



File Code: 1950

Date: May 12, 2016

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Gila National Forest announces the release of its Proposed Action for the Luna Restoration Project. This proposal represents the start of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process (scoping phase) for this project.

Enclosed is a copy of the proposed action which will be summarized in a Notice of Intent to be published in the Federal Register. The Notice of Intent will be published on or shortly after May 20, 2016, which marks the start of the 45-day comment period. Check the Forest website (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gila/home/?cid=STELPRD3828973>) for exact date of publication.

**Highlights of the proposal are:**

- Implement vegetative treatments to restore departed landscapes that are overstocked, encroached, and at risk to fire, disease, insects, and other climate stressors;
- Implement treatment in watersheds that are not properly functioning;
- Continue to provide a wide range of forest products that are important to the culture, tradition, and livelihood of local communities; and
- Protect and restore threatened and endangered species and habitat.

**How to Get Information**

The proposed action and maps may be downloaded from the forest's website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gila/home/?cid=STELPRD3828973>. Maps will be available for review at the Quemado Ranger District.

If you have any questions about the NEPA process or how to provide comments, please contact the Environmental Coordinator, Lisa Mizuno, at (575) 388-8267 or [comments-southwestern-gila-quemado@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southwestern-gila-quemado@fs.fed.us). If you have specific questions regarding the project, contact Emily Irwin, District Ranger, at 575-773-4578 or [comments-southwestern-gila-quemado@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southwestern-gila-quemado@fs.fed.us).

An Open House is scheduled for June 8, 2016 at the Luna Community Center from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Maps will be available for review and Forest staff will be available to discuss the proposal and listen to your input.



### **Commenting on the Proposed Action**

We invite you to review the proposed action including the maps and provide us with input. Your input is needed to identify issues and develop alternatives to the proposed action.

### **How and Where to comment:**

The Forest encourages electronic mail. If submitting comments electronically, the format of attachments must be in word (.doc), portable document format (.pdf), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt) and hypertext language (html). Send emails to [comments-southwestern-gila-quemado@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southwestern-gila-quemado@fs.fed.us). Please enter "*Luna Comments*" in the subject line of the e-mail.

Written comments on the proposal can be mailed to Quemado Ranger District; **Attn: District Ranger**; P.O. Box 159, Quemado, NM 87829. The fax number is 575-773-4114. Comments may be delivered by hand to the Quemado Ranger District between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), please be advised that all information provided with your comments will become part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. This includes your name and all contact information provided.

### **How You Can Remain Informed**

I encourage your involvement in this project. If you do not wish to receive additional mailings regarding this project, please disregard this letter. Your name will be removed from this project's mailing list if you do not respond.

Those who comment will automatically continue to receive information regarding this project. In the event you have no comments at this time, but would like to stay informed about this project, please let us know by checking the appropriate space on the bottom of the commenting page. Include your name and mailing address, and return to the Quemado Ranger District.

We look forward to hearing from you or seeing you at an open house.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Adam Mendonca*  
ADAM MENDONCA  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures