



United States Department of Agriculture

# Tonto National Forest Draft Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Study

**Tonto National Forest  
Gila, Maricopa, Pinal, and Yavapai Counties  
Arizona**



Forest Service

Tonto National Forest

October 2017

# Introduction

The National Wild & Scenic Rivers (WSR) System was created by Congress in 1968 to preserve rivers that contain outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing system, and are for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Over the past thirty years several wild and scenic rivers eligibility studies were conducted on rivers and river segments on the Tonto National Forest. Those studies include the 1984 Arizona Wilderness Act, a Resource Information Report for Potential Wild, Scenic, Recreational River Designations, National Forest of Arizona (1993), and the Fossil Creek Resource Assessment (2009). As a result of this earlier work the Tonto National Forest identified 26 river segments as eligible for wild and scenic rivers designation. Determinations for eligibility were made using the process outlined in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Act of 1968. The results of these studies were adopted as amendments to the 1985 Tonto National Forest plan.

As part of the Tonto National Forest Plan Revision process, under the direction of the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR Part 219), a new wild and scenic rivers eligibility study was conducted for the Tonto National Forest (TNF) planning area. When beginning this process, the interdisciplinary (ID) team reviewed the earlier work from the 1993 effort and determined that an additional, more comprehensive study was required to fulfill the mandates set forth in the 2012 Planning Rule. In the 1993 study not all named streams were evaluated and a region of comparison was not used to evaluate each segment. Therefore, the potentially eligible segments from the 1993 study were evaluated along with all other named streams during this process.

For a river to be eligible for WSR designation, it must be free flowing, and possess one or more outstandingly remarkable values. Outstanding remarkable values include: scenery, recreation, fish, historic and cultural, geography, and other values. Further information on the process of selecting National Wild & Scenic Rivers can be found in [Chapter 80 of the Land Management Handbook](#). In this study, all named and free flowing streams/rivers within the TNFs planning area were considered for Wild & Scenic River eligibility. The results of the comprehensive study are included in this document.

## Relevant laws, Regulations, and Policy

### National Wild and Scenic River System Act of 1968 (WSRA)

Congress passed the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) for the purpose of preserving rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Act is recognized for safeguarding the special character of these rivers, while also allowing for their appropriate use and development. The Act promotes river management across political boundaries and public participation in the development of direction for river protection.

During the forest plan revision process, the Forest Service must review all streams for their potential eligibility for designation in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) as directed under section 5(d)(1) the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (PL 90-542:16 USC 1271-1287, as amended).

*Section 1(b) of the Act expresses Congressional policy for America's rivers: It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish*

*and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Congress declares that the established national policy of dam and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital conservation purposes.*

## Regulations

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires the Forest Service to develop a planning rule under the principles of the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (MUSYA) which sets the process for the development and revision of land management plans. In 2012, 36 CFR Part 219 was passed to codify the direction in the NFMA and the MUSYA. This regulation is known as the 2012 Planning Rule. The 2012 Planning Rule's Final Directives (FSH 1909.12 Chapter 80) provide additional guidance for conducting a wild and scenic rivers eligibility study during forest plan revision. The Tonto NF used this guidance to conduct the wild and scenic rivers eligibility study for the Tonto NFs planning area.

## Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Process

As part of forest plan revision under the 2012 National Forest Planning Rule the Tonto National Forest is analyzing rivers and streams that may be eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System. No Wild and Scenic River designation will be made as a result of plan revision - as Congress has reserved the authority to make the final decision regarding all Wild and Scenic River designations.

The eligibility study was conducted through a series of meetings and workshops aimed at each of the three steps above. Much of the base information was developed from geographic information systems (GIS), such as the base maps, determining the number and location of all "named streams", and identifying the location of developments along or nearby these rivers and streams. Specific resource information about each river/stream was gathered from maps and professional knowledge provided by forest resource specialists and comments received by the public utilizing ArcGIS online, an online mapping tool. The mapping tool allowed the public to submit comments on specific stream segments about the potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values and the Classification of the eligible segments.

## Steps as part of the Plan Revision Process

### *Step 1: Eligibility*

The Tonto National Forest identified all rivers and streams that are named, free flowing, and contain at least one Outstandingly Remarkable Value (ORV) in relation to similar streams in an established Region of Comparison. Outstanding remarkable values include: scenery, recreation, fish, historic and cultural, geography, and other values. There are three main components to this step that are described in this study:

1. Identify all free-flowing named streams/rivers.
2. Identify the Region of Comparison used for the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs)
3. Evaluate all free-flowing named streams and determine if they possess ORVs within the region of comparison.



## *Step 2: Classification*

Each identified eligible segment is assigned a classification. Congress classifies wild, scenic and recreational rivers into one of three different classifications based on different levels of development and access that exist at the time of the designation. These classification are:

- Wild – Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.
- Scenic – Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
- Recreation – Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Criteria used for the classification is directly from [Chapter 80](#) of the Land Management Handbook.

## *Step 3: Documentation of Eligibility*

As part of the forest plan the Tonto National Forest identified eligible segments, providing the basis for making the eligibility determination. The results of the eligibility process are contained in this wild and scenic rivers eligibility study document as well as in data spreadsheets. Specific river data, description tables, and maps are located in the summary section starting on page 15. Appendix A of this documentation provides information to support why or why not a segment was determined eligible, and provides rationale for given classifications of eligible segments.

Management direction for the eligible segments will be provided in the Revised Tonto National Forest Plan. These segments will be managed to protect the outstandingly remarkable values for which they are eligible and to retain their classification identified.

## **Steps outside of the Plan Revision process**

### *Step 4: Suitability and Recommendation*

Any eligible river may be studied for its suitability for inclusion in the National System at any time. A suitability study provides the basis for determining which eligible rivers or river segments should be recommended to Congress as potential additions to the National System. The Tonto National Forest will not be pursuing suitability or recommendation as part of the plan revision effort.

### *Step 5: Designation*

The final step in the Wild and Scenic River process is Congressional Designation. The Tonto National Forest will not pursue designation as part of the forest plan revision effort. For a detailed description of the process from Inventory through Designation, please refer to the Forest Service [Land Management Planning Handbook 1909.12, Chapter 80](#).

## Step 1: Eligibility

The purpose of the eligibility step is to identify all free-flowing named streams in the planning area and identify if they have an outstandingly remarkable value within the region of comparison. This step can be broken down into three distinct parts:

1. Identify all free-flowing named streams/rivers.
2. Identify the Region of Comparison used for the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs)
3. Evaluate all free-flowing named streams and determine if they possess ORVs within the region of comparison.

### Identification of all free-flowing named streams/rivers.

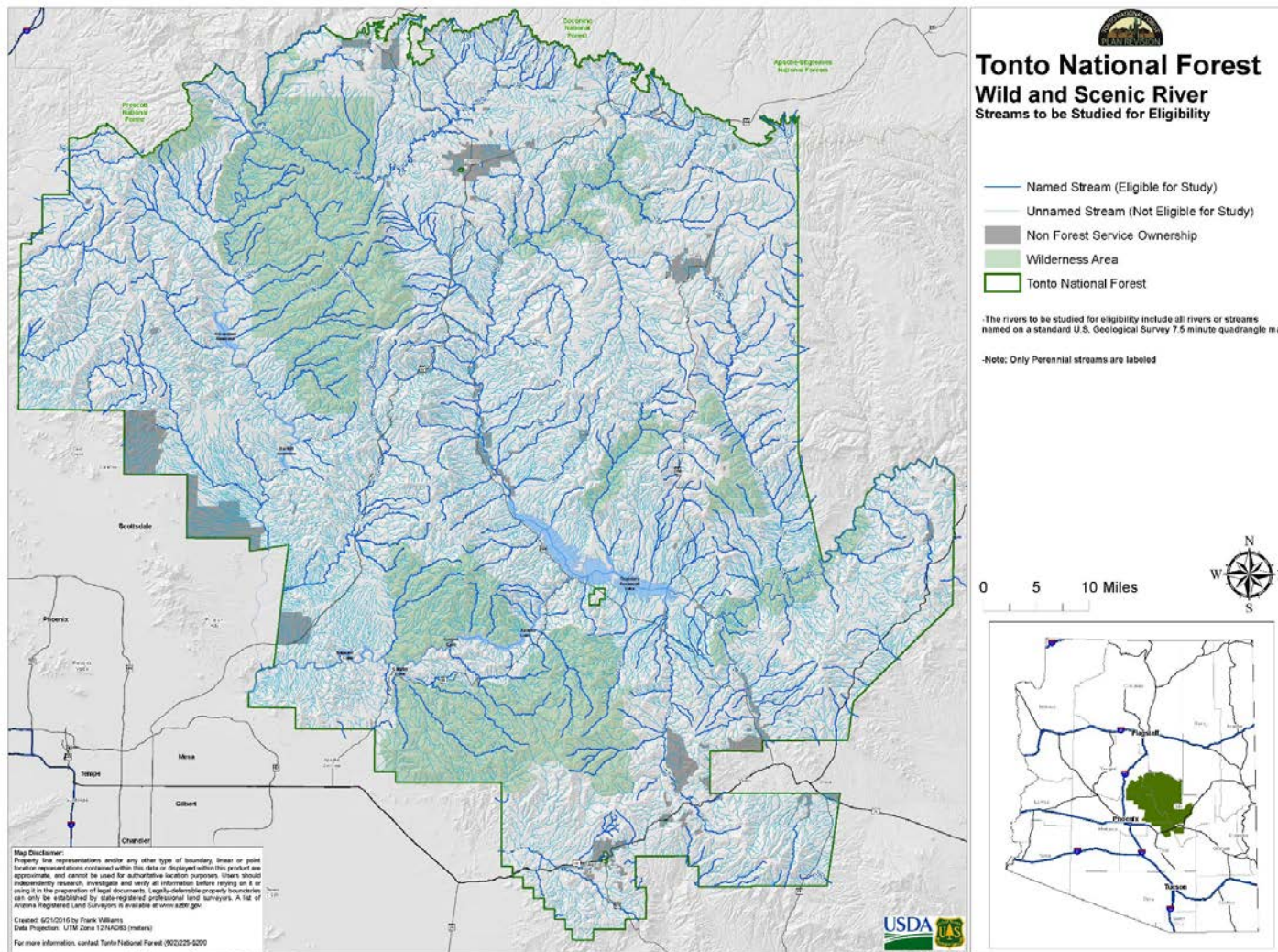
The named streams were identified using the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) flowline feature class. The NHD and associated stream names from the geographic names information system (GNIS) were cross checked with a 7.5 minute quad for accuracy.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems Act (WSRA) defines “free-flowing” as existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works, or other minor structures at the time any river is proposed for inclusion in the national system does not automatically disqualify it for designation, but future construction of such structures is not allowed. The guidelines state, “The fact that a river segment may flow between large impoundments will not necessarily preclude its designation. Such segments may qualify if conditions within the segment meet the eligibility criteria.”

“Free flowing” rivers are able to engage in channel forming processes and move across the landscape naturally. Rivers with intermittent flows that are enough to maintain the ORV are considered “free flowing”.

When applying this definition to the named streams, all free-flowing named rivers/streams within the TNFs planning area, were identified. Previously identified rivers/streams were reviewed to determine if there were any changes to their free-flowing characteristics since the earlier 1993 eligibility study. Through this review, it was determined that there are 345 named rivers/streams within the TNF’s planning area. These rivers/streams are documented in a spreadsheet (see appendix A) and were carried forward to be evaluated for their eligibility.

Figure 1: All Named Streams Studied for Eligibility



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Once the named rivers and streams within the Tonto National Forest planning area were identified the forest hosted three Wild and Scenic River Educational Forums. These occurred in June 2016 with meetings in Payson Globe and Scottsdale, Arizona. The purpose of these meetings was to educate the public about the Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems Act, describe each outstandingly remarkable value, review the wild and scenic river eligibility process, which would be a part of the overall plan revision process, and demonstrate how to use the [Wild & Scenic River Story Map](#), an online collaborative mapping tool used for submitting feedback and sharing information. To make the information available to those who could not attend in person, the power point presentation shown at these meetings was made available to the public on the [Tonto NF's Forest Plan Revision website](#).

Following the educational forums, the public was encouraged to submit feedback on outstandingly remarkable values using the [Wild & Scenic River Story Map](#). The first informal comment period ran from July 1, 2016 – August 1, 2016. The public was asked to make comments on the specific locations (streams/river segments) that possess an ORV and to indicate any known improvements that might affect the free-flowing function. These comments were compiled and utilized in an internal workshop held in August 2016 to evaluate all named streams on the Tonto National Forest and identify segments with ORVs. As a result of public comments additional segments were included in the ORV discussions and a stronger knowledge about each segment was provided. These comments are still available on the [Wild & Scenic River Story Map](#).

More information on the internal eligibility workshop can be found in the next sections.

## Identification of the Region of Comparison

The region of comparison is a geographic area that provides the basis for meaningful comparative analysis of potentially eligible rivers. The forest ID Team was tasked with identifying the region of comparison for the resources of scenery, geology, recreation, wildlife, fisheries, cultural resources, plants and other natural features (and ORV within each resource) which would then serve as the basis for meaningful comparative analysis. The following further describes aspects and importance of the region of comparison (FSH 1909.12 Chapter 82.73):

- The region of comparison may vary for different rivers and for different resource ORVs. For example, the appropriate region of comparison for scenic values may be an entire national forest or grassland, while for cultural values it may be the portion of the state in which the river is located
- The region of comparison should be scaled at an appropriate level for the type of river value being evaluated.
- Alternatively, the responsible official may conclude that a single region of comparison can encompass the evaluation of outstanding remarkable values.
- Once the region of comparison is identified, a river's values can then be analyzed in comparison with other rivers in that area. Each value may have its own region of comparison and, thus, multiple regions of comparison may be utilized to evaluate one river.

During the August wild and scenic river workshop, the team discussed potential ideas for regions of comparison to represent each of the resources of scenery, geology, recreation, wildlife, fisheries, cultural resources, plants and other natural features. Outstandingly remarkable values are those values that still

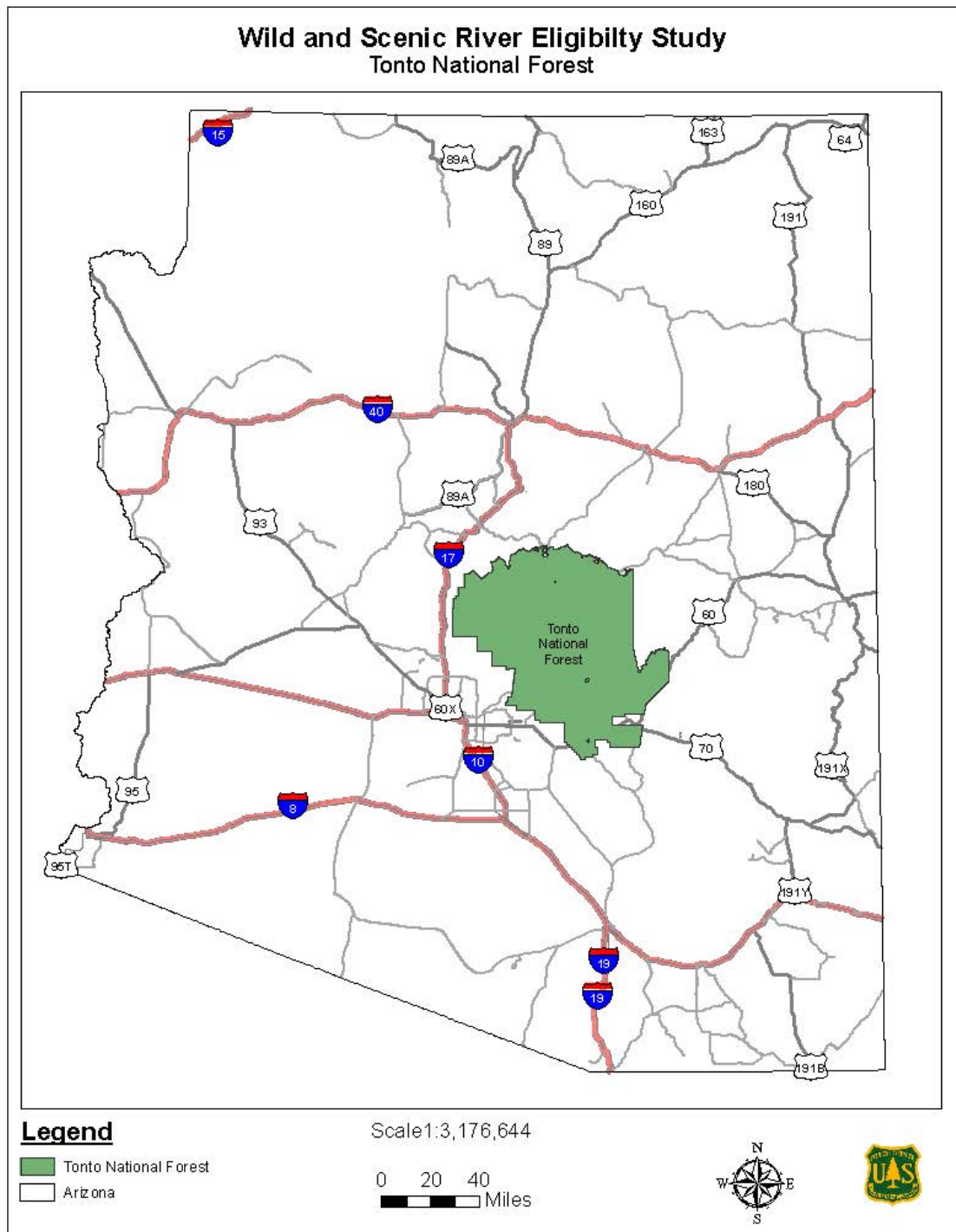


distinguish themselves as unique or exemplary in the region of comparison. Many potential areas were considered for the region of comparison such as: the Arizona Department of Water Resources Geographic Planning Areas, Central Highlands physiographic Province, Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 4 merged, the State of Arizona, Forest Service Region 3 boundaries, Tonto National Forest boundary, etc. Initially, the group chose the Tonto National Forest as their region of comparison for all ORVs, but upon further discussion and analysis, decided the Tonto NF boundary would not lead to meaningful comparison. The TNFs planning area is large with a wide variety of unique resource and river values, it was recognized that a larger region of comparison would be necessary to adequately study the eligible rivers/streams. It was decided that each of the ORVs could share the same region of comparison as long as it was large enough to capture the ORV characteristics.

After considerable discussion, the team chose the boundary of the State of Arizona as the region of comparison for the wild and scenic eligibility study (Figure 1). This region of comparison was acceptable for all resource areas and served as the basis for meaningful comparative analysis in the eligibility process. State boundaries have also been used for other eligibility studies with successful comparison. In addition, the 1993 eligibility study was conducted for the state of Arizona and it would seem that if there was a region of comparison documented in that study, it would have been the State of Arizona.



Figure 2: Tonto National Forest Compared to the State of Arizona



## Evaluate all free-flowing named streams for ORVs

The Wild and Scenic Rivers System Act establishes a set of categories for determining the ORVs for resource areas. The Forest Service has further established baseline criteria to foster greater consistency within the agency and with other federal river-administering agencies in evaluating eligibility under Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12, Chapter 82.14a. The evaluation criteria, as outlined by the directives, are minimum thresholds in the establishment of each ORV. The criteria within the resource category may be modified and additional criteria may be included to make them more meaningful in the area of comparison.

During the August 2016 wild and scenic river internal workshop, the team established baseline evaluation criteria for scenery, recreation, geology, fish populations and habitat, wildlife populations and habitat, historic and cultural resources, and other natural river related values. The final evaluation criteria for each resource area are documented in the following table (Table 1). No “additional criteria” were identified for the TNF. These criteria were applied in the 2016 eligibility study process.

**Table 1. Final Eligibility Criteria**

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Final Eligibility Criteria</b>
<b>Scenery</b>	The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions, that provide river users with scenery that is spectacular and/or not common to other rivers in the region. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed, may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment.
<b>Recreation</b>	Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison or are unique or rare within the region. River-related opportunities include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional usage or competitive events.
<b>Geologic</b>	The river, or the area within the river corridor, contains one or more examples of a geologic feature, process, or phenomenon that is unique or rare within the region of comparison. The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a “textbook” example, and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, or other geologic structures).

Resource	Final Eligibility Criteria
<b>Fisheries</b>	<p>Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations or habitat, or a combination of these river-related conditions.</p> <p><b><u>Populations:</u></b> The river is nationally or regionally an important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species. Diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed species with a status of endangered, threatened, proposed or candidate, species of conservation concern, or species of greatest conservation need are of particular significance.</p> <p><b><u>Habitat:</u></b> The river provides uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison. Exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed species with a status of endangered, threatened, proposed or candidate, species of conservation concern, or species of greatest conservation need are of particular significance.</p>
<b>Wildlife</b>	<p>Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either wildlife populations or habitat, or a combination of these river-related conditions.</p> <p><b><u>Populations:</u></b> The river or river corridor contains nationally or regionally important or uniquely diverse assemblage populations of indigenous wildlife species, particularly Federal or State listed species with a status of endangered, threatened, proposed or candidate, species of conservation concern, or species of greatest conservation need.</p> <p><b><u>Habitat:</u></b> The river or river corridor provides uniquely diverse or uniquely high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance (e.g., Federal or State listed species with a status of endangered, threatened, proposed or candidate, species of conservation concern, or species of greatest conservation need), particularly where such habitats meet the year-round or important seasonal biological needs of the species and free of harmful nonnative species.</p>
<b>Historic</b>	<p>The river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans. Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting history or prehistory.</p> <p><b><u>History:</u></b> Site(s) or feature(s) associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or one-of-a-kind in the region. A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older.</p> <p><b><u>Pre-history:</u></b> Sites may have unique or rare characteristics or exemplary human interest value; represent an area where a culture or cultural period was first identified and described; may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups, or may have been used for rare sacred purposes</p>

Resource	Final Eligibility Criteria
Natural	<p>Values for botanical, riparian, and ecological ORVs were judged on the condition of the system, plant population or habitat, or a combination of these river related characteristics.</p> <p><b><u>Botanical:</u></b> The river or river corridor contains nationally or regionally important or diverse populations of plant species, particularly federal or state listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.</p> <p><b><u>Riparian:</u></b> The quality of the riparian vegetation within the river corridor is unique or rare within the region of comparison. This may represent a “text-book” example of a riparian system, or represent a unique and rare riparian ecosystem.</p> <p><b><u>Ecological:</u></b> All other ecological values were judged on the ecological condition of the river or river corridor as it compares to the region of comparison. This includes soil structure, impact of invasive species, and water quality.</p>

During the August 2016 wild and scenic river internal workshop, the team systematically reviewed all 345 named free-flowing streams and compared them to the final evaluation criteria to identify the presence of ORVs utilizing public comments received throughout the process. Additionally, 3 streams from internal sources and 2 streams from public comments were examined for potential ORVs for a total of 350 streams, about 2,400 miles, reviewed. The interdisciplinary team (ID TEAM) applied the evaluation criteria to each stream along with the following requirements from the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act.

- Outstandingly remarkable values must be river related,
- Be located in the river or on its immediate shore lands (generally within ¼ mile on either side of the river, but may include adjacent areas needed to protect identified values),
- Contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem, and/or
- Owe the location or existence to the presence of the river.

The ID TEAM considered the area within one-quarter mile of the high water marks on both sides of a river, as well as other features outside this corridor, such as tributaries supporting rearing and spawning habitat, if their inclusion is essential for the protection of the river's ORVs. Additional factors considered by the ID TEAM for each stream were:

Determine if resource values/attributes are unique, rare, or exemplary within the region of comparison which is the state of Arizona.

Determine if a river may qualify for a given resource value based upon an aggregate of important values, none of which would confer eligibility standing alone. For example, a series of unusual and distinctive river-related geologic features may together qualify a segment as exhibiting an “outstandingly remarkable geologic value” even though no one element meets the criteria alone.

The determination that a river area does or does not contain one or more ORVs is a professional judgment on the part the responsible official as informed by an interdisciplinary team, best available scientific information (BASI), and public participation (FSH 1909.12 Ch. 82.17).



The systematic approach used by the ID Team included reviewing the streams identified through public input, previous studies, and professional judgement. ArcMap, a tool for working with maps and geographic information, was used to display the named streams in context with spatial data representing attributes of the resource themes associated with identification of ORVs (location of critical habitat, special status species occurrence data, cultural resources etc.). The ID Team identified the streams with potential ORVs based on application of the evaluation criteria and comparison to other similar resources on the Tonto National Forest. For each resource value the ID Team determined if the values/attributes were unique, rare, or exemplary. The status of each stream was documented in the wild and scenic river eligibility spreadsheet (Appendix A). This included streams with no known ORVs and streams that potentially had ORV's, but further study was needed.

The results of the coarse-first look at the free-flowing named streams during the August 2016 wild and scenic river internal workshop resulted in approximately 80 streams remaining on the list of streams to be studied further. These streams were then closely examined with resource specialists to confirm or determine if they have outstandingly remarkable values (see appendix A).

Further review of the 80 streams mentioned above was conducted during meetings in January and February 2017. ID Team members coordinated with forest staff, regional office staff, and other agencies (e.g., Fish and Wildlife Service and the Arizona Department of Game and Fish) prior to the meetings regarding any questions or clarification on resource information directly related to potential ORVs. All 80 streams were analyzed using the State of Arizona boundary for meaningful comparison. The information gathered from stakeholders and resource specialists was used to closely examine the 80 streams and determine if there is an ORV within the river/river corridor. This information was updated in the wild and scenic river eligibility spreadsheet (Appendix A) and resulted in a list of 23 streams with potential ORVs. These possibly eligible segments and the identified ORV categories are found in table 2. Detailed descriptions on these segments can be found in the documentation of eligibility section beginning on page 15 and in the wild and scenic river eligibility spreadsheet (Appendix A).

**Table 2. Possibly Eligible Stream Segments (May 2017)**

<b>STREAM NAME</b>	<b>RANGER DISTRICT</b>	<b>ORV CATRGORY(IES)</b>
Arnett Creek / Telegraph Canyon	Globe	Fisheries, Scenic
Cold Spring Canyon	Pleasant Valley	Ecological
Devil's Canyon	Globe	Geologic
Devil's Chasm	Pleasant Valley	Historic/Cultural
Dude Creek	Payson	Fisheries
Fish Creek	Mesa	Ecological, Recreation
Green Valley Creek	Payson	Ecological
Greenback Creek	Pleasant Valley, Tonto Basin	Historic/Cultural
Lime Creek	Cave Creek	Fisheries
Canyon Creek	Pleasant Valley	Wildlife
Lower Salt River	Mesa	Wildlife, Historic, Recreation
Lower Tonto Creek	Tonto Basin	Recreation
Pine Creek	Payson	Geologic
Pueblo Canyon	Pleasant Valley	Ecological, Historic, Scenic
Queen Creek	Mesa, Globe	Cultural
Reno Creek	Tonto Basin	Cultural
Salome Creek	Pleasant Valley, Tonto Basin	Recreation, Scenic
Squaw Creek	Cave Creek	Cultural

STREAM NAME	RANGER DISTRICT	ORV CATRGORY(IES)
Tangle Creek	Cave Creek	Ecological, Scenic
Upper Salt River	Tonto Basin, Globe	Geologic, Recreational, Historical
Upper Tonto Creek	Payson	Wildlife, Recreation, Scenic, Historical
Verde River	Cave Creek	Fisheries, Wildlife, Historical, Recreation
Workman Creek	Pleasant Valley	Ecological, Scenic

## Step 2: Classification

Upon determining eligibility, the Tonto National Forest Classified all eligible streams/stream segments as either Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, per [Chapter 80](#) of the Land Management Planning Handbook. Criteria for the classifications can be found in Table 3 below. Classifications are based on what exists today, not what might be desired in the future.

Once a watercourse has been determined potentially eligible the level of development needs to be reviewed to determine which preliminary classification category applies to the entire stream or segments of the stream. The categories for consideration under the WSRA are: wild, scenic, or recreational.

Potential classifications were based on the situation existing at the time of the study. The ID Team did not take expected future development, or other changes along the river corridor, into consideration. A variety of things were considered regarding classification include shoreline development, accessibility, water quality, special lands uses (such as utility corridors and other special use permits), livestock grazing, and past management activities (such as timber harvesting, or exploration and development of oil and gas).

The 1964 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states that “It is important to understand each criterion, but it is more important to understand their collective intent. Each river segment and its immediate environment should be considered as a unit. The basis for classification is the degree of naturalness, or stated negatively, the degree of evidence of man’s activity in the river area. The most natural rivers will be classified wild; those somewhat less natural, scenic, and those least natural, recreational. Although each classification permits certain existing development, the criteria do not imply that additional inconsistent development is permitted in the future.”

Team members evaluated the 23 eligible streams/rivers for preliminary classification. Table 2 describes the classification criteria used by the ID TEAM in determining the classification. This criteria is directly from The 2012 Planning Rule’s Final Directives (FSH 1909.12 Chapter 80). In addition to this criteria the ID Team referred to maps and GIS to look at the level of development and access to the area. This preliminary classification is described in the river description form for all potentially eligible rivers (see the documentation of eligibility section starting on page 15).

**Table 3. Classification criteria for wild, scenic and recreational rivers**

ATTRIBUTE	WILD	SCENIC	RECREATIONAL
Water Resource Development	Free of impoundment.	Free of impoundment.	Some existing impoundment or diversion. The existence of low dams, diversions, or other modifications of the waterway is acceptable, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance.
Shoreline Development	Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.  The presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, is acceptable.  A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production is acceptable.  Little or no evidence of past timber harvest. No ongoing timber harvest.	Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity.  The presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable.  The presence of grazing, hay production, or row crops is acceptable.  Evidence of past or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable, provided the forest appears natural from the riverbank.	Some development. Substantial evidence of human activity.  The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable.  Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses.  May show evidence of past and ongoing timber harvest.
Accessibility	Generally inaccessible except by trail. No roads, railroads, or other provision for vehicular travel within the river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.	Accessible in places by road. Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.	Readily accessible by road or railroad. The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks as well as bridge crossings and other river access points is acceptable.

ATTRIBUTE	WILD	SCENIC	RECREATIONAL
Water Quality  <i>*note: where no water quality data exists, it will be assumed that the waterway meets or exceeds federal/state water quality criteria.</i>	Meets, or exceeds criteria, or federally approved State standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish, and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except where exceeded by natural conditions.	No criteria are prescribed by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 have made it a national goal that all waters of the United States are made fishable and swimmable. Therefore, rivers will not be precluded from scenic classification because of poor water quality at the time of their study, provided a water quality improvement plan exists, or is being developed in compliance with applicable Federal and State laws.	No criteria are prescribed by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 have made it a national goal that all waters of the United States are made fishable and swimmable. Therefore, rivers will not be precluded from recreational classification because of poor water quality at the time of their study, provided a water quality improvement plan exists, or is being developed in compliance with applicable Federal and State laws.

Eligible rivers may be divided into segments having differing classifications when the levels of human use and activity create different degrees of development within the study area. In cases where a river has one or more classification, each river segment identified should be of sufficient length to warrant its own unique management. FSH 1909.12 Chapter 80.62 states that, “there is no minimum length of a segment, but segment length should be sufficient to enable protection of the outstandingly remarkable values if the area were managed, apart from other segments, as a wild, scenic, or recreational river.”

Following the preliminary classification of the eligible segments the Tonto NF released a map on the [Wild & Scenic Rivers Story Map](#) displaying these preliminary classifications for public comment. This comment period was open from May 2, 2017 – May 17, 2017. The public was asked to provide feedback on the preliminary classification(s) of the eligible river segments. This information was used during a secondary review of potentially eligible segments to assign a final classification.

Following the public comment period, the ID Team reevaluated the eligibility and classification of the possibly eligible segments, utilizing comments received from the public. As a result of public comment and the internal review, classifications were finalized for the eligible segments. Additionally, through this review it was determined that Green Valley Creek, Queen Creek, and Devil’s Canyon were not eligible for the Wild and Scenic River System. Though specialists had identified unique features on these segments, the features were not determined to be outstandingly remarkable in the region of comparison. More information on these determinations can be found in Appendix A.

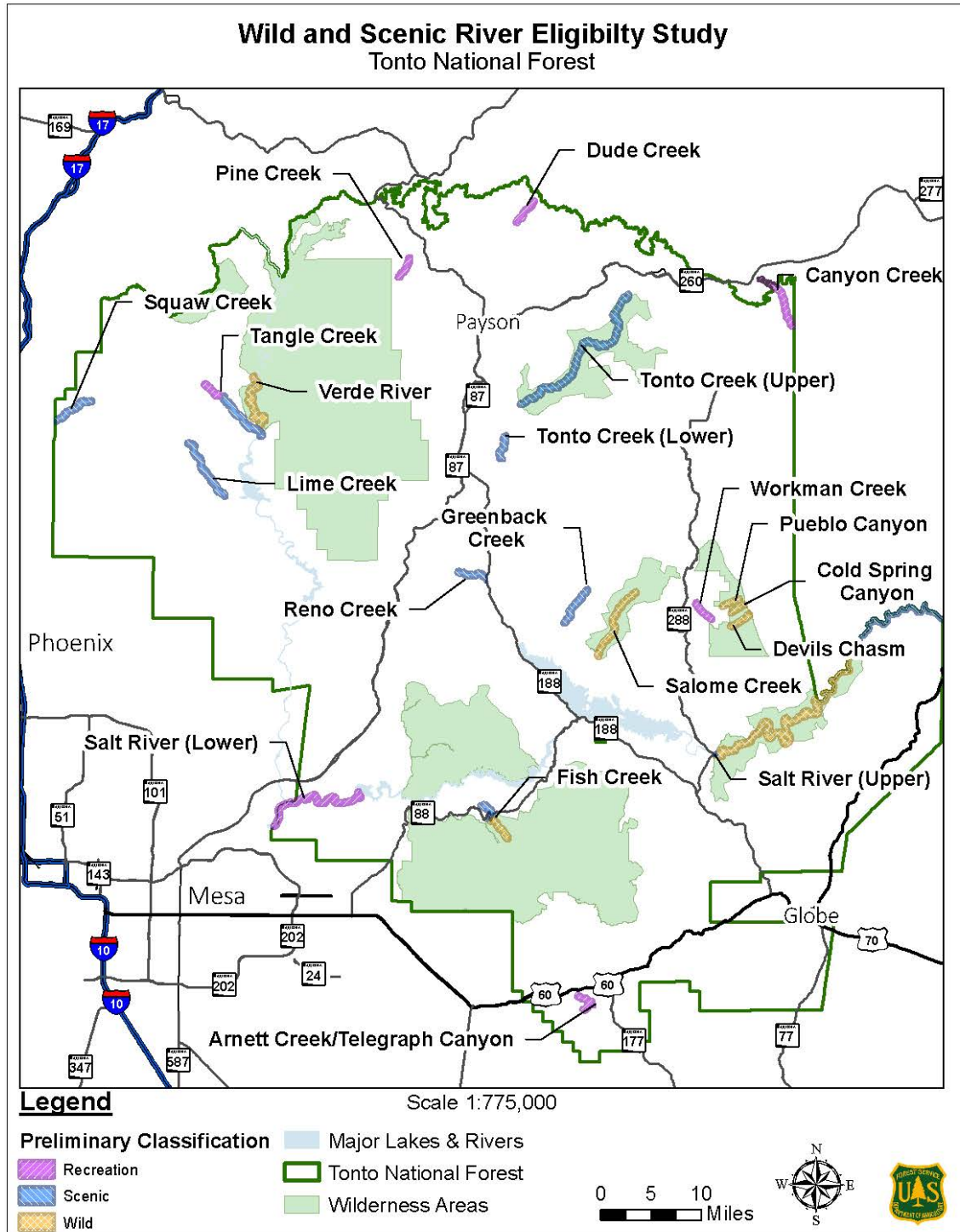


**Table 4. Classification of Eligible Segments**

STREAM NAME	RANGER DISTRICT	FINAL CLASSIFICATION
Arnett Creek / Telegraph Canyon	Globe	Recreational
Cold Spring Canyon	Pleasant Valley	Wild
Devil's Chasm	Pleasant Valley	Wild
Dude Creek	Payson	Recreational
Fish Creek	Mesa	Wild, Scenic
Greenback Creek	Pleasant Valley, Tonto Basin	Scenic
Lime Creek	Cave Creek	Scenic
Canyon Creek	Pleasant Valley	Recreational
Lower Salt River	Mesa	Recreational
Lower Tonto Creek	Tonto Basin	Scenic
Pine Creek	Payson	Recreational
Pueblo Canyon	Pleasant Valley	Wild
Reno Creek	Tonto Basin	Scenic
Salome Creek	Pleasant Valley, Tonto Basin	Scenic, Recreational
Squaw Creek	Cave Creek	Scenic
Tangle Creek	Cave Creek	Scenic, Recreational
Upper Salt River	Tonto Basin, Globe	Wild, Scenic
Upper Tonto Creek	Payson	Scenic
Verde River	Cave Creek	Wild, Scenic
Workman Creek	Pleasant Valley	Recreational

Figure 3 on Page 17 displays a map of the eligible segments and there classifications. Rationale behind the classifications of the individual river segments for the eligibility study are described in the wild and scenic river eligibility spreadsheet (Appendix A).

