



U.S. Forest Service  
Coconino National Forest  
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# News Release



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## Public input sought on Cragin Watershed Protection Project Two public meetings scheduled next week

**Clints Well, Ariz., June 1, 2017, For Immediate Release** — The Mogollon Rim Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest is seeking public input on a preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) published for the Cragin Watershed Protection Project (CWPP).

CWPP is a project that will reduce the risk of high-intensity wildfire in areas that would affect watersheds that feed into C.C. Cragin Reservoir by reducing fuels through mechanical and prescribed fire treatments over the next 20 years. C.C. Cragin Reservoir, previously known as Blue Ridge Reservoir, will become a new water source for the Town of Payson in 2018. The reservoir is fed by three main watersheds that sit atop the Mogollon Rim which have the potential for large wildfires that could destroy the reservoir and future drinking water resources.

The EA evaluates and discloses the effects of vegetation treatments using mechanical and hand-thinning and prescribed burning on the National Forest to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire to values at risk, critical developments, infrastructure and municipal water supply watersheds in and adjacent to the project area. Mechanical and hand vegetation treatments are proposed over approximately 41,000 acres, and prescribed burning treatments are proposed over about 64,000 acres within the project area. To view the preliminary EA, please visit [www.tinyurl.com/CraginEA](http://www.tinyurl.com/CraginEA). Additional information about the project is at [www.tinyurl.com/craginreservoirproject](http://www.tinyurl.com/craginreservoirproject).

A legal notice was published today in the Arizona Daily Sun announcing a 30-day comment period, which runs through July 1, 2017. The public can submit their comments through email to [comments-southwestern-coconino-mogollon@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southwestern-coconino-mogollon@fs.fed.us) or by attending one of the public meetings scheduled and submitting their comments there.

**Two public meetings are scheduled next week to discuss the project. The first meeting is June 6 from 6-8 p.m. at the Payson Unified School District Boardroom in the Julia Randall Elementary School, 920 W. Main Street, Payson, Ariz. The second meeting will be June 7 from 6-8 p.m. at the Starlight Pines Community Center, 2740 Arapaho Drive, which is at milepost 305.5 on the east side of state Route 87.**

Those without email can submit written comments to:

Mogollon Rim Ranger District

Attn: Polly Haessig

8738 Ranger Road

Happy Jack, AZ 86024.

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