



USDA Forest Service
San Juan National Forest
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan>

San Juan Public Lands Center
15 Burnett Court
Durango, CO 81301
Ph (970) 247-4874 Fax (970) 385-1243



USDI Bureau of Land Management
San Juan Center
<http://www.co.blm.gov/>

Date: December 12, 2007

Dear Reader:

We have just completed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Draft Land Management Plan for the San Juan Public Lands. The DEIS also includes an oil and gas leasing availability analysis. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) have been working on this coordinated plan for several years and many of you have already been involved. It is available for review, either by viewing on our plan revision website: <http://ocs.fortlewis.edu/forestPlan>, on compact disk, or as a printed copy.

This is an important step in the process of revising our management direction. We have worked hard to develop these draft documents, incorporating many ideas that we heard in community meetings, and from groups and individuals. We have identified Alternative B as the Agencies Preferred Alternative, based on what we have heard from people, analysis of the alternatives, and where we think a reasonable resolution of issues falls. The identification of the preferred alternative is not a decision. It represents our current thinking based on what we have learned so far.

Now we need your help in reviewing and commenting. Here are a few tips that may help:

- Start by looking at the Reader's Guide and Summary, found at the front of Volume 1, to get oriented.
- Volume 1 is the DEIS. Chapter 1 describes why we are updating management direction, Chapter 2 describes the alternatives, and Chapter 3 describes environmental consequences of implementing each of the alternatives. A good way to become familiar with the alternatives is to compare how they vary in terms of land allocations (management area descriptions and maps).
- Volume 2 is the Draft Land Management Plan. It describes management direction for the preferred alternative in detail.
- Volume 3 contains the Appendices. These include additional detail on specific topics, including Wild and Scenic Rivers and Inventoried Roadless Areas.
- We are not conducting a vote on alternatives, but your specific comments on how to improve the preferred alternative, what you prefer in other alternatives, or important things that you think we missed in alternatives is very helpful.



- We can better respond to your comments if you are as specific as possible and if you cite the location(s) that you are commenting on.

During the comment period we will hold public meetings to assist the people with understanding the documents and submitting comments. An advance notice of the time and location for these meetings will be advertised in local newspapers, via letter or email, and on the Plan Revision website.

The Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability (NOA) published in the Federal Register on 12/14/2007 initiates a 90-day public review and comment period. During this period, comments may be submitted using one of the following methods:

Via Website at: <http://ocs.fortlewis.edu/forestPlan>

By FAX to: 916-456-6724

By mail to: San Juan Plan Revision
P.O. Box 162909
Sacramento, CA 95816-2909

If you have questions contact Thurman Wilson at 970-385-1246 or Shannon Manfredi at 970-385-1229. The decisions we make will guide management of the San Juan Public Lands for the next decade and beyond. We look forward to your thoughtful review and input.

Sincerely,

/S/

MARK W. STILES
Forest Supervisor/Center Manager