

**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** October 17, 2019

Dear Four Forest Restoration Initiative Rim Country Project Interested Party:

The Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, and Tonto National Forests have prepared the Four Forest Restoration Initiative Rim Country Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The notice of intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement was published in the Federal Register June 27, 2016 (81 FR 41517). The DEIS proposes a suite of restoration actions across the project area over a period of 20 years. The DEIS was developed in collaboration with many individuals, groups, and agencies. We invite your review and comment on the DEIS. To aid in your review, a reader's guide that provides an overview of the DEIS is available.

### **Document Availability**

The DEIS documents are available online at [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/4FRIRimCountry](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/4FRIRimCountry). If you require a DVD, usb flash drive, or a hard copy of the DEIS, or need additional information, please contact Robbin Redman, 4FRI Planning Coordinator, at 928-527-3635 or email at [robbin.redman@usda.gov](mailto:robbin.redman@usda.gov). The documents are also available for review at the:

- Coconino National Forest Supervisor's Office,  
1824 South Thompson Street  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
- Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Supervisor's Office  
30 S. Chiricahua Drive  
Springerville, AZ 85938
- Tonto National Forest Supervisor's Office  
2324 E. McDowell Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85006

### **How to Comment and Timeframe**

We anticipate that the Environmental Protection Agency will publish the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the DEIS in the Federal Register on Friday, October 18, 2019. Written, facsimile, hand delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 90 days following that date. The publication date of the NOA in the Federal Register is the exclusive means for calculating the 90-day comment period for a proposed action documented in a DEIS. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeline information provided



by any other source.

We invite you to provide any substantive comments you might have regarding the 4FRI Rim Country Project DEIS that are within the scope of the project and the decision to be made, are specific to the proposed activities and the project area, and have a direct relationship to the project. Please provide supporting reasons for us to consider. If you cite or include references with your comments, please state specifically how those references relate to the proposed activities or effects analysis. Please include hard copies or internet links to any references to which you refer. It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such manner that they are useful to the agency's preparation of the environmental impact statement.

Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions. Please keep in mind that comments are not counted as votes (an alternative is not selected simply because it is most referenced in individual or form letters).

This proposed project is subject to the objection process described in 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. As such, individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to file a predecisional objection must meet the information requirements in 36 CFR 218. Names and contact information submitted with comments will become part of the public record and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act. Anonymous comments and comments submitted after the close of business on the last day of the comment period will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous commenters will not be eligible to file a predecisional objection.

### **Submitting Comments**

We encourage you to use our electronic options for providing comments. Electronic comments including attachments, may be submitted using the web form at <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?project=48210>. Please note, this option will not accept comments until the formal 90-day comment period has started. Comments may also be submitted by email, mail, fax, or in person. E-mail electronic comments, including attachments, in Word (.doc or .docx), portable document format (.pdf), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), and hypertext markup language (.html) to [4fri\\_comments@fs.fed.us](mailto:4fri_comments@fs.fed.us). Please note there is an underscore (“\_”) between the words “4fri” and “comments”.

Written comments must be submitted to: 4FRI Rim Country DEIS c/o Coconino National Forest Supervisor's Office, 1824 South Thompson Street, Flagstaff, AZ 86001. The fax number is (928) 527-3620. The office hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 08:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

### **Upcoming Public Meetings**

We will hold three public meetings to share information and answer questions about the DEIS:

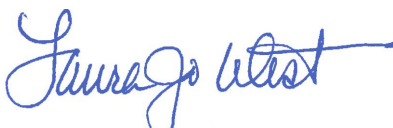
- **Nov. 12, 2019:** 5:30-7:30 p.m., Payson and Pleasant Valley Ranger District Office, 1009 East Highway 260 Payson, AZ 85541
- **Dec. 2, 2019:** 5:30-7:30 p.m., Black Mesa Ranger District Office, 2748 East Highway 260 Overgaard, AZ 85933
- **Dec. 3, 2019:** 5:30-7:30 p.m., Arizona Game and Fish Department Region II Office, 3500 S Lake Mary Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Thank you for your interest in this project. Please visit the 4FRI Rim Country webpage at [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/4FRIRimCountry](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/4FRIRimCountry) for more information, or contact Robbin Redman, 4FRI Planning Coordinator, at [robbin.redman@usda.gov](mailto:robbin.redman@usda.gov) or 928-527-3635.

Sincerely,



M. STEPHEN BEST  
Forest Supervisor  
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest



LAURA JO WEST  
Forest Supervisor  
Coconino National Forest



NEIL BOSWORTH  
Forest Supervisor  
Tonto National Forest