popularity. The Gila Box is used extensively for rafting and canoeing, hiking, picnicking, and fishing.

Geologic: The walls of the river canyon are cut from volcanic and volcanoclastic rocks. Geothermal activity is present at Gillard Hot Springs located within 0.5 miles of the river.

Fish & Wildlife: The river's riparian vegetation, uncommon in the southwest, creates a rich density and diversity of terrestrial wildlife such as quail, dove, mule deer, javelina and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. This enhanced wildlife habitat combined with the steep one thousand foot walls of the gorge provides shelter for one of the most diverse raptor communities in the Southwest. Peregrine falcons and a wintering population of bald eagles are two federally listed endangered species in the area. Other State listed endangered species found in the area include the black bellied whistling duck, black hawk, osprey, snowy egret, great egret, and black crowned night heron. Endangered species of fish include the federally listed loach minnow and the state listed razorback sucker.

ARC Recommendation:

- Public land boundary below US 666 to west boundary of Section 26 private land.....Scenic
- Section 26 land to Deadman Canyon.....Wild
- Deadman Canyon to Spring Canyon.....Scenic
- San Francisco River - 2.5 miles south of Clifton to south boundary of Section 14 private land.....Recreational
- San Francisco River - Section 14 land to confluence with Gila River.....Wild

This segment has been recognized as the last truly free-flowing stretch of the Gila River in Arizona. The river and its riparian habitat is entrenched in a 1000 foot deep gorge which provides for exceptional scenery and a large raptor population including peregrine falcons and bald eagles. Extensive low water boating opportunities are present along this segment. Wild & Scenic designation would enhance management of the area and preclude the possibility of this remarkable stretch of river ever being inundated by a reservoir.

RIVER NAME: **ASH CREEK, PINALENO MOUNTAINS**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 11.7 miles. From Trail #303 at public corrals to Trail #307 at Cluff Reservoir No. 1.
MANAGING AGENCIES: Coronado National Forest, Arizona State Land Dept.
PRIVATE LAND: None

Ash Creek runs through terrain dominated by rugged steep slopes and deep canyons. Beginning at an elevation of 9500 feet and flowing down to 3600 feet, Ash Creek flows through a great mix of riparian habitat. Dominated by broadleaf riparian series, the vegetation ranges from coniferous forest types (spruce and firs) to Chihuahuan desert scrub. Many species of wildlife are dependent upon this vegetation for food, nesting areas, and cover. Ash Creek has been noted as the favorite place for black bear in the Pinaleno Mountains, which has one of the highest population of black bear in Arizona.

Ash Creek is a valuable watershed in one of Arizona's unique "sky islands." Designation will not interfere with, but help to ensure, supplies of water to Safford and the Cluff Reservoirs. These reservoirs were created by Arizona Game and Fish Department to grow and cultivate fish for stocking other lakes and streams throughout Arizona.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: The trails along Ash Creek offer a spectacular overview of Dead Man Canyon which is a series of rock outcroppings vegetated by oak and bisected by riparian areas at the bottom of the canyon. The whole of the valley flatland, northeast of the Pinaleno Mountains to the Gila Indian Reservation, can be viewed from several points along the Ash Creek trails. Ash Creek consists of a series of waterfalls, the most spectacular being Ash Creek Falls, 200 feet of straight fall.

Recreation: Ash Creek has long been valued by sportsmen as a prime hunting area. This is also a popular hiking area where solitude, scenery, wildlife viewing, and swimming in the deep pools are common. The trails that follow Ash Creek are among the most used trails in the Pinaleno Mountains.

Geologic: The geology of the Ash Creek area is characterized by fault-block formations which occurred about 20 million years ago. These formations were formed when blocks moved upward to expose granites, gneiss, and schists of Precambrian Age while basins moved downward to receive the sediments carried by desert and mountain streams from the nearby mountain masses.

Fish and Wildlife: Ash Creek contains the federally listed threatened species of Arizona trout, Salmo apache; and the state listed threatened and endangered Western twin-spotted rattlesnake. It may also support some of the endangered Mt. Graham red squirrel, as Ash Creek flows through sections of the squirrel's preferred habitat of spruce-fir association. Many other animals are dependent upon this area, as noted above.

Ecological: Within the important riparian area that Ash Creek supports there are two federally listed threatened and endangered plant species, the hedgehog cactus and a perennial herb, Plummera ambigens.

Cultural: Between 1870 and 1920, Ash Creek was used to move timber to the bottom of the mountain from the timber harvesting operations that were active during this time. Today, metal and wooden sections of the flume can be seen and old mill sites complete with lockers and foundation structures can be found along Ash Creek.

ARC Recommendation:

11.7 miles from Trail #303 to Trail #307.....Wild

A potential threat exists to Ash Creek if the University of Arizona requests to utilize the water to help support its proposed astrophysical site. Another possible threat from this site would be if accidental dumping of cyanide occurred at or near the Ash Creek watershed, after its use in the mirror-making procedure.

RIVER NAME: THE GILA RIVER - Middle Gila Segment
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 27.5 miles of the Gila River between Coolidge Dam and Winkleman
MANAGING AGENCIES: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Safford District
San Carlos Apache Tribe
PRIVATE LAND: 2.0 river miles
(Note: 20 miles of this segment forms a boundary with the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation.)

The Gila (pronounced Hee'-la) River originates in the mountains of New Mexico and enters Arizona near Duncan. As it traverses central Arizona, the Gila links with the Salt River near Phoenix and eventually merges with the Colorado River north of Yuma. The arid nature of this region combined with intensive agricultural diversions of both ground and surface water have combined to reduce the Gila to a dry wash in virtually all of its lower desert stretches. This segment of the middle Gila, upstream from locations of major water diversions, remains free-flowing and retains an extraordinary rich riparian habitat, a valued exception on a river which has been dramatically altered by the presence of man.

The Middle Gila segment is located southeast of Globe, Arizona and stretches from 0.5 miles below the Coolidge Dam and San Carlos Reservoir to Winkleman. The area's rugged topography provides for exceptionally spectacular scenery although limited public access to the upper half of this segment has impeded public recognition of this feature.

The Middle Gila segment has been identified as eligible for study as potential wild, scenic, or recreational rivers in the 1982 National Rivers Inventory (NRI) conducted by the National Park Service. The BLM has studied this segment for designation as part of the Wild & Scenic Rivers System although the Resource Management Plan for the Safford District has not been finalized at this time.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: From the Coolidge Dam, the river cuts through the Mescal Mountains to form a deep and narrow limestone gorge containing several deeply incised passages, including the Needle's Eye. This segment has received the BLM's highest rating of scenic quality when utilizing their Visual Resource Management (VRM) system. Once emerging from the gorge the river enters another canyon where Highway 77 parallels the river on its winding course through the southern Dripping Spring Mountains toward Winkleman. Dense riparian vegetation grows along the river and its floodplain while Sonoran desert species such as saguaro cactus populate the canyon slopes outside of the floodplain.

Recreation: The upper part of the segment through the Mescal Mountains has been historically difficult to access due to the ruggedness of its canyon combined with the travel restrictions of the San Carlos Indian Reservation. The wilderness recreation potential of the upper segment is evidenced by the rivers utilization as the southern boundary of the Needle's Eye Wilderness Area. Conversely, the lower half of this river segment is paralleled by Arizona Highway 77, is easily accessed by automobile, and receives extensive recreational use in the form of fishing, picnicking, tubing, and rafting.

Geologic: The canyon which passes through the Mescal Mountains cuts through steeply tilted limestone strata which provides for this narrow and spectacular river gorge. The lower part of this segment is primarily of volcanic geologic origin and the river's channel, although narrow, allows for the presence of the highway.

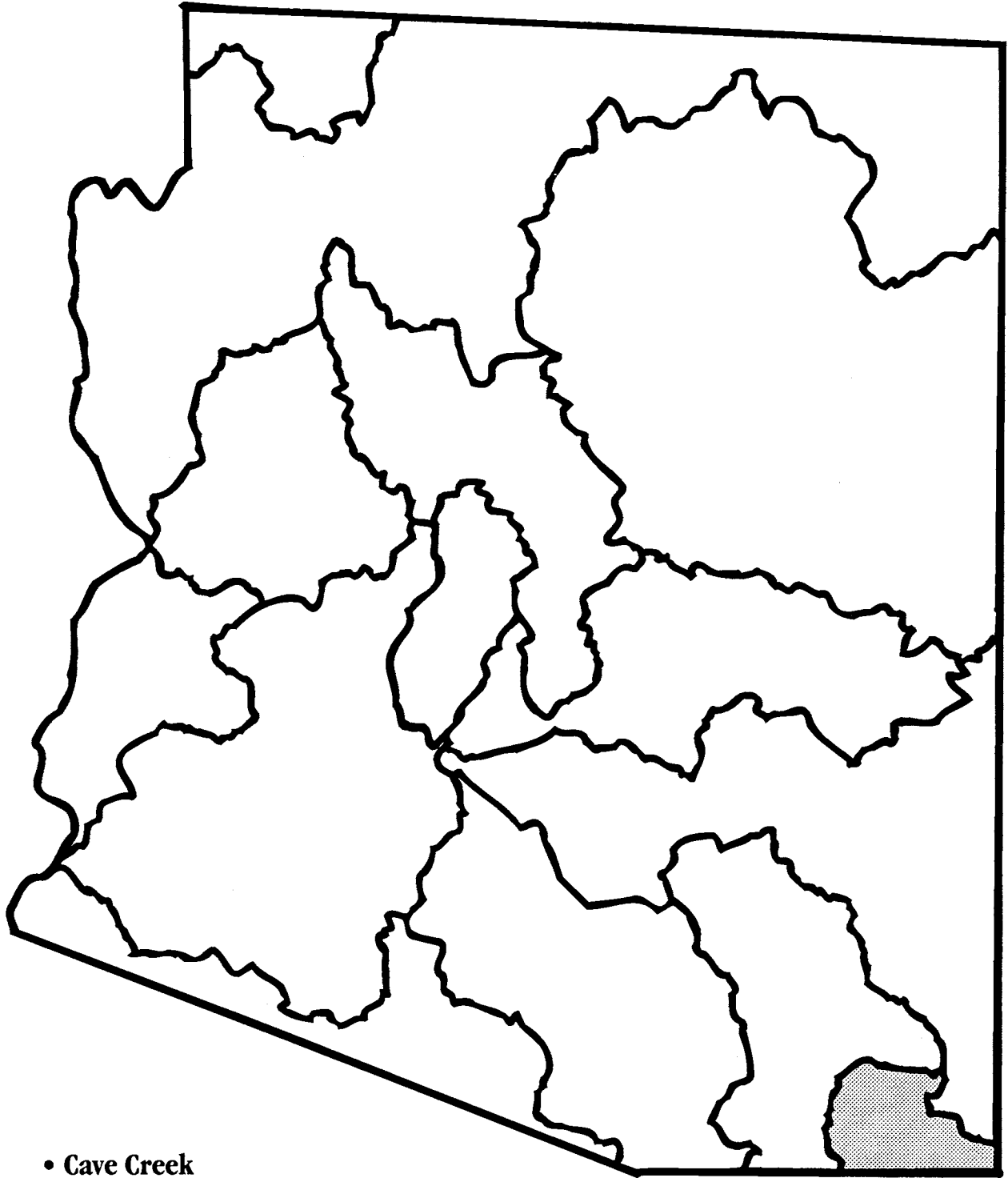
Fish & Wildlife: Besides a complement of warm-water fish and waterfowl, the river's riparian habitat hosts numerous uncommon and federally listed threatened and endangered (T&E) species such as the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, snowy egret, black-crowned night heron, osprey, black hawk, zone-tailed hawk, northern beardless tyrannulet, and the Mississippi kite. In addition, the Gila monster and the desert tortoise may be found here. Other game and non-game wildlife which may frequent the area include quail, dove, mule and white-tailed deer, javelina, desert bighorn sheep, elk, ring-tailed cat, mountain lion, bobcat, gray fox, and coatimundi.

ARC Recommendation:

- Coolidge Dam to south turn of river road.....Recreational
- South turn of river road to 1.5 miles east of Dripping Springs Wash.....Wild
- 1.5 miles east of Dripping Springs Wash to start of (Section 7) private land north of Winkleman.....Recreational

Forming the southern boundary of the Needle's Eye Wilderness, this segment includes some of the most dramatic, wild, and well preserved scenery in Arizona. The river itself is entrenched in an exceptionally narrow limestone gorge and possesses an unusually dense riparian growth, of significant value in an arid state where 90% of such habitat has been lost. The river acts as a boundary with the San Carlos Indian Reservation for over 20 miles of this segment. Co-management in conjunction with the San Carlos Apache Tribe is necessary to develop a cohesive plan for both sides of the river and enhance access to the upper reaches of the segment.

Yaqui River Basin



• Cave Creek

RIVER NAME: CAVE CREEK, MIDDLE, NORTH, AND SOUTH FORKS
PROPOSED SEGMENT: Middle Fork about 1.5 miles
North Fork about 5.25 miles
South Fork, about 6 miles
MANAGING AGENCY: Coronado National Forest
PRIVATE LAND: Southwest Research Station, 3 private owners.

Cave Creek is one of only a few perennial streams that penetrate the Chiricahua Mountains. Its upper watershed lies inside the Chiricahua Wilderness area, some of the roughest country in southeastern Arizona. It is oasis-like in that it is a home to a wide variety of wildlife, many of which, including over 200 distinct species of birds, migrate to the area yearly. The upper elevations are bordered by forests which include Arizona cypress, Apache pine, Chiricahua pine and douglas fir. Descending in elevation, vegetation changes to Arizona walnut, madrone, gambel oak, silverleaf and Emory oak, and Mexican pinyon among other varieties of trees. At the stream bottom there are significant stands of sycamore, cottonwood, bigtooth maple, willow, and velvet ash.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: Cave Creek is bordered by an array of diverse vegetation from many life zones. These zones are not separated by sharp lines of demarcation since the plants depend upon slope exposure, type of soil, ground moisture and microclimate differences as well as altitude. In any given area, plants typical of lower Sonoran, Upper Sonoran and Transition zones can be found growing together. Wildflowers representing all the life zones bloom from April to October when there is adequate rainfall.

Recreation: All forks of Cave Creek offer a variety of recreational activities from bird watching to hiking and camping. The area is renowned for its huge variety of often exotic bird life. On the lower stretches of the creek, camping is allowed only at developed sites such as South Fork, Idlewild, Stewart and Sunny Flat. Cave Creek recreation area is located near the junction of the North and South Forks. Hiking trails are abundant and include South Fork Trail, Burrow Trail, Basin Trail, Greenhouse Trail and Snowshed Trail, all of which cross the creek at some point. There are picnic areas located at John Hands and Herb Martyr. Winn Falls on the North Fork of Cave Creek is a point of interest.

Geologic: Cave Creek canyon is a slot-like gorge bordered on either side by sheer cliffs with caves, arches and windows. They are formed of latite, a volcanic rock which is colored orange, pink, yellow and salmon. The most striking feature is Cathedral Rock, a massive wedge on the east wall that is 2000 feet high. Crystal Cave is a limestone cavern located about half a mile west of the Southwest Research Station and is the reason for the name. It was once heavily visited, but was vandalized considerably in the past.

Fish and Wildlife: The Chiricahuas in general and the Cave Creek Watershed in particular are home to a number of state and/or federally threatened or endangered species including the thick-billed parrot, Mexican long tailed bat, Sanborn long-nosed bat. Candidate species include elegant trogon, Mexican spotted owl, northern goshawk, Apache northern goshawk.

Other significant wildlife include numerous species of hummingbirds, black bear, white-tailed deer, coatimundi, ring-tailed cat, javelina, mountain lion, coyote, striped skunk, Apache squirrel and wild turkey. This area was also home once to the grizzly bear, the Mexican grey wolf, and the jaguar. The drainage is significant as the northernmost range of many species more common in Mexico.

Cultural: The Chiricahuas were the home, in the not so distant past, of the Chiricahua Apache whose leaders include both Cochise and Geronimo. Although no formal archeological sites are present along Cave Creek, because of its perennial nature it was surely the site of much Native American history. The Southwest Research Station, once the Painted Canyon Ranch, is now owned by the American Museum of Natural History. It was previously owned by Weldon Heald, a well known author and environmentalist. The research station is home at any given time to biologists studying reptiles, amphibians, birds, insects or any of the other rich variety of wildlife and plant life found in the area. Along Cave Creek there are several small, silted-over dams built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The Portal Ranger Station was the second designated CCC Camp on the Coronado National Forest and one of the country's longest running.

Comments: Cave Creek, along both its upper and lower elevations is a critical riparian area in southeastern Arizona. It is among only about 10 percent of riparian habitat remaining in the state. The enormity of its importance as wildlife habitat in this dry region cannot be overstated.

ARC Recommendations:

Middle Fork.....Scenic
North Fork.....Wild
South Fork.....Wild

As a geologically spectacular canyon and an internationally recognized birding spot, Cave Creek fully deserves protection through Wild & Scenic River designation. A threat now posed to the tranquility of Cave Creek is mineral exploration and mining. Mining activities have a proven history of long-term effects on water quality and stream bank stability of waterways within the mined watershed. Wild designation would prevent this degradation and also allow the area's wildlife to live undisturbed by any pollution and disturbances due to the additional traffic that mining operations would bring.

RIVER NAME: **SAN PEDRO RIVER**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: Approximately 34 miles, within the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area between Hwy. 80 and the Mexican border.
MANAGING AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management.
PRIVATE LAND: Several small areas of private land consisting of farms and houses occur along the proposed segment.

