

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

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STATE OF ARIZONA)
County of Maricopa) ss

I, **Gary Grado** as **Managing Editor** of the **Arizona Capitol Times (AZ)**, am authorized by the publisher as agent to make this affidavit of publication. Under oath, I state that the following is true and correct.

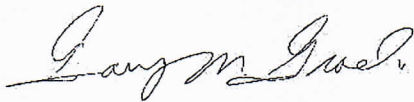
The **Arizona Capitol Times (AZ)** which is published weekly, is of general circulation. The notice will be/has been published **1** consecutive times in the newspaper listed above.

DATES OF PUBLICATION:

12/13/2019

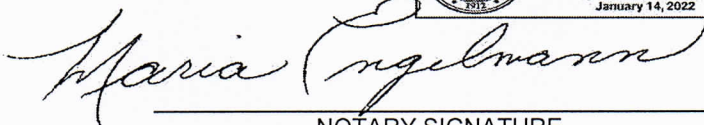
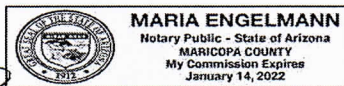
DESCRIPTION:

TONTO NATIONAL FOREST / LEGAL NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY



AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE
Gary Grado

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME
ON THE 13th DAY OF December 2019



NOTARY SIGNATURE
Maria Engelmann

**Legal Notice of Availability
Opportunity to Comment
Draft Forest Plan and Draft EIS**

The Tonto National Forest (NF) draft land management plan (draft plan) and draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) with appendices are now available for public review and comment. The Tonto NF is revising its 1985 plan in compliance with the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR § 219.17 (3)(b)(1)). The area affected by the proposal includes over 2.9 million acres of National Forest System land across the Arizona counties of Gila, Maricopa, Pinal, and Yavapai. The Responsible Official is the Tonto NF Supervisor, Neil Bosworth.

The draft plan and DEIS are available electronically on the Tonto NF plan revision website, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/tonto/landmanagement/planning>. Printed versions will be available at Tonto NF ranger district offices, at the supervisor's office, and at area libraries. Additional printed versions may be requested via email, SM.FS.tontoplan@usda.gov, or by calling 602-225-5200.

How to Comment and Timeframe

The Environmental Protection Agency published a Notice of Availability (NOA) for the DEIS in the Federal Register on December 13, 2019. Electronic, written, or hand-delivered comments concerning these documents will be accepted for 90 days following that day. The publication date of the NOA in the Federal Register is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for the draft plan and DEIS. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The decision to approve the draft land management plan for the Tonto NF will be subject to the objection process identified in the 2012 Planning Rule Objection Process at 36 CFR 219 subpart b (219.50 to 219.62). Only those individuals and entities who have submitted substantive comments related to the Tonto NF plan revision process and documents during the opportunities provided for public comment will be eligible to file an objection (36 CFR 219.52(a)). Final plan approval is expected in 2021.

Comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions. The submission of timely and specific comments can affect a reviewer's ability to participate in the 2012 Planning Rule Objection Process. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the respondent with standing to participate in the 2012 Planning Rule Objection Process.

Electronic comments are preferred and may be submitted by following the online commenting tool CARA link: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project?project=51592>. Written comments may be delivered weekdays 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday (except holidays) to any Tonto National Forest office. Comments delivered by U.S. mail may be sent to: Tonto National Forest, Attn: Forest Planner; 2324 E McDowell Rd, Phoenix, AZ 84006. To be accepted, all comments must be postmarked by the last date of the comment period.

More information is available on our website (listed above). If you have any additional questions, contact the plan revision team at SM.FS.TontoPlan@usda.gov, or 602-225-5200.

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