



File Code: 2720/2320 (7220082)

Date:

APR 16 2012

The Honorable Jeff Flake  
U.S. House of Representatives  
240 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Flake:

Thank you for your letter of April 4, 2012, to Forest Service Chief Thomas L. Tidwell regarding the Tombstone Aqueduct. The Chief has asked me to respond.

It is my understanding that staff from the Agency's Southwestern Regional Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico visited with Mr. Jason Samuels of your staff in early March to discuss this topic. Information relayed to Mr. Samuels at that time is included in the enclosed letter dated February 27, 2012, from the Coronado Forest Supervisor, summarizing the work that the City of Tombstone has already accomplished on the springs that you described in your letter.

The case is currently in litigation. The congressional liaison for the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Legislative Affairs is Ms. Karen L. Wilson. Her number is (202) 616-0658, should you have additional questions regarding the litigation.

Employees on the Coronado National Forest have done a commendable job handling this situation within short timeframes and in difficult situations with the City, while maintaining consistency with Agency rules and regulations. We understand and respect the concerns expressed in your letter; however, we believe that we are adhering to the standards that you expect from the Forest Service.

Again, thank you for writing. If you have any additional questions, please call Regional Forester Corbin Newman at (505) 842-3301.

Sincerely,

LEANNE M. MARTEN  
Director, Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers

Enclosures (2)