



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Santa Fe National Forest

Supervisor's Office
11 Forest Lane
Santa Fe, NM 87508
(505) 438-5300

File Code: 1950

Date: March 17, 2014

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

We are pleased to let you know the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Invasive Plant Control Project for the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests is ready for your review and comment. The draft supplemental EIS corrects and updates analysis done in the 2005 final EIS with the same name. The draft supplement is best read in conjunction with the 2005 final EIS. Information on how to obtain both documents is provided below.

The purpose of the project is to control or eradicate weed infestations on the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests. The proposed action is an integrated strategy that includes the following methods: manual (such as hand pulling), mechanical (such as mowing), biological control, controlled grazing, herbicides, and prescribed burning. One alternative to the proposed action would not allow any herbicides, and the other alternative proposes only herbicides. The weeds proposed for treatment are any listed on the New Mexico Department of Agriculture's noxious weeds list, either at the time of this writing or listed in the future. At present, approximately 13,240 acres of weeds are known on the 3.1 million acres that comprise the two forests.

The draft supplemental EIS and the 2005 final EIS are available on either forest's website:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/santafe/landmanagement/projects> or
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/carson/landmanagement/projects>. Both forests have a limited number of paper copies and CDs for distribution. Should you wish to obtain a paper copy or a CD, please contact either Julie Bain at (505) 438-5443 (Santa Fe National Forest) or Kathryn Furr at (575) 758-6255 (Carson National Forest).

Commenting: Only those who submit timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project during a public comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file an objection. This means that if you commented during scoping, commented on the 2004 draft EIS, or if you comment during this comment period, you will be eligible to file an objection.

Comments must meet the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) requirements under 36 CFR 218 subpart A and sub part B. The new 36 CFR 218 regulations allow for a pre-decisional objection process for proposed actions undergoing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis. Comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the responsible officials to consider. The responsible officials are the forest supervisors of the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests. To simplify the comment process, you may submit comments pertaining to either the Santa Fe or Carson National Forests as instructed below. Comments will be distributed to the appropriate responsible official for consideration.

The comment period begins the day after the notice of availability appears in the Federal Register and lasts for 45 days. We expect the notice of availability to be published in the Federal Register on or around March 21, 2014. Please check the Federal Register at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=FR> for the exact publication date since this is the exclusive means for calculating the ending date of the comment period. If you plan on commenting, please do not rely on dates provided by any other source.



You have several options for sending in your comments, but please use only one of these:

Type of comment	Instructions
Electronic	Send <i>email</i> to: comments-southwestern-santafe@fs.fed.us with “Invasive Plants” in the subject line. Acceptable formats are .doc, .txt, .pdf, .rtf, or in the body of the email. You should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from us as confirmation of receipt. If you do not receive an automated acknowledgment, it is your responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means (36 CFR 215.6(4)(iii)).
Written	<i>Fax</i> comments to (505) 438-5390. <i>Mail</i> comments to: Maria T. Garcia, Responsible Official Santa Fe National Forest 11 Forest Lane Santa Fe, NM 87508 Attention: Invasive Plant Control Team
Hand-delivered	<i>Deliver</i> comments to 11 Forest Lane in Santa Fe or 208 Cruz Alta Road in Taos between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday.

You must submit your comments in *one* of the ways shown above for us to consider and track them in the project record. We must receive your comments prior to the end of the comment period for you to be eligible to file an objection.

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, 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. You may submit your comments anonymously, but in that case you will not have standing to object to the final decision and we will not be able to provide you with subsequent documents.

Staying informed: Those who comment will automatically receive a copy of the final supplemental EIS and draft record of decision, both prepared after we review your comments. The record of decision will include a decision from each forest supervisor. If you do not wish to comment now, but would still like to receive copies of the final documents, please call Julie Bain at (505) 438-5443. If you choose not to comment and do not ask to be kept on the mailing list, we will remove your name from the mailing list.

If you have questions about the draft supplemental EIS or how to comment, please call Julie Bain at (505) 438-5443.

Sincerely,

/s/ Maria T. Garcia
MARIA T. GARCIA
Forest Supervisor
Santa Fe National Forest

/s/ Juan E. (Buck) Sanchez
JUAN E. (BUCK) SANCHEZ
Forest Supervisor
Carson National Forest