PUBLIC NOTICES

Opportunity to Object on the Coconino National Forest's Oak Creek Watershed Restoration Project

Nicole Branton, district ranger for the Red Rock Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest, has prepared an environmental assessment, finding of no significant impact, and draft decision notice for Oak Creek Watershed Restoration project. The selected alternative, Alternative 2, includes nine activities that build from the 2016 Middle and Lower Oak Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan and would improve watershed conditions, wildlife habitat, and water quality in the watershed.

The documents are available online at the Coconino National Forest website: https://tinyurl.com/OakCreekWRAP. The documents are also available for review at the Red Rock Ranger District office in Sedona. Additional information can be obtained from: Elizabeth Munding, Red Rock District NEPA planner, at 928-203-2914.

The activities proposed in the Oak Creek Watershed Restoration Project draft decision notice are not authorized under the HFRA and are subject to 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

How to file an Objection and Timeframe

Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment in accordance with §218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities.

Objections, including attachments, must be filed via mail, fax, email, hand-delivery, express delivery, or messenger service (8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays) to: Regional Forester, Southwestern Region, 333 Broadway SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102, via FAX: 505-842-3110, or via e-mail: objections-southwestern-regional-office@fs.fed.us. Please also send a copy of your objection to objections-southwestern-coconino@fs.fed.us. Electronically filed objections may be submitted by email in word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), and hypertext markup language (.html).

Objections must be submitted within 45 calendar days following the publication of this notice in the Red Rock News. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection.

At a minimum, an objection must include the following (36 CFR 218.8(d)):

1. The objector's name and address, with a telephone number, if available;

2. A signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for email may be filed with the objection);

3. When multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector (verification of the identity of the lead objector shall be provided upon request);

4. The name of the proposed project, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the name(s) of the National Forest(s) and/or Ranger District(s) on which the proposed project will be implemented;

5. A description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and

6. A statement that demonstrates connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection.

Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to §218.9. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

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