F.3 Example of Potential Management Zones

Saguaro National Park Management Zones

	SENSITIVE ZONE	PRIMITIVE ZONE	SEMIPRIMITIVE ZONE	NATURAL ZONE	SIGHTSEEING CORRIDOR ZONE	DEVELOPED ZONE
Resource Condition						
Natural Resources	Natural resources would be maintained in pristine condition. Fragile and unique resources would be protected. Protecting the integrity of natural processes, including the conservation of biodiversity and the functioning of ecosystem processes, would be the highest management priority. Tolerance for resource modifications or degradation would be extremely low.	Natural resources would be maintained in pristine condition. Protecting the integrity of natural processes, including the conservation of biodiversity and the functioning of ecosystem processes, would be the highest management priority. Tolerance for resource modifications or degradation would be extremely low.	Natural resources would be maintained in excellent condition, approaching or matching the pristine nature of the primitive zone. Protecting the integrity of natural processes, including the conservation of biodiversity and the functioning of ecosystem processes, would be the highest management priority. Tolerance for resource modifications or degradation would be low.	Natural resources would be maintained in excellent to good condition. In some places resource conditions could exhibit the signs of human use. The sights and sounds of adjacent residential land development could be present. Tolerance for resource modifications or degradation would be low to moderate.	Natural resources could be highly modified and manipulated to accommodate and withstand maintenance and high levels of visitor use. Tolerance for resource modifications or degradation would be moderate to high.	Natural resources could be highly modified and manipulated to accommodate and withstand high levels of visitor use. Tolerance for resource modifications or degradation would be moderate to high.
Geologic Processes, Landforms and Soil	Geological processes and landforms would be maintained in a natural condition. Minimal soil erosion would be permitted due to extremely low levels of use.	Geological processes and landforms would be maintained in a natural condition. Minimal soil erosion would be permitted due to low levels of use and proper trail and facility design.	Geologic processes and landforms would be maintained in a natural condition. Minor soil erosion would be permitted due to moderate levels of use and proper trail and facility design.	Geological processes and landforms would be maintained in a natural condition. Minor to moderate soil erosion would be permitted due to moderate levels of use and proper trail and facility design.	Geologic processes and landforms could be somewhat modified to provide for a safe experience. Corridors would be planned and designed so that landforms maintained a natural appearance. Minor soil erosion could be permitted along trail or road shoulders.	Geologic processes and landforms could be highly altered to provide facilities for visitor use and park operations. Moderate soil erosion could be permitted due to high levels of visitor and administrative use.
Vegetation	Native vegetation communities and patterns would be maintained to the greatest extent	Native vegetation communities and patterns would be maintained to the greatest extent	Native vegetation communities and patterns would be maintained where possible.	Native vegetation communities and patterns would be maintained where possible.	Vegetation along trail or road corridors would be native species and could be modified to provide for safe, slow-	Appropriate native species would be used for landscaping around developed facilities.

	SENSITIVE ZONE	PRIMITIVE ZONE	SEMIPRIMITIVE ZONE	NATURAL ZONE	SIGHTSEEING CORRIDOR ZONE	DEVELOPED ZONE
	possible. Plant communities would be monitored regularly, and invasions by nonnative species would be aggressively controlled.	possible. Plant communities would be monitored regularly, and invasions by nonnative species would be aggressively controlled.	Invasion by nonnative plant species could be higher than in the primitive zone due to higher levels of visitor use. Invasions would be controlled where possible.	Invasion by nonnative plant species could be higher than in the primitive zone due to higher levels of visitor use. Efforts would be made to detect, prevent, and control invasions of nonnative plants where possible.	speed travel. Vegetation manage-ment would strive to maintain natural appearances and density. Efforts would be made to detect, prevent, and control invasions of nonnative plants.	Efforts would be made to detect, prevent, and control invasions by nonnative plants.
Wildlife Habitat	Preserving and protecting sensitive resources, natural conditions, and habitat would be the highest priority in this zone. Habitats would be restored as nearly as possible.	Preservation of wildlife habitat would be a primary goal of this management zone. Natural conditions would be preserved, and altered habitats would be restored as nearly as possible.	Preservation of wildlife habitat would be a goal of this management zone. Natural conditions would be preserved, and altered habitats would be restored as nearly as possible.	Preservation of wildlife habitat would be a goal of this management zone. Natural conditions would be preserved, and altered habitats would be restored where possible.	Corridors would be managed to reduce impacts on wildlife, such as road kill and habitat fragmentation. Adverse impacts on wildlife would be mitigated using numerous techniques such as installing culverts for wildlife crossings, diverting traffic to other routes, speed bumps.	Impacts on wildlife and habitat would be eliminated using proper facility design and siting. Adverse effects of development on wildlife and habitat would be mitigated by minimizing the size of disturbances.
Sound and Lightscapes:	Natural sounds would dominate. Distant urban sights and sounds could intrude at times. Habitats for sensitive and protected species would be free of intrusive noise.	Natural sounds and dark night skies would dominate. Distant urban sights and sounds could intrude at times. Habitats for sensitive and protected species would be free or nearly free of intrusive noise.	Natural sounds and dark night skies would be common. Nearby urban sights and sounds would intrude at times. Habitats for sensitive and protected species would be free or nearly free of intrusive noise.	Natural sounds and dark night skies would be common. Nearby urban sights and sounds would intrude.	Natural sounds and dark night skies could occur during low use periods. The sights and sounds of other park visitors would often be present. The timing, location, and duration of park operations that cause noise, such as landscaping activities, take resource needs and visitor enjoyment into account.	Natural sounds and dark night skies would not be expected in this zone. The sights and sounds of other park visitors would most often be present. The timing, location, and duration of park operations that cause noise, such as land-scaping activities, take resource needs and visitor enjoyment into account.
Fire Management	Fire management would vary based on the vegetation that occurs in this zone. Arizona upland desert-scrub fire	Fire management would vary based on the vegetation that occurs in this zone. Arizona upland desert-scrub fire starts would be suppressed.	Fire management would vary based on the vegetation that occurs in this zone. Arizona upland desert scrub fire starts would be suppressed.	Fire management would vary based on the vegetation that occurs in this zone. Fires in Arizona upland desert scrub would be suppressed.	Fire management would be intensive for vegetation along road corridors. Frequent patrols and surveillance would be used to reduce the	Fires management would be intensive to protect park facilities, visitors, and desert scrub vegetation communities.

	SENSITIVE ZONE	PRIMITIVE ZONE	SEMIPRIMITIVE ZONE	NATURAL ZONE	SIGHTSEEING CORRIDOR ZONE	DEVELOPED ZONE
	starts would be suppressed. Fires that start in desert grasslands or forested vegetation areas would be managed for resource protection and visitor safety.	Fire starts in forested vegetation areas would resume and continue the natural role in the ecosystem. Prescribed fire, would be used where appropriate. Wildland fire use would be managed to maintain a natural fire regime, benefiting resources.	Fires that start in desert grasslands or forested vegetation would be managed for resource protection and visitor safety.	Fires that start in desert grasslands or forested vegetation zones would be managed for resource protection and visitor safety.	risk of fire.	
VISITOR OPPORTUNITIES/EXPERIENCE						
Overall Visitor Experience	Visitors would have outstanding interpretive opportunities because access would be provided only on a ranger-led interpretive tour.	Visitors would have outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation, solitude, adventure, self-discovery, and self-directed learning.	Visitors would have opportunities for primitive recreation with some solitude, adventure, self-discovery, and self-directed learning.	Visitors would have easy access to a wide range of recreational activities with some opportunities for solitude, adventure, and self-discovery.	Visitors would enjoy a slow, safe, relaxing, meandering tour route for vehicles and bicycles. There would be multiple opportunities to stop along the route for sightseeing, wildlife viewing, picnicking, or interpretive opportunities.	Visitors of all ages and abilities would have opportunities to learn about park resources. Visitor comforts and basic needs would be met, and there would be numerous opportunities for programs and interactions with park staff.
Interaction with Resources	Visitors would be in close contact with the rich resources of the park. Natural sights and sounds would dominate the visitor experience.	Visitors would be in close contact with the rich resources of the park. Natural sights and sounds would dominate the visitor experience.	Visitors would be in close contact with the rich resources of the park. Natural sights and sounds could dominate; however, the sights and sounds of nearby urban communities could intrude.	Visitors would be in a natural setting, with opportunities for close contact with the rich resources of the park nearby. Natural sights and sounds could be present; however, the sights and sounds of other visitors and urban communities would intrude.	Visitors would primarily enjoy seeing resources and have opportunities for interaction with park resources. The sights and sounds of other visitors and urban communities would dominate.	Visitors would have some opportunities for interaction with park resources. The sights and sounds of other visitors would dominate.
Interpretation/ Education/ Orientation	Interpretation and education would be provided on ranger-led tours.	Interpretation and education opportunities would be minimal and include brochures, wayside exhibits, and interpretive signs primarily for visitor	Interpretation and education opportunities would be moderate and include brochures, wayside exhibits, and interpretive signs. Ranger-led tours could	Interpretation and education opportunities would be moderate and include brochures, wayside exhibits, interpretive signs, or nature trails. Ranger-led programs	Interpretation and education opportunities would be moderate, including scenic overlooks, wayside exhibits, or nature trails. Direction and safety	Interpretation and education opportunities would be extensive, including orientation, slide shows, exhibits, books. Nature trails with

	SENSITIVE ZONE	PRIMITIVE ZONE	SEMIPRIMITIVE ZONE	NATURAL ZONE	SIGHTSEEING CORRIDOR ZONE	DEVELOPED ZONE
		safety. Ranger-led tours could be provided.	be appropriate. Direction and safety signs would be present.	would be appropriate. Direction and safety signs would be present.	signs would be present.	wayside exhibits and interpretive signs could be present. Ranger-led programs would be present.
Use Levels/Density/ Encounters	Visitation levels would be extremely low. Most opportunities would be in small guided tour groups. Encounters with park staff and other visitors would be high.	Visitation levels would be low. Encounters with park staff and other visitors along trails would generally be infrequent due to the dispersed nature of the experience. Encounters with a few other visitors in backcountry campsites in the Rincon Mountain District would be expected.	Visitation levels would be moderate. Encounters with park staff and other visitors on trails would generally be moderate due to the dispersed nature of the experience. Encounters with other visitors would be high during peak use and at entry points or points of interest.	Visitation levels would be moderate. Encounters with park staff and other visitors on trails would be generally moderate due to the dispersed nature of the experience. Encounters with other visitors would be high during peak use and at entry points or points of interest.	Visitation levels would be moderate to high. Encounters with other visitors would generally be frequent, particularly at pull-offs, overlooks, interpretive exhibits, and waysides.	Visitation levels would be extremely high. Encounters with other visitors and park staff would be routine.
Activities	Activities would be ranger-led walks or hikes. This zone would be for day use only.	Activities would include backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, running, and viewing flora, fauna, and night skies. Backcountry camping would be permitted in the Rincon Mountain District. This zone would be for day use only except for overnight camping in the Rincon Mountain District. Visitors would be required to stay on trails; some opportunities would exist for off-trail travel above 4,500 feet.	Activities would include hiking, horseback riding, running, and viewing flora and fauna. This zone would be for day use only. Visitors would be required to stay on trails.	Activities would include hiking, horseback riding, running, biking, and viewing flora and fauna. This zone would be for day use only. Visitors would be required to stay on trails.	Activities would include motorized touring, sightseeing, bicycling, running, walking, dog walking, and specifically permitted activities (e.g., organized runs). This zone would be for day use. Visitors would be required to stay on trails or roads.	Activities would include picnicking, running, walking, biking, wildlife viewing, dog walking, and interpretive and educational programs. Visitors would use this zone for day use only. Visitors would be required to stay on trails and roads.
Skills, Risk, Time Required	Visitors would need a moderate to high level of physical ability. Time commitment would be a few hours to tour this	Visitors would need considerable physical endurance and ability. An in-depth knowledge of outdoor skills and being totally self-sufficient would be	Visitors would need an average level of physical ability. A moderate knowledge of outdoor skills and being relatively self-sufficient would be	Visitors would need an average level of physical ability. A moderate knowledge of outdoor skills and being relatively self-sufficient would be	Visitors of all levels of physical ability could enjoy this zone. Knowledge of outdoor skills and self-sufficiency would not be needed.	Visitors of all levels of physical ability could enjoy this zone. Knowledge of outdoor skills and self-sufficiency would not be needed.

