



Reply to: 2320

Date: October 30, 1986

Subject: Annual Wilderness Report to Congress

To: Forest Supervisor, Coronado NF

The following information is provided for the annual wilderness report:

Land Status

The Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984 designated 26,700 acres of the Santa Teresa Mountains as Wilderness and enlarged the Galiuro Wilderness by 23,600 acres, thereby increasing the Galiuro Wilderness to 76,317 acres. Boundary legal description for these wildernesses have yet to be completed.

Planning

The Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984 established the Mt. Graham Wilderness Study Area. The Coronado National Forest Plan recommends, in the proposed action, that all 62,000 acres of this WSA be designated wilderness. Currently a joint legislative environmental impact statement is being prepared by the Coronado and BLM which will evaluate and recommend a wilderness or non-wilderness designation for all WSA's established by the Arizona and New Mexico Acts and those under BLM jurisdiction.

In 1986, the first annual visibility monitoring report for the Class I Galiuro Wilderness was completed. This monitoring effort will establish baseline visibility conditions and assist the Environmental Protection Agency and the state in developing reasonable visibility protection plans for this Class I area. In May of 1986, plots for riparian analysis purposes were established in major drainages on the north end of the Galiuro Wilderness. The purpose of the analysis is to establish the trend and management needs to maintain or improve these areas. The plots surveyed in May indicated an upward trend with good vegetative diversity and age class representation.

Specific Management Activity

- A) Special Uses - During 1986, two permitted outfitter guides accrued 15 service days of recreation use within the Galiuro Wilderness. The purpose of these trips were to guide clients on big game hunts.
- B) Volunteer Contributions - During 1986, a total of 198 man hours of volunteer work was performed. The work involved clean up and removal of garbage from the Power's Garden Administrative site which is a popular overnight stopping place for many Wilderness users. A total of \$2,500 worth of work was performed.



CORONADO N. F.

OCT 31 '86

| Action X
Info v Init |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| FS | RES | LA | D |
| LMP | B&F | ARCH | N |
| AO | PER | WL | SV |
| ENGR | AS | WS | S |
| BGE | CS | SLS | SC |
| RLT | LX | DISP | MARTC |
| FIRE | RECP | PIO/IS | COMM |

C) Motorized and Mechanical Equipment Use:

- 1) Administrative - none
- 2) Outside Agency - none
- 3) Search and Rescue - none

D) Range - During 1986 a 10,000 gallon water tank was placed within the Galiuro Wilderness in Cienega Canyon as part of an approved Management Plan for the YLE Grazing Allotment. The purpose of placing this structure in this area was to improve distribution of livestock and wildlife thereby enhancing wilderness values.

E) Fire - Natural fires occurring within within the Galiuro Wilderness are managed according to a prescribed Natural Fire Plan when they occur within prescribed conditions. The Sixteen-to-One Fire was a lightning fire which occurred on May 2, 1986, and was managed according to the guidelines established in this plan. The fire burned a total of 2,355 acres of which 2,232 acres burned within the wilderness. The cost to monitor this fire was \$1,000. In 1958, a fire occurred in the same area and burned approximately the same number of acres, however, suppression costs for this fire were over \$40,000.

The Biscuit Fire occurred on June 17, 1986, and was managed under the confine strategies of the Revised Fire Policy. The fire burned 2,600 acres of which 489 acres were within the Galiuro Wilderness. Total cost to monitor the confined fire was \$3,500. Attached are the daily narratives for the Sixteen-to-One Fire and fire reports for the two described fires.

F) Recreation - Recreation use has increased within the Galiuro Wilderness. Recreation use for 1986 was 9,300 RVD's an increase of 18% above 1985. The higher use is due to an increase of wilderness acres and awareness of this areas attraction.

Trespass Action

Trail Number 96 is an old mining road that provides access to the north end of the Galiuro Wilderness. A portion of this road is within the wilderness as a result of boundary changes made by the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984. The district placed a barrier and sign at Powers Hill to prevent motorized intrusion into the wilderness.

In May of 1986, the district received information that a large group riding ATV's planned to enter the north end of the Galiuro Wilderness via Powers Hill. Surveillance of this area was conducted on two weekends including Memorial Day Weekend. No large groups were encountered, however, the district did apprehend and cite one individual for driving an ATV into the wilderness. The district plans to remove a portion of the road on Powers Hill to prevent further motorized intrusions from this point.

Special Management Concerns and Actions

The district currently has 103,000 acres in the wilderness system. There is a good possibility that all of the Mt. Graham WSA will be added to the system in the near future. This means that approximately 40% of the district will be in the

wilderness. In order to properly manage this important resource a viable budget needs to be developed and funded.

The Power's Garden Administrative Site is an integral part of the Galiuro Wilderness. The site is located in Rattlesnake Canyon on the north end of the wilderness. The site provides shelter for Forest Service employees performing administrative duties, the range permittees and wilderness users. The site also has historical value because of some of the structures in place. In the early 1900's the Powers family built a barn which is still in use today. The barn is in need of rehabilitation. An action plan is being developed that will address need and scope of rehabilitation with wilderness and historical values as primary evaluation criteria.



CECIL R. SIMS
District Ranger

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