



File Code: 1380

Date: July 12, 2012

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The Santa Fe National Forest is proposing to conduct treatments that would make approximately 110,000 acres of the Jemez Ranger District less susceptible to undesirable, large-scale disturbances such as high-severity wildfire, climate change, or insect epidemics. Proposed treatments include prescribed burning, cutting trees, restoration of meadows and riparian areas, road maintenance and decommissioning, cultural resource protection, and improvement of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitats. Treatments would be implemented over the next 8 to 10 years. The purpose of this letter is to initiate the formal scoping period and to invite you to comment on the project.

As many of you know, the Southwest Jemez Mountains Landscape Restoration Project is a long-term collaborative effort to improve the resilience and function of ecosystems in the Southwest Jemez Mountains. Many people have contributed ideas to this proposal, starting with the development of the Landscape Strategy and continuing through the meetings and field trips the Forest held this spring. We look forward to your continued involvement in the planning process. The scoping report describes the purpose and need and proposed action in more detail. The report is located on our Web site at: <http://tinyurl.com/swiproject>.

The scoping period for the Southwest Jemez Mountains Landscape Restoration Project will run from July 14 to August 13, 2012. Your comments on this proposal will be used to define the issues and develop alternatives. For this reason, it is most helpful if you clearly state your issues, concerns, support, or contentions. All written and electronic comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, are placed in the project file become a matter of public record.

Several ways to comment are available:

1. Attend one of the four public meetings in July and August:
 - Tuesday, July 24- Taylor Ranch Community Center, 4900 Kachina St., NW, Albuquerque, NM from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 - Thursday, July 26 - UNM Continuing Education Conference Center (south building), 1634 University Blvd., NE, Albuquerque, NM from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday, July 31- Valles Caldera Science and Education Center, 90 Villa Louis Martin Dr., Jemez Springs, NM from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 - Thursday, August 2- Santa Fe National Forest Office, 11 Forest Lane, Santa Fe, NM from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
2. Use the online comment system (this is our preferred method to receive your comments): The link is: <http://go.usa.gov/wpj>. Click on the "Comment on Project" link/button on the right-hand side of the page to submit comments using the online form (note: form will be online July 14).



3. Send an email to jemezrestoration@fs.fed.us (.doc, .txt, .pdf, or .rtf only) with "Southwest Jemez Mountains Landscape Restoration proposed action" in the subject line.
4. Postal Mail: Southwest Jemez Mountains Restoration Project
11 Forest Lane
Santa Fe, NM 87508
5. Hand Delivery: Comments may be delivered by hand to the Santa Fe National Forest Supervisor's Office (11 Forest Lane, Santa Fe) between 8:00am and 4:30pm.
6. Facsimile: Fax to 505-438-5390

If you send a comment using email or the online comment system, you will receive an automatic reply once we have opened the email or received the comment. If you include an email address with a letter, we will send you an email acknowledging receipt of your letter.

If you have technical questions about the proposal or maps, please call Julie Bain, Southwest Jemez Mountains Landscape Restoration Project Coordinator at (505) 438-5443.

Sincerely,

/s/ Maria T. Garcia
MARIA T. GARCIA
Forest Supervisor