



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tonto National Forest

2324 E. McDowell Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85006
Phone: 602.225.5200
Fax: 602.225.5295
V/TTY: 602.225.5395

JAN 09 2012

File Code: 1950/2350

Date: January 6, 2012

Dear Interested Party:

The Tonto National Forest is seeking comments on the Environmental Assessment for Motorized Travel Management. The purpose of this effort is to comply with the Travel Management Rule by providing a system of roads, trails, and areas designated for motor vehicle use by class of vehicle and time of year on the Tonto National Forest.

The Proposed Action would close about 101 miles of roads, open about 442 miles of roads, create a 233-mile motorized trail system, seasonally restrict access on 105 miles of road, administratively restrict access on 253 miles of road, create special use permit zones for 315 miles of road, add about 291 miles of unauthorized routes to the transportation system, allow motorized cross-country travel on 1,417 acres and motorized retrieval of big game (elk and bear) up to 200 yards off either side of NFS roads and motorized trails. A Forest Plan amendment would prohibit all other motorized travel off the designated road system across the forest.

The proposed action and associated analysis can be obtained from the Tonto National Forest Supervisor's Office, 2324 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85006; and on the internet at www.fs.usda.gov/tonto. Click 'Forest Projects' under the 'Quick Links' column on the right-hand side of the page.

Comments must be submitted within 30 days following date of the legal notice published in the *Capitol Times* on January 6, 2012. Please submit comments using one of the methods below (listed in order of preference for ease of processing through the content analysis process):

- **Internet** (using a comment form):
<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=28967>
- **Email:** comments-southwestern-TMRTonto@fs.fed.us using one of the following formats – directly in the body of the email, word document-preferred format (.doc or .docx), portable document format (.pdf), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), and hypertext markup language (.html).
- **Postal mail:** Gene Blankenbaker, Forest Supervisor at the address listed above
- **Phone:** 602-225-5213

Only those who provide comment or otherwise express interest in the proposed action during the comment period will be eligible to appeal. Interest expressed or comments provided on this project prior to or after the close of this comment period will not constitute standing for appeal



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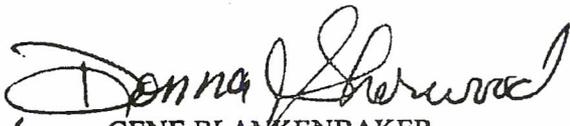
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purposes. In order to appeal, each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record of this analysis and will be included in the final project record. Pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27 (d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality.

If you have questions concerning this process, please contact Genevieve Johnson at (602) 225-5213.

Sincerely,


GENE BLANKENBAKER
Forest Supervisor

JB