

Welcome to Cash County, Arizona!

Cash County is located in the Sonoran Desert of Central Arizona. The valley is surrounded by three mountain ranges: The Wind Mountains, the Quartz Mountains, and the Wildcat mountains. In the middle of the valley is a large rock formation: Big Rock, which has become a popular recreational site. The valley is arid, but the Rio del Este flows through it, seasonally fed by rain water that flows from the Quartz Mountains.

Just 150 years ago the region that Cash County now occupies was a natural desert landscape. For thousands of years the valley, mountains, and river have been habitat for many native birds, mammals, reptiles, insect species and river dwelling species, and the desert ecosystem is supported by an array of flora, many unique to the region. Wildlife have historically moved between the mountain ranges across the valley to find food and mates and to take shelter from the intense summer heat, frequently traveling along the Rio del Este or numerous connecting desert washes. The Rio del Este once flowed much fuller, but the river has been heavily dammed upstream. The Coolidge dam just north of the Quartz mountains has restricted water flow to the south. Fire Lake, created by the dam is a popular recreational destination.

This entire region was historically occupied by the Wind Mountain Indians who settled along the Rio del Este. The valley and Wildcat Mountains are their traditional hunting grounds, and the Wildcat Mountains still support healthy populations of mule deer and javelina. The Quartz Mountains and Wildcat Mountains are spiritually significant to the Wind Mountain Indians. Wind Mountain Indian land is now a much smaller area west of the Wind Mountains.

Over the last 150 years the valley has rapidly developed. Big Rock City is a large desert city with three growing suburbs: Strummerville, Setzer, and East Bowieton. A regional trail system connects the Wildcat Mountains, Quartz Mountains and Big Rock Park, but there is no trail connectivity to the Wind Mountains

- Big Rock City is one of the largest cities in the U.S. It has a university, several colleges, and strong fine arts, performing arts, entertainment, banking, high tech, manufacturing, and medical industries. Big Rock recreational park is the main place for outdoor recreation in the city.
- Strummerville is a developing city with a small town feel. It is a historic town with a seasonally strong economy supported by a thriving local fine and performing arts community, fine dining, local breweries and outdoor recreation in the Wind Mountains. This is a popular destination for locals and out of area visitors.
- Setzer is a developed city with a large State University and is primarily a college town, but also has thriving outdoor and entertainment industries. Setzer also has some planned communities on private lands in the northeast part of the city.
- East Bowieton has sparse development. It has strong ranching and farming industries, but the area is predicted to grow rapidly, and several planned communities have been established around golf courses in the city.
- The Quartz Mountains contain many petroglyphs, and there is also an operational Quartz mine in the southeast area of the mountains. The land around the Quartz mountains is currently a mix of BLM land, state land, county land and private land holdings not incorporated into a city. Fire lake is a county park. The area east of the Quartz mountains is national forest.
- North of the metropolis the DOD operates a large air force base.
- The eastern half of the Wind Mountains and all of the Wildcat Mountains are BLM land.
- The area beyond Wind Mountain Indian Community and beyond the Wildcat Mountains is largely developed.