



## News Release

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--

**August 8, 2008**

### Village Access Application Accepted By Forest Service

MONTE VISTA – The Rio Grande National Forest has accepted an application from Leavell-McCombs Joint Venture (LMJV) requesting the construction and use of a road and utility corridors crossing National Forest System land to access their property. Acceptance of the application serves as the basis for an environmental analysis, which will include the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS).

LMJV owns 287.5 acres of land, which they propose to develop as the Village at Wolf Creek. Since the private property is surrounded by national forest, the forest service is required by law to provide the owners access for the reasonable use and enjoyment of their land.

“The question is not whether access will be provided, but rather where and how the access will occur,” said Dan Dallas, forest supervisor for the Rio Grande National Forest.

The new application and initiation of a new environmental analysis process are the result of a legal settlement. Changes with this new environmental analysis include:

1. Other agencies with a jurisdictional stake will be more directly involved.
2. The new EIS will be completed by a forest service team rather than a private contractor.

The Forest will soon begin a public comment period to help identify issues and alternatives. Public meetings will be held during the comment period to provide information about the proposed action. Further information concerning the environmental analysis and public meetings will be forthcoming once a schedule has been established.

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