



**File Code:** 1950

**Date:** May 20, 2013

Dear Interested Travel Management Participants:

First, I thank you for your interest and the many hours you have put in working with us on this project and letting us know your concerns about access and use of the Forest. Even though the 2012 Decision was rescinded, I want to assure you that all of your work and comments will be incorporated as we move forward. Your comments and concerns for the communities, traditions, access, landscapes, and resources matter to us.

As stated in our March 2013 Newsletter, we are completing the content analysis performed on all the appeal and comment letters we received on the Travel Management Plan from March 16, 2012 to June 14, 2012. March 16th was the beginning of the appeal period and we chose June 14th as a cut-off date to allow the contractors to begin working on the content analysis. Content analysis is a systematic process designed to extract topics of concern from each letter, evaluate them, and group similar topics under a public concern statement that captures the intent of the commenter. This analysis was completed using a new automated system called CARA (Content Analysis and Response Application), which has been a work in progress.

The Content Analysis Report is attached to this letter. In addition, an Abstract is provided on the web site as a summary of the issues that were identified in the analysis. The developers worked closely with us to ensure the attached reports are an accurate portrayal of your concerns and comments. I intend to use this report, along with any communication received after June 14, 2012, to help us develop our public engagement process for moving forward. We heard two things loud and clear in your comments and concerns: you want to be engaged actively in any travel management process and we need to start with an accurate map of existing conditions.

To address the second point, and as I stated in our March Newsletter, we are currently working on updating the maps, which will more accurately describe the existing condition of the road system within the project area. We are incorporating as much of the survey information and comments you and the counties provided as possible as some of the comments had inaccurate trail names and information that was difficult to decipher. In addition, we are coordinating with District employees to add their knowledge of the conditions on-the-ground. We should be wrapping this up in the next month or two. Once we have maps that we have determined represent the input we received, we will hold public meetings to verify them with those of you who use the forest. We will also make the maps available to the public on our web site and are working on a way for you to comment so you can help fill in gaps in our information that may still exist.

This summer and fall we will be analyzing the baseline road system needs for administration of the forest, as explained in the newsletter. That is referred to as Subpart A of the Travel Management Rule. As I mentioned in the newsletter, and have told people at public meetings, the report of this analysis, due in 2015, describes what the Forest Service needs to manage the forest. It is not a decision and does not change the status of any road.

I welcome your comments and feedback on the Executive Summary. Please feel free to contact us at [wwnf\\_travel\\_mgt\\_plan@fs.fed.us](mailto:wwnf_travel_mgt_plan@fs.fed.us).

Sincerely,

JOHN LAURENCE  
Forest Supervisor

