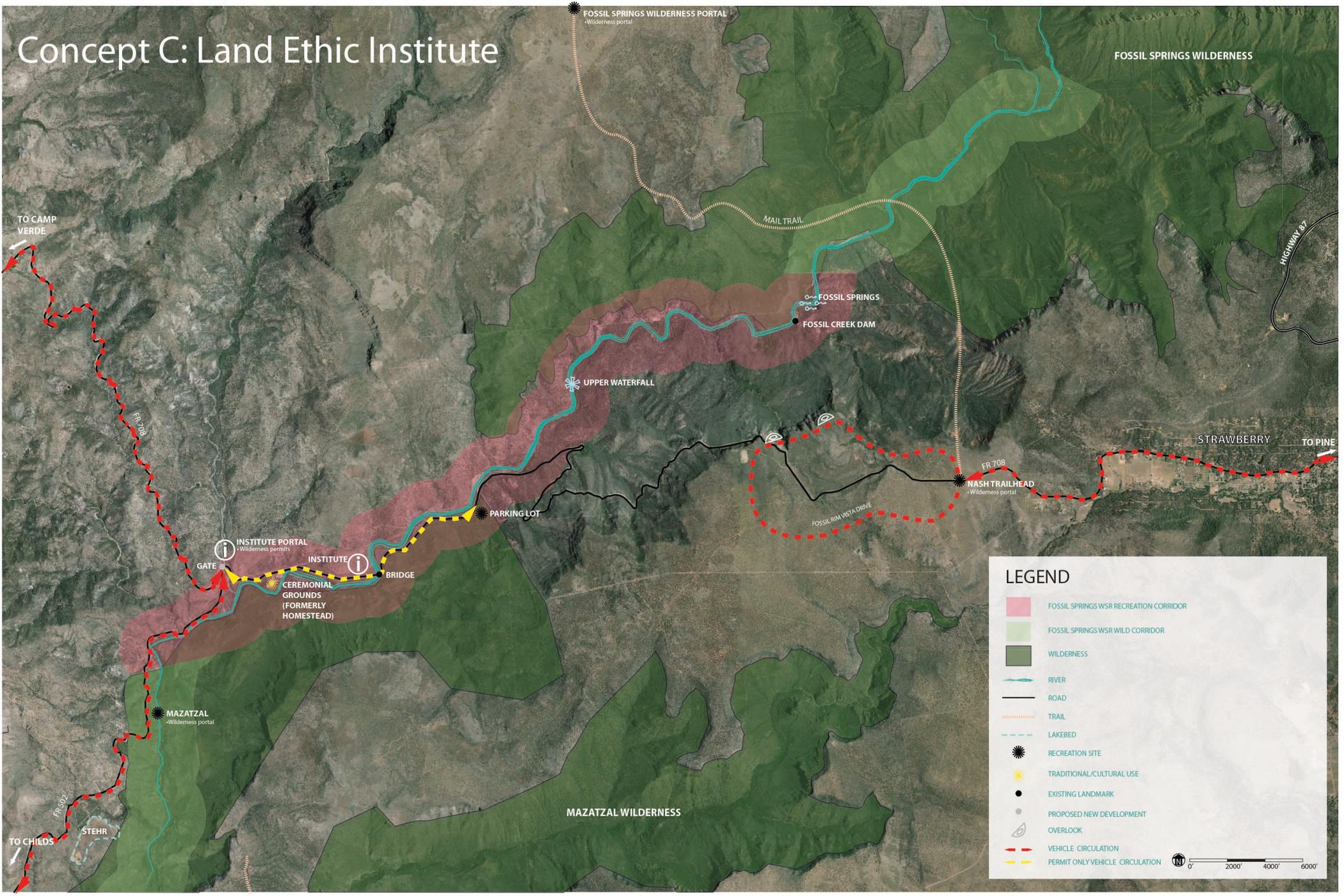


# Concept C: Land Ethic Institute



### LEGEND

- FOSSIL SPRINGS WSR RECREATION CORRIDOR
- FOSSIL SPRINGS WSR WILD CORRIDOR
- WILDERNESS
- RIVER
- ROAD
- TRAIL
- LAKEBED
- \* RECREATION SITE
- \* TRADITIONAL/CULTURAL USE
- EXISTING LANDMARK
- PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENT
- ◐ OVERLOOK
- VEHICLE CIRCULATION
- PERMIT ONLY VEHICLE CIRCULATION

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0 2000' 4000' 6000'

## **Concept C: Fossil Creek Land Ethic Institute**

Fossil Creek Institute would be a working research center, focused on better understanding, protecting and enhancing the resources within the Fossil Creek area.

Fossil Creek would become a location for a working research institute. Activities and research would focus on protecting and enhancing the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) of this federally designated Wild and Scenic River (WSR). The ORVs of Fossil Creek WSR include wildlife, fish and aquatics, geology, recreation, water, and history and traditional uses. Such research is important and necessary, and would help promote resource protection for both present and future generations. This concept would help to instill a land ethic, and would help visitors develop a connection to the natural world. We would recommend the WSR be nominated as a research natural area (RNA).

### **Vehicle Circulation and Trails**

Vehicles would approach the river corridor via FR 708 from Camp Verde. They would first stop at the Institute Portal, which would be located at the junction of FR 708 and FR 502. FR 502 would be open to the general public with Mazatzal Wilderness portal located off of FR 502. Access to FR 708 into Middle Fossil Creek would be restricted, ending at the Recreation Site. Limited parking would be available at the Institute. Visitors could also approach the area via FR 708 west from Pine and Strawberry to Nash Trailhead. From Nash Trailhead, there would be a Rim Overlook Loop Drive that would provide views into Fossil Creek. Visitors could also hike from Nash Trailhead to connect with the Mail Trail (Mail Trail starts at SR 260), or access the wilderness. FR 708 from Nash Trailhead west to the Recreation Site would be closed.

### **Program**

The Forest Service, researchers, Tribes and other partners would determine and schedule the annual program of work, then advertise it for participation. Activities would focus on protecting and enhancing the ORVs. This would include research and monitoring of the designated Wild and Scenic River and surrounding Wildernesses (including wilderness character), land/vegetation/wildlife restoration, and heritage/cultural research.

Traditional tribal uses, and interactive learning with the Tribe, would be encouraged. The public would be involved via internships, summer camps or day camps, public participation

or assistance in research and projects, and scheduled public tours and outreach programs to share the Institute's work.

### **Facilities and Activities**

Visitors would receive general information about the area, information about the Forest Service and the Institute, and obtain wilderness permits at the Institute Portal and at Nash Trailhead. Visitors must have a wilderness permit to access the surrounding wilderness areas. Wilderness permits may be obtained in advance, or in person. The Ceremonial Ground would be available for contemporary tribal uses, and there may be some facilities (e.g., tables, ramadas, limited parking) located there. The Institute would include permanent and seasonal facilities. There would be a central meeting location with dining, administrative space, meeting room, and display space. Supporting facilities such as trailer hookups, platform tents, yurts or small cabins, and amenities centers with showers and restrooms would be available. Temporary spike camps would be employed when needed to support research/restoration projects. However, there would be restrictions (such as number of participants), and the locations of these spike camps would be pre-determined and restored after use. Available activities may include education, as well as research/project related snorkeling, wading, fishing, viewing scenery, hiking, wildlife viewing, kayaking, camping, wilderness self-reliance, and citizen science projects.