

Tonto Basin Ranger District Interpretive signs

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Cottonwood:

Birds of Roosevelt Lake

Birds of Roosevelt Lake

Great Blue Heron
Staying a heron means there are undisturbed stands of mature cottonwoods nearby to serve as rookeries. Their presence also means there are healthy populations of the fish and small mammals on which they feed. Scientists call the great blue heron an "umbrella species" as their lives are linked with many others at the top of the food chain. If the herons are doing well, it's a sign other birds, fish, plants, algae and insects are doing well.

Bald Eagle
Bald eagles are still rare, but a species reintroduction of the endangered species has increased their presence at Roosevelt Lake.

Canada Goose
Each year, Roosevelt Lake is home to migratory geese. Fields across the Lake are planted specifically for feeding this migratory species.

Western Grebe
If you scan the waters of Roosevelt Lake to water, you're likely to see what look like graceful black and white ducks scattered across the water. Look more closely and their long, thin bills will tell you they're western grebes. Watch one for a while and you're likely to see it quickly and quietly slip beneath the surface as it dives to hunt for fish. Don't bother to look for them flying overhead; western grebes only migrate at night.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Great Blue Heron										
Bald Eagle										
Canada Goose										
Western Grebe										

TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

Status:

Artwork available but would like to change/improve.

Funding:

Visitor Center: Plants

I don't think we did these. Please send picture.

Vineyard Trail # 131: O'Rourke's Camp

O'Rourke's Camp

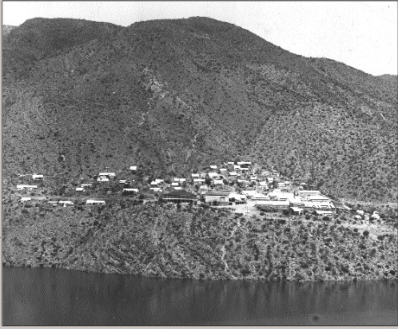
O'Rourke's Camp once stood on this hillside, high above the free-flowing Salt River. John O'Rourke established the camp in 1905 after his company won the contract to build Roosevelt Dam. He expected his construction crews to occupy the camp for two years and complete the dam by April 1907. O'Rourke and his partners coped with their initial unrealistic optimism, labor shortages, and floods, and finally finished the job more than 5 years later. Former President Theodore Roosevelt was persuaded to journey to this remote location in the Arizona Territory to formally dedicate the dam on March 18, 1911.

O'Rourke built a two-story frame residence and office building, as well as a commissary, recreation hall, school, ice house, tack shop, and corrals, but most of the camp was a collection of temporary tent houses made by stretching canvas over a wooden frame. A 300-foot-long suspension bridge provided access to the south side of the river where Reclamation Service engineers and their families lived on Government Hill. Other laborers employed by the government as well as business entrepreneurs lived in the new town of Roosevelt below Government Hill. Apache laborers and their families also established several camps in this area, where they lived in traditional brush shelters known as wickiups.

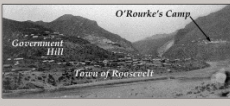
When the dam was completed, the community of construction workers left and the tent houses were dismantled. O'Rourke's office and residence, which then had a lakeside frontage, was converted into a hotel, and the area became known as Hotel Point. In 1982, Arizona State University conducted archaeological investigations of the remnants of the camp before the Roosevelt-Payson Highway was upgraded through the lower part of the camp. More than one hundred leveled earthen terraces or concrete slabs were identified as mute reminders of the tent houses and other buildings that once bustled with the activities of a busy construction camp.

The 1910 census, taken as the population of the camp was waning, provides interesting details of who lived in O'Rourke's Camp. The 190 residents (149 men, 24 women, and 17 children) counted at that time were less than half of the more than 400 estimated to have lived at the camp 2 years earlier. Nearly one of every two residents was foreign born. One-third of these immigrants were Spaniards, one-fourth were Italians, and one-fifth were from central European countries. Other countries represented include Germany, Scotland, Ireland, Denmark, Mexico, and China. One-tenth of the population was African American.

The Arizona State seal depicts Roosevelt Dam at its center as a symbol of the




(above) This view to the northwest depicts the O'Rourke's Camp in 1909, near the height of its peak population with more than 400 residents.



(left) January 1907 panorama shows O'Rourke's Camp on the far hill slope on the right.

