



File Code: 1950

Date: November 6, 2008

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The Tusayan Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest is proposing to reduce forest tree densities and hazardous fuel conditions through a combination of noncommercial tree felling and prescribed burning activities on approximately 3,059 acres of national forest system lands. Enclosed for your consideration is the Proposed Action for the Airport Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project and project vicinity map. The Airport Project is a continuation of the district's efforts to lower the risk of catastrophic wildland fires in forested lands surrounding the community of Tusayan. The project area is located approximately one mile west of State Route 64 and one-quarter mile south of the community of Tusayan. The project area is also adjacent to private property, Grand Canyon Airport, and Grand Canyon Railway.

### **Opportunity to Comment under 36 CFR 215 on the Airport Project**

This proposal meets the category for timber stand improvement described in Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, 31.2 (6), which can be excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement. An effects analysis of this proposal indicates that it does not have any extraordinary circumstances that would individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the environment.

The purpose of this comment period is to allow the public early and meaningful participation on this proposed action prior to a decision being made. This letter announces both the public scoping effort required under FSH 1909.15 and the 30-day legal notice and comment period required for Categorical Exclusions (CE's) that can be appealed under 36 CFR 215. Only those who provide comment or otherwise express interest in the proposed action by the close of the comment period will be accepted as appellants.

### **How to Comment and Timeframe**

You may submit written, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments on this action for 30 calendar days following the date of publication of the legal notice in the *Arizona Daily Sun*. The publication date in this newspaper is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must include the sender's full name, address, and signature, or other verification of identity upon request.

Please mail your written comments to: Heather McRae, Tusayan Ranger District, P.O. Box 3088, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023. Hand-delivered comments can be submitted to the Tusayan Ranger District Office from 8:00-12:00; 12:30-4:30 Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Email comments also may be submitted via electronic mail (.doc, .txt, .pdf, and .rtf only) to:



[comments-southwestern-kaibab-tusayan@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southwestern-kaibab-tusayan@fs.fed.us). Please type "Airport Project" in the subject line so that this proposal is easily identifiable.

I appreciate your interest in the management of our public lands and look forward to your comments on the proposed action.

Sincerely,

*/s/Linda L. Wadleigh*  
LINDA L. WADLEIGH  
Acting District Ranger

Enclosures