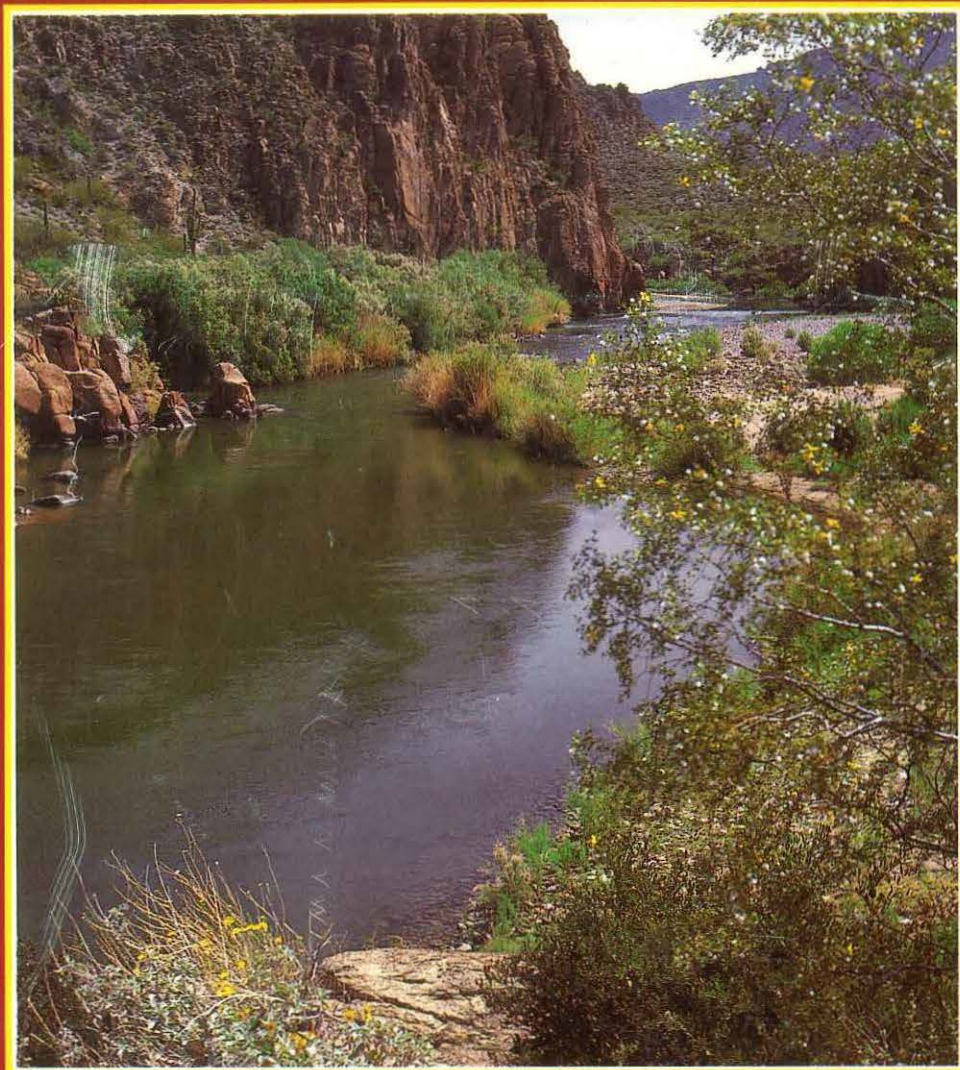


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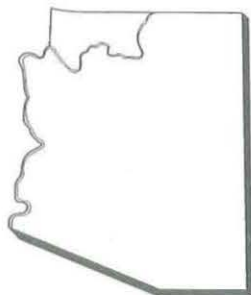
A R I Z O N A

Rivers and Streams

GUIDE



Arizona Rivers and Streams Guide



© 1989, Arizona State Parks

First Printing 1989
Second Printing 1993
Third Printing 1995
Fourth Printing 1998





VERDE RIVER — Perkinsville to Clarkdale

LENGTH: 23 miles

SEASON: Perennial flow

ACCESS: Dirt road

ELEVATION: 3825' - 3363'

FEATURES: Low water boating, hiking, wildlife watching

CAUTIONS: Private property, high water strainers

MAPS: USGS - Perkinsville, Sycamore Basin, Clarkdale

USFS - Prescott National Forest, Coconino National Forest

This stretch of the Verde River has begun to attract interest as a low water boating run. The best times to run it are in the spring, when the snows of the nearby mountains are melting, or in late summer after a monsoon rain. Actual dates of runnable flows remain unpredictable. A railroad parallels the river and is used as a hiking trail.

Just downstream of Perkinsville, cottonwoods provide a nesting side for a great blue heron rookery. The river here is on private property but it is possible to get good views of the birds and their nests from the railroad bed. The river continues past cliffs and caves of redwall limestone, the same stratum that forms the tallest cliffs within the Grand Canyon. From the confluence of Sycamore Creek to the diversion dam near Clarkdale the river is always above 55 cfs and low water boatable.

ACCESS: From Williams: South 23 miles on FR 173, then County Road 70 for 8 miles to the Perkinsville bridge. From Jerome: County Road 72 for 14 miles, then FR 354 to the bridge. From Clarkdale: Tuzigoot Natl. Monument Road to the river.

including threatened roundtail chubs and spikedaces. Antelope, mule deer, otter and black bear may be sighted along its banks.

FACILITIES: Camping, shopping, restaurants and lodging are available in Clarkdale, Cottonwood, and Williams.

CAUTIONS: A dam and gravel pit obstruct the river just upstream of Clarkdale. It must be portaged. Some people use an alternate take-out on private property at Tapco to avoid the dam. Access at Packard Ranch at Sycamore confluence is limited by private property.

WILDLIFE: There is a large great blue heron rookery just down river of Perkinsville that provides special interest. Endangered southern bald eagles also nest along this stretch. The stream supports a warm water fishery

INFORMATION: Prescott National Forest, Chino Valley and Verde Ranger Districts; Coconino Nat. Forest, Sedona Ranger District

USES:

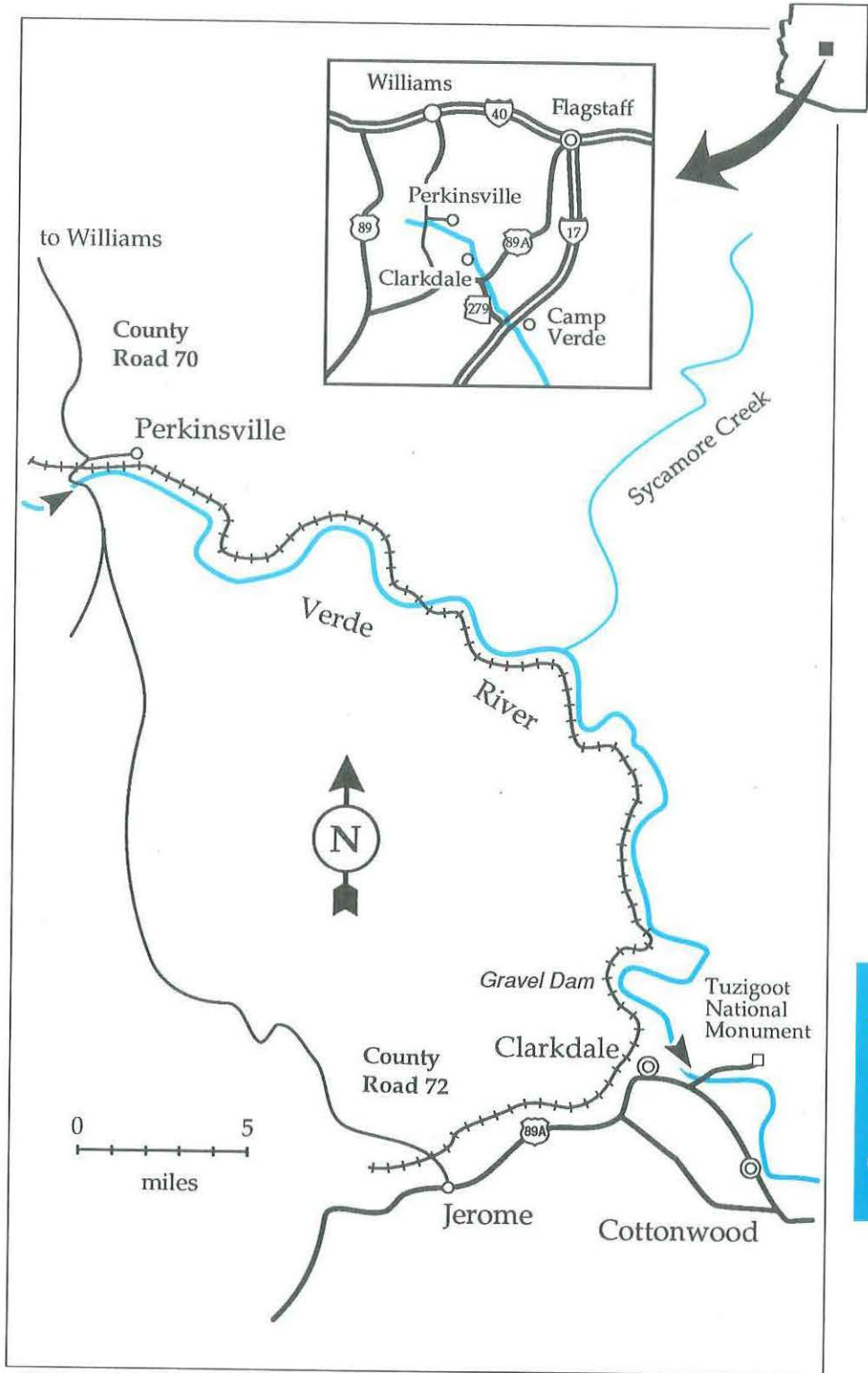


Class II



warm





VERDE RIVER — Perkinsville to Clarkdale 159

Central



VERDE RIVER — Clarkdale to Camp Verde

LENGTH: 24 miles

SEASON: October — April

ACCESS: Paved road

ELEVATION: 3363' - 3147'

FEATURES: State Park, National Monument, easy access

CAUTIONS: Diversion dams, gravel pits, private property

MAPS: USGS - Cottonwood, Cornville, Middle Verde, Camp Verde

USFS - Prescott, Coconino

This stretch of the Verde River flows through an area of small farms and suburban ranches. As a result, the stream's waters are heavily used for irrigation. Nevertheless, the river remains a valued recreational resource which attracts considerable interest and is experiencing an ongoing enrichment program. A number of river access points, hiking and biking trails, and picnic sites are being added to those already available. During the winter the Arizona Game & Fish Department stocks the stream with trout.

In spite of heavy use, there are riparian areas along this stretch that remain healthy and attractive. A number of out-of-the-way swimming holes and fishing spots provide popular recreation sites. Arizona State Parks manages the Verde River Greenway to protect the fragile cottonwood-willow riparian forest — one of the rarest ecosystems in North America.

ACCESS: Take the Tuzigoot National Monument Road off AZ 279 just south of Clarkdale, or drive north from AZ 279 on US 89A to the Bridgeport Bridge. For a take-out, leave I-17 at the Middle Verde Exit, turn west and follow a gravel frontage road along the west side of I-17 a short distance to the river.

WILDLIFE: This riparian area harbors a large number of bird species. Waterfowl are occasional visitors as are bald eagles and ospreys. Raccoons, otters and other small mammals frequent the area.

FACILITIES: Camping is available at Dead Horse Ranch SP. Commercial camps, shopping, restaurants, and lodging is available along Highway 279 and in nearby communities. Canoe rentals are available in Cottonwood and Camp Verde.

CAUTIONS: Diversion dams create life threatening hazards at high water. They must be portaged at any level. Several gravel pits obstruct the river. Take out upstream of I-17 to avoid the biggest of these.

INFORMATION: Salt River Project (for flows - 273-5929); Prescott Natl. Forest, Verde Ranger Dist; Coconino Natl. Forest, Sedona Ranger District; Dead Horse Ranch State Park

USES:



Class I



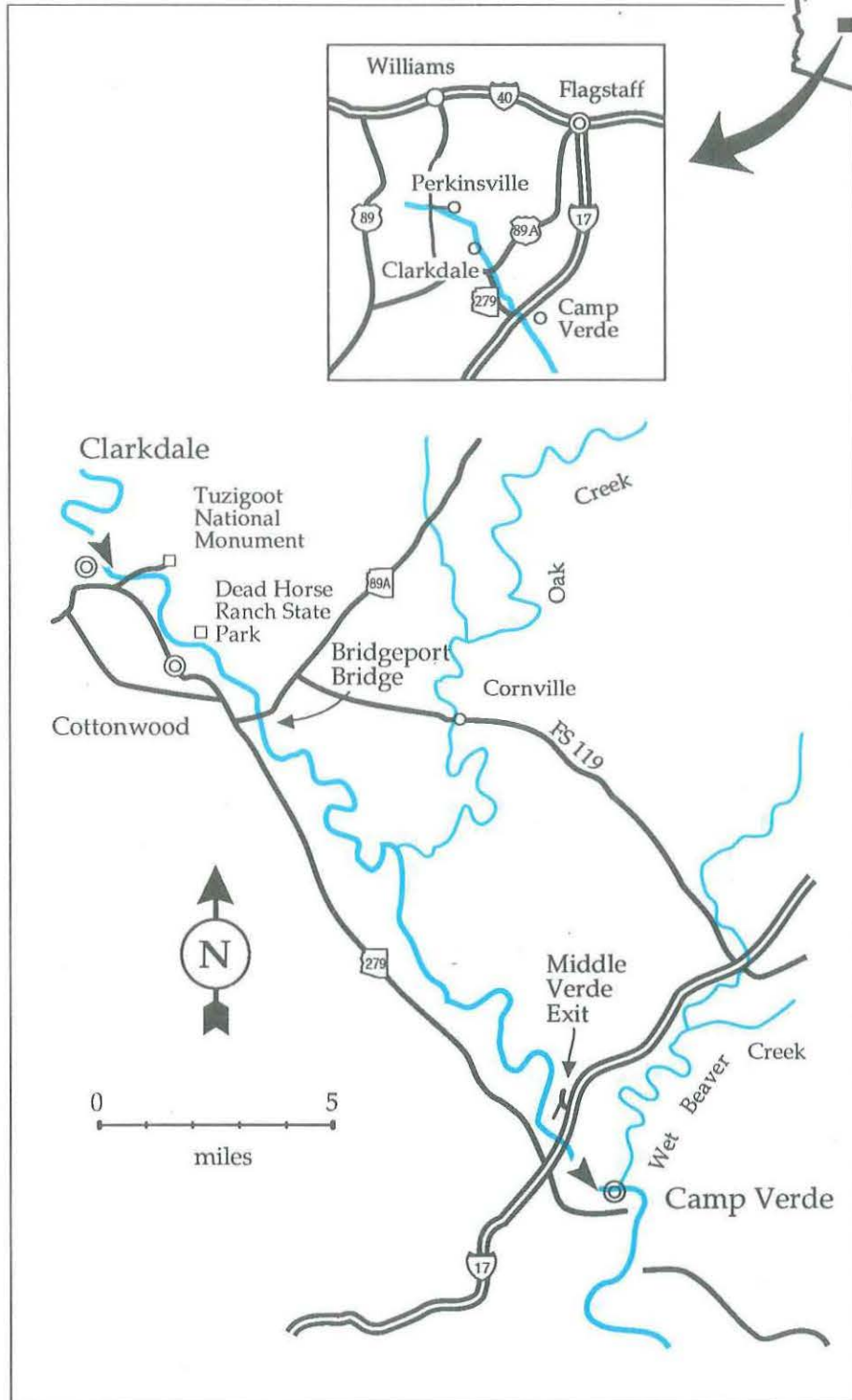
all



fee



fee



Central



VERDE RIVER — Camp Verde to Beasley Flats

LENGTH: 9 miles

SEASON: All year

ACCESS: Paved road/dirt road

ELEVATION: 3147' - 3020'

FEATURES: Easy access, long season

CAUTIONS: Private property

MAPS: USGS - Camp Verde, Horner Mountain

USFS - Prescott, Coconino

The major appeal of this segment of the Verde River is its mellow nature and easy accessibility. For the most part, this is a flat water stretch that includes a few easy to run riffles. Low water boaters consider it to be navigable in all but the driest of times — as close to a year-round run as is possible for a small desert river.

Along the way the surroundings change from suburban to rural to remote. Herons nest in the large streamside cottonwoods and osprey fish the river's deep, long pools. People fish here too. This stretch has produced some exceptional shovelhead catfish and largemouth bass. Many people have started great friendships with the Verde along these nine short miles.

ACCESS: Put -in: The General Crook Highway crosses the river at the south end of Camp Verde.

Beasley Flats: From Camp Verde take Salt Mine Road 8 miles, then left to the turn-around at the river.