Figure 3: Segments Determined Eligible for the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System



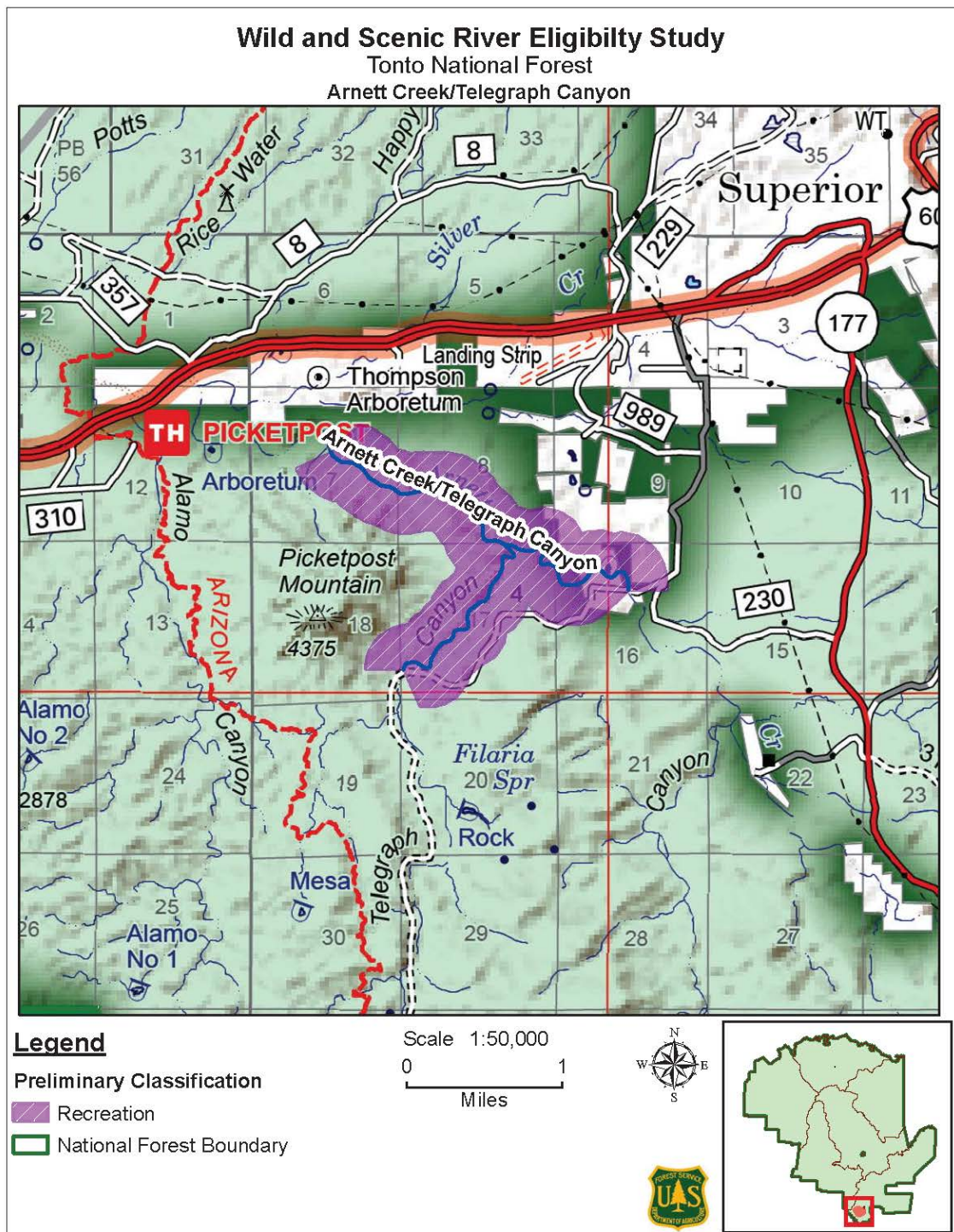
## Step 3: Documentation of Eligibility

The maps and tables within this section provide a detailed description of the stream segments determined eligible through the wild and scenic river's process. These segments, their ORVs, and classifications were determined through internal meetings with resource specialists and public comments at multiple stages. The following descriptions provide the basis for the eligibility determination. Information on rationale for exclusion of other named streams in the planning area can be found in appendix A.

The third, and final, informal comment period on this documentation will be in October 2017. Public feedback from this comment period will be incorporated into the documentation, which will be an appendix to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Revised Forest Plan. As an appendix to the DEIS, the public will have an additional opportunity to review the eligible segments and make comments during a formal comment period.

DRAFT

## Arnett Creek/Telegraph Canyon





## **Arnett Creek/Telegraph Canyon**

Located in Pinal County, within the Tonto National Forest, Arnett Creek and Telegraph Canyon are two short, but special, streams which come together southwest of the town of Superior, Arizona, just south of U.S. Highway 60. This segment is considered eligible for its scenery and fisheries outstandingly remarkable values. The entire segment would be classified as “recreational” due to the level of shoreline development and substantial evidence of human activity.

This segment was previously identified in the 1993 Wild & Scenic River Study.

<b>Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)</b>	Scenery, Fisheries
<b>Classification</b>	Recreational
<b>Miles of each segment</b>	3.5 miles
<b>Location</b>	Arnett: Begins where Arnett Creek exits private land in SWNWS16T2SR12E and ends at unnamed tributary in SWNES7T2SR12E. Telegraph: Begins at the FR 4 road crossing in S17T2SR12E and ends at confluence with Arnett Creek

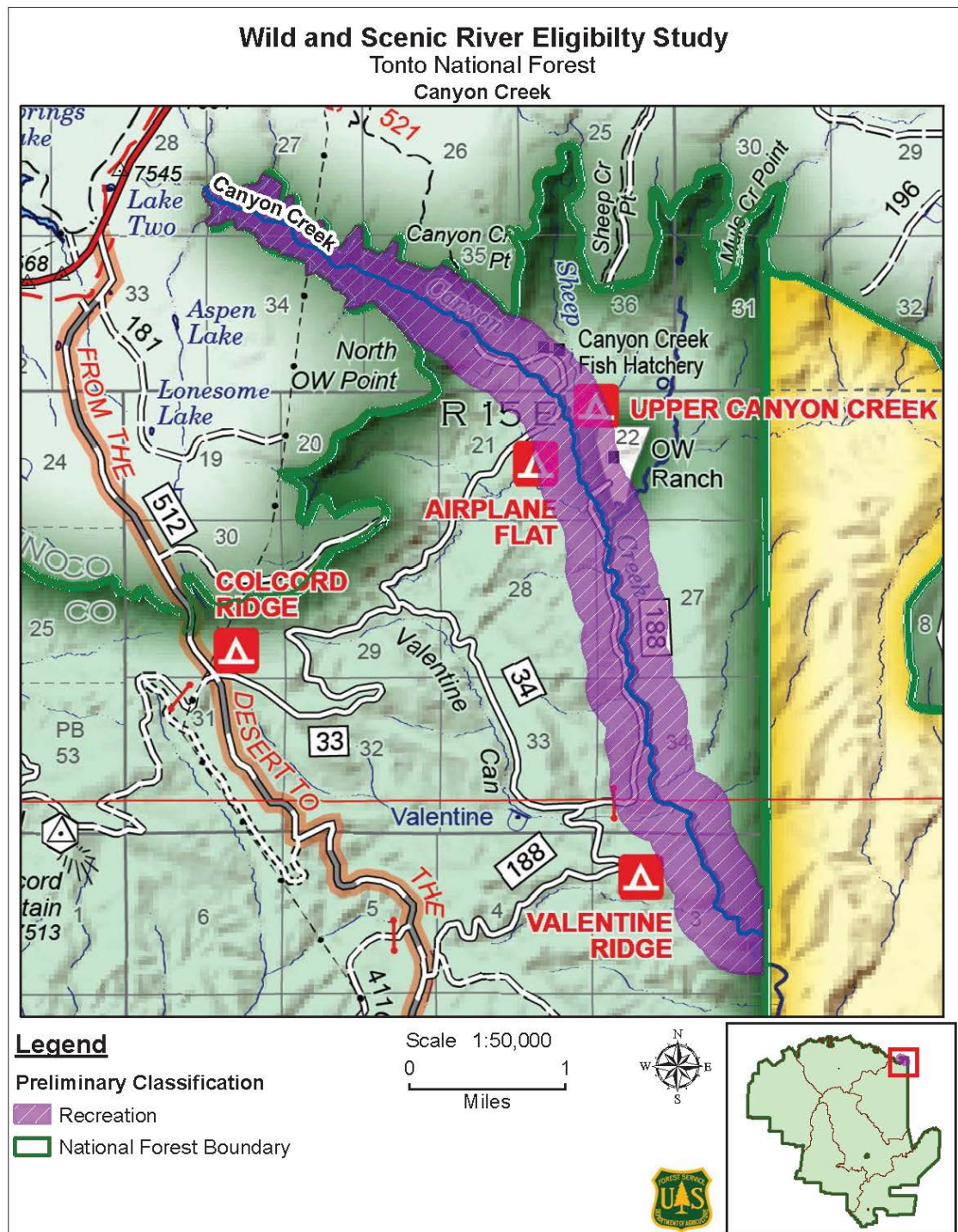
## **Outstanding Remarkable Values**

<b>Scenery</b>	Scenic values of Arnett Creek/Telegraph creek are remarkable due to the very complicated geology and vegetation in the area. The distinctive gorges and broad canyons with solid rock vertical walls provide many novel rock forms. Bare soil, desert pavement, barren rock textures with unique strings of riparian deciduous trees along the creeks and nearby botanical gardens creates a unique area juxtaposed with the vast surrounding undistinguished desert.
<b>Fisheries</b>	Arnett Creek and Telegraph Canyon were identified as having outstandingly remarkable fish resources due to a high concentration of diverse populations of native species. The rivers provide uniquely diverse and high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to Arizona. Currently, longfin dace occur in the creek and multiple threatened or endangered fish species have been reintroduced to the area. Of note, there are no non-native fish species in the creek due to a large removal effort in 1993. Arnett creek has an extant population of native aquatic biota, including Sonoran mud turtle and lowland leopard frogs. There is a fish barrier downstream from Arnett and Telegraph creeks that protects it from non-native species. The creeks provide high quality perennial stream habitat for native fishes.

## **Other Information**

This segments proximity to Boyce Thomson Arboretum has introduced non-native plant species to the area, but the Forest Service is actively working to improve the ecological conditions. Along with the ecological restoration projects, work is being done to increase the quality of recreational opportunities in the area through trail development and maintenance.

## Canyon Creek



## ***Canyon Creek***

Located in Gila county, Canyon Creek's headwaters are above the Mogollon Rim, approximately 30 miles east of Payson, Arizona. This segment is considered eligible for its wildlife outstandingly remarkable values. The entire segment would be classified as "recreational" due to fencing and bridge crossings along the creek.

This segment was previously identified in the 1993 Wild & Scenic River Study.

<b>Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)</b>	Wildlife
<b>Classification</b>	Recreational
<b>Miles of each segment</b>	7.19 miles
<b>Location</b>	Begins at the boundary with the Tonto NF in NWSWS27T11NR14E and ends at the boundary with the Fort Apache Indian Reservation in S2T10NR15E.

## ***Outstanding Remarkable Values***

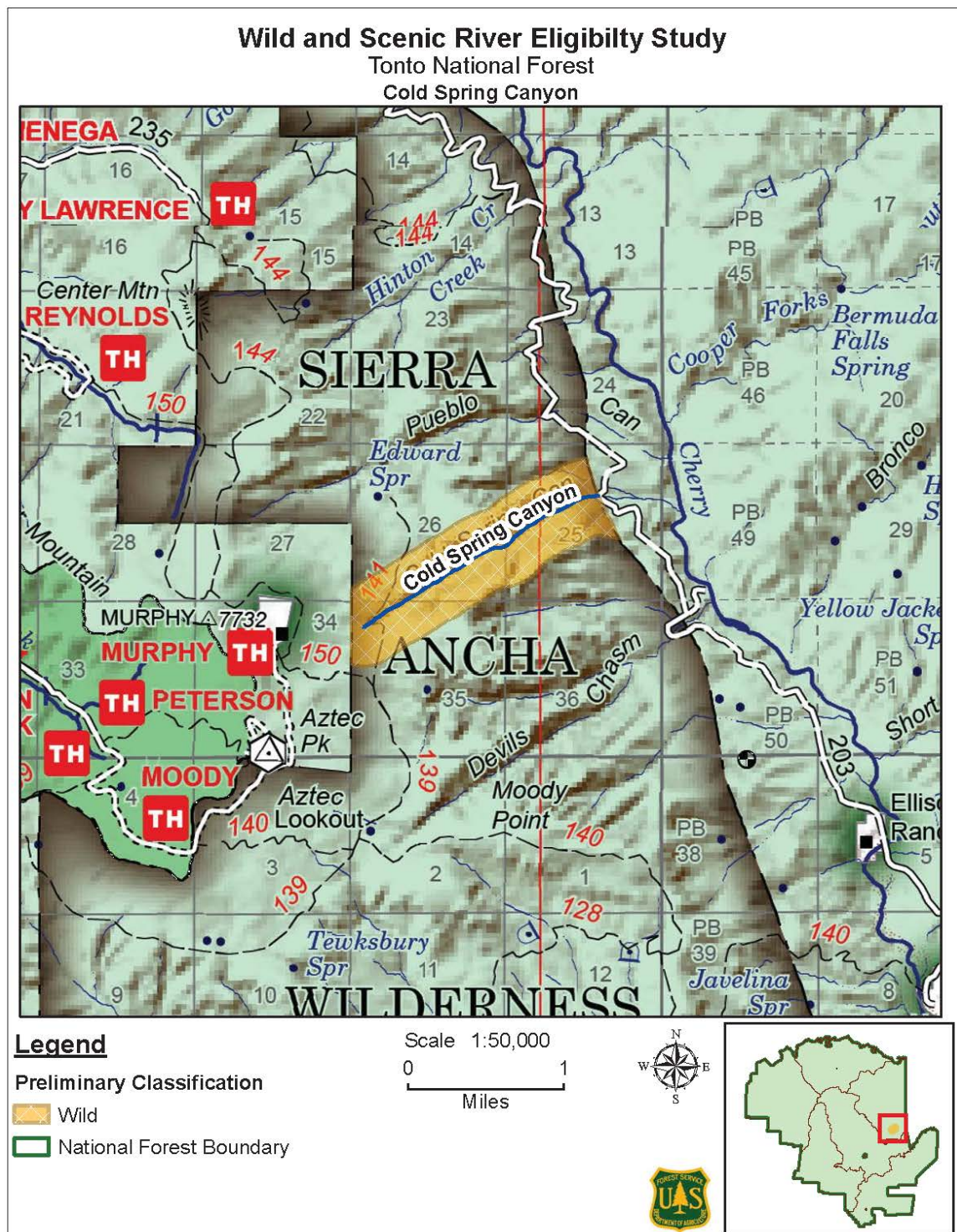
<b>Wildlife</b>	Several Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) including the American Dipper, Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Red-Faced Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, and Pacific Wren utilize Canyon Creek and the surrounding river corridor habitat. The Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas documents only 4 detections of breeding Pacific Wrens, and one of those detections came from Canyon Creek, making it remarkable for the state as one of the few breeding areas for this species. Additionally, Canyon Creek has proposed critical habitat for the narrow-headed gartersnake, and in the upper reach of Canyon Creek, the highest known density of narrow-headed gartersnakes on the Forest and possibly one of the largest wild populations within the state of Arizona.
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## ***Other Information***

Canyon Creek is managed as a "Blue Ribbon" fishery and is a very popular recreation area during the cool summer months. This segment is different than most of the other streams coming off the Mogollon Rim, with a wide valley bottom and prairie in the middle. There are dispersed camping areas in close proximity to this segment and exclosures help to keep elk and cows away from the stream.



## Cold Spring Canyon





### ***Cold Spring Canyon***

Located in Gila county, within the Tonto National Forest, Cold Spring Canyon is a remarkable stream flowing through a deep narrow canyon, surrounded by the Sierra Ancha Wilderness. This segment is considered eligible for its natural outstandingly remarkable values. The entire segment would be classified as “wild” due to the primitive nature of the stream.

<b>Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)</b>	Natural
<b>Classification</b>	Wild
<b>Miles of each segment</b>	1.74 miles
<b>Location</b>	Begins where FT 139 crosses Cold Spring Canyon in NWNWS35T6NR14E and ends where Cold Spring Canyon exits the Sierra Ancha Wilderness in SWNES25T6NR14E

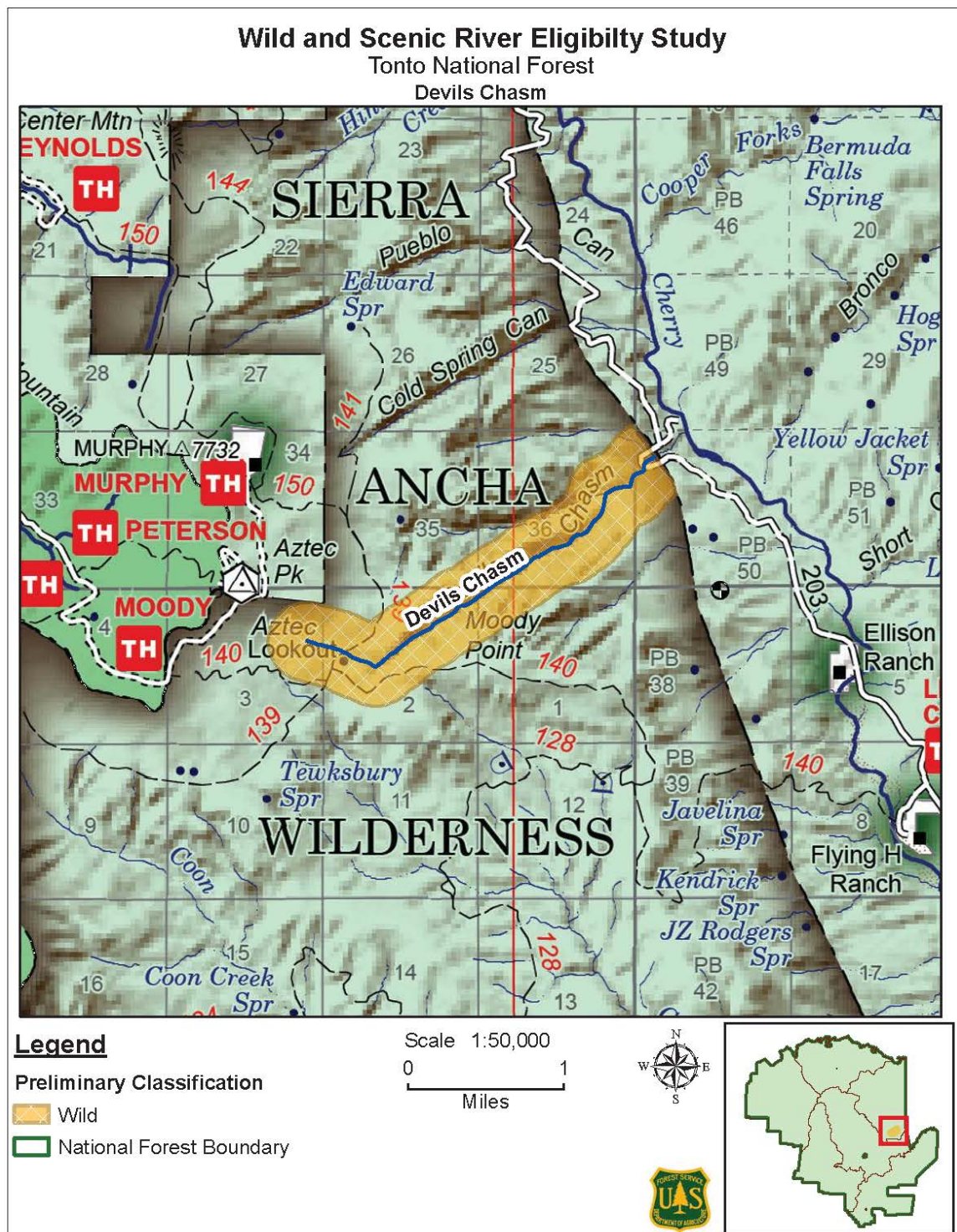
### ***Outstanding Remarkable Values***

<b>Natural</b>	Cold Spring Canyon's unusual geologic formations, vegetation and topography in the canyon setting result in unique habitat conditions, including low light and dripping cliffs, for a high number of endemic, rare and sensitive plant species. The Sierra Ancha fleabane ( <i>Erigeron anchana</i> ) and the Arizona bugbane ( <i>Cimicifuga arizonica</i> ) are two examples. The population of Arizona bugbane is possibly the largest in the Sierra Ancha Mountains.
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### ***Other Information***

There is a small cliff dwelling in this canyon that is well preserved. Architectural and cultural features such as this are common to the Sierra Ancha Wilderness. The canyon itself is deep and narrow, making it difficult to access, which reduces human disturbance of the stream.

