

Topics, Threads, and Themes:

A Catalog Of Results From Initial Collaboration Meetings For Revision Of the Coronado National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan



PREPARED FOR:

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BACKGROUND

The document summarizes findings from initial public meetings about the needs for change in the existing Forest Plan for the Coronado National Forest. Examination of meeting notes and flip chart summaries resulted in cataloging hundreds of statements by participants about forest management issues. Meeting notes and flip chart summaries will be available on the Coronado National Forest web site (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/plan-revision/index.shtml>). More topics and issues are identified in those notes and summaries than are presented here. This summary uses the meeting notes and summaries to construct topic categories. These summaries are intended to assist interested publics and forest managers to proceed with collaborating to identify needs for change about forest management and use. This discussion of findings from the initial public meetings is a foundation for upcoming collaboration in September 2006 to clarify and further develop the needs for change issues.

The initial meetings were held between June 13 and June 20 of 2006. The meeting strategy was to construct an adaptive approach based on established principles for successful collaboration (e.g., Burns and Cheng 2005; Daly 2005; Wondolleck and Yaffee 2000). Some of the principles informing these meetings include:

- Use existing information to construct an approach that is appropriate to the particular social environment of the Coronado National Forest. This was accomplished by reviewing existing information about the social environment and then discussing suitable approaches with the Forest Supervisor, District Rangers, the Forest Planner, and other CNF staff.
- Assess agency and community capacity to implement collaboration and adapt the ideal approach to match capacity and local conditions. Based on discussions with District Rangers, the Forest Supervisor, the Forest Planner, and other members of the Forest Leadership Team and community groups involved in collaborative efforts, a draft plan was developed and reviewed with Coronado National Forest Managers.
- Develop a meeting structure and process that addresses issues of inclusiveness, transparency, fairness, mutual respect, facilitated discussions, conflict resolution, ground rules, meeting the goals for collaboration for Forest Plan revision, and other factors influencing public-agency interactions in open forums (Russell 2006).
- Use an adaptive strategy and adjust implementation to meet the overall goals of the collaborative process.

Using these principles and applying lessons learned from other local collaborative efforts resulted in developing a plan to organize to six initial collaboration meetings. To address the geographic distribution of the Coronado National Forest, meetings were scheduled in locations associated with the five Ranger Districts: Douglas, Nogales, Sierra Vista, Safford, and Santa Catalina. Additionally, a separate meeting was organized in Tucson for interested publics to discuss forest-wide management issues. These six meetings were conceived as the first of a series of meetings to identify public assessments of needs for change in the existing Forest Plan.

The implementation team identified the goal of the meetings as building relationships and gathering information about needs for change in the existing Forest Plan. To accomplish this goal, these meetings used a small discussion group format to offer participants an opportunity to express their views. This decision was based on discussions with members of other collaborative efforts in southern Arizona about lessons learned concerning effective meeting formats. These discussions also suggested using facilitators to ensure the work group format realized the opportunity for participation and dialogue about forest planning issues. The Forest Planner recruited Forest Service staff with appropriate experience to act as facilitators. Some facilitators

were recruited from other national forests in Arizona and others were staff of the Coronado National Forest.

In consultation with the Forest Planner and other Coronado National Forest staff, we developed an agenda for review. After discussions with forest managers, some minor changes were made. The final agenda identified three main tasks for the public meetings: (1) make a presentation about the existing Forest Plan and the Planning Rule that guides Forest Plan revision; (2) present information about the collaboration process developed to guide implementation of the Coronado National Forest approach to Forest Plan revision; and (3) use facilitated small groups to gather information about needs for change and desires concerning the process for collaboration meetings.

A larger than expected turnout at the first meeting in Safford suggested an agenda change to focus only on gathering information about needs for change using the facilitated work groups. With concern for the amount of time available for the meeting, the collaboration team adjusted the agenda to eliminate the presentations about the Forest Plan, the Planning Rule, and the Coronado National Forest approach to collaboration. This decision was made with the full realization that participants would not have information that is important for understanding the context of their contributions. However, this was judged as an acceptable trade-off because the central task of these public meetings is to identify how interested parties assess needs for change issues. Participants were provided with handouts and direction to internet resources that provide a full description of the planning and collaboration process. This interim solution allowed more time to focus on the central task of these meetings. The deficit in planning information may have influenced some of the dialogue about needs for change. The planning team realized the need to provide this information in the next set of public meetings and to ensure this information is accessible on the Coronado National Forest web site (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/plan-revision/index.shtml>).

WORK GROUP STRUCTURE AND PROCESS

The work group process was intended to allow participants the best opportunity to express their issues and concerns (Mattessich et al. 2001; Wondolleck and Yaffee 2000). We also believed that the process would work best for participants if they had the opportunity to discuss these issues with a range of their neighbors and other interested parties. Consequently, an effort was made to randomize the composition of the work groups. As participants entered the meeting facility they were offered a colored card that identified a particular discussion group table: the red table, the green table, etc Most participants embraced this randomization approach, but others desired to choose a particular group. These individual decisions were respected.

Each work group was assigned a facilitator and usually a recorder. In some locations, the numbers of participants resulted in a shortage of recorders and participants volunteered to record the content of discussions. Facilitators were asked to encourage participants introductions, to explain some basic ground rules of civility and mutual regard, and then to use a mapping approach to stimulate discussion of issues of concern. The mapping task was not conceived as the end product of the small groups, but as a means to encourage discussion and offer the opportunity to associate any particular places with specific issues.

Key points identified by participants were recorded on flip charts by a work group recorder. After approximately fifty to sixty minutes of discussion, participants were asked to identify the "top five" or so issues and concerns. Work group participants discussed the issues from their dialogue about forest management concerns. A recorder then listed the "top five" topics and these were presented to all participants by a group spokesperson. At the initial meeting in Safford, most of the work group reports were presented by the facilitators. However, at the Douglas meeting, facilitators adapted the process of presenting the group discussion issues. A

group spokesperson was selected from among the participants. The spokespersons for the work group presented the flip chart issues. These issues were also recorded on flip charts and notes taken by a meeting recorder.

Meeting sign-in sheets indicate 352 persons attended the meetings, but there were other persons who did not sign in and sometimes one attendee signed in for several others. We estimate about 400 persons attended the six meetings. The table below shows the distribution of persons and work groups by meeting location.

Table 1: Collaboration Meeting Locations and Attendance

Location	Persons Signing-In	Number of Work Groups
Douglas	45	6
Nogales	65	7
Safford	30	5
Sierra Vista	54	6
Tucson (Santa Catalina)	82	8
Tucson (Forest Wide)	76	7
Total	352	39

The exact numbers of participants for each work group was not recorded, but groups ranged from about six to fifteen persons.

CATALOGING RESULTS

The comments and the contents of the flip charts were transferred to Microsoft Word files and distributed for review to all facilitators and recorders. These files were examined to develop a catalog of issues and concerns, focusing on the “top five” or so issues identified in the presentations of the work group spokespersons. The catalog was developed using traditional qualitative analysis methods (Strauss and Corbin 1998). An analysis team composed of the Forest Planner, the Planning Staff Officer, the Acting Public Affairs Officer, and the meeting facilitator-social scientist met to agree on the identification of catalog items. The items for each meeting were cataloged independently by individual members of the analysis team. Items in these independent catalogs were discussed and a revised catalog constructed. The revised catalog was then used to re-catalog particular items for consistent tagging for each meeting and work group. Fifty-nine distinct items were identified as catalog tags. The topic catalog list is an appendix to this document.

The topic catalog was used by the project social scientist to check the coding for each of the meetings and groups to ensure consistency and to correct any tagging and clerical errors. This check resulted in tagging additional items, but few changes in the initial tags. For example, comments about trash resulting from illegal border crossing originally were tagged as “Illegal Uses-Border.” An additional tag for “waste management” was added after the consistency check. Consequently, there are usually more than five issues tagged for each group since many of the comments contain linked topics. In order to preserve as much detail as this process could allow, these additional tags were used. Similarly, several groups identified more than five issues. In many instances there were repetitive issues identified. For example, “safety concerns about illegal immigration” and “trash from illegal border crossings” may have been identified as separate issues and each would receive a tag of “illegal uses-border.” However, we only recorded the occurrence or not of a tag in the presentations of the work groups. We did not attempt to record the number of times an item was raised because of the variability of the work group process

All of the tagged items were then entered into a spreadsheet identifying each meeting location and the group number. This preserved the identification of each of the tags by location and group. An aggregate worksheet was constructed as an aid to identifying topics that consistently appeared in the individual groups. The aggregate topics were then organized into threads and themes as a means to take the next step in identifying needs for change issues. The table below indicates the number of catalog tags by location. The results of the examination of this information are presented in the remainder of this document.

Table 2: Topics Cataloged by Meeting

Location	Persons Signing-In	Work Groups	Distinct Topics Cataloged
Douglas	45	6	24
Nogales	65	7	25
Safford	30	5	26
Sierra Vista	54	6	38
Tucson (Santa Catalina)	82	8	32
Tucson (Forest Wide)	76	7	34
Total	352	39	

RESULTS: TOPICS, THREADS, AND THEMES

The tagged items from the work group reports are identified as “topics” such as “law enforcement,” “motorized access,” “biodiversity,” or “grazing.” Topic tags describe an issue, area of interest, or other concern of work group participants. A “thread” is a collection of topics with some commonalities or connections as expressed by participants or judged by the analyst as indicating, implicitly or explicitly, connections among similar items. For example, public safety issues are linked to concerns about limited law enforcement presence; and, trash and waste management is associated with illegal border activity. A “thread” describes a connection among discrete topics. A “theme” expresses connections among threads and topics. Themes integrate different topics and concerns to suggest a potential needs for change area for forest management. Themes may also suggest participant assessments of not only what needs to change, but also how it needs to change. An example theme is the following:

Population growth and urban encroachment is resulting in an increase in vandalism, littering, and rule violations on the Coronado National Forest. Growing urban populations are less aware of land ethics than in the past. There is a need for public education and more Forest Service law enforcement to respond to the effects of vandalism and other problem behavior on forest resource and user experiences.

This theme connects changes in the social environment (increased population and urban growth) with problems that need to be addressed (vandalism, rule violations, etc...), and potential solutions (public education and more law enforcement). Importantly, themes may only suggest problems and their effects or problems and solutions, but the important characteristic is they connect threads of ideas together into an explanation of needs for change in forest management.

Topics

Topics are the items tagged for the catalog. A topic comments appendix shows examples of the types of comments sorted into each topic categories. These topics represent the occurrence of an issue or concern in the summary of each of the thirty-nine work groups. For example, if “law enforcement” was identified as a topic of concern by a group, then it is represented as one tagged topic for that particular group. A rough indicator of topic prominence is the count of separate occurrences among all the thirty-nine work groups. However, the count of instances should be viewed with some caution because work group used different procedures to identify and report the “top five” topics. For example, some work group spokespersons prefaced their presentations with comments such as, “we agree with everything that has been said before and here are the topics not mentioned so far.” In other instances, spokesperson comments were recorded that were not necessarily agreements by the work group. These supplementary

comments may suggest more prominence for some issues than might otherwise exist. Consequently, the instance counts presented are only rough estimations of prominence. The aggregation of information about topics, threads, and themes collectively represents a starting point for the next collaboration meetings. This starting point can be used to refine topics about needs for change and to identify possible priorities and particulars about these topics.

The list below is a topic listing, with some of the catalog tags aggregated into topic areas. For example, all of the access items (motorized, non-motorized, closures) are aggregated into a single “access” topic. The table shows an aggregation of topics sorted by the number of occurrences. Again, this is not a statistical indication of “how many” think these are important issues. These are only counts based on the “occurrence/no-occurrence” tagging of topics by the analysis team. A population-based survey is a valid means of identifying “how many” people may think a topic is important, but this report only identifies the occurrence of a topic or not in each of the work groups.

Separate sections that follow present a summary of the cataloged items for each location and work group. The prominent topic areas for each location are briefly summarized.

Table 3: Topics and Instances

Merged Topics	Instances
Access	41
FS Management, Comm., Capacity, Collab	37
Law Enforcement	20
Multiple-Use	18
Natural Resources	18
Illegal Uses (border)	17
Fire Management	14
Trails	13
Recreation	12
Off-Highway Vehicle Management	11
Forest Plan Process	9
Fuels Management & Prescribed Fire	9
Volunteers and Partnerships	9
Funding	8
Education Needs for Users	7
Interagency Cooperation	7
Grazing	6
Mining	6
Urban interface	6
Wilderness	6
Open Space Values	5
Places (particular)	4
Safety	4
Scenic quality	4
Wildlife	4
Designated Use Areas	3
Invasive Species	3
Land Exchanges	3
Places (special)	3
Roads	3
Special Uses-Astro/Power	3
Waste Management	3
Watershed Management	3
Aerial Tram (proposed)	2
Biological Diversity	2
Illegal Uses	2
Local Knowledge	2
Mount Lemmon Ski Area	2
Population Pressure	2
Summer Homes	2
Water Development (wildlife and livestock)	2
Cultural Resources (protection)	1
Threatened & Endangered Species	1

DOUGLAS

Table 4: Douglas Meeting Topics

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Access (general)			X	X	X		3
Access (motorized)			X		X		2
Fire (administrative management)	X						1
Fire (general)						X	1
Forest Plan Process			X	X	X	X	4
Forest Service Communication		X	X	X	X		4
Forest Service Management Processes			X			X	2
Forest Service Work Capacity	X	X			X	X	4
Fuels Management		X	X				2
Grazing	X			X			2
Illegal Uses (border)	X	X			X		3
Interagency/Intergovernmental Cooperation	X						1
Land Exchanges			X				1
Law Enforcement		X	X		X	X	4
Local Knowledge						X	1
Mining				X			1
Multiple Use		X					1
Natural Resources (restoration)	X						1
Natural Resources (adaptive management)		X					1
Off-Highway Vehicle Management	X						1
Open Space Values				X			1
Scenic quality				X			1
Summer Homes						X	1
Water Development (wildlife and livestock)						X	1

Twenty-four of the fifty-nine topics were cataloged from the comments by the six Douglas work groups. Groups identified concerns such as the following as prominent needs for change: access, Forest Service communication and management, Forest Plan revision concerns, especially assessments of the role of the Nature Conservancy in the process, illegal uses related to the U.S.-Mexico border, law enforcement, and multiple-use management and issues.

NOGALES

Table 5: Nogales Meeting Topics

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL
Access (general)	X	X			X		X	4
Designated use areas					X			1
Fire (administrative management)						X		1
FS Management Approaches						X		1
FS Management Processes		X						1
FS Work Capacity					X			1
Funding	X	X			X	X		4
Illegal Uses	X					X		2
Illegal Uses (Border)	X	X	X	X	X			5
Interagency/Intergovt. Cooperation				X				1
Land Exchanges	X						X	2
Law Enforcement	X	X						2
Local Knowledge						X		1
Mining		X	X	X				3
Multiple Use					X		X	2
Off Highway Vehicle Management		X	X			X	X	4
Places (Particular)		X						1
Recreation (General)		X			X			2
Roads					X			1
Scenic quality			X					1
Special Uses - Power lines			X			X		2
Trails	X	X				X		3
Volunteers and Partnerships		X				X		2
Wilderness		X	X	X		X	X	5
Wildlife			X			X	X	3

Twenty-five topics were cataloged as potential needs for change concerns by Nogales work group participants. Prominent concerns include access, Forest Service management and capacity, illegal uses related to the border, law enforcement, land exchanges, multiple-use issues, mining, and volunteers and partnerships.

SAFFORD

Table 6: Safford Meeting Topics

	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Access (general)	X	X	X	X	X	5
Access (motorized)				X		1
Biological Diversity				X		1
Cultural Resources (protection)	X					1
Education Needs for Users		X				1
Fire (administrative management)		X		X		2
Fire (general)	X					1
Fire (prescribed)			X	X		2
Forest Plan Process	X					1
Forest Service Communication		X		X		2
Forest Service Management Processes				X	X	2
Forest Service Work Capacity	X					1
Fuels Management			X			1
Grazing		X				1
Law Enforcement	X	X				2
Multiple Use		X	X			2
Natural Resources (management)		X				1
Natural Resources (protection)	X					1
Natural Resources (restoration)	X	X				2
Natural Resources (adaptive management)			X			1
Off-Highway Vehicle Management		X			X	2
Open Space Values		X	X			2
Places (particular)	X					1
Places (special)	X					1
Special Uses (astrophysical)			X			1
Summer Homes	X					1

Safford work groups identified at least twenty-six distinct needs for change topics. Among the most prominent topics are access issues, fire management, Forest Service management and communication processes, multiple-use issues, law enforcement, and place-specific issues such as the Mount Graham telescope. Additionally, after the work group presentations, participants offered additional discussion about topics that are noteworthy, including wilderness management, interagency cooperation, the effects of population growth, the need for public education about land ethics, and a desire for attention to management of specific grazing allotments. These topics are included here as additional issues for Safford because of extended public discussion about them after the work group presentations. These comments also contributed to constructing the catalog of all items identified in the work group discussions.

SANTA CATALINA

Table 7: Santa Catalina Meeting Topics

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Access (closures)	X					X			2
Access (general)			X	X		X	X	X	5
Access (motorized)					X	X		X	3
Access (non-motorized)								X	1
Aerial Tram (proposed)	X				X				2
Education Needs for Users			X	X			X		3
Fire (administrative management)	X				X		X		3
Fire (prescribed)		X							1
Forest Plan Process		X						X	2
Forest Service Management Approaches				X					1
Forest Service Management Processes		X		X					2
Fuels Management		X							1
Funding		X					X		2
Interagency/Intergovernmental Cooperation				X			X		2
Invasive species					X		X		2
Law Enforcement	X			X	X				3
Mount Lemmon Ski Area						X			1
Multiple Use	X	X		X	X	X	X		6
Natural resources (management)		X		X	X		X	X	5
Off-Highway Vehicle Management		X							1
Places (particular)						X			1
Places (special)					X			X	2
Recreation (general)							X		1
Safety					X	X		X	3
Scenic quality		X						X	2
Shooting			X					X	2
Threatened and Endangered Species							X		1
Trails		X		X	X	X			4
Urban interface	X		X				X	X	4
Volunteers and Partnerships		X		X	X	X	X		5
Waste Management			X						1
Watershed Management							X		1

Thirty-two of the fifty-nine topics were cataloged from the responses of the eight Santa Catalina work groups. Prominent issues include access, education for users, fire management, Forest Service management issues, law enforcement, multiple-use, natural resource management, urban interface topics, and volunteers and partnerships.

SIERRA VISTA

Table 8: Sierra Vista Meeting Topics

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Access (closures)			X		X	X	3
Access (general)	X			X			2
Access (non-motorized)		X					1
Biological Diversity					X		1
Collaboration						X	1
Designated use areas			X	X			2
Education needs for users		X					1
Fire (administrative management)			X		X	X	3
Fire (general)					X		1
Forest Plan Process						X	1
FS Communication			X				1
FS Management Approaches	X	X	X	X			4
FS Management Processes		X	X				2
Fuels Management			X				1
Funding				X			1
Grazing	X		X				2
Illegal Uses (Border)	X	X	X		X	X	5
Interagency/Intergovt. Cooperation			X			X	2
Law Enforcement		X	X	X		X	4
Mining					X		1
Multiple Use	X		X	X			3
Natural Resources					X		1
Natural resources (management)		X					1
Natural resources (restoration)		X					1
Off Highway Vehicle Management				X			1
Open Space Values					X		1
Places (Particular)						X	1
Recreation (General)			X	X			2
Recreation (Motorized)			X	X	X		3
Roads			X		X		2
Safety						X	1
Trails	X					X	2
Urban Interface						X	1
Volunteers and Partnerships				X			1
Waste Management			X		X		2
<i>Water Development (Wildlife/Livestock)</i>		X					1
Watershed Management					X		1
Wildlife					X		1

Among the six work groups in Sierra Vista, thirty-eight topics were cataloged as needs for change issues. Prominent topics include access issues, fire management, Forest Service management and communication, illegal uses related to the U.S.-Mexico border, law enforcement, multiple-use issues, and natural resource management.

FOREST-WIDE

Table 9: Forest-Wide Meeting Topics

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Access (closures)							X	1
Access (general)	X	X		X		X	X	5
Access (motorized)	X				X			2
Access (non-motorized)	X							1
Collaboration						X		1
Education Needs for Users	X					X		2
Fire (administrative management)							X	1
Forest Plan Process				X				1
Forest Service Communication	X			X				2
Forest Service Management Approaches	X			X				2
Forest Service Management Processes	X							1
Forest Service Work Capacity	X		X					2
Fuels Management						X		1
Funding						X		1
Grazing			X					1
Illegal Uses (border)		X	X		X	X		4
Interagency/Intergovernmental Cooperation	X							1
Invasive species			X					1
Law Enforcement	X			X	X	X	X	5
Mining		X						1
Mount Lemmon Ski Area					X			1
Multiple Use	X	X				X	X	4
Natural Resources (protection)				X		X		2
Natural Resources (restoration)						X		1
Off-Highway Vehicle Management		X			X			2
Open Space Values			X					1
Population Pressure	X	X						2
Recreation (general)	X							1
Shooting		X						1
Trails	X		X	X	X			4
Urban interface					X			1
Volunteers and Partnerships	X							1
Watershed Management			X					1
Wilderness							X	1

The forest-wide meeting in Tucson resulted in cataloging thirty-four topics from seven work groups. Prominent topics include access issues, Forest Service communication and management, illegal uses related to the U.S.-Mexico border, law enforcement, and multiple-use issues. Other topics such as population pressure and education needs for users also were noted by more than one work group.

Threads

Threads are aggregations of topics with some commonality or connection. These commonalities and connections are identified by examining work group notes and comments to identify how or if there are topic linkages or a unique topic that is prominent by the content of the comments.

Work group participants may or may not agree with this topic aggregation into threads. Presentation of this information will be a means to make any adjustments to the identified threads in the following bullet list:

- **Access.** These issues express concerns about rights-of-way issues as well as the ability to use forest trails, roads, and facilities. The common thread is public concern about either expanding access or management considerations that restrict existing access.
- **Fire Management.** This thread aggregates concerns about fire danger, fire issues related to the interface of private lands and the Coronado National Forest, the role of prescribed burns in fire management, and Forest Service fire planning and response.
- **Forest Service Communication and Management.** This thread contains diverse topics connected by the common idea of how the Forest Service manages resources and works with other agencies and publics in that process, including communication with interested parties and coordination with other agencies.
- **Forest Values: Threats and Opportunities.** Place and resource specific values and concerns are integrated by this thread to identify assessments of threats and opportunities in resource management. The commonalities in these topics suggest the potential benefits of dialogue about the interaction of users with forest resources and how these interactions may need attention in the future.
- **Illegal Uses, including the U.S. and Mexico Border.** This thread primarily addresses illegal uses related to border activities such as smuggling and undocumented border crossings. The linkage among the topics is concern for the effects of these activities on user experiences, the resources of the Coronado National Forest, and the property of permitted and other forest users.
- **Law Enforcement, Safety, and Education.** This thread addresses the association of concerns about public safety, addressing rule violations by users, and public assessments of the need for law enforcement presence to protect public resources.
- **Mining.** Mining, both commercial and recreational, is a prominent activity on some portions of the Coronado National Forest. This topic and thread indicates a type of use of forest resources that is influenced by agencies and authorities outside the Forest Service.
- **Multiple-Use.** The interactions of different types of users, the costs and benefits of different types of use, and the viability of current multiple-use management are linked together to identify this thread.
- **Natural Resources and Natural Resources Management.** This thread aggregates topics about the particular natural resources of the Coronado National Forest and the management approaches for these resources, including consideration of management strategies to restore, protect, and enhance existing resources.
- **Off-Highway Vehicle Management.** The thread and topic of off-highway-vehicle management overlap completely. The topic is among the most prominent issues expressed by participants in the collaboration meetings. This thread contains issues about support for continued OHV access, desires for increased enforcement of OHV use, opposition to OHV use, and the effects of OHV activity on user experiences and natural resources.
- **Recreation.** This thread aggregates topics about activities such as shooting, trails, roads, and general recreation activities such as hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding and

wildlife viewing. These activities are linked by a shared concern about preserving existing opportunities and creating new options for these activities in the future.

- **Special Uses.** These existing and proposed special uses usually require a permit, but they are not necessarily “traditional” multiple-use activities such as recreation, grazing, or timber harvesting. There is an argument for incorporating this thread into multiple-use activities, but these topics appear to be distinct issues based on the comments in the collaboration meetings.
- **Threatened and Endangered Species.** The topic and thread overlap for Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E). The content expresses concern for consideration of T&E habitat as well as concern for balance in how these issues are managed on the Coronado National Forest. This topic as well as the wilderness topic could also be considered as forest value issues. However, they are distinguished as topics that are not completely within the management authority of the Forest Service: that is, agencies and authorities outside the Forest Service usually determine the use or management of these resources.
- **Wilderness.** The topic and thread overlap for wilderness. The content of this thread concerns both an appreciation for the contribution of wilderness to the resources of the Coronado National Forest, desires for expansion of wilderness, concern about keeping a status quo for wilderness on the Coronado National Forest., and the association of wilderness with wildlife habitat.

Table 10: Threads and Instances, shows how particular topics were organized to form a thread. The table also shows the total instances for the thread of the aggregated topics. For example, all access topics (closures, general, motorized, and non-motorized access) are aggregated to total the thread instances. The topic comments appendix can be consulted for more detail about the recorded items within each topic.

Table 10: Threads and Instances

Threads	Instances
Access	41
Access (closures)	6
Access (general)	24
Access (motorized)	8
Access (non-motorized)	3
Fire Management	23
Fire (administrative management)	11
Fire (general)	3
Fire (prescribed)	3
Fuels Management	6
Forest Service Communication and Mgmt	70
Collaboration	2
Communication	9
Forest Plan Process	9
Funding	8
Interagency Cooperation	7
Management Approaches	8
Management Processes	10
Volunteers and Partnerships	9
Work Capacity	8
Forest Values: Threats and Opportunities	30



Threads	Instances
Cultural Resources Protection	1
Invasive Species	3
Land Exchanges	3
Open Space Values	5
Places (particular)	4
Places (special)	3
Population Pressure	2
Urban Interface	6
Waste Management	3
Illegal Uses (border and others)	19
Illegal Uses	2
Illegal Uses (border)	17
Law Enforcement, Safety, Education	31
Education Needs for Others	7
Law Enforcement	20
Safety	4
Mining	6
Multiple Use	29
Designated Use Areas	3
General	18
Grazing	6
Local Knowledge	2
Natural Resources	33
Adaptative Management	2
Biological Diversity	2
General	1
Management	7
Protection	3
Restoration	5
Scenic Quality	4
Water Development (wildlife and livestock)	2
Watershed Management	3
Wildlife	4
Off-Highway Vehicle Management	11
Recreation	28
General	6
Motorized	3
Roads	3
Shooting	3
Trails	13
Special Uses	9
Aerial Tram (proposed)	2
Astronomy	1
Mt. Lemmon Ski Area	2
Powerlines	2
Summer Homes	2
Threatened & Endangered Species	1
Wilderness	6

Themes

The identification of themes is intended to present some of the central ideas expressed in the six locations and thirty-nine work groups. The themes were constructed by examination of all flip chart information as well as the meeting notes regarding the top five issues each work group presented. Some themes are the same as threads and topics because they appear to be prominent concerns. Other themes synthesize ideas from multiple and what appear to be connected topics and threads. Themes are a means to organize dialogue about the future of the Coronado National Forest in the process of collaboration for Forest Plan revision. As the collaboration process proceeds, themes may be elaborated, discarded, or revised. However, the effort at this early point in collaboration is to organize information from the initial meetings and assess the connections among topics and central issues for future consideration.

Although these topics represent potential issues for dialogue, the Forest Plan revision process may not be the venue to address all the identified topics, threads, or themes. The appropriate venue can be identified in the ongoing collaboration process between interested publics and the Coronado National Forest.

Adaptive Management

There is a need for consideration of future management strategies that take into consideration the demands of a southwestern ecosystem stressed by recent drought and located nearby to one of the fastest growing population centers in the United States. Work group comments indicate a desire for monitoring and data based decision making that can assess ongoing conditions and meet the need to change management strategies as social, economic, and ecological conditions change.

Forest Health and Fires

Timber density, range management, fire management, and forest health are connected topics indicating work group desires for attention to future management for forest health. Participant comments also imply different assessments of “forest health” indicating a need to establish the components of forest health from different perspectives. This theme is a basis for dialogue about the relationship of forest health to topics such as prescribed fire, natural fire, implications of fire danger for private land owners and communities adjacent to the Coronado National Forest, and the costs and benefits of timber and range management for forest health.

Forest Service Capacity

The capacity of the Forest Service to complete its mission and communicate effectively with interested publics is among the most prominent topics in work group presentations and in the flip chart summaries. The content of these topics indicates concern about the effects on forest resources and user experiences of limited funding, personnel who are described as in the office more than in the field, limited law enforcement, and growing demand for the use of forest lands and resources. The content of these comments also suggests concern about agency capacity to manage a forest that is surrounded by a rapidly changing social environment. Work group comments also suggest the future for effective management of the Coronado National Forest is developing partnerships and working cooperatively and effectively with volunteers.

Forest Users: Law Enforcement and Education Needs

Participants describe a changing social environment affected by illegal immigration, urbanization, and regional population growth. Participant comments also indicate an assessment of changes in user values and a perceived decline in land ethics that is affecting forest resources and the experiences of other users. Concerns about personal safety, observations of rule violations, vandalism, and trash dumping combine to indicate a threat to the overall quality of user experiences and forest resources and lands. Participants express a desire for increased attention to public safety and rule violations by a combination of user education efforts and increased law enforcement.

Multiple-Use Costs and Benefits

Recreation, grazing, and other commercial and permitted uses are part of the multiple-use environment of the Coronado National Forest. Participants suggest there are particular costs and benefits to various types of uses that need consideration in future management and planning. For example, comments suggest the open space benefits of permitted grazing while others suggest there is a cost to ecological integrity or riparian health. This theme also emphasizes consideration of the economic and resource management implications of any changes in multiple-use activities. Participant comments also suggest custom and culture issues are also part of the multiple-use costs and benefits for consideration in future management of the Coronado National Forest. As recreational activities have increased and “traditional” multiple-use activities have declined, user conflicts are an important consideration. This includes consideration of activities that can affect the quality of experience for other users such as shooting and OHV riding. Solutions such as designated use areas, creative trail management, and increased law enforcement are indicated in work group comments. The dialogue about this topic is likely to include broad consideration of the social, economic, and ecological costs and benefits of the future of multiple-use.

Natural Resources and Forest Values: Threats and Opportunities

Participant comments indicate the Coronado National Forest has scenic beauty, wildlife, diverse ecosystems, open space, timber, and other natural and cultural resources that combine to create a valued entity that is more than the sum of its parts. However, participants emphasize the unique qualities of mountain ranges and ecosystems for each “sky island” of the Coronado National Forest. Attachments to particular places and mountain ranges also suggest the benefit of continuing to develop the commonalities and distribution of values about natural resources and particular places. This theme also includes participant assessments of perceived threats to forest resources and user experiences such as those from illegal border activity, off-road vehicle use, and catastrophic fire. Furthermore, this theme suggests potential benefit from further work group dialogue about future opportunities for resource development and use as well as preservation and restoration of existing resources.

U.S.-Mexico Border and Its Consequences

Participant comments suggest there are safety, resource damage, and adverse consequences for user experiences related to the effects of illegal border activity and related federal responses. Fire danger related to illegal immigrant campfires, safety concerns associated with smugglers carrying weapons, trash and human waste from illegal immigration are examples of the concerns participants expressed about the effects of border activity on user experiences. This theme also incorporates consideration of the effects on forest resources and user experiences of the response of other federal agencies to these activities and a desire for interagency coordination concerning these effects.

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TOPIC CATALOG LIST APPENDIX

Access (closures)
Access (general)
Access (motorized)
Access (non-motorized)
Aerial Tram (proposed)
Biological Diversity
Collaboration
Cultural Resources (protection)
Designated Use Areas
Education Needs for Users
Fire (administrative management)
Fire (general)
Fire (prescribed)
Forest Plan Process
Forest Service Communication
Forest Service Management Approaches
Forest Service Management Processes
Forest Service Work Capacity
Fuels Management
Funding
Grazing
Illegal Uses
Illegal Uses (border)
Interagency/Intergovernmental Cooperation
Invasive species
Land Exchanges
Law Enforcement
Local Knowledge
Mining
Mount Lemmon Ski Area
Multiple Use
Natural Resources
Natural resources (management)
Natural Resources (protection)
Natural Resources (restoration)
Natural Resources (adaptive management)
Off-Highway Vehicle Management
Open Space Values
Places (particular)
Places (special)
Population Pressure
Recreation (general)
Recreation (motorized)
Roads
Safety

Scenic quality
Shooting
Special Uses (astrophysical)
Special Uses (power lines)
Summer Homes
Threatened and Endangered Species
Trails
Urban interface
Volunteers and Partnerships
Waste Management
Water Development (wildlife and livestock)
Watershed Management
Wilderness
Wildlife

TOPIC COMMENTS APPENDIX

This appendix shows a sub-set of the comments in the flip chart summaries that were used to catalog topics. They are included here to indicate the substance and range of the items in the topic categories. Since these are summary notes from the work group flip charts, there are also grammatical inconsistencies and abbreviations that reflect the process of group recording.

Access (closures)

FW

Access – locked gates, lack of cooperation between agencies. It's also a safety issue for folks getting in and out. Some property owners defending their land (with guns?).

Santa Catalina

Access – locked gates and development around Forest boundary. Concern about locking of gates and blocking of public access into public land.

Motorized access necessary. Roads are shut off without explanation – public wants to know why. Need better information. Need better access.

Sierra Vista

Communications – road conditions, road closures, phone numbers on maps, newsletters, policies, research information, easier access to information, customer complaint/feedback process.

Recreation – motorized, high impact, road closures needed for damaged/impacted areas. Segments of recreation users have proportionately high impact on the resources everyone enjoys.

Access (general)

FW

Strategic planning for public access – want better organization and decision on how public access is going to be provided.

Either not enough access or too much access [from private land].

Negotiate with private land owners, faster pace

Access: How can we cooperate with landowners to keep access open.

Access by roads, trails; particular attention to our wildland interface.

A private landowner blocks access, and as more development occurs it's a problem.

- Access – locked gates, lack of cooperation between agencies. It's also a safety issue for folks getting in and out. Some property owners defending their land (with guns?).

Douglas

Access management – roads, roadless areas – wildcatting of roads, sometimes deliberate, sometimes through ignorance. Need more signing, maps.

Access for hunting and recreational riding

We might have to look at that for the primitive parts of the Peloncillos and Chiricahuas to keep them primitive.

Nogales

Keep access for maintaining improvements.

Need for more trailheads, access to them, etc.

Property owners blocking access.

Access and public (immigration, smuggling...).

Access (providing and denying it) an important subject. Need more access, trailheads, entry points.

Safford

Changes in ownership, locked gates, people not sure of access.

Blocking of access to national forest land.

Site-specific: Private land/subdivisions.

Access through public lands and private lands.

Governor is putting together a task force on public access. One member of Rodger's group asked to be on the committee.

Old logging roads might be opened for logging, removal of down-and-dead wood.

Santa Catalina

Big theme: permanent public access to Forest areas.

Access – trails. Development locks off access, trails close. On the other hand, too much access in places (wildcat trails).

Access – more roads being cut off due to privatization, land bought and taken out of public access.

Enforcement – General category of safety. Not just people and animals and fires, but cars. Shuttles in Sabino speed sometimes—scary. In Summerhaven, parts of a trail are along the road to Marshall Gulch. Would be nice to have signs on it to improve it and make sure people in cars aren't interfering with others.

Multiple use: Ski area entirely closed to public access unless they are patronizing Ski Valley. Sabino Dawn Trail closed. Would be nice to have those available.

Recreation: education, multiple use. Trying to accommodate so many uses, and all ages and abilities. Have a balanced view of it. We don't have to get everyone to every peak, for example.

Access to mountain – Do we limit the number of cars to Mt. Lemmon? Do we improve the road down the back side? Need to deal with appropriate access to the mountain.

Access tops our list as it pertains to the wildland/urban interface and accessing sites on front range and back side. Just being able to get on Forest land, preserve the opportunities with development constraints going forward.

What kind of access to allow? Motorized? Hiking? None at all?

Special places – Catalinas so loved, so much pressure. Lots to be shared. We're here for maintaining access to our own special places. Need to be identified and preserved for us today and for generations to come.

Sierra Vista

Access by public: Neglect could lead to no one using the Huachuca Mountains except illegal immigrants. Caution: secluding areas and border problems resulting.

Access – public lands to be kept accessible. Work with private landowners.

Access – urban interface aspects of it. Make sure needed access points are there, and inappropriate private access points aren't. Fire protection has become a big issue.

Access (motorized)

FW

Outdated maps, need to know what roads can and can't be used.

Douglas

Recognize in the Plan that there may need to be mitigating actions (for example, limit on the number of vehicles allowed in Madera Canyon).

Safford

Misuse of all-terrain.

Santa Catalina

Balance of recreation and conservation. Conservation of wildcat access to national forest, need to enforce "no recreation" bans in areas for protected bird species. Agua Caliente, Milagrosa Canyon – protect access points.

Motorized access necessary. Roads are shut off without explanation – public wants to know why. Need better information. Need better access.

What kind of access to allow? Motorized? Hiking? None at all?

Access (non-motorized)

Santa Catalina

What kind of access to allow? Motorized? Hiking? None at all?

Sierra Vista

Protect/promote non-motorized public access with increased enforcement.

Aerial Tram (proposed)

Santa Catalina

Balance between use of land and land's ability to carry that use. Example: Aerial tram to Mt. Lemmon (might bring large number of people to Summerhaven, which isn't equipped to handle large crowds).

Aerial tram not a good idea. Suggestion to develop alternate trail routes where water is available and trails are marked so hikers don't get stuck. Mile markers.

Biological Diversity

Safford

Biodiversity and endemic species.

Sierra Vista

Biodiversity – focal points like Huachuca Mountains. Positive economic effects. Enhances recreation opportunities. Manage for those things as well as the big ecological picture.

Collaboration

FW

It takes all of us, not just the Forest Service, to address.

Sierra Vista

Annual meetings with Forest Service where they report on successes and failures to us and future plans and follow up with focus groups like this for input.

Successes – many. (Examples: Carr House, Brown Canyon Ranch, Canelo Hills Coalition) – collaboration of lots of different groups needed.

Cultural Resources (protection)

Safford

Restoration, preservation, fire management activities, cultural resource protection, access, enforcement. Quality-of-life issues affecting recreationists and people who have summerhomes on the Forest. Need more law enforcement officers to enforce laws. More green trucks, more uniforms.

Designated Use Areas

Nogales

Local use: plan that some areas are suitable for some uses, others suitable for multiple uses, while also maintaining ecological integrity.

Sierra Vista

Places designated for special use (horseback, ATV, ...) Need in writing that this is a special area.

Manage motorized recreation so that damage to the forest is prevented, and “quiet use” is not interfered with. Designate the trails – what kind of use it is.

Education Needs for Users

FW

Educate us and teach ethics; not being done now.

Education goes both ways. Concern about education of users being important, but education up the chain to Washington is important, too

Education. Pound on the politicians.

Safford

Educate public.

Santa Catalina

Information/education targeted at specific groups (hammering on people after the fact isn't an effective way to manage Forest). More aggressive outreach/education program is needed. More

effective if we teach people good community activity and involve them in protecting public land rather than trying to deal with hotspots like Redington Pass.

Balanced multiple use. Education very important. Build relationships with various users, get them to cooperate. Need more partnerships, volunteer organizations, and volunteer opportunities, not just in Sabino Canyon.

Recreation: education, multiple use. Trying to accommodate so many uses, and all ages and abilities. Have a balanced view of it. We don't have to get everyone to every peak, for example.

Sierra Vista

Educate Forest Service and non-Forest Service decision makers about threats to forest outside of boundaries (encroachment issues). Forest Service should educate those who DO have authority on the threats.

Fire (administrative management)

FW

Firefighting – use of Forest Service resources to protect private property. Policy needs to be made regarding protecting private property vs. protecting Forest.

Douglas

Fire management and effects of catastrophic fires;

Safford

Look at policy on natural fires; how do we handle our fire personnel who could be helping out with range management work, etc.

Santa Catalina

Enforcement of fire restrictions.

Thinning of trees – proper law enforcement against illegal fires. Need more publicity about fire restriction rules.

Watershed management for people use and fire management.

Fire management overlaps into other issues. Forest Service has to deal with it, so not one of these five.

Fire (general)

Douglas

Fire control.

Nogales

Local flexibility and expertise in fire management – areas unique to the Coronado need flexibility. Shouldn't require permission from "Daddy upstairs."

Safford

Fire plans written and never used.

Sierra Vista

Fires – managing proactively.

Watershed management interagency coordination needed with private landowners and other agencies that manage the land between the mountain ranges. (Fire, wildlife movement along corridors between ranges).

Access – urban interface aspects of it. Make sure needed access points are there, and inappropriate private access points aren't. Fire protection has become a big issue.

Fire (prescribed)

Safford

Concern for prescribed burning's effect on grazing permittees.

Fire management could be site-specific in the way they [burns? wildfires?] are prepared and handled.

Santa Catalina

Fuels management – implementing before lightning strikes. Prescribed burning on Pusch Ridge. Forest health restoration. Mechanical thinning.

Forest Plan Process

FW

- Plan that is implementable, time-specific, understandable (no jargon), provides for education of users, especially those who may not belong to a group.

Douglas

Write a plan that can be implemented.

Baseline vegetation information from The Nature Conservancy hasn't been adopted as a desired condition, and we need to make sure their baseline, which is the conditions that existed in pre-European times, isn't "set" as the desired condition.

Outsourcing – issue of The Nature Conservancy writing this – that brings a certain bias to it. We can deal with Forest Service bias, but not Nature Conservancy. *[Note: Forest Plan revision will not be written by The Nature Conservancy.]*

Non-governmental influence on Forest Service is not acceptable (for example, Sky Island Alliance letter confused with Forest Service). Forest Service person needs to be spokesperson.

