



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

November 28, 2005

Sarah Craighead
Saguaro National Park
3693 South Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85730

Subject: Saguaro National Park Fire Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) [CEQ # 20050407]

Dear Ms. Craighead:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above referenced document. Our review and comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementation Regulations at 40 CFR 1500-1508, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

In our April 2, 2004, comments on the Draft EIS, we expressed concerns regarding the need for specific measures in the proposal to minimize and mitigate project impacts to soils, water resources, sensitive species, and habitats. We recommended that the Final EIS describe and discuss these measures. Our concerns have been satisfied because the Final EIS contains additional information on mitigation of these impacts, includes the Biological Assessment, and states that all requirements in the Biological Assessment and Biological Opinion will be carried through to all site-specific implementation plans.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this Final EIS and request a copy of the Record of Decision when it is filed with our Washington, D.C. office. If you have any questions, please call me at (415) 972-3988, or have your staff call Jeanne Geselbracht at (415) 972-3853.

Sincerely,

/S/
Duane James, Manager
Environmental Review Office

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