



Oak Creek Erosion Control Project – Schnebly Hill Road

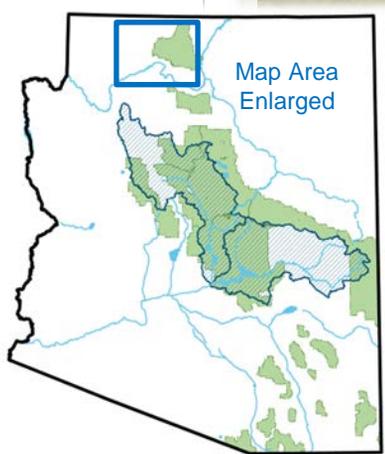
The Oak Creek Erosion Control Project Overview

Oak Creek is an Outstanding Arizona Water that is valued for its beauty, recreational opportunities, and tremendous ecological value. With its headwaters forming on the Coconino National Forest just south of Flagstaff, this important creek flows through Sedona and Arizona’s Red Rocks country before flowing into the Verde River. Unfortunately, Oak Creek faces a number of water quality challenges, including sedimentation and turbidity caused by erosion from forest roads.

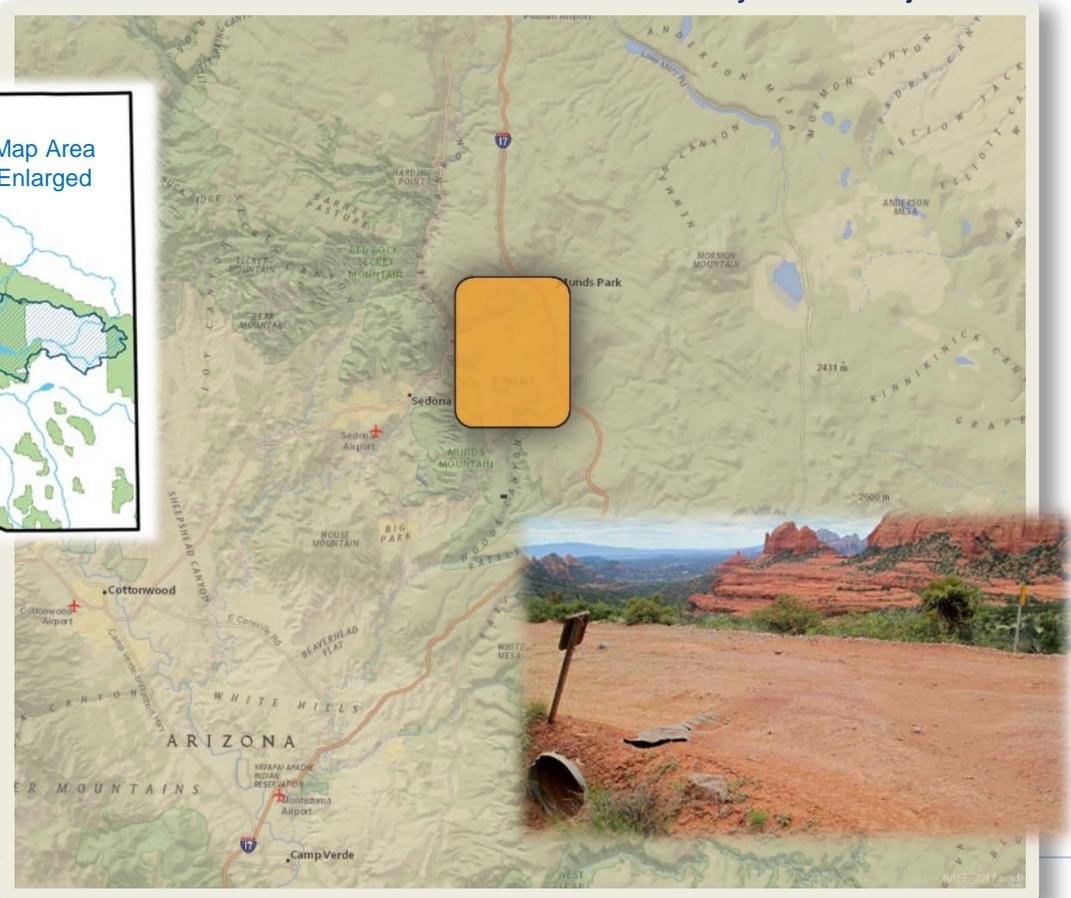
To help protect and improve Oak Creek’s water quality and the quality of downstream rivers and reservoirs, local stakeholders and the Coconino National Forest have developed a collection of priority erosion and sediment control projects in the Oak Creek watershed.

