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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

i, would like to offer comments on the Tonto National Forest Plan Revision # 51592.

i hold the Haystack Butte Allotment

i strongly opposes further Wilderness designations on the Tonto National Forest."When Congress passed and President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act on September 3, 1964, it created the National Wilderness Preservation System. The initial statutory wilderness areas, designated in the Act, comprised 9.1 million acres (37,000 km<sup>2</sup>) of national forest wilderness areas in the United States of America previously protected by administrative orders. The current amount of areas designated by the NWPS as wilderness totals 757 areas encompassing 109.5 million acres of federally owned land in 44 states and Puerto Rico (5% of the land in the United States). "

The Tonto National Forest, the largest of the six national forests in Arizona and the fifth largest national forest in the United States, has a total area of 4,489 square miles (2,873,200 acres), of which 1,700,928 acres are located within Gila County. This represents 55.42% of the entire County area, in which the Forest Service imposes a number of multiple uses and access restrictions as well as economic development limitations.

Further, the eight federally designated wilderness areas within (or partially within) the Tonto National Forest (Four Peaks Wilderness; Hellsgate Wilderness; Mazatzal Wilderness; Pine Mountain Wilderness; Salome Wilderness; Salt River Canyon Wilderness; Sierra Ancha; and, Superstition Wilderness) occupy approximately 590,000 acres in Gila County. This represents 35% of the Tonto NF located within Gila County; 21% of the entire Tonto NF.

thank you, peter oddonetto