Photo courtesy of Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, image 97-0502 and 97-0500



Status:

Artwork digital. Can't locate images. (Photo courtesy of Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, image 97-0502 and 97-0500)

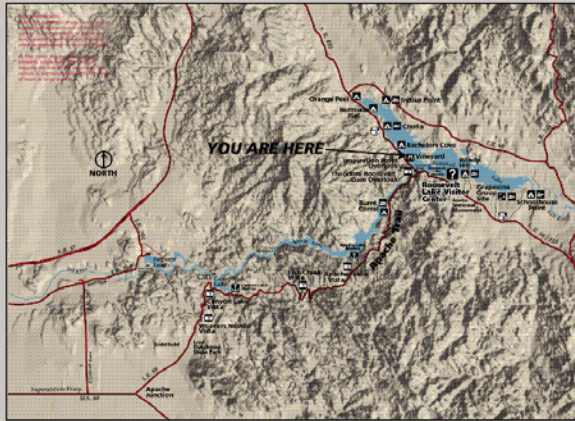
Funding:

Arizona Trail Association will fund redo.

Vineyard Picnic:

Welcome to Apache Trail Historic Road

Welcome to the Apache Trail Historic Road



"The Apache Trail combines the grandeur of the Alps, the Glory of the Rockies, the magnificence of the Grand Canyon and then adds an indefinable something that none of the others have. To me, it is the most awe-inspiring and most sublimely beautiful panorama nature has ever cre-

Connecting communities in the Salt River Valley and Roosevelt Lake, the historic Apache Trail (State Route 88) winds its way through some of the state's most spectacular scenery. Originally constructed so that supplies could be hauled to the site of the Roosevelt Dam, the travelway follows an aboriginal route used by ancient peoples.

The distance between Apache Junction and Roosevelt Dam is 42 miles. A 38-mile segment traversing through the Tonto National Forest is designated as a National Forest Scenic Byway. The entire route has also received recognition as a State Historic Road by the Arizona Department of Transportation.



Birds of Roosevelt Lake

Birds of Roosevelt Lake

Great Blue Heron
Seeing a heron means there are undisturbed stands of mature cottonwoods nearby to serve as rookeries. Their presence also means there are healthy populations of the fish and small mammals on which they feed. Scientists call the great blue heron an "indicator species" as their lives are linked with many others at the top of the food chain. If the herons are doing well, it's a sign other birds, fish, plankton, algae and insects are doing well.

Bald Eagle
Bald eagles are still rare, but a significant restoration of this endangered species has increased their presence at Roosevelt Lake.

Canada Goose
Each year, Roosevelt Lake is home to migratory geese. Fields across the lake are planted specifically for feeding this migratory species.

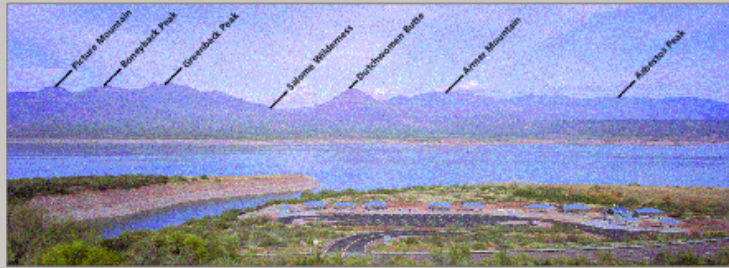
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Great Blue Heron												
Bald Eagle												
Canada Goose												
Western Grebe												
Trumpet Swan												
Whooping Crane												
Willet												
Black-necked Stilt												
Green-winged Teal												
Lesser Scaup												
Greater Scaup												
Ring-necked Pheasant												
Partridge												
Quail												
Chukar												
Golden Plover												
Lesser Sandpiper												
Greater Sandpiper												
Willet												
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Western Grebe
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Perspective of the Mountains



Perspective of the Mountains

"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 a tent. No guide showed them which camping spots offered a nightlong breeze and which a 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)

Photo by Douglas Harms



TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

Cholla CG: Home for Wildlife



The Bridge 1987-1990

The Bridge 1987-1990



Before dam modifications could begin, a \$21.3 million bridge was built to relocate traffic off the top of Roosevelt Dam. Roosevelt Lake Bridge is the longest two-lane, single-span, steel-arch bridge in North America. The bridge, spanning 1,080 feet across Roosevelt Lake, was painted blue to blend in with the lake and sky, letting the form speak.

A few challenges addressed in designing the bridge were the porous limestone foundations, a narrow width to height ratio, and erection 300 feet above the water. Did you notice the arch in the bridge's roadway viewed from a distance? If the road were level, drivers would have the perception that the bridge was sagging. Not a good sensation when you are driving 150 feet above the water!

The bridge was named one of the top twelve outstanding bridges in the nation in November 1995. Other bridges cited were the Golden Gate and Brooklyn bridges.



