



File Code: 1920

Date: September 24, 2014

The El Yunque National Forest (EYNF) is announcing the next steps in the revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and the publication of a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Forest is revising the current forest plan, published in 1997, to reflect new information, changing public uses, and new findings about the forest's social, economic and ecological conditions. The planning process consists of preparation of a rapid assessment, forest plan, EIS and monitoring.

The EYNF published a draft Assessment of the ecological, economic and social conditions on the Forest in March 2014. We have prepared a proposed action document for your review and comment. The proposed action documents consist of key issues and a series of management strategies to be considered during the plan development phase. The proposed action includes topics such as broad landscape planning, experimental forest, recreation, cultural resources, ecosystem services, water resources, wildlife and vegetation amongst others.

The next phase of planning involves the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will accompany the development of the revised plan. A Notice of Intent to develop an EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on September 18, 2014.

We are inviting you to submit comments during this 45 day comment period to help us identify and refine areas in the proposed action that need to be changed in the existing forest plan. Your comments will also help us identify any issues or concerns that will lead to developing alternatives to the proposal in the EIS.

The Need to Change and Proposed Action documents that detail our proposed management strategies, as well as other information related to the plan revision process, are available on the website: [www.fs.usda.gov/main/elyunque/landmanagement/planning](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/elyunque/landmanagement/planning)

## HOW TO COMMENT

We will continue to offer opportunities for collaborative discussions as we proceed with the planning process and will announce future public meetings and opportunities to provide input on issues related to the proposed action and identifying potential alternatives for the proposed plan.

Please check our Forest webpage or contact our offices as dates and locations are determined for these upcoming meetings.

The public has 45 days from the date the Notice of Intent was published in the *Federal Register* to comment on the Notice of Intent, the Proposed Action and preliminary Need for Change. Comments should be received at the address or email shown below by November 3, 2014.



Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents.

Please review the proposed action for requirements to establish eligibility to file an objection at the time of the record of decision. Written comments can be submitted in the following manners:

Email at: [commentselyunqueplan@fs.fed.us](mailto:commentselyunqueplan@fs.fed.us)

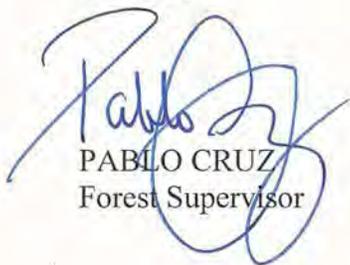
Mail: El Yunque National Forest  
Attn: El Yunque Plan Revision  
HC01 Box 13490  
Rio Grande, PR 00745

Fax: (787-888-5685)

In person: Forest Headquarters office (Rd 191 Int Rd 988, Km 4.4, Rio Grande, PR) Office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Please don't hesitate to call us at 787-888-1880 with questions or comments. And thank you for your continued interest in the management of El Yunque National Forest.

Sincerely,



PABLO CRUZ  
Forest Supervisor