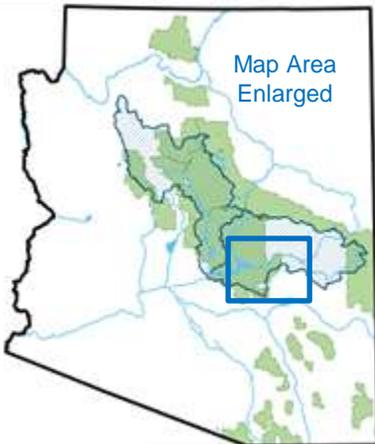


West Pinto Creek Erosion Control and Trail Drainage Improvement Project

**West Pinto
Creek Erosion
Control and
Trail Drainage
Improvement
Project
Overview**

West Pinto Creek, just east of Superior, is a popular recreation destination on the Tonto National Forest. Miles of hiking and equestrian trails in this area allow access to beautiful scenery and the Eastern Superstition Wilderness, but after years of increasing recreational traffic and deferred maintenance, significant erosion and sedimentation is causing increasing management concerns. This project, which was originally supported by the Northern Arizona Forest Fund in 2016, is part of a multi-year effort to reduce erosion from trail networks throughout the area. Degraded trails are problematic because they channelize runoff from heavy rains, causing excessive flows that cut through highly erosive soils and deposit unprecedented sediment loads in nearby streams and creeks. Sediment deposits from these trails flow into West Pinto Creek and Haunted Creek, direct tributaries of Pinto Creek, which drains directly into Roosevelt Lake Reservoir. In 2017, the Northern Arizona Forest Fund will support the implementation of activities that will reduce erosion and sediment runoff along approximately 26 miles of trails in the West Pinto Creek area of the Salt River watershed, completing efforts to prevent excessive erosion in this popular hiking area.

West Pinto Creek Project Area



National Forests and Watersheds in Arizona



West Pinto Creek Erosion Control and Trail Drainage Improvement Project

Project Approach

Youth corps and volunteers will rehabilitate trails by restoring proper trail design and improving drainage characteristics. The youth corps teams work in several week hitches and implement the hard to access, difficult rock work that is needed to replace steep trail sections that encourage high velocity runoff and erosion during rain events. Drainage features, such as water bars, grade dips, proper out slope, and steps, will also be installed to reduce erosion and prevent future trail damage. Areas damaged by the creation of unauthorized trails will also be mulched and covered with slash to prevent further use and degradation. These activities will not only reduce erosion and sedimentation into nearby streams, waterways, and the Salt River, but will also improve access and users' recreation experiences.

Cost

The costs to implement and monitor the project total approximately \$260,000. With your investment, we can begin implementing these important activities that improve recreation opportunities, reduce erosion, and protect an important watershed that provides Arizonans with vital water supplies.

Location

West Pinto Creek – Tonto NF - Salt River Watershed



Investment in watershed restoration through the Northern Arizona Forest Fund protects vital water supplies and shows your commitment to environmental stewardship in the landscape that serves your business and community.

Photo courtesy of Cronkite News Online

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