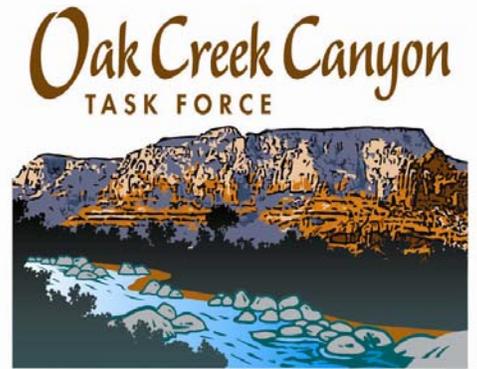


News Release:

March 21, 2008



Oak Creek Canyon is one of Arizona's most scenic and precious water resources warranting special protection while providing continued public enjoyment. Millions of visitors to Arizona travel through Oak Creek Canyon annually to take in its unmatched scenic beauty. Such an attraction often results in significant impacts to water quality and the natural environment. The Oak Creek Canyon Task Force, a non-profit group, is working to assist the National Forest Service to help protect the Canyon environment and the integrity of Oak Creek. Of significance is the need to provide critical "Leave No Trace" education, and public restrooms. Ultimately, providing these services will help protect water quality in years to come.

The Oak Creek Canyon Task Force has been working with the Red Rock District and various partners over the past several years to provide educational signing and a new public restroom facility at the Indian Gardens Visitor Center. In order to accomplish this enormous task, the Oak Creek Canyon Task Force must raise an additional \$15,000 to finalize the project before the Memorial Day weekend. To date, over \$100,000 dollars has been raised through grants and contributions for this new facility. Assisting the Oak Creek Canyon Task Force to make this a reality include the support of local and statewide agencies and partners: Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Coconino County, Salt River Project (SRP), City of Sedona, Coconino National Forest and the Sedona Friends of the Forest.

To inquire more about the Oak Creek Canyon Task Force and how you can support this project, please visit: www.oakcreekcanyontaskforce.org or contact Morgan Stine at morgan@oakcreekcanyontaskforce.org or Barry Allan at barry@oakcreekcanyontaskforce.org Photographs of this project are available upon request

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