

October 25, 2005

Dear Interested Party:

The Forest Service is considering a land exchange with Clear Creek 820, LLC, acting through Summit Resources, LLC, being represented by Bill Jordan and Vince Watts. The proposal would exchange into private ownership a parcel of National Forest System (Federal) land located near Happy Jack Lodge. The Federal parcel is approximately 500 acres within the Mogollon Rim Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest. The private (non-Federal) land is a parcel which spans the East Fork of Clear Creek. The non-Federal land is approximately 820 acres and is also located within the Mogollon Rim Ranger District. The Federal and non-Federal lands are depicted on the enclosed maps.

The Forest Service is interested in acquiring the non-Federal (private) land as it is considered particularly valuable for wildlife habitat and dispersed recreation. Acquisition of this non-Federal parcel, which is completely surrounded by the National Forest, is also expected to enhance administration of the adjacent National Forest System lands. A portion of the Federal land proposed for exchange into private ownership has been strip mined which has to some extent adversely impacted the National Forest character of the area.

The proposal is consistent with the Coconino National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. The exchange proposal is currently being analyzed to determine whether or not it is in the overall public interest and beneficial to the National Forest System and the United States to proceed with this exchange. We expect to make a decision in June or July 2006.

It is our understanding that you may be a party interested in this proposal. We are asking for your comments, concerns and questions.

A public open house will be held at the Happy Jack Lodge on Saturday November 19, 2005 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to review and discuss this exchange proposal. Happy Jack Lodge is located on the west side of Forest Highway 3 approximately 1¾ miles north of the junction of Forest Highway 3 and State Highway 67 (Clints Well).

If you are unable to attend the open house comments may also be addressed to Pete Mourtsen, Coconino National Forest Realty Specialist, Coconino National Forest, 1824 S. Thompson, Flagstaff, AZ 86004 or through e-mail at pmourtsen@fs.fed.us. He may also be reached by phone at (928) 527-3414.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joseph P. Stringer

(for) Nora Rasure
Forest Supervisor