



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Four Forest Restoration
Initiative

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File Code: 1950

Date: November 21, 2014

Dear Interested Party

We are pleased to present you with the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and draft Record of Decision (ROD) for the Four-Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI), Coconino and Kaibab National Forests.

Since the comment period for the draft environmental impact statement in 2013, we have continued to work closely with stakeholders and regulatory agencies (such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) to improve the effects analysis and finalize mitigation and monitoring requirements.

The FEIS, draft ROD, and supporting documents (maps, specialist reports, and response to comments) are available for review online on the 4FRI website at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/4fri/planning> The FEIS, draft ROD, and maps are also available on CD. A limited number of FEIS and draft ROD hard copies are available at the Coconino and Kaibab National Forest Supervisor's Offices, as well as a greater number of map packets and CDs. The maps display the locations of the mechanical and prescribed fire treatments, springs and stream channel restoration, road activities, and aspen fencing proposed in alternatives B through E.

Objection Process

Unresolved concerns about the 4FRI FEIS and draft ROD will be addressed through a new objection process recently implemented by the Forest Service. Rather than seeking higher-level review of unresolved concerns *after* a project decision has been made, those who are eligible will be able to seek that review *before* the final project decision. We believe that considering public concerns again before a decision is made aligns with our collaborative approach to public land management and increases the likelihood of resolving those concerns, which results in more informed and better decisions.

In order to file an objection, you must have previously submitted specific comments regarding the proposed project in accordance with regulations at 36 CFR 218.5(a). Written comments are those submitted to the responsible official or designee during the designated opportunity for public participation provided for the proposed project. For 4FRI, these opportunities were the scoping period in 2011 and the formal comment period for the draft environmental impact statement in 2013.

Objections must be submitted within 45 calendar days after the publication of a notice in the *Arizona Daily Sun*. The publication date in this newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. We anticipate (but cannot guarantee) that the *Arizona Daily Sun* notice, as well as the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register, will be published on December 5, 2014. It should be noted that the regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.



Objections, including attachments, must be filed via mail, fax, e-mail, hand-delivery, express delivery, or messenger service (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays). Objections may be submitted via e-mail in word (.doc), portable document format (.pdf), rich text format (rtf), text (.txt), or hypertext markup language (.html). Please submit your objections to the Regional Forester as follows:

Mail: Southwestern Region
333 Broadway SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Phone: 505-842-3292
TTY: 505-842-3198
FAX: 505-842-3110

Email: objections-southwestern-regional-office@fs.fed.us

Following the regulations at 36 CFR 218.8(d), an objection must include (at a minimum) the following:

- the objector's name and address, with a telephone number, if available;
- a signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for email may be filed with the objection);
- identification of the lead objector when multiple names are listed on an objection (verification of the identity of the lead objector shall be provided upon request);
- the name of the proposed project (*Four-Forest Restoration Initiative*), the name and title of the Responsible Officials (*M. Earl Stewart and Michael R. Williams, Forest Supervisors*), and the name(s) of the National Forest(s) on which the proposed project will be implemented (*Coconino and Kaibab National Forests*);
- a description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project if applicable; how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; and supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider. Please note: incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b); and,
- a statement that demonstrates a connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection. Issues raised in objections must be based on timely, specific comments regarding the proposed project.

If you have any questions or for document requests, please contact 4FRI Team Leader Annette Fredette at (928) 226-4684.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL R. WILLIAMS
Forest Supervisor, Kaibab National Forest



M. EARL STEWART
Forest Supervisor, Coconino National Forest