



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mogollon Rim
Ranger District

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File Code: 1950

Date: April 25, 2006

Dear Friend:

This letter initiates public scoping for the Upper Beaver Creek Watershed Fuel Reduction Project. The Mogollon Rim and Red Rock Ranger Districts are proposing actions to reduce the potential of stand-replacement wildfire that threatens people, private property and natural resource values; and to begin restoring fire-adapted ecosystems in the Upper Beaver Creek Watershed of about 49,123 acres. The project area is located about 12 miles northwest of Clints Well, and about 30 miles south of Flagstaff. The project area encompasses about 49,123 acres on the Mogollon Rim and Red Rock Ranger Districts (Figure 1, Vicinity Map). The Proposed Action consists of a variety of vegetation management, fuel reduction, and prescribed burning actions over the next 20 years. Vegetation treatments are proposed over about 18,000 acres and prescribed burning actions are proposed over about 46,000 acres within the project area. The project will treat land both inside and outside of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The project area includes several developed and undeveloped private lands, and special use areas within the WUI including: Stoneman Lake, K-T Ranch, Pratt Park, Double Cabin Park, Mule Park, Lowell Observatory-Discovery Channel Telescope, Casner Park, Goswick, the Western Area Power Administration 345 KV transmission line, Buck Mountain fire lookout, and the Long Valley Ranger Station office (Figure 2). Legal locations are shown on Figures 3 and 4, the Vegetation Treatment Map and the Prescribed Burning and Fuel Treatment Map. The designated WUI area encompasses about 17,057 acres (Figures 3 and 4).

I encourage your participation in the planning process. As we move forward with this proposal, we are seeking your ideas, comments, issues and concerns so that we can design the project to achieve fuel reduction objectives with as little environmental impact as possible. Attached to this letter is a description of the proposed action which includes the four figures mentioned above, and the Public Comment Form.

The purpose of the Upper Beaver Creek Watershed Fuel Reduction Project is twofold: to reduce the potential of stand-replacement wildfire that threatens people, private property and natural resource values; and to begin restoring fire-adapted ecosystems. The project interdisciplinary team has analyzed the existing and desired conditions for the project area and has developed a Proposed Action to reflect their best estimate of management actions needed to meet the purpose of the project. The Proposed Action includes vegetation treatments, prescribed burning and fuel reduction treatments. These initial treatments would be followed by maintenance prescribed burning over the project area. Implementation is anticipated to begin in 2007. After initial treatments are completed, the subsequent maintenance burning would continue for up to 20 years, or until environmental conditions significantly change. The NEPA analysis would be reviewed every five years to ensure that the decision made on the project remains valid.

Any specific suggestions you have on the proposed action, additional actions or alternative actions to achieve the purpose of the project are desired and welcome. Please provide comments



to me on the attached form or by e-mail to: comments-southwestern-coconino-mogollon@fs.fed.us Electronic e-mail comments may be submitted in word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), and hypertext markup language (.html). Only those persons who submit comments during this public scoping period will remain on the mailing list for future information regarding the project. Individuals who do not have comments to submit but who wish to remain on this mailing list should check that box on the comment form attached. Please submit your comments by **May 26, 2006**.

If you would like to participate on a public field trip to the project area, please indicate your interest on the comment form. The Mogollon Rim District will plan a field trip after the comment period, depending on the level of public interest in a field trip.

Additional information regarding the proposed action can be obtained from Dick Fleishman, Project Team Leader, at the above address, phone: 928-477-2255, or e-mail dfleishman@fs.fed.us. This letter, the proposed action description, and project maps are available for viewing or download at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/nepa/index.shtml>

I welcome your comments during the scoping period. You are welcome to discuss the project with me at any time at the Mogollon Rim Ranger District Office (928-477-2255).

Sincerely,

Melinda D. Roth

MELINDA D. ROTH
District Ranger

Enclosures: Proposed Action
Project Public Comment Form