

wilderness recommendation

**SAGUARO**



NATIONAL MONUMENT • ARIZONA

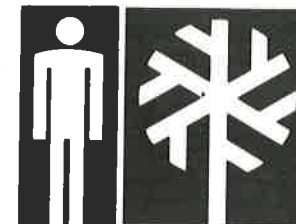
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# WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION



Saguaro  
National Monument  
Arizona

August 1972

U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
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## RECOMMENDATION

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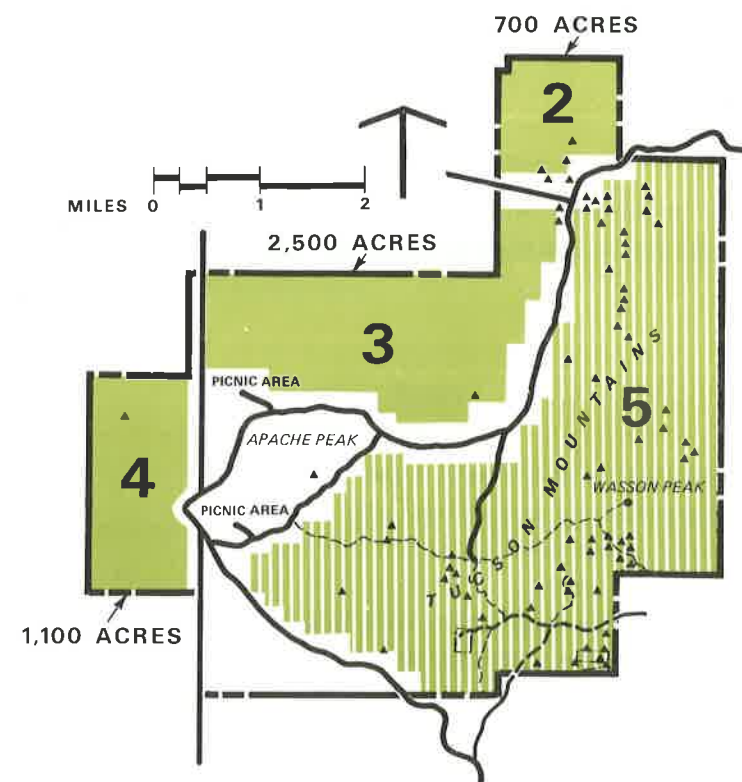
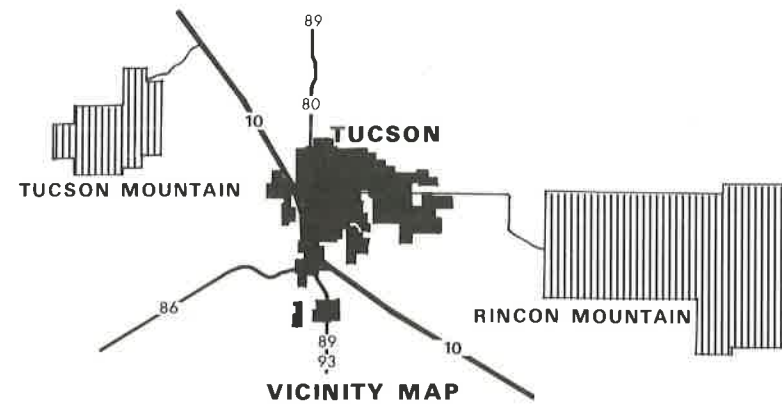
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IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT WILDERNESS OF 42,400 ACRES WITHIN SAGUARO NATIONAL MONUMENT, AS SHOWN ON EXHIBIT A, BE DESIGNATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS.

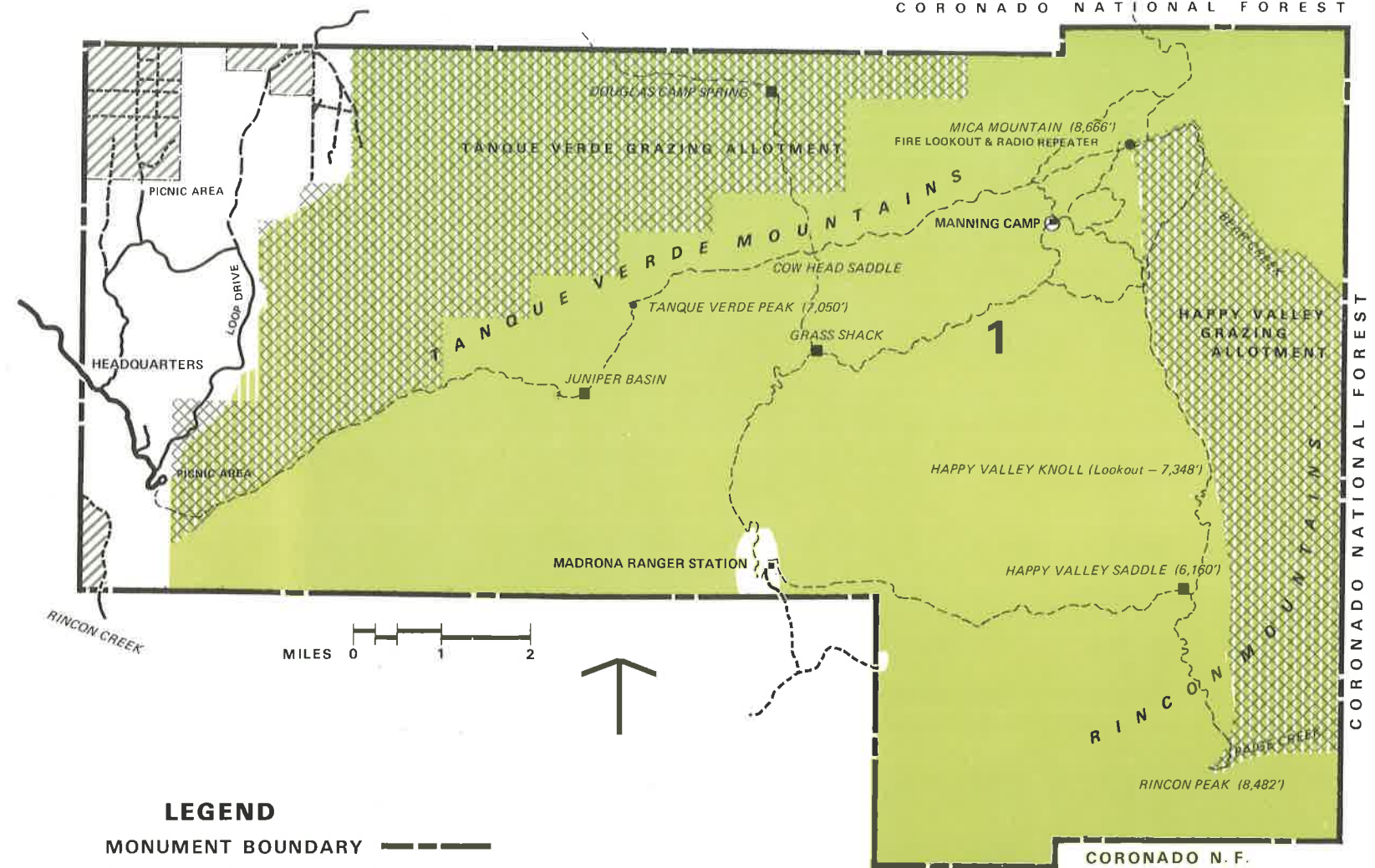
THIS RECOMMENDATION IS BASED UPON CAREFUL STUDY OF THE MONUMENT, THE VIEWS PRESENTED AT THE PUBLIC HEARING, AND THE WRITTEN RESPONSES CONCERNING THE PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS PROPOSAL DESCRIBED IN THE APPENDED HEARING OFFICER'S REPORT.

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POTENTI



**TUCSON MOUNTAIN DISTRICT**  
 WILDERNESS 4,300 ACRES  
 POTENTIAL WILDERNESS ADDITIONS 7,600 ACRES



**LEGEND**

|                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| MONUMENT BOUNDARY             | ---   |
| PUBLIC ROAD                   | —     |
| MANAGEMENT ROAD               | - - - |
| PRIVATE ROAD                  | · · · |
| MINE SHAFT                    | ▲     |
| TRAIL                         | - · - |
| GRAZING ALLOTMENT             | ▨     |
| WILDERNESS AREA               | ■     |
| PRIMITIVE CAMP                | ■     |
| POTENTIAL WILDERNESS ADDITION | ▤     |

**ACREAGES**

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| GROSS MONUMENT | 79,083.24 |
| FEDERAL        | 77,625.24 |
| NON-FEDERAL    | 1,458.00  |

**RINCON MOUNTAIN DISTRICT**  
 WILDERNESS 38,100 ACRES  
 POTENTIAL WILDERNESS ADDITIONS 19,500 ACRES

# EXHIBIT A

## WILDERNESS PLAN

## SAGUARO NATIONAL MONUMENT

### ARIZONA

## A NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM

Public Law 88-577, of September 3, 1964, establishing a National Wilderness Preservation System, provides, in part, as follows:

### POLICY

"It is . . . the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."

### AREAS FOR STUDY

"Within ten years after the effective date of this Act the Secretary of the Interior shall review every roadless area of five thousand contiguous acres or more in the national parks, monuments and other units of the national park system . . . , under his jurisdiction of the effective date of this Act and shall report to the President his recommendation as to the suitability or unsuitability of each such area . . . for preservation as wilderness."

