



The Gila Wilderness Concept

At the turn of the century, America began the difficult and long process of moving our most awe-inspiring country into National Parks. Yosemite and Yellowstone stand as the corner stones of conservationist efforts to protect that land against man-made development. It was intended to allow people to experience the natural world, with all the human benefits that includes, without lumber, mining or tourist commercialism to overtake the landscape.

American is defined by the efforts to create, support and protect National Parks for the value of its citizens.

Then something unique happened...

Beginning around the early 1920's an idea formed in the minds of National Forest managers to create and new and startling concept. Designated wilderness areas. As opposed to National Parks, designated wilderness areas would be "roadless." Only accessible by foot or horseback. No mechanical devices allowed, including trucks, cars, mountain bikes, and even wheel borrows.

It was a grand and sweeping concept to allow people to enjoy and experience country with zero human impact. The wilderness concept provides pristine solitude, untouched by human hands. Abundant wildlife, living the life they have lived for thousands of years. Vistas as far as the eye can see, without any man-made structure in sight. It's the total human experience in the natural world.

Visitors who spend time in wilderness areas, come out refreshed, renewed and maybe a better point of view of their lives.

The Gila Wilderness was the first designed wilderness in the world, set aside in 1924. Since 1924, the wilderness concept has spread to every corner of the globe.

The Gila Wilderness features vast, mountainous landscapes that provides enough country to support weeks and weeks of hiking or horseback riding. With elevations ranging from 6000' to 12'000 feet, landscapes vary wildly, with different flora and fauna at each level. Alpine and aspen are abundant. Ancient Indian Cliff Dwellings preserved. Elk, mule deer, white tail deer and bear thrive in the Gila. Plus the Gila provides historical destinations, such as 1800's cabins and grave sites.

U-Trail's work in the Gila goes back to the early 1980's. We only provide horseback experiences in wilderness areas, including the Blue Primitive Range in Arizona. We feel the wilderness experience, the wilderness concept is the grandest human experience of all. Our guests feel the same way too.