



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southwestern
Region



Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact

Travel Management on the West Side of the Carson National Forest

Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras Ranger Districts



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Printed on recycled paper – December 2010

**Decision Notice
and
Finding of No Significant Impact
for
Travel Management
on the
West Side of the Carson National Forest**

Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras Ranger Districts

Taos and Rio Arriba Counties



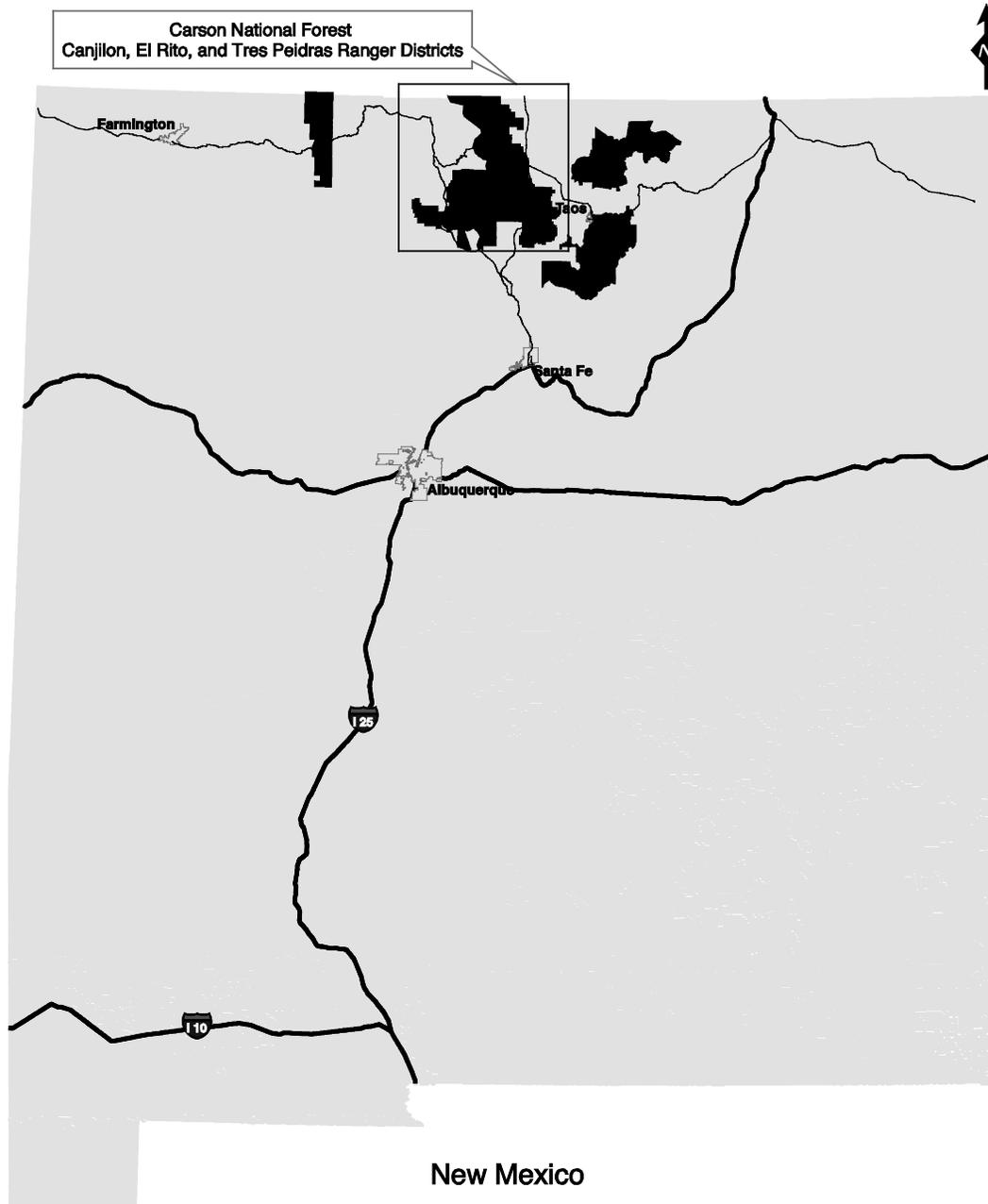


Figure 1. Location of Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras Ranger Districts, Carson National Forest

Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact

Travel Management on the West Side

U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Southwestern Region
Carson National Forest, Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras Ranger Districts
Taos and Rio Arriba Counties, New Mexico

Background

On November 9, 2005, the Forest Service published the final regulations governing off-highway vehicles (OHVs) and other motor vehicle use on national forests and grasslands (Travel Management; Designated, Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use, Federal Register/Vol. 70, No. 216/36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 212, 251, 261, and 295) [035].¹ This Travel Management Rule (TMR) requires each national forest and grassland to designate those roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicle use. Designation will include class of vehicle and, if appropriate, time of year for motor vehicle use. Designated routes and areas will be identified on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM). After routes have been designated and these designations have been identified on a MVUM, motor vehicle use will be prohibited off the designated system. The rule does not regulate: aircraft, watercraft, limited administrative use by the Forest Service, use of any fire, military, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle for emergency purposes, authorized use of any combat or combat support vehicle for national defense purposes and law enforcement response or emergency needs (36 CFR 212.51 (a)). These uses are managed through other means. Vehicles designed for “over the snow” use, such as snowmobiles, are also not being considered as part of this project as directed in the TMR section 212.81. *The Forest Service may authorize motor vehicle use through contract or permit specifications and to accommodate valid existing rights, such as traditional tribal cultural uses and access to private lands.*

The transportation system and motorized recreation use and management have distinctly different characteristics on the Carson National Forest (NF). The west side ranger districts (Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras) of the Carson National Forest (764,747 acres) are geographically linked together across the lower end of the San Juan Mountain chain in north-central New Mexico (figure 1). Since these districts tend to be farther from population centers, more isolated, and have fewer developed recreational facilities, they receive a low to moderate amount of motor vehicle use. Motor vehicle use² on the west side is often associated with firewood gathering, hunting, fishing, dispersed camping, and wildlife viewing.

With its inception in 1986, the Carson Land and Resource Management Plan (hereby forest plan) identified travel routes and areas open to motor vehicle use. In 1990, forest plan amendment #6 further identified where motor vehicle and non-motor vehicle use is permissible across the Carson NF. The west side includes 1,738 miles of National Forest System (NFS) roads and no designated motorized trails (for use by motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle (ATV), or other off-highway motor vehicle). However, residents of Canjilon on the Canjilon Ranger District have expressed interest in designating a motorized trail near the community.

¹ Source documents from the project record are incorporated by reference in this decision by showing the document number in brackets [#]. An index to the project record is included with this decision as appendix A.

² Including use of other power-driven mobility devices.

The west side currently has 510,599 acres open to cross-country travel by motor vehicles for any use. The west side has approximately 181 miles of designated road where travel is permitted 300 feet each side of the road for camping, parking, and firewood gathering (“Forest Plan Travel Guide and Map Regulations” 1986). Several west side roads have seasonal restrictions for wildlife security purposes. They include Forest Roads (FR) 137, 124, 125, and 97 that are closed from January 1 to April 15 to protect wintering habitat and FRs 795 and 1893 that are closed from May 1 to July 25 to protect elk calving and deer fawning habitat.

West side roads are mostly used by the public between May 1 and December 31 to gather firewood, dig up seedlings and saplings, collect plants, cut a Christmas tree, or for other forest product uses. Roads are also used by hunters during turkey (March and October) and deer and elk (September-December) hunting seasons. From Memorial Day to Labor Day roads are used to access certain areas for camping, picnicking, family reunions, and recreational fishing.

Previous Decisions

The TMR states, “the responsible official may incorporate previous administrative decisions regarding travel management made under other authorities, including designations and prohibitions of motor vehicle use, in designating NFS roads, NFS trails, and areas on NFS lands for motor vehicle use” (36 CFR §212.50b). The previous decisions that will be incorporated into MVUM designations with no change are:

- The remaining transportation system open to public motor vehicle use on the Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras Ranger Districts designated in the 1986 Carson forest plan’s “Travel Guide and Map” and not a part of this decision. [013]
- Forest plan standards and guidelines for Management Area (MA) 20 - Semi-primitive. Areas identified in the Carson forest plan as MA 20 were former inventoried roadless areas (RARE II) and will continue to be managed according to forest plan direction. [011, 012, 013]
- The single purpose roads necessary for accessing private lands not designated open to the public for motor vehicle use.

Decision

I have given careful consideration to the resources affected by the alternatives and have read and considered the effects discussed in the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Travel Management on the West Side of the Carson National Forest and specialist reports.³ I have listened to and understood the public discourse that has resulted from the proposed action, including responses received during two separate 30-day comment periods. I also considered the existing Carson forest plan, guidance provided by law, regulation, and policy; and consultations with district and forest specialists, the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service [150], and the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer [250]. I have reviewed the project record (index attached to this decision) that shows a thorough review of relevant scientific information, a consideration of responsible opposing views, and the acknowledgment of incomplete or unavailable information, scientific uncertainty, and risk. I have considered the best available science in making this decision.

³ The final Travel Management EA for the West Side of the Carson National Forest and the most pertinent specialist reports and evaluations can be accessed on the Carson National Forest’s website (go to “Projects and Plans” on left side-bar): <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/>

Based upon my review of the alternatives, their effects, comments received in response to them, and the criteria specified for consideration in the TMR, I have decided to implement alternative 1. My decision will (also see figures 2-7):

- Close approximately 363 miles of roads⁴ and associated corridors on the west side to public motor vehicle use.
- Add approximately 20 miles of road to the designated transportation system, by converting level 1 to level 2 roads or adding unauthorized segments. The roads would be managed as maintenance level 2 and open to all motor vehicles.
- Add a 300-foot corridor (300 feet from each side of the road's running surface) along 332 miles of certain designated roads on the west side to be used for the purposes of dispersed camping or retrieval of a downed big game animal (elk or deer) by an individual who has legally taken that animal.
- Add a 150-foot corridor (150 feet from each side of the road's running surface) along 457 miles of designated road on the west side to be used for the purposes of dispersed camping or retrieval of a downed big game animal (elk or deer) by an individual who has legally taken that animal.
- Remove approximately 15 miles of 300-foot corridor, currently designated on the west side. On the remaining miles of road currently with corridors, the purpose for using a motor vehicle up to 300 feet from a designated road would change from "camping, parking, and firewood gathering"⁵ to "dispersed camping and big game (elk and deer) retrieval."
- Convert approximately 3 miles of FR 746, near the Village of Canjilon, to a motorized trail.
- Seasonally restrict motor vehicle use to May 1 through December 31 on all roads in the vicinity of Mesa de las Viejas and Mesa Juan Domingo on the Canjilon RD; adjacent to FR 137 on the El Rito RD; and Comanche Canyon and east and south of FR 97 on the El Rito and Tres Piedras RDs, for soil and watershed protection and wildlife habitat security. The district ranger may modify these restrictions to allow vehicles on roads up to two weeks prior to May 1, if dry conditions exist, or extend a seasonal closure into May, if conditions continue to be too wet.
- Seasonally restrict motor vehicle use to July 26 to April 30 on 8 miles of FR 80 on the Tres Piedras RD for elk calving habitat security.
- In the future, if a Mexican spotted owl protected activity center (PAC) is designated and habitat is located within a corridor, the corridor will either be removed from within the PAC, or motor vehicle use will be limited during breeding season.
- In the future, if a northern goshawk post-fledging family area (PFA) is designated and habitat is located within a corridor, the corridor will either be removed from within the PFA, or motor vehicle use will be limited during breeding season.
- If monitoring within designated corridors indicates motor vehicle use is causing unacceptable resource damage, the portion of the affected corridor will either be removed

⁴ Limited administrative use by the Forest Service would occur on some of these closed roads.

⁵ The west side currently has approximately 181 miles of designated road where travel is permitted 300 feet each side of the road for camping, parking, and firewood gathering ("Forest Plan Travel Guide and Map Regulations" 1986).

from the designated system or closed to motor vehicle use by physical methods (e.g., gating, berming, fencing, obliterating, and installing large rocks) to prevent motor vehicles from further damaging the area.

- Designation of new roads with or without a corridor or removal of existing designated roads would require site-specific environmental analysis prior to the publication of a MVUM reflecting the changes to the system.

This decision also amends the Carson forest plan to include the following management direction for the Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras Ranger Districts:

- Motor vehicle use off the designated system of roads, trails, and areas is prohibited, except as identified on the motor vehicle use map (MVUM) or unless specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under federal law or regulations by an authorized officer (e.g., range allotment permittees will receive authorization under annual operating instructions).
- Motor vehicle use identified on the MVUM within a specific distance of designated roads is for the purposes of dispersed camping or retrieval of a downed big game animal (elk or deer) by an individual who has legally taken the animal.

Carson Forest Plan Amendment

The Carson forest plan is amended with this decision, in order to implement the TMR on the west side of the Carson National Forest. The MVUM will replace the forest plan's "Travel Guide and Map." To provide for consistency between the plan and the TMR, my decision will change the purposes for motor vehicle use on designated 300-foot corridors from "camping, parking, and firewood gathering" to "dispersed camping and big game (elk and deer) retrieval" and change standards and guidelines noted below. This amendment is specific to the Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras Ranger Districts.

C. Forest-wide Prescriptions (Forest Plan 1986)

Recreation (C. Recreation-4)

Current Direction in the Forest Plan: TRAVEL GUIDE... Provide a Forest Travel Guide and Map for the public.

