



**Forest Service**

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# News Release

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## **Opportunity to Comment on Smokey Bear District's Proposed Tanbark Adit Bat Gate**

**RUIDOSO, NM. June 26, 2020** – The Lincoln National Forest, Smokey Bear Ranger District, in conjunction with the state of New Mexico Mining and Minerals division, is proposing to maintain a previously installed closure of a mine adit (opening to a mine) with bat-friendly gating to protect bat habitat and to provide for human safety. The Tanbark mine adit was closed in the 1990s with rock and cement, but has since been reopened by the public, allowing for unauthorized human access. Surveys of the mine indicate bats are present in the mine, and the abandoned mine provides potential roosting/ hibernacula habitat. The adit would be closed with a reinforced bat-friendly gate that would allow access by authorized personnel for administrative purposes, but otherwise prevent human entry. The project area is in the vicinity of Forest Road 108.

Additional information regarding these actions can be obtained from: Andrew Ellis, NEPA Planner, 901 Mechem Drive, Ruidoso, NM 88345; 575-257-4095; [Andrew.Ellis@usda.gov](mailto:Andrew.Ellis@usda.gov); or on the Lincoln National Forest projects website <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=58332>.

### **How to Submit Comments**

**Email:** Email comments and attachments to [comments-southwestern-lincoln-smokey-bear@usda.gov](mailto:comments-southwestern-lincoln-smokey-bear@usda.gov). Please include the project title, Tanbark Adit Bat Gate, in the subject line.

**Mail:** Jodie Canfield, District Ranger, c/o Andrew Ellis, 901 Mechem Drive, Ruidoso, NM 88345; or faxed to (575) 257-6174.

**Oral Comments:** Oral comments must be received within our normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Smokey Bear Ranger District. The phone number is (575) 257-4095.

Anyone submitting a comment is asked to provide their name and postal mailing address so





that they can be added to the project mailing list. Comments submitted anonymously will be considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the Agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents.

Thank you for your interest in the Lincoln National Forest.

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