

AFALCONGUIDE®

Hiking Northern Arizona

Second Edition

Bruce Grubbs

Pumphouse Wash

In Partnership with



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Trails.com™

87 Pumphouse Wash

Description: A cross-country hike through a narrow sandstone canyon near Oak Creek Canyon.

Location: 15 miles south of Flagstaff.

Type of trail: Cross-country out and back.

Type of trip: Day hike.

Difficulty: Moderate.

Total distance: 6.2 miles.

Elevation change: 60 feet.

Time required: 4 hours.

Water: Seasonal in Pumphouse Wash.

Best season: Spring through fall.

Maps: Mountaineer USGS quad; Coconino National Forest.

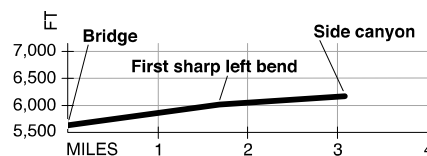
Permits and restrictions: A Red Rock Pass is required for vehicle parking.

For more information: Sedona Ranger District, Coconino National Forest.

Finding the trailhead: From Flagstaff, drive south about 15 miles on Arizona Highway 89A. The highway descends into the canyon via a series of switchbacks and then crosses the bridge over Pumphouse Wash. Park just south of the bridge at the pullout on the right.

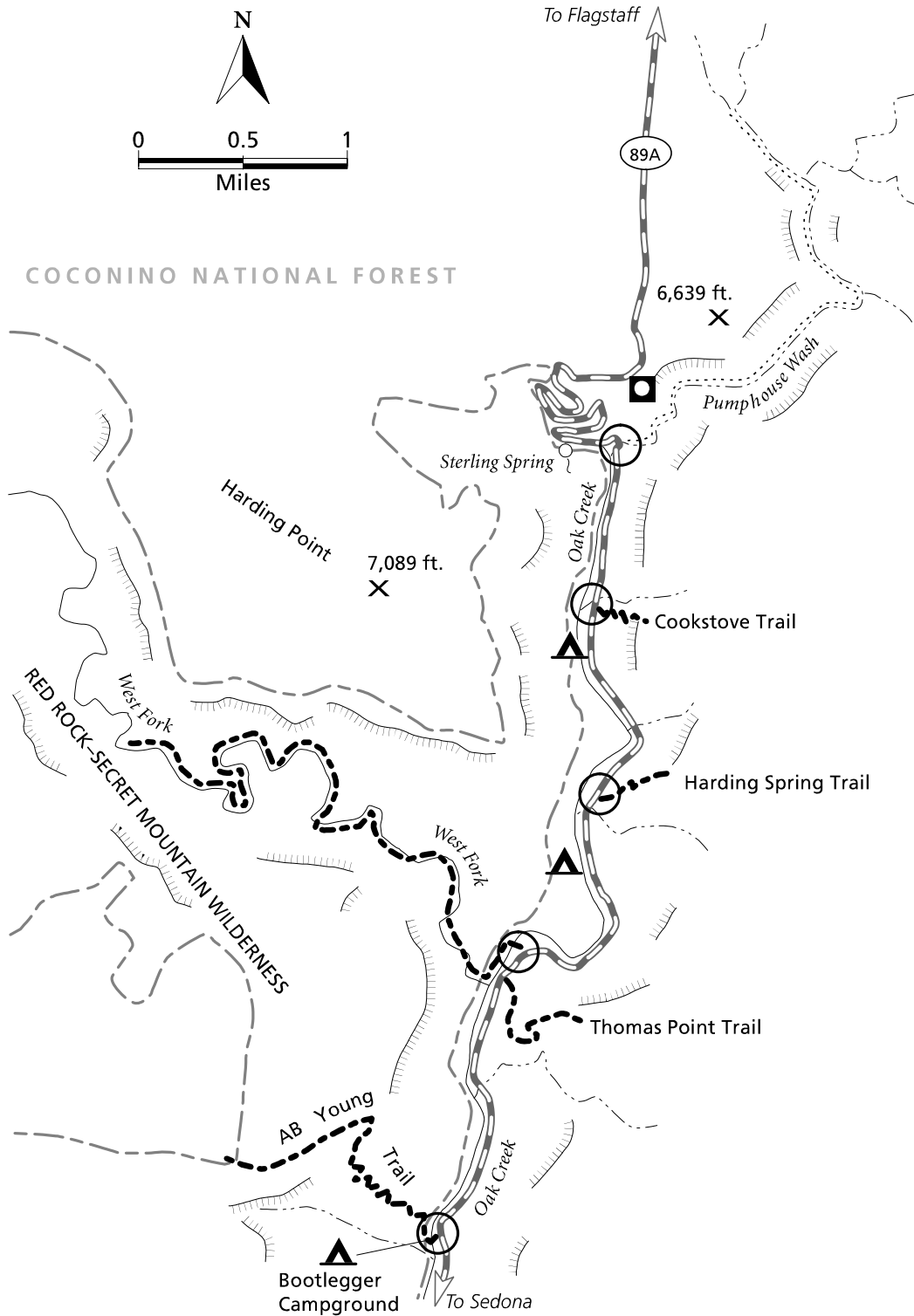
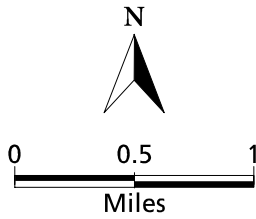
Key points:

