

Legal Notice of Proposed Action
Opportunity to Comment
Environmental Assessment for the Big Lake, & Molina Springs, and Bush Creek Allotment Analysis

The Springerville and Alpine Ranger Districts of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests have completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Big Lake, Burk, Molina Springs, and Bush Creek Allotments. The EA is available for review at the Springerville Ranger District, 165 South Mountain Avenue, Springerville, AZ 85938 and will be made available on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/projects/>. Hard copies of the EA are available upon request to Bruce A. Buttrey, Project Team Leader.

The proposal is to authorize incidental livestock use on the Big Lake Allotment after 5 years of rest, and to continue to authorize seasonal livestock grazing for the Burk, Molina Springs and Bush Creek Allotments. Authorized grazing would be at an appropriate level and timing that improves unsatisfactory resource conditions (which occur on portions of the allotments) and fosters satisfactory resource conditions to maintain sustainability of the forage resource. The Proposed Action for the allotments consists of four components: authorization, monitoring, adaptive management, and resource protection measures. The proposed action is further described in Chapter 2 of the EA.

The Big Lake, Burk and Molina Springs Allotments are located on the Springerville Ranger District and the Bush Creek Allotment is located on the Alpine Ranger District. The Big Lake Allotment is a 3,231 acre allotment, located in T6N, R28E, sections 21, 26-28, 33-35; and T5N, R28E, sections 2-4 and 11 of the Gila Salt River Base Meridian (GSRBM). The Burk Allotment is a 5,625 acre allotment consisting of four pastures – East, West, Railroad and SU pasture located in T6N, R28E, sections 1-4, 16-21, 28-30; and T7N, R28E, sections 25-27, 34-36 of the GSRBM. The Molina Springs Allotment is a winter allotment which consists of two pastures – North and South, located in T8N, R30E, Sections 3-5, 9, 10, 5-17, 20-22 of the GSRBM. The Bush Creek allotment is a small winter allotment located in T3N, R31E, sections 10, 11, 13, 14 of the GSRBM.

The comment period ends 30 days following the date of publication of this legal notice in the White Mountain Independent. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to submit comments on the proposed action. Those wishing to comment on this proposal should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source. Only those who submit timely comments or otherwise express interest in the proposed action during the comment period will be accepted as appellants. Interest expressed or comments provided on this project prior to or after the close of this comment period will not constitute standing for appeal purposes. Comments must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 215.6.

Written or oral comments may be submitted via mail, fax, telephone, or in person (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding Holidays) to Springerville District Ranger, Jeffrey A. Rivera, 165 South Mountain Ave., Springerville, AZ. 85938, TEL 928-333-4372, FAX 928-333-4182 or by email to comments-southwestern-apache-sitgreaves-springerville@fs.fed.us. Electronic comments may be submitted in word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), and hypertext markup language (.html). The name and mailing address of the person submitting electronic comments must be included and will become part of the public record. To be eligible for appeal, each individual representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Upon receipt of an electronically mailed comment, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation of receipt of the comments. If the sender does not receive an automated electronic acknowledgement, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means.

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