

Noise and Vibration

Anthropogenic noise may be considered a nuisance and was analyzed for impacts across National Forest System Lands and nearby residences and recreational use areas, including transportation corridors.

Project noise and vibration-related effects will likely result from:

- Construction with heavy equipment, helicopters, and surface blasting.
- Truck transport of materials.
- Mining operations, including underground blasting.

The nearest residential receptor to the mine site is approximately 2,400 feet to the east of the mine site. The area is rural, containing residences mostly along NFSR 49 (South Harshaw Road), NFSR 812 (Flux Canyon Road), and NFSR 58 (North Harshaw Road) to the east of the site. A recreational trail, Arizona National Scenic Trail, is to the north of the Project site. There are no schools, libraries, or hospital/health care facilities in the Project vicinity that have the potential to be affected by construction or operations noise and vibration.

Environmental Consequences

Under all alternatives:

- Modeled noise levels would not exceed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance for outdoor areas.
- No architectural or annoyance vibration impacts would be observed at the Arizona National Scenic Trail.
- There would be no vibration impacts at the residential noise-sensitive receptors.
- The highest noise levels and greatest geographic extent of noise would be associated with the construction period.

The following presents a comparison of effects between alternatives:

Alternative 1 – No Action

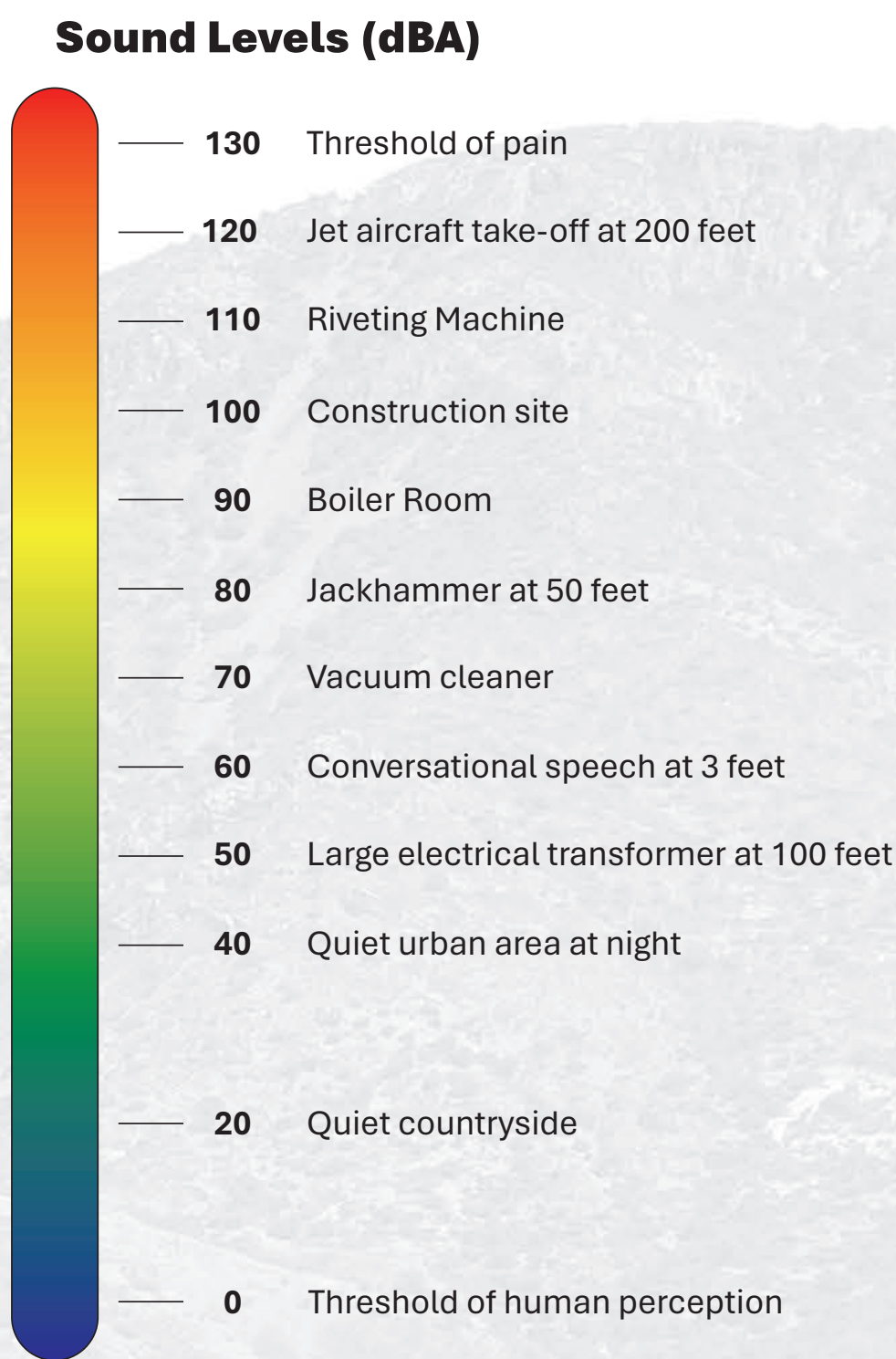
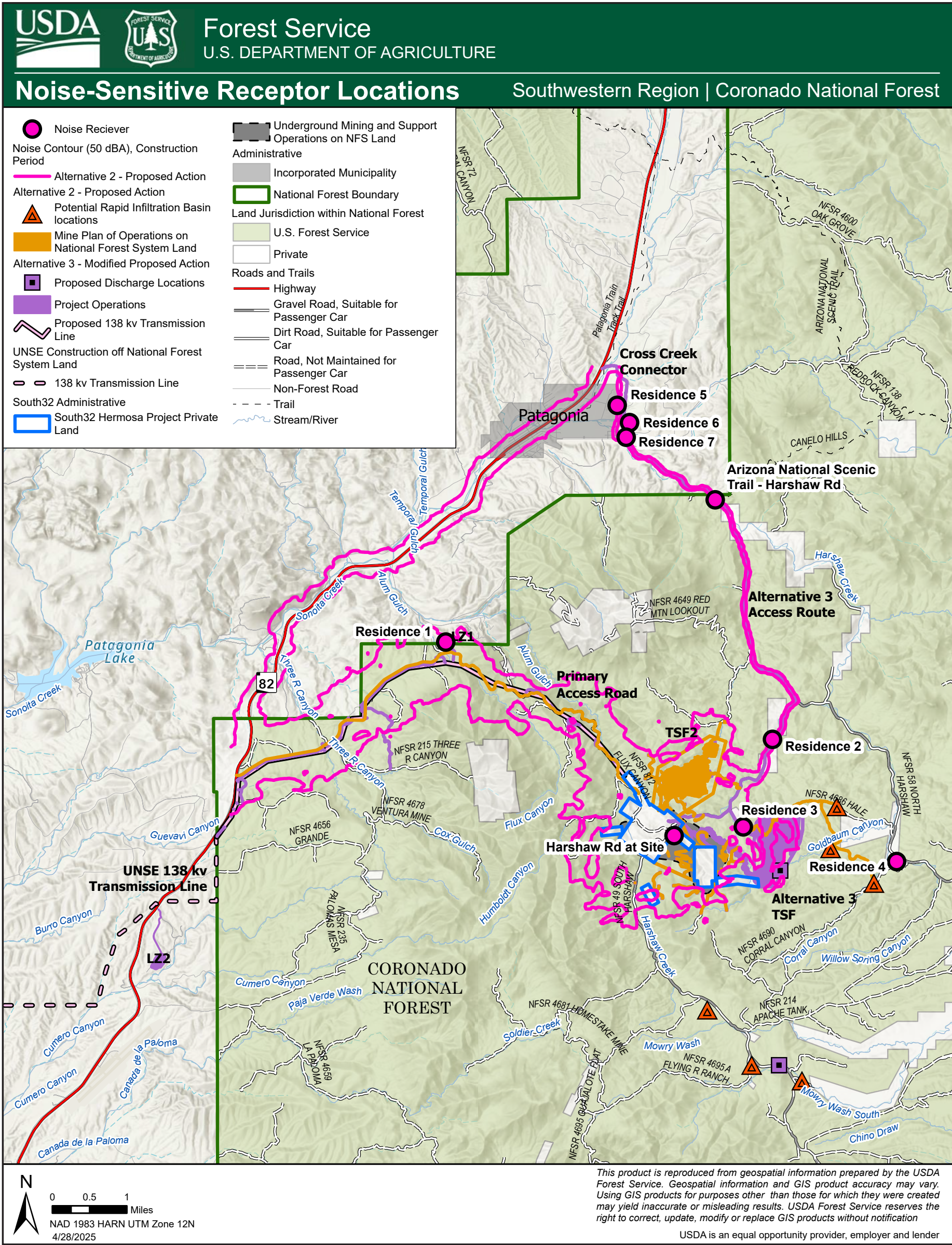
- Modeled operational noise levels exceed EPA guidance for annoyance threshold for two nearby residences.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action

- Modeled operational noise levels exceed EPA guidance for annoyance thresholds for three nearby residences.

Alternative 3 – Modified Proposed Action

- Modeled noise levels exceed EPA guidance for annoyance threshold for one to three nearby residences.
- Alternative 3 would have the lowest operational noise due to the discontinued operation of generators and associated deliveries of fuel.



To submit your comments to the Forest Service, scan the QR Code ▶

