

APPENDIX A

Key Trends related to Community Visions and Issues

The Social and Economic Sustainability Assessment is intended to provide a baseline assessment of conditions that interact with the Prescott National Forest (PNF) and may impact the sustainability of Forest contributions to the social and economic condition. Most information for the assessment was gathered from sources such as the census, or others that provided systematically-collected information. Some information for the social part of the report was also gathered through efforts that originated in relationship-building to benefit collaboration with groups, citizens and communities. Specifically this includes work done by Kristine Komar and Dave Schultz (Confab 2007) in describing communities near and within the PNF. The area surrounding the PNF was mapped based on the methods created by James Kent and Associates. The methods used were based on the theory that people everywhere develop an attachment to a geographic place with natural boundaries (Kent and Preister 1999). Human Geographic boundaries were mapped using field interviews that indicated the areas where individuals felt strongly about conditions and events. The Confab group provided the field work and expertise to create such a “human geographic map” for communities within and around the PNF and also described communities within each subunit on the map. As part of this effort, they collected comments and stories on issues related to Prescott National Forest management. These issues assisted the Forest in understanding community values, and contributed to identification of important social conditions and trends within the PNF landscape.

Later work by PNF employees was based on this Human Geographic mapping and became the basis for inviting communities to identify their Vision of the desired future for the landscape surrounding their community including the PNF. The attached table displays key trends from the body of Social and Economic Assessment that could be related to either portions of community vision statements or to community issues that were shared with Confab or PNF employees during interviews. The table is intended to provide a cross-walk between analysis in the body of the document and information from citizens that may relate to this assessment as planning progresses. Appendix A provides phrases that were excerpted from community vision statements. The complete vision statements from each community that participated are on the PNF webpage at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott/plan-revision/vision.shtml>.

Population/Migration/Housing

➤ Key Trends

- The population in Yavapai County will continue to grow.
- Conflicts between differing values associated with new users to the Forest will increase. Newcomers may bring different expectations about uses of the Forest that also present challenges to meeting visitors' expectations.
- Increased development is changing rural areas toward an urban character.

▪ Community Issues and Visions

- Yarnell has experienced slow growth over recent years, due to its distance from more rapidly growing areas like Prescott and Wickenburg. However, six large subdivisions have been approved near Congress and Yarnell residents are very concerned that future growth in the area will inflate home prices and taxes, stress law enforcement services in Yavapai County, and change their small town quality of life. **Y**
- *...the National Forest is the backyard and garden of all citizens and most individual operators would not damage their own personal property in the way they do in the national forest setting. A public educational campaign to increase environmental awareness.* **CH**
- *All recreationists—including anglers, birders, hunters, hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, gun enthusiasts, river runners, hang gliders and off-highway vehicle drivers—respect and utilize the Forest in harmony with each other and the environment.* **VV**
- *The increasing demand on our natural resources compels us to keep abreast of conservation practices that prove to be more efficient, sustainable, nonpolluting and respectful of diversity. As these improved practices become available, we support their timely implementation, with our vision remaining optimistic for the future.* **MF**
- *...retain as much of the natural environment as close to our town limits as possible. Thus ensuring that we will have those places of refuge nearby where we can enjoy the outdoors and reflect on the beauty that the Prescott National Forest provides.* **JE**
- *It is imperative that there are areas adjoining our town where we can go to escape the traffic noise of our busy community; away from all motorized vehicles, recreational shooting, and other negative impacts of a dense urban environment.* **JE**
- *... the PNF should take a proactive stance to protect and maintain Forest Resources for future generations. maintaining the views, protecting the air quality, and preserving open space* **JE**
- Citizens here have strong interest in preserving open space and maintaining the rural character of their communities - citizen groups have worked hard to prevent disposal of 17,000 acres of BLM public lands in the area. **DHMC**
- *Ranching and farming allow for preservation of open space, limiting housing and industrial encroachment.* **MF**
- *Our community has a vision to maintain our remote yet reachable lifestyle...* **MCHS**
- Open space, access and quality of life concerns are expressed by some residents **W**

Note: Italicized text comes from community vision statements. Non-italicized text comes from community visioning meetings and informal contacts with groups and individuals from those communities.

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- *Wilhoit is rural in character with a strong desire to remain that way. **W***
- *...preservation of the rural nature of our community and the natural beauty of our surroundings. Coincidental to that desire is the retention of open space to be used for designated public recreational activities. The community would like a sufficient amount of BLM lands surrounding the town dedicated to future development of public trails, nature preserves, and riparian areas. ...minimum depth of five miles from the private property lines around the community. The State Trust Lands within that area would be purchased by BLM for inclusion in the designated open space. **BCC***
- *...community values the Prescott National Forest (PNF) for the many recreational, economic and ecological services that it provides. The natural beauty and rural character of the surrounding public lands are a vital part of this community... those lands 50 years from now...remain in the public domains. **PR/PV/CHV** ...rural in character and lifestyle...the sense of openness is critical to the sense of remaining rural...fortunate to be surrounded by State and Federal lands. They not only help set the character of the community, but offer close by recreational opportunities. Maintaining these lands and access to them thus is very important...Preserving both the ranches and appreciation for animals is a goal almost universally stated by residents. **PA***

➤ Increasing human populations will increase demands for water. Conflicts over groundwater withdrawal and potential impacts on surface water will intensify.

- A primary issue for citizens and local government is securing adequate water supply for projected population growth. Related to this are municipal disputes over water pumping from the Big Chino area and maintaining base flows in the Upper Verde River. **PR**
- A primary issue for citizens and local government is securing adequate water supply for projected population growth. **PV, CHV**
- Water / growth **PA**
- Water hauling common in area; community well run by Ash Fork Development Association **AF**
- The small communities in this area are concerned that future population growth will diminish water supply for existing residents...Watershed health and water quality/quantity in the Agua Fria River; So. Yavapai Water User group has formed in an effort to have more local control of growth and water use **DHMC**
- *Good water quality and adequate water supply in our watershed directly effects our success and survival. We encourage and support projects to minimize run-off of rainfall and prevent erosion, increasing water retention within our watershed. **MF***
- Concerns about the Verde River and Prescott/Prescott Valley water project to pump water out of the Big Chino. **CAV**
- Water / growth / Big Chino aquifer; protect Verde River for sustainability **CO**
- *The Verde River flows year round through a lush riparian greenway, providing water for agricultural production, habitat for animals, and a large variety of recreational opportunities. **VV***
- Water supply – quality and quantity. Wilhoit residents depend on individual wells and a small community water cooperative. Drilling a well to get enough water volume is risky and well water usually has a high mineral content. **W**
- *Limiting further commercial or residential development will also help protect the limited water supply in our*

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area **BCC**

- *...the Forest protects the region's watershed by storing ground water and sustaining renewable and non-renewable resources for future generations.* **VV**
- *...promote healthy watersheds where storage of water in the soil, stream courses and local aquifers is maximized.* **PR/PV/CHV**
- *...preserve the underground aquifer that supplies water to residents. ...ensuring the water supply remains available to residents living in the Big Chino basin.* **PA**

Land Ownership

➤ Key Trends

- The PNF, local governments and individuals have interest in retaining lands as open space in areas surrounding communities, especially in the Verde Valley. Pressure for land exchanges will continue and may increase.

▪ Community Issues and Visions

- Protection of their scenic views **JE**
- Loss of viewshed; private land around Jerome (East Mingus Land Exchange) **CO**
- *The community would like the viewshed protected from the town to the mountaintops in all directions.* **BCC**

Transportation and Corridors/Lands and Special Uses

➤ Key Trends

- Use of forest roads and trails will increase.
- New home construction and development of rural land will continue. Buildup of homes along the PNF boundary may affect established public access.

▪ Community Issues and Visions

- Local residents have difficult time maintaining Forest roads to the subdivision. **AF**
- PNF maintenance of Fed Mine Road **CH**
- *Regular maintenance of all roads to provide safe public accessibility and evacuation if needed.* **CK**
- Need for FS road upgrade for emergency fire access (Fed Mine area) **CH**
- Road maintenance by Forest Service or County for fire escape routes. Residents and business owners believe the Forest Service committed to adequately maintain community escape routes from Crown King in case of wildfire. Concern road maintenance is not being kept up. **CK**
- Cherry Road maintenance, especially after escaped PNF fire. **CH**
- Some citizens and OHV dealers are concerned about loss of recreational access to State Trust lands, and national forest lands and roads due to access road closures through private lands. One cited example is the Coyote Springs area. **PV**
- Preserving access to National Forest for recreation **PA**
- "You're closing a lot of roads and trails on the Forest?" **AF**
- Residents are concerned that motorized and non-motorized access routes be kept open to public lands in Black Canyon and the Castle Hot Springs area. **BCC**
- Black Canyon Trail Coalition wants to continue the Black Canyon Trail northward through the PNF and wants

