

# **SALT RIVER CANYON WILDERNESS**

## **Tonto National Forest Visitor Permit Information**

Visitor Permits are required by the USDA Forest Service for private boaters taking river trips through the Salt River Canyon Wilderness from **March 1<sup>st</sup> to May 15th**. The 2007 permit application form is enclosed with this information packet. Please feel free to photocopy this packet and pass it on to other interested boaters. **Permit applications from past years will not be accepted.**

### **WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE PERMITS**

Recreation permits issued by the White Mountain Apache Tribe are required for whitewater boaters utilizing that portion of river flowing through the Reservation. Tribal jurisdiction applies to the approximately 30-mile stretch of river downstream from First Campground and the Highway 60 bridge. **Whitewater boating is strictly prohibited by the Tribe through those sections of the canyon upstream of Apache Falls (1/4 mile above Highway 60 bridge).** For more information on permit costs and regulations call tribal officials at (928) 338-4385.

### **PERMITTED SECTION**

The Salt River Canyon Wilderness begins at Gleason Flat, which is 20 miles downstream of the traditional river put-in at First Campground on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. The river flows through the Wilderness for approximately 32 miles to the take-out immediately downstream of the Highway 288 bridge. The Forest Service does not require a Visitor Permit for the stretch of river upstream of Gleason Flat.

**Reminder:** When you apply for a visitor permit, it is important to remember that, if your trip launches at the First Campground river access point, **the date you are requesting will generally be 1 or 2 days after your launch date.**

### **WHO MAY APPLY**

Only one application per person will be accepted during the application period of **November 15, 2006, through January 15, 2007**. A Trip Leader must be at least 18 years of age and qualified to lead a non-commercial, multiple day trip down a technical class III-IV whitewater river.

### **APPLICATION DEADLINE AND FEE**

We will accept your completed application no earlier than **November 15, 2006**, and no later than close-of-business on **January 15, 2007**. **The date received determines acceptance, not the postmark.**

A personal check, cashier's check, or money order for \$10 must accompany the application. Make check payable to: **USDA - Forest Service**. Do not send cash. **This \$10 application fee is non-refundable.**

Following the January random drawing for visitor permits, a letter of notification will be sent to each successful applicant. To secure the visitor permit, all requested information, along with an additional **non-refundable fee of \$75**, must be sent to this office at least 21 days prior to the reserved entry date. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by postcard.

## **CANCELLATION WAITING LIST**

**Beginning February 1st**, you may inquire about open dates, and place your name on a Waiting List for **one date**. Should that date become available, you will be called in the order in which your name was placed on the waiting list. If we are unable to contact you, we will call the next name on the waiting list until the date is assigned, or the list is exhausted.

## **NON-COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY**

The Trip Leader must ensure that trip participants do not participate in commercial use or activity as defined by **36 CFR 251.51**: any use or activity (a) where an entry or participation fee is charged, or (b) where the primary purpose is the sale of a good or service, and in either case, regardless of whether the use or activity is intended to produce a profit. Normally, a trip is not considered commercial if all participants share costs equally. If you prefer a commercial trip, we will be pleased to provide you with a list of names and phone numbers of outfitters authorized to operate on this river.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK**

Every person intending to run the Upper Salt River is personally responsible for assessing river and weather conditions, and their ability to cope with these conditions. All river running involves a significant degree of risk. It is the Trip Leader's responsibility to ensure that the group has the proper skills and equipment to safely navigate the river.

## **THE UPPER SALT RIVER**

The Salt River Canyon is a very remote and potentially dangerous place. The river is a solid Class III-IV run, and is not recommended for novices and beginners.

A Recreation Opportunity Guide containing a map and current information about the river is available at the Globe Ranger District Office, located at 7680 S. Six Shooter Canyon Road, Globe, Arizona, or the Forest Supervisor's Office, located at 2324 East McDowell Road, Phoenix, Arizona.

## WILDERNESS RESTRICTIONS

1. **Visitor Permits are required** by the USDA Forest Service for private boaters taking river trips through the Salt River Canyon Wilderness from **March 1<sup>st</sup> to May 15th**. A boat tag should be attached to every watercraft used.
2. Group size is limited to no more than **fifteen people**.
3. Overnight raft trips must have a **firepan** in their possession. Self-supporting kayak trips must have a fireblanket or firepan in their possession. Any open fires must be contained within one of the above items.
4. Wood collection is limited to **dead and down material only**. Cutting or stripping limbs from trees is strictly prohibited.
5. **All trips must possess 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).
6. Motorized boats and equipment are prohibited within the Salt River Canyon Wilderness.
7. Possession or transportation of any part of native plants is prohibited.
8. **Littering is strictly prohibited**. Pack out all food remains, and trash (orange peels, seed shells and cigarette butts are considered litter).
9. The U.S. Coast Guard recommends use of Type III or Type V Personal Flotation Device by each person, on all watercraft.

## INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the Salt River Canyon Wilderness, or the permit process, please contact the River Permit Coordinator at (928) 402-6236.

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 following websites.

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

National Water and Climate Center (snow): <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/snotel/> Select the state of Arizona, and then select the red dot for Hannagan Meadows, or the blue dot for Baldy.

