



Forest Service

Santa Fe National Forest
Supervisor's Office
11 Forest Lane
Santa Fe, NM 87508

Carson National Forest
Supervisor's Office
208 Cruz Alta Road
Taos, NM 87571

Cibola National Forest and
National Grasslands
2113 Osuna Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001

File Code: 1920
Route To:

Date: April 7, 2017

Subject: Northern New Mexico Forest Plan Consistency

To: Carson, Cibola, and Santa Fe National Forests Forest Plan Revision ID Teams

The Carson, Cibola, and Santa Fe National Forests share many similar communities and issues in Northern New Mexico. This is recognized in the *Forest Plan Revisions in Northern New Mexico* letter from Cal Joyner on March 18, 2016, that instructs the three northern New Mexico forests to reflect the unique and important historic and cultural setting of Northern New Mexico to the extent possible in their new Forest Plans. As we discussed at the coordination meeting in the Regional Office on March 13, it is increasingly important that we work together to ensure consistency across our three Forest Plans on issues related to the unique culture and history of Northern New Mexico. We are at a critical time period to address these issues as we move towards the release of our draft plans. This letter serves as our leader's intent and expectations as you start this work on April 10th.

- 1) Develop a consistent background statement on how the forests recognize and express our commitment to the social, cultural, and ecological needs of Northern New Mexico communities. Provide recommendation for where best to include this background statement (which section or sections of the plan). The critical elements of the statement are:
 - a. We have heard from communities across Northern New Mexico.
 - b. We understand the unique culture and history of Northern New Mexico.
 - c. We recognize and value our commitment to continue to support communities.
 - d. We value the deep connections to the land and the diversity of the people of Northern New Mexico.
 - e. Forest specific background descriptions may include variations and differences between the forest such as the specific tribes, land grants, communities, etc.
- 2) Develop consistent Forest-wide Plan Components, with recommendations on where there is a need to diverge and how to display and articulate those differences.
 - a. Consistency means the same wording, terminology, structure, and placement in the plan unless there is a compelling reason (ecological, economic, social, cultural, and collaborative engagement) why it should be different. Any differences need to be documented with rationale and approved by the Forest Supervisors.
 - b. We expect the plan components addressing the traditional and cultural uses most important for Northern New Mexico communities (including the background, Acequias, Grazing, and Fuelwood) to be the same, unless collaborative engagement shows a need for specific Forest language.



- c. Utilize the best versions from across the three forests and adjust as needed, and reach agreement on where the statement will be best represented in the plan (as a Desired Condition, Objective, Standard, Guide, management approach, etc.).
Make sure to document why the group came to its conclusions.
- 3) Achieve the other meeting objectives articulated in the “NNM Forest Consistency Strategy” document developed by Cat Luna.
- 4) There are several other resource issues where we need coordination across the three plans and should strive for consistency where appropriate across the three Forest Plans. Many of those will be addressed at the April 10 and April 17 meetings. We recognize that for many of these issues, there will be a need for specific Forest language based on collaborative engagement. Please block out the week of April 24-28 as a retreat to work on the consistency for other resource issues in a workshop format. We envision that there will be break-out groups to work on multiple resource areas simultaneously in order to be most effective with our time. We will coordinate with RO program managers to schedule a time to review the results of this workshop.

a. Resource Issues for Consistency


1) Northern New Mexico Background	2) Acequias	3) Grazing
4) Fuelwood	5) Wildlife Connectivity	6) Continental Divide Trail and other
7) Shared Species of Conservation Concern	8) Sustainable Recreation	9) Oil & Gas, Minerals & Geology
10) Air	11) Water, water rights, riparian	12) Lands & Realty
13) Special Uses	14) Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers	15) Vegetation Management
16) Fire	17) Roads and Infrastructure	

The timeline for this work will be as follows:


Subject	Date
NNM Consistency Meetings	4/10 and 4/17
Briefing to Forest Supervisors on outcomes from NNM Consistency Meetings	4/21
Forest Plan Consistency Retreat	4/24 – 4/28
Briefing with Forest Supervisors (via VTC)	4/28
Review and Dialogue with Northern New Mexico Workgroup	5/5 or 5/15
RF Briefing with Forest Supervisors	5/8
Updated sections completed	5/12

This effort is not a rewrite of the work of each forests’ respective engagements, it is about coming together to capture all the work into common language and ideas.

We recognize the incredible work and collaborative effort that has gone in to getting to this point in all three Forests' plan revisions. As we start this work, we ask that everyone come into this with an open mind, a willingness to compromise, and an eye toward a shared vision that will serve our communities and our three National Forests for many years to come.



JAMES E. MELONAS
Forest Supervisor
Santa Fe National Forest



JAMES D. DURAN
Forest Supervisor
Carson National Forest



ELAINE B. KOHRMAN
Forest Supervisor
Cibola National Forest

cc: Cal Joyner, Steve Hattenbach, Sandra Watts, Bob Davis