
From: M Macek [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2025 3:21 PM
To: FS-objections-southwestern-regional-office
Subject: [External Email]APS Oak Creek to McGuireville 69kV Transmission Line Project on the Coconino National Forest

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February 28, 2025

From: Marlene Macek



To: Responsible Official and Reviewing Officer, Regional Forester Michiko Martin
333 Broadway Blvd SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

SENT VIA EMAIL: objections-southwestern-regional-office@usda.gov

RE: APS Oak Creek to McGuireville 69kV Transmission Line Project on the Coconino National Forest

Dear Regional Forester Martin:

I am submitting issues based on new information not available during the previous comment period, which ended January 14, 2022.

The final Environmental Assessment (EA) is missing relevant information that is critical to making an informed decision.

1. The EA is missing information from a website (created after the 2022 comment period) called the Wildfire Risk to Communities. This website was created by the USDA Forest Service under the direction of Congress. It allows a person to assess the wildfire risk in their community. When you do a search for the Village of Oak Creek (Big Park), you will get the following: **Village of Oak Creek (Big Park) has a very high risk of wildfire—higher than 96% of communities in the US.** This vital information was left out of the EA.

Keep in mind that this very high-risk rating has historical significance. In June of 2006, the La Barranca fire started in the Village of Oak Creek. This disastrous wildfire swept through a large portion of forest land bordering Jacks Canyon Road, all the way to Pine Valley. There was a mandated, emergency evacuation of all residents and livestock from the area. This wildfire was started by a workman's equipment. You can still see the scarred forest land alongside Jacks Canyon Road. It is a constant reminder of the need for wildfire vigilance, to protect the homes, businesses and the lives of the residents and animals.

At one point, over 500 personnel were assigned to the La Barranca fire. Resources committed included the following:

Eight (8) Type 1 crews (hotshot crews), 7 Type 2 crews, 4 helicopters (1 heavy, 2 medium, 1 light), air tankers available if needed, 10 engines, 3 water tenders. Total personnel = approx. 500 personnel assigned

The aftermath of the fire:

Total Size – 836 acres

- Structures lost:

1 primary residence destroyed

1 partially-damaged residence

1 guest house/shop destroyed

3 outbuildings destroyed

2.

3. Since the 2022 comment period, Yavapai County issued the Yavapai County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023 which classifies the hazards that impact the Yavapai County communities. Under Wildfires, the vulnerability of the Village of Oak Creek (classified as unincorporated Yavapai Co and is similar to City of Sedona) shows probability that is Highly Likely with a magnitude/severity rating of Catastrophic . The rating is consistent with the information contained on the USDA Forest Service website. Here is the Figure 74 Table 4-12: Wildfire CPRI Rating which is found on page 112 of the Plan:

Vulnerability

Jurisdiction	Probability	Magnitude/ Severity	Warning Time	Duration	Rating
Camp Verde	Highly Likely	Catastrophic	< 6 hours	< 1 week	3.90
Chino Valley	Unlikely	Negligible	> 24 hours	< 6 hours	1.45
Clarkdale	Possible	Limited	< 6 hours	< 24 hours	2.30
Cottonwood	Possibly	Critical	12-24 hours	< 1 week	2.40
Dewey-Humboldt	Likely	Limited	< 6 hours	< 1 week	2.85
Jerome	Highly Likely	Catastrophic	< 6 hours	> 1 week	4.00
Prescott	Highly Likely	Catastrophic	< 6 hours	< 1 week	3.90
Prescott Valley	Possibly	Limited	< 6 hours	< 24 hours	2.30
Sedona	Highly Likely	Catastrophic	< 6 hours	< 1 week	3.90
Unincorporated Yavapai Co	Highly Likely	Catastrophic	< 6 hours	> 1 week	4.00
Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe	Likely	Critical	6-12 hours	> 1 week	3.10

Figure 74 Table 4-12: Wildfire CPRI Rating

Let's not forget what happened during the La Barranca fire and protect our community. The only solution is to build the transmission lines underground.

With regards,

Marlene Macek