

# Special Land Designations



**CURRENT AND FUTURE FEDERAL  
DESIGNATIONS**

**IMPACTS TO THE DEPARTMENT'S  
MISSION**

# Overview of Existing Land Designations



**WILDERNESS/WILDERNESS STUDY AREA**  
**WILD AND SCENIC RIVER**  
**NATIONAL MONUMENTS**  
**NATIONAL PARKS**  
**NATIONAL GAME PRESERVES**  
**AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN**  
**NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES**  
**WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS**

# Wilderness in Arizona



## **Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984 – Public Law 98-406 (8/28/1984)**

- Apache Creek Wilderness, Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness, Bear Wallow Wilderness, Castle Creek Wilderness, Cedar Bench Wilderness, Chiricahua Wilderness, Cottonwood Point Wilderness, Escudilla Wilderness, Fossil Springs Wilderness, Four Peaks Wilderness, Galiuro Wilderness, Grand Wash Cliffs Wilderness, Granite Mountain Wilderness, Hellsgate Wilderness, Juniper Mesa Wilderness, Kachina Peaks Wilderness, Kanab Creek Wilderness, Kendrick Mountain Wilderness, Mazatzal Wilderness, Miller Peak Wilderness, Mount Logan Wilderness, Mount Trumbull Wilderness, Mt. Wrightson Wilderness, Munds Mountain Wilderness, Paiute Wilderness, Pajarita Wilderness, Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness, Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness, Rincon Mountain Wilderness, Saddle Mountain Wilderness, Salome Wilderness, Salt River Canyon Wilderness, Santa Teresa Wilderness, Strawberry Crater Wilderness, Superstition Wilderness, Sycamore Canyon Wilderness, West Clear Creek Wilderness, Wet Beaver Wilderness, Woodchute Wilderness.

## **Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 – Public Law 101-628 (11/28/1990)**

- Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness, Arrastra Mountain Wilderness, Aubrey Peak Wilderness, Baboquivari Peak Wilderness, Big Horn Mountains Wilderness, Cabeza Prieta Wilderness, Coyote Mountains Wilderness, Dos Cabezas Mountains Wilderness, Eagletail Mountains Wilderness, East Cactus Plain Wilderness, Fishhooks Wilderness, Gibraltar Mountain Wilderness, Harcuvar Mountains Wilderness, Harquahala Mountains Wilderness, Hassayampa River Canyon Wilderness, Havasu Wilderness, Hells Canyon Wilderness, Hummingbird Springs Wilderness, Imperial Refuge Wilderness, Kofa Wilderness, Mount Nutt Wilderness, Mount Tipton Wilderness, Mount Wilson Wilderness, Muggins Mountain Wilderness, Needle's Eye Wilderness, New Water Mountains Wilderness, North Maricopa Mountains Wilderness, North Santa Teresa Wilderness, Peloncillo Mountains Wilderness, Redfield Canyon Wilderness, Sierra Estrella Wilderness, Signal Mountain Wilderness, South Maricopa Mountains Wilderness, Swansea Wilderness, Table Top Wilderness, Tres Alamos Wilderness, Trigo Mountain Wilderness, Upper Burro Creek Wilderness, Wabayuma Peak Wilderness, Warm Springs Wilderness, White Canyon Wilderness, Woolsey Peak Wilderness.

# Wilderness Acreage Compared to Total Land Area by State



State	Wilderness Acres	Land Area	Percent of Total Land
Alaska	57,425,910	365,481,600	16%
California	14,982,645	100,206,720	15%
<b>Arizona*</b>	<b>4,529,613</b>	<b>72,688,000</b>	<b>6%</b>
Idaho	4,522,717	52,933,120	9%

**\* AZ has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest total wilderness acreage in the U.S.**

# Wilderness Study Areas (WSA)

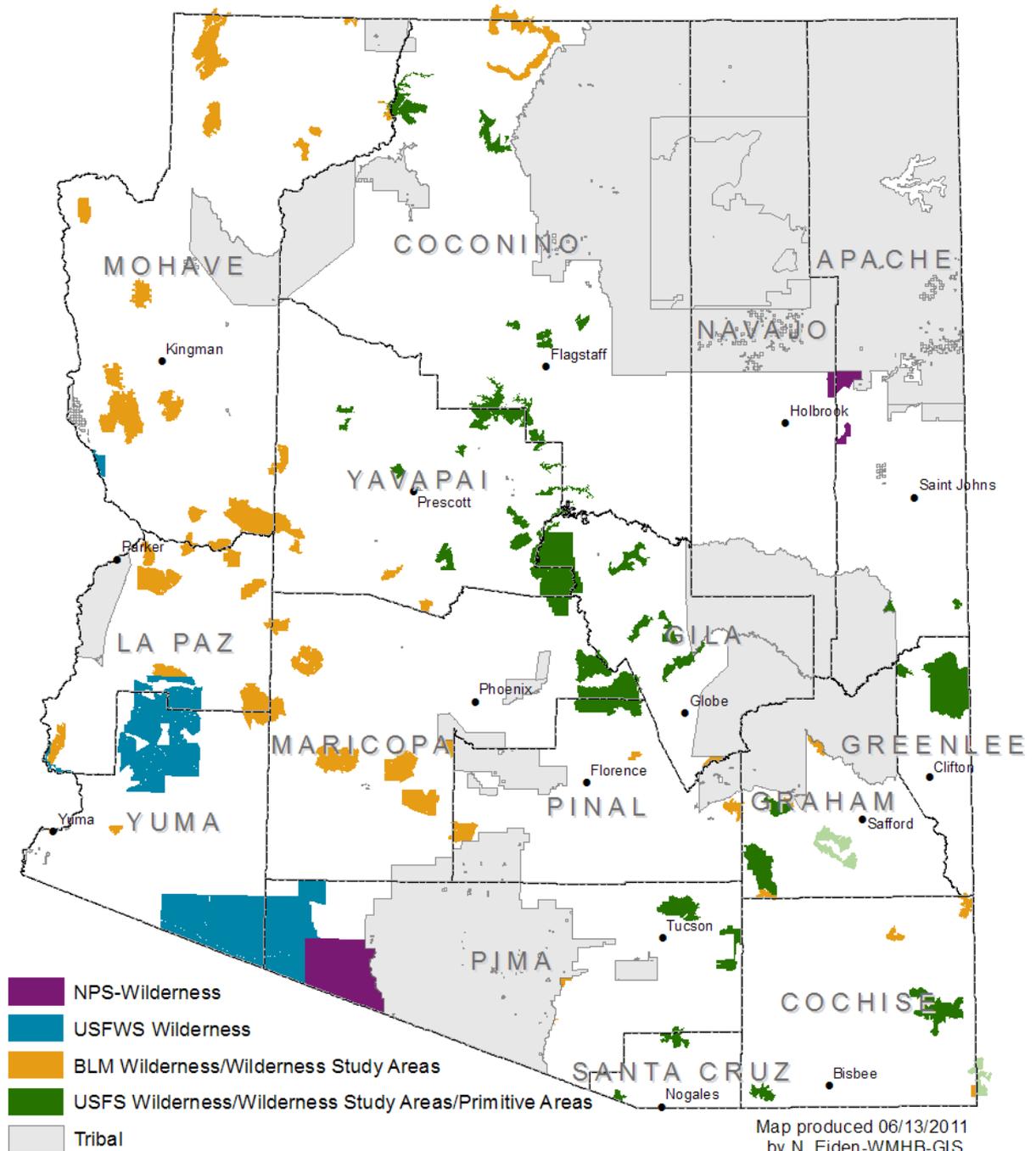


- WSAs are treated much the same way as designated wilderness.
- Sets up a kind of ‘holding pattern’ for land use until a Congressional decision is made to:
  - a. Designate as wilderness  
or
  - b. Release from WSA status

## Existing WSA in AZ

- Baker Canyon WSA
  - 4,812 acres (BLM Safford FO)
- Cactus Plain WSA
  - 59,100 acres (BLM Lake Havasu FO)
- Mt. Graham WSA
  - 61,214 acres (FS Coronado)

# Wilderness Wilderness Study Areas Primitive Areas



Map produced 06/13/2011  
by N. Eiden-WMHB-GIS



## National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Act of 1968

**Verde River (1984):  
40.5 miles total**

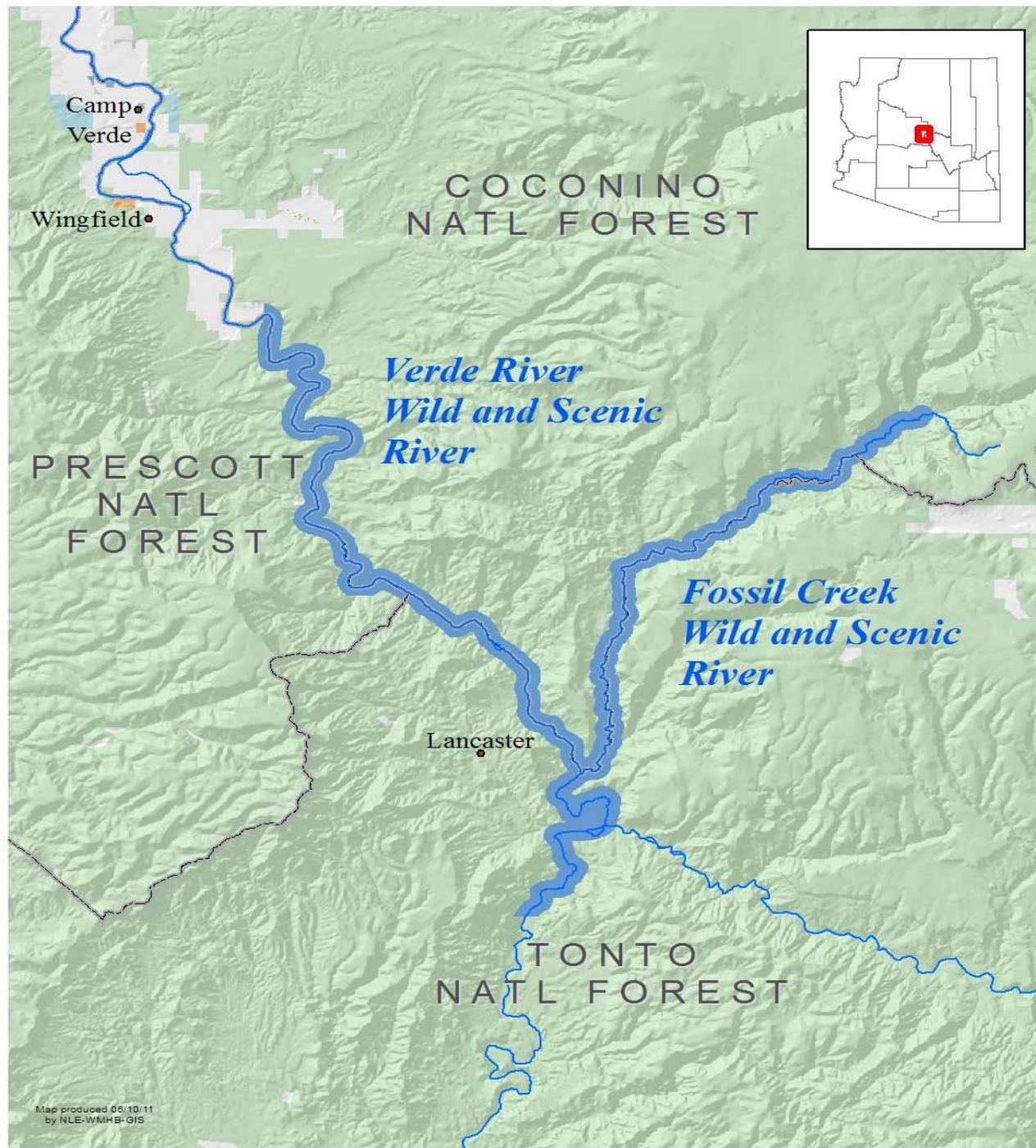
Wild – 22.2 miles

Scenic – 18.3 miles

**Fossil Creek (2009):  
16.8 miles total**

Wild – 9.3 miles

Recreational – 7.5 miles



# National Monuments



## NPS Designations

Canyon De Chelly NM  
Casa Grande Ruins NM  
Chiricahua NM  
Hohokam Pima NM  
Montezuma Castle NM  
Navajo NM  
Organ Pipe Cactus NM  
Pipe Spring NM  
Sunset Crater Volcano NM  
Tonto NM  
Tuzigoot NM  
Walnut Canyon NM  
Wupatki NM

## BLM Designated in 2000

Agua Fria NM  
71,100 acres  
Grand Canyon-Parashant NM  
807,881 acres  
Ironwood Forest NM  
129,022 acres  
Sonoran Desert NM  
486,603 acres  
Vermilion Cliffs NM  
280,324 acres



# National Monuments

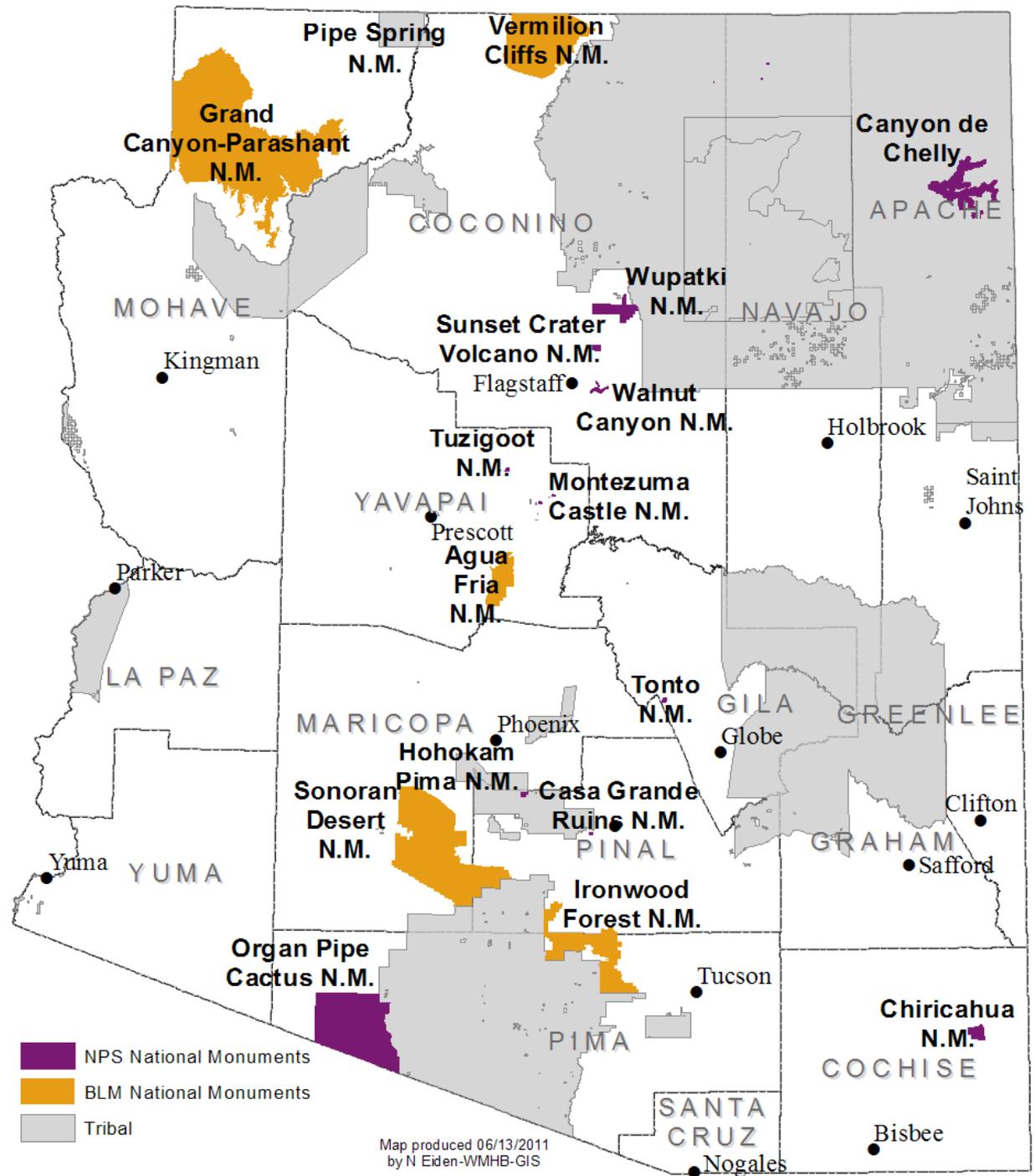
Acres

NPS: 482,630

BLM: 2,100,706

Total Acres

**2,583,336**



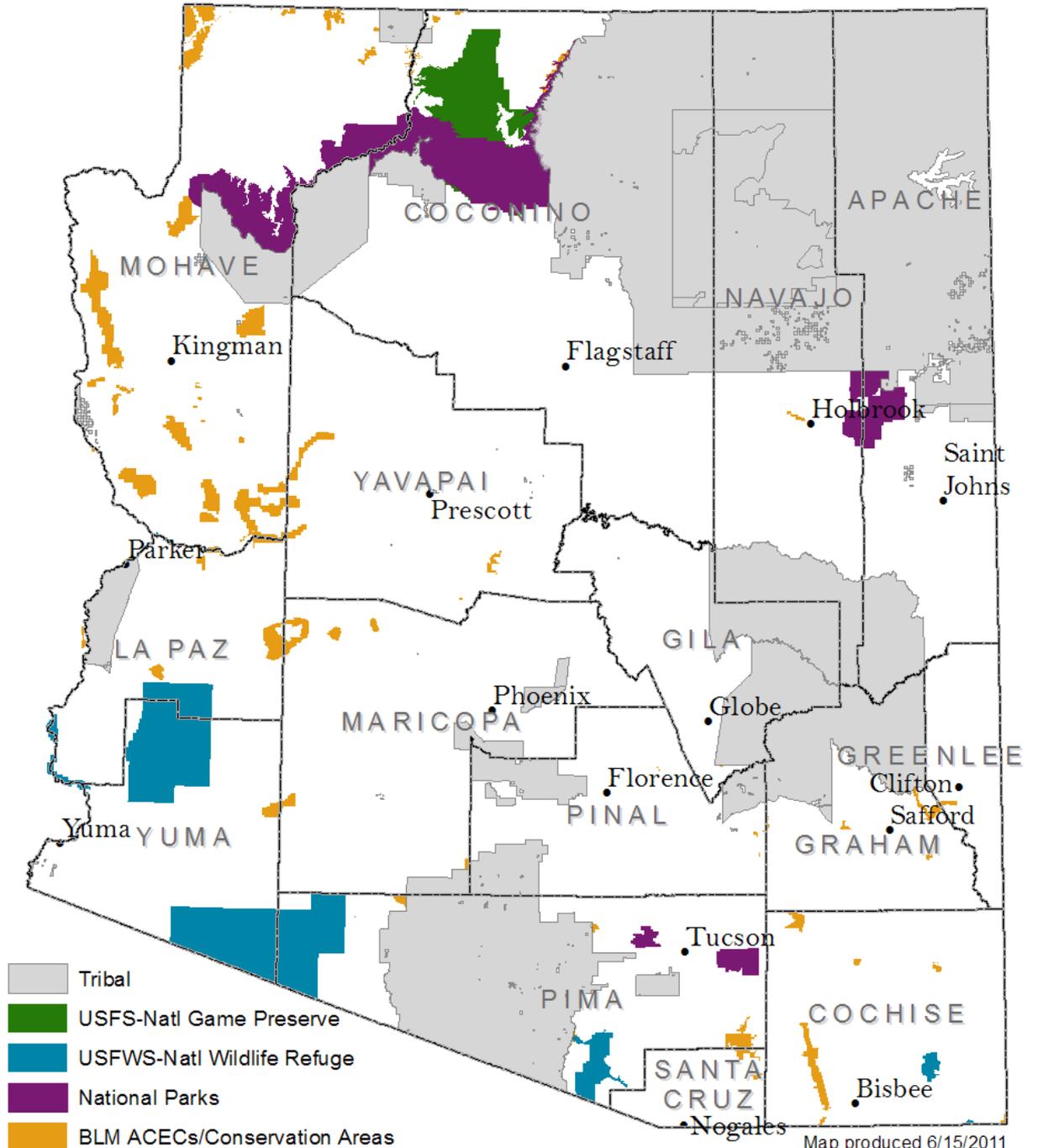
# Other Designations



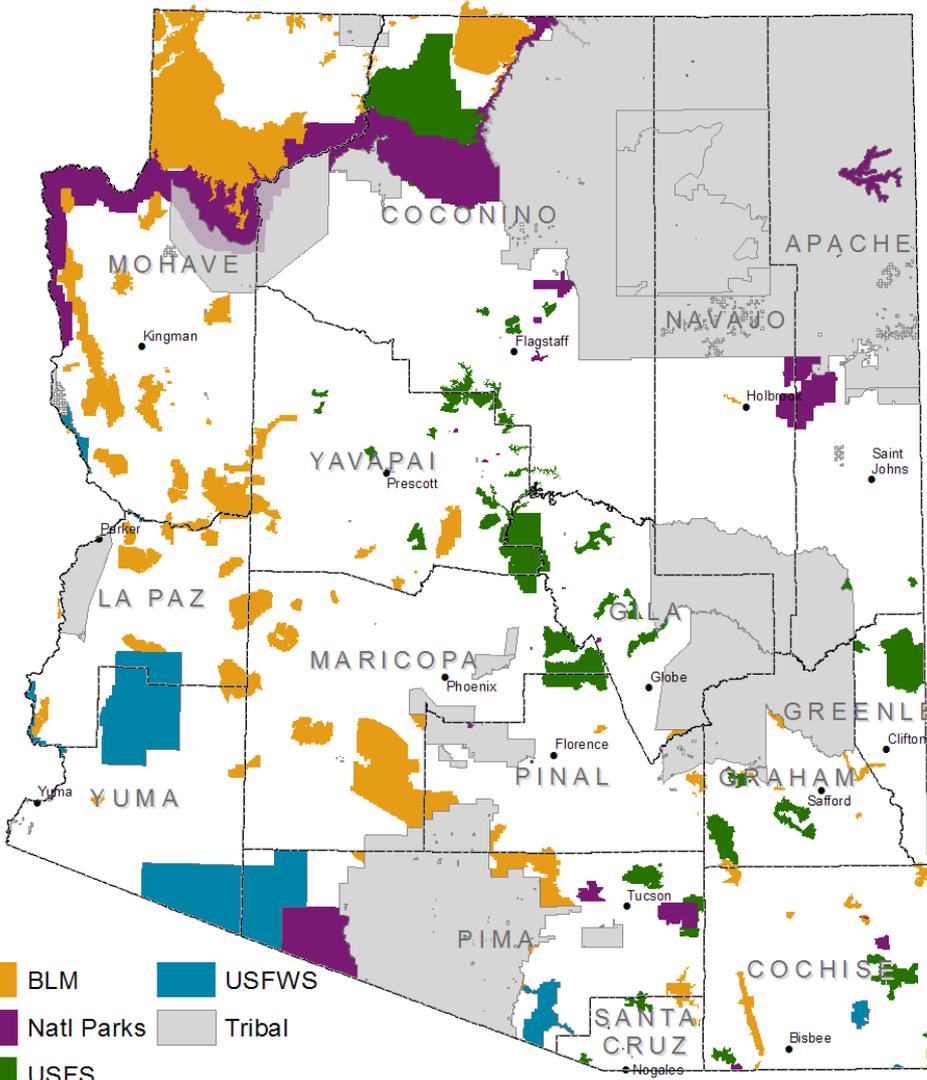
- **National Conservation Areas-BLM**
  - 129,272 acres
- **National Parks**
  - 2,966,764 acres
- **National Game Preserves**
  - 524,912 acres
- **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern-BLM**
  - 950,614 acres
- **National Wildlife Refuges-USFWS**
  - 1,753,931 acres
- **Wilderness Characteristics Areas (acreage not available)**



# Other Designations



# Federal Land Use Designation Summary by Agency



CATEGORY	ACRES	%	DESIGNATED	%LandDesi
<b>BLM</b>	<b>12,170,676</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4,232,069.21</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>USFS</b>	<b>11,165,945</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2,143,179.88</b>	<b>19</b>
AGFD	36,413	0		0
Tribal	20,112,718	28	0.00	0
Local or State	148,675	0	0.00	0
Military	2,754,174	4		0
<b>USFWS</b>	<b>1,705,641</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1,364,863.00</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Natl. Parks</b>	<b>2,586,583</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2,586,583</b>	<b>100</b>
Other/Mixed	198,293	0		0
Private	12,780,535	18		0
State Trust	9,283,768	13		0
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,943,421</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10,326,695.09</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Fed Only</b>	<b>30,581,312</b>	<b>42</b>		

**42%:** Total amount of federal land in Arizona (including DoD & Bureau of Reclamation)

**34% :** Amount of BLM, USFS, USFWS, & NPS lands with special designations.

# Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA)



**FLPMA (1976) is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) "organic act" that establishes the agency's multiple-use mandate to serve present and future generations.**

**Special Land Designations already make up a significant percentage of BLM's 'multiple-use' lands within the Sonoran Desert.**

# Proposed Federal Land Designations



**SONORAN DESERT HERITAGE PROPOSAL**

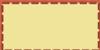
**WALNUT CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT  
STUDY AREA**

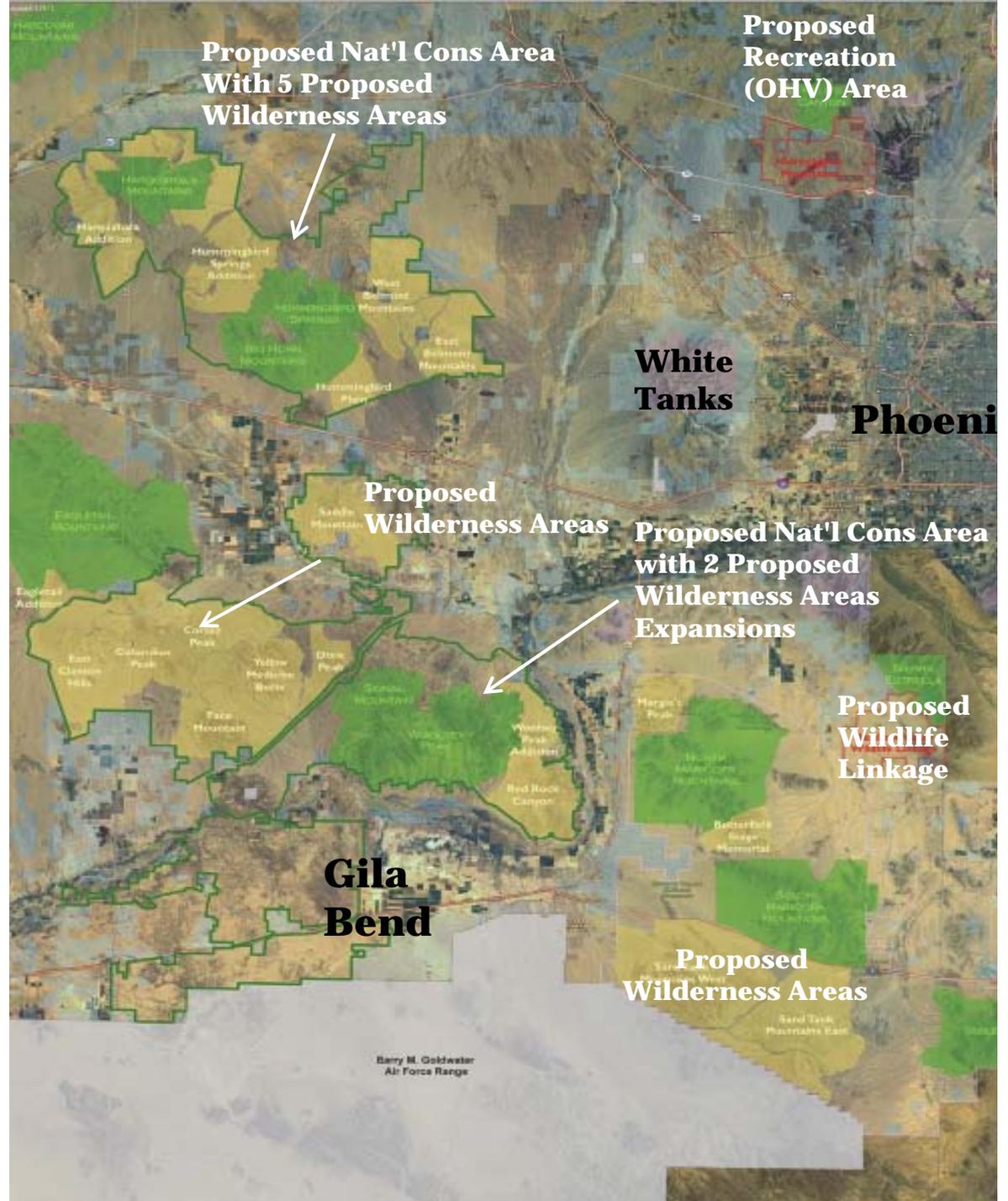
**PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK  
EXPANSION**



# Proposed Sonoran Desert Heritage Proposal

**Total  
1,479,900 acres**

-  = Existing Wilderness
-  = Proposed Wilderness
-  = Proposed National Conservation Areas



# Sonoran Desert Heritage Proposal



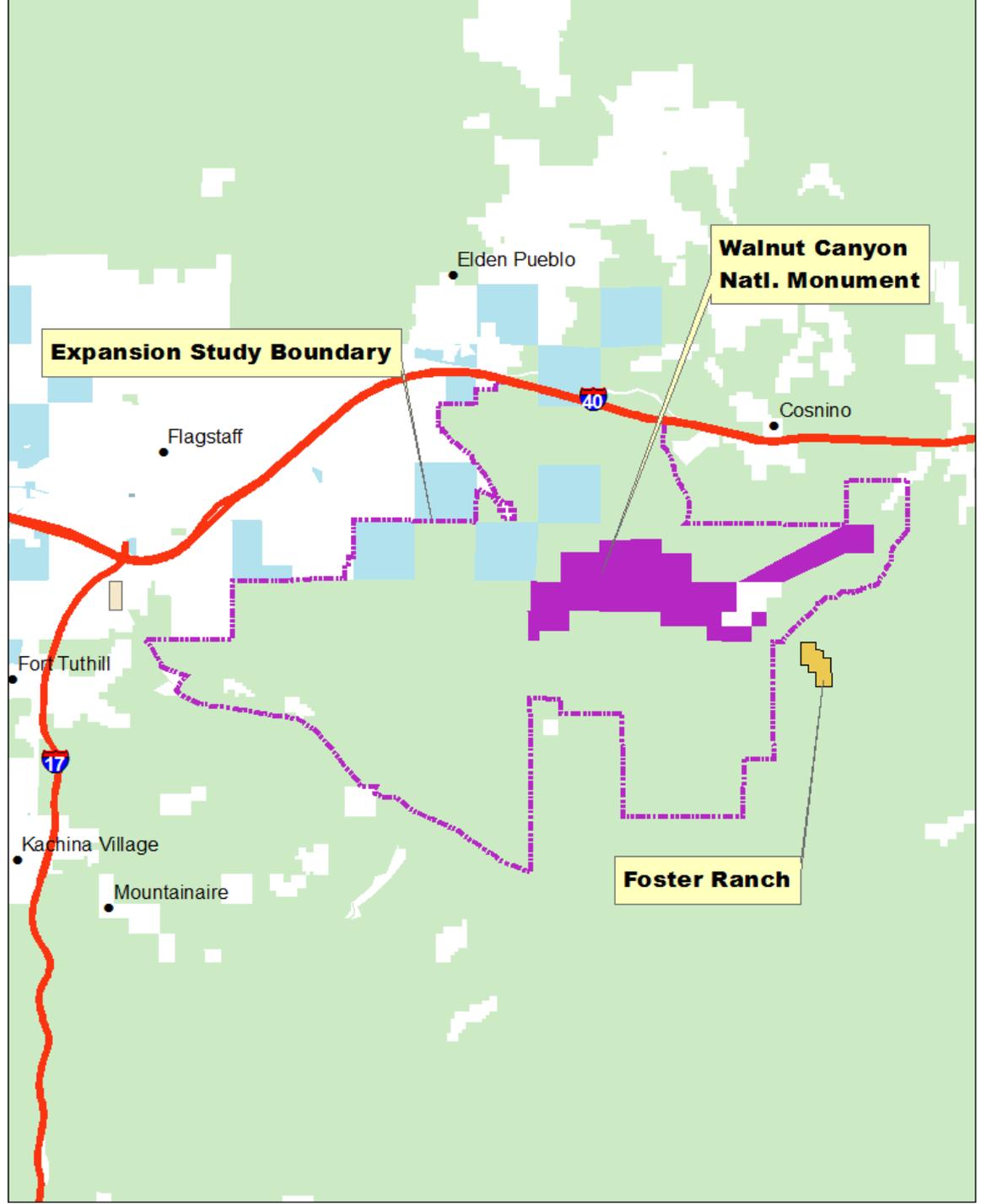
- **National Conservation Areas (NCA)**
  - Belmont-Harquahala NCA - 300,500 acres
  - Gila Bend Mountains NCA - 546,600 acres
- **Special Management Areas (SMA)**
  - Hieroglyphic SMA - 26,100 acres
  - Rainbow Valley Wildlife Linkage SMA - 24,300 acres
- **Wilderness (17 New Units Proposed)**
  - Belmont-Harquahala Mountains – 116,400 acres
  - Gila Bend Mountains – 335,400 acres
  - Sonoran Desert National Monument – 130,600 acres



