

Forest Plan

Monitoring and Inventory Report Tonto National Forest

Fiscal Year 2015

United States Forest Service

Southwestern Region



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Introduction

Rising from the Sonoran Desert to the pine-covered slopes of the Mogollon Rim, the Tonto National Forest (Tonto NF) covers nearly three million acres and is the fifth largest national forest in the nation. The forest spans a range of ecosystems, from the legendary Sonoran Desert with its unique flora and fauna, through a variety of chaparral, up to the mixed-conifer forest of the Rim country, all connected by a series of breathtaking drives. The forest's desert landscape is dotted with reservoirs and streams, which support warm water fisheries and a full range of water-based recreation activities. Prehistoric and historic cultural resources are located throughout the forest, serving as valuable reminders of the past.

The forest lies near the edge of Phoenix, the fifth largest city in the United States, and hosts over six million visitors a year. With easy access to day-use areas, as well as the chance to experience the challenge and solitude of rugged backcountry, the forest offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities.

The Tonto NF is comprised of six Ranger Districts: Cave Creek, Globe, Mesa, Payson, Pleasant Valley, and Tonto Basin (figure 1).

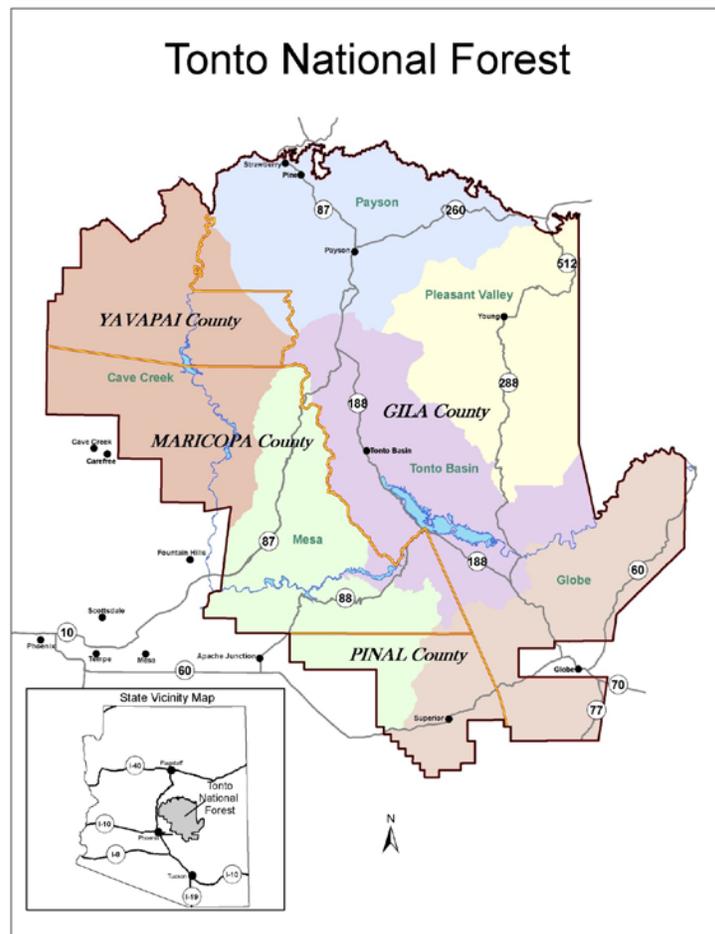


Figure 1. Tonto National Forest

The Cave Creek Ranger District encompasses 570,000 acres, including areas of arid Sonoran Desert, chaparral vegetation, and ponderosa pine. Because of its proximity to the Phoenix metropolitan area, it is one of the most heavily-used ranger districts on the forest. The ranger district is bounded by this urban interface to the south and southwest, the Aqua Fria National Monument to the west, and other National Forest System lands to the north. The eastern boundary with Mesa Ranger District runs through the Mazatzal Wilderness.

Globe Ranger District surrounds the towns of Globe, Claypool, Miami, and Superior. Portions of the ranger district are within a 30-minute drive of the Phoenix metropolitan area. The close proximity to local populations makes adjacent forest lands easy to access and use for a variety of recreational activities.

The Mesa Ranger District is characterized by its vast desert landscape surrounding Saguaro and Canyon Lakes, the Lower Salt River, and the Superstition and Four Peaks Wilderness areas. The district also includes over 250,000 acres of undeveloped lands used by a variety of forest visitors for dispersed recreation.

The Payson Ranger District also provides easy access and use for a variety of recreational activities including hunting, camping, hiking, and motorized vehicle use. Due to the dispersed nature of the private property in-holdings, there is little to no “remote” country outside of designated wilderness on this ranger district.

Pleasant Valley Ranger District encompasses the unincorporated town of Young and the smaller communities of Colcord Estates and Ponderosa Springs. All three communities have year-round populations, but vacation homes are quite common and populations vary seasonally. The Canyon Creek area has developed campgrounds with easy access from SR 260. This area also has the highest concentration of elk within the ranger district.

Due to budgetary restraints, the Payson Ranger District has responsibility for administering Forest Service managed land previously performed by the Pleasant Valley Ranger District. The Pleasant Valley Ranger District office is minimally staffed and has limited business hours.

The Tonto Basin Ranger District encompasses approximately 530,000 acres of desert, semi-desert grassland, and chaparral types of vegetation, as well as a few scattered areas of ponderosa pine. Roosevelt Lake (the largest lake within Arizona) and Apache Lake lie within this district.

The Tonto NF is an important part of Arizona’s natural heritage. It provides a diverse set of goods and services, including habitats for wildlife, numerous recreational opportunities, scenic landscapes, jobs in rural areas, clean air, stable soil, high quality water, minerals, and various wood products. When a forest is while managed properly, it can meet help meet the resource needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future, all the while maintaining the health and integrity of the forest.

Our commitment to the land and people who use it has prompted a management strategy that contributes to ecological, social, and economic sustainability. Work toward achieving the desired future condition of the forest is guided by our Land and Resource

Management Plan (forest plan), which was adopted in 1985. The forest plan represents one integrated plan that guides all resource management activities on the forest.

Until the forest plan is revised, amendments will continue to be used to keep the existing document current. An electronic version of the present forest plan and its amendments are available on the [Tonto National Forest Project webpage](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto/projects) (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto/projects>).

Accomplishments made in achieving forest plan goals and objectives are contained in the following sections. Forest Plan monitoring is an ongoing process that assesses the response of forest environment to management activities undertaken to move the forest from an existing condition to an expected future condition as described in the forest plan. By evaluating the results of the monitoring plan, the forest is able to better identify future research needs and to shift monitoring activities to more effectively measure overall forest health.

Cultural Resources



The forest regularly surveys for potential cultural resources prior to on-the-ground land management activities such as road construction, campground development, and vegetative treatments. Pre-project monitoring of implemented projects where sites are present consisted of ensuring that sites were properly identified and marked for avoidance, checking the sites, and removing identification boundary markers once the project was completed. It is not uncommon that sites are visited more than once during the life of a project to ensure that they

are protected. All projects with a potential for ground disturbance or disruption of traditional Tribal activities are reviewed to ensure heritage resources are not disturbed. The Tonto NF conducted inspections at various levels on in-service and out-service projects.

The Tonto NF manages several hundred archaeological and historic sites (out of more than 10,000 inventoried) as Priority Heritage Assets, including 34 properties that comprise 100 individual sites or structures listed as National Register Properties. Since a number of these sites are actively being used, many are visited throughout the year by heritage resource management personnel. Those National Register Properties that are not used on a daily basis are visited less regularly, but most Priority Heritage Assets are inspected at least every five years. Lesser priority sites are customarily checked by forest personnel as the opportunity arises. Listed National Register Properties and other Priority Heritage Assets remain in fairly stable condition with no major impacts having altered their historic integrity.

Table 1. Heritage Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Monitoring and Inventory

Activity	Number Accomplished
1) New Properties Inventoried	151
2) New Interpretive Project	5
3) New Outreach Projects	20
4) Total Heritage Volunteer Hours	4,000+ hours
5) Protected Sites	391 sites

Forest heritage personnel conducted two Passports in Time volunteer projects during FY 2015 and 25 public outreach presentation and site tours. Fiscal Year 2015 also saw continued work and tribal consultation on two nominations to the National Register of Historic Places: The Oak Flat and Fossil Creek Traditional Cultural Properties.

Fish and Wildlife

Habitat conditions for game and non-game wildlife species, fish, and rare plants are managed to maintain populations across the forest. Special emphasis is provided in the management, protection, and recovery of federally-listed threatened and endangered (T&E) species.

The Tonto NF is host to 79 threatened, endangered, and/or sensitive species. T&E species are officially designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Protection and enhancement of these listed species and their habitat is required under the Endangered Species Act. Habitat quality or quantity is often a major reason for a species' decline. It is incumbent on the forest to ensure management actions on the forest do not contribute further to a listed species' decline. It is also the forest's responsibility to implement recovery actions identified in recovery plans within the forest's jurisdictional responsibilities.



Forest sensitive species are those species whose populations are of some concern because of overall declines or risks from land management activities on the forest. These species are designated by the Regional Forester and require that management activities not contribute to declines in the species that might affect population viability. The current Southwest Region Sensitive Species list was approved in 2007.

The Forest Service requires that Management Indicator Species (MIS) be identified in forest planning as a means to focus plan directions and provide feedback to analyze effects on biodiversity. The Tonto NF's status report of 28 MIS species indicates that population trends of 25 species are stable and three are in decline. The forest coordinates with the Arizona Game & Fish Department for monitoring of game species population and trends. Some of these are also MIS species (e.g., elk and turkey). These populations statewide and on the Tonto NF continue to increase. Habitat renovations were completed

this year and included five-miles of pipe-rail fencing installed to prevent off highway vehicle (OHV) damage to wildlife habitats for both MIS species and T&E protected species along Four Peaks Road; 20 acres of heavily impacted, now fenced OHV areas were re-vegetated for wildlife habitats; one-half mile of pipe-rail fencing installed to protect riparian habitats in Mesquite Wash from OHV use; three 10,000 gallon wildlife water developments were installed in Cave Creek district to improve wildlife habitat and access to water in areas that have been dewatered due to development; and ten-miles of user created trails near Bulldog Canyon were removed and revegetated to benefit wildlife.

The forest has approximately 500 miles of fishable stream and 29,530 acres of lake habitat. There are about 40 species of fish on the forest, of which 20 are considered game species. There are ten designated or proposed T&E fish species on the Tonto NF, including desert pupfish, Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, Gila chub, loach minnow, spikedace, Gila trout, headwater chub, roundtail chub, and Gila topminnow. Critical habitat is designated for two fish species on the forest: spikedace, and razorback sucker. In FY 2015, Gila trout were reintroduced into Dude Creek on the Payson Ranger District and assessments were completed on Haigler Creek,

Monitoring of bald eagles, a forest sensitive species, continued in partnership with Southwestern Bald Eagle Management Committee. Several teams of nestwatchers on Tonto NF monitored populations of bald eagles and also educated the public about the closure areas to protect the eagles. Monitoring of southwestern willow flycatchers continued on Cave Creek and Tonto Basin Ranger Districts.

Monitoring of Chiricahua leopard frog populations continued in 2015 on the Payson & Pleasant Valley Ranger Districts. The species was observed on both districts with increasing numbers of populations. Critical habitat is also designated within the forest for this species.



Monitoring was conducted for Mexican spotted owl (federally threatened species) and Northern goshawk (forest sensitive species) in previously occupied areas of the Payson and Pleasant Valley Ranger Districts. Both bird species were found occupying areas on both districts.

Insect & Disease

This year very few acres of insect and disease damage were mapped on the portions of the Tonto NF that are surveyed annually. Most areas were green from the wet spring. Defoliating insects caused more damage on the forest than bark beetles this year.

Most of the conifer mortality was mapped in the ponderosa pine community. Only 60 acres of ponderosa pine mortality were mapped this year. This is the fewest number of acres impacted by pine bark beetles on the Tonto NF since 2009 when only 14 acres were

mapped. Generally, only a few scattered individual trees were mapped; however, one large polygon was mapped on the Globe Ranger Districts in the Pinal Mountains. Payson Ranger District had scattered mortality just below the Mogollon Rim. No specific or significant increased mortality could be detected as a result of the Myrtle Fuels Thinning Project south of the Control Road. The Pleasant Valley Ranger District had 13 acres of scattered mortality, some of which could be related to the Tanner and Poco wildfires.

Aspen defoliation typically starts in late spring/early summer, and is generally caused by either western tent caterpillar or large aspen tortrix. Outbreaks of defoliation are typically short lived, lasting two to three years, and generally do not cause aspen mortality but do contribute to branch dieback and growth loss. There were 60 acres of aspen defoliation mapped in 2015 on the Globe Ranger District on the Pinal Mountains; most of the acreage was mapped on Pinal Peak and Signal Peak. Foliar diseases may have also contributed to the acres impacted.

Mixed conifer defoliation was mapped on the Payson Ranger District just off the Mogollon Rim north of the Highline Trail near Poison Spring. Over the past few years, small pockets of mixed conifer mortality have been mapped along the Mogollon Rim that were likely caused by Douglas-fir Tussock Moth.

Noxious and Invasive Plants

The Tonto NF revamped the noxious and invasive (N&I) plant program in FY 2015, creating a fiscally efficient and more effective program through improved program management and partnership development. Partnerships include maintaining the working relationship with the Town of Superior's Public Works to conduct noxious weeds treatments. A working agreement was established with Northern Arizona University (NAU) to survey and treat N&I plants at 40 Tonto NF developed recreation sites. NAU will then collect seeds from near by native plants for reseeded treated areas. The assessment will include creation of a fine-scale map identifying the N&I plant present, dominant native vegetation areas, and the proportion of ground cover occupied by each plant species. All information will be entered into a publically accessible database. Finally, NAU will work with Forest Service Forest Health Protection personnel to compile aerial surveys showing extent of tamarisk and Russian olive infestation on the Verde and Salt Rivers.

Prevention

The forest works actively with Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) to prevent weed spread during highway construction and maintenance activities.

ADOT has continued with treatment activities along established roadway corridors within the Tonto National Forest. New ADOT projects require all noxious weeds in the project area have been controlled before contractors can begin work. The contractor is obligated to continue weed control throughout the landscape establishment phase of each highway project.

Range

The forest administers over 2.4 million acres of National Forest System land in 97 active livestock grazing allotments and eight currently vacant allotments. In FY 2015, 1.2 million acres of rangeland were evaluated and administered to standard across the forest.

Livestock grazing is monitored through inspections to determine short-term needs for adjustment in stocking numbers and through use of data collected for analysis of grazing projects as required by National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Monitoring was accomplished by forest personnel, livestock permittees, and University of Arizona staff.

Reading-the-Range is a program funded by the forest, Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCD), and livestock permittees to cooperatively monitor range allotments with University of Arizona staff. The program conducts short- and long-term upland and riparian monitoring. Reading-the-Range completed monitoring on 10 allotments in 2015.

The forest also maintains a partnership with Arizona State University using the Pathways Internship Program to hire students working on range and other natural resource degrees. Interns gain experience using plant identification skills to monitor infield rangeland conditions. The work these interns perform benefits forest range, watershed, and wildlife resources. In 2015, Pathways Interns completed range allotment inspections across the forest and monitored new and historic monitoring plots.



Short-term adjustments in stocking levels are based on forage plant vigor and production and livestock water availability. Rangeland conditions are difficult to measure directly on an annual basis because of climatic conditions that can affect herbaceous growth, litter production, and species diversity. Therefore, indicators of changes in condition (e.g., type and quantity of plant species present) are used to compare plot data from the forest's ecological inventory and current rangeland health field inspection information with terrestrial ecosystem survey information to estimate site potential and changes in plant and soil condition. This combination of management tools has generally resulted in favorable condition assessments, with possible exceptions near watering locations where livestock, wildlife, and recreational activity typically concentrate. Administrative actions are taken, where needed, to ensure that rangeland conditions are not in a declining trend.

Livestock numbers continue to increase as permittees rebuild herds following the 2004 destocking of the forest due to drought. 16,078 head of livestock were authorized, totaling 171,923 AUM in 2015. Authorized numbers are still below permitted numbers, with the entire forest stocked at about 60 percent of permitted cattle numbers.

Table 4. Range Monitoring

Activity	Quantity
Improved Range Vegetation	6,000 acres
Grazing Allotment Administered to Standard	1,272,966 acres
Authorized Livestock Numbers	16,078 head
NEPA Documents for Grazing Decisions	0

Recreation

The Tonto NF offers a variety of dispersed, developed, and wilderness recreation opportunities to approximately 5,000,000 visitors per year (NVUM, 2008). The developed recreation program serves approximately 2,000,000 million visitors per year. The majority of the program developments occur along the shorelines of the Tonto NF's six man-made lakes and the lower Salt River. Visitors to the developed recreation sites enjoy camping, fishing, water skiing, canoeing, kayaking, viewing scenery, and relaxing. Through a partnership with Arizona Game & Fish Department, a network of boat ramps were developed to offer boating access to the lakes. Other amenities at developed facilities may include bathrooms with running water, picnic areas with grills, shade ramadas, developed parking lots, scenic over-looks, and trash services. The Lower Salt River is also a developed recreation area. Located only minutes from Phoenix Metro Area, the developed recreation program on the Lower Salt provides opportunities to tube and kayak, picnic, and fish. While developed recreation site visitation is high, developments only occur on 0.1 percent of the Tonto NF's land area.

The remainder of the Tonto NF provides opportunities for dispersed recreation and wilderness recreation. OHV driving, outside of wilderness areas, is one of the most popular activities on the Tonto NF. OHV areas include Bulldog Canyon, The Rolls, Sycamore Canyon, Pipeline, and Wildcat OHV Area. Outside of the OHV areas, motorized users enjoy using Forest Service Roads and motorized trails to explore the forest's rich cultural history and otherwise enjoy the scenery and challenge of rugged terrain. Popular non-motorized trail uses on the Tonto NF include mountain biking, hiking, and horseback riding. With nearly 1,000 miles of trails, there are opportunities for recreationists of every skill level. Hunters and anglers also enjoy dispersed areas on the forest. Hunters may take trophy elk and desert bighorn sheep, as well as quail, bear, deer, javelina, rabbit, and other popular game animals. The Arizona Game & Fish Department stocks trout in many perennial streams on the northern part of the forest, as well as the Lower Salt River. Dispersed camping occurs throughout the forest.

Scenic driving can be found almost anywhere on the Tonto NF. Two of the most popular routes are the Apache Scenic Highway (SR88) and the SR288 Spines to Pines Scenic Highway. Other popular routes are Four Peaks Road, the Bush Highway, and Highway 260. Forest visitors do not have to drive far to find beautiful scenery on the Tonto NF.

The goals established in the forest plan for recreation include:

- Maintain and enhance visual resources by emphasizing the management of recreational resources and increasing opportunities for a variety of developed and dispersed experiences;
- Provide for those developed sites needed to meet most of the public demand and to support dispersed visitor use;
- Emphasize visual quality objectives in all resource planning and management activities.

Several challenges exist in meeting these goals for recreation. Generally, demand for developed recreation opportunity exceeds supply. Concurrently, the quality of dispersed recreation opportunities is declining. However, the construction and reconstruction of recreation sites does provide opportunities to make additions that meet the needs of handicapped visitors.

The forest has collaborated with TEAMS, a Forest Service Enterprise group, to re-inventory all lands to determine Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS). Upon its completion, the new inventory will replace the outdated 1985 version.

Riparian Condition

Tonto riparian areas provide habitat for several wildlife and/or aquatic species.

As part of project level analysis in 2015, seven stream reaches were assessed for condition. Generally, riparian area management has improved on these streams and did not exceed utilization standards.

Stream reach short-term objectives

- Maintain residual herbaceous vegetation along the greenline or streambank whenever precipitation is expected;
- Reintroduce riparian vegetation if native riparian species are absent;
- Minimize the annual impacts to seedling and sapling riparian woody species; and
- Limit physical impacts to alterable streambanks and greenlines.

Stream reach long term objectives

- Optimize riparian tree and shrub establishment, especially following episodic, regional winter storms;
- Increase the density, vertical and horizontal canopy cover of woody riparian tree species;
- Maintain or increase canopy cover of herbaceous species;
- Decrease the greenline to greenline width;
- Optimize the establishment of floodplains and streambanks; and
- Improve stream channel function and stability.

It should be noted that reaching the ideal conditions for riparian areas not only depends on management activities, but on climatic events as well.

Forest Restoration & Forest Products

Approximately 10,200 CCF (1,020,000 cubic feet) of merchantable tree products were sold in FY 2015, with a total value of \$88,900. About 11,500 CCF were removed, with a total value of \$70,300. The difference between the volume sold and the volume removed is due to timber contracts spanning several years. If this material were all converted to cords it would amount to about 13,000 cords sold and 14,000 cords removed. The volume sold and removed includes timber sales and over-the-counter paid fuelwood permits. Approximately 1,300 paid permits for 2900 CCF and 380 free use permits for 1200 CCF of fuelwood were issued in FY 2015.

Additionally, 1100 acres of pine forest and 300 acres of juniper were treated with restoration prescriptions in FY 2015.

Christmas tree permits were issued from the Payson and Pleasant Valley Ranger Districts. A total of 643 Christmas tree permits worth \$9,645 were sold in FY 2015 (December 2014).



Photographs of Leo Grove before (left) and after (right) restoration treatment

Transportation Management

The Tonto NF currently provides about 450 miles of roads designed for passenger vehicles and over 3,200 miles designed for high clearance vehicles. Annual road maintenance needs were met by using Forest Service staff, county maintenance staff, and local contractors. The forest was able to accomplish road maintenance work that provided for user safety and enjoyment and protection of natural resources.

The forest also continued its efforts to comply with the Travel Management Rule in FY 2015. On July 3, 2014, the forest published a notice of availability of the draft EIS in the Federal Register. Over 1,340 postcards and 1,680 emails were sent out. Comments on the draft EIS were accepted until September 17, 2014. Approximately 2,500 response letters, emails, and faxes were received on the draft EIS. Of these, only 85 were unique submissions; the rest were form letters generated by environmental groups. The final EIS and draft record of decision is anticipated to be released in June 2016.

Visibility

Monitoring for visibility in Class 1 areas is ongoing. The forest monitors visibility through the Interagency Monitoring of Protected Environments (IMPROVE) network using monitors located in or adjacent to forest lands. The monitors detect aerosol particles in the air, which scatter light and cause a “hazy” effect in the air.

Goals for regional visibility are to meet or exceed baseline conditions by 2054. Monitoring continues to show that aerosol particles in the Sierra Ancha Wilderness and the Superstition Wilderness are decreasing and therefore, visibility is improving.

Watersheds

Watershed condition assessment for the Tonto NF was completed for all hydrologic unit code (HUC)-12 subwatersheds using the Watershed Condition Classification Technical Guide (USFS, 2011). The assessment process rated each watershed on the basis of twelve watershed condition indicators and resulted in an assignment of each watershed into one of three condition classes:

Class 1 = Functioning Properly,

Class 2 = Functioning at Risk,

Class 3 = Impaired Function.

Watershed condition on the Forest Service managed lands within HUC12 watersheds was rated as functioning properly on 19 watersheds, functioning at risk on 122 watersheds, and impaired function on 37 watersheds.



One watershed restoration action plan was completed for Camp Creek that identifies projects needed to improve watershed condition in this watershed. Implementation of this plan began in FY 2012 and continued in FY 2015 with decommissioning of unauthorized and/or un-inventoried motorized routes, removal of nonnative invasive species in the Camp Creek summer homes area and in Camp Creek, and installation of gates to improve access into OHV use areas in the watershed. Unauthorized routes were also removed in the Bulldog Canyon Permit area in FY 2015 Watershed Restoration Action Plans were also started for the Weber Creek and East Verde River Headwaters watersheds.

Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers

Wilderness comprises approximately 20 percent of the Tonto NF. The forest contains eight wilderness areas consisting of 589,300 acres of rugged backcountry with opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and where solitude may be found. Approximately 3,000,000 visitors to the Tonto NF enjoy dispersed recreation and over 150,000 enjoy visiting wilderness.

In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, the Tonto NF participated in the Wilderness Stewardship Challenge. This required the Tonto NF to meet baseline management standards on 10 stewardship elements. The challenge was completed in 2014 and all Tonto NF wilderness areas passed with scores over the minimum required 60%. The next phase is wilderness stewardship performance monitoring, which is intended to improve conditions beyond the minimum stewardship standards that were met by the Wilderness Stewardship Challenge. Each wilderness has a set of mandatory monitoring variables and a set of variables specific to individual wilderness needs.

The Salt River Canyon Wilderness Rafting program is running smoothly. The permit system and random drawings are administered online through a private vendor. Up to four permits are issued for each day of the Permitted season, which runs from March 1 through May 15. Four priority permitted river outfitters offer commercial trips ranging from one to five days on the river. During river season, river rangers actively patrol the Upper Salt River ensuring leave-no-trace compliance by private and commercially guided trips.

Portions of Fossil Creek and Verde Wild and Scenic Rivers flow through the Tonto NF. The Coconino National Forest is the lead management organization of the Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River corridor for both national forests to protect and enhance outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing conditions. The scenic river segment of the Verde Wild and Scenic River spans the Coconino NF, Prescott NF and Tonto NF. The Prescott NF is the lead national forest for management of the Verde Wild and Scenic River corridor to protect and enhance outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing conditions within the corridor.



References Cited

U.S. Forest Service. (1985). *Tonto National Forest Plan* (Southwestern Region). Phoenix, AZ, Tonto National Forest.

U.S. Forest Service. (2008). Tonto National Forest, National Visitor Use Monitoring Report.

U.S. Forest Service. (2011). Watershed Condition Classification Technical Guide FS-978.

Appendix A: Amendments to the Forest Plan

The *National Forest Management Act of 1976* requires that Forest Land and Resource Management Plans be revised after 15 years. The Tonto National Forest Plan was approved by the Regional Forester in October 1985. Since its approval, the Plan has been amended 28 times as follows:

Amendment 1: August 1988: Allows State of Arizona to install and operate transceiver on Hutton Peak.

Amendment 2: August 1988: Corrects test reference to Table 3 & 4 and provides capacity for jeep tours.

Amendment 3: August 1988: Expands Forest-wide prescriptions, Standards and Guidelines (S&G's), in accordance with the court settlement of litigation – Save the Jemez/State of New Mexico vs. Forest Service.

