

# TONTO NATIONAL FOREST PUBLIC MEETINGS

## PUBLIC VALUES – WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE TONTO?

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### Payson

#### Agency Management, Staff

- Fuels management
- Off road clubs working with the forest
- Money spent to educate people using forest
- Forest Service writing tickets – not just Game & Fish - fishing “over limit”
- Enforce current regulations that are already in place
- Education of groups that use the forest
- Value local decisions

#### Economic/Multiple Uses

- Balance tourism with economic uses & long term benefits
- Commodities – hunting, fishing, grazing, to be active managers
- Multiple use (air strips important)
- Multiple use
- Multi-use of forest
- Continue multiple use (timber, grazing, hiking, etc.) at a sustained level
- Issues due to loss of grazing & logging
- Leave everything open that isn't damaged to collect wood, retrieve game and gather cattle

#### Aesthetic, Personal, Spiritual

- Wildlife, peace, tranquility, trails
- Enjoy the forest/scenic qualities
- Wilderness/Roadless areas
- Scenic qualities, quiet
- Escape from the city, new experiences
- Open space
- Ability to be by yourself, away from people
- Freedoms available through the forest
- Natural beauty
- Be in the woods
- Concern of “trashing” of forest
- Trashing by hikers, visitors and residents in area
- Openness of forest
- Beauty – dunes
- Communing with nature
- Peace & quiet
- Scenery – getting out into forest
- Keep lakes & streams clean – long term prosperity
- Control abuses (dumping) in the forest
- Provide facilities for dumping trash

- The forest itself
- Clean water/air
- Remoteness, quietness

### Access To and Through the Forest

- Access to land (free access)
- Affordability of use by everyone
- Accessible
- Access to public lands
- Roads open for ATV's & jeeps/accessibility
- Open roads/existing roads motorized trails
- Specific use trails
- Spend time on 4-wheeler – use licensed roads
- Road closures causing people into one area
- Keep open
- Have old logging roads available for riding (OHV)
- Keep all roads open for everyone's use to camp & fish
- Concerned with roads ending at about 500 feet – does not see use of these roads
- The towns & Forest Service should work together jointly on walking trails
- Appropriately marked trails
- Separate trails for trails/horses from motorized use
- Trail system
- Road system for access
- Beauty, trail system – the “people's forest”
- Accessible/use (by walkers) for everyone – bikes, walkers, jeeps, etc
- Areas available to all citizens
- Access to public land

### Recreation

- Responsible riding/users
- Camping, hunting, fishing, Sunday drives
- Diversity provided/wilderness
- Hunt
- Fish
- 40-yr user hunt, trap
- Anything off-road is a “like”
- Recreation
- Off-roading and hiking
- Protect recreation
- Horseback rider concern of trails trashed by off-road vehicles – possible separate areas
- Not blaming on 4-wheeler for forest problems, see something done – want it to be fair
- Hiking/Riding
- Camping, hiking, fishing, wildlife, healthy forest, grazing, OHV, horseback riding
- Separate day use areas
- Take/remove Roosevelt recreation fees
- Lakes, recreational

- Fish (restocking) cooperate with Game & Fish
- Wilderness camping areas (keep them maintained)
- Off-roading
- Wilderness Areas
- Recreation sites (picnic, camping, fishing, horse, aviation)
- Hunting
- Avoid fees if possible
- Diverse opportunities
- Riding trails, view, beauty
- Address resource damage from off highway use.

#### Custom & Culture, Tradition, History

- Lifestyle
- Archeological sites
- Return to Native Americans
- Personal firewood permits

#### Environmental/Ecological

- Healthy forest ecosystem
- Pristine wilderness areas
- Plant/animal life
- Natural wildlife habitat
- Clean Forest
- Varied, large size (terrain)
- Fuel reduction (especially communities)

## PLEASANT VALLEY

### Agency Management, Staff

- Tired of Forest Service saying no money or people to perform projects
- Mismanagement of money – ineffective projects
- Live up to slogan – do more things, have more uses
- Homeowners concerned about fire
- Want to see grazing but it needs to be managed to prevent overgrazing, continue to have management, continue to be local
- Criteria for grazing needs to be based on science not pressure
- More power to local decision makers, ranger and district
- Enforcement of laws & rules
- Value Forest Service personnel for expertise of resource

### Economic/Multiple Uses

- Paving of FR 512 and utility easement
- Openness, return logging/grazing to maintain work, to maintain recreation and roads
- Value a clean forest, open forest with regard to historic conditions. Grazing as economic and vegetation management
- Open space, multiple use
- Economic uses/resources
- Management opportunities – logging, grazing, recreation
- Grazing opportunities
- Timber and lumber
- Economic aspects of recreation and timber
- Seeing livestock
- Use of wood (personal use)
- Use of renewable natural resources
- Public range that can be grazed

### Aesthetic, Personal, Spiritual

- Forest is beautiful and remote
- Enjoy privacy on land near and in forest
- Open space
- Isolation in forest
- Clean air
- Quiet
- Beauty, openness, quietness, trees, clean air
- Dark skies, bright stars
- Sound and smell of the forest

### Access To and Through the Forest

- Access to pristine wilderness
- Concerns over access
- Access to forest is appreciated – would like to see it improved
- Vehicular access needs to stay open, find balance

- Access to forest – roads and trails, existing roads
- Accessibility to whole forest with respective us – ATV, horse, hike, roads kept open
- Like to use paved road and dirt roads to access forest
- Openness, open road access
- Dirt roads, well maintained

### Recreation

- User fee concerns
- Enjoy ATV riding, want to see it maintained
- Like to hunt, fish, ATV
- Recreation opportunities
- ATV, horses, hiking
- Forest users respect each other (horses & ATVs)
- Camping and recreation
- All of the above. Also to ride horses and 4-wheelers
- Recreation values
- Wilderness resource
- Inventoried roadless areas
- Fishing and hunting
- Visiting the fish hatchery

### Custom & Culture, Tradition, History

### Environmental/Ecological

- Clean up jungle
- Keep forest, clean it up, keep trees, less brush, fewer dead trees – Green!
- Wildlife
- Acceleration of prescribed burning
- Value using fire as a tool to manage the forest
- Diversity – desert to pines
- Scenery, diversity of terrain, wildlife, vegetation
- Clean forest – litter
- Vegetation
- Sustain forest values by removing dead wood. Thinning
- Biodiversity
- Diversity of forest
- Wildlife values
- Healthy forests
- Defensible space around private lands
- Cleaned up forest (removal of diseased trees)

## Globe

### Agency Management, Staff

- Tonto designated lands for exchange is concern, security of public ownership

### Economic/Multiple Uses

- Livestock grazing
- Federal land use
- Multiple use
- Economic Impact – economic security to local communities (from bird watching rock climbing, to tourism and competitive events)
- Timber: logging of bug and fire killed trees
- Job in mining
- Economic value
- Mining
- Cattle grazing
- The economic value of TNF is essential to Gila County (grazing, forestry, mining and recreation)

### Aesthetic, Personal, Spiritual

- Wide open spaces, clean air, fishing, solitude
- Enjoy the cleanliness and prestigious riparian areas and the presence of water
- Love wilderness to feel wild & free
- Roosevelt Lake area – maintain natural views, no more development “as is”

### Access To and Through the Forest

- Accessibility – being able to access areas
- Public access
- Road closures
- Access: responsible, sustainable
- OHV: access
- Recreation – travel management, concerns with misuse of routes
- Access fees, recreation access to privatize concessions
- Travel management plan, BLM and Forest Service, State
- To retain access through adopt-a-trail/road (volunteer program)

### Recreation

- OHV
- Salt river
- Recreation
- Salt river
- Responsible recreation, identify areas
- Hiking: fees, closures
- Fees: Why? Where?
- Wilderness: provides clean water, watershed, non-motorized vehicles, open to everyone (ex: Goldfields – need specific designation and similar areas)

- OHV: Oak Flats and Pipeline identified as special OHV areas
- Wilderness/river/resource/roadless areas
- Love wild open land, but not more designated wilderness
- Likes designated wilderness and do need more of them
- Likes Oak Flat campground because it's a historical campground
- Swimming in the lakes
- Whitewater rafting experience (economical to Gila County)
- Not trespassing on private land, fish, hike, hunt, meditate
- Fishing
- Water, fishing, vistas (views), dirt roads, wild bushes and trees, wildlife
- Open spaces, recreational opportunity
- Wilderness (amount of)

### Custom & Culture, Tradition, History

- Availability of multiple uses, history and heritage
- Cabin leases
- Cultural diversity, vistas
- Boundaries (Private/federal)
- Forest wide/Pinal Peak (and other areas, ex: Payson's) cabins: lease agreements to continue
- Somewhere nearby to go, location, safe atmosphere, place to take Boy Scouts and own children
- Archeology

### Environmental/Ecological

- Ecological
- Environmental protection
- Ecological diversity
- Loves the variations in ecosystems by elevation
- Diversity of forest

## TONTO BASIN

### Agency management, staff

- Would like more rangers in field
- Likes accessibility of ranger station – can pick up phone and call for information
- Likes early notification of public meetings to plan ahead
- Do the best job you can without interfering with the public

### Economic/Multiple uses

- Logging
- Multi-use

### Aesthetic, Personal, Spiritual

- Get away from everyday life
- Some things seen that others don't see
- Like being near forest
- Beautiful cactus, lakes, wildflowers, mountains
- Blue sky, fresh air
- Sunrises & sunsets
- Peace and quiet
- No Traffic
- Solitude

### Access To and Through the Forest

- Escape from Phoenix
- ATVs, 4-wheel drive, just to get out
- Some people can't walk, driving makes accessible
- Roads/trails graded – in good shape
- Open ATV riding – on trails
- Enjoys non-motorized trails
- Convenience to Phoenix, multi-use
- Roads that are open now, open access
- Access to fishing, using what is available
- Ability to go where you want
- Access to the forest
- Better access to the lake [Roosevelt]
- Keeping roads open
- Free forest access
- Open space and accessibility (free)

### Recreation

- By yourself in a jeep
- Like to be able to fish in Salt River
- Like to use area from bridge down to hunt, fish
- Like good road maintenance
- Likes open roads (keep ATVs on roads)

- Fishing is good, boat docks ok, fish cleaning stations, clean (no litter)
- Annual pass
- Rafting experience in Salt River stay the same (group sizes, etc.)
- Openness, access (roads), mining, camping
- Dispersed camping is free
- Developed camping facilities
- ATV trails, facilities at lakes
- Fishing, boating, swimming at lakes
- Ditto – good hiking opportunities
- For everybody
- Hunting
- Wilderness
- Fishing
- 4-wheeling
- Mountain biking
- Keep primitive looks
- Recreation
- Open areas set aside for quads
- Primitive areas/camping (less cost, more access on east/west sides)
- Vistas and views of Roosevelt Lake. - Open areas, views, access to fishing
- Wilderness areas

#### Custom & Culture, Tradition, History

- Cliff dwellings (TNM)
- Private property borders national forest land

#### Environmental/Ecological

- Animals
- Clean forest
- Topographical variation
- Climate – perfect for winter, no tornados, earthquakes, etc.
- Diverse geography, lakes/rivers
- Wilderness, roadless areas, wildlife habitat, watershed protection
- Fire can play natural role
- Water yield

## MESA

### Agency management, staff

#### Economic/multiple uses

- Renewable resources – grazing
- My livelihood – we attract people to the forest and float on Salt River, expose folks to unique areas of AZ (lakes, trees)
- Multiple use of grazing and logging

#### Aesthetic, Personal, Spiritual

- Open space
- Beauty, scenic value
- Remoteness of the TNF
- Peacefulness of nature
- Visitors are surprised, impressed
- Space – can get out and still feel solitude
- Enjoy natural setting
- Places to go, untouched by the hand of man, pristine
- Scenic value
- Most beautiful part of State
- Tortilla Campground most beautiful
- Love being on the forest every day
- Vast size
- Value of the Sonoran desert and the beauty of the desert
- Salt & Verde Rivers unique and beautiful and peaceful (May, October, September)
- tropical paradise, beaches and pools
- Remoteness of Superstition Wilderness
- Being in the natural environment
- Ability to sit on ridge and not see a light
- Watch rocks change colors as day goes by
- Riparian areas – more creatures to watch, trees and streams flow year round, coolness, 3 within an hour of Phoenix
- Changing color of the trees
- East of Payson – coolness of pines
- Year round usage – mild climate, short sleeve clothing
- Like to use when less people during the week, less noise of ATV, dogs, people
- Get out by ourselves in remote areas with mother
- Scenery

#### Access To and Through the Forest

- Accessibility to Phoenix metro
- Right next door – closest to Phoenix Metro
- Close
- Access/accessibility, easy to get to
- Close to town/easy access

- Makes Phoenix livable – close proximity
- Easy access yet still retains “remoteness”
- Accessibility to forest from urban areas
- Accessibility
- Year round access
- Close to Phoenix, can quickly access the forest
- Forest accessibility
- Potential of airstrip access
- Diversity of motorized and non-motorized trail systems with varying skill level and loops
- Ease of travel on the TNF (forest roads)
- Maintained, non-motorized trails
- Urban setting for outdoor opportunity
- Accessibility and diversity of areas
- Ease of camping accessibility
- Some improvement of roads, roads with some challenge
- Beautiful 4-wheel drive roads
- Hiking, equestrian trails
- Multi-use trails
- Large number of hiking trails on maps & website

## Recreation

- Roadless areas/wilderness – for hunting and non-motorized activities
- Partnership in recreation – cooperation
- Hunting, fishing, camping, river running,
- Quality time with family – OHV and camping, single track
- Recreation opportunities (all)
- Off-road
- Roadless area resource
- Diversity of recreation opportunities (off-road, camping)
- Diversity of things to see and do
- River atmosphere – water, solitude, wilderness, recreation
- Maintenance of facilities, nice hosts
- No access fees for general entry, non-developed areas
- Lots of different types of users
- Fairly large wilderness areas
- Wilderness areas
- Salt River
- Bird watching
- Hunting opportunities
- Variety of recreation opportunities
- Diversity of recreational opportunities
- Ability of dispersed recreation
- Delight to watch quail and coyotes
- Opportunity to hunt and fish quail, elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, bear, bobcat, etc.
- Warm water and cold fisheries – diverse

- Grow and produce fish on the Tonto Canyon Creek Hatchery & Tonto Hatchery
- Good old fashioned swimming holes
- Excellent place for pictures year round
- Free, generally speaking. Free entertainment year round
- Boating at lakes, highest per capita of boats at one time
- Sycamore Creek and Sunflower. Bushnell Tanks closed from the fire
- C Canyon – camping, hiking, trout fishing
- Hiking trails & fishing Workman Creek
- Opportunities to white water raft, call 3-4-5

### Custom & Culture, Tradition, History

- Cultural and historical values
- Historical value – old ranching, mining, stage stops
- People diversity
- Prehistoric & historic cultural remnants
- Archeological sites
- Evidence of pioneers/historic ranches
- History of this country unique

### Environmental/Ecological

- Natural habitat
- Riparian habitat (watershed/wildlife)
- Photo point program (riparian)
- Variety of terrain (Tonto)
- Diversity of terrain
- Diversity of habitat
- Wilderness areas (amount)
- Developed waters (i.e. stock ponds, drinkers)
- Clean forest
- Free-flowing streams
- Undamaged areas, i.e. wilderness
- Wildlife
- Wildlife, plants
- Diversity of plants
- Diversity – desert and mountains, wildlife
- Rare jewel of Fossil Creek, crystal clear water, native fish
- Diversity and proximity
- Habitat – diversity
- Incredible biological, environmental diversity
- Protected areas (ex: bald eagles)
- Valuable riparian areas
- Unique geological features
- Environmental, ecological value
- Wildlife values
- Sonoran Desert plant life
- Lakes

- Diversity of vegetation and wildlife
- Diversity of biotic community and wildlife
- Diverse geology (pines, canyons, cliffs, beautiful drives thru desert)
- Watershed and water supply of Salt and Verde
- Rarity of the riparian habitat and their value
- Animals and creatures

## Cave Creek

### Agency Management, Staff

- The people that administer the forest
- Used to be a forest fire fighter
- Rangers out in field to talk to
- Likes working with the Cave Creek Ranger District
- Good working relationship with Globe Ranger District as Pinal County & AZ Trl. Assoc.
- Ability Copper State Cruisers to work with F.S.
- Working with F.S. to clean up trash
- Developed sites kept clean (FS & camp hosts)
- Camp hosts gracious
- Severe fire danger closures (appropriate. Support.) (dry season more frequent?)
- Restrictions during fire/safety

### Economic/Multiple Uses

- Land which is managed for multi-uses – for purposes there are laws for
- Multi-use – can do just about anything you want
- It is not managed for a single use

### Aesthetic, Personal, Spiritual

- Serenity
- Quietness & remoteness of it – general public can't get to most of it
- Wonderful escape from pollution & noise from city
- A great getaway from the hustle & bustle of the city
- Quiet & solitude
- Quiet & solitude, preserve wilderness
- Anything being in the solitude
- In the fresh air
- Wilderness areas – ability to get away from sights, sounds
- Solitude – peace and quiet, not too many people
- Remoteness – keep civilization at bay. Maintain remoteness
- Quietness. Designated areas for uses – non-motorized areas, wilderness
- Beauty
- That there are accessible areas but still feels remote – solitude
- Diversity – start at warm day and end up in snow

### Access To and Through the Forest

- Good hiking trails
- Accessibility
- Accessibility by all citizens
- Trails are well marked
- Close to Phoenix
- Very accessible
- Close to town

- Accessibility
- Proximity to Phoenix
- The diversity & accessibility
- Quiet & clean places to bring family, hike, get away from the city
- Areas that have access & no access (balance)
- Maintenance of roads, trails
- Vehicular access
- ATVing backroads – across river & exploring & staying on trails

### Recreation

- Camping/backpacking
- Everything is well marked such as lakes & campgrounds
- OHV, responsible usage
- Hike, mountain bike, dirt bike
- Hiking, backpacking, wilderness
- Hiking, coordinating different activities
- Hike, horse riding, fish, hunt
- Separation of uses
- Wilderness areas – riding horses
- Diversity – hiking trails inside & out of wilderness
- Water recreation opportunities
- Wilderness areas (backpacking, hiking, camping)
- Low impact uses to the forest
- Superstitions (AZ Trail)
- Wilderness areas – only person within a few square miles
- Diversity of uses: backpacking, hiking, OHV
- Camping (all over AZ)
- Opportunities & access for photography
- Being able to photograph cactus, flowers, & nature in general
- Hunting – species
- Going to hot springs & Fossil Creek to hike
- Hunting – need continued access
- Camping – accessibility. More sites availability – more maintained campgrounds. More attractive
- Recreation – multi-use. Monitored – managed, not a free for all. Not all uses in all areas.
- Hiking – more developed trailheads plus maps and info. More presentations – educational, info on etiquette.

### Custom & Culture, Tradition, History

- Camp Creek, family settled in the area
- Sears Kay Ruin
- Family able to be together
- Cabin in Camp Creek
- Fire precautions
- Historical value, old mines & buildings

- Quality time with kids
- Cabin in Camp Creek well utilized (180 guests per year) – pristine environment around the cabin
- Educational opportunities because of so many ecosystems/history/resources
- Contains archaeological habitat still preserved
- Agua Fria Monument area
- CCC project work – history
- Indian ruins

### Environmental/Ecological

- Naturalness
- Wildlife
- Diversity – hot desert & high pines
- Diversity of plants, animals, wildlife & geology
- Streams, lakes, other water sources especially in the desert
- Wildlife
- Wildlife habitat
- Able to see wildlife
- Size of the Tonto – diversity of biomes
- Diversity of wildlife & ecosystem
- Diversity of biomes
- Diverse geology & wildlife
- Diversity of terrain & wildlife
- Love the wildlife
- Ecological diversity – good portion of forest is pristine
- Only place in the world to sit in living room & watch mountain lions – diverse ecosystem
- Wildlife
- Wildlife – view variety birds etc.
- Preservation of public lands
- Public education, promote understanding of natural world. Perhaps should be left alone.
- Plants, botany, biodiversity.
- Control insect infestation
- Contribution to water & airsheds
- Ecological services