



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Coconino  
National Forest,  
Supervisor's Office

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**File Code:** 5570

**Date:** October 19, 2006

Dear Interested Persons, Organizations and Agencies:

The Highlands Fire District has submitted a proposal to the USDA Forest Service, Coconino National Forest, whereby the United States would convey approximately 6.25 acres of land to the Fire District. The proposed sale land is located within Coconino County adjacent to and northwest of the junction of the old Munds Highway and Mountainaire Road. The proposed sale will be processed under the Townsite Act authority of July 31, 1958 (72 Stat. 438, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 478a). Under this authority the Fire District may purchase this land at fair market value if the determination can be made that this proposal meets essential community needs and objectives that outweigh other public objectives and values that would be served if the lands remained under Federal ownership.

The Highlands Fire District believes the land is needed to provide the preferred location for a new fire station (Station Number 25) to better serve the emergency service needs of the Mountainaire, Kachina Village and Highland Meadows areas. They indicate the proposed site is the ideal geographic location to meet the specified community needs as well as to allow rapid access onto Interstate Highway 17 for Interstate Highway and mutual aid responses.

The area under consideration is legally described as: S1/2SW1/4SE1/4SW1/4 and W1/2SW1/4SE1/4SE1/4SW1/4 of section 20, Township 20 North, Range 7 East, Gila and Salt River Meridian. The location of this land is displayed on the enclosed map.

This proposal is consistent with general direction in the Coconino National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. We are currently analyzing the proposal further to determine whether or not it will be in the overall public interest and beneficial to the National Forest System and the Government to proceed with the sale. Sale of land under the Townsite Act authority constitutes a federal action and is subject to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Public comment is being solicited on the potential impacts of this proposal. To be most effective in this process, we ask that comments be submitted by **November 15, 2006**. For more information on this project, or to submit written or e-mail comments, contact:

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Sincerely,

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

Enclosure

