

Black Range Ranger District – Gila NF

FINAL Inventory Map Identifying Lands with Potential Wilderness Characteristics

This is only Step 1 of a required 4-step process identifying and evaluating lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and determine whether to recommend any of the evaluated lands to Congress for wilderness designation. **Congress reserves the authority to designate wilderness through legislation.**

The purpose of the Inventory was to efficiently, effectively, and transparently narrow down and identify all lands in the plan area that may have wilderness characteristics as defined in the [Wilderness Act](#). Draft Inventory maps were made available earlier for public review and feedback. The FINAL Inventory Maps will include all National Forest System areas that are identified to move on to the next step of the process, which is the evaluation of the inventoried lands. This does not mean that all areas on the Inventory map will be proposed or managed as Wilderness, and in fact many lands on the inventory map will likely be removed from further consideration in the later steps of the process.

[Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 Chapter 70](#) provides criteria for lands to be included in the Inventory. Generally, these are:

1. Areas do not contain any roads Forest Service maintenance level 2 or higher;
2. Areas do not contain any substantially noticeable improvements
3. Areas are greater than 5,000 acres, or of a size to be practicable to manage as wilderness

The [Inventory Process for Identifying Lands with Potential Wilderness Characteristics Final Process Paper](#) outlines in detail the process employed to accomplish the Inventory. This process paper was developed with input and feedback from stakeholders during community and technical meetings and draft review periods.

NOTICE:

Lands shown on this preliminary series of Inventory maps do not imply designation or convey or require a particular kind of management, and inclusion or removal of any of these lands will continue to be open to consideration throughout the process until the Forest Supervisor signs the Record of Decision for the Forest Plan EIS. Copies of the FINAL Inventory Maps will be made available in both electronic and hardcopy form upon request (email gilaplan@fs.fed.us or call 575-388-8280).

For more information on the Plan Revision Process, including the Inventory and Evaluation for Wilderness Characteristics Process, please visit the [Gila Forest Plan Revision webpage](#).