Photos and text provided by bridge engineers, Bobby Chasen, P.E., and Guy Wang, P.E., Edward Klotzer and Sara, Plak, Houston



Tonto Basin Roosevelt Lake Watershed

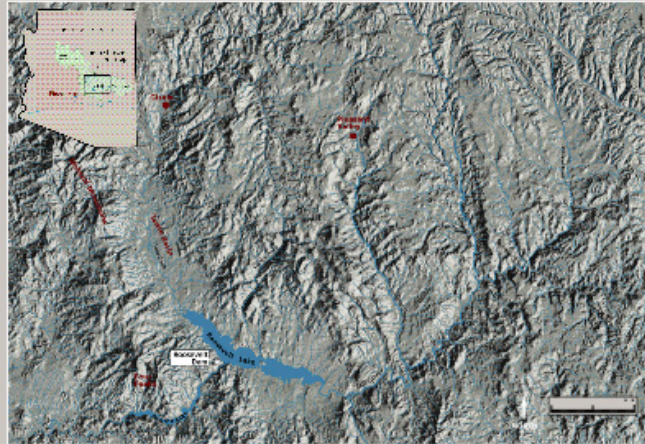
Tonto Basin

Roosevelt Lake's Watershed

Over six million years ago, the mountains surrounding you were lifted skyward. As they rose, the land in between sank, creating the valley known as Tonto Basin.

Melting snow and summer rains drain from the vast Salt River watershed toward the basin. Countless thousands of years of erosion carved numerous canyons and arroyos throughout the mountains.

The Salt River enters Roosevelt Lake from the east. Carrying runoff from melting snow and rain from across northeastern Arizona, the Salt River is at times a raging torrent. Tonto Creek enters the valley from the north, merging with the Salt River where the Roosevelt Dam now stands. The construction of Roosevelt Dam enabled downstream communities to manage and control downstream water delivery.



Salt River before the Dam

Salt River Before the Dam



The Salt River begins high in the White Mountains as runoff from melting snow, finding its way into streams and creeks that eventually form the White and Black rivers. The confluence of the two rivers marks the beginning of the Salt.

Early Phoenix farmers were frustrated by the erratic flow of the Salt River. Dwindling to nothing in summer, the Salt River would flood at other times of the year. It would burst rock and brush dams and wash out fields. It was believed that Roosevelt Dam would manage the river so they'd have a dependable water supply. Completed in 1911, Roosevelt Dam controls the flow of the Salt's water to irrigation districts, cities, farms, and residential irrigators through smaller canals, laterals and ditches.



Photos courtesy of Salt River Project



Welcome to Apache Trail Historic Road

Apache Trail America's Adventure Road



Quoted from *The Literary Digest*, November 18, 1916:

"No traveler to or from California should miss the marvelous trip over the 'Apache Trail.' This magic pathway, which up to a few years ago could be explored only by the hardest adventurer, now lies open to the casual visitor who may care to spend a day rolling in a luxurious motor-car along one hundred and twenty miles of highway between Globe and Phoenix, Arizona.



"Soon there is no reminder of civilization in sight but the broad, smooth highway which the genius of engineers has flung over seemingly impassable mountains and wound like a ribbon of silver along canyon walls. It is the most marvelous highway in America, this glorified 'Apache Trail.'"



Photos courtesy of Salt River Project.



Alchesay



Alchesay

Alchesay led his people in war and peace

Alchesay Canyon, to your right, was named for a great leader. Chief Alchesay, born around 1853, was a leader among the White Mountain Apache. Other Apaches looked up to him not only because he towered six feet tall, but also because they respected his judgment.

He served as one of the celebrated Apache Scouts during the Apache Wars. The Scouts were famous for their endurance, cunning and tracking ability—eleven of them, including Alchesay, received the Congressional Medal of Honor for their conduct in the campaigns.

In 1888, he led a group of Apache chiefs to meet with President Cleveland in Washington, D.C. At home on the Fort Apache Reservation, he became a successful cattle rancher and an effective politician working in the interests of his people. Alchesay died on August 6, 1928.

<i>Born:</i>	1853, Arizona Territory
<i>Entered service at:</i>	Camp Verde, Arizona
<i>Place and date:</i>	Winter of 1872-1873
<i>Rank and organization:</i>	Sergeant, Indian Scout
<i>Date of issue of Indian War Medal of Honor:</i>	April 12, 1875
<i>Citation:</i>	Gallant conduct during campaigns and engagements with Apaches.

Alchesay photo from Arizona Department of Library, Archives and Public Records, History and Archives Division, Phoenix, 98-4051



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Apache Trail America's Adventure Road

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Photos courtesy of Salt River Project.



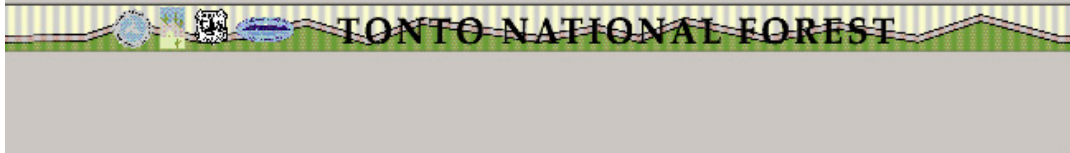
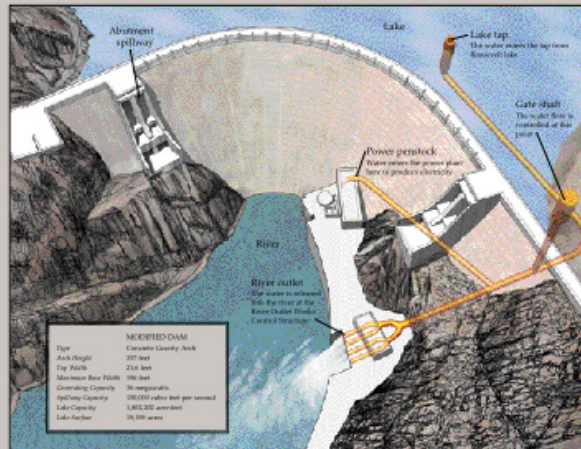
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Roosevelt Dam 1989-1996

Roosevelt Dam 1989 - 1996

After nearly nine years of work, \$430 million in construction costs, 450,000 cubic yards of concrete, and 849 miles of reinforcing steel, another vivid chapter in Arizona history has been rewritten. Modifications to Roosevelt Dam were required because it was determined that the largest probable flood that could flow into the reservoir was far greater than originally thought possible when the dam was designed and constructed in the early 1900s.

Raising the height of the dam by 77 feet has increased the storage capacity of Roosevelt Lake by 20 percent, for a total of more than 1.8 million acre-feet. An acre-foot is the amount of water it would take to cover an acre of land to a depth of one foot, about 325,851 gallons. This is roughly the amount of water used by a family of four in one year.



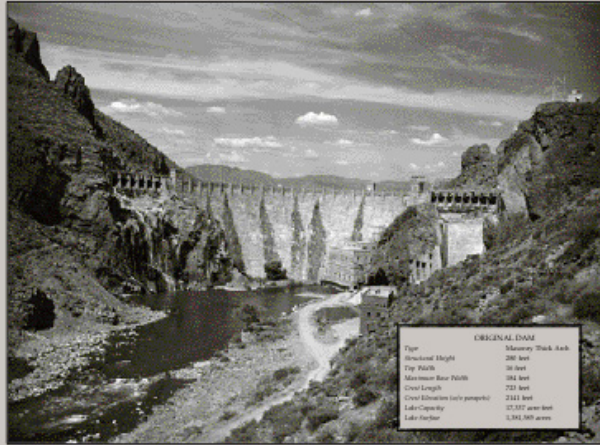
Roosevelt Dam 1903-1911

Roosevelt Dam 1903 - 1911

On September 20, 1906 the first stone was laid in place. Over the next five years, 350,000 cubic feet of block would be cut, shaped, and fashioned into the Roosevelt Dam.

The blocks of stone were carved out of the canyon walls. They were lifted by block and tackle and pulled along by cable. It was not uncommon for the hoist to buckle and break. The giant monoliths would be slammed against the canyon wall or dropped into the construction site below.

On February 6, 1911 the last stone was put in place. When completed, it was the largest stone dam in the world.



ORIGINAL DAM	
Type	Masonry Dam, Arch
Structural Height	280 feet
Top Width	36 feet
Maximum Base Width	384 feet
Over Length	224 feet
Over Abutments (only concrete)	211 feet
Lake Capacity	37,037 acre feet
Lake Surface	3,363,960 acres

Photo courtesy of Salt River Project.



The People Who Made It Happen

The People Who Made It Happen

The Building of a Dam



The construction of Roosevelt Dam involved several thousand people over the course of the project. Hiring was straightforward; a foreman would simply size up a man and decide if he could do the work. Jobs requiring diverse skills were plentiful. Stone and timber cutters, canal builders, and horse and mule tenders were but a few of the employment opportunities. For their efforts, common laborers earned \$2.50 per day while powdermen, blacksmiths and masons made \$4 to \$5. Under harsh and hazardous conditions, workers blasted rock from sheer walls. They also swung picks, shoveled and hauled tons of rock.



The original town of Roosevelt (now under Roosevelt Lake) housed hundreds of people. By 1907, Roosevelt had a baseball team, bowling alley, ice-cream parlor, theatre and a school. Workers gathered in labor camps, living in tents, tent houses or small adobe buildings, sometimes with their wives and children.



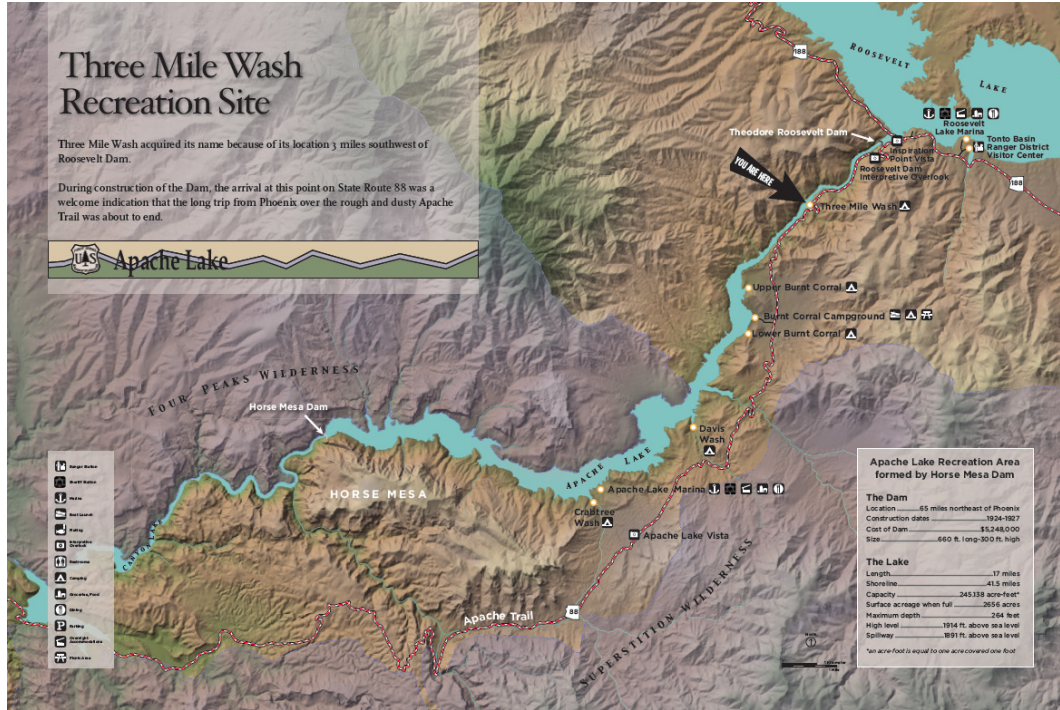
From August 7, 1904 through May 18, 1911, forty-one people died in and around the Roosevelt Dam construction site.

Photos courtesy of Salt River Project

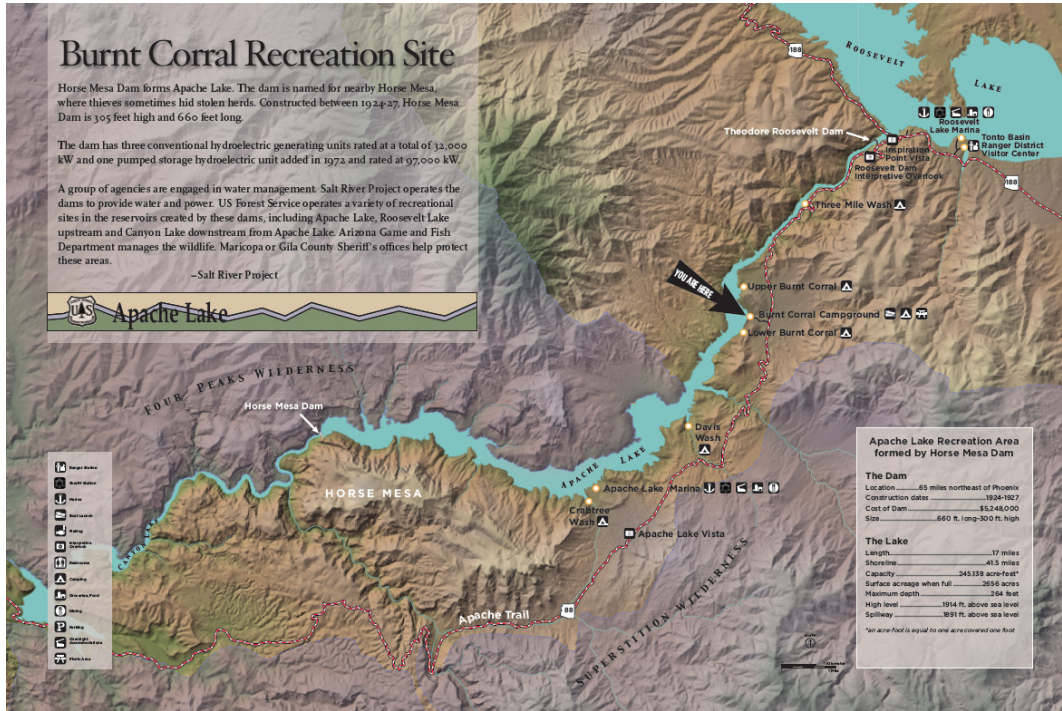


TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

Three Mile Rec Site: You are here sign



Burnt Corral CG: You are here sign



Lower Burnt Corral: You are here sign

Lower Burnt Corral Recreation Site

Dead and down wood can be wildlife habitat.

Nearly a third of all forest creatures depend on standing dead or fallen trees for their survival.

