



File Code: 1920

Date:

FEB 25 2014

Dear Interested Party,

On February 3, 2014, the Record of Decision (ROD) for the new Kaibab National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) was approved by Regional Forester Calvin Joyner. The new Plan was built on a foundation of the best available science, and developed collaboratively with the public, partners, conservation organizations; and federal, state, local, and tribal governments. I would like to thank all those who participated and provided comments. I believe that the new forest plan reflects the input we received and the mission of the Forest Service; providing guidance for the management of healthy, resilient ecosystems that meet the diverse needs of the American people. It replaces the previous plan, which was approved in 1988 and amended 10 times (KNF 1988). The new forest plan provides forest-specific guidance and information for project and activity decision making on the Forest to:

- Restore ponderosa pine, frequent fire mixed conifer forests and grasslands by increasing the amount and rate of mechanical thinning and managed fire treatments to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic fire, improve ecological resilience, and increase the quality and quantity of important wildlife habitats. It also supports landscape scale restoration projects such as the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI).
- Restore and protect aspen and natural waters, which are important centers of biological diversity;
- Provide for sustainable uses that honor the forest's human history, while meeting current demands;
- Implement a monitoring framework that enables adaptive management; and
- Recommend about 6,400 acres for wilderness designation, adjacent to existing Wilderness.

The final environmental impact statement (FEIS) documents the analysis of four alternatives developed for the programmatic management of the Kaibab National Forest. The ROD, FEIS and new Kaibab Forest Plan may be accessed at: http://fs.usda.gov/goto/kaibab/plan_revision. Paper copies may be requested by sending an email message to Mailroom_R3_Kaibab@fs.fed.us or by calling 928-635-8200. Copies are also available from the Kaibab National Forest office, 800 S. 6th Street, Williams, AZ 86046.

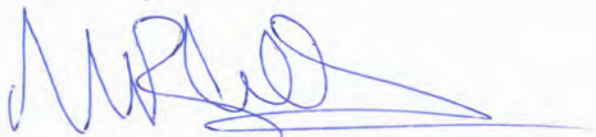
This decision is subject to administrative review under the "Optional Appeal Procedures" available during the Planning Rule Transition Period. Any individual or organization that commented on the draft Kaibab plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement during the 90-day comment period has standing to appeal. To file an appeal, a written notice of appeal must be filed with the Chief of the Forest Service and postmarked or received within 90 days after the date the legal notice for this decision is published in the newspaper of record for the Kaibab National Forest (The Arizona Daily Sun). For more information on filing an appeal, see enclosure.



Recommendations for designations such as additions to the National Wilderness System are preliminary administrative recommendations that will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture, and/or the President of the United States. The Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on wilderness on federal lands; therefore, wilderness recommendations in the revised Plan are not appealable under the agency's administrative appeal procedures (Section 4 of the Optional Appeal Procedures).

For more information, or if you have concerns about the revised Kaibab National Forest Plan or Final Environmental Impact Statement, please contact me, or Ariel Leonard, Forest Planner, at the Kaibab Forest Supervisor's Office, 800 S. 6th Street, Williams, AZ 86046; (928) 635-8200.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL R. WILLIAMS
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure (1)