



File Code: 1920
Date: June 26, 2019

Dear Interested Party:

This letter provides notification of administrative changes to the Coconino National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan, revised 2018) to align it with the 2012 Planning Rule. The Planning Rule requires that all forest plans meet specific elements of the rule related to Forest Plan monitoring, and prescribes public involvement in changes to the monitoring strategy.

On December 21, 2018, we requested public comment on our proposal for this monitoring transition to focal species. The proposed changes were specified in the document "Coconino National Forest Monitoring Transition to Focal Species," which was mailed out to interested parties and posted to the forest planning website <https://www.fs.usda.gov/land/coconino/landmanagement>. On January 30, 2019, due to the partial government shutdown, the 30-day period of public review and comment was extended to February 28, 2019.

Four comment letters were received: requesting that pronghorn antelope be included as a focal species, asking about focal species for riparian areas, and examining the methods and information to be gathered in monitoring for the proposed focal species. We considered the comments, discussed them further with commenters, and made some important changes to our proposal as a result of the insights provided. The changes we have made are described and listed in the enclosed document "Coconino Administrative Change per Monitoring Transition to Focal Species."

Changes have been made to Chapter 5, Monitoring Strategy, in the Coconino Forest Plan. The pages of Chapter 5 that have been changed are being mailed along with this letter to interested parties, to replace the original pages in the printed documents. An updated version of the Coconino Forest Plan will be posted to the forest planning website <https://www.fs.usda.gov/land/coconino/landmanagement>. Pages which have been changed will be identified in the page footers, along with the date of the change.

Approval of Administrative Change

This administrative change is a modification of the Coconino National Forest Monitoring Strategy found in Chapter 5 of the Coconino Forest Plan. We made changes to certain elements in the Monitoring Strategy and added new elements where necessary. This modification brings the plan into compliance with the 2012 Planning Rule. After considering public comments we received on this proposed transition, I am approving this administrative change as described in "Coconino Forest Plan Changes Made per Monitoring Transition to Focal Species."



These administrative changes are being made in accordance with the 2012 Planning Rule (36 C.F.R. §219.13(c) (2)), whereby changes to content that are not plan amendments or revisions may be made following public notice.

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

Sincerely,



LAURA JO WEST
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures