

Summary Escudilla East Community Conversation
May 7, 2015 – Luna, NM

On May 7, 2015 the Quemado Ranger District, Gila NF hosted a Community Conversation on Escudilla East planning at the Luna Community Center. The intent of the community conversation was to solicit input from participants on possible restoration activities. The Community Conversation was attended by 22 participants including NM State Forestry and NM Game and Fish Department. Below is a summary of the written input.

- Opportunity to cut, chip, and grind dried pinon and juniper trees on-site to convert into one kilo fuelwood blocks for domestic use. Seeking demonstration area.
- A concern was expressed about the ease of public access to the power line west of the Rancho Grande Subdivision. Public access could result in power line damage and terrorist attacks. There is a request for increased law enforcement patrols.
- Opportunity to plant trees in burn scars.
- Concern about hazard trees in the immediate vicinity of the Luna Rodeo grounds that need to be felled.
- Concern about brush and debris southwest of Hummingbird Lane (east of the Head of the Ditch Campground). Opportunity to have this material removed.
- Opportunity to thin the forest southwest of Luna and in the Dry Blue to reduce the risk of wildfire to Luna.
- Opportunity for a pellet plant in the area.
- Opportunity for thinning and timber sales. Concern about road closures limiting ATVs use throughout the area.
- Opportunity to mechanically treat Bill Lee Mesa, Roaring Hell Mesa, Dillman Creek, Horse Creek, Centerfire Bog, Underwood Allotment and Jenkins Creek.
- Concern the northern portion of the project has too many trees.
- Concern the creeks in the project area are drying up as a result of overstocked forest conditions.
- Opportunity to treat private lands to reduce fire hazard. Opportunity to treat forest lands adjacent to private lands. Opportunity for meadow restoration along FSR 4135Q. Concerned about the dead trees and slash created as a result of road maintenance into the Dry Blue.
- Opportunity to increase water by removing trees.
- Opportunity to improve wildlife habitat (elk).
- Opportunity for thinning and utilization of standing dead material throughout planning area. Northern portion of the project area needs to be treated. Forest needs to be managed; not the wildlife.
- Opportunity to remove fences excluding cattle from Dry Blue drainage.

- Opportunity to maintain areas previously treated with prescribed fire and thinning.
Opportunity to treat the Roaring Hell Mesa through a combination of mechanical and fire treatments.
- Opportunity for commercial fuelwood areas with a focus on pinon/juniper.