Safford

Definitions of terms in the Forest Plan – different meanings for different people. Clearer language needed.

Santa Catalina

Forest plan identifies priorities and addresses conflicting mandates by management area or project.

Forest Plan needs to be flexible enough to accommodate unforeseen uses and circumstances. Current Plan doesn't fit the uses of today. Rock climbing, ATVs, etc.

Sierra Vista

Set reasonable and attainable goals. Pressures on Forest are sometimes things the Forest has no control over. No control over climate or illegal immigrants, so be realistic. "12-Step Program. Some things we can change, some things we can't change.

Forest Service Communication

FW

More consistent and accurate information on uses of Forest.

With users - more partnerships, continuity between districts.

Douglas

Communications – hard to know who to communicate with, when or whether to expect a response, don't know who to ask specific questions of. Simplify the communications ladder.

Better and more regular communication, and boots on the ground. Hard time getting information from the Forest Service.

Better communications, including interagency.

Communications/education: Great to have the Forest Service take everyone's input. But there's not enough information coming back to the public. Communication is infrequent to many people.

Nogales

Frustrations dealing with bureaucracy of Forest Service.

Safford

Issues between agency and ranchers/farmers come from deep-seated mistrust. Need to talk to each other. Animosity is passed from generation to generation, on both sides. Need more open communication with the local community.

Make the plan understandable to the general public so the guy who passed his 10th grade competency test can understand the plan.

Sixth item added by a member of the group during the group's report: Access by the public to Forest Service people.

Sierra Vista

Annual meetings with Forest Service where they report on successes and failures to us and future plans and follow up with focus groups like this for input.

Communications – road conditions, road closures, phone numbers on maps, newsletters, policies, research information, easier access to information, customer complaint/feedback process.

Forest Service Management Approaches

FW

Difficulties in policy from one ranger district to the next.

-Need better collaboration between all entities involved.

Flexible and adaptable management plans (use of timber, use of grazing rights, OHV trails, fire prevention). They need to be mobile, adaptable.

Forest needs to be managed differently in this dry cycle.

Current peer-reviewed science.

Douglas

Consistency in direction – Forest Service shouldn't come out with a rule and then say, "No, this is what we want you to do."

Nogales

Wilderness management – local flexibility and ability to make decisions at that level.

Local management, less bureaucratic ladder.

Protection of wildlife: wilderness, all other forms of management.

Safford

Each incoming ranger interprets the Plan differently because the language is such that they can do that.

Santa Catalina

Local power. Supervisor's Office needs more autonomy in making decisions for the Coronado rather than having the regional office involved.

Sierra Vista

Forest Service has lost its USDA origin, leading to overgrown forest, vegetation loss from overgrazing, not the right number of cattle for the land.

Forest Service needs more effective hands-on management ensuring multiple use of land.

Multiple use – cumbersome permit process.

Enforcement of rules for everyone.

Forest Service Management Processes

Douglas

Looking for honesty and integrity. Say what you'll do and follow through.

Santa Catalina

Streamline decision making process – permits, forest health projects (thinning, fire fuels reduction). Insufficient funding. Volunteer labor. Commercial projects that pay for themselves vs. using federal funds.

Local power. Supervisor's Office needs more autonomy in making decisions for the Coronado rather than having the regional office involved.

Forest Service Work Capacity

FW

More Forest employees on the ground are needed and the funding to match.

Old days: rangers were there to tell you about the area greet you, help you if you were in trouble.

Administrative infrastructure to enforce consequences/Forest Plan.

Douglas

Capacity of Forest Service to implement plan (staffing, budget constraints).

Limited Forest Service personnel.

Not enough people on the ground. Need more presence. More environmental regulation has resulted in more people staying in the office, not being out on the ground. They've been removed from the Forest itself, not a good thing.

(Management D6) Don't invest in new buildings; put the money towards people on the ground.

Sierra Vista

Hire more law enforcement officers.

Fuels Management

Douglas

Fuels management – lots of fuel that needs to be harvested/removed, and we seem to be accumulating. Thinning, additional controlled burns, encourage harvest of wood for fuel for personal use with proper fee structure.

Fire management – need to do more to clean up fire danger, or give more cutting permits.

Safford

Required build-up of fuels prior to burn affects them economically.

Santa Catalina

Fuels management – implementing before lightning strikes. Prescribed burning on Pusch Ridge. Forest health restoration. Mechanical thinning.

Funding

FW

Much depends on funding

Education of politicians and funding needed.

Nogales

Pursue Homeland Security funds for repairs to land and improvements.

Need for increased funding for education and interpretation, trail maintenance, law enforcement.

Increased funding for law enforcement.

Need budget to implement Plan, otherwise all for naught.

Opposition to subsidies for certain activities (grazing, mining).

Santa Catalina

Streamline decision making process – permits, forest health projects (thinning, fire fuels reduction). Insufficient funding. Volunteer labor. Commercial projects that pay for themselves vs. using federal funds.

Funding is key issue. Volunteers, interagency cooperation, innovative ways to use private enterprise, for recreation, fire management--balance is the key.

Sierra Vista

Fires – managing proactively.

Need dedicated funding for recreation. Recreation budgets declining over time, use going up. What's going to happen to visitor experience over time? Recreation demand vs. recreation resources.

Grazing

FW

Continue grazing permits to maintain integrity of land management and open spaces. Increase economic benefits of ranching.

Douglas

Continuation of grazing management – implications of the Forest over-managing and creating undue economic hardship on Forest users (grazing permittees, loggers, etc.) If you lose cherry-stem and contiguous lands, how will that adversely affect the Forest.

Grazing issues: Grazing is a sustainable renewable natural resource. Look at the Best Pasture Rotation system.

Safford

Adopt the Best Pasture Rotation concept from BLM. Builds trust.

Illegal Uses

Nogales

Safety and law enforcement (improvement in restrictions on rampant ATV use). Need enforcement.

Illegal Uses (border)

FW

Border issues – possibilities of a fence that interferes with wildlife; destruction of habitat; trashing.

- Deal with effects of drug trafficking and illegal immigration.
- Border issues – let law enforcement do what they need to do without them being destructive.
- Law enforcement – vandalism, border issues.

Douglas

Impacts of illegal immigrants and Border Patrol. The Coronado National Forest appears to have no control over this.

(Illegal immigrants; improper vehicle use on- and off-road; campgrounds left vandalized and dirty, etc.)

Impact from illegal immigrants, other impacts. Primarily a Border Patrol issue? Forest Service law enforcement officers are feeble—from the numbers angle. There will be more people, more demands. Not a static situation.

Nogales

Deal with effects of illegal immigrants and drug traffickers – litter needs cleaning, erosion control, obliterate new trails they create.

Introduction of exotic livestock diseases (especially from Mexico), personal safety.

Dealing with trailing, trash, cutting of fences, damage from cattle that are grazing wrongly when fences are down – illegal immigration.

Border issues.

Entire Coronado National Forest – resource damage along border, Border Patrol, illegal immigrants, helipads, lights, ...

Access and public (immigration, smuggling...)

Sierra Vista

Access by public: Neglect could lead to no one using the Huachuca Mountains except illegal immigrants. Caution: secluding areas and border problems resulting.

Stopping illegal traffic would stop illegal trash and illegal trails.

Mitigate impacts of illegal immigrants.

Border trash – establish collection points somewhere for public to drop off what they collect.

Illegal immigrant traffic effects (trash, abandoned vehicles,...).

Illegal immigration/drug smuggling – dangerous to be out in Forest. Need more money to deal with those issues. More enforcement needed.

Interagency/Intergovernmental Cooperation

FW

Improved collaborations with other agencies and local groups

Douglas

Huge negative impacts are increasing in national forest as **Border Patrol** increases its presence.

Santa Catalina

Better partnership with other government agencies (sheriff's department, National Park Service, ...). Forest Service doesn't have the money to be strictly working on its own.

Funding is key issue. Volunteers, interagency cooperation, innovative ways to use private enterprise, for recreation, fire management--balance is the key.

Sierra Vista

Watershed management interagency coordination needed with private landowners and other agencies that manage the land between the mountain ranges. (Fire, wildlife movement along corridors between ranges)

Invasive species

FW

Control exotic species.

Santa Catalina

Invasive species – What kind of publicity or information can we find on the Web so we can offer money, time, and people to help in fight against invasive species?

Environmental management: Need to have a clear, defined threatened and endangered species management process; invasive species management.

Land Exchanges

Douglas

Land sale and exchange – opposed to sale of national forest lands. Concern about land exchanges that may be sweetheart deals. They need to be for the public good. Protecting the habitat is a good reason. If it's for a home site, that isn't right.

Nogales

No land trades for commercial use.

Wildlife corridors – land on east side of Santa Rita Mountains that's base for exchange; across the road is BLM land. Connection is a wildlife corridor, and Forest Service should not dispose of that land, thus eliminating the wildlife corridor. Similar opportunities for wildlife corridors where Forest Service might be inclined to sell the land. (Keith Graves noted he may be referring to the Cote land exchange. Such exchanges are outside our decision; they come from people way above us. Only Congress can transfer federal lands to other federal entities.)

Law Enforcement

FW

Need law enforcement.

more interagency cooperation.

Have the people out there. Bad eggs ruin things for everyone else.

vandalism, border issues.

overall enforcement and monitoring money needed

Douglas

More law enforcement needed

Law enforcement – no clear information about where activities permitted, where not.

Impact from illegal immigrants, other impacts. Primarily a Border Patrol issue? Forest Service law enforcement officers are feeble—from the numbers angle. There will be more people, more demands. Not a static situation.

Control people destroying the land. Talk to people on the land, using it, enjoying it, etc.

Safford

Need more law enforcement.

Santa Catalina

Law enforcement in Redington Pass – area is being trashed, dumping ground, old appliances, etc.

Law enforcement to protect resources and to maintain multiple-use.

Thinning of trees – proper law enforcement against illegal fires. Need more publicity about fire restriction rules.

Sierra Vista

Protect/promote non-motorized public access with increased enforcement.

Enforcement of rules for everyone.

More law enforcement.

Hire more law enforcement officers.

Local Knowledge

Douglas

Listen to folks who lease or use land rather than just the recreationists. Consider the local culture.

Control people destroying the land. Talk to people on the land, using it, enjoying it, etc.

Nogales

Local flexibility and expertise in fire management – areas unique to the Coronado need flexibility. Shouldn't require permission from "Daddy upstairs."

Wilderness management – local flexibility and ability to make decisions at that level.

Local management, less bureaucratic ladder.

Mining

FW

Rosemont Mine in Santa Ritas has potential to ruin mountains.

Douglas

Mining/visual quality.

Nogales

District-wide: proposed opening of open pit mine (Augusta Rosemont).

Rosemont mine.

Rosemont Mine – preservation of land, water, natural resources, in general. Some people think it (mine) will mean big revenues for the state.

Sierra Vista

Current status of old mines on Forest. Any big-scale mining operations on the horizon that would impact recreation or biological diversity?

Mount Lemmon Ski Area

FW

Fee demonstration program on Mt. Lemmon – desire to see that fee go away and not be done elsewhere.

Santa Catalina

Multiple use: Ski area entirely closed to public access unless they are patronizing Ski Valley. Sabino Dawn Trail closed. Would be nice to have those available.

Multiple-Use

FW

Ultimately, want a Forest that multiple users can use that's healthy, sustainable, provides recreation opportunities, won't burn down...

Multiple use access – potential for too much conflict in some areas,

Constructive land use: grazing permits, mining, special use permits

Multiple uses allowed insofar as they are sustainable; timber people, users, OHV users would need to prove their use isn't harmful before it could be permitted.

Douglas

Continue multiple-use. Consideration and respect for each user.

Nogales

Local use: plan that some areas are suitable for some uses, others suitable for multiple uses, while also maintaining ecological integrity.

Responsible multiple use – National forests are administered by USDA; mission is to provide timber, water, minerals for nation, grazing, recreation. Responsible multiple use is an important aspect of the Coronado National Forest.

Safford

Maintain diversity of multiple uses.

Multiple use, several categories.

Santa Catalina

Balance between use of land and land's ability to carry that use. Example: Aerial tram to Mt. Lemmon (might bring large number of people to Summerhaven, which isn't equipped to handle large crowds).

Natural resource management – emphasize natural resources management vs. managing resources for people.

Balanced multiple use. Education very important. Build relationships with various users, get them to cooperate. Need more partnerships, volunteer organizations, and volunteer opportunities, not just in Sabino Canyon.

Balance of recreation and conservation. Conservation of wildcat access to national forest, need to enforce "no recreation" bans in areas for protected bird species. Agua Caliente, Milagrosa Canyon – protect access points.

Multiple use: Ski area entirely closed to public access unless they are patronizing Ski Valley. Sabino Dawn Trail closed. Would be nice to have those available.

Recreation: education, multiple use. Trying to accommodate so many uses, and all ages and abilities. Have a balanced view of it. We don't have to get everyone to every peak, for example.

Analyze appropriate capability on the mountain. How many people can we accommodate? Are there other places? Cooperation between owners and agency...

Natural Resources

Sierra Vista

Biodiversity – focal points like Huachuca Mountains. Positive economic effects. Enhances recreation opportunities. Manage for those things as well as the big ecological picture.

Natural resources (management)

Safford

Lack of use of timber resources – conditions have degraded to where more active management is needed. Mimic nature. Create open spaces.

Santa Catalina

Streamline decision making process – permits, forest health projects (thinning, fire fuels reduction). Insufficient funding. Volunteer labor. Commercial projects that pay for themselves vs. using federal funds.

Adaptive ecosystem management – to protect natural resources.

Thinning of trees – proper law enforcement against illegal fires. Need more publicity about fire restriction rules.

Environmental management: Need to have a clear, defined threatened and endangered species management process; invasive species management.

Special places – Catalinas so loved, so much pressure. Lots to be shared. We're here for maintaining access to our own special places. Need to be identified and preserved for us today and for generations to come.

Sierra Vista

Maintain/enhance environmental productivity of native species. Enhance because many of our national forest lands are in a degraded state for a variety of reasons.

Natural Resources (protection)

FW

Resource protection (water management plan, riparian areas, plant and animal species, soil, cultural resources...) while maintaining multiple use.

Natural Resources (restoration)

FW

Maintain ecological integrity of Forest:

Money spent on fire fighting is in millions, but not four cents on prescribed burning; b. Riparian; c. Exotics; d. Wildland urban interface.

Douglas

negative impacts of environmental analysis process in harvesting timber before wood is ruined.

Safford

Upper elevations of Forest—forest restoration opportunities.

Forest ecosystem health maintenance.

Sierra Vista

Maintain/enhance environmental productivity of native species. Enhance because many of our national forest lands are in a degraded state for a variety of reasons.

Natural Resources (adaptive management)

Douglas

More rain needed; Forest Service unresponsive on this. ☺

Safford

Change our management in light of climate change.

Off-Highway Vehicle Management

FW

OHV Safety issues: OHV users end up on county or state roads, which can be a problem.

Many wildcat roads, keeping roads open.

Douglas

Unregulated off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, recognizing they have a place on the forest but are destructive and disturbing to Forest users.

Nogales

Conflicts with ATVs.

Off-road vehicle use – seen in Gardner Canyon area—RVs and motorhomes going everywhere.

OHVs – restrict them to designated roads.

Santa Catalina

Trail maintenance – keep open for OHV; access; better identification and maintenance of trails for better enjoyment.

Open Space Values

FW

Whatever happens on Forest can affect what happens on private land. Base property can be kept as open space

Douglas

Open space, fragmentation near public lands. Ranching and other uses that help manage the Forest as a large contiguous unit are preferable.

Safford

Fragmentation/open space.

Sierra Vista

Educate Forest Service and non-Forest Service decision makers about threats to forest outside of boundaries (encroachment issues). Forest Service should educate those who DO have authority on the threats.

Watershed management interagency coordination needed with private landowners and other agencies that manage the land between the mountain ranges. (Fire, wildlife movement along corridors between ranges)

Places (particular)

Safford

Black Rock Canyon – unique resource. Mesas areas on west side of Winchester.

Santa Catalina

Multiple use: Ski area entirely closed to public access unless they are patronizing Ski Valley. Sabino Dawn Trail closed. Would be nice to have those available.

Sierra Vista

Extend Perimeter Trail; make sure it is a loop, walkable. Red Rock Canyon, etc. (see flipchart).

Places (special)

Safford

Cottonwood Mountain, Turkey Flat, Cluff Dairy, Hospital Flat, Angle Orchard, ...

Santa Catalina

Balance of recreation and conservation. Conservation of wildcat access to national forest, need to enforce “no recreation” bans in areas for protected bird species. Agua Caliente, Milagrosa Canyon – protect access points.

Redington Pass is abused and misused to a great degree. Real safety issue. Safety, aesthetics, possibly lead contamination.

Special places – Catalinas so loved, so much pressure. Lots to be shared. We’re here for maintaining access to our own special places. Need to be identified and preserved for us today and for generations to come.

