

Forest Service administration and Federal relief projects of the Great Depression are visible in old ranger residences and a Civilian Conservation Corps camp. A century-old partnership between the Forest Service and University of Arizona resulted in construction of the Florida Station, which serves as headquarters for the Santa Rita Experimental Range (managed by the University of Arizona College of Agriculture), located just beyond the northern boundary of the ecosystem management area. Another joint venture between the University of Arizona and Smithsonian Institution has placed a telescope and observatory at the top of the ecosystem management area's second highest peak, Mount Hopkins, where research and public education continue today.

**Town of Patagonia Municipal Supply Watershed.** The 128,000-acre Sonoita Creek watershed is a municipal supply watershed. Sonoita and Harshaw Creeks and their subterranean aquifers provide the only source of potable water for the town of Patagonia with over 900 residents and over 300 private well users within a 3-mile radius of town. The shallow depth of the aquifers, combined with the nature of the soils and underlying geology, make the relationship between the surface and ground water watersheds a particularly close and interconnected one.

### Desired Conditions

The Santa Rita Ecosystem Management Area offers a wide spectrum of developed recreation opportunities for a growing population, while large tracts of undeveloped areas remain available for primitive and dispersed recreation. In Madera Canyon, there are opportunities to camp in a developed recreation facility or in undeveloped campsites. Trailheads are well marked and lead to a network of well-maintained hiking trails. World-class bird watching opportunities exist along roads and trails. The Santa Rita Ecosystem Management Area offers an environment in which to recreate where risks are predominately natural and visitors do not feel threatened. The landscape has recovered from resource damage caused by illegal activities. Trash is not commonly found.

Kentucky Camp National Historic District is preserved and interpreted to provide the public with an understanding of the role mining and ranching has played in the development of southeastern Arizona. The Kent Springs Center and Kentucky Camp are available to the public and tribes for a variety of recreational and educational experiences. Areas around Kentucky Camp and along the Greaterville Road continue to provide tribes with places to collect traditional basketry materials and plant foods. The historic Florida Station is preserved, and its functionality as an environmental education center for youth and adults is expanded and enhanced, while continuing in the collaboration the station fosters.

The Santa Rita back-country touring routes offer motorized and dispersed camping recreation opportunities. Elephant Head Mountain Bike Route offers a combination of lightly traveled roads and remote trails designed to both challenge a rider's skill and to provide a scenic, back-country experience. The Arizona National Scenic Trail and Patagonia-Sonoita Scenic Road provide excellent opportunities to recreate and enjoy the scenery.

Water quality in Mansfield Canyon meets the State of Arizona's water quality standards. The Sonoita Creek watershed provides clean surface waterflows.

The dark skies above the Santa Rita Ecosystem Management Area present conditions conducive to astronomical research. The Smithsonian Mount Hopkins telescopes offer educational opportunities and promotes scientific discovery.