

File Code: 1900
Date: December 22, 2016

Dear Interested Party:

We are pleased to let you know about the next phase of public engagement in the Forest Plan Revision process for the Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF).

In January and February 2017, we will have ten general meetings and a two-day technical meeting, all of which are open to the public. These meetings are on the first cut of plan components for the Forest Plan and draft wilderness evaluation maps. Resource specialists and Forest Plan Revision core team members will attend each meeting to discuss these topics with you and gather **your input**. **The schedule for the meetings is on the attached flyer.**

First, we will be presenting and gathering public feedback on the initial plan components. Plan components are the essence of a Forest Plan and the elements (standards, guidelines, desired conditions, objectives, and management approaches) guide future on-the-ground actions in the Forest. These meetings are an opportunity to:

- Learn about initial plan components
- Learn how plan components fit into Forest Plan Revision
- Provide feedback on the initial plan components

Second, we will present the draft wilderness evaluation maps. The Evaluation is Step 2 of the four-step process required in Forest Plan Revision to determine whether lands are (or are not) suitable to recommend to Congress for new wilderness. In this phase, we evaluate areas on the wilderness inventory maps (Step 1) based on criteria for five wilderness characteristics. Resulting rankings and the draft wilderness evaluation maps are based on input from district staff specialists and the public (from spring and fall 2016 public meetings). Our winter 2017 meetings are an opportunity to:

- Learn how draft wilderness evaluation maps fit into the four-step wilderness process
- Discuss specific areas from the perspective of wilderness characteristics
- Provide input on the draft wilderness evaluation maps that could be used to modify the maps or determine which areas (if any) should be included in a proposed action or other alternative (*should* areas be recommended as wilderness).

Initial plan components and the draft wilderness evaluation will be available on our website in advance of the public meetings: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/santafeforestplan. Our website also includes a lot of background material including the assessment, final wilderness inventory map, informational brochures, and summaries of past public meetings.



The general meetings are scheduled for the evening to make it easier for members of the public to participate and will include opportunities to interact with Forest Service staff and provide comments. There is no need to RSVP for the general meetings.

The technical meeting, on February 6th and 7th in Santa Fe, will include more in-depth discussions about our initial plan components and draft wilderness evaluation. Attendees of the technical meetings will have the same opportunity as the attendees of the general public meetings to provide input. **We are asking for RSVPs for the technical meetings so we know how many people to expect.** Please email (santafeforestplan@fs.fed.us) or call (505-438-5442) the Forest Plan Revision Team and let us know if you plan to attend a technical meeting.

You can comment in person at the meetings, by email (santafeforestplan@fs.fed.us), or by postal mail (11 Forest Lane, Santa Fe, NM 87508). **Comments on either draft plan components or draft wilderness evaluation maps are most useful if we receive them by February 15, 2017.**

In addition to the upcoming winter 2017 meetings, we will have another round of public meetings in spring 2017, likely starting in late February or early March. Those meetings will focus on management areas and alternatives of the Forest Plan. If you have any questions about these upcoming meetings or Forest Plan Revision, please contact us at 505-438-5442 or santafeforestplan@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,



MARIA T. GARCIA

Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

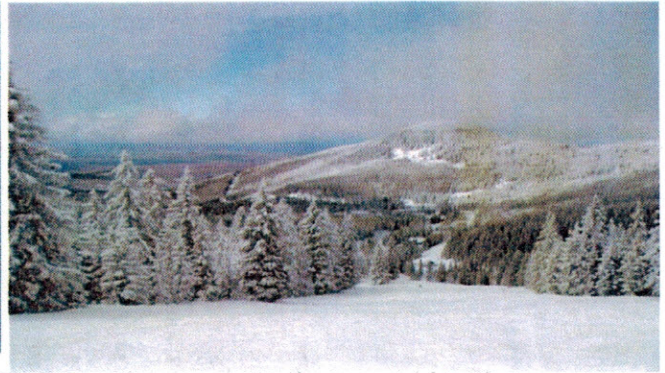


WINTER 2017 PLAN COMPONENT MEETINGS

Discuss and comment on the first cut of plan components for the Forest Plan and draft wilderness evaluation maps.

An opportunity to learn about initial plan components:

- Learn how plan components fit into Plan Revision
- Provide feedback on both the initial plan components and the draft wilderness evaluations maps



GENERAL PUBLIC MEETINGS

Date	Time	Where	Address
January 17	6-8pm	Pojoaque Middle School <i>Sixth Grade Academy</i>	1797 NM-502 Santa Fe, NM 87501
January 18	6-8pm	Mora Independent School <i>School Board Room</i>	10 Ranger Rd. Mora, NM 87732
January 19	6-8pm	Bernalillo High School <i>High School Cafeteria</i>	148 Spartan Alley Bernalillo, NM 87004
January 23	6-8pm	Coronado High School <i>High School Auditorium</i>	State Hwy 96 #1903 Gallina, NM 87017
January 24	6-8pm	Santa Fe Convention Center <i>Coronado Room</i>	201 W Marcy St. Santa Fe, NM 87501
January 26	6-8pm	Jemez Madonna Hall	0040 Legion Dr. HWY 4 Jemez Springs, NM 87025
January 30	6-8pm	Cuba Fair Grounds	Sandoval County Fairgrounds 37 Rodeo Rd, Cuba, NM 87013
February 1	6-8pm	Santa Fe Community College <i>Jemez Rooms</i>	6401 Richards Ave. Santa Fe, NM 87508
February 2	6-8pm	Rio Arriba Cooperative Extension Office <i>Conference Room</i>	State Road 554 House #122-A El Rito, NM 87530
February 9	6-8pm	Pecos High School <i>School Board Rm</i> (Across from Admin)	28 Panther Parkway Highway 63 N, Pecos, NM 87552 (Park at Track & Field)

General Meetings:

- Scheduled for the evening, easier for members of the public to participate
- Includes opportunities to interact with Forest Service staff and provide comments
- No need to RSVP for the general meetings

Technical Meetings:

- Same opportunity as general meetings to provide comments
- More discussion on plan components and wilderness evaluation
- **Please RSVP for technical meetings** by email (santafeforestplan@fs.fed.us) or call (505-438-5442)

TECHNICAL PUBLIC MEETING

Date	Time	Where	Address
February 6 & 7	10-4PM	Santa Fe Community College <i>Jemez Rooms</i>	6401 Richards Ave. Santa Fe, NM 87508

For more information, email santafeforestplan@fs.fed.us, call a member of the Forest Plan Revision Core Team at 505-438-5442, or visit www.fs.usda.gov/goto/santafeforestplan for more information!

Santa Fe National Forest
11 Forest Lane
Santa Fe, NM 87508
www.fs.usda.gov/goto/santafeforestplan

Scan here with your smartphone to connect to the forest plan website:

