



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Coronado National Forest  
Supervisor's Office

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**File Code:** 1950-1

**Date:** February 18, 2009

***Dear Friends and Neighbors of the Coronado National Forest:***

I am writing today to advise you of an opportunity for you to review a pre-decisional environmental assessment (EA) for the Huachuca FireScope Project. The EA discloses the potential impacts of a proposed action to treat vegetation on Federal land in the Huachuca and Whetstone Mountains of southeastern Arizona as part of a collaborative, multi-agency fuel and fire management effort.

In response to conditions, proposed prescribed fire and non-fire treatments would be applied on specific ecological units within 400,000 acres of Federal lands managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USDAFS), Coronado National Forest, Sierra Vista Ranger District; Department of Defense (DOD), Fort Huachuca; and National Park Service (NPS), Coronado National Memorial. Before proposed treatments may be implemented, the Coronado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan must be amended to revise visual quality standards and guidelines for the project area, and the Coronado National Memorial Fire Management Plan must be amended to allow the use of prescribed fire in areas where it is currently prohibited. Both amendments are evaluated in the EA as part of the proposed action. The Forest Service is the lead agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and preparation of the EA; DOD and NPS are cooperating agencies, as defined in 40 CFR 1500.

Forest Service *Notice, Comment and Appeal Regulations* at 36 CFR 215 require that we offer the public an opportunity to comment on a NEPA document prior to a decision by the Responsible Official to authorize the proposed action. Legal Notices of this opportunity to comment are scheduled to be published in the *Arizona Daily Star* on February 20 and the *Sierra Vista Herald* on February 23, 2009.



Copies of the pre-decisional EA and administrative record of the NEPA review are available at the Forest Supervisor's Office, 300 West Congress Street, Tucson, AZ, and the Sierra Vista Ranger District Office, 5990 South Highway 92, Hereford, AZ. The EA is also available on the internet at the Forest's public website: [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado). Please contact Ms. Sherry Tune at (520) 388-8355 or [stune@fs.fed.us](mailto:stune@fs.fed.us) to request a printed copy of the EA or an electronic copy on compact disk.

The publication date of the Legal Notice in the *Arizona Daily Star* begins the official comment period for the Huachuca FireScape EA review. We will accept your written and/or oral comments for 30 calendar days following publication of the Legal Notice. This date is very important, because it determines whether or not you will be eligible to appeal a decision to approve the proposed action. Those parties whose comments are received after the end of the comment period will not be eligible to appeal. If you are unsure about the end date of the comment period, please contact Ms. Tune. If you have a question about the NEPA or appeal process, please contact our Forest NEPA Coordinator, Ms. Andrea Campbell, at (520) 388-8352.

### **How to Comment**

Written comments must be mailed to Ms. Sherry Tune, Coronado National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 300 West Congress St. Tucson, Arizona, 85701, or sent by facsimile to her attention at (520) 388-8305. Please include the subject "Huachuca FireScape EA" on your facsimile. Written comments may be hand-delivered to the Supervisor's Office or District Office reception desk during regular business hours, which are 8:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.

Oral comments may be provided by telephone during business hours or by scheduling a personal visit to either the Supervisor's Office or the Sierra Vista Ranger District Office. To provide comments by telephone or to schedule a personal visit, please call Ms. Tune at (520) 388-8355.

Electronic (email) comments must be submitted within an email message, or as an attachment to an email in plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc). The email address for comments is [comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southwestern-coronado@fs.fed.us). Please include "Huachuca FireScape EA" in the subject line of your message. Please note that, if your electronic comments do not have a legible name attached, verification of identity will be necessary. A scanned signature is acceptable as verification for electronic comments.

## **Appeal Eligibility**

Only those parties who provide comments during the official 30-day EA comment period will be eligible to appeal a decision to approve the proposed action. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must provide the following information:

1. Name and address;
2. Title of the proposed action;
3. Specific comments (36 CFR 215.2) on the proposed action, along with supporting reasons that the decision-maker should consider in reaching a decision;
4. Signature or other verification of identity upon request; identification of the individual or organization who authored the comments(s) is necessary for appeal eligibility;
5. For multiple names or multiple organizations, a signature must be provided for the individual authorized to represent each organization, or for each individual that wishes to have appeal eligibility, and
6. Individual members of organizations must submit their own comments to meet the requirements of appeal eligibility as an individual; comments received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only.

*Thank you for your interest in the activities of the Coronado National Forest.*

*/s/ Jeanine A. Derby*  
JEANINE A. DERBY  
Forest Supervisor