

What Makes Fossil Creek Special?

Fossil Creek is one of only two wild and scenic rivers in Arizona.

Fossil Creek is fed by springs coming from the cliffs of the Mogollon Rim. Over 30 million gallons of water are discharged each day at a constant 70 °F. The high mineral content leaves travertine dams and deposits, giving rise to fossil-like features.

In 2005, Arizona Public Service (APS) decommissioned the Fossil Creek Dam and Flume, restoring full flows to Fossil Creek.

Fossil Creek is a rare riparian area within an otherwise arid landscape. Many plants and wildlife depend on Fossil Creek for habitat, including otters, beavers, leopard frogs, and common black hawks.

Fossil Creek has a number of *Dilzhé'é* (Western Apache) cultural sites. The *Dilzhé'é* lived along Fossil Creek for generations and several families consider this to be their homeland.

Native-Only Fishery

After massive efforts, Fossil Creek is now a native only fishery. It is illegal to introduce, release, or move any fish, amphibian, or crayfish into or around Fossil Creek. Fossil Creek is a seasonal catch and release fishery for roundtail chub and headwaters chub. It is an artificial fly and lure fishery, and only single barbless hooks may be used. It is your responsibility to know and observe Arizona Game and Fish Department regulations.



Roundtail chub by John Rinne

Attention— New Rules for You at Fossil Creek

The Forest Service has new rules for camping, campfires, and off-road driving for the Fossil Creek area. More than 60,000 people visit this area each year. Because of the heavy use, Fossil Creek is being “loved to death”—damaged by wood cutting, fires, new roads, trash, and human waste.



In 2009, Fossil Creek was designated by Congress as a national wild and scenic river. The Forest Service must, by law, protect this special place. Over the next few years, the Forest Service will work with the public to develop a long-term plan for the area. In the meantime, interim rules aim to protect the Fossil Creek area. Please respect and abide by the rules listed on the map side of this brochure.

How Can You Help?

- Obey all camping and campfire rules.
- Stay on designated roads and trails.
- Use the provided porta-potties or bury your waste 6 inches deep and at least 100 feet from any water source.
- Bag your trash and take it home or to the dumpster on Forest Road (FR) 708 near the Fossil Springs Trailhead.

Please respect the river!

The Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission has funded all or part of this brochure. The views or findings presented are those of the Forest Service and do not necessarily represent those of the commission, State, or Arizona Department of Water Resources.



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) 537-3600

Or Visit:

www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/

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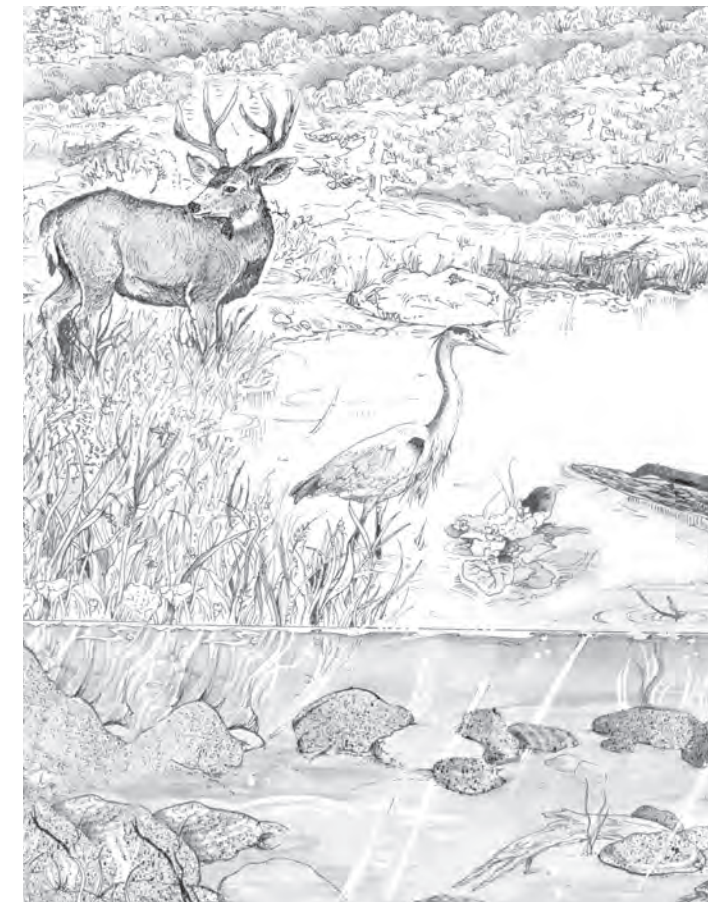
United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Southwestern Region

