

Lands Update

For the Arizona Game and Fish Commission

December 27, 2013

Phoenix, Arizona

U.S. FOREST SERVICE LAND AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANNING

General Planning Status – Please see attached worksheet.

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest

No changes.

Coconino National Forest

The Department received copies of the draft Forest Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. The 90-day comment period is expected to open on December 20th. Department staff will be reviewing the document.

Coronado National Forest

The Draft Travel Management Plans are being developed for each District and will be released successively for public comment beginning in Spring 2014.

The week before Thanksgiving, The Coronado National Forest released the draft proposed land management plan and a programmatic draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) to the Department and to the public for review and comment. The final land management plan will replace the current plan, written in 1986, and provide guidance for managing 1,783,639 acres of National Forest System lands for the next 10 to 15 years. The Forest has been working on the revision in one form or another since 2007. The Department has provided input on numerous areas of the plan, but the Forest did not release the latest Draft of the plan to the Department until it was available to the public in November.

The DEIS evaluates four alternatives, including the proposed plan and the current plan, and discloses the environmental consequences that could occur under each alternative. Comments received on the proposed plan and DEIS will inform the decision on the final land management plan that is expected in 2014. The Forest expects a final decision in 2015.

The Department is currently reviewing these documents with a final due date of February 20th.

Kaibab National Forest

The Final Forest Plan and Environmental Impact Statement is expected in early 2014.

Prescott National Forest

No changes.

Tonto National Forest

Plan Revision

The Tonto National Forest (TNF) will be initiating the stakeholders process for the TNF Plan revision early next year. Forest Plans are required to be revised every 15 years; revisions to the Tonto's 1985 Forest Plan (Land and Resource Management Plan) are long overdue. In the Forest Service's 2012 Planning Rule, Forest Plans are to be science-based and developed with extensive public involvement and collaboration. The bimonthly leadership meetings with the TNF and the Department include a standing agenda item for the plan revision. The recent meeting included discussion of feasibility to including a working session at the next annual coordination meeting for the plan revision process.

Travel Management Environmental Impact Statement

The Interdisciplinary team (ID team) has been meeting and working to provide data and input into the process for development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Department has provided a Specialist Report to the team to provide subject matter expertise analyzing the effects of motorized travel management on game and non-game species of wildlife and the effects of visitor satisfaction of motorized use management, focusing on hunters and anglers. The draft EIS was released to the ID team in October, and went through the regional Forest Service revision in November. The Department maintains the agenda item on the bimonthly leadership meetings. In addition, the Department has reviewed and submitted comments on the DEIS as a part of the ID Team process. A meeting with the TNF has been scheduled to review the recently submitted comments. The Department anticipates further comments once the DEIS is released to the public and released Department wide.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE – GENERAL UPDATES

Four Forest Restoration Initiative

The Four Forests Restoration Initiative (4FRI) includes 587,923 acres of mechanical thinning and 593,211 acres to be treated with prescribed fire, primarily on the Coconino and Kaibab National Forests. The Forest Service is currently reviewing comments and revising the Draft EIS, with a final EIS expected in mid-2014. The timber management company retained by the Stewardship Contractor (Campbell Group LLC) will soon open an office in Flagstaff to oversee field operations, including current task orders on other National Forests (A-S). The 4FRI stakeholder group has finalized a monitoring plan that will be incorporated in the EIS. It remains uncertain whether CBD or other green groups will file objections or litigation to challenge implementation of 4FRI.

Work through the initiative is beginning to develop on the Tonto National Forest (TNF). In 2012, the first project on the TNF commenced within the Myrtle Wildland Urban Interface. Currently, the Good Earth Power AZ, LLC has announced work that has begun on the Christopher/Hunter-Mercer project covering 952 acres within the TNF. The Department is reviewing the project for consistency with the 4FRI treatment guidance (due to the guidance coming out much later than the original project planning).

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (A-S)

Department personnel provided comments on the Public Scoping Package for the Larson Forest Restoration Project. This project will encompass approximately 30,000 acres on the Black Mesa Ranger District within the A-S National Forest. The project's goal is to reduce tree density, and create a landscape with trees of all size classes in groups and clumps with open interspaces predominately composed of grasses and forbs.

Coconino National Forest

"72-hour Rule"

Forest Supervisor Stewart issued a joint press release (with Kaibab NF) on December 9th clarifying rules concerning abandoned property, indicating that the 14-day limit would continue to apply to camp trailers used by hunters and other recreationists.

Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project (FWPP)

FWPP is a voter-approved, \$10 million bond to conduct thinning and prescribed fire treatments on U.S. Forest Service lands on the slopes of Mt. Elden, the Dry Lake Hills above Flagstaff and the Mormon Mountain area. The overall goal is to reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire and potential flooding, which would severely impact the city and local economy. The Department supports this effort, has reviewed and made comments on the FWPP project Proposed Action, and serves as a formal member on the FWPP Interdisciplinary Team. The Coconino National Forest is continuing to draft the EIS, expected in early 2014.

Coronado National Forest

Rosemont Copper Project

On December 13, a Notice of Availability for the FEIS was published in the Federal Register. On December 16, 2013 the draft Record of Decision was posted on the project website. On December 31, a legal notice will be published in the Arizona Daily Star, which initiates the 45-day objection period beginning January 1, 2014. In March of 2013, new regulations were released that provide an opportunity for eligible entities to file an objection to a proposed NEPA project before the final decision is signed. This allows entities to have unresolved concerns reviewed by a higher-level Forest Service official, called the reviewing officer, before the decision is made.

The new regulations allow entities who submitted timely, specific written comments about the proposed project during any designated opportunity for public comment, to file an objection to the proposed project. Those who commented on the Rosemont Copper Project during the scoping period in 2008, or during the comment period for the draft EIS in 2011-2012, including the Department, have standing to object to the proposed project.

Beginning January 1, the Department and others who are eligible will have 45 days in which to review the documents and file an objection on the proposed project. Specific directions on how to file an objection will be included in the legal notice, and posted on the project website (www.RosemontEIS.us).

Following the objection filing period, the Forest Service will have a 45-day review period, with the option for one 30-day extension. The total objection period has a statutory limit of 120 days following the legal notice commencing the objection process. At the end of this period, the reviewing officer will issue a written response to the objections which may include instructions to the responsible official to incorporate additional changes in the draft Record of Decision or to move forward with the project.

Objections will be subject to review by the Southwestern Regional Forester, Cal Joyner. The objection process may include an opportunity for the objector to meet with the reviewing officer and the responsible official, with the objective of having a dialogue about the objection issues and exploring opportunities for resolving the concerns expressed in the objection.

The responsible official cannot sign the final decision until the reviewing officer has responded in writing to all pending objections, and the decision must be consistent with any instructions issued by the reviewing officer.

There will be NO opportunity for additional administrative review or appeal of the final decision.

Hermosa Mine

Coronado National Forest (Forest) is considering a request by Arizona Minerals, Inc. (AMI) for approval of a Plan of Operations permit to implement a mineral exploration project (Hermosa Drilling Project) on National Forest System (NFS) land. The project is proposed on the Sierra Vista Ranger District in Santa Cruz County, Arizona, about six miles southeast of the town of Patagonia.

AMI has revised their Plan of Operations (Plan) dated June 6, 2013. The revised Plan was received by the Forest on October 31, 2013. AMI revised the Plan in order to reduce identified conflicts cultural resources.

The Department provided comments during the project scoping period from August 6, 2013 to September 6, 2013. The Forest is currently working to incorporate the comments and changes to the Plan into the analysis as they prepare a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA). Once complete, the Hermosa Drilling Project Draft EA will be distributed for a 30-day public comment period. The Forest anticipates releasing the Draft EA for comment in early 2014.

Kaibab National Forest

“72-hour Rule”

Forest Supervisor Williams issued a joint press release (with Coconino NF) on December 9, 2013 clarifying rules concerning abandoned property, indicating that the 14-day limit would continue to apply to camp trailers used by hunters and other recreationists.

North Kaibab Ranger District Westside Project

This is a long-term partnership effort to improve mule deer winter range and habitat for other wildlife in Unit 12A West. The Department continues to work with US Forest Service staff to implement control measures on established weed infestations. Cooperators at Northern Arizona

University have also begun work on a ‘firescape’ analysis that will help design future fuels management and habitat protection efforts.

North Kaibab Ranger District Raspberry Project

This is a 3,000 acre thinning and prescribed fire project in mixed-conifer forest on the Southeastern portion of the Kaibab Plateau. Its primary objective is wildlife habitat improvement and Department staff will be fully involved. NEPA analysis will begin in 2014 with expected completion by Fall 2015.

Prescott National Forest (PNF)

Strategic Action Planning Committee

Regional personnel attended the first meeting of Prescott National Forest’s Strategic Action Planning committee. At this meeting, the Regional Habitat Program Manager was invited, and accepted a seat on the steering committee with oversight for this effort. The Strategic Action Planning Committee has been tasked with prioritizing management actions on the Forest for upcoming years, as the Forest initiates implementation of the management direction embodied in the soon to be approved Environmental Impact Statement and Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. Thru this strategic action planning effort, they are attempting to prioritize and align their intermediate implementation efforts with the Department’s Strategic Planning goals.

Tonto National Forest

Resolution Copper Mine

The mine submitted the plan of operation to the Tonto National Forest (TNF) this year. The plan of operations will include all project features (mine, concentrator, tailings, infrastructure, filter plane, water sources) on private, state and public lands as well as employment numbers. The plan will also address closure and reclamation to include baseline data (water, air, biology, cultural resources) collected in and around the proposed mine. The plan of operation will have to be approved by the TNF for initiation of the NEPA process. An EIS must be completed before a final mine plan of operations is approved and a record of decision is granted. The Department participated in several public meetings on the plan of operations and will be meeting with the project team early next year for discussion.

OHV Rehabilitation/Improvement Project- Mesa Ranger District

The Mesa RD proposes to rehabilitate 4 sites with native plants in partnership with Boy Scouts; construct 4 vehicle enclosures to reduce the spread of resource degradation at 4 sites that currently experience high volumes of OHV recreation. They will construct approximately 10 miles of pipe rail fencing or use boulders to exclude OHV impacts to wildlife habitat. The Department is currently reviewing the project and will provide comment in Jan. 2014.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

Arizona Strip Field Office

Uinkaret Project

Regional staff continues to partner with the AZ Strip District BLM and the Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument staff in developing the proposed action for the Uinkaret Vegetation Management Project in game management unit 13A. This will develop a programmatic EIS for vegetative management on approximately 128,000 acres on the AZ Strip. It is the intent that this document will guide the BLM use of vegetative management tools including prescribed fire and mechanical/chemical vegetation treatments. Cooperating agency status is being secured for this effort to ensure that Department mission and objectives are incorporated into the planning effort. The Department also participates on the stakeholder group, Parashant Partnership.

Kingman Field Office

Rangeland Monitoring

Regional Wildlife Managers and members of the Habitat Program are involved in fall rangeland monitoring efforts for several of the allotments that fall within the purview of the Kingman BLM Field Office.

Resource Advisory Committee Grazing Sub-Committee

Regional personnel attended the first meeting of the Resource Advisory Committee's (RAC) Grazing Sub-Committee, which has been tasked with developing a suite of alternative grazing management alternatives for the Cerbatt, Quail Springs, and Fort McEwan grazing allotments. The RAC and its Grazing Sub-Committee are chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). In attendance were the Colorado River district Manager (Roxy Trost), the Assistant Kingman Field Office Manager (Don McClure), representatives from the Arizona Cattle Grower's Board, as well as several members and boards members from the Mohave Livestock Association and the general public. The alternatives proposed by this group for the RAC, will ultimately be submitted to BLM for consideration as proposed alternatives under National Environmental Policy Act analysis. The sub-committee, facilitated by Southwest Decision Resources, intends to initiate a 2 day site visit in January, meet each month thru April, at which time they intend to submit their recommendations to the RAC Board for approval. Finally, these recommendations will be forward to formal channels to BLM for full NEPA analysis. After which, they will be returned to the sub-committee for review and comment, then be provided to the public for a 15 day review, proposed decision with 15 day protest period, protest resolution period, final decision and appeal resolution in September of 2014.

Yuma Field Office

La Posa Travel Management Plan

Department staff attended the public meeting in Quartzsite on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the La Posa Travel Management Plan (TMP). The Department has provided

comments on the TMP. The Department continues to be a cooperating agency and actively representing the Department's interests in the planning process.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD)

Camp Navajo Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP)

The Department provided comments on the draft final INRMP for Camp Navajo. This version incorporated Department comments previously provided (2010 draft). To address Commission concerns, the Department requested that the final INRMP include more specific guidance with respect to management of the hunting program and access afforded to different categories of hunters.

Flagstaff Naval Observatory (NOF)

Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff attended the annual operational review of IRMP implementation on NOF. This is a relatively small facility, but working very proactively to meet Sikes Act requirements for cooperative resource management with state and federal partners.

WILDLIFE AREAS

Horseshoe Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP)

The Department continues to coordinate and participate on the CRMP for the Horseshoe and Copper Creek Allotments. Information is provided to the public via an updated web-site and the agencies are utilizing the services of a facilitation group. Progress continues as the group is finalizing shared goals and objectives while working into strategies. The CRMP is currently being drafted in sections. The desire to ensure the federal agencies can utilize the CRMP process as their NEPA for formal decision and implementation has affected the timelines somewhat, but will greatly enhance the ability to conduct management actions under one NEPA umbrella at process completion. The anticipated plan document completion will be in 2014

The various subteams continue to move forward on drafting the CRMP, prioritizing improvements, analyzing data and coordinating. Collaboration on AIMS data analysis with BLM/TNC/AGFD scheduled for Dec. was postponed by BLM. No dates have been set. BLM has confirmed that all database issues have been resolved and the data is ready for analysis.

BLM/John Holbrook/AGFD met this month to discuss water development maintenance and proposed new infrastructure. The group discussed the current water limitations and future goals. The intent was to identify what actions can be done under current NEPA as maintenance and which need to be carried forward within the CRMP and NEPA analysis. The group consulted with the Situational Analyses and Results Chains to see if water management strategies were aligned and if there were other ideas not presented by John.

Analysis for the aquatic portion has been reinitiated, and the subteam will be meeting after the first of the new year.

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

SOLAR

Expansion of Mesquite Photovoltaic Solar Facility

Department staff participated in the Maricopa County Development Services Technical Advisory Committee review of Sempra Power and Gas's proposed expansion of the Mesquite Photovoltaic Solar Facility. The expansion is on retired agricultural lands purchased by Sempra for the water rights for use in its gas turbine generator. Sempra is considering purchasing a private parcel on its southern boundary; there may be opportunities for habitat restoration in Centennial Wash in this parcel.

Yuma Proving Grounds Solar Development

The U.S. Army Yuma Proving Grounds (YPG) is proposing the development of 5,000-acres of solar renewable energy. The proposed solar developments would be located in the northeast and northwest portion of the Cibola region and adjacent to US95 within the West Kofa region. The project was expanded with the goal of producing one gigawatt of renewable energy by 2025. Department personnel have provided preliminary comments and intend to remain involved in evaluating the construction and placement of solar renewable energy on YPG.

PIPELINES

Kinder Morgan CO2 Pipeline Project

Department personnel attended the NEPA public scoping meeting (December 3, 2013), hosted by BLM in Quemado, NM for the Los Lobos CO2 Pipeline Project. This project will not only entail approximately 254 miles of pipeline from GMU 2B to connect to the existing Cortez Pipeline in NM but also a well field with approximately 160 wells and a 10-acres compression plant facility. The Department was invited as a Cooperating Agency in the NEPA process by Kinder Morgan.

Sierrita Natural Gas Pipeline Project

The Department attended a public comment meeting December 12 at Three Points, and submitted comments on the Draft EIS on December 16. Department comments focused primarily on improvements to the restoration and long-term monitoring plans. Comments in support of the pipeline from private individuals and state representatives focus on job creation, ad valorem taxes, and air quality improvements of converting Mexican power plants from fuel oil to natural gas if the pipeline is constructed to provide Mexico with natural gas. Comments against the pipeline from private individuals, Pima County, US Representative Raul Grijalva, conservation groups, and others focus on the fragmentation of the primarily intact Altar Valley, lack of evidence of successful pipeline restoration in the desert southwest, and the potential for the pipeline ROW to be used as a thoroughfare for illegal border activities. The majority of the pipeline route is on State Trust Lands. The Department met with ASLD in November to discuss possible collaboration for development of mitigation packages for this pipeline and other large infrastructure projects. The ASLD stated that their executive staff would likely need to meet with the Department to successfully implement collaboration that stipulated wildlife related mitigation. The Department is investigating what impacts or losses to Trust values may not be

captured in current project evaluation methods and what further benefits to the Trust might be captured for the State.

