

AMENDMENT 1

MAY 1987

DECISION NOTICE

LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST

LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Chaves, Eddy. Lincoln, and Otero Counties, New Mexico

In November 1986, Don Sanford appealed the Lincoln 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, several interested citizens asked to participate with the Forest Service in discussions with Don Sanford to resolve the appeal. In summary, resolution of the appeal focused on (1) the actual ORV policy, (2) the criteria by which the final transportation system would be determined, and (3) the site-specific application of the criteria to each Forest road, trail and travelway present on the Forest.

Resolution of the appeal actually requires the Forest Service to make two separate decisions because of a 1985 decision by the 9th Circuit Court. City of Tenakee Springs versus Block. That court decision established rules governing the accomplishment of site-specific project analysis tiered to Forest Plans. The two decisions involve (1) clarifying the existing policy and management criteria and (2) the results of site-specific application of the criteria to each road and trail.

The Forest Service, appellant, and other interested parties have agreed that the existing ORV policy in the Forest Plan is generally appropriate. However, the group's review indicated that descriptive criteria needed to be added to the Forest Plan to clarify the operational procedures for identifying those roads and trails that are to be part of the forest transportation system. Presently, the group is working on a separate site-specific analysis to select the final transportation system. This amendment deals only with the needed clarification of Forest Plan policy. The site-specific analysis will result in a later decision that will be subject to citizen review.

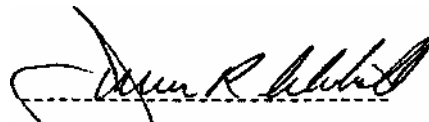
It is my decision to amend the Lincoln National Forest Plan to clarify the operational procedures for identifying those roads and trails that are to be part of the forest transportation system, and that will be open or closed to motor vehicles. Appropriate standards and guidelines on page 30 of the Forest were modified to provide this clarification. You should replace the old 30 with the new pages attached to this notice and identified as Forest

Amendment No. 1, May 1987. Page 201 of the Forest Plan was modified to access to dispersed camping sites beyond the 300 foot limit in specific areas.

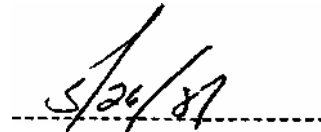
I have determined through environmental analysis that this action will cause no significant environmental effects. Formal documentation of the analysis is therefore categorically excluded as per 40 CFR 1508.4, National Environmental Policy Act regulations. This is based on the fact that the amendment results a no change to the physical, biological or social environment. In addition, I determined that this amendment is consistent with the long term resource management goals for the Lincoln National Forest and will actually further by 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, Lincoln National Forest within 45 days from 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.



James R. Abbott
Forest Supervisor



Date