



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Apache-Sitgreaves
National Forests
Springerville Ranger District

P.O. Box 760
Springerville, AZ 85938
(928) 333-4372 FAX: 333-4182

File Code: 1950-1

Date: November 16, 2005

Dear Friends of the Apache-Sitgreaves,

The Environmental Assessment for the Eagar South Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction Project is being mailed to those who have previously requested to be on the project mailing list or have submitted specific written comments related to the project.

This project proposes to reduce fuels by thinning, chipping, pile burning and broadcast burning in order to reduce fire risk to the community of Eagar / Springerville. The project is located on the Springerville Ranger District of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. The proposal includes a site-specific Forest Plan amendment which is described in the environmental assessment. The Responsible Official who will issue a decision on this project is Elaine Zieroth, Forest Supervisor, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. *Additional information* regarding this proposed project can be obtained from Bruce A. Buttrey, bbuttrey@fs.fed.us, or John MacIvor, jmacivor@fs.fed.us, Springerville Ranger District, P.O. Box 760, Springerville, AZ. 85938, 928-333-4372.

The proposed project was planned under authority of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 and is subject to the objection process pursuant to 36 CFR Part 218 Subpart A; it is not subject to notice, comment, and appeal procedures under 36 CFR 215 (218.3). The objection period closes 30 days after newspaper notice of publication as described below.

Eligibility to File Objections:

Objections will be accepted only from those who have previously submitted written comments specific to the proposed authorized hazardous fuel reduction project, either during scoping or other public involvement opportunities on this Environmental Assessment (218.6). Individual members of organizations must have submitted their own comments to meet the requirements of eligibility as an individual, objections received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only. If an objection is submitted on behalf of a number of individuals or organizations, each individual or organization listed must meet the eligibility requirement of having previously submitted comments on the project (218.6)

Filing an Objection:

The objection must contain at a minimum, a sufficient narrative description of those aspects of the proposed project objected to, specific issues related to the project, and suggested remedies that would resolve the objection. Incorporation of documents by reference shall not be allowed.



Individuals and organizations filing an objection must also provide the following information: (218.7)

- Objector's name and address; with telephone number if available.
- Signature or other verification of identity upon request. (A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic objections.)
- For objections with multiple names or multiple organizations, identification of the lead Objector is required. Verification of the identity of the lead Objector shall be provided on request.
- The name of the proposed project, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the name of the National Forests and Ranger Districts on which the proposed project will be implemented.

Written objections, including any attachments, must be filed (regular mail, fax, email, hand-delivery, or express delivery) with the Reviewing Officer, Harv Forsgren, Regional Forester, Southwestern Region, 333 S. Broadway, SE, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87102, FAX 505-842-3173 within 30 days following the publication date of this legal notice in the newspaper of record. The office business hours for those submitting **hand-delivered objections** are: 0800 – 1630 Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. **Electronic objections** must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc) to appeals-southwestern-regional-office@fs.fed.us. It is the responsibility of Objectors to ensure their objection is received in a timely manner (218.9).

The publication date of this notice in the White Mountain Independent newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object to this proposed project should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Time extensions of the objection time period are not permitted (218.9).

Timing of Project Decision and Implementation:

When the objection-filing period has ended and responses have been made to all objections by the Reviewing Officer, the Responsible Official may make a final decision on the proposed project. The Reviewing Officer shall issue a written response to the Objectors within 30 days following the end of this objection-filing period (218.9). When no timely objections are filed, a decision can be made on the 5th business day following the close of the filing period (218.11). Implementation may begin immediately after the decision is made.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill Ripley for
John A. MacIvor
District Ranger