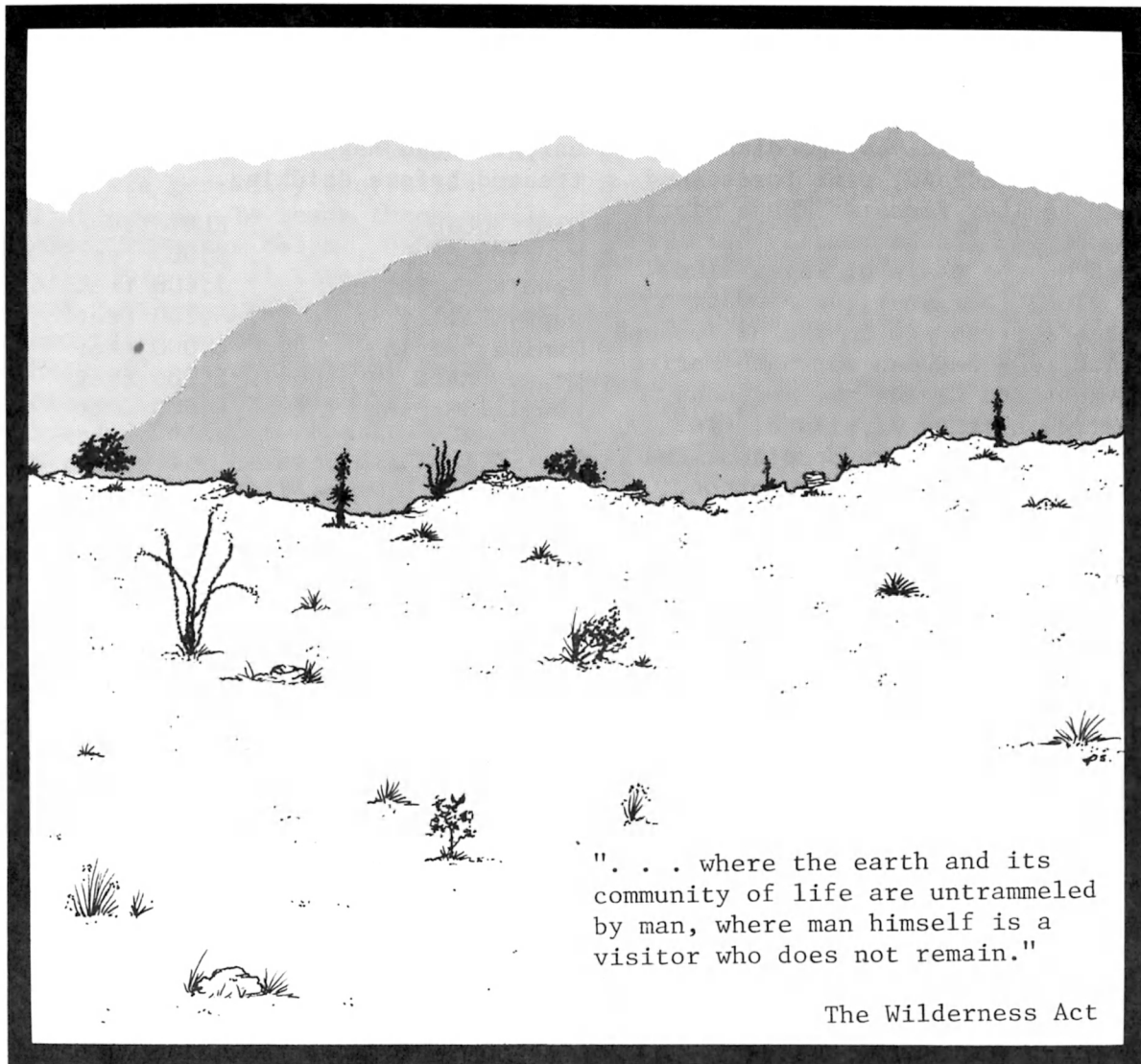


Saguaro

National Monument
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Rincon Mountain Wilderness Travel



"... where the earth and its
community of life are untrammelled
by man, where man himself is a
visitor who does not remain."