RG-R3-04-4

Fossil Creek . . . Change is Here

New Regulations
to Protect Fossil Creek,
Coconino and Tonto
National Forests



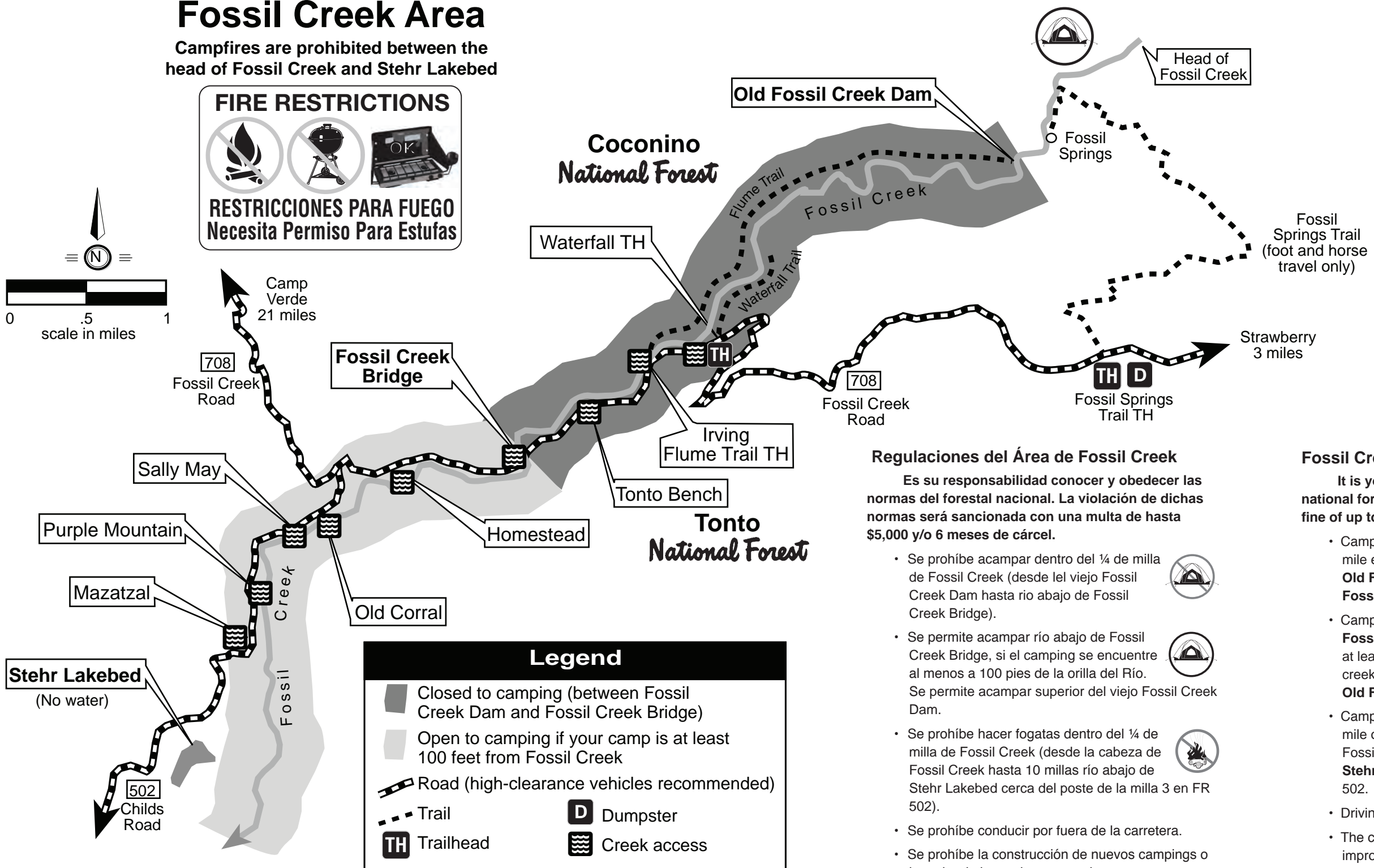
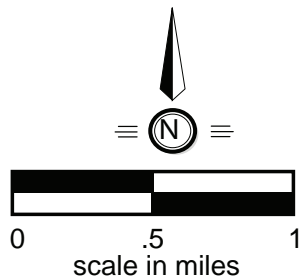
Fossil Creek Area

Campfires are prohibited between the head of Fossil Creek and Stehr Lakebed

FIRE RESTRICTIONS



RESTRICCIONES PARA FUEGO
Necesita Permiso Para Estufas



Regulaciones del Área de Fossil Creek

Es su responsabilidad conocer y obedecer las normas del forestal nacional. La violación de dichas normas será sancionada con una multa de hasta \$5,000 y/o 6 meses de cárcel.

- Se prohíbe acampar dentro del ¼ de milla de Fossil Creek (desde el viejo Fossil Creek Dam hasta río abajo de Fossil Creek Bridge).
- Se permite acampar río abajo de Fossil Creek Bridge, si el camping se encuentre al menos a 100 pies de la orilla del Río. Se permite acampar superior del viejo Fossil Creek Dam.
- Se prohíbe hacer fogatas dentro del ¼ de milla de Fossil Creek (desde la cabeza de Fossil Creek hasta 10 millas río abajo de Stehr Lakebed cerca del poste de la milla 3 en FR 502).
- Se prohíbe conducir por fuera de la carretera.
- Se prohíbe la construcción de nuevos campings o la mejor de los antiguos campings.

Fossil Creek Area Regulations

It is your responsibility to know and obey national forest rules. Violations are punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000 and/or 6 months in jail.

- Camping is prohibited within a quarter mile either side of Fossil Creek from the **Old Fossil Creek Dam**, downstream to **Fossil Creek Bridge**.
- Camping is allowed downstream of **Fossil Creek Bridge** if your camp is at least 100 feet from the edge of the creek. Camping is also allowed upstream of the **Old Fossil Creek Dam**.
- Campfires are prohibited within a quarter mile of Fossil Creek from the head of Fossil Creek, downstream 10 miles to **Stehr Lakebed** near milepost 3 on Forest Road 502.
- Driving off road is prohibited.
- The construction of new campsites or the improvement of existing campsites is prohibited.