



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Southwestern  
Region



# Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact

## Travel Management on the Questa Ranger District

### Carson National Forest



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and  
Finding of No Significant Impact  
for  
Travel Management  
on the  
Questa Ranger District**

**Carson National Forest**

**Taos County**



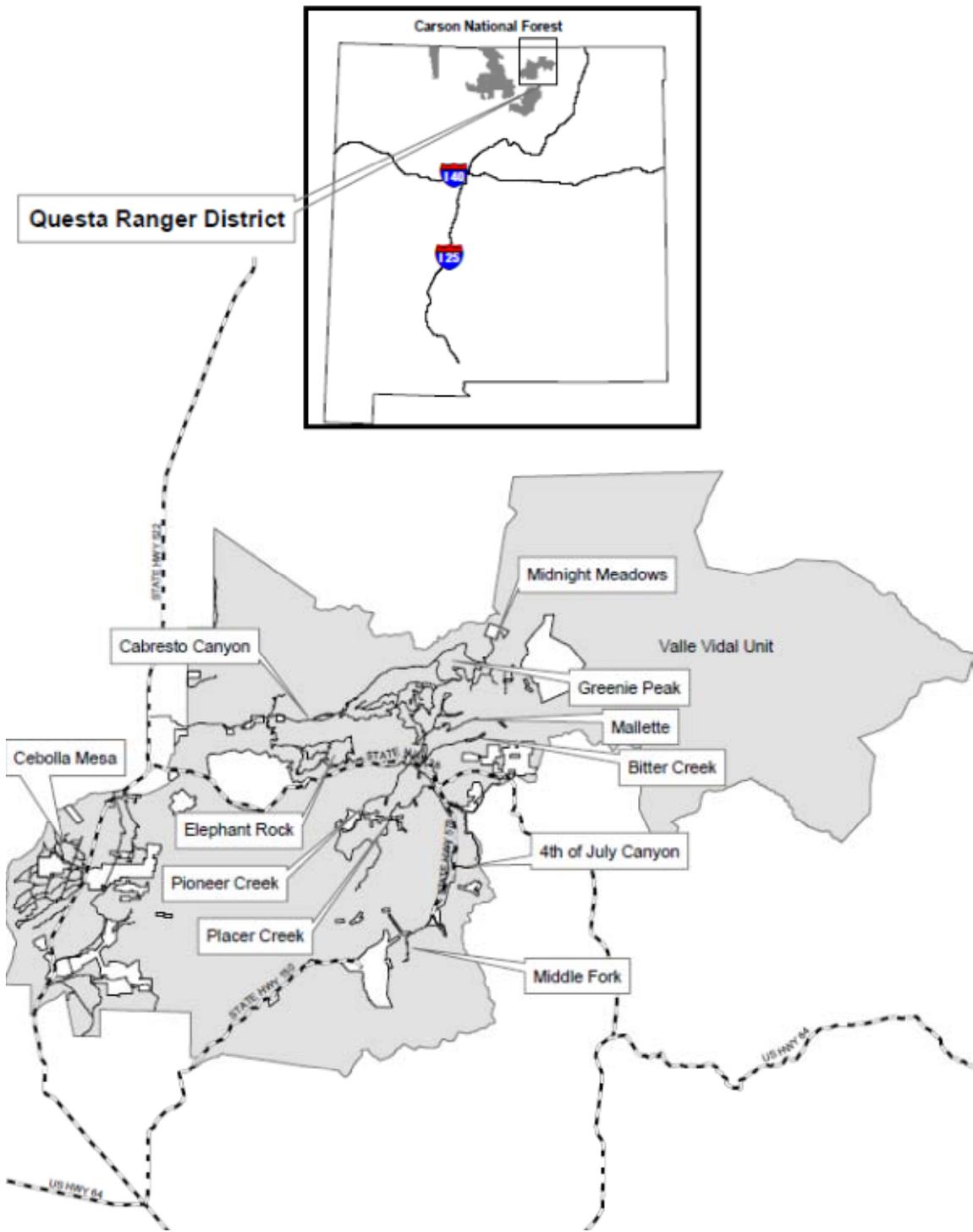


Figure 1. Location of Questa Ranger District, Carson National Forest

# Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact

## Travel Management on the Questa Ranger District

U.S.D.A. Forest Service  
Southwestern Region  
Carson National Forest, Questa Ranger District  
Taos County, 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) [050].<sup>1</sup> 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 Questa Ranger District (RD) of the Carson National Forest (169,761 acres)<sup>2</sup> is geographically different from the Jicarilla Ranger District (between the Jicarilla Apache Reservation and Bloomfield NM), the Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras RDs (west side) in the lower end of the San Juan Mountains in north-central New Mexico, and the Camino Real RD, south of Taos Pueblo Lands (figure 1). Red River, Questa, La Lama, San Cristobal, and the Village of Taos Ski Valley are communities adjacent to or within the district’s boundary. Taos, New Mexico is about 12 miles south of the district boundary. The Questa RD attracts recreationists from population centers in Texas, Oklahoma, and around Albuquerque, New Mexico.

People use motor vehicles to access the Questa RD for a number of activities, such as driving for recreation, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, camping, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, fishing, collecting firewood, harvesting vigas and latillas, and cutting down a Christmas tree. People also use motor vehicles for activities such as forest product removal, grazing management, traditional product gathering, and utility (e.g., telephone and power lines) maintenance. Roads on the Questa

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Travel management for the Valle Vidal Unit is not included in this decision.

RD are mostly used by the public between May 1 and December 31. From Memorial Day to Labor Day roads are used to access certain areas for camping, picnicking, family reunions, and recreational fishing. Roads are also used by hunters during turkey (April-May) and deer and elk (September-December) hunting seasons.

The Carson NF Land and Resource Management Plan (hereby forest plan), as amended, identifies travel routes and areas designated for motor vehicle use. [018] The Questa RD has 158 miles of National Forest System (NFS) roads and 23 miles of trails where motor vehicle use is allowed. In 1997, motor vehicle use on the Questa RD was restricted with a Forest Supervisor special order that ended motorized cross-country travel and allowed motor vehicle use on designated roads and trails only. This designation was put in place to protect forest resources (soils, vegetation, watersheds), public safety (vehicle accidents and human injury on hazardous terrain), and minimize conflict with other users. The order also identifies approximately 34 miles of designated road where motor vehicle use is permitted within 100 feet either side of the road for camping, parking, and firewood gathering. These roads are in the vicinity of Midnight Meadows, Pioneer Canyon, Goose Lake, Middle Fork Lake, and Taos Ski Valley.

Several roads currently have seasonal designations to protect elk and deer wintering and elk calving habitat. Motor vehicle use is allowed as follows: on Forest Road (FR) 134 (upper Cabresto Canyon and Midnight Meadows) between June 16 and December 31; on FR 597 (Sawmill Road) and the 54 series<sup>3</sup> (Greenie Peak) between Memorial Day weekend in late May and December 31; on FR 485 (Pioneer Creek Rd) between May 1 and December 31; and in the Flag Mountain area between August 17 and December 31.

## 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 Questa Ranger District designated in the 1986 Carson forest plan’s “Travel Guide and Map” and not a part of this decision. [018]
- 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. [016, 017, 018]
- The Valle Vidal Unit (MA 21) is not included in this decision. This decision does not change the current transportation system, motor vehicle restrictions, and seasonal designations within MA 21.
- The single purpose roads necessary for accessing private lands not designated open to the public for motor vehicle use.

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<sup>3</sup> “54 series” refers to a group of roads off FR 597 in the Greenie Peak area. Each road is numbered “54” followed by a letter (ex. “54C”).

## 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 Questa Ranger District of the Carson National Forest and specialist reports.<sup>4</sup> 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, and the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service [335], and the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office [045, 115, 116, 244]. 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.

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 (figures 2 and 3):

- Restrict motor vehicle use to administrative use only on approximately 15 miles of existing open road in the Midnight Meadows, Greenie Peak, Bitter Creek, Middle Fork Lake, El Rito (north of Questa), Lama, Garrapata, and San Cristobal areas. These roads will not be available for general public use and will not be displayed on the MVUM.
- Add approximately 13 miles of unauthorized route as NFS roads open to all vehicles in the Questa, Lama, and San Cristobal areas.
- Add approximately 2 miles of unauthorized route segments ( $\leq 300$  feet long) as NFS roads open to all vehicles off FR 134 (Cabresto Canyon, Bonito Canyon, and Midnight Meadows), FR 597 (Greenie Peak and Mallette Canyon), FR 488 (Foster Park), and NM 578 (upper Red River Canyon).
- Remove all 34 miles of existing 100-foot corridor along designated roads.
- Add approximately 2 miles of unauthorized routes to the existing Elephant Rock motorcycle trail system as a NFS trail open to motorcycles only in the vicinity of Cabresto Canyon and Sawmill.
- Convert approximately 2 miles of NFS road to NFS trail and add 1 mile of unauthorized route to the existing motorized trail system as an NFS trail in 4<sup>th</sup> of July Canyon, for vehicles 50 inches wide or less (3 miles total).
- Allow motor vehicle use between May 1 and December 31 on NFS roads in the Foster Park/4<sup>th</sup> of July Canyon (FR 488 and 490), Placer Creek/Goose Lake area (FR 486), San Cristobal/Cerro Negro area (FR 7), and Cebolla Mesa (except FR 9, where motor vehicle use allowed year-round). The district ranger may modify these seasonal designations 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.

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<sup>4</sup> The final Travel Management EA for the Questa RD 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/>

To comply with the travel management rule's requirement to prohibit motor vehicle use off the designated system, this decision will also amend the Carson forest plan to state under "Forest-wide Prescriptions, Travel Management":

- 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.

## **Carson Forest Plan Amendment**

The Carson forest plan is amended with this decision, in order to implement the TMR on the Questa RD of the Carson National Forest. The MVUM will replace the forest plan's "Travel Guide and Map." This amendment is specific to the Questa Ranger District.

### **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 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:* 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 and NFS trails on NFS lands in the Questa Ranger District 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 and trails; the types of vehicles that are allowed on each route; and any seasonal restrictions that apply on those routes.

## 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.*

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 Questa RD 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 is specific to the Questa Ranger District.

## Design Features Associated with this Decision

- All motorized vehicle use will be restricted to routes designated and displayed on the MVUM. Motor vehicle operators are responsible for acquiring the MVUM prior to motorized travel on the Questa RD. 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, horse, or snowmobile. 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 permit holders 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 elk 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 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 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 the EA and this decision (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 Questa Ranger District's designated transportation system to be consistent with the primary purpose and intent of the Travel Management Rule. This decision addresses natural and cultural resource impacts caused by motor vehicle use on the Questa RD. Besides addressing natural resource issues, 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 these lands. This does not in any way prohibit private landowners from being able to legally access their property. Although a special order already ended motorized cross-country travel on the Questa RD and restricted motor vehicle use to designated roads and trails only, amending the Carson forest plan will bring travel management policies in compliance with the travel management rule, which prohibits use off of the designated system once the MVUM is published (36 CFR 261.13).

This decision will provide habitat security in important big game winter habitat on the Questa RD by reducing impacts from motor vehicle use in Foster Park and Cebolla Mesa during the winter and early spring, while still allowing the public to recreate and enjoy the national forest. Although snow accumulation in Foster Park (accessed by FR 488 and 490) usually makes this area inaccessible to motor vehicles, no seasonal designation to reduce disturbance from motor vehicle use has officially been applied until now. On Cebolla Mesa, this decision prohibits motor vehicle use during the winter and early spring (except on FR 9), when animals need quiet and seclusion and the roads are wet and muddy.

Several public comments suggested adding routes or areas open to motor vehicle use to provide challenging terrain and experiences for motorized recreation. I reviewed these comments 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 158 miles of road open for public use and to all types of vehicles and 28 miles of motorized trail. 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.

Public comments related to Middle Fork Lake Road were extremely divided. The road has been closed to motor vehicle use since 2004 for public safety and protection of natural resources. I read many of the comment letters that passionately expressed the desire to reopen the road to motor vehicle use, as well as an equal number of letters imploring the Forest Service to permanently convert the road to a non-motorized trail.

Since its closure, Middle Fork Lake is the only destination lake outside of wilderness that can be easily accessed by foot without having to be in close proximity with a motor vehicle. As a result, Middle Fork Lake Road has become a very popular hiking trail. Almost every day during the summer, the trailhead is full of parked vehicles. Some people are hiking up to Lost Lake in the Wheeler Peak Wilderness, but most are going to Middle Fork Lake. A portion of this use may be attributed to information on the Town of Red River's website, where Middle Fork Lake is listed as one of four short hikes in the Red River area.

If motor vehicle use was reinstated on Middle Fork Lake Road, the route would not be safe for hikers and its narrow width would not allow more than one vehicle at a time between switchbacks. This would dramatically reduce the number of people who could enjoy the natural beauty of Middle Fork Lake. The Questa RD has a limited number of foot-only trails close to the Town of Red River. By keeping Middle Fork Lake Road as a non-motorized trail, more people will use it and it will provide a quality recreation opportunity in the Red River area.

In its comments, the Town of Red River links Middle Fork Lake Road to its economic viability. Motor vehicle use has been prohibited on Middle Fork Lake Road since 2004. I reviewed the Social and Economic Effects Report [317] and Recreation Effects Report [319] and neither concludes a hiking trail will negatively impact the economic stability or recreational opportunities of the town. Alternative 2 included reopening Middle Fork Lake Road and the EA discloses no difference in economic effects between the two alternatives relative to Middle Fork Lake Road.

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.

Alternative 2 was developed to address the Town of Red River's request for more roads and trails open to motor vehicle use. As stated earlier, the scope of this decision focuses on changing the designated transportation system to balance natural and cultural resource concerns with motorized opportunities, while minimizing new routes to the system. This is why I did not select alternative 2.

Alternative 3 was developed to address natural resource impacts of roads. It would have resulted in 124 miles of road open to motor vehicle use on the district, reducing the transportation system on the Questa RD by 22 percent. I did not choose alternative 3 because historic activities that require motor vehicle use, such as fuelwood gathering and motorized recreation, would be substantially impacted.

## Alternatives Considered

In addition to the selected alternative, I considered 14 alternatives [EA, pp. 11-27 and PR #330]. Ten alternatives were considered and eliminated from detailed analysis. Reasons for their elimination are described in Chapter 2 - Alternatives of the EA (pp. 22-27). Three alternatives were considered in detail. 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. 11).<sup>5</sup>

## Public Involvement

To kick-off travel management on the Carson National Forest, a public open house was held in July 2006 to provide the public with information on the travel management rule and how it applies to the Carson NF. In early 2007, meetings were held in Bloomfield, Canjilon, El Rito, Tres Piedras, Questa, Angel Fire, Peñasco, and Taos, New Mexico. Comments were received by mail, e-mail, and telephone following these meetings. These comments were reviewed and used by the forest to develop the proposed action.

In January 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. Since 2007, the Questa RD has included discussions on the travel management process as part of their annual meetings with grazing permittees. In January 2009, the travel management process was presented at the annual Northern New Mexico Livestock Association meeting.

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<sup>5</sup> 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)).

In February 2007, letters were sent to approximately 38 interested parties and to 263 people who received firewood permits during the 2006 season. Information sent to the public was posted on the Carson National Forest's web site.<sup>6</sup> Additional comments, written, e-mailed, and verbal have been received throughout 2008 and April 2009.

### **Scoping**

Forest-wide scoping for the travel management proposed actions commenced in January 2009, with 670 scoping letters and 179 emails sent to individuals, interest groups, grazing permittees, and federal, state, and local government agencies. 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. Many of these comments were the same form letter. Of the 770 letters, 10 letters were specific to the Questa RD. District rangers also received some verbal comments and questions from the public. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service 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.

Public meetings were held in Questa, Costilla, and Red River, New Mexico in February and early March 2009. One-hundred-fifty individuals signed attendance sheets at these meetings. The verbal comments in addition to written comments received at these public meetings and afterwards 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 August 6, 2009 (36 CFR 215.6). It provided notice to the public of the opportunity to comment on the proposed actions, alternatives, and effects summaries for travel management on the Jicarilla, Canjilon, El Rito, Tres Piedras, and Questa Ranger Districts. The Carson National Forest mailed over 700 proposed action documents and 580 emails for 30-day comment. During the comment period, the public responded with 29 single written letters regarding travel management on the Questa RD and 3,929 emailed form letters concerning all five districts. Forest Service responses to all comments can be found in the project record.

A common remark made by the public during the 30-day comment period in 2009 was the lack of specific information on possible effects of the proposed action for each ranger district. In response, the Carson forest supervisor decided to issue another 30-day notice and comment period after completion of the travel management environmental assessments for the Jicarilla RD, west side (Canjilon, El Rito, and Tres Piedras RDs), and the Questa RD. The preliminary EA for travel management on the Questa RD was available to the public for a second 30-day comment period in June 2011. During the second comment period, the public responded with 154 written letters regarding travel management on the Questa RD and several hundred form letters. Forest Service responses to all comments can be found in the project record.

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<sup>6</sup> [http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/recreation/travel\\_mgmt](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/recreation/travel_mgmt)

## 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 Questa Ranger District:

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 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. These letters were followed up with telephone calls beginning on June 28, 2006, and continuing to January 22, 2007. Responses from the telephone follow-ups include responses from Pojoaque Pueblo (favorable), Hopi Tribe (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. In January 2009, a meeting was conducted with Taos Pueblo officials concerning travel management on the Questa RD. No significant issues were 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 Carson National Forest's quarterly schedule of proposed actions. The schedule has included the travel management project for the Questa Ranger District since July 2008. 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 two 30-day notice and comment periods (July 2009 and June 2011). Two tribes responded with letters, but no comments were specific to the proposed changes to the transportation system on the Questa RD.

## Finding of No Significant Impact

The significance of environmental impacts is considered in terms of context and intensity. This means that the significance of an action is analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human and national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Significance varies with the setting of the proposed action. In the case of a site-specific action, significance usually depends upon the effects in the locale rather than in the world as a whole. Intensity refers to the severity or degree of impact (40 CFR 1508.27).

The following is a summary of how alternative 1, as modified, addresses the 10 significance factors identified in 40 CFR 1508.27(b). The best available science was considered in the determinations made in these findings including methods of data collection, analysis, cause and effects analysis and means to mitigate adverse effects.

### (a) Context

The Questa Ranger District is located in north-central New Mexico. The total area affected by this decision is approximately 169,761 acres within the district boundary excluding private lands and the Valle Vidal Unit. Red River, Questa, La Lama, San Cristobal, and the Village of Taos Ski Valley are communities adjacent to or within the district's boundary. Taos, New Mexico is about 12 miles south of the district boundary.

The effects from this decision will affect those persons living and recreating within the district boundary. Effects may be either beneficial or adverse, depending on the points of view of the persons affected. Although travel management decisions affecting national forests may be of national interest, the effects related to this decision are generally limited to the local area.

### (b) Intensity

Intensity refers to the severity of the impacts. The following 10 factors are considered in determining the intensity of effects (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. 29-147). 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 actions affect public health or safety**

After considering the analysis in the EA, I conclude that implementing the chosen alternative to restrict motor vehicle use to administrative use only on some existing roads and add unauthorized routes to the system will 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. 3, 127, 147). 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 Questa Ranger District. 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. 63-64, 123-126). There are no effects to designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, inventoried roadless areas, or eligible wild and scenic rivers (EA, pp. 123-126). 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 will 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. [271] 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. 29-147) 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. [016] 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. 29-147) 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 Questa RD. 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. 64-65, 68-69, 74, 113-115, 122, 135, 143) for each of the affected resources. This is primarily based on the predicted effects from the modest level of overall change that will occur as a result of the route designation process. I have also considered activities on private lands adjacent to the Questa RD. 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. 119-123). The project was in compliance with the protocol specified in the programmatic agreement with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). [045, 115, 116, 244] Travel management on the Questa RD 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 will be potentially affected. The biological assessment (BA) prepared for the project determined that the project “may effect, but not likely to adversely affect” the Mexican spotted owl or its habitat. [325] The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with the determinations of effect on October 11, 2011 and stated,

*we find that your proposed action will have insignificant and discountable effects to the Mexican spotted owl (Strix occkntcilis luciilu) Therefore, the Service concurs with your determination of "may affect, is not likely to adversely affect".*  
[335]

A biological evaluation (BE) was prepared 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, 80-101). [329]

**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; therefore they are in compliance with the National Forest Management Act (EA, pp. 1, 3, 101-11). 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. 61-64)

Clean Air Act, as Amended in 1977 (EA, pp. 65-67)

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as Amended (EA, pp.75-79)

Executive Order 11990 of May, 1977 [Wetlands] (EA, p. 63)

Executive Order 11988 of May, 1977 [Floodplains] (EA, p. 63)

Executive Order 13186 of January, 2001 [Migratory Bird Treaty Act] (EA, pp.111-113)

Executive Order 12898 of 1994 [Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations] (EA, pp. 143-146)

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 169,741 acres of NFS lands, this decision will restrict motor vehicle use to administrative use on 15 miles of existing road and add approximately 15 miles of unauthorized routes for no net change in miles of road on the Questa RD. The number of miles of roads designated for motor vehicle 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 Questa RD 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 Questa RD 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 Questa RD 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](mailto: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**

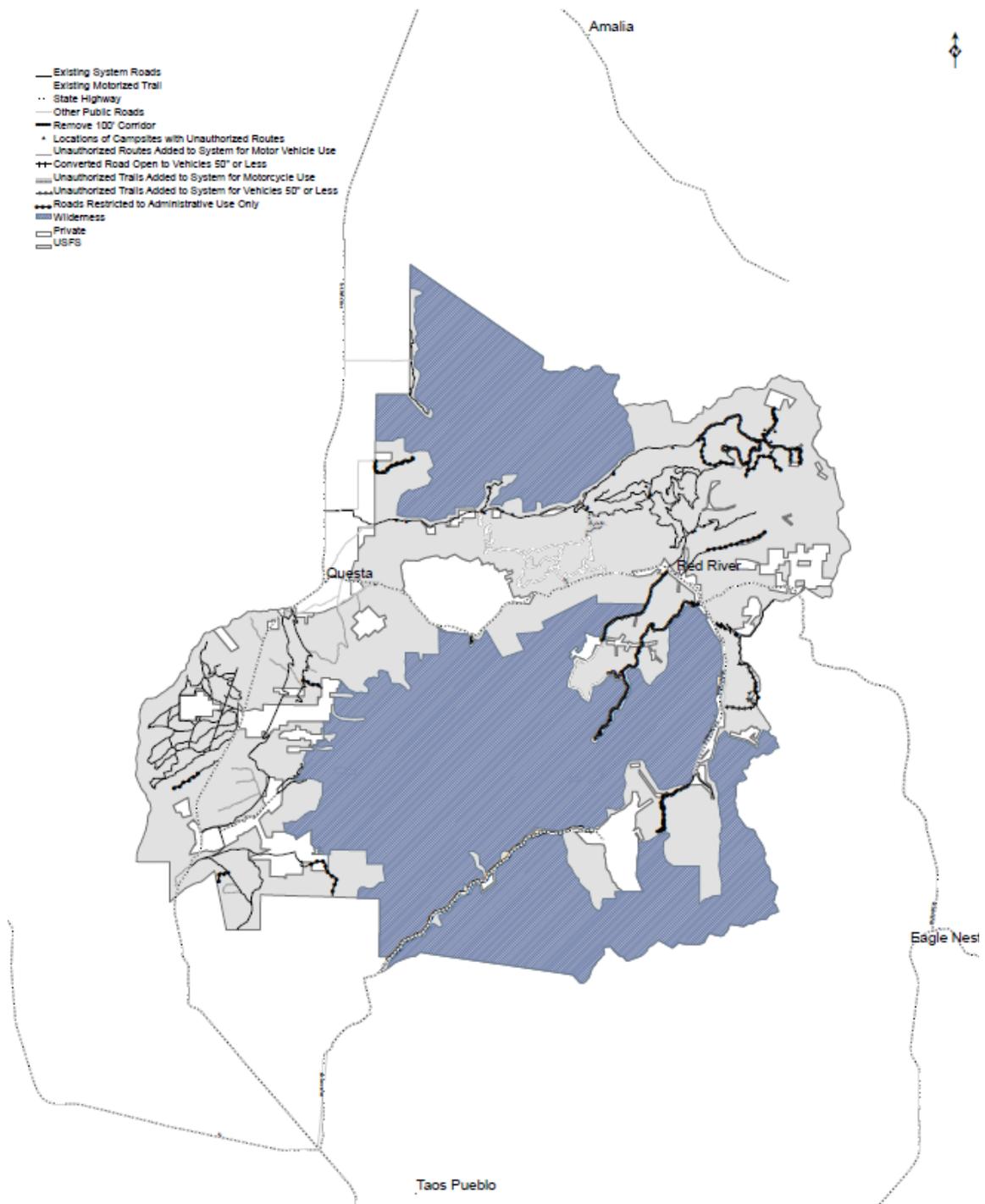
For additional information, contact Jack Carpenter at the Forest Supervisor’s Office, at the address listed above, or by phone at (575) 758-6200.



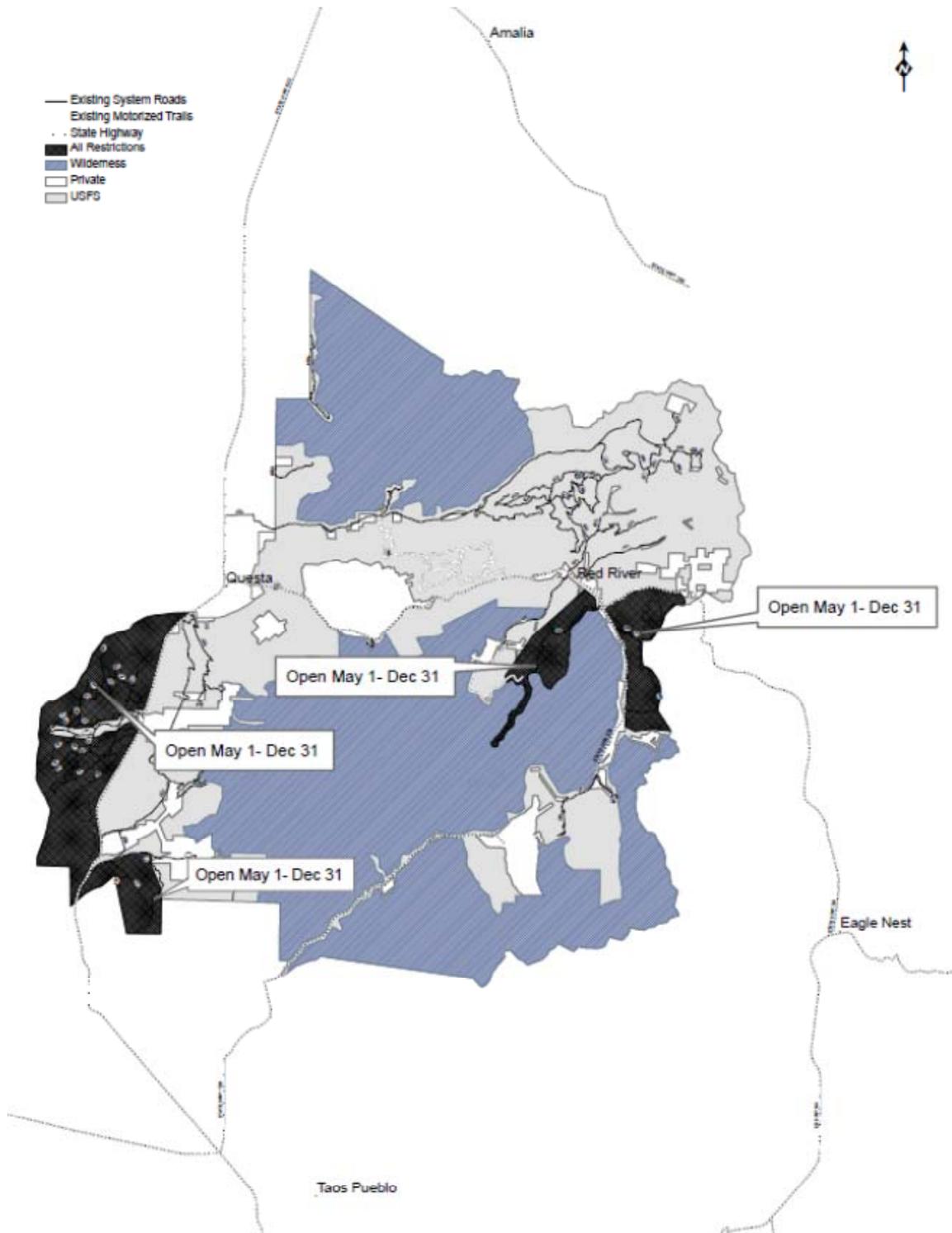
KENDALL CLARK

November 4, 2011  
Date

Forest Supervisor  
Carson National Forest



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



**Figure 3. Decision for Questa Ranger District – Changes to seasonal designations**



## Appendix A - Project Record Index Travel Management on the Questa Ranger District of the Carson National Forest

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
001	1/1/1918	Map: Carson National Forest	USDA Forest Service	
002	1/1/1935	Map: Carson National Forest	USDA Forest Service	
003	1/1/1941	Map: Carson National Forest	USDA Forest Service	
004	1/1/1957	Map: Carson National Forest	USDA Forest Service	
005	9/3/1964	Law: Wilderness Act, Public Law 88-577	US Congress	
006	10/2/1968	Law: Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Public Law 90-542	US Congress	
007	2/8/1972	Executive Order: EO Executive Order 11644 - Use of off-road vehicles on the public lands	US President	
008	8/17/1974	Law: Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act, Public Law 93-378	US Congress	
009	1/1/1975	Map: Carson National Forest	USDA Forest Service	
010	10/22/1976	Law: National Forest Management Act (NFMA), Public Law 94-588	US Congress	
011	12/28/1977	Law: Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as Amended by the Clean Water Act, Public Law 95-217	US Congress	
012	1/1/1978	Law: New Mexico Habitat Protection Act (Section 17-6-7 NMSA 1978)	NM Legislature	
013	11/29/1978	Regulations: Implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508) for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	Council on Environmental Quality	
014	1/1/1979	Final Environmental Impact Statement: Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II)	USDA Forest Service	
015	12/19/1980	Law: New Mexico Wilderness Act, Public Law 96-550	US Congress	
016	9/30/1986	Environmental Impact Statement for Carson NF Land and Resource Management Plan (LMP)	USDA Forest Service	
017	10/31/1986	Record of Decision for Carson NF LMP	USDA Forest Service	
018	11/1/1986	Carson National Forest LMP, with amendments 1 through 13 (folder)	USDA Forest Service	
019	8/1/1987	Report: Terrestrial Ecosystems Survey of the Carson National Forest	USDA Forest Service	
020	12/3/1990	Directives: Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2509.22 Soil and Water Best Management Practices (Portfolio)	USDA Forest Service	

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<b>PR No.</b>	<b>Doc Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
021	10/1/1991	Article: Officers Detail Timber Sale History by Jeff Pederson	New Mexico Wildlife	
022	5/18/1992	EA & Decision Notice/FONSI: Motorcycle loop trail	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Questa District Ranger	Record
023	1/31/1996	Law: New Mexico Habitat Protection Act (19 NMAC 34.2), recompiled 12/31/2001	NM State Legislature	
024	1/13/1996	Law: New Mexico Habitat Protection Act (19 NMAC 34.5), recompiled 12/31/2001	NM State Legislature	
025	1/1/1997	Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act	Council on Environmental Quality	
026	6/20/1997	Closure Order: #02-238. Eliminates motorized cross-country travel on Questa RD	USDA Forest Service – Forest Supervisor	Record
027	6/20/1997	Closure Order: #02-247. Prohibits dispersed camping within 500' of nearest developed campsite at Fawn Lakes, Columbine, Elephant Rock, and Junebug Campground on Questa RD	USDA Forest Service – Forest Supervisor	Record
028	8/8/1997	Closure Order: #02-301. Establishes 100' corridors along designated roads on Questa RD for motor vehicle use	USDA Forest Service – Forest Supervisor	Record
029	8/8/1997	Closure Order: #02-302. Closes to motor vehicle use Sawmill Mountain Rd (FR 597) from Mallette Park to the junction with Cabresto Canyon Rd (FR 134); roads connected to FR 597, FR 134, and FR 54 in the vicinity of Trail Canyon, Greenie Peak, Midnight Meadows, and Anderson Park, or portions of these roads; and Cabresto Canyon Rd (FR134) from junction with Sawmill Mountain Rd (FR 597) east to the junction with FR 54B, and roads in the vicinity of Greenie Peak, Midnight Meadows, and Anderson Park, or portions of these roads	USDA Forest Service – Forest Supervisor	Record
030	8/8/1997	Closure Order: #02-303. Same as CO #02-302, with addition of closing Pioneer Canyon Rd (FR 64) from the Town of Red River water tank south to the Caribel property	USDA Forest Service – Forest Supervisor	Record
031	8/1/1999	Report: Roads Analysis: Informing Decisions About Managing the National Forest Transportation System (FS 643) (portfolio)	USDA Forest Service	
032	6/1/2000	Report: Forest Roads: A Synthesis of Information	USDA Forest Service	
033	1/10/2001	Executive Order: E.O. 13186 - Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds	US President	

<b>PR No.</b>	<b>Doc Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
034	2/9/2001	Grant proposal: Middle Fork Lake Road grant proposal to NM Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, State Parks Division	Town of Red River & USDA Forest Service	NM Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Dept, State Parks Division
035	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
036	11/27/2002	Law: Clean Water Act, Amended through Public Law 107–303	US Congress	
037	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	
038	4/22/2003	Speech: Managing the National Forest System: Great Issues and Great Diversions	USDA Forest Service – Chief Bosworth	Commonwealth Club, San Francisco CA
039	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	
040	7/1/2003	36 CFR 212 Regulations for administration of forest transportation system	Code of Federal Regulations	
041	10/6/2003	Letter: Concerning ATV use on the Questa RD	John and Fred Welsh	USDA Forest Service – Forest Supervisor
042	6/1/2004	National Visitor Use Monitoring Results for Carson NF	Prepared by Kocis; English; Zarnoch; Arnold; Warren; Ruka for Forest Service	
043	9/17/2004	Report: User Needs Assessment, Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Implementation Team	USDA Forest Service	
044	1/1/2005	EA and DN/FONSI: Middle Fork Lake Trailhead, FR 58, and FR 478 Improvements	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Questa District Ranger	

## Decision Notice and FONSI

<b>PR No.</b>	<b>Doc Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
045	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	
046	5/23/2005	Closure Order: #02-360. Closes to motor vehicle use Cabresto Canyon, FR 134, FR 134A ,and Cabresto Lake area; Pioneer Canyon, FR 485; Malette Canyon, FR 597; Junebug, Fawn Lakes, and Lower Hondo Campgrounds. Dispersed campsites along the south side of NM 38 from the Questa RD to the Red River town limits.	USDA Forest Service – Forest Supervisor	Record
047	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	
048	6/9/2005	Media: Guarding the Forest: Conservations Fight Back Against Illegal Off-Roading in the Carson – Budget Woes Exacerbate Problem	The Taos News	
049	10/31/2005	Law: New Mexico Habitat Protection Act (NMAC - N, 10-31-2005)	NM State Legislature	
050	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	
051	12/1/2005	Technical Report: Guidelines for Road Maintenance Levels	USDA Forest Service - Forest Service Technology & Development Program	
052	1/1/2006	Brochure: Red River Motorized Recreation Opportunities	USDA Forest Service	
053	1/31/2006	Directives: Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12 Chapter 80 Land Management Planning Handbook, Wild and Scenic River Evaluation	USDA Forest Service	
054	5/9/2006	Roads & Bridges Monitoring Trip of SW Region	USDA Forest Service - WO Engineering Staff	
055	5/17/2006	Report: Values, Attitudes, and Beliefs Toward National Forest System Lands: New Mexico Tribal Peoples	Prepared by Adams-Russell Consulting for Forest Service	

<b>PR No.</b>	<b>Doc Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
056	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	
057	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
058	6/6/2006	Letter: Tribal Consultation for TM on Carson NF, with mailing list	USDA Forest Service – Forest Supervisor	Tribal Mailing List
059	6/8/2006	Letter: Travel Management Schedule for Implementation	USDA Forest Service - Chief	Record
060	6/12/2006	Memo: Travel Management Rule Implementation Guidelines	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Regional Forester	Forest Supervisors, Staff Directors, Special Agent in Charge
061	6/13/2006	Letter: Travel Management Rule Implementation Guidelines	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Regional Forester	Interested Public
062	6/27/2006	Memo: Meeting with Picuris Pueblo Regarding Travel Management Rule	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF, Camino Real RD Archaeologist	Record
063	6/28/2006	Phone log: Tribal consultation from 6/28-7/12/2006	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
064	06/29/2006	Letter: Announcing public open house on travel management at Questa Ranger Station, Questa NM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Questa District Ranger	District Mailing List
065	7/10/2006	Memo: Interim Procedures for Engineering Analysis of Motorized Mixed Use	USDA Forest Service - Director of Engineering, Director of Recreation and Heritage	Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs

Decision Notice and FONSI

<b>PR No.</b>	<b>Doc Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
			Resources	and WO Staff
066	7/15/2006	Open house: Sign-in sheet for open house held in Taos, NM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
067	7/19/2006	Media: Forests Working on New Map	Albuquerque Journal	
068	8/1/2006	Glossary: Road terminology	USDA Forest Service	
069	9/27/2006	Letter: Forest Service Travel Management Rule/Designated Rule NMGF No. 11077	NM Department of Game and Fish - Director	USDA Forest Service - Jicarilla District Ranger
070	10/4/2006	Letter: ORV use on National Forests, includes photos	Jon Klingel	USDA Forest Service - Forest Supervisor
071	10/13/2006	Website: FS Headquarters - Info on Travel Management Rule (TMR) ( <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/">http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/</a> )	USDA Forest Service - National Headquarters Website	
072	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
073	11/10/2006	Letter: Travel management planning on the Carson NF	USDA Forest Service - Forest Supervisor	Amigos Bravos
074	11/16/2006	PowerPoint: Presentation of BLM strategies for travel management	USDI Bureau of Land Management	
075	1/1/2007	Law: NM Administrative Code Title 18, Chapter 15, Part 3 Off-highway Motor Vehicle Safety Standards	NM State Legislature	
076	1/1/2007	Law: NM Administrative Code 66-3-1001.1 Supplement Off-Highway Motor Vehicles	NM State Legislature	
077	1/18/2007	Letter: Documentation of phone conversation (1/11/2007)	Camino Real District Archeologist	Marklyn Chee, Navajo Nation

<b>PR No.</b>	<b>Doc Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
078	1/19/2007	Memo: Documentation of tribal consultation visit with San Juan Pueblo	Camino Real District Archeologist	Record
079	1/22/2007	Phone log: Tribal consultation from 1/11-1/22/2007	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
080	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
081	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
082	2/1/2007	Website: Carson National Forest - Info on TMR ( <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/recreation/travelmgmt/index2.shtml">http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/recreation/travelmgmt/index2.shtml</a> )	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Website	
083	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
084	2/21/2007	Letter: Announcing open houses, with mailing list	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor	TM Mailing List
085	3/1/2007	Schedule: Open houses for travel management on the Carson NF	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	
086	3/13/2007	Media: Open House Series on Off-Road Rules Set for Next Week	The New Mexican	
087	3/15/2007	Media: Carson National Forest: Series of Off-Road Rules Set for Next Week	The Taos News	
088	3/15/2007	Media: Motorized Travel Proposed	The Taos News	
089	3/18/2007	Website: SW Region - Info on TMR guidelines <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/projects/travel-mgt/imp-guide.shtml">http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/projects/travel-mgt/imp-guide.shtml</a>	USDA Forest Service - Southwest Region	

Decision Notice and FONSI

<b>PR No.</b>	<b>Doc Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
090	3/19/2007	Open house: Meeting notes, sign-in sheet, and public comments for open house held in Bloomfield NM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
091	3/21/2007	Open house: Meeting notes and public comments for open house held in Tres Piedras NM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
092	3/21/2007	Comment: Regarding roads that need to be closed on the Tres Piedras RD	Joanie Berde	Record
093	3/22/2007	Notes: Summary of open house held in Questa, NM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
094	3/22/2007	Media: National Forests to Discuss Trails	Rio Grande Sun	
095	3/22/2007	Media: Forest Service Hosts Meetings on Motorized Travel	Sangre de Cristo Chronicle	
096	3/22/2007	Media: Public Input Vital to Responsibly Steer Travel Management Plan	The Taos News	
097	3/22/2007	Notes: Updated schedule of open houses for travel management	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
098	3/23/2007	Travel Management Rule - Implementation Guidelines, Revision 1 - Revised Guidance for Dispersed Camping	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Regional Forester	Record
099	3/27/2007	Open house: Meeting notes, sign-in sheet, public comments for open house held in El Rito, NM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
100	3/29/2007	Open house: Sign-in sheet for open house held in Taos, NM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
101	4/1/2007	Media: Keep Middle Fork Road closed to ATVs and motorized vehicles FOREVER...'	Sangre de Cristo Chronicle	
102	4/1/2007	Spark Arrester Guide: Off-highway Vehicles (Vol 3)	USDA Forest Service - Natl Tech & Dev Program	

<b>PR No.</b>	<b>Doc Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
103	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
104	4/4/2007	Letter: Comments on travel management	Amigos Bravos	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Recreation/Engineering Staff Officer
105	4/5/2007	Media: Forest Travel Plan: Who Can Go Where?	The Taos News	
106	4/9/2007	Letter: Response to Kristine Kassar, CBD	Development Program	Kassar, Center for Biological Diversity
107	4/12/2007	Media: Residents Voice Concerns, Ideas for New Forest Plan	Sangre de Cristo Chronicle	
108	4/13/2007	Notes: Summary of TM comments received to date	USDA Forest Service Jicarilla District Ranger	Record
109	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
110	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
111	5/10/2007	Notes: Criteria used to determine scope of Carson NF travel management	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
112	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
113	7/13/2007	Travel Management Rule - Implementation Guidelines, Revision 2	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Regional	

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<b>PR No.</b>	<b>Doc Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
			Forester	
114	7/27/2007	Open house: Sign-in sheet for open house held in Questa, NM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
115	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	
116	10/12/2007	Memo: Re Appendix I (SHPO Protocol)	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Regional Forester	R3 Forest Supervisors
117	10/19/2007	Frequently Asked Questions on Travel Management - found on Southwestern Region website	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Region Website	
118	10/19/2007	Travel Management Rule - Implementation Guidelines, Revision 3	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Regional Forester	
119	12/1/2007	A Citizen's Guide to the NEPA: Having Your Voice Heard	Council on Environmental Quality	
120	12/9/2007	Media: Forest Vehicle Limits Fall Short	Albuquerque Journal	
121	12/30/2007	Media: Surge in off-roading stirs dust and debate in west	New York Times	
122	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
123	1/1/2008	Worksheet: Appendix A - Roads by District	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF	Record
124	1/12/2008	Senate Joint Memorial 13 - Ensuring Traditional Culture Not Impacted by TM	NM 48th Legislature, 2nd Session	
125	1/14/2008	Letter: Travel management planning and the roads policy	WildEarth	USDA Forest

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		on the Carson National Forest	Guardians (formerly Forest Guardians)	Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor
126	1/19/2008	Media: Senate urges Forest Service to rein in off-roaders	Santa Fe New Mexican	
127	1/23/2008	Notes: IDT meeting notes re TM alternatives for Jicarilla Ranger District	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
128	1/29/2008	E-mail: Re complete text of 36 CFR 212	USDA Forest Service - Walt Keyes, Transportation Planner	Record
129	2/1/2008	Notes: Criteria for identifying minimum road system	USDA Forest Service	
130	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	
131	2/4/2008	Letter: Roadless areas & Travel Management	Brian Hawthorne, Blue Ribbon Coalition	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor
132	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
133	3/1/2008	Notes: IDT meeting notes re TAP for Tres Piedras Ranger District	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
134	3/13/2008	Congressional Testimony: The Impacts of Unmanaged Off Road Vehicles on Federal Land	Jack Gregory, Special Agent in Charge, Retired	
135	3/17/2008	Notes: Coordination meeting with NMDGF re TM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
136	3/27/2008	Notes: IDT meeting notes with district rangers	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record

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<b>PR No.</b>	<b>Doc Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
137	6/12/2008	Media: Carson Officials Start Engine on Proposed Travel Plan	The Taos News	
138	6/30/2008	Letter: Re recreational ORV usage on traditional rural culture	Leo Hubbard	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Regional Forester
139	6/30/2008	Travel Management Rule - Implementation Guidelines, Revision 4	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Regional Forester	
140	7/1/2008	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	
141	7/9/2008	Notes: IDT meeting notes re field data needs	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
142	7/14/2008	Media: Various articles on travel management	Santa Fe New Mexican; Albuquerque Journal (North)	
143	7/17/2008	Media: Carson Travel Plan in Review	The Taos News	
144	7/18/2008	Notes: IDT meeting notes re team assignments	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
145	7/23/2008	Notes: IDT meeting notes re draft proposed actions and deadlines	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	
146	7/23/2008	Email: Comments on travel management	Western Environmental Law Center	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF IDT Leader
147	8/27/2008	Notes: IDT meeting notes re progress update	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	
148	9/9/2008	Travel Analysis Process (TAP), Carson National Forest (Portfolio)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF	

<b>PR No.</b>	<b>Doc Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
149	9/17/2008	E-Mail: Recommend Santa Fe TAP	Bryan Bird, WildEarth Guardians	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader
150	9/18/2008	Letter: Travel Management Rule implementation on the Carson NF	USDA Forest Service Acting Forest Supervisor	Great Old Broads for Wilderness
151	9/30/2008	Notes: Inventory of dispersed sites on Questa RD	USDA Forest Service Questa RD Personnel	Record
152	10/1/2008	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	
153	10/16/2008	Notes: IDT meeting notes re status of proposed actions and field data collection	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	
154	10/31/2008	Notes: IDT meeting notes re El Rito Ranger District	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	
155	12/31/2008	Letters: Prescoping comments received in 2008 on Carson NF TM planning process (folder)	Members of the public	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF
156	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	
157	1/1/2009	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	
158	1/8/2009	Media: Agency Proposes Off-Road Vehicle Rules	The New Mexican	
159	1/11/2009	TM Presentation: Northern NM Stockman's Assoc Annual Meeting	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF	Record
160	1/15/2009	Frequently Asked Questions on Travel Management (provided to public during scoping)	USDA Forest Service	
161	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
162	1/21/2009	Email: Sending out travel management proposed action for scoping	Mark Olson, NMDGF, NW Habitat	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF

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			specialist	Jicarilla District Ranger
163	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
164	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
165	2/3/2009	Media: Off-Road Enthusiasts Fear Law Overhaul	New Mexican	
166	2/4/2009	Media: Off-Roaders Worried About Law Overhaul	Albuquerque Journal	
167	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
168	2/9/2009	Media: Carson Forest Releases ATV Plan	Albuquerque Journal	
169	2/11/2009	Letter: Acceptance of scoping comments	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor	Rachel Conn, Amigos Bravos
170	2/11/2009	Open house: Meeting notes, sign-in sheet, and public comments for open house held in Red River, NM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
171	2/12/2009	Media: New Motorized Travel Plan for Carson	The Taos News	
172	2/17/2009	Open house: Sign-in sheet and comments from open house held in Questa, NM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
173	2/19/2009	Media: Carson Forest Proposes Cuts to Off-Road Access	Rio Grande Sun	

<b>PR No.</b>	<b>Doc Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
174	2/19/2009	Media: National Forest Plan Draws Comments from All Sides	Sangre de Cristo Chronicle	
175	2/19/2009	Notes: Agenda for coordination meeting between NMDGF and Carson NF and BLM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
176	2/23/2009	Letter: Scoping comments	Comanche Nation	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader
177	2/23/2009	Media: New Plans for Carson	The New Mexican	
178	2/23/2009	Website: Center for Biological Diversity <a href="http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/public_lands/off-road_vehicles/travel-management_planning/index.html">http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/public_lands/off-road_vehicles/travel-management_planning/index.html</a>	Center for Biological Diversity - Website	
179	2/25/2009	FOIA Request and Response: Requesting sign-in sheet for Questa open house held on 2/17/2009, FS response letter (3/2/2009), and response document (folder)	Evelyn L. Coggins	Carson NF FOIA Coordinator
180	2/26/2009	Media: Carson Forest to Eliminate Off-Road Vehicle Use	Rio Grande Sun	
181	2/26/2009	Media: Commentary, Travel Management on Carson NF	The Taos News	
182	2/27/2009	Notes: Rio Grande Grazing Association President and Members of the Grazing Association	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Canjilon Range Staff	Record
183	3/3/2009	Notes: Taos County Board of Commissioners meeting on travel management	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
184	3/3/2009	FOIA Request and Response: Requesting documents on Boston Mammoth Placer claim, FS response letter (3/17/2009), and response documents (folder)	Scott H. Sanger	Carson NF FOIA Coordinator
185	3/5/2009	Letter: Scoping comments	Navajo Nation	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor
186	3/6/2009	Carson NF Travel Management Heritage Survey Strategy	Carson NF Forest	Record

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<b>PR No.</b>	<b>Doc Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
			Archaeologist	
187	3/12/2009	Letters to the Editor: Various letters commenting on previous weeks article in The Taos News	The Taos News	
188	3/12/2009	Open house: Sign-in sheet for open house held in Peñasco, NM		
189	3/12/2009	Media: Travel Plan Comment Extended	The Taos News	
190	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
191	3/21/2009	Open house: Sign-in sheet for open house held in Costilla, NM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
192	3/23/2009	Article: Six Strategies for Success: Effective Enforcement of Off-Road Vehicles on Public Lands	Wildlands CPR	
193	3/23/2009	Website: Information on small engine emissions <a href="http://www.egr.msu.edu/erl/Small%20Engine%20Emissions.litml">http://www.egr.msu.edu/erl/Small%20Engine%20Emissions.litml</a>	Michigan State University, College of Engineering - Website	
194	3/25/2009	Notes: IDT meeting notes (3/25-27/2009, draft issues & alternatives)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	
195	3/26/2009	Media: Off-Road Vehicle Use on the Carson National Forest	The Taos News	
196	3/31/2009	Media: Forest Service Urged to Close Trails	Albuquerque Journal	
197	4/1/2009	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	
198	4/1/2009	Comment letters received during scoping (folder)	Public	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Forest Supervisor
199	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	Carson NF

