

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southwestern
Region

March 2010



Coronado National Forest

Draft Mt. Wrightson Addition Potential Wilderness Area Evaluation Report PW-03-05-D2-002

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 Mt. Wrightson Addition 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 Santa Rita 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 the page 11 of this report).

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Area Overview.....	3
Wilderness Capability.....	6
Availability for Wilderness	7
Need for Wilderness.....	7
Next Steps.....	11
References.....	12
Map 1: Mt. Wrightson Addition Potential Wilderness Area Location Map.....	13
Map 2: Mt. Wrightson Addition Potential Wilderness Area	14
Appendix A: The Wilderness Evaluation Process	15
Appendix B: Species List for the Mt. Wrightson Addition PWA	17

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 Mt. Wrightson Addition 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. Wilderness is the one special area designation that the Forest Service is mandated to consider during Forest Plan revision. If an area is recommended for wilderness designation, then the revised Forest Plan will contain management direction that protects 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 Mt. Wrightson Addition Potential Wilderness Area (Mt. Wrightson Addition PWA, 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 Mount Wrightson Addition Potential Wilderness Area (PWA) encompasses 821 acres. The area is located in the eastern Santa Rita Mountain Range and is adjacent to the existing Mt. Wrightson Wilderness (see Map 1 at the end of this document). This area would be an expansion of the Mt. Wrightson Wilderness that is now 25,260 acres, bringing the overall acres to 26,441 if recommended. This area is located in the Santa Rita Mountains, which is part of the Nogales Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest.

Vicinity, Surroundings and Access: The Mt. Wrightson Potential Wilderness Area is approximately 37 miles southeast of Tucson, Arizona and approximately 9 miles northwest of Sonoita, Arizona within the Nogales Ranger District. This area is in the Cave Creek and Gardner Canyon area on the west side of the Santa Rita Mountains. The PWA adjoins the Mt. Wrightson Wilderness and is completely surrounded by National Forest System (NFS) lands.

Arizona State Highway 83 connects Interstate 10 to Sonoita and State Highway 82 as well as providing access to Gardner Canyon and Santa Rita Roads. Gardner Canyon Road, maintained by Santa Cruz County, is the primary motorized access route from State Highway 83 to the potential wilderness area and Cave Canyon Trail (Forest Trail 149). Cave Canyon Trail provides non-motorized trail access through the PWA into the Mt. Wrightson Wilderness, to Florida Saddle and to the intersection of several trails (Forest Trails 144, 145 and 146).

Although Santa Cruz County maintains Gardner Canyon Road to the Apache Springs Ranch (approximately 4.5 miles into the National Forest), Gardner Canyon Road becomes National Forest Road 92 at the proclaimed National Forest boundary. Gardner Canyon Road also provides motorized access to Upper Gardner Canyon Road (Forest Road 785) and Gardner Canyon Trail (Forest Trail 143). Upper Gardner Canyon Road provides motorized access to the PWA. Gardner Canyon Trail provides non-motorized trail access through the PWA into the Mt. Wrightson Wilderness Area, ending at Super Trail (Forest Trail 134).

Santa Rita Road provides motorized access to the PWA from Highway 83. Santa Rita Road becomes Douglas Ranch Road (Forest Road 4104) once it reaches NFS lands and is approximately three miles within the proclaimed boundary. Douglas Ranch Road provides motorized access to Hog/Gardner Road (Forest Road 4111), which provides motorized access to upper Gardner Canyon Road (Forest Road 785).

There appears to be adequate motorized and trail access to the PWA. There is little, if any, documented right-of-way for Gardner Canyon Road across federal and non-federal lands from State Highway 83 to the proclaimed National Forest boundary. Permanent legal public access may be a future concern in this area.

Geography & Topography: The Mount Wrightson Addition Potential Wilderness Area is characterized by a narrow, north-south elongated, hour-glass-shaped area located in the steep, rugged headwaters of Gardiner Canyon and Cave Creek, where it occupies a small enclave along

the eastern boundary of the existing wilderness area. Only covering an area of 818 acres, this PWA rises from a low point of 5,920 feet above sea level in Gardiner Canyon to a maximum elevation of 6,752 feet along its western boundary with the existing Mount Wrightson wilderness area.

The Mount Wrightson Addition PWA is located in the north-south trending Santa Rita mountain range, which is typical of the Southern Basin and Range Province in southeastern Arizona. Lying immediately east of the boundary separating the Mexican Highlands Sub-province from the Sonoran Desert Sub-province, the Santa Rita Mountains are bounded by the Santa Cruz River Basin to the west and the Cienega Creek Basin to the east. A major northwest-trending strike-slip fault zone, locally known as the Sawmill Canyon Fault, subdivides the Santa Rita Range into two distinct geological settings. North of the Sawmill Canyon fault zone, the geology of the range is similar to many mountain ranges located in southeastern Arizona. It consists of a moderate to steeply east-tilted structural block that exposes Precambrian granite along its steep, precipitous western flank. The Precambrian granite is overlain by a strongly deformed section of Paleozoic to early Cretaceous sediments, mainly outcropping along the more gentle eastern flank of the range. Southwest of the Sawmill Canyon fault zone, the geological setting is characterized by a shallow to moderately east-tilted, relatively undeformed structural block containing a thick sequence of Mesozoic volcanics and related sediments that have been cut by numerous, very large intrusive bodies of similar age and chemical composition. Silica-rich volcanics (i.e., rhyolite) of middle Tertiary age overlie these Mesozoic units along the western flank of the range. Located south of the Sawmill Canyon fault zone, the Mount Wrightson Addition PWA is entirely underlain by the Mesozoic volcanic package.

Appearance and Vegetation: Generally, slightly modified mixed conifer forest with minimal grass or shrub component on the forest floor covers 50% of the PWA. The dominant trees are Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), southwestern white pine (*Pinus strobiformis*) and lesser amounts of white fir (*Abies concolor*). The remaining area is more open due to recent burns. Riparian areas (less than 1% of the area) have a variety of upland and obligate riparian species, including Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), velvet ash (*Fraxinus velutina*), Arizona sycamore (*Platanus wrightii*), Arizona walnut (*Juglans major*) and willow (*Salix* spp). Historically, logging occurred in the gentlest terrain and near canyon bottoms.

Current Uses

Recreation: The primary recreation uses include hiking and dispersed camping. Other uses include horseback riding, hunting, rock climbing, and bird-watching. This area lies adjacent to the Mt. Wrightson Wilderness. The area is primarily Recreation Opportunity Spectrum class Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, with small areas of 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 Santa Rita Mountains there are 118 species on the viability evaluation list (see Appendix B), including six Threatened or Endangered species. There are quite a few endemic species on the lists in the Santa Rita Mountains, including *Tuberochernes ubicki* (a cave obligate

pseudoscorpion), Stephan's Heterelmis beetle, Santa Rita yellowthroat and Madera talussnail. Other noteworthy species on the lists include the Tarahumara frog (extirpated from the U.S., now present only in the Santa Ritas), Chiricahua leopard frog, Pima pineapple cactus, Sunrise skipper, Tucson mountain spiderling, Pringle's fleabane, and Arizona ridge-nosed rattlesnake (this is one of three areas with the three species of Mexican mountain rattlesnakes). However, the PWA is physically small, and probably no species are found there that are not in the adjacent, existing wilderness area.

Range: There are two grazing allotments within the Mt. Wrightson Addition PWA: Apache Springs and Fort. Both of these allotments are active with valid permitted uses. The only improvements within the potential wilderness area are fences.

Water: The watersheds represented are Sonoita Creek (HUC 1505030102) and Cienega Creek (HUC 1505030201). There are no known water uses within the PWA. There is no known perennial water. No water quality data has been collected within the PWA.

Minerals: Although most of the historic mines and prospects within this mountain range are small and uneconomic by today's standards, the Santa Rita Mountains are one of the most heavily mineralized and prospected ranges in southeastern Arizona. These mountains contain five recognized mining districts that have been intermittently worked since the arrival of Jesuit Fathers in the Santa Cruz Valley during the 1680s. The Mount Wrightson PWA is located in the Greaterville mining district, located along the eastern flank of the range. Intermittently prospected since the mid-1870s, it is most notable for its placer gold occurrences, which are irregularly distributed along the range front in gravels of present and paleo-stream channels and terraces. Although this mining district continues to be a popular spot for weekend prospectors, it offers little potential for a major discovery, as the ultimate source for the placer gold appears to be small scattered base metal-bearing, quartz-calcite veins cutting Precambrian granite and Cretaceous sediments. The Mount Wrightson Addition PWA is located in the southwest portion of the Greaterville mining district, where an examination of topographic coverage has revealed the presence of only one adit along Cave Creek. The area is considered to have low potential for mineral resources. Rosemont Copper proposes to develop an open-pit copper mining operation on 4,415 acres within the proclaimed National Forest boundary (\pm 995 acres is private land) at the northern end of the Santa Rita Mountain Range; this proposed operation is about 10 miles north of the PWA.

Heritage Resources: Previous archaeological research in this PWA has been minimal. No archaeological sites have been recorded in this area.

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. The Florida fire burned through this entire area in 2005.

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 Mt. Wrightson Addition Potential Wilderness Area possesses a moderate degree of naturalness. The ruggedness and location of this PWA has allowed it to retain a semi-primitive setting, as it is a potential addition to the existing Mt. Wrightson Wilderness. The area is habitat for Mexican spotted owl, elegant trogon, and Chiricahua leopard frog.

The rivers and streams within this area of the Santa Rita Mountains do not have water year-round. There are no known water quality issues. However, in the past there has been mining activity above the area that may impact water quality, but water samples have not been tested. Night skies can be clearly seen and light pollution is not evident. One feature that detracts from the area's wilderness capability is the presence of invasive, non-native plants, including Lehmann lovegrass.

Undeveloped

The Mt. Wrightson Addition Potential Wilderness Area also has had a long history of human use. In the past the area has had mining activity, a logging mill and roads, and there is evidence of these activities and structures. Currently there are livestock grazing improvements maintained within the PWA.

Opportunities for Solitude

A person could find a short-term experience of solitude, serenity, self-reliance and hiking and birding within this PWA. However, the area is adjacent to an existing wilderness and as a whole would provide a greater experience of solitude. This area has good recreational opportunities, but these opportunities are not very challenging. The Mt. Wrightson Addition PWA is impacted by international border crossers, which increases the chance of encountering signs of civilization.

Special Features

The Mt. Wrightson Addition Potential Wilderness Area has unique rock formations and panoramic views that are important as a wilderness characteristic. The area has had historic logging and mining, which create opportunities for historic research and education. The area is habitat for numerous species including Mexican spotted owl, Chiricahua leopard frog and rare plants.

Manageability

The Mt. Wrightson Addition Potential Wilderness Area shares a boundary with the established Mt. Wrightson Wilderness on three sides. However, the area does have signs of civilization from past activities and there is the potential for active mining claims. Given these conditions, this area holds some challenges in managing it for wilderness characteristics.

The Mt. Wrightson Addition 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 Mt. Wrightson Addition Potential Wilderness Area, most of the current recreational uses could continue if the area was designated as wilderness. Watersheds within the area are properly functioning, but there are water impoundments that affect the wilderness character. There are no ecosystem restoration activities currently planned for the area. Management activity for Chiricahua leopard frog habitat is needed, but mechanized equipment will not be used. The area is committed through contracts and permits for livestock grazing. This current authorization may conflict with wilderness management or detract from wilderness qualities. There has been mining activity in the past, but at this time there is little or no potential for extraction of locatable minerals. The Mt. Wrightson Addition PWA consists entirely of National Forest System lands, as is the adjacent land. The closest private land is approximately 3 miles from the PWA boundary and likely won't impact the wilderness character of the area.

The Mt. Wrightson Addition Potential Wilderness Area overall was rated high 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. Assumptions and methodology for this evaluation are briefly summarized in this report, with further detail contained in the Forest Plan revision record.

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 Mt. Wrightson Addition PWA, there are 18 designated wilderness areas, totaling about 486,000 acres (see Table 1 below).

Within 100 miles of the Mt. Wrightson Addition Potential Wilderness Area there are 20 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, one is a Wilderness Study Area managed by the Forest Service to protect wilderness characteristics that offer a primitive or semi-primitive recreation setting similar to those 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 Mt. Wrightson Addition PWA

Wilderness Area	Acres
Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness	19,700
Baboquivari Peak Wilderness	2,040
Chiricahua National Monument Wilderness	10,290
Chiricahua Wilderness	87,700
Coyote Mountains Wilderness	5,100
Dos Cabezas Mountains Wilderness	11,700
Galiuro Wilderness	76,317
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
Pusch Ridge Wilderness	56,933
Redfield Canyon Wilderness	6,600
Rincon Mountain Wilderness	38,590
Saguaro Wilderness	70,905
Santa Teresa Wilderness	26,780
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 Mt. Wrightson Addition 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 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 suggest 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 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% of all visits to the Forest. In 2007 the number of estimated visits was 488,500, approximately 17% 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 and 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 Mt. Wrightson Addition Potential Wilderness Area. Though all of these species would benefit from reduced disturbance, none require 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 WSAs 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. Trail systems range within wilderness areas 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 Wildernesses. 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 Mt. Wrightson Addition 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 Mt. Wrightson Addition 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 Mt. Wrightson Addition Potential Wilderness Area includes five of the nine major vegetation communities of the Coronado NF (see Table 2 below). Of these five vegetation communities, the Mt. Wrightson Addition PWA would only contribute an additional 0.1% to wilderness in the Interior Chaparral community.

Table 2: Major Vegetation Communities of the Coronado National Forest and Mt. Wrightson Addition 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 Mt. Wrightson Addition PWA	Percent of Mt. Wrightson Addition PWA	Percent Addition of Mt. Wrightson Addition PWA to Wilderness
Desert Communities	30,049,409	2,957,920	9.8%	30	3.7%	0.0%
Interior Chaparral	3,007,982	347,373	11.5%	176	21.4%	0.1%
Madrean Encinal Woodland	5,881,883	429,389	7.3%	395	48.1%	0.0%
Madrean Pine Oak Woodland	1,401,126	198,467	14.2%	184	22.4%	0.0%
Mixed Conifer Forest	2,005,391	294,655	14.7%	0	0.0%	0.0%
Ponderosa Pine	8,697,795	729,664	8.4%	0	0.0%	0.0%
Riparian Areas	929,779	25,378	2.7%	36	4.4%	0.0%
Semi-desert Grasslands	23,886,097	289,792	1.2%	0	0.0%	0.0%
Spruce Fir Forest	831,285	134,548	16.2%	0	0.0%	0.0%
Grand Total	76,690,747	5,407,188		821		

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

Next Steps

The Forest Service will collect comments on the Mt. Wrightson Addition Potential Wilderness Area evaluation throughout the Forest 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. Comments received 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

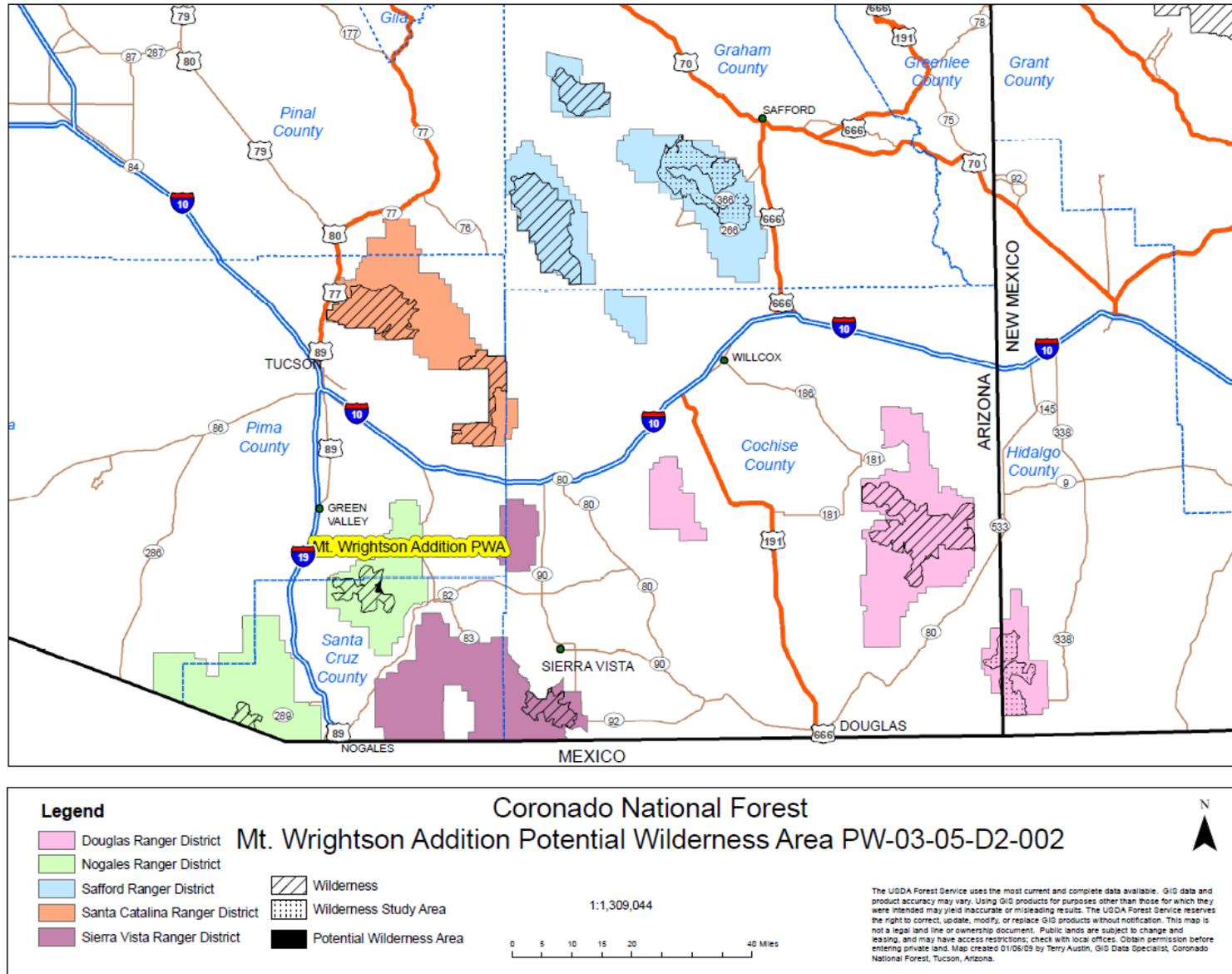
Tucson, AZ 85701

References

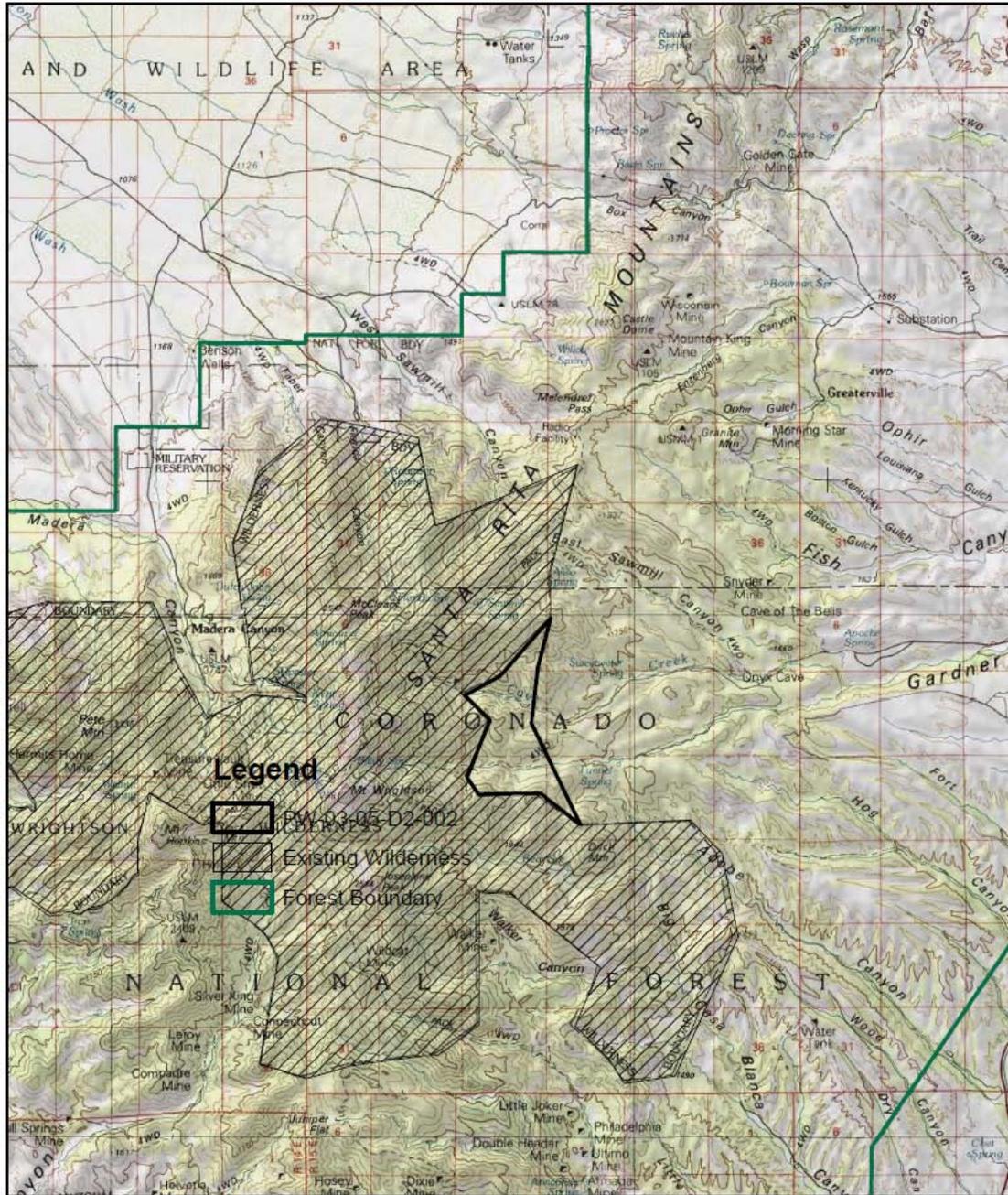
McNab, W. Henry and Peter E. Avers. Ecological Subregions of the United States: Section Descriptions. July 1994.

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

Map 1: Mt. Wrightson Addition Potential Wilderness Area Location Map



Map 2: Mt. Wrightson Addition Potential Wilderness Area



Coronado National Forest Mt. Wrightson Addition Potential Wilderness Area PW-03-05-D2-002

The USDA Forest Service uses the most current and complete data available. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were intended may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The USDA Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace GIS products without notification. This map is not a legal land line or ownership document. Public lands are subject to change and leasing, and may have access restrictions; check with local offices. Obtain permission before entering private land. Map created 01/09/09 by Terry Austin, GIS Data Specialist, Coronado National Forest, Tucson, Arizona.

1:106,808



Legend

-  PW-03-05-D2-002
-  Existing Wilderness
-  Forest Boundary



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 Handbook (FSH) 1909.12, Chapter 70 describes the process and documentation for identifying and evaluating potential wilderness in the National Forest System.

Inventory

The Dragoon 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 Mt. Wrightson Addition PWA

Scientific Name	Common Name	Threatened or Endangered
<i>Rana chiricahuensis</i>	Chiricahua Leopard Frog	X
<i>Eleutherodactylus augusti cactorum</i>	Western Barking Frog	
<i>Rana tarahumarae</i>	Tarahumara Frog	
<i>Stygobromus arizonensis</i>	Arizona Cave Amphipod	
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	X
<i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i>	Mexican Spotted Owl	X
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern Goshawk	
<i>Ammodramus savannarum ammoregus</i>	Arizona Grasshopper Sparrow	
<i>Cyrtonix montezumae</i>	Montezuma Quail	
<i>Empidonax fulvifrons pygmaeus</i>	Northern Buff-breasted Flycatcher	
<i>Meleagris gallopavo Mexicana</i>	Gould's Turkey	
<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	Band-tailed Pigeon	
<i>Poliophtilla nigriceps</i>	Black-capped Gnatcatcher	
<i>Trogon elegans</i>	Elegant Trogon	
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American Peregrine Falcon	
<i>Glauclidium brasilianum cactorum</i>	Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl	
<i>Tuberochernes ubicki</i>	A Cave Obligate Pseudoscorpion	
<i>Agosia chrysogaster</i>	Longfin Dace	
<i>Catostomus clarkia</i>	Desert Sucker	
<i>Catostomus insignis</i>	Sonora Sucker	
<i>Heterelmis stephani</i>	Stephan's Heterelmis Riffle Beetle	
<i>Melanoplus desultorius</i>	Red Whiskers Grasshopper	
<i>Oligocentria delicate</i>	A Notodontid Moth	
<i>Speyeria nokomis coerulea</i>	Bluish Fritillary	
<i>Sphingicampa raspa</i>	A Royal Moth	
<i>Heterodermia appalachensis</i>		
<i>Leptogium rugosum</i>	Rugos skin lichen	
<i>Omphalora arizonica</i>		
<i>Leptonycteris yerbabuenae</i>	Lesser Long-nosed Bat	X
<i>Panthera onca</i>	Jaguar	X
<i>Antilocapra Americana</i>	Pronghorn	
<i>Choeronycteris Mexicana</i>	Mexican Long-tongued Bat	
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	California Bonneted Bat	
<i>Lasiurus blossevillii</i>	Western Red Bat	
<i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i>	Western Yellow Bat	
<i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i>	Pocketed Free-tailed Bat	
<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	Mule Deer	
<i>Odocoileus virginianus couesi</i>	Coues' White-tailed Deer	
<i>Puma concolor</i>	Mountain Lion	
<i>Sciurus arizonensis</i>	Arizona Gray Squirrel	
<i>Ursus americana</i>	Black Bear	
<i>Sorex arizonae</i>	Arizona Shrew	

<i>Thomomys umbrinus intermedius</i>	Southern Pocket Gopher	
<i>Sonorella clappi</i>	Madera Talussnail	
<i>Aspidoscelis burti stictogramma</i>	Giant Spotted Whiptail	
<i>Crotalus pricei</i>	Twin-spotted Rattlesnake	
<i>Crotalus w. willardi</i>	Arizona Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake	
<i>Kinosternon sonoriense</i>	Sonoran Mud Turtle	
<i>Sceloporus slevini</i>	Slevin's Bunchgrass Lizard	
<i>Tantilla wilcoxi</i>	Chihuahuan Black-headed Snake	
<i>Terrepene ornata luteola</i>	Desert Box Turtle	
<i>Thamnophis eques megalops</i>	Northern Mexican Gartersnake	
<i>Coryphantha scheeri</i> var. <i>robustispina</i>	Pima Pineapple Cactus	X
<i>Asclepias lemmonii</i>	Lemmon Milkweed	
<i>Ayenia truncata</i> (= <i>A. glabra</i>)	Ayenia	
<i>Castilleja nervata</i>	Trans-Pecos Indian Paintbrush	
<i>Manihot davisiae</i>	Arizona Manihot	
<i>Margaranthus solanaceus</i>	Netted Globeberry	
<i>Muhlenbergia elongata</i> (= <i>M. xerophila</i>)	Sycamore Muhly	
<i>Muhlenbergia palmeri</i> (= <i>M. dubioides</i>)	Southwestern Muhly	
<i>Roldana hartwegii</i> (= <i>Senecio hartwegii</i> , with syn = <i>S. seemannii</i> , <i>S. carlomasonii</i> , and <i>R. carlomasonii</i>)	Seemann (Hartweg's) Groundsel	
<i>Sisyrinchium cernuum</i>	Nodding Blue-eyed Grass	
<i>Abutilon parishii</i>	Parish's Abutilon	
<i>Acacia millefolia</i>	Milfoil Acacia	
<i>Agastache rupestris</i>	Thread-leaf Giant-hyssop	
<i>Agave parviflora</i> ssp. <i>parviflora</i>		
<i>Amoreuxia gonzalezii</i>	Santa Rita Yellowshow	
<i>Arabis tricornuta</i>	Rincon Mountain Rockcress	
<i>Astragalus allochrous</i> var. <i>playanus</i>	Halfmoon Milk-vetch	
<i>Boerhavia megaptera</i>	Tucson Mountain Spiderling	
<i>Bouteloua eludens</i>	Santa Rita Gramma	
<i>Bouteloua parryi</i>	Parry's Gramma	
<i>Bouteloua rothrockii</i>	Rothrock's Gramma	
<i>Carex ultra</i>	Cochise Sedge	
<i>Conioselinum mexicanum</i>	Mexican Hemlock-parsley	
<i>Delphinium scopulorum</i>	Rocky Mountain Larkspur	
<i>Draba petrophila</i> var. <i>viridis</i>	Rock Whitlow-grass	
<i>Drymaria effusa</i> var. <i>effusa</i>	Pinewood Drymary	
<i>Erigeron arisolius</i>	Arid Throne Fleabane	
<i>Erigeron lemmonii</i>	Lemmon's Fleabane	
<i>Erigeron pringlei</i>	Pringle's Fleabane	
<i>Eryngium sparganophyllum</i>	Arizona Eryngo	
<i>Escobaria vivipara</i> var. <i>bisbeeana</i>	Bisbee's Pincushion Cactus	
<i>Fraxinus papillosa</i>	Chihuahua Ash	
<i>Graptopetalum bartramii</i>	Patagonia Mountain Leather-petal	
<i>Hackelia ursina</i>	Chihuahuan Stickseed	
<i>Hedeoma dentata</i>	Arizona False Pennyroyal	

<i>Heterotheca rutteri</i>	Rutter's Golden-aster	
<i>Hexalectris revoluta</i>	Chisos Coralroot	
<i>Hexalectris spicata</i> var. <i>arizonica</i>	Crested Coralroot	
<i>Ipomoea plummerae</i> var. <i>cuneifolia</i>	Huachuca Mountain Morning-glory	
<i>Ipomoea tenuiloba</i> var. <i>lemmonii</i>	Lemmon's Morning-glory	
<i>Ipomoea thurberi</i>	Thurber's Morning-glory	
<i>Laennecia eriophylla</i>	Cochise Woolwort	
<i>Lilium parryi</i>	Lemon Lily	
<i>Lupinus huachucanus</i>	Huachuca Mountain Lupine	
<i>Macromeria viridiflora</i> var. <i>thurberi</i>	Giant-trumpets	
<i>Malacothrix stebbinsii</i>	Stebbins Desert-dandelion	
<i>Mammillaria grahamii</i> var. <i>oliviae</i>		
<i>Mammillaria heyderi</i> var. <i>macdougalii</i>	Little Nipple Cactus	
<i>Mammillaria wrightii</i> var. <i>wrightii</i>	Wright Fishhook Cactus	
<i>Mimulus dentilobus</i>	Southwest Monkeyflower	
<i>Opuntia phaeacantha</i> var. <i>laevis</i>	New Mexico Prickly-pear	
<i>Paspalum virletii</i>	Virlet's Paspalum	
<i>Pectis imberbis</i>	Beardless Chinch Weed	
<i>Penstemon superbus</i>	Superb Beardtongue	
<i>Perityle dissecta</i>	Slimlobe Rockdaisy	
<i>Phaseolus supinus</i>	Supine Bean	
<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>Rhamnus crocea</i> ssp. <i>pilosa</i>	Redberry Buckthorn	
<i>Samolus vagans</i>	Chiricahua Mountain Brookweed	
<i>Scutellaria tessellata</i>	Huachuca Mountains Skullcap	
<i>Senecio multidentatus</i> var. <i>huachucanus</i>	Huachuca Groundsel	
<i>Viguiera dentata</i> var. <i>lancifolia</i>	Sunflower Golden-eye	
<i>Woodsia cochisensis</i>	Cochise Woodsia	
<i>Rana yavapaiensis</i>	Lowland Leopard Frog	