

371

**TONTO NATIONAL FOREST
SALT RIVER CANYON
WILDERNESS AREA
FACT SHEET**

The following list of required equipment is designed to promote the personal safety of all visitors and to minimize the impacts of use on the unique and valuable natural resource that we all share in the Upper Salt River Canyon Wilderness Area.

Each permitted boating party must be in possession of these required items. Forest Service River Rangers will check for compliance with these requirements.

A **Firepan** - An open metal container or tray, enclosed with rigid sides at least 3 inches high. Fire pans must be large enough to prevent a campfire and its ashes from spilling onto the ground.

A **Container** suitable for storage and removal of all charcoal and ash generated on your trip from the river corridor.

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).

REMINDERS

- ✓ Group size is limited to 15 people.
- ✓ Attach a boat tag to every watercraft used.
- ✓ Possession or transportation of any part of native plants is prohibited.
- ✓ Dead and down material may be collected for use as firewood for campfires only.
- ✓ Pack out all litter: garbage, food remains, and trash (Orange peels, seed shells and cigarette butts are considered litter).
- ✓ The U.S. Coast Guard recommends use of Type III or Type V Personal Flotation Device by each person, on all watercraft.

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 websites listed below.

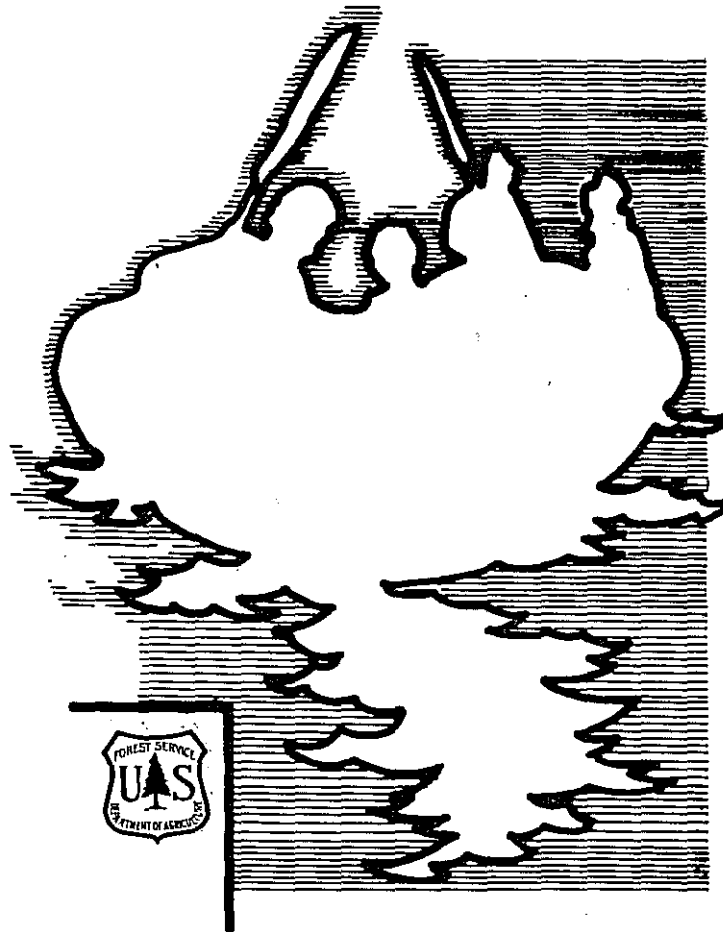
US Geological Survey website (streamflows): <http://az.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/current/?type=flow>
Scroll down to Salt River Basin - look up figures for Salt River near Chrysothile (Put-in) and Salt River near Roosevelt (Take-out)

National Water and Climate Center (snow): <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/snotel/>

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY GUIDE

TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

UPPER SALT RIVER



2000



United States
Department of
Agriculture

PREPARED BY
Forest
Service

Southwestern
Region

UPPER SALT RIVER

United States
Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Tonto National Forest
Globe and Tonto Basin
Ranger Districts



Welcome

Since we might not have a chance to meet you during your visit, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and to provide you with some information that will give you a better appreciation of this special river.

The portion of this river between Gleason Flat (Mile 40.2) and the mouth of Pinal Creek (Mile 8.3) was designated the **SALT RIVER CANYON WILDERNESS** with the passage of the Arizona Wilderness Act of August 28, 1984. **Visitor's Permits** are required for a reserved date to enter this Wilderness from March 1st through May 15th annually. Group size is limited to no more than **15 people**, and no motorized equipment is allowed. Please help us preserve this unique wilderness river! For additional information, contact one of the Forest Offices on Page 6.

The Forest Service does **not** presently require a Visitor's Permit after May 15, nor upstream from the Wilderness (Mile 40.2 up to Mile 60). We hope you will value this privilege as you organize your trip so that it is preserved for others to enjoy in the future.

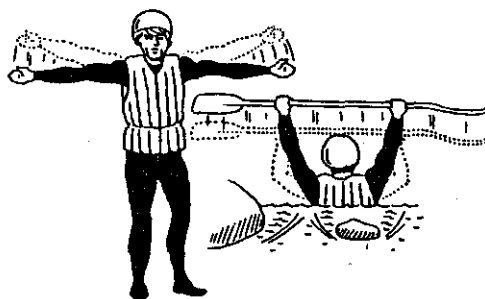
All entry (boating, hiking, driving) into this part of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation requires an appropriate **Tribal Permit**. Usually these permits can be obtained at the store near the Hwy. 60 Bridge. For further information, contact the White Mtn. Apache Tribe (see page 6).

If money changes hands for any reason except for sharing of **all** costs by **all** participants, a Special-Use Permit may be required. If you have any question concerning this or if you are approached by a "pirate outfitter", contact a local Forest Officer. To avoid being "ripped-off", verify that anyone wanting to take you down this river is authorized to do so.

Safe Boating Considerations

It is difficult to generalize about this river, since much depends on the time of year, water level, boat involved, and certainly the skills of the river runner. It is very **definitely not** a river meant for beginners or novices!

There are several rapids which can go to a solid **Class IV** at certain water levels. This river is usually run in small rafts and kayaks. It is **not** suitable for "rubber duckies", open canoes etc. It is also generally unsuitable for large rafts (over 15 feet). Motors of any type are **prohibited**.



STOP: Potential hazard ahead. Wait for "all clear" signal before proceeding, or scout ahead. Form a horizontal bar with your paddle or outstretched arms. Move up and down to attract attention, using a pumping motion with paddle or flying motion with arms. Those seeing the signal should pass it back to others in the party.

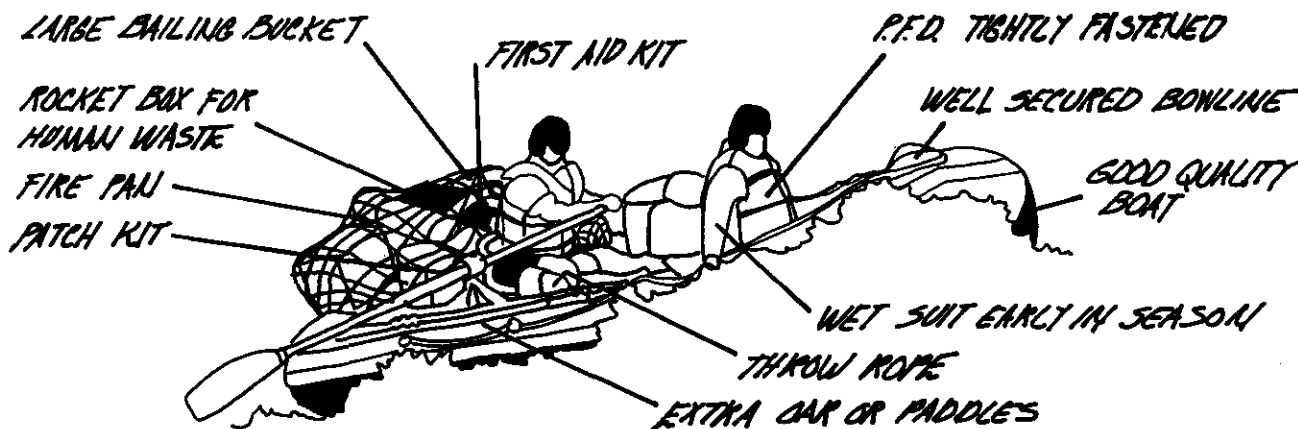
There is a particular hazard you must be especially wary of: the old Diversion Dam located at Mile 7.2 (below the Hwy 288 bridge). Several drownings have occurred at this dam. Do **not** go past the Hwy. 288 River Access Point (R.A.P.) at Mile 8.0!