Amendment 4: August 1988: Corrects text reference to Table 3 & 4 and allows commercial rafting on Tonto Creek from Gisela to 76 Ranch (July 1- November 30) and 76 Ranch to Gun Creek (yearlong).

Amendment 5: August 1988: Moves construction of Haigler Creek Campground from 2nd period to 1st period.

Amendment 6: August 1988: Allows rafting on sections of the Verde River.

Amendment 7: May 1990: References Wilderness Opportunity Spectrum and Wilderness Management Plans.

Amendment 8: October 1990: Allows tour boat operations on Saguaro and Canyon lakes.

Amendment 9: November 1990: Increases river rafting allocations on the Upper Salt River.

Amendment 10: April 1991: Adds reforestation acres for rehabilitation of the Dude Fire.

Amendment 11: April 1991: Designates Crouch Mesa as an administrative electronic site and allows installation and operation of solar-powered microwave repeater.

Amendment 12: April 1991: Designates New River Mesa as an administrative electronic site and allows installation and operation of solar-powered microwave repeater.

Amendment 13: August 1991: Amends outfitter/guide allocations in Management Area (MA) 1E, including increases in rafting allocations on the lower Verde River below Horseshoe and Bartlett reservoirs.

Amendment 14: August 1991: Amends outfitter-guide allocations in MA 3F.

Amendment 15: January 1992: Classifies recreation residences at Diamond Point, Ellison Creek, Thompson Draw, and Washington Park as base for exchange.

Amendment 16: July 1992: Modifies the number of commercial outfitter-guide permits available in MA 2A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 6B, 6D, and 6I (Superstition and Four Peaks wildernesses).

Amendment 17: February 1993: Modifies the number of commercial outfitter-guide permits available in MA 5A, 5C, and 6H (Sierra Ancha and Salome wildernesses).

Amendment 18: June 1993: Modifies the number of commercial outfitter-guide permits available in MA 1B, 1C, 1D, 3A, 4B (west ½ Mazatal Wilderness) and 4C and 5B (Hellsgate Wilderness).

Amendment 19: March 1994: Changes designation of Buckhorn Mountain and Haufer Wash Research National Areas from proposed to existing.

Amendment 20: May 1995: Modifies outfitter-guide permit allocations for MA 1F, 2D, 2F, 3F, 4D, 4F, 5D, 5E, 5G, 6C, and 6F, and minor housekeeping correction for recreation and residence areas located in 1F, 2D, 4D, and 6F.

Amendment 21: May 1995: Adds Standards and Guidelines pertaining to cave resource management and housekeeping consolidation of S&G's pertaining to cultural resources.

Amendment 22: June 1995: Adds Standards and Guidelines pertaining to management of Mexican spotted owl, goshawk, and old-growth habitats.

Amendment 23: June 1997: Allows installation and operation of a microwave repeater on Pinto Mesa for the telephone system serving the Rockhouse Community.

Amendment 24: June 2004: Incorporates the Verde Wild and Scenic River *Comprehensive River Management Plan* into the Forest Plan.

Amendment 25: April 2007: Updates present fire management language to be in compliance with the 2001 *National Fire Plan* and 2005 Wildland Fire implementing procedures, which allows the use of wildland fire as a management tool.

Amendment 26: January 2009: Designation of Energy Corridors in 11 Western States.

Amendment 27: July 2009: Amends plan language to make Camp Creek Recreation Residence consistent with plan direction for riparian condition, percent ground cover, and roads location.

Amendment 28: January 2013: Amends outfitter-guide service day allocations to create a Total Service Days allocation by activity and management area, remove allocations for the number of permits by activity for each management area, and remove allocations for the maximum number of service days per permit.

On May 3, 2011 the Tonto National Forest Plan Glossary was updated to include recent changes in fire management terminology. None of the corrections made any changes to the intent of existing Forest Plan direction or required a forest plan amendment.