The Schnebly Hill Road portion of the **Oak Creek Erosion Control Project** is an important component of the larger effort to reduce sedimentation into Oak Creek. The project will rehabilitate and improve drainage on a very popular, heavily-traveled forest road on the Coconino National Forest, near downtown Sedona, less than half a mile from Oak Creek. Initially supported by the Northern Arizona Forest Fund in 2016, investment in this project will continue in 2017, supporting road improvement and road drainage features along an 11-mile stretch of the Schnebly Hill Road. These activities will reduce erosion and sediment transport into Oak Creek and improve recreational access onto the Coconino National Forest.

Schnebly Hill Road Project Area



Map Area Enlarged



National Forests and Watersheds in Arizona



Oak Creek Erosion Control Project – Schnebly Hill Road

Project Approach

Local contractors, businesses, non-profit organizations and the Forest Service will work collaboratively to implement this project. To minimize sediment delivery, vegetated features, such as ditches, and roads that remain functional, will not be disturbed. Other road maintenance activities will be implemented to protect existing drainage features and runoff patterns. Road surface treatments will also be implemented to minimize the erosion of road surface materials. These activities will not only reduce erosion and sedimentation into nearby Oak Creek and the Verde River, they will also reduce the threat and spread of *E. Coli* outbreaks in Oak Creek, which is exacerbated by sedimentation, while improving access and users' recreation experiences.

Cost

The costs to implement and monitor results of the project total approximately \$270,000. With your investment, we can begin implementing these important treatments and protect an important watershed that provides Arizonans with recreation opportunities and vital water supplies.

Location

Sedona - Coconino NF - Verde 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.

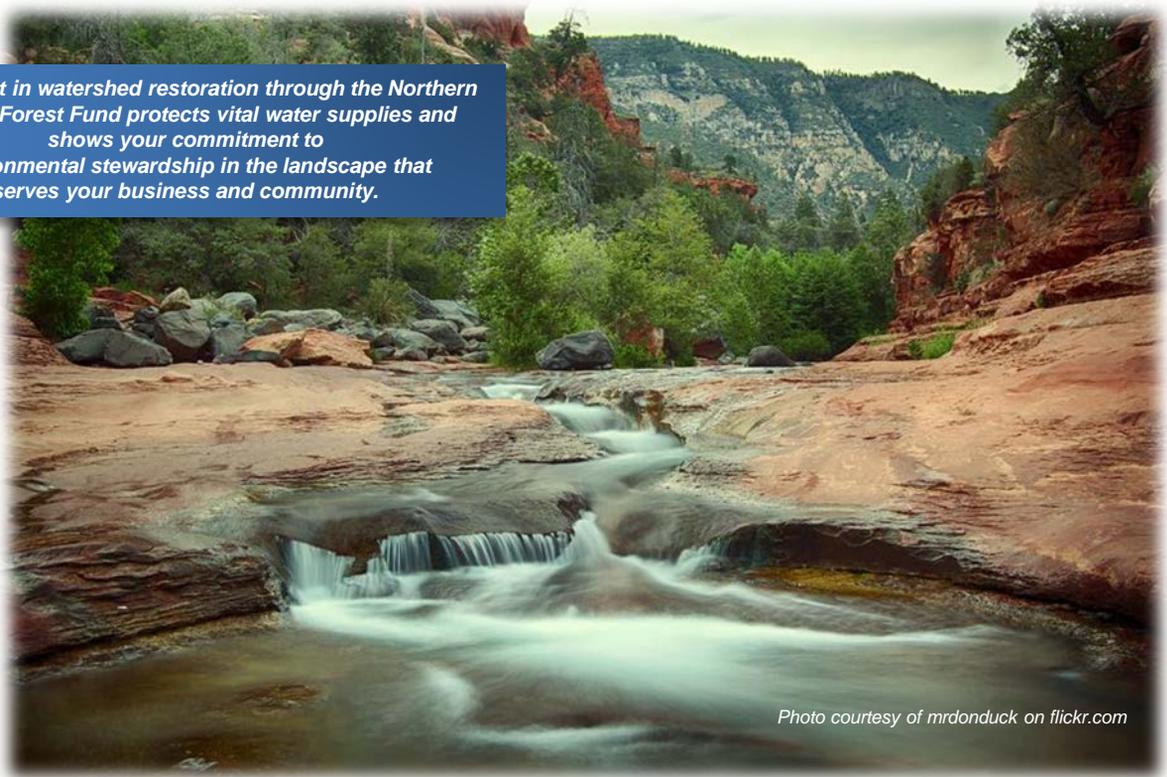


Photo courtesy of mrdonduck on flickr.com

For more information contact:
Rebecca Davidson at (720) 437-0290, rdavidson@nationalforests.org
Jonah Roehl at (602) 236-6617, Jonah.Roehl@srpnet.com or
Sharon Kausal at (602) 236-2955, sharon.kausal@srpnet.com

