



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

Date: September 11, 2009

SCOPING NOTICE: PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF SILVER CREEK BRIDGE ON FOREST SYSTEM ROAD 42B, 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 replace the Silver Creek Bridge, which is located on National Forest System Road (FSR) 42 B on the Douglas Ranger District. FSR 42B provides vehicle access between the towns of Portal and Paradise, Arizona. Please refer to the attached map of the project area, which is located in Section 20, Township 17 South, Range 31 East.

We are about to begin a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of the proposal by defining the scope 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 single-lane bridge was built in 1934 and re-decked in the 1950s. In September 2008, an inspection¹ found the Bridge to be in a cautionary state of disrepair, with most of the deck spalling².

The Forest proposes to hire a contractor to replace the deteriorated bridge structure, in its entirety and at the same location, with one that is equivalent in size. Replacement of the bridge abutments will also be necessary. The objectives of the action are to minimize disturbance to the surrounding environment while improving the safety and condition of the crossing.

The existing bridge is a double span with a central pier; it is approximately 14 feet in clear width and spans a total length of 28 feet. The replacement bridge will maintain these dimensions, will be constructed of concrete, and will have either a single or double span.

Construction equipment and machinery would disturb the creek bottom, the banks and stream terraces, and the existing road alignment within the footprint of the existing bridge. Prior to placement of the new bridge, the creek channel and banks will be excavated to allow the construction of a central pier (if a double span is used) and bridge abutments, and removal of the old bridge. Minimal re-grading of the existing road alignment may also be needed to adequately

¹ Inspection by Walt Keyes and John Elmquist, Forest Service, Region 3.

² Spalling is deterioration of a structure in which the outer section of a stone, brick or mortar breaks away.



connect the existing road to the new bridge. Total ground disturbance would be less than 0.1 acre.

Traffic control on FSR 42B during construction will require closure of the road from both directions. Alternate routes between Portal and Paradise via FSRs 42 and 42C and Portal/Foothills/Noland roads are and will be available during this time. Construction will likely occur in Spring 2010 for a period of 8 weeks.

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 30 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 (Silver Creek Bridge Project) with your comments³. 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 "Silver Creek Bridge Project" in the subject line.

Oral comments may be provided by telephoning Ms. Debra Mollet, Project 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 Ms. Sherrie Reynolds on (520) 364-3468.

For additional information about this project, please contact Ms. Mollet at the number above 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.

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

³ 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.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure: Map of Project Area