

# Wilderness Area Evaluation Summary

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires that all areas meeting minimum criteria as wilderness be considered for recommendation for wilderness designation during plan revision. Recommended areas are those which are capable of providing wilderness experiences and character, are available for recommendation in comparison to other values that exist in the area, and respond to the need for additional wilderness in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This is a summary of the results of the Potential Wilderness Area Evaluation Report (KNF 2013), which can be found on the Kaibab National Forest (NF) Web site at [http://fs.usda.gov/goto/kaibab/plan\\_revision](http://fs.usda.gov/goto/kaibab/plan_revision).

The potential wilderness area (PWA) evaluation identified and inventoried all non-wilderness areas within the Kaibab NF that satisfy the definition of wilderness found in the 1964 Wilderness Act, which states:

*“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 underdeveloped 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.”*

Forest Service Handbook (FSH) direction (1909.12, Chapter 70) provides a three-step process for identifying and evaluating potential wilderness on National Forest System Lands. This process includes:

1. An inventory of potential areas;
2. Evaluation of potential areas; and,
3. Determination (by the decision maker for the Kaibab forest plan) if a recommendation will be pursued for any potential wilderness areas.

## Inventory of Potential Wilderness Areas

In 2007, the Southwestern Region developed a Potential Wilderness Inventory process for use by National Forests in the Region. Through this process, the Kaibab NF identified areas that met the basic requirements of size, geography or adjacency to existing or recommended wilderness. In order for an area to be included in the potential wilderness inventory, it must meet the definition in the 1964 Wilderness Act and meet either criteria 1 and 3, or criteria 2 and 3 below.

1. Areas contain 5,000 acres or more.
2. Areas contain less than 5,000 acres, but can meet one or more of the following criteria:
  - a. Can be preserved due to physical terrain and natural conditions.

- b. Self-contained ecosystems, such as an island, that can be effectively managed as a separate unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System.
  - c. Contiguous to existing wilderness, primitive areas, Administration-endorsed wilderness, or potential wilderness in other Federal ownership, regardless of their size.
3. Areas do not contain forest roads (36 CFR 212.1) or other permanently authorized roads, except as permitted in areas east of the 100th meridian (sec. 71.12).

Areas may qualify for inventory of potential wilderness even though they include the types of areas or features listed in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 71.11 (e.g. historic mining, electronic sites, fences, water troughs, and corrals), providing their impact is minimal.

The Kaibab NF used a systematic process to identify areas (polygons) that met the inventory criteria. An automated GIS model was developed to identify polygons that met inventory criteria 1, 2c, and 3. The portion of this analysis determining the presence of roads utilized the most up-to-date motor vehicle use map. These polygons were then individually examined for inherent model errors such as polygons containing “dead-end” roads. Polygons were reshaped or completely removed if they contained dense networks of dead-end roads. When delineating the boundaries of areas, efforts were made to facilitate easy on-the-ground identification. During this examination the Kaibab NF also determined whether a polygon met inventory criteria 2a and 2b, and criteria from FSH 1909.12, Chapter 71.

The inventory process identified sixteen PWAs that were carried forward to the evaluation phase. A full description of the PWA inventory process can be found in Appendix A of this document.

## **Evaluation of Potential Wilderness Areas**

After the initial inventory was completed, PWAs identified in the inventory were evaluated for capability, availability, and need:

1. Capability is an evaluation of the inherent characteristics of the potential area.
2. Availability is an evaluation of the value and need for wilderness compared to value and need for other resources or uses.
3. Need is an evaluation of the regional distribution of wilderness and representation of regional landforms and ecosystems.

## **Capability Analysis**

The sixteen PWAs carried forward from the inventory process were evaluated for their capability. Basic wilderness capability characteristics were used to evaluate the initial suitability of a PWA for wilderness recommendation regardless of its availability or need as wilderness. Five principle wilderness characteristics (based on the Wilderness Act) were analyzed in this step (FSH 1909.2, Chapter 70, Section 72.1):

1. Natural—the degree to which the area is substantially free from the effects of modern civilization and generally appears to be affected primarily by forces of nature.

2. Undeveloped—the degree to which an area is without permanent improvements/human habitation.
3. Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation—the degree to which the area provides a wide range of experiential opportunities for feelings of solitude, isolation, and a part of nature free from evidence of humans.
4. Special Features and Values—the degree to which an area is capable of providing other values such as those with ecologic, geologic, scientific, educational, scenic, historic or cultural significance.
5. Manageability—ability to manage the area as wilderness as required by the Wilderness Act and how boundaries of the area affect its manageability.

A rating system was used to assess the wilderness character of each PWA. The specific criteria were developed by the Southwestern Regional Office with direction from the Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 Chapter 72.1. For each PWA, each criterion was assigned a high, medium, or low rating. These were then converted to numerical ratings using the following scale: a high rating received 3 points; a medium rating received 2 points; and low ratings received zero points. Each of the five wilderness characteristics—naturalness, undeveloped, solitude/primitive recreation, special features, and manageability—then received a rating of high, medium, or low based on the points given to its constituent criteria. The overall capability rating for a PWA was based on the total number of points earned in all five categories.

The rating criteria for capability are described in Table E 1. Table E 2 summarizes the capability ratings for the 16 inventoried PWAs on the Kaibab NF. The evaluation relied on professional knowledge regarding the unique, site specific conditions of each area being considered. More detail about the capability of each PWA is provided in the area-specific PWA evaluation summaries in this report. Figures E 1 and E 2 display the potential wilderness areas that were evaluated for capability as a part of this analysis.

**Table E 1. Potential wilderness area capability rating criteria**

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Rating*</b>
<b>Natural</b>	Presence of non-native species	<b>High</b> – Non-native species are not evident
		<b>Medium</b> – Non-native species are evident in isolated spots
		<b>Low</b> – Non-native species are common or scattered throughout the area
	Seeps/springs within the area are in free-flowing condition	<b>High</b> – Seeps/springs are considered free-flowing (undeveloped)
		<b>Medium</b> – Some seeps/springs have development or other issues that affect their free-flowing character.
		<b>Low</b> – Springs/seeps are absent, seasonal or heavily impacted by development
	Quality of night sky as affected by light pollution	<b>High</b> – The night sky is clear with little to no interference from light pollution
		<b>Medium</b> – Some stars are visible and there is moderate degradation from light pollution
		<b>Low</b> – Few stars are visible at night and the presence of light pollution is evident
	Area provides elements of biological diversity and naturalness, including unique habitats, TES or rare plants & wildlife.	<b>High</b> – Has critical or unique habitats and diverse ecological conditions
		<b>Medium</b> – Has a mix of habitats and ecological conditions
		<b>Low</b> – Has limited ecological conditions and habitats
	Area contains a variety of natural resources, including a variety of tree species and structures. Intermingled grasslands or meadows, numerous recreation opportunities, diversity of wildlife habitats, and wildlife, etc.	<b>High</b> – Diverse amount of natural resources
		<b>Medium</b> – Mixed amount of natural resources
		<b>Low</b> – Limited amount of natural resource diversity
<b>Undeveloped</b>	Area is free from human disturbance	<b>High</b> – Has only minor improvements and appears free from human disturbance
		<b>Medium</b> – Has several minor improvements and is mostly free from human disturbance
		<b>Low</b> – Has major improvement such as a power line or road and shows signs of human disturbance
<b>Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation</b>	Area provides physically and mentally challenging recreation opportunities that promote adventure and self-reliance	<b>High</b> – Most of the area provides challenging recreation opportunities
		<b>Medium</b> – Some parts of the area have the potential for challenging recreation opportunities
		<b>Low</b> – Few parts of the area can provide challenging recreation opportunities
	Opportunity to experience solitude and isolation from human activities while recreating in the area	<b>High</b> – Significant feeling of being alone or remote from civilization
		<b>Medium</b> – Feeling of being alone is possible but signs of civilization are likely
		<b>Low</b> – Little opportunity of feeling alone
	Opportunity to engage in primitive and unconfined recreation such as back-packing, hunting, fishing, etc.	<b>High</b> - There are many opportunities for engaging in primitive recreation
		<b>Medium</b> – There are some opportunities for engaging in primitive recreation
		<b>Low</b> – There are few to no opportunities to engage in primitive recreation
	Degree of primitive ROS settings	<b>High</b> – Majority of the area is classified primitive or semi-primitive non-motorized

**Table E 1. Potential wilderness area capability rating criteria**

Characteristic	Criterion	Rating*
		<b>Medium</b> – Some of the area is classified primitive or semi-primitive non-motorized
		<b>Low</b> – Little to none of the area is classified primitive or semi-primitive non-motorized
<b>Special Features and Values</b>	Area contains outstanding or distinct features like rock formations, panoramic views, etc.	<b>High</b> – Many distinct features or few but exceptional features
		<b>Medium</b> – Some distinct features
		<b>Low</b> – One or no distinct features
	Area has potential for scientific research, environmental education, or historic/cultural opportunities	<b>High</b> – Good potential for two or more types of these opportunities
		<b>Medium</b> – Potential for one type of opportunity
		<b>Low</b> – Little or no potential for this type of opportunity
	Area contains unique or rare species of plants and/or animals	<b>High</b> – Area has several unique or rare plants and/or animals
		<b>Medium</b> – Area has a few unique or rare plants and/or animals
		<b>Low</b> – Area has no known unique or rare plants and/or animals.
<b>Manageability</b>	Ability to manage the area for wilderness character, including distance and influence from outside activities; opportunity to access the area; and resource conflicts or encumbrances	<b>High</b> – Isolated from areas of activity; controlled or limited access; no encumbrances or resource conflicts
		<b>Medium</b> – Somewhat isolated from areas of activity; adequate access opportunities; some resource conflicts and/or encumbrances
		<b>Low</b> – Areas of activity are nearby; many access opportunities; many resource conflicts and/or encumbrances
	Area boundaries are recognizable and defensible	<b>High</b> – Majority of boundary follows features that can be easily found and identified on the ground
		<b>Medium</b> – About half of the boundary follows features that can be easily found and identified on the ground
		<b>Low</b> – Boundary can rarely be located without equipment, such as a GPS unit

\* Each criterion rating was assigned a numeric score: High= 3 points, Medium = 2 points, Low = 0 points

**Table E 2. Summary of the Kaibab National Forest potential wilderness area capability ratings**

Area Name, Size, PWA Number <sup>a</sup>	Capability Rating <sup>b</sup>					
	Natural	Un-developed	Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive, unconfined recreation	Special features and values	Manage-ability	Overall capability rating <sup>c</sup>
<b>Saddle Mountain Addition:</b> 1,296 ac PWA 03-07-043	Medium (2)	High (3)	High (3)	High (3)	High (3)	<b>14 = High</b>
<b>Kanab Creek Additions:</b> 4,710 ac PWA 03-07-034	Medium (2)	High (3)	Medium (2)	High (3)	High (3)	<b>13 = High</b>
<b>Grassy/Quaking Aspen Canyons:</b> 232 ac, PWA 03-07-099	High (3)	High (3)	High (3)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	<b>13 = High</b>
<b>Sycamore Canyon Addition:</b> 988 ac PWA 03-07-057	Medium (2)	High (3)	High (3)	Medium (2)	High (3)	<b>13 = High</b>
<b>Jacks Canyon:</b> 156 ac PWA 03-07-999	Medium (2)	High (3)	High (3)	High (3)	Medium (2)	<b>13 = High</b>
<b>Burro Canyon:</b> 10,735 ac PWA 03-07-003	Medium (2)	High (3)	High (3)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	<b>12 = Medium</b>
<b>Coconino Rim:</b> 7,750 ac PWA 03-07-079	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	<b>10 = Medium</b>
<b>Seegmiller:</b> 6,168 ac PWA 03-07-035	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	<b>10 = Medium</b>
<b>Willis Canyon:</b> 6,418 ac PWA 03-07-002	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	<b>10 = Medium</b>
<b>South Canyon Point:</b> 5,829 ac PWA 03-07-045	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	<b>10 = Medium</b>
<b>The following PWAs were not carried forward to Availability analysis due to an overall “low” score:</b>						
<b>Sitgreaves Mtn:</b> 10,016 ac PWA 03-07-073	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Low (0)	<b>8 = Low</b>
<b>Red Point:</b> 7,385 ac PWA 03-07-098	Low (0)	High (3)	Medium (2)	Low (0)	Low (0)	<b>5 = Low</b>
<b>Big Ridge:</b> 9,373 ac PWA 03-07-004	Low (0)	High (3)	Low (0)	Medium (2)	Low (0)	<b>5 = Low</b>
<b>Red Butte:</b> 2,682 ac PWA 03-07-088	Low (0)	Low (0)	Low (0)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	<b>4 = Low</b>
<b>Paradise Ridge:</b> 10,444 ac PWA 03-07-134	Low (0)	Low (0)	Low (0)	Low (0)	Medium (2)	<b>2 = Low</b>
<b>NW NKRD:</b> 12,110 ac PWA 03-07-018	Low (0)	Medium (2)	Low (0)	Low (0)	Low (0)	<b>2 = Low</b>

<sup>a</sup> The first 5 PWAs are included based on the “contiguous to existing wilderness” criterion. Red Butte & Sitgreaves Mtn. are included because “they can be preserved due to physical terrain and/or natural conditions.” The remaining PWAs are included based on the ≥5,000 acres criterion.

<sup>b</sup> Each criterion rating was assigned a numerical score: High = 3 points, Medium = 2 points, Low = 0 points.

<sup>c</sup> Overall capability rating: 13-15 = High (≥87%); 9-12 = Medium (60-86%); <9 = Low (<60%). Only PWAs with a >60% rating are carried forward to availability analysis.

## Availability Analysis

Of the sixteen PWAs evaluated for capability, six were not carried forward into the availability and need assessments because they had a low capability rating (below 60%). The remaining ten PWAs were considered potentially available for wilderness designation. The availability analysis compares the resource tradeoffs and consequences of wilderness designation based on the qualitative and quantitative information about current and potential uses, outputs, trends for the various resources.

Availability of PWAs was evaluated on nine criteria: recreation, including tourism; information on wildlife species, populations, and management needs; water availability and use; livestock operations; timber; minerals; cultural resources; authorized and potential land uses; and management considerations, including fire, insects and disease, and presence of non-federal lands. Surface water is exceedingly uncommon on the Kaibab NF, and it was determined that available water within the PWAs only occurred as seeps and springs or developed livestock waters. The presence of seeps and springs is addressed in the capability analysis (described above), and the presence and use of livestock waters is included in the livestock operations question described below.

The availability rating of the ten remaining PWAs was determined by asking a question related to each of the resource categories and scoring based on the resulting availability. As with capability, the PWAs were assigned a high, medium, or low rating on each criterion. A high rating was worth 3 points, a medium rating was worth 2 points low ratings received zero points since the objective was to promote areas with outstanding wilderness qualities. More detail about the availability rating for each PWA is provided in the area-specific summaries in this report.

Table E 3 describes the rating criteria for availability. Table E 4 summarizes the availability ratings and associated scores for each of the ten PWAs under consideration.

