



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

R3 Regional Office

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File Code: 1570-1/2300

Date: May 20, 2005

Dear Interested Parties:

We received your appeal of the Arizona Snowbowl Facilities Improvement FEIS and Record of Decision. Your appeal was received on April 25th and was filed in a timely manner.

After a review was made of the project record however, I have determined that neither you as an individual nor your organization, submitted comments during the formal notice and comment period for the Draft EIS. The comment period for the Arizona Snowbowl Facilities Improvement Draft EIS began as noticed in the *Federal Register* of the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability, which was published on February 13, 2004 (69 FR 7215). A revised Notice of Availability was published on February 20, 2004 (69 FR 7942) and the comment period ended on April 12, 2004.

The project record shows that no comments were received from you until this appeal was received. The purpose of the comment period is to provide an opportunity to the public to comment and provide meaningful input on proposed projects prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official (36 CFR 215.1).

In accordance with 36 CFR 215.16(a)(6), the Appeal Deciding Officer shall dismiss an appeal without review when the individual or organization did not submit substantive comments during the comment period. Therefore, your appeal is dismissed. .

This dismissal decision constitutes the final administrative determination of the Department of Agriculture (36 CFR 215.18(c.)).

Sincerely,

/s/ Harv Forsgren

HARV FORSGREN
Appeal Deciding Officer, Regional Forester

cc: Sandra Nagiller, Mailroom R3 Coconino, Constance J Smith