



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Central Federal Lands Highway Division

January 18, 2011

12300 West Dakota Avenue
Suite 380
Lakewood, CO 80228

In Reply Refer To:
HFPM-16

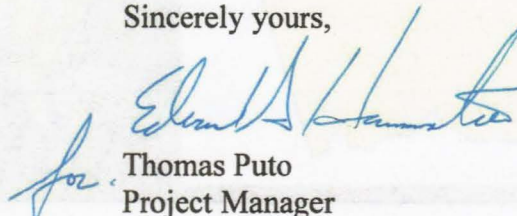
Dear Interested Party:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Central Federal Lands Highway Division, in cooperation with the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), is performing environmental and engineering studies for the proposed replacement of two culvert crossings on State Route 366 (SR 366), Swift Trail, under the Forest Highway Program. SR 366 is located within the Coronado National Forest approximately 10 miles southwest of Safford, Arizona in Graham County. The purpose of the project is to address structural concerns at the Noon Creek crossing at milepost (MP) 121.05 and safety concerns at Wet Canyon crossing at MP 123.7. A figure depicting the location of the project is included on the reverse side of this letter.

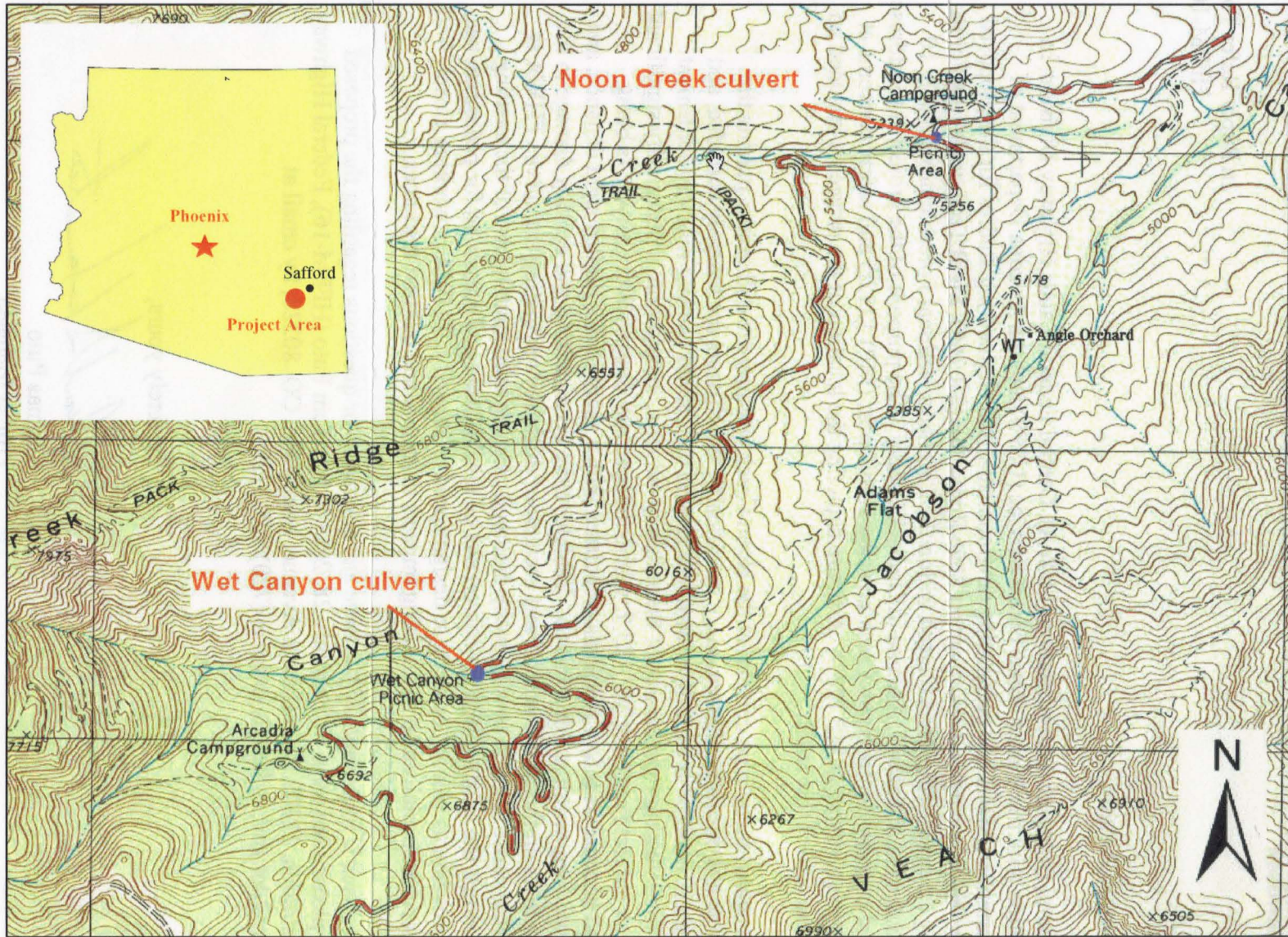
The corrugated metal pipe culverts at the Noon Creek crossing are collapsing, placing the roadway at risk for future failure. More specifically, the culverts are severely corroded, and embankment material is starting to wash out around the culvert causing roadway settlement. FHWA is evaluating replacement of these failing culverts. In addition, a historically significant stone arch culvert located at MP 123.7, where the roadway crosses Wet Canyon, is being evaluated because of safety problems associated with a sharp curve, limited sight distance, and narrow roadway width at this location. Vehicles have been striking and causing damage to the stone parapets on this stone arch culvert because of difficulty navigating the curve. FHWA is considering constructing a new highway drainage crossing immediately east of the existing culvert so that the existing historic culvert can be rehabilitated and preserved for pedestrian use. The improvements would not increase design speed or capacity. FHWA is working closely with Forest Service specialists on minimizing impacts to natural and cultural resources.

Your feedback is important. If you have any comments or questions regarding the proposed project, please send them by February 28, 2011 to Mr. Tom Puto (HFPM-16), Federal Highway Administration, 12300 West Dakota Avenue, Lakewood, CO 80228; by email at tom.puto@dot.gov; or by telephone at (720) 963-3728.

Sincerely yours,


Thomas Puto
Project Manager





(USGS 7.5', Mount Graham, AZ)

Figure 1. Project Location Map