



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Coconino
National Forest,
Supervisor's Office

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File Code: 1950-1/5570

Date: June 23, 2004

Dear Friend:

The Coconino National Forest through the Red Rock Ranger District proposes to sell the Red Rock Ranger Station site, a 21-acre piece of National Forest on Brewer Road in Sedona. This letter and a summary of the proposal, alternatives considered, and their effects are being sent to you because you have expressed interest in the project in the past. Our initial proposal indicated that we intended to consolidate the environmental analysis of the Red Rock site with the Verde Ranger Station site. Since that time, we have decided to split the projects into two separate documents and decisions. The Verde Ranger Station analysis is still in process and will be sent out later.

The Forest Service has been working to evaluate issues related to the sale of the Brewer Road site (current Red Rock Ranger District office). Initial public involvement indicated concerns about the historic buildings on the site and their importance to the community. While the Forest Service initially considered moving forward with a City of Sedona Community Plan Amendment to expand the types of approved land uses for this property, we later concluded that the time and detail necessary for processing the amendment did not necessarily benefit the Forest Service. . Even so, the District Ranger and his staff have continued to coordinate with City of Sedona staff and the Sedona Women, a local group particularly interested in the historic and other values of the site, to identify interests and issues of importance in our decision making. Also, part of our rationale for not pursuing an amendment was that whether the Forest Service requests an amendment or not, a buyer would have to submit their development proposal for future uses of the site to the City for approval

At this time, we believe the proposed action to sell the property with built-in protections for the historic buildings assured by the City of Sedona's historic preservation ordinances is the best alternative. We are providing the enclosed summary that describes the effects of the proposed sale of the Red Rock Ranger Station site for your review and comment.

The enclosed summary describes impacts of the proposed action and no-action alternative and the trade offs between these alternatives. The Summary is also available upon request or by accessing the Coconino National Forest website at: www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/nepa A draft EA on this project will be finalized after the 30-day comment period and before a final decision is made.



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Request for Comments

At this time, we are asking for comments on this project. Your comments are important to help us understand any issues or concerns you may have about this proposal. When you respond, please make sure your comments are fully formed and as specific as possible to assist us in the analysis.

Please send your comments to Judy Adams, Red Rock Ranger District, PO Box 300, Sedona, AZ 86339; call Judy at 928-527-3740 or Ken Anderson, District Ranger at 928-203-7501; or email – comments to southwestern-coconino-redrock@fs.fed.us

This is the official Notice and Comment period for this project, per 36 CFR Part 215.3(a). If we do not receive any substantive comments or if we receive only supportive comments, there will be no appeal period following the completion of the EA and my subsequent decision (36 CFR 215.12(1)). Public comments (written, oral, facsimile, hand-delivered or electronic) on the Proposed Action will be accepted for 30 days following the date of publication of a Notice of Availability in the Arizona Daily Sun. Regulations prohibit extending the length of this comment period.

Thank you for your time and interest in your National Forest.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joseph P. Stringer (for)
NORA B. RASURE
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure