

Kaibab National Forest Plan Appeal Dispositions

Three notices of appeal were filed pursuant to the Optional Appeal Procedures. The first appeal (# 14-13-00-0175 - Ray Keeler) was withdrawn by the appellant following a successful appeal resolution agreement. The letter outlining the agreement can be viewed at <http://go.usa.gov/sRuh>.

The other two appeals received a decision review, which is the process by which a higher level officer reviews a decision of a subordinate officer in response to a notice of appeal. These were: Appeal # 14-13-00-0176 - Erik Ryberg, representing Friends of Anderson Mesa and Western Watersheds Project; and Appeal # 14-13-00-0177 - Jay Lininger, representing Center for Biological Diversity and co-appellants Grand Canyon Wildlands Council and Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter. Appellants raised appeal issues concerning procedural and planning requirements, as well as a range of natural resource issues, which included grazing; riparian habitat; viability of federally-listed and other species; climate change; and vegetation management.

An appeal decision was made by the Chief's reviewing officer following a deliberative and extensive review process. The appeal review found that the plan decision meets the requirements of applicable federal law, regulations, and policy and is therefore affirmed. The complete Appeal Decision for the Kaibab National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan can be found online at <http://go.usa.gov/sRhT>.