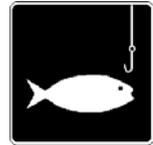


TONTO National Forest



Recreation
Opportunity
Guide

www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto



FISHING

CANYON CREEK

RANGER DISTRICT

Pleasant Valley Ranger Station
P.O. Box 450
Young, Arizona 85554
Phone (928) 462-4300
Fax (928) 462-4346

RELATED OPPORTUNITIES

Camping, picnicking, water activities and self-guided fish hatchery tour.

BARRIER-FREE ACCESSIBILITY

Both Airplane Flat and Upper Canyon Creek campgrounds have a vault toilet that is equipped with grab bars but may require some assistance.

LOCATION AND ACCESS

Creek Access Point #1 (OW Ranch Area): 23 miles northeast of Young. This stream is south of Airplane Flat and Upper Canyon Creek campgrounds. From Young, take State Hwy. 288/Forest Road (FR) 512/Young Road, north for 20 miles to FR 188. Turn right onto FR 188 (unpaved). Turn left on FR 188 and follow it for 3.4 miles to the stream.

Creek Access Point #2 (OW Ranch Area): 42 miles east of Payson. From Payson, travel east 33 miles on State Hwy. 260 (paved). Turn right on Young Road/FR 512 (unpaved), and drive for 5 ½ miles to FR 188 (unpaved). Turn left on FR 188 and follow it for approximately 3 ½ miles to the stream.

Creek Access Point #1 (Airplane Flat/Upper Canyon Creek Campgrounds): From Payson, travel 33 miles east on State Hwy. 260. Turn right on the Young Road, FR 512 (unpaved), and continue for 3 miles to FR 33. Turn left on FR 33 (unpaved) and travel for 5 miles to the site.

INTRODUCED SPORT FISH PRESENT

Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout

CONSIDERATIONS

- Elevation is approximately 6300 feet.
- Artificial lures & flies **only**
- Do not leave discarded fishing line; it can kill wildlife around the area
- Observe daily bag and possession limit of 2 trout, minimum size of 12 inches
- Forest Roads 512, 188 and 33 are unpaved roads. Chains or four-wheel-drive advisable after heavy rains or snows.
- The speckled Dace, (a native minnow), and the Desert Sucker, (a native sucker) are also important members of this aquatic ecosystem.
- No trash service: **PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!!**

NEAREST COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Forest Lakes: Food, gas and telephones

Young: Gas, food and telephones

Payson: All services

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

In 1986, Trout Unlimited and other conservation groups worked with the Forest Service to place 65 fish structures in the creek to provide cover and pool for trout. Cottonwood and Willow trees were planted to stabilize banks and provide shade. To speed riparian recovery, portions of the stream were fenced to exclude cattle. At the same time, the Arizona Game and Fish Department implemented new fishing regulations for Canyon Creek.

RELATED INFORMATION SOURCES

- Arizona Rivers and Streams Guide*, Arizona State Parks