Amended Direction in the Forest Plan: MOTOR VEHICLE USE MAP (MVUM) – Provide a Forest MVUM for the public.

Travel Management (C. Travel-3)

Current Direction in the Forest Plan: MAP OF OPPORTUNITIES... Road and trail travel opportunities and restrictions (type and location) are displayed on the Forest Visitor Map.

Amended Direction in the Forest Plan: MOTOR VEHICLE USE MAP (MVUM) – Motor vehicle use off the designated system of roads, trails, and areas is prohibited, except as identified on the motor vehicle use map (MVUM) or unless specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal law or regulations by an authorized officer. Roads and trails open to motor vehicle use are designated by vehicle class and, if appropriate, by time of year pursuant to 36

CFR 212.51. Designated roads, trails, and areas shall be identified on a Motor Vehicle Use Map that is available to the public pursuant to 36 CFR 212.56.

Travel Guide and Map (Forest Plan 1986) to be replaced by Motor Vehicle Use Map

Current Direction Travel Guide and Map: Camping, Parking, and Firewood Gathering – Travel is permitted 300 feet each side of designated roads. Please avoid continuous travel over the same route to protect vegetation.

Amended Direction on the MVUM: Dispersed Camping and Game Retrieval – Motor vehicle use off of designated roads for the purpose of dispersed camping and/or game retrieval is permitted for up to 300 feet from the centerline of the road from 01/01 to 12/31, unless seasonal restrictions apply.

When a big game animal has been legally taken, the individual who legally took the animal may drive or be driven to the downed animal. Under no circumstances may a second vehicle be used to retrieve the animal. The vehicle driven to the animal should be of sufficient capacity that only one trip is necessary. The number of individuals who participate in the retrieval is limited only by the vehicle's capacity, and the willingness of others to walk to and from the downed animal.

The vehicle used to retrieve the game may be operated off the route up to the distance specified on the MVUM. If the downed game is further than the allowed distance, the vehicle may be driven only the specified distance from the designated route.

Current Direction Travel Guide and Map: All undesignated Carson National Forest areas on this map are open to off road vehicle use except as provided by 36 CFR 261.50. These restrictions do not apply to private lands within the Forest Boundary.

Amended Direction on the MVUM: This map shows the NFS roads, NFS trails, and the areas on NFS lands in the Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras Ranger Districts that are designated for motor vehicle use pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 212.51. This map also contains a list of those designated roads, trails, and areas; the types of vehicles that are allowed on each route and in each area; and any seasonal restrictions that apply on those routes and in those areas.

Rationale for a Non-Significant Forest Plan Amendment

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA, (16 U.S.C. 1604 (f) (4))) requires forest land and resource management plans

...be amended in a manner whatsoever after final adoption and after public notice and if such plan amendment would result in a significant change in such plan, in accordance with subsections (e) and (f) of section 6 and public involvement comparable to that required by subsection (d) of this section.

The regulations guide development, revision, and amendment of land management plans. The 2000 planning regulations (36 CFR 219.14 (b)(2)) allow use of the planning regulation provisions in effect before November 9, 2000, which were promulgated in 1982. I have elected to amend the Carson forest plan using the 1982 planning regulations. On amending a forest plan, the 1982 planning regulations state,

If the change resulting from the amendment is determined not to be significant for the purposes of the planning process, the Forest Supervisor may implement the amendment following appropriate public notification and satisfactory completion of NEPA procedures (36 CFR 219.10(f)(1982)).

Under either of the alternatives analyzed, a plan amendment for Travel Management on the West Side of the Carson National Forest would not be significant. The change is aimed at using language and terminology that is consistent with the 2005 Travel Management Rule. The amendment would not be significant because it: (1) would not make any changes to standards and guidelines for the rest of the Carson National Forest; (2) would not alter the multiple-use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management on the Carson National Forest; (3) would not increase any one type of output that would trigger an increase or decrease in another; (4) does not include a demand for goods and services not discussed in the forest plan, and; (5) would not forego opportunity to achieve a forest output in later years. In addition, this amendment is late in the life of the current forest plan, which is scheduled to be revised within the next few years. This amendment only applies to the Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras Ranger Districts.

Design Features Associated with this Decision

- All motorized vehicle use will be restricted to routes designated and displayed on the motor vehicle use map (MVUM). Motor vehicle operators are responsible for acquiring the MVUM prior to motorized travel on the Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras Ranger Districts. Types of use designation are addressed by four categories: state licensed highway legal vehicles, full-sized vehicles-recommended for 4-wheel drive vehicles with high-clearance (over 50" wide), ATVs (50" wide or less), and motorcycles. Motor vehicle use of roads and trails not designated on the MVUM will be prohibited after the map is released, unless provided for under special authorization or where individuals have valid existing rights. This decision does not make any changes to the use authorization of trails by foot, bicycle, and horse travel. This decision does not designate or prohibit non-motorized uses. All publically designated roads may be subject to closures, if a responsible official feels that temporary closures are necessary. For example, temporary closures may be initiated to manage fire risk, wet conditions, or for public safety.
- Access for permitted activities (i.e., repairing pasture fences, firewood gathering, forest product gathering, mineral exploration and development, maintaining water developments, and recreation events) on NFS lands is independent of general public access. Individuals or groups with written authorization will be allowed to conduct their business according to their authorization; however, the Forest Service reserves the right to control when and how access is achieved, such as through the approval in the permits or through annual operating plans. It is the responsibility of all permittees to follow the terms of their permits.
- The Forest Supervisor can implement special orders to restrict public use of roads and trails where substantial resource damage is occurring or where implementation of other management activities is deemed necessary. This may include seasonal restrictions on an annual basis (e.g., for calving areas or active raptor nests) as well as temporary restrictions for short-term conditions (e.g., mudslides and wet conditions, timber sale activities, etc.), as authorized in the Code of Federal Regulations 36 CFR Part 261.

- Emergency fire suppression activities will continue to be exempt from seasonal restrictions and restrictions on use, except in wilderness and other congressionally designated special areas that restrict off-road motorized use. Any federal, state, tribal, or local officer, in the performance of an official duty, could receive permission to use motorized vehicles on unauthorized routes not designated as part of the transportation system.
- Forest Service personnel will be allowed limited administrative motor vehicle use of any route for the protection or management of resources upon written authorization of the respective district ranger
- On-the-ground signing will be used to clearly identify the road or trail system number that corresponds with the MVUM.
- User education and information will be emphasized as management tools to inform the motorized recreationists of appropriate uses, ethics, and interactions with other users. Information will be distributed through active user groups and clubs to achieve compliance.
- Best management practices (BMPs) will be used in addition to standards and guidelines from the Carson forest plan. Examples of BMPs are included in appendix B.

Decision Rationale

I chose alternative 1 because it will provide a safe and efficient transportation system, for public use, agency administration, and resource protection, while recognizing historic use of the national forest and addressing the need for the west side ranger districts' designated transportation system to be consistent with the primary purpose and intent of the Travel Management Rule.

A number of existing routes on the west side are causing resource damage or are duplicative in the areas they access. By closing 363 miles of road, resource damage from motor vehicle use will cease and these areas will be able to recover.

My decision also eliminates cross-country travel by motor vehicles for any use on 510,599 acres of the west side. In order to mitigate the impacts this may have on those who have traditionally camped or retrieved big game using a motor vehicle in these areas, this decision also establishes corridors along designated roads where cross-country travel was once allowed. The impacts of allowing limited motor vehicle use along designated roads is small compared to the impacts that will be eliminated from cross-country motorized travel.

By removing existing corridors along some routes, my decision will minimize disturbance in northern goshawk post-fledgling areas (PFAs), while retaining motor vehicle access on NFS lands. Dispersed camping within corridors could have an effect on the goshawk, since noise and human disturbance from camping activities is occurring further from the road and for longer duration. By incorporating the modification to the proposed action that removes several miles of existing corridor within PFAs, this decision speaks to some of the public's concerns (EA, pp. 8-9, 19, 76-77). In the future, if any PFAs are found near an open road with a corridor, the corridor will be closed to motor vehicle use for dispersed camping and big game retrieval.

Winter closures on the west side will extend in the spring to minimize impacts to soils and roads and maintain consistency between west side ranger districts. The district ranger may modify these

restrictions to allow vehicles on roads up to two weeks prior to May 1, if dry conditions exist, or extend a seasonal closure into May, if conditions continue to be too wet.

The west side of the Carson National Forest is a popular hunting location for elk, deer, and turkey. Hunting is an important part of the lifestyle for both local residents and those outside the area. Designated roads open to public motor vehicle use allow for recreational accessibility for hunters and other users of the west side. Motor vehicle use within 300-foot corridors is limited to relatively flat areas for camping and when deer and elk hunting seasons occur on the district (September to December). Recreationists (some of whom are hunters) pull off a designated road and camp from their vehicles. A hunter may subsequently retrieve an animal using a motor vehicle. I selected alternative 1, because alternative 2 would prohibit dispersed camping, as well as, the retrieval of a big game animal, within 300 feet of designated roads. This would substantially change the recreational experience for those who come to hunt on the west side of the Carson National Forest.

My decision will prevent and discourage inadvertent trespass by the public on routes that go through private lands, where no easement exists from the national forest onto private lands. This does not prohibit private landowners from being able to legally access their property. On the Canjilon Ranger District, my decision will provide a motorized trail to meet public demand.

Several public comments suggested adding routes or areas open to public motor vehicle use to provide challenging terrain and experiences for motorized recreation. I reviewed this suggestion and determined the scope of this decision will focus on changing the designated transportation system to balance natural and cultural resource concerns with motorized opportunities, while minimizing new routes to the system. The designated transportation system resulting from this decision will provide 1,395 miles of road open for public use and to all types of vehicles. Additionally, the designated routes will provide users with a variety of terrain for motorized recreation activities, as well as access to parts of the forest identified during public involvement as important for recreation activities. This alternative also provides more fixed-width corridors for motorized dispersed camping and big game retrieval. With the exception of Canjilon residents, comments received during the analysis indicated most motorized recreationalists wanted roads open to all vehicles and not a trail system for specific classes of vehicles. If there is a need to develop a recreational trail system on the west side, it will be considered in a separate environmental analysis.

Lastly, this decision complies with the Travel Management Rule. The changes this decision makes to the existing transportation system results in designating NFS roads for motor vehicle use, while considering effects on natural and cultural resources, public safety, recreational opportunities, access needs, and conflicts among uses of NFS lands. In addition, forest plan language will be consistent with the TMR. The forest plan is amended to state that areas must be designated open to motor vehicle use and general cross-country motor vehicle use is prohibited, except for motor vehicle uses approved through written authorization issued under Federal law or regulation by the authorized officer.

Public concern was raised as to whether this decision will affect a county's rights under Revised Statute (R.S.) 2477. The decision of the FS to designate, or not to designate, a road or trail for motor vehicle use does not affect the ability to validate any claims under R.S. 2477, or any other claims for public highway rights-of-way on NFS lands. The decision in no way precludes or forecloses the ability of claimants to assert and carry their burden of proof in an appropriate

forum for any such claims that they may assert. To address the public's comments, a discussion of R.S. 2477 was added to the environmental assessment (EA, pp. 42-43).

Alternative 2 was developed to address the impacts of corridors on soils, vegetation, cultural resources, as well as wildlife (EA, pp. 19-20). It would have closed more road segments to motor vehicle use than alternative 1, and would have eliminated all 300-foot corridors on the west side. Alternative 2 also added user-created roads to the transportation system, to reduce impacts on recreationists (primarily hunters) who traditionally camp from their vehicles within the 300-foot corridors.

Alternatives Considered

In addition to the selected alternative, I considered 18 alternatives. Sixteen alternatives were considered and eliminated from detailed analysis. Reasons for their elimination are described in Chapter 2 - Alternatives of the EA (pp. 11-17). Two alternatives were considered in detail. Forest Service NEPA regulations allow an EA to document consideration of a no-action alternative through the effects analysis by contrasting the impacts of the proposed action and any alternatives with the current condition and expected future condition, if the proposed action or alternatives were not implemented (36 CFR 220.7(b)(2)(ii)). The EA associated with this decision did not include a separate analysis of the no-action alternative. Instead, impacts of the proposed changes to the transportation system in each alternative were contrasted with the current transportation system and the expected future condition, if the alternative is not implemented (EA, pp. 17).

Public Involvement

Public involvement for travel management on the west side began in July 2006 with open houses held in Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras, New Mexico. The Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras meetings were attended by 30, 25, and 27 individuals and agencies, respectively. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish commented on September 27, 2006. [052]

On January 31, 2007, letters were sent to the Carson National Forest's 282 grazing permittees and to all forest outfitter and guide permit holders advising them that public input was being sought prior to beginning an environmental analysis on travel management. [063, 064] Since 2007, all three ranger districts have included discussions on the travel management process as part of their annual meetings with grazing permittees. Most recently (January 2009), the travel management process was presented at the annual Northern New Mexico Stockmen's Association meeting. [142]

In February 2007, letters were sent to approximately 38 interested parties and to 263 people who received firewood permits during the 2006 season. [067] All letters sent to the public were posted on the Carson National Forest's Web site.⁶ More open houses were held in Canjilon (18 participants), El Rito (35 participants), and Tres Piedras (25 participants) in 2007. [074, 081] A forest-wide open house (with all ranger districts present) was held in Taos, New Mexico, on March 29, 2007. [082] Approximately 150 people attended. All of these efforts generated approximately 15 written comments specific to the Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras Ranger Districts.

⁶ http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/recreation/travel_mgmt

Public comment was used in developing the travel analysis process (TAP) report (see glossary), which has been posted on the forest's Web site since September 2008.⁷ [130] The TAP is not a decision document, but an informational document used to inform the proposed action and to assist decision makers.

Scoping

The proposed action was developed by considering recommendations in the TAP, the comments received from forest users over the past few years, during open houses, and through direct contacts with government officials, agencies, and tribal officials. The proposed action has been listed in the quarterly Carson National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions since July 2008, which is posted on the forest's Web site.

Forest-wide scoping for travel management commenced on January 30, 2009, with a letter sent to 670 scoping letters and 179 emails to individuals, interest groups, grazing permittees, and Federal, State, and local government agencies. [147] The letter included a description of the proposed action for each of the ranger districts on the Carson National Forest. Forest-wide, approximately 770 written comments were received. [163, 174] Many of these comments were the same form letter. Of the 770 letters, 10 letters were specific to the west side. District rangers also received some verbal comments and questions from the public. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Bureau of Land Management, Santa Fe National Forest, and approximately five interested parties scheduled meetings with representatives from the Carson Supervisor's Office to review maps and proposals as a part of scoping. Verbal and written comments from scoping in addition to written comments received from earlier meetings were used to refine the proposed action and to develop alternatives to the proposed action.

30-Day Notice and Comment Period

In accordance with the Forest Service's Notice, Comment, and Appeal Procedures for National Forest System Projects and Activities, a legal notice was published in *The Taos News* on July 16, 2009 (36 CFR 215.6). [193] It provided notice to the public of the opportunity to comment on the proposed action, alternatives, and effects summary for travel management on the west side, within 30 days.⁸ The Carson National Forest mailed over 700 proposed action documents and 580 emails for 30-day comment. [192] During the comment period, the public responded with 29 single written letters regarding travel management on the west side and 3,929 emailed form letters concerning all five districts. [216] Some of the comments received during the notice and comment period are addressed in this document. Agency responses to all comments can be found in the project record. [224]

A common remark made by the public during the 30-day comment period (7/17-8/17/09) in 2009 was the lack of specific information on possible effects of the proposed actions. In response, the Carson Forest Supervisor decided to issue another 30-day notice and comment period after completion of the environmental assessment. A legal notice was published in *The Taos News* on June 17, 2010 announcing the availability of the Environmental Assessment for Travel Management on the West Side (Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras Ranger Districts) and the opportunity to comment. [258] Over 950 form letters were received through the Center for

⁷ http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/recreation/travel_mgmt/documents.shtml

⁸ In addition to the west side, the 30-day comment document included proposed actions for the Jicarilla and Questa Ranger Districts.

Biological Diversity's website. Fourteen individuals, groups, and agencies responded. [266, 267, 270] An analysis of the comments was made and can be found in the project record. [290, 295]

Tribal Consultation

The tribal consultation process for the Forest Service is guided through a variety of laws, Executive Orders and Memorandums, as well as case law. Laws include the National Historic Preservation Act and subsequent amendments, Archaeological Resources Protection Act, American Indian Religious Freedom Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the National Forest Management Act. Memorandums include 1994 Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments. Executive Orders include Accommodations of Sacred Sites (E.O. 13007) and Environmental Justice (E.O. 12898).

Sixteen American Indian tribes have ancestral ties to lands within the Carson National Forest. Based on current and past consultation, the following American Indian tribes are known to have cultural ties and/or traditional use areas on the Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras Ranger Districts:

The Hopi Tribe	Pueblo of Santa Clara
Jicarilla Apache Nation	Southern Ute Tribe
Pueblo of Jemez	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
The Navajo Nation (Dine')	Pueblo of Tesuque
Pueblo of Okhay Owingeh	Pueblo of Zuni
Pueblo of Kewa formerly San Ildefonso	Comanche Tribe of Oklahoma
Pueblo of Taos	Pueblo of Pojoaque
Pueblo of Picuris	Pueblo of Nambe

The Carson National Forest sent letters specific to travel management for the entire forest to all of the tribes listed above on June 6, 2006. [042] These letters were followed up with telephone calls beginning on June 28, 2006, and continuing to January 22, 2007. [062] Responses from the telephone follow-ups include responses from Pojoaque Pueblo (favorable), Hopi Pueblo (defer to Taos and Picuris Pueblos), Comanche Tribe (no concerns or sacred sites that might be impacted) and requests for additional information were made by Tesuque Pueblo, Navajo Nation, Jicarilla Apache, Okay Owingeh and Santa Clara Pueblo, which were sent as requested. Face-to-face consultation was conducted with Picuris Pueblo (June 27, 2006), Taos Pueblo (July 7, 2006), Okay Owingeh (January 19, 2007), and the Jicarilla Apache Nation. [046, 061] No significant issues have yet been identified through the consultation process.

Additionally, appropriate members of each tribe, including governors, chairpersons, culture program managers and Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) specialists, are sent the quarterly Carson National Forest's schedule of proposed actions. The schedule has included the travel management project for the Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras Ranger

Districts since July 2008. [122, 133, 138, 173, 189, 226, 237, 248, 262] The tribes were also contacted annually with a proposed project list. In addition, tribal representatives received a description of the proposed action during scoping (January 2009) and also during the 30-day notice and comment period (July 2009). [147, 192] Two tribes responded with letters, but no comments were specific to the proposed changes to the transportation system on the west side. Past and current tribal consultation for travel management has identified two traditional cultural properties on the Canjilon Ranger District and several traditional use areas on the El Rito Ranger District.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on the interdisciplinary environmental analysis, review of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) criteria for significant effects, and my knowledge of the expected impacts, I have determined this decision will not have a significant effect on the human environment; therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. In making this determination I have considered the context and intensity of impacts (40 CFR 1508.27). This finding is based on the following factors:

(a) Context

The physical and biological effects of this travel management decision are site-specific actions limited to the west side ranger districts of the Carson National Forest. The significance of the actions is evaluated within the context of the Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras Ranger Districts, Carson National Forest, and Taos and Rio Arriba Counties. Those who will experience the effects from my decision are limited to members of the public who drive their motor vehicles on NFS roads to recreate and hunt, camp, view wild horses, gather fuelwood, and enjoy the national forest.

(b) Intensity

The severity of the environmental effects of the proposed projects, were considered in evaluating intensity (40 CFR 1508.27).

1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse

Both beneficial and adverse effects and their significance were discussed for the alternatives considered in detail. None of the adverse effects were determined to be significant, singularly or in combination. The anticipated environmental effects and their intensity have been disclosed for each alternative in chapter 3 of the EA (pp. 33-123). Beneficial impacts were not used to minimize the severity of any adverse impacts. The beneficial effects of the action do not bias my finding of no significant environmental effects. The proposed uses of NFS lands will not result in any known significant irreversible resource commitments or a significant irreversible loss of soil productivity, water quality, wildlife habitats, heritage resources or recreational opportunities. In reaching my conclusion of no significant impacts, I recognize this project is likely to have impacts, which are perceived as negative, as well as

positive. No significant effects on local regional or national resources were identified in the EA. None of the direct, indirect, or cumulative effects were identified as being significant.

2. The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety

After considering the analysis in the EA, I conclude that implementing the chosen alternative to close roads to public motor vehicle use and convert some level 1 to level 2 roads or add unauthorized segments would not significantly affect public health and safety because of the limited scope of the actions. In addition, measures to ensure public safety have been incorporated into the project (EA, pp. 22, 40). The process of designating routes has been successfully implemented on numerous National Forests across the nation, and some of those systems have been in place for decades. By designating a system, all users will be aware of where they may encounter motor vehicles. The designation will provide tools necessary for law enforcement and improve the effectiveness of agency patrols.

3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas

I have concluded the selected alternative will not have a significant effect on any unique characteristics and ecologically critical areas on the Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras Ranger Districts. Measures have been incorporated to protect cultural resources that exist near roads. This decision does not include any road building. No other unique characteristics or ecologically critical areas as described in 40 CFR 1508.27(3) – park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or floodplains - exist in the area (EA, pp. 60, 116, 121). There are no effects to designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, inventoried roadless areas, or eligible wild and scenic rivers (EA, pp. 116). See significance factor #8 for more discussion related to historic or cultural resources.

4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial

A variety of public opinions exist on where the balance should be struck between human use and environmental protection. Some might argue the environmental values of the area would best be served by eliminating or severely restricting motorized access to the entire area. Others hold that any restriction of motorized access is an infringement on personal freedom. I do not find either position consistent with the Forest Service's mission as outlined in law, regulation, and policy or the direction contained in the Carson forest plan. In selecting an alternative, I weighed these competing interests.

In addition, there is no substantiated scientific controversy over the effects as described. No evidence has been presented that raises substantial questions as to the correctness of the environmental consequences that have been estimated. The effects on the human environment are not likely to be highly controversial based on the involvement of Forest Service resource specialists, other agencies, and the public. During scoping and two 30-day comment periods over 100 references to scientific publications or other documents were submitted to the Forest Service by the Center for Biological Diversity. These references were reviewed and summarized in a table found in the project record. After reviewing the project record and EA, I am confident the interdisciplinary team reviewed the comments and incorporated them into

alternatives or addressed them in the appropriate resource section. I have considered the best available science in making this decision.

It is my judgment, while portions of the public disagree with various components of the project and have raised concerns related to the action alternatives, there is no unusual or high degree of controversy related to the effects of this project. The opposing opinions related to the motorized recreation experience, impacts to nearby private lands, and protection of wildlife and other natural resources were addressed during alternative development and are discussed in chapter 3 of the EA (pp. 116-120) and in the project record. The project record demonstrates a thorough review of relevant scientific information.

5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks

The actions of my decision have no known effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. All of the effects of the selected alternative are similar to those taken into consideration and disclosed in the Carson forest plan's final environmental impact statement chapters 2 and 4. The Forest Service has considerable experience with travel management and motor vehicle use is an historic activity that has occurred on the Carson National Forest for many years. The effects analysis shows the effects are not uncertain, and do not involve unique or unknown risk (EA, pp. 60-61, 70, 99-102) and, therefore, are not significant.

6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration

The actions of my decision are not likely to establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects. Managing motor vehicles and the use of motorized vehicles for recreation is well established on the west side. The designation of routes for public motor vehicle use does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. Procedures are in place to periodically revise the MVUM to accommodate changes as a result of future management decisions. Any future proposals that alter the designated system will be evaluated through the National Environmental Policy Act process, consistent with current laws and regulations.

7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts

The actions of my decision were evaluated in the context of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions. The actions do not individually, nor when considering other activities within the area affected, cumulatively, result in significant effects. This determination is based on the discussion of cumulative effects in chapter 3 of the EA (pp. 60-61, 64-65, 99-102, 108, 114-115, 119) for each of the affected resources. This is primarily based on the predicted effects from the modest level of overall change that would occur as a result of the route designation process. I have also considered activities on private lands adjacent to the west side ranger districts. After reviewing the EA, I am satisfied none of the cumulative effects of my decision are significant.

8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the national Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources

The actions of my decision will have no significant adverse effect on districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, because measures have been included to protect these areas (EA, pp. 102, 105-106). The actions will also not cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources (EA, pp. 102, 105-106). The project was in compliance with the protocol specified in the programmatic agreement with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). [250] Travel management on the west side ranger districts is not expected to result in significant impacts to archaeological and historic properties.

9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973

The actions of my decision will not adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its habitat. The Mexican spotted owl is the only endangered or threatened species that would be potentially affected. The biological assessment and evaluation (BAE) prepared for the project determined that the project “may effect, but not likely to adversely affect” the Mexican spotted owl or its habitat. [281] The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with the determinations of effect on August 26, 2010 and stated,

we find that your proposed action will have insignificant and discountable effects to the Mexican spotted owl (Strix occidentalis lucida). Therefore, the Service concurs with your determination of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect".
[283]

For the Regional Forester’s Sensitive Species, no determinations were reached that found that any of these species were likely to become Federally listed as Threatened or Endangered in the near future as a result of the actions (EA, 73-90). [281]

10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment

The actions are consistent with the Carson National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended with this decision (EA, pp. 27-74); therefore they are in compliance with the National Forest Management Act. The selected alternative, as modified, complies with the requirements of the 2005 Travel Management Rule (including 36 CFR 212, 251, 261, and 295) and the intent of Executive Order 11644 of February 8, 1972, Use of Off-Road Vehicles on the Public Lands. The actions of my decision will not violate Federal, State, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. Including:

Clean Water Act (EA, pp. 23, 60)

Clean Air Act, as Amended in 1977 (EA, p. 23, 60)

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as Amended (EA, pp. 78, 87, 139)

Executive Order 11990 of May, 1977 [Wetlands] (EA, pp. 68)

Executive Order 11988 of May, 1977 [Floodplains] (EA, p. 68)

Executive Order 13186 of January, 2001 [Migratory Bird Treaty Act] (EA, pp.78-105)

Executive Order 12898 of 1994 [Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations] (EA, p. 122)

I received a number of letters from the public requesting the Carson National Forest conduct an environmental impact statement (EIS). Commenters felt that one EIS should be prepared for the entire Carson National Forest. According to NEPA regulations at 40 CFR 1508.9(a), an environmental assessment provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact.

