

SALT RIVER CANYON WILDERNESS

Tonto National Forest

Special Recreation Permit Information

The USDA Forest Service requires Special Recreation Permits for private boaters taking river trips through the Salt River Canyon Wilderness, **March 1 - May 15**. The 2010 permit application form is part of this information packet. Please feel free to photocopy this packet and pass it on to other interested boaters. **Permit applications from past years will not be accepted.**

White Mountain Apache Tribe Permits

Recreation permits issued by the White Mountain Apache Tribe are required for whitewater boaters utilizing the portion of river flowing through the reservation. Tribal jurisdiction applies to the approximately 30-mile stretch of river downstream from First Campground and the Highway 60 Bridge. **Whitewater boating is strictly prohibited by the Tribe through those sections of the canyon upstream of Apache Falls (one-quarter mile above Highway 60 bridge).** For more information on permit costs and regulations, call **tribal officials at (928) 338-4385**.

Permitted Section

The Salt River Canyon Wilderness begins at Gleason Flat, which is approximately 20 miles downstream of the traditional river put-in at First Campground on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. The river flows through the Wilderness for approximately 32 miles to the take-out immediately downstream of the Highway 288 Bridge. The Forest Service does not require a Special Recreation Permit for the stretch of river upstream of Gleason Flat.

Who May Apply

Only one application per person will be accepted during the application period of **November 15, 2009 - January 15, 2010**. A permit holder must be at least 18 years of age and qualified to organize a non-commercial, multiple-day trip down a class III-IV whitewater river.

Application Deadline and Fee

We will accept your completed application no earlier than **November 15, 2009**, and no later than the close of business on **January 15, 2010**. **The date the application is received determines acceptance, not the postmark.**

A personal check, cashier's check, or money order for \$10 must accompany the application. **Please make the check or money order payable to USDA Forest Service. Do not send cash. This \$10 application fee is non-refundable.** Following the January random drawing for permits, a letter of notification will be sent to each successful applicant. To secure the permit, all requested information, along with an additional **non-refundable fee of \$125**, must be sent to the River Permit Coordinator's Office at least 21 days prior to the reserved entry date.

Random Drawing for Permits

When the river permit coordinator's office receives an application, they assign it an application number sequentially. At the close of the application period, a random numbers list is created for the final number of applications. The applications are drawn "out of the hat" in this order and used to fill in a calendar with four launches per day. If an applicant's first choice date is full then the second choice date is used. If the second choice date is full, the third choice date is used. If all three dates are full, the application is unsuccessful. Applicants are then notified by e-mail, or by postcard if no e-mail address is available.

Cancellation Waiting List

Beginning February 1, 2010, you may inquire about open dates, and place your name on a waiting list for **one date**. Should that date become available through cancellation or forfeiture, we will call you in the order your name appears on the waiting list. If we are unable to contact you, we will call the next name on the waiting list until the date is assigned or the list is exhausted.

Acknowledgement of Risk

Every person intending to run the Salt River is personally responsible for assessing river and weather conditions, and their ability to cope with these conditions. All river running involves a significant degree of risk. It is the permit holder's responsibility to ensure that the group has the proper skills and equipment to navigate the river safely.

The Salt River Canyon

The Salt River Canyon is a very remote and potentially dangerous place. The river is a solid Class III-IV run, and is not recommended for novices and beginners.

A Recreation Opportunity Guide containing a map and current information about the river is available at the Globe Ranger District Office, located at 7680 S. Six Shooter Canyon Road, Globe, Arizona, or the Forest Supervisor's Office, located at 2324 East McDowell Road, Phoenix, Arizona.

Non-Commercial Activity

The permit holder must ensure that trip participants do not engage in commercial use or activity. This is defined by **36 CFR 251.51**: any use or activity (a) where an entry or participation fee is charged, or (b) where the primary purpose is the sale of a good or service, and in either case, regardless of whether the use or activity is intended to produce a profit. Normally, a trip is considered commercial if participants fail to share costs equally. If you prefer a commercial trip, we will be pleased to provide you with a list of names and phone numbers of outfitters authorized to operate on this river.

WILDERNESS RESTRICTIONS

1. The USDA Forest Service requires **Special Recreation Permits** for private boaters taking river trips through the Salt River Canyon Wilderness, **March 1 - May 15**. A boat tag must be attached to every watercraft used.
2. Group size is limited to no more than **fifteen people**.
3. Overnight rafters must have a **Fire Pan** in their possession. Self-supporting kayak trips must have a Fire Blanket or Fire Pan in their possession: all open fires must be contained within these items.
4. Wood collection is limited to **dead and down material only**. Cutting or stripping limbs from trees is strictly prohibited.
5. **All trips must possess a portable toilet system** to collect all solid human waste for proper disposal at an appropriate waste facility. All solid human waste **must be carried out** of the river corridor (including toilet paper and personal hygiene items).
6. Motorized boats and equipment are prohibited within the Salt River Canyon Wilderness.
7. Possession or transportation of any part of native plants is prohibited.
8. **Littering is strictly prohibited**. Pack out all food remains, and trash (litter examples: orange peels, seed shells, cigarette butts, etc.).
9. The U.S. Coast Guard recommends use of Type III or Type V Personal Flotation Device by each person, on all watercraft.

INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the Salt River Canyon Wilderness or the permit process, please contact the River Permit Coordinator at (928) 402-6236.

Information regarding current stream flows, and snow pack, relevant to the Salt River may be accessed by calling the Salt River Project at (602) 236-5929, or logging on to the following websites:

US Geological Survey: <http://az.waterdata.usgs.gov/az/nwis/current/?type=flow>
Scroll down to Salt River Basin - look up figures for Salt River Near Chrysotile (Put-in) and Salt River Near Roosevelt (Take-out).

National Water and Climate Center (snow): <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/snotel/>
Select the state of Arizona, and then select the red dot for Hannagan Meadows, or the blue dot for Baldy.

