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Forest
Service

Southwestern
Region



June 2006

Environmental Assessment for

Education Land Grant Act
Transfer of National Forest System Land
Blue School District #22

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests

Alpine Ranger District
Greenlee County, Arizona



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Content

Chapter 1 – Purpose and Need.....	4
Document Structure.....	4
Background.....	4
Purpose and Need for Action.....	5
Proposed Action.....	5
Decision Framework.....	7
Public Involvement.....	7
Issues.....	7
Chapter 2 – Comparison of Alternatives.....	8
Alternative Development Process.....	8
Description of Alternatives, including any not carried forward.....	8
Alternatives Considered in Detail.....	8
Comparison of Alternatives.....	9
Chapter 3 – Environmental Consequences.....	11
Administrative Factors.....	13
Caves.....	14
Grazing Resources.....	14
Hazardous Materials.....	14
Heritage Resources.....	14
Infrastructure, Traffic, Dust, and Pollution.....	15
Land Use.....	16
Mineral Resources.....	17
Outdoor Recreation and Access.....	17
Plants and Wildlife, Including Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species (TES).....	18
Public Services.....	22
Scenic Quality.....	22
Social and Economic Factors.....	23
Soil and Air.....	24
Value of Adjacent Properties.....	24
Water Quality.....	25
Water Rights.....	25
Wetland and Floodplains.....	26
Chapter 4 - Consultation and Coordination.....	27
Appendix A – Land to be Conveyed – Maps.....	28

Chapter 1 – Purpose and Need

Document Structure

The Forest Service has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant federal and state laws and regulations. This EA discloses the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts that would result from the proposed action and alternatives. The document is organized into four parts:

- **Introduction:** The section includes information on the history of the project proposal, the purpose of and need for the project, and the agency’s proposal for achieving that purpose and need. This section also details how the Forest Service informed the public of the proposal and how the public responded.
- **Comparison of Alternatives, including the Proposed Action:** This section provides a more detailed description of the agency’s proposed action as well as alternative methods for achieving the stated purpose. These alternatives were developed based on significant issues raised by the public and other agencies. This discussion also includes possible mitigation measures. Finally, this section provides a summary table of the environmental consequences associated with each alternative.
- **Environmental Consequences:** This section describes the environmental effects of implementing the proposed action and other alternatives. This analysis is organized by [insert topic (i.e., resource area, significant issues, environmental component)]. Within each section, the affected environment is described first, followed by the effects of the No Action Alternative that provides a baseline for evaluation and comparison of the other alternatives that follow.
- **Agencies and Persons Consulted:** This section provides a list of preparers and agencies consulted during the development of the environmental assessment.
- **Appendices:** The appendices provide more detailed information to support the analyses presented in the environmental assessment.

Background

The purpose and need for action, the proposed Federal action, the decision to be made, issues raised during scoping, and a description of the project area are included in this comment document. The “purpose and need” explains why the action is being proposed. The “proposed action” details who is proposing what, and when and where the proposal would occur. The “decision framework” describes the nature of the decision and who will make it, allowing for selection of the “no-action” alternative required by 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1502.14 (d). The “issues” section describes concerns or problems that might be created by implementing the proposal. The “measures” discussion outlines the units of measure selected to evaluate the extent to which the proposed action and alternatives attain project objectives and resolution of issues.

Throughout this EA parenthetical references are made to Project Record documents. For example, (Doc 25).

Purpose and Need for Action

Existing Condition

The Blue School District #22 Elementary School's facilities are located on land administered by the Forest Service under a Special Use Permit (SUP) originally issued August 28, 1963 (Doc 2). A new SUP was issued May 21, 1987 and expired on its own on December 31, 2002 (Doc 4). The current SUP was issued December 12, 2002 and is valid until December 31, 2011 (Doc 23A). The land containing the school facilities is located in the N½ of Section 1, Township 3 North, Range 31 East, Gila and Salt River Meridian, Greenlee County, Arizona on the east side of Greenlee County Road Number 67004 (Forest Road 01-281), also known as the Blue River Road. The land is located approximately 1.5 miles north of the northern boundary of the Blue Range Primitive Area just above the confluence of the Blue River and Johnson Canyon drainage.

The Federal lands are located in Management Areas MA2 (Woodland) and MA3 (Riparian) of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (A-S NF's) Land Management Plan (LMP) (Doc 5). Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 5509.11, Chapter 30, Section 34.03 - Policy states "parcels that are currently under special use permits to the applicant school district for educational purposes qualify as lands identified for ELGA (Education Land Grant Act) conveyance."

Desired Condition

The desired condition is that the Federal land is conveyed to the Blue School District #22 to meet the overriding public need for land available for public elementary school purposes. The Blue Elementary School would be able to qualify for Arizona State education funding to assist with managing the land and associated facilities for public education purposes.

A new inholding would be created with the conveyance of the land but the land use would remain as it has been for public education purposes as required by the Education Land Grant Act (ELGA) (P.L. 106-77, Title II (16 U.S.C. 479a)).

Objectives

The Forest Service has the responsibility to manage NFS lands for appropriate public uses. This includes making adjustments in land ownership that serve the public interest and are consistent with existing law and land management planning objectives.

The purpose of the proposed action is to meet the objectives of ELGA by providing land for the grounds and facilities for a publicly funded elementary school.

The proposed conveyance has been found to be consistent with the management direct, goals and objectives of the A-S NF's LMP (Doc 5) and serves the public interest as required by ELGA.

Proposed Action

The A-S NF's is proposing to convey 8.75 acres of NFS lands to Blue School District #22 under the authority of ELGA. The proposed action would result in the conveyance of 8.75 acres of land in the Apache National Forest to the Blue School District #22 for the existing Blue Elementary School.

On June 5, 2002, the Blue School District #22 Board (Blue School), Greenlee County, Arizona, requested a land purchase of National Forest System (NFS) land that includes the land where the Blue Elementary School is presently located on the Apache National Forest (Doc 19). The transfer of the identified NFS land was determined by the Forest Service to be authorized under the ELGA.

The proposed project is subject to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) evaluation by the Forest Service. The proposed action is consistent with the A-S NF's LMP and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) dated August 1987, as amended (Doc 5).

Forest-wide Management Direction from A-S NF's LMP includes the use of land ownership adjustments to meet overriding public needs and helps move the project towards providing lands that have been identified as needed to meet the needs of the local community for its elementary school facilities. The Blue School District #22 agreed to work with the A-S NF's to accomplish the preparation of required documents and the surveying and posting of the identified NFS land to be conveyed.

The proposed action offers Blue School District #22 the opportunity to acquire ownership of the identified land which will allow it to qualify for State of Arizona education funds and for any needed expansion of its facilities. In a series of letters and after a number of meetings over the past several years the A-S NF's and Blue School District #22 have reached agreement on the configuration of the 8.75 acre parcel (Doc 37).

Under this proposal (as provided by ELGA) Blue School District #22 is required to pay a nominal fee of \$10.00 per acre conveyed, plus those costs directly associated with the project, including costs associated with document preparation, land survey, and the posting of property monuments, markers, or posts. The Federal land would be transferred to the Blue School District #22 by way of quitclaim deed that would contain a reversionary clause that states if, at any time after the land is conveyed the school district attempts to transfer title to or control over the land to another or the land is devoted to a use other than the use for which the land was conveyed, title to the land shall revert to the United States.

The Federal land does not contain any inventoried roadless areas or Wild and Scenic River corridors or study areas.

The legal description of the Federal land is:

Apache National Forest
Alpine Ranger District

GILA AND SALT RIVER MERIDIAN, Greenlee County, Arizona
T. 3 N., R. 31 E.

sec. 1 — SW1/4 NW1/4 NW1/4 SW1/4 NE1/4, W1/2 SW1/4 NW1/4 SW1/4 NE1/4,
S1/2 NE1/4 NE1/4 SE1/4 NW1/4, SE1/4 NW1/4 NE1/4 SE1/4 NW1/4,
S1/2 NE1/4 SE1/4 NW1/4.

Containing 8.75 acres, more or less.

Appendix A contains maps displaying the Federal land.

Decision Framework

The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Supervisor will decide if the transfer of land under ELGA should take place as described in the proposed action, or modify the proposal in response to comments received on the Proposed Action (Doc 74).

Public Involvement

The proposal has been listed in the A-S NF's Schedule of Proposed Actions since July 2004. The proposal was provided to the public and other agencies for comment through written notification initiating scoping for the environmental analysis on November 11, 2005 (Doc 65). A news release was sent to local newspapers on November 7, 2005 announcing the Blue School District #22 application for an Education Land Grant (Doc 62). In addition, as part of the public involvement process, the A-S NF's published public notice of the Blue School District #22 Education Land Grant Application in the *Copper Era* newspaper for four consecutive weeks beginning November 9, 2005 requesting comments (Doc 64). A public hearing on the Blue School District #22's application was held on October 28, 2005 at the Blue Elementary School and was attended by 12 people (Docs 57, 59).

A 30-calendar day comment period requesting comments on the Proposed Action (Doc 75) ran from May 23, 2006 through June 23, 2006. A letter announcing the comment period was mailed to individuals who previously provided comments, requested notification on this proposal, or attended the public hearing. (Doc 76). The legal notice announcing the availability of the Proposed Action was published in the *White Mountain Independent*, the newspaper of record, on May 23, 2006 (Doc 77). The A-S NF's received no comments.

All comments previously received from the public, other agencies, and the Greenlee County Administrator on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, were supportive of the proposal. All comments were considered during the analysis and are in the project record.

Issues

At the conclusion of the initial scoping period and the public meeting no issues or concerns were identified by the public. The Forest received two responses to its initial scoping letter and no responses to the legal notice in the *Copper Era* newspaper. The two responses fully supporting the proposal were from the Greenlee County Administrator and Greenlee County School Superintendent.

The Forest Service identified one issue related to this project. Significant issues are defined as those directly or indirectly caused by implementing the proposed action. Non-significant issues are identified as those: 1) outside the scope of the proposed action; 2) already decided by law, regulation, Forest Plan, or other higher level decision; 3) irrelevant to the decision to be made; or 4) conjectural and not supported by scientific or factual evidence. The Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA regulations require this delineation in Sec. 1501.7, "...identify and eliminate from detailed study the issues which are not significant or which have been covered by prior environmental review (Sec. 1506.3)..."

Issue # 1. Potential for flooding along Johnson Canyon

The Forest Service issue concerned the potential flood hazard to school district improvements along the Johnson Canyon floodplain (Doc 30). The potential for flooding will be addressed and appropriate steps taken to deal with the flood potential to the school district's improvements.

Chapter 2 – Comparison of Alternatives

Alternative Development Process

The range of alternatives for the sale of NFS lands under ELGA is limited by the Act itself. Once both parties agree upon an acceptable land configuration, the Federal agency proposes to go forward with an analysis of the action. The proposal analyzed reflects lands mutually agreed upon by the school district and the Forest Service (Doc 37). The transfer of NFS land to the school district will convey interests in the land and the resources associated with it. The environmental analysis focuses on the current and future use and resulting management of the Federal land to be conveyed and the effect of the conveyance on the lands that adjoin it.

Description of Alternatives, including any not carried forward

In previous discussions various configurations of Federal lands were identified by the Blue School District #22 as being desirable for conveyance (Docs 12, 13, 19, 22, 26, and 29). As discussions proceeded, Blue School District #22 withdrew its request for approximately 55 acres of additional Federal lands to comply with the section of ELGA that requires the land is to be used for an established or proposed project. The SUP for the existing school facilities is currently for occupancy of 1.0 acre of land. Both parties eventually agreed that the Elementary School would be able to use the land it currently occupied which is several acres larger than that authorized by the SUP. Further analysis of Johnson Canyon which is located along the east and south boundaries of the identified NFS land resulted in a recommendation by the Forest hydrologist to adjust the acreage so that the Blue School would be able to manage that portion of the drainage that would possibly have a direct affect on the school's property in a future flood event. Both parties agreed to this final configuration (Doc 37).

A deed restriction alternative to limit future development of the Federal land was eliminated from further study because resource values associated with the Federal lands indicated that no restrictive deed or covenant was warranted to comply with legal, regulatory requirements, executive orders, policy, or to meet Forest Plan management objectives

Another means of acquiring the Federal lands would be through the Townsite Act. This was considered but eliminated from further study (Docs 8, 9, 14). The sale of Federal lands to the Blue School under the Townsite Act is not necessary since Blue School qualifies for the transfer under ELGA.

