

## Public Notice

**County:** Apache

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Opportunity to Comment on the Black River Land Exchange Draft Environmental Impact Statement under 36 CFR 215

The Forest Service, Apache National Forest, is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Black River Land Exchange. This is a proposal to exchange 337.74 acres of federal land north of Greer for 396.35 acres of private land in Apache and Greenlee Counties.

The federal land near Greer is bordered by HWY 373 and one parcel is adjacent to Crosby Acres. The private land includes two parcels on the West Fork of the Black River (Thompson Ranch and a parcel bordered by Forest Road 25) and a third parcel on the upper Blue River.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Black River Land Exchange, Apache National Forest, Apache and Greenlee Counties, AZ is available for review on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/>. Click on Black River Land Exchange DEIS under the heading of Project and Plans (near the top left side of the website) for the year 2008. A hard copy of the document or CD version can be provided if you are not able to obtain it electronically. Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from: Bruce A. Buttrey, Springerville Ranger District, P.O. Box 760, Springerville, AZ, 928-333-4372, [bbuttrey@fs.fed.us](mailto:bbuttrey@fs.fed.us). Please include Black River Land Exchange in the subject line if inquiring electronically.

The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide early and meaningful participation on a proposed action prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official.

How to Comment and Timeframe

The Environmental Protection Agency published a Notice of Availability (NOA) for the DEIS in the Federal Register on June 13, 2008. Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 45 days following that date. The publication date of the NOA in the Federal Register is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for a proposed action documented in a draft EIS.

Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

Written comments must be submitted to: Deryl Jevons, Acting Forest Supervisor, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, Supervisor's Office, 30 Chiricahua Drive, P.O. Box 640, Springerville, AZ 85938, FAX 928-333-5966. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Oral comments must be provided at the above office during normal business hours via telephone 928-333-4301 or in person, or at an official agency function (i.e. public meeting) that is designed to elicit public comments.

Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc) to comments-southwestern-apache-sitgreaves@fs.fed.us with Black River Land Exchange in the subject line. Comments must have an identifiable name attached or verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic comments.

In submitting all comments, please provide: (1) your name, address, telephone number, and organization represented, if any; (2) title of the document on which the comment is being submitted; (3) specific facts along with supporting reasons that you believe should be considered; and (4) your signature.

Those who provide comments during this comment period are eligible to appeal the decision under the regulations. Interest expressed or comments provided on this project prior to or after the close of this comment period will not constitute standing for appeal purposes. Comments must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 215.6. Names and addresses of commentors will become part of the public record.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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