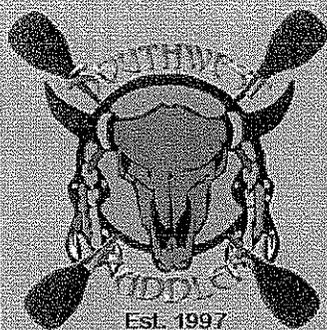


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SOUTHWEST PADDLER

Outdoor Recreation Guide for
Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Utah



Canoes, Kayaks & Rafts

Gear

River Outfitters

Campgrounds

Apparel

Instruction

Verde River

Report by Marc W. McCord

Sullivan Lake to Perkinsville ~ 46 Miles

General Description

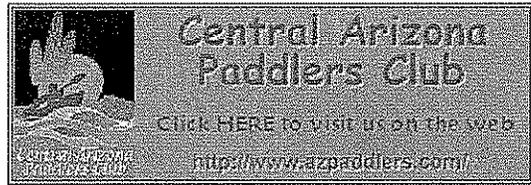
The Verde River forms at Sullivan Lake, where Big Chino Wash and Williamson Valley Wash merge south of Paulden in the Big Chino Valley of Yavapai County, then flows south by southeast about 170 miles to its Salt River confluence just northeast of Scottsdale and Phoenix. Along the way, it passes through parts of three national forests (Prescott, Cococino and Tonto), the cities of Cottonwood, Clarkdale and Camp Verde, and lands belonging to various tribes of the Apache Nation, private landowners and the State of Arizona. It is a perennial stream in a state known for its "dry" rivers, but it is not always boatable, and may have navigable flows in some reaches when others are too low to paddle. Its waters come from snowmelt in the mountains around the three forests, as well as seasonal monsoons. Surrounding lands are vastly disparate in nature, ranging from densely-forested upland plateaus to canyons to desert lowlands, each with its own diverse plantlife, animals, birds and fish. Beginning about 70 miles below the headwaters is a reach of 40.5 miles that is designated as "Wild and Scenic" by the US Congress, where the river and surrounding lands are perpetually protected against development and overuse.

The Verde River flows about 46 miles between its headwaters and Perkinsville as a Class I to II stream. This beautiful and very scenic section of the river, located just west of the Red Rocks area near Sedona, can be paddled in canoes, kayaks or rafts by just about any able-bodied boater. However, the remoteness of the area makes trips better suited for those with wilderness paddling experience, though novice paddlers can enjoy this river when accompanied by skilled and experienced paddlers and campers who can provide guidance and assistance when needed. This uppermost reach of the river flows through Prescott National Forest, starting in Big Chino Valley and ending about 18 river miles above Clarkdale. Depending upon recent local precipitation conditions, the river may be navigable at any time of the year, though optimum flows are usually found from January through early-May. There

Technical Data	
Class Rating	I to II
Length	46 miles
Minimum Flow	300 cfs
Optimum Flow	400-1,000 cfs
Maximum Flow	3,000 cfs
First Put-in	US Highway 89 bridge
Lat/Long	
Last Take-out	USFS road near Perkinsville
Lat/Long	34.8945999 / -112.2042999
Elevation	msl
Gradient	1 fpm
USGS Gauge	Web: 09503700 (Paulden)
Boats	Canoes, Kayaks, Rafts
Season	January through April August through December (?)
Permits	No

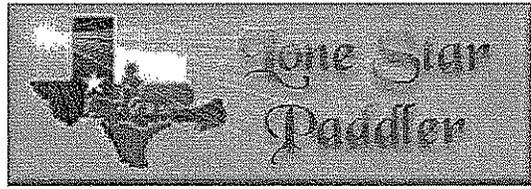
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are no outfitter services located on or near the river, so be sure to bring everything you need, and allow plenty of time for running shuttles, because area roads are not rivals for Interstate highway quality standards. The river is home to many species of wild animals, birds of prey, songbirds, fish and a wide variety of plantlife set against a gorgeous natural backdrop, so be sure to pack the camera for this trip.



Location

Yavapai County of central Arizona. Prescott is just a few miles to the southwest, Flagstaff is just to the northeast and Sedona is very near to the east. Prescott, Cococino and Tonto National Forests surround the Verde River.

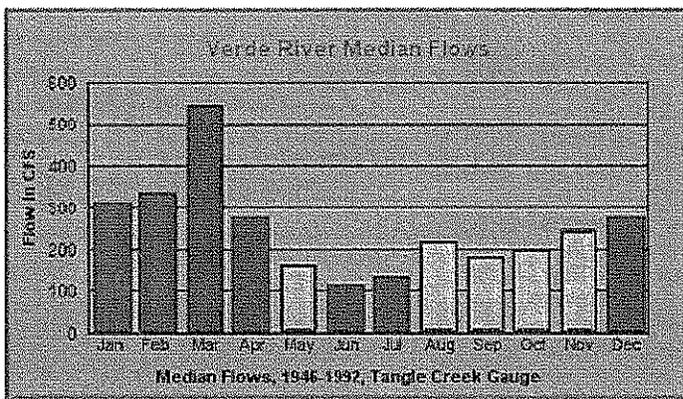


Distance from Major Cities

Flagstaff 53 miles; Phoenix 120 miles; Tucson 237 miles; Albuquerque 380 miles; Salt Lake City 575 miles; Denver 708 miles; Oklahoma City 922 miles; Dallas 1,093 miles; Austin 1,083 miles; San Antonio 1,110 miles; Houston 1,269 miles; Little Rock 1,261 miles; Kansas City 1,247 miles (all distances are approximate and depend upon starting point, destination point on the river and route taken.)

Water Quality and Flow

The Verde River flows clean, clear and cold from its headwaters to the Salt River on the outskirts of Scottsdale, Tempe and Phoenix. Flow is dependent upon winter snowmelt in Prescott National Forest for normal season paddling, and may be augmented by monsoonal rainfall in July through September for late summer through early fall paddle trips. Typically, you would prefer a flow of at least 400 cfs, but that is unusual other than in March. The river can be boatable at lower flows, but may require occasional walking and carrying or dragging through shallow areas. At flows above about 3,000 cfs, which are VERY rare, trees and brush lining the riverbanks become serious hazards to navigation. See table below for average monthly flows:



Best Times to Go

January through April is the primary season for trips on this section of the Verde River, where the water is free-flowing, and March historically has been the best month. A second season

MAY exist from August through December, depending upon seasonal monsoons. Like all Arizona rivers, the Verde may not have a navigable season at all in drought years. Typically, the river can be boated any month of the year, though flows may be very low, at which time the bone zone may be very hard on boats and paddlers.

Hazards to Navigation

There are no significant hazards on this section of the Verde River other than cold water temperatures. Rapids are Class I to II, and are infrequently spaced along this flatwater section. Being prepared for high elevation and springtime Arizona paddling conditions avoids most problems. Because the best flow conditions occur during colder months wearing wetsuits, drysuits or water-repelling garments is advised for prevention of hypothermia. Be sure to carry extra clothing, in dry bags, for the eventuality of getting wet while paddling.

River Access Points

US Highway 89 bridge near Paulden at 0.0 miles; A rough USFS road off US Highway 89 at about 46.0 miles. There may be other access points for this run.

Campgrounds and Accommodations

There are no commercial campgrounds located along this reach of the Verde River, which flows through Prescott National Forest. Primitive campsites can be found along the river. This is a "Leave No Trace" area (as everywhere you paddle should be), so be sure to leave the area cleaner than you found it.

Touries, Outfitters & Shuttle Services

There are no known liveries or outfitters operating along this section of the Verde River. Plan on setting up and running your own shuttles. Because of less-than-ideal conditions on the take-out road, allow adequate time for running shuttles. The one-way time can be 2 hours, or more, depending upon current road conditions.

Reviewer's Comments

"Verde" is Spanish for "green", and this is definitely a fitting name. All along the river is a verdant forest and beautiful tree-lined riverbanks in the oasis of central Arizona that is surrounded by desert. The general area of this reach is in Prescott National Forest near the gorgeous, snowcapped Red Rocks mountains of Sedona. About the only real drawback is the short season, as typical of most Arizona streams, usually flowing best from January through April, and possibly again in August through December, depending upon seasonal monsoon rains. This section of the river flows as a Class I to II stream without major hazards to navigation, and can be enjoyed by almost anybody in canoes, kayaks or rafts, but the water is cold so take care to avoid unplanned swims. Prime conditions usually occur during colder months, so appropriate apparel is essential for preventing hypothermia. River-related services are non-existent, so bring everything you need and

run your own shuttles. Excellent natural, primitive campsites are available along the river, but leave no trace of your having been there other than footprints. Beware of rattlesnakes if you choose to explore the surrounding rocky area. Bring your camera, because there is plenty to see and photograph on the river, as well as nearby.

Click the links below for information regarding the section of the Verde River and its tributaries where you want to paddle.

[[Verde River Homepage](#)] [[Perkinsville to Beasley Flat](#)] [[Beasley Flat to Childs](#)] [[Childs to Horseshoe Reservoir](#)] [[Horseshoe Reservoir to Bartlett Reservoir](#)] [[Bartlett Reservoir to Salt River](#)] [[East Verde River](#)] [[Sycamore Creek](#)]

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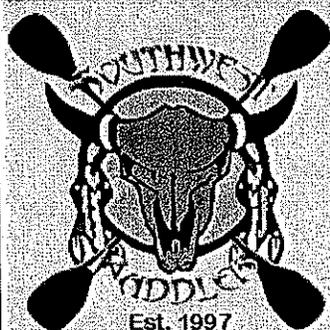
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Verde River

Report by Marc W. McCord

Perkinsville to Beasley Flat ~ 55 Miles

General Description

The Verde River forms at Sullivan Lake, where Big Chino Wash and Williamson Valley Wash merge south of Paulden in the Big Chino Valley of Yavapai County, then flows south by southeast about 170 miles to its Salt River confluence just northeast of Scottsdale and Phoenix. Along the way, it passes through parts of three national forests (Prescott, Cococino and Tonto), the cities of Cottonwood, Clarkdale and Camp Verde, and lands belonging to various tribes of the Apache Nation, private landowners and the State of Arizona. It is a perennial stream in a state known for its "dry" rivers, but it is not always boatable, and may have navigable flows in some reaches when others are too low to paddle. Its waters come from snowmelt in the mountains around the three forests, as well as seasonal monsoons. Surrounding lands are vastly disparate in nature, ranging from densely-forested upland plateaus to canyons to desert lowlands, each with its own diverse plantlife, animals, birds and fish. Beginning about 70 miles below the headwaters is a reach of 40.5 miles that is designated as "Wild and Scenic" by the US Congress, where the river and surrounding lands are perpetually protected against development and overuse.

Between Perkinsville and Beasley Flat lies about 55 miles of gorgeous river flowing through a beautiful and scenic river valley characterized by desert riverbanks, willow and cottonwood trees, ocotillo, Saguaro cactus and a verdant ground cover of desert scrub. The river flows as a Class I to II stream with usually gentle currents and a moderate gradient. Paddle trips can be taken year-round if there has been sufficient recent rainfall around Sullivan Lake to keep the river flowing, or not at all during drought years. This reach of the river flows past the confluence of Sycamore Creek on river left, the towns of Clarkdale, Cottonwood and Camp Verde, Dead Horse Ranch State Park and Camp Verde State Historical Park, ending in the "scenic" portion of the river that has been designated as "Wild and Scenic". Most adjoining land along this reach is private property, and care should be exercised to

Technical Data

Class Rating	I to II
Length	54 miles
Minimum Flow	300 cfs
Optimum Flow	400-1,000 cfs
Maximum Flow	3,000 cfs
First Put-in	Perkinsville Rd (FR 173)
Lat/Long	34.8945999 / -112.2042999
Last Take-out	Beasley Flat
Lat/Long	34.4794006 / -111.7985001
Elevation	msl
Gradient	fpm
USGS Gauge	Web: 09503700 (Paulden) Web: 09504000 (Clarkdale)
Boats	Canoes, Kayaks, Rafts
Season	January through April August through December (?)
Permits	No

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avoid trespassing without advance permission.

The river is very remote, though access at the small towns is good where paddlers can find places to stay (other than the usual riverside camping, if so inclined), food and supplies, restaurants and other services and amenities. Dead Horse Ranch State Park offers an excellent place to stop and explore the surrounding area. Permits are not required for private, non-commercial groups, but upon entering the "Wild" section of the "Wild and Scenic" area group size is limited to a maximum of 15 persons and no more than 15 horses, cattle or other livestock per group. Personally, I could never get a horse or cow to ride in my canoe, but the area is popular for many outdoors recreational activities including horseback riding, camping, hiking, mountain biking, bird and animal viewing, nature photography, hunting, fishing and other activities. Be sure to pack the camera, because there is much to see and photograph along this river that is a green oasis in the midst of a large desert state.



Location

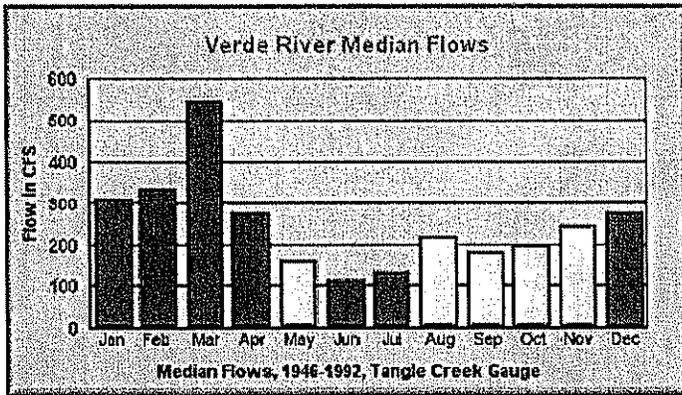
Yavapai County of central Arizona. Prescott is just a few miles to the southwest, Flagstaff is just to the northeast and Sedona is very near to the east. Prescott and Tonto National Forests are home to this reach of the Verde River.

Distance from Major Cities

Flagstaff 55 miles; Phoenix 122 miles; Tucson 240 miles; Albuquerque 383 miles; Salt Lake City 577 miles; Denver 710 miles; Oklahoma City 924 miles; Dallas 1,095 miles; Austin 1,085 miles; San Antonio 1,112 miles; Houston 1,271 miles; Little Rock 1,263 miles; Kansas City 1,249 miles (all distances are approximate and depend upon starting point, destination point on the river and route taken.)

Water Quality and Flow

The Verde River flows clean, clear and cold from its headwaters to the Salt River on the outskirts of Scottsdale, Tempe and Phoenix. Flow is dependent upon winter snowmelt in Prescott National Forest for normal season paddling, and may be augmented by monsoonal rainfall in July through September for late summer through early fall paddle trips. Typically, you would prefer a flow of at least 400 cfs, but that is unusual other than in March. The river can be boatable at lower flows, but may require occasional walking and carrying or dragging through shallow areas. At flows above about 3,000 cfs, which are VERY rare, trees and brush lining the riverbanks become serious hazards to navigation. See table below for average monthly flows:



Best Times to Go

January through April is the primary season for trips on this section of the Verde River, where the water is free-flowing, and March historically has been the best month. A second season MAY exist from August through December, depending upon seasonal monsoons. Like all Arizona rivers, the Verde may not have a navigable season at all in drought years. Typically, the river can be boated any month of the year, though flows may be very low, at which time the bone zone may be very hard on boats and paddlers.

Hazards to Navigation

There are no significant hazards on this section of the Verde River other than cold water temperatures. Rapids are Class I to II, and are infrequently spaced along this flatwater section. Being prepared for high elevation and springtime Arizona paddling conditions avoids most problems. Because the best flow conditions occur during colder months wearing wetsuits, drysuits or water-repelling garments is advised for prevention of hypothermia. Be sure to carry extra clothing, in dry bags, for the eventuality of getting wet while paddling.

River Access Points

Perkinsville Road (FR 173) at 0.0 miles; US Highway 89 Alternate, between Cottonwood and Cornville, at about 23.0 miles; White Bridge River Access Point (RAP), about 0.2 miles NW of the SH 260 bridge, near IH 17 at Camp Verde, at about 45.0 miles; West Clear Creek RAP, off Salt Mine Road (across highway from the Shell Mini-Mart on SH 260), at about 51.8 miles; Beasley Flat RAP, off FR 334 (CR 328) about 3 miles off FR 574 (CR 163), at about 55.0 miles. There may be other access points along this reach.

Campgrounds and Accommodations

Excellent campground facilities are available midway through this trip at Dead Horse Ranch State Park, located at the Sycamore Creek confluence, and Jerome State Historical Park, near Cottonwood, as well as Fort Verde State Historical Park at Camp Verde near the take-out for this section. Primitive, natural campsites can be found along the river, but care should be taken to avoid camping within the floodplain any time there is a likelihood of rain due to the potential for flash

flooding.

Liveries, Outfitters & Shuttle Services

There are no known liveries or outfitters operating along this section of the Verde River. Plan on setting up and running your own shuttles.

Reviewer's Comments

This is the last of the "easy" part of the river above Horseshoe Reservoir. Scenery is awesome and wildlife is abundant. Rapids are Class I to II and the river is usually low and slow, though things can get tricky when flows start to approach 600 cfs, and downright dangerous for anybody with less than strong intermediate level whitewater skills at flows exceeding about 3,000 cfs. The river valley is very remote and peaceful, with little traffic due to limits on commercial operations, though no permits are required for private parties. The towns of Perkinsville, Cottonwood and Camp Verde offer places to get food and supplies, dine in restaurants or stay in a motel if tent camping is not your forte, in which case it begs the question, "Why the hell are you out here in the first place?" Surrounding the river is a wild and undeveloped area that is rich in hunting, fishing, bird and animal watching, mountain biking, hiking, photography and other recreational pursuits in the Great Outdoors. Unlike most of Arizona, the Verde River Valley is green and beautiful, contrasted against shades of brown and tan in the adjoining desert areas. It is sometimes possible to paddle here almost any time, but the river is almost never very high, and in drought years it might not be navigable at all, so be sure to check the gauges and consult with Rangers at Tonto, Prescott or Cococino National Forests for current river conditions before journeying a long way to play. As has been said on most river descriptions, **BRING YOUR CAMERA!**

Click the links below for information regarding the section of the Verde River and its tributaries where you want to paddle.

[[Verde River Homepage](#)] [[US Highway 89 to Perkinsville](#)] [[Beasley Flat to Childs](#)] [[Childs to Horseshoe Reservoir](#)]
[[Horseshoe Reservoir to Bartlett Reservoir](#)] [[Bartlett Reservoir to Salt River](#)] [[East Verde River](#)] [[Sycamore Creek](#)]

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Verde River

Report by Marc W. McCord

Beasley Flat to Childs ~ 18 Miles

General Description

The Verde River forms at Sullivan Lake, where Big Chino Wash and Williamson Valley Wash merge south of Paulden in the Big Chino Valley of Yavapai County, then flows south by southeast about 170 miles to its Salt River confluence just northeast of Scottsdale and Phoenix. Along the way, it passes through parts of three national forests (Prescott, Cococino and Tonto), the cities of Cottonwood, Clarkdale and Camp Verde, and lands belonging to various tribes of the Apache Nation, private landowners and the State of Arizona. It is a perennial stream in a state known for its "dry" rivers, but it is not always boatable, and may have navigable flows in some reaches when others are too low to paddle. Its waters come from snowmelt in the mountains around the three forests, as well as seasonal monsoons. Surrounding lands are vastly disparate in nature, ranging from densely-forested upland plateaus to canyons to desert lowlands, each with its own diverse plantlife, animals, birds and fish. Beginning about 70 miles below the headwaters is a reach of 40.5 miles that is designated as "Wild and Scenic" by the US Congress, where the river and surrounding lands are perpetually protected against development and overuse.

Starting at Beasley Flat the river becomes part of the "National Wild and Scenic Rivers" program, and for good reason - it is wild and scenic out the wazoo! It also becomes more technically difficult as the river enters the deeper canyons with larger rapids and steeper drops. This reach of about 18 miles is rated Class II to IV, but Verde Falls, about 6.5 miles south of Beasley Flat, is a solid Class IV waterfall drop that has Class V consequences, especially at higher flows. The Falls is protected by a pre-fall rapid of sufficient difficulty. Both should be carefully scouted before running, and portaged if there is any doubt about safely running them. At low water levels the river is almost as challenging, especially for the survival of boats - many flatwater canoes have attempted this section and ended up abandoned in irreparable condition as a result of some sort of confrontation with boulders in the streambed.

Technical Data

Class Rating	I to IV (V)
Length	18 miles
Minimum Flow	300 cfs
Optimum Flow	600-2,000 cfs
Maximum Flow	3,000 cfs
First Put-in	Beasley Flat
Lat/Long	34.4794006 / -111.7985001
Last Take-out	Childs
Lat/Long	34.3501015 / -111.6999969
Elevation	msl
Gradient	21 fpm
USGS Gauge	Web: 09506000 (Camp Verde)
Boats	Whitewater Canoes, Kayaks, Rafts
Season	Depends upon recent local rainfall
Permits	Commercial trips only See details at left

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Paddlers should have at least strong intermediate level whitewater skills and be paddling kayaks, rafts or whitewater canoes with flotation on this reach. Of course, PFD's should ALWAYS be worn, but that becomes even more necessary here than on the flatter sections above, and those below Horseshoe Reservoir. This reach ends at Childs, about 6.5 miles above the East Verde River confluence. If you and your equipment are up to the task, and flows are cooperative, then this reach of the Verde River will provide an E-ticket ride in an area of very special natural beauty.



