



United States Forest Service
Department of Agriculture
Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands

Sandia Ranger District
11776 Hwy. 337
Tijeras, NM 87059
(505) 281-3304 FAX: 281-1176

Mountainair Ranger District
P.O. Box 69
Mountainair, NM 87036-0069
(505) 847-2990 FAX: 847-2238

File Code: 1950

Date: July 25, 2012

Dear Friend of the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands:

As required by USDA Forest Service appeal regulations found in 36 CFR 215, the Sandia Ranger District and the Mountainair Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands are initiating a 30-day comment period for public comment on the Environmental Assessment for the *Isleta Collaborative Landscape Analysis Project*, a cooperative effort among the Pueblo of Isleta, the Chilili Land Grant, and the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands. The purpose of the 30-day comment period is to allow the public an opportunity to comment on the Proposed Action prior to decisions being made. Those who provide timely comments during this comment period would be eligible to appeal the decision under the appeal regulations.

This public comment period and eligibility to appeal apply to the analyses and decisions related to National Forest System lands, only. Decisions for project implementation on the Sandia and Mountainair Ranger Districts will be made by the respective District Rangers. Pueblo of Isleta lands and Chilili Land Grant lands are not public lands; therefore, the analyses and decisions made by those governing entities concerning their respective lands are not open for public comment or appeal.

This project's Proposed Action would include thinning and burning to reduce the potential of uncharacteristic wildfires and to protect community, cultural, and natural resources at a landscape scale on the following acres and ownerships: 2,000 acres on the Pueblo of Isleta, 620 acres on the Chilili Land Grant, 2,100 acres on the Sandia Ranger District, and 5,700 acres on the Mountainair Ranger District.

If you commented on the project during the scoping period or requested previously a copy the Environmental Assessment (EA), a copy is enclosed; otherwise, the document is available at the Sandia Ranger Station at 11776 Highway 337 Tijeras, NM 87059-8619, at the Mountainair Ranger Station at 40 Ranger Station Rd. Mountainair, NM 87036, and at the following internet address:
http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_list.php?forest=110303. If you require a hardcopy of the EA, or need additional information about the project, please contact Cid Morgan, Sandia District Ranger at 505 281-3304, or Karen Lessard, Mountainair District Ranger at 505-847-2990.

How and When to Comment

Written, facsimile, hand delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this proposed action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of the Legal Notice in the *Albuquerque Journal*, the newspaper of record for decisions on projects located on the Sandia Ranger District, and the *Mountain View Telegraph*, the newspaper of record for decisions on projects located on the Mountainair Ranger District. The publication date in the official newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Regulations prohibit extending the length of the 30-day comment period.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including name and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments



submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied; the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address by the end of the 30-day comment period.

Written and electronic comments on the proposed action must be submitted to either Responsible Official:

Cid H. Morgan
Sandia District Ranger
11776 Highway 337
Tijeras, NM 87059
(505) 281-3304 [voice]
(505) 281-1176 [fax]

or

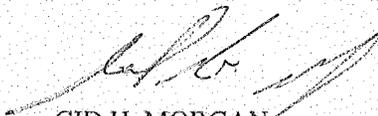
Karen L. Lessard
Mountainair District Ranger
PO Box 69, 40 Ranger Station Rd.
Mountainair, NM 87036
(505) 847-2990 [voice]
(505) 847-2293 [fax]

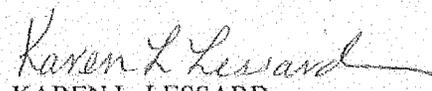
Comments may be submitted by email in word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), and plain text (.txt) to comments-southwestern-cibola@fs.fed.us. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility, such as in the form of a scanned signature (36 CFR 215.6). To be eligible for appeal, each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request.

The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered or oral comments are Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, excluding federal holidays. Oral comments must be provided during normal business hours by phone or in person, or during an official public meeting. Those wishing to provide oral comments should contact the Responsible Official or their representative.

Thank you for your interest in the management of your Cibola National Forest and Grasslands.

Sincerely,


CID H. MORGAN
District Ranger


KAREN L. LESSARD
District Ranger