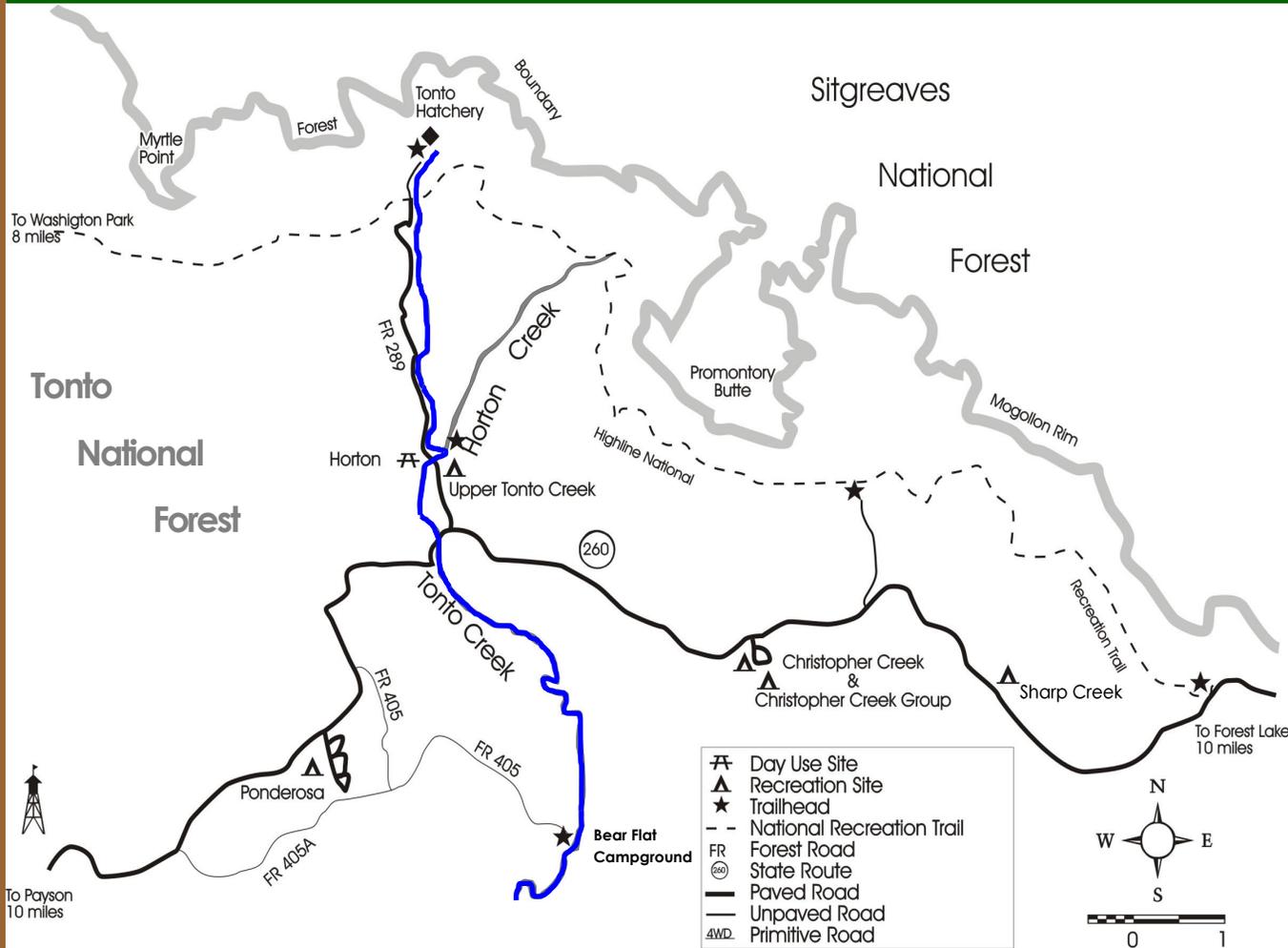
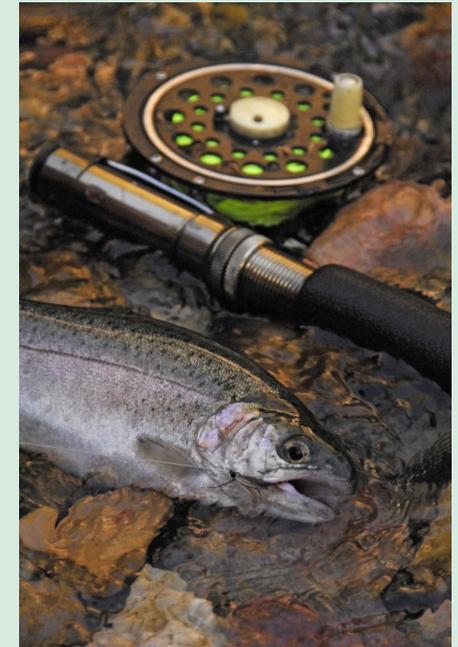


# Arizona Game and Fish Department



## Fishing Tonto Creek

A Guide to Fishing for Trout,  
Bass, Catfish and Sunfish.



Map provided by US Forest Service

### Tonto Creek Hatchery

3898 Tonto Creek Bldg 1  
Payson, AZ 85541

Tonto Creek Hatchery is located east of Payson off of Highway 260. Turn north off 260 at signed road near Kohls Ranch Resort and travel 4 miles to the end of the road.

The hatchery is open 7:30am to 3:30pm daily except state holidays.

*Please observe all fishing regulations, bag limits, and license requirements. For more information visit [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov) or any of the more than 300 license dealers located throughout the state.*

### Arizona Game and Fish Department

5000 W Carefree Highway

Phoenix, AZ 85086

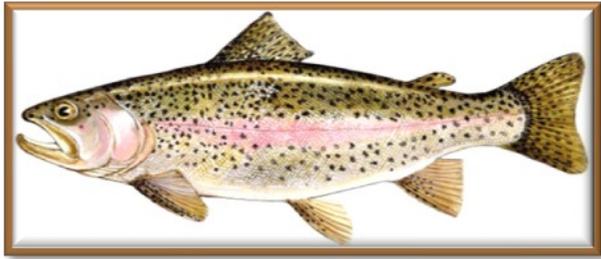
(602) 942-3000

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

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# Tonto Creek is stocked with Rainbow Trout from the Tonto Creek Fish Hatchery

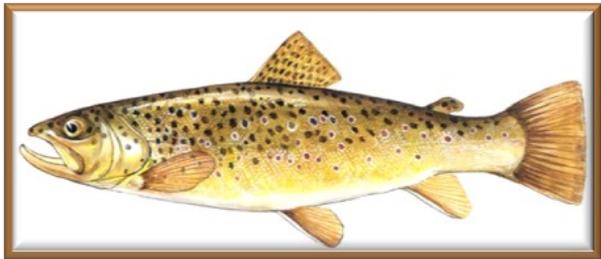


## Rainbow Trout

**Areas to fish:** Rainbow trout are stocked from Tonto Hatchery down to Bear Flat Campground. Fish will disperse both up and down stream of stocking sites. Wild trout can be found down to Hell's Gate. Look for deeper riffles, runs or pools under cut banks.

**Best baits:** Aquatic insects, worms, grubs, salmon eggs, spinners, mepps, roostertails, panther martins, flies, small minnow plugs, power baits and cheese balls.

**Best times to fish:** Early morning and late afternoon are best, but fish will bite throughout the day year around.



## Brown Trout

**Areas to fish:** From Tonto Falls through Hell's Gate Wilderness. After large flood events they can be caught in Gisela and below but will not live through the summer in lower areas. Look for deep pools, bigger runs. Smaller fish are found in riffles.

**Best baits:** Night crawlers, medium to small minnow plugs resembling brown or rainbow trout, spinners, mepps, roostertails, panther martins, and flies. Brown trout spawn naturally in Oak Creek and are no longer stocked.

**Best times to fish:** Early morning and late afternoon are best, but fish will bite throughout the day year around.



## Largemouth Bass

**Areas to fish:** From Gisela to the confluence of Roosevelt Lake. Look for deep long pools and deep runs. Fish orient to cover such as weeds in spring and summer, rocks and trees in the winter.

**Best baits:** Crayfish from the creek, minnow plugs, spinners, large flies, and top water baits.

**Best times to fish:** Fish are active year around but best in March and April when in pre-spawn and spawning phases.



## Smallmouth Bass

**Areas to fish:** From Hell's Gate to the confluence of Roosevelt Lake. Look for deep pools, runs with large boulders, large overhangs of vegetation. Smaller fish are found in shallow runs and riffles.

**Best baits:** Crayfish from the creek, worms, minnow plugs, rebels, small top water lures, spinners, and large flies.

**Best times to fish:** Throughout the day with some slow periods from late March to November when fish are less active.



## Yellow Bullhead

**Areas to fish:** There is a large population of bullhead from Hell's Gate down that can be easily caught on a hook and line. Access may be limited by private lands. Look for riffles, runs and pools.

**Best baits:** Worms, stink bait, insects found along the creek.

**Best times to fish:** Fish are active through the day but hard to catch in winter months.



## Channel Catfish

**Areas to fish:** From Gisela to the confluence of Roosevelt lake. Fish in the pools and at the bottom of runs.

**Best baits:** Worms, chicken liver, blood baits, hot dogs, stink baits, and shrimp.

**Best times to fish:** Fish are active in warmer months. Fish from sunset throughout the night with best fishing from sunset to 9 or 10pm.