

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

Section 201 of FLPMA requires the BLM to maintain on a continuing basis an inventory of all public lands and their resources and other values, which includes wilderness characteristics.

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

Regardless of past inventory, the BLM must maintain and update as necessary, its inventory of wilderness resources on public lands.

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

The purpose of the inventory is to determine the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. An adequate record of the inventory and subsequent updates must be maintained for proper documentation of inventory findings.

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

Guidance:

BLM Manual 6310 – Conducting
Wilderness Characteristics Inventory
on BLM Lands

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

Analysis of Wilderness Characteristics.

The inventory evaluates the wilderness characteristics defined in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act.

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

- Size: Roadless areas with over 5,000 acres of contiguous BLM lands.
- Naturalness: The area must appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, and any work of human beings must be substantially unnoticeable.

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

- Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation:
 - A visitor's opportunity to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people in the area.
 - Activities that provide dispersed, undeveloped recreation which do not require facilities, motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or mechanized transport.

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

- Supplemental Values: Determine if the area contains ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. Not required to be present for an area to be identified as lands with wilderness characteristics, but their presence should be documented where they exist.

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

Inventory Process.

- Conduct a route inventory to determine the presence and location of roads.
- Identify roadless areas that meet the size criteria.
- Determine the existence of naturalness and outstanding opportunities.
- Document supplemental values.

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DATA ONLY

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area

Wilderness Characteristics

DEFINITION OF WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

Features of the land associated with the concept of wilderness that may be considered in land use planning when BLM determines that those characteristics are reasonably present, of sufficient value (condition, uniqueness, relevance, importance) and need (trend, risk), and are practical to manage.

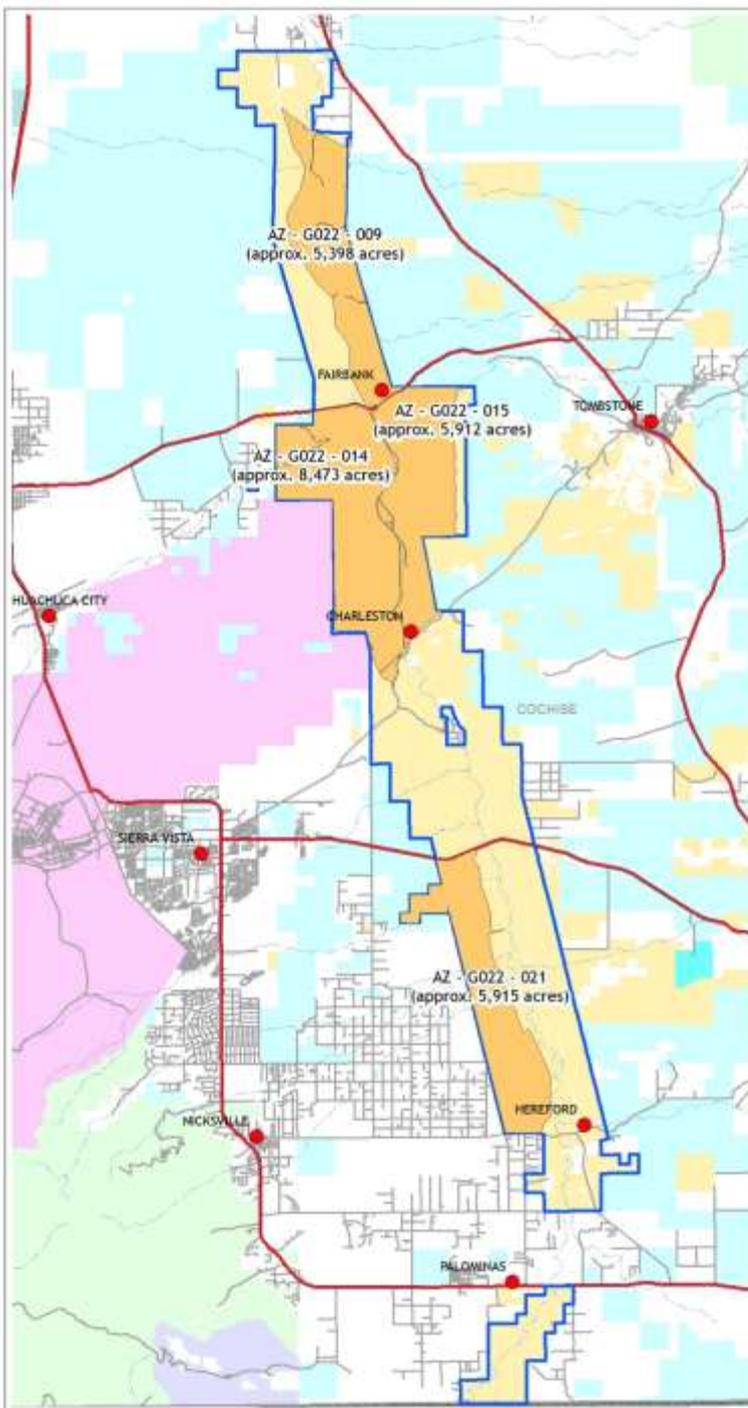
From the Wilderness Act, Section 2(c) we can draw out a meaning of wilderness characteristics for use in evaluation of lands proposed for wilderness such as:

"(1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticable."