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<http://www.azpaddlers.com/>



Lone Star Paddler

Location

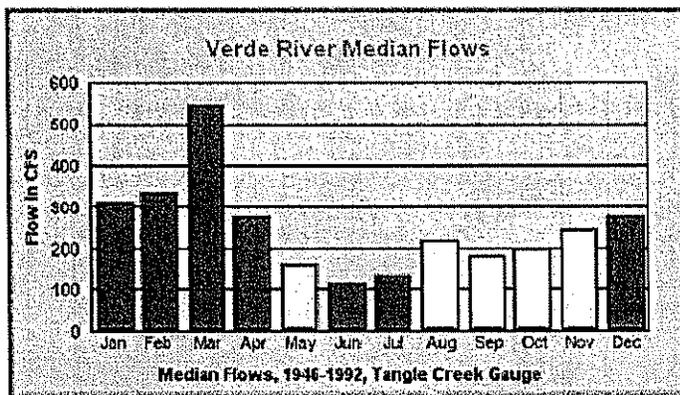
Yavapai County of central Arizona. Prescott sits to the northwest, and Flagstaff to the north. Metropolitan Phoenix is to the southwest. Parts of Cococina, Prescott and Tonto National Forests are home to this reach of the Verde River.

Distance from Major Cities

Flagstaff 56 miles; Phoenix 102 miles; Tucson 219 miles; Albuquerque miles; Salt Lake City miles; Denver miles; Oklahoma City miles; Dallas miles; Austin miles; San Antonio miles; Houston miles; Little Rock miles; Kansas City miles (all distances are approximate and depend upon starting point, destination point on the river and route taken.)

Water Quality and Flow

The Verde River flows clean, clear and cold from its headwaters to the Salt River on the outskirts of Scottsdale, Tempe and Phoenix. Flow is dependent upon winter snowmelt in Prescott National Forest for normal season paddling, and may be augmented by monsoonal rainfall in July through September for late summer through early fall paddle trips. Typically, you would prefer a flow of at least 400 cfs, but that is unusual other than in March. The river can be boatable at lower flows, but may require occasional walking and carrying or dragging through shallow areas. At flows above about 3,000 cfs, which are VERY rare, trees and brush lining the riverbanks become serious hazards to navigation. See table below for average monthly flows:



Best Times to Go

January through April is the primary season for trips on this

section of the Verde River, where the water is free-flowing, and March historically has been the best month. A second season MAY exist from August through December, depending upon seasonal monsoons. Like all Arizona rivers, the Verde may not have a navigable season at all in drought years. Typically, the river can be boated any month of the year, though flows may be very low, at which time the bone zone may be very hard on boats and paddlers.

Permit Requirements

Permits are not required for private parties paddling this reach of the Verde River. Private parties are defined as those where no fees are charged for leading trips, or more specifically, trips where shared expenses represent the only transfer of money between group members. Commercial trips are required to obtain a permit from the offices of any of the three national parks through which this reach flows, and are very limited in number. For those planning to paddle below Childs, there are some special limitations to be observed. Upon entering the "Wild" portion of the "Wild and Scenic River" area private groups are limited to 15 persons maximum, and no more than 15 head of livestock may be a part of any group. Maximum consecutive days in this wilderness area is limited to 14 days.

Hazards to Navigation

Most of the rapids and drops on this reach of the Verde River are rated Class II to III, but there are several Class IV's. This reach should not be attempted by any paddler with less than strong intermediate level whitewater skills. Swiftwater rescue and First Aid training would be great assets. Cold water temperatures make water-repelling garments necessary, and wetsuits or drysuits would be ideal to protect against hypothermia, especially if running the river any time other than perhaps August through October. Hazards of significance include: Pre-fall Rapid (III to IV), at about 2.4 miles, is a boulder garden drop of great technical difficulty that can be lined on river left, or sometimes run after careful scouting - avoid unplanned runs that carry you through the Falls; Verde Falls, located at about 2.6 miles, is a serious Class IV with Class V consequences. Boats can usually be lined along the far left bank, though the Falls can be run by highly experienced paddlers in properly outfitted canoes and kayaks at higher flows. Running this drop at low water is NOT recommended!; Rock garden rapid (III), at about 4.5 miles, is difficult in low water conditions; Rock garden rapid (III), at about 5.5 miles, features sharp drops; Bull Run Rapid (II to III) at about 7.1 miles, is a 2 foot drop in low water conditions; Turkey Gobbler Rapid (II to III), at about 7.6 miles, features a strong current into a boulder on river right, with a nasty hole in high flow conditions. Scout before running; Bushman Rapid (II to III), at about 9.4 miles, is characterized by tricky lateral drops and holes, especially at lower flows; Black Hole Rapid (II to III), at about 10.4 miles, is a sharp drop onto rocks where pinning is easy at low flows; White Flush Rapid (II to III), at about 11.2 miles, is a boat-beating boulder banger; strainers at about 12.8 miles, are potentially VERY dangerous, and should be scouted before running; Boulder garden rapid, at about 13.3 miles, can be very hard on boats. Rapids on this reach have caused the death of many canoes and occasional rafts, so depending upon flow conditions and paddler skills, portages may be necessary to safely arrive at your downriver destination. This reach of the river has the potential for serious injuries or fatalities, so careful planning and adequate whitewater skills

are necessary before attempting this run.

River Access Points

Beasley Flat River Access Point (RAP), on FR 334 (CR 328) about 3 miles off FR 574 (CR 163), at 0.0 miles; Brown Springs Ranch RAP, off FR 574, at about 9.0 miles (easy to miss from the river!); Childs RAP, off FR 502 about 6.2 miles from FR 708, at about 18.0 miles. There are no other access points for this reach of the Verde River.

Campgrounds and Accommodations

There are no commercial campgrounds located along this reach of the Verde River. However, abundant natural, primitive campsites can be found all along the river. This is designated as a "Leave no trace" area, so be sure to take only photos and leave only footprints. Golfers may take along a rake to groom the areas where they walk so that the area is undisturbed for those who follow. This wilderness area has a limit of 14 consecutive days that you may remain here for any purpose.

Liveries, Outfitters & Shuttle Services

There are no known liveries or outfitters operating along this section of the Verde River. Plan on setting up and running your own shuttles.

Reviewer's Comments

This is not classic hairboating, but technical difficulty on this reach of the Verde River demands attention and skills to avoid problems. The area is very remote, and the river flows through a deeper canyon. You may as well leave your cellular phone in the car, because it will be useless here. Scenery all around the river is just spectacular, with an abundance of animals, fish and birds, as well as native flora adorning the canyon walls and the uplands above the rim. You might see bald eagles, peregrine falcons, grey and black hawks, ospreys, Great Blue and green-backed herons, great and snowy egrets, white-faced ibis, and many varieties of songbirds, all of which are commonly found here. Amphibian and landlubber animals are plentiful, and rattlesnakes seem to love this place, so be careful where you step and place your hands. Obviously, not having a camera along would be a major loss, but make sure it is safely and securely protected against bumps and submersion. Water temperatures are cold most of the year, so wearing wetsuits or drysuits is recommended. Be sure to scout all rapids and drops before running them.