## Devils Chasm



### ***Devil's Chasm***

Located in Gila county, on the Tonto National Forest, Devil's Chasm is a culturally unique stream within the Sierra Ancha Wilderness. This segment is considered eligible for its cultural outstandingly remarkable values. The entire segment would be classified as "wild" due to the primitive nature of the stream and difficulty of access.

<b>Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)</b>	Cultural
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<b>Classification</b>	Wild
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<b>Miles of each segment</b>	2.52 miles
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<b>Location</b>	Begins where Devils Chasm crosses FT 139 in SWNWS2T5NR14E and ends where Devils Chasm exits the eastern boundary of the Sierra Ancha Wilderness in NWNWS31T6NR15E.
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### ***Outstanding Remarkable Values***

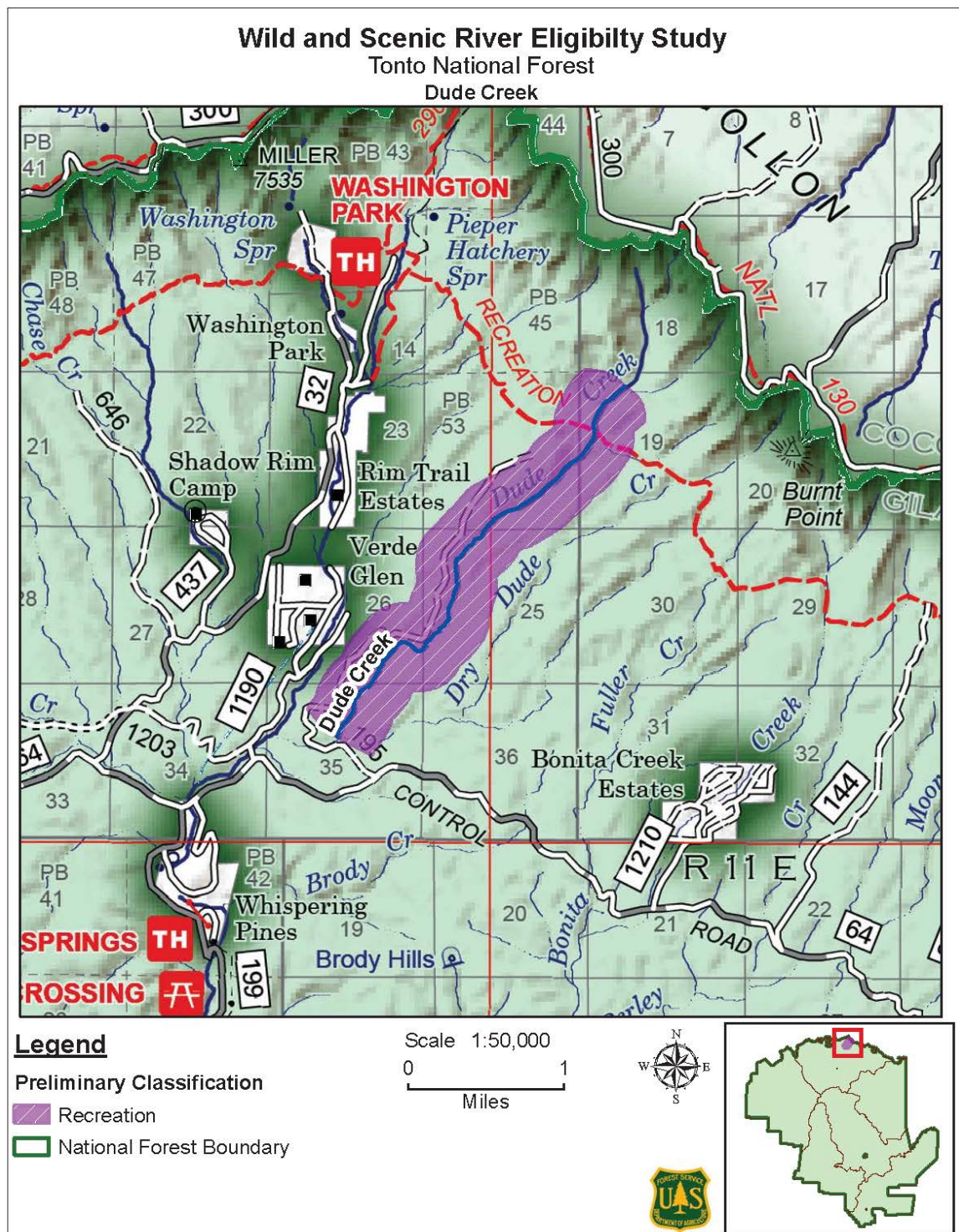
<b>Cultural</b>	Devil's Chasm contains a unique, relatively intact, high country pueblo and represents the northern extent of the Hohokam pueblo features. The area includes a rare rounded building that is unique within the nation. The cliff dwellings are considered world class and unique due to their uncommon melding and blending of different cultural types representing use of the area by multiple cultures/tribes.
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### ***Other Information***

Devil's Chasm is located entirely in the Sierra Ancha Wilderness. The Sierra Ancha Wilderness is home to a high number of endemic plant species. The geological formations, vegetation and topography at canyon settings produce unique habitat conditions for several sensitive and at-risk plant species.



## Dude Creek



### ***Dude Creek***

Located in Gila county, on the Tonto National Forest, Dude Creek flows off of the Mogollon Rim near Payson, Arizona. This segment is considered eligible for its fisheries outstandingly remarkable values. The entire segment would be classified as “recreational” due to the level of water resource development and shoreline development in the area.

<b>Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)</b>	Fisheries
<b>Classification</b>	Recreational
<b>Miles of each segment</b>	3.16 miles
<b>Location</b>	Begins at the confluence of an unnamed tributary to the main stem of Dude Creek in NENWS19T12NR11E and ends at the confluence with Dry Dude Creek in SENWS35T12NR10E.

### ***Outstanding Remarkable Values***

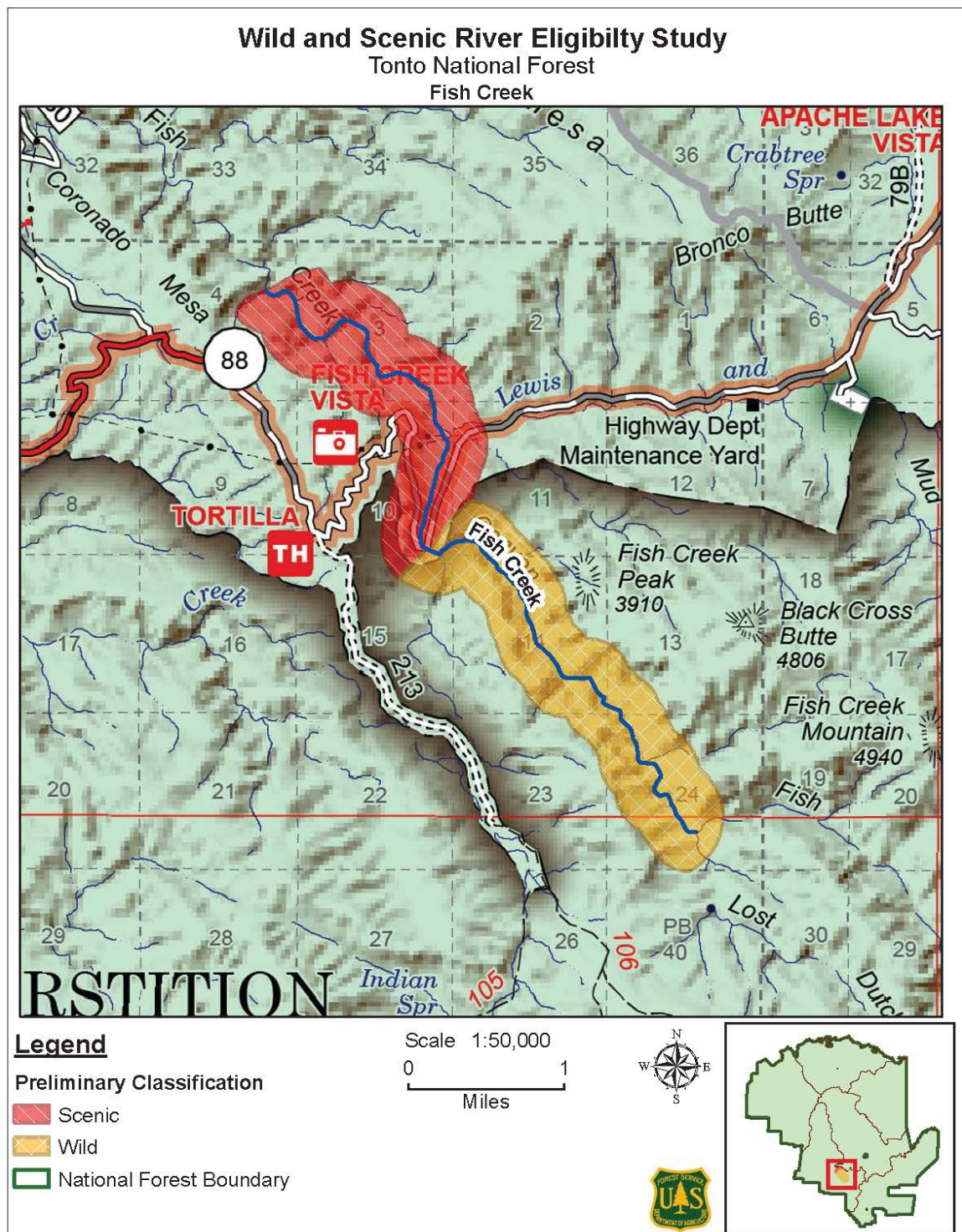
<b>Fisheries</b>	Dude Creek was identified as having outstandingly remarkable fisheries resource values when compared to similar resources within the state and nation, primarily due to the presence of Gila trout. Gila trout, once completely extirpated in the state, are a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (1973). The population in Dude Creek represents a recovery population of just Gila trout with no non-native fish, which is rare in the state of Arizona. Additionally, Dude Creek provides high quality habitat for the recovering Gila trout population.
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### ***Other Information***

There are a number of sensitive and rare plant species found in the vicinity of this area, below the Mogollon Rim. There is nice riparian along this segment, but also a large number of invasive species. The Dude Fire (1990) burned through the entire study area of this segment.



## Fish Creek



## ***Fish Creek***

Located in Maricopa county, on the Tonto National Forest, Fish Creek, a tributary to the Salt River downstream of Canyon Lake, flows from the Superstition Wilderness to the Apache Trail (SR 88). This segment is considered eligible for its outstandingly remarkable natural values. One portion of this segment, located within the Superstition Wilderness, would be classified as “wild” due to its primitive nature. The other portion of this segment would be classified as “scenic” due to the access by the Apache Trail.

<b>Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)</b>	Natural
<b>Classification</b>	Wild Scenic
<b>Miles of each segment</b>	Wild: 3.01 miles Scenic: 2.7 miles
<b>Location</b>	<u>Wild</u> : begins at confluence of Fish Creek Canyon and Lost Dutch Canyon in SWSES24T2NR10E and ends at the SR 88 Crossing of Fish Creek in SESES10T2NR10E. <u>Scenic</u> : begins at the SR 88 crossing of Fish Creek in SESES10T2NR10E and ends at the confluence with an unnamed tributary in SENES4T2NR10E.

## ***Outstanding Remarkable Values***

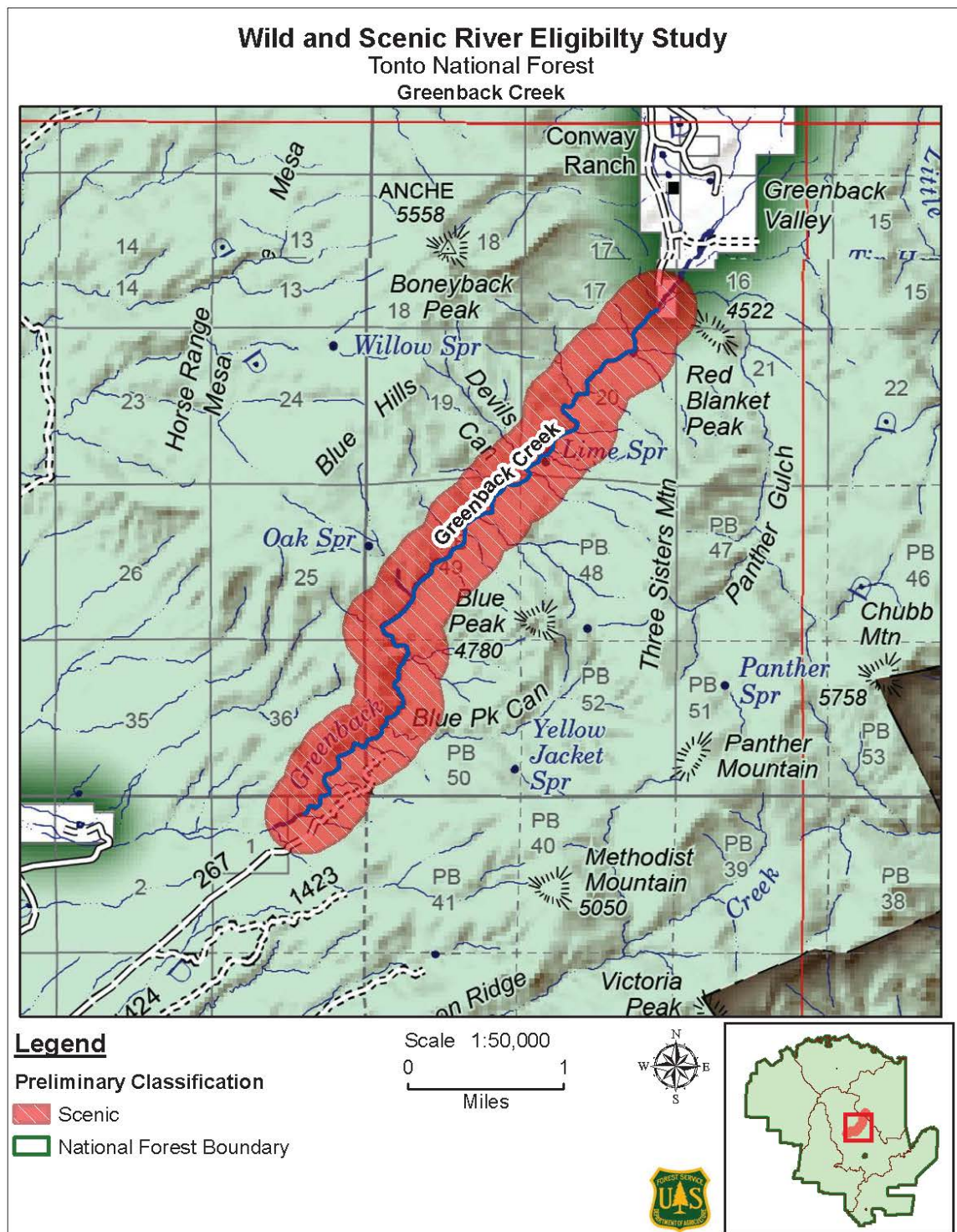
<b>Natural</b>	Fish Creek was identified as having outstandingly remarkable natural (botanical) values when compared with similar resources within the state of Arizona. The rare annual plant, Fish Creek fleabane ( <i>Erigeron piscaticus</i> ), endemic to Arizona, has only three known locations in the state, one of which is on Fish Creek. Pima Indian mallow ( <i>Abutilon parishii</i> Wats), a sensitive species, is also present in the area and represents the northernmost distribution of the species. Additional endemic species include Mapleleaf false snapdragon ( <i>Mabrya acerifolia</i> ) and the Gila rock daisy ( <i>Perityle gilensis</i> ).
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## ***Other Information***

The historic Apache Trail (also known as State Route 88) crosses Fish Creek. Many locals and seasonal visitors enjoy leisurely drives on the Apache Trail to view the desert vegetation, Salt River Lakes, and magnificent geology. Fish Creek provides tall rock walls popular for rock climbing and rappelling. Fish Creek also has some of the area's largest cottonwood trees, making it a popular place for photography, short hikes, and dispersed picnicking in the shade. Additionally, two reaches within this segment are going to be assessed as potential introduction sites for native fish populations. Many prehistoric Yavapai sites line this segment.



## Greenback Creek



### ***Greenback Creek***

Located in Gila county, on the Tonto National Forest, Greenback Creek is a beautiful perennial stream in Tonto Basin, Arizona. This segment is considered eligible for its historic outstandingly remarkable values. The entirety of this segment would be classified as “scenic” due to a diversion to private land.

<b>Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)</b>	Historic
<b>Classification</b>	Scenic
<b>Miles of each segment</b>	5.06 miles
<b>Location</b>	Begins at the boundary with private land in SESES17T6NR12E and ends at a stream diversion in NENWS1T5NR11E.

### ***Outstanding Remarkable Values***

<b>Historic</b>	Greenback Creek river corridor has a high density of pre-historic sites owing to habitation of Apaches in the area. The river corridor contains a rare, large, multi-room pueblo, unique within the state of Arizona. Greenback Creek corridor contains the site of one of the earliest cavalry fights on the Tonto National Forest and continued fighting by the Arizona Volunteers, an important group of individuals hired by the army to fight the Apaches. The area contains important evidence of past occupation and use by humans as well as sites and features associated with significant events in the history of Arizona and the United States.
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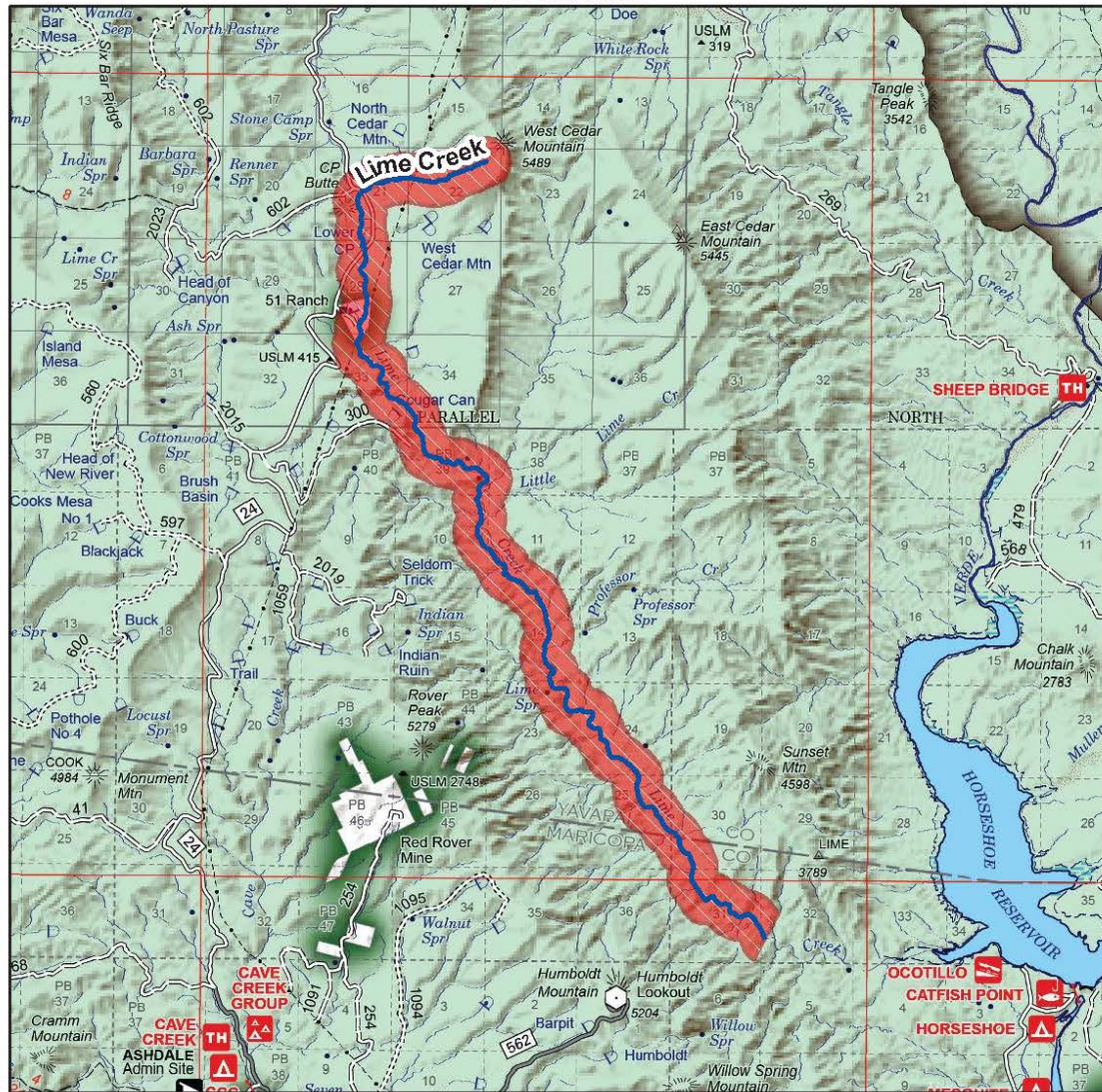
### ***Other Information***

This perennial stream is home to a number of native fish, but there are also non-native bull frogs. With restoration, this segment could be an ideal candidate for the reintroduction of Threatened and Endangered fish species.



## Lime Creek

### Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study Tonto National Forest Lime Creek



#### Legend

##### Preliminary Classification

▬ Scenic

   National Forest Boundary

Scale 1:100,000

0 1  
Miles





### ***Lime Creek***

Located in Yavapai/Maricopa counties, Lime Creek is a spectacular segment in the Cave Creek Ranger District. This segment is considered eligible for its fisheries outstandingly remarkable values. The entire segment would be classified as “scenic” due to the presence of grazing and some shoreline development.

<b>Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)</b>	Fisheries
<b>Classification</b>	Scenic
<b>Miles of each segment</b>	7.9 miles
<b>Location</b>	Begins at the confluence with Cougar Canyon in W½S3T8NR5E and ends at a constructed fish barrier in NWSWS32T8NR6E.

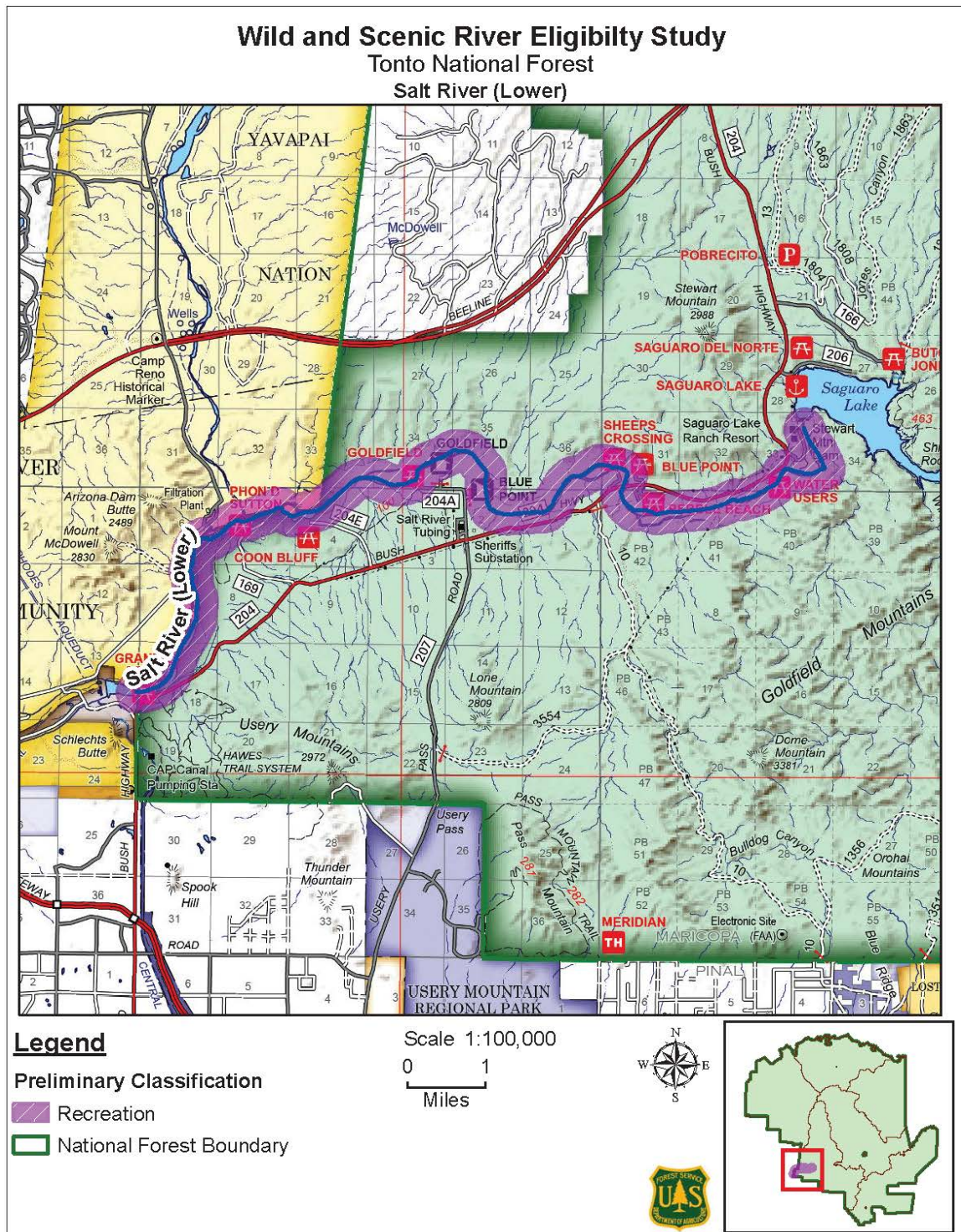
### ***Outstanding Remarkable Values***

<b>Fisheries</b>	Lime Creek is significant in the region of comparison for reintroduction and recovery of threatened, endangered, and proposed species fish populations including; Gila topminnow, Gila chub, and Roundtail chub. Additionally, the creek provides habitat for Species of Conservation Concern; longfin dace and lowland leopard frog (2017 survey).
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### ***Other Information***

Lime Creek is a popular area for hikers, due to its unique scenic quality. The geomorphology and huge boulders, and glimmering white rocks attract visitors to the area. There are large limestones that are valued for their size and quality. Lime Creek has high water quality value and is located within an Inventoried Roadless Area.

## Lower Salt River



## ***Lower Salt River***

Located in Maricopa county, the Lower Salt River is a heavily recreated and valued river, approximately 9 miles north of Apache Junction, Arizona. This segment is considered eligible for its wildlife, recreation, and historic outstandingly remarkable values. The entire segment would be classified as “recreational” due to the level of human activity in the area.

This segment was previously identified in the 1993 Wild & Scenic River Study.

<b>Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)</b>	Wildlife Recreation Historic
<b>Classification</b>	Recreational
<b>Miles of each segment</b>	13.23 miles
<b>Location</b>	Begins at the lower end of the area of primary jurisdiction below Stewart Mountain Dam in NWNES33T3NR8E and ends where the Salt River exits the Forest boundary in NWSWS18T2NR7E.

## ***Outstanding Remarkable Values***

<b>Wildlife</b>	This section of the Lower Salt River provides good to excellent riparian habitat despite being one of the most concentrated, heavily used recreation areas on the Forest. The area provides important habitat for diverse populations of waterfowl, migratory birds, and raptors, including nesting and foraging habitat for bald eagles. Roughly 100 species of birds have been observed along the riparian corridor and adjacent mesquite bosque. In recognition of importance of this habitat to avian species, the section of river below Stewart Mountain Dam downstream to the confluence of the Verde River has been designated as an Important Bird Area (Audubon). In addition to the diverse avian species, the Lower Salt River provides important habitat for mountain lions, javelina, deer, foxes, and coyotes, as well as a variety of herpetofauna.
<b>Recreation</b>	The Lower Salt River has been identified as having outstandingly remarkable recreational values. The potential River Area is one of the most heavily used rivers for non-motorized recreation activities in the United States. Flowing through a Sonoran Desert landscape, flanked by native mesquite bosques, this river provides excellent recreation opportunities for over two million Phoenix residents, and surrounding communities, who are within a one hour drive. Over 10,000 phoenix residents visit this area on a hot summer weekend.
<b>Historic</b>	The area is characterized by a prehistoric Hohokam occupation dating from around AD 800 to about 1150, consisting of sherd and lithic scatters suggesting pithouse villages. This segment of river corridor contains examples of classic and fairly intact relics of Hohokam culture that cannot be found elsewhere. Historic use of the area is associated with small scale mining, homesteading, water reclamation, Forest Service administration, and government sponsored work projects by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which began during the closing decades of the 19th century.

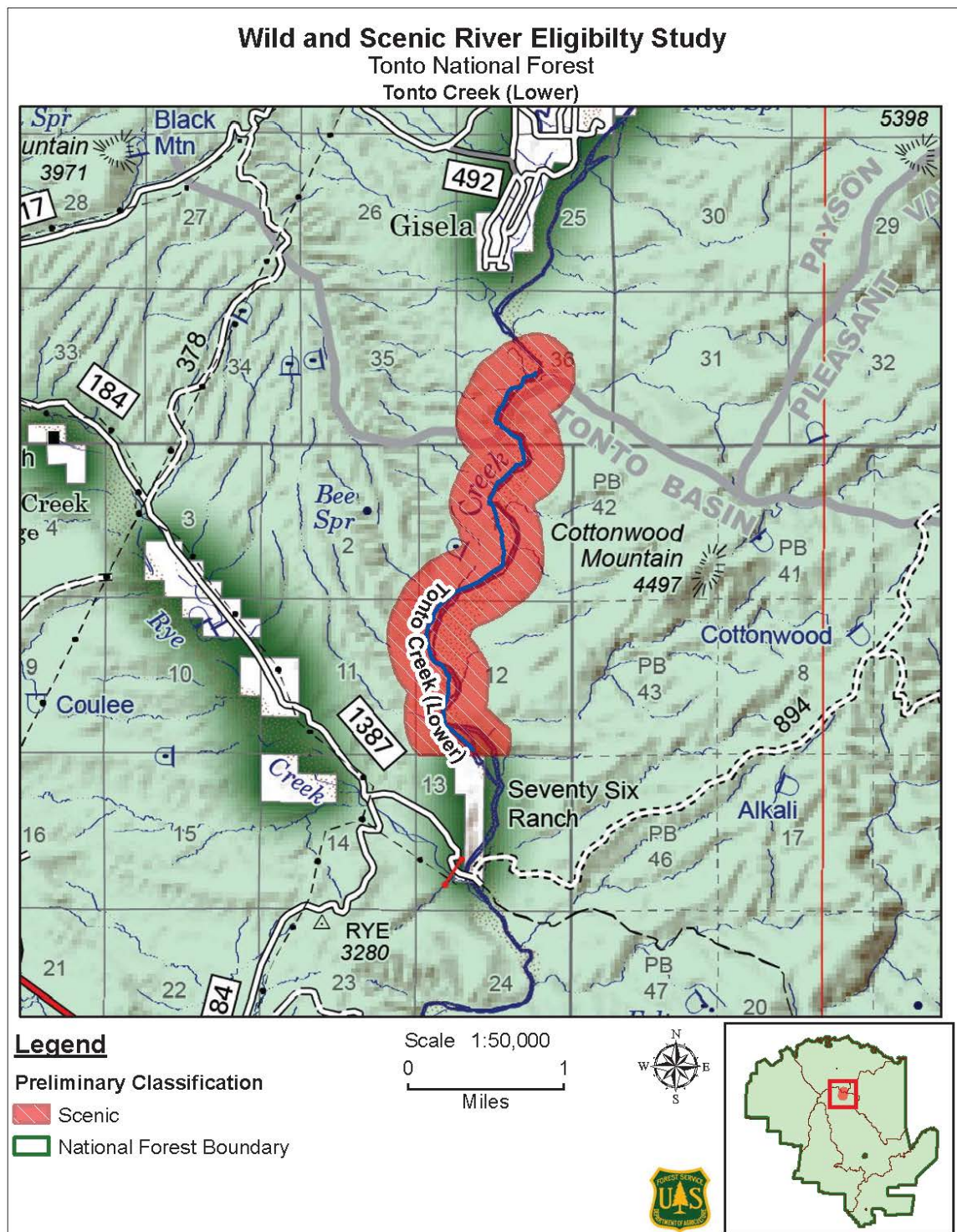
### ***Other Information***

The Lower Salt River is heavily used during the summer months by residents of the Phoenix metropolitan area, making it one of the most visited stretches of river in the United States. Flow rates for the Lower Salt River are controlled by the Salt River Project. The predominant riparian community on the Lower Salt River is cottonwood-willow community.

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## Lower Tonto Creek





### ***Lower Tonto Creek***

Located in Gila county, Lower Tonto Creek provides high quality recreational opportunities just north of Tonto Basin and Roosevelt Lake. This segment is considered eligible for its recreation outstandingly remarkable values. The entire segment would be classified as “scenic” because though it is difficult to access the water is impaired and there is limited amounts of grazing within the corridor.

This segment was previously identified in the 1993 Wild & Scenic River Study.

<b>Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)</b>	Recreation
<b>Classification</b>	Scenic
<b>Miles of each segment</b>	3.07 miles
<b>Location</b>	Begins at the confluence of Cocomunga Canyon with Tonto Creek in NWSWS36T9NR10E and ends at the boundary with private land on the southern boundary of Section 12 T8NR10E.

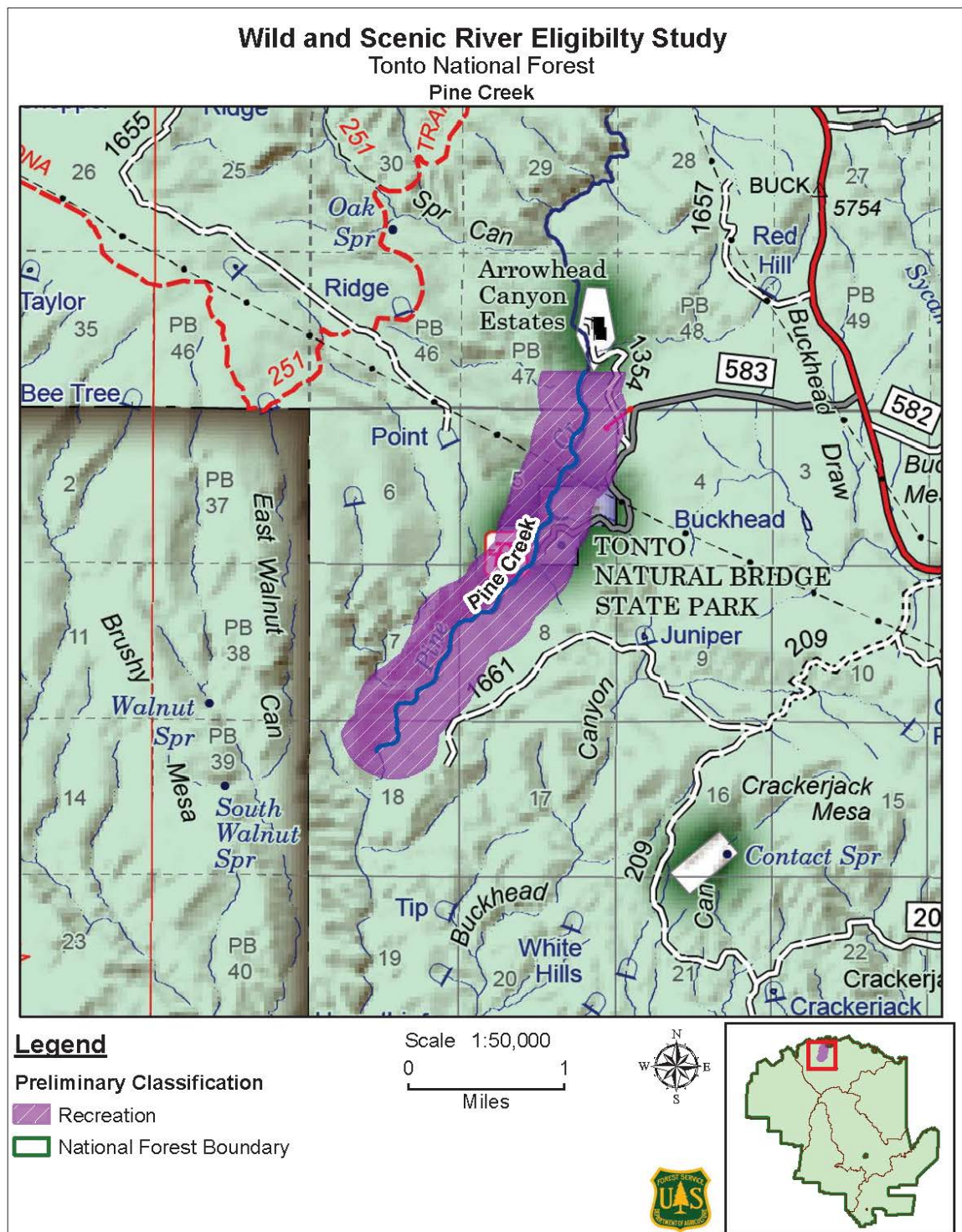
### ***Outstanding Remarkable Values***

<b>Recreation</b>	This River Area draws people from across the country to take advantage of unique canyoneering opportunities along the river. Large groups of visitors wishing to bring their own equipment and experience canyoneering in a stunning river canyon with a high degree of geologic and botanical beauty are drawn to this area. In addition to canyoneering, hunting, fishing and off-roading are very popular in the river area.
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### ***Other Information***

Lower Tonto Creek has one of the highest density breeding populations of threatened yellow-billed cuckoo and endangered southwestern willow flycatcher. Further, Tonto Creek is proposed critical habitat for northern Mexican and narrow-headed gartersnakes. Many migratory bird species pass through or breed along this stretch of Tonto Creek. Additionally, the river area has the largest population of flycatchers in the state and this critical habitat provides important landscape connectivity for these and other wildlife species. This segment is good habitat for many fish species, both native and non-native.

## Pine Creek



### ***Pine Creek***

Located in Gila county, just north of Payson, Arizona, Pine Creek provides the opportunity for visitors to see the largest known travertine bridge in the world. This segment is considered eligible for its geologic outstandingly remarkable values. The entire segment would be classified as “recreational” because of the ease of accessibility and development in the river corridor.

<b>Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)</b>	Geologic
<b>Classification</b>	Recreational
<b>Miles of each segment</b>	2.6 miles
<b>Location</b>	Begins below the lower boundary with private land in SESES32T11.5NR9E and ends at the confluence with Tank Gulch at SWSES7T11NR9E.

### ***Outstanding Remarkable Values***

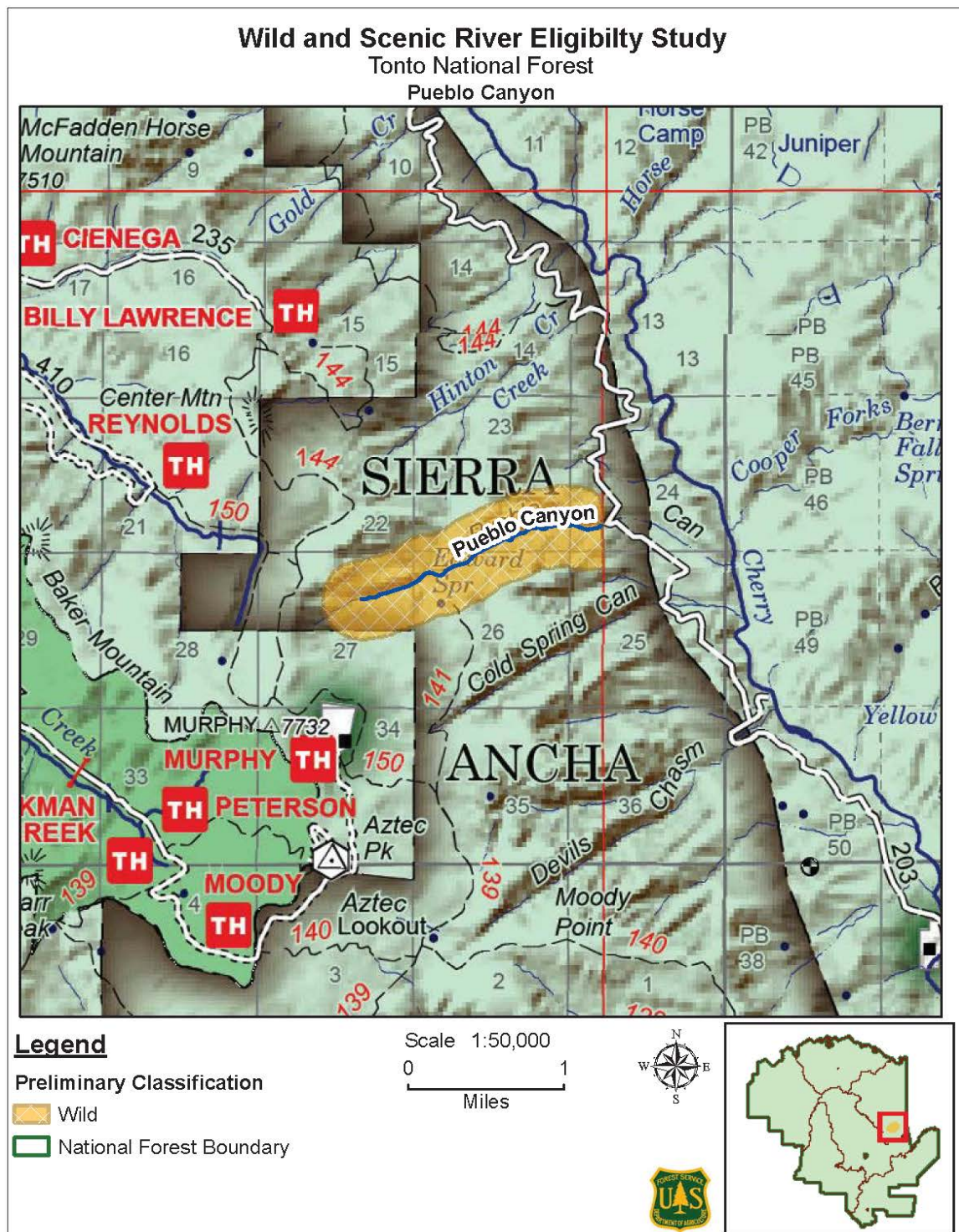
<b>Geologic</b>	The area within the river corridor contains the largest known travertine natural bridge in the world, measuring 180 feet high, 400 feet long and approximately 100 feet thick on top. The bridge was formed by a small stream flowing through a shady canyon in the wooded foothills of the Mogollon Rim. The area surrounding the bridge was made into a state park, Tonto Natural Bridge State Park (June 29, 1991), and draws visitors from across the state and country.
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### ***Other Information***

Visitors to Pine Creek, and the Tonto Natural Bridge, can experience perennial waters. The ability to have perennial water attracts many recreational opportunities to the area, like hiking. Additionally, this area is known to inhabit a nesting pair of American peregrine falcons.



## Pueblo Canyon



## ***Pueblo Canyon***

Located in Gila county, Pueblo Canyon is a beautiful, and culturally significant, stream located in the Sierra Ancha Wilderness. This segment is considered eligible for its historic and scenery outstandingly remarkable values. The entire segment would be classified as “wild” because of the primitive and undeveloped nature of the area.

<b>Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)</b>	Historic Scenery
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<b>Classification</b>	Wild
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<b>Miles of each segment</b>	1.71 miles
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<b>Location</b>	Begins at the confluence of an unnamed tributary with the main stem of Pueblo Canyon in SWNES27T6NR14E and ends where Pueblo Canyon meets Forest Road 203 (commonly referred to as Cherry Creek Road).
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## ***Outstanding Remarkable Values***

<b>Historic</b>	This area boasts a massive pueblo with one of the largest intact Hohokam sites, of which Pueblo canyon is named for. This feature is one of only two examples in the state that are as intact as this one and provides a high quality example of what these structures looked like prior to European settlement. This area is one of the places where people go for heritage tourism.
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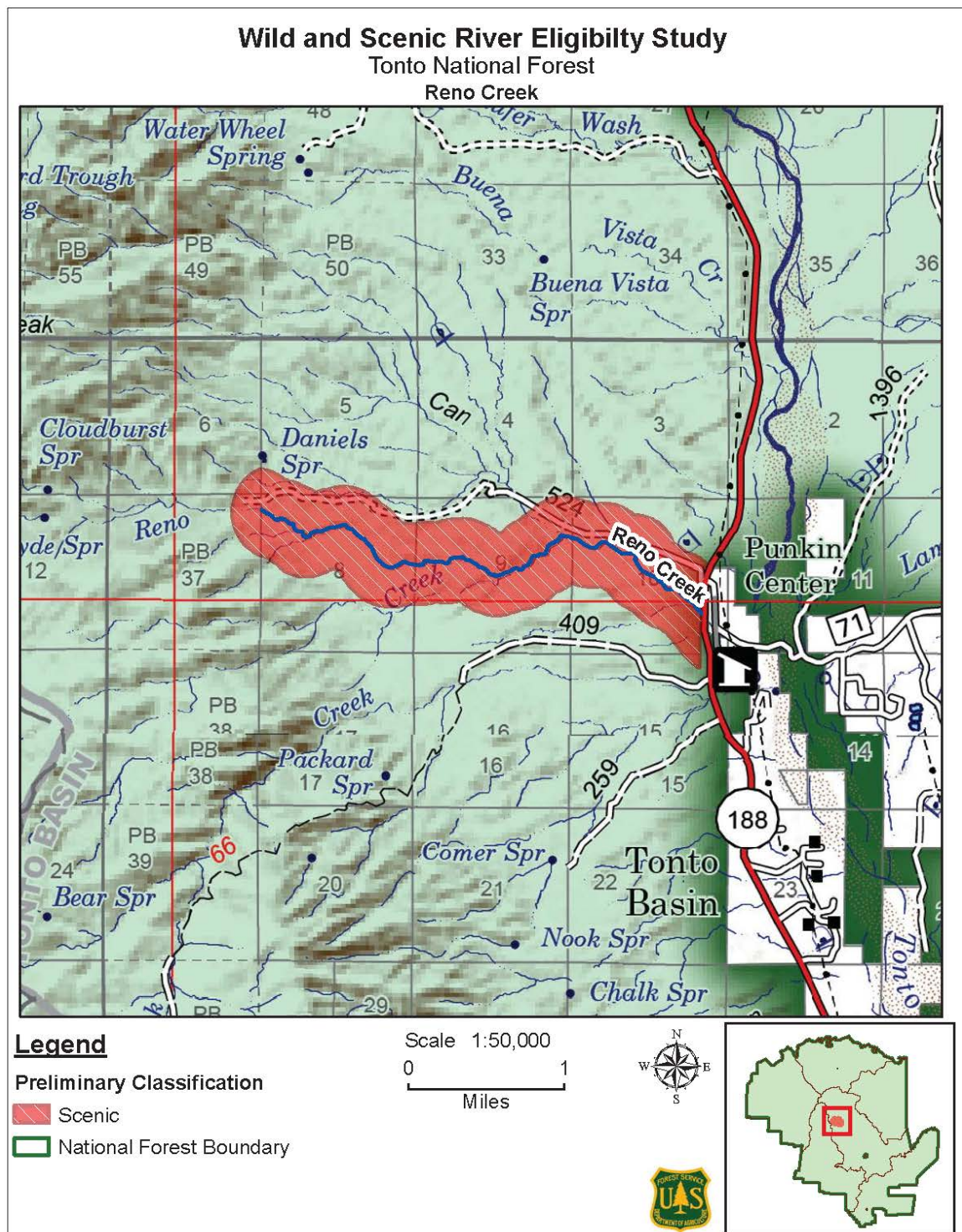
<b>Scenery</b>	Scenic values in Pueblo Canyon were identified as being outstandingly remarkable. The unique display of hanging gardens, colorful geologic formations, huge monolith granite walls, waterfalls and cultural resources (i.e. cliff dwellings and cliff drawings) provide river users with scenery that is spectacular and unique in Arizona. While the area is secluded, owing to a high degree of preservation in the area, people travel from all over the world to see this area.
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## ***Other Information***

The geologic formations, vegetation, and canyon setting at Pueblo Canyon create unique habitat conditions that support several endemic, sensitive or at-risk plant species including Arizona bugbane (endemic) and California redbud (rare).



## Reno Creek



## ***Reno Creek***

Located in Gila county, Reno Creek offered a source of water for those staying at a military camp during the Apache wars. This segment is considered eligible for its historic outstandingly remarkable values. The entire segment would be classified as “recreational” because of the number of roads and development within the river corridor.

<b>Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)</b>	Historic
<b>Classification</b>	Scenic
<b>Miles of each segment</b>	3.53 miles
<b>Location</b>	Begins where Reno Creek crosses the Western boundary of Section 8 T6NR10E and ends at the boundary with private land in SESES10T6NR10E

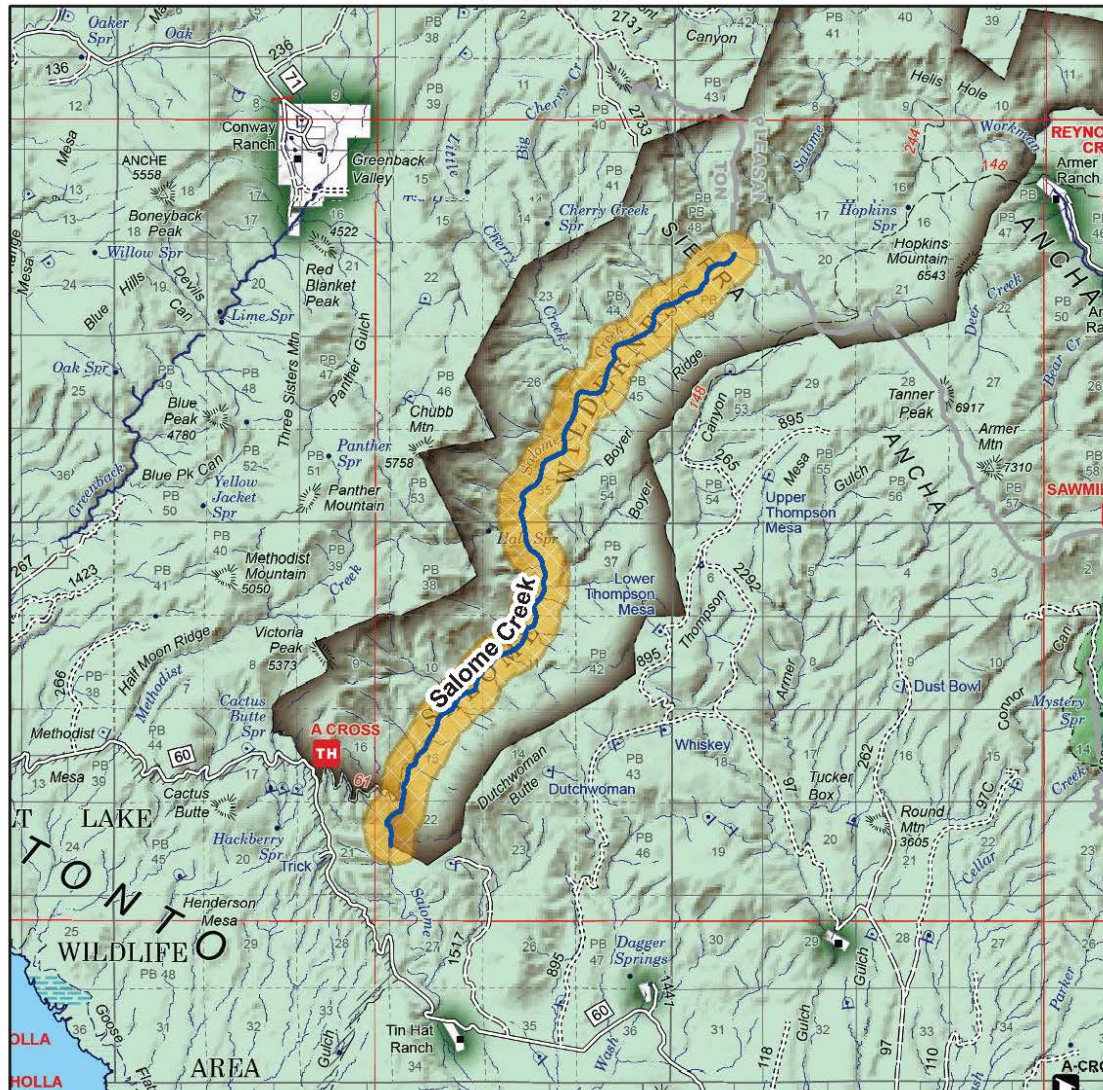
## ***Outstanding Remarkable Values***

<b>Historic</b>	Reno Creek, and the area within its river corridor, contain important evidence of occupation and use by humans including one of the earliest military camps established for use during the Apache wars. The military camp was built as a result of Reno Road (1870's) that facilitated movement from Phoenix to Tonto Basin/Payson and ultimately provided passage for the first pioneers to the area and opened up the northern part of Arizona for settlement. The road functioned until the early 20th century. High quality examples of pre-historic ranching and mining sites and features are also found in the area.
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## Salome Creek

**Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study**  
Tonto National Forest  
Salome Creek



### Legend

### Preliminary Classification

-  Wild  
 National Forest Boundary

Scale 1:100,000



## **Salome Creek**

Located in Gila county, Salome Creek flows through the Salome Wilderness where the topographic terrain offers notable scenery and a mile-long, 200-foot deep gorge. This segment is considered eligible for its recreation and scenery outstandingly remarkable values. The entire segment would be classified as “wild” because of the primitive nature and only limited amount of livestock grazing in the corridor.

This segment was previously identified in the 1993 Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Study

<b>Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)</b>	Recreation Scenery
<b>Classification</b>	Wild
<b>Miles of each segment</b>	8.53
<b>Location</b>	Begins at the confluence of two unnamed tributaries with the main stem of Salome Creek in NWNES19T6NR13E and ends where Salome Creek exits the Salome Wilderness in SENES21T5NR12E.

### **Outstanding Remarkable Values**

<b>Scenery</b>	The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, and color result in exemplary visual features and spectacular scenery in Salome Creek. The deep, narrow slot canyon gives little indication that it exists until you are upon it. The canyon winds through the Salome Wilderness and along the base of Dutchwoman Butte. The creek is interrupted by water slide rocks, cascades, deep seasonal pools, and many water falls, including one over thirty feet tall. The deep gorge is so narrow in places the solid rock walls of each side are only 5-6 feet apart. The very narrow shaded canyon walls, in conjunction with the stream, provide a cooler microclimate during the hot summer months. The sheer, narrow, water-soothed canyon walls create an unusual and spectacular scenic experience that is rare within the region of comparison, Arizona state.
<b>Recreation</b>	Recreation was also identified as being outstandingly remarkable in Salome Creek. The steep, narrow nature of the canyon, set in the Salome Wilderness, provides outstanding canyoneering opportunities in a unique remote setting. Visitors come from across the State to take advantage of unique canyoneering opportunities including a whirlpool/plunge pool that visitors reel down into. Other primitive recreation opportunities in the area include hiking, backpacking, picnicking, fishing and hunting. Commercial outfitting and guiding of hunting, fishing and hiking related activities occur in the area.

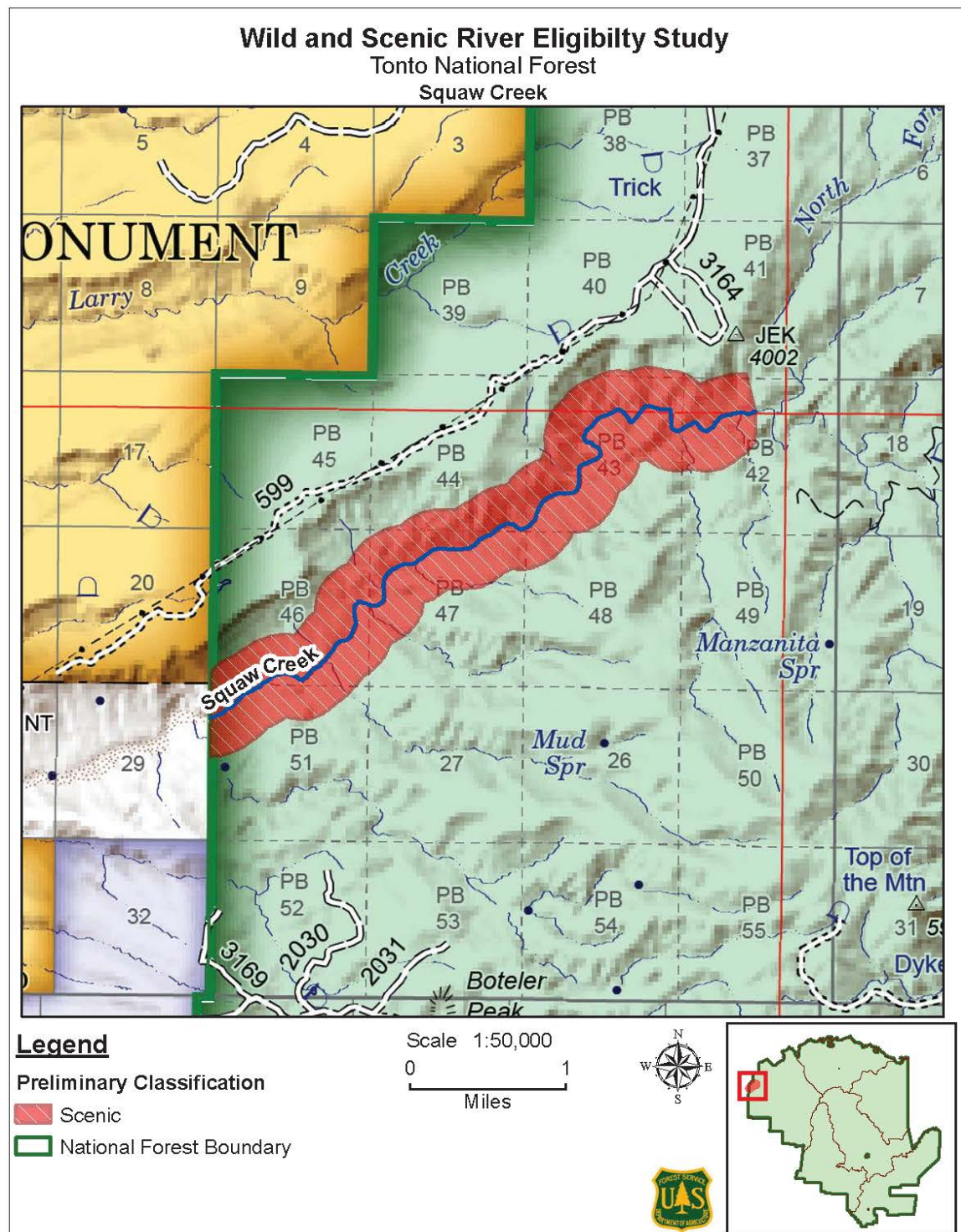


### ***Other Information***

In Salome Creek, local structural and erosional influences have created deep gorges and steep cliffs rising up to 200 feet above the creek. Access to the creek is limited to only dirt roads and hiking trails, which increases the wild characteristics of this eligible segment. In the 1993 study, Wildlife was identified as a value on this river segment, with moderate to good riparian habitat for a variety of special wildlife species.

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## Squaw Creek



## ***Squaw Creek***

Located in Yavapai county, Squaw Creek is an intermittent stream on the Cave Creek Ranger District. This segment is considered eligible for its historic outstandingly remarkable values. The entire segment would be classified as “scenic” due to evidence of past human activity and grazing within the river corridor.

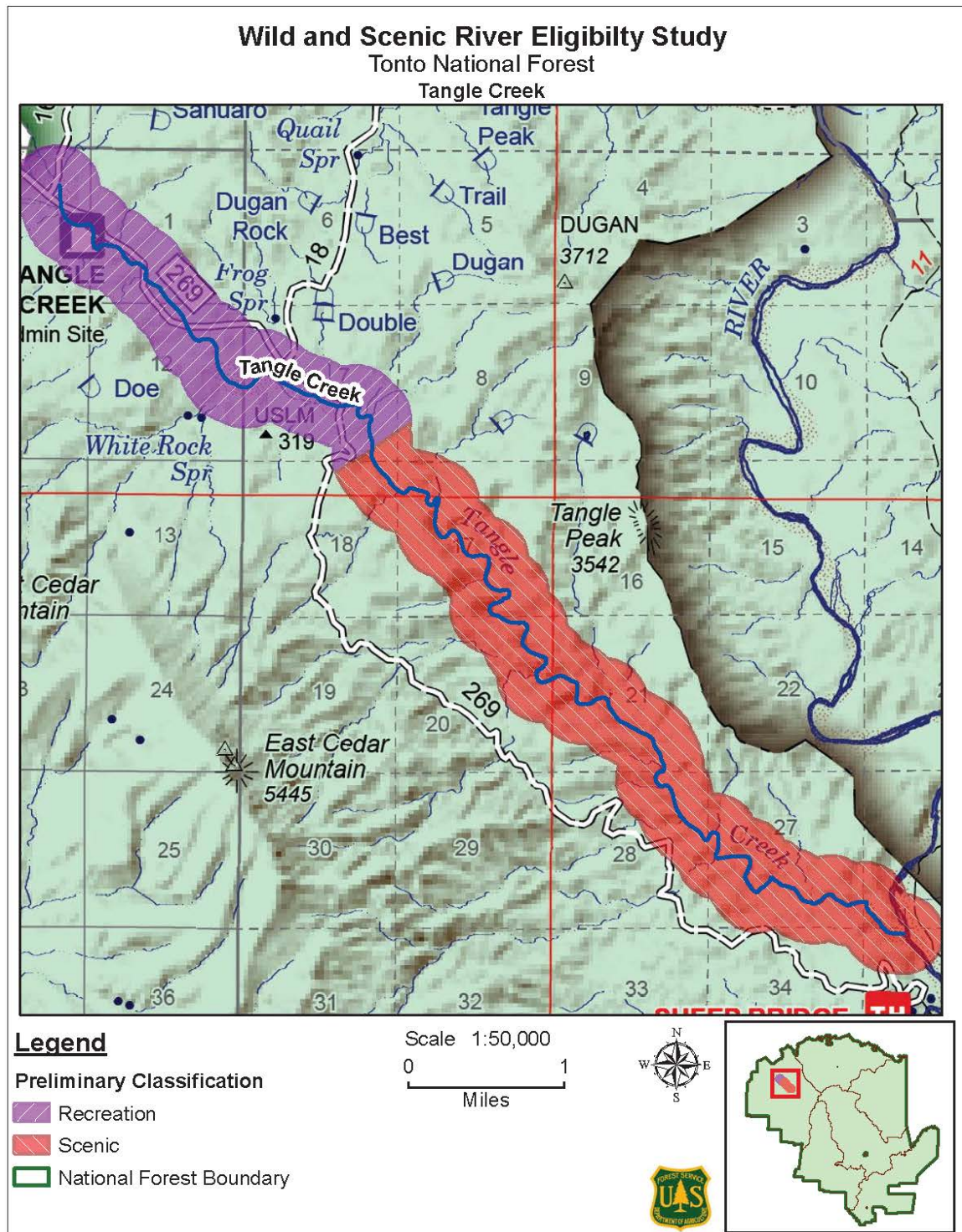
<b>Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)</b>	Historic
<b>Classification</b>	Scenic
<b>Miles of each segment</b>	5.25 miles
<b>Location</b>	Begins at the confluence of North Fork Squaw Creek with the main stem of Squaw Creek in NWNES13T9NR3E and ends at the Forest boundary in NWNWS28T9NR3E.

## ***Outstanding Remarkable Values***

<b>Historic</b>	Due to the remoteness of the location, it is one of the most intact examples of Salado culture (approximately 1150 CE through the 15th century) within the state of Arizona. The area has a high number of high quality rock art sites, major sites next to the creek for water access, field houses, pueblos (including multi-room), and plazas. Over 3,000 sites are suspected to be in the area. Squaw Creek and the surrounding river corridor sites and features are considered an archaeological district due to the area possessing a significant concentration, linkage, and continuity of sites, buildings, structures, and objects united historically.
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## Tangle Creek





## ***Tangle Creek***

Located in Yavapai county, Tangle Creek is a unique desert stream on the Cave Creek Ranger District. This segment is considered eligible for its ecological and scenery outstandingly remarkable values. The upper portion of this segment would be classified as “recreational” due to ease of access and number of stream crossings, whereas the lower portion of this segment would be classified as “scenic” because of the level of grazing and ability to see developed sites from the corridor.

<b>Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)</b>	Ecological Scenery
<b>Classification</b>	Recreational Scenic
<b>Miles of each segment</b>	Recreational: 2.64 miles Scenic: 7.01 miles
<b>Location</b>	<u>Recreational</u> : Begins at the confluence of Round Tree Canyon and Tangle Creek in Section 2 T9NR5E and ends at the farthest east crossing of FR 269 in NWSES7T9NR6E. <u>Scenic</u> : Begins at the farthest east crossing of FR 269 in NWSES7T9NR6E and ends at the confluence with the Verde River.

## ***Outstanding Remarkable Values***

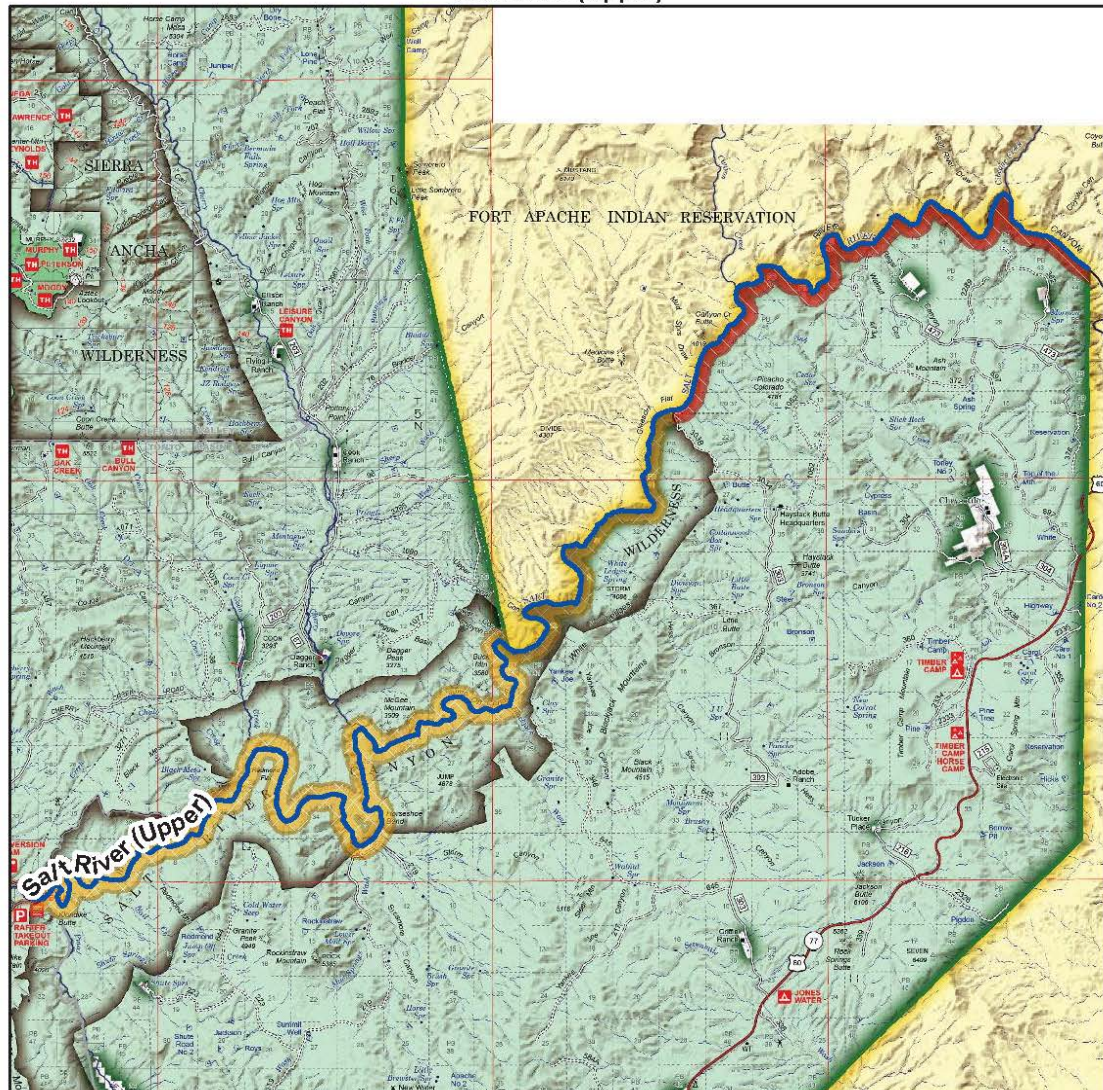
<b>Ecological</b>	Ecological values have been identified as outstandingly remarkable for Tangle Creek. Tangle Creek is one of the best examples of a Sonoran desert riparian area in the state of Arizona. The good quality, mixed broad-leaf community has a fairly extensive reach and is home to a variety of grasses, sedges, and other hydric plants. The unique desert riparian area also provides habitat for a wide variety of migratory birds and other wildlife.
<b>Scenery</b>	Scenic resource values were also identified as meeting the criteria for outstandingly remarkable in Tangle Creek and are directly related to the unique riparian habitat found there. Tangle creeks unique assemblage of desert vegetation and trees that produce spectacular fall colors provides visitors to the river corridor with scenery that is spectacular and not common to other rivers in the State. This desert vegetation assembled with fall color producing trees comprises less than 1% of the Arizona landscape.

## ***Other Information***

This segment has great habitat for wildlife due to its exemplary riparian ecosystem. The ability to see fall colors in the desert draws visitors to this areas from the Phoenix Metropolitan.

## Upper Salt River

### Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study Tonto National Forest Salt River (Upper)



#### Legend

##### Preliminary Classification

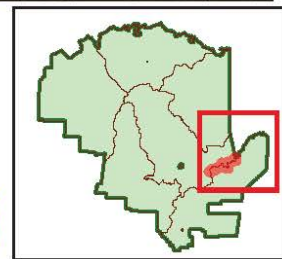
Scenic

Wild

National Forest Boundary

Scale 1:200,000

0 1  
Miles



## Upper Salt River

Located in Gila county, the Upper Salt River is a breathtaking river located to the north of Globe, Arizona. It is a nationally-known white-water river, flowing through spectacular canyons. This segment is considered eligible for its geologic, scenery, historic, and recreation outstandingly remarkable values. The classification of this segment is broken into three separate portions. The first portion would be classified as “wild” and is located entirely in the Salt River Canyon Wilderness. The second portion would be classified as scenic, “scenic” where it is still in wilderness on the Tonto side, but bordering the Indian Reservation. The third segment would be classified as “recreation” where it extends from the wilderness boundary. These classification reflect the same classification identified in the 1993 Wild & Scenic River Study for the Upper Salt River.

This segment was previously identified in the 1993 Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Study

<b>Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)</b>	Geologic Scenery Historic Recreation
<b>Classification</b>	Scenic Wild
<b>Miles of each segment</b>	Scenic: 13.81 miles Wild: 27.85 miles
<b>Location</b>	<u>Scenic</u> : Begins at the western boundary of the San Carlos Indian Reservation and ends at the NE boundary of the Salt River Canyon Wilderness. <u>Wild</u> : Begins at the NE boundary of the Salt River Canyon Wilderness and ends at the Highway 288 bridge.

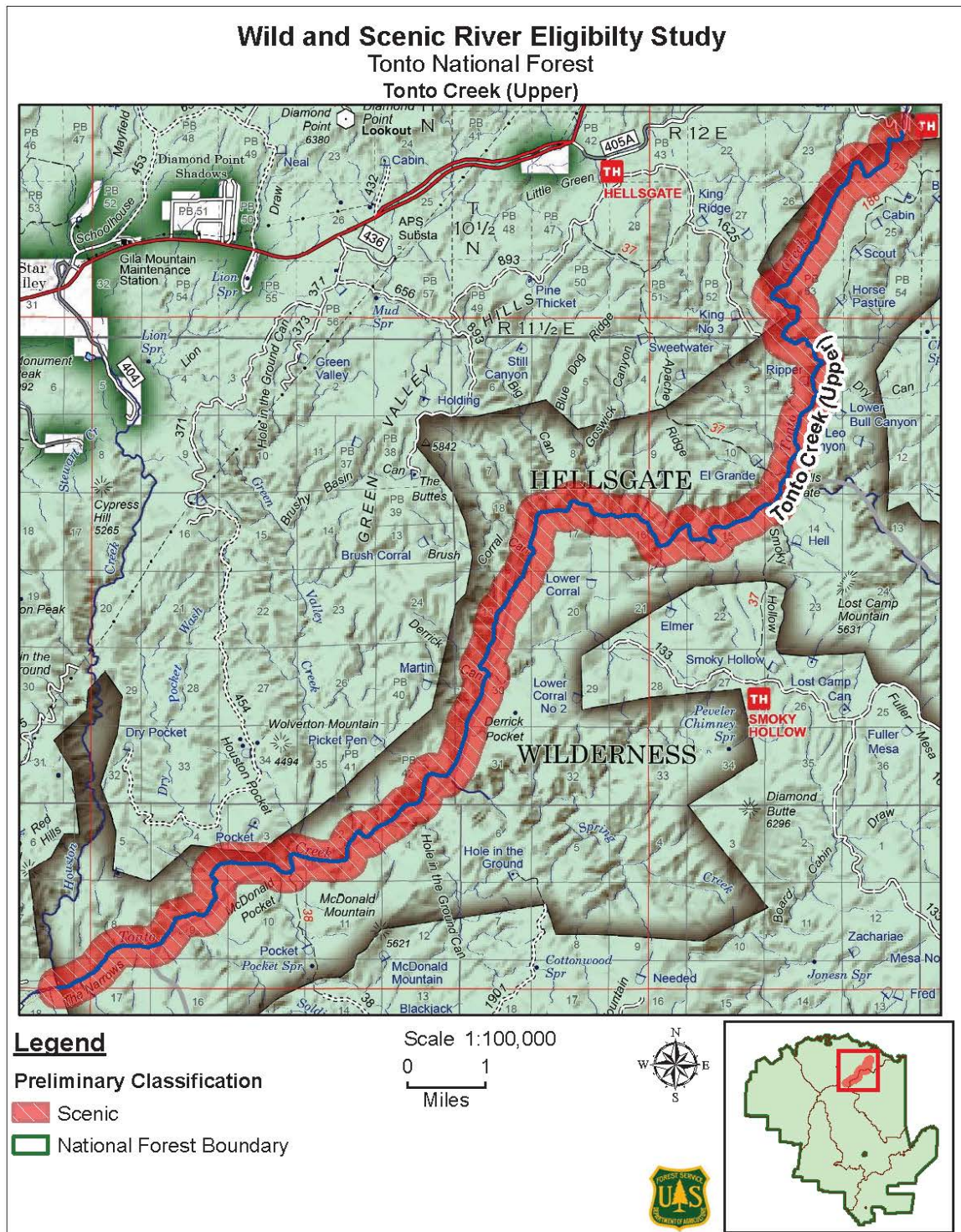
## Outstanding Remarkable Values

<b>Geologic</b>	The river segment is located southwest of the Colorado Plateau Province, flowing through the Transition Zone, and Basin and Range Provinces of Arizona. The geology is complex and the Upper Salt River canyons offer excellent exposures which help define the geological evolution of southern Arizona. Geologic attractions within the canyon include a monocline with fully exposed structural features, salt-bank accumulations to which the Salt River owes its name, Proterozoic igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rock units, and Tertiary intrusives and sedimentary deposits. A clear view of the nature of the Precambrian basement is available. The upper Salt River has been referred to as one of the most imposing scenic and geologic entities in all of Arizona.
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<b>Scenery</b>	The river is characterized by mountains and mesas consisting of a fault block with varying degrees of tilting. The river has cut a deep gorge with sheer walls through these blocks and is referred to as "little" or "mini" Grand Canyon. Steep slopes, cliffs and many unique rock forms are common throughout the stretch of river. Sandy beaches, desert pavement, and barren rock are common to the area. The Salt River itself provides a wide range of spectacular water scenery, from huge waves to quiet pools. There are very few places in the state where you can experience this type of scenery and represents one of the very few rivers to flow through the saguaro cactus forest of the Arizona Sonoran desert.
<b>Historic</b>	The river is was one of the few perennial water river ways and received both pre-historic and historic use. Available site data indicate a prehistoric utilization of the area by the Salado, during the period from AD 1150-1400. Types of sites range from small detached masonry rooms to continuous multi-room pueblos. Historic usage is primarily associated with ranching dating from the late 19th century to the present. The river corridor contains the site of one of the last battles of the Apache war and many hilltop defensive sites are known to be in the area.
<b>Recreation</b>	The Upper Salt River provides recreation opportunities that draw people from across the state and region. River related opportunities include white water river running, fishing, long distance hiking and backpacking. River running is so popular a lottery is used to allocate a limited number of permits. Running the Upper Salt River is comparable to running the Grand Canyon and it is one of only a very few comparable opportunities in the state and country. The river is remote, but still draws a high number of visitors to the area.
<b><i>Other Information</i></b>	
The upper salt river has very high biodiversity similar to the Verde river but with a different type of environment (canyon country). Many tributaries that have a rich concentration of species including Yellow-billed cuckoo, narrow-headed Gartersnake, peregrine falcon, bald eagle. Many other riparian species to help with the diversity in the area. Additionally, there are high concentrations of critical habitat for threatened and endangered plant and animal species.	



## Upper Tonto Creek



## ***Upper Tonto Creek***

Located in Gila county, Upper Tonto Creek flows traverses the Hellsgate Wilderness, flowing through some of the most rugged, diverse terrain found on the Tonto National Forest. This segment is considered eligible for its wildlife, scenery, historic, and recreation outstandingly remarkable values. Though it flows through the wilderness, Upper Tonto Creek would be classified as “scenic” for being water quality limited.

This segment was previously identified in the 1993 Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Study

<b>Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)</b>	Wildlife Scenery Historic Recreation
<b>Classification</b>	Scenic
<b>Miles of each segment</b>	21.62 miles
<b>Location</b>	Begins where Tonto Creek enters the Hellsgate Wilderness and ends where Tonto Creek exits the Hellsgate Wilderness.

## ***Outstanding Remarkable Values***

<b>Wildlife</b>	Tonto Creek provides uniquely high quality habitat for wildlife of regional and national significance including several State or Federally listed species (bald eagle, Southwest willow-flycatcher, and Northern Mexican Gartersnake). Many game species also occur in this area including deer, elk, band-tailed pigeon, quail, dove, rabbits, bear, collared peccary, mountain lion, and tree squirrels. The high quality habitat and presence of regionally and nationally significant wildlife species meets the criteria for outstandingly remarkable wildlife values for this segment of Tonto Creek.
<b>Scenery</b>	The exemplary visual features and attractions of this segment of the Tonto River provide users with scenery that is spectacular and not common to other rivers in the state of Arizona. The creek flows through the Hellsgate Wilderness as it winds through a narrow, deep distinctive canyon that contains many deep pools. The creek flows through an ecotonal transition area presenting visitors with the highly diverse experience of seeing desert vegetation (chaparral/creosote) give way to hanging gardens, riparian deciduous vegetation, and finally Ponderosa pine all in one stream segment.
<b>Recreation</b>	There are no developed sites or facilities in this segment, and the spectacular geologic and botanical beauty of the area draws visitors from across the state and country to hunt, fish, rock climb and canyoneering in a remote setting. Canyoneering in this area is considered very high quality and unique within the State. The remoteness, limited access, and scenic quality of this creek combine to create a true wilderness experience.

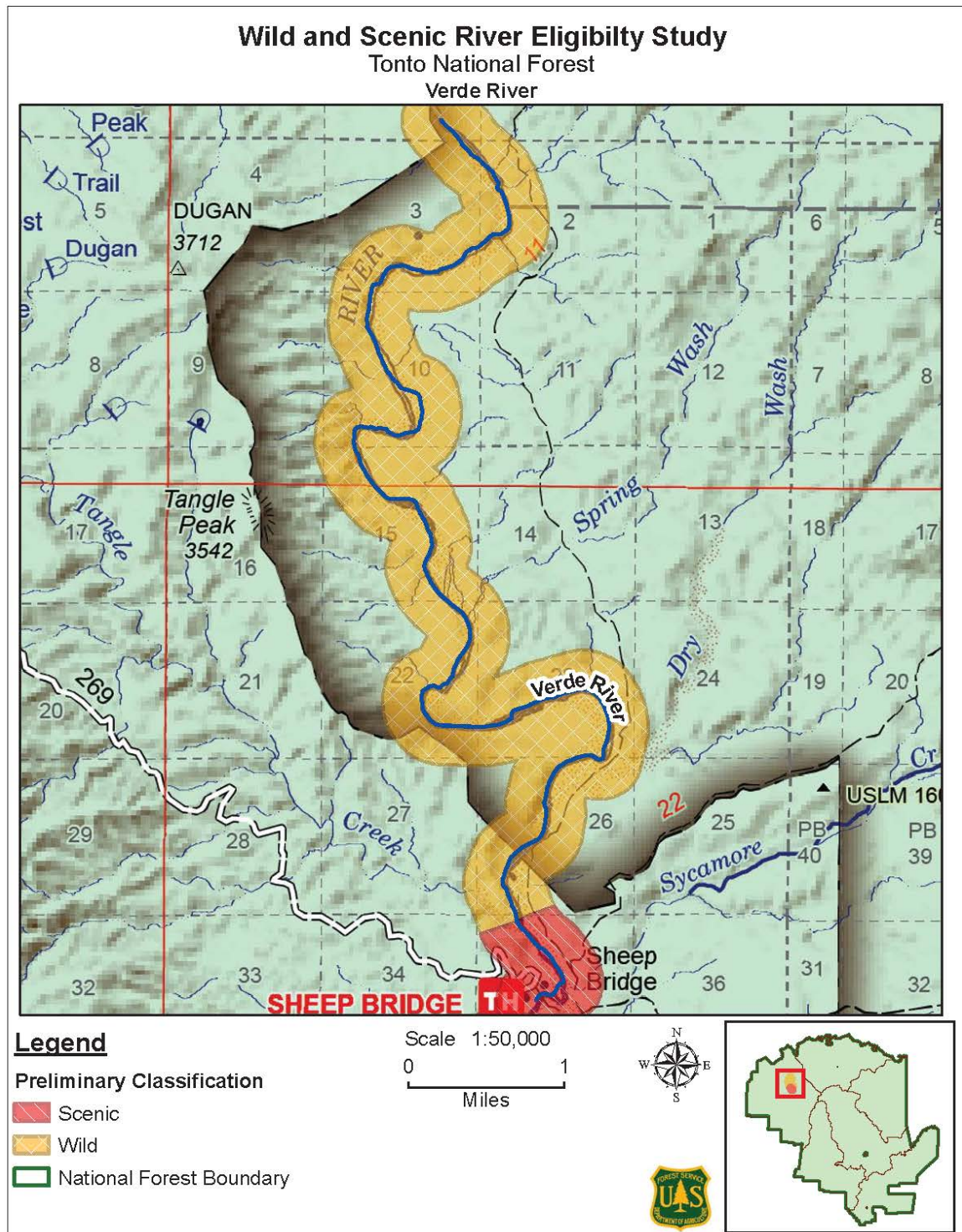
### ***Other Information***

Upper Tonto Creek is a valued sport fishery on the Tonto National Forest. The remoteness, limited access, and scenic quality of this segment combine to create a true wilderness experience. Recreational users derive benefits from this area for the opportunities for solitude, relaxation, and viewing of wildlife and scenery. Upper Tonto Creek is in active grazing allotments, so there is the potential for grazing impacts to be noticed within the river corridor.

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## Verde River





## **Verde River**

Located in Yavapai and Gila counties, The Verde River is a major desert river located north of Phoenix and the Horseshoe Reservoir. This segment is considered eligible for its wildlife, fish, recreation, and historic outstandingly remarkable values. The classification for this segment is divided into two portions. The first portion would be classified as “wild” as it flows through the Mazatzal Wilderness until the confluence with Tangle Creek. The second portion would be classified as “scenic” from the confluence with Tangle Creek to Sheeps Bridge, because of the accessibility of the segment at that point.

This segment was previously identified in the 1993 Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Study

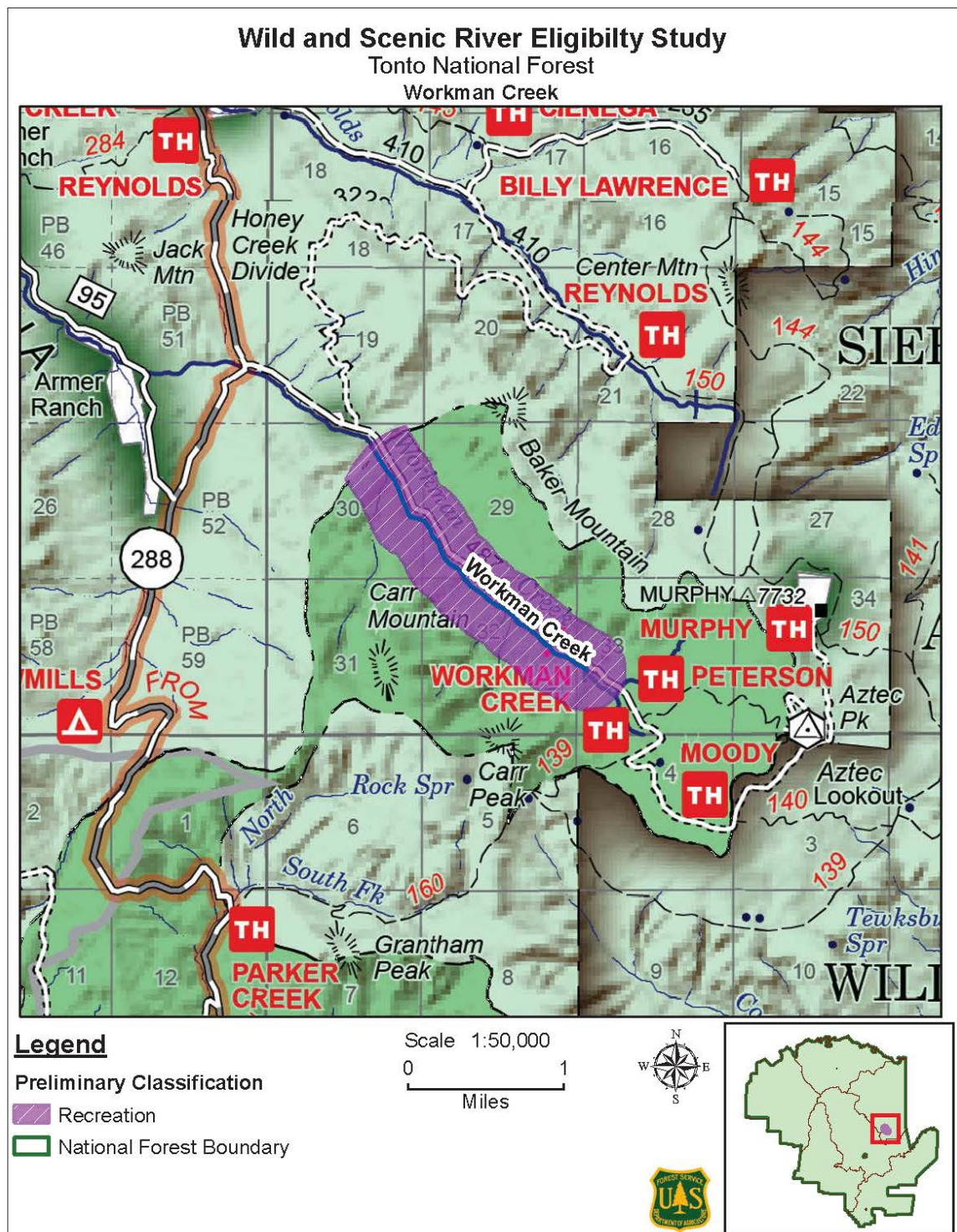
<b>Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)</b>	Wildlife Fish Historic Recreation
<b>Classification</b>	Wild Scenic
<b>Miles of each segment</b>	Wild: 9.25 miles Scenic: 1.39 miles
<b>Location</b>	<u>Wild</u> : Begins at the confluence with Red Creek and ends at the confluence with Tangle Creek. <u>Scenic</u> : at the confluence with Tangle Creek and ends at Sheeps Bridge.

## **Outstanding Remarkable Values**

<b>Wildlife</b>	The riparian community and the river itself provide high quality, contiguous habitat for a large and diverse suite of fish and wildlife species including important sensitive species like bald eagles, Northern-Mexican Gartersnake and Southwestern willow-flycatcher. The area provides valuable winter habitat for migratory waterfowl and birds, including important foraging habitat for bald eagles and critical habitat for the Southwestern willow-flycatcher. The Verde river is one of the primary breeding areas for bald eagles in the state of Arizona.
<b>Fish</b>	This segment of the Verde river supports a high diversity and concentration of State and Federally listed fish species including: Razorback sucker, Spikedace, Roundtail chub, Loach minnow, and Colorado pikeminnow. The river provides uniquely diverse and high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to Arizona, including the only critical habitat for Razorback sucker.

<b>Historic</b>	<p>There are many known sites within the potential river area and available data suggests an extensive prehistoric occupation by the Hohokam people: evidence ranges from sherd and lithic scatters to large villages with pit houses and pueblo architecture that dates from approximately AD 800 to 1400. Spaniards first touched the Verde River in 1583 looking for gold. The area was used by the Yavapai Indians beginning around AD 1700 until the establishment of reservations. In the late 1820's, Anglo fur trappers explored the Verde from its confluence with the Salt River upstream to the headwaters in Chino Valley. Cattle and sheep grazing occurred beginning around 1900 leading to the need for a safe livestock crossing over the Verde River. Sheep's Bridge was originally constructed for flocks of sheep to cross the river, and was used for this purpose from 1943 until 1979. Sheep's bridge is now on the National Register of Historic Places and represents a unique feature that is not found anywhere else in the state. The area is one of the few intact locations where there is an interaction of prehistoric transportation and resource procurement.</p>
<b>Recreation</b>	<p>The majority of the river area is in the Mazatzal Wilderness area and provides opportunities to engage, year round, in dispersed recreation activities including hiking, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and river running. These opportunities are abundant and high quality, occur in a rugged and remote setting, provide a high level of challenge and risk, and are considered unique and exemplary when compared to similar resources in the state of Arizona.</p>
<b>Other Information</b>	
<p>This segment is characterized by various land formations including cliffs, mesas, gently rolling hills, and 6 confluence areas. North of this segment is the Verde River Designated Wild &amp; Scenic River Area. This segment was considered during the study that led to the 1984 designation of the Verde Wild &amp; Scenic River Areas, but dropped due to a proposed flood control project, which ultimately fell through.</p>	

## Workman Creek



## ***Workman Creek***

In Gila County, Workman Creek is located just 20 miles south of Young, Arizona. Workman Creek Falls is a central feature on the eastern end. This segment is considered eligible for its natural and scenic outstandingly remarkable values. The classification would be “recreation” for the level of human activity and shoreline development in the river corridor.

This segment was previously identified in the 1993 Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Study

<b>Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)</b>	Scenery Natural
<b>Classification</b>	Recreation
<b>Miles of each segment</b>	2.34 miles
<b>Location</b>	Begins at the confluence of the North and South Forks of Workman Creek in NWSWS33T6NR14E and ends where Workman Creek crosses FR 3221 in NWNES30T6NR14E.

## ***Outstanding Remarkable Values***

<b>Scenery</b>	Workman Creek Falls (the tallest known falls on the Tonto National Forest and one of the tallest perennial waterfalls in the state) is a central feature on the eastern end of the canyon. This babbling stream, on its way to the Salome Wilderness, drops into stunning solid rock pools. Workman creek is an eco-tone (transition area between two biomes), resulting in diverse vegetation with a mixture of pine and fir created by the microclimate of the narrow canyon. The combination of the unique plant and animal species, in conjunction with its high scenic quality, create a unique stream environment.
<b>Natural</b>	As mentioned above, the creek falls sharply as it descends, and moves through many transitional areas, different slope aspects and elevation bands creating unique habitats that harbor a diverse suite of plants and unique plant groupings. The creek has two riparian dependent Forest Service sensitive species: Chiricahua/Blumer's dock ( <i>Rumex orthoneurus</i> ) one of the few known natural populations, and Arizona bugbane ( <i>Cimicifuga arizonica</i> ). Additionally, there is a high number of endemic plant species and the habitat has the potential to harbor more rare and narrowly distributed plant species due to its unique environment.

## ***Other Information***

This area is a transition zone between two habitats that allow for greater habitat diversity. Sierra Ancha is a unique mountain range on the forest and supports habitat for many threatened and endangered species. This segment is home to several state and federal threatened and endangered species supported by the narrow floodplain.



# Management of Eligible Wild & Scenic Rivers

Rivers determined to be eligible within the national system must have certain interim protection measures. These protection measures apply until a decision is made of the future use of the river and the adjacent lands through an act of Congress or a determination that the river is not suitable. Along with the interim protective measures additional statutory, regulatory, or policy requirements may apply if the study river is located within a wilderness area or other designated area. In case of conflict between the provisions of the Wilderness Act and FSH 1909.12 Chapter 80 the more restrictive provisions shall apply.

The 2012 Planning Rule provides direction for the interim management of Forest Service identified eligible rivers/streams. This can be found in 36 CFR 219.10 (b, v).

- (b) The plan must provide plan components, including standards and guidelines, to provide for:
  - (v) Protection of designated wild and scenic rivers as well as management of rivers found to be eligible or determined to be suitable for the National Wild and Scenic River system to protect the values that provide the basis for their suitability for inclusion in the system.

Site-specific projects and activities on National Forest System lands within eligible corridors may be authorized only where the project and activities are consistent with the following:

- The free-flowing character of the identified river is not adversely modified by the construction or development of stream impoundments, diversions, or other water resources projects.
- Outstandingly remarkable values of the identified river are protected.
- Classification of an eligible river/stream on National Forest System lands must be maintained as inventoried (eligible) unless a suitability study is completed that recommends management other than the preliminary classification.

Agency identified eligible river protection continues unless a river is determined not suitable for designation. Any eligible river may be studied for its suitability for inclusion in the National System at any time. A suitability study provides the basis for determining which eligible rivers or river segments should be recommended to Congress as potential additions to the National System. The timing for conducting a suitability study may vary. In the case of the Tonto National Forest suitability will be conducted either in response to a project proposal that could affect the river's eligibility, or if a proposed project has the potential to impact the free-flow of any eligible segment. The Tonto National Forest will not be pursuing suitability or recommendation as part of the plan revision effort.