FACILITIES: Commercial camps, shopping, restaurants, lodging and a canoe livery are available in Camp Verde. A USFS campground is located nearby off the General Crook Highway at West Clear Creek.

WILDLIFE: A number of species of raptors, songbirds and waterfowl can be seen along this stretch,

including osprey and endangered southern bald eagles. There are also small mammals like raccoons, beaver and, perhaps, even river otters, a species recently reintroduced into this area. Both warm and cool water fish inhabit the river.

CAUTIONS: Much of the land bordering this stretch of the Verde is privately owned. Residents' privacy should be respected.

INFORMATION: Salt River Project (for flows - 273-5929); Prescott National Forest, Verde Ranger District; Coconino National Forest, Beaver Creek Ranger District

USES:

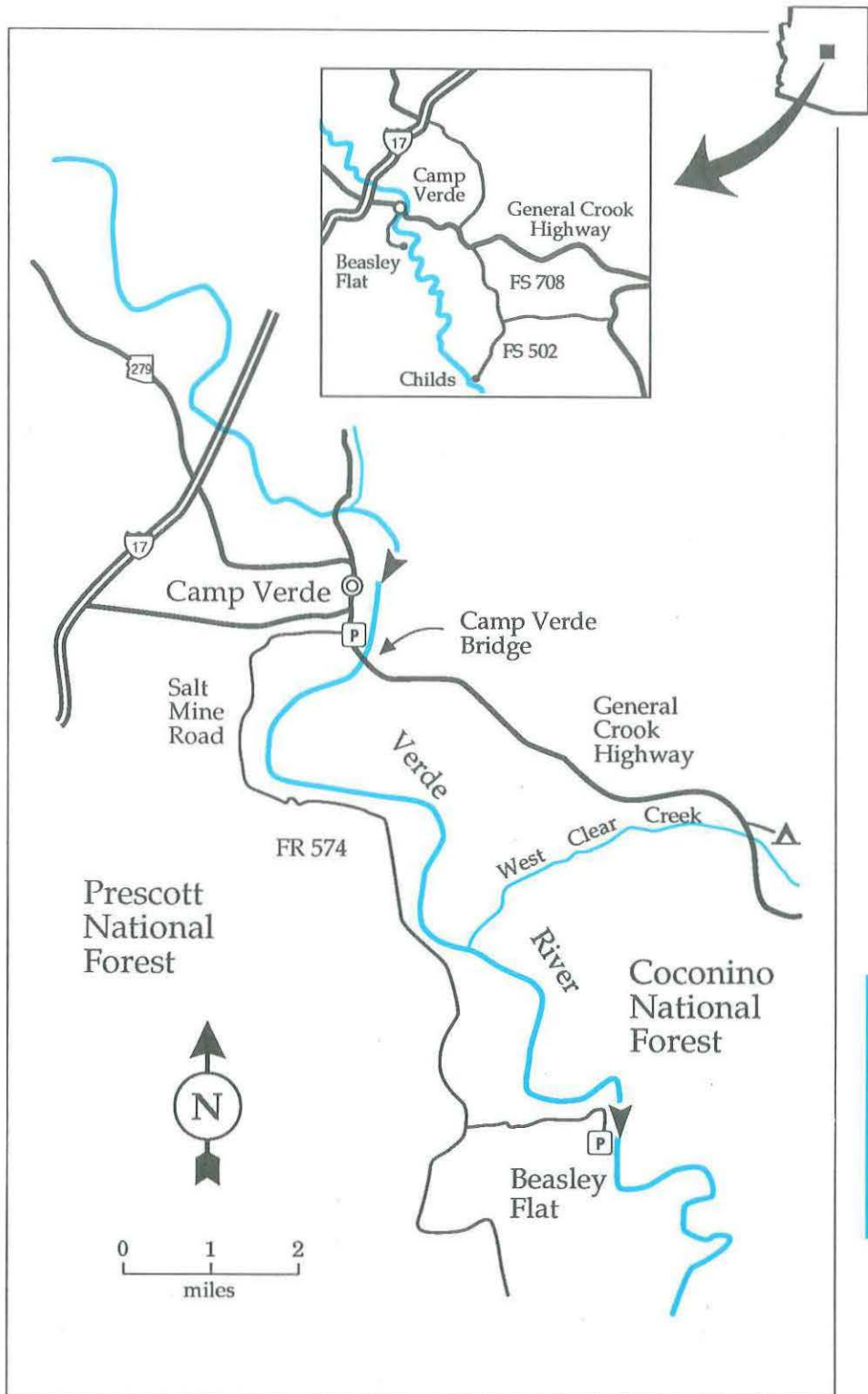


Class I



all





VERDE RIVER — Camp Verde to Beasley Flats 163

Central



VERDE RIVER — Beasley Flats to Childs

LENGTH: 18 miles

SEASON: October - April

ACCESS: Dirt road

ELEVATION: 3020' - 2695'

FEATURES: White water, bald eagles, river otters, hot springs

CAUTIONS: Waterfall, rapids, wildlife and ORV closures

MAPS: USGS - Camp Verde, Horner Mtn., Hackberry, Verde Hot Springs

USFS - Coconino, Prescott, Tonto, Recreation Opportunity Guide

This is the most challenging white water run on the Verde River. Variable flows make its season extremely unpredictable. On good snow years the high water season can last from late February to mid-April. Other years may provide no boating at all. The use of plastic canoes and small inflatable boats can extend the river running season on this segment to include all but the driest of times.

This stretch of the Verde is Arizona's only Scenic River Area which is a component of the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers system. It is excellent for fishing, wildlife watching and hiking. Numerous access points are available by foot, horseback and 4WD. Of the latter, the most popular is at Gap Creek, 9 miles downstream of Beasley Flats.

ACCESS: (From Camp Verde)

Beasley Flats: Salt Mine Road 8 miles then left to the turn-around at the river. **Childs:** Hwy 260 for 5 miles, then FR 708 for 15 miles and FR 502 for 7 miles.

CAUTIONS: Scout *Verde Falls* & Turkey Gobbler Rapid. Portaging is usually recommended at Verde Falls. Wet suits are advisable. To avoid disturbing nesting eagles *no stopping is permitted for 1.5 miles below the falls* (Dec. 1 to June 15). Gap Creek is closed to off-road-vehicles.

FACILITIES: Primitive campsites and toilets located at Childs. Commercial facilities are available in Camp Verde. There is an undeveloped hot springs near Childs.

INFORMATION: Salt River Project (for flows, 236-5929); Prescott National Forest, Verde Ranger District; Coconino National Forest, Beaver Creek Ranger District; Tonto National Forest.

WILDLIFE: Bald eagles are frequently seen; also look for rare river otters (reintroduced here in the early 1980s).

USES:



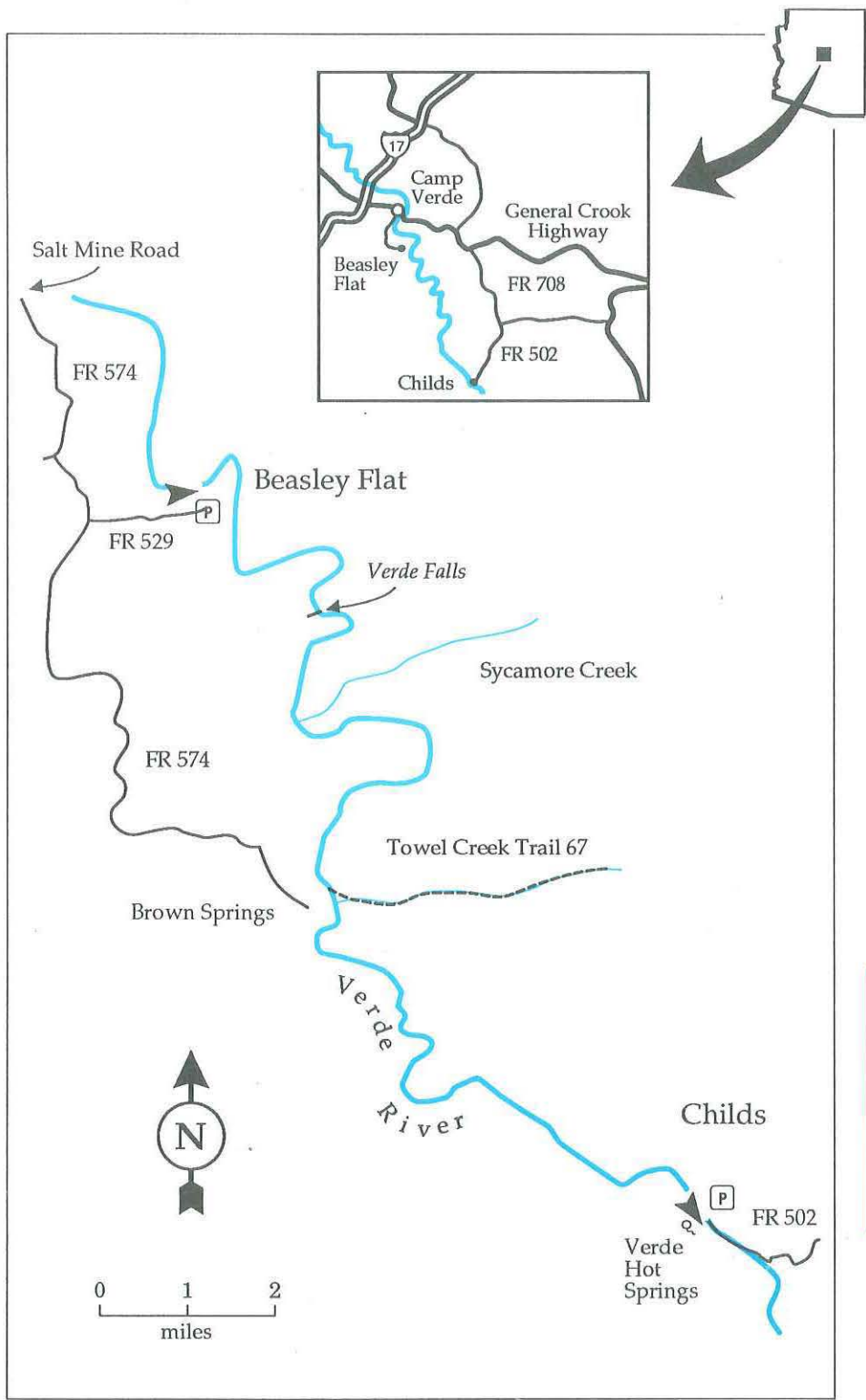
Class III



warm



eagles



VERDE RIVER — Beasley Flats to Childs 165

Central



VERDE RIVER— Childs to Horseshoe Reservoir

LENGTH: 35 miles

SEASON: October - April

ACCESS: Dirt road (HCV)

ELEVATION: 2695' - 1995'

FEATURES: Wild River Area, Wilderness Area

CAUTIONS: Extreme isolation, high water strainers

MAPS: USGS - Verde Hot Springs, Wet Bottom Mesa, Chalk Mtn.

USFS - Tonto National Forest visitors map, Recreation Opportunity Guide

This stretch of the Verde stands out as the only federally designated Wild River Area in Arizona. Here the river is extremely remote for the entire stretch with no access but hiking and horseback trails. Bald eagles soar above it and mountain lions prowl the mountains that border it. This is truly a wilderness river.

The boating season on this stretch of the Verde consists of two parts. First, the big water season for rafts and kayaks lasts as long as the snow melt. In some years that may amount to only a few days. The low water boating season continues much longer. For those willing to drag a canoe over a gravel bar the experience of running this stretch of river can be enjoyed almost year-round.

ACCESS: Childs: Take Hwy 260 for 5 miles from Camp Verde then FR 708 for 15 miles to FR 502 and 7 miles to Childs. Sheep Bridge (just above Horseshoe Reservoir): Take Bloody Basin exit from I-17. Follow FR 269 for 32 miles.

both large and smallmouth bass as well as channel and flathead catfish. Javelina and mule deer are common.

FACILITIES: USFS primitive campgrounds are located at Childs & Sheep Bridge. Other facilities are available in nearby towns. There are undeveloped hot springs at Childs and Sheep Bridge.

CAUTIONS: Small problems can be magnified by the amount of time and trouble it takes to get help. Watch for strainers.

INFORMATION: Salt River Project (for flows - 236-5929); Coconino Natl. Fores, Beaver Creek Ranger District; Tonto National Forest, Cave Creek Ranger District.

WILDLIFE: Riparian birds include the bald eagle. The stream holds

USES:

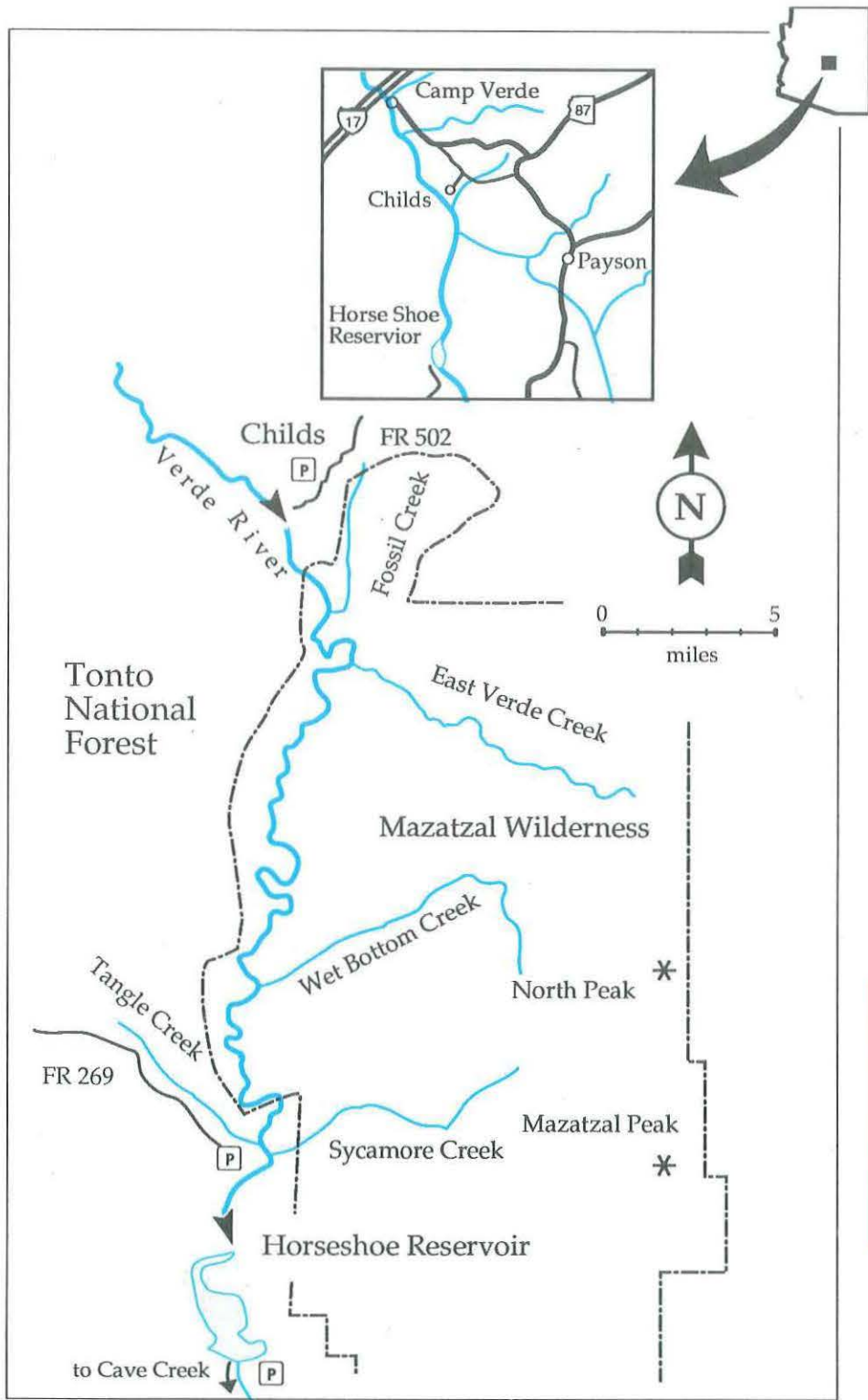


Class II



warm





VERDE RIVER — Childs to Horseshoe Reservoir 167

Central



VERDE RIVER — Horseshoe Dam to Bartlett Res

LENGTH: 20 miles

SEASON: All year

ACCESS: Dirt road

ELEVATION: 1897' - 1750'

FEATURES: Remote setting, Sonoran desert habitat

CAUTIONS: Rugged access, long flata water stretch, wildlife closure

MAPS: USGS - Horseshoe Dam, Lion Mtn., Maverick Mtn.

USFS - Tonto National Forest

This stretch is significant because of its remote Sonoran desert surroundings. The run is a fairly easy one with a shuttle that is not as long or rough as the stretch just upstream. The flow of the river depends entirely on the release from Horseshoe Dam. Call the Salt River Project for current information. The rapids are easy but there are a few strainers to watch for at high water. Four miles below Horseshoe Dam, boaters are prohibited from stopping near a nesting site of endangered bald eagles.

