



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Santa Fe
National Forest
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P.O. Box 1689
Santa Fe, NM 87504

File Code: 1920/6270

Date: April 27, 2004

To Interested Parties:

The Santa Fe National Forest has completed an EA (Environmental Assessment) for a **Forest Plan Amendment for Managing Special Species Habitat**. A copy of the EA is enclosed for your review and comment.

The proposed amendment updates Forest Plan standards and guidelines pertaining to “special status” plant and animal species, including federally listed threatened and endangered species as well as those designated as “sensitive” by the Southwestern Region of the Forest Service.

The Proposed Amendment (Alternative A) is not significant and would not change current management practices. It merely updates and clarifies language in the Forest Plan’s standards and guidelines to reflect current agency policies, practices and species lists. Many changes have occurred since the Forest Plan was approved, including changes to species status lists, as well as development of interagency agreements/plans for the Jemez Mountains salamander, Arizona willow and Rio Grande cutthroat trout. The proposed amendment was designed to reflect those changes and incorporate direction from those agreements/plans.

Comments on the EA should be submitted within 30 days so I may consider them before issuing a decision. Please submit comments or questions to: Susan Bruin, Forest Planner, at the mailing address, phone or fax information listed in the letterhead.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses, will be part of the public record and available for public inspection.

Sincerely,

/s/ Gilbert Zepeda

GILBERT ZEPEDA
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