# Walnut Canyon Study Area

Current Size  
2,960 acres

Study Area  
30,885 acres



# Walnut Canyon National Monument Study Area and Expansion Proposal



- **2002**

Flagstaff City Council & Coconino Co. Board of Supervisors unanimously signed resolution asking Congress to authorize study of the area to determine resources and best method for protection.

- **2003-2008**

Bills introduced requesting the study

- **2009**

Bills passed, signed into law by President Obama (USFS&NPS funded )

- **2010**

Natural resource surveys and suitability/feasibility studies initiated

- **2011**

Public involvement/comment period

- **2012**

Study completion

# History of Petrified Forest National Park



- **1906**  
Petrified Forest **National Monument** was created by President Theodore Roosevelt
- **1962**  
Petrified Forest **National Park** was established by an act of Congress, disestablishing the national monument.
- **1970**  
Over 50,000 acres of designated Wilderness declared in the park.
- **2004**  
President George W. Bush signed a bill that authorized expanded boundaries for Petrified Forest National Park, more than doubling the size of the park, from 93,533 acres to 218,533 acres.

# Petrified Forest National Park Expansion

Original Size

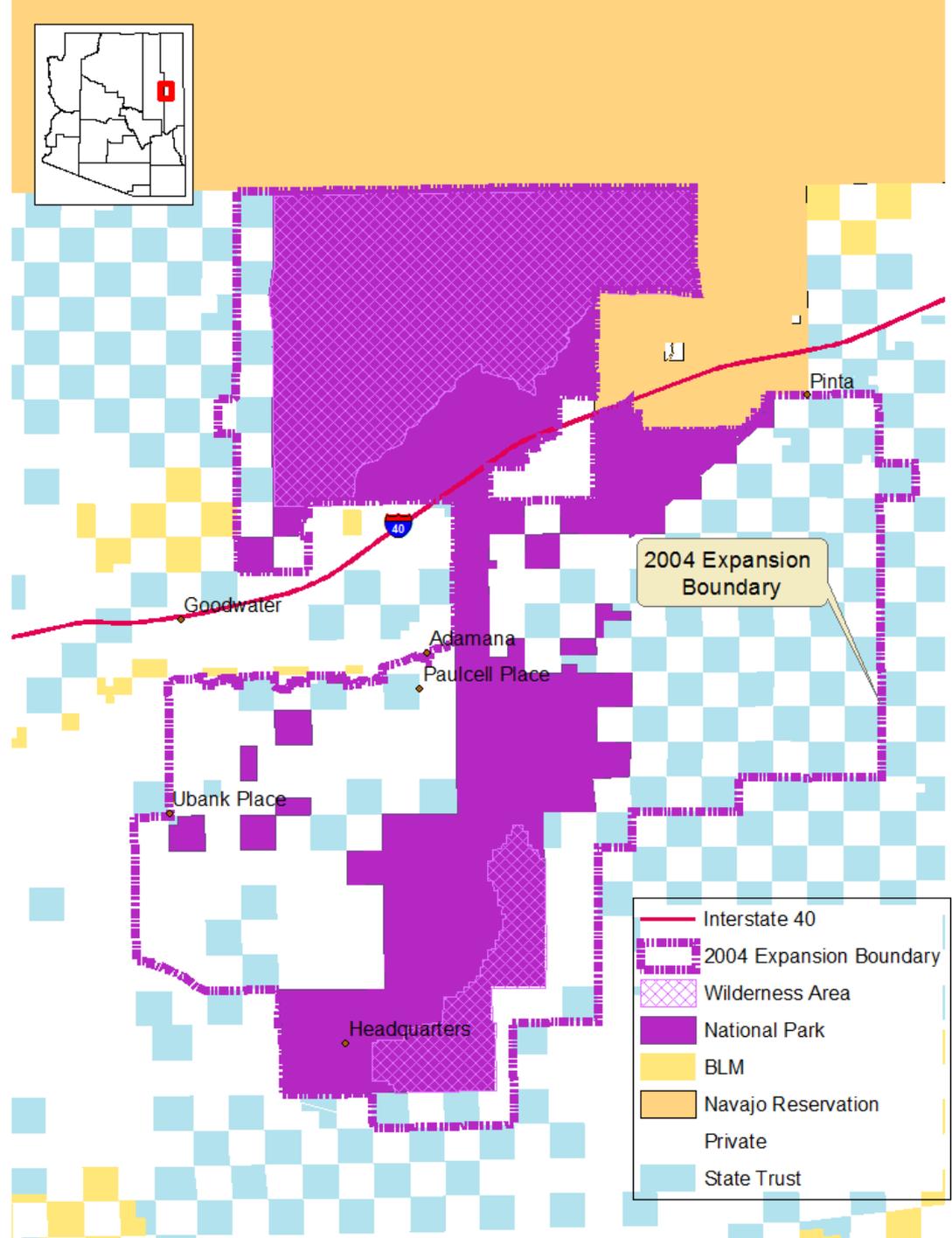
93,533 acres

Expansion (2004)

125,000 acres

**Total**

**218,533 acres**



# Historical Perspective and Anticipated Future Restrictions



“The department has experienced restrictions resulting from special land designations including project delays, increased costs, increased man-hours, etc. This ultimately leads to decreased efficiency in protecting and managing Arizona’s wildlife resources.” (Dept. Letter 1989)

22 years later, this statement still applies to many department activities on public lands where special area designations exist.

# Impacts to the Department's Mission



## PROS

- **Protects block of contiguous wildlife habitat from development**
- **Allows for long term wildlife resource planning and conservation**
- **Provides constituents opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation**

## CONS

- **Project Delay/Prohibition**
  - Resources spent on these hurdles are not being spent on other projects/conservation efforts
  - Decreases ability to proactively manage wildlife
- **Constituent Access/Loss of Recreational Opportunities**
  - Limited Access to Traditional Use
  - Loss of Disbursed Camping and Target Shooting opportunities
  - Loss of Motorized Access
- **Strains Working Relationships and Collaborative efforts**
  - Cabeza Prieta, Kofa, Sonoran Desert National Monument

# Examples of Past Wildlife Management Restrictions



- **Wildlife Water Development & Maintenance**
- **Wildlife Translocations & Monitoring**
- **Bat Gating**
- **Radio Collar Retrieval**
- **Emergency Law Enforcement by Helicopter**
- **Predator control**
- **Legal Challenges and Delays**

# Issues and Restrictions Specific to Wilderness



- **Inconsistent applications within and across agencies.**
- **Wilderness language has proven effective at stalling and halting projects.**
- **Solitude and human recreation are set as priorities above wildlife.**

# Issues and Restrictions Specific to Wilderness



- **Legal Challenges** continue to further define the interpretation of the Wilderness Act.
- **Jurisdictional creep/ compromised state authority**
- This occurs even with policy documents in place\* that describe the commitment of the federal agencies to coordinate closely with state wildlife agencies on projects within Wilderness and WSAs.

*\* Policies and Guidelines for Fish and Wildlife Management in National Forest and Bureau of Land Management Wilderness (FS, BLM, and AFWA – June 2006)*

# Issues and Restrictions Resulting from ‘wilderness-like’ Language in other Land Use Designations



- In the past with proposed wildlife management activities in Wilderness Areas, the prescriptions and desired future condition settings associated with other federal land use allocations and designations sets up a “wilderness philosophy” and a framework of management that resembles management in Wilderness Areas.

# Language Comparison Between Designated Wilderness and other Federal Land Use Allocations

## Wilderness Act of 1964

## Definitions for Wilderness Characteristics

“Where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man”

“where the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people are rare or infrequent”

“imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable”

“...imprint of human activity is substantially unnoticeable.”

“affected primarily by the forces of nature”

“affected primarily by the forces of nature”

“outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation”

“outstanding opportunities for solitude, or primitive and unconfined types of recreation...”

“no structure or installation within any such area”

“no or minimal developed recreational facilities are encountered”

# Language Comparison Between Designated Wilderness and other Federal Land Use Allocations

Wilderness Act of 1964	Visual Resources Class I Objectives	Backcountry Definitions
<p>“Where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man”</p> <p>“without permanent improvements or human habitation”</p>	<p>“preserve existing landscape character”</p> <p>“very limited management activity”</p> <p>“provides for natural ecological changes”</p>	<p>“undeveloped, primitive, and self-directed visitor experience without provisions for motorized or mechanized access”</p>
<p>“an area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence”</p> <p>“protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions”</p> <p>“outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation”</p>	<p>“preserve existing landscape character”</p> <p>“provides for natural ecological changes”</p> <p>“managed so as to preserve its natural conditions...”</p>	<p>“undeveloped, primitive, and self-directed visitor experience without provisions for motorized or mechanized access”</p>

# Next Steps...



## Delegates

- Ensure wildlife management language is included in all special land designations
  - Example: include wildlife resources as a 'wilderness value'

## Broaden Discussion

- Affects all State Wildlife Agencies
- Continue to work with WAFWA and AFWA
  - Develop Policies
  - Not a single state discussion