



WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

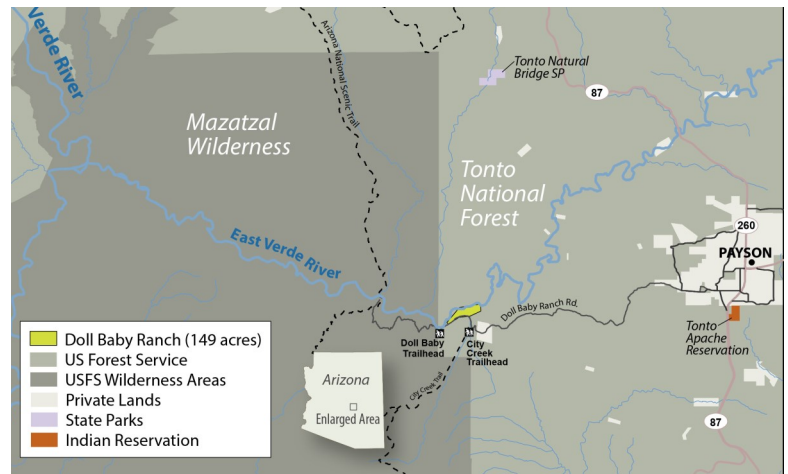
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East Verde River, Arizona: Preserved a crucial stretch of this desert river

In March, 2019, Western Rivers Conservancy preserved a crucial stretch of Arizona's East Verde River and secured a recreational gateway to the Mazatzal Wilderness. Just outside of Payson and roughly two hours from Phoenix, the Doll Baby Ranch traces a mile of the East Verde River, a lifeline for the diverse fish and wildlife on the northern edge of the Sonoran Desert. The East Verde is the least disturbed arm of the Verde, an outstanding Arizona river that flows into the Salt. Together, these streams sustain some of the most diverse fish and wildlife in the American Southwest. With the completion of this project, a critical stretch of the East Verde has been conserved, and access to some of Arizona's greatest outdoor recreation has been guaranteed for good.

Dan Sorensen Photo



John Day River, Oregon: Enhancing access to Cottonwood Canyon State Park

In spring 2019, WRC added 117 acres to Cottonwood Canyon State Park in Oregon. In March, we transferred the former Kirkpatrick Homestead to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, significantly improving the park's ability to manage a remote boating access site, roughly 10 miles downstream of the park's main entrance. Located at the northern end of the John Day Wild and Scenic River corridor, Cottonwood Canyon is Oregon's second largest state park. It lies adjacent to vast, public BLM wilderness study areas, making it one of Oregon's wildest state parks, set in sagebrush country with a dramatic river canyon and impressively diverse wildlife. The heart of the park is the John Day River, which hikers, anglers, hunters, boaters

and birders visit year-round. WRC created the park in partnership with OPRD in 2013, and has long sought to add this second property to enhance management. Now that we have, the stage is set for OPRD to make improvements to a crucial boating access site that anglers, hunters and paddlers rely on for trips down the John Day.

Sage Brown photo

