



Three-Forest Consistency Guide

Forest Plan Revision

Carson, Cibola and Santa Fe National Forests

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Contacts/Additional Information

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Overview

The Carson National Forest (NF), Cibola NF, and Santa Fe NF launched their respective land management plan revision process at approximately the same time in 2012 and 2013 and have been on similar timelines throughout the process. The three Northern New Mexico forests share similar users, special interest groups, cultural history, traditions, and values. The Carson and Santa Fe NFs share boundaries, and the Cibola NF is an easy drive to the south and east. In April 2017, the Southwestern Regional Forester directed the forests to develop consistent plan guidance that would reflect the social and cultural needs of traditional communities and their use of the national forests. Based on this direction, the forests decided to look for opportunities for consistency in other resource areas, when appropriate.

Plan Components

The Traditional Communities and Uses plan components are consistent across the three forests' plans and provide future direction for land managers. The three forest plans include nearly identical sections on Federally Recognized Tribes and Rural Historic Communities. Other resource sections in the plans that provide specific direction for traditional and cultural communities include Sustainable Rangelands and Grazing and Sustainable Forestry and Forest Products. Consistent elements within the Traditional Communities and Uses sections include the following:

- Common waters (acequia water irrigation systems)
- Common pasture for grazing livestock
- Wood gathering for fuelwood, building material, and ceremonial uses
- Collection of soils (sand, adobe, micaceous clay) and rocks for building material purposes (including production of crafts and ceremonial uses)
- Collection of plants for various purposes (religious, medicinal, consumption)
- Hunting and fishing (ceremonial, consumption)
- Religious and ceremonial (cemeteries, pilgrimages, shrines)
- Recreation (weddings, reunions, dispersed camping)



Other plan direction that shares similarities among the forests includes Vegetation, Restoration, Fire and Fuels, Designated Areas (Designated Wilderness, Inventoried Roadless Areas, Continental Divide National Scenic Trail), Management Areas (recommended wilderness, eligible wild and scenic rivers), habitat connectivity, and an “all-lands” approach to forest-wide management.

Cooperating Agencies

The three forests have worked closely with unique groups of cooperating agencies to provide technical expertise and input on development of the land management plans and environmental impact statements. Cooperating agencies in common among the forests include the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, New Mexico Environment Department, and New Mexico Land Grant Council. The Santa Fe NF collaborated with 12 cooperating agencies, including county and local governments, state agencies and entities, soil and water conservation districts, and acequia associations. The Carson NF collaborated with 16 cooperating agencies, including counties, state agencies and entities, tribes, and soil and water conservation districts. The Cibola NF collaborated with 43 cooperating agencies under memoranda of understanding, including county and local governments, state and federal agencies, tribes and land grants, and soil and water conservation districts.

Objection Process

The multi-year plan revision process is coming to a close for all three Northern New Mexico national forests. The three forests will release their final environmental impact statements and draft decision notices this fall, which will launch the next step, separate but concurrent 60-day objection periods for each plan. In order to be eligible to object, individuals and entities must have submitted substantive formal comments related to plan revision during earlier opportunities for comment, and the objection must be based on concerns raised in those earlier comments.

The consistent components and other similarities between the plans support concurrent release dates and objection periods. In order to mitigate the impact for stakeholders with an interest in more than one plan, each forest will release preview versions of plan documents on their respective websites several weeks prior to the start of the 60-day objection filing period.