

# Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Reader's Guide Proposed Land Management Plan and Programmatic DEIS



Thank you for your interest in the revision of the *Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Plan*. We invite you to participate in reviewing the *Proposed Land Management Plan* (proposed plan) and the *Programmatic Draft Environmental Impact Statement* (DEIS) and provide your comments during this important phase of the plan revision process. A 90-day comment period starts with the publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. These documents are on the forests website: [http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/asnf/plan\\_deis](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/asnf/plan_deis). They are also available for viewing at the Ranger Districts offices in Springerville, Alpine, Duncan (Clifton RD), Heber-Overgaard (Black Mesa RD), and Lakeside. Limited numbers of compact discs (CDs) and hardcopies are available and may be obtained by contacting one of the plan revision team members listed below.

Comments received during the 90-day comment period will be used to finalize the land management plan and environmental impact statement. Once finalized, the plan will replace the current plan, approved in 1987, and will guide management of the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs for the next 10 to 15 years.

This document is intended to provide tips for reviewing the documents and submitting effective comments.

## How Comments will be Used

Public comments received during the 90-day comment period may be used to modify alternatives, develop new alternatives for consideration, improve analysis of effects, or to make factual corrections. Public comments will help to finalize the land management plan and environmental impact statement.

## Decision to Be Made

The regional forester for the Southwestern Region will make the final decision by selecting from the alternatives evaluated in the *Programmatic Final Environmental Impact Statement*. A Record of Decision is expected to be published in spring 2014 identifying which alternative was selected and why.

## Review Tips

- Explore the organization of these documents:
  - The *Proposed Land Management Plan* contains direction to guide management of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests for the next 10 to 15 years. Chapter 1 contains background information and describes the purpose of the plan, plan content, and plan organization.
  - The *Programmatic Draft Environmental Impact Statement* analyzes the impacts of four alternatives, including the *Proposed Land Management Plan*. Chapter 1 describes the document structure and the purpose and need for change.
- Learn more about the alternatives analyzed:
  - Chapter 2 of the *Programmatic Draft Environmental Impact Statement* contains a summary of the alternatives, as well as a comparison of their differences.
- For specific topics that you are interested in:
  - Chapter 3 of the *Programmatic Draft Environmental Impact Statement* describes the programmatic effects of each alternative by resource area.
  - Chapters 2 to 5 of the *Proposed Land Management Plan* contain the plan decisions (desired conditions, objectives, standards, guidelines, suitability, monitoring) that would guide future forest projects and activities. These are organized by resource area, management area, and special area.

## Tips on Effective Commenting

Now is your chance to comment on the proposed plan and DEIS. This section provides tips on how to make effective comments that can provide useful information to Forest Service decision-makers.

- Provide factual information, professional opinion, or informed judgment that is relevant to the action being proposed.
- Be specific, comparative, or solution oriented.
- Provide the reasons why and go beyond just expressing an opinion. Back up your statements with explanations, facts, and references.

- Comment within the scope of analysis and decisions to be made as identified in Chapter 1 of the *Programmatic Draft Environmental Impact Statement*.
- Be as specific as possible with your comments and reference page numbers from the documents.
- Provide specific statements with details. For example, if you are concerned about biological resources, describe the particular issue such as a species that you feel was not sufficiently analyzed instead of making a broad statement such as, “the document did not adequately study biological resources.”

Remember that comments are not counted as votes; rather, they are used to improve the DEIS and better disclose effects on people and resources in the *Programmatic Final Environmental Impact Statement* before the Forest Service makes an informed decision based on ecological effects and impacts to people.

Effective comments are those that accomplish the following:

- Describe something missed in the DEIS that might have affected the outcome of the analysis;
- Provide new information that could change an analysis in the document;
- Identify something that should be clarified; or
- Propose a substantially different reasonable alternative that has not be considered and is within the scope of the purpose and need described in Chapter 1 of the DEIS.

## Where to Send Comments

**Written comments** must be submitted to:

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests – Plan Revision Team  
 PO Box 640  
 30 S. Chiricahua Drive  
 Springerville, AZ 85938  
 Fax number: (928) 333-5966

The office business hours for hand-delivering written comments are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday – Friday, excluding holidays. **Oral comments** must be provided at the Supervisor’s Office or Ranger District Offices during normal business hours via telephone or in person.

**Electronic comments** can be submitted to [asnfp.planning@fs.fed.us](mailto:asnfp.planning@fs.fed.us). Comments can be included directly in the body of the e-mail message or as an attachment in word document format (.doc, .docx), portable document format (.pdf), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), or hypertext markup language (.html).

Comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer’s concerns and positions. The submission of timely and specific comments can affect a reviewer’s ability to participate in any subsequent administrative review or judicial review.

Please note that comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action.

Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the respondent with standing to participate in any subsequent administrative review or judicial review.

## For More Information

**Attend a public meeting** in your area:

Date	AZ Town/City	Location	Time
Tuesday, February 26, 2013	Show Low	Show Low City Hall Deuce of Clubs Room 180 N. 9 <sup>th</sup> Street	4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 27, 2013	Springerville	Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Supervisor's Office Conference Room 30 S. Chiricahua Dr. (behind Subway)	4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 28, 2013	Duncan	Clifton Ranger District Conference Room 397240 AZ 75 (near the Three Way Store)	4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

### Contact a planning team member:

Michelle W. Davalos  
Forest Planner  
Phone: (928) 333-6334  
Email: [mdavalos@fs.fed.us](mailto:mdavalos@fs.fed.us)

Evelyn Treiman  
Recreation Planner  
Phone (928) 333-6322  
Email: [etreiman@fs.fed.us](mailto:etreiman@fs.fed.us)

Mitchel White  
Ecologist  
Phone: (928) 333-6348  
Email: [mwhite04@fs.fed.us](mailto:mwhite04@fs.fed.us)

Linda WhiteTrifaro  
Wildlife Biologist  
Phone (928) 333-6335  
Email: [lwhitetrifaro@fs.fed.us](mailto:lwhitetrifaro@fs.fed.us)

We also have planning team members that specialize in other resource areas (air, water, archaeology, range, fisheries, etc.). Contact one of the folks above and we'll help you connect with the appropriate team member.

### Contact the Forest Supervisor or Deputy Forest Supervisor:

Jim Zornes, Forest Supervisor and Tom Osen, Deputy Forest Supervisor can be reached by contacting their Executive Assistant, Tammy Slade at (928) 333-6338 or the front desk at (928) 333-4301 or TTY (928) 333-6292.

Thank you for your interest in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, and for taking the time to review and comment on our planning documents.