For information on Safety, we strongly recommend studying a copy of the A.W.A. Safety Code. If you will enclose a stamped self-addressed business-size envelope, you may obtain a free copy from:

**AMERICAN WHITEWATER AFFILIATION
SAFETY CODES
146 N. BROCKWAY
PALATINE, ILLINOIS 60067**

All safety precautions should be taken on the entire river. Your **personal flotation device** (often incorrectly referred to as a "life vest") should be high quality, and provide flotation equal to at least 10 percent of your body weight. It should be worn at all times when on the river. Full or partial wet suits are important safety items early in the season. Kayakers should have rescue lines installed on their boats; rafters should have a good throw rope, and know how to use it.

Responsibility for **search and rescue** is with the Gila County Sheriff's Office. Leave your itinerary with someone who can call them if there is a true emergency. River runners should remember that there will often be *at least* a 24-hour delay before a search operation can get underway. In emergency, call (800) 635-8017.

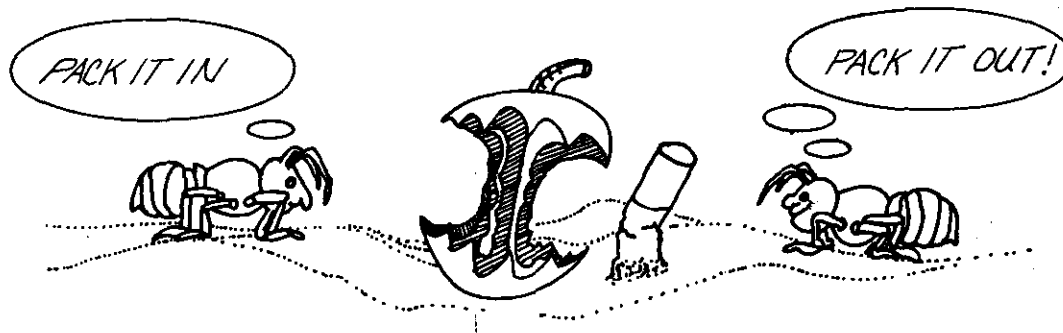


WATER SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT

A Word To The Wise

The information contained in this guide is for general informational purposes only, and is not meant to be taken as an invitation, nor as a statement of conditions at any one time. All persons intending to run this river are responsible for personally assessing these conditions, as well as their own ability to cope with them. You should be aware that all recreational river use of this type involves a degree of risk, and persons engaging in this activity assume the risk associated therewith.

There are a number of books on the market that can assist you in developing your back-country skills. Do not "bite off more than you can chew", since compassion is not one of this river's attributes.



Without A Trace

Large numbers of people run this river, and it is showing the effect of this use. We must all learn to use this river wisely, or be faced with more and more restrictions as use and damage increases. These ideas will help:

Trip Planning

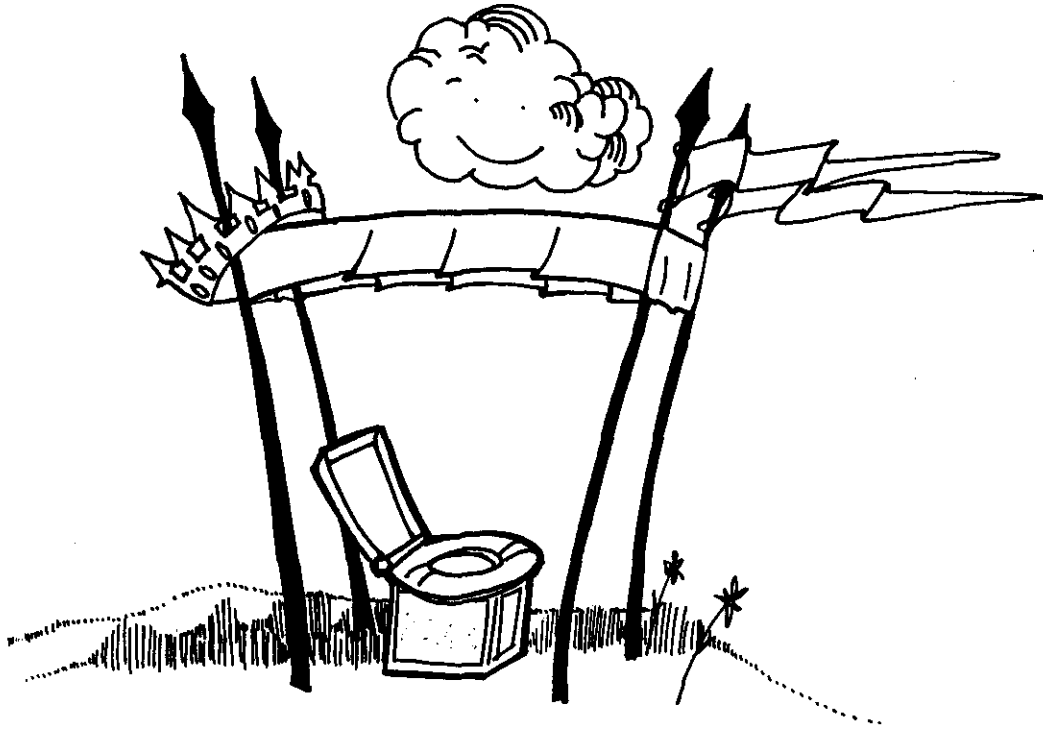
1. Keep your party **small**.
2. Weekends are the **busiest time** for the upper sections of the river.
3. Bring a fire pan if you decide a fire is really needed. **Use of a fire pan or (blanket) is now mandatory below the Salt Banks.**
4. Bring sacks to **carry out** your trash.
5. Bring containers to carry out all human solid waste. **Removal of human solid waste is now mandatory below Gleason Flat.**

Setting Up Camp

1. Campsites are relatively plentiful. **Do not crowd** other groups seeking solitude.
2. Camp at least **300 feet** away from springs and side streams.
3. If you need a campfire, use your fire pan. Select a safe spot away from rock ledges that would be blackened by smoke.
4. Use only **dead and down** wood for any fire. Keep any fire small.
5. **Carry out** all trash that cannot be completely burned. Aluminum foil and aluminum-lined packaging won't burn; put them in your trash bag.
6. Cigarette butts, orange peels, etc. are all litter. **PACK IN IT – PACK IT OUT!**

Sanitation

1. It is essential that **human waste** be carried out. Use a system that will not fail during your trip, and wash your hands after each use. Properly dispose of all human waste after leaving the National Forest.
2. **Wash** yourself and your dishes in a container away from the river and other water sources. (Biodegradable soap is preferred). Dispose of waste water well away from other water.
3. Many water sources must now be assumed to be **contaminated**. Bring ample water with you, or plan to treat it.



Trash

1. Keep **litter bags** handy during the day for empty beverage cans and incidental trash. Everything not totally combustible should be packed out.
2. **Never** sink cans or bottles in the river.
3. If you smoke, **put the butts** in your pocket. They don't belong on the ground or in the river.

Breaking Camp

1. Before leaving your camp or lunch stop, **naturalize** the area. **Replace** rocks and wood used, etc., and scatter any ashes in the river.
2. Scout the area to be sure you have left nothing behind. Try to make it appear as if **no one had been there**.

Acknowledgments

This river runner's map was developed by the Tonto National Forest, Southwestern Region, Forest Service, USDA. It utilizes the topographic map printed in 1933 by the U.S. Geological Survey. Information concerning rapids, etc., was developed over a period of years from data collected by Dr. John Ricker (who began running this river in the 1950's) and Pete Weinel (who began running this river in the late 1960's).

How to Use This Guide

Note that each river mile is indicated by number, beginning with Mile 60 at the Highway 60 bridge, and ending at Roosevelt Reservoir. Allowing time for breaks, scouting rapids, etc., rafters often plan on a **two-mile per hour** schedule.

Some (but not all) rapids are named and described, but they are not rated. This is due to inherent problems with rating systems, and because the rapids change radically with changes in water level. **When in doubt, scout!**

References to "low water" generally means below 750 cfs. References to "high water" generally means 4,000 cfs and above. There are two stream gauging stations, the upper one near Mile 60.2, and the lower one near Mile 8.1. Information on flow may be obtained through the Salt River Project (see Page 6). Also be sure to check out "Arizona Current Streamflow Conditions" under "Hydrologic Data" at the U.S. Geological Survey's WebSite:

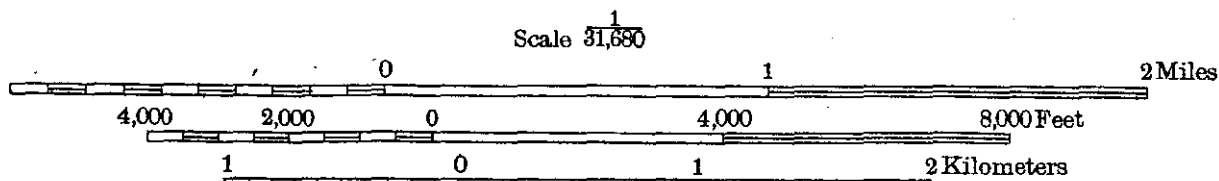
www.daztcn.wr.usgs.gov

One way to make the use of this guide easier is to waterproof it, for example painting it with "Storm Proof" which is available from outdoors stores. As with any river guidebook, it will only be of use if it is, in fact, in use. It will do little good if packed safely away where it cannot be referred to regularly. To avoid some very **nasty surprises**, you should make it a policy to **know where you are** on the river at all times.

"No servant brought them meals No traffic cop whistled them off the hidden rock in the next rapids. No friendly roof kept them dry when they misguessed whether or not to pitch the tent. No guide showed them which camping spots offered a nightlong breeze and which nightlong misery of mosquitoes; which firewood made clear coals and which would only smoke. The elemental simplicities of wilderness travel were thrills because they represented complete freedom to make mistakes. The wilderness gave those rewards and penalties for wise and foolish acts against which civilization has built a thousand buffers."

Aldo Leopold (1887-1948)

SCALE OF RIVER GUIDE



Contour intervals on land 20 and 25 feet changing at mile 8

Contour interval on river surface 5 feet

Datum is mean sea level



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tonto National Forest
2324 E. McDowell Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85006
Phone (602) 225-5200

Globe Ranger Station
Rt. 1, Box 33
Globe, AZ
Phone (520) 402-6200

For Tribal Permit Information

Hon Dah Ski & Outdoor
Sport Center
Phone (520) 369-7667
www.wmatoutdoors.com

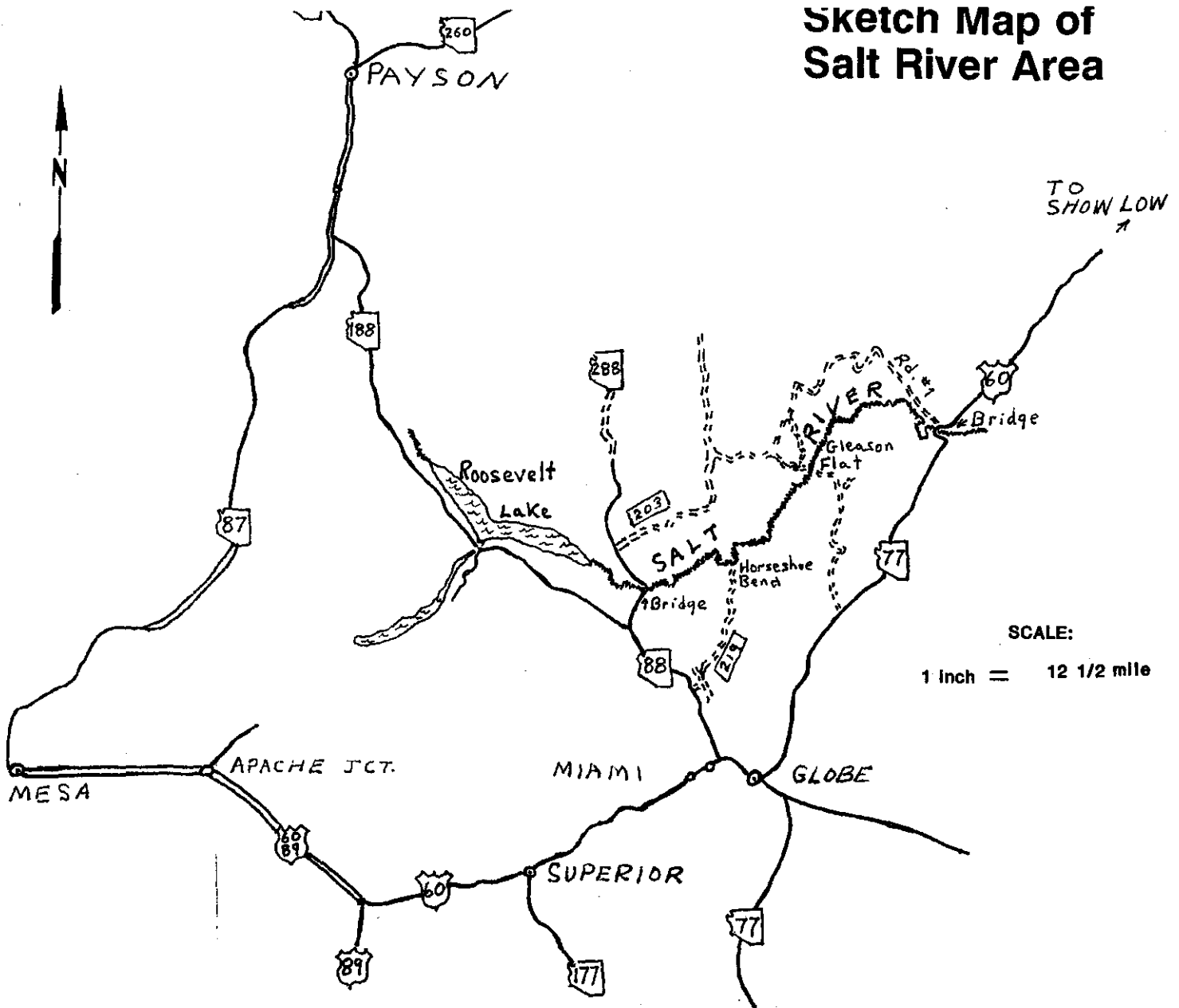
To Report Vandalism, etc.

White Mountain Apache Tribe
Wildlife & Outdoor Recreation Division
P.O. Box 220
White River, AZ 85941
Phone (520) 338-4385

For flow information:

Salt River Project
Phone (602) 236-5929
(recorded message updated every 24 hours)

Sketch Map of Salt River Area



RIVER ACCESS POINTS (R.A.P.'s)

Mile 59.8 Highway 60 Bridge R.A.P.: It is possible to launch on the north (river-right) side of the river, however this requires running Island Rapid which is best avoided by rafters at moderate and low water levels. To launch on the north bank (Fort Apache Reservation), turn left (downstream) on the road about 100 yards north of the bridge. After about 50 yards, turn left on the narrow road which turns upstream and goes under the bridge to a launching point upstream. Don't forget your Reservation River-running Permit.

Mile 59.3 Mule Hoof R.A.P. (Campground #1): A very popular launching spot which avoids Island Rapid. Turn left (downstream) on the road which leaves the highway about 100 yards north of the bridge. The R.A.P. is on a short side-road about ¼ mile off the highway. This can be a very crowded place on busy days!

RIVER ACCESS POINTS (R.A.P.'s)—continued

Mile 54.0 **Exhibition R.A.P. (Campground #2)**: This fairly large campground is reached via the same road (Road #1) as the Mule Hoof R.A.P. From the highway turn-off, it is 3.3 miles to the campground entrance. Tribal Permits for river-running also authorize camping on the Fort Apache Reservation.

Mile 53.1 **Cibecue Creek R.A.P.**: Reached via the same road as the above two R.A.P.'s. Sedans can often reach this point if care is taken. Do not ford Cibecue Creek if water is high.

Mile 50.6 **Sandy Beach R.A.P.**: The river can be accessed via a short side road at this location.

Mile 50.2 **Hoodoo R.A.P.**: A new parking area and access point. Easy to miss. Last take-out for ten miles.

Mile 40.5 **Upper Gleason Flat R.A.P.-Forest Side**: The same directions (for 4WD's) as the Gleason Flat R.A.P., except continue upstream after reaching bottom of the hill.

Mile 40.3 **Gleason Flat R.A.P.-Forest Side**: Take Highway 60 from Globe for approximately 16 miles. Turn left onto Road #303 (opposite the Jones Water Campground). Follow this road for approximately 13.5 miles, then turn left to 4WD Road #303A, and left again onto 4WD Road #303B for about 4 miles to the river.

Mile 40.1 **Gleason Flat R.A.P.-Reservation side (from up-river)**: Turn left (downstream) on Road #1 which leaves Hwy. 60 about 100 yards north of the Highway 60 Bridge. Continue on this road for 19.4 miles to Road #4. Turn left on this 4WD road for 4.1 miles. Turn right for 0.2 miles, then turn left. The river is approximately 0.1 mile ahead.

Mile 40.1 **Gleason Flat R.A.P.-Reservation Side (from down-river)**: From State Highway 288, turn right on the Cherry Creek Road #203. Continue on this road for 14.9 miles to Road #96. Turn right on the 4WD road for 3.3 miles to the National Forest boundary. Continue ahead on Reservation Road #1 for 2.2 miles to Road #3. Turn right for 3.9 miles. At this point, bear right for approximately 0.5 miles towards the river (still 4WD).

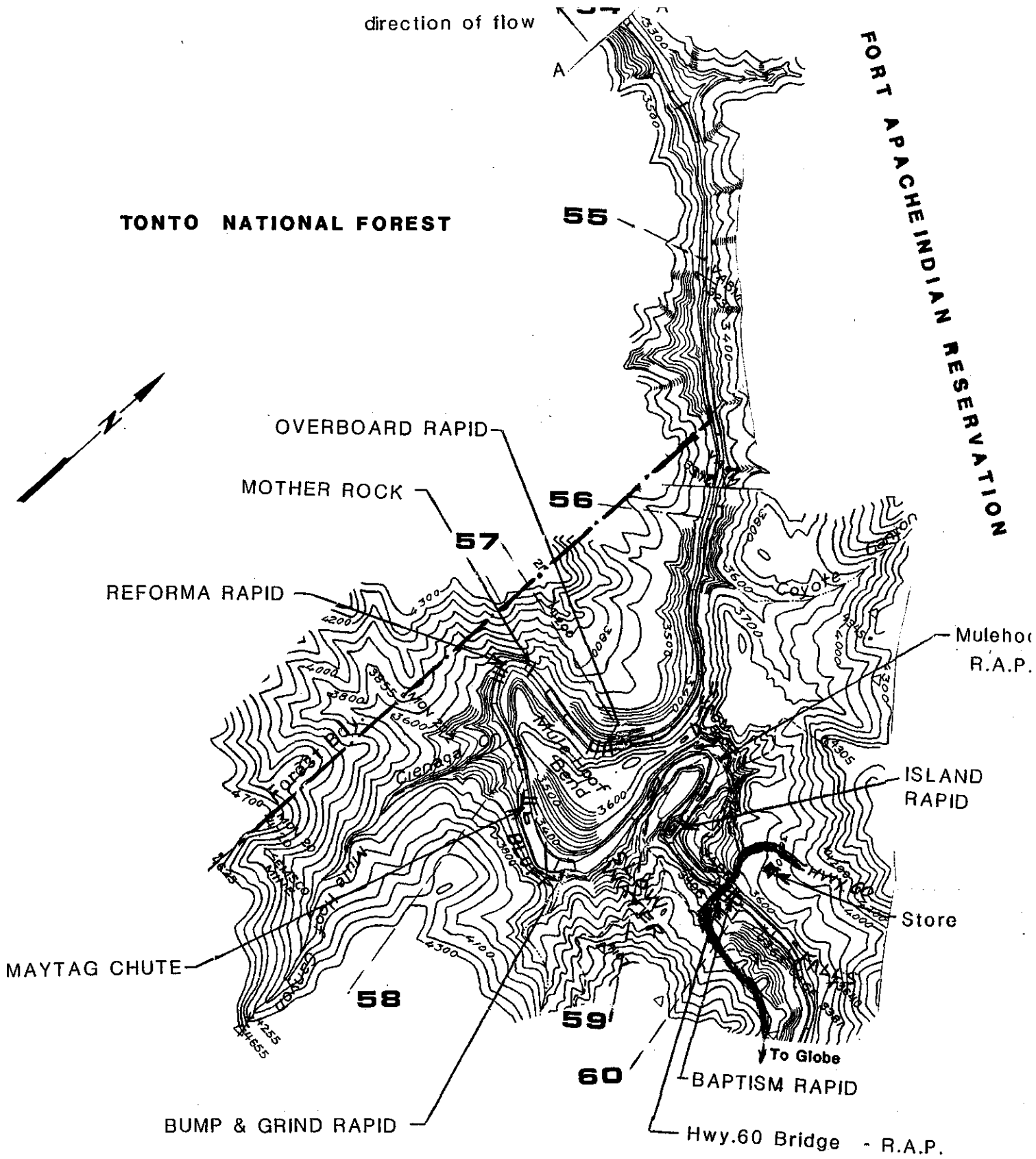
Mile 21.0 **Horseshoe Bend R.A.P.**: From the junction of Hwy. US 60 and Hwy. 188 (between Miami and Globe), drive west on Hwy. 188 (formerly Hwy. 88) for approximately 4.4 miles (look for a "Business Access" sign). Turn right on a paved road, and go approx. 1.7 miles. Turn right on Hicks Road, and go approx. 2.0 miles on Hicks Road to a white metal gate on the right. Go through the gate, 0.2 mile to a second white metal gate; Forest Road #219 begins here. High-clearance 2WD's may be o.k., but 4WD's are preferred. Follow F.R. 219 for approx 12 slow miles. Access to the river is via the Hicks Trail which begins a short distance before reaching the locked gate (private property). The trail is 0.1 mile long, and is not suitable for carrying heavy gear (unless you like that kind of thing). You may also have to carry across gravel bars to reach runnable water.

Mile 8.1 **HWY 288 BRIDGE R.A.P.**: This facility provides excellent access to the river, with a parking lot about 1/8 mile away (do not leave your vehicle in the staging area). From the junction of Hwy. 60 and Hwy. 188 (between Miami and Globe), drive west in Hwy. 188 for about 14.6 miles. Bear right on Hwy. 288 and drive approximately 3.8 miles to the R.A.P. parking lot turn-off (sign on highway says "Upper Salt River Recreation Site"); turn left to parking lot, which is 0.1 mile away. To reach the staging area/ramp, pass by this turn-off for another 0.3 miles, and then turn left. DO NOT attempt to run the river beyond this R.A.P.!



ITEMS OF INTEREST

- F
L
O
W
- 59.9 **Baptism Rapid:** Usually too rocky at low water. Some nasty holes at higher water. Can be accessed from River Right – see R.A.P. descriptions on Page 7. (Named for what happens if you underestimate this one!)
- 59.8 Highway 60 Bridges: The original bridge was constructed in 1934. Downstream is the Dripping Springs Quartzite at river level.
- 59.5 **Island Rapid:** Nasty rocks to hang-up on in both channels; best to start below this rapid except at high water. There is also the “African Queen Sneak Route” going far left at Mile 59.6. Drowning here in 1973.
- 59.3 Mule Hoof R.A.P.: Located in Campground #1. See Page 8 for access directions. River will drop an average of 28 ft. per mile for next 9 miles.
- 59.2 The Mule Hoof monocline is exposed on the north wall of the canyon. The course of the river is controlled by the resistance of the rocks over which it flows. Here the folding of the Dripping Springs Quartzite has forced the river to make two sharp turns as it enters and leaves the monocline.
- 59.0 Mule Hoof Bend is an entrenched meander loop. An ancestral meander has become entrenched and 250-foot high cliffs dominate on the right at the neck of the meander loop.
- 58.5 An asbestos mine is seen on the left, high above the river. In years past, this region produce some of the world’s finest chrysotile asbestos.
- 58.4 **Bump and Grind Rapid:** The upper easy part of this rapid conceals a rocky ledge across the entire lower end. Rafts may be lined at low water. (Named for a famous dance river-runners once knew, and for what happens at lower water.)
- 58.2 **Maytag Chute:** Main part of river goes straight – to left of small island, but preferred route is far right to the right of the island (which can be used for scouting). Tricky Currents!
- 57.9 Cienaga Creek – “Cienaga” is a Spanish word for meadow.
- 57.6 **Reforma Rapid:** (Scouting recommended). Some deep and sneaky holes (rocks) in this one. At higher water, they can be mean! Drowning here in 1986. (Named for a ski run at Taos, and for what can occur here.)
- 57.5 **Mother Rock:** Major rock in center of river. No problem if you stay right. There is a diabase-sill cliff capped with Mescal limestone to the left. Below Mother Rock is a long rock garden. Work your way to its far right side to enter Overboard Rapid.
- 57.2 **Overboard Rapid:** (Difficult to scout). Enter far right, but then pull away from the right side; there is a very large rock at lower end on right, with a big hole left of it. (Named for what commonly happens here.)
- 56.2 Coyote Canyon – For many years, it was felt the only good coyote was a dead one. Despite this and the bounty that was on it, the coyote managed to escape the fate of other predators; today its song is a welcome addition to a back/country trip.
- 55.6 Entering the **TONTO NATIONAL FOREST** on river left. For the next 24 miles, the middle of the river is the boundary between the National Forest and the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. Originally the Crook Forest Reserve, this area was set aside by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908.



54.0 Exhibition R.A.P.: Within Campground #2. See page 8.

F
53.9 Forked Tongue Canyon – A short hike up the canyon takes you to Forked Tongue Falls.

L
53.9 **Exhibition Rapid:** Broad at the top, narrows at bottom. Some good haystacks with occasional
O hidden holes. (Named for a ski run in Sun Valley, and for what you can put on here.)

53.1 Cibecue R.A.P.: See Page 8.

W
53.0 Cibecue Creek is a major tributary of the Salt River. On river left, there are several stream terraces
at varying elevations. In Apache, Cibecue means, “reddish bottom land”.

52.2 **Three-Way Rapid:** One run is straight ahead, but may have rocks at the bottom. The middle
chute (take a hard right) can provide a good ride.

51.4 Salt River Draw – Start getting prepared for Salt River Draw Rapid.

50.8 **Salt River Draw Rapid:** (Scouting recommended from left bank.) Hairy at all levels. Stay away
from the big reversal on the left side.

50.5 Elevation is 3,100 feet. The river drops 26 ft./mile for next 4 miles.

49.7 On the left is an “inflation” fault. Such inflation faults are important in forming this region’s
geology.

49.4 **Salt Banks Rapid:** A good ride. This area is a sensitive cultural and religious site; **ALL** over-
land visitation is **PROHIBITED**.

48.9 **Ledges Rapid:** A series of drops created by the resistant Dripping Spring Quartzite. Big rocks (or
holes) can be hidden in the waves on the left side. Keep right.

48.6 **Little Boat Eater:** A “keeper” is located at the very bottom of the rapid which is immediately
above the quiet water at Walnut Falls. It is very close to the left bank, and gets more troublesome
at lower water.

48.4 Walnut Falls enters the river at a picturesque alcove. This canyon affords an excellent exposure of
systematic jointing in the Dripping Spring Quartzite, as well as hiking opportunities. The Tomato
Juice Mine was located in this canyon not far from the river. It is one of numerous uranium
deposits that were developed in the 1950’s. **Camping is not allowed within 100 yards of Walnut
Falls.**

48.0 The first saguaro cacti are found along the river. These cacti can live for several hundred years.
The Rock Canyon monocline is a magnificent fold at least 5 miles in length and a minimum of 300
feet in structural relief. Both its anticlinal and synclinal hinge zones are fully exposed.

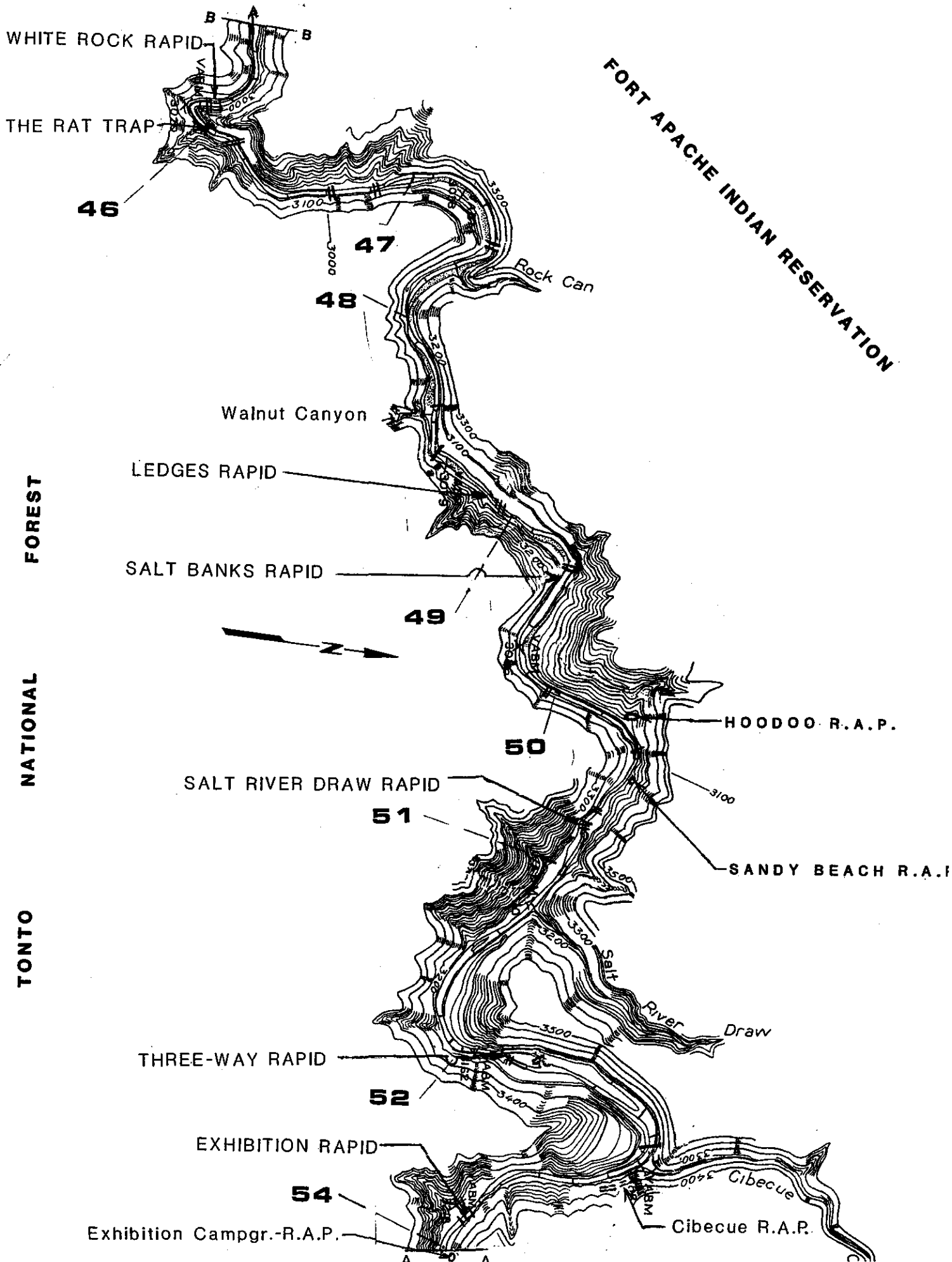
47.5 Rock Canyon – A small cliff dwelling is located at the base of the high bluff just downstream.

46.6 Elevation is 3,000 feet. The river drops 29 ft./mile for next 3 ½ miles.

46.2 This is the first exposure of the Ruin Granite in the canyon. Moving down-river towards Canyon
Creek, a major unconformity is crossed.

46.0 **The Rat Trap:** At lower water, a sharp drop with buried rocks and turbulence. At high water, a
sneak route to the right is available.

45.8 **White Rock Rapid:** This long rapid begins just around a sharp right-hand turn. Usually a good
ride, but it can be intense at high water. The river is entering a gorge of gleaming white
precambrian Ruin Granite that is over 1,400,000,000 years old.



WHITE ROCK RAPID

THE RAT TRAP

46

47

48

Walnut Canyon

LEDGES RAPID

SALT BANKS RAPID

49

HOODOO R.A.P.

50

SALT RIVER DRAW RAPID

51

SANDY BEACH R.A.P.

FOREST

NATIONAL

TONTO

THREE-WAY RAPID

52

EXHIBITION RAPID

54

Exhibition Campgr.-R.A.P.

FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION

Rock Can

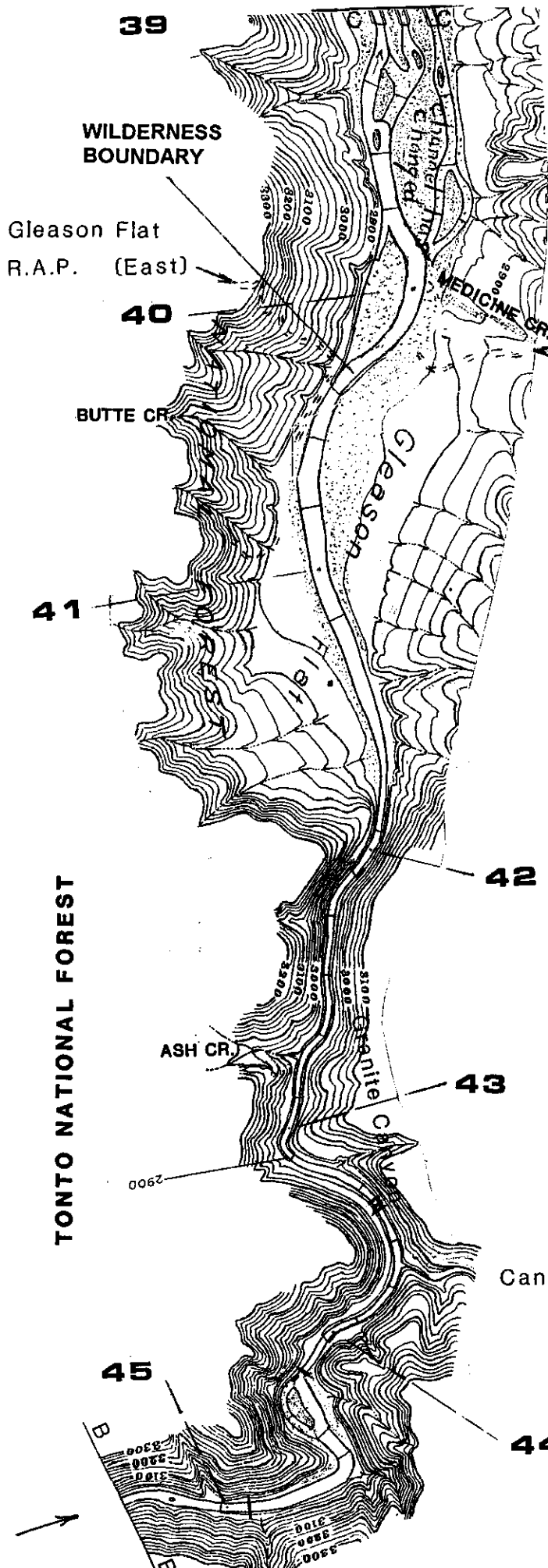
Salt River Draw

Cibecue

Cibecue R.A.P.

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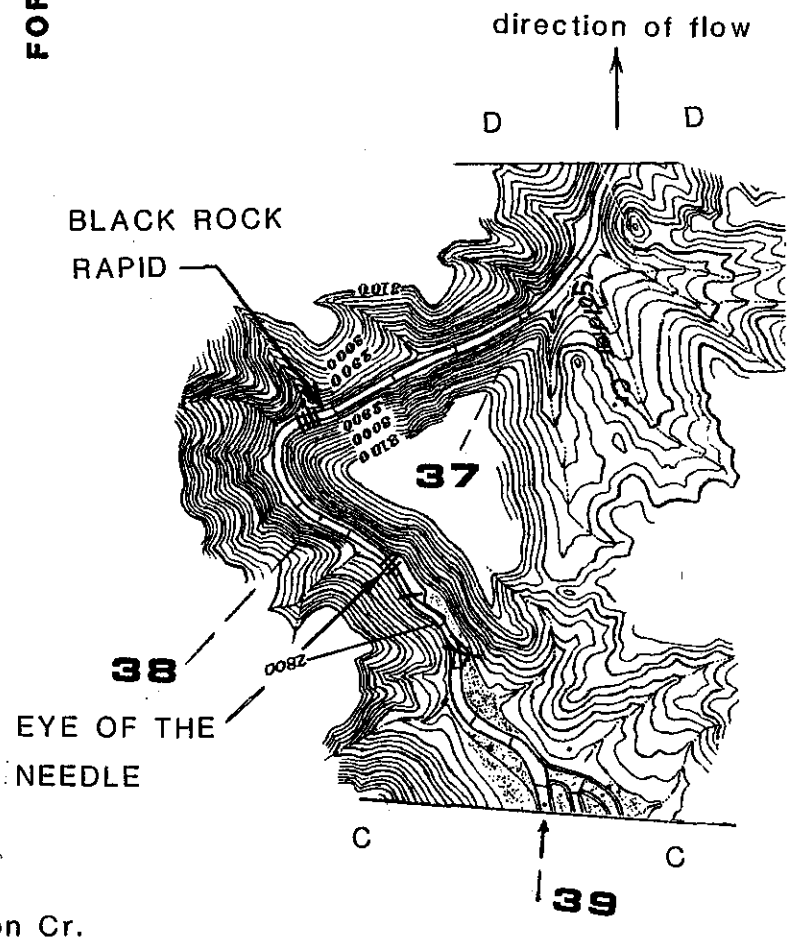
- 45.5 to 42.0 The river moves quickly through this stretch, and there are several ways to get into trouble.
- 44.5 The Canyon Creek Fault Zone (fully 60 miles long) stands out as one of the major scars in the physiography of the State of Arizona. It is estimated that faulting resulted in downdropping of the west block by (approximately) an amazing 5,000 feet.
- 43.7 Canyon Creek - Hard to land, unless you stop upstream of the confluence. Good pools, some with "Verde Trout", a type of native sucker. Canyon Creek is a major drainage which begins many miles away as a trout stream just under the Mogollon Rim. An aboriginal turquoise quarry near the mouth of this drainage was visited by Dr. Emil Haury in 1930 as a part of his archeological survey that year.
- 43.4 **Granite Rapid:** A rock splits the river, and there is no place to scout. The left side can have a big hole, while the right side requires some careful maneuvering.
- 43.1 The elevation is 2,900 feet. The river will drop 21 ft./mile for next 5 miles.
- 42.8 Ash Creek - Water here sometimes; also a swimming hole.
- 42.0 Pete's Pond - Slow water. This is the lower end of Military Training Route #VR-231. If you observe low-flying military aircraft down-river from this point, provide all details (including exact time) to Luke AFB Airspace Manager, phone (623) 856-5855 ASAP!!
- 41.8 to 38.5 At Gleason Flat, the wide expanse of low topographic relief in this area reflects a large exposure of nonresistant conglomerate and sandstone. Often an upstream breeze here.
- 41.0 Along the left shore, an old homestead of 60 acres was acquired by the Forest Service in 1986 through land exchange. This will assure this property will never be closed to the public nor inappropriately developed.
- 40.3 Gleason Flat R.A.P. - National Forest Side (See Page 8).
- 40.3.1 On the left side is the beginning of the **SALT RIVER CANYON WILDERNESS AREA**. This special area was set aside by Congress in 1984 to retain its primeval character and influence, as well as providing outstanding opportunities for solitude. From here to Mile 31.1 the middle of the river serves the dual function as a Wilderness boundary as well as a National Forest boundary. Visitor's Permits are required beyond this point from 3/1 to 5/15.
- 40.1 Gleason Flat R.A.P. - Indian Reservation Side (See Page 8).
- 38.5 The Redmond Formation is found below the cover of the tertiary sedimentary rocks where the wide valley ends. The Redmond Formation is considered to be a precambrian ash flow, with a thickness of approximately 7,000 feet.
- 38.3 If you have not run EYE OF THE NEEDLE before, you may stop here on the left to scout it before the river picks up speed and you are unable to stop. Just down-river, the elevation is 2,800 feet. The river will drop 24 ft./mile for next 8 miles.
- 38.2 **Eye of the Needle:** (Scouting recommended.) This one sneaks up on you. Most of the time, there is a very narrow passage (with a sizeable drop) between rocks - run left. At high water, a reversal can be created across most of the river, and far right is preferred - look over carefully. (Named for its biblical reference.)
- 37.6 **Black Rock Rapid:** (Scouting recommended.) This is a significant rapid at the end of a right-hand turn; it requires close attention. There is an impressive drop, and tricky currents. At high water, it can be run (or lined) through the left channel. At low water, a difficult waterfall is formed. (Named for the movie - don't let it be a Bad Day here for you - and for the color of the rock here.)



