

# NEWS

U.S. SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER/ARIZONA



PRESS RELEASE

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Senator Barry Goldwater today introduced legislation to include Aravaipa Canyon and an additional 2,626 acres of adjoining lands into the National Wilderness Preservation System. Secretary of the Interior James Watt has officially recommended the wilderness proposal to President Reagan.

The 6,670 acres comprising the proposed wilderness area is located north of Tucson, in Pinal and Graham Counties. Aravaipa Canyon and the surrounding area would become the first public land under Bureau of Land Management jurisdiction to come under the protection of the Wilderness System. In 1969 and 1971, the 4,044 acre, seven-and-a-half-mile-long canyon was set aside as the Aravaipa Canyon Primitive Area, creating BLM's first primitive area.

Senator Goldwater said, "This bill is the result of many years of cooperative effort between the Bureau of Land Management, the Defenders of Wildlife, and the Aravaipa Trust, and it's a great tribute to conservationism and private sector initiative as envisioned by President Reagan." The Aravaipa Trust (George Whittell Wildlife Preserve) owns in fee about 6,000 acres at the east and west entrances to the Canyon.

The Aravaipa Canyon supports more than 158 species of birds, and a variety of animals such as bighorn sheep, mule deer, fox, mountain lion, coyotes, bobcats, javelina and other small animals. The Aravaipa Creek, a perennial stream which travels for about 15 miles, supports 12 fish species, two of which are threatened and endangered. Currently, the Bureau of Land Management limits the number of visitors to 50 per day in order to protect the area and entry to the Canyon is by permit only. No motor vehicles or dogs are allowed.

In pointing out that designating Aravaipa Canyon as wilderness would have no adverse impacts on the Nation's security, mineral needs, or economic well-being, Senator Goldwater said, "This is a very simple bill which attempts to preserve and protect a magnificent desert sanctuary."

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Goldwater

introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

A BILL

To designate the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness in the State of Arizona.

(Insert title of bill here)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as "The Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness Act."

Sec. 2. The Congress finds that -

(a) The Aravaipa Canyon, situated in the Caliuoro Mountains in the Sonoran desert region of Southern Arizona, is a primitive place of great natural beauty that, due to the rare presence of a perennial stream, supports an extraordinary abundance and diversity of native plant, fish and wildlife, making it a resource of national significance; and

(b) The Aravaipa Canyon should, together with certain adjoining public lands, be incorporated within the National Wilderness Preservation System in order to provide for the preservation and protection of this relatively undisturbed but fragile complex of desert, riparian and aquatic ecosystems and the native plant, fish and wildlife communities dependent on it, as well as to protect and preserve the area's great scenic, geologic and historical values, to a greater degree than would be possible in the absence of wilderness designation.

Sec. 3. In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 890, 16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and consistent with the policies and provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (90 Stat. 2743; 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), certain public lands in Graham and Pinal Counties, Arizona, which comprise approximately six thousand six hundred and seventy acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness -- Proposed" and dated May 1980, are hereby designated as the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness and, therefore, as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sec. 4. Subject to valid existing rights, the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that Act as wilderness. For purposes of this Act, any references in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of this Act and any reference to the Secretary of Agriculture <sup>with regard to administration of such areas</sup> shall be deemed to be a reference to the Secretary of the Interior, and any reference to wilderness areas designated by the Wilderness Act or designated national forest wilderness areas shall be deemed to be a reference to the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness. For purposes of this Act, the reference to national forest rules and regulations in the second sentence of section 4(d)(3) of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to rules and regulations applicable to public lands, as defined in section 103(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701, 1702).

Sec. 5. As soon as practicable after this Act takes effect, the Secretary of the Interior shall file a map and a legal description of the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives, and such map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act: Provided, That correction of clerical and typographical errors in the legal description and map may be made. The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

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Sec. 6. Except as further provided in this section, the Aravaipa Primitive Area designations of January 16, 1969 and April 28, 1971, are hereby revoked. Prior to promulgation of rules and regulations to provide for its administration as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, subject to existing withdrawals, the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness shall be administered under rules and regulations of the Secretary of the Interior applicable to designated primitive areas to the extent consistent with the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 7. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law or regulations to implement them, nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit the continuation of the existing use of motorized vehicles and a motorized pump within the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness as necessary for the continuation of existing grazing uses outside the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness: Provided, That such use of motorized vehicles and pump shall cease immediately upon notification by the Secretary that an alternative source of water outside the wilderness is available.

Mr. President, in southern Arizona, just north of the City of Tucson, we have an area which the Papago Indians call A'Aly Waipia, which means "little wells." The place I am referring to is Aravaipa Canyon and the bill which I am introducing today would include Aravaipa Canyon and an additional 2,626 acres of adjoining public lands into the National Wilderness Preservation System. Interior Secretary James Watt has officially recommended this proposal to President Reagan.

The recommended 6,670 acres would become the first public land under Bureau of Land Management jurisdiction to come under the protection of the Wilderness System. In 1969 and 1971, the 4,044 acre, seven-and-a-half-mile long canyon was set aside as the Aravaipa Canyon Primitive Area, creating BLM's first primitive area. Situated at the east and west entrances to the Canyon is about 6,000 acres of land owned in fee by the Defenders of Wildlife Trust for the George Whittell Wildlife Preserve at Aravaipa Canyon ("Aravaipa Trust"). The Trust manages an additional 15,000 or more acres, under State and Federal grazing leases, at the entrances to the Canyon and on the plateau south of the Canyon. Title to the Canyon itself is in the Bureau of Land Management.

This bill is the result of many years of cooperative effort between the Bureau of Land Management, the Defenders of Wildlife, and the Aravaipa Trust, and it's a great tribute to conservationism and private sector initiative, as envisioned by President Reagan. Established in August, 1974 by the Defenders of Wildlife, the Aravaipa Trust took title to these lands from the Defenders, primarily to preserve the many species of wildlife in and around Aravaipa Canyon. To accomplish this, it is necessary to protect the unique complex

of desert and riparian habitats of the main canyon, its side canyons, and the canyon rims and plateaus from uses that might diminish their capacity to sustain wildlife. Since early 1972, when Defenders of Wildlife first bought lands at Aravaipa, Defenders and the Trust have devoted a great deal of time and energy, and over \$3,000,000.00 to purchasing, maintaining, and managing these lands.

Aravaipa Canyon, located in the east end of an arid portion of the Sonoran Desert, has been referred to as the miniature Grand Canyon of Arizona. Its beautiful multicolored cliffs rise as high as 1,000 feet above the canyon bottom. Within the canyon, one can see a cross-section of earth's history representing nearly 2.6 billion years. And, in fact, the Canyon area has been inhabited for perhaps the past 9,500 years. Primary prehistoric remains include Hohokam and Salado Sites.

In the bottom of the Aravaipa Canyon, one finds the Aravaipa Creek, a perennial stream which travels for about 15 miles. It not only supports a lush green riparian vegetation, it also provides water for wildlife and for 12 fish species, two of which are threatened and endangered. In the Canyon, one can find more than 158 species of bird and also bighorn sheep, mule deer, fox, mountain lion, coyotes, bobcats, javelina and other small animals.

This scenic Canyon is not only a haven for naturalists, but it offers many recreational opportunities such as backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, hunting outside canyon bottoms, mountain and rock climbing, bird watching, photography, and sight-seeing. Currently, the Bureau of Land Management limits the number of visitors to 50 per day in order to protect

the area and entry to the Canyon is by permit only. No motor vehicles or dogs are allowed.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to point out that in no way would the wilderness designation of the Aravaipa Canyon area result in any adverse impacts on the Nation's security, mineral needs, or economic well-being. I am very cognizant of the sensitivity of the issue of mineral content on potential wilderness land. This is a very simple bill which attempts to preserve and protect a magnificent desert sanctuary.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of my bill be printed in the Record.