Dead and down trees provide shelter, nest sites, and feeding areas for over 1200 species of birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles; over 60% of which feed on insects.

Insect-eating species act as natural biological regulators to dampen the effects of insect outbreaks in forested lands, thereby performing an important ecosystem function.

Consider your impact on wildlife when using dead and down wood for campfires.

Apache Lake Recreation Area formed by Horse Mesa Dam

The Dam	
Location	43 miles northeast of Phoenix
Construction dates	1924-1927
Cost of Dam	\$5,248,000
Size	660 ft. long-300 ft. high

The Lake	
Location	43 miles northeast of Phoenix
Length	10 miles
Spanline	41.5 miles
Capacity	345,158 acre-feet*
Surface acreage when full	2584 acres
Maximum depth	264 feet
High level	1914 ft. above sea level
Low level	1897 ft. above sea level

*An acre-foot is equal to one acre covered one foot.

Davis Wash Rec Site: You are here sign

Davis Wash Recreation Site

Davis Wash is named after Arthur P. Davis, a hydrographer for the U.S. Geological Service, who came to Arizona in 1893.

He surveyed the Gila, Verde and Salt Rivers to establish future reservoir placement areas. In 1906 he was appointed by the Bureau of Reclamation as Chief Engineer for the construction of Roosevelt Dam.

At the dedication of Roosevelt Dam on March 18, 1911, former President Teddy Roosevelt said, "Mr. Davis took the keenest personal interest in everything connected with starting and completing this work just as if he had been a citizen of Arizona..."

--Roosevelt Dam, Earl A. Zarbin

TOUR PEAKS WILDERNESS
Horse Mesa Dam

- Camping
- Boating
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Picnicking
- Swimming
- Bicycling
- Hunting
- Wildlife
- Other

HORSE MESA
Apache Lake Marina
Apache Lake Vista
DAVIS WASH
Apache Trail

TOUR PEAKS WILDERNESS
SUPERSTITION WILDERNESS

ROOSEVELT LAKE
Theodore Roosevelt Dam
Inspiration Point Vista
Roosevelt Dam Interpretive Overlook
Three Mile Wash
Upper Burnt Corral
Burnt Corral Campground
Lower Burnt Corral

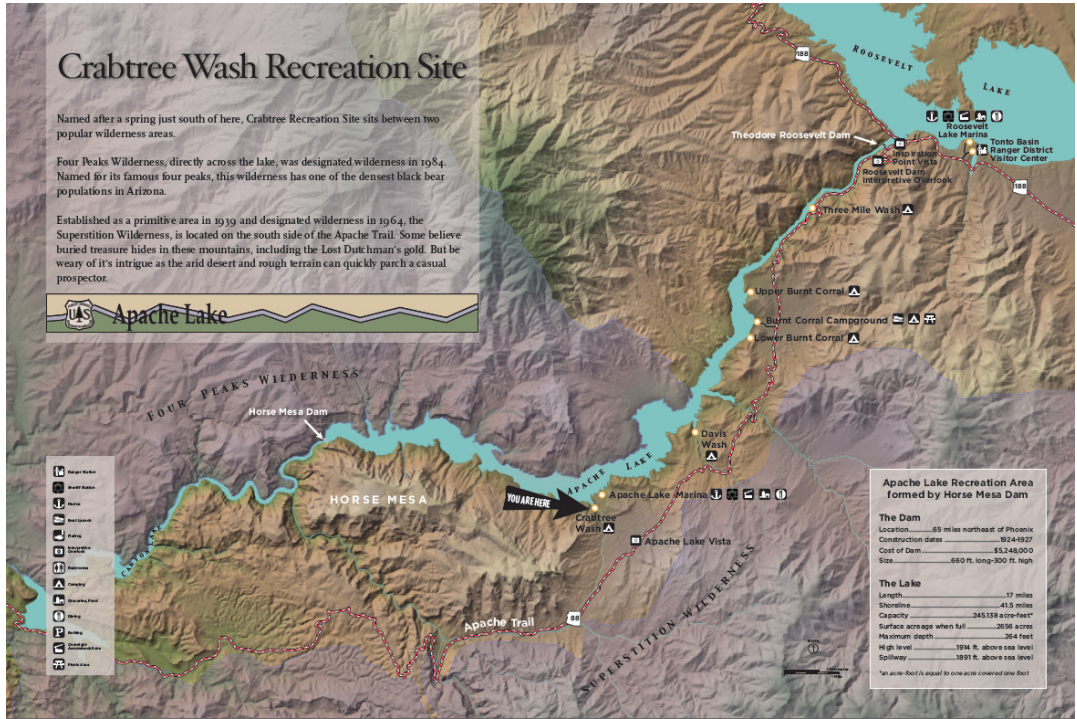
Apache Lake Recreation Area formed by Horse Mesa Dam

The Dam
 Location 85 miles northeast of Phoenix
 Construction dates 1924-1927
 Cost of Dam \$3,248,000
 Size 660 ft. long-30 ft. high

The Lake
 Length 17 miles
 Shoreline 41.5 miles
 Capacity 245,178 acre-feet
 Surface acreage when full 2854 acres
 Maximum depth 244 feet
 High level 1914 ft. above sea level
 Spillway 1891 ft. above sea level

*An acre-foot is equal to one acre covered one foot

Crabtree Rec site: You are here sign



Apache Lake Vista: Apache Lake Road Map



The Geological Story

The Geological Story

As you examine the rock formations from this vista point, you are looking at the result of two billion years of geologic activity. The canyon below you is the result of the Salt River cutting through these rocks for millions of years.

Earthquakes moved along a fault line, moving the older rocks of Buckhorn Mountain next to the younger rocks of Goat Mountain.

You are standing on rocks 1.5 billion years old. Wind and water erosion removed all the rocks and soils that once covered these ancient granites. In comparison, the rock atop Horse Mesa (the mountain to your left) is young; formed only 15 million years ago. It is the most recent rock in the area, and called "welded tuff," formed by volcanic ash that was so hot when deposited, that it fused together.

The Buckhorn Mountain rocks are the oldest and date to about 1.7 billion years ago.

The darker basalt rock layers in Goat Mountain, and Lower Painted Cliffs are results of lava flows from the Superstition Volcanic Field that date to 30 million years ago.

Sign provided by the US Forest Service, Apache Lake Marina, Salt River Project, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Painted Cliffs Four Peaks Goat Mountain Buckhorn Ridge



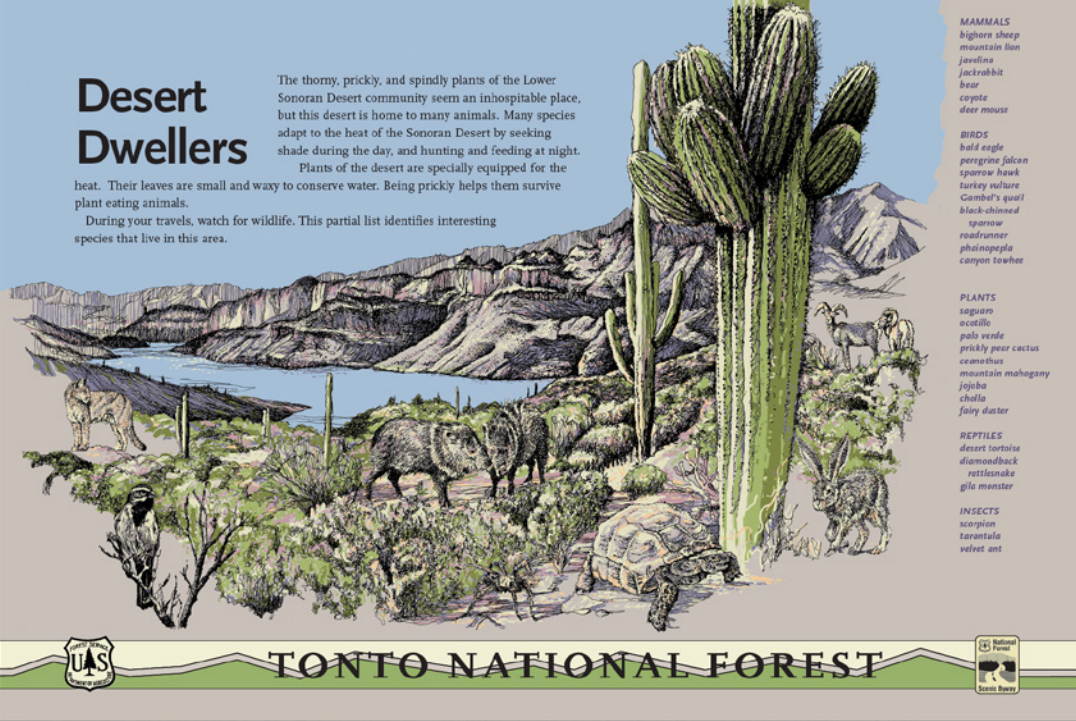
Desert Dwellers

Desert Dwellers

The thorny, prickly, and spindly plants of the Lower Sonoran Desert community seem an inhospitable place, but this desert is home to many animals. Many species adapt to the heat of the Sonoran Desert by seeking shade during the day, and hunting and feeding at night.

Plants of the desert are specially equipped for the heat. Their leaves are small and waxy to conserve water. Being prickly helps them survive plant eating animals.

During your travels, watch for wildlife. This partial list identifies interesting species that live in this area.



