

GUIDE TO

Arizona's Wilderness Areas

TEXT BY
TOM DOLLAR

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
JERRY SIEVE

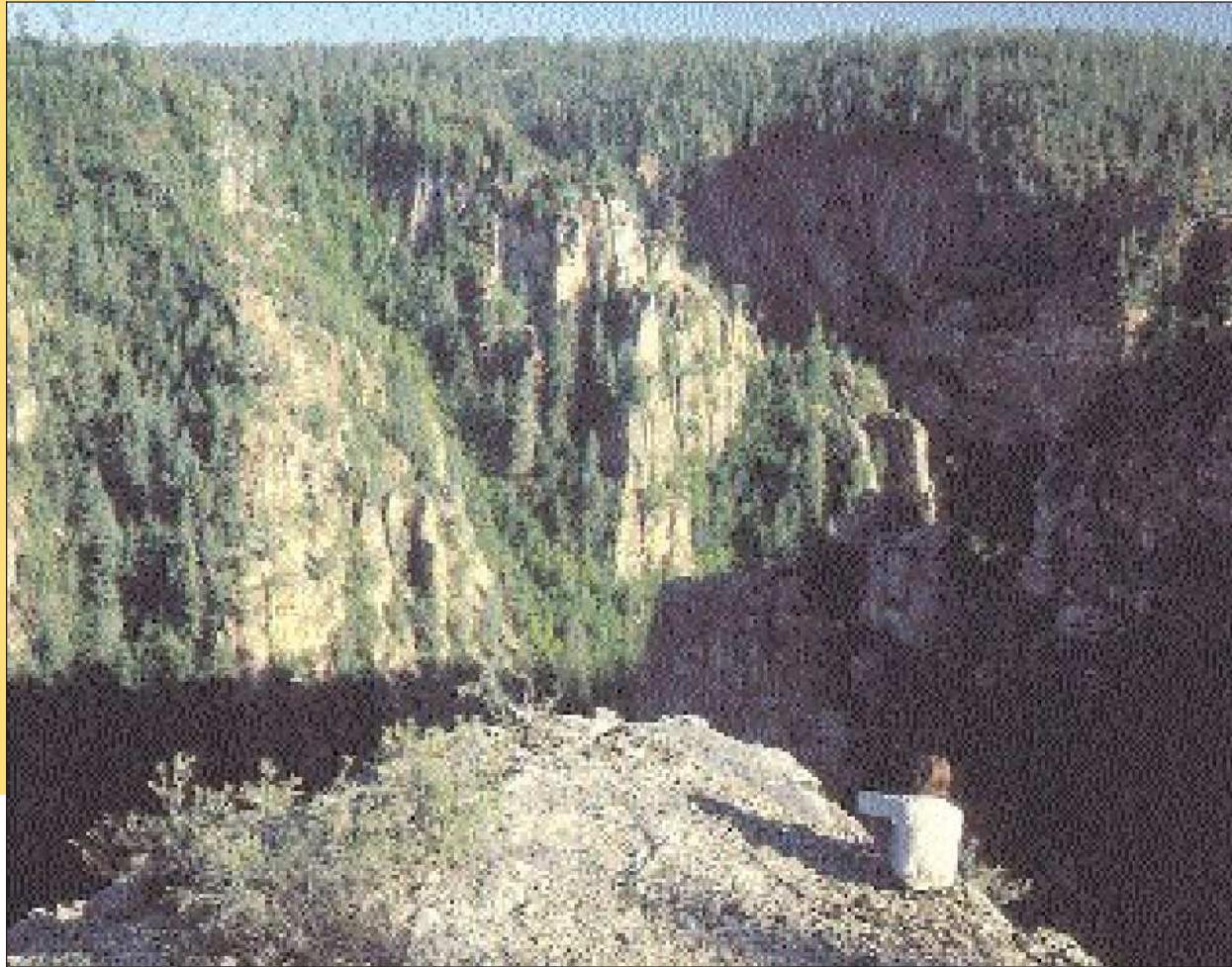
West Clear Creek Wilderness

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 Trails.com™



Cliffside view

FROM ITS ORIGIN near Clints Well up on the Mogollon Rim to where it enters the Verde River below Camp Verde, West Clear Creek winds for nearly forty miles through some of the most stunningly beautiful terrain in Arizona. In its upper thirty miles, the part that is designated wilderness, West Clear Creek is entirely canyon-bound, offering access to only the few and the hardy. As it travels to the Verde River, West Clear Creek passes through soaring cliffs of creamy Coconino sandstone and vermilion Supai siltstone, which lend their colors to the narrows called the White and Red Boxes. There are hanging gardens of maidenhair fern, red monkeyflower, and scarlet penstemon. There are New Mexico locust, cottonwood, Arizona walnut, willow, alder, Gambel oak, box elder, bigtooth maple, Douglas fir, and ponderosa pine. Century plant grows high on the rim;

LOCATION: 11 miles east of Camp Verde

SIZE: 13,600 acres

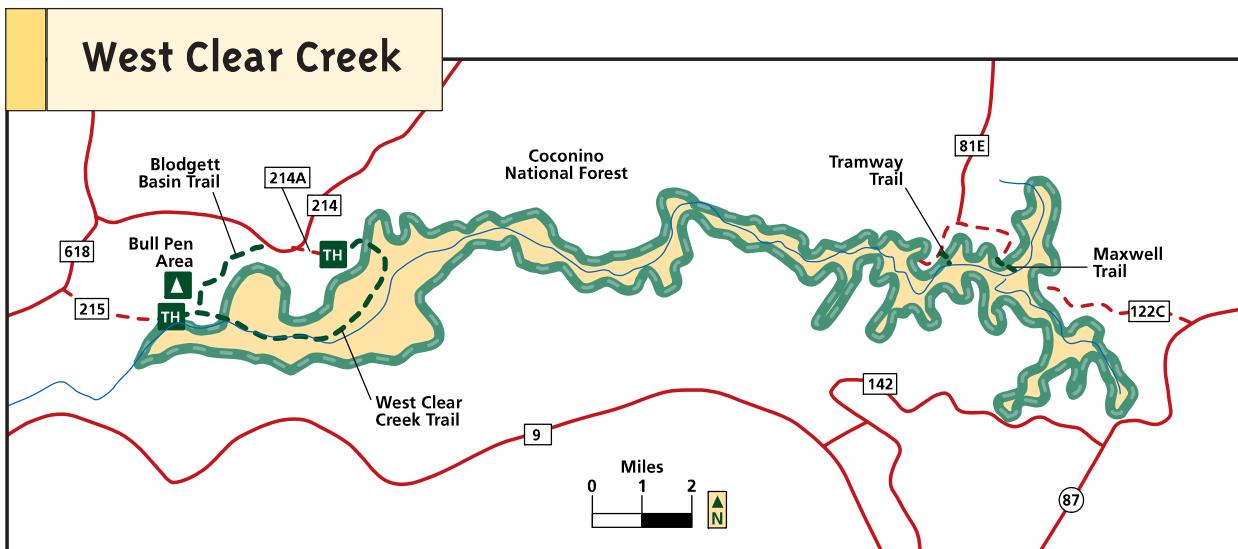
ELEVATION RANGE: 3,700 to 6,800 feet

MILES OF TRAILS: 10.2

HABITATS: Riparian gallery forest to ponderosa and Gambel oak

ADMINISTRATION:
Coconino National Forest, Long Valley Ranger District

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS:
Buckhorn Mountain, Calloway Butte, Walker Mountain



prickly pear in the canyon bottom. In places, water hemlock and poison ivy clog streamside pathways in great profusion. But there are also coneflower, Columbine, and Virginia creeper.

Black bear, elk, white-tailed and mule deer, ring tail, mountain lion, bobcat, badger, and skunk inhabit the wilderness. Bald eagles are sometimes seen there and lunker trout lure fishermen down the canyon's steep walls to fish West Clear Creek's cold, deep pools. Raven, cliff swallow, belted kingfisher, white-throated swift, broad-billed hummingbird, red-tailed hawk, and great horned owl are among the many birds that frequent the wilderness.

Hiking trails at either end of the wilderness provide the only access to the creek. For the remainder of its length, West Clear Creek is a "swim-float" canyon. Some backpackers carry small, inflatable vinyl rafts and paddles; others stuff their gear into heavy-duty trash bags that trap enough air to float a backpack.

Some of the swims are well over 100 yards, and since the sun seldom penetrates the depths of some canyon narrows, the water is cold—very cold—making hypothermia a real risk. Because sheer canyon walls block escape, flash flooding is also a danger during the summer rainy season. But there's no better way to experience pure wilderness solitude than to canyoneer Arizona's West Clear Creek Wilderness. In company, of course; never attempt a solo swim-float trip.

Although the West Clear Creek Wilderness is accessible throughout the year, swim-float trips are advisable only during the warmer months. In winter, road access to higher-elevation trails leading into the canyon may be closed by heavy snowfall.

DAY HIKE: WEST CLEAR CREEK TRAIL

One-way length: 7.7 miles

Low and high elevations: 3,800 to 5,600 feet

Difficulty: moderate

To reach the West Clear Creek Trailhead, travel southeast from Camp Verde for six miles on State Route 260 (General Crook Trail) to Forest Route 618. Turn north for 2.2 miles on Forest Route 618 to Forest Route 215. Turn right (east) on Forest Route 215 for about three miles to the Bull Pen camping area.

The trail leads up the north bank of the canyon for approximately 1.0 mile before making the first of four creek crossings. Except when streamflow is increased by snowmelt or heavy rainfall, crossings are safe and easy. But use caution.

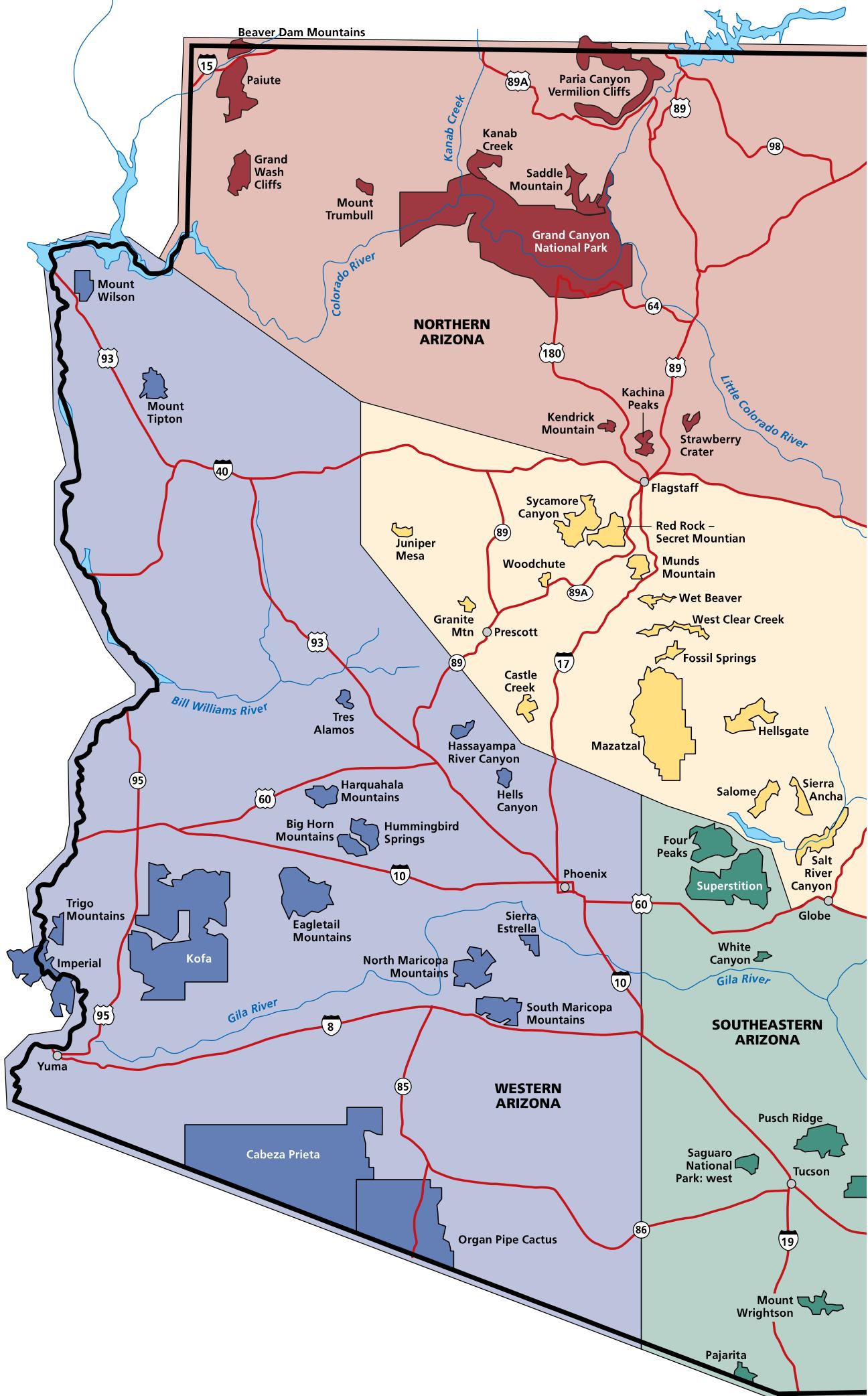
After 5.0 miles, the trail turns north to climb nearly 2,000 feet to the canyon rim and Forest Route 214A. Depending on your fitness, you can hike the 2.5 miles back to the West Clear Creek Trailhead at the Bull Pen Area by way of Forest Route 214A to Forest Route 214 and the Blodgett Basin Trail or arrange for a shuttle to pick you up.

