



Fact Sheet
USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Region
Gila National Forest

Travel Management Decision
June 2014

- The Gila National Forest's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and associated Record of Decision (ROD) will be released June 11, 2014.
- The publication of the legal notice in the forest's newspapers of record will begin the 45-day appeal period.
- During the formal public comment period, over 2,000 comments were received from individuals, organizations, and elected officials. The final decision reflects the Forest's consideration of the numerous comments received.
- The alternative chosen meets the purpose and need by providing for a system of roads, trails, and areas designated for motor vehicle use by class of vehicle and time of year and by minimizing adverse effects to natural and cultural resources as specified in the Travel Management Rule and 36 CFR parts 212, 251, and 261.
- The decision only pertains to motorized travel on Gila National Forest System lands.
- The decision keeps open 3,334 miles of road of the currently 4,613 miles of road open on the Forest. The roads closed are generally ½ to 1 mile in length. All closed roads will be available for emergency response.
- This decision increases the motorized trail system from 16 to 179 miles, a tremendous increase to the Forest's motorized trail system.
- The chosen alternative provides a 3-acre area on the Reserve Ranger District for motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use.
- Hunters are allowed to drive up to 300 feet from either side of roads designated with a corridor to retrieve their game. Reducing motorized access and route density decreases the impacts on big game species and their habitat.
- Approximately 96 percent of non-wilderness lands will be within two miles of an open road, about 99 percent within three miles.
- The chosen alternative has approximately 1,316 miles of designated motorized dispersed camping corridors and 36 areas. These motorized dispersed camping corridors and areas capture the majority of locations where motorized dispersed camping currently occurs.
- Visitors have the ability to drive off the road 300 feet from either side of the road to establish a camp where motorized dispersed camping corridors are designated.
- Fuelwood cutters can use their motorized vehicle within designated cutting areas to gather their fuelwood.

- The public can park, within a vehicle length or vehicle-plus-trailer length, along any of the roads open to motorized use in the chosen alternative, as well as county roads within the Forest, and can set up a camp any distance from the parked vehicle.
- Motorized travel will be allowed along the designated system of roads, trails, and areas as identified on the motor vehicle use map (MVUM). The MVUM is the legal document for the display of motorized routes and will be provided to forest visitors. It is anticipated the MVUM will be released March, 2015.
- Restrictions on motor vehicle use that are applied consistently to everyone are not discriminatory.