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October 20, 2015

Red Rock Ranger District  
Attn: Jennifer Burns  
P.O. Box 20429  
Sedona, AZ 86341-0429

File code 1950

Re: Public Comments regarding two Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River (WSR) proposals.

Dear Ms. Burns,

In response to the request for public comment regarding the Interim Management Proposal and the Geotechnical Soil Test Proposal for the Fossil Creek Wild and Scenic River, the Gila County Board of Supervisors would like to provide the following comments.

Gila County is a stakeholder and partner in managing public access and public safety to the Fossil Creek recreation areas. We recognize and deal with the dramatic increase in public use on a weekly basis. In Gila County, we recognize and understand the importance of protecting our natural resources while providing opportunities and access to those whose livelihoods depend on resources located on federal land, as well as access for multiple use, multi-cultural activities, and multi-recreational opportunities for the public. Historically, our economy and our residents have depended heavily upon resource-based industries and, more recently, upon recreational opportunities on federal land. We agree that additional management measures are necessary in order to protect Fossil Creek WSR until the more comprehensive management plan is completed. Unregulated use by the large numbers that are currently accessing and attempting to access Fossil Creek WSR, particularly those who access from the Strawberry side, have also negatively impacted our County Sheriff's Office resources, as well as our residents who live in Strawberry and have to contend with unmanaged parking and blocked roadways.

With regard to the proposed Geotechnical Soil Test Proposal, we support efforts to provide a bridge that can safely accommodate all public uses.

The Gila County Board of Supervisors thanks you for the opportunity to comment and requests to be kept informed and included in the process as this analysis continues.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michael A. Pastor  
Chairman  
Gila County Board of Supervisors

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Date