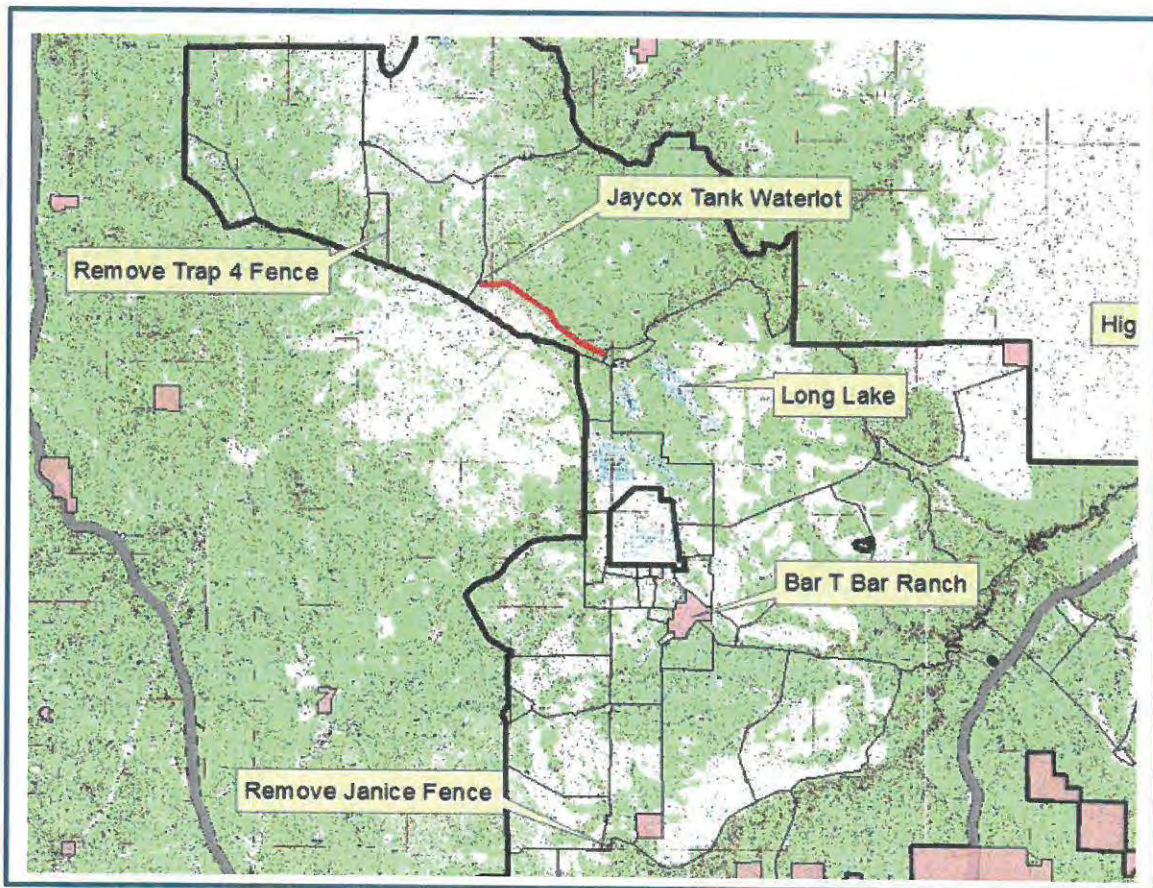




Broomy Lane Fence Project

Finding of No Significant Impact, and Decision Notice



Forest Service

Mogollon Rim Ranger District
Coconino National Forest

6/1/2021



Broomy Lane Fence Project



Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

The Finding of No Significant Impact documents the reasons why an action, not otherwise excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) in accordance with 40 CFR §1501.3, will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an environmental impact statement therefore will not be prepared. The Finding of No Significant Impact discussion considers all information included in the environmental assessment, as well as documentation in the project record. Pertinent specialists have reviewed the proposal and, based on their input, the responsible official made the following determinations with regards to the potentially affected environment and degree of effects considered for a Finding of No Significant Impact.

Potentially Affected Environment

The project area is located on the Mogollon Rim Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest in the Bar T Bar range allotment. The activities associated with this project would occur on portions of Anderson Mesa to the east of Lake Mary Road (County Road 3) and north of Highway 87. Prominent landscape features nearby include Long Lake, Soldier Lake, Tremaine Lake and Hay Lake.

This project is within the Anderson Mesa Management Area which is known for wildlife-based recreation such as hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing. The proposed project activities are in conformance with management direction in the Coconino National Forest Plan.

