



## KSB eNews Today

*Celebrating Our First 50 Years*

January 5, 2022

### URGENT ALERT!

### PLEASE WRITE TO THE FOREST SERVICE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 14!

We must urge the Forest Service to reject the proposed APS above-ground powerline between McGuireville and the Village of Oak Creek. The Village is currently served by a single APS line. APS wants to build a new, 13.7-mile-long line to create more reliable service to the Village. But this would create catastrophic impacts to views for miles along the Beaverhead Flat Road, the Cornville Road, near Highway 179 near the Village of Oak Creek, and along the entire scenic Kel Fox Trail just south of the Village.

Because most of the route is on the Coconino National Forest, the U.S. Forest Service will make the final decision on whether, and how, a powerline is built.

There would be irreparable impacts to public wildlands all along the new overhead powerline, including:

- 65-foot-tall steel towers and shiny power cables intruding into views from many parts of the Village, and from iconic viewpoints and trails in nearby red rock country
- vistas along highly scenic Beaverhead Flat Road ruined by nearly a hundred industrial-type metal power poles and cables
- a permanent, 20-foot-wide access road all along the new powerline
- permanently denuded swaths along the route
- long-term impacts to wildlife habitat and native and rare plants
- a high likelihood that APS will need to use herbicides to keep the access road clear

*Fortunately, other options are available that you can support in a comment letter!*

### HOW TO WRITE A SHORT LETTER TO THE FOREST SERVICE:

Email to: [Comments-southwestern-coconino@usda.gov](mailto:Comments-southwestern-coconino@usda.gov)

Just write your comments in your email, or you can attach your letter in Word (.doc or .docx), rich text (.rtf), text (.txt), or PDF (.pdf) format.

Or, print your letter and send by U.S. Mail, postmarking it by January 14, 2022, to Coconino National Forest, 1824 S Thompson Street, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

### Here is what you can say:

- You are commenting on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the APS Oak Creek to McGuireville 69kV Power Line Project.
- Vigorously oppose Alternative 1, the overhead powerline option.
- Support Alternative 2, the underground option, but express concern that this alternative will still cause a great deal of ground disturbance and will require years of rehabilitation after construction.
- Express your concern that the Forest Service did not properly study an alternative for a community solar microgrid that would eliminate the need for a new powerline.
- Ask the Forest Service to fully explore options for a community microgrid, which would have very few impacts to scenery and the environment and would be a major contribution toward renewable energy. Many cost assumptions by APS and the Forest Service have been shown to be wrong, and a microgrid might cost less over time than the other alternatives.

You can view the Forest Service documents for this proposal at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56977>.



Beaverhead Flat Road near scenic viewpoint—current view



Beaverhead Flat Road near scenic viewpoint—simulated view with proposed overhead APS powerline



Kel Fox Trail with red rock vista - current view



Kel Fox Trail with red rock vista - simulated view with proposed APS power line

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