The Wilderness Act

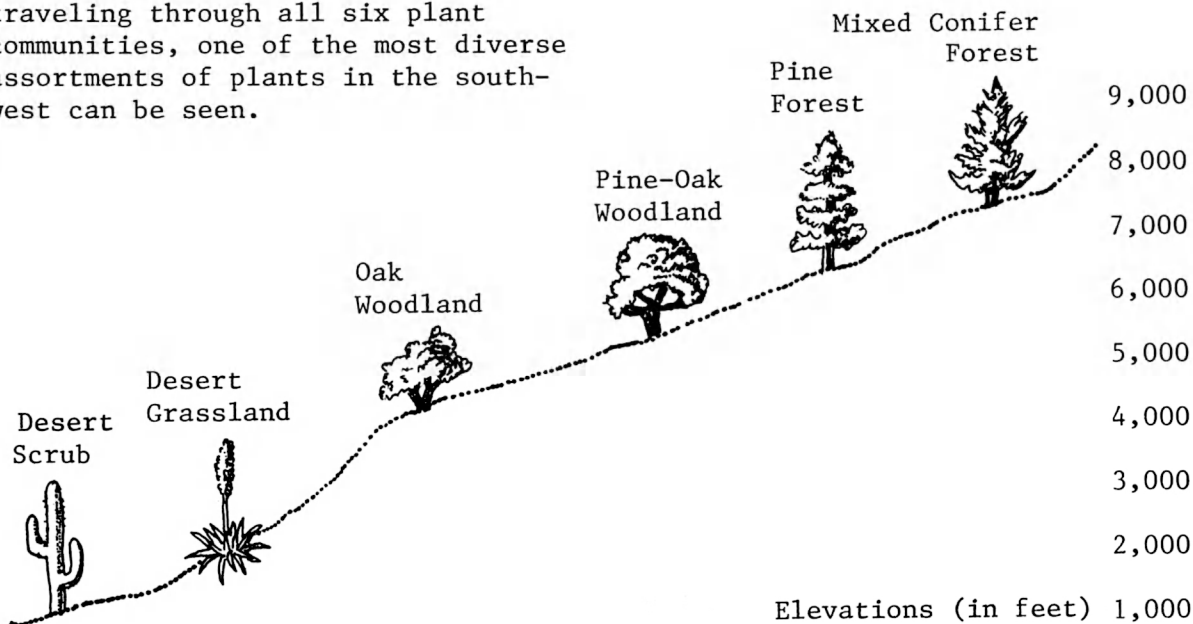
THE WILDERNESS AREA

The Rincon Mountain Wilderness of Saguaro National Monument is steep mountainous backcountry in a large roadless area of 59,930 acres, designated as a Wilderness Area in 1976. Vegetation, from the hot, dry saguaro forest at 2,700 feet to the cool, moist pine forest of Mica Mountain at 8,666 feet includes six biotic communities: desert scrub, desert grassland, oak woodland, pine-oak woodland, pine forest and mixed conifer forest. These biotic communities can be readily delineated on the basis of vegetation. The 6,000-foot vertical elevation change corresponds to the difference of latitude between northern Mexico and southern Canada and includes over 900 species of plants. In ascending the Rincon Mountains and traveling through all six plant communities, one of the most diverse assortments of plants in the southwest can be seen.

CAMPGROUNDS

Overnight camping is restricted to designated campgrounds and requires a permit. Every campground(except Manning Camp) has three sites; each site accommodates six people. Manning Camp has six sites; each accommodates six people. Water is available throughout the year at Manning Camp and seasonally at all other campgrounds, generally January through May. All water must be treated before drinking.

<u>CAMPGROUND</u>	<u>ELEVATION</u>
Manning Camp	8,000 feet
Spud Rock Spring	7,400 feet
Happy Valley	6,200 feet
Juniper Basin	6,000 feet
Grass Shack	5,300 feet
Douglas Spring	4,800 feet



TRAILHEAD ACCESS

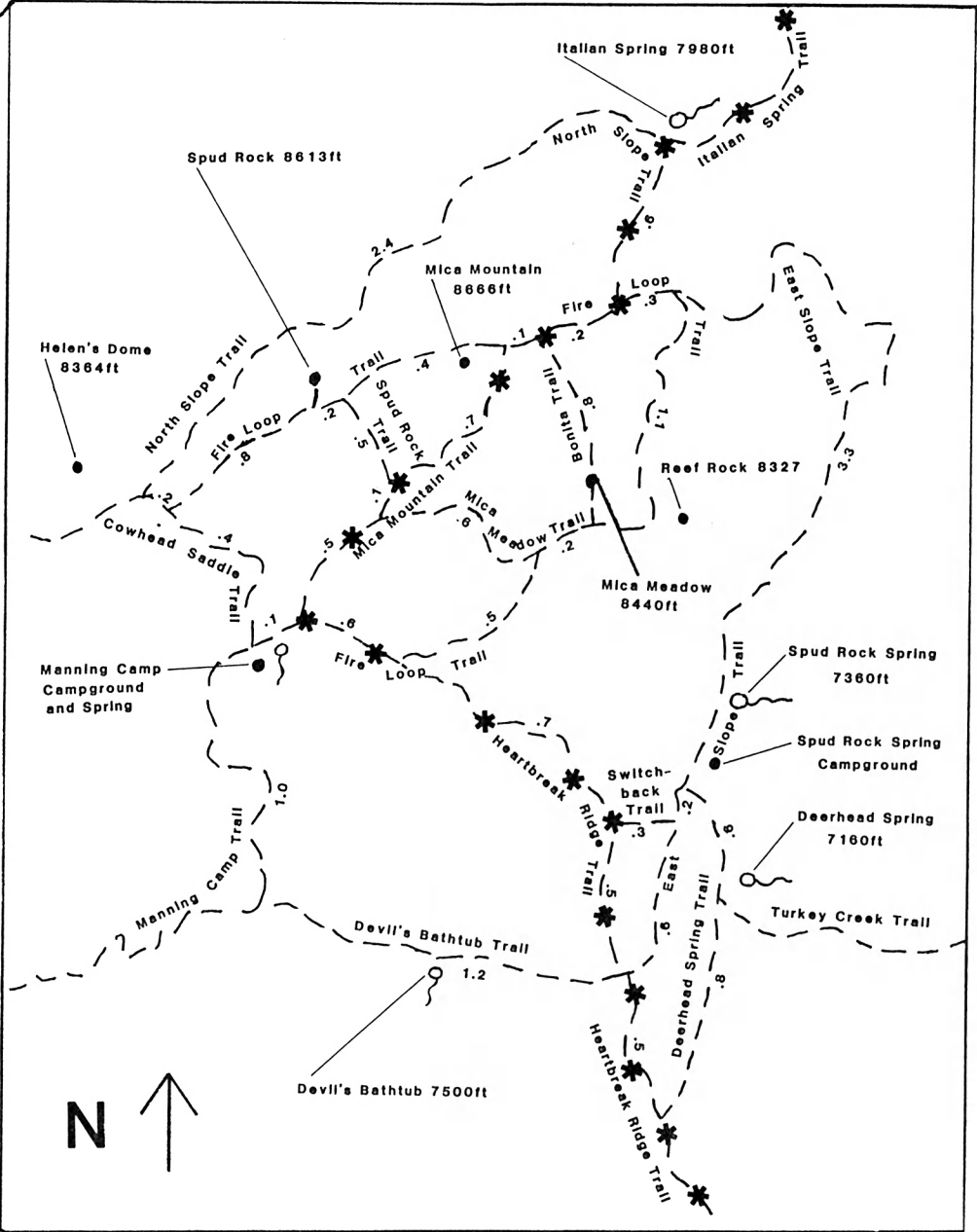
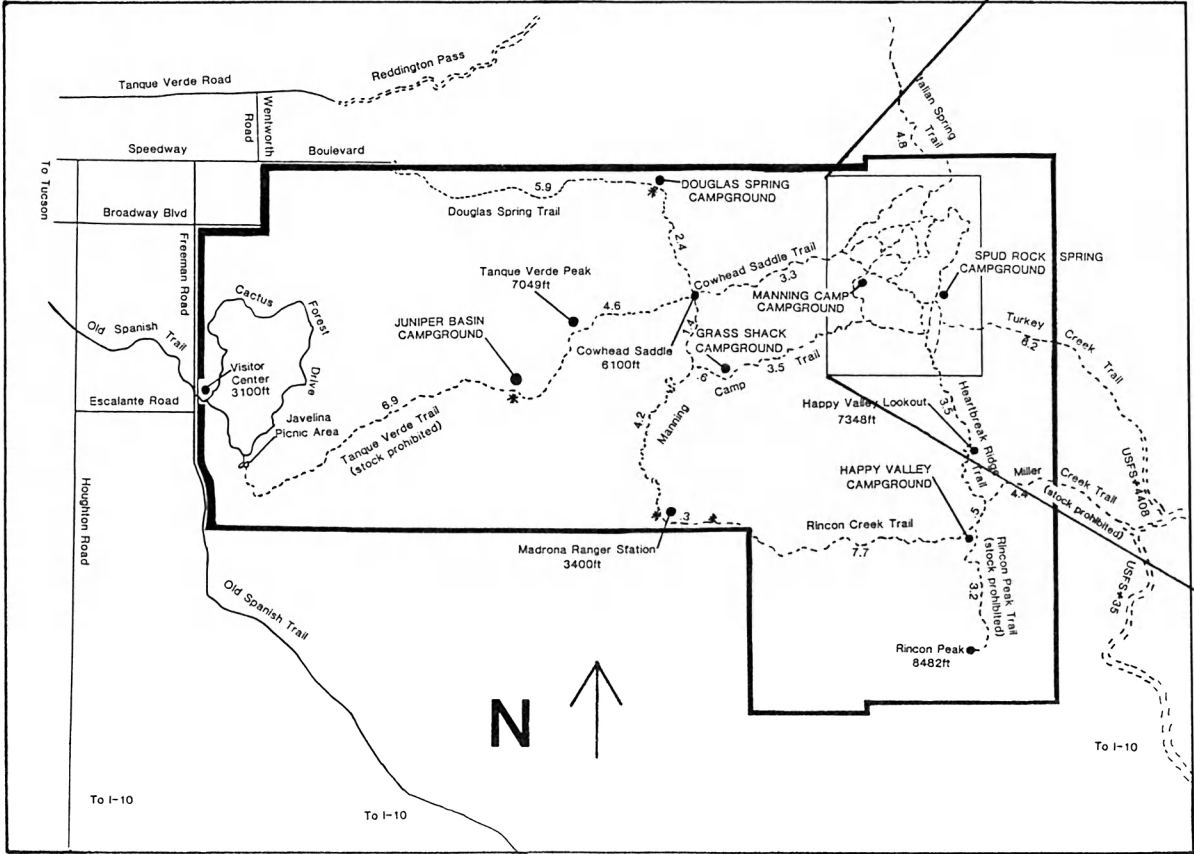
There are five trailheads leading into the Rincon Mountains. Two are accessible by paved road. The Douglas Spring Trail begins at the end of East Speedway Blvd. The Tanque Verde Trailhead is in the Javelina Picnic Area off the Cactus Forest Drive. Keep in mind the Monument hours for availability of the Tanque Verde Trailhead. The Miller Creek and Turkey Creek Trailheads are generally accessible by light truck. To reach these trailheads, take the Mescal, J-Six Ranch exit(#297) off of Interstate 10 and turn north on USFWS Route #35. Sixteen miles north of the Interstate there will be a sign that reads "Miller Creek Trail". Turn left and travel .2 miles to the trailhead. To reach the Turkey Creek Trailhead, continue on USFS Route #35 .4 miles past the Miller Creek Trail turnoff to the junction of USFS Route #4408 Turn left onto this road and travel .4 miles through a gate to a parking area with large sycamore trees. The gate must be left as found, open or closed. There is no sign to designate the parking area. The trail starts on the opposite side of the creek from the parking area and follows a dirt road up the ridgeback of a hill. With a four-wheel-drive vehicle this ridgeback road can be driven another 1.5 miles to where the foot trail starts. Access to the Italian Spring Trailhead is by four-wheel-drive only. Head east on Tanque Verde Road, which becomes

a dirt road called Reddington Pass Road. It is 9.6 miles from the beginning of the dirt road to the Italian Spring turnoff. This turnoff is not marked. From the turnoff, travel 5 miles to the trailhead sign that reads "2.3 mi. to NPS Boundary". The foot trail starts at this point. There is no public access from outside the Monument by foot or vehicle to Madrona Ranger Station.

<u>TRAILHEAD</u>	<u>ELEVATION</u>
Douglas Spring	2,750 feet
Tanque Verde	3,100 feet
Turkey Creek	4,000 feet
Miller Creek	4,200 feet
Italian Spring	4,800 feet

The trail system of the Rincon Wilderness of Saguaro National Monument East is shown below. Trails are marked in miles. More detailed topographic maps in 15- and 7.5- minute quadrangles are available through Southwest Parks and Monuments Association. Price and mailing information may be obtained from their outlet at the visitor center, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail, Tucson, AZ 85730, phone (602)296-8576

The Arizona Trail is a continuous, unpaved trail(700 miles) from the Arizona-Mexico border to the Arizona-Utah border. Approximately 12 miles of the trail traverses through Saguaro National Monument. More information on the Arizona Trail is available at the visitor center.



* * * denotes the Arizona Trail

WILDERNESS USE REGULATIONS

- Travel on the Douglas Spring Trail is restricted to the trail only from the junction of the Bridal Wreath turnoff to Cowhead Saddle.
- Open campfires are not allowed at the Douglas Spring Campground, backpacking stoves are required. At all other campgrounds, backpacking stoves are strongly recommended, however if you must have a campfire at these campgrounds, use the fire grate provided. Make sure that the fire is completely dead and cool before departing. Burn dead and downed wood only...
- All vehicles, bicycles, mechanized or motorized equipment are prohibited.
- Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the backcountry, either on or off leash.
- Shortcutting switchbacks is prohibited.
- Bury human waste at least 150 yards from any trail, water source, dry stream bed or meadow, in a hole 8-10 inches in diameter and no deeper than 4-6 inches.
- Non-biodegradable soaps are prohibited.
- Firearms, traps and other weapons are prohibited.
- Entry or use of government facilities is prohibited. Shelters are not available in the backcountry.
- Digging trenches around tents for drainage purposes or to level sleeping sites is prohibited.
- Hikers must yield the right-of-way to stock on trails. Stand quietly off the trail on the uphill side until the stock have passed.
- Camp only in designated campgrounds.
- Permits are required for overnight use.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Carry at least a gallon of water per person per day, more during summer months.
- Purify all water obtained in the backcountry.
- Be careful with fire. Check with the visitor center prior to your trip for any fire restrictions.
- Be careful around rock out croppings, ledges and steep areas.
- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle at the trailhead.
- Pace yourself according to your physical condition.
- If you need assistance contact a ranger.
- Wear proper clothing and respect the weather in both winter and summer.
- Use sunscreen and a hat to protect yourself against the sun.

Average Temperatures(Manning Camp)

	High	Low
January	44	25
February	46	24
March	48	25
April	52	27
May	65	38
June	77	48
July	76	53
August	76	53
September	73	48
October	65	42
November	53	32
December	48	29

Rainy seasons are in the winter (December - February) and summer months(July - September).

PERMIT CONDITIONS

A permit is required for each group or individual camping overnight in the Monument. Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds. The maximum length of stay is 14 days. The permit must be in the possession of the permit holder and visibly displayed. If a base camp is used, leave the permit attached to a tent or backpack so that it can be seen. The permit holder is responsible for insuring that the entire party complies with all rules and regulations. Permits can be issued two months in advance, but no later than 12:00 noon the day of departure. Permits are free and may be obtained:

1. in person at the Rincon Visitor Center, Saguaro National Monument East, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail, Tucson, AZ, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm;
2. by calling the visitor center (602)296-8576, then picking up the permit in person before 12:00 noon, day of departure;
3. by using the mail-in form provided in this brochure. Mail-in forms will be accepted no later than 7 days in advance. The actual permit will be mailed to you or you can pick it up in person at the visitor center.

APPLICATION FOR BACKCOUNTRY USE PERMIT

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Contact phone: _____

Emergency phone: _____

Entry trailhead: _____

Entry date: _____

Exit trailhead: _____

Exit date: _____

Method of travel: ☐ Hiking
☐ Horseback

Number of people in the group: _____

Number of stock used: _____

Names of other group members:

Continued on next page

Trip Itinerary:

Campground

Date

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Description of vehicles to be left
at the trailhead:

Make/Model: _____

Year/Color: _____

License Tag/State: _____

- ☐ Please mail the permit to me
- ☐ I will pick up the permit in
person before 12:00 noon, the
day of departure.

I have read and understand the
regulations for the Rincon Wilder-
ness and will insure that these
rules and regulations are followed.

Signature

Date

Mail this form to:

Wilderness Ranger
Rincon Mountain District
Saguaro National Monument
3693 S. Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, Arizona 85730

HORSE USE

Those staying overnight with stock
must follow all permit procedures
and use regulations. Stock
are prohibited on the Tanque Verde
Trail, the Miller Creek Trail and
the Rincon Peak Trail. The maximum
number of stock permitted overnight
at Manning Camp is 10 head and the
stock must be kept in the corral
facility. The maximum number of
stock at any other campground is
5 head. Free-tailing or loose
herding, tying stock directly to
trees and stock grazing are pro-
hibited. Use a picket rope slung
between trees to tie the stock
and provide your own feed. Stock
droppings must be removed or
scattered from the camp areas.



Funds provided by Southwest Parks and
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