TRANSMISSION LINES

Southline Transmission Line Project

The BLM is analyzing cooperating agency comments on the Administrative Draft EIS. At the recent request of the BLM, the Department provided additional information regarding biological values of the Wilcox Playa. Sub route P7 extends from northeast of Wilcox to the southwest, along the east side of the Wilcox Playa and through the Wilcox Playa Wildlife Area. The Department has requested of the BLM on multiple occasions that Subroute P7 be eliminated from further consideration, due to its proximity to sandhill crane and waterfowl roosting areas. This route is situated between roosting and foraging areas, making bird strikes with towers and conductors quite likely. The Department of Defense has expressed concerns over possible routes to the west of the Wilcox Playa and favors the P7 route. Publication of the Draft EIS is expected in mid-January.

Ajo to Gila Bend Transmission Line Project

Department personnel have reviewed and provided comments on an extension for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility that was requested by the Ajo Improvement Company. The certificate is needed for the planned construction of a 47-mile long 230KV distribution line that will span along Highway 85 between Ajo and Gila Bend, Arizona.

TRANSPORTATION

Greenway Parkway and Wintersburg Parkway

MCDOT has initiated two new parkway feasibility studies for east/west corridor between the White Tank Mountains and the Belmont Mountains, transecting the Hassayampa River corridor. The Wintersburg Parkway is a north-south and east-west roadway reaching approximately 22 miles from Salome Highway to the proposed Turner Parkway as recommended in the I-10 Hassayampa Valley Roadway Framework Study conducted by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). Greenway parkway is an east-west parkway as well. Both will intersect the proposed White Tanks linkage. Department concerns are habitat loss and fragmentation, impacts conservation of the linkage, impacts to special status species including Desert tortoise (Sonoran population), impacts to wildlife recreation and public access to the White Tank Mountains.

The Department continues to participate on the Technical Committee for Wintersburg and recently reviewed the final drafts for Tech Memos 1 & 2 & 3. MCDOT is near completion on planning for the Greenway parkway and the preferred alignment that was identified in Tech Memo 4 (Alternative 1), was presented at a public meeting on December 11. The preferred alignment was presented as the recommended alignment for public comment. In advance of that meeting, TAC members had the opportunity for final comments on the recommended alignment. Tech Memo 4 concludes all Technical Advisory Committee activities. Consultants will issue a final project documents via email for TAC review.

I-11 Phoenix to Las Vegas Project

AGFD submitted a Level 2 evaluation to ADOT which includes a segment by segment analysis using ADOT evaluation criteria related to impacts to wildlife corridors and large unfragmented habitat blocks, magnitude of wildlife habitat loss or degradation, impacts to areas managed for conservation or wildlife purposes, impacts to waterways/floodplains, and impacts to outdoor recreational opportunities. The Department assigned scores of high/moderate/low for each criteria and segment; followed by an overall assessment which described each segment as: significant impacts to sensitive areas, or impacts to wildlife likely and potential strategies to offset; or limited impacts to wildlife and opportunities to offset and enhance. Currently we are preparing the metrics used for the evaluation to share as further input to ADOT. In the process of developing this evaluation the Department is testing a project evaluation approach that utilizes our various spatial datasets and HabiMap elements.

GENERAL UPDATES

GMU 21 Agua Fria Grassland Habitat Enhancement Project

The 4-year contract has been completed and awarded to 2 companies. Contracting for unit BLM 10 and 11 has been awarded to Robert Winders Contracting Inc. and scheduled to begin work after Jan. 1st. Habitat Program staff is now measuring juniper densities on tenth acre plots in unit PNF6 and 14 in preparation of a second contract to complete approximately 300 acres. Summit Forests Inc. will be contracted to do the juniper thinning in these units. A site visit with Summit and Prescott National Forest is scheduled for January 2014. Completion deadline for both contracts is June 1, 2014.

Concentrate Wetlands Management

The City of Goodyear and the Bureau of Reclamation are conducting a siting study for a demonstration concentrate management wetland. The intent is to ID a location to construct a quarter size demonstration vertical flow wetland to treat reverse osmosis (RO) brine in order to reduce constituent levels to below regulated concentrations. The constituents of concern are the heavy metals selenium, chromium and arsenic and the nutrient Nitrate-N. The RO brine would be blended with water from a Superfund Site groundwater treatment project and discharged to a dry reach of the Gila River to support riparian habitat. Water from the 157th Avenue water reclamation facility would no longer be blended with the treated RO brine thus making the facilities water available and suitable for groundwater recharge. The blended water would support riparian habitat along the conveyance channel and also in the Gila River channel, discharge of the blended water into the Gila River is expected to improve the water quality and increase the quantity of water in the Gila River. The Department preliminarily estimates that new discharge to the Gila River will range from 2-4 cfs.

El Rio Watercourse Master Plan

The Department has worked with the Maricopa County Flood Control District (MCFCD) on the El Rio pilot projects for replacement of salt cedar with native vegetation since 2006 with the adoption of the watercourse master plan. Currently, the MCFCD is initiating the next phase as implementation. The intent is creation of consistent development practices and the id of showcase projects in each community. The workshop will be held in January for brainstorming demonstration projects and defining common planning and design elements for land use

corridors in the river. The Department has worked with the MCFCD on the El Rio pilot projects for replacement of salt cedar with native vegetation since 2006 with the adoption of the watercourse master plan. Currently, the MCFCD is initiating the next phase as implementation. The intent is creation of consistent development practices and the id of showcase projects in each community. The workshop will be held in January for brainstorming demonstration projects and defining common planning and design elements for land use corridors in the river.

Ray Mine Tailings Facility in GMU 37B

The Department met with the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and Cooperating Agencies to answer any questions on scoping comments submitted on the Ray tailings facility in 37B. The Department reiterated concern that the Corps would not evaluate all practicable alternatives given the strong favor the proposed alternative has received in all analysis so far. The proponent is moving forward with an application to purchase 12 sections of State Trust Land prior to evaluation of all alternatives. The auction for the State Land is anticipated to occur in early 2014.

The facility would provide additional tailings storage to support up to approximately 750 million tons of material. The proposed site is a major tributary to the Gila River comprised of rich upland Sonoran desert vegetation. The area is popular with mule deer, javelina, Gambel's quail, and other small game hunters and other outdoor recreationists. The 2,129 acre facility will require a permit from the Corps under Section 404 (404 permit) of the Clean Water Act. The Corps is the lead federal agency for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS.)

Redhawk Copper Project in Northwest GMU 32

Redhawk is another Canadian-based mining company exploring copper deposits in southeast Arizona with primary focus on the Copper Creek copper-molybdenum project east of Mammoth on the north end of the Galiuro Mts in Unit 32. The Copper Creek property consists of approximately thirty-three square miles of contiguous patented and unpatented mining claims and state prospecting leases, located about 70 miles northeast of Tucson. Until recently, most of the patented claims were open to public use, but many have now been posted closed.

According to an analysis by The Nature Conservancy, the large rugged area sandwiched between the Aravaipa and Galiuro Wilderness Areas combined with those wilderness makes up the largest remaining unfragmented habitat in the states of Arizona and New Mexico It's wild backcountry values makes it extremely popular with Coues' deer hunters and OHV touring enthusiasts.

On Novemeber 27th, 2013, Redhawk announced completion of mapping of mineral resources across the majority of the property, resulting in outlining two large populations of viable resources. One of these closely maps the footprint of the known American Eagle copper resource. The second is the same size or larger than the known resources area and is to the northwest in an area known as Prospect, Dark Canyon and Cougar.

Redhawk estimates the American Eagle deposit could produce an estimated average of 121 million pounds of copper per year plus molybdenum and silver by-products. Redhawk believes the Prospect, Dark Canyon and Cougar district have a strong potential for significant mineralization and the potential to be an even larger operation. The Prospect, Dark Canyon and Cougar drill program is expected to take approximately three to four months to complete.

Pinal Partnership Open Space and Trails Committee

The Department remains in the discussions for implementation of the master plan and participates on the subcommittee for drainage protection. The Department will be meeting with the County Planning and Zoning in the near future to present the wildlife linkages product and wildlife friendly development. The County has a new Parks and Trails Department. The Committee assists the new Department through providing recommendations. The Department continues to work on the drainage protection subcommittee for development of identification of important drainage features within the county. The county has posted the link to the wildlife linkage county product on their planning and development website. The Department participated in the monthly update meeting. In addition, the drainage subcommittee coordinated next steps via conference call. The drainage subcommittee met with the new director of public works for introductions and discussion of needs and next steps to identify and define important drainage features within the county to provide protection through an established buffer. Discussion also included incorporation of open spaces and important drainage features within flood control documents and transportation documents by way of developing guidance and policies. Further, the drainage subcommittee held a conference call with the AZ Riparian Council to discuss the efforts within Pinal County as the focus of the spring meeting will include how riparian protection is being incorporated into planning and development. The subcommittee will be reviewing the drainage design manuals for the county and provide recommendations to incorporate considerations for riparian protections.

Sonoran Pronghorn

Department staff, in a cooperative partnership with the government of Mexico, participated in the annual survey of Mexican populations of Sonoran pronghorn. 372 pronghorn were counted in the survey area; compared to 167 in the same area two years ago. The estimate for the east side of the area is 434 pronghorn, compared to 189 two years ago. It appears there has been good production and recruitment in the last two years, probably due to favorable climate conditions.

Pronghorn Annual Pen Capture and Release

Department staff conducted the annual capture and release of Sonoran pronghorn at the Cabeza Prieta pens. Seventy pronghorns were processed without immediate mortality. Sixteen pronghorn were moved to Kofa NWR, 6 to Organ Pipe Cactus NM, and 4 to the BMGR-West. There are an additional 2 to be released near the captive breeding pen. Department staff are checking all the pronghorn that were moved to the various release pens daily and all appear to be doing well. All have been up and alert, feeding on native forage and alfalfa in the pens, and there are no apparent signs of any injuries.

Forest	Status	Next Step	Projected Next Step Completion
Apache Sitgreaves	The Proposed LRMP and Draft EIS public review period ended 5/16/2013.	Final LRMP EIS, TMP on hold.	Final EIS (LRMP) 6/2014 TMP start after LRMP complete, draft out late 2014. (separate decisions)
Issues:	MBGR in preferred Alt B of previous TMP draft allows 1mile from road for elk, mule deer & bear. 658 miles of corridors for dispersed camping 300 ft off established roads.		
Coconino	TMP signed Sept 2011, MBGR appeal denied; Draft EIS(LRMP) ready. Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM's) available	Draft LRMP EIS comment period begins Dec. 20	Decision anticipated 6//2015
Issues:	Dispersed camping 300 ft from designated roads, else 30 ft. MBGR for elk only, 1 mile from roads except GMUs 5A & 5B.		
Coronado	Proposed Plan & DEIS released 12/19/13	Under review by AGFD	Final EIS 7/2014
	TMP in Process in all Districts.	Final TMP	Final TMP end of 2013: Decisions by district: Douglas 7/2014; Nogales 3/2013; Safford 3/2014; Santa Catalina 3/2014; Sierra Vista 9/2014
Issues:	Motor Vehicle Use maps show access through roads that have locked gates. Maps not enforceable.		

Forest	Status	Next Step	Projected Next Step Completion
Kaibab	AGFD appeal on North Kaibab TMP declined. TMP completed by district. MVUM's available.	Final LRMP	LRMP Decision early 2014
Issues:	Tusayan & Williams TMP: MBGR 1 mile from road for elk in designated areas. Dispersed camping in camping corridors, or 30 feet from road. North Kaibab MBGR 1 mile off designated roads for elk and bison, dispersed camping 300 feet off 99 miles of designated roads and 100 feet off 104 miles of		
Prescott	Final EIS in Federal Register imminent. AGFD personnel were invited to participate in Strategic planning	Expected FEIS in Federal Register 3/2014	Will not do new TMP. Rely on 2009 updated/amended TMP
Issues:	Current draft advocates MBGR: Elk within 1 mile of designated open road. May be changed by amendment. Dispersed camping 300' from centerline of designated roads. Wilderness under consideration		
Tonto	LRMP began 2006. Negotiating to reinstate due to rule change. TMP elevated to EIS from EA. Notice of intent to prepare TMP EIS has been released for review and comment. Department comments submitted 3/4/2013. Request to be Cooperating Agency has been accepted. IDT teams have met and individual Ranger District meetings have been held.	LRMP Assessment beginning; public scoping in 2014. TMP final EIS anticipated 11/13	Final LRMP & EIS Fall 2017
Issues:	Consistency across forests, enforceability, MBGR, road closures, and Dispersed Camping all addressed in response to NOI.		