

News Release
USDA Forest Service
Coronado National Forest
www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado



Effective Immediately

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**CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST TRAVEL
MANAGEMENT KICKOFF MEETING JANUARY 28th
Meetings will be Held Regarding Motor-Vehicle Use on the Forest**

Tucson, AZ (January 24, 2012) – A kickoff meeting for the collaborative process regarding changes to motorized vehicle use on the Coronado National Forest will be held Saturday, January 28th, 2012 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Tucson Interagency Fire Center, 2646 E. Commerce Center Place, Tucson, Arizona.

Over the years, use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) has increased on National Forest lands. Forest Service motorized travel regulations issued before the increase in popularity of “off roading” and advanced OHV technology is outdated. The Travel Management Rule published in 2005 clarifies current Forest Service policy regarding motor-vehicle use and provides management direction allowing for sustainable access by motorized vehicles on National Forests and Grasslands. Under the rule, each National Forest is required to designate roads, motorized trails, and areas open to public motor-vehicle use and publish them on Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUMs), which may be updated annually. The Coronado is now considering changes to the designated road system and will consider public input, perform a National Environmental Policy Act analysis, and publish changes on MVUMs.

Since 2006, several opportunities for public involvement have been provided in the Forest’s Travel Management Planning process. A series of collaborative meetings will be held in 2012 as follows:

Forest-wide: January 28th, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Tucson Interagency Fire Center, 2646 E. Commerce Center Place, Tucson, Arizona.

Safford Ranger District: February 23rd, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Graham County Building, 921 W. Thatcher Boulevard, Safford, Arizona.

Nogales Ranger District: February 28th, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Esplendor Hotel, 1069 Camino Caralampi, Rio Rico, Arizona.

Santa Catalina Ranger District: March 8th, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel, 5151 E. Grant Road, Tucson, Arizona.

Sierra Vista Ranger District: March 13th, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Windemere Hotel, 2047 S. Highway 92, Sierra Vista, Arizona.

Douglas Ranger District: March 29th, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the City of Douglas Visitor Center, 345 16th Street, Douglas, Arizona.

Forest-wide: April 21st, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Inn Suites, 475 N. Granada, Tucson, Arizona.

A Collaborative Alternative Team (CAT) representing a wide range of stakeholder interests will be identified at the January 28th Forest-wide kick off meeting to serve as a consensus-building body for the five district workshops. The team will work to develop an alternative to the proposed action for each ranger district. Those interested in participating on the CAT are encouraged to attend the January 28th meeting. All meetings are open to the public.

This process is being convened and facilitated by the Udall Foundation's U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, an independent and impartial agency of the federal government. For more information about the U.S. Institute, visit www.ecr.gov.

Additionally, ranger districts may elect to conduct public meetings for educational and informational purposes and to invite public comment to be utilized by the CAT. Details will be determined and announced through the news media. For more information on Coronado National Forest Travel Management, visit www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado.