



Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

10/01/2023 to 12/31/2023

Prescott National Forest

This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
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Projects Occurring Nationwide

Locatable Mining Rule - 36 CFR 228, subpart A. EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Sarah Shoemaker 907-586-7886 sarahshoemaker@fs.fed.us
	Description: The U.S. Department of Agriculture proposes revisions to its regulations at 36 CFR 228, Subpart A governing locatable minerals operations on National Forest System lands. A draft EIS & proposed rule should be available for review/comment in late 2020				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57214				
	Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. These regulations apply to all NFS lands open to mineral entry under the US mining laws. More Information is available at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/geology/minerals/locatable-minerals/current-revisions .				
Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardant on National Forest System Land. EIS *UPDATED*	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 02/11/2022 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 09/2023	Expected: 09/2023	01/2024	Laura Conway 406-802-4317 laura.conway@usda.gov
	Description: Programmatic Supplemental EIS for the Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardant on National Forest System Land.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60450				
	Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The direction in the SEIS will apply to use of aerially delivered fire retardant on all National Forest System land.				

R3 - Southwestern Region, Occurring in more than one Forest (excluding Regionwide)

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
R3 - Southwestern Region, Occurring in more than one Forest (excluding Regionwide)					
Prescott College Academic Outfitter and Guide Priority Use (2015-2025) CE	- Recreation management - Special use management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Julie Rowe 928-203-7516 jrowe@fs.fed.us
	Description: The Forest Service proposes to authorize Prescott College to conduct academic field courses year-round across forests in Arizona including adventure education, biology, human ecology, natural history, physical geography, & field ecology. Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=47407				
	Location: UNIT - Coronado National Forest All Units, Kaibab National Forest All Units, Prescott National Forest All Units, Tonto Basin Ranger District, Coconino National Forest All Units, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests All Units. STATE - Arizona. COUNTY - Yavapai. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Activities take place in a variety of locations throughout the forest.				
Upper Verde River - Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study Environmental Assessment EA *UPDATED*	- Special area management	In Progress: Objection Period Legal Notice 09/24/2023	Expected:12/2023	01/2024	Jason Williams 928-777-2220 jason.a.williams@usda.gov
	Description: The Prescott National Forest has completed a draft environmental assessment (DEA) and FONSI on the Upper Verde Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study for 37 miles of the Upper Verde River on the Prescott and Coconino National Forests. Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=61191				
	Location: UNIT - Chino Valley Ranger District. STATE - Arizona. COUNTY - Yavapai. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The river segments being studied are the 37 miles generally west and north of Clarkdale, Arizona and east of Chino Valley, Arizona.				
Yavapai-Apache Nation Land Exchange EA *UPDATED*	- Land management planning - Land ownership management - Land acquisition	In Progress: Scoping Start 06/08/2023 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 10/2023	Expected:04/2024	05/2024	Christopher Welker 928-443-8072 Christopher.Welker@usda.gov
	Description: The Prescott National Forest is proposing a land exchange between the Prescott, Coconino, Kaibab, and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests and the Yavapai-Apache Nation (YAN). Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63848				
	Location: UNIT - Kaibab National Forest All Units, Prescott National Forest All Units, Coconino National Forest All Units, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests All Units. STATE - Arizona. COUNTY - Apache, Coconino, Navajo, Yavapai. LEGAL - Not Applicable. 4788 acres of YAN land will transfer to the Prescott, Coconino, Kaibab, and A-S Forests while 3,179 acres of Prescott and Coconino land will transfer to YAN near Camp Verde, AZ.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Prescott National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)				R3 - Southwestern Region	
Arizona Dept. of Transportation I-17 highway corridor Intelligent Transportation System fiber optics CE	- Special use management - Road management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/10/2020	Expected:08/2022	09/2022	Christopher Welker 928-443-8072 Christopher.Welker@usda.gov
	Description: ADOT collocation of State-owned/operated fiber optic facilities within the existing State of Arizona interstate highway #17 (I-17) corridor from Sunset Point to Flagstaff, AZ meant to support Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) improvements.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=61170				
	Location: UNIT - Prescott National Forest All Units. STATE - Arizona. COUNTY - Yavapai. LEGAL - Not Applicable. PNF Forestwide for ADOT state and interstate highway corridor rights-of-ways.				
Forest-wide Hunting Priority Use Outfitter-Guide Permits CE	- Recreation management - Special use management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Jeffrey Gilmore 928-567-1120 jlgilmore@fs.fed.us
	Description: Issuance of up to five priority use outfitter-guide permits for big game hunting on the Prescott National Forest.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55252				
	Location: UNIT - Prescott National Forest All Units. STATE - Arizona. COUNTY - Yavapai. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Forest-wide.				

Prescott National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide)					R3 - Southwestern Region
Black Hills 2 EA *UPDATED*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management - Watershed management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2024	Expected:09/2024	10/2024	Travis Mabery 928-567-1150 travis.mabery@usda.gov
	Description: The purpose of the Black Hills 2, formally Supplemental EA, is to allow for more areas of vegetation treatments and prescribed fire within the original 2011 Black Hills EA project footprint.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63736				
Location: UNIT - Chino Valley Ranger District, Verde Ranger District. STATE - Arizona. COUNTY - Yavapai. LEGAL - The project area is located within all or portions of T12 N, R2 and 3E; T13N, R2,3 and 4E; T14N, R 2, 3 and 4E; T 15N, R 2, 3, and 4E; and T16N, R 1, 2 &3E; Gila and Salt River Baseline and Meridian, Yavapai County, Arizona. The Black Hills Supplemental EA encompasses the same area as the original Black Hills EA, with a total area inside the project boundary of 185,525 acres.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Prescott National Forest Bradshaw Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R3 - Southwestern Region
"Horsethief Basin" Mineral Materials Pit Administrative In-Service Use CE *NEW LISTING*	- Recreation management - Fuels management - Minerals and Geology - Road management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 07/2023	Expected:08/2023	08/2023	Christopher Welker 928-443-8072 Christopher.Welker@usda.gov
	Description: continued administrative in-service agency use of an existing mineral materials extraction area (e.g., mineral materials "pit") by the Prescott National Forest (PNF) to carry out various Forest Service programs				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64464				
APS Pole Replacement (WA574508) with Trench (17') CE	Location: UNIT - Bradshaw Ranger District. STATE - Arizona. COUNTY - Yavapai. LEGAL - Not Applicable. NE ¼ Section 6, T. 9 N., R. 1 E., and SE ¼ Section 31, T. 10 N., R. 1 E., G&SRM, Yavapai County, Arizona.				
	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 12/11/2020	Expected:10/2021	11/2021	Matthew Georgeff 541-782-5335 mjgeorgeff@fs.fed.us
	Description: APS proposes the use heavy equipment to remove/replace a substandard utility pole with an upgraded pole in APS ROW.				
Blue Bell/Wolf Creek Allotments Range NEPA EA	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59276				
	- Grazing management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	John Kava 928-777-2200 johnakava@fs.fed.us
	Description: An analysis to determine whether to re-authorize grazing on the Blue Bell/Wolf Creek Allotment.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53264				
	Location: UNIT - Bradshaw Ranger District. STATE - Arizona. COUNTY - Yavapai. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Blue Bell and Wolf Creek grazing allotments.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Prescott National Forest Bradshaw Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R3 - Southwestern Region
Bradshaw Mountain Prospectors - Exploration CE	- Minerals and Geology	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 05/2023	Expected:08/2023	09/2023	Frances Alvarado 928-443-8014 frances.alvarado@usda.gov
	Description: To make 4 small separate exploration areas on a portion of the Hassayampa River. A motorized 2.5" suction dredge will be used. Each area not to exceed 6 feet of length 6 feet of width and 4 feet of depth, equal to approx. 5.3 cubic yards per area.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63977				
	Location: UNIT - Bradshaw Ranger District. STATE - Arizona. COUNTY - Yavapai. LEGAL - T13N, R2W, Section 32. Access will be through Prescott Basin Dispersed Campsite 8 off of Wolf Creek Rd.				
Draconis Energy Project, LLC and 7x Energy, Inc. 500 kV electric transmission line EA *UPDATED*	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 10/2023	Expected:09/2024	10/2024	Christopher Welker 928-443-8072 Christopher.Welker@usda.gov
	Description: Issuance of a Special Use Permit (SUP) to Draconis Energy Project, LLC (Draconis) for access to areas of the Prescott National Forest, Bradshaw and Chino Ranger District (PNF, BRD/CRD) to support electric transmission line construction.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=62358				
	Location: UNIT - Bradshaw Ranger District. STATE - Arizona. COUNTY - Yavapai. LEGAL - N1/2 Section 22 and NW1/4 Section 23, T. 16 N., R. 1 E, G&SRM, Yavapai County, Arizona. N1/2 Section 22 and NW1/4 Section 23, T. 16 N., R. 1 E, G&SRM, Yavapai County, Arizona.				
Hassayampa Mineral Withdrawal EA *NEW LISTING*	- Land management planning - Minerals and Geology	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 09/2023	Expected:07/2024	07/2024	Christopher Welker 928-443-8072 christopher.welker@usda.gov
	Description: To withdraw 3,739 acres of Prescott National Forest lands from location and entry under the US mining laws, and from leasing under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws, for a 20 year term, subject to valid existing rights				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64529				
	Location: UNIT - Bradshaw Ranger District. STATE - Arizona. COUNTY - Yavapai. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Hassayampa River Corridor, Yavapai County.				

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Prescott National Forest Bradshaw Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R3 - Southwestern Region
Hassayampa Restoration Supplemental Environmental Assessment EA *UPDATED*	- Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2024	Expected:06/2024	08/2024	Levi Guffey 928-777-2261 levi.guffey@usda.gov
	Description: Adding mastication of fuels to areas within the original Hassayampa Restoration EA.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63735				
Jack's Project EA	Location: UNIT - Bradshaw Ranger District. STATE - Arizona. COUNTY - Yavapai. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The project area includes National Forest System lands south, southeast, and southwest of the city of Prescott, Arizona. The communities of Goodwin and Crown King are located within the project area.				
	- Minerals and Geology	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Zakiya Shivji 928-443-8083 zshivji@fs.fed.us
	Description: The Project would authorize mining placer deposits from approximately 11 acres for up to 20 years. Mining would be conducted with suction dredges, sluice boxes, dry washers, high bankers, metal detectors, gold pans, and hand tools				
Orme Ranch, Inc. Federal Land Policy and Management Act Easement for NFSR 9650K CE	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=45642				
	- Special use management - Road management	In Progress: Scoping Start 09/20/2021	Expected:08/2022	09/2022	Christopher Welker 928-443-8072 Christopher.Welker@usda.gov
	Description: This action is for issuance of a Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) private driveway easement to Orme Ranch, Inc. to access private lands and subsequent long-term operation and maintenance responsibility for NFSR 9650K				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60811				
	Location: UNIT - Bradshaw Ranger District. STATE - Arizona. COUNTY - Yavapai. LEGAL - SE1/4 SW1/4 Section 20, T. 12 N., R. 3 E, G&SRM, Yavapai County, Arizona. SE1/4 SW1/4 Section 20, T. 12 N., R. 3 E, G&SRM, Verde Ranger District, Prescott National Forest, Yavapai County, Arizona.				

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Prescott National Forest Bradshaw Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R3 - Southwestern Region
Pine Creek Mining River Bend Placer Project EA	- Minerals and Geology	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Frances Alvarado 928-443-8014 falvarado@fs.fed.us
	Description: This project would include gold mining operations on approximately 48 acres (10 acres in the Red Hill #2 placer mining claim (PMC) and 38 acres in the Riverbend PMC), with an additional 4 acres for processing facilities, settling ponds, and roads.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=45609				
	Location: UNIT - Bradshaw Ranger District. STATE - Arizona. COUNTY - Yavapai. LEGAL - T12N,R3W,Sec11,14,15. The proposed mining project is just south of and adjacent to the existing Gold Basin mine, south of Wilhoit along the Hassayampa River.				

Prescott National Forest Verde Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R3 - Southwestern Region
AAM Priority River Rafting Outfitter and Guide Special Use Permit CE	- Recreation management - Special use management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Jeffrey Gilmore 928-567-1120 jlgilmore@fs.fed.us
	Description: The Prescott National Forest proposes to issue to the outfitter/guide known as AAM a 5-year priority special use permit for a river rafting outfitter guide operation on the Verde River and Verde Wild and Scenic River Segments.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=40886				
	Location: UNIT - Verde Ranger District. STATE - Arizona. COUNTY - Yavapai. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Boat launching will occur at White Bridge and Beasley Flats River access sites on the Prescott; take outs at GAP Creek, Childs and Hoseshoe reservoir on the Prescott, Coc, and Tonto.				
Agua Fria Critical Habitat Riparian Enclosures CE *UPDATED*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Grazing management	Completed	Actual: 08/10/2023	10/2023	Seth Ratering 928-203-7530 seth.ratering@usda.gov
	Description: This project consists of 3 fenced enclosures; 1 enclosure on Ash Creek, 1 enclosure on Indian Creek, and 1 enclosure on Sycamore Creek.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64196				
	Location: UNIT - Verde Ranger District. STATE - Arizona. COUNTY - Yavapai. LEGAL - Not Applicable. These enclosures are intended to exclude livestock from critical habitats in the Long Gulch and Sycamore grazing allotments as well as 1 enclosure on an unallotted portion of the PNF.				

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Prescott National Forest Verde Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R3 - Southwestern Region
Gila Chub Habitat Improvement Project CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Albert Sillas 928-567-1124 asillas@fs.fed.us
	Description: Improve pool habitat by sediment removal, instream structures, exclosure fences, and removal of juniper tree encroachment in three sites.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=30425				
	Location: UNIT - Verde Ranger District. STATE - Arizona. COUNTY - Yavapai. LEGAL - T 11 N, R 4 E, sections 4, 16, 20. Near Sycamore Historic Site/Dugas area.				
Mortimer Small Tracts Act Case #09-112 CE *NEW LISTING*	- Land ownership management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 07/2023	Expected:08/2023	08/2023	Christopher Welker 928-443-8072 Christopher.Welker@usda.gov
	Description: Gary and Sharla Mortimer have proposed to purchase 2 tracts of National Forest System (NFS) land under the authority of the "Small Tracts Act," P.L. 97-465. Disposal of the tracts will resolve certain encroachments on NFS land on the Prescott Forest				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=62552				
	Location: UNIT - Verde Ranger District. STATE - Arizona. COUNTY - Yavapai. LEGAL - Section 24, T. 13 N., R. 2 E., G&SRM. Section 24, T. 13 N., R. 2 E., G&SRM.				
Reissuance of a Water Development Special Use Permit to Frank and Wanita Melluzzo CE	- Special use management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Chris Welker 928-443-8072 cwelker@fs.fed.us
	Description: The Prescott National Forest is proposing to reissue a 10-year special use permit for 2 water pipelines, 1 springbox, 600 gallon water tank, and cattle exclosure fence.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=39048				
	Location: UNIT - Verde Ranger District. STATE - Arizona. COUNTY - Yavapai. LEGAL - T14N, R3E, Sect17. Off Cherry road in Cherry, AZ.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Prescott National Forest Verde Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R3 - Southwestern Region
Verde Adventures, Inc. Outfitter Guide Priority River Boating Outfitter and Guide Special Use Permit CE	- Recreation management - Special use management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Jeffrey Gilmore 928-687-1301 jlgilmore@fs.fed.us
	Description: The PNF proposes to issue to Verde Adventures, Inc. a 10-year priority special use permit for a river boating outfitter guide operation on the Verde River.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=40889				
	Location: UNIT - Verde Ranger District. STATE - Arizona. COUNTY - Yavapai. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Boat launching and take out will occur at Skidmore, Big Notti, Black Canyon, White Bridge, Clear Creek and Beasley Flats River access sites on the PNF.				

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