



For Immediate Release

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### **BLM Releases the Environmental Assessment for Weaver Mountain Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project**

The public has an opportunity to comment on an environmental assessment (EA) and the finding of no significant issue (FONSI) for the Weaver Mountain area, about 17 miles north of Wickenburg. The Weaver Mountain Fuels Reduction Project is intended to reduce the danger of wildland fires while increasing public and firefighter safety.

The EA addresses a fuels reduction project for treating up to 3,000 acres of chaparral annually over five to ten years. The treatments will mimic natural fire by creating a diverse, mixed-age stand of interior chaparral. The controlled fires should prove beneficial by creating a mosaic vegetation pattern, reducing fire severity and lessening the overall effects of wildland fire.

The Weaver Mountain project, within the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Planning Area, is one of 12 sites identified in President Bush's Healthy Forests Initiative (HFI). After one of the most catastrophic fire seasons in U.S. history, the **site were** selected on which to test strategies for reducing wildfire danger.

For additional information about the Weaver Mountain Project, the public is invited to contact Glenn Joki, Phoenix/Kingman Zone Fire Management Officer, at (623) 580-5513. A copy of the EA and FONSI may be requested by contacting Sherry Hirst, BLM Phoenix/Kingman Zone NEPA Planner and Environmental Coordinator at (928) 530-1113.

Public comments will be accepted until close of business on July 8, 2003.

More information about the HFI and other national projects is available at:

[www.fs.fed.us/r9/hmnf/pages/healthy\\_forest](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hmnf/pages/healthy_forest)  
[www.fs.fed.us/emc/hfieaguide/projects/index](http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/hfieaguide/projects/index).  
[http://www.fire.blm.gov/ea\\_sites/index.htm](http://www.fire.blm.gov/ea_sites/index.htm)

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