

Decision Memo Devore Pipeline Extension

USDA Forest Service, Southwest Region, Tonto National Forest
Tonto Basin Ranger District, Gila County, Arizona
(T4N, R15E, Section 1)

Decision

It is my decision to approve construction of an above ground pipeline from an existing storage tank to a new storage tank and trough on the Dagger Allotment. The pipeline will be approximately one mile in length and will allow for water to be gravity fed from an existing storage tank to a new 3000 gallon storage tank and 500 gallon trough. This pipeline will provide water to the West Devore, Dagger and Rock Pastures of the Dagger Allotment. A short section of fence will also be installed to allow cattle access to the trough from multiple pastures.

Access to the project areas will be on existing Forest Service road 1690 where a UTV will be granted temporary access along the fence line while constructing the project. The pipeline will be laid above ground except up to 8 feet from the storage tank and trough. Only limited brush removal and trimming will be authorized to implement this project. Construction of this project must be coordinated with District range staff and constructed in accordance to Forest Service Range Improvement Standards. Disturbance is to be minimal and only in areas covered by the site-specific archeological clearance 2011-12-40).

I have concluded that this action may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment. It is within one of the categories identified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 36 CFR 220.6. The project is within Category 32.2 (9) that includes implementation or modification of minor management practices to improve allotment condition or animal distribution. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the action as defined in the next paragraph.

Public health and safety will not be affected by this action. There are no know significant irreversible resource commitments or irretrievable losses to wildlife habitat, soil productivity, forage production, or water quality. No known cultural resources will be affected. A site-specific archeological clearance (#2011-12-40) has been completed in conjunction with forest archeologists and was approved by the Forest Supervisor. A site-specific Biological Evaluation has been completed and approved (Analysis #2011-303). The proposal will not take place on steep slopes or on highly erosive soils. There are no wetlands or floodplains within the project area.

Public Involvement

Design of the project was coordinated with, Forest Service specialists including Range, Biology, Heritage and the permittee for the Dagger Allotment.

Findings Required by Other Laws

The project is in Management Area 6J identified in the Tonto National Forest Land Management Plan (USDA 1985, as amended). The management emphasis for this area is to manage for a variety of renewable natural resources with primary emphasis on wildlife habitat improvement, livestock forage productions, and dispersed recreation. The design of this project is consistent with the standards and guidelines of the Land Management Plan. Effects to Management Indicator Species (MIS) were evaluated (Analysis #2011-303). A biological evaluation was prepared (BE #2011-303) and found no effect to any Threatened or Endangered Species in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

There are no inventoried roadless areas within the project area. Best Management Practices will be followed during project implementation in compliance with the Clean Water Act.

Implementation

Implementation of this project may begin immediately.


Administrative Review or Appeal

This decision is not subject to administrative appeal.


Contact Person

Further information about this decision can be obtained from, Eric Hoskins or Debbie Cress at the Tonto Basin Ranger District, 28079 N State Hwy. 188, Roosevelt, AZ, 85545.

Signature and Date



KELLY L. JARDINE
District Ranger



Date