



File Code: 1950-1/7730-4-1

Date: September 17, 2009

SCOPING NOTICE

Proposed Construction of Weirs in the North Fork of Pinery Creek and East Fork of Turkey Creek on the Douglas Ranger District

Dear Friends and Neighbors of the Coronado National Forest:

I am writing today to inform you of a proposed Forest Service action to construct grade-controlling permanent structures (i.e., weirs) in two streams that are crossed by National Forest System roads (NFSRs). One of these road-stream crossings is located where the North Fork of Pinery Creek crosses NFSR 42 in the Chiricahua Mountains at Section 7, Township 17 South, Range 30 East. The other is also located in the Chiricahua Mountains where the East Fork of Turkey Creek crosses NFSR 42B in Section 35, Township 17 South, Range 30 East. Each location is shown on the enclosed maps. Funding for this project is authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-55).

Many passenger-car roads on the Forest cross ephemeral (intermittent) streams that have substantial flows during wet periods of the year. And, at many of such road-stream crossings, there is no constructed feature (bridge, pipe or weir) in the stream to control erosion and deposition of sediment on the road surface when the stream is flowing. At these locations, the road surface is often reshaped by erosion and/or deposition to the extent that vehicle travel is disrupted and potentially hazardous. In some cases, motorists risk driving over impaired crossings, putting themselves and/or their vehicles in harm's way.

We are about to begin a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of the proposed action. During scoping, we ask the public to help us identify issues and concerns, as well as to make suggestions for mitigation and alternatives to the proposed action. Public, tribal, and agency input is important and may be used in the development of mitigation and alternatives to the proposed action, as necessary. Information on how you can comment or obtain further information is provided below.

PROPOSED ACTION

The Forest proposes to install one engineered, grade-controlling, permanent weir in each stream, about five feet beyond the downstream side of the road. Interlocking-sheet, steel piling segments of pre-cut length would comprise the body of each weir. The North Fork weir would be about 195 feet long; the Turkey Creek weir would be 40 feet long.



Excavation would occur in the naturally disturbed stream channel and historically disturbed road prism—an area frequently maintained by road graders, loaders and dozers following significant stream flows. A trench would be dug deep enough to seat most of the sheet piling length to prevent scour from exposing more than half the pile length, which could cause structural failure, and to limit the exposed drop-off that the weir presents adjacent to the road.

A steel cap would be welded to the top of the sheet piling segments to provide a safe surface for contact by pedestrians, tires and road maintenance equipment. When viewed from either up- or down-stream, each weir would have a flat-bottomed “V” shape and would be engineered to pass all runoff from a 100-year storm through the “V”. Enclosed are figures showing typical features and layout of the proposed weirs.

Construction of each weir would require traffic control—which may include a total road closure for one or two days, depending on the specifics of each location. Most weirs, however, can be constructed with minimal motorist waiting times, that is, on the order of 15-minute waits.

We Appreciate Your Comments

The Coronado National Forest values public input during the NEPA review process. Your comments about this proposal may be submitted to us in writing by U.S. mail, facsimile, or hand-delivery; electronically by email; and orally, either by telephone or in person at the District office. To be most useful in our NEPA review, comments should be submitted to us within 15 calendar days following your receipt of this notice.

Our mailing address is Douglas Ranger District, 1192 West Saddle View Road, Douglas, AZ 85607. Facsimiles may be sent to (520) 364-6667. Please include your full name and address and project title (Pinery and Turkey Creek Weirs) with your comments¹. Electronic (email) comments may be submitted to us at comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us. Please submit email comments in any of the following ways: text of your email, in a Microsoft Word (.doc) attachment, or in rich-text format (.rtf). Please include “Pinery and Turkey Creek Weirs” in the subject line.

Oral comments may be provided by telephoning Ms. Debra Mollet, Civil Engineer, at (520) 388-8432, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays, or by making a personal visit to the Douglas District Office. To schedule a visit, please call the District office at (520) 364-3468, or Ms. Mollet at the number above.

For additional information about this project, please contact Ms. Mollet by telephone or at dmollet@fs.fed.us. Questions about the NEPA review process may be directed to Forest NEPA Coordinator, Andrea Wargo Campbell, at (520) 388-8352 or awcampbell@fs.fed.us.

¹ *Comments and personal information associated with them, such as names and addresses, become part of the Administrative Record of this NEPA review. As such, they will be available to a third-party upon request under the authority of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Personally identifying information is protected by the Privacy Act. If you do not want personal information to be released under the FOIA, you may choose not to include it with your comments. Or, you may request an exemption from FOIA with your comment submittal. If you do not meet the criteria for an exemption, you may resubmit your comments without personal information or withhold them altogether.*

Thank you for your interest and participation in the activities of the Coronado National Forest.

Sincerely,

/s/ William A. Edwards
WILLIAM A. EDWARDS
District Ranger

Enclosures:

Maps of Project Area (2)
Illustrations of Weirs (2)