Participant Comment From Community Conversations

Following are 20 pages of notes from our six Community Conversations held the week of March 23rd, 2015. Bulleted below are some of the common themes we heard throughout all meetings. Beginning on page 3, specific comments are transcribed from each meeting by topic. FS means Forest Service and FPR means Forest Plan Revision in this document.

- Recreation (all kinds, including mountain biking, fishing, hunting, camping, skiing, hiking, horse-back riding, birding, wildlife observation, photography, hunting for antlers, wildflowers/wildlife viewing, caving, motorized uses)
- Fuelwood
- Grazing
- Water & watersheds
- Forest Management
- Forest diversity
- Thinning & logging
- Wilderness
- Fire Suppression
- Road & Trail Maintenance
- Budgets
- NEPA
- Education
- Solitude
- Perception of FS
- Forest Industry
- Small Diameter Wood
- Trash
- Balance/equality
- Stewardship
- Relationships
- Openness
- Flexibility
- Science
- Local Control
- Engagement
- Long-term sustainability
- Open minds
- Communication
- Respect
- History
- Trust
- Values
- Make a difference
- Walk the talk
- Feedback
- Healthy Forest
- Noxious weeds
- Listen
- Partnerships
- Minerals
- Water Rights
- Involvement
- FS Mission
- Meetings
- Interests
- Private land ownership
- Tradition
- Opportunity

SMOKEY BEAR RANGER DISTRICT (D1)

Connection to LNF:

- Recreation a big use, hiking, fishing, hunting.
- OHV use—need more mgmt.; cut fences & drive all over—shed hunters
- Fuelwood cutting-need more respect for boundaries
- Grazing
- Watershed condition completely destroyed
- Village of Ruidoso secure water supply
- Manage watershed-what do you do wilderness? Wilderness has a place.
- Fire & Mgmt-things are overgrown. There are good examples of forest mgmt. on the LNF.
- Forest diversity is important. Would like to see thinning. Want a healthy forest-will increase all other uses of forest.
- Would like to see trails maintained.
- Can we improve fire-fighting methods in wilderness (chainsaws, mechanical use, etc.)?
- Wilderness designation is destroying the land, not helping it.
- Suppression of fire for many years has caused much trouble.
- Trail overgrown, roads impassable.
- People concentrate on using accessible areas because they can't get to other places.
- Logs are piled high on the ground making impassible.
- In 20 years…
    - Would like to see thinning of brush to make win-win for everyone.
    - Could it be like it was 40 years ago?
- Where will the resources come from to restore the healthy forest?
- Logging industry not as interested in small diameter trees.
- Rangeland managers are restricted by NEPA and cannot even use their own funds. The NEPA process is too long.
- Public needs to be educated on what a healthy forest is and what is should look like.
- Mountain biking, fishing, hunting, camping, skiing, hiking, horse-back riding, birding, wildlife observation, photography
- Fuels, grazing, livestock use.
- Solitude
- In the future…
    - Increase forest industry (uses for materials)
    - Better use for small diameter wood
    - Change public's perception of FS; currently some may think FS cares more about environmental issues than overall health of forest

- Keep the forest clean, pick up trash, hiking, hunting for antlers, road clean-up, construct trick tanks, keep loop roads open.
- Wildflowers/wildlife viewing
- Need more trail maintenance.
- Writer
- Methods of fire-fighting in wilderness
- "Hands off" approach to wilderness mgmt.
- More users on trails
- Need more active forest mgmt. (similar to Mescalero)
- Open, savannah-like; greater brush mgmt.—more grass, less erosion, leads to more wildlife & visitation
- Have the forest look like 40 years ago
- Markets for small-diameter trees—maybe pellet manufacturing
- More education on mgmt.
- Allotment partner (permittee) & hunter
- Hope to see wilderness used as a grazing source to keep down fire fuels and brush & weed species.
- Pride ourselves as stewards of the land daily-what works and doesn't work
- Hiking, trail riding
- Ranchers=all perspectives
- Equal platform to all uses.
- Grazing permit for cow/calf operations. See very little (virtually no) hiking use. Camping is primarily related to associated hunting activity. See occasional off-road & ATV use (with the greatest negative effect amongst all uses).
- I expect future recreational use will decline from even the low point we now see due to deteriorating infrastructure (roads & trails).
- Experience on a daily basis through grazing & cattle.
- Will change & become non-usable if not managed properly.
- Forest needs to be thinned to be usable by all. Grass would grow, wildlife and recreation would all increase greatly. Brush management is crucial.
- In next 20 years, forest should be as it was 40 years ago.

Expectations:

- Establish relationship similar to what Jessie Willett does.
- Work together before a catastrophe happens.
- Be more open with public in telling what is happening & when.
- Fire suppression.
- Work together before a crises & report back on what has been done.
- Make the plan flexible so we don't need so many amendments.
- Expect FS to use sound science in decision-making process.

- Expect more local control in management of our Forest.
- FS can expect us to stay engaged in planning process.
- Would like to see upper level mgmt. of FS provide insight into how decisions/regulations are developed. Local staff seems to be overwhelmed by the needs.
- LNF needs to be managed for long-term sustainability. At current trajectory, forest will be useless for general public recreational use, will be a fire danger to adjoining neighbors, and be of little economic use for agriculture.
- LNF can solicit our input & interact with stakeholders.
- Be kept up do date on decisions made in all aspects of process. Do not want to be left behind if decisions are made in one process and take precedence over one I was involved or updated on. Inform all other users that grazing leasees work hard to manage lands & are not second-rate users.
- Keep an open mind to all ideas and variations of same ideas on <u>all</u> sides.
- Don't cater to any particular group, allow everybody to have a voice that will be heard.
- Public education—How SW Forest SHOULD look.
- Continued positive relationship, open communication, engage all stakeholders, provide continuous updates to stakeholders.
- All stakeholders should keep open minds & respect other's viewpoints & be willing to compromise. Long-term commitment.

Participation & Communication:

- E-mail
- Engage community—fool them into closing the Forest Service
- Attention-getting tactics
- Engage youth (8-20)
- Special use permit areas (such as Ski Apache)-slogan, "It's All Yours"
- Mail flyers with utility bills
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter, do a promotion)
- Larger venue-booths discussing learning
- People need ownership
- Publicize through ENMU-Ruidoso (Continuing Education, "What's Happening This Week?"
- Active participation in the planning process.
- Newspaper
- Conferences-to promote planning process-other events within the community (gun show)
- "<u>BLAST IT OUT</u>" Use Chamber of Commerce e-mail blasts
- Public Service Announcements—Television
- Presentations at club meetings, property owner assns., Rotary Club,
- Solicit participation.
- Engage partners individually

- Who is not here? Chamber, younger generations, local governments, county BLM, other agencies, hunters.
- Radio advertising
- Facebook pages of local organizations.
- Need to build community trust to get people to meetings.
- Constrained by FS policies; community does not trust FS to use their comments; does not share values of local community.
- Public does not believe that their engagement will make a difference.
- Lack of customer service; FS forgets that it works for taxpayers
- Responsibility needs to lay with Forest Supervisor.
- Deal with roadblocks with environmental organizations.
- Tour private land to "see" desired condition.
- Use Gerry Hawkes as an example of how to build trust and keep people engaged.
- Multiple channels—radio, newspaper, web, mail to out-of-town residents, work with county on mailing lists
- Affiliate websites—Upper Hondo, County, Village of Ruidoso, RC&D, etc.
- Include info in billings (water systems, Village, Zia Natural Gas, Otero County Electric Cooperative, PNM)
- Civic groups, bilingual communications (Spanish), survey at Ranger Station (accessed online, too), focus on visitor-centric areas—Race track, Byway Visitor Center, Ski Area.
- Who isn't here? Private recreation providers, outfitters, RV parks, ski rental shops, EcoServants, youth (schools).
- Letters, word of mouth, e-mail, utility bills, news media, radio-Harvey, Chambers of Commerce, Clubs, ENMU-Coda Omness, e-mail blasts-Ski Apache, post offices, grocery stores
- Environmental groups
- Come out more often, field trip, information meetings
- More one-on-one
- How can we communicate if you do not come out and see?
- Make a visit and tour in Capitan.
- Notices on Facebook pages.
- To actually listen to opinions of community
- Be short, sweet & to the point—<u>honest</u>
- E-mail, newsletters, social media
- Small groups
- Trade groups—NM Cattle Growers
- Sportsman groups—RMEF, NWTF
- This is a tough question since so few people read general circulation newspapers. Perhaps sone use of social media would be effective.
- Chamber of Commerce reps & newspaper people should attend in order to help general public understand what USFS is attempting to accomplish & what a healthy forest looks like.

- Letter in mail or e-mail would be effective.
- Local residents that live in forest boundaries.

Other Comments:

- Move forest mgnt (thinning, Rx fire, etc.) along faster!
- Eliminate, reduce NEPA, EPA, hold-ups.
- Fight fires with FEMA $ like hurricanes, tornados, etc.

SACRAMENTO RANGER DISTRICT (D2)

Connection to LNF:

- Ranching & recreation. Hope for more thinning of brush & trees to establish a healthier forest to control fire and aid in restoring water table. Protecting the lands is vital—plans can be made to include all interests.
- Hiking, camping, wildlife watching. Please be mindful of the impact on the Forest as a result of your usage or activities. Minimize your impact.
- Large mix of people & users. Fear for livelihood from fire-biggest threat. Enjoy the atmosphere of peace & quiet. Recreation. Visitors. Balance of management for long haul. Grazing a crucial multiple use. Future of forest needs to be balanced, healthy, intact ecosystem. Plant native species. Copy Mescalero's 50 year plan and use timber as a renewable resource managed more like recreation. Emphasize watershed to protect land as a whole, too much vegetation sucking out water.
- Firewood, hunting, recreating, fishing. Grazing is important. LNF provides cool place to get away. Increase in urban population use. Need to ensure ranchers & timber folks can & do provide stewardship to the forest.
- Newsletters, biologists, local contractor, NM Dept of Ag, "recharges sanity."
- We live here.
- Feel like American public wants ranchers off the forest. Some don't want anyone on the forest. Won't get steak. Seeing more people who want to experience the forest (yuppies) that don't understand it. The public needs to be educated. Do we do school programs? Need to educate that people are more important than mouse. Owl/mouse are smart. Vision is to have kids/grandkids able to ranch in future without having hands tied. Cannot support themselves in the livestock business without having another job.
- 1881 grazing allotment, pre-existing water & grazing right, 1972 lumber business, ESA stopped logging (timbering to return), opening the meadows, elk-too many, water rights-1907 to water cows, FS taking water. Preemption & Homestead Acts, neighbors collaborated to designate allotment boundaries and FS acknowledged. Smokey Bear has ruined the country. Ranchers asked FS to thin. FS catering to "wrong" bunch-they want everyone else out. Young people need to understand forest, including ranching.
- Dad sold timber to local mills.

- Purposely purchased private property next to Forest. Concern about FS land being sold to developers and health of trees.
- Livelihood. In 20 years, would like to see observatories continue, recreation increase and economic increases other than timber.
- Ranching, hunting, sense of silence & quiet places. In 20 years, want to see respect among permittees & visitors.

Expectations:

- Critical brainstorming should occur with various interest groups
- Expect LNF to be kept viable for multiple uses including ranching, logging, recreation
- Try to find the balance!
- We expect the FS to keep their word. We <u>will</u> keep our word.
- Work together to get removal of dead and diseased trees near private property.
- Lobby Congress to get more funding for USFS.
- Keep us involved, county & state communication, slash pile management, burning ordinances
- Communication is essential. This a great start. Don't forget about us. In big picture, we're small ones. We're trying to survive. We want to help with projects, too. Have not heard "cattle free in '93." People with money have the backing to convince the public. Would like to see NMG&F increase elk permits. Support us as ranchers. Keep us informed. Educate the public. Cut the red tape if there's a way. Want to be involved, want the communication. Come with expectation of peace, not confrontation; working together.
- Called DR offices and they didn't know what she was referring to.
- Alamo paper, post office, got e-mail invites. Campers & seasonal residents. Special section in newspaper? Use electric "prevention" billboard to advertise upcoming meetings. Lion's, Elk, Moose clubs in Cloudcroft. Robo call, local churches. Balance day & night meetings. Not Tuesday in Cloudcroft (council meetings).
- Respect other's interests, find the balance.
- <u>Transparency</u> & community involvement
- Share information internally (newsfeed?) & externally
- See the Forest walk the talk
- More local control
- Create smaller working committees
- Get information out—<u>user-friendly</u> website
- Big fire picture
- Suitability—for different uses is developed together with other agencies
- Communication
- Accessibility to explain concerns in person
- Inform community of regulations & rules
- Better advertisement of meetings
- Call people to invite to meetings

- Communicate with all agencies
- Meet in small communities
- Move meetings around
- Communicate more effectively on regulations and get through the process quicker
- Engage public on developing alternatives
- Participation
- Word is good
- Communicates what is and is not working on website or other methods
- Communicate issues as a whole and give ideas on ways to fix
- Express views & frustrations--feedback
- Realize we have to come to a place of compromise
- Come together as a community with a common front to work with the FS
- If you live here, take responsibility of condition
- We all want the same thing—healthy Forest Service
- If one group gets everything they want, we'll get an unhealthy forest
- Communities talk to each other and partner on common interests (slash piles), county, State Forestry, FS
- Get Congressman to lobby for more funding to the forest to do more working with other agencies programs more effectively
- We all become more educated

Participation & Communication:

- Hold local meetings in small communities
- Invite <u>all</u> people
- Local people including LPB of areas adjacent to Forest Service
- These meetings are great for getting the information to address these concerns. I know there are conflicts. Thanks so much for making this available.
- Mountain Monthly! Mountain Times. Moose, Lions, Elk. Robo-call. E-mail.
- Church groups, local water associations, e-mails, blogs, Coop meeting, community meetings, BBQs tied to activity, Boy Scouts, NMG&F permits-education, allotment association, SWCD, learning session (Day on a Ranch), keep solar observatory open.
- Mail, telephone, newspaper (Alamo, Weed Patch), letters, internet, texting. Otero County Cattlemen, meetings in various locations with neighbors (Weed, Pinon) more than one time & location, monthly meetings with rotations between day & night, e-mail to communicate, communicate often, summarize main point, don't put big documents in front of us, Roswell & Artesia.
- Livestock grazing, entertainment, hike, visitors like to see grazing operation. Town of Artesia would come out to Pinyon/Weed for dances. Ate all day long, surrounded by forest. Had few issues with fence-cutting, trash, leaving gates open. Homemade wooden potty left there. Have lots of water sources. They trash them; camp near them. <u>Camping awareness.</u> Little trouble

with hunters. Hunters come by asking where to hunt, don't pay attention to signs. One time in last 60 years some drove through locked gate and one fence cut.

- Have meetings in outlying areas. Snail mail. Newspaper.
- "Learning Session" with people sharing different perspectives about water, grazing, mining, timber, recreation, environmentalism, prescribed burning, etc. Field trips ("Day on a Ranch" with FS, Ranchers, FWS, NMS&F and young people-schools, Girl & Boy Scouts, 4H, colleges). More personal face-to-face, see interwoveness, complexity, misconceptions and find balance.
- Meetings—we need some, but not too many!
- A lot of accidents in the forest, need to look at safety.
- Manage & improve water resources, look at Mescalero's water conservation methods.

Other Comments from notebook paper & table papers:

- Ranching. Recreation-hiking, horseback, hunting, diversity of species. More opportunities for disabled. Do better forestry or we will lose the Forest. Why close campgrounds in winter? Live it and enjoy it every day. Diversity of climates. Bring back CCC crews to help with thinning.
- Forest quality has gone down—rec-range-timber. No water, less resources. 3 trees—take one, leave one for your son & one for your grandson.
- In the LNF Forest Plan, special note of source/recharge areas for the Yeso formation would support the sustainability of both the enterprise (grazing/timber sales/silviculture) and conservation missions of the FS. Without reliable water, as we have today from the Yeso, all missions would fail. Consideration should be given to appropriate protection zones around wellheads and springs. FS karst experts should have input.
- Weed abatement program. Have lots of thistles. Can't do spraying due to sensitivity to poisoning. County program.
- Some hunters shoot water tanks and cut fences. Game management doesn't reimburse permittees due to hunters.
- Elk have damaged apple orchards.

GUADALUPE RANGER DISTRICT (D3)

Connection to LNF:

- LNF is close to desert communities for backpacking, hunting, fishing, camping, sense of peace, spiritual, cultural, recreate with pets (can't on NPS), dispersed camping-greater opportunities for adventure, re-capturing childhood.
- Caving, ranching, painting, hiking, elk hunting, closest forest to TX, camping, OHV use, views, scenic drives, multi-use. Partying. Dogs can go with you. Study geology, student groups, professional groups, no drilling-there are test holes. Use will increase. More education for campers.
- Caving, relaxing.
- Use will increase.

Expectations:

- See the diversity.
- Conversation is 2-way street.
- Truthfulness.
- Consistency with positions (as in keep people around)—need knowledge, not quantity.
- Maintain infrastructure in place, not just throw attention to "new."
- Listen to us, provide feedback.
- Act on our ideas, we have expertise in some personal desires.
- Access to information/get information to public
- FS employees be more involved with public and not stand off.
- What public likes to use-get website information up to date.
- We have good research on making new rules/regs-also let public access to this document before ruling comes out.
- Presentation of information, clear dates, more info about assessment, structure of plan.
- Info presented is reviewed by proper specialist with response actions on concerns.
- What is happeneing?
- GIS information.
- Better way to get info out to public
- Provide good information. Dialogue of different points of view.
- Share true feelings—don't hold back.
- Have other agencies help funding on public land
- Trash clean-up—educate the public. New animal-anti trash campaign.
- Good process today: spend time building relationships.
- Respectful use of the Forest.

Participation & Communication:

- Number on flyer was not answered. Develop better rapport with newspaper to get printed, use journalists. Use permit lists to get word out. Thank you notes, acknowledgement for people that did attend. Explain presentations.
- OHV, equestrian, Hiker of the Month Club, NMSU-C, Biology & Geology groups, local hunting club, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Steve West, REI, Historical Societies. Chamber of Commerce, Mayor, Oil & Gas (maybe).
- Improve agencies working together.
- Educate the public, need better ways to share information with younger kids.
- Social media, Facebook & Twitter. Personal talks at local events, presentation at Chamber, article in newspaper, social media (you have to tell person 7 times before they hear), e-mail, GUMO sent out invite to employees, go to communities, can't expect them to come to us, have booth at Brewfest in May (many visitors from TX), info available on Forest and at Ranger Stations, include El Paso, Lubbock through e-mail, webcasts, live streaming of meetings, info & comment form at Ranger Station, online survey, meeting length is forbidding, recap on website

& e-mail, chamber, FB, e-mail blast of info, link on City website, GUMO site. Recap of meetings included in mandatory Forest message. Communication must go up chain at Forest. Reports available to community & forest in same fashion.

- Field trip with public and education for everyone.
- Get people out in field with FS employees.
- Start sooner getting info about meetings out.
- Get meeting dates on a timeline.
- Better advertise about Guadalupe District.
- Show more improvement on everything we have to offer.

Other Comments from notebook paper & table papers:

- Smokey Bear and Sacramento Districts need to help Guadalupe District more.
- Developed campsites are needed. Need bathrooms. Trash all over. More FS on weekends.
- Existing mineral rights need to be respected.
- More education for the campers.

ALAMOGORDO

Connection to LNF:

- 30 years with USFS, 4th generation living here, Fishing, hunting.
- Ranching/grazing, grandfather ranched in TX
- Grazing allotment ownership
- 100+ years family in Otero County, Bluewater Canyon logging, fire control, helitack forman
- USFS 32 years, school in Weed, grandfather ranched in Guadalupes, silviculture/wildlife degree, poor management of the forest, timber
- NM Game & Fish, Alamogordo native, sportsman, son killed first elk here
- Solitude, country living
- History, hunting, fishing
- Concern over forest management
- Grew up here
- Hiking, exploring, hunting
- Hike, watch wildlife, camp & fish
- Wants sustainable forest
- Challenge anyone to see difference between management on private lands and forest land
- Disheartening to see lowered forest health due to lack of timbering & overgrowth of pinyon & juniper
- Enjoy hiking but need help with overgrowth
- Grazing allotment and others use land for recreation—everyone uses and enjoys
- Spotted owl concern was wrong
- Hike, wildlife, fish, camp, visit other forests

- Experience with private forests, working on the land
- Hiking
- Enjoy being outdoors
- Caving
- Back road adventures
- History—homesteading, railroad
- UTVs, horses
- Get away to the mountains and possibly not see anyone (solitude)
- Family ties
- Trail systems
- Take care of cattle on NF, whole life hunting, a lot of improvement on Agua Chiquita allotment. We're asking you to listen to the law (US Supreme Court, NM vs. United States). We make a living, not a hobby. More acts than ESA. Guadalupe-Hidalgo. Control needs to be brought back to local level. FS needs to look more closely at law.
- In 20 years, there will be:
    - More people in the forest
    - Climate change
    - More forest fires, wildlife feeding problems
    - Water uses
    - Private development will increase, bring hazards
    - Bats will cause caves to close
    - Roads/trails will decrease and even be closed
    - More & better communication & education on how to take care of our forest
- Recreation
- At rate they're going, it's all gonna burn. Scary thought. Elk will continue to eat all the grass.
- Start thinning, logging. Economy lost due to loss of logging. Schools closed down. Families left. Spotted owl limiting logging still. Everyone knows the science behind the owl is bad. Best available science is speculation. Bureaucratic control by people who have never set foot on the ground. Water users have water rights, FS doesn't have the right to put it to beneficial use. State/US Supreme Courts ruled FS can't use water rights.
- FS will either start recognizing valid existing rights or ranchers will be gone. Doing everything except what Congress authorized to do (water/timber)
- Desert Mountain 4 Wheel Drive club.
- NM ORV Alliance
- Closed roads since Forest Plan
- Want rough roads—no grading
- Maps that show Jeep trails—ID them
- Dry Canyon is closed, why?
- Volunteer agreement—wanted to adopt a road
- Access
- There is a lack of trust. It still feels like we are not being heard.

- Grazing permit on forest, range management – CE, soil erosion problems & active head cutting, fire management issues, timber management issues
- Ag producers—knowledge and skills of ranchers could be lost
- Sustainability
- Surprised by amount of water that comes from forest
- Love recreating on the forest, wouldn't live here if forest wasn't here
- Feel squeezed on water between the needs of the forest & Alamo
- Inter-connectivity between city, forest, private—cooperation needed
- People who visit the forest stop in the city and the city benefits
- Desalination plant or other alternatives to using all the water
- Utilizing more timber to reduce fire danger—megafires
- Hiking, camping, biking
- Fire has closed lots of camping & fishing opportunities
- Can't put a value on the esthetics of the forest
- Grew up with forest, watched how things have changed
- Have lots of recreation already
- Good to have more interpretive signs on history of the area
- Works to stop illegal use so closure doesn't take place. Visitors trash the forest (Texans).
- Live bordering USFS
- Suggest more night hikes (guided) with flashlights from Alamogordo, High Rolls, Cloudcroft, to the summit of one of the mountain tops. Astronomy club (college might help?) take telescopes to meeting point to explore the sky. Offer horseback rentals. Only a permit from FS is needed to do business in the National Forest.
- Soil conservation, planting of shrubbery and grass with large root systems in erosion areas.
- Four wheel drive roads for recreationists. ATV use continues to increase, so how is the FS adjusting to the sector?
- Cow Free in 93 did not work! Elk herds continue to increase in numbers. Wildlife experts have proven that a balance in wildlife and grazing is most beneficial to the land.

Expectations:

- Don't lie to us. Be honest. Hard to trust someone when you know you've been lied to. FS seems intent on taking water rights. Judge is saying FS doesn't own water. Follow the law and constitution. Recognize FS doesn't own water. Recognize property rights, water rights. Recognize water rights owners. Spotted owl destroyed forest. Too many trees. Thinning, logging, burning should be higher priority. Springs dry up during drought. Springs where thinning, logging, etc. is done don't dry out.
- Take care of watersheds. Provide lumber. Thinning the forest would be helpful. Provides health for trees, water, grazing. Why hasn't the FS used its resources to do the right thing in the past. Use the local knowledge. Use local governments to reach the desired condition. Keep the

lines of communication open. This is a unique forest-a high desert forest. Please consider as such. Acknowledge the difference between this forest and Oregon forests.

- Law enforcement presence is threatening to individuals in this group. Perception is that FS needs protection from stakeholders. Trust issue.
- Transparency
- Provide source of information (website) user friendly
- Educate both sides
- You want your voice to be heard.
- FS needs to be able to be positive about taking public input and using it in decision making
- Form of consensus to enable specific direction even though there are differences
- Other agencies respect forest plan
- Stop passing the buck (other agencies) to effectively manage forest
- Consistency in decision making …..functional management
- Communication
- Simplify protocol
- Don't bring in "hitmen," Sac District Ranger for example
- Involve members of different organizations in decision making meeting
- Involve "all" stakeholders
- Proper balance of resource utilization and inclusion for forest planning
- Comply with Forest Plan (other state/federal agencies)
- Use common sense
- Other Fed & St agencies should be mandated to respect & follow Forest Plan guidelines and decisions.
- Common theme—want to see healthy forests for multiple use and enjoyment
- Healthy forest important to everyone. Input is vital to forest management.
- FS to protect ecosystems with climate changing, support if FS has to shut down some areas
- Forest health important to world
- Erosion hurts forest
- Thoughtful commercial use
- Expect FS to provide input, to be responsive, feedback
- Open communication
- Being truthful (no walls up) as to shy FS has made the decisions they made
- FS acknowledges problems
- Environmentalists dictate too much
- Review mission statement
- No pictures of agriculture in presentation materials.
- Need to show pictures of burned forest. That is the current condition.
- There are some very real issues that need to be addressed.
- Sustainability, science, facts to "trump" opinions, feelings, and a pure profit motive.
- Commitment to civility

- I have grazing permit on the Lincoln. Basic maintenance of erosion control and timber management is a challenge. Propose and exclusion for basic range maintenance from the environmental regulations. The problems get bigger without basic maintenance.
- Timber management and grazing need to be enhanced in order to protect the resources and reduce fire destruction.
- I expect this process to yield an arena where FS employees can actually exercise their expertise to get range resource management done without bureaucratic and unreasonable requirements.
- Improved management of all resources—wildlife, watershed, roads, recreation, hunting/fishing, grazing for the benefit of all involved.
- Respect from all users. Respect the Recreationist, respect the Ranchers, respect FS staff.
- Expect to see 4 wheel drive roads established. The Desert Mt. 4x4 club is willing to help (labor) establish the roads.
- Government is not perfect, need some coordination of all the private interests
- Meet with ranchers promoting sustainability
- Sincerely considering every input given and why it's a yes or no
- To get answer on adding OHV usage to roads
- To define the process, to define how decisions are made
- Fore there to be common sense in making decisions & taking actions
- Responsiveness and transparency
- Lots of different interests that can compete or can be cohesive
- Discuss issues of private land ownership rights
- Good stewardship of resources in perpetuity
- Address water rights issues in the process
- What is FS learning? Feedback along the way. Want a healthy forest. Making the bureaucratic process less cumbersome. Communicate progress.
- Local control, devastating impacts to economics
- Forest must be a partner with communities
- Do job, management of resources
- Transparency—How can we interact? Webpage reporting. Areas of interest and concern. How was my comment addressed? Manage to keep forest healthy? Consider what is working on the reservation. Recognize valid existing rights, easements, water rights, access.
- Respect and hear what the rights are. Do consider what the laws are as writeen. Look at all the issues, not just singling out something like grazing.
- Consider diversity of resource uses.
- Listen and respond with civility
- Keep involved with community through entire process
- Continued contact
- Science & facts to trump money
- Word of mouth, we need to talk to our friends and get them to meetings.

Participation & Communication:

- Forest officials invited to local group meetings
- Direct invitation, Internet
- Missing—local politicians
- Word of mouth excellent tool
- Good facilitation to ensure all parties have opportunity to speak
- Campout, campfire discussion
- Diverse group with various interests—one thing they had in common was their passion for the resources and the need to have healthy forests enjoyed by all!
- Engagement in all interests, not just your particular interest
- Respect sideboards
- Sticktoitiveness—stay with us
- This wasn't productive because certain topics should be discussed (grazing)
- Current plan should have been available and discussed
- Website—different parties need to be updated and whether there was some common ground found
- Go to underserved communities, make the effort
- Host more smaller community meetings
- Be an active listener…be responsive and provide useful feedback
- Food was helpful (junk and healthy)
- Heard about tonight through Otero County Cattle Growers, gun stores, birdwatchers, internet, local radio station, Steve Pearce put it on his Facebook page.
- Schedule meetings in Weed, Timberon.
- Outfitters are not here tonight. No representation from County Commission (Janet was here but left early).
- Absentee residents
- State Forestry not here, but may be most experienced at reaching small communities. Difficult to reach individuals in small rural towns. Maybe use volunteer fire departments. Local post offices. County roads. NMSU TV station. Electric Coop flyer in bills, also telephone companies. Need the electric coop involved (right-of-way, keeping power going).
- 5-8 meetings
- This meeting style is good.
- Newsletter
- Radio spot
- County commissioners
- Clubs/user groups
- Outreach in El Paso
- Civic groups—Kiwanis
- Utilize universities—clubs, career fairs, social media
- Local websites

- Field trips
- Historical photos
- Paradigm shift on Fire Prevention: “Only You can Restore Fire Adapted Ecosystems”
- Education of Forest Users
- Outreach to seasonal residents
- Way too long, activities drawn out, lose interest quickly
- This is like a training session and not needed
- All notes compiled and shared with participants
- Multiple avenues of communication
- Outline of process and timeline
- Willing to host field trip on range allotment
- Willing to talk to visitor4s/hikers on their interests/concerns
- Info cards at rec sites
- Sign—go to website to take surveys
- Picnic/hike
- Places where folks already go
- Invite Wildlife Alliance, Wildlife Guardians, Hunters, Native Plant Society, Audubon Society,
- Earth Day, Cottonwood Festival, County Fair
- This forum was good especially to listen to other people’s concerns. The internet is another especially effective tool for some people.
- Be honest and transparent.
- Listen to and use information available from the local stakeholders
- Need evidence that these meetings really matter in the plan.
- Air Force.
- Invite forest officials to local meeting
- Missing politicians
- Word of mouth
- Good facilitation to ensure all views have opportunity to speak

LAS CRUCES

Connection to LNF:

- Ranching, use now. Concerned about future, want it to be friendly to agriculture.
- LNF needs to develop more recreational areas (trails & campgrounds). Cibola was very unresponsive during their planning process.
- Virtual field trips.
- Disconnected youth.
- Population encroachment or refuge for great population.
- Continue partnership and stewardship for the community to have a sense of belonging; phenology monitoring, citizen science programs.

- Ranching good for multi-use—how can FS/BLM have some control over bad 1% of ranchers who may choose to no maintain wells, etc., and run cattle only on portion with low or no cost water wells, etc.
- Fishing, hiking, camping, recreation, hunting.
- Firewood, ATV, fresh air, fall colors, show-off area to visitors, diversity of ecosystems (experience PJ to alpine timber), camp at remote spots and "feel like I'm by myself," experience cowboy/rancher lifestyle, proximity-ease of access, low cost & easy, change in temp, like to go places for the "newness."
- Youth losing touch with outdoors. Aging population=more motorized uses needed.
- Ethnic groups changing?

Expectations:

- Create a plan for future of LNF-not ignored-want to be heard, ranchers especially
- Science Day, Forest Day
- Town meeting
- NM Tourism
- E-mail
- User-friendly apps
- Partnerships with universities, colleges, school districts
- Chambers of Commerce
- Career days at schools
- Active participation
- Rancher-friendly plan
- Recognize private property rights
- Practice integrity
- Ranchers are stewards of land and better than any environmental agency.
- The resource should always win!
- Develop a citizen scientist program to develop an increase in environmental stewardship.
- Protect the forest.
- Be aware of unintended consequences. Nothing occurs in isolation.
- More consistency throughout National Forests.
- Fire fighting costs using much of budget $. How to make this better?
- How do we know what is needed, we are not professionals or know status.
- "Clearer" step by step permit application and approval/denial of permit application in weeks not months for groups like Boy/Girl Scout Troops, horse-back groups of 20+.
- Tell us what we can do not what we can't.
- Feels too restrictive.
- Ranchers not going to ruin livelihood.

Participation & Communication:

- NMDA
- Host trips to Discover NM
- Engage retired folks as volunteers
- Counties, service organizations, city governments, Ag Extension agencies
- Outdoor rally
- Invite kids in ranch management at NMSU.
- Invite Nick Ashcroft, Sam Smallidge from NMSU.
- Meetings good, when time comes, interactive mapping. I did not see any newspaper ads, found out through Sierra Club. Many users of LNF are from TX. No ATV/Jeep reps.
- Concern with small groups with narrow interests. Need local knowledge of events. More local promotion—the Green Chamber. A lot of El Paso folks recreate in southern NM. Get 4H, FFA. Make a list of smaller local groups. Mesilla Valley Audubon Society. Utilize local advertising, Facebook.
- Open meetings with community participation/input. Recreational organizations aren't here.
- Las Cruces/Dona Ana County seem to have a large number (probably too many) groups representing very narrow interests. Think it often leads to poor outcomes when try to appease all.
- Engage by presentations to community groups—TU, Dona Ana Sportsman's Assn., etc.
- Radio-live interviews, tap into other meetings and give updates, work with local business and user groups (ATV, mtn. bikers) birder, Rails to Trails. Focus on businesses that cater to recreation users. Take advantage of public events—set up booths at those events.
- Newspapers, public affairs at Air Force base, host open house for different resources are, don't forget rural communities, get invited to local groups/clubs to give presentation.
- Offer transportation to folks with travel restrictions.

LNF EMPLOYEES

Connection to LNF:

- Employment
- Recreation—hunting, fishing, hiking (in future may have decreased mobility and use more developed areas)
- Photography (will have different view of forest in future)
- Perspective shouldn't change much
- Cheap recreation
- Tool to raise kids (future grandkids!)
- Tradition
- Scenic drives, Christmas tree cutting, winter sports, fuelwood collection, vistas, dog-walking, picnics, hunting

- Future—fewer wood cutting areas, motor vehicle use down (less access), forest fire issues, logging, forest pests, more informed users, threatened & endangered species

Expectations:

- Listen to each other
- Mutual respect
- Recognizing and respecting diversity
- Time limits so everyone gets to speak
- Sincere public involvement
- Transparency
- More opportunities for future recreation
- Expect follow-through from FS to do what we say we're going to do
- Provide opportunities that meet diverse needs such as developed and undeveloped recreation areas
- Work together to benefit from economic opportunities (events that generate revenue/business)
- True understanding of agency mission & objectives
- Community to be active in partnerships & involvement
- Otero, Lincoln, and other management plans
- Respect among everyone
- Share plans and ideas through common Share Point site or e-mail
- Transparency, Responsive to local issues/perspectives
- What exactly FS wants from us
- Realistic deadlines
- Be respectful of our obligations in the FS
- Keep lines of communication open; keep leadership informed
- Positive intentions, no ulterior motives
- Plain speak
- Honesty from both agency AND community
- Rely on best available science
- Be open to hearing multiple discussions about various issues
- Respect <u>ALL</u> points of view
- Sincerely address everyone's questions/concerns
- My comments are heard and I <u>know</u> what you did with them
- Follow through
- Help me make helpful comments
- Civility
- Honesty, tell us what you think
- Expectations that we follow the laws and rules
- Feedback from the community
- Understand differences

- Share your toys
- Support
- Don't just say no, say "How can we?"
- Community and other agencies can host sessions

Participation & Communication:

- Bi-weekly after hours meetings—2 hours to start, 1 hour from then on
- Host individual meetings—2 LNF team members during work hours
- Open house—General questions, area for FPR questions
- Create drop box for questions/comments
- E-mail, website, radio talk show, field tirps, working groups, speakers at Elk's Club, Lions Club, etc., 3-collaboration
- Agency to agency—daytime meetings
- Timing of meetings—include seasonal residents, winter/summer, day/night/weekend, elderly, kids, campers
- Facebook redirects to website
- Reverse 911 calls to announce meetings
- VTC
- Round tables
- Bilingual, billboards, flyers at food places, schools, churches, movie theater, underserved people
- Blog, open house, Q&A on website, suggestion boxes, free transportation, booths.
- Utilize technology for online meetings, conferences, etc.
- Balanced to meet everyone's needs
- Offer multiple methods of meeting and communication
- Handing out information, engaging people on a personal level
- Provide information and have a presence at large-scale events
- Utilize livestream technology to contact community
- Utilize skillset of the community to help share info