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United States
Department of
Agriculture

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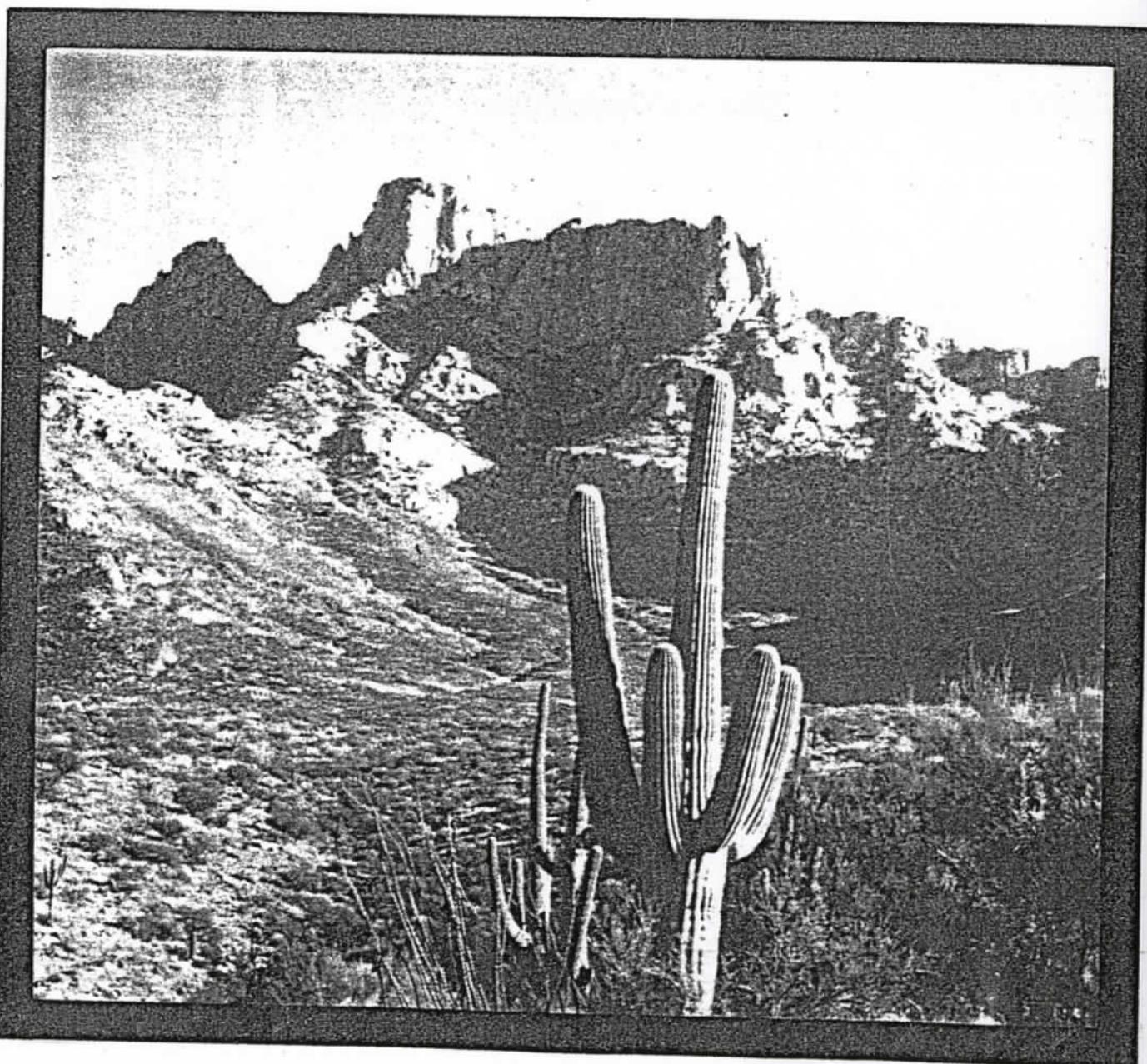
Forest
Service

Southwestern
Region

May 1985



Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Proposed Coronado National Forest Plan



facilities, which are scattered throughout the unit, are the result of past mining activity and current range and wildlife management efforts. Opportunities for solitude exist throughout the WSA. The pinyon-juniper forest, mountainous terrain and many canyons and drainages offer opportunities to find isolation and the feeling of solitude. The WSA provides opportunity for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. This variety of opportunities include hiking, camping, backpacking, hunting, rockhounding, horseback riding, photography, birdwatching, rock climbing, sightseeing and historical and nature study. The area contains portions of one seasonal and three yearlong grazing allotments. Mineral and oil or gas potential is mostly undetermined. Past mineral activity in and adjacent to the WSA would indicate some mineral potential. Oil and gas potential is speculative based on the "over-thrust-theory". There are two known mining claims. The wildlife species of the WSA are typical of the Chihuahuan and Sonoran Desert biotic provinces. The rock outcrops of Bowie Mountain and Helen's Dome provide nesting sites for several raptors. The WSA is rich in the history of Fort Bowie, the Butterfield Stage Route and the Chiricahua Apache Indians.

BLM Galiuro

The BLM Galiuro WSA is located on the south end of the Galiuro Mountains approximately 20 miles northwest of Wilcox and 40 miles northeast of Tucson, Arizona. The 640 acre WSA is adjacent to the southeast corner of the newly enlarged (1984) Galiuro Wilderness Area administered by the Coronado National Forest. The BLM Galiuro WSA is characterized by moderately sloping to moderately steep hills and mountains at elevations of 4800 to 6300 feet. The dominant vegetation is oak and juniper. As defined by Bailey and Kuchler, this area is within the Mexican Highland Shrub Steppe Ecoregion with one potential natural vegetation community identified as the Oak-Juniper Woodland. The WSA is highly natural in character with the only imprint of man being one masonry dam. The rugged nature of the topography, vegetation type and several drainages provide opportunities to find and experience solitude. Limited access to this remote area enhances opportunities for solitude. Diverse opportunities for primitive recreation are provided through a variety of activities including hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, hunting, camping and sightseeing. There are no known special features within the WSA. There are no known mining claims or mineral leases in the area. The area is under a grazing lease but actual use is minor.

Use and Management

The Forest contains 339,190 acres of designated wilderness in 8 areas, or 19.6 percent of the Forest acreage. The eight wildernesses are utilized for a wide variety of dispersed recreation activities. These activities include viewing scenery, hiking, horseback riding, camping, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, environmental studies, solitude, technical rock climbing and hunting. Estimated wilderness use as of 1980 is displayed in Table 24.

Both laws also declared that, subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness study areas are to be administered so as to maintain their presently existing wilderness character and potential for inclusion into the Wilderness Preservation System.

Table 24. Existing Wilderness Acres and Use

WILDERNESS	ACRES	1980 USE MRVD's
Chiricahua (original)	18,000	11.1
(1984 additions)	69,700	Not Known
Total	87,700	
Galiuro (original)	52,717	8.3
(1984 additions)	23,600	Not Known
Total	76,317	
Pusch Ridge	56,933	99.0
Miller Peak	20,190	13.7
Mt. Wrightson	25,260	27.3