



File Code: 1570
Date: May 18, 2022

Dear Objectors and Interested Persons,

This is my response to objections filed to the Final Environmental Impact Statements, draft Records of Decision, and Revised Land Management Plans for the Carson, Cibola, and Santa Fe National Forests. I conducted my review in accordance with the predication administrative review process described in the Code of Federal Regulations at 36 CFR 219 subpart B. The intent of this process is to allow interested individuals and organizations an opportunity for a review and to resolve issues before plan approval.

The responsible officials issued their draft Records of Decision for their Revised Land Management Plans on September 2, 2021, initiating a 60-day objection filing period. The revised plans conform to the 2012 planning regulations at 36 CFR 219. There were 37 eligible objections filed to all three plans. Additionally, 27 people were given interested person status. A list of objectors and interested persons for each plan is in the attached response documents, one for each forest.

The responses and the resolution meeting notes are available at the websites below. Paper copies are available upon request.

Carson National Forest

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/carson/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd939169>

Cibola National Forest

<https://fs.usda.gov/detailfull/cibola/landmanagement/planning/?cid=FSEPRD947481&width=full>

Santa Fe Nation Forest

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/santafe/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprd3791442>



More than 200 issues were identified from objections received across the revised plans and each was considered for review. Many issues were similar enough to consolidate into topic areas, including:

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Land Management Planning
- New Information
- Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice
- Land Use History and Access for Traditional Communities and Local Governments
- Climate and Carbon
- Range Management
- Watershed and Riparian Resources
- Terrestrial Wildlife
- Vegetation and Timber
- Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
- Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
- Recreation Special Uses
- Travel Management
- Wilderness
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Minerals

I held an objection resolution meeting from March 15-17, 2022, over the Microsoft Teams virtual platform with objectors and interested persons to discuss specific issues and to gain further understanding of objectors' suggested remedies. I also gave interested persons the opportunity to speak regarding each issue brought forward. The meeting focused on eight topic areas including range management, watershed and riparian, terrestrial wildlife, the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum, recommended wilderness, wild and scenic rivers on the Carson National Forest, and land use history and access for traditional communities and local governments.

The discussions at the meeting helped me better understand the issues and remedies suggested by some of the objectors from their differing perspectives. I appreciate the time of all the participants and the engagement we shared. I found the feedback received at the meeting was very helpful in my consideration of the issues and instructions to the forests. Notes from the resolution meeting are attached and can be found on the forests' plan websites (links provided above).

These objection responses are the outcome of an extensive review of concerns raised by objectors involving complex regulatory and management issues. My response reflects my findings from the review of the written submitted objections, current laws, regulations, and policies in place, and the planning record assembled by the responsible officials' planning teams. Although some of the issues raised in objections are not specifically cited in my response, all objectors' concerns have been considered within the broader range of topic areas. My review focused on ensuring the revised plans met current requirements and determined whether changes were warranted to improve upon the analysis and decision based on your objections. My response is the final determination of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and it contains instructions for the responsible officials to implement before signing the final Records of Decision.

Each revised plan's response document is attached, these are my full response to the objection issues raised on the Carson, Cibola, and Santa Fe National Forests Revised Land Management Plans. Each topic area includes a description of the issues, my independent review team's conclusions, and where applicable, instructions.

The objection regarding the identification of species of conservation concern on the Carson National Forest was forwarded to the Chief of the Forest Service for review. The response from his delegated representative, Barnie Gyant, Associate Deputy Chief can be found at the following website:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/carson/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd939169>.

Thank you for your interest and participation during this process and I look forward to engaging with you in the management of your National Forests.

Sincerely,

MICHIKO J. MARTIN
Regional Forester

Enclosures (4)

cc: Peter Rich, James Duran, Steve Hattenbach, Erin Barton, Debbie Cress, Ariel Leonard, Cody Hutchinson