

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

December 10, 2013

Mr. Marcos Roybal, IDT Leader
Kaibab National Forest
742 South Clover Road
Williams, Arizona 86046

Subject: Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Bill Williams Mountain Restoration Project, Coconino County, Arizona (CEQ # 20130321)

Dear Mr. Roybal:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Bill Williams Mountain Restoration Project (Project) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The EPA reviewed the Draft EIS for the Project and provided comments to the Forest Service on August 23, 2012. We rated the DEIS as Lack of Objections – Adequate (LO-1). Based on our review of the Supplemental DEIS, we have rated the Preferred Alternative and the subject document as LO-1, as well (see the enclosed “Summary of EPA Rating Definitions”). We continue to strongly support the restoration goals for this Project. We appreciate the clarification provided, in the SDEIS, of the silvicultural treatments proposed in the pre-settlement patches in the Mexican spotted owl protected habitat and the Arizona bugbane botanical area in the Bill Williams Mountain project area. Though we support the decision to conduct thin-from-below treatments to maintain the integrity of the overstory, we continue to recommend that the Forest Service refrain from the use of cable logging within the Botanical Area unless mitigation measures could be developed that would ensure long-term protection of the Arizona bugbane population.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this SDEIS, and are available to discuss our comments. When the FEIS is released, please send one CD copy to this office (specify Mail Code CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact me at 415-972-3521, or contact Jason Gerdes, the lead reviewer for this project. Mr. Gerdes can be reached at 415-947-4221 or gerdes.jason@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office

Enclosure: Summary of EPA Rating Definitions