



Wilderness Status

A Grand Canyon National Park wilderness proposal was prepared in 1980 at the request of Congress; it was updated in 1993 and 2010, and awaits legislative action by Congress. The 1.1 million acres of proposed wilderness is approximately 94% of the total park area.

The Wilderness Act, (Section 2c)

Wilderness is defined as an area of undeveloped land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitations, which is protected and managed to preserve its natural conditions and has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

National Park Service Policies (6.3.1)

The National Park Service will take no action that would diminish the wilderness eligibility of an area possessing wilderness characteristics until the legislative process of wilderness designation has been completed. Until that time, management decisions will be made in expectation of eventual wilderness designation.

This policy requires than proposed wilderness areas be managed the same as designated wilderness.

Grand Canyon National Park Foundation Statement

Wilderness landscapes are an important current resource and future preserve. Park boundaries extend beyond canyon walls to include 1,904 square miles (1,218,376 acres) of which 94 percent are managed as wilderness. When combined with additional contiguous public and tribal lands, this area comprises one of the largest U.S. undeveloped areas. Grand Canyon offers outstanding opportunities for visitor experiences including extended solitude, natural quiet, clean air, dark skies, and a sense of freedom from the mechanized world’s rigors.

Legend

Trails

Arizona Wilderness Areas

Wilderness Status

Proposed Wilderness

Non-Wilderness Backcountry and Road Corridors

Developed Rim Areas