

AMENDMENT NUMBER 1

JUNE 1987

DECISION NOTICE  
GILA NATIONAL FOREST  
LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Catron, Sierra, Grant and Hidalgo Counties, New Mexico

In January, 1986, Sid Goodloe appealed the Gila National Forest Plan. The policy and management guidelines related to off-road vehicle (ORV) use was the basis of his appeal. Concurrently with the appeal, two interested groups asked to participate with the Forest Service in discussions relating to the resolution of the appeal. In summary, resolution of the appeal focused on (1) the ORV policy, and (2) the criteria that would be used to determine which roads, trails and areas on the Forest would remain open to motorized use and which would be restricted or closed.

It is my decision to amend the Gila National Forest Plan by deleting the Forestwide standard and guideline that stated that the Forest would be open to ORV use except in designated wilderness and where specified closed, and inserting a new standard and guideline that states that during the travel management process, Forest personnel will determine which roads, trails and areas will be open to motorized vehicle use and which will be restricted or closed. This new standard and guideline also establishes timeframes for the completion of the travel management process on priority areas, establishes criteria for evaluation of roads, trails and areas, and provides for public involvement in the process. The ORV implementation plan will be amended when the travel management process has been completed on specific areas. Appropriate standards and guidelines on page 22 of the Forest Plan were deleted or modified and a new standard and guideline was added to implement this change. You should replace the old page 22 with the new pages attached to this notice and identified as Forest Plan Amendment No. 1, June, 1987.

I have determined through environmental analysis that this action will cause no significant environmental effects. Formal documentation of the analysis is therefore categorically excluded as per 40 CFR 1508.4, National Environmental Policy Act regulations. This is based on the fact that the amendment results in no change to the physical, biological or social environment. In addition, I have determined that this amendment is consistent with the long term resource management goals for the Gila National Forest and will actually further clarify our management intent.

This amendment will be implemented immediately.

This decision is subject to administrative review in accordance with the provisions of 36 CFR 211.18. Notice of appeal must be made in writing and submitted to the Forest Supervisor, Gila National Forest within 45 days of the date of this decision. A statement of reasons to support the appeal and any request for oral presentation must be filed within the 45 day period for filing a notice of appeal.

  
D.W. DAHL

Forest Supervisor

6-24-87  
Date

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION The following Standards and Guidelines will apply uniformly throughout the Gila  
 APPLICABLE TO ALL National Forest.  
 AREAS EXCEPT  
 WILDERNESS

RESOURCE	ACTIVITY	STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES
RECREATION	A01	<p>ORV POLICY - During the travel management process, Forest personnel will determine which roads, trails and areas will be open to motorized vehicle use and which will be restricted or closed. The public will be involved in this process. Priority areas will be identified and scheduled within one year and the travel management process completed on these areas within three years. The following criteria below will be used. Exceptions to motorized vehicle restrictions can be granted by permit only. Restrictions and closures will be reviewed annually and the public will be notified of any change.</p> <p>Restricted - (definition) - Road, trail or area could be closed to motorized vehicle use, could be restricted to certain types of vehicle, motorized use could be restricted to specific periods, etc.</p> <p>Criteria to be used in designating open, closed or restricted roads, trails and areas are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Management emphasis of a specified area</li> <li>2. Level of conflict between existing types of use</li> <li>3. Required resource protection</li> <li>4. Seasonal constraints</li> <li>5. Special needs of users and management</li> </ol>
	A01	Off-road vehicle implementation plan will be updated whenever changes occur as a result of travel management planning.
	A01	Recreation use of riparian zones will be managed to avoid damage to riparian resources.
CULTURAL RESOURCES	A02	<p>The Forest will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and with Executive Order (EO) 11593, and will undertake active management which recognizes cultural resources as equal in importance to other multiple uses. Cultural resources will be managed in coordination with the State Historic Preservation Plan and planning activities of the State Archeologist, and in accordance with the proposed settlement to the Save the Jemez et al./State of New Mexico vs. Forest Service litigation.</p>

RESOURCE

ACTIVITY

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

A02

Cultural resources overviews have been prepared that cover all Forest lands. They are available at the Forest Supervisor's Office and Regional Offices, and at public libraries. A Forestwide cultural resources management assessment will be prepared, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), by April 1, 1988. The overviews will be updated as required by new data and scientific research, by the management situation, and/or by planning needs.

Information from the overviews, and from other sources, will be used to develop a framework for the identification, classification, and evaluation of known and predicted properties in the cultural resources management assessment, as provided for in the proposed settlement to the Save the Jemez et al./State of New Mexico vs. Forest Service litigation.

A02

Interactions among cultural and other resources will be considered in detail in the cultural resources management planning assessment. These interactions will be analyzed on the basis of management areas by assessing the kind and distribution of cultural resources, and their interaction with other multiple uses, within each management area. The interaction between cultural and other resources for any specific undertaking will be evaluated in project level analyses.

A02

Under any Plan alternative, the following standards will apply:

1. The Forest will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11593, and the proposed settlement to the Save the Jemez et al./State of New Mexico litigation.

2. The standards specified in the proposed settlement to the Save the Jemez et al./State of New Mexico litigation will be followed. Where the settlement document does not specify standards, those in the Forest Service Manual and Handbook will apply.

3. During the conduct of undertakings, the preferred management of sites listed in, nominated to, eligible for, or potentially eligible for the National Register is avoidance and protection. Exceptions may occur in specific cases where consultation with the SHPO indicates that the best use of the resource is data recovery and interpretation.

THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK