

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southwestern
Region

March 2010



Coronado National Forest Draft Dragoon Potential Wilderness Area Evaluation Report PW-03-05-D1-001

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 Dragoon 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 Dragoon 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 12 of this report).

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DRAFT

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 Dragoon 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 Dragoon Potential Wilderness Area (Dragoon 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 Dragoon Potential Wilderness Area encompasses 6,993 acres. This area is located in the Dragoon Mountain Range that is part of the Douglas Ranger District of the Coronado National (see Map 1 at the end of this document).

Vicinity, Surroundings and Access: The potential wilderness area is approximately 92 miles east of Tucson, Arizona in the Cochise Stronghold area of the Dragoon Mountains. There are three small incorporated communities (Benson, Tombstone and Willcox) near the Dragoon Mountain Range and four unincorporated communities (Dragoon, St. David, Pearce and Sunsites) that are in close proximity. Interstate Highway 10 connects the Tucson metropolitan area to the Benson, Dragoon and Willcox and to U. S. Highway 191, the primary north-south artery on the east side of the Dragoon Mountains.

The primary motorized access route into the National Forest on the east side of the Dragoon Mountains is via Ironwood Road, a Cochise County-maintained road that runs from U. S. Highway 191 and the community of Sunsites to the proclaimed Forest boundary. Ironwood Road becomes Cochise Stronghold Road (Forest Road 84) at the proclaimed Forest boundary and continues to the Cochise Stronghold Campground and the trailhead for Cochise Trail (Forest Trail 279) in East Stronghold Canyon. Cochise Trail provides non-motorized trail access through the potential wilderness area; it also connects East and West Stronghold Canyons and connects to Middlemarch Canyon Trail (Forest Trail 278).

Primary motorized access into the National Forest from the south into the Dragoon Mountains is via Middlemarch Road, a Cochise County-maintained road, which connects State Route 80 and U. S. Highway 191. The Middlemarch Road becomes Middlemarch Pass Road (Forest Road 345) within the proclaimed Forest boundary. From Middlemarch Pass Road there are three roads that head north and that provide access further into the Dragoon Mountains and the potential wilderness area. China Peak Road (Forest Road 697) provides motorized access that requires a high-clearance 4-wheel-drive vehicle to Gordon Camp, which is within approximately 2000 feet of the potential wilderness area. Sorin Road (Forest Road 345A) provides motorized access that requires a high-clearance 4-wheel-drive vehicle that ends within several hundred feet of the potential wilderness area. Slavin Road (Forest Road 687) also provides motorized access to the mouth of West Stronghold Canyon and West Stronghold Road (Forest Road 688). West Stronghold Road continues into West Stronghold Canyon to Cochise Trail. Cochise Trail also connects to Middlemarch Canyon Trail (Forest Trail 277). Also accessible from Slavin Road is the Slavin Gulch Trail (Forest Trail 332), which provides non-motorized trail access into and through the potential wilderness area.

Primary motorized access into the National Forest on the northwestern side of the Dragoon Mountains was historically via Fourr Ranch Road, a Cochise County-maintained road, to Fourr Canyon Road (Forest Road 4236) and Cave Spring Road (Forest Road 4235). Cave Spring Road had provided motorized access that required a high-clearance 4-wheel-drive vehicle to within half a mile of the of the potential wilderness area. However, the Fourr Ranch Road and Fourr

Canyon Road are now gated and locked on the private land adjoining the proclaimed Forest boundary at the mouth of Furr Canyon.

Although there appears to be adequate motorized road and non-motorized trail access to the east, west and south sides of the potential wilderness area, permanent legal public access to Middlemarch Pass Road could become an issue in the future. In addition, there is no motorized road or non-motorized trail access to the portion of the potential wilderness area north of Cochise Trail.

Geography & Topography: The Dragoon Potential Wilderness Area (PWA) is located in the north-northwest-trending Dragoon Mountains, which is bounded on the east by the Sulphur Springs Valley and on the west by the San Pedro River Valley. The Dragoon Range attains a width of seven miles at the northwest end of the range, but narrows considerably to the south. Covering an area of 6,988 acres, the Dragoon PWA is situated along the steep, western flank of the north-central portion of the range, extending from Mount Glenn in the north to Sheepshead Peak in the south. It rises from 5,000 feet above sea level at Slaven Gulch along the western range front to a maximum elevation of 7,519 feet at Mount Glenn along the crest of the range. The precipitous granitic cliffs along the east-central boundary of the PWA are locally known as Cochise Stronghold, the rugged natural fortress where the famous Chiricahua Apache chief Cochise and his followers sought refuge from their foes during the 1860s.

The Dragoon mountain range is typical of the fault-bounded, structurally uplifted blocks within the Mexican Highlands Sub-province of the Southern Basin and Range Province in southeastern Arizona. Its geology is characterized by Precambrian age schist and granite overlain by a sedimentary package ranging from Cambrian to Cretaceous in age. These rock units were intensely folded and faulted prior to being cut by a strongly altered, fine-grained granitic stock of late Cretaceous to early Tertiary age at the northeast end of the range and engulfed by two generations of middle Tertiary granitic intrusive rocks in the north-central portion of the range. The large, coarse-grained granitic body exposed at Cochise Stronghold contains anomalous amounts of fluorite and is the principal rock unit exposed within the Dragoon WPA.

Appearance and Vegetation: Due steep topography, the vegetation is largely 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*), 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. Riparian areas 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, some areas near canyon bottoms were logged to provide wood for nearby mines, but second growth has matured. Fire suppression has allowed for more dense stands than may have been present historically. In addition to the woodlands, over 15% of this potential wilderness is sparsely vegetated due to rock outcrops.

Current Uses

Recreation: The primary recreation uses include hiking and dispersed camping. Other uses include horseback riding, hunting, rock climbing and birdwatching. Most of the area is Recreation Opportunity Spectrum class Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, with smaller areas of Semi-Primitive Motorized and Roaded Natural.

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 Dragoon Mountains, there are 47 species on the viability evaluation list (see Appendix B). These include four Threatened or Endangered species, two of which typically occur in the Dragoons (lesser long-nosed bat and Chiricahua leopard frog). Other noteworthy species occurring in the Dragoons include the American peregrine falcon, cliff brittlebush, three-leafed cliffbreak, and five endemic or near-endemic land snails. The rare and localized species are mostly associated with rocks and cliffs, which are predominate features in this mountain range. Most of the species on the list likely occur within the proposed wilderness area.

Range: There are five grazing allotments within the Dragoon Potential Wilderness Area: Fourr, Halfmoon, Slavin, Granite and Middlemarch. All of these allotments are active and valid permitted uses. The only improvements within the potential wilderness area are fences. Only a small portion of the area, approximately 2%, is not within a grazing allotment.

Water: The watersheds represented within the PWA are Willcox Playa [Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 1505020100] and Clifford Wash-Upper San Pedro River (HUC 1505020207). No water uses are known to occur within the potential wilderness. There is no known perennial water. No water quality data has been collected within the potential wilderness.

Minerals: Historic mining activities within the northern and central portions of the Dragoon Range were centered in two areas: the Dragoon mining district (located several miles north of the Dragoon PWA) and the Middle Pass mining district (located immediately southeast of the PWA). Most of the historical production from these areas was derived from small underground operations, which began during the early 1870s and ended by the mid-1960s. In both districts, zinc, copper and lead with minor amounts of by-product silver and gold were mined from small deposits in altered limestone, which occurs in close proximity to an intrusive body. Located within an enclave along the southeastern boundary of the Dragoon PWA, the Abril mine was the area's largest producer, accounting for most of the zinc and a significant portion of the silver

production attributed to the Dragoon and Middle Pass mining districts. More recently, sites with moderate but speculative exploration potential for large disseminated copper or molybdenum occurrences have been intermittently examined in areas located both north and south of the PWA. More recent exploration activities in the Dragoon Mountains have evaluated the area's potential for industrial grade limestone. There has been little if any historical mining activity within the Dragoon PWA, which is underlain by the unmineralized Stronghold Granite that offers little exploration potential for significant discoveries to be made within this area.

Heritage Resources: Previous archaeological research in this potential wilderness area has been minimal, resulting in the recordation of four archaeological sites: AR03-05-01-213, -293, -433 and -434. Site -213 is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Council Rock Archaeological District. Site -293 is a rockshelter site with collected olla. Site -433 is a small prehistoric preclassic shrine on China Peak consisting of decorated bowl sherds. Site -434 is a high campsite in the Upper Slavin area with a possible roasting pit feature.