Alternatives Considered in Detail

1. **No Action.** No sale of NFS land to Blue School would take place. Use of NFS land by Blue School would continue to be authorized under Special Use Permit.
2. **Proposed Action.** Transfer of 8.75 acres of Federal land for Blue Elementary School grounds and facilities. Refer to maps and legal description of the Federal land.

This chapter compares the two alternatives considered for the transfer of NFS land to Blue School District #22 under ELGA. Included are a tabular comparison and maps of the land being considered for conveyance. This section displays the alternatives in comparative form defining the differences between the alternatives and providing a clear basis for choice among options by

the decision maker and the public. Some of the information used to compare the alternatives is based upon the design of the alternative and some of the information may be based upon the environmental, social and economic effects of implementing each alternative.

Comparison of Alternatives

This section provides a summary of the effects of implementing the alternatives. Information in the table is focused on activities and effects where different levels of effects or outputs can be distinguished quantitatively or qualitatively among alternatives.

Table 1. Alternative Comparison Table

AFFECTED RESOURCE/ISSUE	ALTERNATIVE 1 No Action	ALTERNATIVE 2 Proposed Action
Administrative factors	No change in existing corners or landline administration.	6 new landline property corners and 0.4 miles of additional boundary maintenance added to Forest's workload.
Caves	No natural caves are found on the Federal lands.	No natural caves are found on the Federal lands, therefore none would be lost. The proposal will result in no effect to caves. No other special management areas designated in the ASF LMP occur on the Federal lands.
Grazing resources	No grazing occurs on the lands.	Same as No Action.
Hazardous materials	No hazardous materials are presently stored on nor were any ever known to have been stored on the property.	Same as No Action.
Heritage resources	The Federal lands have been surveyed and no sites are known to exist. No sites were found that qualify for the SHPO registry.	Same as No Action.
Infrastructure, traffic, dust, and pollution	No changes would be expected.	No changes would be expected as additions or modifications to existing facilities would be minimal.
Land Use	No change would be expected.	8.75 total acres of Federal land would be converted to public school ownership; additional 3.75 acres would become available for educational development. Easements granted by Blue School District #22 to Navopache Electric and Citizens Telecommunications replacing current FS Special Use Permits.
Mineral resources	No mineral reserves are known to exist.	No mineral reserves are known to exist. The sale of NFS land under ELGA does not include the transfer or conveyance of mineral rights.
Outdoor recreation & access	No change in access or lands available for outdoor recreation	Forest-wide there would be a loss of 8.75 acres available for outdoor recreation.

AFFECTED RESOURCE/ISSUE	ALTERNATIVE 1 No Action	ALTERNATIVE 2 Proposed Action
	would be expected.	
Plants and wildlife	Continue current management of approximately 5 acres of NFS land as authorized by current Special Use Permit.	Anticipate some minor reduction of habitat when the school library is built and any necessary flood protection developed along Johnson Canyon.
Public services	No changes would be expected.	No changes would be expected as additions to existing facilities would be minimal.
Scenic quality	No change in scenic quality would be expected.	Scenic quality is expected to be moderately altered as a result of an additional free standing library structure. Any change would be restricted to the immediate vicinity of the existing school and would be partially blocked from view by the existing school building.
Social & economic factors	PILT receipts received by Greenlee County would not change.	Property taxes collected by Greenlee County would not change; PILT however would decrease slightly as 8.75 acres of land leaves Federal ownership.
Soil and Air	No measurable soil loss would be expected.	No measurable soil loss expected as development would occur on existing disturbed site and be in compliance with state and county regulations. Greenlee County has expressed support for the project.
Values of adjacent properties	Land values would not change.	Change in value would not be expected as adjacent property is all NFS lands.
Water quality	No change in water quality would be expected.	No unacceptable change in water quality is expected. State and County regulations control discharges. Stormwater managed.
Water Rights	No water rights are associated with the property.	Same as No Action. The sale of NFS land under ELGA does not include the transfer or conveyance of water rights.
Wetlands and floodplains	No decrease in Federally managed mappable floodplain. The wetland/riparian habitats would remain under the same ownership.	A loss of approximately 4 acres of mappable floodplain with conveyance of the Federal land. Any wetland/riparian habitat would be conveyed to the Blue School. Greenlee County floodplain regulations would apply.

Chapter 3 - Environmental Consequences

This section summarizes the physical, biological, social and economic environments of the affected project area and the potential changes to those environments due to implementation of the alternatives. The description of the affected environment inherently includes past events and impacts. The no action alternative sets the environmental baseline for comparing effects of the proposed action alternative while analyzing this scenario. The environment may be characterized as consisting of soil, air, water, vegetation, and wildlife.

The environmental effects (changes from present base line condition) that are described in this chapter reflect the affected resources and the identified significant issues. Some of the environmental effects are confined to this action and project area. Others may be cumulative with environmental effects from other actions and reach beyond the project area. Cumulative effects are discussed for each significant issue where they occur.

In addition to documenting how each alternative addresses the issues identified in Chapter 1, we have also considered the environmental, social and economic effects of the following and found them to be non-significant.

Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Sec. 15 and FSH 5509.11, Sec. 34.

Effects on consumers, civil rights, minority groups and women (E.O. 12898). The opportunity to initiate and participate in an Education Land Grant Act conveyance of land is available to all public school districts for educational purposes. The act requires a determination that the conveyance is in the public interest. The proposed use of the Federal lands in the future would remain the same as currently exists and would not result in adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations (EO 12898). Effects of the proposal are the same for all proponents.

Effects on prime farm land, range land and forest land (Dept. Reg 9500-3) There are no prime farm, range, or forestlands on the lands proposed for transfer (Doc 5).

Effects on wetlands and floodplains (E.O. 11988 and E.O. 11990) The proposed action would result in a net loss of approximately 4 acres of mappable floodplain (Docs 10, 30, EA page 26).

Effects on threatened, endangered, and sensitive species (Endangered Species Act of 1973) (Doc 48, 55, EA pages 17-22).

Effects on migratory bird species (EO 13186).

Effects on heritage resources (National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and E. O. 11593) (Doc 61, EA pages 14-15).

Effects on minerals, geothermal, oil and gas, and water rights (ELGA, 114 Stat. 368; 16 U.S.C. 479a) (Doc 63, EA page 16-17).

Effects on rights associated with grazing permits (Sec. 402 (G) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976) (Doc 53, EA page 14).

Forest Service Manual 2166:

Existence of or past storage of hazardous materials (Section 120 (h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, aka CERCLA) R-3 Policy Letter 6/1/89: (Doc 78, EA page 14)

Effects on cave resources (Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988) (Doc 28, EA page 12).

This chapter discloses the reasonably foreseeable use of the Federal land once it is transferred to the Blue School District #22. The future use or development on the land once conveyed out of Federal ownership would become subject to all laws, regulations and zoning authorities of State and local governing bodies.

The ELGA requires that the intended use of the transferred Federal land will serve the public interest and that the conveyance will serve public objectives that outweigh the objectives and values which would be served by maintaining such land in Federal ownership. The total acreage to be transferred does not exceed the amount reasonably necessary for the proposed use. The land to be transferred has been identified as eligible for disposal in an applicable land and resource management plan under Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.).

The adjacent Federal lands are managed for wildlife habitat and dispersed outdoor recreation. No livestock grazing occurs in the immediate area. No change to these objectives is anticipated. The intended use of the transferred Federal land will not conflict with these management objectives. The reasonable future development on the Federal land is analyzed to determine what potential impacts, if any, might be anticipated and the appropriateness of deed restriction. The following assumption is made throughout this document: all future development would comply with Greenlee County zoning ordinances (Doc 32) and Arizona State laws and regulations.

Analysis of reasonable future development is based on the information provided in the ELGA application (Doc 19). A summary of the basic requirements used in the analysis is as follows:

- Existing and conceptual layout do not represent any planned development that would require extensive studies or the preparation of specialized reports. Use of the existing facilities currently under special use authorization is expected to continue. The addition of a separate prefabricated building for to serve as the school library is the only new structure that is planned. Building permits and any necessary zoning change will be obtained from Greenlee County.
- No new road construction is required. A road easement would be issued to either the school district or Greenlee County for the existing access road from Greenlee County Road Number 67004 to the school property should the County's road right-of-way not be coincident with the school's west boundary.
- All drainage and flood prevention plans would meet Federal, State and County standards. Improvements, including appropriate drainage facilities to manage stormwater runoff, are required to insure downstream resources are protected from any increases in runoff due to development.

- The school is currently served by an individual on-site sanitary disposal system (septic tank and leach field) as no sanitary district serves this area.
- An on-site water well provides an adequate supply of domestic water for the school. No new wells are planned.
- Fire protection is provided by the local community. No change is anticipated.
- Public utilities (i.e. electric, communication) presently serve the school. No new or additional facilities are planned.

Administrative Factors

Affected Environment

Forest Service policy requires administrative and property boundaries to be identified and visible on the ground (FSM 7152). The identification of property boundaries is accomplished through the installation of corner survey monuments and boundary signing. BLM or FS installed corner monuments and monument accessories and FS boundary signs require periodic inspection and maintenance to assure they are in place, clearly visible and have not been vandalized. Time and resources must be committed to assure the FS property boundary identification is visible and property boundary lines are legally defensible. Boundary identification and maintenance would be required for the property being considered in the conveyance proposal. Authorized special uses for aerial electric and telephone lines are located on the Federal land.

Direct and Indirect Effects

Proposed Action

The proposed action would contribute to creation of a new isolated inholding (non-Federal parcel completely surrounded by NFS lands) resulting in an additional 6 new survey corner monuments and approximately 0.4 miles of new shared landline boundary. Forest-wide landline maintenance would be increased upon completion of the conveyance. This would result in an estimated annual increase of approximately \$160 associated with the maintenance of property boundaries (estimated annual maintenance costs: monuments - \$20 each; landline - \$100 per mile).

No Action

There would be no change in the number of NFS survey corners and miles of landline requiring maintenance.

Cumulative Effects

The proposed action would result in a minor increase in FS costs for landline maintenance of common boundaries between NFS lands and the public school land.

The elimination of a short section of NFS land encumbered by the two special use authorizations issued to the utility companies for use of the Federal land would not result in appreciable savings to the Forest Service as inspections, billings and periodic permit re-issuance associated with the remaining portions of existing permits would continue.

Development on the Federal land may result in some future management problems associated with trespass on the adjacent National Forest even if the common boundaries are adequately

posted. Encroachment onto the National Forest, either unintentional or intentional, from adjacent private property would require a response by the Forest. No cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Caves

The proposed action meets the intent of the Federal Cave Protection Act of November 18, 1988. There is no indication that the Federal land proposed for conveyance contains cave resources (Doc 28).

No other special management areas designated in the A-S LMP occur on the Federal land proposed for transfer. The proposed action will result in no effect to caves or cave resources.

Grazing Resources

Affected Environment

The Federal land is not part of an active grazing allotment. The proposed action would not conflict with the requirements of Sec. 402 (g) of FLPMA.

Direct and Indirect Effects

Proposed Action

The land transfer would not result in any effect to an active grazing allotment (Doc 53).

No Action

The management of livestock grazing on the Federal land would remain the same.

Cumulative Effects

The result would be the same whether the land remains NFS land or is transferred to the school district for the Blue Elementary School. No livestock grazing would occur on the parcel. No cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Hazardous Materials

Affected Environment

The Federal land proposed for transfer has been examined in accordance with Section 120 (h) of CERCLA. No hazardous materials are suspected or were found. No evidence was found to indicate that any hazardous material was stored for one year or more or disposed of or released on the property (Doc 78).

Direct and Indirect Effects

Proposed Action

No effect. No hazardous material is known to exist or have been stored on the Federal land.

No Action

No effect. No hazardous material is known to exist or have been stored on the Federal land.

Cumulative Effects

There are no hazardous materials known to exist or have been stored on the Federal land. No hazardous materials are known to exist on site or are involved in any projects in the immediate area. There are no direct/indirect effects; there will be no cumulative effects.

Heritage Resources

Affected Environment

The A-S prepared the cultural resource survey report for the Federal land identified for transfer. No archaeological properties were identified.

Direct and Indirect Effects

Proposed Action

Final approval of the cultural resource survey by the A-S Forest Supervisor was received on November 4, 2005 (Doc 61). No Heritage sites were observed on the project area. The proposed action meets the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act and E.O. 11593.

Consultation was conducted with the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, The Hopi Tribe, The Navajo Nation, Ramah Navajo Chapter, San Carlos Apache tribe, Tonto Apache Tribe, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Yavapai-Apache Nation, Yavapai-Prescott tribe, Pueblo of Zuni, and the State Historical Preservation officer regarding the land conveyance (Docs 49, 50).

No Action

Federal lands have been surveyed. No archeological sites were observed on the project area.

Cumulative Effects

Under either alternative, no significant (National Register-eligible) heritage sites are located on the project area. No archeological properties were identified on the Federal land. Consultation with American Indian tribes has not raised additional concerns regarding significant or non-significant sites, or other cultural properties (Docs 51, 52, and 58). Future development on the Federal land would not be expected to impact heritage resources as no cultural properties were identified. There are no cumulative impacts.

Infrastructure, Traffic, Dust, and Pollution

Affected Environment

The Federal land is currently occupied by the Blue Elementary School as authorized by a FS Special Use Permit. Infrastructure, consisting of water, sanitary disposal, electric, telephone, and road access, is in place. The internal road and parking are native material surfaced. Current use is for public school educational purposes.

Direct and Indirect Effects

Proposed Action

One 8.75 acre Federal parcel of land would be transferred to Blue School District #22 and be subject to State laws and Greenlee County zoning regulations. All required infrastructure including domestic water and sanitary disposal facilities, electric and telephone service lines, and road access are currently in place. The only planned development in addition to the existing school facilities consists of a computer/copier/storage room addition to the existing school building, the upgrades to the existing physical education field, and the addition of a prefabricated building for use as a library (Docs 27, 33, 71). The Special Use Permit for the existing school facilities displays the current improvements (Doc 4). No additional drawings of planned improvements (development plan) were prepared by the school district as any future improvement would be contingent upon the donation of materials and volunteer time from the local community. A survey plat of the parcel identifying existing facilities and utilities will be provided to the Forest Service by the school district. No increase in local traffic would be expected. Stormwater runoff would be managed through the installation of any State or County

required drainage and retention facilities to insure water quality is maintained and downstream resources are protected.

No Action

No changes to the existing infrastructure are proposed. Existing internal road and parking area would remain unpaved and the occurrence of seasonal dust and mud would remain the same.

Cumulative effects

The transfer of the Federal land would not result in an increase in the need for additional infrastructure. Seasonal dust and mud associated with the native surfaced road and parking area would remain the same. There would not be an increase in local traffic.

No additional domestic water wells would be developed. No adverse cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Land Use

Affected Environment

Use of the Federal land is was authorized by a FS Special Use authorization for 1.0 acre of land issued to Blue School District #22 (Doc 4). The SUP terminated on its own 12/31/2002. The land presently occupied by the school district's facilities is actually approximately 5.0 acres. The Federal land meets criteria in the A-S LMP as being available to meet the needs of the local community (Doc 5). The Federal land is currently occupied by facilities owned by the Blue School District #22 as well as the following two authorized uses.

Existing powerline right-of-way authorized under a Forest Service Master Special Use Permit dated 4/27/98, Navapache Electric Cooperative, Inc., Section 1, T.3N., R.31E (Doc 16).

Existing telephone line right-of-way, authorized under a Forest Service Master Special Use Permit dated 10/14/2003, Citizens Telecommunications Company of the White Mountains, Inc. (Frontier), Section 1, T.3N., R.31E (Doc 25).

The long-term use of the Federal land is not expected to change. As previously stated in Chapter 2 of this document the land transfer proposal being analyzed reflects lands mutually agreed upon by the Blue School District #22 and the Forest Service.

Direct and Indirect Effects

Proposed Action

The United States would convey 8.75 acres of Federal land to Blue School District #22 that would result in an additional 3.75 acres available for a public elementary school and educational purposes. The Forest Service would continue to incur the expense associated with the administration of the two special use authorizations as they would continue to occupy the Forest in other locations.

No Action

No change. The Forest Service would continue to administer the all three special use authorizations located on the Federal land as well as incurring the expenses associated with their administration.

Cumulative Effects

The Federal land would continue to be used for public elementary school facilities in accordance with Greenlee County Zoning Ordinances. There currently are no other authorized uses of Federal land in this area. No cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Mineral Resources

Affected Environment

No Forest Service Mineral Report was required (Doc 63). The proposed ELGA action does not include the transfer or conveyance of the mineral estate.

Direct and Indirect Effects

Proposed Action

The mineral resources associated with the Federal land would not be conveyed.

No Action

Mineral estate would remain the same.

Cumulative Effects

Should the transfer of Federal land be completed the United States would retain the mineral estate. No cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Outdoor Recreation and Access

Affected Environment

The Federal lands are located in MA2 and MA3 of the A-S LMP (Doc 5). There are no Congressionally designated Recreation Areas or outstanding geologic resources. The boundary of the Blue Range Primitive Area is located about a mile to the south and west of the Federal land. Outdoor recreation use in the immediate area consists primarily of undeveloped uses such as hiking, bird watching, horseback riding, hunting, and driving for pleasure. These are typical for the area near and adjacent to the Blue River Road.

Direct and Indirect Effects

Proposed Action

The Federal land available for outdoor recreation in the immediate area would be permanently reduced by the 8.75 acres the Blue School District #22 would receive. The overall decrease of public land available for outdoor recreation use on the Forest would be negligible. The school grounds are not currently available for dispersed outdoor recreation activities because of the school's presence.

No Action

No change to the total number of acres available for dispersed outdoor recreation.

Cumulative effects

National Forest System lands permanently available for outdoor recreation use along the Blue River corridor would be reduced by 8.75 acres. No other actions are currently being considered within the Blue River area that would have an effect on the total number of Federal acres available for dispersed outdoor recreation. No cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Plants and Wildlife, Including Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species (TES)

Affected Environment

For this analysis the affected habitat means the lands that would be transferred out of Federal ownership. The vegetation is Ponderosa Pine with scattered large alligator juniper and some Gambel oak. Understory herbaceous vegetation is limited. Scattered grasses and forbes include blue gramma, screwleaf muhly, and longlongue muhly along with fleabane, locoweed, thistle, and annuals. There are no wetlands on the Federal parcel.

The A-S has completed both Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Assessments and Evaluations (BA&E) for the proposed transfer of Federal land (Docs 48, 55). All animal and plant species on the Forest Service's Region 3 Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive (TES) species list were reviewed to determine if any of those species have been currently or historically found in the project area; if they are within the range of the species; or if suitable habitat exists within the project area. Additionally, management indicator species (MIS) listed in the A-S Forest Plan were included. No federally-listed plant or animal species are known to permanently inhabit the Federal lands. Therefore, both BA&E concluded that no TES species would be affected or impacted by the proposed action.

Terrestrial - Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Threatened

There is no critical habitat designated for the Bald Eagle. The species is known to utilize the Blue River riparian corridor for foraging in the winter (migratory birds) and summer (resident birds). The river and its pools provide fish and other vertebrates while large, old trees such as cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia* and *P. fremontii*) and Arizona sycamore (*Platanus wrightii*), provide roosting habitat.

Mexican Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*)

Experimental

There is no critical habitat designated for the Mexican Gray Wolf. The area is within the primary recovery zone and is known to have been utilized by the wolves for travel and hunting.

Jaguar (*Panther onca*)

Endangered

There is no critical habitat designated for the jaguar. Wanderers from Mexico are possible along main drainages trending generally south to north such as the Blue River.

Regional Forester's Sensitive Species

The identified species are known to occur along the Blue River adjacent to the proposed property. A peregrine eyrie is within 4-5 miles of the action area. The Blue River corridor provides habitat for the Peregrine's avian prey species. Black-hawks forage in the Blue River floodplain for frogs, crayfish, and snakes; they are likely nesting in large trees along the Blue River.

Habitat for the Common Black-hawk's aquatic prey would not be affected. No potential nesting trees for the Black-hawk are on the property. Potential cliffnest habitat for the Peregrine Falcon

would not be affected. Foraging falcons may be temporarily alarmed and foraging disrupted, due to human presence, but no more so than in the past.

Management Indicator Species

The 8.75 acres parcel of National Forest System land has been continuously occupied by the Blue School since 1963 under a SUP and the site was occupied by a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp prior to that. Management indicator species would continue to utilize the property as they have for the past century of human habitation.

Direct and Indirect Effects

Proposed Action

The proposed action would result in no negative effect on any TES plant or animal species and their habitat. Therefore, formal consultation with the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service was not necessary. This alternative meets the intent of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

No Action

Conditions would remain the same. The no-action alternative would result in no effect on TES plant and animal species and their habitat. This alternative meets the intent of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects on vegetation and wildlife will be limited under either the No Action alternative or the proposed action. The 8.75 acre parcel of National Forest System land has been continuously occupied by the Blue School since 1963 under a special use permit. The parcel of Federal land does not include occupied habitat or provide suitable or critical unoccupied habitat for Federally listed terrestrial species. The proposed action will have no effect on any threatened or endangered species and/or critical habitat, and will not jeopardize the continued existence of the non-essential experimental population of Mexican gray wolves. The proposed action may impact individual sensitive species and habitat, but will not likely contribute to a loss of viability to the population or species, nor contribute to a trend toward Federal listing. For MIS, the project will not likely contribute to a change in population viability on the A-S NFs.

Aquatic - Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species

Chiricahua leopard frog (*Rana chiricahuensis*) Threatened

There is no critical habitat designated for the frog. Chiricahua leopard frogs are known to occur in reaches above and below the action area. The proposed land to be transferred within Canyon Johnson is considered transitional habitat with occupation occurring only on occasions of sustained low flows. The Blue proper habitat is marginal with suitable habitat occurring in infrequent areas of greater channel complexity and canopy cover. Frogs have been found 2.0 river miles upstream of Johnson Canyon on the Blue and therefore the action area of the Blue River is considered occupied.

Spiked ace and loach minnow (*Meda fulgida and Tiaroga cobitis*) Threatened

Critical habitat is presently vacated for spikedace and loach minnow. Loach minnow are known to occupy reaches above and below the action area. Spikedace are assumed to be extirpated from the Blue River drainage. Habitat within the active floodplain of the action area consists of unstable cobble alluvium with low habitat complexity.

Regional Forester's Sensitive Species

Narrow-headed and Mexican garter snakes

Though they have not been found within the action area, these species are present along the Blue River. Cover for basking along the waters edge is marginal along with habitat complexity with the active floodplain of the action area. There would be no effects to individuals, populations, or their habitat. Affects from construction and maintenance activities outside of the active channel can be eliminated if proper BMPS are followed. Though downstream effects may cause short term sediment pulses that may increase embeddedness and reduce recovery of substrate complexity, it should not reduce present narrow-headed and Mexican garter snake habitat. There should be no impacts to the species from the result of the proposed land transfer.

Arizona southwestern toad

This species is likely within the action area, both in the Blue and in the canyon tributaries. Usually found not far from water in somewhat protected micro-climate such as riparian cover or confined canyons. There would be no effects to individuals, populations, or their habitat. Affects from construction and maintenance activities outside of the active channel can be eliminated if proper BMPS are followed. Though downstream effects may cause short term sediment pulses that may increase embeddedness and reduce recovery of substrate complexity, it should not reduce present toad habitat. There should be no impacts to the species from the result of the proposed land transfer.

Maricopa tiger beetle

There are no known occurrences of this species within the action area. Habitat is associated with sandy riparian areas such as stream banks, edges, and sandbars. Because of their small size, individuals could be stepped on or disturbed. The probability is very low since tiger beetle habitat is minimal within the areas of potential activities. Also, the likelihood of the species being present is low. Therefore, individuals may be impacted, but is not likely to cause a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Management Indicator Species

Aquatic Macroinvertebrates

These groups of invertebrates are present along the Blue River floodplain. Hardwood riparian cover is low which limits the quantity and quality of coarse particulate organic matter (CPOM) for shredders and lack of large wood and habitat complexity limits effective nutrient cycling with in the active floodplain of the action area. Macroinvertebrate drift is probably high due to the lack of habitat complexity and so also reduces the potential biomass of aquatic macroinvertebrates. Affects from construction and maintenance activities outside of the active channel can be eliminated if proper BMPS are followed. Potential bank: stabilization activities may decrease connectivity with the flood plain, thus decreasing the sediment transport capacity and hydraulic efficiency resulting in more downstream power and fine sediment to the Blue River. However, considering the small area of occasional disturbance and the use of Best Management Practices during construction and maintenance activities, the affects are considered insignificant and

discountable. There will be no loss of viability of these populations within the action area, Blue River, or the Forest. Trends will remain static.