**Table E 3. Potential wilderness area availability rating criteria**

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Availability Question</b>	<b>Rating*</b>
<b>Vegetation (Timber)/ Fire Management</b>	What have been or will be the impacts of existing/planned/needed management activities on the “wilderness character” of the PWA (includes timber harvest activities, invasive/noxious species eradication, and fire)?	<b>High</b> – Minimal or no existing/planned/needed activities
		<b>Medium</b> – Some existing/planned/needed activities
		<b>Low</b> – Many existing/planned/needed activities
<b>Recreation and Tourism</b>	What types of recreation or tourism occur in the PWA, and do they involve motorized or mechanized vehicle use (e.g. mountain bikes or ATVs)?	<b>High</b> – Primitive non-motorized/mechanized recreation/tourism only
		<b>Medium</b> – Semi-primitive non-mechanized/motorized vehicle use
		<b>Low</b> – User-created (social) mechanized/motorized vehicle trail use
<b>Wildlife and Plants</b>	Would wilderness designation result in increased protection and viability for federally listed or sensitive species within the PWA?	<b>High</b> – Federally listed or sensitive species are present and wilderness designation would improve protection and viability of these species
		<b>Medium</b> – Only one federally listed and/or sensitive species are present and wilderness designation would improve protection of these species
		<b>Low</b> – No federally listed or sensitive species are present and/or wilderness designation would not improve protection or viability
<b>Livestock Operations</b>	Are there active allotments and associated improvements (including water developments) within the PWA that are subject to periodic maintenance requiring the use of mechanized equipment?	<b>High</b> – No active allotments and/or improvements do not require maintenance with mechanized equipment
		<b>Medium</b> – Active allotment(s) are present but existing improvements do not require maintenance with mechanized equipment
		<b>Low</b> – Active allotments are present and improvements do require maintenance with mechanized equipment
<b>Lands and Minerals</b>	Are there patented lands, mining claims, surface occupancy leases, or abandoned mines/quarries with the PWA?	<b>High</b> – None of the above exist
		<b>Medium</b> – No patented lands, mining claims, or surface occupancy leases exist but some abandoned mines/quarries present
		<b>Low</b> – Any of the above (except abandoned mines/quarries) are present
<b>Heritage and Cultural Resources</b>	Are there prehistoric, historic, or ceremonial sites with the PWA and are they ever accessed using mechanized vehicles?	<b>High</b> – High density of sites that do not require mechanized vehicle access are present and wilderness designation would increase protection of sites
		<b>Medium</b> – Low to moderate density of sites that do not require mechanized vehicle access are present and wilderness designation would increase protection of sites
		<b>Low</b> – No to low density of sites are present or sites require mechanized vehicle access or wilderness designation would not increase protection of sites

\*High = 3 points, Medium = 2 points, Low = 0 points

**Table E 4. Summary of the Kaibab National Forest potential wilderness area availability ratings**

Area Name, Size, PWA Number <sup>a</sup>	Availability Rating Criteria <sup>b</sup>						
	Timber, Vegetation, and Fire Mgmt.	Recreation	Wildlife and Plants	Livestock Operations	Lands and Minerals	Heritage and Cultural Resources	Overall Availability <sup>c</sup>
<b>Kanab Creek Additions:</b> 4,710 ac PWA 03-07-034	High (3)	High (3)	High (3)	High (3)	High (3)	High (3)	<b>High (18)</b>
<b>Saddle Mountain Addition:</b> 1,296 ac PWA 03-07-043	High (3)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	High (3)	High (3)	High (3)	<b>High (16)</b>
<b>Sycamore Canyon Addition:</b> 988 ac PWA 03-07-057	High (3)	Medium (2)	High (3)	High (3)	High (3)	Medium (2)	<b>High (16)</b>
<b>Grassy and Quaking Aspen Canyons:</b> 232 ac, PWA 03-07-099	High (3)	Medium (2)	High (3)	High (3)	High (3)	Medium (2)	<b>High (16)</b>
<b>Jacks Canyon:</b> 156 ac PWA 03-07-999	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	High (3)	High (3)	High (3)	Medium (2)	<b>Medium (15)</b>
<b>Coconino Rim:</b> 7,750 ac PWA 03-07-079	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	High (3)	<b>Medium (13)</b>
<b>Seegmiller:</b> 6,168 ac PWA 03-07-035	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	High (3)	Medium (2)	<b>Medium (13)</b>
<b>Burro Canyon:</b> 10,735 ac PWA 03-07-003	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Low (0)	High (3)	Medium (2)	<b>Medium (11)</b>
<b>South Canyon Point:</b> 5,829 ac PWA 03-07-045	Medium (2)	Low (0)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	High (3)	Medium (2)	<b>Medium (11)</b>
<b>Willis Canyon:</b> 6,418 ac PWA 03-07-002	Low (0)	Medium (2)	Low (0)	Low (0)	High (3)	Medium (2)	<b>Low (7)</b>