I decided to prepare four environmental assessments (EAs), because the Carson National Forest is made up of four social geographic and cultural value areas: the Jicarilla Ranger District, the west side ranger districts (Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras), the Questa Ranger District, and the Camino Real Ranger District.

The Jicarilla Ranger District is predominately used by the natural gas industry, with hunters in the early spring and fall. The west side supports several small predominately Hispanic communities that use NFS lands for traditional uses. Hunters use the west side in the spring and fall and snow activities occur in the winter. The Questa Ranger District is a tourist destination. Summer activities consist of motor vehicle use (including ATVs), horseback riding, and hiking, often by individuals from outside the local area. Winter activities center around developed ski areas and over snow areas. The Camino Real Ranger District supports several predominately Hispanic communities that use NFS lands for traditional uses. The northern portion of the Camino Real Ranger District interfaces with Taos, the largest community adjacent to the Carson National Forest. Local residents heavily use this area to recreate. The remainder of the district is used by the local communities for traditional uses (e.g., fuelwood gathering, hunting, fishing, harvesting latillas and vigas).

On a total of over 750,000 acres of NFS lands, my decision will also close approximately 363 miles of roads and associated corridors to public motor vehicle use and add approximately 20 miles of road by converting level 1 to level 2 roads or adding unauthorized segments for a net decrease of 343 miles of road on the west side. The number of miles of roads designated for motorized use is not a criterion of significance for determination of the need for an EIS. The environmental consequences or effects of the changes the actions of my decision make to the existing west side transportation system are what I, as the Deciding Official, must consider in determining the need for an EIS. Based on the context, scope, and intensity of the environmental effects documented in the EA and project record and my experience with similar projects and factors in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined the changes made to the public transportation system on the Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras Ranger Districts as a result of this decision do not constitute a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an EIS will not be prepared.

Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations (see Significance Factor #10)

This decision for travel management on the west side of the Carson National Forest is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Carson National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

in regards to travel management and amends the forest plan to be consistent with the intent of the Travel Management Rule. The project was developed in consideration of the best available science.

Administrative Review (Appeal) Opportunities

This decision is subject to administrative review (appeal) in accordance with 36 CFR 215. A written notice of appeal -- clearly stating it is a notice of appeal being filed pursuant to 36 CFR 215.14 -- must be filed within 45 days from the day after the date of publication of legal notice of this decision in *The Taos News*. The publication date in *The Taos News*, newspaper of record, is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Those wishing to appeal this decision should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Individuals or organizations who submitted comments during the two 30-day comment periods specified at 215.6 may appeal this decision. Interest expressed or comments provided on this project prior to or after the close of the comment period do not have standing for appeal purposes. The notice of appeal must meet the appeal content requirements at 36 CFR 215.14. Names and addresses of appellants will become part of the public record.

The notice of appeal must meet the appeal content requirements at 36 CFR 215.14. An appeal must be filed (regular mail, fax, e-mail, hand delivery, or express delivery) with the Appeal Deciding Officer. Written appeals must be submitted to:

Deputy Regional Forester, Southwestern Region
Appeal Deciding Officer
333 Broadway Blvd., SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102
FAX: (505) 842-3173

The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered appeals are: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Adobe (.pdf) and Word (.doc) to appeals-southwestern-regional-office@fs.fed.us. The appeal must have an identifiable name attached or verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic appeals.

Implementation Date

If an appeal is filed within the 45-day time period, implementation may begin on, but not before, the 15th business day following the date of the last appeal disposition. If no appeal is filed within the 45-day time period, implementation of this decision may begin on, but not before, the 5th business day following the close of the appeal filing period.

Contact Information

For additional information, contact Jack Carpenter at the Forest Supervisor's Office, at the address listed above, or by phone at (575) 758-6200.



KENDALL CLARK

12/02/2010

Date

Forest Supervisor
Carson National Forest

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

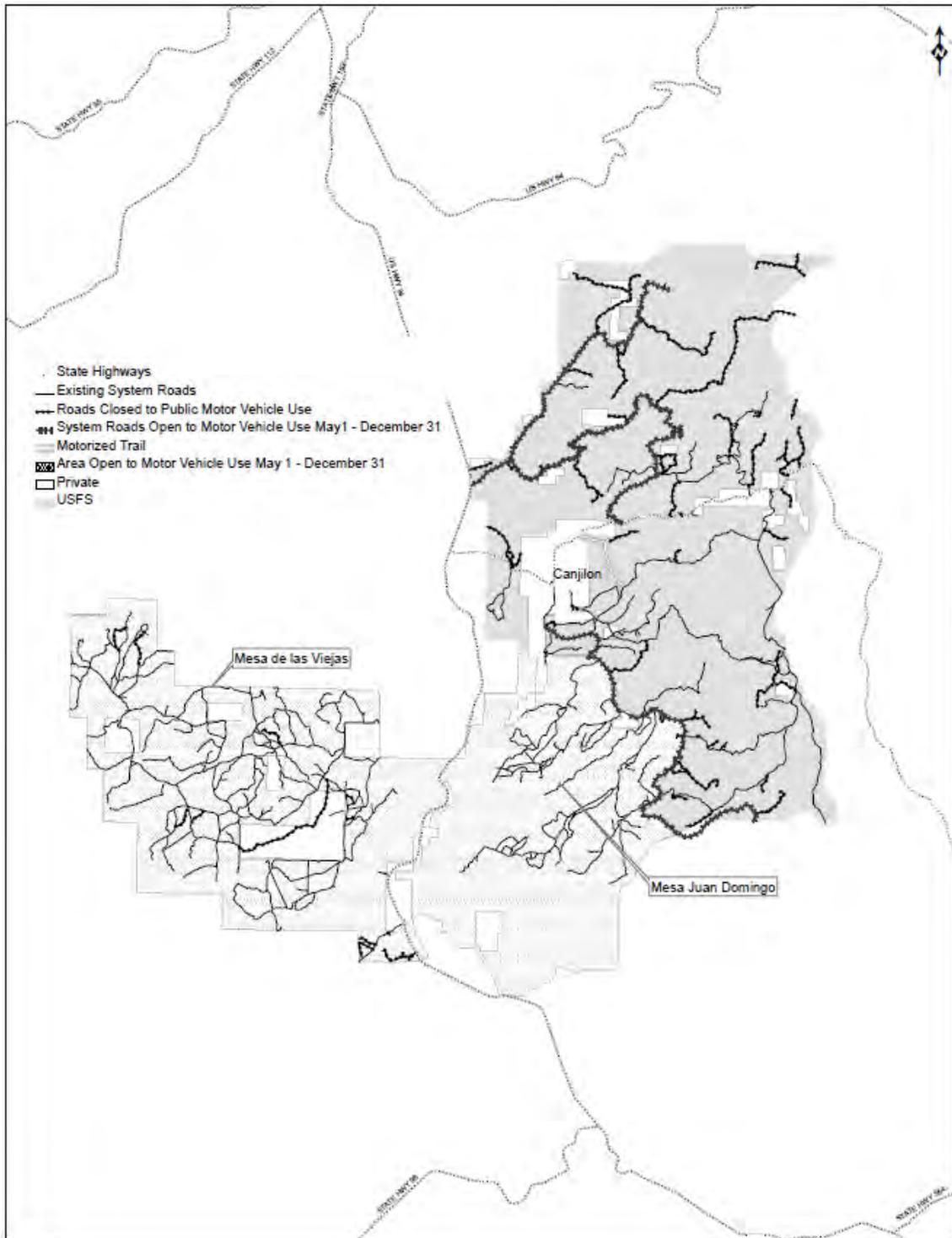


Figure 2. Decision for Canjilon Ranger District - changes to current system of roads open for public motor vehicle use

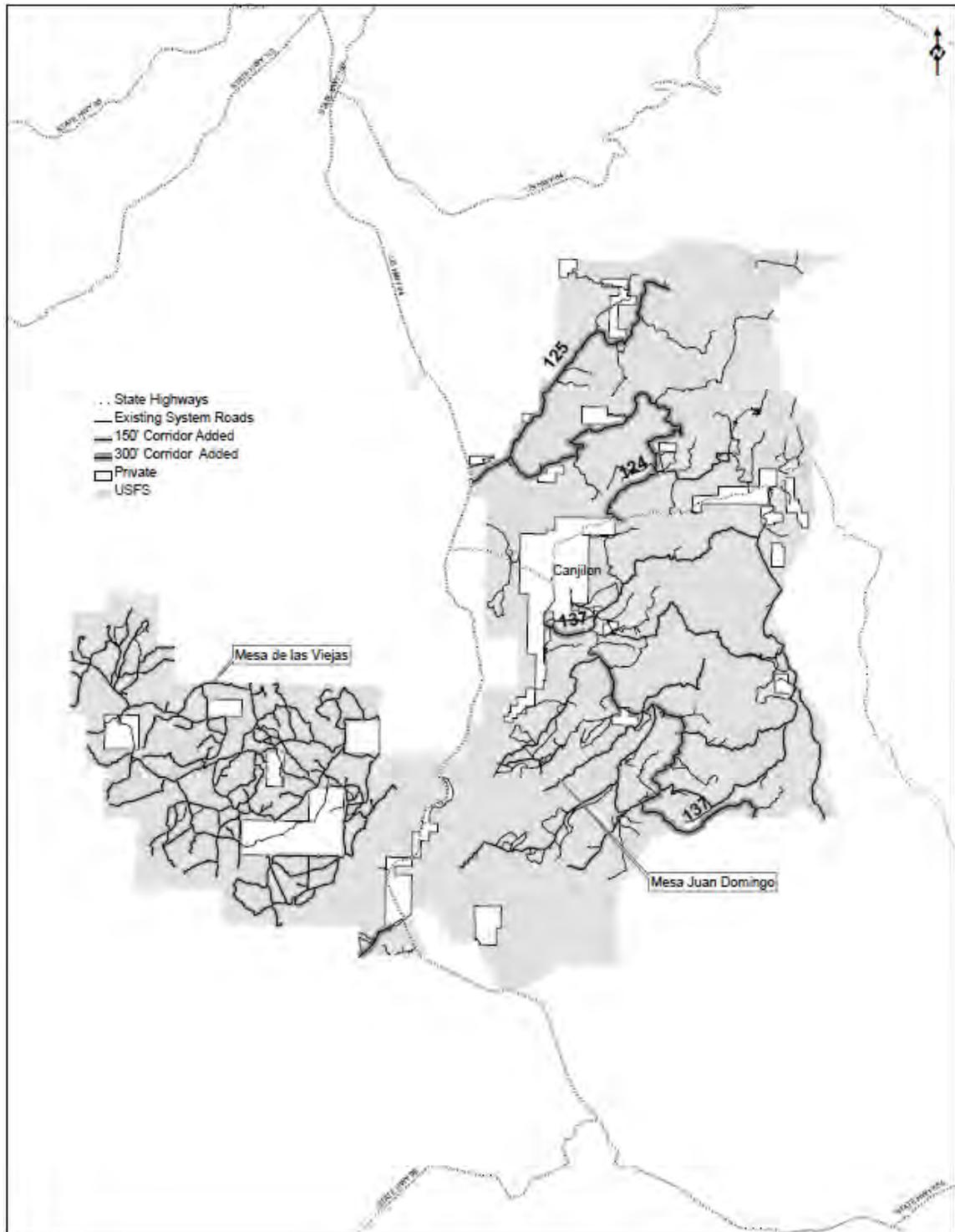


Figure 3. Decision for Canjilon Ranger District - changes to corridors allowing motor vehicle use for the purpose of dispersed camping or big game retrieval. No cross-country travel allowed

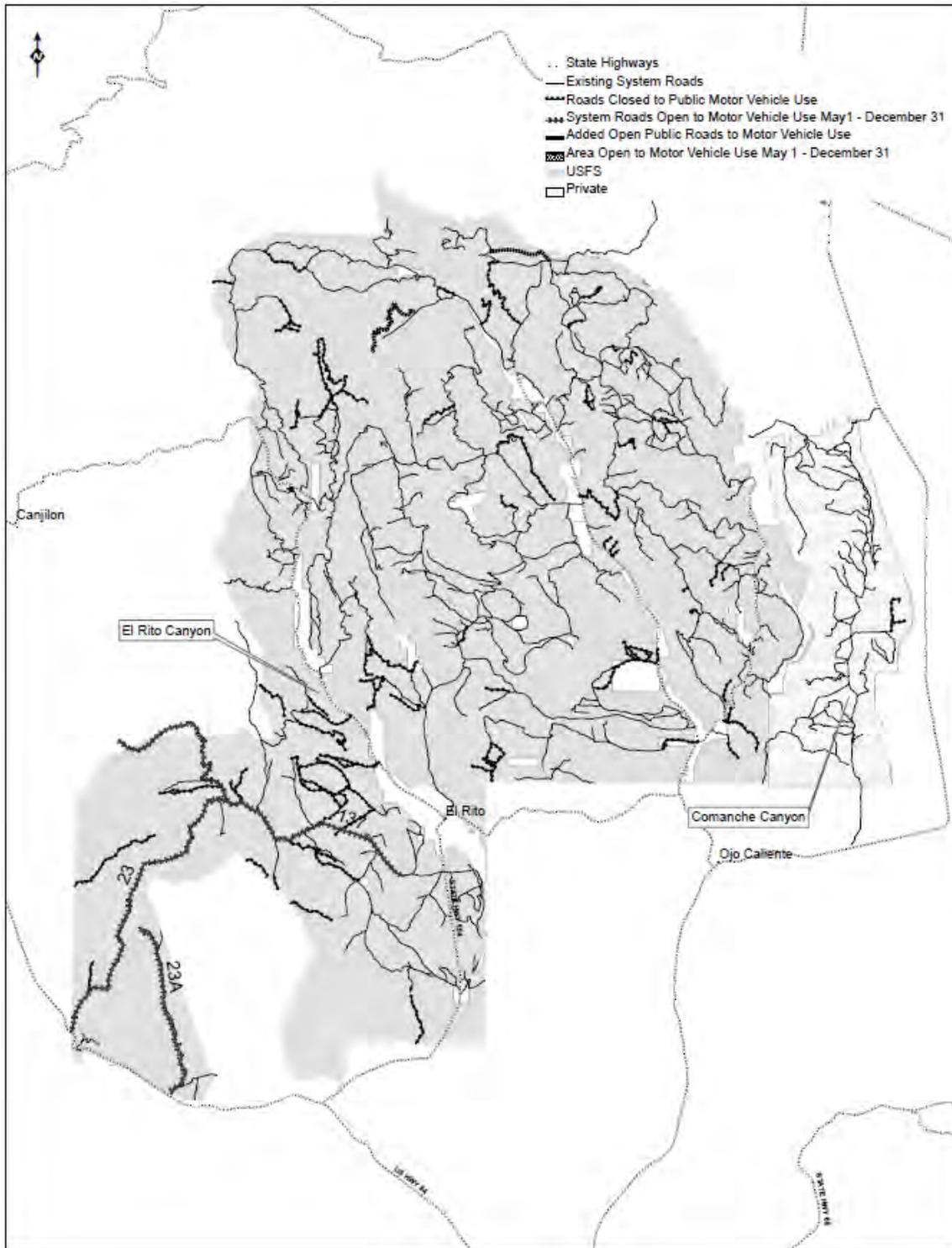


Figure 4. Decision for El Rito Ranger District - changes to existing transportation system, including seasonal restrictions. No cross-country travel allowed.

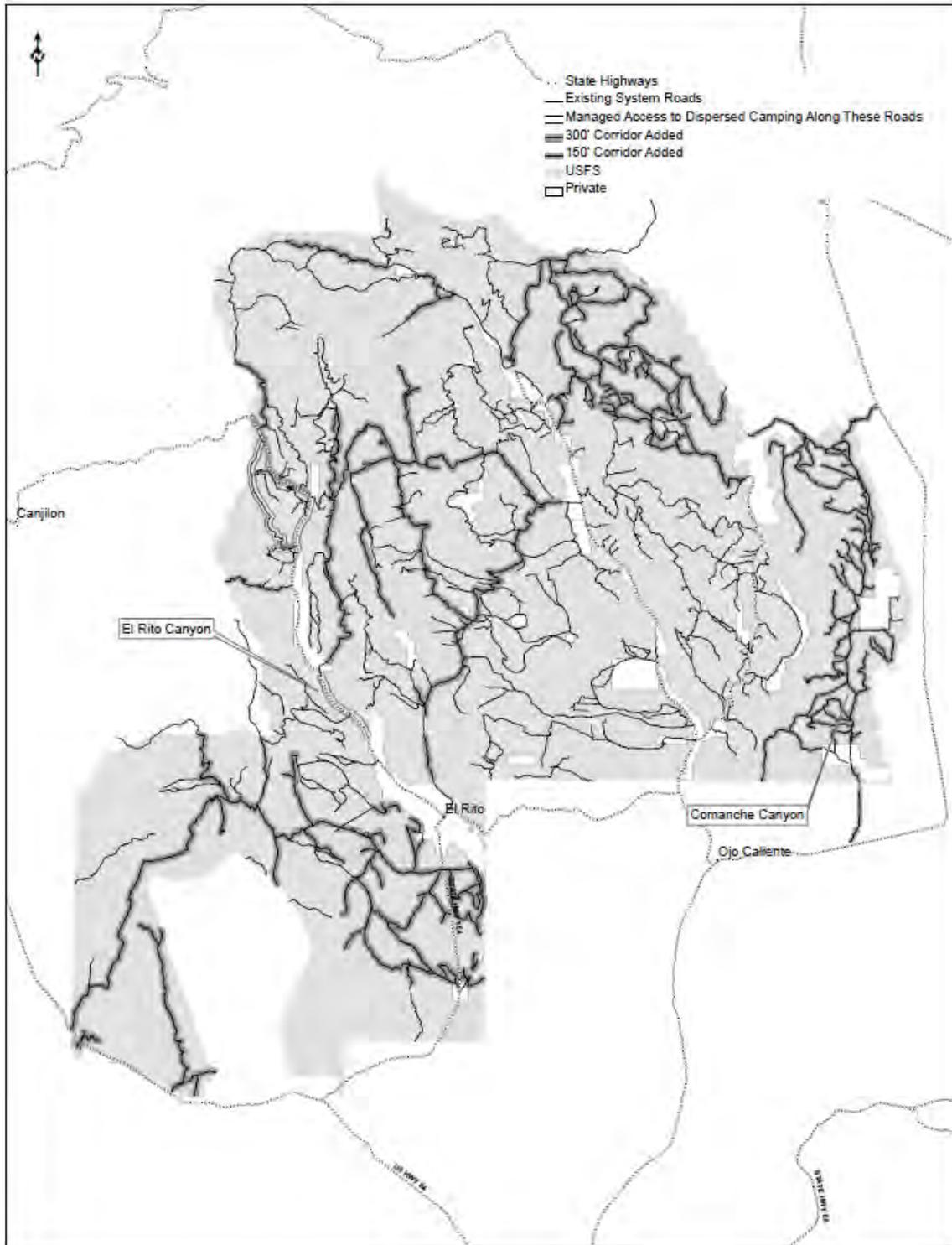


Figure 5. Decision on the El Rito Ranger District - changes to corridors allowing motor vehicle use for the purpose of dispersed camping or big game retrieval. No cross-country travel allowed.

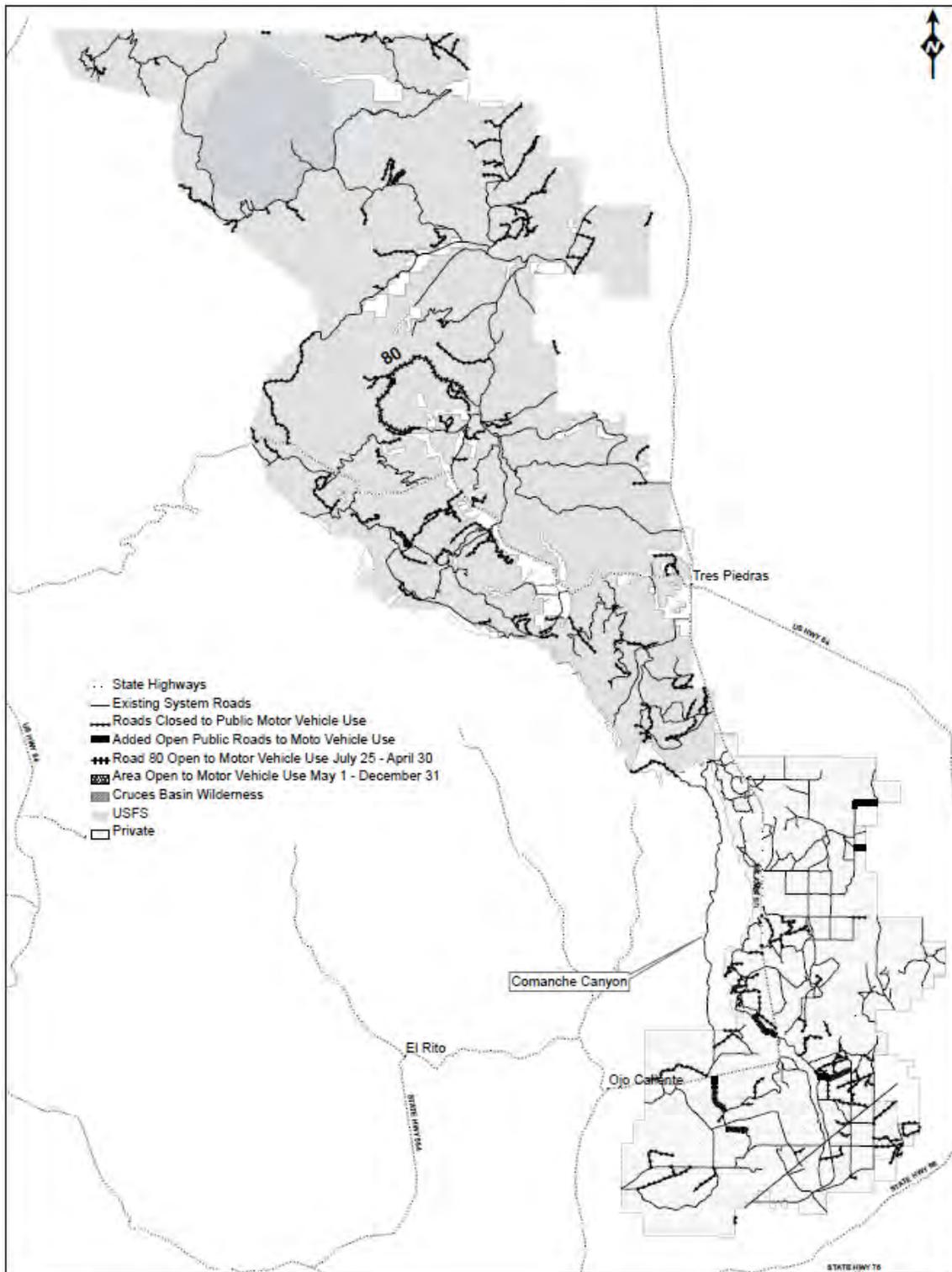


Figure 6. Decision for Tres Piedras Ranger District - changes to existing transportation system, including seasonal restrictions. No cross-country travel allowed

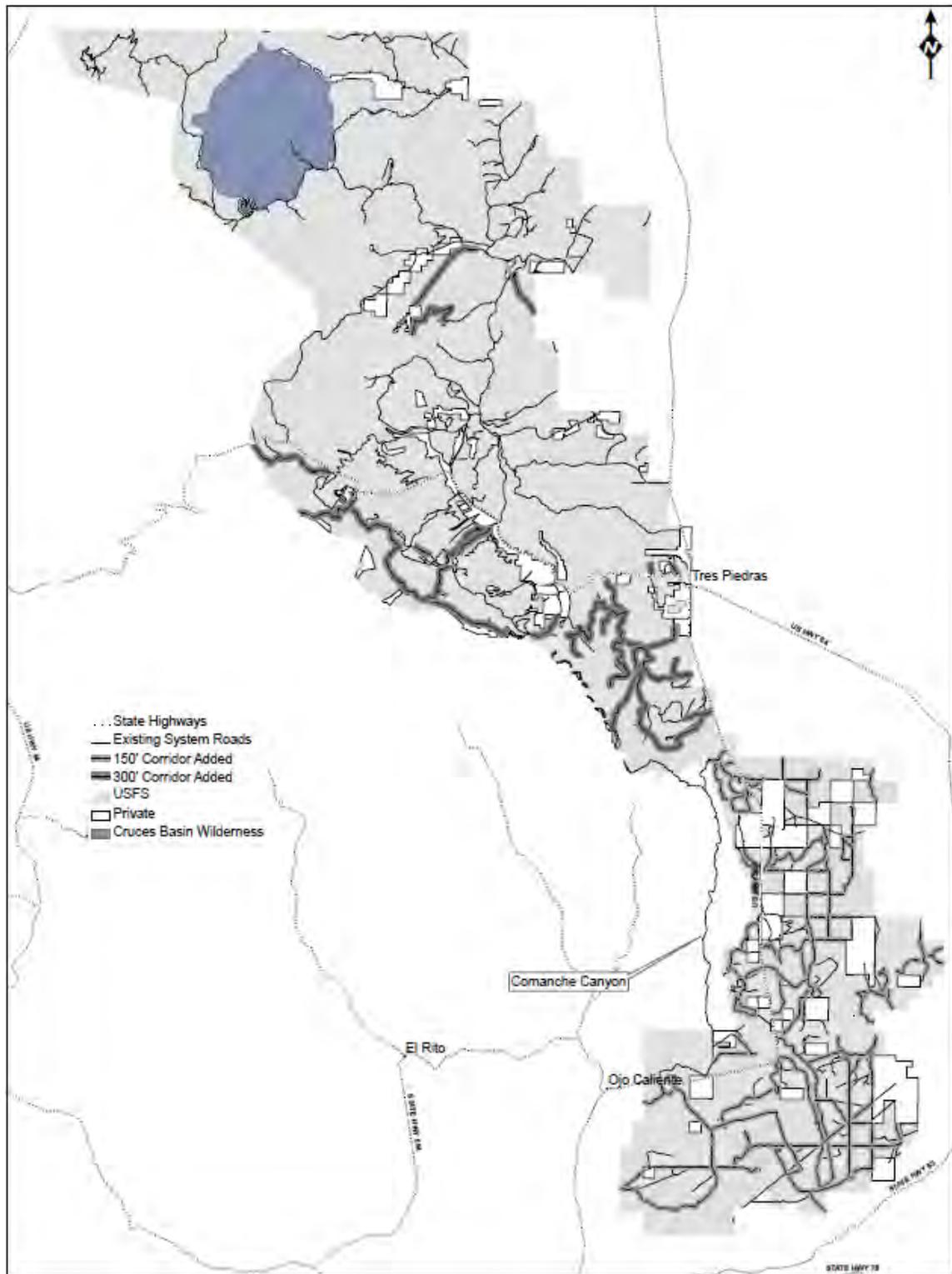


Figure 7. Decision for the Tres Piedras Ranger District - changes to corridors allowing motor vehicle use for the purpose of dispersed camping or big game retrieval. No cross-country travel allowed

Appendix A - Project Record Index Travel Management on the West Side of the Carson National Forest

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
001	9/3/1964	Law: Wilderness Act, Public Law 88-577	US Congress	
002	10/2/1968	Law: Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Public Law 90-542	US Congress	
003	2/8/1972	Executive Order: EO Executive Order 11644 - Use of off-road vehicles on the public lands	US President	
004	8/17/1974	Law: Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act, Public Law 93-378	US Congress	
005	10/22/1976	Law: National Forest Management Act (NFMA), Public Law 94-588	US Congress	
006	12/28/1977	Law: Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as Amended by the Clean Water Act, Public Law 95-217	US Congress	
007	1/1/1978	Law: New Mexico Habitat Protection Act (Section 17-6-7 NMSA 1978)	NM Legislature	
008	11/29/1978	Regulations: Implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508) for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	Council on Environmental Quality	
009	1/1/1979	Final Environmental Impact Statement: Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II)	USDA Forest Service	
010	12/19/1980	Law: New Mexico Wilderness Act, Public Law 96-550	US Congress	
011	9/30/1986	Environmental Impact Statement for Carson NF Land and Resource Management Plan (LMP)	USDA Forest Service	
012	10/31/1986	Record of Decision for Carson NF LMP	USDA Forest Service	
013	11/1/1986	Carson National Forest LMP, with amendments 1 through 13 (folder)	USDA Forest Service	
014	1/1/1987	Report: Terrestrial Ecosystems Survey of the Carson National Forest	USDA Forest Service	
015	12/3/1990	Directives: Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2509.22 Soil and Water Best Management Practices (Portfolio)	USDA Forest Service	
016	10/1/1991	Article: Officers Detail Timber Sale History by Jeff Pederson	New Mexico Wildlife	
017	1/13/1996	Law: New Mexico Habitat Protection Act (19 NMAC 34.5), recompiled 12/31/2001	NM State Legislature	
018	1/31/1996	Law: New Mexico Habitat Protection Act (19 NMAC 34.2), recompiled 12/31/2001	NM State Legislature	

Decision Notice and FONSI

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
019	1/1/1997	Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act	Council on Environmental Quality	
020	8/1/1999	Report: Roads Analysis: Informing Decisions About Managing the National Forest Transportation System (FS 643) (portfolio)	USDA Forest Service	
021	6/1/2000	Report: Forest Roads: A Synthesis of Information	USDA Forest Service	
022	1/10/2001	Executive Order: E.O. 13186 - Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds	US President	
023	2/21/2002	Letter: Policy on OHV/ATV Use by Persons with Disabilities in Areas with Restrictions or Prohibitions on Such Use	USDA Forest Service – Director, Recreation, Heritage, & Wilderness Resources	USDA Forest Service - Regional Recreation Directors
024	11/27/2002	Law: Clean Water Act, Amended through Public Law 107–303	US Congress	
025	3/3/2003	Report: Review of New Mexico National Forests Land and Resource Management Plans for Authorization of Off-Road-Vehicle Use [Carson NF only]	USDA Forest Service	
026	4/22/2003	Speech: Managing the National Forest System: Great Issues and Great Diversions	USDA Forest Service – Chief Bosworth	Commonwealth Club, San Francisco CA
027	4/25/2003	Roads Analysis Report (RAP): Forest-wide Analysis for Collector, and Arterial Roads, and Highways (Maintenance Levels 3, 4, and 5)	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF	
028	7/1/2003	36 CFR 212 Regulations for administration of forest transportation system	Code of Federal Regulations	
029	6/1/2004	National Visitor Use Monitoring Results for Carson NF	Prepared by Kocis; English; Zarnoch; Arnold; Warren; Ruka for Forest Service	

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
030	9/17/2004	Report: User Needs Assessment, Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Implementation Team	USDA Forest Service	
031	2/1/2005	USDA Forest Service Policy for Section 106 of the NHPA Compliance in Travel Management: Designated Routes for Motor Vehicle Use	Prepared by the Forest Service in consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	
032	6/1/2005	Report: Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation in the United States, Regions and States: A National Report from the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE)	USDA Forest Service	
033	6/9/2005	Media: Guarding the Forest: Conservations Fight Back Against Illegal Off-Roading in the Carson – Budget Woes Exacerbate Problem	The Taos News	
034	10/31/2005	Law: New Mexico Habitat Protection Act (19.34.7.5 NMAC - N, 10-31-2005)	NM State Legislature	
035	11/9/2005	Regulations: Final Rule for 36 CFR Parts 212, 251, 261, and 295 Travel Management; Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use; Final Rule (70 FR 68264-68291)	Federal Register	
036	12/1/2005	Technical Report: Guidelines for Road Maintenance Levels	USDA Forest Service - Forest Service Technology & Development Program	
037	1/31/2006	Directives: Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12 Chapter 80 Land Management Planning Handbook, Wild and Scenic River Evaluation	USDA Forest Service	
038	5/9/2006	Roads & Bridges Monitoring Trip of SW Region	USDA Forest Service - WO Engineering Staff	
039	5/17/2006	Report: Values, Attitudes, and Beliefs Toward National Forest System Lands: New Mexico Tribal Peoples	Prepared by Adams-Russell Consulting for Forest	

Decision Notice and FONSI

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
			Service	
040	5/17/2006	Report: Values, Attitudes, and Beliefs Toward National Forest System Lands: The Carson National Forest	Prepared by Adams-Russell Consulting for Forest Service	
041	5/17/2006	Letter: Implementation of Travel Management Planning Rule – Draft Guidelines Released by Regional Forester - Off-road Vehicles	Center for Biological Diversity	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor
042	6/6/2006	Letter: Tribal Consultation for TM on Carson NF, with mailing list	USDA Forest Service – Forest Supervisor	Tribal Mailing List
043	6/8/2006	Letter: Travel Management Schedule for Implementation	USDA Forest Service - Chief	Record
044	6/12/2006	Memo: Travel Management Rule Implementation Guidelines	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Regional Forester	Forest Supervisors, Staff Directors, Special Agent in Charge
045	6/13/2006	Letter: Travel Management Rule Implementation Guidelines	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Regional Forester	Interested Public
046	6/27/2006	Memo: Meeting with Picuris Pueblo Regarding Travel Management Rule	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF, Camino Real RD Archaeologist	Record
047	6/28/2006	Phone log: Tribal consultation from 6/28-7/12/2006	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
048	7/10/2006	Memo: Interim Procedures for Engineering Analysis of Motorized Mixed Use	USDA Forest Service - Director of	Regional Foresters, Station

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
			Engineering, Director of Recreation and Heritage Resources	Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs and WO Staff
049	7/15/2006	Open house: Sign-in sheet for open house held in Taos, NM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
050	7/19/2006	Media: Forests Working on New Map	Albuquerque Journal	
051	8/1/2006	Glossary: Road terminology	USDA Forest Service	
052	9/27/2006	Letter: Forest Service Travel Management Rule/Designated Rule NMGF No. 11077	NM Department of Game and Fish - Director	Jicarilla District Ranger
053	10/4/2006	Letter: ORV use on National Forests, includes photos	Jon Klingel	USDA Forest Service - Forest Supervisor
054	10/13/2006	Website: FS Headquarters - Info on Travel Management Rule (TMR) (http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/)	USDA Forest Service - National Headquarters Website	
055	10/25/2006	Memo: Guidance on TAP when implementing TMR, with Travel Analysis Process (10/13/2006)	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Regional Forester	R3 Forest Supervisors
056	11/10/2006	Letter: Travel management planning on the Carson NF	USDA Forest Service - Forest Supervisor	Amigos Bravos
057	11/16/2006	PowerPoint: Presentation of BLM strategies for travel management	USDI Bureau of Land Management	

Decision Notice and FONSI

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
058	1/1/2007	Law: NM Administrative Code Title 18, Chapter 15, Part 3 Off-highway Motor Vehicle Safety Standards	NM State Legislature	
059	1/1/2007	Law: NM Administrative Code 66-3-1001.1 Supplement Off-Highway Motor Vehicles	NM State Legislature	
060	1/18/2007	Letter: Documentation of phone conversation (1/11/2007)	Camino Real District Archeologist	Marklyn Chee, Navajo Nation
061	1/19/2007	Memo: Documentation of tribal consultation visit with San Juan Pueblo	Camino Real District Archeologist	Record
062	1/22/2007	Phone log: Tribal consultation from 1/11-1/22/2007	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
063	1/31/2007	Letter: Informing grazing permittees of TMR process, with mailing list	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor	FS Grazing Permittee Mailing List
064	1/31/2007	Letter: Informing outfitters & guides of TMR process, with forest mailing list	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor	FS Grazing Permittee Mailing List
065	2/1/2007	Website: Carson National Forest - Info on TMR (http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/recreation/travelmanagement/index2.shtml)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Website	
066	2/7/2007	Summary of Pre-Scoping Public Comments for the Carson NF Received on the Travel Management Rule and Process from July 2006 to February 2007	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
067	2/21/2007	Letter: Announcing open houses, with mailing list	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor	TM Mailing List
068	3/1/2007	Schedule: Open houses for travel management on the Carson NF	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
069	3/13/2007	Media: Open House Series on Off-Road Rules Set for Next Week	The New Mexican	
070	3/15/2007	Media: Carson National Forest: Series of Off-Road Rules Set for Next Week	The Taos News	
071	3/15/2007	Media: Motorized Travel Proposed	The Taos News	
072	3/18/2007	Website: SW Region - Info on TMR guidelines http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/projects/travel-mgt/imp-guide.shtml	USDA Forest Service - Southwest Region	
073	3/19/2007	Open house: Meeting notes; sign-in sheet; public comments for open house held in Bloomfield NM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
074	3/21/2007	Open house: Meeting notes; sign-in sheet; public comments for open house held in Tres Piedras NM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
075	3/21/2007	Comment: Regarding roads that need to be closed on the Tres Piedras RD	Joanie Berde	Record
076	3/22/2007	Media: National Forests to Discuss Trails	Rio Grande Sun	
077	3/22/2007	Media: Forest Service Hosts Meetings on Motorized Travel	Sangre de Cristo Chronicle	
078	3/22/2007	Media: Public Input Vital to Responsibly Steer Travel Management Plan	The Taos News	
079	3/22/2007	Notes: Updated schedule of open houses for travel management	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
080	3/23/2007	Travel Management Rule - Implementation Guidelines, Revision 1 - Revised Guidance for Dispersed Camping	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Regional Forester	Record
081	3/27/2007	Open house: Sign-in sheet for open house held in El Rito, NM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record

Decision Notice and FONSI

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
082	3/29/2007	Open house: Sign-in sheet for open house held in Taos, NM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
083	4/1/2007	Media: Keep Middle Fork Road closed to ATVs and motorized vehicles FOREVER...'	Sangre de Cristo Chronicle	
084	4/1/2007	Spark Arrester Guide: Off-highway Vehicles (Vol 3)	USDA Forest Service - Natl Tech & Dev Program	
085	4/3/2007	Letter: Travel Management Rule/Designated Routes/Suggested Changes; NMGF No. 11304 Response to Open House meetings, particularly El Rito RD	NM Department of Game and Fish, Chief of Conservation Services Division	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF, El Rito District Ranger
086	4/4/2007	Letter: Comments on travel management	Amigos Bravos	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Recreation/Engineering Staff Officer
087	4/5/2007	Media: Forest Travel Plan: Who Can Go Where?	The Taos News	
088	4/9/2007	Letter: Response to Kristine Kassar, CBD	Development Program	Kassar, Center for Biological Diversity
089	4/12/2007	Media: Residents Voice Concerns, Ideas for New Forest Plan	Sangre de Cristo Chronicle	
090	4/13/2007	Notes: Summary of TM comments received to date	USDA Forest Service Jicarilla District Ranger	Record
091	4/17/2007	Summary of Pre-Scoping Public Comments for the West Side Received on the Travel Management Rule and Process from July 2006 to February 2007	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF IDT Leader	Record

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
092	5/7/2007	Letter: Travel Management Proposed Forest Service Directives; Forest Service Manual 2350, 7700, and 7710, and Forest Service Handbook 7709.55 NMGF Doc. No. 11533. This letter is referenced in two comment letters from the NMDGF (8/5/2009, 8/21/2009).	NM Department of Game and Fish	USDA Forest Service – Northern Region Leroy Schmitz
093	5/10/2007	Notes: Criteria used to determine scope of Carson NF travel management	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
094	5/24/2007	Letter: Status of travel management process on Carson NF, with mailing list	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor	TM Mailing List
095	6/1/2007	Management Indicator Species Assessment for the Carson National Forest	USDA Forest Service NF	
096	7/13/2007	Travel Management Rule - Implementation Guidelines, Revision 2	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Regional Forester	
097	8/28/2007	Appendix I- Standard Consultation Protocol for TM Route Designation (Pursuant to Stipulation IV.A of 2/2005 Region-wide Agreement)	Prepared by the Forest Service in consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	
098	10/12/2007	Memo: Re Appendix I (SHPO Protocol)	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Regional Forester	R3 Forest Supervisors
099	10/19/2007	Frequently Asked Questions on Travel Management - found on Southwestern Region website	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Region Website	
100	10/19/2007	Travel Management Rule - Implementation Guidelines, Revision 3	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Regional	

Decision Notice and FONSI

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
			Forester	
101	12/1/2007	A Citizen's Guide to the NEPA: Having Your Voice Heard	Council on Environmental Quality	
102	12/09/2007	Media: Forest Vehicle Limits Fall Short	Albuquerque Journal	
103	12/30/2007	Media: Surge in off-roading stirs dust and debate in west	New York Times	
104	12/31/2007	Letters: Prescoping comments received from 2006-2007 on Carson NF TM planning process (folder)	Members of the public	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF
105	1/1/2008	Worksheet: Appendix A - Roads by District	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF	Record
106	1/12/2008	Senate Joint Memorial 13 - Ensuring Traditional Culture Not Impacted by TM	NM 48th Legislature, 2nd Session	
107	1/14/2008	Letter: Travel management planning and the roads policy on the Carson National Forest	WildEarth Guardians (formerly Forest Guardians)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor
108	1/19/2008	Media: Senate urges Forest Service to rein in off-roaders	Santa Fe New Mexican	
109	1/23/2008	Notes: IDT meeting notes re TM alternatives for Jicarilla Ranger District	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
110	1/29/2008	E-mail: Re complete text of 36 CFR 212	USDA Forest Service - Walt Keyes, Transportation Planner	Record
111	2/1/2008	Notes: Criteria for identifying minimum road system	USDA Forest Service	
112	2/1/2008	Report: Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation in the United States, Regions and States: A National Report from the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE)	USDA Forest Service	

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
113	2/4/2008	Letter: Roadless areas & Travel Management	Brian Hawthorne, Blue Ribbon Coalition	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor
114	2/12/2008	Letter: Where Carson NF is in the TM planning process	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor	Cyndi Tuell, Center for Biological Diversity
115	3/1/2008	Notes: IDT meeting notes re TAP for Tres Piedras Ranger District	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
116	3/13/2008	Congressional Testimony: The Impacts of Unmanaged Off Road Vehicles on Federal Land	Jack Gregory, Special Agent in Charge, Retired	
117	3/17/2008	Notes: Coordination meeting with NMDGF re TM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
118	3/27/2008	Notes: IDT meeting notes with district rangers	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
119	6/12/2008	Media: Carson Officials Start Engine on Proposed Travel Plan	The Taos News	
120	6/30/2008	Travel Management Rule - Implementation Guidelines, Revision 4	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Regional Forester	
121	6/30/2008	Letter: Re recreational ORV usage on traditional rural culture	Leo Hubbard	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Regional Forester
122	7/1/2008	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	

Decision Notice and FONSI

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
123	7/9/2008	Notes: IDT meeting notes re field data needs	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
124	7/14/2008	Media: Various articles on travel management	Santa Fe New Mexican; Albuquerque Journal (North)	
125	7/17/2008	Media: Carson Travel Plan in Review	The Taos News	
126	7/18/2008	Notes: IDT meeting notes re team assignments	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
127	7/23/2008	Notes: IDT meeting notes re draft proposed actions and deadlines	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	
128	7/23/2008	Email: Comments on travel management	Western Environmental Law Center	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF IDT Leader
129	8/27/2008	Notes: IDT meeting notes re progress update	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	
130	9/9/2008	Travel Analysis Process (TAP), Carson National Forest (Portfolio)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF	
131	9/17/2008	E-Mail: Recommend Santa Fe TAP	Bryan Bird, WildEarth Guardians	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader
132	9/18/2008	Letter: Travel Management Rule implementation on the Carson NF	USDA Forest Service Acting Forest Supervisor	Great Old Broads for Wilderness
133	10/1/2008	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	
134	10/16/2008	Notes: IDT meeting notes re status of proposed	USDA Forest	

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
		actions and field data collection	Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	
135	10/22/2008	Notes: Inventory of dispersed sites on Tres Piedras RD	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	
136	10/31/2008	Notes: IDT meeting notes re El Rito Ranger District	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	
137	12/31/2008	Letters: Prescoping comments received in 2008 on Carson NF TM planning process (folder)	Members of the public	Carson NF
138	1/1/2009	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	
139	1/1/2009	Paper: Managing Forest Road Access on Public Lands: A Conceptual Model of Conflict	Hunt; Lemelin; Saunders. Society and Natural Resources, 22:128-142	
140	1/1/2009	National Off-highway Vehicle Conservation Council Newsletter	National Off-highway Vehicle Conservation Council	
141	1/8/2009	Media: Agency Proposes Off-Road Vehicle Rules	The New Mexican	
142	1/11/2009	TM Presentation: Northern NM Stockman's Assoc Annual Meeting	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF	Record
143	1/15/2009	Frequently Asked Questions on Travel Management (provided to public during scoping)	USDA Forest Service	
144	1/20/2009	Meeting notes: Discussion on travel management mailing list and view of proposed action maps with Scott Draney, NMDGF	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
145	1/21/2009	Email: Sending out travel management proposed action for scoping	Mark Olson, NMDGF, NW Habitat specialist	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Jicarilla District

Decision Notice and FONSI

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
				Ranger
146	1/22/2009	Project Initiation Letter: Travel Management Analysis for Carson NF	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor	ID Core and Extended Team Members
147	1/31/2009	Letter: Scoping TM proposed action for Carson NF, with maps and mailing lists (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor	Mailing list
148	2/3/2009	Media: Off-Road Enthusiasts Fear Law Overhaul	New Mexican	
149	2/4/2009	Media: Off-Roaders Worried About Law Overhaul	Albuquerque Journal	
150	2/4/2009	Letter: Response to scoping letter (1/31/2009) (Cons. #22420-2009-FA-0037)	USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Forest Supervisor
151	2/9/2009	Media: Carson Forest Releases ATV Plan	Albuquerque Journal	
152	2/11/2009	Letter: Acceptance of scoping comments	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor	Rachel Conn, Amigos Bravos
153	2/12/2009	Media: New Motorized Travel Plan for Carson	The Taos News	
154	2/19/2009	Notes: Agenda for coordination meeting between NMDGF and Carson NF and BLM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
155	2/19/2009	Media: Carson Forest Proposes Cuts to Off-Road Access	Rio Grande Sun	
156	2/19/2009	Media: National Forest Plan Draws Comments from All Sides	Sangre de Cristo Chronicle	

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
157	2/23/2009	Media: New Plans for Carson	The New Mexican	
158	2/23/2009	Website: Center for Biological Diversity http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/public_lands/off-road_vehicles/travel-management_planning/index.html	Center for Biological Diversity - Website	
159	2/26/2009	Media: Carson Forest to Eliminate Off-Road Vehicle Use	Rio Grande Sun	
160	2/26/2009	Media: Commentary, Travel Management on Carson NF	The Taos News	
161	2/27/2009	Notes: Rio Grande Grazing Association President and Members of the Grazing Association	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Canjilon Range Staff	Record
162	3/3/2009	Notes: Taos County Board of Commissioners meeting on travel management	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
163	3/5/2009	Letter: Scoping comments	Navajo Nation	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor
164	3/6/2009	Carson NF Travel Management Heritage Survey Strategy	Carson NF Forest Archaeologist	Record
165	3/12/2009	Letters to the Editor: Various letters commenting on previous weeks article in The Taos News	The Taos News	
166	3/12/2009	Media: Travel Plan Comment Extended	The Taos News	
167	3/19/2009	Letter: Travel Management Proposed Action (PA); NMDGF No. 12563. Scoping comments for TM on entire Carson NF, including Forest Service Response	NM Department of Game and Fish, Chief of Conservation Services Division	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor

Decision Notice and FONSI

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
168	3/23/2009	Article: Six Strategies for Success: Effective Enforcement of Off-Road Vehicles on Public Lands	Wildlands CPR	
169	3/23/2009	Website: Information on small engine emissions http://www.egr.msu.edu/erl/Small%20Engine%20Emissions.litml	Michigan State University, College of Engineering - Website	
170	3/25/2009	Notes: IDT meeting notes (3/25-27/2009, draft issues & alternatives)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	
171	3/26/2009	Media: Off-Road Vehicle Use on the Carson National Forest	The Taos News	
172	3/31/2009	Media: Forest Service Urged to Close Trails	Albuquerque Journal	
173	4/1/2009	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	
174	4/1/2009	Comment letters received during scoping (folder)	Public	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Forest Supervisor
175	4/2/2009	Letter: List of Threatened and Endangered Species that may be affected by the Carson NF Travel Management Proposal	USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services	Carson NF
176	4/5/2009	Report: Six Strategies for Success: Effective Enforcement of Off-Road Vehicles on Public Lands, 2009 Update	Wildlands CPR	
177	4/30/2009	Email: Review of latest TM proposed action	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	West Zone Recreation Lands Assistant
178	5/3/2009	Media: Kaibab District to Cut Access Forest Roads	The Daily Times	
179	5/4/2009	Alternatives: How CBD alternative was developed in GIS	Forest GIS Coordinator	Record
180	5/7/2009	Media: Battle of the Wilderness	Albuquerque Journal	

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
181	5/8/2009	FOIA response: A copy letter from NMDGF where they propose the winter closure for Mesa de Las Viejas and the southwest corner of Canjilon RD during the scoping period for travel management.	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Forest Supervisor	Moises Morales
182	5/18/2009	Media: Offroad Hordes Vastly Inflated	The New Mexican	
183	5/18/2009	Letter: Re TM comments submitted by NMED to Santa Fe NF (letter attached)	Amigos Bravos	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor
184	5/20/2009	National Assessment of TM Planning: Challenges, Recommendations, and Best Practices for Public Involvement	US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, Morris K. Udall Foundation	
185	5/26/2009	FOIA Request and Response: Requesting information on unauthorized user-created routes, FS response letter (6/15/2009), and shape file documents (folder)	Cyndi Tuell, Center for Biological Diversity	Carson NF FOIA Coordinator
186	5/26/2009	Petition: Rio Arriba Petition and Resolution (#2009-096) regarding historical rights-of-way, public roads, and easements	Rio Arriba County Board of County Commissioners	
187	6/1/2009	GAO Report: Enhanced Planning Could Assist Agencies in Managing Increased Use of Off-Highway Vehicles	US Government Accounting Office	
188	6/8/2009	Letter: Fiscal analysis & TM	Cyndi Tuell, Center for Biological Diversity	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Regional Forester
189	7/1/2009	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	
190	7/10/2009	Media: Carson National Forest Seeks Comments on Off-Highway Plan	Albuquerque Journal	

Decision Notice and FONSI

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
191	7/11/2009	Media: Carson Forest Plans Travel Management	The New Mexican	
192	7/14/2009	1st 30-day comment: Cover letter for Jicarilla, Canjilon, El Rito, & Tres Piedras RDs proposed actions, Proposed Action for Jicarilla RD, and mailing list (folder)	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Forest Supervisor	Mailing list
193	7/16/2009	Legal Notice for Comment: Availability of Travel Management Proposed Actions for the Jicarilla, Canjilon, El Rito, Tres Piedras, and Questa RD	The Taos News	
194	7/16/2009	Phone call, notes, and petition: Documentation of conversation with Moises Morales regarding historical rights-of-way (RS 4277 classification) and travel management, including petition	Moises Morales	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF IDT Leader
195	7/17/2009	Media: Forest Propose Vehicle Access Limits to Reduce Conflicts	The New Mexican	
196	7/20/2009	FOIA Request and Response: Requesting GIS information related to public scoping document, FS response letter (7/24/2009), and response documents (folder)	Cyndi Tuell, Center for Biological Diversity	Carson NF FOIA Coordinator
197	7/21/2009	Media: Forest Officials Seek Input on Road Closings	The New Mexican	
198	7/22/2009	Maps: Alternative maps for the west side ranger districts	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Forest GIS Specialist	
199	7/23/2009	Media: Forest Service Travel Plans Up for Final Comment	The Taos News	
200	7/29/2009	News Release: New Off-road Vehicle Plan Still Threatens Carson National Forest	Center for Biological Diversity	
201	7/30/2009	Media: Carson To Cut Motorized Travel	Rio Grande Sun	
202	7/31/2009	Media: Report: Public Lands See Rise in OHV Use	The New Mexican	
203	7/31/2009	Notes: NM TM Planning Meeting with NM Forests, CBD, and others, includes agenda, notes, & cost-estimate model (Wing)	Center for Biological Diversity	Record
204	7/31/2009	Notes: NM TM Planning Meeting - NM Forests, CBD, and others	USDA Forest Service -	Record

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
			Carson NF IDT Leader	
205	8/1/2009	Media: Forest Service Releases Proposed Action for Travel Management on the Carson National Forest	La Jicarita News	
206	8/2/2009	Media: Forest wants to close 270 miles of roads	KOB.com	
207	8/4/2009	Media: Forest Plan Critics: What About Us? - Sides Fear Lack of Public Comment	Albuquerque Journal	
208	8/5/2009	Letter: Comment letter on Travel Management Proposed Actions for the Jicarilla, Canjilon, El Rito, Tres Piedras, and Questa RD	US Army Corps of Engineers	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Forest Supervisor
209	8/6/2009	Letter: List of Threatened and Endangered Species that may be affected by the Carson NF Travel Management Proposal	USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services	Carson NF
210	8/7/2009	FOIA Request and Response: Requesting INFRA report in Excel format, FS response letter (8/20/2009) (folder)	Cyndi Tuell, Center for Biological Diversity	Carson NF FOIA Coordinator
211	8/13/2009	Media: Clock Winding Down on Comment Period for Carson Proposed Travel Plan	The Taos News	
212	8/15/2009	Media: Comment Sought On Road-Closure Plan	Albuquerque Journal	
213	8/15/2009	Media: Forests Changing Some Road Rules	Albuquerque Journal	
214	8/16/2009	FOIA Request and Response: Requesting GIS information related to public scoping document, FS response letter (8/26/2009), and response documents (folder)	Cyndi Tuell, Center for Biological Diversity	Carson NF FOIA Coordinator
215	8/17/2009	Letter: Comment letter on Travel Management on the Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras Ranger Districts; NMDGF No. 12842, with attachments	NM Department of Game and Fish, Chief of Conservation Services Division	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Forest Supervisor

Decision Notice and FONSI

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
216	8/17/2009	Comment letters received during 1 st 30-day comment period (7/17-8/17/09), including list of who commented within comment period (folder)	Public	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Forest Supervisor
217	8/20/2009	Media: Input Sought for Questa Ranger District Roads	Sangre de Cristo Chronicle	
218	8/20/2009	Media: National Forest Service Relents, Allows Environmental Comment on Travel Plans	The Taos News	
219	8/21/2009	Letter: Comment letter on Travel Management on the Jicarilla Ranger District; NMDGF No. 12841	NM Department of Game and Fish, Chief of Conservation Services Division	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Forest Supervisor
220	8/27/2009	Media: Residents Concerned About Forest Service Plans	Sangre de Cristo Chronicle	
221	9/3/2009	Media: Red River Rallies Behind Open Trails Initiative	Sangre de Cristo Chronicle	
222	9/21/2009	Forest Service wildlife biologist response to CBD letter (8/14/2009)	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Biologist	
223	9/22/2009	Summary: Alternatives considered and eliminated from detailed analysis	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	
224	9/25/2009	Content analysis of comment letters received during 1 st 30-day comment period (7/17-8/17/09)	Public	
225	9/28/2009	Media: Off-Roaders Need Regulation, by Garrett VeneKlasen	ABQ Journal	
226	10/1/2009	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
227	10/22/2009	Media: Citizen's Voice Concerns for Off-Road Use	Sangre de Cristo Chronicle	
228	10/26/2009	Table: Description of change for alternative 2 for the west side	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Biologist	ID Team
229	11/5/2009	Post card requesting how recipients want west side TM EA for 30-day comment, with mailing list	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF	
230	11/6/2009	Media: Confessions of an off-road outlaw, by Garrett VeneKlasen	High Country News	
231	11/17/2009	Media: Off-Road Enthusiasts Push for Rule Enforcement	The New Mexican	
232	11/18/2009	Media: Outdoorsman Attitudes Must Change, One at a Time	Albuquerque Journal	
233	12/16/2009	Inventory: Dispersed sites in and out of corridors on the west side	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
234	12/21/2009	Media: Firebrand ways (Kieran Suckling), by Tony Davis	High Country News	
235	1/1/2010	Newsletter: National Off-highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) newsletter	National Off-highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC)	
236	1/1/2010	Proclamation: Big game & trapper rules & information 2010-2011 license year	NM Department of Game and Fish	
237	1/1/2010	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	
238	1/4/2010	Email: Comments on Carson NF travel management	Gregory Lungstrom	R3 Motorized Recreation Planner

Decision Notice and FONSI

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
239	1/12/2010	Table: Comparison of original west side proposed action that went out for scoping and the final PA modified to address issues	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF IDT Leader	
240	2/16/2010	Conversation Record: Documentation of phone conversation between Jim Wolf (Director, Continental Divide Trail Society) and IDT Leader	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF IDT Leader	
241	2/22/2010	Memo: Regional advice on travel management rule and ESA consultation	USDA Forest Service – Southwestern Regional Forester	Forest supervisors and district ranger
242	3/2/2010	Email: Documentation of phone conversation between NMDGF Area Supervisor and Jicarilla District Ranger regarding travel management	USDA Forest Service – Jicarilla District Ranger	USDA Forest Service – IDT Leader
243	3/3/2010	Map: Forest roads on the Carson NF that go through private lands	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF GIS Coordinator	Record
244	3/4/2010	Notes: Evaluation criteria used for comparison of alternatives, including no action is combined for Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras Ranger Districts, also each district individually	USDA Forest Service – IDT Leader	Record
245	3/17/2010	Notes: Coordination meeting with NMDGF re TM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
246	3/18/2010	Letter: Environmental Assessment for Travel Management on the Jicarilla Ranger District, Carson National Forest; NMDGF No. 13207	NM Department of Game and Fish	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Forest Supervisor
247	3/23/2010	Website: State Laws re travel management http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/projects/travel-mgt/state-laws.shtml	USDI Fish and Wildlife Service	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor
248	4/1/2010	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
249	4/13/2010	State of New Mexico Clean Water Act §303(d)/§305(b) Integrated Report for 2010-2011. Web access at: http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/303d-305b/2010-2012/	NM Environment Department	
250	4/30/2010	Cultural Resources Effects Report, including Contemporary Tribal Uses & Issues & references (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Archaeologist	Record
251	5/1/2010	Publication: Route and Area Designation Implementation Guide	USDA Forest Service	
252	5/17/2010	Website: Information on Carson NF found on Center for Biological Diversity website (www.BiologicalDiversity.org)	Center for Biological Diversity website	
253	5/24/2010	Mailing list: Results of post card mailing (11/5/2009) for the west side	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF	Record
254	5/28/2010	Secretary's memorandum 1042-155: Authority to approve road construction and timber harvesting in certain lands administered by the Forest Service	Secretary of Agriculture	USDA Forest Service
255	6/1/2010	Alternatives: List of alternatives posed by the public and considered in the analysis	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
256	6/5/2010	Letter: Requesting permission to use ATVs for allotment management	President, Cebolla Livestock Assoc.	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor
257	6/14/2010	2nd 30-day comment: Cover letter, Draft TM West Side Environmental Assessment, and mailing lists (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF	Mailing list
258	6/17/2010	Legal notice: Notice of West-side draft TM EA & opportunity for 30-day comment	The Taos News	
259	6/18/2010	Memo: Secretary's re-delegation of authority for certain activities in inventoried roadless areas	USDA Forest Service - Chief	Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF

Decision Notice and FONSI

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
				Director, Deputy Chiefs and WO Directors
260	6/20/2010	Media: West-side Forest Travel Plan Up for Final Comment	The Taos News	
261	7/1/2010	Emails: Informal emails between Center for Biological Diversity and Carson NF personnel from 3/2009 to 5/ 2010 (folder)	Center for Biological Diversity	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF
262	7/1/2010	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	
263	7/1/2010	Letter: Regarding access to Carson NF website and West Side Travel Management EA during 2 nd 30-day comment period	Werkmeister – NMOHVA	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor
264	7/13/2010	Letter: Carson NF response to Werkmeister 7/1/2010 letter	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor	Werkmeister – NMOHVA
265	7/15/2010	Literature, References, and Other Information: A compilation of information cited by the Center for Biological Diversity in comment letters and e-mails, including a summary by the Forest Service addressing each document (folder)	Various Sources	Record
266	7/19/2009	Letter: Comment letter on Carson National Forest (CNF) Travel Management Plan, West Side; NMDGF No. 13425	NM Department of Game and Fish, Chief of Conservation Services Division	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Forest Supervisor
267	7/19/2010	Comments received during 2 nd 30-day comment period (6/17-7/19), including list of who commented within comment period (folder)	Public	
268	7/22/2010	Recreation Effects Report, including Wild and Scenic Eligibility, Special Areas, and references (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Natural Resource	Record

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
			Specialist	
269	7/26/2010	Soil, Water, and Air Effects Report, including references (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF East Zone Hydrologist	Record
270	7/26/2010	Letter (dated 7/19/2010): Environmental Assessment for Travel Management on the West Side, Carson National Forest; NMDGF No. 13425	NM Department of Game and Fish, Conservation Services Division, Chief	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor
271	7/29/2010	Letter: Agency determination of no effect on ground water	US Environmental Protection Agency	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor
272	7/30/2010	Transportation Report, including references (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Natural Resource Specialist	
273	8/1/2010	Paper: Law, Regulation and Policy for Wheelchair/Mobility Device Use	USDA Forest Service	
274	8/4/2010	Memo: Department of Justice Issues Final Rule Including Direction on Wheelchairs and Other Power Drive Mobility Devices	USDA Forest Service - Director of Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers	USDA Forest Service - Regional Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River Directors
275	8/5/2010	Memo: Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices and Travel Management	USDA Forest Service - Director of Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources	USDA Forest Service – Regional Foresters
276	8/5/2010	Conversation record: Review of maps	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF	Record

Decision Notice and FONSI

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
			IDT Leader	
277	4/30/2010	Vegetation Effects Report, including references (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Natural Resource Specialist	Record
278	8/6/2010	Noise Effects Report, including references (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Natural Resource Specialist	Record
279	8/12/2010	Environmental Assessment for Travel Management on the Jicarilla Ranger District - Updated since release during 2/8/2010 2 nd 30-day comment period	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF	Carson website: http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/
280	8/13/2010	Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for Travel Management on the Jicarilla Ranger District, including mailing list (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor	Mailing list
281	8/16/2010	Biological Assessment (Federally Listed Species) for West Side Travel Management, with 8/27/2010 addendum to the BA	Forest Wildlife Biologist	Record
282	8/16/2010	Letter: Requesting concurrence with determination on the West Side TM proposed action (alt 1) (Cons. # 22420-2010-I-0112)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor	USDI Fish and Wildlife Service
283	8/26/2010	Letter: Concurrence with "May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determination on BA (Cons. # 22420-2010-I-0112)	USDI Fish and Wildlife Service	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor
284	9/7/2010	Notes: Seasonal closures for travel management	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
285	9/15/2010	Social and Economic Effects Report, including Environmental Justice & references (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF	Record

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
			Forest Natural Resource Specialist	
286	9/22/2010	Alternatives: List of alternatives posed by the public and considered in the west side analysis	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
287	9/29/2010	Fax: Comments on Santa and Carson NF travel management analyses	Moises Morales	
288	9/29/2010	Notice of Appeal: Administrative appeal of the Decision Notice/FONSI for Travel Management on the Jicarilla Ranger District		
289	9/28//2010	Updated Air Effects Report, including references (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Soil, Water, Air Program Manager	Record
290	9/30/2010	Content analysis of Morales comment letter received after 2 nd 30-day comment period	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
291	10/5/2010	Conversation Record: Documentation of conversation with Moises Morales on West-side travel management	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
292	10/13/2010	Biological Evaluation (FS Sensitive Species) for West Side Travel Management	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Wildlife Biologist	Record
293	10/13/2010	Wildlife Effects Report (T&E Spp., FS Sensitive Spp., MIS, Migratory Birds) (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest & Zone Wildlife Biologists	Record
295	10/17/2010	Content analysis of comment letters received during 2nd 30-day comment period	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Interdisciplin	Record

Decision Notice and FONSI

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
			ary Team	
296	11/9/2010	Appeal Decision for the administrative appeal of the Decision Notice/FONSI for Travel Management on the Jicarilla Ranger District (affirmed)	USDA Forest Service – Deputy Regional Forester	Mark Werkmeister - NMOHVA
297	12/1/2010	Environmental Assessment: Updated since release during 6/14/2010 2 nd 30-day comment period	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF	

Appendix B - Best Management Practices for Travel Management on the West Side of the Carson NF

Practice	Purpose/Effectiveness	Source
Close areas vulnerable to compaction and damage to sensitive soils during times when they are most at risk and damage is occurring.	Reduces rutting and compaction – effective if area is monitored to ensure it is put in place as needed and enforced.	FSH 2509.22 (USFS 1990) BMP [017]
Keep heavy equipment off of sensitive soils when at risk/wet unless confined to the running surface or the road and conditions are beneficial to work with higher soil moistures.	Limits additional rutting and compaction to soil on and adjacent to the trail system – effective if written into any contracts as needed and followed.	FSH 2509.22 (USFS 1990) BMP [017]
Fuel and service all equipment away from stream channels and other wet areas at a designated site designed to contain the maximum possible spill. Develop and implement a spill prevention, containment and countermeasures (SPCC) plan if determined appropriate based on volume of fuel onsite.	Designed to limit contamination into streams, soil and other sensitive areas; prevention and containment of spills – effective if planned seriously and followed strictly.	FSH 2509.22 (USFS 1990) BMP [017]
Ensure that all roads not designated are blocked and, at a minimum, appropriate drainage is provided. Roads and trails should be placed in a state that does not require maintenance to avoid accelerated erosion and sedimentation.	Limits the continued degradation of roads and trails and allows the Forest Service to avoid future expenses on maintenance for the roads and trails no longer used—very effective at reducing environmental effects of roads and trails if decommissioned to the appropriate level.	FSH 2509.22 (USFS 1990) BMP [017]
Assess the implementation and effectiveness of other mitigation measures and best management practices based on on-the-ground conditions.	Assess if the BMPs are implemented properly and if they are effective – allows the Forest Service to record if BMPs are implemented and allows changes in BMPS if not effective; also allows adaptations for future road and trail projects.	FSH 2509.22 (USFS 1990) BMP [017]