

# APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FORESTS



## "Forest Plan Revision Update-October 2007"

*A Message from the Forest Supervisor*

I want to thank you for your participation in the forest plan revision process on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (ASNFs). Your comments are important and my staff and I consider them in each step of the revision effort.

As you recall, last March a U.S. District Court in California enjoined the Forest Service from using the 2005 Planning Rule. The ASNFs continues to comply with this ruling, and is proceeding with pre-revision tasks under the guidance of the National Forest Management Act of 1976. The Forest Service has a new proposed forest planning rule that was published in the Federal Register in late August. Public comments are sought on this new planning rule through October 22, 2007. For more information on the new rule please visit the website [http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nfma/2007\\_planning\\_rule.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nfma/2007_planning_rule.html)

My staff is completing an evaluation of what needs to change in the 1987 Forest Plan. This evaluation includes the current conditions and trends of the social, ecological and economic sustainability of forest systems and the communities influenced by the forest. We expect the draft evaluation document to be posted on our website by the end of the year. ASNFs revision information is available on our website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/plan-revision>.

Some of you have asked for more technical information regarding the processes and science used in this evaluation report. We have a public meeting scheduled on November 1 from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm in Pinetop at the Arizona Game and Fish Department conference room to discuss the technical aspects and components of this evaluation.

What is our next step together for revision? In early 2008 the ASNFs will begin describing the desired ecological, economic, and social outcomes of forest management. We need your help with this and will be asking for your input after the first of the year.

As you may already know, I am retiring soon and will be moving back to Colorado. My last day on the ASNFs is December 21, 2007. Please give me a call if you wish to talk with me before I leave regarding plan revision, or other forest management topics. My phone number is (928) 333-6300. If you get my voice mail, please leave a message and I will return your call. I have very much enjoyed working with you over the past 4 ½ years. I don't know who will replace me, but I hope to have some overlap to transition with your new forest supervisor.

I thank you again for the help and contributions in managing your forests, and I hope you continue working with your new forest supervisor to build a vision for the future of the ASNFs.

*Elaine J. Zieroth*  
Forest Supervisor

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