



BRIEFING PAPER

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ISSUE: Multi-Party Community Monitoring Board Proposal.

DISCUSSION: Overview

The Multi-Party Community Monitoring Board represents a broad group of interests that makes recommendations to the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest on environmental, social and economic matters relating to stewardship contract and other healthy forest projects. These recommendations are considered by the Forest in adaptive management of future projects and monitoring of those projects.

Objectives

The authority to have a monitoring board is contained in the authorizing legislation and subsequent appropriations acts to move forest management forward in a way that increases the understanding of governmental operations and results in better forest management. Collaboration is a key element in reaching both program objectives. By creating a panel of diverse interests to evaluate and interpret the projects, programs and procedures used in forest management improved land management should result. The board's purpose is to make recommendations that will allow the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest to adapt to the changing needs of communities and the growing body of science concerning our environment. It also affords an opportunity to monitor landscape level issues not covered in project level monitoring.

Obtain recommendations to:

- Validate environmental issues and conclusions from documents prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), consultation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), consultation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and mitigation measures from the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Clean Air act.
- Determine whether social and community expectations for the work have been met. Ensure coordination with community fire plans.
- Assess the economic effects in the local communities.
- Share results with local government and stakeholders.

Board Composition

The board would be composed of 8-10 members from across the



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geographic area of the forest. Members would include representation or interests in county government, tribes, various resource interests, Arizona Game and Fish department, science, and economic development.

Board Administrative Support

The Apache-Sitgreaves will support the board with administrative personnel to accomplish efficient and effective use of people's time and personal commitments. This support will include:

- Meeting facilitators
- Travel payment support
- Preparation of proceedings
- Publication of brochures
- Preparation of findings
- Documentation of findings, conclusions and recommendations
- Distribution of Board documents

Board Charter

A certain sum of money will be set aside for monitoring each fiscal year. The board will hear proposals for allocating the money to specific monitoring projects. They will also recommend ways to accomplish the project and feedback to future projects. The board charter needs to be adopted by the board unanimously. This charter must contain:

- Terms of appointment under governmental ethics codes
- Term length
- Decision making process on recommendations, conclusions and findings.
- How to circulate information it develops and report back to the stakeholders.
- How to recommend adaptive changes in future projects, programs and monitoring efforts.
- Relationships to members of the public and interested groups.
- Timeline
- Chair responsibility

Skills: The collective backgrounds of education, experience and knowledge is the strength of the board's membership. Board assignments are intended to provide a diverse pool of people across the stewardship contract area. The needs of the board include the ability to frame questions in a manner that can lead to a quantitative answer. The board should have considerable input on designing the monitoring



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plan. Some individuals should have scientific background or experience in:

Communication Processes

- Topic selection
- Meeting management rules
- Requesting support from forests
- Priorities
- Application procedure
- Alternates

Organization

- Chairperson
- Admin support
- Board membership

Ethics

- Conveying information to constituencies
- Review of unreleased information
- Attendance

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