

WHAT IS WILDERNESS?

What does wilderness mean to you? Many early civilizations felt wilderness was the unknown and the uncontrolled. Pilgrims who came to America and pioneers who moved west, wanted to control the wilderness by clearing forests, planting crops, and building cities. After 1890, there was less wilderness available. People began thinking it was good and should be saved. President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wilderness Act in 1964 to create the National Wilderness Preservation System. Wilderness meant “an area where earth and its community of life are unchanged by people, where people are visitors that don’t remain”.

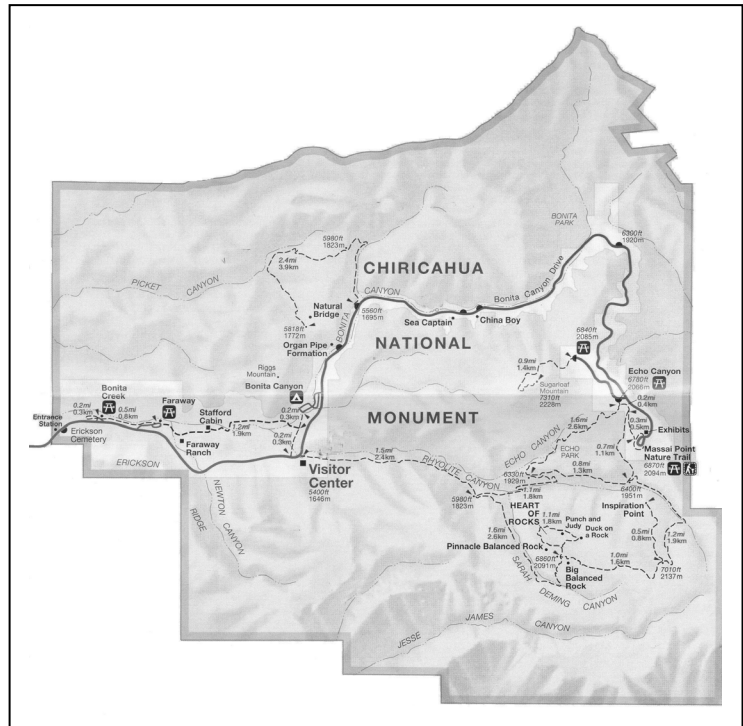
In 1976, most of Chiricahua National Monument became part of the National Wilderness System. The land is protected and managed so that it “appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature”. When you hike the Echo Canyon Loop Trail or walk to Heart of Rocks, you are in the wilderness!

Look at your Chiricahua brochure and color in the area on this map that is wilderness.

Does the Wilderness Area cover:
 _____ Less than half the monument
 _____ Half the monument
 _____ More than half the monument

What are two things that are not in the wilderness area?

1. _____
2. _____



When people hike in a Wilderness Area, they must be prepared. Help is often far away. List 4 items you should always have with you when you go hiking.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 4. _____ |

What would you do if you got lost or separated from your family when you were hiking?

What does Wilderness mean to you? _____