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to work with the Forest to locate trail sections. **BCC**

- Separate trails for motorized and nonmotorized **JE**
- Local residents and non-residents want continued recreational access to BLM public lands and National Forest lands for horseback and motorized activities. **DHMC**
- Strong resistance to Travel Management Rule proposals to close roads on Coconino NF **CO**
- Only one trailhead on Verde side to access PNF **CO**
- Dropped PNF trails project **CH**
- *Availability and maintenance of adequate and clearly designated motorized and non-motorized trails.* **CK**
- *Existing, historically described roads on BLM land must be mapped, legally described, and dedicated so as to ensure that residents and property owners can continue to access and use their lands into perpetuity.* **MCHS**
- *All federal lands in the Lake Pleasant area are to be treated the same as private property with regard to obtaining new or perfecting existing legal and physical access.* **MCHS**
- *A system of non-motorized multi-use trails connects communities, allows access to public lands and encourages people to improve health and vitality by exploring the outdoors. Roads and selected areas are managed for responsible use of off-highway vehicles, while other areas are set aside for protection or managed for non-motorized uses.* **VV**
- *...a thoughtful balance will be achieved between the need for access and the protection of forest resources and aesthetics...a comprehensive recreational travel plan region-wide will protect forest health and promote robust economies in our cities and towns. ...PNF will maintain a comprehensive system of meaningful and sustainable trails, trailheads and designated campsites. Low maintenance facilities built collaboratively among citizens and agencies will be valued by all...minimize user conflict through enhanced separation between non-motorized and multi-use trails... with a reasonable amount of access to all user groups. Cross-country* motor vehicle travel will continue to be prohibited* **PR/PV/CHV**
- *The public areas surrounding our community should allow recreational access for all ages & physical conditions where practical.* **W**

- Increasing human population will increase demands for infrastructure such as utilities, utility corridors and roads.

- *Encourage appropriate discreet cell-site development to provide for better law enforcement telecommunications.* **MCHS**

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Recreation Use

➤ Key Trends

- The Forest can expect increasing demand for recreation opportunities, putting additional pressure on existing facilities and the need for additional recreation opportunities. Increased levels of use may also present challenges to meeting visitors' expectations. Increased recreation demands from Maricopa County are expected.

▪ Community Issues and Visions

- Lack of developed campgrounds on Forest **AF**
- *Adequate public facilities to accommodate the many visitors that frequent Crown King and the surrounding area.* **CK**
- *An increased number of improved campsites, including existing and previously closed campsites.* **CK**

Open Space

➤ Key Trends

- Pressure for land exchanges will increase while local governments and individuals will continue to expect the Forest to maintain open space. Local communities' resistance to land exchanges may increase, because of the desire to retain National Forest land for open space.

▪ Community Issues and Visions

- Interest in open space; usage of open space funding **PR**
- *... wide open spaces and urban interface areas are highly regarded by communities for their natural and cultural resource values, and their social and economic benefits.* **VV**
- *...buffered by Prescott National Forest lands, which provide natural open spaces and big mountain views The Black Mountain Range, featuring Mingus Mountain and Woodchute Wilderness on the north and Squaw Peak and Cedar Bench Wilderness to the south, forms a scenic backdrop for the entire Valley.* **VV**
- *... adamantly against Commercialization and Development, as well as Forest Land Trades for private use ... Forest boundaries should be kept intact and that management must focus on protection of the natural and cultural resources.* **JE**

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Community Engagement with the PNF

➤ Key Trends

- Community demand for PNF activities related to fire safety, fuels reduction, and forest health may increase with wildland-urban interface build-out.

