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SUBMITTAL COVER PAGE

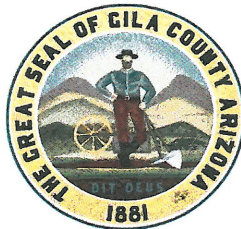
Cal Joyner, Regional Forester
Objections Reviewing Officer
Southern Region
USDA Forest Service
333 Broadway Blvd. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Enclosed is a signed and certified copy of Gila County, Arizona Board of Supervisors comments regarding the Tonto National Forest Draft Record of Decision and Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for Tonto National Forest Travel Management.

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October 16, 2019

Mr. Neil Bosworth, Forest Supervisor
Tonto National Forest
2324 East McDowell Road
Phoenix, AZ 85006

RE: Comments on Draft Record of Decision and Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for Tonto National Forest Travel Management

Dear Forest Supervisor Bosworth:

We first want to thank you for the tremendous amount of work that went into the above referenced document and the opportunity to provide comments.

Gila County supports alternative C with the below clarifications:

Alternative C pages 24 and 25:

We object to the proposed motorized access of a corridor of 300 feet on both sides of designated roads and motorized trails for personal use fuelwood gathering in permitted areas. This limitation would cause an undue hardship on constituents that rely on wood harvesting for their winter fuel. Gila County proposes that the motorized access of up to 1 mile on both sides of designated roads for fuelwood be the same as for the retrieval of legally harvested elk and bear. We feel that a one-mile corridor for wood harvesters would not conflict with wildlife habitat or cultural resources.

Implementation Section pages 32, 33 and 34:

Gila County supports the Forest Service decision to reconsider the designation of FS Road 203 and FS Road 393 upon the re-designation of the Wilderness Boundaries or as otherwise authorized by Congressional action. In addition, Gila County wants to include the 487 Road access to Aztec Peak for the essential county services that include routine maintenance of the repeater site. It is imperative that the repeater be maintained for public safety and first responder purposes. Further, this would also include

maintenance of the Forest Service look-out tower which is essential to our county constituents for early fire detection.

Additionally, we fully support the decision to commit to additional motorized route planning and making changes to motorized use management through the National Environmental Policy Act to continue improving Tonto National Forest access and motorized recreation and protecting Tonto National Forest resources for current and future generations.

The Gila County Board of Supervisors thanks you for the opportunity to comment and requests to be kept informed and included in the process moving forward.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Woody Cline", is written over a horizontal line.

Woody Cline
Chairman, Gila County Board of Supervisors

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TO

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