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Southwestern
Region

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Coronado National Forest

Draft Winchester Potential Wilderness Area Evaluation Report PW-03-05-D4-001

This draft potential wilderness evaluation report is divided into three parts: capability, availability, and need. Capability and availability are intended to be objective evaluations of existing conditions in the Winchester Potential Wilderness Area.

The most important area of focus for public comment is the “need” evaluation. The intent of this part of the evaluation is to consider if this area of the Winchester Mountains fits into the National Wilderness Preservation System at the regional level. This report offers data that helps the Forest Service understand different sources that might generate need; ultimately, however, need for wilderness is generated by public demand. Therefore, public input is an essential component of this part of the wilderness evaluation.

We would like your feedback on this draft report - if we have missed an important detail or you would like to share your comments or other input, please contact us (our contact information can be found on page 11 of this report).

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Introduction

As part of the Land and Resource Management Plan (the Forest Plan) revision for the Coronado National Forest, the Forest Service has prepared this draft wilderness evaluation report for the Winchester Potential Wilderness Area (see Map 1).

Purpose

Completion of a potential wilderness inventory and evaluation is an essential step in the Forest Plan revision process. The Forest Service must evaluate all lands possessing wilderness characteristics for potential wilderness during Forest Plan revision. Wilderness is just one of many special area designations that the Forest Service will consider during Forest Plan revision, but it is one of only two special area evaluations that are mandatory. If an area is recommended for wilderness designation, then the revised Forest Plan will contain goals and objectives that protect its wilderness characteristics.

The Process

A wilderness evaluation begins with an inventory of potential wilderness, which includes areas of federal land over 5,000 acres, and then determines if those areas meet the definition of wilderness as defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964 (see Appendix A). Once a list of potential wilderness areas is created, each area is evaluated for capability, availability and need. These evaluation factors are described in more detail in this report in the introductions to each evaluation step and in Appendix A. The purpose of this report is to summarize the findings of the wilderness capability, availability and need evaluations based on the best available data.

The Coronado National Forest will use this report when making a preliminary administrative recommendation for wilderness or non-wilderness designation for the Winchester Potential Wilderness Area (Winchester PWA, the PWA). The Deciding Official's (the Regional Forester) recommendation will be documented in the final Forest Plan. Public comments on this issue will be accepted and considered throughout the Forest Plan revision process. If this area is recommended for wilderness, the recommendation will receive further review by the Chief of the Forest Service and the Secretary of Agriculture. If the Chief of the Forest Service intends to move forward with a wilderness recommendation, the Forest Service will complete a detailed analysis of the trade-offs in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, including further public review and comment. Ultimately, only Congress has the authority to make final decisions on wilderness designation.

Area Overview

Description

Size and Location: The Winchester Potential Wilderness Area (PWA) encompasses 6,928 acres. This PWA is located in the Winchester Mountains, which are part of the Safford Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest in southeastern Arizona (see Map 1 at the end of this document).

Vicinity, Surroundings and Access: The Winchester Potential Wilderness Area is located in Cochise County approximately 50 miles east of Tucson, Arizona within the Safford Ranger District in the Winchester Mountains. The Galiuro Wilderness Area, the Bureau of Land Management's Redfield Canyon Wilderness Area and the Muleshoe Ranch Cooperative Management Area are within close proximity to the PWA.

Most federal, state and private land uses surrounding the Winchester Mountains are generally rural and agricultural in nature. Because the Winchester Mountains are remote, other than the incorporated communities of Benson and Willcox along Interstate 10 (I-10), there are no incorporated or unincorporated communities nearby. I-10 connects the Tucson metropolitan area to Benson and Willcox, Arizona.

Ft. Grant Road (a county-maintained road) provides motorized access north from I-10 to County Line Road (a county-maintained road), which provides motorized access to Reiley Canyon Road (Forest Road 690). Reiley Canyon Road provides motorized access to National Forest System (NFS) lands in Reiley Canyon at the northern end of the Winchester Mountains. However, both County Line and Reiley Canyon Roads are gated and locked in several locations on private land outside the proclaimed Forest boundary and are therefore unavailable for access to NFS lands by the general public.

Sunset Loop Road (Graham County-maintained road) provides motorized access to Ash Creek Road (Forest Road 650), which provides motorized access to the Ash/Mesa Road (Forest Road 659) and NFS lands within the Galiuro Mountains. Ash/Mesa Road is the primary access route across NFS lands in the Galiuro Mountains and State Trust lands to the western side of the Winchester Mountain. The Arizona Game and Fish Department has a public right-of-way for the portion of Ash/Mesa Road across State Trust land from the Galiuro Mountains to the Winchester Mountains and Brushy Well Road (Forest Road 6618). Ash/Mesa Road also provides access for high-clearance 4-wheel-drive vehicles from Brushy Well Road across NFS and State Trust lands to the junction of Pine Ridge Road (Forest Road 6620) and N-O Canyon Road (Forest Road 683).

Brushy Well Road provides access for high-clearance 4-wheel drive vehicles from Ash/Mesa Road to Rockhouse Canyon Road (NFSR 6619). Rockhouse Canyon Road provides motorized access across NFS lands from Brushy Well Road to Pine Ridge Road (Forest Road 6620) and into Rockhouse Canyon to Poer Spring (approximately one mile east of the PWA). Pine Ridge Road provides motorized access to Juniper Tank Road (Forest Road 6620B). Juniper Tank Road

provides access for high-clearance 4-wheel drive vehicles across NFS lands to Juniper Tank, approximately 1.6 miles east of the PWA.

N-O Canyon Road (Forest Road 683) is a primary access route into NFS lands on the western side of the Winchester Mountain. N-O Canyon Road provides access for high-clearance 4-wheel-drive vehicles to Javelina Canyon Road (Forest Road 6628) and to the junction with Ash/Mesa Road and Pine Ridge Road. Javelina Canyon Road provides access for high-clearance 4-wheel-drive vehicles across State Trust lands to the proclaimed National Forest boundary on the west side of the Winchester Mountains. Javelina Canyon Road continues across State Trust lands within the proclaimed National Forest boundary to an area near Javelina Spring in Javelina Canyon on State Trust lands. Javelina Canyon Road ends approximately 300 feet from NFS lands and three-quarters of a mile from the PWA. An Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) "Recreational Use Permit" is required to gain access to State Trust land or to other lands beyond State Trust land (including NFS lands) where no public right-of-way exists. An ASLD "Recreational Use Permit" is not needed when hunting or fishing in-season, but all other recreational activities require an ASLD "Recreational Use Permit."

Although there is physical motorized road access into the Winchester Mountains, there is no permanent legal access to the NFS lands within the proclaimed National Forest System boundary for the entire mountain range. It is unknown whether there is any right-of-way for public access via those portions of roadway across the State Trust and private lands. There are also no known existing motorized road and non-motorized trail access to or through the PWA. The closest motorized road access is three-quarters of a mile from the PWA in Javelina Canyon. Permanent legal public motorized road and non-motorized trail access to the NFS lands as well as the PWA in the Winchester Mountains will continue to be a major issue.

Geography & Topography: Situated in the central portion of the Winchester Mountains, the Winchester Potential Wilderness Area (PWA) straddles the crest of the range, extending from Reiley Peak in the north to the headwaters of Davis Canyon in the south. Covering an area of 6,928 acres, it rises from a low point of approximately 5,000 feet above sea level in Reiley and Rose Canyons to a maximum elevation of 7,631 feet at Reiley Peak.

The northwest-trending Winchester Mountains are typical of the Mexican Highlands Sub-province of the Southern Basin and Range Province in southeastern Arizona. Separated from the Galiuro Range to northwest by a flat plateau known as the Mesas, the Winchester Range is bounded on the northeast by Sulphur Springs Valley and on the southwest by Allen Flat. The Tertiary stratigraphic section of this range is characterized by a basal unit of uncemented conglomeratic sediments of Oligocene age, which is succeeded by up to 1,800 feet of Miocene volcanic rocks. The only pre-Tertiary rocks in the Winchester Mountains are limited exposures of Precambrian granite, Precambrian and early Paleozoic quartzite and Paleozoic limestone which occur in a small erosional window developed in the overlying Tertiary cover at the southeast end of the range.

Vegetation: Due to steep topography, the vegetation consists largely of unmodified pinyon, juniper and evergreen oak woodland communities. Species include Madrean evergreen oaks

such as Arizona white oak (*Quercus arizonica*), Emory oak (*Quercus emoryi*), gray oak (*Quercus grisea*), Mexican blue oak (*Quercus oblongifolia*) and Toumey oak (*Quercus toumeyi*). Other tree species [including pinyon pines (*Pinus cembroides* and *Pinus monophylla*), Chihuahua pine (*Pinus leiophylla*), Arizona cypress (*Cupressus arizonica*) and alligator juniper (*Juniperus deppeana*)] and interior chaparral species [including manzanita spp. (*Arctostaphylos* spp.), crucifixion thorn (*Canotia holacantha*), desert ceanothus (*Ceanothus greggii*), mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*), little-leaved mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus intricatus*), antelope bushes (*Purshia* spp.), silktassles (*Garrya* spp.), Stansbury cliffrose (*Purshia stansburiana*), shrub live oak (*Quercus turbinella*) and sumacs (*Rhus* spp.)] may be present, but do not co-dominate. The ground cover is dominated by warm-season grasses such as threeawns (*Aristida* spp.), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), Rothrock grama (*Bouteloua rothrockii*), Arizona cottontop (*Digitaria californica*), plains lovegrass (*Eragrostis intermedia*), curly-mesquite (*Hilaria belangeri*), green sprangletop (*Leptochloa dubia*), muhly grasses (*Muhlenbergia* spp.), or Texas bluestem (*Schizachyrium cirratum*). Overstory canopy is less than 20% in about 60% of the community. Fire suppression has allowed for more dense stands than may have been present historically.

Current Uses

Recreation: Recreation uses include dispersed camping and hunting. There are no system trails in this area. Most of the area is Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class Primitive, with smaller areas of Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized and Semi-Primitive Motorized.

Wildlife, Fish, and Rare Plants: During the Forest Plan Revision process the Coronado National Forest developed a list of species to be evaluated for potential risks to population viability. In the Winchester Mountains, there are 34 species on the viability evaluation list including three Threatened or Endangered species (see Appendix B). None of the species are endemics, and all are more widespread across the Coronado NF. However, because of the sampling artifact, this area should be regarded as an understudied mountain range that has some physical attributes (such as talus fields) but little elevational spread or water, factors that lend themselves to biological diversity and endemism.

Range: There are four grazing allotments within the Winchester Potential Wilderness Area: Polecat, Oak Grove, Riley Peak and Rockhouse. All of these allotments are active with valid permitted uses. The range improvements within this PWA are fences, pipelines, and water developments.

Water: The watersheds represented are Willcox Playa (HUC 1505020100) and Hot Springs Canyon (HUC 1505020301). There are no known water uses within this Potential Wilderness Area. There is no known perennial water. No water quality data has been collected within this PWA.

Minerals: The most notable mineral occurrence in the Winchester Range is the Hearst mine, located near the southeastern end of the range. Located approximately eight miles from the Winchester PWA, the mineralization at this mine is characterized by erratic silver values, accompanied by minor amounts of gold, occurring within silicified limestone of Paleozoic age.

Although extensively developed as an underground operation during the 1890s, information about the early history of this operation is unavailable. The mine's only recorded production was approximately 260 tons of material, which was recovered from its waste dumps during 1924 for use as siliceous smelter flux. The remainder of the district's recorded ore production, amounting to 15 tons, was derived from small prospects containing erratic values of copper, lead, silver and gold associated with irregular quartz veins cutting Paleozoic limestone. No mineral occurrences are known to occur within the boundaries of the Winchester PWA and the absence of any indicators of mineralization, such as alteration within the middle Tertiary volcanic section, make the mineral potential of this area very low.

Heritage Resources: No previous archaeological research has been conducted in this Potential Wilderness Area and no archaeological sites have been recorded.

Fire: Current management calls for an Appropriate Management Response (AMR) to wildland fires, which includes the full spectrum of options, from aggressive initial attack to management to achieve resource objectives. Natural-caused fires may be allowed to burn in this area in order to restore and sustain ecological processes in fire-dependent ecosystems. Only one lightning-caused fire has occurred in this area within the last 10 years.

Wilderness Capability

Wilderness Capability describes the basic characteristics that make the area appropriate and valuable for wilderness designation, regardless of the area's availability or need. Five sets of factors are used to determine capability: naturalness, level of development, opportunities for solitude, special features and the ability of the Forest Service to manage the area as wilderness. The first four of these factors consider how the current conditions of the PWA fit the definition of wilderness. Manageability is slightly different because it evaluates features of the area that would make it more or less difficult to manage the area as wilderness. This also involves determining if there are possible mitigation measures that could potentially improve the manageability of the area without impacting wilderness character. Factors are rated as high, medium or low, based on the criteria shown in Appendix A.

Naturalness

The Winchester Potential Wilderness Area possesses a moderate degree of naturalness. The ruggedness of this PWA has allowed it to retain a semi-primitive setting. Diversity of vegetation within the PWA boundary is limited due to the small elevation change of the area and lack of unique or critical habitats. The area of the Winchester Mountains does not have perennial rivers or streams and there are no known water quality issues. Night skies can be clearly seen and light pollution is not evident. However, one feature that detracts from the area's wilderness capability is the presence of invasive, non-native Lehmann lovegrass throughout the area.

Undeveloped

The Winchester Potential Wilderness Area currently has permitted livestock grazing. The associated range developments create some evidence of human activity within the area.

Opportunities for Solitude

A person could find a short-term experience of solitude, serenity and self-reliance within this Potential Wilderness Area. The rugged topography of the area provides challenging recreation, but access is limited to the area. There are opportunities for hunting, hiking and backpacking. However, the small size of the area limits the opportunity for long backpacking trips.

Special Features

Panoramic views and rugged topography are the distinct features of this area. There is nothing unique or significant enough to warrant research or educational opportunities. The area has the potential for habitat for lesser long-nosed bat, and there are a few unique or rare plants and animals present.

Manageability

The Winchester Potential Wilderness Area is isolated with limited public access due to lack of rights-of-ways across the surrounding private land. This isolation limits the influence of activities on the surrounding land, but also limits the ability to access the area. There is some limited use of the area by ATV drivers. Given these conditions, this area holds some challenges in managing it for wilderness characteristics.

The Winchester Potential Wilderness Area overall was rated as medium for wilderness capability and medium for the ability of the Forest Service to manage the area as wilderness.

Availability for Wilderness

Availability criteria indicate the availability of a potential wilderness area for wilderness designation by describing other resource and land use potentials for the area. Availability examines the potential impact of designating an area as a wilderness to both the current and future land uses and activities. In essence, it is a summary of the trade-offs between wilderness and other uses. Factors are rated as high, medium or low based on the criteria shown in Appendix A.

In the Winchester Potential Wilderness Area, the current recreational uses could continue if the area was designated as wilderness. This PWA is in need of intense management for restoration of vegetation and wildlife habitat. Landscape-scale prescribed burning is needed to restore and maintain a healthy ecosystem and the watersheds within the area. The area is committed through permits for livestock grazing, which is compatible with wilderness. However, motorized equipment is needed to maintain existing water developments and pipelines. There are no known high-value mineral deposits within the area. The Winchester PWA is composed entirely of National Forest System lands, as is the adjacent land. The closest private land is approximately a half mile from the PWA boundary and could impact the wilderness character of the area.

The Winchester Potential Wilderness Area overall was rated low for availability.

Need for Wilderness

The evaluation criteria shown below indicate how this Potential Wilderness Area might fit into the National Wilderness Preservation System, which includes all of the wilderness areas in the United States. Need is considered at the regional level and must incorporate public participation. The criteria used to evaluate need include consideration of other wilderness and non-wilderness areas that provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation or preservation of certain ecosystems characteristics.

Wilderness and Non-wilderness Lands in the Vicinity

The Forest Service evaluated comparable public lands within a 100-mile radius of the Potential Wilderness Area, which is assumed to be approximately a day's drive. Within 100 miles of the Winchester Potential Wilderness Area, there are 26 designated wilderness areas totaling almost 1.5 million acres (see Table 1 below).

Within 100 miles of the Winchester Potential Wilderness Area there are 45 non-wilderness areas over 5,000 acres in size that are specially-designated federal or state public lands likely to offer a similar unconfined recreation experience. Of these areas, seven are wilderness study areas managed by Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service to protect wilderness

characteristics and that offer a primitive or semi-primitive recreation setting similar to that provided by wilderness. Other similar non-wilderness areas include Inventoried Roadless Areas on National Forest System Lands.

Table 1: Designated Wilderness Within 100 Miles of the Winchester PWA

Wilderness Area	Acres
Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness	19,700
Baboquivari Peak Wilderness	2,040
Bear Wallow Wilderness	11,080
Blue Range Primitive Area	166,731
Blue Range Wilderness	29,304
Chiricahua Wilderness	87,700
Chiricahua National Monument Wilderness	10,290
Coyote Mountains Wilderness	5,100
Dos Cabezas Mountains Wilderness	11,700
Fishhooks Wilderness	10,500
Galiuro Wilderness	76,317
Gila Wilderness	558,014
Miller Peak Wilderness	20,228
Mount Wrightson Wilderness	25,260
Needle's Eye Wilderness	8,760
North Santa Teresa Wilderness	5,800
Pajarita Wilderness	7,553
Peloncillo Mountains Wilderness	19,440
Pusch Ridge Wilderness	56,933
Redfield Canyon Wilderness	6,600
Rincon Mountain Wilderness	38,590
Saguaro Wilderness	70,905
Salt River Canyon Wilderness	32,101
Santa Teresa Wilderness	26,780
Superstition Wilderness	159,757
White Canyon Wilderness	5,790

Visitor Pressure

In order to consider the degree to which regional population centers are already served by wilderness, the evaluation looked at one metropolitan area (Tucson, Arizona) and three micropolitan areas (Nogales, Safford and Sierra Vista, Arizona) within 100 miles (a day's drive) of the Winchester Potential Wilderness Area. Tucson and Safford have access to 29 designated wilderness areas within 100 miles, Sierra Vista has 21 designated wilderness areas within 100 miles, and Nogales has 16 designated wilderness areas within 100 miles.

Tucson and Nogales both had an estimated population growth of 11% between 2000 and 2006, and Sierra Vista had an estimated population growth of 8% during that same time period (US Census 2007). Using the population data for 2006, it's estimated that Tucson had only 0.8 acre of designated wilderness per capita, Nogales had 10 acres of designated wilderness per capita, and Sierra Vista had 4 acres of designated wilderness per capita. The increasing population and

limited availability of wilderness opportunities suggests that the population trend of these three cities generates a need for more designated wilderness areas.

Unlike the other Arizona cities, the population of Safford, AZ is estimated to have declined 2% between 2000 and 2006 (US Census, 2006). In 2006, it's estimated that Safford had 34 acres of designated wilderness per capita. The declining population and larger availability of wilderness opportunities does not suggest that the population trend of Safford generates a need for more designated wilderness areas.

According to the 2008 National Visitor Use Monitoring Results from data collected in 2001 and 2007, visitation to wilderness areas on the Coronado National Forest dropped 1%. In 2001, annual visitation to designated wilderness areas was estimated at 528,190 visits, approximately 18 percent of all visits to the Forest. In 2007 the number of estimated visits was 488,500, approximately 17 percent of all visits to the Forest. Wilderness users on the Coronado NF, both in 2001 and 2007, are predominantly white males between the ages of 30 and 69. The majority of the individuals live in Pima County, mainly within the Tucson metropolitan area. It can be assumed that wilderness use on the Coronado NF will continue to remain at current levels and potentially increase in those areas where the trailheads are easily accessed.

Primitive Sanctuary for Plants and Wildlife

As part of the Forest Plan revision process, the Forest Service has developed a list of species that warrant consideration in the Forest Plan revision. Appendix B displays those species from this list that are known to occur in the Winchester Potential Wilderness Area. Though all of these species would benefit from reduced disturbance, none requires a primitive wilderness environment to survive.

Capacity of Established Wilderness Areas

There are eight existing wilderness areas and three wilderness study areas (WSA) on the Coronado National Forest. The wilderness areas and WSA range in size from 7,400 acres to 87,700 acres. Accessibility by motor vehicles ranges from easily accessible to remote, hard-to-access wilderness areas. Trail systems within wilderness areas range from extensive trail systems to very minimal systems. Visitor use is considered high in the wilderness areas adjacent to the Tucson metropolitan area and includes the Pusch Ridge and Mt. Wrightson Wilderness Areas. Encounters with other wilderness visitors in both areas are high. For these two areas there are limited management opportunities to accommodate additional use. The Coronado NF also has wilderness areas that are remote, difficult to access, and where visitor use is considered low. Here, additional demand could be accommodated without management changes.

Wilderness Areas with Similar Landform and Vegetation

Consideration was given to how the landform and ecological condition of the Winchester Potential Wilderness Area might be broadly similar to existing wilderness areas within the National Wilderness Preservation System. All designated wilderness areas in Arizona and New Mexico were compared using ecological sections and vegetation communities.

The Winchester Potential Wilderness Area is in the Basin and Range Section of the Chihuahuan Semi-Desert Province (McNab and Avers 1994). The Basin and Range Section encompasses 24,270 square miles, of which 749 square miles (approximately 3%) occur in 20 designated wilderness areas.

The Winchester Potential Wilderness Area includes seven of the nine major vegetation communities of the Coronado NF (see Table 2 below). Of these seven vegetation communities, the Winchester PWA would only contribute an additional 0.1% to wilderness in the following vegetations: Interior Chaparral and Madrean Encinal Woodland.

Table 2: Major Vegetation Communities of the Coronado National Forest and Winchester PWA

Major Vegetation Communities of Coronado NF	Acres within AZ and NM	Acres within Designated Wilderness in AZ and NM	Percent of Designated Wilderness in AZ and NM	Acres within Winchester PWA	Percent of Winchester PWA	Percent Addition of Winchester PWA to Wilderness
Desert Communities	30,049,409	2,957,920	9.8%	1,066	15.4%	0.0%
Interior Chaparral	3,007,982	347,373	11.5%	1,279	18.5%	0.1%
Madrean Encinal Woodland	5,881,883	429,389	7.3%	3,843	55.5%	0.1%
Madrean Pine Oak Woodland	1,401,126	198,467	14.2%	547	7.9%	0.0%
Mixed Conifer Forest	2,005,391	294,655	14.7%	53	0.8%	0.0%
Ponderosa Pine	8,697,795	729,664	8.4%	0	0.0%	0.0%
Riparian Areas	929,779	25,378	2.7%	54	0.8%	0.0%
Semi-desert Grasslands	23,886,097	289,792	1.2%	87	1.3%	0.0%
Spruce Fir Forest	831,285	134,548	16.2%	0	0.0%	0.0%
Grand Total	76,690,747	5,407,188		6,929		

Further evaluation and input from the public will determine if there is a need for recommending the Winchester Potential Wilderness Area as a new wilderness area.

Next Steps

The Forest Service will collect comments on the Winchester Potential Wilderness Area evaluation throughout the Plan revision process. Comments on this draft of the Wilderness Evaluation Report should be sent to the Coronado National Forest Supervisor's Office by April 30, 2010. Afterwards, these comments will be incorporated into the wilderness evaluation.

Please share your feedback or comments on this evaluation with us:

Phone: Erin Boyle, Assistant Forest Planner, (520) 388-8300

Fax: (520) 388-8305

E-Mail: coronado-plan@fs.fed.us

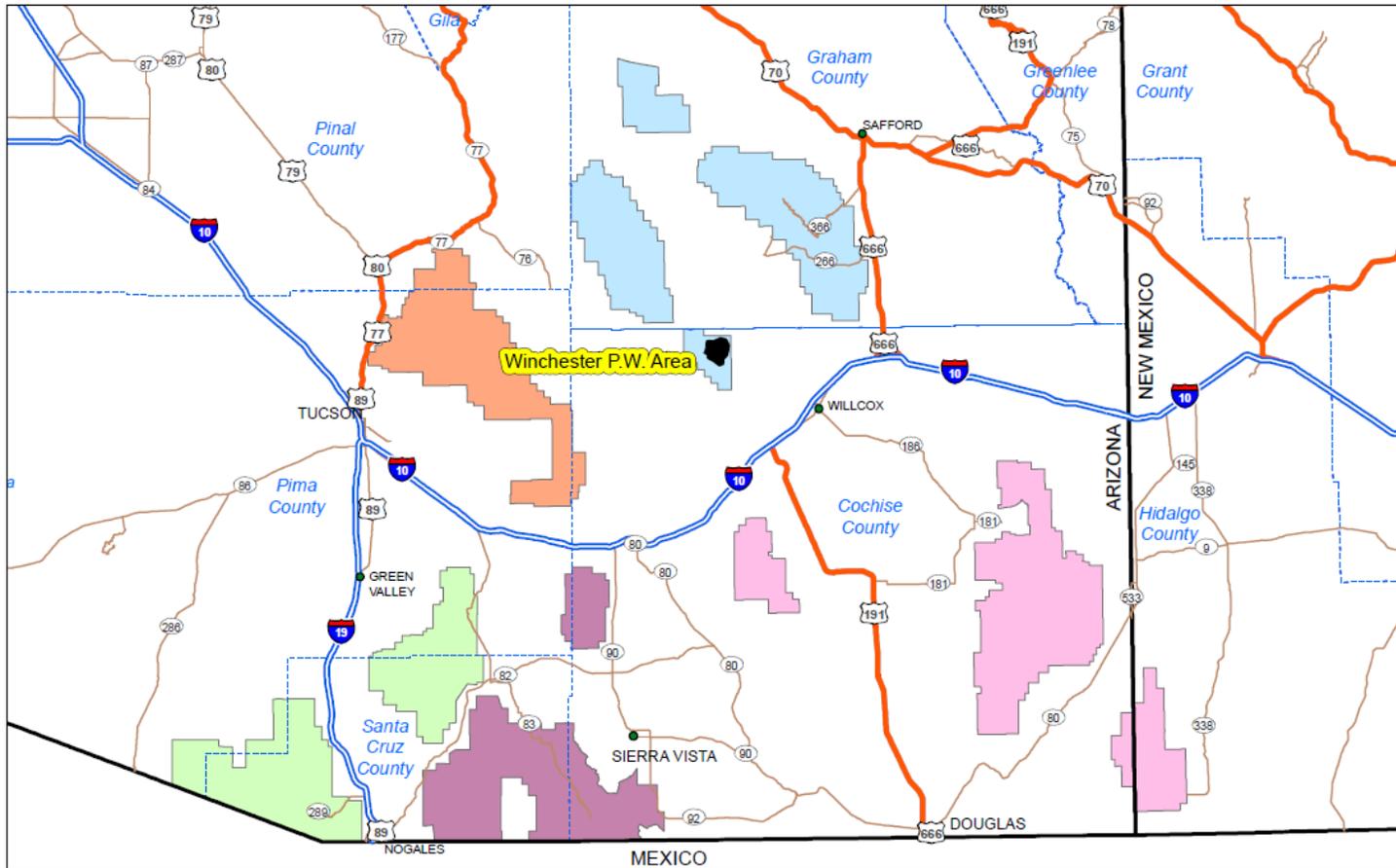
Mail: Coronado National Forest
Plan Revision Team
300 W Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701

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McNab, W. Henry and Peter E. Avers. Ecological Subregions of the United States: Section Descriptions. July 1994.