Click the links below for information regarding the section of the Verde River and its tributaries where you want to paddle.

[[Verde River Homepage](#)] [[US Highway 89 to Perkinsville](#)] [[Perkinsville to Beasley Flat](#)] [[Childs to Horseshoe Reservoir](#)]
 [[Horseshoe Reservoir to Bartlett Reservoir](#)] [[Bartlett Reservoir to Salt River](#)] [[East Verde River](#)] [[Sycamore Creek](#)]

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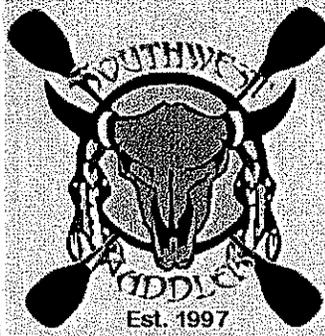
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Verde River

Report by Marc W. McCord

Childs to Horseshoe Reservoir ~ 42.5 Miles

General Description

The Verde River forms at Sullivan Lake, where Big Chino Wash and Williamson Valley Wash merge south of Paulden in the Big Chino Valley of Yavapai County, then flows south by southeast about 170 miles to its Salt River confluence just northeast of Scottsdale and Phoenix. Along the way, it passes through parts of three national forests (Prescott, Cococino and Tonto), the cities of Cottonwood, Clarkdale and Camp Verde, and lands belonging to various tribes of the Apache Nation, private landowners and the State of Arizona. It is a perennial stream in a state known for its "dry" rivers, but it is not always boatable, and may have navigable flows in some reaches when others are too low to paddle. Its waters come from snowmelt in the mountains around the three forests, as well as seasonal monsoons. Surrounding lands are vastly disparate in nature, ranging from densely-forested upland plateaus to canyons to desert lowlands, each with its own diverse plantlife, animals, birds and fish. Beginning about 70 miles below the headwaters is a reach of 40.5 miles that is designated as "Wild and Scenic" by the US Congress, where the river and surrounding lands are perpetually protected against development and overuse.

While not quite as challenging as the Beasley Flat to Childs reach above, this section, between Childs and Horseshoe Reservoir is about 42.5 miles of Class I to III whitewater rapids and drops that is fun and potentially dangerous, especially for inexperienced boaters. This is the last of the free-flowing part of the Verde River. The run starts just above the top of the Mazatzal Wilderness Area, where maximum group size is limited to 15 persons and no more than 15 head of livestock. Maximum consecutive days you may remain in this area is 14 days. There are 5 access points from Childs to Horseshoe Reservoir, but most require high-clearance vehicles. 4-wheel drive and/or mud chains may be necessary if the road is muddy. Travel time from Camp Verde is about 2 hours, and may be longer depending upon road conditions. The drive to the put-in is almost as exciting as the downriver run. The river

Technical Data

Class Rating	I to III
Length	42.5 miles
Minimum Flow	300 cfs
Optimum Flow	800-2,000 cfs
Maximum Flow	3,000 cfs
First Put-in	Childs
Lat/Long	34.3501015 / -111.6999969
Last Take-out	Horseshoe Reservoir
Lat/Long	33.9998016 / -111.7070007
Elevation	2600-2,000 msl
Gradient	14 fpm (Av.) 21 fpm (Scenic) 18.5 fpm (Wild)
USGS Gauge	Web: 09506000 (Camp Verde)
Boats	Whitewater Canoes, Kayaks, Rafts
Season	Depends upon recent local rainfall
Permits	Commercial trips only See details at left

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continues its journey through the scenic portion of the designated "Wild and Scenic" reach, then passes through the wild portion on its way to the lake. It has much of the same topographical features as the Beasley to Childs reach, and shares the rapture of incredible flora and fauna found all along the Verde River corridor. The East Verde River confluence is on river left about 6.5 miles below Childs. Like the reach above, this one is best left to experienced whitewater boaters with at least strong intermediate level skills in properly outfitted canoes and kayaks. The often narrow channel makes for difficult rafting, and normal low flows add to the woes of big inflatable craft on this reach.



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Location

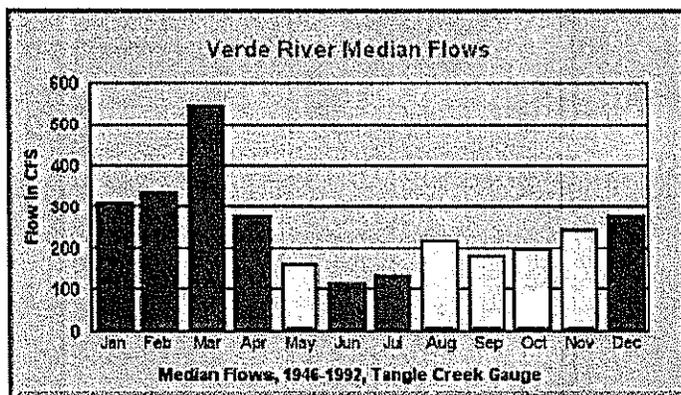
Cococino and Tonto National Forests of Yavapai County. Phoenix sits to the southwest, Flagstaff to the north and Prescott to the northwest. The small towns of Pine and Strawberry are to the east very near the start of this reach.

Distance from Major Cities

Flagstaff 72 miles; Phoenix 117 miles; Tucson 228 miles; Albuquerque miles; Salt Lake City miles; Denver miles; Oklahoma City miles; Dallas miles; Austin miles; San Antonio miles; Houston miles; Little Rock miles; Kansas City miles (all distances are approximate and depend upon starting point, destination point on the river and route taken.)

Water Quality and Flow

The Verde River flows clean, clear and cold from its headwaters to the Salt River on the outskirts of Scottsdale, Tempe and Phoenix. Flow is dependent upon winter snowmelt in Prescott National Forest for normal season paddling, and may be augmented by monsoonal rainfall in July through September for late summer through early fall paddle trips. Typically, you would prefer a flow of at least 400 cfs, but that is unusual other than in March. The river can be boatable at lower flows, but may require occasional walking and carrying or dragging through shallow areas. At flows above about 3,000 cfs, which are VERY rare, trees and brush lining the riverbanks become serious hazards to navigation. See table below for average monthly flows:



Best Times to Go

January through April is the primary season for trips on this section of the Verde River, where the water is free-flowing, and March historically has been the best month. A second season MAY exist from August through December, depending upon seasonal monsoons. Like all Arizona rivers, the Verde may not have a navigable season at all in drought years. Typically, the river can be boated any month of the year, though flows may be very low, at which time the bone zone may be very hard on boats and paddlers.

Permit Requirements

Permits are not required for private parties paddling this reach of the Verde River. Private parties are defined as those where no fees are charged for leading trips, or more specifically, trips where shared expenses represent the only transfer of money between group members. Commercial trips are required to obtain a permit from the offices of any of the three national parks through which this reach flows, and are very limited in number. Private groups are limited to 15 persons maximum, and no more than 15 head of livestock may be a part of any group. Maximum consecutive days in this wilderness area is limited to 14 days.

Hazards to Navigation

Rapids and drops on this reach of the Verde River are rated Class I to III, and have caused the death of many canoes and occasional rafts, so depending upon flow conditions and paddler skills, portages may be necessary to safely arrive at your downriver destination. This reach should not be attempted by any paddler with less than strong intermediate level whitewater skills. Swiftwater rescue and First Aid training would be great assets. Cold water temperatures make water-repelling garments necessary, and wetsuits or drysuits would be ideal to protect against hypothermia, especially if running the river any time other than perhaps August through October.

Hazards of particular note are: Child's Play Rapid (I to II) just below the put-in. Trees and waves make this a little tricky, so scout before running it; Baby Snaggletooth Rapid (I to II), at about 1.0 miles, features a boulder in the center of the river at low flows, which means most of the time; a dogleg at about 3.7 miles is tricky as flows increase; strainer at about 4.0 miles, just below where the river forks briefly; boulders in river center at about 4.7 miles; strainers on river left in low water conditions at about 9.7 miles; Red Wall Rapid, at about 10.2 miles, features a current that carries boats into a bluff and trees on river right; strainer on river right at about 13.3 miles; Mell of a Hess Rapid (II to III), at about 22.3 miles, has trees blocking the channel (scouting is recommended); Red Creek Rapid (II to III), at about 23.3 miles, is a boulder garden that increases in difficulty at lower flows; Wet As Rapid (I to II), starting about at 23.6 miles, is a 3-drop rapid over about 0.1 miles; Rapid in the left fork just below Sheep Bridge RAP at about 32.7 miles should be scouted. There are no other significant hazards on this reach of the Verde River.

River Access Points

Childs River Access Point (RAP) on FR 502 about 6.2 miles from FR 708 at 0.0 miles; Houston Creek RAP (very rough 4WD road) at about 8.1 miles; Red Creek RAP (rough 4WD road) at

about 22.7 miles; Sheep Bridge RAP (4WD, when muddy) on FR 269, about 42.0 miles from the Bloody Basin exit off IH 17, at about 32.7 miles; Ocotillo Boat Ramp on Horseshoe Reservoir at about 42.5 miles miles.

Campgrounds and Accommodations

There are no commercial campgrounds located along this reach of the Verde River. However, abundant natural, primitive campsites can be found all along the river. This is designated as a "Leave no trace" area, so be sure to take only photos and leave only footprints. Golfers may take along a rake to groom the areas where they walk so that the area is undisturbed for those who follow. This wilderness area has a limit of 14 consecutive days that you may remain here for any purpose.

Liveries, Outfitters & Shuttle Services

There are no known liveries or outfitters operating along this section of the Verde River. Plan on setting up and running your own shuttles.

Reviewer's Comments

While not quite as technically challenging as the reach above, the run between Childs and Horseshoe Reservoir still offers plenty of excitement on about 42.5 miles of Class I to III whitewater. The trick is to find the river when it has a navigable flow. In low-water conditions it is very bony and prone to severely damage boats with possible injury to paddlers. The area is quite remote, so having First Aid training and a major First Aid kit in your possession would be a great idea. Swiftwater rescue training would also be a valuable asset, along with the requisite rescue gear - all that training is almost worthless if you left your gear bag in the car or at home. Do not attempt this reach of the river unless you have at least strong intermediate level whitewater skills and are confident of your ability to safely run a wilderness whitewater river in your craft of choice. This would not be a good place to try out a new boat with which you are not familiar! Scenery is awesome and wildlife is all around, so bring the camera, but carry it protected from bumps and immersion. For best paddling, the colder months of January through April offer the most likely decent flows, though the river is runnable almost anytime after a significant local rain event. The downside to that is that the river is also prone to flash flooding when rains are heavy in its drainage basin, so keep an eye on the forecasts for the river and areas around it, and be prepared for whatever may ensue. Summer days will be very hot, but Arizonans like to say that it is a "dry heat", whatever that means! The Verde River is a gem among Arizona rivers in that it usually has flowing water, though not always at navigable levels. Coming mainly from snowmelt near its headwaters, the river usually flows cold, so be prepared with the proper apparel and extra clothing in case you get wet. This is no place for hypothermia.

Click the links below for information regarding the section of the Verde River and its tributaries where you want to paddle.

[[Verde River Homepage](#)] [[US Highway 89 to Perkinsville](#)] [[Perkinsville to Beasley Flat](#)] [[Beasley Flat to Childs](#)] [[Horseshoe Reservoir to Bartlett Reservoir](#)] [[Bartlett Reservoir to Salt River](#)] [[East Verde River](#)] [[Sycamore Creek](#)]

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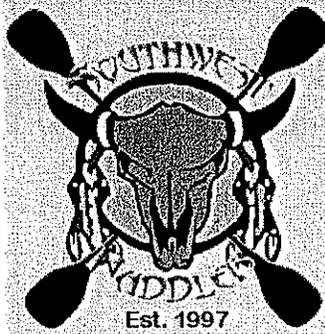
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Verde River

Report by Marc W. McCord

Horseshoe Reservoir to Bartlett Reservoir ~ 19 Miles

General Description

The Verde River forms at Sullivan Lake, where Big Chino Wash and Williamson Valley Wash merge south of Paulden in the Big Chino Valley of Yavapai County, then flows south by southeast about 170 miles to its Salt River confluence just northeast of Scottsdale and Phoenix. Along the way, it passes through parts of three national forests (Prescott, Cococino and Tonto), the cities of Cottonwood, Clarkdale and Camp Verde, and lands belonging to various tribes of the Apache Nation, private landowners and the State of Arizona. It is a perennial stream in a state known for its "dry" rivers, but it is not always boatable, and may have navigable flows in some reaches when others are too low to paddle. Its waters come from snowmelt in the mountains around the three forests, as well as seasonal monsoons. Surrounding lands are vastly disparate in nature, ranging from densely-forested upland plateaus to canyons to desert lowlands, each with its own diverse plantlife, animals, birds and fish. Beginning about 70 miles below the headwaters is a reach of 40.5 miles that is designated as "Wild and Scenic" by the US Congress, where the river and surrounding lands are perpetually protected against development and overuse.

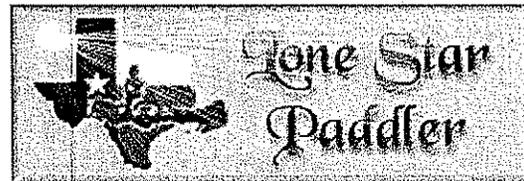
Below Horseshoe Dam, the Verde River is basically like the upper two reaches - mostly flatwater punctuated by occasional small, Class I to II rapids. It flows about 19 miles between the dam and Bartlett Reservoir though an area heavily vegetated with reeds, bulrushes, cottonwood and willow trees and desert scrub. Putting in just below Horseshoe Dam usually requires a machete job to clear a path through dense reeds, and upon reaching the river the first thing you will notice is probably that big hole in mid-river with its large, green wave that kayakers love because they can do air-blunts. Below the put-in, the river becomes a meandering, flatwater stream that is an easy paddle for almost any able-bodied person, and this area is somewhat popular with novice paddlers in canoes, kayaks and rafts.

Technical Data

Class Rating	I to II
Length	19 miles
Minimum Flow	cfs
Optimum Flow	cfs
Maximum Flow	cfs
First Put-in	Horseshoe Dam
Lat/Long	33.9822006 / -111.7078018
Last Take-out	Bartlett Reservoir
Lat/Long	33.8765984 / -111.6112976
Elevation	1,900 msl
Gradient	fpm
USGS Gauge	Web: 09509501 (Horseshoe Dam)
Boats	Canoes, Kayaks, Rafts
Season	Year-round, weather permitting
Permits	No

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When flows exceed about 1,000 cfs, there is another large hole about midway through this reach, but at normal flows you will hardly notice it. Paralleling the stream on river right is a desert road that is best left to high-clearance, 4-wheel drive vehicles, where getting sandbagged would be easy, and getting free would be difficult, as well as potentially costly. Though the excitement of upper reaches is gone, this area still offers an enjoyable and scenic trip through an area rife with wildlife, many species of gamefish, riparian vegetation indigenous to the Sonoran desert and no signs of civilization or commercial development. This run begins the final 38 miles of the river before reaching its confluence with the Salt River near Fort McDowell, just northeast of Scottsdale and the Phoenix metro area.



Location

Yavapai and Maricopa counties of central Arizona, about an hour from the Phoenix metro area. This reach runs just northwest of Saguaro and Canyon Lakes, both created by hydroelectric dams on the Lower Salt River.

Distance from Major Cities

Flagstaff miles; Phoenix miles; Tucson miles; Albuquerque miles; Salt Lake City miles; Denver miles; Oklahoma City miles; Dallas miles; Austin miles; San Antonio miles; Houston miles; Little Rock miles; Kansas City miles (all distances are approximate and depend upon starting point, destination point on the river and route taken.)

Water Quality and Flow

Water quality is generally very good to excellent, flowing clean, clear and cold from Horseshoe Reservoir. Navigable flows depend upon the amount of water being released at the dam for hydroelectric generation and the water supply needs of residents, commercial, industrial, agricultural and municipal interests in and around the Greater Phoenix area.

Best Times to Go

This reach of the Verde River nearly always has an adequate flow for canoeing, kayaking and rafting, though flows may be tempered by drought conditions and the water needs in and around Phoenix.

Hazards to Navigation

There are no major hazards for competent boaters along this reach of the Verde River at normal flows. The holes at the top and in the middle of this run can become challenging at higher flows exceeding about 1,000 cfs.

River Access Points

Put in immediately below Horseshoe Dam at Fisherman's Point River Access Point (RAP) at 0.0 miles; Mesquite Flat RAP, just below Fisherman's Point RAP; Devil's Hole RAP,

off FR 532 from Indian Springs Wash (4-wheel drive vehicles ONLY!); Bartlett Flat RAP, off FR 459 from FR 19; Take out at any access point on Bartlett Reservoir starting about 19 miles below the put-in.

Campgrounds and Accommodations

There are two public camping areas along the Verde River just below Horseshoe Dam at Horseshoe Campground, adjacent to Fisherman's Point, and Mesquite Campground just south of there. Two additional public campgrounds are available near the top of Bartlett Reservoir at Bartlett Flats and SB Cove.

Contacts for river running and camping information are:

- Tonto National Forest (602-225-5200)
- Cave Creek Ranger Station (480-595-3300)
- Verde Ranger Station (520-567-4121)
- Beaver Creek Ranger Station (520-567-4121)

Liveries, Outfitters & Shuttle Services

There are no known liveries or outfitters operating along this reach of the Lower Verde River. Plan on setting up and running your own shuttles. Beware the unimproved roads in the area - they are not hospitable to conventional vehicles. A Hummer or Land Rover would be nice!

Reviewer's Comments

For those who love flatwater wilderness paddling this reach of the Lower Verde River has it all in spades. It is remote and quite scenic, with an abundance of wildlife and natural vegetation everywhere you look. I know that you love to eat rattlesnake, but leave them alone. They were here first, and this is their home! This run is an easy one that almost always has an adequate flow for canoeing, kayaking and rafting. It is especially well-suited for novice paddlers who lack the experience and skills to tangle with the Class III and IV waters immediately above Horseshoe Reservoir. Unless you are an adreneline junkie and paddler, including those with substantial experience, can enjoy this area and its magical natural beauty. It is close enough to Scottsdale, Mesa, Tempe and Phoenix that you can run the river during the day, then stay in a motel in town and dine in a restaurant at night.

Click the links below for information regarding the section of the Verde River and its tributaries where you want to paddle.

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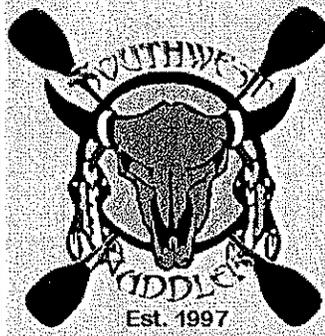
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Verde River

Report by Marc W. McCord

Bartlett Reservoir to Salt River Confluence ~ 19 Miles

General Description

The Verde River forms at Sullivan Lake, where Big Chino Wash and Williamson Valley Wash merge south of Paulden in the Big Chino Valley of Yavapai County, then flows south by southeast about 170 miles to its Salt River confluence just northeast of Scottsdale and Phoenix. Along the way, it passes through parts of three national forests (Prescott, Cococino and Tonto), the cities of Cottonwood, Clarkdale and Camp Verde, and lands belonging to various tribes of the Apache Nation, private landowners and the State of Arizona. It is a perennial stream in a state known for its "dry" rivers, but it is not always boatable, and may have navigable flows in some reaches when others are too low to paddle. Its waters come from snowmelt in the mountains around the three forests, as well as seasonal monsoons. Surrounding lands are vastly disparate in nature, ranging from densely-forested upland plateaus to canyons to desert lowlands, each with its own diverse plantlife, animals, birds and fish. Beginning about 70 miles below the headwaters is a reach of 40.5 miles that is designated as "Wild and Scenic" by the US Congress, where the river and surrounding lands are perpetually protected against development and overuse.

The reach from Bartlett Reservoir Dam to the Salt River confluence is a run of about 19 miles on Class I to II water in northern Maricopa County along the southwestern part of Tonto National Forest. Runs begin at Riverside Campground just below Bartlett Dam, and continue to any access near Box Bar River Access Point (RAP) above Fort McDowell Indian Reservation. Boating onto the Apache reservation is prohibited - talk to representatives of the Apache Nation at Fort McDowell for information and details about access near their reservation. The legally navigable reach is only about half the total distance between Bartlett Reservoir and the Salt River confluence. Primitive forest roads composed mostly of loose sand and small pebbles provide access to the put-in, and improved roads (some of them paved)

Technical Data

Class Rating	I to II
Length	19 miles
Minimum Flow ¹	400 cfs
Optimum Flow ¹	800-2,000 cfs
Maximum Flow	5,000 cfs
First Put-in	Bartlett Dam Access
Lat/Long	33.8181 / -111.6307983
Last Take-out	FR 2146 at Box Bar RAP
Lat/Long	
Elevation	msl
Gradient	fpm
USGS Gauge	Web: 09510000 (below Bartlett Dam)
Boats	Canoes, Kayaks
Season	Dam release dependent
Permits	No

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provide access to the take-out near Box Bar RAP.