Direct and Indirect Effects

Proposed Action

The proposed action would result in the following effects on ESA listed species, Regional Forester designated sensitive species, and A-S NF’s LMP management indicator species that are found or have habitat within the action area as long as the proposed action is implemented as described. This alternative meets the intent of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Threatened, Endangered, Experimental, and Proposed Threatened or Proposed Endangered Species Effects Determination

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Critical Habitat	Rationale	Species Effect
Chiricahua leopard frog	<i>Rana chiricahuaensis</i>	T	NO	No direct effects to species and no indirect effect to habitat.	NE (2)
spikedace	<i>Medafulgida</i>	T	vacated	Species are assumed to be extirpated. Indirect effects to vacated habitat are insignificant and discountable due to minimal area disturbed and BMPs.	NL (1)
loach mmmnow	<i>Tiaroga cobitis</i>	T	vacated	There will be no direct effect to occupied habitat or species. Indirect effects to vacated habitat are insignificant and discountable due to minimal area disturbed and BMPs.	NL (1)

(1) Not likely to adversely effect listed species or critical habitat. (2) No effect.

Sensitive Species Effects Determination

Common Name	Scientific Name	Rationale	Effect
Narrow-headed garter snake	<i>Thamnophis equis mezalo/J</i>	No impacts to individuals or habitat.	NI (1)
Mexican garter snake	<i>Thamnophis ruijipunctatus</i>	No impacts to individuals or habitat.	NI
Arizona southwestern toad	<i>Bufo microscaphus microscavhus</i>	No impacts to individuals or habitat.	NI
Maricopa tiger beetle	<i>Cicindela oregona maricova</i>	Construction and maintenance may impact individuals, but not habitat or population viability.	MI/NL/NT (2)

(1) No impact to the species. (2) May impact individuals or habitat, but will not likely contribute to a loss of viability to the population or species, nor contribute to a trend toward federal listing.

Management Indicator Species Effects Determination

Common Name	Scientific Name	Rationale	Effect
Aquatic macroinvertebrates	NA	Impacts to habitat are insignificant and discountable due to minimal area disturbed and BMPs.	MI/NL (1)

(1) May impact individuals or habitat, but will not likely contribute to a loss of viability to the population or species.

No Action

Conditions would remain the same. The no-action alternative would result in no effect on TES plant and animal species and their habitat. This alternative meets the intent of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Cumulative Effects

Any of the planned future development if authorized and constructed under Greenlee County Zoning regulations would not result in a measurable negative effect on TES plant and animal species and their habitat.

Livestock grazing in Johnson Canyon above the proposed land transfer is the only other activity occurring. Livestock numbers have been reduced on the allotments since the mid 1990's.

The repair and maintenance of the Blue River Road has effected and will continue to affect the sediment transport capacity of the Blue River through confinement of the floodplain and increased sediment delivery to the Blue River. Recent improvements to approximately five to seven miles of road surface will reduce road surface erosion and sediment delivery to the Blue River.

Activities on private lands in the area include bank stabilization, agriculture, water withdrawal (diversions and wells), septic systems, use of herbicides pesticide, and fertilizers, and general surface hardening and exposure. These private land use activities are minimal in relation to other waterways within the Southwest and though they are of concern, they are not considered a major factor related to cumulative effects. No adverse cumulative effects are anticipated.

Public Services

There is no reason to expect that the land transfer would result in any change to the need for public services. The existing Blue Elementary School is planning for a new school library which would be located on the existing permitted area. No increase to infrastructure or the numbers of students served are predicted.

The Greenlee County Zoning regulations require the school district to provide adequate roads, utilities, water treatment, sanitary disposal, and fire protection, as well as properly locating improvements within flood areas (Doc 32).

Proposed Action

The proposed action would not result in either an increase or decrease in the need for public services.

No Action

The proposed action would not result in either an increase or decrease in the need for public services.

Cumulative Effects

No adverse cumulative effects are anticipated from the proposed land transfer.

Scenic Quality

Affected Environment

The Federal land is typical of most of the landscape found in this area of the Apache National Forest. The Scenic Integrity Level under the approved Forest Service Scenic Management System is identified as Moderate (Slightly Altered) partial retention (Landscape Aesthetics, A Handbook for Scenery Management, Agriculture Handbook 701). Moderate scenic integrity refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character appears slightly altered. Noticeable deviations must remain visually subordinate to the landscape character being viewed.

The Federal land currently contains several single-story structures that are set back from the main Blue River Road. Non-Federal land parcels adjacent to the travel route are located approximately ½ mile north and south of the property and are not viewable from the property or the road.

Direct and Indirect Effects

Proposed Action

Under the proposed action the change of land ownership itself would not result in a change in the existing visual conditions on the Federal land. Depending upon an individual's preferences any additional development to the land such as the addition of the school library building may result in some impact to scenic quality on a personal level. Planned development on the Federal land would be limited to a relatively small single-story building for the school library with the resulting density remaining relatively the same as what currently exists.

No Action

The Federal land would remain unchanged, unless the Blue School District #22 SUP is amended to authorize the addition of a new building for the school library.

Cumulative Effects

Any development on the Federal land after conveyance to Blue School District #22 would be subject to Greenlee County Zoning requirements, which contain specific guidelines, standards and measures directing development on private lands. Some minor change to the scenic integrity associated with the Federal land would be expected. No adverse cumulative effects are anticipated from the proposed land transfer.

Social and Economic Factors

Affected Environment

The Forest Service makes payment to counties with respect to Federal Lands under three statutes known as the Twenty-Five Percent Fund, the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Act and the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. The Twenty-Five Percent Fund of May 23, 1908, provides for counties to receive 25 percent of the gross receipts and revenues from timber sales and other income generating activities on Federal lands. The PILT Act of 1976 authorizes payments to counties based on the number of acres of "entitlement lands" within the county. The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 stabilizes payments for fiscal years 2001 through 2006 to counties that received a 25-percent payment during fiscal years 1986 through 1999 to provide funding for schools and roads that supplements other available funds. For purposes of this discussion, entitlement lands are NFS lands. Non-Federal landowners make payments to counties in the form of property taxes.