- 0.0 Pumphouse Wash Bridge.
- 1.7 First sharp left bend.
- 3.1 End of the hike at the side canyon near the highway.



The hike: From the highway pullout, drop down the bank into Oak Creek, turn right, and hike upstream cross-country. In just a few yards, Pumphouse Wash joins from the right. Most of the flow in Oak Creek comes

Pumphouse Wash • Cookstove Trail
Harding Spring Trail • Thomas Point Trail
West Fork Trail • AB Young Trail

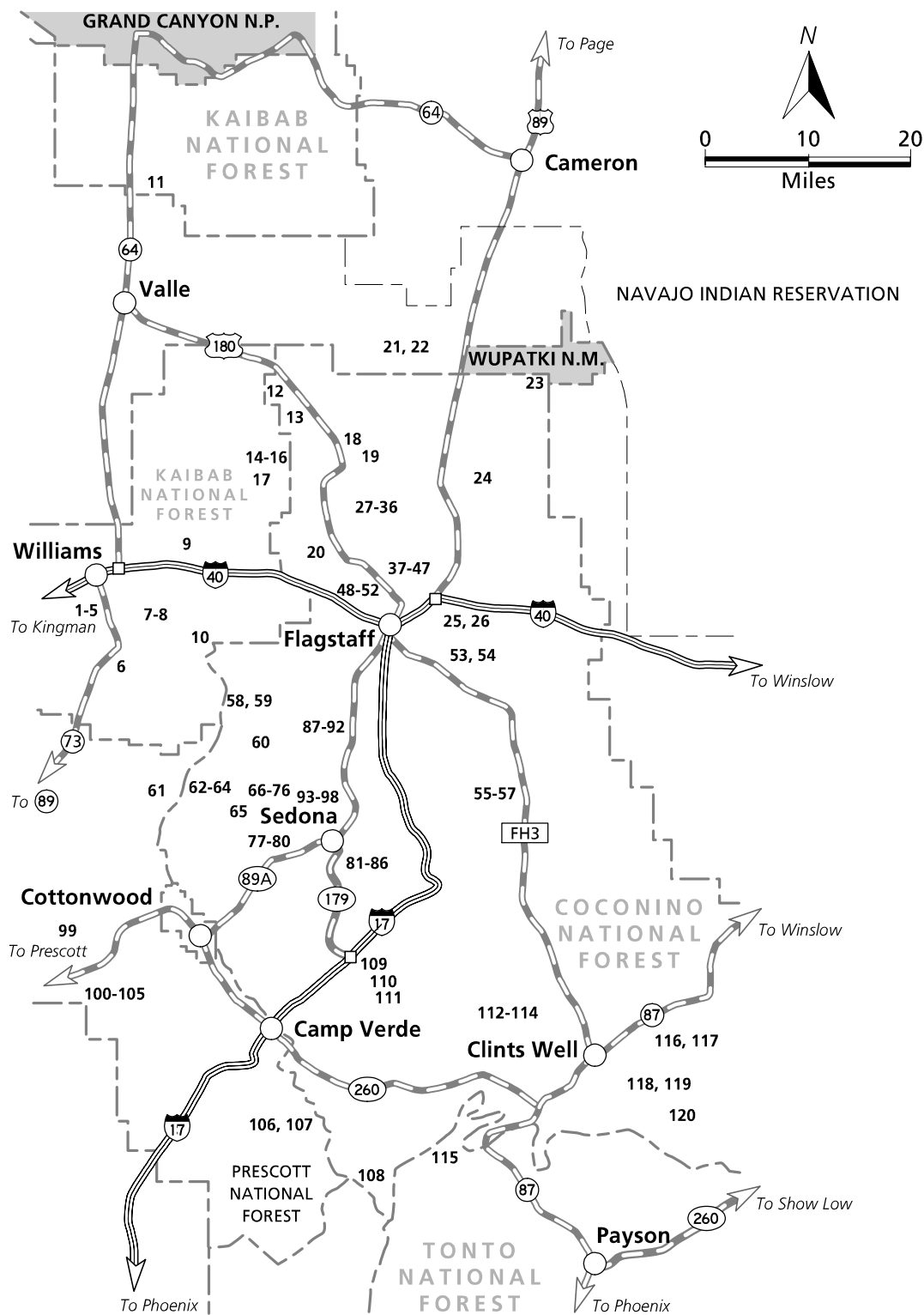


from Sterling Spring, which is about 0.3 mile up Oak Creek. During summer and fall, Pumphouse Wash usually has little or no flow, but in spring during snow melt, or after a summer thunderstorm, there may be so much water that this hike is impossible. Follow the wash upstream, under the highway bridge. Soon the canyon meanders around a couple of bends, and the sounds of the highway are left behind. The lower canyon walls here are composed of the buff-colored Coconino sandstone. The rock was deposited as wind-blown sand dunes in a vast, Sahara-like desert. If you look closely at the rock, you can see the crossbedded, sloping surfaces of the petrified sand dunes.





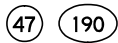







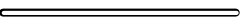





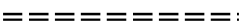



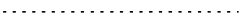
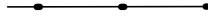











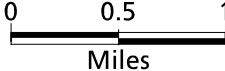



After a gentle curve to the right, followed by a straight section of about 0.5 mile, the canyon swings sharply left and heads northwest. Here the canyon is about 500 feet deep. In the fall, the dark greens of the firs and pine growing in the canyon are supplemented by the bright yellows, oranges, and reds of the deciduous trees. Potholes carved in the sandstone bed of the canyon sometimes hold water. Now the canyon turns gradually north then sharply left again and becomes noticeably shallower. James Canyon enters from the right. Another 0.7 mile of straight canyon heading northwest ends with another sharp turn, this time to the right. This is the end of our hike.

Optionally, from this point you can go northwest 0.6 mile up a side canyon and reach AZ 89A near the Forest Road 237 turnoff. Another option is to continue 4.5 miles up Pumphouse Wash to Kachina Village. Although upper Pumphouse Wash is not as spectacular as the lower section you've just hiked, it is a long, scenic canyon that has its headwaters just south of Flagstaff. In fact, Pumphouse Wash is the true head of Oak Creek Canyon.

Overview Map



Map Legend

Interstate		Town or City	
US Highway		Campground	
State or County Road		Building	
Forest Service Road		Ranger Station	
Interstate Highway		Peak	
Paved Road		Elevation	
Gravel Road		Hill	
Unimproved Road		Butte	
Described Trail		Crater	
Route Along Road		Cliffs	
Other Trail		Gate	
Cross-Country Route		Power Line	
Pass/Saddle		Mine Site	
Trailhead		Overlook or Point of Interest	
Parking Area		National Forest or Wilderness Boundary	
River/Creek/Falls		National or State Park	
Intermittent Creek		Map Orientation	
Bridge		Scale	
Lake			
Spring			
Marsh			

Using This Guide

HIKE DESCRIPTIONS

The hikes are presented in an easy-to-read format with at-a-glance information at the start. Each hike description contains the following information:

Hike number and name: The hike number is also shown on the Overview Map, to help you visualize the general location of the hike. I've used the official, or at least the commonly accepted, name for a trail or hike wherever possible. Hikes that use several trails are usually named for the main trail.

Description: This is a general description of the hike, which includes special attractions and the name of the designated wilderness or other specially protected area, if any.

Location: This is the distance, in miles, and direction from the nearest large town.

Type of trail: Out-and-back hikes are two-way hikes in which the return is done by backtracking the trail. Loop hikes start and end at the same trailhead, but avoid retracing the trail. There may be some repeated sections in order to connect a loop hike. Shuttle hikes are one-way hikes starting and ending at different trailheads. You will have to leave a vehicle at both trailheads, or arrange for reliable pickup at the exit trailhead. The term "cross-country" means that there is no trail for all or a part of the route. Refer to the hike's Key Points and Description for details.

Type of trip: Day hike or backpack trip. Some day hikes can be expanded into easy backpack trips, and ambitious hikers may cover a backpack trip in one day.

Difficulty: All the hikes are rated as easy, moderate, or difficult. This is a subjective rating, but in general, easy hikes can be done by nearly anyone and take a few hours at most. Moderate hikes take all or most of a day and require moderate physical abilities. Difficult hikes are long with significant elevation changes, require a full day or several days to accomplish, and may involve cross-country hiking and route finding. These hikes should be attempted only by experienced hikers in good physical condition.

Total distance: Distances given in miles. For out-and-back hikes, this distance includes the return. For loops and shuttle hikes, this is the one-way distance.

Elevation change: The total altitude change in feet, not including ups and downs along the way.

Elevation graph: Each hike with significant elevation change has a graph showing a profile view of the hike.

Time required: A subjective estimate of the number of hours or days re-

quired for an average hiker to walk the trail, not including lunch stops or other diversions. I've tried to err on the conservative side. Experienced, fit hikers will take less time; novices may take considerably more.