### SYSTEM

" . . . there is hereby established a National Wilderness Preservation System to be composed of federally owned areas designated by Congress as 'wilderness areas' . . . ."

## DEFINITION

"A wilderness, . . . is . . . an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean . . . an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which: (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least 5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."

## MANAGEMENT

"The inclusion of an area in the National Wilderness Preservation System notwithstanding, the area shall continue to be managed by the Department and agency having jurisdiction thereover immediately before its inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System unless otherwise provided by Act of Congress."

## USE

"Nothing in this Act shall modify the statutory authority under which units of the national park system are created. Further, the designation of any area of any park, monument, or other unit of the national park system as a wilderness area pursuant to this Act shall in no manner lower the standards evolved for the use and preservation of such park, monument, or other unit of the national park system in accordance with the Act of August 25, 1916, the statutory authority under which the area was created, or any other Act of Congress which might pertain to or affect such area, including but not limited to, the Act of June 8, 1906, (34 Stat. 255; 16 U.S.C. 432 et seq.); section 3(2) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796 (2)); and the Act of August 21, 1935, (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.)."

## MASTER PLAN POLICY FOR NATURAL AREAS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM (REVISED 1970)

## DISCUSSION

It has long been the practice of the National Park Service to prepare and maintain a Master Plan to guide the use, development, interpretation, and preservation of each particular park. Graphics and narrative specify the objectives of management. In a sense, these Master Plans are zoning plans. They not only define the areas for developments, they also define the areas in which no developments are to be permitted.

Parks do not exist in a vacuum. It is important in planning for a park that the teams take into account the total environment in which the

park exists. Of particular significance are the plans for and the availability of other park and recreation facilities within the region at the Federal, State, and local levels, as well as those of the private sector for the accommodation of visitors, access to the national parks, the roads within them, wildlife habitat, etc. Accordingly, the Master Plan Team first analyzes the entire region in which the park is located and the many factors that influence its management.

Moreover, where national parks and national forests adjoin, such as Mount Rainier, Yellowstone, and Grand Teton National Parks, the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service formalized, in 1963, a joint effort to analyze the resources and visitor needs and develop cooperative plans for the accommodation of these requirements which will best insure the achievement of both of our missions. This program formalizes and broadens the informal efforts made for many years by many park superintendents and forest supervisors to coordinate management programs, including visitor facilities and services. Such cooperative programs are authorized by section 2 of the act of August 25, 1916, establishing the National Park Service.

## ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

### Master Plan

A Master Plan will be prepared for each area to cover specifically all Resource Management, Resource Use, and Physical Development programs. An approved Master Plan is required before any development program may be executed in an area.

### Master Plan Teams

All Master Plan Teams should be composed of members having different professional backgrounds, such as ecology, landscape architecture, architecture, natural history, park planning, resource management, engineering, archeology, and history. Where available funds and program needs permit, the study teams for the national parks should include outstanding conservationists, scientists, and others who possess special knowledge of individual parks. Also, the teams should consult with authorized concessioners during the Master Plan study.

### Land Classification

A sound system of evaluation and classification for lands and waters in a park or monument is a prerequisite for master planning. This is necessary to provide proper recognition and protection of park

resources and to plan for visitor enjoyment of the values of the area. The system serves, also, as a basis for recommending lands for "wilderness" classification in accordance with the Wilderness Act and provides a basis for making many other Master Plan judgments.

The land classification system to be used is similar to that proposed by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission and prescribed for application to Federal lands by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Under this system, lands may be segregated into any one of six classes:

Class I—high density recreation areas; Class II—general outdoor recreation areas; Class III—natural environment areas; Class IV—outstanding natural areas; Class V—primitive areas, including, but not limited to, those recommended for designation under the Wilderness Act; and Class VI—historic and cultural areas. Consistent with the Congressionally stated purpose of national parks, a park contains lands falling into three or more of these classes.

Classes I and II identify the lands reserved for visitor accommodations (*both existing and proposed*), for administrative facilities, formal campgrounds, two-way roads, etc., of varying intensities. Class I and II lands occupy relatively little space in any of the national parks.

Class III identifies the "natural environment areas." As the name of the category implies, these are "natural environment" lands. These lands are important to the proper preservation, interpretation, and management of the irreplaceable resources of the National Park System. These irreplaceable resources are identified in Class IV, V, and VI categories of lands. It is the existence of unique features (Class IV), or primitive lands, including wilderness (Class V), or historical or cultural lands (Class VI) in combination with a suitable environment (Class III) and with sufficient lands "for the accommodation of visitors" (Classes I and II) that distinguish natural and historical areas of the National Park System from other public lands providing outdoor recreation.

*In the natural areas* (national parks and national monuments of scientific significance), Class III lands often provide the "transition" or "setting" or "environment" or "buffer" between intensively developed portions of the park or monument (Classes I and II) AND (a) the primitive or wilderness (Class V) areas; and (b) the unique natural features (Class IV) or areas of historic or cultural significance (Class VI) when these two categories exist outside of the Class V lands.

*In the historical areas* (the administrative policies for which are included in a separate booklet), the "environmental" lands (Class III) serve a similar role in providing the "setting" or "atmosphere" essential to preserving and presenting the national significance of historic properties included in the National Park System.

Often, Classes III and V lands both represent significant natural values. Generally, these values are different in type, quality, or degree. Accordingly, lands having natural values that do not meet Service criteria for primitive or wilderness designation may be classified as Class III even when they do not involve the environment of either Class IV, Class V, or Class VI lands. In natural areas, "natural environment" lands are sometimes referred to additionally as "wilderness threshold" when they abut or surround wilderness.

The "wilderness threshold" lands afford the newcomer an opportunity to explore the mood and the temper of the wild country before venturing into the wilderness beyond. Here, in the wilderness threshold, is an unequalled opportunity for interpretation of the meaning of wilderness.

Class III lands also serve important research needs of the Service, as well as of many independent researchers and institutions of higher learning.

The only facilities planned in these "natural environment" lands are the minimum required for public enjoyment, health, safety, preservation, and protection of the features, such as one-way motor nature trails, small visitor overlooks, informal picnic sites, short nature walks, and wilderness-type uses. Such limited facilities must be in complete harmony with the natural environment.

Class IV lands are those which contain unique natural features. These lands usually represent the most fragile and most precious values of a natural area. Class IV identifies the terrain and objects of scenic splendor, natural wonder, or scientific importance that are the heart of the park. These are the lands which must have the highest order of protection so that they will remain "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Nothing in the way of human use should be permitted on Class IV lands that intrude upon or may in any way damage or alter the scene. The sites and features are irreplaceable. They may range in size from large areas within the Grand Canyon to small sites such as Old Faithful Geyser or a sequoia grove.

Class V are the primitive lands that have remained pristine and undisturbed as a part of our natural inheritance. They include in some instances, moreover, lands which, through National Park Service management, have been restored by the healing processes of nature to a primeval state. There are no mining, domestic stock grazing, water impoundments, or other intrusions of man to mar their character and detract from the solitude and quiet of the natural scene. The protection and maintenance of natural conditions and a wilderness atmosphere are paramount management objectives. The only facilities allowed in these lands are of the type mentioned in the *Wilderness Use and Management Policy* statement.

Class VI are the lands, including historic structures, of historical or cultural significance, such as the agricultural community of Cades Cove in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

#### **Wilderness Hearings**

One of the finest new public land planning procedures introduced by the Wilderness Act is the opportunity for the public to express its views on the preliminary wilderness proposals prior to these proposals being firmly established for recommendations to the Congress. These hearings are held in the State in which the wilderness is proposed.

Notice of such public hearings is published in the "Federal Register" and newspapers having general circulation in the area of the park at least 60 days prior to the hearings. During this 60-day period, the Master Plan documents are available for public review at the park, in the appropriate Regional Office, and in the Washington Office. Moreover, public information packets explaining national park wilderness proposals are available at the same time for distribution to all those requesting them.

The Wilderness Act requires that the public hearing be held on the wilderness proposals only. However, it is the practice of the National Park Service to make available the general development plan for the park or monument at the time the preliminary wilderness proposal is released. The Service welcomes public comments and views on these plans. Moreover, once the Congress has defined the wilderness areas within the national parks and monuments, it shall be the practice of the National Park Service to give public notice of 60 days on any proposal to change the classification of any Class I, Class II, or Class III lands within the park or monument. In this way, the Service shall afford the public a continuing opportunity to participate in the planning and management of its national parks and monuments.

## SUMMARY OF THE PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

### LOCATION OF THE MONUMENT AND ITS ENVIRONS

The two units of Saguaro National Monument — the Tucson Mountain District and the Rincon Mountain District — are located on opposite sides of the City of Tucson, Arizona; both units are within 10 miles of the city.

### SURROUNDINGS

The City of Tucson and the monument are situated on the northeast edge of the Sonoran Desert, a 120,000-square-mile desert surrounding the head of the Gulf of California. The Sonoran Desert is much richer in variety of life forms and diversity of biotic communities than any of the other three major North American deserts. This desert lies below 3000 feet in elevation, except for the narrow strip along the eastern edge in Arizona and northern Sonora, Mexico.

Situated on the southern boundary of the Tucson Mountain District is the 12,000-acre Tucson Mountain County Park. The park includes famous Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and the popular Old Tucson "movie town." Other attractions in the Tucson area include: Colossal Cave, San Xavier Mission, Mount Lemmon, Kitt Peak Observatory, and the Papago Indian Reservation. Coronado National Forest is adjacent to the Rincon Mountain District on three sides.

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The popularity and rapid growth of the Tucson area are attributable to a warm and sunny climate. Tourism is an important economic base; however, industrial and agricultural developments have become extensive.

The Tucson area is part of the Phoenix/Tucson megalopolis, which has a projected 7-million population figure within the next decade.

### RESOURCES

The 63,723-acre Rincon Mountain District, east of Tucson, was established in 1933. It embraces both the Rincon and Tanque Verde Mountains, which reach a maximum height of 8666 feet on Mica Mountain. There is a 6000-foot vertical elevation differential in the

Rincon Mountain District which can be compared to the latitudinal differential between northern Mexico and southern Canada. There is also a comparable transition in life zones which is readily discernible by changes in vegetation.

In 1961, the 15,360-acre Tucson Mountain District, west of Tucson, was added to Saguaro National Monument. Elevations range from 2020 feet to 4687 feet on Wasson Peak in this unit of the monument. The overall environment is that of the Arizona Uplands Region, characterized by desert shrub and grassland-transition biotic communities. There is a saguaro forest within this district as well as desert ironwood, which reaches the eastern limits of its range in the Tucson Mountains.

Wildlife is similar and abundant in both units of the monument.

### VISITOR-USE FACILITIES

Facilities for visitor use within the Rincon Mountain District include a visitor center, a picnic area, 65 miles of trails, 8-1/2 miles of paved park road, and six primitive campgrounds. In the Tucson Mountain District there are an information station, 11 miles of trails, 20 miles of unpaved park road, and five developed picnic areas.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

The preliminary wilderness study for Saguaro National Monument proposed two units of wilderness in the Rincon Mountain District totaling 32,300 acres. Both of the proposed wilderness areas are offset 1/8 mile from monument boundaries. This 1/8-mile offset is considered the minimum essential for present and future management needs.

Grazing lands, private lands, and public-use facilities limited the proposed wilderness areas. Grazing is an unacceptable use in a National Park Service wilderness, and a large portion of the Rincon District is presently under grazing leases.

No wilderness was proposed for the Tucson Mountain District, primarily because extensive mining activity has scarred most of the land. There are 839 known claims within this district, and 112 mine shafts have been located. A few of the mines are still active.

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CONCLUSIONS

As required by the Wilderness Act, a public hearing to discuss the preliminary wilderness proposal was held in Tucson, Arizona, on March 25, 1972. Notice of the public hearing appeared in the *Federal Register* on January 25, 1972, and in a number of newspapers which have general circulation in the vicinity of the monument. Approximately 70 persons attended the hearing. Twenty-two oral statements were presented, and 291 letters were received, representing a total of 342 responses.

Of the public agencies, private organizations, and individuals testifying or submitting written views, one of the 31 private organizations, and 30 of the 305 individuals supported the National Park Service's preliminary wilderness proposal. Three public agencies, 30 organizations, and 269 individuals favored a larger wilderness proposal of approximately 69,000 acres. One public agency favored less wilderness. One public agency and four individuals favored wilderness but had no specific recommendation. One individual opposed wilderness.

The public agencies, organizations, and individuals favoring a larger wilderness designation felt that the existing mining claims, mining shafts, and grazing rights are not sufficient to disqualify the area from designation as wilderness.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONS

Subsequent to publication and distribution of the preliminary wilderness proposal, an agreement was signed by the lessee of the Tanque Verde grazing allotment, relinquishing grazing rights on 4200 acres. This area is therefore recommended for addition to the wilderness, and is shown by the letter A on Exhibit B.

With the exception of a small portion of the Rincon Creek area southeast of the Madrona Ranger Station which contains a potential water supply, all of the management zone shown in the preliminary wilderness proposed is added to the recommended wilderness, since it is believed that actions needed for the health and safety of wilderness travelers, or for the protection of the wilderness area, utilizing the minimum tool, equipment or structure necessary, may take place within the wilderness. This addition of 1600 acres is shown by the letter B on Exhibit B.

Three 5-acre enclaves for primitive camps, one existing at Grass Shack and one each proposed at Juniper Basin and Happy Valley Saddle are recommended for inclusion in Wilderness Unit 1, since the facilities at these sites would be the minimum necessary for the health and safety of wilderness travelers, or for the protection of the wilderness area. These three additions are indicated by the letter C on Exhibit B.

Upon re-examination of the lands in the Tucson Mountain District, it was determined that three units totaling 4300 acres in the north and west part of the District were suitable for preservation and management as wilderness. These are shown as Areas D, E and F on Exhibit B, and Units 2, 3 and 4 on Exhibit A. Acreage of these Units is 700 for Unit 2, 2500 for Unit 3, and 1100 for Unit 4.

POTENTIAL WILDERNESS ADDITIONS

Two areas totaling 19,500 acres are now under grazing leases which will terminate December 31, 1975. These two areas are proposed as potential wilderness to be added to Wilderness Unit 1 upon termination of the grazing leases. It is recommended that a special provision be included in the legislation establishing wilderness at Saguaro National Monument giving the Secretary of the Interior the authority to designate these areas as wilderness at such time as he determines it qualifies.

One area of 7600 acres within the Tucson Mountain District which contains several hundred known mineral claims and numerous mine shafts and other mining scars is proposed as potential wilderness to be added to wilderness as Unit 5. The National Park Service intends to eliminate mining claims from the Tucson Mountain District and plans to remove evidence of past mining activity as mining claims are invalidated or acquired. It is recommended that the special provision mentioned above also provide for the designation of this area by the Secretary of the Interior.

IDENTIFICATION OF WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT FACILITIES AND PRACTICES

There are minimum campsite facilities such as pit toilets and fire rings at four locations in Wilderness Unit 1, as well as a fire lookout and

radio repeater on Mica Mountain and a lookout at Happy Valley Knoll. These facilities are to be maintained for proper backcountry management.

Administrative policies provide for the management of natural areas to minimize, give direction to, or control those changes in the native environment and scenic landscape resulting from human influences on natural processes of ecological succession. Native environmental complexes will be restored, protected, and maintained, where practicable, at levels determined through historical and ecological research of plant-animal relationships. Therefore, it is recommended that the act designating wilderness provide for the use of manipulative techniques, as they are proven necessary, in order to maintain or restore natural ecological conditions to the wilderness area.

#### OTHER AREAS RECONSIDERED

The very western portion of the Rincon Mountain District was reconsidered but is not proposed for wilderness designation due to public use facilities and private lands, roads and structures.

The ranger station at Madrona which contains buildings, corral, and a water system, and also provides for concentrated visitor use is not included in wilderness. Similarly, Manning Camp containing several buildings, a corral, a small reservoir, and an electric generator is excluded from the wilderness in a 10-acre enclave.

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#### SUMMATION

With the addition of 5800 acres in the Rincon Mountain District and 4300 acres in the Tucson Mountain District, the recommended wilderness consists of 42,400 acres. Additionally, 27,100 acres are recommended as potential wilderness.



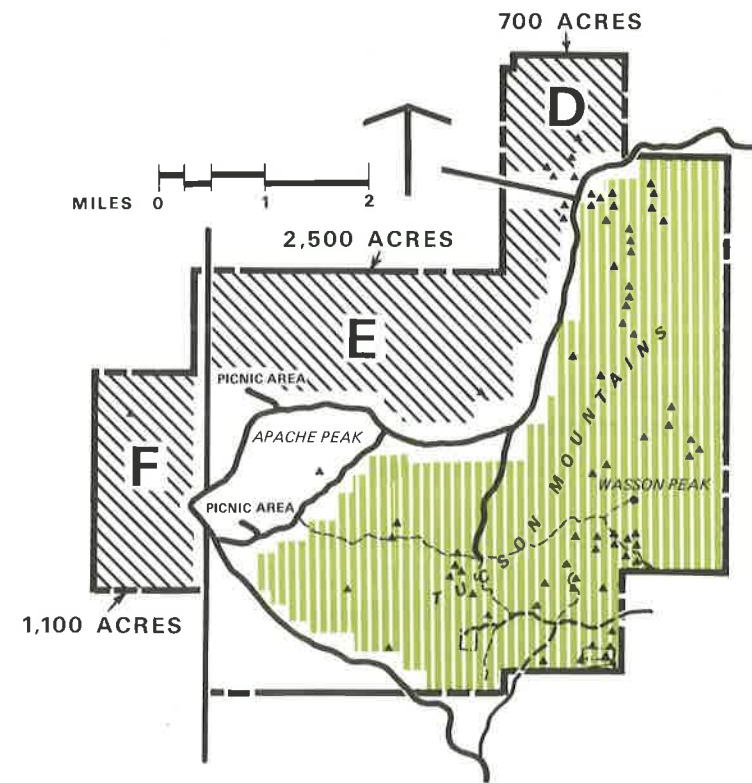
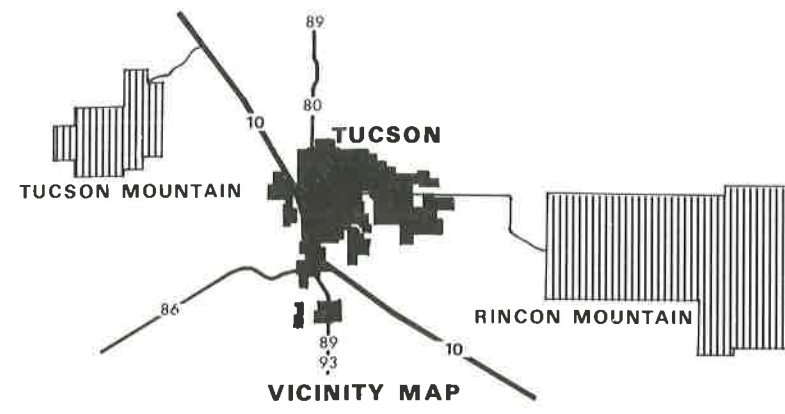
Director, National Park Service



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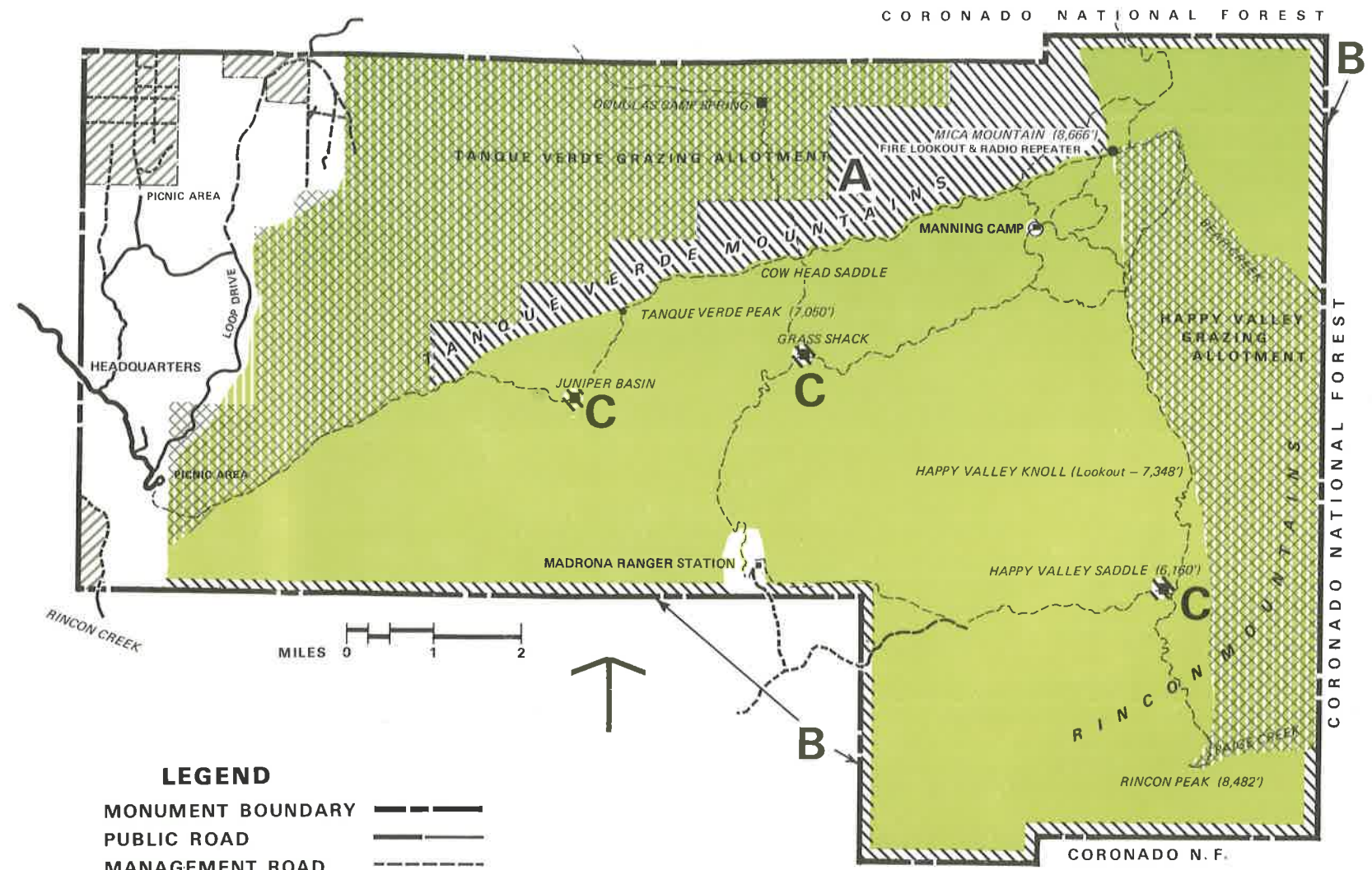
POTENTIAL



**TUCSON MOUNTAIN DISTRICT**

WILDERNESS 4,300 ACRES

POTENTIAL WILDERNESS ADDITIONS 7,600 ACRES



**RINCON MOUNTAIN DISTRICT**

WILDERNESS 38,100 ACRES

POTENTIAL WILDERNESS ADDITIONS 19,500 ACRES

# EXHIBIT B

## RECOMMENDED REVISIONS TO PRELIMINARY

### WILDERNESS PLAN

### SAGUARO NATIONAL MONUMENT

### ARIZONA

## APPENDIX: HEARING OFFICER'S REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

A public hearing on the proposal to establish wilderness within Saguaro National Monument was held in the City Council chambers, Tucson, Arizona, on March 25, 1972.

The hearing was opened at 1:00 p.m. by the Hearing Officer, Mr. John M. Davis, 7272 East Camino Valle Verde, Tucson, Arizona. Approximately 70 persons were present; 22 of whom presented oral statements. Miss Janice Schutzman of Hardy W. Scott & Associates, Tucson, Arizona, recorded the proceedings.

### THE PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

#### **The Monument and Its Environs**

The two units of Saguaro National Monument are located on opposite sides of Tucson, both within approximately 10 miles of the center of

this sprawling, rapidly growing desert community of 300,000 people. The City of Tucson and the monument are situated on the northeast edge of the Sonoran Desert, a 120,000-square-mile area immediately surrounding the head of the Gulf of California. The Sonoran Desert is much richer in variety of life forms and diversity of biotic communities than any of the other three major North American deserts. In elevation, this desert lies below 3000 feet, except for the narrow band along the eastern edge in Arizona and northern Sonora.

Saguaro National Monument was established to maintain a portion of the Sonoran Desert and interrelated mountain plant and animal communities indigenous to the monument for the esthetic, recreational and educational enjoyment of visitors, and for scientific values.

The 63,723-acre Rincon Mountain District, east of Tucson, was established in 1933. It embraces both the Rincon and Tanque Verde Mountains, which reach a maximum height of 8666 feet on Mica Mountain. The 6000-foot vertical elevation differential within the Rincon Mountain District corresponds to the influence of latitude between northern Mexico and southern Canada. Biotic communities can be readily delineated on the basis of vegetation.

In 1961, the 15,360-acre Tucson Mountain District west of Tucson was added to Saguaro National Monument. Elevations range from 2020 feet to 4687 feet on Wasson Peak in this unit of the monument. The overall environment is that of the Arizona Uplands Region, characterized by desert shrub and grassland transition biotic communities. Within this district there is a viable saguaro forest. Also of interest is the desert ironwood, which reaches the eastern limits of its range in the Tucson Mountains.

Wildlife is similar and abundant in both sections of the monument, varying with the particular vegetative communities with which they associate.

Situated along the southern boundary of the Tucson Mountain District is the Tucson Mountain County Park of 12,000 acres. It contains the famous Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and the popular Old Tucson "movie town." Other attractions in the Tucson area include: Colossal Cave, San Xavier Mission, Mount Lemmon, the Kitt Peak Observatory, and the Papago Indian Reservation. Coronado National Forest is adjacent to the Rincon Mountain District on three sides.

The popularity and rapid growth of the Tucson area is attributable to a warm and sunny climate. Tourism is an important economic base; however, development of industrial and agricultural activities has been extensive.

The Tucson area is part of the Phoenix/Tucson megalopolis, which has a projected 7-million population figure in the next decade.

#### **The Roadless Study Areas**

**Rincon Mountain District:** The Rincon Mountain District of Saguaro National Monument is mostly mountainous back country, which is one large, roadless area of 59,800 acres. The northwest corner of the monument, which is not mountainous, contains several roads.

Nearly all of the monument has at one time been grazed by livestock. Today, however, there are only two principal grazing allotments — Happy Valley and Tanque Verde — which total approximately 22,700 acres. Grazing is not an acceptable use in national monument wilderness.

In the northeastern part of the roadless area near Mica Mountain is Manning Camp, an administrative site with several buildings that serves as a fire station and for storage. Nearby, on Mica Mountain, there is a 100-foot fire lookout tower and radio repeater. Halfway between Manning Camp and Madrona Ranger Station there is a primitive camp at Grass Shack.

