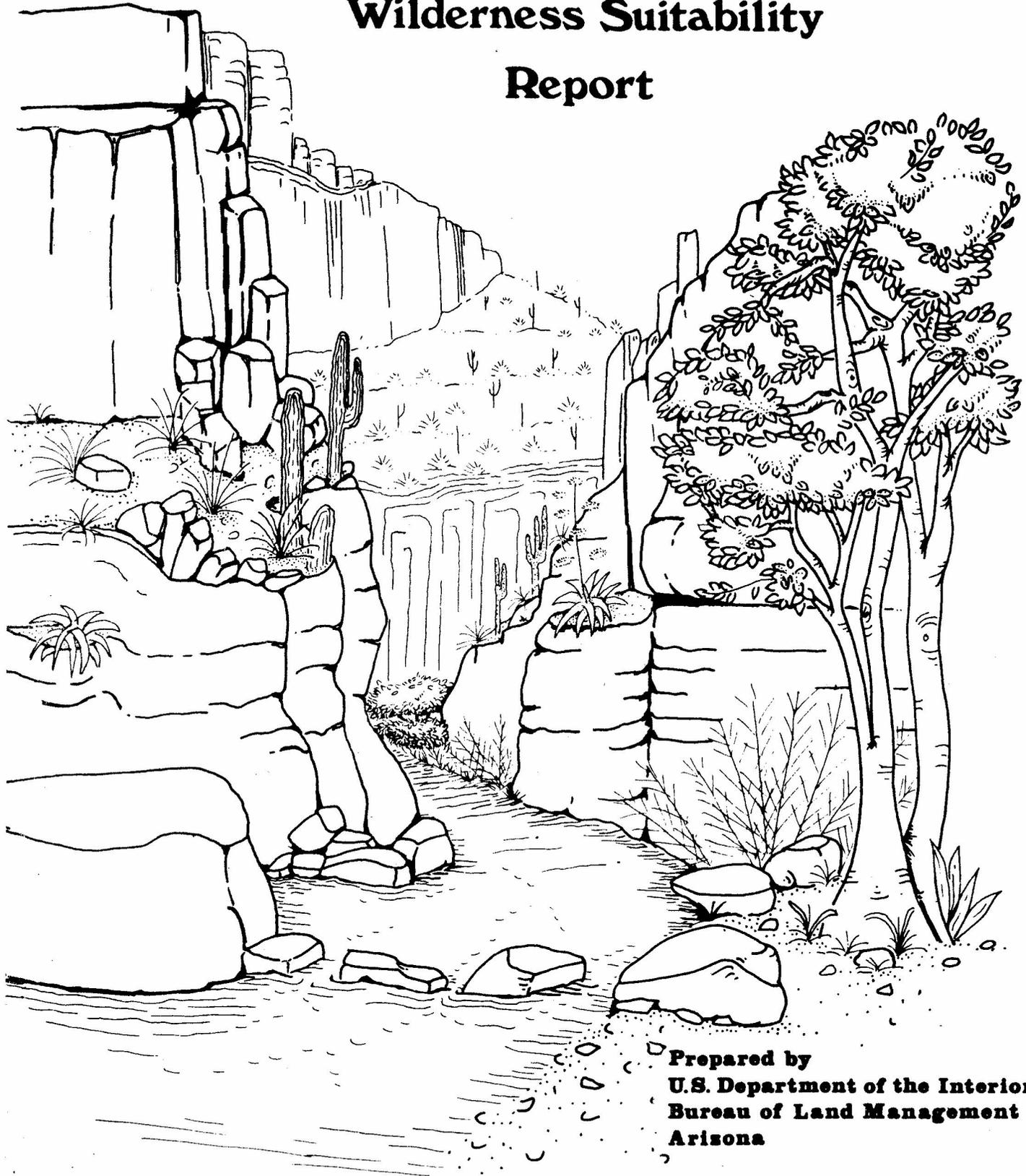


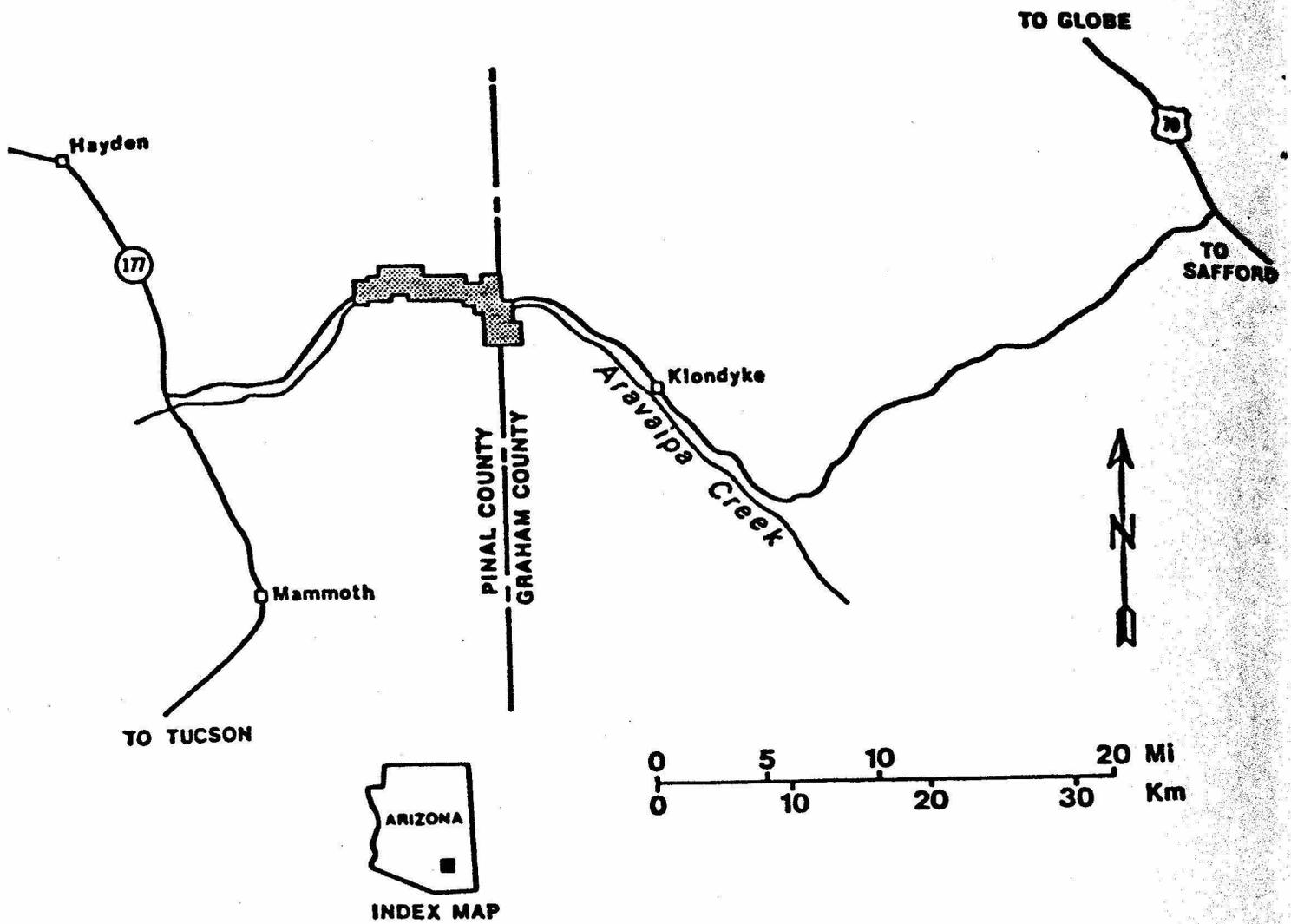
ARAVAIPA CANYON

Wilderness Suitability

Report



Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Arizona



Index map showing location of the Aravaipa Canyon Instant Study Area, Arizona. (shaded)

WILDERNESS SUITABILITY RECOMMENDATION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recommends that Congress incorporate Aravaipa Canyon Primitive Area and all contiguous public lands having wilderness characteristics into the National Wilderness Preservation System. Aravaipa Canyon Primitive Area contains a unique southwestern desert canyon of outstanding natural beauty, which provides an exceptional opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

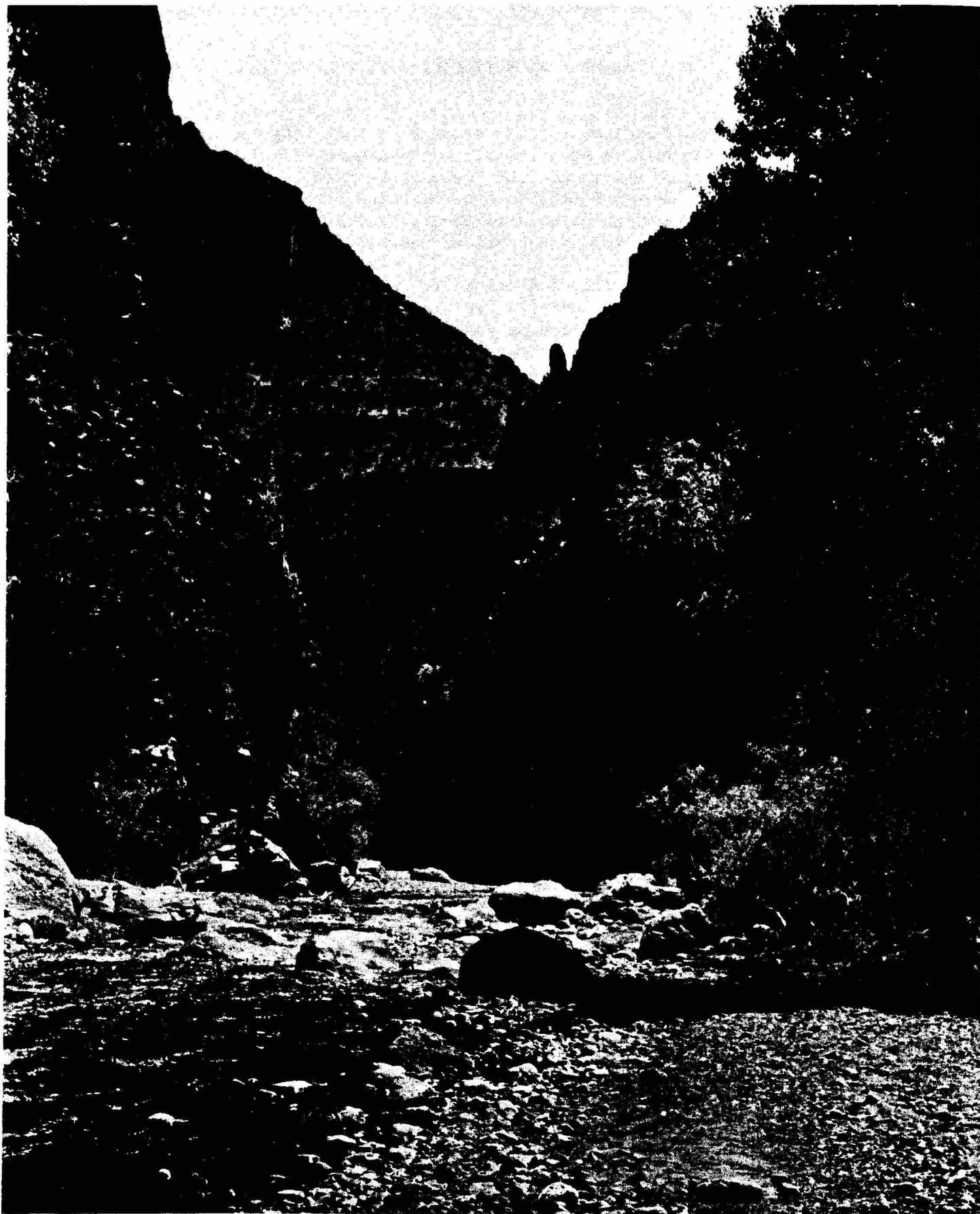
The area meets the criteria of Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964, and multiple use resource analysis revealed no significant resource conflicts resulting from a wilderness designation. A draft environmental statement (DES) on wilderness status for Aravaipa Canyon analyzed three alternatives: (1) wilderness designation of the primitive area and adjacent public lands, (2) wilderness designation of only the established primitive area, and (3) no action. The ES identified no significant adverse impacts for any alternative and concluded that the beneficial impact of permanently preserving the wilderness values through wilderness designation would outweigh the minimal adverse impacts. BLM has identified alternative (1) as the best choice for preserving the wilderness values of the Aravaipa Canyon.

BLM further recommends that Congress recognize the present livestock operator's (Salazar) use of motorized vehicles within the proposed wilderness area and grant specific authorization for that rancher to continue such use as identified in the Management Compromises and Constraints sections. Such vehicles would be used to haul a pump for pumping water from the creek for livestock use. To protect wilderness values, the authorized BLM officer will strictly control this use until the proposed alternative source of water is developed. Funding will be proposed for fiscal year 1982. At such time, the authorization of such use will be rescinded.

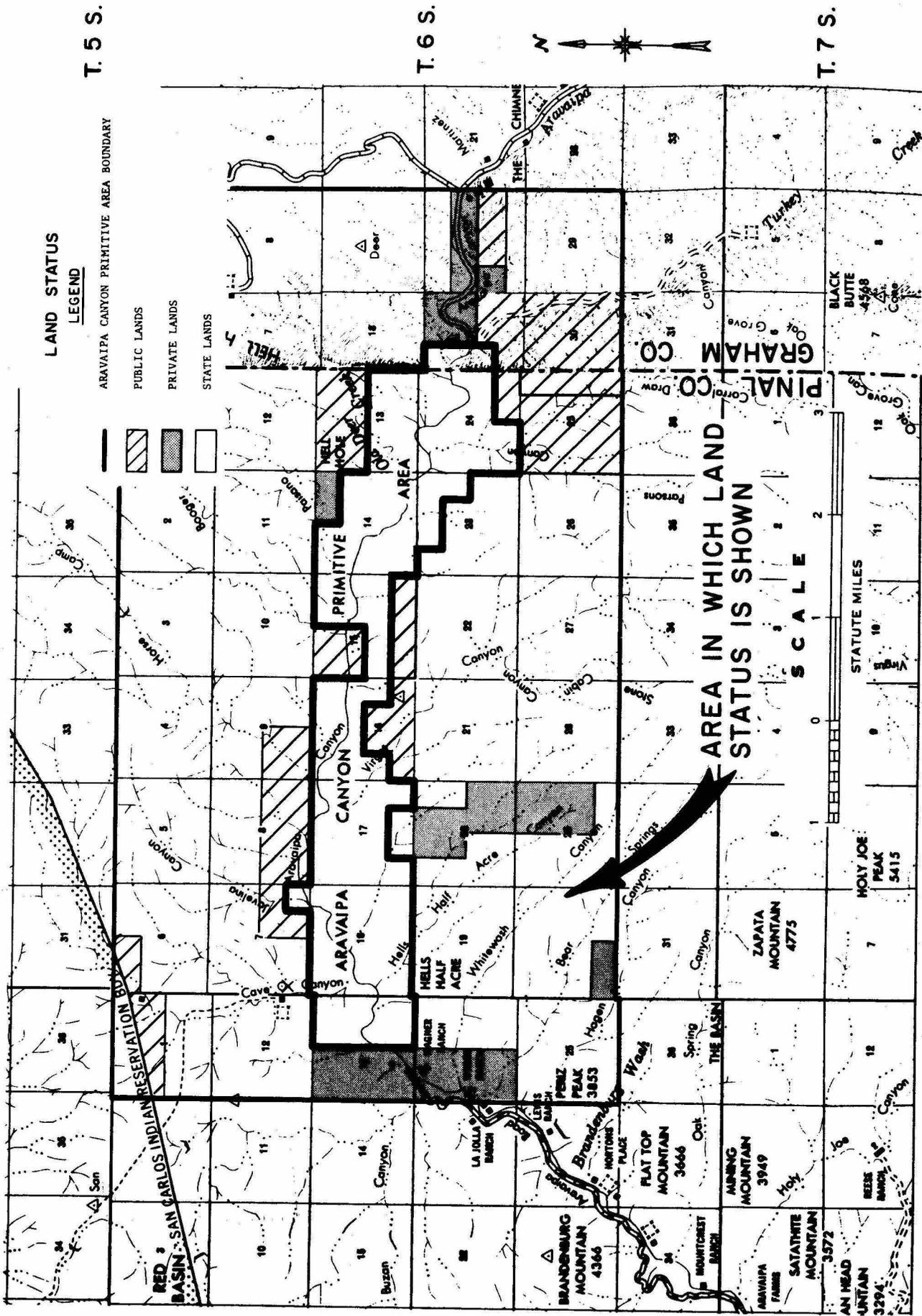
Recommendation	<u><i>Guy C. Baier</i></u> District Manager	<u>8-24-79</u> Date
Approved	<u><i>G. B. Hargrett</i></u> State Director	<u>8-28-79</u> Date
Approved	<u><i>Robert J. Beauford</i></u> Director	<u>1/19/82</u> Date

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USAV-00005408



**LAND STATUS
LEGEND**

- ARAVAIPA CANYON PRIMITIVE AREA BOUNDARY
- [Hatched Box] PUBLIC LANDS
- [Stippled Box] PRIVATE LANDS
- [White Box] STATE LANDS

AREA IN WHICH LAND STATUS IS SHOWN

SCALE

STATUTE MILES

Map base reproduced from Atlas of Graham County and Atlas of Pinal County with permission of the Arizona Department of Transportation.

R.19 E.

R.18 E.

R.17 E.

T.5 S.

T.6 S.

T.7 S.

T. 5 S.

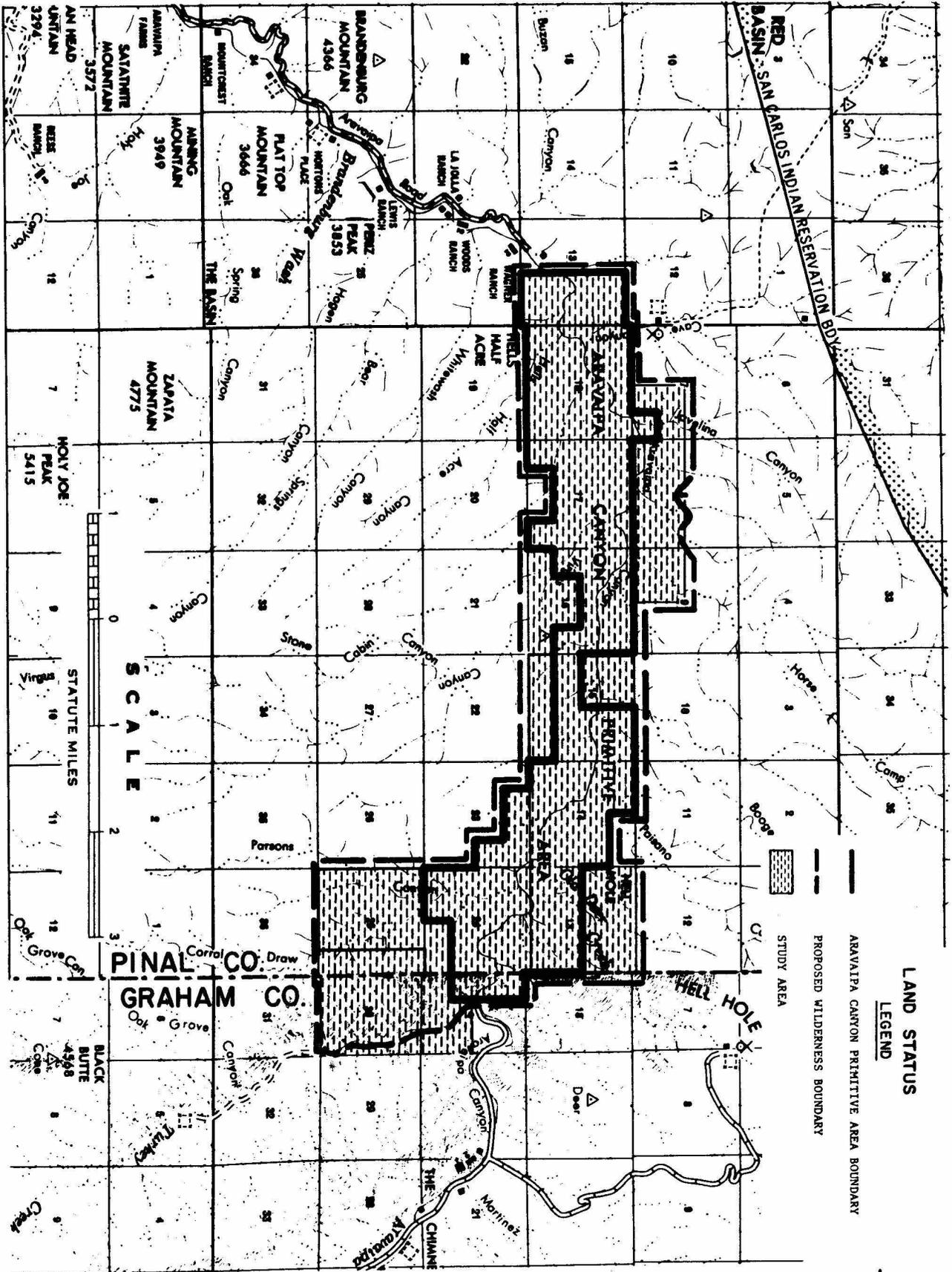
T. 6 S.

T. 7 S.

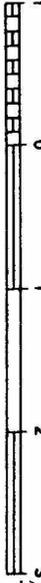
LAND STATUS

LEGEND

-  ARAVAIPA CANTON PRIMITIVE AREA BOUNDARY
-  STUDY AREA
-  PROPOSED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY



SCALE



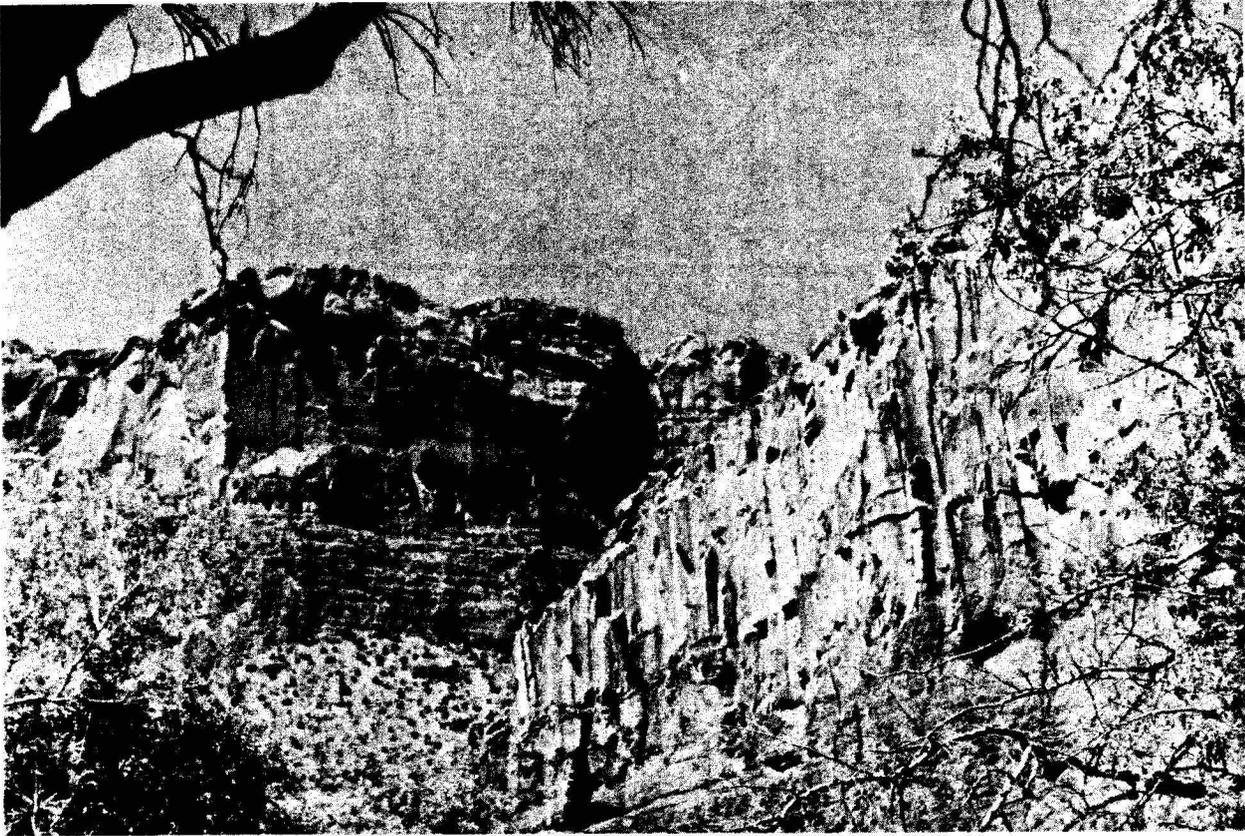
STATUTE MILES

R. 17 E.

R. 18 E.

R. 19 E.

Map base reproduced from Atlas of Graham County
 and Atlas of Pinal County with permission of
 the Arizona Department of Transportation.



ARAVAIPA CANYON WILDERNESS SUITABILITY REPORT

Previous Designation

On January 10, 1969 the Secretary of the Interior designated approximately 3,957 acres of public lands in Aravaipa Canyon, Arizona as Aravaipa Canyon Primitive Area. BLM has made several land tenure adjustments since 1969, designating a present primitive area of 4,044 acres. The designation resulted from a BLM proposal, which was widely supported by the people of Arizona. BLM held public meetings in Phoenix, Winkelman, and Safford, which were attended by several hundred people. The majority of the comments received supported the primitive area designation. Hunting and ORV interests expressed some opposition to the designation. BLM also developed and implemented a management plan as required by the Secretarial Order that established the primitive area.

Summary of Inventory

BLM has completed a wilderness inventory and study of Aravaipa Canyon as directed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, conducting the inventory for wilderness characteristics according to its

Wilderness Inventory Handbook. An open house was held at the Safford District BLM office on January 10, 1979, to obtain comments on the inventory of Aravaipa Canyon. Civic and special interest groups were briefed and informed of the wilderness review. Information was also disseminated Statewide through the news media. Comments received during the open house were helpful in identifying additional inventory data and in identifying potential environmental conflicts that might result from a wilderness designation. The areas inventoried consisted of the primitive area and all contiguous public lands. (See maps 1 and 2).

One small parcel of land within the proposed wilderness area has a structure and evidence of cultivation resulting from unintentional trespass by an adjacent land owner. The 1.5 acre parcel lies just inside the west boundary of the primitive area and will rehabilitate naturally after the removal of the structure.

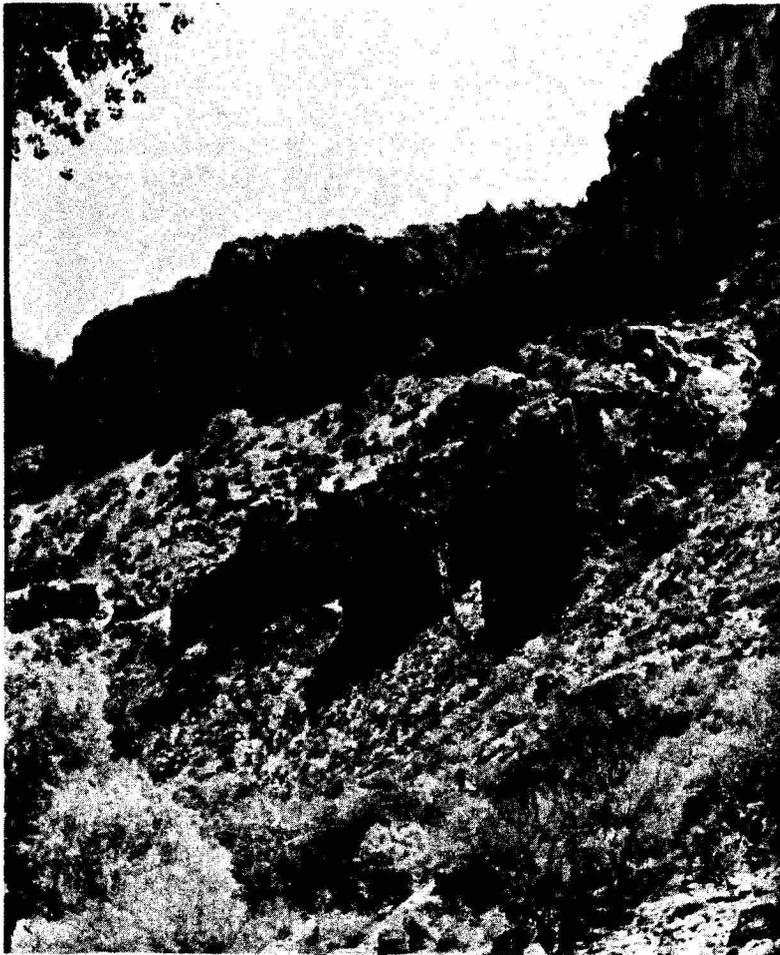
On the basis of inventory data, BLM excluded from further wilderness consideration two areas containing roads and other impairments of the wilderness character, totaling approximately 229 acres. These areas cannot return to their natural state through natural processes.

The remaining 6,670 acres of public land inventoried meet all wilderness criteria. BLM judged any remaining intrusions to the wilderness character to be substantially unnoticeable.

Summary of Study Process

BLM incorporated data gathered through the intensive inventory into its planning system. Specialists described wilderness, recreation, wildlife, geology, visual, and vegetative resources of the study area, and identified the maximum potential for each resource. They identified present and future demand levels and concluded that the only potential for increasing the quality of the wilderness resource is to further restrict visitor use.

This analysis established a basis for resource recommendations. The recommendations were compared to resolve competing use problems in resource allocation. The recommendation to designate as wilderness the primitive area and adjacent public lands with wilderness characteristics did not significantly conflict with other resources. Livestock use can continue as in the past four years. In 1974, livestock grazing was discontinued within the canyon bottom to allow for the reproduction of riparian vegetation. Ancillary recreation facilities outside the proposed wilderness area would be limited to those needed to support the existing use without attracting additional use.



The result of the study process was a decision to propose wilderness designation for Aravaipa Canyon Primitive Area and contiguous public lands having wilderness characteristics. Preservation of identified wilderness characteristics will continue through primitive area management under existing policies and objectives.

A lands resource recommendation that identified lands within the proposed wilderness area for exchange or sale conflicted with the recommendation to propose the area for wilderness designation. Since these lands have wilderness characteristics, the provisions of the management policy apply and lands can neither be exchanged or sold until Congress acts on the wilderness recommendations. Therefore, the lands recommendation was changed to delete those public lands in Aravaipa Canyon.

Management of all other resources within the proposed wilderness was found not to conflict with interim management policy.

Description of the Report Area

The area surrounding Aravaipa Canyon is rural and sparsely populated by ranch and farm families living along Aravaipa Creek and the main access routes to the canyon. Ranching is the primary land use of this area, but copper exploration, extraction, and processing produce most of this area's income.

The study area may be reached by two county roads. The west end of the study area, in Pinal County, is served by the Aravaipa Canyon Road, which begins at State Route 77, approximately 10 miles south of Winkelman.

This road, the first 5 miles of which are paved, follows Aravaipa Creek to the Aravaipa Canyon west end trail head. On the east side, the Klondyke-Aravaipa Road connects with U.S. 70 in Graham County, 6 miles west of Pima. Both roads are maintained by the respective counties.

Significant Resource Data

Aravaipa Canyon provides a high degree of solitude and isolation because improved public access is restricted to the east and west ends of the canyon. The opportunity for solitude, which is diminished somewhat in the main canyon where visitor use is congested, increases as one moves deeper into the major side canyons, the arroyos, and limestone and sandstone ridges of the tablelands.

The topography and the abundant vegetation both enhance one's opportunity to find isolation and a feeling of solitude.

The area offers outstanding opportunities for many types of unconfined recreation, including backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, hunting (outside canyon bottoms), mountain and rock climbing (though highly dangerous due to instability of the rock structure), bird watching, photography, and sight-seeing. Many of the activities represent some of the most outstanding opportunities within the region.

Aravaipa Canyon has been the subject of many pictorial reviews in periodicals with nationwide circulation; the birding opportunities are widely recognized; visitors come from all over the nation to backpack and hike the area.

The remaining discussion in this section identifies wildlife, vegetation, water, geology, and cultural values that supplement the outstanding wilderness character of the area.

Threatened or Endangered Wildlife Species: Three animal species identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered, and published in the Federal Register (Vol. 44, No. 12, January 12, 1979) occur within Aravaipa Canyon Primitive Area. The southern bald eagle occurs as an uncommon and unpredictable winter visitor. The peregrine falcon historically nested in the area but now occurs only as an uncommon winter visitor. The Gila topminnow was reintroduced into Aravaipa Creek in early 1978 by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AG&FD), but none have been reported in the creek since. The reason for the unsuccessful reintroduction is unknown.

Wildlife species found in the primitive area and designated by AG&FD as threatened in Arizona are listed in the following table. In addition, the aplomado falcon, designated by the AG&FD as a Group I species, (species or sub-species extirpated from Arizona that may possibly be re-established) was once sighted.

THREATENED ANIMAL SPECIES

Category	Birds	Mammals	Reptiles and Amphibians	Fish
Group II	Gray Hawk Southern Bald Eagle Peregrine Falcon			
Group III	Snowy Egret Zone-tailed Hawk Black Hawk Beardless Flycatcher	Desert Bighorn Sheep	Desert Tortoise Gila Monster	Loach Minnow
Group IV	Buff-breasted Flycatcher	Coati	Rock Rattlesnake	Round-tailed Chub Spikedace

Group II: Species or subspecies in danger of being eliminated from Arizona.

Group III: Species or subspecies whose status in Arizona may be in jeopardy in the foreseeable future.

Group IV: Species or subspecies of special interest because of limited distribution in Arizona.

Threatened or Endangered Plant Species: The Federal Register, Vol. 40, No. 127, July 1, 1975 listed possible candidates for the threatened or endangered plant species list. Three species are confirmed to occur in the study area: Echeveria rusbyi, Perityle lemmoni, and Choisya arizonica. In addition, six listed species probably occur in the study area and seven listed species possibly occur. A copy of the botanist's report on threatened and endangered species is on file in the Safford District Office.

Three distinct vegetation types (desert shrub, mountain shrub, and riparian) occur within the study area and provide potential for biological research.

Water Resources: The water of Aravaipa Creek is the key resource of the area, which has created and sustained this outstanding natural ecosystem. The relative abundance of water in Aravaipa Creek supports

the lush riparian vegetation, provides water for wildlife, provides a suitable habitat for 12 fish species (two of which are threatened and endangered), and is in itself a scenic attraction. Streamflow varies from a minimum flow of approximately 2.7 cubic feet per second to peaks during flash floods in excess of 10,000 cubic feet per second.

Geological Features: The geological features of Aravaipa Canyon are not only scenic but represent an important scientific, educational, and recreational resource. Visitors who walk through Aravaipa Canyon are exposed to beautiful multicolored cliffs rising as high as 1,000 feet above the canyon bottom. Within the canyon they can study a cross-section of earth's history representing nearly 2.6 billion years. The side canyons are narrow and rugged, displaying interesting erosional formations, including pinnacles and pools.

Cultural Resources: The Aravaipa Canyon area has been inhabited for perhaps the past 9,500 years. The primary prehistoric remains include Hohokam and Salado Sites. Historical remains are sparse. Indications of Cochise Archaic, Apache, and Spanish explorer occupation occur near the proposed wilderness area and are believed to occur within it.

Of 18 known sites, one has been determined to be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, and one prehistoric site is believed to be of National Register quality.

The San Carlos Apache Tribe of Southeastern Arizona has identified no Native American social, cultural, or sacred values in the area. In recent times no other tribes have used the area.

Regional Analysis

Aravaipa Canyon lies in the east end of an arid portion of the Sonoran Desert, a region that extends generally south from the Phoenix area, includes most of the southern third of Arizona, and extends into northern Sonora, Mexico. The region contains few perennial streams except in the higher mountains.

Eight designated wilderness areas occur within this region:

<u>Wilderness Area</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Managing Agency</u>
Chiricahua National Monument	9,440	National Park Service
Chiricahua	18,000	U.S. Forest Service
Galiuro Mountains	52,717	U.S. Forest Service
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument	313,840	National Park Service
Pusch Ridge	56,430	U.S. Forest Service
Saguaro National Monument	71,400	National Park Service
Sierra Ancha	20,850	U.S. Forest Service
Superstition Mountains	124,140	U.S. Forest Service

The region supports approximately 1.9 million residents, which represent about 76 percent of Arizona's population. The existing wilderness areas are within 100 to 270 miles driving distance of that population. Aravaipa Canyon is generally more centrally located to most population centers within the region than any of the existing wilderness.

Aravaipa Canyon provides a riparian environment with a perennial stream that supports a wide variety of plants and animals. These factors, coupled with all-weather access for passenger vehicles, make Aravaipa Canyon a popular place for backpackers and hikers.

Management Compromises and Constraints

Upon designation as wilderness Aravaipa Canyon will be managed under the same objectives as those established for management of the area as a Primitive Area. Appendix 1 summarizes the management objectives of the Primitive Area Management Plan.

To achieve the primary objective of protecting, enhancing, and maintaining the natural beauty and primitive character of the land, certain steps are required to reduce man's influence upon natural, cultural, visual, and wilderness values. Such steps should go beyond closing the area to motorized vehicles and prohibiting the discharge of firearms in the confines of Aravaipa Canyon and its side canyons within the boundary. Rather, each significant resource in the area must be protected so that the public can enjoy it without diminishing its inherent value. Protection of the natural environment is of paramount importance.

Continuous livestock grazing has been suspended in the canyon bottom since 1974 to allow for the recovery and natural succession of the riparian vegetation. Livestock graze public lands on the canyon rim under BLM permit.

Although grazing is not prohibited in wilderness areas (Wilderness Act of 1964), grazing will continue to be controlled in the canyon bottoms but permitted on the tablelands above the canyon.

