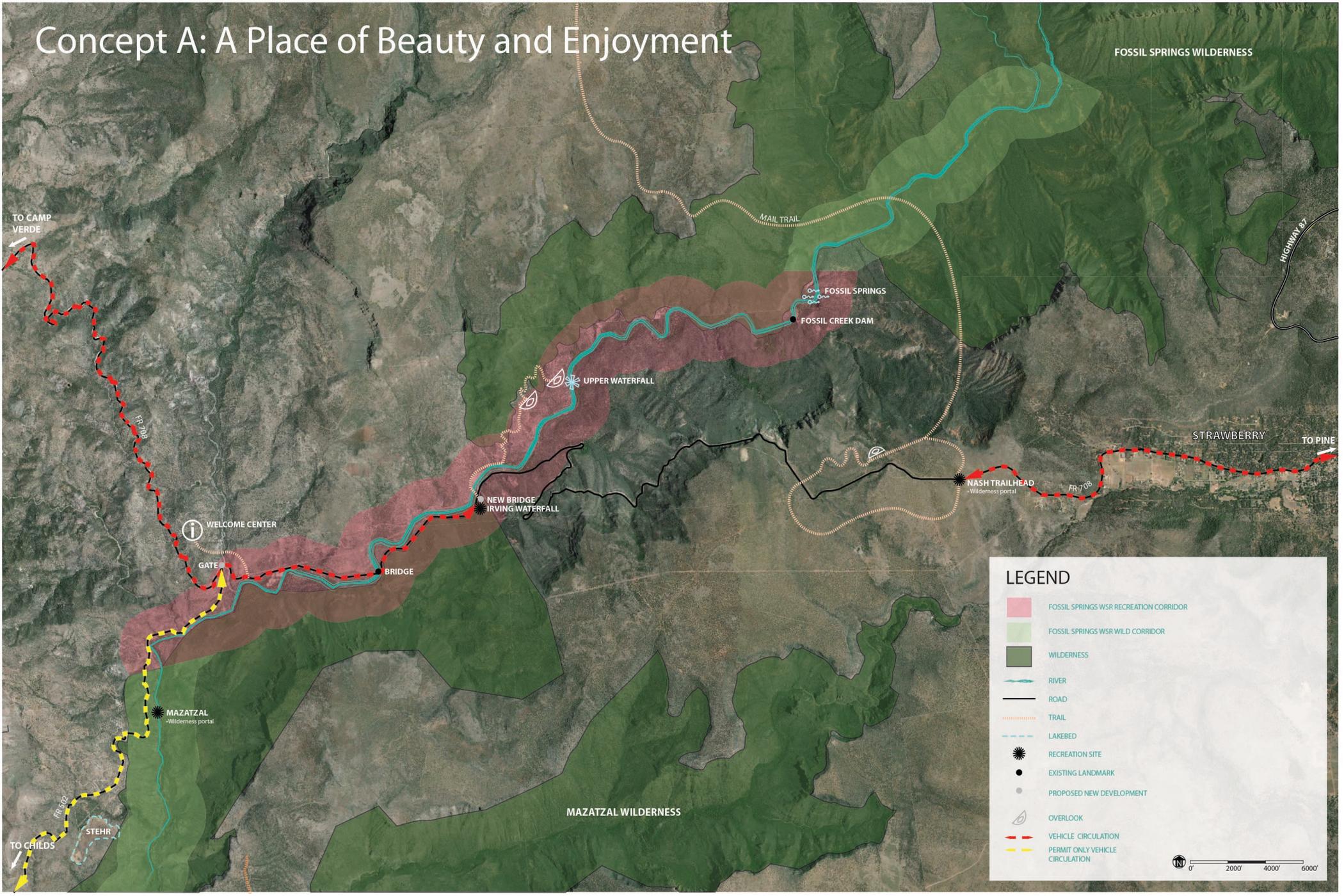


# Concept A: A Place of Beauty and Enjoyment



FOSSIL SPRINGS WILDERNESS

TO CAMP VERDE

MAIL TRAIL

FOSSIL SPRINGS

FOSSIL CREEK DAM

UPPER WATERFALL

WELCOME CENTER

GATE

BRIDGE

NEW BRIDGE IRVING WATERFALL

NASH TRAILHEAD

Wilderness portal

STRAWBERRY

TO PINE

HIGHWAY 87

TO CHILDS

STEHR

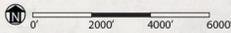
MAZATZAL WILDERNESS

MAZATZAL

Wilderness portal

## LEGEND

- FOSSIL SPRINGS WSR RECREATION CORRIDOR
- FOSSIL SPRINGS WSR WILD CORRIDOR
- WILDERNESS
- RIVER
- ROAD
- TRAIL
- LAKEBED
- RECREATION SITE
- EXISTING LANDMARK
- PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENT
- OVERLOOK
- VEHICLE CIRCULATION
- PERMIT ONLY VEHICLE CIRCULATION



## **Concept A: Fossil Creek, A Place of Beauty and Enjoyment**

Visitors would have the opportunity to fully enjoy the day use recreational offerings at Fossil Creek, while protecting the resources that make Fossil Creek special.

Fossil Creek would be designed to provide a premier recreational experience, while also protecting the natural landscape. The physical design of the area would encourage most visitors to stay within the designated recreation hub, and designed so that most visitors would want to stay within the designated hub. Resources would be protected because impacts outside the recreation hub would be minimal, and the hub itself would be designed to mitigate impacts to natural resources. Additionally, the recreation hub would be located away from sensitive resources, such as Fossil Springs. This concept would protect both the free-flowing condition of this federally designated Wild and Scenic River corridor, and the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) (wildlife, fish and aquatics, geology, recreation, water, and history and traditional uses) it possesses.

### **Vehicle Circulation and Trails**

Vehicles would approach the river corridor via FR 708 from Camp Verde. They would stop at the Welcome Center (located about a mile northwest of the FR 502 junction) and pay the entrance fee. Limited parking would be available at the Welcome Center, and there would be a trailhead there that would provide access to Fossil Creek. There would be a gate at the junction of FR 708 and FR 502, so access to FR 502 would be by permit only, and primarily for river trips. Vehicles that choose not to park at the Welcome Center would continue on FR 708 going east, and would park at the large parking area at Irving Waterfall Recreation Site. There would be a trail that starts from Irving Waterfall that would provide overlooks of Fossil Creek and the Upper Waterfall. Vehicles would also approach the area via FR 708 west from Pine and Strawberry, and drive to the Nash Trailhead. From the Nash Trailhead, visitors could hike the loop rim trail that would provide vistas into Fossil Creek, or they could connect to the Mail Trail (Mail Trail starts at SR 260). Visitors could access surrounding wilderness areas via the Mail Trail, the Nash Trail and the Mazatzal wilderness portals. There would be no vehicle access on the stretch of FR 708 between Irving Waterfall Recreation Site and Nash Trailhead.

### **Program**

Most of the recreation activity would take place at Irving Waterfall Recreation Site, with some visitors dispersing out from this site. There would be creek access points located at the site in environmentally durable areas that are designed and managed specifically for swimming and wading. Access to the Upper Waterfall and Fossil Springs would be restricted for resource protection. There would be concessionaire opportunities, such as equipment rentals, or even managing the entire site in partnership with the Forest Service. Research opportunities emphasizing the wild and scenic river and associated ORVs would continue.

### **Facilities and Activities**

The Welcome Center would be a permanent facility, and would have toilets and limited parking available. Facilities at the Irving Waterfall Recreation Site may include picnic tables and ramadas, trash collection, visitor information and interpretation, and toilets. Available activities may include snorkeling, swimming, wading, fishing, viewing scenery, hiking, wildlife viewing and bird watching, kayaking, hunting during the appropriate season, wilderness backpacking and self-reliance opportunities. Tribes would have access to the area and would be able to engage in ceremonial and traditional uses.