



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

May 2009



Scoping Notice

For a new North Kaibab

Inter-agency Office Complex

North Kaibab Ranger District

Kaibab National Forest

Coconino County, Arizona

Section 21, Range 2 West in the Township of 41 North

Responsible Official:

Timothy J. Short
District Ranger

**For Further Information
Contact:**

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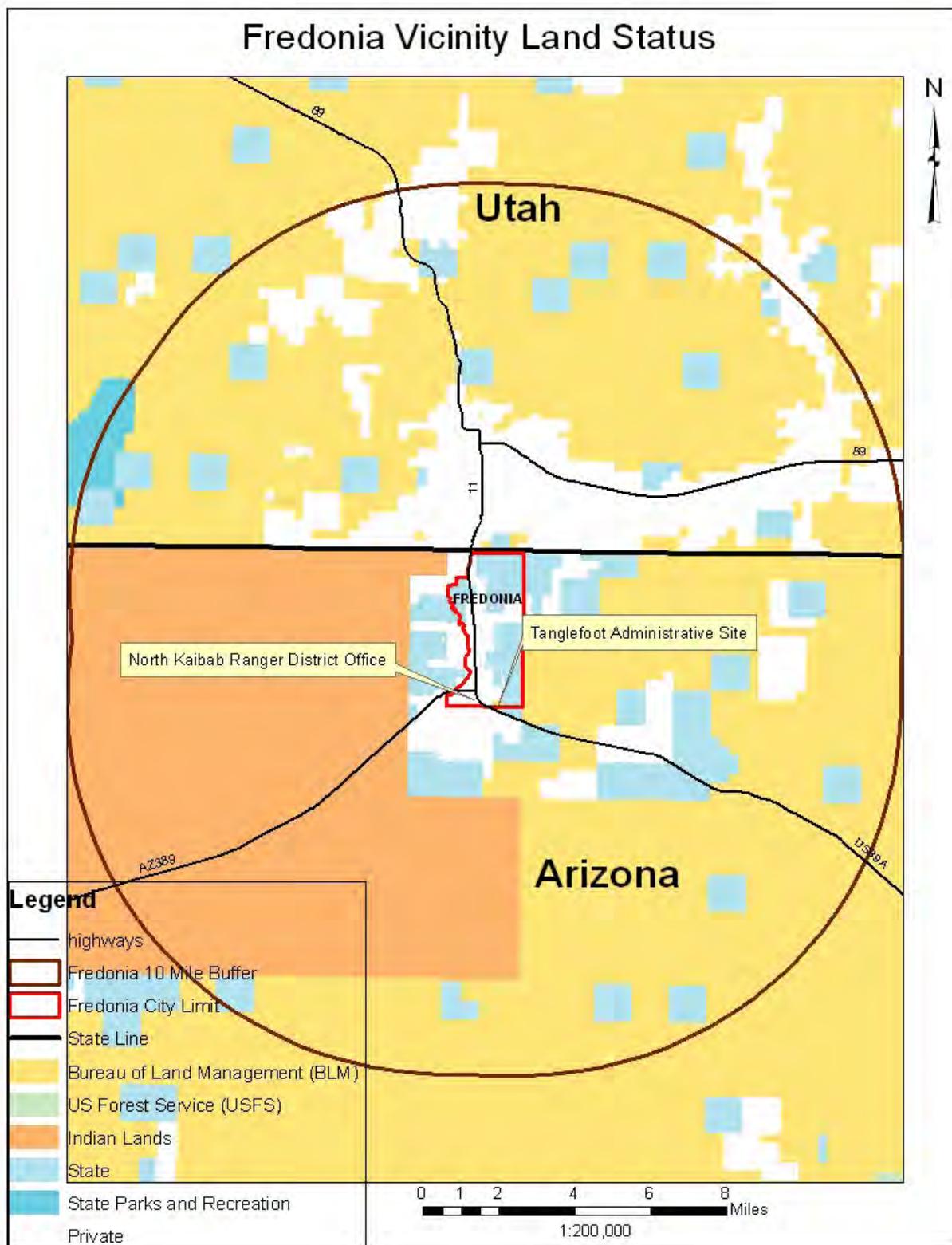


Figure 1—Vicinity map showing the current and proposed office location

Introduction

The Kaibab National Forest is considering the development of new administrative facilities in Fredonia, Arizona at the Tanglefoot Work Center three-quarters of a mile south of the existing office complex (Figure 1). The North Kaibab Ranger District is approximately 20 miles to the south on the high elevation Kaibab Plateau. Highway 89A from Fredonia to the south provides the gateway to the Forest and North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Alternately, Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks to the north of Fredonia are accessed through the town of Kanab, Utah.

Background

In May of 1999, the Forest Service National Facilities Team identified the need to reduce each Forest's deferred maintenance costs by disposing of buildings that have become obsolete or have become too expensive to operate and maintain. The district's existing office facility in Fredonia is inadequate to support the current permanent and seasonal workforce. The piecemeal building layout is inefficient and is linked by an outside wooden boardwalk system. Some of the detached buildings are approaching the end of their useful life and do not have adequate infrastructure to support office equipment. The two modular office buildings added to the site in 2002 eliminated a significant portion of on-site parking. Government vehicle parking had to be moved to the Tanglefoot Work Center resulting in lost time commuting between the two sites. The current facility is expensive to maintain and the outdated appearance of the existing buildings do not create a positive agency image to employees, customers, or visitors. When funding becomes available, these buildings would be replaced with new, energy efficient facilities that are designed to require less maintenance and keep deferred maintenance costs low. They would also be designed to anticipate and accommodate future expansion needs and to provide opportunities to collocate with other Federal, State and/or local agencies.

Purpose and Need

The Kaibab National Forest has identified the need to develop new administrative facilities in Fredonia, Arizona in order to better serve the employees, users, and administrative functions of the North Kaibab Ranger District. The new administrative complex would:

- reduce facility operation and deferred maintenance costs
- increase management efficiency and improve public service
- provide an easily visible office complex accessible to local communities, business associates and traveling visitors, and
- provide better public service by combining other local, state and federal agencies into one facility where they may coordinate their efforts and share resources

Proposed Action

The action proposed by the Forest Service is to develop and construct a new administrative complex at the 40 acre Tanglefoot Work Center a short distance south of the existing office site. The new administrative complex would consist of:

- Inter-agency Office Building and conference center
- A storage building for District fire vehicles requiring winter freeze protection currently stored at facilities 80 miles away in Page, Arizona and storage for resource tools, supplies and equipment

- The storage building would also house employee restroom and shower facilities for fire crews along with a vehicle shop/garage for doing minor equipment repairs on site
- Provide a secure government and employee parking area, and
- Upgrade the barn and horse pasture facilities

Other Considerations

The evaluation process for this project was completed in two parts. First, the facility needs were documented and alternatives to meet those needs were evaluated. Second, alternatives for the location of the facility were evaluated. The proposed facility must be strategically located to serve visitors, local customers, the ranger district, and other public agencies that will co-locate with the Forest Service. The facility design should incorporate and reflect the character of the region and the local community.

Options considered included no action, leasing new facilities, building new facilities at the existing site and building new facilities at the Tanglefoot Work Center. The results of the evaluation recommended facility development and the construction of a new inter-agency office complex are at the Tanglefoot site.

The Tanglefoot Work Center has the lowest site development costs and the least potential to conflict with other future commercial or residential developments. Adequate land area and utility connections are available at this site to meet the present and future needs of the Forest Service and other collocated public agencies. This site would consolidate facilities in Fredonia, providing easier public access, and provide better administrative and fire response.

Analysis Schedule

Public scoping is an integral part of the environmental analysis process. It provides a means for the public to express opinions, identify issues and concerns related to the proposed action and identify additional management opportunities or alternatives. The Forest Service is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze and disclose the effects of this proposal and to be prepared for timely construction when funding becomes available. The North Kaibab District Ranger will be the Responsible Official authorizing the decision.

The public is invited to offer comments at this time. To help ensure consideration and standing in this process, comments must be submitted within 30 days following the date of the legal notice posted in the Arizona Daily Sun, Flagstaff, Arizona. Please address your questions or comments to G.T. “Todd” Allison, gtallison@fs.fed.us, ID Team Leader, USDA Forest Service, P. O. Box 248/430 South Main Street, Fredonia, Arizona 86022. Those commenting should include (1) name, address, telephone number, organization represented, if any, (2) title of the document on which the comment is being submitted, and (3) specific facts and supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider. Comments may also be hand delivered to the above address during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, excluding federal holidays. Electronic comments should be sent to comments-southwestern-kaibab-north-kaibab@fs.fed.us, by fax (928) 643-8105 or by calling (928) 643-8143.