

What Makes Fossil Creek Special?

The Apache and Yavapai people of the Verde Valley lived along Fossil Creek for generations. Even today, they recognize and care for the canyon as their Ancestral homeland and return here to connect with their past and honor their heritage. Please respect their feelings as you visit the sacred landscape of Fossil Creek and please leave it looking as if you were never here. Visiting with respect preserves Fossil Creek for future generations.

In 2009, Congress designated Fossil Creek as a Wild & Scenic River to ensure the protection of its rare, unique, and exemplary geologic, biological, and recreation values, as well as its exceptional cultural value to the Yavapai-Apache Nation. Fossil Creek is one of two Wild & Scenic Rivers in Arizona and has been described as the most diverse riparian area in the state.

Fossil Creek originates from a collection of artesian springs that produce a constant, year-round flow of nearly 30 million gallons of water per day. The mineral rich water leaves travertine dams and deposits, giving rise to the fossil-like features for which the creek is named.

Early in the twentieth century, Fossil Creek was diverted for hydropower production. In 2005, the hydropower project was decommissioned, restoring full flows to the creek. This effort restored natural flows to Fossil Creek, which enhanced the conditions for the many plants and wildlife species that depend on these waters for habitat.

For More Information...

Or to comment or become involved in the long term planning for Fossil Creek, contact:

Coconino National Forest
1824 S. Thompson Street
Flagstaff, AZ 86001-2529
Phone: (928) 527-3600
www.fs.usda.gov/coconino



Information Hotline: (928) 226-4611

