



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mormon Lake
Ranger District

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File Code: 1950, 2200

Date: July 28, 2006

Dear Interested Participant,

Enclosed are copies of the decision notice and finding of no significant impact (DN/FONSI), EA Errata Sheet, and Appendix D (Public Comments and Responses) for the Walnut Canyon Allotment EA. No changes were made to the draft EA published in May 2006. Appendix D discloses public comments received during the EA comment period and agency responses to those comments. The final environmental assessment for this project can be considered the original EA plus Appendix D. The EA, Appendix D, and DN/FONSI are also available for review at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/nepa/index.shtml>.

I have decided to implement Alternative 3, which would re-authorize grazing on the allotment for up to 350 cattle from June 1 through October 31; fence 5 wetlands and 1 spring to exclude cattle grazing (4 wetlands would include lanes to stock tank waters/permittee water claims); and permanently withdraw 7,387 acres of the allotment from grazing. The area affected by the proposal includes 31,607 acres of land approximately 3 miles southeast of Flagstaff, Arizona on the Mormon Lake Ranger District. Alternative 3 is further detailed in Chapter 2 of the EA.

This decision is subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR 215.7. The permittee has the right to appeal under 36 CFR 251. A written notice of appeal, clearly stating it is a Notice of Appeal being filed pursuant to 36 CFR 215, shall be filed within 45 days of the date of publication of legal notice of this decision in the *Arizona Daily Sun*, the newspaper of record. (Publication of the legal notice is estimated to occur on August 2, 2006.) The publication date in the *Arizona Daily Sun* is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Those wishing to appeal this decision should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Individuals or organizations that submitted comments or otherwise expressed interest before the close of the EA comment period may appeal this decision (see Appendix D). Federal agencies may not appeal this decision (36 CFR 215.13). The notice of appeal must meet the appeal content requirements at 36 CFR 215.14. An appeal must be filed by regular mail, fax, e-mail, hand delivery, or express delivery with the Appeal Deciding Officer. Written appeals must be submitted to: Forest Supervisor, Appeal Deciding Officer, Coconino National Forest, ATTN: Walnut Canyon EA Appeal, 1824 S. Thompson Street, Flagstaff, AZ 86001-2529.

The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered appeals are: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Adobe (.pdf), or Word (.doc) to appeals-southwestern-coconino@fs.fed.us. Appeals must have an identifiable name attached to it. Verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic appeals. When using the electronic mailbox, you will receive an automated reply if the



message is received. If you do not receive this automated reply, it is the responsibility of the appellant to ensure the appeal is received by the deadline (36 CFR 215.15).

This project may be implemented 5 business days following the close of the appeal filing period established by the legal notice published in the *Arizona Daily Sun*. If an appeal is filed, implementation may begin 15 business days following a final decision on the appeal.

For further information regarding this project, please contact Katherine Sánchez Meador, Range Specialist for the Peaks and Mormon Lake Ranger Districts at (928) 527-8263 or by e-mail at ksmeador@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/S/ GENE WALDRIP

GENE WALDRIP
District Ranger

Enclosures:

Appendix D: Public Comments and Responses
Record of Decision for Deep Lake Allotment
EA Errata Sheet