



File Code: 1900
Date: January 24, 2020

Dear Interested Party:

This letter provides notification of two administrative changes to the Coronado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan, revised 2018) to carry forward modifications and clarifications to the Forest Plan as a result of:

- the decision made on the appeals of the plan,
- the resolutions accepted in appeal resolution meetings with the appellants and
- the alignment of the plan with the 2012 Planning Rule.

There were two appeals of the revised plan, from the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Chapter. The Forest Service worked with the appellants to resolve their appeal issues and as a result of the appeal issues resolution agreements, the Arizona Game and Fish Department withdrew their appeal in its entirety. The Sierra Club informed the Forest Service that three of their appeal points have been resolved. The remaining appeal issues from the Sierra Club were reviewed by the Reviewing Officer for the Chief, and the decision was made to affirm the revised Coronado Forest Plan, with instructions given to add clarity on two appeal topics. The forest has followed these instructions and is publishing this administrative change (Administrative Change #1) that addresses them as well as the appeal resolution agreements made with the appellants.

The Planning Rule requires that all forest plans meet specific elements of the rule related to Forest Plan monitoring, and prescribes public involvement in changes to the monitoring strategy. On August 12, 2019 we requested public comment on our proposal for this monitoring transition to focal species. The proposed changes were specified in the document "Coronado National Forest Monitoring Transition to Focal Species," which was mailed out to interested parties and posted to the forest planning website

https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/coronado/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fswdev7_018702.

Four comment letters were received: requesting that Chiricahua leopard frogs, lowland leopard frogs, grassland sparrows, invertebrates and the Montezuma quail be included as focal species, asking that species be identified for monitoring in the desert and grassland communities, that Mexican spotted owl habitat elements be monitored both pre and post treatment, more collaborative efforts between the Forest and Arizona Game and Fish Department and to fill or cap open-topped pipes across the Forest. We reviewed the comments and are considering some important changes to our monitoring strategy as a result of the insights provided. The changes we have made are described and listed in the enclosed document "Coronado Administrative Change per 2012 Planning Rule Monitoring Transition to Focal Species" (Administrative Change #2) and are primarily found in Chapter 6, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Forest Plan.



Changes have been made throughout the Coronado Forest Plan and Appendix H of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An updated version of the Coronado Forest Plan and errata sheet for Appendix H will be posted to the Forest planning website <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/coronado/landmanagement/planning>. Pages which have been changed will be identified in the page footers, along with the date of the change.

Approval of Administrative Changes

Administrative change #1 provides modifications and clarifications throughout the Coronado Forest Plan and a single clarification in the Appendix H of the Final EIS addressing the decision made on appeals of the plan as well as the resolutions accepted by the appellants in the appeal resolution meetings. I am approving this administrative change as described in “Coronado Forest Plan Administrative Changes – Administrative Change per Appeal Resolutions.”

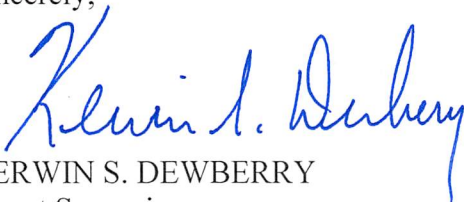
Administrative change #2 is a modification of the Coronado National Forest Monitoring Strategy found in Chapter 6 of the Coronado Forest Plan. We made changes to certain elements in the Monitoring Strategy and added new elements where necessary. This modification brings the plan into compliance with the 2012 Planning Rule. After considering public comments we received on this proposed transition, I am approving this administrative change as described in “Coronado Forest Plan Administrative Changes - Administrative Change per 2012 Planning Rule Monitoring Transition to Focal Species.”

Both administrative changes (#1 and #2) are posted to the forest planning website https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/coronado/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fswdev7_018702.

Administrative change #2 is being made in accordance with the 2012 Planning Rule (36 C.F.R. § 219.13 (c) (2)), whereby changes to content that are not plan amendments or revisions may be made following public notice.

Thank you for your interest and engagement in the management of the Coronado National Forest.

Sincerely,



KERWIN S. DEWBERRY
Forest Supervisor

cc: Chris Thiel; Angela Dahlby; Rose Robinson