

FISHING IN THE VERDE VALLEY

The Red Rock Country offers numerous opportunities for the angler to test their skill (or not, as the case may be).

Fishing Licenses: For fishing in public areas, an Arizona Fishing license (and trout stamp if applicable) is required; in the Verde Valley area they are available through: Basha's (160 Coffee Pot Dr, Sedona), Weber's IGA (100 Verde Valley School Rd, Village of Oak Creek), Indian Gardens Visitor's Center (Oak Creek Canyon, closed in Winter), and Wal-Mart (Cottonwood). Youth under the age of 14 and blind residents do not need to purchase a state fishing license to fish in Arizona, but the legal bag limit of trout is three. See Arizona Game and Fish Department Fishing Regulations for more information.

If you are here and want to guarantee fishing success without needing a license, try the Rainbow Trout Farm (a commercial endeavor) located north of mile post 377, 3miles north of the intersection of SR179 and US89A.

For those not wanting to catch fish in a barrel there are 6 fishable waterways in the area, 4 of which are stocked with rainbow trout weekly from March through September, and periodically from September through December. Two (Wet Beaver and West Clear Creeks) are stocked in spring and fall as conditions permit. by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Brown trout do thrive in Oak Creek but they are more challenging to catch than rainbow trout. **Please Note:** no live baitfish may be used or in possession on any waters in Coconino County, no exceptions.

There are a wide variety of native and non-native (introduced) species in the Verde Valley waters. Native species include Sonora sucker, desert sucker, roundtail chub, longfin dace, speckled dace, razorback sucker (endangered), and Colorado pikeminnow (endangered). Introduced fish species include rainbow trout, brown trout, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, rock bass, green sunfish, carp and catfish.



RAINBOW TROUT

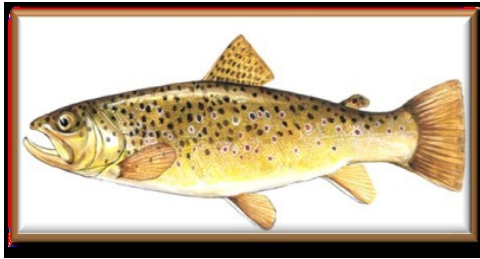


LARGEMOUTH BASS



ROCK BASS

<p>Best baits: Aquatic insects, worms, grubs, salmon eggs, spinners, mepps, roostertails, panther martins, flies, small minnow plugs, power baits and cheese balls.</p>	<p>Best baits: Crayfish from the creek, minnow plugs, spinners, large flies, and top water baits.</p>	<p>Best baits: Worms, corn, flies, small spinners and minnow plugs.</p>
<p>Best times to fish: Early morning and late afternoon.</p>	<p>Best times to fish: Fish are active year around but best in March and April when in pre-spawn.</p>	<p>Best times to fish: Fish are active through the day but hard to catch in winter months</p>



BROWN TROUT

SMALLMOUTH BASS

CATFISH

<p>Best baits: Night crawlers, medium to small minnow plugs resembling brown or rainbow trout, spinners, mepps, roostertails, panther martins, and flies. Brown trout spawn naturally in Oak Creek and are no longer stocked.</p>	<p>Best baits: Crayfish from the creek, worms, minnow plugs, rebels, small top water lures, spinners, and large flies</p>	<p>Best baits: Worms, chicken liver, blood baits, , stink baits, and shrimp.</p>
<p>Best times to fish: Fish will bite throughout the day year around. Early morning and late afternoon are best.</p>	<p>Best times to fish: Throughout the day with some slow periods from late March to November when fish are less active.</p>	<p>Best times to fish: Fish are active in warmer months. Fish from sunset throughout the night with best fishing from sunset to 9 or 10pm.</p>

Where to Fish In The Verde River (Winter Months Stocking Only)

LOCATION/DIRECTION:

The Verde River is stocked at several locations:

Tuzigoot: From Cottonwood, travel north on 89A towards Clarkdale. Turn northeast at Tuzigoot National Monument. Go across bridge and immediately turn right on dirt road. Turn right again towards river.

5th Street: From Cottonwood travel north on 89A towards Clarkdale. Follow signs to Deadhorse State Park. Access to this location is through Deadhorse State Park or River Front City Park. The 5th Street sight is closed to the public and is only used for stocking.

The Jacks: From Cottonwood travel north on 89A towards Clarkdale. Follow signs to Deadhorse State Park. Once inside park, take first right and follow to end.

Bignotti: From Cottonwood travel south on 260 towards Camp Verde. Turn left at Thousand Trails and take FR 147 to left.

White Bridge: Travel south on 260 to Camp Verde, go through town and take last road to the left before the White Bridge.

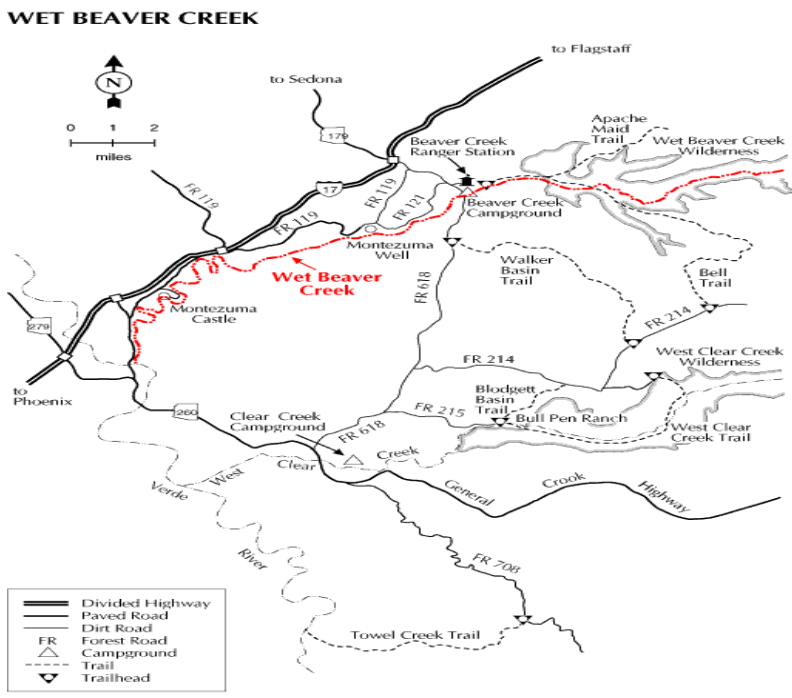
Dead Horse Ranch State Park Lagoons: Catfish are usually stocked twice a year: National Fishing Day (in June) and Verde River Day (last Saturday in September). Trout are stocked every other week from early November through late March. Arizona Game & Fish schedules stocking; go to http://www.azgfd.gov/h_f/stocking_schedule.shtml for dates.



Where to Fish In The Wet Beaver Creek (Stocked Spring & Fall)

Bell Trail : Hike from trailhead 2.2 miles south of I-17 on FR618.

Picnic Area day use site: FR618 (stocked)

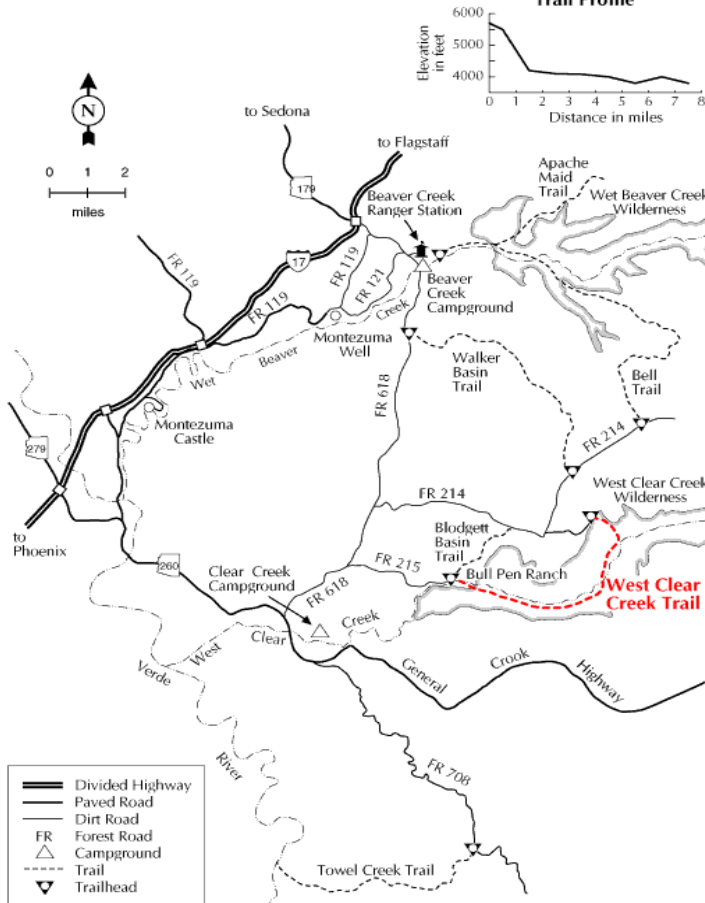


Where to Fish In The West Clear Creek (Stocked Spring & Fall)

