

COMMUNITY NEWS

Congratulations Yavapai-Apache Youth

BY: JANE RUSSELL-WINIECKI, Chairwoman Yavapai-Apache Nation

Whether it's learning how to walk at the Day Care Center, learning the Yavapai-Apache languages at the Montessori, learning the basics of math in grade school or just learning how to get along with people in high school, learning is the key to the future success of our youth.

We congratulate them on what they accomplished this year. We are proud of them and especially grateful for those that graduated from each level and are on a new path. We wish them every success and will continue to support their endeavors in the future because the young people of the Yavapai-Apache Nation are indeed the future of our Nation.



Jane Russell-Winiecki

YAN to conduct a Primary and General Election 2019

BY DON DECKER, YAN News 06/05/19

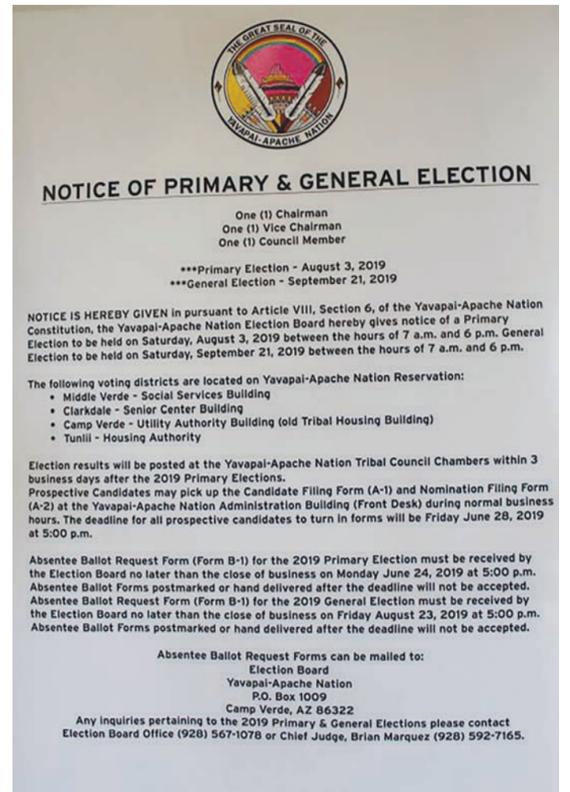
Important election notice about the upcoming Primary and General Election is was mailed out from the Election Board on June 5, 2019, to all eligible voters.

YAN members: Please review the attached notice posted by the Election Board.

A copy of this notice was sent to your address.

Contact the YAN enrollment office to update your mailing address.

You can do this by email (mamiefox@yan-tribe.org), or by phone (928-567-1029) or mail to: YAN Enrollment Office, 2400 W. Datsi Ave., Camp Verde 86322.



Election Notice

Fossil Creek Management And What It Means To The Yavapai-Apache Nation

BY: CHRISTOPHER CODER, YAN Tribal Archaeologist

In 2000 APS (Arizona Public Service) along with FERC (The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) began the process of decommissioning the hydroelectric facility in Fossil Creek Canyon. At this point in time the dam, flume and generating station were nearly 100 years old and at the end of their economic life. Because of the cost of repairs and restructuring it was determined that the best course of action was to decommission the entire system, cease electrical generation and return full flows to the creek. No longer would water from Fossil Creek be diverted to generate electricity.

In 2001 this project was brought to the attention tribal archaeologist Chris Coder, who was aware of the importance of Fossil Creek to Yavapai-Apache people. He understood this project was a federal undertaking and the Nation (YAN) had NOT been officially notified through the proper channels. Chris went to Chairman Randall about getting the Nation involved. In order to have a seat at the table for negotiations anybody or organization, who had concerns about Fossil Creek, had to obtain "Intervention Status". Chairman Randall gave Chris the green light to apply and within weeks the Nation was granted Intervention Status by FERC. So now YAN had an official seat at the table.

When Chairman Randall went out of office later that year the Tribal Council gave Vincent and Chris the authority to attend meetings and negotiate on the Nation's behalf. In 2005 the decommissioning was finalized. That summer at a quiet and somber ceremony a group of Tribal Elders travelled upstream along the old flume trail to the dam site below

the springs and blessed the waters as they were set free into the channel after 100 years of being captured and used to generate electricity. The stream was now returned to full flows. This was a victory for both the Living Waters of Fossil Creek and the Nation. With APS (and their big money) pulling out, and management returned to the Forest Service, now the real battle for the soul of Fossil Creek began regarding; how it was to be managed, how it was to be funded, how many people could visit at a time and how could the Forest Service make that happen?

It was apparent from all of the publicity surrounding the decommissioning that instead of 500 people a year visiting Fossil Creek now sometimes it was 500 in one weekend. The beautiful canyon was being loved to death; too many visitors and not enough trash bins, toilets, tables, parking places and NO law enforcement. So the Forest Service had to figure out how to deal with these problems and with no or little funding in sight and that was not going to be easy. A few years ago an online permitting system was put in place from April through October to better manage the crowds and the trash they leave behind. This has helped as a quick fix, but it was NOT a solution to the bigger problems that exist

Fossil Creek is a wonderful and unique place. Its' waters are a constant 72 degrees. The blue-green water flows from its source, the mesmerizing Fossil Creek Springs, for about fourteen miles into the Verde River through a rugged and beautiful canyon full of wildlife and native plants. The water is rich in calcium carbonate, which precipitates out as deposits of travertine onto the rocks in the stream. Because of this rich natural diversity many groups have a personal interest in how it is

managed; day hikers, biologists, YAN Tribal Members, Native Americans from other tribes, federal managers, kayakers, mountain bikers, weekend picnickers, nature lovers, bird watchers and so on.

In 2009 Congress designated Fossil Creek as an official Wild and Scenic River. With that federal status came a little funding, but more importantly specific guidelines on how it was to be managed by the Forest Service. The first thing to do was develop a Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP) and it wasn't going to happen overnight. This plan would be based on protecting what are awkwardly called 'Outstandingly Remarkable Values' (ORV's): These "Values" were established as a part of the negotiation process, which the Nation participated in fully through a direct government to government partnership.

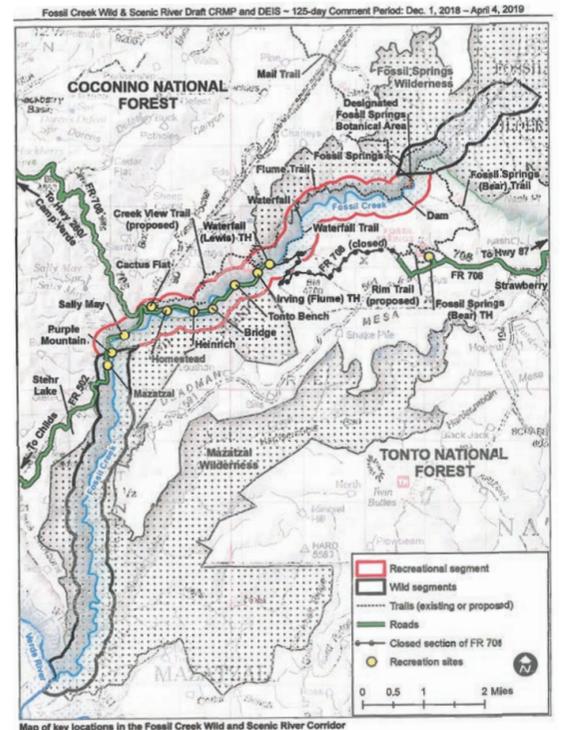
- (1) BIOLOGICAL (including habitat, wildlife, plant communities and native fish populations).
- (2) YAVAPAI-APACHE NATION (Traditional and Contemporary Values).
- (3) GEOLOGY (Specifically the travertine deposition).
- (4) RECREATIONAL.

This all looks and sounds simple, but there are many other factors, which make implementing a plan to address the ORV's properly, a complex and expensive mess. Those factors include; (A) Visitor capacity (how many humans can the Canyon real-

- istically accommodate at one time?)
- (B) Infrastructure development and maintenance,
- (C) Motorized access
- (D) Federal and county law enforcement

- (E) Communication (there is NO cell phone reception in many places)
- (F) Public Safety
- (G) Fees & permitting
- (H) Commercial and Economic Opportunity (Contractors, Guides, Tours and others who want a piece of the pie)
- (I) Adequate parking and so on.

As a result of all of these rules, conflicting interests and various agendas the Forest Service is faced with creating a management plan, which protects the resources as well as addresses the need and wishes of several entities and communities. Not an easy task. So over the last several years



Map of key locations in the Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River Corridor

SEE FOSSIL CREEK PAGE 3

TRANSIT

From page 1

'Ladder's Grant' and \$35,000 for the purchase of the Dodge Caravan. The buses and the caravan are designed with a lift to transport passengers in wheel chairs.

Fleet mechanic Jerry Periera said the Ford Starcraft buses are known as 'V-10' with 10 cylinders with 362 HP.



Jerry Periera, Mechanic stands by the new Dodge Caravan equipped with a lift to load passengers with wheel chairs.



Bus#2 left side