



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Coconino
National Forest,
Supervisor's Office

1824 S. Thompson Street
Flagstaff, AZ 86001-2529
Phone: (928) 527-3600
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File Code: 1950-1

Date: October 10, 2006

Dear Interested Party:

The Mormon Lake Ranger District will soon prepare an environmental assessment (EA) to disclose the environmental effects of reducing fuels on National Forest System lands around the community of Elk Park Meadows. I am informing you about this action because of your past interest in fuels reduction projects on the Coconino National Forest or because you own property within, or are a neighbor of, Elk Park Meadows.

The 6,731-acre Elk Park Fuels Reduction project area is located approximately six miles southeast of Flagstaff, Arizona. We are proposing selection harvesting and thinning on approximately 5,000 acres of ponderosa pine and prescribed burning on approximately 6,500 acres. In association with thinning and harvesting, we are also proposing to construct approximately four miles of temporary roads, relocate Forest Service Road (FSR) 132B out of Elk Park Meadows, and improve the surface and drainage along portions of FSR 132B. The enclosed document provides additional details of this Proposed Action.

At this time, our desire is to receive comments on the merits of the Proposed Action, as well as comments that address errors, misinformation, or information that has been omitted. Please provide your comments concerning the Proposed Action **by November 13, 2006**.

Written or oral comments may be submitted via mail, fax, telephone, or in person (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) to: Skye Sieber, 5075 N US Highway 89, Flagstaff, AZ 86004; FAX (928) 527-8288; TEL (928) 526-0866; or by e-mail to comments-southwestern-coconino-mormon-lake@fs.fed.us. The name and address of the person submitting electronic comments must be included.

After this scoping period, we anticipate the draft EA will be published in December 2006. A 30-day comment period on the draft EA will begin on the date a legal notice is printed in the *Arizona Daily Sun*. The final EA and decision is expected in March 2007.

If you provide comments to this proposed action, you will receive a copy of the draft EA. If you do not provide comments to this proposed action, your name will be removed from this project mailing list. In the event that you choose not to comment but would still like a copy of the draft EA, please contact Skye Sieber at (928) 527-8216 or ssieber@fs.fed.us.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this project and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered;



however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215, if the NEPA documentation results in an appealable decision.

Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any persons may request the Agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only limited circumstances such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the Agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality and where the request is denied. The Agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within seven days.

We appreciate your help and continuing cooperation with our forest management programs. Should you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact Skye Sieber, Project Team Leader, at (928) 527-8216 or ssieber@fs.fed.us

Sincerely,

/s/ Nora B. Rasure
NORA B. RASURE
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure