



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Coconino
National Forest,
Supervisor's Office

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Flagstaff, AZ 86004-1810
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File Code: 1950-3/2210

Date: November 17, 2003

Dear Friends:

Enclosed are the **Buck Springs Range Analysis Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)** and **Record of Decision** to implement Alternative G. The area covered by this analysis is located south of East Clear Creek, west of Leonard Canyon, and extends to the escarpment of the Mogollon Rim.

Many of you provided comments to the proposed action or the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this project. As the Coconino National Forest Supervisor and responsible official, I have decided to implement Alternative G as described in the FEIS. This decision authorizes the issuance of a 10-year grazing permit for the Buck Springs Range Allotment on the Mogollon Rim Ranger District, Coconino National Forest, and the construction of range improvements that support the permit.

Alternative G focuses livestock use in the northern pastures, and creates structures needed for the protection of meadows and riparian areas for recovering watershed function and the Little Colorado spinedace, a threatened species. One entire pasture and two partial pastures will no longer be grazed, and a drift fence will split one pasture into two pastures. A rest-rotation strategy will be implemented on the allotment, with pastures grazed one year in two. New fences are necessary to protect Little Colorado spinedace habitat, while waterlots, drylots, and corrals ensure proper management of the allotment. The permittee will assume a large share of the improvement costs. When compared to other alternatives, Alternative G will provide for the most protection for riparian habitats and the threatened Little Colorado spinedace, while allowing livestock use of the allotment.

The FEIS can also be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/projects/index.shtml>, the Coconino National Forest's Web-site. Additional information and printed hard copies can be obtained from the Mogollon Rim Ranger District, HC 31, Box 300, Happy Jack, AZ 86024, telephone 928-477-2255, or the Coconino National Forest Supervisor's Office, 2323 E. Greenlaw Lane, Flagstaff, AZ 86004, 928-527-3600.

The public has the right to appeal this decision under 36 CFR 215.7 (Nov. 4, 1993). A written notice of appeal clearly stating that it is a Notice of Appeal being filed pursuant to the appropriate regulations must be filed within 45 days of the date of legal notice of this decision in the *Arizona Daily Sun*. Appeals must be filed with:

Regional Forester
Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Service
333 Broadway Boulevard, S.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Thank you for your interest in National Forest management.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nora B. Rasure
NORA B. RASURE



Forest Supervisor