
Forest Plan Revision

Summary of Public Meetings for the Assessment

April and May 2014

Santa Fe National Forest

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Forest Plan Revision Summary of Public Meetings for the Assessment - Overview

In April and May 2014, the Santa Fe National Forest held 14 public meetings entitled “Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meetings” in 12 locations around the forest. The purpose of these meetings was (1) to provide introductory information about the forest plan (what it is, why it’s important) and (2) to provide an opportunity for members of the public to contribute to the assessment of current conditions and trends affecting our forest – the first stage of the Forest Plan Revision process. For more on the Plan Revision process, please visit our website at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/santafeforestplan. The purpose of the assessment is to provide a baseline and common understanding of current conditions in and around the forest.

The goals for the Public Assessment Meetings were threefold:

1. Provide clear, accessible information about the Forest Plan Revision process
2. Obtain input from the public about what they think is important to include in the Assessment
3. Build our outreach to and relationships with communities and individuals around the forest

Santa Fe National Forest held these meetings at the beginning of our assessment process – before most Forest Service specialists writing the assessment had even put pen to paper. Asking for public participation at this stage was designed to help the Forest Service specialists create an assessment report that better represents current forest conditions and trends. Knowing how users and communities use and value the forest, and their perspectives on what changes they have seen on the ground will greatly enhance and enrich the quality and accuracy of the assessment report.

Meeting Format and Logistics

The public meetings were held in 12 locations, from Mora to Cuba and Abiquiu to Albuquerque. For a full list of the meeting locations, please see Appendix A. In all, 114 members of the public attended the assessment meetings. We had a range of participants, including concerned citizens, recreational users, environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), permittees, inholding landowners, land grant heirs, county officials, and tribal officials. Some participants had attended one of the Santa Fe National Forest Listening Session in January/February 2014 or one of the March “Organizing for Public Participation” workshops (summaries available on our website). For others, the assessment was their first meeting on Forest Plan Revision.

Thirteen meetings were identical in format (meeting agenda in Appendix B). The meetings began with a welcome from a Forest Service line officer, followed by participant introductions. Then there was a 20-minute presentation on Plan Revision, followed by a question and answer session. Participants then took part in a “community café” exercise. Each participant received a community café worksheet (see Appendix C) and was given a few minutes to jot down notes in response to the first question: “What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest?” Then participants broke out in groups of about 5 to 8 people to discuss their responses. Forest Service staff served as table hosts, helping to facilitate the conversation and taking notes on butcher block paper on top of each table.

After about 20 minutes, the groups worked to identify main themes from their discussion. Next the facilitator invited attendees to get up and move to a different table, to encourage discussion with other participants at the meeting. The new small groups went through the same process to address the second question on the Santa Fe National Forest: “What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?” When we had fewer attendees, we remained in one group to discuss the questions together. After 25 minutes, we reconvened all participants and asked attendees to share their final thoughts or feedback. The meeting closed with an evaluation by participants.

Our “Technical Meeting” in Santa Fe had a slightly different format. The purpose of this meeting was to engage participants with technical expertise to have more in-depth discussions about the assessment topics, including a focus on the 2012 Planning Rule’s Draft Directives (see Appendix B for meeting agenda). When attendees arrived, they were asked to indicate their interest in breakout groups on the 15 Assessment topics. These interests were analyzed to set up resource specific breakout tables for the meeting. The meeting began in the same way as the others, with a welcome, introduction, the same 20-minute presentation on Plan Revision that was presented at the other meetings, and a question and answer session. Participants were then invited to go to one of the resource tables to have discussions with other users as well as Forest Service specialists. At each table an overview of the draft planning rule directives for that resource was provided by the Forest Service staff. The rest of the meeting focused on discussion around any specific data or information participants were able to share with the Forest Service specialists to consider in the assessment report, including ways to continue communication on the topic. Participants had an opportunity to attend two resource tables over the course of the meeting. A summary of input received from the technical meeting can be found in the “Technical Meeting” section of this document.

Meetings were facilitated by one of three third-party, private facilitators – Lucy Moore, Dr. Karen Kline, or Jo Ann Romero.

This Report

We compiled all of the input from the participants, our facilitator’s summaries, discussion notes recorded on butcher block paper, and the community café worksheets. Input is presented here by resource area. Documents and reports given to Forest Service staff at the meetings are part of the project record for use in the assessment and planning phases for Forest Plan Revision, but are not contained in this document.

This report summarizes the input, perspectives, and feedback we received from participants at all of the meetings. For each topic presented, a summary statement captures main themes heard at the meetings and submitted on worksheets. Following the summaries are comments or direct quotes. This information was often directly taken from meeting notes on individual worksheets and we present them here with little alterations to how they were originally captured or submitted. Comments taken directly from participant worksheets are identified with quotation marks. Participant’s worksheets and notes from the facilitators for each meeting can be found in Appendix D.

The meetings were designed to provide input to the assessment phase of Plan Revision.

The assessment evaluates 15 broad topics:

1. Terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and watersheds,
2. Air, soil, and water quality,
3. System drivers and stressors,
4. Carbon stocks,
5. Species of conservation concern,
6. Social, cultural, and economic conditions,
7. Benefits people obtain from the planning area,
8. Multiple uses,
9. Recreation settings,
10. Renewable and non-renewable energy,
11. Infrastructure,
12. Areas of tribal importance,
13. Cultural and historical resources and uses,
14. Land status and ownership, use and access patterns,
15. Existing designated areas.

This report reflects what was important to those who attended the meeting, including but not limited to issues related to the 15 assessment topics. The main topics that emerged from the public meetings reflect the 15 assessment topics closely, excluding benefits people obtain from the planning area and designated areas (however see the Technical Meeting section on Wilderness, a type of designated area). Since public input focused on how people use and value the forest, virtually all input received is relevant to the benefits people obtain from the planning area.

Designated areas such as Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and the Jemez National Recreation Area were mentioned on occasion, but usually with other topics, such as recreation. Therefore, comments on designated areas can be found within other resource topics. Finally, traditional uses emerged as an important topic. It is treated here as a subset of cultural and historical resources and uses.

Additional Input on User Values and Trends

After the public meetings concluded, we welcomed additional input on how users value the forest and what changes they have seen. The Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF) released the *Users Values and Trends* form on June 24, 2014. The form was nearly identical to the worksheet that was used during the 14 public meetings. Over 550 people were notified of form availability by e-mail the day the form was released. The form was included by e-mail as a PDF attachment and was also made available on the SFNF (Santa Fe National Forest) webpage. Copies of the form were also made available at the front desk of the Supervisor's Office in Santa Fe and all 5 ranger district offices. On June 20, 2014, all 245 grazing permittees on the forest were sent notice, including *User Values and Trends* form, of the start of the Forest Plan revision process. We requested that all responses be submitted by July 30, 2014 for use in the assessment.

Since the June 2014 rollout, we received a total of 52 completed forms. We received 27 forms through the online submission method, 14 mailed in hardcopies, and 11 responses from grazing permittees. All responses were received in English, even though forms were sent to grazing permittees in both English and Spanish.

Of the 52 forms received, statements ranged widely from recreation to energy and mineral development. However, the majority of statements focused on traditional uses and recreation. Input from the *User and Value and Trends* forms is included as “additional input” in the following sections: Social, Cultural, and Economic; Recreation; Scenery; Infrastructure; and Traditional Uses.

It was suggested to us that an individual mail-in form may not be the best method for soliciting information from members of the grazing community and a more effective method would be to address the questions as a group and provide input back to the SFNF in the same way, as a group. We did receive some responses through this method during a community meeting hosted by Carlos Salazar, President of Northern New Mexico Stockman’s Association, in Abiquiu of Rio Arriba County on July 22, 2014. The meeting was attended by about 50 community members and staff from both the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests. At the meeting, Mr. Salazar made a presentation with answers to the questions from our *Users Values and Trends* form. The information was presented as a consensus of the group’s thoughts and opinions to our questions. Each member of the audience was encouraged to add input as we went through the presentation. Some people did provide additional input, mostly in the form of elaborating on a statement being made. A few had additional information they wanted to provide.

An issue we faced was with the functionality of our online *Users Values and Trend* form. Many folks reported issues with not only the submission, but also difficulty in getting the information to transfer to e-mail for submission. While we worked to fix these issues during the time the form was online, we have no way of knowing how many folks didn’t get their input submitted due to these difficulties.

What’s Next?

Both the raw notes as well as key overarching themes from this series of meetings, organized by resource topics, have been provided to Forest Service specialists. This information will be considered as part of the assessment reports to (1) provide critical information about public perspectives on these topics, (2) enrich the discussion included in each assessment report, and (3) possibly use the narratives and input in the Assessment.

User Values and Trends for the Assessment

The following section summarizes very broad themes from the community café exercises at the Forest Plan Revision assessment meetings. In order to capture these themes as concisely as possible, these summaries take a “30,000-foot overview” approach. In other words, the level of detail below is more general than some of the input provided. Please see the raw notes in Appendix D for the full, in-depth comments and all submitted worksheets. Any individual comments quoted below are included to enrich the discussion or capture broader themes in participants’ own words – most individual comments are not included below.

The statements below reflect the views and perspectives of those who attended these meetings – they are not necessarily reflective of the larger community or the Santa Fe National Forest. Facilitators and Forest Service staff did not check for the accuracy of these statements and accuracy is not discussed in this report. The full assessment report will provide accurate information for all 15 assessment topics. We believe that all participant contributions have value in helping other Santa Fe National Forest users and Forest staff learn and understand the perceptions, information, and judgments people may share.

Thank you for your contributions!

The following sections have general thoughts and actual quotes (enclosed in quotation marks) from attendees at the assessment meetings. Meeting locations are indicated in parentheses using the following notations:

- Abiquiu (Abiquiu)
- Albuquerque (ABQ)
- Chimayo (Chimayo)
- Cuba (Cuba)
- Jemez Springs (JS)
- Las Vegas (LV)
- Los Alamos (LA)
- Mora (Mora)
- Pecos (P)
- Rio Rancho (RR)
- Santa Fe (SF)

Ecosystems

Properly functioning forest ecosystems are, for a myriad of reasons, highly valued by participants. Some participants focused on the value of biodiversity and how it enriches our lives. Others highlighted the importance of a variety of ecological features and ecosystems. Participants in Mora emphasized the dynamism of the ecosystem, how it is always changing yet always giving back. Participants also noted the importance of forest health for a wide range of recreational and traditional uses.

Participants have witnessed a number of changes in forest ecosystems. They pointed to increased population as an important driver of these changes, along with the perceived impression of declining management of the forest, as well as extreme events like fires and drought. These have resulted in a perceived overall degradation of resource quality. More specifically, participants notice that there are fewer meadows and “more trees in meadows” than before. One participant in Los Alamos noticed new kinds of wildflowers after fires. Overall, there appears to be more insect infestations in the forest, as well as more invasive species. The system is perceived as being weaker with “less ability to recover.”

Carbon storage

One participant in Pecos highlighted the value of healthy forests in providing for better carbon management.

Vegetative - Terrestrial

Values

- Ecological health was commonly cited as a critical forest value by the public: “As a trained ecologist, I enjoy being in areas that are ecologically healthy” (SF)
- Being in the forest – smell, sound, touch, interaction with ecological systems that change through the seasons (SF)
- Biodiversity enriches our lives (SF)

Trends

- Less meadows / “more trees in meadows” – traditional maintenance once kept meadows open (Cuba)
- “Drying of the forest due to drought conditions increasing” (SF)

- “Less ability to recover” (SF)
- There are new kinds of wildflowers since the fires (LA)
- “Overgrowth” (SF)
- “Blowdowns staying longer” (SF)

Other Resources

Values

- “The Santa Fe National Forest has a whole range of ecosystems – desert to above tree line” (SF)
- “Appreciate the diverse ecological features” (SF)
- “Habitat and forest health maintenance – for hunting, fishing, and renewable resources” (P)
- “Understanding ecological connections and cycle” (Abiquiu)
- Dynamism – forest is always changing, always giving back (Mora)

Trends

- Increased population in local areas has resulted in degradation of resource quality – some attendees spoke of a sense of loss as they see resources suffering (SF)
- Increased catastrophic events/stressors result in more resource degradation (SF)
- Weaker system (SF)
- “Habitat management lessening” (P)
- “The human footprint has had a bad impact on the forest” (LV)
- More invasive species in the forest (LV)
- “Forest management has declined by FS agency” (Abiquiu)

Air, Soil, and Water Resources and Quality

Air, soil, and water resource quality are highly valued across the forest for the benefits they provide to community health, livelihoods, and ecosystem functioning. Participants contributed observations about several changes to air, soil, and water resource quality. Overall, the forest is valued for the contributions it provides to public health.

Air

Participants noted that they value fresh, clean air.

Values

- “I value the forest ability to provide fresh air” (P)
- Clean air and water are actively valued (SF, P)

Trends

- The air in Los Alamos used to be clear 12 months a year, now June is known as the “smoky month,” and some people have to stay indoors (LA)

Soil

Participants expressed concern about the soil quality, dry conditions, and erosion.

Trends

- “Stream bank erosion” (RR)
- The ground is hard, rocky, and bare with no topsoil (LA)
- “More dust blowing due to drought” (SF)
- “Seems to be more erosion due to man induced changes/neglect” (SF)
- Dry, crunchy ground (SF)
- “Climate more unpredictable – mild winters, less snow, less rain – drier soils, wildfires, more erosion” (SF)
- “Bio char has potential but remineralization is important” – concerned about reduction of mineral replenishment and its impacts on the range (Abiquiu)

Water

The importance of water was a common theme among participants. For many communities, including Mora and Los Alamos, drinking water comes directly or indirectly from forest watersheds, and participants recognize the importance of protecting the watershed and associated wilderness. Participants cited the importance of snow run-off and their dependence on groundwater from the Santa Fe National Forest. The watershed is important for recharging aquifers. Headwaters and watersheds are seen as critical for urban and agricultural communities. Acequias and the ability to maintain and repair them were also commonly cited as important (see Traditional Use section in this document for more about acequias).

Concerns about fire and its potential to degrade water quality were noted in several communities. Increased tree density means that less snow falls to the ground for groundwater. There is less water overall, and with a greater population, there is increased water use and resource pressure. Participants have observed poor aquifer recharge and streams that were intermittent are now dry all year round. A participant in Pecos has observed that natural springs are going dry. There used to be beautiful waters; a participant in Mora had a stream on the family’s property that used to be intermittent, but hasn’t run since the 1980s. A Cuba participant also observed that watersheds are overgrown and stream banks have eroded; the flooding is terrible.

Values

- Clean air and water are actively valued (SF, P)
- “We also benefit from snow run-off – our community is dependent on groundwater from the Santa Fe forest” (SF)
- Watershed protection, water supply (P)
- “Watershed protection which mostly translates to the value of the Pecos Wilderness. Knowing it’s protected the way it is of great value.” (P)
- Acequias for water (Pecos)

- Headwaters and watershed are critical for urban and agricultural communities (ABQ)
- People in the region depend on watersheds up- and downstream (ABQ)
- “Watershed – for recharge to aquifers and surface runoff to bolster irrigation and livestock watering” (Abiquiu)
- “I now appreciate that SFNF is in my backyard – and is upstream of most of NM Forest use is important and all downstream water from the forest area” (Abiquiu)
- Our water is pristine now – how do we keep it that way? (Abiquiu)

Trends

- Increase in population has resulted in increased water use and resource pressure (SF)
- More competition for water (RR)
- Less water (SF)
- “Water availability decreasing or perceived to decrease” (SF)
- Natural springs are going dry (Pecos)
- “Lack of snow” and “milder winters” (SF, etc.)
- Used to get 10 feet of snow in Elk Mountain and now maybe get half of that (P)
- Poor aquifer recharge (JS)
- “Watersheds overgrown” (JS)
- Streams that were intermittent are now dry all year round (LV)
- Watershed and water quality is worse than before (Chimayo)
- “Forest fires ... damage the watershed.”(LA)
- Before, beautiful waters (streams and creeks) (Chimayo)
- It was wetter in the 1970s and ‘80s – we had an intermittent stream on our property, but it hasn’t flowed since the 80s’ (Mora)
- Flooding is terrible (ABQ)
- Although Los Alamos County relies almost entirely on a deep aquifer, that aquifer is recharged by surface flow and runoff from the forest watershed. Recent fires have left the surface burnt and impenetrable, and the tree density means that little snow falls to the ground, leaving the aquifer in a deficit situation. (LA)
- Concern about the potential for fire to degrade the water – water originates in the forest watersheds and its quality is critical for downstream users (Mora)
- “Used to get more snow...springs drying” (P)

System drivers and stressors

Participants at the meetings discussed system drivers and stressors at length – both human and environmental drivers and stressors.

Human

On the human side of things, a growing population was commonly cited as a change that is having repercussions on a myriad of resources, from water quality to recreation to ecosystem health to the changing of landscapes.

Trends

- “Population pressure is morphing the forest, particularly following fires” (SF)
- Change in attitude of the public – new appreciation for good forest management (thinning, etc.) (JS)
- More awareness of fire risk and willingness to take action to educate each other, write articles, coordinate, and communicate (JS)
- Increased fire restrictions and closures, changing patterns of use (people stay at home) (ABQ)
- Public attitudes have changed – thinning and prescribed burns are generally seen as important tools for forest health, whereas in the past some environmentalists opposed cutting any trees at all. A single interest is no longer appropriate and locals see the need to compromise. (LA)
- “Forest is closed more of the summer – this is bad for the local community”
- “Increased use by more people create additional stress in areas with less ability to recover” (SF)

Environmental

Key environmental drivers are fire and precipitation (or lack thereof).

Fire

Fire is seen as both a driver and a stressor. Several participants expressed that fires are important, that they need to take place to remove hazardous trees. However, participants also noted an increase in the frequency and fierceness of fires. As a result of big fires, there is also more post-fire flash flooding. Also, as a result of these fires, observers around the forest have experienced longer fire closures during the summer, which has negative effects on the local community and changes the patterns of forest use. Communities in and around the forest are also concerned about fires threatening their homes and damaging watersheds. Increased risk of fire and the fear it causes is pervasive, especially in communities that have experienced close calls.

Trends

- Fires need to take place to remove hazardous trees (P)
- “Forest fires have threatened the town of Los Alamos...”(LA)
- Due to fires, trails are more open and there is less shade. An advantage is that there are new longer vistas. (LA)
- Increase in wildfires and droughts, leading to resource degradation, change in landscapes
 - o “As a child, a large wildfire was 400 Acres – now it’s 100 times more than that” (Cuba)
 - o Increase in frequency and fierceness of fires – more fear among residents (Cuba)

- More post-fire flash flooding (SF)

Fire Management

The public perceives the Forest Service to be adapting in their management of fires and the public supports fire management which reduces stockpiles of fuel to prevent catastrophic fires. Jemez Springs residents talked about how people are more aware of fire risk and willing to take action to educate each other, coordinate, and communicate. In Los Alamos, participants agreed that thinning and prescribed burns are important tools for forest health. Others expressed concern about the increase in controlled burns and losing control of these burns.

A Jemez Springs participant stated that he/she sees a change in the public's attitude towards forest management – there is a new appreciation for good forest management, which includes thinning. The importance of thinning was a key topic of discussion at many of the meetings in different locations (see Multiple Use: Timber for more on thinning).

Trends

- Fire management used to reduce stockpiles of fuel now (RR)
- More controlled burns than before; there is concern about winds and losing control. Residents in the vicinity (Las Vegas) feel that notification is inadequate about the burns and their risk (LV)
- “I see increased efforts to thin the forest to reduce fire danger, but thinning is going way too slowly” (LA)

Climate Change

Some participants identified a changing climate as an important stressor. Some see climate change as the key driver behind fires (because it's drier) as well as bark beetle infestations. A Santa Fe participant expressed the need for the Forest Service to adapt management to a warmer climate. At least one participant also expressed the opinion that climate change is not outside historical variances in climate.

Trends

- Climate change → bark beetles, drier so more fires (SF)
- Increase in bug infestations (SF)
- Need to adapt management to warmer climate (SF)
- “Climate change → broad, landscape scale changes” (SF)
- “Climate more unpredictable – mild winters, less snow, less rain – drier soils, wildfires, more erosion” (SF)
- “Climate change is likely to denude the Jemez by 2050, from fire, beetles, and drought” (SF)
- Climate change: predictions that trees will die, bears will starve, and trout reproduction will suffer in warmer waters (LV)

Wildlife and Plant Species

Many participants shared their love of wildlife, and said that having a diversity of animals and plants is highly valued. From red-tailed hawks to bobcats to mountain lions, and wildflowers to butterflies, participants cited the importance of the beauty and interest in the variety it brings.

However, participants also shared perceived changes in wildlife patterns that they find troubling.

In several communities, including Pecos, Mora, and Chimayo, residents are seeing an increase in elk. The elk are coming into agricultural fields and traveling down to graze what green areas might be available. There were some variances concerning additional changes in wildlife patterns. Some participants observed that deer populations are up; others have seen them go down, for instance. Some perceive an increase in poaching and trapping, like increased trapping in the Jemez area. In Mora, participants shared that frogs and salamanders have disappeared. A participant in Chimayo said that the streams used to be teeming in cutthroat trout. Participants seem to agree that there are no more high mountain sheep. More broadly, several participants have seen more invasive species in the forest.

Values

- Wildlife viewing (wildlife repeated often as a value) (SF)
- Enjoying wildlife, plants, butterflies, and wildflowers (LA)
- “The variety of animal and plant diversity and the beauty/interest they bring to our lives” (SF)
- Great diversity of wildlife: birds (red-tailed hawks, ravens), bears, bobcats, elk, squirrels with tufted ears, Jemez salamanders; seeing a mountain lion take down a deer. (JS)

Trends

- Some have perceived changes in how frequently they see wildlife/change in wildlife patterns, either less or more (mule deer, bobcats, coyotes, mountain lions) (Cuba)
- Increase in poaching (Cuba)
- No more high mountain sheep (RR)
- Increased trapping of mountain lions (JS)
- Mule deer population down (JS)
- Deer and bear populations up (ABQ)
 - o With the lack of vegetation, can predators get to the deer? (ABQ)
- Mountain lion numbers consistent (ABQ)
- Used to have bears and raccoons in town (Los Alamos) (ABQ)
- Elk populations have increased (P)
- Wildlife is coming onto farms now, which is very damaging (Abiquiu)
- There were no elk before they were introduced in the 1960s (Chimayo)
- Before, the streams were teeming with trout, went fishing all the time. Got to the streams by horseback because there were no roads. (Chimayo)
- The dry conditions are forcing elk into the fields (Mora)
- Frogs and salamanders have disappeared (Mora)

Social, Cultural, and Economic Concerns

The forest plays an important role in the social, cultural, and economic conditions as well as contexts throughout the area.

