

Brief Summary of Safford Collaborative Alternative Team (CAT) Process

The first CAT meeting held in the Coronado National Forest Travel Management Collaboration was held in the Safford District. This meeting was held on February 23, 2012. Prior to this CAT meeting, Core and Safford CAT members performed pre-work which included reviewing maps, routes, and information about the routes in the Safford Ranger District's proposed action. Although CAT members were able to discuss and reach agreement on some of the Safford routes at the February 23 meeting, many routes remained to be discussed. As the meeting progressed, CAT members shared some of the challenges they experienced preparing for and participating in the meeting as the process was new. Seeking solutions to these challenges, they made suggestions for process changes that would help inform their collaboration on the Forest Service's proposed route changes and help CAT meetings focus on each District sequentially.

The CAT recommended that their proposed process changes be implemented at the Nogales Ranger District CAT meeting, scheduled for February 28, 2012, and depending on the outcome of that meeting, the Core CAT would determine how to collaborate on the routes in the Safford Ranger District. At the conclusion of the Nogales Ranger District CAT meeting, the Core CAT members agreed to schedule another Safford Ranger District CAT meeting, disregard the work conducted at the February 23 CAT meeting, and reinitiate its work on the Safford Ranger District's proposed action. On April 21, 2012, the Core and Safford District CAT members met again in Benson, Arizona, and completed their work on the District's proposed action. For a list of CAT members, U.S. Forest Service staff, and U.S. Institute staff attending both meetings, please see Safford Report Appendix A.

At both meetings, members of the public were given the opportunity to attend and provide written comments. Also, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) staff helped CAT members locate routes on maps, answered questions, and served as resources for CAT information requests at both meetings. At the April 21 Safford CAT Meeting, at the request of CAT members, the Safford District Ranger and his staff provided an overview of the District's travel management process and key considerations that influenced its proposed action. Comments from the public were shared with the CAT. CAT members indicated, by placing dots on a large spreadsheet, where they disagreed with the Forest Service's proposed action, discussed 13 routes about which there was most disagreement, and achieved consensus on 11 of the 13 routes. The CAT agreed to suspend discussion of Galiuro route 660 until after members of the CAT conducted on-the-ground research of the route. This route was subsequently discussed by Core CAT members at the May 7 Douglas Ranger District CAT meeting. No agreement was reached on the proposal for the route. The Core CAT members then agreed that their work on the Safford Ranger District's proposed action was complete.

Arizona State Land Department Resolution

Ed Dietrich, the Arizona State Land Department's representative on the CAT, sought the adoption by the CAT of a resolution (see Safford Report Appendix C) that requested the Coronado National Forest "immediately begin the process of acquiring necessary access routes across State Trust Land so that legal permanent access will be available for future generations of users of the National Forest." The CAT

adopted the resolution at its Safford District CAT meeting on April 21, 2012; the resolution is applicable across the Coronado National Forest, including all five districts of the forest.

Statistics

Statistics for the Safford proposed action are as follows:

- The total number of routes in the Safford Ranger District's proposed action is 94.

Statistics for the CAT's collaboratively developed alternative for the Safford District are as follows:

- CAT members reached consensus on 50 routes. These routes automatically go into the collaboratively developed alternative. (See Safford Spreadsheet CAT Results Appendix B.)
- CAT members did not reach consensus on 44 routes from the proposed action. The Safford District Ranger will now decide how to address those routes in this alternative. (See Safford Spreadsheet CAT Results Appendix B.)
- Once the Safford District Ranger completes work on the remaining routes for this alternative, the final alternative will be presented to CAT members and the public and analyzed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Appendices

- Safford Report Appendix A: List of Core and Nogales CAT members, number of public attendees, and list of USFS staff present at each meeting
- Safford Spreadsheet CAT Results Appendix B: Results of Collaborative Alternative Team's Consensus Building Process on the Safford Ranger District
- Safford Report Appendix C: Arizona State Land Department Resolution adopted by the CAT