MAMMALS

bighorn sheep
mountain lion
javelina
jackrabbit
bear
coyote
deer mouse

BIRDS

bird eagle
peregrine falcon
sparrow hawk
turkey vulture
Cambel's quail
black-thinned
sparrow
roadrunner
phainopepla
canyon towhee

PLANTS

saguaro
ocotillo
palo verde
prickly pear cactus
creosote
mountain mahogany
joejoe
cholla
fairy duster

REPTILES

desert tortoise
diamondback
rattlesnake
gila monster

INSECTS

scorpion
tarantula
velvet ant



TONTO NATIONAL FOREST



Tortilla Flat

Tortilla Flat

Prior to 1906, this location was a welcome stop for travelers on the Yavapai Trail which connected Tonto Basin with the Salt River Valley. In 1906 the trail, now known as the Apache Trail, was completed as a freight road for the construction of Roosevelt Dam. Tortilla Flat became an important water and supply stop on this road. The Apache Trail is now Arizona State Route 88, but Tortilla Flat remains a welcome stop.

Maintenance of this sign provided by Tortilla Flat Restaurant



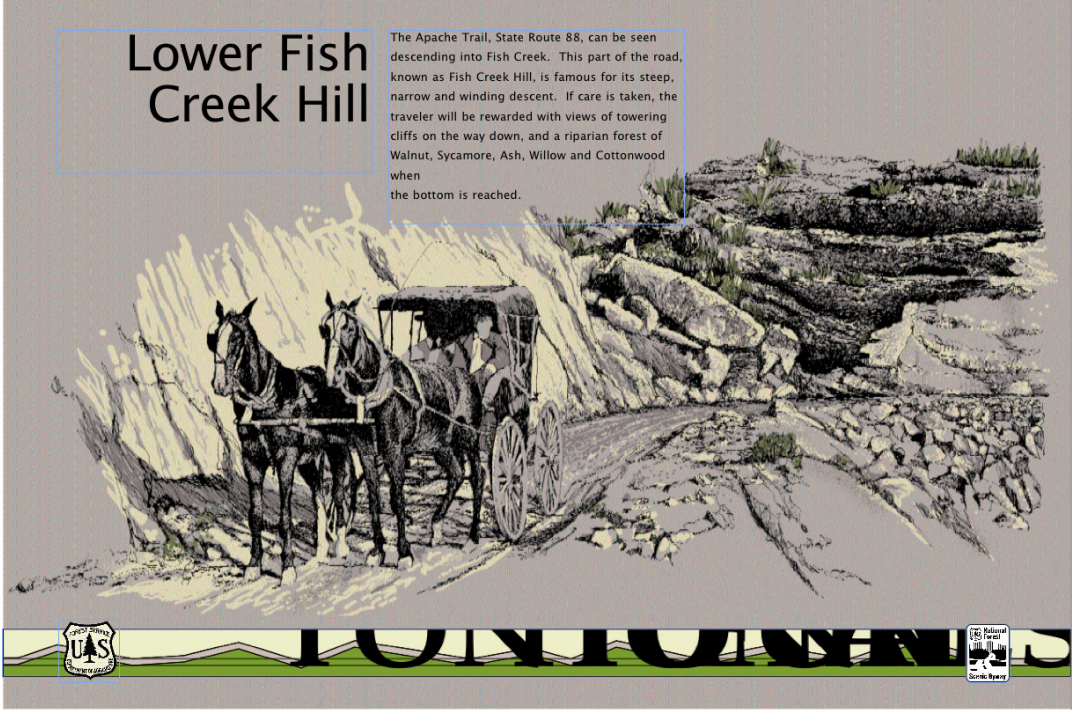
TONTO NATIONAL FOREST



Lower Fish Creek Hill

Lower Fish Creek Hill

The Apache Trail, State Route 88, can be seen descending into Fish Creek. This part of the road, known as Fish Creek Hill, is famous for its steep, narrow and winding descent. If care is taken, the traveler will be rewarded with views of towering cliffs on the way down, and a riparian forest of Walnut, Sycamore, Ash, Willow and Cottonwood when the bottom is reached.



Boulder Rec Site

Boulder Recreation Site: A Partnership

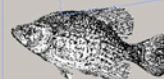


Boulder Recreation Site is located on La Barge Cove. The Boulder project was conceived to improve an existing picnic site and

make it accessible for all visitors. A new floating fishing dock was added to get people out on the lake for fishing and relaxation. Crappie Condos, Catfish Houses, Bass Bungalows and Fishing Trees were some of the structures installed underwater to enhance the fisheries habitat.

The following agencies, organizations, businesses and individuals came together in partners to provide Boulder Recreation Site for your enjoyment.

Aldolph Coors Co. and Arizona Coors Distributors
Anglers United
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Arizona Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Commission
Arizona State Parks Board
The Disabled Community
Fish America Foundation
Plastics Research and Development Corp.
Salt River Project
T-Burg Contracting, INC.
Tonto National Forest
Westrec Marinas
and many dedicated volunteers



black crappie



channel catfish



TONTON



Respect all Users of the Roosevelt Lake Area