United States Census Bureau. Arizona QuickFacts. Website visited January 2009.
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/04000.html>

Map 1: Winchester Potential Wilderness Area Location Map



Legend

Coronado National Forest
 Ranger Districts

- Douglas Ranger District
- Nogales Ranger District
- Safford Ranger District
- Santa Catalina Ranger District
- Sierra Vista Ranger District

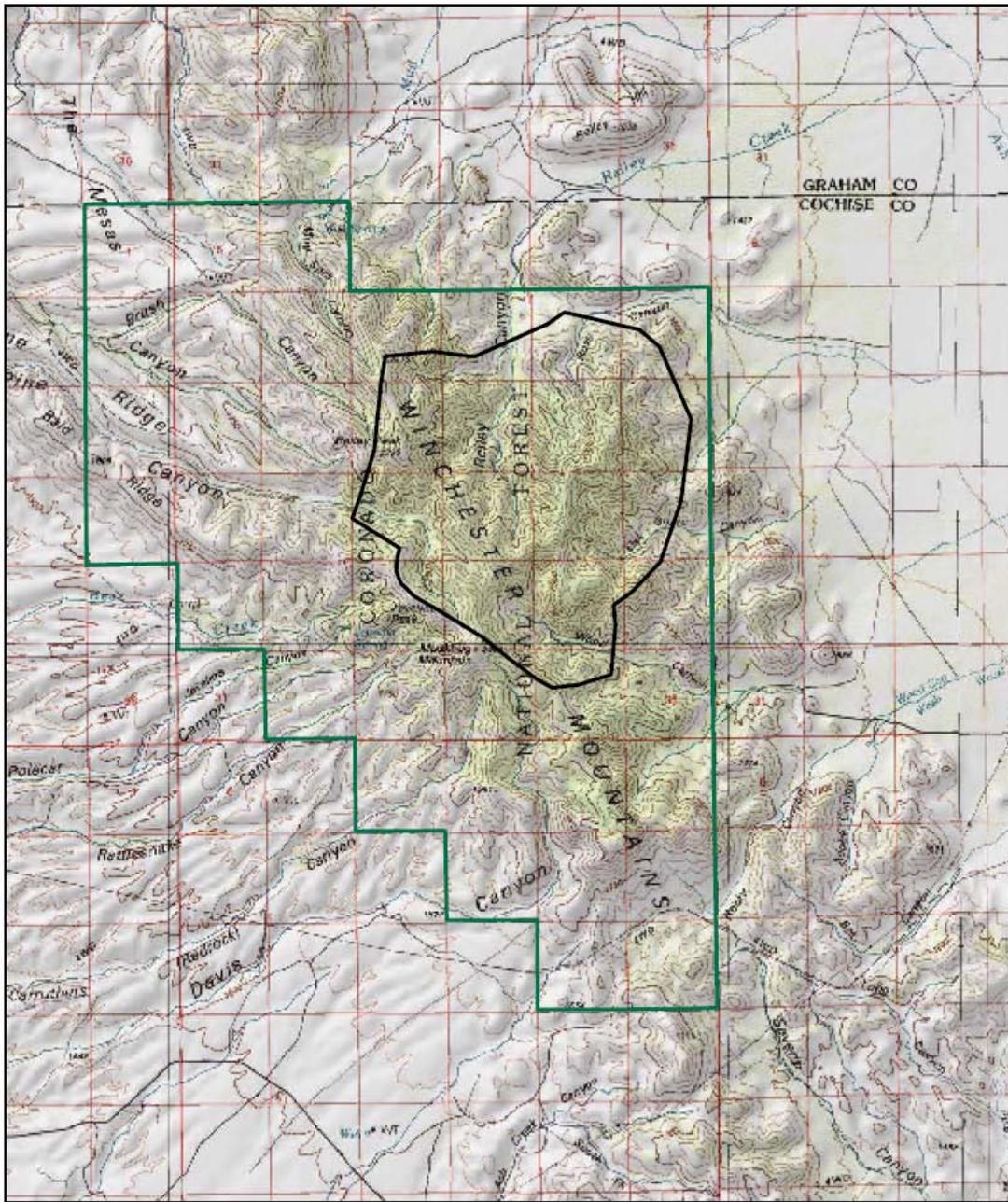
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Map 2: Winchester Potential Wilderness Area

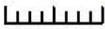


**Coronado National Forest
 Winchester Potential Wilderness Area PW-03-05-D4-001**

Legend

-  PW-03-05-D4-001
-  Forest Boundary



1:100,000
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Appendix A: The Wilderness Evaluation Process

The Wilderness Act of 1964 defines wilderness as:

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this chapter an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The Forest Service directives (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 70) describe the process and documentation for identifying and evaluating potential wilderness in the National Forest System.

Inventory

The Winchester Potential Wilderness Area is one of ten potential wilderness areas on the Coronado National Forest based on criteria in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 71. The entire Coronado National Forest was evaluated during the inventory phase and eliminated based on the criteria for wilderness inventories on national forests.

Capability

In 2008, an interdisciplinary planning team conducted a preliminary wilderness evaluation of all potential wilderness areas on the Coronado National Forest. Documents from this evaluation qualitatively described capability characteristics such as size (acres), access, remoteness, natural integrity, apparent naturalness, solitude and other values. The process included ranking the potential wilderness area as having high, medium or low wilderness potential based on capability factors included in the criteria in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 70 (2007).

Availability

In 2008, an interdisciplinary team ranked the area as high, medium or low for wilderness availability, based on a set of factors consistent with guidelines in the 2007 directives.

Need

FSH 1909.12, Chapter 72.31 requires that the evaluation of need consider, at a minimum the following factors:

1. The location, size, and type of other wilderness areas in the general vicinity and their distance from the proposed area. Consider accessibility of areas to population centers and

user groups. Public demand for wilderness may increase with proximity to growing population centers.

2. Present visitor pressure on other wilderness areas, the trends in use, changing patterns of use, population expansion factors, and trends and changes in transportation.

3. The extent to which non-wilderness lands on the NFS unit or other Federal lands are likely to provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences.

4. The need to provide a refuge for those species that have demonstrated an ability to survive in less-than-primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena.

5. Within social and biological limits, management may increase the capacity of established wilderness areas to support human use without unacceptable depreciation of the wilderness resource.

6. An area's ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems. Consideration of this factor may include utilization of Edwin A. Hammond's subdivision of landform types and the Bailey-Kuchler ecosystem classification. This approach is helpful from the standpoint of rounding out the National Wilderness Preservation System and may be further subdivided to suit local, sub-regional and regional needs.

These directives also require the Forest Service to demonstrate need through the public involvement process, including input on the evaluation report. Public participation begins March 3, 2010.

Appendix B: Species List for the Winchester PWA

Scientific Name	Common Name	Threatened or Endangered
<i>Acacia millefolia</i>	Milfoil Acacia	
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern Goshawk	
<i>Antilocapra americana</i>	Pronghorn	
<i>Aspidoscelis burti stictogramma</i>	Giant Spotted Whiptail	
<i>Astragalus allochrous</i> var. <i>playanus</i>	Halfmoon Milk-vetch	
<i>Bouteloua parryi</i>	Parry's Gramma	
<i>Bouteloua rothrockii</i>	Rothrock's Gramma	
<i>Draba petrophila</i> var. <i>viridis</i>	Rock Whitlow-grass	
<i>Erigeron arisolius</i>	Arid Throne Fleabane	
<i>Eriogonum arizonicum</i>	Arizona Wild-buckwheat	
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	California Bonneted Bat	
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American Peregrine Falcon	
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	X
<i>Hedeoma dentata</i>	Arizona False Pennyroyal	
<i>Hexalectris spicata</i> var. <i>arizonica</i>	Crested Coralroot	
<i>Kinosternon sonoriense</i>	Sonoran Mud Turtle	
<i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i>	Western Yellow Bat	
<i>Leptonycteris yerbabuenae</i>	Lesser Long-nosed Bat	X
<i>Melanoplus desultorius</i>	Red Whiskers Grasshopper	
<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	Mule Deer	
<i>Odocoileus virginianus couesi</i>	Coues' White-tailed Deer	
<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	Band-tailed Pigeon	
<i>Penstemon discolor</i>	Catalina Beardtongue	
<i>Perityle dissecta</i>	Slimlobe Rockdaisy	
<i>Phoradendron bolleanum</i> ssp. <i>pauciflorum</i>	Rough Mistletoe	
<i>Plagiobothrys pringlei</i>	Pringle's Popcorn-flower	
<i>Potentilla subviscosa</i> var. <i>subviscosa</i>	Navajo Cinquefoil	
<i>Puma concolor</i>	Mountain Lion	
<i>Rhamnus crocea</i> ssp. <i>pilosa</i>	Redberry Buckthorn	
<i>Salvia amissa</i>	Catalina Mountain Sage	
<i>Scutellaria tessellata</i>	Huachuca Mountains Skullcap	
<i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i>	Mexican Spotted Owl	X
<i>Terrepenne ornata luteola</i>	Desert Box Turtle	
<i>Ursus americana</i>	Black Bear	