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June 28, 2011

Tonto National Forest
ATTN: Kathy Nelson, Project Leader
2324 E McDowell Road
Phoenix, AZ 85006

File Code 1950

Re: Comments regarding "Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to improve ecological conditions and to authorize continued livestock grazing on six grazing allotments along the Salt River within the Globe and Tonto Basin Ranger Districts, Gila County Arizona."

Dear Ms. Nelson,

The Gila County Board of Supervisors would like to offer comments on the previously referenced proposed actions. We strongly support the continued Multiple Use Management philosophy, and the inclusion of adaptive management strategies that allow land managers to be flexible enough to make timely decisions relative to a host of ever changing conditions.

Within those tools listed in the scoping letter, we strongly support the continued use of livestock grazing as a management tool to improve habitat, as well as carefully managed fire as a tool to improve habitat.

The Gila County Board of Supervisors has some specific concerns regarding herbicide application on any public land within the Gila County boundaries. Our position is that herbicides should be considered only as a last resort option for any area. The toxicity of herbicides to the public, particularly to those with chemical sensitivities, should be noted. The toxicity of herbicides to the wildlife and surrounding vegetation should also be noted. If herbicides are to be used, we request that the area be clearly posted along with the potential side effects, and the local communities be notified of the planned use. Further, we request that land owners adjacent to the herbicide application areas be notified prior to the herbicide use.

The Gila County Board of Supervisors requests to be kept informed as this analysis continues and as the Forest Service evaluates, reviews and reaches a decision regarding this proposed action.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Pastor,
Chairman