



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Tonto Basin  
Ranger  
District

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#### Interested Parties:

As you may know, the Tonto Basin Ranger District, Tonto National Forest, is developing a management plan for motorized vehicle use on National Forest lands around the communities that comprise Roosevelt, Arizona. This is in response to the increasing popularity of off road vehicle travel, the public's demand for motorized vehicle recreation, and the need to coordinate this use with natural resource management objectives.

We held a public meeting (March, 2006) as well as several informal meetings with the public and personnel from other agencies regarding this proposal. As a result we identified a plan to consider for motorized vehicle travel in the Roosevelt area. We invite your comments on this proposal and will use them to identify issues. These will be used to develop alternatives for further evaluation and analysis.

The proposed action presented here includes all potential changes to the existing road and travel management in the area being considered. The roads opened or closed in the final decision will be determined through National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) analysis.

#### PROPOSED ACTION

The decision will result in implementation of a management plan that provides for some off highway vehicle use on a system of roads and trails, compatible with other resource management objectives on National Forest lands in the area of Roosevelt, Arizona. A map of the planning area considered in this proposal is enclosed with this letter.

This plan will result in changes to the existing Tonto National Forest roads database and two existing Forest special orders.

Based on public, agency and Forest Service input to date, the changes being considered include:

- Change Forest Road (FR) 397 from closed to open.
- Change FR 1493 from closed to open.
- Change FR 3392 and 3393 from closed to open.
- Change FR 333 and FR333A from closed to open.
- Add an existing route in Campaign Creek from FR 1503 to the Estates.
- Add an existing route from Highway 188 to Campaign Creek.
- Add an existing route in Pinto Creek from FR 1491 to Roosevelt Lake.
- Add two existing routes to connect Pinto Creek to the east side of the Estates.
- Add an existing route from the southwest corner of the Resort to the northeast corner of the Spring Creek private land.
- Add an existing route to connect from Pinto Creek to the junction of FR396 and FR5.
- Add an existing route from FR396 north to the Salt River in section 7.



- Add an existing route on Schoolhouse Point from the existing gate to the point where the road is at the 2160' elevation.
- Add an existing route from Highway 288 in Meddler Wash to Roosevelt Lake.
- Add an existing route known as the "haul road" from FR397 to the Salt River.
- Place signs at the main junctions of the motorized trails to direct people to each of the destinations on private land, or to lake and river access points.
- Place signs to close other routes, roads, and areas.
- Use heavy equipment to obliterate and close the undesirable user-made routes in the area.
- Allow for construction of road closure devices, installation of fences, or placement of boulders to close roads.

In addition, allow use of established, but currently closed, travel routes in the area of Eucalyptus Wash river access point.

Adjustments to the existing Willow Flycatcher Motorized Vehicle Closure being considered include:

- Change boundary of closure on Schoolhouse Point from its current location to the 2160' elevation contour line.
- Change boundary of closure on Meddler Point from its current location to the 2200' elevation contour line.
- Change boundary of closure to allow motorized access down Pinto Creek to Roosevelt Lake via existing route.
- Change boundary of closure to allow motorized access down Meddler Wash to Roosevelt Lake via existing route.
- Change boundary of closure to allow motorized access on the existing haul road in Section 1 to the Salt River.
- Change boundary of closure to allow motorized access to the Salt River on the existing unnumbered road in Section 7.

Any changes would be implemented within one year of the date when the decision notice was signed by the Tonto Basin District Ranger. The proposed project is located in T3N, R13E, near Roosevelt, Arizona.

## **PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION**

The purpose is to improve management of the road network in the Roosevelt area, by ensuring that National Forest land, soil, vegetation, and wildlife is conserved and used wisely, while allowing reasonable access to the National Forest, Roosevelt Lake, the Salt River, and the three major tracts of private land.

## **DECISION TO BE MADE**

The Tonto Basin District Ranger is the official responsible for deciding which of these changes will be implemented in this area. The Tonto Basin District Ranger may decide to select the no action alternative, to defer action, or to make adjustments to the way the road network is

managed. If the decision is to adjust the way the road network in Roosevelt is managed, the Tonto Basin District Ranger will decide which of the action items listed above will be implemented.

## MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

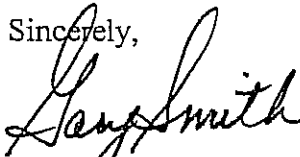
The proposed project lies within Management Areas 6F and 6J of the Tonto National Forest. The Tonto National Forest land and resource management plan states that the objective for these management areas includes providing a serviceable road and trail transportation system to meet public access, land management, and resource protection needs, and minimizing impacts on soil and water resources from all ground disturbing activities. In addition, the primary emphasis in management area 6F is water-oriented developed and dispersed recreation.

## REQUESTED INPUT

We are particularly interested in hearing about any issues; defined as points of discussion, dispute, or debate about the effects of the proposed action. Please provide input by March 31, 2007, so we may consider it in the decision-making process. All input received during project planning is a matter of public record; so names and addresses of participants cannot be kept confidential.

We have scheduled a public meeting for 6:00 pm, March 15, 2007, at the Tonto Basin Ranger District Office to provide interested parties the opportunity to share their thoughts and comments on the proposal. We invite you to participate in this meeting and we thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,



GARY SMITH  
District Ranger

Enclosure: Roosevelt Road Management Planning Area Map

COMMENTS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THIS SOLICITATION, INCLUDING NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF THOSE WHO COMMENT, WILL BE CONSIDERED PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OF THIS ANALYSIS, AND WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL PROJECT RECORD. COMMENTS SUBMITTED ANONYMOUSLY WILL BE ACCEPTED AND CONSIDERED. PURSUANT TO 7 CFR 1.27 (D), ANY PERSON 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 FOIA, CONFIDENTIALITY MAY BE GRANTED IN ONLY VERY LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES, SUCH AS TO PROTECT TRADE SECRETS. THE FOREST SERVICE WILL INFORM THE REQUESTOR OF THE AGENCY'S DECISION REGARDING THE REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIALITY, AND WHERE THE REQUEST IS DENIED, THE AGENCY WILL RETURN THE SUBMISSION AND NOTIFY THE REQUESTER THAT THE COMMENTS MAY BE RESUBMITTED WITH OR WITHOUT NAME AND ADDRESS WITHIN 10 DAYS.