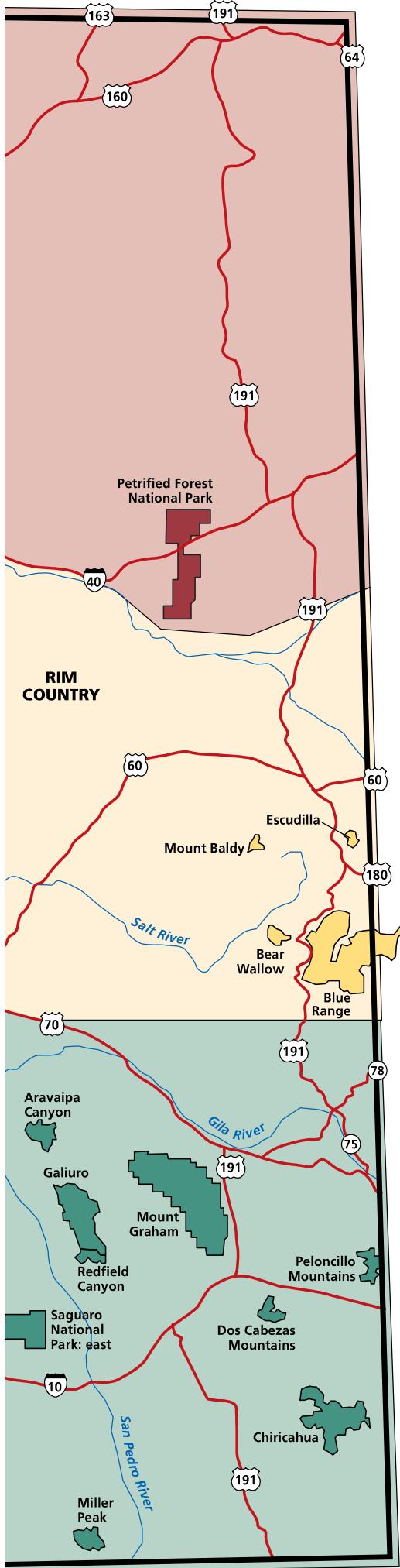
UPPER CANYON ACCESS

The Maxwell Trail provides the easiest access to West Clear Creek Canyon's upper end. To reach the Maxwell Trailhead from Phoenix, drive north on State Route 87 to Clints Well. Turn left (north) onto Forest Route 3 (Lake Mary Road) and continue for about seven miles to Forest Route 81. Turn left (west) on Forest Route 81 for four miles to Forest Route 81E. Take Forest Route 81E to its dead-end and the trailhead. The last few miles may require a high-clearance vehicle.

The difficult Maxwell Trail drops steeply into the canyon, descending more than 700 feet in less than one mile.

Another route into the canyon, the Tramway Trail, descends from the rim in the same general area as the Maxwell Trail. It too is steep and less than one mile in length.





Arizona Wilderness Areas



	Border
	Trail
	Access Road
	River
	Lake
	Trailhead
	Campground
	Point of Interest
	Spring

Please refer to this legend for all maps in this book.

How to Use This Guide

Each wilderness area is described according to its notable land features, vegetation, wildlife, and pertinent historical data. Finally, hikes of varying lengths and degree of difficulty are detailed for each wilderness section, along with other recreational opportunities, such as skiing, snowshoeing, river rafting, and canoe or float trips. Hikes are classified as follows:

DAY HIKES. Trails and destinations that fit an approximate eight-hour period.

DESTINATION HIKES. Waterfalls, peaks, or historic sites that may require an overnight stay.

LOOP HIKES. Routes that circle through the wilderness to return the hiker to the trailhead via a different route. These include both day trips and overnights.

SHUTTLE HIKES. Hikes that require shuttling vehicles between the start and finish points of a one-way route—typically a multi-day trek through a long canyon or across a mountain pass.

Distance in miles and elevations are recorded for all hikes, and each is graded, subjectively, by degree of difficulty. Easy hikes, for example, are low-mileage day trips on well-maintained trails with easy grades and little elevation gain. Moderate hikes, also on developed trails, require longer distances, steeper grades, and greater elevation gain. Strenuous hikes mean long distances, substantial elevation gain, and may require bushwhacking or following faint trails over rough terrain. Other factors, such as weather and availability of water, may influence the ratings. Along the way, hike descriptions point out natural features such as plant life, wildlife viewing opportunities, and aesthetic values.

MAPS

Maps in this guidebook detail salient features of the areas they describe and are not intended to be used for orientation in the field. For route finding you will need to obtain one or more of the 7.5-minute topo maps listed at the beginning of each entry.

Along the Trail

FOR WILDERNESS TRAVELERS, two things are essential. The first is personal safety, which you can reasonably assure by equipping yourself properly and avoiding risk. The second is to leave the wilderness as unspoiled as you found it, which can be accomplished by practicing common-sense wilderness etiquette and minimum impact camping:

- Leave no trace.
- If you pack it in, pack it out.
- Tread lightly.

These have long been the bywords of wilderness etiquette. To leave the wilderness as we found it, or wish to have found it, is an admirable precept, but seasoned backcountry travelers know that in actual practice it requires adherence to a few guidelines about equipment, group size, length of stay, campsites and campfires, and other minimum-impact basics.

EQUIPMENT

True, Arizona is synonymous with sunshine. Don't be fooled. At higher elevations weather conditions often change quickly and overnight temperatures in the mountains may drop sharply even in summer. Violent thunderstorms arrive in late June and continue into September, and winter weather systems moving overland from the Pacific may last for several days, bringing heavy snow to mountain regions. Year-round heat and aridity at lower elevations can put the unwary and unprepared at great risk. Prepare for anything.

