



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Coconino  
National Forest,  
Supervisor's Office

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File Code: 1950-1

Date: November 18, 2008

Dear Interested Party:

The Coconino National Forest is considering locating the Peaks and Mormon Lake Ranger Districts in one administrative site. To improve our operational efficiency, we are proposing moving three office locations (Peaks Ranger Station, Mormon Lake Ranger Station, and the Flagstaff Hotshot Headquarters) into one new administrative site in Flagstaff, Arizona. This new site would be constructed on approximately 40 acres of National Forest System land located on Lake Mary Road adjacent to the City of Flagstaff Lake Mary Water Treatment Plant. It will provide easy access for tourists and local publics, be efficient for consolidated District activities, reduce maintenance, and allow for future expansion.

Part of the Peaks Ranger Station site and all of the Mormon Lake Ranger Station will be sold to generate funds for construction of the new administrative site and to meet City of Flagstaff needs.

Up to 40 acres each at the Peaks and Mormon Lake Ranger Station sites, including all buildings, would be sold under the Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005. This act allows the sale of Forest Service administrative sites and the use of those sale proceeds for the construction of new facilities to improve organizational efficiencies.

An additional 22 acres is proposed to be sold to the City of Flagstaff under the National Forest Town site Act. This act allows the Forest Service to sell land adjacent to, or contiguous to, an established community when the transfer of such land would serve community objectives that outweigh the public objectives and values which would be served if that land remained in Federal ownership. These acres consist of 10 acres of the Mormon Lake Ranger Station to be used as a part of the Runway Protection Zone for the Flagstaff Airport; and 12 acres of the Peaks Ranger Station to provide access to other City land proposed for future development as a City park. Sale of these two parcels is desirable in order to consolidate land ownership patterns by not leaving isolated Forest Service parcels that would exist after the sale of the administrative sites.

This proposal will also include the temporary consolidation of Mormon Lake Ranger Station staff at the Peaks Ranger Station. This may involve the temporary placement of modular offices and storage container units at the Peaks Ranger District and the Hotshot Headquarters. It is envisioned the Mormon Lake Ranger Station site will be sold first to provide funding for the design of the new site. If the Forest was, for some reason, unable to generate enough funding to accommodate the transition to the new location, the temporary consolidation at the Peaks office could be extended.

We have identified several concerns that will be further analyzed including:

- 1) Archaeological sites at the Peaks Ranger Station will require archaeological testing



- 2) The current location of the Mount Elden Trailhead/Parking lot is within a parcel to be sold and will need to be relocated.

The 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 the new office location and land sale. We expect to make a decision in March or April of 2009.

It is our understanding you may be a party interested in this proposal. We are asking for your comments, concerns, and questions. In order for the project to remain on schedule, it would be appreciated if any comments be received by January 15, 2008.

A local environmental firm, SWCA, Inc, has been contracted by the Forest Service to develop an Environmental Assessment of this proposal. Please submit your comments to Harmony Hall, SWCA, 114 N. San Francisco Street, Suite 100, Flagstaff, AZ 86001.

Sincerely,

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