"(2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined type of recreation."

"(3) has at least five thousand 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."



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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Land Data available as of December 21, 2010

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Wilderness Characteristics Planning

Land Use Plan Decisions. Identify decisions to protect or preserve wilderness characteristics.

Naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation

For authorized activities, include conditions of use that would avoid or minimize impacts to wilderness characteristics.

Wilderness Characteristics Planning

Implementation Decisions.

Identify site-specific protection measures to insure protection of wilderness characteristics.

BLM Handbook H-1601-1

Land Use Planning Handbook

Wilderness Characteristics Planning

Guidance:

BLM Manual 6320 – Considering Lands
with Wilderness Characteristics in the
BLM Land Use Planning Process

Wilderness Characteristics Planning

Managing the wilderness resource is part of the BLM's multiple use mission. The BLM will use the land use planning process to determine how to manage lands with wilderness characteristics.

Wilderness Characteristics Planning

1. Determine whether lands with wilderness characteristics should be managed to protect wilderness characteristics.
 - Manageability. Consider whether the lands can be effectively managed to protect their wilderness characteristics.

Wilderness Characteristics Planning

- Resource Values and Uses. Consider the extent to which other resource values and uses would be forgone or adversely affected if the wilderness characteristics are protected. Consider benefits that may accrue to other resource values and uses as a result of protecting wilderness characteristics.

Wilderness Characteristics Planning

2. Identify how lands with wilderness characteristics will be managed to protect wilderness characteristics.
 - Developing alternatives: management actions, allowable uses, and restrictions designed to achieve the desired outcomes.

Wilderness Characteristics Planning

- i. Recommend withdrawal from mineral entry.
- ii. Close to leasing or allow leasing only with no surface occupancy with no exceptions, waivers, or modifications.
- iii. Designate as right-of-way exclusion areas.
- iv. Close to construction of new roads.
- v. Designate as closed to motor vehicle use, as limited to motor vehicle use on designated routes, or as limited to mechanized use on designated routes.

Wilderness Characteristics Planning

- vi. Close to mineral material sales.
- vii. Exclude or restrict with conditions for certain commercial uses or other activities (e.g., commercial or personal-use wood-cutting permits).
- viii. Designate as Visual Resource Management Class I or II.
- ix. Restrict construction of new structures and facilities unrelated to the preservation or enhancement of wilderness characteristics or necessary for the management of uses allowed under the land use plan.
- x. Retain public lands in Federal ownership.

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory and Planning

- BLM Manuals and Handbooks:

www.blm.gov

+ Information Center

Policies (at bottom of page)

6310 – Wilderness Characteristics Inventory

6320 – Wilderness Characteristics Planning

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory and Planning

Questions

Wild & Scenic Rivers

Comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), subject to valid existing rights, by identifying, evaluating, and managing potential additions to the National System.

Wild & Scenic Rivers

Land Use Plan Decisions. Assess all eligible river segments and determine which are suitable or non-suitable per Section 5(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968.

*BLM Handbook H-1601-1
Land Use Planning Handbook*

Wild & Scenic Rivers

Implementation Decisions.

Develop site-specific management actions and constraints. Protective management provisions must be followed to enhance or protect identified resource values and characteristics.

BLM Handbook H-1601-1

Land Use Planning Handbook

Wild & Scenic Rivers

Guidance:

BLM Manual 6400 – Wild and Scenic Rivers-Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation, Planning, and Management

Wild & Scenic Rivers

- BLM will:
 - Identify all rivers on BLM-administered lands that possess free-flowing condition and outstandingly remarkable values and therefore may have potential for addition to the National System.

Wild & Scenic Rivers

- Background:

Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic Rivers
Legislative EIS – 1997

Identified 44 miles of the San Pedro
River as Suitable for designation

Wild & Scenic Rivers

- Classification: Recreational
- Outstandingly Remarkable Values: scenic, recreation, fish and wildlife, hydrologic, paleontological, historic, and cultural

Wild & Scenic Rivers

- Process:

Complete inventories for suitable rivers as they are identified. Inventories include information relevant to the free-flowing condition, water quality, and identified outstandingly remarkable values.