During severe drought one operator is authorized to use a motor vehicle to haul a portable pump 3 miles into the proposed wilderness area to pump water from Aravaipa Creek through an existing steel pipeline to an earthen reservoir on the south rim. The operator must drive through the streambed to get to the pipeline. Although use of the pipeline has only been required twice over the past seven years, adverse impacts on the aquatic habitat and damage to vegetation and soil structure along the streambed have been unavoidable and highly visible for several weeks or months after. The primitive area management plan recommends that BLM provide an alternative source of water near the earthen reservoir. Since the only feasible location for this alternative water source is

on Arizona State lands, additional coordination between agencies will be necessary to complete the project. Funding will be requested for FY 1982 to construct the water development.

BLM will continue to regulate visitor use levels to preserve the area for future use and enjoyment as wilderness.

The Aravaipa Canyon Primitive Area has been closed to mining claim location by a combination of Classification and Withdrawal Orders in 1968 and 1972.

Economic and Social Impacts

The proposed wilderness designation would not significantly impact economic conditions.

Economic impacts to the recreation resource use would relate to possible increased demand. Since visitation trends show that most use occurs on weekends and holidays, demand will probably not result in increased use unless that use occurs during the week.

An impact to the livestock grazing in the canyon may result from a change in the allowable method of maintenance of range improvements and the use of vehicles versus horses for tending livestock. Since the use of vehicles is presently prohibited under the primitive area designation only the additional 2,626 acres contiguous to the primitive area would be affected. This area is roadless and lacks existing range improvements; therefore, economic impact should be slight. A wilderness designation would not change livestock numbers.

Wilderness designation would preclude mining (after December 31, 1983) on 880 acres now open to exploration and mining. Since the mineral potential of the Aravaipa Canyon area is low (see USGS and Bureau of Mines Mineral Report 79-291 for Aravaipa Canyon) wilderness designation would not significantly affect mineral resource development.

Social Conditions: User groups and the public have generally accepted and approved of the existence of the primitive area. The proposed wilderness designation will not directly impact social values.

Although the additional lands that would be designated wilderness are public, user groups and the Arizona public know that a wilderness designation represents a narrowing of options for use. User groups, such as hunters, hikers, and nature studiers could, in principle, support the expansion, but some groups might oppose it.

This resistance has resulted in opposition by some Arizonans (and a few westerners) to increases in government regulations. In some cases,

such as the management plan for the Aravaipa Canyon Primitive Area, the public accepts governmental regulations because such regulations are consistent with what the public feels needs to be done: visitor use regulation to protect the canyon. The public, in this case, seems to have similar desire for such controls on the public lands adjacent to the primitive area.

Impact Analysis of Long-Term and Short-Term Effects

A wilderness designation of Aravaipa Canyon and adjacent public lands would preserve or improve the resources identified in previous sections of this report in both the short and long term. Resource commitments would be the same for the 4,044 acres that have been managed as primitive for the past ten years.

In general most resources on the 2,626 acres of contiguous public land would benefit from wilderness designation. Additional protection would be afforded to all wildlife habitat including 600 acres of crucial desert bighorn sheep habitat. Seven additional known prehistoric sites and some undiscovered sites would be placed under wilderness management. Wilderness values on adjacent public lands would permanently benefit. Recreational activities such as backpacking, hiking, and sightseeing would benefit in both the short and long term. Although off-road vehicle (ORV) use would be adversely impacted in the short and long term, the overall impact would be slight since the highly dissected rocky topography of much of the adjacent land is unsuitable for ORV use.

In the long and short term, wilderness designation would have a slightly adverse impact on mineral resources, as identified in the preceding section. A wilderness designation would protect geologic resources.

Special Legislative Needs

No special legislative needs have to be addressed in conjunction with a wilderness designation for Aravaipa Canyon.

Options Foregone

The exploration of subsurface or surface minerals will continue to be foregone on the 6,019 acres presently withdrawn from mineral entry unless Congress restores those uses in the national interest. Wilderness designation might also hamper exploration and development after December 31, 1983 on the 880 acres not presently withdrawn. After that date, only existing valid claims may be developed. Restrictions on the methods of extracting known mineral deposits within the wilderness could increase costs of development. Mining might also adversely impact wilderness resources.

A mineral study conducted by U.S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines, however, concluded that no mineable ore deposits are known in Aravaipa Canyon Primitive Area. No mineral commodity has been produced.

Zeolite deposits have been found in parts of the primitive area. Although natural zeolite has great potential value, the zeolite in the instant study area does not appear to constitute a significant resource, because of mining costs that would probably be prohibitive compared with the cost of mining other near-surface deposits elsewhere. The zeolite beds in Cave Canyon and Aravaipa Canyon lie in inaccessible positions, in vertical cliffs on canyonland topography, under large amounts of overburden. Although an estimate of the cost of mining was not made, it could be many times greater than the \$8 to \$20 per ton (\$9 to \$22 per mt) average mining cost for other zeolite deposits.

The area appears to have low mineral potential for metallic minerals. Since the latest known mineralization in the region occurred before the deposition of the upper sequence of the Galiuro Volcanics, any possible ore deposits would occur only below the upper sequence, at depths of at least 600 feet (180) near the single deep drill hole, and probably greater elsewhere inside the instant study area. Only sporadic high values for some base and precious metals were discovered in the course of this investigation; the minor geochemical anomaly perceived near the north-trending fault in the eastern part of the area may indicate leakage from an undetermined mineralized area at unknown depth. However, no anomalous values were observed in the only drill hole to penetrate the thickness of the volcanics and sample the underlying Precambrian rocks.

No known leases or mining claims occur within the proposed wilderness boundary.

Time Frame for Designation

This suitability report reflects a minimum of conflict with existing and future uses of Aravaipa Canyon. A lack of significant adverse impacts from the proposed wilderness designation and the overall widespread public support of such a designation provide an opportunity for Congress to serve Arizonans as well as all Americans by an expeditious consideration of this recommendation.

Public Participation

BLM issued news releases in late December 1978 announcing the proposed study of Aravaipa Canyon Primitive Area and adjacent public lands for their wilderness character. The BLM, Safford District Office held an open house on January 10, 1979 to receive comments related to the study. BLM has provided information, as requested, to the interested publics by attending both private and public meetings and has kept the

public abreast of progress of the study. Notice was published in the Federal Register, Vol. 44. No. 189, Thursday, September 27, 1979. Notices announcing the proposed recommendation for Aravaipa Canyon, and three public hearings will be held in Arizona at Safford, Tucson, and Phoenix on November 5, 6 and 7, 1979 to allow for comment on the proposed designation and related environmental statement. The Governor of Arizona and Federal agencies were notified 30 days before the public hearings and asked to comment on the proposed designation within 30 days after the hearings. A transcript of comments made at each hearing will be included with the final report submitted to the President.

