

Transfer of Federally Managed Lands Study Committee
Survey of Counties Land Management and Conditions

This survey is being promulgated by the Transfer of Federally managed Lands Study Committee to gather information to evaluate the management of certain federal lands in Arizona, assessing risks, and identifying solutions.

Please return your survey by March 22, 2016 to:

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| Chairman: REPRESENTATIVE BRENDA BARTON | bbarton@azleg.gov |
| Vice Chairman: SENATOR SYLVIA ALLEN | sallen@azleg.gov |
| GINA KASH-HOUSE POLICY ADVISOR | gkash@azleg.gov |
| TOM SAVAGE -- HOUSE RESEARCHER FOR AGRICULTURE WATER LAND; ENERGY NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEES | tsavage@azleg.gov |

Please attach any supplemental explanations, comments, suggestions, or other information your board finds pertinent.

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A. PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE: (Attach explanation for each response as needed)

1. Do current wildfire conditions on federally managed lands within your county pose a significant threat to: [Check all that apply add percent or comments]

Public Health and Safety Public Property Private Property

2. Do you believe fire hazard on federally managed lands should be reduced to protect public health and safety within your county? [Check all that apply add percent or comments]

Yes No Unsure

About half of the USFS land in Gila County is at risk for catastrophic fire, and threatens more than half of the communities and residents within Gila County.

3. Regarding the water supply your citizens use, does current federal land management of watersheds: [Check all that apply add percent or comments]

Optimize water yield Diminish water yield Have no impact

4. How important is it for people of your county to have motorized access to public lands for sustenance activities such as gathering wood, picking mushrooms and berries, hiking, harvesting wild game, CAMPING OR PICNICING etc.?

Very Important Not Important Unsure

5. Is there an adequate supply of motorized roads on federally managed lands in your county to accommodate emergency ingress/egress for search and rescue, facility maintenance, public access, and resource management? [Check all that apply add percent or comments]

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Yes No Unsure

This is a difficult balance to maintain, between access and habitat protection. The new Travel Management Plan will restrict access in some areas that are now accessible.

6. Regarding multiple-use recreational access routes on federally managed lands, does your county desire: [Check all that apply add percent or comments]

Increased Multi-Use Access Reduced Multi-Use Access Keep Access As Is

Do you know the quantity of federally manages acres in your county? What agency administers policies over that land and what percentage is that of your county?

Yes No Unsure

USFS – 55.42% (1,700,928 acres)

Tribal Lands – 37.9% (1,163,430 acres)

BLM – 2.15% (66,048 acres)

National Park Service – 0.04% (1,107 acres)

Bureau of Reclamation – 0.01% (204 acres)

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B. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY: (Attach explanation for each response as needed)

1. Do you believe current fuel loads on any of the federally managed lands within your county could result in severe, uncontrollable, or catastrophic wildfires? (If so, provide, if practicable, geographic location and approximate acreage in an attachment) [Add percent or comments]

Yes No Unsure

Along and under the Mogollon Rim

Sierra Ancha Mountains

CC Cragin water reservoir is highly susceptible to damage

Pinal Mountains

2. Is a high intensity wildfire on federally managed lands likely to cause a loss of important fish & wildlife habitat or harm to Threatened or Endangered Species in your county (e.g. Apache Trout, Spiked Dace, Loach Minnows, black-footed ferret)? [Check all that apply add percent or comments]

Yes No Unsure

In a cursory search, there are at least 25 T & E species (plants and animals) that could be harmed by a high intensity wildfire within Gila County.

3. Are environmental threats such as noxious weeds, invasive species and bark beetle adequately controlled on federal lands within your county?

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_____ Yes No _____ Unsure

4. Does the air quality in your county fall below acceptable health standards due to smoke originating from wild fires and/or prescribed burns on federally managed lands?

Yes _____ No _____ Unsure

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C. ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY: (Attach explanation for each response as needed)

1. Is the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT revenues) your county derives from federally managed lands equivalent to the amount that actual land taxation of that these lands would bring? (~~Present~~ Current fall 2015 revenue)

_____ Yes No Please provide actual amount received and estimate PILT as a percentage of your county budget.

We will receive approximately \$3.4 million in federal PILT 8.5% of the general fund budget, and 3.8% of the total (all funds) budget.

2. Are there any federally managed lands in your county for which you do not receive PILT payments? Please be specific: acreage name of facility etc. (e.g. Indian reservations, National Parks)

Yes _____ No _____ Unsure

San Carlos, White Mountain, and Tonto Apache Tribal Lands and Tonto National Monument.

3. Is the amount your county derives from the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funds equivalent to the amount that your county could derive from responsible harvest or extraction of natural resources?

_____ Yes No Please provide actual amount received and estimate SRS as a percentage of county budget (include present short fall).

Gila County will receive \$1.4 million in SRS funding for the current fiscal year.

With 1,700,928 acres of Forest land X \$7/ac (based on existing comparable land) there is the potential for \$11,906,496.00 as compared to \$4.8 million (\$1.4m in SRS and \$3.4m in PILT).

4. Is the economic productivity and number of related private sector jobs commensurate with the resource production capacity of the federally managed lands within your county? (Forestry, mining, ranching, recreation management)

_____ Yes No _____ Unsure

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5. Are federal policies for Threatened or Endangered Species adversely impacting private land owners, businesses, industries, or citizens within your county? (Species details and / or details where possible)

Yes No Unsure

Particularly, the Willow flycatcher, the Mexican spotted owl, the two newly listed garter snakes, the Chiricahua leopard frog, and the various fish, as well as the proposed release of the Mexican Wolf and the continuing conversation regarding the ocelot, the leopard, the grizzly bear and the thick billed parrot, to name just a few.

6. Has federally managed land management resulted in adverse impacts to your county's economy? (details where possible)

Yes No Unsure

The reduction in allowable livestock numbers from 60,000 permitted head in 1980, to an estimated 10,000 permitted head today is a direct effect of the management related to endangered species. This does not take into account the revenue lost from the logging or mining industries.

7. Do you believe changes in federally managed land management is necessary to ~~increases~~ positively impact your county's economy, employment opportunities, or tax base?

Yes No Unsure

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D. CONSISTENCY WITH STATE AND LOCAL OBJECTIVES: (Attach explanation for each response as needed)

1. Are federally managed land management actions consistent with your county's objectives? (specifics sectors where possible)

Yes No Unsure

2. Would your county like state assistance incorporating local government objectives into Federally managed land management actions?

Yes No Unsure

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E. OWNERSHIP AND JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Has your county experienced conflicts with federally managed or federal claimed ownership or jurisdictional responsibilities?

Yes No (Please attach detailed description of conflicts)

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2. How much influence do you believe special interests have on the ability of federal agencies to develop and implement effective land and resource management plans on federal lands in your county?

None Moderate (please explain) Significant (please explain)

3. On a separate sheet, please describe your county's most significant concerns with federal land management, including current and past relations and communications with federal agencies and other relevant factors you believe legislators should be aware of. Provide any ideas that may help reduce risks or resolve concerns in these areas. Please be as specific as possible.

Our most significant land management issue is the desertification of the land which encourages invasive species and significantly reduces the productivity of the land.

Submitted by: Signature: _____

INCLUDE TITLE PRINTED NAME: Michael A Pastor
Chairman, Gila County Board of Supervisors

Date: March 15, 2016

Attested by: _____

Marian Sheppard, Clerk
Gila County Board of Supervisors

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