

Coronado National Forest

Reader's Guide

Draft Land and Resource Management Plan and Programmatic DEIS

Thank you for your interest in the revision of the *Coronado National Forest Draft Land and Resource Management Plan*. The next step is public review of the plan and the *Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (DEIS). 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/detail/coronado/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fswdev7_018673 .

Printed documents are available for viewing at the Ranger District offices in Nogales (Nogales RD), Sierra Vista (Sierra Vista RD), Douglas (Douglas RD), Safford (Safford RD), and Tucson (Santa Catalina RD and Supervisor's Office). Copies on compact discs (CDs) and a limited number of hardcopies are also available and may be obtained by contacting Yolynda Begay at yolyndabegay@fs.fed.us or at 520-388-8370.

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 1986, and will guide management of the Coronado NF 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 2014 identifying which alternative was selected and why.

Review Tips

Explore the organization of these documents:

- The *Draft Land Management Plan* contains direction to guide management of the Coronado National Forest 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*.
 - For general information about the DEIS:
 - Chapter 1 describes the document structure and the purpose and need for change.
 - Learn more about the alternatives analyzed:
 - Chapter 2 of the *Draft Programmatic 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 *Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* describes the programmatic effects of each alternative by resource area.
 - Learn more about who was involved in developing the draft plan:
 - Chapter 4 of the *Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* lists all those involved in the preparation of the DEIS.

Tips on Effective Commenting

This is your opportunity 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*. Effective comments should help the Forest Service to make 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 been 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:

Coronado Forest Plan Revision
P.O. Box 1919
Sacramento, CA 95812

E-mail: CoronadoNF@fscomments.org
(Subject: Coronado National Forest, Plan Revision EIS)

Fax: (916) 456-6724

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:

**Douglas RD: December 2, 2013 from
5:00 – 8:00 pm**

Douglas Visitor Center
345 16th Street
Douglas, AZ

**Nogales RD: December 3, 2013 from
5:00 – 8:00 pm**

Esplendor
1069 Camino Caralampi
Rio Rico, AZ

**Sierra Vista RD: December 17, 2013
from 4:00 – 6:45 pm**

Sierra Vista Public Library
2600 E. Tacoma St
Sierra Vista, AZ

**Safford RD: January 9, 2014 from 5 – 8
pm**

General Services Building
921 Thatcher Blvd
Safford, AZ

**Santa Catalina RD & SO: January 13,
2014 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm**

Tucson Interagency Fire Center
2646 E. Commerce Center Place
Tucson, AZ