



WILBARGER TRAIL DESCRIPTION

The Wilbarger Trail is a 14 mile long paddle. It starts from the Utley Bridge at FM 969 and ending at Fisherman's Park in Bastrop. Depending on flow rates, it is a four to seven hour paddle. There are a few minor rapids and the channel is strewn with large sandstone boulders. Some of the banks are very steep with high sandstone bluffs and cliffs. There are several islands and sand bars used for camping and resting. Three tributaries, Wilbarger, Big Sandy, and Piney Creeks, enter the Colorado River along the trail.

FISHING

Fishing is very good along these sections of the river. Popular fish include Guadalupe bass, largemouth bass, sunfish, blue, channel and flathead catfish.

TREES

Trees along the trails are typical of hardwoods growing in a floodplain area. Native Texas pecan trees are abundant along with eastern cottonwood, American sycamore, and black willows. Bald cypress are found single or in small groups. Hickory, ash and cedar elm are common with a dense undercover of greenbriar and poison ivy. Grapevines and trumpet vines climb high in the trees. The El Camino Real trail goes through the Lost Pines region. This is a section of Loblolly Pines that became isolated from the east Texas piney woods.

WILDLIFE



The Wilbarger trail provides habitat for an endangered fish called the blue sucker. They feed on aquatic insects and can grow to over 32". They live in areas of deep fast rapids over gravel, cobble, boulders and bedrock structures. Non-game fish in his part of the river includes the red shiner, blacktail shiner and the bullhead minnow. Dusky darter, Texas logperch, suckermouth minnow, central stoneroller, chub and juvenile channel catfish are often found in riffles while flathead and channel catfish, gray redhorse sucker, Guadalupe bass, smallmouth buffalo and common carp are found in deeper water. Backwaters and shallow pools are home to largemouth bass, and longear sunfish. Alligator gar and freshwater drum are numerous. Wildlife along the river includes raccoons, opossums, and armadillos. White tailed deer, coyotes, foxes and bobcats may be seen. Many species of birds make their homes along the banks of the river including ubiquitous Black Vulture and Turkey Vulture, Crested Caracara, Osprey, Red-Shouldered Hawk, and Red-tailed Hawk. Bald Eagles are frequently spotted soaring above the river. Belted Kingfishers perch on overhanging branches and dive for fish, sometimes even next to fortunate paddlers. Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck and Killdeer are among the many other birds found along the water's edge. For more information about the wildlife and ecology of the river visit www.Environmental-Stewardship.org.



Colorado River Paddling Trail Aerial Photocard

Proposed Spring 2008 **Wilbarger Trail - Bastrop, Texas**

Distance - 14 River Miles

Float Time - 4 - 7 hours depending on water levels and flow rates