Economics

Participants in our meetings shared the value of the forest in providing for livelihoods and driving local economies. Tourism was a key theme in Santa Fe and Los Alamos, and is important for many other communities as well. Recreating in the forest brings in tourism dollars. Participants said the forest can also be seen as part of the City of Santa Fe's efforts to turn around the tourism and business demographic, with a shift toward younger visitors. Tourism provides funding and jobs.

The forest is also a vital source of livelihood for ranchers and farmers – providing space for grazing and water for irrigation. Participants see logging as far less central to local economies as it was before, as timber sales and jobs in logging are down. Another change observed by participants is that tourism dollars are increasingly stressed due to fires. Droughts have impacted irrigated pastures.

Values

- Tourism business (SF)
- Economic impact of drawing in mountain biking (SF)
- Grants for trails (SF)
- Forest is part of the city's effort to turn around the tourism and business demographic (increase in youth) (SF)

- Grazing (SF)
- Outfitters/guides (SF)
- "Part of my work – I teach skiing in winter and lead small guided hikes with Santa Fe Walkabouts" (SF)
- "As a member of an outdoor industry business, we also see tremendous value to the community of Santa Fe and neighboring communities for tourism, public health, and generally creating a vibrant community. More trails would help this growth" (SF)
- With less funding from the Labs, Los Alamos is experiencing an economic slump. We hope that the Forest Service can partner with local agencies and groups to increase tourism in the area. A healthy tourist economy is tied to a healthy forest – well maintained and offering a wide variety of activities. The beauty, clean air, and quiet make the county a natural recreation destination (LA)

Trends

- Tourism dollars associated with the forest are stressed due to fires
- "Drought impacts irrigated pastures"
- "Agricultural revenues vs. industrial revenues in the counties"
- "Forest is closed more of the summer this is bad for the local community" (SF)

-
- “Forest revenues and jobs in timber industry gone” (Chimayo)

Social/Cultural

The long history of the area provides rich and varied social and cultural influences in and around the Santa Fe National Forest (see Traditional Uses.)

On a broader and more historical level, several participants remarked on the “blending of culture, language, and communities” over time.

In Las Vegas, participants discussed the importance of sustainability of the forest over time, preservation for the future for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

Values

- “Education of 7-year-old daughter” (SF)
- “Connecting with other outdoor minded people” (RR)
- “Diverse communities use forest” (ABQ)

Trends

- Perceived clash in values and uses
 - o Wood haulers and agricultural users may be in conflict with environmental emphasis or attitudes
 - o “Woodcutters drive everywhere and leave a mess”
 - o “Disconnection from the land. Urban values, not understanding that what they value/care about is affected by their actions.”
- Additional themes/ideas:
 - o There has been a “blending of cultures, languages, and communities” over time
 - o Preservation for the future – use and enjoyment of future generations (LV)
 - o More Spanish-speaking visitors

Multiple Use

Timber/Forests

Many people value the forest for the wood products it provides. One example is that fuelwood gathered from the forest is critical for some to heat their families’ homes (see Traditional Uses). Some participants also come from multi-generational logging families. The forest is also valued for the biodiversity of trees, like conifers, and for its stands of ponderosa pine and aspen. Several participants shared stories of going out to the forest to cut their own Christmas trees.

Participants have observed major changes in the logging industry. Before the 1960s, timber in the forest was mainly used for homesteads and fences, according to a participant in Chimayo. Industrial logging changed the landscape with the logging of big trees as well as the construction of roads and trails. Now there is less logging and a perceived shift in management from logging to multiple-use or ecosystem management. The timber industry survives on small-diameter trees, as participants observed that the forest is no longer producing larger trees. Several participants observed that there is a greater density of small-diameter trees, and this density is concerning. A participant in Mora expressed that these small-diameter trees have little or no economic value.

In regard to forest health, participants have observed overgrowth and a concerning density of trees, as well as less biodiversity of trees over the last 10 years, according to a Santa Fe participant. As discussed in the Stressors and Drivers section, many participants appreciate thinning projects for keeping the forest healthy, and some expressed interest in finding a market for thinned trees (biomass, animal bedding, composting, etc.) Participants also observed declining forest health as vegetation is dying, including aspens.

Values

- Fuelwood (many)
- Christmas trees (many)
- Ponderosa pine stands (“hiking with vanilla air”) (SF)
- “Appreciate thinning projects” (SF)
- Family logging business (SF)
- Three generations of loggers (Mora)

Trends

- Decrease in timber sales (SF)
- Cutting a tree has changed from being a “sin” to a “benefit” (SF)
- Vegetation dying
 - o Aspens dying (southern Colorado decline seems to be moving south)
- Less industrial/commercial use (less timber) – more of a focus on ecosystem management (SF)
- Less logging/thinning – “change in logging and thinning, not just for commercial economics” (Cuba)
- “The biggest changes [have] been the reduction in harvesting and thinning of trees, causing the density to increase” (Cuba)
 - o Virgin timber area before 1960s (timber was used for building homesteads and fences). Then timber management resulted in landscape changes from logging, roads, and trails. Now the industry survives on small-diameter logs. Forest revenues and jobs in timber are gone. (Chimayo)
- “Potential for increased industrial use” (SF)
- “[Less] biodiversity of trees and general health of forest as a whole over last 10 years”
- “Overgrowth” (SF)
- Shift from logging to multiple-use (JS)
- Increase in small-diameter trees (JS)
- “The Caldera going from prairie to forest” (?)
- The density of trees is a big concern – now 400 per acre in some places. (LA)

- Timber companies aren't interested in small-diameter trees, leaving the Forest Service with the expense of thinning. It may be possible to find a market for the thinned trees as biomass field, animal bedding, specialty flooring, mulch, composting, etc. (LA)
- The forest is no longer producing "nice big trees," so loggers are left with private property as their only option (Mora)
- Stands are dense with small-diameter trees which have very little or no economic value (Mora)
- "Forests are becoming more dense with small trees – fewer aspens" (JS)
- "Management has changed – we understand how to take care of forest and it means actually thinning" (RR)
- "Less water, greenery due to drought" (SF)
- "User-created roads, firewood" (SF)
- "Logging and thinning – less of it" (J)

Range

Livestock grazing and the ability to run cattle were both frequently highlighted as critical values of the forest to people. Along these lines, access is important, access to get to a sick animal and avoid loss of livestock, for instance. Participants also raised concerns about the quality of grazing lands and conflicts between elk and cattle for forage. The issue of elk damaging cattle fences was also raised several times (also see Traditional Uses).

Grazing Permittee additional input

There was extensive feedback from grazing permittees from the additional input obtained using the *User Values and Trends* form. Typically we were not able to identify the type of user group or groups a particular individual was associated with solely based on their response. We could, however, make this distinction for some of the information received from range permittees based on how their responses were received. This section will analyze responses specifically from grazing permittees, whose feedback was also included in other sections of this document and in the *Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meetings* summary.

The majority of forms, returned by grazing permittees through the June 20, 2014 mailing, listed scenery as a feature of the SFNF that they value highly, specifically citing the importance of beauty and serenity. Permittees also highly valued traditional uses, especially grazing and firewood gathering. One permittee talked about the significance of grazing to his family by saying "it [grazing] is a blessing that all the money in the world could not buy" because of the enjoyment it brings to his family. Another permittee talked about the importance of grazing as it allowed him "to carry on the grazing tradition that has been in [his] family for centuries".

Negative trends identified by grazing permittees included deterioration in roads and infrastructure, increased fire activity, and increased restrictions. One permittee stated that they are seeing "more rules and regulations being implemented as the Forest Service builds more and more fences". Some permittees believe these restrictions reduce their access to National Forest lands.

Many grazing permittees mailed their responses, but others submitted their responses at a community meeting hosted by Carlos Salazar, President of Northern New Mexico Stockman's Association, in Abiquiu of Rio Arriba County on July 22, 2014. Input from this meeting had the following overarching concerns:

Economic stability- People are concerned that increasing restrictions on grazing, road access, firewood gathering, etc. will put them in danger of losing their ability to care for their families in a manner that they are accustomed to and have been passing on for generations.

Traditional uses- People are concerned that things like an increased desire by other special interest groups, like Wilderness advocates, will “further reduce” their ability to graze, collect forest products including firewood, and maintain Acequias for “putting the water to work” and thus changes their way of life. When asked what they appreciated about the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests, their response was that “Forests are part of our culture, custom and livelihoods (used for livestock grazing, hunting, fishing, camping, skiing, mining, oil and gas, recreation etc.)” which further reflects a personal tie to the landscape. Furthermore, they appreciated “seeing existing private homesteads in place...within the two forests [sic]”. One permittee emphasized the importance of traditional uses as a way of life for folks in these communities by saying, “We [permittees/land grant heirs] have the right to live on our land [NFS lands] and know that we will be able to care for our families”.

Environmentalism is taking over- Many of the people in this community expressed concerns over increasing or expanding the amount of wilderness that currently exists on the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests. They felt that a few “non-local” interest groups were having an unfair influence in the planning process when it came to land use designations, “Management is not under the multiple use concept rather its [sic] under preservation of resources and catering to environmentalism”. Furthermore, “[R]anchers suspect there exists a conspiracy...by Federal agencies, [S]pecial interest groups (Wild Earth Guardians, Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club etc.), and State agencies to get rid of livestock grazing”.

Ecosystem services- Permittees want to maintain their ownership of water rights.

Access- Permittees believe the “permit process isn’t working but still being issued citations for Travel Management Rule violations”; and that the “Travel Management Rule (TMR) creating “De facto” wilderness areas via road closures”. Members of this group also noted that in their opinion “TMR aids in wolf re-introduction efforts” and was “[C]loses wood hauling roads, pinion picking, medicinal herb gathering.”

To summarize, common themes among grazing permittees overwhelmingly focused on the connection between and preservation of both access and traditional uses.

Values

Subsistence/Resources

- Livestock grazing and ability to run cattle (SF)
- Value access to get to a sick animal to avoid the loss of livestock (P)
- “Traditional uses are important: repair/maintain acequia infrastructure, wood gathering, timber harvesting, grazing” (P)
- “Because it’s our beautiful backyard for us to use. Hunting, fishing, camping, and our family use the summer range for raising cattle.” (P)
- “We use it for our way of life – ranching... Our boys have grown up in ranching life and they have no time to get into trouble with hanging out with friends.” (Cuba)

Grazing Conflicts

- Younger generation not adopting traditional grazing practices; grazing is more intense (“grazing impact seems to be getting more intense and widespread”) (SF)

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- Streams and riparian areas are trashed (SF)
 - Concern for safety on trails with cows, “cows everywhere” (SF)
 - Fence disrepair from the impact of cattle (SF)
 - “Lots of destruction due to ranch leases on forest land” (SF)
 - New, wealthy owners of private land in the area are less tolerant of straying cows. They are often unwilling to fence their property yet complain to permittees if just one cow wanders onto their property. (Mora)
 - Outsiders impacting resources (P)
 - Full cattle numbers to 25 percent (Chimayo)

Recreation

Meeting participants value a wide range of recreational opportunities in the forest. In fact, the range of opportunities itself is one of the things many attendees highly value. Non-motorized uses that were mentioned include camping (campers, backcountry, dispersed), hiking (day-hiking and backpacking), skiing (cross-country and downhill), photography, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, snowshoeing, picnicking, biking (mountain and road biking), rock climbing, peak climbing, trail running, exercise, birding and bird watching, going to hot springs, and shooting. Motorized uses that were mentioned include jeep trails, four-by-four riding, and motorcycling. These recreation activities provided participants with a range of memorable stories to share, from learning to fly fish on the forest, to growing up camping here, to riding for hours from Santa Fe to the Ski Basin. Participants also talked about the importance of being out in the forest for a spiritual connection, for learning, and for discovery.

Increased Population

Attendees contributed their insights about a range of changes and trends they see in recreation; there is more use and more people. One participant noted that there are fewer trails with more use. This increase in people has also resulted in an increase in user-created trails, noisier campgrounds, and increased demand for campsites. In Mora, locals have seen a sharp increase in outside recreationists leading to campsites being trashed, roads rutted by trucks, and vegetation hurt by dirt bikes and four wheelers. Another trend is increased development of facilities in the forest. One Jemez Springs attendee shared the opinion that the increased development including pavement, trash bins, etc., is a mixed blessing: it increases access and facilities for visitors to enjoy, but also brings noise and trash.

Trails

While people in some communities, like Santa Fe and Pecos, highlighted that trails are less maintained, others praised the trail system. For those perceiving that trails are more neglected, they shared that trails are fainter, blow-downs can stay for several seasons, and more and more trails close due to disrepair. In the past, trails were cleared earlier, and there are places attendees said they can't get to by horseback anymore. In Rio Rancho, a participant observed that signage used to be good, but is now minimal or gone. However, in Los Alamos, a participant said that newly restored trails with good signage are a big improvement and expressed appreciation for the signs that have been added. Management issues around trash are also a concern in several communities, noting that there is more trash and litter than there was before.

Volunteering

Trail building and volunteering opportunities came up a lot as important values of the forest to users too. People expressed the value of giving back. Along these lines, attendees noted the increase in volunteering for trail maintenance, and greater variety of work that volunteers do in the forest. Many of the meeting participants are volunteers themselves, and see this way of giving back: an important aspect of valuing the forest. However, some noted that there are too many hoops to jump through to become volunteers.

Access

When talking about what users appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest, access and the close proximity to Albuquerque and Santa Fe came up again and again. In Santa Fe, users also talked about the negative issues of the close proximity and easy access, namely more people leading to crowding in some areas. Many attendees talked about the recreational value of finding solitude – to escape from the city and modern conveniences. Being able to share the experience of being outdoors with friends and family came up often, too. Overall, many participants expressed that the forest “enables a lifestyle” and gives them “room to play.”

Increase in different types of recreational activities

Another trend pointed out is the impact of technology on recreation. With the advent of GPS units, for instance, some people may have overconfidence in their ability to navigate in the woods, posing a safety issue. Recreationists are also using the forest in different ways, patterns, and places than in the past. Several participants have observed more ATVs, snowmobiles, trucks, and 4-wheelers.

Others have noticed less OHV use and more mountain biking than before, with “more biking in the backcountry with greater reach.” Rock climbing was also identified by some as a newer recreational use of the forest. Some have not noticed a change in backcountry use – others have observed less use of the backcountry. Some have noticed more campers/trailers; some said that because of road closures there is decreased recreational vehicle (RV) camping.

Some participants expressed concern about “noisy motorcycles and ATVs” and “destructive recreational vehicle use.” One participant also shared concerns about recreational shooting in certain areas of the forest, like the Caja and near Canada de Los Alamos and Rowe Mesa. Some participants also have noticed less enforcement of regulations around recreation in some cases – others have noticed more enforcement. In Pecos, participants discussed the need to balance regulation and freedom for recreation in the forest. A participant in Rio Rancho expressed that recreation is now more controlled than it used to be.

Fire

Participants also perceived recreation to be changing due to catastrophic events like fires and drought. Several people pointed out that there seems to be less snow and less skiing. In some places there have been large fires that have left burn scars and subsequent flooding washing out areas. This impacts people wanting to recreate there. Participants observed that there are more closures due to fire risk, preventing people from going out into the forest. Several participants in different locations are concerned about decreased access to the forest for recreation: specifically for OHV use and campgrounds (as campgrounds have been closed off).

Additional input on User Values and Trends

Feedback on recreation from the *User Values and Trends* form identified hiking, mountain bike riding, camping, and horseback riding among the top five recreational activities on the SFNF. “I love the mountain biking trails, and it [SFNF] needs more” as expressed by one member of the public to express his appreciation of this feature of the SFNF.

Multiple-Uses/User-Conflicts

Participants from different parts of the forest talked about observing an increase in user conflicts in the forest over time. Several examples of these conflicts were given. For example, on Winsor Trail, hikers, bikers, and horseback riders all use the same trail at the same time and have varying desires for their activities. On the Aspen Vista trail, there are conflicts between recreationists and hunters. A participant in Pecos noted that wood-haulers and agriculture users find themselves in conflict with users with environmental concerns.

Some participants also perceive a conflict in attitude as the users of the forest have changed. However, many participants emphasized the multiple-use nature of the forest as an important value (see more on this in Recreation and Traditional Uses).

Uses

- **Non-motorized:** camping (“many camping memories – first elk ever, “when I travel, I often camp in FS facilities,” “travel management plan – no dispersed camping? Ugh!,” “growing up it was extremely meaningful – camping with family. Memories I still treasure. Still meaningful”), hiking, day-hiking, backpacking (“very meaningful”), downhill and cross-country skiing, photography, “spiritual connection” (Abiquiu), discovery (“learning about the forest”), horseback riding (“big, unpopulated – can ride horses” (SF), hunting, fishing (learned to fly fish here, 20+ years fishing small streams in the area), snowshoeing, picnic, mountain biking (“Caja del Rio”), road biking (“to the Santa Fe ski area,” “the ability to ride my bike from Santa Fe to the forest and ride for hours”), climbing (“really value rock climbing,” “most all the rock climbing I do is in national forest lands” like Las Conchas and Dome areas), exercise (“use it for exercise and personal enjoyment”), trail running, woodcutting, birding, climbing peaks, bird watching, shooting, hot springs (SF)
- “Camping as a youngster holds special memories and I continue that tradition with my children and grandchildren” (Mora)
- **Motorized:** “jeep trails, 4x4,” “hiking, biking, *motorcycling*,” and “single track motorcycle riding” (SF)

Multiple uses

- “I appreciate all forms of outdoor recreation – both motorized and non-motorized” (RR)
- “I like to use the forest in many ways. In the winter I ski and snowshoe. In the summer, spring, and winter I like to mountain bike, hike, picnic, and improve the area through trail building.” (SF)
- “We hike, camp, and cross country ski in the forest, so we value it very much for recreation.” (LA)
- “Multiple use – varied uses – recreation (hunt, fish camp, horseback riding/trail maintenance, ski), fuelwood gathering, livestock grazing” (SF)
- “Backpacking solitude – very meaningful” (SF)
- **Volunteering:** “give back by volunteering for riparian restoration,” “doing trail work on Borrego,” volunteer resources important (JS), “most meaningful when I’m riding and

clearing trails on a regular basis,” “being retired and can give back and enjoy the national forest” (SF)

- Invaluable energy and commitment of volunteers to help restore and maintain trails, plant trees, and even hand carry water to keep them alive (LA)

- **Miscellaneous:** Professional athletes

Values

Quiet, Freedom, Solitude

- Solitude; can find places without people (SF)
- “Ability to get away from town and people” (SF)
- “The solitude and escape from town/city/modern conveniences” (SF)
- “I can hike to my own special place and not find a lot of people” (LA)
- “Place to breathe and experience peace” (Mora)
- “Get away – no internet or television” (P)
- Escape from societal pressure (ABQ)
- “Meaningful impact [of] solitude, beauty (SF)
- “Away from the day to day schedule of everyday life” (SF)
- “Relaxing and restoration” (RR)

Social/Family Aspects

- Important for youth with nature deficit disorder (ABQ)
- “I enjoy solitude at times but I also enjoy the camaraderie of my friends and club members” (RR)
- Part of family lifestyle, place for kids to grow up (SF)
- “Connecting with other outdoor-minded people” (RR)
- “Sharing a forest experience with family and friends” (RR)
- “Spending time with my family” (SF)
- “Enjoying the forest as a child [creates] memories, strengthens families, and gives birth to new traditions;” value stories of adventures in the forest. (LA)
- Feeling of belonging (RR)
- “Gathering of friends at campsites. Company of friends in nature – bringing kids (my daughter) into the forest in a variety of recreational activities.” (SF)
- “Taking our DD child into the mountains where she can see the deer and the hummingbirds” (RR)
- The social climate – the blending of Indian, Hispanic, Anglo (SF)

Access

- Easily accessible from Albuquerque and Santa Fe
- Easy access to pristine places (SF)
- Access to different landscapes and “diversity of habitat types” (SF)
- “Our backyard” (SF, P)
- Disability access (RR)
- Access to water; “water – amazing when you’re surrounded by desert” (SF)
- “Enables a lifestyle” (SF)
- “The trees, the moisture, the escape from heat in summer” (SF, multiple)
- “That it’s available to the public” (P)
- “I use the National Forest on a regular basis mountain biking ...” (SF)

Diversity/Variety

- Ability to still discover “new things” after years of biking in the Caja (SF)
- Opportunities for all ages and skill levels, “diversity of opportunities and activities,” “the variation in opportunities for recreation” (SF)
- Different seasons (SF)

Open Space

- “Open space, public space (like the forest) is core to what it means to be an American” (SF)
- Availability of big chunks of open land (SF)
- “Wild set of land,” natural, “wild land/wilderness” (SF)
- “Dog can run loose” (SF)
- “Room to play” (RR)
- Sense of ownership, openness (RR)
- “Love the wilderness area with no motorized vehicles” (RR)
- Trails/Facilities, “the Pecos wilderness and its trails” (SF)
- “I appreciate being able to get outside on foot/human powered exploration” (SF)
- “I appreciate being away from trails” (SF)
- “(Mostly) free trailhead parking” (SF)
- Open trails/maintained access (SF)
- Areas that have been tended to: “cleaning, campgrounds, bathrooms, trash cans” (SF)
- “Appreciate... the extensive trail system” (SF)

Trends

Trails

- Less maintained/more neglected /abandoned (SF)
 - o Increased reliance on volunteers for trail maintenance (SF)
 - o Trails are fainter, erosion (SF)
 - o Blow-downs stay for several seasons (SF)
 - o More trails closed due to disrepair (SF)
 - o “Most concerned about the trail maintenance backlog” (SF)
 - o Most trails cleared by May 15 in the past (P)
 - o Can’t get to some areas on horseback because of lack of trail maintenance (P)
 - o “Clearing of trails in Jemez nonexistent now that OHV kicked out. Trails/roads closed” (SF)
- Improved/good shape
 - o “Trail systems are being improved” (SF)
 - o Trails are good, but there could be more from the mountain biking perspective (SF)

Less access

- o “Closing off campgrounds” (P)
- o Fishing access limited due to dead and down trees (P)
- o “More forest closures (temporary, e.g., fire closures)” (SF)
- o “Less dispersed camping opportunities” (SF)

More volunteers

- o “Upswing in volunteering” (SF)
- o Noticeable increase in the number of volunteers and the variety of work they offer on the forest (SF)
- o Too many hoops for trail cleaning (SF)

More people

- o Trails and campsites are more crowded (SF)
- o “More public use in easily accessible areas” (SF)
- o Increase in user-created trails from firewood collecting, dispersed camping, etc. (SF)
- o Campgrounds are loud, “more gunshots at night – feels like it used to be quieter” (SF)
- o “Fewer trails with greater use” (SF)
- o Locals have seen a sharp increase in outside recreators who bring trash, noise,

and bad behavior. Campsites are being trashed, roads rutted by trucks, vegetation and peace and quiet hurt by dirt bikes and four-wheelers everywhere – “more people from outside communities coming in and leaving trash behind” (Mora)

- “More and more people wanting to use forest for recreation and this causes overuse of some areas” (SF)
- “More users on trails – if we are proactive, having more trails and more user-specific trails can help spread out the use, giving everyone a better experience. As part of my local mountain biking club, we provide volunteer labor and tools to build trails – we also build sustainable trails” (SF)
- Increased demand for campsites (RR)
- “Higher occupancy and use. User conflicts” (SF)
- “Some user conflicts on heavy use areas like Windsor Area” (SF)

Development

- Significant development since 1970s in terms of pavement, trash bins, and maintenance. This is a mixed blessing because it increases access and facilities for visitors to enjoy the forest but also brings with them noise and trash. “Build it and they will come.” (JS)
- “Better development of rec sites” (Cuba)
- Newly restored trails with good signage are a big improvement in recent years for recreationalists (LA)
- “I appreciate the signs that have been added” (LA)
- Signage was good, now minimal or gone (RR)
- Increased trash/no trash management (SF/RR)
- “The forest is more open than it was 50 years ago” (LA)
- Reduced size of parking lots – helps decrease vandalism and unwanted activity in areas like Spence Hot Springs and East Fork (JS)

Enforcement

- Less enforcement of regulations around recreation, but in some cases, more enforcement
- Need to balance regulation and freedom (LV)
- More use/less freedom to use the forest in certain popular areas (SF)
 - Shooting closure on Caja (SF)
 - Climbing wall use at Los Conchas (SF)
 - Less access increases user conflicts (SF)
- Recreation is more controlled (RR)

Technology

- Technology has changed the way that people recreate, and some participants believe this has led to a sense of overconfidence in the forest for some, posing a safety issue when overly relying on GPS units (SF)

Different uses

- Recreation has increased and subsistence uses have decreased
 - “Recreation use has increased, and the attitude of those using the forest has changed. They are less respectful of nature, probably because they don’t understand it.”
 - “There is value for all. For those that recreate there and those that use to sustain their lives”
 - “Appreciate first that it is there for us all to use”
 - “More use seems to have resulted in less willingness to share”
 - “I myself have used the forest for almost every asset i.e., hunting, fishing, hiking, wood gathering, rock climbing, motorcycling, [and] 4-wheel drive. I value all.”

Motorized Uses

- More ATV, biking, and snowmobiles as well as “trucks and 4-wheelers” (SF)
- Less OHV use as they are being downsized (SF)
- “More loud off-road vehicles” (RR)
- Motorized vehicles are tearing up roads (P)
- “More noisy motorcycles and ATVs and chainsaws” (SF)
- “Destructive recreational vehicle use” (Abiquiu)
- More RVs and RV use more impactful – “like a wagon train” (SF)
 - More trailers in Los Alamos (SF)
- More road closures and decreased camping with a camper (SF)

Non-motorized Uses

- More mountain biking since travel management (SF)
- “More biking (bicycle) in the backcountry with greater reach”
- “Less backcountry use” (SF)
- Same numbers in the backcountry (ABQ)
- “Love the forest and wilderness – seeing the wildlife and plants” (SF)
- Rock climbing and mountain biking are new recreational activities (LA)
- “There is a lot of recreational shooting that is very dangerous – we have been shot at we

hope accidentally on the Caja and near Canada de Los Alamos and Rowe Mesa” (SF)

- “Are uses becoming abuses?” (SF)
- Increase in catastrophic events changing recreation
 - o Drought → less skiing (SF)
 - o More burn scars, impact on recreation (SF)
 - o “More dust blowing due to drought” (SF)
 - o “More forest closures and management following forest fires” (SF)

Multiple-Uses/User Conflicts

- “More use seems to have resulted in less willingness to share” (P)
- “Recreation use has increased, and the attitude of those using the forest has changed. They are less respectful of nature, probably because they don’t understand it.” (P)
- “Urban values not understanding that what they value/care about it affected by their actions.” (Abiquiu)
- “There is value for all. For those that recreate there and those that use it to sustain their lives”
- “Appreciate first that it is there for all of us to use.”
- Windsor Trail – instance where hikers, bikers, and horse riders have different priorities and needs
- Skiers and snowshoers clashing on Nordic trails, but the (signage this year has improved)
- Ski area user conflicts increasing
- Aspen vista conflicts between recreation and hunting
- Designation of Jemez National Recreation Area may have caused bigger schism with outside visitors as some locals feel that outsiders don’t have a land ethic

Scenery

The diversity of the scenery on the forest is highly valued – from the rock formations and the color of the earth to the gold of the aspens and the green spaces in summer. Forest users value the variety of landscapes, different terrains, elevation, and seasonal changes. The night sky is also a value of the scenery from the forest as people escape from bright city lights and enjoy the stars in the darkened sky. For many communities, the forest serves as the “backdrop of [people’s] home[s].”

Participants contributed several observations of changes over time, mostly related to fires. One participant discussed the eerie and sad aspects of re-growth in burned areas. A Los Alamos resident observed that there are new, longer vistas because of the fires. It was also mentioned that scenery has also been marred, in some places in particular, because of more trash and litter (see also Recreation).

Additional feedback on scenery from the *User Values and Trends* form included broad statements like; “We think it is a beautiful place” and “I appreciate the open space, the green vegetation” were common.

Values

- “It’s the most beautiful place on earth” (SF)
- Variety of landscapes, “diversity of forest landscapes – terrain, elevation changes, etc. (SF)
- Accessible in different seasons (SF)
- “It is the backdrop of my home, the mountains in the distance” (SF)
- Rock formations (SF)
- “Rocks/geology. Learning about how things were formed” (SF)
- Color of dirt (SF)
- Change in colors in the fall (SF)
- Eerie and sad aspects of regrowth in burned areas (SF)
- The sky at night (SF)
- “Escape from the city – can see the sky at night” (RR)
- “The green spaces in summer” (SF)
- “Enjoying the gold of the aspens” (SF)
- From the high desert to the mountain peaks, from the flatland to the rock walls at Valle (JS)
- “The undeveloped nature of it” (JS)

Trends

- Increase in burn scars impacts views from Santa Fe (SF)
- “Beauty, but rarely pristine” (JS)
- Due to fires, trails are more open and there is less shade. An advantage is that there are new longer vistas. (LA)

Energy and Mineral Resources

Some participants expressed concerns about oil and gas development as well as mining in the region in general — especially attendees in Abiquiu — though other places as well. As one attendee commented, “socioeconomic conditions are changing with agriculture on the [Rio Cebolla, east Rio Chama, and north Carson NF] due to oil/gas and fracking”. In Santa Fe, a participant has noticed an increase in oil and gas development in one area of Santa Fe National Forest. In Las Vegas, an attendee asked for the Forest to have no more mining or oil/gas drilling, particularly hydraulic fracking.

Trends

- Increase in oil and gas development in one area of Santa Fe National Forest (SF)
- No more mining and no oil and gas drilling, particularly fracking (LV)
- “Things are coming that will drastically change forests – gas/oil/subsurface minerals”

(Abiquiu)

- Socioeconomic conditions are changing with agriculture on the Rio Cebolla, east Rio Chama, and north Carson NF due to oil/gas and fracking (Abiquiu)

Infrastructure

Infrastructure was an important topic of discussion at many of the meetings, and most of this conversation focused on roads. For example, access by road is perceived to be important for recreation, harvesting wood, and thinning projects. Some expressed the desire to leave roads open but unmaintained.

Some participants are also concerned about trail maintenance. Dilapidated infrastructure, erosion, and general lack of maintenance are seen as preventing access to the forest. Between road closures and lack of road maintenance, overall there are fewer available roads.

On the other hand, some participants pointed out that improved road structures bring in more people to parts of the forest.

Finally, some participants discussed increased negligence of power lines and maintenance as well as a lack of communication with the power authorities.

Additional feedback on infrastructure from the *User Values and Trends* form addressed roads and access. Specifically, some users felt that access has been reduced over time, “The biggest thing I’ve noticed is restricted access. I used to camp along 376 but now access is restricted. An area I took my family camping as recent as 2011 is now off limits...I’m very disappointed in the new travel management plan that has severely restricted access to the forest”. Another concern with access is road maintenance, or lack thereof, “Every year the roads become a little worse in condition...it is a shame to even call it a road...It is a disaster!!!” Some of these statements implied a feeling of distrust that roads are not being maintained as a means of limiting access.

Trends

- Lack of road maintenance
 - o North end of Caja road has eroded and is very rocky (SF)
 - o “Road maintenance issues...road maintenance = access. Examples: Abiquiu Mesa and Borrego Mesa.” (SF)
 - o “Our roads are not as ‘maintained road’ as some forest service workers say” (P)
 - o “Many roads and trails are not built sustainably and have eroded badly” (SF)
 - o Infrastructure is dilapidated (RR)
 - o CCC roads being covered up (RR)
- Road closures
 - o “Road closures are my biggest concern. Not having access.” (Cuba)
 - o Road closures – looking at big picture rather than small areas (Pecos)
 - o Don’t close roads that might provide access for thinning projects (LA)
 - o More road closures → less camping (with a trailer) (SF)
 - o “More road closures – leave some roads open but unmaintained” (SF)

- Closed 24,000 miles of roads in Jemez (ABQ)
- Improved roads
 - Improved roads bring in more people (P)
 - In the past, poor roads kept people out (P)
- Fewer roads (SF)
- “Our roads are a mess” (P)
- Before, could go out and collect Christmas trees by vehicle on the road, now it is different (ABQ)
- Increased negligence of power lines and maintenance (SF)
- “Better development of recreation sites” (JS)

Areas of Tribal Importance as well as Cultural and Historic Resources and Uses

Many participants expressed value for cultural and historic resources and uses both on and off the forest (see also Traditional Uses.) Several participants noted that they value the history and archaeology on the forest. Historical resources and ancestral places help make the forest a unique place.

Values

- “Arch resource preservation/protection, protection from development” (SF)
- “Historical use of trails” (SF)
- “The history and archaeology” (SF)
- In Jemez Springs, a participant expressed that simply knowing that certain places and features, like Redondo Peak, have deep cultural significance for local Native Americans is valuable and powerful for residents. The sense of history and “all that has gone before” gives richness to the visitor experience. (JS)
- Historical resources and ancestral places, the Forest is a unique place (SF)
- Archaeological sites (Cuba, SF)
- Arch is underfunded because the NEPA review is being driven by Arch review (SF)

Traditional Uses

Many individuals and families depend on the forest for subsistence as well as for cultural, social, and historic needs and ties. People view the forest as their community. The community is not next to the forest: the forest is a *part* of the community.

Some individuals spoke about how they rely on the forest for wood—for fuel to heat their homes and for landscaping. Their communities gather herbs from the forest. Their water, and the quality of their water, depends on the forest too. Acequias provide communities with water, and the maintenance and repair of acequias is vital for these communities. They not only supply water in acequia cultures, but also provide the basis of local government structure.

Livestock grazing and the ability to run cattle were both frequently highlighted as critical values of the forest.

For instance, access is important in order to get to a sick animal and avoid loss of livestock. Livelihoods and local communities depend on the forest and its resources.

Family traditions and values are dependent on the forest for some participants too. In Mora, one participant gave an account of her first job cutting Christmas trees with her father. This experience included lessons on economics and resource stewardship. Such experiences influence the rest of people's lives: their values, world views, and even career choices.

Many local residents have deep historical ties to the land and come from families that have lived in the area for generations. One cattle-raising family has been in the area since 1938; another family has a three-generation logging business.

Participants from families or communities that use the forest in traditional ways expressed concerns about changes they have seen. The sustainability of these communities and their way of life overall came into question in part because people are leaving rural communities for the cities.

One attendee in Pecos expressed the perspective that "regulations overseeing some traditional use seem to be more strict." Another attendee in Abiquiu was concerned that the "agency is removing native people off the forest." Several participants have observed a decline in native people's ability to access resources, such as restrictions on gathering firewood. Subsistence users used to be the main users of the forest. Concerns were expressed about reductions in grazing permits over time as well as the allotment system not always being fair and supportive of the community. It is also difficult to repair and maintain acequias; there is a strong perception of the need to cut through a lot of red tape to get into the forest. Wilderness has negatively impacted acequia management. One participant observed that climate change and the over-harvesting of herbs has impacted heirs on his land grant.

As discussed in the Social, Cultural, and Economic Concerns section, some participants have perceived an increased conflict around traditional uses. Many participants are concerned about the perceived negative impacts of grazing on streams, forest health, and safety on trails and that there is "lots of destruction due to ranch leases on forest land." Concerns were also expressed about fence disrepair. Other participants have observed that there are too many elk which are taking over the grazing. One participant talked about wealthy individuals from outside the community buying property and having less tolerance of a stray cow – yet those same property owners are often unwilling to fence their property.

One participant in Albuquerque told the story about how four elders in his community died after the Las Conchas Fire because they internalized responsibility. According to the participant, traditional historic communities have an environmental ethic and are stewards of the land.

Additional feedback on traditional uses from the *User Values and Trends* form focused on grazing, hunting, and firewood and forest products gathering. Many respondents felt that these traditional uses were important for their livelihood and helped them to "carry on family traditions passed down from generation to generation."

Values

Subsistence/Resources

- Some depend on the forest for firewood and other resources (SF)
- Use of wood for heat (SF)

- “Wood gathering – heating my home and landscaping” (Cuba)
- Livestock grazing and ability to run cattle (SF)
- Acequia infrastructure (P)
 - o Acequias for water (Pecos)
 - o Acequia members spoke of the need for maintained access to acequia structures on Forest Service land. Some areas need to be cleaned out, and the permitting process seems unnecessarily burdensome. Participants noted that acequias pre-date the federal agency, and the red tape required to access the areas is unreasonable. Participants feel that it is painful to see recreation areas trashed by thoughtless users who can do what they want with little or no permit and oversight, while an acequia official must go through reams of paper for access to maintain a structure. (Mora)
- Access to get to a sick animal (or can be loss of livestock) (P)
- “Traditional uses are important: repair/maintain acequia infrastructure, wood gathering, timber harvesting, grazing” (P)
- “It is a place to gather firewood for our families cold winters” (P)
- “Because it’s our beautiful backyard for us to use. Hunting, fishing, camping, and our family use the summer range for raising cattle.” (P)
- “Firewood and herbal access” (Abiquiu)
- “Products – grazing, fuelwood, water” (Abiquiu)

Community and History

- “The forest is sustained [by] small communities” (Cuba)
- “From wood, herb (floral) gathering a sense of community, culture. Harvesting rich earth for my abuelitos and having water to their gardens in the time of drought.”
- “Grazing program, social and economic needs” (Abiquiu)
- “We use it for our way of life – ranching... our boys have growing in ranching life and they have no time to get in trouble with hanging out with friends” (Cuba)
- “My family has had cattle on the forest since about 1938 and sheep prior to that” (Cuba)
- Family values and traditions (P)
- “Family gatherings for rounding up cattle and wood cutting” (P)
- “It was most meaningful as a child and as a father” (P)
- Acequia culture is the base of the community because it’s about water and is the basis of government structure (ABQ)
- “It’s home” (ABQ)
- Multigenerational ties in and around the forest (ABQ)
- People view the forest as their community – the community is not next to the forest; the

forest is part of it (ABQ)

- Cultural and familial aspect to land (ABQ)
- A land grant descendent expressed thinking of the forest as home (ABQ)
- Communities are there because of the Forest (Chimayo)
- “Forest and ecology is our mother” and “labor builds relationships with the land” (Chimayo)
- Natural resources don’t belong to the individual, they belong in commons (Chimayo)
- Participants grew up in families whose livelihoods depended on forest resources: firewood, logging, Christmas tree harvesting, and cattle (Mora)
- A participant remembered cutting Christmas trees and taking them to Santa Fe to sell with her father, and the importance of that activity, not just for her family’s income, but as a lesson in economics and resource stewardship as well. Another spoke of driving cattle with her family, seeing springs and lakes along the way, and the power of that experience. Family reunions are common occurrences in the forest, with families coming to feel a special identification with their camping spots. One participant expressed good memories of the annual trip to the forest to choose and cut down a Christmas tree. (Mora)
- These memories can influence the rest of people’s lives – their values, world views, even career choices. Learning to respect the forest and care for it, cleaning up after yourself (and others) was an important life lesson for many. They learned to understand the principle of preserving the land and resources for future generations. Those who live close to the forest and depend on its resources learn these lessons early and carry those values with them through life. (Mora)
- “People’s cultural-historic relationships with the forest, and how these relationships are changing over time” (ABQ)
- Grandfather’s land grant, coyote area (Chimayo)

Land ethic

- Traditional historic communities have an environmental ethic and are stewards of the land. For instance, four elders died after the Las Conchas fire because they internalized responsibility for burning the upper end of the watershed. (ABQ)
- “Community sustainability” (Abiquiu)

Trends

Access

- Decline in native people’s ability to access resources (Abiquiu)
- “Agency removing native people off the forest” (Abiquiu)
- Sustainability of agriculture is in question with reductions in permits (Abiquiu)
- Fewer grazing permits (SF)
- “Grazing permit reduction. Trend?” (Abiquiu)

- Allotment system not always supporting community/fairness of allotments in question (Cuba)
- “Regulations overseeing some traditional use seem to be more strict” (P)
- “Restrictions on gathering firewood” (Mora)
- “I grew up on the East side of the Jemez and started using the forest with my family (young stuff) till now. The amount of closures over the past 50 years. Understandable in some cases” (JS)

Use/lifestyle

- Family used to ride horseback from place to place; subsistence users were the main users (SF)
- Lifestyles and cultures are changing – the land is being divided and people are leaving their rural communities for cities (SF)
- “Sense of community (but being lost)” (JS)
- Those dependent culturally and historically can’t walk away, less stewardship for the land now (ABQ)
- “Loss of intimate relationship with forest among local community groups” (ABQ)
- Went from subsistence uses of the forest (hunt, till soil, water systems) to subsistence vs. economics (elk and timber) (Chimayo)
- Cattle management approaches have changed with technology (SF)
- Changes in technology – increased use of chainsaws (Cuba)
- “It used to provide a livelihood for many families in terms of logging, grazing, and recreation” (Cuba)
- “We cannot support new wilderness here” (Abiquiu)
- “Change from traditional uses (hunting, fishing, grazing)” (SF)
- “Use change from subsistence based to recreation based” (RR)
- “Thousands of sheep used to graze, now have cattle” (P)
- “Loss of intimate relationships with forest among local community groups” (ABQ)
- Wilderness has negatively impacted acequia management (Chimayo)

Environment

- Droughts have impact on acequias and habitat (Cuba)
- “Over-harvest of herbs with climate change has affected the heirs” (Cuba)
- “Herds of elk are taking over most of the grazing” (P)

Land Status and Ownership, Use, and Access Patterns

Land status, ownership, use, and access patterns are central to many of the discussions that took place during the meetings.

Status and Ownership

Some participants have recreational residences on the forest or a forest inholding. One participant in Las Vegas built a cabin in the area and has been going there with his family every year for decades. It provides him with a chance to recuperate from the world, and the cabin is priceless to him. A participant in Rio Rancho talked about going to La Cueva every summer and building a cabin there with his father, and memories of those times are linked to certain spots in the forest.

In Mora, some participants discussed how the influx of wealthy people from out of town coming in and buying land in the area impacted them. These new landowners are perceived as being less tolerant of straying cows than local neighbors in the past.

Individuals and communities surrounded by the Santa Fe National Forest expressed heightened awareness and fear of impacts from fire in the forest. Participants in Los Alamos stressed the need to thin the forest around them to prevent wildfire from encroaching into their town. One participant had the only house left standing in a three block radius after the Las Conchas Fire. Participants in several other communities, including Mora and Pecos, stressed the fear of fire on Santa Fe National Forest land neighboring their communities.

The openness and availability of large chunks of land is a key value for many participants. The idea of encroachment of communities into forest lands in terms of watersheds and safety was a general topic of discussion as well, as was increasing pressure from population growth around the forest.

Several participants stressed the importance of coordinating the forest plan with other county, state, and federal land management agencies. A participant in Los Alamos emphasized the importance of coordinating in terms of fires and safety (see Forest Management).

Use and Access

The forest shares borders with communities that need to access the forest for traditional uses (see Traditional Uses). Several participants in Cuba, Abiquiu, Mora, and Pecos have observed that they now have less access to carry out these activities. Access has decreased due to restrictions on some activities (like collecting firewood), closures of roads and trails, and wilderness areas. For instance, acequia officials in Mora talked about the difficulty of going into the wilderness to maintain acequia structures for the community. One attendee in Abiquiu simply said “we cannot support new wilderness here.” A member of one of Santa Fe National Forest’s neighboring land grants said that “access to the forest has changed for the [land grant] heirs.”

Access is also important to recreationalists. While many participants have noticed a trend toward less access, others have observed that the forest is more open. For those seeing less access, they noted particular roads and trails that have closed, or are not maintained. Lack of road and trail maintenance is seen as equating to lack of access (see Infrastructure and Recreation). Overall, it seems that accessibility to the forest and its resources varies by location and by the type of activity or use. Some participants said that access to the forest is good, but for others lack of access or diminishing access was their central concern.

Attendees also discussed access for the elderly and disabled. In Pecos, one participant discussed how the elderly can’t access the forest as they could before. In Rio Rancho, one of the main themes identified was the importance of access for the disabled. A parent in Rio Rancho highlighted that she appreciated being able to take her developmentally disabled child into the mountains “where she can see the deer and the hummingbirds.”

Values

Proximity

- Close to Santa Fe
- Within an hour of Española
- “I love that it’s so near town so very accessible”
- “I can be deep in the forest an hour from my doorstep”
- “I like the National Forest because it is all around us”
- “Belongs to the public”
- “Proximity, close – enable a lifestyle” (SF)
- “Ready access”
- “Accessibility of forest from Santa Fe is excellent a big plus” (SF)
- Accessibility to different areas – can drive to go fishing in a stream
- “It’s important for me and my family to have access to this wilderness experience”
- Accessibility is good in different areas, for different types of activities
- Increased population pressures

Openness

- Encroachment affects communities, watersheds, and safety
- “Open space, public space (like the forest) is core to what it means to be an American” (SF)
- Availability of big chunks of open land (SF)
- Natural “wild land/wilderness” (SF)
- “Openness, freshness, useful for grazing, hunting” (SF)

Private residences, recreation residences

- Recreation residence cabin (RR, P)
- “That piece of the forest is the love of my life” (LV)
- Local resident visited La Cueva every summer to build a cabin with his father. Memories of those times are linked to certain spots in the forest, spots still treasured as early lessons (RR)
- “It is my home – my backyard. My private property is completely surrounded by Santa Fe National Forest. I appreciate the beauty and solitude it provides. It used to provide a livelihood for many families in terms of logging, grazing, and recreation.” (Cuba)

Access

- Elderly can’t access the forest

-
- “Taking our DD child into the mountains where she can see the deer and the hummingbirds” (RR)
 - “More fire restrictions, forest closures” (ABQ)

Recreation

Traditional uses

- Access to be able to get to a sick animal is valued without which can lead to the loss of livestock (P)
- “Traditional uses are important: repair/maintain acequia infrastructure, wood gathering, timber harvesting, grazing” (P)
- “Because it’s our beautiful backyard for us to use. Hunting, fishing, camping, and our family use the summer range for raising cattle.” (P)
- “From wood, herb (floral) gathering a sense of community, culture. Harvesting rich earth for my abuelitos and having water to their gardens in the time of drought. Grazing sheep” and sense of community. (Cuba)
- “It’s home” (ABQ)
- People view the forest as their community – the community is not next to the forest, the forest is part of it (ABQ)
- Communities are there because of the forest (Chimayo)
- Natural resources don’t belong to the individual, they belong in commons (Chimayo)
- Participants grew up in families whose livelihood depended on forest resources: firewood, logging, Christmas tree harvesting, cattle (Mora)

Trends

Recreation Access

- “Forest is more open than it was 50 years ago”
- Trails are less maintained, more neglected, and more abandoned
- More trails are closed due to disrepair (SF)
- “Most concerned about the trail maintenance backlog” (SF)
- “The closing of campgrounds” (P)
- Fishing access limited due to dead and down trees (P)

Traditional Uses Access

- Decline in native people’s ability to access resources (Abiquiu)
- “Agency removing native people off the forest” (Abiquiu)
- “Restrictions on gathering firewood” (Mora)
- Wilderness has negatively impacted acequia management (Chimayo)

- Acequia members spoke of the need to maintain access to acequia structures on Forest Service land. Members observed that some areas need to be cleaned out, and that the permitting process seems unnecessarily burdensome. It was pointed out that acequias pre-date the Federal agency, and the red tape required for access the areas seems unreasonable. Some acequia members feel that it is painful to see recreation areas trashed by thoughtless users who can do what they want with little or no permit and oversight, while an acequia official must go through reams of paper for access to maintain a structure. (Mora)
- Difficulty in maintaining and repairing acequia infrastructure (P)
- “We cannot support new wilderness here” (Abiquiu)
- Change in “ease of access”
- “Access to the forest has changed for the [land grant] heirs.”
- Access denied over time (Rowe Mesa)
- Scrutiny in the overall access and use of our forest” (SF)

Forest Management

The focus of the assessment is on current conditions and trends of the forest resources that are managed by the Santa Fe National Forest. Some participants provided input on more administrative aspects of land management such as priorities and budget, which will be considered in writing the plan, but will not be impacted by the plan itself. Other participants had input on broad topics such as land management philosophies, which can influence overall concepts used in planning rather than the management of specific resources. Some of the items below will be addressed by the assessment and provide important perspectives for the specific forest plan.

Land Management Philosophies

- Shift in emphasis to people-centered uses and values rather than environmental and wildlife centered values
- “Less focus on the commercial value of resources (timber, water, grazing, mining) and more value on the intrinsic values of resources (recreation, solitude)”
- Industrial/commercial uses → ecosystem management focus
- “More protection has happened and is happening for better or worse”
- Management is currently reactive, needs to be proactive
- “Risk adverse management” (SF)
- “My views have changed - Dome, Cerro, Las Conchas [Fires]. Concern about the future” (SF)

Priorities and Budget

- Decrease in budgeting and staffing
- More staff time at a desk vs. in the field
- “Greater increase of bureaucratic mess”

- Funding from logging to funding from taxes
- Forest Service staff skillset from grazing/timber to -ologists
- “I think attitudes and values about natural resource management seem to be in more conflict”

Coordination and Communication

- Lack of communication and coordination with groups like power line companies
- Increased reliance on volunteers, and partnerships with other entities (NGOs, city government, etc.)
- Need for more public education about safety and protection of the Forest Service
- Providing guidance and ensuring safety for volunteers is the Forest Service’s responsibility, a new challenge, but well worth it (LA)
- Need to coordinate with counties, especially relating to safety and fires (LA)
- Communication between the various jurisdictions is important to maintaining and protecting forest resources
- Need better coordination with New Mexico Game and Fish – confusing for recreationists (P)
- “USFS staff more active in community engagement” (Cuba)
- Greater emphasis on public involvement – before it seemed that Forest Service was “about rules and nothing more,” the change is a welcome one (LA)
- Some in the public feel they are not being reached out to (P)

Enforcement

- Law enforcement needs to be looked at (P)
- “I appreciate that the forest is managed and that there are rules” (Abiquiu)
- Some public participants observed less enforcement of regulations, whereas others saw increased restrictions (i.e. shooting closures)

Technical Meeting

As part of the series of public meetings there was a Technical Meeting on April 30, 2014 that was open to all members of the public, but was more focused towards participants with technical expertise that were members of organized groups or other agencies. Participants represented a wide range of government, public, and private resources. The main difference in meeting formats was the breakout groups and discussions as the technical meetings were based on resource topics. Participants were also asked to provide specific sources that could be used in the assessment in addition to input on values and trends. Summaries and specific sources of information for each of the resource topics from this meeting follow.

Recreation and Scenery:

In addition to maintaining user access, participants expressed concerns about backcountry trail safety and maintenance, especially for horses and riders. However, this breakout group felt

strongly that user-created trails need to be eliminated to protect the forest. Furthermore, the recreation and scenery group wants recreational planning to engage youth to instill a land ethic so that youth would recognize that all forest lands does not need to be designated for a certain use. Some forest land that is not grazed could be designated for recreation, in addition to allowing areas for off-road vehicles.

- Suggested Information/Resources
 - Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) is seen as badly understating OHV trail activity and demand because of the way it is administered on the Santa Fe National Forest. Better/additional data on that subject could be provided.
 - New Mexico OHV program manager
 - Volunteer for recreation trails network knowledge and maps, for participation in assessment to help identify trails, for shape maps, and to take people out.

 - Volunteer for Health and Cuba area resident, visitation user information, and Sandoval county information
 - New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) – game wardens have great knowledge
 - Citizens' proposal

Wildlife and Fish

Participants discussed a wide range of concerns including the potential for livestock and wildlife incompatibility and competition for resources as well as the view that some ranchers may be unaccountable for their cattle impacting forest lands, especially riparian areas. Other participants commented on abuse reports and perceived lack of enforcement and monitoring, public access for grazing plans and AOI reports, drought and health of forest and watershed, and forest management and effects on wildlife. This breakout group also discussed monitoring levels of elk, bear, turkey, migratory birds, prairie dogs, coyotes, and fish (especially trout) to ensure levels will be sustainable to maintain a healthy ecosystem and provide forest users with adequate opportunities.

- Suggested Information/Resources
 - Access to allotment information monitoring reports and AOIs should be made available. The last reports were from 2003, and more information is needed which should be posted to FS websites.
 - Trout fishing and stream/riparian restoration areas
 - Working with landowners, elk, turkey, and bear populations on private land. Make sure there are sustainable populations – either over harvesting or under harvesting can causes problems with grazing (NMDGF)
 - Cattle allotment without water in 5 of 6 dirt tanks can create a conflict with wildlife. Springs can be influenced by fire through the loss of tree cover, and resurfaced springs need protection.
 - Water availability can be impacted by cattle riparian abuse. Cattle are not kept

out despite allotment plans, and projects for riparian restoration are being done to remedy these problems. There is not a grazing personnel specialist on Jemez.

- In response to the perceived lack of law enforcement, information gathering through a hotline for grazing allotments and recreation abuse on riparian areas.
- North East Area Regional Wildlife Biologist, Raton office, NMDGF
- Northwest Regional Habitat Biologist, Albuquerque office, NMDGF
- Northwest Regional Biologist, 3841 Midway Pl. NE, ABQ, NM 87109
- Grazing information accessibility – see Bureau of Land Management and State land office website

Traditional Uses

Tribal, ranching, and land owner participants expressed appreciation about being involved in forest planning. All participants are concerned about continuing their traditional uses of forest lands and want the forest to consider their needs along with those of the forest. Participants want to be involved and have input in the planning process, but there was confusion about meetings' topics, locations, and schedules, and participants asked that the meeting schedule, outreach, and collaboration processes be more flexible and explanatory.

- Suggested Information/Resources
 - Additional groups:
 - Northern New Mexico Stockman's Association
 - Northern New Mexico Acequia Association
 - New Mexico Cattleman

Water/Watershed/Soil

Participants expressed their concern about water quality and quantity in the forest, and its effect on the watershed and surrounding communities, recreation, and wildlife.

- Suggested Information/Resources
 - Water quality
 - State 303d and 305b integrated reports
 - Clean water act lists perennial streams and water quality standards (1st cut at pollutant) every other year
 - Streams with Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) – water quality improvement
 - State non-point source management plan – currently revising with 3 types of priorities:
 - Planning (water with TMDL)
 - Implementation watershed based

- Water goal protection Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRW) highest protection needs to be evaluated
- Watershed Condition Framework
- Forest watershed action plans
- New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) webpage Surface Water Quality Bureau
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC) work for water fund – drinking information and analysis for surface water
 - TNC staff not online yet
 - GIS layers – agricultural diversions (already done some filtering to improve) not a lot on acequias
- Ground water data – watersheds important for infiltration - recharge zones
- County water plans have a lot of good descriptive data
- Aquifer mapping effort from New Mexico Tech
- NMDGF – fish data identified important stream
- Data on stream temperature from projects (Vacas, Rio Peno Negras, Valles Caldera National Preserve)
- Pecos Watershed based plan involves forest land
- Hermits Peak Watershed Association Gallinas Area
- Debris flow and potential water yield
- Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative – on website – fish database currently funded – not sure when data base will be finished
- TNC water fund Comprehensive Plan background information on the ecological, social and economic roles that water resources play.
- New Mexico Acequia Commission Association –will send Upper Pecos Watershed Association Watershed Plan. Send contact information for Hermit’s Peak Watershed Alliance.

Wilderness

Discussion of wilderness brought up many topics including a lack of understanding of the historical importance and value of wilderness as well as participation in wilderness activities among youth. Discussion also touched on the size of wilderness areas, expanding recreational use, the economic importance of the forest and its visitors on local communities, and community members expressed their concern over a perceived bias toward wilderness instead of multiple use.

Participants expressed specific concerns about grazing effects on wilderness including degrading springs and water quality, overgrazing, and monitoring and enforcement. In addition, specialist participants emphasized concerns about inventoried roadless areas, loss of roads and off-road access in wilderness areas, and maintenance of those roads.

Participants also expressed concern about forest management in wilderness areas including chainsaw use, clear-cutting to open more areas for grass, and increased burning in wilderness. Some participants felt that wilderness is fairly well maintained on the Santa Fe National Forest. Some also suggested that Mora River be designated a Wild and Scenic River. Climate change is also a concern and it was suggested that a vegetation study be done to monitor effects.

- Suggested Information/Resources
 - www.wilderness.org
 - Utah study on motorized recreation contributes more to economy than wilderness back packers (San Rafael Swell by Price, UT)

Air/Smoke/Fire/Insects

Participants discussed the change in fire return interval and suggested the plan should evaluate tradeoffs associated with use of fire and return interval, in addition to climate variability and the effects of more wildfires with increased damage.

- Suggested Information/Resources
 - Fire Effects
 - TNC Rio Grande Water Fund analysis
 - FSim modeling – burn probability
 - Rocky Mountain Research Station
 - R3 Forest Pest Management Staff – total Basal Area loss by pest type
 - NMED - Air Quality Attainment standards and report
 - Economic Impacts – fire and forest users/business interest (Sandoval – Pecos business owner)
 - U.S. Geological Survey climate variability
 - Los Alamos National Laboratory
 - NMDGF – State Wildlife Action Plan incorporates climate change
 - University of New Mexico Study on economic impact of Las Conchas Fire
 - Black Acres and Southwest Learning Network

Interagency Coordination

- Responses from Different Agencies (NMDGF, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, NMSF, and New Mexico Environment Department)
 - NMDGF representatives commented on OHV access for all and on streamlining communication. They are concerned that agencies have history in dealing with wildlife, but not recreation.
 - New Mexico Department of Agriculture will request applicant status and has local knowledge of weeds and the watershed and can provide Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)/Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) mapping data.

- NMSF is coordinating at the regional office and not with the districts
- New Mexico Environment Department has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that terminates in 2017. County representatives suggested increased levels of coordination between the Forest Service, private landowners, watershed groups, and local communities regarding surface water quality, funding for water projects, air quality, and forest management and treatment on a landscape scale. Participants discussed the annual coordination meeting, NEPA reviews, ONRWs Agreement, separating motorized and non-motorized uses, and consequences of not getting forest treatments permitted by NM Air Quality Bureau.
- Suggested Information/Resources
 - After Fire-Response Plan – New Mexico Forestry
 - Look at other plans
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Valles Caldera National Preserve
 - Soil & Water Conservation Districts
 - County ED plans
 - New Mexico Association counties
 - NM Forestry Action Plan (www.nmforestry.com)
 - One project in Chimayo Youth Conservation Corps borders Carson and they are monitoring Rio San Antonio
 - Farmington office also a resource management plan

Cultural and Historic Uses

Participants discussed a wide range of concerns regarding cultural and historic uses including decreased funding that limits law enforcement and cultural resource protection at a time when crime is increasing in the forest. Participants also talked about growing communities and changing effects on resources as well as conflict between use of resources and the changing character of that use (e.g., mechanical cleaning of acequias).

Tribal (pueblo) representatives want to protect ancestral resources, have concerns about using pueblo resources to monitor the ancestral resources, and are considering partnerships with local communities to protect the resources. Participants referenced the Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Protection Act, which provides “for the preservation, protection, and interpretation of the nationally significant archaeological resources in the Galisteo Basin in New Mexico.

There is a general concern about other resources affecting archeological sites and the loss or disappearance of resources, and there appears to be an increasing awareness of heritage tourism with an awareness of impact. According to the congressional office, representatives of local associations and land grants want to be involved in managing and protecting resources (e.g., San Joaquin de Chama, where agencies work with local organizations).

- Participants indicated that there should be an increase in stewardship activities, and local communities and groups should be more engaged in resource planning and management. There seems to be a trend toward using resources for traditional uses, leading to overuse. Commercial uses are unregulated and people in economically deprived communities have begun to subsidize their cost of living by marketing resources, so there is a need for self-policing and managing for competing use.

Vegetation/Restoration

Participants expressed many concerns about vegetation and restoration including the need for statewide GIS mapping and photos and ensuring that vegetative treatments are geared toward restoration, and not timber harvesting. Participants also discussed the need for prescriptions to be uneven-aged, provide for thermal cover, and create patch dynamics instead of even-aged (which reduces fire severity, but loses ecological benefit). Other discussions focused on the effects of large wildfires and the desire to bring the forest back to a healthy state, the need for better monitoring of improvement projects and water quality on stream-side vegetation, enforcing lessee grazing rotations and duration, and determination of impacts to the New Mexican Meadow Jumping Mouse.

Thinning was the source of many concerns including availability and way of obtaining maps of forest thinning projects, interpretation of the forest-thinning maps, promoting uneven-aged stands in thinning and habitat projects, and the observation that thinning brings wildlife to town. Participants suggested public outreach including field trips and contacting trout groups to find out if they know of degraded areas. One participant in particular noted the “biodiversity of trees – conifers” (SF).

- Suggested Information/Resources
 - Habitat Stamp Program
 - NMDGF – GIS
 - Southwest Jemez Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project and Forest Revision Plan: collaborator
 - Northwest Regional Habitat Biologist, NMDGF, Albuquerque office
 - NM Department of Agriculture and attendee: monitors noxious weeds
 - NM State Forestry/Las Vegas: has monitored noxious weeds on private land on eastern SFNF boundary
 - Restoration institute
 - Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC) have been monitoring data from Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) work (Carson Forest)
 - MYC has crews trained for restoration work and monitoring (both ecological and socio-economic): program director
 - Surface water quality bureau has completed restoration: Rito Penas Negras
 - Los Pinos Ranch has knowledge of location of Siberian Elm, not being tended

to...on invasive species list? (Pecos Canyon, Jacks Creek)

- NMDGF funded projects are available in GIS
- Trout Unlimited, may have information on lower Rio Cebolla (road 376)
- Other sources of information:
 - NM Wildlife Federation
 - Albuquerque Wildlife Federation
 - Cattle groups
 - Elk found
 - Turkey found

Participant Meeting Evaluation

All 14 public meetings concluded with a verbal meeting evaluation. Participants identified aspects of the meeting they thought went well and others they thought could be changed. Below are some of the items from that evaluation. Complete input from each meeting can be found in the facilitator notes for that meeting in the Appendix D.

Went Well

- Staff was well informed, and the overview of the planning process was good
- Appreciation for staff time and expertise
- Important to start this conversation at the level of values
- The format was good, an opportunity to interact with others and Forest Service staff in small table conversations
- Convenience of the meetings
- More attendees at the second meeting in Santa Fe than the first
- Reminder notices
- Break out groups
- Got explanation when I called about scope
- Kudos to US Forest Service for outstanding outreach effort and gaining today's input. Partnerships with local communities are very important.
- Good beginning, springboard to the future
- Good collaboration
- Overall productive meeting with tribal input
- Comprehensive and thoughtful
- Orderly assembly of external information; orderly process for relevant public input

To Change

- Additional outreach
 - o Need more people to attend
 - o Community contacts: friends telling friends and finding community liaisons to help spread the word for the FS
 - o Ideas for places to post in specific communities as well as good local newspapers and bulletins
 - o Should send reminders for specific upcoming meetings rather than sending out the full list of meetings
 - o Clearer publicity and notification as the print was too small and meeting locations should be more descriptive
 - o Advertise earlier
 - o Contact grazing permittees for their contributions
- Speak to the Board of County Commissioners
- Consider attending various community meetings
- Let us know what happens to the information generated
- Give a meeting agenda ahead of time
- In Cuba, consider an evening meeting
- Alert us to bring technical resources to meeting
- Wanted to participate more
- Give types of information that will be going into Assessment
- Encourage Santa Fe National Forest to engage youth and young adults not just at planning level but at implementation level
- Expand this to include others not present
- Santa Fe National Forest needs mechanisms to use outside groups to enhance, improve, and carry out their mission

Appendices

Appendix A - Meeting Locations and Dates

Appendix A includes a list of all public meetings for the Assessment.

Abiquiu – April 26, 2014

Albuquerque – May 12, 2014

Chimayo – May 3, 2014

Cuba – April 26, 2014

Espanola¹ – April 19, 2014

Jemez Springs – April 5, 2014

Las Vegas – April 21, 2014

Los Alamos – May 10, 2014

Mora – May 16, 2014

Pecos – May 6, 2014

Rio Rancho – April 28, 2014

Santa Fe (1) – April 24, 2014

Santa Fe (2) – May 8, 2014

Technical Meeting – April 30, 2014

¹ No input is reflected from this meeting because there were no attendees.

Appendix B - Assessment Meeting General Agenda

Appendix B includes the meeting objectives and agenda for the general public meetings as well as the technical meeting for the Assessment.



Santa Fe National Forest Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting

Meeting Objectives

1. Increase knowledge of Forest Plan Revision
2. Provide an opportunity for participants to discuss and develop input to contribute to the Assessment report
3. Build and enhance relationships between the Santa Fe National Forest, its Tribes, communities, and stakeholders

Agenda

(Times approximate)

2:00 pm	Welcome and Introductions
2:15 pm	Overview of the Santa Fe National Forest Plan Revision process (presentation and question/answer)
2:45 pm	Community Café
3:45 pm	Wrap up and evaluation
4:00 pm	Thank you and safe travels

Technical Meeting Agenda



Santa Fe National Forest Forest Plan Revision Technical Meeting on the Assessment April 30, 2014

Meeting Objectives

1. Increase knowledge of forest Plan Revision
2. Provide an opportunity for participants to discuss and develop input to contribute to the Assessment report
3. Build and enhance relationships between the Santa Fe National Forest, its Tribes, communities, and stakeholders

Agenda

(Times approximate)

9:00 am	Welcome and introductions
9:15 am	Overview of the Santa Fe National Forest Plan Revision process (presentation and question/answer)
10:00 am	Assessment topic breakout session I
10:45 am	Break
10:55 am	Assessment topic breakout session II
11:40 am	Evaluation and closeout
12:00 pm	Thank you and safe travels

Appendix C - Community Café Worksheet

Appendix C is a copy of the community café worksheet that was used in the public meetings for the assessment.

In order to create an assessment that reflects the Santa Fe National Forest's multiple stakeholders and communities and incorporates your information and observations, we are asking for your input on the following questions:

What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Name _____ Contact _____
(Providing this information is optional. These worksheets may be posted on the Santa Fe National Forest website and made publically available. This information will become part of the projects record which is available for public viewing and can be released through the Freedom of Information Act)

Appendix D - Meeting Worksheets and Facilitator Notes

Appendix D contains the raw facilitator notes from the public meetings along with the full, in-depth comments and all submitted worksheets from participants.

Abiquiu, April 26, 2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

The assessment phase of forest plan revision is focused on collecting and sharing information on current conditions of natural and physical resources and the relationship of people to those resources. The questions below are designed to help you share your perspective and what you think is important to this assessment. This is not a formal comment period but the input received will be summarized and reflected in the final assessment document.

- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

*Natural beauty, spiritual connection,
understanding ecological connections & cycles.*

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

*Disconnection from the land.
Urban values not understanding
that what they value/care about
is affected by their actions.
Lack of appreciation – track dumping.*

Destructive recreational vehicle use.

4/28/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

Watershed - for recharge to aquifers and surface runoff to bolster irrigation and livestock watering. Firewood access, herbal access. Water Quality!

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Things are coming that will drastically change forests - gas/oil /subsurface mineral
→ Do Not let the BLM through make disstate your "Water Policies" -

Do your own homework!
Do Not trust gas/oil geologists to take care of the water!
4/28/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
 April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

I have been hiking, biking, camping, snowshoeing, X-country skiing all over NM and Forests, Camping in both winter and more clement seasons. Biochar has potential, but remineralization is important. Rocket Mass Heaters/Cobb/6X Fuel Efficiency for dead and down fire hazard. Lumber Oxen removal,
WATER QUALITY!

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Development of Sandia with restrooms and parking seemed overdevelopment. Parking good. Composting Rest Rooms Good. Fees, Fines, Administration could be alleviated by volunteer programs in making improvements.

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting

Santa Fe National Forest

April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

1. The History & multiple use concept to include grazing & natural resources
2. Working up & hearing the birds sing, Natural Beauty
Sis [unclear]

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

1. Beauty, Cover, wild life
2. Overgrowth, Lack of Management, Increase of fire hazard. (El Rito-Laguna Canyon)
my changes

4/18/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting**Santa Fe National Forest**

April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

Living in a agricultural community, the forest impacts myself, my neighbors and the common interests we all share. I moved here wanting to share common interests.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

1) Rio Cebolla is dry

*2) Drought → Irrigated Pastures
- Dry Farming - RANCHING*

3) Land grant issues

*4) Agricultural revenues vs. industrial revenues
in the counties.*

4/18/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?) ✓

I now appreciate that SFE is in my backyard - and is up stream of most of NM. Forest use is important all down stream. Water from the Forest serves Political - Nassion.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Energy policy is completely different now than 1987. est - EPA. water/air/land - did not tack. Now they must - Climate change - mitigation Remediation becomes. No Commission US.

4/28/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
 April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

I appreciate that the forest is managed and that there are rules. I love the "wilderness" and the boundaries. In the forest there are types of boundaries and with careful consideration and proper management a "naturalness" is preserved. Countless times of "meaningful impact".

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

I've seen rangers come and go about using the wilderness. (For one period of one need to register with the ranger to go in the wilderness) I have seen the high mountain sheep not be around like once they were.

4/18/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

- Products - grazing, fuelwood, water
- Community, sustainability
- Acequia / local organization processes/management.
-

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

- Disconnect w/ local communities ⇒ engagement ⇒
how to manage shared interests

4/18/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
 April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

GRAZING PROGRAM, Social & Economical
 Needs. All Natural Resources
 used by Communities.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Agency removing Native people
 off the forest, Traditional uses
 Dependency. Grazing Permit Reduction Trend?
 We cannot support more wilderness areas

Valles Caldera return to Santa Fe
 National Forest. Forest Mgt has Declined by FS Bury

Abiquiu Meeting Notes

**Santa Fe National Forest
Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting**

**April 26, 2014
Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu**

Summary of Discussion

Facilitator/recorder: Karen Kline

Initial Questions and Parking Lot Issues:

- How do we move forward with a Plan when directives have not been finalized?
- How do you plan to implement? How do you plan to incorporate history? Existing policies need to be incorporated.

Identified Uses of Forest:

- Hunting
- Grazing
- Camping
- Tourism
- Hiking

Main Themes:

- Drought
 - Engage people to assist and support the range
 - Grazing issues
- Water quality:
 - Our water is pristine now. How do we keep it that way?
 - Chama watershed management – needs monitoring
- Fracking:
 - Fracking today – up to 14-28 well head per pad
 - Injection wells – use 10-13,000,000 gallons of fresh water per well head. 50-65,000 gallons of undisclosed chemicals per head
- Overgrowth:
 - The overgrowth is damaging and dangerous
 - Carson Canyon between El Rito and Canjilon - grasslands management and overgrowth is creating a fire hazard
- BioChar:
 - Concerned about reduction of mineral replenishment and its impact on the range
- Relationships:
 - Create liaisons with Abiquiu Dam
 - Do not trust BLM
 - Chama Peak Alliance – BioChar
 - San Joaquin local government – with BLM

Changes:

- Socio-economic conditions are changing on agriculture in Cebolla due to oil/gas and fracking. Want to understand how and why it is changing.
- The arid conditions creating the drought – rivers not flowing
- Wildlife is coming to farmlands more now – very destructive
- Roads and trails are eroding
- Fires cause erosion – should we use Chia seeds for reseeding?
- Trees are not being managed – too many – could be a catastrophic fire
- Abiquiu Dam is damaged – poses geologic concerns
- Reduction in permits – agriculture ability to stay sustainable
- No more wilderness
- Decline of native people's ability to access resources
- Potential changes – unforeseeable future – gas and oil impacts everything
- County economic decline from taxes to support schools, etc.
- Increasing urban values
- Lack of understanding services forest provides -> a living system
- Lack of appreciation that connected to their life – dumping and burning forest
- Destructive recreational use
- National Energy policy
- Over population – what's needed to support
- Forest management has changed – budget, pressure
- Agriculture – Rio Chama River Valley hay production severely affected

Meeting evaluation:

- Went well: Good discussion
- To change: need more user groups present; poor representation. Where is the mailing list from earlier plan?

Final thoughts in a word or two:

- Collaboration
- Water
- Changes
- Policies
- Passionate concerns
- Forest access
- Local communities
- Compassion
- Thank God for national forests
- Core values
- Long term sustainable community
- Ecosystems
- Potential
- Safeguards

Summary prepared by Karen Kline. Please contact her with comments or corrections. 505-980-1315, or karenkline01@comcast.net

Albuquerque Assessment Meeting, May 12, 2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

I grew up in Los Alamos - the forest was my backyard. I hiked, rock climbed, fought fires, built trails + sled runs, tree houses and generally was where I grew up. I still hike, have cross country skied. Back-packed + camp.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Changes caused by fire + erosion. Access has changed - forest service roads closed by Indians. Fire has closed + damaged trails. Need a lot of work needed.

4/18/2014

ABU

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

Builds mutual interest in the Nat for System as a complement to the Cibola (personal/professional bias)

New to area - don't use the SF much

about forest in general -

aesthetics, places to enjoy wild life, breathe clean air,

host visitors from other parts of the country,
preservation of biodiversity

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Water, wildlife habitat.

Less water, drought-killed trees

4/18/2014

AGW

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

BEAUTIFUL!
- ENJOY COMPETITIVES USE FOREST

- PECOS WILDERNESS, JENEE
- PROXIMITY TO URBAN COMMUNITIES (SANTA FE) ^{ABQ}
- WIDELY USED + ENJOYED ^{PERDONATELS, NATRESHERS}
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE + FISHING (STREAM, LAKE), GET AWAY

USES: BACKPACKING, HIKING, CAMPING, FISHING, WILDLIFE VIEWING, SPORTSMAN.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

- MORE FIRE RESTRICTIONS, FOREST CLOSURES
- MORE FIRES.

4/18/2014

AGK

VALLES CALDERA AND SURROUNDING AREAS OF THE JEMEZ MOUNTAINS:
VIEWS, ATTITUDES, AND PREFERENCES.

- DRAFT CURRENTLY POSTED ON VCAEP WEB SITE

**Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest**

- DRAFT ALSO AVAILABLE April and May 2014 THROUGH MIKE BRUMER, SBNF

Community Café Worksheet –

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

- PEOPLE'S CULTURAL-HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE FOREST,
AND HOW THESE RELATIONSHIPS HAVE CHANGED OVER TIME.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

- FIRE TRUCK AND EROSION
- LOSS OF INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS WITH FOREST AMONG LOCAL COMMUNITY RANGERS

4/18/2014

ABW

Albuquerque Meeting Notes

**Santa Fe National Forest
Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting**

May 12, 2014

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Summary of Discussion

Facilitator: Jo Ann Romero

Main Themes and Uses: Participants described how they use the forest and what they most value about it.

Question 1: Uses/What we appreciate:

- How people have interacted with forest to sustain livelihood economically and spiritually and how they are adjusting to changes
- Relationship using resources – stewardship for the land. Less of that now. Can trash and walk away. Those dependent culturally and historically can't walk away.
- Traditional historic communities have an environmental ethic-stewards of the land
 - i.e., Four elders died during Las Conchas because felt responsible for burning upper end of watershed. Internalized responsibility. Similar stress showed during death statistics of Cerro Grande (more Anglo, Los Alamos)
- Acequia culture is the base of the community because of water, basis of government structure-provided life
- It's home
- Serenity, relaxation, no city
- Flooding was terrible
- Valles Caldera-BAER happened right away
- Hunting/hiking/cross country skiing/photography
- People who weekend there more; more sense of community there
- Multi-generational ties in and around forest
- Nice place to live and recreate. Escape from societal pressure
- Grew up on forest. Where we went. No TV, mom knew kids were out in the woods, still a playground
- Hike, cross country ski, backpack, volunteer activities, camp, used to collect firewood
- People view the forest as their community; don't view as community next to forest. Forest is part of it.
- Running cattle on forest in the summer
- Proximity to urban centers, Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Jemez one hour away from Albuquerque. Key to young people with nature deficit disorder
- Accessibility to different areas-drive to go fishing in a stream
- Pecos Wilderness - have to work for its solitude. Widely and heavily used
- Seeing families, hearing people speak Spanish, not spend a lot of time

- Headwaters and watershed are critical Rio Grande River protect watersheds in urban and agriculture communities
- People of region depend on watershed, all depend on up and down stream
- So many values can escape and go into
- So many wonderful things different from NPS, BLM, VCNP
- Showing to people out of state-see bears, hike everyday
- The forest is home. Love being out there

Main Themes Question 1:

- ✓ Cultural and familial aspect to land-growing up in, bringing kids out
- ✓ Diversity of recreational exposure
- ✓ Multiple values, multiple uses, multiple meanings

Observed changes in the forest: Participants offered their observations about how the forest and its management have changed over the years.

- Increased fire and fire restrictions, increased fire closures
- Need to camp early to get in before restrictions
- Change in patterns of use because of fire (during fire season we stay home)
- Rio del Oso changes - overgrown, ATV damage, Christmas effects, trash, no fees to dump (a sample of bigger landscape change)
- Landscape changes from fire
- Increased use-some places loved to death, lower Pecos
- Clearly more trash
- More Spanish speaking visitors
- Designation of Jemez National Rec Area - mixed changes some anger from local residents, bigger schism with outside visitors, feeling that outside folks don't have the land ethic
- Human abuse is glaring in a forest environment
- Back country rec does seem as changes-trash okay, people same numbers
- Drought killed trees, less snow pack-some locations don't support snow support
- Electronic equipment
- Changing climate
- Deer population up, bears up post Conchas
- Mountain lions consistent
- Trees are dying (moths, disease)
- Would be good to not allow campfire
- Landowners clean up campfires-afraid every year
- Wildlife-used to see exclusive elk (Elk Valley and Thompson Ridge), now influx of healthy deer.
- Lack of vegetation-can predators get to deer? Result in migrating into elk area to get cover
- Used to have bears and raccoons in town (Los Alamos)
- FS should close all active fires while moisture so low

- Put out 85 campfires-FS there to put out fires and pick up garbage
- Experiences evacuating Los Alamos during Las Conchas. Being the only standing house left with a 3-block radius. Cleaning out fridge, getting utilities back. Melted gas meters, etc., buried gas lines, glass out of frames vs hot fire. Can see downtown-couldn't before trees built tree houses in are gone. Erosion in canyon (was a playground)
- Grieves not having access (sold operations and can't get a permit now. Can't reacquire summer range)
- Road closures and use policies-need of permit for all
- Abiquiu land grant descendent-as children thought of as home. Forest felt like not welcome there as kids. Raised to be afraid of forest. Not welcome there.
- Fires have changed-Lake Fire and Thompson Ridge. Flooding-huge erosion. Valles Caldera had funds immediately after fire but FS funding takes longer, statewide, takes longer to get to. VC took care of half property, put in debris dams immediately
- Access-road across Valle is a 2 tractor road. Road to Santa Fe was 2 lane. Most of roads could go on with vehicle to go out and collect Christmas trees. Now different. Bland Canyon road now blocked by Indians but is FS road.
- Closed 2,400 miles of roads in Jemez.
- Downed trees with fire erosion.
- Used to see CCC trails in Jemez-marked with bands of color. Peralta Canyon was beautiful but road needs to be rebuilt (erosion blocking) after fire.

Main Themes Question 2:

- ✓ Fire and effects
- ✓ Access
- ✓ Wildlife

Meeting evaluation:

People appreciated:

- ✓ The format was good
- ✓ Good overview of planning process
- ✓ Opportunity to interact with others and the Forest Service staff
- ✓ Small table conversations
- ✓ Convenience of the meetings

Suggestions for improvement:

- ✓ Consider attending various community meetings

Summary prepared by Jo Ann Romero. Feel free to contact for comments or corrections. 505-821-3113, or stratwks@comcast.net

Chimayo Assessment Meeting, May 3, 2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

Chimayo 5/3
Notes from conversation w/ Lorenzo Valdez

Community Café Worksheet –

The assessment phase of forest plan revision is focused on collecting and sharing information on current conditions of natural and physical resources and the relationship of people to those resources. The questions below are designed to help you share your perspective and what you think is important to this assessment. This is not a formal comment period but the input received will be summarized and reflected in the final assessment document.

→ Notes taken by Lindsey Buchanan

1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

Outreach
- Board of County Commissioners
- Assoc. of counties
** Govt - to - Govt is key*

2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

"Optimistically cautious" about FPR
→ more accommodation on all sides

4/28/2014

* historic practices (and current practices)

- need isolation + space, spiritual uses
- grandfather's land grant, coyote area, → County
- place names should be based on historical people + uses
 - "land-based peoples"
 - sense of place
- was virgin timber area before 60's / used for log fences / homesteads
- no elk (then introduced)
- beautiful waters (streams + creeks)
 - teaming w/ cothroats - fishing all the time
 - no roads, so by foot / horseback
 - "beaver ponds everywhere"
- many Native American permittees - not associated w/ + v. ^{Bas} blending of cultures, languages, communities =
- natural resources don't belong to individual → in commons
- "forest + ecology is our mother" - "labor builds relationships" (w/ the land)
- Twitchiness → ↓ acreage maintenance → sustenance

② Impacts of timber mgmt, landscape d's

- logging, roads, + trails
- Impact on water quality
- full cattle #'s → 25%

(hunt, till soil, water system)
→ sustenance v. economics (elk, timber)

Now survive on small-diameter logs

- forest revenues + jobs in timber industry gone (60/70's → 90's)
- watershed quality ↓
- more people on forest (on a hike, saw 50 motorcycles)
- growth + population

+ communities there b/c of forest

Chimayo Meeting Notes

Chimayo Meeting Notes – 5/3/2014
Chimayo Elementary School Library

Attendees:

Lorenzo Valdez
Sandy Hurlocker (USFS)
Jennifer Cramer (USFS)
Annie Goode (USFS)
Karen Kline (facilitator)

Question 1: Uses and values

- Lorenzo emphasized historical practices (and current practices)
- Communities are there *because* of the forest
- Need for isolation and space, for spiritual uses
- His grandfather was part of a land grant in the coyote area turned over to the county
- “Forest and ecology is our mother” – “labor builds relationships” with the land
- Importance of place names, should be based on historical people and uses (land based peoples’ sense of place)
- Natural resources don’t belong to the individual, they belong in commons

Question 2: Changes observed over time

- Was virgin timber area before the 1960’s (timber used for building log fences and homesteads)
 - o Then landscape changes because of timber management (logging, roads, trails)
 - o Now survives on small-diameter logs. Forest revenues and jobs in timber are gone (from 60’s/70’s to 90’s)
- Water/watershed quality got worse
- Number of cattle decreased 25%
- No elk (then it was introduced)
- Beautiful waters (streams and creeks)
 - o Teaming with cutthroat, went fishing all the time. No roads, so went on foot or horseback

- Beaver ponds everywhere
- Wilderness has negatively impacted acequia maintenance
- Forest uses were for sustenance (hunt, till soil, water systems). Became sustenance vs. economics (elk, timber)
- More people on the forest now (told story of going on walk in woods and seeing 50 motorcyclists)
- Many permittees are Native American, but not associated with tribes. There was a “blending of cultures, languages, and communities.”

Lorenzo is “optimistically cautious” about the plan revision process for the Santa Fe National Forest. He hopes to have more accommodation on all sides.

In terms of outreach, Lorenzo recommends speaking to the Board of County Commissioners and Association of Counties. Government-to-Government is key.

Cuba Assessment Meeting, April 26, 2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting Santa Fe National Forest April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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The Forest is sustaimed of small communities in Coyote, Cuba Districts. From wood, herb (Floral) gathering. A sense of community, coffee. Harvesting rich earth for my abuelitos and hauling water to their gardens in the time of drought. Grazing Sheep.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

* Access to the Forest has changed for the heirs. Climate ^{been part of} change has always been a part of the forest common lands. Over harvest of herbs, with climate change has affected the heirs. Change in logging and mining not just for commercial economy.

4/28/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

We use it for our way of life - ranching
grazing our cattle
timber sales. recreation & hunting + fishing
Dur boys have grown in ranching life and they have
to get in trouble with hanging out with friends
39 Permits - Cuba/Semer
multi-use

its very quiet.
no time

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

The climate - (weather), more trees in meadows.
people, vehicles - Forest Access
trash,
watersheds overgrown
truck + 4-wheelers

4/18/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting

Santa Fe National Forest

April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

MY FAMILY HAS HAD CATTLE ON THE FOREST SINCE ABOUT 1938, AND SHEEP PRIOR TO THAT.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

I GRAZE MY CATTLE ON THE FOREST.

THINGS THAT I SEE CHANGING IS TREES OVER-TAKING THE MEADOWS.

4/26/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

It is my home - my backyard. My private property is completely surrounded by SBNF. I appreciate the beauty and solitude it provides. It ~~was~~ used to provide a livelihood for many families in Texas of logging, grazing, and recreation. ~~the property~~

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

The biggest change has been the reduction in harvesting and thinning of trees, causing the density to increase. Recreation use has increased, and the attitude of those ~~using~~ using the forest has changed. They are less respectful of nature, probably because they don't understand it. As a child, a large wildfire was 400A - now it is 100 times more than that.

4/16/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
 April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

I enjoy using the SIF NFS - I value aspects of my outdoor activities. Camping, hiking, canoeing, hunting, photography, scenic sights. There is value for all those that recreate here and those that use to sustain their lives.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

I see more usage - with that more protection has happened and is happening for better or worse. There has been a ~~big~~ greater increase of Boreal activity. The Greater plan of the past has shrunk.

4/16/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

I appreciate the availability of a beautiful place to be. I use it for serenity and beauty. Also for wood gathering - heating my home and landscaping. We also benefit from snow run off - ~~our~~ community is dependent on ground water from the Santa Fe forest.
concern: over -

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

I and many in our community appreciate Santa Fe forest people reassessing the forests needs and care of the forest.

4/18/2014

Since our community is dependent on ground water
that runs off the forest - proper maintenance is of PRIMARY
Concern - thinning, clearing - etc.

Cuba Meeting Notes

**Santa Fe National Forest
Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting**

**April 26, 2014
Cuba, New Mexico**

Summary of Discussion

Facilitator: Jo Ann Romero

Main Themes and Uses: Participants described how they use the forest and what they value about it.

Question 1: Uses/What we appreciate:

- Backpacking/hiking
- Beauty and wildness
- Pristine nature
- Small communities appreciate being able to use for traditional uses (water, soil, wood, herbs)
- Sense of community
- Grazing/cattle
- Community (all elements matter)
- Family
- Allotment system not always supporting community/fairness of allotments in question
- 39 Permittees (Cuba/Jemez), sheep and cattle
- Relationship: Fire/range discussed
- Archaeological sites
- Wildlife

Observed changes in the forest: Participants offered their observations about how the forest and its management have changed over the years.

- Technology (chainsaws)
- Climate and climate variation
- Less logging/thinning due to changing ecosystem
- More people/vehicles
- Access (herbs, firewood)
- Drought-impact on Acequias and habitat
- Commercial logging gone (limited/small thinning possible)
- Mule, deer, bobcat, coyote and mountain lion populations vary across places (some up, some down depending on area)
- Increased trash

- FS/Game and Fish need to coordinate to manage elk impact on range
- Intensity of trapping increasing
- '50s: look through and see beyond now. Can't see so think rain and snow not got down to forest floor
- No meadows (San Pedro Wilderness)

Themes

- Logging gone
- Water impact (small thinning projects could have value to ecosystem and community)
 - Open Land
 - Harvest wood
 - Keeps forest ecosystem healthy
- Bad forest health and impact on Acequias, Aquifer recharge. Very dangerous
- Forest density equals loss of habitat
- Meadows-traditional maintenance once kept meadows open
- Change in wildlife patterns
- Poaching is growing
- Allocation/location of permits
- Role of forests for habitat/communities
- Impact of NEPA
- Historic perspective needed (pre regulatory timeframe)
- Preserve culture/approach that works to maintain health
- Identify/highlight uniqueness of area
- Local environmental concern
- Volunteer resources important

Meeting evaluation:

- Continue with newspaper ads
- Could have given us agenda ahead of time
- More engagement at future events
- Advertise earlier
- Provide bulletins (at places like Farmer's Market)
- Put ad in Regina/Gallina newspapers
- Consider evening meeting

Summary prepared by Jo Ann Romero. Feel free to contact for comments or corrections. 505-821-3113, or stratwks@comcast.net

Jemez Springs Assessment Meeting, April 5, 2014

Jemez

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

I myself have used the forest for almost every asset. I.E. HUNTING, FISHING, HIKING, WOOD GATHERING, ROCK CLIMBING, MOTORCYCLING, HIGHHEEL DRIVE. I VALDE ALL ROAD CLOSURES are my biggest concern. NOT HAVING ACCESS. Watching things waste away –

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

I grew up on the East side of the JEMEZ and started using the forest with my family (young stuff) till now. The amount of closures over the past 50 years. Understandable in some cases. The Caldera going from private to forest. Still very conservative access.

