



January 16, 2015

Forest Supervisors Bosworth, Stewart, Williams, and Zornes  
Four Forest Restoration Initiative  
Apache/Sitgreaves, Coconino, Kaibab and Tonto National Forests

Dear Supervisors Bosworth, Stewart, Williams, and Zornes;

After five years of intense collaborative work on the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI), the Stakeholder Group would like to commend the U.S. Forest Service on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Draft Record of Decision for the 4FRI First Analysis Area. The Stakeholder Group feels that the collaborative work between all Stakeholders and the Forest Service Team had a very positive influence on the final analyses. In particular, the final analyses and decision honored or directly incorporated many of the recommendations provided by the Stakeholder Group in their comments on the Draft EIS and we are grateful for this. In addition, the Stakeholders would like to specifically extend their appreciation to the Interdisciplinary Team staff and leadership for their commitment to the collaborative process and their ability to continually seek positive resolution.

The 4FRI Stakeholder Group has therefore made the decision to support Alternative C of the 4FRI Final Environmental Impact Statement as the closest representation of their collaborative vision of restoration on the Four Forests: “landscape-scale restoration efforts across the Mogollon Rim that will support healthy, diverse stands, supporting abundant populations of native plants and animals; thriving communities in forested landscapes that pose little threat of destructive wildfire; and sustainable forest industries that strengthen local economies while conserving natural resources and aesthetic values” (The Path Forward, 2010). While no document can possibly encapsulate the integral embodiment of so many different Stakeholders’ and Agencies’ individual visions, and while individual stakeholders may seek adjustments on specific issues during the objection process and through future collaborative efforts, we believe that the Draft Record of Decision adequately translates the Forest Service and Stakeholder Group common restoration goals for the 4FRI First Analysis Area.

The Stakeholder Group looks forward and remains committed to continued engagement during the implementation, monitoring and adaptive management decisions of the Record of Decision in the 4FRI First Analysis Area, and is committed to engage as promptly as possible in the analyses of the EIS of the Second Analysis area for the next phase of 4FRI, in collaboration with the industry partners that make accelerated landscape scale restoration activities possible.

We look forward to continued collaborative and ecological success in 4FRI.

Sincerely,

Pascal Berlioux  
4FRI Co-Chair

Steve Gatewood  
4FRI Co-Chair

Sue Sitko  
4FRI Co-Chair

Diane Vosick  
4FRI Co-Chair