The San Pedro River is a tributary of the Gila River in southeastern Arizona. It flows northward out of Mexico through the Basin and Range physiographic province which is characterized by gently sloping valleys separated by abruptly rising mountains. The section of the San Pedro River proposed flows between the Dagon and Mule Mountains to the east and the Huachuca and Whetstone Mountains to the west. The river is perennial from the Hereford area to just below the Charleston Hills. The elevation is approximately 3,900 feet. The upper San Pedro River corridor contains valuable vegetation communities, wildlife populations, paleontological resources, and significant archeological and historical sites.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: The environment immediately next to the river is a fine example of wooded riparian habitat. Of special note are a number of huge cottonwood trees towering above the willows. Bordering the cottonwood-willow area is an extensive mesquite bosque. In addition, a small marsh-like cienega dominated by reeds and sedges is found along the Upper San Pedro. Riparian habitats such as these are increasingly rare in southern Arizona. They offer a dramatic visual contrast to the surrounding Chihuahuan desert dominated by creosote, catclaw, tarbush, whitethorn, and mesquite. Riparian areas are also extremely important to wildlife.

Recreation: Nature study, sightseeing, picnicking, camping, hiking, and learning about the historical resources are the most common activities pursued along the San Pedro River. Some of the cultural resources may be protected for public exhibition. The outstanding examples of riparian habitat and 303 species of birds make the upper San Pedro an extremely valuable bird watching location.

Fish and Wildlife: Wildlife in the three riparian plant communities and six upland plant communities along the Upper San Pedro River is abundant and diverse. Over 300 species of birds, 84 mammals, and 41 reptiles and amphibians have been recorded. The federally endangered bald eagle and peregrine falcon have been observed. In addition, the following species which are being considered for listing as federally threatened or endangered (as of 1989) have been observed along the Upper San

Pedro: Swainson's hawk, Mississippi kite, gray hawk, ferruginous hawk, black hawk, caracara, osprey, black-bellied whistling duck, yellow-billed cuckoo, elegant trogon, green kingfisher, thick-billed kingbird, tropical kingbird, black-crowned night heron, snowy egret, northern beardless tyrannulet, Gila monster, Mexican garter snake, and desert kingsnake. Five federally listed threatened and endangered fishes were native to the Upper San Pedro River but have since been extirpated.

Paleontological: With several dozen fossil sites, the land along the Upper San Pedro River ranks among the top two paleontological areas in Arizona. Most of the sites are from the Pleistocene (2 million to 10,000 years ago). In addition, the late Cenozoic terrestrial deposits found here (approximately 1-5 million years ago) rank in the top five in North America. According to the BLM, the fossils along the Upper San Pedro River "have a high potential for yielding important information on mammal evolution and intercontinental dispersal...vegetation changes, and climatic changes." Furthermore, this is the "top area in the Western Hemisphere for paleontological sites associated with early man."

Cultural and Historic: Humans inhabited the San Pedro River as long as 11,200 years ago. The BLM has identified approximately 150 historical sites and reports that "many of the sites have exceptionally high scientific and/or public values with some values at the international level of importance." The sites are so abundant that some overlap. Some sites are National Historic Landmarks while many others qualify for this designation. Some of the most important cultural resources include: More known Clovis Hunter sites than anywhere else in the new world; numerous Cochise Culture sites; more Sobaipuri sites than any other area; the only Spanish presidio in the U.S. under federal management; railroad and mining town sites which could yield extensive information about frontier life. The list goes on. Additional sites are expected to be found with further study.

ARC Recommendation:

- Mexican border to Highway 80.....Scenic
- Two miles north of Hwy. 80 to Flowing Well.....Scenic

The area being proposed became a National Riparian Conservation Area in November, 1988. However, the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act would provide additional protection for the sensitive ecological, historical, and paleontological resources against new roads, sand and gravel operations, and dams. Wild & Scenic designation would help maintain water quality by limiting toxic discharge from mines in the nearby mountains. It might also persuade our government to ask Mexico to regulate pollution spills in the river's headwaters. Furthermore, the prestige associated with being a nationally recognized river might benefit scientists applying for research funds.

RIVER NAME: CIENEGA CREEK
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 10.3 miles, upper section, from headwaters to narrows.
MANAGING AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management
PRIVATE LAND: None

Cienega Creek is a perennial creek starting just north of the town of Sonoita, running northward between the Whetstone and Santa Rita mountain ranges through the Empire/Cienega Resource Conservation Area. This section ends at the narrows along the northern border of the BLM land where the creek begins to flow subsurface. Cienega Creek averages two feet in width and runs 6 to 8 inches deep. About midway through this section are three small dam structures and a diversion canal, built about 25 years ago for irrigation but no longer in use.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Fish and Wildlife: Cienega Creek is considered one of the finest remaining natural habitats for the gila topminnow, a federal endangered and state threatened fish species. The creek is home to the largest population of this native fish species. Primarily because of its importance to the gila topminnow, Cienega Creek has received top priority for protection by the Desert Fishes Recovery Team, an organization comprising professional wildlife biologists. The council has rated Cienega Creek as one of five habitats critical to the future survival of the gila topminnow. Two other native fish species in the creek are the gila chub and the longfin dace. Cienega Creek is particularly important to the survival of native fishes because it is one of the state's last streams with no exotic fish species.

Other wildlife species of concern in the creek include the Mexican garter snake and lowland leopard frog. Ten special status birds and eight bat species also live near the creek.

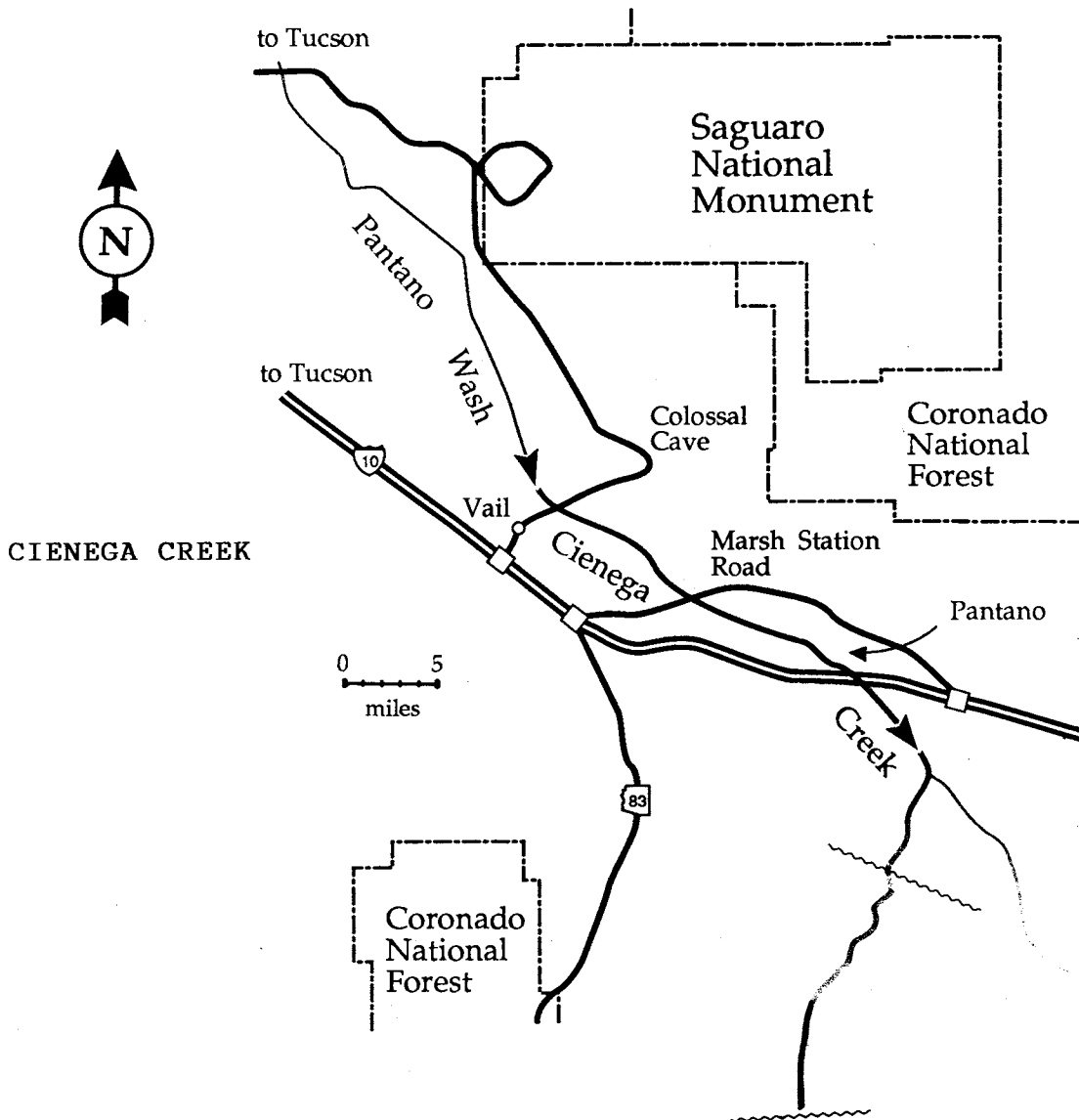
Ecological: As its name implies, Cienega Creek is marshy, with cattails and tall grasses rising six feet high. Until the late 1800's, cienega marsh communities were relatively common in southwestern riparian systems; today, most have disappeared. The Cienega Creek wetland community is one of the last and best examples of a relatively intact cienega. The creek also features giant cottonwoods, willows, velvet ash, oaks, and junipers.

Comments: According to the BLM, archaeological sites in the upper creek area have not been inventoried, although some ancient sites have been discovered in the area. Today, the area is primarily used for hunting, bird watching, and hiking. Cienega Creek's importance to native fishes and its marshlike ecology merit protection for this uncommon creek and riparian area.

ARC Recommendation:

10.3 miles from headwater to the narrows..... Scenic

This free-flowing creek is intersected by eight unimproved and one graded road, which visitors use to drive across the creek. Scenic designation would prevent construction of additional roads--and thus further erosion that might compromise water quality. Because the creek is groundwater-fed, its perennial flows are highly vulnerable to degradation from adverse management practices. Both reduced water quality and reduced surface flows could seriously jeopardize the creek's native fishes, including the endangered gila topminnow. Scenic designation would encourage monitoring of water quality and require the managing agency to determine sufficient instream flow necessary to sustain native fish populations. Finally, designation would help protect the rare mesquite bosque and cienega ecosystems of upper Cienega Creek and allow Arizona to retain one of its last remaining wetland communities.



RIVER NAME: **BASS CANYON/HOT SPRINGS CANYON**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 8+ miles
MANAGING AGENCIES: Cooperative management agreement between
The Nature Conservancy, Coronado National
Forest, and Bureau of Land Management.
PRIVATE LAND: 20% of river miles by The Nature
Conservancy.

These two spring-fed streams cut through some of the most scenic landscape in Arizona. Bass Canyon begins in the southern portion of the Galiuro Mountains and flows south to join Hot Springs Canyon at the Muleshoe Ranch Preserve. The upper reaches of Bass Canyon flow through a mid-elevation riparian community of alder, sycamore, and ash broadening into a wide canyon bottom with a well developed cottonwood-willow riparian forest. Hot Springs Canyon has several thermal springs feeding it as it cuts a narrow channel through unique and colorful eroded rock formations and eventually flows into the San Pedro River near Cascabel. These isolated streams support a crucial native fishery with a rare assemblage of species now found in only a few places.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: The view of the Muleshoe Ranch Preserve is magnificent with pink and beige eroded hillsides contrasting with the lush green riparian vegetation of Bass Canyon and adjacent streams. Hot Springs Canyon contains little riparian growth, but the scenic rock formations and colors, the narrow rocky canyons, and steep slot side tributaries make this isolated area well worth visiting.

Recreational: The entire area is very isolated and has received very little visitation. Most roads require high clearance vehicles to negotiate. Both canyons are just beginning to attract the interest of hikers and nature lovers. Hot Springs Canyon contains several perennial pools that are popular for wading and relaxing. Because of the highly scenic geologic formations, the rare fish and wildlife species present, and the pristine location, Bass and Hot Springs Canyons offer a fascinating hiking opportunity.

Fish and Wildlife: The perennial streams support five native fish species making this area one of the states best undisturbed native fisheries. Longfin dace, Sonoran sucker, desert sucker, Gila chub, and speckled dace are the native fish species. The excellent riparian forests and perennial streams support many species of wildlife including some rare species such as zone-tailed hawk, black hawk, gray hawk, and western tanager. Federally listed species found in the area include the peregrine falcon and Sanborn's long nosed bat. State listed species include the common black hawk and the Gila chub, which was once widespread throughout the Gila watershed and is now present in fewer than 20 sites locally. There are also healthy populations of javelina, mule deer, coatimundi, desert tortoise, and mountain lion.

Ecological: Bass Canyon and Hot Springs Canyon provide perennially flowing water along their entire lengths and support lush riparian forests in a very arid, hot environment, enabling many wildlife species to thrive. This undisturbed, remote natural area provides crucial habitat for the regions typical wildlife as well as for many rare and sensitive species. These canyons contribute to the flows in the San Pedro River helping to support downstream riparian communities such as the extensive mesquite bosques in the lower San Pedro watershed. The unusual assemblage of five native fish species is an important part of the Muleshoe's preservation plans as these species occur in less than 20 places globally. There are no introduced fish species present making these streams an extraordinary key resource in the preservation of the states native fishery, but invasion of exotic fish species is always a constant threat.

ARC Recommendation:

8+ miles of Bass and Hot Springs Canyon.....Wild

The Muleshoe Ranch Preserve is a unique situation in Arizona. The Nature Conservancy acquired a substantial portion of the ranch and then successfully negotiated a multi-agency cooperative management agreement with the Coronado National Forest, Bureau of Land Management for over 56,000 acres of adjacent land. A Wild & Scenic River designation of wild would be an affirmation of the undeveloped and pristine character of these streams.

RIVER NAME: **BEUHMEN CREEK**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 8 miles from above Pinto Spring down to
FS Road #801
MANAGING AGENCY: Coronado National Forest
PRIVATE LAND: Last 2 miles of proposed segment.

Beuhman Canyon descends off the eastern slopes of the Santa Catalina Mountains northeast of Tucson. The canyon is in the midst of extremely rugged terrain, the grade quite steep. It is one of a series of canyons cutting into the eastern end of the Santa Catalinas. At the upper levels of the creek, at approximately 5500 feet in elevation, Beuhman Creek runs through a forest of juniper, pine and oak. The lower section runs through a mixed broadleaf forest of sycamore, cottonwood, and willow. The entire length of the upper section is perennial and free-flowing; near the lower end, the creek goes underground and emerges intermittently in small perennial pools. During the spring the entire length is free-flowing with snowmelt, and also during the summer monsoons.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: Because the creek descends so rapidly, it possesses a high scenic value. Within a five or six mile stretch, it moves from a conifer forest into a spectacular stand of saguaro cacti. Due to its inaccessibility, it has wilderness characteristics similar to much more remote areas, while in fact, it is only about 20 miles from Tucson. The steep descent and narrow canyon provide many opportunities for remarkable viewing and photography.

Fish and Wildlife: Beuhman Creek is the only perennial stream on the eastern side of the Santa Catalinas and, as such, it is a major wildlife migration corridor joining the higher elevations of the mountains with the San Pedro River Valley. Species in the Beuhman Creek area include the willow flycatcher, lowland leopard frog, desert tortoise, Mexican garter snake, longfin dace, black hawk, gray hawk, and owls. It has been classified by Arizona Game and Fish as Category 1 habitat, which means it is a most critical riparian habitat and a significant one in the San Pedro River Valley. Gila topminnow and desert pupfish, both endangered species, have been introduced into the creek over recent years.

Geologic: Another noteworthy feature of Beuhman Canyon is the limestone formations and caves, rarely found along a Sonoran Desert stream. Limestone typically is found further south and east of the Catalinas. Caves provide essential habitat for bat colonies and it is likely that these caves host maternity colonies of Sanborn's long-nosed bats, a federal and state listed endangered species known to be in the area.

Comments: One of the interesting aspects of Beuhman Creek is its "untouched" character despite being so close to Tucson. This is a consequence of very difficult access. One cannot travel the jeep trail leading to the canyon without a four-wheel drive vehicle. Possible mining exploration could put new roads into this area which could lead to exploitation and destruction of a valuable southern Arizona riparian area by the mining and eventual ORV use which would follow these new roads.

ARC Recommendation:

6 miles from headwaters near Pinto Springs to FS boundary....Wild

2 miles from FS boundary to FS Road #801.....Recreational

Beuhman Creek deserves Wild & Scenic River designation because it is a high quality riparian habitat offering exceptional opportunities to observe the variety of life zones unique to the Santa Catalina Mountains and the San Pedro River drainages. Designation would protect this valuable riparian resource from any further degradation, and aid in its management.

The lower portions of Beuhman Creek are threatened by a potential open-pit copper mine with sulfuric acid heap leaching on the slopes above the canyon bottom. Although the mining activities would occur more than 1/4 mile away, it is nevertheless in the same drainage and would destroy this riparian habitat from the dumping of overburden into the canyon bottom and the introduction of toxic chemicals into the ecosystem. It is well documented that creeks downstream of mining development are devoid of aquatic life. The exploratory work alone, completed in 1990, created dozens of road cuts on the steep slopes above Beuhman Creek, causing an erosion problem which the Forest Service is now working to correct. The potential for future development of the mine, and the inevitable road improvements resulting from this development, might also lead to increased ORV use. Wild & Scenic River designation for Beuhman Creek would aid in the control and management of this potential threat.

RIVER NAME: **REDFIELD CANYON/SWAMP SPRINGS**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 17+ miles
MANAGING AGENCIES: Coronado National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Land Department.
PRIVATE LAND: 20% of proposed river miles are owned by The Nature Conservancy.

The deep, rugged walls of Redfield canyon conceal a perennial stream which harbors native fish and an exceptional riparian habitat. It drains much of the wild, remote Galiuro Wilderness Area of the Coronado National Forest. Only primitive, unmaintained roads approach the canyon helping maintain its seclusion. The highly eroded rock formations, deep secluded pools and lush riparian vegetation are a photographer's paradise. The area's isolation and rich wildlife habitat make it a likely place to observe many species of wildlife.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

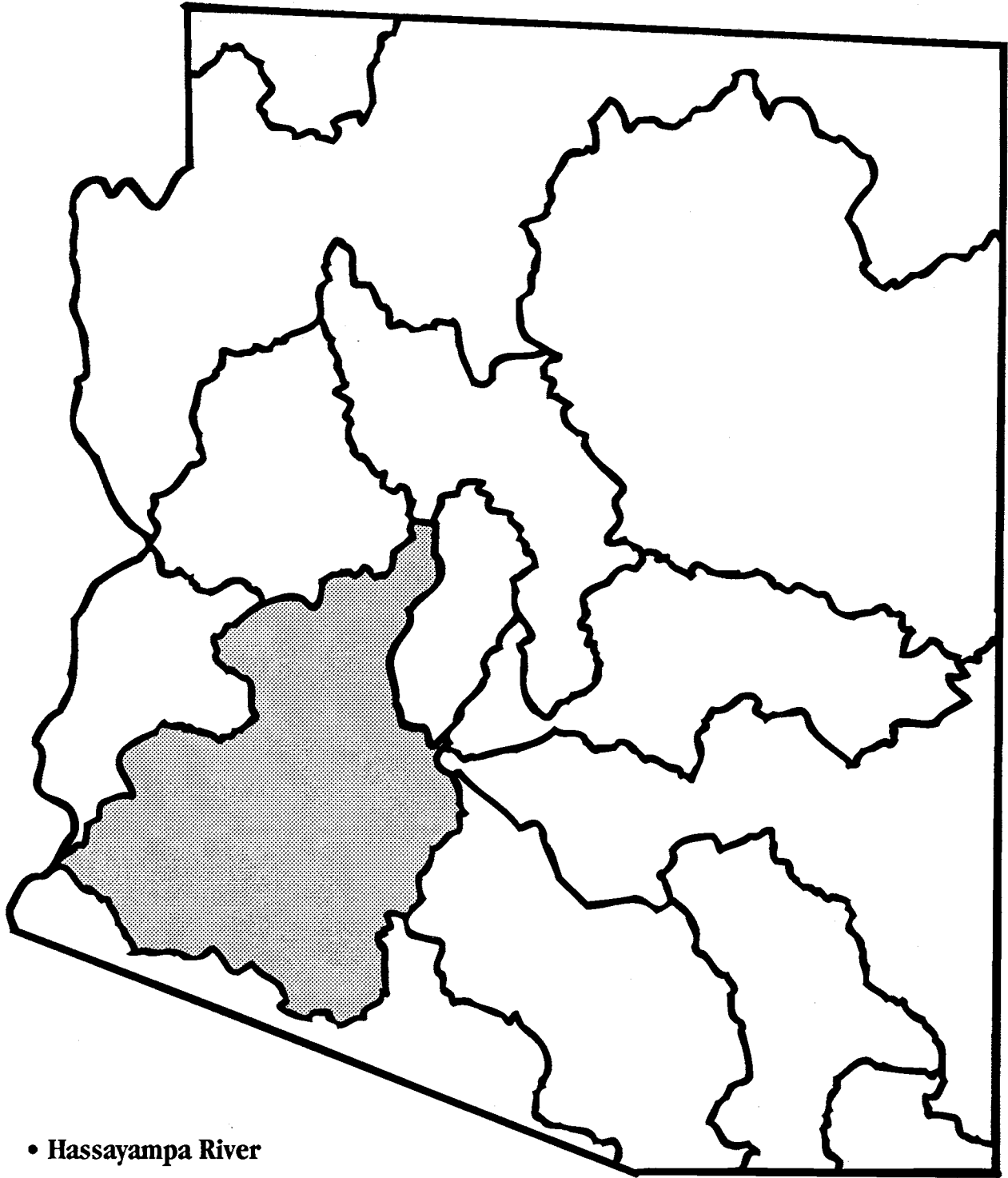
Scenic: The area is characterized by a network of canyons with spectacular cliffs and rugged divides. The topography varies from the broad, flat bottomland of lower Redfield Canyon on the deeply incised and powerfully challenging Jackson and Sycamore Canyons. Redfield Canyon is a very steep, deep, narrow canyon with a perennially flowing stream and an extensive riparian forest. It is reputed to be more impressive than the well known Aravaipa Canyon.

Recreation: Access to this area is extremely rugged and requires a four wheel drive vehicle. The isolation and ruggedness provide an outstanding wilderness experience for hikers and horseback riders. It is considered one of Arizona's most isolated wilderness areas.

Geologic: The highly eroded canyon walls and bottom consist of rhyolite, basalt and ash flow tuffs. The layered volcanic rocks include white ledge-forming tuffs, fractured andesites, and the high cliff-forming red lavas. Distinct land shapes erode from the different volcanic units.

Fish and Wildlife: The perennial stream provides important habitat for four native fish species including the state listed Gila chub. The excellent riparian forests provide nesting habitat for common black hawk and zone-tailed hawk. Desert bighorn sheep and mountain lion frequent the rugged canyons.

Lower Gila River Basin



RIVER NAME: **HASSAYAMPA RIVER**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 60 miles from Mount Davis (Bradshaw Mountains) to railroad trestle crossing northwest of Morrystown
MANAGING AGENCY: Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Arizona State Land Department
PRIVATE LAND: Approximately 13 miles

The proposed segment starts in the heights of the Bradshaw mountains and flows to the low desert west of Phoenix. A significant feature of the river is its marked change in character as it plunges from the Canadian-like climate at the top of the mountain to the arid desert floor. In the forest the river is lined with Douglas fir, ponderosa, alder, willow, aspen and maple. Where the river flows permanently above ground, the vegetation changes to a cottonwood gallery forest. Approximately 1 mile below the confluence with Cherry Creek, the river leaves state land and enters BLM land and the newly designated Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness. Pockets of willow trees and occasional Fremont cottonwood trees create shade for deep pools of water that catch 3 to 4 foot cascades of water. For the next nine miles the river flows through a deep, relatively pristine canyon that winds through a rugged lower Sonoran desert landscape, providing a dramatic contrast between the lush ribbon of riparian vegetation and rocky slopes covered with saguaro, palo verde, and ocotillo. This diversity of vegetation, along with the availability of water, support numerous special status species of plants and animals.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: This remote area contains a mix of perennial and ephemeral free-flowing waters. The Hassayampa canyon is rugged and sinuous, with a myriad of side canyons. The eastern and southern portions pass through a spectacular gorge nearly 1,000 feet deep. Large boulders, short water cascades, and beautiful pools of water occur along the canyon bottom.

Recreation: Recreational opportunities are rated "excellent," and include hiking, backpacking, hunting, horseback riding, mountain climbing, photography, bird watching, and exploring the plant, animal and geological features. There are numerous opportunities for solitude and isolated recreation along the proposed segments.

Fish and Wildlife: The corridor abounds with unique species. These include: Gilbert's skink, desert bighorn sheep, spotted bat, great egret, snowy egret, black crowned night heron, zone tailed hawk, black hawk, Gila monster, golden eagle, and prairie falcon. There are two unusual plants: the flannelbush, which is being proposed by BLM as a sensitive species, and a small group of Arizona cypress occurring in the northern part. State listed species include: Arizona skink (the only known population). Also present are the Harris hawk, yellow-billed cuckoo, willow

flycatcher, Bell's vireo, summer tanager, yellow warbler, belted kingfisher, vermilion flycatcher, yellow-breasted chat, common yellow throat, southwestern toad, lowland leopard frog, longfin dace, desert tortoise, and the Mexican garter snake.

Ecological: The riparian vegetation and perennial water that occurs in the Hassayampa River is host to 10 special status species. This is the seventh most numerous number of special status species identified out of 17 areas studied in the Upper Sonoran Wilderness Inventory. However, careful and detailed studies of the wildlife have not been performed and it is likely that there are other species in the area. This area is situated in an ecologically strategic location in the west-central portion of the state.

Comments: The river is threatened by placer gold exploration, and indiscriminate ORV use that has resulted in visible damage to the riparian vegetation. Wild & Scenic River designation would ensure that any mining activity be performed in a manner that would protect the other natural values of the canyon. Also threatening the river is a proposed dam that would be located in the Box. This proposed dam has met opposition from horse riders and visitors to the Hassayampa Nature Preserve located south of Wickenburg. Some ORV use also is causing degradation of the riparian segments outside of the newly designated Wilderness area.

ARC Recommendation:

- 28 miles from headwaters at Mt. Davis to the northern wilderness boundaryScenic
- 8 miles through the wilderness to the southwest boundary of the Hassayampa Wilderness..... Wild
- 9 miles from the Hassayampa Wilderness boundary to the mouth of the Hassayampa Box Canyon..... Scenic
- 6 miles from Box Canyon to the Wickenburg bridge...Recreational
- 9 miles from Wickenburg bridge to railroad trestle.....Scenic

In addition to its ecological importance to the west-central part of the state, a free-flowing Hassayampa River is important to the economy of Wickenburg. This town has seen a noticeable increase in tourists from around the country who come to experience the natural riparian values found at The Nature Conservancy's preserve south of town. Preservation of the upstream proposed segments will help ensure the status of the downstream segments. Designation will encourage consistent management of a river that is threatened with senseless ORV use, mining, and a dam. This river is capable of delivering much delight to all of Arizona's citizens.

RIVER NAME: AGUA FRIA RIVER
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 18 miles, from Sycamore Creek down to the
end of Black Mesa below Larry Creek.
MANAGING AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management
PRIVATE LAND: About 1.5 river miles

The Agua Fria (Spanish for "chilly water") is a major tributary of the middle Gila River. Arising east of Prescott, the Agua Fria flows generally south toward Phoenix, a total distance of approximately 100 miles. Downstream, the river is impounded to form Lake Pleasant, which will undergo a \$450+ million expansion when the massive New Waddell Dam, 444 feet high, is completed in 1993 to store CAP canal water. Below the dam all the water from the Agua Fria River is diverted into irrigation canals. Finally, the de-watered riverbed winds its way through west Phoenix and joins the Gila River just downstream of the Salt-Gila confluence.

Proposed for Wild & Scenic River designation is an 18 mile long, middle segment of the Agua Fria. This segment lies in a predominately volcanic formation of the Sonoran desert. Land ownership on the proposed segment will be held mostly by the BLM, which will soon acquire, through exchanges with the Arizona State Land Department, all but 1 or 2 miles retained by 2 or 3 ranches.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Recreation: Opportunities along the proposed segment include hiking, camping, backpacking, cross country trekking, rock climbing, bird watching, family picnicking, and just enjoying the soothing, awesome quiet of the isolated river canyon. Small pools, with their myriad of critters, can stimulate a child's curiosity for hours. Other activities include hunting and dipping in cool pools in the summertime. The river is a rather unknown getaway because the surrounding steep, rough, volcanic terrain protects much of the river from ORV use.

Ecological: In many places, the riparian qualities along the Agua Fria are first rate, such as the dense cottonwood bosque from near Arcosanti down to the area below the confluence with Big Bug Creek. The river bottom varies from quicksand to a boulder-strewn bed. Where the channel is narrow, as through the remote, V-shaped gorge between Black Mesa and Perry Mesa, the river's high flows periodically scour the channel free of vegetation. Where cattle have been excluded from the banks, mature galleries of cottonwood, willow, and sycamore trees grow thick and tall. Also present are mesquite bosques, cattails, and sedges.

The thick vegetation nurtures many bird species, including wintering bald eagle, zone-tailed hawk, and migrating waterfowl. The Agua Fria is one of only a few rivers occurring in the desert at the low elevation of 2,500 feet, and still flowing freely. The water is a magnet for many wild species: javelina, raccoon, badger, coyote, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, Arizona southwestern toad, lowland leopard frog, and Mexican garter snake. The habitat once supported desert bighorn sheep. Fish include a reintroduced population of Gila topminnow, Gila Chub, and longfin dace. More definitive surveys for fish and amphibians await completion of the BLM acquisitions.

Cultural: Archaeologically, the Agua Fria is among the most significant rivers in the state. The river was a major north-south corridor for the prehistoric Hohokam and Salado cultures dating back over 1200 years. A large concentration of petroglyph and ancient ruin sites remain along the river and on the surrounding mesa tops. Vandalism of some sites has already occurred.

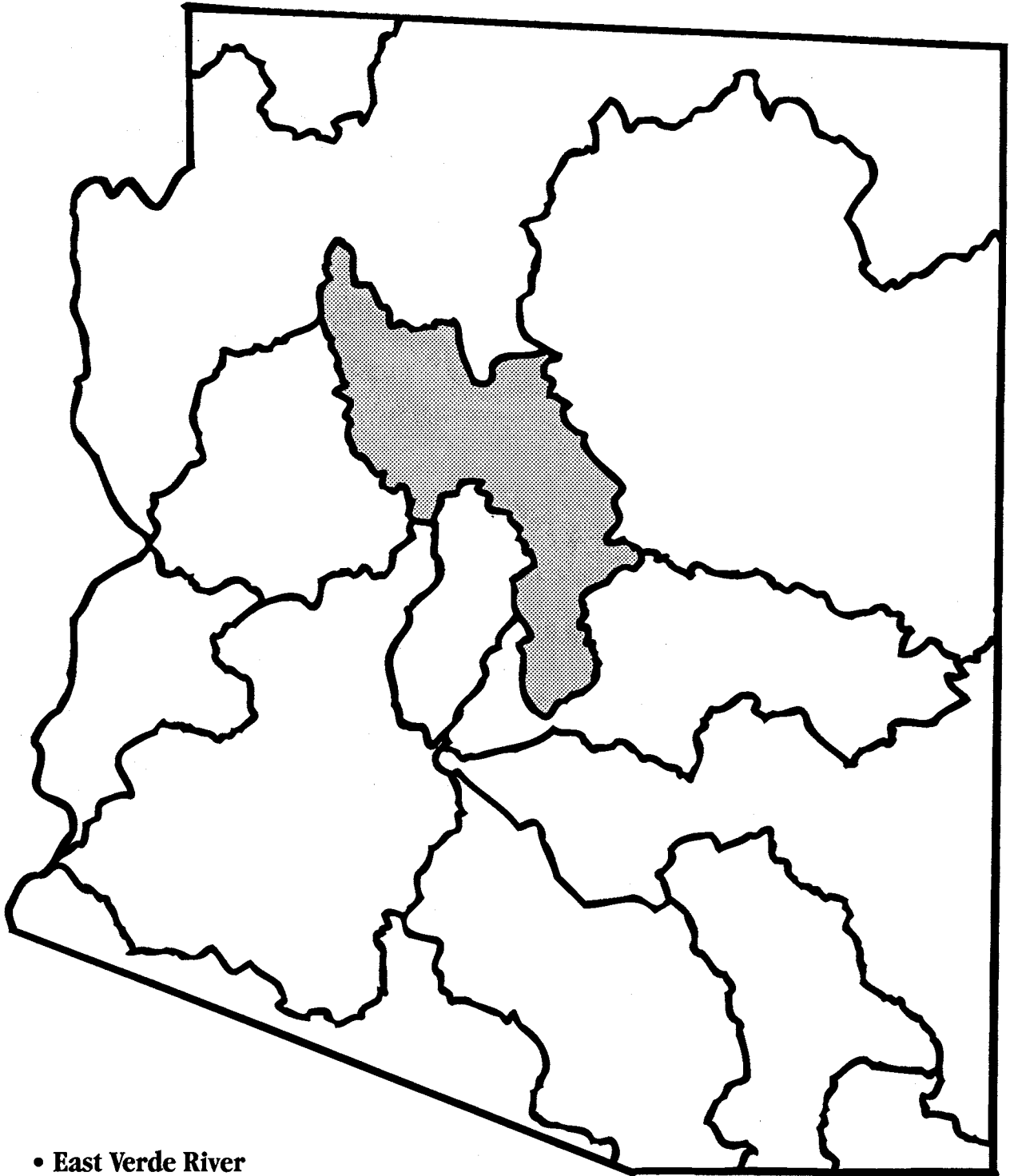
Comments: A few nearby ranches pump groundwater or withdraw water from the river for irrigation of fields. In past times, the Agua Fria flowed perennially, but now suffers from withdrawals that have slowed and, in places, dried up the flow during the hottest periods. No active mining sites are present.

ARC Recommendation:

- 6 miles from Sycamore Creek to Horseshoe Ranch.....Recreational
- 12 miles from Horseshoe Ranch to Larry Creek.....Wild

The proposed segment should be designated as a Wild & Scenic River to ensure protection of its outstandingly remarkable recreational, ecological, and archaeological values. Furthermore, designation of this segment of the Agua Fria River would offset the adverse ecological effects of New Waddell Dam. Moreover, this proposal is compatible with management plans for the dam and the CAP because the resulting improvements in riparian quality on the segment would result in slower, steadier, cleaner flows into the lake. There is great potential for recovery and improvement of riparian values in many portions of the proposed 18 mile Wild & Scenic River segment.

Verde River Basin



- East Verde River
- West Clear Creek
- Beaver Creek
- Oak Creek
- Verde River - Upper
- Verde River - Lower

RIVER NAME: VERDE RIVER
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 9 miles from Red Creek to Horse Creek Canyon at the Sheep Bridge.
MANAGING AGENCIES: Tonto National Forest
PRIVATE LAND: none

The Verde flows through an extraordinarily wild and remote section of Sonoran desert. Cultural development is limited to four-wheel drive access at Red Creek, and two-wheel drive access at Sheep Bridge. The river is perennial, free-flowing, and always boatable in canoes or other shallow draft craft. Rapids are Class one or low Class two. The river contains lots of deep pools.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Recreation: This section always has enough water for low-water boating. It is often used by boaters as part of a trip from Childs to the Sheep Bridge or Horseshoe Dam. A number of private companies hold permits to run commercial rafting trips on this section. There are also a number of established trails along the Verde which are used by both hikers, horsemen, fishermen, hunters, birdwatchers, and day use. There is excellent fishing with some native suckers found.

Fish and Wildlife: Year round flow of the river supports an incredibly lush riparian flora of cottonwood, marshes, and reeds. The segment is a critical habitat for birds including migrating and desert-nesting bald eagle, blue heron, egret, and migrating waterfowl. Other unique species found in the area include river otter, javelina, bear, desert bighorn sheep, among others.

Cultural: Outstanding cultural resources include numerous sites of prehistoric Sinagua Indian habitations, and the Sheep Bridge on the National Registry of Historic Places. Since there has been no active exploration into this remote area, the full extent of cultural resources is not known.

ARC Recommendation:

Entire section from Red Creek to Sheep Bridge.....Wild

This section was excluded from a draft environmental impact statement done by the Forest Service at the request of power and flood control interests. That same study states that this section has all of the values of the section immediately upriver which has been designated as a federal Wild & Scenic River. Congress has chosen not to fund Cliff Dam and the Rio Salado Project has been changed so that upstream flood control as provided by Cliff is not required. These actions remove any impediment to designating this section of the Verde River as a Wild & Scenic River.

RIVER NAME: EAST VERDE RIVER
PROPOSED SEGMENT: Entire 56 miles from headwaters on Mogollon Rim to confluence with the Verde.
MANAGING AGENCY: Tonto National Forest
PRIVATE LAND: Two ranches and scattered private cabins in Beaver Valley, Whispering Pines, Verde Glen, and Washington Park below Mogollon Rim.

Several springs join under the Mogollon Rim, north of Payson, to form the East Verde River. The river flows in a narrow, rocky channel in shallow canyons through mixed conifer forests in the upper reaches, to chaparral woodlands in the mid-section, to the Sonoran Desert zone in the lower reaches. The lower reaches are very primitive, 17 miles being within the Mazatzal Wilderness, and cultural development is low on the remainder. The elevation at the source is 6,800 feet, and falls within 18 miles to 5,300 feet at the intersection of Route 87. The elevation at the Verde River confluence is about 2,480 feet. The river is perennial and free-flowing.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: Flowing in a narrow channel from its source, the river presents visually pleasing sights and water sounds. At the higher elevations, it passes through dense conifer and ponderosa pine forests. Many high cliffs and large boulders make the area visually striking, with some of the finest seams of jasper in the southwest in the canyon walls. The lower section runs through the rugged Mazatzal Wilderness, with breathtaking vistas of the wilderness, ruins, and wildlife dependent upon the river.

Recreation: Camping, backpacking, fishing, birdwatching, hunting, and riding are all popular along the East Verde River. Much of the river is easily accessed, and Arizona Game & Fish Department estimates that there are as many as 50,000 user days per year for recreation along the banks of the East Verde.

Fish and Wildlife: As a corridor from the upper elevations to the Sonoran Desert life zone, the East Verde River supports many species of special interest. The Chiricahua, lowland, and northern leopard frog are known to depend upon the habitat provided by the East Verde. The Gila roundtail chub, a federally listed species is thought to live in the river. Dozens of birds use this corridor as a migration route. This is an important river to wildlife in the state.

Cultural: While no inventory has been done of the archeological sites, it is estimated by the Tonto National Forest that there are over 100 sites dating from 5,000 years ago to Apache sites along the river corridor. Pot hunting within some of these sites is an ongoing problem.

Comments: The Phelps Dodge Company has an agreement with Salt River Project to pump water into the East Verde, which it gets from the Blue Ridge Reservoir. Phelps Dodge has done this for 25 years, and has plans to continue to do so. This allow them access to water in the Morenci area where copper mines are located. During the summer of 1990, Phelps Dodge had equipment problems which caused the stopping of its water pumping for one month. Even at its lowest, however, the East Verde continued to flow and support its population of trout. Wild & Scenic River designation would not affect this agreement.

ARC Recommendation:

Headwaters to F.S. Road #209.....Recreational
F. S. Road #209 down to Mazatzal Wilderness boundary.....Scenic
Wilderness boundary to confluence with the Verde.....Wild

Inclusion of the East Verde River in the Wild & Scenic River Act will ensure proper management and protection of the fragile upstream riparian areas. Without designation, the East Verde River could sustain losses to its unique values: fishing, birding, scenic vistas, recreation, and archaeology. The management plan can control the impact of the currently heavy use on the upstream segments by an ever-growing urban population in central Arizona. Residents in the upper section are rather distrustful of government intervention in their neighborhood. In 1990, they opposed improvement to the road in the area of the Highline Trail Crossing and the installation of a vault toilet in the area. This distrust may be due to not enough information. The protection of the river flow would be to their advantage, and an educational process of the residents is being pursued by ARC.

Designation of the segment within the Mazatzal Wilderness will strengthen the case for an adequate flow of water, without damming or diversion, to protect the biologic richness now present.

RIVER NAME: **WEST CLEAR CREEK**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 60 miles from headwaters to confluence with Verde River
MANAGING AGENCY: Coconino National Forest
PRIVATE LAND: Bull Pen Ranch, which is in the process of being traded to the Coconino National Forest

Five miles west of Clint's Well, Willow and Clover Creeks flow together at the bottom of a deep and narrow canyon to create West Clear Creek. Just above that confluence, those streams cross the boundary of a wilderness area created in 1984 that stretches almost the entire length of the stream's course to its end at the Verde River. The canyon that West Clear Creek has cut along this course is so deep and narrow that to proceed down it one is required to swim several pools that stretch from canyon wall to canyon wall. Michael Kelsey counted 49 such pools in negotiating only two thirds of the canyon for his book "Canyon Hiking Guide to the Colorado Plateau." Twenty-eight of those pools he had to swim.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: West Clear Creek Canyon is remarkable for its deep narrow passageways cut through red sandstones of the Supai formation. Bright beams of sunlight illuminate the canyon walls while a green filtered glow characterizes the canyon floor hidden beneath a canopy of riparian vegetation. In the fall, maples, poison ivy, willows, and alders offer red and yellow contrasts to the canyons lush greenery. Scenery is unmatched, ranging from wind and water sculpted red rocks to petrified dunes of buff sandstone and high cliffs of dark basalt.

Recreation: Superior opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation exist as this stream is exceedingly remote for most of its length. For years, fishing for trout has been a primary reason for descending the rugged slopes to access West Clear Creek. Trails leading into the canyon from the rim are popular with hikers and backpackers seeking good fishing and secluded swimming holes. It is possible to hike the entire length of West Clear Creek, although swimming and wading best describe the mode of travel through much of the canyons bottom. Trails that lead up from the canyon mouth get a lot of use by hikers, anglers, backpackers, and car campers who use the primitive forest service campground near Bull Pen Ranch.

Geologic: West Clear Creek flows southward from the Mogollon Rim which forms the southern border of the Colorado Plateau. Kaibab limestone is overlain by more recently deposited basalt in the upper canyon. Coconino and Supai sandstones dominate the inner canyon and give way to redwall limestone in the lower reaches of West Clear Creek.

Fish and Wildlife: Federal and state threatened and endangered species that depend on the stream corridor include the southern bald eagle, osprey, peregrine falcon, mexican black hawk, bugbane, spikedace, and possibly the river otter. Mule deer, elk, black bear, mountain lion, coues whitetail deer and other more common animal species thrive along the stream and the surrounding country side. The riparian habitat also supports a diverse avian community.

Ecological: The forests of the Mogollon Rim and its deeply incised canyons which descend to deserts support some of the most diverse plant and animal life found anywhere in the United States. Mixed-conifer forests found on north-facing cliffs are juxtaposed with chaparral and desert communities on opposing south-facing slopes. Such variety offers nesting habitat for red-faced warblers and other birds which spend the winter in tropical rainforests, and provides for abundant year round residents such as the Mexican spotted owl.

Cultural: Prehistoric cliff dwellings, petroglyphs, and artifacts are found throughout West Clear Creek Canyon.

Comments: Major threats to West Clear Creek and it ecosystem include the detrimental impacts of cattle grazing, steep slope logging above the canyon rim along the stream's upper reaches and over use by recreationists near areas of easiest access. There are no impoundments along its length and only a few irrigation ditches detract from its flow.

ARC Recommendation:

Headwaters down to wilderness boundary.....Wild

Wilderness boundary to confluence with the Verde.....Recreational

West Clear Creek was featured in National Geographic's book, America's Wild and Scenic Rivers. In 1984, most of the West Clear Creek watershed was designated as a wilderness area in recognition of its outstanding opportunities for solitude and unparalleled natural beauty. Wild & Scenic designation would be very appropriate and compatible to the wilderness designation. West Clear Creek is rich in plant and animal diversity, including representative species from desert, chaparral, forest, and riparian communities. Its striking topography and scenery make it a premier candidate for an Arizona Wild & Scenic River. Unofficially, West Clear Creek is recognized as one of Arizona's wildest and most scenic streams. Let's make it official.

RIVER NAME: **BEAVER CREEK**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 33 miles from approximately 2 miles south of the Apache Maid Work Station down to confluence with the Verde.
MANAGING AGENCIES: National Forest and National Park Service.
PRIVATE LAND: Approximately 9 river miles.

Beaver Creek is located in north-central Arizona and originates along the windward slopes of the Mogollon Rim. Crossing the northeast corner of Yavapai County, Beaver Creek is a major tributary to the Verde River forming its confluence near the town of Camp Verde. Approximately 8 miles upstream from the river, the creek forks into the sporadically flowing Dry Beaver Creek and the perennial Wet Beaver Creek. This 33 mile segment excludes the Dry Beaver basin and includes the constantly flowing Wet Beaver Creek from the rim to its confluence with the Verde.

The area's topography originates in the pine forests of the Mogollon Rim and quickly drops into a rugged sandstone canyon possessing the exceptionally dramatic scenery one would expect of the geologic cousin of the more famous Oak Creek Canyon north of Sedona. After the narrow canyon opens into pinyon pine and juniper woodlands the creek proceeds into the Sonoran desert scrub characteristic of the lower reaches of the Verde Valley. Throughout the segment the creek's continual flow nurtures some of the richest remaining cottonwood and sycamore growth within Arizona.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: In the upper region of the segment, the creek has eroded deeply into the Mogollon Rim and is characterized by steep topography, lush riparian growth, and numerous pools which reflect the colorful red rock sandstone walls of the canyon. The creek's inherent ruggedness has precluded roadways, subsequently impeding public recognition of the canyon's geologic features. This preserved beauty has earned most of the upper canyon a designation as wilderness, thereby limiting access to non-mechanized travel. As the creek emerges from the rim, it nurtures a rich riparian belt lined with cottonwood, sycamore, alder, ash, and willow trees. As the creek approaches its Verde confluence, the dense riparian vegetation continues while desert species such as prickly pear cactus, mesquite, and creosote bush predominate in the surrounding terrain. Numerous Sinagua Indian ruins are present along the waterway, the most notable of which are Montezuma Castle and Montezuma Well National Monuments, both of which are readily accessible by road and attract significant quantities of tourists.

Recreation: The upper segment's wilderness designation gives testimony to the striking beauty which explains the areas popularity for picnicking, swimming, and both day and overnight hiking. The lower segments are more easily accessed by automobile and receive extensive recreational use in the form of

sightseeing, especially at the National Monuments. The segment between Montezuma Castle and the Verde is used for boating during the spring runoff season.

Geologic: Beaver Creek has eroded its upper canyon through the volcanic basalt which forms the top of the Mogollon Rim, the southern boundary of the Colorado Plateau. As the creek progresses in a southwesterly direction, it advances through much of the same sedimentary layers which characterize the Grand Canyon: the Kaibab, Toroweap, Coconino, Supai, and Hermit formations. The lower segment features a chalk-like limestone called the Verde formation which are interlayered with pink silt and sand brought in by streams.

Fish and Wildlife: Besides 21 species of fish and over fifty different species of birds, the rivers riparian habitat hosts the bald eagle, a federally listed endangered species. Arizona state endangered fish species include the Colorado River roundtail chub and the Gila robusta, while endangered bird species include the osprey, Mexican black hawk, and bell's vireo. The creeks dependable supply of water lures other game and non-game wildlife to the area such as quail, dove, mule and white-tailed deer, javelina, elk, and bobcat. Beavers, from which the creek obtains its name, also inhabit its waters.

Cultural: Prehistoric Indians are believed to have inhabited the Beaver Creek watershed almost 10,000 years ago. Agriculture and pottery emerged around 700 A.D. and trading was established with tribes as distant as central Mexico. Culture in the region substantially increased in the early 12th century along with a surge in the frequency of dwellings along the creek. For still unknown reasons, the area was abandoned by 1425 A.D. Yavapai and Tonto Indians later inhabited the region prior to the first visit by Spaniards in 1583.

ARC Recommendation:

Apache Maid to northern boundary of Section 22
private property near Beaver Creek Ranger Station.....Wild

Section 22 property to confluence with the
Verde River.....Recreational

The upper segment of Beaver Creek offers the unique opportunity to observe a perennial stream in a steep walled red rock canyon like Oak Creek without the presence of an adjacent roadway. The creek nourishes an exceptionally rich riparian habitat with sycamore trees in excess of 6 feet in diameter. The extensive Indian history found along the banks of the creek give testimony to the waters importance to the human as well as animal life of the region. Even though a great portion of this creek is in a wilderness area, Wild & Scenic designation would provide protective and consistent management for the entire length of this deserving river.

RIVER NAME: **OAK CREEK and WEST FORK OF OAK CREEK**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 12 miles of West Fork from Casner Cabin Draw to Oak Creek confluence.
13 miles of Oak Creek from Sterling Springs Fish Hatchery to Midgely Bridge.
MANAGING AGENCY: Coconino National Forest
PRIVATE LAND: About 15 percent along Oak Creek, none along the West Fork.

Oak Creek has its headwaters in the Sterling Springs area. It cuts through the Mogollon Rim and flows south to its confluence with the Verde River. High elevations at the source allow for a community of ponderosa pine. Further downstream, pinyon and juniper woodlands surround the drainage. The West Fork starts at about elevation 7000 feet and joins Oak Creek at about elevation 5000 feet. The last two thirds of its length is perennial. West Fork percolates along in a clear clean spring-fed shallow flow.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: The watershed is a transitional life zone of great diversity from ponderosa pine and fir forest to live oak-pinyon-juniper & Arizona cypress woodlands to deciduous sycamores-alders-cottonwoods to chaparral & desert scrub and grasslands. The Oak Creek area is famous for its red rock and towering cliffs. West Fork is a more intimate canyon where red maples and pine trees grow and where the cliffs are stained with desert varnish from numerous water seeps.

Recreation: Year-round fishing in Oak Creek for stocked trout. Hiking over a myriad of trails and forest roads throughout the canyon. Abundant opportunities for sight-seeing and bird-watching. Camping and picnicking at established sites. Water enthusiasts can swim in the many pools along the creek or ride down the chute at Slide Rock State Park.

Geologic: Inland seas, desert dunes windblown, earthquakes, volcanoes and years of erosion formed the mesas, buttes, spires and canyons of sandstone, siltstone, mudstone, limestone, and basalt. The whole area has extensive cracks and faults with underground caverns (some become sinkholes). Millions of years of evolution have been exposed in these cliffs through the work of wind and water.

Fish and Wildlife: Oak Creek and its side canyons are home to bald eagles, peregrine falcons, osprey, yellow-billed cuckoo, and many more sensitive bird species. Historically it was the home of the river otter. Arizona Game and Fish manages game and non-game wildlife, providing seasonal hunting for deer, elk, quail, bear, pheasant and squirrel; year-round hunting for other mammals and birds.

Ecological: Clear clean spring water and diverse and lush riparian vegetation provides habitats, cover, food and drink for wildlife. The creek filters pollutants, controls erosion, and lowers summer temperatures. Along the West Fork this diversity allows for plants to grow in close association that are not normally seen in the same area.

Cultural: In Oak Creek the upper canyon contains hunting camps and rock shelters from an early period. From Steamboat down there are more than 50 Indian sites. The agricultural southern Sinaguas were established from about 600 A.D. to 1400 A.D. Evidence also points to Apache and Pai groups in the area about 100 years before the Spanish arrived. Along the West Fork Zane Grey had a cabin near the confluence of Oak Creek and wrote a book titled "Call of the Canyon" about the area.

Comments: Oak Creek was designated as Unique Water of Recreational and Ecological Significance in 1985 by the State Water Quality Control Council. There is a new regional Interagency Working Team of county supervisors, forest service officials, the mayor of Sedona and selected citizens to determine the manner of permanent protection for Red Rock Country, stemming from a desire to keep forest service land under the service's jurisdiction. Oak Creek is within the EPA's ADID program (advanced identification of stream areas suitable or unsuitable as disposal fill sites). Congress designated the Oak Creek Scenic Area in 1949 from the headwaters to just south of Sedona. The West Fork has about 14 miles designated part of the Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness, with about 6 miles of this length additionally protected by Congress as the Oak Creek Research Natural Area.

ARC Recommendation:

- The 12 mile segment of West Fork.....Wild
- The 13 mile segment of Oak Creek.....Scenic

For the benefit of present and future generations it is imperative to preserve the unique natural heritage of West Fork and Oak Creek Canyon, which has long lent itself to scientific research. The provisions on the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act could help to permanently protect the spectacular scenic geologic formations, clean perennial spring-fed stream with its seasonal waterfalls, balanced ecosystem of eight major plant communities, and diverse wildlife population which includes some endangered species.

Currently, an interagency task force is working on a regional plan for the protection of the natural environment. This group was formed by public demand. Wild & Scenic River designation for West Fork and Oak Creek would also help to require a consistent management plan for these areas, one of the most beautiful geologic wonders in Arizona and the United States.

The upper Verde River and is rare among Arizona streams and rivers in that it still maintains a strong native fish community. In addition to the federally protected spikedace, native species include the longfin dace, desert sucker, Sonora sucker, roundtail chub, and speckled dace. These native species are able to dominate over such introduced species as the red shiner, mosquitofish, yellow bullhead, carp, channel catfish, and smallmouth bass, which dominate all river segments below TAPCO. The mouth of Sycamore also supports native fishes including the desert sucker, Gila sucker, and roundtail chub.

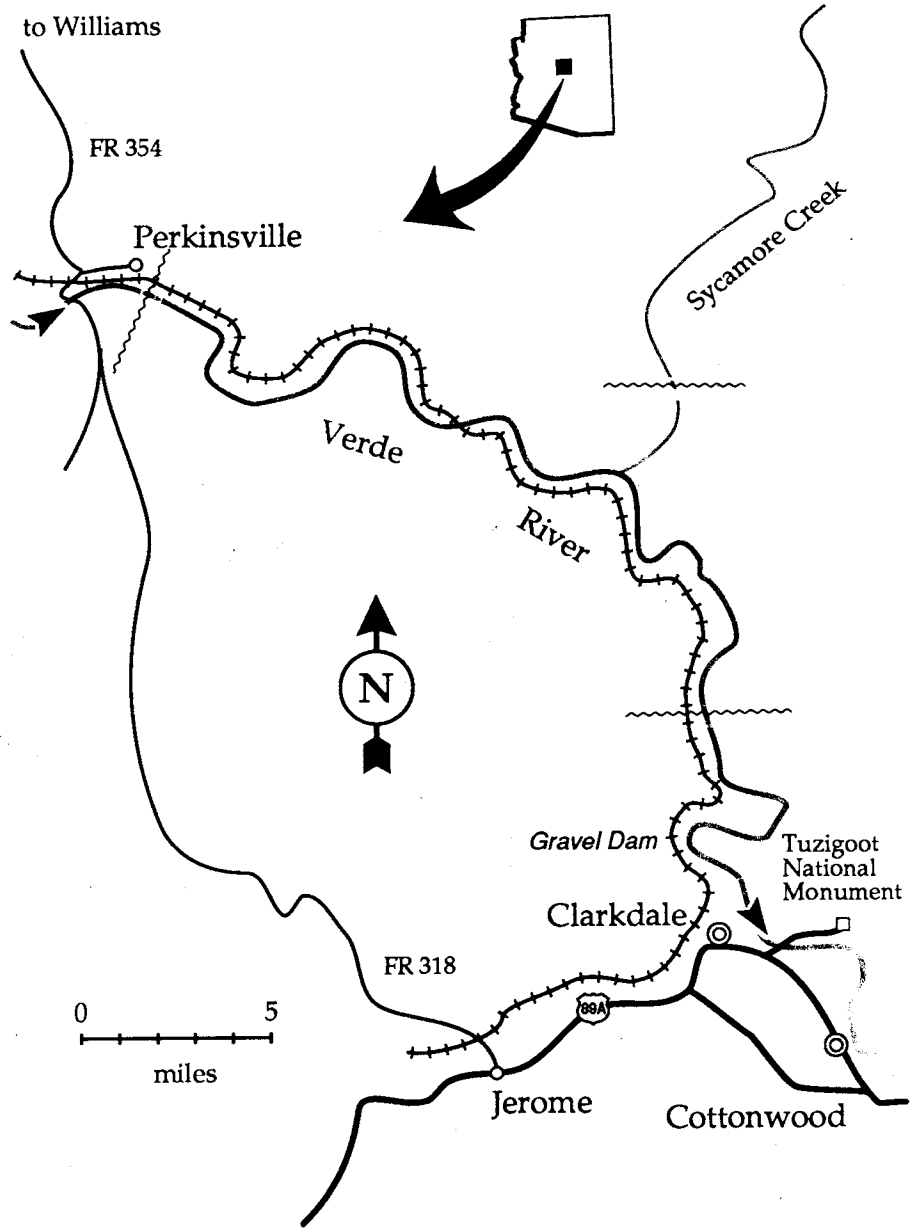
Other species of significant interest are the reintroduced populations of river otters, razorback suckers, and Colorado River squawfish, as well as the economically important bobcat, mountain lion, beaver, grey fox, coyote, raccoon, ringtail cat, green-wing teal, blue-wing teal, cinnamon teal, mallard, common merganser, quail, wild turkey, and white-tailed deer.

Historic and Cultural: Only limited surveys have been conducted along the upper Verde River corridor and tributaries, however, information gained from the recorded sites shows the area to contain outstandingly remarkable historic and cultural values. Many of the sites are considered to be geographically significant and also represent an important era in the development of the Southwest. Further investigation is expected to produce many sites of National Register significance. Confirmed prehistoric sites from the Southern Sinagua and Yavapai cultures can be found all along the Verde Valley. Historic sites include Verde Valley Railroad, a narrow gage railway constructed in 1911 to connect Clarkdale with the Ash Fork-Prescott Railroad.

Recreation: Due to the unique qualities of this or any desert stream, residents of the Verde Valley and others have relied on the river for a variety of activities otherwise not available. Among these activities are hunting, fishing, camping, picnicking, bird and wildlife watching, swimming, and boating. The value of the upper Verde has been underestimated in terms of opportunities for boating. These low levels allow reasonable low-water boating for canoeists and kayakers. Because the water levels are relatively constant all year, canoeists and kayakers can float this stretch during any season. The upper Verde constitutes one of Arizona's best floatable reaches that provide high quality wildlife viewing.

Geologic: Much of the unique geology of the Southwest can be found along the Verde River. Formations typically found in the Grand Canyon such as the Redwall and Muav Limestone and the Supai Formation are found along the river channel in the canyon just below Perkinsville and in the small canyons just downstream from the U.S. Mine. These formations create a variety of interesting grottoes, overhangs, ledges, window rocks, and balancing rocks. Sycamore Creek offers exciting geological variety as it drops through the Mogollon Rim.

VERDE RIVER-UPPER



RIVER NAME: **BURRO CREEK**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 62 miles from Scratch Canyon (below the Luis Maria Baca Float No. 5) to the confluence with the Big Sandy River, including seven miles of Frances Creek.
MANAGING AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Land Department.
PRIVATE LAND: Approximately 10%, all on the lower reaches.

Burro Creek rises at 5310 feet in the Luis Maria Baca Float #5, an old Spanish land grant flowing southward to the Big Sandy River, a tributary of the Bill Williams River. The upper section of Burro Creek is diverse both in the number of species it supports, and the scenic qualities of the river and surrounding vistas. The riparian vegetation is lush and varied, with the river banks literally springing to life due to the valuable water carried by Burro Creek. Juniper trees and saguaros grow in the same area on the surrounding hills, one of the few places in Arizona where this plant association occurs. The lower stretches of the river also contain variety in wildlife and geology, with an abundant riparian community. The canyons give way to a barren beauty with much geologic diversity. Burro Creek is perennial and free flowing along its entire length, although the portions of the lower stretch may be reduced to pools in very dry years.

Francis Creek is perennial downstream of the thermal springs which are about seven miles upstream of Burro Creek. During low flow seasons, it is estimated that Francis Creek supplies approximately 85% of the downstream flow in Burro Creek.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: The river runs through terrain of incredibly varied geology and scenic quality. There are gorges, narrows, pools of clear water, cascades, and wide open, gentle stretches. In some sections, high rock walls line deep pools with up to five foot waterfalls. The shorelines are "largely uncluttered by activities of man" in the words of the BLM. The canyon walls give way to many side canyons, which provide incredible scenery, wildlife and oasis-like vegetation. The riparian vegetation provides scenic relief in the arid desert.

Recreation: Miles of canyons and valley provide abundant recreational opportunities. The BLM stated that "recreational opportunities (are) unmatched in this area."

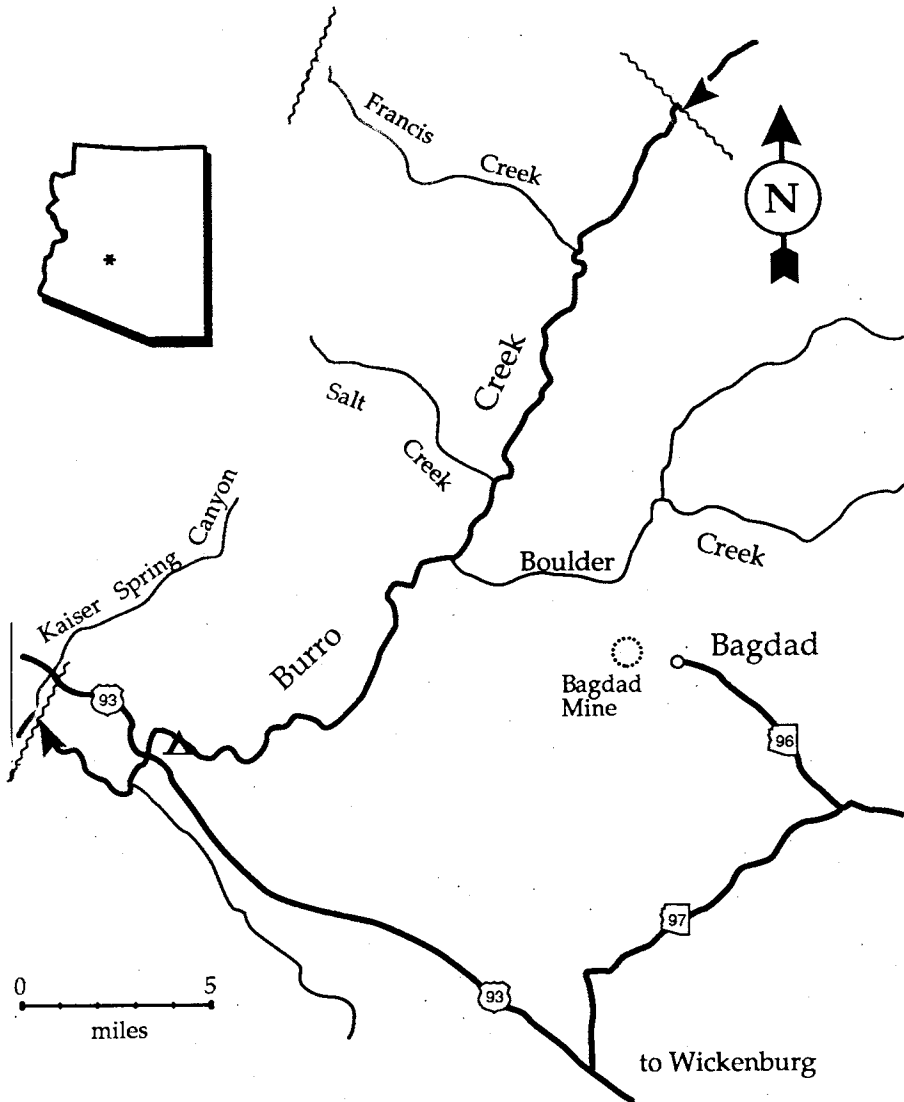
Geologic: The geology of the Burro Creek watershed is complex, manifesting evidence of several distinct periods of volcanism. Areas of undivided schist, granite, and silicic volcanic rocks may be found in the Boulder Creek drainage, interspersed with Precambrian granites and quartz monzonite. Breccia pipes, extinct volcanic structures, and extensive faulting remain in the Burro Creek drainage, testifying to the area's violent geologic past. Gila conglomerate and related deposits of Tertiary origin form the major sedimentary rock types in the area, and are found along the bottoms of the river valleys. The headwaters flow across recent Tertiary volcanics, mostly basalts, and incise precambrian granite gneiss further downstream.

Fish and Wildlife: Wildlife in the area is diverse and abundant, owing to the richness of topographic and vegetative diversity, and the availability of permanent water. There are 267 species in the area, 150 of which are birds, and 17 of which are listed under some special status. The BLM stated that "no other area in Arizona enjoys the same diversity of wildlife." They also said that "the riparian habitat associated with this area supports the greatest recorded diversity of birds of prey anywhere in the United States."

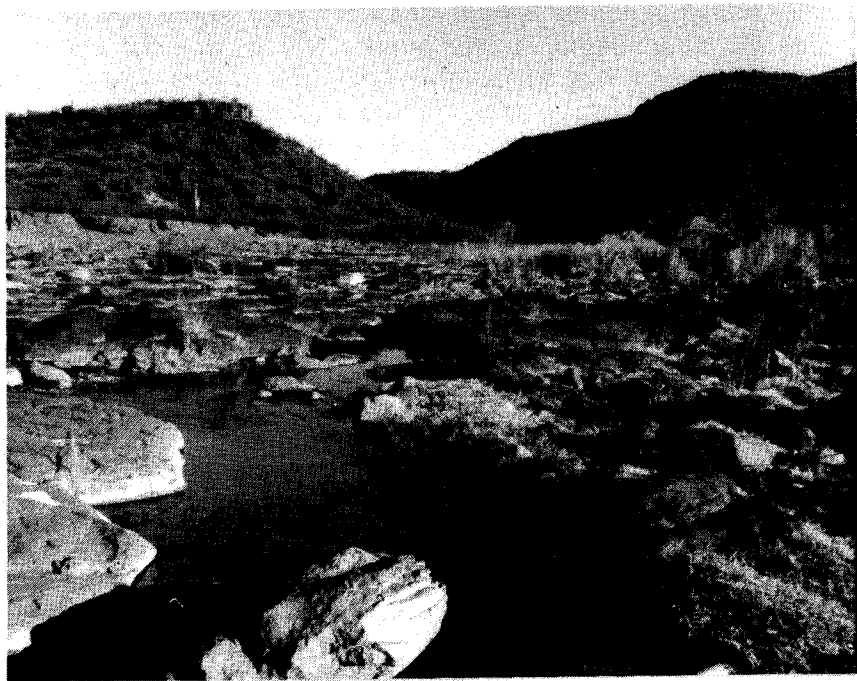
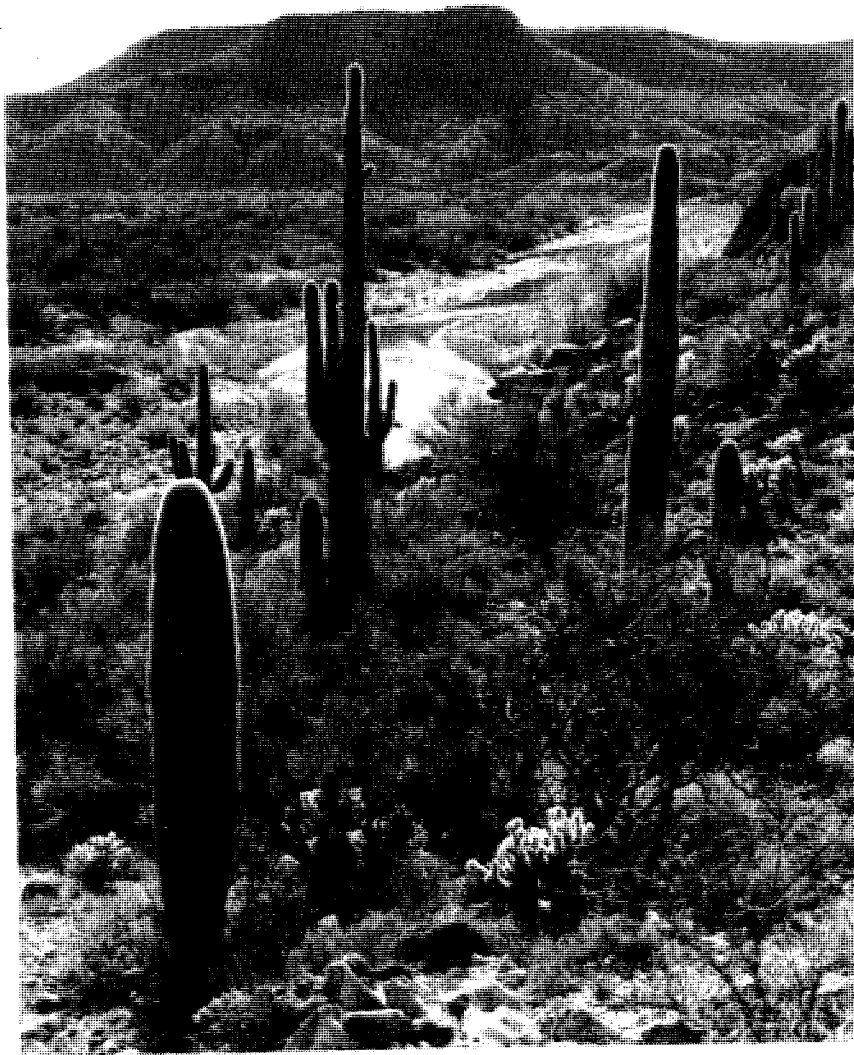
Ecological: The most outstanding ecological value of Burro Creek is its importance as one of the few remaining healthy riparian areas in Arizona. It is essential for the survival of many species and "provides a major stronghold for...riparian dependent species" (BLM). There are six major plant communities in the area; the paloverde/saguaro, the juniper/pinyon, the interior chaparral, the cottonwood/willow, the mesquite bosque, and the mixed broadleaf communities. The Fremont cottonwood/Goodding willow community has been described by the Wilderness Society as the "rarest forest in North America." Portions of Burro Creek have been designated as "unique waters" by the state of Arizona, due to the exceptional quality of the water.

Cultural: The Burro Creek river corridor contains many sites of prehistoric cultural value. It was a site where the Prescott Culture of the Patayan people made their homes in the early part of this millennia. Important petroglyph sites have been discovered on canyon walls. A prehistoric obsidian mine was unearthed in the area, and dwelling sites are present. These dwellings are the western-most known occurrence of multi-storied stone masonry pueblos of the Prescott Culture from A.D. 1200.

BURRO CREEK



SANTA MARIA RIVER



Threats and conflicts to designation: Although there is presently little mineral development in the Santa Maria River corridor, there is a threat of future mineral exploration and extraction in the riverbed. ARC feels that the sections we are recommending as "wild" need protection from possible future mineral development to safeguard the riparian values. Off-road vehicle operation in these areas could also be a potential threat to the fragile riparian areas. Designation as a Wild & Scenic River would give the BLM a good management tool in re-routing ORV use away from the river.

There are no known existing conflicts to the designation of this river. BLM has stated that it does not recommend designation of the segment between the Kingman Resource Area and Highway 96, because of the amount of land that crosses over private and state lands. However, the status of private, state, or federal lands does not need to change with designation, and may enhance the value of the lands.

ARC Recommendation:

- 18 miles from Cottonwood Spring to confluence of Sycamore Creek.....Wild
- 9 miles from Sycamore Creek to confluence with Kirkland Creek.....Wild
- 9 miles from Kirkland Creek to Hwy. 96.....Wild
- 15 miles from Hwy. 96 to Hwy. 93.....Wild
- 29.5 miles from Hwy. 93 to Alamo Lake.....Wild

The Santa Maria River is a long, healthy, and essentially undisturbed riparian area, with incredible scenic and biotic diversity. From the headwaters to the end of the river, the terrain, vegetation, and wildlife show marked diversity. The diversity arises from the year-round water that flows through most sections of the riverbed, supporting countless species of plant and animal life. The Santa Maria is one of Arizona's longest free-flowing rivers, and is a vital component in the states system of riparian habitat. The Bureau of Land Management sums up the importance of the area with the following quote: "(The Santa Maria River) is one of the most important desert riparian ecosystems in the state of Arizona."

RIVER NAME: **BILL WILLIAMS RIVER**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 22 miles, from Alamo Dam to boundary with Planet Ranch
MANAGING AGENCY: BLM 15 miles, State 3 miles
PRIVATE LAND: Approximately 4 miles

The river is swift just below the dam, winding through a 600 foot deep canyon, between Rawhide and Buckskin Mountains. This canyon becomes so narrow that in places a person has to walk in the stream. The Bill Williams River supports strips of riparian woodland along its entire length. The river banks are well vegetated with mesquite, seep willow, inkweed, salt cedar, cottonwood, and arrowweed. These riparian plant communities contrast starkly with the surrounding upland sparse vegetation of palo verde and cactus. The river slows and gets shallower farther downstream with the water running sub-surface in the Havasu Resource Management Area during minimum water releases from Alamo Dam. There are no obstructions or impoundments below Alamo Dam.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: The Bill Williams River is in a beautiful, rugged, remote canyon with high cliffs above it in its upper reaches. The river's lush riparian flora contrast sharply with the sparse desert saguaro and palo verde vegetation above the river. There are steep cliffs with red and brown rock outcropping. The Banded Canyon stretch of the river is especially dramatic.

Recreation: There are general sight-seeing, hiking and photography opportunities. Rock-hounding, bird-watching, hiking and chances for solitude abound. People also hunt and fish directly below Alamo Dam, and this area also has higher water flows which allows for river rafting.

Geologic: There are steep cliffs with red and brown rock outcroppings of alternating layers of gneiss and schist. The alluvial soils found in the floodplain are formed from granite and/or basalt. Where cattle grazing pressure has been reduced in the Kingman Resource Area, riparian vegetation has come back, soil is beginning to build up and to store water for riparian use.

Fish and Wildlife: A pair of bald eagles nest at Alamo Lake just above the dam and use the river corridor downstream. State listed endangered species that can be found there are the willow flycatcher, California black rail and great egret. Also occurring here are the following species which are listed as threatened in Arizona - yellow-billed cuckoo, snowy egret, ferruginous hawk, osprey, and lowland leopard frog. State candidate species found here are the American bittern, least bittern, common black hawk and belted kingfisher. Also found along the river are the long billed curlew, swainson's hawk, white-faced ibis, Arizona bell's vireo and the Gila monster, which are federal candidate or category species.

Other significant birds found here include the yellow-breasted chat, ruby-crowned kinglet, yellow warbler, Lucy's warbler, Wilson's warbler, brown-crested flycatcher, summer tanager, vermilion flycatcher, black phoebe, and numerous migrating ducks and geese.

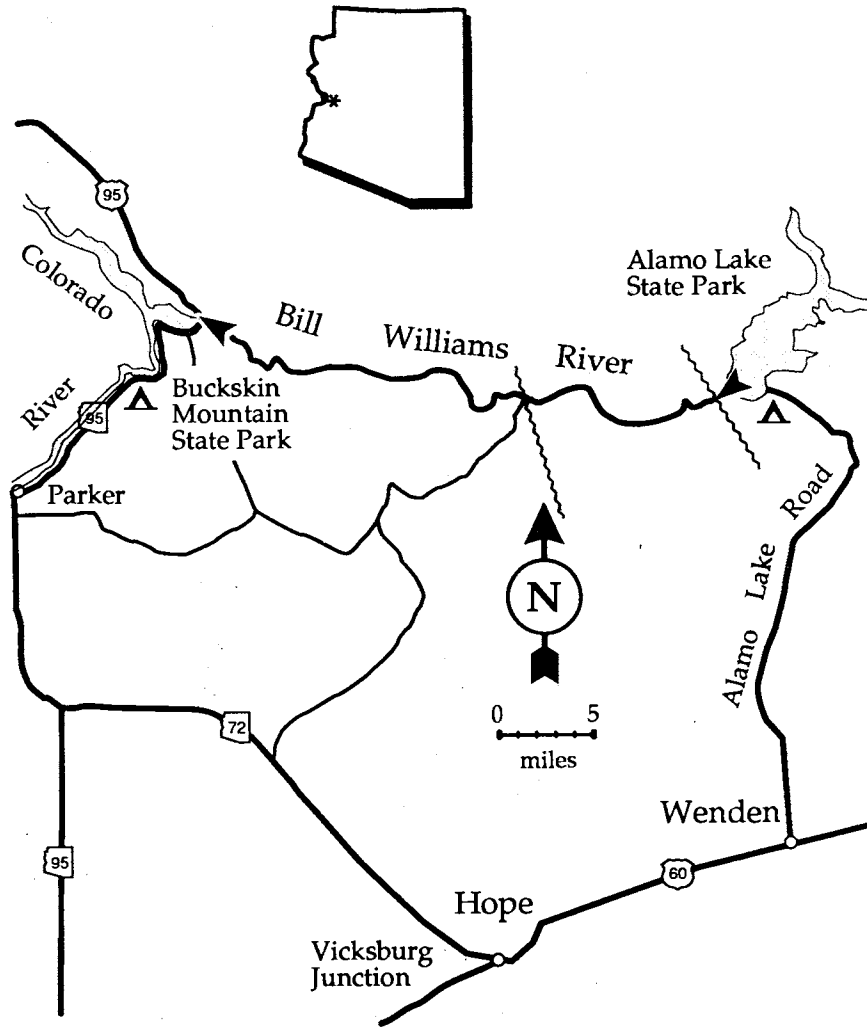
Fish known to occur in the river include green sunfish, redshiner, mosquito carp, channel catfish and bullhead catfish. Native fish that may occur here or are historical are the longfin dace, desert sucker, sonora sucker and the roundtail chub.

Ecological: The Bill Williams River is a precious resource for bighorn sheep, more than 100 species of birds, and numerous plant and fish species. The riparian vegetation has been reduced to less than half of its historical coverage, mainly due to agricultural uses. This riparian area is a vital life-line for many species, and it deserves protection.

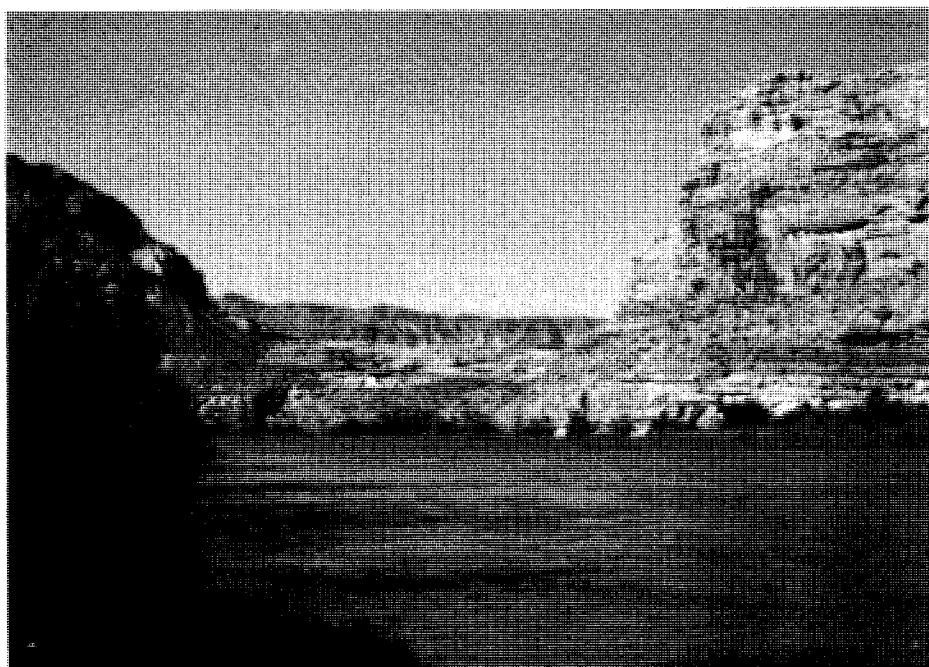
Cultural: Although native Americans probably used the river area, the BLM office in Kingman is not aware of any cultural sites along the river. There is an old aqueduct from the river to Lincoln Ranch which may have some historical value.

Comments: The main threat appears to be possible conflicts over water rights and over the amount of water released by the dam. Currently 10 cfs or in-flow, whichever is less, is released from the dam. The Kingman Resource Area office of the BLM has filed for in-flow water rights and the City of Scottsdale, which owns Planet Ranch, has also filed for water rights. Recognizing the importance of the riparian areas, the Havasu Regional office of the BLM has removed cattle, although there are some strays remaining. The University of Arizona Department of Geoscience has recommended the establishment of the Banded Canyon Natural Landmark.

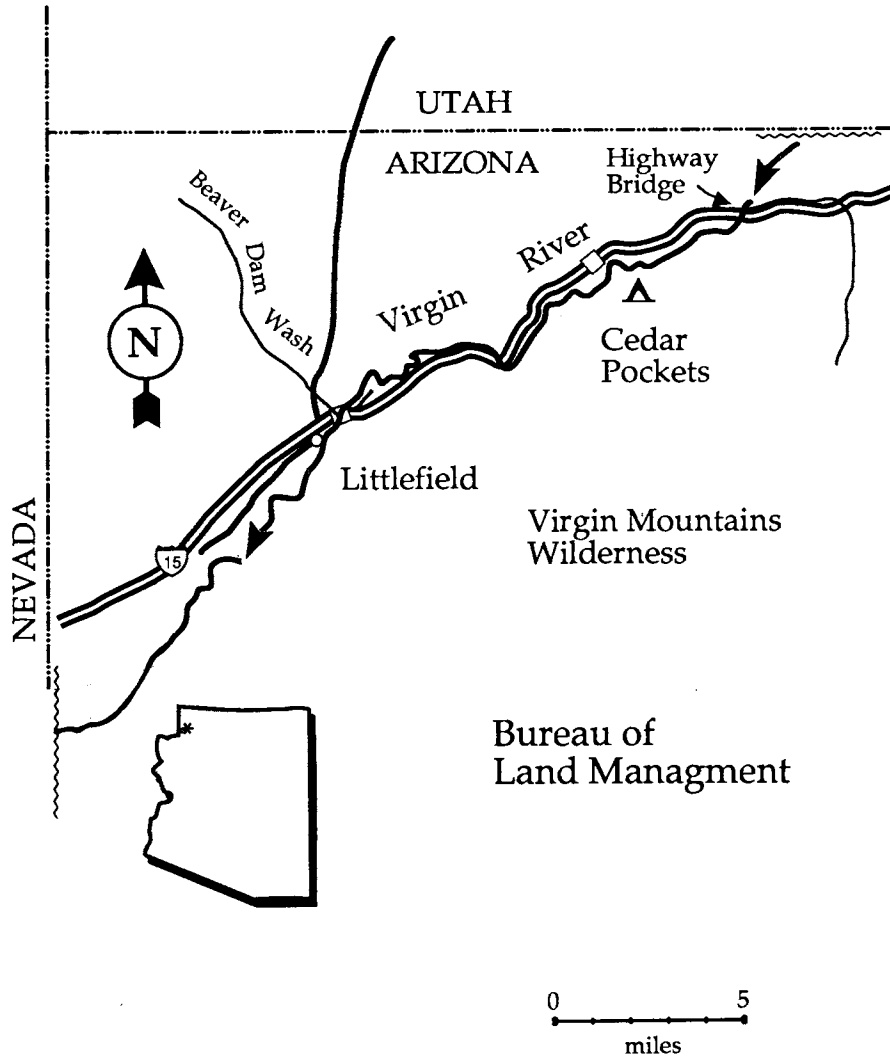
BILL WILLIAMS RIVER



VIRGIN RIVER



VIRGIN RIVER



RIVER NAME: **KANAB CREEK**
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 80 miles from southern boundary of Kaibab Paiute Indian Reservation to confluence with the Colorado.
MANAGING AGENCIES: Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Land Department, Kaibab National Forest.
PRIVATE LAND: 140 acre parcel near the confluence of Snake Gulch and Kanab Creek.

Kanab Creek flows southward out of Utah. It is a tributary to the Colorado River and forms a deeply cut canyon across the Arizona Strip into the Grand Canyon. It is one of the most beautiful and rugged canyons in Arizona and offers ideal habitat for peregrine falcons and desert bighorn sheep. Its aesthetic and ecological values are characterized by hanging gardens such as Shower Bath Spring and 1800 foot vertical walls formed of paleozoic sediments unique to the Grand Canyon. Kanab Creek is an essential component of the Grand Canyon ecosystem. It provides riparian, desert, and forest habitats which are a contiguous and integral part of the interrelated flora and fauna of the Grand Canyon. Approximately 15 miles of lower Kanab Creek are in Grand Canyon National Park; 25 miles are within the Kaibab National Forest Kanab Creek Wilderness Area; and 40 miles within jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: Dramatic topography, multicolored sedimentary rocks, waterfalls, and verdant riparian vegetation contribute to Kanab Creek's extravaganza of scenic offerings. It is a photographer's paradise that is filled with many lifetimes of wonderment.

Recreation: Rugged backcountry hiking, camping, rockclimbing, birdwatching, and other related activities are available throughout the proposed segment of Kanab Creek. Perennial pools and springs are scattered throughout the canyon in dry years and Kanab Creek flows year-round in wetter years. Flash flooding is a significant danger to hikers during the late summer.

Geologic: Over a billion years of geologic history are exposed in the chasm of Kanab Creek. It offers fossils, faults, unconformities, and abundant examples of diverse depositional environments. The paleozoic section of the canyon is the same as that seen from the South Rim of the Grand Canyon encompassing the Kaibab through the Muav Limestones. When Kanab Creek floods, it carries sediments essential to maintaining beaches and riparian habitat along the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon.

Fish and Wildlife: Near the Colorado River, native fish include humpback sucker, speckled dace, and varieties of chub. Kanab Creek is important spawning habitat for endangered and native fish, and the lower stretches provide a refuge for larval fish development. Macroinvertebrates and amphibians such as the red-spotted toad are common in upcanyon pools. Diverse birdlife include the plain titmouse, Lucy's warbler, yellow breasted chat, and peregrine falcon. Mountain lion, ringtail cat, mule deer, and bighorn sheep are present throughout the canyon. The continuity of the Kanab Creek ecosystem is important to this region.

Ecological: Riparian habitats in the upper canyon have been degraded by domestic livestock but are recovering under management revisions made by the Forest Service and BLM. Ponderosa pine and mixed-conifer forests occur in the higher elevations and shaded north facing aspects while pinyon-juniper communities and desert species dominate lower elevations and south-facing slopes. Native cottonwood, desert almond, willow, redbud, and single-leaf ash typify woody vegetation along the canyon bottom. Monkeyflower, colombine, ferns, and diverse vegetative communities comprise a wide range of ecological niches common only to relatively undisturbed side-canyons of the Grand Canyon. Because Kanab Creek is a tributary to the Colorado River, it provides a continuity of diverse ecological communities which remain unfragmented and intact for species that depend on seasonal movement between a variety of habitats.