To avoid the three hour paddle across Bartlett Lake some people use the alternate access at Devil's Hole (4WD only). Another solution is to bring a motor. The river and the lake provide good fishing for catfish and bass.

ACCESS: (From Cave Creek) Put-in:

Take FR 24 for 7 miles, to FR 19.

Follow FR 19 for 6 miles to FR 205 and turn left. Follow FR 205 for 6 miles to Mesquite Flat Campground.

Takeout: FR 24 to FR 19, follow FR 19 for 13 miles, to FR 459 and 3.5 miles to Bartlett Flats.

FACILITIES: There are USFS primitive campgrounds at Horseshoe Reservoir and at Bartlett Reservoir. Other facilities are available at the nearby communities of Cave Creek and Carefree.

WILDLIFE: A number of bird species inhabit the riparian areas along the river. Beavers swim in its

waters. The stream supports a warm water fishery including largemouth and smallmouth bass as well as channel and shovelhead catfish.

CAUTIONS: At high water the river can be clogged by dangerous strainers. From Dec. 1 to June 15 *stopping is prohibited near a bald eagle nesting site four miles downstream of Horseshoe Dam.* The paddle across Bartlett Reservoir can take as much as three hours.

INFORMATION: Salt River Project (for flows - 236-5929); Tonto National Forest, Cave Creek Ranger District

USES:

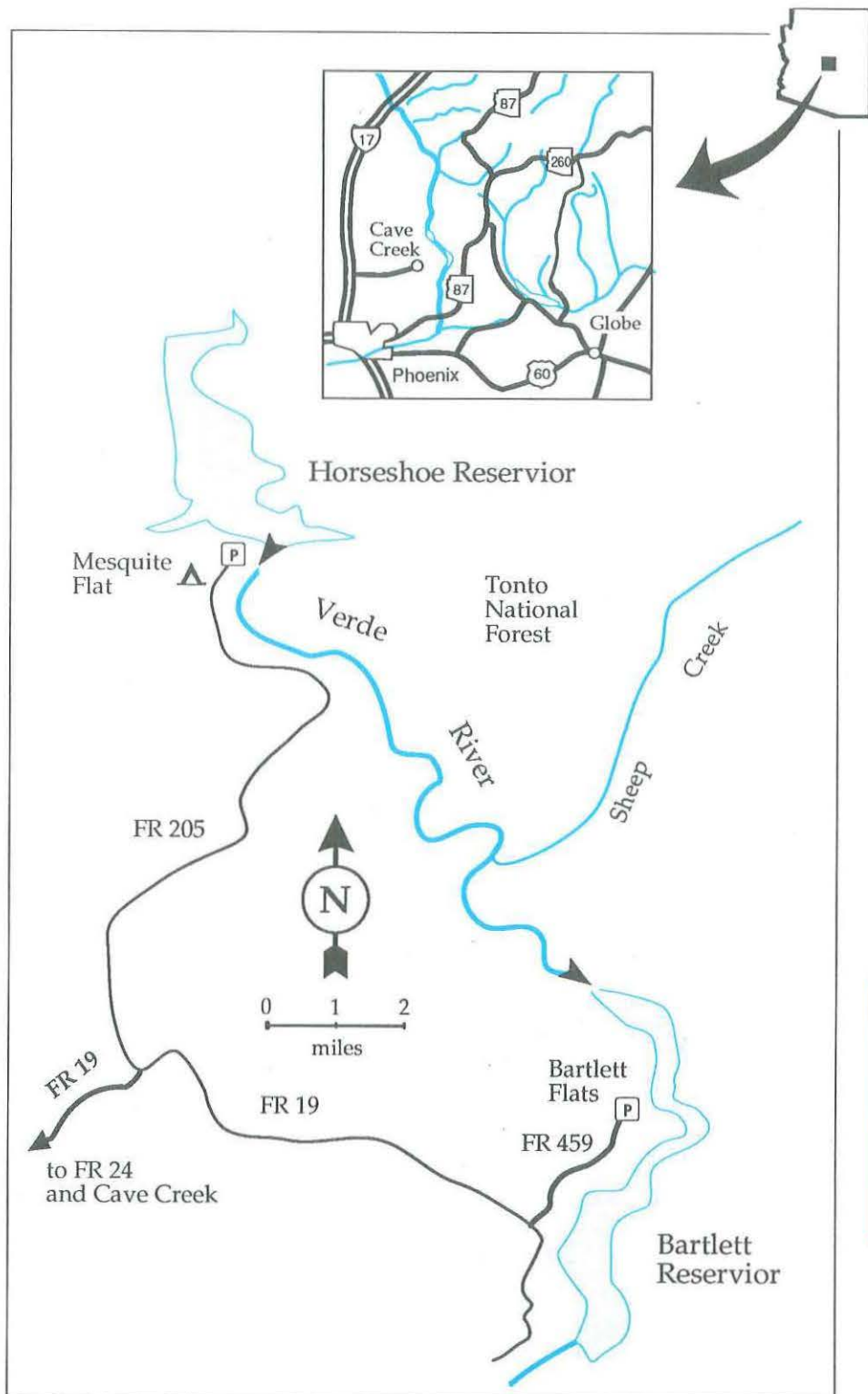


Class II



warm





VERDE RIVER — Horseshoe Dam to Bartlett Reservoir 169



VERDE RIVER — Bartlett Dam to Salt River

LENGTH: 24 miles

SEASON: All year

ACCESS: Dirt road/paved road

ELEVATION: 1600' - 1325'

FEATURES: Easy access, regular flows, bald eagles

CAUTIONS: Crowded camps, wildlife closure, Indian Lands

MAPS: USGS - Bartlett Dam, Fort McDowell, Granite Reef Dam

USFS - Tonto National Forest

This stretch is popular with boaters, largely because the river's flow is regulated by Bartlett Dam. In addition, the upper portion of this run offers a pleasantly remote desert setting with enough small riffles and eddies to make the paddling interesting. It's a good place for bird and wildlife watching and the smallmouth bass fishing isn't bad. The shuttles are fairly long but usually possible in passenger cars.

The several points of access along this stretch make the length of any trip adjustable. As it nears the Salt River, the Verde passes through the Fort McDowell and Salt River Indian reservations. Be sure to check with the tribes before crossing their land.

ACCESS: (From Cave Creek) **Put-in:** Follow FR 24 for 7 miles, then FR 19 for 13 miles to FR 162 which leads to the Riverside Campground. **Take-out:** Follow Pima Road to Pinnacle Peak Road to Rio Verde Road to FR 20 to Needle Rock. Other access is south of the bridge within the Salt River Indian Reservation.

largemouth bass. Great blue herons, javelina and coyotes are common.

CAUTIONS: *No stopping is permitted for 3 miles downstream of the put-in (Dec. 1 to June 30).* Check with Fort McDowell Indian Reservation before crossing their land. Entrance is prohibited on the Salt River Indian Reservation.

FACILITIES: There are USFS primitive campgrounds available at both Bartlett Dam and at Needle Rock. Facilities are available nearby in Scottsdale and Phoenix.

INFORMATION: Salt River Project (for flows - 236-5929); Tonto Natl. Forest; Fort McDowell Indian Reservation; Salt River Indian Reservation

WILDLIFE: Endangered southern bald eagle nesting site near put-in. Good fishing for catfish, small and

USES:



Class I



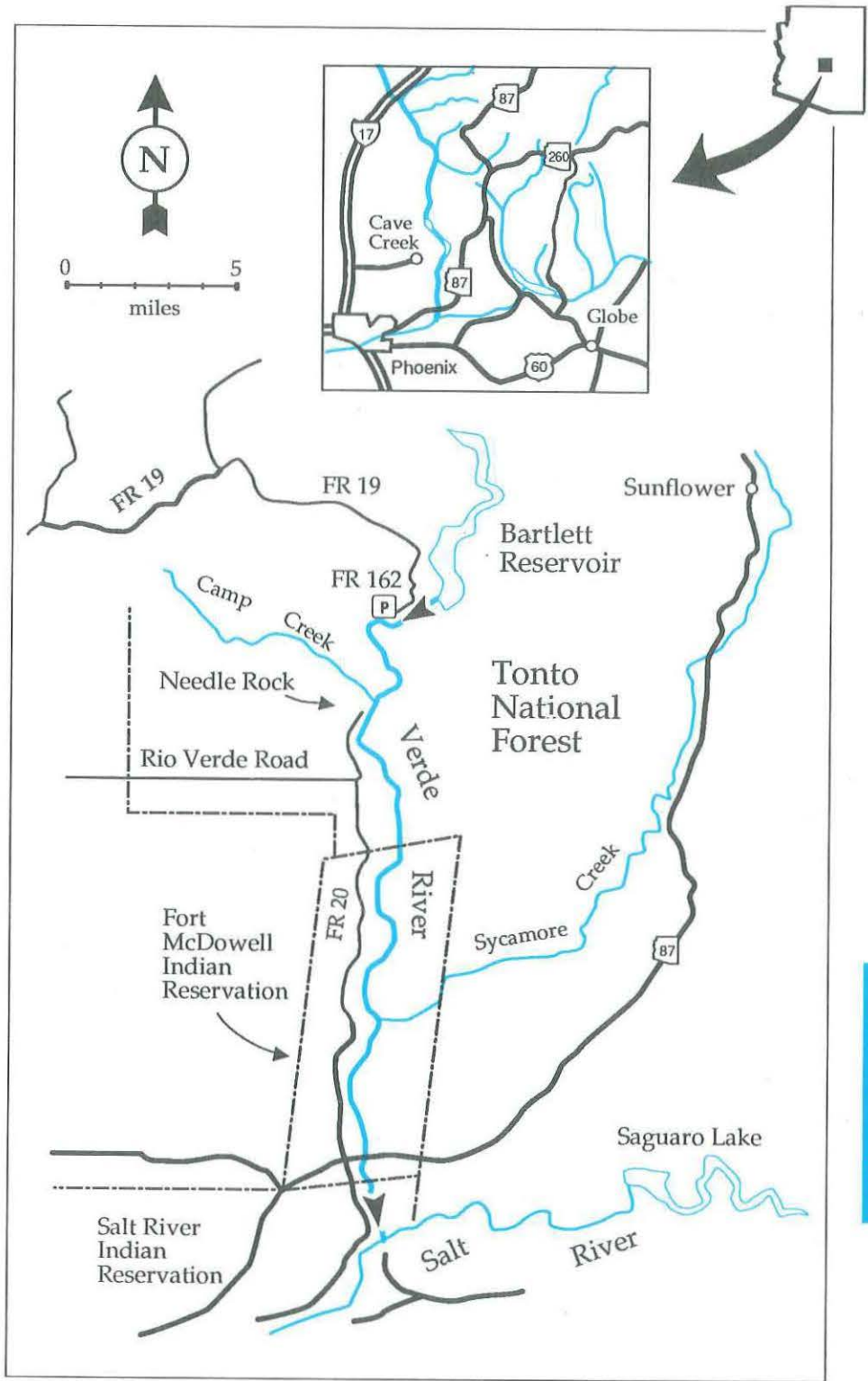
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eagles



VERDE RIVER — Bartlett Dam to Salt River 171

Central