

Notice of Decision
Black River Land Exchange
Southwestern Region
Apache National Forest
Springerville RD, Apache County, AZ
Alpine RD, Greenlee County, AZ

As the Responsible Official, H. Wayne Thornton, Director, Lands and Minerals, Southwestern Region, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, signed a Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (DN/FONSI) on October 14, 2005 approving the Black River Land Exchange. The selected alternative (Alternative 1) includes the exchange of 396.35 acres of non-Federal land for 337.74 surveyed acres of Federal land. Copies of the Environmental Assessment and DN/FONSI are available at the Southwestern Region Office, Director, Lands and Minerals, 333 Broadway, SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102, phone: 505-842-3271 and the Apache-Sitgreaves Forest Supervisor's Office, 309 So. Mountain Avenue, Springerville, AZ 85938, phone: 928-333-4301; or on the internet at www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf at the Projects and Plans link.

Decision Subject to Appeal: This Decision is subject to administrative review (appeal) pursuant to 36 CFR Part 215. The appeal must be filed (regular mail, fax, e-mail, hand-delivery, or express delivery) with the Appeal Deciding Officer. Send appeals to Appeal Deciding Officer, USDA Forest Service, EMC; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Mailstop 1104, Washington, DC 20250-1104. Federal Express and hand-delivery address is USDA Forest Service, Ecosystem Management Coordination, 201 14th Street, SW; 3rd Floor, Central Wing; Washington, DC 20024. Phone: 202-205-0895; Fax: 202-205-1012.

The business hours for those submitting hand-delivered appeals are: 7:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. An electronic appeal must be submitted in a format such as an e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc) to appeals-chief@fs.fed.us. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

Appeals, including attachments, must be filed within 45 days from the publication date of the notice in *The Arizona Republic*, the newspaper of record. The publication date in *The Arizona Republic* is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Those wishing to appeal this decision should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Individuals or organizations who submitted substantive comments during the comment period specified in 36 CFR 215.6 may appeal this Decision. The notice of appeal must meet the appeal content requirements at 36 CFR 215.14.

Implementation of Decision: If no appeals are filed within the 45-day appeal period, implementation of the decision may occur on, but not before, 5 business days from the close of the appeal filing period. When appeals are filed, implementation may occur on, but not before, the 15th business day following the date of the last appeal disposition.

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