

## Objection Process for El Yunque National Forest Revised Plan

El Yunque National Forest has completed the final Forest Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Record of Decision.

This revised plan is subject to the pre-decisional review process (referred to as an objection) pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) §219 Subparts A and B. The opportunity to object ends 60 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in *El Nuevo Día* and *San Juan Daily Star* newspapers. The publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection; those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Objections will be accepted only from those who have previously submitted substantive formal comments regarding the proposed plan during scoping or other designated opportunities for public comment. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted substantive formal comments regarding the proposed plan unless based on new information arising after designated comment opportunities (§219.53).

The objection must contain the following minimum content requirements specified in §219.54(c):

- (1) The objector's name and address along with a telephone number or email address if available;
- (2) Signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection);
- (3) Identification of the lead objector, when multiple names are listed on an objection;
- (4) The name of the plan revision being objected to and the name and title of the Responsible Official;
- (5) A statement of the issues and/or parts of the plan revision to which the objection applies;
- (6) A concise statement explaining the objection and suggesting how the draft plan decision may be improved. If applicable, the objector should identify how the objector believes that the plan revision is inconsistent with law, regulation, or policy;
- (7) A statement that demonstrates the link between prior substantive formal comments attributed to the objector and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment.

Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §219.54(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process. Written objections, including attachments, must be filed with:

Reviewing Officer/Acting Regional Forester Ken Arney  
USDA Forest Service  
Southern Region (R8)  
1720 Peachtree Road, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30309

Phone: (404) 347-4095

Fax: (404) 347-1781

The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered objections are: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic objections must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc, .docx) to [objections-southern-regional-office@fs.fed.us](mailto:objections-southern-regional-office@fs.fed.us). Please state “El Yunque Revised Forest Plan” in the subject line when providing electronic objections, or on the envelope when replying by mail.

**For additional information concerning this decision, contact:**

Pedro Rios, Forest Planner

HC 01 Box 13490

Rio Grande, PR 00745

[prios@fs.fed.us](mailto:prios@fs.fed.us)

phone (305) 306-3805