



File Code: 1950

Date: April 14, 2011

Dear Friend of the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands:

I would like to notify you that I signed the Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (DN/FONSI) for the *Travel Management on the Mt. Taylor Ranger District* project in Cibola and McKinley Counties, New Mexico. I signed the DN/FONSI on April 14, 2011 selecting Alternative C with modifications for implementation.

This decision provides for changes to the current designations of National Forest System (NFS) roads available for public motorized use and prohibits motorized cross-county travel off designated roads and trails on the Mt. Taylor Ranger District. This decision will result in the publication of a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). When the MVUM is released, motorized travel off designated roads and trails and outside of designated areas will be prohibited unless authorized by permit or other authorization.

Changes to the existing designations include:

- Changing the status of 15 miles of closed roads to open system roads for *all motorized vehicles*.
- Adding 82 miles of unauthorized roads to system roads and designating them for *all motorized vehicles*.
- Converting 38 miles of open system roads to motorized trails for *vehicles 65 inches or less in width*.
- Converting 17 miles of closed roads to motorized trails for *vehicles 65 inches or less in width*.
- Adding 41 miles of unauthorized roads to system motorized trails for *vehicles 65 inches or less in width*.
- Changing the status of 79 miles of open system roads to closed roads with a coincident designation as a motorized trail for *65 inches or less in width*.
- Changing the status of 8 miles of closed roads to receive a coincident designation as a motorized trail for *vehicles 65 inches or less in width*.
- Converting 2 miles open system roads to motorized single-track trail for *motorcycles only*.
- Adding 18 miles of unauthorized trail to motorized single-track trail for *motorcycles only*.
- Changing the status of 5 miles of open system roads to closed roads with a coincident designation as a motorized single-track trail for *motorcycles only*.
- Designate a 344-acre OHV area.



These roads will not appear on the MVUM until mitigation of natural and cultural resources is complete. The decision approves construction of approximately 1.2 miles of road reroutes to mitigate resource damage and to maintain continued motorized access to National Forest System lands. Road reroutes will not appear on the MVUM until the work is complete. This decision designates 92 miles of motorized dispersed camping corridors that are 300 feet wide on either side of specific roads. Under this decision, 312 miles of NFS roads currently open to the public will now be changed to restricted for administrative use only (these roads will not appear on the MVUM and will not be available for public use.) The decision includes a non-significant Forest Plan amendment.

When combined with previous decisions, the selection of this alternative with modifications will result in a motorized system with 674 miles of roads open to all vehicles, 208 miles of trails open to vehicles 65" in width or less, 92 miles of motorized dispersed camping corridors, and 344 acres designated for an OHV area.

The Environmental Assessment and DN/FONSI can be obtained from the Cibola NF Supervisor's Office at 2113 Osuna NE, Albuquerque, NM, 87113; the Mt. Taylor Ranger District office at 1800 Lobo Canyon, Grants, NM 87020; or can be requested by phone at 505-346-3900, by email request to [cibolatravel@fs.fed.us](mailto:cibolatravel@fs.fed.us), or from the Mt. Taylor Ranger District Travel Management web site:

[http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/TM\\_Mt\\_Taylor](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/TM_Mt_Taylor)

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to regulations at 36 CFR 215. Individuals or organizations who provided comment or otherwise expressed interest in the proposed action by the close of the 30-day comment period may appeal. That comment period began with publication of the legal notice in the Albuquerque Journal on August 13, 2010. Interest expressed or comments provided on this project prior to or after the close of the comment period do not have standing for appeal purposes.

If no appeals are filed within the 45-day time period, implementation of the decision may occur on, but not before, 5 business days from the close of the appeal filing period. When appeals are filed, implementation may occur on, but not before, the 15th business day following the date of the last appeal disposition.

For additional information regarding this decision, contact Keith Baker, NEPA Coordinator, at 505-346-3820, or at the Cibola National Forest, 2113 Osuna Rd. NE, Albuquerque, NM, 87113.

Three additional appendices have been added to the Environmental Assessment:

- Appendix E - Mitigation and Monitoring Plan.
- Appendix F - Response to Comments. This document contains the comments received on the proposed action and alternatives following the release of the EA.
- Appendix G - Errata sheet of corrections to the EA.

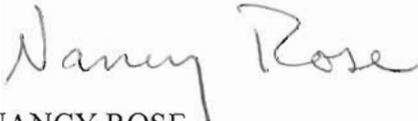
These appendices can be accessed on the Mt. Taylor Travel Management web site:

[http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/TM\\_Mt\\_Taylor](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/TM_Mt_Taylor)

You can also request copies by contacting the Cibola National Forest Supervisor's Office via postal mail at 2113 Osuna NE, Albuquerque, NM, 87113; via phone at 505-346-3900, or by email request to [comments-southwestern-cibola@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southwestern-cibola@fs.fed.us).

Thank you for your involvement in the Travel Management Project. We realize that many people have taken time to participate in the public workshops and provided written comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Rose". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

NANCY ROSE  
Forest Supervisor