▪ Community Issues and Visions

- Much of Prescott and its surrounding area is in a Wildland Urban Interface category. Of special concern are the numerous residential neighborhoods, recreational facilities, and organizational camps within the Forest boundary south of Prescott. **PR**
- PNF prescribed fires conducted during hunting season **BA**
- The small community fire departments want to work with BLM and Forest Service fire officials to improve community fire safety. **DHMC**
- ...surrounded by national forest lands. The whole town is wildland urban interface. Residents and business owners are concerned about potential wildfire. ...concerned about the safety of hundreds of ORV, camping, hiking, and hunting enthusiasts each day who visit the area. **CK**
- The Fire Chief is concerned about the drought-stressed forest vegetation and the fire danger to residents. OHV enthusiasts from “the Valley” are heavily using areas such as Copper Basin Wash with little understanding of the possibility of starting fires or resource damage. **SV**
- *Fire Prevention is paramount and should be on-going. Continue prescribed burns and brush thinning around our community for fuel reduction. Manage the public areas to reduce fuel build-up. Encourage the public to remove deadfalls for firewood after fires. **W***
- *Tougher law enforcement/greater punishments for those who start fires. **W***
- *Controlled burns were a big issue for health and viewshed reasons. **JE***
- *Healthy forests and rangelands are keys to sustainability. We support least-impact timber management practices and managed grazing to control excess combustible vegetation. **MF***
- *We recognize fire as a management tool and respect its role in the evolution of the forest and a critical component of forest health. We desire continued research in to the potential positive and negative effects of fire on the land. **MF***
- *The risk of forest fires will be reduced in the urban-wildland interface where the Forest and community partners will actively work to reduce hazardous fuel loads. Ecologically, socially and economically sustainable uses of forest products will support these projects. **PR/PV/CHV***
- *Active forest management, with an emphasis on restoration of natural ecological processes, developed through agency-community collaborative efforts, will help maintain forest health and reduce the risk of stand-replacing wildfires forest wide. **PR/PV/CHV***

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- Increases in illegal uses such as trash, vandalism, and unauthorized OHV are expected.
 - *Consistent and timely enforcement of existing laws and rules that govern the use of public and private lands.* **CK**
 - Trash / dumping **CHV**
 - ... *reduction of trash and clutter* **PA**
 - Local residents complain of trash dumping by non-locals along Forest roads; closest transfer stations currently are Seligman and Williams; cost \$38/month for residential trash pickup. **AF**
 - Trash dumping. Residents are concerned about the dumping of household trash and appliances on public lands in Black Canyon. **BCC**
 - Enforcement re trash, staying on trail **JE**
 - Trash dumping. There is some dumping of household trash and appliances in the area. **DHMC**
 - Trash / dumping / uncovered loads going to dump, messy highway **CH**
 - Trash/dumping in the Forest **CAV**
 - Trash/dumping in the Forest and related Waste Management policies **CO**
 - Trash / unauthorized use by visitors. Trash is being left by some of the hundreds of off-road users using forest roads to visit Crown King. Local residents and business owners would like to work with the Forest Service to address trash and unauthorized use issues caused by off-roaders. **CK**
 - *A healthy forest with a natural trash free setting providing clean air and quiet surroundings.* **CK**
 - *The healthy forest will contribute to global sustainability and will be a natural, trash-free place with quiet settings.* **PR/PV/CHV**
 - Ranchers growing increasingly unhappy with vandalism and OHV use **W**
 - Drug use and vandalism from some newer residents - In recent years, the County Corner general store and several homes have been burglarized. Several drug users and registered sex offenders have moved into town. This is a new trend and concerns long-time residents, many of whom are elderly. A nearby commercial gold mine operator has experienced vandalism to his equipment and indiscriminate shooting near his work site. **W**
 - *...are free of litter and illegal uses; and they are protected from wildfire.* **VV**
 - *Federal, State and County agencies work cooperatively and effectively with neighboring municipalities, groups and individuals to protect public lands and enforce the rules that govern them.* **VV**
 - *“Estimate 75% of workers at sandstone quarries are illegal; declined greatly since new AZ law in effect”* **AF**
 - 4x4 use / T&E in Upper Verde River **CHV**
 - Off-road motorized vehicle use off of established roads and trails – Residents are concerned that more off-roaders are going “off trail” in Copper Basin and in the Hassayampa drainage and causing damage as well as leaving trash. **W**
 - Safety of town water supply; Allen Springs pipeline suffers repeated vandalism (shooting); vent pipes damaged; heavy metal springbox doors cut open to access 1 ½ mile cave **JE**
 - Reckless vehicle use, illegal parking, shooting, vandalism, trash dumping along Castle Hot Springs Road has been occurring for years. Homeowners and the Bradshaw Foothills Coalition have recently begun working with Castle Hot Springs Road users and land management agency representatives (BLM, State Lands, County,

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Arizona Game & Fish) to address issues along the road. Work is ongoing and the Forest Service should join the team. **MCHS**

- Motorized vehicle use along County Road 68 traveling through Strotjost Flat, on through Yolo Ranch and Anderson Mesa, and towards Camp Wood. This area is a mixed jurisdiction of Forest Service, State Trust Lands, and private holdings. Few boundary signs showing land ownership are visible. Numerous well-used off-road trails take off the County Road in every direction. There is some trash from camping, but very little large item dumping, such as household trash, appliances, or construction materials. OHV users in Bagdad are concerned about keeping trails open for motorized recreation, keeping local users on trails, and cleaning up their own litter. **BA**
- Unauthorized off-highway travel by quads, 4x4 **CHV**
- Damage by ATV users (local and non-local) **PA**
- Use trails in positive manner **CO**
- *Forest Service to actively work to minimize unwanted uses that pose threats to wildlife and low-impact recreational use (i.e., hiking). ...enforce existing laws and provide programs to educate and inform those Forest users who engage in reckless use of firearms and all-terrain vehicles.* **JE**
- *We support and desire the maintenance of trails and signage, control of trash accumulation and illegal dumping, and designation of motorized vehicles to roads and specific "OHV use areas."* **MF**
- *The PNF will have sufficient financial resources to meet its management obligations, including adequate law enforcement.* **PR/PV/CHV**

➤ Increasing community willingness and energy to engage with PNF to proactively address citizen issues and management concerns is expected.

- *We want a community-based stewardship group to proactively plan and later provide expertise, labor, and cultural wisdom with BLM on all recreational uses, including but not limited to non-motorized and motorized trails.* **MCHS**
- *Maintain community outreach programs to foster voluntary community involvement, input and feedback to inform policy development and facilitate implementation.* **CH**
- *Whenever desirable and feasible promote partnerships between local communities, municipal, state and federal agencies to formulate and achieve goals.* **CH**
- *Utilize communities as on-site resources to monitor both natural and human induced occurrences in the national forest setting.* **CH**
- *Community Involvement/Partnerships: Citizens will recognize an ethical obligation to protect the forest for the future; this land ethic will be shared with all newcomers to the area. Vibrant partnerships with emerging or established community groups will enhance the Forest Service's ability to provide services, enabling a large group of citizen volunteers to respond to the needs of the forest, including trail maintenance, user education and fire prevention. This informed, engaged citizenry – through a multi-interest non-profit and/or stewardship group - will actively participate in an ongoing collaborative process of forest planning that ensures the Prescott National Forest will be enjoyed by more generations to come.* **PR/PV/CHV**
- *Volunteer program for trail management* **W**

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- *Active forest management through agency / community collaborative efforts to help maintain forest health and reduce danger of catastrophic fires. CK*

- Concerns about inappropriate shooting on the PNF have been raised by citizens. Shooting will continue on the PNF; conflicts may increase between users.

- Target shooting. Some residents are concerned about target shooting near residential areas. One example is on national forest land behind the Blue Hills Café in Dewey-Humboldt. **DHMC**
- Public safety from unsafe shooting **JE**
- *Target shooting needs to be encouraged in appropriate and safe areas. Our community is willing, as a stewardship group, to counsel BLM on appropriate areas for target shooting. MCHS*

Economics

➤ Key Trends

- Of the natural resource programs, recreation shows the highest contribution to labor income and number of jobs; this trend is likely to continue and increase.

- Commodity/consumptive industries are expected to remain stable on the PNF.

▪ Community Issues and Visions

- Economic growth for local businesses (tourism, use of forest products, etc.) Crown King businesses depend heavily on the summer recreation trade and would like to explore opportunities to strengthen economic interests, including using forest products. **CK**

- *All economic activities on the forest will be managed to minimize forest damage while promoting healthy ecosystems and public safety. Grazing allotments will be adaptively managed to promote healthy and productive grasslands and watersheds, while supporting ranch families who are good stewards of the land and represent an important part of our local history and culture. The PNF will continue to support a range of activities that directly contribute to local economies. PR/PV/CHV*

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