

The Peaks Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest is seeking comments (public scoping) as part of the environmental analysis process associated with issuing a new grazing permit for the Cosnino Allotment. The approximate 10,900 acre Cosnino Allotment is located approximately 7 miles east of the City of Flagstaff and is bisected by Interstate 40. We are proposing to re-authorize grazing on the allotment for up to 160 head of cow/calf pairs (1,062 AUM) from June 1 through October 31. Accompanying this letter is a description of the proposed action and project map, and the Public Comment Form. The Proposed Action and map are also available via the Coconino National Forest Web Site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/nepa/index.shtml>.

Public scoping is the agency process used to identify important social concerns. Similar to the environmental analysis, scoping also determines the extent of analysis necessary for an informed decision on a proposed action. Publication of this proposed action initiates the scoping process under the provisions of NEPA. During scoping the Forest Service is seeking comments on the merits of the proposed action, as well as comments that address errors or information that has been omitted, or possible alternatives to be considered in our environmental analysis.

Please provide your comments concerning the Proposed Action by March 31, 2008. 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: Gene Waldrip, Peaks District Ranger or Robert Garcia, Range Specialist, 5075 N US Highway 89, Flagstaff, AZ 86004; FAX (928) 527-8288; TEL (928) 526-0866; or by e-mail to comments-southwestern-coconino-peaks@fs.fed.us. The name and address of the person submitting electronic comments must be included. 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.

After the public scoping period, we anticipate a Decision Memo will be signed in August 2008. If you provide comments on this proposed action, you will receive a copy of the final Decision Memo.

We appreciate your help and continuing cooperation with our forest management programs. Should you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact Robert Garcia, Range Specialist Peaks Ranger District at (928) 527-8263 or by e-mail at rmgarcia@fs.fed.us.