

Notice of Decision

TRANSFER OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND EDUCATION LAND GRANT ACT BLUE SCHOOL DISTRICT #22

On October 31, 2006, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Supervisor Elaine J. Zieroth signed a Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (DN/FONSI) for the Education Land Grant Act Transfer of National Forest System Land to Blue School District #22. The selected alternative will transfer 8.76 acres of National Forest System land to the Blue School District #22. Currently a portion of the land is occupied by the Blue Elementary School as previously authorized by a Forest Service issued Special Use Permit. Approximately 4 acres of land identified as floodplain will leave Federal ownership. The Environmental Assessment (EA) and DN/FONSI are available at the Apache-Sitgreaves Forest Supervisor's Office, 30 South Chiricahua Drive, Springerville, AZ 85938, phone: 928-333-4301 and the Alpine District Ranger's Office, P.O. Box 469, Junction of U.S. Highways 180 & 191, Alpine, AZ 85920, phone: (928) 339-4384; or on the internet at www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf at the Publications link.

Legal notice of the proposed land transfer was initially published for 4 consecutive weeks between November 9 and November 30, 2005 in the *Copper Era* (36 CFR 254.8) the newspaper with circulation in the Blue School District #22. On October 28, 2005 a public meeting was held at 9:00 A.M. at the Blue School in Blue, Arizona to discuss the proposed action and to solicit comments and concerns. Consultation occurred with Native American Tribes and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Public involvement was sought through the mailing of a letter of notification with a request for public input to determine any issues of concern. A news release dated November 7, 2005 was sent to local media in Greenlee, Apache, and Navajo Counties. A notification letter informing interested parties of the Proposed Action to transfer 8.75 acres, more or less, of Federal land to Blue School District #22 was mailed on May 19, 2006 to all individuals who previously provided comments or asked to be notified about this project.

No comments expressing concern were received during the comment period. Only supportive comments were received by the close of the comment period; therefore, this decision is not subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.12(e)(1). Implementation may begin immediately following publication of this decision in the Legal Notice section of the *White Mountain Independent*, the newspaper of record.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Published in the *White Mountain Independent* November 7, 2006