The majority of comments received on the draft environmental statement approve of BLM's proposal to include Aravaipa Canyon and adjacent public lands having wilderness character within the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Safford District Office's permanent documentation file has a copy of all comments received regarding Aravaipa Canyon.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

ARAVAIPA CANYON PRIMITIVE AREA
BLM, SAFFORD DISTRICT

PINAL & GRAHAM COUNTIES, ARIZONA

	Aravaipa Canyon Primitive Area	Contiguous Public Land	Total
Acres Without Wilderness Characteristics	---	229	229
Acres With Wilderness Characteristics			
Recommended For Designation	4,044	2,626	6,670
Recommended Against Designation	---	---	---
TOTAL	4,044	2,855	6,899
Ownership In Study Area			
Bureau of Land Management	6,899 acres		

Boundary Description: Proposed Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness

The proposed Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness is in Graham and Pinal Counties in the State of Arizona. The following description refers to Map #1. All land hereinafter described is in surveyed townships.

Gila and Salt River Meridian

Township 6 South, Range 17 East
Section 13, Lots 1 through 8 inclusive.

Township 6 South, Range 18 East
Section 7, SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 8, S $\frac{1}{2}$, including all land except that portion lying north of the following described line:

Beginning at a point 1900.0 feet N 89° 54' E of the Quarter corner common to Sections 7 and 8, Township 6 South, Range 18 East; Gila and Salt River Meridian; thence S 29° 0' E a distance of 450.00 feet; thence S 57° 0' E a distance of 960.0 feet; thence N 52° 0' E a distance of 425.0 feet; thence N 35° E a distance of 355.0 feet; thence S 79° 0' E a distance of 735.0 feet; thence N 72° 0' E a distance of 345.0 feet; thence N 29° 0' E a distance of 460.00 feet to a point which is 548.0 feet S 89° 54' W of the Quarter corner common to Sections 8 and 9, Township 6 South, Range 18 East, Gila and Salt River Meridian.

Section 9, SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

Section 13.

Section 14, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Sections 15 and 16.

Section 17, N $\frac{1}{2}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Section 18.

Section 23, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

Sections 24 and 25.

Township 6 South, Range 19 East

Section 19, Lots 1 through 4 inclusive, and all of that portion of the W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ lying west of Turkey Creek Canyon contained within the following described boundary:

Beginning at a point of 1320 feet West of the corner common to Sections 19, 20, 29, and 30, Townships 6 South, Range 19 East, Gila and Salt River Meridian; thence N 19° 00' W a distance of 290.0 feet; thence N 13° 0' E a distance of 365.0 feet; thence N 47° 00' W a distance of 200.0 feet; thence N 4° 30' E a distance of 620.0 feet; thence N 56° 00' W a distance of 1462.0 feet; thence S 0° 03' E a distance of 2202.0 feet; thence East a distance of 1320 feet, to the point of beginning.

Section 30, Lots 2 through 6 inclusive, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, and all of that portion of Lot 1 and the E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ lying west of Turkey Creek Canyon contained within the following described boundary:

Beginning at a point 550.0 feet N 89° 51' W of the corner common to Sections 29, 30, 31, and 32, Township 6 South, Range 19 East, Gila and Salt River Meridian; thence N 42° 00' W a distance of 210.0 feet; thence N 47° 30' E a distance of 875.0 feet; thence N 43° 30' W a distance of 1125.0 feet; thence N 4° 00' E a distance of 2302.0 feet; thence N 58° 00' W a distance of 425.0 feet; thence N 19° 00' W a distance of 1000.0 feet; thence S 0° 17' E a distance of 5028.29 feet; thence S 89° 51' W a distance of 770.0 feet, to the point of beginning.

The parcel of land to which the above description applies contains approximately 6670.18 acres, more or less.

APPENDIX 1

ARAVAIPA CANYON PRIMITIVE AREA

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The Aravaipa Canyon Primitive Area Management Plan, widely endorsed by the public, establishes the following management objectives, providing for public recreation while protecting wilderness values:

(1) to protect, enhance, and maintain the natural beauty and primitive character of the land while providing visitors with a meaningful and quality primitive experience through proper resource and visitor management;

(2) to identify recreation facility requirements and limitations commensurate with protection of the environment and to identify public needs;

(3) to identify and regulate an acceptable level of recreation use to preserve and protect other resources, particularly wildlife habitat;

(4) to develop an interpretation and information program for the protection and identification of natural and cultural values for the benefit of visitors;

(5) to ensure that the common goals for the implementation of the plan are carried out through coordination with other BLM resource activities; Federal, State, and local governments; and the general public;

(6) to the extent feasible, to allow free and natural ecological succession for scientific and other study;

(7) to manage the cultural resources for their scientific and recreation value and protect them from intentional or inadvertent loss or damage.

To achieve the primary objective of protecting, enhancing, and maintaining the natural beauty and primitive character of the land, positive steps are required to limit man's influence upon natural, cultural, visual, and primitive values:

o To protect the natural environmental and primitive values the primitive area is closed to motorized vehicles.

o For visitor safety, the shooting of firearms is prohibited on public lands within the confines of Aravaipa Canyon and adjoining side canyons, below the rims. The closure does not apply to public lands above the rims of the canyons.

o To allow for natural reproduction of the riparian vegetation and to eliminate conflicts with visitors, livestock grazing has been terminated in the canyon bottoms and continues under custodial management on the canyon rims.

o Mineral prospecting and mining under the 1872 Mining Law are prohibited within the primitive area.

o Visitor use is restricted by the following regulations. A permit system limits visitors to 50 persons per day. Length of stay is limited to 3 days and 2 nights. Horses can be used for day use only. Group size is limited to 10 per group for hikers and 5 per group for horseback riders. Recreationists are prohibited from collecting, disturbing, or destroying vegetation, animals, rocks, or cultural artifacts.

o Resource study and research will continue to monitor and evaluate the condition of each natural element. Water quality tests, vegetation trend studies, wildlife research, and visitor carrying capacity studies will be initiated or continued to insure preservation of the wilderness values and maintenance of maximum recreational enjoyment.

o An information and interpretation program will be continued to educate visitors and assist them in achieving the maximum enjoyment and benefit from the area.

o The primitive area will continue to be managed by a fulltime supervised staff of two, one residing at the east administrative site and the other at the west administrative site. This staff provides for visitor safety and protection through regular patrols in the canyon. They are trained in first aid and rescue procedures. They maintain trailhead and support facilities at either end of the canyon and continuously monitor visitor use and resource conditions. Radio communications between the canyon and District office ensure fast and direct response to any situation.

o Support facilities will be limited to those required to meet visitor needs and to protect the fragile resources within the primitive area.