Fire: Current management calls for an Appropriate Management Response 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. No fires have occurred within this area since 1997.

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 Dragoon Potential Wilderness Area possesses a moderate degree of naturalness. The ruggedness of this PWA has allowed it to retain a semi-primitive setting. There is moderate diversity of vegetation within the PWA boundary, with the area having five of the nine major vegetation communities identified on the Coronado National Forest. The area is habitat for leopard frogs and peregrine falcons.

This area of the Dragoon Mountains does not have perennial rivers or streams and there are no known water quality issues. However, there has been mining activity in the past that may impact water quality, but no water samples have been tested. Night skies can be clearly seen and light pollution is not evident. The riparian area is currently dominated by invasive, non-native plants including Lehmann lovegrass, which detract from the area's wilderness capability.

Undeveloped

The Dragoon Potential Wilderness Area also has had a long history of human use and settlement, as is evident in its historic and prehistoric sites and structures. Historically the area has had several mining activities and there are obvious signs of this activity within the area.

Opportunities for Solitude

A person could find a short-term experience of solitude, serenity, self-reliance and hiking and climbing away from the main roads within this potential wilderness area. However, the roads, trails and developed facilities in close proximity to the area detract from the primitive and challenging nature of recreation in the area. The small size of the area limits opportunities for long back-packing trips. It is possible to see signs of civilization adjacent to the PWA boundary.

Special Features

The unique rock formations found here are important as a wilderness characteristic. The area is important to several Native American tribes and has several historic and prehistoric archeological sites. The area is home to a pair of nesting falcons.

Manageability

The boundary of the Dragoon Potential Wilderness Area is irregular in its interior due to the exclusion of the Cochise Stronghold Campground and Forest Service Roads 688, 84, 345A and 697. The four-wheel-drive roads that are in close proximity to the area are heavily used, but the terrain prevents vehicles from driving into the PWA. Given these conditions, this area holds some challenges in managing it for wilderness characteristics.

The Dragoon 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 Dragoon 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 and there are no water impoundments or need at this time to install impoundments. There are no ecosystem restoration activities currently planned for the area. However, the area is in need of vegetation treatments and there is the potential for such activities in the future. The area is committed through contracts and permits for livestock grazing and outfitter guides. These current authorizations do not conflict with wilderness management or detract from wilderness qualities. One activity that does conflict with wilderness management is the annual wildlife survey done with the use of helicopters flying over the area. There is little or no potential for extraction of locatable minerals. The Dragoon Potential Wilderness Area is entirely National Forest System lands, as is the adjacent land. The closest private land is approximately 0.1 mile from the PWA boundary, but likely won't impact the wilderness character of the area.

The Dragoon Potential Wilderness Area overall was rated high for availability.

Need for Wilderness

The evaluation criteria shown below indicate how the Dragoon PWA 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

Within 100 miles of the Dragoon Potential Wilderness Area, there are 19 designated wilderness areas totaling about 513,556 acres. Within 100 miles of the Dragoon PWA there are 41 non-wilderness areas over 5,000 acres in size that are specially-designated federal public lands likely to offer a similar unconfined recreation experience. Of these areas, 10 are Wilderness Study Areas managed by Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service to protect wilderness characteristics, and that, therefore, 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 Forests.

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

Wilderness Area	Acres
Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness	19,790
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
Fishhooks Wilderness	10,500
Galiuro Wilderness	76,317
Miller Peak Wilderness	20,191
Mount Wrightson Wilderness	25,260
Needle's Eye Wilderness	8,760
North Santa Teresa Wilderness	5,800
Pajarita Wilderness	7,422
Peloncillo Mountains Wilderness	19,440
Pusch Ridge Wilderness	56,933
Redfield Canyon Wilderness	6,600
Rincon Mountain Wilderness	38,950
Saguaro Wilderness	70,950
Santa Teresa Wilderness	26,780

