

INFORMATION ON THE GALIURO WILDERNESS  
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST - WILLCOX RANGER DISTRICT

LOCATION - 35 air miles northwest of Willcox and 45 air miles northeast of Tucson.

SIZE - 52,717 acres. Averages 16 miles long and 6 miles wide.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS - The Galiuro Mountains are a very rough and brushy sample of the block-like uplifts rising abruptly from relatively level plains that are characteristic of Southern Arizona. The mountain is a double range bisected by two main canyons, Rattlesnake and Redfield. The Wilderness boundary generally follows the crest of both the east and west divides.

Natural geological erosion has produced many rugged cliffs and steep slopes which have brightly colored exposed soils and rocks. The majority of the Wilderness is so steep, rocky and brushy that travel by foot and horseback is limited to cleared and graded trails.

The more prominent peaks and high points include Bassett Peak 7,671 feet, Kennedy Peak 7,540 feet and Sunset Peak 7,094 feet along the east divide; and Rhodes Peak 7,116 feet, Maverick Mountain 6,990 feet and Kielberg Peak 6,880 feet along the west divide. The elevations drop to 4,000 feet several places along the west boundary.

The vegetation varies from species associated with the semi-desert grassland type to those of the mixed conifer type. The majority of the south and west facing slopes are covered with dense stands of manzanita, live oak, mahogany and other brush species. The higher slopes and ridgetops have moderate to dense stands of juniper, pinyon and oak trees. Along the canyon bottoms and on the north slopes of the higher elevations, Arizona cypress, Ponderosa pine, Chihuahua pine, Mexican White pine, Douglas fir and occasional White fir are found. Deciduous trees consisting of sycamore, alder, maple, ash and walnut grow along water course banks.

The annual precipitation range is from 14 to 18 inches. There are no live streams or lakes in the Galiuro Mountains. Winter temperatures average lows of 20° to highs of 45°. Summer temperatures average lows of 45° and highs of 85°.

The Galiuro Wilderness has retained its primeval character and appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. There exist outstanding opportunities for solitude, viewing mountain scenery and a primitive type of outdoor recreation.

GALIURO CORRIDOR - A strip of land, 9.5 miles long by 1.5 miles wide, which was omitted from Wilderness classification because of an old road and mining activities. The old road has been closed, and mining activity is practically nil.

Remains of former mining activity include the Power's Cabin constructed around 1910, mine tunnels, a ball mill and stamp mill used for obtaining ore concentrates.

Power's Garden Cabin, used by the Forest Service and the local rancher, is open for public use.

ACCESS - Three trail heads are available on the east side of the Galiuro Mountains. The roads and respective distances from Willcox, Arizona, are: Ash Creek - 40 miles; High Creek - 44 miles; and Deer Creek - 57 miles.

The main trails serving the Wilderness are:

| <u>Trail No.</u> | <u>Distance</u> | <u>Termini and General Locations</u>                                |
|------------------|-----------------|---|
| 96               | 21 mi.          | Aravaipa Canyon to Power's Cabin, Rattlesnake Canyon                |
| 254              | 7 mi.           | Deer Creek Road to Power's Garden                                   |
| 271              | 4 mi.           | Pipestem Canyon   |
| 285              | 5 mi.           | East Divide to Rattlesnake Canyon                                   |
| 287              | 22 mi.          | Ash Creek Road to Deer Creek Road                                   |
| 289              | 22 mi.          | Jackson Cabin to Maverick Mountain, Redfield Canyon and West Divide |
| 290              | 2 mi.           | High Creek Road to East Divide                                      |
| 291              | 4 mi.           | East Divide to Rattlesnake Canyon                                   |
| 293              | 6 mi.           | Deer Creek Road to East Divide                                      |
| 294.1            | 2 mi.           | Power's Garden to Old Tent Lookout                                  |

Due to the rough topography and dense vegetation, travel is limited to the Forest trails.

AVAILABILITY OF WATER - During late spring and early summer, water is usually limited to the following sources: Power's Garden, Mud Spring, Corral Spring, Holdout Spring, Cedar Spring and Jackson Cabin. The remainder of the year water is usually available at other springs and along stream courses. It is always advisable to pack water.

WILDLIFE - Game species observed include Desert Mule deer, Whitetail deer, javelina, bear, mountain lion, cottontail rabbits, quail, dove and bandtail pigeon. Non-game species are ground squirrels, raccoons, coatimundi, foxes, skunks, coyotes, bobcats and wolves.

Except for the mountain lion, population of existing wildlife species is relatively low to the available habitat.

PERMITTED USES - Livestock grazing and prospecting for minerals are permitted within the Wilderness.