Water: Known and usually reliable sources. Don't ever depend on a single water source, no matter how reliable it's been in the past. Remember that *all* backcountry water should be purified.

Best season: This is the recommended season to do the hike. The season may be longer or shorter in some years. "All year" hikes may be hot in summer; you may want to hike early in the morning.

Maps: The appropriate USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles are always listed, and the USDA Forest Service maps if they are useful for the hike or the approach road. The trail may not be shown on the maps, but they are still useful for general orientation.

Permits and restrictions: Permit requirements and camping and other restrictions are noted here. A Red Rock Pass is required for trailhead parking in the red rock and Oak Creek Canyon areas of the Coconino National Forest. Daily, weekly, and annual permits are available. Also, certain picnic areas used for trailhead parking require a separate fee. This is not a backcountry permit—if you enter the backcountry by other means (bicycle, drop-off, etc.), you do not need a permit. For details, check with the Sedona Ranger Station. As of this writing, permits and fees are *not* required for the remainder of the area covered by this book.

For more information: The name of the land management unit having jurisdiction over the hike. Before your hike, it's a good idea to check with the agency for the latest trail conditions and other information.

Finding the trailhead: These driving directions are given from the nearest town for all of the hikes. Distances are in miles.

Key points: This is a listing of key points such as trail junctions and important landmarks along the hike. You should be able to follow the route by reference to this section. Distances are given in miles from the start of the hike.

The hike: In this narrative, I describe the hike in detail and provide some interesting natural and human history. The description uses references to landmarks rather than distances wherever possible, since distances are listed under "Key points."

CITY

Flagstaff Parks & Rec., 211 West Aspen, Flagstaff, AZ 86001, (928) 779-7690.

Sedona Parks & Rec, 525 Posse Grounds Rd, Sedona, AZ 86336, (928) 282-7098.

Williams Parks and Recreation, 2200 North Country Club Road, Williams, AZ 86046, (928) 635-1496.

STATE

AZ Game & Fish, 3500 South Lk Mary Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86001, (928) 774-5045.

AZ State Land Dept, 3650 Lk Mary Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86001, (928) 774-1425.

AZ State Parks, 1300 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007, (602) 542-4174.

Arizona Trail Steward, Arizona State Parks, 1300 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007, (602) 542-7120, clovely@pr.state.az.us, www.pr.state.az.us.

Red Rock State Park, HC - Box 886, Sedona, AZ 86336, (928) 282-6907.

COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST

Beaver Creek RD, HC 64, Box 240, Rimrock, AZ 86335, (928) 567-4121.

Blue Ridge RD, H.C. 31, Box 300, Happy Jack, AZ 86024, (928) 477-2255.

Mormon Lake Ranger District, 4373 South Lake Mary Road, Flagstaff, AZ 86001, (928) 774-1147.

Peaks RD, 5075 North Highway 89, Flagstaff, AZ 86004, (928) 526-0866.

Sedona Ranger District, P.O. Box 300, Sedona, AZ 86336-0300, (928) 282-4119.

Supervisors Office, 2323 E Greenlaw Lane, Flagstaff, AZ 86001, (928) 527-3600.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Grand Canyon NP, P.O. Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023, (928) 638-7888.

Sunset Crater National Monument, 6400 North Highway 89, Flagstaff, AZ 86004, (928) 526-0502.

Walnut Canyon National Monument, 6400 North Highway 89, Flagstaff, AZ 86004, (928) 526-3367.

Wupatki National Monument, 6400 North Highway 89, Flagstaff, AZ 86004, (928) 679-2365.

KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST

Chalender RD, 501 W Bill Williams Ave, Williams, AZ 86046, (928) 635-2676.

North Kaibab Ranger District, P.O. Box 248, Fredonia, AZ 86022(928) 643-7395.

Supervisor's Office, 800 South Sixth Street, Williams, AZ 86046, (928) 635-8200.

Tusayan Ranger District, P.O. Box 3088, Tusayan, AZ 86023, (928) 638-2443.

Williams Ranger District, Route 1 Box 142, Williams, AZ 86046, (928) 635-2633.

PRESCOTT NATIONAL FOREST

Bradshaw RD, 2230 East Highway 69, Prescott, AZ 86301, (928) 445-7253.

Chino Valley RD, P.O. Box 485, 735 North Highway 89, Chino Valley, AZ 86323, (928) 636-2302.

Supervisor's Office, 344 South Cortez St, Prescott, AZ 86303, (928) 771-4700.

Verde RD, P.O. Box 670, Camp Verde, AZ 86322-0670, (928) 567-4121.

TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

Payson RD, 1009 East Highway 260, Payson, AZ 85541, (928) 474-7900.

OTHER

U.S. Geological Survey, Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225, (800) HELP-MAP, <http://mapping.usgs.gov>

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