
File Code: 1920
Date: November 13, 2023

Dear Interested Party:

This letter provides notification of an approved amendment to the Coconino National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan, revised 2018). The decision for the Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive River Management Plan (Fossil Creek CRMP) in October 2021 authorized an amendment to the Coconino Forest Plan to apply to all future projects and activities within the Fossil Creek Special Area. This plan amendment:

- (1) Decreases the area of the Fossil Creek Designated Wild and Scenic River Special Area by four acres at T21N, R7E, E 1/2 Section 21 in order to comply with the requirements of Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which states, “boundaries shall include an average of not more than 320 acres of land per mile....”
- (2) Incorporates the management direction provided in Chapter 3 of the Fossil Creek CRMP. This management direction applies to the 2,892 acres within the Fossil Creek Designated Wild and Scenic River Special Area on the Coconino National Forest.
- (3) Recommends an 11.6-acre addition to the Designated Fossil Springs Botanical Area.

This amendment was approved to (1) comply with corridor size requirements specified in Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, (2) ensure consistent and effective application of the Fossil Creek CRMP’s management direction by incorporating this direction in the Forest Plan, and (3) better incorporate the diverse vegetation community in the vicinity of Fossil Springs into the Fossil Springs Botanical Area.

To incorporate this amendment, changes have been made to the Coconino Forest Plan. Appendix G has been added, containing all of the plan components and management direction to be used in the Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River Special Area; pages 179 to 182, and 189 in Chapter 3 have been edited to reference the Appendix G management direction and add to the acres now included in the Fossil Springs Botanical Area; and the special area maps in Appendix A have been updated to reflect the changes to the boundaries of the Fossil Creek Special Area and the Fossil Springs Botanical Area. Copies of these additional and replacement pages are available upon request. An updated version of the Coconino Forest Plan will be posted to the forest planning website <https://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/coconino/planning>. Pages which have been changed are identified in the page footers, along with the date of the change per this amendment.

Approval of Forest Plan Amendment

This forest plan amendment was approved in the Record of Decision for the Fossil Creek CRMP. To incorporate this plan amendment, changes were made to Chapter 3 and Appendix A maps, and Appendix G was added to the Coconino Forest Plan.



This forest plan amendment is completed pursuant to the 2012 Planning Rule at 36 CFR § 219.13, and complies with the 2012 Planning Rule's sustainability (36 CFR § 219.8), diversity (§ 219.9), and multiple use (§ 219.10) requirements. It was subject to the objection process pursuant to 36 CFR § 219 Subparts A and B as part of the Fossil Creek CRMP, and went into effect upon completion of the administrative review, as prescribed at 36 CFR § 218.12 and 36 CFR § 219.58. The rationale for amending the Coconino Forest Plan and approval of this plan amendment was made in the Fossil Creek CRMP Record of Decision, meeting the requirements of 36 CFR § 219.14(a) and § 219.15(a).

Thank you for your interest and engagement in the management of the Coconino National Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Mayville', is written over the printed name.

AARON W. MAYVILLE
Forest Supervisor