



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Tonto National Forest  
Tonto Basin Ranger District

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File Code: 1950

Date: August 11, 2017

Dear Interested Party:

We are currently soliciting comments on the proposed Klondike Water System Project on the Tonto Basin Ranger District. The proposed project action would be located in an area adjacent to Forest Service Road 491, just off Highway 188 approximately 2 air miles northeast of the town of Roosevelt. The legal location for the proposed project is Township 3N, Range 14E, Sections 32, 33 and Township 2N, Range 14E, Sections 3, 4 and 10.

The Poison Springs Grazing Allotment has been in a non-use status for a number of years. As livestock were moved back onto the allotment, it became clear that additional water sources were needed in the Klondike Pasture of the Poison Springs Allotment. Water sources within the Klondike Pasture are limited to two seasonal dirt stock tanks in the wilderness and the dry Summit Well. To deter livestock from concentrating at a few water sources, rather than distributing themselves throughout the pasture, additional water sources would be needed. Klondike Pasture is located in, Tonto National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, Management area 6J which manages for a variety of renewable natural resources. One of the major areas of emphasis in 6J is livestock forage production. The overall project would be located in Management areas 6J and 2F.

*In management area 6J livestock should be managed at a level D. Level D management seeks to optimize production and utilization of forage allocated for livestock use consistent with maintaining the environment and providing the multiple use of the range. From all existing range and livestock management technology, practices may be selected and used to develop cost effective methods for achieving improved forage supplies and uniform livestock distribution and forage use..... Cultural practices may be combined with fencing and water developments to implement complex grazing systems and management methods.*

The Tonto National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan states (page 195) that rangeland in less than satisfactory condition will be treated with improved grazing management along with the installation of structural and non-structural improvements. Also to develop structural improvements in association with Allotment Management Plans (AMP) to maintain utilization at levels appropriate with management intensity and AMP objectives.

The proposed action for the Klondike Water System Project includes installing a solar powered pumping system on the Devore Well that is located in the Hicks Pike Peak Allotment. This pumping system would supply water to a new, 10,000 gallon storage tank on the Poison Springs Allotment through 1 1/2 inch diameter HDPE pipe. The new storage tank would gravity feed one new trough close to the tank, two new troughs in the Klondike pasture and one new trough on the



Hicks Pike Peak Allotment through 1 inch diameter HDPE pipe. The enclosed map locates the project features.

The pipelines would be installed above ground, just off of the old roadway for concealment from casual observers. A rubber tired loader would be used to clear vegetation and level the storage tank and trough sites prior to placement. The troughs would have escape ramps for wildlife and functioning floats. The solar panel for the pumping system would be located on the existing storage tank at the Devore Well site or a structure at that site.

The proposed action would accomplish the purpose of providing for the even distribution of livestock on the Klondike Pasture of the Poison Springs Allotment and providing livestock with additional and more reliable water sources when dirt stock tanks go dry. The proposed action complies with the need to follow the direction found in the Tonto National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and to move the allotment toward our desired conditions. The planning process would comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, Categorical Exclusion level of documentation, and the requirements/clearances for Heritage and Biological Resources.

Comments may be submitted by mail or electronically. So that they are most useful to the planning process, please submit comments by September 14, 2017.

When submitting comments please keep them specific to this project. Comments not specific to the project will be considered outside the scope of the analysis and will not be considered. If you are offering information you wish to be considered for this analysis please specify exactly how the material relates to the project.

Comments received in response to this notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Electronic comments must show the name and address of submitter. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered. 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 (7 CFR 1.27(d)).

If you have any questions concerning this process, please feel free to contact me at 602 225-5301

Sincerely,



KELLY L. JARDINE  
District Ranger