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 Dragoon 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). 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 does 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). 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 Coronado National Forest has developed a list of species that warrant consideration in the viability evaluation. Appendix B displays those species from this list that are known to occur in the Dragoon 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 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. 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 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 Dragoon 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 Dragoon 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 Dragoon 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 Dragoon 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 Dragoon 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 Dragoon PWA	Percent of Dragoon PWA	Percent Addition to Wilderness with Dragoon PWA
Desert Communities	30,049,409	2,957,920	9.8%	628	9.0%	0.0%
Interior Chaparral	3,007,982	347,373	11.5%	1116	16.0%	0.1%
Madrean Encinal Woodland	5,881,883	429,389	7.3%	4,267	61.1%	0.1%
Madrean Pine Oak Woodland	1,401,126	198,467	14.2%	385	5.5%	0.0%
Mixed Conifer Forest	2,005,391	294,655	14.7%	2	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%	81	1.2%	0.0%
Semi-desert Grasslands	23,886,097	289,792	1.2%	508	7.3%	0.0%
Spruce Fir Forest	831,285	134,548	16.2%	0	0.0%	0.0%
Grand Total	76,690,747	5,407,188		6,987		

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

Next Steps

The Forest Service will collect comments on this Potential Wilderness Areas Evaluation Report 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 report with us:

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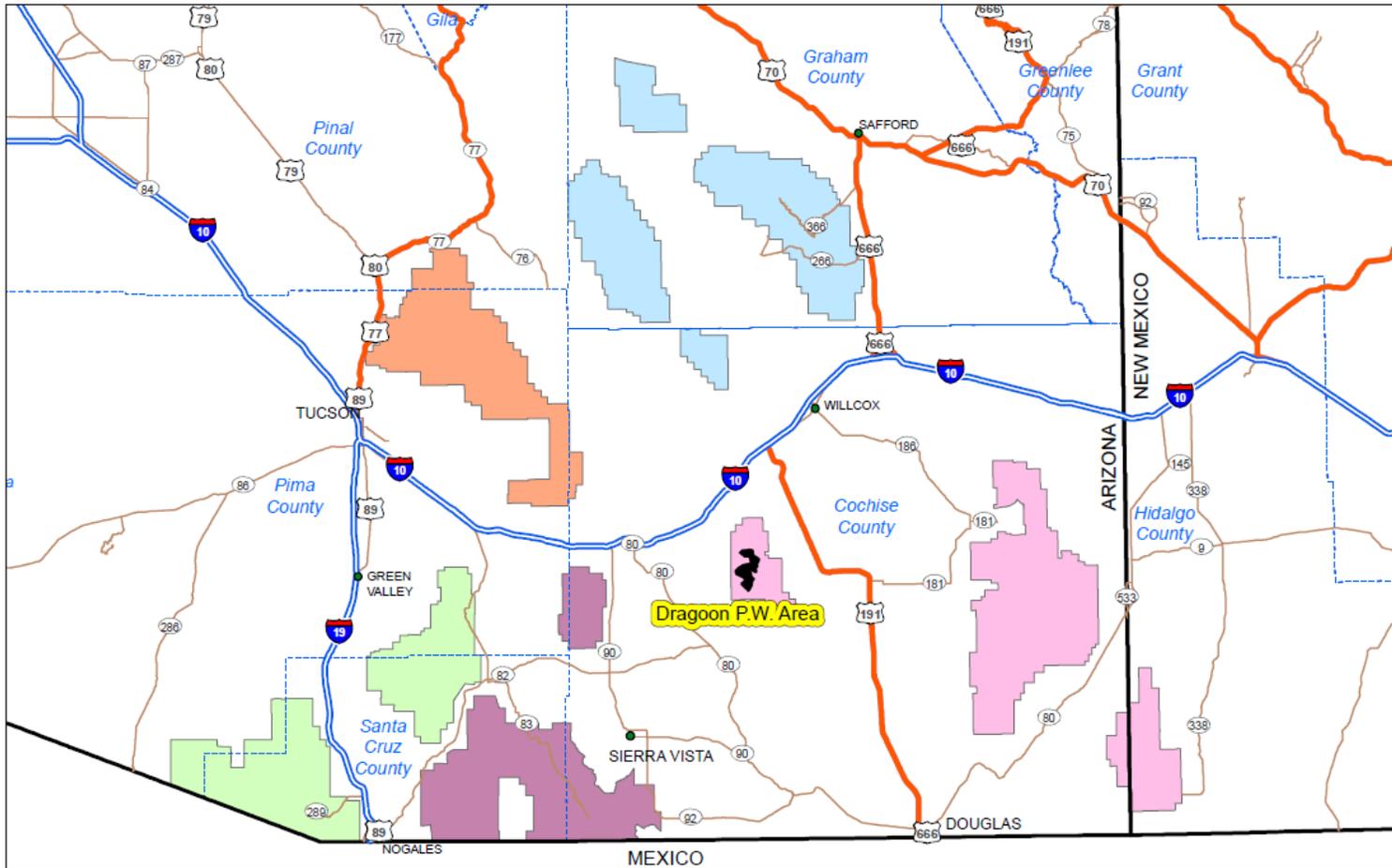
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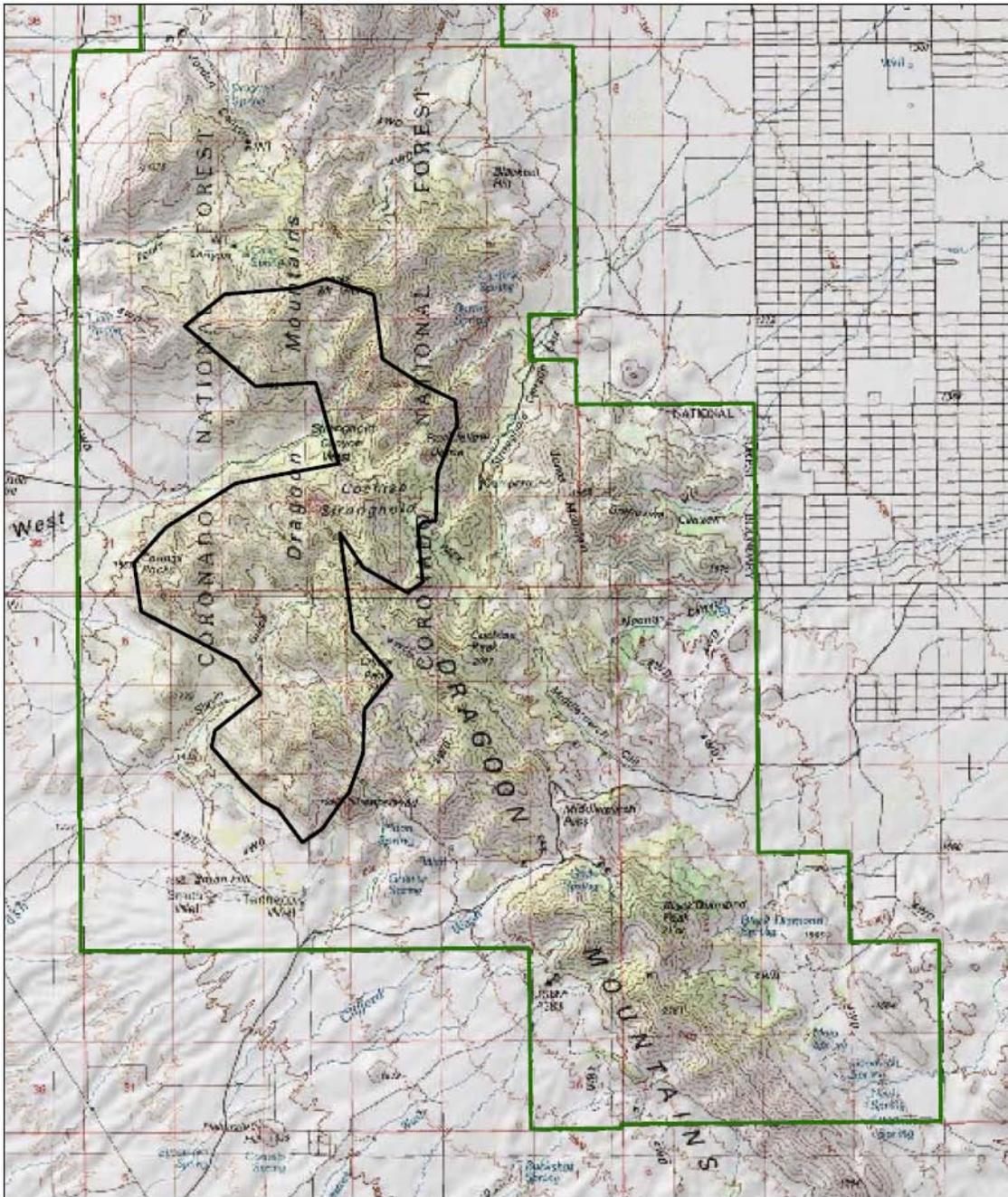
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Map 1: Dragoon Potential Wilderness Area Location Map



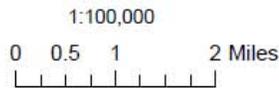
<p>Legend</p> <p>Coronado National Forest Ranger Districts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Douglas Ranger District Nogales Ranger District Safford Ranger District Santa Catalina Ranger District Sierra Vista Ranger District 	<p>Coronado National Forest Dragoon Potential Wilderness Area PW-03-05-D1-001</p>	<p>N</p>	
<p>1:1,309,044</p>		<p>The UGDA 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 UGDA 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 01/06/09 by Terry Austin, GIS Data Specialist, Coronado National Forest, Tucson, Arizona.</p>	

Map 2: Dragoon Potential Wilderness Area



Coronado National Forest
 Dragoon Potential Wilderness Area PW-03-05-D1-001

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Legend

-  PW-03-05-D1-001
-  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 Dragoon PWA

Scientific Name	Common Name	Threatened or Endangered
<i>Rana chiricahuensis</i>	Chiricahua Leopard Frog	X
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American Peregrine Falcon	
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern Goshawk	
<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	Band-tailed Pigeon	
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	X
<i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i>	Mexican Spotted Owl	X
<i>Melanoplus desultorius</i>	Red Whiskers Grasshopper	
<i>Oligocentria delicata</i>	A Notodontid Moth	
<i>Piruna polingii</i>	Four-spotted Skipperling	
<i>Antilocapra americana</i>	Pronghorn	
<i>Choeronycteris mexicana</i>	Mexican Long-tongued Bat	
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	California Bonneted Bat	
<i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i>	Western Yellow Bat	
<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	Mule Deer	
<i>Odocoileus virginianus couesi</i>	Coues' White-tailed Deer	
<i>Puma concolor</i>	Mountain Lion	
<i>Ursus americana</i>	Black Bear	
<i>Leptonycteris yerbabuenae</i>	Lesser Long-nosed Bat	X
<i>Gastrocopta prototypus</i>	Sonoran Snaggletooth	
<i>Holospira ferrissi</i>	Stocky Holospira	
<i>Holospira tantalus</i>	Teasing Holospira	
<i>Sonorella apache</i>	Apache Talussnail	
<i>Sonorella dragoonensis</i>	Stronghold Canyon Talussnail	
<i>Kinosternon sonoriense</i>	Sonoran Mud Turtle	
<i>Sceloporus slevini</i>	Slevin's Bunchgrass Lizard	
<i>Terrepenne ornata luteola</i>	Desert Box Turtle	
<i>Acacia millefolia</i>	Milfoil Acacia	
<i>Apacheria chiricahuensis</i>	Cliff Brittlebush	
<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>Carex ultra</i>	Cochise Sedge	
<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>Fraxinus papillosa</i>	Chihuahua Ash	
<i>Graptopetalum bartramii</i>	Patagonia Mountain Leather-petal	
<i>Hedeoma dentata</i>	Arizona False Pennyroyal	
<i>Hexalectris spicata</i> var. <i>arizonica</i>	Crested Coralroot	
<i>Mammillaria heyderi</i> var. <i>macdougalii</i>	Little Nipple Cactus	
<i>Pellaea ternifolia</i> ssp. <i>arizonica</i>	Three-leaved Cliffbrake	
<i>Penstemon superbus</i>	Superb Beardtongue	
<i>Perityle dissecta</i>	Slimlobe Rockdaisy	

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<i>Phoradendron bolleanum</i> ssp. <i>pauciflorum</i>	Rough Mistletoe	
<i>Pinaropappus roseus</i> var. <i>foliosus</i>		
<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>Scutellaria tessellata</i>	Huachuca Mountains Skullcap	
<i>Woodsia cochisensis</i>	Cochise Woodsia	
<i>Margaranthus solanaceus</i>	Netted Globeberry	

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