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			Services	
200	4/5/2009	Report: Six Strategies for Success: Effective Enforcement of Off-Road Vehicles on Public Lands, 2009 Update	Wildlands CPR	
201	5/3/2009	Media: Kaibab District to Cut Access Forest Roads	The Daily Times	
202	5/4/2009	Alternatives: How CBD alternative was developed in GIS	Forest GIS Coordinator	Record
203	5/7/2009	Media: Battle of the Wilderness	Albuquerque Journal	
204	5/18/2009	Media: Offroad Hordes Vastly Inflated	The New Mexican	
205	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
206	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	
207	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
208	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	
209	6/1/2009	GAO Report: Enhanced Planning Could Assist Agencies in Managing Increased Use of Off-Highway Vehicles	US Government Accounting Office	
210	6/8/2009	Letter: Fiscal analysis & TM	Cyndi Tuell, Center for Biological Diversity	USDA Forest Service - Southwestern Regional Forester
211	7/1/2009	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	
212	7/10/2009	Media: Carson National Forest Seeks Comments on Off-Highway Plan	Albuquerque Journal	

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213	7/11/2009	Media: Carson Forest Plans Travel Management	The New Mexican	
214	7/15/2009	Mailing list: Updates on travel management mailing list	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
215	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
216	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
217	7/27/2009	Open house: Sign-in sheet for open house held in Questa, NM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
218	7/29/2009	News Release: New Off-road Vehicle Plan Still Threatens Carson National Forest	Center for Biological Diversity	
219	7/30/2009	Map: Relationship of proposed corridors and slope used in alternative development	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF GIS Specialist	Record
220	7/31/2009	Media: Report: Public Lands See Rise in OHV Use	The New Mexican	
221	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
222	7/31/2009	Notes: NM TM Planning Meeting - NM Forests, CBD, and others	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
223	8/1/2009	Media: Forest Service Releases Proposed Action for Travel Management on the Carson National Forest	La Jicarita News	
224	8/4/2009	Media: Forest Plan Critics: What About Us? - Sides Fear Lack of Public Comment	Albuquerque Journal	
225	8/4/2009	1st 30-day comment: Cover letter for Questa RD Proposed Action, Proposed Action for Questa RD, and mailing list (folder)	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Forest Supervisor	Mailing list
226	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,	Carson NF

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			Ecological Services	
227	8/6/2009	Legal Notice for Comment: Availability of Travel Management Proposed Actions for the Questa RD	The Taos News	
228	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
229	8/10/2009	Website: Center for Biological Diversity <a href="http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/2167/t/5243/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=27720">http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/2167/t/5243/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=27720</a>	Center for Biological Diversity - Website	
230	8/13/2009	Media: Clock Winding Down on Comment Period for Carson Proposed Travel Plan	The Taos News	
231	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
232	8/20/2009	Media: Input Sought for Questa Ranger District Roads	Sangre de Cristo Chronicle	
233	8/20/2009	Media: National Forest Service Relents, Allows Environmental Comment on Travel Plans	The Taos News	
234	8/27/2009	Media: Residents Concerned About Forest Service Plans	Sangre de Cristo Chronicle	
235	8/31/2009	Letter: Comment letter on Travel Management on the Questa RD File No. 3020 ER	NM Environment Department	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Forest Supervisor
236	9/2/2009	Web page: Town of Red River’s comments on Travel Management, Questa RD (received comment letter on 9/1/2009, included in 9/8/2009 comment folder)	<a href="http://www.redriver.org/transportation-management-plan">http://www.redriver.org/transportation-management-plan</a>	
237	9/3/2009	Media: Red River Rallies Behind Open Trails Initiative	Sangre de Cristo Chronicle	
238	9/8/2009	Comment letters received during 1 <sup>st</sup> 30-day comment period (8/6-9/8/09), including list of who commented within comment period (folder)	Public	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Forest Supervisor

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<b>PR No.</b>	<b>Doc Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
239	9/25/2009	Content analysis of comment letters received during 1 <sup>st</sup> 30-day comment period for West Side (7/17-8/17/2009). Comments include references to Questa RD in cited letters.	Public	
240	9/28/2009	Media: Off-Roaders Need Regulation, by Garrett VeneKlasen	ABQ Journal	
241	10/1/2009	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	
242	10/2/2009	Content analysis of comment letters received during 1 <sup>st</sup> 30-day comment period for Questa RD (8/6-9/8/2009).	Public	
243	10/9/2009	Letter: Concerning travel management proposal for the Questa RD	Rep. Bobby J. Gonzales	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Questa District Ranger
244	10/19/2009	Form: Inventory Standards and Accounting (ISA) Negative Report for cultural sites in dispersed camping areas on the Questa RD	USDA Forest Service Carson NF – District Archeologist	NM State Historic Preservation Officer
245	10/22/2009	Media: Citizen’s Voice Concerns for Off-Road Use	Sangre de Cristo Chronicle	
246	10/23/2009	Field trip notes: With Questa RD personnel, Mayor of Town of Red River, Town Council, and other town reps	USDA Forest Service Carson NF – District Biologist	Record
247	11/6/2009	Media: Confessions of an off-road outlaw, by Garrett VeneKlasen	High Country News	
248	11/17/2009	Media: Off-Road Enthusiasts Push for Rule Enforcement	The New Mexican	
249	11/18/2009	Media: Outdoorsman Attitudes Must Change, One at a Time	Albuquerque Journal	
250	11/18/2009	Post card requesting how recipients want Questa RD TM EA for 30-day comment, with mailing list	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF	
251	12/21/2009	Media: Firebrand ways (Kieran Suckling), by Tony Davis	High Country News	
252	1/1/2010	Newsletter: National Off-highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) newsletter	National Off-highway Vehicle Conservation	

PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
			Council (NOHVCC)	
253	1/1/2010	Proclamation: Big game & trapper rules & information 2010-2011 license year	NM Department of Game and Fish	
254	1/1/2010	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	
255	1/4/2010	Email: Comments on Carson NF travel management	Gregory Lungstrom	R3 Motorized Recreation Planner
256	1/7/2010	Notes: Response to CBD's 3/20/2009 scoping alternative	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
257	2/22/2010	Memo: Regional advice on travel management rule and ESA consultation	USDA Forest Service – Southwestern Regional Forester	Forest supervisors and district ranger
258	3/3/2010	Map: Forest roads on the Carson NF that go through private lands	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF GIS Coordinator	Record
259	3/17/2010	Notes: Coordination meeting with NMDGF re TM	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
260	3/23/2010	Website: State Laws re travel management <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/projects/travel-mgt/state-laws.shtml">http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/projects/travel-mgt/state-laws.shtml</a>	USDI Fish and Wildlife Service	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor
261	4/1/2010	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	
262	4/12/2010	Letter: Comment regarding Schedule of Proposed Actions	Comanche Nation	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor
263	5/1/2010	Publication: Route and Area Designation Implementation Guide	USDA Forest Service	
264	5/17/2010	Website: Information on Carson NF found on Center for Biological Diversity website ( <a href="http://www.BiologicalDiversity.org">www.BiologicalDiversity.org</a> )	Center for Biological Diversity website	
265	5/24/2010	Mailing list: Results of post card mailing (11/18/2009) for	USDA Forest	Record

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		the Questa RD	Service - Carson NF	
266	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
267	6/1/2010	Alternatives Considered in the Carson NF's Travel Management Analysis	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF	
268	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 Director, Deputy Chiefs and WO Directors
269	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
270	7/1/2010	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	
271	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
272	8/1/2010	Paper: Law, Regulation and Policy for Wheelchair/Mobility Device Use	USDA Forest Service	
273	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
274	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
275	8/12/2010	Environmental Assessment for Travel Management on the Jicarilla Ranger District - Updated since release during 2/8/2010 2 <sup>nd</sup> 30-day comment period	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF	Carson website: <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/">http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/</a>

<b>PR No.</b>	<b>Doc Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
276	8/13/2010	Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for Travel Management on the Jicarilla Ranger District	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor	Mailing list
277	9/7/2010	Notes: Seasonal closures for travel management	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
278	9/29/2010	Fax: Comments on Santa and Carson NF travel management analyses	Moises Morales	
279	9/29/2010	Notice of Appeal: Administrative appeal of the Decision Notice/FONSI for Travel Management on the Jicarilla Ranger District	Mark Werkmeister - NMOHVA	USDA Forest Service – Deputy Regional Forester
280	10/1/2010	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	
281	10/27/2010	Letter: Scoping Upper Bitter Creek proposed action	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF Questa District Ranger	Mailing list
282	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
283	12/1/2010	Environmental Assessment for Travel Management on the West Side: Updated since release during 6/14/2010 2 <sup>nd</sup> 30-day comment period	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF	
284	12/2/2010	Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for Travel Management on the West Side of the Carson National Forest	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor	
285	1/1/2011	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	
286	1/1/2011	Proclamation: Big game & trapper rules & information 2011-2012 license year	NM Department of Game and Fish	
287	1/10/2011	Email: Documentation informing permittees of travel management on Questa RD	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Questa RD Range Con	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader
288	1/26/2011	Notice of Appeal: Administrative appeal of the Decision Notice/FONSI for Travel Management on the West Side,	Mark Werkmeister -	USDA Forest Service –

## Decision Notice and FONSI

<b>PR No.</b>	<b>Doc Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
		Carson NF	NMOHVA	Deputy Regional Forester
289	1/29/2011	Notice of Appeal: Administrative appeal of the Decision Notice/FONSI for Travel Management on the West Side, Carson NF	Cyndi Tuell – Center for Biological Diversity, et al.	USDA Forest Service – Deputy Regional Forester
290	2/15/2011	Media: Federal Judge Slaps BLM for Trails Mismanagement	Tehachapi News	
291	2/17/2011	Media: The Truth About Road Closures	The Deming Headlight	
292	2/22/2011	Website: Know the Rules to Successfully Challenge Road and Trail Closures--A Case Study	ATVSource.com	
293	3/1/2011	Media: Off the Road	AZ Highways	
294	3/15/2011	Appeal Decision for the administrative appeal of the Decision Notice/FONSI for Travel Management on the West Side, Carson NF (affirmed, with instructions)	USDA Forest Service – Deputy Regional Forester	Mark Werkmeister - NMOHVA
295	3/15/2011	Appeal Decision for the administrative appeal of the Decision Notice/FONSI for Travel Management on the West Side, Carson NF (affirmed, with instructions)	USDA Forest Service – Deputy Regional Forester	Cyndi Tuell – Center for Biological Diversity, et al.
296	4/1/2011	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	
297	6/8/2011	Table: TAP assessment for minimum road system on Questa RD	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
298	6/28/2011	2nd 30-day comment: Cover letter, Preliminary Environmental Assessment for Travel Management on the Questa RD, and mailing lists (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF	Mailing list
299	6/29/2011	Soil, Water, and Air Effects Report, including references (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF East Zone Hydrologist	Record
300	6/30/2011	Legal notice: Notice of availability for Preliminary Environmental Assessment for TM on the Questa RD & opportunity for 30-day comment	The Taos News	
301	7/1/2011	Schedule of Proposed Actions: Travel Management Proposal for Carson NF, with mailing lists	USDA Forest Service	
302	7/1/2011	House and Senate Bills: Relating to off-highway motor vehicles; amending the Off Highway Motor Vehicle Act;	NM State Legislature	

<b>PR No.</b>	<b>Doc Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
		clarifying and redistributing use of the Trail Safety Fund; requiring a portion of the Trail Safety Fund to be used for motorized vehicle trail development and improvement; making an appropriation		
303	7/10/2011	FOIA Request and Response: Requesting documents on Questa RD travel management, FS response letter (8/8/2011), and response documents (folder)	Mark Werkmeister	Carson NF FOIA Coordinator
304	7/13/2011	FOIA Request and Response: Requesting documents on motorized vehicle use/access, safety issues/assessments, and resource issues/concern for Middle Fork Road, FS response letter (8/22/2011), and response documents (folder)	Mark Werkmeister	Carson NF FOIA Coordinator
305	7/13/2011	Website: Pages from the NMOVHA website regarding travel management on the Carson NF	NMOVHA	
306	8/1/2011	Comments received during 2 <sup>nd</sup> 30-day comment period (7/1-8/1/11), including list of who commented within comment period (folder)	Public	Record
307	8/1/2011	Website: Pages from Town of Red River website regarding travel management on the Carson NF and how to comment	Town of Red River	
308	8/1/2011	Notes & photos: Hike up to Middle Fork Lake to observe & photograph conditions (folder)	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF IDT Leaders	Record
309	8/2/2011	Website: Pages from the Amigos Bravos website regarding travel management on the Carson NF	Amigos Bravos	
310	8/9/2011	FOIA Request and Response: Requesting documents from the Questa RD Travel Management EA process, FS response letter (8/11/2011), and response documents (folder)	Mark Werkmeister	Carson NF FOIA Coordinator
311	8/18/2011	Media: Forest Service seeks mutually beneficial decision on trails	The Taos News	
312	8/23/2011	Letter: Asking for clarification on economic study cited in The Taos News 8/18/2011 article	USDA Forest Service - Carson Forest Supervisor	
313	8/29/2011	FOIA Request and Response: Requesting documents on closure of Middle Fork Lake Road, FS response letter (9/19/2011), and response documents (folder)	Mark Werkmeister	Carson NF FOIA Coordinator
314	9/1/2011	Specially Designated Areas Effects Report, including data forms (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Natural Resource Specialist	Record

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<b>PR No.</b>	<b>Doc Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
315	9/2/2011	Letter: Town of Red River's response to an FS request for figures used to estimate economic impact to the Town of Red River published in <i>The Taos News</i>	Town of Red River - Tourism & Economic Development Director	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor
316	9/1/2011	Management Indicator Species Assessment for the Carson National Forest	USDA Forest Service NF	
317	9/2/2011	Wildlife Effects Report (T&E Spp., FS Sensitive Spp., MIS, Migratory Birds) (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Wildlife Biologist	Record
318	9/5/2011	Social and Economic Effects Report, including Environmental Justice & references (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Natural Resource Specialist	Record
319	9/7/2011	Vegetation Effects Report, including references (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Natural Resource Specialist	Record
320	9/8/2011	Recreation Effects Report, including references (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Natural Resource Specialist	Record
321	9/12/2011	Cultural Resources Effects Report, including Contemporary Tribal Uses & Issues & references (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Archaeologist	Record
322	9/12/2011	Transportation Report, including references (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Natural Resource Specialist	
323	9/14/2011	Law, Regulation and Policy for Wheelchair/Mobility Device Use and Laws and Regs. Applying to Forest Service Programs and Activities	USDA Forest Service	
324	9/15/2011	E-mail: Correspondence regarding closure of Middle Fork Road	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader &	

<b>PR No.</b>	<b>Doc Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
			District Rec Staff	
325	9/15/2011	Biological Assessment (Federally Listed Species) for West Side Travel Management, with 8/27/2010 addendum to the BA	Forest Wildlife Biologist	Record
326	9/15/2011	Letter: Requesting concurrence with determination on the West Side TM proposed action (alt 1)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Supervisor	USDI Fish and Wildlife Service
327	9/16/2011	Content analysis of comment letters received during 2nd 30-day comment period	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Interdisciplinary Team	Record
328	9/19/2011	Table: Comparison of original Questa RD proposed action that went out for scoping and the final PA modified to address issues	USDA Forest Service – Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
329	9/20/2011	Biological Evaluation (FS Sensitive Species) for Questa RD Travel Management	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest Wildlife Biologist	Record
330	9/20/2011	Alternatives: List of alternatives posed by the public and considered in the analysis	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
331	9/20/2011	Analysis: FS analysis of Town of Red River 9/2/2011 letter	USDA Forest Service Carson NF IDT Leader	Record
332	9/20/2011	Memo: Signing for travel management rule implementation	USDA Forest Service Regional Forester	USDA Forest Service Forest Supervisors, Region 3 Special Agent in Charge
333	9/26/2011	Aquatic Effects Report (T&E Spp., FS Sensitive Spp., MIS) (folder)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Zone Wildlife Biologist	Record
334	9/29/2011	Letter to editor: "Our rights to clean water and quiet forest"	The Taos News	
335	10/11/2011	Letter: Concurrence with "May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determination on BA (Cons. # 02ENNM00-2012-1-0003)	USDI Fish and Wildlife Service	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF Forest

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PR No.	Doc Date	Document Description	Source	Recipient
				Supervisor
336	11/4/2011	Environmental Assessment: Updated since release during 2 <sup>nd</sup> 30-day comment period (6/30/11)	USDA Forest Service - Carson NF	

## Appendix B - Best Management Practices for Travel Management on the Questa Ranger District 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]