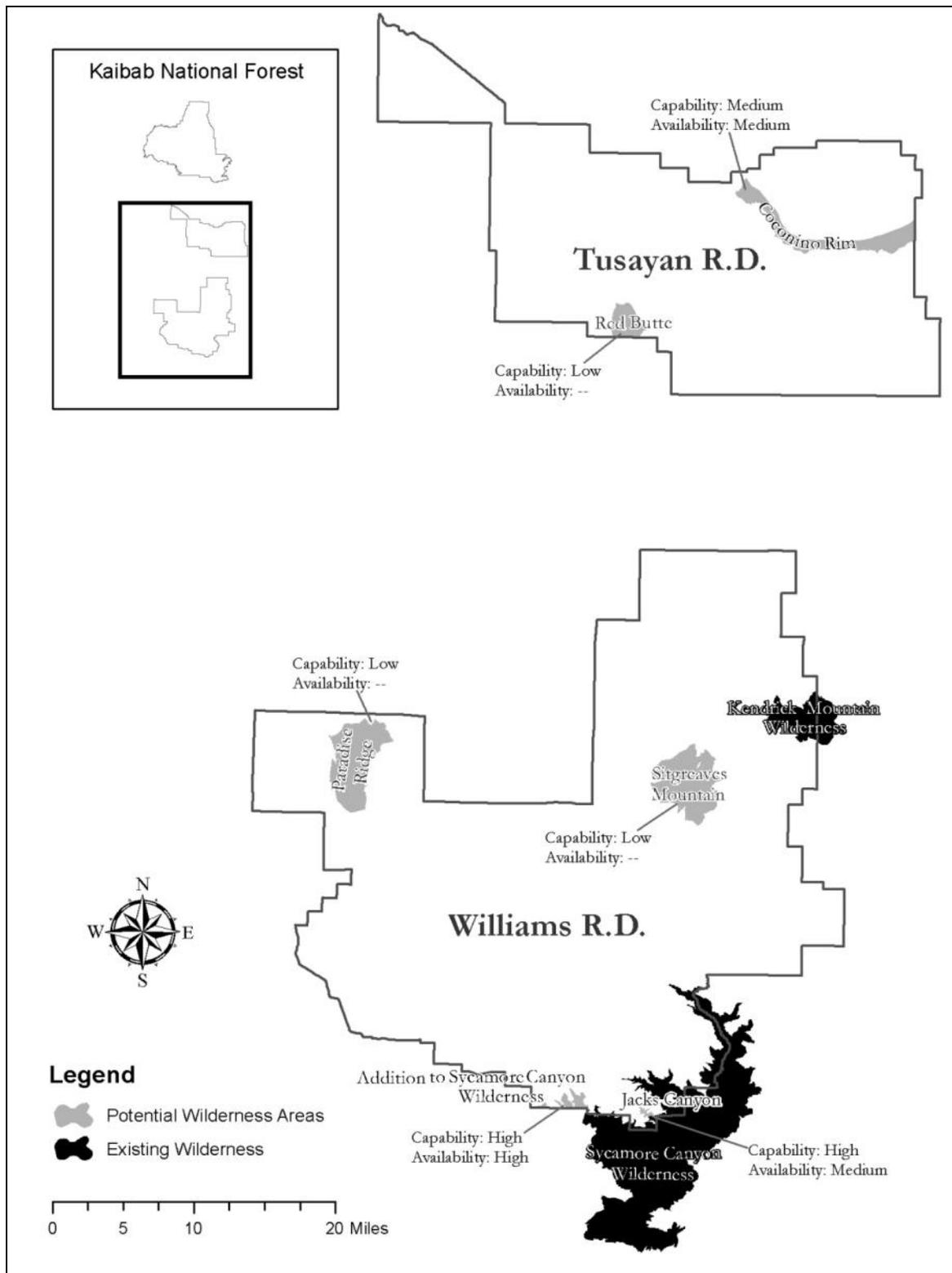
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<sup>a</sup> The Kanab Creek, Saddle Mountain, Sycamore Canyon, Jacks Canyon, and Grassy/Quaking Aspen Canyons additions are included based on the "contiguous to existing wilderness" criterion. The remaining five PWAs are included based on the  $\geq 5,000$  acres criterion.

<sup>b</sup> Each criterion rating was assigned a numerical score: High = 3 points, Medium = 2 points, Low = 0 points.

<sup>c</sup> Overall availability rating: 16-18 = High ( $\geq 87\%$ ); 11-15 = Medium (60-86%); <11 = Low (<60%).





**Figure E 2. Tusayan and Williams Ranger Districts existing and potential wilderness areas with capability and availability**

## Need Analysis

The purpose of the need analysis is to identify the need for additional wilderness based on the regional distribution of wilderness and the representation of landforms and ecosystems within existing wilderness areas. The need for additional wilderness is determined by analyzing the degree to which an individual PWA contributes to the national wilderness system. Need analysis was performed only for the ten PWAs that passed the Capability analysis. The need evaluation is based on six factors and follows the process identified in FSH 1909.12, Subsection 72.3:

1. The location, size, and type of other wildernesses 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 wildernesses, 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 inability 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 wildernesses 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, subregional, and regional needs.

Table E 5 summarizes the need ratings for the PWAs carried forward from the capability analysis.

**Table E 5. PWA need ratings for each factor**

Area Name, Size, PWA Number	Need Rating Criteria					
	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4	Factor 5	Factor 6
Kanab Creek Addition: 4,710 ac, PWA 03-07-034	Low	Low	Low	High	Low	Medium
Saddle Mountain Addition: 1,296 ac, PWA 03-07-043	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
Sycamore Canyon Addition: 988 ac, PWA 03-07-057	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Grassy/Quaking Aspen Canyons: 232 ac, PWA 03-07-099	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
Jacks Canyon: 156 ac PWA 03-07-999	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Burro Canyon: 10,735 ac, PWA 03-07-003	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
Coconino Rim: 7,750 ac, PWA 03-07-079	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
Seegmiller: 6,168 ac, PWA 03-07-035	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
South Canyon Pt.: 5,829 ac, PWA 03-07-045	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
Willis Canyon: 6,418 ac, PWA 03-07-002	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium

## Summary of Results and Leadership Team Discussion

Table E 6 summarizes the capability, availability, and need ratings for the 16 PWAs identified on the Kaibab NF as a part of the plan revision process, and lists the plan alternatives that recommend each area for wilderness designation. Of these, six were not evaluated for availability or need due to low capability ratings. Five PWAs (Kanab Creek Addition, Saddle Mountain Addition, Grassy and Quaking Canyons, Jacks Canyon, and Sycamore Canyon Addition) rated “high” for capability. With the exception of Jacks Canyon, these PWAs rated “high” for availability. All PWAs ranked “low” for need. As a result, considerations were primarily focused on capability and availability, with general recognition of the low need.

The leadership team and plan revision team discussed the individual characteristics of each PWA and the criteria/factors for capability, availability, and need. After considering the merits of each area, there was general support for recommending the areas for wilderness that had at least a combined rating of high/medium capability and availability in the proposed action.

The potential additions to Kanab Creek Wilderness would bring the area managed as wilderness to the rim, making it more identifiable and, therefore, manageable. The potential addition to Saddle Mountain Wilderness would add a unique landform, the “Cockscomb,” into the area managed as wilderness. Grassy and Quaking Aspen Canyons are adjacent to proposed wilderness in the Grand Canyon National Park and would also bring the area managed as wilderness to the rim, improving manageability. These additions

also received strong support from Grand Canyon NP. Jacks Canyon extends the boundary of the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness into a side canyon, improving its manageability.

Because the Sycamore Canyon Addition is less than 1,000 acres, it was only to be recommended by the Kaibab NF for wilderness designation if the adjacent PWA on the Prescott NF (Sycamore Canyon Contiguous C) was recommended in the Prescott’s revised forest plan. This portion of the Prescott NF was not included in their proposed action, so the Sycamore Canyon Addition is not recommended as a PWA under the Kaibab NF’s Alternative B (proposed action).

**Table E 6. Capability, availability, and need ratings for Kaibab National Forest potential wilderness areas**

PWA Number	Name	Acres	Capability	Availability	Need
03-07-034	Kanab Creek Addition	4,710	High	High	Low
03-07-043	Saddle Mountain Addition	1,296	High	High	Low
03-07-099	Grassy/ Quaking Aspen Canyons	232	High	High	Low
03-07-999	Jacks Canyon	156	High	Medium	Low
03-07-057	Sycamore Canyon Addition	988	High	High	Low
03-07-003	Burro Canyon	10,735	Medium	Medium	Low
03-07-079	Coconino Rim	7,750	Medium	Medium	Low
03-07-035	Seegmiller	6,168	Medium	Medium	Low
03-07-045	South Canyon Point	5,829	Medium	Medium	Low
03-07-002	Willis Canyon	6,418	Medium	Low	Low

Following the discussion of what should be included in the proposed action (Alternative B) to be recommended for wilderness, there was discussion about which PWAs should be evaluated in detail in the alternatives to the proposed action. During the scoping phase for the plan, comments were received on the initial capability and availability evaluations. Some commenters wanted all of the inventoried roadless areas and Sitgreaves Mountain to be recommended for wilderness. Other comments stated that no new areas should be recommended for wilderness, and others supported the recommendation of any capable areas contiguous to the Grand Canyon be proposed as wilderness.

Of the five inventoried roadless areas on the Kaibab NF, Big Ridge and Red Point rated low for capability. This is due in large part to the effects of the Warm Fire of 2006, which burned these areas at generally high severity. These areas were considered but not included in the alternatives to be analyzed in detail because of their lower capability and because they would benefit from management aimed at improving their ecosystem integrity. Such management would be more efficient and effective with the ability to use a variety of tools, including mechanized and motorized equipment, and would likely improve these areas’ wilderness capability over the long term. Similarly, Sitgreaves Mountain was eliminated from further consideration because of a low capability rating and the need for treatments aimed at reducing the risk of uncharacteristic fire. Not recommending these or other areas for wilderness designation at this time does not preclude their recommendation in the future. All of the remaining PWAs that received at least a medium capability rating were included in the alternatives to the proposed action in an effort to maintain a range of alternatives and provide the greatest amount of information for use in the decision.

## **Overview of Results**

The proposed action recommends four PWAs (Kanab Creek Addition, Saddle Mountain Addition, Grassy/Quaking Aspen Canyons, and Jacks Canyon), totaling about 6,394 acres, for wilderness designation. These areas are shaded grey in Table E 6. These areas would be managed under the “Recommended Wilderness Management Area” in the proposed plan. Alternatives C and D recommend the PWAs in the proposed action, plus six additional wilderness areas (totaling about 37,000 acres): Burro Canyon, Coconino Rim, Seegmiller, South Canyon Point, Sycamore Canyon addition, and Willis Canyon.

## **References**

USDA Forest Service, Kaibab National Forest (KNF). 2013. Kaibab National Forest Potential Wilderness Area Evaluation Report. Williams, AZ: Kaibab National Forest.