



File Code: 1950-1/7700

Date: February 8, 2010

Dear Forest User:

The Environmental Assessment for Travel Management on the Jicarilla Ranger District, Carson National Forest is available for public review, in accordance with the Forest Service's Notice, Comment, and Appeal Procedures for National Forest System Projects and Activities (36 CFR 215.6). This document in .pdf format can also be found on the forest's website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/plans/index.shtml#nepa>. The purpose of this comment period is to give the public an opportunity for early and meaningful participation on the Environmental Assessment for Travel Management on the Jicarilla Ranger District, prior to the Responsible Official's decision. As Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official), I will issue my decision after considering public comments and reviewing the record. Alternative 1 is the proposed action and the preferred alternative.

A 30-day Notice and Comment period was previously given in July 2009. It provided notice to the public of the opportunity to comment within 30 days on the proposed action, alternatives, and summary of effects for travel management on the Jicarilla, West-side (El Rito, Canjilon, Tres Piedras), and Questa ranger districts. During the comment period, the public responded with letters concerning all five districts.

A common remark made by the public in July 2009 was the lack of specific information on possible effects of the proposed actions. In response, I have decided to issue another 30-day Notice and Comment at this time, upon completion of the environmental assessment. Members of the public who provided comments during the previous 30-day comment period will be eligible to appeal my decision, as well as, those providing comments during this 30-day comment period.

How to Comment

It is important that you are aware of Forest Service regulations that pertain to public comment. The comment period will end 30 days following the date of publication of the legal notice for the proposed action in *The Taos News*. This publication date is the exclusive means for calculating the time to submit comments on the proposed action. Those wishing to comment on this environmental assessment should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source. Comments must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 215. The submission of comments must include a name and address of the commenter and title of the proposed action. Mailed comments must be submitted to:

Carson Forest Supervisor,
Attn: Travel Management Jicarilla RD
208 Cruz Alta Road
Taos, NM 87571 FAX: (575) 758-6213



Comments may be submitted by email in MS-Word (.docx or .doc), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt) or Adobe (.pdf) to comments-southwestern-carson@fs.fed.us. Email comments should include Travel Management-Jicarilla RD in the subject line. Comments may also be hand delivered to the address above on weekdays, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. Oral comments must be provided at the Supervisor's Office during normal business hours via telephone or in person, or if during non-business hours, must be at an official agency function (such as a public meeting) designed to elicit public comment.

Appeal Opportunities

Only those who provide comment or otherwise express interest in the proposed action during the comment period will be accepted as appellants. Interest expressed or comments provided on this project prior to or after the close of this comment period will not constitute standing for appeal purposes, except for those who provided comment during the previous comment period.

For appeal eligibility, each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Those using electronic means may submit a scanned signature. Otherwise, another means of verifying the identity of the individual or organizational representative may be necessary for electronically submitted comments or comments received by telephone. Individual members of an organization must submit their own comments to meet the requirements of appeal eligibility. Comments received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only.

Additional information regarding the environmental assessment can also be obtained from Jack Carpenter at the Supervisor's Office in Taos, New Mexico (575) 758-6200.

Sincerely,



KENDALL CLARK
Forest Supervisor

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action, and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who only submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied; the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address.