Now, here is the tricky part - the best water is usually during spring months, but the land area around the river is closed to access by foot or vehicle between December 1 and June 30, for the protection of endangered species of wildlife and birds that nest and breed in this area. Paddling the river is legal, but no noise is allowed, and since you cannot continue onto the Fort McDowell Indian Reservation that effectively blocks access to this reach of the river other than from July 1 through November 30. If paddling the river during the closure period, you are not allowed to stop, get out of your boat, make a landfall or otherwise disturb animals and birds nesting in the area. This run is scenic, flowing through an area of towering cliffs covered with verdant bushes and trees along the upper part of this reach, though it shows all the classic signs of leaving behind the beautiful green trees and forested mountains as the Verde River nears the desert floor of the Phoenix area. Flow is dependent upon dam releases at Bartlett Reservoir. Runs start less than an hour's drive from Phoenix and end less than 20 minutes away (as the crow flies, though the actual time will be much longer due to road conditions and routes available.) Paddlers can expect to take from 2-5 hours to complete the trip, depending upon paddling skills and flow. Campsites are available at Riverside Campground at the top of this reach, as well as at the Needle Rock RAP a few miles below Riverside. It is best to discuss trips on this reach with the Tonto National Forest Rangers and/or the Apache Nation before beginning a trip, just to make sure you know where you can and cannot go on land and on water.



Location

Maricopa County of central Arizona. Prescott and Flagstaff lie to the northwest. Metropolitan Phoenix is to the southwest. Tonto National Forest is home to this reach of the Lower Verde River.

Distance from Major Cities

Flagstaff 135 miles; Phoenix 40 miles; Tucson 157 miles; Albuquerque 498 miles; Salt Lake City 657 miles; Durango 451 miles; Grand Junction 621 miles; Denver 790 miles; Oklahoma City 1,045 miles; Dallas 1,042 miles; Austin 1,061 miles; San Antonio 1,042 miles; Houston 1,247 miles; Little Rock 1,365 miles; Kansas City 1,275 miles (all distances are approximate and depend upon starting point, destination point on the river and route taken.)

Water Quality and Flow

The Verde River flows clean, clear and cold from its headwaters to the Salt River on the outskirts of Scottsdale, Tempe and Phoenix. Flow is dependent upon dam-released water from Bartlett Reservoir in northern Maricopa County. Adequate flows for boating are normal, but may not exist in dry years.

Best Times to Go

This section of the Verde River is almost totally dependent

upon water releases at Bartlett Reservoir. Navigable flows are almost always adequate for canoeing and kayaking, though not necessarily for rafting. Water releases from Bartlett Reservoir provide water for hydroelectric generation, consumption, hygiene, industry and agriculture in and around the Phoenix area. Like all Arizona rivers, the Verde may not have a navigable season at all in drought years. Take heed of the admonition about the endangered species closure period for land access, and the prohibition about continuing onto the Fort McDowell Reservation, as these factors mitigate access to the river.

Hazards to Navigation

This reach of the Verde River has no hazards in the form of rapids, waterfalls and normal whitewater characteristics. Near the beginning of the run there is a low head dam type that varies from 2-4 feet in height (depending on which side is taken). The falls, due to their down-river slanted angle across the river from right to left, can be dangerous at higher flows if taken on the right by an inexperienced paddler.

This reach of the river has multiple sections (7-10) that are narrow and contain very dangerous strainers and foot entrapments. These hazards consist of many fallen trees that lay across the river at water level, as well as under water, and ery large, dense, impenetrable stands of tall grass (10-12 feet) at sharp bends in the river that have narrow passages. This certainly is not a section of the river that a novice paddler should tackle alone, a family should ever tackle, or any paddler should tackle without knowledge, comfort and swimming ability through rapids and through strainers.

At 265 cfs most hazards are fairly easy for a novice paddler to see and avoid. At higher flows, however, the speed and extreme force of the water make some of the hazards mostly unavoidable and extremely dangerous. Extreme caution and taking the time to scout anything you cannot clearly see is strongly recommended.

Other hazards here include desert temperatures, excessive solar exposure, snakes, scorpions, centipedes, Gila monsters and other landlubbing creatures that roam the desert floor, and which can become hazards if encountered while walking in the desert. Caci are everywhere, and provides shelter from the sun for most harmful critters, as well as being hazards in their own right.

River Access Points

Riverside RAP, off FR 19 about 16 miles from Cave Creek Road, at 0.0 miles; Needle Rock RAP, off FR 20 about 3 miles from Rio Verde Drive east of the Shea-Pima Road interesection at miles; Box Bar RAP, off FR 2146 east of FR 20 and north of the Fort McDowell Indian Reservation at about miles. There are other access points for this section of the Verde River just above and very near the FR 2146 road access at Box Bar RAP.

Campgrounds and Accommodations

There are public campgrounds available along this reach of the river at Riverside RAP and Needle Rock RAP. Contact Rangers at Tonto National Forest for information. There are two other off-river campgrounds located between Asher Hills and the northwest corner of the Fort McDowell Indian Reservation just west of the river near the Box Bar RAP. The Phoenix metro area offers many accommodations including motels, hotels, bed & breakfast hostels and RV parks.

Contacts for river running and camping information are:

- Tonto National Forest (602-225-5200)
- Cave Creek Ranger Station (480-595-3300)
- Verde Ranger Station (520-567-4121)
- Beaver Creek Ranger Station (520-567-4121)

Liveries, Outfitters & Shuttle Services

There are no known liveries or outfitters operating along this section of the Verde River. Plan on setting up and running your own shuttles.

Reviewer's Comments

The Bartlett Reservoir to Salt River run is a trip that can be enjoyed by recreational canoeists, kayakers and rafters when the lakes are full and water is being released into the Salt River north of the Phoenix area. This desert run is not a popular destination because of difficulty of access and limitations on land use. In sharp contrast to the mountainous forest areas to the north, this run begins amid beautiful, towering cliffs lined with green trees, then descends to the desert floor where the amount of sunshine exceeds the amount of water in the river. This run ends above the Fort McDowell Indian Reservation as it leaves Tonto National Forest northeast of the desert cities of Scottsdale, Tempe, Mesa and Phoenix. During prolonged drought periods the river may not have adequate flow for paddling, but it always flows for the purposes of hydroelectric generation and water consumption in the Phoenix area. It is an easy place to paddle for those developing boating skills, and whom are not yet ready to try the more challenging waters of upper reaches of the river.

Click the links below for information regarding the section of the Verde River and its tributaries where you want to paddle.

[[Verde River Homepage](#)] [[US Highway 89 to Perkinsville](#)] [[Perkinsville to Beasley Flat](#)] [[Beasley Flat to Childs](#)]
 [[Childs to Horseshoe Reservoir](#)] [[Horseshoe Dam to Bartlett Reservoir](#)] [[East Verde River](#)] [[Sycamore Creek](#)]

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