

DECISION MEMO

**USDA Forest Service R-8
Ozark National Forest
Mt. Magazine Ranger District
Logan County, Arkansas**

AT&T CORPORATION UTILITY CORRIDOR SPECIAL USE AUTHORIZATION (MAG0279) PROJECT

I. DECISION

It is my decision to issue a special use authorization to AT&T Corporation for a utility corridor.

This activity is in Sections 23, 25, 26, and 36; T6N; R26W and Section 31, T6N, R25W of the Mt. Magazine Ranger District. This site is located approximately one mile north of Blue Mountain, Arkansas, in Logan County. See the attached map for the location.

AT&T Corporation currently has a special use authorization for this utility corridor where they have a fiber optic cable buried. Their existing special use authorization covers approximately 2.15 miles (5.23 acres). This new special use authorization will replace the existing authorization for this corridor that expires December 31, 2010. This corridor is already in place and there will be no changes from the existing special use authorization terms and conditions. This new authorization will begin January 1, 2011 and expire on December 31, 2030.

II. REASONS FOR CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDING THE DECISION

I find the proposed action can be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment because it fits category 31.2 (15), [(36 CFR 220.6(e)(15)] described in Forest Service Handbook id_1909.15-2009-1, April 17, 2009. This category is for “issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are not changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized activities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization.”

The categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects which may significantly affect the environment. I considered: 1) Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, and Forest Service sensitive species; 2) floodplains, wetlands, and municipal watersheds; 3) congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas; 4) inventoried roadless areas; 5) research natural areas; 6) American Indians and Alaska Native religious and cultural

sites; and 7) archaeological sites and historic properties or areas.

III. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Scoping for this project began with the mailing of the proposed action to adjacent landowners and interested citizens on August 30, 2010. This list included letters to nine Native American Tribes and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. The scoping package contained a description of the proposed action, a map depicting the proposed action, and a comment form. A total of 31 letters were mailed.

A copy of the proposed action letter was posted on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/oonf/ozark/projects/planning/magproject.html>.

No comments were received as a result of this scoping.

IV. FINDINGS RELATED TO OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

This project is consistent with the objectives of the Revised Land and Resources Management Plan for the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OR APPEAL OPPORTUNITIES

This decision is not subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.12(f).

VI. IMPLEMENTATION DATE

This decision may be implemented immediately.

VII. CONTACT PERSON

Further information about this decision can be obtained from Vicki Weindel, NEPA Coordinator, Mt. Magazine Ranger District, P.O. Box 511, Paris, AR 72855; (479) 963-3076; fax (479) 963-8055; e-mail: vweindel@fs.fed.us.

VIII. SIGNATURE AND DATE

/s/ Rob Kopack
ROB KOPACK
Deputy District Ranger

09/22/
Date

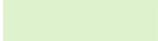
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**Ozark National Forest
Mt. Magazine Ranger District**

**AT&T Corporation
Utility Corridor Special Use
Authorization
(MAG0279)**

Legend

-  AT&T Utility Corridor
-  Roads
-  State Highway
-  District Boundary
-  Private Land
-  Forest Service Land



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0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 Miles
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Mt. Magazine Ranger District Vicinity Map

