

*In beauty, may I walk.  
All day long, may I walk.  
Through the returning seasons,  
may I walk.*







*With beauty before me,  
may I walk.  
With beauty behind me,  
may I walk.  
With beauty above me,  
may I walk.*





## HIKING IN THE WENIMA WILDLIFE AREA

Stretching for nearly three miles along the Little Colorado River, the Wenima Wildlife Area is a riparian stream corridor with two easy trails featuring interpretative signs and rest areas with benches. As you gently meander through willow arbors and groves of walnut trees, you may catch a glimpse of a

golden eagle soaring over nearby basalt cliffs while you are soothed by the sound of the water and the scents of wild rose and grape.

Home to beaver, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and ringtail cat, the Wenima Wildlife Area is 357 acres and features three distinct ecosystems. Small fish, minnows, and the occasional trout dart in the cool, rushing water surrounded by an abundant wetland floodplain where deer and antelope graze in the spring, summer, and fall. Canyon walls open into upland pinion-juniper and grasslands filled with seasonal wildflowers, scampering chipmunks, squirrels, and rabbits.

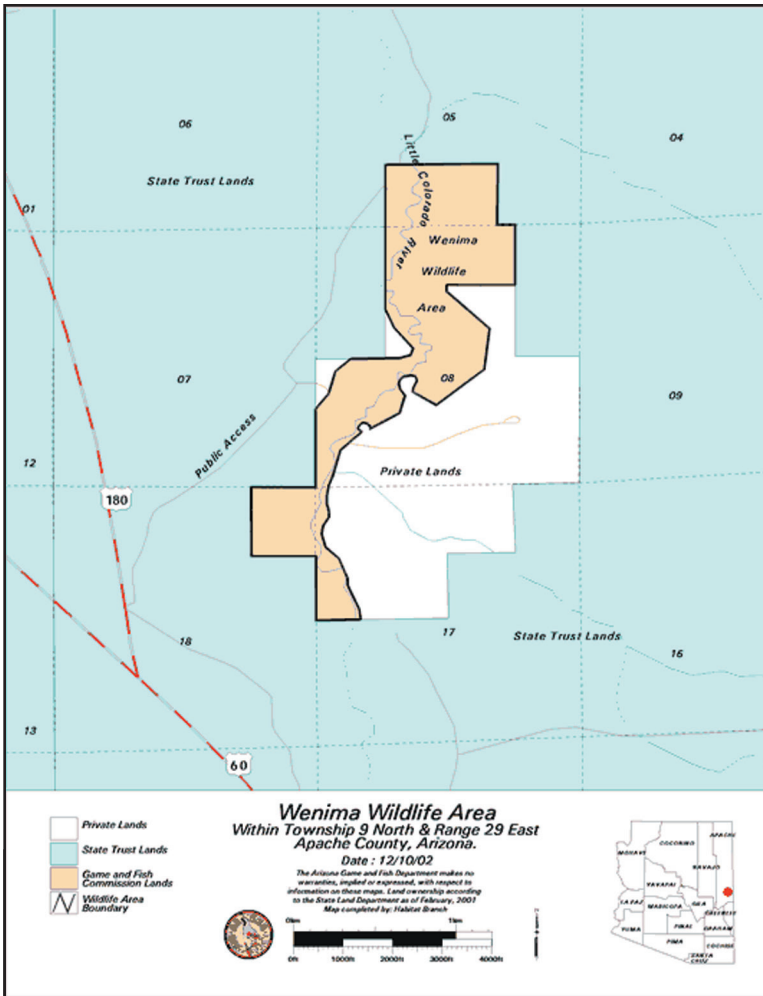


[Page One: The *Wenima Valley Hiking Trail* follows the Little Colorado River and is nearly four miles, total. Page Two: Dramatic rock face on the *Powerhouse Trail* at Wenima Valley is covered in wild grapes and roses. Above: An *Arizona Pronghorn Antelope*. Herds of antelope are common at the Wenima Wildlife Area. ]



*On the trail marked with  
pollen, may I walk.  
With grasshoppers about my  
feet, may I walk.  
With dew about my feet,  
may I walk.*

[Left: Map of Wenima Wildlife Area. Wenima Wildlife Area surrounds Wenima Valley to the West and North. Below: The Little Colorado flows alongside Powerhouse Hiking Trail creating the riparian habitat with diverse wildlife, birds, and aquatic life. ]





## A TWO MILLION ACRE FOREST

Surrounded by the two-million acre Apache Sitgreaves National Forest, numerous hiking trails are available within a ten to thirty minute drive from Wenima Valley. Choose from day trips to challenging Alpine excursions. Favorite trails are: Big Lake Nature Trail, Butler Canyon Nature Trail, Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area, Becker Lake River Walk Trail, and Squirrel Springs Recreation Area.



[Top: A colorful kachina grasshopper adorns the hiking trail at Wenima Valley. Above: *Big Lake*, about thirty minutes from Wenima Valley offers a nature trail with views of the Apache-Sitgreaves Forest and the lake.]



*Beauty will I possess  
again.*

*Beautiful birds...*

*Beautiful joyful  
birds...*

#### **A BIRDER DESTINATION**

The White Mountains are well known as a birder destination, and Wenima Wildlife Area offers an exceptional variety that is best in spring, summer, and fall. There are golden eagles, American kestrel, belted kingfisher, blue grosbeak, indigo bunting, black-crowned night-heron, green-back heron, yellow-breasted chat, black phoebe, gray catbird, and many varieties of warblers and songbirds. In the winter both mountain and western bluebirds are often found in the juniper trees.



[Top: The Arizona Bluebird can be found at Wenima Wildlife Area in the winter months. Above: A herd of antelope on the open grasslands at Wenima Wildlife Area. Next page, right: Petroglyphs adorn rock ledges in Wenima Valley.]





## A LIVING HISTORY

The Native American and indigenous tribes of long ago are well documented at Wenima Valley. Two significant preserves at Wenima are the *Hooper Ranch Pueblo* and the *Danson Pueblo*.

Ten centuries ago, Hopi Native Americans settled along the Little Colorado in what would later be known as Wenima Valley. Hiking the naturally engineered stair-stepped terraces to the east, the view of snow capped mountains emerge, framing the

indelible presence of Escudilla—the *Sleeping Buffalo*. Escudilla Mountain rests like a gentle guardian over the large crescent prairie that would later be named, “Redondo Valley,” or the Round Valley. However, the little dale, spotted with stone-hewn plaza style kivas and the culture of organic simplicity was known in the Zuni language as, *Wenima*, which means, “Coming Home.”

The native Hopis lingered on the banks of the peaceful river for over ten years and then continued





[Above: *The Hopi Wall*. A rock wall that dates back to 1100 ACE as you enter Wenima Valley from the west.]

their migration. Wenima would be recorded in Hopi oral history as “The Red Cloud Door,” marking its juxtaposition to the south of Hotevilla, their sacred destination.

Today, the remnants of Ancient Wenima Village can still be seen, etched in many of the numerous petroglyphs along the bluffs, or held as a sherd of unique basket-weave or black and white pottery.

- Dozens of petroglyphs pepper the basalt bluffs of Wenima Valley.
- Native rock walls—remnants of an ancient irrigation system surround Wenima.
- The *Hooper Ranch Pueblo* and the *Danson Pueblo* comprises two archeological sites at Wenima, yielding over 1600 Native America artifacts. These sites are managed by the *Archeological Conservancy*, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- The artifacts discovered at the pueblo represent some of the most rare and distinctive ever recovered in the Southwest.
- The sites are dedicated as permanent archaeological research preserves.
- Wenima Village is a captivating home to the Natural History enthusiast, located just fifteen minutes from Raven and Casa Malpais Archaeological Sites, and two hours from the Petrified Forest National Park, Homlovi Ruins State Park and El Morro National Monument.





[Above: The night skies in the White Mountains are perfect for nighttime stargazing. Right: Wild berries along the trail at Wenima Valley. Below: Groves of *Black Walnut Trees* at Wenima Valley are unique to the area.]





*In old age, wandering on a  
trail of beauty,*

*lively, may I walk.*

*In old age, wandering on a  
trail of beauty,*

*living again, may I walk.*

## STARGAZING AND WILDFLOWERS

The night skies at Wenima are extraordinary without the pollution of city lights. Nearly ninety percent of the United States is losing the ability to view the twinkling stars and rural Arizona offers an average of 350 clear nights per year.

The wild plants and herbs present at Wenima are unique and plentiful. Many were used by the indigenous people and later rediscovered by homesteaders and pioneers. You will find: lemonade bush, wild rose, wild grape, horehound, and willow (for pain relief). Plant life is diverse with alder growing in the riparian areas alongside wild currant and licorice, Prickly pear and yucca are abundant in rocky, open areas.







[Above: *Wenima Valley*, looking south. Left: Wildflowers adorn the *Wenima Valley* from spring to summer and throughout the monsoon season.]

*If it is finished in beauty.  
It is finished in beauty.  
It is finished in beauty.*

—from “As I Walk in Beauty,” a Navajo Prayer



[Right: The Springerville Airport is a ten minute drive from Wenima Valley.]



## TRAVELING TO SPRINGERVILLE, ARIZONA

Located within 10 minutes from the Wenima Valley, Springerville Municipal Field has two lighted and paved runways (8,400- foot and 4,600-foot) with radio and non-directional beacon, a 4,000-square-foot terminal, 14,000-square-foot hanger with complete pilot facilities and lounge.

Springerville is a 3-1/2 to 4-hour drive from Phoenix and Tucson and slightly longer from Albuquerque. Driving from central and southern Arizona offers the breathtaking scenery of the Mogollon Rim or the Salt River Canyon. If you're driving from New Mexico, you'll pass through the splendor of the Datil Mountains or the unique volcanic landforms of El Malpais National Monument.

*Boutique Air* flies from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport to Show Low Airport. The flight is approximately 50 minutes, and the airport is 35 minutes from Wenima Valley and Springerville.

For commuter flight information and availability go to: <http://www.boutiqueair.com>

### **From North Phoenix/Scottsdale Area to Springerville – Mogollon Rim Route**

1. Travel east on Shea Blvd. through Fountain Hills to the Beeline Hwy. (Hwy. 87), then turn left/ north and proceed to Payson.
2. In Payson, turn right/east onto Hwy. 260 east to Show Low.
3. When you reach Show Low, Hwy. 260 east comes to a three-way stop at a traffic signal where there is a Victorian-style house on the left corner. Turn left at this intersection onto Hwy. 60.
4. Continue to drive east on Hwy. 60 to Springerville.

### **From East Valley Area – Salt River Canyon Route**

1. Travel east on Superstition Freeway (Hwy. 60) through the Salt River Canyon to Show Low, continue straight on Hwy. 60.
2. Continue to drive east on Hwy. 60 to Springerville.

### **From Tucson to Show Low**

1. Travel north/northeast on North Oracle Road/AZ 77 North through Oracle and Winkelman toward Globe.
2. Just before Globe, turn right/northeast onto Hwy. 60, which will continue through the Salt River Canyon to Show Low.
3. When you reach Show Low on Hwy. 60, continue straight on Hwy. 60.

### **From Albuquerque to Springerville, Arizona**

1. Drive south on Interstate 25 to Socorro.
2. Proceed west on US Hwy. 60 to Springerville, Arizona.