



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Havasu NWR

## Wilderness



### Havasu Wilderness

Established in 1941, the 37,515-acre Havasu National Wildlife Refuge stretches along the Colorado River for 30 miles between Needles, California, and Lake Havasu City, Arizona, with most of the refuge situated in Arizona. Approximately one-third of the refuge—all of it in Arizona—was designated Wilderness in 1990. California got into the act in 1994, adding land north of Blankenship Bend on the Colorado River. This area shares its western border with the large Chemehuevi Mountains Wilderness. A total of 17,801 acres of wilderness can be found on Havasu NWR, 14,606 acres in Arizona and 3,195 acres in California.

### Unique Features

Havasu Wilderness includes Topock Gorge, where the Colorado River flows through a narrow, mountainous area with high peaks and sheer cliffs. Adjacent to the Havasu Wilderness is the Chemehuevi Mountains Wilderness area, managed by the Bureau of Land Management, creating a large block of wilderness.

### Wildlife Value

The Wilderness is rich in wildlife including quail, geese, ducks, grebes, cranes, rails, herons, egrets, falcons,

eagles, bighorn sheep, coyotes, porcupines, foxes, and bobcats.

### Management Challenges

Wild burros are one of the management challenges found in this wilderness. Illegal incursions by off-road, motorized vehicles are another.

### Best Time to Visit

The Havasu Wilderness offers exemplary desert hiking through creosote, ocotillo, blue-green palo

conducive to outdoor activities. Nights can get chilly, so prepare accordingly. Daytime highs are typically in the 60s and 70s; nighttime lows are usually above 40°. Rain showers are not uncommon during the winter months, but tend to be of short duration and low intensity. Even in the winter, visitors should bring lots of water.

Summers at Havasu Wilderness are hot. June through September see average daytime temperatures of 115 degrees Fahrenheit. For the adventurous few

who may opt for a summer visit, be sure to prepare for the dangerously high temperatures. Copious amounts of water are needed, even when not engaged in any physical activity (usually 1 gallon per day). Hats, sunglasses, long-sleeves, and loose-fitting clothing are highly recommended along with ample sunscreen.

### For Further Information

Havasu National Wildlife Refuge  
317 Mesquite Avenue  
Needles, CA 92363  
760/326-3853

[www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/)

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verde, and pockets of saguaro promises solitude; however, camping and fire are not permitted.

The best time to visit Havasu Wilderness is during the cooler months: October through March. Temperatures then are

