

DECISION MEMO
CARSON FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT #7
October 1990
Carson National Forest

THIS IS NOT A NEW FOREST PLAN. We put the first four chapters through a computer and formatted it to make it more legible. The type style also enabled us to get more text on each page, making the document more compact. Most of the text is the same. A few changes were made for clarification and to ease use. One new section was added as a result of the Ancient Forest Get-Together we had last fall. The changes are explained below.

ANCIENT FOREST GET-TOGETHER... On August 14-17, 1989 we had an "Ancient Forest Get-Together". This field workshop brought together the public, Carson National Forest employees and other agencies. We all looked at and talked about the importance of the older parts of the Carson National Forest landscape -- the ancient forests. We heard about the processes involved in the birth, growth and death of forests.

We walked, talked and listened together, learning what the ancient forests mean to each of us. Some gathered and visited areas on the Carson. They pointed to and talked about what is special to them. We also talked about the importance of the ancient forests in sustaining the health of the rest of the forest.

On the last day a team was established, with members from environmental groups, timber industry and Carson employees. They developed a definition of old growth, and proposed standards and guidelines for the Forest Plan. This get-together and the teams proposals were documented in a newspaper supplement entitled "Out Forest, Where Nature Celebrates Itself" and released in The Taos News. The supplement also received wide distribution through the mail, at meetings and as one-on-one hand-outs. In it we asked for people's comments on the direction it proposed to be added to the Carson Forest Plan.

This amendment follows through and makes the decisions we worked out together a part of the Forest Plan. The text is almost verbatim from the newspaper supplement.

Now let's take a look at...

A. INTRODUCTION... This is the first section in the Forest Plan and was the old chapter 1. We just did away with duplication and moved another introduction that was in chapter 4 to this section.

B. ISSUES... Combined were the two small chapters 2 and 3. Only text change was to add a new

"Sustainable Forest" issue -- based upon the Ancient Forest Get-Together.

C. FOREST-WIDE PRESCRIPTIONS... The improvements include:

- Additional titles to each standard and guideline so people can find them more easily.
- Additional "Vision", "Management Highlight" and "Setting the Stage" discussions tied to groups of standards and guidelines. Together they place the standards and guidelines in context and paint a better picture of where we are headed. The "Vision" statements are new, based on the intent of the Plan. The "Management Highlights" are the goals, which were at the beginning of chapter 4. A few are summations of some of the standards and guidelines. Some of the "Setting the Stage" is new. It is mostly background information to help make the standards and guidelines more understandable.
- Grouping together of all the discussion and standards and guidelines about one topic. For example, those in the forest-wide section relating to aspen and oak were moved to their respective management area sections. We also created some new sections, such as "travel". It holds text about roads and trails previously scattered throughout this section.
- Removal of information that really doesn't provide direction and is not being used. (We did double check to see that it was maintained somewhere so it would not be lost.)
 - "Comparison of Forest Plan outputs and R-3 Guide targets" table. This information is available in the Carson Forest Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Region Three Guide.
 - "Timber productivity classification" table. It is not being used. The information is available in the Timber Technical Report.
 - "Display of long-term sustained yield capacity and allowable sale quantity" table. This information is in other tables in the Plan and EIS.
 - "Recreation site development..." and "Trail construction/maintenance..." tables. This infor-

mation is provided in more appropriate sections of the Plan.

● "Land line location...", "Arterial and collector road construction/reconstruction", and "FA&O structures construction/reconstruction" tables. This information is available in the Forest Plan Implementation Schedule, Facilities Master Plan and Five Year Road Program.

● Removal of the "Land classification" table; information is in Tables H-1 and H-2, added to the Plan in Amendment #4. This puts all the information together and enables comparisons.

● Removal of outdated statements, such as those in the cultural resources section that talked of an assessment to be completed by such and such

date. This has been done and the results are incorporated in the vision statement for that section.

● Edits, corrections and updates of outdated materials.

D. MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS...

Mostly format changes. Did some edits for clarification. Eliminated out-of-date statements and duplication, such as range statements that were already cover in the Forest-wide section. Each management area starts out with a vision statement, which is new. It is followed by "The Desired Future Condition", which is a rewording of existing, key standards and guidelines. Then comes a "Description" and the "Standards and Guidelines", which were already in the Plan.

LET'S MAKE IT EVEN BETTER... The Forest Plan is a living document, responding to new understanding and needs as we all grow together. We hope these changes make this a more understandable and useful tool for those citizens who give of their own time to participate with us and the managers of the Forest. There is still a lot that can be done to make the Carson Forest Plan even better. Help us! You'll note that the vision statements differ. What type do you think is most meaningful? Also, desired future conditions are key so we all have a common understanding where we are heading. What is the best way to treat these?

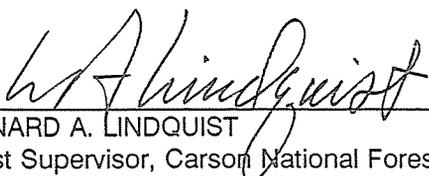
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION... "Categorical exclusion means a category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment... therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required."(40 CFR 1508.4) Also, this amendment is consistent with the Carson Forest Plan and will further clarify that document.

IF YOU JUST DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE ABOUT THESE IMPROVEMENTS... Give us a call. Maybe something is worded wrong and it came across different than was intended. Maybe we didn't think of something and it should be changed. Call the Forest Planners, Carveth Kramer or Dave Sire, and tell them what you think. (505) 758-6210 or 6211.

If you still aren't satisfied, you have the right to appeal the decision. Here is how you can do that...

This decision is subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR 217. A Notice of Appeal must be in writing and clearly state that it is a Notice of Appeal being filed pursuant to 36 CFR 217. Appeals must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 217.9, "Content of Notice of Appeal" and must be filed with Regional Forester, Southwestern Region, 517 Gold Ave SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102-0084, and simultaneously sent to Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest, within 45 days of the date of legal notice of this decision in The Taos News newspaper. This project will not be implemented sooner than seven calendar days following publication of the legal notice of Decision.

For additional information concerning this decision or the Forest Service appeal process, contact Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest, P.O. Box 558, Taos, NM 87571, (505) 758-6200.


LEONARD A. LINDQUIST
Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest

9/14/90
Date