

## Coronado National Forest Proposed Plan and DEIS

### Questions and Answers

November 2013

#### **Q: What is a land management plan?**

**A:** All national forests have a land management plan that provides broad guidance for planning specific projects and activities.

Plans are based on science, laws, and input from citizens. They establish desired conditions, objectives, standards, guidelines, and suitability of uses for a national forest. The plan itself does not compel any action or authorize any use. However, all projects and activities must be consistent with the plan or the plan must be amended.

#### **Q: What is plan revision?**

**A:** The National Forest Management Act requires all land management plans be revised every 10 to 15 years. The Coronado NF's original plan was approved in 1986. It is outdated and does not address current issues. The 1986 plan is being revised to incorporate five primary areas that respond to priority needs for change in the program direction: (1) ecosystem restoration, (2) safety and information, (3) public access and travel patterns, (4) preservation of open space, and (5) collaboration and partnerships. The Coronado NF is at a major milestone in the plan revision process- the release of a proposed plan and a draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)<sup>1</sup> for public review and comment.

Public comments received during the 90-day comment period will be used to help finalize the land management plan and environmental impact statement.

#### **Q: Where can I find the Proposed Plan and DEIS?**

**A:** These documents are on the forests website:

[http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/coronado/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fswdev7\\_018673](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/coronado/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fswdev7_018673)

They are also available for viewing at the Supervisor's Office in Tucson and Ranger District offices in Nogales (Nogales RD), Douglas (Douglas RD), Sierra Vista (Sierra Vista RD), Safford (Safford RD), and Tucson (Santa Catalina RD).

Limited numbers of compact discs (CDs) and hardcopies are available and may be obtained by contacting Yolynda Begay at [yolyndabegay@fs.fed.us](mailto:yolyndabegay@fs.fed.us) or (520)388-8370.

#### **Q: When are my comments due?**

**A:** It is anticipated that the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the DEIS will be published in the Federal Register on Friday, November 22, 2013. The publication date of the NOA in the Federal Register starts the 90-day comment period ending on February 20, 2014.

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<sup>1</sup> The purpose of the DEIS is to analyze the effects of implementing the proposed plan.

**Q: Is this the same thing as TMR (travel management planning)?**

**A:** No. TMR is a separate process with a goal of identifying specific roads, trails, and areas that are open to motorized vehicle travel. The proposed plan makes no decisions to open or close National Forest System roads, trails, or areas. The plan would provide direction for the future planning of motor vehicle routes and areas. It identifies areas that are suitable or not suitable for future development of new roads, trails, and areas.

**Q: Does the proposed plan account for multiple uses?**

**A:** Yes. Consistent with the Multiple Use Sustained-Yield Act, the Coronado NF would continue to be administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes.