

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF NEW MEXICO JANUARY, 2018 LANDS REPORT

Carson National Forest Plan

The Carson National Forest has recently announced the issuance of its Preliminary Draft Proposed Plan, with comments due by February 1, 2018. The following comes from the Forest Service notice:

The Carson National Forest has completed several draft documents as part of forest plan revision. They are available for review on our forest plan revision web page. The forest has completed:

- **Preliminary Draft Proposed Plan (PDPP)** – This PDPP is dated December 2017 and includes changes made in response to public comments received on the PDPP dated July 2017. The focus of this updated PDPP is providing for restoration and diverse ecosystem services.
- **Alternatives to the PDPP (narrative)** – This document compares different ways (alternatives) to address issues. Issues came from the public, other stakeholders, agencies, and tribes who commented over the past year on the forest plan revision process and specifically on the previous PDPP.
- **Alternatives to the PDPP (matrix)** – This document compares the differences between alternatives in a matrix form.
- **Proposed Wilderness Analysis Areas (PWAA)** – The PWAA paper describes how the evaluated areas for wilderness characteristics were included in an alternative. Proposed wilderness analysis areas will be analyzed by alternative for effects to ecological, social, and economic conditions in an environmental impact statement.

Other supporting documents include:

- **Draft Habitat Connectivity Plan Components**
- **Draft Canada Lynx Southern Rockies Management Direction Crosswalk**

The Carson NF will now begin developing the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) which will analyze and compare the alternatives for effects on ecological, social, and economic conditions. Development of the DEIS will take several months. The completion of a draft proposed plan and DEIS is anticipated to be late summer/early fall 2018.

As we develop the DEIS we will continue to consider comments from the public on the above draft documents. As we have stated each time we provide documents for public review, our forest plan and EIS will not be final until a record of decision is signed (anticipated fall 2019). While we continually accept comments, it would help in the progress of our forest plan revision effort to receive comments for the above documents by February 01, 2017 [sic].

The forest will have a hard copy of these documents available at each of district offices for the public to review.

Contact information concerning the plan revisions is as follows:

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I need volunteers familiar with the Carson National Forest trails to review the PDPP and send me their comments, particularly on the roads, trails, and wilderness sections. I will in turn forward them to the FS and to The Wilderness Society, which is working hard on NM forest plan revision issues.

Cerro del Yuta and San Antonio Wilderness Act

The NM Wildlife Federation has sent out the following information:

Senate Passes Cerro del Yuta and San Antonio Wilderness Act

At the end of December, the Senate passed the Cerro del Yuta and San Antonio Wilderness Act, introduced by Senators Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall earlier this year. The bill, **which passed with unanimous, bipartisan support** in the Senate, would create additional wilderness protections in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, affording sportsmen and women and outdoor recreationists unmatched opportunities to enjoy this pristine part of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument for generations to come.

We encourage you to **reach out to your representative** in the House to encourage them to support passage of this bill!

The Mountain Bikes in Wilderness Act

The following comes from Randy Rasmussen at National:

The editorial board of the LA Times came out today soundly against HR 1349 (bikes in Wilderness):

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-mountain-bikes-wilderness-20180103-story.html>

The fight against this bill will continue on the floor of the House of Representatives and in the Senate. In NM, the only Congressman favoring the legislation is Steve Pearce. Please continue to express your opposition to this anti-conservation representative.

Olson to New Mexico

On a personal note, I will be moving to NM full time in April and look forward to riding and working in the back country with you.

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