

Forest Plan

Monitoring and Inventory Report

Tonto National Forest

Fiscal Year 2013

United States Forest Service

Southwestern Region

July 2014



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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 its easy access for intensive day-use activities, as well as rugged backcountry areas that provide many opportunities for challenge and solitude, 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).

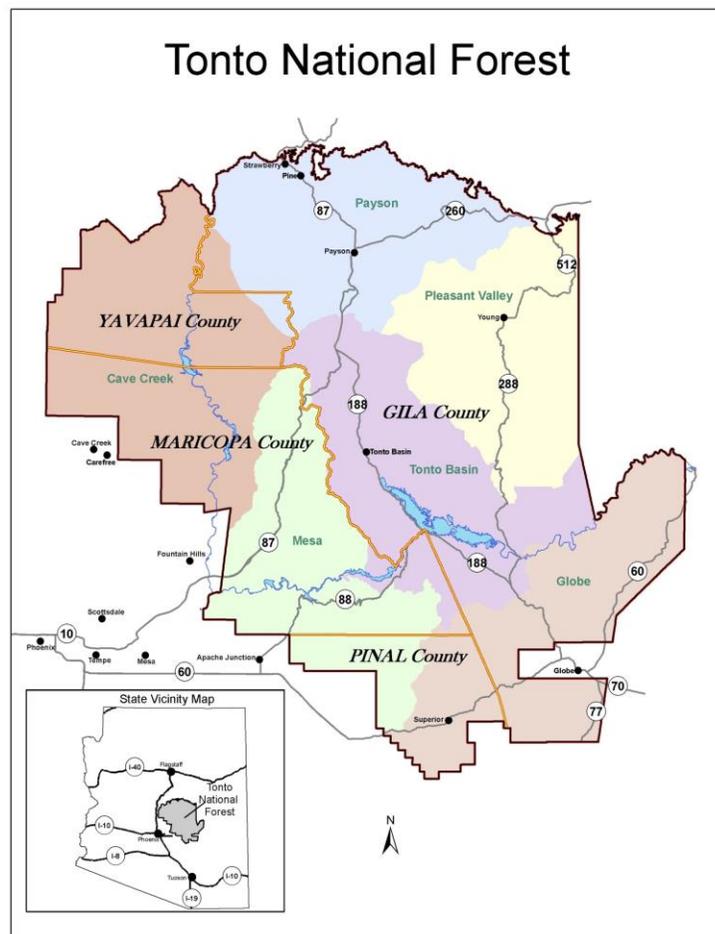


Figure 1. Tonto National Forest

The Cave Creek Ranger District encompasses 570,000 acres, transitioning from arid Sonoran Desert in the southern portion, through chaparral vegetation, to ponderosa pine in the northern portion. 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 the large metropolitan 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. Also included is over 250,000 acres of undeveloped lands used by a variety of forest visitors for dispersed recreation.

The close proximity of the Payson Ranger District to the local populations makes it easy to 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 the ranger district.

Pleasant Valley Ranger District encompasses the unincorporated town of Young, whose population varies from 500 to 800 seasonally, and the smaller communities of Colcord Estates and Ponderosa Springs. All three communities have year around populations, but also have many vacation second homes. The Canyon Creek area, where there are developed campgrounds and easy access to SR 260, has the highest concentration of elk within the ranger district.

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. The land, forests, lakes, streams, fish, and wildlife provide places to recreate, food sustenance, and fuel the engines of our economic activities. Managed for today’s needs without compromising the needs of future generations, the Tonto NF provides for a full spectrum of uses. When a forest is managed properly, it can provide diversified value for a variety of habitats for wildlife, numerous recreational opportunities, scenic landscapes, jobs which help support a rural lifestyle, clean air, stable soil, high quality water, and wood products which we need daily, and healthy forests for the future.

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, which guides all resource management activities on the Forest.

There was one amendment to the Forest Plan in fiscal year 2013. The amendment amended outfitter-guide service day allocations to create a Total Service Days allocation by activity and management area; it removed allocations for the number of permits by activity for each management area; and removed allocations for the maximum number of service days per permit. Until the Forest Plan goes through a revision process, 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 at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto/projects>.

Accomplishments made in achieving Forest Plan goals and objectives are contained in report. 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 FY 2013 Monitoring and Inventory

Activity	Number Accomplished
1) New Properties Inventoried	60
2) New Interpretive Project	0
3) New Outreach Projects	11 projects
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 2013 and a number of public outreach presentation and site tours. Fiscal Year 2013 also saw the beginning of work on three new nominations to the National Register of Historic Places: The Oak Flat and Fossil Creek Traditional Cultural Properties and the historic Pinal Townsite.

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 species (T&E).



The Forest's status report of 28 Management Indicator Species (MIS) indicates that population trends of 25 species are stable and 3 are in decline. The Forest coordinates with the Arizona Game & Fish Department (AZGFD), which monitors game species population and trends. Several of these are also MIS species, including elk and turkey. These populations statewide continue to increase. Habitat renovations were completed this year by the Forest and included 1) routine maintenance at Pieper Hatchery Spring and Ellison Tributary, 2) silt fence installation in Cabin Draw, and 3) juniper removal to increase water flows to a drainage surrounding Cabin Draw

The Tonto NF is host to 79 threatened, endangered, and/or sensitive species. Threatened and endangered species are officially designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, because the viability or continuation of the species' population is at risk. 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. 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 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 seven threatened and endangered fish species on the Tonto NF, including desert pupfish, Colorado pike minnow, razorback sucker, and Gila topminnow. There are an additional two sensitive fish species. In FY 2011, five miles of stream habitat were restored for threatened and endangered, or sensitive fish at Lime Creek in the Cave Creek Ranger District. The stream barrier installed continues to restrict upstream movement of fish from Horseshoe Reservoir.

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 2013 on the Payson & Pleasant Valley ranger districts. Observations of the species were found on both districts.



Monitoring of known locations of Mexican spotted owl, a federally threatened species, and Northern goshawk, a Forest sensitive, occurred on the Payson and Pleasant Valley ranger districts in 2013. Occupancy was identified in some areas on both districts.

Insect & Disease

Annual insect and disease aerial detection surveys, conducted by the Rocky Mountain Research Station, showed that bark beetle activity increased on the Tonto NF for the third year in a row. Acres of ponderosa pine impacted by bark beetles increased from 1,673 acres in 2012 to 4,241 acres in 2013. As in previous years most of the bark beetle-caused tree mortality was seen around the Sierra Ancha Wilderness on the Pleasant Valley Ranger District and on the Pinal Mountains on the Globe Ranger District. Douglas-fir beetle-caused tree mortality increased to nearly 200 acres, the highest level it has been over the past seven years. Douglas-fir beetle-caused tree mortality was mapped along the Mogollon Rim and in the Mazatzal Mountains.



The level of detected aspen damage decreased on the Tonto NF in 2013. Only fifteen acres of aspen defoliation were mapped around Pinal Peak, down from 265 acres in 2012. Mixed-conifer defoliation was detected on twenty-six acres in the same general area

northwest of Pinal Peak. This defoliation may be caused by Douglas-fir tussock moth. Trapping data for Douglas-fir tussock moth at the Pinal Mountain locations indicate an increasing population.

Noxious Weeds

The Tonto National Forest's invasive plant management program is composed of three basic components: education, control, and prevention.

Education

Education includes reaching out to our partners and the public to raise awareness of the issue of invasive species, how to prevent their spread, and how to control them.

The Forest began working with the Las Sendas community in FY 2011 and the partnership continued in 2013. This community abuts the Forest just south of the Lower Salt River recreation area. Community members had adopted a trail on the Forest, and contacted the Forest's Noxious Weed Program Manager to assess if there were weeds on the trail they should remove. A working relationship between the community and the Forest has evolved now, with a jointly-created PowerPoint that explains the hazards of noxious weeds and methods to effectively control them. This presentation will be used by community members to educate other Homeowner Associations for other communities in the vicinity of the greater Phoenix metropolitan area/Forest interface.



