



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Mogollon Rim  
Ranger District

HC 31 Box 300  
Happy Jack, AZ 86024-9714  
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File Code: 1950-1

Date: December 18, 2003.

Dear Friend,

Enclosed is the **Huffer Stand Improvement Project Environmental Assessment** (EA) for your review and comment. The project area is located in Coconino County on national forest land approximately 65 miles southeast of Flagstaff, Arizona.

Thank you for providing comments in response to the proposed action for this project. To best meet the goal of reducing dwarf mistletoe in the project area, I have selected Alternative A as my preferred alternative. After considering the initial concerns and the range of effects outlined in the Environmental Assessment, I feel the proposed action best meets the purpose and need of increasing overall health, growth, and vigor of the ponderosa pine overstory and understory to improve the resilience and survivability of these trees. Mitigation measures and project design criteria have been developed to minimize any negative environmental effects.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any persons may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality might be granted in only limited circumstances, such as to protecting trade secrets.

Public comments on the EA will be accepted for 30 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in the Arizona Daily Sun. Respondents who comment on the EA will receive the Decision Notice (DN) when completed. The EA and future project documents will be made available for review on the Forest's website at:  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/projects/index.shtml>.

Written comments should be mailed to, and copies of the EA can be obtained from, District Ranger Larry Sears at the Mogollon Rim Ranger District office, HC 31, Box 300, Happy Jack, Arizona 86024. Comments may be submitted electronically to [comments-southwestern-coconino-mogollon-@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southwestern-coconino-mogollon-@fs.fed.us). Please reference the **Huffer Stand Improvement Project** in your correspondence. Oral comments may be given during normal business hours via telephone or in person on weekdays between 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

In cases where no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility. A scanned signature is one way to provide verification. It is the responsibility of the persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must provide the following information:



1. Name and address;
2. Title of the proposed action;
3. Specific substantive comments (36 CFR 215.2) on the proposed action, along with supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision;
4. Signature or other verification of identity upon request; identification of the individual or organization who authored the comment(s) is necessary for appeal eligibility;
5. For multiple names or multiple organizations, a signature must be provided for the individual authorized to represent each organization, or for each individual that wishes to have appeal eligibility, and
6. Individual members of organizations must submit their own substantive comments to meet the requirements of appeal eligibility as an individual, comments received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only.

All comments must be received no later than close of business on **January 26, 2004**.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Larry G. Sears*

LARRY G. SEARS  
District Ranger