**Tucson Mountain District:** The Tucson Mountain District contains one roadless area of 8100 acres, consisting primarily of the mountainous southeast part of the district. Elevations within this roadless area range from 2400 feet to 4687 feet at Wasson Peak. Vegetation consists primarily of desert shrub and grassland-transition biotic communities. Thick stands of ironwood and saguaro cactuses cover the lower elevations.

The entire Tucson Mountain District has been subject to extensive mining activities, with a few mines still remaining at least partially active. There are 839 known mineral claims within the boundaries. A total of 112 mine shafts have been located in the district. The greater portion of this mining activity is within the roadless area.

The National Park Service has a continuing program to eliminate mining claims from the Tucson Mountain District, and the Bureau of Land Management is investigating the validity of all known claims.

### Proposal

A total wilderness of 32,300 acres in two units, as shown on Map No. 151-20,000-A, September 1971, is proposed for the Rincon Mountain District of Saguaro National Monument. Preserved within these two units are two mountain masses — the Rincons and Tanque Verdes — ranging in elevation from approximately 2700 feet to 8666 feet. Vegetation ranges from the saguaro forest of the desert to the fir forest of the higher elevations. Six biotic communities are included in this range: desert scrub, desert-grassland transition, oak woodland, oak/pine woodland, ponderosa pine forest, and fir forest. The continuum of plants from the saguaro forest of the desert to the fir forest of Mica Mountain includes approximately 900 species.

Wilderness lines are drawn along topographic features in the interior. Along the monument boundary the wilderness line is offset 1/8 mile from the boundary to allow for a management zone between adjoining lands and proposed wilderness. This zone is considered the minimum essential for present and future management needs.

Beginning in the southeast corner of the monument, the wilderness line for Unit 1 runs 1/8 mile from the boundary north to the ridge south of Paige Creek. It then follows the ridge west to Rincon Peak, and then follows the ridge line north, excluding the Happy Valley Lookout Tower, to approximately the 8500-foot elevation on Mica Mountain. The line then follows Tanque Verde ridge southwesterly to within 1/2 mile of the monument boundary, where it turns south to the 1/8-mile management zone.

The wilderness line then continues east offset 1/8 mile from the monument boundary, around Madrona Ranger Station, and following the monument boundary to the point of beginning.

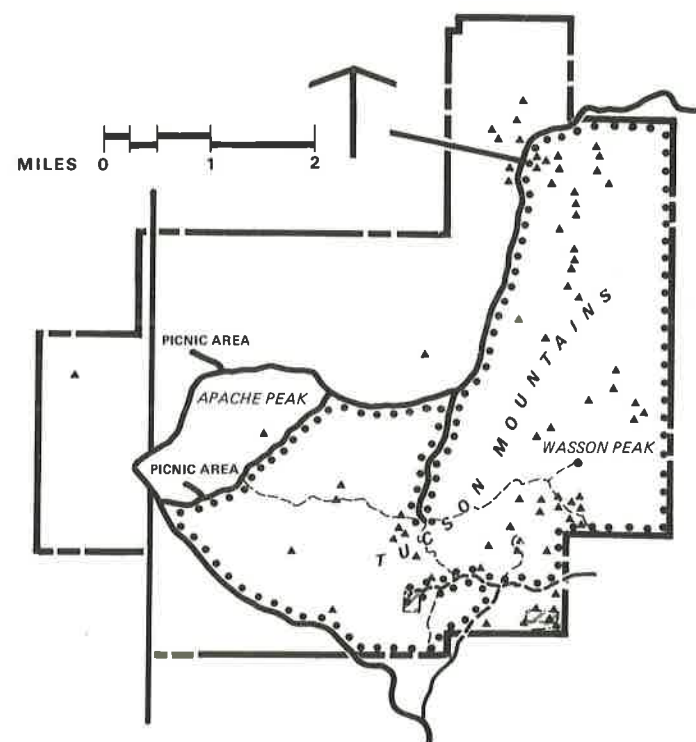
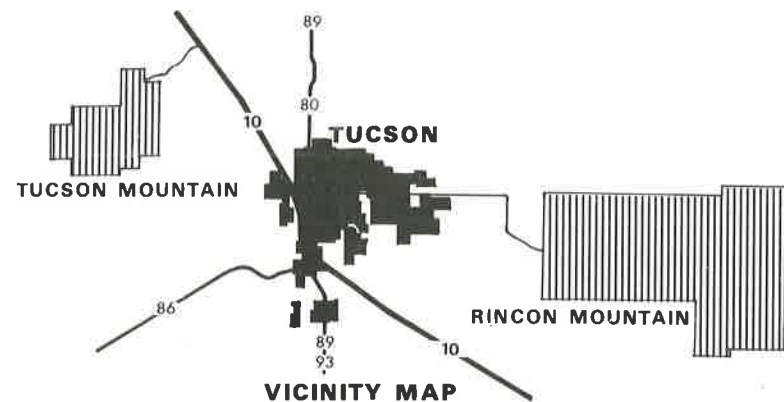
Beginning at the northeast corner of the monument, the wilderness line for Unit 2 follows the 1/8-mile offset west for approximately 2½ miles. It then runs south to about the 8500-foot elevation on Mica Mountain, and then east and south down Bear Creek to the 1/8-mile offset, returning to the point of beginning.

Manning Camp is excluded from the wilderness unit in a 10-acre enclave; and 5-acre enclaves are provided at Grass Shack, Juniper Basin, and Happy Valley Saddle for primitive backcountry camps.

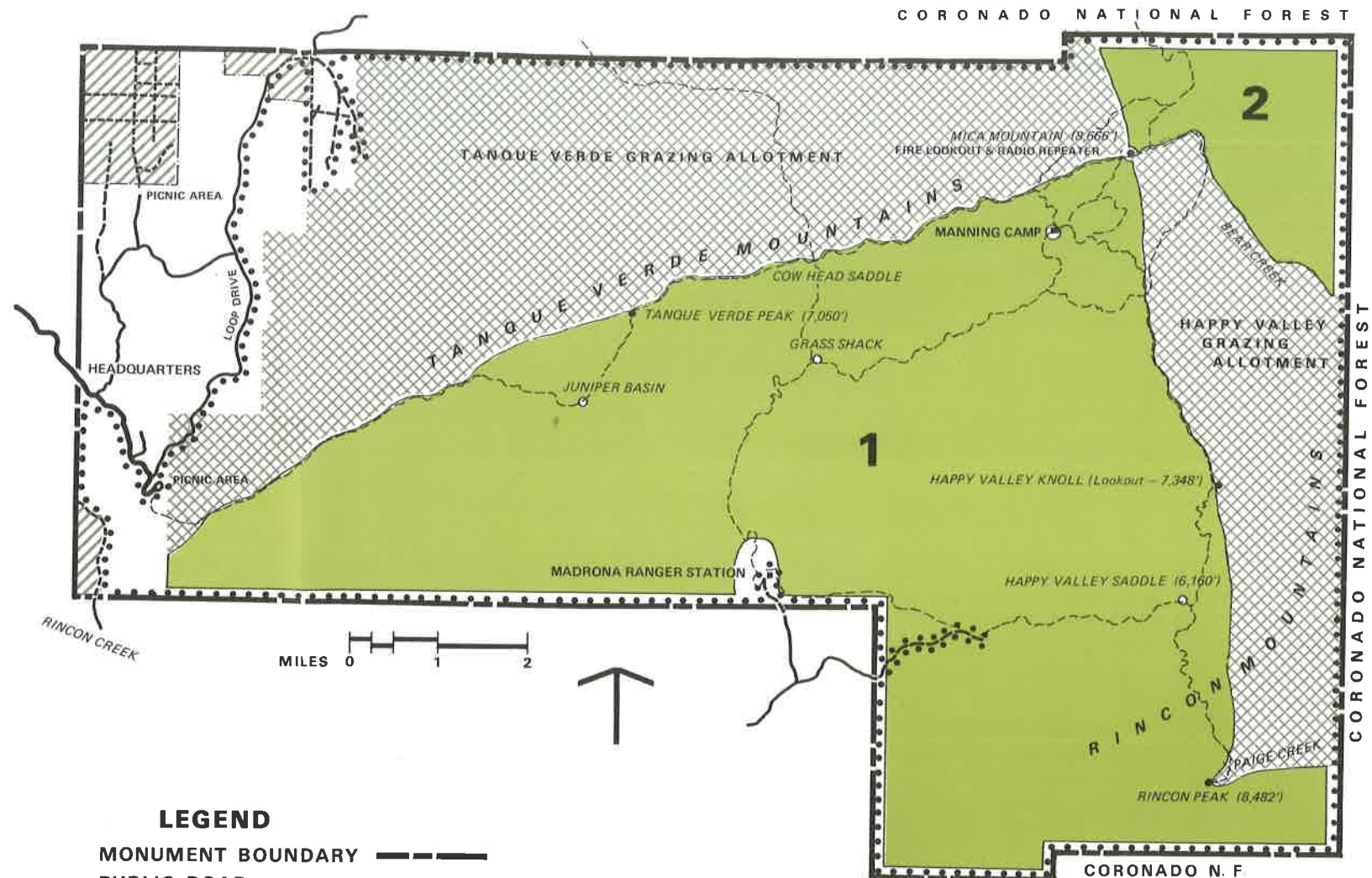
A 1½-mile jeep road in Section 11, T. 17 E., R. 5 S., and within the area proposed for wilderness designation is to be closed.



7  
F  
N



**TUCSON MOUNTAIN DISTRICT**  
 ROADLESS AREA 8,100 ACRES  
 NO WILDERNESS PROPOSED



- LEGEND**
- MONUMENT BOUNDARY ———
  - PUBLIC ROAD ———
  - MANAGEMENT ROAD - - - - -
  - PRIVATE ROAD . . . . .
  - MINE SHAFT ▲
  - TRAIL - - - - -
  - GRAZING ALLOTMENT [Cross-hatched box]
  - ROADLESS AREA LINE [Dotted line]
  - WILDERNESS AREA [Solid green box]
  - ENCLAVE [Hatched box]

**ACREAGES**

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| GROSS MONUMENT | 79,083.24 |
| FEDERAL        | 77,625.24 |
| NON-FEDERAL    | 1,458.00  |

**RINCON MOUNTAIN DISTRICT**

| ROADLESS AREA | WILDERNESS    |
|---------------|---------------|
| 59,800 ACRES  | UNIT 1 30,000 |
|               | UNIT 2 2,300  |
|               | TOTAL 32,300  |

**EXHIBIT C**

PRELIMINARY - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**WILDERNESS PLAN**  
**SAGUARO NATIONAL MONUMENT**  
**ARIZONA**

### **Conclusions**

The roadless area free from grazing in the Rincon Mountain District is primarily back country of sufficiently high quality to merit consideration for wilderness area designation. Two wilderness units are proposed.

The impact of mining activity renders the lands of the Tucson Mountain District unsuitable as a wilderness; therefore, none is proposed for such designation. When the program to eliminate mining claims is accomplished and all abandoned mine shafts have been filled, this roadless area will be restudied as to its suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

### **ANALYSIS OF THE RECORD OF PUBLIC HEARING AND WRITTEN RESPONSES**

#### **Conservation Group Recommendation**

The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, and National Park and Conservation Society wilderness proposals were in general agreement, and were supported by a majority of the organizations and individuals who desired a larger wilderness for Saguaro National Monument. Their recommendation was for a 68,900-acre wilderness outlined as follows:

- In the Rincon Mountain District, a single, 57,200-acre wilderness was recommended. This wilderness would include: the two proposed National Park Service units, totaling 32,300 acres; 23,200 acres of grazing land; and 1700 acres of management zones and enclaves (excluded from the preliminary National Park Service proposal). Those supporting this recommendation did not feel there was a need for management zones or for excluding backcountry facilities from wilderness designation.
- In the Tucson Mountain District, two wilderness units were recommended, totaling 11,700 acres. If a portion of the Kinney Road were closed, these two units would become one.

This proposal is shown by the letter X on Exhibit B.

#### **Other Recommendations**

Only one person recommended no wilderness. One person recommended wilderness, but suggested that it be managed by the Forest Service.

# SUMMARY OF RESPONSES



| Recommendation                                               | Public<br>Agencies | Private<br>Organizations | Individuals | Totals     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------|------------|
| National Park<br>Service Proposal                            | 0                  | 1                        | 30          | 31         |
| Enlarge NPS Proposal                                         | 3                  | 30                       | 269         | 302        |
| Wilderness — No Specific<br>Recommendation                   | 1                  | 0                        | 4           | 5          |
| Less Wilderness                                              | 1                  | 0                        | 0           | 1          |
| No Wilderness                                                | 0                  | 0                        | 1           | 1          |
| Acknowledgements<br>Received — No Specific<br>Recommendation | 1                  | 0                        | 1           | 2          |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                                                | <b>6</b>           | <b>31</b>                | <b>305</b>  | <b>342</b> |

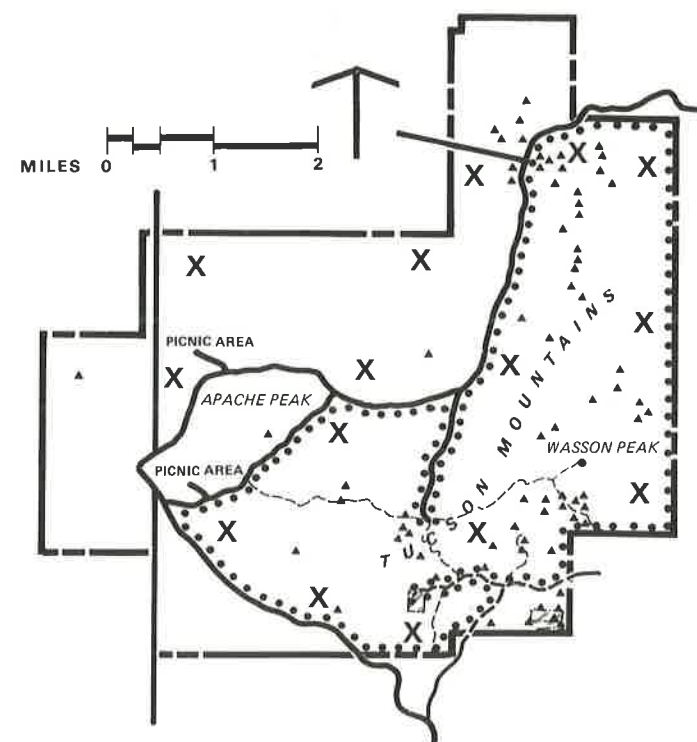
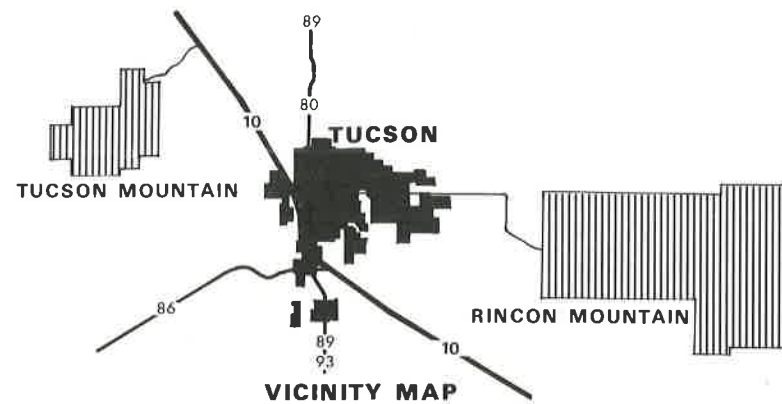
19

## DISPOSITION OF HEARING RECORD AND WRITTEN RESPONSES

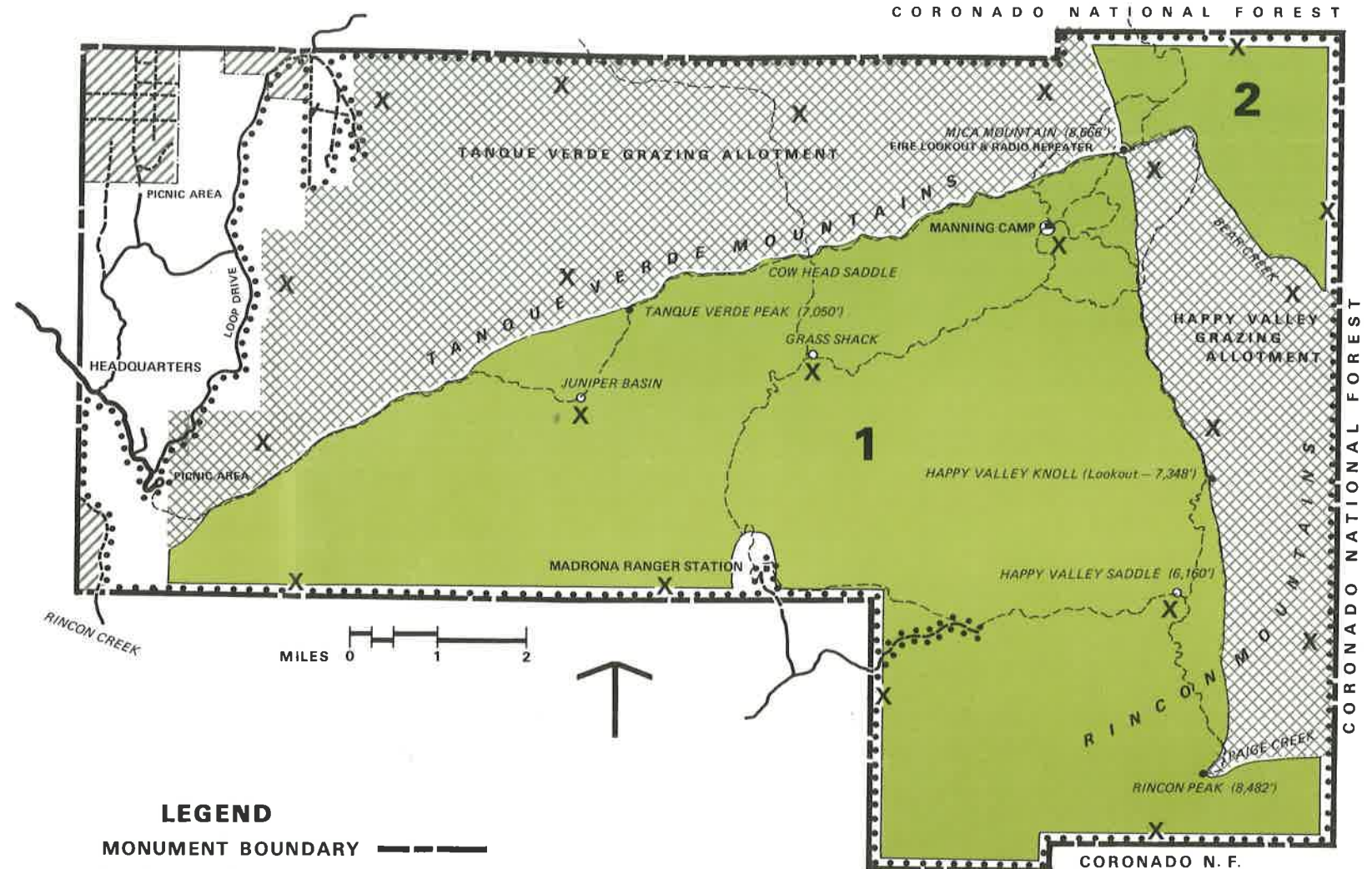
The official record, including letters received by the Hearing Officer, the park, the Western Regional Office, and the Washington Office of the National Park Service, has been assembled and is available for review in the Washington Office.

*John M. Davis*

Hearing Officer



**TUCSON MOUNTAIN DISTRICT**  
 ROADLESS AREA 8,100 ACRES  
 NO WILDERNESS PROPOSED



**LEGEND**

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| MONUMENT BOUNDARY   | ---       |
| PUBLIC ROAD         | —         |
| MANAGEMENT ROAD     | - - -     |
| PRIVATE ROAD        | · · ·     |
| MINE SHAFT          | ▲         |
| TRAIL               | - · -     |
| GRAZING ALLOTMENT   | XXXXX     |
| ROADLESS AREA LINE  | · · · · · |
| WILDERNESS AREA     | ■         |
| ENCLAVE             | ■         |
| ALTERNATE PROPOSALS | X         |

**ACREAGES**

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| GROSS MONUMENT | 79,083.24 |
| FEDERAL        | 77,625.24 |
| NON-FEDERAL    | 1,458.00  |

# **RINCON MOUNTAIN DISTRICT**

| ROADLESS AREA | WILDERNESS    |
|---------------|---------------|
| 59,800 ACRES  | UNIT 1 30,000 |
|               | UNIT 2 2,300  |
|               | TOTAL 32,300  |

## **EXHIBIT D** **ALTERNATE PROPOSALS**

PRELIMINARY - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

## **WILDERNESS PLAN** **SAGUARO NATIONAL MONUMENT** **ARIZONA**

**VIEWS OF OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ON THE  
PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS PROPOSAL**

The following letters are from the agencies listed below:

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
Office of the Secretary

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

**FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION**

**STATE OF ARIZONA**  
Arizona Game and Fish Department

**CITY OF TUCSON**  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

Mr. Howard H. Chapman  
Director, Western Region  
National Park Service  
450 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Mr. Chapman:

We appreciate the opportunity to comment upon your preliminary Wilderness Study and draft Master Plan for Saguaro National Monument. This area is of particular interest because the Rincon Mountain District adjoins the Coronado National Forest. Some lands within the District were withdrawn from the National Forest and both reservations are effective for such lands.

We have reviewed both the preliminary Wilderness Study and the draft Master Plan for Saguaro National Monument. We agree with your finding that the Tucson Mountain District is not suitable for wilderness designation.

We also question the wisdom of recommending the Rincon Mountain areas for wilderness. One area is only 2,300 acres in extent, considerably smaller than the Wilderness Act's guideline of having at least five thousand acres or being of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

Of even more importance in considering whether the Rincon Mountain area qualifies for wilderness is the proximity of the city of Tucson. The draft Master Plan states that "widespread urban development is pressing in upon much of the park boundary, and the time will come when not even chain-link fences will protect it against adverse uses." This judgment should give pause to establishing an area as wilderness, which is defined in the Act as generally appearing "to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable," and having "outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation."

We cannot reconcile the establishment of enclaves of nonwilderness within the exterior wilderness boundaries. The presence of an administrative site at Manning Camp with several buildings is not

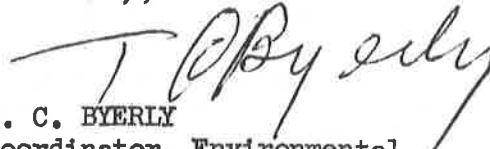
Mr. Howard H. Chapman  
Page 2

shielded by an enclave boundary to the extent that this area meets the Act's definition of wilderness as being "undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions...." Enclaves containing nonconforming uses destroy the integrity of wilderness as it is defined in the Act. We recommend that enclaves be deleted and nonconforming uses either be removed or excluded from wilderness by indentations of the exterior boundary line.

We are highly concerned that the management proposed in the draft Master Plan will actually destroy the wilderness characteristics in the proposed wilderness. The plan points out that "although visitation is not yet approaching a saturation level, one which may threaten to seriously damage the resource or the quality of the experience, there is no doubt that this will eventually happen." The plan then points toward maintaining the quality of solitude, but proposes opening or improving access by trail use in at least two locations, thus compounding the problem of maintaining the wilderness characteristic of solitude by encouraging additional use. In managing almost ten million acres of National Forest Wilderness, we have found that the act of classifying an area as wilderness induces added use, even without providing ease of access by improving trails, or by providing campgrounds in the wilderness. Your objective of promoting use of the trail system is not compatible with designation as wilderness, where increased recreation use will jeopardize and ultimately destroy the wilderness resource.

We recommend that you reconsider your objectives for management of the area. If you retain them as stated, we recommend that no wilderness be recommended for the Rincon Mountain District. This would allow hardening of sites and provision of facilities to accommodate the increased use from the adjacent metropolitan area.

Sincerely,

  
T. C. BYERLY  
Coordinator, Environmental  
Quality Activities



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE

BOX 36062

450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

April 19, 1972

Memorandum

To: Director, Western Region, National Park Service  
From: Regional Director  
Subject: Wilderness Proposal, Saguaro National Monument, Arizona

Enclosed is our statement on the wilderness proposal for Saguaro National Monument, containing the recommendations of the Pacific Southwest Region of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Please include the statement in the official record of the public hearing which was held in Tucson on March 25, 1972.

We have reviewed your "Wilderness Study" report for Saguaro. In addition, a representative from our office attended the public hearing in Tucson.

  
Frank E. Sylvester

Enclosure

Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Pacific Southwest Region's Report on Recreation Data with Comments and Recommendations on the Wilderness Proposal for Saguaro National Monument, Arizona.

General Information

Saguaro National Monument lies in two portions, each some ten road miles distant east and west from Tucson, Arizona. Access to either portion is by secondary roads connecting via city streets in Tucson with I 10, railroads and with the municipal airport.

The east half of the Monument's east portion is bounded by the Coronado National Forest, the west half by private lands. The Monument's west portion is bounded by private lands and by many small and scattered parcels of Public Domain.

The east portion's east half contains pine-fir forested mountains of the Rincon Range which rise to more than 8,000 feet above M.S.L.; its west half and all of the Monument's west portion are comprised of desert type lands with low hills and extensive flats cut by desert washes draining westerly. Vegetation is of arid-area species in dense stands on the flats and sparse on the west side hills. The Saguaro cactus is the dominant growth at many locations.

Recreation Data

A 100-mile zone of recreation influence from the Monument would contain Cochise, Graham, Pinal, Santa Cruz, the southern part of Gila and the eastern heavily populated part of Pima counties; the Tucson SMSA and ten other urban centers. Except for these population centers the zone is sparsely populated, by 1970 Bureau of Census' data, containing some 508,000 gross population.

Visitor use at the Monument has increased from 141,000 during 1960 to 351,800 during 1970, a 149.5 percent increase. Because it is so accessible from I 10 and Tucson, some 98 percent of the visitor use consists of day use, with overnight use being of minor amount. Local use is also minor in amount, the greater proportion of visitor use originating from out of state via I 10, and consisting of one-time short-stay visits.

Comments

The Saguaro National Monument was established to protect the one genus, one species, *Cereus giganteus*, the Saguaro cactus. Later, the pine-fir forested eastern mountain area was added. Visitor interest lies principally in the Saguaro. The forested mountain portion has received minor recreation use during the hot summer months. However, with greater public interest in outdoor recreation, this use is increasing.

Within the zone of recreation influence lie more than 8,412,000 acres of publicly owned lands available for public recreation use. As indicated by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation's data bank, ownership of this acreage is apportioned as follows:

|         |               |                |
|---------|---------------|----------------|
| Federal | 8,394,854 AC. | 99.7% of total |
| State   | 4,822 AC.     | Less than 1 %  |
| County  | 11,605 AC.    | Less than 1 %  |
| Local   | 1,288 AC.     | Less than 1 %  |

A breakdown of this acreage by BOR class, location, ownership and acreage is indicated on the accompanying page.

Large portions of these lands are comprised of physical properties similar to the desert-like portions of the Monument. An outstanding exception is the Coronado National Forest portion lying within twenty miles northeast of Tucson and contiguous to the east portion of the Monument. There are four campgrounds and one ski run in this area, which is heavily used year round, causing a management problem particularly during the summer months.