	SENSITIVE ZONE	PRIMITIVE ZONE	SEMIPRIMITIVE ZONE	NATURAL ZONE	SIGHTSEEING CORRIDOR ZONE	DEVELOPED ZONE
	zone.	required. Time commitment could be several hours to several days to experience this zone.	recommended. Time commitment could be moderate (<4 hours) to experience this zone.	recommended. Time commitment could be moderate (<4 hours) to experience this zone.	Time commitment could be 1 to 2 hours to experience this zone.	Time commitment would vary, depending on information or services desired.
LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT						
Type/Character of Access Routes	Absolutely essential natural trails and signs for visitor and staff safety.	A limited number of designated natural surface trails.	A low to moderate number of designated natural surface trails.	A moderate number of natural surface and paved trails.	A highly developed trail/road corridor with paved and unpaved surfaces.	A highly developed trail/road area with paved and unpaved surfaces.
Amount and Character of Signs	There would be no interpretive signs.	Minimal directional and safety signs would be permitted.	Minimal directional and safety signs would be permitted.	Directional, safety, and interpretive signs would be permitted.	Regulatory, directional, safety, and interpretive signs would be permitted.	Regulatory, directional, safety, and interpretive signs would be permitted.
Trail Type (see appendix E for definitions)	Trail type C could be developed. Light use. High skills needed. Unpaved surfaces, natural materials, moderate rock or root protrusions.	Trail type C could be developed. Light to moderate use. Intermediate to high skills needed. Unpaved surfaces, natural materials, moderate rock or root protrusions.	Trail types B and C could be developed. Heavy to light use. Beginner to high skills needed. Unpaved surfaces, natural materials, moderate to occasional rock or root protrusions.	Trail types A and B could be developed. Heavy use. ADA accessible, minimal skills needed. Paved and unpaved surfaces, none to moderate rock or root protrusions.	Trail types A and B could be developed. Heavy use. ADA accessible, minimal skills needed. Paved and unpaved surfaces, none to moderate rock or root protrusions.	Trail types A and B could be developed. Heavy use. ADA accessible, minimal skills needed. Paved and unpaved surfaces, none to moderate rock or root protrusions.
Types of Facilities	No facility development other than what might be needed for resource protection and visitor safety. Any development footprint would be the minimum required to meet the needs of resource protection and visitor safety.	Facilities could include a few designated, natural surface trails and horse hitching rails. Support facilities may be permitted if determined necessary to support preservation of resource values. In the Rincon Mountain District only, facilities could include a small number of designated backcountry campsites with associated pit toilets, fire rings, and food storage containers. This zone will have the smallest footprint for any new or existing	Facilities could include designated, natural surface trails, and horse hitching rails. Support facilities may be permitted if determined necessary to support preservation of resource values. The footprint of any new or existing facilities will be the minimum size needed to protect resources and meet health, safety and visitor use requirements. Some minor changes might be permitted when necessary to provide for trails, pit toilets, and other	Facilities could include designated, natural and paved surface trails, and horse hitching rails. Facilities could include shade ramadas, restrooms, benches, and drinking fountains. The footprint of any new or existing facilities would be the minimum size to meet health, safety, and visitor use requirements. Some moderate changes might be permitted when necessary to provide for trails, and other minimal visitor facilities.	Facilities could include designated, natural and paved surface trails, pull-outs, wayside exhibits, interpretive trails, and trailheads. The footprint of any new or existing facilities would be determined based on the size required to meet health, safety, visitor use, and administrative needs.	Visitor facilities could include visitor centers, fee/ entrance kiosks/ stations, trailheads, picnic areas, wayside exhibits, and parking areas. Administrative facilities could include maintenance, headquarter operations, parking areas, and employee housing. The footprint of any new facilities would be determined based on the size required to meet health, safety, visitor use, and administrative needs.

	SENSITIVE ZONE	PRIMITIVE ZONE	SEMIPRIMITIVE ZONE	NATURAL ZONE	SIGHTSEEING CORRIDOR ZONE	DEVELOPED ZONE
		facilities (the minimum size needed to protect resources and meet health, safety and visitor use require-ments).	minimal visitor facilities.			
MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES						
Resource Manage-ment and Visitor Protection Activities	Management activities would include research and monitoring activities, wild fire suppression, wild land fire use, and prescribed fire operations, with limited staff intervention for resource protection.	Management activities could include research, wild fire suppression, wild land fire use, and prescribed fire operations, resource management, and backcountry patrols.	Management activities could include research, wild land fire suppression operations, resource management, and backcountry patrols.	Management activities could include research, resource management, and backcountry patrol.	Management activities could include road patrol, resource impact mitigation, and interpretive and educational activities/services.	Management activities could include road patrol, resource impact mitigation, and interpretive and educational activities/services.
Visitor Management	No physical controls (fences, barriers) would be placed on visitors. A high degree of regulatory controls (ranger-led tours) would be placed on visitor movement and access.	A low degree of physical controls (fences, barriers, designated trails) would be placed on visitor movement and access. Regulatory controls (e.g., no off-trail travel below 4,500 feet, group size and length-of-stay limits) could be used to manage visitors for safety and resource protection.	A low degree of physical controls (fences, barriers, designated trails) would be placed on visitor movement and access. Regulatory controls (e.g., no off-trail travel below 4,500 feet, group size) could be used to manage visitors for safety and resource protection.	A low degree of physical controls (e.g., fencing, barriers) would be placed on visitor movement and access. Regulatory controls (e.g., no off-trail travel below 4,500 feet) could be placed on visitor movement and access.	A moderate degree of physical controls (e.g., fencing, barriers) would be placed on visitor movement and access. Regulatory controls (e.g., no speeding) would be placed on visitor movement and access.	A high degree of physical controls (e.g., fencing, barriers) would be placed on visitor movement and access. Regulatory controls (e.g., no off-trail hiking) would be used for visitor movement and access.
TRAIL TYPES (see appendix E))	C	C	B, C	A, B	A, B	A, B