



United States of Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
SOUTHWEST REGION
P.O. BOX 26567
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125-6567



IN REPLY REFER TO:
440 – Division of Forestry and Wildland
Fire Management

MAR 17 2010

Corbin Newman, Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
Southwestern Regional Office
333 Broadway S.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

Dear Mr. Newman:

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southwest Region has received your request for a letter of concurrence and support for the *Proposal for Funding for the SW Jemez Mountains Restoration Project*. Our staff from the Southern Pueblos Agency, Division of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management, and the Northern Pueblos Agency, Division of Environmental, Safety and Cultural Resource Management, participated in the initial planning meetings and expressed favorable support for this collaborative effort along with representatives from the Pueblos of Jemez and Santa Clara.

This letter is to express the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA), Southwest Region's concurrence and support for the SW Jemez Mountains Restoration Project. Both the Pueblos of Jemez and Santa Clara have Forest Management Plans that have been approved by this office. These Plans also have associated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and other environmental clearance documents in place. These Plans outline long term management goals and objectives for the management of their respective forest resources. These Plans were developed with BIA's support and any activity that facilitates achievement of management objectives within these Plans are supported by the Southwest Region, Southern Pueblos and Northern Pueblos Agencies.

Please note that numerous tribes in the Region may have significant traditional, cultural properties in and around the project area that may be affected by the actions of your proposal. Therefore, the BIA encourages the U.S. Forest Service to ensure that all potentially impacted tribes and pueblos are thoroughly engaged in the consultation process. The BIA is willing to assist with this process.

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The BIA, Southwest Region, fully supports the efforts of the U. S. Forest Service in the development of a strategy for cross-jurisdictional forest restoration projects with the 210,000 acres SY Jemez Project area. Therefore, we whole heartedly concur and support the *Proposal for Funding for the SW Jemez Mountains Restoration Project*.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sandra S. McCook

Acting Regional Director

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TR 4400a-P5 Program Correspondence and Policy/Directives Files
44 GRS 23/1 Office Administrative Files
101 R

Cc: Superintendent, Northern Pueblos Agency
Governor, Pueblo of Jemez