Degree of Effect

Effects from project activities are disclosed in the Broomy Lane Fence Project Environmental Assessment (EA). Chapter 3 of the EA includes analysis on soils, wildlife, vegetation, and other forest resources on which the discussion below is based:

1. Both short- and long-term effects.

This project would result in short-term (1-2 years) disturbance to wildlife and potential short-term loss of vegetation or accelerated soil erosion on less than a total of 5 acres in locations where the 3-mile Broomy Lane fence will be installed or in the area where road-realignment will occur. Long term effects would include increase in vegetation growth and decrease in soil erosion over the next several decades along portions of the two roads to be rehabilitated and in parts of the allotment that are susceptible to localized overgrazing from lack of livestock movement. Long-term loss of vegetation and soil productivity may occur along the length of the newly installed Broomy Lane fence since it will be used to trail livestock. This effect would be limited to approximately one acre. Expanding the Jaycox waterlot will also result in the potential for long-term vegetation loss and increased soil erosion on approximately 2 acres.

2. Both beneficial and adverse effects.

Beneficial effects from this decision include improved livestock management and reduced hazards to wildlife over the next several years from the removal of approximately 5 miles of pasture fencing. This decision would also result in a net increase of vegetation cover and reduced soil erosion on a small number of acres over the long-term. Adverse effects would be limited to loss of vegetation cover and increase soil loss in approximately 3 acres, but as discussed above, the project would result in a net beneficial effect for both soils and vegetation.

3. Effects on public health and safety.

This project would have very minor, localized effects far away from any human habitations or population centers. This project would not result in any measurable effects to public health and safety.

4. Effects that would violate Federal, State, or local law protecting the environment.



Broomy Lane Fence Project



This project would not result in any effects that would violate Federal, State or local law protecting the environment.



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Decision Notice

Broomy Lane Fence Project

U.S. Forest Service

Mogollon Rim Ranger District, Coconino National Forest

Coconino County, AZ

Decision and Rationale

I have decided to authorize activities described in the Alternative 2 – Proposed Action.

This decision would authorize the installation of approximately 5 miles of new fence, the re-routing of a small section of Forest Roads FR 9722 and 9727B, the expansion of Jaycox waterlot by 2 acres, and removal of existing, unneeded pasture fences as described in the Environmental Assessment. The installation of the approximately 3-mile long barbed wire fence between the Broomy and Trap 3 pastures would help move livestock and young calves through the Broomy pasture and to prevent livestock from being left on pastures beyond the authorized use periods. The fence construction will result in very limited effects on soil and vegetation, and will likely reduce the potential for effects to vegetation and soils from lingering cattle over portions of the Broomy Pasture.

The re-alignment of FR 9722 and 9727B, and expansion of the Jaycox waterlot will reduce ongoing gullying and erosion into Jaycox Tank from the current road alignment, and provide for rehabilitation of the current area of active erosion on the south side of Jaycox Tank.

Lastly, the removal of approximately five miles of pasture fences throughout the allotment, would reduce potential hazard to wildlife.

Summary of Public Involvement

A list of Agencies, Organizations and Persons Consulted regarding this proposal is provided in the analysis.

This proposal was listed in the Schedule of Proposed Actions starting on April 27, 2020. The scoping letter for the Broomy Lane Fence Project EA was signed and sent for public review (scoping) on April 27, 2020. The letter was mailed to 1,500 individuals, organizations, and agencies. Comments were received from 1 individual and/or organizations. The interdisciplinary team reviewed the comments and identified and addressed issues from the scoping letter. The scoping summary can be accessed on the project website.

A draft Environmental Assessment was published in February 2021 and a 30-day comment period was initiated via a legal notice published in the Arizona Daily Sun on February 24, 2021. No public comments were received during the 30-day comment period.

Findings

This decision notice incorporates all previous information in the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, as well as information included in the project record. Findings required by other laws, regulations, and policy applicable to the proposal can be found in the "Other Law, Regulation and Policy Consistency" section.

I find no significant effects; therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.



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Implementation

This decision may be implemented immediately after being signed. Fence construction, removal, and road realignment activities are expected to occur over the next one to two years.

Administrative Review and Objections

This decision is an activity implementing the Coconino National Forest Land Management Plan and is subject to the pre-decisional objection process at 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. A legal notice initiating the 45-day objection filing period was published in the Arizona Daily Sun on April 8, 2021. No objections were received during the objection filing period.

Contact Information

For more information, please contact NEPA Coordinator, Mike Dechter, at 928-527-3416 or via email at michael.dechter@usda.gov.



LINDA L. WADLEIGH

June 1, 2021

MOGOLLOM RIM DISTRICT RANGER

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