Population Pressure

FW

Heavy pressure from population.

Need buffers against increased use from growing population.

Recreation (general)

FW

Provide strategic areas where recreation can take place responsibly.

Nogales

Increased opportunities for mountain biking and cycling opportunities throughout ranger district.

Maintain and repair existing facilities – don't build too much new stuff.

Santa Catalina

Recreation: education, multiple use. Trying to accommodate so many uses, and all ages and abilities. Have a balanced view of it. We don't have to get everyone to every peak, for example.

Sierra Vista

Need dedicated funding for recreation. Recreation budgets declining over time, use going up. What's going to happen to visitor experience over time? Recreation demand vs. recreation resources.

Recreation (motorized)

Safford

Structured clubs of ATV users need to police themselves, come up with new ideas for old Problems.

There was a proposed off-highway vehicle (OHV) bill in the Arizona legislature, but political games killed it.

Was written to provide training and education on OHVs, with a user-based fee.

Sierra Vista

Manage motorized recreation so that damage to the forest is prevented, and "quiet use" is not interfered with. Designate the trails – what kind of use it is.

Recreation – motorized, high impact, road closures needed for damaged/impacted areas. Segments of recreation users have proportionately high impact on the resources everyone enjoys.

Roads

Nogales

Road maintenance to get to the trailheads.

Maintain and repair existing facilities – don't build too much new stuff.

Sierra Vista

Road conditions – maintenance, signing, better maps. Accurate signs, signs falling down. Roads not on map that are on the ground, and vice versa.

Recreation – motorized, high impact, road closures needed for damaged/impacted areas. Segments of recreation users have proportionately high impact on the resources everyone enjoys.

Safety

Santa Catalina

Trail maintenance, Ventana Trail. Widening and better marking of trails; need mile markers [for safety].

Aerial tram not a good idea. Suggestion to develop alternate trail routes where water is available and trails are marked so hikers don't get stuck. Mile markers.

Enforcement – General category of safety. Not just people and animals and fires, but cars. Shuttles in Sabino speed sometimes—scary. In Summerhaven, parts of a trail are along the road to Marshall Gulch. Would be nice to have signs on it to improve it and make sure people in cars aren't interfering with others.

Redington Pass is abused and misused to a great degree. Real safety issue. Safety, aesthetics, possibly lead contamination.

Scenic quality

Douglas

Mining/visual quality.

Santa Catalina

Beautiful area, needs to stay that way. Forest Service needs to be able to implement ideas coming out of this.

Redington Pass is abused and misused to a great degree. Real safety issue. Safety, aesthetics, possibly lead contamination.

Shooting

FW

Target practice in some areas endangers OHV riders.

Santa Catalina

Need designating shooting areas because of resource damage. Encourage folks to do a better job of using designated spots as opposed to shooting anywhere.

Need reasonable alternative to rod and gun club. If Forest Service worked with gun enthusiasts to establish an appropriate area, that would attract people with a responsible place to shoot.

Special Uses (astrophysical)

Safford

Telescopes.

Special Uses (power lines)

Nogales

Wise Canyon – proposed powerline isn't a dead issue. Visual conflict.

Restriction of utility corridors through national forest land. Eyesore, eyesore, eyesore!

Summer Homes

Douglas

Keep Cave Creek, Turkey Creek, and Rustler summerhomes.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Santa Catalina

Environmental management: Need to have a clear, defined threatened and endangered species management process; invasive species management.

Trails

FW

Complete the Arizona Trail.

Trails for all user groups, non-motorized and motorized, opportunities for people with disabilities

Negotiate with private land owners, faster pace

Signage

- Roads/trails: Need to keep legal roads open, but maintained. Hazards out there need to be addressed.

- Access: How can we cooperate with landowners to keep access open.

Nogales

Regular maintenance hiking trails in Forest – need a system.

Need for more trailheads, access to them, etc.

Need for corridor, or tweak boundary of Mt. Wrightson Wilderness, so that Arizona Trail stays on Forest land.

Lack of trail maintenance; volunteer organization.

Santa Catalina

Trail maintenance – keep open for OHV; access; better identification and maintenance of trails for better enjoyment.

Access – trails. Development locks off access, trails close. On the other hand, too much access in places (wildcat trails).

Trail maintenance, Ventana Trail. Widening and better marking of trails; need mile markers [for safety].

Aerial tram not a good idea. Suggestion to develop alternate trail routes where water is available and trails are marked so hikers don't get stuck. Mile markers.

Enforcement – General category of safety. Not just people and animals and fires, but cars. Shuttles in Sabino speed sometimes—scary. In Summerhaven, parts of a trail are along the road to Marshall Gulch. Would be nice to have signs on it to improve it and make sure people in cars aren't interfering with others.

Sierra Vista

Deterioration of trails, new trail development needed. Management of trail conditions needed.

Extend Perimeter Trail; make sure it is a loop, walkable. Red Rock Canyon, etc. (see flipchart).

Urban interface

FW

Future planning. Lots of communities around Forest boundary; infrastructure planning for coming through Forest

Santa Catalina

Boundary between urban land and wilderness—take into consideration in planning.

Unusual about Catalinas: so close to big, fast-growing urban area. Pressures of urban interface.

Analyze appropriate capability on the mountain. How many people can we accommodate? Are there other places? Cooperation between owners and agency...

Access tops our list as it pertains to the wildland/urban interface and accessing sites on front range and back side. Just being able to get on Forest land, preserve the opportunities with development constraints going forward.

Volunteers and Partnerships

FW

Coronado National Forest isn't an entity on its own. The Arizona Trail Association has tried to get volunteers in—Green Valley Hiking Club, too—but the Forest Service doesn't want the collaboration.

Santa Catalina

Streamline decision making process – permits, forest health projects (thinning, fire fuels reduction). Insufficient funding. Volunteer labor. Commercial projects that pay for themselves vs. using federal funds.

Balanced multiple use. Education very important. Build relationships with various users, get them to cooperate. Need more partnerships, volunteer organizations, and volunteer opportunities, not just in Sabino Canyon.

Invasive species – What kind of publicity or information can we find on the Web so we can offer money, time, and people to help in fight against invasive species?

Streamline process (volunteer efforts). Adopt-a-trail, etc. MANY people look for ways to participate in their public lands, working on trails, etc. Forest Service, we're interested, we want to participate. Help us do that.

Funding is key issue. Volunteers, interagency cooperation, innovative ways to use private enterprise, for recreation, fire management--balance is the key.

Nogales

Madera Canyon – across-the-board need for increased opportunities for partnerships.

Lack of trail maintenance; volunteer organization.

Sierra Vista

Recruit and support volunteers – some groups aren't being called upon. Will help if asked.

Waste Management

Santa Catalina

Since thousands of people use these areas for camping, etc, we'll do better with trash and human waste issues if the national forest has better facilities for disposing of wastes conveniently rather than asking people to haul it off.

Water Development (wildlife and livestock)

Douglas

Rehabilitate Cave Creek dams.

Maintain all water sources (for people, animals, fire).

Nogales

Keep access for maintaining improvements.

Sierra Vista

Develop water sources; protect spring flows for animal use.

Watershed Management

FW

Watershed health – Marijilda Canyon is blown out after the [Nuttall] fire; water not staying on mountain.

Santa Catalina

Watershed management for people use and fire management.

Wilderness

FW

Wilderness areas – identified areas that have wilderness values.

Nogales

Proposed Tumacacori Wilderness – special place. Potential conflicts, but something to deal with in new Plan.

Need for corridor, or tweak boundary of Mt. Wrightson Wilderness, so that Arizona Trail stays on Forest land.

Proposed Tumacacori wilderness.

Tumacacori Highlands – the group is in favor of it.

Tumacacori Highlands – some opposed, some in favor.

Wilderness management – local flexibility and ability to make decisions at that level.

Protection of wildlife: wilderness, all other forms of management.

Wilderness – manage for natural or wild characteristics.

Wildlife

Nogales

Connectivity between different national forest parcels - wildlife corridors between Santa Ritas and Tumacacoris; and between Santa Ritas and Canelo Hills).

Protection of wildlife: wilderness, all other forms of management.

Want Forest Service to investigate wildlife-friendly fencing.

Wildlife corridors – land on east side of Santa Rita Mountains that's base for exchange; across the road is BLM land. Connection is a wildlife corridor, and Forest Service should not dispose of that land, thus eliminating the wildlife corridor. Similar opportunities for wildlife corridors where Forest Service might be inclined to sell the land. (Keith Graves noted he may be referring to the Cote land exchange. Such exchanges are outside our decision; they come from people way above us. Only Congress can transfer federal lands to other federal entities.)