4/18/2014

Jemez

**Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest**

April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

Hiking, rock climbing, gathering/cutting firewood.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

road closures - public toilets

4/18/2014

Jemez

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

Natural beauty. Love hiking. Appreciate the undeveloped nature of it.
Wildlife

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

- Management for fire suppression.
- Forest being more dense w/ small trees - fewer aspens
- Better development of rec. sites
- USFS staff more active in community engagement.

4/18/2014

Jemez

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

WJW

hiking } beauty, but rarely
backpacking } pristine
sense of community (but being lost)
grazing cattle (initially sheep)
Archaeological sites Maintaining heritage • preserving
Wildlife

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

climate change
animals changing habitat (cyclical)
increased tracks - FS should work with game & fish to manage elk pop.
increased elk + prairie dogs
increased trapping of mtn lions
logging/thinning - less of it
mule/deer population down
decrease in meadows

4/18/2014

Common Themes

- Changes in wildlife patterns
- Increased use (more people) of lands, permit allocation
Loss of habitat
- Desire to preserve communities while considering future of the planet
- Local environmental concern
- Volunteer resources are increasingly important

Jemez Springs Meeting Notes

**Santa Fe National Forest
Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting**

May 10, 2014

Valles Caldera Science Center, Jemez Springs, NM

Summary of Discussion

Facilitator/recorder: Lucy Moore

Main Themes and Uses: Participants described how they use the forest and what they value about it.

- Natural beauty: Participants spoke of the great variety of natural beauty from the high desert to the mountain peaks, from the flatland to the rock walls to the Valle, which is found in the NF. Being able to see the geological formations is important as well as the rivers and streams.
- Hiking, backpacking, rock climbing: They spoke of great hiking opportunities and rock climbing in the Las Conchas and Dome areas.
- Firewood: Two participants heat their home in Sulfur Flats exclusively with firewood from the forest.
- Cultural richness: The landscape holds sacred and magical properties for some. Simply knowing that certain places and features, like Redondo Peak, have deep cultural significance for local Natives is valuable and powerful for residents. The sense of history and “all that has gone before” also gives richness to the visitor experience.
- Wildlife: Residents have enjoyed seeing a great diversity of wildlife including birds (Red Tail Hawk and Ravens), Gila Monsters, bear, bobcat, elk, squirrels with tufted ears. In Sulfur Flats, residents saw two Jemez salamanders, one 10 inches long in the yard, and another 18 inches long on the ridge. In the same area, the couple saw a mountain lion take down a deer. Included in the “wildlife” category were “Albuquerque people,” many of whom apparently act in exotic and wild ways...
- Access to solitude: Participants spoke of the advantage of having access to solitude in the forest. Although areas near the roads may be crowded with people and litter (Jemez Canyon Overlook, for instance), those seeking quiet can find it by hiking a short ways off the beaten path. Visitors appreciate the fact that the forest resources are available to all, but also that a more intimate experience with nature is accessible without a great effort.
- Escape from the heat: In summer months, the forest offers a respite from the heat.
- Multi-use: Participants value the fact that the forest is available for many uses, even if some of those uses conflict with their own. It is important that these public spaces be open to a variety of users, and the variety of possible activities – from hiking to birdwatching to firewood gathering to grazing – is an important characteristic of the forest. There was also appreciation for the large areas of public lands in New Mexico throughout the state. The various jurisdictions – FS, NPS, BLM, etc. – can be confusing, as different rules apply in different areas.

- **Building memories:** A participant spoke of the formative experiences visiting the La Cueva area every summer, building a cabin, and being with his father in the forest. His memories of those times are linked to certain spots in the forest, spots still treasured as early lessons in appreciating nature. This, he said, is fundamental to a person's wellbeing, and he bemoaned the fact that many urban children are exposed to nature no more than once a year. Others have lived in the Sulfur Flats area over 40 years. They spoke of raising children in the area and the deep connection and gratitude to the land and resources.
- **Clean air and water:** The clear skies and clean water add to the enjoyment of the resources, and make the forest a wonderful neighbor for residents.

Observed changes in the forest: Participants offered their observations about how the forest and its management have changed over the years.

- **Road closures:** There are advantages and disadvantages to road closures, but in general residents felt that it was helpful in reducing litter and out of control partying.
- **New toilet facilities:** Much appreciated!
- **Las Conchas camping restrictions:** There was praise for the new 100-foot corridor that keeps campers from camping too close to the stream.
- **More access:** Since the 1970s there has been significant development – pavement, trash bins, and maintenance – of campgrounds in the La Cueva area. This is a mixed blessing, as it increases access and facilities for visitors to enjoy the forest, bringing with them noise and trash. “Build it and they will come,” said one. Residents said that it is still relatively easy to find solitude away from these areas.
- **Reducing size of parking lots:** Participants praised this change at Spence Hot Springs and East Fork, saying it resulted in less vandalism and unwanted activity.
- **Shift from logging to multiple uses:** Residents have notice in the last 15-20 years a sharp decrease in timber cutting and a FS focus on other uses.
- **Increase in volunteer workforce:** Since the major fires, both in the Jemez and Los Alamos areas there has been a noticeable increase in the number of volunteers and the variety of work they offer in the forest. Residents were particularly pleased to see youth groups working on erosion control and trail maintenance.
- **Drought and fire risk:** Those in the area see the results of prolonged drought in more frequent and fierce fires, and a correlating fear among residents of the next big fire. There is a new appreciation for good forest management (thinning, etc.) and praise for the SW Jemez Restoration Project efforts.
- **Trees:** In the La Cueva area, and elsewhere, residents notice a great increase in small diameter trees (400 trees per acre) and a decrease in Aspen.
- **Community and citizen awareness:** Participants noted a definite increase in awareness of fire risk in communities and a willingness to take action to educate each other, write articles, coordinate and communicate. The FS is making an effort to increase their outreach efforts, which is much appreciated.
- **Cooperating agencies:** Given the new stresses on the forest and those who live and recreate in the area, it is critical that there be effective cooperation among the various jurisdictions – USDA, Valles Caldera, SFNF, NPS, state and county – to maintain and

protect forest resources. There were questions about coordinated law enforcement and the use of satellites to spot early fires. The FS emphasis is on relationship-building and outreach to local communities and agencies for increased awareness and rapid response.

Meeting evaluation: Participants offered thoughts on what went well in the meeting and what might be changed for a better meeting:

Went well:

- Everything: There was much appreciation to FS staff for offering this opportunity for information sharing and engagement in the plan revision process. Participants were impressed with the level of knowledge among the staff.

To change:

- Notice and outreach: There were several suggestions for improved outreach and advertising for the next round of meetings: social media, emails, Village of Jemez Springs Facebook page, and contact with La Cueva Fire Department. They also suggested finding a local contact in each community who could help with the tasks of reaching others – someone in the school, or fire department, or local government, or recreational organization, etc.
- A participant urged the FS to contact grazing permittees so that their contributions could be included as well.

Summary prepared by Lucy Moore. Please contact her with comments or corrections. 505-820-2166, or lucymoore@nets.com

Las Vegas Assessment Meeting, April 21, 2014

(No Worksheets)

Las Vegas Meeting Notes

Santa Fe National Forest Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting

April 21, 2014
Highlands University, Las Vegas

Summary of Discussion

Facilitator/recorder: Lucy Moore

Main Themes and Uses: Participants described how they use the forest and what they value about it.

- Freedom and regulation: There was a discussion about the importance of freedom for all to use resources and access the forest on the one hand, and the need for regulation of those uses and access on the other hand. Participants acknowledged this tension between rules and access, and agreed that there was a need for mutual respect from both ends of that spectrum.
- Self-preservation: A participant said that for him the forest was a key part of his self-preservation. His cabin on private land within the forest has for decades afforded him a change of pace and a chance to recuperate from the modern world that is priceless. “That piece of the forest is the love of my life,” he said.
- Recreation: Participants identified important non-motorized uses of the forest, including birding, hiking, skiing.
- Preservation for the future: A participant spoke of the need – and FS responsibility – to preserve these precious resources for the use and enjoyment of future generations. He suggested that the FS use the Native American standard of evaluating each proposed action to ensure that the resource will be preserved for seven generations into the future.
- Threats to forest health:
 - “The human footprint,” said one participant, “has had a bad impact on the forest.” She asked for no more mining and no oil and gas drilling, particularly fracking. Focusing on renewable energy is a much healthier option, said many.
 - Others spoke of the threat, and reality, of climate change, with particular concern for the trees and wildlife. There are predictions of trees dying in coming decades, bears starving and trout reproduction suffering from warmer waters.
- Role of planning: The group grappled with the serious challenges to future forest health, and suggested that planning was a futile endeavor. Although the revised forest plan will have a section on climate change impacts, those present wondered what actions could be taken to stop or prepare for the drastic changes. There were also challenges to the FS staff use of the word “collaboration.” Was this sincere or just “hot air”? What would it look like? How could it work on the ground? FS staff emphasized that this is the beginning of the plan revision, where it is hoped that a good working relationship between the FS and

the public can be established. Citizens have much to offer and the agency values their information, observations and views. A participant asked how the FS would deal with different voices and conflicting needs in different parts of the forest. What if users in Los Alamos have very different ideas from those in Las Vegas?

Observed changes in the forest: Participants offered their observations about how the forest and its management have changed over the years.

- Invasive species: There were concerns about the impact of invasive species in the forest, and stories about the destruction they have caused elsewhere in the country.
- Drought: The forest is drier, and streams that were intermittent are now dry all year around.
- Improvements: A participant appreciated the introduction of bear-proof trashcans, and increased numbers of bathrooms in campgrounds.
- Controlled burns: There seem to be more controlled burns than before, and there is concern about winds and losing control. Residents in the vicinity feel that notification is inadequate about the burns and their risk.

Meeting evaluation: Participants offered thoughts on what went well in the meeting and what might be changed for a better meeting:

Went well: Jennifer's presentation was clear and useful, giving the parameters of the plan revision process and showing how this process fit into the larger picture. There was also appreciation for the FS staff taking the time and effort to collaborate with citizens.

To change: There was discussion about the need for more and clearer publicity and notification for these meetings. More flyers are needed in the area; for instance, there were no notices in the forestry department of the university. The print in the Las Vegas Optic notice was too small; it would be better to emphasize the local meeting that is being advertised rather than having it in a list of all the other meetings. It was also suggested that the language be more dramatic on the flyers to catch attention; most who came were unclear about why they should care or come. Locations of meetings should be more descriptive – name the building, not just the street address, give cross street, or some other indication of location. The publicity and presentations could add positive language about the work of the Forest Service.

Summary prepared by Lucy Moore. Please contact her with comments or corrections. 505-820-2166, or lucymoore@nets.com

Los Alamos Assessment Meeting, May 10, 2014

LA

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

We hike, camp, and cross country ski in the forest, so we value it very much for recreation. It is also the watershed for Los Alamos County.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Forest fires have threatened the town of Los Alamos & damaged the watershed. I see increased efforts to thin the forest to reduce the fire danger, but thinning is going way too slowly.

4/18/2014

LA

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

*Hiking, Horseback riding, Back packing,
bird watching*

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

*The forest is more open than it was 50 years ago.
Trail work is needed to continue due to damage from erosion.
I appreciate the signs that have been added. Books
describing trails are useful, or websites.*

4/18/2014

LA

**Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest**

April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

The assessment phase of forest plan revision is focused on collecting and sharing information on current conditions of natural and physical resources and the relationship of people to those resources. The questions below are designed to help you share your perspective and what you think is important to this assessment. This is not a formal comment period but the input received will be summarized and reflected in the final assessment document.

- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

Recreation/Trails - Enjoyed the days when there were trees around Los Alamos. Used for relaxation, enjoyment, challenges, Nature study

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Climate Change + ~~and~~ new ecosystems. Catastrophic fires, drought, Beetle Kill. Much more recreational use. More runners, Mountain bike riding, motorcycle + Motor Use.

4/18/2014

LA

**Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest**

April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

and butterflies, flowers
I use it to hike, to see wildlife, wild
to observe change seasonally and
from fires.
I use it to climb peaks for the challenge.
I use it to escape the summer heat.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

*Volunteers instead of hired crews.
More public awareness of the unhealthy
condition of overcrowded forests.*

4/18/2014

LA

**Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest**

April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

Hiking ~ day trips to areas I know - ~~to the mountains~~
and don't know of Mom's Day hike to two lakes.
~ good family memories
~ good working memories when out w/ people who
have similar experience in relating to places

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Hotter, drier, more large fires.
less water.

4/18/2014

Los Alamos Meeting Notes

**Santa Fe National Forest
Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting**

**May 10, 2014
Los Alamos Senior Center, Los Alamos, NM**

Summary of Discussion

Facilitator/recorder: Lucy Moore

Main Themes and Uses: Participants described how they use the forest and what they value about it.

- Hiking, running, backpacking, cross country skiing, climbing peaks: Participants hike and run the trails, from short afternoon outings to more serious hikes and runs, in all seasons.
- Horseback riding: In the past, a resident rode from the stables to the ski hill in the fall.
- Birdwatching: Many enjoy birdwatching in the canyons, and in the post-forest fire landscape (woodpeckers).
- [Not trapping:] There was appreciation for the bans on trapping in the area.
- Freedom: Participants appreciate the freedom to camp and recreate throughout the forest. “I can hike to my own special place and not find a lot of people.”
- Creating memories: Enjoying the forest as a child can create important memories which strengthen families and even give birth to family traditions. A participant told of childhood runs in the Pecos Wilderness with her brothers and what a life-changing experience that was. She spoke of climbing a peak and the excitement of using a mirror signal to signal her mother below. Listening to the adventures of others, like ranchers, is also something that those in the area value.
- Enjoying wildlife, plants, and butterflies: There are rich experiences viewing wildlife, wildflowers and butterflies in the forest.
- Escaping heat: Those in Los Alamos and beyond can find relief from the summer heat in the forest areas.
- Relaxation: The forest provides space to relax and escape the stress of daily life.

Observed changes in the forest: Participants offered their observations about how the forest and its management have changed over the years.

- Emphasis on public involvement: Participants appreciate the fact that the FS is making an effort to inform and involve the public in its activities and decision-making. In the past it seemed that the FS “was all about rules and nothing more.” The change is a welcome one.
- Watershed: A county elected official explained the importance of the forest watershed to the water supply for the county. Although the county relies almost entirely on the deep aquifer (1000 feet), that aquifer is recharged by surface flow and runoff. Recent fires have left the surface burnt and impenetrable, and the tree density means that little snow falls to the ground, leaving the aquifer in a deficit situation. In addition, there is considerable flood damage from the violent runoff events.

- Trails and accessibility: Newly restored trails with good signage are a big improvement in recent years for recreators.
- Changing economy: With less funding for the Labs, Los Alamos is experiencing an economic slump. Population is dropping, houses are empty, and the region in need of an economic boost. Participants hope that the FS can partner with local agencies and groups to increase the tourism potential for the area. A healthy tourist economy is tied to a healthy forest, well maintained and offering a wide variety of activities. The natural beauty, clean air and quiet make the county a natural recreation destination.
- Air quality: The air in Los Alamos used to be clear 12 months a year; since the Cerro Grande fire, June is known as the “smoky month,” during which some people are forced to stay indoors.
- Impacts from fires on trails: In the past trails were in the shade in hot summer months; now they are open, without trees. The ground is hard and rocky, bare with no topsoil. An advantage is that there are new longer vistas, and that the geology of the area is revealed. “You can see the pipeline to the ski area from here,” said a participant.
- Volunteers: Participants and FS staff spoke of the invaluable energy and commitment of volunteers to help restore and maintain trails in the forest, especially following the major fires. Under the leadership of Craig Martin, they have worked to redesign and restore trails to avoid erosion, flooding and channelization, not an easy task given the burnt landscape. Volunteers have also planted thousands of trees, and some have even hand-carried water to keep some alive. Providing guidance and insuring safety for the volunteers is the responsibility of the FS, a new challenge, but one well worth it, they said. They admitted they have had to learn to give up a degree of control in the process, while retaining their authority to carry out their responsibilities.
- New activities: Rock climbing and mountain biking are new recreational activities.
- Wildflowers: There are new kinds of wildflowers since the fires.
- Trees: The density of trees is a big concern, now 400 per acre in some places. The group discussed the challenges (cost and accessibility) to thinning the thousands of overgrown acres. Timber companies are not interested in the small diameter trees, leaving the FS with the expense of thinning. It may be possible to find a market for the thinned trees as biomass fuel, animal bedding, specialty flooring, mulch, composting, etc. Burned trees can be salvaged for lumber if they are not more than two years old. Participants advised the FS not to close roads that might provide access for thinning projects. They also suggested looking at new technologies to reach those areas in need of thinning.
- New public awareness: The group felt that the public is much more aware than previously of the need to manage the forest wisely. Thinning and prescribed burns are generally seen as important tools for forest health, whereas in the past some environmentalists opposed cutting any trees at all. A single-interest focus is no longer appropriate and locals see the need to compromise.
- County alert system: Residents appreciate the county’s new smart phone alert system for flood, wind and fire events.
- Jurisdictional cooperation: The county official noted the value of agencies coordinating their efforts. There may be potential for county cooperation and support for activities

relating to safety in the forest. County fire fighters have been quick to respond and welcome additional assignments to work on FS projects.

Meeting evaluation: Participants offered thoughts on what went well in the meeting and what might be changed for a better meeting:

Went well: much appreciation for staff time and expertise.

To change: Additional outreach and advertising: community bulletin boards, Coop Market, Library, Visitor's Centers in Los Alamos and White Rock, Mountaineers Club, Sierra Club, Volunteer group, County Municipal building, The Los Alamos Monitor and the Daily Post.

Summary prepared by Lucy Moore. Please contact her with comments or corrections. 505-820-2166, or lucymoore@nets.com

Mora Assessment Meeting, May 16, 2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

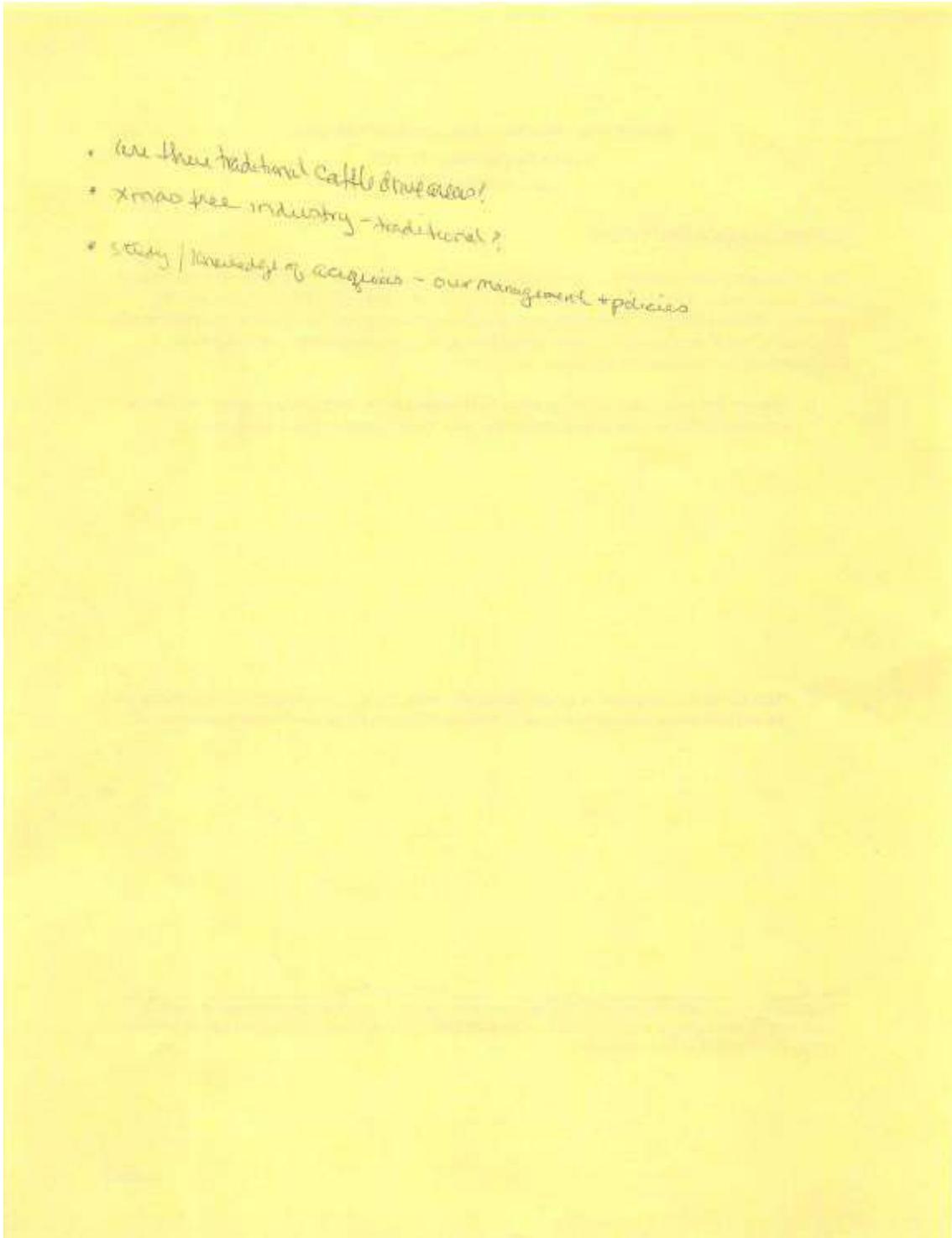
The assessment phase of forest plan revision is focused on collecting and sharing information on current conditions of natural and physical resources and the relationship of people to those resources. The questions below are designed to help you share your perspective and what you think is important to this assessment. This is not a formal comment period but the input received will be summarized and reflected in the final assessment document.

- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

- * Camping as a youngster holds special memories and I continue that tradition with my children & grandchildren.
- * Hunting again tradition
- * Fishing / Tradition
- * Hiking

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

1. Fresh Air
Water
peace of mind
2. Restrictions on gathering Fire Wood.
Too many trees, its too thick



Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

- place to breathe + to experience peace + quiet - hiking
- harvesty wood + Christmas trees
- logging + sawmill operations

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

- forest condition has changed - forest is not growing larger trees - mostly crowded small-diameter trees.
- drought, fire risk

4/28/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

Appreciate recreational access, access for timber harvesting, access to creeks & creek tributaries.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Perception of increased regulations in regards to permits for various activities in the forest.



Mora Meeting Notes

**Santa Fe National Forest
Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting**

**May 16, 2014
School Board Meeting Room, Mora, NM**

Summary of Discussion

Facilitator/recorder: Lucy Moore

Presentation: Lindsay Buchanan gave a brief overview of the plan revision process focusing on the assessment phase. Following the presentation there were questions and comments:

- Does the plan revision include wilderness areas? Staff answered that yes, the wilderness areas and other special designations within the Santa Fe National Forest were included in the plan revision.
- How will this planning revision process relate to the plans and activities of other forests and other agencies like NM Game and Fish? Staff answered that the Cibola NF is about one year ahead in the planning process, and the Carson is on the same time schedule as the Santa Fe NF. They will coordinate with all relevant agencies, state, federal and local, in the gathering of data for the assessment, and throughout the plan revision process.
- What is the source of the cultural/heritage information? The assessment will rely on information from local residents and permittees, existing publications and documents. Staff emphasized that the new Planning Rule of 2012 requires that local knowledge have equal weight with scientific and technical knowledge in the plan revision process, a requirement that came directly from Northern New Mexico comments during the Rule drafting process.
- Will the revised plan correct past mistakes? The goal is to revise the plan to be as appropriate and useful as possible for the local forest users.
- A participant expressed the hope that local residents would work with the Forest Service to make the best plan possible, and that the Forest Service would welcome the partnership. In the past local people have felt “dictated to” by the agency; they hope for a new mutually respectful relationship.
- The assessment should include a historic overview of federal/local relations, acknowledging where mistakes were made and taking steps to correct them.
- Local forest users should have a priority in the planning process. In the past, the agency considered local uses no more important than the uses of anyone from anywhere in the US. Participants objected, explaining that the local users are the “key to forest health – we are the keystone species.”

- Notice for these meetings could be given through the county employees email list.

Main Themes and Uses: Participants described how they use the forest and what they value about it.

- Hiking, horseback riding, fly-fishing, camping, and hunting: Local residents recreate in the forest in a wide variety of ways. They expressed appreciation for the FS stewardship of these recreation areas that makes these opportunities accessible.
- Beauty, peace and quiet: It is critical for locals to know that there is a place where quiet and peace are guaranteed.
- Playing: Those who grew up near the forest played as children “in this huge and wonderful backyard.”
- Livelihood: Participants said that they grew up in families whose livelihood depended on forest resources – firewood, logging, Christmas tree harvesting, cattle.
- Family memories: A participant remembered cutting Christmas trees and taking them to Santa Fe to sell with her father, and the importance of that activity, not just for her family’s income, but as a lesson in economics and resource stewardship as well. Another spoke of driving cattle with her family, seeing springs and lakes along the way, and the power of that experience. Family reunions are common occurrences in the forest, with families coming to feel a special identification with their camping spots. A participant has good memories of the annual trip to the forest to choose and cut down a Christmas tree.
- Values learned from the forest: These memories can influence the rest of a person’s life – their values, world view, even career choice. Learning to respect the forest and care for it, cleaning up after yourself (and others) was an important life lesson for many. They learned to understand the principle of preserving the land and resources for future generations. Those who live close to the forest and depend on its resources learn these lessons early and carry those values with them through life.
- Dynamism: The forest is dynamic, always changing, always giving back.
- Water resources: Participants understand that water originates in the forest watersheds and its quality is critical for downstream users. There is concern about the potential for fire to degrade the water quality.
- Access to acequia infrastructure: Acequia members spoke of the need for maintained access to acequia structures on FS land. Some areas need cleaning out. The permitting process seems unnecessarily burdensome. Acequias pre-date the federal agency, they pointed out, and the red tap required to access the areas is unreasonable. It is painful to see recreation areas trashed by thoughtless users who

can do what they want with little or no permit and oversight, while an acequia official must go through reams of paper for access to maintain a structure.

Observed changes in the forest: Participants offered their observations about how the forest and its management have changed over the years.

- Landownership: Participants observed that new, wealthy owners of private land are less tolerant of straying cows than in the past. They are often unwilling to fence their property, and yet complain to the permittee “if just one cow wanders onto their property.”
- Logging: The forest is no longer producing “nice big trees,” and loggers are left with private property as their only option. It is unclear to some why conditions have changed. They speculated causes – over-logging in the past, drought? Stands are dense with small diameter trees, which have very little, or no, economic value.
- Drought: The dry conditions are forcing migration of wildlife, especially elk, into fields. Drought also has increased residents’ fear of wildfires, which could destroy a mountain community like Mora. The dog hair thickets in the forest desperately need thinning. Residents say that streams which used to be intermittent have not flowed for decades; frogs and salamanders have disappeared as well.
- Increase in recreation: Locals have seen a sharp increase in outside recreators, who bring with them trash, noise and bad behavior. Campsites are being trashed, roads rutted by trucks, vegetation and peace and quiet hurt by dirt bikes and four-wheelers everywhere.
- Forest Service presence: Participants said that there is a noticeable lack of presence of FS staff in the forest. They suggested that new staff arriving in the area be given orientation classes to educate them about the special relationship between the FS, the forest resources and the local users.

Meeting evaluation: Participants offered thoughts on what went well in the meeting and what might be changed for a better meeting:

Went well:

- Staff was well informed.
- Important to start this conversation at the level of values.

To change:

- Additional outreach to remind community members of the upcoming meeting, rather than just the original list of all the meetings. It is too easy to forget in the stress of everyday life that a meeting is coming up soon.
- Need more people to attend.

- Solicit outreach help from community contacts – local email lists of employees, friends telling friends, finding a community liaison person to spread the word for the FS.

*Summary prepared by Lucy Moore. Please contact her with comments or corrections.
505-820-2166, or lucymoore@nets.com*

Pecos Assessment Meeting, May 6, 2014

Pecos

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting Santa Fe National Forest April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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Watershed protection which mostly translates to the value of the Pecos wilderness. Knowing it's protected the way it is is of great value - The Limited Recreation there is also something that increases the value there. The closed Trails in the wilderness allow that beauty to be back Country. The multiple use areas being clear was something that used to be highly valued

Habitat & Forest Health Maintenance - for hunting & fishing as well -

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

The things I appreciate or have appreciated are above - Some of the changes most noticed on the Trail & Habitat Management lessening.

Pecos

**Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest**

April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

It's beauty and its ability to be used by many for a wide variety of things.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Note Solitude, Beauty, Multiple uses, Grazing, Logging.
Hunting, Fishing

4/18/2014

Peros

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

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AVAILABILITY. IT HAS ALWAYS HAD A MEANINGFUL IMPACT. I VALUE HIKING + FISHING IN THE FOREST. I VALUE THE FOREST ABILITY TO PROVIDE FRESH AIR.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

IN THE PAST POOR ROADS. KEPT PEOPLE OUT.

4/18/2014

Percas

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Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

Traditional uses are important.
- repair/maintain recreation infrastructure
- wood gathering
- timber harvest
- grazing

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Regulations go overboard, some traditional use seem to use more strict.

4/18/2014

Pecos

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RECREATION — RESIDENT PERMIT CABIN SINCE 1960
CAMPING IN WILDERNESS
FLY FISHING ON PECOS
DAY HIKES

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

BIODIVERSITY OF FOREST — CORIPEN

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting

Santa Fe National Forest

April and May 2014

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Grazing Hunting and ~~recreation~~ recreation woodcutting
Horse back riding

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

The closing off campgrounds no road maintenance our roads
are a mess
A lot more Elk

4/18/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting

Santa Fe National Forest

April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

Its beauty (Nature) For Grazing, Camping, natural gas creation. When I spent my Summer with my Dad and Family. Family gatherings for rounding up cattle, and wood cutting.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

That its available to the public. Natural springs are going dry. Herds of Elk are taking over most of the grazing.

4/18/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

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*Being able to use it I use the forest for camping, fishing, hunting, site seeing
wood hauling, grazing yes*

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

4/18/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

- I appreciate the diversity of opportunities. Firewood, hunting, camping. It was most meaningful as a child and as a father. Access to multiple uses (due to diversity of sites/users)

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

idk. I think attitudes and values about natural resource mgmt seem to be in more conflict

4/18/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting**Santa Fe National Forest**

April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

*Get away - no internet or television
youth & raising a family
Hiking, community, fishing,
Wilderness*

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

*Its beauty -
Drought, numbers of people, needs
for access - conflicting at times*

4/28/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

BECAUSE IT IS OUR BEAUTIFUL BACKYARD FOR US TO USE.

HUNTING, FISHING, CAMPING AND OUR FAMILY USE THE SUMMER RANGE FOR RAISING CATTLE

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

IT IS A PLACE TO GATHER FIREWOOD FOR OUR FAMILIES COLD WINTERS.

OUR ROADS ARE NOT AS "MAINTAINED ROAD"

AS SOME FOREST SERVICE WORKERS SAY.

I KNOW THAT I HAVE HEARD YOU-FOREST SERVICE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS, BUT IT NEEDS TO BE LOOKED@.

4/18/2014

**Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest**

April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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Awesome back hiking, camping, Fresh Air, Views - Hunting, Back yard.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

*Mountain View Views - Fires, Not cleaning the Forest.
Hunting*

4/18/2014

Pecos Meeting Notes

**Santa Fe National Forest
Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting**

**May 6, 2014
Pecos, New Mexico**

Summary of Discussion

Facilitator: Jo Ann Romero

Participants described how they use the forest and what they most value about it.

Question 1: Uses/What we appreciate:

- Acequia infrastructure
- Habitat/health management (manage carbon, prevent fires)
- Monitoring (Ex. Outfitters, rec companies)
- Traditional use
- Logging business (family)
- Multiple uses (camping, hunting, gathering firewood)
- Healthy forest allow for these
- Economic value
- Horseback in wilderness (limited use)
- Protect watershed
- Trail system (hiking, recreation)
- Connecting roadway to wilderness
- Water supply (UPW)
- Fresh air
- Maintain good water
- Solitude/getting away
- Not pushing out certain groups because of limited access
- Backyard uses (hunting, fishing, camping, grazing-don't go to grocery store for food)
- Wood hauling-heating homes
- Fresh air (in order to appreciate forest, must be able to access it)
- Want access for recreation, getting to a sick animal and can be loss of livestock
- Scenery
- Appreciate diversity of opportunities
- Access to multiple uses
- Use it for beauty
- Love to go up there with shepherders
- Grazing permittees
- Horseback riding, togetherness, family values and traditions
- Can't pick OSHA

Observed changes in the forest: Participants offered their observations about how the forest and its management have changed over the years.

- USFS denies access over time (Rowe Mesa)
- Road conditions worse over time (maintenance only after fire or other large event)
- Communities can't enjoy FS land like they used to
- Technology has changed things
- Only lookout tower is Barillas
- Trails/roads limited or closed-looking at big picture rather than small areas
- Elderly can't access views and enjoy the forest before they are not able to
- Attitudes and values are conflicting (why no timber sales? What is good for environment?)
- NMGF properties (conflict with USFS use and cause confusion for recreationists)
- Forest users have changed over time
- Wood haulers, ag users may be in conflict with environmental emphasis or attitudes (some ag users have more responsible attitudes than others)
- Increased amount of vehicles
- Less people take responsibility for uses in forest (increased trash, decreased water quality, NMGF properties managed different than USFS campgrounds)
- More people-need more campgrounds
- Forest health (inability to remove deceased trees, fires need to take place to remove hazardous trees)
- Dead and down across creeks limits fishing access
- Common sense is lacking across forest
- Would like decision making locally rather than bureaucrats in congress (daunting process, Archeology, Bio, NEPA)
- Lack of maintenance on trails reduces ability to enjoy forest
- Most of trails cleared by May 15 in the past
- Certain districts maintained differently
- All forests/districts need to maintained/taken care of consistently
- Can't get to some areas on horseback because of lack of maintenance on trails
- Road and trail maintenance has declined dramatically over time
- Limited access affecting streams and roads (losing soil/erosion)
- Elk population has increased over time
- Changes in attitudes/values about Natural Resources Management (may be more conflicts)
- Immigrants and land use different type of use and abuse
- Not being reached out to
- Natural springs are going dry
- Less stream flow
- Soldier Creek barely producing
- Put limits on visitor use
- See more elderly on the main roads
- More ATV's
- Roads improved, bringing more people
- Difficulty with acequias maintaining and repairing infrastructure
- Watershed health
- Used to get 10 ft. of snow in Elk Mountain and now maybe getting half
- Thousands of sheep used to graze with cattle. Reduced permits

- 200-300 head of elk and cattle are blamed for overgrazing
- More elk
- Rural electrification program everywhere Roosevelt era
- Camping in wilderness
- Wilderness trail rides
- Horseback and fishing in wilderness
- Continued residence for permit in Holy Ghost
- Better access to Iron Gate
- Monitoring USGS stream flow
- Closed campgrounds
- Closures
- Hard to find a place put campers. Lack of facilities
- More elk up there, herds of elk encroachment
- Less road maintenance
- Some level of insect infestation that has not been there in the past
- Lots of motorized vehicles tearing up roads
- Less law enforcement and more focus on resources
- Need to educate our children and their children
- We are the choir
- Cultural and historical uses
- Outsiders impacting resources
- Confusing people with what is USFS and NMF and F. Would be good to have G&F represented to get everybody on the same page
- Clean and safe trail systems in the back country
- Cleaning and maintaining multiple use areas
- Habitat and forest health management

Meeting evaluation:

People appreciated:

- ✓ The format was good
- ✓ Good overview of planning process
- ✓ Opportunity to interact with others and the Forest Service staff
- ✓ Small table conversations
- ✓ Convenience of the meetings

Suggestions for improvement:

- ✓ Consider attending various community meetings

Summary prepared by Jo Ann Romero. Feel free to contact for comments or corrections. 505-821-3113, or stratwks@comcast.net

Rio Rancho Assessment Meeting, April 28, 2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

The assessment phase of forest plan revision is focused on collecting and sharing information on current conditions of natural and physical resources and the relationship of people to those resources. The questions below are designed to help you share your perspective and what you think is important to this assessment. This is not a formal comment period but the input received will be summarized and reflected in the final assessment document.

- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

*it feels different hiking/skiing/biking on public land -
compared to private land which feels distant - "it's ours" -
has whole range of ecosystems - desert → above tree line*

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

*Management has changed - we understand how to
take care of forest and it means actually
thinning -*

4/28/2014

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Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

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Hiking - nature - quiet - escape from
the city - can see the sky at night -
room to play - love the wilderness area
with no motorized vehicles - taking our
DD child into the mountains where
she can see the deer & the humming birds.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Over crowding - stream bank erosion, trash
Being outdoors - solitude - beauty - access
to the outdoors and the mountain experience

4/18/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
 April and May 2014

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*Outdoor Recreation (Hiking)
 Relaxation & Restoration
 Sharing a forest experience with family
 and friends
 Connecting with other outdoor minded people*

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

*Higher demand and use
 Stream bank erosion
 More littering
 more road all road vehicles
 Less trail maintenance
 Budget constraints at Forest Service because of
 % of money spent on Fire Fighting*

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

- variety of resources, e.g. scenery, wildlife, camping, hiking, hunting
landscapes
opportunities
history
- recreation, hunting

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Use change from subsistence based to recreation based

4/18/2014

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Santa Fe National Forest
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I appreciate all forms of outdoor recreation - both motorized and non-motorized: motorcycling (trails & roads), Jeeping, hiking, back-packing, trail running, etc. I enjoy solitude at times but I also enjoy the camaraderie of my friends and club members.
 I appreciate the "nearness" of the SFF. I can be deep in the forest an hour from my doorstep.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

~~Red~~ Less focus on the commercial value of resources (timber, water, grazing, mining) and more value on the intrinsic values of resources (recreation, solitude).
 Much more recreation use over time. More use seems to have resulted in less willingness to share.

4/28/2014

Rio Rancho Meeting Notes

**Santa Fe National Forest
Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting**

**April 28, 2014
Rio Rancho**

Summary of Discussion

Facilitator/recorder: Karen Kline

Initial Questions and Parking Lot Issues:

- What are ways for permit holders to formally communicate?

Identified Uses of Forest:

- Hiking
- Camping
- Hunting
- OHV – disability access
- Firewood
- Grazing
- Personal restoration

Main Themes:

- Variety
 - History with each area
 - Can ski, hike, hunt, camp
 - Diverse forest – elevation change, different vegetation, wildlife
 - Provides for community – water, timber, beef)
- Overly loved
 - Trash left behind
 - Less likely that people want to share
- Big enough for everyone
 - Feeling of belonging
 - Good management of key boundaries, naturalness
- Recreation
 - Sharing with family and friends
 - Cabin in Holy Ghost
 - Connecting with other outdoor minded people
- Accessibility
 - Close – easy to get to
 - Disability access
 - Mountain access
- Solitude
 - Relaxation and restoration (personal)

- Wilderness without motorized vehicles
- Sky at night
- Memories
- Freedom
- Exploration
- Sense of ownership - openness

Changes:

- Climate
 - Drier
 - More fire
 - Insects, disease
- Fire management
 - Used to suppress stockpile of fuel
- Wildlife
 - No high mountain sheep
- Usage
 - More controlled recreation
 - Less grazing
 - Less focus on commercial (timber, water, grazing) and economic survival
 - More focus on intrinsic value
 - Population increase
 - No trash management
 - Trail management
 - OHV – noise impacts
 - Conditions degraded
 - Soil erosion, water affected
 - Water competition
 - Demand for campsites increased (how to pay?)
- Infrastructure
 - Infrastructure is dilapidated
 - CCC roads being covered up
- Policy and regulation changes
 - Used to have to register to go into forest
 - Signage in wilderness – was good, now minimal or gone
 - Declining budgets
 - Majority of funding – from logging to taxes
 - Tenure of FS employees and their skill set – from “grazing/timber” to “...ologists”

Meeting evaluation:

- Went well:
 - This exercise stimulated discussion
 - Good Forest Service representation (at this meeting)
 - Snacks

- To change:
 - Hold more meetings in more locations
 - Not totally clear on how this information will be used

Final thoughts in a word or two:

- Trying
- Need for collaboration and coordination of stakeholders
- How do we preserve and improve upon what we have?
- Complexity and frustration with people trying to share a forest
- Not a lot of people here
- Climate change

Summary prepared by Karen Kline. Please contact her with comments or corrections. 505-980-1315, or karenkline01@comcast.net

Santa Fe Assessment Meeting, April 24, 2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting Santa Fe National Forest April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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*I fishing & camping
give back by volunteering for riparian restoration.
now that I'm retired, I appreciate more the area.
As a trained ecologist I enjoy being in areas
that are ecologically healthy*

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

*Wild streams (not dammed for the most part)
Ease of access.
Changes: less water; less greenery due to
drought
seems to be more erosion due to
man induced changes / neglect.*

4/28/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

Judy's
paper :)

Community Café Worksheet –

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

- close to ABQ!
- ponderosas - hiking w/ vanilla air - red dirt
- hot springs
- many camping memories - first elk seen

rivers,
waterfalls

- water - amazing when you're surrounded by desert
2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

trails are more crowded - more people
fire changes
USFS seems not to like naked ppl in the hot springs anymore - result of more people?
more gunshots at night - feels like it used to be quieter.

4/18/2014

**Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014**

Community Café Worksheet –

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openness, Freshness, usefull for grazing, hunting
Fishing, horseback Riding.

Clean, Air quality, water quality

Recreation:

Culture History:

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

- regulations / - Wilderness areas
- permitting, enforcement - Flood preventive measure
- trail maintenance - thinning
- less grazing limits - ^{power-} Electrical line maintenance

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

Camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, photography

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Close to Santa Fe
Diversity of opportunities & activities
Ability to get away from town & people
Diversity of habitat types

4/18/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting

Santa Fe National Forest

April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Water availability decreasing or perceived to decrease.

More biking (bicycle) in back country with greater reach

Increase in fire influence

more screen time, less field time.

4/18/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

I appreciate it and the rest of the forest service
Public lands. when I travel, I often camp
in FS facilities - like the trails,
for this forest - it is the backdrop of my home
the mountains in the distance -
I use the forest to gather wood for heat -
like the trails in the Pecos - Picnic - take photos
hunt - I love the music

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

my views have changed - Dome cows Los Pinos
Concern about the future -
Become more Restrictive - shooting area closed
Travel management -
Reduced outputs - less firewood available -
Road system - Poorer condition

4/18/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
 April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

Diversity of the forest landscapes + terrain, elevational changes, etc.
 Backpacking solitude - very meaningful.
 Value - cross country ski opportunities.
 Backpacking -

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

It's very easy to get there - proximity.
 Change - ongoing drought affecting ~~the~~ vegetation + opportunities for skiing, ~~plus~~ plus more dust blowing due to drought.
 Climate change → broad, landscape scale changes.
 Increased use.
 Potential for increased industrial uses.

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting

Santa Fe National Forest

April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

I USE THE NATIONAL FOREST ON A REGULAR BASIS
MOUNTAIN BIKING ON THE CATA DEL RIO. ROAD
BIKING UP TO THE SANTA FE SKI AREA. DOING
TRAIL WORK ON BOBREHO. I ENJOY USING ALL
THESE AREAS.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

TRAIL SYSTEMS ARE BEING IMPROVED
SOME USER CONFLICTS ON HEAVY USE AREAS
LIKE WINDSOR AREA

4/28/2014

**Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest**

April and May 2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

It's wild in a good way. I use it for recreation, hiking backpacking etc. on foot. It is important for me and my family to have access to this wilderness experience. Anything that takes away from this is "bad".

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Trails getting tighter, harder to follow. Blandern staying longer. Grazing impact seems to be getting more intense and widespread.

4/18/2014

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Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014

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1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

- camping/hiking (backcountry)
- ski hill
- Pecos, Jemez
-

*new uses/values

*what other
table
shared

2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

- open spaces
- hike w/o running into lots of people
- wildlife habitat (elk, mule deer)
- clean/clean of trash

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

Quiet / solitude
things to see
freedom
dogs can run loose
big, unpopulated - can ride horses.
value the habitat/
environment

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

fire behavior
lack of snow
trash
trail maintenance
user-created roads/firewood
more people.

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*#I'm
responding
to more
specific
"ballinas
canyon"*

1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

It's the most beautiful place on earth. It's my home; I share it with wild & domestic animals, birds, trees, wildflowers. The value is intrinsic - it's (managed) natural beauty is its core value.

2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

I appreciate some of the areas that have been tended (clearing, campgrounds, bathrooms, trash cans).

4/18/2014

Santa Fe Meeting #1 Notes

**Santa Fe National Forest
Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting**

April 24, 2014

Santa Fe National Forest Offices, Santa Fe

Summary of Discussion

Facilitator/recorder: Lucy Moore

Identified Uses of Forest:

- Biking
- Grazing
- Camping
- Skiing, cross-country
- Hiking
- Wilderness enjoyment
- Photography
- Hot Springs
- Spiritual experience
- Flood plain permitting
- Fishing
- Stream restoration
- Volunteer work
- Horseback riding
- “Learning about the forest”

Main Themes: During discussion before and after small group breakouts, participants identified some main themes to characterize their observations and feelings about the SF NF:

- Rise in socio-economic values and emphasis: Perhaps as a result of climate change the emphasis of forest management seems to have shifted in the direction of the people-centered uses and values, rather than the environmental and wildlife.
- Degradation in resources quality: Some spoke of the sense of loss, as they see resources suffering. They cited many causes and examples of this degradation, including fire, drought, climate change, increase in population, less management of regulations, lack of maintenance, decrease in FS funding and timber sales, communication with authority (power line maintenance).
- Volunteers and partners: On the other hand, the number and energy of volunteers working in the forest has dramatically increased, as well the creation of partnerships with other entities like the City of Santa Fe and The Nature Conservancy, who like the FS value clean water and a healthy forest.
- Recommendations: The group made recommendations for a healthier forest, including preventive measures like building holding ponds and levees to control post-fire flash flooding, and public education about safety and protection of resources

- Clash in values and uses: Recent years have highlighted clashes between values – urban v. non-urban users, traditional v. recreational uses; etc. Recreation has increased as sustenance uses have decreased, although participants noted that there are still those who depend on the forest for firewood and other resources. A participant observed that cutting a tree has changed from being a “sin” to being a “benefit.” Technology has changed the way users recreate, and perhaps led to an over-confidence. RVs have become more impactful, in greater numbers, “like a wagon train.”
- Value the quietness and freedom: Several spoke of the importance of quiet and easy access to pristine places, for recreation and spiritual experiences.

Meeting evaluation: Participants offered thoughts on what went well in the meeting and what might be changed for a better meeting:

Went well: positive interaction among participants, including FS staff, food, and Jennifer’s cassette analogy in her presentation.

To change: need more user groups present; send out reminders after the invitation

Small groups: Participants and FS staff broke into two groups to consider the two questions: How do you use the forest and what value does it have for you? What changes have you seen in forest uses, resources, health, etc.?

Main Themes/uses:

(group 1)

In speaking of their uses of the forest, participants highlighted the following values

- Recreation: Opportunities for all age and skill levels; Need to maintain access, keep trails open
- Pristine environment: Clean air and water
- Freedom: can still find places without people
- Availability and access: Advantages of having such a variety of landscapes and activities so accessible during different seasons; “our backyard”
- Discovery: Still finding “new things” after years of biking Caja
- Spiritual aspect:
 - Through contact with wildlife
 - Nice to know it’s there, even if don’t use it
- Part of family lifestyle, child rearing – hiking, camping, hunting
- Christmas trees and wood for heat
- Different from Hawaii, NP restricted lots of backcountry (here or there?)

(Group 2)

- Wilderness and solitude: a “wild set of land”
- Hiking and backpacking
- Quietness and freedom
- Horseback riding: availability of big chunks of land
- Family history: family used to horseback ride, were the main users of the Forest
- Cultural and historical resources and ancestral places: it is a unique place
- The social climate, and blending of Indian, Hispanic, and Anglo

- Fishing: 20+ year of fishing in the area, learning to fly fish here
 - Fishing small streams
- Taking part by volunteering on the Forest
- Ecological health
- Accessibility: close to Albuquerque (but, then lots of people from Albuquerque go to the Forest)
- Jemez – camping areas and being able to be around water
- Ponderosa pine stands
- Wildlife viewing
- The red dirt

Changes:

(group 1)

Participants identified changes they have seen over the long and short term.

- More people in Santa Fe and Albuquerque areas: Results in increased water use, pressure on all resources, and thicker phone book.
- Clash in values between urban and non-urban values
- More users and conflicts in the forest:
 - There are conflicts among users, on the Windsor Trail, for instance, where hikers, bikers and horse riders may have different priorities and needs; Windsor trail becoming world famous
 - Skiers and snowshoers sometimes clash on Nordic trails. Signage this year has improved.
 - Ski Area user conflicts increasing
 - Aspen Vista area has witnessed conflicts between recreation and hunting
 - Bikers need bells to alert hikers. Involvement in trails – see change in design. “Shuttle” on trails – not riding up. “We have to share.”
 - In general there is less freedom to use the forest in certain popular areas – shooting closure on Caja, for instance
- Decline in resource quality:
 - Grazing impacts:
 - More intense; streams and riparian areas are “trashed”
 - On highline 12, 000 feet, come off La Vega
 - Concern for safety; hiker and small child on trail with cows; “cows everywhere”
 - Younger generation not adopting traditional grazing practices
 - Drought impact:
 - Dying aspens – southern Colorado decline seems to be moving south
 - Tent caterpillars on increase
 - Need to manage for warmer climate
 - Less skiing
 - Increase in burned areas/more wildfires:
 - Rio Nambe seems to be recovering
 - More burn scars and impacts on recreation and views from Santa Fe

- Increase in oil and gas development in one area on SF NF – “need to pay attention”
- Trail/road maintenance:
 - Trails are fainter; blow-down stays for several seasons
 - North end of Caja road has eroded and is very rocky; Dead Dog Trail also
- Timber cutting in decline; Timber work = more maintenance (need maintenance? Trails? General?);
- Central Arizona Project costs have increased.....so?

(Group 2)

- Changes in trail maintenance:
 - Poorly maintained/neglected
 - Trails have been abandoned
 - Trails are more crowded
 - Now volunteers are needed to maintain trails
 - User-created trails from firewood collecting, dispersed camping, etc.
- Changes in accessibility:
 - Wilderness areas are less accessible
- Catastrophic events: extreme fires, drought
- Less water and greenery, dying vegetation
- Bug infestations
- Erosion
- Flood prevention is important
- Increased negligence of power lines and maintenance
- Less grazing permits
 - Changes in cattle management
- Lifestyles and cultures are changing: the land is being divided, people are leaving their rural communities for cities
- More users of the Forest, population increases
 - As Santa Fe continues to grow, how can we allow for freedom but still manage?
 - Trails are crowded and camp sites are loud
 - Population growth links back to many of the changes the group observed
- Different kinds of uses than before, like ATV, biking, snowmobiles
 - From land use for sustenance to land use for recreation
 - Different public attitude
 - Are uses becoming abuses?
- Changes in management focus – currently reactive, it needs to be proactive
- Less industrial/commercial use (less timber, etc.), more of a focus on ecosystem management
- Enforcement has increased on some issues and decreased on others (decrease is linked to limited staffing and decreased budgets)
 - More staff time spent at a desk rather than outside
- More or less regulation? Seems to be a mix

- Changes in technology – people have GPS units and feel more confident going into the Forest, less skills needed/loss of skills in the woods. SAR approaches have also changes. Game retrieval and cattle management also have changed due to technology.

Summary prepared by Lucy Moore. Please contact her with comments or corrections. 505-820-2166, or lucymoore@nets.com

Santa Fe Assessment Meeting, May 8, 2014

SF 5/8

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting Santa Fe National Forest April and May 2014

Community Café Worksheet –

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The Beauty Scenery of Seeing the forest, How the birds
Nest + I'd the forest.
I use the forest in many ways. I like to ride I Ski, Snowshoe.
I like the Scenery, Spring + Winter I like to see in Bike, Hike,
Picnic and Improv the area through the Redd.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Security I'd like to see access and use of the forest.
Climate's changes have cause @ Los Alamos as well as
Old Wild West Area that don't include mountain biking.
We do need to improve and fix a new to look at access to
the forest and use. Lots of destruction due to power
lines on forest land.

4/18/2014

**Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting
Santa Fe National Forest**

April and May 2014

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MS - wildland/wilderness ^{fish resource} & preservation/protection, protection from development
- recreational opportunities

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

- Forest closures & management ^{following forest fires} ~~post-fire~~ ~~fires~~
- road & trail maintenance/repair --
 ^{access to recreational areas.}
- see use increase and changed - ^{less backcountry use}
 Fewer trails w/ greater use.
 Change from traditional uses (hunting, fishing, grazing)

4/18/2014

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting

Santa Fe National Forest

April and May 2014

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- Hiking/backpacking (scenery, wildlife, landscapes)
- Solitude, quiet
→ moving here... hiking in forest
• ~~more~~ opportunities
→ mountain biking

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

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*Its beauty
The variation in opportunities for recreation
Its biodiversity ▽*

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

*# of people
Climate ➤
Regulation*

4/18/2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

- (mostly) free trailhead parking
- use trails for recreation
- value the Pecos Wilderness & its trails
- appreciate thinning projects

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

4/16/2014

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Santa Fe National Forest
April and May 2014**

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~~Beauty~~ Appreciate first that it is here for us all to use. Enjoy the solitude, trails to a special spot or view, historical use of trails, including pack stock use. Love the forest + wilderness - seeing the wildlife + plants. Also enjoy fishing and rock/geology. Learning about things here formed; - Most meaningful when I'm riding + clearing trails on a regular basis, - Most concerned about

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

road maintenance issues - trail maintenance backlog

trail maintenance backlog!

road maintenance = access.-

Examples: Abiquia Mesa + Borrego Mesa!

Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting Santa Fe National Forest

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Appreciation Factors: - Solitude
- Beauty
- Flora
- Fauna
- multiple use

MEANINGFUL IMPACT

VARIED USES - RECREATION -
- Hunt - Ski -
- Fish
- Camp
- Horseback Riding (Ten/minutes)
- Fuel wood gathering
- Livestock grazing

2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Diversity -

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Santa Fe National Forest
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*The variety of animal and plant diversity
and the beauty they bring to our lives.
interest.*

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

*Dying of the forest due to drought conditions
increased fire, patterns of past landscapes
emerging. Increased use by more people
create additional stress in areas with less
ability to recover.*

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RECREATIONAL USES - CAMPING
HIKING
FISHING
TRAIL RIDES
JEEP TRAILS 4x4
RECREATIONAL RESIDENCES & TRACT NEIGHBORHOOD
WILDLIFE
BIODIVERSITY OF TREES - CONIFERS

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

BIODIVERSITY OF TREES & GENERAL HEALTH
OF FOREST AT A WHOLE OVER LAST 10 YEARS
MORE & MORE PEOPLE WANTING TO USE FOREST FOR
RECREATION & THIS CAUSES OVER USE OF SOME AREAS

4/18/2014

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The trees, the moisture, the escape from heat in summer, the green spaces in the summer - enjoying all of this sometimes on foot, sometimes on my bike. In winter, enjoying all of this white skiing - in fall, enjoying the gold of the aspens. Gatherings of friends at campsites. Company of friends in nature - bringing kids (my daughter) into the forest in a variety of recreational activities. I love that it's so near town so very accessible. Part of my work - I teach skiing in winter and lead small guided hikes with Santa Fe Walkabouts.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

- Climate more unpredictable - mild winters, less snow, less rain - drier soils, wildfires, more erosion.
- more users on trails - ~~more~~ if we are proactive, having more trails and more user-specific trails can help spread out the use, give everyone a better experience. As part of local mt. biking club, we provide volunteer labor and tools to build trails - we also build sustainable trails.

4/18/2014

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Mountain Biking - Hiking - Scenic Appreciation

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Diversity of experience
- Climate change
- more recreational use.

4/18/2014

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*-History, spending time with my family, get
away from the day to day schedule of everyday
life*

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

Being retired I can give back and enjoy the N.H. Forest.
I like the N.H. forest because it is all around us. ~~Fishing~~ Hiking, Biking, Motorcycling as well as maintaining the forest is easy accessible.
professional Athletes

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

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READY ACCESS, BIG SCALE, WILDNESS CHARACTER, BELONGS TO THE PUBLIC, ENABLES A LIFESTYLE.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

OVERGROWTH, DEFERRED MAINTENANCE, REDUCED ACCESS, INCREASING PRESSURE, RISK AVERSE MANAGEMENT, BUDGETARY PRESSURE.

4/18/2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

APPRECIATE THE DIVERSE ECOLOGICAL FEATURES; THE EXTENSIVE TRAIL SYSTEM; THE HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY; WILDLIFE
I ENJOY MOUNTAIN BIKING, SINGLE TRACK MOTORCYCLE RIDING, HIKING,
SKIING, CAMPING, SNOWSHUDDING - ENJOYING TRAIL MAINTENANCE
ACCESSABILITY OF FOREST FROM SANTA FE IS WITHOUT A BIG PLUS.
LARGE SCALE OF FOREST IS A PLUS.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

ENCOURAGING OF TRAILS IN FORMER HIGH DISTRICT NOW THAT CAN BE USED
OUT. TRAILS / ROADS CLOSED
REBUILD TRAILS - SUSTAINABLE - EDUCATION
HIGHER OCCUPANCY & USE. USER CONFLICTS -

4/18/2014

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

variety of ecosystem. I really value recreating in the forest.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

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- 1) What do you appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? (Why do you use it? Was there a time when it had a meaningful impact for you? Is there a use that you really value?)

THE ABILITY TO RIDE MY BIKE FROM SANTA FE
TO THE FOREST AND RIDE FOR HOURS

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

MANY ROADS AND TRAILS ARE NOT
BUILT SUSTAINABLY AND HAVE ERODED BADLY

4/18/2014

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My main recreation uses are MTB, Hiking, Camping, & Skiing and education of 7yo Daughter. ~~As~~ As a member of An outdoor industry business, we also see tremendous value to the community ~~at~~ of Santa Fe & neighboring communities for tourism, ^{public} benefit & generating a vibrant community. More trails would help foster this growth.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

Increased trail use & pressure's associated with that. Also an upsurge in volunteerism or desire to counter another & create new ones.

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THE SOLITUDE & ESCAPE FROM TOWN/CITY/MODERN CONVENIENCES.
USE IT FOR EXERCISE & PERSONAL ENJOYMENT. GROWING UP IT WAS EXTREMELY
MEANINGFUL - CAMPING WITH FAMILY. MEMORIES I WILL TREASURE, STILL MEANINGFUL
REALLY VALUE ROCK CLIMBING, TRAIL RUNNING, DISPERSED CAMPING.
MOST ALL ROCK CLIMBING I DO IS IN NATIONAL FOREST LANDS.
PROXIMITY, CLOSE - EMERGE A LIFESTYLE

(TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN - NO DISPERSED CAMPING?) UGH!

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

FIRE! (CATTLE, TIMBER?) ROAD CLOSURES, MORE PUBLIC USE IN EASILY
ACCESSIBLE AREAS, MORE FOREST CLOSURES (TEMPORARY - E.G. FIRE CLOSURES.)

APPRECIATE
SOLITUDE
DISPERSED CAMPING
GETTING LOST
~~DISPERSED CAMPING~~

CHANGE
MORE USE (-)
LESS DISPERSED CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES (-)
MORE ROAD CLOSURES (+) → LEAVE SOME ROADS OPEN BUT
UNMAINTAINED

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- I appreciate being able to get outside on foot/human powered ^{exploratory} ~~exploratory~~ ^{activity}.
 → Open space, public space (like the forest) is core to what it means to be an American. I appreciate being able to be able to be away from cities and feel that this is public land. It's OK for me to be here, running, hiking, climbing.
 - I appreciate being away from trails.

- 2) Think about the things you or others appreciate about the Santa Fe National Forest? What are the things that you have seen change in the past and that you are continuing to see change?

changes:
 - Fire is shrinking the Jemez
 - Population pressure is morphing the forest, particularly following the fires
 - Climate change is likely to denude the Jemez by 2050, from fire, beetles, + Drought. Somehow this should be taken into account in planning.

Santa Fe Meeting #2 Notes

**Santa Fe National Forest
Forest Plan Revision Assessment Meeting**

May 8, 2014
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Summary of Discussion

Facilitator: Jo Ann Romero

Main Themes and Uses: Participants described how they use the forest and what they most value about it.

Question 1: Uses/What we appreciate:

- Solitude and beauty-part of whole life
- Flora and fauna-multiple uses of forest
- Within an hour from Espanola – to any forest in area
- Hunt, ski, camp, horseback riding, mountain bike riding, single track, picnic
- Fuel, wood gathering
- Livestock grazing and the ability to run cattle
- Beauty from a distance. Being in it, smell, sounds, touch, interaction with ecological system changes through the seasons
- Ski and snowshoe in the winter
- Part of improvement - upkeep existing trails and areas
- Diversity of SFNF - beauty of rock formations, different colors of dirt
- Used in a responsible and sustainable manner-doing trail maintenance
- More equitable use for all users-not how currently. Cibola more balanced users because of mentality of people running the forest
- More mountain biking and trail maintenance since Trav (?) Management
- Forest there for all of us to use, multi-use aspect
- Solitude
- Trails with historical use
- Most meaningful when riding and clearing trails
- Sense of purpose-trails open to everyone
- Rocks, geology, wildlife and plants, fishing
- Educational for daughter
- Environmental/business side-value of tourism, public health, community, more trails
- Economic impact-draw for mountain biking, brings tourists in, grants for trails
- Bikers-exact state of trails (rocks, runoff)
- Part of effort to turn around tourist/business demographic
- Accessibility good-different areas, different things
- Maintenance-we're responsible/giving back
- Trail crew
- Distribution of species/soil types
- Trails good but could be more
- Mostly mountain biking
- Structures in good shape

- Moisture for the trees
- Changing colors in the Fall
- Social-friends, families with kids in the forests
- Pecos wilderness-good signage
- Proximity (allows for quick escape for recreation or solitude)
- Exploration on public lands
- Agency ability to collaborate given its size and work with smaller agencies
- Lifestyle enables independence (i.e., wood cutting)
- Access to public lands
- Pecos wilderness desperate for trail maintenance. Currently done by volunteers
- Maintain and continue recreational residences
- Fire causing a changed landscape
- Beauty in fire through time
- Mother Nature is stronger than us
- Biodiversity enriches our lives and touches people beyond basic needs
- Biodiversity of forests-the southern Rockies are most diverse. Many different species
- Scenic appreciation-top of the pyramid. Communal support for scenic values in future
 - Do the right thing for the forest leads to long term gain
 - Need to maintain room for all uses
 - Common sense on part of stakeholders within reason
 - Some sacrifice by all
 - Be reasonable and use common sense
- Culture shock for newcomers due to change in environment
- Economic aspects of grazing
- Outfitter/guides
- Economic aspect of forest (amount of tourism from mountain biking/use of forest trails, tourism dollars associated with forest-stressed due to fires)

Main Themes Question 1:

- ✓ History, archeology, diversity
- ✓ Accessibility is big
- ✓ Trail system that was there
- ✓ Trail cleaning-public wants to do, too many hoops. Educate public with options
- ✓ Recreation
- ✓ Proximity
- ✓ Lifestyle
- ✓ Collaboration with other agencies and neighbors

Observed changes in the forest: Participants offered their observations about how the forest and its management have changed over the years.

- More reliance on volunteers (trail maintenance and creations because of no budget)
- Climate change (bark beetle, dryer so more fires, driver of management decisions, moving front and center)

- Higher elevation may look like lower elevation
- Dead trees
- Density of understory
- Wilderness-can't fight wildfire
- Want more companion designation-NRA and National Conserv. Area
- Reduced access creates user conflict
- In Los Alamos used to be everything, Now 1 trailhead and on weekends overflowing with 30-40 trailers. Used to be only 1 or 2.
- Solitude-more use, especially easily accessible areas (i.e., climbing wall in Los Conchas near road. More road closures-can get away if willing to go on foot but less camping
- Societal change-people want it right there
- Fire-green to black and brown
- Regulation-NEPA, local FS people not listened to
- Decisions that affect a risk adverse
- Road maintenance-no own risk on FS road
- So much emphasis on safety
- Responsibility while outside (at own risk)
- Forest closing-ranger districts can't make decisions based on local conditions (rain in Pecos when in not Jemez)
- NEPA-driven by arch review which is underfunded
- Availability for camping with a camper is reduced. Public not aware. There will be backlash when find out
- Lack of respect for forest/nice lands (amount of trash, using river to wash clothes
- Lower budget-deferred work like maintenance paying for NEPA from outside FS. Deferred maintenance equals erosion into water.
- Road issues-access and maintenance, less roads
- Damage due to fires (closed and not reopened)
- Trail maintenance backlogged
- Volunteering limited
- Fire suppression
- Increased use/closer interaction between users in some areas
- Fence disrepair (impact from cattle)
- Emerging infestations, weaker system, veg comp transitions, heating/drying trajectory has impact on products
- Dramatic, landscape-scale fires
- Encroachment (communities, watershed, safety)
- Trail use, historically vs current (seems more trails are closing due to disrepair)
- OHV use being downsized (specific or previously designated places, build or rebuild trails in sustainable manner)
- More conflict closer to SF because of increased use
- Movement for more trail volunteers
- General health of the forest (increase in insect infestation)
- Forward side of climate change
- Individuals experience differently (next planning period will experience real change in climate)
- Trend to visible /felt changes
- 66% of 84 year average in recent years
- Account for radical change

- Dry, crunchy ground
- General drying of forest
- Increase in fires and fire restraint
- Emerging past landscapes
- Shift to open landscape
- Change in wildlife
- Too many trees per acre
- Use by people increase impacts on land
- Milder winters
- Increased interest in nature by public
- Increased awareness leads to increase in public stewardship
- Would more and maintained trails help with sustainability?
- Spread uses across trails and provide for variety of uses
- Increase in involvement of those who want to maintain trails
- Building of trails on adjacent lands (Hyde Park SP)
- Eerie and sad aspects of re growth in burned areas-need appreciation opening vistas
- Public awareness of fire and self-education

Themes – Question 2:

- ✓ Increased pressure (Abq 30K people, 100K recreate in Jemez every weekend)
- ✓ Increased regulation
- ✓ Climate issues/changes
- ✓ Reduced budgets-reduced work
- ✓ More hours in field are being performed by volunteers. Could be more but FS doesn't have enough staff to support
- ✓ Trail use and conflict unsustainable
- ✓ Need to use volunteers more for trail maintenance because of increase in desire
- ✓ A number of trails are closing
- ✓ Forest use

Meeting evaluation:

People appreciated:

More attendees (over the first meeting)

Good overview of the plan revision process

Suggestions for improvement:

Get more people here – place meeting notices on trail heads

Let us know what happens to the information generated

Summary prepared by Jo Ann Romero. Feel free to contact for comments or corrections. 505-821-3113, or stratwks@comcast.net