Cultural: The entire area has had few surveys for prehistoric sites. However, examples of rock art and dwelling sites are abundant in the higher cliffs bordering the upper canyon layers. Havasupai, Hualapai, and other modern descendants of prehistoric people of the Grand Canyon regard the entire region as their sacred and spiritual homeland. John Wesley Powell used Kanab Creek to exit the Colorado River following his second river expedition of 1872.

ARC Recommendation:

The entire length of Kanab Creek below the Kaibab-Paiute Indian Reservation.....Wild

Inclusion in the Wild & Scenic River Act will help to provide a strong and consistent management plan for the entire length of Kanab Creek, which is necessary to protect the ecological integrity and continuity of this unique ecosystem. There are potential threats to the water quality from municipal wastewater, mining, illegal ORV use, and riparian degradation. It is important to protect the water as an important tributary to the Grand Canyon, and for the important contribution of sediments to the lower Canyon. While much of lower Kanab Creek is protected by wilderness or the National Park Service, there are serious threats upstream, and the entire Creek deserves to be included in the Wild & Scenic River Act as a exceptional resource

RIVER NAME: LOWER PARIA RIVER GORGE/BUCKSKIN GULCH
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 35 miles from White House Trailhead in Utah to confluence with the Colorado.
10 miles from Wire Pass to confluence with Paria.
MANAGING AGENCIES: Bureau of Land Management; National Park Service
PRIVATE LAND: None

The Paria River is the primary drainage for the Paria Canyon, providing a unique riparian corridor through an otherwise arid region. Buckskin Gulch and the Paria are noted for their dramatic terrain. Their slot canyons have been carved out of sedimentary rocks to the depths of 2,500 feet producing a variety of spectacular geological features, such as massive sandstone walls decorated with huge streaks of multi-colored desert varnish. These canyons become spectacularly sheer in Buckskin Gulch, with narrows only a few feet wide and several hundred feet deep. The corridor is an important water source for a variety of wildlife, such as deer, bobcat, and the desert bighorn sheep.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: The rivers cut through an area of significant geologic uplift and, with associated faulting, expose numerous layers of the earth's crust, providing dramatic scenery. There are riparian plants that make up magical hanging gardens and vegetated wall springs that add to the wonder. Other plantlife includes the Roaring Springs poppy and striped flower milk vetch, both threatened species. Entering these canyons is like walking into a truly magical, unique world.

Recreation: Access is possible only by foot or horseback from four trailheads at the ends of the segments. Paria River is heavily backpacked all year.

Geologic: The outstandingly remarkable geologic features of the Buckskin Gulch-Paria Canyon area have been documented in countless magazines and articles. There are amphitheaters by the dozen, meandering canyons, and incredible sandstone arches, such as slide rock arch and the wondrous 200 foot span of Wrath Arch, one of the most incredible features in the Paria Canyon.

Fish and Wildlife: The river provides habitat for the speckled dace, bluehead mountain sucker, and flannel mouth sucker. Below the Narrows of the Paria more riparian vegetation, such as willow, box elder and cottonwood, grow along the shorelines. This habitat is thought to attract several state and/or federal endangered birds such as the southwest willow flycatcher, the yellow billed cuckoo, and the peregrine falcon.

Cultural: The area is rich in remnants of both Native and Euro-american use. Remnants of habitation have been located and documented. Anasazi dwellings and petroglyphs, along with pump sites from early ranches are still evident.

Comments: The Arizona Strip District of the Bureau of Land Management has found the Paria River in their district both eligible and suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation for its "outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fisheries and cultural values." They believe that "managing the Paria River as a Wild and Scenic River would go together well with managing for the protection, preservation and public use of wilderness values." We wholeheartedly agree!

ARC Recommendation:

- 10 miles of Buckskin Gulch to confluence
with Paria River.....Wild
- 35 miles known as the Lower Paria River Gorge.....Wild

The Paria River has been recommended by the Bureau of Land Management for protection under the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act for its' "outstandingly remarkable values." It is a main tributary which deposits significant amounts of valuable sediments into the Colorado River annually. The Paria also serves as a vital source of water for the reintroduced bighorn sheep in the Paria Canyon by the Arizona Game & Fish Department. Designating these segments as Wild & Scenic will give a consistent management for the river in both states, and recognize the national quality of the area.

LITTLE COLORADO RIVER-LOWER



RIVER NAME: COLORADO RIVER, GLEN CANYON
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 16 miles from Glen Canyon Dam to the Paria River confluence.
MANAGING AGENCY: National Park Service
PRIVATE LAND: None

The Colorado River from Glen Canyon Dam to the Paria River offers outstanding recreational opportunities for flatwater rafting, boating, and fishing in a nationally renowned blue ribbon trout fishery. This stretch of the Colorado River includes the last few miles of the spectacular Glen Canyon, most of which is now flooded behind Glen Canyon Dam. Public access to this stretch of the Colorado River is provided at Lee's Ferry.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: Clear blue waters, bordered by groves of tamarisk and willows are overshadowed by towering red sandstone cliffs. The scenery is dominated by stark topographical contrasts and a gentle, reflecting river. During summer cloudbursts countless waterfalls can suddenly appear, cascading down the sides of the canyon walls into the verdant riparian area lining the river.

The Navajo sandstone defining this channel of the Colorado River is the only remaining segment of the over 200 mile long Glen Canyon. The remainder is drowned beneath the waters of Lake Powell. The sandstone cliffs provide towering exposures, vital habitat for birds and for other animals.

Recreation: This stretch of the river is known internationally for its blue ribbon trout fishery, which is enjoyed year-round. One day float trips by raft from Glen Canyon Dam to Lee's Ferry provide additional access to the intricate beauty of the Colorado River canyon country. This stretch of the river is accessible to a large number of people who would otherwise not be able to enjoy the Colorado River. Several hiking trails, upstream boating, and campsites allow for additional use of the river corridor.

Geologic: The steep, sheer cliffs of Glen Canyon end at Lee's Ferry as the canyon opens up to the only natural crossing for 300 miles for both directions along the river. The exposed Navajo sandstone is one of the most impressive exposures within the Colorado River plateau.

Fish and Wildlife: Endangered species which can be found here are the peregrine falcon, which nests in the area, and wintering southern bald eagle. The area is also within the home range of the desert bighorn sheep and an occasional golden eagle. The Paria River confluence area may also provide seasonal habitat for native fish. The area also supports one of the finest trout fisheries in the southwest, ducks and geese, and other aquatic food items that are essential to the maintenance of healthy fish

populations downstream. The riparian vegetation along the 16 mile river corridor provides essential habitat for many avian species and refuge for small mammals. The riparian importance extends in its linkage with the area above Glen Canyon Dam and into the Grand Canyon.

Historic: The Lee's Ferry/Paria River confluence area includes two National Historic Districts to commemorate early settlement of the area for farming and the establishment of a ferry across the Colorado River. The area also includes the remnants of the Spencer Ferry boat which was built at Lee's Ferry in the 1800's and its remains are still found in the Colorado River. The Lee's Ferry site was also an important point during Major John Wesley Powell's two exploration trips through the Grand Canyon. The Major's groups were resupplied at Lee's Ferry prior to their long trip into the Grand Canyon.

Cultural: Numerous petroglyphs can be found on the canyon walls along this river stretch. Anasazi ruins are near the Paria River. Several firepits and other remnants of the early cultures have been found in the eroding sandbars below Glen Canyon Dam. The historical use of this area was extensive as the Anasazi utilized the river bottoms for the raising of crops and animals.

Comments: The coldwater flows from Glen Canyon Dam have allowed for the establishment of the trout fishery, but at the same time, have further endangered declining native fish species. Fluctuating flows to generate peaking power create unstable conditions which can strand fish or drown bird nests. These artificial flows, combined with the trapping of new sediments in Lake Powell, cause continual erosion of the beaches. Flow fluctuations have also proven dangerous for recreationists on the water or near the shores. As part of the development of alternatives for its Glen Canyon Dam Environmental Impact Statement, the Bureau of Reclamation is considering a reregulation dam as one alternative just upstream of Lee's Ferry which could cause inundation of almost this entire stretch of river.

ARC Recommendation:

16 miles of the Colorado River from Glen Canyon Dam to the confluence of the Paria River.....Scenic

In contrast to the raging whitewater of the Colorado River below this point, the Glen Canyon reach offers an easily accessible flat water alternative for those seeking a top-quality river canyon experience. The last remaining section of Glen Canyon is every bit as spectacular and worthy of preservation for its recreational and environmental values as the Grand Canyon downstream. The possibility of one more dam along the Colorado River in this area demands that Wild & Scenic River designation be enacted now to permanently protect this extraordinary area.

RIVER NAME: COLORADO RIVER, GRAND CANYON
PROPOSED SEGMENT: 237 miles from Paria River to Separation Canyon, including 34.6 miles of tributaries as follows:

Nankoweap Creek - 3.9 miles; Kwagunt Creek - 3.2 miles; Chuar Creek - 3.7 miles; Clear Creek - 4.4 miles; Hermit Creek - 1.5 miles; Boucher Creek - 1.5 miles; Crystal Creek - 4.5 miles; Shinumo Creek - 2.5 miles; Stone Creek - 1.5 miles; Tapeats Creek/Thunder River - 2.8 miles; Deer Creek - 1.3 miles; and Havasu Creek - 3.3 miles within park.

MANAGING AGENCIES: National Park Service
PRIVATE LAND: None

The Colorado River through the Grand Canyon is distinguished by its scenic splendor, the diversity of its flora and fauna, its magnitude and isolation. The river today is a wild river temporarily harnessed by man at Glen Canyon Dam but always striving to break free, with every tributary reviving the natural state of the river. Significant adverse impacts exist through the operations of Glen Canyon Dam; there are impending threats to water quality, and the complexity of sometimes competing legal mandates has resulted in inadequate protection for environmental, recreational, and cultural values.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Scenic: Words fall short in attempting to describe the awesome majesty of the Grand Canyon. Viewing the canyon while floating down the Colorado River is a particularly special way to see its many moods--absorbing the ever changing scene as each bend of the river, cloud shadow, and changing angle of light reveals a different form, hue, and texture. The many, intimate hiking opportunities up pristine tributaries provide a dramatic contrast to the grandeur of the main canyon itself.

Recreation: The Colorado River within the Grand Canyon is one of the world's premier white-water rafting rivers, offering the longest stretch of recreational whitewater in the world. The river falls 1,900 feet between Lees Ferry and Lake Mead; half of this drop takes place in more than 160 rapids, which make up only 9% of the distance.

Geologic: The Grand Canyon offers a beautifully layered record covering nearly 2 billion years of geologic time. It is one of the most complete records of geologic history exposed anywhere in the world.

Fish and Wildlife: The Colorado River cliffs are home to bands of desert bighorn sheep, as well as the endangered peregrine falcon and other raptors. Large numbers of bald eagles have foraged in Nankoweap Creek in the winter due to the availability of trout. The Grand Canyon has been designated as a proposed location for reintroduction of the endangered California condor within the next two years. All of the raptor species utilize a large home range, and consequently many forage over an expanse of the Colorado River corridor through the Grand Canyon.

The humpback chub has been listed as a federally endangered species since 1973, and lives in the mainstem Colorado River. The species has been forced into a smaller environment and today is focused in the vicinity of the confluence of the Little Colorado River. The humpback chub population in the Grand Canyon is the most important of the six remaining populations in the Colorado River basin, due to its physical isolation in the Grand Canyon and its genetic integrity. Another native fish to the Colorado River, the razorback sucker is currently proposed for federal listing as an endangered species.

Ecological: Within Grand Canyon National Park, the river passes through three of North America's four deserts: Great Basin, Sonoran, and Mojave. The riparian zone that exists along the Colorado River corridor represents the longest stretch of uninterrupted riparian vegetation in the southwest. The importance of having an intact riparian ecosystem is underscored through the preservation of (1) continuity of important vegetation species, (2) avian corridors for migration, (3) the maintenance of ecological integrity, and (4) as an intact natural laboratory for studying the diversity of life and its processes.

Cultural: The Colorado River corridor in the Grand Canyon has been home to possibly six Native American cultures over the last ten thousand years, including the Hopi who are the direct descendants of the Anasazi. These peoples used the Colorado River corridor in the Grand Canyon for several reasons: survival, growing crops, religious ceremony, transportation (as a migration route), protection, and cultural exchange.

Tributary Streams: To complement the Colorado River itself, there are numerous tributaries entering the Colorado River within Grand Canyon, all of which are free-flowing. These tributaries maintain unique riparian communities and aquatic ecological values, differing in their character, flood frequencies and magnitude, appearance, and elevation. The tributaries are often the location of increased ecological activity due to their diversity and location. Adequately protected, they provide a pristine scientific baseline against which to compare ecosystems more compromised by man's influence.

Comments: The threats that exist to the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon are too numerous to give in great detail in this proposal. The documented and continuing loss of sediments is especially critical. Sediment is the linkage that ties the terrestrial and aquatic habitats important to the entire ecosystem of the Grand Canyon.

The water quality of the river is also being impacted by a variety of sources and threats. The most immediate impacts are those related to dam operations and the development of the uranium resources within the tributary drainage basins. Other external threats which exist to Colorado River quality have been identified, and in some cases, are already impacting the water resources of the tributary streams.

Flows on this segment of the Colorado River are regulated by Glen Canyon Dam. An environmental impact statement is currently being prepared to evaluate alternative operations for the dam. Serious threats to the integrity of the river may exist in some of these alternatives.

ARC Recommendation:

237 miles of the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon from Paria River to Separation Canyon.....Wild
34.7 miles of tributaries as noted above.....Wild

If there is a preeminent, outstandingly remarkable, wild, and scenic river in all of America, clearly it would be the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. Significant adverse impacts from the operations of Glen Canyon Dam are occurring right now, and other environmental threats are on the horizon. Existing federal law is inadequate to provide needed protection for downstream cultural, ecological, and recreational values. The Wild & Scenic River Act will give sorely needed, federally mandated direction to the management of this magnificent river forever.

APPENDIX 1
ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO RIVERS

ALPHABETICAL INDEX

Agua Fria River.....	103
Ash Creek.....	65
Bass Canyon/Hot Springs.....	86
Beaver Creek.....	119
Beuhman Creek.....	90
Black River.....	2
Blue River.....	52
Bill Williams River.....	143
Burro Creek.....	133
Campaign Creek.....	24
Cave Creek (Chiricahua Mts).....	74
Cherry Creek.....	12
Chevelon Creek.....	43
Cienega Creek.....	83
Colorado River thru Glen Canyon.....	163
Colorado River thru Grand Canyon.....	166
Coon Creek.....	16
East Clear Creek.....	47
East Verde River.....	111
Gila River - Gila Box Section.....	61
Gila River - Middle Section.....	69
Hassayampa River.....	98
Kanab Creek.....	153
Little Colorado River - Headwaters.....	40
Little Colorado River - Cameron to Colorado.....	160
Oak Creek and West Fork Oak Creek.....	123
Paria River.....	156
Pinto Creek.....	20
Redfield Canyon/Swamp Springs.....	94
Salome Creek.....	27
Salt River thru Salt River Canyon.....	7
Salt River - Lower (Tubing Run).....	35
San Francisco River.....	57
San Pedro River.....	79
Santa Maria River.....	138
Tonto Creek.....	31
Verde River - lower 9 miles (Sheepbridge).....	108
Verde River - upper including Sycamore Creek.....	128
Virgin River.....	149
West Clear Creek.....	115

APPENDIX 2

TEXT OF THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT (P.L. 90-542)

The following text of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is as the Act appears without the names of rivers designated or being studied. This version was edited and produced by Ronald Stork who is on the conservation staff of Friends of the River in Sacramento, California and to whom we are grateful for permission to reprint his work here.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT¹

*AN Act To provide a National Wild and Scenic Rivers System,
and for other purposes.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) this Act may be cited as the "Wild and Scenic Rivers Act".

(b) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Congress declares that the established national policy of dam and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes.

(c) The purpose of this Act is to implement this policy by instituting a national wild and scenic river system, by designating the initial components with that system and by prescribing the methods by which and standards according to which additional components may be added to the system from time to time.

SEC. 2 (a) The national wild and scenic rivers system shall comprise rivers (i) that are authorized for inclusion therein by Act of Congress, or (ii) that are designated as wild, scenic or recreational rivers by or pursuant to an act of the legislature of the State or States through which they flow, that are to be permanently administered as wild, scenic or recreational rivers by an agency or political subdivision of the State or States concerned, that are found by the Secretary of the Interior, upon application of the Governor of the State or the Governors of the States concerned, or a person or persons thereunto duly appointed by him or them, to meet the criteria supplementary thereto as he may prescribe, and that are approved by him for inclusion in the system.... Upon receipt of an application under clause (ii) of this subsection, the Secretary shall notify the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and publish such application in the Federal Register. Each river designated under clause (ii) shall be administered by the State or political subdivision thereof without expense to the United States other than for administration and management of federally owned lands. For purposes of the preceding sentence, amounts made available to any State or political subdivision under the Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965 or any other provision of law shall not be treated as an expense to the United States. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to provide for the transfer to, or administration by, a State or local authority of any federally owned lands which are within the boundaries of any river included within the system under clause (ii).

(b) A wild, scenic or recreational river area eligible to be included in the system is a free-flowing stream and the related adjacent land area that possesses one or more of the values referred to in section 1, subsection (b) of this Act. Every wild, scenic or recreational river in its free-flowing condition, or upon restoration to this condition, shall be considered eligible for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system and, if included, shall be classified, designated, administered as one of the following:

¹ *The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271-1287) consists of Public Law 90-542 (October 2, 1968) as amended. P.L. 99-590 and P.L. 100-534 were the last bills that added generic amendments to the Act.*

wild and scenic rivers system of rivers which are designated herein or hereafter by the Congress as potential additions to such system. The President shall report to the Congress his recommendations and proposals with respect to the designation of each such river or section thereof under this Act.... In conducting these studies the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall give priority to those rivers (i) with respect to which there is the greatest likelihood of developments which, if undertaken, would render the rivers unsuitable for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system, and (ii) which possess the greatest proportion of private land within their areas. Every such study and plan shall be coordinated with any water resources planning involving the same river which is being conducted pursuant to the Water Resources Planning Act (79 Stat. 244; 42 U.S.C. 1962 et seq.).

Each report, including maps and illustrations, shall show among other things the area included within the report; the characteristics which do or do not make the area a worthy addition to the system; the current status of land ownership and use in the area; the reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water which would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the national wild and scenic rivers system; the Federal agency (which in the case of a river which is wholly or substantially within a national forest, shall be the Department of Agriculture) by which it is proposed the area, should it be added to the system, be administered; the extent to which the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies; and the estimated cost to the United States of acquiring necessary land and interests in land and of administering the area, should it be added to the system. Each such report shall be printed as a Senate or House document.

(b) Before submitting any such report to the President and the Congress, copies of the proposed report shall, unless it was prepared jointly by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, be submitted by the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Agriculture or by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Secretary of the Interior, as the case may be, and to the Secretary of the Army, the Chairman of the Federal Power Commission, the head of any other affected Federal department or agency and, unless the lands proposed to be included in the area are already owned by the United States or have already been authorized for acquisition by Act of Congress, the Governor of the State or States in which they are located or an officer designated by the Governor to receive the same. Any recommendations or comments on the proposal which the said officials furnish the Secretary or Secretaries who prepared the report within ninety days of the date on which the report is submitted to them, together with the Secretary's or Secretaries' comments thereon, shall be included with the transmittal to the President and the Congress.

(c) Before approving or disapproving for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system any river designated as a wild, scenic or recreational river by or pursuant to an act of a State legislature, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the proposal to the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Army, the Chairman of the Federal Power Commission, and the head of any other affected Federal department or agency and shall evaluate and give due weight to any recommendations or comments which the said officials furnish him within ninety days of the date of which it is submitted to them. If he approves the proposed inclusion, he shall publish notice thereof in the Federal Register.

(d) The boundaries of any river proposed in section 5 (a) of this Act for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System shall generally comprise that area measured within one-quarter mile from the ordinary highwater mark on each side of the river. In the case of any designated river, prior to publication of boundaries pursuant to section 3 (b) of this Act, the boundaries also shall comprise the same area. This subsection shall not be

condemnation under authority of this Act. Nothing contained in this section, however, shall preclude the use of condemnation when necessary to clear title or to acquire scenic easements or other such easements as are reasonably necessary to give the public access to the river and to permit its members to traverse the length of the area or of selected segments thereof.

(c) Neither the Secretary of the Interior nor the Secretary of Agriculture may acquire lands by condemnation, for the purpose of including such lands in any national wild, scenic or recreational river area, if such lands are located within any incorporated city, village, or borough which has in force and applicable to such lands a duly adopted, valid zoning ordinance that conforms with the purposes of this Act. In order to carry out the provisions of this subsection, the appropriate Secretary shall issue guidelines, specifying standards for local zoning ordinances, which are consistent with the purposes of this Act. The standards specified in such guidelines shall have the object of (A) prohibiting new commercial or industrial uses other than commercial or industrial uses which are consistent with the purposes of this Act, and (B) the protection of the bank lands by means of acreage, frontage, and setback requirements on development.

(d) The appropriate Secretary is authorized to accept title to non-Federal property within the authorized boundaries of any federally administered component of the national wild and scenic rivers system designated in section 3 of this Act or hereafter designated for inclusion in the system by Act of Congress and, in exchange therefor, convey to the grantor any federally owned property which is under his jurisdiction within the State in which the component lies and which he classifies as suitable for exchange or other disposal. The values of the properties so exchanged either shall be approximately equal or, if they are not approximately equal, shall be equalized by the payment of cash to the grantor or the Secretary as the circumstances require.

(e) The head of any Federal department or agency having administrative jurisdiction over any lands or interests in land within the authorized boundaries of any federally administered component of the national wild and scenic rivers system designated in section 3 of this Act or hereafter designated for inclusion in the system by Act of Congress is authorized to transfer to the appropriate Secretary jurisdiction over such lands for administration in accordance with the provisions of this Act. Lands acquired by or transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture for the purposes of this Act within or adjacent to a national forest shall upon such acquisition or transfer become national forest lands.

(f) The appropriate Secretary is authorized to accept donations of land and interests in land, funds, and other property for use in connection with his administration of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

(g)(1) Any owner or owners (hereinafter in this subsection referred to as "owner") of improved property on the date of its acquisition, may retain for themselves and their successors or assigns a right of use and occupancy of the improved property for noncommercial residential purposes for a definite term not to exceed twenty-five years or, in lieu thereof, for a term ending at the death of the owner, or the death of his spouse, or the death of either or both of them. The owner shall elect the term to be reserved. The appropriate Secretary shall pay to the owner the fair market value of the property on the date of such acquisition less the fair market value on such date of the right retained by the owner.

(2) A right of use and occupancy retained pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to termination whenever the appropriate Secretary is given reasonable cause to find that such use and occupancy is being exercised in a manner which conflicts with the purposes of this Act. In event of such a finding, the Secretary shall tender to the holder of that right an amount equal to the fair market value of that portion of the right which remains unexpired on the date

writing, including a copy of the study upon which the determination was made, at least one hundred and eighty days while Congress is in session prior to publishing notice to that effect in the Federal Register: *Provided*, That if any Act designating any river or rivers for potential addition to the national wild and scenic river system provides a period for the study or studies which exceeds such three complete fiscal year period the period provided for in such Act shall be substituted for the three complete fiscal year period in the provisions of this clause (i); and

(ii) during such interim period from the date a report is due and the time a report is actually submitted to Congress; and

(iii) during such additional period thereafter as, in the case of any river the report for which is submitted to the President and the Congress for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system, is necessary for congressional consideration thereof or, in the case of any river recommended to the Secretary of the Interior under section 2(a)(ii) of this Act, is necessary for the Secretary's consideration thereof, which additional period, however, shall not exceed three years in the first case and one year in the second.

Nothing contained in the foregoing sentence, however, shall preclude licensing of, or assistance to developments below or above a potential wild, scenic or recreational river area or on any stream tributary thereto which will not invade the area or diminish the scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values present in the potential wild, scenic or recreational river area on the date of designation of a river for study as provided by section 5 of this Act. No department or agency of the United States shall, during the periods hereinbefore specified, recommend authorization of any water resources project on any such river or request appropriations to begin construction of any such project, whether heretofore or hereafter authorized, without advising the Secretary of the Interior and, where national forest lands are involved, the Secretary of Agriculture in writing of its intention so to do at least sixty day in advance of doing so and without specifically reporting to the Congress in writing at the time it makes its recommendation or request in what respect construction of such project would be in conflict with the purposes of this Act and would affect the component and the values to be protected by it under this Act.

(c) The Federal Power Commission and all other Federal agencies shall, promptly upon enactment of this Act, inform the Secretary of the Interior and, where national forest lands are involved, the Secretary of Agriculture, of any proceedings, studies, or other activities within their jurisdiction which are now in progress and which affect or may affect any of the rivers specified in section 5, subsection (a), of this Act. They shall likewise inform him of any such proceedings, studies, or other activities which are hereafter commenced or resumed before they are commenced or resumed.

(d) Nothing in this section with respect to the making of a loan or grant shall apply to grants made under the Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965 (78 Stat. 897; 16 U.S.C. 4601-5 et seq.).

SEC. 8. (a) All public lands within the authorized boundaries of any component of the national wild and scenic rivers system which is designated in section 3 of this Act or which is hereafter designated for inclusion in that system are hereby withdrawn from entry, sale, or other disposition under the public land laws of the United States. This subsection shall not be construed to limit the authorities granted in section 6(d) or 14A of this Act.

varying degrees of intensity for its protection and development, based on the special attributes of the area.

(b) Any portion of a component of the national wild and scenic rivers system that is within the national wilderness preservation system, as established by or pursuant to the Act of September 3, 1964 (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C., ch. 23), shall be subject to the provisions of both the Wilderness Act and this Act with respect to preservation of such river and its immediate environment, and in case of conflict between the provisions of these Acts the more restrictive provisions apply.

(c) Any component of the national wild and scenic rivers system that is administered by the secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service shall become a part of the national park system, and any such component that is administered by the Secretary through the Fish and Wildlife Service shall become a part of the national wildlife refuge system. The lands involved shall be subject to the provisions of this Act and the Acts under which the national park system or national wildlife system, as the case may be, is administered, and in the case of conflict between the provisions of these Acts, the more restrictive provisions shall apply. The Secretary of the Interior, in his administration of any component of the national wild and scenic rivers system, may utilize such general statutory authorities relating to areas of the national park system and such general statutory authorities otherwise available to him for recreation and preservation purposes and for the conservation and management of natural resources as he deems appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(d) The Secretary of Agriculture, in his administration of any component of the national wild and scenic rivers system area, may utilize the general statutory authorities relating to the national forest in such manner as he deems appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(e) The Federal agency charged with the administration of any component of the national wild and scenic rivers system may enter into written cooperative agreements with the Governor of a State, the head of any State agency, or the appropriate official of a political subdivision of a State for State or local governmental participation in the administration of the component. The States and their political subdivisions shall be encouraged to cooperate in the planning and administration of components of the system which include or adjoin State- or County-owned lands.

SEC. 11. (a) The Secretary of the Interior shall encourage and assist the States to consider, in formulating and carrying out their comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plans and proposals for financing assistance for State and local projects submitted pursuant to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (78 Stat. 897), needs and opportunities for establishing State and local wild, scenic and recreational river areas.

(b) (1) The Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, or the head of any Federal agency, shall assist, advise, and cooperate with States or their political subdivisions, landowners, private organizations, or individuals to plan, protect, and manage river resources. Such assistance, advice, and cooperation may be through written agreements or otherwise. This authority applies within or outside a federally administered area and applies to rivers which are components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System and to other rivers. Any agreement under this section may include provisions for limited financial or other assistance to encourage participation in the acquisition, protection and management of river resources.

(2) Whenever appropriate in furtherance of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior are authorized and encouraged to utilize the following:

(c) Designation of any stream or portion thereof as a national wild, scenic or recreational river area shall not be construed as a reservation of the waters of such streams for purposes other than those specified in this Act, or in quantities greater than necessary to accomplish these purposes.

(d) The jurisdiction of the States over waters of any stream included in a national wild, scenic or recreational river area shall be unaffected by this Act to the extent that such jurisdiction may be exercised without impairing the purposes of this Act or its administration.

(e) Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to alter, amend, repeal, interpret, modify, or be in conflict with any interstate compact made by any States which contain any portion of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

(f) Nothing in this Act shall affect existing rights of any State, including the right of access, with respect to the beds of navigable streams, tributaries, or rivers (or segments thereof) located in a national wild, scenic or recreational river area.

(g) The Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as the case may be, may grant easements and rights-of-way upon, over, under, across, or through any component of the national wild and scenic rivers system in accordance with the laws applicable to the national park system and the national forest system, respectively: *Provided*, That any conditions precedent to granting such easements and rights-of-way shall be related to the policy and purpose of this Act.

SEC. 14. (a) The claim and allowance of the value of an easement as a charitable contribution under section 170 of title 26, United States Code, or as a gift under section 2522 of said title shall constitute an agreement by the donor on behalf of himself, his heirs, and assigns that, if the terms of the instrument creating the easement are violated, the donee or the United States may acquire the servient estate of its fair market value as of the time the easement was donated minus the value of the easement claimed and allowed as a charitable contribution or gift.

(b) For the conservation purposes of preserving or enhancing the values of components of the National Wild and Scenic River System, and the environs thereof as determined by the appropriate Secretary, landowners are authorized to donate or otherwise convey qualified real property interests to qualified organizations consistent with section 170(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Such interest may include, but shall not be limited to, rights-of-way, open space, scenic, or conservation easements without regard to any limitation on the nature of the estate or interest otherwise transferable within the jurisdiction where the land is located. The conveyance of any such interest in land in accordance with this subsection shall be deemed to further a Federal conservation policy and yield a significant public benefit for purposes of section 6 of Public Law 96-541.

SEC. 14A. (a) Where appropriate in the discretion of the Secretary, he may lease federally owned land (or any interest therein) which is within the boundaries of any component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system and which has been acquired by the Secretary under this Act. Such lease shall be subject to such restrictive covenants as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(b) Any land to be leased by the Secretary under this section shall be offered first for such lease to the person who owned such land immediately before its acquisition by the United States.

SEC. 15....

APPENDIX 3

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE WILD AND SCENIC
RIVERS PROGRAM

Prepared by the Forest Service
and National Park Service

Questions and Answers on the Wild and Scenic Rivers Program

Prepared by the Forest Service
and National Park Service



1. Q. *What is a Wild and Scenic River?*

A. It is a free flowing river or river segment with outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, archeologic, or other values which has been designated by act of Congress or the Secretary of the Interior as a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. (Public Law 90-542)

2. Q. *Why do rivers need to be protected and managed under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act?*

A. There are three general reasons for including rivers in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

1. Some of the more prominent rivers can be included as a way of providing national recognition -- the "hall of fame" for great rivers that are a part of our nation's history and a legacy to future generations..
2. Other rivers may be included in the System because their values are seriously threatened by water developments, mining, residential developments, etc. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act then becomes the legal mechanism for protective action.
3. The third category of rivers is becoming the biggest list -- those with unique values which require special management protection so they can be preserved for the future. These requirements are documented in a management plan for each river, as required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

3. Q. *How does the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act work?*

A. Designation of a river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act affords the river certain legal protections from adverse development and provides a mechanism for management of river resources. The principal effect of the Act is to preclude or severely limit the construction of dams and other water resources projects which might affect the free flowing nature of the river and its other resources. Designation also affects the management of federal lands in the river corridor. Rights to future development of private lands can be purchased under the land acquisition authorities.

Management standards or requirements have been developed for each of the three classifications of Wild and Scenic Rivers -- wild, scenic, and recreational. The appropriate classification depends on the level of use in the river corridor at the time of designation. A river may be classified entirely under one category or separate segments of the river may be classified under different categories. The three classifications are briefly described on the following page.

6. Q. *What is the role of the State government on Federally administered Wild and Scenic Rivers?*

A. The State has a very important role. The State's responsibilities include:

- regulations and enforcement for fishing and hunting activities.
- water rights and water appropriation.
- development and administration of water quality standards.
- administration of State land use regulations on non-federal lands.
- managing State lands and State facilities (including State highways, parks, recreation areas, etc.) along the river.

7. Q. *Can the Federal Government zone private lands?*

A. The Federal government has no power to zone private lands. Zoning is a power of state and local governments. There are provisions of the Act that call upon the Federal agencies to encourage local land use planning by issuing guidelines for local and state governments for consideration in protecting river corridors which include areas within incorporated cities, villages or boroughs. These guidelines are not binding on local governments nor can the Federal government force the local governments to adopt them.

8. Q. *What effect will designation have on the use of private property?*

A. Ongoing regular uses of private lands, particularly those existing at the time that the river is designated, are not directly affected. Most private land use such as homes and farms are compatible with Wild and Scenic River management. There is no intent to remove all use, developments, or inhabitants from the river corridor. The Management plan for the river should identify types of land uses and developments which are considered compatible or incompatible with protection of the rivers values.

9. Q. *Will designation lead to people trespassing on my property?*

A. Designation does not open private lands to public access. Landowners can continue to post their property. Developed access points and recreation user facilities will usually help to reduce the trespass and impact on both private and public lands.

10.Q. *What effect will designation have on property values and the ability to sell private property?*

A. Wild and Scenic Rivers enjoy a measure of protection from future incompatible land uses and development, therefore, designation can have a positive impact on property values and marketability. Other factors such as location of the river, type and location of the property, and advertising can have a significant influence on property values.

In recent studies on two Wild and Scenic Rivers, the Upper Delaware and the Rogue, property values in the designated river corridors were shown to increase at a higher rate than those for

What effect does Wild and Scenic River designation have on timber harvest and agriculture?

For privately owned lands, timber harvest and agriculture uses are generally unaffected. For Federally owned timber and grazing lands, the Act requires that management of these resources be done in a manner to protect river values.

How can landowners, citizens, and local governments participate in Wild and Scenic River designation and management?

Public interest and support is an important ingredient in the political process that leads to designation of a Wild and Scenic River. The most effective efforts are those that start with and are firmly based at the "grass roots" level. They become the source of information, the problem solvers, and the link with the Congressional delegations. There is no substitute for public involvement in this process.

Wild and Scenic River management is everybody's responsibility. Not just the Federal agencies. Rivers do not follow ownership or administrative boundaries, therefore they must be managed as a cooperative partnership.

Landowners, citizens, and local governments are encouraged to get involved by contacting the local Forest Service, Park Service, or Bureau of Land Management offices, reviewing study reports and management plans, voicing opinions and suggestions, and participating in local interest group activities. Landowners can take the initiative to protect the river values on their lands and volunteer to help with protection programs on public lands. Local government officials can take the responsibility to assure that development and use of the river corridor within their jurisdiction is managed and controlled to minimize the impact on resource values. These are a few of the many opportunities that exist for participating in the Wild and Scenic Rivers program.

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