GROUP SIZE

In some Arizona wilderness areas, managing agencies set limits on visitor numbers; in a few, reservations and permits are required. Where no limits are imposed, sound conservation practice suggests that group size be limited to between eight and ten. To lessen impact when hiking off-trail, even smaller groups are a good idea. Pack animals, if used, should never exceed the number of people.

CROSS-COUNTRY HIKING

Cross-country jaunts through wilderness areas enhance your outdoor experience by taking you to places that are otherwise inaccessible. But off-trail hiking can do lasting damage, particularly in desert terrain where, once disturbed, fragile soils take years to heal. Here are some guidelines for hiking in wilderness areas where no developed trail systems exist.

- Avoid fragile areas, particularly unstable slopes, areas covered by dwarf shrubs or ferns, and areas of desert vegetation. If you must hike across such terrain, avoid treading on plants.
- Where possible, hike on bare rock, sand, gravel, the deep duff of the forest floor, or in areas regularly scoured by water, such as the beds of desert arroyos.
- Keep group size small. On fragile surfaces, spread out to avoid wearing a path. But on extremely fragile surfaces, such as tundra, walk single-file in order to cut only one path.
- Avoid descending steep, loose slopes. If possible choose another route.

CAMPsites

A rule of thumb: If a campsite already exists, use it, even if you have to tidy it a bit. It takes only a few days of camping to trample and compact the vegetation in a pristine area, thus creating a new campsite where none existed. If you come upon a campsite in the backcountry that is just becoming noticeable, pick a new location, allowing the hardly used site to restore itself over a season. Do not camp in desert arroyos; sudden storms may produce killer flash floods. Finally, avoid causing water or visual pollution by camping more than 200 feet from any water source, trail, or scenic location.

FIREs AND STOVES

For people who care about backcountry preservation, campfires are out, camp stoves are in. Romantic though they may be, fires and fire rings leave ugly, long-lasting scars on the landscape. A basic tenet of wilderness etiquette is to build a fire only if your stove malfunctions or if you need a fire in an emergency. If you require a fire, use an existing fire ring and select smaller wood sticks. Large logs seldom burn through, leaving campsites littered with their charred, ugly remains. When no previously used fire ring is available, build a fire on a rock covered with a thin layer of soil, if possible, or in a dug pit. Save both topsoil and sod to cover the fire site after the ashes have cooled. These practices help prevent superheating which sterilizes topsoil.

WASTES

Waste is the biggest problem in wilderness travel, and the pack-it-in-pack-it-out rule of wilderness etiquette applies especially to waste disposal. Wrappers of any kind, tins, empty propane or butane cartridges, cigarette butts—if you carried it in, carry it out. And while you're at it, carry out a piece or two of junk discarded by sloppy campers.

Human waste disposal should not be a problem in the backcountry, but all of us have been disgusted by toilet paper, sometimes even human feces, scattered near a trail or campsite. Fouling the wilderness in this way is easily avoided. Use a light-weight trowel to dig a “cat hole” no deeper than 6 to 8 inches. This will deposit feces in the most biologically active layer of soil, hastening decomposition. Save any sod you have removed and replace it, tamping it down after filling the hole with soil. You can do one of two things with toilet paper—burn it and mix the ashes with the soil returned to the cat hole, or place it in a resealable plastic bag and pack it out. A word of caution about burning, however. If fire danger is high, you should not risk burning toilet paper. In fact, during periods of drought in Arizona, managing agencies often ban backcountry fires of any kind (sometimes including camp stoves), leaving you no choice but to carry out all burnables.

Do not bury tampons or sanitary napkins; they do not decompose and animals will dig them up. Instead, bag them along with other refuse and carry them out.

PACK ANIMALS

Just as disgusting as a campsite marred by human litter is one that pack stock have trampled and fouled. To lessen the wilderness impact of horses and mules, hobble them, erect temporary electric-wire corrals, or tether them far apart on lines strung between trees. These practices will prevent pack stock from trampling and denuding a plot of ground.

Packers can further limit the impact of stock animals by using lightweight camping equipment, thus reducing load weights and the number of animals required to haul gear. To prevent streambank erosion, water stock animals on graveled shorelines, not on soft streambanks. And feeding pellets to pack animals will prevent the introduction of destructive exotic plants harbored in hay bales.

In Arizona some trekkers have abandoned horses and mules in favor of llamas or even goats, which do less damage to the natural environment.

NOISE

Except for the wind in the trees, the sound of cascading water, the singing of birds, the call of a loon, or the bugling of a bull elk, the pleasures of a wilderness experience are heightened by the absence of noise. Loudness is an intrusion; respect the rights of others to solitude and quiet in the vast silences of wilderness. Don't disturb the peace by partying late into the night. Don't shout. And if you've brought a guitar, harmonica, or other musical instrument, ask nearby campers if they mind your playing.

