

## Decision Summary – Land Management Plan

<b>Project Name</b>	Tonto National Forest Travel Management Planning		
<b>Forest</b>	Tonto National Forest	<b>Region</b>	R3
<b>Choose Type of Activity</b> (Wilderness, Roadless, Energy infrastructure, Minerals, Vegetation CE, Land Management Plan) <b>and level of Decision</b> (No DM, DM, DN/FONSI, ROD)			
Land Management Plan (amendments). ROD			
<b>Planned Decision Date</b>	March 15, 2021		

### Summary Description

<b>Purpose/Need</b>
Forest-wide compliance with the 2005 Travel Management Rule for the Tonto National Forest by designating motor vehicle use on roads, trails, and areas, including big game retrieval. Amend the forest plan to prohibit cross-country travel on two northern ranger districts and update the forest recreation opportunity spectrum to reflect existing conditions.
<b>Intended Selected Action</b>
Designate: 1) A motorized system of 4,271 miles of roads and trails across the forest, 3,697 miles of which are open to the public; 2) Eight OHV areas; and 3) Motor vehicle, use up to 1 mile on both sides of designated roads and motorized trails, solely for elk and bear retrieval. Also analyzed 2 non-significant forest plan amendments to prohibit motor vehicle use off designated routes and to update recreation opportunity spectrum percentages to match designated motor vehicle use. The EIS analyzed 3 action alternatives.
<b>Potentially Significant Effects or Extraordinary Circumstances (if any)</b>
Decrease the existing known motorized route system from 4,959 miles to 4,271 miles; Close routes within designated wilderness areas that are popular to the public; Determined “may affect, likely to adversely affect” for three Endangered Species with concurrence from Fish and Wildlife Service.
<b>Public Involvement (include State, local governments and Tribal consultation)</b>
Multiple public meetings prior to notice of intent to prepare the EIS; mailings to over 3,500 notifying of opportunity to comment on the draft EIS and Draft Supplemental EIS; Arizona Game and Fish Department Cooperating Agency status; Communication with state and local officials, along with adjacent city governments; Formal Consultation and collaboration with eight recognized Tribes. Many of these tribes supported closing as many routes as possible to protect sacred areas. Issues included effects to resources from motorized big game retrieval off designated routes and reduced dispersed camping opportunities from limiting camping to a specific distance from roads.
<b>Timeline Considerations (statutory, court-related, administrative) and Objections Status</b>
Completed objection on Draft EIS and final EIS (2016), objection instructions to prepare a supplemental EIS for focused analysis; Completed objection on Draft ROD and final SEIS (2019) with minor instructions to be addressed in ROD prior to signature; Awaiting clearance to publish Final SEIS in Federal Register to allow for signing of decision.