Wild & Scenic Rivers

- Process:

Consider management decisions through land use planning that would protect the free-flowing condition, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values of suitable rivers until Congress designates the river as a component of the National System or releases the river for other uses.

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San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area Wild and Scenic River Inventory

The Wild and Scenic River Act provides three levels of Protection:

- (1) WILD - these rivers are free of dams, generally inaccessible except by trail, and represent vestiges of primitive America.
- (2) SCENIC - these rivers are free of dams, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by road.
- (3) RECREATIONAL - these rivers are readily accessible by road or railroad, may have some development along their shorelines, and may have been dammed in the past.

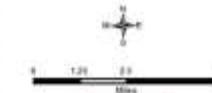
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Wild & Scenic Inventory:

- Private
- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild

Land Status:

- BLM
- Local or State Parks
- Military
- NPS
- Other, Private
- State
- State Wildlife Area
- USFS
- NCA Boundary
- County Boundary

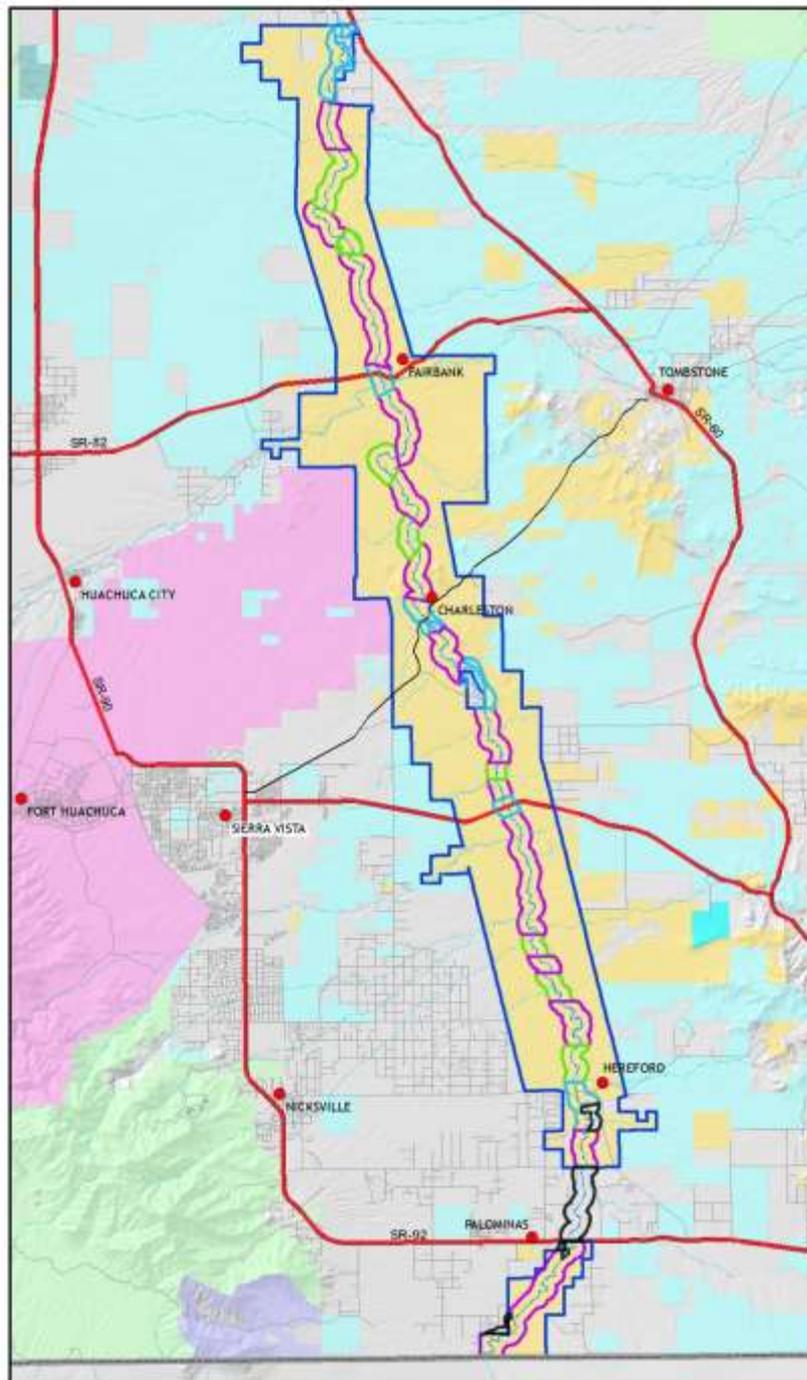


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Wild & Scenic Rivers

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6400 – Wild and Scenic Rivers

Wild & Scenic Rivers

Questions