



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Santa Fe National Forest

1474 Rodeo Road
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505-438-7840 FAX 505-438-7834

File Code: 1950, 7710

Date: July 10, 2008

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The Santa Fe National Forest (Forest) announces the release of its Proposed Action for Managing Motorized Travel. This proposal, or “scoping phase,” is the start of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for this project.

Enclosed is a copy of the Notice of Intent that will be published in the Federal Register on or shortly after July 11, 2008. Check the Forest Web site for exact date of publication. The Notice of Intent summarizes the proposed action, which proposes a system of roads, trails, and areas for motorized vehicle use by vehicle class and time of year.

Highlights of the proposal are:

- Continuing to provide motorized access to the Forest;
- Prohibiting cross-country motorized vehicle use off designated roads, trails, and areas;
- Reducing the miles of roads open to motorized travel;
- Increasing the miles of trails designated for motorized vehicles;
- Designating motorized access to dispersed camping;
- Limiting the use of motor vehicles to retrieve downed game to designated routes only; and
- Amending the Santa Fe National Forest Plan to comply with direction in the Rule.

How to Get Information

The proposed action and maps may be downloaded from the Forest’s Web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/travelmgt/index.html>. The supervisor’s office or any of the five ranger stations, upon request, will distribute a limited number of CDs that contain the same information. The supervisor’s office and the ranger stations will have maps available for review in their offices. The contact information for each ranger station is provided in the NOI.

If you have questions about the NEPA process or making comments, please contact the Travel Management Project Leader, Julie Bain, at (505) 438-7829 or sftravelmgt@fs.fed.us. If you have a technical question, contact one of the district rangers, or Diane Taliaferro, Forest Recreation Program Manager, at (505) 438-7823.

Attend a Public Meeting

Participating in public meetings and discussions and reviewing the proposed action and maps is an important way for you to help us understand your point of view.

The Forest will hold public scoping meetings to review and discuss the proposed action, take comments, and understand community issues and concerns. The public meeting schedule is listed in the enclosed NOI and will be posted on our website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/travelmgt/index.html>. The meetings set aside time to informally meet with Forest staff, review maps, view a presentation on the proposed action, and ask questions.



How Public Input is Used

Forest staff will use your comments to help identify significant issues and develop alternatives to the proposed action. The environmental effects of the proposed action and the alternatives will be analyzed in a draft environmental impact statement.

How to Comment

The Forest invites you to comment on its Proposed Action for Managing Motorized Travel. The Forest recognizes that other configurations of roads, trails, and areas may better meet the needs of the surrounding communities' diverse recreational interests, traditional or cultural uses, and other needs for access. Therefore, the Forest is soliciting issues and concerns of people interested in this proposal.

The Forest encourages electronic mail. If sending an e-mail, please send it to comments-southwestern-santafe@fs.fed.us (attachments as .doc, .txt, .pdf, or .rtf only) with "Travel Management" in the subject line. For your convenience, a comment form is available on the Web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/travelmgt/index.html>.

Please mail your written comments on this proposal to Santa Fe Travel Management Planning, 1474 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505. If you would like confirmation that we have received your letter, please include your e-mail address with your written comment. The fax number is (505) 438-7834. Comments may be delivered by hand to the Santa Fe National Forest Supervisor's Office (1474 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. To make verbal comments, please arrange by calling one of the district rangers (refer to NOI for phone numbers) or Julie Bain.

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, please be aware that the written comments received on this proposal, including names and addresses, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection.

Comments will be most helpful when they are focused on specific roads and trails, and within the scope of the proposed action, and include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider.

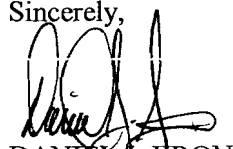
How You Can Remain Informed

Those who comment will automatically continue to receive information regarding this project. If you do not wish to comment on the proposed action, but would like to continue to receive information on travel management planning, please send your name and mailing address to: Santa Fe Travel Management Planning, 1474 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505, or call (505) 438-7829 or email to sftravelmgt@fs.fed.us. If you do not request to be kept on the mailing list or if you choose not to comment on the proposed action, your name will be removed from our list.

We want to keep you informed of how we use your feedback and how we are progressing with the travel management project. We plan to keep the Forest web page up-to-date with new information.

We look forward to hearing from you or seeing you at a meeting.

Sincerely,



DANIEL J. JIRON
Forest Supervisor

cc: Tom Dwyer, Santa Fe Leadership Team, Erin Connelly
Enclosure