



WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

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Project Report Photos
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Salmon River, Idaho: Protecting Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Recreational Access Along a Legendary River

On Idaho's Salmon River, WRC has successfully protected a dramatic viewshed and ensured the widely-loved Pine Bar Recreation Site remains forever accessible to hikers, boaters and anglers. The project began when we acquired 1,284 acres on a spectacular bend above the river. We purchased the land with the goal of conserving both the viewshed and the high-gradient creeks that tumble down the mountainside to nourish the river. The streams that flow through the property directly influence habitat quality for five threatened or endangered fish species, including sockeye, Chinook, steelhead and migratory bull trout. In summer 2014, WRC conveyed this strategically located property to the BLM, which will now steward the lands for the sake of the Salmon River's fish and wildlife and to ensure access to Pine Bar remains unfettered and compatible with conservation.

Dave Jensen Photos



Fossil Creek, Arizona: Completing Conservation of an Arizona Treasure

Fossil Creek flows from a series of mineral springs in central Arizona, and is known for its travertine pools and stunning aquamarine water. In an arid landscape it is a lush oasis, providing habitat for rare native fish, beavers, otters, leopard frogs, bats and an extraordinary array of bird species. This gem of a stream was dewatered for over a century. But restoration efforts by Arizona Game and Fish, U.S. Forest Service and others brought the creek back to life. The dam was removed, and today Fossil Creek is considered the most successful river recovery project in the Southwest. It is now one of only two Wild and Scenic Rivers in all of Arizona. In summer 2014, WRC committed to purchase a 20-acre property that is the last unprotected parcel of land within the Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River corridor. The effort will benefit the creek's rich fish and wildlife, protect outstanding scenic areas and archeological resources, and improve efforts by the Cococino National Forest to manage an increasing number of visitors.

Raid Helm Photos

