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## News Release

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### **Wolf Creek Access EIS On Hold**

MONTE VISTA – The Rio Grande National Forest has put the Wolf Creek Access Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on hold until a new or amended application for access is submitted by Leavell-Mcombs Joint Venture (LMJV).

The Forest initiated an EIS in September after receiving an application from LMJV for permanent road access across National Forest System land to their private property. LMJV plans to build the Village at Wolf Creek on their property.

In early October, the Forest received information that changes had been made to the Village development plan. As a result, the Forest asked LMJV to submit an amended application with the changes and also extended the public scoping period for the EIS from October 31 to December 31, 2008 to give the public more time to review the changes.

“We have not yet received an amended or new application from LMJV,” said Deputy Forest Supervisor, Jeni Evans. “Since we don’t know when we will receive an application, I decided to put a hold on the project rather than extend the scoping period again.”

The primary purpose of the Wolf Creek Access EIS is to analyze the potential impacts of the requested access road across the national forest. The Forest will also analyze the connected actions of the proposed Village and an access interchange on U.S. Highway 160.

“The amended or new application must include a clear, accurate development plan for the Village,” said Evans. “Without that, we can’t move forward with the EIS.”

If a new or amended application is received, the Forest will reinstate the EIS process with a new Notice of Intent and public input period.

“I think this shows that the NEPA process works. We received new information during the scoping process that indicated the application was outdated and we responded by putting the project on hold.” said Evans.

For more information about the Wolf Creek Access EIS visit the Rio Grande National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/riogrande/projects/forcomment/village/index.shtml>.

This website will continue to be updated as new information becomes available.

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