



Cibola National Forest Mountain Ranger Districts

Evaluation Criteria Definition Matrix and Comment Form



The Cibola National Forest plan revision interdisciplinary team developed draft questions and measures to address each of the five wilderness characteristic criteria listed in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 70- Wilderness. These are to be used to evaluate the Phase 2 Inventory areas for wilderness characteristics, and are outlined below.

Please use this form to comment on individual areas from the Phase 2 Inventory maps. Please use one form for each individual identification area, and note its identification number and location. If your comment is not addressed in the "considerations" column of each criterion, please include additional information in the "other" narrative section.

You can also comment using the Talking Points Collaborative Mapping Tool available at this website: <https://my.usgs.gov/ppgis/studio/launch/39829>. Please consider the evaluation criteria below when inputting comments on the online mapping tool.

Inventory Identification Number/Location:

0-4 - ADJ. 4 5733.9 acres Mountain District

Criterion 1- Apparent naturalness: The degree to which an area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Question 1a. What is the composition of plant and animal communities? The purpose of this question is to determine if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural.

Considerations	Narrative
How are concentrations of invasive plants and/or animals distributed across the land?	
Other (Include any additional information related to the question above)	

Question 1c. What is the extent to which improvements² included in the area represent a departure from apparent naturalness?

Considerations

Narrative

Appearance of airstrips, heliports, and/or landing zones. Include size of area and description of disturbance (soils, vegetation).

Appearance and density of maintenance level 1 roads³ measured by road length per sq. mile, and spatial distribution (broadly interspersed vs. concentrated), occurrence of stream crossings, and proximity to streams channels.

Appearance and density of unauthorized routes (includes decommissioned, temporary, and user created routes per sq. mile) and distribution (broadly dispersed vs. concentrated, occurrence of stream crossings, and proximity to streams channels.

Miles of fencing or pipeline per square mile.

Appearance of areas of mining activity that were not eliminated in the Phase 2 inventory.⁴ Include size of area and description of disturbance (soils, vegetation)

Appearance of range or wildlife improvements that were not eliminated in the Phase 2 inventory. Include size of area and description of disturbance (soils, vegetation).

Appearance of watershed treatment areas (such as contouring, diking, channeling) that were not eliminated in the Phase 2 inventory. Include size of area and description of disturbance (soils, vegetation).

² The use of the term "improvements" in this context is taken from the Forest Service Handbook, and means the evidence of past human activities in the area as a whole.

³ For a glossary of road terminology, please see the *Cibola National Forest Mountain Ranger Districts Assessment Report, Vol. II*, page 258.

⁴ See Appendix A for Substantially Noticeable criteria used in Phase 2 inventory, and Appendix B for results from the Phase 2 Inventory.

Question 2b. Consider the opportunity to engage in primitive-type or unconfined recreation activities that lead to a visitor's ability to feel a part of nature.

Note: Examples of primitive-type recreation activities include observing wildlife, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, floating, kayaking, cross-country skiing, camping, and enjoying nature. This question also relates to miles of fence information from Criterion 1, Question 1c, due to the potential for miles of fence to restrict unconfined recreation opportunities.

Considerations	Narrative
Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area.	
Percent of area with a primitive recreation opportunity spectrum class. ⁶	
Other (Include any additional information related to the question above)	

Criterion 3- Stand-alone area of less than 5,000 acres that is not adjacent to existing wilderness or administratively recommended wilderness: evaluate how an area less than 5,000 acres is of sufficient size to make its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition practicable.

There are no stand-alone areas less than 5,000 acres on either the initial inventory or Phase 2 inventory maps. Those who offer such areas for evaluation please identify and describe how it is of sufficient size to make its preservation or use in an unimpaired condition practicable.

Criterion 4- Unique and outstanding qualities: the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Note: These values are not required to be present in an area for the area to be recommended for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, but their presence should be identified and evaluated where they exist.

⁶ The Forest Service's Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) provides a framework which allows administration to manage and users to enjoy a variety of recreation environments. ROS is not a land classification system; it is a management objective, a way of describing and providing a variety of recreation opportunities. A "primitive" ROS class is one typically associated with a largely unmodified environment, a very high probability of solitude, self-reliance, little evidence of people, and no motorized use is permitted. The ROS Inventory Existing Condition maps have been completed for the Forest, and the existing condition of primitive ROS classes is being used as a measure. These maps are only existing condition, and are subject to change based on desired recreation opportunity spectrum classes developed during the interdisciplinary process of Forest Plan Revision. Please refer to the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Handbook and Primer for more information: http://www.fs.fed.us/ed/carrying_capacity/rosfieldguide/ros_primer_and_field_guide.htm

Question 4c. Are there historic and cultural resource sites in the area?

Considerations	Narrative
Presence of structures, dwellings, and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area. Also consider potential historical railroad beds/berms associated with timber harvest areas from Criterion I, Question 1b.	
Other (Include any additional information related to the question above)	

Note: (Confidentiality requirements with respect to cultural resource sites must be respected (25 U.S.C 3056)).

Question 4d. Are there any research natural areas?

Considerations	Narrative
Percent of area that is part of a research natural area.	
Other (Include any additional information related to the question above)	

Question 4e. Are there any high quality water resources or important watershed features?

Considerations	Narrative
Miles within the area of eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers	
Miles within the area of Outstanding Natural Resource Waters	
Other (Include any additional information related to the question above)	

Other (Include any additional information related to the question above) *this is an important water shed for the entire Estancia Basin.*

Left untreated this will compromise and according to our monitoring data the moisture gets hung up in the trees and evaporates back into the atmosphere. also it has been proven that if we don't manage and treat the forest bed well. that will after the fire contaminate the water in miles around please take this out of consideration