

# NEWS RELEASE

## USDA Forest Service Santa Fe National Forest



**For Immediate Release:**  
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### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD BEGINS ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR TRAVEL MANAGEMENT**

(SANTA FE, NM)— The Santa Fe National Forest, Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for managing motorized travel was published in the Federal Register today, August 6, 2008.

“Its publication initiates the public comment period that will run August 7 through September 30, 2010,” announced Forest Supervisor, Daniel Jirón.

The DEIS considers alternatives to protect watersheds, wildlife habitat, cultural resources and communities by prohibiting cross-country motorized vehicle use outside of designated roads, trails, and areas; and reducing the miles of roads open to motorized travel.

The public is encouraged to read and comment on the DEIS and attend a [scheduled meeting](#). Written comments must be mailed to: SFNF Travel Comments, 11 Forest Lane, Santa Fe, NM 85708. They may be faxed to (505) 438-5391 or emailed to [sftravelmgt@fs.fed.us](mailto:sftravelmgt@fs.fed.us). Comments may be hand delivered to 11 Forest Lane between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. To make oral comments, call Julie Bain at (505) 438-5443 to arrange an appointment.

Comments must be submitted to the address, email, or fax number listed above to be considered and tracked in the project record. To be eligible to appeal the final decision, comments must be received on or before Thursday, September 30. Comments should clearly articulate your concerns with the alternatives and are most helpful when they are focused on specific roads, trails, and areas.

Based on the analysis and public input a final EIS will be prepared and the Forest Supervisor will make a decision on the final routes, which will be published in the Federal Register as a Record of Decision (ROD). The Forest plans to have the ROD completed by this winter.

The Santa Fe National Forest will also publish a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) to coincide with the Final Decision. The MVUM is a legal document that will show the designated roads, trails, and areas that are legal to drive on, in what kind of vehicle, and what time of year. Once published, the map will be available on the Forest’s website and at all Santa Fe National Forest offices. The Forest will also launch a public information and education campaign to help visitors understand the new travel system and how to use the map.

The Notice of Availability, Draft Environmental Impact Statement and more information about the project can be found online at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/travelmgt/index.html> .

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