Young volunteer preparing to dig resinbush plant at Tonto Basin

The Forest has also begun working with the Town of Superior's Public Works Department to educate them on the proper use of herbicides and how to identify noxious weeds that occupy sites throughout the town. The Forest and the Town of Superior jointly applied for a grant in 2010, so that the town would be able to acquire a mobile ground sprayer and also could contract to complete NEPA to enable them to be eligible for federal grant funds to control their weeds in the future. Of the \$47,800 requested, the southern Arizona counties RAC grant team awarded \$15,500 for this project. The project continued on successfully in FY2013.

Control

A considerable amount of Supervisor's Office and District Biologist's time was spent in formally consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the Forest's Environmental Assessment for Integrated Management of Noxious or Invasive Plants.

The Forest sponsored several weed control volunteer days on the Globe and Mesa Ranger Districts. Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona, ASU, Starbucks, and Logan Simpson Design were groups who participated in these events.

Prevention

The Forest works actively with ADOT and Maricopa County Department of Transportation to prevent weed spread during highway construction and maintenance activities.

ADOT pays the salary for the Forest's Noxious Weed Program Manager to survey and provide their contractor with a weed map for each highway project. ADOT does not allow contractors to begin work until all noxious weeds in the project area have been controlled. The contractor is obligated to continue weed control throughout the landscape establishment phase of each highway project.



Range

As one of many multiple uses, the Forest administers over two million National Forest System acres in 95 active livestock grazing allotments. In FY 2013 an estimated 775,000 acres of rangeland were evaluated and administered to standard across the Forest. All range allotments with Threatened and/or Endangered species were monitored for compliance with *Endangered Species Act Section 7* consultation agreements and were found to be in compliance.



Outdoor Arizona Volunteer Day at Gonzales Pass

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 NEPA. Monitoring was accomplished by forest personnel, volunteers, and permittee contractors. 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, such as 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 in not in a declining trend.

Livestock numbers increased with authorized use stocking level of 15,193 head of livestock, which is a twenty-four percent increase over 2012. In response to the ongoing drought, however, authorized numbers for 2013 were still well 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	6,552 acres
Grazing Allotment Administered to Standard	775,000 acres
Authorized Livestock Numbers	15,193 head
NEPA Documents for Grazing Decisions	2

Recreation

The Tonto National Forest 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 tend to enjoy camping, fishing, water skiing, canoeing, and kayaking, viewing scenery, and relaxing. A network of developed boat ramps through a partnership with Arizona Game and Fish Department offer boating access to the lakes. Other amenities at developed facilities may include bathrooms with running water, picnic areas with grills and 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 National Forest provides opportunities for dispersed recreation and wilderness recreation. OHV driving is one of the most popular activities on the Tonto National Forest outside of wilderness. 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 shoot trophy elk and desert bighorn sheep, as well as quail, bear, deer, javelina, rabbit, and other popular game animals. The Arizona Game and 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: maintaining and enhancing visual resource values by emphasizing recreation resource management, which will increase 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. In addition, emphasize visual quality objectives in all resource planning and management activities.

Local issues and concerns established in the Forest Plan are demand for developed recreation opportunity exceeds supply and the quality of dispersed recreation opportunities is declining. In addition, there is an opportunity to meet the needs of handicapped visitors during construction and reconstruction of recreation sites.

Currently the Forest is re-inventorying all lands to determine Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS). Upon its completion in FY 2014, the new inventory will replace the outdated 1985 version.

The Forest is inventorying all lands on the Forest utilizing the new Scenery Management System (SMS), which will be completed in FY 2014. The new SMS inventory will replace the Forest Visual Resource Inventory from 1985.

Riparian Condition

The Forest Plan is clear in its intent regarding the importance and management for riparian areas, including maintaining and improving wildlife and/or aquatic species habitat and enhancing riparian ecosystems by improved management.

As part of project level analysis in 2013, 20 stream reaches were assessed for condition and function using the Tonto Stream Assessment method (Mason & Grove, 1999). Generally, riparian area management has improved, and there is an increased awareness of riparian area management needs.

Riparian area photo-point program remains the primary effectiveness monitoring occurring on the Forest. There were 101 permanent photo points re-photographed in 2013.

Timber & Other Forest Products

Over 14,200 CCF (14,200 hundred cubic feet or 1,420,000 cubic feet) of merchantable tree products were sold from the Forest in FY 2013, with a total value of \$129,500. About 4,900 CCF were removed, with a total value of \$54,500. The numbers differ because some timber sale contracts span several years. If this material were all converted to cords it would amount to about 18,000 cords sold and 6,000 cords removed. The volume sold and removed includes timber sales and over-the-counter paid fuelwood permits. The number of fuelwood permits issues stayed about the same as in FY 2012. About 1,200 paid permits and 350 free use permits for fuelwood were issued in FY 2013.

Christmas tree permits were issued from the Payson and Pleasant Valley ranger districts. A total of 566 Christmas tree permits worth \$8,490 were sold in FY 2013.

The Tonto NF's first stewardship project, Ponderosa Timber Sale Stewardship, continued operations in FY 2013. The Contractor was unable to complete the contract and focused on cleaning up areas already started. A total of 250 acres were treated by the Stewardship Contract. Fuels treatment was also accomplished on about 300 acres of the Bearhide Timber Sale as the logging contractor removed chipped material. Bearhide Timber Sale was completed in FY13.



Bearhide Timber Sale before Treatment



Bearhide Timber Sale after 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 2013. On February 1, 2013 the Tonto NF released a Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) in the Federal Register. An updated proposed action was scoped to over 3,000 stakeholders. The draft EIS is anticipated to be released for comment in mid-2014.

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 IMPROVE network is operated by University of California at Davis Crocker Nuclear Laboratory. 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 HUC6 watersheds using the Watershed Condition Classification Technical Guide (U.S.F.S., 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-only portion of HUC6 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 2013 with decommissioning of unauthorized uninventoried motorized routes in the watershed.

Five watersheds were selected as priority watersheds for focusing improvement efforts. These include:

- Lower Fossil Creek – based on water quality impacts from recreational use
- Horton Creek-Tonto Creek – based on impaired water body status
- Parallel Canyon – Cherry Creek – based on fire regime condition class



- Middle Spring Creek – based on nonnative fish species
- Camp Creek- based on OHV impacts

In FY 2013 an assessment of each watershed was completed to quantify the changes needed to improve each watershed (not rated as functioning properly) at least one condition class. Changes or additions to the priority list will be made following interdisciplinary meetings with the districts.

The Southwest region of the Forest Service is currently conducting a Terrestrial Ecosystem Unit Inventory (TEUI) of the Tonto National Forest. Information provided in this survey will be valuable for assisting with management of the Forest. This survey is expected to be completed in the next year.

Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers

Eight wilderness areas on the Tonto NF comprise more than 589,300 acres of rugged backcountry where opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude may be found. Wilderness comprises approximately 20 percent of the Forest. Approximately 3,000,000 visitors to the Tonto NF enjoy dispersed recreation and over 150,000 enjoy visiting wilderness.

The Tonto NF continues towards meeting the Wilderness Stewardship Challenge set forth by Chief Bosworth in 2004. The Challenge calls for each wilderness area administered by the Forest to meet a score of sixty based on points awarded in ten categories. These include fire plans, education plans, solitude, recreation site surveys, and invasive species surveys. Between fiscal year 2012 and 2013, the Tonto improved the overall scores of the wilderness areas and met the challenge in six of the seven wilderness areas managed by the forest. The forest is on track to exceed the wilderness challenge goals by October of 2014.



The Salt River Canyon Wilderness Rafting program is running smoothly with a new permit system and lottery administered online through a private vendor. Lottery permits are issued for private four-day trips. Four priority permitted river outfitters offer commercial trips on the river from March through April. During river season, river rangers actively patrol the Salt River ensuring leave-no-trace compliance by private and commercially guided trips.

Portions of the Verde Wild and Scenic River and Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River flow through the Tonto NF. The Forest works cooperatively with the Coconino and Prescott national forests to protect and enhance outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing conditions within these river corridors. River rangers assigned to the Coconino National Forest regularly patrol the Verde River, cleaning up campsites and making visitor contacts.

References Cited

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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 Hauffer 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.