The press of summer over-use is threatening the wilderness environment contained within the Monument's mountainous portion. This roadless portion contains natural values of high quality that have not been spoiled by the intrusion of developments, recreation or otherwise. Summer use has been of primitive type facilities.

Both the forested area and the majority of the desert area of the Rincon Mountain District of the Monument contain wilderness characteristics that should be retained in an undeveloped state. As such, these areas would balance the near intensive use portions with areas of wilderness quality, protected and continued in that status by statutory action.

Recommendation

The grazing areas of the Rincon Mountain District contain wilderness values and qualify for wilderness classification under the Wilderness Act. Since the Happy Valley and Tanque Verde grazing allotments will be terminated within the next few years, we recommend that they be included in the proposal at this time, for wilderness classification and recommendation for designation as a wilderness area.

BOR's recreation area classifications for this acreage are indicated as follows:

| Class                 | I               | II             | III                      | IV                  | V                   | VI                | TOTAL                        |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>Cochise County</u> |                 |                |                          |                     |                     |                   |                              |
| Federal State         | 12,920<br>0     | 93,275<br>0    | 1,630,656<br>4,091       | 51,650<br>0         | 75,704<br>0         | 5,161<br>0        | 1,869,366<br>4,091           |
| <u>Gila County</u>    |                 |                |                          |                     |                     |                   |                              |
| Federal State         | 15,040<br>0     | 1,718,529<br>0 | 2,424,254<br>171         | 360<br>0            | 358,905<br>0        | 419<br>0          | 4,517,507<br>171             |
| <u>Graham County</u>  |                 |                |                          |                     |                     |                   |                              |
| Federal State         | 0<br>0          | 0<br>100       | 216,352<br>460           | 0<br>0              | 0<br>0              | 800<br>0          | 217,152<br>560               |
| <u>Pima County</u>    |                 |                |                          |                     |                     |                   |                              |
| Federal County Local  | 0<br>465<br>743 | 0<br>585<br>29 | 401,932<br>10,464<br>204 | 14,220<br>25<br>312 | 1,199,221<br>0<br>0 | 21,595<br>66<br>0 | 1,636,968<br>11,605<br>1,288 |
| <u>Pinal County</u>   |                 |                |                          |                     |                     |                   |                              |
| Federal               | 0               | 10,418         | 139,681                  | 3,279               | 0                   | 473               | 153,851                      |

(Continued)

| Class                    | I | II | III | IV | V | VI    | TOTAL     |
|--------------------------|---|----|-----|----|---|-------|-----------|
| <u>Santa Cruz County</u> |   |    |     |    |   |       |           |
| Federal                  | 0 | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0 | 10    | 10        |
|                          |   |    |     |    |   | TOTAL | 8,412,569 |

| Class | I      | II        | III       | IV     | V         | VI     | Less than 1% of Total |
|-------|--------|-----------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------------------|
|       | 29,168 | 1,822,936 | 4,828,265 | 69,846 | 1,633,830 | 28,524 | 21.6% "               |
|       |        |           |           |        |           |        | 57.3% "               |
|       |        |           |           |        |           |        | Less than 1% "        |
|       |        |           |           |        |           |        | 19.4% "               |
|       |        |           |           |        |           |        | Less than 1% "        |

FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20426

Mr. Howard H. Chapman  
Director, Western Region  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
450 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Mr. Chapman:

This is in response to the communication received on February 2, 1972, from your office furnishing information on the wilderness study of the Saguaro National Monument, Arizona. The study finds that 32,300 acres of the Rincon Mountain District of the monument would be suitable for designation as wilderness.

Since the proposed wilderness would be located entirely within an existing national monument, its designation would not affect any responsibilities of the Federal Power Commission.

Very truly yours,

*Kenneth F. Plumb*

Secretary

STATEMENT OF THE ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING A WILDER-  
NESS AREA WITHIN SAGUARO NATIONAL MONUMENT. Tucson,  
Arizona, March 25, 1972

My name is Robert D. Curtis. I am Chief of the Wildlife Planning and Development Division of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. I am appearing here today as a representative of Robert A. Jantzen, Director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

The Secretary of the Interior was directed by the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964 (P.L. 88-577) to review all roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more to determine whether wilderness designation might be in the public interest. This has been done on the Saguaro National Monument and a recommendation to include it in the National Wilderness Preservation System has been proposed.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has reviewed the National Park Service's "Wilderness Study" for the Saguaro National Monument and their proposed "Master Plan." We agree that the Rincon Mountain Area possesses lands of wilderness quality and generally support the proposal. However, we would recommend the addition of the Tanque Verde and Happy <sup>Valley</sup> ~~Verde~~ grazing allotment areas to the wilderness proposal.

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission is interested in Wilderness areas also, since the Commission is charged by the people of Arizona with the responsibility of establishing broad policies and long-range programs for the management and preservation of wildlife resources in the State. This responsibility is not negated by the establishment of Federal monuments, parks, ranges or refuges within the boundaries of the State especially as they relate to nonmigratory wildlife.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has maintained an interest in this unique area for many years. We have an interest in this national monument simply because it is a part of Arizona.

We are sure that the people of Arizona, who care about wild and natural things, are interested in the Saguaro National Monument. For those who take the time to hike, camp, birdwatch or just to be out in an area far from man's clamorous pursuits, the experience will be worth it.

As cities grow and urbanization expands, the need of the people for wild areas increases. Consequently, the difficulty of satisfying that need also increases. While the need for natural features of wilderness has increased, the resources to meet that need have diminished.

When we speak of wilderness-type areas we are referring to a concept of an environment of solitude.

This concept of wilderness is not new. It has been with us for many generations. Henry Thoreau, in 1864, asked, "Why should not we, who have renounced the king's authority, have our natural reserves, where no villages need be destroyed, in which the bear and panther and some even of the hunter race, may still exist and not be civilized off the face of the earth?"

Society and a forward thinking people will determine the choice that is necessary for Saguaro National Monument. It is for us to decide whether we favor wilderness and the irreplaceable values associated with an environment of solitude or whether we favor the onward rush of civilization and the multiple demands that will undoubtedly change the environment.

Many of the highly specialized species of plants and animals in the area have adapted exclusively to the very unforgiving environ-

ment. They live on a fragile web which separates them from extinction; a web which when damaged is not repaired in the span of a man's life.

Due to the area's nearness to Tucson numerous people have been lured there; consequently, the slow healing scars of their presence are steadily accumulating. Modern four wheel drive and specialized recreational vehicles can leave a wake of destruction in fragile environments such as the Saguaro National Monument and this must be curtailed.

The "Wilderness Use and Management Policy" of the National Park Service (revised 1970) states that "grazing is not an acceptable use in national park wilderness. Except where grazing is conducted by permits and is expected to expire at a fixed date or determinable date in advance of legislative action on a wilderness proposal, lands utilized for this purpose will not be proposed for wilderness designation." The Master Plan--Saguaro states that a primary objective is to "Eliminate domestic livestock grazing by termination of current grazing permits in December 1975."

It would seem to us that since it is the Park Service's goal to eliminate grazing on Saguaro National Monument by December, 1975, it would be within the Park Service's guidelines to propose the additional areas <sup>(Tanque Verde & Happy Valley)</sup> for wilderness status.

We would also support the Park Service's "enclaves" so that Manning Camp and the three primitive back country camps can continue to exist.

With reference to the section, Regulation of Excess Wildlife Population, in the "Wilderness Study," we feel it would more correctly reflect the spirit of cooperation between the National Park Service and the State of Arizona if it were clearly stated that all

reduction of nuisance or excess animals be done after consultation with the State Game and Fish Department in accordance with state law, Administrative Policies for National Parks and Monuments of Scientific Significance, revised August, 1968, and Secretary of Interior Policy Statement on Preservation, Use and Management of Fish and Wildlife Resources dated August 13, 1970.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department endorses the proposal to include the Saguaro National Monument in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

While the Saguaro National Monument Wilderness Proposal differs from the stereotype usually associated with a wilderness area, the fact remains that nature has already created a unique wilderness-- we are asking that man formally recognize it as such by designating it as the Saguaro National Monument Wilderness Area.

We hope our comments and recommendations are of assistance and we congratulate the National Park Service on preparation of an objective wilderness proposal and master plan.



## CITY OF TUCSON

LEWIS C. MURPHY  
MAYOR

March 29, 1972

250 WEST ALAMEDA  
P. O. BOX 5547  
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85703  
PHONE: (602) 791-4201

Superintendent  
Saguaro National Monument  
P. O. Box 17210  
Tucson, Arizona 85710

Dear Sir:

During the past several months I have followed with a great deal of interest the proposal to establish certain portions of our national park system as "wilderness areas."

Improved management of our natural resources has long been of prime concern to me, not only as a public official, but as a parent of three small children. Preservation of our park areas in a wilderness environment is imperative if we are to maintain the balance of nature; but more important is the fact that the end result will improve the quality of life for our children and their heirs.

For the reasons cited above, I wish to officially voice my support to the general concept now being considered, and hope that the differences between the concerned groups may soon be settled in a manner that will result in general benefit to the people of the City of Tucson.

Sincerely,

L. C. Murphy

LCM/mab

cc: Ed Hawkins  
Lee Oler