

**Subject: FW: SW BIODIVERSITY ALERT #38**

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\* \*\*\*\*\* Southwest Biodiversity Alert #38 \*\*\*\*\*  
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\*       southwest center for biological diversity       \*  
\*               ksuckling@sw-center.org               \*  
\*               <http://www.envirolink.org/orgs/sw-center>               \*  
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TWO CLEAN WATER VICTORIES FOR URBAN WATERSHEDS THREATENED BY GRAZING:

- APPEAL FORCES WITHDRAWAL OF GRAZING PLAN IN PHOENIX WATERSHED
- FOREST TO STUDY FLAGSTAFF WATERSHED FOLLOWING CLEAN WATER COMPLAINT

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APPEAL FORCES WITHDRAWAL OF GRAZING PLAN IN PHOENIX WATERSHED

Following an appeal by the Southwest Center, the Tonto National Forest has withdrawn a plan to allow 500 cattle to graze the eastern end of the Superstition Wilderness Area. The Reavis Tortilla allotment has been ungrazed since May, 1995 when the permit was cancelled for non-compliance. Returning cattle to the wilderness would have cost taxpayers \$55,000 for "improvements."

The Southwest Center appealed the decision because the cattle would contaminate the Phoenix water supply with the microbial parasite "Cryptosporidium." Cattle are a major host of this sometimes fatal parasite. The plan would have allowed cattle on Fish Creek, Lewis and Pranty Creek and Pine Creek- all tributaries of the Salt River which is a source of drinking water for Phoenix residents.

FOREST TO STUDY FLAGSTAFF WATERSHED FOLLOWING CLEAN WATER COMPLAINT

Following an appeal and two petitions by the Southwest Center, the Coconino National Forest has agreed to budget \$98,000 in 1997 to comprehensively study its effects on the 90,000 acre Upper Lake Mary watershed. Grazing in the watershed has come under fire since the City of Flagstaff and the Southwest Center complained about the possible contamination of the city's water supply by cattle borne Cryptosporidium. The Forest originally planned to conduct a study after 2000.

Although five grazing allotments lie within the watershed, the Forest does not intend to remove cattle during the analysis and does not intend to monitor water quality in Upper Lake Mary. The Center will continue to advocate for the removal of cattle from Lake Mary and all urban watersheds in New Mexico, Arizona and southern California.