Direct and Indirect Effects

Proposed Action

The 8.75 acres of Federal land is located entirely within Greenlee County. There would be little effect on returns to Greenlee County. The private land tax base for Greenlee County would not change as the Blue Elementary School would continue to not be subject to property taxes. A very insignificant decrease in PILT and Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 funds to the County would occur. The Federal land base in Greenlee County would decrease by 8.75 acres. It is expected that the Blue School District #22 would be able to better compete for State of Arizona School Facilities Board public school funding with the acquisition

of the Federal land. This would contribute towards the school being in compliance with the Students First Initiative (Doc 19).

No Action

There would be no change to Federal land acreage in Greenlee County. PILT and Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 funds to the County would remain the same.

Cumulative Effects

Under the proposed action the Greenlee County non-Federal land base would increase by 8.75 acres with the addition of land owned by the Blue School District #22. Greenlee County's property tax revenues would not increase as a result of the land transfer. There would be a minor decrease in PILT and Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 funds to Greenlee County as a result of the lands moving into school district ownership (Doc 70).

Ownership of the land the Blue School District #22 currently occupies will enable the elementary school to compete for funding for improvements from the School Facilities Board. No adverse cumulative effects are anticipated from the proposed land transfer.

Soil and Air

Affected Environment

Air shed conditions on the Federal parcels are identified as being associated with lightly populated areas with high use dirt/aggregate road surfaces.

Air shed conditions are good, except for brief periods when wildfire is occurring.

Direct and Indirect Effects

Proposed Action

The proposed land transfer will have no effect on soil stability. No measurable soil loss is anticipated. The air quality on the Federal parcel is not expected to change with the expected limited future development.

No Action

No effect. Soil stability and air quality of Federal land would remain unchanged.

Cumulative Effects

The soil on the Federal land is currently in satisfactory condition and would remain the same. No air quality effects have been attributed to current or proposed uses. The air quality will essentially remain the same. Future development on the Federal land would be subject to Greenlee County and ADEQ regulations. Enforcement of Greenlee County Zoning regulations and State laws are meant to minimize impacts to soil and air from human activity. No significant adverse effects to air quality are expected. No cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Values of Adjacent Properties

Affected Environment

The nearest non-Federal properties are located just over ½ mile north and south of the Federal land along the Blue River Road.

Direct and Indirect Effects

Proposed Action

There is no expectation that the transfer of the Federal land to the Blue School District #22 would have an effect on the value of non-Federal properties in the area.

No Action

There would be no change to ownership and no effect on the value of non-Federal properties in the area.

Cumulative Effects

Future use on the Federal land is expected to remain the same as the current use. No incremental effects from the proposed action would be expected. The planned development on the Federal land (addition of a school library) is a possibility under either the proposed action or the no action alternative. The transfer of ownership of the Federal land to the Blue School District #22 would not affect land values in the area. Private land values in this part of Greenlee County have experienced some appreciation in recent years and there is no reason to expect anything different would occur as a result of this land transfer. No cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Water Quality**Affected Environment**

The Blue Elementary School is currently located in a floodplain that has been occupied and modified by the construction of the school and associated structures.

Direct and Indirect Effects**Proposed Action**

The Federal land includes the land containing the stream channel adjacent to and immediately upstream of the school (Doc 30).

No Action

The Federal land includes the land containing the stream channel adjacent to and immediately upstream of the school (Doc 30).

Cumulative Effects

The Blue School District #22 Board (subject to the regulation of Greenlee County floodplain ordinances) will have the responsibility and legal authority to monitor the Johnson Creek stream channel on the property and take timely action to maintain it in a condition that will pass expected flood flows and associated sediment and debris on a continuous basis. Necessary improvements, including required drainage facilities to manage storm water runoff, would be constructed according to Federal, State and County laws and regulations to insure downstream resources are protected from any increases in peak flow runoff due to any future development. No cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Water Rights**Affected Environment**

No water right filings are associated with the Federal land.

Direct and Indirect Effects**Proposed Action**

No water rights are associated with the Federal land. The proposed ELGA action does not include the transfer or conveyance of water rights (Doc 63).

No Action

No effect. No water rights are associated with the Federal land.

Cumulative Effects

No cumulative impacts are expected.

Wetland and Floodplains**Issue # 1. Potential for flooding along Johnson Canyon**

The Federal land is located within the Johnson Canyon floodplain (Doc 10). Total floodplain acreage involved is approximately 4 acres. This Forest Service issue concerns the potential flood hazard to Blue School District #22 improvements on the Johnson Canyon floodplain (Doc 30). The flood potential would be addressed in the final conveyance document (quitclaim deed) and appropriate steps taken by Blue School District #22 as required by State laws and Greenlee County Zoning regulations to address any effect on the school district's improvements (Doc 38, 40).

Affected Environment

The Federal land does not contain any springs, seeps or wetlands. The majority of the school's facilities are currently located in floodplain that it has occupied and modified by the construction of the school and associated structures since it was originally granted a special use permit in this location in 1963. It appears that the alluvial fan on which the school is located is a part of the Johnson Creek floodplain and perhaps the Blue River.

Direct and Indirect Effects**Proposed Action**

The Federal land includes the stream channel adjacent to and immediately above the school (Doc 30) as well as the floodplain on which the school district's improvements are currently located. There would be a loss to the Forest Service of approximately 4 acres of mappable floodplain. Appropriate floodplain language would be inserted in the final conveyance document (Doc 39).

No Action

The school would continue to operate under a special use permit issued by the forest Service in its current location. All the physical attributes of the permitted area would be the same as the Proposed Action.

Cumulative Effects

The Blue School Board (subject to the regulation of Greenlee County floodplain ordinances) will have the responsibility and legal authority to monitor the Johnson Creek stream channel on the property and take timely action to maintain it in a condition that will pass expected flood flows and associated sediment and debris on a continuous basis (Doc 32). Necessary improvements and modifications, including required drainage facilities to manage storm water runoff, would be constructed to insure downstream resources are protected from any increases in peak flow runoff due to any future development. No cumulative impacts are anticipated. The risk associated with this specific transfer is minimal. Floodplain language would be included in the final conveyance document (Doc 40).

Chapter 4 - Consultation and Coordination

The Forest Service consulted the following individuals, Federal, state and local agencies, tribes and non-Forest Service persons during the development of this environmental assessment:

Forest Service ID Team Members:

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Louise Odegaard	Southwestern Region Deputy Director, Lands and Minerals

Other Government Agencies and Persons Consulted:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Steven Spangle, Field Supervisor
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Tribes:

None

Others:

None



