

# APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FORESTS



## “Forest Plan Revision Update-May 2012”

*A Message from the Forest Supervisor*

As your new Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (ASNFs) Supervisor, I would like to update you on the status of forest plan revision. As you probably know, the Forests experienced a challenging year. Since the Wallow Fire this past spring, our planning team has been hard at work assessing the changed condition and preparing the revised land management plan to keep the ASNFs healthy and accessible for the publics’ enjoyment and use for years to come. In addition, the team has been analyzing four alternatives for revising the plan that address our three revision topics: (1) Maintenance and Improvement of Ecosystems, (2) Managed Recreation, and (3) Community-Forest Interaction. This analysis is being documented in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

In terms of our timeline, the proposed plan and DEIS are scheduled to be available for 90-day public review and comment this fall. The final plan, final environmental impact statement (FEIS), and record of decision (ROD) are expected to be published in the summer of 2013. A 90-day appeal period will follow the release of the final plan, FEIS, and ROD.

The Forest Service has issued a new 2012 planning rule designed to guide development, amendment, and revision of plans on all units in the National Forest System (155 national forests, 20, grasslands, and 1 prairie). Although the ASNFs will not be using this new rule to complete the revision of our plan (we are following the provisions of the 1982 planning rule), we are consistent with many of the key points of the new rule. For example, the proposed plan would (1) support jobs and vibrant rural communities by continuing to provide multiple uses and ecosystem services; (2) provide for ecological sustainability so that lands are resilient and can respond to stressors, including climate change; and (3) include protections for wildlife with a focus on maintaining the diversity of habitat.

Thank you for your patience with us, especially in light of this past year. I’ll be in touch again prior to the release of the DEIS. In the meantime, check our website <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/asnf/landmanagement/planning> for additional information, including previous working documents related to the forest plan revision process. If you have any questions, feel free to give us a call. Our planning team can be reached at (928) 333-6280 and, if you want to visit with me personally, just give me a call at (928) 333-6338.

*Jim Zornes*  
Forest Supervisor

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