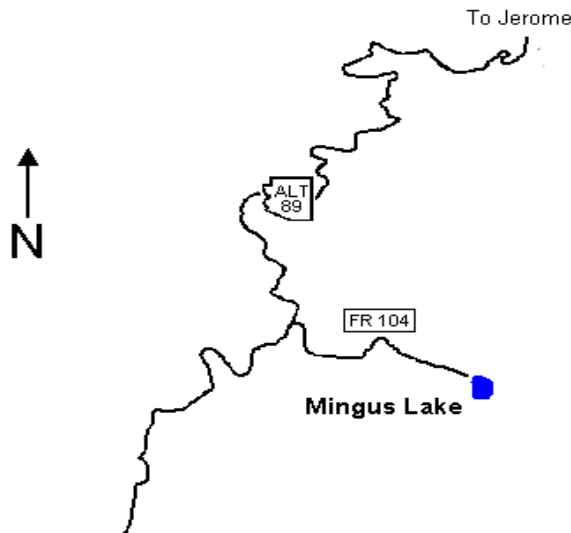
Bull Pen Ranch: (stocked)

Clear Creek Campground: day use site

WEST CLEAR CREEK TRAIL #17



Where to Fish In Mingus Lake (stocked)



Where to Fish In Oak Creek (Summer Stocking Schedule)

In Oak Creek Canyon: Normally, stocking occurs once a week from May through September (numerous public access points/recreation sites along US89A) Best time to fish is late spring to early summer. In the winter Oak Creek is not stocked consistently. In late summer when water levels are low, not as many fish are stocked. It can be hard to find parking along US89A. The following list includes a description of the various areas in the canyon (listed north to south). **Please Note:** catch-and release only for trout, between Junipine Crossing (mile post 382) and Call-of-the-Canyon Crossing (mile post 385) spanning the confluence of Oak Creek, and West Fork Oak Creeks. Trout must be immediately released unharmed; no trout may be kept; artificial fly and lure only; single barbless hooks only.

Pine Flat Campground (day use fee required) Access is easy from 89A to Creek as well as along the creek (there is shoreline).

Cave Spring Entrance drive (Red Rock Pass required) **and Campground** (day use fee required) Three different spots get stocked around the campground. One hole is fairly deep and fish are able to survive year round if they are not fished out.

Call of the Canyon/West Fork (day use fee required) Parking in lot and upstream along 89A (Red Rock Pass required). Access is easy. The fishing downstream is within the catch and release boundary.

Butterfly Garden Inn (Red Rock Pass required) Access a little more difficult. There is a small parking area straight across from cabins. This fishing area is within the catch and release boundary.

Bootlegger Picnic Area (Red Rock Pass required) Catch and release area.

Junipine (Red Rock Pass required) This area is stocked. Upstream area is designated catch and release, while the area downstream is not.

Banjo Bill Picnic Area (Red Rock Pass required)

Halfway Picnic Area (Red Rock Pass required) Brown trout can be caught here. They are harder to catch than rainbow trout. Use lures such as spinners, flies, and minnow plugs. Brown trout rarely bite on corn, salmon eggs, or power bait.

Slide Rock State Park (day use fee required) Heavy day use in this area. Paid parking is available. Access to the creek is easy due to trails.

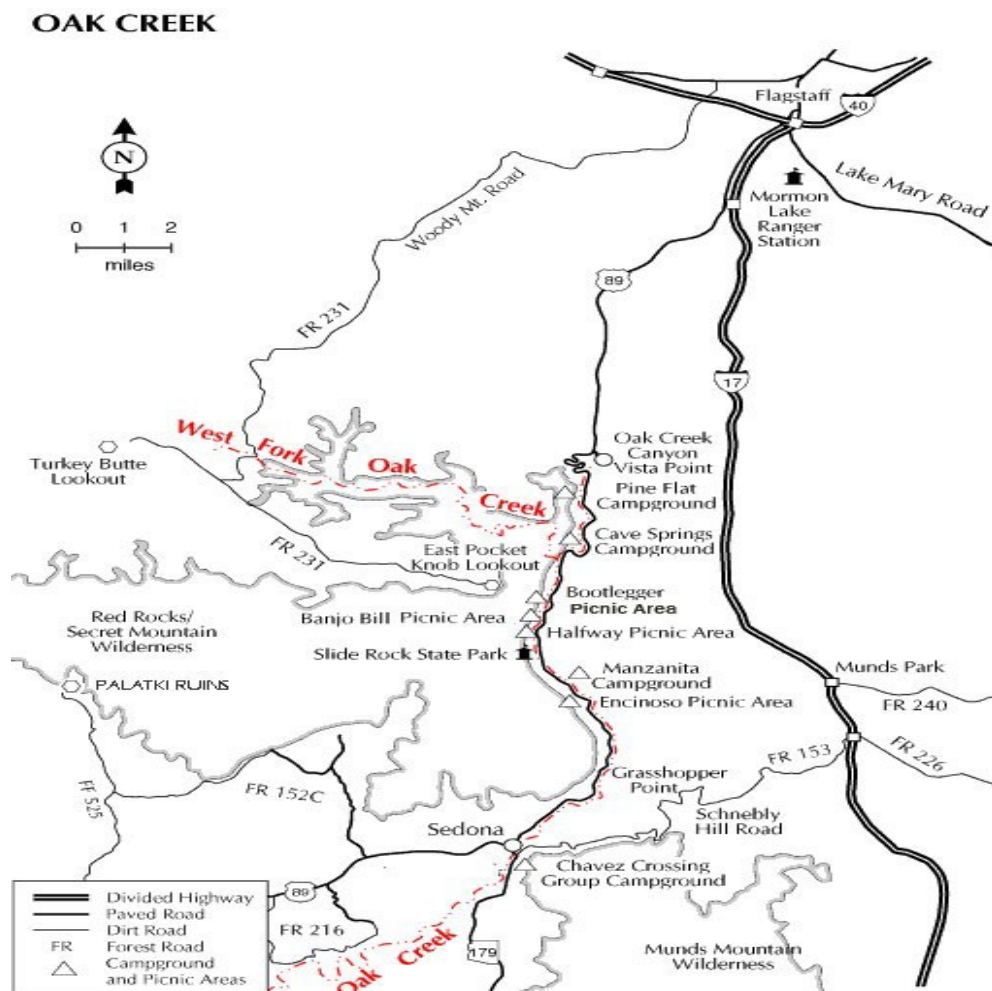
Manzanita Campground (day use fee required) Parking is available along the road south of campground on east side of 89A. Also parking in campground for campers or day use for a fee. A pool, located at end of the campground, is stocked. Access and hiking is easy.

Encinosa Picnic Area (Red Rock Pass required) Fishing across from picnic ground. There is an old road across 89A from the south end of the picnic area. Access is easy; just walk to end of dirt road.

Indian Gardens (Red Rock Pass required) There are two good fishing spots located near Indian Gardens. Parking is good at Indian Gardens on west side of 89A near the Oak Creek Visitor Center. Access is a little difficult due to the boulders in creek.

Grasshopper Point (day use fee required) Parking is available in a pay parking lot. Several trails access the creek. Recreation activity is high from people swimming.)

Red Rock Crossing (West end of Verde Valley School Road) and (across creek) Crescent Moon Picnic Area (day use fee required).



TROUT FLY FISHING INFORMATION:.....

Recommended fly fishing leader: [7 ½ Foot Leader](#)

Recommended fly fishing tippet: [5X Tippet](#)

Best fly fishing rod: [7' 4 Weight Fly Rod](#)

Best floating fly line: [WF Trout Fly Line](#)

Best Times to Fish the Hatches

February 1-April 30

Little Blue-Winged Olive Dun size 20, Little Black Stonefly size 16-18, and Early Blue size 16.

May 1-June 30

Little Blue-Winged Olive Dun size 16 or 10, Caddis size 10, Green Caddis size 14, Pale Evening Dun size 16 and 18, and Trico size 24.

July 1-September 30

Little White Mayfly size 26, Trico size 24, Blue-Winged Olive Dun size 18, and Yellow Caddis size 6 or 8.