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First name: Nate

Last name: Reisner

Organization: ADOT

Title: Environmental Coordinator

Comments: 4 FRI Project Team: Annette Fredette, 4 FRI Planning Coordinator

Dear Ms. Fredette,

Thank you for allowing us to comment on the proposed actions for 4 FRI Rim Country Proposed Action (File Code: 1950, date received: June 21, 2016).

ADOT's Northcentral District is in support of the proposed project as it provides for a healthier forest, greater vegetation diversity, greater wildlife habitat, and decreased risk of high intensity crown fires.

Additionally, we would like USFS to consider coordination with ADOT to perform these activities within ADOT right-of-way (ROW). ADOT is open to working with USFS to address the removal of trees with the recovery zone and thinning of trees within ADOT ROW. Adding these elements to the proposed action would benefit winter storm management practices, potential hazard trees within ADOT ROW, and sight distances being improved for motorists to react to concealed wildlife that can impair driver safety.

The following are ADOT Northcentral District's comments inclusively:

Comments regarding proposed actions for 4 FRI Rim Country:

*ADOT is open to considering thinning options within ADOT ROW that could potentially encompass this proposed action. ADOT Northcentral district has recently worked with local Forests' tree thinning projects to incorporate thinning within ADOT ROW into the proposed actions. ADOT would request the same consideration for this proposed action and subsequent coordination/discussions if USFS considers this alternative.

* Please be aware of ADOT's requirements for an encroachment permit for any potential activities within the ADOT Right of Way (tree cutting, fencing modification and access control). ADOT's contact for encroachment permits is listed below.

* Please notify our local ADOT representatives when burning activities (smoke) could potentially impact motorist safety. ADOT will need to install proper signage and message boards to inform the traveling public of potential activity impacts.

* Sediment (mud), vegetation or debris causing track-out from vehicles onto ADOT roadways, namely SR 260 and SR 87 for these proposed actions, must be mitigated using Best Management Practices (BMP5) (track-out pads, washing, etc.). For your convenience, attached to this comment letter is ADOT's stabilized construction entrance specifications/design sheet.

General comments:

* Actively limit the amount of obliteration of existing ground cover vegetation to limit erosion.

* If erosion potential is increased due to the project, install additional control measures to control sediment in stormwater runoff (straw wattles, hydroseeding, check dams, etc.)

* Minimize the potential spread of noxious weeds onto the ADDT Right of Way. Incorporate proper BMP's (controlling weeds near roadways, cleaning vehicles, etc.) when conducting these activities.

Other divisions of ADOT views or input are not included in this letter. You are welcome to solicit them separately. Please include the following contact for any future coordination with ADOT regarding this proposed project:

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Sincerely,

Rob Nelson
Environmental Coordinator