



File Code: 1950-3

Date: September 2, 2008

Dear Interested Party:

The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests have developed a proposal to prepare a Territory Plan for the Heber Wild Horse Territory. We are including with this letter a scoping narrative outlining background information, the purpose of and need for action, and the proposed action.

We are requesting your comments on the proposed action. We encourage you to be as specific as possible with your comments, which will be considered by the agency as it prepares the Environmental Impact Statement for the project. Please provide comments within 30 days, as that will be the most helpful for consideration in the environmental analysis.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, and electronic comments concerning this proposed action will be accepted. Written comments may be submitted to: Allison Stewart, Acting Forest Supervisor, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, Supervisor's Office, 30 South Chiricahua Drive, P.O. Box 640, Springerville, AZ 85938, or 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.

Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to r3_asnf_heber_horse@fs.fed.us. 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; and (3) specific facts along with supporting reasons that you believe should be considered.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project, and will be available for public inspection.

After this scoping comment period, we will continue the environmental analysis process. We anticipate the draft EIS will be published in May, 2009. The comment period for the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a Notice of Availability for it in the *Federal Register*. After the 45 day draft EIS comment period, we anticipate the final EIS and Record of Decision will be completed in November 2009.

If you provide comments for this proposed action that include your name and address, you will receive a copy of the draft EIS when it is completed. In the event that you choose not to comment but you would still like to view the draft EIS, it will be posted to the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests website.

We appreciate your help and interest in our forest management programs.

Sincerely,

/s/Allison L. Stewart
ALLISON L. STEWART
Acting Forest Supervisor

Enclosure