INDIAN RESERVATION

FORT APACHE

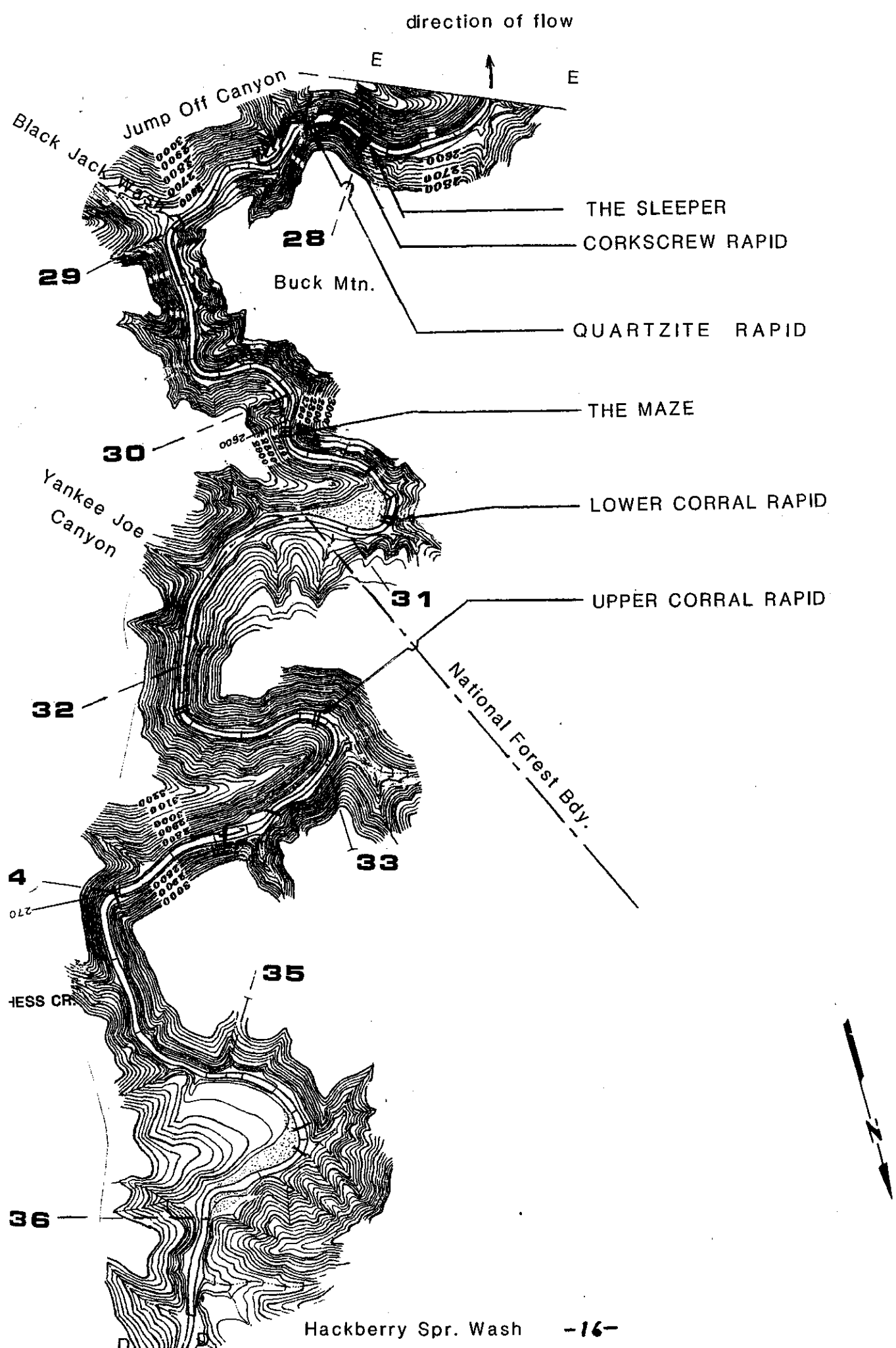
Gleanon Flat R.A.P. (West)



- 7
36.2 Hackberry Spring Wash
- 34.3 Hess Canyon
- 33.2 **Pendejo Curve**: Stay off the left wall. Tougher at low water.
- 32.7 **Upper Corral Rapid**: Current goes into rocks, lower right side.
- 31.6 Yankee Joe canyon - Named for Joseph Yankie who operated several mining claims in this area in the 1870's.
- 31.2 Total river is now within the **Tonto National Forest** and the **Salt River Canyon Wilderness**.
- 30.9 **Lower Corral Rapid**: This is a good place to regroup for what's ahead. This long rapid begins just around a sharp left-hand turn; you are now jumping off down into Jump Off Canyon. There are some sneaky "pinball" possibilities to be avoided for the next mile.
- 30.2 **The Maze**: (Scouting recommended.) Starts just around sharp right-hand turn. Several large rocks become knarly holes at higher water; the worst one is at the top of the rapid. Current will take you left as you come around the curve, but one route is to enter far right against the wall.
- 30.1 Elevation is 2,600 feet. The river will drop 31 ft./mile for next 3 miles.
- 29.4 The entire White Ledges Formation is visible here; it is marked by spectacularly resistant physiographic express. Ripple marks and other primary sedimentary structures are abundant on the bedding planes, especially opposite the mouth of Black Jack Wash.
- 29.0 Black Jack Wash - One of the last campsites for the next couple of miles.
- 28.3 **Quartzite Rapid**: (Scouting recommended.) This was once an awesome rapid, with many a tale told by those who encountered it. In the fall of 1993, the lower drop was destroyed by high explosives. After an intensive investigation by the Forest Service and BATF, it was determined that the two ringleaders were William Kenneth Stoner (a former river-guide) and Richard Merrick Scott (both of Phoenix, AZ). Please pause for a moment to mourn the loss of this irreplaceable natural feature.
- The upper drop remains a challenge. At higher water, there's a substantial drop with little opportunity to stop and scout. At medium water, it is often run on far-right around the large rock that has appeared. At low water, you can line your boat on the right.
- 28.2 **Corkscrew Chute**: (Scouting recommended.) Below Quartzite, there is a pool, and sometimes an island. Corkscrew begins at the pool's lower end. It will attempt to take you into the wall and then dump you into its interesting hydraulics. Drowning here in 1999.
- 28.0 **The Sleeper**: There is a sneaky hole near the beginning of a nice long ride. Stay left away from the hole.

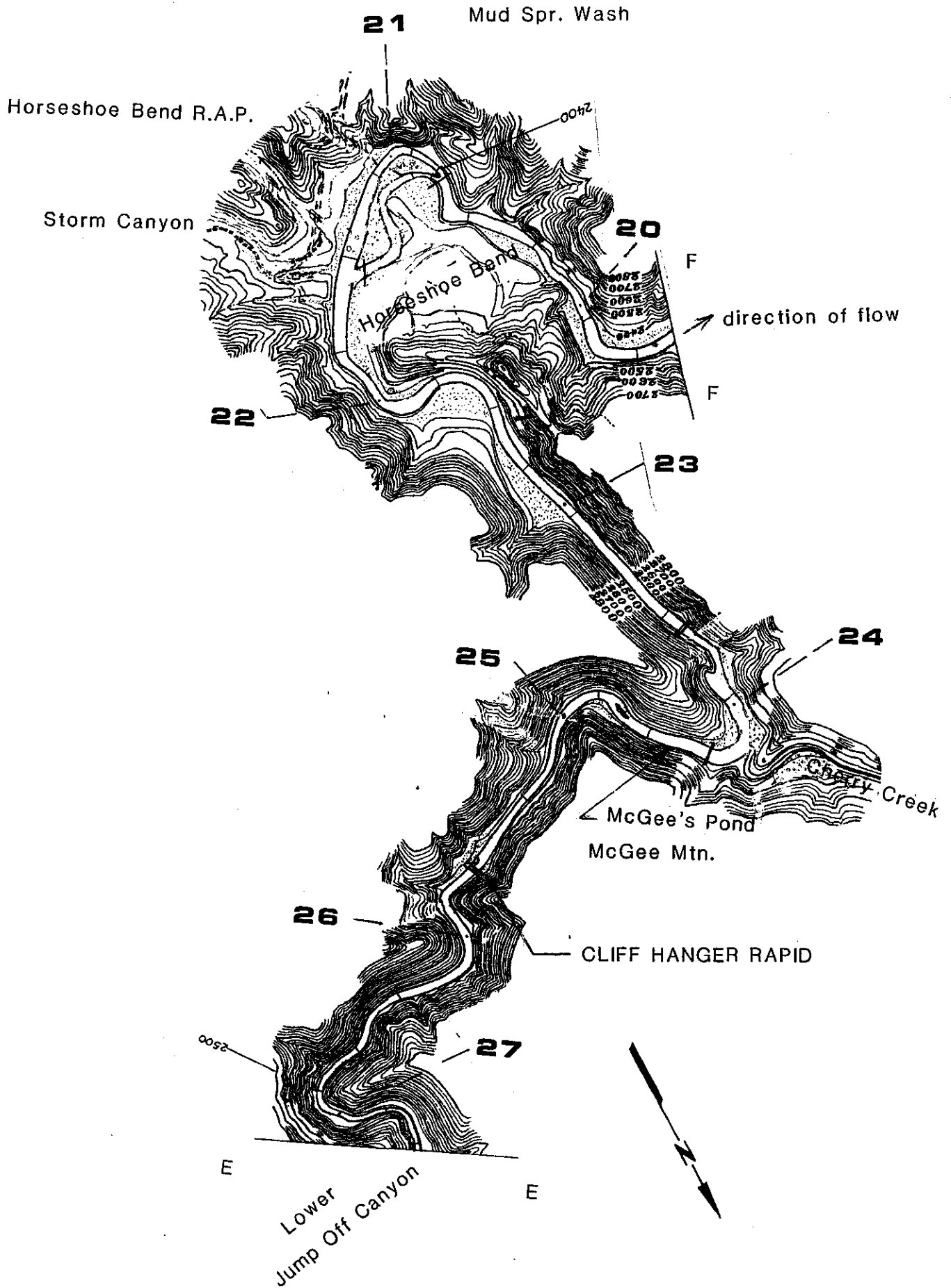
TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

SALT RIVER CANYON WILDERNESS

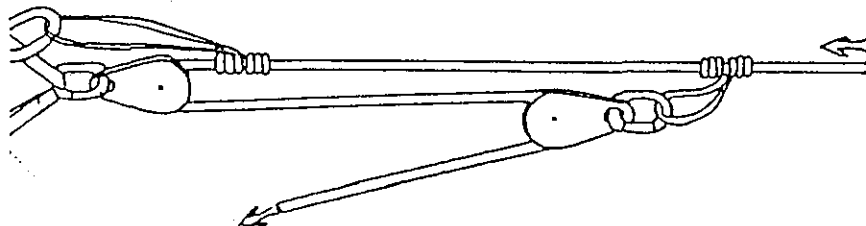


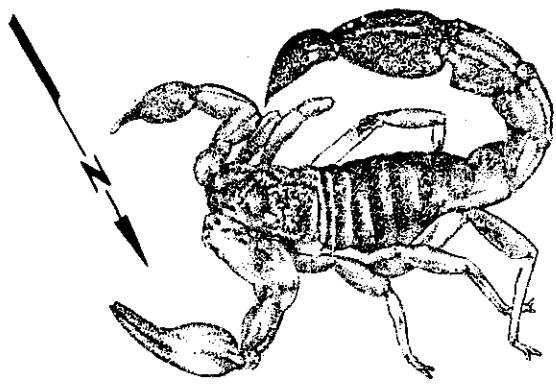
- F 27.0 River continues through Lower Jump Off Canyon.
- L 26.9 Elevation is 2,500 feet. River will drop 16ft./mile for next 6 miles.
- O 26.6 A major fault that shows significant offset.
- W 25.7 **Cliff Hanger Rapid:** The main current runs directly into a bluff with a large eddy pool to the left. Rafters should run this with care. (Named because it is sometimes a mystery if a raft will ever come out of the eddy pool and for what you can do if you flip.)
- 25.1 McGee's Pond – Slow water. Otter still live in the Salt River, and are sometimes glimpsed. McGee Mountain is to the right. McGee was a prospector who had a mine in this area that he said was originally an old Mexican location.
- 24.2 Cherry Creek – A major tributary of the river, this creek begins just under the Mogollon Rim some 50 miles to the north. The stone structure located a short distance up stream was reportedly built by a trapper during the depression. The creek is named for a type of wild cherry (genus *Prunus*) that occurs near its headwaters.
- 23.7 **Wake Up Rapid:** At lower water, the channel is far right along the bluff.
- 22.9 Reenter the White Ledges Formation.
- 22.1 On the left is a spectacular fold in the White Ledges Formation.
- 22.0 Ruin Granite is exposed. A desert isle is on river right (but no one has ever been marooned there).
- 21.7 At Horseshoe Bend, the river meanders through Redmond Formation, White Ledges Formation, Ruin Granite, and tertiary, sedimentary, and volcanic rock layers.
- 21.7 to 21.0 There is a patented homestead of 42.7 acres along the left side of the river. The present owner has blocked off the road that passes through it to the river.
- 21.0+ Horseshoe Bend R.A.P. – The Hicks Trail (steep with poor footing) drops off a ridge to a branch of the river. This R.A.P. is easy to miss if you have not scouted it out beforehand.
- 21.0 The channel is filled with a rhyolite flow. Just downstream from Mud Springs Wash on the left is a conspicuous bluff that displays a prominent channel filled with a volcanic agglomerate. The channel is cut into a sequence of tuff and rhyolite flows of undetermined age.
- 20.8 Elevation is 2,400 feet. River will drop 16 ft./mile for next 6 miles. You are now well into the Sonoran Desert/shrub vegetative type. This large, arid region is centered at the head of the Gulf of California and takes in the western half of the State of Sonora, Mexico, as well as large areas of southeastern California, southwestern Arizona, and the Baja California peninsula. In this part of it, the many succulents, the truly large cacti, and the many tree species make it truly spectacular and the least "desert-like" desert in North America.

SALT RIVER CANYON WILDERNESS



- 18.6 to 17.3 **No Stop Zone:** No landing or stopping is allowed for the next 1.3 miles from December 1st through June 30th each year. Even though the reaction of the eagles in this area to a single group might not seem significant, the impact accumulates with each succeeding group. Bald Eagles do not get their characteristic white heads and tails until they mature at an age of about 3 years. Hopefully we will see more of them in the years ahead as the breeding population recovers.
- 18.3 A castle-like volcanic neck and two dikes are exposed on the left. The white-to-gray dikes are composed of rhyolite and intrude the Redmond Formation. The neck itself is composed of rhyolite fragments in a yellowish-tan felsic matrix.
- 17.8 **Ten-Way Riffle:** The chute on far left is preferred.
- 17.6 **Twenty-Way Riffle:** This one can be a pain at low water.
- 17.4 to 13.0 The last outcrop of the Redmond Formation is at river level. A thick sequence of tertiary conglomerate, basalt, and rhyolite is exposed.
- 17.2 to 15.5 The river makes a large "U", and forms Redmond Flat.
- 16.3 The Devil's Postpile - This outcrop of basalt is a magnificent example of columnar jointing. The basalt rests on rhyolite, which in turn overlies tertiary conglomerate.
- 15.8 Coon Creek - Another significant tributary entering the river in a nice grove of Cottonwood and Sycamore trees. Raccoons are common in this region, and their tracks are often seen in the mud. Fishermen sometimes hike into this spot, and leave a mess.
- 15.2 Chalk Creek - This can be a rewarding hike. Named for soft white limestone that can be found along it.
- 15.0 Black Mesa looms above the river on the right.
- 14.7 Elevation is 2,300 feet. River will drop 17 ft./mile for next 6 miles.
- 14.2 Redmond Wash
- 13.0 to 11.4 Passing through Ruin Granite.
- 11.4 Nail Canyon - A major basin and range fault crosses the river along a northwest trend. Nail Creek lies on the fault zone to the south. It strikes along the base of Black Mesa to the north forming a fault-line scarp on the west end of the mesa.





Nail Canyon

direction of flow

Redmond Mtn.

Black Mesa

12

13

14

18

15

Chalk Creek

Coon Creek

16

Redmond Flat

19

17

Devil's Postpile

10.3 Entering the Goose Necks.

9.4 The Apache Leap Tuff is intercalated with tertiary conglomerate from here to the bridge.

8.9 The elevation is 2,200 feet. Summer temperatures here regularly exceed 100 degrees.

8.4 An excellent example of "slickenside" shale and other fault-plane features are on the right; a major fault places conglomerates in fault contact with the younger rhyolite. A short hike is required to examine this fault, which is hidden from the river by a ridge.

8.3 Pinal Creek – A major tributary that begins in the Pinal Mountains south of Globe. In the past, this creek has been contaminated by waste from copper mining; stains on the rocks can still be seen. This stream was named in 1864 by the King S. Woolsey expedition. At this point, you are leaving the **Salt River Canyon Wilderness**. We hope you enjoyed a quality wilderness experience, away from the crowded hustle-bustle of the modern-day world.

8.0 Highway 288 Bridge R.A.P.: This is the **LAST TAKE-OUT**. Don't block the ramp while you are unloading. Please help us keep this facility in top shape by picking up trash left by others. A good trail leads 1/8 mile to the parking area.

7.8 Tertiary conglomerate reappears; these rocks are the conglomerates down faulted at the "slickenside" fault.

7.2 **Diversion Dam:** Do **NOT** approach this low-head dam, since it is still hazardous. Access to the river at the former R.A.P. is also now blocked. Several drownings have occurred here.

This dam and the 19-mile long power canal that it served were important components in the construction of Roosevelt Dam, built by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The diversion dam and power canal took 2 1/2 years to build, requiring hundreds of workers and teams of horses and mules. The project was completed in 1906, and played a critical role by providing hydroelectric power essential in the construction of Roosevelt Dam.

6.5 Hackberry Wash – There is a private land bordering the river on its right side for a short distance along here.

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|------------|---------------------|-----|------------------|
| 5.8 to 3.5 | Meddler Point | 3.1 | Cottonwood Acres |
| 5.3 | Poison Springs Wash | 2.9 | Medler Wash |
| 4.7 | Worley Wash | 2.0 | Fontana Wash |

0.0 This zero point is at the 2,120 feet elevation, which was the elevation of the original Roosevelt Dam spillway. From here, it is approximately an additional 2 miles to the Schoolhouse Point Recreation Site.