WATER

Giardiasis is wicked. Ask anyone who has had a run-in with it. You become nauseated, can't eat, feel feverish, lose weight—all the symptoms you associate with a severe case of flu. It goes on and on and on, and, worse, it comes back on you just when you think you're cured. It's caused by *Giardia lamblia*, a parasite deposited in water by animal feces. Assume that all water anywhere is contaminated.

Treat water obtained at wilderness sources by boiling, filtering, or adding chemicals. Experts disagree about boiling times needed to purify water. If you prefer to boil, for safety's sake bring water to a rolling boil for at least 3 minutes. Commercial water-purification filters will remove giardia cysts, but if you do not follow manufacturers' instructions carefully, you may actually contaminate the filter attachments. Iodine tablets, which taste bad, kill giardia cysts. You can mask the taste of iodine by adding powdered lemonade, or other fruit flavors.

HYPERTHERMIA AND HYPOThERMIA

Hyperthermia means too hot, hypothermia too cold. Both are life threatening. The most effective way to prevent dangerous swings in your body's core temperature is to protect yourself against the elements with proper clothing, adequate nourishment, and great care to maintain hydration.

Because much of our state becomes extremely hot and dry during summer, hyperthermia is the more common condition in Arizona. "It's a dry heat," you will hear people say, by way of suggesting that temperatures above 100 degrees Fahrenheit are somehow tolerable. But aridity is in many ways as dangerous as heat. In a place where capacity for evaporation is many times greater than actual precipitation, everything, including the human body, rapidly desiccates. Thus, great care must be taken to avoid overheating and water loss leading to heat exhaustion or, worse, heat stroke.

The symptoms of heat exhaustion, a dangerous condition that should be treated immediately, include weakness; disorientation or panic; clammy, pale skin; and chills. The symptoms of heat stroke or hyperthermia, a life-threatening condition requiring a physician's attention, are a flushed complexion, dry, hot skin, and complete collapse or unconsciousness.

The first line of protection against heat and aridity is sunglasses, sunscreen, and clothing. Use sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15, put it on thirty minutes to an hour before exposing your skin to the sun, and renew it after four to six hours, depending on the season and the sun's intensity. Long-sleeved shirts, long trousers, and wide-brimmed hats—a bit old fashioned, perhaps, but effective—offer not only excellent solar protection but help prevent overheating. Remember to wear sunglasses with UV protection.

Even when you think you are drinking plenty of water, maintaining proper hydration in a desert climate is tough, particularly under heavy exertion such as backpacking or hiking. Before you set out, "camel up" by drinking lots of water and drink frequently along the way. Drink even when you do not feel thirsty. Do not try to ration water. Monitor the color of your urine. If it becomes deep yellow, you are already dehydrated.

Watch for any of the following symptoms in your hiking companions: difficulty maintaining pace or loss of muscular control; slowness or slurring of speech; faintness or dizziness; paleness; nausea; and extreme fatigue. Any of these may indicate the onset of serious dehydration, and require immediate first aid:

- Get the victim out of the sun and into the shade. Shade is scarce in the desert, but if you are hiking near a dry wash you may find mesquite or palo verde trees large enough to provide shade.
- Calm the victim. As mentioned, panic is often a symptom of heat exhaustion.
- Encourage the victim to drink in small sips.
- Wipe the victim's face and neck with a bandanna or cloth soaked in cool water.
- Wait until sunset to continue hiking, even if the victim's condition is improved.

Hypothermia, the opposite of heat stroke (hyperthermia), is not unheard of in Arizona. A number of years ago, a man hiking in a party of three died while on a winter backpack in the Galiuro Wilderness. He was strong and athletic, so his companions did not worry when he fell behind while hiking in wet, sloppy snow. By the time they doubled back to find him, it was too late. The group was wrong to think that the victim's falling behind was insignificant. The victim himself was terribly wrong in his choice of clothing—a cotton denim jacket and jeans that had become saturated, chilling him to the bone. "Cotton kills," you will hear experienced backcountry travelers say. Wear wool or synthetic fleece instead. Both provide thermal protection even when wet.

Ironically, victims of hypothermia, also called exposure, show some of the same symptoms as victims of heat stroke—a stumbling gait, slurred speech, and disorientation. In addition, victims of cold often begin to shiver uncontrollably, particularly in cold, damp, windy weather; alert hikers should watch for any of the above symptoms in their companions. If they occur, give immediate first aid:

- Remove the victim's wet clothing and quickly dress him or her in layers of warm, dry clothing.
- Bundle the victim in a sleeping bag with another hiker; two, if possible.
- Give the victim plenty of warm fluids to drink.

Of course, prevention is the best remedy for either of these life-threatening conditions. Before undertaking an arduous backcountry expedition, be certain that your physical condition is equal to it. Carefully check your equipment before leaving

to be sure you have the essentials for survival. Make sure that you pack adequate clothing, especially protection against wind, rain, and other extreme weather conditions. While on the trail, consume high-energy foods and know your own energy needs. Some hikers—and I am one—need to “refuel” more frequently than others. Drink plenty of water. Here, again, individual requirements vary. Although I drink “tons” of water while on trail and carefully monitor the color of my urine, I always feel a bit dried out after a long outing.

Finally, common sense prevails always. Know your limits and don’t exceed them. Do not act impulsively. Remember, always, to carry extra food and water and to leave a well-stocked vehicle at the trailhead.

ALTITUDE

Adjusting to mountain altitudes is important, particularly for hikers from low-elevation locations. If you live at sea level and begin hiking at elevations approaching 7,000 feet without going through a period of adaptation, you are likely to be hit by altitude sickness. The symptoms—headache, faintness or dizziness, shortness of breath, nausea, and diarrhea—will vary depending on individual tolerances. A more serious form of altitude sickness, pulmonary edema, is rare in Arizona where no peaks rise above 13,000 feet. Along with the symptoms listed above, pulmonary edema causes extreme fatigue, painful coughing, rasping or bubbling noises in the chest, and bloody sputum. Since it is life threatening, anyone suffering from it should be quickly removed to lower elevations. To avoid altitude sickness, acclimate yourself by spending one or two days of normal activity at elevation. Other tips: Don’t smoke. Avoid alcohol. Get plenty of sleep. Be in peak physical condition.

Be mindful that difficulty breathing is not the only problem in the rarefied air at high elevations. The thin atmosphere also increases the sun’s power, making exposed skin far more vulnerable to solar radiation. Protect yourself against painful sunburn at high elevation by wearing sunglasses, garments that leave little skin exposed, and a wide-brimmed hat. And don’t forget to slather on lots of high-SPF sunblock and lip protection.

LIGHTNING

About 300 people are killed by lightning strikes in the United States annually. During the summer monsoon, which unofficially lasts from July 4th through Labor Day, Tucson and surrounding Pima County in southern Arizona become the virtual capital of lightning strikes. Scientists regularly gather here to study the phenomenon.

The average square mile of ground throughout the United States will be hit by ten lightning bolts each year. In the vicinity of Tucson, that number rises to fifteen bolts per square mile, and the chance that lightning will hit the ground within 100 yards of where you stand is once every two years. More than fifty people have been killed by lightning throughout Arizona over the past thirty-five years, with most of the fatalities occurring during July, August, and early September.

Just about every Arizona outdoors person I know has a lightning story to tell. Take precautions. Summer thunderstorms tend to hit during the afternoon hours, so try to leave the high country early or seek shelter before the storm arrives. If you are caught out in the open, however, there are things you can do to prevent getting zapped.

- Crouch down and curl into a ball, taking up as little space as possible. Do not, however, lie on the ground; a lightning charge disperses when it enters the earth.
- Do not seek shelter under lone trees; avoid wire fences and metal pipes.
- Avoid all high, exposed places.
- If you are near your vehicle, get in it and close the windows.
- If a hiking companion is struck by lightning, you may save his life by performing immediate CPR.

FLOODING

Over the past 50 years, more than 100 people have been killed in Arizona by flash flooding. During periods of heavy rain, dry washes become raging rivers capable of tumbling Volkswagen-Bug-sized boulders and uprooting tall trees. The unwary, miscalculating the depth and hydraulic ferocity of moving water, are often caught trying to cross a running wash. Twenty-three people were killed statewide during the heavy rains of September 1970. In July 1981, eight people were drowned by a flash flood at Tanque Verde Falls, a favorite recreational area in the Rincon Mountains near Tucson.

Heed all warning signs about the dangers of entering a flooded wash; never try to drive your vehicle through a wash at flood stage. A mere two feet of rushing water will carry away most vehicles. Backcountry hikers should use extreme caution fording swollen streams and washes. It is easy to lose your footing in a strong current while carrying a fully loaded backpack. Only six inches of fast-moving water can knock you off your feet. One mistake could be fatal. Flood waters usually subside quickly; a short wait may save your life.

TEN ESSENTIALS

Nearly everyone has seen a list or two of the ten essentials necessary to backcountry survival. Wilderness survival schools teach from these lists, Forest Service pamphlets publish them, and kids learn them at summer camp. Below is my list of ten:

- Matches or lighter and fire starter.
- Flashlight with extra batteries and bulb.
- Emergency shelter: space blanket, poncho, or ground cloth.
- First aid kit.
- Map of area and compass.
- Knife.
- Emergency food.
- Signaling device: stainless-steel mirror or whistle.
- Extra clothing: windbreaker, polypro cap, and gloves.
- Sun protection: sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm, and hat.

Except for the map, these are stock items in my daypack, many of them packaged together in heavy, resealable plastic bags. Over time I have added or subtracted from the list. Periodically, I check to see what needs replacing.

Appendix 2: Addresses for Further Information

Arizona State Land Department

PHOENIX OFFICE

1616 W. Adams
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 542-2119

TUCSON OFFICE

233 N. Main Street
Tucson, AZ 85701
(520) 628-5480

Bureau of Land Management Offices

ARIZONA STATE OFFICE

222 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004-2208
(602) 417-9200

ARIZONA STRIP OFFICE

345 Riverside Drive
St. George, UT 84790-9000
(801) 688-3200

KINGMAN FIELD OFFICE

2475 Beverly Avenue
Kingman, AZ 86401-3629
(520) 692-4400

PHOENIX FIELD OFFICE

2015 West Deer Valley Road
Phoenix, AZ 85027-2099
(602) 580-5500

SAFFORD FIELD OFFICE

711 14th Avenue
Safford, AZ 85546-3321
(520) 348-4400

TUCSON FIELD OFFICE

12661 E. Broadway
Tucson, AZ 85748-7208
(520) 722-4289

YUMA FIELD OFFICE

2555 E. Gila Ridge Road
Yuma, AZ 85365-2240
(520) 317-3200

Fish and Wildlife Offices

CABEZA PRIETA REFUGE

1611 North Second Avenue
Ajo, AZ 85321
(520) 387-6483

IMPERIAL REFUGE

Martinez Lake
P.O. Box 72217
Yuma, AZ 85365
(520) 783-3371

KOFA REFUGE

356 W. First Street
Yuma, AZ 85366-6290
(520) 783-7861

Appendix 2: continued

National Park Service Offices

BACKCOUNTRY OFFICE

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

P.O. Box 129

Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

638-7888 (recorded info)

(520) 638-7875

(weekdays between 1 and 5 p.m.)

River Permits Office (520) 638-7843

Website: www.thecanyon.com/nps

ORGAN PIPE CACTUS

NATIONAL MONUMENT

Route 1, Box 100

Ajo, AZ 85321 (520) 387-6849

Website: www.nps.gov/orpi/

PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK,

P.O. Box 2217

Petrified Forest National Park, AZ 86028

(520) 524-6228

Website: www.nps.gov/pefo/

SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK

3693 South Old Spanish Trail

Tucson, AZ 85730-5601

(520) 733-5153

Website: www.nps.gov/sagu/

National Forest Offices

APACHE-SITGREAVES

NATIONAL FOREST

309 South Mountain Avenue

P.O. Box 640

Springerville, AZ 85938

(520) 333-4301

Ranger Districts

Alpine (520) 339-4384

Clifton (520) 865-2432

Chevelon (520) 289-3381

Heber (520) 535-4481

Lakeside (520) 368-5111

Springerville (520) 333-4372

COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST

2323 E. Greenlaw Lane

Flagstaff, AZ 86004

(520) 527-3600

Ranger Districts

Beaver Creek (520) 567-4501

Blue Ridge (520) 477-2255

Flagstaff (520) 527-7450

Long Valley (520) 354-2480

Mormon Lake (520) 774-1147

Peaks (520) 526-0866

Sedona (520) 282-4119

CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

300 W. Congress Street

Tucson, Arizona, 85701 (520) 670-4552

Ranger Districts

Douglas (520) 364-3468

Nogales (520) 281-2296

Safford (520) 428-4150

Santa Catalina (520) 749-8700

Sierra Vista (520) 378-0311

KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST

800 South 6th Street

Williams, AZ 86046 (520) 635-2681

Ranger Districts

Chalender (520) 635-2676

North Kaibab (520) 643-7395

Tusayan (520) 638-2443

Williams (520) 635-2633

PREScott NATIONAL FOREST

344 S. Cortez Street

Prescott, AZ 86301 (520) 445-1762

Ranger Districts

Bradshaw (520) 445-7253

Chino Valley (520) 636-2302

Verde (520) 567-4121

Tonto NATIONAL FOREST

P.O. Box 5348

Phoenix, AZ 85010 (602) 225-5200

Ranger Districts

Cave Creek (602) 488-3441

Globe (520) 425-7189

Mesa (520) 379-6446

Payson (520) 474-7900

Pleasant Valley (520) 462-3311

Tonto Basin (520) 467-2236

National Forest Website for Arizona:

www.fs.fed.us/recreation/states/az.html

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www.westcliffepublishers.com.*

PLEASE NOTE:

Risk is always a factor in backcountry and high-mountain travel. Many of the activities described in this book can be dangerous, especially when weather is adverse or unpredictable, and when unforeseen events or conditions create a hazardous situation. The author has done his best to provide the reader with accurate information about backcountry travel, as well as to point out some of its potential hazards. It is the responsibility of the users of this guide to learn the necessary skills for safe backcountry travel, and to exercise caution in potentially hazardous areas, especially on avalanche-prone terrain. The author and publisher disclaim any liability for injury or other damage caused by backcountry traveling, mountain biking, or performing any other activity described in this book.