

## Four Peaks Wilderness

Established in 1984, Four Peaks Wilderness contains approximately 60,740 acres with a major mountain rising up in its center from the desert foothills. The Four Peaks themselves are visible for many miles, and the rapid change in elevation produces interesting and unique plant and animal combinations. Elevations range from 1,900 feet near Apache Lake to 7,600 feet on Brown's Peak.

A large part of this wilderness was burned by a human-caused fire in 1996. It will take decades for the pine-covered mountains to recover.

A group size limitation of no more than 15 people and no more than 15 head of pack or saddle animals of any type is enforced yearlong.



Visits to some parts of this wilderness can be made throughout the year, using a rather extensive trail system. A free recreation opportunity guide with directions and trail descriptions is available from the Mesa Ranger Station (Tonto National Forest), 5140 East Ingram Street, Mesa, AZ 85205, Phone: (480) 610-3300 or online at [www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto).

## Hellsgate Wilderness

This wilderness was established in 1984, and contains approximately 37,440 rough acres with a major canyon and perennial stream extending its entire length. Deep pools of water may be separated by impassable falls. Elevations range from 3,000 feet along the lower end of Tonto Creek to 6,400 feet on Horse Mountain. Spring and fall are ideal times to visit this area; however, trails are rare and access is limited. The small area known as Hell's Gate is too fragile to be used by livestock.

A group size of no more than 15 people and no more than 15 head of pack or saddle animals of any type is enforced within this area yearlong.



A free recreation opportunity guide is available from the Payson Ranger Station (Tonto National Forest), 1009 E. Highway 260, Payson, AZ 85541, Phone: (928) 474-7900 or online at [www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto).

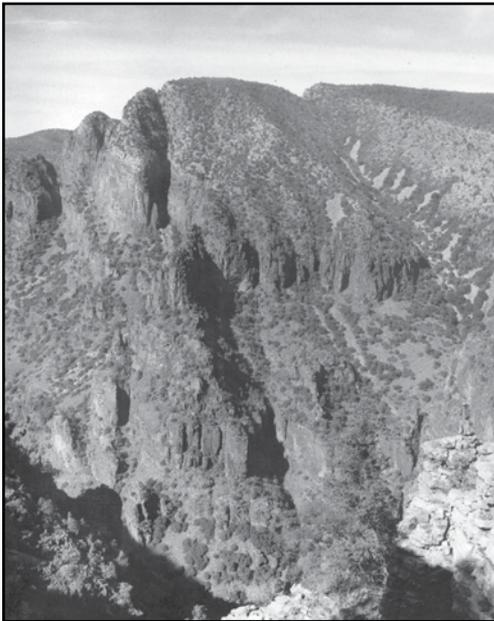
## Mazatzal Wilderness

This wilderness now contains over 252,500 acres of the Tonto and Coconino National Forests. Established in 1940 and expanded to its present size in 1984, its name is from an old Indian culture in Mexico, and is correctly pronounced “Mah-zaht-zahl,” meaning “land of the deer.”

The eastern side of this wilderness consists predominantly of brush or pine-covered mountains, sometimes broken by narrow, vertical-walled canyons. On its west side below the steep brush-covered foothills, the Verde River flows through the Sonoran Desert. This river was designated by Congress in 1984 as Arizona’s only wild river area.

Elevations range from 2,060 feet along the Verde River to 7,903 feet on Mazatzal Peak. There is an extensive system of trails; their condition varies from very good to very poor. Several are unsuited for horses.

A group size limitation of no more than 15 people and no more than 15 head of pack or saddle animals of any type is enforced yearlong.



Visitors may check with the Cave Creek Ranger Station (Phone: (480) 595-3300) for information about the west side of the wilderness, or the Payson Ranger Station (Phone: (928) 474-7900) for information on the east side. A free recreation opportunity guide is also available at both locations or online at [www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto).

## **Salome Wilderness**

This wilderness was established in 1984 and contains approximately 18,530 acres, with a major canyon running practically its entire length. The upper reaches of Salome Creek and Workman Creek are small perennial streams snaking their way through the bottom of this scenic canyon. Pools of water can be found nearly yearlong, but cross-country travel is very difficult.

Elevations range from 2,600 feet at the lower end of Salome Creek to 6,500 feet on Hopkins Mountain. Spring and fall are ideal times to visit this area; however, trails are rare and access to the wilderness is limited.

A group size limitation of no more than 15 people and no more than 15 head of pack or saddle animals of any type is enforced yearlong.

Information is available from the Pleasant Valley Ranger Station (Tonto National Forest), P.O. Box 450, 154 South FR 63, Young, AZ 85554, Phone: (928) 462-4300 or online at [www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto).



## **Salt River Canyon Wilderness**

This wilderness contains approximately 32,100 very rugged acres and was established in 1984. The Salt River and its spectacular canyon bisect the wilderness for its entire length. Elevations range from 2,200 feet at the canyon's lower end to 4,200 feet on White Ledge Mountain. This area can be visited practically any time; however, there are no maintained trails within the entire wilderness. Travel is basically done by raft or kayak during the short and dangerous river-running season.

Mandatory visitor permits are required between March 1 and May 15. The application period for these permits is from November 15 through January 15 each year.

Information is available from the Tonto National Forest Supervisor's Office in Phoenix, Phone: (602) 225-5200, TTY: (602) 225-5395 and from the Globe Ranger Station, 7680 S. Six Shooter Canyon Road, Globe, AZ 85501, Phone: (928) 402-6200. A free recreation opportunity guide is available which gives directions to river access points and describes the rapids along the river. The guide is available from both office locations and online at [www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto).



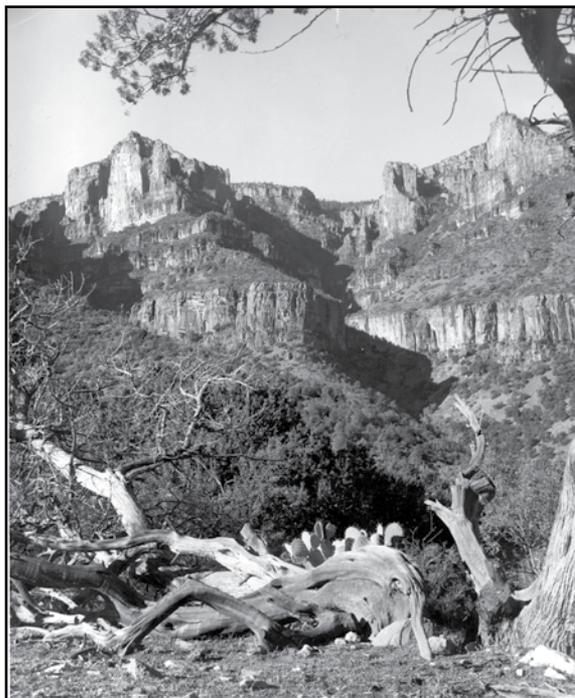
## Sierra Ancha Wilderness

First established in 1933 as a “Primitive Area,” this 20,850-acre wilderness is full of surprises, and is a pleasure to explore. While not large in acres, this very special wilderness includes precipitious box canyons, high cliffs, and pine-covered mountains.

The extremely rough topography limits (and often prohibits) cross-country travel; however, there is an extensive system of trails with conditions ranging from good to poor. A wide variety of plant and animal species are found here—from those found in the desert to those found at 8,000 feet.

A group size limitation of no more than 15 people and no more than 15 head of pack or saddle animals of any type is enforced yearlong.

A free recreation opportunity guide is available from the



Pleasant Valley  
Ranger Station  
(Tonto National  
Forest), P.O.  
Box 450, 154  
South FR 63,  
Young, AZ  
85554, Phone:  
(928) 462-  
4300 or online  
at [www.fs.fed.  
us/r3/tonto](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto).

## **Superstition Wilderness**

This wilderness was first designated in 1939, and was expanded to its present size in 1984. It now contains approximately 160,200 acres. There is a well-developed trail system, and the western end of the wilderness receives heavy use during the cooler times of the year. Trail conditions vary from fair to very poor, and several trails are unsuitable for horses.

The area is starkly beautiful and often rugged, but can be inhospitable to those not equipped to meet nature on her own terms. Searing heat and a shortage of water are typical conditions in the summer. Rumors still abound concerning lost gold mines, and “secret maps” are sold to the unwary.

A group size limitation of no more than 15 people and 15 head of pack or saddle animals of any type is enforced yearlong.

A free recreation opportunity guide is available from the Tonto National Forest’s Mesa Ranger Station at (480) 610-3300, Globe Ranger Station at (928) 402-6200 or Tonto Basin Ranger Station at (928) 467-3200. Information is also available online at [www.fs.fed.us/lr3/tonto](http://www.fs.fed.us/lr3/tonto).

