



File Code: 1950-3/5400

Date: June 3, 2008

Dear Interested Party:

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Black River Land Exchange, Apache National Forest, Apache and Greenlee Counties, AZ is expected to be available for review soon (early June) on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/>. Click on Black River Land Exchange DEIS under the heading of Project and Plans (near the top left side of the website) for the year 2008. A hard copy of the document or CD version can be provided if you are not able to obtain it electronically. Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from: Bruce A. Buttrey, Springerville Ranger District, P.O. Box 760, Springerville, AZ, 928-333-4372, bbuttrey@fs.fed.us. Please include *Black River Land Exchange* in the subject line if inquiring electronically.

The Proposed Action is comprised of exchanging 337.74 acres of Federal lands north of the unincorporated community of Greer, Arizona, for 396.35 acres of non-Federal lands along the West Fork of the Black River and the Blue River in east-central Arizona.

We invite your comments on the DEIS within 45 days of the publication of the Notice of Availability on the *Federal Register* which is expected June 13 or 20, 2008. We encourage you to be as specific as possible with your comments. Your comments will be considered by the agency as it prepares the Final EIS. A copy of the Notice will be available at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. At this site, select: 2008 (Volume 73) Only. In the Quick Search box enter "Black River Land Exchange; Apache National Forest" and click submit. At this link you may choose to view the Notice of Availability in HTML or PDF format.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 45 days following the date of publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register. The actual publication date of the NOA in the Federal Register is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for a proposed action documented in a draft EIS. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

Written comments must be submitted to: Deryl Jevons, Acting Forest Supervisor, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, Supervisor's Office, 30 Chiricahua Drive, P.O. Box 640, Springerville, AZ 85938, FAX 928-333-5966. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Oral comments must be provided at the above office during normal business hours via telephone 928-333-4301 or in person, or at an official agency function (i.e. public meeting) that is designed to elicit public comments.



Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc) to comments-southwestern-apache-sitgreaves@fs.fed.us with *Black River Land Exchange* in the subject line. Comments must have an identifiable name attached or verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic comments.

In submitting all comments, please provide: (1) your name, address, telephone number, and organization represented, if any; (2) title of the document on which the comment is being submitted; (3) specific facts along with supporting reasons that you believe should be considered; and (4) your signature.

Those who provide comments during this comment period are eligible to appeal the decision under the regulations. 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. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project, and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision according to 36 CFR Part 215.

Sincerely,

/s/ Deryl D. Jevons
DERYL D. JEVONS
Acting Forest Supervisor