

# Get yourself ready to fish Oak Creek.

There are many places in Arizona where fishing is excellent. But what many anglers love about fishing Oak Creek is the rugged beauty of the creek and the surrounding views of the canyon. Fishing is about catching fish but it's also about the experience. This guide was developed for both the accomplished and novice anglers alike. It provides a map of where to go, some practical guidelines, and tips and tricks to make your fishing excursion fun and rewarding.

## WHERE TO GO.

Oak Creek Canyon runs along SR 89A. It is a beautiful ravine located along the Mogollon Rim between Flagstaff and Sedona. Oak Creek runs from Sterling Springs Hatchery to the confluence of the Verde River. This scenic byway has some amazing views.

There are many locations on Oak Creek to venture out and test your angling skills. For a novice angler, we suggest starting on the lower end of Oak Creek beginning at Mormon's Crossing and the Page Springs bridge in Cornville and heading north to Crescent Moon and Chavez Crossing in Sedona.

To get to the Page Springs bridge, take SR 89A heading south out of Sedona towards Cottonwood. Then take a left

onto Page Springs Road. Continue straight for 2.7 miles at which point you will be at the Page Springs bridge. Parking is limited. Please note, there is no parking or creek access from Bubbling Ponds or Page Springs Hatcheries. Fish along the west bank, opposite Page Springs Hatchery. Please do not enter the hatchery grounds with fishing gear or wet from walking along the creek.

To get to Mormon's Crossing, continue another 7 miles south past the Page Springs bridge. Turn right onto Purple Sage Road then right onto Willow Point Road (Oak Creek Elementary School will be on your right). This is an unpaved, dirt road. At the bottom of the hill is a cement bridge. This is Mormon's Crossing.

To get to Crescent Moon and Chavez Crossing in Sedona, head south on SR 89A, turn left onto Upper Red Rock Loop Road. Take another left onto Chavez Ranch Road. To get to Crescent Moon, turn right onto Red Rock Crossing Road. If heading to Chavez Crossing, do not turn right. Continue straight on Chavez Ranch Road. This road turns left at the top of the hill. Travel approximately 1 mile down the dirt road to reach the creek.

If you prefer to fish Oak Creek Canyon, drive north out of Sedona on SR 89A heading towards Flagstaff. Start at Grasshopper Point and continue north to Cave Springs. Fishing is along this entire route. There are many trailheads, picnic, day use areas, and public campgrounds along the way. The canyon has both catch and release and catch and keep areas. See our Oak Creek stocking map for more details.

## WHEN TO GO.

Oak Creek's fishing season runs all year long. However, if you are fishing for trout, your best bet is to fish above Grasshopper Point where the colder water can support trout year 'round. The optimal time to fish Oak Creek is during the stocking season. The stocking season begins in March and ends in November. The Arizona Game and Fish Department typically stocks every other week during the stocking season. Stocking numbers increase as the summer months approach. This is to support heavier angler activity in the canyon. The largest stockings are between April and

July when approximately 3,000 - 4,500 fish are stocked per month. Numbers can vary but Page Springs Hatchery stocks an estimated 26,000 rainbow trout in Oak Creek each year. Check the azgfd.gov website for the current stocking schedule or call Page Springs Hatchery at (928) 634-4805 for the weekly fishing update.

## WHAT TO CATCH.

All of Oak Creek is stocked with rainbow trout from Page Springs Hatchery. Populations of smallmouth and largemouth bass, rock bass, green sunfish, flathead catfish and channel catfish are found on the lower reaches of Oak Creek. Native Roundtail chub are also found in Oak Creek and are catch and release only anywhere on the creek. A wild population of brown trout are found in Oak Creek Canyon. Native Gila trout are found in the West Fork/Call of the Canyon region and are also catch and release only.

## CATCH AND RELEASE OR CATCH AND KEEP?

### CATCH AND RELEASE

The Oak Creek catch and release area spans from Call of the Canyon also known as West Fork to the north reach on Junipine Crossing. Here anglers will find stocked rainbow trout as well as wild brown trout and native gila trout. Along this portion of Oak Creek several rules apply:

- Single-pointed barbless hooks only
- No live bait
- Artificial fly and lure only
- All trout must be immediately released unharmed

### CATCH AND KEEP

For catch and keep, the daily bag limit is unlimited on smallmouth and largemouth bass and rock bass, green sunfish, and channel and flathead catfish, anywhere along Oak Creek. Downstream of Junipine Crossing, the daily bag limit is six trout.

**Roundtail chub must be released unharmed anywhere along the creek.**

**Please refer to the Arizona Game and Fish Department's current fishing regulation guidelines.**

## WHAT TO USE.

**Line:** Use a light line (2-6 pound)

**Hook size:** Single-pointed barbless hook only (required in catch and release areas) Small bait hooks (range 8-12) for catch and keep areas

**Bait:** Live bait is prohibited in catch and release areas. In catch and keep areas, use the following: Worms, nightcrawlers, salmon eggs, and Powerbait (Oak Creek Canyon). On the lower reach of Oak Creek (from Chavez Crossing to the confluence of the Verde River), use worms night-crawlers, meal worms, corn, Powerbait, rubber worms/lizards/crayfish, and a variety of jigs.

**Spinners:** 1/32-1/16 in size, rooster tails, panther martens and cast masters (preferably silver and gold patterns)

**Flies:** Small patterns of caddis flies, midges, bead heads, nymphs and wooly buggers

## TIPS AND TRICKS.

**Try different set ups. See what works!**

For rainbow trout, use spinners and flies. You can add a split shot 8-16 inches above your hook to weigh it down.

For smallmouth and largemouth bass, use a jig, rubber worms/lizards, or live worms.

For green sunfish and rock bass, use a 1/32 jig with a bobber tipped with a meal worm or nightcrawler. For best results, fish close to the bank.

For catfish, use live worms, chicken livers, cut bait, or hotdogs.

## CONTACT NUMBERS

Arizona Game and Fish Department  
Region II Office . . . . . (928) 774-5045  
Page Springs Hatchery . . . . . (928) 634-4805  
Red Rock Ranger District . (928) 203-2900  
Sedona Chamber  
of Commerce . . . . . (928) 282-7890

**TO REPORT FISHING VIOLATIONS, CALL THE OPERATION GAME THIEF HOTLINE AT (800) 352-0700**



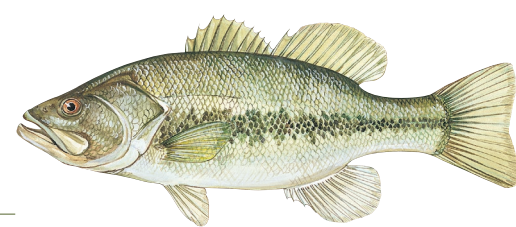
BROWN TROUT



RAINBOW TROUT



SMALL MOUTH BASS



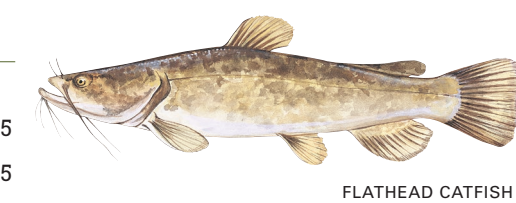
LARGEMOUTH BASS



GREEN SUNFISH



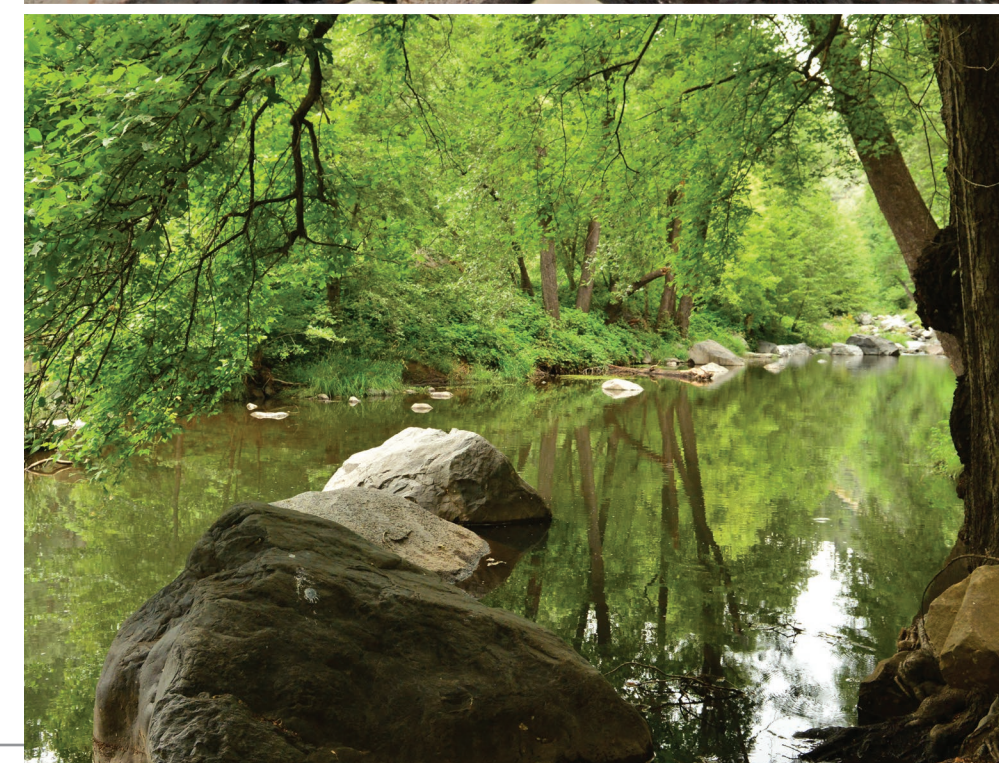
CHANNEL CATFISH



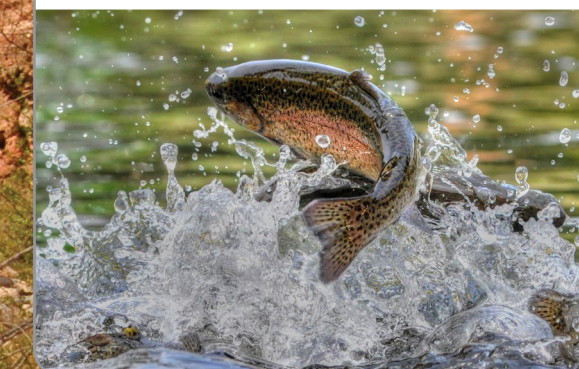
FLATHEAD CATFISH



ROUNDTAIL CHUB



## Oak Creek Pocket Fishing Guide



## LICENSES, PASSES, AND ENTRY FEES

Fishing licenses can be purchased in person at Arizona Game and Fish Department offices, Basha's grocery in Sedona or in Cottonwood at Big Five Sporting Goods and Walmart. Licenses can also be purchased online at [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov). Please be advised that locations may change at any time without notice. A valid fishing or combination license is required for resident and non-resident anglers 10 years of age or older fishing any public accessible water in Arizona. A youth combination hunt and fish license (ages 10-17) for resident and non-resident is \$5.

A Red Rock Pass is required for parking at the following developed day use areas: Encinosa, Banjo Bill, Bootlegger and Halfway. Contact the Red Rock Ranger District for more information. Passes can be purchased at fee machines at many of the picnic areas throughout the canyon. The following sites require an entry fee: Crescent Moon Ranch, Grasshopper Point, Slide Rock, and Call of the Canyon (West Fork). An Arizona State Parks pass can be used at Slide Rock State Park except weekends (Fridays-Sundays) and state holidays from April 1st to October 31st. Developed campgrounds along Oak Creek include: Manzanita, Cave Springs, and Pine Flats East and West. Camping reservations can be made at [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov) or on-site at the campground. Walk-in reservations are limited.



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[www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov)







Arizona Game and Fish Department  
5000 W. Carefree Highway • Phoenix, AZ 85086  
(602) 942-3000

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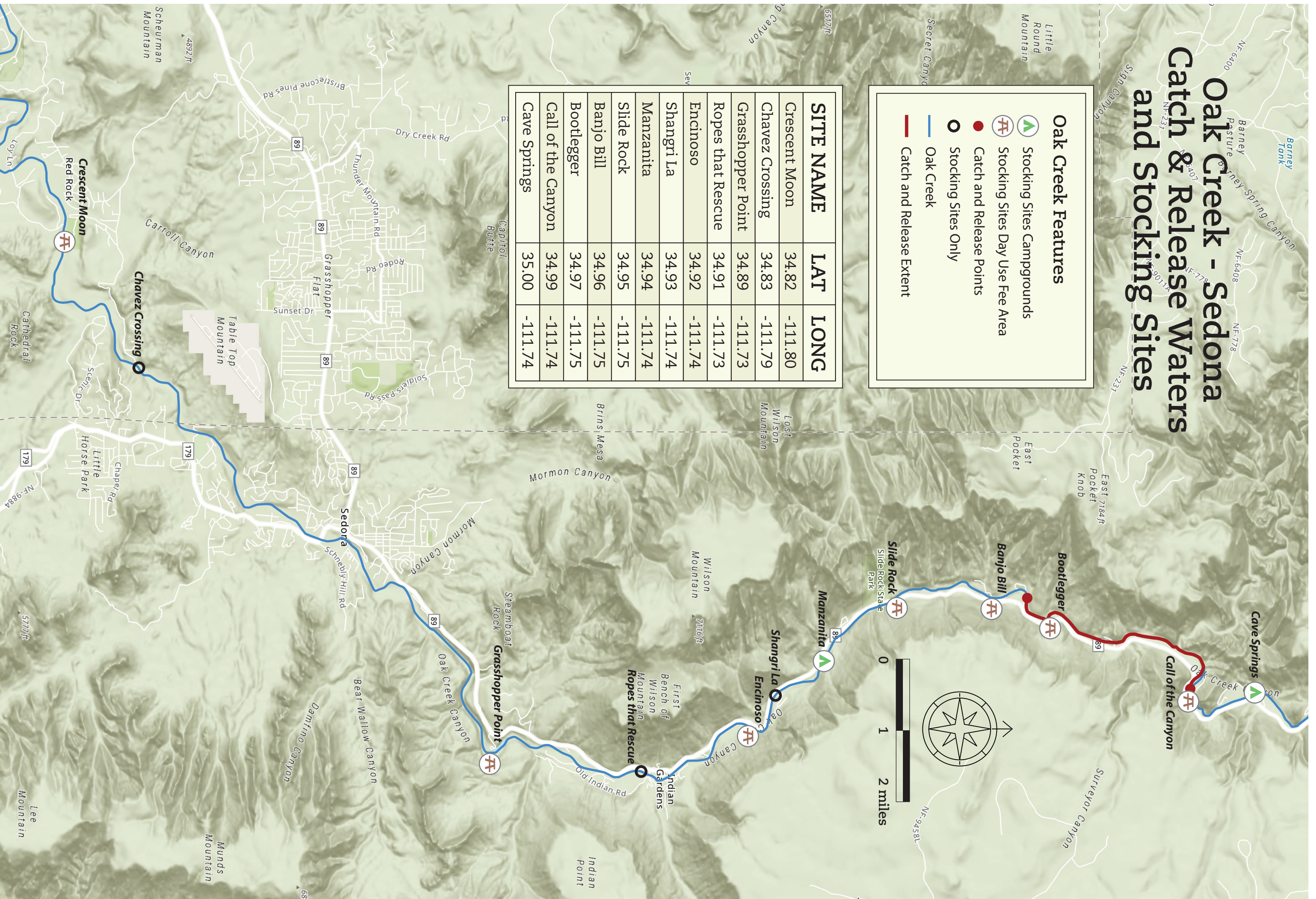


# Oak Creek - Sedona Catch & Release Waters and Stocking Sites

### Oak Creek Features

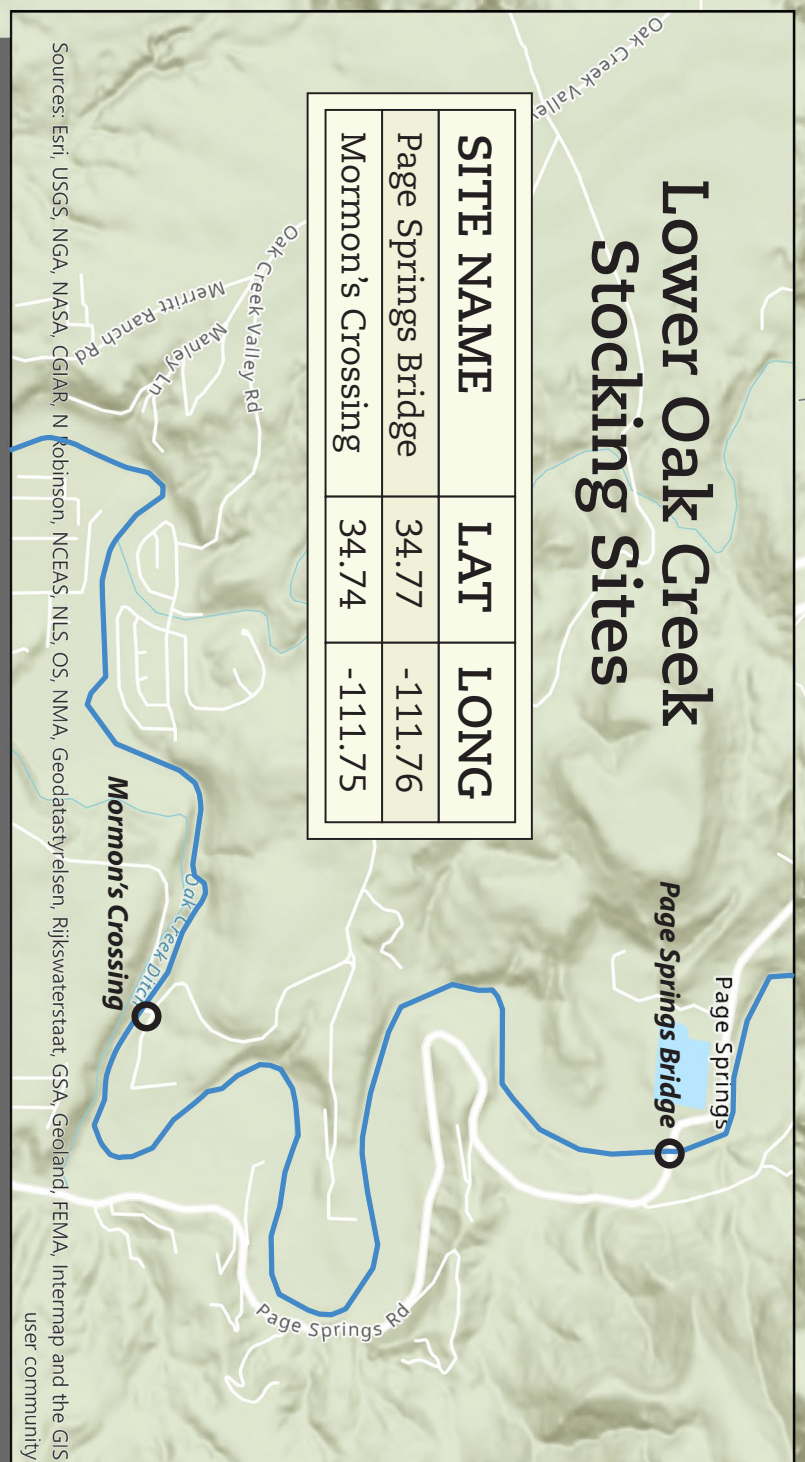
-  Stocking Sites Campgrounds
-  Stocking Sites Day Use Fee Area
-  Catch and Release Points
-  Stocking Sites Only
-  Oak Creek
-  Catch and Release Extent

SITE NAME	LAT	LONG
Crescent Moon	34.82	-111.80
Chavez Crossing	34.83	-111.79
Grasshopper Point	34.89	-111.73
Ropes that Rescue	34.91	-111.73
Encinoso	34.92	-111.74
Shangri La	34.93	-111.74
Manzanita	34.94	-111.74
Slide Rock	34.95	-111.75
Banjo Bill	34.96	-111.75
Bootlegger	34.97	-111.75
Call of the Canyon	34.99	-111.74
Cave Springs	35.00	-111.74



## Lower Oak Creek Stocking Sites

SITE NAME	LAT	LONG
Page Springs Bridge	34.77	-111.76
Mormon's Crossing	34.74	-111.75



Sources: Esri, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N. Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatasysteisen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community