Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/15/2019 9:55:20 PM
First name: Douglas D
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Re: ASNF Travel Management Plan
Climate Change and the impact on the ASNF is a significantly important concern when determining and implementing the proposed Road Management Alternatives. For example, within the last 15 years massive destructive forest fires have devastates significant stands of the Ponderosa (and mixed conifers) within AZ and NM NFs, potentially worsened by lack of thinning and private and public access.
Locking down more forest access will diminish fire prevention and fire management. It is all citizens responsibility to help prevent additional fires in our precious forests. Locking out 'access' results in inability to thin trees, remove dead growth and inhibits access for fire fighting equipment, creating more situation like the overgrown forest destroyed by the Wallow Fire, and the fires in the Gila Mountains of NM. All those trees "saved" by environmental special interest groups that forced forest closing and eliminated thinned resulted in tens of thousands acres totally burned, critters and vegetation demolished. At a minimum, implement Alternative number One (1). Better yet, encourage ownership by allowing supervised access to all parts of the forest to ensure thinning, dead tree removal and best forest management plans. Locking out forest access is not good forest management, as proven over time. PLEASE consider the impact of climate change on future forest planning. Change is good, locking out is not the best practice for the plants and the critters that live in the forest.
Thank you for considering these comments!